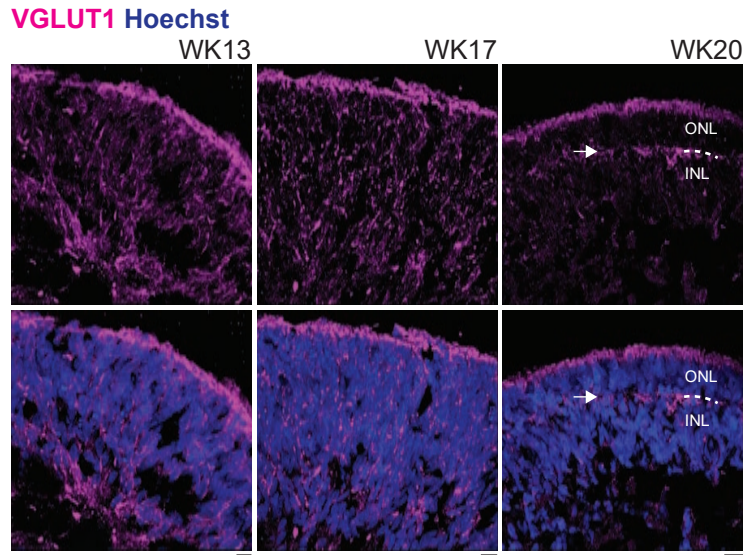
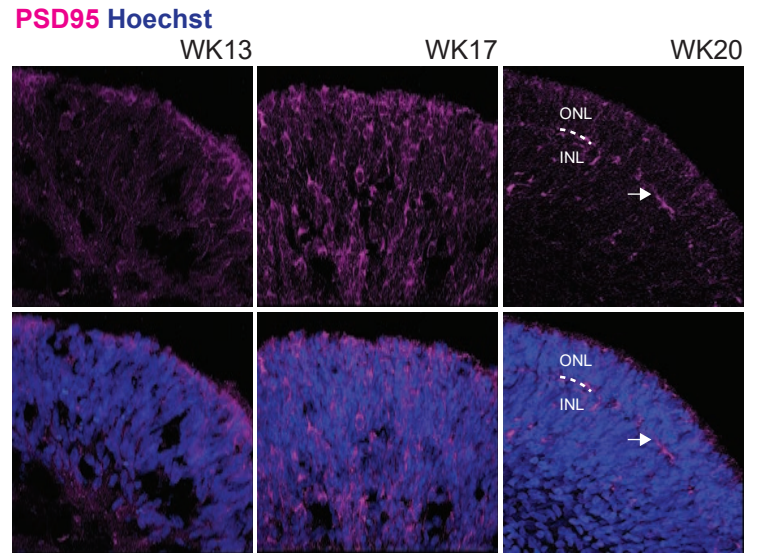


Supplementary Figure 1

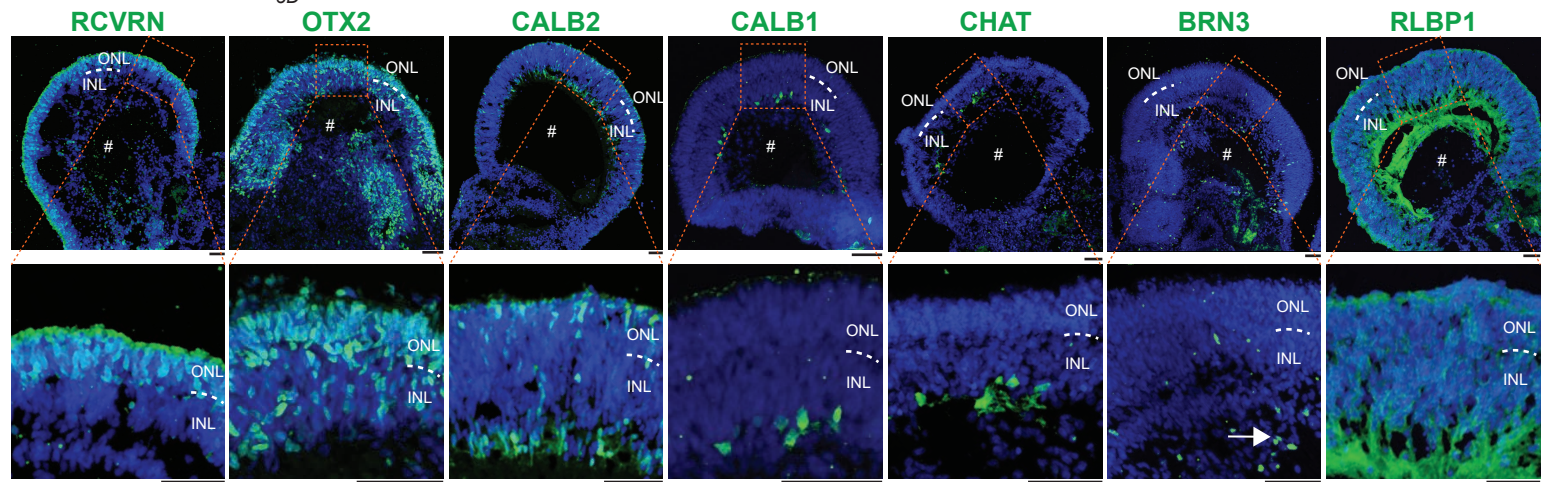
a Timeline VGLUT1 expression



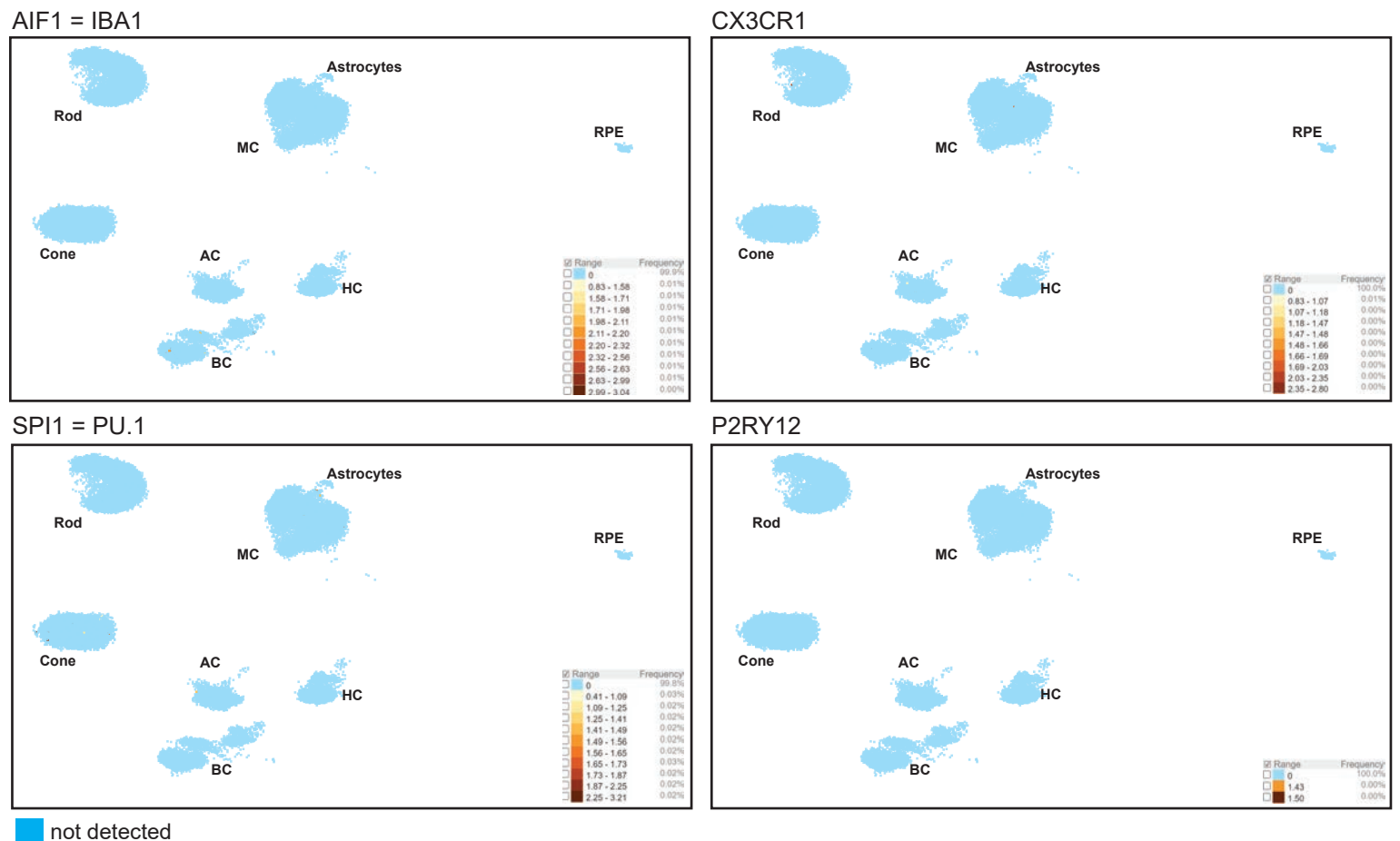
b Timeline PSD95 expression



c Immunostaining $_{3D}$ RO for retinal cell types at WK20



d Expression of microglia marker in UCSC Cell Browser of Cowan et al., 2020



Supplementary Figure 1 – Characterization of 3D retinal organoids.

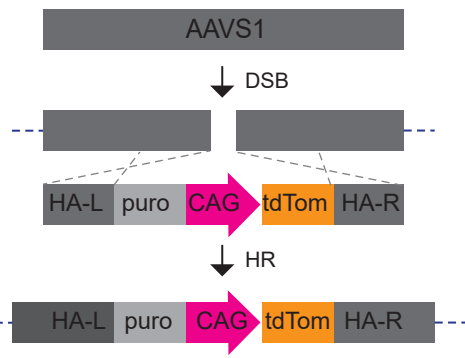
a-b, Immunostaining of 3DRO cryostat sections counterstained with the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and immunostained for **a**, the presynaptic marker VGLUT1 (magenta) and **b**, the postsynaptic marker PSD95 (magenta) at WK13, WK17 and WK20. White arrow: outer plexiform layer forming between the outer- and inner nuclear layer (ONL, INL, respectively). Scale bar: 10 μ m.

c, Representative cryostat section images of 3D-retinal organoid counterstained with the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and immunostained for retinal cell type-specific markers (green) and at week 20: RCVRN (recoverin; photoreceptors). OTX2 (orthodenticle homeobox 2; photoreceptors, bipolar cells). CALB2 (calretinin; photoreceptors, bipolar-, amacrine cells). CALB1 (calbindin; amacrine-, horizontal cells). CHAT (choline acetyltransferase; amacrine cells). BRN3 (brain-specific homeobox/POU domain protein 3B; ganglion cells). RLBP1 (cellular retinaldehyde-binding protein; Müller glia). ONL: outer nuclear layer. INL: inner nuclear layer. White dashed line: outer plexiform layer. #: retinal cup lumen. White arrow: BRN3⁺-cells close to lumen. Scale bar: 50 μ m.

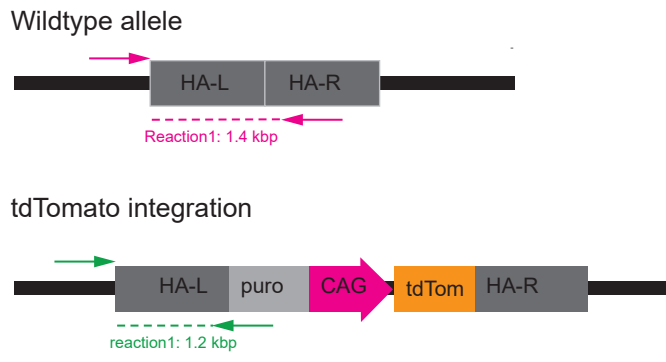
d, Expression of microglia transcript markers in USCS Cell Browser of Cowan *et al.*, 2020: Dataset ID: ‘Developed human retinal organoid.’ Uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) of transcript expression for AIF (also known as IBA1, ionized calcium-binding adapter molecule 1), CX3CR1 (C-X3-C motif chemokine receptor 1), SPI1 (also known as PU.1, Spi-1 proto-oncogene) and P2RY12 (purinergic receptor P2Y12) of 3D-retinal organoid at week 32 and 38. AC: amacrine cell. BC: bipolar cell. Cone: cone photoreceptors. HC: horizontal cell. MC: Müller glia. RPE: retinal pigment epithelium. Rod: rod photoreceptors. Blue dot: not detected.

Supplementary Figure 2

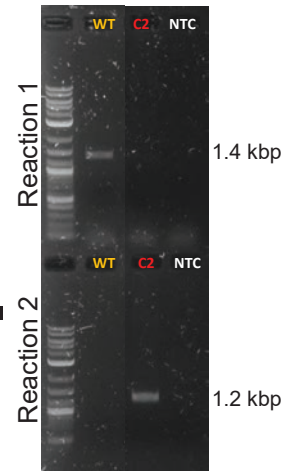
a Integration into AAVS1 locus



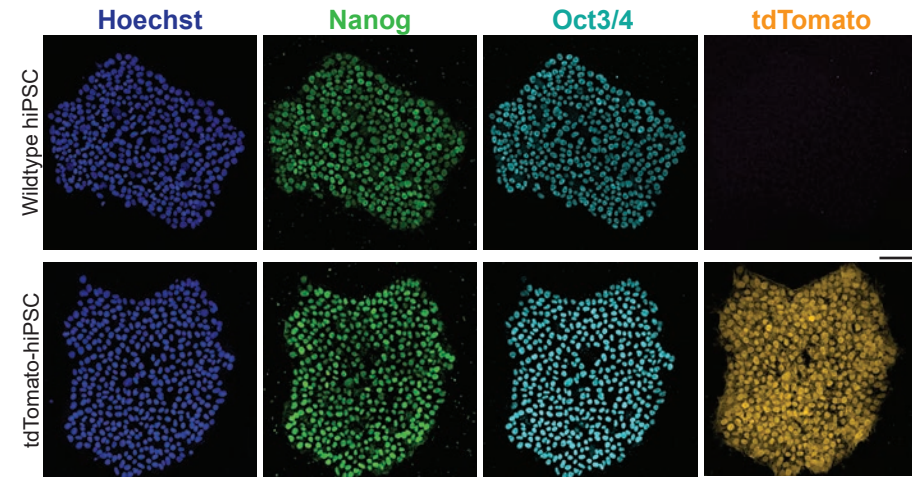
b Validation strategy



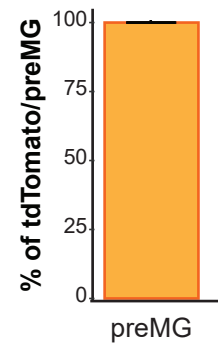
c Validation



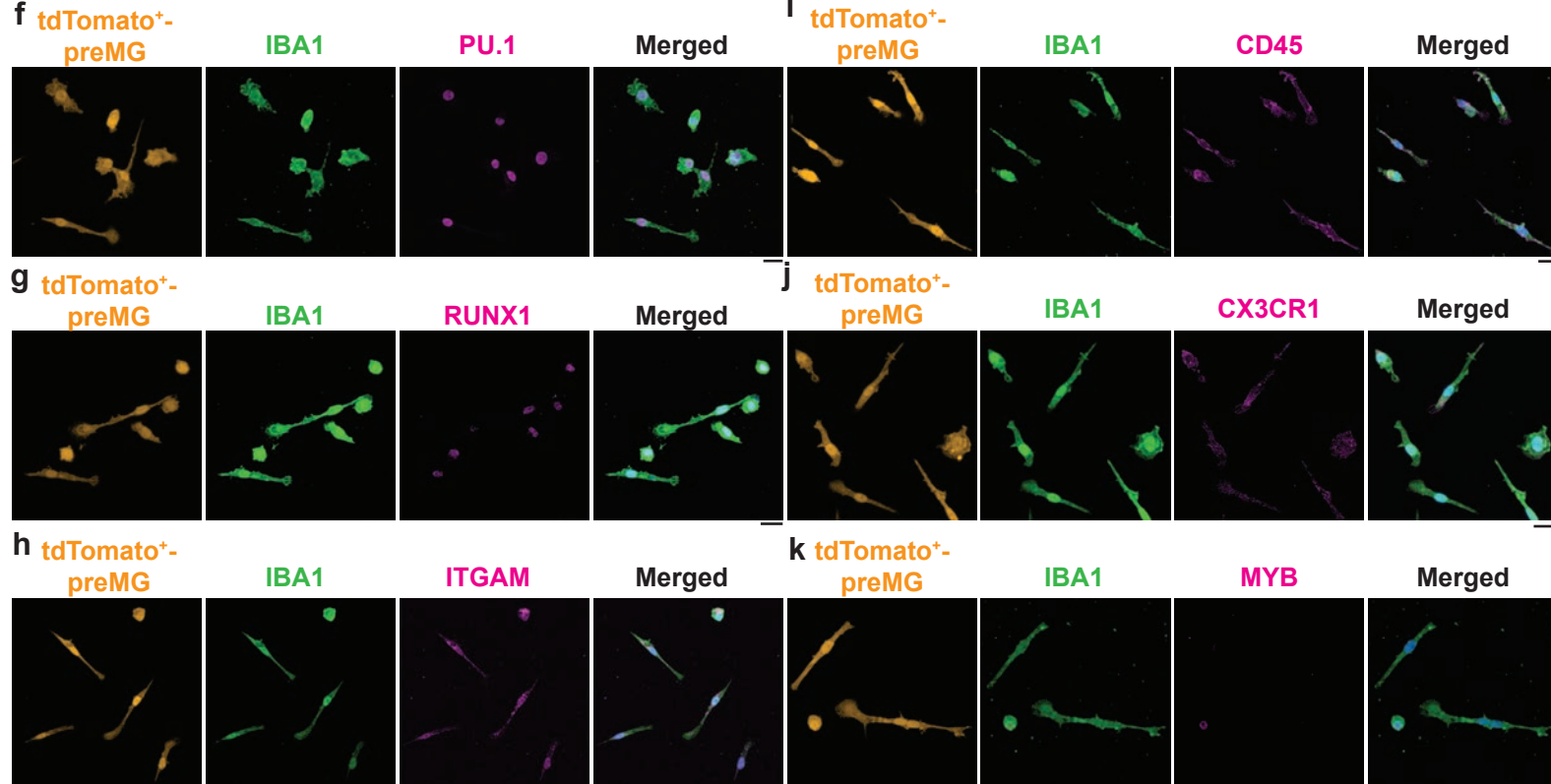
d Pluripotency of tdTomato⁺-hiPSCs



e tdTomato expression in collected preMG



Immunostaining of microglia precursor cells (preMG)



Supplementary Figure 2 – Generation of tdTomato⁺-hIPSC cell line and characterization of differentiated tdTomato⁺-microglia precursor cells (preMG).

a, Integration strategy into the adeno-associated virus integration site 1 (AAVS1) locus. DSB: double-strand break. CAG: CMV immediate enhancer/ β -actin promoter. HA-L: homologous arm left. HA-R: homologous arm right. HR: homologous recombination. Puro: puromycin selection side. tdTom: tdTomato.

b-c, Validation strategy. Reaction 1: wildtype allele: PCR product 1.4 kbp. Reaction 2: tdTomato allele: PCR product 1.2 kbp. PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

c, PCR product size. Top: Reaction 1 - wildtype AAVS1 locus (1.4 kbp). Bottom: Reaction 2 - construct integrated into AAVS1 (1.2 kbp). Orange: wildtype clone. Red: clone with homozygous integration of the construct. NTC: non-template control. Kbp: kilobase pair.

d, Validating pluripotency for the wildtype human induced pluripotent stem cell (hIPSC) line SC102A (top) and the tdTomato⁺-hIPSC line SC102A (bottom). Immunostaining of hIPSC colonies for NANOG (nanog homeobox, green), OCT3/4 (octamer-binding protein 3, cyan), and counterstaining for the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue). Intrinsic tdTomato expression (orange). Scale bar: 100 μ m.

e, Bar chart of tdTomato⁺/IBA1⁺-preMG with standard error of the mean.

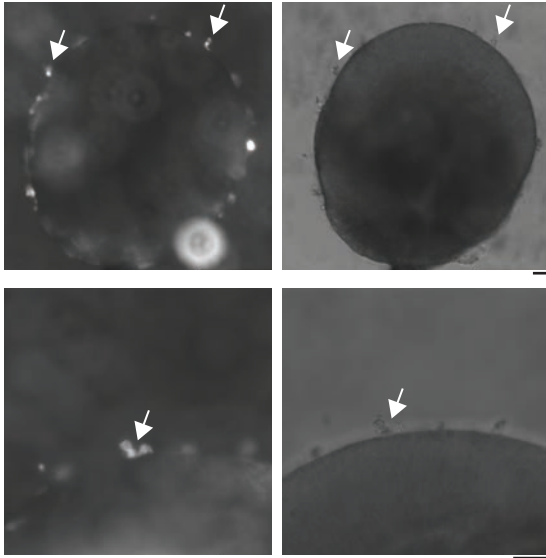
f-k, Representative images of tdTomato-expressing microglia precursor cells (preMG, orange) harvested from the supernatant and plated on a new dish. Cells counterstained for the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue, merged image), immunostained for IBA1 (ionized calcium-binding adapter molecule 1, green) and the microglia/macrophage markers in magenta for **f**, PU.1 (hematopoietic transcription factor PU.1); **g**, RUNX1 (runt-related transcription factor 1); **h**, ITGAM (integrin subunit alpha m); **i**, CD45 (cluster of differentiation 45/ protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor); **j**, CX3CR1 (chemokine (C-X3-C) receptor 1); **k**, MYB (MYB proto-oncogene). Scale bar: 20 μ m.

Supplementary Figure 3

a *preMG attach to surface of* _{3D}*RO*

tdTomato⁺-preMG

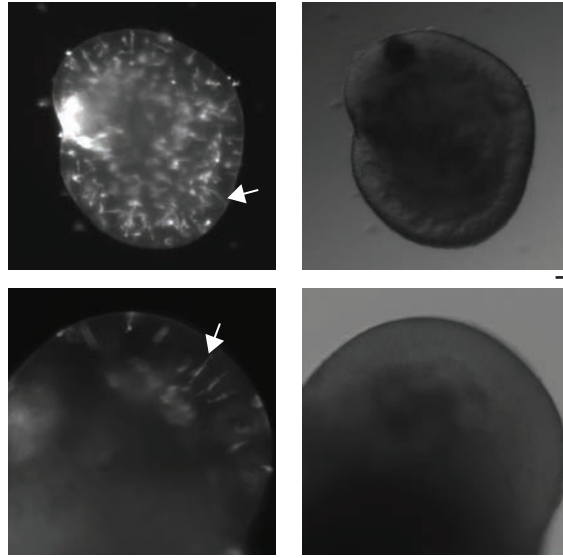
Brightfield



b *iMG migrate into deeper layers*

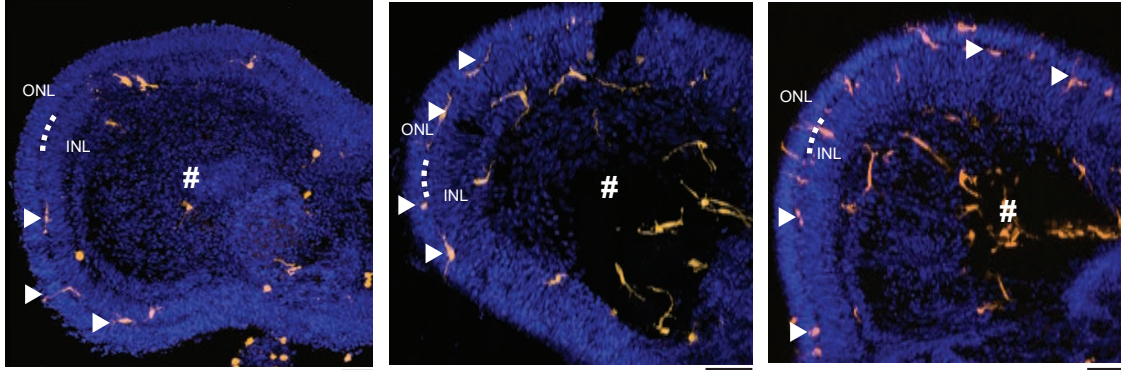
tdTomato⁺-iMG

Brightfield



c *iMG colonize OPL*

tdTomato⁺-iMG **Hoechst**



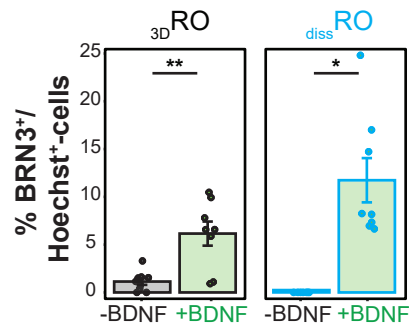
Supplementary Figure 3 – tdTomato⁺-microglia precursor cells (preMG) integration patterns into 3D retinal organoids.

Representative images of 3D-retinal organoids. Left: fluorescence image, right: brightfield image. 4x magnification (top) and 10x magnification (bottom). Scale bar: 20 μ m. **a**, tdTomato⁺-microglia precursor cells (preMG, white arrow) attach on week 17 at the surface of 3D-retinal organoids (3DRO). **b**, tdTomato⁺-microglia-like cells (iMG) integrate into the 3D-retinal organoids at week 20, showing a bipolar shape (white arrow).

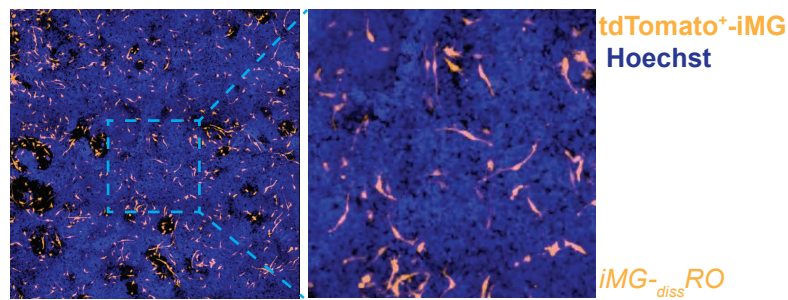
c, Images of iMG-3DRO cryostat sections with tdTomato⁺-iMG (orange) counterstained with the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and at WK20. White arrowhead: iMG located in the outer plexiform layer forming between the outer- and inner nuclear layers (ONL, INL, respectively). #: lumen. Scale bar: 50 μ m.

Supplementary Figure 4

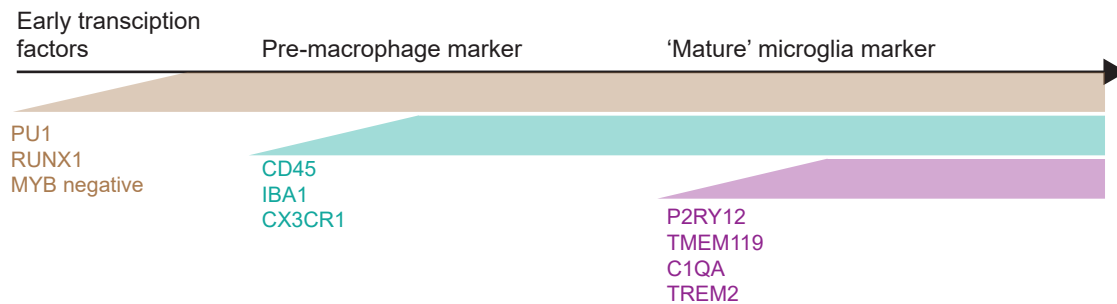
a Influence of BDNF



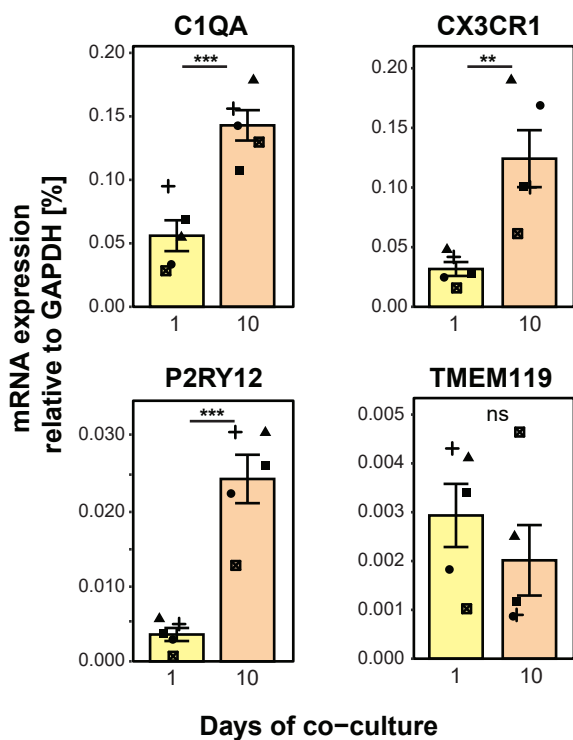
b iMG distribute within iMG_{diss} RO



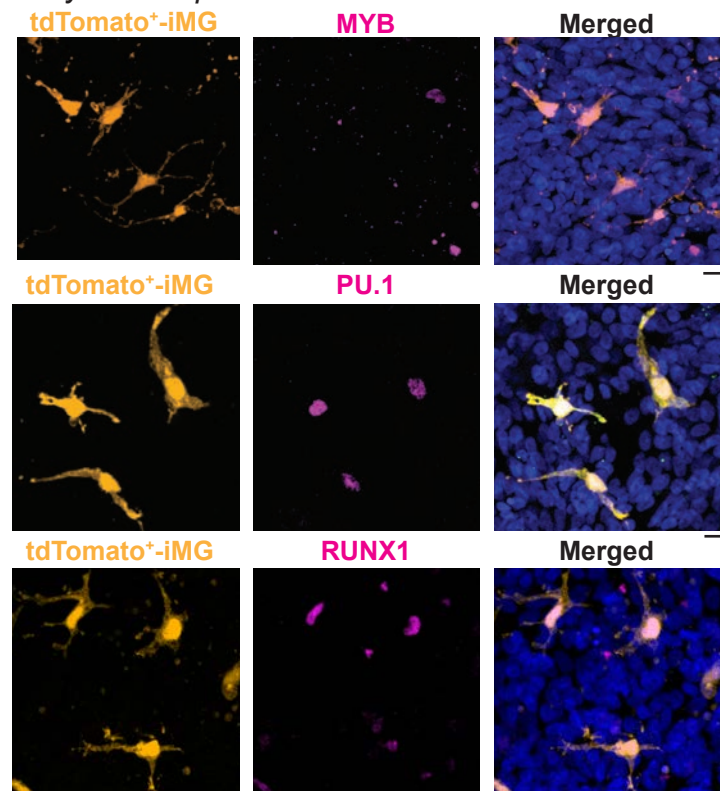
c Schematic timeline of tested microglia markers



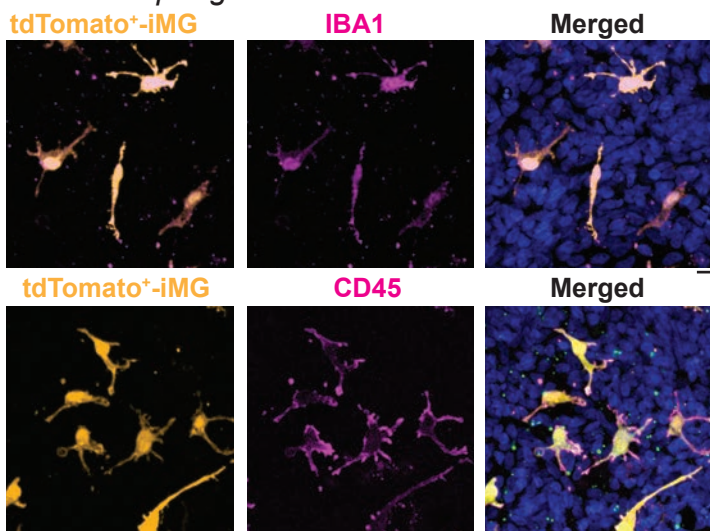
d mRNA expression microglia marker



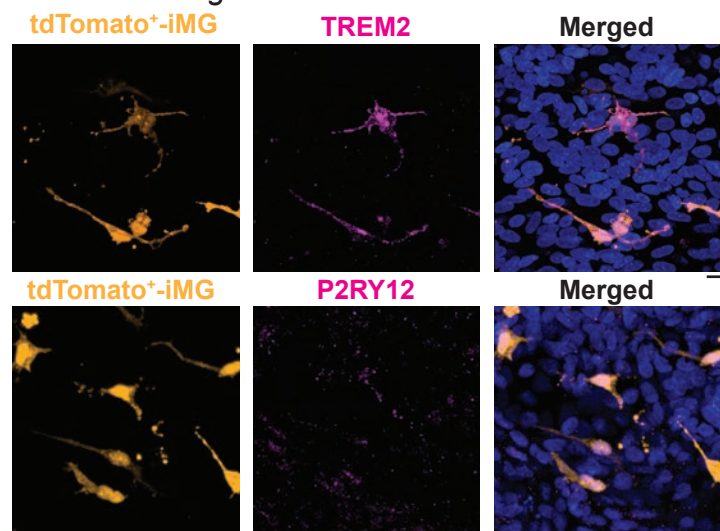
e Early transcription factors



f Pre-macrophage marker



g 'Mature' microglia marker



Supplementary Figure 4 – Validating iMG signature.

a, Impact of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) on ganglion cell survival. Bar chart of percentage of BRN3⁺-cells relative to Hoechst⁺-cells with standard error of the mean in 3D-retinal organoids (3DRO, left) and dissociated retinal organoid culture (dissRO, right) cultured either in standard retinal organoid differentiation media without (-BDNF, grey) or supplemented with BDNF (+BDNF, green) from week 15 to 20. 3DRO: Each dot is one cryostat section of independent retinal cups. Welch's t-test. dissRO: Each dot is one region of interest. One-sample Wilcoxon signed rank test.

b, Image of iMG distribution within iMG-dissRO (orange) at WK20, counterstained with the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue). Scale bar: 100 μ m.

c, Schematic timeline of microglia marker expression during development.

d, RT-qPCR for the microglia marker C1QA (complement component C1q), CX3CR1 (C-X3-C motif chemokine receptor 1), P2RY12 (purinergic receptor P2Y G-protein-coupled 12) and TMEM119 (transmembrane protein 119) in iMG-dissRO after 1 and 10 days of coculture. Bar chart with SEM of mean mRNA transcript expression relative to GAPDH. Each dot is one biological replicate. Student's t-test.

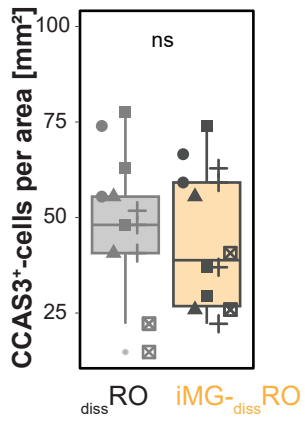
e-g, Representative images of iMG-dissRO with tdTomato⁺-iMG (orange), counterstained for the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and immunostained in magenta for **e**, early transcription factors PU.1 (hematopoietic transcription factor PU.1), RUNX1 (runt-related transcription factor 1) and MYB (MYB Proto-Oncogene); **f**, 'early' microglia marker IBA1 (ionized calcium-binding adapter molecule 1) and CD45 (cluster of differentiation 45/ protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor); and **g**, 'mature' microglia marker P2Y12 and TREM2 (Triggering Receptor Expressed On Myeloid Cells 2). Scale bar: 10 μ m.

For detailed statistical analysis, see **Supplementary Table 4**.

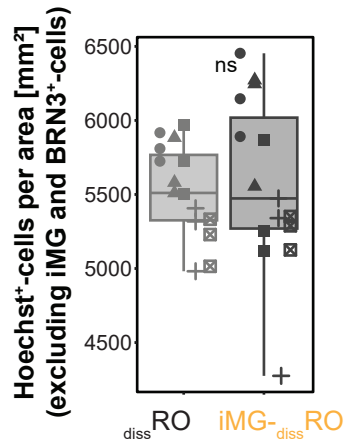
***p < 0.001. **p < 0.01. *p < 0.05. ^{ns}p > 0.05, not significant.

Supplementary Figure 5

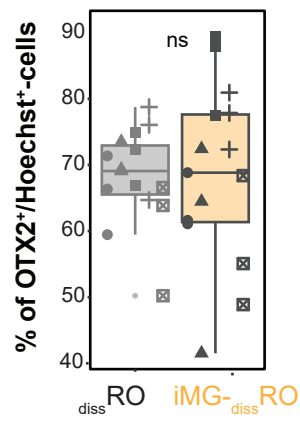
a Quantification CCAS3⁺-fragments



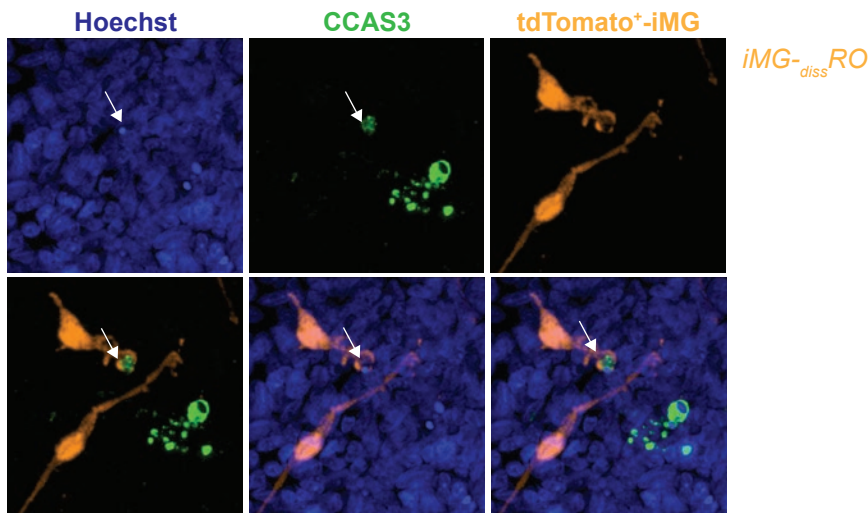
b Quantification Hoechst⁺-cells



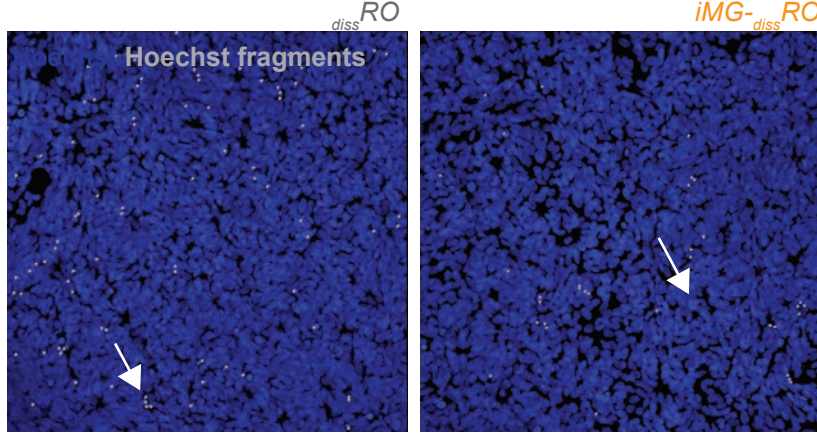
c Quantification OTX2⁺-cells



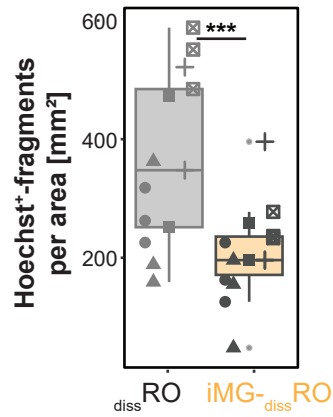
d iMG phagocytose apoptotic fragments



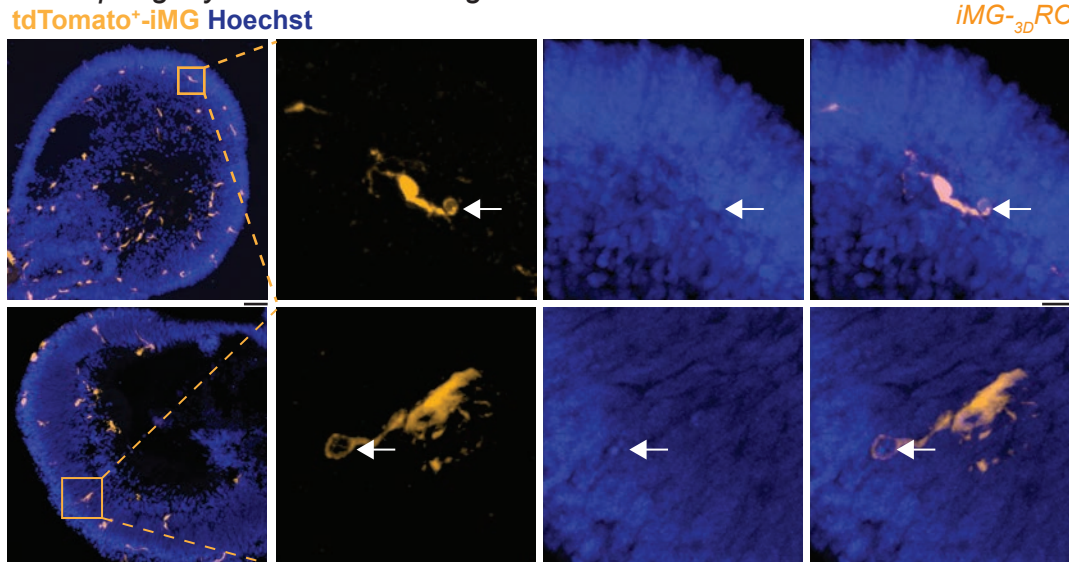
e iMG remove Hoechst⁺-fragments in culture



f Quantification Hoechst⁺-fragments



g iMG phagocytose Hoechst⁺-fragment



Supplementary Figure 5 – iMG mediated consequences in the dissociated retinal organoid model.

a-c, Boxplot of percent of **a**, CCAS3⁺-cells per area; **b**, Hoechst⁺-cells per area and **c**, TX2⁺-photoreceptor- and bipolar cells relative to Hoechst⁺-cells in _{diss}RO (grey) and iMG-_{diss}RO (orange). **a-b**, Students's t-test. **c**, Welch's t-test.

d, Representative images of iMG-_{diss}RO for tdTomato expression (orange), counterstained for the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and immunostained for the apoptotic marker CCAS3 (cleaved caspase3, green). White arrowhead: iMG engulfing CCAS3⁺-fragment. Scale bar: 50µm.

e, Hoechst⁺-fragments (white) in _{diss}RO (left) and iMG-_{diss}RO (right). Scale bar: 50 µm.

f, Boxplot of percent of Hoechst⁺-fragments per area in _{diss}RO (grey) and iMG-_{diss}RO (orange). Welch's t-test.

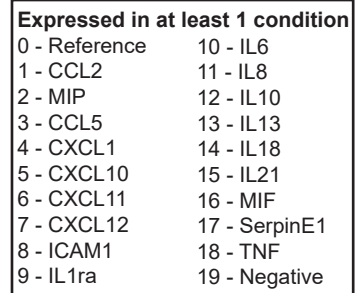
g, Representative images of iMG-_{3D}RO cryostat sections counterstained with the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and tdTomato⁺-iMG (orange) at WK20. Arrow: iMG engulfing Hoechst⁺-fragment. Scale bar: 50µm. Zoom in: Scale bar: 10µm.

Symbols: single ROI of three biological replicates from five independent differentiations.

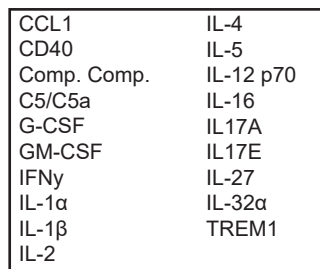
For detailed statistical analysis, see **Supplementary Table 4**.

*** $p < 0.001$. ^{ns} $p > 0.05$, not significant.

a *Individual replicates*



d *Not detected*

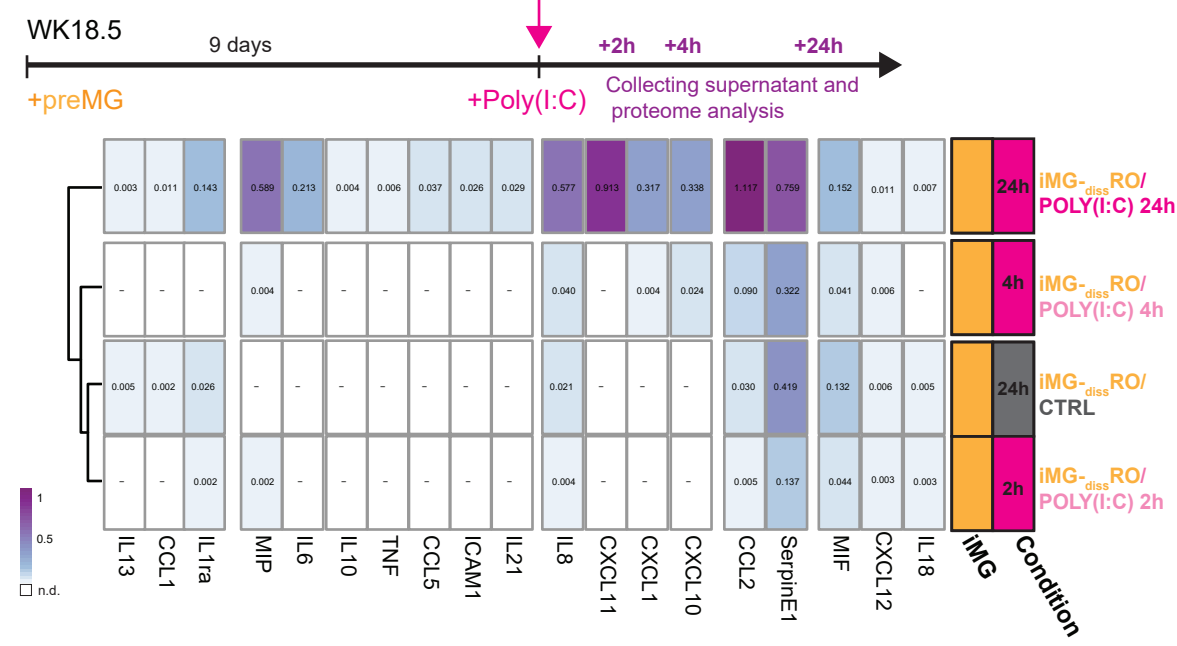


Supplementary Figure 6 – Individual inflammatory proteome profiler results.

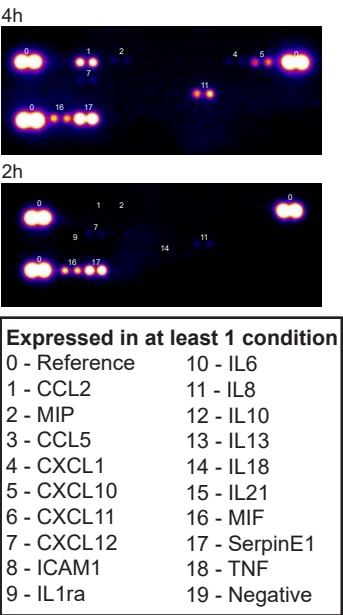
- a**, Release of inflammatory cytokines and chemokines into the supernatant based on the experimental paradigm described in **Figure 3a** for control (CTRL, grey) and 24h- POLY(I:C) (magenta) stimulation. Individual heatmap plots with color-coded mean pixel intensity relative to the reference of three independent differentiations White: n.d. (not detectable). Side-bar: condition with iMG (orange) *versus* without (white) or CTRL *versus* POLY(I:C).
- b**, Representative membranes for each condition. Numbers refer to the legend below.
- c**, Example images of dissRO counterstained with the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and immunostained for the glial marker GFAP (glial fibrillary acidic protein, green). Scale bar: 20 μm .
- d**, List of proteins assayed on the membrane but not detected in the supernatant of any condition.

Supplementary Figure 7

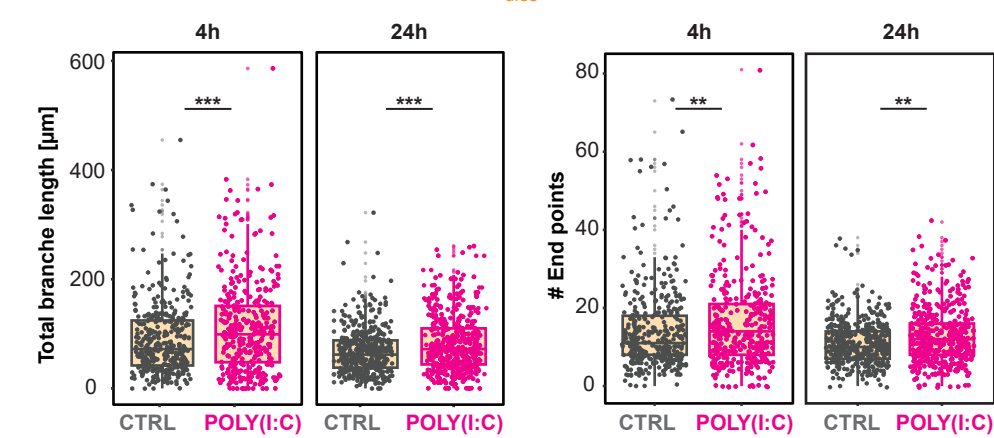
a Timeline of cytokine release iMG-^{diss}RO



Example membrane



b Timeline iMG morphology in iMG-^{diss}RO



Supplementary Figure 7 – Timeline POLY(I:C)-mediated response.

a, Same assay as for in Supplementary Figure 6a with additional measurement of cytokine and chemokine release after two and four hours compared to 24h in iMG_{-diss}RO with annotated example membranes iMG_{-diss}RO.

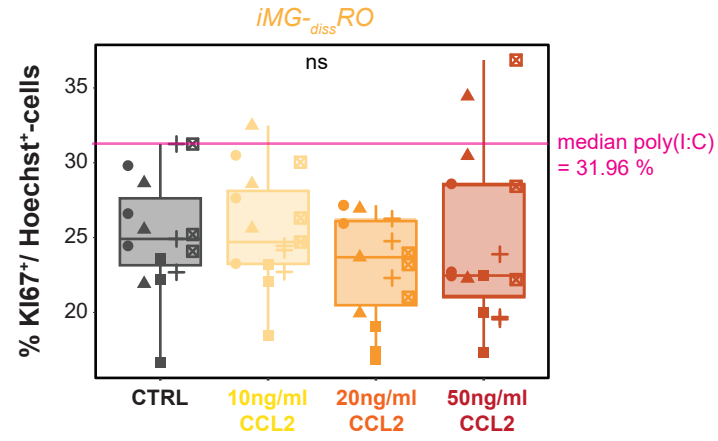
b, Boxplot of the total branch length (left) and the number of endpoints (right) per iMG for CTRL (grey) and POLY(I:C) (magenta) following 4h and 24h stimulation in iMG_{-diss}RO. iMG were collected from five independent differentiations. Kruskal-Wallis test with post-hoc Dunn's test.

Supplementary Figure 8

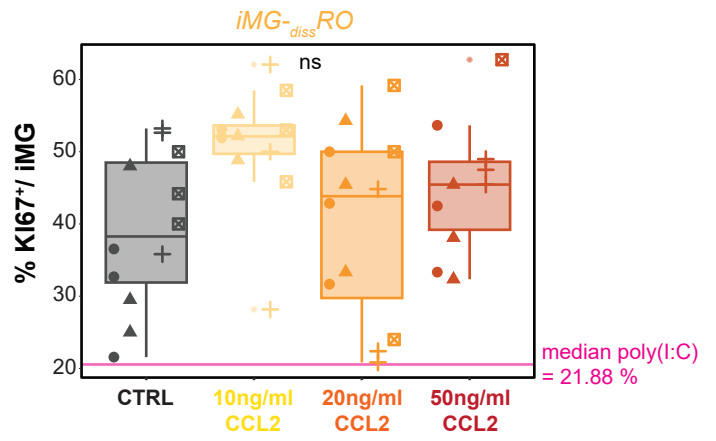
a Experimental design of CCL2 stimulation in $iMG_{-diss}RO$



b Retinal cell proliferation



c iMG proliferation



Supplementary Figure 8 – The POLY(I:C)-mediated proliferation rate increase cannot be replicated with CCL2 alone.

a, Experimental timeline. At WK18.5, preMG are added to dissRO . After nine days, cultures received fresh medium for control (CTRL, grey) or CCL2 stimulation iMG- dissRO for 24 hours.

b, Effect of CCL2 on retinal cell proliferation excluding iMG. Boxplot of percent KI67⁺-cells relative to Hoechst⁺-cells in iMG- dissRO for CTRL and CCL2 stimulation at a final concentration of 10 ng/mL (yellow), 20 ng/mL (orange), and 50 ng/mL (red). Magenta line: Median proliferation rate in POLY(I:C) stimulation of iMG- dissRO (**Figure 4g**). Symbols: three biological replicates from five independent differentiations. One-way ANOVA.

c, Effect of CCL2 on iMG proliferation. Boxplot of percent KI67⁺/iMG for CTRL and CCL2 stimulation at a final concentration of 10 ng/mL (yellow), 20 ng/mL (orange), and 50 ng/mL (red). Magenta line: Median iMG-proliferation rate in POLY(I:C) stimulation of iMG- dissRO (**Figure 4d**). Symbols: three biological replicates from five independent differentiations. Kruskal-Wallis test.

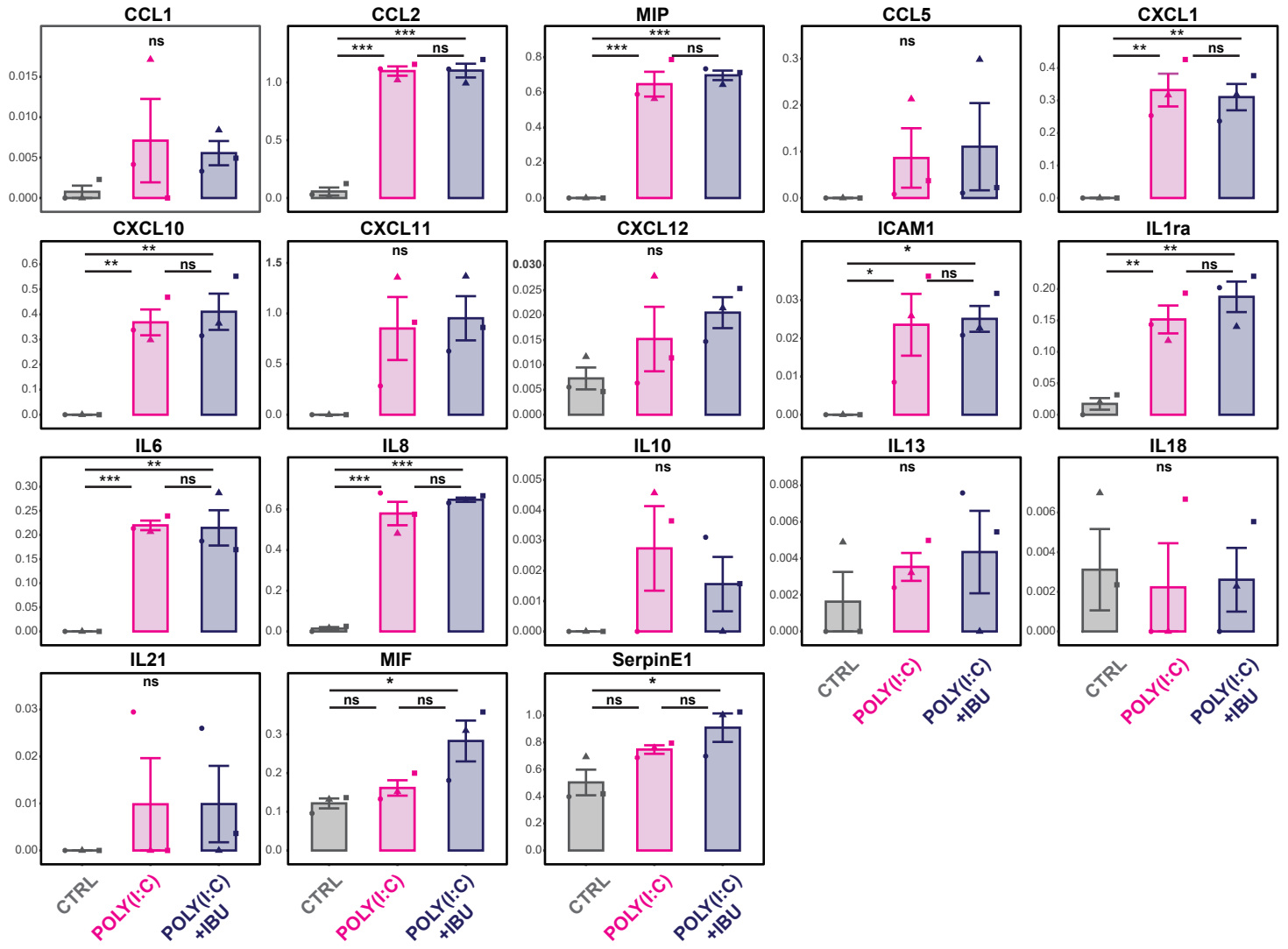
For detailed statistical analysis, see **Supplementary Table 4**.

* $p < 0.05$. ^{ns} $p > 0.05$, not significant.

Supplementary Figure 9

a Release of inflammatory mediators following ibuprofen treatment in *iMG^{-diss}RO*

Pixel intensity normalized to reference



Supplementary Figure 9 –Comparison of individual secreted inflammatory mediators after ibuprofen exposure.

a, Release of inflammatory cytokines and chemokines into the supernatant based on the experimental paradigm described in **Figure 3a** for control (CTRL, grey), POLY(I:C) (magenta), and POLY(I:C) and S(+)-ibuprofen (POLY(I:C)+IBU, blue) stimulation. Release of different inflammatory mediators into the supernatant of iMG-dissRO. Bar chart of pixel intensity normalized to reference with standard error of the mean for CTRL, POLY(I:C), and POLY(I:C)+IBU. Each symbol: an independent differentiation (n=3). One-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey's test, except IL13, IL18, IL21 Kruskal-Wallis test.

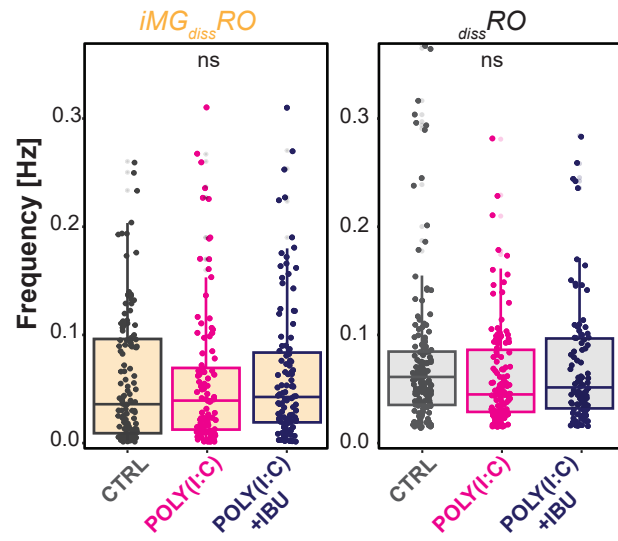
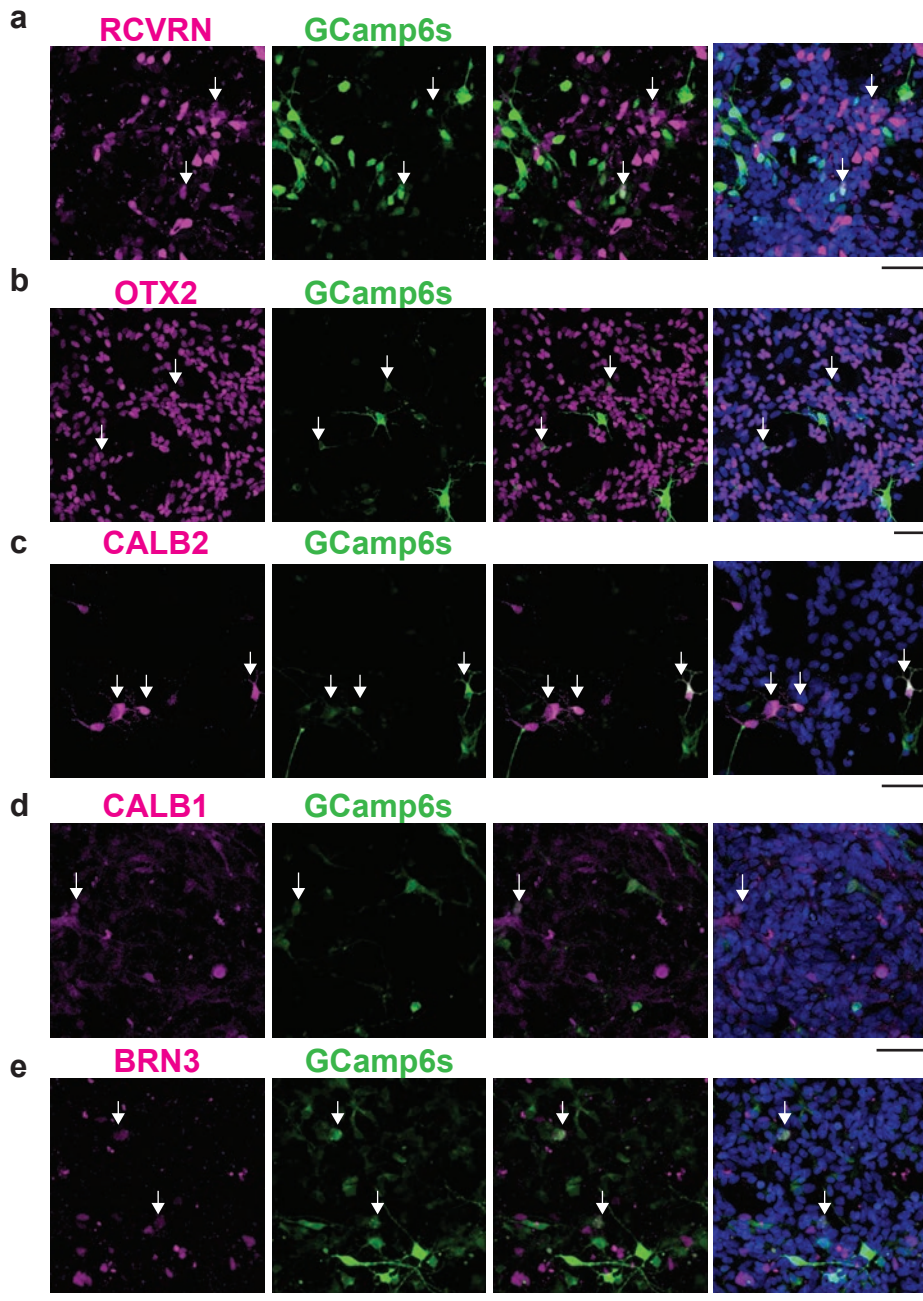
For detailed statistical analysis, see **Supplementary Table 4**.

***p < 0.001. **p < 0.01. *p < 0.05. ^{ns}p > 0.05, not significant.

Supplementary Figure 10

Retinal cell types transduced with AAV2 7m/8

f Calcium dynamics



Supplementary Figure 10 –GCAMP6s expression across retinal cell types.

a-e, Example ROI images of dissRO infected with AAV2-GCAMP6s at WK17, analyzed at WK20, counterstained for the nuclei-dye Hoechst (blue) and the calcium sensor GCAMP6s (green), and immunostaining for retinal cell types (magenta): **a**, RCVRN (recoverin; photoreceptors). **b**, OTX2 (orthodenticle homeobox 2; photoreceptors, bipolar cells). **c**, CALB2 (calretinin; photoreceptors, bipolar-, amacrine cells). **d**, CALB1 (calbindin; amacrine-, horizontal cells). **e**, BRN3 (brain-specific homeobox/POU domain protein 3B; ganglion cells). Arrow: Co-expression of calcium sensor and retinal marker. Scale bar: 50 μm .

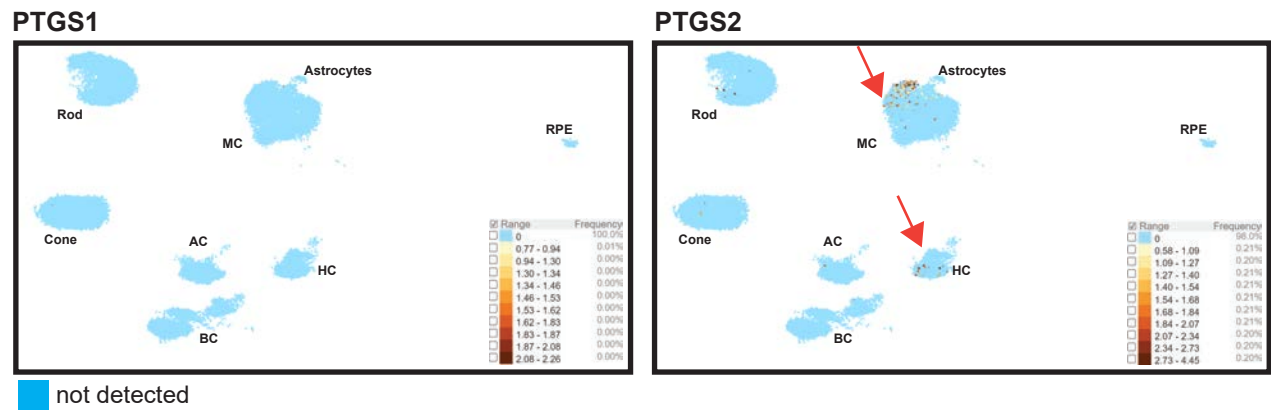
f, Spontaneous calcium dynamics in iMG- dissRO (orange) and dissRO (grey) for control (CTRL, grey), POLY(I:C) (magenta), and POLY(I:C) and S(+)-ibuprofen (POLY(I:C)+IBU, blue) stimulation. Boxplot of the mean frequency [Hz] during five minutes of recording. Each dot represents an active cell. Recordings from five biological replicates from independent differentiations. Kruskal-Wallis test.

For detailed statistical analysis, see **Supplementary Table 4**.

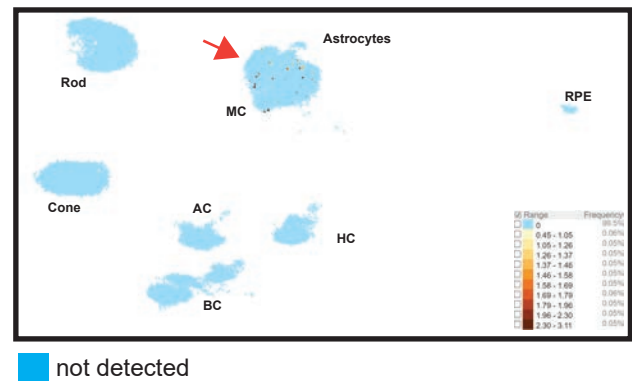
^{ns} $p > 0.05$, not significant.

Supplementary Figure 11

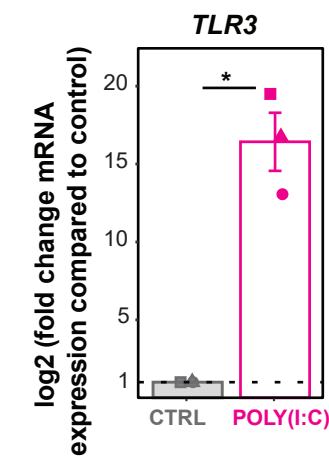
a Expression in UCSC Cell Browser of Cowan et al., 2020



b Expression of TLR3 in UCSC Cell Browser of Cowan et al., 2020



c hIPSC-derived astrocytes



Supplementary Figure 11 – PTGS1, PTGS2, and TLR3 mRNA expression profile.

a-b, Expression of **(a)** PTGS1 and PTGS2 (prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 1 and 2) as well as **(b)** TLR3 (toll-like receptor 3) in USCS Cell Browser of *Cowan et al., 2020*. Cell Browser dataset ID: 'Developed human retinal organoid.' Uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) of transcript expression. AC: amacrine cell. BC: bipolar cell. Cone: cone photoreceptors. HC: horizontal cell. MC: Müller glia. RPE: retinal pigment epithelium. Rod: rod photoreceptors. Red arrow: positive transcript expression. Blue dot: not detected.

c, Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) for TLR3 (toll-like receptor 3) in hiPSC-derived astrocytes for untreated control (CTRL, grey) and POLY(I:C) (magenta) exposure. Mean mRNA transcript log2-fold changes compared to untreated control cells with standard error of the mean. Each symbol is an independent differentiation (n=3). One sample t-test.

For detailed statistical analysis, see **Supplementary Table 4**.

*p < 0.05.