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Improved Expansion of Neural Stem Cells with Gibco™ Heat Stable Recombinant Human Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor

Brittany Balhouse, Diana Navarro, Richard Josephson, and Matthew Dallas, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Frederick, MD, USA, 21704

Introduction

HS bFGF: Engineered for greater stability

- Basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) is used in NSC media to maintain multipotency
- **Native bFGF rapidly loses biological activity** when exposed to culture conditions (37˚ C)
- **HS bFGF maintains > 90% homology** to the native protein **and ≥ 80% biological activity**, even after 72 hours of exposure to 37˚ C

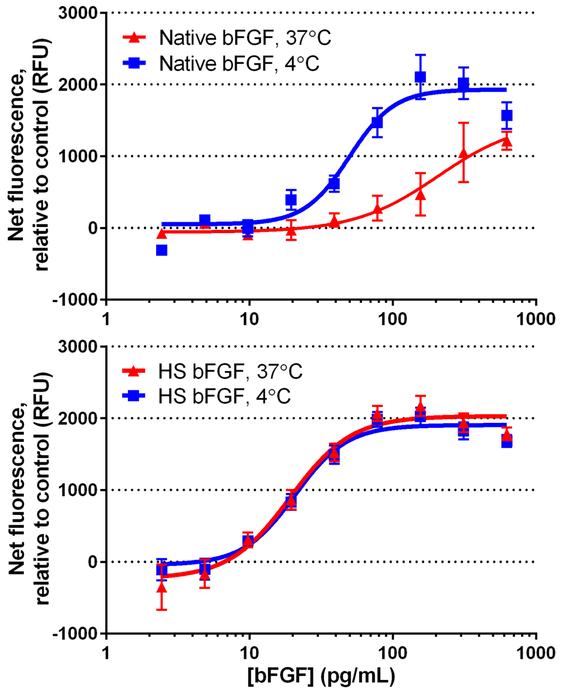
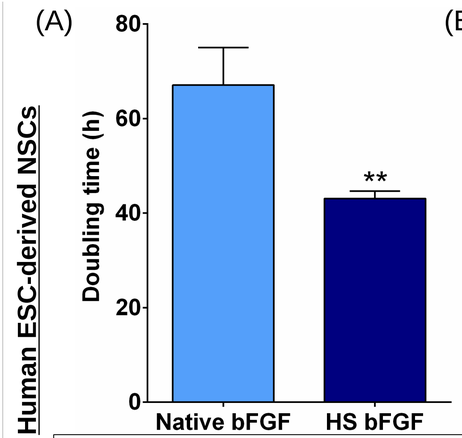
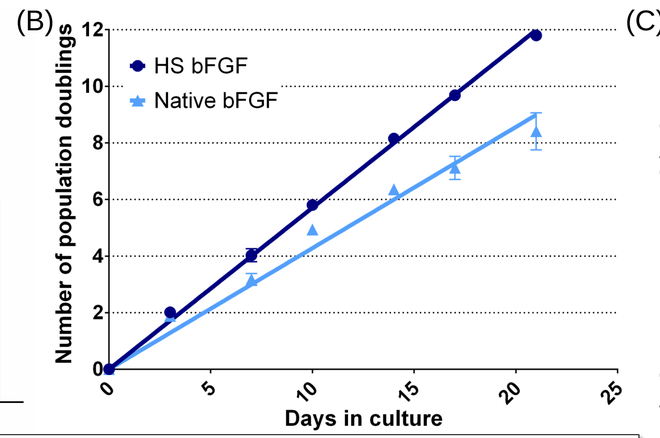


Figure 1. HS bFGF has a ≤ 20% loss of activity after 72 hours at 37˚ C. Dose-response of Balb/3T3 mouse embryonic fibroblast cells to native (top) and HS (bottom) bFGF stored at 4˚ C or 37˚ C for 72 hours. Analysis by PrestoBlue® assay after 18 h stimulation. Mean ± SEM.

Methods and Results

Human ESC-derived NSCs





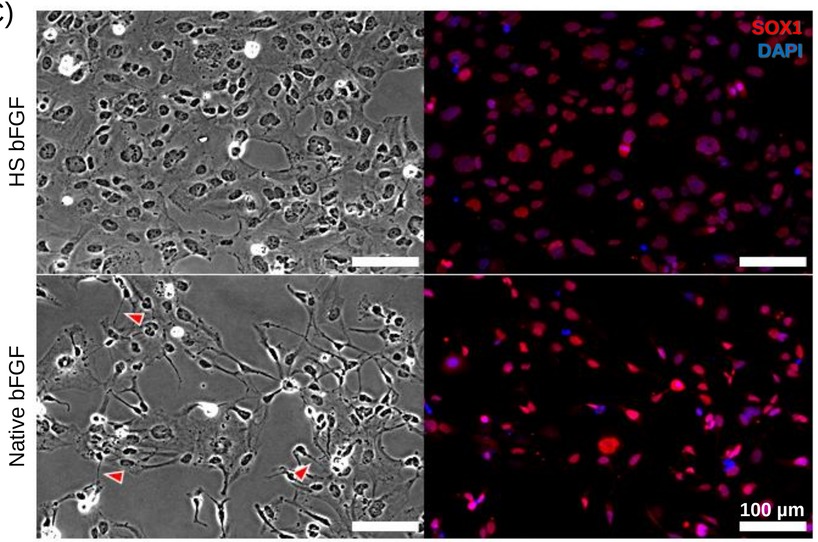


Figure 2. HS bFGF allows for normal proliferation of multipotent NSCs with less bFGF. At 5 ng/mL, HS bFGF (A) reduced the doubling time by ~30% (back to 20 ng/mL standard, ~45 h) and (B) had more cells at each passage versus native bFGF at the same concentration, (C) while maintaining a multipotent morphology and SOX1 expression. Mean ± SEM. ** = $p < 0.01$. Arrows denote neurite outgrowth.

Primary Rat NSCs

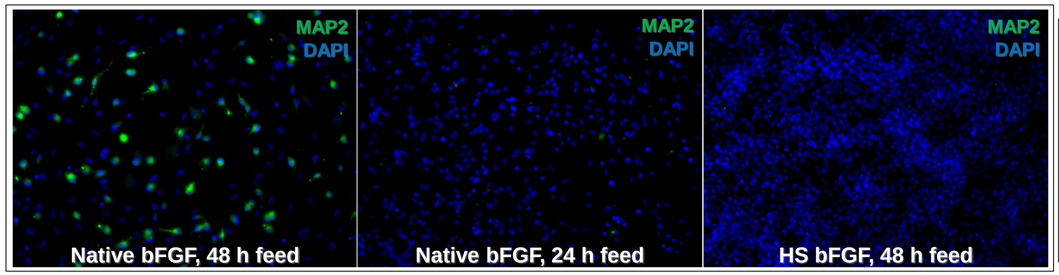
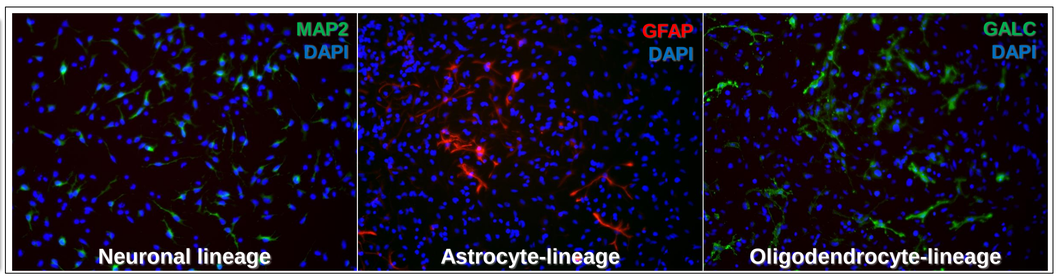


Figure 3. HS bFGF maintains multipotent NSCs with fewer feeds. Using 10 ng/mL bFGF, HS bFGF decreased the doubling time and maintained NSC multipotency with feeds every 48 h.

Figure 4. HS bFGF does not impact NSC differentiation. Three days after the removal of HS bFGF, the NSCs were stained for differentiation markers and showed trilineage potential.



Conclusions

- In human ESC-derived NSCs, HS bFGF can maintain multipotency and standard doubling times with **reduced bFGF concentrations**
- In primary rat NSCs, using **HS bFGF allows for a more user-friendly workflow** without the loss of multipotency or slower proliferation
- After expansion, **HS bFGF can be removed just as easily as native bFGF** to allow for downstream differentiation into neurons and glial cells

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