

## Research Article

# Immune Genes Highly Expressed by Microglia: Roles in Physiological and Pathological Conditions in the CNS

Marianne von Euler Chelpin<sup>1\*</sup> and Gerardo Arrevillaga-Boni<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry and Neurochemistry, Gothenburg University, Sweden

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of California Irvine, USA

### Abstract

Microglia are the first line of defense in the Central Nervous System (CNS) and play a central role in maintaining brain homeostasis. Microglia remove damaged neurons and control innate and adaptive immune responses. Additionally, major emergent activities such as influence in cognition and behaviour, have currently been described. Here we examined the database ImmGen (Immunological Genome Project) to determine which mice genes associated with the immune system had the highest expression in microglia. We found that the Colony Stimulating Factor 1 Receptor (CSF1R), Chemokine (C-C motif) Ligand 3 (CCL3), C1q Complex Protein subunits a, b and c (C1q a, b, c), CX3C Chemokine Receptor 1 (CX3CR1), Interleukin 10 receptor alpha subunit (IL-10ra), C-C Chemokine Receptor type 5 (CCR5), Interferon Gamma Receptor 2 (IFNGR2), Interleukin-10 Receptor Beta subunit (IL-10rb), C-C Chemokine Receptor-Like 2 (CCRL2), Chemokine (C-C motif) Ligand 9 (CCL9), Interleukin-4 Receptor Alpha (IL-4ra), Interleukin-1 Alpha (IL-1a), Chemokine (C-C motif) Ligand 4 (CCL4) and Chemokine (C-C motif) Ligand 6 (CCL6) are highly expressed. We provide a summary of the involvement of these molecules in homeostatic conditions and numerous neurological diseases and hope to awaken the interest to further study these genes and the networks they form in the context of the CNS.

**Keywords:** Activation; Chemokines; Complement system; Cytokines; Microglia; Neurological diseases

### Introduction

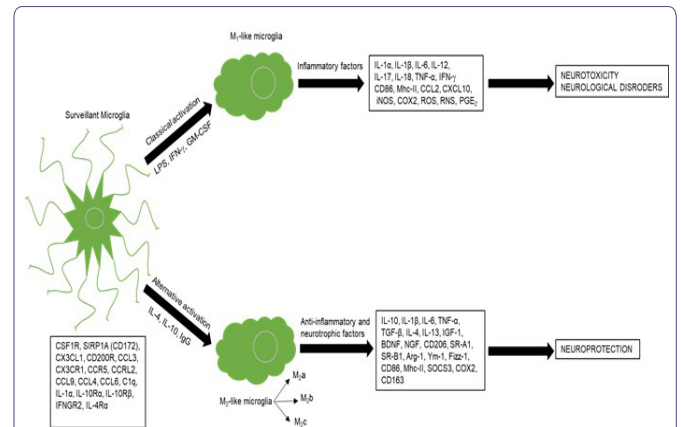
Microglia are myeloid cells in the brain and compose the mononuclear phagocyte system along with bone-marrow precursors,

**\*Corresponding author:** Marianne von Euler Chelpin, Department of Psychiatry and Neurochemistry, Gothenburg University, Sweden, Tel: +46 762163505; E-mail: marianne.von.euler.chelpin@gu.se

**Citation:** von Euler Chelpin M, Arrevillaga-Boni G (2017) Immune Genes Highly Expressed by Microglia: Roles in Physiological and Pathological Conditions in the CNS. J Brain Neurosci 1: 001

**Received:** October 04, 2017; **Accepted:** November 16, 2017; **Published:** November 30, 2017

circulating monocytes and tissue-resident macrophages [1]. Microglia originate from primitive myeloid progenitors in the yolk sac during embryonal development and migrate into the brain through blood vessels between embryonic stages E8.5 and E9.5 [2]. They represent 10-15% of the total brain cell population [3]. Microglia have been described as double-edged swords [4] exerting important activities in the healthy brain such as neuronal surveillance, pruning, neuro-modulation and phagocytosis [5,6] but also being one of the major cell types involved in inflammatory responses in the CNS [7]. Several studies indicate that in response to endogenous stimuli, microglia become activated and release numerous molecules that can either cause neuronal damage or have neuroprotective properties [5,8,9]. Depending on the molecules they release, microglia can be classified into classically activated M<sub>1</sub>-like microglia and alternatively activated M<sub>2</sub>-like microglia (Figure 1). M<sub>2</sub>-like microglia can be further subdivided (in a similar way as for macrophages) into M<sub>2a</sub>, M<sub>2b</sub> and M<sub>2c</sub> phenotypes [10]. During M<sub>1</sub> polarization microglia release several pro-inflammatory mediators including Interleukin-1 Beta (IL-1β), IL-1α, Interleukin-6 (IL-6), Interleukin-12 (IL-12), Interleukin-17 (IL-17), Interleukin-18 (IL-18), Interleukin-23 (IL-23), Tumour Necrosis Factor-Alpha (TNF-α) and Interferon Gamma (IFN-γ), among other proteins (Figure 1). M<sub>2</sub>-like microglia produce an array of anti-inflammatory cytokines such as Interleukin-10 (IL-10), Interleukin-4 (IL-4), Transforming Growth Factor Beta (TGF-β) and neurotrophic and growth factors such as Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) and Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) [9].



**Figure 1:** Representation of the polarization states of microglia.

At physiological conditions, microglia acquire a surveilling phenotype and express multiple proteins (lower left) necessary to maintain brain homeostasis. When stimulated with Lipopolysaccharide (LPS), IFN-γ and Granulocyte-Macrophage Colony Stimulating-Factor (GM-CSF) microglia become classically activated and acquire an M<sub>1</sub>-like phenotype characterized by the release of multiple inflammatory factors. The release of these factors by microglia leads to neurotoxicity causing neurological disorders. In the presence of IL-4, IL-10 and Immunoglobulin G (IgG) microglia become alternatively activated with an M<sub>2</sub>-like phenotype and release multiple anti-inflammatory factors that lead to neuroprotection.

## Microglial markers: Homeostasis vs. activation

Microglia, at homeostasis, express surface markers that are also common to other tissue macrophages such as Cluster of Differentiation Molecule 11b (CD11b), F4/80, Fc-gamma Receptor 1 (CD64), Cluster of Differentiation 115 (CD115 or CSF1R), Ionized Calcium-Binding Adapter Molecule 1 (Iba-1) and proto-oncogene tyrosine-protein kinase MER (MerTK) [11]. This feature makes it hard to discriminate microglia from other CNS-resident myeloid populations. However, recently, several gene expression studies have distinguished surface markers and transcription factors exclusively expressed by homeostatic microglia. These include, Sialic Acid-Binding Immunoglobulin-Type Lectin H (Siglec-H), Fc Receptor-like S (Fcrls) and Purinergic Receptor P2y G-Protein Coupled 12 (P2ry12), among other [12,13].

A property of microglia is their rapid activation after a CNS insult which leads to an increase in cell volume, number and cluster formation [14]. Microglia take on an amoeboid shape and exhibit enhanced immunoreactivity for Iba-1 and upregulate the common leukocyte antigen Cluster of Differentiation 45 (CD45) [11]. Activated microglia also express other molecules that are involved in antigen presentation, T cell stimulation and phagocytosis. These include the major Histocompatibility Complex Class II (Mhc-II), Cluster of Differentiation 11c (CD11c, also known as integrin alpha X), Cluster of Differentiation 80 (CD80, B7-1), Cluster of Differentiation 86 (CD86, B7-2), Cluster of Differentiation 40 (CD40), Cluster of Differentiation 163 (CD163) and Cluster of Differentiation 204 (CD204) [15-18] (Figure 2). Recently, Peferoen, et al., using an *in vitro* microglia model, showed the existence of microglia populations expressing markers that could differentiate their phenotypes. Cluster of differentiation 74 (CD74), CD40, CD86 and C-C Chemokine Receptor Type 7 (CCR7) were found to be specific for M<sub>1</sub>-like microglia while Mannose Receptor (MR) and C-C Motif Chemokine 22 (CCL22) were specifically expressed by M<sub>2</sub>-like microglia [19].

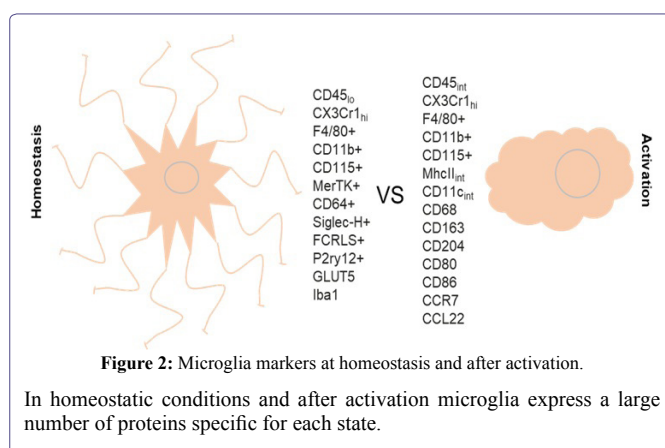


Figure 2: Microglia markers at homeostasis and after activation.

In homeostatic conditions and after activation microglia express a large number of proteins specific for each state.

Finally, it is important to mention that a consensus regarding the nomenclature of CNS-resident vs CNS-infiltrating myeloid cells has not yet been established under inflammatory conditions. A better classification and analysis of the different myeloid cells in the inflamed brain might help untangle their functions during pathological conditions.

## Immune-gene expression by microglia in health and disease

In healthy conditions, microglia produce large quantities of secreted proteins that interact with their receptors and assemble important communication networks required to keep brain equilibrium. When homeostasis is disrupted by injury, cellular stress or infections, inflammation raises as a key element that contributes to disease progression and the characteristic worsened outcomes in many severe CNS pathologies. In this context, we believe that if the physiological functions of the immune-genes normally expressed by microglia are elucidated, this might lead to the establishment of molecular mechanisms that could explain some of the symptoms in different brain pathologies associated with inflammation.

We examined the first 1264 positions of the gene expression profiles corresponding to microglia (designated as MF.Microglia.CNS) in the ImmGen database [20,21] to determine which immune-related genes had the highest expression in microglia under basal conditions. Based on the results, the genes were classified into four categories.

1. Colony Stimulating Factor 1 Receptor
2. Chemokines and chemokine receptors
3. Interleukins and interleukin receptors and
4. Complement system proteins (Figure 3)

The highest expressed gene in our selection was CSF1R. Among the chemokines and chemokine receptors we found CCL3, CX3CR1, CCR5, CCRL2, CCL9, CCL4 and CCL6 to be highly expressed. The interleukins and interleukin receptors that had the greatest expression scores were IL-10ra, IFNGR2, IL-10rb, IL-4ra and IL-1a. Finally, genes corresponding to subunits of the complement system C1q (C1qa, C1qb and C1qc) were also highly expressed. Together these results indicate that at physiological conditions microglia have a very high expression of immune related genes, highlighting the importance of the immune system in maintaining brain homeostasis.

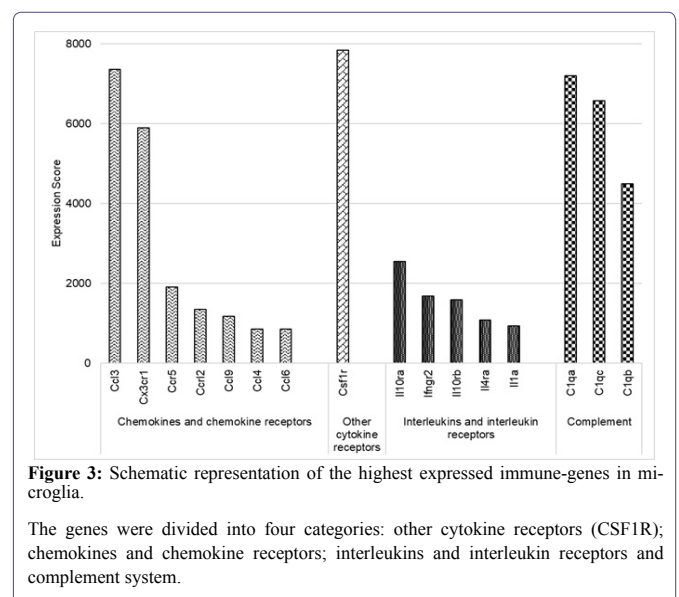


Figure 3: Schematic representation of the highest expressed immune-genes in microglia.

The genes were divided into four categories: other cytokine receptors (CSF1R); chemokines and chemokine receptors; interleukins and interleukin receptors and complement system.

A brief description of the functions and roles of these molecules in healthy state and neurological diseases is provided in table 1.

Type	Other Name	Function	Disease Model	References
CSF1R	M-CSFR, CD115	Regulates neuronal survival and differentiation Inactivating mutations lead to progressive dementia Regulates the activation and proliferation of microglia Prolonged inhibition resulted in the blockade of microglia proliferation and shift to anti-inflammatory phenotype Improved performance in memory and behavioral tasks through pharmacological targeting Microglia in the adult brain are dependent on CSF1R signaling	Alzheimer's Disease	[22,23,24]
<b>Chemokines and Receptors</b>				
CCL3	MIP1- $\alpha$	Inflammatory chemokine Regulates migration, proliferation and cytokine expression Mediates accumulation of microglia Induces inflammation and cognitive failure through A $\beta$ <sub>1-40</sub>	Neuropathic pain Brain injury Alzheimer's Disease	[25-27]
CX3CR1	Fractalkine receptor 1	Upregulated after peripheral nerve injury Critical for the initial development of chemotherapy-induced neuropathic pain Deletion of CX3CR1 promotes recovery after spinal cord injury, induces changes in microglia function and enhances endogenous repair and neuroplasticity	Neuropathic pain Spinal Cord Injury	[28,29]
CCR5		Chemoattractant protein Blockade of CCR5 downregulates expression and function of M <sub>2</sub> markers (ARG1, IL-10) and reduces microglia migration Ablation of CCR5 prevents neuronal injury and microglia activation; protects against spatial learning and memory impairment CCR5 KO mice had less number of TH+ neurons, larger dopamine depletion, behavioral impairments and microglia activation	Glioblastoma HIV-associated brain injury Parkinson's Disease	[30-32]
CCRL2		CCRL2 deficiency exacerbates EAE clinical phenotypes CCRL2 deficiency elevated the microglia markers Iba1, CD68 and TREM2 Important player in EAE-associated inflammatory reactions Anti-inflammatory role during chronic phase of EAE	Multiple Sclerosis/EAE	[33,34]
CCL9	MIP1- $\gamma$	Pro-inflammatory chemokine Potential involvement in regulation of macrophage and microglia cells Melatonin inhibits its expression in BV2 cells		[35,36]
CCL4	MIP1- $\beta$	Related with cell motility Expressed by activated microglia after light damage Increase in CCL4-CCR5 signaling in spinal dorsal horn of diabetic monkeys contributes to neuroinflammation	Retinal Damage Type 2 Diabetes	[37,38]
CCL6	C10	Expressed in rat microglia without stimulation Mediates the migration of microglia Mediator of cell-cell communication under physiological and pathological conditions of CNS Key role in the recruitment of macrophage lineage cells to the CNS Possible role in the process of inflammatory demyelination	EAE	[39,40]
<b>Interleukins and Receptors</b>				
IL10RA		Trend to increased expression in the anterior lumbar spinal cord	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	[41]
IFNGR2		Polymorphisms in IFNGR2 allele increase susceptibility to schizophrenia Triplification of IFNGR2 increases inflammation and worsened outcome of Down's Syndrome	Paranoid Schizophrenia Down's Syndrome	[42,43]
IL10RB		Upregulated in the high risk group of Glioblastoma patients with poor survival Upregulated in the somatosensory cortex and olfactory bulb of neuroserpin mutated mice	Glioblastoma Neuroserpinopathy	[44,45]
IL4RA		Upregulation on microglia serves to enhance their sensitivity to IL-4 and promote neuroprotective CNS environment Upregulation is decreased in microglia of aged mice leading to a failure to induce an anti-inflammatory phenotype		[46]
IL1A		$\alpha$ -Syn intra-cerebral injection induces an increased expression of IL-1 $\alpha$ in striatum Upregulated after brain damage Key mediator of sterile inflammatory response	Parkinson's Disease Hypoxic-ischemic brain damage	[47-49]
<b>Complement System</b>				
C1qa C1qb C1qc		Protein levels of C1q significantly increased in refractory epilepsy samples C1q localizes to microglia and dendrites C1q deficiency causes increased synaptic density and seizures C1q is increased and associated with synapses in Alzheimer's models Necessary for the toxic effects of soluble A $\beta$ oligomers on synapses Significantly increased in sclerotic gray matter lesions C1qa implicated in response to stimulus and stress. Central role in manifestation of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder	Epilepsy Alzheimer's Disease Multiple Sclerosis Schizophrenia Bipolar Disorder	[50,51-53]

**Table 1:** Involvement in neurological diseases of the highest expressed genes by microglia.

MIP: Macrophage Inflammatory Protein; ARG1: Arginase-1; EAE: Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis; TREM2: Triggering Receptor Expressed On Myeloid Cells 2; TH: Tyrosine Hydroxylase; A $\beta$ : Amyloid-Beta Peptide; KO: Knock-Out; CD115: Cluster of Differentiation 115; CD68: Cluster of Differentiation 68;  $\alpha$ -Syn: Alpha-Synuclein.

## Cytokines and their receptors in the CNS

Cytokines are small signalling proteins (6 to 30 kDa) involved in many biological processes including haematopoiesis, embryonic development and immune response [54]. Cytokines play an important role in the normal brain acting as neuromodulators [55], neurotrophic, growth and survival factors and are also involved in the formation of the cellular structure of the CNS during early development [56]. Increased levels of these cytokines are implicated in most of the neuro-inflammatory diseases we know nowadays, where they can either aggravate tissue damage or neutralise injury by controlling inflammation or supporting tissue remodelling [57]. As previously shown, the gene with the highest expression score in our analysis was CSFR1 that is known to be necessary for microglia viability. Microglia are physiologically dependent on CSFR1 signalling and its inhibition resulted in impairment of proliferation [22,23]. According to the ImmGen database, the IL-1a gene had the highest expression score among interleukins in microglia at physiological conditions. It has been suggested that IL-1 is related with the regulation of neuro-endocrine systems, particularly the Hypothalamic Pituitary-Adrenal Axis (HPA) and the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis. It has an involvement in stress-induced modulation of HPA axis activation; behavioural processes and neural plasticity, suggesting that this cytokine is an important mediator of adaptive stress responses as well as stress associated neuropathology and psychopathology [58]. IL-1 has also been implicated in normal memory consolidation [59].

Upon stimulation, microglia release high levels of a vast number of pro-inflammatory factors that can cause extreme neuroimmune responses (Figure 1). Once the injury ceases the levels of inflammation are generally controlled through the release of multiple anti-inflammatory mediators, among them, IL-10 and IL-4 (Figure 1). The binding of these cytokines to their receptors activates numerous anti-inflammatory signalling cascades [60] that control fundamental steps in the immune response such as decreasing cytokine gene expression and down-regulation of Mhc-II [61].

The fact that microglia express both pro and anti-inflammatory receptors at homeostatic conditions highlights their versatility to adopt different phenotypes in response to the cellular milieu.

## Chemokines and their receptors in the CNS

Chemokines are “a group of small (8-14 kDa), mostly basic, structurally related cytokines that regulate cell trafficking of various types of leukocytes through interactions with a subset of seven-transmembrane, G protein-coupled receptors” [62]. Chemokines and their receptors play an important role in the movement of mononuclear cells through the body [63]. Under physiological CNS conditions, microglia exhibit continuous movement of their cellular processes in the intact mouse cerebral cortex and brain [64-66]. The functional implication of this baseline motility is still unknown; however, studies in mice have revealed that microglia processes make contact with neuronal synapses *in vivo*, pointing to a possible role of microglia motility in synaptic remodelling and/or function [67]. We can speculate that the high expression of chemokines in microglia could be related to this basal movement. Chemokines have other non-canonical functions including microbial activity, influence on angiogenesis, protein secretion and proliferation [68].

Our results showed that the chemokine receptor with the highest

expression was CX3CR1 (also known as fractalkine receptor). CX3CR1 has been implicated in synaptic pruning of microglia in the healthy brain [69] and is regularly used for tracing microglia lineage [70]. It has been implied that signalling of CX3CR1 with its ligand, the Chemokine (C-X3-C motif) Ligand 1 (CX3CL1) regulates microglia phenotype [71]. Another highly expressed chemokine is CCL3, which has been considered a hippocampal neuromodulator capable of regulating mechanisms of synaptic plasticity involved in learning and memory functions [72]. A dysregulation of CCL3 can result in neuroinflammation, for example, there is an increased expression of this chemokine around sclerotic lesions [73,74]. Table 1 presents a description and involvement of the highest expressed chemokines and their receptors in several neurological pathologies such as Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer’s Disease, stroke, trauma and other [75,76].

## Complement system in the CNS

“The complement system consists of effectors proteins, regulators and receptors that participate in host defence against pathogens” [77]. Complement opsonins such as C1q interact with complement receptors on the surface to promote phagocytosis [78]. In fact, microglia can phagocytose and clear cellular remains from degenerating neurons through C1q-mediated pathways [79]. The complement system may also be useful in removing aggregated toxic proteins related with neurological disorders and hence, have a protective effect [80]. Modifying the expression of C1q can affect CNS development and lead to neuronal hyper excitability, indicating that the complement system has important roles in neuronal pruning [81]. Although beneficial during development, an uncontrolled complement-mediated pruning of synapses could cause behavioural alterations in mouse models of Alzheimer’s disease [50]. Our findings that C1q gene components are highly expressed on microglia agrees with a study by Fonseca, et al., who identified microglia as being the dominant source of C1q in the brain [82]. Likewise, Depboylu et al., found that microglia were the only cells that expressed C1q in the substantia nigra of Parkinson’s disease patients [79]. This information sheds new light into the importance of C1q both in physiological and pathological conditions, making it a worthy candidate for designing therapies against neurological disorders.

## Final Remarks

It is now starting to be recognised that the innate immune cells of the CNS have a pivotal significance in maintaining brain homeostasis. In this context, microglia and the inflammatory status in the CNS have a major and tuning role in brain development and functionality. Microglia have been described as double-edged swords [4] and under pathological conditions they play a crucial role in the development and preservation of the neuro-inflammatory response by showing increased proliferation and activation (Figure 1) [83]. In chronic neurodegenerative diseases of the CNS such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s Disease and prion diseases, microglia assume an activated morphology and express various molecules that are not typically expressed during healthy conditions and are directly related with the symptoms [5]. It is important to mention that the microglia polarization states proposed here are not definitive and are currently being disputed [84]. Rather, this terminology results from research into monocyte and macrophage biology and there is an ongoing debate to find a proper terminology for microglia activation states.

The curated data presented here (obtained from the only one microglia set available in the ImmGen database) can help visualize the impact of microglia in the basal immunological environment present in the CNS and perhaps predict the implications of its disruption in the context of neurological diseases. We believe that once the functions of these genes in the CNS context are elucidated, it will be possible to develop molecular tools to help modulate inflammation and control adverse effects in CNS pathologies.

## Acknowledgement

This work benefitted from data assembled by the ImmGen consortium.

## References

1. Michell-Robinson MA, Touil H, Healy LM, Owen DR, Durafourt BA, et al. (2015) Roles of microglia in brain development, tissue maintenance and repair. *Brain* 138: 1138-1159.
2. Ginhoux F, Greter M, Leboeuf M, Nandi S, See P, et al. (2010) Fate mapping analysis reveals that adult microglia derive from primitive macrophages. *Science* 330: 841-845.
3. Mittelbronn M, Dietz K, Schluesener HJ, Meyermann R (2001) Local distribution of microglia in the normal adult human central nervous system differs by up to one order of magnitude. *Acta Neuropathol* 101: 249-255.
4. Santiago AR, Bernardino L, Agudo-Barriuso M, Gonçalves J (2017) Microglia in health and disease: a double-edged sword. *Mediators of Inflammation* 2.
5. Perry VH (2016) Microglia. *Microbiol Spectr* 4.
6. Gomez-Nicola D, Perry VH (2015) Microglial dynamics and role in the healthy and diseased brain: a paradigm of functional plasticity. *Neuroscientist* 21: 169-184.
7. Ransohoff RM (2016) How neuroinflammation contributes to neurodegeneration. *Science* 353: 777-783.
8. Thomas DM, Francescutti-Verbeem DM, Kuhn DM (2006) Gene expression profile of activated microglia under conditions associated with dopamine neuronal damage. *FASEB J* 20: 515-517.
9. Subramaniam SR, Federoff HJ (2017) Targeting microglial activation states as a therapeutic avenue in parkinson's disease. *Front Aging Neurosci* 9: 176.
10. Boche D, Perry VH, Nicoll JA (2013) Review: activation patterns of microglia and their identification in the human brain. *Neuropathol Appl Neurobiol* 39: 3-18.
11. Greter M, Lelios I, Croxford AL (2015) Microglia versus myeloid cell nomenclature during brain inflammation. *Front Immunol* 6: 249.
12. Chiu IM, Morimoto ET, Goodarzi H, Liao JT, O'Keeffe S, et al. (2013) A neurodegeneration-specific gene-expression signature of acutely isolated microglia from an amyotrophic lateral sclerosis mouse model. *Cell Rep* 4: 385-401.
13. Butovsky O, Jedrychowski MP, Moore CS, Cialic R, Lanser AJ, et al. (2014) Identification of a unique TGF- $\beta$ -dependent molecular and functional signature in microglia. *Nat Neurosci* 17: 131-143.
14. Sasaki A (2017) Microglia and brain macrophages: An update. *Neuropathology* 37: 452-464.
15. Juedes AE, Ruddle NH (2001) Resident and infiltrating central nervous system APCs regulate the emergence and resolution of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis. *J Immunol* 166: 5168-5175.
16. Ponomarev ED, Shriver LP, Maresz K, Dittel BN (2005) Microglial cell activation and proliferation precedes the onset of CNS autoimmunity. *J Neurosci Res* 81: 374-389.
17. Almolda B, Gonzalez B, Castellano B (2011) Antigen presentation in EAE: role of microglia, macrophages and dendritic cells. *Front Biosci (Landmark Ed)* 16: 1157-1171.
18. Husemann J, Loike JD, Anankov R, Febbraio M, Silverstein SC (2002) Scavenger receptors in neurobiology and neuropathology: their role on microglia and other cells of the nervous system. *Glia* 40: 195-205.
19. Peferoen LA, Vogel DY, Ummenthum K, Breur M, Heijnen PD, et al. (2015) Activation status of human microglia is dependent on lesion formation stage and remyelination in multiple sclerosis. *J Neuropathol Exp Neurol* 74: 48-63.
20. Shay T, Kang J (2013) Immunological genome project and systems immunology. *Trends Immunol* 34: 602-609.
21. Heng TS, Painter MW, Immunological Genome Project Consortium (2008) The Immunological Genome Project: networks of gene expression in immune cells. *Nat Immunol* 9: 1091-1094.
22. Elmore MR, Najafi AR, Koike MA, Dagher NN, Spangenberg EE, et al. (2014) Colony-stimulating factor 1 receptor signaling is necessary for microglia viability, unmasking a microglia progenitor cell in the adult brain. *Neuron* 82: 380-397.
23. Olmos-Alonso A, Schettlers ST, Sri S, Askew K, Mancuso R, et al. (2016) Pharmacological targeting of CSF1R inhibits microglial proliferation and prevents the progression of Alzheimer's-like pathology. *Brain* 139: 891-907.
24. Chitu V, Stanley ER (2017) Regulation of embryonic and postnatal development by the CSF-1 receptor. *Curr Top Dev Biol* 123: 229-275.
25. Kiguchi N, Kobayashi Y, Maeda T, Saika F, Kishioka S (2010) CC-chemokine MIP-1 $\alpha$  in the spinal cord contributes to nerve injury-induced neuropathic pain. *Neuroscience Letters* 484: 17-21.
26. Zhu X, Wei D, Chen O, Zhang Z, Xue J, et al. (2016) Upregulation of CCL3/MIP-1 $\alpha$  regulated by MAPKs and NF- $\kappa$ B mediates microglial inflammatory response in LPS-induced brain injury. *Acta Neurol Exp (Wars)* 76: 304-317.
27. Passos GF, Figueiredo CP, Prediger RD, Pandolfo P, Duarte FS, et al. (2009) Role of the macrophage inflammatory protein-1 $\alpha$ /CC chemokine receptor 5 signaling pathway in the neuroinflammatory response and cognitive deficits induced by beta-amyloid peptide. *Am J Pathol* 175: 1586-1597.
28. Zhang, ZJ, Jiang BC, Gao YJ (2017) Chemokines in neuron-glia cell interaction and pathogenesis of neuropathic pain. *Cell Mol Life Sci* 74: 3275-3291.
29. Freria CM, Hall JC, Wei P, Guan Z, McTigue DM, et al. (2017) Deletion of the fractalkine receptor, CX3CR1, improves endogenous repair, axon sprouting, and synaptogenesis after spinal cord injury in mice. *J Neurosci* 37: 3568-3587.
30. Laudati E, Currò D, Navarra P, Lisi L (2017) Blockade of CCR5 receptor prevents M2 microglia phenotype in a microglia-glioma paradigm. *Neurochem Int* 108: 100-108.
31. Maung R, Hoefler MM, Sanchez AB, Sejbuk NE, Medders KE, et al. (2014) CCR5 knockout prevents neuronal injury and behavioral impairment induced in a transgenic mouse model by a CXCR4-using HIV-1 glycoprotein 120. *J Immunol* 193: 1895-1910.
32. Choi DY, Lee MK, Hong JT (2013) Lack of CCR5 modifies glial phenotypes and population of the nigral dopaminergic neurons, but not MPTP-induced dopaminergic neurodegeneration. *Neurobiol Dis* 49: 159-168.

33. Salvi V, Sozio F, Sozzani S, Prete AD (2017) Role of atypical chemokine receptors in microglial activation and polarization. *Front Aging Neurosci* 9: 148.
34. Mazzon C, Zanotti L, Wang L, Del Prete A, Fontana E, et al. (2016) CCRL2 regulates M1/M2 polarization during EAE recovery phase. *J Leukoc Biol* 99: 1027-1033.
35. Ravindran C, Cheng YC, Liang SM (2010) CpG-ODNs induces up-regulated expression of chemokine CCL9 in mouse macrophages and microglia. *Cell Immunol* 260: 113-118.
36. Min KJ, Jang JH, Kwon TK (2012) Inhibitory effects of melatonin on the lipopolysaccharide-induced CC chemokine expression in BV2 murine microglial cells are mediated by suppression of Akt-induced NF- $\kappa$ B and STAT/GAS activity. *J Pineal Res* 52: 296-304.
37. Rutar M, Natoli R, Chia RX, Valter K, Proviset JM (2015) Chemokine-mediated inflammation in the degenerating retina is coordinated by Muller cells, activated microglia, and retinal pigment epithelium. *J Neuroinflammation* 12: 8.
38. Kiguchi N, Ding H, Peters CM, Kock ND, Kishioka S, et al. (2017) Altered expression of glial markers, chemokines, and opioid receptors in the spinal cord of type 2 diabetic monkeys. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 1863: 274-283.
39. Kanno M, Suzuki S, Fujiwara T, Yokoyama A, Sakamoto A, et al. (2005) Functional expression of CCL6 by rat microglia: a possible role of CCL6 in cell-cell communication. *J Neuroimmunol* 167: 72-80.
40. Asensio VC, Lassmann S, Pagenstecher A, Steffensen SC, Henriksen SJ, et al. (1999) C10 is a novel chemokine expressed in experimental inflammatory demyelinating disorders that promotes recruitment of macrophages to the central nervous system. *Am J Pathol* 154: 1181-1191.
41. Berjaoui S, Povedano M, Garcia-Esparcia P, Carmona M, Aso E, et al. (2015) Complex Inflammation mRNA-Related Response in ALS Is Region Dependent. *Neural Plast* 2015: 573784.
42. Jemli A, Inoubli O, Trifa F, Mechri A, Zaafrane F, et al. (2017) IFNGR2 genetic polymorphism associated with sex-specific paranoid schizophrenia risk. *Nord J Psychiatry* 71: 42-47.
43. Wilcock DM (2012) Neuroinflammation in the aging down syndrome brain; lessons from Alzheimer's disease. *Curr Gerontol Geriatr Res* 2012: 170276.
44. Cai J, Zhang W, Yang P, Wang Y, Li M, et al. (2015) Identification of a 6-cytokine prognostic signature in patients with primary glioblastoma harboring M2 microglia/macrophage phenotype relevance. *PLoS One* 10: 0126022.
45. López-González I, Pérez-Mediavilla A, Zamarbide M, Carmona M, Torrejón Escribano B, et al. (2016) Limited unfolded protein response and inflammation in neuroserpinopathy. *J Neuropathol Exp Neurol* 75: 121-133.
46. Godbout JP, Fenn A, Huang Y, Gensel J (2012) Central interleukin-4 infusion after a peripheral lipopolysaccharide injection promotes a neuroprotective CNS environment with increased M2 microglia. *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity* 26: 29-30.
47. Szejder-Pacholek A, Joniec-Maciejak I, Wawer A, Ciesielska A, Mirowska-Guzel D (2017) The effect of  $\alpha$ -synuclein on gliosis and IL-1 $\alpha$ , TNF $\alpha$ , IFN $\gamma$ , TGF $\beta$  expression in murine brain. *Pharmacol Rep* 69: 242-251.
48. Rosenkranz K, Tenbusch M, May C, Marcus K, Meier C (2013) Changes in Interleukin-1 alpha serum levels after transplantation of umbilical cord blood cells in a model of perinatal hypoxic-ischemic brain damage. *Ann Anat* 195: 122-127.
49. Luheshi NM, Kovács KJ, Lopez-Castejon G, Brough D, Denes A (2011) Interleukin-1 $\alpha$  expression precedes IL-1 $\beta$  after ischemic brain injury and is localised to areas of focal neuronal loss and penumbral tissues. *J Neuroinflammation* 8: 186.
50. Hong S, Beja-Glasser VF, Nfonoyim BM, Frouin A, Li S, et al. (2016) Complement and microglia mediate early synapse loss in Alzheimer mouse models. *Science* 352: 712-716.
51. Wyatt SK, Witt T, Barbaro NM, Cohen-Gadol AA, Brewster AL (2017) Enhanced classical complement pathway activation and altered phagocytosis signaling molecules in human epilepsy. *Exp Neurol* 295: 184-193.
52. Watkins LM, Neal JW, Loveless S, Michailidou I, Ramaglia V, et al. (2016) Complement is activated in progressive multiple sclerosis cortical grey matter lesions. *J Neuroinflammation* 13: 161.
53. de Baumont A, Maschietto M, Lima L, Carraro DM, Olivieri EH, et al. (2015) Innate immune response is differentially dysregulated between bipolar disease and schizophrenia. *Schizophr Res* 161: 215-221.
54. Oppenheim JJ (2001) Cytokines: past, present, and future. *Int J Hematol* 74: 3-8.
55. Vitkovic L, Konsman JP, Bockaert J, Dantzer R, Homburger V, et al. (2000) Cytokine signals propagate through the brain. *Mol Psychiatry* 5: 604-615.
56. Deverman BE, Patterson PH (2009) Cytokines and CNS development. *Neuron* 64: 61-78.
57. Becher B, Spath S, Goverman J (2017) Cytokine networks in neuroinflammation. *Nat Rev Immunol* 17: 49-59.
58. Goshen I, Yirmiya R (2009) Interleukin-1 (IL-1): a central regulator of stress responses. *Front Neuroendocrinol* 30: 30-45.
59. Avital A, Goshen I, Kamsler A, Segal M, Iverfeldt K, et al. (2003) Impaired interleukin-1 signaling is associated with deficits in hippocampal memory processes and neural plasticity. *Hippocampus* 13: 826-834.
60. Murray PJ (2006) Understanding and exploiting the endogenous interleukin-10/STAT3-mediated anti-inflammatory response. *Curr Opin Pharmacol* 6: 379-386.
61. Moore KW, de Waal Malefyt R, Coffman RL, O'Garra A (2001) Interleukin-10 and the interleukin-10 receptor. *Annu Rev Immunol* 19: 683-765.
62. Zlotnik A, Yoshie O (2000) Chemokines: a new classification system and their role in immunity. *Immunity* 12: 121-127.
63. Charo IF, Ransohoff RM (2006) The many roles of chemokines and chemokine receptors in inflammation. *N Engl J Med* 354: 610-621.
64. Davalos D, Grutzendler J, Yang G, Kim JV, Zuo Y, et al. (2005) ATP mediates rapid microglial response to local brain injury in vivo. *Nat Neurosci* 8: 752-758.
65. Stence N, Waite M, Dailey ME (2001) Dynamics of microglial activation: a confocal time-lapse analysis in hippocampal slices. *Glia* 33: 256-266.
66. Nimmerjahn A, Kirchhoff F, Helmchen F (2005) Resting microglial cells are highly dynamic surveillants of brain parenchyma in vivo. *Science* 308: 1314-1318.
67. Wake H, Moorhouse AJ, Jinno S, Kohsaka S, Nabekura J (2009) Resting microglia directly monitor the functional state of synapses in vivo and determine the fate of ischemic terminals. *J Neurosci* 29: 3974-3980.
68. Meeker RB, Williams K, Killebrew DA, Hudson LC (2012) Cell trafficking through the choroid plexus. *Cell Adh Migr* 6: 390-396.

69. Paolicelli RC, Bolasco G, Pagani F, Maggi L, Scianni M, et al. (2011) Synaptic pruning by microglia is necessary for normal brain development. *Science* 333: 1456-1458.
70. Hulshof S, van Haastert ES, Kuipers HF, van den Elsen PJ, De Groot CJ (2003) CX3CL1 and CX3CR1 expression in human brain tissue: non-inflammatory control versus multiple sclerosis. *J Neuropathol Exp Neurol* 62: 899-907.
71. Cardona AE, Pioro EP, Sasse ME, Kostenko V, Cardona SM, et al. (2006) Control of microglial neurotoxicity by the fractalkine receptor. *Nat Neurosci* 9: 917-924.
72. Marciniak E, Faivre E, Dutar P, Pires CA, Demeyeret D, et al. (2015) The Chemokine MIP-1 $\alpha$ /CCL3 impairs mouse hippocampal synaptic transmission, plasticity and memory. *Sci Rep* 5: 15862.
73. Ransohoff RM (2002) Chemokines and chemokine receptors in multiple sclerosis: a few answers and many more questions. In: Ransohoff RM, Suzuki K, Proudfoot AEI, Hickey WF, Harrison JK (eds.). *Universes in Delicate Balance: Chemokines and the Nervous System*, (edn). Elsevier, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
74. Muller DM, Pender MP, Greer JM (2004) Chemokines and chemokine receptors: potential therapeutic targets in multiple sclerosis. *Curr Drug Targets Inflamm Allergy* 3: 279-290.
75. Savarin-Vuailat C, Ransohoff RM (2007) Chemokines and chemokine receptors in neurological disease: raise, retain, or reduce?. *Neurotherapeutics* 4: 590-601.
76. Ubogu EE, Cossoy MB, Ransohoff RM (2006) The expression and function of chemokines involved in CNS inflammation. *Trends Pharmacol Sci* 27: 48-55.
77. Lintner KE, Wu YL, Yang Y, Spencer CH, Hauptmann G, et al. (2016) Early components of the complement classical activation pathway in human systemic autoimmune diseases. *Front Immunol* 7: 36.
78. van Beek J, Elward K, Gasque P (2003) Activation of complement in the central nervous system: roles in neurodegeneration and neuroprotection. *Ann N Y Acad Sci* 992: 56-71.
79. Depboylu C, Schäfer MK, Arias-Carrión O, Oertel WH, Weihe E, et al. (2011) Possible involvement of complement factor C1q in the clearance of extracellular neuromelanin from the substantia nigra in Parkinson disease. *J Neuropathol Exp Neurol* 70: 125-132.
80. Bonifati DM, Kishore U (2007) Role of complement in neurodegeneration and neuroinflammation. *Mol Immunol* 44: 999-1010.
81. Libbey JE, Cusick MF, Doty DJ, Fujinami RS (2017) Complement components are expressed by infiltrating macrophages/activated microglia early following viral infection. *Viral Immunol* 30: 304-314.
82. Fonseca MI, Chu SH, Hernandez MX, Fang MJ, Modarresi L, et al. (2017) Cell-specific deletion of C1q identifies microglia as the dominant source of C1q in mouse brain. *J Neuroinflammation* 14: 48.
83. Obst J, Simon E, Mancuso R, Gomez-Nicola D (2017) The role of microglia in prion diseases: a paradigm of functional diversity. *Front Aging Neurosci* 9: 207.
84. Ransohoff RM (2016) A polarizing question: do M1 and M2 microglia exist? *Nature Neuroscience* 19: 987-991.