

**Table 2.** The list of genes which changed significantly in P14SC

| ID              | Symbol  | Entrez Gene name   | Type(s)                           |
|-----------------|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Increase</b> |         |  |                                   |
| 1386904_at      | CYB5A   | cytochrome b5 type A (microsomal)                                      | enzyme                            |
| 1387897_at      | CNP     | 2',3'-cyclic nucleotide 3' phosphodiesterase                           | enzyme                            |
| 1370048_at      | LPAR1   | lysophosphatidic acid receptor 1                                       | G-protein coupled receptor        |
| 1368092_at      | FAH     | fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase (fumarylacetoacetase)                    | enzyme                            |
| 1368506_at      | RGS4    | regulator of G-protein signaling 4                                     | other                             |
| 1368298_at      | ADCY5   | adenylate cyclase 5  | enzyme                            |
| 1370834_at      | HS3ST1  | heparan sulfate (glucosamine) 3-O-sulfotransferase 1                   | enzyme                            |
| 1368154_at      | GUCY1A3 | guanylate cyclase 1, soluble, alpha 3                                  | enzyme                            |
| 1368145_at      | PCP4    | Purkinje cell protein 4  | other                             |
| 1368253_at      | GAMT    | guanidinoacetate N-methyltransferase                                   | enzyme                            |
| 1387822_at      | GNA11   | guanine nucleotide binding protein (G protein), alpha 11 (Gq class)    | enzyme                            |
| 1368263_at      | MOBP    | myelin-associated oligodendrocyte basic protein                        | other                             |
| 1367949_at      | PENK    | proenkephalin  | other                             |
| 1370206_at      | ACCN4   | amiloride-sensitive cation channel 4, pituitary                        | ion channel                       |
| 1386979_at      | SERINC5 | serine incorporator 5  | transporter                       |
| 1368104_at      | TSPAN2  | tetraspanin 2  | other                             |
| 1372462_at      | ACAT2   | acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase 2   | enzyme                            |
| 1398257_at      | MOG     | myelin oligodendrocyte glycoprotein                                    | other                             |
| 1398258_at      | APOD    | apolipoprotein D   | transporter                       |
| 1368105_at      | TSPAN2  | tetraspanin 2  | other                             |
| 1368384_at      | KLK6    | kallikrein-related peptidase 6   | peptidase                         |
| 1370541_at      | NR1D2   | nuclear receptor subfamily 1, group D, member 2                        | ligand-dependent nuclear receptor |
| 1370693_at      | CNP     | 2',3'-cyclic nucleotide 3' phosphodiesterase                           | enzyme                            |
| 1368121_at      | AKR7A3  | aldo-keto reductase family 7, member A3 (aflatoxin aldehyde reductase) | enzyme                            |
| 1368438_at      | PDE10A  | phosphodiesterase 10A  | enzyme                            |
| 1368858_at      | UGT8    | UDP glycosyltransferase 8  | enzyme                            |
| 1370372_at      | RASD2   | RASD family, member 2  | enzyme                            |
| 1370816_at      | NR1D1   | nuclear receptor subfamily 1, group D, member 1                        | ligand-dependent nuclear receptor |
| 1368478_at      | DRD1    | dopamine receptor D1   | G-protein coupled receptor        |
| 1370669_at      | PDE10A  | phosphodiesterase 10A  | enzyme                            |
| 1387874_at      | DBP     | D site of albumin promoter (albumin D-box) binding protein             | transcription regulator           |
| 1388176_at      | Cml5    | camello-like 5   | enzyme                            |
| 1368135_at      | NINJ2   | ninjurin 2   | other                             |
| 1368127_at      | NEU2    | sialidase 2 (cytosolic sialidase)                                      | enzyme                            |
| 1368479_at      | DRD1    | dopamine receptor D1   | G-protein coupled receptor        |

**Table 2.** (Continued)

| ID              | Symbol      | Entrez Gene name  | Type(s)                    |
|-----------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Increase</b> |             |   |                            |
| 1387241_at      | GPR88       | G protein-coupled receptor 88                                       | G-protein coupled receptor |
| 1368708_a_at    | DRD2        | dopamine receptor D2  | G-protein coupled receptor |
| 1368300_at      | ADPRA2A     | adenosine A2a receptor  | G-protein coupled receptor |
| 1368500_a_at    | RGS9        | regulator of G-protein signaling 9                                  | enzyme                     |
| 1370991_at      | Cml3/Gm4477 | camello-like 3  | enzyme                     |
| <b>Decrease</b> |             |   |                            |
| 1370550_at      | LSAMP       | limbic system-associated membrane protein                           | other                      |
| 1370026_at      | CRYAB       | crystallin, alpha B   | other                      |
| 1386987_at      | IL6R        | interleukin 6 receptor  | transmembrane receptor     |
| 1368641_at      | WNT4        | wingless-like MMTV integration site family, member 4                | cytokine                   |
| 1387169_at      | TLE3        | transducin-like enhancer of split 3 (E(sp 1) homolog, Drosophila)   | other                      |
| 1368577_at      | GJB6        | gap junction protein, beta 6, 30kDa                                 | transporter                |
| 1386929_at      | HK1         | hexokinase 1  | kinase                     |
| 1368782_at      | SSTR2       | somatostatin receptor 2   | G-protein coupled receptor |
| 1368677_at      | BDNF        | brain-derived neurotrophic factor                                   | growth factor              |
| 1387908_at      | RASD1       | RAS, dexamethasone-induced 1  | enzyme                     |
| 1370019_at      | SULT1A1     | sulfotransferase family, cytosolic, 1A, phenol-preferring, member 1 | enzyme                     |
| 1398245_at      | SNCG        | synuclein, gamma (breast cancer-specific protein 1)                 | other                      |
| 1388271_at      | MT2A        | metallothionein 2A  | other                      |

ID, symbol, entrez gene name, type of each gene were shown based on IPA software database.

**Table 3.** The list of genes which changed significantly in E12IP and P14SC were categorized to groups based on their functions using IPA software

| E12IP             |  | P14SC                                      |   |                   |
|-------------------|--|--|---|-------------------|
| p-value           | Molecules  | Category                                   | P14SC   | p-value           |
|                   |  | Behavior                                   | RGS9,GJB6,RASD2,DBP,BDNF,PDE10A,IL6R,CNP,SNCG,DRD2,PCP4,DRD1,NR1D1,LPAR1,ADCY5,PENK,ADORA2A               | 2.16E-07-1.85E-02 |
| 1.02E-02-1.02E-02 | RHOA   | Cell Cycle                                 | CRYAB,SSTR2,WNT4  | 4.65E-03-1.85E-02 |
| 6.33E-06-3.04E-02 | ABCB1,CD59,MT2A,RHOA,ACTB,GREM1,VDAC1,MT1E                   | Cell Death                                 | CRYAB,BDNF,IL6R,RGS4,UGT8,DRD2,HK1,LPAR1,SSTR2,ADCY5,MT2A,ADORA2A,MOG                                     | 3.03E-04-2.31E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-4.46E-02 | CD59,HBB,MT2A,RHOA,SLC1A3,VDAC1                              | Cell Morphology                            | HK1,LPAR1,DRD1,MT2A,BDNF,IL6R,GNA11,KLK6,RGS4,SNCG,DRD2,ADORA2A   | 4.59E-04-2.31E-02 |
| 4.93E-02-4.93E-02 | CD59,HBA1/HBA2,VDAC1   | Cell Signaling                             | RGS9,LPAR1,SSTR2,DRD1,BDNF,ADCY5,PDE10A,IL6R,GNA11,RGS4,DRD2,ADORA2A                                      | 9.12E-05-2.07E-02 |
| 6.3E-05-2.54E-02  | CD59,MT2A,RHOA,SLC1A3,GREM1,GABARAP,VDAC1,LPHN1,MT1E,S100A10 | Cell-To-Cell Signaling and Interaction     | RASD2,GUCY1A3,BDNF,GNA11,CNP,IL6R,RGS4,KLK6,SNCG,DRD2,PCP4,DRD1,ADCY5,MT2A,SULT1A1,PENK,ADORA2A,MOG,NINJ2 | 2.34E-07-2.31E-02 |
| 6.33E-06-4.27E-02 | SYNJ2,CD59,MT2A,RHOA,HBA1/HBA2,VDAC1,LPHN1,MT1E              | Cellular Assembly and Organization         | RGS9,HK1,CRYAB,LPAR1,DRD1,MT2A,BDNF,GNA11,CNP,SNCG,DRD2,MOG   | 4.65E-03-2.31E-02 |
| 4.67E-04-4.46E-02 | Tsc22d3,HBB,MT2A,RHOA,HBA1/HBA2,SLC1A3                       | Cellular Development                       | NR1D1,DRD1,MT2A,BDNF,SERINC5,IL6R,RGS4,UGT8,DRD2  | 5.55E-04-2.31E-02 |
| 1.32E-04-4.27E-02 | CD59,MT2A,RHOA,HBA1/HBA2,VDAC1,LPHN1,MT1E                    | Cellular Function and Maintenance          | CRYAB,DRD1,BDNF,CNP   | 4.65E-03-2.31E-02 |
| 4.67E-04-2.07E-02 | ABCB1,MT2A,RHOA,ACTB,GREM1,GABARAP,VDAC1,MT1E                | Cellular Growth and Proliferation          | GJB6,CRYAB,GUCY1A3,BDNF,IL6R,GNA11,KLK6,RGS4,SNCG,DRD2,RASD1,SSTR2,LPAR1,NR1D1,MT2A,PENK,WNT4,ADORA2A,MOG | 3.03E-04-2.17E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-4.77E-02 | CD59,RHOA,LPHN1,S100A10                                      | Cellular Movement                          | GUCY1A3,BDNF,GNA11,CNP,IL6R,RGS4,KLK6,SNCG,DRD2,NR1D1,SSTR2,DRD1,LPAR1,PENK,ADORA2A,MOG                   | 6.76E-05-1.85E-02 |
| 1.67E-05-2.54E-02 | Tsc22d3,MT2A,RHOA,GREM1,VDAC1,MT1E                           | Connective Tissue Development and Function |   |                   |
| 5.12E-03-4.27E-02 | HBB,RHOA,PNLIP   | Developmental Disorder                     | CRYAB,GJB6,SSTR2,DRD1,GUCY1A3,BDNF,IL6R,GNA11,WNT4,RGS4,DRD2  | 2.02E-05-2.31E-02 |
| 7.67E-03-7.67E-03 | ABCB1  | DNA Replication, Recombination, and Repair | GUCY1A3,BDNF,RGS4,DRD2,ADORA2A  | 1.28E-02-1.28E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-4.27E-02 | ABCB1  | Drug Metabolism                            | DRD1,BDNF,SULT1A1,GNA11,RGS4,SNCG,DRD2,ADORA2A  | 2.12E-05-1.85E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-4.77E-02 | HBB,RHOA,GREM1   | Embryonic Development                      | GJB6,LPAR1,BDNF,WNT4,KLK6,DRD2  | 1.17E-03-1.85E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-2.56E-03 | ABCB1  | Endocrine System Development and Function  | BDNF,SULT1A1,GNA11,WNT4,ADORA2A   | 2.1E-04-2.31E-02  |
| 2.25E-02-2.25E-02 | MT1E,S100A10   | Endocrine System Disorders                 | ACAT2,SSTR2,DRD1,IL6R,DRD2  | 2.02E-05-2.31E-02 |
| 4.52E-02-4.52E-02 | RHOA   | Gene Expression                            | DBP,BDNF,IL6R,RGS4,KLK6,NR1D2,DRD2,RASD1,NR1D1,DRD1,LPAR1,TLE3,WNT4,ADORA2A,MOG                           | 1.38E-02-1.39E-02 |

**Table 3. (Continued)**

| E12IP             |  | P14SC                                   |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|---|--|-------------------|
| p-value           | Molecules  | Category                                | P14SC  | p-value           |
| 1.29E-03-4.27E-02 | ABCB1,HBB,MT2A,ACTB,PNLIP,MT1E   | Genetic Disorder                        | ACCN4,RGS9,CRYAB,GJB6,RASD2,ACAT2,BDNF,GNA11,KLK6,NR1D2,DRD1,ADCY5,MT2A,WNT4,LSAMP,MOG,GUCY1A3,DBP,PDE10A,CNP,IL6R,TSPAN2,RGS4,NEU2,SNCG,DRD2,GPR88,FAH,PCP4,LPAR1,NR1D1,MOBP,SSTR2,SULT1A1,PENK,TLE3,CYB5A,ADORA2A,APOD | 4.1E-09-2.31E-02  |
| 2.56E-03-4.27E-02 | ABCB1,RHOA,MT1E  | Inflammatory Disease                    | CRYAB,BDNF,IL6R,DRD2,MOG   | 4.65E-03-2.31E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-4.27E-02 | CD59,RHOA,MT1E,S100A10   | Inflammatory Response                   | GNA11,IL6R,PENK,CNP,ADORA2A,MOG  | 9.29E-03-2.31E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-4.4E-02  | SYNJ2,ABCB1,MT2A,DLAT,RHOA,MT1E,PNLIP,S100A10  | Lipid Metabolism                        | ACAT2,DBP,BDNF,SERINC5,GNA11,RGS4,UGT8,DRD2,LPAR1,DRD1,SSTR2,SULT1A1,WNT4,ADORA2A,MOG,APOD   | 2.1E-04-2.31E-02  |
| 6.33E-06-4.93E-02 | ABCB1,CD59,HBA1/HBA2,CDK16,SLC1A3,HEPH,LPHN1,HBB,MT-CYB,MT2A,RHOA,GABARAP,VDAC1,MT1E,PNLIP,S100A10 | Molecular Transport                     | ACAT2,GUCY1A3,BDNF,PDE10A,GNA11,IL6R,RGS4,UGT8,SNCG,DRD2,HK1,LPAR1,SSTR2,DRD1,MT2A,ADCY5,WNT4,ADORA2A,APOD   | 1.11E-05-2.31E-02 |
| 3.99E-03-4.27E-02 | MT2A,RHOA,HBA1/HBA2,SLC1A3,GABARAP,VDAC1,LPHN1,MT1E  | Nervous System Development and Function | GJB6,RASD2,GUCY1A3,DBP,BDNF,SERINC5,CNP,GNA11,RGS4,UGT8,SNCG,DRD2,PCP4,DRD1,NR1D1,LPAR1,ADCY5,MT2A,PENK,ADORA2A,MOG,NINJ2  | 1.59E-05-2.31E-02 |
| 3.79E-05-3.78E-02 | MT2A,ACTB,SLC1A3,MT1E,S100A10  | Neurological Disease                    | RGS9,CRYAB,RASD2,GJB6,BDNF,GNA11,DRD1,MT2A,ADCY5,LSAMP,MOG,GUCY1A3,DBP,PDE10A,CNP,IL6R,RGS4,SNCG,DRD2,GPR88,PCP4,LPAR1,MOBP,SSTR2,NR1D1,PENK,ADORA2A,APOD  | 1.43E-09-2.31E-02 |
| 2.64E-02-2.64E-02 | MT2A,MT1E  | Psychological Disorders                 | CRYAB,BDNF,PDE10A,CNP,RGS4,DRD2,PCP4,MOBP,DRD1,SSTR2,MT2A,LSAMP,ADORA2A,MOG,APOD   | 1.57E-04-2.01E-02 |
| 6.33E-06-4.4E-02  | ABCB1,AZIN1,HBA1/HBA2,SLC1A3,SYNJ2,HBB,MT2A,RHOA,DLAT,VDAC1,PNLIP,MT1E,S100A10                     | Small Molecule Biochemistry             | RGS9,ACAT2,BDNF,SERINC5,GNA11,HK1,DRD1,MT2A,ADCY5,WNT4,MOG,DBP,GUCY1A3,PDE10A,IL6R,RGS4,UGT8,SNCG,DRD2,SSTR2,LPAR1,GAMT,SULT1A1,CYB5A,ADORA2A,APOD   | 1.11E-05-2.31E-02 |
| 2.56E-03-2.79E-02 | CD59,Tsc22d3,HBB,RHOA,SLC1A3,GREM1   | Tissue Development                      | GJB6,CRYAB,GUCY1A3,BDNF,GNA11,CNP,IL6R,KLK6,RGS4,DRD2,GAMT,DRD1,LPAR1,TLE3,WNT4,ADORA2A,MOG,NINJ2  | 4.59E-04-2.31E-02 |
| 3.43E-04-2.79E-02 | CD59,HBB,MT2A,RHOA,SLC1A3,GREM1,MT1E,S100A10   | Tissue Morphology                       | CRYAB,ACAT2,GUCY1A3,BDNF,IL6R,DRD2,GAMT,DRD1,SSTR2,LPAR1,WNT4,ADORA2A,MOG  | 8E-04-2.31E-02    |

Behavior'-related genes were identified only in P14SC. Additionally a larger number of genes were categorized to 'nervous system development and function', 'neurological disease', and 'psychological disorders' in P14SC than in E12IP.

Valproic acid and gene expression in rat amygdala

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## Niflumic Acid Activates Additional Currents of the Human Glial L-Glutamate Transporter EAAT1 in a Substrate-Dependent Manner

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**The astrocytic L-glutamate (L-Glu) transporter EAAT1 participates in the removal of L-Glu from the synaptic cleft and maintenance of non-toxic concentrations in the extracellular fluid. We have shown that niflumic acid (NFA), a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAIDs), alters L-Glu-induced EAAT1 currents in a voltage-dependent manner using the two-electrode voltage clamp technique in *Xenopus* oocytes expressing EAAT1. In this study, we characterised the effects of NFA on each type of ion-flux through EAAT1. NFA modulated currents induced by both L-Glu and L-aspartate (L-Asp) in a voltage-dependent manner. Ion-substitution experiments revealed that the activation of additional H<sup>+</sup> conductance was involved in the modulation of currents induced by L-Asp and L-Glu, but Cl<sup>−</sup> was involved only with the L-Asp currents. NFA activated additional currents of EAAT1 in a substrate-dependent manner.**

**Key words** astrocytic L-glutamate transporter; niflumic acid; additional conductance; EAAT1; voltage-dependent manner

Neuronal and astrocytic L-glutamate (L-Glu) transporters (EAATs) are the only significant machinery for the removal of L-Glu from the synaptic cleft and maintenance of non-toxic concentrations in the extracellular fluid.<sup>1)</sup> Along with controlling extracellular L-Glu concentrations, EAATs also play a role in the regulation of functional crosstalk between neurons and glial cells by modulating the ion flux. L-Glu is co-transported into a cell with 3 Na<sup>+</sup> and 1 H<sup>+</sup> by EAATs, followed by the counter-transport of 1 K<sup>+</sup>.<sup>2)</sup> L-Glu and Na<sup>+</sup> binding to EAATs activates a non-stoichiometrically-coupled (uncoupled) Cl<sup>−</sup> conductance.<sup>3)</sup> The Na<sup>+</sup> influx triggers functional metabolic crosstalk between neurons and astrocytes,<sup>4)</sup> and the uncoupled Cl<sup>−</sup> conductance dampens neuronal excitability.<sup>5,6)</sup>

Niflumic acid [2-((3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)amino)-3-pyridinecarboxylic acid, NFA], a member of a class of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), modulates the gating of Cl<sup>−</sup> channels,<sup>7,8)</sup> K<sup>+</sup> channels,<sup>9–14)</sup> nicotinic acetylcholine channels,<sup>15)</sup> and transient receptor potential channels.<sup>16)</sup> NFA also enhances the substrate-gated currents of EAAT4, an L-Glu transporter expressed primarily in Purkinje neurons,<sup>17)</sup> by activating additional uncoupled H<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>−</sup> conductances.<sup>18)</sup> We recently discovered that NFA modulates the current mediated through EAAT1, an astrocytic L-Glu transporter,<sup>19,20)</sup> in a voltage-dependent manner.<sup>21)</sup> In this study, we characterised the effects of NFA on L-Glu and L-aspartate (L-Asp) currents, focusing on each ion-flux. We report here that the activation of additional H<sup>+</sup> conductance was involved in the modulation by NFA of both L-Glu currents and L-Asp currents, whereas Cl<sup>−</sup> was involved only in the modulation of L-Asp currents.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Expression of EAAT1 in *Xenopus* Oocytes** All of the animals were treated in accordance with the guidelines for the

Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the Animal Research Committee of the National Institute of Health Sciences, Japan. A pcDNA3.1 plasmid containing the cDNA of the human glutamate transporter EAAT1 was obtained from Dr. Keiko Shimamoto (Suntory Institute for Bioorganic Research, Osaka, Japan). The plasmids containing the EAAT1 cDNA were linearized at a *NotI* (Toyobo, Osaka, Japan) site, and capped RNA was transcribed from the linearized cDNA construct with a bacteriophage T7 RNA polymerase (mMESSAGE mMACHINE; Ambion, Austin, TX, U.S.A.). Oocytes were collected from anaesthetised *Xenopus laevis*. The isolated oocytes were then treated with collagenase (2 mg mL<sup>−1</sup>, type 1, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.), and capped mRNA was injected into either defolliculated stage V or VI oocytes. The oocytes were incubated for 2–7 d at 18°C in ND96 solution containing 96 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 1.8 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 5 mM *N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine-*N'*-(2-ethanesulfonic acid) (HEPES) (pH 7.5) supplemented with 0.01% gentamycin.

**Electrophysiology** Two-electrode voltage clamp recordings from EAAT1-expressing oocytes were performed at room temperature (25–27°C) using glass microelectrodes filled with 3 M KCl solution (resistance=1–4 MΩ) and an Ag/AgCl pellet bath ground (EP2; World Precision Instruments, Sarasota, FL, U.S.A.). A bath-clamp amplifier (OC-725C; Warner Instruments, Hamden, CT, U.S.A.) was used with a Digidata 1320A interface (Axon Instruments, Foster City, CA, U.S.A.). The pClamp suite of programs (ver. 8.2; Axon Instruments) and the Clampfit data acquisition software were used to control stimulation parameters, and to acquire and analyse data. An Ag/AgCl pellets were used to avoid voltage errors associated with buffer changes. Oocytes were continuously superfused with ND96 solution. To adjust the extracellular H<sup>+</sup> to various concentrations, the HEPES was replaced by either 2-(*N*-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid (MES) (pH 5.5, 6.5) or [(2-hydroxy-1,1-bis(hydroxymethyl)ethyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid (TAPS) (pH 8.5). For Na<sup>+</sup> substitution experiments, Na<sup>+</sup> was replaced by equimolar choline ions. For

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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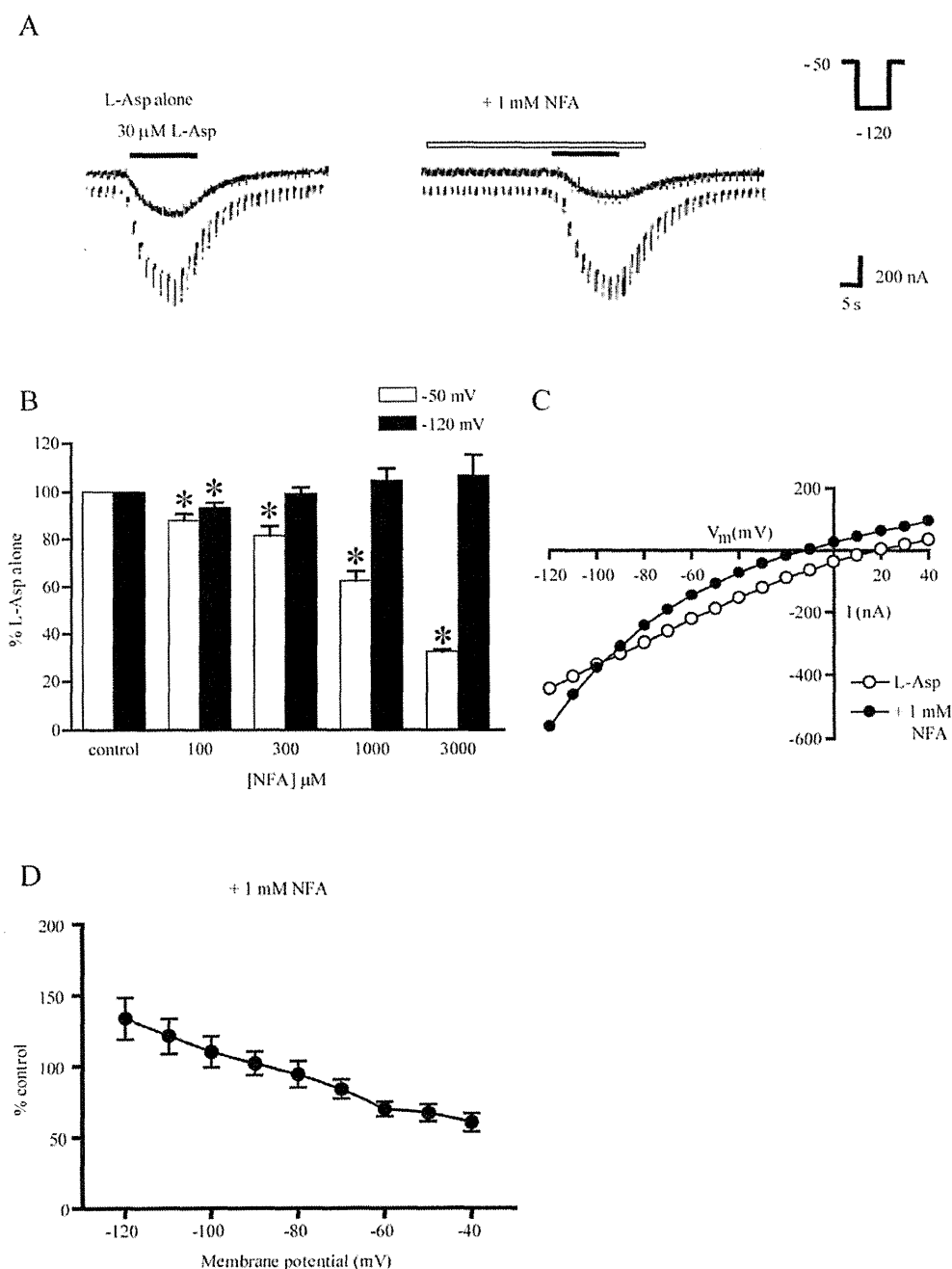


Fig. 1. Niflumic Acid (NFA) Modulated L-Asp-Induced Currents in *Xenopus* Oocytes Expressing EAAT1 in a Voltage-Dependent Manner

A: The traces of L-Asp (30  $\mu\text{M}$ )-induced inward currents in either the absence or presence of NFA (1 mM) at -50 mV (bold line) and -120 mV (thin line). The oocytes were held at -50 mV and hyperpolarised to -120 mV for 400 ms every 2 s. B: Concentration-response relationships of the effects of NFA on L-Asp currents at -50 mV and -120 mV. The effects of NFA on the peak amplitude of the L-Asp current were examined by comparing the current in the presence of NFA to that recorded just prior to the drug treatment (control response) at each concentration. Data are analysed by paired *t*-test. Graph shows the summary of the results. Each column shows the averaged data normalized to the control (4–5 oocytes for each) at each concentration. At -50 mV, NFA inhibited the peak amplitudes of the L-Asp currents in a concentration-dependent manner, whereas NFA only slightly increased the peak amplitude of the L-Asp-induced currents at -120 mV. \* $p < 0.05$  vs. control. C: Representative current-voltage relationships for L-Asp (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in either the absence or presence of NFA (1 mM). The current-voltage relationships were obtained with a holding potential of -50 mV and implementation of 400-ms voltage jumps in 10 mV increments over the range from -120 mV to +40 mV. For the control, the current values at steady state were subtracted from those measured in the presence of L-Asp. For the NFA-treated group, the current values in the presence of NFA alone were subtracted from those in the presence of both NFA and L-Asp. NFA treatment produced a leftward shift of  $E_{rev}$  (from  $18.4 \pm 5.4$  to  $-2.7 \pm 4.1$  mV;  $n = 10$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , paired *t*-test). D: The relationship between the effects and the holding potential. The current in the presence of NFA was normalized to that obtained just before the application of NFA. The effects of NFA was voltage-dependent ( $n = 10$ ).

the  $\text{Cl}^-$  substitution experiments,  $\text{Cl}^-$  was replaced by equimolar gluconate ions. Oocytes were bathed in an experimental chamber (0.5 mL) filled with ND96 solution and voltage-

clamped at -50 mV. A 400 ms hyperpolarising voltage step to -120 mV was applied every 2 s to confirm clamp conditions and observe the voltage dependence of current responses. As

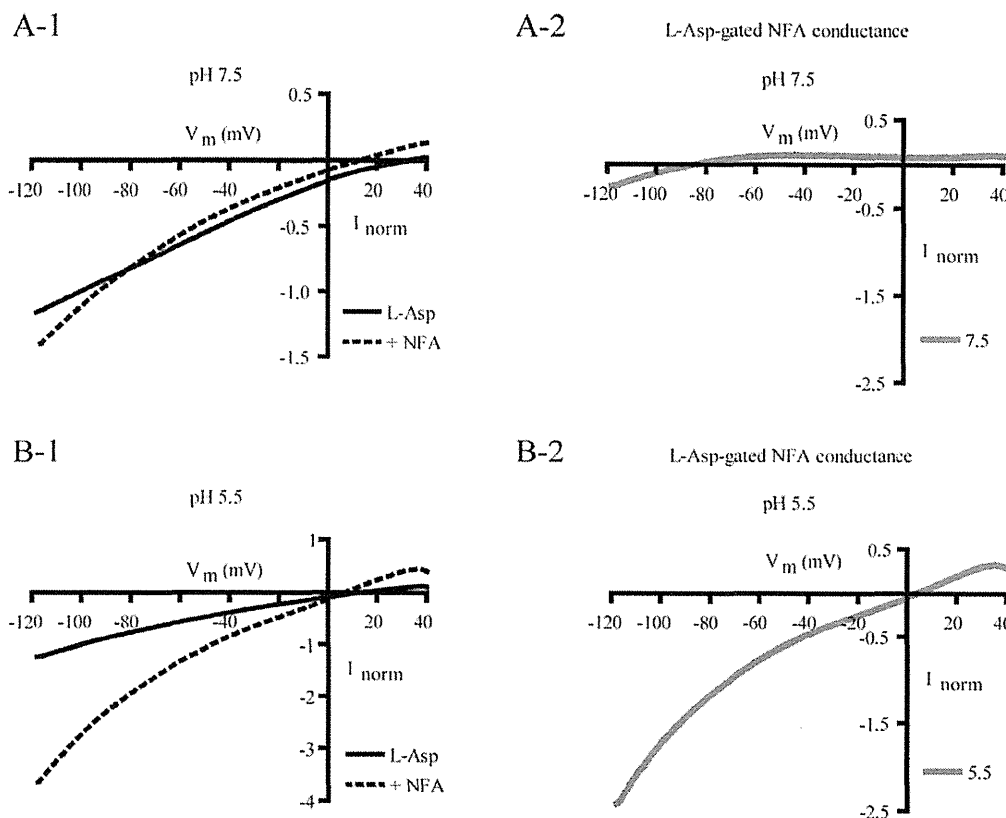


Fig. 2. Influence of Extracellular pH on L-Asp Currents in Either the Absence or Presence of NFA

The current-voltage relationships were determined using a holding potential of  $-50$  mV and implementing an 800 ms ramp pulse over the range from  $+40$  mV to  $-120$  mV. The current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance were obtained by subtracting the control L-Asp currents from the L-Asp currents in the presence of NFA. The currents are normalised to the amplitude of the L-Asp currents generated at  $-100$  mV. A-1 and B-1: Average current-voltage relationships for L-Asp ( $30 \mu\text{M}$ ) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300 \mu\text{M}$ ) at pH 7.5 (A-1) and pH 5.5 (B-1). A-2 and B-2: Average current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance at pH 7.5 (A-2) and pH 5.5 (B-2). The average shift of the sub- $E_{rev}$  was  $-45.1 \pm 4.0$  mV per pH unit, which is consistent with that reported for  $\text{H}^+$ -selective channels. Each point represents the mean value from 5 oocytes.

a substrate,  $30 \mu\text{M}$  of either L-Glu or L-Asp (half of the  $EC_{50}$ ) was applied to the oocytes by superfusion at  $0.2 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  of constant flow rate for 15 s with regular 30 s intervals. NFA was applied from 30 s before to 5 s after the end of the application of substrate. The current-voltage relationships for substrate transport were determined by subtracting the steady-state currents obtained with a holding potential of  $-50$  mV either implementing 400 ms voltage jumps in 10 mV increments from  $-120$  to  $+60$  mV or implementing an 800 ms ramp pulse from  $-120$  to  $+40$  mV in the absence of substrate from the corresponding currents in the presence of substrate. The currents are normalised to the amplitude of the L-Asp or L-Glu currents generated at  $-100$  mV (Figs. 2–8).

**Preparation of the Compounds** All chemicals were purchased from Wako (Tokyo, Japan) unless otherwise stated. NFA, TAPS, and MES were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.). L-Asp and L-Glu stock solutions ( $20 \text{ mM}$ ) were made in purified water (Millipore, Billerica, MA, U.S.A.). The NFA stock solution ( $300 \text{ mM}$ ) was made in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and dissolved in ND96 solution immediately prior to each experiment. The pH of every solution was adjusted to 7.5, and the final concentrations of the solvents were less than 1%.

**Statistical Analysis** All of the data are presented as the

mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.  $p$  Values were obtained by statistical analysis, as noted in the figure legends.

## RESULTS

### Effects of NFA on L-Asp-Induced Currents in *Xenopus* Oocytes Expressing EAAT1

We first examined the effects of NFA on the L-Asp-induced currents in *Xenopus* oocytes expressing EAAT1. The left trace in Fig. 1A represents the inward control current produced by L-Asp ( $30 \mu\text{M}$ ) voltage clamped at  $-50$  mV with 400 ms hyperpolarising voltage steps to  $-120$  mV every 2 s. At  $-50$  mV, NFA ( $300 \mu\text{M}$ – $3 \text{ mM}$ ) inhibited the peak amplitude of the L-Asp-induced currents in a concentration-dependent manner, whereas at  $120$  mV, NFA only slightly increased the peak amplitude of the L-Asp-induced currents (Figs. 1A, B). Figure 1C shows the representative current-voltage relationships for L-Asp ( $30 \mu\text{M}$ )-induced currents in either the presence or absence of  $1 \text{ mM}$  NFA. In the absence of NFA, the L-Asp current was linear in a voltage-dependent manner, with the reversal potential ( $E_{rev}$ ) at  $18.4 \pm 5.4$  mV. NFA treatment resulted in a leftward shift of the  $E_{rev}$  of the L-Asp currents (from  $18.4 \pm 5.4$  to  $-2.7 \pm 4.1$  mV;  $n=10$ ,  $p<0.05$ , paired  $t$ -test). The current-voltage curve recorded in the presence of NFA crossed the control curve at



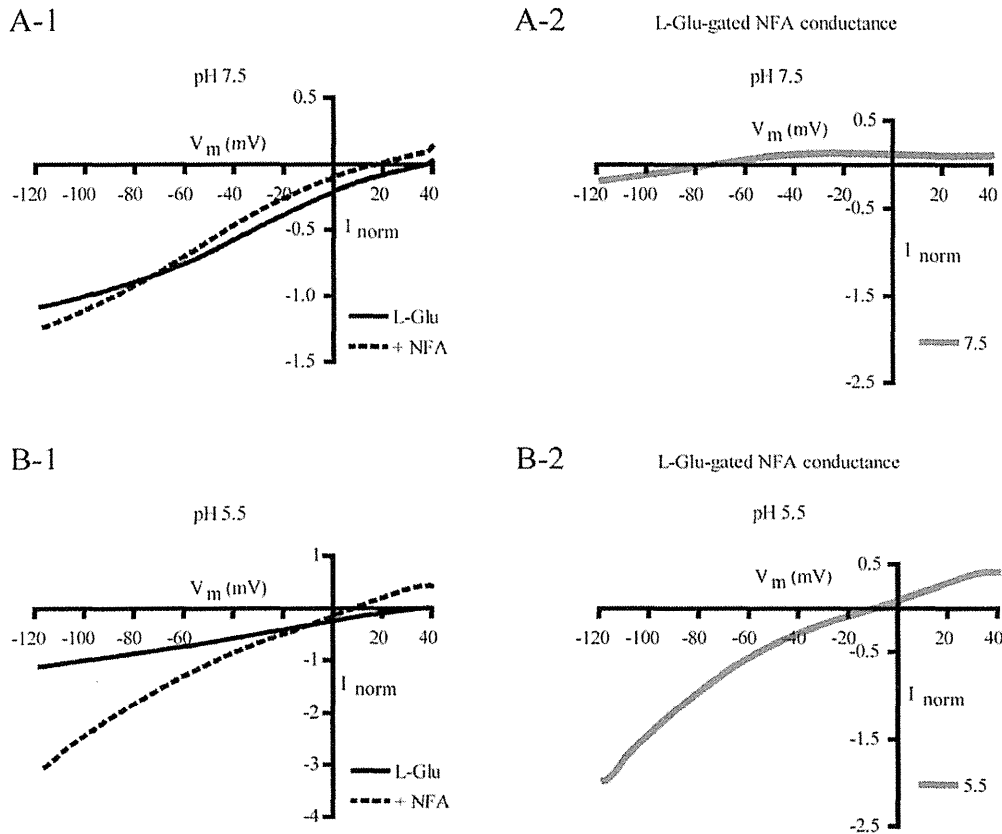


Fig. 3. Influence of Extracellular pH on L-Glu Currents in Either the Absence or Presence of NFA

A-1 and B-1: Average current–voltage relationships for L-Glu ( $30\ \mu\text{M}$ ) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300\ \mu\text{M}$ ) at pH 7.5 (A-1) and pH 5.5 (B-1). A-2 and B-2: Average current–voltage relationships for the L-Glu-gated NFA-induced conductance at pH 7.5 (A-2) and pH 5.5 (B-2). The average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  was  $-36.6 \pm 4.6\ \text{mV}$  per pH unit, which is consistent with that reported for  $\text{H}^+$ -selective channels. Each point represents the mean value from 5 oocytes.

$-96.5\ \text{mV}$  (cross-over potential), indicating that NFA inhibited the L-Asp currents at potentials more positive than  $-96.5\ \text{mV}$  and increased the currents at potentials more negative than  $-96.5\ \text{mV}$ . The influence of NFA on the peak current amplitude was voltage-dependent (Fig. 1D). This voltage-dependent effect of NFA has also been observed with L-Glu current in our previous study.<sup>21)</sup>

**Involvement of Additional  $\text{H}^+$  Conductance** We examined whether any additional  $\text{H}^+$  conductance is involved in these voltage-dependent effect of NFA. The effects of NFA were examined when the extracellular pH was 7.5 and 5.5. Figures 2A-1 and B-1 show the average current–voltage relationships for the L-Asp current ( $30\ \mu\text{M}$ ) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300\ \mu\text{M}$ ) at pH 7.5 (Fig. 2A-1) and pH 5.5 (Fig. 2B-1). At pH 7.5, the curve of the L-Asp current in the presence of NFA crossed the control curve at  $-84\ \text{mV}$ , whereas the crossover potential was at  $+4\ \text{mV}$  at pH 5.5. The L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance was obtained by subtracting the L-Asp current from the L-Asp current in the presence of NFA (Figs. 2A-2, B-2). As the extracellular  $\text{H}^+$  concentration increased, the  $E_{\text{rev}}$  of the L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance (sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$ ) shifted toward the more positive membrane potential. The average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Asp was  $-45.1 \pm 4.0\ \text{mV}$  per pH unit ( $n=5$ ), which is consistent with previous reports for  $\text{H}^+$ -selective channels,<sup>22,23)</sup> suggesting that NFA promotes additional  $\text{H}^+$

conductance. Regarding L-Glu currents (Fig. 3), as the extracellular  $\text{H}^+$  concentrations increased, the crossover potential shifted toward the more positive potential (Figs. 3A-1, B-1), and the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  also shifted toward a more positive membrane potential (Figs. 3A-2, B-2). The average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Glu changed  $-36.6 \pm 4.6\ \text{mV}$  per pH unit ( $n=5$ ), suggesting that NFA promotes additional  $\text{H}^+$  conductance in this case as well. There were no significant differences between the average shifts of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  per pH unit gated by L-Asp and L-Glu (Student's  $t$ -test,  $p=0.2$ ).

**Involvement of Additional  $\text{Na}^+$  Conductance** We examined if the additional  $\text{Na}^+$  conductance is involved in these voltage-dependent effect of NFA. The current–voltage relationships for the L-Asp current in either the absence or presence of NFA were examined under various extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  by choline substitution. Figures 4A-1 and B-1 show the average current–voltage relationships for L-Asp in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300\ \mu\text{M}$ ) at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$  ( $96\ \text{mM}$ ) (Fig. 4A-1) and low  $[\text{Na}^+]$  ( $24\ \text{mM}$ ) (Fig. 4B-1). Decreasing the extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  resulted in a loss of crossover between  $-120\ \text{mV}$  and  $+40\ \text{mV}$ , indicating that low extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  results in a loss of the voltage-dependent modulation of L-Asp currents by NFA. The L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance–voltage relationships displayed inward rectification with the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  at  $-58\ \text{mV}$  (Fig. 4A-2) at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$ , whereas no significant subtracted currents

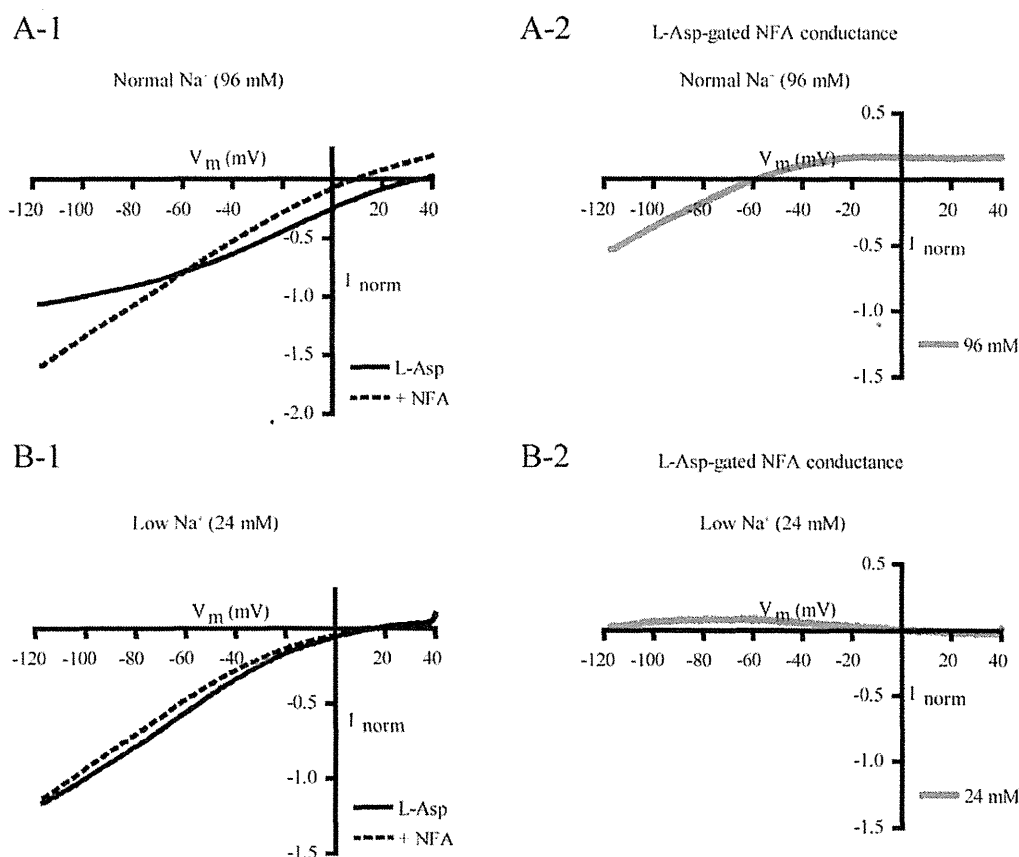


Fig. 4. Influence of Extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  on L-Asp-Gated NFA-Induced Conductance and the L-Asp Currents in Either the Absence or Presence of NFA

The current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp current in either the absence or presence of NFA were examined under various extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  by choline substitution. A-1 and B-1: Average current-voltage relationships for L-Asp ( $30 \mu\text{M}$ ) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300 \mu\text{M}$ ) at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (96 mM) (A-1) and low  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (24 mM) (B-1). A-2 and B-2: Average current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (96 mM) (A-2) and low  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (24 mM) (B-2). The average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Asp was  $-1.1 \pm 12.4 \text{ mV}$  ( $n=3$ ) per 10-fold change in  $[\text{Na}^+]$ . Each point represents the mean from 3 oocytes.

were observed at low  $[\text{Na}^+]$ , suggesting that the modulation of L-Asp currents by NFA depends on the extracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  concentration. Comparing the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (96 mM) with that at middle-low  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (48 mM), the average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Asp was  $-1.1 \pm 12.4 \text{ mV}$  ( $n=3$ ) per 10-fold change in  $[\text{Na}^+]$ . In the case of L-Glu, decreasing the extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  also resulted in a loss of crossover between  $-120 \text{ mV}$  and  $+40 \text{ mV}$  (Figs. 5A-1, B-1). The sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Glu was  $-68 \text{ mV}$  at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$ , whereas no significant subtracted currents were observed at low  $[\text{Na}^+]$  (Figs. 5A-2, B-2), suggesting that the voltage-dependent modulation of L-Glu currents by NFA depends on the extracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  concentration. Comparing the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  at normal  $[\text{Na}^+]$  with that at middle-low  $[\text{Na}^+]$ , the average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Glu was  $7.8 \pm 2.2 \text{ mV}$  ( $n=3$ ) per 10-fold change in  $[\text{Na}^+]$ . This value was not significantly different from that for L-Asp (Student's  $t$ -test,  $p=0.5$ ).

**Involvement of Additional  $\text{Cl}^-$  Conductance** Finally, we examined the contribution of additional  $\text{Cl}^-$  conductance. The current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp current in either the absence or presence of NFA were examined under various extracellular  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  by gluconate substitution. Figures 6A-1 and B-1 show the average current-voltage relationships for L-Asp

in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300 \mu\text{M}$ ) at normal  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  (103 mM) (Fig. 6A-1) and low  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  (30 mM) (Fig. 6B-1). At low  $[\text{Cl}^-]$ , the crossover potential shifted toward the more negative potential (from  $-61 \text{ mV}$  to  $-115 \text{ mV}$ ) and the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  also shifted toward the more negative membrane potential. The average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Asp was  $94.9 \pm 6.7 \text{ mV}$  per 10-fold change in  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  ( $n=4$ ) (Fig. 6C), indicating that  $\text{Cl}^-$  contributes to the L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance. Regarding L-Glu currents, no changes were observed in the crossover potential at low  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  (Figs. 7A-1, B-1) and a small shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Glu occurred at low  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  (Figs. 7A-2, B-2). The average shift of the sub- $E_{\text{rev}}$  gated by L-Glu was  $1.9 \pm 8.1 \text{ mV}$  per 10-fold change in  $[\text{Cl}^-]$  ( $n=4$ ) (Fig. 7C), indicating that little contribution of  $\text{Cl}^-$  to the L-Glu-gated NFA-induced conductance. The significant difference in the additional  $\text{Cl}^-$  conductance between the L-Asp current and L-Glu current (Student's  $t$ -test,  $p<0.05$ ) suggests that mechanisms for the modulation of EAAT1 currents by NFA is substrate-dependent.

## DISCUSSION

In this study, we observed that the additional conductances

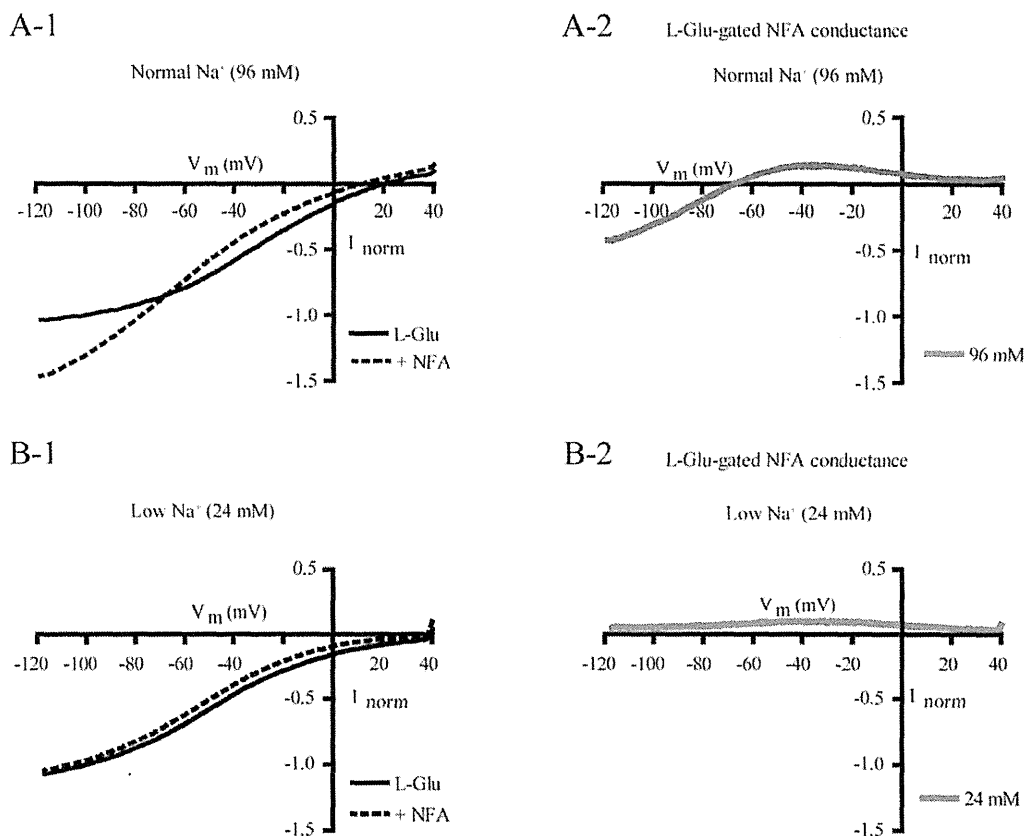


Fig. 5. Influence of Extracellular  $[Na^+]$  on L-Glu-Gated NFA-Induced Conductance and the L-Glu Currents in Either the Absence or Presence of NFA

A-1 and B-1: Average current–voltage relationships for L-Glu ( $30\ \mu M$ ) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA ( $300\ \mu M$ ) at normal  $[Na^+]$  ( $96\ mM$ ) (A-1) and low  $[Na^+]$  ( $24\ mM$ ) (B-1). A-2 and B-2: Average current–voltage relationships for the L-Glu-gated NFA-induced conductance at normal  $[Na^+]$  ( $96\ mM$ ) (A-2) and low  $[Na^+]$  ( $24\ mM$ ) (B-2). The average shift of the sub- $E_{rev}$  gated by L-Glu was  $7.8 \pm 2.2\ mV$  ( $n=3$ ) per 10-fold change in  $[Na^+]$ , which was statistically insignificant compared with that by L-Asp. Each point represents the mean from 5 oocytes.

of EAAT1 were activated when substrates were transported in the presence of NFA. Furthermore, the ionic contribution to the additional conductances is substrate dependent. To our knowledge, this is the first report showing the existence of additional conductances of EAAT1.

Poulsen and Vandenberg reported that NFA induced additional  $H^+$  and  $Cl^-$  conductances in *Xenopus* oocytes expressing EAAT4, and these conductances were not thermodynamically coupled to the transport of substrates.<sup>18)</sup> These conductances have been referred to as ‘slippage.’<sup>24)</sup> In our experiments using cultured astrocytes,<sup>25)</sup>  $300\ \mu M$  of NFA significantly decreased the L-Glu uptake in cultured astrocytes (data not shown). Membrane potential of cultured astrocytes is approximately  $-74\ mV$ .<sup>26)</sup> Because the crossover potential of the L-Glu currents and NFA ( $300\ \mu M$ )-gated L-Glu currents was  $-72.7 \pm 4.5\ mV$  ( $n=12$ ) in the present study, it is suggested that NFA-gated conductance observed here is not thermodynamically coupled to substrate transport, *i.e.*, NFA induces EAAT1 slippage as well. Transport experiments in voltage-clamped oocytes are necessary to confirm whether additional conductances in EAAT1 are not thermodynamically coupled to the substrate transport.

Sacher *et al.* presented a ‘clutch’ mechanism for slippage *via* the mammalian and yeast metal-ion transporter DCT1.<sup>27)</sup> This mechanism could be explained in terms of two unique

but interconnected ion pathways, one dominated by the ion utilized for driving the transport and the other by the transported metal ions. Loose coupling (namely clutching) between the driving force pathway and the metal ion transport pathway generates this observed slippage. Regarding EAAT1, in the presence of NFA, additional  $H^+$  conductance may have arisen as a consequence of a subtle disruption to the ion binding sites, which compromises the coupling between the substrate transport pathway and the ion co-transport ( $Na^+/H^+/K^+$ ) pathway. In support of this, a chimeric transporter generated with EAAT1 and EAAT2,<sup>25)</sup> whose junction site is in helical hairpin 2 and in close proximity to the substrate and  $Na^+$  binding site, allows both  $Na^+$  and  $K^+$  to pass through the transporter in the absence of L-Glu.<sup>28)</sup>

Interestingly, the ionic contribution is substrate-dependent, *i.e.*, the activation of additional  $H^+$  conductance was involved in the modulation by NFA of both of L-Glu currents and L-Asp currents, whereas  $Cl^-$  was only involved in the modulation of L-Asp currents. Wadiche *et al.* reported that  $Cl^-$  permeation properties of EAAT1 were substrate-dependent, *i.e.*, the uncoupled  $Cl^-$  conductance per transport cycle gated by D-Asp was greater than that gated by L-Glu.<sup>29)</sup> The mechanisms underlying the difference between L-Glu and L-Asp observed here may be related the one that causes the greater  $Cl^-$  by D-Asp. To elucidate the mechanisms, it is necessary to identify

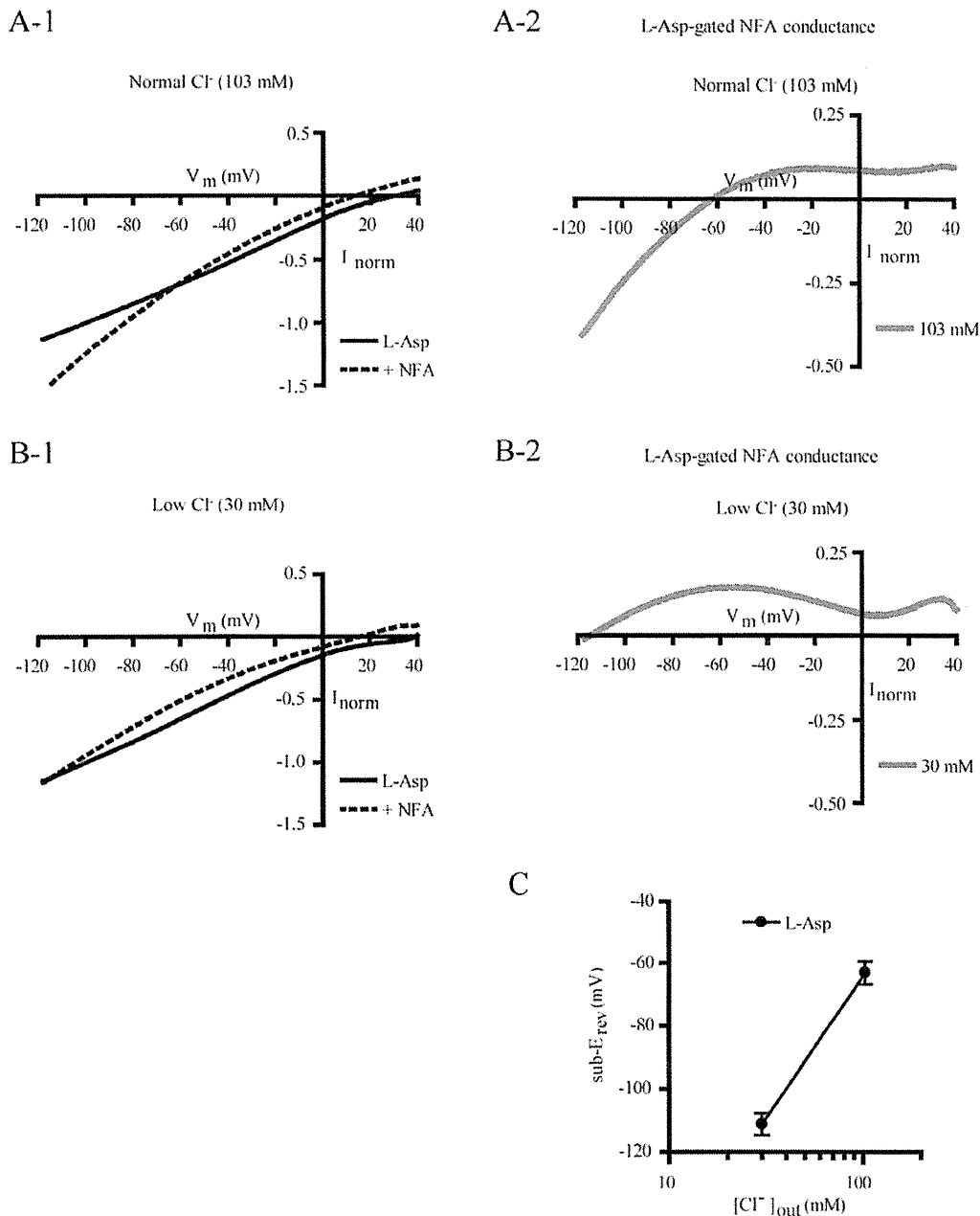


Fig. 6. Influence of Extracellular [Cl<sup>-</sup>] on L-Asp-Gated NFA-Induced Conductance and the L-Asp Currents in Either the Absence or Presence of NFA

The current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp current in either the absence or presence of NFA were examined under various extracellular [Cl<sup>-</sup>] by gluconate substitution. A-1 and B-1: Average current-voltage relationships for L-Asp (30 μM) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA (300 μM) at normal [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (103 mM) (A-1) and low [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (30 mM) (B-1). A-2 and B-2: Average current-voltage relationships for the L-Asp-gated NFA-induced conductance at normal [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (103 mM) (A-2) and low [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (30 mM) (B-2). Each point represents the mean from 5 oocytes. C: Each point (filled circle) represents the mean sub- $E_{rev}$  for L-Asp obtained in A-2 and B-2. Alterations in the extracellular Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration caused average shifts of  $94.9 \pm 6.7$  mV per 10-fold change in [Cl<sup>-</sup>] ( $n=4$ ) in the sub- $E_{rev}$ .

the binding site of NFA on EAAT1, and the stoichiometric interaction among the substrates, EAAT1, and NFA.

Alterations in the glial intracellular pH can induce a variety of changes in cellular function, e.g., ionic currents, gap junction conductance, and enzymatic activities.<sup>30</sup> For example, in Bergmann glial cells, which highly express EAAT1,<sup>19,20</sup> electrical coupling *via* gap junctions has been shown to be modulated by altering intracellular pH.<sup>31</sup> Activation of additional H<sup>+</sup> conductance by NFA could be related to the effects of the

drug in altering intracellular pH.

In conclusion, we observed substrate-dependent mechanisms for the modulation of EAAT1 currents by NFA. Activation of additional H<sup>+</sup> conductance was involved in the NFA-induced modulation of EAAT1 currents induced by L-Asp and L-Glu. The Cl<sup>-</sup> ion was only involved in the NFA-induced modulation of L-Asp currents.

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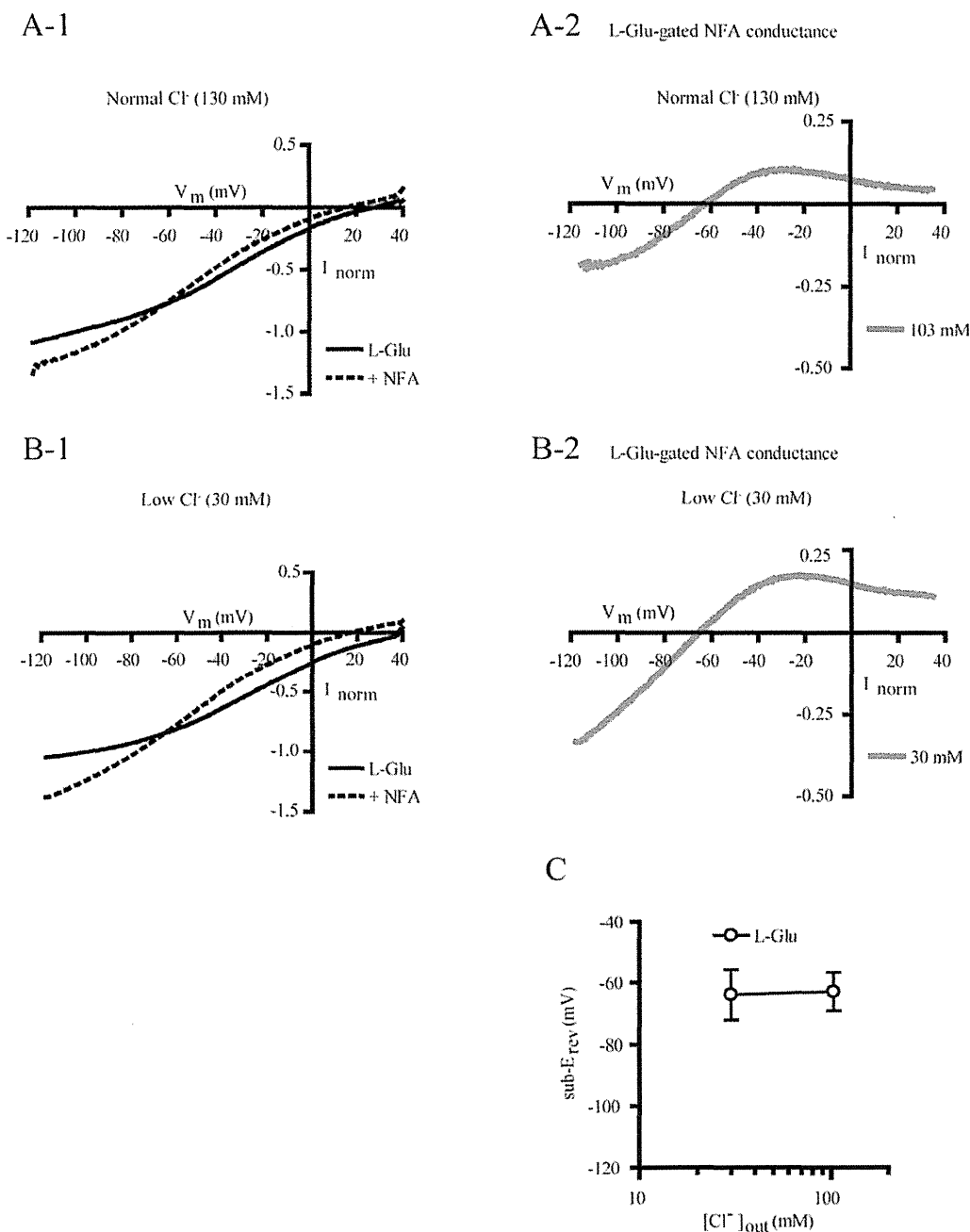


Fig. 7. Influence of Extracellular Cl<sup>-</sup> on L-Glu-Gated NFA-Induced Conductance and the L-Glu Currents in Either the Absence or Presence of NFA. A-1 and B-1: Average current–voltage relationships for L-Glu (30 μM) in either the absence (solid line) or presence (dotted line) of NFA (300 μM) at normal [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (103 mM) (A-1) and low [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (30 mM) (B-1). A-2 and B-2: Average current–voltage relationships for the L-Glu-gated NFA-induced conductance at normal [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (103 mM) (A-2) and low [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (30 mM) (B-2). Each point represents the mean from 4 oocytes. C: Each point (open circle) represents the mean sub-*E*<sub>rev</sub> for L-Glu obtained in A-2 and B-2. Alterations in the extracellular Cl<sup>-</sup> concentrations caused average shifts of 1.9 ± 8.1 mV per 10-fold change in [Cl<sup>-</sup>] (*n* = 4) in the sub-*E*<sub>rev</sub>, which is significantly different from that of L-Asp (Student's *t*-test, *p* < 0.05).

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## Short communication

## Paroxetine prevented the down-regulation of astrocytic L-Glu transporters in neuroinflammation

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## ABSTRACT

The extracellular L-glutamate (L-Glu) concentration is elevated in neuroinflammation, thereby causing excitotoxicity. One of the mechanisms is down-regulation of astrocyte L-Glu transporters. Some antidepressants have anti-inflammatory effects. We therefore investigated effects of various antidepressants on the down-regulation of astrocyte L-Glu transporters in the *in vitro* neuroinflammation model. Among these antidepressants, only paroxetine was effective. We previously demonstrated that the down-regulation of astrocyte L-Glu transporters was caused by L-Glu released from activated microglia. We here clarified that only paroxetine inhibited L-Glu release from microglia. This is the novel action of paroxetine, which may bring advantages on the therapy of neuroinflammation.

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Increasing evidence indicates that inflammatory processes play important roles in the pathogenesis of many neurodegenerative disorders (1–3). Under the neuroinflammatory conditions, it is known that the extracellular concentration of L-glutamate (L-Glu) and inflammatory mediators, such as proinflammatory cytokines, prostaglandins, free radicals and complements are elevated (4). L-Glu is one of the most abundant excitatory neurotransmitters in the mammalian CNS. The released L-Glu is immediately uptaken by astrocyte L-Glu transporters, GLAST (EAAT1 in human) and GLT-1 (EAAT2 in human), or sustained elevation of extracellular concentration of L-Glu induce excitotoxicity. The impairment of the astrocyte L-Glu transporters is reported in various neurological disorders including Alzheimer's disease (5), Parkinson's diseases (6) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (7). We found that the expression level of L-Glu transporters in astrocytes of astrocyte-

microglia-neuron mixed culture was decreased in the *in vitro* model of the early stage of inflammation in the previous study (8). We clarified the interaction between astrocytes and microglia underlie the down-regulation of L-Glu transporters, i.e., activated microglia release L-Glu and the resulting elevation of extracellular L-Glu cause down-regulation of astrocytic L-Glu transporters. Some antidepressants are known to have anti-inflammatory effects (9, 10). In this study, therefore, we investigated the effects of various antidepressants on the decrease in the astrocytic L-Glu transporter function in the early stage of inflammation and the contribution of microglia to the effects.

Astrocyte-microglia-neuron mixed culture and microglia culture were performed according to the methods previously described (8). Antidepressants and serotonin (5-HT) were dissolved in PBS at 100  $\mu$ M and 10 mM, respectively, and were diluted with culture medium at the time of use. At 8 DIV, the astrocyte-microglia-neuron mixed culture was treated with 10 ng/mL LPS for 72 h. Antidepressants were applied from 1 h before to the end of the LPS-treatment. Then the concentration of the L-Glu remaining in the culture medium 30 min after changing extracellular concentration of L-Glu to 100  $\mu$ M was measured. The measurement of the extracellular L-Glu concentration in the medium was performed according to the methods previously described (8). Real-Time Quantitative RT-PCR, Western blotting, immunocytochemistry were also performed according to the methods previously

**Abbreviations:** ATP, adenosine 5'-triphosphate; CNS, central nervous system; DIV, days *in vitro*; GABA,  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid; L-glu, L-glutamate; LPS, lipopolysaccharide; PBS, phosphate-buffered saline; P2X<sub>4</sub>, P2X prinoceptor 4; RNA, ribonucleic acid; SD, Sprague-Dawley; SDS, sodium dodecyl sulfate; SNRI, serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor; SSRI, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; TCA, tricyclic antidepressant; 5-HT, 5-hydroxytryptamine.

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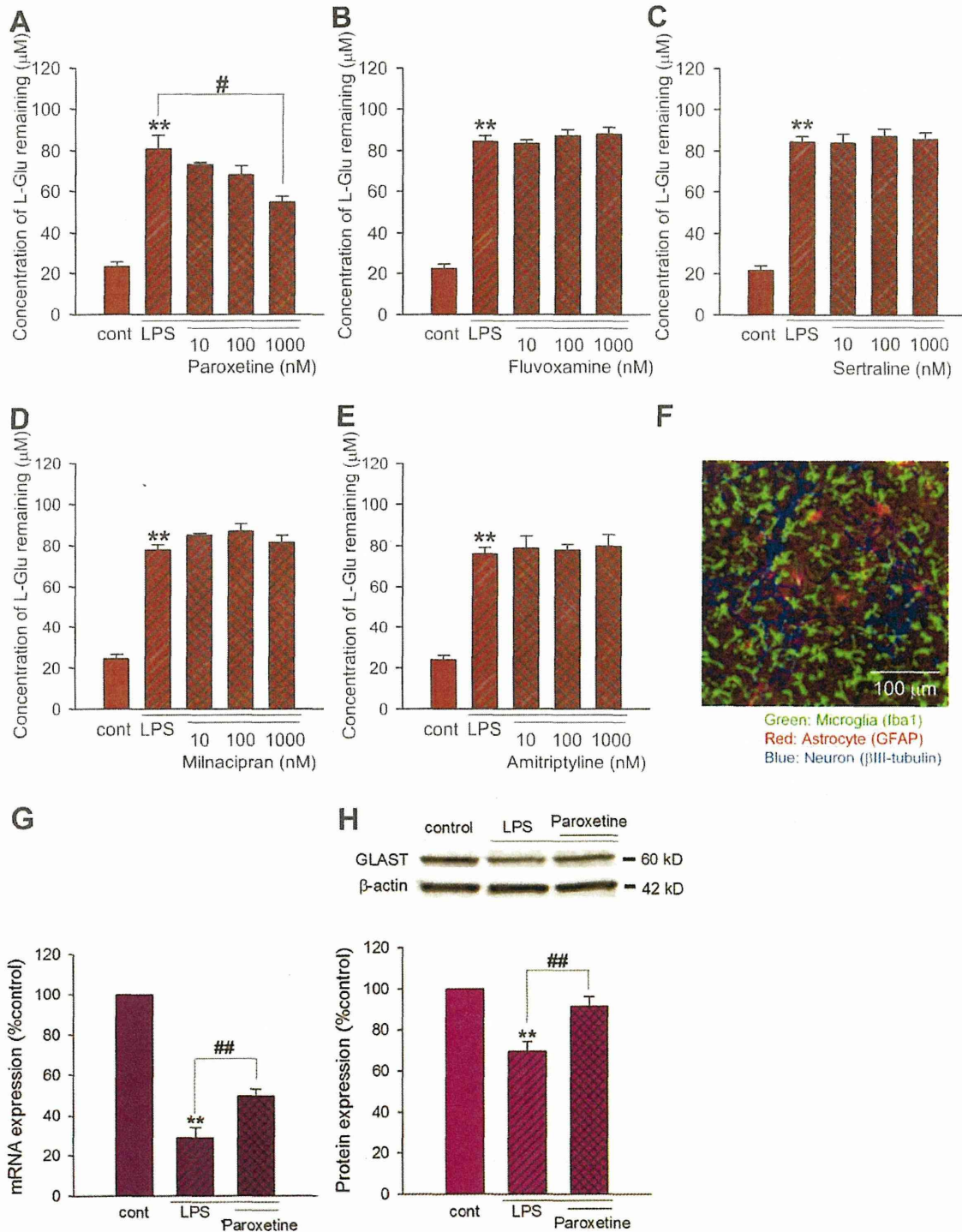
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**Fig. 1.** Effects of antidepressants on the decreased L-Glu transport activity under the inflammatory condition. A–E. Antidepressants were applied to the mixed culture from 1 h before to the end of the LPS-treatment (10 ng/ml, 72 h). L-Glu transport activity was quantified as the L-Glu remaining 30 min after changing the extracellular concentration to 100  $\mu\text{M}$ . Paroxetine prevented the LPS-induced decrease in the L-Glu transport activity in a concentration-dependent manner (A). Fluvoxamine (B), sertraline (C), milnacipran (D), and amitriptyline (E) had no effects. \*\*:  $p < 0.01$  vs. control group, #:  $p < 0.05$  vs. LPS-treated group, Tukey's test following ANOVA ( $N = 6$ ). F. Typical image of the microglia-astrocyte-neuron mixed culture immunostained with cell type-specific markers (Iba1: microglia; GFAP: astrocytes;  $\beta$ III tubulin: neurons). G, H. Effects of paroxetine on the expression level of GLAST. Mixed cultures were treated with LPS (10 ng/ml) in the absence or presence of the paroxetine for 24 h (for mRNA level quantification) or 72 h (for protein level quantification). The expression level of GLAST was quantified at mRNA level (G) and protein level (H). LPS (10 ng/ml) caused significant decrease in GLAST mRNA level and paroxetine significantly prevented the decrease (G). LPS (10 ng/ml) caused significant decrease in GLAST protein level and paroxetine almost completely prevented the decrease (H). \*\*:  $p < 0.01$  vs. control group, ##:  $p < 0.01$  vs. LPS-treated group, Tukey's test following ANOVA ( $N = 5$ ).

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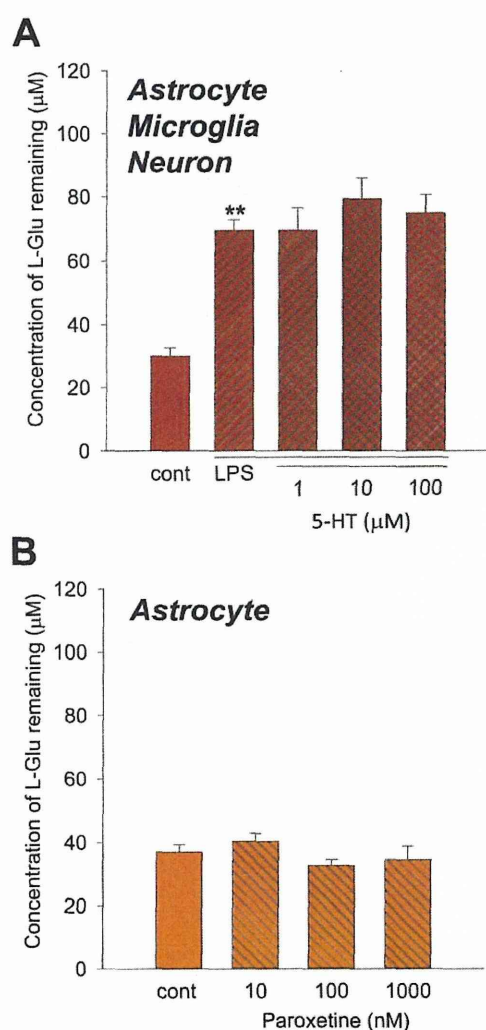


described (8). The microglia culture was treated with LPS for 24 h in the presence or absence of antidepressants and the concentration of L-Glu in the medium was measured. All sets of the experiments were repeated in triplicate. All procedures described above were in accordance with institutional guidelines.

In the previous report, we showed that the expression level of astrocytic L-Glu transporters was decreased in the astrocyte-microglia-neuron mixed culture in LPS (10 ng/ml, 72 h)-induced inflammation model without cell death (8). We first compared the effects of various groups of antidepressants, i.e., selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) (paroxetine, fluvoxamine, and sertraline), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI) (milnacipran), and tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) (amitriptyline), on the decrease in the astrocytic L-Glu transporter function in this inflammation model. To quantify L-Glu transport activity, we measured the concentration of L-Glu remaining 30 min after changing the medium to the one containing 100  $\mu$ M of L-Glu. In

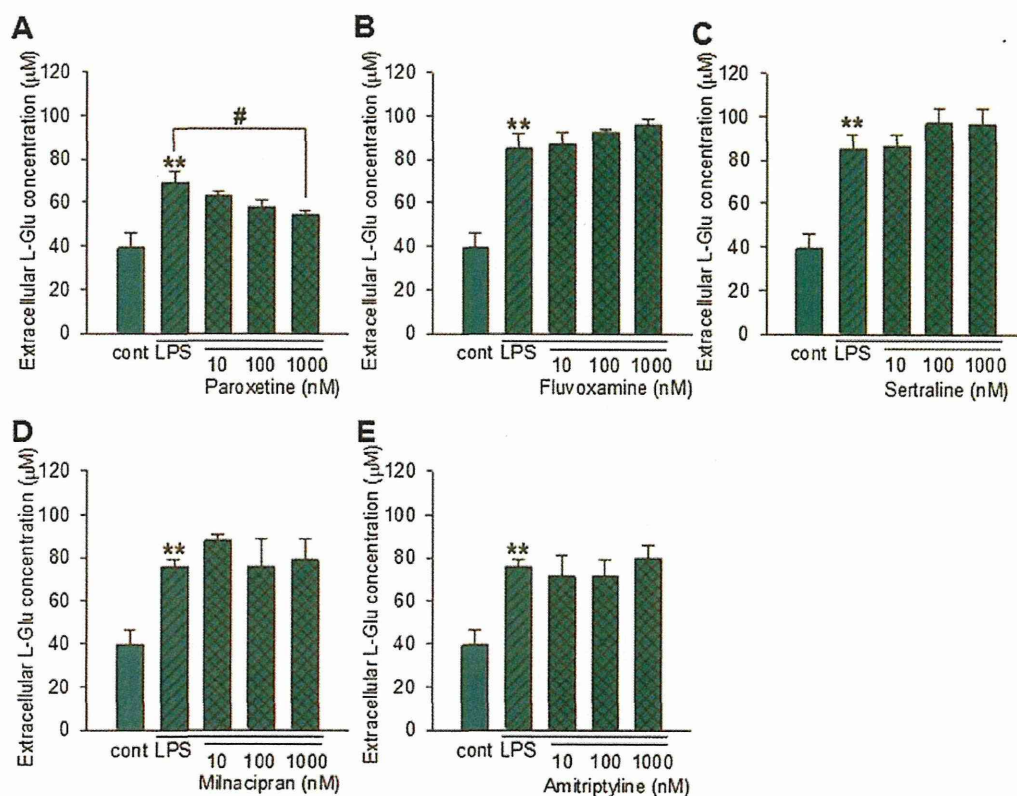
each set of experiment, LPS-induced decrease in the L-Glu transport activity was stably reproduced (Fig. 1A–E). Among antidepressants, only paroxetine prevented the LPS-induced decrease in L-Glu transport activity (Fig. 1A). The effect was concentration-dependent and reached significant at 1  $\mu$ M. The other antidepressants had no effects (Fig. 1B–E). Typical image of the astrocyte-microglia-neuron mixed culture was shown in Fig. 1F. We have clarified that LPS-induced decrease in L-Glu transport activity was caused by the decrease in the expression level of GLAST, a predominant L-Glu transporter in the mixed culture, in both of mRNA and protein levels (8). In this study, LPS-induced decreases in the expression of GLAST, were reproduced at both of mRNA ( $28.8 \pm 4.7\%$  of the control) and protein ( $69.5 \pm 4.7\%$  of the control) levels (Fig. 1G, H). We then examined the effects of paroxetine on the LPS-induced decrease in the L-Glu transporter expression. Paroxetine significantly prevented the decreases at both of mRNA ( $28.8 \pm 4.7$  to  $49.6 \pm 3.3\%$ ;  $n = 10$ ) and protein (from  $69.5 \pm 4.7\%$  to  $91.0 \pm 5.1\%$ ;  $n = 5$ ) levels (Fig. 1G, H). As is shown in Fig. 1, fluvoxamine and sertraline, the other SSRIs in this study, did not affect the decrease in L-Glu transport activity, suggesting that paroxetine revealed the effects through the mechanisms independent of its inhibitory effect on serotonin selective transporter. In support of this, LPS-induced decrease in L-Glu transport activity was not changed by the elevation of extracellular serotonin concentration (Fig. 2A). We also confirmed that paroxetine did not directly affect the L-Glu transport activity of the astrocyte culture (Fig. 2B). In our previous report, the down-regulation of GLAST in the inflammation model was caused by the elevation of extracellular L-Glu released from microglia (8). We therefore compared the effects of the antidepressants on LPS-induced L-Glu release from microglia. When microglia culture was treated with 10 ng/ml LPS for 24 h in the presence or absence of the antidepressants, only paroxetine suppressed L-Glu release in a concentration-dependent manner (Fig. 3A). The other antidepressants had no effects (Fig. 3B–E). We confirmed that paroxetine did not affect the microglial viability until 10  $\mu$ M by LDH assay (data not shown). These results strongly suggest that the protective effect of paroxetine on the LPS-induced down-regulation of astrocytic L-Glu transporters was caused by the suppression of L-Glu release from microglia.

The shape of microglia in the mixed culture was dramatically changed to amoeboid type by LPS and this morphological change was remarkably suppressed by paroxetine (unpublished observation). This suggests that paroxetine does not only suppress L-Glu release from microglia alone but also microglial activation. To demonstrate this possibility, the effect of paroxetine on the microglial activation is needed to be confirmed using multiple parameters. Because SSRIs have diverse chemical structures despite a common mode of action of 5-HT function (11), it is possible that paroxetine revealed the effects through interaction with paroxetine-specific target molecules. Because paroxetine exhibited the powerful inhibition of calcium influx via P2X<sub>4</sub> receptors (12), P2X<sub>4</sub> receptor is one of the most probable candidate molecules. The expression level of P2X<sub>4</sub> receptor in microglia is up-regulated in inflammatory pain model in spinal cord and is thought to be important for microglial inflammatory responses (13). MAPK signaling molecules (14) and GABA(B) receptor (15) are possibly involved in the paroxetine-specific effects as well. The effective concentration of paroxetine to reduce L-Glu release was 1  $\mu$ M. According to the attached documents of paroxetine (<http://www.info.pmda.go.jp/>), intracerebral concentration of paroxetine reaches 77 nM by 25 mg/day-repeated administration. It is therefore unlikely that paroxetine affects astrocyte L-Glu transporters and microglia by the general dosage of SSRI. For clinical application of our present findings, further investigation concerning application period and dosage is needed.



**Fig. 2.** Relation of the effects of paroxetine on LPS-induced decrease in L-Glu transport activity with its SSRI function and the direct effect on astrocytes. A. 72 h treatment with 5-HT (1–100  $\mu$ M) did not affect LPS-induced decrease in the L-Glu transport activity. B. 72 h treatment with paroxetine (10–1000 nM) of astrocyte culture did not affect its L-Glu transport activity. \*\*:  $p < 0.01$  vs. control group, Tukey's test following ANOVA ( $N = 6$ ).





**Fig. 3.** Effects of antidepressants on the L-Glu release from microglia under the inflammatory condition. In each set of experiment, antidepressants were applied to the mixed culture from 1 h before to the end of the LPS-treatment (10 ng/ml, 24 h). The extracellular concentration of L-Glu was quantified. Paroxetine prevented the LPS-induced L-Glu release from microglia in a concentration-dependent manner (A). Fluvoxamine (B), sertraline (C), milnacipran (D), and amitriptyline (E) had no effects on LPS-induced L-Glu release from microglia. \*\*:  $p < 0.01$  vs. control group, #:  $p < 0.05$  vs. LPS-treated group, Tukey's test following ANOVA ( $N = 6$ ).

In conclusion, we found that paroxetine inhibit the L-Glu release from activated microglia and prevent down-regulation of astrocytic L-Glu transporters in the early stage of neuroinflammation. This is the novel pharmacological effect of paroxetine, which may bring advantages on the therapy of the disease associated with neuroinflammation.

#### Conflicts of interest

I declare that I have no significant competing financial, professional or personal interests that might have influenced the results and interpretation of the manuscript.

#### Author's contributions

K.F. performed experiments and manuscript writing.  
 J.T. performed experiments.  
 Y.S.-M. provided advice on manuscript writing  
 Y.S. provided advice on manuscript writing  
 T.S. provided advice on the experimental direction and manuscript writing.  
 K.S. designed the experimental plan and performed experiments, manuscript writing.

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# Microglia Enhance Neurogenesis and Oligodendrogenesis in the Early Postnatal Subventricular Zone

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Although microglia have long been considered as brain resident immune cells, increasing evidence suggests that they also have physiological roles in the development of the normal CNS. In this study, we found large numbers of activated microglia in the forebrain subventricular zone (SVZ) of the rat from P1 to P10. Pharmacological suppression of the activation, which produces a decrease in levels of a number of proinflammatory cytokines (i.e., IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , and IFN- $\gamma$ ) significantly inhibited neurogenesis and oligodendrogenesis in the SVZ. *In vitro* neurosphere assays reproduced the enhancement of neurogenesis and oligodendrogenesis by activated microglia and showed that the cytokines revealed the effects complementarily. These results suggest that activated microglia accumulate in the early postnatal SVZ and that they enhance neurogenesis and oligodendrogenesis via released cytokines.

**Key words:** cytokine; microglia; neurogenesis; neurosphere; oligodendrogenesis; subventricular zone

## Introduction

CNS microglia have long been considered as resident immune cells, which are activated in response to pathological events. In pathological conditions, they change their morphology to an amoeboid shape, acquiring activation-specific phenotypes, such as chemotaxis, phagocytosis, and secretion of inflammatory cytokines (Nakajima and Kohsaka, 2001; Inoue, 2008; Monji et al., 2009; Kettenmann et al., 2011). However, microglia also have physiological roles in the normal CNS. They actively survey their territory with fine processes and receive stimuli from the environment as sensor cells (Kettenmann et al., 2011). *In vivo* lineage tracing studies have established that microglia differentiate from primitive myeloid progenitors that arise before embryonic day 8 and are identified in the CNS parenchyma even before definitive hematopoiesis (Ginhoux et al., 2010), whereas it has also been shown that microglia migrate from the lateral ventricle into the brain via the subventricular zone (SVZ) in the postnatal brain (Mohri et al., 2003). In the early embryonic brain, most microglia adopt an amoeboid morphology and characteristics of an activated form (Hirasawa et al., 2005). Microglia in the embryonic

SVZ limit the production of cortical neurons by phagocytosing neural precursor cells (Cunningham et al., 2013). The number of microglia in the brain reaches a maximum during the early postnatal weeks (Wu et al., 1993; Xu and Ling, 1994), after which they transform into cells with a ramified shape, the typical morphology observed in the adult CNS (Ignácio et al., 2005). However, microglia are densely populated in neurogenic niches, such as the SVZ (Mosher et al., 2012), and appear more activated in the adult SVZ than in non-neurogenic zones (Goings et al., 2006). These developmental changes in the activation and the distribution of microglia strongly suggest that microglia play important roles in CNS development. However, the developmental dynamics of microglia in the postnatal SVZ and their roles in neurogenesis and gliogenesis at this stage are not well understood. We have examined the distribution and morphology of microglia in the rat forebrain during the neonatal-early postnatal period in detail and found a large number of active forms within the SVZ from P1 to P10, which then transformed from an activated form to a ramified form after P14. We here present evidence that microglia in the early postnatal SVZ promote both neurogenesis and oligodendrogenesis and that cytokines are important in these effects. To our knowledge, this is the first report showing a novel physiological function of microglia regulating neurogenesis and oligodendrogenesis in the early postnatal brain.

## Materials and Methods

**Animals and treatment.** All animals were treated in accordance with the guidelines for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the Animal Research Committee of the National Institute of Health Sciences and followed the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. All experiments were approved by the Animal Research Committee of National Institute of Health Sciences and conformed to the relevant regulatory standards. The Wistar rats were purchased from Japan SLC and maintained under specific pathogen-free conditions at a controlled temperature and humidity and on a 12 h light/12 h dark cycle and had *ad libitum*

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