Supplementary Information

## A bio-inspired neural environment comprising radial glia, substrate chemistry and topography to control neurons

Paul Roach,<sup>‡ a</sup> Terrance Parker,<sup>b</sup> Nikolaj Gadegaard<sup>c</sup> and Morgan R. Alexander<sup>\*a</sup>

 <sup>a</sup> Laboratory of Biophysics and Surface Analysis, School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom Fax: +44(0)115 9515102; Tel: +44(0)115 9515119; E-mail: morgan.alexander@nottingham.ac.uk
<sup>b</sup> School of Biomedical Sciences, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2UH. United Kingdom

<sup>c</sup> Division of Biomedical Engineering, Rankine Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8LT. United Kingdom ‡ Current Address: Institute for Science and Technology in Medicine, Guy Hilton Research Centre, Thornburrow Drive, Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. ST4 7QB. United Kingdom.

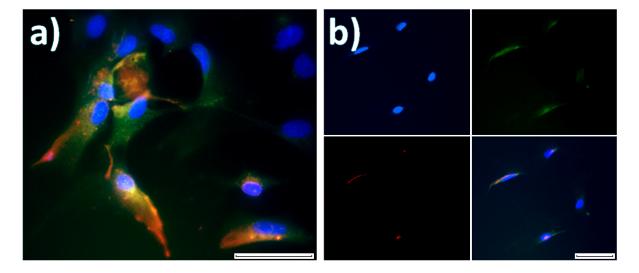


Figure 1: Representative images from E14 rat cerebella glial cells positively stained for nestin (green), 3CB2 (red) a) after differential adhesion and b) after further purification via fluorescent cell sorting. Nuclei stained with DAPI (blue). Cells shown are attached on tissue culture plastic. Scale bars 50 μm.

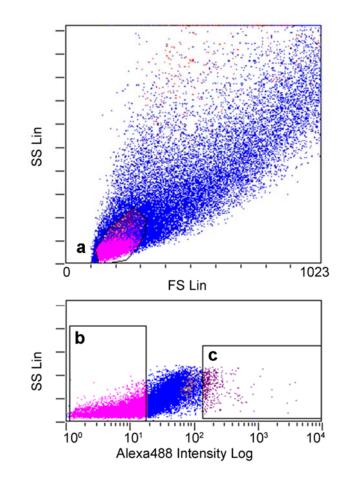


Figure 2: Fluorescence activated cell sorting gating on a) forward scatter (FS) and back scatter (BS) and b and c) fluorescence intensity. Cells collected from gates b and c were negative and positive fractions respectively.

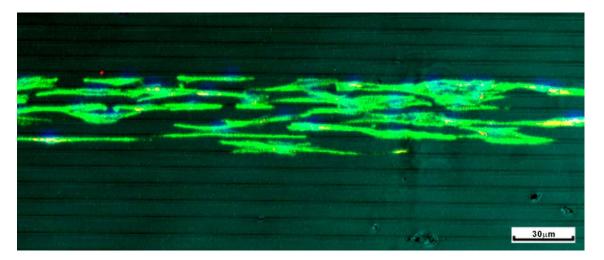


Figure 3: Fluorescence microscopy image of neurons seeded onto gradient substrate after 1 day in culture. WCA~65-70° groove width ~5  $\mu$ m. (Green – neurofilament and auto-fluorescence of PMMA substrate, Blue – DAPI nuclei stain).

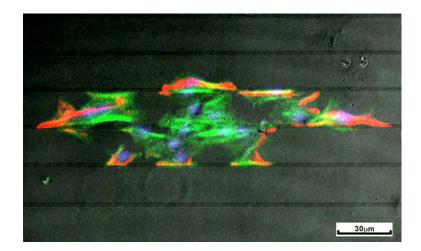


Figure 4: Fluorescence microscopy image of neurons seeded onto radial glia after 1 day in co-culture.  $WCA\sim90-95^{\circ}$  groove width  $\sim20 \ \mu\text{m}$ . (Red -3CB2 cytoskeletal marker for radial glia, Green - neurofilament and auto-fluorescence of PMMA substrate, Blue - DAPI nuclei stain).

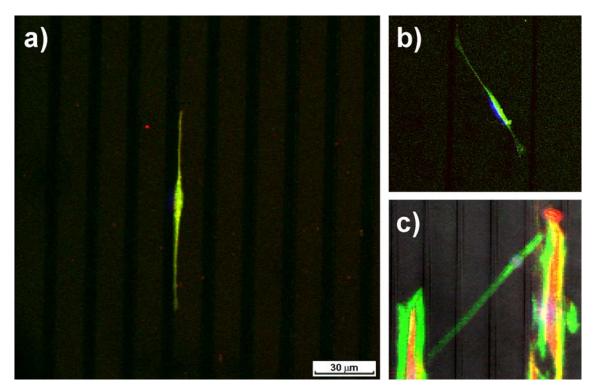


Figure 5: Fluorescence microscopy image of a) and b) isolated neurons being aligned to and spanning across grooves and c) a neuron bridging across grooves to connect between two radial glia in co-culture. 30 µm scale bar for all figure sections. (Red – 3CB2 cytoskeletal marker for radial glia, Green – neurofilament and auto-fluorescence of PMMA substrate, Blue – DAPI nuclei stain).

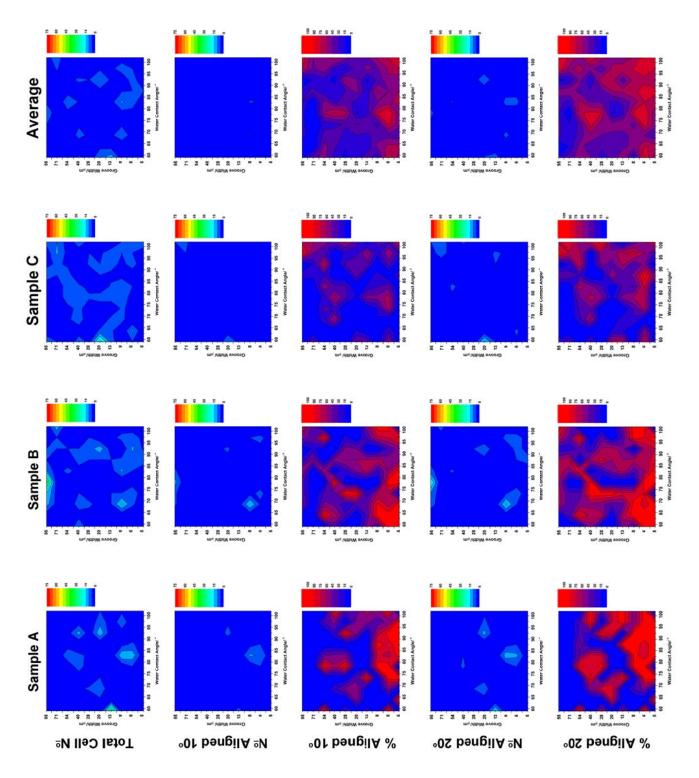


Figure 6: Heat plots of radial glia cells cultured on gradient platforms for 1 day. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per  $mm^2$ .

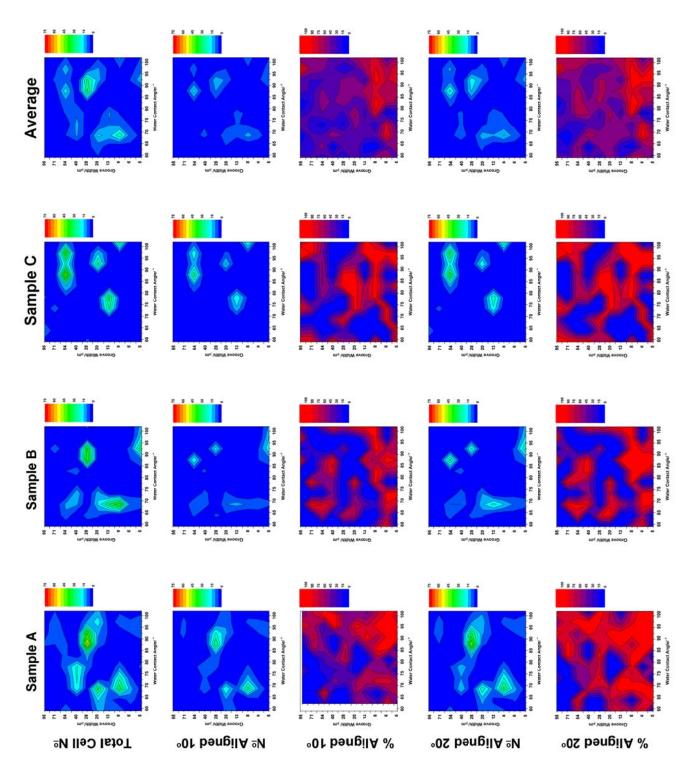


Figure 7: Heat plots of radial glia cells cultured on gradient platforms for 3 days. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per mm<sup>2</sup>.

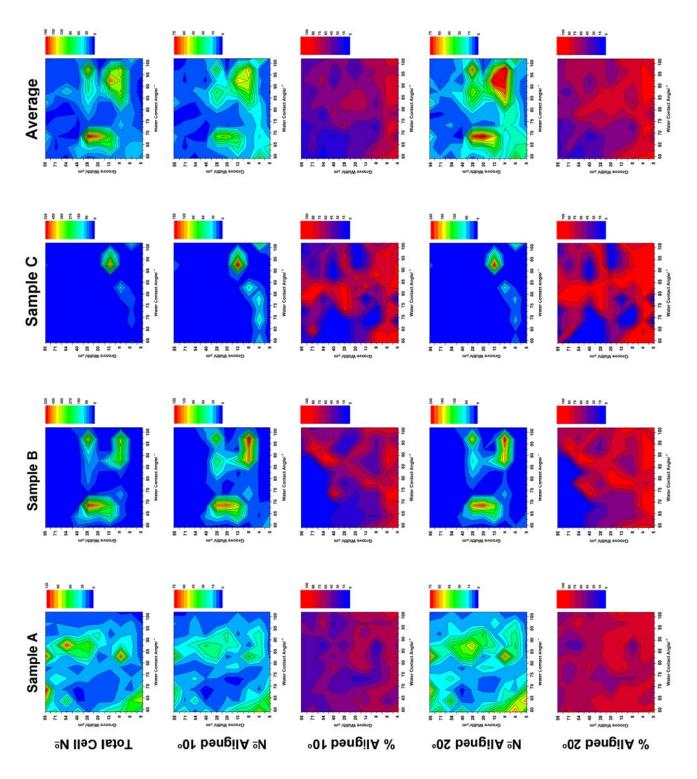


Figure 8: Heat plots of radial glia cells cultured on gradient platforms for 15 days. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per  $mm^2$ .

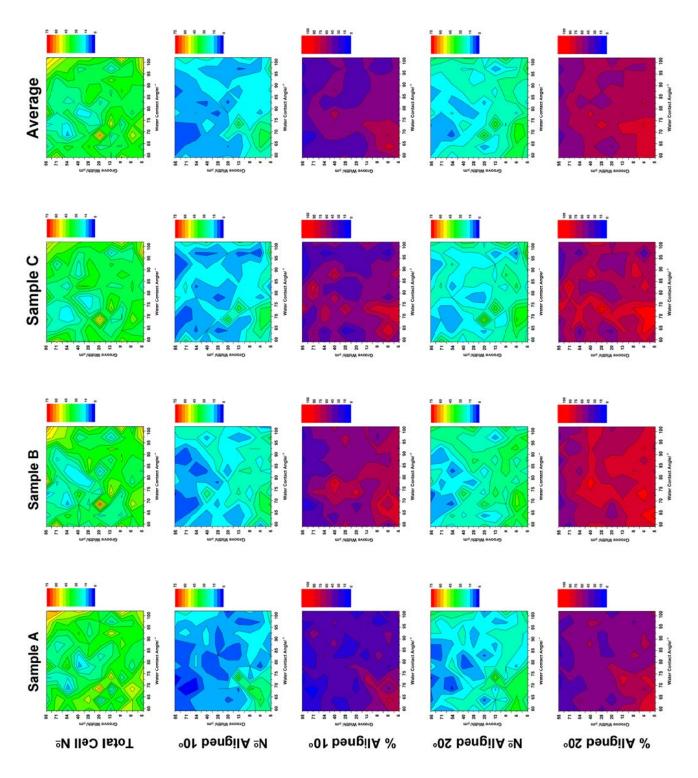


Figure 9: Heat plots of neurons cultured on gradient platforms for 1 day. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per mm<sup>2</sup>.

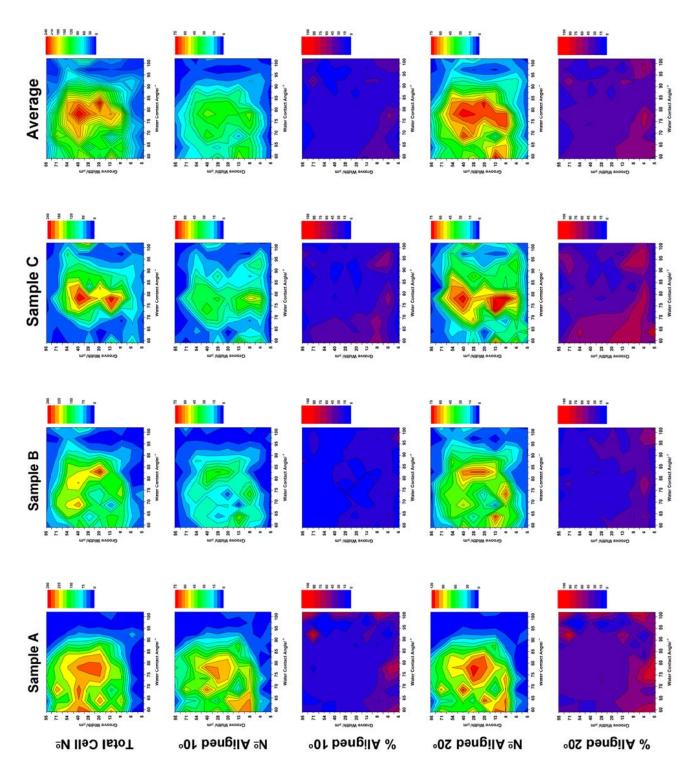


Figure 10: Heat plots of neurons cultured on gradient platforms for 3 days. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per mm<sup>2</sup>.

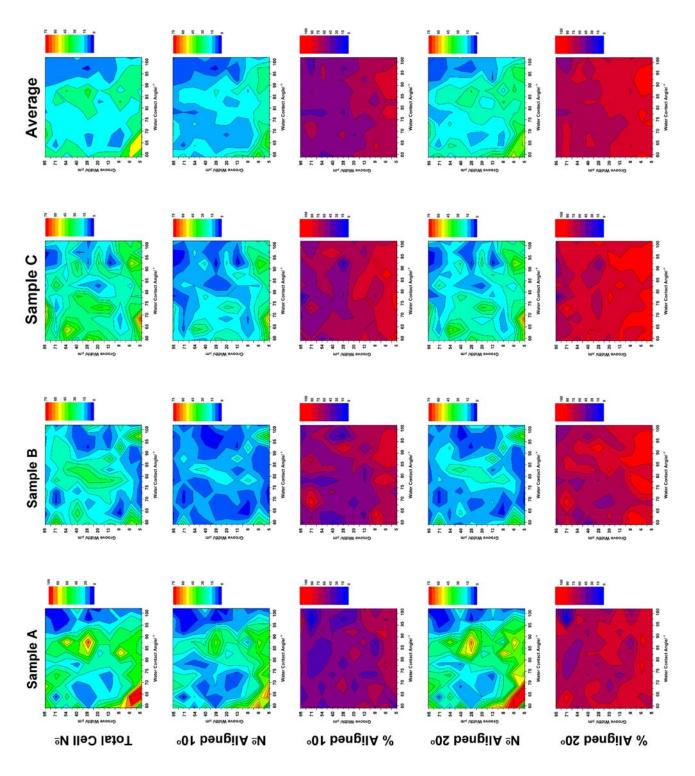


Figure 11: Heat plots of neurons co-cultured for 1 day with radial glia pre-adhered on gradient platforms. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per mm<sup>2</sup>.

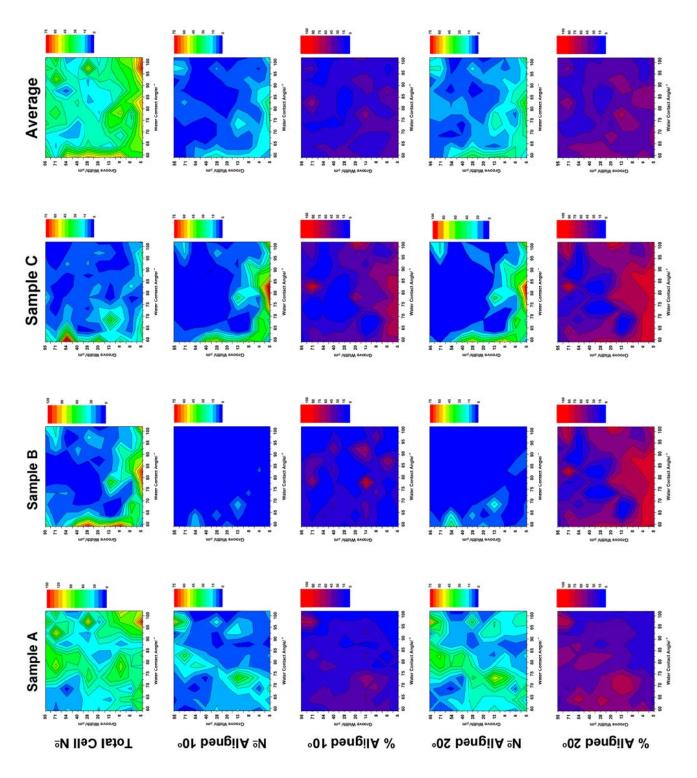


Figure 12: Heat plots of neurons co-cultured for 3 day with radial glia pre-adhered on gradient platforms. Key shows cell number/ percentile cell alignment per mm<sup>2</sup>.