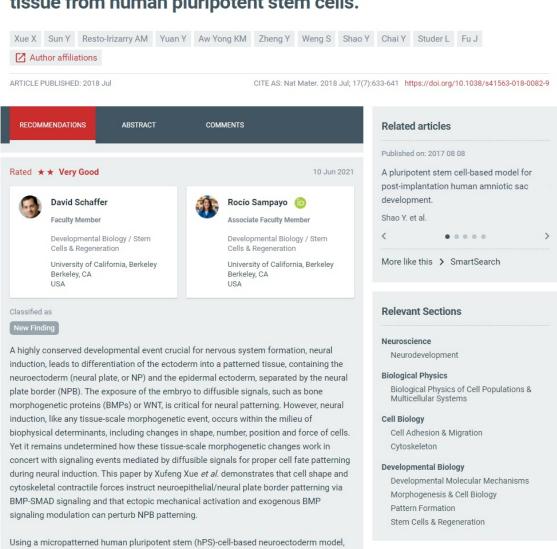


## Mechanics-guided embryonic patterning of neuroectoderm tissue from human pluripotent stem cells.



positive for pSMAD1/5, whereas the colony centers remain negative. Furthermore, the authors show that mechanical stretching of the cells in the colony center leads to a reversion of the phenotype, triggering SMAD1/5 phosphorylation. In addition, through single-cell micropatterning, they found that cell spreading area positively correlates with SMAD1/5 phosphorylation. Interestingly, these assays were performed in the presence of dual SMAD inhibition in the neural induction medium, suggesting that the biophysical cues these cells are exposed to are capable of overriding the effects of exogenous BMP inhibition on SMAD1/5 signaling.

The authors propose an interesting model through which higher cell contractility and/or larger cell shape triggers SMAD1/5 phosphorylation, ultimately determining cells to commit to NPB phenotype. On the contrary, low contractility and/or smaller cell shape leads to neuroepithelial cell differentiation. Taken together, these findings reveal a critical

role for biophysical cues in neuroectoderm formation during embryogenesis.

the authors found that when plated as circular colonies, these cells self-organize and autonomously pattern neuroectoderm tissues in the presence of neural induction medium. In this configuration, cells in the colony central region differentiate into NP fate, whereas the peripheral cells commit to NPB. Interestingly, they found that cells in the periphery are

## Disclosures

None declared

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