

1 **NEAT1 involves Alzheimer's Disease (AD) progression via regulation  
2 of glycolysis and P-tau**

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22 **Abstract**

23 Nuclear paraspeckles assembly transcript 1 (NEAT1) is a well-known long noncoding  
24 RNA (LncRNA) with unclear mechanism in Alzheimer's disease (AD) progression.  
25 Here, we found that NEAT1 down-regulates in the early stage of AD patients and  
26 APPswe/PS1dE9 mouse. Moreover, knockdown of NEAT1 induced  
27 de-polymerization of microtubule (MT) and axonal retraction of nerve cells by  
28 dysregulation of the FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$ /p-tau signaling pathway. Histone acetylation  
29 analysis at the Frizzled Class Receptor 3 (FZD3) promoter shows a marked decreased  
30 in the levels of the H3K27 acetylation (H3K27Ac) after NEAT1 knockdown. Our  
31 data demonstrates that P300/CBP recruited by NEAT1 to the FZD3 promoter and  
32 induced its transcription via histone acetylation. In recent years a growing number of  
33 evidences have shown an abnormal brain glucose homeostasis in AD. In the present  
34 study we also observed an abnormal brain glucose homeostasis and enhanced sirtuin1  
35 (SIRT1) activity after knockdown of NEAT similarly as in AD. Our results provided  
36 insight into the role of NEAT1 in the maintenance of MT stability and its effect on  
37 glucose metabolism during early stages of AD.

38

39 **Keywords:** Alzheimer's Disease, NEAT1, FZD3, H3K27Ac, Glycolysis;

40

41 **Introduction**

42 Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the leading cause of dementia among the aging  
43 population that involves complex neurodegenerative alterations. There are several

44 hypotheses to explain the basis of AD. Among them, the cholinergic, amyloid- $\beta$  (A $\beta$ )  
45 and tau hypotheses are the most recognized doctrine [1-4]. Currently, the available  
46 therapy of enhancing the acetylcholine response is not much satisfactory, and the  
47 trials targeting A $\beta$  in AD repeatedly failed [5]; therefore, the microtubule associated  
48 protein tau (MAPT) hypothesis has gained much attention. In animal model,  
49 hyper-phosphorylated tau induces neurofibrillary tangles and microtubule  
50 disintegration, triggering the death of neurons [6, 7]; but, the precise molecular  
51 mechanism leading to the hyper-phosphorylation of tau remains unclear.

52

53 Nuclear enriched abundant transcript 1(NEAT1) is a type of nuclear bodies exist in  
54 highly organized manner in mammalian nuclei to control gene expression and  
55 epigenetic events, is critical for the formation and maintenance of paraspeckles, [8, 9].  
56 The NEAT1 gene has two isoforms, NEAT1v1 (3.7 kb in length) and NEAT1v2 (23  
57 kb in length). NEAT1v2 binds directly to the paraspeckles proteins P54nrb/NONO  
58 and SFPQ/PSF, which results in the recruitment of NEAT1v1 and PSPC1 [10]. The  
59 primary function of paraspeckles is to sequester A-to-I hyper-edited RNAs which  
60 composed of an inverted repeat of Alu elements (IRAlus) in the nucleus to prevent the  
61 incorrect translation of edited RNAs. Chen and Carmichael investigated that, NEAT1  
62 knockdown leads to the collapse of paraspeckles as well as increased export of mRNA  
63 containing IRAlus, suggesting a close relationship between NEAT1 and the function  
64 of nuclear retention[12]. In addition to its involvement in the regulation of multiple  
65 genes expression by modulating their transcriptional activities NEAT1 also  
66 implicated in some neuronal loss diseases and neurodegenerative processes, such as  
67 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, traumatic brain injury and Huntington's disease.,  
68 However very little is known about the precise roles of NEAT1 in AD progression

69 [13-15]. In our recent study, we found that NEAT1 expression down-regulated in the  
70 early stage of AD and its downregulation contribute to amyloid- $\beta$  deposition [16] and  
71 the change of glucose metabolism.

72

73 Several lines of studies have shown that abnormal glucose homeostasis in the brain  
74 associates with AD pathogenesis. Increased in brain glucose levels and reduced in  
75 glycolytic influx due to impair glucose metabolism seems to be an intrinsic features of  
76 AD, appear early before the onset of clinical symptoms[17]. Epidemiological studies  
77 indicate that elevated blood glucose levels are a risk factor for dementia. Patients with  
78 type 2 diabetes are more likely to develop AD, suggesting that abnormal glucose  
79 metabolism plays an instrumental role in the development of AD [18, 19]. In this  
80 study, we found that NEAT1 down-regulation during early stage of AD disturbed  
81 glucose metabolism of neuron cells and impaired microtubule (MT) stabilization via  
82 dysregulation of the FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$ /p-tau signaling pathway. Metformin abandon tau  
83 hyper-phosphorylation and axonal degeneration via increased NEAT1 expression.  
84 Our results suggest new insights into the relationship between AD and diabetes  
85 mellitus.

86

## 87 **Results**

88 **NEAT1 silencing induces de-polymerization of microtubules (MTs) during early  
89 stages of Alzheimer Disease (AD).**

90 With the help of Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, we analyzed, the expression profiles in  
91 hippocampus of different stage AD patients and normal persons using data from the

92 National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). The expression levels of  
93 NEAT1 in the hippocampus of AD patients at different stages (GSE84422) is shown  
94 in figure 1A. NEAT1 expression significantly reduced in Braak stage 1 and 2,  
95 representing an early-stage of AD, compared to patients in other Braak stages or  
96 normal persons (Fig 1A). Braak stage 1 and 2 are the earliest disease phases in AD, in  
97 which abnormal tau and neurofibrillary tangle start to appear. Interestingly in our  
98 study, we observed a significantly reduced Neat1 expression levels in the  
99 hippocampus of 2-month-old APPswe/PS1dE9 and C57 mice (wild type) representing  
100 an early stage of AD (Fig 1B).

101

102 To know the effect of down-regulation of NEAT1 on nerve cells, first we generated a  
103 NEAT1-deficient (shNEAT1v2) and negative control (shNC) stable cell lines on U251  
104 using lentivirus based shRNA with inhibition efficiency approximately up to 80%  
105 (Fig 1C). After that, Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) from human placenta treated  
106 with suitable neuron-specific induction medium to induce neuron-like cells (NLCs),  
107 displayed neuron-protrusion morphologic changes during the first 4-6 days (Appendix  
108 Fig S1A). The expression of neuronal markers assessed by real-time PCR showed that  
109 GFAP (astrocyte marker), NF-M (neurofilament medium) and NSE (neuron-specific  
110 enolase) (neuronal marker) up-regulate in differentiated cells compared to the  
111 untreated MSCs (Appendix Fig S1B), [20-22]. The levels of NEAT1 mRNA declined  
112 significantly after transfection with lentivirus based shNEAT1v2 compared to shNC  
113 (small RNA with random sequence) in NLCs (Fig 1D). Moreover, the primary mouse  
114 neurons also transfected with lentivirus based shNeat1v2 and shNC, resulted in 50%  
115 inhibition ratio (Fig 1E).

116

117 We performed an Immunostaining with anti- $\alpha$ -tubulin antibodies in these cells and  
118 observed that down-regulation of NEAT1 induced the shrinkage of U251 cells (Fig  
119 1F and Appendix Fig S1C) and significantly decreased the length of glial cell  
120 terminals in shNEAT1v2 cells compared to shNC cells (Fig 1G). Next we examined  
121 whether NEAT1 down-regulation have any effect on neurites extension of NLCs or  
122 mouse primary neurons. Immunofluorescence analysis (Fig 1H-K) and optical  
123 microscopic observation (Appendix Fig S1D), showed decreased in the axonal  
124 length and shrinkage of NEAT1 knockdown NLCs or primary mouse neurons,  
125 suggesting that depolymerization of MTs and degeneration of axons is mediated by  
126 the down-regulation of NEAT1, an important pathological changes towards AD  
127 development. The normal primary mouse neurons were also immunostained by  
128  $\alpha$ -tubulin antibody (Appendix Fig S1E). The western blot analysis shows the  
129 decreased expression of acetylated tubulin in NEAT1 deficient U251 cell line and  
130 NLCs, representing a reduction in polymerized tubulin[23], therefore suggesting an  
131 aggravated de-polymerization of MTs (Fig 1L)

132

133 **NEAT1 silencing mediates de-polymerization of MTs via FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$ /p-tau  
134 signaling pathway**

135 To further investigate the potential mechanisms of NEAT1 in AD patients, a  
136 correlation analysis performed by using hippocampus samples. The expression  
137 profiles of (GSE84422) from GEO datasets, and a cluster ( $|r| > 0.4$ ) of  
138 NEAT1-associated genes obtained from braak stage 1/2 AD patients. Moreover, GO  
139 analysis performed by using the NEAT1-positive correlation genes. Expression profile

140 of GSE84422 showed that NEAT1 primarily associate with Wnt signaling pathway  
141 (Fig 2A). The results of GO analysis also showed that Wnt pathway may have some  
142 relationship with changes in NEAT1 expression during early stage of AD patients. We  
143 observed the expression of some important proteins in Wnt signaling pathway and  
144 found that the level of FZD3 mRNA in NEAT1 deficient U251 cell and NLCs reduced  
145 considerably compared to shNC (Fig 2B and C). We also found that siNEAT1v2  
146 similarly to siFZD3 also down-regulated FZD3 expression in U251 (Fig 2D).

147

148 In addition to its role in Wnt signaling, FZD3 regulate GSK3 $\beta$  activity. Activation of  
149 disheveled protein 1(Dvl) by FZD3 suppress GSK3 $\beta$  activation via Dvl-mediated  
150 inhibition[24]. Glycogen synthase kinase 3 $\beta$  (GSK3 $\beta$ ) is also an important tau protein  
151 kinase [4, 25, 26]. Therefore, we next examined the level of P-GSK3 $\beta$ , P-tau and  
152 FZD3 proteins in NEAT1 deficient U251 cell line, NEAT1 siRNA, FZD3 siRNA  
153 transfected U251 cells and shNEAT1v2 transfected NLCs. The results show that  
154 NEAT1 knockdown significantly decreased the expression of FZD3 and p-GSK3 $\beta$   
155 (ser9) but the level of total GSK3 $\beta$  remain unchanged, suggesting a decreased in  
156 p-GSK3 $\beta$ /t-GSK3 $\beta$  ratio (i.e., increased GSK3 $\beta$  activity). Phosphorylation of GSK3 $\beta$   
157 at serine 9 (p-GSK3 $\beta$ ) is a modification process required to inhibits GSK3 $\beta$  activity [4,  
158 25]. The decreased in p-GSK3 $\beta$  /t-GSK3 $\beta$  ratio thereby increased an active form of  
159 GSK3 $\beta$ , and ultimately result an elevated level of Phosphorylated form of Tau protein  
160 (Fig 2E-G).

161

## 162 NEAT1 regulates FZD3 expression via interaction with P300/CBP

163 To understand the molecular mechanism of NEAT1-regulated FZD3 expression, we

164 generated luciferase reporter constructs containing the promoter region of FZD3 and  
165 transfected the reporter vector into NEAT1 deficient U251 cell line. The results of the  
166 luciferase activity assay showed that NEAT1 knockdown reduced the transcriptional  
167 activity of the FZD3 promoter, indicating that NEAT1 regulate the expression of  
168 FZD3 at transcriptional level, (Fig 3A). H3K27Ac is a well-established marker for  
169 active transcription, we therefore analyzed its changes by using chromatin  
170 immunoprecipitation (ChIP) assays and the results reveal a broad and significantly  
171 decreased enrichment of H3K27Ac at the FZD3 promoter (Fig 3B).

172

173 Genome-wide profiling analysis using ChIP-sequencing have identified thousands of  
174 functional/active enhancers that are either bound by the transcriptional co-activator  
175 p300/CBP, or characterized by their association with high levels of H3K27Ac[27]. In  
176 our previous study of RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP) assay we have shown that  
177 p300/CBP pulled down several fragments of NEAT1. Moreover NEAT1 also  
178 co-localized with p300/CBP therefore influence its acyltransferase activity by direct  
179 interaction[16]. To reveal the potential mechanism how NEAT1 regulates FZD3  
180 transcription, we designed four paired primers (P1, P2, P3, P4) across the promoter  
181 region (-1000bp to +1000bp) of FZD3 and then subjected to ChIP-PCR assay to  
182 identify its regulatory mechanism. The results showed that P300/CBP likely to bind to  
183 P2 region of FZD3 promoter (Fig 3C), which is -661bp to -269bp from transcription  
184 start site of FZD3. To further clarify the relationship between p300/CBP and FZD3,  
185 we cultured normal U251 with 20 uM C646, a selective inhibitor of p300, for 48h and  
186 observed a significant reduction of H3K27Ac enrichment at FZD3 promoter  
187 compared to untreated U251(Fig 3D). Taken together, our preliminary results suggest  
188 that NEAT1 recruits p300/CBP at FZD3 promoter region therefore influence its

189 transcription due to change in H3K27Ac levels.

190

191 H3K4Me3 is an active transcription marker, whereas H3K27Me3 suppress  
192 transcription. We therefore examined the methylation pattern of histones proteins  
193 including tri-methylated histone H3 at lysine 4 (H3K4Me3) and tri-methylated histone  
194 H3 at lysine 27 (H3K27Me3), after down-regulation of NEAT1. The results show that  
195 decreased enrichment of H3K4Me3 and increased enrichment of H3K27Me3 at the  
196 FZD3 promoter region, is due to the down-regulation of FZD3 (Appendix Fig S2A  
197 and B) in NEAT1 down-regulated U251 stable cell line. Overall, our data suggest that  
198 NEAT1 knockdown enhance the phosphorylation of tau by inhibiting FZD3  
199 transcription whereas activating the GSK3 $\beta$  signaling pathway (Appendix Fig S2C).

200

201 **NEAT1 silencing decreases FZD3 expression via impaired glycolysis and**  
202 **increased SIRT1 activity.**

203 During our investigation, we observed that in similar cell numbers (Appendix Fig 3A  
204 and B), NEAT1 deficient U251 cells produced less acid in medium compared to  
205 control cells as evident of slow change in color to yellowish (Fig 4A), suggesting that  
206 knockdown of NEAT1 induced down-regulation of glycolysis and its acidic  
207 metabolites. To further confirm the glycolysis of NEAT1 deficient U251 cells, we  
208 used Seahorse ECAR (Extracellular Acidification Rate). In Figures 4B and C,  
209 glycolysis and the glycolytic capacity shows a 46.5% and 40.1% decreased  
210 respectively in NEAT1 stable knockdown cells (Fig 4B and C). Consistent with the  
211 color change of the culture medium, the intracellular pH value detected by flow  
212 cytometer also increased in shNEAT1v2 cells (Fig 4D). NEAT1 silencing also caused

213 a decline in the expression profile of multi-glycolysis related genes, including  
214 PFKFB2, PKM2 and HK2 (Fig 4E). Furthermore, NEAT1 silencing-mediated  
215 down-regulation of glycolysis increased the ratio of NAD/NADH and the activity of  
216 SIRT1 (Fig 4F and G).

217

218 To investigate how NEAT1 regulate cellular glycolysis, we detected H3K27Ac  
219 enrichment on the promoter regions of these glycolysis related genes. The results  
220 showed that NEAT1 knockdown significantly reduced H3K27Ac enrichment levels  
221 when compared with shNC cell line (Fig 4H-J). SIRT1 is a nuclear enzyme of  
222 NAD-dependent histone deacetylase, and its catalytic activity mainly depends on  
223 NAD/NADH. An increased in the ratio of NAD/NADH may attenuates H3K27Ac  
224 enrichment at the promoter regions of FZD3 or other genes, due to enhanced activity  
225 of SIRT. We therefore sought to know whether increased in SIRT1 activity is  
226 mediated by NEAT1 silencing which contributes to FZD3 transcription, SIRT1  
227 inhibitor Sirtinol added to cultured shNEATv2 deficient cells to analyze alterations of  
228 H3K27Ac enrichment at FZD3 promoter region. The results reveal a significantly  
229 increased enrichment of H3K27Ac at the FZD3 promoter after adding 20 $\mu$ M Sirtinol  
230 for 48 h, suggesting an increased in SIRT1 activity to some level therefore may  
231 influence FZD3 transcription (Fig 4K and L).

232

233 **Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation and axonal degeneration via**  
234 **increased NEAT1 expression**

235 Metformin originally been used as an anti-diabetic agent, but recently, it is considered  
236 as promising agent for the treatment of AD [28]. We therefore investigated whether  
237 metformin can retard tau hyper-phosphorylation and axonal degeneration. To apply an  
238 optimum concentration of metformin, first we calculated LC50 of the drug (from 0 to  
239 15mM) for U251 cells by using cell counting kit 8 assay. The results show that cell  
240 viability not influenced significantly by low concentration (from 0 to 2mM) of  
241 metformin (Appendix Fig 3C). We also observed that metformin concentration  
242 dependently increased NEAT1 as well as FZD3 expression in U251 cells. Metformin  
243 concentration ranged from 0 to 0.5 or 1mM increased the expression of NEAT1 or  
244 FZD3 and reached to the maximum level after that decreased steadily (Fig 5A).

245

246 The expression levels of downstream genes, including FZD3, P- GSK3 $\beta$ , as well as  
247 tau hyper-phosphorylation also rescued by 0.5 mM metformin in NEAT1 deficient  
248 U251 cells (Fig 5B). Furthermore, expression of FZD3, P-GSK3 $\beta$  and tau  
249 hyper-phosphorylation also reduced by 1mM metformin in shNEAT1v2 and shNC  
250 transfected NLCs (Fig 5C). We also observed that compared to control, treatment  
251 with metformin, rescued the glial cell terminal length in U251 cells and the average  
252 terminal length analyzed by Image J (Fig 5D and E). Interestingly the rescued axonal  
253 length also observed in shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs (Fig 5F and G and  
254 Appendix Fig S3D). However, high concentration of metformin not only failed to  
255 rescue the axonal degeneration but further triggered cell lesion and even death in  
256 NLCs, showing its cytotoxic effect in neuronal cells (Appendix Fig S3E).

257

258 **Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation in hippocampus of**  
259 **APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice**

260 We next examined Neat1 expression in the hippocampus of 2-month-old wild type  
261 and AD transgenic mice, showing an early stage of AD (Fig 1B). We also examined  
262 Fzd3 expression levels in 2-month-old mice and found decreased in mRNA levels of  
263 Fzd3 in hippocampus of AD mice (Fig 6A). The rescuing effects of metformin further  
264 confirmed by in-vivo studies. In our previous study, we detected the mRNA levels of  
265 Neat1 in 3-month-old APP/PS1 double transgenic mouse, and found reduced Neat1  
266 expression compared with C57 mice [16]. In present study, these nearly 3 months old  
267 AD mice were observed an increased in the level of Neat1 and Fzd3 mRNA in the  
268 hippocampus of metformin treated group compared to control group treated with  
269 ddH2O (Fig 6B and C). Furthermore, we found increased H3K27Ac protein  
270 expression and reduced P-tau level in metformin treated AD mice group compare with  
271 ddH2O group (Fig 6D).

272

273 Next we performed Immunohistochemistry (IHC) in the whole hippocampus and in  
274 the CA1 hippocampal area of differently treated mice. The results show a significantly  
275 high H3K27Ac-positive and FZD3-positive neuronal cells in CA1 hippocampal area  
276 of metformin treated AD mice, compared to APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice  
277 treated with ddH2O. The accumulation of hyper-phosphorylated form of tau  
278 decreased significantly in the hippocampus, showing the rescue effect of metformin  
279 (Fig 6E-G). Quantification of the relative area fraction occupied by  
280 immunohistochemical staining was analyzed with Image J (Fig 6H).

281

282 **Discussion**

283 NEAT1 is implicated in many neurodegenerative disorders, including amyotrophic  
284 lateral sclerosis (ALS) [13] and Huntington's disease (HD) [9, 15]. In our recent study,  
285 we found that NEAT1 also involves AD progression. The down- regulation of NEAT1  
286 expression contributed to amyloid- $\beta$  deposition, via inhibiting expression of multi  
287 endocytosis related genes. Through interaction with P300/CBP complex, NEAT1  
288 regulated expression of these genes via affecting H3K27 acetylation (H3K27Ac) and  
289 H3K27 crotonylation (H3K27Cro) in the promotor region of these genes[16]. In this  
290 investigation, we found that NEAT1 involves AD progression also through  
291 dysregulation of glycolysis and up-regulation of p-tau.

292

293 According to the early reports from other authors, the disorder of glucose  
294 metabolism has some relationship with AD. FDG PET study revealed that decrease  
295 utilization of glucose in the brain of patients with "sporadic" AD caused by gene  
296 mutation even before any visible symptoms of dementia, suggesting that disturbance  
297 in glucose metabolism is closely linked to AD development [29, 30]. In vivo diabetic  
298 model of mice demonstrates morphological and molecular alterations in the brain  
299 similar to those observed in other neurodegenerative disorders [31, 32]. However, the  
300 mechanism is still poorly understood. In our investigation, we found that NEAT1  
301 expression markedly declines in the early-stage of AD patients. Down-regulation of  
302 NEAT1 mediates decrease in glycolysis and enhance the NAD/NADH ratio and the

303 activity of SIRT1, which is a nuclear enzyme of NAD-dependent histone deacetylases  
304 (Fig 6I).

305

306 In addition to its function as a fundamental structural component of paraspeckles to  
307 regulate RNA nuclear retention and RNA splicing, NEAT1 involves in the epigenetic  
308 regulation of gene expression. Chen et al. reported that NEAT1 mediates H3K27me3  
309 of Axin2, ICAT, and GSK3 $\beta$  in glioblastoma by binding to EZH2[33]. NEAT1 also  
310 associates with H3K4me3 [34, 35]. In the present study, we reported that NEAT1  
311 regulates the tri-methylation and acetylation of H3K27 of the FZD3 promoter. Our  
312 investigation for the first time highlights NEAT1-mediated regulation of H3K27  
313 acetylation at promoter region of the FZD3 gene. Through regulation of H3K27  
314 acetylation of FZD3, NEAT1 activates GSK3 $\beta$ .

315

316 GSK3 $\beta$  play roles in both diabetes and AD progression. Insulin resistance  
317 dysregulates the insulin/PI3K/Akt/GSK3 $\beta$  signaling pathway, leading to the inhibition  
318 of Akt and de-phosphorylation of GSK3 $\beta$  (activation), result in tau  
319 hyper-phosphorylation [36-39]. The NEAT1/FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$  signaling pathway  
320 reported in this investigation also associate with hyper-phosphorylation of tau.  
321 Therefore, GSK3 $\beta$  appears to be a possible connection between the  
322 NEAT1/FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$  and insulin/PI3K/Akt/GSK3 $\beta$  pathways in AD progression.  
323 Our result also suggests that increased in SIRT1 activity mediated by NEAT1  
324 down-regulation at least partially contribute to the change of enrichment of H3K27Ac

325 at the FZD3 promoter region and the activity of FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$  signaling pathway (Fig  
326 6I).

327

328 Metformin has been recommended as a first-line therapy for patients with type  
329 2 diabetes mellitus since 2009 [40]. Because it can penetrate the blood-brain barrier ,  
330 metformin is also used as a promising drug for treating AD. Chen et al. reported that  
331 metformin improve memory impairment and inhibit neuronal apoptosis and  
332 accumulation of A $\beta$  in the hippocampus of db/db mice [41]. In our study, we reported  
333 that metformin rescued NEAT1 down-regulation and axonal degeneration by  
334 regulating the FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$ /p-tau signaling pathway. Consistent with our finding,  
335 researchers also reported that both in vitro and in vivo, metformin reduce tau  
336 phosphorylation in murine neurons, but via the mTOR/protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A)  
337 signaling pathway [42]. However, Barini et al., reported that metformin treatment  
338 in a mouse model of tauopathy promotes tau aggregation and exacerbates abnormal  
339 behavior[28]. Moore et al. reported that using metformin aggravated cognitive  
340 impairment of AD patients compared to control group. They think that MET-induced  
341 vitamin B12 deficiency may cause AD[43]. In our study, we found that high dose of  
342 metformin is cytotoxic for neuron cells. In short, when metformin is use to prevent or  
343 treat AD, dose is an important consideration.

344

## 345 **Experimental Procedures**

### 346 **Mice**

347 Animals were kept in an environmentally controlled breeding room (temperature: 20  
348  $\pm 2$  °C; humidity: 60%  $\pm 5\%$ ; 12 h dark/light cycle). The animals were fed standard  
349 laboratory chow diets with water ad libitum. The study was performed in strict  
350 accordance with the recommendations of the Guide for the Care and Use of  
351 Laboratory Animals of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tsinghua  
352 University. The protocol was approved by the Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee  
353 of Tsinghua University, China. C57BL/6 (wild type mice) and APPswe/PS1dE9  
354 double transgenic mice (transgenic AD mice) both at the ages of 2 months were  
355 obtained from Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME, USA) and were housed in  
356 individually ventilated cages. 2 month old C57BL/6 (n=7) and same age  
357 APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice (n=6) were killed by decapitation to obtain  
358 hippocampus tissue and detected mRNA levels of Neat1 and Fzd3.

359

360 2 month old C57BL/6 (n=8) and same age APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice  
361 (n=12) were obtained from the same source and were divided into 3 groups: 1) a sham  
362 group (which only received normal diet, daily intragastric administration of ddH<sub>2</sub>O,  
363 C57BL/6 (n=8).) 2) a control group (which only received normal diet, daily  
364 intragastric administration of ddH<sub>2</sub>O, transgenic AD mice (n=6).) 3) a case group  
365 (which received daily intragastric administration of 200mg/kg metformin (Abcam,  
366 #ab120847) dissolved in ddH<sub>2</sub>O for 9 weeks, transgenic AD mice (n=6).) For  
367 Immunostaining, WT mice and AD mice were killed by decapitation to obtain  
368 hippocampus tissue and perfusion were performed with 4% PFA in PBS. To quantify  
369 Neat1 expression levels, C57BL/6 mice and AD mice were anesthetized with  
370 pentobarbital and hippocampal tissue was eluted in RNAiso Plus (Takara, D9108B)  
371 followed by RNA extraction.

372

373 **Dataset**

374 mRNA expression data sets and the associated clinical information were obtained  
375 from GSE84422 (GEO, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gds/>) database. GSE84422 is  
376 titled as molecular signatures underlying selective regional vulnerability to  
377 Alzheimer's Disease, which includes RNA samples from 19 brain region isolated  
378 from the 125 specimens. NEAT1 expression in the hippocampus of 44 AD patients  
379 with different braak stage and 11 normal persons was analyzed using nonparametric  
380 Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

381

382 **Cell culture**

383 Human glioma U251 cells (China Infrastructure of Cell Line Resources) were  
384 cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 12800-017)  
385 containing 10% fetal bovine serum (PAA, A15-101), 10 U/ml penicillin-streptomycin  
386 (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 15140-122) in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub>-humidified incubator at 37 °C.

387

388 Human placenta derived mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) were isolated and cultivated  
389 according to a previously published protocol [44]. MSCs (5x10<sup>4</sup> per well on a 6-well  
390 culture plate) were cultured in low-glucose Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium  
391 (LG-DMEM) containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 10U/mL  
392 penicillin/streptomycin at 37°C, and 5% (v/v) CO<sub>2</sub>. Primary hippocampal neurons  
393 were isolated from embryonic E18.5 C57BL/6 mice and approximately 2×10<sup>3</sup>  
394 cells/well were plated on poly-D-lysine-coated glass coverslips (20 µg/ml) for

395 immunofluorescence. The plating medium was DMEM-F12 (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd,  
396 10565-018) supplemented with 10% horse serum (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 26050-070),  
397 10mM sodium pyruvate (P4562, sigma), 0.5mM glutamine (G6392, sigma) and 1%  
398 D-Glucose (G6152, sigma). After 2-4 h, the medium was changed to neuronal growth  
399 medium (500ml Neurobasal medium (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 21103-049) with 10ml  
400 B27(Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, 17504-001), 5ml N-2 Supplement (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd,  
401 A13707-01)10ul 45% D-Glucose (G6152, sigma) and 5ml L-Glutamine  
402 (Gibco/Invitrogen Ltd, A2916801)). 5ug/ml AraC (C6645, sigma) was added to  
403 neuronal growth medium after 72h to reduce glial growth. Lentivirus transfections  
404 were conducted as follows.

405

#### 406 **Cell transfections**

407 All the synthetic lentivirus-based shRNAs (shNEAT1v2 and shNC) and siRNAs  
408 (siNEAT1v2 and siNC) were purchased from Shanghai GenePharma Co., Ltd. All the  
409 siRNAs were transfected with lipofectamine<sup>TM</sup> 2000 (Invitrogen, 11668-019)  
410 according to the manufacturer's protocol, and shRNAs were co-transfected with  
411 polybrene (GenePharma Co. (Shanghai, China)). The siRNA sequences were showed  
412 in table S1.

413

#### 414 **Construction of stable cell lines**

415 Human glioma U251 cells were cultivated in 6-well plate (1x10<sup>4</sup>/well). When the cell  
416 density reached 40-50% confluence, the Lentivirus based shRNAs were used for cell  
417 transfection to generate stable monoclonal cell lines (shNEAT1v2 cells and shNC  
418 cells). Puromycin (A1113803, Invitrogen; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Lnc) selection

419 (10ug/ml) started 24h after transfection. The medium with 10  $\mu$ g/ml puromycin was  
420 changed every 2-3 days. Following 2-4 weeks, isolated colonies were selected and  
421 grown for later assays.

422

423 **MSC induction**

424 MSCs were incubated for 7-10 days in neuronal differentiation medium containing 10  
425 ng/ml epidermal growth factor (EGF, sigma), 10 ng/ml basic fibroblast growth factor  
426 (bFGF, sigma), 10  $\mu$ M Forskolin (Macklin, F823536, Shanghai), 10 ng/ml  
427 brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF, sigma), 0.1 mM 3-isobutylmethyl-xanthine,  
428 IBMX (Macklin, 1811775, Shanghai), 0.5  $\mu$ M retinoic acid (RA, sigma), 5% FBS and  
429 the DMEM/F-12, GlutaMAX<sup>TM</sup> medium (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle  
430 Medium/Nutrient Mixture F-12, 10565018 Gibco). Using real-time PCR detects the  
431 expression changes of several neuronal marker genes after this induction, including  
432 GFAP, NF-M and NSE [45-47]. The primers were showed in table S2.

433

434 **Reverse Transcription and Quantitative PCR**

435 Reverse transcription was performed using ReverTra Ace<sup>®</sup> qPCR RT Master Mix  
436 with gDNA remover (TOYOBO, FSQ-301) according to the manufacturer's protocol.  
437 The resultant cDNA was measured by quantitative PCR using following system: 4 $\mu$ l  
438 of RNase-free H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.5  $\mu$ l of forward primer (1  $\mu$ M), 0.5ul of reverse primer (1  $\mu$ M),  
439 1  $\mu$ l of cDNA (50 ng) template, and 5  $\mu$ l of SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (TOYOBO,  
440 QPK-201) at 95°C for 30 s, followed by 40 cycles of 95°C for 15 s, 60°C for 15 s and  
441 70°C for 15 s. All mRNA levels were normalized to beta-actin. The primers were  
442 showed in table S2.

443

444 **CCK8 assay**

445 Approximately  $5 \times 10^3$  cells per well were plated in a 96-well culture plate and  
446 incubated 24 h, followed by treating different concentrations of metformin for 48 h.  
447 Then, 10  $\mu$ l CCK8 reagent (MedChem Express, HY-K0301-500T, China) were added  
448 to each well and maintained for 4h at 37°CAfter that, the absorbance at 450nm was  
449 detected by using a microplate reader.

450

451 **Western blot**

452 The antibodies used for Western blotting included an anti-GSK3 $\beta$  antibody (cell  
453 signaling, #12456), an anti-Phospho-GSK3 $\beta$ (ser9) antibody (cell signaling, #9322),  
454 an anti-FZD3 antibody (Abcam, ab75233), an anti-phospho-Tau (S396) antibody  
455 (Abcam, ab109390), an anti-Phospho-Tau (Ser400/Thr403/Ser404) antibody (Cell  
456 signaling, #11837), an anti-acetyl-Tubulin antibody (Sigma, T6793), an anti-PKM2  
457 antibody (Cell signaling, #4053) an anti-HK2 antibody (Cell signaling, #2867), an  
458 anti-PFKFB2 antibody (Cell signaling, #13045) and an anti- GAPDH antibody  
459 (Proteintech,10494-1-AP) was analyzed by western blot. Protein sample was lysed in  
460 ice-cold whole cell extract buffer B (50 mM TRIS-HCl, pH 8.0, 4M urea and 1%  
461 Triton X-100), followed by being heated at 100°C for 10 min with 5 $\times$  loading buffer.  
462 Then, equal amount of protein sample was separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred  
463 onto PVDF membranes (Millipore, Immobilon-NC). Membranes were blocked for 1h  
464 at room temperature with 5% non-fat milk and successively incubated overnight at 4°C  
465 with primary antibody and 2h room temperature for secondary antibody. After that,  
466 ECL Blotting Detection Reagents were used to visualize protein bands.

467

468 **Immunohistochemistry**

469 The hippocampus of mouse was isolated and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA)  
470 and then placed in 30% sucrose in PBS for 1 day. Paraffin-embedded tissue sections  
471 (10um thickness) were treated in 0.01M PBS containing 3% hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)  
472 for 10 min. Then blocked in 3% BSA and were incubated in following antibodies: an  
473 anti-phospho-Tau (S396) antibody (Abcam, ab109390), an anti-FZD3 antibody  
474 (Abcam, ab75233) and an anti-acetyllysine antibody (Cat#PTM-102, clone Kac-11).  
475 Specimens were visualized under an inverted phase contract fluorescent microscope  
476 [48].

477

478 **Immunofluorescence**

479 Antibodies against  $\alpha$ -tubulin (Sigma, T6074) and the secondary antibodies Alexa  
480 Fluor 594 (Life Technologies Corp.) were employed in immunofluorescence staining.  
481 Microscopic analysis that clearly reflecting changes of axonal length were captured  
482 using an Olympus FV1000 confocal laser microscope.

483

484 **Luciferase Assay**

485 The dual-luciferase promoter assay system was generated by inserting sequences from  
486 -500bp to +500bp relative to the transcription start sites (TSS) of FZD3. The inserted  
487 reporters were obtained from Shanghai GenePharma Co. Ltd. Luciferase activities  
488 were assayed using a Dual-Luciferase Reporter System (Promega, E1960).

489

490 **ChIP Assay**

491 ChIP assays were performed as described previously [49]. Briefly, the cells were  
492 digested with ChIP lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCL PH=8.0, 5 mM EDTA, 0.1%  
493 deoxycholate, 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NACL in 1\* PIC (protease inhibitor)), And  
494 were crosslinked with 1% formaldehyde and sonicated for 180s (10s on and 10s off)  
495 on ice shear the DNA to an average fragment size of 200-1000bp. The 500ul of  
496 sonicated chromatin was purified by centrifugation, and then, the supernatants were  
497 incubated with the ChIP grade antibody against 2-5ug anti-KAT3B/P300 (Abcam,  
498 ab54984), anti-Histone H3 (acetyl K27) (Abcam, ab4729), anti-Histone H3 (tri  
499 methyl K4) (Abcam, ab8580), anti-Histone H3 (tri methyl K27) (Abcam, ab6002) and  
500 100ul Dynabeads<sup>TM</sup> protein G (Invitrogen, 10004D, USA). Finally, chromatin DNA  
501 was subjected to Quantitative PCR and all primers for ChIP-qPCR are listed in table  
502 S3.

503

504 **NAD/NADH and SIRT1 deacetylase activity**

505 The experiment was performed using NAD+/NADH Assay kit (Abcam, ab176723)  
506 according to the manufacturer's instruction. SIRT deacetylase activity was measured  
507 using a colorimetric assay kit (Abcam, ab156915) and nuclear extracts were prepared  
508 using Nucleoprotein Extraction Kit (Sangon Biotech, C500009, Shanghai).

509

510 **Seahorse extracellular flux analysis**

511 The extracellular acidification rate (ECAR), indicating glycolysis, was measured  
512 using Seahorse XFe96 analyzer (Seahorse Bioscience, North Billerica, MA). XFp

513 Glycolysis Stress Test Kit (Seahorse Bioscience, Part# 103017-100) was used to  
514 detect three indexes including Glycolysis, Glycolytic Capacity and Glycolytic  
515 Reserve. Before the experiments, shNC cells or shNEAT1v2 cells were seeded at  
516 5000 cells/well in 8 wells Seahorse cartridge which was hydrated before. After  
517 adhering, the medium in the wells was gently changed by supplementing XF Base  
518 Medium, which was added 2mM glutamine, as a starting point. The 8 wells Seahorse  
519 cartridge was incubated at 37°C in non-CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 1h. And then, the assay was  
520 performed through injection of 3 metabolic compounds: glucose, oligomycin and  
521 2-DG. All the results were calculated on the average of the three measurements.

522

### 523 **Measurement of intracellular pH (pH<sub>i</sub>)**

524 Measurements of pH<sub>i</sub> were performed using the cell permeable pH-sensitive dye  
525 BCECF-AM (2',7'-bis(2-carboxyethyl)-5(6)-carboxyfluorescein-acetoxymethyl ester;  
526 Calbiochem). Fluorescent probe BCECF (Aladdin, B115503) which is excited by  
527 visible light (488 nm) and diffuses out of cells very slowly was dissolved in DMSO  
528 for stock solutions (100mM), and the working concentration was 100nM. After  
529 adding BCECF to the culture medium and incubated in 37 °C for 20min, the flow  
530 cytometry analysis was performed to determine the intracellular pH of treated cells  
531 (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA).

532

### 533 **Reagent treatment**

534 Sirtinol (Sigma, S7942), a pan sirtuin inhibitor, was dissolved in ddH<sub>2</sub>O for stock  
535 solutions (2M). The cells were plated and treated with 10mM and 20mM sirtinol for  
536 24h. Metformin (Abcam, #ab120847) was dissolved in ddH<sub>2</sub>O for stock solutions

537 (1M) and used fresh or before 6 months. And subsequently diluted to different final  
538 concentrations: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 15mM with culture medium.  
539 C646 (Abcam, #ab146163) was dissolved in DMSO for stock solutions (20M) and  
540 diluted to different concentrations with culture medium.

541

542 **Statistical analysis**

543 All assays were repeated at least three times and data are shown as means  $\pm$ SEM. P  
544 values were determined by comparing the data from treated and control cells. Data  
545 were evaluated with two-tailed t-test. Differences were considered significant with a  
546 value of  $P < 0.05$ .

547

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552

553 **Author Contribution**

554 Yiwan Zhao and Ziqiang Wang designed and conducted the experiments, Yiwan Zhao  
555 analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript. Yiwan Zhao, Yunhao Mao, Shikuan  
556 Zhang, Songmao Wang, Yuanchang Zhu, conducted the experiments. Bing Li  
557 conducted the bioinformation analysis. Weidong Xie and Naihan Xu revised the  
558 manuscript. Yaou Zhang designed the experiments, supervised the project, and wrote  
559 the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

560

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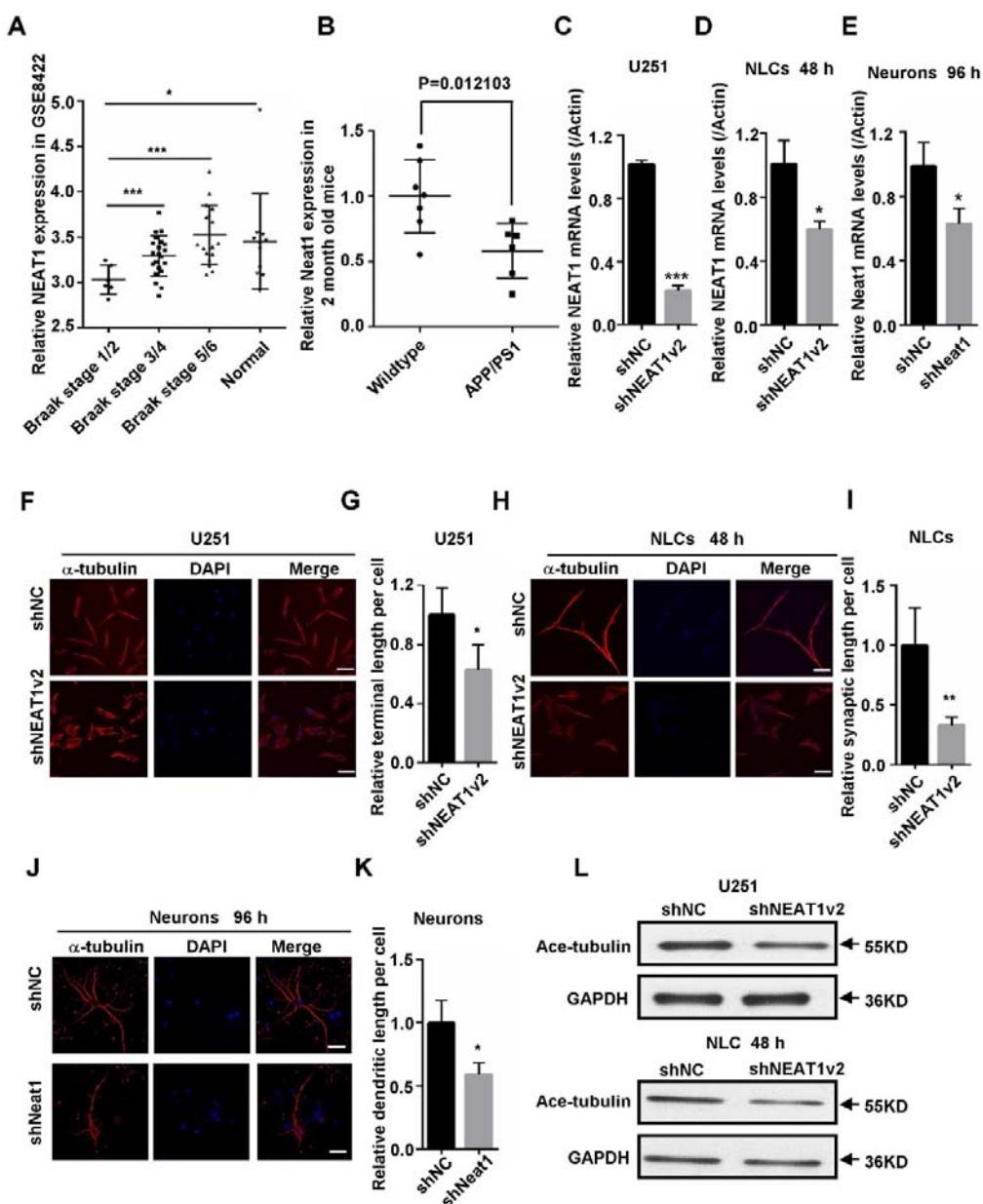
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753 **Figure legends**



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755 **Figure 1. NEAT1 silencing induces de-polymerization of microtubules (MTs)**  
 756 **during early stages of Alzheimer Disease (AD).**

757 A. The expression of NEAT1 in the hippocampus of AD patients with different braak  
 758 stage and normal persons was analyzed in GSE84422. B. Neat1 analysis in  
 759 hippocampi of 2-month-old AD mice and wild-type mice. C. The NEAT1 mRNA

760 expression levels were measured by quantitative PCR in stable NEAT1 deficient cell  
761 line on U251. D. Quantitative PCR analysis of NEAT1 mRNA levels in lentivirus  
762 based shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs. E. Neat1 mRNA expression was  
763 detected by quantitative PCR in lentivirus based shNeat1v2 and shNC transfected  
764 primary mouse neurons. F. Immunofluorescence analysis of  $\alpha$ -tubulin (red) in stable  
765 NEAT1 deficient cell line on U251, H. shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs, J.  
766 shNeat1v2 and shNC transfected mouse primary neurons. DAPI (blue) was used to  
767 stain the nuclei. Scale bars, 20 $\mu$ m. G. The average terminal length of stable U251 cell  
768 lines was calculated from 30 randomly selected cells. I. The average synaptic length  
769 of shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs was calculated from 30 randomly  
770 selected cells. K. The average dendritic length of shNeat1 and shNC transfected mouse  
771 primary neurons was respectively calculated from 30 randomly selected cells. Image J  
772 software was used to count the cell length (mean  $\pm$  s.d, \* $P$  < 0.05, \*\* $P$  < 0.01, \*\*\* $P$  <  
773 0.001, Student 2-tailed  $t$  test). L. Western blot analysis for acetylated tubulin  
774 expression levels in stable U251 cell lines as well as shNEAT1v2 and shNC  
775 transfected NLCs.

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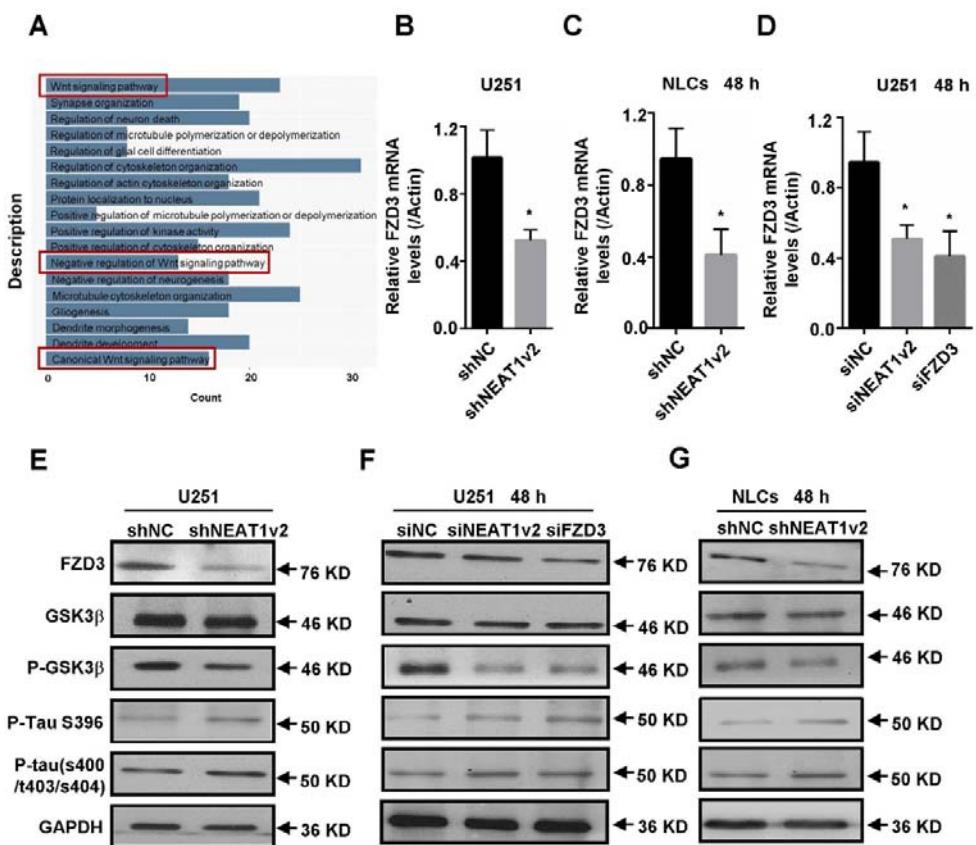
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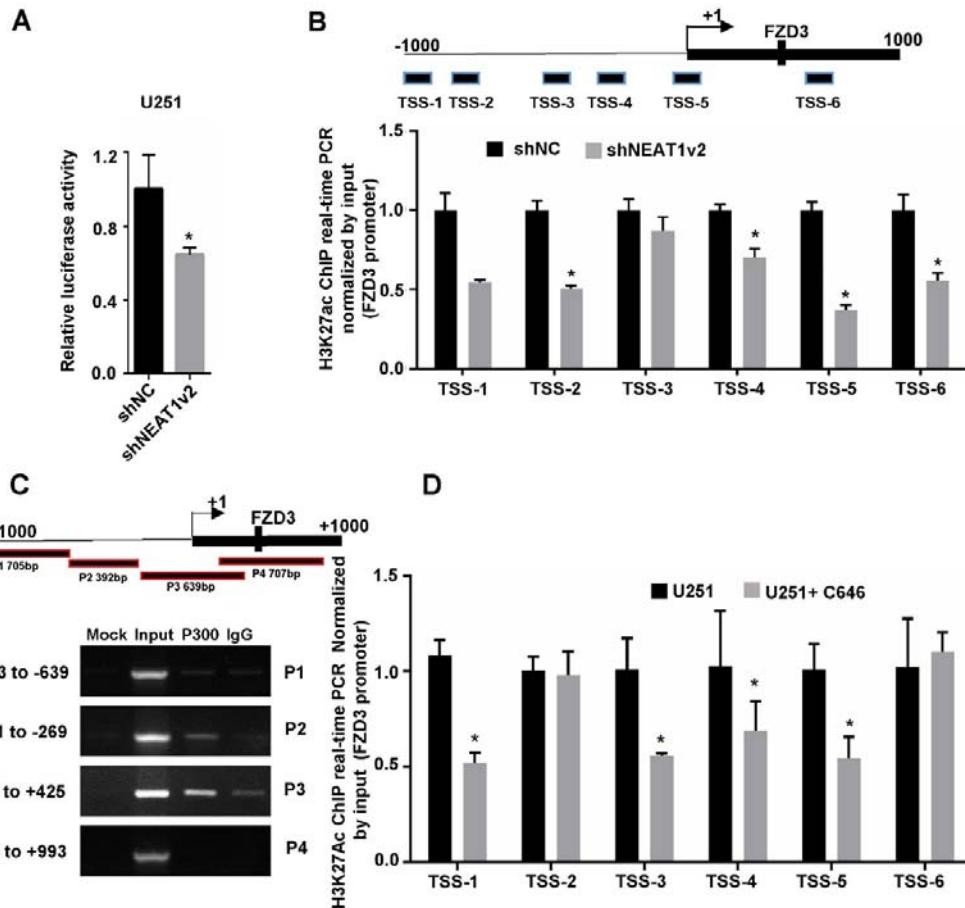
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783 **Figure 2. NEAT1 silencing mediates de-polymerization of MTs via**  
784 **FZD3/GSK3 $\beta$ /p-tau signaling pathway** A. GO analyses were performed using the  
785 NEAT1 positive-associated genes in GSE84422. B. The FZD3 mRNA expression  
786 levels were measured by quantitative PCR in stable NEAT1 deficient cell line on  
787 U251. C. The mRNA levels of FZD3 in lentivirus based shNEAT1v2 and shNC  
788 transfected NLCs. D. The mRNA levels of FZD3 in U251 after being transfected with  
789 NEAT1 siRNA, FZD3 siRNA and negative control. (mean  $\pm$  s.d, \* $P < 0.05$ , Student  
790 2-tailed  $t$  test). E-G. The expression levels of the FZD3, GSK3 $\beta$ , p-GSK3 $\beta$ ,  
791 p-Tau(s396) and p-Tau(s400/t403/s404) were analyzed with Western blotting  
792 respectively in stable NEAT1 deficient cell line on U251, NEAT1v2 siRNA, FZD3  
793 siRNA transiently transfected U251 and shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs.



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795 **Figure 3. NEAT1 silencing decreases FZD3 expression via recruitment of**  
796 **P300/CBP and reduced level of H3K27Ac**

797 A. After co-transfection with siNEAT1v2 or negative control siRNAs and the pGL3  
798 enhancer plasmid containing FZD3 promoter fragments for 48h, the relative  
799 transcriptional activities were determined with a luciferase assay in three independent  
800 experiments. B. The histone modification status of H3K27Ac on FZD3 promoter  
801 detected by ChIP assays in stable NEAT1 deficient cell line on U251. D. ChIP-PCR  
802 showed that P300/CBP occupied the FZD3 promoter region. D. The 20 $\mu$ M C646  
803 treated and normal U251 cells were collected for ChIP assays to analyse the relative

804 fold enrichment of the FZD3 promoter using anti-H3K27Ac antibody. (mean  $\pm$  s.d,

805  $*P < 0.05$ ,  $**P < 0.01$ , Student 2-tailed *t* test).

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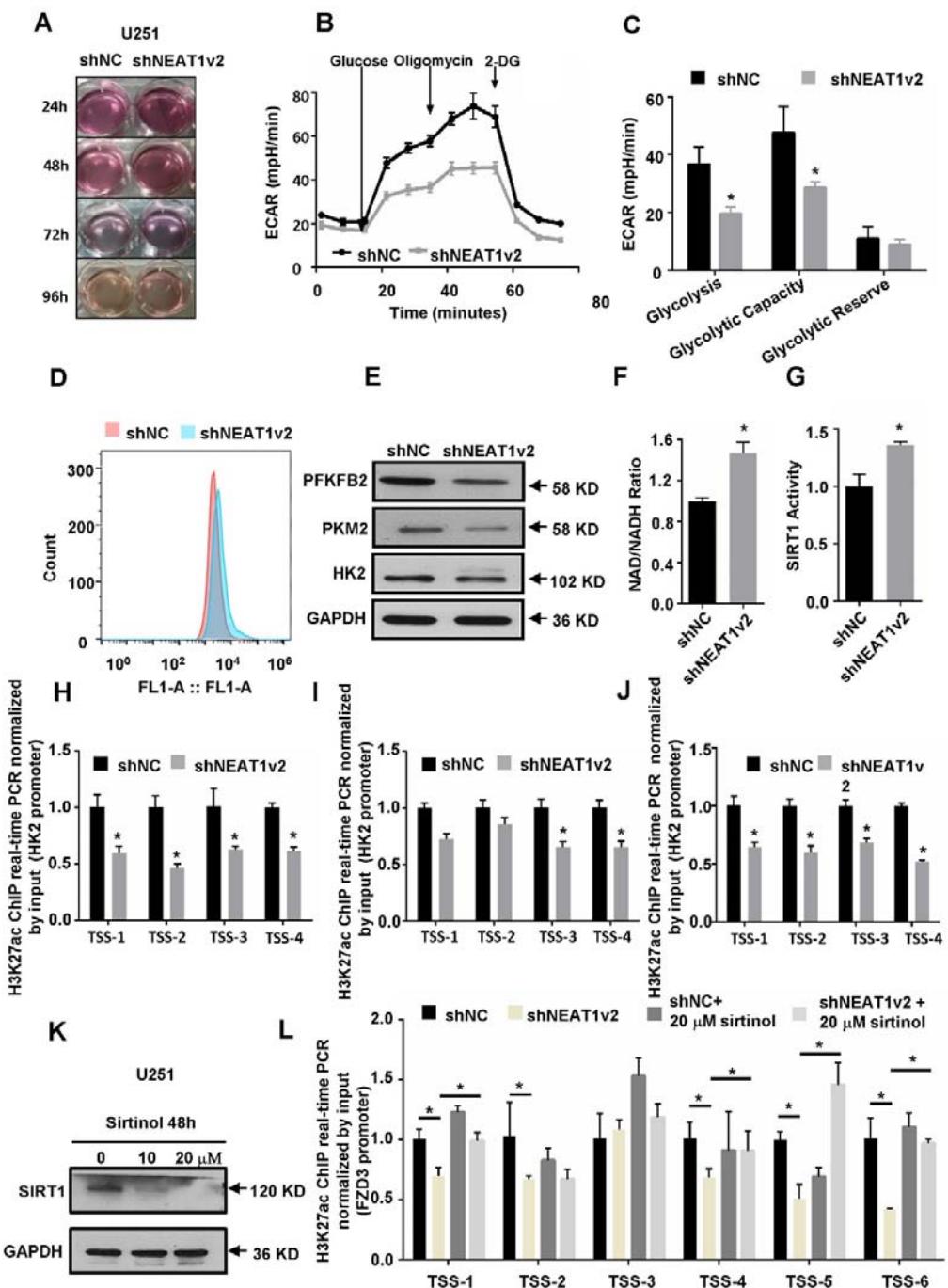
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825 **Figure 4. NEAT1 silencing decreases FZD3 expression via impaired glycolysis**  
 826 **and increased SIRT1 activity.**

827 A. The color change of stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines were cultured in a 6-well  
 828 plate for different time. B. The Seahorse Flux Bioanalyser was used to measure

829 ECAR of stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines in real time under basal conditions and in  
830 response to glucose, oligomycin, and 2-Deoxy-D-glucose (2DG). n=3, \*P < 0.05. C.  
831 Basal glycolysis (after the addition of glucose), glycolytic capacity (after the addition  
832 of oligomycin), and glycolytic reserve (calculated as the difference of oligomycin rate  
833 and glucose rate) ECAR. n=3, \*P < 0.05. D. The value of intracellular pH in stable  
834 NEAT1 deficient cell lines detected with Flow cytometry by using fluorescent dye,  
835 BCECF. E. Immunoblotting analysis of PFKFB2, PKM2, and HK2 in stable NEAT1  
836 deficient cell lines on U251. F. Analysis of NAD<sup>+</sup> / NADH ratio in stable NEAT1  
837 deficient cell lines on U251. G. The assay of SIRT1 activity in stable NEAT1  
838 deficient cell lines on U251. H-J. ChIP assays of H3K27Ac enrichment on the  
839 promoters of HK2, PFKFB2 and PKM2, the fold enrichment of H3K27Ac on these  
840 promoter fragments was standardized relative to the input level. K. Western blotting  
841 analysis of SIRT1 expression after treated with 0, 10, 20 $\mu$ M Sirtinol for 24h. L. Using  
842 ChIP analysis to detect the H3K27Ac enrichment on FZD3 promoter regions when  
843 the NEAT1 deficient cell lines were treated with 20  $\mu$ M Sirtinol for 48h. \*P < 0.05,  
844 \*\*P < 0.01, Student 2-tailed *t* test.

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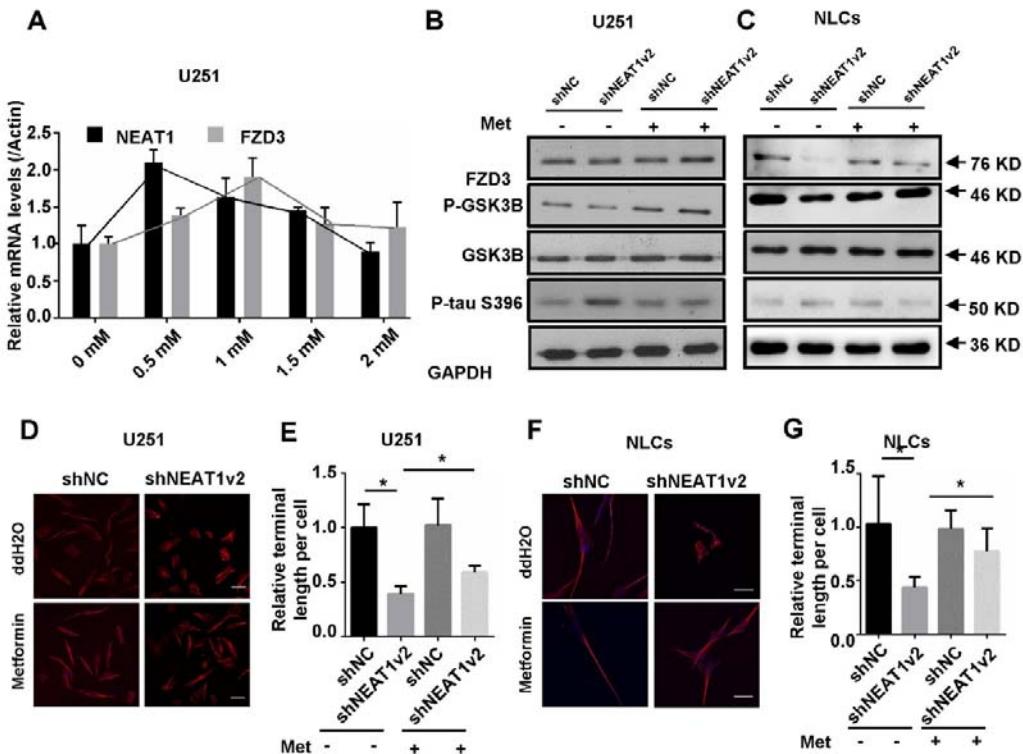
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854 **Figure 5. Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation and axonal  
855 degeneration via increased NEAT1 expression**

856 A. Quantitative PCR analysis of NEAT1 and FZD3 expression of 0 to 2mM  
857 metformin treatment on normal U251 cells. B. Expression levels of FZD3, P-GSK3 $\beta$ ,  
858 GSK3 $\beta$ , P-tau(ser396) was detected by Western blotting after 48h treatment of  
859 0.5mM metformin in stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines on U251. C. Expression levels  
860 of FZD3, P-GSK3 $\beta$ , GSK3 $\beta$ , P-tau(ser396) was detected by Western blotting after  
861 48h treatment of 1mM metformin in lentivirus based shNEAT1v2 and shNC  
862 transfected NLCs. D. Metformin treated stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines on U251  
863 were stained with antibody against  $\alpha$ -tubulin(red) and subjected to confocal  
864 microscopy analysis. DAPI(blue) was used to stain the nuclei. Scale bars 20  $\mu$ m. E.

865 The average terminal length of stable NEAT1 deficient cell lines treated with  
866 metformin was calculated from 30 randomly selected cells, respectively. F.  
867 Metformin treated shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs were stained with  
868 antibody against  $\alpha$ -tubulin(red) and subjected to confocal microscopy analysis.  
869 DAPI(blue) was used to stain the nuclei. Scale bars 20  $\mu$ m. G. The average synaptic  
870 length of shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs treated with metformin was  
871 calculated from 30 randomly selected cells. Image J software was used to count the  
872 cell length. (mean  $\pm$  s.d, \* $P$  < 0.05, Student 2-tailed  $t$  test).

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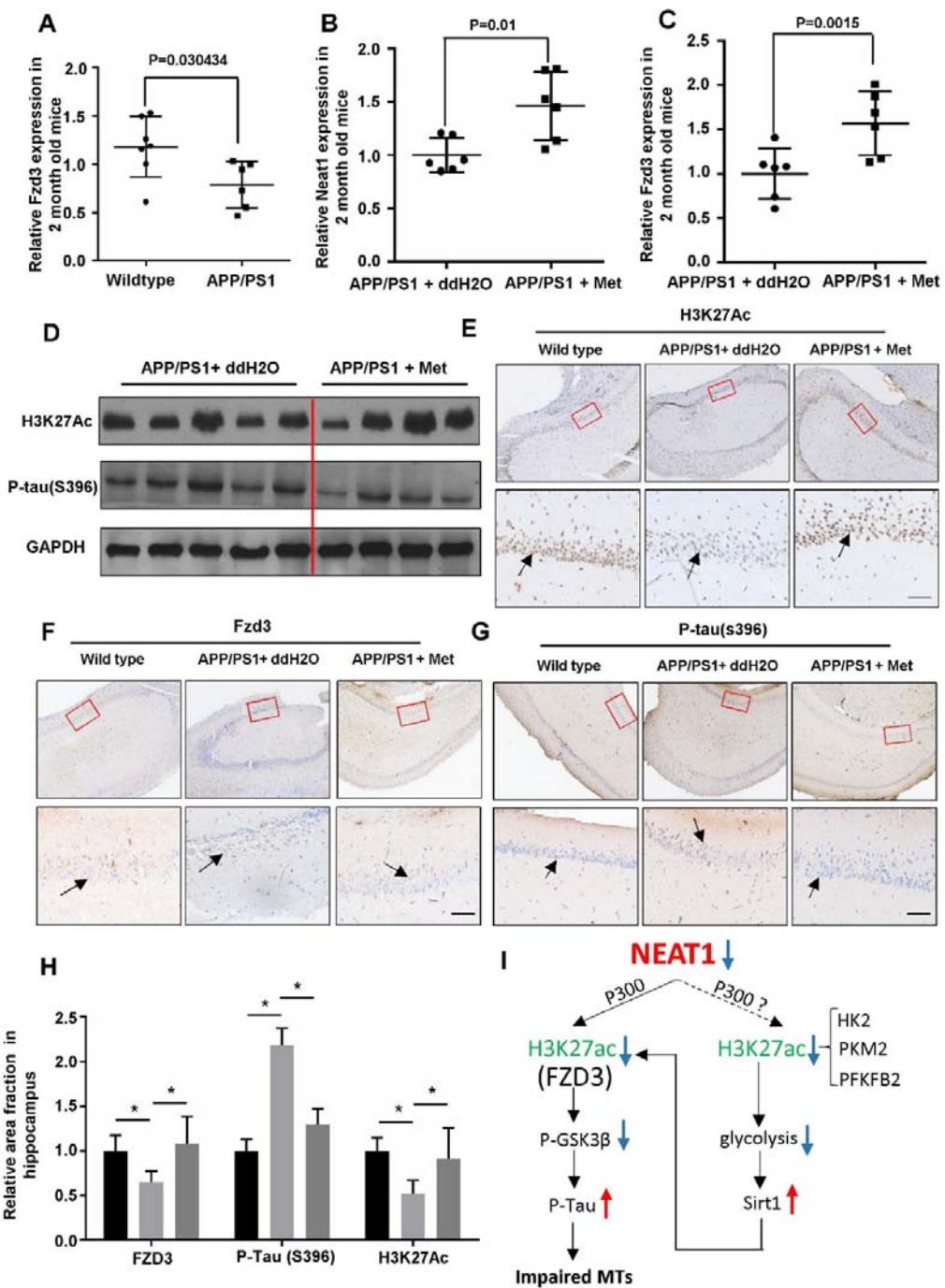
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889 **Figure 6. Metformin abandon tau hyper-phosphorylation in hippocampus of**  
890 **APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice**

891 A. Fzd3 analysis in the hippocampi of 2-month-old APPswe/PS1dE9 double  
892 transgenic mice (n=6) and wild-type mice (n=7). B and C. Quantitative PCR analysis  
893 of Neat1 and Fzd3 expression of 4-weeks ddH2O treated (n=6) and metformin treated  
894 (n=6) APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice. D. Expression levels of P-tau(S396)  
895 and H3K27Ac were detected in the hippocampus of ddH2O and metformin treated  
896 APPswe/PS1dE9 double transgenic mice. E-G. The hippocampus of different treated  
897 mice was immunohistochemically stained with H3K27Ac, FZD3 and Phosphorylated  
898 Tau(Ser396), Scale bars 50 $\mu$ m. H. Quantification of the relative area fraction occupied  
899 by immunostaining of H3K27Ac, FZD3 and Phosphorylated Tau(Ser396) in CA1 of  
900 hippocampus were analyzed by Image J. (mean  $\pm$  s.d, \*P < 0.05, Student 2-tailed *t*  
901 test). I. Summary of the mechanism of downregulated NEAT1 during the early stage  
902 of AD.

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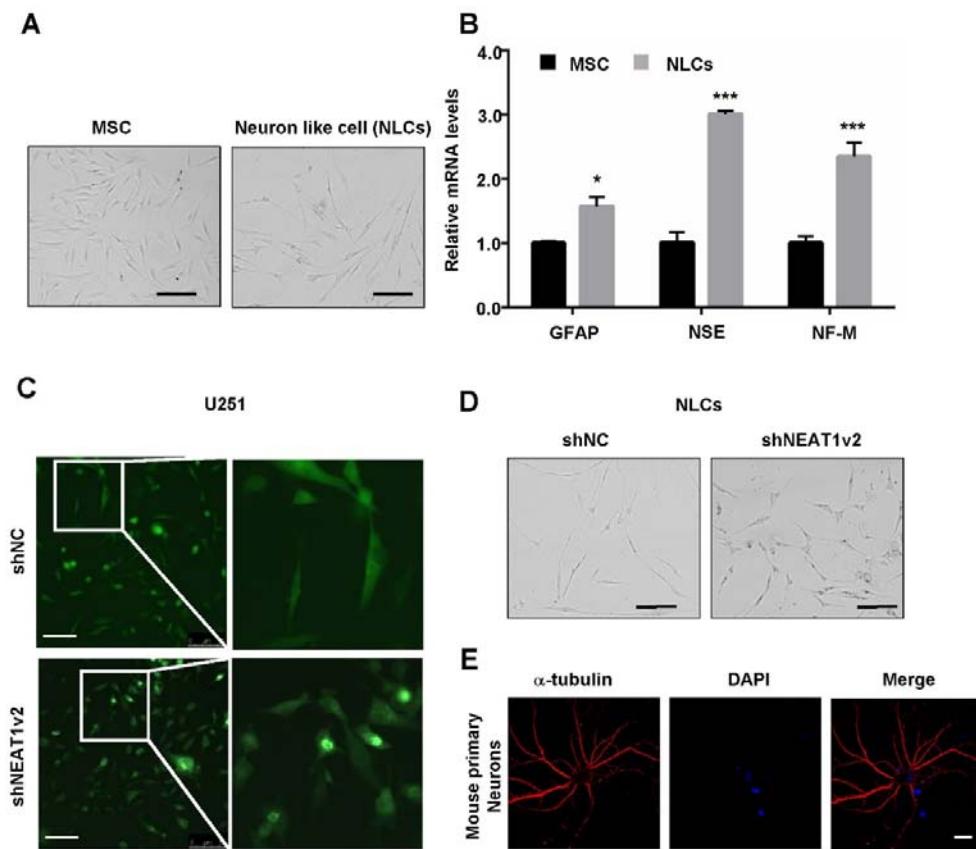
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915 **Appendix information**



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917 **Figure S1. NEAT1 knock-down shorten the length of axon in Neuron like cells**  
918 **and synapse in U251.**

919 A. Morphologic change was observed after 4-6 day's induction from MSCs to NLCs.

920 Scale bars 100  $\mu$ m. B. Quantitative PCR analysis of expression levels of several

921 neuronal marker genes, GFAP, NF-M and NSE in MSCs and NLCs. C. The  
922 morphologic changes of stable cell line on U251 transfected with lentivirus based  
923 shRNA expressing green fluorescent protein (GFP). D. Shortened axonal length was  
924 observed after NLCs transiently infected with Lentivirus carrying shNEAT1v2 for  
925 96h compared with shNC. Scale bars 100  $\mu$ m. E. Immunofluorescence analysis of  
926  $\alpha$ -tubulin (red) in primary mouse neurons, DAPI (blue) was used to stain the nuclei.  
927 Scale bars, 20  $\mu$ m.

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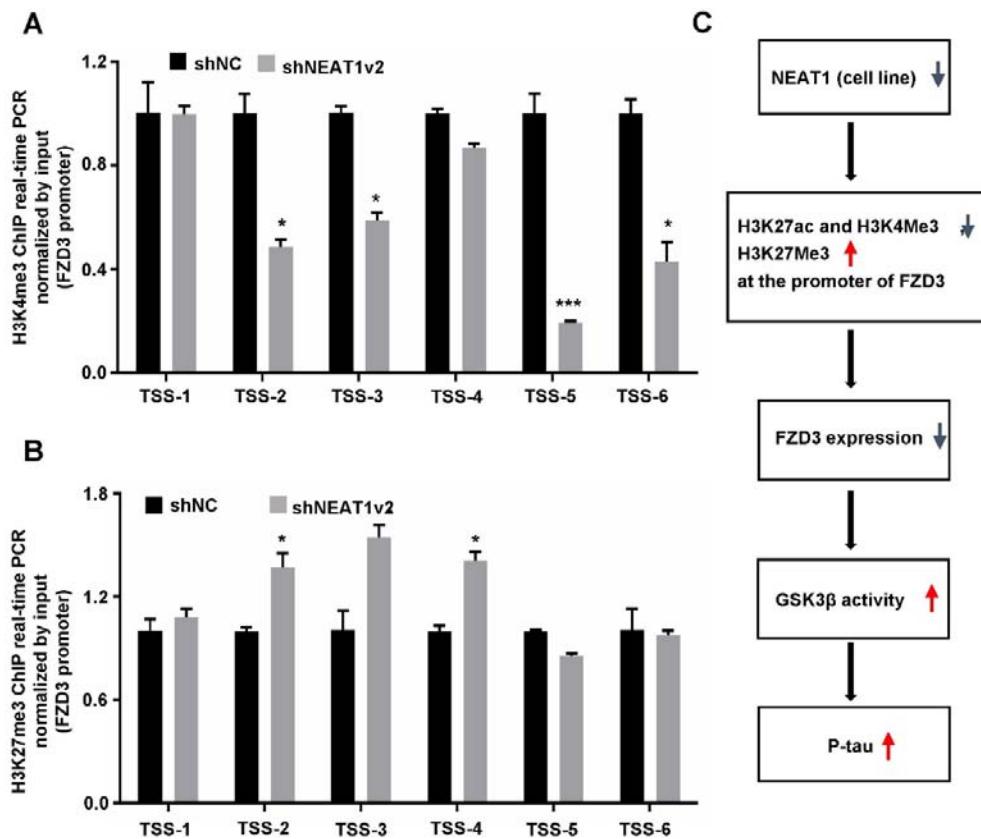
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947 **Figure S2. NEAT1 knock-down regulated FZD3/ GSK3 $\beta$  / p-tau signaling**  
948 **pathway via changes of histone modification.**

949 A. ChIP assays were performed with an anti-H3K4me3 antibody in stable NEAT1  
950 deficient cell lines on U251, the fold enrichment of TSS1-6 fragments within FZD3  
951 promoter by H3K4me3 relative to the input level was examined with real-time PCR.

952 B. ChIP assays were performed with an anti-H3K27me3 antibody in stable NEAT1  
953 deficient cell lines on U251, the fold enrichment of TSS1-6 fragments within FZD3  
954 promoter by H3K27me3 relative to the input level was examined with real-time PCR.  
955 (mean  $\pm$  s.d. of 3 independent experiments). \* $P < 0.05$ , Student 2-tailed  $t$  test. C.  
956 NEAT1 knock-down up-regulated phosphorylation of tau via inhibiting FZD3  
957 expression and activated GSK3 $\beta$  signaling pathway.

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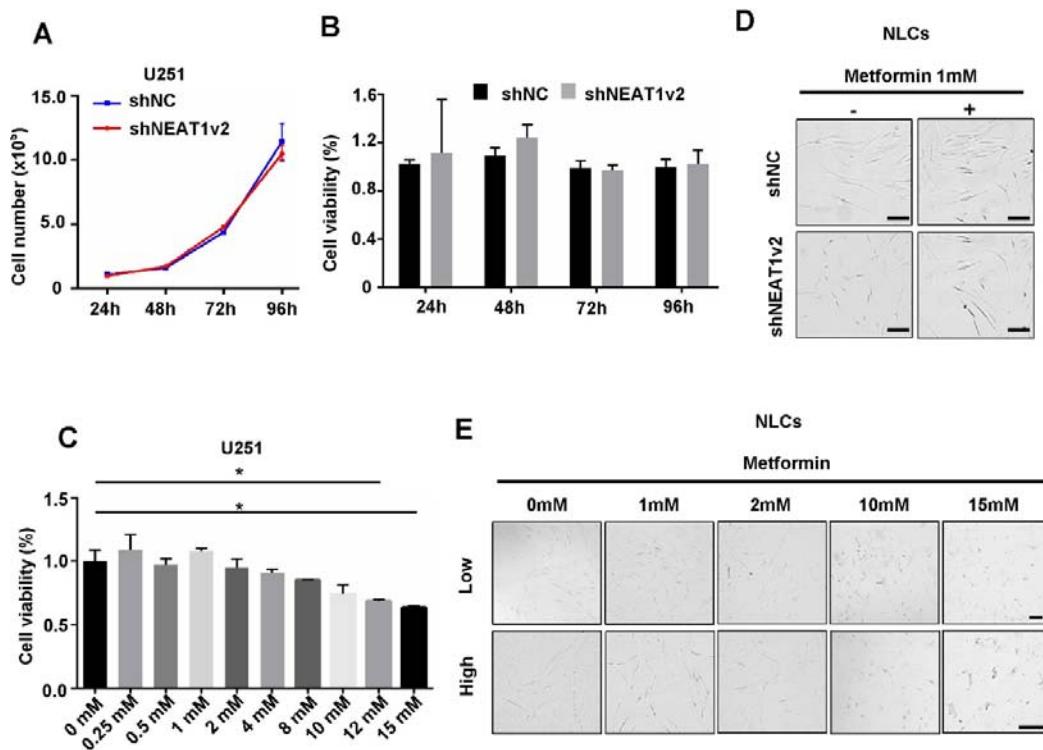
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978 **Figure S3. Several concentrations of metformin treatment influenced NEAT1**  
979 **and FZD3 expression in U251 cells.**

980 A. The cell number of stable NEAT1 deficient cell line was analyzed by  
981 Hemocytometer after cultured 24h, 48h, 72h, and 96h in a 6-well plate. B. The cell  
982 proliferation was determined by Cell Counting Kit-8 at OD 450 nm in stable NEAT1  
983 deficient cell line after cultured 24h, 48h, 72h, and 96h. C. The cytotoxicity of  
984 different metformin concentration (from 0 to 15mM) on U251 cells was determined

985 by Cell Counting Kit-8 at OD 450 nm after 48h treatment. D. Rescued axonal length  
986 was observed on shNEAT1v2 and shNC transfected NLCs after treated with 1mM  
987 metformin for 48h under optical microscope. Scale bars 20  $\mu$ m. E. The U251 cells  
988 were cultured with 1mM, 2mM, 10mM and 15mM metformin for 96h. Cell lesion  
989 could be observed in 10mM and 15mM metformin treated wells under optical  
990 microscope. Scale bars: 100  $\mu$ m (mean  $\pm$  s.d, \* $P$  < 0.05, Student 2-tailed  $t$  test).

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1010 **Table S1. List of siRNAs sequence**

siRNA	Sequence
NC	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGU
siNEAT1v2#1	CAAACUCUGUACCCAUUAA
siNEAT1v2#2	CCUCUACUACAAGCACCUGAA
siFZD3#1	GGAGAACCAAGAUAAAUA
siFZD3#2	AUACCUGAUGGCUCUCAUA
siFZD3#3	AUACUCCUAUCAUAAGAAA

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1022 **Table S2. List of primers used for RNA analyses**

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hNEAT1v2	Forward Primer	ACATTGTACACAGCGAGGCA
	Reverse Primer	CATTGCCTTGGGGTCAGC
mNEAT1v2	Forward Primer	CTTGCCACACCTTGTCTTGC
	Reverse Primer	TAGCTGGTGCATCCTGTGTG
FZD3	Forward Primer	GTTCATGGGCATATAGGTGG
	Reverse Primer	GCTGCTGTCTGTTGGTCATAA
hActin-beta	Forward Primer	GACGTGGACATCCGCAAAG
	Reverse Primer	CTGGAAGGTGGACAGCGAGG
mActin-beta	Forward Primer	TACCCAGGCATTGCTGACA
	Reverse Primer	GCAGCTCAGTAACAGTCCG
GFAP	Forward Primer	CAGCCTCAGGTTGGTTTCATC
	Reverse Primer	AAGGGAGACTGAGGCAGGTAT
NF-M	Forward Primer	TCTCTACTTTCCGGCAGTGA

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	Reverse Primer	GATGGTGTCTGGCCATTCC
NSE	Forward Primer	AGCAGAAGTTCCCTTCAGGGG
	Reverse Primer	AGATGGTCTGGCAGGCAAAT

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1024 **Table S3. List of primers used for ChIP analyses.**

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Primers pairs	Sence sequence	Anti-sence sequence
FZD3-Tss-1	TCAGGGATCGTCCTCTCGT	GGCGGACAGGGTTAACAGTC
FZD3-Tss-2	TGTTTCGCGTGGAGCTCTG	TGTGATTGCAGGACCACCTAC
FZD3-Tss-3	ACCTCCGATGTTGAGCTAT	CTCTGGAGATGTGCTGCGAG
FZD3-Tss-4	GTGTAGGTGGCCTGCAATCA	CCTGGAGGCCTCATCTG
FZD-TSS-5	CCTATTCTGTCCGCTACGCT	AGGTGTGATTGCTACGCT
FZD3-Tss-6	CCGGGAGACTGTTAACCTG	CCCCCGGAGCATTGTCTT
FZD3-Tss-P1	CATTCCCACCTCCGATGTT	GAACGCCCAAAGGTTAGA
FZD3-Tss-P2	CAGGGATCGTCCTCTCGTC	GCCAAGAAAAGCACCTTGG
FZD3-Tss-P3	ATCTCAGATGAGCGCCTCCA	GAGGGGAAACTTCAGGCGT
HK2-Tss-1	ACCAACATTAGAGCACAGGAGA	TAACCAACTCTACAGAACACGTT
HK2-Tss-2	AACTGTGGCCACTGAACAAAGA	AGCTCCACCTGGATCAAGGATAAC
HK2-Tss-3	ACTCATTCAAAAACACCTACACAT	AATCCATTCCCACGGCATCC
HK2-Tss-4	TCAAACCTTGAGGGCTAGTTA	TGACTTCAAGCTTGAAATGGCTT
PKM2-Tss-1	CCTGATGACCAATGGGGACG	TGCCCCGGAACCCATAAATC
PKM2-Tss-2	GGGCCGATAACCTATGCAGG	TTGCTGGCTAACAACTGGGA
PKM2-Tss-3	AATCACAGGCCTTCATTGCG	GGGACCAGGAAAGACTTACAGAA
PKM2-Tss-4	TCAATCACGAGGGACCGAGA	CGTTCCCTCCAGATCAGGCG

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PFKFB2-TSS-1	CGCCCGATTGGTGGATGATT	GTGGCTCACCTACGATCTC
PFKFB2-TSS-2	CTGTGGAGCCGGGTATGTAT	CGGGTGACGAGAAAATGCTG
PFKFB2-TSS-3	GCAATTTCCTCCTGGTTCTTCA	CCCGGTGGACTTCTAACAC
PFKFB2-TSS-4	AGGATCTTCCGTCCACCA	AGTCTAAAGAACGCCGGAGC

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