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Graphical Abstract

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Article

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In Brief

Neurons act as intermediaries between CD8⁺ T cells and phagocytes, driving their own synaptic loss during neuroinflammation.

Highlights

- Neuronal translatome during CD8⁺ T cell attack reveals disease-associated pathways
- Neuronally induced STAT1 and downstream CCL2 drive phagocyte-mediated synaptic loss
- STAT1/CCL2 signature is conserved in murine and human neuroinflammatory diseases
- Neuronal STAT1/CCL2 signaling blockade prevents synaptic stripping and disease

Data Resources GSE110593

Article

Neurons under T Cell Attack Coordinate Phagocyte-Mediated Synaptic Stripping

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SUMMARY

Inflammatory disorders of the CNS are frequently accompanied by synaptic loss, which is thought to involve phagocytic microglia and complement components. However, the mechanisms accounting for aberrant synaptic connectivity in the context of CD8+ T cell-driven neuronal damage are poorly understood. Here, we profiled the neuronal translatome in a murine model of encephalitis caused by CD8⁺ T cells targeting antigenic neurons. Neuronal STAT1 signaling and downstream CCL2 expression were essential for apposition of phagocytes, ensuing synaptic loss and neurological disease. Analogous observations were made in the brains of Rasmussen's encephalitis patients. In this devastating CD8+ T cell-driven autoimmune disease, neuronal STAT1 phosphorylation and CCL2 expression co-clustered with infiltrating $CDB⁺$ T cells as well as phagocytes. Taken together, our findings uncover an active role of neurons in coordinating phagocyte-mediated synaptic loss and highlight neuronal STAT1 and CCL2 as critical steps in this process that are amenable to pharmacological interventions.

INTRODUCTION

Correct synaptic wiring is a fundamental prerequisite for proper neuronal functioning. Microglia, the brain-resident phagocytes, are important orchestrators of synaptic refinement and maintenance ([Paolicelli et al., 2011](#page-14-0)). However, in the context of CNS inflammation, microglia, together with brain-infiltrating monocyte-derived macrophages, can promote pathological synaptic loss ([Klein and Hunter, 2017; Prinz et al., 2017\)](#page-13-0). Activated microglia engulf synaptic terminals in CNS inflammatory conditions through an interferon-a-dependent mechanism [\(Bialas et al., 2017\)](#page-13-1) and complement component C3 cleavage products ([Vasek et al., 2016\)](#page-14-1).

In addition to phagocytes, cytotoxic CDB^+ T cells can also target neurons in neuroinflammatory conditions. These include viral infections [\(Chevalier et al., 2011](#page-13-2)), autoimmune diseases [\(Li](#page-13-3)[blau et al., 2013](#page-13-3)), and paraneoplastic neurological disorders [\(Bien et al., 2012](#page-13-4)). Therefore, CD8⁺ T cells damage neurons upon recognition of their cognate peptide-major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I complex ([Chevalier et al., 2011\)](#page-13-2). This process can lead to cell death and, thus, irreversible neuronal dropout [\(Bernard-Valnet et al., 2016](#page-13-5)). Alternatively, it can trigger transection of neuronal processes, synaptic loss, and, thus, disruption of neuronal connectivity ([Medana et al.,](#page-13-6) [2001; Merkler et al., 2006](#page-13-6)). Aberrant synaptic inputs can alter neuronal excitability, which manifests as seizures and a decline in intellectual and motor performance ([Vezzani et al., 2011\)](#page-14-2). The cellular and molecular bases of CD8⁺ T cell-driven synaptic pathology are currently unclear. It has been proposed that phagocytes are effectors of CD8⁺ T cell-driven tissue damage [\(Kim et al., 2009\)](#page-13-7). One may thus hypothesize that microglia execute CD8⁺ T cell-driven synaptic degeneration, which remains to be tested experimentally.

We previously described an animal model ([Merkler et al.,](#page-13-8) [2006\)](#page-13-8) in which CD8⁺ T cell-derived interferon- γ (IFN- γ) triggered an acute loss of axosomatic synaptic connections, which clinically manifested as impaired motor coordination and balance [\(Kreutzfeldt et al., 2013](#page-13-9)). In this model, referred to as viral déjà vu, neonatal intra-cerebral (i.c.) infection of mice with an attenuated lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) variant (referred to as rLCMV) leads to viral persistence restricted to

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Figure 1. Neuronal JAK-STAT1 Signaling Is Essential for Synaptic Alterations and Motor Impairment in Viral Déjà Vu

(A) Experimental setup of viral déjà vu. Stat1^{+/+} or Stat1^{fl/fl} mice were infected intracerebrally (i.c.) with attenuated LCMV encoding for the Cre recombinase (rLCMV-Cre). At around 5 weeks of age, rLCMV-Cre carrier mice were challenged (cc) intravenously (i.v.) with LCMVwt to trigger a CD8⁺ T cell response directed against the H-2D^b NP_{396–404} epitope shared between rLCMV and LCMVwt (viral déjà vu). Motor performance was monitored by rotarod test for the subsequent days as indicated. At disease peak (days 9-10), brains were processed for histology (D-F) and electrophysiological recordings (G-I). Stat1^{+/+} mice without neonatal infection but challenged with LCMVwt (non-carrier challenged, nc) served as controls.

(B) Rotarod performance of the indicated groups.

(C) Flow cytometry analysis of D^b-NP₃₉₆₋₄₀₄ Tet⁺ CD8⁺ T cells in the blood at disease peak.

(D) Representative images and quantification of CD8+ T cells in the brain stem stained by immunohistochemistry (IHC).

(E) Representative IHC images and quantification of phosphorylated STAT1 (pSTAT1) in DCN. Scale bar, 50 µm; insets, 40 µm.

(F) Representative immunostainings for synaptophysin (SYP), LCMV-nucleoprotein (LCMV), and nuclei (DAPI) in DCN. Symbols represent DCN neurons ($n = 29-60$ neurons per mouse). Lines indicate the median. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

(G–I) miniature inhibitory post-synaptic current (mIPSC) representative traces (G), mean mIPSC frequency (H), and amplitude (I) in DCN neurons. Symbols indicate recorded cells.

(J) Pharmacological JAK1/2 inhibition during viral déjà vu in WT mice. Ruxolitinib (Rux), AZD1480 (AZD), or vehicle (control) was given via the oral route (po) from day 5 to day 8 after LCMVwt i.v.

(K) Rotarod performance on day 10 after LCMVwt i.v. of the indicated groups.

CNS neurons. rLCMV is not cytolytic and fails to trigger a clinically significant CD8⁺ T cell response after neonatal i.c. infection. Accordingly, such rLCMV carrier mice remain clinically healthy, but, when challenged intravenously (i.v.) with wildtype LCMV (LCMVwt) in late adolescence, they mount a potent CD8⁺ T cell response against the immunodominant H-2D^b-restricted nucleoprotein-derived epitope, NP_{396–404}. This epitope is shared between rLCMV and LCMVwt, and, as a consequence, LCMVwt-carrier challenged mice develop severe CNS disease that is initiated by CD8⁺ T cells encoun-tering CNS neurons presenting NP₃₉₆₋₄₀₄ on H-2D^b ([Merkler](#page-13-8) [et al., 2006](#page-13-8)).

The murine viral déjà vu disease model has histopathological features that closely recapitulate those of Rasmussen's encephalitis (RE), a rare but devastating inflammatory disease of the human CNS. This disease, which typically affects children under the age of 15, is characterized by drug-resistant epilepsy and progressive neurological decline ([Varadkar et al., 2014](#page-14-3)). Analogous to the viral déjà vu model, in which $CDB⁺$ T cells cluster around rLCMV-infected neurons, RE lesions are dominated by infiltrating CD8⁺ T cells that show disease-specific clonal expansions ([Schneider-Hohendorf et al., 2016](#page-14-4)) and are found in close proximity to neurons [\(Varadkar et al., 2014\)](#page-14-3).

Here we utilized the viral déjà vu model to investigate the crosstalk between CD8⁺ T cells, their target neurons, and phagocytes. We observed that signature elements of this crosstalk mechanism are recapitulated in a cohort of RE patients and correlate with epileptic activity. These findings offer novel grounds for therapeutic intervention in $CDB⁺ T$ cell-driven encephalitis and related disorders.

RESULTS

Neuronal JAK-STAT1 Signaling Is Essential for CD8⁺ T Cell-Mediated Synaptic Alterations and Motor **Impairment in Viral Déjà Vu Disease**

We recently showed that neuronal expression of the IFN- γ receptor (IFNGR) is necessary for viral déjà vu disease [\(Kreutz](#page-13-9)[feldt et al., 2013](#page-13-9)). Here we tested whether signal transducer and activator of transcription 1 (STAT1), a key effector of IFN- γ signaling, represents a disease-relevant pathway in neurons downstream of IFNGR. We infected neonatal *Stat1*+/+ or *Stat1*fl/fl mice with rLCMV, which expresses the Cre recombinase (rLCMV-Cre) and persists in CNS neurons ([Kreutzfeldt et al.,](#page-13-9) [2013\)](#page-13-9) (referred to as ''carrier''; [Figure 1A](#page-2-0)). Viral tropism to neurons (Figure S1A) and viral load in the brain (Figure S1B) were unchanged in rLCMV-Cre carrier Stat1^{fl/fl} mice compared with *Stat1^{+/+}* mice. Furthermore, we measured Cre recombinase activity using loxP-flanked red fluorescent protein (RFP) reporter rLCMV-Cre carrier mice ([Luche et al., 2007\)](#page-13-10). We counted RFP reporter gene-expressing cells (400-522 RFP⁺ cells per brain, $n = 3$ mice) and found that $93.0\% \pm 0.7\%$ co-expressed the neuronal marker NeuN, whereas low proportions of RFP-positive cells expressed glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP⁺) (astrocytes, $2.9\% \pm 0.4\%$), Iba1⁺ (microglia, 2.4% \pm 0.1%) or CC1⁺ (oligodendrocytes, $1.5\% \pm 0.3\%$) (Figure S1C). In addition, 5-week-old rLCMV-Cre *Stat1*fl/fl carrier mice, non-carrier *Stat1*+/+ mice, and carrier *Stat1^{+/+}* mice that were not challenged with LCMVwt i.v. displayed similar rotarod performance and synaptic density in the deep cerebellar nuclei (DCN) (Figures S1D and S1E). Following i.v. challenge with LCMVwt, Stat1^{+/+} but not Stat1^{fl/fl} rLCMV-Cre carriers developed clinical manifestations of viral déjà vu disease, as measured by the rotarod test [\(Figure 1B](#page-2-0)), despite comparable NP₃₉₆₋₄₀₄-specific CD8⁺ T cell responses in the blood ([Figure 1](#page-2-0)C) and infiltrates in the CNS [\(Figure 1D](#page-2-0)). We further confirmed that rLCMV-Cre abrogated the expression of phosphorylated STAT1 (pSTAT1) in LCMVwt-challenged Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier mice ([Figure 1](#page-2-0)E), corroborating conditional neuronal deletion of *Stat1* in these mice (Figure S1F).

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Based on these findings, we reasoned that neuronal STAT1 signaling may be required for neuronal dysfunction because of synapse loss. We enumerated synapses on neurons of the DCN, which are consistently infiltrated by CD8⁺ T cells in viral déjà vu (Figure S1G) and belong to an important functional network, receiving the output of the cerebellar cortex through inhibitory projections of the Purkinje cells and projecting to motor nuclei (Figure S1H). Synaptophysin⁺ (SYP⁺) perisomatic boutons (corresponding to presynaptic terminals) densely lined the soma of DCN neurons in healthy non-carrier controls but were significantly reduced in LCMVwt i.v. challenged *Stat1*+/+ carrier mice relative to *Stat1^{fl/fl}* carrier mice ([Figure 1F](#page-2-0)). In diseased *Stat1^{+/+}* mice, synapse loss occurred predominantly at inhibitory presynaptic (GAD65-67⁺) and postsynaptic (gephyrin⁺) terminals (Figures S1I and S1J) but not at excitatory (VGLUT1⁺) presynaptic terminals (Figure S1K). Nevertheless, the density of Purkinje cells projecting to the DCN remained unchanged, rendering anterograde neuro-axonal degeneration an unlikely explanation for the observed loss of inhibitory synaptic input (Figure S1L). To investigate the functional correlates of disturbed synaptic transmission, we performed whole-cell recordings of DCN neurons in acute slices of the inflamed cerebellum from viral déjà vu mice. Individual recordings of DCN neurons revealed a significant reduction in miniature inhibitory postsynaptic current (mIPSC) frequency ([Figures 1G](#page-2-0) and 1H) and amplitude ([Figure 1](#page-2-0)I; Figure S1M) in LCMVwt i.v. challenged *Stat1*+/+ but not *Stat1*fl/fl carrier mice. Altogether, these results suggest that compromised inhibitory synaptic transmission in viral déjà vu mice requires neuronal STAT1 signaling, consistent with reduced inhibitory presynaptic and postsynaptic terminals in the DCN.

IFNGR signaling involves the Janus kinases JAK1 and JAK2, which phosphorylate STAT1 and enable its transcription factor activity ([Darnell et al., 1994](#page-13-11)). We thus tested whether pharmacological inhibition of Janus kinases using ruxolitinib (an inhibitor of JAK1/2) or AZD1480 (preferential inhibitor for JAK2) could

⁽L) Immunostaining for SYP and DAPI; 30 DCN neurons per mouse; scale bar, 10 µm.

Error bars, SEM; ****p < 0.0001, ***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05; ns, not significant by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's correction for multiple comparisons (A–H) or one-way ANOVA with Fisher's least significant difference (LSD) for multiple comparisons (I). Data are representative of four independent experiments (B, E, F, H, and I) or pooled from two independent experiments (C, D, K, and L). See also Figure S1.

improve viral déjà vu disease in WT mice [\(Figure 1J](#page-2-0)). Treatment with either of the inhibitors was started 5 days after LCMVwt i.v. challenge to minimize potential interference with T cell priming in secondary lymphoid organs. Both treatments significantly ameliorated viral déjà vu disease ([Figure 1K](#page-2-0)), which was paral-leled by a preservation of synaptic density [\(Figure 1L](#page-2-0)) and an almost complete abrogation of neuronal STAT1 phosphorylation (Figure S1N). Importantly, treatment with either ruxolitinib or AZD1480, respectively, did not affect viral tropism in the CNS (Figure S1O) or the viral burden (Figure S1P).

STAT1 Signaling Drives Neuronal Expression of Chemokines and Complement Factors

To investigate how neuronal JAK/STAT1 signaling results in synaptic alterations, we profiled the neuronal translatome by exploiting ''RiboTag mice'' (*Rpl22*HA/+) ([Sanz et al., 2009](#page-14-5)). Upon Cre-mediated recombination of their gene-targeted locus, *Rpl22*HA/+ mice express a hemagglutinin (HA)-tagged ribosomal protein, L22, enabling the immunoprecipitation of ribosomebound RNA. We inoculated neonatal *Rpl22HA/⁺* mice with rLCMV-Cre, inducing HA-tagged ribosomal expression in infected neurons [\(Figure 2A](#page-5-0)).

First we extracted ribosome-bound mRNA from the brains of 5- to 7-week-old *Rpl22HA+/*! carrier mice and performed nextgeneration RNA sequencing. We compared the transcriptional signatures detected within the translatome of these carrier mice with published single-cell transcriptomic signatures of neurons, microglia, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, oligodendrocyte precursor cells (OPCs), and endothelial cells ([Tasic et al.,](#page-14-6) [2016](#page-14-6)). We observed a strong enrichment for neuron-specific transcripts in the translatome of rLCMV-Cre carrier *Rpl22*HA/+ mice, whereas non-neuronal transcripts were low or absent (Figure S2). Furthermore, the cellular transcriptional signature of rLCMV-Cre carrier *Rpl22*HA/+ mice showed a strong overlap with that of crosses between Thy1-Cre mice constitutively expressing the Cre recombinase under a neuron-specific Thy1 promoter (Thy1-Cre; [Dewachter et al., 2002](#page-13-12)) and *Rpl22*HA/+ mice (Figure S2A).

Next we compared the neuronal translatome 9 days after challenge with LCMVwt in STAT1-competent (*Rpl22HA/+*x*Stat1*+/+; developing viral déjà vu disease), conditionally STAT1-deficient (*Rpl22^{HA/+}xStat1^{f//fl}; resistant to viral déjà vu disease), and* non-challenged (*Rpl22HA/+*x*Stat1*+/+) rLCMV-Cre carrier mice [\(Fig](#page-5-0)[ure 2A](#page-5-0)). The three groups clustered separately in multidimensional scaling analyses [\(Figure 2](#page-5-0)B). We found 916 differentially upregulated and 118 downregulated transcripts in *Rpl22^{HA/+}xStat1^{+/+}* carrier challenged mice relative to *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*fl/fl carrier challenged mice (cutoff of 2-fold change; adjusted p < 0.05; Tables S1 and S2). We used gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) with compiled modules from gene ontology to generate the enrichment map network of *Rpl22^{HA/+}xStat1^{+/+}* relative to *Rpl22^{HA/+}xStat1^{fl/fl}* carrier challenged mice [\(Figure 2](#page-5-0)C; Table S3). The network analysis revealed that STAT1-competent mice showed upregulation of highly connected enriched gene sets with roles in immune response and downregulation of gene sets for synaptic activity. In addition, GSEA with Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathways revealed signatures of chemokine signaling and antigen processing and presentation as well as of

the complement and coagulation cascades, all of which depended on neuronal STAT1 signaling (false discovery rate [FDR] < 0.01, normalized enrichment score [NES] > 1.5; [Figures](#page-5-0) [2](#page-5-0)D and 2E; Table S4). Among the chemokines induced upon viral déjà vu, we found strong upregulation of the *Ccl2* and *Cxcl10* transcripts (40- and 20-fold relative to non-challenged controls, respectively), which we confirmed by *in situ* hybridization (ISH) [\(Figures 2](#page-5-0)F and S2B).

Neuronal STAT1 Signaling Is Required for CNS Phagocyte Apposition and Synaptic Stripping

The differentially expressed chemokines and complement factors in neurons observed above may act as a paracrine signal to modulate phagocytic activity. We thus speculated that STAT1-induced neuronal chemokines or complement factor instructed phagocytes to engulf synapses. Thus, we compared the accumulation and activation of phagocytes in *Stat1*+/+ and Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier mice upon LCMVwt i.v. challenge. Iba1⁺ phagocyte numbers ([Figures 3A](#page-6-0) and 3B) and cellular size [\(Figures 3](#page-6-0)A and 3C) were increased in challenged *Stat1*+/+ and *Stat1*fl/fl carriers compared with challenged *Stat1*+/+ non-carrier mice, suggesting neuronal STAT1-independent phagocyte activation. Indeed, these Iba1⁺ phagocytes were devoid of the purinergic receptor P2Y12R, which is expressed only on resting microglia [\(Butovsky et al., 2014](#page-13-13); Figure S3A).

However, in contrast to Stat1^{fl/fl} carriers, Iba1⁺ phagocytes of diseased *Stat1*+/+ mice displayed an ameboid morphology, as evident in increased cellular somata ([Figure 3](#page-6-0)D) and decreased branching complexity of cytoplasmic processes (Figures S3B–S3E). In addition, we found abundant Iba1⁺ phagocytes in close apposition to or even enwrapping rLCMV-Cre infected neurons of diseased *Stat1*+/+ mice, whereas such phagocyte behavior was comparably rare in *Stat1*fl/fl carrier mice [\(Figures](#page-6-0) [3](#page-6-0)E and 3F). Moreover, the juxtaposition of phagocytes and neurons was associated with a loss of presynaptic SYP⁺ terminals in *Stat1*+/+ but not in *Stat1*fl/fl carriers ([Figure 3G](#page-6-0)). The displacement of synapses by phagocytes ([Figure 3](#page-6-0)H) and the colocalization of engulfed presynaptic terminals with the LAMP1⁺ lysosome compartment inside Iba1⁺ cells (Figure S3F) underpinned these phagocytes' active role in synapse elimination.

A substantial fraction of Iba1⁺ cells in the CNS of *Stat1*+/+ mice with viral déjà vu disease lacked the microglia-specific marker TMEM119 [\(Bennett et al., 2016](#page-13-14); Figure S3G), which pointed toward a monocyte-derived origin of these cells. To discriminate CNS-resident from blood-derived phagocytes, we used *Cx3cr1*CreERT2/+x*Rosa*26-Stop-*Rfp*fl/+ reporter mice [\(Yona et al., 2013](#page-14-7)). Tamoxifen treatment of these mice results in persistent RFP expression in microglia, but not blood monocytes, because of their differential turnover rates ([Figure 3](#page-6-0)I; [Goldmann et al., 2016\)](#page-13-15). Newborn mice were inoculated i.c. with rLCMV and treated with tamoxifen at 3 weeks of age. Four weeks after the last tamoxifen application, almost all microglia expressed RFP (92.5% \pm 1.4% cellular co-staining with Iba1 on histological brain sections), whereas circulating Ly6C^{high} and Ly6C^{low} monocytes were devoid of the reporter labeling (RFP⁺ cells, 0.07% \pm 0.03% for Ly6C^{high} and $0.18\% \pm 0.06\%$ for Ly6C^{low} monocytes in the blood). Viral déjà vu experiments in *Cx3cr1^{CreERT2/+}xRosa26-Stop-Rfp^{fl/+}*

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(A) The translatome of infected neurons of *Rpl22^{HA/+}* rLCMV-Cre carrier mice was analyzed by next-generation RNA sequencing in the viral déjà vu setting (day 9 after LCMVwt i.v.).

(B) Multidimensional scaling (MDS) plot of the neuronal translatome of carrier non-challenged *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*+/+, and carrier challenged STAT1-competent (*Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*+/+) and conditionally STAT1-deficient (*Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*fl/fl) mice.

(C) Network graph showing enriched GO terms imported to the enrichment map from a gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) in *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*+/+ versus *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*fl/fl challenged mice. Nodes represent individual gene sets and edges the relatedness between them (minimum overlap is 50%). Upregulated nodes are shown in red and downregulated nodes in blue.

(D) GSEA with KEGG modules of transcripts highly expressed in *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*+/+ versus *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*fl/fl challenged mice. Normalized enrichment score (NES) indicates the cumulative enrichment, and false discovery rate (FDR) indicates the adjusted *q* value. Lines over the distribution of expression profiles mark the occurrence of the signature transcripts.

(E) Heatmaps and fold change of significantly altered transcripts in the chemokine signaling pathway and complement cascade of *Stat1*+/+ and *Stat1*fl/fl carrier challenged (cc) mice (compared with *Stat1*+/+ carrier non-challenged [cnc]), each column represents individual mice.

(F) In situ hybridization (ISH) of *Ccl2* and *Cxcl10* in brain sections of the indicated groups. Scale bars, 250 µm; insets, 125 µm.

Error bars, SEM; ***p < 0.001, *p < 0.05; ns, not significant by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's correction for multiple comparisons. Data pooled from two independent experiments are shown (F). See also Figure S2 and Tables S1, S2, S3, and S4.

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Figure 3. Neuronal STAT1 Signaling Is Required for CNS Phagocyte Recruitment and Synaptic Stripping

(A–H) Experimental setup as described in [Figure 1A](#page-2-0).

(A) Representative images of Iba1⁺ phagocytes in DCN of *Stat1*+/+ non-carrier challenged (*Stat1*+/+ nc), *Stat1*+/+ carrier challenged (*Stat1*+/+ cc) and *Stat1*fl/fl carrier challenged (Stat1^{fl/fl} cc) mice.

(B–D) Quantification of the density (B), size (C), and proportion (D) of somata area of Iba1⁺ cells. Each symbol represents the average value of a single animal. (E and F) Representative DCN section of *Stat1*+/+ cc (E) and *Stat1*fl/fl cc (F) co-immunostained for LCMV-nucleoprotein (LCMV), synaptophysin (SYP), CD8⁺ T cells (CD8) and I ba1⁺ phagocytes (Iba1), and DAPI. Scale bars, 30 μ m.

(G) Quantification of perisomatic bouton density of LCMV⁺ DCN neurons with (+) or without (-) juxtaposed Iba1⁺ cells. Each symbol represents the average value of a single animal ($n = 29$ to 60 neurons per mouse).

(H) Electron micrograph showing a region of DCN from challenged *Stat1*+/+ nc and *Stat1*+/+ cc. In diseased mice, a phagocyte (M, blue) closely apposing part of a neuronal soma (N, yellow) and a lymphocyte (L, green) in close vicinity can be observed. Asterisks (red) indicate axosomatic synapses. Arrowheads indicate regions magnified in the insets. Scale bars, $10 \mu m$.

reporter mice revealed that both blood-derived phagocytes (Iba1⁺, RFP⁻ cells) and microglia (Iba1⁺, RFP⁺ cells) were juxtaposed to neurons [\(Figures 3](#page-6-0)J and 3K). Neuronal STAT1-dependent apposition of CNS phagocytes could also be detected in the hippocampal formation, resulting in synaptic stripping (Figure S3H) and impairment of inhibitory synaptic transmission of CA1 pyramidal neurons (Figures S3I–S3L).

Neuronal CCL2, but Not Complement C3/C4, Is Essential for Disease and Synaptic Stripping

Our translatome analyses had revealed STAT1-dependent induction of the chemokine CCL2 in neurons (Table S1). CCL2 regulates both the activation and recruitment of phagocytes in the CNS [\(Carson et al., 2006](#page-13-16)). To determine the significance of neuronal CCL2 for déjà vu disease, we established neonatal rLCMV-Cre carriers with a loxP-flanked *Ccl2* gene (*Ccl2*fl/fl). We administered LCMVwt to rLCMV-Cre *Ccl2*fl/fl carrier mice and found that the absence of neuronal *Ccl2* (Figure S4A) largely pro-tected mice from viral déjà vu disease ([Figure 4A](#page-8-0)). This protection was not due to impaired recruitment of $CDB⁺$ T cells into the CNS of CCL2^{fl/fl} mice because the number of $NP_{396-404}$ -specific CD8⁺ T cells in the brain was even slightly increased compared with challenged *Ccl2*+/+ carrier mice ([Figure 4B](#page-8-0)). Also, the viral burden and cellular tropism were unaltered in the CNS of *Ccl2*fl/fl carrier mice (Figure S4B). However, *Ccl2*fl/fl carrier mice challenged i.v. with LCMVwt harbored a lower number of Iba1⁺ cells in the inflamed CNS (Figure S4C), and the residual phagocytes displayed a ramified rather than ameboid phenotype (Figures S4D–S4H), similar to those in *Stat1*fl/fl carrier mice [\(Fig](#page-6-0)[ure 3](#page-6-0)D). Accordingly, the density of presynaptic terminals in DCN neurons was preserved in *Ccl2*fl/fl carrier mice [\(Figure 4](#page-8-0)C), even in the ones that were in contact with phagocytes ([Figure 4D](#page-8-0)). Moreover, such phagocyte-neuron contacts in *Ccl2*fl/fl carrier mice comprised a smaller proportion of neuronal perikarya circumference (Figure S4I), and fewer engulfed synaptophysin were detected inside the LAMP1⁺ lysosomal compartment of Iba1⁺ phagocytes (Figure S4J). These findings corroborated that neuronal CCL2 is key for phagocyte recruitment, subsequent synapse elimination, and, eventually, viral déjà vu disease.

In our neuronal translatome profiling, we also noted an increased expression of components of the complement cascade, such as *C1qa*, *C2*, and *C3* ([Figures 2C](#page-5-0)–2E). C3 cleavage products can tag synapses and allow for microglia-mediated synaptic stripping [\(Vasek et al., 2016](#page-14-1)). To test whether neuronal complement contributed to the observed synaptic pathology and the ensuing viral déjà vu disease, we exploited mice deficient in the central complement components C3 and C4 (C3C4^{-/-}). C3C4^{-/-} mice were not protected from viral déjà vu disease, neither by clinical assessment [\(Figure 4](#page-8-0)G) nor at the morphological level when assessing synaptic loss [\(Figures](#page-8-0) [4H](#page-8-0)–4J) and also displayed a similar viral load and neuronal tropism in the CNS (Figure S4K).

Of note, complement component C3 is known to play a role in synaptic pruning during postnatal development ([Schafer et al.,](#page-14-8) [2012\)](#page-14-8). We thus compared the synaptic density in the DCN and rotarod performance of non-challenged *C3C4^{-/-}* carrier mice at baseline with controls. However, we did not detect significant alterations in $C3C4^{-/-}$ carrier mice at baseline with regard to these evaluated parameters (Figures S4L and S4M). In addition, C3C4^{-/-} and C3C4^{+/+} carrier challenged mice displayed an unaltered proportion of neurons in contact with phagocytes (Figure S4N) and the same number of phagocytes with engulfed synaptophysin in LAMP1⁺ compartments (Figure S4O). Altogether, these data show that the complement components C3/C4 are not essential for locomotor impairments and synaptic pathology in viral déjà vu disease.

Pharmacological Inhibition of Phagocyte Activation and Depletion of CCR2⁺ Monocytes Ameliorate Viral Déjà Vu **Disease**

Our observations suggested that neurons under CD8⁺ T cell attack recruited phagocytes, which, in turn, caused synaptic stripping. Hence, we tested whether pharmacological interference with phagocyte activation and/or recruitment offered clinical benefits for viral déjà vu in WT mice. Treatment with minocycline, which suppresses phagocyte activation [\(Tikka](#page-14-9) [et al., 2001\)](#page-14-9), was initiated 5 days after LCMVwt i.v. challenge [\(Figure 5A](#page-9-0)). Minocycline treatment significantly ameliorated viral déjà vu disease [\(Figure 5](#page-9-0)B) and prevented synaptic loss [\(Fig](#page-9-0)ure $5C$). Iba1⁺ phagocytes were reduced in numbers in the CNS of minocycline-treated mice [\(Figure 5](#page-9-0)D), whereas CD8⁺ T cell infiltration [\(Figure 5E](#page-9-0)) and viral burden in the CNS (Figure S5A) were not affected. To test whether the observed effect of minocycline is due to possible antimicrobial effects rather than suppressed phagocyte activation, we similarly treated a group of mice with the broad-spectrum antibiotic amoxicillin-clavulanate [\(Brook et al., 2013](#page-13-17)) in the viral déjà vu setting. However, amoxicillin-clavulanate treatment did not protect mice from disease (Figures S5B and S5C).

In a complementary approach, we depleted $CCR2^+$ Ly6 C^{high} monocytes using an anti-CCR2 antibody (MC-21 [\(Bruttger](#page-13-18) [et al., 2015; Mack et al., 2001](#page-13-18); [Figure 5](#page-9-0)F). Treatment with the MC-21 antibody efficiently depleted Ly6Chigh monocytes from peripheral blood (Figure S5D), as shown previously ([Mildner](#page-13-19) [et al., 2009](#page-13-19)). Further, MC-21 treatment afforded significant pro-tection from viral déjà vu disease [\(Figure 5G](#page-9-0)) along with preservation of synaptic density ([Figure 5H](#page-9-0)) and reduced numbers of Iba1⁺ phagocytes in the CNS ([Figures 5I](#page-9-0) and S5E). Conversely, MC-21 depletion did not reduce brain-infiltrating CD8+ T cell numbers [\(Figure 5](#page-9-0)J) or viral burden in the CNS (Figure S5F).

⁽I) Experimental setup with *Cx3cr1* ^{CreERT2/+}xR26(Rosa26)-Stop-Rfp^{fl/+} reporter mice to distinguish between microglia and infiltrating macrophages in the viral déjà vu setting. 4 weeks after tamoxifen-induced Cre-LoxP recombination, microglia are RFP⁺, whereas circulating monocytes are RFP⁻.

⁽J) Representative immunostaining for Iba1⁺ RFP⁺ (microglia) and RFP⁻ cells (blood-derived macrophages) apposing neurons of carrier challenged mice and non-carrier controls.

⁽K) Quantification of DCN neurons with (+) or without (–) contact to the two subsets of phagocytes.

Error bars, SEM; ****p < 0.0001, ***p < 0.001, *p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, ns, not significant by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons (B-G). Data are representative of four independent experiments (A–H) or two independent experiments (J and K). See also Figure S3.

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Figure 4. Neuronal CCL2, but Not Complement C3/C4, Is Essential for Disease and Synaptic Stripping (A–J) Experimental setup as in [Figure 1](#page-2-0)A.

(A) Rotarod performance at the peak of disease (day 10 after challenge) is shown for *Ccl2*+/+ and *Ccl2*fl/fl carrier challenged (cc) mice. *Ccl2*+/+ non-carrier challenged (*Ccl2*+/+ nc) mice served as controls.

(B) Flow cytometric analysis of brain-infiltrating D_b -NP_{396–404} Tet⁺ CD8⁺ T cells from the indicated groups.

(C and D) Perisomatic bouton density in DCN of the indicated groups at the peak of disease (C) and in relation to LCMV+ neurons with (+) or without (–) juxtaposed Iba1⁺ cells (D). Symbols represent individual DCN neurons (29-60 neurons per mouse); lines indicate the median.

(E and F) Representative immunofluorescence co-staining of a DCN section of carrier challenged *Ccl2*+/+ cc (E) and *Ccl2*fl/fl cc (F) mice stained for LCMVnucleoprotein (LCMV), synaptophysin (SYP), CD8⁺ T cells (CD8) and Iba1⁺ phagocytes (Iba1), and DAPI.

(G) Rotarod performance at the peak of disease of carrier challenged (cc) *C3C4*+/+ and *C3C4*!/! mice. *C3C4*+/+ non-carrier challenged mice served as controls. (H) Perisomatic bouton density was quantified in the DCN region. Symbols indicate individual DCN neurons (29–39 neurons per mouse) and lines indicate the median. For histological analysis, *C3C4*+/+ carrier non-challenged (cnc) served as controls.

(I and J) Representative immunofluorescence co-staining of a DCN section of carrier challenged (I) *C3C4*+/+ cc and (J) *C3C4*!/! cc animals.

Scale bars, 30 μ m; error bars, SEM; ****p < 0.0001, ***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05; ns, not significant by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's correction for multiple comparisons (A, C, G, and H) and by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons (B and D). Data are pooled from two independent experiments (A and G) or representative of two independent experiments (B–D and H–J). See also Figure S4.

Thus, phagocyte inhibition can reduce CD8⁺ T cell-driven synaptic stripping.

RE Shares Cellular and Molecular Hallmarks with Viral Déjà Vu

To investigate whether our mechanistic findings in the viral déjà vu model might also apply to human disease, we analyzed RE biopsies obtained from 20 patients. We thus investigated whether the cellular and molecular hallmarks of viral déjà vu comprising a spatial association of CD8⁺ T cells, pSTAT1, CCL2 together with phagocytes and synaptic loss could be found in RE biopsies. To this end, adjacent brain sections were stained for markers of the viral déjà vu signature (CD8, pSTAT1, CCL2, and CD68 for activated phagocytes), and distances between positive signals were used to generate 2D density maps for each marker. In contrast

to control tissues of non-neurological diseases (NNDs), we observed high CD8⁺, pSTAT1⁺, CCL2⁺, and CD68⁺ densities (cluster) in tissue samples from RE patients at similar locations, appearing as white peaks when 2D density maps were stacked and visualized as a 3D surface plot [\(Figure 6A](#page-10-0)). Importantly, the number of CD8⁺ T clusters correlated positively with the number of pSTAT1⁺ clusters ($p < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.91$) and CCL2⁺ clusters ($p < 0.05$, $R^2 = 0.76$), and $pSTAT1^+$ clusters correlated positively with CCL2⁺ clusters (p < 0.05, $R^2 = 0.83$) [\(Figures](#page-10-0) [6](#page-10-0)B–6D), which became particularly evident in cases with a disease duration of less than 3 years prior to surgery (Figure S6A). Neurons were frequently found in contact with CD68⁺ phagocytes ([Figures 6E](#page-10-0)–6G) and displayed a reduced density of axosomatic synaptic terminals in RE biopsies compared with age- and area-matched regions of NND [\(Figures 6](#page-10-0)H and 6I). Similar to

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Figure 5. Pharmacological Depletion or Inhibition of CNS Phagocytes Ameliorates Viral Déjà Vu

(A) Experimental setup for administration of minocycline (mino, intraperitoneally [i.p.] every 24 hr) or PBS during viral déjà vu in wild-type (WT) mice. (B) Rotarod performance at the peak of disease (day 10).

(C) Representative immunostaining of synaptophysin (SYP) of the indicated groups. Perisomatic bouton density was quantified in DCN regions (n = 30 neurons per mouse). Lines indicate the median. Scale bar, $10 \mu m$.

(D and E) Representative immunofluorescence images and quantification of Iba1⁺ phagocytes (D) and CD8⁺ T cells (E) in DCN. Scale bars, 20 mm.

(F) Experimental setup for administration of α -CCR2 antibody (MC-21, i.p. every 24 hr) or isotype (iso) administration during viral déjà vu.

(G) Rotarod motor performance at the peak of disease of the indicated groups.

(H) Representative immunofluorescence images of synaptophysin (SYP) in a DCN section of the indicated groups. Perisomatic bouton density was quantified in DCN regions ($n = 30$ neurons per mouse). Lines indicate the median. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

(I and J) Representative immunofluorescence images and quantification of Iba1⁺ phagocytes (I) and CD8⁺ T cells (J) in DCN. Scale bars, 20 µm.

Error bars, SEM; ****p < 0.0001, ***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05; ns, not significant by Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's correction for multiple comparisons (C) and by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons (G). See also Figure S5.

mice with viral déjà vu disease, the neuronal juxtaposition with phagocytes correlated with decreased synaptic densities in RE biopsies ($p < 0.0001$, $R^2 = 0.65$) [\(Figures 6](#page-10-0)J and 6K).

RE patients commonly suffer from *epilepsia partialis continua* (EPC) (Table S5), a drug-resistant focal motor *status epilepticus* with prolonged and regular jerking activity ([Varadkar et al., 2014\)](#page-14-3).

Figure 6. CD8⁺ T Cell Clusters in RE Correlate with pSTAT1 and CCL2 Expression and with Phagocyte-Associated Synaptic Loss and Predict Epileptic Activity

(A) Adjacent brain sections of a representative RE biopsy stained for CD8, pSTAT1 (IHC), or CCL2 (ISH) or CD68 and DAPI by fluorescence immunohistochemistry staining (F-IHC) and digitally aligned for coregistration. Positive cells for each marker were detected, and 2D signal density maps were generated. Individual 2D maps were stacked and visualized as a 3D surface plot. White peaks correspond to regions enriched in all markers. Scale bar, 1mm in surface plot and 50 μ m in IHC and ISH.

(B–D) Correlations between (B) CD8⁺ and pSTAT1⁺ clusters, (C) pSTAT1⁺ and CCL2⁺ clusters, and (D) CD8⁺ and CCL2⁺ clusters in RE brain sections. Symbols represent individual RE patients.

(E) Representative images of RE and non-neurological disease (NND) co-immunostained for neurons (NeuN), synaptophysin (SYP), activated phagocytes (CD68), and DAPI. The inset on the left shows a phagocytic process interposed between neuronal somata and synaptic terminals (arrowhead). Scale bars, 20 µm.

(F and G) Quantification of the proportion of neurons in contact with CD68⁺ phagocytes in RE compared with age- and area-matched frontal (F) and temporal (G) NND.

(H and I) Quantification of perisomatic bouton density in RE and NND matched for age, frontal (H) and temporal (I) brain region (n = 40 neurons evaluated per patient) and stratified according to the presence (+) or absence (-) of contact with CD68⁺ cells.

(J and K) Comparison of perisomatic bouton density (J) in RE patients with (+) or without (–) phagocyte contact and (K) correlation with phagocyte apposition in RE and NND. Symbols represent individual patients ($n = 40$ neurons evaluated per patient).

To identify histological and clinical parameters in RE biopsies that identify patients with EPC, we used a classification and regression tree (CART) analysis. The CART model revealed that a high number of CD8⁺ T cell clusters $(>0.21/\text{mm}^2)$ was significantly associated with a more frequent occurrence of EPC [\(Figure 6L](#page-10-0); t test values > 0.21 versus < 0.21 ; EPC, p < 0.008237; CD8, p < 0.001282).

To investigate whether the aforementioned pSTAT1-CCL2 signature can also be observed in other forms of human encephalitis involving CD8+ T cell brain infiltration (Figures S6B, S6D, and S6F), we performed a similar analysis in small cohorts of viral encephalitis (herpes simplex virus encephalitis, $n = 5$, and group D adenovirus encephalitis, $n = 1$) and limbic encephalitis ($n = 8$) (Table S6). The latter comprises a group of autoimmune diseases in which both cellular and humoral adaptive immune responses against neuronal antigens are reported to be implicated in the pathogenesis ([Dalmau and Graus, 2018](#page-13-20)). In all investigated cases of viral encephalitis, we found pSTAT1⁺ cells, some of which could be assigned to neurons (Figures S6B and S6G), as well as clusters of CCL2 expression (Figures S6B and S6H) and CD68⁺ phagocytes (Figures S6B and S6I). In addition, we found neuronal juxtaposition of CD68⁺ phagocytes that was associated with synaptic loss (Figures S6C and S6J). In the studied limbic encephalitis cases, 3 out of 8 cases showed pSTAT1 positive neurons (Pattern 2, Figure S6D). In these 3, but not in the remaining 5 cases (pattern 1), we observed increased neuronal contact with phagocytes (Figure S6I), associated with synaptic loss (Figure S6J). Altogether, these data support that human disease conditions and viral déjà vu display similar signatures associated with synaptic alterations.

DISCUSSION

Our study of CNS inflammation establishes that neurons are not mere targets of CD8⁺ T cells but assume an essential active role as intermediaries between CD8⁺ T cells and phagocytes. Specifically, neurons orchestrated their own synaptic stripping by phagocytes through JAK1/2-STAT1 signaling and, in turn, CCL2 expression.

Phagocytes play a pivotal role in assuring correct synaptic connectivity in the developing and adult brain [\(Paolicelli et al.,](#page-14-0) [2011\)](#page-14-0) but also contribute to synapse pathology in inflammatory [\(Bialas et al., 2017](#page-13-1)) and neurodegenerative [\(Krasemann et al.,](#page-13-21) [2017\)](#page-13-21) CNS disorders. Several lines of evidence suggest that complement C3 is key for synapse removal by phagocytes under neuroinflammatory conditions. For instance, a recent study in the context of viral CNS infection reported a central role for the complement component C3 in the elimination of excitatory VGLUT1⁺ presynaptic terminals by microglia [\(Vasek et al.,](#page-14-1) [2016\)](#page-14-1). Accordingly, we found upregulated expression of complement components C3 and C4 in neurons that occurred in a STAT1-dependent manner. However, C3 and C4 were not essential for disease precipitation or for synaptic removal in the viral déjà vu setting, which involves both inhibitory presynaptic and postsynaptic terminals.

Instead, our data reveal a novel mechanism that operates when CD8+ T cells attack neurons *in vivo*. Animals lacking either STAT1 or CCL2 in neurons were largely protected from disease and synapse loss. Therefore, neuronally expressed CCL2 represented an essential step in the communication between neurons and phagocytes. CCL2 promoted the juxtaposition of phagocytes to neurons, which was necessary for synaptic engulfment and displacement. However, whether synaptic phagocytosis and displacement represent staggered sequences of the same process or can occur independent of each other needs further clarification.

Our study suggests that phagocytosis could be triggered by complement components other than C3 [\(Hong et al., 2016](#page-13-22)) or by complement-independent mechanisms ([Datwani et al.,](#page-13-23) [2009\)](#page-13-23). Indeed, pathological exposure of the phospholipid phosphatidylserine or de-sialylated glycoprotein to the extracellular leaflet of the neuronal surfaces ([Brown and Neher, 2014\)](#page-13-24) can evoke phagocytosis via various phagocytic receptors, including triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2 (TREM2) [\(Krasemann et al., 2017\)](#page-13-21), which can function independently to complement tagging of neurons. It is thus conceivable that, depending on the pathophysiological context, mutually nonexclusive mechanisms contribute to synapse pathology in inflammatory CNS conditions. Furthermore, although total phagocytic contacts with neurons were similar in diseased $C3/C4^{-/-}$ and C3/C4+/+ mice, a potential change in the ratio of microglia/ macrophage in diseased $C3/C4^{-/-}$ mice cannot be excluded.

The present data emphasize that blood-derived CCR2⁺ inflammatory monocytes are actively involved in the disease, resulting from CD8⁺ T cell-neuron interactions. Accordingly, antibody-mediated depletion of CCR2⁺ monocytes from the circulation ameliorated viral déjà vu disease, which is in line with previous reports attributing an important role to these cells in CD8⁺T cell-mediated CNS disease ([Fife et al., 2000\)](#page-13-25). Besides blood-derived monocytes, brain-resident microglia also displayed engulfed synapses and may contribute to the immunopathogenesis of viral déjà vu disease, but this was not directly addressed in our study.

The patients in our RE cohort exhibited similar hallmarks in brain biopsies as mice with viral déjà vu disease. pSTAT1 and CCL2 expression in CD8⁺ T cell ''hotspots'' render it likely that an analogous mechanism may operate in humans. The pSTAT1 signature was most evident in patients with shorter disease duration before surgery (less than 3 years), regardless of the brain region analyzed. This could indicate that the observed mechanism plays a role especially in early stages of RE pathology [\(Pardo](#page-14-10) [et al., 2004\)](#page-14-10) and, thus, could offer a time window for possible therapeutic interventions. Likewise, as postulated for limbic encephalitis ([Dalmau and Graus, 2018\)](#page-13-20), heterogeneity in the pathophysiology underlying RE disease cannot be excluded, which may equally contribute to the noted inter-individual variability

⁽L) Classification and regression tree (CART) analysis revealed that elevated numbers of CD8⁺ clusters (>0.21 clusters/mm²) predicted a higher occurrence of *epilepsia partialis continua* (EPC) in RE patients. Symbols represent individual patients.

Error bars, SEM; **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05; ns, not significant by paired t test (F, G, and J) and one-way ANOVA with Sidak correction for multiple comparisons (H and I). See also Figure S6 and Tables S5 and S6.

of CD8⁺ T cell infiltrate density and corresponding pSTAT1-CCL2 signature. IFN- γ signature genes along with phagocyte activation are also observed in a variety of neuroinflammatory conditions, such as multiple sclerosis ([Khaibullin et al., 2017\)](#page-13-26) or HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders ([Schrier et al., 2015](#page-14-11)), rendering our findings of potential significance to several diseases beyond RE. This is also supported by our observation that the pSTAT1-CCL2 signature was equally observed in a small cohort of herpes simplex encephalitis and in a subset of limbic encephalitis specimens (pattern 2). One may furthermore speculate that CD8⁺ T cells, which constitute the majority of lympho-cytic infiltrates in multiple sclerosis lesions [\(Hauser et al., 1986](#page-13-27)), could contribute, through a similar mechanism, to the synaptic alterations associated with the disease ([Albert et al., 2017\)](#page-13-28).

Neuronal synapse removal by phagocytes can obviously be detrimental to the organism, as evident in viral and autoimmune disorders of the CNS. This raises the question of its evolutionary benefit. We speculate that the isolation of antigenic neurons from their synaptic networks may allow $CDB⁺$ T cells to limit retrograde *trans*-synaptic viral spread [\(Koyuncu et al., 2013\)](#page-13-29), thus containing a viral infection while avoiding irreversible neuronal loss ([Binder and Griffin, 2001](#page-13-30)). Alterations of synapses are potentially reversible [\(Marzo et al., 2016\)](#page-13-31), opening opportunities for non-cytolytic viral clearance and later re-integration of the preserved neurons into signaling circuits.

STAT1 signaling and phagocyte recruitment, as crucial events in neuronal stripping, offer opportunities for pharmacological interventions. Minocycline may be beneficial in preventing synaptic stripping through interference with phagocyte activation ([Tikka et al., 2001\)](#page-14-9), although off-target effects on vessels, apoptosis, and cell proliferation have been described [\(Garrido-](#page-13-32)[Mesa et al., 2013\)](#page-13-32). Nevertheless, drugs such as minocycline and small molecular inhibitors of JAKs (e.g., ruxolitinib and AZD1480) can pass the blood-brain barrier and have been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for other purposes [\(O'Shea et al., 2015\)](#page-14-12), making them attractive candidates for exploratory clinical trials.

In summary, our study demonstrates that neurons instruct phagocytes to remove synaptic terminals upon CD8⁺ T cell attack, opening up novel strategies for pharmacological interventions in RE and other T cell-mediated CNS diseases.

STAR+METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes six figures and six tables and can be found with this article online at [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2018.07.049.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2018.07.049)

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

G.D.L. generated most of the data along with S.P. M.K. performed part of the image analysis. N.P., K.S., B.K., and I.V. performed part of the flow cytometry analysis. K.E. did part of the histological analysis. S.M. and C.B. performed electrophysiological recordings. R.C. and I.B. participated in human brain analysis. T.L. and G.S. performed RNA sequencing analysis. N.L.-M. performed *in situ* hybridization. I.W. performed part of the immunostainings. O.S. contributed to human sample evaluation. M.J.C.J. was involved in MC-21 antibody depletion experiments. M.M. provided the MC-21 antibody. M.P. and D.D.P. participated in discussions of the results. G.D.L., D.D.P., and D.M. wrote the manuscript. D.M. designed and supervised the study.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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STAR+METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

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CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

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EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Mice

Male and female sex-matched newborn mice (P0) were used for intracerebral infection or left uninfected as non-carrier controls. Subsequently, mice between five weeks and ten weeks were used for all the experiments and analyses.

C57BL/6J, *Ccl2*fl/fl ([Shi et al., 2011\)](#page-14-13), *Cx3cr1*CreERT2 ([Kim et al., 2011\)](#page-13-34) and *Rpl22*HA/HA [\(Sanz et al., 2009](#page-14-5)) mice were obtained from Jackson Laboratories. *C3C4^{-/-}* [\(Wessels et al., 1995](#page-14-14)) and *Rosa26-Stop-Rfp^{fl/fl} ([Luche et al., 2007\)](#page-13-10)* were obtained from Swiss Immunological Mutant Mouse Repository. *Stat1^{fl/fl}* ([Wallner et al., 2012](#page-14-15)) were kindly provided by M. Müller (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Austria). Animals were housed under specific-pathogen-free condition in individually ventilated cage units. Mice were not involved in previous procedures and were drug or test naive at the beginning of each experiment. Cage bottoms were covered with autoclaved bedding and nesting material for enrichment. Mice were fed irradiated food and drink from autoclaved bottles. All mice were randomly assigned to control or experimental groups at the beginning of each experiment. All animal experimental protocols were performed at the Universities of Geneva with authorization by the responsible Cantonal authority and in accordance with the Swiss law for animal protection.

Human brain samples

All tissue samples were examined by at least two independent board-certified specialists in neuropathology who confirmed the diagnosis. Brain biopsies/autopsies from patients with Rasmussen's encephalitis (RE) (n = 20, 8 males and 12 females, $[9.0 \pm 8.5$ years, mean \pm SD]), Limbic encephalitis (LE) (n = 8, 2 males and 6 females, [43.8 \pm 17.3 years, mean \pm SD]), viral encephalitis (VE) (n = 6, 1 male and 5 females, [48.2 \pm 25.3 years, mean \pm SD]) and non-neurological disease (NND) (n = 6, 3 males and 3 females, $[20.3 \pm 14.2 \text{ years}, \text{mean} \pm \text{SD}]$) were obtained from the collection of the Department of Neuropathology at the Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Universitätsklinikum Freiburg, and Hopîtaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG). Their use for scientific purposes was in accordance with institutional ethical guidelines and was approved by the local ethics committee. Within samples of a study group (RE, LE, VE, NND), no statistical differences between sex were observed with regard to the obtained results. No information about pharmacological treatment prior surgical resection of brain specimens are available for RE, LE, VE.

METHODS DETAILS

Virus infection

Recombinant LCMV strains were generated according to established methods [\(Kallert et al., 2017; Kreutzfeldt et al., 2013\)](#page-13-33). The following virus strains were used: recombinant LCMV encoding for the glycoprotein of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) instead of its own glycoprotein (rLCMV/ INDG, abbreviated rLCMV throughout); rLCMV encoding for Cre recombinase (rLCMV-Cre); LCMVwt (Armstrong strain).

Viral déjà vu setup

Neonatal C57BL/6J (WT), *Stat1^{fl/fl}, Ccl2^{fl/fl}* and C3C4^{-/-} were infected with rLCMV-Cre i.c. (10⁴ pfu) to establish a viral carrier status in neurons as described previously ([Merkler et al., 2006](#page-13-8)). Control groups of littermate controls were left uninfected at birth. For newborn *Cx3cr1*creERT2/+: *Rosa26-*Stop-*Rfp*fl/+, rLCMV i.c. was used. Juvenile mice (> 5 weeks) were challenged with LCMVwt i.v. (105 pfu).

Tamoxifen treatment

To induce gene recombination in *Cx3cr1*CreERT2/+: *Rosa26-*Stop-*Rfp*fl/+, Tamoxifen (Sigma T5648) was dissolved in filter-sterilized corn oil to make solution of 10 mg/ml. The solution was protected from light and placed on a roller mixer to be dissolved over night at 37"C. It was administrated via intraperitoneal injection (i.p.) once every 24 h for 5 consecutive days. The injection dose was determined by weight, using approximately 75 mg tamoxifen/kg body weight. For juvenile mice, a standard dose of 100 µL tamoxifen/corn oil solution was effective to induce Cre recombinase activity.

Pharmacological interventions

To inhibit JAK activity, virus carrier mice were randomized to receive twice daily oral gavage administration of Ruxolitinib (30 mg/kg, Selleck chemicals) or AZD1480 (50 mg/kg, Selleck chemicals) dissolved in Solutol® (Sigma), water and ethanol solution (3:6:1), or a Solutol® solution only starting on day 5 after LCMVwt challenge.

To inhibit phagocyte activation, virus carrier mice received daily intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection of minocycline (50 mg/kg) or PBS (control) starting on day 5 after LCMVwt challenge.

To investigate a potential impact of antibiotics on the *viral de´ja` vu* disease phenotype, carrier mice were randomized to receive daily oral administration of the broad spectrum antibiotic Amoxicillin-Clavulanate (Amoxicillin trihydrate: potassium Clavulanate (4:1), 50mg/ml, Sigma, catalog number SMB00607-1G in the drinking water) or mock (non-supplemented drinking water) starting on day 5 after LCMVwt challenge.

Antibody treatment for CCR2⁺ monocyte depletion

For ablation of CCR2⁺ monocytes, carrier challenged mice were treated with CCR2 mAb (clone: MC-21; 20 µg/ml), i.p. every 24 hours starting on day 5 after challenge, while carrier challenged controls received isotype rat IgG2b.

Rotarod

The ability of motor coordination and balance of mice was monitored with the rotarod test. In this assay, a mouse is placed on a rotating rod that gradually increases its speed of rotation. Thus, the locomotor performance as measured by the time the animal stays on the rotating rod (latency to fall) reflects the maximum rotation speed of the rod up to which the animal can stay in balance. Specifically, mice were placed on a rotating rod (Rotarod 7650; Ugo Basile Biological Research Apparatus) constantly accelerating from 4 to 40 rounds per minute for a maximum of 180 s. Animals were habituated and trained to the rotarod daily from day -3 to day 0 (challenge with LCMVwt), as well on days 3, 5, and 7–10. Endurance time was monitored, and the two best runs out of three at each time point were averaged for analysis. Displayed values (% latency to fall) are relative to the mean of healthy non-carrier controls on disease peak (day 9-10).

Flow cytometry

For staining, the following antibodies were used: anti-CD8a (53–6.7), anti-CD11b (M1/70), anti-CD45 (30-F11), anti-CD45R/B220 (RA3-6B2), anti-CD115 (AFS98), anti-Ly6C (HK1.4), anti-Ly6G (1A8), anti-NK1.1 (PK136), anti-CCR2 (SA203G11). For detection of virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells, D^b-NP₃₉₆₋₄₀₄-tetramer (NIH tetramer core facility) were used. Peripheral blood samples were collected in FACS-Buffer (10% FCS, 10 mM EDTA, and 0.01% NaN₃ in PBS). Peripheral blood erythrocytes were lysed using BD FACS lysing solution (BD). For the preparation of brain leukocytes, mice were anesthetized and transcardially perfused with PBS. Brains were minced, digested with Collagenase/DNasel (Roche), and homogenized using 70-µm cell strainers (BD). Leukocytes were separated using a discontinuous Percoll gradient (30% / 70%). Surface staining was performed with directly labeled antibodies and tetramers in FACS buffer. Isolated CD8⁺ T cell numbers were quantified using AccuCheck Counting Beads (Invitrogen). Dead cells were excluded from the analysis using Zombie NIR Fixable Viability kit (BioLegend). Flow cytometric samples were acquired on a Gallios cytometer (Beckman-Coulter) equipped with three lasers (blue, 488 nm; red, 633 nm; and violet, 405 nm) using appropriate filter sets and compensation controls. Gates were assigned according to appropriate control populations. Analysis was performed with FlowJo software (Treestar, Version X).

Histology

CNS tissue was either fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) or in HOPE fixative (DCS Innovative) and was embedded in paraffin as described previously ([Kreutzfeldt et al., 2013](#page-13-9)). For immunohistochemical bright field staining, endogenous peroxidases (PBS/3% H_2O_2) were neutralized and unspecific binding blocked (PBS/10% FCS). After antigen retrieval, PFA-fixed sections were stained with primary antibodies. Bound primary antibodies were visualized either by an avidin-biotin technique with 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB) as chromogen (all reagents from Dako; hemalaun counterstaining of nuclei).

For immunofluorescence staining, after antigen retrieval and unspecific binding blocking, PFA-fixed sections were incubated with primary antibodies. Bound antibodies were visualized with appropriate species-specific Cy2-, Cy3-, or Cy5-conjugated secondary antibodies or anti–rabbit tyramide signal amplification (TSA). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (Invitrogen). Immunostained sections were scanned using Pannoramic 250 FLASH II (3DHISTECH) Digital Slide Scanner with objective magnification of 20 \times or 40 \times . To perform multiple rounds of immunostaining on a single routine section of deep cerebellar nuclei, an elution method using 2-ME/SDS buffer was used as previously described ([Gendusa et al., 2014\)](#page-13-35). Images obtained from multiple immunostainings are then scanned and digitally aligned using Adobe Photoshop CC. Positive signals were quantified by a blinded experimenter using Pannoramic Viewer software (3DHISTECH) and FIJI (NIH Image analysis), or with a custom-made script, which was based on Cognition Network Language (Definiens Cognition Network Technology; Definiens Developer XD software). To analyze the distribution patterns of CD8, pSTAT1, CD68 and CCL2 in the human RE biopsy, we used an image analysis ruleset based on the Definiens Cognition Network Language as previously described [\(Kreutzfeldt et al., 2013\)](#page-13-9). 2D-signal density maps were stacked and visualized as 3D-surface plot (FIJI plugin). For quantification, clusters were defined as groups of more than ten (for CD8 and pSTAT1, IHC) or five (for CCL2, ISH) positive cells in a 40 \times field of view (0.304 mm²). For representative images, white balance was adjusted and contrast was linearly enhanced using the tools levels, curves, brightness, and contrast in Adobe Photoshop CC. Non-specific background staining in neurons was digitally subtracted with a control staining when appropriate. Image processing was applied uniformly across all images within a given dataset.

Antibodies

Primary antibodies: mouse anti-APC (also known as CC1, clone CC-1, 1:100, Millipore, catalog number OP80), mouse anti-calbindin D28K (D-4:1:500, Santa Cruz Biotechnology catalog number sc-365360), mouse anti-CD68 (clone PG-M1, 1:100, DAKO catalog number M0876), rat anti-CD8 (clone 4SM15, 1:500, Invitrogen catalog number 14-0808-80), rat anti-CD8 (clone YTS169, 1:2000, Invitrogen catalog number MA1-82375, for HOPE tissue), rat anti-F4/80 (clone A3-1, 1:100, Bio-Rad catalog number MCA497RT), mouse anti-GAD65-67 (clone C-9, 1:100, Santa Cruz Biotechnology catalog number sc-365180), mouse anti-gephyrin (clone G-6, 1:100, Santa Cruz Biotechnology catalog number sc-25311), chicken anti-GFAP (polyclonal, 1:2000, Abcam, catalog number

ab4674), rabbit anti-Iba1 (polyclonal, 1:50, WAKO catalog number 019-19741, directly labeled with anti-rabbit Alexafluor 647), rat anti-LAMP1 (clone 1D4B, 1:250, Santa Cruz Biotechnology catalog number sc-19992), rabbit anti-LCMV NP sera (1:4000, generated by prime-boost immunization against purified LCMV-NP), rat anti-LCMV NP sera (1:1000, generated by prime-boost immunization against purified LCMV-NP), rabbit anti-NeuN (clone EPR12763, Abcam ab190195, directly labeled with Alexafluor 488), rabbit anti-P2Y12R (polyclonal, 1:1000, Sigma-Aldrich catalog number HPA014518), rabbit anti–pSTAT1 (clone 58D6; Cell Signaling Technology catalog number 9167), rabbit anti-RFP (polyclonal, 1:400, Abcam catalog number ab124754), mouse anti-synaptophysin (clone 27G12,1:50, Novocastra catalog number NCL-L-SYNAP-299), rabbit anti-TMEM119 (clone 28-3, 1:300, Abcam catalog number ab209064), mouse anti-VGLUT1 (clone A-8, 1:100, Santa Cruz Biotechnology catalog number sc-377425).

Secondary antibodies: anti-mouse Dylight-488 (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories catalog number 715-485-151), anti-rabbit Alexafluor 555 (Thermofisher catalog number A31572), anti-mouse Atto 647 (LifeSpan Biosciences, LS-C209483) anti-rat Cy3 (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, 712-165-153), anti-mouse AlexaFluor 555 (Thermofisher catalog number A21127), anti-chicken AlexaFluor 647 (Thermofisher catalog number A21449), Alexa Fluor 647 Antibody Labeling Kit (Thermofisher catalog number A20186), anti–rabbit tyramide signal amplification (TSA) 555 (Thermofisher catalog number B40955, with anti-rabbit DAKO EnVision system HRP, catalog number K4003, used to amplify the signals of anti-RFP and anti-TMEM119), anti–mouse tyramide signal amplification (TSA) 647 (Thermofisher catalog number B40958, with anti-mouse DAKO EnVision system HRP, catalog number K4001, used to amplify the signals of anti-CC1;). Secondary antibodies were used at 1:200 dilution.

Analysis of phagocyte morphology

Pannoramic Viewer software was used to draw regions of interest in immunofluorescence brain sections stained for Iba1 and DAPI, and calculate the proportion of Iba1⁺ signal occupied by the cell soma. Definiens Developer XD software was used to detect Iba1⁺ DAPI⁺ objects and export binary images. FIJI software was used to skeletonize binary image. Phagocyte endpoints, branching points and process length were then extracted using the FIJI plugin AnalyzeSkeleton. Average process length is normalized for soma size. Brain sections from WT non-carrier challenged mice served as control.

Quantification of synaptic terminals in the deep cerebellar nuclei

Pannoramic Viewer software (3DHISTECH) was used to calculate the perimeter of LCMV⁺ neuronal somata and export deep cerebellar nuclei (DCN) regions. FIJI software was then used to enumerate perisomatic synaptophysin (SYP) positive boutons. For each mouse, 27 to 120 neurons were evaluated. To evaluate the density of presynaptic terminals (GAD65-67, VGLUT1) and postsynaptic terminals (gephyrin), DCN were drawn and exported with Pannoramic Viewer software and positive signals were quantified using a custom-made script, based on Cognition Network Language (Definiens Cognition Network Technology; Definiens Developer XD software).

Quantification of synaptic terminals in the hippocampal CA1 region

FIJI software was used to calculate the perimeter of pyramidal CA1 neurons and enumerate perisomatic synaptophysin (SYP) and GAD65-67 positive boutons. For each mouse, 40 to 50 neurons were evaluated. To evaluate the density of VGLUT1⁺ presynaptic terminals and gephyrin⁺ postsynaptic terminals, FIJI software was used draw a region of interest in the CA1 stratum pyramidale and stratum radiatum for gephyrin and VGLUT1 immunostaining respectively. FIJI software was then used to threshold single-plane confocal images acquired at 63 x magnification (Zeiss LSM800), and quantify the number of positive punctae inside the region of interest.

Quantification of phagocyte engulfing synaptic terminals

For each mouse, single-plane confocal images were acquired, sampling 0.1 to 0.8 mm² of DCN tissue at 63 \times magnification. Imaris software (Bitplane) was used to build a colocalization channel of synaptophysin (SYP) and LAMP1 positive punctae. Iba1⁺ cells showing colocalized SYP⁺ LAMP1⁺ punctae were counted as phagocytes engulfing synaptic terminals, expressed as number of SYP^+ LAMP1⁺ phagocytes/mm².

Electron microscopy

Carrier and non-carrier mice were perfused 10 days after challenge with 2.5% glutaraldehyde and 2% paraformaldehyde in phosphate buffer (0.1M, pH 7.4). Brains were removed and 1 mm coronal slices were cut at the deep cerebellar nuclei level. Following the fixation, the tissue was processed through 2% osmium tetroxide and 4% uranyl acetate, then dehydrated in grades of alcohol. The samples were placed in propyleneoxide for 1 h subsequently infiltrated overnight in a 1:1 mixture of propyleneoxide and Epon resin. The following day the samples were embedded and polymerized at 60°C for 48 h. Ultrathin sections (about 60 nm) were cut on a Ultramicrotome, placed onto copper grids, stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate and examined on a Philips CM10 transmission electron microscope.

Electrophysiology

In order to measure the miniature inhibitory postsynaptic currents (mIPSCs) in the DCN neurons, *ex-vivo* electrophysiological analyses were performed using 200 – 250 µM thick coronal cerebellum sections prepared from juvenile *Stat1*^{+/+} non-carrier challenged, *Stat1*^{+/+}

and Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier challenged mice. Mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane/O₂ and decapitated. Cerebellum sections were sliced using a cutting solution containing (in mM): 90.89 choline chloride, 24.98 glucose, 25 NaHCO₃, 6.98 MgCl₂, 11.85 ascorbic acid, 3.09 sodium pyruvate, 2.49 KCl, 1.25 NaH₂PO₄ and 0.50 CaCl₂. Brain slices were incubated in cutting solution for 20-30 minutes at 35°C and subsequently transferred in artificial cerebrospinal fluid (aCSF) containing (in mM): 119 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1.3 MgCl₂, 2.5 CaCl₂, 1.0 NaH₂PO₄, 26.2 NaHCO₃ and 11 glucose, bubbled with 95% O₂ and 5% CO₂. Whole-cell voltage clamp electrophysiological recordings were conducted at -70mV at 32°-34°C in aCSF (2 - 3 ml.min-1, submerged slices). mIPSCs were recorded from DCN neurons of the cerebellum in the presence of 3 mM kynurenic acid and TTX 1 μ M. The patch pipettes were filled with (in mM): 30 KGlu, 100 KCl, 10.0 Creatin Phosphate, 4 MgCl₂, 1.1 EGTA, 3.4 Na₂-ATP, 0.1 Na₃-GTP, 5 HEPES, pH adjusted to 7.3, osmolarity to 288 mOsm.

In order to measure the spontaneous inhibitory postsynaptic currents (sIPSCs) in the hippocampal CA1 neurons, *ex-vivo* electrophysiological analyses were performed using 200 – 250 μM thick coronal hippocampal slices prepared from juvenile *Stat1^{+/+}* noncarrier challenged, Stat1^{+/+} and Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier challenged mice. Mice were anaesthetized with isoflurane/O₂ and decapitated. Brains were sliced by using an artificial cerebrospinal fluid (aCSF) containing (in mM): 119 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1.3 MgCl₂, 2.5 CaCl₂, 1.0 NaH₂PO₄, 26.2 NaHCO₃ and 11 glucose, bubbled with 95% O₂ and 5% CO₂. Brain slices were incubated for 20-30 minutes at 35°C and subsequently slices were transferred at room temperature.

Both mIPSCs and sIPSCs were collected with a Multiclamp 700B-amplifier (Axon Instruments, Foster City, CA), filtered at 2.2 kHz, digitized at 5 Hz, and analyzed using MiniAnalysis 6 (Synaptosoft) software. Electrophysiology experiments were blinded to group assignment.

In situ hybridization

In situ hybridization (ISH) was performed on 4 _um thick brain sections from FFPE (formalin fixed paraffin embedded) tissue. Brain sections were applied on Superfrost slides and loaded onto the Discovery automated slide-processing system (Ventana Medical Systems, Inc). Baking and deparaffinization steps were performed on the instrument. ISH protocol was designed based on the standard protocol described in the manufacture's RiboMap application note. In brief, the first fixation step was performed using formalinbased RiboPrep reagent for 36 minutes at 37"C. Sections were then acid-treated using hydrochloride-based RiboClear reagent for 12 minutes at 37"C. Templates encompassing partial coding region for the human and mouse *Ccl2* mRNAs as well as for the mouse Cxcl10 mRNA were generated by PCR from respective synthetic DNAs (GenScript) using the following primers: for human *CCL2*, forward 5'CCGTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAAAGTCTCTGCCGCCCTTC3' and reverse 5'CCGATTTAGGTGACACTATAGAAT CGGAGTTTGGGTTTGCTTG3'; for mouse *Ccl2*, forward 5'CCGTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCAGGTGTCCCAAAGAAGCTG3' and reverse 5'-CCGATTTAGGTGACACTATAGAATGGATTCACAGAGAGGGAAAA-3'; for mouse *Cxcl10*, forward 5'CCGTAATAC GACTCACTATAGGGAGAGACATCCCGAGCCAAC-3' and reverse 5'-CCGATTTAGGTGACACTATAGAAGAGGCTCTCTGCTGTC CATC-3'. mRNAs were detected with digoxygenin-tagged riboprobes transcribed from the antisense SP6 promoter. The slides were processed for protease digestion using Protease 1 reagent (0.5U/ml, Ventana Medical Systems) for 4 minutes at 37°C and incubated with antisense riboprobes (50-75 ng/slide) in RiboHybe hybridization buffer (Ventana Medical Systems, Inc) for 6 hours at 65"C after 8 minutes denaturing step at 75°C. After 3 stringency washes using 0.1 × RiboWash (Ventana Medical Systems) for 8 minutes each at 75°C, a second fixation step was performed using RiboFix (Ventana Medical Systems) reagent for 32 minutes at 37°C followed by incubation with Alkaline Phosphatase-labeled antidigoxigenin antibody (Roche, dilution 1:500) for 32 minutes at 37"C. The signal was detected automatically using the BlueMap NBT/BCIP substrate kit (Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.) for 6 hours at 37"C. Finally, the sections were counterstained with a nuclear red dye (Ventana Medical Systems, Inc) for 4 minutes before coverslipping in Aquatex (Merck).

RNAscope in situ hybridization

Fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) was done using the RNAscope Fluorescent Multiplex Kit V2 (323100, Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Inc.). *In situ* hybridization protocol was performed following recommended specifications for murine and human FFPE brain tissue. Probes against murine *Ccl2* (311791) and *Rbfox3*-C2 (NeuN) (313311-C2) were commercially available from Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Inc. RNAscope. FISH protocol on murine brains was followed by fluorescence immunostaining for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV). FISH on human FFPE brain tissues was performed using RNAscope Fluorescent Multiplex Kit V2 (323100, Advanced Cell Diagnostics, Inc.) along with human *Ccl2* (423811) probe according to manufacturer's protocol.

RiboTag-purification

*Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*+/+ carrier non-challenged, *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*+/+ carrier challenged and *Rpl22*HA/+x*Stat1*fl/fl carrier challenged mice were sacrificed 9 days after LCMVwt challenge. Immunoprecipitation and purification of ribosome associated RNA was performed essentially as described [\(Sanz et al., 2009](#page-14-5)). In brief, brains were isolated and stored in RNAlater solution (Thermofisher) at -80° C. Frozen tissue was transferred in Supplemented Homogenization Buffer (HB-S) and lysed with tissue lyser (QIAGEN). After lysis of the tissues and before immunopurification, a small fraction of lysate of each sample (input) was set aside and total RNA was extracted with TRIzol (Thermofisher) reagent followed by the RNeasy plus Micro Kit's procedure (QIAGEN). After immunopurification of the ribosome-associated RNAs, RNA quality was assessed on a 2100 BioAnalyzer (Agilent) and RNA amounts were quantified using the Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer (Life Technologies). The RNA integrity value (RIN) of the samples selected to be sequenced ranged between 7 and 9.2.

RNA-seq analysis

For sequencing, the RNA-samples were prepared using TruSeq Stranded Total RNA Library Prep Kit with Ribo-Zero Gold (Cat. No. RS-122-2301, RS-122-2302, and RS-122-2303) according to the manufacturer's protocol (Illumina). Samples were sequenced using the HiSeq 4000 (Illumina) (SE, 50 bp, ca. 30 Mio reads/sample). Independent biological replicates (n = 4-7) were analyzed for each group. Sequencing quality was checked and approved via the FastQC software [\(http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/) [projects/fastqc/\)](http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/). Sequence images were transformed to BCL files with the Illumina BaseCaller software and samples were demultiplexed to FASTQ files with CASAVA (version 1.8.2). Sequences were aligned to the reference genome of *Mus musculus* (UCSC genome assembly version mm10). Alignment was performed using the STAR alignment software (version 2.3.0e) allowing 2 mismatches within 50 bases. Subsequently, conversion of resulting SAM files to sorted BAM files, filtering of unique hits and counting was conducted with SAMtools (version 0.1.18) and HTSeq (version 0.6.1p1). Data was preprocessed and analyzed in the R/Bioconductor environment [\(https://www.bioconductor.org](https://www.bioconductor.org)) using the DESeq2 package (version 1.8). Specifically, the data were normalized and tested for differentially expressed genes based on a generalized linear model likelihood ratio test assuming negative binomial data distribution. Candidate genes were filtered to a minimum of log₂ 1.5-fold change and FDR-corrected $p < 0.05$. Gene annotation was performed using *Mus musculus* entries from Ensembl ([https://www.ensembl.org/index.html\)](https://www.ensembl.org/index.html) via the biomaRt package (version 2.24.0). For gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA), rank scores for differential mRNA expression between *Stat1*+/+ and Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier challenged groups were calculated as -log10 (p value) multiplied by the sign of the fold change such that upregulated genes had positive scores and downregulated genes had negative scores.

The java GSEA Desktop Application v2.2.1 was used to run the analysis and evaluate enriched GO and KEGG pathways. Normalized Enrichment Scores were calculated using the function GseaPreranked. Enrichment analysis for Gene Ontology (GO) was visualized using the Enrichment Map plugin [\(http://www.baderlab.org/Software/EnrichmentMap](http://www.baderlab.org/Software/EnrichmentMap)) for Cytoscape (version 3.6.0) [\(http://](http://www.cytoscape.org/) [www.cytoscape.org/\)](http://www.cytoscape.org/). Default settings were used for visualization, using p value < 0.01 and q-value < 0.01 and an overlap coefficient cutoff of 0.5. Enriched GO terms were uploaded to Enrichment Map, and a network graph was constructed. Nodes represent enriched GO terms and edges the degree of similarity between them using the overlap coefficient. After normalization of mean RPKM values, translatome data obtained from rLCMV-Cre carrier *Rpl22HA*/+ mice and Thy1-Cre x *Rpl22HA*/+ were compared with lists of specific neuronal and non-neuronal markers and plotted as heatmap. These lists were based on the markers described by Tasic and colleagues [\(Tasic et al., 2016](#page-14-6)) and augmented with known markers from the literature. Translatome datasets were also compared with single cell profiles of distinct neuronal and non-neuronal cells (microglia, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, OPC and endothelial cells), available from the deposited GSE71585 ([Tasic et al., 2016\)](#page-14-6).

CART analysis

We performed multivariate analyses to evaluate which clinical and pathologic factors associated with epilepsia partialis continua (EPC) occurrence in Rasmussen's encephalitis (RE) patients. The classification and regression tree (CART) analysis was used to separate patients into different homogeneous risk groups and to determine predictors for drug-resistant epilepsy using the R language [\(R Development Core Team, 2017](#page-14-16)) together with the ''rpart'' package. Variables included in the CART analysis: sex, age at onset of RE and surgery, disease duration, region and side of resection, density of positive clusters for CD8, pSTAT1 and CCL2. ANOVA was selected as splitting method.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Data are shown as individual values. Horizontal lines represent mean \pm SEM or median as reported in the figure legends. Normal distribution was confirmed using the D'Agostino–Pearson omnibus normality test where appropriate. To compare two groups, Student's t test (two-tailed) was used as indicate in figure legends (unpaired or paired). Variance between samples was tested using the Brown–Forsythe test. To compare multiple groups with equal variance, one-way ANOVA test was used while Kruskal–Wallis test was applied for groups with unequal variance. Post hoc tests for multiple comparisons are indicated in the figure legends. Linear regression and Pearson correlation coefficient R*²* were calculated.

In figures, asterisks denote statistical significance as *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$. Statistical analysis was performed in GraphPad Prism7.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

Software

All software is freely or commercially available and is listed in the [Key Resources Table](#page-15-0). Custom-made scripts used for cell detection and synaptic terminal quantification will be provided upon request to the Lead Contact.

Data Resources

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon request. The accession number for the RNA-seq data reported in this paper is GEO: GSE110593.

Supplemental Figures

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Figure S1. Neuronal STAT1-Dependent Decrease in Inhibitory Projections to DCN in Viral Deja Vu, Related to [Figure 1](#page-2-0)

(A) Representative images of co-immunostained sections for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) together with neuronal (NeuN+) or non-neuronal markers (GFAP for astrocytes, Iba1 for phagocytes and CC1 for oligodendrocytes) and quantification of positive cells in the brain cortex of Stat1^{+/+} and Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier mice (n = 3 mice per group)

(B) Representative images of immunostained brain sections for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) and quantification thereof of indicated groups (*Stat1*+/+ nc, n = 3; *Stat1*^{+/+} cc, n = 5; *Stat1*^{fl/fl} cc, n = 6).

(C) Reporter mice expressing tandem RFP after Cre-mediated recombination were neonatally infected with rLCMV-Cre. Representative images of one month old rLCMV-Cre reporter carrier mice immunostained for red fluorescent protein (RFP) along with NeuN, GFAP, Iba1, and CC1, and quantification of the proportion of co-labeled RFP⁺ cells in $n = 3$ mice, evaluating $n = 400 - 522$ cells per brain).

(D-E) Rotarod performance (D) and axosomatic synaptic density (E) of non-challenged *Stat1*+/+ and *Stat1*fl/fl carrier mice (cnc). *Stat1*+/+ non-carrier mice (nc) were evaluated 9 days after challenge with LCMVwt (Stat1^{+/+} nc, n = 5; Stat1^{+/+} cnc and Stat1^{f/fl} cnc, n = 4). For synapse quantification, 3 mice per group were evaluated (n = 30 DCN neurons per mouse).

(F) Representative images of immunofluorescence co-staining for pSTAT1, NeuN (neurons) and Iba1 (phagocytes) on brain sections of indicated groups. Arrowhead indicates pSTAT1⁺ neuron whereas dashed square indicates pSTAT1⁺ phagocytes.

(G) Frequency map of affected brain regions with CD8⁺ T cell infiltrates in *de´ja` vu* mice (n = 10). Listed areas: ACAd, Dorsal anterior cingulate area; CP, Caudatoputamen; CBX, Cerebellar cortex; DCN, Deep Cerebellar nuclei; HPF, Hippocampus formation; HY, Hypothalamus; MOs, Secondary Motor area; Mop, Primary Motor area; MY, Medulla; NDB, Diagonal band nucleus; SSp, Primary Somatosensory area; TH, Thalamus. Map adapted from *Allen Mouse Brain Atlas*. (H) Schematic illustration of the cerebellar circuitry showing main inhibitory and excitatory projections to DCN cells.

(I-K) Representative images of Immunofluorescence stained DCN sections for the inhibitory presynaptic marker GAD65-67 (I), and post-synaptic marker gephyrin (J) and quantification thereof in the indicated groups. (K) Representative images of Immunofluorescence stained DCN sections for presynaptic excitatory marker VGLUT1 and quantification thereof in the indicated groups. The density of each synaptic marker was quantified as number of positive boutons per DCN area (μm^2) , (n = 3 mice per group).

(L) Representative immunostained sections for calbindin⁺ Purkinje cells in cerebellar cortex and quantification of cellular density in the indicated groups (*Stat1*+/+ nc and *Stat1*^{+/+} cc, n = 4; *Stat1*^{fl/fl} cc, n = 5).

(M) Cumulative probability plot for mIPSC amplitude recorded from DCN neurons (n = 8 cells for *Stat1*+/+ nc and *Stat1*fl/fl cc; n = 9 cells for *Stat1*+/+ cc).

(N) Representative images of immunostained brain sections for pSTAT1 and quantification thereof in the indicated groups (n = 3 mice per group).

(O) Representative images of co-immunostained brain section for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) together with neuronal and non-neuronal markers (as described in (A) and quantification of positive cells in the brain cortex of indicated groups (n = 3 mice per group).

(P) Representative images of immunostained brain sections for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) and quantification thereof of indicated groups (n = 3 mice per group). All panels: scale bars, 10 μ m; Error bars, SEM; **p < 0.001, *p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, ns, non-significant by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons. Representative data of at least four (A-P) independent experiments.

Figure S2. Enrichment of Neuronal Transcripts in rLCMV-Cre Carrier RiboTag Mice, Related to [Figure 2](#page-5-0)

(A) Heatmaps of RNA-seq data show relative expression of transcripts obtained from rLCMV-Cre RiboTag carrier mice, Thy1-Cre x RiboTag mice compared to single cell transcriptome profiles of neurons, microglia, astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, OPC (oligodendrocyte progenitor cells) and endothelial cells ([Tasic et al.,](#page-14-6) [2016\)](#page-14-6). The column for rLCMV-Cre RiboTag carrier mice represents the average value of n = 7 mice, whereas the column for Thy1-Cre x RiboTag mice the average value of $n = 3$ mice.

(B) Stat1^{fl/fl} or Stat1^{+/+} mice were neonatally infected with rLCMV-Cre. Carrier mice were challenged (cc) with LCMVwt i.v. at around 5 weeks of age. 9-10 days later, animals were sacrificed and brains were processed for histological analysis. Nonchallenged Stat1^{+/+} carrier mice (cnc) served as controls. Representative sections co-stained for *Ccl2* and neuronal marker *Rbfox3* detected by RNAscope fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, and LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) by immunofluorescence. Arrowheads depict non-neuronal cells expressing *Ccl2* in challenged *Stat1^{fl/fl}* and *Stat1^{+/+}* carrier mice. Lower graph shows quantification of LCMV⁺ neurons expressing *Ccl2* (n = 3 mice per group). Scale bars, 10 µm. Error bars, SEM; ***p < 0.001, ns, non-significant by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons.

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Cell

Figure S3. Activated CNS Phagocytes Show Ameboid Morphology and Engulfment of Synapses, Related to [Figure 3](#page-6-0)

(A) Representative images of immunostained sections for Iba1, P2Y12R and CD8 of indicated groups, and quantification of P2Y12R⁺ area in Iba1⁺ CNS phagocytes.

⁽B-E) Representative Iba1⁺ phagocyte outlined, converted to binary and skeletonized (B) to analyze branching points (C), endpoints (D) and process length (E) relative to *Stat1^{+/+}* nc mice ($n = 5$ mice per group).

⁽F) Confocal immunofluorescence images for synaptic structures (SYP⁺) localized in the lysosomal compartment (LAMP1⁺) of CNS phagocytes (Iba1) in brain sections of *Stat1^{+/+}* nc, *Stat1^{+/+}* cc and *Stat1^{fl/fl}* cc mice (n = 3 mice per group). Number of SYP⁺ LAMP1⁺ phagocytes per mm² are shown.

⁽G) Representative brain sections co-immunostained for the microglia specific marker TMEM119 and Iba1 showing infiltrates of amoeboid phagocytes (Iba1) lacking TMEM119 expression in WT carrier challenged mice.

⁽H) Confocal immunofluorescence images and quantification for presynaptic terminals (synaptophysin, SYP), inhibitory presynaptic terminals (GAD65-57), inhibitory postsynaptic terminals (gephyrin) and Iba1 for phagocytes stained in the pyramidal layer of CA1. Excitatory presynaptic terminals (VGLUT1) are shown in the stratum radiatum of hippocampal CA1 from brain sections of indicated groups (n = 3 mice per group).

⁽I-L) sIPSC sample traces (I), mean sIPSC amplitude (J), mean sIPSC frequency (K) and cumulative amplitude (L) in pyramidal hippocampal CA1 neurons; n=9 cells per group.

All panels: scale bars, 10 μ m; error bars, SEM; **p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, one-way ANOVA with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons (A-H) or with Fisher's least significant difference (LSD) for multiple comparisons (J-K). The data shown are representative of four independent experiment.

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Cell

Figure S4. Effect of Abrogation of CCL2 or C3C4 on Phagocyte Features and Synaptic Stripping, Related to [Figure 4](#page-8-0)

(A) *Ccl2*^{fl/fl} or *Ccl2*^{+/+} mice were neonatally infected with rLCMV-Cre. Carrier mice were challenged (cc) with LCMVwt i.v. at around 5 weeks of age. 9-10 days later, animals were sacrificed and brains were processed for histological analysis. Representative sections co-stained for *Ccl2* and neuronal marker *Rbfox3* by fluorescence RNAscope *in situ* hybridization, and LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) by immunofluorescence. Arrowheads depict non-neuronal cells expressing *Ccl2* in challenged *Ccl2*fl/fl and *Ccl2*+/+ carrier mice.

(B) Quantification of viral burden by immunohistochemistry for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) in brain sections of *Ccl2*+/+ non-carrier challenged (*Ccl2*+/+ nc, n = 4), $Cc/2^{+/+}$ cc (n = 3) and $Cc/2^{f_1/f_1}$ cc (n = 6), and evaluation of viral tropism by immunofluorescence co-staining for LCMV nucleoprotein together with neuronal (NeuN) and glial markers (GFAP for astrocytes, Iba1 for phagocytes and CC1 for oligodendrocytes) of indicated groups (n = 3 mice per group).

(C-H) Quantification of Iba1⁺ phagocytes indicating cell density (C), cellular size (um²/cell) (D), and soma proportion (E) from brain sections of indicated groups. Skeleton analysis showing branching points (F), endpoints (G) and process length (H) of phagocyte sampled from indicated groups (Ccl2^{+/+} nc, n = 6, Ccl2^{+/+} cc, $n = 7$, *Ccl* $2^{f1/f}$ cc, $n = 5$). *Ccl* $2^{+/-}$ nc, served as control.

(I) Proportion of neuronal perimeter in contact with phagocytes on brain sections stained for Iba1, LCMV and DAPI. Wild-type (WT) carrier non-challenged (WT cnc, n = 5) served as control, WT carrier challenged (WT cc, n = 6), *Ccl2*^{fl/fl} carrier challenged (*Ccl2*^{fl/fl} cc, n = 5), *Stat1*^{f/fl} carrier challenged (*Stat1*^{fl/fl} cc, n = 5). (J) Confocal immunofluorescence images for synaptic structures (SYP⁺) localized in the lysosomal compartment (LAMP1⁺) of CNS phagocytes (Iba1) in brain sections of *Ccl2^{+/+}* nc (n = 3), *Ccl2^{+/+}* cc (n = 4), and *Ccl2*^{fl/fl} cc (n = 5) mice. Number of SYP⁺ LAMP1⁺ phagocytes per mm² are shown.

(K) Quantification of viral burden by immunohistochemistry for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) in brain sections of indicated groups (n = 3 – 4 mice per group), and evaluation of viral tropism by immunofluorescence co-staining for LCMV nucleoprotein together with neuronal (NeuN) and glial markers (GFAP for astrocytes, Iba1 for phagocytes and CC1 for oligodendrocytes) of rLCMV-Cre carrier *C3C4^{+/+}* and *C3C4^{-/-}* mice (n = 3 mice per group).

(L-M) Rotarod performance (L) and quantification of perisomatic synaptic density (M) of *C3C4^{+/+}* and *C3C4^{-/-}* carrier non-challenged (cnc) mice in comparison with viral de^{*ja vu* diseased C3C4^{+/+} carrier challenged mice (n = 8 - 9 mice per group for Rotarod test, n = 4 mice per group for evaluation of synaptic density).} (N) Proportion of neurons in contact with phagocytes in *C3C4^{+/+}* and *C3C4^{-/-}* carrier challenged mice (*C3C4^{+/+}* cc, n = 4; *C3C4^{-/-}*, n = 6).

(O) Confocal immunofluorescence images for synaptic structures (SYP⁺) localized in the lysosomal compartment (LAMP1⁺) of CNS phagocytes (Iba1) in brain sections of $C3C4^{+/+}$ cnc (n = 4), $C3C4^{+/+}$ cc (n = 4), and $C3C4^{-/-}$ cc (n = 3) mice. Number of SYP⁺ LAMP1⁺ phagocytes per mm² are shown.

All panels: scale bars, 10 µm; error bars, SEM; **p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, ns, non-significant by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons (B-M, O) and unpaired t test (N). The data shown are representative of two independent experiment (A-H, J-N) or pooled data of three independent experiments (I).

Figure S5. Inhibition of Brain Phagocytes and Depletion of CCR2+ Monocytes, Related to [Figure 5](#page-9-0)

(A) Experimental setup as in [Figure 5A](#page-9-0). *Left:* Representative images and quantification of viral burden on brain sections evaluated by immunostaining for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) of wild-type (WT) carrier challenged (cc) mice (n = 3 – 4 mice per group) treated with either minocycline (Mino) or PBS. *Right:* Representative images and quantification of viral tropism evaluated by immunofluorescence co-staining for LCMV nucleoprotein together with neuronal (NeuN) and glial markers (GFAP for astrocytes, Iba1 for phagocytes and CC1 for oligodendrocytes) in these mice (n = 3 mice per group).

(B) Experimental setup for administration of amoxicillin-clavulanate (AC, oral).

(C) Rotarod performance at peak of disease in mice from B; WT non-carrier challenged (WT nc, n = 5) mice served as control; WT cc (n = 6); WT cc AC (n = 5). (D) FACS analysis of CD115⁺ Ly6c^{high} CCR2⁺ peripheral blood monocytes sampled from WT non-carrier challenged (WT nc), WT carrier challenged isotypetreated (WT cc iso) and MC21-treated (WT cc MC21) on day 6 after challenge.

(E) FACS analysis of CD45^{low} CD11b⁺ (microglia) and CD45^{high} CD11b⁺ (macrophage) peripheral blood monocytes sampled from indicated groups on D10 after challenge.

(F) Experimental setup as in [Figure 5](#page-9-0)F. *Left:* Representative images and quantification of viral burden on brain sections evaluated by immunohistochemistry for LCMV nucleoprotein (LCMV) in MC-21- (WT cc MC-21) or isotype-treated (WT cc iso) carrier challenged mice (n = 4 mice per group). *Right:* Representative images and quantification of viral tropism evaluated by immunofluorescence co-staining for LCMV nucleoprotein together with neuronal (NeuN) and glial markers (GFAP for astrocytes, Iba1 for phagocytes and CC1 for oligodendrocytes) in these mice (n = 3 mice per group)

All panels: scale bars, 10 µm; error bars, SEM; ***p < 0.001, **p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, ns, non-significant by one-way ANOVA test with Tukey correction for multiple comparisons. The data shown are representative of two independent experiment.

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Figure S6. Neuronal pSTAT1 and Phagocyte-Associated Synaptic Loss in RE and Viral and Limbic Encephalitis, Related to [Figure 6](#page-10-0)

(A) Quantification of CD8⁺, pSTAT1⁺ and CCL2+ cluster density in RE stratified by disease duration (\leq 3 or > 3 years from disease onset to surgery) and by affected brain region. Symbols represents individual RE patients.

(B) Representative sections of viral encephalitis (Herpes simplex virus and Group D adenovirus encephalitis). Adjacent brain sections show immunostaining for cytotoxic T cells (CD8) and pSTAT1, fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (ISH) for *Ccl2* and immunofluorescence staining for CD68⁺ phagocytes and nuclei counterstaining (DAPI). Dashed lines indicate the hippocampal CA1 region. BS, brainstem.

(D) Representative sections of limbic encephalitis (LE, *upper row* pattern 1 (p1), *lower row* pattern 2 (p2)). Representative images of adjacent sections were stained as in B. DG, dentate gyrus; TC, temporal cortex.

(E) Representative section as in D co-immunostained as in C.

(F-G) Quantification of CD8⁺ (F), pSTAT1⁺ (G) cluster density in tissue samples. NND, non-neurological disease (n = 6); LE-p1 (n = 5); LE-p2, (n = 3); VE, viral encephalitis ($n = 5$).

(H) Quantification of CCL2⁺ cluster density in tissue samples evaluated by fluorescent *in situ* hybridization. NND (n = 3); LE-p1, LE-p1 (n = 3); LE-p2, LE-p2 (n = 3); VE, viral encephalitis ($n = 4$).

(I) Proportion of neurons in contact with CD68⁺ phagocytes in indicated groups.

(J) Quantification of axosomatic synaptic density stratified by contact with phagocytes in indicated groups.

All panels, scale bar: 10 µm; error bars, SEM; All panels, **p < 0.001, *p < 0.01, *p < 0.05, ns, not significant by unpaired t test (A), Kruskal–Wallis test with Dunn's correction for multiple comparisons (F-G), one-way ANOVA with Fisher's least significant difference (LSD) (H), Dunnett's (I) or Sidak's correction for multiple comparisons (J).

⁽C) Representative section as in (B) co-immunostained for neurons (NeuN), presynaptic terminal (synaptophysin, SYP), activated phagocytes (CD68) and nuclei (DAPI).

Table S1 – Top 100 upregulated transcripts by fold change and adjusted p-value in *Rpl22***HA/+ x** *Stat1***+/+ carrier challenged RiboTag mice,** Related to Figure 2.

Full list available at journal website: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2018.07.049

Table S2 – Top 100 downregulated transcripts by fold change and adjusted p-value in *Rpl22***HA/+ x** *Stat1***+/+ carrier challenged RiboTag mice,** Related to Figure 2.

Full list available at journal website: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2018.07.049

Table S3 – Gene Ontology (GO) gene sets enriched in *Stat1***+/+ versus** *Stat1***fl/fl carrier challenged mice by GSEA analysis with GO modules.** Annotation of Enrichment Map nodes, false discovery rate (FDR) q-value <0.05, p-value <0.01 in *Stat1^{+/+}* versus *Stat1^{f/f/f}l* carrier challenged.

Table S4 – Biological pathways enriched in *Stat1***+/+ versus** *Stat1***fl/fl carrier challenged mice by GSEA analysis with KEGG modules.** Top 20 pathways of GSEA using gene sets derived from KEGG pathway database with false discovery rate (FDR) q-value <0.05 in Stat1^{+/+} versus Stat1^{fl/fl} carrier challenged.

Table S5 – Human brain tissues of patients with Rasmussen's encephalitis and nonneurological disease.

Relevant information on patients with Rasmussen's encephalitis (RE) and non-neurological disease (NND) used in this study: sex, age at onset and surgery, epilepsy duration, region and side of resection and type of seizure when applicable. Abbreviations used: not applicable (n.a.), right (R), left (L), epilepsia partialis continua (EPC), focal aware seizure (FAS), focal onset with impaired awareness (FOIA), generalized tonic clonic seizure (GTCS).

Table S6 – Human brain tissues of patients with limbic and viral encephalitis

Relevant information on patients with limbic encephalitis (LE) and viral encephalitis (VE) used in this study: sex, age at surgery (years), region of resection and additional clinical data. Abbreviations: Herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV1).

