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<u>Computational modeling of the neurovascular unit to predict microglia mediated effects</u> <u>on blood-brain barrier formation</u>. Zurlinden<sup>2</sup> TJ, Saili<sup>2</sup> KS, Silvin<sup>1</sup> A, Schwab<sup>2</sup> AJ, Hunter<sup>2</sup> ES, Spencer<sup>3</sup> RS, Baker<sup>3</sup> NC, Ginhoux<sup>1</sup> F, Knudsen<sup>2</sup> TB. <sup>1</sup>Singapore Immunology Network (SIgN), Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Singapore; <sup>2</sup>USEPA, ORD, RTP, NC; <sup>3</sup>Leidos, RTP, NC.

Development of the neurovascular unit (NVU) involves interactions between endothelial cells, pericytes, neuroprogenitor cells, and microglia. The latter, our resident brain macrophage population, couples angiogenesis-neurogenesis with the microphysiological environment. We constructed an *in silico* model of the developing neuroepithelium in CompuCell3D rendering a cNVU that recapitulated a suite of critical signaling pathways (Notch/dll4, CSF-1, VEGF-A/C) and cellular behaviors (growth, migration, proliferation, differentiation, apoptosis). Imputing ToxCast *in vitro* profiling data into the simulated neuroepithelium enabled predictions of developmental neurovascular toxicity. For example, targeting CSF-1R *in silico* yielded a quantitative effect on microvascular arborization. Cybermorphs can now be qualified against *in vivo* phenotypes from CSF-1R ablation genetically or immunologically. The *in silico* models, in combination with *in vitro* cell-level data, can guide engineering of human cell-based NVU-devices to rank or prioritize untested environmental chemicals for further action. *This abstract does not reflect US EPA policy*.