

Supplementary Figure 1. p75^{NTR} mRNA was detected in purified adult mouse neural stem cells

Adult mouse SVZ cells were stained for PNA and HSA (Rietze et al., 2001). A small number of purified neural stem cells (PNA_{low}/HSA_{low}) were collected separately from the remaining SVZ cells by flow cytometry to generate cDNA. By reverse transcription PCR the neural stem cell sample amplified a cDNA fragment of equivalent size to the p75^{NTR} plasmid control, indicative of p75^{NTR} mRNA expression by adult mouse neural stem cells.

Supplementary Figure 2. p75^{NTR} is not detected on the cell surface of neurosphere cells

Primary neurospheres generated from the purified p75^{NTR}-high, -mid and -negative populations were harvested at maturity, dissociated and re-stained to detect cell surface p75^{NTR} expression by flow cytometry (PE, y-axis). While PC12 cells stained alongside each cell suspension displayed detectable levels of p75^{NTR} fluorescence, the profiles for each neurosphere population were negative. Cells expressing high levels of cell surface p75^{NTR} were not detected in any of the cultures, indicating the frequency of positive cells was 0 to 0.01% after 1 week *in vitro*, irrespective of the expression level of the original cell. Consequently we suggest that p75^{NTR} expression is significantly down-regulated, or that the p75^{NTR}-expressing cells are extremely rare events (less than 1:100,000).