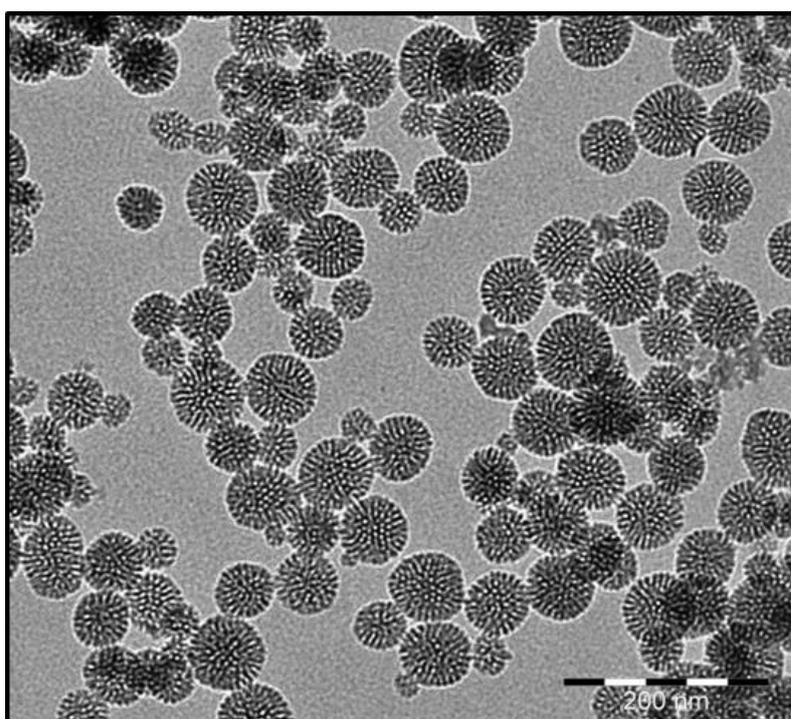
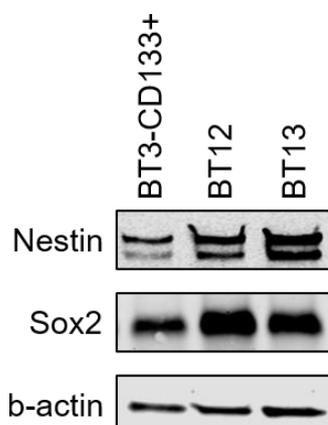


# Supplementary Material: Circumventing Drug Treatment? Intrinsic Lethal Effects of Polyethyleneimine (PEI)-Functionalized Nanoparticles on Glioblastoma Cells Cultured in Stem Cell Conditions

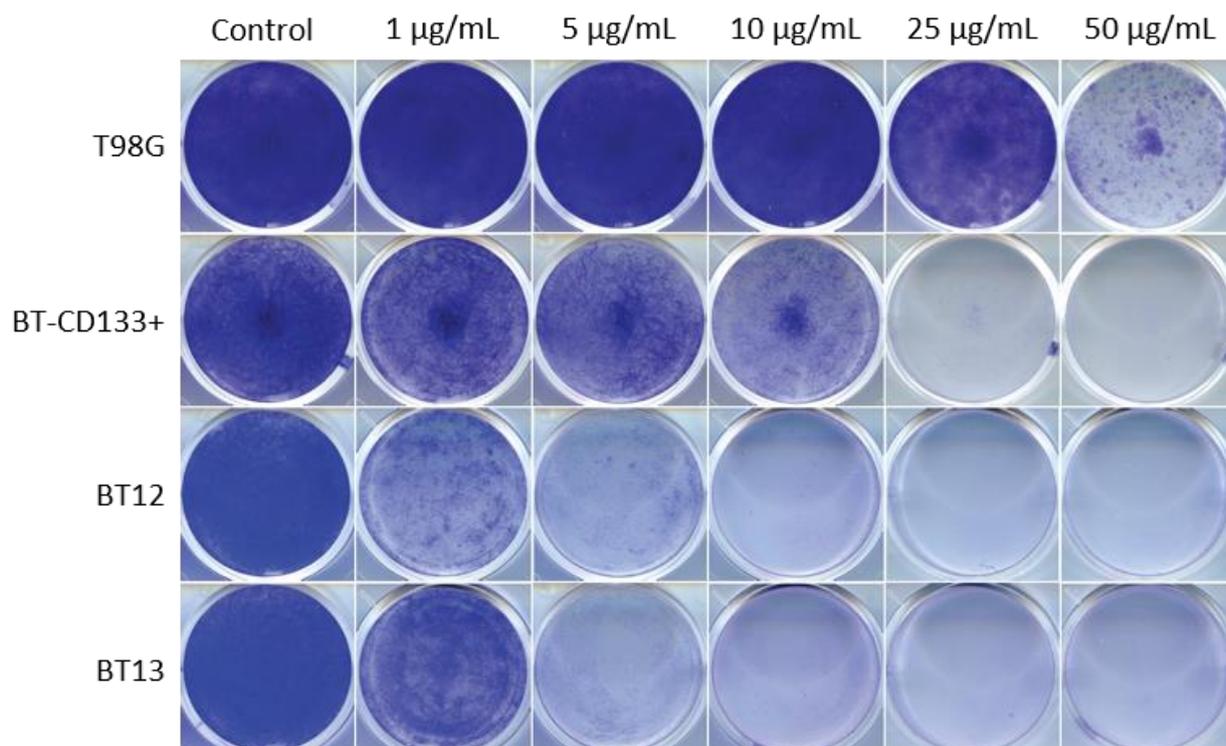
Neeraj Prabhakar, Joni Merisaari, Vadim Le Joncour, Markus Peurla, Didem Şen Karaman, Eudald Casals, Pirjo Laakkonen, Jukka Westermarck and Jessica M. Rosenholm



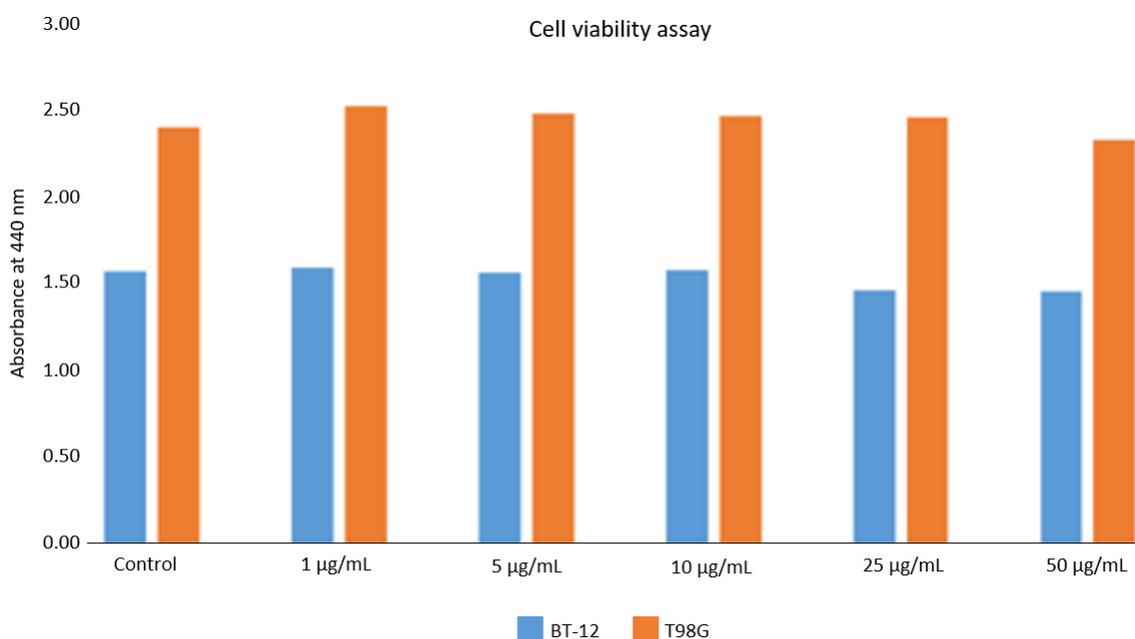
**Figure S1.** TEM micrograph of the spherical PEI-MSNs particles with an approximate size of 50 nm with mesoporous structure. Scale bar = 200 nm.



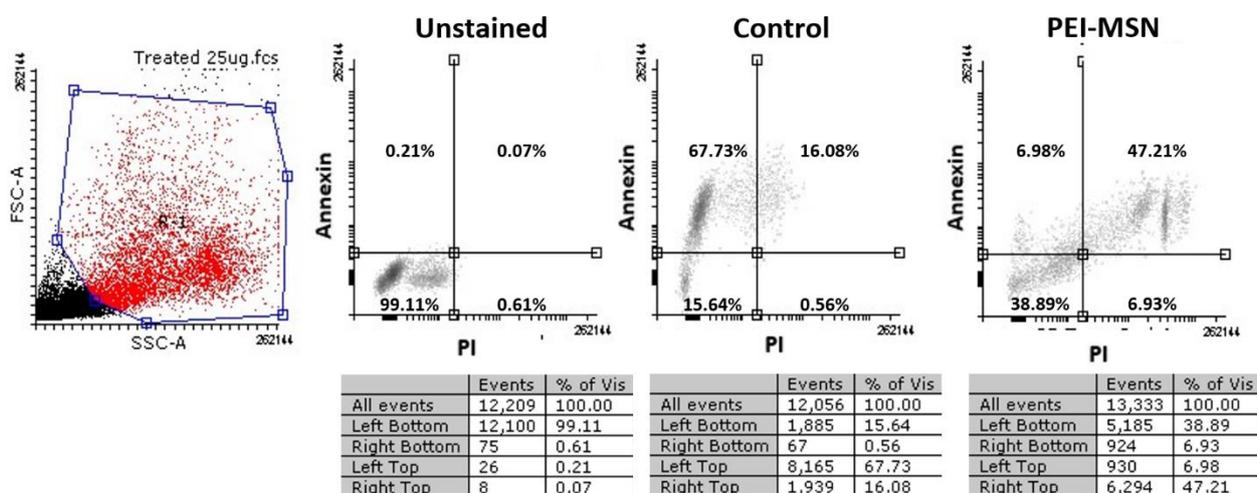
**Figure S2.** Validation of GSCs (BT-3-CD133<sup>+</sup>, BT-12, and BT-13 (cultured in stem cell conditions) using Sox2 and nestin (stem cell markers). The original western blot figures are shown in File S1.



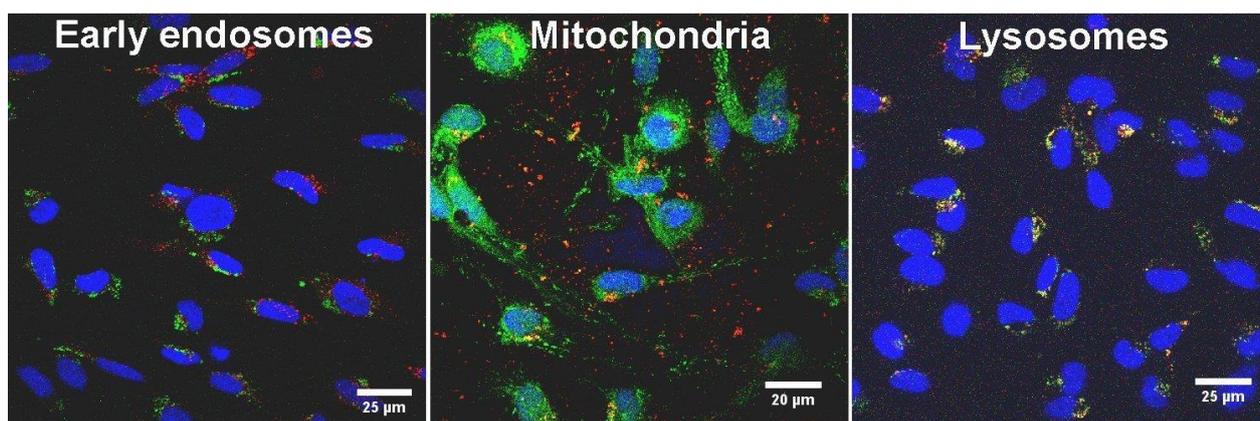
**Figure S3.** Selective cell death of patient-derived GSCs by PEI-MSNs. Colony growth assay analysis by using crystal violet staining of T98G (cultured in standard conditions) (GB cell line), BT-3-CD133+, BT-12 and BT-13 (cultured in stem cell conditions) GSCs treated with 1-50 µg/mL of PEI-MSNs.



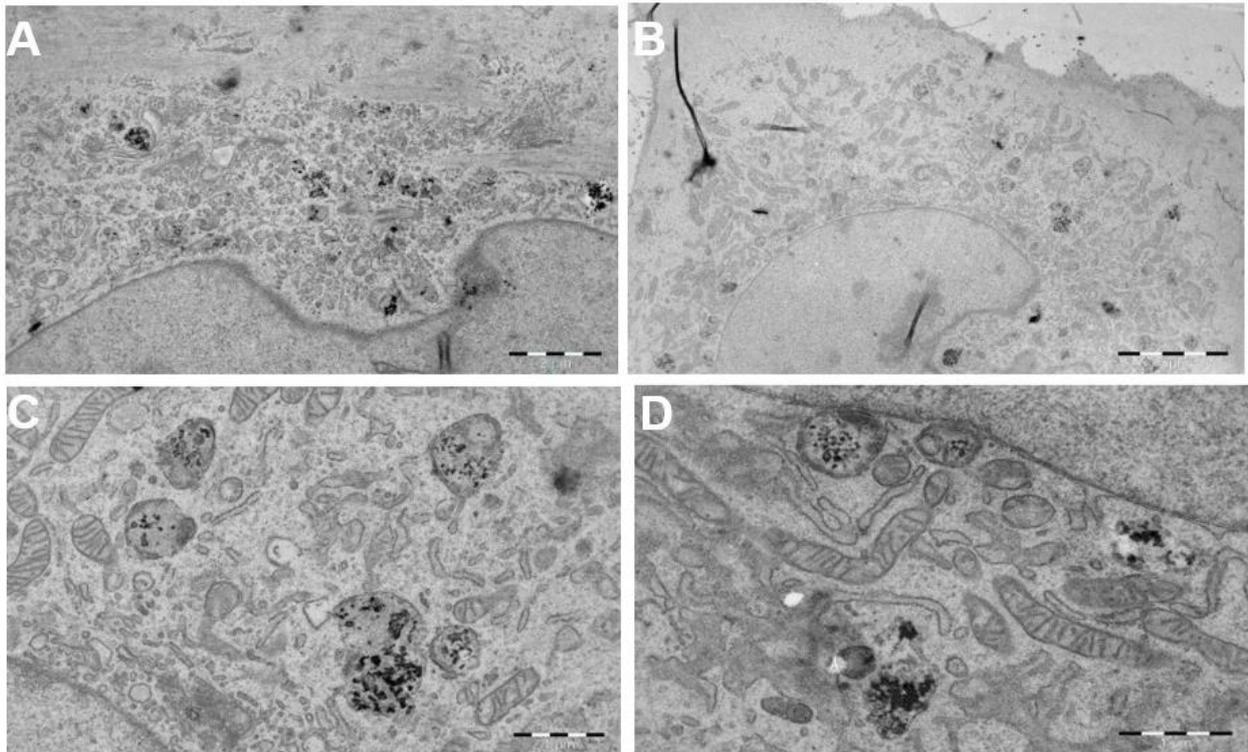
**Figure S4.** Viability of BT-12 GSCs (cultured in stem cell conditions) and T98G (cultured in standard conditions) (GB) cells treated with 1-50µg/mL of plain MSNs (without PEI). The cell viability was assessed by WST-1 cell proliferation assay.



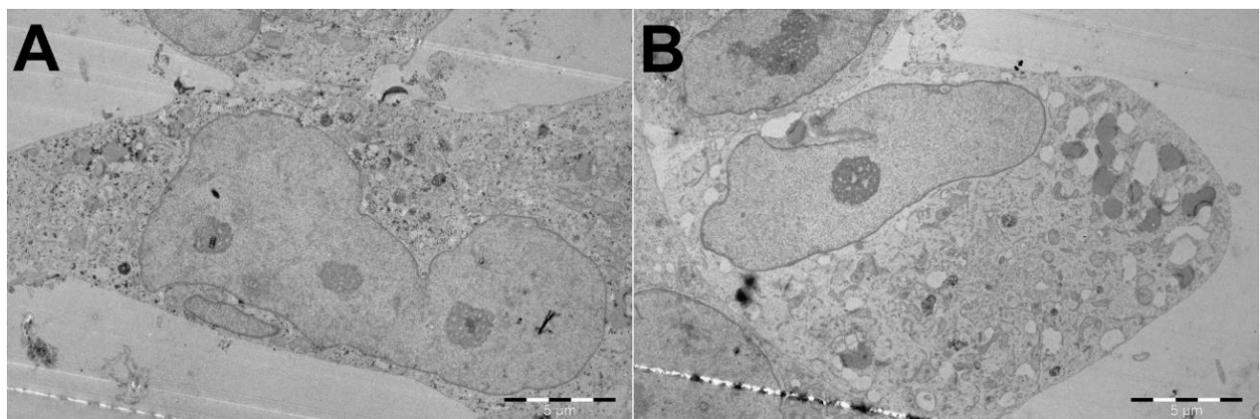
**Figure S5.** Cell death analysis by flow cytometry. Annexin V was used as a marker to detect apoptotic cells and Propidium iodide (PI) for cell viability. Consistent with cleaved PARP analysis (Figure 4A) the non-treated BT3-CD133<sup>+</sup> (cultured in stem cell conditions) cells (Control) demonstrated apoptotic cell population. This population was rather decreased than increased in the PEI-MSN treated cells (Treated).



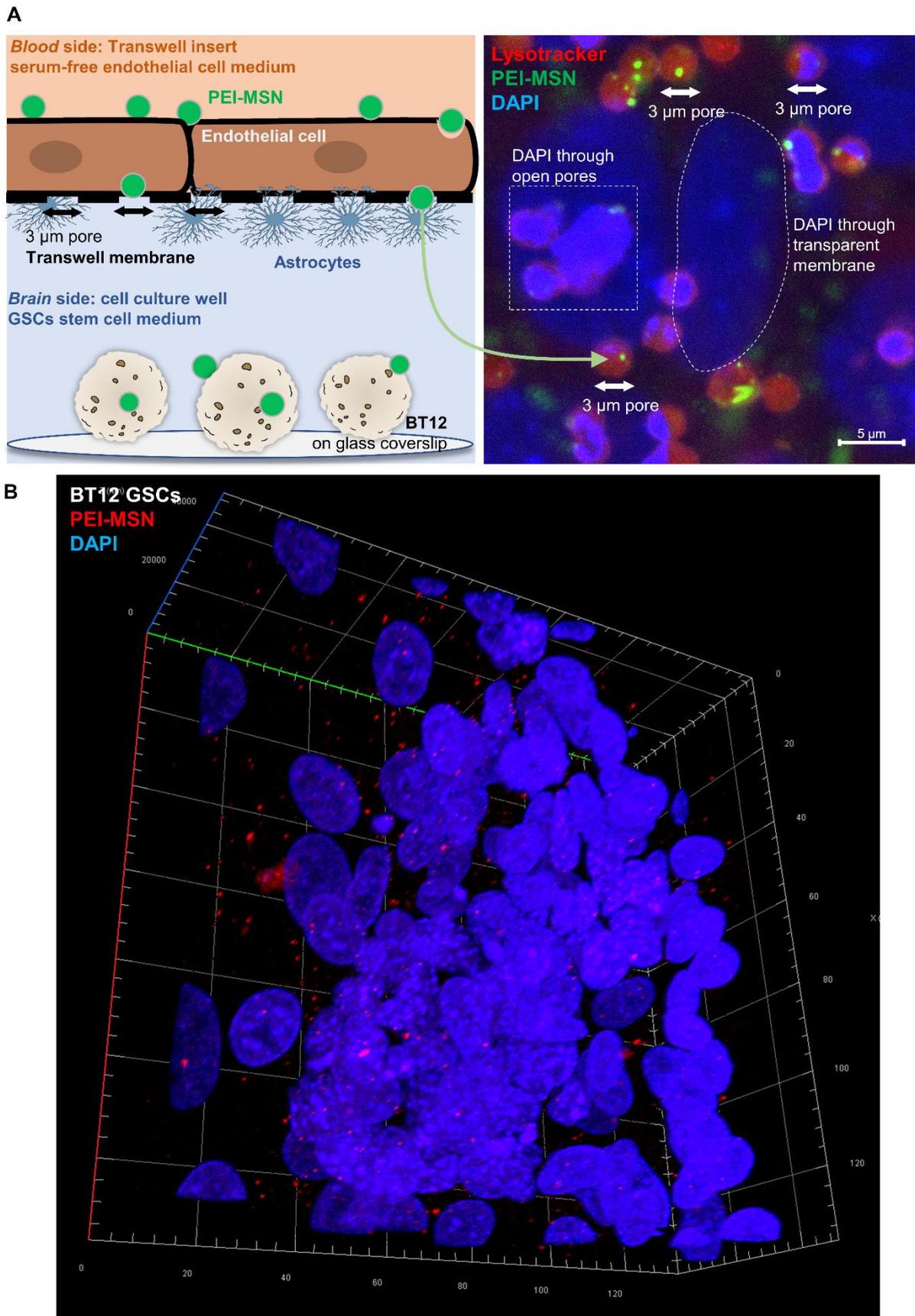
**Figure S6.** Localization of the PEI-MSNs in the treated BT-12 GSCs (cultured in stem cell conditions) by confocal microscopy. Intracellular localization of PEI-MSNs (red) was studied using markers of early endosomes (EEA-1), mitochondria (Mitotracker), and lysosomes (LAMP-1) (green color). The nuclei were visualized by using DAPI (blue). Co-localization is seen in yellow color.



**Figure S7.** TEM images of PEI-MSNs treated MDA-MB-231 (cultured in standard conditions) after 72h. (A–B) PEI-MSNs remained confined to vesicular structures and no visible damage was observed to cellular ultrastructure. (C–D) TEM imaging suggests that PEI-MSNs treated MDA-MB-231 cells did not exhibit any visible cytotoxic effects to mitochondria, lysosomes in comparison to BT-12 cells (Stem cells).



**Figure S8.** TEM images of PEI-MSNs treated BT-12 (cultured in stem cell conditions) GSCs after 72h. (A–B) No PEI-MSNs were detected within the nuclear space.



**Figure S9.** (A) Schematic representation of the BBTB assay (left) and sagittal confocal bottom view of the Transwell membrane as seen from the brain side. Endothelial cells (lysotracker, red) nuclei (DAPI, blue) from the blood side can be seen through the semi-transparent membrane (circled) and occasionally across the 3  $\mu$ m pores (dotted square). PEI-MSN (green)

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transcytosis from the blood to the brain sides is observable through the pores. **(B)** 3D reconstruction from confocal Z-stacks of a BT-12 GSC isolated from the BBTB. PEI-MSNs (red) are distributed all around and penetrated inside the sphere.