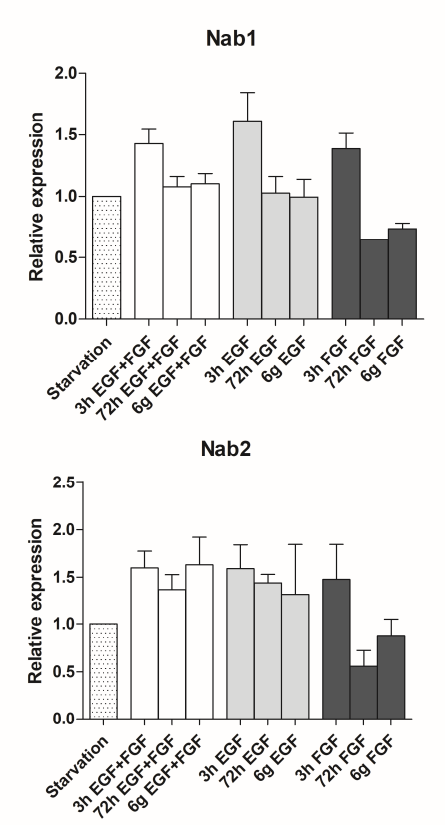
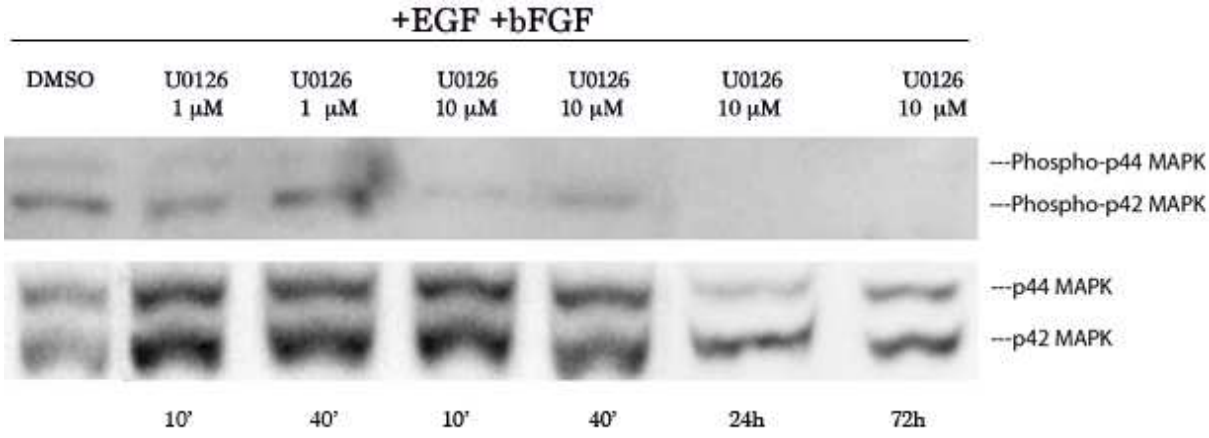
Supplementary Material

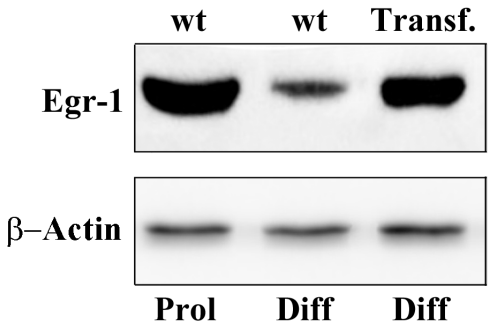


S1. NAB1 and NAB2 expression in response to growth factors in adult neural stem cells. Real time PCR analysis of NAB1 and NAB2 mRNA in aNSCs maintained for 3 hours in growth factors-free medium (GF starvation) and then exposed for 3 hours, 3 days and 6 days to EGF+bFGF, or EGF alone or bFGF alone. The levels are normalized to an endogenous gene (β-actin).



S2. ERK signalling pathway inhibition
Western blot analysis of the effect of U0126 (a MAP kinase kinase phosphorylation inhibitor) on ERK phosphorylation in aNSCs. Cells were first maintained for 2 hours in growth factors-

free medium (GF starvation) and incubated for additional 2 h with 1 or 10 μM U0126 dissolved in DMSO or with DMSO alone (as a control). Cells were then stimulated with EGF+bFGF for 10', 40', 24h, 72h. The blot was incubated with an antibody directed against the phosphorylated active forms of ERK (phospho-p42 and phospho-p44) and an antibody directed against dephosphorylated inactive ERK (p-42 and p-44).



S3. Egr-1 overexpression in proliferating and differentiating conditions.

Western blot analysis, with anti-Egr-1 antibody, of total cell extracts of wild-type untransfected aNSCs (lane 1-2) and aNSCs transfected with Egr-1 plasmid (lane 3); cells were cultured under proliferating (lane 1) or differentiating conditions (lane 2-3).