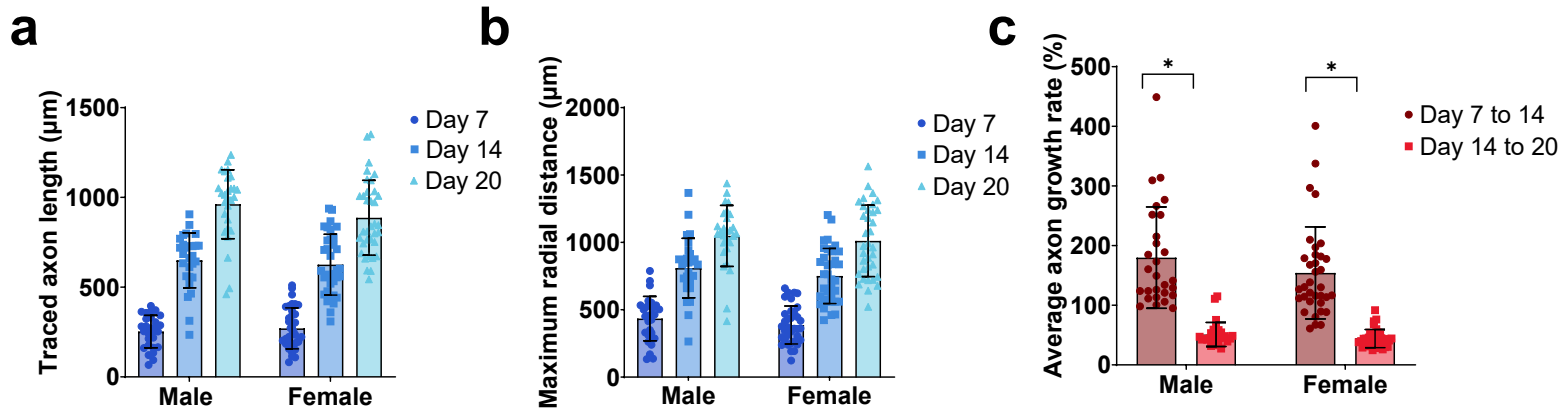




Supplemental figure 1: DRGs harvested from adult male (n=3) and female (n=3) rats had no significant differences in axon length and growth rate in 3D hydrogel in vitro culture platform. (a) Traced axon lengths and of male DRGs (n=28) and female DRGs (n=35) measured on days 7, 14 and 20 increased significantly over time. No significant differences were detected in traced axon length between male and female DRGs within each day (2-way ANOVA, Sidak's post-hoc, $p < 0.05$). **(b)** Similarly, maximum radial distance of male rat DRGs (n=28) and female rat DRGs (n=35) increased significantly from days 7, 14 to 20, but no sex differences were detected (2-way ANOVA, Sidak's post-hoc). **(c)** Average axon growth rate calculated as the percent difference of traced axon length on day 14 to day 7 and on day 20 to day 14, respectively showed both male and female rat DRGs have significantly higher growth rate between day 7 to 14 compared to growth rate from day 14 to 20. Sex differences in DRG axon growth rate was not significantly different (Mann-Whitney test).