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Citation: Wang, Irving E., Sylvain W. Lapan, M. Lucila Scimone, Thomas R. Clandinin, and Peter W. Reddien. "Hedgehog Signaling Regulates Gene Expression in Planarian Glia." eLife 5 (September 9, 2016). p.1-26.

As Published: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7554/eLife.16996>

Publisher: eLife Sciences Publications, Ltd.

Persistent URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/1721.1/105106>

Version: Final published version: final published article, as it appeared in a journal, conference proceedings, or other formally published context

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1 **Hedgehog signaling regulates gene expression in planarian glia**

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12 The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

13 **Abstract**

14 Hedgehog signaling is critical for vertebrate central nervous system (CNS) development, but its
15 role in CNS biology in other organisms is poorly characterized. In the planarian *Schmidtea*
16 *mediterranea*, *hedgehog* (*hh*) is expressed in medial cephalic ganglia neurons, suggesting a
17 possible role in CNS maintenance or regeneration. We performed RNA sequencing of planarian
18 brain tissue following RNAi of *hh* and *patched* (*ptc*), which encodes the Hh receptor. Two
19 misregulated genes, *intermediate filament-1* (*if-1*) and *calamari* (*cali*), were expressed in a
20 previously unidentified non-neural CNS cell type. These cells expressed orthologs of astrocyte-
21 associated genes involved in neurotransmitter uptake and metabolism, and extended processes
22 enveloping regions of high synapse concentration. We propose that these cells are planarian glia.
23 Planarian glia were distributed broadly, but only expressed *if-1* and *cali* in the neuropil near *hh*⁺
24 neurons. Planarian glia and their regulation by Hedgehog signaling present a novel tractable
25 system for dissection of glia biology.

26 **Introduction**

27 The Hedgehog (Hh) signaling pathway has been implicated in numerous developmental
28 processes across the Metazoa, including limb and midline development in vertebrates and
29 segmentation in *Drosophila* (Ingham et al., 2011). Little is known, however, about the role of Hh
30 signaling in the Lophotrochozoa, one of the three superphyla that comprise the Bilateria. Further
31 study and comparison with representatives of the other two Bilaterian superphyla, the
32 Deuterostomes and the Ecdysozoa, is required to understand the evolution of this signaling
33 pathway and its roles in metazoan biology. One member of the Lophotrochozoa, the planarian
34 *Schmidtea mediterranea*, is a model system for the study of stem cell biology, wound response,
35 and tissue patterning (Reddien et al., 2005a; Sanchez Alvarado and Newmark, 1999). Planarians
36 are free-living platyhelminthes capable of regenerating essentially any lost tissue, a process
37 involving the maintenance of a pluripotent stem cell population throughout adulthood (Morgan,
38 1898; Reddien, 2011; Reddien and Sánchez Alvarado, 2004; Wagner et al., 2011; Witchley et al.,
39 2013). Inhibition of Hh signaling in planarians perturbs regeneration of the anteroposterior (AP)
40 axis. *hh* RNAi animals regenerate bifurcated or no tails, whereas *ptc* RNAi animals regenerate
41 anterior tails instead of heads (Glazer et al., 2010; Rink et al., 2009; Yazawa et al., 2009).

42 The planarian CNS consists of a pair of cephalic ganglia and ventral nerve cords, each
43 comprised of a cortex of neuronal cell bodies surrounding a neurite-filled neuropil (Morita and
44 Best, 1965). *hh* is expressed in cells along the medial domain of the cephalic ganglia (Rink et al.,
45 2009; Yazawa et al., 2009), a location analogous to the vertebrate neural tube floor plate
46 (Dessaud et al., 2008). However, roles for Hh signaling in planarian nervous system regeneration
47 have not been described, despite a wealth of information on its involvement in the CNS of other
48 systems. The vertebrate ortholog Sonic hedgehog (SHH) is secreted from the floor plate and

49 forms a ventral-to-dorsal morphogenetic gradient that establishes distinct domains of
50 transcription factor expression in the ventral neural tube (Dessaud et al., 2008). Each domain
51 generates a distinct complement of progenitors that differentiate into neurons and glia (Dessaud
52 et al., 2008). The *Drosophila* neurectoderm has a similar ventral-to-dorsal distribution of
53 orthologous transcription factors, but Hh signaling is not required to establish these domains
54 (Cornell and Ohlen, 2000). Hh signaling has recently been implicated in regulation of multiple
55 aspects of glia biology. In addition to specifying oligodendrocyte progenitors in the neural tube
56 (Rowitch and Kriegstein, 2010), the pathway is also involved in inducing reactive astrogliosis in
57 response to brain injury in adult mammals (Sirko et al., 2013), specifying subtypes of midline
58 glia during *Drosophila* development (Watson et al., 2011), and regulating gene expression in
59 astrocyte subtypes (Farmer et al., 2016). Examining the role of Hh signaling in planarian brain
60 homeostasis and regeneration presents an opportunity to determine ancestral roles for this
61 pathway in the differentiation and regulation of CNS cell types.

62 Through a tissue-specific RNA-sequencing approach, we identified two CNS-associated
63 genes, *if-1* and *cali*, whose expression levels strongly were impacted by inhibition of *hh* and *ptc*.
64 From analysis of the morphological and molecular features of cells expressing *if-1* and *cali* we
65 propose that these cells are the first glial cell type to be molecularly identified in planarians.
66 Planarian glia proximal to the Hh source express *if-1* and *cali*, whereas glia distal from the
67 midline do not express these genes unless the Hh signaling pathway is induced by *ptc* inhibition.
68 Therefore, we propose that the glial state is regulated by proximity to medial Hh signaling. Our
69 data indicate that a role for Hh signaling in regulation of CNS glia is a common feature across all
70 three superphyla of the Bilateria.

71

72

73 **Results**

74

75 *RNA sequencing identifies a set of CNS-enriched genes affected by inhibition of Hh*

76 Previous results have shown that *hh* is expressed in two stripes lateral of the planarian midline, a

77 pattern similar to the medial domain of the cephalic ganglia and ventral nerve cords (Rink et al.,

78 2009; Yazawa et al., 2009). To determine whether *hh* is expressed in neurons, we performed

79 double fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) analysis using RNA probes for *hh* and *Smed-*

80 *prohormone convertase 2 (pc2)*, an established neuronal marker (Collins et al., 2010). Cells in

81 the medial domain of the cephalic ganglion lobes expressed both *pc2* and *hh* (Figure 1A). The

82 cholinergic neuron marker *Smed-choline acetyltransferase (chat)* (Nishimura et al., 2010) was

83 also expressed in some, but not all, *hh*⁺ cells (Figure 1B).

84 To identify roles of Hh signaling in planarian CNS maintenance, we examined gene

85 expression changes using RNA sequencing of cephalic ganglia following inhibition of *hh*, *ptc*, or

86 a control sequence (*C. elegans unc-22*) not present in the planarian genome. We developed a

87 dissection technique that allowed cephalic ganglia tissue to be collected from large (>2cm)

88 S2F1L3F2 sexual strain *S. mediterranea* animals following a brief acid-based fixation (Figure

89 1C). To test for enrichment using this dissection technique, amputated head fragments collected

90 from CIW4 asexual strain *S. mediterranea* animals after six control dsRNA feedings were used

91 as a reference library (Figure 1D). Head fragments contain cephalic ganglia as well as most

92 major planarian tissue types (Hyman, 1951).

93 Differential expression analysis of cephalic ganglia versus head fragments following

94 control RNAi revealed that, of the total 15,113 transcripts passing our filters (see methods),

95 2,237 transcripts were significantly enriched and 1,938 transcripts were significantly diminished
96 in cephalic ganglia libraries over head fragment libraries (adjusted p-value < 0.05, log₂ fold
97 change > 1.0) (Figure 1 – figure supplement 1A). To assess the success of our procedure in
98 enriching CNS-associated transcripts, we examined a panel of 71 genes consisting of both
99 experimentally validated head- and nervous system-enriched genes as well as transcripts
100 predicted to be present in neurons based on sequence similarity to molecules with known roles in
101 neuron biology (Figure 1 – source data 1). Overall, members of this collection had an average
102 log₂-fold enrichment of 5.56 in cephalic ganglia tissue over head fragments, demonstrating
103 successful enrichment of nervous system cells (Figure 1 – figure supplement 1B). Broadly
104 expressed neuronal markers *syn*, *chat*, and *pc2* were only somewhat enriched (Figure 1E),
105 consistent with the fact that these genes are also expressed in the peripheral nervous system
106 located throughout the head. Conversely, genes expressed in cells restricted to the medial CNS,
107 such as *hh* and the prohormone-encoding gene *1020HH* (Collins et al., 2010) were more highly
108 enriched at 57-fold and 81-fold, respectively (Figure 1E). We also examined a number of
109 markers known to be expressed in non-neural cell types and found that whereas most of these
110 genes were depleted in cephalic ganglia libraries, some genes were enriched (Figure 1 – source
111 data 2). However, the non-neuronal markers frequently used to identify specific cell types in
112 planarians *smedwi-1*, *agat-1*, *marginal adhesive gland-1 (mag-1)*, *carbonic anhydrase (ca)*, *mat*,
113 *collagen*, and *myosin heavy chain 6 (mhc6)* were greatly underrepresented in the CNS-specific
114 sample (Figure 1E, Figure 1 – source data 2). Genes expressed in many planarian tissues, such as
115 *gapdh* and *ptc*, showed little difference in expression in the cephalic ganglia-versus-head dataset
116 (Figure 1E, Figure 1 – source data 1). These data indicate that although other tissues cannot be
117 completely eliminated, the dissection protocol greatly enriches for cephalic ganglia transcripts.

118 To find targets of Hh signaling in the CNS, we next compared cephalic ganglia tissue
119 from *hh(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)* animals. We found insignificant differences in transcript levels for
120 the broadly expressed housekeeping gene *gapdh* and the neural genes *syn* and *pc2* (Figure 1F).
121 Expression of *hh* in *hh(RNAi)* animals was, as expected, significantly reduced ($p_{\text{adj}} < 0.05$). *ptc*
122 expression was decreased in *ptc(RNAi)* animals as well as in *hh(RNAi)* animals (Figure 1F). Hh
123 acts by negatively regulating Patched protein, which in turn is a negative regulator of
124 transcriptional targets of Hh signaling including the *ptc* gene itself (Varjosalo and Taipale,
125 2008). Therefore, reduction of *ptc* transcript levels in *hh(RNAi)* animals was not unexpected.

126 The Hh signaling pathway is required for establishing expression domains of the
127 transcription factors Nk2.2, Nk6.1, and Pax6 in the developing vertebrate neural tube (Briscoe
128 and Thérond, 2013). Absence of SHH expression in the vertebrate floor plate results in loss of
129 cell types that normally form in these domains (Ruiz i Altaba et al., 2003). By contrast, we were
130 unable to find evidence that in intact planarians, which exhibit extensive tissue turnover and new
131 cell type specification, Hh signaling modulates expression domains of orthologous transcription
132 factors. The expression levels of *Smed-nkx2* (*nkx2*), *Smed-nkx6* (*nkx6*), and *Smed-pax6b* (*pax6b*)
133 (Scimone et al., 2014a) were not significantly changed in *hh(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)* animals
134 versus controls (Figure 1F), and we confirmed this finding by FISH (Figure 1 – figure
135 supplement 2).

136 We next conducted expression analysis for cephalic ganglia genes affected by Hh
137 pathway perturbation. We selected a set of 30 transcripts that fit the criteria of at least 2-fold
138 depletion or enrichment in *hh(RNAi)* or *ptc(RNAi)* samples ($p_{\text{adj}} < 0.05$), respectively, and at least
139 1,000 RPKM to account for minor discrepancies when harvesting tissue (Figure 1 – source data
140 3). Seven members of this set were CNS-enriched based on our cephalic ganglia versus head

141 fragment RNA-seq data; two of these genes, *Smed-intermediate filament-1 (if-1)* and *Smed-*
142 *calamari (cali)* were found to be expressed in the CNS by whole-mount *in situ* hybridization
143 (WISH) (Figure 1G-I). *if-1* encodes a member of the cytoplasmic intermediate filament family
144 (Figure 1 – figure supplement 3). Intermediate filaments are cytoskeletal proteins that provide
145 structural support and mechanical stress resistance in a variety of cell types (Herrmann et al.,
146 2007). *cali* encodes a predicted protein with some similarity to vertebrate protocadherin
147 PCDH19 but lacks clear cadherin domains (Frank and Kemler, 2002), and we therefore named
148 this gene based on the morphology of the cells expressing it (see below).

149

150 *Expression and localization of if-1 and cali is altered by Hh pathway perturbation*

151 FISH analysis revealed that *if-1* and *cali* were co-expressed primarily in cells in the neuropil, the
152 neurite-dense region surrounded by neuron cell bodies (Best and Noel, 1969; Morita and Best,
153 1965), of both the cephalic ganglia and the ventral nerve cords (Figure 2A-B, Figure 2 – Figure
154 Supplement 1A). 97.8% of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells inside the neuropil and 100% of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells
155 outside the neuropil expressed *ptc*, indicating that these cells are likely to be responsive to Hh
156 signaling (Figure 2C). Additionally, *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ neuropil cells were adjacent to the *hh*⁺ neurons in
157 the medial cortex, placing them in close proximity to a source of Hh ligand (Figure 2D). *if-1* and
158 *cali* transcripts were detected in processes extending from the bodies of cells within the neuropil
159 of both the cephalic ganglia and ventral nerve cords, indicating an elaborate morphology for
160 these cells (Figure 2E-F). Rarely, cells expressing these two genes were also observed outside
161 the neuropil, such as near the periphery of the head (Figure 2G), but the localization of these rare
162 peripheral cells varied among animals. These isolated cells also showed high levels of expression

163 of both *if-1* and *cali* as well as mRNA-filled processes, suggesting that they are not an artifact of
164 the *in situ* hybridization protocol used.

165 We next assessed the impact of Hh signaling perturbation on *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ neuropil cells.
166 Upon *hh* RNAi, the density of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells decreased both inside and outside the neuropil
167 (Figure 2H-I). Because *ptc* is a negative regulator of Hh signaling (Varjosalo and Taipale, 2008),
168 we expected an increased number of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells in *ptc*(RNAi) animals. Accordingly, the
169 density of cells expressing either or both *if-1* and *cali* in *ptc*(RNAi) animals increased slightly
170 inside and considerably outside the neuropil (Figure 2H-I). Ectopic expression of these genes
171 outside the neuropil in *ptc*(RNAi) animals was observed near the ventral surface of the animal
172 (Figure 2 – figure supplement 1B), with concentration of expression at the rim of the head
173 (Figure 2 – figure supplement 1C) near where presumptive chemosensory neurons reside
174 (Okamoto et al., 2005).

175 During regeneration, *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells accumulated in the blastema, the outgrowth that
176 forms at wounds and replaces missing tissue. As expected, no *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells were observed in
177 the blastema in *hh*(RNAi) animals. Inhibition of *ptc* results in defective head regeneration; the
178 cephalic ganglia in the anterior blastema appear as masses of cells without any discernable
179 neuropil region. Nonetheless, *ptc*(RNAi) anterior blastemas had a large number of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells
180 despite impaired head formation (Figure 2 – figure supplement 1D).

181 To ensure that ablation of *if-1* and *cali* signal resulted from loss of Hh signaling, we
182 performed RNAi on genes encoding the planarian Gli transcription factors, which are
183 downstream effectors of the Hh pathway (Dominguez et al., 1996; Marigo et al., 1996). *gli-1* and
184 *gli-2*, which encode activating transcription factors, and *gli-3*, which encodes a repressing Gli-
185 family transcription factor, have been found in the *S. mediterranea* genome (Glazer et al., 2010;

186 Rink et al., 2009). Inhibition of *gli-1* results in a similar defective tail regeneration phenotype as
187 does inhibition of *hh* (Glazer et al., 2010; Rink et al., 2009). RNAi of *gli-1* resulted in loss of *if-1*
188 and *cali* signal whereas RNAi of *gli-2* and *gli-3* did not have any discernable effect on
189 expression of *if-1* and *cali* (Figure 2 – figure supplement 2). We conclude that Hh signaling is
190 required for *if-1* and *cali* expression to be detected in the neuropil. Below we assess the nature of
191 *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells and whether Hh signaling regulates *if-1*/*cali* gene expression or the presence of
192 these cells.

193

194 *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells are not neurons

195 Given the localization of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells within the CNS, we assessed whether they are neurons
196 by examining marker gene expression. *pc2*, *chat*, and *syn*, three markers expressed broadly in
197 planarian neurons, were not expressed in any *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells, raising the possibility that these
198 cells are not neurons (Figure 3A-C, Figure 3 – figure supplement 1A-B). We identified and
199 examined additional neuronal markers to further assess this possibility. Genes encoding voltage-
200 gated ion channels, a potassium channel, a sodium channel, a calcium channel, a sodium and
201 potassium co-transporter, Glutamic acid decarboxylase (*gd*), Tyrosine hydroxylase (*th*),
202 Tryptophan hydroxylase (*tph*), three Synaptotagmin family members, Synaptogyrin 2, synaptic
203 vesicle fusion proteins SNAP25 and Unc-13, the vesicular neurotransmitter transporters VAchT
204 and VGluT, and neuronal transcription factors were all not expressed in *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells (Figure
205 3D-H, Figure 3 – figure supplement 1C, Figure 1 – source data 1). *netrin-2*, a marker previously
206 described to be expressed in cells in the neuropil (Cebrià and Newmark, 2005), also was not
207 expressed in *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells (Figure 3 – figure supplement 1C). We conclude that, despite
208 localization within the CNS and the presence of cytoplasmic extensions, *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells are not

209 neurons.

210

211 *if-1⁺/cali⁺ cells express neurotransmitter reuptake and metabolism genes*

212 In addition to neurons, the other predominant cells in the nervous systems of other organisms are

213 glia. Glia act as neuronal support cells by providing trophic support, axon insulation,

214 environmental maintenance, the blood-brain barrier, and synapse pruning (Pfeiffer et al., 1993;

215 Sofroniew and Vinters, 2010). Invertebrate glia have been studied in *Drosophila* (Hartenstein,

216 2011) and *C. elegans* (Oikonomou and Shaham, 2011), and have been identified in annelids

217 (Deitmer et al., 1999) and molluscs (Reinecke, 1976). Electron microscopy performed on

218 transverse sections of the planarian *Dugesia tigrina* revealed cells distributed throughout the

219 ventral nerve cords with lighter cytoplasmic complexity than neighboring neurons; these have

220 been hypothesized to be planarian glial cells, but such cells had not been previously identified

221 with molecular markers (Golubev, 1988; Morita and Best, 1966).

222 To determine whether *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells are planarian glia, we performed FISH using RNA

223 probes for planarian orthologs of vertebrate glia markers. Excitatory Amino Acid Transporters,

224 which uptake the neurotransmitter glutamate from the extracellular environment (Featherstone,

225 2011), and Glutamine Synthetase, which metabolizes glutamate into glutamine (Anderson and

226 Swanson, 2000), are expressed in vertebrate astrocytes (Lehmann et al., 2009) and *Drosophila*

227 glia (Soustelle et al., 2002; Strauss et al., 2015). These genes act in concert to allow astrocytes to

228 remove glutamate released during synaptic transmission and prevent excitotoxicity (Anderson

229 and Swanson, 2000). *Smed-gs* (*gs*) encodes an ortholog of Glutamine Synthetase and was

230 expressed in *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells in the neuropil as well as in cells in the ventral parenchyma and the

231 intestine (Figure 3I, Figure 3 – figure supplement 2A). Two genes encoding orthologs of the

232 glutamate transporter GLT-1/EAAT2 (Featherstone, 2011), *Smed-eaat2-1* (*eaat2-1*) and *Smed-*
233 *eaat2-2* (*eaat2-2*) (Figure 3 – figure supplement 3), were also expressed in the majority of *if-*
234 *I⁺/cali⁺* cells in the neuropil and to a lesser degree outside the neuropil (Figure 3J-K, Figure 3 –
235 figure supplement 2B-C). The expression of these three genes in *if-I⁺/cali⁺* cells suggests a
236 possible role in extracellular neurotransmitter clearance.

237 *Smed-gat* (*gat*) is predicted to encode an ortholog of a family of GABA, creatine, and
238 taurine transporters that are commonly used as invertebrate and vertebrate glia markers
239 (Carducci et al., 2012; Featherstone, 2011; Minelli et al., 1996; Pow et al., 2002) (Figure 3 –
240 figure supplement 4). *gat* was also expressed in *if-I⁺/cali⁺* cells (Figure 3L, Figure 3 – figure
241 supplement 2D). Members of the glucose transporter family are expressed in vertebrate
242 astrocytes (Morgello et al., 1995; Vannucci et al., 1997). We found a glucose transporter
243 ortholog, *Smed-glut* (*glut*) (Figure 3 – figure supplement 5), co-expressed in *if-I⁺/cali⁺* cells in
244 the neuropil as well as in cells outside the neuropil (Figure 3M, Figure 3 – figure supplement
245 2E). Lastly, a Melastatin-Type Transient Receptor Potential Ion Channel (TRPM) ortholog was
246 identified (Figure 3 – figure supplement 6). In vertebrates, members of this family are expressed
247 in oligodendrocytes (Hoffmann et al., 2010) and are induced in astrocytes during oxidative stress
248 (Bond and Greenfield, 2007). The expression pattern of *trpm* was similar to that of *gs* and *gat*;
249 *trpm* was co-expressed with *if-1* and *cali* in the neuropil, and expression was also observed in
250 cells of the ventral parenchyma and pharynx (Figure 3N, Figure 3 – figure supplement 2F).

251 Because we observed expression of several of these glia markers outside the neuropil, we
252 performed double FISH analysis to determine whether these genes have overlapping expression
253 in non-neuropil cells. Indeed, we found that *gs⁺* cells outside the cephalic ganglia expressed *gat*
254 (Figure 3O), *eaat2-1* (Figure 3P), *eaat2-2* (Figure 3Q), *glut* (Figure 3R), and *trpm* (Figure 3S).

255 Both *if-1* and *cali*, when ectopically expressed outside the neuropil in *ptc(RNAi)* animals, was
256 also co-expressed with these markers (see below). Next, to determine whether this population of
257 cells shared further similarities with *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells in the CNS, we examined whether these cells
258 are responsive to Hh signaling. We found that *gs⁺* cells and *glut⁺* cells outside the neuropil also
259 expressed *ptc*, suggesting that at least a subset of the cells are competent to respond to Hh
260 signaling (Figure 3T, 3U). To ensure that these cells outside the neuropil were not neurons, we
261 performed double FISH for *pc2* with *gs* or *eaat2-1* and found no evidence of co-expression
262 (Figure 3V, 3W). Co-expression of *gs*, *eaat2-1*, *eaat2-2*, and *gat* indicates that these cells
263 function to reuptake and metabolize neurotransmitters, a role performed in the vertebrate nervous
264 system by astrocytes (Anderson and Swanson, 2000). Because these cells are embedded in the
265 planarian nervous system and express glial markers rather than neuronal markers, we
266 hypothesize that they are glia.

267 To determine the role of these glia markers in planarian biology, we performed RNAi on
268 *gs*, *eaat2-1*, *eaat2-2*, *gat*, *glut*, and *trpm*. However, we did not observe any morphological or
269 behavioral effects in these animals during normal tissue turnover in uninjured animals and
270 following head and tail amputation. Inhibition of gene expression was confirmed for a subset of
271 the glial markers by WISH analysis in RNAi animals (Figure 3 – figure supplement 2G-J).

272

273 *IF-1* protein localizes to cellular extensions that closely associate with neurons

274 To examine the morphology of *if-1⁺* planarian cells, we raised a polyclonal antibody against the
275 SMED-IF-1 (IF-1) protein. Whole-mount immunofluorescence revealed an extensive network of
276 IF-1⁺ branches concentrated in the neuropil and extending out of the CNS (Figure 4A-B). The
277 IF-1⁺ cellular extensions also formed hollow columns oriented along the dorsal-ventral axis

278 (Figure 4C). In the periphery, IF-1⁺ processes ran along tracts that were mostly devoid of cell
279 bodies (Figure 4D). These peripheral branches varied between animals in extent, number, and
280 location along the AP axis. In the VNCs, the processes ran parallel to one another (Figure 4E).
281 RNAi of *if-1* resulted in complete loss of IF-1 antibody immunolabeling, confirming that
282 labeling was specific (Figure 4 – figure supplement 1A).

283 To determine whether IF-1⁺ processes associate with neurons, we used antibodies against
284 α -Tubulin and Synapsin. Antibodies against α -Tubulin label axons of both the central and
285 peripheral nervous system in planarians (Sanchez Alvarado and Newmark, 1999). Axons
286 traveling through the VNC neuropil regularly exit to form orthogonal commissures that extend
287 from the VNC to the edge of the body. The IF-1⁺ processes emerging from the cephalic ganglion
288 neuropil followed the same tracts as the α -Tubulin⁺ axon bundles (Figure 4F). A similar co-
289 localization was observed in the orthogonal branches extending from the VNCs (Figure 4G). The
290 IF-1⁺ processes were embedded within the nerve bundles and did not appear to fully enclose the
291 commissural axon fascicle.

292 An anti-Synapsin antibody labels large clusters of synapses within the neuropil and in
293 nerve plexuses in the grid-like network of commissural axon bundles called the Orthogon (Adell
294 et al., 2009; Reisinger, 1925; Reuter et al., 1998). Immunofluorescence with both the anti-IF-1
295 antibody and the anti-Synapsin antibody showed IF-1⁺ processes weaving through the synapse-
296 dense cephalic ganglion neuropil (Figure 4H, Figure 4 – figure supplement 2A). In the ventral
297 nerve cords, synapses accumulated into discrete, regularly spaced structures that strongly
298 resembled synaptic glomeruli described in insect species (Boeckh and Tolbert, 1993). IF-1⁺
299 processes were closely affiliated with the VNCs (Figure 4 – figure supplement 2B) as well as
300 along some but not all of the branches comprising the Orthogon (Figure 4 – figure supplement

301 2B-C). Moreover, IF-1⁺ processes appeared to encapsulate and invade Synapsin⁺ clusters
302 throughout the VNCs and the Orthogon (Figure 4I-K, Figure 4 – figure supplement 2D-F).
303 Individual IF-1⁺ processes also extended from one Synapsin⁺ cluster to another, indicating that
304 single planarian glia can enwrap multiple targets (Figure 4 – figure supplement 2F). The
305 branched morphology of the *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells and their close contact with both axons and areas of
306 high synaptic density support our hypothesis that these cells are planarian glia that act in a
307 similar fashion to astrocytes.

308 To further study the morphology of these cells, we performed protein-retention expansion
309 microscopy (Tillberg et al., 2016) on animals labeled with IF-1 and Synapsin antibodies. In these
310 animals, which have been expanded greater than 4-fold in each axis, conferring an effective
311 lateral and axial resolution of less than 100nm to our images, IF-1⁺ processes were observed
312 forming the encompassing layer of synaptic glomeruli, with fine processes infiltrating the
313 Synapsin⁺ core (Video 1-4). Thinner IF-1 fibers could also be individually resolved in the VNC
314 and the Orthogon (Video 5-8). These thin fibers, observed with expansion microscopy, further
315 indicate the close association of IF-1⁺ processes with regions of synaptic density.

316 Inhibition of *hh* resulted in complete ablation of IF-1 immunofluorescence signal and no
317 change in expression or localization of Synapsin protein, whereas inhibition of *ptc* caused an
318 increase in IF-1 protein presence in cellular processes observed throughout the animal (Figure
319 4L). The IF-1 protein increase observed in *ptc(RNAi)* animals manifested primarily as an
320 increase in the number of IF-1⁺ processes in contact with orthogonal axon commissures (Figure 4
321 – figure supplement 1B) and at the head rim (Figure 4M). Normally 15.1% of orthogonal axon
322 bundles are associated with IF-1⁺ processes, whereas the percentage decreased to 2.1% following
323 *hh* inhibition and increased to 61.4% following *ptc* inhibition (Figure 4N). In *ptc(RNAi)* animals,

324 no IF-1+ processes deviated from the orthogonal axon network, which appeared normal by
325 Synapsin labeling (Figure 4 – figure supplement 1B). Therefore, IF-1⁺ processes appear adjacent
326 to axon bundles even when *if-1* is ectopically expressed.

327

328 *Inhibition of hh does not result in loss of planarian glia*

329 To determine whether *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells in the neuropil represent a glial subtype that requires
330 constitutive Hh signaling for survival, we examined the persistence of IF-1 protein in *hh(RNAi)*
331 animals. If Hh signaling were required for the survival of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells, then we would expect
332 to see the loss of both *if-1* mRNA and IF-1 protein when the cells die. Conversely, if inhibition
333 of Hh signaling affected transcription of *if-1* but did not impact survival of these cells, then we
334 would expect IF-1 protein to perdure for some time after *if-1* mRNA is lost. We performed a
335 shortened RNAi treatment (3 feedings at 4-day intervals) because IF-1 protein is completely
336 eliminated by full treatment (Figure 4L). In *hh(RNAi)* animals we observed IF-1 protein by
337 immunofluorescence despite the loss of detectable *if-1* FISH signal throughout the neuropil,
338 suggesting that *hh* RNAi impacts *if-1* and *cali* transcription in existing glia over the 12-day
339 period during which we performed RNAi (Figure 5A).

340 To further investigate the role of Hh signaling in glia biology we examined the
341 expression of *gs*, *gat*, *eaat2-1*, and *eaat2-2* in uninjured *hh(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)* animals. Unlike
342 the case for *if-1* and *cali* expression of the other glia markers was still observed throughout the
343 neuropil and was indistinguishable from control animals. Similarly, inhibition of *ptc* had no
344 effect on the expression or localization of *gs*, *gat*, *eaat2-1*, or *eaat2-2* (Figure 5B). We also did
345 not observe a significant change in the total number of *gat*⁺ cells within the neuropil in *hh(RNAi)*
346 and *ptc(RNAi)* animals compared to control animals, although the proportion of the *gat*⁺

347 population that co-expressed *if-1* and *cali* was reduced in *hh(RNAi)* animals (Figure 5C).
348 Conversely, whereas a small proportion of *gat*⁺ glia outside the neuropil expressed *if-1* and *cali*
349 in *control(RNAi)* animals, a large number of *gat*⁺/*if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells were detected outside the
350 neuropil in *ptc(RNAi)* animals despite no significant overall increase in the number of *gat*⁺ cells
351 (Figure 5C). Given that planarian glia outside the neuropil also expressed *ptc*, these data suggest
352 that *if-1* and *cali* were induced in these cells when Hh signaling was activated by *ptc* inhibition.
353 We also examined transcript abundance of glia markers in our RNA-Seq data and found no
354 statistically significant differential expression for *eaat2-1*, *eaat2-2*, *gs*, *gat*, *glut*, and *trpm*
355 following *hh* or *ptc* RNAi (Figure 5 – figure supplement 1). These results indicate that *if-1* and
356 *cali* expression is lost in a population of *gs*⁺ and *gat*⁺ cells when *hh* is inhibited.

357 We next assessed whether planarian glia can be formed during regeneration in *ptc(RNAi)*
358 and *hh(RNAi)* animals. Anterior blastemas of *control(RNAi)* animals after six days of
359 regeneration contained cells expressing planarian glia markers, both inside the forming neuropil
360 and outside. Similar results were observed in *ptc(RNAi)* animals, despite defective head
361 formation (Figure 5 – figure supplement 2). In *hh(RNAi)* animals, expression of *if-1* and *cali* was
362 eliminated, but cells expressing *gat*, *eaat2-1*, and *eaat2-2* were observed throughout the blastema
363 (Figure 5 – figure supplement 2). The presence of these markers in newly formed cells of the
364 blastema suggests that the animal is capable of regenerating glia in the absence of Hh signaling.

365

366 *Hh signaling promotes expression of if-1 and cali in existing glia*

367 The effect of Hh signaling on *if-1* and *cali* expression could occur dynamically in mature glia
368 cells, or could exist only during formation of neuropil glia that subsequently express *if-1* and
369 *cali*. To distinguish between these two possibilities, we examined whether ectopic *if-1* and *cali*

370 expression in *ptc(RNAi)* animals required new cell production. After irradiation, animals can
371 survive for a short time but are unable to produce new cells (Reddien et al., 2005a; Wolff and
372 Dubois, 1948). We exposed animals to 6,000 rads of ionizing radiation and subsequently began
373 RNAi. If ectopic *if-1* and *cali* expression resulting from *ptc* inhibition required new cell
374 production, then we would expect to see no or reduced ectopic *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells outside the
375 neuropil in irradiated *ptc(RNAi)* animals. By contrast, we observed an increase in the number of
376 *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells in *ptc(RNAi)* animals despite irradiation (Figure 6A-C). The number of cells that
377 expressed *if-1* and *cali* in irradiated *ptc(RNAi)* animals was similar to results described above in
378 unirradiated animals (Figure 2H-I). The ectopic *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells outside of the neuropil in
379 irradiated *ptc(RNAi)* animals had branches, indicating that ectopic expression occurred in
380 existing cells with complex morphology (Figure 6B). Furthermore, the total number of *glut⁺* cells
381 outside of the neuropil was similar in *control(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)* irradiated animals, but the
382 proportion of *glut⁺* cells that expressed *if-1* and *cali* was higher following RNAi of *ptc* (Figure
383 6D). This indicates that *ptc* RNAi induced expression of *if-1* and *cali* in existing *glut⁺* cells. *glut⁺*
384 cells were not overtly irradiation sensitive (Figure 6 – figure supplement 1), and therefore are
385 likely mature cells rather than progenitors. These observations indicate that cells with ectopic *if-1*
386 and *cali* expression in *ptc(RNAi)* animals are likely mature planarian glia, and support a model
387 that Hh signaling normally induces expression of *if-1* and *cali* in planarian glia dependent on
388 their proximity to *hh⁺* neurons.
389

390 **Discussion**

391

392 *Evidence for planarian glia*

393 Previous electron microscopy studies had identified candidate planarian glia based on their
394 localization and appearance but did not provide any molecular evidence for their identity
395 (Golubev, 1988; Morita and Best, 1966). We have described here the first molecular and
396 morphological evidence for neuronal support cells in planarians. First, the greatest accumulation
397 of planarian glia expressing orthologs of glia markers is in the neuropil, a region filled with
398 axons (based on α -Tubulin immunofluorescence) and synapses (based on Synapsin
399 immunofluorescence). Second, the cells have branched processes that are closely associated with
400 neurons. These processes extend through the synapse-rich regions of the neuropil, travel along
401 orthogonal commissures of the peripheral nervous system, and encapsulate synaptic glomeruli.
402 Third, these cells express three neurotransmitter transporters. Orthologs of the proteins encoded
403 by planarian *eaat2-1* and *eaat2-2* have known roles in the transport of glutamate from the
404 extracellular environment into the cytoplasm where it is metabolized by orthologs of the enzyme
405 encoded by *glutamine synthetase* (Anderson and Swanson, 2000), another gene expressed in
406 these planarian cells. Glutamate released from the pre-synaptic neuron, if not removed from the
407 synaptic cleft, can continue to activate glutamate receptors on the post-synaptic neuron, resulting
408 in high intracellular levels of calcium and activation of pathways that lead to cellular damage
409 (Manev et al., 1989). Additionally, because of the expression of *gat*, which encodes an ortholog
410 of a GABA transporter, we predict that this cell type is also involved in GABA reuptake. Based
411 upon these data, we propose that these planarian cells uptake the excitotoxic neurotransmitter
412 glutamate from areas near synapses to prevent damage to the nervous system, similar to the

413 function of astrocytes in other animals (Schousboe, 2003). Taking these data together, we
414 propose that these planarian cells are glia. Continued study of the function, morphology, and
415 molecular characteristics of these cells will allow further comparison of similarities and
416 differences between these cells and glia in other organisms. These glia markers are also co-
417 expressed in cells outside the neuropil region, indicating the presence of glia in the nervous
418 system beyond the neuropil of the cephalic ganglia and ventral nerve cords. The specific function
419 of the *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ glia within the neuropil remains to be determined. One hypothesis is that they
420 are specialized to modulate environments of extremely high synaptic density, particularly around
421 synaptic glomeruli that are characteristic of this region of the CNS.

422

423 *Hh signaling regulates gene expression in planarian glia*

424 During homeostasis, constitutive expression of *hh* is required for expression of *if-1* and *cali* in
425 planarian glia in the neuropil. Upon inhibition of *hh*, these cells cease transcription of *if-1* and
426 *cali*. Inhibition of *ptc* results in ectopic *if-1* and *cali* transcription in cells distributed broadly in
427 the animal, likely as a consequence of derepression of the Gli-1 transcription factor. This
428 indicates that cells competent to respond to Hh ligand normally exist outside of the medial CNS.
429 Additionally, the accumulation of *if-1* and *cali* in cells outside the neuropil in lethally irradiated
430 (blocking all new cell production) *ptc(RNAi)* animals demonstrates that Hh signaling induces
431 expression of the two genes in additional existing cells. Our data suggest that ectopic *if-1* and
432 *cali* expression in *ptc(RNAi)* animals occurs in the normally *if-1*/*cali*⁻ planarian glia outside the
433 neuropil (Figure 7). We currently do not have evidence supporting or rejecting the presence of
434 multiple planarian glia cell types. It will be of interest to further investigate these possibilities by

435 examining the function of planarian glia responsive to Hh signaling as well as planarian glia
436 outside of the neuropil that do not express *if-1* or *cali* in *ptc(RNAi)* animals.

437 The ability of Hh signaling to modulate function in glia has been described in vertebrates.
438 In reactive astrogliosis, the mammalian CNS response to injury, SHH is one of the inductive
439 signals that induces expression of the intermediate filament GFAP (Sirko et al., 2013). Increased
440 levels of GFAP protein result in an increase in cell size, which is necessary for the formation of
441 an astrocytic scar at the wound site (Wilhelmsson et al., 2004). Although the function of this
442 regulation has differences, the regulation of intermediate filament proteins by Hh signaling in
443 glia is another striking commonality between planarians and vertebrates. Additionally, SHH
444 secreted from neurons has been reported to regulate distinct subpopulations of mammalian
445 astrocytes (Farmer et al., 2016; Garcia et al., 2010). Although the genes regulated by Hh
446 signaling in these glial populations is different, the ability for neurons to instruct astrocyte
447 expression profiles in mammals is a strikingly similar feature to what we observe in planarians
448 (Farmer et al., 2016).

449

450 *Ancestral roles of Hh signaling in CNS development*

451 Hh signaling plays a critical role in vertebrate CNS pattern formation but a seemingly less direct
452 role in *Drosophila*. SHH expression in the vertebrate floor plate establishes distinct domains of
453 transcription factor expression in the ventral neural tube. These domains first give rise to neurons
454 and then, at later stages of development, glia (Dessaud et al., 2008; Yu et al., 2013). The dorsal-
455 ventral distribution of transcription factors in the developing CNS of *Drosophila* and the
456 Lophotrochozoan *Platynereis dumerilii* bear a resemblance to the distribution of orthologous
457 transcription factors in the vertebrate neural tube (Cornell and Ohlen, 2000; Denes et al., 2007).

458 Hh, however, appears to play a role in the anterior-posterior patterning of *Drosophila* neuroblasts
459 rather than dorsal-ventral patterning (Bhat, 1999). Similarly, in *Platynereis*, a role for Hh in
460 segment patterning has been identified, but no effect of pathway perturbation on the dorsal-
461 ventral (medial-lateral) arrangement of CNS progenitor domains was described (Denes et al.,
462 2007).

463 Here, we also find that regionalized expression in the cephalic ganglia of several
464 orthologs of Hh-responsive vertebrate neural tube transcription factors appear unaffected by Hh
465 signaling in uninjured planarians. This is consistent with the possibility that Hh signaling was co-
466 opted into a dorsal-ventral patterning role in the nervous system in the deuterostome lineage. The
467 lack of head formation in *ptc(RNAi)* animals is a challenge for investigating head patterning in
468 regenerating planarians, and further research into the neuronal progenitor pool in head blastemas
469 following Hh pathway perturbation will be of interest for continuing to assess whether any role
470 of Hh signaling exists in planarian nervous system patterning.

471 The floor plate, which is induced by SHH secreted from the notochord, serves as a
472 mediator of axonal midline crossing through the secretion of axon guidance cues (Colamarino
473 and Tessier-Lavigne, 1995). SHH continues its involvement in neural patterning by acting as a
474 chemoattractant and by mediating cellular responses to other guidance cues (Parra and Zou,
475 2010). The *Drosophila* midline glia are considered to be an analogous structure to the vertebrate
476 floor plate because of similar gene expression and roles in controlling midline crossing (Evans
477 and Bashaw, 2010). Hh in *Drosophila* is required for the decision to form posterior midline glia,
478 the function for which is still not fully understood, instead of anterior midline glia, which
479 develop into ensheathing glia in the *Drosophila* neuropil (Watson et al., 2011). A shared function

480 of Hh signaling among Deuterostomes, Ecdysozoans, and Lophotrochozoans therefore appears to
481 be in the control of glia near the midline.

482

483 *Implications of molecular evidence for planarian glial cells*

484 Planarians are an ideal model for the study of regeneration because of their nearly unrivaled
485 regenerative ability, their ease of culture, and the molecular tools developed for rapid study of
486 gene function. The role of glia in regeneration has been investigated in vertebrates, where glia
487 proliferate in response to brain injury, and in insects, where surface glia can reform the blood-
488 brain barrier (Sofroniew, 2009; Treherne et al., 1984). Interestingly, astrocytic scars appear to
489 counteract neural regeneration by blocking the extension of axons into the damaged region
490 (Silver and Miller, 2004). Whether planarian glia actively participate in repatterning the nervous
491 system after injury is an interesting topic to explore, possibly leading to studies on both
492 mechanisms of glia-neuron interaction and glial roles in neural network connectivity. If, on the
493 other hand, planarian glia passively extend their processes into existing neural architecture, then
494 the mechanisms that guide glial cell development and migration could be studied instead. Several
495 lines of evidence support the second hypothesis: IF-1⁺ processes are not seen deviating from
496 axonal tracts and perturbations affecting gene regulation in planarian glia do not result in
497 observable disruption to the neural network.

498 The work we present here opens the field to a number of opportunities for continued
499 research. Glia are now gaining recognition as an active player in nervous system development,
500 function, and regeneration (Freeman and Rowitch, 2013; Perea and Araque, 2010; Robel et al.,
501 2011). Further characterization of planarian glia, especially their developmental origin, will
502 provide insight into the long-standing question of whether invertebrate and vertebrate glia share

503 a common origin (Hartline, 2011). Planarians are a tractable model organism that will be
504 amenable to the study of glia in a highly regenerative member of the understudied
505 Lophotrochozoan superphylum. We conclude that planarians possess glia and that the state of
506 these cells localized within the CNS neuropil is regulated by midline Hh signaling.

507 **Materials and Methods**

508

509 *Planarian Culture*

510 Animals were maintained in 1x Montjuic planarian water at 20°C as previously described
511 (Sánchez Alvarado et al., 2002). S2F1L3F2 sexual animals were used in dissection experiments
512 and CIW4 asexual animals were used in all other experiments.

513

514 *Molecular Biology*

515 cDNA libraries of CIW4 planarian multi-stage total RNA were synthesized using SuperScript III
516 (Invitrogen). DNA fragments were amplified from cDNA with primers designed for Dresden
517 Transcriptome Assembly sequences (Liu et al., 2013) and cloned into pGEM (Promega). For
518 RNAi constructs, inserts were amplified from pGEM constructs and introduced using BP clonase
519 (Invitrogen) into a Gateway vector containing flanking LacZ inducible promoters. Full-length
520 sequences for *if-1* and *cali* were obtained with 5' and 3' RACE (Ambion).

521

522 *RNA Interference*

523 300ml of bacterial culture expressing dsRNA was pelleted and mixed with 1ml of 70% liver in
524 planarian water as previously described (Reddien et al., 2005a). Asexual animals were fed 6
525 times at four-day intervals unless otherwise noted. Sexual animals were fed 12 times at four-day
526 intervals. A gene not present in the planarian genome, *unc-22*, was used as a control in each
527 RNAi experiment.

528

529 *Dissection*

530 After four days of starvation, the animals were immersed in a 0.33N HCl solution for 30
531 seconds, washed once in PBS, washed once in PBS + 1% BSA, and immobilized dorsal-side up
532 on a silicon elastomer pad with insect pins. One longitudinal incision and one lateral incision
533 were made through the dorsal epidermis near the base of the pharynx. The epidermis was peeled
534 away to expose the pharynx and a layer of gut tissue overlying the CNS. Collected tissue was
535 placed immediately in Trizol Reagent (Invitrogen) and stored at -80C until all samples were
536 processed.

537

538 *mRNA-Seq Analysis*

539 cDNA libraries were generated with 1.0ug total RNA from head fragments and 0.2ug total RNA
540 from dissected CNS samples using TruSeq RNA Library Preparation Kits v2 (Illumina).
541 Libraries were prepared in duplicate with different index and sequenced Illumina HiSeq 2500.
542 After read quality was assessed by FASTQC (RRID:SCR_005539), reads were mapped to the
543 Dresden *S. mediterranea* Transcriptome Assembly (Liu et al., 2013) using Bowtie2
544 (RRID:SCR_005476) with the best single alignment reported and five bases trimmed from the 5'
545 end to avoid misalignments due to index sequence contamination (Langmead and Salzberg,
546 2012). Read counts were determined from alignment data with Samtools (RRID:SCR_002105)
547 (Li et al., 2009) and differential expression analysis was conducted with the DESeq2 R package
548 (RRID:SCR_000154) (Love et al., 2014). Contigs with fewer than 100 reads per kilobase per
549 million reads (RPKM) on average per condition were removed from further analysis to eliminate
550 false positives, unless otherwise noted.

551

552 *Phylogenetic Analysis*

553 Gene families were predicted for each glial marker by BLASTX similarity with characterized
554 human proteins and Interpro: Protein Sequence Analysis & Characterization
555 (RRID:SCR_006695) (Jones et al., 2014). Amino acid sequences of family members from *Homo*
556 *sapiens*, *Danio rerio*, *Drosophila melanogaster*, and *Caenorhabditis elegans* as well as
557 hypothetical protein sequences from representative Deuterostome, Protostome, and Radiata
558 species identified by BLASTX (RRID:SCR_001653) were aligned using MUSCLE
559 (RRID:SCR_011812) with default parameters (Kuo and Weisblat, 2011). Poorly aligned
560 segments were eliminated using GBlocks (Castresana, 2000). Phylogenetic trees were
561 constructed using maximum likelihood analyses (PhyML) with the WAG amino acid substitution
562 model and 1,000 bootstrap replicates (Guindon et al., 2010). Resulting trees were visualized as
563 cladograms using FigTree (RRID:SCR_008515).

564

565 *RNA in situ Hybridization and Immunofluorescence*

566 RNA probes were synthesized with digoxigenin (Roche), fluorescein (Roche), or dinitrophenol
567 nucleotides (PerkinElmer). For whole-mount *in situ* hybridization (WISH) and fluorescent *in situ*
568 hybridization (FISH), animals were fixed in 4% formaldehyde according to published protocols
569 (Pearson et al., 2009; Scimone et al., 2016). FISH protocols were followed as previously
570 described using RNA probe dilutions at 1:1000, anti-digoxigenin peroxidase
571 (RRID:AB_840257) at 1:500, anti-fluorescein peroxidase (RRID:AB_840257) at 1:300, and
572 anti-dinitrophenol peroxidase at 1:100 (Pearson et al., 2009).

573 Rabbit polyclonal antibodies for IF-1 protein were raised against peptides with amino
574 acid sequence “TENNQIENSKEKTVC” (GenScript). For immunofluorescence, animals were
575 fixed in Carnoy’s fixative and stained as previously described (Newmark and Sanchez Alvarado,

576 2000; Wenemoser and Reddien, 2010). Anti-IF-1 antibody was used at 0.4ug/ml, anti-Synapsin
577 antibody (Anti-SYNORF1, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, RRID:AB_528479) at
578 1:1000, and anti- α -tubulin (DM1A, NeoMarkers, RRID:AB_144072) at 1:1000, and were
579 developed with tyramide signal amplification (Invitrogen).

580 To detect nuclei, animals were stained in DAPI overnight prior to mounting in
581 VectaShield (Vector Labs). Samples were imaged by confocal microscopy (Zeiss LSM 700) and
582 processed with Fiji/ImageJ (RRID:SCR_002285) (Schindelin et al., 2012). Cell counts for
583 neuropil regions were normalized to cross-sectional area of the cephalic ganglia lobes. Cell
584 counts for heads excluding the neuropil region were normalized to the cross-sectional area of the
585 head.

586

587 *RNA Probe Specificity*

588 RNA probe specificity for a target gene was determined by performing whole-mount *in situ*
589 hybridization on animals following inhibition of the gene. Animals were fed one to four times
590 with bacteria expressing dsRNA for a control gene or the target gene. After the last feeding, the
591 animals were given five days to clear the intestine of lingering RNAi food prior to fixation.

592

593 *Expansion Microscopy*

594 Protein-retention expansion microscopy was performed according to published protocols
595 (Tillberg et al., 2016) with minor adaptations for use with planarian tissue. Briefly, animals fixed
596 with Carnoy's fixative and developed with tyramide signal amplification were treated overnight
597 in 100ug/ml acryloyl-X, SE (ThermoFisher) in PBS at room temperature. Animals were
598 subsequently embedded in polyelectrolyte gel and digested with 200ug/ml Proteinase K

599 (Ambion) overnight at room temperature. Following multiple washes in water, animals achieved
600 >4-fold expansion along each axis. Samples were imaged by confocal microscopy (Leica SP8)
601 with a 25x water immersion objective and processed with Imaris 8.3 (BitPlane,
602 RRID:SCR_007370).

603

604 *Irradiation*

605 Animals were exposed to 6,000 rads of ionizing radiation (GammaCell) to ablate all dividing
606 cells as previously described (Wagner et al., 2011). Treated animals were subsequently fed
607 dsRNA-expressing bacteria three times at d0, d4, and d8. Animals were fixed immediately after
608 onset of anterior regression at d11.

609

610

611 **Acknowledgements**

612 We would like to thank E. S. Boyden for protein-retention expansion microscopy protocols, O.
613 Wurtzel, J. van Wolfswinkel, and K. Kravarik for support with RNA sequencing data analysis,
614 M. Srivastava for support with phylogenetic analysis, L. E. Cote for assistance with GEO, and
615 members of the Reddien lab for comments and suggestions. We acknowledge NIH
616 (R01GM080639) support. P.W.R. is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and an
617 associate member of the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT.

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1020 **Figure 1. Perturbation of Hh signaling affects gene expression in the cephalic ganglia**
1021 **(A-B)** Double fluorescent RNA *in situ* hybridization (FISH) for *hh* (magenta) and neuronal
1022 markers (A) *pc2* or (B) *chat* (green) in wild type animals. Main panels show cephalic ganglia.
1023 Lower panels show high magnification images of, from left to right, *hh* (magenta), *pc2* or *chat*
1024 (green), DAPI (gray), and merged channels from a representative double positive neuron. **(C)**
1025 Excision of cephalic ganglia tissue from acid-killed animals for RNA isolation. Left panel shows
1026 incision in dorsal epidermis. Middle panel shows detail of boxed region in left panel after
1027 removal of dorsal epidermis. Right panel shows detail of boxed region in middle panel after
1028 removal of gut tissue overlying the cephalic ganglia and ventral nerve cords. Abbreviations: inc,
1029 incision; gut, gut branches; phx, pharynx; CG, cephalic ganglia; VNC, ventral nerve cords. See
1030 methods for dissection protocol. **(D)** Representative image of amputation used to collect tissue
1031 for generating the head fragment Illumina libraries. Circle indicates portion of animal taken for
1032 RNA isolation. **(E)** Bar graph depicting \log_2 fold enrichment of selected markers in cephalic
1033 ganglia transcriptome over head fragment transcriptome. Experimentally-verified neural markers
1034 and non-neural markers identified by brackets. Average \log_2 fold enrichment of all 7 CNS genes
1035 listed in Figure 1 – source data 2 in cephalic ganglia transcriptome is 2.57. Average \log_2 fold
1036 depletion of all 22 non-CNS genes listed in Figure 1 – source data 2 in cephalic ganglia
1037 transcriptome is 1.22. Statistically significant \log_2 fold change indicated by asterisks ($*p_{\text{adj}} \leq$
1038 0.05 , $**p_{\text{adj}} \leq 0.001$). For a list of all analyzed genes, see Figure 1 – source data 1. **(F)** Bar graph
1039 depicting \log_2 fold enrichment of transcript expression level in cephalic ganglia tissue of
1040 *hh(RNAi)* animals (blue bars) or *ptc(RNAi)* animals (red bars) over cephalic ganglia tissue from
1041 *control(RNAi)* animals. **(G)** Intersection of CNS-enriched genes ($n = 2,237$) and Hh-dependent
1042 genes ($n = 30$) reveals 7 CNS genes misregulated following Hh pathway perturbation. Bar graph

1043 shows CNS enrichment (green bar) and relative expression following RNAi of *hh* (blue bar) or
1044 *ptc* (red bar) for *if-1* and *cali* (* $p_{\text{adj}} \leq 0.05$, ** $p_{\text{adj}} \leq 0.01$). **(H-I)** WISH for (H) *if-1* and (I) *cali*.
1045 Dorsal surface shown on left, ventral surface shown on right. Anterior up, maximum intensity
1046 projection of ventral domain shown for A, B. Anterior up for H, I. Scale bars: 50um for
1047 overviews, 10um for insets for A, B; 500um for H, I.

1048 **Figure 2. Expression of *if-1* and *cali* in neuropil cells is dependent on Hh signaling**

1049 **(A)** Double FISH for *if-1* (green) and *cali* (magenta) in wild type animals. Cells co-expressing

1050 both markers are located in the cell-body sparse neuropil of the cephalic ganglia and ventral

1051 nerve cords. Cell body-rich cortical region is labeled by DAPI (blue). Yellow letters indicate

1052 regions detailed in E-F. **(B)** Double FISH for *if-1* and *cali* in cephalic ganglia neuropil. **(C)**

1053 Double FISH for *if-1/cal*i (magenta) and *ptc* (green) indicates co-expression of the genes. Probes

1054 for *if-1* and *cali* were combined into a single channel (denoted *if-1/cal*i) to improve coverage and

1055 signal intensity. $97.8 \pm 2.1\%$ of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells in the neuropil and 100% of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells

1056 outside the neuropil expressed *ptc*. **(D)** Double FISH for *if-1/cal*i (magenta) and *hh* (green)

1057 indicates lack of co-expression. **(E-G)** Single *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells in the (E) cephalic ganglion

1058 neuropil, (F) ventral nerve cord, and (G) head rim. **(H)** Double FISH for *if-1* (green) and *cali*

1059 (magenta) in animals following inhibition of a control gene, *hh*, or *ptc*. White dotted line

1060 delineates edge of animal. **(I)** Quantification of results from (E), with distribution of *if-1*⁺ only

1061 cells (green), *cali*⁺ only cells (magenta), and *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells (white). Within the neuropil, cells

1062 expressing one or both markers are present at 2135.6 ± 265.8 cells/mm² in *control(RNAi)*

1063 conditions (n = 5 animals), 169.3 ± 118.6 cells/mm² in *hh(RNAi)* conditions (n = 4 animals), and

1064 3354.0 ± 249.5 cells/mm² in *ptc(RNAi)* conditions (n = 5 animals). Differences were significant in

1065 both *hh* RNAi and *ptc* RNAi (**p < 0.001, two-tailed t test). In the head not including the

1066 neuropil region, cells expressing one or both markers are present at 64.4 ± 16.6 cells/mm² in

1067 *control(RNAi)* conditions (n = 5 animals), 1.5 ± 2.9 cells/mm² in *hh(RNAi)* conditions (n = 4

1068 animals), and 465.4 ± 68.7 cells/mm² in *ptc(RNAi)* conditions (n = 5 animals). Differences were

1069 significant in both *hh* RNAi and *ptc* RNAi (**p < 0.001, two-tailed t test). Anterior up, ventral

1070 surface shown for A-D, H. Scale bars: 100um for A-D, H; 10um for E-G.

1071 **Figure 3. *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells express neurotransmitter reuptake and metabolism genes**
1072 **(A-N)** Schematic indicates region of focus. **(A-H)** Double FISH of *if-1/cal*i (magenta) and neural
1073 markers (A) *pc2*, (B) *chat*, (C) *syn*, (D) *syt1-1*, (E) *syt1-2*, (F) *syng*r, (G) *SNAP25*, and (H) *unc-*
1074 *13* (green). No co-expression observed between neural markers and *if-1* and *cali*. **(I-N)** Double
1075 FISH of *if-1/cal*i (magenta) with astrocyte markers (I) *gs*, (J) *eaat2-1*, (K) *eaat2-2*, (L) *gat*, (M)
1076 *glut*, and (N) *trpm* (green). Lower panels show high magnification images of, from left to right,
1077 *if-1/cal*i (magenta), astrocyte marker (green), DAPI (blue), and merged channels from a
1078 representative double positive cell. **(O-W)** Schematic indicates region of focus. Images show one
1079 hemisphere of the cephalic ganglia and the lateral parenchymal space. White dotted line
1080 delineates edge of animal. Yellow dotted line delineates borders of the neuropil. **(O-S)** Double
1081 FISH of *gs* (magenta) with (O) *gat*, (P) *eaat2-1*, (Q) *eaat2-2*, (R) *glut*, and (S) *trpm* (green).
1082 98.7±1.4% of *glut*⁺ cells in the neuropil and 99.7±0.7% of *glut*⁺ cells outside the neuropil
1083 expressed *gs*. 96.8±4.6% of *trpm*⁺ cells in the neuropil and 93.8±4.5% of *trpm*⁺ cells outside the
1084 neuropil expressed *gs*. Arrowheads denote double positive cells. Lower panels show high
1085 magnification images of, from left to right, *gs* (magenta), astrocyte marker (green), DAPI (blue),
1086 and merged channels from a representative double positive cell. **(T-U)** Double FISH of *ptc*
1087 (green) with (T) *gs* and (U) *glut* (magenta). 99.3±0.7% of *glut*⁺ cells in the neuropil and
1088 90.4±4.5% of *glut*⁺ cells outside the neuropil expressed *ptc*. Arrowheads denote double positive
1089 cells. Lower panels show high magnification images of, from left to right, *gs* or *glut* (magenta),
1090 *ptc* (green), DAPI (blue), and merged channels from a representative double positive cell. **(V-W)**
1091 Double FISH of *pc2* (green) with (V) *gs* and (W) *eaat2-1* (magenta). No double positive cells
1092 observed in both cases. Anterior up, ventral surface shown for all. Maximum intensity

1093 projections shown for I-N. Scale bars: 100um for overviews, 10um for insets for A-N; 50um for
1094 overviews, 10um for insets for O-W.

1095 **Figure 4. *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells have processes that closely associate with neurons**

1096 **(A)** Whole-mount immunofluorescence for IF-1 protein (magenta) in wild type untreated

1097 animals. **(B)** Maximum intensity projection of IF-1 localization (magenta) in the cephalic

1098 ganglia. Depicted region is indicated by top dotted box in panel A. **(C)** IF-1 localization

1099 (magenta) in the cephalic ganglion neuropil. Depicted region is indicated by dotted box in panel

1100 B. **(D)** IF-1 localization in the lateral ventral parenchyma. Depicted region is indicated by middle

1101 dotted box in panel A. **(E)** IF-1 localization in the ventral nerve cord. Depicted region is

1102 indicated by bottom dotted box in panel A. **(F-G)** Immunofluorescence of IF-1 (magenta) and α -

1103 tubulin (green) in (F) the head and (G) the lateral ventral parenchyma of wild type untreated

1104 animals. **(H-I)** Immunofluorescence of IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) in (H) the head and

1105 (I) the ventral nerve cord of wild type untreated animals. **(J-K)** 3D renderings of confocal stacks

1106 of (J) a synaptic glomerulus in the ventral nerve cord or (K) an orthogonal branch labeled with

1107 IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green). Image on left is Synapsin only and image on right is

1108 Synapsin and IF-1. **(L)** Immunofluorescence of IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) following

1109 inhibition of *hh*, *ptc*, or a control gene. **(M)** Detail of immunofluorescence of IF-1 (magenta) and

1110 Synapsin (green) in the head rim of animals following inhibition of control gene or *ptc*. Dotted

1111 box in top row refers to corresponding image in bottom row. **(N)** Quantification of *hh(RNAi)* and

1112 *ptc(RNAi)* phenotypes based on percentage of orthogonal axon bundles in contact with IF-1⁺

1113 processes. In *control(RNAi)* animals, 15.1±5.1% of orthogonal axon bundles contained IF-1⁺

1114 processes (n = 5 animals). In *hh(RNAi)* animals, 2.1±2.8% of orthogonal axon bundles contained

1115 IF-1⁺ processes (n = 5 animals). In *ptc(RNAi)* animals, 61.4±7.8% of orthogonal axon bundles

1116 contained IF-1⁺ processes (n = 4 animals). Difference between both *hh* RNAi and *ptc* RNAi vs

1117 control were statistically significant (**p < 0.001, two-tailed t test). Anterior up, ventral surface

1118 shown for all. Scale bars: 100um for A, B, F, H, L, top row of M; 10um for C, D, E, G, I, J, K,
1119 bottom row of M.

1120 **Figure 5. *hh* inhibition does not ablate planarian glia**

1121 **(A)** FISH of *if-1/cali* (magenta) and immunofluorescence of IF-1 (green) in animals following

1122 reduced RNAi treatment (fed d0, d4, d8, fixed d12) of control gene, *hh*, or *ptc*. **(B)** Double FISH

1123 for *if-1/cali* (magenta) with *gs* (first row), *gat* (second row), *eaat2-1* (third row), or *eaat2-2*

1124 (fourth row) (green) following inhibition of a control gene (first column), *hh* (second column), or

1125 *ptc* (third column). **(C)** Stacked bar graph of number of cells per square millimeter of cephalic

1126 ganglia inside the neuropil (left) and number of cells per square millimeter of head outside the

1127 neuropil (right) expressing *gat* following inhibition of a control gene, *hh*, or *ptc*. Bar sections

1128 denote ratio of *if-1⁺/cali⁺* subpopulation (white) to *if-1⁻/cali⁻* subpopulation (green). Statistical

1129 significance indicated by labels (n.s., not significant, *** $p \leq 0.0001$, two-tailed t test). Anterior

1130 up, ventral surface shown for A-B. Scale bars: 100um for A-B.

1131 **Figure 6. Hh signaling is required for *if-1* and *cali* expression in planarian glia**
1132 **(A)** FISH of *if-1/cali* (magenta) and *glut* (green) in animals following lethal irradiation and
1133 subsequent RNAi treatment (irradiated d0, fed d0, d4, d8, fixed d11). Yellow boxed area
1134 indicates region detailed in B. **(B)** Detail *if-1⁺/cali⁺/glut⁺* cells in head region lateral to cephalic
1135 ganglia in *ptc(RNAi)* animal. **(C)** Quantification of *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells in irradiated control(*RNAi*),
1136 *hh(RNAi)*, and *ptc(RNAi)* animals from (A). *Control(RNAi)* animals had 1730.29±274.57
1137 cells/mm² inside and 63.51±33.93 cells/mm² outside the neuropil (n = 8 animals). *hh(RNAi)*
1138 animals had 758.51±160.33 cells/mm² inside and 15.02±9.10 cells/mm² outside the neuropil (n =
1139 8 animals). *ptc(RNAi)* animals had 1888.48±206.34 cells/mm² inside and 293.20±46.69
1140 cells/mm² outside the neuropil (n = 9 animals). Differences between *control(RNAi)* and
1141 *hh(RNAi)* animals (*p < 0.05, two-tailed t test), and between *control(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)*
1142 animals (***p < 0.0001, two-tailed t test) are significant. **(D)** Stacked bar graph of number of
1143 cells per square millimeter of cephalic ganglia inside the neuropil (left) and number of cells per
1144 square millimeter of head outside the neuropil (right) expressing *glut* following inhibition of a
1145 control gene, *hh*, or *ptc*. Bar sections denote ratio of *if-1⁺/cali⁺* subpopulation (white) to *if-1⁻/cali⁻*
1146 subpopulation (green). Statistical significance indicated by labels (n.s., not significant, *p ≤ 0.05,
1147 ***p ≤ 0.0001, two-tailed t test). Anterior up, ventral surface shown for all. Scale bars: 100um for
1148 A, 20um for B.

1149 **Figure 7. Model for role of the Hh signaling pathway in regulation of planarian glia**
1150 Planarian glia are localized to the neuropil or distributed throughout the body. *if-1* and *cali*
1151 expression is normally repressed in these cells by high Ptc activity. A subset of these cells,
1152 however, is adjacent to Hh-secreting neurons in the medial cortex and express *if-1* and *cali*
1153 because of inhibition of Ptc. Upon global inhibition of *hh* by RNAi, Ptc remains high in all cells
1154 and *if-1* and *cali* are repressed in all glia. Upon global inhibition of *ptc* by RNAi, expression of
1155 *if-1* and *cali* is derepressed in all glia.

1156 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 1. Analysis of RNA-seq libraries**

1157 **(A)** Volcano plot of differential expression between head fragment transcriptome and cephalic
1158 ganglia transcriptome. Dots represent the magnitude of differential expression versus the
1159 significance for each gene with an average RPKM over 100. Horizontal dotted line indicates
1160 significance cutoff and vertical lines indicate differential expression magnitude cutoff. Number
1161 of genes significantly enriched (purple dots) or depleted (blue dots) in cephalic ganglia tissue
1162 listed in the upper right and left corners, respectively. **(B)** Column scatter plot of differential
1163 expression of neural markers between conditions. Each dot represents one neural marker. Solid
1164 red line indicates mean \log_2 fold change of all analyzed neural markers for each condition.

1165 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 2. Hh signaling pathway perturbation does not affect regional**
1166 **expression of transcription factors in the central nervous system**

1167 FISH of orthologs of vertebrate CNS development transcription factors following perturbation of
1168 Hh signaling pathway components. Schematic indicates region of the animal displayed in
1169 images. Inhibition of *hh* (center column) or *ptc* (right column) shows no change in expression
1170 pattern of *nkx2* (top row), *nkx6* (middle row), or *pax6b* (bottom row) from controls (left column).
1171 Anterior up, maximum intensity projection of ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 100um for all.
1172

1173 **Figure 1 – figure supplement 3. Maximum likelihood cladogram for cytoplasmic**
1174 **intermediate filaments**
1175 *S. mediterranea* IF-1 clusters with Protostome cytoplasmic intermediate filaments, which
1176 diverged prior to the vertebrate radiation of multiple intermediate filament types. Nuclear
1177 intermediate filament proteins were used as an outgroup to root the tree. Bootstrap values listed
1178 at branch junctions. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in the analysis listed in Figure
1179 1 – source data 4.

1180 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 1. *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells are found in multiple regions**

1181 **(A)** The neuropil of the planarian CNS revealed by DAPI and FISH for *pc2*. The neuropil is the

1182 cell body-sparse region surrounded by neurons and extends from the cephalic ganglia through

1183 the ventral nerve cords (left). Neuropil boundaries (yellow dashed line) in cephalic ganglia

1184 images (center) were based on the borders between DAPI-dense regions and DAPI-sparse

1185 regions. Neuropil boundaries can also be resolved in this fashion in the ventral nerve cords

1186 (right). Cells within the CNS not entirely surrounded by other cells (i.e. adjacent to the cell body-

1187 sparse area) were considered part of the neuropil. **(B-C)** Double FISH for *if-1* (magenta) and *cali*

1188 (green) in animals following inhibition of control gene or *ptc*. Images show detail of (B) the tail

1189 region between the ventral nerve cords and (C) the head rim region. **(D)** FISH for *if-1/cal*

1190 (green) in d6 anterior blastemas following inhibition of control gene, *hh*, or *ptc*. Images of

1191 anterior blastemas show accumulation of *if-1*⁺/*cali*⁺ cells during regeneration. Images of

1192 pharyngeal region show presentation of *hh* or *ptc* phenotype. Nuclei labeled with DAPI (blue).

1193 Anterior up, ventral surface shown for all. Scale bars: 100um for A and D; 50um for B and C.

1194 **Figure 2 – figure supplement 2. *if-1* and *cali* expression following inhibition of gli**
1195 **transcription factors**
1196 FISH for *if-1/cali* (magenta) in animals following inhibition of control gene, *gli-1*, *gli-2*, or *gli-3*.
1197 Nuclei labeled with DAPI (blue). Anterior up, ventral surface shown for all. Scale bars: 100um
1198 for all.

1199 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 1. *if-1* and *cali* expression does not overlap with neuronal**
1200 **marker expression**

1201 **(A-B)** Double FISH for *if-1/cali* and (A) *pc2* or (B) *syn*. Each row shows high magnification
1202 images of, from left to right, *if-1/cali* (magenta), the *pc2* or *syn* (green), DAPI (blue), and merged
1203 channels from a representative cell cluster. **(C)** Double FISH for *if-1/cali* and other described
1204 neuronal markers in wild type untreated animals. See Figure 1 – source data 1 for more
1205 information of neural markers used in co-expression studies. Anterior up, ventral surface shown
1206 for C. Scale bars: 10um for A, B; 100um for C.

1207 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 2. Expression patterns of markers for *if-1⁺/cali⁺* cells**
1208 **(A-F)** WISH for (A) *gs*, (B) *eaat2-1*, (C) *eaat2-2*, (D) *gat*, (E) *glut*, and (F) *trpm*. Black
1209 arrowheads indicate light staining. **(G)** *gs(RNAi)* animals display reduced *gs* expression in the
1210 CNS compared to control animals (n = 4/4). **(H)** *gat(RNAi)* animals display slightly reduced *gat*
1211 expression in the CNS compared to control animals (n = 4/5). **(I)** *eaat2-1(RNAi)* animals display
1212 reduced *eaat2-1* expression in the CNS compared to control animals (n = 9/9). **(J)** *eaat2-2(RNAi)*
1213 animals display reduced *eaat2-2* expression in the CNS compared to control animals (n = 6/6).
1214 Anterior up, ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 500um.

1215 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 3. Maximum likelihood cladogram for excitatory amino acid**
1216 **transporters**

1217 *S. mediterranea* EAAT2-1 and EAAT2-2 fall within the excitatory amino acid transporter 2
1218 clade. Neutral amino acid transporter proteins SLC1A5 and SLC1A6 were used as an outgroup
1219 to root the tree. Topology of vertebrate excitatory amino acid transporters roughly recapitulates
1220 previous results (Gesemann et al., 2010). Bootstrap support values listed at branch junctions.

1221 Accession numbers of protein sequences used in the analysis listed in Figure 3 – source data 2.

1222 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 4. Maximum likelihood cladogram for GABA transporters**
1223 *S. mediterranea* GAT is placed with other Protostome GABA transporters, which have diverged
1224 from the vertebrate branch that includes GAT-2, GAT-3, CT1, and TAUT. Dopamine transporter
1225 DAT1 was used as an outgroup to root the tree. Topology roughly recapitulates previous results
1226 (Kinjo et al., 2013). Bootstrap support values listed at branch junctions. Accession numbers of
1227 protein sequences used in the analysis listed in Figure 3 – source data 3.

1228 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 5. Maximum likelihood cladogram for glucose transporters**
1229 *S. mediterranea* GLUT clusters with other Lophotrochozoan glucose transporters, which
1230 diverged prior to the vertebrate glucose transporter radiation. Fructose transporter GLUT5 was
1231 used as an outgroup to root the tree. Bootstrap support values listed at branch junctions.
1232 Accession numbers of protein sequences used in the analysis listed in Figure 3 – source data 4.

1233 **Figure 3 – figure supplement 6. Maximum likelihood cladogram for transient receptor**
1234 **potential channels**
1235 *S. mediterranea* TRPM falls outside the cluster of other TRPM proteins but apart from the
1236 nearest subfamily, TRPC. Maximum likelihood tree of transient receptor potential channels
1237 constructed by PhyML with 1,000 bootstrap replicates. Mucolipins were used as an outgroup to
1238 root the tree. Topology roughly recapitulates previous results (Matsuura et al., 2009). Bootstrap
1239 support values listed at branch junctions. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in the
1240 analysis listed in Figure 3 – source data 5.

1241 **Figure 4 – figure supplement 1. IF-1 protein accumulates in *ptc(RNAi)* animals**
1242 **(A)** Immunofluorescence of IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) in animals following inhibition
1243 of control gene, *if-1*, or *cali*. **(B)** Detail of immunofluorescence of IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin
1244 (green) in lateral ventral parenchyma of the trunk following inhibition of control gene or *ptc*.
1245 Anterior up, ventral surface shown for all. Scale bars: 100um for A; 20um for B.

1246 **Figure 4 – figure supplement 2. IF-1 protein-containing processes associate with Synapsin⁺**
1247 **clusters**

1248 Overview of the (A) CNS, (B) VNC and flank, and (C) region between the VNCs, and detail of a
1249 (D) synaptic glomeruli, (E) Orthogon branch, and (F) head rim from an animal stained for IF-1
1250 (magenta) and Synapsin (green). Schematics in left-most column indicate region of the animal
1251 displayed in images. Each row represents four planes of a single confocal stack. Relative depth
1252 is indicated in the top right corner of each frame. Anterior up, ventral surface shown for all.
1253 Scale bars: 20um for all.

1254 **Figure 5 – figure supplement 1. Glial marker expression levels in RNA-seq datasets**
1255 Comparison of gene expression levels from cephalic ganglia tissue samples following inhibition
1256 of *hh* or *ptc*. Differential expression magnitudes are statistically significant for *if-1* and *cali* only
1257 (* $p_{\text{adj}} \leq 0.05$, ** $p_{\text{adj}} \leq 0.01$).

1258 **Figure 5 – figure supplement 2. Expression of glial markers in anterior blastemas**
1259 Double FISH for *if-1* and *cali* (magenta) and *gat* (green) or triple FISH for *if-1* and *cali*
1260 (magenta), *eaat2-1* (blue), and *eaat2-2* (green) in d6 anterior blastemas of trunks following
1261 inhibition of a control gene (left column), *hh* (middle column), or *ptc* (right column). White
1262 dotted line delineates edge of animal. Yellow dotted line delineates approximate amputation
1263 plane. Anterior up, ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 100um.

1264 **Figure 6 – figure supplement 1. Expression of glut is not affected by lethal irradiation**
1265 FISH for *glut* (green) in untreated animals (left) and in *control(RNAi)* animals following lethal
1266 irradiation (right). Images are maximum intensity projections of confocal stacks. Anterior up.
1267 Scale bars: 100um.

1268 **Figure 1 – source data 1. Neuronal markers used in RNA-seq analysis and co-expression**
1269 **studies**

1270 For each gene, \log_2 fold change between *control(RNAi)* and *hh(RNAi)* and between
1271 *control(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)* cephalic ganglia samples are listed. References for previously
1272 published genes are listed (Cebrià and Newmark, 2005; Cebrià et al., 2002; Collins et al., 2010;
1273 Cowles et al., 2013; Currie and Pearson, 2013; Felix and Aboobaker, 2010; Fraguas et al., 2011;
1274 Gurley et al., 2008; Lapan and Reddien, 2011; März et al., 2013; Nishimura et al., 2010; 2008;
1275 Petersen and Reddien, 2008; Rink et al., 2009; Scimone et al., 2014a; Scimone et al., 2014b;
1276 Vásquez-Doorman and Petersen, 2014).

1277

1278 **Figure 1 – source data 2. Enrichment of neuronal markers and depletion of non-neuronal**
1279 **markers in cephalic ganglia tissue libraries**

1280 For each gene, general expression pattern and \log_2 fold enrichment of CNS tissue expression
1281 over head fragment expression is listed. CNS, central nervous system; GUT, intestinal tract;
1282 MUS, muscle layer; NB, neoblasts; NP, neuropil; NPH, nephridia; PCYM, parenchyma; PHX,
1283 pharynx; PR, photoreceptors; RIM, body peripheral edge. References for previously published
1284 genes are listed (Cebrià and Newmark, 2005; Collins et al., 2010; Currie and Pearson, 2013;
1285 Eisenhoffer et al., 2008; Fraguas et al., 2011; Lapan and Reddien, 2011; 2012; Petersen and
1286 Reddien, 2009; Reddien et al., 2005b; Rink et al., 2009; Scimone et al., 2011; Witchley et al.,
1287 2013; Zayas et al., 2010).

1288

1289 **Figure 1 – source data 3. Genes with significant differential expression levels following**
1290 **inhibition of *hh* or *ptc***

1291 Criteria for selecting genes were (1) adjusted p-value (p_{adj}) of less than 0.05, (2) greater than
1292 1000 RPKM, and (3) greater than 2-fold change in expression level either between
1293 *control(RNAi)* and *hh(RNAi)* or between *control(RNAi)* and *ptc(RNAi)*. Annotations by best
1294 BLAST hit listed for each gene; No Similarity listed if no significant BLAST hit was found. Two
1295 genes, *prog-1* and *reticulocalbin-1*, were described in planarians previously (Eisenhoffer et al.,
1296 2008; Zayas et al., 2010). Blue text indicates greater than 2-fold change in expression level.
1297 Green text indicates enrichment in CNS tissue versus whole head fragment.

1298

1299 **Figure 1 – source data 4. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in phylogenetic**
1300 **analysis of intermediate filament proteins**

1301 Text in gray represents hypothetical proteins or sequences with high BLASTX similarity.

1302

1303 **Figure 2 - source data 1. Cell counts for *if-1* and *cali* co-expression**

1304

1305 **Figure 3 - source data 1. Cell counts for glia marker co-expression**

1306

1307 **Figure 3 – source data 2. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in phylogenetic**
1308 **analysis of excitatory amino acid transporters**

1309 Text in gray represents hypothetical proteins or sequences with high BLASTX similarity.

1310

1311 **Figure 3 – source data 3. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in phylogenetic**
1312 **analysis of GABA transporters**

1313 Text in gray represents hypothetical proteins or sequences with high BLASTX similarity.

1314

1315 **Figure 3 – source data 4. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in phylogenetic**
1316 **analysis of glucose transporters**

1317 Text in gray represents hypothetical proteins or sequences with high BLASTX similarity.

1318

1319 **Figure 3 – source data 5. Accession numbers of protein sequences used in phylogenetic**
1320 **analysis of transient receptor potential channels**

1321 Text in gray represents hypothetical proteins or sequences with high BLASTX similarity.

1322

1323 **Figure 4 - source data 1. Orthogonal branch coverage counts following Hh pathway**
1324 **perturbation**

1325

1326 **Figure 5 - source data 1. Cell counts for co-expression of *if-1/cali* and *gat* following Hh**
1327 **pathway perturbation**

1328

1329 **Figure 6 - source data 1. Cell counts for co-expression of *if-1/cali* and *glut* following lethal**
1330 **irradiation and Hh pathway perturbation**

1331

1332 **Video 1. Confocal stack of single synaptic glomerulus**

1333 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1334 expansion microscopy. Anterior up, ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

1335

1336 **Video 2. 3D rendering from confocal stack of single synaptic glomerulus**

1337 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1338 expansion microscopy. 3D rendering based on confocal stack from Video 1. Anterior up, ventral
1339 surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

1340

1341 **Video 3. Confocal stack of multiple synaptic glomeruli**

1342 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1343 expansion microscopy. Anterior up, ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

1344

1345 **Video 4. 3D rendering from confocal stack of multiple synaptic glomeruli**

1346 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1347 expansion microscopy. 3D rendering based on confocal stack from Video 3. Anterior up, ventral
1348 surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

1349

1350 **Video 5. Confocal stack of lateral orthogonal branch**

1351 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1352 expansion microscopy. Anterior up, ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

1353

1354 **Video 6. 3D rendering from confocal stack of lateral orthogonal branch**

1355 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1356 expansion microscopy. 3D rendering based on confocal stack from Video 5. Anterior up, ventral
1357 surface shown. Scale bars: 30um.

1358

1359 **Video 7. Confocal stack of medial orthogonal branch**

1360 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1361 expansion microscopy. Anterior up, ventral surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

1362

1363 **Video 8. 3D rendering from confocal stack of medial orthogonal branch**

1364 Immunofluorescence for IF-1 (magenta) and Synapsin (green) followed by protein-retention
1365 expansion microscopy. 3D rendering based on confocal stack from Video 7. Anterior up, ventral
1366 surface shown. Scale bars: 50um.

Figure 1

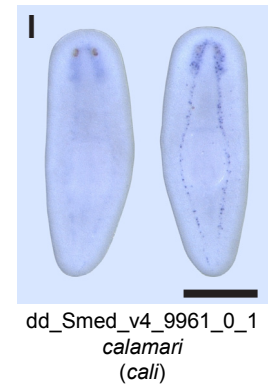
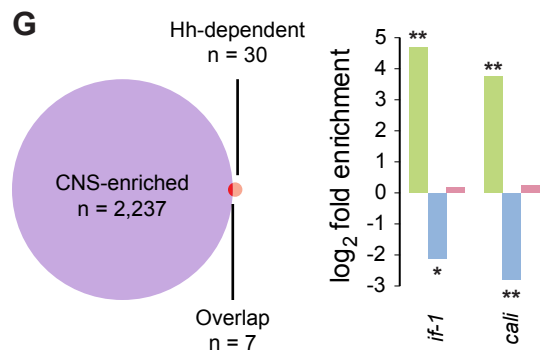
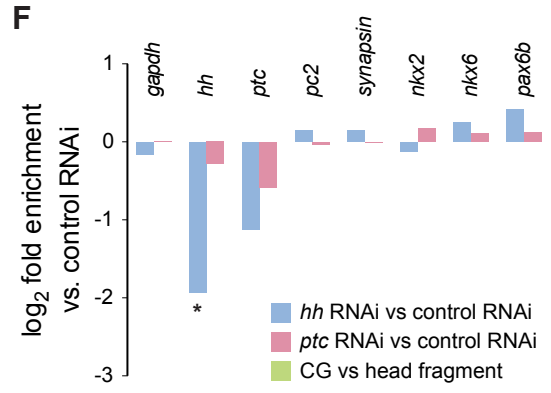
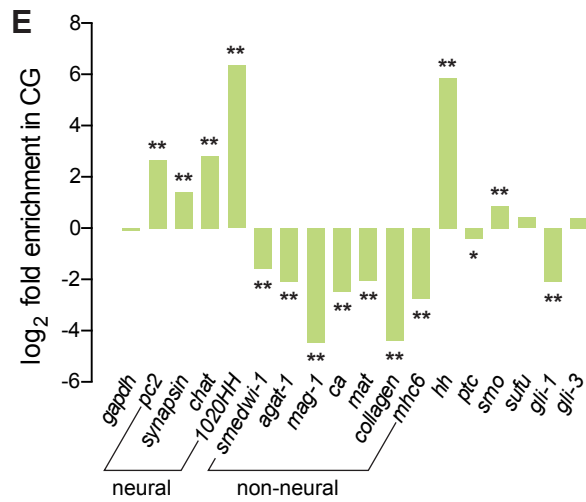
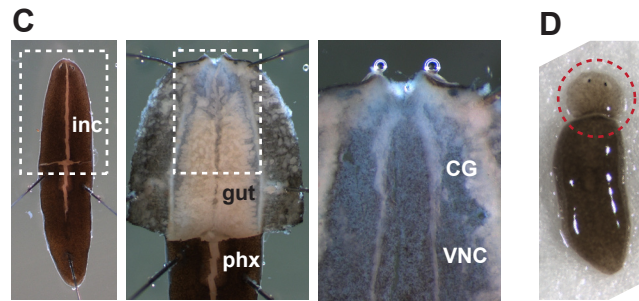
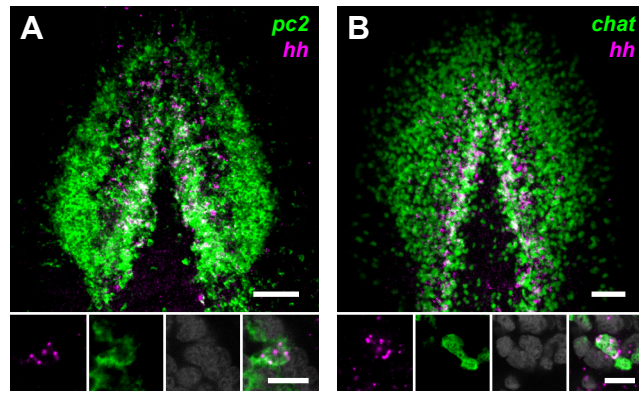


Figure 2

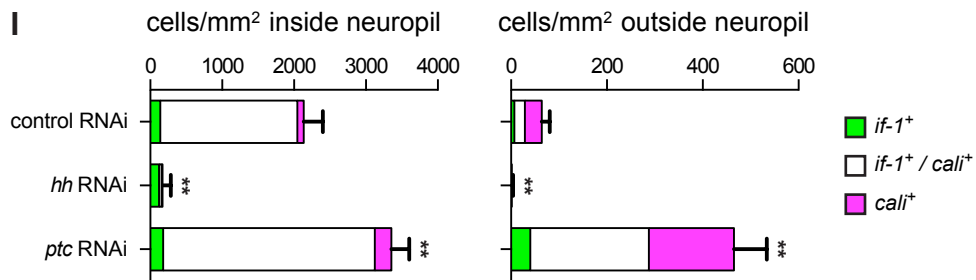
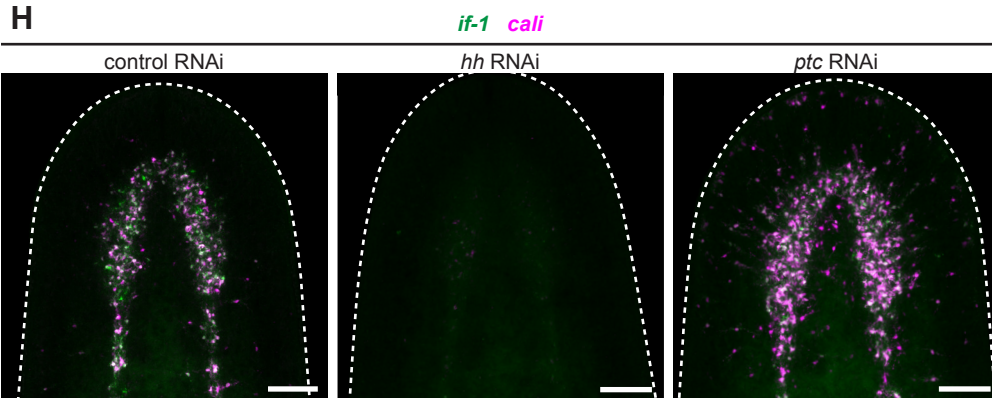
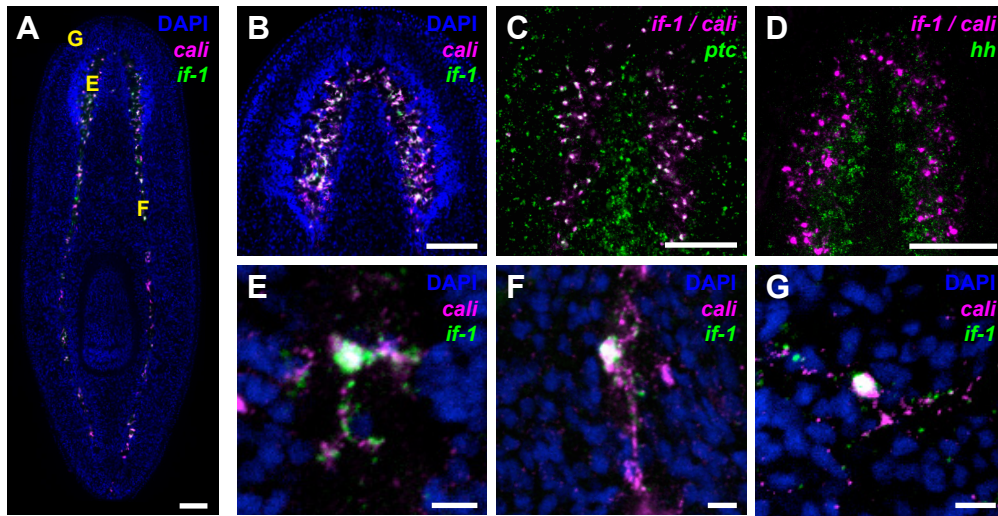


Figure 3

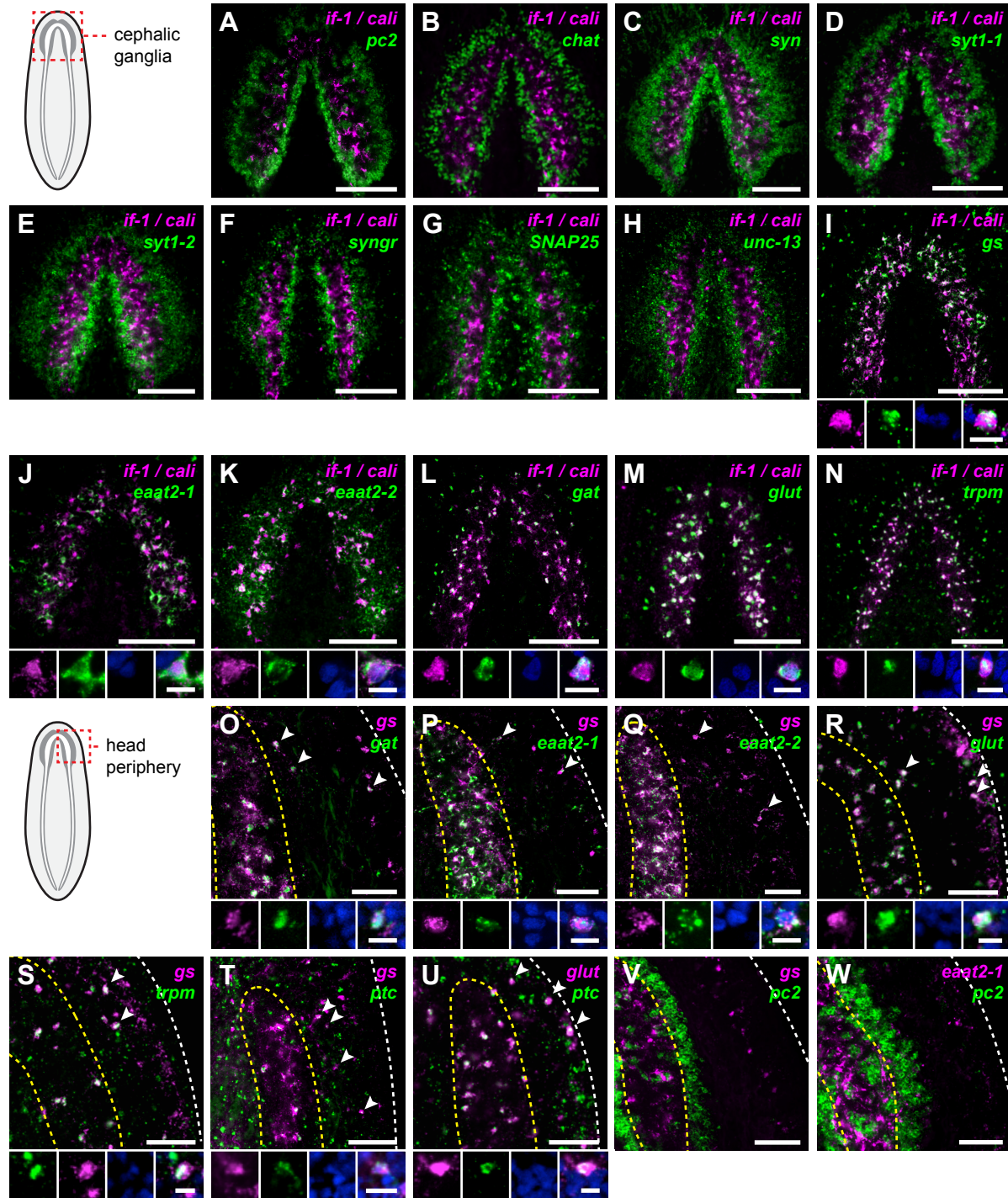


Figure 4

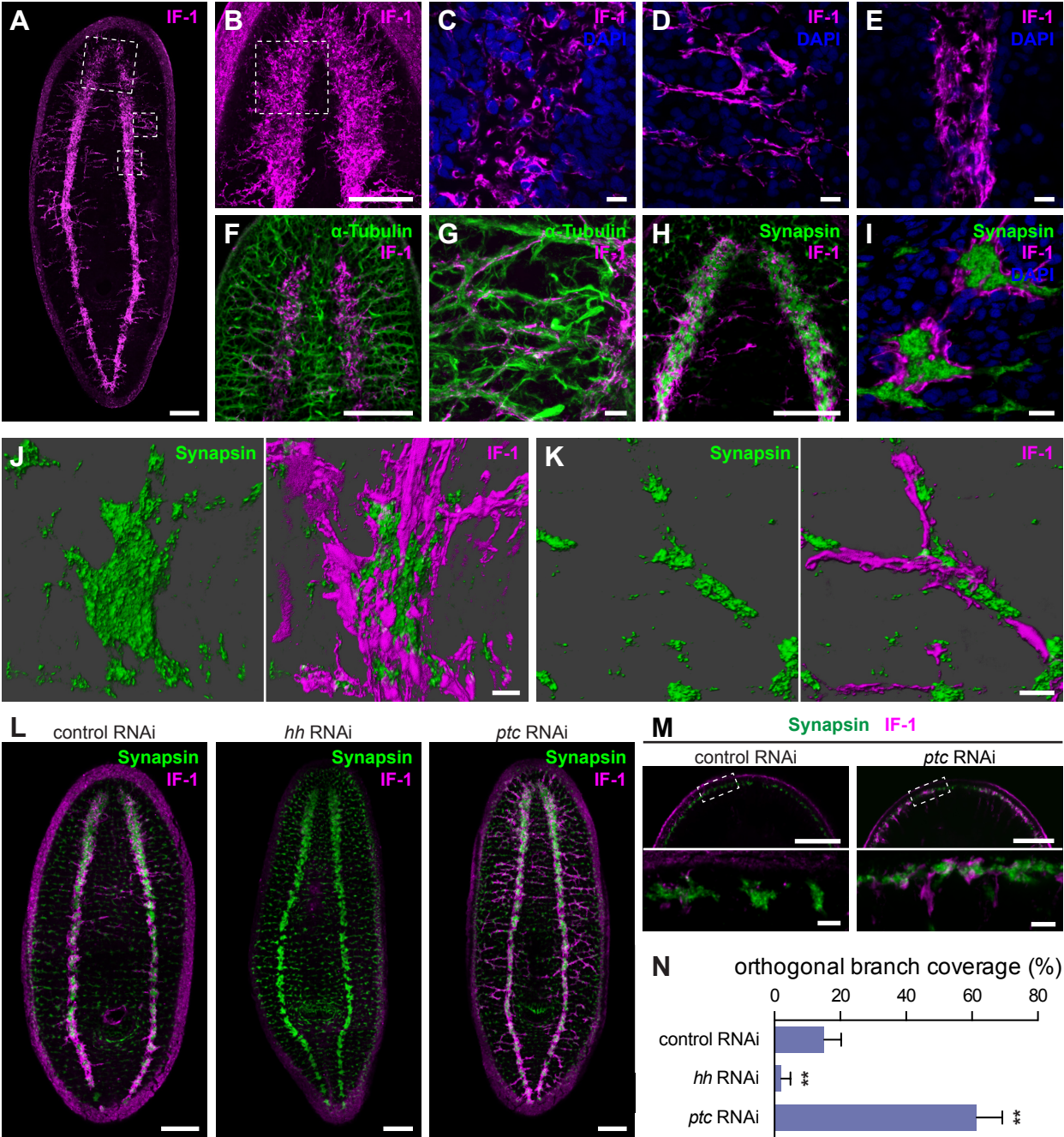


Figure 5

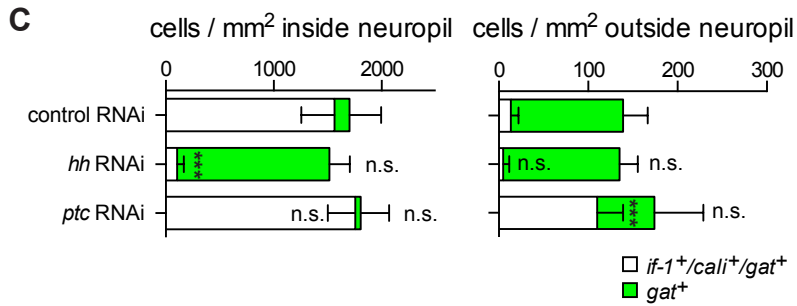
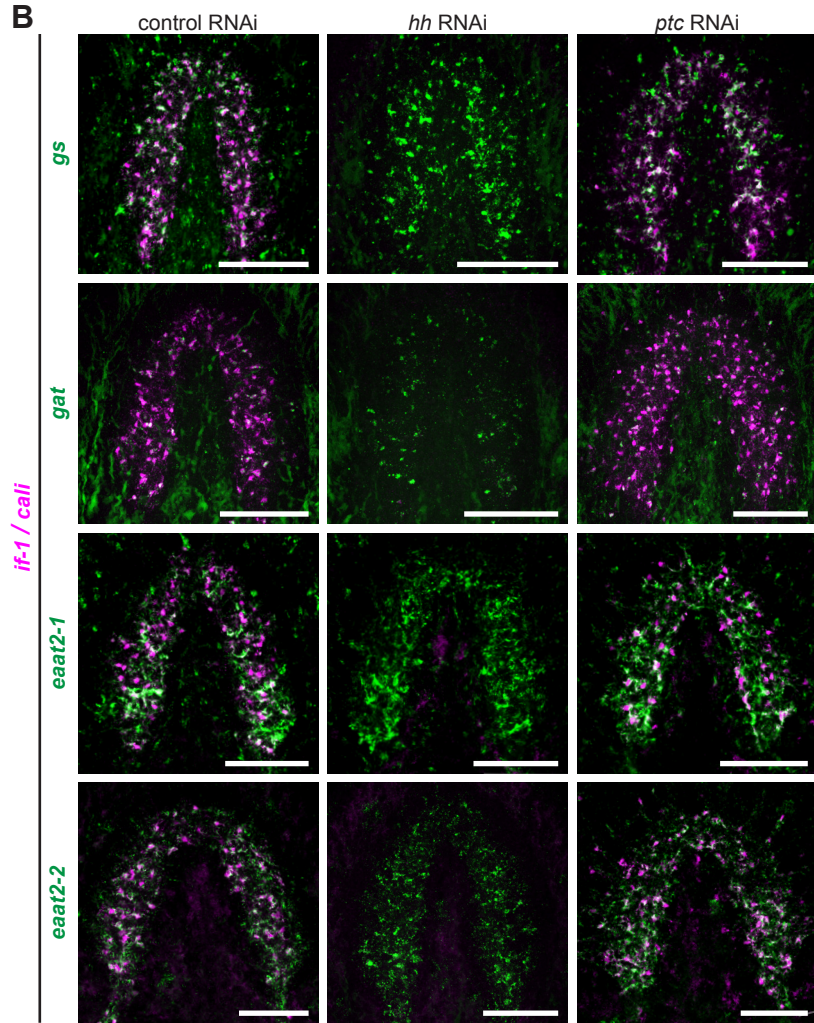
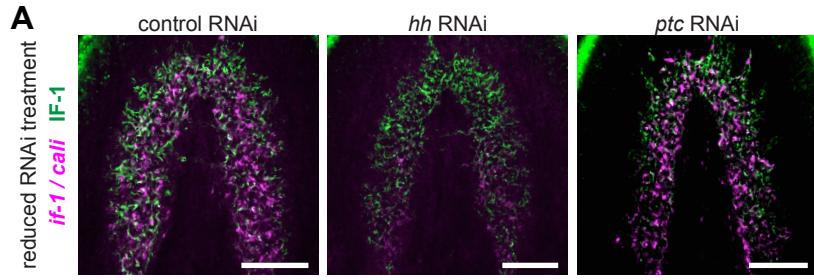


Figure 6

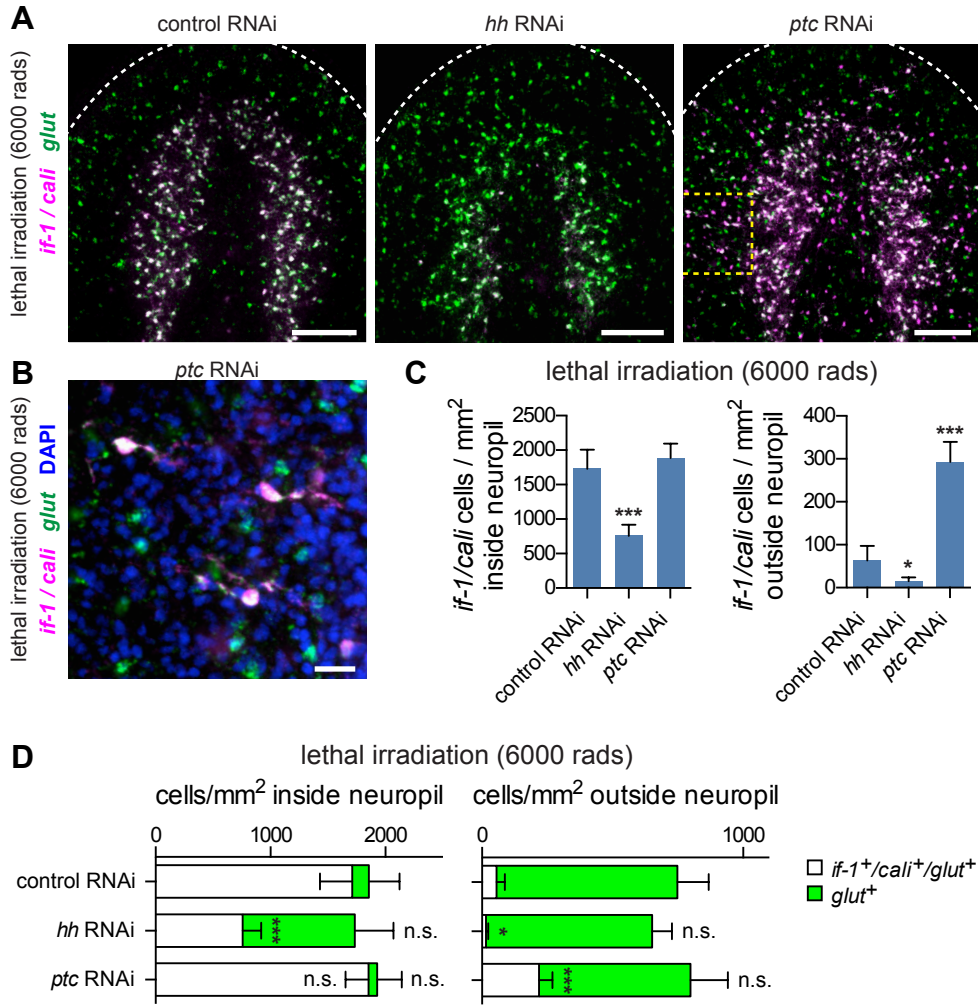


Figure 7

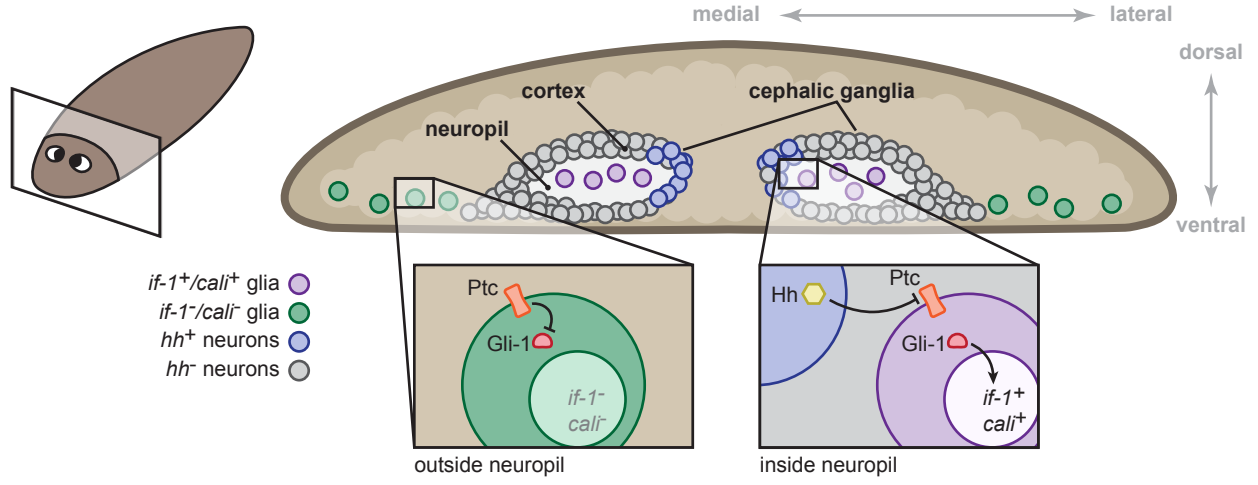


Figure 1 - figure supplement 1

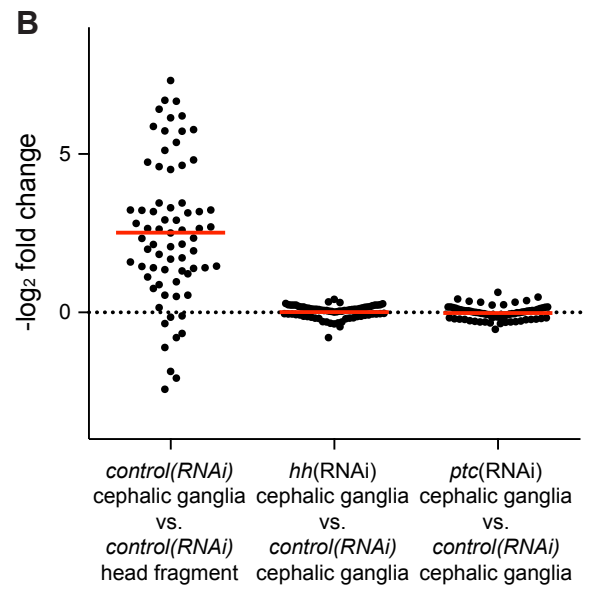
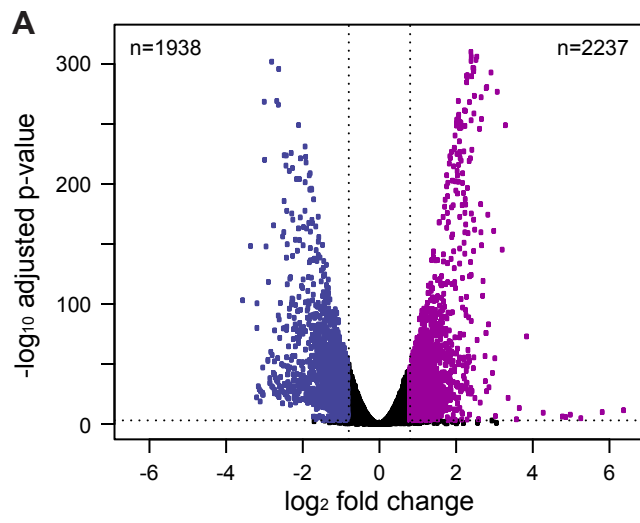


Figure 1 - figure supplement 2

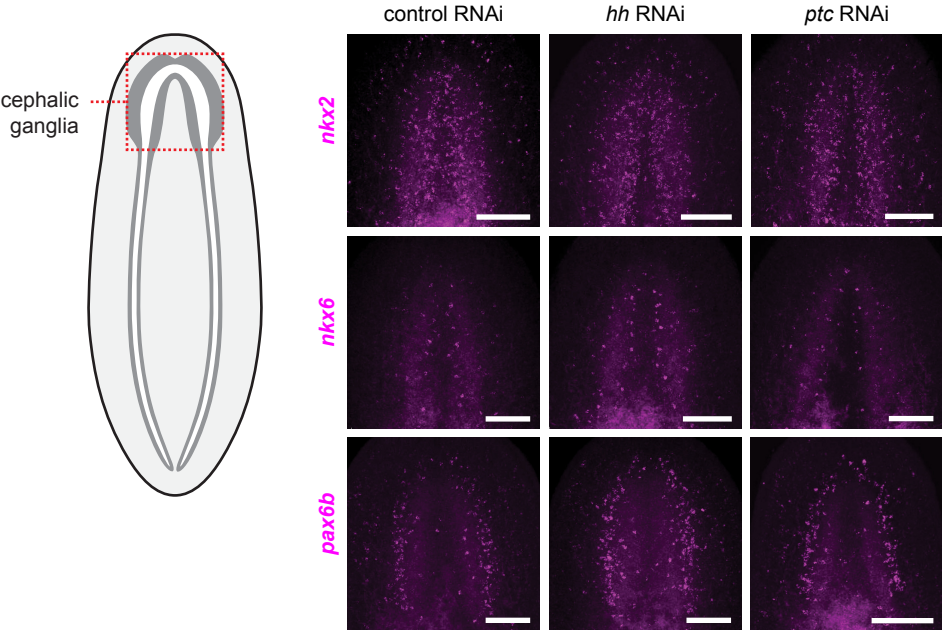


Figure 1 - figure supplement 3

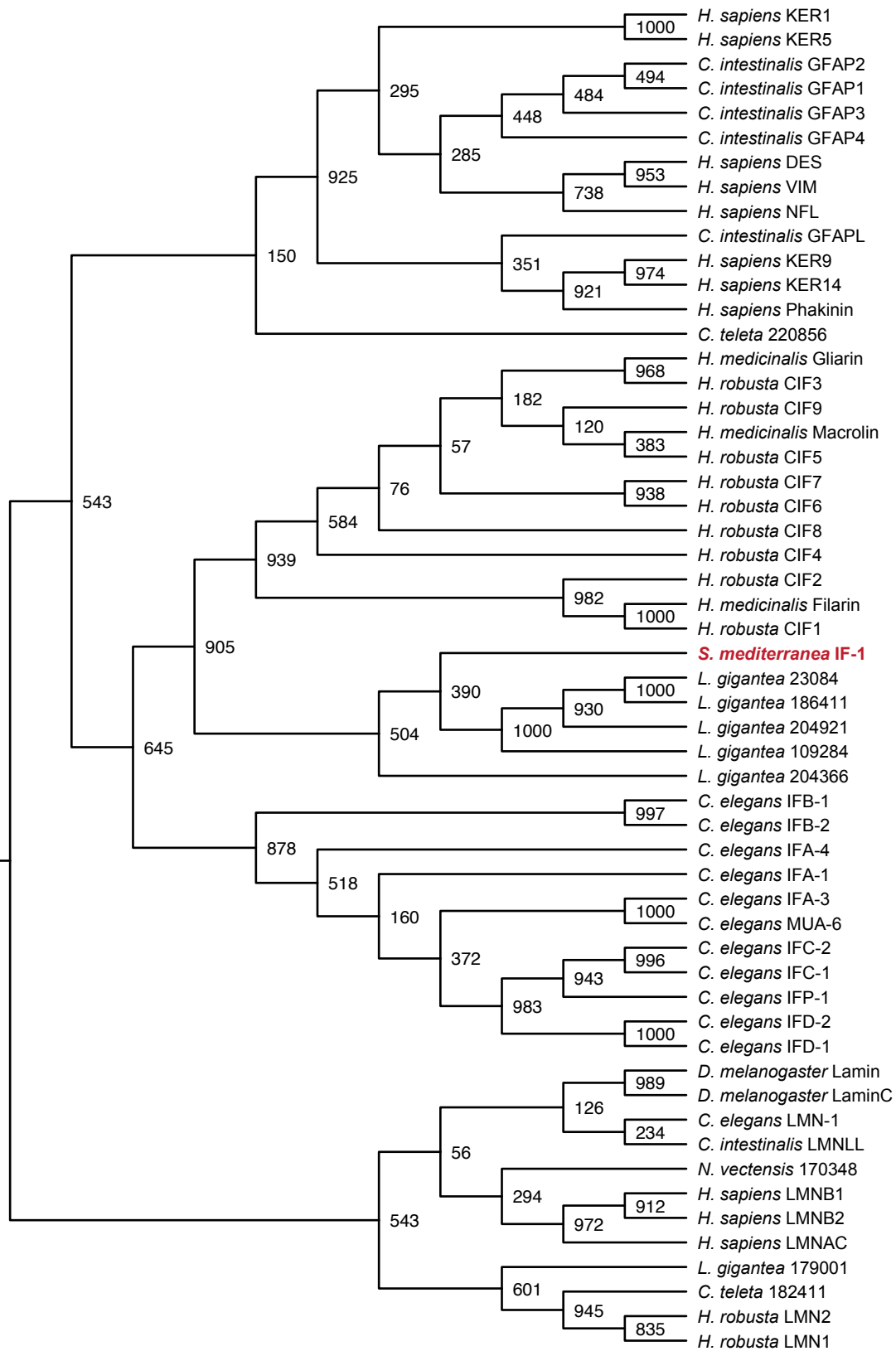


Figure 2 - figure supplement 1

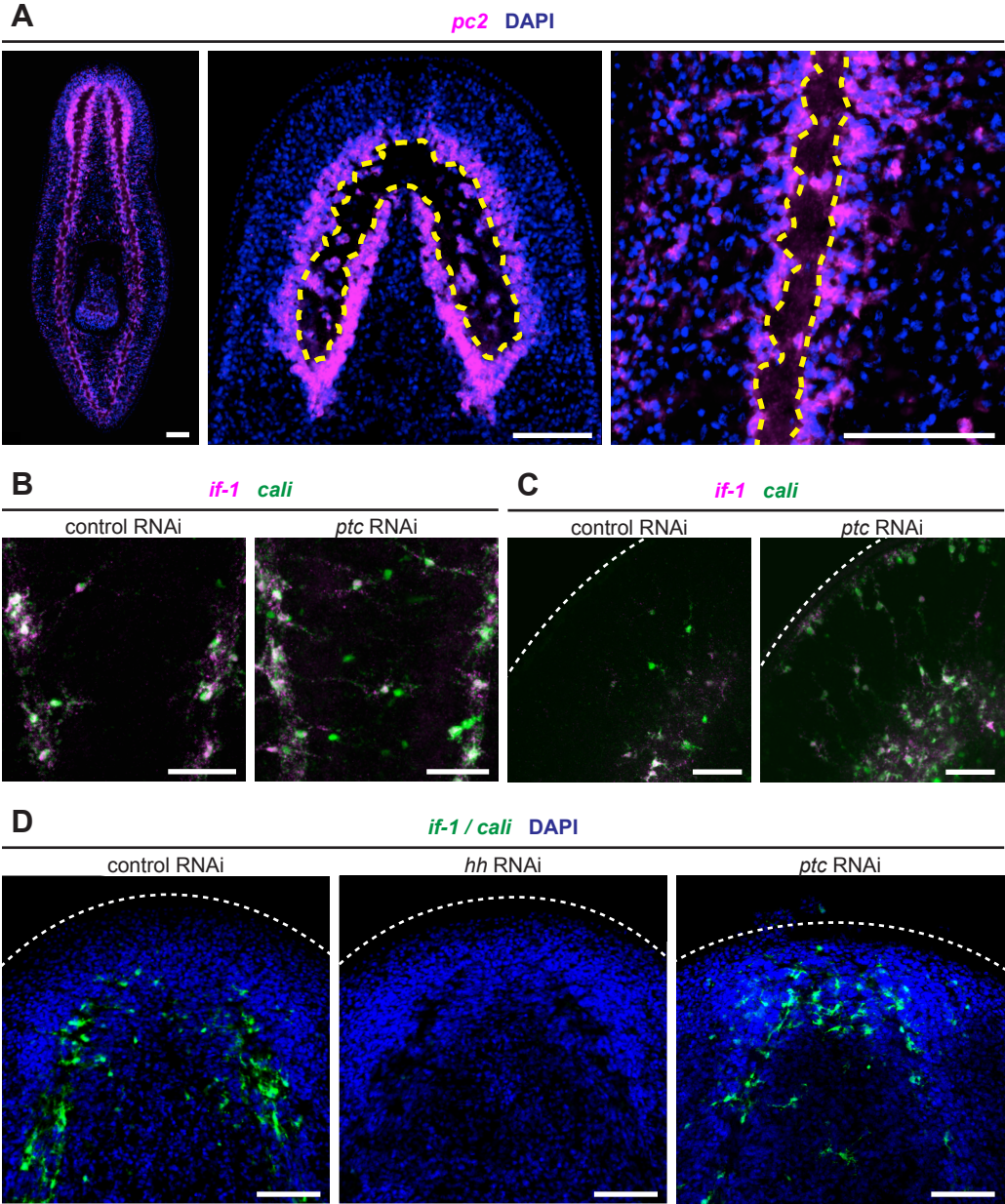


Figure 2 - figure supplement 2

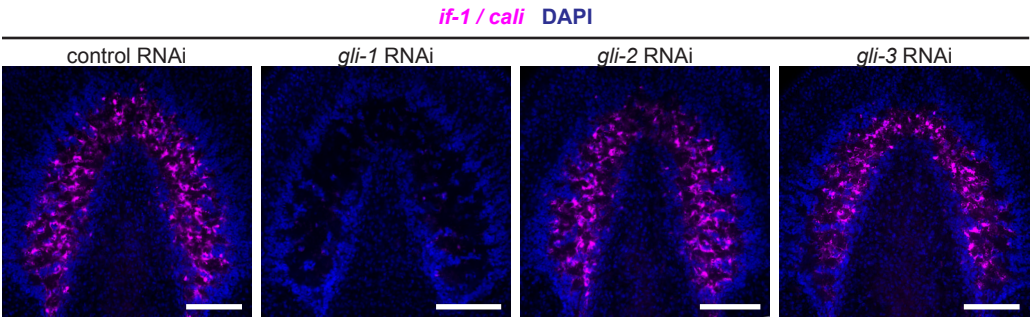


Figure 3 - figure supplement 1

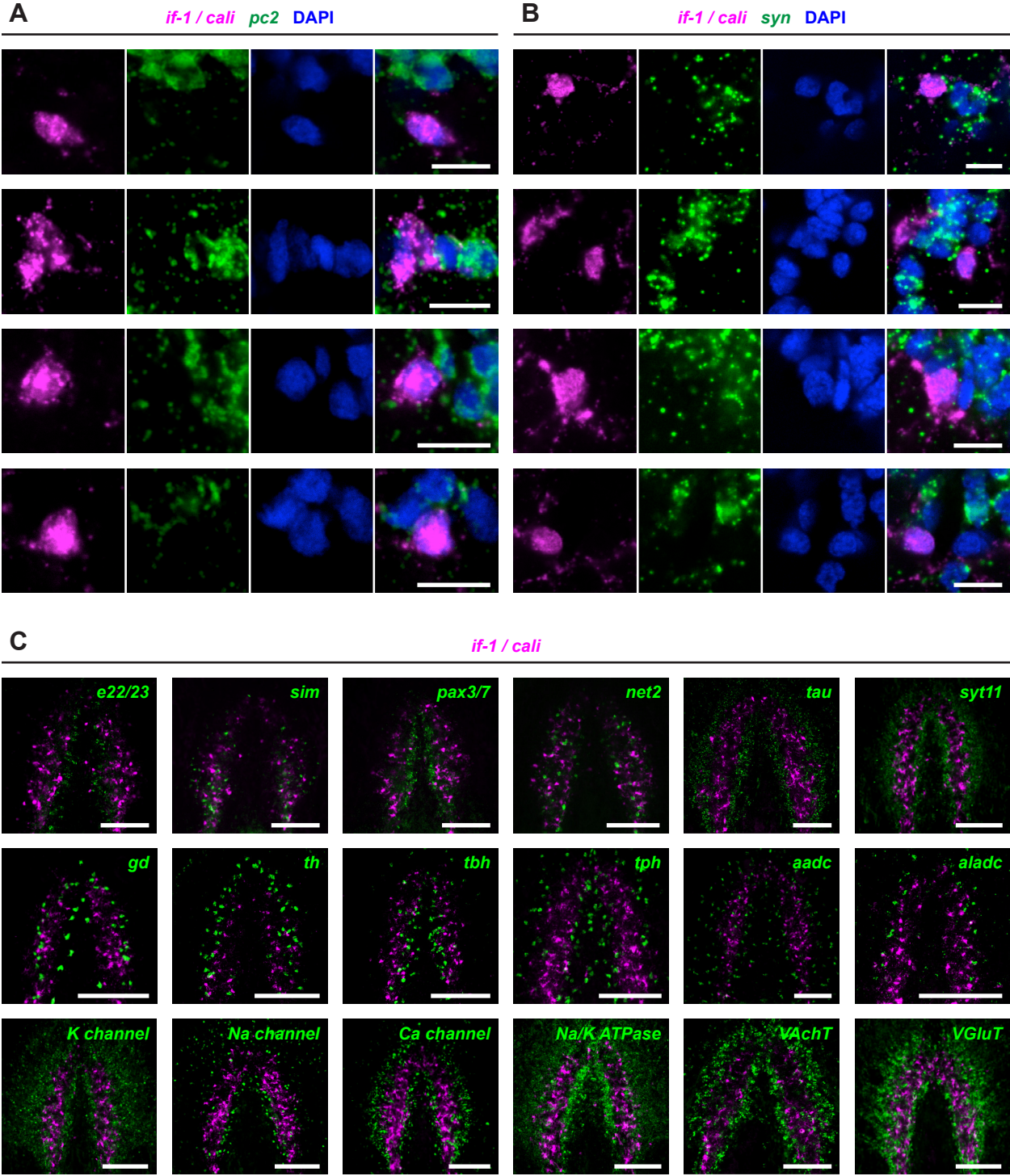


Figure 3 - figure supplement 2

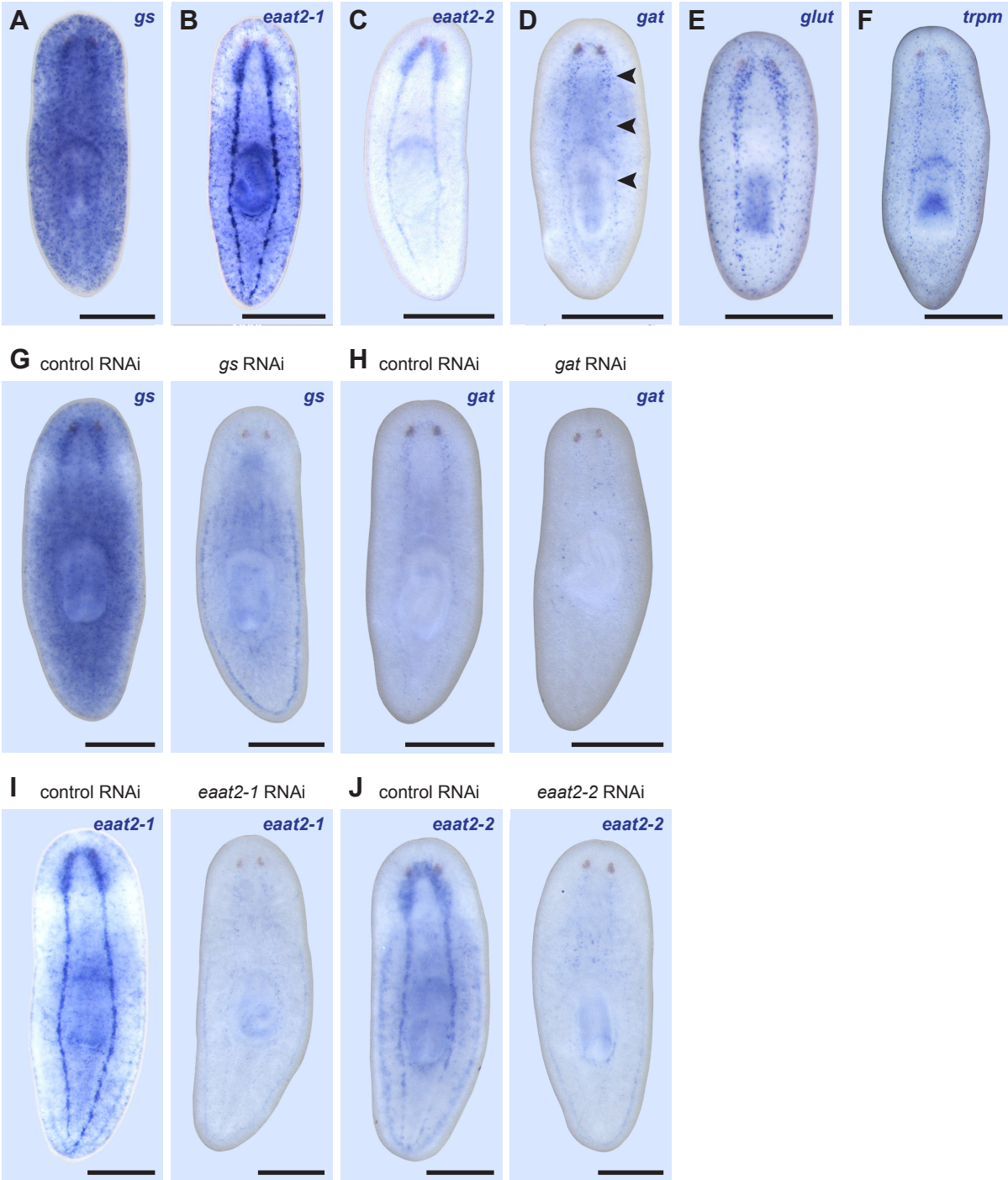


Figure 3 - figure supplement 3

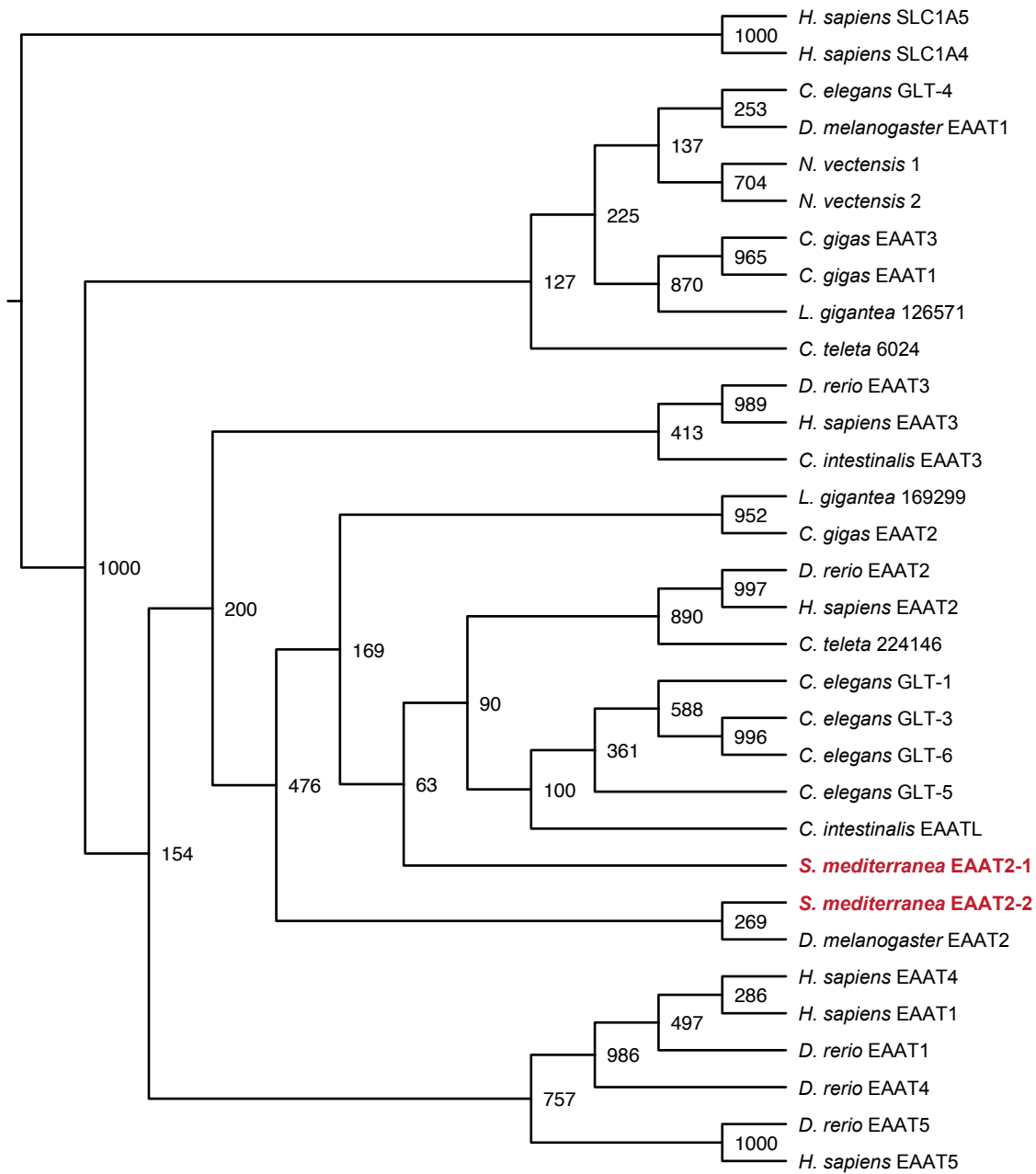


Figure 3 - figure supplement 4

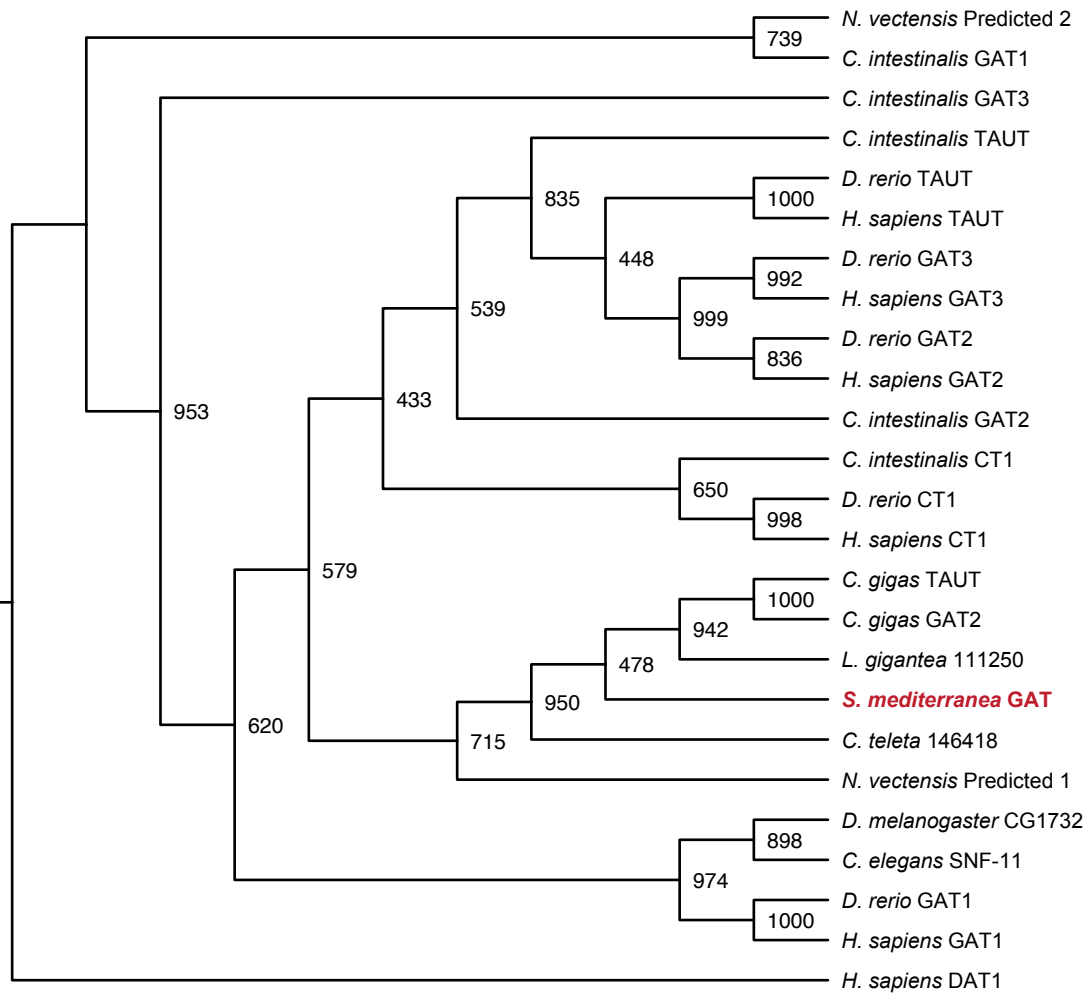


Figure 3 - figure supplement 5

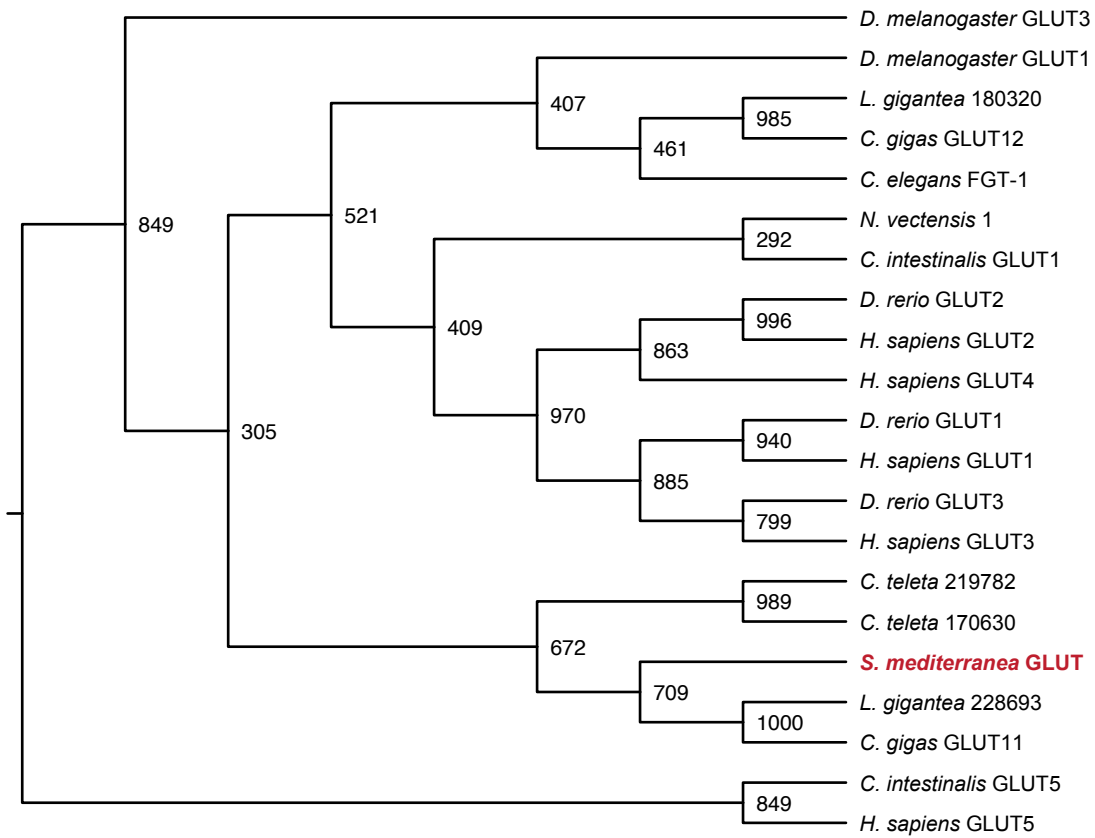


Figure 3 - figure supplement 6

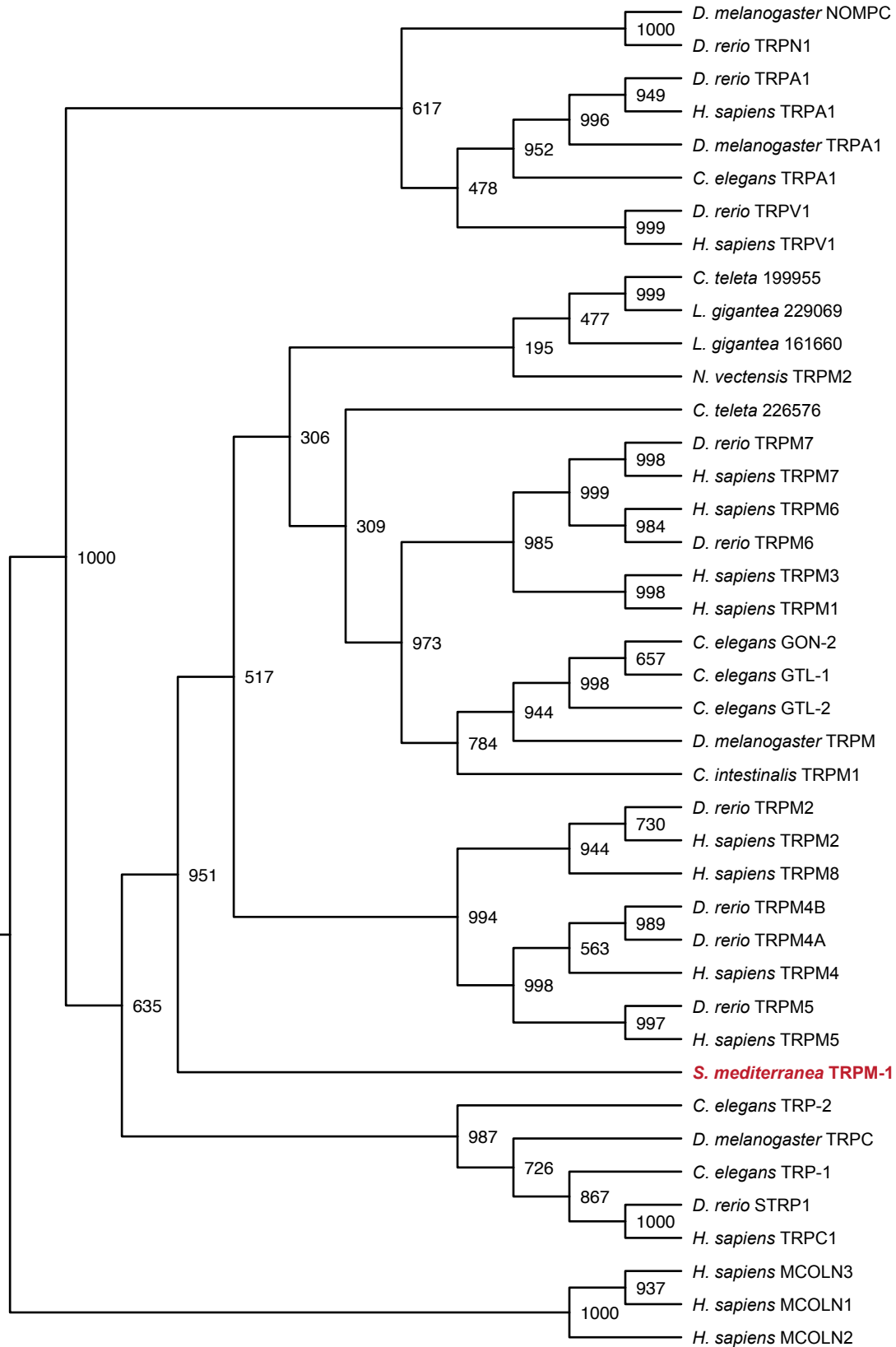


Figure 4 - figure supplement 1

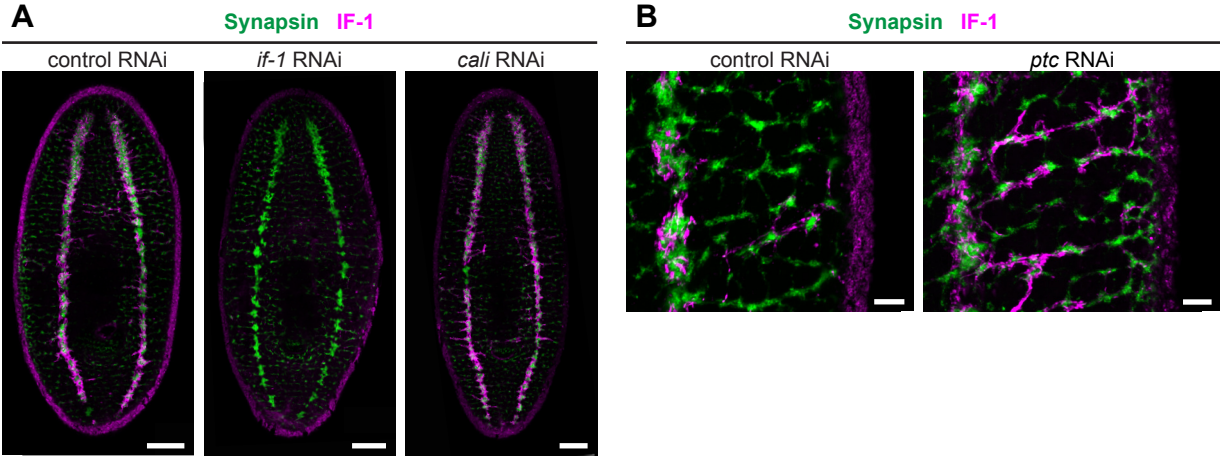


Figure 4 - figure supplement 2

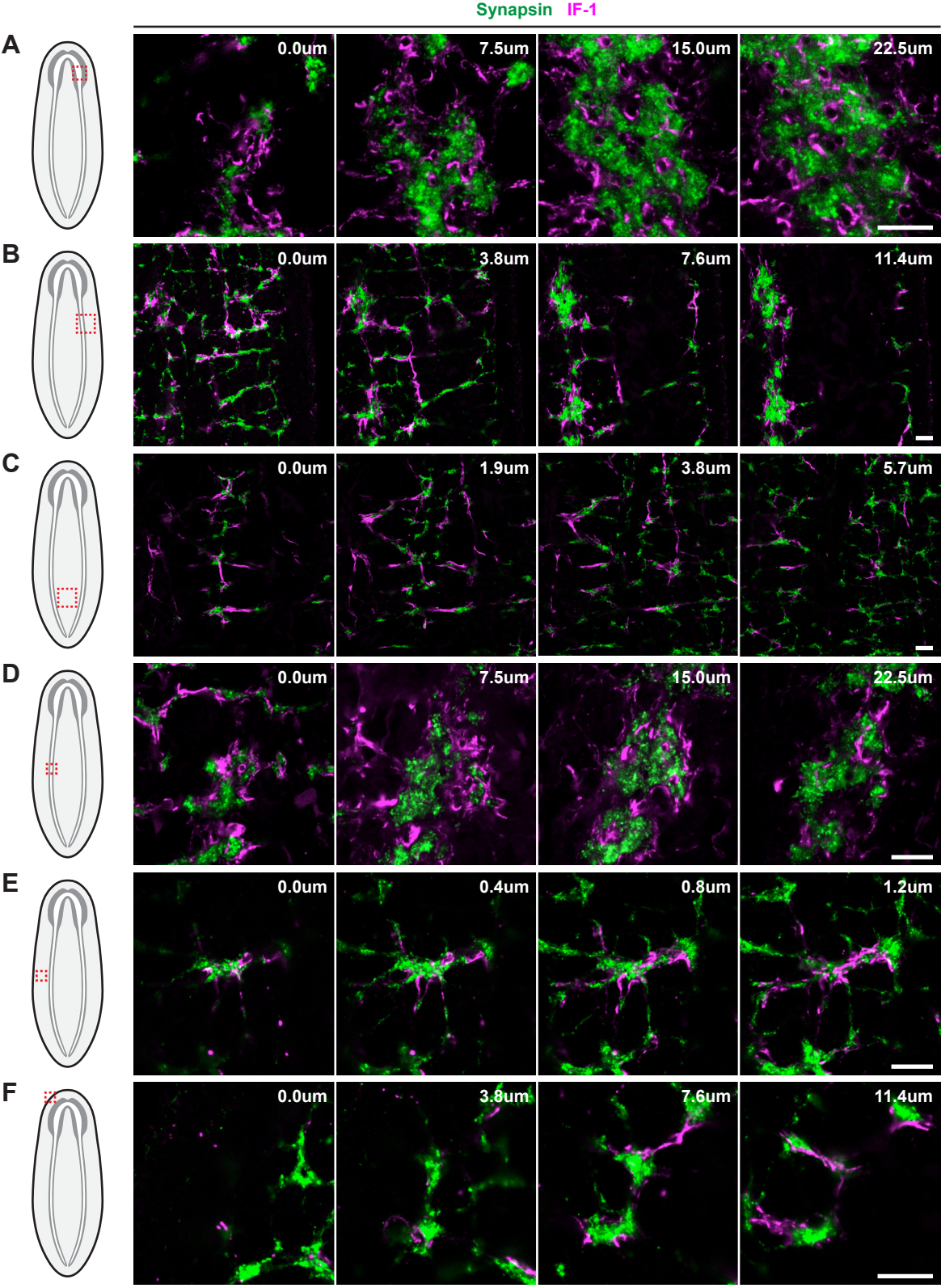


Figure 5 - figure supplement 1

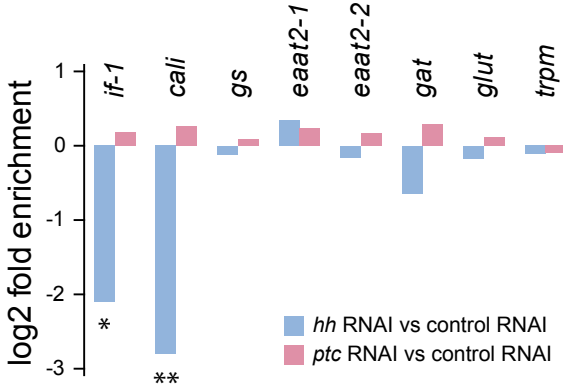


Figure 5 - figure supplement 2

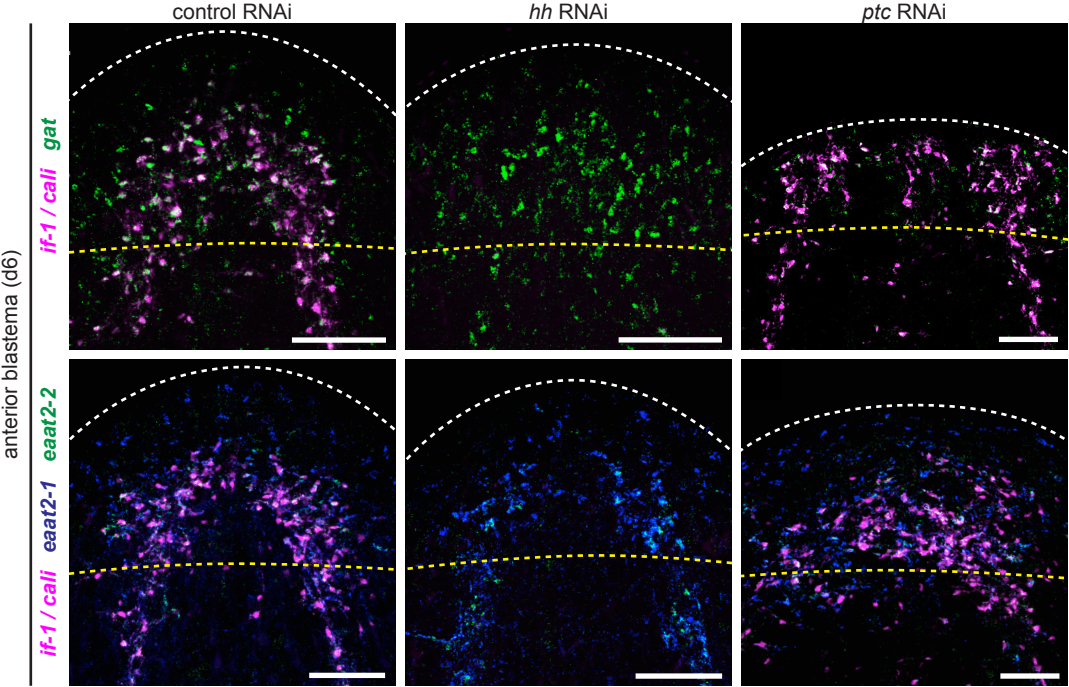


Figure 6 - figure supplement 1

