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**Title: An insula-central amygdala circuit for behavioral inhibition**

**Abbreviated title: A circuit for behavioral inhibition**

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**Abstract**

Predicting which substances are suitable for consumption during foraging is critical for animals to survive. While food-seeking behavior is extensively studied, the neural circuit mechanisms underlying avoidance of potentially poisonous substances remain poorly understood. Here we examined the role of the insular cortex (IC) to central amygdala (CeA) circuit in the establishment of such avoidance behavior. Using anatomic tracing approaches combined with optogenetics-assisted circuit mapping, we found that the gustatory region of the IC sends direct excitatory projections to the lateral division of the CeA (CeL), making monosynaptic excitatory connections with distinct populations of CeL neurons. Specific inhibition of neurotransmitter release from the CeL-projecting IC neurons prevented mice from acquiring the "no-go" response, while leaving the "go" response largely unaffected in a tastant (sucrose/quinine)-reinforced "go/no-go" task. Furthermore, selective activation of the IC-CeL pathway with optogenetics drove unconditioned lick suppression in thirsty animals, induced aversive responses, and was sufficient to instruct conditioned action suppression in response to a cue predicting the optogenetic activation. These results indicate that activity in the IC-CeL circuit is necessary for establishing anticipatory avoidance responses to an aversive tastant, and is also sufficient to drive learning of such anticipatory avoidance. This function of the IC-CeL circuit is likely important for guiding avoidance of substances with unpleasant tastes during foraging in order to minimize the chance of being poisoned.

**Significance Statement**

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The ability to predict which substances are suitable for consumption is critical for survival. Here we found that activity in the insular cortex (IC) to central amygdala (CeA) circuit is necessary for establishing avoidance responses to an unpleasant tastant, and is also sufficient to drive learning of such avoidance responses. These results suggest that the IC-CeA circuit is critical for behavioral inhibition in anticipation of potentially poisonous substances during foraging.

## Introduction

The ability to suppress actions that can lead to harmful consequences is critical for survival. For example, animals, including humans, stop consummatory behavior when encountering food or liquid with an unpleasant taste, which indicates the existence of a potentially poisonous substance. Animals are also capable of learning to use environmental cues (such as an odor, color, location or context) to predict unpleasant properties (such as a bitter taste, toxicity) of a substance, and subsequently using these predictive cues to guide avoidance of the substance during foraging. While food approaching and reward seeking behaviors are extensively studied (Balleine, 2005, 2011; Kelley, 2004), the neural circuit mechanisms that underlie innate and learned suppression of actions that may lead to food poisoning, or aversive consequences in general, are poorly understood.

The insular cortex (IC), including the gustatory cortex (GC), plays an important role in processing taste and visceral information (Accolla and Carleton, 2008; Katz et al., 2001; Samuelsen and Fontanini, 2017; Yamamoto et al., 1985). The IC is also engaged in

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various learning tasks, especially when learning to associate a neutral tastant (also known as a conditioned stimulus, CS) with an intrinsically aversive stimulus (also known as an unconditioned stimulus, US), or to associate a non-gustatory CS with an appetitive or aversive tastant US (Bermudez-Rattoni, 2004; Kusumoto-Yoshida et al., 2015; Vincis and Fontanini, 2016; Yasoshima and Yamamoto, 1998). In one such task, a "go/no-go" task in which auditory "go" and "no-go" CSs predict the delivery of sucrose and quinine, respectively, specific CS-evoked responses develop in the IC as rats learn the predictive value of each CS (Gardner and Fontanini, 2014). IC neurons also show CS-evoked responses in a conditioned food-approaching task (Kusumoto-Yoshida et al., 2015). These findings indicate that associative learning driven by gustatory reinforcement induces plastic changes in the IC, and suggest that the IC may participate in guiding approach or avoidance responses during feeding or foraging behaviors. Consistently, pharmacological and optogenetic inhibition of the IC impairs conditioned food approaching behavior (Kusumoto-Yoshida et al., 2015). Nevertheless, whether the IC is also essential for avoidance of aversive tastes remains unknown.

The central nucleus of the amygdala (CeA), including its lateral division (CeL), is a prominent downstream structure of the IC. As it is also a direct recipient of taste information from the brainstem (Carter et al., 2013), the CeA is anatomically positioned to process convergent taste information. Indeed, it has been shown that the CeA encodes taste identification and palatability, responses that follow those in the IC (Sadacca et al., 2012). These findings suggest that the CeA may process and use the information originating from the IC to influence taste-motivated behaviors.

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The CeL plays an important role in the learning and expression of defensive behaviors (Ciocchi et al., 2010; Goosens and Maren, 2003; Li et al., 2013; Wilensky et al., 2006), as well as in reward-related behaviors and feeding (Gallagher et al., 1990; Kentridge et al., 1991; Kim et al., 2017; Robinson et al., 2014; Seo et al., 2016). For instance, previous studies showed that the somatostatin-expressing ($SOM^+$) subpopulation of neurons in the CeL is essential for the acquisition and expression of conditioned freezing and action suppression (Fadok et al., 2017; Li et al., 2013; Yu et al., 2016). The protein kinase C-δ-expressing (PKC-$\delta^+$) CeL neurons, on the other hand, participate in conveying aversive US information, drive avoidance response, and are sufficient to instruct aversive learning (Yu et al., 2017). Furthermore, it has been shown that CeA neurons, including PKC-$\delta^+$ CeL neurons, are critical for suppression of feeding behavior (Cai et al., 2014; Petrovich et al., 2009). As the CeL is a major direct downstream target of the IC, these findings point to the possibility that the IC controls learning or expression of taste-motivated behavioral inhibition through the IC-CeL circuit.

To test this hypothesis, we used anatomical, electrophysiological, and circuit based manipulation approaches. We found that an excitatory monosynaptic connection exists between the posterior division of the IC and the CeL in mice, and that activation of the IC-CeL pathway excites specific subtypes of neurons within the CeL. Notably, selective inhibition of CeL-projecting IC neurons specifically impairs the conditioned inhibitory response to a cue predicting an aversive tastant. Furthermore, activation of the IC-CeL circuit with optogenetics produces a powerful suppression of ongoing licking behavior in

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thirsty mice, induces avoidance behavior, and is sufficient to instruct conditioned lick suppression. These results reveal an important role of the IC-CeL circuit in the establishment of anticipatory behavioral inhibition, in particular the inhibition of consummatory behavior in response to cues predicting an unpleasant taste.

## Materials and Methods

### Animals

Before surgery, mice were group-housed under a 12-h light-dark cycle (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. light) with food and water freely available. The *Som-cre* (Taniguchi et al., 2011), *Ai14* (Madisen et al., 2010), *Prkcd-cre* (Haubensak et al., 2010), and *Rosa26-stop$^{flox}$-tTA* (Li et al., 2010) mice were described previously and were purchased from the Jackson Laboratory. All mice were bred onto C57BL/6J genetic background. The *Som-cre;Ai14* mice, which were heterozygous for both the Cre allele and the Lox-Stop-Lox-tdTomato allele, were bred by crossing homozygous *Som-cre* mice with homozygous *Ai14* reporter mice. Male mice of 40–80 d of age were used for behavioral and anatomical experiments. Male and female mice of 35-45 d of age were used for *in vitro* slice physiology experiments. Behavioral experiments were performed during the light cycle. All procedures involving animals were approved by the Institute Animal Care and Use Committees of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and carried out in accordance with US National Institutes of Health standards.

### Viral vectors

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Most of the adeno-associated viruses (AAV) were produced by the University of North Carolina vector core facility or the University of Pennsylvania vector core and have previously been described (Ahrens et al., 2015; Penzo et al., 2015; Stephenson-Jones et al., 2016; Yu et al., 2016): AAV9-Ef1a-DIO-eYFP, AAV9-Ef1a-DIO-hChR2(H134R)-eYFP, AAV9-CAG-ChR2-GFP, AAV9.CAG.Flex.TeLC-eGFP.WPRE.bGH, and AAV-TRE-hGFP-TVA-G. The AAV8.2-hEF1α-DIO-synaptophysin-mCherry was produced by the MIT Viral Gene Transfer Core. The EnvA-pseudotyped, protein-G-deleted rabies-EnvA-SAD-ΔG-mCherry virus was produced by the Viral Vector Core Facility at Salk Institute (Penzo et al., 2015). CAV2-Cre was purchased from Montpellier vector platform (Plateforme de Vectorologie de Montpellier (PVM), Biocampus Montpellier, Montpellier, France) (Penzo et al., 2015; Stephenson-Jones et al., 2016). All viral vectors were stored in aliquots at −80 °C until use.

**Histology**

Animals were deeply anesthetized and transcardially perfused with PBS, followed by perfusion with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS. Brains were dissected out and postfixed in 4% PFA at 4°C for three hours followed by cryoprotection in a PBS-buffered sucrose (30%) solution until brains were saturated (~36 h). 50 µm coronal brain sections were cut on a freezing microtome (SM 2010R, Leica). Brain sections were first washed in PBS (3 x 5 min) at room temperature (RT) and then were blocked in 3% normal goat serum (NGS) in PBST (0.3% Triton X-100) for 30 min at RT, followed by incubation with primary antibodies overnight at 4 °C. Sections were then washed with PBS (4 x 15 min) and incubated with fluorescent secondary antibodies at RT for 2 hours. After

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178 washing with PBS (4 x 15 min), sections were mounted onto glass slides with
179 Fluoromount-G (Beckman Coulter). Images were taken using a LSM 780 laser-scanning
180 confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss).
181
182 **Electrophysiology**
183 For electrophysiological experiments, mice were anesthetized with isoflurane,
184 decapitated and their brains quickly removed and chilled in ice-cold dissection buffer
185 (110.0 mM choline chloride, 25.0 mM $NaHCO_3$, 1.25 mM $NaH_2PO_4$, 2.5 mM KCl, 0.5
186 mM $CaCl_2$, 7.0 mM $MgCl_2$, 25.0 mM glucose, 11.6 mM ascorbic acid and 3.1mM
187 pyruvic acid, gassed with 95% $O_2$ and 5% $CO_2$). Coronal slices (300 µm) containing the
188 amygdala complex were cut in dissection buffer using a HM650 Vibrating-blade
189 Microtome (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Slices were immediately transferred to a storage
190 chamber containing artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF) (118 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl,
191 26.2 mM $NaHCO_3$, 1 mM $NaH_2PO_4$, 20 mM glucose, 2 mM $MgCl_2$ and 2 mM $CaCl_2$, at
192 34 °C, pH 7.4, gassed with 95% $O_2$ and 5% $CO_2$). After 40 min recovery time, slices
193 were transferred to RT (20–24°C) and perfused with ACSF constantly.
194
195 Simultaneous whole-cell patch-clamp recordings from pairs of $SOM^+$ and $SOM^-$ CeL
196 neurons were obtained with Multiclamp 700B amplifiers (Molecular Devices).
197 Recordings were under visual guidance using an Olympus BX51 microscope equipped
198 with both transmitted light illumination and epifluorescence illumination, and $SOM^+$ cells
199 were identified based on their fluorescence (tdTomato). To evoke IC-driven synaptic
200 transmission onto CeL neurons, the AAV-ChR2-YFP was injected into the IC of *Som-*

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*Cre;Ai14* mice and allowed to express for 3 weeks. Acute brain slices were prepared, and a blue light was used to stimulate ChR2-expressing axons in the CeL. The light source was a single-wavelength LED system (λ = 470 nm; CoolLED.com) connected to the epifluorescence port of the Olympus BX51 microscope. 1 ms light pulses were triggered by a TTL signal from the Clampex software to drive synaptic responses. Light pulses were delivered every 10 seconds and synaptic responses were low-pass filtered at 1 KHz and recorded at holding potentials of −70 mV (for AMPA-receptor-mediated responses) and +40 mV (for NMDA-receptor-mediated responses). NMDA-receptor-mediated responses were quantified as the mean current amplitude from 50-60 ms after stimulation. Evoked EPSCs were recorded in ACSF with 100 μM picrotoxin to block inhibitory synaptic transmission. The internal solution for voltage-clamp experiments contained 115 mM cesium methanesulphonate, 20 mM CsCl, 10 mM HEPES, 2.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 4 mM $Na_2$-ATP, 0.4 mM $Na_3$GTP, 10 mM Na-phosphocreatine and 0.6 mM EGTA (pH 7.2). To assess presynaptic function, a paired-pulse stimulation protocol (50 ms inter-stimulus interval) was used to evoke double-EPSCs, and paired-pulse ratio (PPR) was quantified as the ratio of the peak amplitude of the second EPSC to that of the first EPSC.

**Monosynaptic tracing with pseudotyped rabies virus**

Retrograde tracing of monosynaptic inputs onto genetically-defined cell populations of CeL was performed and described in our previous study (Penzo et al., 2015), and the data presented here were generated from the same study but were not published previously. Briefly, the *Som-cre;Rosa26-stop$^{flox}$-tTA* mice and the *Prkcd-cre;Rosa26-stop$^{flox}$-tTA* mice, which express tTA in $SOM^+$ cells and PKC-$\delta^+$ cells, respectively, were injected

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224 into the CeL with the AAV-TRE-hGFP-TVA-G (0.2–0.3 µl) that expresses the following
225 components in a tTA-dependent manner: a fluorescent reporter histone GFP (hGFP);
226 TVA (which is a receptor for the avian virus envelope protein EnvA); and the rabies
227 envelope glycoprotein (G). Two weeks later the mice were injected in the same location
228 with the rabies-EnvA-SAD-ΔG-mCherry (1.2 µl), a rabies virus that is pseudotyped with
229 EnvA, lacks the envelope glycoprotein, and expresses mCherry. This method ensures that
230 the rabies virus exclusively infects cells expressing TVA. Furthermore, complementation
231 of the modified rabies virus with envelope glycoprotein in the TVA-expressing cells
232 allows the generation of infectious particles, which then can trans-synaptically infect
233 presynaptic neurons.
234
235 **Stereotaxic surgery**
236 Standard surgical procedures were followed for stereotaxic injection (Li et al., 2013;
237 Penzo et al., 2015). Briefly, mice were anesthetized with ketamine (100 mg per kg of
238 body weight) supplemented with dexmedetomidine hydrochloride (0.4 mg per kg) and
239 positioned in a stereotaxic injection frame (myNeuroLab.com). A digital mouse brain
240 atlas was linked to the injection frame to guide the identification and targeting (Angle
241 Two Stereotaxic System, myNeuroLab.com).
242
243 Viruses (~0.4 µl) were delivered with a glass micropipette (tip diameter, ~5 µm) through
244 a skull window (1–2 $mm^2$) by pressure applications (5–20 psi, 5–20 ms at 0.5 Hz)
245 controlled by a Picrospritzer III (General Valve) and a pulse generator (Agilent). The
246 injection was performed at the following stereotaxic coordinates for CeL: 1.18 mm

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247 posterior, 2.9 mm lateral, and 4.6 mm ventral from bregma; and for IC: 0.10 mm
248 posterior, 3.90 mm lateral, and 4.20 mm ventral from bregma. For optogenetic
249 experiments, immediately after viral injection, an optical fiber (core diameter, 105 μm;
250 Thorlabs, Catalog number FG105UCA) was implanted 300 μm above the center of viral
251 injection. The optical fiber together with the ferrule (Thorlabs) was secured to the skull
252 with C&B-Metabond Quick adhesive luting cement (Parkell Prod), followed by dental
253 cement (Lang Dental Manufacturing).
254
255 Following the above procedures, a small piece of metal bar was mounted on the skull,
256 which was used to hold the mouse in the head fixation frame during behavior
257 experiments.
258
259 **Behavioral tasks**
260 ***Licking Behavior***
261 Water deprivation started 23 hours before training. Mice were trained in the head fixation
262 frame for 10 minutes daily. A metal spout was placed in front of the animal's mouth for
263 water delivery. The spout also served as part of a custom "lickometer" circuit, which
264 registered a lick event each time a mouse completed the circuit by licking the spout while
265 standing on a metal floor. The lick events were recorded by a computer through custom
266 software written in LabView (National Instruments). Each lick triggered a single opening
267 of a water valve calibrated to deliver 0.3 μl water.
268

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It took mice 4–7 days to achieve stable licking, the criterion for which was 10-minute continuous licking with no interval between licking longer than 10 seconds. We used a lick suppression index to quantify animals' degree of photostimulation-evoked suppression of licking behavior: Lick suppression index = $(L_{PRE} - L_{CS}) / (L_{PRE} + L_{CS})$, where $L_{PRE}$ is the number of licks in the 5 s period before CS onset, and $L_{CS}$ is the number of licks in the 5 s CS period (Yu et al., 2016).

***Go/no-go task***

Water deprivation started 23 hours before training, and mice were habituated to the head fixation frame for 20 minutes on the first day of training with access to water through the metal spout. On following days, animals underwent 2 training sessions each day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The 2 sessions were at least 4 hours apart, with each consisting of 100 trials. For the subsequent 3-6 sessions, mice were exposed only to the "go" cue (a 1-s, 5-kHz pure tone) followed by the delivery of 4.5 µl of water. After mice successfully retrieved water on at least 80% of the trials, they moved to the next training phase, in which they were required to lick the spout at least 1 time during the go cue in order for the water to be released. This phase took an additional 3-6 sessions until the animals reached the criteria of 80% correct responses. Following this phase, animals received 1 training session consisting of the go cue paired with the delivery of sucrose solution (100 mM) instead of water.

The next phase consisted of 10 sessions of go/no-go training. During this phase, 50 presentations of the go cue were delivered randomly intermixed with 50 presentations of

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292 the "no-go" cue (a 1-s white noise), with the constraint that either cue could not appear
293 more than 5 times in a row, and that the first trial was always a go cue. Licking the spout
294 during the no-go cue resulted in the delivery of quinine solution (4.5 µl, 5 mM). The mice
295 were required to lick at least once the spout during the 1 s window of cue presentation in
296 order to receive the US. During all phases of the experiment, brief suction (500 ms in
297 duration) near the spout was applied 3.5 s after tone onset to remove any residual solution
298 from the previous trial.
299
300 For analysis, trials were sorted into go trials and no-go trials. A correct response during a
301 go trial ("hit") occurred when the mouse successfully licked the spout during the go cue
302 and subsequently received sucrose. A correct response during a no-go trial ("correct
303 reject") occurred when the mouse successfully omitted the lick response during the no-go
304 cue and thus avoided quinine. The overall performance over the entire session was
305 calculated as the total correct responses divided by the total trials: overall performance =
306 (hits + correct rejects) / (total trials).
307
308 For the optogenetics experiments we used a modified version of this go/no-go task, in
309 which licking during the go cue led to water delivery (4.5 µl), whereas licking during the
310 no-go cue resulted in water delivery (4.5 µl) accompanied by laser stimulation. The laser
311 was delivered coincidentally with water delivery (50 ms after CS offset) at 20- or 30-Hz
312 for 2.5 seconds (the duration that the water would be available if the animal licked during
313 the no-go cue presentation). Suction was applied to remove any unconsumed water.
314 Animals received 8 training sessions in the final phase of this task.

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315

316 ***Real time place aversion (RTPA)***

317 As previously described (Stephenson-Jones et al., 2016), one side of a custom chamber
318 (23 × 33 × 25 cm; made from plexiglass) was assigned as the stimulation zone,
319 counterbalanced among mice. Mice were placed individually in the middle of the
320 chamber at the onset of the experiment, the duration of which was 30 min. Laser
321 stimulation (5-ms pulses delivered at 20 or 30 Hz) was triggered when mice entered the
322 stimulation zone, and lasted until mice exited the stimulation zone. Mice were videotaped
323 with a CCD camera interfaced with the Ethovision software (Noldus Information
324 Technologies), which was used to control the laser stimulation and extract the behavioral
325 parameters (position, time, distance, and velocity).

326

327 ***In vivo optogenetics***

328 For bilateral optogenetic stimulation in the CeL, a branched patch-cord (Doric Lenses,
329 Catalog number BFP(2)_105/125/900-0.22_1m_FC-2xZF1.25) for light delivery was
330 connected at one end to a laser source (λ = 473 nm, OEM Laser Systems) and at the other
331 end, which was composed of two terminals, to two CeL-implanted optical fibers through
332 sleeves (Thorlabs). For photostimulation-induced lick suppression, the stimuli were 5-ms
333 30-Hz light pulses (or across a range of frequencies) delivered for 5 s. For
334 photostimulation during RTPA, 5-ms 20- or 30-Hz light pulses were delivered. Laser
335 intensity was 10 mW measured at the end of optical fiber.

336

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337 **Statistics and data presentation**

338 All data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. All statistics are indicated where used. Data were
339 analyzed with GraphPad Prism. Behavioral tests were performed by an investigator with
340 knowledge of the identity of the experimental groups. All behavior experiments were
341 controlled by computer systems, and data were collected and analyzed in an automated
342 and unbiased way. Virus-injected animals in which the injection or optical fiber
343 implantation was misplaced were excluded.

344

345 **Results**

346 To investigate the function of the IC-CeL circuit, we began by characterizing how IC
347 neurons innervate the major CeL cell types. We first used a modified rabies virus system
348 to trace the monosynaptic inputs onto CeL neurons (Callaway and Luo, 2015; Penzo et
349 al., 2015). This approach revealed a monosynaptic projection from the IC to the CeL
350 (Fig. 1A, B). In particular, IC neurons innervate both of the two major populations of the
351 CeL, the $SOM^+$ neurons and PKC-$\delta^+$ neurons (Fig. 1A, B). Notably, the IC was the only
352 cortical region identified by this approach to send monosynaptic projections to the CeL.
353 The CeL-projecting IC neurons were preferentially localized in the posterior part of the
354 IC, which overlaps at least partially with the GC (Fig. 1B).

355

356 As the IC also sends projections to the BLA (Allen et al., 1991), we next determined
357 whether the same IC neurons project to both the CeL and the BLA. To this end we
358 injected the CeL and BLA with the retrograde tracer AlexaFluor-488- or 555-conjugated
359 cholera toxin (CTB-488 or CTB-555), respectively (Fig. 1C). We found that CTB

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reliably labeled CeL-projecting IC neurons (Fig. 1D), with a distribution pattern similar to that of CeL-projecting IC neurons labeled by the rabies virus (Fig. 1B). CTB also labeled a prominent population of BLA-projecting IC neurons, the vast majority of which has a distribution pattern distinct from that of CeL-projecting IC neurons (Fig. 1D). This result demonstrates that CeL-projecting neurons and BLA-projecting neurons in the IC are largely non-overlapping populations.

To selectively target the CeL-projecting IC neurons and visualize their axonal projections, we injected the CeL with a retrograde canine adenovirus expressing Cre recombinase (CAV2-Cre) (Bru et al., 2010), followed by injecting the IC with an adeno-associated virus harboring a double-floxed inverted open reading frame (AAV-DIO) that expresses, in a Cre-dependent manner, a presynaptic protein synaptophysin tagged with a fluorescent protein mCherry (AAV-DIO-synaptophysin-mCherry) (Fig. 1E). This strategy led to the labeling of IC neurons that sent dense axonal fibers to the CeL (Fig. 1F). Sparse labeling of axon fibers in the BLA can also be detected (Fig. 1F), which likely was caused by spillover of the CAV2-Cre to the BLA and thus the labeling of BLA-projecting IC neurons. Though the ipsilateral CeL had the densest projections, we also observed $mCherry^{+}$ axon terminals in the contralateral CeL, consistent with results from retrograde tracing with CTB (data not shown). Altogether, the anatomical tracing results demonstrate that the IC sends robust projections to the CeL, and that the IC-CeL and IC-BLA are distinct circuits.

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To assess the synaptic connectivity between the IC and CeL, we used the *Som-cre;Ai14* mice, in which $SOM^+$ cells can be identified by their red fluorescence, and injected the IC of these mice with an AAV expressing the light-gated cation channel channelrodhopsin-2 (AAV-ChR2-YFP) that allows photostimulation of axonal projections (Zhang et al., 2006) (Fig. 2A). Approximately 3 weeks after the AAV injection, we prepared from these mice acute brain slices containing the CeL, in which we recorded synaptic transmission onto simultaneously patched pairs of adjacent $SOM^+$ (red-fluorescent) and $SOM^-$ (non-fluorescent) CeL neurons in response to optogenetic stimulation of the IC inputs. Brief light pulses evoked fast excitatory synaptic transmission in nearly all the recorded CeL neurons (Fig. 2B). Notably, the AMPA receptor-mediated component of synaptic transmission onto $SOM^+$ neurons was significantly greater than that onto $SOM^-$ neurons (Fig. 2B-C). The NMDA receptor-mediated synaptic transmission onto these two neuronal populations was not different. In a subset of these pairs, we also examined paired-pulse ratio (PPR; see Methods) and found no significant difference between the two cell types (Fig. 2C). These results indicate that IC inputs can activate both $SOM^+$ neurons and $SOM^-$ neurons in the CeL, with the latter being mainly PKC-$\delta^+$ neurons (Li et al., 2013).

We reasoned that the IC-CeL circuit could have a role in behavioral inhibition, because $SOM^+$ CeL neurons are essential for the generation of passive defensive responses, including freezing behavior and action suppression (Fadok et al., 2017; Li et al., 2013; Penzo et al., 2015; Yu et al., 2016), while PKC-$\delta^+$ CeL neurons convey aversive US information and are sufficient to instruct aversive learning (Yu et al., 2017). To test this

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hypothesis, we set out to inhibit the CeL-projecting IC neurons in mice and subsequently trained these mice in a go/no-go task that engages the IC. We first injected the CeL with the CAV2-Cre (Fig. 3A), and then injected the IC in the same mice with an AAV expressing the tetanus toxin light chain (TeLC), which blocks neurotransmitter release (Murray et al., 2011), or GFP (as a control) in a Cre-dependent manner (AAV-DIO-TeLC-GFP or AAV-DIO-GFP, respectively) (Fig. 3A). As described above (Fig. 1E, F), this strategy led to selective targeting of the IC-CeL circuit (Fig. 3B, C).

Four to five weeks following viral injections, we began training these mice in the go/no-go task (see Methods), in which an auditory stimulus (go cue) predicts the delivery of a palatable liquid (sucrose), while a different auditory stimulus (no-go cue) predicts the delivery of an unpleasant liquid (quinine) (Fig. 3D). Mice need to learn to produce an instrumental response (lick) during the go cue to receive sucrose, and inhibit that response during the no-go cue to avoid quinine (Fig. 4A). Learning in this task has previously been shown to be paralleled by the development of cue-specific responses in IC neurons (Gardner and Fontanini, 2014).

We found that bilateral inhibition of synaptic transmission from CeL-projecting IC neurons with TeLC markedly affected animals' behavior in the no-go trials, but left that in the go trials of this task largely unaffected (Fig. 4A, B). Specifically, in the go trials, mice in both the GFP group and the TeLC group showed stimulus-evoked licking (Fig. 4A), leading to similar performance (Fig. 4B); although closer inspection of these animals' behavioral patterns revealed that the TeLC mice did not allocate their licking to

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the CS and US period as much as the GFP control mice, especially on the final training session (Fig. 4A,B). By contrast, in the no-go trials, while the GFP mice gradually learned to withhold licking in response to the no-go cue, and thus successfully avoid quinine in most of the trials towards the end of the training sessions (Fig. 4A, B), the TeLC mice showed no sign of learning and thus were markedly impaired in performance even at the end of the training sessions (Fig. 4A, B). The overall performance of the GFP mice also showed a learning effect, evidenced by a gradual increase in performance over the first 8 training sessions followed by asymptotic performance (Fig. 4B). On the other hand, the animals expressing TeLC showed no such improvement with continued training (Fig. 4B).

The impairment in behavioral inhibition observed during the no-go trials (or decrease in the "correct reject") in the TeLC mice could be caused by a general increase in responding. If so, then the performance of these mice in the go trials (measured as the percentage of trials in which the mice made a response; or the "hit" rate) would also increase. However we observed no such increase; in fact, the TeLC group showed a mild decrease in hit rate, in particular in late sessions (Fig. 4B). The TeLC mice also showed a reduced lick rate in response to the go cue, and had lick rate similar to that of the GFP mice following the delivery of sucrose (Fig. 4A, C, D), further arguing against a general increase in responding in these mice. In contrast, these mice showed an increased lick rate specifically to the no-go cue and during the inter-trial interval (ITI) (Fig. 4A, C, E), consistent with the notion that they were impaired in action suppression. We noticed that the TeLC mice had a tendency to show increased lick rate following quinine delivery

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compared with the GFP mice (Fig. 4D), suggesting that inhibiting the IC-CeL pathway may partially impair the processing of aversive taste information during this task. Alternatively, or additionally, the observations that the TeLC mice showed impaired performance (although mild) and reduced lick rate during the go cue (Fig. 4B,C), as well as impaired performance and increased lick rate during the no-go cue and quinine delivery (Fig. 4B-D) could be explained by an impairment in these mice in anticipation of salient outcomes, a function that has been attributed to the CeA (Balleine and Killcross, 2006; Haney et al., 2010; Roesch et al., 2012).

We also tested a subset of these animals on their sensitivity to increasing concentrations of quinine during a free-licking session (10 minute). Similar to the GFP control group, the TeLC group showed decreased average licking rate during this period (reflecting a reduction in the total volume consumed) with increasing concentrations of quinine (Fig. 4F). This result is consistent with previous findings that lesions of the GC in rats do not affect the amount of either quinine or sucrose solutions consumed at varying concentrations (Hashimoto and Spector, 2014), and indicates that inhibition of CeL-projecting IC neurons does not abolish animals' basic ability to process quinine's sensory and aversive properties, at least when there is little cognitive demand. Together, these results indicate that the IC-CeL pathway is required for establishing the learned, anticipatory behavioral inhibition to avoid an aversive tastant.

Our results suggest that the CeL-projecting IC neurons preferentially regulate the no-go response, consistent with the critical role of the CeL in processing aversive information

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474 and in the learning and expression of avoidance behaviors. We therefore tested whether
475 activation of the IC-CeL pathway is sufficient to drive aversive responses as well as
476 instruct learning of an avoidance behavior. For this purpose we delivered the ChR2 or
477 GFP (as a control) specifically into CeL-projecting IC neurons bilaterally, using the
478 retrograde and intersectional strategy based on the CAV2-Cre as described above (Fig.
479 5A), and subsequently bilaterally implanted optical fibers over the CeL (Fig. 5B, C).
480
481 Four to five weeks following surgery, these mice were water deprived and trained to
482 achieve stable licking to a water spout, during which we delivered pulses of blue light
483 into the CeL. Photostimulation in the CeL in which the axon terminals originating from
484 the IC expressed ChR2 elicited robust suppression of licking, an effect that was
485 dependent on the frequency of stimulation (Fig. 5D, E). Furthermore, such optogenetic
486 activation of the IC-CeL pathway induced place aversion in a real time place aversion
487 (RTPA) task (Fig. 5F). By contrast, photostimulation in the CeL in which IC axons
488 expressed GFP induced neither lick suppression nor place aversion (Fig. 5D-F). These
489 results suggest that activation of the IC-CeL circuit is aversive, and is sufficient to induce
490 action suppression and avoidance responses.
491
492 To test whether activation of the IC-CeL circuit can be substituted for an aversive tastant
493 to instruct avoidance learning, similar to learning of the no-go response in the go/no-go
494 task, we trained the same mice as those used in Fig. 5 in a modified go/no-go task, in
495 which licking during one cue led to water delivery alone (the “laser-off” trials), whereas
496 licking during another cue resulted in water delivery coinciding with bilateral

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497 photostimulation in the CeL (the "laser-on" trials) (Fig. 6A; also see Methods). We found
498 that the mice in which the IC-CeL pathway expressed ChR2 – and thus could be activated
499 by the photostimulation – showed reduced responding to the cue in the laser-on trials
500 compared with in the laser-off trials (Fig. 6B, C). By contrast, the mice in which the IC-
501 CeL pathway expressed GFP showed similar cue-evoked responding in the laser-on or
502 laser-off trials (Fig. 6B, C). We also verified that the photostimulation did not cause
503 obvious motor effects in either the ChR2 mice or the GFP mice in an open field setting
504 (Fig. 6D).
505
506 Of note, although optogenetic activation of the IC-CeL pathway was less effective than
507 quinine reinforcement, we observed a pattern of responding in these mice qualitatively
508 similar to that of the control animals trained on the standard sucrose/quinine go/no-go
509 task (Fig. 4B), in which the mice showed low levels of responding to the no-go cue and
510 high levels of responding to the go cue. Together, these results indicate that activation of
511 the IC-CeL pathway is sufficient to instruct the learning of anticipatory action
512 suppression. This mechanism is likely engaged when learning to avoid an aversive
513 outcome, such as an unpleasant tastant.
514
515 **Discussion**
516 In this study we examined the role of the IC-CeL circuit in the establishment of
517 behavioral inhibition for avoiding an unpleasant tastant. Using retrograde anatomic
518 tracing approaches, including the modified rabies virus-assisted tracing, together with
519 ChR2-based circuit mapping, we found that the GC region of the IC sends direct

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520 excitatory projections to the CeL, which make monosynaptic connections with both the
521 $SOM^+$ and $SOM^-$ CeL neurons, with the latter being mainly PKC-$\delta^+$ neurons (Li et al.,
522 2013; Penzo et al., 2014). Specific inhibition of the CeL-projecting IC neurons with
523 TeLC prevented mice from acquiring the no-go response, and only mildly affected the go
524 response in a tastant (sucrose/quinine)-reinforced go/no-go task. Furthermore, selective
525 activation of the IC-CeL pathway with optogenetics drove unconditioned lick suppression
526 in thirsty animals, induced avoidance behavior, and was sufficient to instruct conditioned
527 action suppression in response to the cue that predicts the optogenetic activation. These
528 results demonstrate that activity in the IC-CeL circuit is necessary for establishing
529 anticipatory avoidance responses to an unpleasant tastant, and is also sufficient to drive
530 learning of such anticipatory avoidance responses.
531
532 The IC has been shown to contain regions with selective responses to distinct tastants
533 (Chen et al., 2011). As measured in anesthetized animals, these "hotspots" occupy non-
534 overlapping regions within the GC. The region with preferential responses to bitter tastes
535 resides in the posterior part of the GC, which corresponds approximately to the area of IC
536 we identified that sends the strongest projections to the CeL (also see (Allen et al.,
537 1991)). These findings suggest that the IC may preferentially convey information about
538 bitter/aversive tastants to the CeL, which in turn drive behavioral inhibition. Interestingly,
539 although the IC has been shown to be required for identifying and discriminating between
540 tastants (Katz et al., 2001; Peng et al., 2015; Sammons et al., 2016), we did not observe
541 an effect on quinine sensitivity when we selectively silenced the IC-CeL pathway with
542 TeLC (Fig. 4F), suggesting that the ability for bitter tastant identification and that for

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543 processing the basic reinforcing properties of bitter tastants are preserved in these mice,
544 at least when cognitive demand is low.
545
546 The CeA, including the CeL, receives aversive information of different modalities
547 directly from the brainstem parabrachial nucleus (PBN) (Carter et al., 2013; Han et al.,
548 2015; Norgren et al., 1989; Sato et al., 2015). Previous studies have shown that the CeA
549 responds to noxious stimuli, such as footshocks that induce somatic pain (Han et al.,
550 2015; Radulovic et al., 1998), colorectal distension that induces visceral pain (Myers and
551 Greenwood-Van Meerveld, 2012), and lithium chloride, which induces malaise and is the
552 most commonly used US for inducing conditioned taste aversion (Lamprecht and Dudai,
553 1995). The CeA has also been implicated in taste processing (Sadacca et al., 2012) and
554 feeding behaviors (Cai et al., 2014). Thus, the CeA is anatomically poised to process
555 convergent somatosensory, visceral, gustatory and aversive information and may be
556 recruited by multiple neural circuits for action suppression in a variety of tasks, in which
557 the goal is to avoid unwanted consequences.
558
559 More recent studies, including those of our own, indicate that the CeA contains
560 functionally heterogeneous neuronal populations. $SOM^+$ CeL neurons control passive
561 defensive responses, such as freezing and action suppression (Fadok et al., 2017; Li et al.,
562 2013; Penzo et al., 2014; Penzo et al., 2015; Yu et al., 2016), whereas PKC-$\delta^+$ CeL
563 neurons are involved in conveying aversive US information and instructing aversive
564 learning (Yu et al., 2017). The PKC-$\delta^+$ CeL neurons have also been linked to suppression
565 of feeding (Cai et al., 2014). As both of these CeL populations receive direct excitatory

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inputs from the IC (Fig. 1), they may contribute to distinct aspects of the IC-CeL circuit function described in the current study. An intriguing possibility is that the $SOM^+$ population induces action suppression when excited by IC inputs, while the PKC-$\delta^+$ population regulates learning and potentially aversion when activated by the same inputs. Some of the functions mediated by CeL neurons, in particular those by PKC-$\delta^+$ neurons, are consistent with the findings that the CeA plays a role in alerting or attentional processes, and can explain our observations suggesting that the IC-CeL circuit may have a more general function in behavior, i.e., it influences performance and actions during not only the no-go trials, but also the go trials of the go/no-go task, although the impact on the no-go trials is much stronger.

## Figures

**Figure 1. The IC sends monosynaptic projections to the amygdala.** (**A**) A schematic of the experimental approach (see Methods). (**B**) Representative images of the tracing result for $SOM^+$ (left) and PKC-$\delta^+$ (right) CeL neurons. Top, retrogradely labeled neurons in the IC. Bottom, starter neurons in the CeL are identified by their co-expression of mCherry and histone GFP (cells in yellow). Data in A & B were replicated in 3 mice for each group, and were from the same injections reported in (Penzo et al., 2015). (**C**) Top: a schematic of the experimental approach. Bottom: a representative image of the injection sites. (**D**) The distribution of the BLA-projecting (red) and the CeL-projecting (green) neurons in the IC. AIC, agranular insular cortex; GIC, granular insular cortex; DIC, disgranular insular cortex. Data in C & D were replicated in two mice. (**E**) A schematic of the experimental approach. (**F**) Representative images showing the $mCherry^+$ axons

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589 (top), which originated from the CeL-projecting IC neurons (bottom). In the insets are
590 enlarged images of the boxed areas in the right, which are located in the amygdala (top)
591 and the IC (bottom).
592
593 **Figure 2: Functional connectivity between IC neurons and CeL neurons.**
594 (**A**) A schematic of the experimental design. AAV-ChR2-YFP was injected into the IC of
595 a *SOM;Ai14 mouse* (left), and patch clamp recording was performed in acute slices
596 containing the amygdala (right). (**B**) Sample traces of EPSCs recorded from a $SOM^+$ and
597 a $SOM^-$ CeL neuron, which were recorded simultaneously. The EPSCs were evoked by
598 optogenetic stimulation of the IC axons terminating in the CeL, with the AMPA receptor-
599 mediated EPSCs being stimulated with two pulses (50 ms inter-pulse interval) protocol.
600 (**C**) Quantification of the EPSC amplitude evoked by the first pulse mediated by AMPA
601 receptors is shown in the left panel, NMDA receptors is shown in the middle, and the
602 paired-pulse ratio (PPR) of AMPA receptor-mediated EPSCs is shown on the right. T-
603 tests revealed that the AMPA receptor-mediated EPSC was larger in $SOM^+$ than $SOM^-$
604 CeL neurons (AMPA, $t(18) = 3$, $^*P = 0.0085$, NMDA, $t(18) = 0.7$, $P = 0.47$, n = 10 pairs,
605 *t* test; PPR, $t(12) = 1.8$, $P = 0.1$, n = 7 pairs, *t* test). Data in C are presented as mean ±
606 s.e.m.
607
608 **Figure 3. Experimental design to test the role of the IC-CeL circuit in a go/no-go**
609 **task.** (**A**) A schematic of the experimental design to selectively inhibit the IC-CeL
610 circuit. (**B**) Representative images showing the cells in the IC infected with GFP (left
611 panels) and TeLC-GFP (right panels) virus. In the lower panel are enlarged images of the

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612 boxed areas in the images in the upper panel. (**C**) Axon terminals expressing GFP (left)
613 or TeLC-GFP (right), which originated from CeL-projecting IC neurons. (**D**) A schematic
614 of the go/no-go task.
615
616 **Figure 4. The IC-CeL circuit is required for suppression of behavioral responding.**
617 (**A**) Population histogram of licking behavior during the first and final sessions of go/no-
618 go training. Licking behavior is represented separately according to go (top panels) or no-
619 go (bottom panels) trials for both GFP (blue; n = 9) and TeLC (red; n = 7) mice. Dashed
620 line denotes the time window of CS delivery. US was delivered 50 ms after CS offset.
621 Shaded regions represent s.e.m. (**B**) Quantification of performance (the percentage of
622 correct responding trials) on the go/no-go task. For the go trials, the TeLC animals
623 showed a mild reduction in performance compared to GFP animals (two-way repeated
624 measures (RM) ANOVA revealed a significant interaction, but no main effects: main
625 effect of session, $F(9,126) = 1.4$; $P = 0.2$; main effect of virus treatment, $F(1,14) = 2.4$; $P$
626 $= 0.1$; interaction, $F(9,126) = 2.8$; $P < 0.01$; $^*P < 0.01$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple
627 comparisons test). For the no-go trials, the TeLC animals showed a marked reduction in
628 performance compared to GFP animals (two-way RM ANOVA revealed a main effect of
629 session ($F(9,126) = 2.84$; $P = 0.005$), a main effect of virus treatment ($F(1,14) = 17.56$; $P$
630 $< 0.001$), and a significant interaction ($F(9,126) = 4.8$; $P < 0.001$); $^*P < 0.05$, Post hoc
631 Sidak's multiple comparisons test). For the overall performance, the TeLC animals
632 showed a reduction in performance compared to GFP animals (two-way RM ANOVA
633 revealed a main effect of session ($F(9,126) = 2.41$; $P = 0.01$), a main effect of virus
634 treatment ($F(1,14) = 24.28$; $P < 0.01$), and a significant interaction ($F(9,126) = 9.8$; $P <$

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635 0.01). *$P < 0.01$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons test). (**C**) TeLC animals showed
636 a mild reduction in licking in response to the go cue (two-way RM ANOVA revealed a
637 significant interaction, but no main effects (main effect of session, $F(9,126) = 1.9$; $P =$
638 0.06; main effect of virus treatment, $F(1,14) = 4.1$; $P = 0.06$; interaction, $F(9,126) = 3.5$;
639 $P < 0.001$; *$P < 0.05$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons test). TeLC animals showed
640 an increase in licking in response to the no-go cue (two-way RM ANOVA revealed a
641 main effect of session ($F(9,126) = 3.76$; $P < 0.001$), a main effect of virus treatment
642 ($F(1,14) = 15.8$; $P = 0.001$), and a significant interaction ($F(9,126) = 4.45$; $P < 0.001$; *$P$
643 $< 0.05$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons test). (**D**) TeLC inhibition of the IC-CeL
644 circuit did not affect US-evoked licking rate ($P > 0.05$, two-way RM ANOVA). (**E**)
645 TeLC inhibition of the IC-CeL circuit increased the inter-trial licking rate (two-way RM
646 ANOVA revealed a main effect of session ($F(9,126) = 4.13$; $P < 0.001$), a main effect of
647 virus treatment ($F(1,14) = 15.73$; $P = 0.001$), and a significant interaction ($F(9,126) =$
648 2.08; $P = 0.037$); *$P < 0.05$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons test). (**F**) Quinine
649 sensitivity test showing lick rate during a 10-minute free-licking session for various
650 concentrations of quinine followed by a final session of water. TeLC inhibition of the IC-
651 CeL circuit did not affect quinine sensitivity (two-way RM ANOVA main effect of
652 quinine concentration, $F(7,84) = 16.3$, $P < 0.0001$; main effect of virus, $F(1,12) = 0.78$, $P$
653 $= 0.4$; interaction, $F(7,84) = 0.24$, $P = 0.97$). All data are presented as mean ± s.e.m.
654
655 **Figure 5. Optogenetic activation of the IC-CeL circuit is sufficient to induce action**
656 **suppression and avoidance behavior.** (**A** & **B**) Schematics of the experimental design.
657 (**C**) Representative images showing the locations of optical fiber implantation and green

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axon fibers in the CeL, which originated from CeL-projecting IC neurons expressing ChR2-YFP (left) or GFP (right). (**D**) Raster plots showing licking behavior for a GFP (left) and a ChR2 (right) animal. Blue bars and shaded areas indicate the time window of laser stimulation. (**E**) Quantification of the effect of the photostimulation on licking behavior (suppression index) at different stimulation frequencies ($F(4,14) = 4.375$, $P = 0.017$; $^{*}P = 0.024$, $^{**}P = 0.007$; one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparisons test; 5-20Hz, n = 3 mice; 30Hz, n = 6 mice). (**F**) In a real-time place avoidance behavioral paradigm, the ChR2 animals avoided the stimulation side (two-way RM ANOVA main effect of stimulation side, $F(2,16) = 4.27$; $P = 0.03$; main effect of virus treatment, $F(1,8) = 1.53$; $P = 0.25$); interaction, $F(2,16) = 6.94$; $P = 0.007$; $^{**}P = 0.005$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons test; GFP, n = 4 mice, ChR2, n = 6 mice).

**Figure 6. Optogenetic activation of the IC-CeL circuit is sufficient to instruct avoidance learning.** (**A**) A schematic of the experimental design. (**B**) Animal behavior is quantified as the percentage of trials that animals chose to lick during CS presentation (chosen trials) (GFP animals: two-way RM ANOVA showed a main effect of session ($F(5,30) = 5.59$; $P < 0.001$, no main effect of trial type ($F(1,6) = 2.07$; $P = 0.2$, and a significant interaction ($F(5,30) = 3.05$; $P = 0.024$; Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons tests revealed a significant difference in session 1 ($P = 0.004$, n = 4 mice). ChR2 mice: two-way RM ANOVA showed a main effect of trial type ($F(1,8) = 5.7$; $P = 0.04$), no main effect of session ($F(7,56) = 1.35$; $P = 0.25$) or interaction ($F(7,56) = 0.71$; $P = 0.66$; n = 5 mice). (**C**) Quantification of the chosen trials in the final training session (two-way repeated measures ANOVA revealed a main effect of group (GFP vs. ChR2) ($F(1,7) =$

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8.19; $P = 0.024$), a main effect of trial type (laser-off vs. laser-on) ($F(1,7) = 6.59$; $P = 0.037$), and a significant interaction ($F(1,7) = 5.778$; $P = 0.047$); $^*P = 0.015$, Post hoc Sidak's multiple comparisons test). (**D**) In an open field, laser stimulation did not affect movement of mice (GFP or ChR2 mice), measured as average movement velocity over 10 trials ($P > 0.05$, two-way RM ANOVA). All data are presented as mean ± s.e.m.

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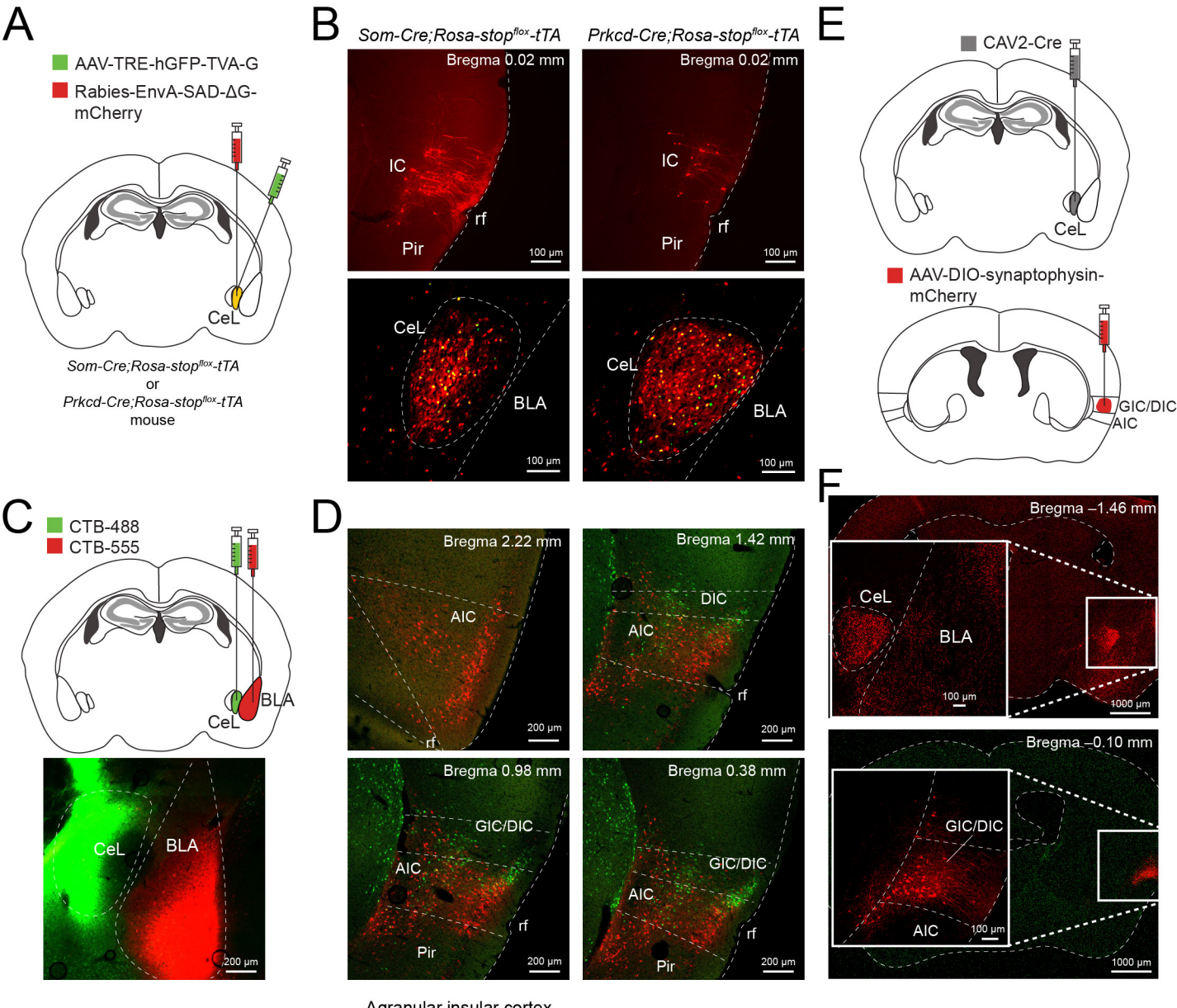
837




Agranular insular cortex

Figure 1

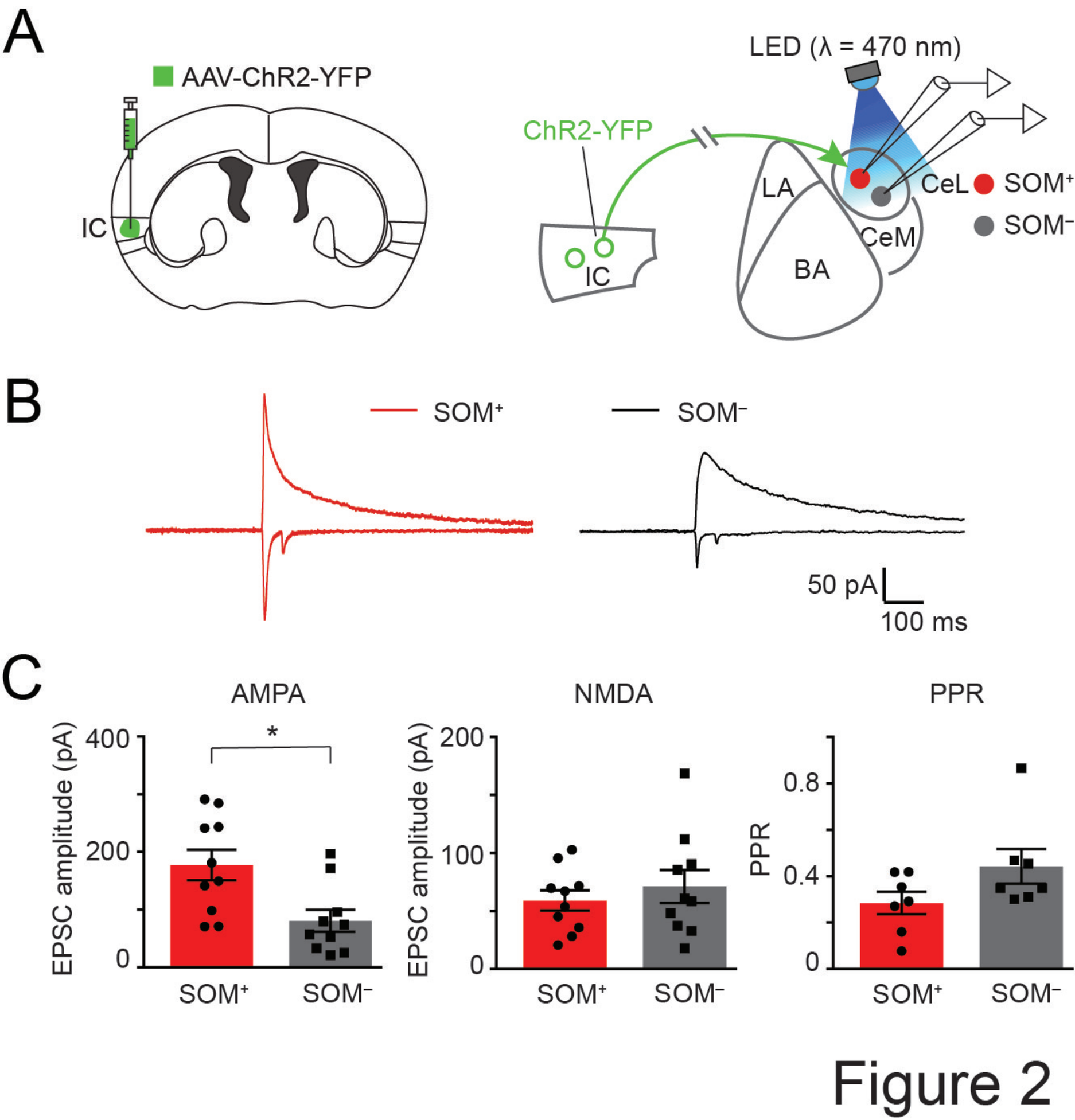

A
AAV-ChR2-YFP
IC
LED (λ = 470 nm)
ChR2-YFP
IC
LA
BA
CeM
CeL
SOM+
SOM−
B
SOM+
SOM−
50 pA
100 ms
C
AMPA
EPSC amplitude (pA)
400
200
0
*
SOM+
SOM−
NMDA
EPSC amplitude (pA)
200
100
0
SOM+
SOM−
PPR
PPR
0.8
0.4
0
SOM+
SOM−

Figure 2

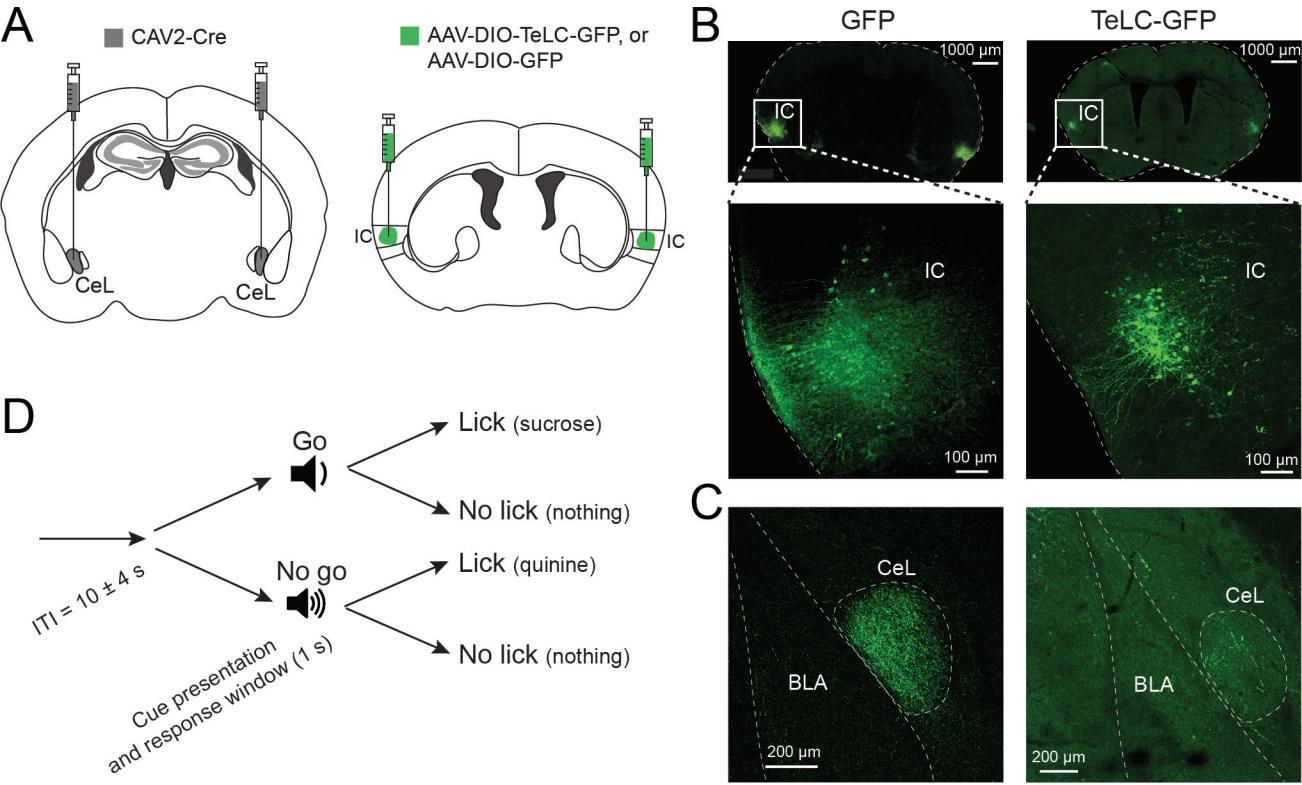

A
CAV2-Cre
AAV-DIO-TeLC-GFP, or
AAV-DIO-GFP
CeL
CeL
IC
IC
B
GFP
TeLC-GFP
1000 µm
1000 µm
IC
IC
IC
IC
100 µm
100 µm
C
CeL
CeL
BLA
BLA
200 µm
200 µm
D
Go
Lick (sucrose)
No lick (nothing)
ITI = 10 ± 4 s
No go
Lick (quinine)
No lick (nothing)
Cue presentation
and response window (1 s)

Figure 3

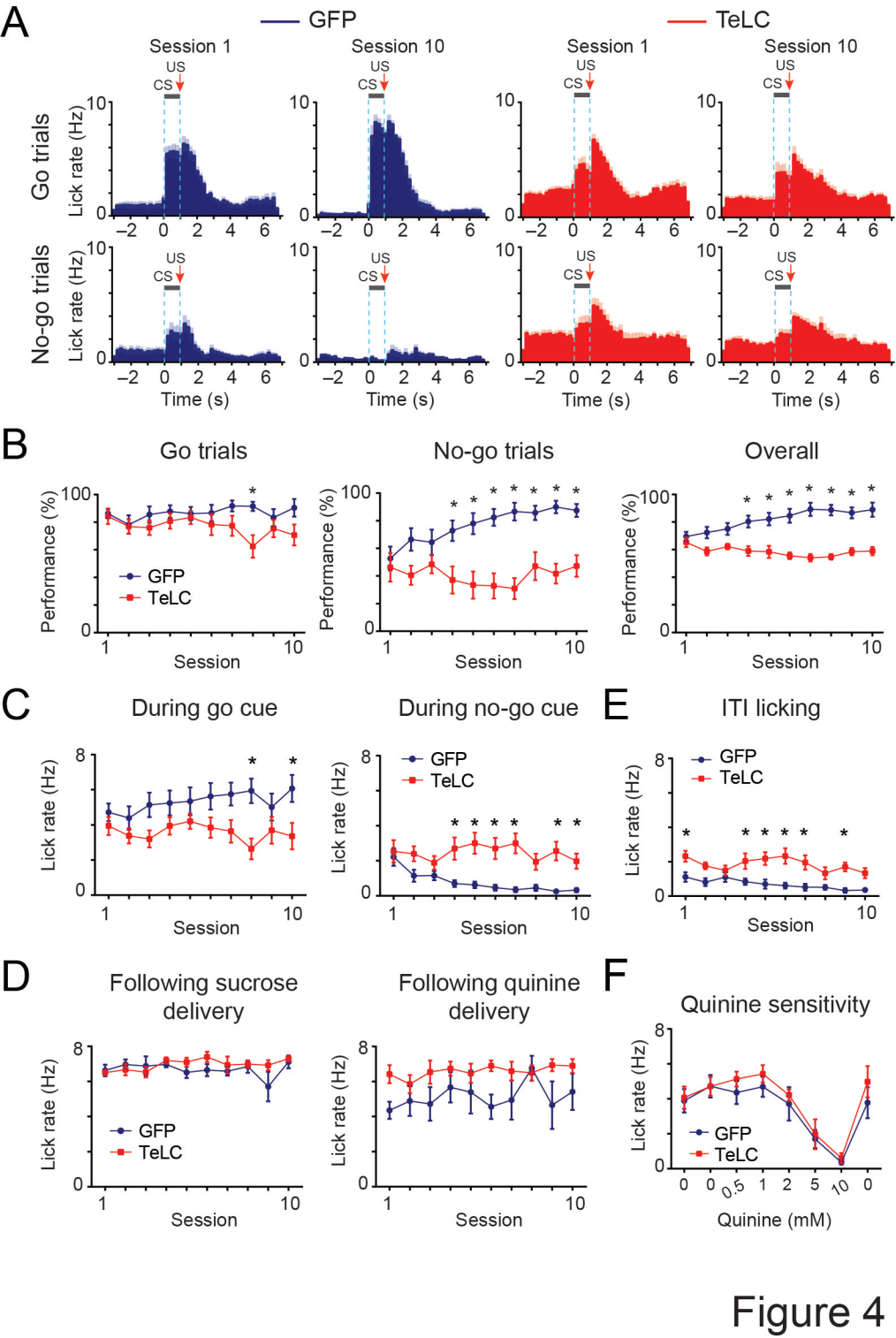

A
GFP
TeLC
Session 1
Session 10
Session 1
Session 10
US
CS
Go trials
No-go trials
Lick rate (Hz)
Time (s)
B
Go trials
No-go trials
Overall
Performance (%)
GFP
TeLC
Session
C
During go cue
During no-go cue
Lick rate (Hz)
Session
D
Following sucrose delivery
Following quinine delivery
E
ITI licking
F
Quinine sensitivity
Quinine (mM)

Figure 4

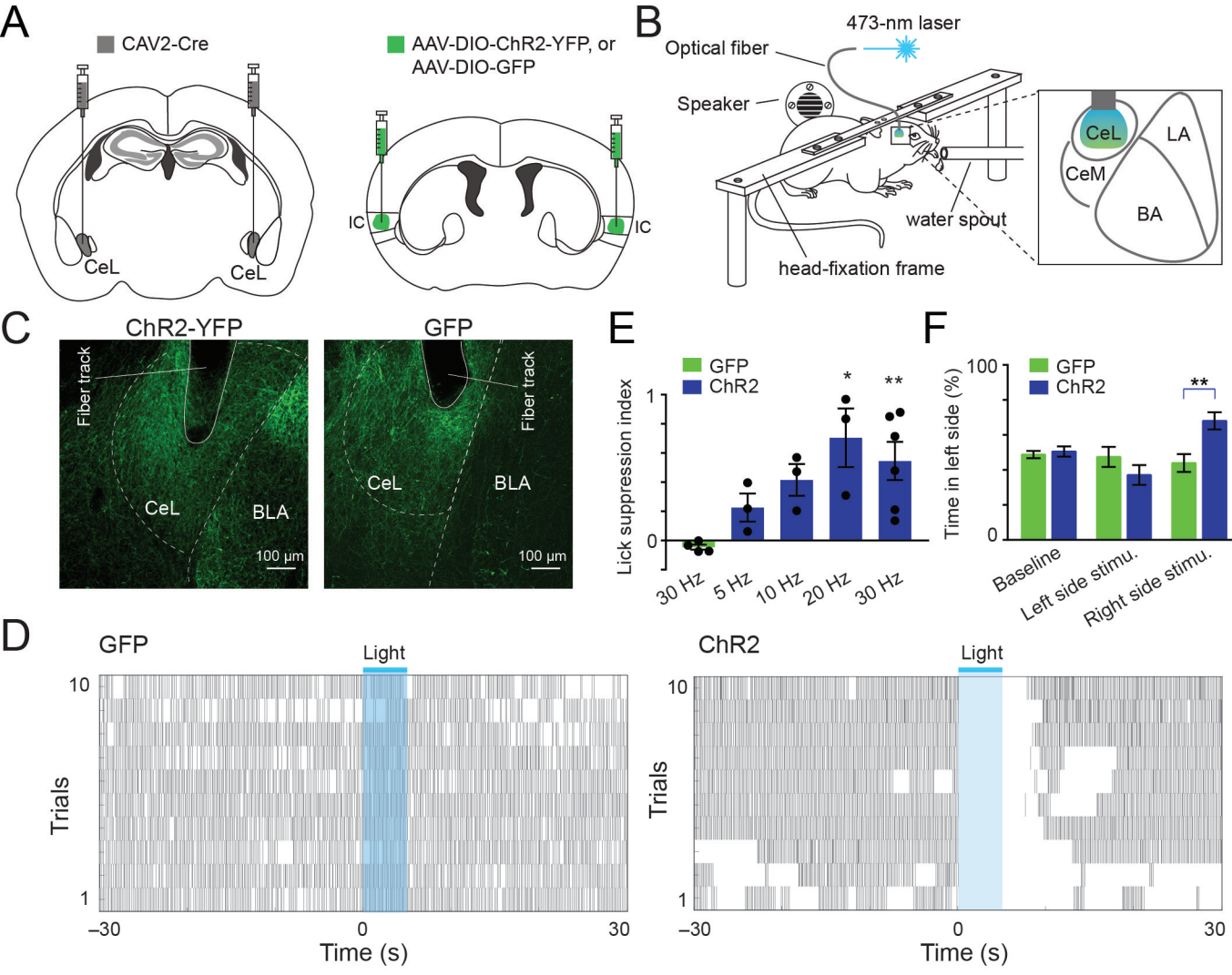
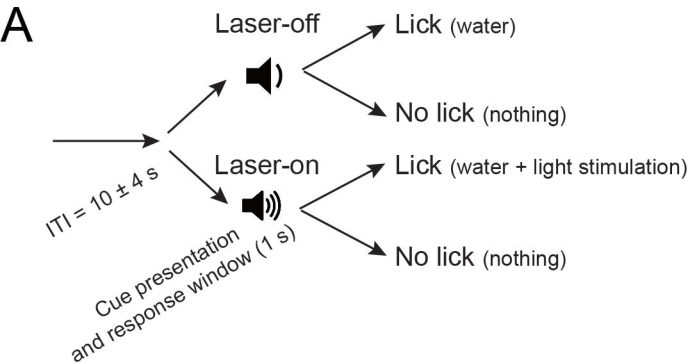
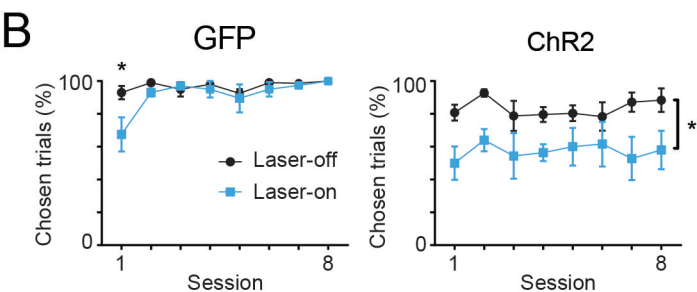

A
CAV2-Cre
AAV-DIO-ChR2-YFP, or
AAV-DIO-GFP
CeL
CeL
IC
IC
B
473-nm laser
Optical fiber
Speaker
water spout
head-fixation frame
CeL
LA
CeM
BA
C
ChR2-YFP
GFP
Fiber track
Fiber track
CeL
BLA
CeL
BLA
100 μm
100 μm
E
GFP
ChR2
Lick suppression index
1
0
*
**
30 Hz
5 Hz
10 Hz
20 Hz
30 Hz
F
GFP
ChR2
Time in left side (%)
100
0
**
Baseline
Left side stimu.
Right side stimu.
D
GFP
Light
10
1
Trials
–30
0
30
Time (s)
ChR2
Light
10
1
Trials
–30
0
30
Time (s)

Figure 5


A
Laser-off
Lick (water)
No lick (nothing)
ITI = 10 ± 4 s
Laser-on
Lick (water + light stimulation)
No lick (nothing)
Cue presentation
and response window (1 s)


B
GFP
ChR2
Chosen trials (%)
100
0
Laser-off
Laser-on
1
8
Session
*

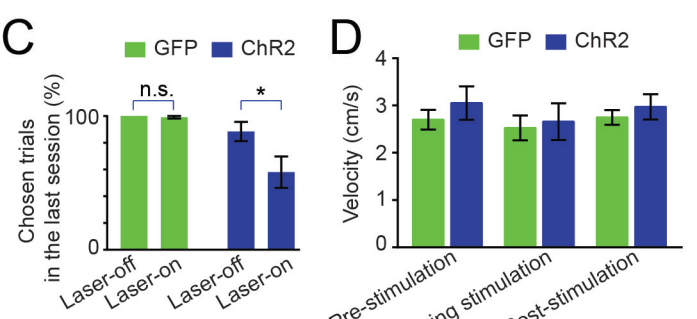

C
GFP
ChR2
n.s.
*
Chosen trials
in the last session (%)
100
0
Laser-off
Laser-on
Laser-off
Laser-on
D
GFP
ChR2
Velocity (cm/s)
4
3
2
1
0
Pre-stimulation
During stimulation
Post-stimulation

Figure 6