A single-cell transcriptomic and anatomic atlas of mouse dorsal raphe *Pet1*
neurons

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Abstract

The dorsal raphe nucleus (DR) contains the largest brain population of *Pet1*-lineage
neurons, a predominantly serotonergic group distributed throughout multiple DR
subdomains. These neurons collectively regulate diverse physiology and behavior and
are often therapeutically targeted to treat affective disorders. Characterizing *Pet1* neuron
molecular heterogeneity and relating it to anatomy is vital for understanding DR
functional organization, with potential to inform therapeutic separability. Here we use
high-throughput and DR subdomain-targeted single-cell transcriptomics and
intersectional genetic tools to map molecular and anatomical diversity of DR-*Pet1*
neurons. We describe up to fourteen neuron subtypes, many showing biased cell body
distributions across the DR. We further show that *P2ry1-Pet1* DR neurons – the most
molecularly distinct of the subtypes – possess unique efferent projections and
electrophysiological properties. The present data complement and extend previous DR
characterizations, combining intersectional genetics with multiple transcriptomic
modalities to achieve fine-scale molecular and anatomic identification of *Pet1* neuron
subtypes.

Introduction

Brainstem neurons that synthesize the monoamine neurotransmitter serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT) (Baker et al., 1991a; Baker et al., 1991b; Baker et al., 1990; Dahlstroem and Fuxe, 1964; Ishimura et al., 1988; Steinbusch, 1981; Steinbusch et al., 1978) derive from embryonic precursors that express the transcription factor PET1 (alias FEV) upon terminal cell division (Hendricks et al., 1999). PET1 shapes the serotonergic identity of neurons by regulating expression of genes required for 5-HT biosynthesis, packaging in synaptic vesicles, reuptake, and metabolism (Hendricks et al., 2003; Krueger and Deneris, 2008; Liu et al., 2010; Wyler et al., 2015; Wyler et al., 2016), though some *Pet1*-lineage cells in the brain have ambiguous phenotypes with respect to their ability to synthesize and release 5-HT (Alonso et al., 2013; Barrett et al., 2016; Okaty et al., 2015; Pelosi et al., 2014; Sos et al., 2017). Aside from shared expression of 5-HT marker genes (to varying degrees), *Pet1*-lineage neurons display wide-ranging phenotypic heterogeneity, including diverse brainstem anatomy, hodology, and expression of neurotransmitters in addition to or other than 5-HT, suggestive of distinct *Pet1* neuron subtypes with divergent neural circuit functions (recently reviewed in (Okaty et al., 2019)). We have previously shown that the mature molecular identities of *Pet1*-lineage neurons strongly correlate with both the embryonic progenitor domain (rhombomeric domain) from which they derive and with their mature anatomy (Jensen et al., 2008; Okaty et al., 2015), largely consistent with (Alonso et al., 2013). However, even within a given *Pet1* rhombomeric sublineage and anatomical subdomain, *Pet1* neurons may display different molecular and cellular phenotypes (Niederkofler et al., 2016; Okaty et al., 2015). *Pet1* neurons project widely throughout the brain and are functionally implicated in numerous life-sustaining biological processes and human pathologies. Thus, assembling a taxonomy of *Pet1* neuron subtypes based on molecular and cellular properties and linking identified *Pet1* neuron subtypes to specific biological functions is important for basic neuroscience and human health, including the development of targeted therapeutics. Here we provide a high-resolution, single-cell transcriptomic atlas of dorsal raphe *Pet1*-lineage neurons revealing hierarchically and spatially organized molecular subtypes, each expressing unique repertoires of neurotransmitters, plasma membrane receptors, ion channels, cell adhesion molecules, and other gene categories important for specifying neuronal functions.

The dorsal raphe (DR) nucleus comprises the largest anatomically defined subgroup of

Pet1 expressing cells in the brain, and these cells are derived from embryonic

progenitors in the isthmus and rhombomere 1 (Alonso et al., 2013; Jensen et al., 2008).

Multiple studies have demonstrated neuronal diversity within the DR, in *Pet1*-expressing

5-HT neurons as well as other resident cell populations (Calizo et al., 2011; Challis et al.,

2013; Crawford et al., 2010; Fernandez et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2019; Kirby et al.,

2003; Niederkofler et al., 2016; Prouty et al., 2017; Ren et al., 2018; Ren et al., 2019;

Spaethling et al., 2014; Vasudeva and Waterhouse, 2014; Zeisel et al., 2018). In the

present study, we extend these findings by transcriptionally profiling *Pet1*-lineage

marked DR neurons using microfluidic cell sorting and droplet-based single-cell RNA

sequencing (scRNA-seq). Our particular experimental approach combining intersectional

mouse genetics, high-throughput cell-type-specific purification (using the On-chip Sort),

and newly improved scRNA-seq library construction chemistry (using the 10X Genomics

Chromium Single Cell 3' v3 kit) allowed us to surpass prior resolution of DR *Pet1* neuron

molecular diversity, both in terms of the number of DR *Pet1* cells profiled and the

number of transcriptomically distinct *Pet1* neuron subtypes identified. To further

characterize the anatomical organization of these molecularly defined *Pet1* neuron

subtypes, we used intersectional mouse transgenic tools, crossing *Pet1::Flpe* mice with

various subtype-relevant Cre-driver mice and dual Flpe- and Cre-responsive fluorescent

reporter lines. In addition to performing histological analyses of these intersectionally

defined *Pet1*-lineage neuron subpopulations, we further characterized them using

manual cell-sorting from microdissected sub-domains of the DR followed by scRNA-seq.

Comparing this data with our high-throughput droplet-based scRNA-seq approach

allowed us to map *Pet1* neuron molecular diversity onto DR anatomy. We found that DR

Pet1-lineage neurons comprise as many as fourteen distinct molecularly defined

subtypes, several of which we show are anatomically biased within rostral-caudal,

dorsal-ventral, and medial-lateral axes. Additionally, by combining intersectional genetics

with projection mapping and *ex vivo* slice electrophysiology we show examples of

distinct *Pet1* neuron molecular subtypes that also differ in other cellular phenotypes

important for function, such as hodology and electrophysiology.

Results

Droplet-based scRNA-seq of *Pet1* fate-mapped DR neurons reveals new

molecularly defined neuron subtypes

To characterize the molecular diversity of *Pet1*-lineage DR neurons in a targeted, high-

throughput, high-resolution manner we partnered recombinase-based genetic fate

mapping, microfluidic fluorescence-based cell sorting, and droplet-based single-cell

barcoding followed by RNA-seq library preparation and next-generation sequencing

using the 10X Genomics Chromium Single Cell 3' v3 kit (**Figure 1A; Methods**).

Fluorescent labeling of *Pet1*-lineage DR neurons was achieved in mice of the following

genotypes: (1) *Pet1::Flpe* (Jensen et al., 2008); *En1::cre* (Kimmel et al., 2000);

RC::FrePe (the latter transgene a dual Flpe- and Cre-dependent fluorescent reporter

inserted into the *ROSA26* (*R26*) locus (Brust et al., 2014; Dymecki et al., 2010; Okaty et

al., 2015)), in which *Pet1*-lineage neurons derived from the *En1*⁺ isthmus and

rhombomere 1 (r1) embryonic progenitor domains, are marked by eGFP expression or

(2) *Pet1::Flpe; RC::FL-hM3Dq* (Sciolino et al., 2016), in which all *Pet1* neurons are

eGFP-labeled (Cre was not utilized in these experiments, thus only eGFP, not hM3Dq,

was expressed).

Brains were acutely dissected from 6-10 week old mice of both genotypes (4 males and

6 females), and DR cells were dissociated as previously described (Okaty et al., 2015)

(also see **Methods**). eGFP-expressing neurons were selectively purified using the On-

chip Sort (On-chip Biotechnologies Co., Ltd.), a recently developed technology that

greatly reduces the pressure forces typically exerted on cells in conventional flow

sorters, thereby achieving higher levels of cell viability (Watanabe et al., 2014). Indeed,

examination of sorted neurons revealed that many still had intact processes emanating

from their somas. Cells were then run through the 10X Genomics Chromium Single Cell

3' v3 protocol, followed by Illumina NextSeq 500 sequencing. The Cell Ranger pipeline

was used for transcript mapping and single-cell de-multiplexing, and all analyses of

transcript counts were performed using the R package Seurat (Butler et al., 2018; Stuart

et al., 2019) (also see **Methods**). After stringently filtering out "suspect" single-cell

libraries (e.g. libraries with high levels of non-neuronal or mitochondrial genes, outlier

library complexity, or absence/low levels of *Pet1* transcripts), we obtained 2,350 single

cells for further analysis, with a mean of 7,521 genes detected per single cell library

(mean of 57,678 UMIs per cell), and a total of 17,231 genes detected in aggregate (after

filtering out genes that were expressed in fewer than ten cells).

As the principal goal of our scRNA-seq experiments was to characterize molecular

diversity of *Pet1*-lineage neurons, our analyses were aimed at identifying genes with

significantly variable transcript expression across single neurons, and using these gene

expression differences to classify *Pet1*-lineage neuron subtypes. Typical clustering

approaches used to classify cell types (or cell states) based on scRNA-seq data are

largely unsupervised, but do require supervised input regarding a number of parameters

that have the potential to significantly alter the resulting cluster assignments. These

parameters include the data reduction used prior to clustering (such as principal

components analysis), the number of components included in the reduction, and a

resolution or granularity parameter that determines the "community" size of clusters (i.e.

whether cluster boundaries are more or less inclusive; coarse-grained or fine-grained).

Rather than arbitrarily choosing a set of parameters for our *Pet1*-lineage neuron subtype

classification, we chose a more exploratory approach by systematically varying key

parameters and examining how sensitive the resulting clusters were to these

combinations of parameters.

First, single-cell transcript counts were log-normalized, and we carried out principal

components analysis (PCA) on the scaled and centered expression values of the top two

thousand genes with the highest variance (after applying a variance-stabilizing

transform, see **Methods**) in order to reduce the dimensionality of the data onto a smaller

set of composite variables that represent the most salient gene expression differences.

Plotting the variance explained by each principal component we observed an inflection

point, or "elbow", around the fiftieth component suggesting a drop-off in the information

content of subsequent components (**Figure 1–figure supplement 1A**), and found that

roughly forty percent of the total variance was explained by these first fifty components.

Further examination of the gene loadings of each component revealed that components

six and seven were heavily weighted towards sex-specific transcripts and transcripts that

largely correlated with batch. As our experiments were not designed to explicitly

compare sex as a variable, and given the difficulties of interpreting batch-correlated

gene expression differences (e.g. these could stem from population sampling biases of

the different cell sorts, different genotypes used, different balance of sexes, or any

number of idiosyncratic biological and technical differences) we ultimately chose to

remove components six and seven from downstream analyses (though we found that

their inclusion had only modest effects on data clustering).

Next, we varied: (1) the number of PCs included in the data reduction (from one to fifty,

excluding PCs six and seven) used as input to the Seurat FindNeighbors function, and

(2) the resolution parameter in the Seurat FindClusters function (from 0.1 to 2.0, in

intervals of 0.1, using the Louvain algorithm). The results of this analysis are

summarized in the heatmap in **Figure 1–figure supplement 1B**. Including only the first

few principal components led to highly variable numbers of clusters depending on the

resolution parameter (resulting in as many as 40 clusters at the highest resolution).

However, for all resolutions the number of clusters mostly stabilized after including the

first thirty PCs. In this regime of parameter space the number of clusters was, for the

most part, bounded between five and twenty depending on the resolution. As a first pass

at homing in on the "optimum" number of clusters (strictly in a heuristic sense), we

calculated the frequency of obtaining a given number of clusters over all combinations of

parameters, reasoning that cluster numbers that are less sensitive to precise tuning of

parameters would appear more frequently, and the "robustness" of these cluster

numbers might more faithfully reflect biologically meaningful subgroup structure in the

data. The cluster number frequency plot in **Figure 1–figure supplement 1C** shows that

there are four local maxima and one global maximum corresponding to five, eight,

eleven, fourteen, and seventeen clusters respectively. Given the high frequency of these

cluster numbers, we chose to examine their composition more carefully. As multiple

combinations of parameters lead to the same number of clusters (**Figure 1–figure**

supplement 1D), in some cases leading to differences in cluster composition (generally

subtle), we decided to err on the side of including more data and thus fixed the number

of PCs at one to fifty, excluding PCs six and seven, and varied the resolution to obtain

five, eight, eleven, fourteen, and seventeen clusters.

We characterized cluster structure through hierarchical dendrograms, uniform manifold

approximation and projection for dimension reduction (UMAP) (a technique recently

developed by McIness, Healy, and Melville as described in a manuscript available at

arXiv.org, and implemented in Seurat), and differential expression analysis using

Wilcoxon rank-sum tests to identify transcripts that are significantly enriched or depleted

among clusters (**Figure 1–figure supplement 2A-I**, **Figure 1 B-D**). We ultimately

judged seventeen clusters (resolution = 1.5) to be excessive, due to the inclusion of

clusters with very few enriched genes as well as clusters that appeared somewhat

intermixed in UMAP space (analysis not shown). We thus focused our analyses on lower

resolution clusters. Across all resolutions analyzed (0.1, 0.3, 0.7, and 0.9), we found a

common set of genes that was useful in characterizing cluster structure, namely *Tph2,*

*Gad2, Gad1, Slc17a8 (*alias *Vglut3*)*,* and *Met*. The *Tph2* gene encodes for tryptophan

hydroxylase 2, the rate-limiting enzyme involved in 5-HT biosynthesis in the central

nervous system (Walther and Bader, 2003; Walther et al., 2003), and all but one cluster

showed consistently high *Tph2* transcript expression. In the five- and eight-cluster-

number analyses (resolution = 0.1 and 0.3, respectively), one cluster displayed a

strikingly bi-modal distribution of *Tph2* transcript expression (**Figure 1–figure**

supplement 2A,D, clusters four and six, respectively), however increasing the resolution

further divided this group into a *Tph2*-low and a *Tph2*- "variable" group, displaying a

broader distribution of single-cell expression than other clusters (**Figure 1–figure**

supplement 2G and **Figure 1B**, clusters ten and fourteen, respectively, corresponding

to resolutions of 0.7 and 0.9). Beyond *Tph2* expression, these two subgroups displayed

similarly shaped distributions (lower mean expression and higher variability) for several

5-HT neuron marker genes (**Figure 1–figure supplement 3**). *Gad1* and *Gad2* are

paralogous genes that encode two distinct forms of the gamma-aminobutyric acid

(GABA) synthetic enzyme glutamate decarboxylase (Erlander et al., 1991), and we

found a sizable cluster of *Pet1* neurons (~50%) that express high levels of *Tph2* and

Gad2, and to a lesser extent *Gad1* (generally detected in fewer cells than *Gad2*), which

could be further subdivided into five sub-clusters at finer resolution (**Figure 1B, C,**

clusters two-six**)**. One of these clusters, cluster six (**Figure 1B,C**), contained *Pet1*

neurons additionally expressing intermediate levels of transcripts for *Vglut3,* encoding

the vesicular glutamate transporter 3 (Fremeau et al., 2002; Gras et al., 2002). Notably,

this group of neurons also had the highest expression of *Gad1* relative to other groups.

High expression levels of *Vglut3* transcripts were detected in eight clusters (**Figure 1B,**

C, clusters seven to fourteen), comprising ~46% of profiled *Pet1* neurons, including the

Tph2-low and *Tph2*-variable clusters (**Figure 1B, C,** clusters 13 and 14). Cluster twelve,

the most striking outlier group of *Pet1* neurons, is characterized by high transcript

expression of *Tph2*, *Vglut3,* and *Met,* the latter encoding the MET proto-oncogene (also

known as hepatocyte growth factor receptor) (Iyer et al., 1990). The remaining 4% of

Pet1 neurons, comprising cluster one, expressed high levels of *Tph2* transcripts but only

sporadically expressed transcripts for *Gad2*, *Gad1*, or *Vglut3* (**Figure 1B,C**).

Examination of the dendrogram in **Figure 1B** and the UMAP plot in **Figure 1C** (as well

as examining the successively parcelled UMAP clusters in **Figure 1–figure supplement**

2B, E, and H with increasing resolution) gives a sense of "relatedness" among clusters.

For example, *Gad1/2-Tph2* clusters two to four are more similar to each other than to
Vglut3-Tph2 clusters, while cluster six, the *Gad1/2-Vglut3-Tph2* cluster, and cluster five
are situated between the other *Gad1/2-Tph2* and *Vglut3-Tph2* groups. Like cluster
twelve, clusters thirteen and fourteen appear as outliers from the other clusters in the
dendrogram (**Figure 1B**), but despite showing low and variable expression of the 5-HT
neuron marker gene *Tph2*, respectively, they nonetheless cluster more closely to other
Pet1 neurons than do *Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* neurons (cluster twelve) in the UMAP plot
(**Figure 1C**).

Met-expressing *Pet1* neurons have been previously reported in mice, both at the
transcript and protein levels, specifically in the caudal DR and the median raphe (MR)
(Kast et al., 2017; Okaty et al., 2015; Wu and Levitt, 2013) and more recently (Huang et
al., 2019; Ren et al., 2019). Likewise, *Vglut3*- and *Gad1/2*-expressing DR *Pet1* neurons
have been previously reported in mice and rats, as demonstrated by mRNA *in situ*,
immunocytochemistry, and RNA-seq (Amilhon et al., 2010; Commons, 2009; Fu et al.,
2010; Gagnon and Parent, 2014; Gras et al., 2002; Herzog et al., 2004; Hioki et al.,
2004; Hioki et al., 2010; Huang et al., 2019; Okaty et al., 2015; Ren et al., 2018; Ren et
al., 2019; Rood et al., 2014; Shikanai et al., 2012; Spaethling et al., 2014; Voisin et al.,
2016). Consistent with functional expression of VGLUT3, which allows for filling of
synaptic vesicles with the excitatory neurotransmitter glutamate, depolarization-induced
glutamate release by DR *Pet1*/5-HT neurons has been demonstrated by a number of
groups (Johnson, 1994; Kapoor et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2014; Sengupta et al., 2017;
Wang et al., 2019). Additionally, VGLUT3 is thought to interact with vesicular
monoamine transporter two (encoded by *Slc18a2,* alias *Vmat2* (Erickson et al., 1992)) to
enhance the loading of 5-HT into synaptic vesicles by increasing the pH gradient across
vesicular membranes, a process referred to as "vesicle-filling synergy" (Amilhon et al.,
2010; El Mestikawy et al., 2011; Munster-Wandowski et al., 2016). GABA-release by
Pet1 DR neurons, on the other hand, has not been reported, thus the functional
consequences of *Gad1* and *Gad2* transcript expression are presently unknown.

Differentially expressed genes span functional categories relevant to neuronal
identity

Scaled expression of the top five marker genes for each cluster (ranked by Bonferroni
corrected p-value or in some cases fold enrichment) are represented in the heatmaps in

Figure 1–figure supplement 2C, F, I, and **Figure 1D,** depending on the cluster

resolution. To aid interpretation of the functional significance of differentially expressed

genes, expression patterns of a subset of significantly variable genes and cluster

markers (for the fourteen clusters resulting from a cluster resolution of 0.9) are

represented in the dot plots in **Figure 2**, organized by categories of biological function

(identified by Gene Ontology annotations and literature searches). These gene

categories were selected based on general importance for shaping neuronal functional

identity – e.g. genes that encode transcription factors which broadly regulate molecular

phenotypes, as well as genes that encode ion channels, plasma membrane receptors,

calcium-binding proteins, kinases, and cell adhesion and axon guidance molecules,

which collectively govern neuronal electrophysiology, signal transduction, and synaptic

connectivity.

Transcription Factors

History of expression of *Pet1/Fev,* encoding the FEV transcription factor, ETS family

member (Fyodorov et al., 1998; Hendricks et al., 1999) defines the *Pet1* neuronal

lineage. As can be observed from the transcription factor dot plot in **Figure 2** (as well as

the violin plot in **Figure 1–figure supplement 3**), *Pet1/Fev* displays broad expression

across clusters but is expressed at significantly lower levels in cluster thirteen *Pet1*

neurons. Several genes known to be directly regulated by *Pet1* (Hendricks et al., 2003;

Liu et al., 2010; Wyler et al., 2015; Wyler et al., 2016), such as *Tph2*, *Slc6a4* (*Sert*)

(encoding the serotonin transporter (Hoffman et al., 1991; Lesch et al., 1993))*,* and

Slc18a2 (*Slc18a2*) likewise show reduced expression in cluster thirteen. The

transcription factor engrailed 1 (*En1*) (Joyner et al., 1985), in its expression overlap with

Pet1, is a marker of having derived from progenitors in the isthmus and r1 (Alonso et al.,

2013; Jensen et al., 2008; Okaty et al., 2015), and, as expected, *En1* transcripts are

detected broadly across all DR clusters. The paralogous gene engrailed 2 (*En2*) (Joyner

and Martin, 1987)*,* shows a more variable expression profile across *Pet1* DR neurons,

being largely absent in cluster eight and twelve, and significantly lower in cluster seven.

En1 and *En2* are required for normal development of DR *Pet1* neuron cytoarchitecture

and for perinatal maintenance of serotonergic identity (Fox and Deneris, 2012). *Nr3c1*,

encoding the nuclear receptor subfamily 3, group C, member 1, aka the glucocorticoid

receptor, which binds the stress hormone corticosterone (cortisol in humans), is

expressed broadly across clusters one through eleven, but is de-enriched in cluster

twelve, and to a lesser extent clusters thirteen and fourteen, suggesting differential

sensitivity to corticosterone across different *Pet1* neuron molecular subtypes. Numerous

studies have highlighted the functional importance of DR glucocorticoid signaling for 5-

HT neuron activity and behavioral modulation (Bellido et al., 2004; Evrard et al., 2006;

Judge et al., 2004; Laaris et al., 1995; Vincent et al., 2018; Vincent and Jacobson,

2014).

Other transcription factor encoding genes show more striking expression specificity.

Transcripts for neuronal pas domain 1 and 3 (encoded by *Npas1* and *Npas3*) and POU

class 3 homeobox 1 (*Pou3f1*) are significantly enriched in cluster one *Pet1* neurons.

From mouse genetic studies, both NPAS1 and NPAS3 are associated with regulation of

genes and behavioral endophenotypes implicated in psychiatric disorders, such as

schizophrenia, though NPAS1/3 are also expressed by other cell types in the brain, such

as cortical interneurons, which may contribute to observed behavioral effects of *Npas1/3*

loss of function (Erbel-Sieler et al., 2004; Michaelson et al., 2017; Stanco et al., 2014).

Pax5, encoding paired box 5 (Asano and Gruss, 1992), a transcription factor involved in

the regulation of isthmic organizer activity during development (Funahashi et al., 1999;

Ye et al., 2001) is significantly enriched in clusters two, four, and five, and highly

expressed in clusters three and six as well. *Pou6f2* (POU class 6 homeobox 2) and *Klf5*

(Kruppel like factor 5) show a similar pattern of expression. *Sox14* (SRY-box

transcription factor 14) and *Satb2* (SATB homeobox 2) show an even more restricted

expression profile, limited to clusters two through four. Notably, clusters two through six

are also enriched for expression of *Gad2*, which, like *Sox14*, is most highly expressed in

cluster four. *Sox14* expression has been shown to regulate GABAergic cell identity in the

dorsal midbrain (Makrides et al., 2018), and *Pax5* expression has been implicated in

GABAergic neurotransmitter specification in the dorsal horn of the spinal cord (Pillai et

al., 2007), suggesting that these genes may play similar roles in DR *Pet1* neurons.

Interestingly, *Nr2f2* (encoding nuclear receptor subfamily 2, group F, member 2, alias

COUP-TFII) shows an expression profile that is complementary to *En2* and *Pax5,*

enriched in cluster eight, nine, and twelve, all of which are enriched for *Vglut3*

transcripts, and are largely devoid of *Gad1/2* expression.

Overall, each of the fourteen transcriptome-defined clusters of DR *Pet1* neurons can

largely be classified by the combinatorial expression of two to three transcription factors.

For example, *Pou3f2* (POU class three homeobox 2), *Bcl11a* (B cell CLL/lymphoma 11A

zinc finger protein)*,* and *Id2* (inhibitor of DNA binding 2) show enriched expression in

cluster six, and to a lesser extent cluster thirteen. Other notable transcription factor

markers of *Pet1* neuron subgroups include *Foxp1* (forkhead box P1), enriched in

clusters seven and fourteen, *Rorb* (RAR-related orphan receptor beta), enriched in

cluster eight, *Maf* (avian musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene homolog),

enriched in cluster nine, *Foxa1* (forkhead box A1), enriched in cluster eleven, *Zeb2* (zinc

finger E-box binding homeobox 2) enriched in cluster twelve, *Zfp536* (zinc finger protein

536), *Nfix* (nuclear factor I/X), and *Nfib* (nuclear factor I/B), enriched in cluster thirteen

(detected in cluster six as well), and *Ldb2* (LIM domain binding 2)*,* enriched in clusters

thirteen and fourteen.

Neurotransmitters and Neuropeptides

Pet1 neuron subtypes defined by transcriptomic clustering also show differential

expression of a number of neurotransmitter-related and neuropeptide-encoding genes

(**Figure 2** Neurotransmitters and Neuropeptides dot plot). Transcript profiles related to

classic neurotransmitter production, including *Tph2, Gad2, Gad1,* and *Slc17a8,* have

already been described above (see also **Figure 1B**). Transcript expression of *Trh*,

encoding thyrotropin-releasing hormone, is significantly enriched in cluster two *Pet1*

neurons and detected in clusters four and six (**Figure 1D** and **Figure2**). Another gene

involved in thyroid hormone signaling, *Crym*, encoding crystalline mu, also known as

NADP-regulated thyroid-hormone-binding protein shows a similar expression profile

(**Figure 1D**). *Pdyn*, encoding the preprohormone prodynorphin is enriched in clusters

five, six, and fourteen. Prodynorphin is the precursor protein to the opioid polypeptide

dynorphin, which predominately binds the kappa-opioid receptor to produce a variety of

effects, such as analgesia and dysphoria (Bruchas et al., 2010; Chavkin et al., 1982;

Land et al., 2008; Land et al., 2009). Expression of *Nos1*, encoding nitric oxide synthase

1, is significantly enriched in cluster five, nine, and eleven. The anatomical distribution of

nitric oxide expressing DR 5-HT neurons in rodents has been characterized previously

as being predominately midline in the DR (Fu et al., 2010; Prouty et al., 2017; Vasudeva

et al., 2011; Vasudeva and Waterhouse, 2014). Cluster nine also shows enriched

expression of *Crh*, encoding corticotropin-releasing hormone. Several other

neuropeptide encoding genes show sporadic, significantly variable expression among

different clusters, including growth hormone-releasing hormone (*Ghrh),* neuromedin B

(*Nmb),* neuropeptide B (*Npb),* proenkephalin (*Penk),* and somatostatin (*Sst).*

Ionotropic and G-Protein Coupled Receptors

Cluster one and cluster thirteen *Pet1* neurons show the most prominent specificity with

respect to ionotropic receptor markers (**Figure 2 Ionotropic Receptors**), though in

general we found relatively few *Pet1* neuron subtype-specific ionotropic gene markers

relative to other categories of gene function. *Gabrq* and *Gabre*, encoding GABA type A

receptor subunits theta and epsilon, respectively, are significantly enriched in cluster

one, as well as *Gria1,* encoding glutamate ionotropic receptor AMPA type subunit 1.

GABA type A receptor subunit gamma3 (*Gabrg3*) and glutamate ionotropic receptor

NMDA type subunit 2A (*Grin2a*) transcripts are largely de-enriched in clusters two

through four and twelve, are significantly enriched in cluster nine, and variably

expressed in other clusters. GABA A receptor subunit alpha 2 (*Gabra2*) is expressed in

all clusters but is significantly enriched in cluster twelve, and GABA A receptor subunit

alpha 1 (*Gabra1*) and glutamate ionotropic receptor AMPA type subunit 3 (*Gria3*)

transcripts both show significant enrichment in cluster thirteen.

Transcripts encoding G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) show patterns of enrichment

largely across blocks of clusters (e.g. *Vglut3*-expressing versus non-*Vglut3*-expressing

Tph2-Pet1 neurons), or highly specific enrichment in either cluster twelve or clusters

thirteen and fourteen (**Figure 2 G Protein-coupled Receptors**). For example, cluster

twelve neurons show strong enrichment for opioid receptor mu (*Oprm1*), purine receptor

y1 (*P2ry1*), relaxin receptor (*Rxfp1)*, sphingosine-1-phosphate receptor *3* (*S1pr3*), and

tachykinin receptor 3 (*Tacr3)* transcripts. Moreover, they lack expression of transcripts

for many GPCRs expressed by the majority of other *Pet1* neurons, such as presynaptic

5-HT autoreceptors, encoded by *Htr1b* and *Htr1d*, as well as orexin and histamine

receptors (e.g. *Hcrtr1*, *Hcrtr2*, *Hrh1*, *Hrh3*), whose protein products are involved in the

regulation of arousal. We found that histamine receptor 1 (*Hrh1*) and hypocretin (alias

orexin) receptor 1 (*Hcrtr1*) transcripts were the most abundant in clusters one through

four, and histamine receptor 3 (*Hrh3*) transcripts were the most abundant in clusters two

through six. Hypocretin receptor 2 (*Hcrtr2*) transcripts showed a somewhat

complementary expression pattern, with the highest levels in clusters seven through

eleven, as well as cluster three. Other GPCR transcripts with notable expression

patterns are neuropeptide Y receptor Y2 (*Npy2r*), enriched in clusters seven and ten,

cannabinoid receptor 1 (*Cnr1*) and 5-HT receptor 2C (*Htr2c*), enriched in clusters

thirteen and fourteen, and *Gpr101*, an "orphan" GPCR thought to play a role in the

growth hormone releasing-growth hormone signaling axis (GHRH-GH axis) (Trivellin et

al., 2016; Trivellin et al., 2018), enriched in cluster fourteen.

Regulators of Neuron Projections, Synaptic Connectivity, and Heparan Sulfate

Proteoglycans

Similar to transcription factor expression patterns, most DR *Pet1* neuron subgroups can

be classified by combinatorial enrichment of transcripts for genes encoding regulators of

neuron projections and synaptic connectivity (**Figure 2 Regulators of Neuron**

Projections and Synaptic Connectivity). Differential expression of these genes likely

contributes to differential innervation patterns of distinct DR *Pet1* neuron subgroups,

such as reported by various studies (Fernandez et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2019; Kast et

al., 2017; Muzerelle et al., 2016; Niederkofler et al., 2016; Ren et al., 2018; Ren et al.,

2019; Teng et al., 2017), and yet to be uncovered. Genes encoding regulators of

heparan sulfate proteoglycans may also play a role in projection specificity and synaptic

organization (Condomitti and de Wit, 2018; Di Donato et al., 2018; Lazaro-Pena et al.,

2018; Minge et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2018), and likewise show patterns of enrichment

across different *Pet1* neuron clusters (**Figure 2 Regulators of Heparan Sulfate**

Proteoglycans). For example, transcript expression of heparan sulfate-glucosamine 3-

sulfotransferase 4 (*Hs3st4*) is enriched across clusters one through four, heparan

sulfate-glucosamine 3-sulfotransferase 5 (*Hs3st5*) expression is significantly enriched in

cluster ten (and expressed at high levels in clusters one, eight, nine, and eleven), and

sulfatase 2 (*Sulf2*) and heparan sulfate-glucosamine 3-sulfotransferase 2 (*Hs3st2*)

transcripts are enriched in cluster thirteen.

Intersectional genetic labeling of *Pet1* neuron subgroups in combination with

histology and manual scRNA-seq reveals spatial distributions of DR *Pet1* neuron

subtypes

Having identified transcriptomically distinct DR *Pet1* neuron subtypes in a largely

unsupervised manner, we next sought to determine whether the cell bodies of these

molecularly defined *Pet1* neuron subtypes show differential distributions within

anatomical subfields of the DR. Using intersectional genetics to fluorescently label *Pet1*

neuron subgroups defined by pairwise expression of *Pet1* and one of an assortment of

identified subtype marker genes, we iteratively mapped molecular subtypes to anatomy

in two ways – (1) using histology and microscopy to directly characterize cell body

locations in fixed brain sections (**Figure 3**), and (2) performing manual scRNA-seq on

labeled cells dissociated and hand sorted from microdissected anatomical subdomains

of the DR, and comparing these expression profiles to our above described high-

throughput scRNA-seq data (which we will refer to as our 10X scRNA-seq data) (**Figure

4**). We iteratively bred triple transgenic mice harboring (1) our *Pet1::Flpe* transgene, (2)

one of two dual Flpe- and Cre- responsive reporter constructs (*RC::FrePe* or *RC::FL-

hM3Dq*), and (3) one of five Cre-encoding transgenes (*Sert::cre*, *Vglut3::IRES-cre*,

Npy2r::IRES-cre, *Crh::cre*, or *P2ry1::IRES-cre*), where *cre* expression is driven by either

the endogenous promoter of the marker gene or by a gene-specific bacterial artificial

chromosome (BAC). In selecting candidate markers from our list of differentially

expressed genes, we sought gene drivers that could potentially divide *Pet1* neurons into

subgroups at varying resolutions and were available as *cre* lines. Representative

images for each triple transgenic genotype are given in **Figure 3** (organized by marker

genes, columns A-E, at different rostrocaudal levels of the DR, rows 1-6). For each

genotype, the intersectionally defined subpopulation of neurons is labeled in green (i.e.

history of Flpe and Cre expression) whereas the "subtractive" subpopulation is labeled in

red (i.e. history of Flpe but not Cre expression).

Histology of Pet1-Intersectionally Defined Neuron Populations

High *Sert* expression, like high *Tph2* expression, defines *Pet1* neuron clusters one

through eleven. Cluster twelve shows consistently lower mean expression of *Sert*

transcripts (and to a lesser extent *Tph2* transcripts) than clusters one through eleven

(**Figure 3A**), cluster fourteen shows a broader distribution of *Sert* transcript levels

(**Figure 3A**) and most 5-HT markers (**Figure 1–figure supplement 3**), and cluster

thirteen shows very low levels of *Sert* transcripts (**Figure 3A**) and other 5-HT markers

(**Figure 1–figure supplement 3**). Consistent with the majority of profiled *Pet1* neurons

expressing high levels of *Sert* and *Pet1* transcripts, we detected intersectional

Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe fluorescently marked neurons throughout the full rostrocaudal and

dorsoventral extent of the DR (**Figure 3A1-A6**), however the subtractive population

(presumably cluster thirteen and perhaps some cluster twelve and fourteen *Pet1*

neurons) showed a more limited distribution. These subtractive (Flpe+ but Cre-) neurons were most conspicuously concentrated in the rostromedial DR (**Figure 3A2**), where only a few *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional (Flpe+ and Cre+) neurons were intermingled. More caudally, the Flpe-only, subtractive neurons remained largely midline, but became more intermixed with the double-positive *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally marked cells. As another way of anatomically characterizing putative cluster thirteen *Pet1* neurons, we immunostained for TPH2 in *En1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FrePe* mice (the same genotype as used in some of our 10X scRNA-seq experiments), and found that the distribution of TPH2 immuno-negative *Pet1* neuron cell bodies showed a very similar distribution to the subtractive neurons (Flpe-only) in *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FrePe* mice*. (**Figure 3–figure supplement 1A-B**), further confirming the existence of *Pet1*-expressing neurons that do not express TPH2 protein (Barrett et al., 2016; Pelosi et al., 2014). We consistently observed that these *Pet1::Flpe*-captured, TPH2-immunonegative neurons often have smaller cell soma and bipolar morphology (**Figure 3–figure supplement 1B**).

Vglut3-Pet1 expression defines *Pet1* neuron clusters seven through fourteen, and to a lesser extent cluster six (**Figure 3B**). We observed that *Vglut3::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally marked neurons show a strong ventromedial bias in rostral portions of the DR (**Figure 3B1-B3**), and are the predominant *Pet1* neuron subgroup in the more caudal midline DR (**Figure 3B3-B6**). By contrast, the subtractive *Pet1* neuron subgroup (presumably comprising *Pet1* neurons from clusters one through five and partly six) show a strong dorsal and lateral bias and are largely absent from the most caudal portions of the DR. We further characterized VGLUT3 protein expression in *Pet1* neurons by VGLUT3 immunohistology in *Vglut3::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe; RC*::*FL-hM3Dq* mice. We found consistent overlap between intersectional recombination marked neurons and VGLUT3 protein expression, especially in medial, ventromedial, and caudal portions of the DR (**Figure 3–figure supplement 1C-J**). In the dorsal and lateral portions of the DR, however, where there are far fewer intersectionally labeled neurons, we observed a small number of *Vglut3::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally marked neurons that were negative for VGLUT3 antibody staining, suggesting transient expression of *Vglut3* (and *Vglut3::IRES-cre)* by these cells at an earlier time in their developmental history (or low *Vglut3* expression sufficient to drive Cre expression, but not VGLUT3 immunodetection).

Transcripts for *Npy2r*, encoding the neuropeptide Y receptor 2, are strongly enriched in

clusters six, seven, and ten, with less consistent expression in clusters eleven, thirteen,

and eight, and only sporadic expression elsewhere (**Figure 3C**). In mid-rostral portions

of the DR, we found that *Npy2r::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally marked cell bodies show

a largely midline bias, with a greater density of cells ventrally than dorsally, and the

occasional labeled cell body appearing more laterally (**Figure 3C2-C3**). In more caudal

extents of the DR, *Npy2r::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally marked cell bodies appear to be

concentrated more medially (**Figure 3C4-C6**).

Transcripts for *Crh*, encoding corticotropin-releasing hormone, are most highly enriched

in neurons comprising cluster nine and to a lesser extent cluster five, with sporadic

expression in other clusters (**Figure 3D**). *Crh::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally labeled

neurons do not show an obvious overall anatomical bias, distributing widely throughout

the DR (**Figure 3D1-D6**). At the most rostral levels of the DR, they appear to be more

consistently medially and ventrally localized (**Figure 3D1-D2**), but additionally appear in

the dorsal and lateral DR at mid-rostral levels, and are preferentially localized off the

midline more ventrally in these same sections (in regions sometimes referred to as the

ventrolateral wings) (**Figure 2D3-D4**). At the most caudal levels they distribute dorsally

and ventrally, with an apparent gap between these two domains (**Figure 3D5-D6**).

The most molecularly distinct *Pet1* neuron subtype we identified, cluster twelve *Met-*

Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1 neurons, shows highly specific enrichment for a number of transcripts,

including *P2ry1*, encoding purinergic receptor P2Y1, which is only sporadically

expressed in other clusters (**Figure 3E**). *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally marked

neurons likewise show a strikingly unique anatomical distribution from the other

subgroups examined, being largely restricted to the caudal DR where they are densely

clustered dorsally, just beneath the aqueduct (**Figure 3E5-E6**). This is consistent with

previous characterizations of *Met*-expressing *Pet1/*5-HT neurons (Okaty et al., 2015; Wu

and Levitt, 2013), as well as other more recent characterizations (Huang et al., 2019;

Kast et al., 2017; Ren et al., 2019). Notably the distribution of *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe*

intersectional neurons within the cDR is distinct from *Npy2r:: cre;Pet1Flpe* intersectional

neurons, and only partially overlaps with where *Crh::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional

neurons are found, arguing for *Pet1/*5-HT neuron subtype diversity within the caudal DR,

consistent with (Kast et al., 2017).

It should be noted that the precise anatomical boundaries of the caudal DR (cDR), also

referred to as B6 (Dahlstroem and Fuxe, 1964; Jacobs and Azmitia, 1992)), are variably

described in the literature. Alonso and colleagues divide B6 into dorsal and ventral sub-

compartments, referred to as r1DRd and r1DRv, respectively, where "r1" designates the

putative developmental domain of origin of *Pet1* neurons residing in this DR sub-region

(i.e. originating from r1, as opposed to isthmus)(Alonso et al., 2013). r1DRv likely

corresponds to what others have described as the caudal portion of the "interfascicular"

DR (DRI), a medioventral band of DR cells flanked on either side by the medial

longitudinal fasciculi. 5-HT neurons of the caudal DRI merge with the more dorsal B6 DR

sub-nucleus roughly at the level of the DR where dorsolateral 5-HT neurons become

sparse (coronal sections 5 and 6 in **Figure 3**) (Hale and Lowry, 2011; Jacobs and

Azmitia, 1992). Depending on the plane and angle of sectioning these caudal DRI cells

also appear to merge with MR 5-HT neurons more ventrally, and it has been proposed

that caudal DRI cells may be more similar to MR 5-HT neurons developmentally,

morphologically, and hodologically than to DR 5-HT neurons (Commons, 2015, 2016;

Hale and Lowry, 2011; Jacobs and Azmitia, 1992). In the present study, our designation

of cDR is inclusive of r1DRd/r1DRv/caudal DRI/B6, as indicated in **Figure 4A**. Moreover,

we do not discount the possibility that this region as drawn partially overlaps with what

Alonso and colleagues would call the most dorsal portion of the caudal median raphe

(MnRc), as the boundary between the MnRc and r1DRv is poorly defined. Thus, the

territory between the cluster of *Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* neurons beneath the aqueduct in

the cDR and the MR is difficult to classify strictly based on cytoarchitecture,

underscoring the importance of alternative classification schemes, such as offered by

transcriptomics.

Manual scRNA-seq of Pet1-Intersectionally Defined Neuron Populations

Having mapped the spatial distributions of intersectionally labeled *Pet1* neuron

subgroups, next we wanted to explore the correspondence of molecular subtype identity

with DR subregions more comprehensively. To do this, we microdissected subdomains

of the DR in a subset of the intersectional mouse lines just described, dissociated and

sorted fluorescently labeled neurons, harvested mRNA from single cells, and prepared

scRNA-seq libraries (n = 70 single-cell libraries in total) using the SMART-Seq v4 kit,

followed by Illumina sequencing (**Figure 4A**). Specifically, we separately microdissected

and manually sorted *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectionally labeled neurons from the

dorsolateral DR (dl or dlDR, n = 10 cells), dorsomedial DR (dm or dmDR, n = 9 cells)

ventromedial DR (vm or vmDR, n = 8 cells), and caudal DR (cDR, n = 6 cells), as

schematized in **Figure 4A**. Additionally, we separately microdissected and manually

sorted *Npy2r::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional neurons from the rostral (rDR, n = 9 cells)

versus caudal (n = 10 cells) DR, *P2ry1:: cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional neurons from the

cDR (n = 10 cells) , and *Crh::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional neurons from the rostromedial

DR (n = 8 cells). We then used the fourteen *Pet1* neuron subtype identities derived from

our 10X scRNA-seq data as a reference to "query" the corresponding identities of our

manually sorted and transcriptomically profiled single cells (using the Seurat functions

FindTransferAnchors and TransferData as described in (Stuart et al., 2019)). A summary

of this analysis is shown in the dot plot in **Figure 4B**. We found that the majority of

Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe dlDR neurons mapped to cluster two, with a smaller percentage of

single cells mapping to clusters one, three, and six. *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* dmDR neurons

were split between clusters two and three, and to a lesser extent four, five, and nine.

Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe vmDR neurons mostly corresponded to cluster ten, and were

additionally mapped to clusters one, four, seven, and thirteen (note, this may suggest

that some *Pet1* neurons expressing little or no *Sert* nor *Tph2* in the adult may yet

express the *Sert::cre* transgene). Finally, *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* cDR neurons mapped

exclusively to clusters eight and seven (note, cluster twelve neurons do not appear to be

well marked by *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FrePe* eGFP expression – see **Figure 3A5**

compared with **Figure 3E5** – perhaps reflecting the lower levels of *Sert* transcripts

detected in these neurons).

The majority of *Npy2r::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons in the rDR were found to correspond to

cluster six, with additional mapping to clusters five, seven, ten, and thirteen (consistent

with the expression profile of *Npy2r* transcripts in the 10X scRNA-seq data) whereas the

majority of *Npy2r:: cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons from the cDR were found to correspond to

cluster seven, with a smaller percentage corresponding to clusters ten and fourteen.

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe cDR manually sorted and profiled neurons were mapped

exclusively to cluster twelve as expected. *Crh::cre;Pet1::Flpe* profiled neurons were split

across clusters in a manner consistent with sporadic *Crh* expression in our 10X scRNA-

seq data, however, we found more cluster three than cluster nine *Crh::cre;Pet1::Flpe*

neurons, perhaps reflecting that our sampling of this population was biased towards

rostromedial DR (or a potential discrepancy between endogenous *Crh* expression and

Crh::cre expression). Finally, we also included *Drd2::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional

scRNA-seq data (n = 17 cells) associated with a previous study from our lab

(Niederkofler et al., 2016). *Drd2::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional neurons show a largely

dorsolateral and dorsomedial bias within the DR. The majority of these neurons map to

clusters three and four, with a much smaller percentage mapping to clusters eight and

eleven.

Thus combining intersectional genetics, histological analyses, and precisely targeted

manual scRNA-seq we were able to infer the anatomical distributions of our fourteen

clusters (**Figure 4C**). Clusters one through six and eleven appear to be dorsally, laterally

and rostrally biased (to varying degrees), clusters seven, eight, and twelve appear to be

caudally biased (as well as cluster fourteen, to a lesser extent), and the remaining

clusters appear to be more ventromedial biased in the more rostral DR. Moreover, *Pet1-*

Tph2^{low} neurons (comprising cluster thirteen) show a prominent enrichment in the

medial-rostral DR. Among caudal DR *Pet1* neuron clusters, cluster twelve shows a clear

dorsal bias, whereas clusters seven and eight are likely more ventrally biased, based on

Figure 3A5-6, C5-6, though a nontrivial degree of intermixing of different genetically

defined *Pet1* neuron subpopulations in the dorsal cDR is apparent from these images.

Expression patterns of cluster marker genes showing strong anatomical biases in our

manual scRNA-seq data are depicted in the dot plot in **Figure 4–figure supplement 1** in

comparison with our 10X scRNA-seq data.

These inferred anatomical distributions of molecularly distinct *Pet1* neuron populations

shed further light on the potential developmental significance of transcription factor

expression patterns described above. As noted, *Pax5*, a gene associated with isthmic

organizer activity during embryonic development (Funahashi et al., 1999; Ye et al.,

2001), shows a complementary expression pattern to *Nr2f2*, which encodes a

transcription factor that appears to be excluded from the isthmus, but is expressed in r1

and other rhombomeres during development, at least in zebrafish (Love and Prince,

2012). We further validated the anatomical expression profile of these genes, as well as

Satb2 (expressed by cluster two through four), at the level of protein expression by

performing immunohistology in tissue sections prepared from *Vglut3::IRES-*

cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FL-hM3Dq mice (**Figure 4–figure supplement 2 A-E**). Consistent

with our anatomically-targeted, manual scRNA-seq data, PAX5 and SATB2 display a

rostrodorsal bias in predominately non-*Vglut3*-expressing DR *Pet1* neurons (**Figure 4–**

figure supplement 2B-C,E), whereas NR2F2 has a ventromedial and caudal

expression bias in predominately *Vglut3*-expressing DR *Pet1* neurons (**Figure 4–figure**

supplement 2D,E). Alonso and colleagues have proposed that cDR *Pet1* neurons are

derived from r1 progenitors, whereas more rostral *Pet1* neurons are derived from

isthmus (Alonso et al., 2013), however further fate-mapping experiments would be

helpful to clarify isthmic versus r1-derived *Pet1* neuron populations (Okaty et al., 2019).

Moreover, while rostral DR *Pet1* neurons may derive from isthmus and cDR *Pet1*

neurons may derive from r1, our scRNA-seq data nonetheless show substantial *Pet1*

neuron molecular heterogeneity within both DR domains, suggesting factors beyond

isthmus and r1-lineage driving molecular diversity.

cDR *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons display unique hodological and

electrophysiological properties

Having established correlations between DR *Pet1* neuron molecular expression profiles

and anatomical distribution of cell bodies, we next wanted to explore corresponding

differences in other cellular phenotypes. We chose to focus on cluster twelve *Met-*

Vglut3-Tph2 Pet1 neurons, captured intersectionally by *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe,* as

they are the most distinct from other *Pet1* neurons molecularly. To determine if these

neurons are likewise unique from other DR *Pet1* neurons with respect to other features

we explored the hodological and electrophysiology properties of *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe*

neurons using the intersectional expression of TdTomato (*RC::Ai65*). The anatomical

location of cell somata labeled in *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* animals was

similar to that found in the previously characterized *P2ry1::IRES-*

cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FrePe mice, with a dense population of neurons directly under the

aqueduct in the cDR. In addition, there were slightly higher numbers of intersectionally

labeled cells in the rostral part of the dorsal raphe as well as scattered cells in the

median raphe, consistent with the sporadic expression of *P2ry1* revealed by the present

RNA-seq data and the scRNA-seq data of *Pet1* neurons from the MR (Okaty et al.,

2015; Ren et al., 2019). Strikingly, most fibers from *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65*

neurons were supra-ependymal and were found throughout the third, lateral, and fourth

ventricles, a property previously attributed to 5-HT neurons within the cDR (Kast et al.,

2017; Mikkelsen et al., 1997; Tong et al., 2014). Sparser fibers were found in regions

such as the lateral hypothalamus, medial and lateral septum, hippocampus, olfactory

bulb, lateral parabrachial nucleus, and the amygdala. To gain a better perspective of the

extent of *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* fibers in the lateral ventricle we stained for

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65 fibers on a flat mount of the lateral wall as previously

described (Mirzadeh 2010). *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* fibers were found on all

aspects of the wall except for the adhesion area, including regions that contain

proliferating cells and migrating neuroblasts from the subventricular zone (Mirzadeh et

al., 2010)(**Figure 5**). Further, *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* fibers were closely

apposed to proliferating cells (Ki67+) and migrating neuroblasts (doublecortin, DCX+)

within the subventricular zone (SVZ) and within the rostral migratory stream (RMS)

(**Figure 5**). The proximity of *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* fibers to adult neural stem

cells suggests that they may constitute a serotonergic population of neurons that

regulate SVZ proliferation, a process known to be regulated by 5-HT levels and that has

previously been associated with the cDR (Aghajanian and Gallager, 1975; Banasr et al.,

2004; Brezun and Daszuta, 1999; Hitoshi et al., 2007; Kast et al., 2017; Lorez and

Richards, 1982; Mirzadeh et al., 2010; Negoias et al., 2010; Siopi et al., 2016; Soumier

et al., 2010; Tong et al., 2014).

We next characterized electrophysiological properties of *P2ry1::IRES-cre;*

Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65 neurons in comparison with other more broadly defined *Pet1*

neuron subpopulations using whole-cell patch clamp in acute slice preparations. As

comparison groups we chose: (1) "subtractive" *P2ry1::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe;RC::FL-*

hM3Dq neurons in the cDR (i.e. cDR neurons with a history of *Pet1::Flpe* expression but

not *P2ry1::IRES-cre* expression; we chose to use *RC::FL-hM3Dq* as opposed to

RC::Ai65 or *RC::FrePe* because the subtractive population is identifiable in acute brain

slices by eGFP fluorescence without the need for secondary staining), and (2)

Gad2::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65 neurons from the more rostral and mostly dorsal

DR (**Figure 6**). Recording from *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC*::FL-hM3Dq subtractive

cDR neurons allowed us to assess the degree to which electrophysiology may differ

within a given DR subdomain depending on molecularly-defined neuron subtype,

whereas *Gad2::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* neuron recordings provided a comparison

group that is both anatomically and molecularly distinct. As demonstrated in the F-I

curves in **Figure 6A,** we found that *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* neurons have

dramatically lower excitability than the two comparison populations, requiring

substantially more injected current to reach action potential threshold, and showing a

roughly three-fold lower maximum firing rate. Even within the regime of current injection

that *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* neurons are excitable, we found that they

displayed very different spiking characteristics from other *Pet1* neuron groups (**Figure**

6B-F), specifically showing a longer latency to first action potential (AP, **Figure 6D,F**).

Altogether, we observed four distinct firing types exemplified by the voltage traces

displayed in **Figure 6B-E**: short-latency to first AP (regular spiking/non-adapting)

(**Figure 6B**), mid-latency to first AP (**Figure 6C**), long-latency to first AP (**Figure 6D**),

and short-latency to first AP with spike frequency adaptation (**Figure 6E**). The heatmap

in **Figure 6F** shows the percentage of single-neuron recordings from each genotype that

correspond to a given firing type. **Figure 6-figure supplement 1** displays differences in

measured electrophysiological properties when cells are grouped by firing type, as

opposed to genotype. All *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* neurons recorded (twelve

neurons from three animals) showed long latency to first AP, whereas only one out of

nine subtractive neurons in the *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC*::*FL-hM3Dq* cDR (from

three animals) showed this phenotype and none of the *Gad2::IRES-*

cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65 neurons (twelve neurons from two animals). These latter two

groups of neurons showed greater heterogeneity with respect to firing characteristics, as

might be expected given that labeled cells from both genotypes comprise multiple

molecular subtypes identified by our scRNA-seq experiments. While the full extent of

electrophysiological heterogeneity of these populations is likely under-sampled by the

present dataset, the uniqueness of *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65* neurons

nonetheless stands out.

Comparison to other DR scRNA-seq datasets

Recent scRNA-seq studies of mouse DR cell types have been published (Huang et al.,

2019; Ren et al., 2019), reporting using either the InDrops platform to profile dissociated

DR neurons (Huang et al., 2019) or fluorescence-activated cell sorting to purify

dissociated Cre-dependent tdTomato-expressing *Sert::cre* neurons from mouse DR and

MR, followed by SMART-Seq v2 library preparation and sequencing (Ren et al., 2019).

Huang and colleagues identified six distinct *Pet1*-expressing DR neuron subtypes – five

serotonergic and one glutamatergic – while Ren and colleagues identified seven *Pet1-*

expressing serotonergic DR neuron subtypes (note they did not identify a glutamatergic

*Tph2*low group, presumably because these neurons do not typically express *Sert::cre*). To

directly compare our subtype classifications, we used the fourteen *Pet1* neuron subtype

identities derived from our 10X scRNA-seq data as a reference to query the

corresponding identities of the Huang and Ren datasets (using the Seurat functions

FindTransferAnchors and TransferData, as described above for comparison with our

manual scRNA-seq data). The results of this analysis are shown in the dot plot in **Figure**

7. Some *Pet1* neuron subgroup classifications were highly consistent across studies. For

example, one hundred percent of single neurons making up the Huang 5-HT V and Ren

cDR subgroups map to our cluster twelve *Pet1* neuron subgroup (*Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1*

neurons, corresponding to neurons intersectionally captured by *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe*

expression in the cDR shown in **Figure 3E**). Likewise, there is high correspondence

between Huang 5-HT I, Ren DR 1, and our cluster-two *Pet1*-neuron subgroup

(dorsolateral DR *Gad2-Trh-Tph2-Pet1* neurons). Huang 5-HT II and Ren 2 subgroups

are largely split between our cluster two and cluster three subgroups, with a smaller

portion of each mapping to our cluster four subgroup (which also corresponds to a small

subset of Huang 5-HT I and Ren DR 1 neurons). Huang 5-HT III and Ren DR 3

correspond to our cluster five and six subgroups, with a larger percentage of Huang 5-

HT III neurons mapping to cluster five and a larger percentage of Ren DR 3 neurons

mapping to cluster six.

In other cases, there is better correspondence between our identified *Pet1* neuron

subgroups and one or the other study, likely due in part to technological differences

between studies. For example, Huang Glu V corresponds well with our cluster thirteen

Pet1 neuron subgroup (*Vglut3-Tph2^{low}-Pet1* neurons) but very few neurons profiled in

the Ren study map to cluster thirteen. As mentioned above, the absence of a prominent

glutamatergic *Tph2^{low}* group of neurons in the Ren study likely stems from the fact that

the low level of *Sert* transcription in these neurons does not reliably drive *Sert::cre*

transgene expression and thus reporter expression for their cell sorting. However, the

fact that a small number of *Sert::cre* expressing neurons from the Ren study do map to

our cluster thirteen subgroup indicates that there may be exceptions (moreover, these

cells may more specifically map to cluster thirteen neurons at the higher end of the

distribution of *Sert* and *Tph2* transcript levels **Figure 1–figure supplement 3**).

On the other hand, Ren DR 6 corresponds well with our cluster one subgroup (*Npas1/3-*

Tph2-Pet1 neurons) and Ren DR 4 corresponds well with our cluster nine subgroup

(*Maf-Nos1-Tph2-Pet1* neurons), but there is no such one-to-one correspondence

between these groups and the neuron groups identified in the Huang study. Rather,

cluster one and cluster nine neurons get "pulled" from other groups identified by Huang.

This likely reflects the different sensitivities of the various approaches. Specifically, our

study and the Ren study achieved more than three-fold higher gene detection per single

cell library on average than the Huang study, thus allowing for finer-scale molecular

subgroup classification. However our higher single-cell sampling resolution – we profiled

2,350 DR *Pet1* neurons, whereas Huang and Ren each profiled roughly seven hundred

DR *Pet1* neurons – ultimately allowed us to resolve more subgroups. Huang 5-HT IV

and Ren DR 5 show the greatest degree of dispersion into different clusters identified in

our study. Ren DR 5 is split predominately between clusters seven, ten, and fourteen,

while Huang 5-HT IV is split into clusters ten and fourteen, as well as across several

other clusters. Importantly, our higher number of identified clusters does not appear to

stem from analytic differences between studies *per se*, given that we identified more

clusters using a lower resolution parameter in our clustering analysis than the other two

studies. Huang, et al. reported using a Seurat FindCluster resolution of 2.0, Ren, et al.

used a resolution of 1.0, whereas the highest resolution we used was 0.9.

Lastly, we also found that Ren MR 1 (identified as being a median raphe 5-HT neuron

subtype in that study) shows striking similarity to our cluster eight subgroup, which we

have mapped to the cDR based on histology and our manual scRNA-seq data. As

described above, the boundary between the cDR and the MR, specifically the portion of

the MR attributed to r1-derived neurons (Alonso et al., 2013; Okaty et al., 2015), is

poorly defined, thus Ren MR 1 and our cluster eight neurons may indeed partially

overlap anatomically. Notably, some Huang 5-HT IV neurons (microdissected from what

was considered the DR in that study) also map to our cluster eight subgroup.

Discussion

The dorsal raphe nucleus is likely one of the most extensively connected hubs in the

mammalian brain. Efferent DR fibers, predominantly serotonergic (but also glutamatergic

and GABAergic), collectively innervate much of the forebrain and midbrain, as well as

some hindbrain nuclei (Azmitia and Segal, 1978; Bang and Commons, 2012; Bang et al.,

2012; Beaudet and Descarries, 1976; Fernandez et al., 2016; Gagnon and Parent, 2014;

Hale and Lowry, 2011; Kast et al., 2017; Kosofsky and Molliver, 1987; Lidov et al., 1980;

Lidov and Molliver, 1982; Maddaloni et al., 2017; McDevitt et al., 2014; Molliver, 1987;

Muzerelle et al., 2016; O'Hearn and Molliver, 1984; Prouty et al., 2017; Ren et al., 2018;

Steinbusch, 1981; Steinbusch et al., 1980; Vasudeva et al., 2011; Vertes, 1991; Vertes

and Kocsis, 1994), and DR afferents have been identified from as many as eighty

distinct anatomical brain regions, including other brainstem raphe nuclei (Celada et al.,

2001; Commons, 2015; Goncalves et al., 2009; Levine and Jacobs, 1992; Mosko et al.,

1977; Ogawa et al., 2014; Peyron et al., 1998; Peyron et al., 2018; Pollak Dorocic et al.,

2014; Weissbourd et al., 2014). As such, the DR is hodologically poised to broadcast

and receive signals related to a wide range of sensory, motor, affective, and cognitive

processes. Indeed, DR neuropathology is associated with several human disorders (or

disease models thereof) with broad symptomatology, such as major depressive disorder,

autism, and Alzheimer's disease (Chen et al., 2000; Dengler-Crish et al., 2017; Ellegood

et al., 2015; Guo and Commons, 2017; Ji et al., 2020; Luo et al., 2017; Michelsen et al.,

2008; Miyazaki et al., 2005; Simic et al., 2017; Vakalopoulos, 2017; Wang et al., 2018;

Zweig et al., 1988). Outside of DR-specialist research, the DR has often been viewed by

the wider neuroscience community as a "black box" source of a single neurochemical,

namely 5-HT. Accordingly, development of therapeutics for associated disorders has

largely focused on modulating overall serotonergic tone. However, DR-focused research

over several decades has revealed layers of functional complexity and compositional

heterogeneity warranting a more nuanced view (reviewed in (Abrams et al., 2004;

Andrade and Haj-Dahmane, 2013; Gaspar and Lillesaar, 2012; Hale and Lowry, 2011;

Michelsen et al., 2007; Okaty et al., 2019; Vasudeva et al., 2011)). While these studies

have reached into the black box of the DR and described a variety of features at different

levels of observation, integration across levels to arrive at principles of DR organization

has proved challenging. Elucidating how molecular, neurochemical, anatomical,

hodological, electrophysiological, and functional descriptions of the DR overlap is

essential to understanding the structure-function relationship of the DR and other raphe

nuclei (Brust et al., 2014; Fernandez et al., 2016; Huang et al., 2019; Kast et al., 2017;

Niederkofler et al., 2016; Okaty et al., 2015; Prouty et al., 2017; Ren et al., 2018; Ren et

al., 2019), and will likely facilitate improved therapies for human disorders. Here we have

focused on one broadly defined subgroup of DR cells – neurons that express the gene

Pet1/Fev – and applied scRNA-seq, iterative intersectional genetics, histology, and slice

electrophysiology to provide a transcriptomic and anatomic atlas of mouse DR *Pet1*

neurons with examples of links between molecular, neurochemical, anatomical,

hodological, and electrophysiological levels of description. We identify as many as

fourteen distinct molecularly defined subtypes of *Pet1* neurons that show biased cell

body distributions in DR sub-regions. We further characterize projections and

electrophysiology of the most molecularly unique DR *Pet1* neuron subtype – *Met-Vglut3-*

Tph2-Pet1 cDR neurons (cluster twelve), genetically accessed by intersectional

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe expression. The present study complements other recent

characterizations of DR cell types (Huang et al., 2019; Ren et al., 2019), increasing the

sampling resolution of *Pet1* neurons in particular through our experimental approach to

achieve fine-scale identification of *Pet1* neuron subtypes.

Molecular and anatomic organization of Pet1 neuron subtypes

Our data and analysis highlight the hierarchical organization of DR *Pet1* neurons

molecularly and anatomically, allowing for identification of features that organize *Pet1*

neurons at different levels of granularity (**Figure 8**). Neurochemistry has long served as

a principal phenotypic axis for classifying neurons, and concordantly we found that

distributions of transcripts associated with distinct neurotransmitters correspond with

broad subgroup divisions. The majority of *Pet1* neurons (clusters one through twelve)

express high levels of *Tph2* mRNA, encoding tryptophan hydroxylase two, the rate-

limiting biosynthetic enzyme for 5-HT, as well as several other genes indicative of a

serotonergic phenotype, such as *Slc6a4* (*Sert*), *Slc18a2* (*Vmat2*), and *Maob*. However,

we also identified two subgroups of *Pet1* neurons with 5-HT marker gene profiles that

differ from the majority (clusters thirteen and fourteen). One subgroup (cluster thirteen)

expresses very low transcript levels of 5-HT neuron marker genes, is mostly negative for

TPH2 immunolabeling, and shows a biased cell body distribution in the rostromedial DR,

as well as distributing sporadically throughout. The other subgroup (cluster fourteen)

exhibits a much broader distribution of transcript levels for 5-HT marker genes than other

groups. The functional significance of this variable expression can only be hypothesized

at present; we speculate that it may reflect a capacity for neurotransmitter plasticity – i.e.

experience-dependent induction or up-regulation of 5-HT phenotype, as hinted at by a

recent study (Prakash et al., 2019). If this is the case, cluster fourteen neurons may be

partially in transition, for example, from a predominately glutamatergic phenotype to a 5-

HT phenotype or to a glutamate-5-HT co-transmitter phenotype. Both cluster thirteen

and fourteen *Pet1* neuron subgroups express *Slc17a8* (*Vglut3*) transcripts, suggestive of

a capacity for synaptic glutamate packaging and release, and show shared enrichment

for several transcripts, including *Ldb2*, encoding the transcription factor LIM domain

binding 2, and *Cnr1*, encoding cannabinoid receptor 1. Cluster fourteen is also uniquely

distinguished by enrichment for *Gpr101* transcripts, encoding an orphan G protein-
coupled receptor.

Among *Pet1* neurons expressing high levels of *Tph2* and other 5-HT gene markers,
expression of genes related to GABA synthesis (*Gad1* and *Gad2*) or glutamatergic
synaptic vesicle packaging (*Vglut3*) correlate with major molecular and anatomical
subdivisions (evident in the dendrogram in **Figure 1B**, the UMAP plot in **Figure 1C**, and
the histological image series in **Figure 3 B1-6 and Figure 3 – figure supplement 1D-**
J). We found that the cell bodies of non-*Vglut3*, largely *Gad2*-expressing *Pet1* neurons
are preferentially distributed in the dorsal and lateral sub-regions of the rostral DR, and
become exclusively lateral and ultimately absent at more caudal extents of the DR.
Conversely, *Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* neuron bodies show a ventromedial bias rostrally and
predominate the entire cDR. *Gad2-Tph2-Pet1* neurons and *Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* neurons
show differential enrichment of hundreds of transcripts, including *Pax5* and *Nr2f2*. Both
genes encode transcription factors, the expression of which we examined through
immunohistology and found a similar distribution of cell body staining as revealed by
intersectional genetic labeling of *Vglut3::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons – *Pax5* expression
overlaps predominately with the non-*Vglut3*-expressing population, whereas *Nr2f2*
overlaps with the *Vglut3*-expressing population (**Figure 4 – figure supplement 2**). We
also found one *Pet1* neuron subgroup (cluster six) that expresses *Gad1*, *Gad2*, and
"intermediate" levels of *Vglut3* transcripts (relative to other *Vglut3*+ clusters). These
neurons correspond with the rostral population of neurons labeled by intersectional
Npy2r::cre;Pet1::Flpe expression (**Figure 3C**), which we characterized by manual
scRNA-seq (**Figure 4**).

Altogether we identified five *Pet1* neuron subgroups that express *Gad1* or *Gad2*
transcripts (clusters two through six), and found *Gad2* to be expressed more consistently
and at higher levels than *Gad1* (with the exception of cluster six). *Gad1* and *Gad2*
encode two distinct isoforms of glutamate decarboxylase, referred to as GAD67 and
GAD65, respectively. In many neuron types, these proteins are often co-expressed, but
localize to different subcellular compartments and differ in their interaction with the co-
factor pyridoxol phosphate (Chen et al., 2003; Erlander et al., 1991; Soghomonian and
Martin, 1998). GAD65 (encoded by *Gad2*) is typically found in axon terminals where it is
thought to play a role in GABA synthesis specifically for synaptic vesicular release,
whereas GAD67 is typically localized to the soma and may be more involved with non-

vesicular GABA release. While we did not reliably detect transcripts for the vesicular

GABA transporter (*Slc32a1*), we did detect expression of transcripts encoding VMAT2

which has been shown to package GABA into synaptic vesicles in dopaminergic

neurons, allowing for monoaminergic-GABAergic co-transmission (Tritsch et al., 2012).

Thus it is plausible that *Gad2-Tph2-Pet1* neurons may likewise co-release GABA,

though it has yet to be reported in the literature.

Beyond classic neurotransmitters, we also found enrichment of various peptide hormone

transmitters in different *Gad2-Tph2-Pet1* neuron subgroups. Cluster two shows

enrichment for thyrotropin-releasing hormone transcripts (*Trh*), and clusters five and six

show enrichment for prodynorphin (*Pdyn*) (as does cluster fourteen). As can be seen in

the dendrogram in **Figure 1B** and UMAP plot in **Figure 1C**, there appears to be a major

division between *Gad2-Tph2-Pet1* clusters two through four and clusters five and six,

with clusters five and six also sharing many molecular similarities with *Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1*

subgroups. This may in part reflect differential expression of transcription factors that

regulate divergent gene "modules". While all *Gad2-Tph2-Pet1* neurons express *Pax5*,

clusters two through four also express *Sox14* and *Satb2*. Cluster six, on the other hand,

shows enrichment for several transcription factor genes that are also enriched (or trend

towards enrichment) in clusters thirteen and fourteen, such as *Pou3f2*, *Bcl11a*, and *Id2*.

These molecularly distinct *Gad2-Tph2-Pet1* subgroups also show differences in

anatomy. Based on manual scRNA-seq of sub-anatomically targeted *Pet1* neurons, we

found that cluster two *Gad2-Trh-Tph2-Pet1* neuron cell bodies are found predominately

in the dorsolateral DR, as well as the dorsomedial DR, whereas clusters three, four, and

five appear to be more dorsomedially biased, consistent with recent reports (Huang et

al., 2019; Ren et al., 2019). Cluster six neurons, as captured by *Npy2r::cre;Pet1::Flpe*

expression, show a more diffuse distribution in the rostral DR, illustrating that not all *Pet1*

neuron subtypes, as defined transcriptomically, correspond with clear-cut anatomical

patterns. Indeed, while there are major differences between predominately dorsal versus

ventral or rostral versus caudal DR *Pet1* neuron subtypes, different subtypes

nonetheless intermix within these domains, emphasizing the importance of molecular-

genetic targeting of *Pet1* neuron subtypes to gain specificity for functional

characterization (a point also made by (Huang et al., 2019) and (Okaty et al., 2019)).

Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1 neuron subgroups, as noted above, are found more ventrally than

Gad2-Tph2-Pet1 neurons in the rostral DR, and are the dominant neurotransmitter

phenotype in the caudal DR (as inferred by transcript expression and VGLUT3 and

TPH2 immunostaining). We found two *Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* neuron subtypes with cell

bodies biased towards the rostral DR (clusters nine and ten) and three subtypes

(clusters seven, eight, and twelve) biased towards the more caudal DR (as delineated in

Figure 4, and see the discussion of varying nomenclature around the cDR in the

Results section *Histology of Pet1-Intersectionally Defined Neuron Populations* above).

Cluster twelve *Pet1* neurons, also marked by expression of the gene *Met*, we found to

be the most different from all other *Pet1* neurons, both in terms of the number of

differentially expressed genes and the magnitudes of enrichment/depletion compared to

other *Pet1* neuron subtypes (as also observed by (Huang et al., 2019; Ren et al., 2019)).

We show by histology of genetically marked neurons (intersectional

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe expression) that the cell bodies of these *Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1*

neurons are clustered beneath the aqueduct in the caudal DR (**Figure 3E**) and send

extensive axonal projections throughout the ventricles (**Figure 5**). Based on retrograde

tracing experiments (Kast et al., 2017; Tong et al., 2014), it is likely that these neurons

constitute the major source of 5-HT innervation to the ventricles. Furthermore, our

demonstration that *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* fibers are closely apposed with proliferating

and migrating cells in the SVZ and rostral migratory stream (**Figure 5**), supports a

proposed role for these neurons in regulating adult neural stem cell proliferation in the

SVZ (Tong et al., 2014). Cluster twelve neuron transcript enrichment for several GPCRs

implicated in modulation of adult neurogenesis, such as *P2ry1* (Lin et al., 2007)*, Gipr*

(found to be enriched in our *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* manual scRNA-seq data) (Nyberg et

al., 2005)*, S1pr3* (Alfonso et al., 2015; Ye et al., 2016)*,* and *Oprm1* (Harburg et al., 2007)

lends further support to this hypothesis. Now, with intersectional access to this

population of cDR 5-HT neurons provided by *P2ry1::IRES-cre* with *Pet1::Flpe,* the

function of *Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* cDR neurons in regulating SVZ proliferation can be

tested directly in a cell type-specific manner using dual Cre- and Flpe- responsive

chemo- or optogenetic approaches (Brust et al., 2014; Hennessy et al., 2017; Kim et al.,

2009; Madisen et al., 2015; Niederkofler et al., 2016; Okaty et al., 2015; Ray et al., 2011;

Sciolino et al., 2016; Teissier et al., 2015).

DR *Pet1* neuron subtypes have distinct electrophysiological properties

To further characterize correspondence of molecular identities with other cell

phenotypes we performed whole-cell electrophysiological recordings in acute slices

prepared from mice in which different *Pet1* neuron subsets were genetically labeled. We

found that 5-HT neurons with different molecular identities also exhibit distinct

electrophysiological properties likely to impact their circuit function. While we did not

comprehensively sample all molecularly defined subtypes, our survey of cDR *Pet1*

neurons and rostrodorsal *Gad2::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons provides evidence for at least

four distinct electrophysiological types based on four key properties: (1) rheobase (also

known as current threshold), which reflects a neuron's sensitivity to input, (2) delay to

first spike, which reflects the degree to which a neuron is able to activate phasically in

response to input, (3) spike-frequency adaptation, which reflects the degree to which a

neuron is able to continuously signal ongoing input, and (4) maximum firing rate, which

determines the dynamic range of neuron responsiveness to graded inputs. As with

molecular differences, cluster twelve *Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* cDR neurons

(*P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* intersectional expression) showed profound differences from

other subtypes, including other cDR *Pet1* neurons. *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons

consistently displayed a long latency to first action potential, required substantially more

input to reach action potential threshold, and had a lower maximum firing rate (**Figure 6**

and Figure 6 – figure supplement 1). These differences, together with differential

transcript expression of several GPCRs, suggest that *Met-Vglut3-Tph2-Pet1* cDR

neurons respond in a different way and to very different stimuli than other DR *Pet1*

neuron types. For example, low excitability and long-latency to spike suggest that these

neurons may only be recruited by very strong stimuli at relatively slower timescales than

other *Pet1* neurons (to the extent that properties recorded in slice reflect *in vivo*

properties). Notably, 5-HT neurons with this electrophysiological profile have not yet

been reported in the literature. However, the two firing types that we have defined as

"Short-Latency to First AP; Non-Adapting" and "Mid-Latency to First AP" (**Figure 6B,C**)

correspond well to those described by (Fernandez et al., 2016) in groups of *Pet1-eGFP*

serotonergic neurons projecting to the mPFC and the BLA, respectively. Differential

expression of ion channels and receptors identified here suggest molecular substrates of

these different electrophysiological properties.

Technical aspects of our study allow for high-resolution transcriptome

characterization of *Pet1* neurons

Due to the high-dimensional "richness" of transcriptomic data, together with the capacity

to propose explanations of cellular phenotypes in terms of molecular mechanisms –

RNA-seq dissection of neural circuits has gained traction as a way to define and

enumerate cell types in the brain (and other tissues). Single-cell RNA-sequencing, in

particular, has become an indispensable approach, with different methods achieving

different resolution of underlying cellular diversity (Bakken et al., 2018; Campbell et al.,

2017; Hodge et al., 2019; Huang et al., 2019; Lovatt et al., 2014; Macosko et al., 2015;

Okaty et al., 2015; Poulin et al., 2016; Ren et al., 2019; Rosenberg et al., 2018;

Saunders et al., 2018; Spaethling et al., 2014; Tasic, 2018; Tasic et al., 2016; Tasic et

al., 2018; Usoskin et al., 2015; Zeisel et al., 2018; Zeisel et al., 2015). Droplet-based

scRNA-seq approaches (without cell-type-specific purification) allow for unbiased

classification of major cell types residing in a particular microdissected tissue region of

interest, however lower abundance cell types, such as DR *Pet1* neurons profiled in the

present study, are often insufficiently sampled to achieve high resolution of subtype

molecular diversity. Moreover, different reaction chemistries employed in different

droplet-based scRNA-seq approaches can lead to different gene detection sensitivity.

Low cellular abundance compounded with low gene detection can greatly limit the power

of a study to reveal fine-scale variation in molecular phenotypes that may be important

for identifying neuronal subtypes and subtype "states" (e.g. adaptive or pathological

transcriptional variation). Where cell type-specific markers are available, cell sorting prior

to scRNA-seq library preparation can greatly enhance the resolution of cellular diversity

for less abundant cell classes. While manual sorting approaches combined with RNA-

seq library preparation optimized for low amounts of input RNA achieve high single-cell

gene detection and allow for sampling genetically and anatomically-defined neuron

populations (Niederkofler et al., 2016; Okaty et al., 2015), they are often limited in the

number of cells profiled, and therefore may lack sufficient throughput to fully characterize

subtype diversity. On the other hand, automated sorting approaches achieve greater

throughput but are less well suited to collecting low abundance cell types, such as

defined by fine-scale anatomy or highly restricted marker gene expression. Our

particular experimental approach to characterizing DR *Pet1*-lineage neuron diversity in

the present study was informed by all of the above concerns. By combining

intersectional genetic labeling of DR *Pet1* neurons with both high-throughput

(microfluidic On-chip Sort) and targeted low-throughput (manual) sorting approaches,

followed by high-sensitivity RNA-seq library preparation protocols (10X Genomics

Chromium Single Cell 3' v3 and SMART-Seq v4 kits, respectively) we leveraged the

strengths of multiple approaches to achieve high-resolution transcriptomic profiling of DR

Pet1 neurons.

Resource value of DR Pet1 neuron scRNA-seq data

While we have highlighted many salient experimental findings in the present report, the

data no doubt have more to reveal, and we thus offer this dataset as a resource to be

mined by the larger community in the hopes that it may facilitate and stimulate future

studies. For example, newly identified *Pet1* neuron subtype marker genes may guide

development of new recombinase driver lines allowing for subtype-specific genetic

access, or shape approaches for developing more targeted therapeutics. Moreover, we

hope this work, together with other recent studies (Huang et al., 2019; Ren et al., 2019),

may lead to the development of a standardized DR *Pet1* neuron subtype nomenclature

that allows for consolidation of results across different labs and different data modalities.

Methods

Intersectional genetic fate mapping

Triple transgenic mice were generated by crossing *Pet1::Flpe; FrePe* (Brust et al., 2014;

Jensen et al., 2008; Okaty et al., 2015) or *Pet1::Flpe; Ai65* (Madisen et al., 2015) mice

with *Sert::cre* (Gong et al., 2007), *Npy2r::IRES-cre* (Chang et al., 2015), *En1::cre*

(Kimmel et al., 2000), *Crh::cre*

(https://www.mmrrc.org/catalog/sds.php?mmrrc_id=30850)*, and P2ry1::IRES-cre*

(Chang et al., 2015) mice, or by crossing *Pet1::Flpe; hM3Dq* (Sciolino et al., 2016) mice

with *Vglut3::IRES-cre* mice (https://www.jax.org/strain/028534). All animals were group

housed on a 12hr light/dark cycle with access to food and water ad libitum and were

handled and euthanized in accordance with Harvard's Institutional Animal Care and Use

Committee Protocols.

Perfusion and immunohistochemistry

Anesthetized mice were transcardially perfused with cold phosphate-buffered saline

(PBS) followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) overnight. Tissue was dissected and

fixed in 4% PFA overnight followed by cryoprotection in 30% sucrose/PBS until

equilibrated (~48 hours) before being frozen in tissue freezing medium (Triangle

Biomedical Services). Tissue was cryosectioned in 40um coronal sections and

processed as floating sections.

For fluorescent staining, sections were washed with PBS and PBS with 0.1% Triton-X-

100 (PBS-T), blocked in 5% normal donkey serum (NDS) and 1% bovine serum albumin

(BSA) for 2 hours at room temperature (RT), and incubated with primary antibody at 4°C

for 48 hours: anti-GFP (1:3000, chicken polyclonal, Aves Labs, GFP-1020), anti-DsRed

(1:1000, rabbit polyclonal, Takara, 632496), anti-TPH2 (1:1000, rabbit polyclonal, Novus

Biologicals, NB100-74555), anti-Pax5 (1:1000, goat polyclonal, Santa Cruz, sc-1974),

anti-SATB2 (1:1000, guinea pig polyclonal, Synaptic Systems, 327-004), anti-COUP-TFII

(1:1000, mouse monoclonal, Perseus Proteomics, PP-H7 147-00), anti-ZEB2 (1:200,

rabbit polyclonal, MyBioSource, MBS9601451), anti-VGLUT3 (1:500, guinea pig

polyclonal, Synaptic Systems, 135-204), anti-RFP (1:500, rat monoclonal, Chromotek,

5f8-100), anti-Doublecortin (1:1000, goat polyclonal, Santa Cruz, SC-8066), and anti-Ki-

67(1:1000, rat monoclonal, Invitrogen, 14-5698-80). For fluorescent detection, sections

were washed in PBS-T and incubated with species matched secondary antibodies-

Alexa Fluor 488 (donkey anti-chicken, Jackson, 703-545-155), Alexa Fluor 546 (donkey

anti-rabbit, Invitrogen, A10040), Alexa Fluor 647 (donkey anti-goat, Invitrogen, A21447

or donkey anti-mouse, Jackson, 715-605-151), and Cy5 (donkey anti-guinea pig,

Jackson, 706-175-148)- at 1:500 dilution for two hours. Sections were washed in PBS

and 1:3000 DAPI before rinsing and mounting onto slides.

Confocal and fluorescent microscopy and quantification

Overview images: Overview images of intersectional subtypes were acquired using a 5x

objective on a Zeiss Axioplan2 fluorescence microscope equipped with an Axiocam

digital camera and Axiovision software using 1x1 binning. Images were then cropped to

a 1000x1000 pixel square containing the dorsal raphe. Images showing the distribution

of PAX5, SATB2, and NR2F2 are 2x2 tiled maximum intensity images acquired using a

Plan Apo λ 20x/0.75 DIC I objective on a spinning disk confocal. Images showing TPH2

and VGLUT3 staining are a single optical slice taken on a spinning disk confocal using a

Plan Apo λ 20x/0.75 DIC I objective or Plan Fluor 40x/1.3 Oil DIC H/N2 objective

respectively. Images were cropped to create a zoomed image of the region of interest.

Quantification: Quantification of PAX5, NR2F2, and SATB2 was completed in
Vglut3::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe; hM3Dq animals, where cells expressing both
Vglut3::IRES-cre and *Pet1::Flpe* express an hM3Dq-mCherry fusion and all other *Pet1+*
cells express eGFP. Images were acquired as 2x2 tiles as a z-stack (0.9um step) using
a Plan Apo λ 20x/0.75 DIC I objective on a spinning disk confocal and cropped into
equally sized non-overlapping subregions (1000x1000 pixel) spanning the rostral to
caudal extent of the dorsal raphe. Cells were counted positive if antibody staining for the
protein of interest overlapped with DAPI staining and was within a DsRed + cell
(*Vglut3::cre;Pet1::Flpe* lineage) or a GFP+ cell (subtractive *Pet1* lineage). All counts
were completed in images taken from 2 to 4 animals depending on the brain region.
Images used for the quantification of VGLUT3 antibody staining were acquired using a
Plan Fluor 40x/1.3 Oil DIC H/N2 objective on a spinning disk confocal on non-
overlapping anatomical subdivisions of the dorsal raphe. Cells were counted positive
based on the overlap of VGLUT3 antibody staining with mCherry (*VGlut3::cre;Pet1::Flpe*
lineage) or a eGFP (subtractive *Pet1* lineage) staining. In the case of TPH2
quantification, *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe; FrePe* animals were used (eGFP+ *En1::cre;*
Pet1::Flpe intersectional lineage cells). Images were acquired as 2x2 tiles as a z-stack
(0.9um step) using a Plan Apo λ 20x/0.75 DIC I objective on a spinning disk confocal
and cropped into equally sized non-overlapping subregions (1000x1000 pixel) spanning
the rostral to caudal extent of the dorsal raphe. Cells were counted positive based on
colocalization of TPH2 antibody staining with eGFP. All quantification was performed by
an experienced observer blinded to the anatomical region of the image in a minimum of
two animals per region.

Flat mount of lateral wall of lateral ventricle: *P2ry1::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe; Ai65* mice
(n=4) were transcardially perfused with cold PBS. Lateral wall dissection was completed
as described in Mirzadeh, et.al, 2010. Briefly, brains were dissected into PBS and split
into two hemispheres. The hippocampus was removed, exposing the lateral wall, and
the brain was fixed overnight in 4% PFA in PBS. The remainder of the microdissection of
the lateral wall was then completed and immediately proceeded to
immunohistochemistry as described above.

Single-cell sorting and RNA sequencing

On-chip Sort, 10X library preparation, and RNA sequencing: Data was derived from two
different experiments composed of brain tissue harvested from *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe;
FrePe* mice (n=4) or *Pet1::Flpe; RC::FL-hM3Dq* mice (n=6). Tissue was sectioned on a
vibratome and protease-digested in ACSF containing activity blockers as described in
(Hempel et al., 2007). The dorsal raphe was micro-dissected under an upright dissection
microscope with fluorescence optics and all tissue was combined in a 1.5mL Eppendorf
tube containing 500ul of filtered ACSF/1%FBS. Tissue was then gently triturated using
glass micropipettes of decreasing diameter until achieving a mostly homogeneous
single-cell suspension without visible tissue chunks. One drop of NucBlue (Thermo
Fisher Scientific) was added to the cell suspension and allowed to sit for 20 minutes (to
aid in sorting and cell quantification). EGFP-marked, NucBlue-positive cells were sorted
using the On-chip Sort (On-chip Biotechnologies Co., Ltd.). Final cell concentration was
determined by counting the number of cells in 10ul of the sorted output using a
hemacytometer. Cells were then run through the 10X Genomics Chromium Single Cell 3'
v3 protocol, and libraries were sequenced on an Illumina NextSeq 500 sequencer to a
mean depth of ~115,000 reads per cell.

Manual Sorting and RNA sequencing: Brain tissue was harvested from triple transgenic
animals – *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe;FrePe*, *Npy2r::IRES-cre Pet1::Flpe;FrePe,
Crh::cre;Pet1::Flpe;FrePe,* and *P2ry1::IRES-cre* (p60-p120, a minimum of two mice per
condition) and fluorescently labeled cells were sorted as described in (Okaty et al.,
2015). Briefly, the brainstem was sectioned into 400um coronal sections using a
vibratome. Sections were bubbled in artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF) containing
activity blockers for at least 5 minutes before being transferred to ACSF containing
1mg/ml pronase for 1 hour. Slices were then returned to protease-free ACSF for 15
minutes, before regions of interest were micro-dissected. Anatomical subdivisions of the
dorsal raphe were made based on the shape of the dorsal raphe and landmarks
including fiber tracts and the aqueduct (as indicated in **Figure 4A**). Dissected chunks of
tissue were transferred first to a clean 35-mm dish containing ACSF and then to a 1.5mL
Eppendorf tube containing 1mL of filtered ACSF/1% FBS. Tissue was then gently
triturated until without visible chunks. Dissociated cells were diluted and poured into a
Petri dish. Fluorescently marked cells were aspirated using mouth aspiration and moved
into 3 consecutive wash dishes. Each cell was then aspirated a final time and deposited
into an individual 0.5mL tube containing 9.5ul of nuclease-free water and 1ul of 10x

Reaction Buffer (Smart-Seq V4 Ultra Low Input RNA kit, Takara Bio) and allowed to

incubate at room temperature for 5 minutes before being stored at -80deg until cDNA

synthesis. Single cells were converted to cDNA and amplified using Smart-Seq V4 Ultra

Low Input RNA Kit (Takara Bio). The cDNA output was then processed with Nextera XT

DNA Library Preparation Kit. Quantification and quality control were assessed with

TapeStation. Libraries were then sequenced on either an Illumina HiSeq 2500 (50 base-

pair, single-end) or NextSeq 500 (75-bp, paired-end) to a mean depth of ~4,000,000

reads per cell.

scRNA-seq Analysis

<u>10x scRNA-seq data:</u> Transcriptome mapping (using the mm10 genome assembly) and

demultiplexing were performed using the 10X Genomics Cell Ranger software (version

3.0.2). Several data-filtering steps were performed on the matrix of transcript counts

(using R version 3.5.3) prior to further analysis. First, we filtered out all genes detected in

fewer than ten single-cell libraries, and filtered out all libraries with less than 4,500

detected genes. This threshold was selected based on the histogram of gene detection

for all single-cell libraries as initially called by the Cell Ranger cell detection algorithm,

which appeared to reflect two different distributions corresponding to low-complexity

versus high-complexity libraries. The low-complexity distribution was right-skewed and

had a mode of less than 1,000 detected genes, whereas the high-complexity distribution

was left-skewed and had a mode of ~7,500 detected genes. 4,500 genes was roughly

the boundary between the two distributions; i.e. the minima between the two modes, and

also corresponded to a sharp inflection point in the Barcodes versus UMI counts plot in

the web_summary.html file generated by Cell Ranger. While many of these low-

complexity libraries may have been misidentified as cells by Cell Ranger (e.g. droplets

containing transcripts from lysed cells, rather than intact cells) examination of genes

enriched in lower-complexity libraries suggested that some of them reflected unhealthy

cells (e.g. libraries with high mitochondrial gene expression) or contaminating non-

neuronal cells (e.g. libraries enriched for glial marker genes). Notably, the number of

cells with high-complexity libraries corresponded well with our estimated number of

eGFP positive cells used as input to the 10X chip. We further excluded libraries with: (1)

evidence of glial contamination, based on high-outlier expression of glial marker genes,

including *Plp1*, *Olig1*, and *Aqp4*, (2) absence or low-outlier levels of *Pet1/Fev* transcripts,

(3) greater than fifteen percent of detected genes corresponding with mitochondrial

genes, (4) less than two percent of detected genes corresponding with ribosomal genes

(these appeared to be single-nuclei libraries, rather than single-cell), (5) high-outlier UMI

counts, and (6) high-outlier gene detection. 2,350 single-cell libraries and 17,231 genes

passed the above filtering criteria.

Next, we created a Seurat object using these filtered data (Seurat version 3.0.2). Data

were log-normalized using the NormalizeData function (using the default scale factor of

1e4), and we identified the top two thousand genes (or in some cases non-coding RNAs)

with the most highly variable transcript expression across single cells using the

FindVariableFeatures function (selection.method = "vst", nfeatures=2000). We then

scaled and centered the log-normalized data using the ScaleData function and carried

out principal components analysis (PCA) on the scaled expression values of the two

thousand most highly variable genes. This allowed us to reduce the dimensionality of the

data onto a smaller set of composite variables representing the most salient gene

expression differences across single neurons. The procedure for identifying meaningful

Pet1 neuron subtype clusters is thoroughly described in the Results section of the main

text. Briefly, we systematically varied the number of principal components included and

the resolution parameter in the functions FindNeighbors, FindClusters, and RunUMAP,

Dendrograms were created using BuildClusterTree and PlotClusterTree, and cluster-

enriched genes were identified using the FindAllMarkers function, with min.pct = 0.25

and logfc.threshold = 0.25, using Wilcoxon Rank Sum tests. This function adjusts p-

values for multiple comparisons using the Bonferroni correction. All genes found to be

significantly enriched or "de-enriched" (i.e. expressed at a significantly lower level) in

each cluster, as well as the top two thousand highest variance genes, can be found in

the Supplemental Excel Spreadsheet.

Manual scRNA-seq data: Transcript mapping to the mm10 genome assembly and

feature counts were performed using STAR (version 2.5.4) (Dobin and Gingeras, 2016).

Given the high purity of manual cell sorting and the high sensitivity of SMART-Seq v4

cDNA amplification, no data filtering was required; i.e. single-cell libraries showed no

evidence for off-target contamination and showed consistently high gene detection

(~9,000 genes per single-cell). Counts data were analyzed using Seurat as described

for 10X scRNA-seq data.

scRNA-seq data availability: RNA-seq data (manual and 10X) are available through the

Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), accession number GSE144980.

Transfer of 10X cell type labels: In order to explore the correspondence between the

fourteen 10X scRNA-seq data-defined *Pet1* neuron subtypes and other scRNA-seq data,

including our manual scRNA-seq data, and the Huang, et al. 2019 and Ren, et al. 2019

datasets, we employed the strategy outlined in (Stuart et al., 2019). Specifically, we used

the Seurat functions FindTransferAnchors and TransferData, using the 10X data as the

"reference" and the other datasets as the "query" group.

Electrophysiology methods

In vitro brainstem slice preparations containing dorsal raphe serotonin neurons were

obtained from 4-5 week old mice. After isofluorane anesthesia, mice were perfused

transcardially with a solution of artificial CSF (NaHCO$_3$-aCSF) containing the following

(in mM): 124 NaCl, 25 NaHCO3, 3 KCl, 2 CaCl2, 2 MgCl$_2$, 1.2, NaH2PO4 and 25 d-

Glucose, equilibrated with 95% O2 and 5% CO2 adjusted to 310 ± 5 mOsm/L. The

brainstem was dissected and mounted on the stage of a VT1200S vibratome while

immersed in an ice slush solution aCSF containing the following (in mM): NMDG 93, HCl

93, KCL 2.5, NaH$_2$P0$_4$ 1.2, NaHCO$_3$ 30, HEPES 20, d-Glucose 25, Na-Ascorbate 5,

Thiourea 2, Na-Pyruvate 3, MgSO$_4$ 10, CaCl$_2$ 0.5 equilibrated with 95% O2 and 5% CO2

adjusted to 310 ± 5 mOsm/L. Coronal slices 200 µm thick containing the dorsal nucleus

raphe were recovered for 1h at 35-6 C in HEPES-aCSF containing: NaCl 92, KCl 2.5,

NaH$_2$P0$_4$ 1.2, NaHCO$_3$ 30, HEPES 20, Glucose 25, Na-Ascorbate 5, Thiourea 2,

NaPyruvate 3, MgSO$_4$ 10, CaCl$_2$ 0.5 equilibrated with 95% O2 and 5% CO2 adjusted to

310 ± 5 mOsm/L and placed at room temperature for storage. Individual slices were

transferred to the recording chamber and superfused with NaHCO3-aCSF at

34ºC. Electrodes (5–7 MΩ) were pulled from borosilicate glass. Pipettes were filled with

(in mM): 140 K-gluconate, HEPES 10, KCl 5, Na-ATP 2, MgCl$_2$ 2, EGTA 0.02, biocytin

0.1% Na$_2$GTP 0.5, Na$_2$-phosphocreatine 4, pH 7.4 adjusted with KOH and adjusted to

285 ± 5 mOsm/L with sucrose. Somatic whole-cell recordings were obtained with a

Multiclamp 700B amplifier, signals were acquired and sampled at 100 kHz

using Digidata 1440A digitizing board. Pipette capacitance was compensated ≈70% in

current clamp (CC). Series resistance (*R*s) was typically 9–15 MΩ. Cells with *R*s > 15

MΩ were discarded. A measured liquid junction potential of ≈10 mV was corrected

online. Cells were held at V_h= -80 mV unless otherwise indicated. To create action

potential frequency-current curves, a protocol that applies a series of 750 ms current

pulses ranging from -100 pA to 220 pA was created using Molecular Devices Clampex

10.7 software running on Windows 7.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1: High throughput scRNA-seq and clustering analyses reveal as many as

fourteen distinct molecularly-defined subtypes (clusters) of *Pet1* neurons in the mouse

DR. (A) Schematic depicting the experimental and analytical workflow, specifically: (1)

brain dissection and DR microdissection, (2) cellular dissociation and microfluidic

fluorescence-based cell sorting using the On-chip Sort, and (3) library preparation,

sequencing, and analysis using 10X genomics, Illumina sequencing, and the R package

Seurat, respectively. (B) Hierarchical clustering of *Pet1* neuron subtypes identified by

Louvain clustering (using the top two thousand genes with the highest variance, PCs =

1:5, 8:50, and resolution=0.9), with violin plots depicting the log-normalized expression

of a common set of genes (*Tph2, Gad2, Gad1, Vglut3,* and *Met*) found useful for

characterizing cluster structure across multiple resolutions (see Figure 1- figure

supplement 2). (C) UMAP visualization of single-neuron transcriptome

community/similarity structure, with colors and numbers indicating discrete clusters

(same clustering parameters as (B)). (D) Heatmap depicting the scaled expression of the

top five marker genes for each cluster (ranked by p-value, or in some cases fold

enrichment).

Figure 1 - figure supplement 1: Systematic variation of key clustering parameters allows

for exploration of the community structure of DR *Pet1* single neuron transcriptomes at

variable resolutions. (A) Scatterplot of the variance (standard deviation, Y-axis)

explained by the first 250 principal components (X-axis). (B) Level plot/heat map

depicting the number of clusters (DR *Pet1* neuron subtypes) resulting from variation of

the number of included principle components (Y-axis) and the resolution parameter to

the Seurat function FindClusters (X-axis). (C) Line graph of the frequency (Y-axis) that a

given number of clusters (X-axis) arises from the analysis performed in B. (D) Plots

showing the parameters (white) that lead to cluster numbers found to have the highest

frequency (5, 11, 14, and 17 clusters, top left to bottom right respectively).

Figure 1 - figure supplement 2: Analysis of clusters at successively increasing resolution

values. (A, D, G) Hierarchical clustering of *Pet1* neuron subtypes identified by Louvain

clustering at varying resolutions (specifically, the resolution value passed to the Seurat

function FindClusters A= 0.1, D= 0.3, G= 0.7), and violin plots depicting the normalized

expression of *Tph2, Gad2, Gad1, Vglut3,* and *Met.* (B, E, H) UMAP visualization of

community structure at a given resolution (B= 0.1, E= 0.3, H= 0.7). (C, F, I) Heatmap

depicting the scaled expression of the top five marker genes for each cluster (ranked by

p-value).

Figure 1 - figure supplement 3: Expression of serotonin-related genes across DR *Pet1*

neuron subtypes. Violin plots depicting the log-normalized expression of twelve

serotonin neuron marker genes across the fourteen *Pet1* neuron clusters.

Figure 2: Expression patterns of a subset of highly variable genes classified by biological

function. Dot plots show the expression of a gene (Y-axis) in each cluster (X-axis),

separated by biological function. The size of the dot represents the percentage of cells

expressing the gene and saturation of color represents average normalized expression

level. For convenience, the UMAP plot from Figure 1C is re-displayed at the bottom right

to help link gene expression patterns to overall cluster structure. Minimum inclusion

criteria for genes was that they were among the top 2000 highest variance genes and/or

they were found to be significantly enriched or "de-enriched" in at least one subtype

cluster (see **Methods**).

Figure 3: Intersectionally targeted *Pet1* neuron subtypes have different anatomical

distributions in subregions of the DR. (A-E) Low magnification view of 40 μm coronal

sections showing the DR from rostral to caudal (1-6) in triple transgenic animals. Cell

bodies are labeled by the intersectional expression of a Cre driver of interest, *Pet1::Flpe*,

and the intersectional allele *FrePe* (green eGFP marked cells expressing both Cre and

Flpe and red mCherry expressing *Pet1::Flpe* subtractive population) unless otherwise

noted. (A) *Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe; FrePe*, (B) *Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe; hM3Dq* (green

mCherry-hM3Dq marked cells expressing Cre and Flpe and red eGFP expressing

Pet1::Flpe subtractive population), (C) *Npy2r::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe; FrePe*, (D)

P2ry1::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe; FrePe. Top row shows violin plots depicting transcript

expression (10X scRNA-seq data) of the respective gene corresponding with each Cre

driver. Scale bar (A1) equals 100 μm.

Figure 3 - figure supplement 1: TPH2 and VGLUT3 antibody staining of *Pet1* neurons is

anatomically biased within different DR subdomains. (A) Bar graph showing the

percentage of *Pet1* cells that are TPH2-negative in a specific anatomical subdivision of

the DR in an *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe; RC::FrePe* (Green labeled neurons with intersectional

expression of *En1::cre* and *Pet1::Flpe)*. Anatomical subdivisions (Dorsomedial (dmDR),

Medial (mDR), Ventromedial (vmDR)) are depicted in the coronal photomicrographs

from D-I, from rostral (left) to caudal (right). n=2, bar graph depicting the mean with

SEM. (B) TPH2 immunostaining in an *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe; RC::FrePe* coronal section.

Open arrow indicates an example of a TPH2+ *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* cell and the closed

arrow indicates a TPH2- *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* cell. (C) VGLUT3 immunostaining in a

Vglut3::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe; RC::FL-hM3Dq coronal section (green indicating neurons

labeled by the intersection of *Vglut3::IRES-cre* and *Pet1::Flpe*, red indicating the

subtractive *Pet1* population). Open arrow shows an example of a VGLUT3

immunopositive *Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe* cell, closed arrow shows a VGLUT3

immunonegative subtractive *Pet1* cell. Scale bar in B and C equals 25 μm. (D-I)

Quantification of the percentage of VGLUT3 immunoreactive *Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe*

lineage (dark green) and VGLUT3 immunoreactive subtractive *Pet1* lineage cells (dark

red) within anatomical subdivisions of the dorsal raphe from rostral (D) to caudal (I), in

comparison to VGLUT3 immunonegative *Vglut3*::cre;*Pet1::Flpe* and subtractive *Pet1*

neurons (light green and light red respectively). Low magnification images indicate

representative quantified images. Anatomical subdivisions (dorsomedial (dm), medial

(m), ventromedial (vm) and dorsolateral (dl)) are delineated with white brackets. Scale

bar in D equals 100 µm, n=2, bar graph depicts mean with SEM. (J) Summary coronal

brainstem schematic showing the distribution of VGLUT3 immuno-positive and immuno-

negative *Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe* (dark and light green) and subtractive *Pet1* neurons

(dark and light red) in the DR from rostral (left) to caudal (right).

Figure 4: scRNA-seq of *Pet1* neurons sorted from anatomical subdomains map onto

specific 10x scRNA-seq clusters. (A) Schematic of the pipeline used for manual sorting

and sequencing, including referenced anatomical subdomains mapped onto

representative images of the DR. *Pet1* neurons are in green. (B) Dot plot mapping

manually sorted cells from a given genotype and anatomical subdomain (Y-axis) to the

fourteen 10x clusters (X-axis). The size of the dot indicates the percentage of single cells

from a genotype/anatomical region attributed to a reference cluster. Note, the asterisks

after *Drd2::cre;Pet1::Flpe* is to denote that these data come from a previously published

study (Niederkofler, et al. 2016), and these particular single-cell libraries were prepared

using the Nugen Ovation RNA-seq System v2 kit, rather than SMART-Seq v4. The

expression of a selection of highly variable and cluster marker genes is depicted in

Figure 4- figure supplement 1.

Figure 4 – figure supplement 1: Expression patterns of a selection of highly variable and

cluster marker genes that show anatomical bias. Dot plot depicting the expression of

genes (Y-axis) across manually sorted cells from a specific subdomain and genotype

(left) and 10x scRNA-seq clusters (right). The size of the dot represents the percentage

of cells expressing the gene and saturation of color represents the average normalized

expression level. As with Figure 4, the asterisks after *Drd2::cre;Pet1::Flpe* denotes that

these data come from a previously published study (Niederkofler, et al. 2016), and these

particular single-cell libraries were prepared using the Nugen Ovation RNA-seq System

v2 kit, rather than SMART-Seq v4.

Figure 4 - figure supplement 2: PAX5 and SATB2 are expressed predominately in rostral

dorsomedial and dorsolateral *Pet1* neurons while NR2F2 is expressed predominately in

caudal *Pet1* neurons. (A) Representative regions of the DR used for quantification of

immunostaining from rostral (left) to caudal (right). Brackets indicate anatomical

subdivisions- dorsomedial (dmDR, dark blue), medial (mDR, tan), ventromedial (vmDR,

gray), and dorsolateral (dlDR, light blue). (B-D) (top) Distribution of normalized transcript

expression of *Pax5* (B), *Satb2* (C) or *Nr2f2* (D) within *Pet1* neuron subtypes and

(bottom) the percentage of counted *Pet1* neurons immunoreactive for PAX5 (B), SATB2

(C) or NR2F2 (D) that are arising from *Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe* neurons (dark grey) in

comparison to the subtractive *Pet1* population (light grey). (B'-D') Bar graph depicting

the percentage of *Pet1* neurons immunopositive for PAX5 (B'), SATB2 (C') or NR2F2

(D') in anatomical subdivisions of the DR from rostral to caudal. n=2- 4 depending on

rostral to caudal section, bar graph depicting mean with SEM. (B''-D'') Representative

coronal confocal image depicting a region of the DR with *Pet1* neurons immunopositive

for PAX5 (B''), SATB2 (C'') or NR2F2 (D''). *Vglut3::cre;Pet1::Flpe* cells are shown in

green, subtractive *Pet1* cells in red, and antibody of interest in blue. (E) Coronal

brainstem schematics depicting the anatomical distribution of *Pet1* neurons (top)

expressing PAX5 and NR2F2, or (bottom) that are expressing *Gad2-Tph2, Vglut3-Tph2,*

or *Vglut3* only from rostral (right) to caudal (left).

Figure 5: *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* neurons project throughout the ventricles and are in

close apposition to proliferating cells in the SVZ and RMS. (A) Flat mount of the lateral

wall of the lateral ventricle of a *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;Ai65* animal, where

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe fibers are in grey. Scale bar = 100 μm. (B-E) High magnification

confocal images from regions of the lateral wall represented in red boxes in A. Scale bar

(B) = 100 μm. (F) 3D brain schematic showing the *P2ry1::cre;Pet1:Flpe* cell bodies (dark

orange) in the caudal part of the DR (light orange) and fibers (dark orange) projecting

through the ventricles (grey) and along the migrating neuroblasts of the rostral migratory

stream (RMS, blue). (G-H) Coronal confocal images depicting *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe*

fibers (orange) from *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;Ai65* animals in the SVZ (G) and RMS (H).

Proliferating cells labeled with Ki67 (grey) and migrating neuroblasts labeled with

doublecortin (DCX, blue). Scale bar (G, H) = 50 μm

Figure 6: *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons have a distinct firing phenotype. (A) Example

voltage traces from a neuron type that started firing action potentials with short latency

(mean= 17.32 ms ± 6.61 at 200 pA), in response to 750 ms current pulses. (B) Example

traces from a neuron type that started firing action potentials with medium latency

(mean= 64.18 ms ± 9.8 at 200 pA). (C) Example traces from a neuron that started firing

action potentials with long latency (mean= 476.55 ms ± 223.64 at 200 pA). (D) Example

traces from a neuron that fired action potentials with short latency (mean= 12.6 ms ± 5.9

at 200 pA) and that displayed frequency adaptation. (E) Frequency-Current curves show

P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe neurons (tdTomato$^+$ *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;Ai65,* n=9; 3

animals; red circles) are less excitable than nearby caudodorsal raphe non-

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe populations (eGFP$^+$ *P2ry1::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FL-hM3Dq,*

n=8; 3 animals; black squares) or neurons from the dorsomedial and dorsolateral Raphe

Gad2::cre;Pet1::Flpe population (tdTomato$^+$ *Gad2::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;Ai65*, n=12; 2

animals; blue diamonds) p<0.0001 Kruskal-Wallis test. (F) Heat map shows the

distribution of firing types of recorded cells according to genotype, note that while firing

type B is the most frequent overall, all recorded *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* neurons belong to

type D.

Figure 6- figure supplement 1: Key membrane properties distinguish serotonergic

neuron firing types. Groups are same as in Figure 6; all *P2ry1::IRES-cre;*

Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65 neurons belong to group D. (A) Scatterplot of rheobase (in pA)

exhibited by each cell of the corresponding firing type. (B) Scatterplot of the latency of

each cell to fire the first action potential after the onset of the depolarizing current pulse

by the corresponding firing type. (C) Same as B except firing type D was split into

subgroups Da and Db, based on bi-modality visible in B. (D) Scatterplot of the maximum

firing frequency (in Hz) exhibited by each cell of the corresponding firing type. (E)

Scatterplot of the membrane resistance (in MΩ), exhibited by each cell of the

corresponding firing type. (F) Scatterplot of the average half-width of the action potential

of each firing type at maximum firing rate (in ms). Dashed lines indicate the median.

Asterisks indicate statistical significance, Kruskal-Wallis test *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p <

0.001, ****p < 0.0001.

Figure 7: Correspondence of serotonin subtypes identified in previous studies (Y-axis) to

the fourteen 10x clusters identified in this study (X-axis). The size of the dot indicates the

percentage of single cells from the original cluster that are attributed to a given reference

cluster.

Figure 8: Fourteen *Pet1* subtypes in the DR can be defined by the combinatorial
expression of transcription factors and other markers and have distinct anatomical
organization. (A) Molecular markers (neurotransmitters (NTs), transcription factors (TFs),
and other markers) on the left half of the table, with increasing specificity from left to
right, that combinatorically define each identified *Pet1* subtype (colored column).
Anatomical biases of each cluster are described on the right, with increasing specificity
from right to left. Note, cluster numbers have been re-ordered to highlight anatomical
groupings.

Supplemental Excel Spreadsheet: The "all_subgroup_markers" worksheet displays the
output of the Seurat FindAllMarkers function. Column one is the gene symbol, column
two is the p-value given by the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test, column three is the average
"log fold change" (i.e. log-fold difference in transcript abundance between the in-group
and out-group), where a positive value indicates that a gene is expressed at a higher
level in a given cluster relative to all other clusters, and a negative value indicates that a
gene is expressed at a lower level. Column four is the percent of cells within a particular
cluster in which the gene was detected, column five is the percent of cells within all other
clusters in which a gene was detected, column six gives the Bonferroni-corrected p-
value, and column seven indicates the cluster in which the given gene is a positive or
negative marker. Note, not all enriched genes are unique to only one cluster, as more
similar clusters will share subsets of enriched genes. The "sig_var_genes" worksheet
lists the top two thousand highest "standardized variance" genes, i.e. genes that vary
significantly more than expected based on mean expression.

Figure 1

Figure 1- figure supplement 1

Figure 1- figure supplement 2

Figure 1- figure supplement 3

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 3 - figure supplement 1

Figure 4

A

Microdissect DR sub-regions

Manually sort
labeled 5-HT neurons

SMART-Seq v4,
Nextera XT,
Illumina sequencing

B

Percent single cells
attributed to each
"reference" identity

· 0
25
50
75
100

Identities based on 10X scRNA-seq data
("reference identity")

Figure 5

A

B *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* 100 µm

C

D

E

100 µm

F

H G

Dorsal Raphe
P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe fibers
Migrating Neuroblasts
Ventricles

G *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* 50 µm   Ki67   DCX

H *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* 50 µm   Ki67   DCX

Figure 6

A

B Short-Latency to First AP; Non-Adapting

C Mid-Latency to First AP

D Long-Latency to First AP

E Short-Latency to First AP; Adapting

F

Figure 6- figure supplement 1

Figure 7

Projection of 10X data-based identities onto other data sets

Percent single cells attributed to each "reference" identity

Identities based on 10X data (used as "reference")

Identities based on Huang, et al. 2019 and Ren, et al. 2019 data (used as "query")

Figure 8

Molecular Organization

Anatomical Organization

NTs		TFs		Other Markers			
			Npas1 *Npas3*		*Gabre* *Gabrq*	1	
			Pax5	*Sox14* *Satb2*	*Crym* *Trh*	2	
	Gad2				*Phlda1*	3	Dorsal
					Vim	4	
Pet1	*Tph2*				*Pdyn* *Nhsl1*	5	Rostral
				Pou3f2	*Emilin2*	6	
				Foxa1	*Rspo3*	11	
		Vglut3	*Nr2f2*		*Maf* *Nos1*	9	
					Cbln2	10	Ventral
					Tmeff2	7	
				Rorb	*Wnt4*	8	Caudal
				Zeb2	*Met* *P2ry1*	12	Dorsal
	Tph2 low/variable		*Ldb2*	*Nfix* *Nfib*	*Kctd8* *Nptx2*	13	Rostro-medial bias
					Gpr101	14	

Dorsal Raphe — Distributed