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

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Abstract

Among the brainstem raphe nuclei, the dorsal raphe nucleus (DR) contains the greatest
number of *Pet1*-lineage neurons, a predominantly serotonergic group distributed
throughout 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 subtype – possess unique efferent
projections and electrophysiological properties. These 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 subdomains 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 group (**Figure 1–figure**

supplement 2G and **Figure 1B**, clusters eight and thirteen, respectively, corresponding

to resolutions of 0.7 and 0.9) 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). Beyond *Tph2* expression,

cluster thirteen (and to a lesser extent cluster fourteen) displayed lower and more

variable expression of several 5-HT neuron marker genes (**Figure 1–figure supplement**

3). Interestingly, we found that expression of these genes was significantly correlated

with the level of *Pet1* expression in these cells (**Figure 1–figure supplement 4**),

consistent with demonstrated transcriptional regulation of 5-HT terminal identity markers

by PET1 (Hendricks et al., 2003; Krueger and Deneris, 2008; Liu and Deneris, 2011;

Spencer and Deneris, 2017; Wyler et al., 2015; Wyler et al., 2016).

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 group 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) (**Figure 1 – figure supplement 2A, B**, clusters one and two), 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 ~46% of profiled *Pet1* neurons,

comprising eight clusters at finer resolution (**Figure 1B, C,** clusters seven to fourteen), ,

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

The most striking outlier group of *Pet1* neurons (cluster twelve in **Figure 1B, C**) 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). This group of cells consistently clustered separately from all other groups at all

resolutions analyzed (**Figure 1 – figure supplement 2**). At the finest resolution of 0.9,

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. For all further analyses, we chose to focus on the 0.9 resolution clustering, as

we felt that these fourteen clusters did the best job of parcellating UMAP space. For

example, visually-distinguishable groups of cells, like clusters five and six, clusters ten

and eight, and clusters seven and fourteen, are each consolidated into a single cluster at

resolution = 0.7. While sharing some similarities, these groups differ in the expression of

many genes, to an extent that we felt constituted separate classification as supported by

the resolution = 0.9 analysis. To aid interpretation of the functional significance of

differentially expressed genes, expression patterns of a subset of significantly variable

genes and cluster markers 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, *Rorβ* (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 many 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 immunonegative *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**), further confirming the existence of *Pet1*-
expressing neurons that do not express TPH2 protein (Barrett et al., 2016; Pelosi et al.,
2014). To explicitly examine the relationship of *Tph2* transcript level to presence or
absence of TPH2 protein, we additionally performed concurrent TPH2 immunostaining
and *Tph2* single molecule fluorescent in situ hybridization in DR-containing brain
sections of an *En1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FrePe* mouse (**Figure 3–figure supplement 1B-**
G). Similar to our 10X scRNA-seq data, we found a bimodal distribution of *Tph2*
transcript abundance, with the majority of single cells distributing in the higher mode
(**Figure 3–figure supplement 1D**). Across all subregions of the DR analyzed, we found

that dual EGFP and TPH2 immunopositive cells contained significantly more *Tph2*

transcripts than EGFP immunopositive TPH2 immunonegative cells (p-value < 0.01,

Wilcoxon Rank Sum tests with Benjamini and Hochberg correction for multiple

comparisons, see **Methods, Figure 3–figure supplement 1E**). However, as the TPH2

immunopositive and negative *Tph2* transcript distributions showed some overlap, cells

with low *Tph2* transcript counts occasionally expressed TPH2 protein and cells with

higher transcript counts occasionally did not. In particular we found that the third and

fourth deciles (the "transition zone" between modes) of the *Tph2* transcript distribution

displayed the greatest degree of intermixing of TPH2 positive and negative cells (**Figure**

3–figure supplement 1D). Intriguingly, we also found that the somata of EGFP positive

TPH2 negative cells were significantly smaller than dual EGFP and TPH2 positive cells

(p-value < 0.01, Wilcoxon Rank Sum tests with Benjamini and Hochberg correction for

multiple comparisons, **Figure 3–figure supplement 1F,G).**

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 subregion
(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 to varying degrees of specificity. Clusters one through six appear to be rostrally

and dorsally biased, with cluster two showing a strong dorsolateral bias as well. Clusters

seven, eight, and twelve appear to be caudally and medially biased, with cluster twelve

showing a clear dorsal bias and clusters seven and eight showing more ventral bias

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). *Pet1-Tph2*^{low} neurons (comprising cluster thirteen and to a lesser extent cluster

14 neurons) show a prominent enrichment in the dorsomedial and medial-rostral DR,

though they are also scattered throughout the DR (but very rarely found dorsolaterally).

The remaining clusters appear to be more ventromedially biased in the more rostral DR.

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).

To determine if supra-ependymal projections are unique to *Pet1* neurons in the

caudal dorsal raphe, we injected a retrograde AAV virus leading to expression of Cre

under the synapsin reporter (pENN.AAV.hSyn.Cre.WPRE.hGH) unilaterally into the

lateral ventricle of double transgenic *Pet1::Flpe;FrePe* or *Pet1::Flpe;Ai65 mice*, where

expression of both Cre and Flpe leads to cell labeling by EGFP or TdTomato

respectively (Figure 5 – figure supplement 1 A). The predominant labeled population in

both genotypes was in the caudal dorsal raphe, just under the aqueduct, suggesting that

P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe neurons constitute the major supraependymal projecting group of

Pet1 neurons (Figure 5 – figure supplement 1 B,C). However, in agreement with other

studies that have included retrograde labeling via the lateral ventricle, some cell bodies

were also found in the median raphe (Kast et al., 2017, Tong et al., 2014). Thus, supra-

ependymal projections, while predominantly originating from the caudal dorsal raphe,

are not entirely unique to this region.

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

frequency-current (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, C**), specifically showing a longer latency to first

action potential (AP, **Figure 6B, 3**). Altogether, we observed four distinct firing types

exemplified by the voltage traces displayed in **Figure 6B**: short-latency to first AP

(regular spiking/non-adapting) (**Figure 6B, 1**), mid-latency to first AP (**Figure 6B, 2**),

long-latency to first AP (**Figure 6B, 3**), and short-latency to first AP with spike frequency

adaptation (**Figure 6B, 4**). The heatmap in **Figure 6C** 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 profiled roughly seven hundred and

600 DR *Pet1* neurons, respectively – likely 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. Lastly, we also found that Ren MR 1 (identified as being a

median raphe 5-HT neuron subtype in that study) shows 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.

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. In order to explicitly

investigate how specific aspects of our experimental design may have led to

identification of more DR *Pet1* neuron subgroups than the other two studies, we

modeled how the number of cells sampled and the number of UMIs identified per cell

influence the number of identified clusters in our dataset. Specifically, we randomly sub-

sampled variable numbers of cells (twenty times per iteration) and re-clustered the

resulting data in the same manner described for the full dataset (using a Seurat

FindClusters resolution of 0.9), varying the number of sampled cells from 200 to 2300

(**Figure 7 – figure supplement 1A**). As expected, we found that increasing the number

of cells increased the number of clusters. Identification of fourteen clusters did not occur

until at least 1,700 cells were included in the analysis, and this number of clusters began

to stabilize as 2,100 or more cells were included. Similarly, we randomly sub-sampled

UMIs, varying the maximum number of UMIs per cell from 500 to 100,000, and repeated

our clustering analysis twenty times per sub-sampled max UMI (**Figure 7 – figure**

supplement 1B). In this case we found a much steeper relationship between max UMIs

and number of clusters identified, with fourteen clusters being identified with as few as

4500 max UMIs per cell, and completely stabilizing at roughly 60,000 max UMIs. With

respect to our ability to resolve fine-scale DR *Pet1* neuron subgroup structure, these

results indicate that while both variables are important, the number of cells sampled was

more limiting than the number of UMIs in our dataset; i.e. we could have uncovered a

similar degree of overall cellular diversity (fourteen subtypes) with less "complex"

libraries (e.g. from more shallow sequencing), however we needed nearly 90% of the

cells we sampled to consistently uncover fourteen molecular subgroups.

The results of these analyses shed light on the most likely reasons why we were able to

achieve more fine-grained classification of DR *Pet1* neuron subtypes than the other two

studies. For example, the Ren study had a similar degree of library complexity to ours

(slightly higher, in fact), however as noted above they profiled fewer cells – 567 to our

2350 cells (~2200 excluding *Tph2-low* cells). When we sub-sample our data to a similar

number of cells, we find between six and nine clusters, and similarly, Ren, et al. reported

seven DR 5-HT neuron clusters. When we simultaneously sub-sample both the number

of cells profiled and the maximum number of UMIs detected per single cell to levels

similar to the Huang, et al. study (750 cells and 2500 max UMIs, **Figure 7 – figure**

supplement 1C), we uncover between four and seven subgroup clusters – Huang, et al.

found six. Thus, all other methodological sources of variation between studies aside,

these two parameters plausibly explain differences in the degree of diversity uncovered

across studies.

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 send 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; Doan et

al., 2019; 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 subregions. 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, Figure 8 – figure supplement 1**).

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 subregions 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 predominantly 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 rostral dorsal raphe *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, 1**

and 2) 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. Towards this end, we have created an interactive web

application allowing users to directly explore our scRNA-seq dataset

(https://dymeckilab.hms.harvard.edu/RNAseq_database). With the web app, users can

plot the expression of a gene or several genes of interest, and perform differential

expression analysis. Newly identified *Pet1* neuron subtype marker genes may guide

development of new recombinase driver lines allowing for subtype-specific genetic

access and functional manipulation, and may potentially 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

experimental results across different labs and different data modalities.

Methods

Intersectional genetic fate mapping

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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 (5 animals per ventilated cage) 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

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Anesthetized mice were transcardially perfused with cold phosphate-buffered saline

(PBS) followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). 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

<u>Overview images</u>**:** 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.

<u>Flat mount of lateral wall of lateral ventricle:</u> *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.

<u>Quantification of immunofluorescence</u>: 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.

TPH2/*Tph2* dual immunofluorescence and RNAscope

Transgenic *En1::cre; Pet1::Flpe; RC::FrePe* mice were briefly anesthetized with

isoflurane and immediately perfused intracardially with phosphate buffered saline (PBS)

followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS. Brains were extracted and fixed for 16

hours in 4% PFA at 4˚C, and were then cryoprotected using 30% sucrose in PBS for 48

hours and subsequently embedded in OCT compound (Tissue-Tek). Coronal sections

were cut on a cryostat into PBS at 20 μm thickness, rinsed three times with PBS for 10

min and frozen in cryo-storage solution at -30˚C. The day before RNAscope® (ACDBio)

procedure, the sections were mounted on slides and dried at room temperature (RT)

overnight. Prior to RNAscope, the slides were heated on a slide warmer at 50˚C for 30

min. Sections were re-fixed with 4% PFA for 15 min at RT, followed by Protease III

treatment for 30 min at 40˚C. RNAscope was performed based on the manufacturer's

protocol: mouse *Tph2*-C2 probe (ACDbio Cat# 318691-C2) and Amp4 AltA were used

for hybridization. After the last wash of RNAscope®, the slides were washed briefly with

PBS followed by permeabilization and blocking with 0.3% TritonX-100 and 5% Normal

Donkey Serum (NDS, Jackson ImmunoResearch) in PBS for 1 hour at RT. Then the

sections were incubated with primary antibodies in 0.3% TritonX-100 and 3% NDS in

PBS for 16 hours at 4˚C. Primary antibodies: chicken polyclonal anti-GFP (1:1000; GFP-

1010; Aves Labs), rabbit polyclonal anti-Tph2 (1:1000; NB100-74555; Novus Biological).

Sections were then washed with PBS three times for 10 min and incubated with

secondary antibodies for 2 hours at RT. Secondary antibodies: donkey anti-chicken IgG-

Alexa Fluor® 488 (1:500, Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, Inc.), donkey anti-

rabbit IgG-Alexa Fluor® 647 (1:500, ThermoFisher Scientific.). DAPI (4', 6-diamidino-2-

phenylindole) was used for nuclear counterstaining.

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<u>Image acquisition and analysis:</u> Images were collected on a Nikon Ti2 inverted

microscope with a Yokowaga CSU-W1 spinning disk with a 50 μm pinhole disk, using a

Nikon Plan Apo λ 60x/1.4 NA oil-immersion objective and laser lines at 405, 488, 561,

and 640 nm, and captured using an Andor Zyla 4.2 Plus sCMOS monochrome camera

and Nikon Elements Acquisition Softwarre AR 5.02. Laser settings were adjusted for

each sample but kept constant throughout image collection. A custom Fiji (Schindelin et

al., 2012) macro script was used to process and analyze these images in a semi-

automatic manner. Analysis was performed on maximum intensity projections of 5 μm

thick z-stacks. To segment cells, the GFP and TPH2 channels were processed with a

100 pixel rolling ball background subtraction to remove uneven background fluorescence

and a 2 pixel gaussian blur to aid in cell segmentation. Cells were segmented first by

automatic thresholding using the "Default" Fiji autothreshold method. Cells in the

resulting binary images were separated using the Adjustable Watershed plugin (Michael

Schmid, https://imagejdocu.tudor.lu/plugin/segmentation/adjustable_watershed/start),

which allows the user to manually adjust the default ImageJ binary watershed tolerance.

Next, cells were filtered for size (minimum area 70 μm^2) and circularity (minimum 0.3)

using Fiji's "Analyze Particles." Segmented cells were checked manually by a user who

could delete or redraw ROIs using the freehand tool and the ROI manager. After

segmenting both channels sequentially, 2D overlap-based colocalization of the TPH2

and GFP-labeled cells was performed in which a cell was considered as 'colocalized' if

area overlap was greater than 60% of the GFP area (determined empirically). To

quantify *Tph2* RNAscope puncta within cells, a 50 pixel rolling ball background

subtraction was applied before isolating puncta as local intensity maxima using the Fiji

"Find Maxima" function with a prominence level of 100. RNAscope puncta were then

counted within each cell ROI and resulting data were output to a spreadsheet. For GFP[+]

soma located close to TPH2[+] cells such that their outlines in the maximum projection

partially overlapped with TPH2 signal but did not reach the colocalization criterion,

RNAscope puncta were only counted in the TPH2⁻ region of the cell soma to avoid

including puncta belonging to the neighboring cell.

Stereotaxic Surgery

Mice were anesthetized with 1.5-2.0% isofluorane and placed in a stereotaxic system

(Kopf). Using a Micro4 injector (WPI) and Nanofil sytringe equipped with a metal 33g

beveled needle (WPI) 75nL of pENN.AAV.hSyn.Cre.WPRE.hGH was injected at

50nL/min into the lateral ventricle using using the following stereotaxic coordinates: -

0.34mm AP, + 1.00mm LM, -2.25mm DV (AP is relative to bregma). After surgery, mice

recovered on a heated pad until ambulatory and returned to their home cage.

pENN.AAV.hSyn.Cre.WPRE.hGH was a gift from James M. Wilson (Addgene viral prep

#105553-AAVrg ; httm://n2t.net/addgene:105553 ; RRID:Addgene_105553).

Single-cell sorting and RNA sequencing

<u>On-chip Sort, 10X library preparation, and RNA sequencing:</u> 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.

<u>Manual Sorting and RNA sequencing</u>: 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

10X scRNA-seq data: 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_2PO_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_2GTP 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 (Rs) was typically 9–15 MΩ. Cells with Rs > 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) 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 serotonin
neuron marker genes across the fourteen *Pet1* neuron clusters.

Figure 1 – figure supplement 4: Correlation of 5-HT marker gene expression levels with
Fev (*Pet1*) gene expression levels for clusters 13 and 14. Scatter plots showing the
correlation between the normalized expression level of *Pet1* (X-axis) and other 5-HT
marker genes (Y-axis) for clusters thirteen (light pink open circles) and fourteen (dark
pink closed circles). Linear line of best fit for each plot shown in black with corresponding
95% confidence interval in grey. Pearson correlation coefficient and p value displayed in
the top left corner of each graph.

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. The expression of TPH2 and VGLUT3 was further

investigated in Figure 3 – figure supplement 1 and 2, respectively.

Figure 3 – figure supplement 1: Diversity of *Tph2* RNA transcripts and protein

expression in dorsal raphe *Pet1* neurons. (A) Bar graph showing the percentage of the

total population of EGFP-positive TPH2-negative cells counted in a specific anatomical

subdivision of the DR in *En1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;RC::FrePe* animals (Green labeled neurons

with intersectional expression of *En1::cre* and *Pet1::Flpe*). n=2, bar graph depicting the

mean with SEM. (B, C) Images showing co-visualization of EGFP (green) and TPH2

(magenta) by immunofluorescence and *Tph2* transcripts (red) by RNAscope in

En1::cre;Pet1::Flpe;FrePe neurons. Examples for a TPH2 immunopositive cell with high

Tph2 transcripts (white arrow in B), a TPH2 immunonegative cell with low *Tph2*

transcripts (orange arrow in B), and a TPH2 immunopositive cell with medium levels of

Tph2 transcript (red arrow in C) are shown. Scale bars are 10 μm. (D) Violin plot

depicting the number of *Tph2* puncta per um^2 of each counted EGFP+ cell (from an

En1::cre;Pet1::Flpe; FrePe animal) that was TPH2 immunopositive (black) or TPH2

immunonegative (pink). The violin plot is split into deciles, with fill color representing the

percent of TPH2 immunopositive cells within a given decile. (E) Box plots depicting the

number of *Tph2* puncta for each counted EGFP+ cell that was TPH2 immunopositive

(darker shade, left) or TPH2 immunonegative (lighter shade, right), split across DR

subanatomy (Rostral and Caudal, dorsomedial DR (blue), medial DR (tan), ventromedial

DR (green), dorsolateral DR (turquoise)). (F) and (G) same as D and E, except depicting

cell area.

Figure 3 - figure supplement 2: VGLUT3 antibody staining of *Pet1* neurons is

anatomically biased within different DR subdomains. (A-F) 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 (A) to caudal (F), 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. (G) Summary coronal brainstem schematic showing

the distribution of VGLUT3 immunopositive and immunonegative *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 manually 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,

green), 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 their fibers 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 5 – figure supplement 1: The caudal dorsal raphe is the major *Pet1* neuron source of supra-ependymal fibers. (A) Schematic depicting unilateral injection of AAVrg-hSyn-Cre into the lateral ventricle of either *Pet1::Flpe;FrePe* (EGFP marked cells expressing both Cre and Flpe and mCherry expressing *Pet1::Flpe* subtractive population) or *Pet1::Flpe;Ai65* (TdTomato marked cells expressing both Cre and Flpe), leading to labeling of *Pet1* cells in the caudal dorsal raphe predominantly, and a smaller group in the median raphe. (B-C) Coronal confocal images of the caudal dorsal raphe from rostral (left) to caudal (right) in a *Pet1::Flpe;FrePe* (B) or *Pet1::Flpe;Ai65* (C) animal depicting *Pet1::Flpe* neurons with Cre expression after lateral ventricle injection of AAVrg-hSyn-Cre (green) and the *Pet1::Flpe* subtractive population (red, B only).

Figure 6: *P2ry1::cre;Pet1::Flpe* neurons have a distinct firing phenotype. (A) Frequency-
Current (F-I) 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 caudal
dorsal 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 dorsal raphe *Gad2::cre;Pet1::Flpe* population (tdTomato[+]
Gad2::IRES-cre;Pet1::Flpe;Ai65, n=12; 2 animals; blue circles) p<0.0001 Kruskal-Wallis
test. (B) Example voltage traces from neuron patch-clamp recordings showing different
firing types, specifically a neuron that started firing action potentials with (1) short latency
(mean= 17.32 ms ± 6.61 at 200 pA), in response to 750 ms current pulses, (2) medium
latency (mean= 64.18 ms ± 9.8 at 200 pA), (3) long latency (mean= 476.55 ms ± 223.64
at 200 pA), or (4) short latency (mean= 12.6 ms ± 5.9 at 200 pA) with spike-frequency
adaptation. (C) Heat map shows the percentage of cells recorded from each genotype
corresponding to each firing type, note all recorded *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* neurons
belong to type 3.

Figure 6- figure supplement 1: Key membrane properties distinguish serotonergic
neuron firing types. Referenced groups are the same as described in Figure 6B; all
P2ry1::IRES-cre; Pet1::Flpe;RC::Ai65 neurons belong to group 3. (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 3 was split into subgroups 3a and 3b, 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 scRNA-seq 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 7 - figure supplement 1: The number of cells sampled and the max UMIs per cell

influence the number of clusters found in the dataset. (A) Box plot depicting the number

of clusters found at resolution 0.9 (Y-axis) when then number of cells included in the

analysis was varied (X-axis). Cells were randomly sub-sampled to include 200 to 2300

cells (in intervals of 100) and the analysis was repeated twenty times per iteration. (B)

Box plots depicting the number of clusters found at resolution 0.9 (Y-axis), when the max

UMIs per cell was varied. UMIs were randomly sub-sampled from 500 to 100,000, at

intervals of 500, and the analysis was completed twenty times per iteration. (C) Box plot

depicting the distribution of the number of clusters found when the dataset was randomly

downsampled to 750 cells and 2500 UMIs per cell (analysis repeated 20 times).

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. Figure 8- figure supplement 1 outlines the combination of information

used to inform the proposed anatomical bias. Note, cluster numbers have been re-

ordered to highlight anatomical groupings. (B) Schematic depicting the anatomical

distribution of each subtype based on the bias indicated in (A). B7 and B6 refer to the

original Dahlström and Fuxe nomenclature for describing distinct anatomical clusters of

5-HT neurons. The asterisks after B6 in A and B are to indicate that some authors only

consider B6 to encompass the dorsal part of what we refer to as the caudal DR.

Figure 8- figure supplement 1: Anatomical bias of *Pet1* DR subtypes can be inferred by a

combination of histology, single cell RNAseq, data from previously published papers,

and Allen Mouse Brain atlas RNA in situ hybridization data. Table depicting each cluster

(column 1) and its proposed anatomical bias (column 2) based on a combination of

analysis of histology from intersectional lines and single cell RNA seq (columns 3 and 5),

immunostaining and in-situ hybridization (column 4), computational mapping of our

subtypes to previously published datasets (column 6), and qualitative analysis of the

anatomical distribution of subtype marker genes from the Allen Brain Atlas data set

(column 7). As in Figure 8, B7 and B6 here refer to the original Dahlström and Fuxe

nomenclature for describing distinct anatomical clusters of 5-HT neurons, and the

asterisk after B6 is to indicate that some authors only consider B6 to encompass the

dorsal part of what we refer to as the caudal DR. † after "*Npy2r::cre; Pet1::Flpe* rDR

scRNAseq and histology" in row 6 is to indicate that, while *Npy2r::cre; Pet1::Flpe*

histology shows EGFP positive cell bodies in both dorsal and ventral aspects of the rDR,

the scRNAseq data, combined with other evidence given, suggest a more dorsal bias for

cluster six DR *Pet1* neurons. †† after "*Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* vmDR" in row 11 is to indicate

that, while manually sorted *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* vmDR scRNAseq libraries did not map to

cluster 11 overall, cluster 11 neurons nonetheless express several marker genes

enriched in the vmDR, which together with other evidence given in the table suggests a

vmDR bias.

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 3

Figure 1- figure supplement 4

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A

Microdissect DR subregions

Manually sort
labeled 5-HT neurons

SMART-Seq v4,
Nextera XT,
Illumina sequencing

B

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe dlDR	●	⬤	●	·	·	●	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe dmDR	·	⬤	●	●	●	·	·	·	·	·	●	·	·	·
*Drd2::cre; Pet1::Flpe**	·	·	⬤	●	·	·	·	●	·	·	●	·	·	·
Crh::cre; Pet1::Flpe rDR	·	·	⬤	●	●	·	·	·	●	·	●	·	·	·
Npy2r::cre; Pet1::Flpe rDR	·	·	·	·	●	⬤	·	·	·	●	·	·	●	·
Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe vmDR	●	·	●	·	·	·	●	·	·	⬤	·	·	●	·
Npy2r::cre; Pet1::Flpe cDR	·	·	·	·	·	·	⬤	·	·	●	·	·	·	●
Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe cDR	·	·	·	·	·	·	●	⬤	·	·	·	·	·	·
P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe cDR	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	⬤	·	·

Identities based on 10X scRNA-seq data
("reference identity")

Percent single cells
attributed to each
"reference" identity

· 0
● 25
● 50
● 75
⬤ 100

Figure 5

A
B *P2ry1::cre; Pet1::Flpe* 100 µm
C
D
E 500 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 5- figure supplement 1

A

AAVrg-hSyn-Cre

Pet1::Flpe; RC::FrePe or Pet1::Flpe; RC::Ai65

B

Pet1::Flpe; RC::FrePe

EGFP+ Intersectional
mCherry+ Subtractive

C

Pet1::Flpe; RC::Ai65

TdTomato+ Intersectional

Figure 6

Figure 6- figure supplement 1

Figure 7

Projection of 10X data-based identities onto other data sets

Figure 7- figure supplement 1

750 cells, max UMIs = 2500

Figure 8

A

Molecular Organization | | | | | Anatomical Organization

NTs			TFs		Other Markers	Cluster	Subregion Bias		
				Npas1 *Npas3*	*Gabre* *Gabrq*	1	Ventro-lateral		
Pet1	*Tph2*	*Gad2*	*Sox14* *Satb2*	high *Pax5*	*Crym* *Trh*	2	Dorso-lateral/medial	Rostral (B7)	Dorsal Raphe
					Crct1	3	Dorsomedial		
					Vim	4			
					Pdyn *Nhsl1*	5			
			Pou3f2		*Emilin2*	6			
		Vglut3	*Foxa1*	low *Pax5*	*Rspo3*	11	Ventromedial		
				variable *Nr2f2*	*Maf* *Nos1*	9			
			Nr2f2		high *Cbln2*	10			
					Tmeff2	7		Caudal (B6*)	
			Rorb		*Wnt4*	8			
			Zeb2		*Met* *P2ry1*	12	Dorso-medial		
Pet1 low	*Tph2* low/variable	*Ldb2*	*Nfix* *Nfib*		*Kctd8* *Nptx2*	13	Dorso-medial/Medial	Distributed	
					Gpr101	14			

B

Schematic of Proposed Subregion Bias

Rostral (B7)   Caudal (B6*)

▲1 ■2 ●3 ▲4 ■5 ●6 ▲7 ■8 ●9 ▲10 ■11 ●12 ▲13 ■14

Figure 8- figure supplement 1

Subgroup	Proposed Anatomical Bias	Vglut3::cre; Pet1::flpe Histology (Fig 3)	Immunostaining (Fig 3 - supplement 1 and 2, and Fig 4- supplement 2)	Manual scRNAseq and Histology (Fig 3 and Fig 4)	Previous Publications Ren, et al. 2019[1], Huang, et al 2019[2] Okaty, et al 2015[3]	Allen Brain Atlas In-Situ
1	Rostral (B7) Ventrolateral	*Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe* Subtractive Histology			*Tph2-Npas1* in-situ[1]	*Gabre* and *Gabrq*
2	Rostral (B7) Dorsolateral and Dorsomedial		PAX5 and SATB2	*Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe* dlDR and dmDR scRNAseq	*Tph2/Sert-Trh* in-situ[1,2] 5-HT-I and II mapping[2]	*Trh* and *Crym*
3	Rostral (B7) Dorsomedial			*Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe* dmDR scRNAseq	5-HT-II mapping[2]	*Kit*
4	Rostral (B7) Dorsomedial					*Prkcq*
5	Rostral (B7) Dorsomedial		PAX5		*Tph2-Ret* in-situ[1] *Sert-Pdyn* in-situ[2] 5-HT-III mapping[2]	*Pdyn*
6	Rostral (B7) Dorsomedial			*Npy2r::cre; Pet1::Flpe* rDR scRNAseq and histology[†]	*Tph2-Ret* in-situ[1] *Tph2-Gad1* in-situ[1] 5-HT-III mapping[2]	*Amigo2*
7	Caudal (B6*) Ventromedial	*Vglut3::cre; Pet1::Flpe* Intersectional Histology	VGLUT3 and TPH2 NR2F2	*Npy2r::cre; Pet1::Flpe* cDR scRNAseq and histology		
8	Caudal (B6*) Ventromedial			*Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe* cDR scRNAseq and histology		*Rorb*
9	Rostral (B7) Ventromedial		VGLUT3 and TPH2			*Nos1*
10	Rostral (B7) Ventromedial			*Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe* vmDR scRNAseq	5-HT-IV mapping[2]	
11	Rostral (B7) Ventromedial			*Rspo3, Foxa1, Proser2 Syt2* expression highest in *Sert::cre;Pet1::Flpe* vmDR[††]	*Tph2-Syt2* in-situ[1]	*Foxa1, Tpbg,* and *Pvrl3*
12	Caudal (B6) Dorsomedial		VGLUT3 and TPH2 NR2F2	*P2ry1:cre; Pet1::Flpe* cDR scRNAseq and histology	*Tph2-Met* in-situ[1] 5-HT-V mapping[2] MET immuno[3]	*Zeb2*
13	Dorsomedial and Medial		VGLUT3 and TPH2	*Sert::cre; Pet1::Flpe* subtractive histology		
14	Distributed		TPH2/*Tph2* immuno/in situ			*Gpr101*