

# Parvalbumin<sup>+</sup> and Npas1<sup>+</sup> Pallidal Neurons Have Distinct Circuit Topology and Function

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Running title: Distinct properties of GPe neuron subtype

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## Author contributions

AP conceived the study. AP and QC designed and conducted the electrophysiological measurements. AP, QC, EA, TNL designed and conducted the behavioral experiments. HX performed pilot experiments on the anatomical properties of the STN-GPe input. AP, BLB, and IF performed histological analysis. AP and CSC wrote  
15 the manuscript with input from all co-authors. CSC designed, directed, and supervised the project. All authors reviewed and edited the manuscript.

## Abstract (165 words)

20 The external globus pallidus (GPe) is a critical node within the basal ganglia circuit. Phasic changes in the activity of GPe neurons during movement and their alterations in Parkinson's disease (PD) argue that the GPe is important in motor control. PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons are the two principal neuron classes in the GPe. The distinct electrophysiological properties and axonal projection patterns argue that these two neuron classes serve different roles in regulating motor output. However, the causal relationship between GPe neuron classes and movement remains to be established. Here, by using optogenetic approaches, we showed that PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons promoted and suppressed locomotion, respectively. Moreover, PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons are under different synaptic influences from the subthalamic nucleus (STN). The selective weakening of STN inputs to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons in the chronic 6-OHDA lesion model of PD reinforces the idea that the reciprocally connected GPe-STN network plays a key role in disease symptomatology and thus provides the basis for future circuit-based therapies.

## Significance Statement (118 words)

The external pallidum is a key, yet an understudied component of the basal ganglia. Neural activity in the pallidum goes awry in neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's disease. While this strongly argues that the pallidum plays a critical role in motor control, it has been difficult to establish the causal relationship between pallidal activity and motor (dys)function. This is in part due to the cellular complexity of the pallidum. Here, we showed that the two principal neuron types in the pallidum have opposing roles in motor control. In addition, we described the differences in their synaptic influence. Importantly, our research provides new insights into the cellular and circuit mechanisms that explain the hypokinetic features of Parkinson's disease.

## Introduction (270 words)

The basal ganglia are involved in motor control and adaptive behavior [1-12]. By providing a wide projection to all structures within the basal ganglia, the external globus pallidus (GPe) is critically positioned to influence information processing within this macrocircuit [13, 14]. The classic circuit model has provided a heuristic description of motor function and dysfunction. It assumes that the GPe contains a homogeneous population of GABAergic projection neurons that act as a simple, unidirectional relay in the indirect pathway [15-21]. However, a growing body of evidence argues that the GPe is heterogeneous and serves a much more complex function [14, 22-41].

The GPe contains two principal neuron classes distinguished by their expression of the calcium-binding protein parvalbumin (PV) or the transcription factor Npas1. They account for roughly 50% and 30% of the GPe neuron population, respectively [14, 37, 38, 41-44]. PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons have different firing characteristics and projection targets. Specifically, PV<sup>+</sup> neurons exhibit higher firing rates and preferentially target the subthalamic nucleus (STN) and substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr), whereas Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons have lower firing rates and preferentially target the dorsal striatum (dStr) [37, 41, 42, 45, 46]. These results suggest that PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons likely play unique functional roles. By using the latest molecular and circuit tools, we examined the behavioral relevance and the synaptic inputs of GPe neuron subpopulations in healthy and parkinsonian mice.

## Materials and Methods (2370 words)

### Mice

All procedures were done in accordance with protocols approved by Northwestern University and the University of California, San Diego Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees and were in compliance with the National Institutes of Health Guide to the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Experiments were conducted with the following mouse lines: C57BL/6J (Jax 000664), Lox-STOP-Lox(LSL)-tdTom (Ai14, Jax 007914), Npas1-Cre-tdTom (Npas1-Cre-tdTomato BAC, Jax 027718), PV-Cre (PV-ires-Cre, Jax 017320), PV-tdTom (PV-tdTomato BAC, Jax 027395). The Npas1-Cre-tdTom BAC mouse was generated in-house [42]. PV-Cre was crossed with

LSL-tdTom to generate PV-L-tdTom (PV-Cre;LSL-tdTom). Only heterozygous and hemizygous mice were used throughout the study to minimize the potential alteration of the phenotypes in mice carrying the transgene alleles [47]. Mice were group-housed in a 12 h light-dark cycle. Food and water were provided *ad libitum*. All mice were maintained by backcrossing with C57BL/6J breeders (Jax 000664). The genotypes of all transgenic mice were determined by tail biopsy followed by PCR to identify the presence of the relevant transgenes. Both male and female mice were used in this study.

## Stereotaxic injections

Mice aged postnatal day 30–35 were anesthetized in an isoflurane induction chamber at 3-4% isoflurane and immobilized on a stereotaxic frame (David Kopf Instruments). Anesthesia was maintained using 1-2% isoflurane. The scalp was opened using a scalpel and a small craniotomy (1 mm diameter) was made with a dental drill (Osada). Viruses were infused with calibrated 5  $\mu$ l glass pipettes (VWR) pulled to have a tip diameter of 3  $\mu$ m. The injection needle was left *in situ* for 5-10 min following the end of the injection to maximize tissue retention of AAV and decrease capillary spread upon pipette withdrawal. Experiments were performed 4–6 weeks after stereotaxic surgeries. The locations of the targeted injections were visually inspected under epifluorescence microscopy in *ex vivo* slices or histologically verified *post hoc*.

For *in vivo* ChR2 stimulation of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons or Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons, 90 nl of AAV9.EF1a.DIO.hChR2(H134R)-eYFP.WRE was injected into the GPe of PV-Cre or Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice. Alternatively, AAV9.EF1a.DIO.rev.EYFP.WPRE.SV40pA was injected into the GPe as a viral control. For *in vivo* GtACR2 inhibition of the GPe, 90 nl of AAV1.hSyn1.SIO.stGtACR2.FusionRed was injected in the GPe of PV-Cre or Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice. For *in vivo* GtACR2 inhibition of the subthalamic nucleus (STN) or dorsal striatum (dStr), 45 nl or 720 nl of AAV1.CKIIa.stGtACR2.FusionRed was injected into the STN or dStr of C57BL/6J mice, respectively.

For *ex vivo* electrophysiological recordings of STN inputs, 45 nl of AAV.Syn.ChR2(H134R).eYFP was injected unilaterally into the STN. For CreOn expression of ChR2 in the STN, 90 nl of AAV2.retro.DIO.CAG.tdTomato was injected at the substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr) of the LSL-tdTom mice and 45 nl of AAV9.EF1a.DIO.ChR2(H134R).eYFP into the STN. For *ex vivo* electrophysiological recordings of

95 other glutamatergic inputs, 90 nl of AAV.Syn.ChR2(H134R).eYFP was injected unilaterally into the pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN) or parafascicular nucleus of the thalamus (PF Thal). A full listing of the viral constructs and titer information is available in **Tables 1** and **2**.

## Fiber implantations and behavioral testing

100 In naïve mice, three weeks after stereotaxic injections, a fiber optic cannula was implanted bilaterally at the region of interest (**Table 3**). Fiber cannulae with 0.63 NA, 400 µm core diameter (Prizmatix) and ceramic ferrule (Thorlabs) were prepared with non-fluorescent epoxy. Fibers that were measured to be 10 mW power at the tip were used for continuous stimulation; 15 mW power at the tip were used for 20 Hz pulse train stimulation. Cannulae were fixed to the skull using dental cement (Parkell). The locations of the targeted implantations were  
105 histologically verified *post hoc*.

Behavior tests for *in vivo* optogenetics experiments were performed in an open field box (28 cm × 28 cm) between 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Testing was performed in a standard lit room. Experimental boxes were cleaned with 70% ethanol prior to experimentation and before subsequent tests to remove any scent clues. Behavior tests for *in vivo* optogenetics were performed over the course of two consecutive days. On day one,  
110 each mouse was allowed to acclimate to the open-field box and the patch cord that is attached to the fiber cannula for 20 min. On day two, movement data were collected as each mouse was allowed to move freely in the open-field arena. Movement data were collected with an overhead camera and EthoVision XT (Noldus). The position of the center of the body of each mouse was used to track movement parameters and data were sampled at the maximum sampling rate of the software (10 Hz). Each mouse was allowed to acclimate for five  
115 minutes at the beginning of the behavioral session. This was followed by stimulation trials using either a continuous light pulse protocol or a pulse train (5 ms pulses at 20 Hz) protocol delivered for ten seconds with a one-minute intertrial interval. At least ten trials (60 s each) were run for any given protocol. Distance and velocity of movement were measured. The light stimulation period (referred to as “light”) corresponds to 10 s of light delivery. “Pre” and “post” periods correspond to the 10-s epoch before and after light delivery, respectively.  
120 Velocity values corresponding to pre, post, and light periods were measured by averaging the velocity during the corresponding 10 s epochs. Fold change in activity was calculated from the motor activity during “light” vs. “pre”.

To calculate normalized distance, data were normalized to the baseline activity measured from 25 s immediately before light. The median differences in movement velocity between “pre” and “light” and their 95% confidence intervals were estimated using the Estimation Stats application (<https://www.estimationstats.com>); five thousand bootstrap samples were taken; bias-corrected and accelerated (BC<sub>a</sub>) corrections were applied to the resampling bootstrap distributions to adjust for both bias and skewness [48].

## Chronic 6-OHDA lesion

To study the changes in the STN-GPe network in Parkinson's disease (PD) condition, the 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA) lesion model of PD was used to achieve a chronic loss of dopamine neurons of the nigrostriatal system. Unilateral 6-OHDA lesion was achieved by injecting 6-hydroxydopamine hydrochloride (6-OHDA, 2.5 µg/µl dissolved in 0.9% w/v NaCl with 0.1% w/v ascorbic acid) into the medial forebrain bundle (**Table 2**) of the left hemisphere. Three weeks after the 6-OHDA injection, lesion success was determined by performing the cylinder task to assess forelimb use impairments. The ratio of ipsilateral to total forepaw touches was used to determine the success of lesion. In this task, during a five-minute exploratory behavioral assessment in a clear glass cylinder, weight-bearing contacts made by each forepaw on the glass walls of the cylinder were manually quantified. Forelimb use asymmetry was determined by calculating left, right, and combined forepaw touches. As impairment of the contralateral (i.e., right) forepaw was expected upon 6-OHDA lesion, a higher ratio of left to the sum of all touches indicates a more severe lesion. A ratio of 1.0 indicates that the mice only used left forelimb (ipsilateral to the lesion) for the entire test session. Mice with a ratio of forepaw touches less than 0.6 were considered poorly lesioned and were excluded from further experimental testing.

## Ex vivo electrophysiological recordings

Mice aged postnatal day 60–90 (4–6 weeks after AAV and 6-OHDA injections) were anesthetized with a ketamine-xylazine mixture and perfused transcardially with ice-cold artificial CSF (aCSF) containing the following (in mM): 125 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 2.0 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.0 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 25 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, and 12.5 glucose, bubbled continuously with carbogen (95% O<sub>2</sub> and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>). The brains were rapidly removed, glued to the stage of a

vibrating microtome (Leica Instruments), and immersed in ice-cold aCSF. Parasagittal slices ( $\sim 13^\circ$ ) containing the GPe were cut at a thickness of 240  $\mu\text{m}$  and transferred to a holding chamber, where they were submerged in aCSF with 3.33 mM pyruvate and 0.07 mM L-glutathione at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 min, and brought to room temperature before recording. Slices were then transferred to a small volume (0.5 ml) Delrin recording chamber that was mounted on a fixed-stage, upright microscope (Olympus). As there is no clear demarcation between the GPe and the more ventral structures in *ex vivo* brain slices, only neurons in the dorsal two-thirds of the GPe were sampled for electrophysiological analyses. GPe neurons were visualized using differential interference contrast optics, illuminated at 735 nm (Thorlabs), and imaged with a 60 $\times$  1.0 NA water-immersion objective (Olympus) and a CCD camera (QImaging). Genetically-labeled GPe neurons were identified based on their somatic tdTomato fluorescence and examined with epifluorescence microscopy using a white (6,500 K) LED (Thorlabs) and an appropriate filter cube (Semrock). The targeting of the eYFP signal of the fused ChR2 was assessed before each recording.

Recordings were made at room temperature ( $20\text{--}22^\circ\text{C}$ ) with patch electrodes fabricated from capillary glass (Sutter Instruments) pulled on a Flaming-Brown puller (Sutter Instruments) and fire-polished with a microforge (Narishige) immediately before use. Pipette resistance was typically 2–4 M $\Omega$ ms. The internal solution for cell-attached and voltage-clamp recordings of GPe neurons with STN stimulation consisted of the following (in mM): 125 CsMeSO<sub>3</sub>, 5 HEPES-K, 5 EGTA-K, 10 Na<sub>2</sub>-phosphoCreatine, 2 Mg<sub>2</sub>ATP, 0.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.5 Na<sub>3</sub>GTP, 0.2% (w/v) biocytin, 5 tetraethylammonium chloride, 5 QX-314 Cl. SR95531 (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and CGP55845A (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were included in the bath during recordings to block GABAergic transmission. The internal solution for anatomical analysis of STN-GPe contacts consisted of the following (in mM): 135 KMeSO<sub>4</sub>, 5 KCl, 0.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 HEPES-K, 5 EGTA-K, 10 Na<sub>2</sub>Phosphocreatine, 2 Mg<sub>2</sub>ATP, 0.5 Na<sub>3</sub>GTP, 0.2% (w/v) biocytin. pH was adjusted to 7.25–7.30 with KOH; osmolarity was adjusted to 290 mOsm. The liquid junction potential for this internal solution was  $\sim 6$  mV and was not corrected for. Somatic patch-clamp recordings were obtained with an amplifier (Molecular Devices). The signal for all voltage-clamp recordings was filtered at 1 kHz and digitized at 10 kHz with a digitizer (Molecular Devices). For voltage-clamp recordings, series resistance was measured but not compensated for. The data were discarded if series resistance increased by 20% during recordings. Stimulus generation and data acquisition were performed using pClamp (Molecular Devices).



175 To measure the spontaneous and driven firing of GPe neurons, the cell-attached configuration was used to prevent the disruption of intracellular milieu. The average spontaneous firing was measured after 2 minutes of stable firing activity. To measure the driven firing of GPe neurons, glutamatergic neuron terminals (from STN, PF Thal, or PPN) were optogenetically stimulated with 10 ms pulses at 10 Hz for 2 seconds. The average firing rate during the 2 second stimulation period was taken as the driven firing rates of the respective cells. Whole-  
180 cell voltage-clamp recordings were used to measure excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs). GPe neurons were voltage-clamped at  $-50$  mV and STN neuron terminals were optogenetically stimulated for 10 ms. The field of illumination used for stimulation was  $\sim 500$   $\mu$ m in diameter. To measure STN input without the topographical biasing of the STN fibers in the GPe, recordings were made from neighboring tdTomato<sup>+</sup> and tdTomato<sup>-</sup> neurons (less than 150  $\mu$ m apart) in both PV-L-tdTom and Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice. To study STN  
185 input with CreOn expression of ChR2, EPSC recordings were made from tdTomato<sup>+</sup> and tdTomato<sup>-</sup> GPe neurons in PV-L-tdTom mice. STN-GPe EPSCs were evoked by optogenetic stimulation; corticostriatal EPSCs were evoked with electrical stimulation [47]. To measure AMPA and NMDA receptor-mediated currents, the holding potential of recorded neurons was alternated between  $-80$  mV and  $+40$  mV. AMPA receptor-dependent currents were measured from the peak amplitude of EPSCs at  $-80$  mV. NMDA receptor-dependent currents were  
190 measured at 50 ms after the EPSC peak at  $+40$  mV. AMPA-NMDA ratio was calculated by dividing the AMPA current to NMDA current.

## Histology

Mice aged postnatal day 55–80 were anesthetized deeply with a ketamine-xylazine mixture and perfused  
195 transcardially first with 0.01 M PBS followed by a fixative containing 4% paraformaldehyde, pH 7.4. Brain tissue was then postfixed in the same fixative for 2 h at 4°C. Tissue blocks containing the GPe were sectioned sagittally using a vibrating microtome (Leica Instruments) at a thickness of 60  $\mu$ m. The sections were then washed, mounted, and coverslipped. For histological verification of infection and implantation sites in mice used for *in vivo* behavioral experiments, sections were imaged under an epifluorescence microscope (Keyence) and each  
200 section was visually inspected. For quantification of STN fibers in the GPe of naïve and 6-OHDA lesioned mice, sections were imaged with a 10× 0.45 NA (Nikon Corporation) under an epifluorescence microscope (Keyence).

The area of the GPe (area), percentage of pixels within the GPe due to eYFP-labeled axons (% area), and the average gray value within the pixelated area (integrated density) were quantified using Fiji (<http://fiji.sc/Fiji>) [49]. Brain tissue used for *ex vivo* electrophysiological recordings were stored in a 4% paraformaldehyde solution for 24 hours. PFA-fixed tissues were mounted on microscope slides, coverslipped with Prolong Gold antifade mounting medium (Invitrogen), and imaged under an epifluorescence microscope (Keyence) to inspect the fluorescent signal from the site of viral injection.

## Statistical analyses

Statistical analyses were performed with MATLAB (Mathworks) and Prism (GraphPad). Custom analysis codes are available on GitHub (<https://github.com/chanlab>). The sample size (n value) shown represents the number of mice for *in vivo* behavior experiments and the number of cells for *ex vivo* electrophysiological experiments. No statistical method was used to predetermine the sample size. Unless noted otherwise, data are presented as median values  $\pm$  median absolute deviations (MADs) as measures of central tendency and statistical dispersion, respectively. Box plots are used for graphical representation of the distribution of values [50, 51]. In a box plot, the central line represents the median, the box edges represent the interquartile ranges, and whiskers represent 10–90<sup>th</sup> percentiles. No statistical method was used to predetermine sample sizes. Comparisons for unpaired samples were performed using a Mann–Whitney U test. Comparisons for paired samples were performed using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test. Statistical significance was set at  $P < 0.05$ . No multiple testing corrections were considered.

## Results (3178 words)

### PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons play opposite roles in locomotion

We sought to dissect the relationship between GPe neuron activity and motor output with cell type-specific strategies. To confer transgene expression specificity in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons, we used CreOn adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) in conjunction with PV-Cre and Npas1-Cre-tdTom mouse lines, respectively. *In vivo* optogenetics, which provides a relatively high temporal resolution, was used to interrogate the roles that

PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons play in regulating locomotor activity. Stimulation of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons *in vivo* using ChR2 (an excitatory opsin) [52] induced an increase in spontaneous movement, as measured by velocity of locomotion during open-field activity ( $+83.99 \pm 31.49\%$ ,  $n = 11$  mice,  $P = 0.00098$ ) (**Figure 1a, Video 1**). These results were not due to phase-locking of PV<sup>+</sup> neuron activity from patterned activation of ChR2, as a sustained (10 s) light pulse was used. On the other hand, optogenetic stimulation with a 20 Hz train (10 s) was also effective in promoting motor output, arguing that the motor effects were not specific to the stimulation paradigms employed ( $+52.50 \pm 19.52\%$ ,  $n = 11$  mice,  $P = 0.00098$ ; sustained vs train:  $P = 0.058$ ). Moreover, these observations were not the result of non-specific effects of light delivery as PV-Cre mice infected with a control virus (eYFP only) did not display any motor effects with light delivery ( $-7.09 \pm 15.48\%$ ,  $n = 11$  mice,  $P = 0.46$ ) (**Figure 1a**).

PV<sup>+</sup> neurons send inhibitory projections to the STN and SNr [13, 36, 41, 42, 45, 53]. To confirm that the movement-promoting effects of PV<sup>+</sup> neuron stimulation were mediated through inhibiting these downstream targets, we optogenetically stimulated PV<sup>+</sup> neuron axon terminals in the STN (**Figure 1b**) and SNr. As expected, stimulation of PV<sup>+</sup> axon terminals in either the STN or the SNr resulted in an increase in the velocity of movement (STN:  $+98 \pm 20.20\%$ ,  $n = 6$  mice,  $P = 0.0020$ ; SNr:  $+57.72 \pm 19.76\%$ ,  $n = 6$  mice,  $P = 0.031$ ). To mimic the inhibitory action of the GPe-STN input, we activated GtACR2 (an inhibitory opsin) [54] in STN neurons. As expected, we observed an increase in movement ( $+60.13 \pm 16.42\%$ ,  $n = 10$  mice,  $P = 0.0020$ ) (**Figure 1c, Video 2**).

In contrast with the motor effects of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons, *in vivo* optogenetic stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons induced a decrease in movement (sustained:  $-35.47 \pm 10.24\%$ ,  $n = 16$  mice,  $P = 0.00091$ ) (**Figure 2a, Video 3**). Optogenetic stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons with both a sustained light pulse and a 20 Hz-train were equally effective in suppressing motor output (train:  $-40.50 \pm 10.09\%$ ,  $n = 16$  mice,  $P = 0.00044$ ; sustained vs train:  $P = 0.17$ ). This observation is consistent with our previous findings with chemogenetic stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons [55]. Importantly, our observations provide a causal demonstration of the proposed role of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in movement suppression [35]. On the other hand, *in vivo* optogenetic inhibition of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons using GtACR2 induced an increase in the movement ( $+34.24 \pm 34.20\%$ ,  $n = 9$  mice,  $P = 0.020$ ) (**Figure 2b**). Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice infected with a control AAV (eYFP only) did not display any motor effects with light delivery ( $-3.80 \pm 10.60\%$ ,  $n = 9$  mice,  $P = 0.73$ ) (**Figure 2a**). Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons primarily project to the dStr [29, 37, 38, 41, 42,

255 45]. As the dStr is responsible for motor behavior [56-58], we stimulated Npas1<sup>+</sup> terminals within the dStr to determine whether the movement-suppressing effects of stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons are mediated through this downstream projection. Similar to the effects observed with somatic stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons, optogenetic stimulation of their terminals in the dStr led to a reduction in movement ( $-22.29 \pm 12.40\%$ ,  $n = 10$  mice,  $P = 0.027$ ) (**Figure 2c**).

260 To confirm that the motor effects induced by optogenetic manipulation of GPe output were not a result of experimental settings unique to our experimental setup, we optogenetically stimulated direct and indirect pathway striatal projection neurons (dSPNs and iSPNs, respectively) in the dStr. This resulted in a canonical increase ( $+73.81 \pm 21.04\%$ ,  $n = 8$  mice,  $P = 0.014$ ) and decrease ( $-38.61 \pm 7.70\%$ ,  $n = 8$  mice,  $P = 0.031$ ) in movement, respectively, as demonstrated previously [56].

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### The STN target is biased toward PV<sup>+</sup> neurons

Our *in vivo* optogenetic interrogation showed that PV<sup>+</sup> neurons are movement-promoting and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons are movement-suppressing. However, the excitatory inputs that naturally drive the activity of these GPe neurons have not been fully characterized. Both anatomical and physiological studies show that the principal glutamatergic input to the GPe arises from the STN [59-66]. However, it is not known whether the STN selectively  
270 targets particular GPe neuron subpopulations. Computational models suggest that the STN targets a select subset of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons [67]; however, this hypothesis was yet to be confirmed.

To study the properties of the STN-GPe input, we performed whole-cell, voltage-clamp recordings from genetically-identified PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in an acute brain slice preparation. To allow the  
275 stimulation of the STN input, an optogenetic approach was employed. Infection of the STN with an AAV that expressed ChR2-eYFP constitutively led to robust ChR2-eYFP expression in STN neurons, including their axons within the GPe (**Figure 3a**). In the presence of GABAergic antagonists (10  $\mu$ M SR95531, 1  $\mu$ M CGP55845), the properties of STN input were examined. Optogenetic stimulation of the STN input reliably evoked excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs) in all neurons tested. Notably, EPSC amplitudes, as a measure of the STN input  
280 strength, were roughly five times larger in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons compared to those in Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons ( $PV^+ = 674.01 \pm$

174.47 pA, n = 34 neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup> = 128.30 ± 63.05 pA, n = 41 neurons; P < 0.0001) (**Figure 3b & d**). The EPSCs evoked with the constitutive ChR2 expression were not due to ectopic infection of the zona incerta (ZI), which is immediately adjacent (dorsocaudal) to the STN, as selectively-targeted infection and optogenetic stimulation of the ZI input did not produce strong EPSCs in either PV<sup>+</sup> neurons or Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons to account for the strong  
 285 biasing of STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons over Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (PV<sup>+</sup>: 33.93 ± 27.22 pA, n = 9 neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup>: 33.08 ± 20.39 pA, n = 9 neurons) (**Figure 3c, d, & e**).

As the methodology employed did not rely on an STN-specific driver or promoter, a Cre-lox strategy was used as an alternative approach to demonstrate the specificity of the involvement of the STN in our analysis. To efficiently deliver Cre to STN neurons, we injected AAV<sub>retro</sub>-Cre [68] in the SNr, which is the principal downstream  
 290 target of the STN [64, 69]. Injections of AAV<sub>retro</sub>-Cre in the SNr of a CreOn tdTomato reporter line (LSL-tdTomato) yielded robust recombination events in STN neurons, as depicted by tdTomato expression (**Figure 3f**). PV-tdTom mice were then used in subsequent experiments to allow for the identification of GPe neurons. By using the same retrograde Cre-delivery strategy in conjunction with CreOn ChR2-expressing AAVs (injected into the STN), EPSCs were reliably evoked when STN input was optogenetically stimulated. Consistent with our  
 295 observations using constitutive expression of ChR2 in the STN, EPSCs evoked with the AAV<sub>retro</sub>-Cre-mediated strategy were larger in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons than those in PV<sup>-</sup> neurons (PV<sup>+</sup>: 578.92 ± 49.01 pA, n = 6 neurons; PV<sup>-</sup>: 155.64 ± 52.61 pA, n = 5 neurons; P = 0.0043). Moreover, EPSCs measured in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and PV<sup>-</sup> neurons in mice with Cre-mediated ChR2 expression in the STN were not different than those measured in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in mice with constitutive ChR2 expression in the STN (PV<sup>+</sup> vs PV<sup>+</sup>: P = 0.12; PV<sup>-</sup> vs Npas1<sup>+</sup>:  
 300 P = 0.51) (**Figure 3g**). In summary, our experiments confirmed the validity of the general approach employed in this study.

In addition to the STN, the parafascicular nucleus of the thalamus (PF Thal) and pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN) are known to send glutamatergic projections to the GPe [66, 70-75]. We sought to compare the properties of these inputs to the STN input using near-identical approaches (see **Methods**). In contrast to the  
 305 STN input, not all GPe neurons responded to PF Thal or PPN input with detectable EPSCs. Fewer PV<sup>+</sup> neurons (90.6%, 19 out of 21 neurons) and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (91.7%, 15 out of 17 neurons) responded to PF Thal input stimulation (PV<sup>+</sup> = 76.64 ± 44.3 pA, n = 19 neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup> = 45.32 ± 26.9 pA, n = 15 neurons) than the STN

input stimulation (**Figure 3e**). Similarly, fewer PV<sup>+</sup> neurons (73.3%, 11 out of 15 neurons) and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (54.4%, 6 out of 11 neurons) responded to PPN input stimulation (PV<sup>+</sup> = 54.75 ± 30.5 pA, n = 11 neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup> = 54.32 ± 33.2 pA, n = 6 neurons) than to STN input stimulation (**Figure 3e**). Unlike the strong neuron subtype-bias in the strength of input from STN, there was no statistical difference in strength of inputs from PF Thal or PPN to the two GPe neuron subpopulations (PF Thal: n<sub>PV</sub> = 19 neurons, n<sub>Npas1</sub> = 15 neurons, P = 0.54; PPN: n<sub>PV</sub> = 11 neurons, n<sub>Npas1</sub> = 6 neurons, P = 0.35) (**Figure 3e**).

Pharmacological dissection of the synaptic responses in both PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons confirmed that the transmission at STN-GPe synapses was mediated by ionotropic glutamate receptors (**Figure 4a**) as suggested by earlier studies [76, 77]. Optogenetic stimulation of STN terminals in the presence of an NMDA receptor antagonist CPP (10 μM) resulted in responses with only a fast component (not shown); CPP (10 μM) and NBQX (5 μM) completely eliminated the synaptic responses. These results were consistent with prior ultrastructural studies showing that STN terminals form AMPA and NMDA receptor-containing synapses on dendrites of GPe neurons [59, 78, 79]. Our experiments collectively showed that the STN provides the primary excitatory drive to GPe neurons, and that it is unique in its cell-targeting properties.

It is established that PV<sup>+</sup> neurons cluster in the dorsolateral regions of the GPe [41, 42, 45, 80]. In addition, anatomical tracing studies indicate that the STN input to the GPe is topographically organized [81, 82]. It is possible that the observed differences in the measured strength of input from STN to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and to Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons were due to sampling bias across different spatial subdomains within the GPe. To this end, neighboring tdTomato<sup>+</sup> and tdTomato<sup>-</sup> neurons (less than 150 μm apart) in both PV-L-tdTom (PV-Cre;LSL-tdTom) and Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice were sampled. EPSC amplitudes in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons were consistently larger than those in PV<sup>-</sup> neurons (PV<sup>+</sup>: 674.01 ± 174.47 pA, n = 34 neurons; PV<sup>-</sup>: 136.38 ± 60.94 pA, n = 12 neurons, P < 0.0001) (**Figure 4d**). On the other hand, Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons had smaller EPSC amplitudes than Npas1<sup>-</sup> neurons (Npas1<sup>+</sup>: 128.30 ± 63.05 pA, n = 41 neurons; Npas1<sup>-</sup>: 784.82 ± 191.25 pA, n = 16 neurons; P < 0.0001) (**Figure 4d**).

## STN-PV<sup>+</sup> input is weakened in PD

The STN-GPe network dysfunction in Parkinson's disease (PD) has been widely studied. The STN-GPe network shows abnormally synchronized oscillations in both patients and animal models of PD [83-85]. Critically, both STN lesioning and deep brain stimulation abolish these pathological oscillatory activities and have profound therapeutic benefits in alleviating the motor symptoms of PD [83, 84, 86-89]. Despite the clinical importance of the STN-GPe network, biophysical description of the alterations of the STN-GPe input in PD remains to be established. To this end, we examined the STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in the chronic 6-OHDA lesion model of PD. Similar to the observations in naïve mice, the STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons was stronger than that to Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice, as measured by EPSC amplitude. Importantly, STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons was selectively reduced in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice ( $469.12 \pm 154.33$  pA,  $n = 36$  neurons,  $P < 0.0001$ ) (**Figure 4a-d, 5a & b**); this difference was observed across a range of stimulation intensities (3–106 mW/mm<sup>2</sup>). On the contrary, STN input to Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons did not show a detectable difference ( $113.28 \pm 58.47$  pA,  $n = 37$  neurons,  $P = 0.91$ ) (**Figure 4a-d**).

The neuronal makeup of the STN is generally thought to be homogeneous [45, 90, 91] but see [59, 92-94]. Although single axons can display target cell-specific properties [95-97], an alternative explanation for the differences in the STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in naïve mice and their alterations in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice could be due to cell-specific alterations in postsynaptic receptor properties. To this end, we biophysically-isolated AMPA and NMDA receptor-dependent currents to measure their relative contribution to the synaptic responses to STN input in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. In addition, we compared this to a well-studied glutamatergic synapse—the corticostriatal synapse (**Figure 4e & f**). In naïve mice, both AMPA and NMDA receptor-mediated EPSCs in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons were larger than those in Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (AMPA current: PV<sup>+</sup> =  $685.06 \pm 155.03$  pA,  $n = 22$  neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup> =  $141.11 \pm 45.53$  pA,  $n = 18$  neurons;  $P < 0.0001$ ; NMDA current: PV<sup>+</sup> =  $172.30 \pm 54.26$  pA,  $n = 22$  neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup> =  $62.19 \pm 38.39$  pA,  $n = 18$  neurons,  $P < 0.0001$ ) (**Figure 4f & g**). The AMPA-NMDA ratio of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons was also larger than that in Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (PV<sup>+</sup> =  $3.96 \pm 0.82$ ,  $n = 22$  neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup> =  $1.82 \pm 0.45$ ,  $n = 18$  neurons;  $P < 0.0001$ ). The AMPA-NMDA ratio of the STN-PV<sup>+</sup> input was larger than that observed at the corticostriatal synapse (dSPN =  $3.09 \pm 0.40$ ,  $n = 10$  neurons,  $P = 0.014$ ; iSPN =

2.14 ± 0.52, n = 16 neurons; P < 0.0001) (**Figure 4e & f**). The difference in the AMPA-NMDA ratio in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons indicates that different receptor complements mediate the transmission.

Both AMPA and NMDA receptor-mediated currents in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons were reduced in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice compared to naïve mice (AMPA current = 430.79 ± 150.51 pA, n = 27 neurons, P = 0.00030; NMDA current = 116.94 ± 54.69 pA, n = 27 neurons, P = 0.024) (**Figure 4f & g**). This appeared to be a coordinated regulation, as the AMPA-NMDA ratio was unchanged in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice (PV<sup>+</sup> = 3.62 ± 0.55, n = 27 neurons, P = 0.18; Npas1<sup>+</sup> = 2.44 ± 0.71, n = 17 neurons, P = 0.68) (**Figure 4f & g**). In contrast, AMPA and NMDA receptor-mediated currents were unchanged in Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons following chronic 6-OHDA lesion (AMPA current = 122.07 ± 52.31 pA, n = 17 neurons, P = 0.73; NMDA current = 84.35 ± 33.69 pA, n = 17 neurons, P = 0.81) (**Figure 4f & g**). These data are consistent with the downregulation of both AMPA and NMDA receptors in the GPe of PD models [98, 99]. Contrary to our prediction, we found an increase in the density of STN axonal fibers in the GPe in the chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice (naïve = 74.84 ± 4.92%, n = 4 mice; 6-OHDA = 83.79 ± 4.56%, n = 7 mice; P = 0.0426) (**Figure 5c & d**), suggesting that rather than a reduction in the innervations from the STN, postsynaptic mechanisms were involved in the weakening of the STN input.

In light of the difference in the STN input to the two GPe neuron classes, we examined whether STN input also causes distinct changes in the activity of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. We monitored the firing of GPe neurons in response to optogenetic stimulation of the STN input. Consistent with our prior work [41, 42], PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons have distinct basal activity levels (PV<sup>+</sup>: baseline<sub>naïve</sub> = 18.26 ± 3.74 Hz, n = 23 neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup>: baseline<sub>naïve</sub> = 8.91 ± 2.97 Hz, n = 10 neurons; P < 0.0001) (**Figure 6a & b**). In response to optogenetic stimulation of STN input, both PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons showed increases in their firing (PV<sup>+</sup>: stim<sub>naïve</sub> = 51.48 ± 6.93 Hz, n = 23 neurons, P < 0.0001; Npas1<sup>+</sup>: stim<sub>naïve</sub> = 31.68 ± 4.95 Hz, n = 10 neurons, P = 0.0020) (**Figure 6a & b**). In naïve mice, the fold change in the firing of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons with STN stimulation was not significantly different (PV<sup>+</sup><sub>naïve</sub>: 3.09 ± 0.90, n = 23 neurons; Npas1<sup>+</sup><sub>naïve</sub>: 3.87 ± 1.13, n = 10 neurons; P = 0.48). In 6-OHDA lesion, optogenetic stimulation of STN input also resulted in increases in the firing of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (PV<sup>+</sup>: baseline<sub>6-OHDA</sub> = 20.79 ± 2.97 Hz, stim<sub>6-OHDA</sub> = 50.49 ± 9.90 Hz, n = 15 neurons, P < 0.0001; Npas1<sup>+</sup>: baseline<sub>6-OHDA</sub> = 5.94 ± 1.98 Hz, stim<sub>6-OHDA</sub> = 16.83 ± 4.95 Hz, n = 11 neurons, P = 0.0010). Consistent with a weakening of the STN-PV<sup>+</sup> input, PV<sup>+</sup> neurons showed a selective reduction in the



fold-increase of firing following a chronic 6-OHDA lesion ( $PV^+$ :  $\text{stim}_{\text{naïve}} = 3.09 \pm 0.90$ ,  $n = 23$  neurons;  $\text{stim}_{6\text{-OHDA}} = 2.38 \pm 0.27$ ,  $n = 15$  neurons;  $P = 0.0049$ ) (**Figure 6a & b**). In contrast,  $Npas1^+$  neurons did not show a change in the fold-increase in their firing between naïve and chronic 6-OHDA lesion ( $Npas1^+$ :  $\text{stim}_{\text{naïve}} = 3.87 \pm 1.13$ ,  $n = 10$  neurons;  $\text{stim}_{6\text{-OHDA}} = 2.98 \pm 0.96$ ,  $n = 11$  neurons;  $P = 0.24$ ).

## Stimulation of $PV^+$ neurons lessens hypokinetic symptoms

In agreement with the established relationship between STN activity and movement suppression [35, 100-103], both direct recordings and theoretical models assert that the hypokinetic symptoms of PD are a result of excessive STN activity [6, 15, 104-111]. Importantly, lesioning and inactivation studies from animal models of PD further support this idea [112, 113] but see [114]. In other words, the weakening of the STN- $PV^+$  input that we observed in the chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice *ex vivo* can thus be a form of homeostatic scaling in response to the increased excitatory drive. However, this alteration may, in fact, be maladaptive as it would lead to decreased GPe feedback and thus disinhibition of the STN. If our interpretation is correct, then optogenetic stimulation of  $PV^+$  neurons should restore motor activity in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice. Chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice have reduced motor activity ( $\text{naïve}_{\text{baseline}} = 2.74 \pm 0.30$  cm/s,  $n = 11$  mice;  $6\text{-OHDA}_{\text{baseline}} = 1.42 \pm 0.43$  cm/s,  $n = 13$  mice,  $P = 0.0073$ ), as expected. Under this condition, ChR2-mediated stimulation of  $PV^+$  neurons increased locomotion in chronic 6-OHDA mice; the extent of the increase was comparable to that observed in naïve mice ( $83.69 \pm 26.38\%$ ,  $n = 13$  mice,  $P = 0.70$ ) (**Figure 7a**). Moreover, stimulation of  $PV^+$  neurons in 6-OHDA mice restored motor activity to the level as the baseline activity in naïve mice ( $\text{naïve}_{\text{baseline}} = 2.74 \pm 0.30$  cm/s,  $n = 11$  mice;  $6\text{-OHDA}_{\text{light}} = 2.62 \pm 0.70$  cm/s,  $n = 13$  mice,  $P = 0.17$ ).

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## Discussion (1484 words)

Recent studies have shown that  $PV^+$  neurons and  $Npas1^+$  neurons in the GPe form two near-exclusive, principal neuron classes that display molecular, electrophysiological, and anatomical dichotomy [14, 41-44]. These findings led us to hypothesize that  $PV^+$  neurons and  $Npas1^+$  neurons are embedded in distinct circuits. In this study, by optogenetically manipulating the activity of specific GPe neuron subpopulations and their downstream

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targets, we concluded that PV<sup>+</sup> neurons are movement-promoting and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons are movement-inhibiting.

## GPe neuron subtypes have opposing roles in motor control

Early studies showed that GPe neurons change their activity in relation to movement; however, the identity of the recorded neurons was unknown [11, 19, 22-25, 35, 115-120]. Yoshida et al. observed two types of neurons; decrease-type and increase-type neurons that they defined by the direction of change in their firing in response to antisaccade movements [39]. More recent studies suggest that GPe neuron subtypes show changes in their activity during spontaneous body movements [38]. Moreover, a time-locked increase in the activity of a subset of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons correlated with the disruption of movement [121]. Here, our data along with our previous study demonstrate the causality between the activity of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons and motor output [55].

Our current data show that in naïve mice, stimulation of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and their terminals in the STN and SNr promoted movement. To our knowledge, this has not been previously reported. Though in acute dopamine-depleted mice, repetitive PV<sup>+</sup> neuron stimulation was shown to persistently restore mobility [46], we did not observe a persistent behavioral effect in our chronic lesion model of PD. Consistent with the fact that STN neuron activity is associated with movement inhibition [35, 100-103, 122], here, we showed that phasic inhibition of STN neurons is movement-promoting. In addition, as the GABAergic projection from PV<sup>+</sup> neurons to the SNr is also movement-promoting, this PV<sup>+</sup>-SNr projection further reinforces the movement promotion imposed by the PV<sup>+</sup>-STN projection. Although our observation is in line with the findings from our lab and others [55, 121], we do not fully understand the motor suppression produced by Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. Although Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons have extensive axonal arborization in the dStr, their inhibition on somatic spikes is relatively weak [55]. It is possible that additional signaling partners are involved.

In this study, we drove the activity of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons or Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons by activating ChR2. These experiments were critical to establishing the causal role of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in motor control. By directing light stimulus to different brain structures, we dissected the circuit elements that are involved in these motor effects. While these gain-of-function experiments caused observable motor effects, they are

insufficient to conclude if the motor effects are the native functions mediated by PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. We addressed this by performing loss-of-function experiments using GtCAR2 to inhibit GPe neuron subtypes or their postsynaptic targets. GPe neurons are known to form intranuclear collaterals [33, 123-125]. As we do not yet have the tools for the selective manipulation of these local collaterals, we will need to rely on *in vivo* studies to assess their relevance based on the connectivity principle of these local connections. In sum, our *in vivo* studies reinforce the notion from prior *in vivo* electrophysiological studies that GPe neurons are critical for movement. Importantly, we have now identified the circuit elements involved.

There are a number of possible explanations for the biological significance of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. It is conceivable that the two neuron populations with opposing functions form a rheostat in controlling net motor output. On the other hand, as both initiation and termination of motor programs are equally important [4, 5], it is possible that PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons are differentially involved in selecting voluntary versus suppressing competing motor programs. Alternatively, GPe neuron subtypes can be selectively engaged in the regulation of antagonistic muscle groups that are necessary for the execution of one specific movement. Similar ideas have been proposed for striatal neurons [8, 126-128]. To gain new insights into this topic, it will be important in the future to determine the temporal organization of the activity of GPe neuron subtypes in relation to movement.

### STN preferentially target PV<sup>+</sup> neurons

In this study, we found that the STN provides a stronger input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons than to Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. Our finding contrasts with computational studies that predicted a stronger connection from the STN to a subset of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons [67]. As we found a notable input from the STN to Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons, it is possible that the STN input regulates movement via sending an efferent copy to the Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in addition to the primary projection to its downstream target, i.e., PV<sup>+</sup> neurons. Moreover, the difference in the AMPA-NMDA ratio of the synaptic responses in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons indicates that the STN input to these neurons is mediated by different complements in the postsynaptic glutamate receptors. On the other hand, recent studies indicate the presence of heterogeneity in STN neurons [59, 92-94, 129]. It is possible that unique STN neurons provide inputs to distinct GPe neuron subpopulations. As we are only beginning to grasp the cellular

heterogeneity within both the GPe and STN, additional work is needed to further our understanding of the organization of the STN-GPe network. As PV<sup>+</sup> neurons form the principal inhibitory innervation to the STN [36, 37, 42, 45], these data collectively demonstrate a closed reciprocal feedback loop formed between the STN and PV<sup>+</sup> neurons. Although earlier studies have examined the electrophysiological and anatomical properties of STN-GPe network [13, 36, 37, 42, 45, 62, 66, 76, 130, 131], the cell-type specificity of the STN input in the GPe was not known. Importantly, our new data added critical insights into the cellular constituents that are involved in this reciprocal loop.

We found that in addition to the STN, the PF Thal and PPN provide excitatory inputs to the GPe. However, our *ex vivo* data showed that not all GPe neurons responded to the stimulation of PF Thal and PPN inputs. This heterogeneity existed in both PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. Although it is possible that inputs from PF Thal and PPN target specific subpopulations of GPe neurons, a systematic examination will be required to test if the observed heterogeneity correlates with the expression of subclass-specific molecular markers in GPe neurons. In addition, we, and others, have shown that the cortex is another major source of excitatory input to the GPe [41, 53, 77, 132, 133]. However, the properties of this input remain to be fully characterized. It will be important to further examine the properties of the corticopallidal projection, including their alterations in models of PD.

## **The STN-GPe network is important in health and in PD**

In this study, we found that the STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons is reduced in chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mice. These findings are consistent with the downregulation of AMPA and NMDA receptors in the GPe of PD models [98, 99]. We have previously found a decrease in the ambient glutamate content in the GPe following a chronic loss of dopamine [134]; our current study adds to the literature that glutamatergic signaling in the GPe is altered in PD.

STN-GPe network function and its dysfunction in the context of PD have been widely studied. Experimental and computational studies suggest that the STN-GPe network acts as an intrinsic oscillator [135-138]. Abnormally synchronized beta oscillations (i.e., 15–30 Hz) in the STN-GPe network are thought to be partially responsible for the hypokinetic symptoms of PD [15, 84, 108, 139]. Abolishing the pathological oscillatory activity by lesioning or deep-brain stimulation of the STN or the GPe has profound therapeutic

490 benefits in alleviating motor symptoms of PD [86-88]. We previously observed strengthening of the GABAergic  
 GPe input to the STN with chronic 6-OHDA lesion [140]; it is now clear that this input arises from PV<sup>+</sup> neurons as  
 PV<sup>+</sup> neurons are the primary source of inhibitory input to the STN [36, 41, 42]. As the activity of the STN negatively  
 regulates motor output [35, 100, 101], a decrease in the ambient glutamate content in the GPe [134], along with  
 a reduction in the STN-PV<sup>+</sup> input, would disinhibit the STN and suppress motor output in the parkinsonian state,  
 495 thus explaining the hypokinetic symptoms of PD. On the other hand, a strengthening of the inhibitory PV<sup>+</sup> input  
 to the STN [141] would promote movement and may act as a compensatory mechanism against the hypokinetic  
 effects of the abnormal glutamatergic signaling in the GPe in PD. How these synaptic adaptations interact and  
 impact pathological, correlated activity patterns in the STN-GPe is yet to be fully understood [142]. In the future,  
 it will be important to understand the exact mechanism through which dopamine loss results in the cellular  
 500 alterations in the STN-GPe network.

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## Figure Legends

### Figure 1. PV<sup>+</sup> neuron activity promotes locomotion.

**a.** Open field activity in response to optogenetic stimulation of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons in the GPe. Top, left: A representative example of the locomotion activity of a single mouse across four individual trials. The schematic diagram shows the cell type and site of light delivery. Blue box indicates the duration (10 s) of light delivery. Top, middle: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (top) and light (bottom) periods. 10 trials from 6 mice are presented. Top, right: The median difference is plotted on a floating axis as a bootstrap distribution. The median difference is depicted as a circle and the 95% confidence interval is indicated by the ends of vertical error bars. Bottom, left: A plot showing the relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Blue box indicates the duration (10 s) of light delivery. The dotted horizontal line indicates the normalized baseline motor activity level. Black trace is the mean distance from all mice; the shaded area shows the standard error of the mean (SEM). Bottom, middle: Velocity during light delivery against velocity at pre. Data from PV-Cre mice injected in the GPe with CreOn AAVs for ChR2-eYFP (black) and eYFP (gray) are displayed. Each marker indicates a mouse. The dotted diagonal line indicates unity (i.e., no effect line). Bottom, right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity immediately before light. The dotted line indicates no change in activity. Each marker indicates a mouse.

**b.** Open field activity in response to optogenetic stimulation of PV<sup>+</sup> neuron terminals in the STN. Left: A plot showing the relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Middle: Velocity during light delivery against velocity at pre. Right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity right before light delivery. Right, inset: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (left) or light (right) period of trials from 6 mice.

**c.** Open field activity of mice in response to optogenetic inhibition of STN neurons. Left: A plot showing the relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Middle: Velocity during light delivery against velocity at pre. Right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity right before light delivery. Right, inset: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (left) or light (right) period. 10 trials from 6 mice are presented.

## 815 **Figure 2. Npas1<sup>+</sup> neuron activity suppresses locomotion.**

**a.** Open field activity in response to optogenetic stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in the GPe. Top, left: A representative example of locomotion activity of a single mouse across four individual trials. The schematic diagram shows the cell type and site of light delivery. Blue box indicates the 10 s duration of light delivery. Top, middle: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (top) or light (bottom) period. 10 trials from 6 mice are presented. Top, right: The median difference is plotted on a floating axis as a bootstrap distribution. The median difference is depicted as a circle and the 95% confidence interval is indicated by the ends of vertical error bars. Bottom, left: A plot showing the relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Blue box indicates the duration (10s) of light delivery. The dotted horizontal line indicates the normalized baseline motor activity level. Black trace is the mean distance from all mice; the shaded area shows the SEM. Bottom, middle: 820 Velocity during light delivery against velocity at pre. Data from Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice injected in the GPe with CreOn AAVs for ChR2-eYFP (black) and eYFP (gray) are displayed. Each marker indicates a mouse. The dotted diagonal line indicates unity (i.e., no effect line). Bottom, right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity right before light delivery. The dotted line indicates no change in activity. Each marker indicates a mouse.

**b.** Open field activity in response to optogenetic inhibition of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. Left: A plot showing the 830 relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Middle: Velocity during light delivery against velocity at pre. Right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity right before light delivery. Right, inset: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (left) or light (right) period. 10 trials from 6 mice are presented.

**c.** Open field activity in response to optogenetic stimulation of Npas1<sup>+</sup> neuron terminals in the dorsal striatum (dStr). Left: A plot showing the relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Middle: Velocity 835 during light delivery against velocity at pre. Right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity right before light delivery. Right, inset: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (left) or light (right) period. 10 trials from 6 mice are presented.

### Figure 3. STN input is stronger to PV<sup>+</sup> neurons than Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons.

340 **a.** A confocal micrograph of a sagittal brain section showing eYFP-labeled STN axons in the GPe (in a mouse injected with a Chr2-eYFP AAV in the STN). dStr, dorsal striatum; ic, internal capsule. Inset, high magnification confocal micrograph showing the spatial relationship between eYFP-labeled STN axons (green) and VGluT2 (magenta) labeling. **b.** Left, a schematic showing viral spread overlaid for each subject used for ex vivo experiments. Inset: a representative epifluorescent image of a parasagittal acute brain slice showing the expression of Ch2-eYFP in the STN and the neighboring areas. **c.** Left, a brightfield image of a parasagittal acute brain slice showing STN and ZI. Right, eYFP signal from the same slice showing infection only in the ZI but not the STN. **d.** Excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs) recorded in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in mice that had well-targeted (STN + ZI) and mistargeted (ZI only) infections. Inset: Epifluorescence image from ex vivo tissue showing the GPe of a PV-L-tdTom mouse with tdTomato<sup>+</sup> (PV<sup>+</sup>) and tdTomato<sup>-</sup> (PV<sup>-</sup>) neurons within the same field. **e.** Box plots summarizing the amplitude of excitatory postsynaptic currents (EPSCs) recorded in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons with optogenetic stimulation of terminals from the subthalamic nucleus (STN), the parafascicular nucleus of the thalamus (PF Thal), or the pedunculopontine nucleus (PPN). **f.** Top: a montage of confocal micrographs from a sagittal brain section in a mouse injected with AAV<sub>retro</sub>-Cre in the SNr, along with CreOn Chr2-eYFP-expressing AAVs in the STN. These images show that eYFP-labeled STN axons arborized throughout the GPe and SNr. Bottom: High magnification images showing eYFP-labeled neurons in the STN (left) and their axons in the GPe (right). **g.** Left: CreOn expression of Chr2-eYFP in the STN (top), where eYFP-labeling (bottom) is localized within the STN. Right: Representative EPSC recordings from a voltage-clamped PV<sup>+</sup> neuron (top) and a PV<sup>-</sup> neuron (bottom) in mice with constitutive (left) or CreOn (right) expression of Chr2-eYFP in the STN. Abbreviations: dStr, dorsal striatum; GPe, external globus pallidus; STN, subthalamic nucleus; SNr, substantia pars reticulata; Thal, thalamus; ZI, zona incerta. Asterisks denote significance: \*\*\*\* for P < 0.0001.

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#### Figure 4. STN-GPe input is weakened following chronic 6-OHDA lesion.

**a.** Left: Representative voltage-clamped recordings of a PV<sup>+</sup> neuron (top) and a Npas1<sup>+</sup> neuron (bottom) in naïve mice (black) showing that optogenetic stimulation of STN terminals evoked EPSCs. Middle: Application of CPP (10 μM) and NBQX (5 μM) completely eliminated the evoked EPSCs. Right: Representative EPSC recordings from a voltage-clamped PV<sup>+</sup> neuron and a Npas1<sup>+</sup> neuron in a chronic 6-OHDA lesioned mouse (red) showing a selective reduction in STN input to PV<sup>+</sup> neuron. **b.** Population data showing EPSC amplitudes measured from PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons. Data from naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) mice are shown. **c.** Left: EPSC amplitudes of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons (top) or Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (bottom) were plotted against limb use ratio, which provides a measure of the extent of the lesion. Each marker indicates a cell. Right: Input-output curves from EPSCs measured from PV<sup>+</sup> neurons (top) and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (bottom). Each circle represents the mean EPSCs measured at a particular light intensity and the shaded area indicates SEM. **d.** Top: EPSC amplitude measured from neighboring (within 150 μm apart) PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and PV<sup>−</sup> neurons in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) PV-L-tdTom mice. Bottom: EPSC amplitude measured from neighboring Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>−</sup> neurons in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) Npas1-Cre-tdTom mice. Each marker represents a pair of positively- and negatively-identified neurons recorded from the same field. The dashed line represents the unity line. **e.** Top: Representative synaptic responses from a voltage-clamped spiny projection neuron (SPN) in the dStr. Corticostriatal (Ctx-Str) EPSCs were evoked with electrical stimulation; stimulus artifacts are not displayed. Neurons were voltage-clamped at −80 mV and +40 mV to measure AMPA and NMDA receptor-dependent current, respectively. Bottom: Population data for AMPA-NMDA ratio in direct pathway spiny projection neurons (dSPNs) and indirect pathway spiny projection neurons (iSPNs). **f.** Representative synaptic responses from a voltage-clamped PV<sup>+</sup> neuron. EPSCs were measured with optogenetic stimulation of STN input. Note the relatively small NMDA current in the STN-PV<sup>+</sup> input. Bottom: Population data for AMPA-NMDA ratio in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons with stimulation of STN terminals in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) mice. **g.** The relationship between NMDA current and AMPA current in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons (top) and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (bottom) (with stimulation of STN input) in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) mice. Each marker represents a cell. Asterisks denote significance: \*\*\* for P < 0.001, \*\*\*\* for P < 0.0001.

## 890 **Figure 5. The cell-type specificity of STN-GPe EPSCs is not due to topographical biasing.**

**a.** Top: Population data showing EPSC amplitudes from PV<sup>+</sup> neurons in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) mice. Bottom: Population data showing EPSC amplitudes from Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) mice. **b.** EPSC amplitudes measured in PV<sup>+</sup> neurons or Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons represented by the location of the recorded neuron. Data from naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) are shown. **c.** 895 Left: Confocal micrographs showing the GPe in sagittal brain sections of a naïve (top, black) or chronic 6-OHDA lesioned (bottom, red) C57BL/6J mice with Chr2-eYFP-expressing AAVs in the STN. Lateral, intermediate, and medial sections of the GPe are shown. **d.** Analysis of the eYFP signal in naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesioned (red) mice. The surface area of the GPe (left), percent area covered by the eYFP signal (middle), and the integrated density of the eYFP signal (right) are quantified (see Methods). Asterisks denote significance: \* 900 for P < 0.05, \*\* for P < 0.005.

## **Figure 6. PV<sup>+</sup> neuron stimulation lessens hypokinetic symptoms.**

**a.** Top: Representative cell-attached recordings from PV<sup>+</sup> neurons in naïve (left, black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (right, red) mice. Raster plots show trials from a single PV<sup>+</sup> neuron, where each raster corresponds to an 905 action potential. Each blue square represents a 2 ms light pulse. Bottom: Representative cell-attached recordings from Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons in naïve (left, black) and 6-OHDA lesion (right, red) mice. **b.** Left: Box plots summarizing the population data are shown. Right: the relationship between EPSC amplitude and spontaneous firing rate of PV<sup>+</sup> neurons (top) and Npas1<sup>+</sup> neurons (bottom) are shown. Data from both naïve (black) and chronic 6-OHDA lesion (red) mice are included. **c.** Open field activity in response to optogenetic stimulation of 910 PV<sup>+</sup> neurons in the GPe in chronic 6-OHDA lesion mice. Top, left: A representative example of locomotion activity of a single mouse across four individual trials. The schematic diagram shows the cell type and site of light delivery. "Pre" indicates 10 seconds before light delivery; "post" indicates 10 s after light delivery. Bluebox indicates the duration (10 s) of light delivery. Top, middle: Movement tracks corresponding to the pre (top) or light (bottom) period. 10 trials from 6 mice are presented. Top, right: The median difference is plotted on a

915 floating axis as a bootstrap distribution. The median difference is depicted as a circle and the 95% confidence interval is indicated by the ends of vertical error bars. Bottom, left: A plot showing the relationship between normalized distance traveled across time. Blue box indicates the duration (10 s) of light delivery. The dotted horizontal line indicates the normalized baseline motor activity level. Black trace is the average distance from all mice; the shaded area shows the SEM. Bottom, middle: Velocity during light delivery against velocity at pre.

920 Each marker indicates a mouse. The dotted diagonal line indicates unity (i.e., no effect line). Bottom, right: A plot showing the fold change in activity against velocity right before light delivery. The dotted line indicates no change in activity. Each marker indicates a mouse. Asterisks denote significance: \* for  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\*\* for  $P < 0.0001$ .

**Table 1. Detailed information on viral injections**

<b>Viral vector</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Working titer (viral genome/ml)</b>
AAV <sub>9</sub> .EF1a.DIO.hChr2(H134R).eYFP	Addgene, 20298	5.55E+12 (GPe) 2.00E+12 (STN)
AAV <sub>9</sub> .EF1a.DIO.eYFP	Virovek	5.55E+12
AAV <sub>1</sub> .CKIIa.stGtACR2.FusionRed	Addgene, 105669	3.00E+11
AAV <sub>1</sub> .hSyn1.SIO.stGtACR2.FusionRed	Addgene, 105677	5.00E+11
AAV <sub>9</sub> .Syn.ChR2(H134R).eYFP	Addgene, 26973P	2.68E+12
AAV <sub>retro</sub> -Syn.Cre	Janelia	2.30E+11

**Table 2. Viral and 6-OHDA\* injection coordinates**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Volume (per hemisphere)</b>	<b>Rostral to bregma (mm)</b>	<b>Lateral to bregma (mm)</b>	<b>Ventral to the skull (mm)</b>
GPe	90 nl	-0.28	2.10	4.00
STN	45 nl	-1.70	1.60	4.50
SNr	90 nl	-3.00	1.60	4.20
dStr	720 nl	0.90	1.40	3.20, 3.60
PPN	90 nl	-4.50	1.25	3.50
PF Thal	90 nl	-2.22	0.64	3.20
MFB*	990 nl*	-0.70	1.10	4.95

**Table 3. Implantation coordinates**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Rostral to bregma (mm)</b>	<b>Lateral to bregma (mm)</b>	<b>Ventral to the skull (mm)</b>
GPe	-0.28	2.1	3.8
STN	-1.70	1.6	4.3
SNr	-3.00	1.6	4.1
dStr	0.90	1.4	3.0



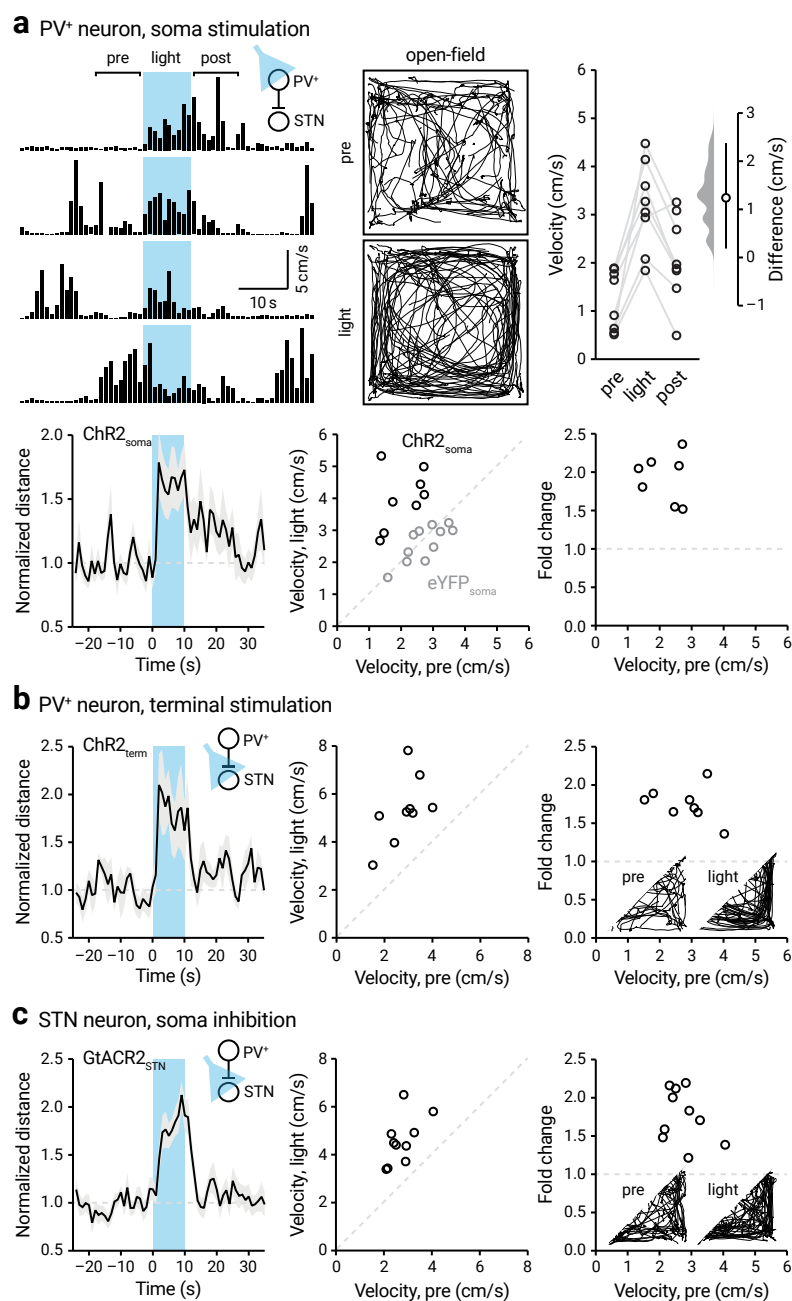


Figure 1

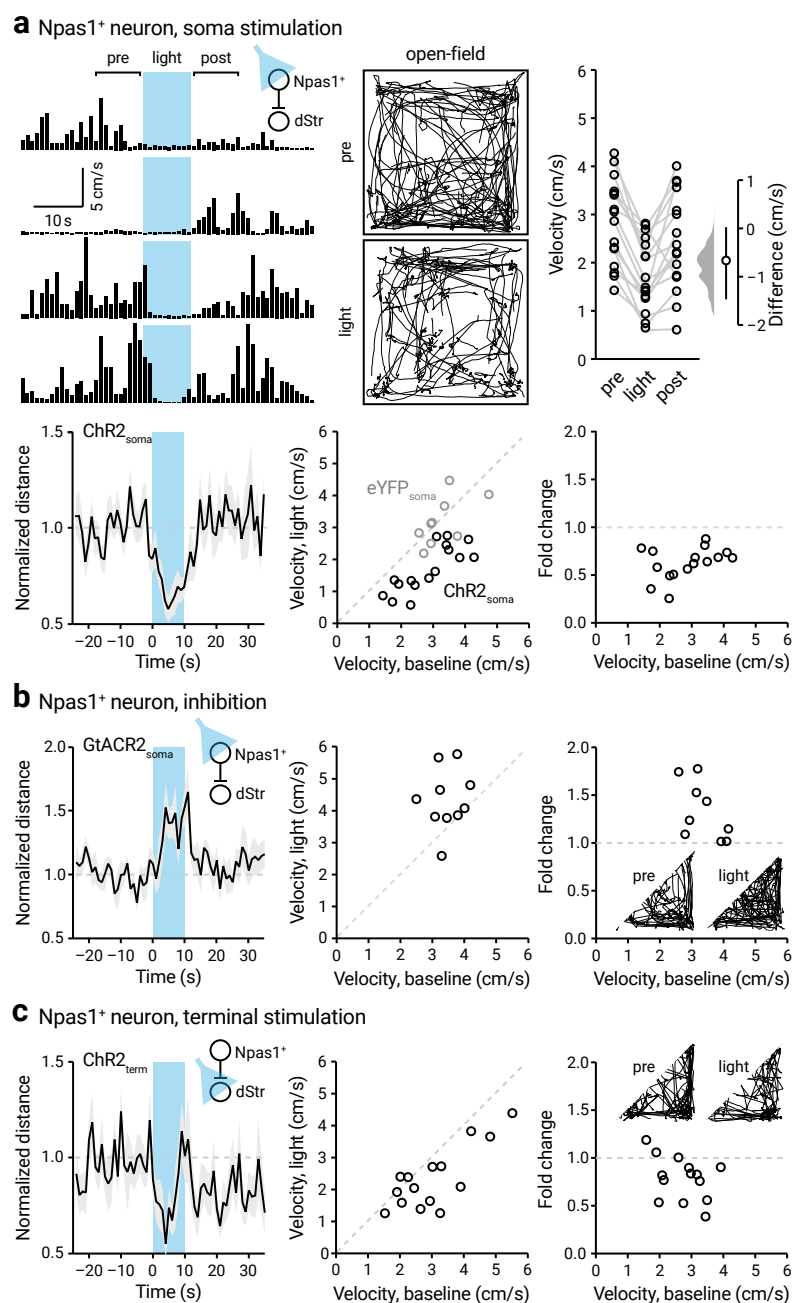


Figure 2

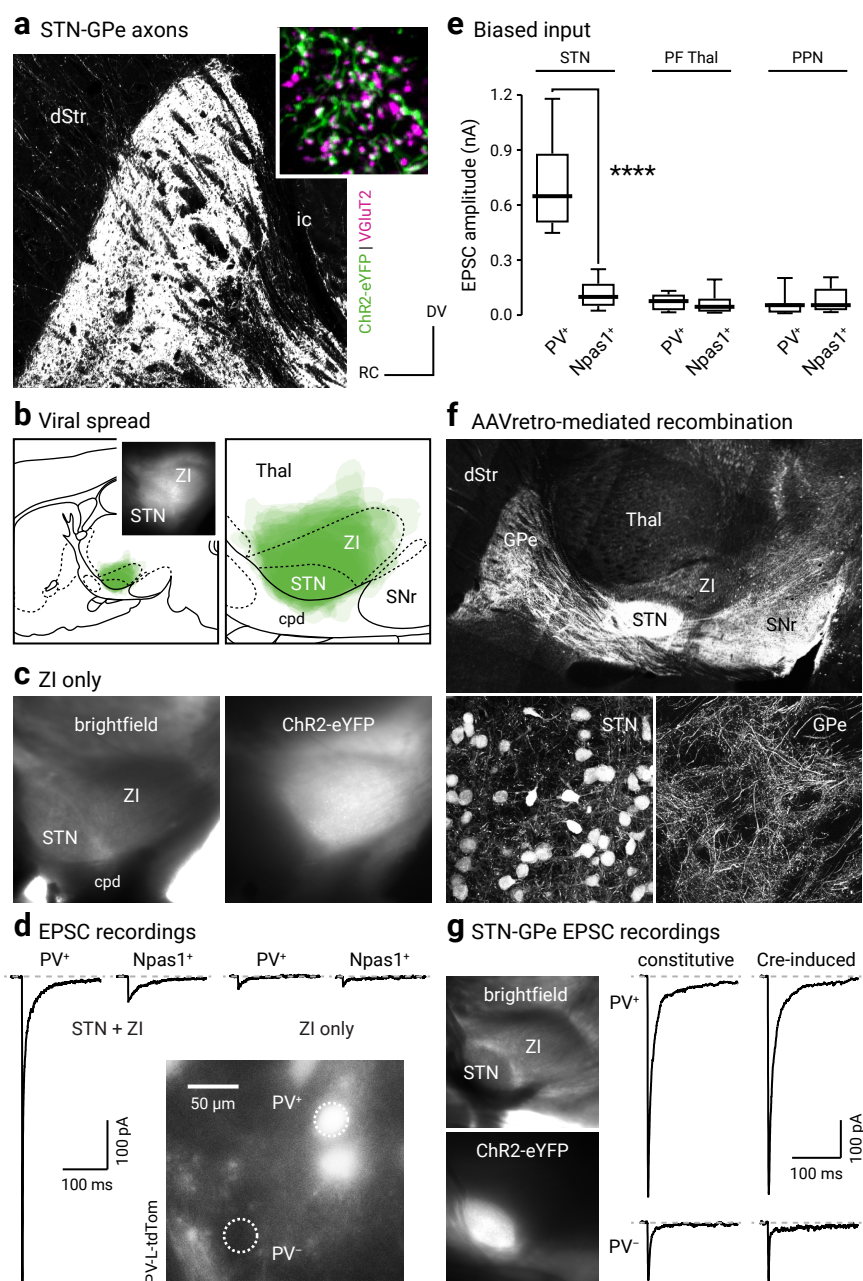


Figure 3

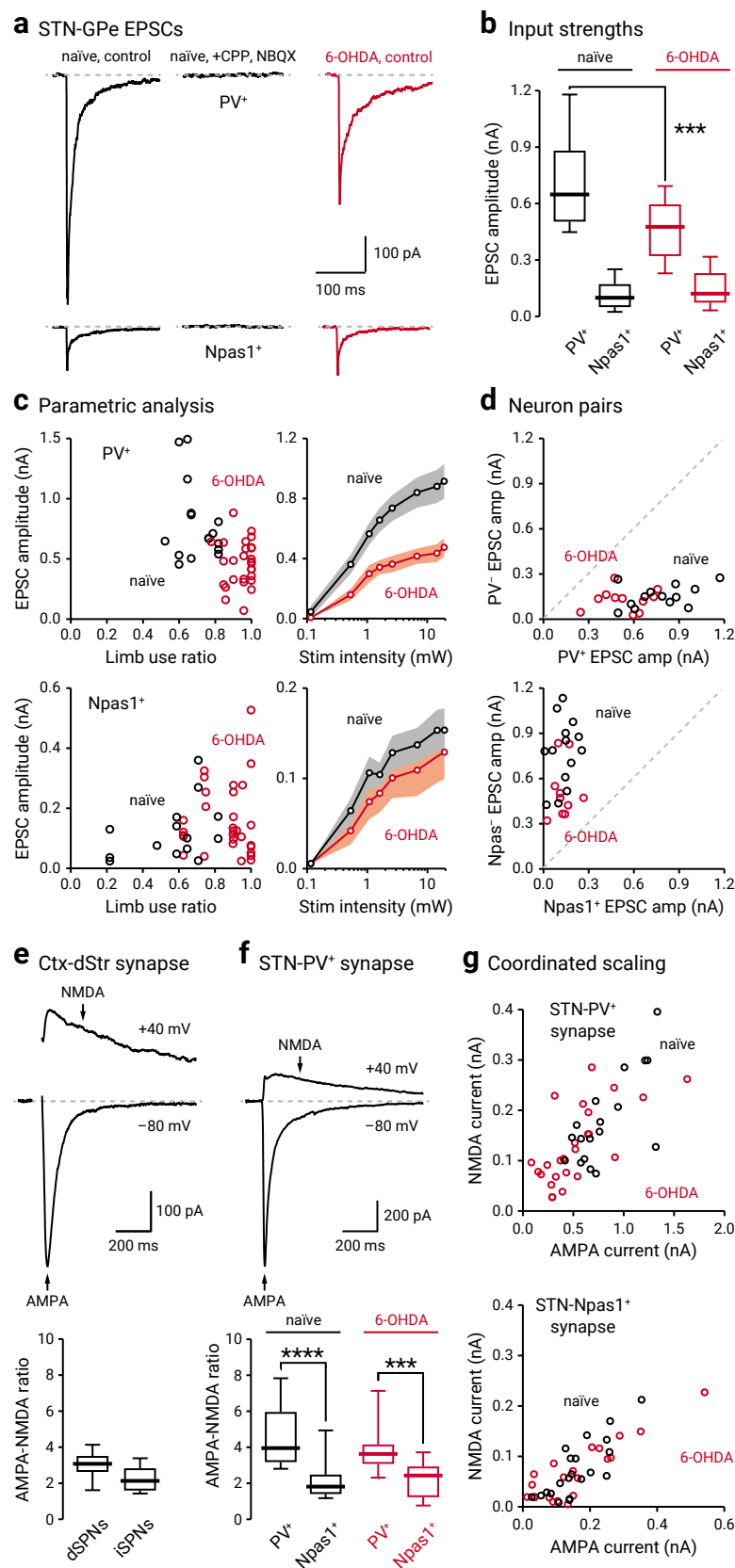


Figure 4

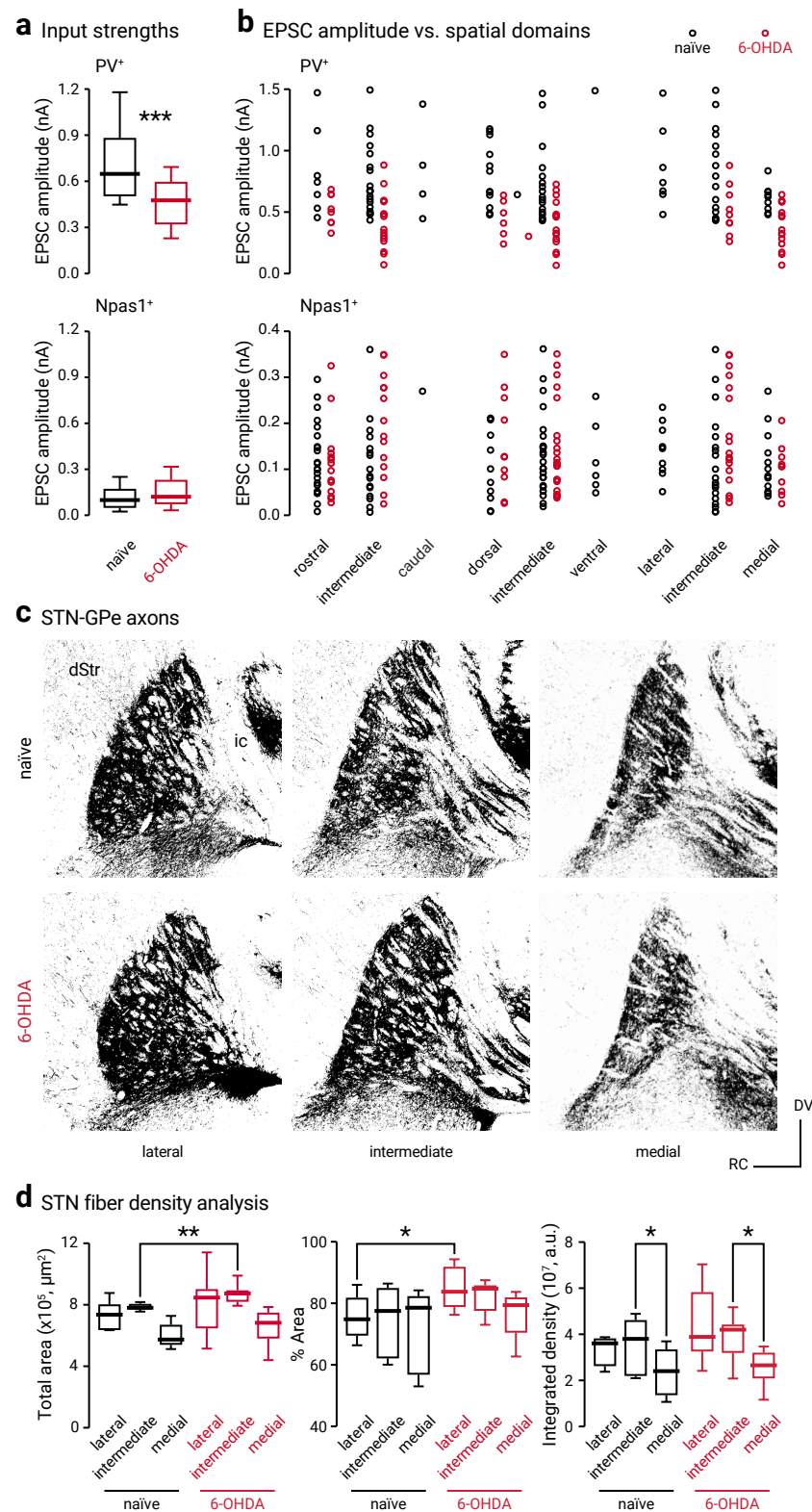


Figure 5

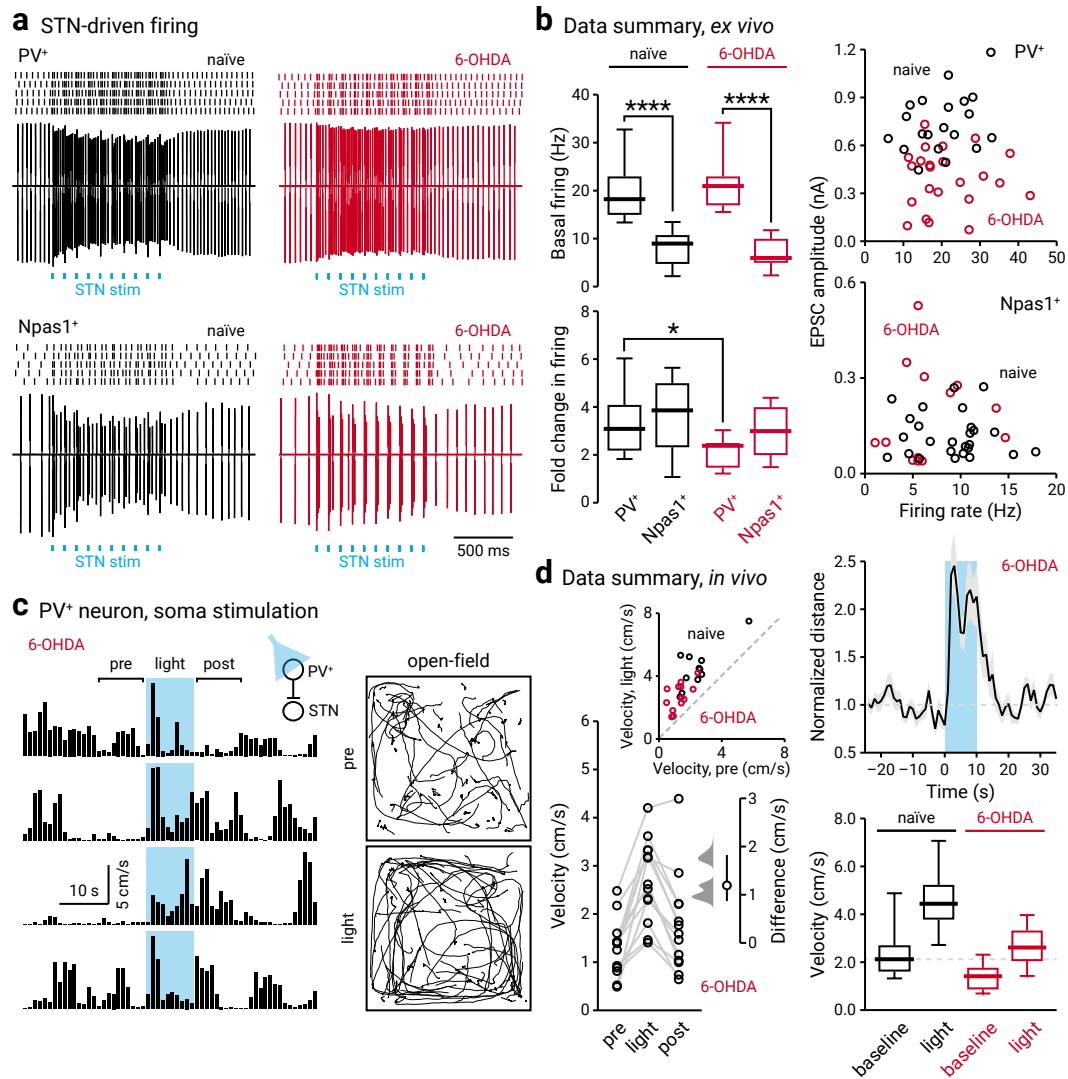


Figure 6