

1 **Maturation of Purkinje cell firing properties relies on granule cell neurogenesis**

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35

36 **SUMMARY**

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38 Preterm infants that suffer cerebellar insults often develop motor disorders and cognitive
39 difficulty. Granule cells are especially vulnerable, and they likely instigate disease by impairing
40 the function of Purkinje cells. Here, we use regional genetic manipulations and *in vivo*
41 electrophysiology to test whether granule cells help establish the firing properties of Purkinje
42 cells during postnatal mouse development. We generated mice that lack granule cell
43 neurogenesis and tracked the structural and functional consequences on Purkinje cells in these
44 agranular pups. We reveal that Purkinje cells fail to acquire their typical connectivity and
45 morphology, and the formation of characteristic Purkinje cell firing patterns is delayed by one
46 week. We also show that the agranular pups have impaired motor behaviors and vocal skills.
47 These data argue that granule cell neurogenesis sets the maturation time window for Purkinje cell
48 function and refines cerebellar-dependent behaviors.

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50

51 INTRODUCTION

52 Abnormal cerebellar development instigates motor diseases and neurodevelopmental disorders
53 including ataxia, dystonia, tremor, and autism. These conditions are highly prevalent in
54 premature infants and in newborns with cerebellar hemorrhage (Dijkshoorn et al., 2020;
55 Limperopoulos et al., 2007; Steggerda et al., 2009; Zayek et al., 2012), who ultimately attain a
56 smaller cerebellar size compared to children born full-term (Limperopoulos et al., 2005; Volpe,
57 2009). During the third trimester of human development, which corresponds to the first two
58 postnatal weeks in mice (Sathyanesan et al., 2019), the cerebellum increases five-fold in size due
59 to the rapid proliferation of granule cell precursors and the integration of granule cells into the
60 cerebellar circuit (Chang et al., 2000). Observations from clinical data indicate a strong
61 correlation between cerebellar size and cognitive disorders, suggesting that this period of
62 cerebellar expansion is a critical developmental time-window for establishing cerebellar
63 function. Pig and mouse studies confirm that preterm birth, postnatal hemorrhage and hypoxia all
64 result in lower granule cell numbers (Iskusnykh et al., 2018; Yoo et al., 2014) and abnormal
65 motor control (Sathyanesan et al., 2018; Yoo et al., 2014). Importantly, such peri- and postnatal
66 insults are accompanied by impairments in the intrinsic firing properties of Purkinje cells
67 (Sathyanesan et al., 2018). Purkinje cells are the sole output of the cerebellar cortex and integrate
68 input from up to two hundred fifty thousand excitatory granule cell synapses (Huang et al.,
69 2014), though the predominant Purkinje cell action potential called the simple spike, is
70 intrinsically generated (Raman and Bean, 1999). In this context, it is intriguing that genetically
71 silencing granule cells caused modest alterations to the baseline firing properties of Purkinje
72 cells and impaired only the finer aspects of motor learning, but not gross motor control (Galliano
73 et al., 2013). The discordance between the phenotypes in mutant mice with lower granule cell
74 numbers and mice lacking granule cell function questions whether granule cell neurogenesis,
75 rather than granule cell synaptic signaling, drives the maturation of Purkinje cell firing *in vivo*.

76 To probe these cellular interactions, we manipulated the mouse cerebellum by genetically
77 blocking granule cell neurogenesis. We used the *En1* lineage to delete the proneural gene, *Atoh1*,
78 from the hindbrain. *Atoh1* is necessary for granule cell development (Ben-Arie et al., 1997) but it
79 is not expressed in Purkinje cells. In this agranular model, we test how Purkinje cells develop
80 their anatomy and function using immunohistochemistry and *in vivo* electrophysiology
81 recordings in the second postnatal week. We further investigated the motor and vocal skills of
82 the agranular pups to test how the structural and functional changes impact the expression of
83 normal behaviors.

84

85 RESULTS

86 Mice lacking *Atoh1* from the *En1* domain do not form differentiated granule cells

87 To test the hypothesis that granule cell neurogenesis is essential for the functional development
88 of Purkinje cells, we first established a model of agranular mice that is not initiated by the cell-
89 autonomous development of Purkinje cells. In previous models, agranular mice lack granule cells
90 due to spontaneously occurring mutations in genes with widespread expression patterns. In those
91 mice, therefore, one cannot differentiate cell-extrinsic from cell-intrinsic effects (Dusart et al.,
92 2006; Gold et al., 2007). Instead, we made use of the distinct origins of Purkinje cells and
93 granule cells. (**Figure 1A-B**) (Hoshino et al., 2005; Rose et al., 2009). The intersection of the
94 *Atoh1* and *En1* lineages converges on granule cells (Wang et al., 2005), but not Purkinje cells
95 (**Figure 1C**). *Atoh1* is necessary for the development of granule cells, the most populous cell
96 type in the cerebellum, but *Atoh1* null mice are neonatal lethal (Ben-Arie et al., 1997). *En1* is a
97 homeobox transcription factor that is expressed in the mesencephalon and rhombomere 1 by
98 embryonic day E(8) where it is required for the formation of the cerebellum (Davis and Joyner,
99 1988; Wurst et al., 1994). Considering their spatial and temporal expression domains, it was
100 previously published that conditional deletion of *Atoh1* from the *En1* domain produces viable
101 mice (*En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}*) with a remarkably small cerebellum (van der Heijden and Zoghbi,
102 2018). We confirm these findings (**Figure 1D**) and show that postnatal *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice
103 lack a densely packed granule cell layer (**Figure 1E**). Calbindin staining shows that
104 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice do have Purkinje cells, although they do not settle into a monolayer, as is
105 characteristic of the normal cerebellum. At the gross anatomy level, the mediolateral
106 morphological cerebellar divisions and normally obvious lobules and deep fissures in the
107 anteroposterior axis fail to form (**Figure 1F-H**). Interestingly, we observed *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}*
108 Purkinje cells that were ectopically located rostral to the cerebellum, in the inferior colliculus
109 (from here on, referred to as displaced Purkinje cells), suggesting abnormal settlement due to
110 over-migration. Analyses of molecular markers expressed by different cerebellar neuron
111 subtypes confirm that the deletion of *Atoh1* depletes differentiated granule cells (**Supp. 1A**).
112 Consistent with the overall smaller size of cerebellum, the mutation impacts the pool of
113 excitatory unipolar brush cells that are localized to lobule IX and X in control mice, interneurons
114 that are also derived from the *Atoh1* lineage (**Supp. 1B-D**). The representation of different
115 inhibitory neurons, including Purkinje cells, remains robust and clearly detected by cell-type
116 specific markers (**Supp. 1E-H**). These data indicate that although there is an equivalent
117 reduction in cerebellar morphology and cytoarchitecture in the mutant, the principle defect is the
118 elimination of granule cells. We conclude that *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mutant mice are a unique model
119 for cerebellar agranularity because the primary defect is independent of genes expressed in the
120 Purkinje cells.

121

122 Purkinje cells in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice display hallmarks of anatomical immaturity

123 Next, we set out to investigate whether Purkinje cells in our *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* model had
124 abnormal excitatory inputs and morphology (summarized in **Figure 2A**). Early postnatal

125 Purkinje cells receive direct synaptic contacts from mossy fibers originating from various nuclei
126 in the brainstem and spinal cord (Sillitoe, 2016) and from multiple climbing fibers originating in
127 the inferior olive, although the direct innervation from granule cells has yet to form parallel
128 fibers (Lackey et al., 2018; Mason and Gregory, 1984; White and Sillitoe, 2013). After circuit
129 reorganization, mossy fibers no longer contact Purkinje cells, only one climbing fiber innervates
130 each Purkinje cell, and thousands of inputs from parallel fibers now dominate the Purkinje cell
131 dendrite. We anatomically examined synapses in postnatal day (P)14 Purkinje cells, as most
132 synaptic rearrangements occur before this timepoint. We found that Purkinje cells in
133 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have a significant reduction in Vglut1-positive inputs in both cerebellar
134 and displaced Purkinje cells (**Figure 2B**; parallel fibers/mossy fibers). Conversely, there was
135 dense staining for Vglut2-positive inputs to cerebellar and displaced Purkinje cells (**Figure 2C**;
136 climbing fibers/mossy fibers). To test if some inputs were from the spinal cord that sends an
137 early major cerebellar projection, we injected the anterograde tracer WGA-Alexa 555 (Gebre et
138 al., 2012; Lackey and Sillitoe, 2020) into the lower thoracic-upper lumbar spinal cord of P12
139 mice and observed WGA-Alexa 555 labeled fibers and terminals at P14 after two days of tracer
140 transport. In control cerebella, mossy fibers project to the cerebellar cortex in a striped pattern
141 that respects the topography of ZebrinII, a molecular marker of medial-lateral Purkinje cell
142 patterns (**Figure 2D, E** and **Supp. 2A-G**) (Brochu et al., 1990; Sillitoe and Hawkes, 2002). In the
143 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* cerebellum, ZebrinII is organized in clusters rather than sharp stripes, in a
144 pattern that resembles the normal early neonatal architecture (**Supp. 2H-N**) (Fujita et al., 2012;
145 Sugihara and Fujita, 2013). Interestingly, we found that spinocerebellar mossy fibers projected
146 mainly to ZebrinII-negative domains in the *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice. The labeled mossy fibers
147 were associated with Purkinje cells of the same ZebrinII identity irrespective of whether they
148 were located within the cerebellum or ectopic and displaced in the colliculi (**Figure 2E**), which
149 is similar to their association with ZebrinII-negative stripes in control animals.

150 We also examined the morphology of P14 Purkinje cells since previous studies suggest
151 that decreased excitatory input alters Purkinje cell dendrite outgrowth (Bradley and Berry, 1976;
152 Park et al., 2019). Using Golgi-Cox staining, we found that Purkinje cells in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}*
153 mice had stunted and smaller dendritic arbors compared to controls (**Figure 2F**). Neighboring
154 Purkinje cells did not orient their arbors in the same direction, as is observed in control cerebella
155 (**Figure 2F**). Sholl analysis revealed that the Purkinje cells in the mutant are smaller with less
156 bifurcated dendritic branches (**Figure 2G** and **H**). In summary, Purkinje cells in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}*
157 mice have less morphological complexity and Vglut1-positive synapses, although they do
158 receive Vglut2-positive synapses, some of which are mossy fiber inputs. These anatomical data
159 suggested to us that Purkinje cells in the agranular *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice may be trapped at an
160 immature stage.

161

162 **Lack of granule cells in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice blocks the maturation of Purkinje cell firing**

163 Purkinje cells have a distinct firing profile characterized by intrinsically generated simple spikes
164 and climbing fiber-induced complex spikes. *In vitro* recordings in rats showed that Purkinje cell
165 firing properties change significantly during early postnatal development, but it is unclear how

166 firing evolves *in vivo*, during this dynamic period of rewiring (McKay and Turner, 2005). We set
167 out to answer two questions. First, we wanted to know how Purkinje cell firing changes during
168 the dynamic period, and second, whether Purkinje cell firing is affected in $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice
169 that are deficient in synaptic rewiring. We performed extracellular recordings in anesthetized
170 mice and observed dramatic differences between P14 control and $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice (**Figure**
171 **3A-F**). Purkinje cells in P14 controls fired in burst-like patterns, resulting in a large disparity
172 between the calculated firing frequency and frequency mode (or preferred frequency) (**Figure 3B**
173 and **E**). In contrast, Purkinje cells in $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice fired relatively regularly, yet at a
174 lower frequency (**Figure 3D and F**). We tested the firing features with five parameters:
175 frequency (spikes/recording time; **3G**), frequency mode (most frequently observed frequency;
176 **3H**), CV (a measure for global regularity; **3I**), CV2 (a measure for local, or intrinsic regularity;
177 **3J**), and pause percentage (defined as a discrete portion of the trace during which no spikes were
178 observed; **3K**). We calculated these parameters for Purkinje cells recorded from P7-14 controls
179 and P14 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mutants and found that frequency and frequency mode gradually
180 increased with age in controls, but that Purkinje cells in the P14 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice fired
181 slower than control cells at P10-14 (**Figure 3G-H**). Next, we detected a gradual increase in CV
182 but a decrease in CV2 in control cells. In other words, older cells fired in bursts, although the
183 inter spike interval (ISI) during the bursts became more regular. This trend was not observed in
184 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice, with their Purkinje cells having a lower CV than control P12-14 Purkinje
185 cells and higher CV2 than control P8-14 Purkinje cells (**Figure 3I-J**). Additionally, as a result of
186 their increase in burstiness, control Purkinje cells increase the pause proportion with age, a
187 feature that was not observed in the P14 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice (statistically different from
188 control P12-14 Purkinje cells) (**Figure 3K**). Finally, we performed a cluster analysis on the first
189 three principle components of the group means for each of the parameters (**Figure 3G-K**). This
190 analysis revealed that Purkinje cells in $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice have the lowest dissimilarity with
191 control P8 Purkinje cells and that control P7-P10 Purkinje cells form a distinct cluster from their
192 counterparts at P11-14 (**Figure 3L**). Please refer to **Figure Supp. 3** for representative recordings
193 from control P7-14 and $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ P14 Purkinje cells.

194 We also observed that the climbing fiber-induced Purkinje cell complex spike activity
195 was altered when comparing between control and $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ cells. First, the number of
196 classical complex spikes, which are defined by a large sodium spike followed by a train of 3-5
197 smaller calcium-mediated spikelets (Davie et al., 2008; Zagha et al., 2008), was lower in
198 Purkinje cells of $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mutants (the difference is statistically significant when the
199 mutant is compared to P10-13 controls, **Figure 3M**). Second, the Purkinje cells in
200 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice fired distinct “doublets”, which are characterized by an initial simple
201 spike-like action potential, followed by a smaller action potential that occurs within 20 ms. A
202 similar profile of doublets was previously reported in neonatal rats (Puro and Woodward, 1977;
203 Sokoloff et al., 2015). While we observed doublets in both genotypes and all ages studied, they
204 were most frequent in the P14 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ cerebellum (the difference is statistically
205 significant when compared to P10-P14 controls, **Figure 3N**). We postulate that Purkinje cell
206 physiology changes substantially during the period of synaptic rewiring, though many of these
207 changes do not occur in $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice.

208

209 **Circuit defects in $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice reflect impaired cerebellar-dependent behaviors**

210 The cerebellum controls motor coordination and balance as well as social behaviors including
211 ultrasonic vocalization (USV) in neonatal pups (Fujita et al., 2008; Lalonde and Strazielle,
212 2015). Interestingly, the contribution of the cerebellum to these behaviors is established before
213 circuit rewiring is completed. Therefore, we were curious to know whether the immature circuit
214 of $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice was sufficient to perform a substantial repertoire of cerebellar-
215 dependent behaviors. Observations of control and $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mutant mice showed overt
216 phenotypic differences in motor control (**Supp Video 1** and **Figure 4A**). At P14, control mice
217 explore an open arena with smooth intentional motions, whereas $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice often fall
218 on their backs. The frequent falling over onto their backs prevented us from performing classical
219 assays of motor function such as rotor rod or foot printing. Instead, we assayed the righting
220 reflex, open field exploration and USV. We also tested for clinically relevant features such as
221 tremor and dystonia-like postures, which often arise with cerebellar dysfunction. We found that
222 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice perform poorly compared to control littermates during the righting reflex.
223 They were significantly slower in returning to the right side when compared to $Atoh1^{fl/+}$ mice at
224 P8 and P10, and slower than the $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/+}$ mice only at P10 (**Figure 4B**). Because all
225 mice attempted to turn right-side-up immediately after being placed on their backs, it is likely
226 that this delay in righting is the result of impaired motor coordination rather than an abnormal
227 sense of gravity. Next, we tested whether $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice showed abnormal USVs when
228 briefly separated from their mothers (**Figure 4C**). We found that call time in $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$
229 mice was shorter than those observed in control littermates and that $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice called
230 less frequently than $Atoh1^{fl/+}$ mice (**Figure 4C-E**). We next quantified how $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$
231 mice moved in an open field (**Figure 4F**). The distance traveled or movement time in a 15-min-
232 period was not significantly impaired (total distance (cm): $Atoh1^{fl/+}$: 58.1±11.7;
233 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/+}$: 35.7±9.9; $Atoh1^{fl/-}$: 44.4±6.5; $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$: 43.1±12.4; Kruskal-Wallis test
234 p=0.32; movement time (s): $Atoh1^{fl/+}$: 55.9±5.9; $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/+}$: 42.1±7.2; $Atoh1^{fl/-}$: 50.1±7.4;
235 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$: 83.5±17.7; Kruskal-Wallis test p=0.14). However, $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mutant
236 mice traveled slower than $Atoh1^{fl/+}$ control mice and the $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/+}$ mice made more
237 isolated movements during their trajectory compared to all their littermate controls (**Figure 4F-
238 H**). Finally, we observed a tremor in the mutants and measured the severity with our custom-
239 made tremor monitor (**Figure 4I**) (Brown et al., 2020). We found that $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice had
240 a higher power tremor in the 12-16 Hz frequency range. This range corresponds to physiological
241 tremor and indicates the presence of a pathophysiological defect that that emerges from a rise in
242 baseline values. The mutant mice also had a higher peak tremor power compared to all control
243 littermates (**Figure 4K**). Together, we uncover that the lack of granule cells in developing
244 $En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}$ mice leads to abnormal cerebellar-dependent behaviors.

245 DISCUSSION

246 In this paper, we used *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice as a model of cerebellar agranularity to test how
247 cell- to-cell interactions impact the formation of functional circuits. Using this model with
248 circuit-wide loss of granule cell neurogenesis, we uncovered how these late-born cells influence
249 the functional development of their downstream synaptic partners, the Purkinje cells. We find
250 that granule cell elimination halts the anatomical and functional maturation of postnatal Purkinje
251 cells. Notably, granule cell neurogenesis is impaired in premature infants with cerebellar
252 hemorrhages as proliferating granule cell precursors are highly vulnerable to hemorrhages, likely
253 because of their high metabolic demand (Dobbing, 1974; Gano and Barkovich, 2019; Hortensius
254 et al., 2018). The loss of just a few precursors has exponential effects on the number of granule
255 cells that integrate into the cerebellar circuit (Corrales et al., 2004, 2006). Our findings contribute
256 to understanding how early changes in cerebellar volume become correlated with downstream
257 circuit dysfunction and the resulting neurological disorders observed in premature infants
258 (Dijkshoorn et al., 2020).

259 There are several caveats to using an agranular model to investigate circuitry. For
260 instance, loss of morphogenetic processes that determine cerebellar architecture including its size
261 (Dahmane and Ruiz i Altaba, 1999), foliation (Corrales et al., 2006) and layering (Miyata et al.,
262 2010) complicate interpretations for how Purkinje cells directly respond to granule cells. Our
263 analysis of very young postnatal mice largely addresses this concern. In addition, it is possible
264 that changes in cerebellar shape and size could influence forebrain regions (Kuemerle et al.,
265 2007). Hence, the vast connectivity of the cerebellum with a number of regions such as the
266 hippocampus and prefrontal cortex could contribute to the non-motor vocalization defects we
267 observed (Liu et al., 2020; McAfee et al., 2019). Still, the regional specificity of cerebellar
268 circuitry that mediates non-motor connectivity is likely obscured in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice
269 (Badura et al., 2018; Stoodley and Limperopoulos, 2016). Furthermore, the presence of
270 excitatory rhombic lip-derived neurons that escape *Atoh1* deletion, such as the remaining
271 unipolar brush cells (**Supp. 1B-C**), suggests the requirement of manipulating combinatorial
272 molecular domains to fully target the excitatory neuron lineage (Chizhikov et al., 2010; Yeung et
273 al., 2014). Despite these caveats, our mouse model has several advantages over previously
274 described agranular mice when it comes to the contribution of granule cell neurogenesis to
275 cerebellar development and function. Because our model takes advantage of a conditional
276 genetic strategy that only targets the rhombic lip lineage, our manipulation does not affect cell
277 intrinsic developmental Purkinje cell programs (Herrup, 1983; Miyata et al., 2010; Sheldon et al.,
278 1997). Unlike previous models, our approach is independent of procedural variations (Altman
279 and Anderson, 1971; Sathyanesan et al., 2018; Yoo et al., 2014), targets the entire *Atoh1* lineage
280 in the cerebellum (Ben-Arie et al., 1997; Jensen et al., 2002, 2004) and allows us to study
281 postnatal development. As a result, mice with the *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* genotype have highly
282 penetrant, consistent and reliable anatomical and functional phenotypes, all of which have
283 provided key insights in how cerebellar lineages shape circuit development and behavior.

284 The cerebellum controls motor and non-motor behaviors (Hull, 2020; Wagner and Luo,
285 2020). Regardless of the specific behavior, Purkinje cells are always at the center of the

286 responsible circuit. What is intriguing to us is that during the first two weeks of life in mice,
287 motor capabilities become more precise (Lalonde and Strazielle, 2015), in concert with the
288 refinement of circuitry (White and Sillitoe, 2013). During this period, Purkinje cell innervation
289 switches from climbing fibers and mossy fibers to climbing fibers and parallel fibers (Mason and
290 Gregory, 1984), climbing fibers are pruned and a “winner” establishes a single Purkinje cell
291 target (Kano et al., 2018) and Purkinje cell zones are sharpened (White et al., 2014).
292 Accompanying these changes are emergent properties of the two Purkinje cell spike profiles,
293 simple spikes and complex spikes. In addition to the increased complexity of intrinsic cellular
294 properties (McKay and Turner, 2005), we postulated that intercellular interactions during
295 development may support the maturation of Purkinje cell firing. In control mice, we observed
296 dynamic changes in normal Purkinje cell firing between P7 and P14. We found an increase in
297 firing rate that was not uniformly acquired but was present during bursts of rapid firing that were
298 interspersed with frequent pauses without Purkinje cell action potentials. We previously reported
299 burst-like Purkinje cell firing from P15-19, although by P30 the pattern acquires the regularity
300 that is characteristic of adults (Arancillo et al., 2015). Thus, burst-like firing occurs at
301 intermediate stages of normal Purkinje cell development. Interestingly, bursting Purkinje cell
302 firing patterns are also observed in mouse models of ataxia, tremor, and dystonia (Brown et al.,
303 2020; Fremont et al., 2014; LeDoux and Lorden, 2002; Miterko et al., 2019; White and Sillitoe,
304 2017; White et al., 2016). The dynamically adapting circuit in controls and the range of disease
305 severity in disease models with bursting Purkinje cells raise the possibility that Purkinje cell
306 firing is differentially decoded by downstream neurons based on the age of the mice. The data
307 also indicate that the intermediate stages of Purkinje cell development not only highlight a
308 developmental phase characterized by erratic neuronal activity, but that this mode of firing
309 represents a pathophysiological hallmark that could be a default network state in different
310 diseases.

311 The severity of motor impairments and electrophysiological changes in Purkinje cells in
312 our agranular mice was surprising, given that silencing granule cell synapses results in minor
313 changes in Purkinje cell firing (Galliano et al., 2013). Furthermore, in multiple models, impairing
314 parallel fiber synapses results in motor impairments that can be assessed with the rotor rod assay
315 (Aiba et al., 1994; Park et al., 2019), which we could not do due to the severity of motor
316 impairment in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice. Taking these results together, from a technical standpoint,
317 when one seeks to resolve developmental mechanisms, we must not only consider *what* is
318 manipulated, but also *how* it is manipulated. As such, the timing of neurogenesis is a primary
319 consideration. Purkinje cells are generated between E10-E13 (Hashimoto and Mikoshiba, 2003)
320 and granule cell progenitors from ~E13 onwards (Machold and Fishell, 2005; Rose et al., 2009;
321 Wang et al., 2005). But, whereas Purkinje cells migrate into the core of the cerebellar anlage
322 upon their birth, granule cells first migrate over the surface of the developing cerebellum and
323 proliferate extensively in the external granular layer to increase the precursor pool (Wingate and
324 Hatten, 1999). Only after this phase do they migrate radially past Purkinje cells, the first
325 potential opportunity for direct cell-to-cell interactions. Based on our data, we argue that the
326 initial communication between Purkinje cells and granule cells sets the efficiency of Purkinje
327 cell function because of a direct influence on the establishment of Purkinje cell spikes. The data
328 further suggest that granule cells shape Purkinje cell development through structural as well as

329 synaptic signals. Thus, insults to granule cell proliferation and an obstruction of granule cell
330 neurogenesis may have different, and perhaps more severe effects on downstream Purkinje cell
331 function, compared to lesions of mature granule cells.

332

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339

340 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

341 MEvdH and RVS conceived the project and wrote the paper; HYZ contributed to discussions
342 that inspired some of the studies. MEvdH, TL, EPL, FI, and RP collected data. MEvdH and
343 AMB analyzed data. All authors interpreted results and edited the final version of the paper.

344

345 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

346 We have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

347

348 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

349 **Figure 1. Conditional deletion of *Atoh1* from the *En1* domain results in an agranular**
350 **cerebellum.** **A.** Schematic of an embryonic brain. Inset is the cerebellar anlage. *Atoh1* domain
351 (granule cell precursors, pink), *Ptfla* domain (Purkinje cell precursors, green), *En1* domain
352 (grey). Orientation is the same for all panels unless otherwise indicated. **B.** Schematic of a
353 sagittal section of a P14 cerebellum. Purkinje cell=green; granule cell=pink. Cerebellar lobules
354 are labelled with Roman numerals (Larsell, 1952). **C.** Intersectional labelling of *En1*;*Atoh1*
355 domain with tdTomato (pink) shows no overlap with Purkinje cells (Calbindin; green). **D.** Whole
356 brain images of control and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice showing abnormal gross morphology. **E.**
357 Sagittal sections of control and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* hindbrains stained with cresyl violet to visualize
358 cell nuclei. **F.** and **G.** Sagittal and coronal sections of P14 cerebella of control (**F**) and
359 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* (**G**) mice stained with Calbindin (grey). Arrows indicate Purkinje cells that
360 have migrated into the colliculi. **F.** and **G.** are presented at the same magnification. **H.** Higher
361 magnification images of Calbindin staining in control and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice. Images are
362 representative for N=3 brains for each genotype.

363 **Figure 2. Abnormal glutamatergic input and morphology of *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* Purkinje**
364 **cells.** **A.** Schematic of a control Purkinje cell and an *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* Purkinje cell (based on
365 results from **B-H**). MF=Mossy Fiber; CF=Climbing fiber. **B.** Images of Calbindin (green) and
366 Vglut1 (pink) staining. For *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice in **B, C,** and **E** c=cerebellum, and d=displaced
367 Purkinje cells. Images are representative for N=3 brains for each genotype. **C.** Images of
368 Calbindin (green) and Vglut2 (pink) staining. **D.** Schematic of a control Purkinje cell, the
369 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* ZebrinII staining pattern (see **Supp. Figure 2**) and WGA-Alexa 555 tracing
370 form the spinal cord. **E.** Representative images of WGA-Alexa 555+ terminals in the cerebellum.
371 Dotted lines represent the border between ZebrinII-positive (cyan) and -negative region (left four
372 images) or between the cerebellum and colliculi (right images). Black and white image shows
373 the pattern of WGA-Alexa 555 positive terminals. **F.** Representative images of Golgi-Cox-
374 labelled Purkinje cells in control (top row) and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* brains (bottom row). **G.** Sholl
375 analysis for dendritic complexity. **H.** Purkinje cells in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have shorter and
376 less branched Purkinje cell dendrites (n=30/N=3 for each genotype, each animal is indicated with
377 a differentially oriented triangle). Linear mixed model with genotype as the fixed effect and
378 mouse number as the random effect. *P<0.001 for both distance from soma and branch number.
379 All images were acquired from the cerebellum of P14 mice.

380 **Figure 3. Dynamics of *in vivo* firing properties of Purkinje cells recorded from the**
381 **cerebellum of control and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice.** **A.** Schematic of Purkinje cell recordings in
382 control mice. MF=Mossy Fiber; CF=Climbing fiber. **B.** Representative, 15 seconds (s) recording
383 trace from a control P14 Purkinje cell (top). Simple spike and complex spike (bottom). **C.**
384 Schematic of Purkinje cell recordings in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice. **D.** Representative, 15 s
385 recording trace from an *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* P14 Purkinje cell (top). Simple spike and doublet
386 (bottom). **E.** and **F.** ISI distributions of control (**E**) and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* (**F**) P14 Purkinje cells.
387 Frequency calculated as spikes/s indicated in blue, and frequency mode indicated in red. Cells in
388 **B, D, E,** and **F** were chosen because they most closely represented group averages. **G.** Simple

389 spike firing frequency (spikes/recording time). **H.** Simple spike frequency mode (peak ISI¹
390 distribution). **I.** Simple spike CV (global firing irregularity) . **J.** Simple spike CV2 (local firing
391 irregularity). **K.** Pause percentage (proportion of recording with ISI > five times average ISI). **L.**
392 Cluster analysis on the first three Principle Components (accounting for >85% of variation) of
393 the average of intrinsic firing properties (from **G-K**) calculated per age and genotype. **M.**
394 Complex spike firing frequency (spikes/recording time). **N.** Doublet firing frequency
395 (spikes/recording time).

396 For **G-K** and **M-N**, significance was determined using a t-test between Purkinje cells in P14
397 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice and each of the timepoints of Purkinje cells from the control mice.
398 Significance was accepted at P<0.00065 (=0.05/8, for 8 repeated tests). N-numbers: P7:
399 n=11/N=6; P8: n=11/N=6; P9: n=16/N=5; P10: n=14/N=7; P11: n=20/N=7; P12: n=15/N=4; P13:
400 n=16/N=4; P14: n=17/N=7; *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* P14: n=15/N=6.

401 **Figure 4. Neonatal *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have abnormal motor coordination and**
402 **vocalization behavior.** **A.** Timed-series photos of *Atoh1^{fl/+}* (grey) and *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* (orange)
403 mice. *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have a wide stance (blue arrows) and fall on their backs (red
404 arrows). **B.** Time to right in the righting reflex of P6, P8 and P10 mice (top) and percentage
405 failed trials (bottom). **C.** Representative ultrasonic vocalization traces (filled circles in **D** and **E**).
406 **D.** Duration of vocalizations. **E.** Frequency of vocalizations. **F.** Representative tracks of mice in
407 the open field (filled circles in **G** and **H**). **G.** Movement speed. **H.** Number of movements. **I.**
408 Representative power spectra of tremor. **J.** Tremor power at different frequencies. **K.** Peak
409 tremor power.

410 N-numbers: *Atoh1^{fl/+}* (grey): N=10-15; *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/+}* (green): N=9-15; *Atoh1^{fl/-}* (pink):
411 N=11-15; *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* (orange): N=11-14. Significance was determined using a non-
412 parametric Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Tukey-Kramer post-hoc test. *P<0.05.

413

414 METHODS

415 *Animals:* All mice used in this study were housed in a Level 3, AALAS-certified facility. All
416 experiments and studies that involved mice were reviewed and approved by the Institutional
417 Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). The
418 following transgenic mouse lines were used for the preparation of this manuscript: *Atoh1^{FlpO}*
419 (van der Heijden and Zoghbi, 2018); *En1^{Cre}* (*En1^{tm2(cre)Wrst/J}*, JAX:007916); *Ai65*
420 (*Gt(ROSA)26Sor^{tm65.1(CAG-tdTomato)Hze}*, JAX:021875); *Atoh1^{Flox}* (*Atoh1^{tm3Hze}*, MGI:4420944). Ear
421 tissue or tail clips were collected before weaning and used for genotyping and identification of
422 the different alleles used. For all mice, P0 was defined as the day of birth.

423 *Tissue processing:* Brain and spinal cord tissue was collected as described in our previous
424 publications (Brown et al., 2019; Zhou et al., 2020). First, we anesthetized mice with Avertin.
425 Once the mice did not respond to toe or tail pinch, we accessed the chest cavity and then
426 penetrated the heart with a butterfly needle for perfusions. The mice were perfused with 1M
427 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS pH 7.4) to remove blood from the tissue and 4%
428 paraformaldehyde (PFA) to fix the tissue. The tissue was concomitantly post-fixed overnight in
429 4% PFA at 4 °C. Tissue was cryoprotected in a sucrose gradient (10% → 20% → 30% sucrose in
430 PBS) at 4 °C, each step lasting until the tissue sank to the bottom of a 15 mL tube. Tissue was
431 frozen in optimal cutting temperature (OCT) solution and stored at -80 °C until cut. All tissue
432 was cut into 40 µm free-floating sections and stored in PBS at 4 °C until it was used for
433 immunohistochemistry.

434 *Immunohistochemistry:* Free floating sections were stained according to the following protocol.
435 Free floating sections were blocked in 10% normal goat or donkey serum and 0.1% Triton-X in
436 PBS for two hours. Next, sections were incubated overnight in primary antibody in blocking
437 solution. Tissue was washed three times for five minutes in 0.1% Triton-X in PBS (PBS-T). For
438 fluorescent staining, the tissue was incubated for two hours in PBS-T with preferred secondary
439 antibody conjugated to an Alexa fluorophore. Finally, sections were washed three times in PBS-
440 T and mounted on electrostatically coated slides with hard-set, DAPI containing mounting
441 medium. Alternatively, for DAB staining, we incubated the tissue for two hours in PBS-T with
442 the preferred secondary antibody that was conjugated to HRP. After washing three times in PBS-
443 T, the tissue was incubated with DAB solution until the desired color intensity was reached. The
444 DAB color reaction was stopped by washing tissue three times with PBS-T. The tissue was then
445 mounted on electrostatically coated glass slides, dehydrated in an ethanol series (70% → 90% →
446 100%) and then mounted using Xylene or histoclear. All steps of immunohistochemistry were
447 performed at room temperature. All mounted slides were stored at 4 °C until they were imaged.

448 The following primary antibodies were used for the data described in this manuscript:
449 guinea pig (gp)- α -Calbindin (1:1,000; SySy; #214004); rabbit (rb)- α -gamma-aminobutyric acid
450 receptor $\alpha 6$ (GABAR $\alpha 6$; 1:500; Millipore Sigma; #AB5610), rb- α -T-box brain protein 2 (Tbr2;
451 1:500; Abcam; #AB23345), mouse (ms)- α -Calretinin (1:500; Swant; #6B3); ms- α -Neurofilament
452 Heavy (NFH; 1:1,000; Biologend; #801701); rb- α -Hyperpolarization Activated Cyclic
453 Nucleotide Gated Potassium Channel 1 (HCN1; 1:500; Alomone Lab; #APC-056); goat (gt)- α -
454 RAR-related orphan receptor alpha (ROR α ; 1:250; Santa Cruz; #F2510); rb- α -parvalbumin (PV;

455 1:1,000; Swant; #PV25); rb- α -neurogranin (1:500; Millipore Sigma; #AB5620); ms- α -ZebrinII
456 (1:500; kind gift from Dr. Richard Hawkes, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada);
457 rb- α -Vglut1 (1:500; SySy; #135302); rb- α -Vglut2 (1:500; SySy; #135403). The following
458 secondary antibodies were used for immunohistochemistry: HRP-conjugated goat (gt)- α -mouse;
459 gt- α -rabbit; and rabbit (dk)- α -goat (1:200; DAKO). The following secondary antibodies were
460 used for immunofluorescence: dk- α -mouse IgG Alexa Fluor 488 (1;1,500; Thermo Fisher
461 Scientific; #A21202) and gt- α -gp IgG Alexa Fluor 488 (1;1,500; Thermo Fisher
462 Scientific;#A11073).

463 *Cresyl violet staining*: Brain sections were mounted on electrostatically coated glass slides and
464 then dried overnight. Slides were submerged in 100% histoclear and rehydrated in an ethanol
465 series (100% \rightarrow 90% \rightarrow 70%). Then, the slides were submerged in cresyl violet solution for
466 staining until sufficiently dark and then dehydrated in an ethanol series (70% \rightarrow 90% \rightarrow 100%).
467 Finally, the slides were sealed with a coverslip using Cytoseal mounting media. All steps were
468 performed at room temperature and the mounted slides were stored at 4 °C until they were
469 imaged.

470 *Neuroanatomical anterograde tracing*: Anterograde neuroanatomical tracing of mossy fibers to
471 the cerebellum were performed as described previously (Lackey and Sillitoe, 2020; Sillitoe,
472 2016). P12 pups were anesthetized with isoflurane on a surgery rig. Hair was removed and an
473 incision was made in the skin over the lower thoracic/upper lumbar spinal cord, using the
474 curvature of the spine as a guide. We used a Nanoject II to inject 0.2 – 1 μ l of 2% WGA-Alexa
475 Fluor 555 (Thermo Fisher Scientific; #W32464) and 0.5% Fast Green (Sigma-Aldrich; #F7252,
476 used for visualization) diluted in 0.1 M phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; Sigma-Aldric; #P4417;
477 pH 7.4). Tracers were injected 1 mm below the surface of the spinal cord, on the right side of the
478 dorsal spinal vein. After tracer injection, we applied antibiotic ointment and closed the incision
479 using VetBond (3M; #1469SB) and wound clips (Fine Science Tools; #12032-07). Pups were
480 placed back with the mom after waking up from anesthesia. We placed soft food and hydrogel on
481 the floor cage and monitored closely whether mom was taking care and feeding the pups. Tissue
482 was collected (see section on *Tissue processing* above) for tracer visualization 2 days after the
483 surgery, at P14.

484 *Golgi-Cox staining*: Golgi-Cox staining was performed according to previously described
485 protocols (Brown et al., 2019) and manufacturer's instructions (FD Neurotechnologies;
486 #PK401). Brains were dissected from the skulls and immediately emerged in the staining
487 solution. After staining, sections were cut in 10 μ m thickness and directly mounted on
488 electrostatically coated slides. Tissue was then dehydrated in an ethanol series (70% \rightarrow 90% \rightarrow
489 100%), cleared with Xylene, and mounted with cyto seal. All slides were dried overnight before
490 imaging and were kept at 4 °C for storage.

491 *Fluorescence imaging and analysis of staining*: Photomicrographs of stained whole mount
492 cerebella and DAB stained cerebellar sections were acquired using Leica cameras DPC365FX
493 and DMC2900, respectively, attached to a Leica DM4000 B LED microscope. Photomicrographs
494 of Golgi-Cox stained sections and WGA-555 tracing were made using Zeiss cameras AxioCam
495 MRc5 and AxiaCam Mrm, respectively, attached to a Zeiss Axio Imager.M2 microscope. Whole

496 mount images were stitched together using Adobe Photoshop. Color brightness and contrast were
497 adjusted using ImageJ. Photomicrographs of images were cropped to desired size using Adobe
498 Illustrator. Sholl analysis was performed using the build-in Sholl analysis module in ImageJ
499 (Ferreira et al., 2014) and false-positive intersections were manually subtracted from the counts.

500 *In vivo electrophysiology:* All *in vivo*, anesthetized experiments were performed as described in
501 previous publications (Arancillo et al., 2015; White and Sillitoe, 2017). Specifically, we
502 anesthetized mice using a mixture of ketamine 80 (mg/kg) and dexmedetomidine (16 mg/kg).
503 We held mice on a heated surgery pad. We removed hair from skull and made an incision in the
504 skin over the anterior part of the skull. We stabilized the heads of our mice using ear bars and a
505 mouth mount when animals were large enough (most P11-P14 mice) and otherwise glued the
506 mouse skull (P7-P10 mice) to a plastic mount that was attached to ear bars on our stereotaxic
507 surgery rig to stabilize the head during recordings. Using a sharp needle or dental drill, we made
508 a craniotomy in the interparietal bone plate, ~3 mm dorsal from lambda and ~3 mm lateral from
509 the midline, with a diameter of ~3mm. We kept our surgical coordinates consistent based on the
510 distance from lambda across mice of all ages, as the skull undergoes significant growth during
511 the ages at which we measured neural activity. After making a craniotomy, we recorded neural
512 activity using tungsten electrodes (Thomas Recording, Germany) and then the digitized the
513 signals into Spike2 (CED, England). We recorded neural activity from cells that were 0-2 mm
514 below the brain surface.

515 *Analysis of in vivo electrophysiological recordings:* All electrophysiological recording data were
516 spike sorted in Spike2. We sorted out three types of spikes: simple spikes, complex spikes, and
517 doublets. Complex spikes were characterized by their large amplitude, and post-spike
518 depolarization and smaller wavelets. Doublets were characterized as action potentials that were
519 followed by one or more smaller action potentials within 20 ms after the initial action potential.
520 All other action potentials were characterized as simple spikes (see examples in **Figure 3** and
521 **Supp. F3**). We only included traces with clearly identifiable complex spikes or doublets and
522 analyzed only cells from which we could obtain a sufficient long and stable recording (186 ± 6.5
523 s; minimum = 75s) with an optimal signal to noise ratio.

524 After spike sorting our traces in Spike 2, we analyzed the frequency and regularity of
525 firing patterns in MATLAB. For this study, we defined frequency as number of all spikes
526 observed in the total analyzed recording time (spikes/s). Our measures of global regularity or
527 burstiness (CV) and regularity (CV2) were based on the interspike intervals (ISI) between two
528 adjacent spikes (in s). $CV = \text{stdev}(ISI)/\text{mean}(ISI)$, and $CV2 = \text{mean}(2*|ISI_n - ISI_{n-1}| / (ISI_n + ISI_{n-1}))$.
529 Pause Percent was the proportion of the recording time during which the ISI was longer than five
530 times the mean ISI for each independent cell, defined as followed: $(\text{sum}(ISI > 5 * \text{mean}(ISI))) / (\text{total}$
531 recording time).

532 *Behavioral analyses:* Righting reflex was measured on P6, P8, and P10 as followed. Mouse was
533 placed on its back in a clean cage without bedding. One finger was used to stabilize the mouse
534 on its back. The timer was set the moment the experimenter removed their finger, and time was
535 recorded until mouse righted itself up to four paws. All mice were tested twice on each time

536 point. A “failed” trial was defined when the mouse did not right itself within one minute (sixty
537 seconds).

538 At P7, we recorded pup vocalizations as described previously (Yin et al., 2018). Pups
539 were placed in an anechoic, sound-attenuating chamber (Med Associates Inc.). The pup was
540 placed in a round plastic tub that was positioned near a CM16 microphone (Avisoft
541 Bioacoustics) that was located in the center of the chamber. Sound was amplified and digitized
542 using UltraSoundGate 416H at a 250 kHz sampling rate and bit depth of 16. Avisoft
543 RECORDER software was used to collect the recordings. Ultrasonic vocalizations were
544 monitored for 2 min for each animal.

545 We also performed an open field assay at P13 as previously described (Alcott et al.,
546 2020). Mice were habituated to a room with light set to 200 lux and ambient white noise to 60
547 dB. We placed each mouse in the center of an open field (40x40x30 cm chamber). The chamber
548 has photobeams that could record movement. Each mouse was tested for 15 minutes and activity
549 was recorded using Fusion software (Accuscan Instruments). We analyzed the data for total
550 distance traveled, movement time, speed, and total movements during the 15-minute test period.

551 We measured tremor using our custom-built tremor monitor (Brown et al., 2020). Each
552 mouse was placed in the tremor chamber, which is a translucent box with an open top that is
553 suspended in the air by eight elastic cords that are attached to four metal rods. An accelerometer
554 is attached to the bottom of the box. Mice were allowed to habituate to the chamber for 120
555 second prior to tremor recordings. The mice are free to move around in the box. Power
556 spectrums of tremor were assessed using Fast Fourier transform (FFT) with Hanning window in
557 Spike2 software as previously described (Brown et al., 2020). FFT frequency was target to ~1 Hz
558 per bin.

559 *Statistical analysis:* Statistical analyses were performed in MATLAB. For electrophysiology
560 data, analysis was performed using a t-test. We used a Bonferroni-corrected p-value for
561 statistical significance to avoid false positives ($p < 0.000625$ ($=0.05/8$) was accepted as
562 statistically significant). We performed the hierarchical cluster analysis on the first three
563 principle components of the firing frequency, frequency mode, CV, CV2, and Pause Percent. For
564 behavioral data, we performed a Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a Tukey-Kramer post-hoc test
565 to define significance between independent groups. For these tests, we accepted $p < 0.05$ as
566 statistically significant.

567

568

569 **Supplemental Figure 1 – with Figure 1. Conditional deletion of *Atoh1* from the *En1* domain**
570 **targets excitatory, but not inhibitory cerebellar cell types.** **A.** *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice lack
571 differentiated granule cells, identified with GABAR α 6. **B.** and **C.** *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have a
572 reduction in unipolar brush cells, identified by Calretinin and *Tbr2*, respectively. **D.**
573 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have dense staining for NFH-positive cells that mark Purkinje cells and
574 excitatory nuclei (interposed nucleus shown here). **E** through **H.** *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have a
575 high density for inhibitory neurons, revealed with the expression of ROR α (**E**), HCN1 (**F**),
576 Neurogranin (**G**), and PV (**H**). All images are representative for N=3 brains for each genotype.

577 **Supplemental Figure 2 – with Figure 2. *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice express mature cerebellum**
578 **stripe markers, but do not form clear-cut stripes.** **A.** Top view of a control P14 brain. Dotted
579 line shows the position of schematic in **B.** and where the section in **C.** was taken from. **B.**
580 Schematic of Purkinje cell *ZebrinII* (pink) and *PLC β 4* (green) patterns in a control section
581 illustrating the striped patterns at P14. **C.** Staining of *ZebrinII* (pink) and *PLC β 4* (green). **D.-G.**
582 Higher power magnification images of insets in **C.** **H.** Top view of *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* P14 brain.
583 Dotted line shows position of schematic in **I.** and where the section in **J.** is taken from. **I.**
584 Schematic of Purkinje cell *ZebrinII* (pink) and *PLC β 4* (green) patterns in *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice
585 showing a clustered pattern at P14. **J.** Staining of *ZebrinII* (pink) and *PLC β 4* (green). **K-L.**
586 Higher power magnification images of insets in **J.** All images are representative of N=3 brains
587 per genotype.

588 **Supplemental Figure 3 – with Figure 3. Representative traces of in vivo firing properties of**
589 **Purkinje cells from P7-P14 control and P14 *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice.** Left, representative trace
590 is 10 s long. Middle, trace is 1 second long. Right, representative simple spike and doublet or
591 complex spike (depending on most prevalent spike type). Representative cells were chosen based
592 on that particular cell's firing properties being closest to the group average.

593 **Video 1 – with Figure 4. *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/-}* mice have visible motor impairments.** At P14,
594 control mice explore the open box smoothly, whereas *En1^{Cre/+};Atoh1^{fl/+}* mice have a visible
595 tremor, often fall on their backs, and have dystonia-like muscle contractions in their hind paws.

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