

1 **An atlas of neural crest lineages along the posterior developing**  
2 **zebrafish at single-cell resolution**

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33  
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## ABSTRACT

Neural crest cells (NCCs) are vertebrate stem cells that give rise to various cell types throughout the developing body in early life. Here, we utilized single-cell transcriptomic analyses to delineate NCC-derivatives along the posterior developing vertebrate, zebrafish, during the late embryonic to early larval stage, a period when NCCs are actively differentiating into distinct cellular lineages. We identified several major NCC/NCC-derived cell-types including mesenchyme, neural crest, neural, neuronal, glial, and pigment, from which we resolved over three dozen cellular subtypes. We dissected gene expression signatures of pigment progenitors delineating into chromatophore lineages, mesenchyme subtypes, and enteric NCCs transforming into enteric neurons. Global analysis of NCC derivatives revealed they were demarcated by combinatorial *hox* gene codes, with distinct profiles within neuronal cells. From these analyses, we present a comprehensive cell-type atlas that can be utilized as a valuable resource for further mechanistic and evolutionary investigations of NCC differentiation.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 Unique to vertebrates, neural crest cells (NCCs) are an embryonic stem cell population  
3 characterized as transient, highly migratory, and multipotent. Following their birth from the dorsal  
4 neural tube, NCCs migrate extensively, dorsolaterally or ventrally along the main axial levels of  
5 the embryo; the cranial, vagal, trunk, and sacral regions (Graham et al., 2004; Le Douarin and  
6 Teillet et al., 1974). Depending on the axial level of their origination, NCCs give rise to cells within  
7 critical tissues, such as the cornea, craniofacial cartilage and bone, mesenchyme, pigment cells  
8 in the skin, as well as neurons and glia that comprise peripheral ganglia (Hutchins et al., 2018;  
9 Epstein et al., 1994; Kuo and Erickson, 2011; Hall and Hörstadius, 1988; Le Douarin and  
10 Kalchheim, 1999; Theveneau and Mayor, 2012; Williams and Bohnsack, 2015; Yntema and  
11 Hammond, 1954).

12 During their maturation, NCCs undergo dramatic transcriptional changes which lead to  
13 diverse cellular lineages, making their transcriptomic profiles highly dynamic (Simões-Costa et  
14 al., 2014; Martik et al., 2017; Soldatov et al., 2019; Williams et al., 2019). In support of the model  
15 that complex transcriptional programs govern NCC ontogenesis, the gene regulatory networks  
16 involved in development of NCCs to broad cell types has been described at a high level, especially  
17 during early NCC specification along cranial axial regions, across amniotes (Martik et al., 2017;  
18 Simoes-Costa and Bronner, 2016; Green et al. 2016; Williams et al., 2019). For example, *Sox10*  
19 encodes a conserved transcription factor that is expressed along all axial levels by early migrating  
20 NCCs and within their differentiating lineages (Sauka-Spengler and Bronner-Fraser, 2008; Martik  
21 et al., 2017). Despite this progress, however, comprehensive knowledge of the genes that  
22 participate in proper NCC development and their lineage differentiation programs during later  
23 phases of embryogenesis remains to be fully characterized, particularly for posterior tissues  
24 (reviewed in Hutchins et al., 2018). Indeed, improper regulation of NCC differentiation can cause  
25 several neurocristopathies, such as DiGeorge syndrome, neuroblastoma, Hirschsprung disease,  
26 Auriculo-condylar syndrome, and *Klein-Waardenburg syndrome* (Barlow, 1984; Bolande, 1997;

1 Brosens et al., 2016; Escot et al., 2016; Vega-Lopez et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2014), further  
2 highlighting the need to understand how NCCs differentiate into diverse cellular types.

3 While many studies have examined early phases of NCC specification, gene regulatory  
4 network construction, and NCC migration, we have extended analysis for the first time to  
5 characterize transcriptomic signatures of NCC-derived cells differentiating within posterior tissues  
6 of the zebrafish. Previous single-cell transcriptomic studies in zebrafish have laid a strong  
7 foundation to globally map early lineages of a majority of cell types through early to middle  
8 embryonic development (Wagner et al. 2018; Tambalo et al. 2020), and recently this has been  
9 extended into the larval stage (Farnsworth et al., 2019). With respect to the posterior NCC fates,  
10 however, many of these cells undergo differentiation programs during the embryonic to larval  
11 transition, a developmental stage that emerges between ~48 hpf to 72 hpf. Transcriptomic  
12 analysis during this transitional phase therefore would enhance our understanding of the dynamic  
13 shifts in cell states that may regulate cellular differentiation programs.

14 Beyond their strong advantages as a vertebrate embryonic model, zebrafish lend  
15 themselves to study transcriptomics. The rapid progression and thorough characterization of  
16 zebrafish embryonic development makes it possible to observe the onset of ontogenesis for most  
17 organs in a matter of hours to days, accelerating our ability to interrogate vertebrate development  
18 (Kimmel et al., 1995; Ahrens et al., 2013; Parichy et al., 2009). Zebrafish also share strong genetic  
19 conservation with other vertebrates (Howe et al., 2013), allowing for information gleaned to be  
20 easily translated to other model organisms or human studies (Bradford et al., 2017).

21 We have utilized the Tg(-4.9sox10:EGFP) (hereafter referred to as sox10:GFP) transgenic  
22 fish line to identify NCCs and their recent derivatives. As described by Carney et al., 2006, the  
23 sox10:GFP fish line allows for the labeling of NCCs, NCC-derived cells, and other ancillary  
24 tissues, such as the developing ear (otic) and select muscle cells, *in vivo*. Due to the widespread  
25 presence of sox10 among NCCs (Carney et al., 2006), sox10:GFP functions as a useful marker



1 in zebrafish to identify cells fated to become major posterior cell lineages, including neurons,  
2 peripheral glia, mesenchyme, and pigment cells.

3 In this study, we have leveraged the power of single-cell transcriptomics and curated the  
4 identities of *sox10*-expressing and *sox10*-derived populations along the posterior zebrafish during  
5 development. Using *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> 48-50 hpf embryos and 68-70 hpf larvae, we identified eight  
6 major classes of cells: mesenchyme, neural crest, neural, neuronal, glial, pigment, muscle, and  
7 otic. Among the major cell types, we annotated over 40 cellular subtypes. We remarkably resolved  
8 the dynamic transition of several NCC fates, most notably we discovered over a dozen  
9 mesenchymal subtypes and captured the progressive differentiation of enteric neural progenitors  
10 into maturing enteric neurons. By computationally merging our 48-50 hpf and 68-70 hpf data sets,  
11 we generated a comprehensive atlas of *sox10*<sup>+</sup> cell types spanning the embryonic to larval  
12 transition, which can also be used as a tool to identify novel genes and mechanistically test their  
13 roles in the developmental progression of posterior NCCs. Additionally, using Hybridization Chain  
14 Reaction (HCR) and *in situ* hybridization, we validated the spatiotemporal expression patterns of  
15 various subtypes during the embryonic to larval transition. Lastly, we characterized a *hox*  
16 signature for each cell type, detecting novel combinatorial expression of *hox* genes within specific  
17 cell types. Our intention is that this careful analysis of posterior NCC fates and resulting Atlas will  
18 aid the cell and developmental biology communities by advancing our fundamental understanding  
19 of the diverging transcriptional landscape during the NCC's extensive cell fate acquisition.

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## 1 RESULTS

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### 3 ***Single-cell profiling of sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells along the posterior zebrafish during the*** 4 ***embryonic and larval stage transition***

5 To identify *sox10*-expressing and *sox10*-derived cells along the posterior zebrafish during  
6 the embryonic to larval transition, we utilized the transgenic line *sox10:GFP* (**Fig. 1A**) (Carney et  
7 al., 2006; Kwak et al., 2013). All tissue between the otic vesicle and hindgut, encompassing the  
8 entire vagal and trunk axial region (**Fig. 1B**), was dissected from 100 embryonic fish at 48-50  
9 hours post fertilization (hpf) and 100 larval fishes at 68-70 hpf, thereby encompassing the  
10 embryonic to larval transition. Dissected tissues were dissociated and immediately subjected to  
11 fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) to isolate *sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup>* cells (**Fig. 1B; Fig. S1A,B**). To  
12 generate gene expression libraries for individual cells, isolated cells were then input into 10X  
13 Genomics Chromium scRNA-seq assays and captured at a depth of 2300 cells from the 48-50  
14 hpf time point and 2580 cells from the 68-70 hpf time point (**Fig. 1C; Fig. S1C**). We performed  
15 cell filtering and clustering (**Fig. S1C-I**) of the scRNA-seq data sets using Seurat (Butler et al.,  
16 2018; Stuart et al., 2019) to computationally identify cell populations based on shared  
17 transcriptomes. Cells were filtered from this analysis, yielding 1608 cells from the 48-50 hpf time  
18 point and 2410 cells from the 68-70 hpf time point, totaling 4018 cells for final analysis (**Fig. S1C**).  
19 We detected cell population clusters with transcriptionally unique signatures, as shown in  
20 heatmap summaries that revealed the top 10 significant genes per cluster, with 19 clusters (0-18)  
21 from the 48-50 hpf time point (**Fig. 2A**) and 23 clusters (0-22) from the 68-70 hpf time point (**Fig.**  
22 **3A**), totaling 42 clusters across both time points. The top significantly enriched markers for each  
23 cluster at 48-50 and 68-70 hpf are provided in **Table S1**.

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### 25 ***Major classification of sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup> cell types along the posterior developing body***

26 Data sets were visualized with the t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (tSNE)  
27 method, which spatially grouped cells in each cluster to distinguish transcriptionally-distinct cell

1 populations, for both time points examined (**Fig. 2B, 3B**). To assess the general proliferative state  
2 of cells in each time point, we determined their G1, S or G2/M phase occupancy, based on  
3 expression of proliferative cell cycle marker genes (**Fig. S2I**). At 48-50 hpf, 52% of *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup>  
4 cells were in G1 phase, while 31% were in the S phase and 17% in G2/M phase (**Fig. S2G**),  
5 collectively indicating that 48% of the cells in the 48-50 hpf time point were proliferative. At 68-70  
6 hpf, 64% of cells were in G1 phase, while 24% of cells were in the S phase and 12% in G2/M  
7 phase (**Fig. S2G**), indicating that 36% of the cells were proliferative. The global cell cycle  
8 occupancy distributions of all of the cells were visualized in tSNE plots, thereby revealing  
9 congregations of proliferative and non-proliferative *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells (**Fig. S2A,B**). *aurkb* and  
10 *mcm3* confirmed general occupancy in the G2/M and S phase for each time point (**Fig. S2E-F**).  
11 Together, these data of cell cycle state reflect a general decrease in the number of proliferative  
12 cells among *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> populations along the posterior fish, in agreement with other  
13 observations of the proliferative state of *sox10*-derived cells in the embryo (Rajan et al., 2018).

14 To group cells into major tissue cell type categories, we performed curation analysis of the  
15 clustered data sets (**Fig. S3; Fig. 2,3; Fig. S2H**). Global analysis of scRNA-seq transcriptomes  
16 among cell clusters indicated that *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells exist in several major cell type categories in  
17 the embryo and larvae. These major cell type categories included: Neural, Neuronal, Glial,  
18 Mesenchyme, Pigment cell, Neural Crest, Otic, and Muscle (**Fig. S2H; Fig. 2C-F; Fig. 3C-F**).  
19 Neuronal clusters were identified by expression of the pan neuronal markers *elavl3*, *elavl4*, and/or  
20 *tuba2*, and encompassed Clusters 0, 7, and 17 at 48-50 hpf (19% of data set) and Clusters 5 and  
21 12 at 68-70 hpf (10% of data set) (**Fig. S3; Fig. 2F; Fig. 3F**). Neural cell types were identified  
22 based on a combination of the neural markers *ncam1a/b*, *notch1a*, *dla*, *her4.1*, *ascl1a*, and/or  
23 *sox10* and included Cluster 13 at 48-50 hpf (4% of data set) and Clusters 3 and 10 at 68-70 hpf  
24 (13% of data set). Glial category cells consisted of Cluster 15 from 48-50 hpf (3% of data set) and  
25 Cluster 14 from 68-70 hpf (2% of data set), identified by the presence of the glial markers *plp1a*,  
26 *fabp7a*, *sox10*, *pou3f1*, *foxd3*, and/or *gfap* (**Fig. S3; Fig. 2F; Fig. 3F**). Cluster 8 at 48-50 hpf

1 exhibited expression of Pigment Cell development markers *tyrp1a/b*, *dct*, and *mitfa*, thereby  
2 encompassing 5% of the 48-50 hpf data set (**Fig. S3; Fig. 2F**). Subsequent Pigment Cell identity  
3 was detected in Clusters 4, 13, 15, 16, and 18 at 68-70 hpf (**Fig. S3; Fig. 3**), increasing to 14%  
4 of the data set (**Fig. S2H**), during which time the Pigment Cells diverged and expanded into  
5 distinct chromatophore lineages, as discussed further in **Fig. 4**. A Neural Crest cluster, Cluster 5  
6 at 48-50 hpf (**Fig. 2**) (6% of data set), which we also discuss further in **Fig. 6**, was identified by  
7 the combined expression of *sox10*, *crestin*, *foxd3*, *ngfrb*, and *tfap2a*. Mesenchyme tissue identity  
8 among clusters represented the largest proportion of the data sets at 61% and 53% of the cells  
9 at 48-50 and 68-70 hpf, respectively (**Fig. S2H**). Mesenchyme clusters were identified by a  
10 combination of mesenchymal gene markers, including: *snai1a/b*, *twist1a/b*, *prrx1a/b*, *meox1*,  
11 *foxc1a/b*, *cdh11*, *sparc*, *colec12*, and/or *pdgfra*, as recently described in amniotes (Soldatov et  
12 al., 2019). Mesenchyme identity was detected in Clusters 1-4, 6, 9-12, and 14 at the 48-50 hpf  
13 time (**Fig. 2A-F**) and Clusters 0-2, 6-8, 17, 20, and 22 at the 68-70 hpf time point (**Fig. 3A-F**).

14 Our analysis also revealed the presence of other *sox10*-expressing cell types, as has  
15 previously been described in zebrafish (Carney et al., 2006; Rajan et al., 2018; Rodrigues et al.,  
16 2012; Kwak et al., 2013). We detected cells with an otic vesicle signature, via the markers *cldnb*,  
17 *vamp8*, *epcam*, or *otomp*, which were expressed in Clusters 16 at 48-50 hpf (1% of data set) (**Fig.**  
18 **2C-F; Fig. S2H; Fig. S4**) and Cluster 11 at 68-70 hpf (3% of data set) (**Fig. 3C-F**). Cluster 18 at  
19 the 48-50 hpf time (1% of data set) and Clusters 9 and 19 at the 68-70 hpf time (5% of data set)  
20 displayed muscle gene expression via the markers *tpma*, *tnnc2*, *actc1b*, *ckmb* (**Fig. S3,S4**).  
21 Cluster 21 at 68-70 hpf (1% of data set) was not categorized (**Fig. S2H**), likely a spurious cell.  
22 Overall, major cell type cluster identities and top signature marker genes are summarized in a  
23 table (**Fig. S3**).

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25 ***Posterior sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup> cell subtype transcriptional signatures resolved***

1 Analysis of each of the 42 cluster gene signatures among the two time points revealed  
2 distinct subpopulations of posterior *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells and their transcriptomes in the developing  
3 zebrafish. Notably, we identified previously described *sox10*-derived cell types. For example, we  
4 observed sensory neuronal gene expression in Cluster 17 at 48-50 hpf (**Fig. S3, Fig. S5**) by the  
5 markers *neurod1*, *neurod4*, *neurog1*, *six1alb*, *elavl4*; markers known to be expressed in sensory  
6 cell progenitors and differentiating sensory neurons, such as in neural crest-derived dorsal root  
7 ganglion (DRG) in zebrafish during the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of development (Carney et al 2006; Delfino-Machín  
8 et al., 2017). The *sox10*:GFP line has been shown to transiently label DRG progenitors between  
9 the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> day of development (McGraw et al., 2008; Rajan et al., 2018). In addition, the  
10 scRNA-seq transcriptome data sets at both time points exhibited gene expression indicative of  
11 previously described neural crest-derived lineages (summarized in Hutchins et al., 2018) including  
12 mesenchymal cells (Le Lievre and Le Douarin, 1975; Kague et al., 2012; Soldatov et al., 2019;  
13 Ling and Sauka-Spengler, 2019), pigment cells (Reedy et al., 1998; Higdon et al., 2013), and  
14 enteric neurons (Kelsh and Eisen, 2000; Kuo and Erickson, 2011; Lasrado et al., 2017;), which  
15 we describe in further detail below and in Figures 4-7.

### 16 17 ***Pigment cell chromatophore lineages resolved***

18 With robust genetic lineage details published on pigment cell differentiation in zebrafish  
19 (Kelsh, 2004; Lister, 2002; Quigley and Parichy, 2002), we sought to validate our scRNA-seq  
20 analysis pipeline by assessing if we could resolve pigment cell gene expression states. Pigment  
21 cell development has been broadly studied in the developing zebrafish, where neural crest cells  
22 give rise to three distinct chromatophore populations: melanophores, xanthophores, and  
23 iridophores (**Fig. 4A**). Melanophores are the first pigment cells to appear during embryonic  
24 zebrafish development, while xanthophores and iridophores differentiate later in the larvae  
25 (Kimmel et al., 1995). Melanophores, the best characterized population, express a combination  
26 of markers throughout their development including *mitfa*, *dct*, *tyrp1a/b*, and *pmela* (Du et al., 2003;

1 Lister et al., 1999; Ludwig et al., 2004; Quigley and Parichy, 2002). Similarly, the genes *pnp4a*,  
2 *tfec*, *gpnmb*, and *atic* are all enriched in iridophores and are critical for their maturation (Higdon  
3 et al., 2013; Lister et al., 2011; Petratos et al., 2018, 2019). Finally, differentiating xanthophores  
4 express *gch2*, *pax7a/b*, *xdh*, *mitfa*, and *aox5* (Nord et al., 2016; Parichy et al., 2000; Saunders et  
5 al., 2019; Minchin and Hughes, 2008; Lister et al., 1999).

6 Our cluster analysis of *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> single cell data sets revealed the robust presence of  
7 pigment cell lineages during the embryonic to larval transition (**Fig. 4B-J; Fig. S3**). At 48-50 hpf,  
8 melanophores were detected based on expression of the global pigment identity genes *mitfa*, *dct*,  
9 *tyrp1b*, and *pmela* (**Fig. 2F; Fig. 4A**). Of all the clusters identified at this time point, Cluster 8  
10 presented significant levels of these genes, identifying it as a melanophore population (**Fig. 4B**).  
11 tSNE plots reveal that the melanophore markers indeed map strongly to Cluster 8 (**Fig. 4C**), which  
12 comprises the major cell type classified in the Pigment identity grouping (**Fig. 2D**).

13 At 68-70 hpf, we resolved discrete pigment cell populations that included xanthophore,  
14 iridophore, and two distinct melanophore clusters (**Fig. 4D-G, Fig. S3**). The xanthophores  
15 mapped to Cluster 15 (**Fig. S3**) and were enriched with *xdh*, *aox5*, *pax7b*, *mitfa*, and *gch2* (**Fig.**  
16 **4D,F**). Cluster 16 we identified as iridophores, which presented the well characterized markers:  
17 *tfec*, *pnp4a*, *gpnmb*, and *atic* (**Fig. S3; Fig. 4A,D,G**). The use of cell cycle markers revealed that  
18 the two different melanophore clusters (Clusters 4 and 18) were present in different proliferative  
19 states. While the majority of cells in Cluster 4 were in G1, the presence of S and G2/M markers,  
20 such as *pcna* and *aurkb*, in melanophore Cluster 18 suggests that this population is proliferating  
21 melanophores (**Fig. S2B,E,F; Fig. S3E; TableS4**). While Clusters 4 and 18 shared a strong  
22 melanophore signature (**Fig. 4D**), they also expressed various other genes with previously known  
23 expression in pigment cells; such as *tfap2a*, *gch2*, *slc24a5*, and *gpr143* (Thisse et al., 2004).  
24 Overall, genes shared between Cluster 4 and Cluster 18, as well as their unique genes, are  
25 summarized in **Table S4**. Through the analysis of cell cycle markers, our observations regarding  
26 melanophore populations extend previous work performed in older mid-larval and juvenile stages,

1 where distinct differentiation and proliferative states between two melanophore clusters were  
2 described at 5 dpf (Saunders et al., 2019). Our detection of differing pigment proliferation states  
3 suggest that the two separate populations of melanophores appear during the early larval  
4 transition at 68-70 hpf. Indeed, we did not detect more than one subpopulation of melanophore  
5 based on proliferative state at 48-50 hpf, which were almost entirely in the G1 phase (**Fig.**  
6 **S2A,C,D**).

7 At 68-70 hpf, we were able to identify a pigment progenitor population, where iridophore  
8 and melanophore markers were co-expressed (**Fig. 4D,E,G**). Specifically, a bipotent irido-melano  
9 progenitor in which cells begin to acquire their final chromatophore fate has been described  
10 recently at 24, 30, and 48 hpf (Petratou et al. 2018), where these undifferentiated pigment  
11 progenitor cells express *tfec* in combination with *mitfa*. We detected the expression of both *tfec*  
12 and *mitfa* in Cluster 13 (**Fig. 4D,E,F**). Additionally, Cluster 13 significantly expressed *tfap2e*, *gpx3*,  
13 and *trpm1b* (**Fig. S3**) whose expression patterns have been previously reported in pigment  
14 progenitors (Saunders et al., 2019). Finally, a population of pigmented muscle (Cluster 9) was  
15 also found with a weak melanophore signature, coupled with expression of muscle markers like  
16 *ckmb*, *tpma*, *tnnc2*, and *tnnt3b* (**Fig. S3; Fig. S4**).

17 We next performed wholemount HCR to assess the spatial expression of *mitfa*, *tfec*, and  
18 *xdh* during the embryonic to larval transition and to strengthen the validity of our data sets. When  
19 examining *mitfa* and *tfec* along the lateral aspects of embryos at 48-50 hpf (**Fig. 4H**), we detected  
20 GFP<sup>+</sup> cells that expressed *mitfa*, identifying the melanophores (**Fig. 4H**; white arrowhead), and  
21 cells that expressed both *mitfa* and *tfec*, defining the pigment progenitors (**Fig. 4H**; red  
22 arrowhead). At 68-70 hpf, we confirmed the four distinct pigment populations we identified through  
23 Seurat (**Fig. 4B-G**): GFP<sup>+</sup> melanophores expressing *mitfa* only (**Fig. 4I**; white arrowhead),  
24 iridophores only expressing *tfec* (**Fig. 4I**; blue arrowhead), and pigment progenitors expressing  
25 both *mitfa* and *tfec* (**Fig. 4I**; red arrowhead) were detected in the larval flank. When examining  
26 *xdh* and *mitfa* expression patterns, GFP<sup>+</sup> xanthophores were found to be expressing both markers



1 (Fig. 4J; orange arrowhead), as previously described (Minchin and Hughes, 2008; Saunders et  
2 al., 2019).

3 Taken together, these results show that with our scRNA-seq pipeline we can effectively  
4 identify discrete populations based on previously reported cell markers, and coupled with our  
5 HCR analysis, effectively show we are able to validate these cell populations.

6

### 7 ***Mesenchyme in the posterior embryo and larvae exists in various subpopulations***

8 Heatmap analysis of gene expression groups depicted that mesenchyme cells clustered  
9 together globally within the data sets (Fig. 2C,D; Fig. 3C,D; Fig. 5A,B), with *twist1a* expression  
10 broadly labeling all mesenchyme cells (Fig. 2E,F; Fig. 3E,F). In addition to *twist1a*, mesenchyme  
11 cells also expressed *prrx1a/b*, *twist1b*, *foxc1a/b*, *snai1a/b*, *cdh11*, *sparc*, *colec12*, *meox1*, *pdgfra*  
12 (Fig. S3; Fig. 5A,B), and other known mesenchymal markers such as *mmp2* (Fig. S3) (Janssens  
13 et al., 2013; Theodore et al., 2017). In whole mount embryos at 48 hpf, we observed broad  
14 expression of *foxc1a* and *mmp2* along the posterior pharyngeal arches and ventral regions of the  
15 embryo via *in situ* hybridization (Fig. S7C,D; arrowheads), confirming their expression territories  
16 within posterior-ventral mesenchymal tissues.

17 Analysis of the Mesenchyme clusters revealed various subtypes were present in the  
18 scRNA-seq data sets. Among these, we starkly detected 9 Chondrogenic cell subtypes—Clusters  
19 2, 3, 4, 9, and 12 at 48-50 hpf time point and Clusters 0, 6, 8, and 20 at 68-70 hpf—identified by  
20 expression of mesenchymal signature genes, as well as the chondrogenic markers *barx1* and/or  
21 *dlx2a* (Sperber et al., 2008) (Fig. S3; Fig. 5D). All Chondrogenic clusters expressed *barx1*,  
22 regardless of the time point, which is expressed in developing mesenchymal tissues and required  
23 for development of osteochondral progenitor cells and their tissue condensation therein (Sperber  
24 et al., 2008; Sperber and Dawid, 2008; Ding et al., 2013; Barske et al., 2016). Within the 9  
25 Chondrogenic subtypes, we discovered genes indicative of heterogeneous cell states, ranging  
26 from proliferative (Clusters 2, 3, and 12 at 48-50 hpf and Cluster 8 at 68-70 hpf; *cdk1*, *mcm5*,



1 *mcm6*, *ccna2*, *ccnb2*, and/or *pcna*), progenitor/stem-like (Cluster 4 at 48-50 hpf; *fen1*, *uhrf1*, *id3*,  
2 *chaf1a*), migratory (Cluster 9 at 48-50 hpf and Cluster 20 at 68-70 hpf; *id2a*, *snai1a*, *snai2*, *mmp2*,  
3 and/or *twist3*) to differentiating signatures (Clusters 0 and 6 at 68-70 hpf; *col1a2*, *col5a1*, *col6a1*,  
4 and/or *sparc*) (**Fig. S3**).

5 All other Mesenchyme subtypes were classified into various progenitor and differentiation  
6 categories. Among these categories, 7 clusters expressed either proliferative progenitor makers  
7 (Cluster 1 at 48-50 hpf; *pcna*, *rpa1*, *mcm5*, *mcm7*), differentiation signatures (Cluster 6 at 48-50  
8 hpf; *tagln2*, *myl9b*, *aldh1a2*, *actb1*; Cluster 10 at 48-50 hpf and Clusters 17 and 22 at 68-70 hpf;  
9 *col2a1a/b*, *col9a1a*, *col9a2*, *col1a2*, and/or *col5a1*), or general migratory mesenchymal markers  
10 (Cluster 11 at 48-50 hpf and Cluster 2 at 68-70 hpf; *cxcl12a*, *cxcl12b*, *rac1*, *twist2*, *snai2* or *snai1a*)  
11 (**Fig. S3**). Additionally, Cluster 14 at 48 hpf and Clusters 1 and 7 at 68-70 hpf exhibited a general  
12 mesenchymal signature, but also expressed Fin Bud marker genes (*hand2*, *tbx5a*, *hoxa13a*,  
13 *hoxa13b*, *hoxd13a*, *prrx1a/b*, *pcna*) (**Fig. S5**) (Yelon et al., 2000; Lu et al., 2019, Nakamura et al.,  
14 2016; Feregrino et al., 2019). The Fin Bud cells formed groupings, as depicted in tSNE analysis  
15 (**Fig. S5**), highlighting their distinct transcriptional states from the other mesenchyme populations.

16 Hierarchical clustering of cells with General Mesenchyme and Chondrogenic identities  
17 using a cluster tree further highlighted potential similar subtypes between the time points (**Fig.**  
18 **5C**). For example, the cluster tree showed proximal location of Cluster 8 at 68-70 hpf and Cluster  
19 2 at 48-50 hpf, which we noted contained clear proliferative chondrogenic gene signatures (**Fig.**  
20 **S3**). Additionally, the tree depicted the closeness of Cluster 1 and 6 at 48-50 hpf with Cluster 2 at  
21 68-70 hpf. These clusters present with varying proliferative/migratory/differentiation states,  
22 suggesting that transcriptionally-related mesenchymal cells captured in our data sets were in  
23 various stages of dynamic differentiation, proliferation, and migration.

24 Feature plot exports revealed a sub-distribution of chondrogenic cells (*barx1*<sup>+</sup>) cells in  
25 relation to all mesenchyme (*prrx1b*<sup>+</sup>, *twist1a*<sup>+</sup>) cells (**Fig. 5E,L**). To confirm the spatial expression  
26 of *prrx1b*, *twist1a*, and *barx1* at 48-50 hpf and 68-70 hpf, we utilized HCR analysis (**Fig. 5F-K,M-**

1 **R)**. HCR analysis confirmed the expression of *prrx1b*, *twist1a*, and *barx1* within *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells  
2 along the posterior pharyngeal arches (white arrowheads) and fin bud mesenchyme (yellow  
3 arrowheads) at both time points (**Fig. 5F-K,M-R**). While *prrx1b* and *twist1a* labeled the arches  
4 and fin buds (**Fig. 5F,G,M,N**), *barx1* was observed in the arches, but not the fin buds (**Fig.**  
5 **5I,J,P,Q**), confirming that *barx1* labels a subset of the mesenchyme populations.

6 Overall, our combined curation, clustering, and HCR analysis has revealed an incredible  
7 diversity among the mesenchyme and suggests that mesenchymal cells in the posterior zebrafish  
8 exist in various subpopulations and exhibit dynamic transcriptional states during their  
9 development. Furthermore, these results show that our analysis pipeline can pinpoint previously  
10 unknown discrete subpopulations in complex developing tissues.

11

### 12 ***Sox10-derived cells during the embryonic to early larval transition reveal enteric*** 13 ***progenitor to enteric neuron progression***

14 At 48-50 hpf, cells with neural crest cell identity gene signatures were notably detected in  
15 Cluster 5, defined by expression of the markers *sox10*, *foxd3*, *crestin*, and *tfap2a* (**Fig. 2C-F; Fig.**  
16 **6A, Fig. S3**) (Dutton et al., 2001; Luo et al., 2001; Knight et al., 2003; Stewart et al., 2006). In  
17 addition to the core genes, Cluster 5 cells also contained genes previously shown to be expressed  
18 in zebrafish neural crest cells; including *vim*, *snai1b*, *sox9b*, *zeb2a*, *mych*, and *mmp17b* (**Fig. 6D**)  
19 (Cerdà et al., 1998; Heffer et al., 2017; Hong et al., 2008; Leigh et al., 2013; van Otterloo et al.,  
20 2012; Wang et al., 2011; Rocha et al., 2020). We reasoned that many of the neural crest cells  
21 had started their respective differentiation programs and were beginning to assume specified  
22 genetic profiles. Therefore, we sought to determine if the Neural Crest cell cluster also contained  
23 gene expression profiles of known differentiating neural crest cell types along the posterior body,  
24 such as enteric neural crest cells (ENCCs).

1           During neural crest cell diversification, ENCCs fated to give rise to the enteric nervous  
2 system (ENS) express a combination of neural crest and enteric progenitor marker genes over  
3 developmental time (reviewed in Nagy and Goldstein, 2017; Rao and Gershon, 2018), which  
4 occurs between 32 to 72 hpf in zebrafish (reviewed in Ganz, 2018). Enteric markers in zebrafish  
5 include *sox10*, *phox2bb*, *ret*, *gfra1a*, *meis3*, and *zeb2a* (Dutton et al., 2001; Shepherd et al., 2004;  
6 Elworthy et al., 2005; Delalande et al., 2008; Heanue and Pachnis, 2008; Uribe and Bronner,  
7 2015). Given the developmental timing of early ENS formation in zebrafish as occurring between  
8 32 to 72 hpf, we expected to capture a population of ENCCs within our 48-50 hpf data set. Indeed,  
9 within Cluster 5 we observed expression of the enteric markers *phox2bb*, *ret*, *gfra1a*, *meis3*,  
10 *sox10*, and *zeb2a* (**Fig. 6B-D**). Using wholemount *in situ* hybridization, we confirmed the  
11 expression of *sox10* and *phox2bb* within ENCCs along the foregut via at 48 hpf (**Fig. S7**;  
12 arrowheads). Furthermore, gene orthologs known to be expressed in ENCC in amniotes were  
13 detected within this cluster, such as *ngfrb* (orthologue to p75) (Anderson et al., 2006; Wilson et  
14 al., 2004) and *hoxb5b* (orthologous to *Hoxb5*) (Kam and Lui, 2015; Kam et al., 2014; Jarinova et  
15 al. 2008) (**Fig. 6B-D; Fig. S3**).

16           HCR analysis of 48 hpf embryos validated the co-expression profiles of several ENCC  
17 markers along the foregut (**Fig. 6E-F**; foregut in grey box). Co-expression analysis demonstrated  
18 that a chain of *crestin*<sup>+</sup> cells localized in the foregut contained a subpopulation of cells expressing  
19 *ngfrb*, *phox2bb*, and *gfra1a* (**Fig. 6E**; white arrowheads), or expressing *foxd3*, *ngfrb*, and *gfra1a*  
20 (**Fig. 6F**; white arrowheads). Together, these HCR data reveal for the first time a quadruple  
21 positive population of ENCCs within the zebrafish gut, confirming ENCC markers are co-  
22 expressed.

23           We next asked if we could resolve discrete differentiating enteric neurons over time (**Fig.**  
24 **7**). In zebrafish, by 72 hpf ENCCs have migrated throughout the length of the gut and begun early  
25 neuron differentiation and neural patterning (Elworthy et al., 2005; Olden et al., 2008; Harrison et

1 al., 2014; Uribe and Bronner, 2015; Taylor et al., 2016). During early neuronal differentiation,  
2 ENCCs display differential enteric progenitor gene expression patterns (Taylor et al., 2016) and  
3 neurochemical signatures representative of varying stages of neuronal differentiation and subtype  
4 diversification (Poon et al., 2003; Holmqvist et al., 2004; Uyttebroek et al., 2010). Zebrafish early  
5 differentiating enteric neurons have been characterized by the RNA expression of *sox10*,  
6 *phox2bb*, *gfra1a*, *fgf13b*, and *ret*, as well as the immunoreactivity of Elavl3/4 (Shepherd et al.,  
7 2004; Heanue and Pachnis, 2008; Uyttebroek et al., 2010; Taylor et al., 2016). In addition, at this  
8 time, enteric neurons express multiple neurochemical markers, with *Nos1* being most prominent  
9 (Olden et al., 2008; Uyttebroek et al., 2010), a finding consistent with studies performed within  
10 the amniote ENS (Hao and Young, 2009; Matini et al., 1995; Qu et al., 2008; Heanue et al., 2016).  
11 In light of these previous observations, our 68-70 hpf data set was expected to contain the  
12 transcriptomes of ENCCs captured at various stages of their progressive differentiation into the  
13 diverse subtypes of the ENS.

14 tSNE analyses identified differentiating enteric neurons within the 68-70 hpf data set  
15 based off of the combinatorial expression of *elavl3*, *phox2bb*, *ret*, and *gfra1a* (**Fig. 7A**), which  
16 mapped to the Neural/Neuronal Major Cell Type regions of the data set (**Fig. 3D**), comprising  
17 Clusters 5 and 12 (**Fig. 3B**). Transcripts that encode for the neurochemical marker *nos1*, and the  
18 neuropeptides *vip* and *vipb*, a paralogue to *vip* (Gaudet et al., 2011), were found in a  
19 subpopulation of enteric neurons localized to a distal group of the Neuronal cluster, likely  
20 indicative of a differentiating enteric neuron subtype (**Fig. 7A**; red arrows; **Fig S6**). We then  
21 queried for the presence of a combination of pan-neuronal and enteric neuron markers (**Fig. 7B**).  
22 Notably, the pan-neuronal markers *tuba2*, *elavl3*, *stx1b*, and *gng2/3*, as well as the autonomic  
23 neuron markers, *phox2a* and *phox2bb* (Gou et al., 2018; Hans et al., 2013), were present in both  
24 Clusters 5 and 12 (**Fig. 7B**). However, the enteric neuron markers, *gfra1a*, *ret*, *hoxb5b*, *ngfrb*,  
25 *fgf13b*, *nos1*, *vipb*, and *vip* were mostly confined to Cluster 12, suggesting that this cluster

1 contained differentiating enteric neurons (**Fig. 7B**). Indeed, HCR analysis validated the  
2 spatiotemporal expression of *phox2bb*, *nos1*, *vipb*, and *elavl3* transcripts in ENCCs throughout  
3 the foregut of the zebrafish embryo by 69 hpf (**Fig. 7C**; yellow arrowheads). These results suggest  
4 that *elavl3*<sup>+</sup>/*phox2bb*<sup>+</sup> early differentiating enteric neurons in the foregut display an inhibitory  
5 neurochemical signature, consistent with prior observations in zebrafish and mammalian ENS  
6 (Olden et al., 2008; Hao and Young, 2009).

7 In an effort to examine the enteric neuron populations with finer resolution, Clusters 5 and  
8 12 were subset from the main data set in Seurat, re-clustered and visualized using a tSNE plot,  
9 producing 5 new clusters (**Fig. 7D**). The top significantly expressed markers from each new Sub-  
10 Cluster are provided in **Table S2**. Following this, the previously mentioned enteric neuron  
11 markers, with the addition of *etv1*, a recently identified marker of enteric intrinsic primary afferent  
12 neurons (IPANs) in mouse (Morarach et al., 2020), were queried and visualized using dot and  
13 feature plots allowing the identification of Sub-Cluster 4 as a differentiated enteric neuron cluster  
14 (**Fig. 7E-F**). Both *nos1* and *vipb* were enriched in Sub-Cluster 4 (**Fig. 7G**). Interestingly, while  
15 expressed at lower average levels than in Sub-Cluster 4, the enteric combination markers were  
16 also present in Sub-Cluster 1 (**Fig. 7E,G**). Sub-Cluster 1 formed a central point from which Sub-  
17 Cluster 4 could be seen emanating as a distal population (**Fig. 7D**). Given the developmental  
18 timing, this is likely depicting enteric neurons captured at different stages along their progressive  
19 differentiation, which would suggest that the distal most population represents the more mature  
20 enteric neurons (**Fig. 7D-E**).

21 Given our hypothesis that the enteric neurons further along a differentiation program were  
22 localized to the distal tip of Sub-Cluster 4, we asked whether this population of cells contained  
23 additional neurochemical or neuron subtype specific differentiation genes. As expected, a small  
24 pocket of these cells was found to contain the two acetylcholine associated genes, acetylcholine  
25 esterase (*ache*) (Bertrand et al., 2001; Huang et al., 2019) and vesicular acetylcholine transferase

1 (*slc18a3a*) (Hong et al., 2013; Zoli, 2000) (**Fig. 7G**; red arrowheads). Within Sub-Cluster 4, we  
2 detected the expression of *calb2a* and *pbx3b* (**Fig. 7G**), two genes that have previously been  
3 shown to specify myenteric IPANs in mammals (Furness et al., 2004; Memic et al., 2018).  
4 Corroborating our single-cell findings, HCR analysis revealed the co-expression of *pbx3b*, *calb2a*,  
5 *vipb*, *nos1*, and *slc18a3a* in discrete enteric neurons within the foregut region of the zebrafish gut  
6 at 68 hpf (**Fig. 7H**). In particular, *calb2a*, *vipb*, *nos1*, and *slc18a3a* were all found to be co-  
7 expressed (**Fig. 7H**; yellow arrowheads). While *pbx3* expression was found in combination with  
8 *calb2a*, *vipb*, and *nos1* (**Fig. 7H**; white arrowheads), in agreement with our transcriptome data  
9 (**Fig. 7G**), we were unable to observe detectable levels of *slc18a3a* within the *pbx3b* expressing  
10 cells.

11 Taken together, these data regarding enteric neuron subpopulations suggest a model  
12 (**Fig. 7I**), whereby *nos1*, *vipb*, *calb2a*, and *pbx3b* are co-expressed within early enteric neurons,  
13 and that through lineage-restricted gene expression, *pbx3b* expression may promote the  
14 assumption of an IPAN signature characterized by the presence of *calb2a*, *ache*, and *slc18a3a*  
15 and the loss of inhibitor markers *nos1* and *vipb*. Therefore, our single-cell analysis in zebrafish  
16 suggests that the transcriptional emergence of specific enteric neuron subtypes may be  
17 conserved between vertebrate species.

## 18 ***Atlas of sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup> cell types encompassing the embryonic-to-larval transition***

19  
20  
21 To describe the dynamic relationship between the *sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup>* cells across both time  
22 points, we merged the 48-50 hpf and 68-70 hpf data sets using Seurat's data set and Integration  
23 and Label Transfer utility (Stuart et al., 2019). The merged data sets were visualized via UMAP  
24 (Becht et al., 2019; Mcinnes et al., 2018), which allowed us to describe the transition between cell  
25 types by making both inter- and intra-cluster comparisons. After integrating the two data sets, we  
26 observed that every cluster identified in the 48-50 hpf data set mapped proximally to clusters at  
27 68-70 hpf (**Fig. S8A**).

1 We next labeled each cell using the Major Cell Type categories: Neural, Neuronal, Glial,  
2 Neural Crest, Pigment, Mesenchyme, Otic, and Muscle, as in Fig. 2 and 3, forming a major cell  
3 type Atlas across both time points (**Fig. S8B**). Further refinement of these cell identities based on  
4 our previous curation (**Fig. S3**) allowed us to form a higher resolution Atlas for each cell type  
5 (**Fig.8A**). The top significantly enriched markers for each major cell type category in the Atlas is  
6 provided in **Table S3**. The overall architecture of the UMAP revealed that the cells of each major  
7 cell type congregated together, which strongly supports that our formerly described  
8 characterizations of each time point are accurate and predictive. For example, cells with  
9 Mesenchyme identity constellated together, forming three large Mesenchyme regions in the Atlas:  
10 General, Chondrogenic, and Fin bud (**Fig. 8A,B**). Neural crest cells mapped precisely to the top  
11 end of a Neural/Neuronal region of the Atlas, which then transitioned into Schwann cells laterally  
12 and differentiating neurons at the base (**Fig. 8A,D**). Additionally, Pigment cell types aligned  
13 adjacent to one another in the Atlas (**Fig. 8A,C**). Validation of cellular subtypes within the Atlas  
14 can be found in the supplement **Fig. S8D**. Overall, these concurrent cluster regions not only  
15 support our previous characterizations of each cell type, but also function as an informative  
16 resource data set for the scientific community (**Fig. S8C**).

17 Comparison of individual subsets of clusters may provide deeper analysis of each cell  
18 type, with respect to changing cell states across time. To explore this, we examined three of the  
19 largest regions of the Atlas in detail: Mesenchyme, Pigment, and Neural/Neuronal cell types.

20 We observed a remarkable consistency across the larger Mesenchyme population, which  
21 excluded the Fin bud mesenchyme, in both the cluster identity shown in the UMAP and gene  
22 expression profiles. First, we examined cells in the main Mesenchyme clusters (**Fig. 8B**); 9  
23 clusters (Clusters 1-4, 6, 9-12) originated from the 48-50 hpf data set and 5 clusters (Clusters  
24 0,2,6,8, and 20) derived from 68-70 hpf. For example, 48h-Cluster 2 and 68h-Cluster 8 both  
25 showed a very high degree of similarity, as well as consistent *barx1*, *dlx2a*, and *twist1a*  
26 expression, consistent with our prior analysis (**Fig. 5**). Further, 48h-Clusters 11 and 12 shared a



1 common identity with 68h-Cluster 0, as noted by the strong expression of both *foxc1a*, and *prrx1b*.  
2 Lastly, 48h-Clusters 1, 6, 9, and 10 overlapped with 68h-Clusters 2, 6, and 20, marked by their  
3 common expression of *snai1a* (**Fig. 8B**).

4 The central node of the Pigment region within the Atlas was marked by the 48h-Cluster 8,  
5 which resolved into respective pigment chromatophore clusters at 68-70 hpf (**Fig. 8C**). We were  
6 able to globally discern that pigment cell types displayed expression of *sox10*, regardless of time  
7 point. In particular, as expected from our previous analysis, we observed the early specified  
8 melanophore population at 48h-Cluster 8 branched into later stage melanophore populations  
9 (69h-Clusters 4 and 18), both of which expressed *mitfa* and *dct*. Further, we observed that the  
10 common bi-potent pigment progenitor population (68h-Cluster 13) bridged both melanophore  
11 clusters and the iridophore 68h-Cluster 16; we observed that the iridophores, marked by *tfec* and  
12 *gpnmb*, segregated distinctly away from the melanophores. This nested positioning of 68h-Cluster  
13 13 supports its dual progenitor identity. Lastly, Xanthophores, marked by *xdh*, segregated tightly  
14 away from the remaining pigment populations, reflective of their earlier and distinct lineage (**Fig.**  
15 **4A**).

16 Cells within the Neural/Neuronal clusters of the Atlas self-organized such that progenitor  
17 cells bridged into differentiating neurons spatially from the top to the bottom of the  
18 Neural/Neuronal region of the Atlas (**Fig. 8D**). Within this region, 6 clusters (Clusters 0, 5, 7, 13,  
19 15, 17) were represented from 48-50 hpf, and 5 clusters (Clusters 3, 5, 10, 12, 14) from 68-70  
20 hpf. The 68-70 hpf Neural progenitor populations (Clusters 3 and 10) shared common gene  
21 expression with the 48-50 hpf Neural Crest population (48h-Cluster 5), reflected largely by their  
22 co-expression of *sox10*, *notch1a*, *dla*, and *foxd3* (**Fig. 8D**; **Fig. S8D**). We confirmed the  
23 spatiotemporal expression domains of *notch1a* and *dla* along the hindbrain, spinal cord, and in  
24 NCC populations along the post-otic vagal domain at 48 hpf (**Fig. S7E,F**; arrowheads), in  
25 particular with *dla* in the ENCCs along the foregut (**Fig. S7F**; arrow), a pattern similar to the ENCC



1 makers *sox10* and *phox2bb* (**Fig. S7A,B**). Delineated from the Neural progenitor cells, we  
2 observed a bifurcation in the cell states; with one moving towards a Schwann/Glial cell fate, while  
3 the other branched towards Neuronal. The Glial arm followed a natural progression of earlier cell  
4 fates at 48-50 hpf (48h-Cluster 15) toward the more mature fates at 68-70 hpf (68h-Cluster 14).  
5 Together, these Glial fates were denoted by the expression of *olig2* and *pou3f1*, respectively.  
6 Beginning with 48h-Cluster 13, we observed the beginning of the neuronal populations, namely  
7 48h-Clusters 0, 7, 13, and 17 and 68h-Clusters 5 and 12. Cells in these clusters patterned in the  
8 Atlas UMAP such that the progenitor clusters (48h-Clusters 0, 13, and 17; 69h-Cluster 5) form a  
9 spectrum of cell states leading toward the neuronal populations (48h-Cluster 7; 69h-Cluster  
10 12). Among the Neuronal populations, we observed a clear autonomic signature, indicated by  
11 *phox2a* and *phox2bb* (**Fig. 8D; Fig. S8D**). More strikingly, we also detected a large fraction of  
12 enteric progenitors, indicated by *ret*, *ngfrb*, and *hoxb5b* expression, (**Fig. 8D; Fig. S8D**)  
13 supporting our previous observations (**Fig. 6-7**). The enteric progenitors culminated into a pool of  
14 enteric neurons, with the specific neural signature: *vipb*, *nos1*, *gfra1a*, *fgf13b*, and *etv1* (**Fig. 8D;**  
15 **Fig. S8D**). Together, these data corroborate our previous findings (**Fig. 7**) through a secondary  
16 reassessment of our data sets and they generate a catalogued Atlas resource for the community  
17 to use for their own research questions regarding *sox10*-expressing and *sox10*-derived cells.

## 18 19 ***A hox gene signature within sox10-derived cells in the posterior fish***

20 A common theme examined by many recent and insightful single cell profile studies of the  
21 neural crest (Dash and Trainor, 2020; Soldatov et al., 2019) is that *hox* genes display marking  
22 expression patterns. *Hox* genes are uniquely suited to help provide spatial information about the  
23 cells within our data sets as the expression of *hox* genes strongly correlates with discrete rostral-  
24 to-caudal positions (Dash and Trainor, 2020). To analyze if we could detect *hox* gene patterns  
25 within our own data set, we queried all the known canonical *hox* genes within zebrafish as listed  
26 on zfin.org (Ruzicka et al., 2019). We detected broad expression of 45 *hox* genes across the Atlas

1 (Fig. 9A,B), which identified all but four genes (*hoxc1a*, *hoxc12b*, *hoxa11a*, and *hoxa3a*), which  
2 were not examined further.

3 Several trends quickly emerged within the Atlas between discrete *hox* expression  
4 signatures and select cell types. A core *hox* profile demarcated the general Neural/Neuronal  
5 identities, which included; *hoxa4a*, *hoxb1b*, *hoxb2a*, *hoxb3a*, *hoxb5a*, *hoxb5b*, *hoxc1a*, *hoxc3a*,  
6 *hoxd3a*, and *hoxd4a* (Fig. 9A,C). This core *hox* signature applied generally to the Neural Crest,  
7 Neural Progenitors, Enteric Progenitors, Enteric Neurons, Glial progenitors, Autonomic neuronal  
8 progenitors, and CNS neurons within the Atlas. Generally, these *hox* genes are expressed  
9 strongest in the pre- and post-otic regions, with particular enrichment in the hindbrain/vagal axial  
10 domains, though expression can be detected posteriorly (Veraksa et al., 2000; Barsh et al., 2017).  
11 While Glial fates, encompassed by the Glial progenitors and Schwann cells, retained the *hox*  
12 pattern, they exhibited overall decreased *hox* expression, when compared with Neuronal  
13 populations (Fig. 9A). The *hox* gene Neural/Neuronal signature likely correlates with the discrete  
14 spatial vagal-level and anterior spinal cord-level domains within which the populations originate  
15 and also provides a ground work for further experimental validation of the combinatorial role the  
16 *hox* genes may play in differentiation of NCC-derived neural cell fates in the posterior embryo.

17 While a common Neuronal/Neural *hox* signature was evident among *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells,  
18 further inspection of the Atlas revealed several subtle, yet distinct signatures which distinguish  
19 several cell types. First, when considered with the general neural *hox* signature, it was possible  
20 to distinguish the enteric fated cells purely by their *hox* code. The enteric progenitors and enteric  
21 neurons were segregated from the other neural groups based on their uniquely strong expression  
22 of *hoxa5a* (Fig. 9D). Moreover, both enteric groups lacked strong expression for *hox* genes that  
23 marked other neurons, such as *hoxa9a*, *hoxb7a*, *hoxb10a*, *hoxc1a*, and *hoxc5a* (Fig. 9A,F,G).  
24 Secondly, while Autonomic neuronal progenitors did not deviate largely from the general neural  
25 *hox* signature, they also displayed prominent enrichment of *hoxa4a*, *hoxc5a*, and *hoxc6a*. A CNS

1 signature was broadly evident within the general neural signature, with representation of most  
2 *hox* genes, including the genes *hoxa9a*, *hoxd10a*, and *hoxd10a*, factors which are expressed  
3 posterior to the vagal axial region. Overall, the *hox* gene signatures highlight the axial specificity  
4 of both the general autonomic and enteric *hox* signatures within the *sox10* Atlas.

5 With respect to the remaining cluster identities (**Fig. 9A**), many of the populations showed  
6 varied *hox* expression profiles. Both the Chondrogenic and General Mesenchyme clusters  
7 demonstrated *hoxa2b* expression, as well as weak expression for *hoxb2a*, *hoxb3a*, and *hoxd4a*.  
8 Our detection of these *hox* expression profiles was consistent with prior reports that they are  
9 expressed within NCC targets toward the posterior pharyngeal arches, as well as migrating NCC  
10 (Minoux and Rijli, 2010; Parker et al., 2018, 2019). We detected the distinct identity of the Fin Bud  
11 mesenchyme (Ahn and Ho, 2008; Nakamura et al., 2016 ) through the expression of *hoxa9b*,  
12 *hoxa10b*, *hoxa11b*, *hoxa11b*, *hoxa13b*, *hoxd9a*, and *hoxd12a* (**Fig. 9A,E**). The pigment  
13 populations, including the Pigment progenitors, Melanophores, Iridophores, and Xanthophores,  
14 contained generally low levels of *hox* gene expression. Despite this, we still observed a slight  
15 variation of *hox* expression among the pigment populations. For example, low levels of *hoxa4a*,  
16 *hoxb7a*, *hoxb8a*, *hoxc3a*, and *hoxd4a* were detected among the Iridophore population, while only  
17 *hoxb7a* was detected within a high fraction of Xanthophores (**Fig. 9A,G**). Interestingly, these  
18 expression profiles are not shared by the Melanophore population, which displayed uniformly very  
19 low levels of detectable *hox* expression. Lastly, the Muscle, Otic Epithelium, and Unidentified cells  
20 showed almost no *hox* expression profile, which serves a foil for the specificity of the signatures  
21 outlined. We noted that the “Pigmented Muscle” cluster weakly mirrored the general neural *hox*  
22 signature, likely a shared signature more reflective of the axial position of the muscle cells rather  
23 than a shared genetic profile, as corroborated by their distinct separation of the clusters on the  
24 UMAP.

1 Overall, these above described *hox* signatures detected within our scRNA-seq Atlas  
2 suggests that distinct cell types may utilize unique *hox* combinations during their delineation.  
3 Furthermore, these data highlight the specificity and integrity of our cell identity curation, without  
4 which we would not be able to identify these remarkably distinct *hox* signatures. Description of  
5 the *hox* signatures within this Atlas provides further tools to identify these discrete cell populations,  
6 as well as exciting new avenues for further mechanistic investigation.

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## 14 **DISCUSSION**

15 We present a single cell transcriptomic Atlas resource capturing the diversity of posterior-  
16 residing *sox10*-derived cells during the embryonic (48-50 hpf) to early larval transition (68-70 hpf)  
17 in zebrafish. From our analysis, we identified a large number of neural crest-derived cell types;  
18 including pigment progenitor cells delineating into distinct chromatophores, as well as neural  
19 crest, glial, neural, neuronal, and mesenchymal cells at high resolution, extending prior whole  
20 embryo-based zebrafish single cell studies (Farnsworth et al., 2020) and expanding the resolution  
21 at which these cells have been described to date. We discovered that distinct *hox* transcriptional  
22 codes demarcate differentiating neural and neuronal populations, highlighting their potential roles  
23 during cell subtype specification. We also uncovered evolutionarily-conserved transcriptional  
24 signatures of differentiating enteric neuron cell types, thereby expanding our knowledge of enteric  
25 nervous system development. Corroborating our transcriptomic characterizations, we validated  
26 the spatiotemporal expression of several key cell type markers using HCR. Furthermore, our data  
27 sets captured otic vesicle and muscle cells, populations which the *sox10*:GFP line has been  
28 characterized as marking, and may be useful for investigating these cell types in the future.

1 Collectively, this comprehensive cell type Atlas can be used by the wider scientific community as  
2 a valuable resource for further mechanistic and evolutionary investigation of *sox10*-expressing  
3 and neural crest-derived cells during development and the ontogenesis of neurocristopathies.

4 Analysis of pigment populations demonstrated the accuracy and specificity of our  
5 transcriptome data sets and identified distinct neural crest-derived differentiating chromatophore  
6 lineages during the embryonic to larval transition, extending on previous descriptions of pigment  
7 cell lineage development performed in older larval and juvenile zebrafish at single cell resolution  
8 (Saunders et al., 2019). Specific markers for each chromatophore population have been  
9 documented at different time points during zebrafish development (Higdon et al., 2013; Petratou  
10 et al., 2018, 2019; Saunders et al., 2019), including *mitfa*, *tfec*, *atic*, and *xdh*, thus serving as a  
11 touchstone to validate both the precision and consistency of our analysis pipeline (**Fig. 4**).  
12 Specifically, melanophores (Cluster 8) were identified in the 48-50 hpf data set (**Fig. 4B,C**), while  
13 at 68-70 hpf we identified iridophore, xanthophore, pigment progenitor, and two distinct  
14 melanophore populations (**Fig. 4D-G**). We employed the robust characterization of these pigment  
15 populations to validate technical aspects of integrating both time points into a single, cohesive  
16 Atlas (**Fig. 8A**). The Atlas UMAP shows a common progenitor population branching into both the  
17 iridophores and the melanophores, which are composed of the melanophore progenitor cluster  
18 from 48-50 hpf and the two melanophore clusters at 68-70 hpf (**Fig. 8C**). We validated the results  
19 regarding pigment population gene signatures using wholemount HCR on 48-50 hpf and 68-70  
20 hpf embryos (**Fig. 4 H-J**). Thus, our validation of pigment populations highlights that the *sox10*  
21 Atlas can be used to identify cell lineages and discover new information regarding their  
22 development in zebrafish.

23 Our data sets captured the transition from enteric neural progenitor to differentiating  
24 enteric neuron subtype (**Fig. 6,7,8**). We found that in both 48-50 and 68-70 hpf data sets, the  
25 expression of *elavl3*, *phox2bb*, *ret*, and *gfra1a* transcripts were present (**Fig. 6,7**); however,

1 enteric progenitor populations at 48-50 hpf still retained a neural crest signature, marked by  
2 *crestin* and *foxd3*, among others (**Fig. 6**). The combined Atlas revealed broad transcriptional  
3 states captured within enteric neural progenitors and enteric neurons (**Fig. 8D**), whereby *elavl3*,  
4 *phox2bb*, *ret*, *ngfrb*, and *gfra1a* could be seen extending throughout the Neural/Neuronal regions  
5 of the Atlas. A similar enteric progenitor population consisting of *Sox10*, *Ret*, *Phox2b*, and *Elavl4*  
6 was identified by scRNA-seq in the mouse (Lasrado et al., 2017), indicating zebrafish express  
7 conserved enteric programs. Notably, genes that encode for neurochemicals within enteric  
8 neurons were detected in the enteric clusters, with *nos1* and *vipb* being most prominent (**Fig. 8D**)  
9 and co-expressed in a subset of cells among the enteric neuron population along the foregut (**Fig**  
10 **7A-C**). Collectively, these results regarding enteric populations suggest that the Atlas likely  
11 reflects cells captured across a spectrum of differentiation states, with immature neurons  
12 reflecting the onset of *elavl3* expression, while others, such as the *nos1<sup>+</sup>/vipb<sup>+</sup>* subpopulation,  
13 representing cells further along a differentiation trajectory.

14 A recent scRNA-seq study performed using E15.5 mice, a time point further along in ENS  
15 development when compared to our zebrafish study described here, suggests that *Nos1<sup>+</sup>/Vip<sup>+</sup>*  
16 cells represent a post-mitotic immature neuron population capable of branching into excitatory  
17 and inhibitory neurons via subsequent differentiation mediated by lineage-restricted gene  
18 expression (Morarach et al., 2020). Their model posits that *Nos1<sup>+</sup>/Vip<sup>+</sup>/Gal<sup>+</sup>* enteric neurons are  
19 capable of assuming an intrinsic primary afferents neuron (IPAN) signature, characterized by the  
20 loss of *Vip* and *Nos1*, and the gain of *Calb*, *Slc18a2/3*, and *Ntng1*; a process regulated by  
21 transcription factors, *Pbx3* and *Etv1*. This model of IPAN formation appears congruent with a  
22 previous birth dating study performed in mice, where researchers demonstrated the transient  
23 expression of *Nos1* in enteric neurons (Bergner et al., 2014). We wondered if the IPAN gene  
24 expression signature was evolutionarily conserved in zebrafish. Testing this spatiotemporal gene  
25 signature model in our own data sets, we asked if the *nos1<sup>+</sup>/vipb<sup>+</sup>* population represented a

1 snapshot of immature enteric neurons. We found that *pbx3b*, *etv1*, *calb2a*, *slc18a3a*, *ache*, *vipb*,  
2 and *nos1* were all expressed in differentiating enteric neuron clusters (**Fig. 7F-G; Fig. S6A**), likely  
3 reflecting their transition to an IPAN fate in our 68-70 hpf data set. Intriguingly, we discovered that  
4 the markers tightly mapped to a subpopulation of cells in an enteric neuron sub-cluster (**Fig. 7G**,  
5 red arrows) and that *nos1* was either absent or expressed at lower levels than other enteric  
6 subpopulations (**Fig. 7F; S6A**), a finding that corroborates the proposed mammalian model. Our  
7 observations in zebrafish suggest that we captured a transitional time point where subsequent  
8 differentiation is just being initiated and suggests an evolutionarily-conserved mechanism of ENS  
9 formation across vertebrate species.

10 The study of neural crest-derived posterior cell types has recently gained increased  
11 attention due to their complex and essential roles in vertebrate development (Gandhi et al., 2020;  
12 Hutchins et al., 2018; Soldatov et al., 2019; Ling and Sauka-Spengler, 2019). Characterizing the  
13 differentiation of neural crest-derived cells is important to understand as it will enhance our  
14 concept of human health, especially to fields such as stem cell therapeutics and regenerative  
15 medicine. While prior studies provide incredible insight into their own respective research  
16 systems, our paper is the first single-cell transcriptomic analysis covering detailed description of  
17 the early development of enteric nervous system in fish, in addition to a high resolution analysis  
18 of the *sox10*<sup>+</sup> mesenchyme and pigment cells present during the late embryonic to larval phase.  
19 The developmental window we examined, the embryonic to larval transition, is regarded as an  
20 ephemeral phase (Singleman and Holtzman, 2014) and as such is expected to contain the  
21 dynamic cell differentiation states that we observed within our Atlas. Indeed, our identification of  
22 diverse cell states among the neural crest-derived cells mirrors cell types and transcriptional  
23 signatures detected in amniote embryos across comparable time points (Soldatov et al., 2019;  
24 Ling and Sauka-Spengler, 2019), extending the same powerful insight to the zebrafish model and

1 suggesting the regulatory mechanisms that dictate cell fate specification are conserved between  
2 anamniotes and amniotes.

3 In summary, our study greatly increases our foundational understanding of neural crest-  
4 derived cell fates, as well as other *sox10*<sup>+</sup> posterior cell types in zebrafish, thereby complementing  
5 ongoing studies in mammalian models and expanding fundamental knowledge of how cells  
6 diversify in developing organisms. The spatiotemporal information contained within our zebrafish  
7 Atlas will serve as a resource for the developmental biology, stem cell, evolutionary biology and  
8 organogenesis communities.

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## 1 **METHODS & MATERIALS**

### 2 ***Animal Husbandry, Care, & Synchronous Embryo Collection***

3 Adult *Tg(-4.9sox10:GFP; ba2Tg)* (Carney et al., 2006) zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) were bred to  
4 generate synchronously staged embryos across several clutches. All embryos were cultured in  
5 standard E3 media until 24 hours post fertilization (hpf), then transferred to a 1X 1-phenyl 2-  
6 thiourea (PTU)/E3 solution (Karlsson et al., 2001), to arrest melanin formation. Embryos were  
7 manually sorted for GFP expression and synchronously staged at 24 hpf. Embryos which  
8 exhibited developmental delay or other defects were removed. All work was performed under  
9 protocols approved by, and in accordance with, the Rice University Institutional Animal Care and  
10 Use Committee (IACUC).

11

### 12 ***Isolation of Tissue & Preparation of Single Cell Suspension***

13 Embryos between 48-50 hpf and/or larvae between 68-70 hpf were dechorionated manually and  
14 then transferred to 1X sterile filtered PBS, supplemented with 0.4% Tricane (Sigma, A5040) to  
15 anesthetize. Tissue anterior to the otic vesicle and tissue immediately posterior to the anal vent  
16 was manually removed using fine forceps in 48-50 hpf embryos, while only tissue anterior to the  
17 otic vesicle was removed from 68-70 hpf larvae, as schematized in Fig. 1. Remaining tissue  
18 segments were separated into nuclease-free eppendorf tubes and kept on ice immediately  
19 following dissection. Dissections proceeded over the course of 1 hour. To serve as control for  
20 subsequent steps, similarly staged AB WT embryos were euthanized in tricaine and then  
21 transferred to sterile 1X PBS. All following steps were conducted rapidly in parallel to minimize  
22 damage to cells: Excess PBS was removed and tissue was digested in 37°C 1X Accumax buffer  
23 (Sigma-Aldrich, A7089) for 30-45 minutes to generate a single cell suspension for each sample.  
24 Digestion was monitored very closely for total suspension of all tissue. At 10 minute intervals,  
25 tissue was gently manually disrupted with a sterile pipette tip. Single cell suspensions were then  
26 transferred to a fresh chilled sterile conical tube and diluted 1:5 in ice cold Hank's Buffer (1x

1 HBSS; 2.5 mg/mL BSA; 10 $\mu$ M pH8 HEPES) to arrest the digestion. Cells were concentrated by  
2 centrifugation at 200 rcf for 10 minutes at 4°C. Supernatant was discarded carefully and cell  
3 pellets were resuspended in a small volume of Hank's Buffer. Cell solution was passed through  
4 a 40  $\mu$ m sterile cell strainer to remove any remaining undigested tissue and then centrifuged as  
5 above. Concentrated cells were resuspended in ice cold sterile 1X PBS and transferred to a tube  
6 suitable for FACS kept on ice.

### 7 8 ***Fluorescent Cell Sorting, & Single Cell Sequencing***

9 Fluorescent Assisted Cell Sorting (FACS) was performed under the guidance of the Cytometry  
10 and Cell Sorting Core at Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX) using a BD FACSAria II (BD  
11 Biosciences). Zebrafish cells sorted via GFP fluorescence excited by a 488 nm laser, relying on  
12 an 85  $\mu$ m nozzle for cell selection. Detection of GFP<sup>+</sup> cells was calibrated against GFP<sup>-</sup> cells  
13 collected from AB wildtype embryos, as well as GFP<sup>+</sup> cells collected from the anterior portions of  
14 the *sox10*:GFP embryos.

15 Sample preparation for scRNA-seq was performed by [Advanced Technology Genomics](#)  
16 [Core \(ATGC\)](#) at MD Anderson (Houston, TX). FACS-isolated cells were run on a 10X Genomics  
17 Chromium platform using 10X Single Cell 3' V2 chemistry kit for 10,000 cells. Sequencing of  
18 libraries was conducted on an Illumina NextSeq500. Sequencing was aligned at MD Anderson  
19 ATGC to the DanioGRCz10 version of the zebrafish genome using the 10X Genomics Cell  
20 Ranger software (v2.1.0) (Zheng et al., 2017). Mitochondrial genes were regressed out from the  
21 data set during the Cell Ranger alignment. Gene reads per cell were stored in a matrix format for  
22 further analysis.

### 23 24 ***Data Processing & Analysis***

25 The 10x genomics sequencing data was then analyzed using Seurat (Satija et al., 2015, Stuart et  
26 al. 2019, Butler et al., 2018) v3.1.1 software package for R, v3.6.3 (R Core Team, 2020). The  
27 standard workflow was followed for data processing. Briefly, for both the 48-50 hpf and 68-70 hpf

1 data sets, cells which contained low (<200) or high (>2500) genes were removed from analysis.  
2 Gene expression was normalized using the NormalizeData command, opting for the LogNormalize  
3 method (Scale factor set at 10,000) and further centered using the ScaleData command. Variable  
4 features of the data set were calculated with respect to groups of 2,000 genes at a time. Both  
5 data sets were evaluated considering the first 20 principle components (PC) as determined by  
6 the RunPCA command with a resolution of 1.2 for PCA, tSNE, and UMAP analyses. The  
7 appropriate PCs were selected based on a Jack Straw analysis with a significance of  $P < 0.01$ .  
8 Clustering was performed using FindNeighbors and FindClusters in series. We identified 19  
9 clusters in the 48-50 hpf data set and 23 clusters in the 68-70 hpf data set. All cluster identities  
10 were carefully manually curated via combinatorial expression analysis of published marker genes.  
11 Generation of the merged Atlas was performed via the FindIntegrationAnchors workflow provided  
12 in the Standard Workflow found on the Seurat Integration and Label Transfer vignette. Clustering  
13 was performed for the Atlas based on the first 20 PCs, consistent with the original data sets.  
14 Subsets of the Atlas in Fig. 8B-D discounted any spuriously sorted cells for clarity. All features  
15 plots represent expression values derived from the RNA assay. Subclustering of the enteric  
16 neurons was performed by subsetting clusters 5 and 12 from the 68-70 hpf data set and  
17 reinitializing the Seurat workflow, as described above. Clusters were identified based on the first  
18 6 PCs. Detection of cell cycle phase was conducted following the Cell cycle and scoring vignette.  
19 Genes used for identification of cell cycle phases can be found in the supplementary table (Fig.  
20 S2). Dendrograms rely on Seurat's BuildClusterTree function.

## 21 22 **Whole mount in situ Hybridization**

23 cDNAs for *foxc1a*, *notch1a*, and *dla* were amplified via high fidelity Phusion-HF PCR (NEB) from  
24 48 hpf AB WT cDNA libraries using primers in Fig. S9A. PCR products were cloned using the  
25 Zero Blunt™ TOPO™ PCR Cloning Kit (Invitrogen), as per manufacturer protocols, and  
26 sequenced validated. Plasmids encoding *phox2bb*, *sox10*, *mmp2* were generously sourced as

1 listed (Fig. S9A). Antisense digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled riboprobes were produced from cDNA  
2 templates of each gene. AB wild type embryos were treated and stained to visualize expression  
3 as previously described in (Jowett and Lettice, 1994). Following *in situ* reactions, embryos were  
4 post-fixed in 4% Paraformaldehyde (PFA) and mounted in 75% Glycerol for imaging. A Nikon Ni-  
5 Eclipse Motorized Fluorescent upright compound microscope with a 4X objective was used in  
6 combination with a DS-Fi3 color camera. Images were exported via Nikon Elements Image  
7 Analysis software.

### 8 9 **Whole mount Hybridization Chain Reaction**

10 HCR probes were purchased commercially (Molecular Instruments Inc., CA) and were targeted  
11 to specific genes based on their Ref Seq ID (Fig. S9B). Wholemount HCR was performed  
12 according to the manufacturer's instructions (v3.0, Choi et al., 2018, Choi et al., 2016) on  
13 *sox10:GFP<sup>+</sup>* embryos previously fixed at the appropriate stage in 4% PFA. All embryos were  
14 cleared in >70% glycerol prior to imaging.

### 15 16 **Confocal Imaging & Image Processing**

17 Prior to imaging, embryos were embedded in 1% Low melt agarose (Sigma) and were then  
18 imaged using an Olympus FV3000 Laser Scanning Confocal, with a UCPlanFLN 20×/0.70  
19 objective. Confocal images were acquired using lambda scanning to separate the Alexafluor  
20 488/Alexafluor 514 or the Alexafluor 546/Alexafluor 594 channels. Final images were combined  
21 in the FlowView software and exported for analysis in either Fiji (Rueden et al., 2017; Schneider  
22 et al., 2012; Schindelin et al., 2012) or IMARIS image analysis software (Bitplane). Figures were  
23 prepared in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator software programs, with cartoons created via  
24 BioRender.com.

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15  
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37



1 **Figure Legends**

2

3 **Figure 1. Single-Cell profiling strategy from the posterior zebrafish during the embryonic**  
4 **to larval stage transition.**

5 **(A)** Confocal image of *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> embryo at 48 hpf. Hb: Hindbrain; Sc: Spinal cord. A: Anterior,  
6 P: Posterior, D: Dorsal, V: Ventral. Scale bar: 50 μM

7 **(B)** Cartoon illustrations of a zebrafish embryo at 48-50 hpf and an early larval fish at 68-70 hpf  
8 depicted laterally to summarize the dissection workflow used to collect posterior *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup>  
9 cells.

10 **(C)** Schematic of the 10X Genomics Chromium and data analysis pipeline.

11

12 **Figure 2. Cell population composition of posterior *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> embryonic cells at 48-50**  
13 **hpf.**

14 **(A)** Heatmap summarizing the top 10 genes significantly expressed in each cluster, for Clusters  
15 0-18. Relative expression levels within each cluster is summarized within the color key, where  
16 yellow to magenta color indicates high to low gene expression levels. **(B)** A tSNE plot reveals the  
17 arrangement of Clusters 0-18.

18 **(C)** A heatmap summarizing the Major Cell Types identified among *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells. Relative  
19 expression levels within each Major Cell Type cluster is summarized within the color key, where  
20 yellow to magenta color indicates high to low gene expression levels

21 **(D)** A tSNE plot showing where the Major Cell Types identified among *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells arrange  
22 in the 48-50 hpf data set.

23 **(E)** tSNE plots depicting the Major Cell Type classification representative gene marker for each  
24 major cell type category. Relative expression levels are summarized within the color keys, where  
25 color intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.

1 **(F)** Dot plot of the identifying gene markers for each Major Cell Type classification in the 48-50  
2 hpf data set. Dot size depicts the cell percentage for each marker within the data set and the color  
3 summarizes the average expression levels for each gene.

4

5 **Figure 3. Cell population composition of posterior *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> larval cells at 68-70 hpf.**

6 **(A)** Heatmap summarizing the top 10 genes significantly expressed in each cluster, for Clusters  
7 0-22. Relative expression levels within each cluster is summarized within the color key, where  
8 yellow to magenta color indicates high to low gene expression levels. **(B)** A tSNE plot reveals the  
9 arrangement of Clusters 0-22.

10 **(C)** A heatmap summarizing the Major Cell Types identified among *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells. Relative  
11 expression levels within each Major Cell Type cluster is summarized within the color key, where  
12 yellow to magenta color indicates high to low gene expression levels

13 **(D)** A tSNE plot showing where the Major Cell Types identified among *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> cells arrange  
14 in the 68-70 hpf data set.

15 **(E)** tSNE plots depicting the Major Cell Type classification representative gene marker for each  
16 major cell type category. Relative expression levels are summarized within the color keys, where  
17 color intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.

18 **(F)** Dot plot of the identifying gene markers for each Major Cell Type classification in the 68-70  
19 hpf data set. Dot size depicts the cell percentage for each marker within the data set and the color  
20 summarizes the average expression levels for each gene.

21

22 **Figure 4. Distinct pigment cell populations are present during embryonic to larval**  
23 **transition.**

24 **(A)** Cartoon schematic depicting the model for neural crest delineation into pigment cell lineages  
25 and the genes that were used to identify each pigment cell population.

1 **(B)** Dot plot identifying melanophore markers within the 48-50 hpf data set. Dot size depicts the  
2 cell percentage for each marker within the data set and the color summarizes the average  
3 expression levels for each gene.

4 **(C)** tSNE plots depicting melanophore signature in the 48-50 hpf data set. Relative expression  
5 levels are summarized within the color keys, where color intensity is proportional to expression  
6 level of each gene depicted.

7 **(D)** Dot plot showing distinct pigment chromatophore markers within the 68-70 hpf data set. Dot  
8 size depicts the cell percentage for each marker within the data set and the color summarizes the  
9 average expression levels for each gene. M: melanophore markers; X: xanthophore markers; I:  
10 iridophore markers.

11 **(E-G)** tSNE plots revealing the location of melanophores **(E)**, xanthophores **(F)**, and iridophores  
12 **(G)** in the 68-70 hpf data set. Relative expression levels are summarized within the color keys,  
13 where color intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.

14 **(H)** HCR against *mitfa* and *tfec* at 48-50 hpf reveals *mitfa*<sup>+</sup> melanophores (white arrowhead) and  
15 *mitfa*<sup>+</sup>/*tfec*<sup>+</sup> pigment progenitors (red arrowhead). Cropped panels show individual fluorescent  
16 channels.

17 **(I)** HCR against *mitfa* and *tfec* at 68-70 hpf presents *mitfa*<sup>+</sup> melanophores (white arrowhead), *tfec*<sup>+</sup>  
18 iridophores (blue arrowhead), and *mitfa*<sup>+</sup>/*tfec*<sup>+</sup> pigment progenitors (red arrowhead). Cropped  
19 panels show individual fluorescent channels.

20 **(J)** HCR against *mitfa* and *xdh* at 68-70 hpf shows *mitfa*<sup>+</sup>/*xdh*<sup>+</sup> xanthophores (orange arrowhead).  
21 Cropped panels show individual fluorescent channels.

22 Scale bar in H-J: 50 μm.

23

## 24 **Figure 5. Global analysis of mesenchyme cell signatures.**

25 **(A,B)** A heatmap of signature Mesenchyme identity genes within the Major Cell Type classified  
26 cells at 48-50 and 68-70 hpf, respectively. Relative expression levels within each cluster is

1 summarized within the color key, where red to blue color indicates high to low gene expression  
2 levels.  
3 **(C)** A Cluster Tree depicting the relationship between general and chondrogenic mesenchyme  
4 cellular subtypes.  
5 **(D)** Violin plots summarizing the expression levels for select Mesenchyme identity markers within  
6 individual clusters at the 48-50 and 68-70 hpf time points, respectively. Data points depicted in  
7 each cluster represent single cells expressing each gene shown.  
8 **(E,L)** tSNE plots depicting the expression of *prrx1b*, *barx1* and *twist1a* in the 48-50 and 68-70 hpf  
9 data sets, respectively. Relative expression levels are summarized within the color keys, where  
10 color intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.  
11 **(F-K)** Whole Mount HCR analysis reveals the spatiotemporal expression of *prrx1b* **(F)**, *twist1a*  
12 **(G)**, *sox10:GFP* **(H)**, *barx1* **(J)** in 48 hpf embryos. **(I)** A merge of *barx1*, *prrx1b* and *twist1a* is  
13 shown. **(K)** A merge of *barx1*, *prrx1b*, *twist1a* and *sox10:GFP* is shown. White arrowheads denote  
14 expression in posterior pharyngeal arch, while yellow arrowheads highlight fin bud expression.  
15 **(M-R)** Wholemout HCR analysis reveals the spatiotemporal expression of *prrx1b* **(M)**, *twist1a*  
16 **(N)**, *sox10:GFP* **(O)**, *barx1* **(Q)** in 68 hpf embryos. **(P)** A merge of *barx1*, *prrx1b* and *twist1a* is  
17 shown. **(R)** A merge of *barx1*, *prrx1b*, *twist1a* and *sox10:GFP* is shown. White arrowheads denote  
18 expression in posterior pharyngeal arch, while yellow arrowheads highlight fin bud expression.  
19 Ot: otic; Fb: Fin bud. Scale bar: 100  $\mu$ m.

20

21 **Figure 6. Enteric neural crest cells are present among posterior *sox10:GFP*<sup>+</sup> embryonic**  
22 **cells at 48-50 hpf.**

23 **(A)** tSNE feature plots reveal expression of core neural crest cell markers *sox10*, *foxd3*, *crestin*  
24 and *tfap2a* mapping to the neural crest cell cluster (red arrow).

25 **(B)** tSNE feature plots depict expression of the enteric neural crest cell markers *phox2bb*, *ret*,  
26 *ngfrb* and *gfra 1a* within the neural crest cell cluster (red arrow).

1 Relative expression levels are summarized within the color keys in **(A)** and **(B)**, where color  
2 intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.  
3 **(C)** A heatmap reveals expression levels of enteric neural crest cell markers across the 8 major  
4 cell populations captured in the 48-50 hpf data set (color key denotes cells types represented in  
5 color bar on top of heatmap). Neural crest cell cluster highlighted in black rectangle. Relative  
6 expression levels within each Major Cell Type cluster is summarized within the color key, where  
7 yellow to magenta color indicates high to low gene expression levels.  
8 **(D)** Dot plot of expanded list of neural crest (green line) and enteric neural crest (purple line) cell  
9 markers across each major cell type within 48-50 hpf data set. Dot size depicts the cell percentage  
10 for each marker within the data set and the color summarizes the average expression levels for  
11 each gene.  
12 **(E, F)** Wholemout HCR analysis of 48 hpf embryos reveals co-expression of enteric neural crest  
13 cell markers within the developing Gut (dashed outline). Top panels depict merged images of  
14 color channels for each HCR probe. Lower panels represent grey-scale images of each  
15 separated channel corresponding to the magnified region of foregut (grey rectangle). Arrows  
16 depict regions where all markers are found to be co-expressed. Hb: Hindbrain, Sc: Spinal cord,  
17 pLLg: posterior Lateral Line ganglia, LL: Lateral Line. A: Anterior, P: Posterior, D: Dorsal, V:  
18 Ventral. Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ M.

19  
20 **Figure 7. Differentiating enteric neurons captured during key transitional stage of subtype**  
21 **diversification within 68-70 hpf *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> larval cells.**

22 **(A)** tSNE feature plots reveal expression levels of enteric neuron markers *elavl3*, *phox2bb*, *gfra1a*,  
23 *nos1*, *vipb* and *ret*, within a common region of a neuronal cluster (red arrow). Relative expression  
24 levels are summarized within the color keys, where color intensity is proportional to expression  
25 level of each gene depicted.

1 **(B)** Dot plot depicts expression levels of pan-neuronal and enteric neuron specific markers across  
2 individual clusters generated within the original 68-70 hpf tSNE. Pan-neuronal markers found  
3 throughout clusters 5 and 12, with enteric neuron markers most prominently expressed within  
4 cluster 12. Dot size depicts the cell percentage for each marker within the data set and the color  
5 summarizes the average expression levels for each gene.

6 **(C)** Wholemout HCR analysis depicts differentiating enteric neurons within the foregut region at  
7 69 hpf co-expressing *nos1*, *phox2bb*, *vipb*, and *elavl3* (yellow arrow). Anterior: Left, Posterior:  
8 Right. Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ M.

9 **(D)** tSNE plot reveals 5 distinct clusters following the subset analysis and re-clustering of clusters  
10 5 and 12 from the 68-70 hpf data set.

11 **(E)** Dot plot depicts expression levels of enteric neuron markers across resulting sub-clusters.  
12 Each marker was expressed at low levels in cluster 1 and were found to be expressed at higher  
13 levels within cluster 4.

14 **(F)** tSNE feature plots further depict the expression of enteric neuron markers by illustrating the  
15 levels and localization of expression within the sub-cluster architecture. Feature plots supplement  
16 dot plot and demonstrate the prominent expression of enteric neuron markers within cluster 4,  
17 which appears to emanate from cluster 1.

18 **(G)** Violin and feature plots reveal expression levels of acetylcholine associated and excitatory  
19 neuron markers reported to distinguish enteric IPANs. These markers were found in a discrete  
20 pocket of cells forming the distal-most region of sub-cluster 4 (red arrow). Violin data points  
21 depicted in each cluster represent single cells expressing each gene shown.

22 **(H)** Wholemout HCR analysis reveals co-expression of IPAN markers, *pbx3b* and *calb2a*, and  
23 inhibitory neurochemical markers, *vipb* and *nos1* (white arrows), within the foregut (dashed white  
24 line) at 68 hpf. Vesicular acetylcholine transferase, *slc18a3a* was not observed in tandem with  
25 *pbx3b* but was co-expressed with *calb2a*, *vipb*, and *nos1* (yellow arrow). Scale bar: 50  $\mu$ M.

1 (I) Graphical model summarizes expression patterns observed in 68-70 hpf data set and HCR  
2 validation. Common enteric neuroblast capable of diverging into subsequent lineages, IPAN,  
3 inhibitory neuron, and interneuron through lineage restricted gene expression. *Pbx3b* promotes  
4 assumption of IPAN role through loss of *nos1* and *vipb* and begins expressing *calb2a*, *ache* and  
5 *slc18a3a*.

6  
7 **Figure 8. Integrated Atlas of *sox10*:GFP<sup>+</sup> Cell types spanning the embryonic to larval**  
8 **transition.**

9 (A) Global UMAP embedding demonstrating the clustering of cell types across 48-50 hpf and 68-  
10 70 hpf. Cell labels were transferred from the original curation to the new atlas after its creation,  
11 allowing for unbiased assessment of cell type organization.

12 (B) Previously identified mesenchyme clusters form a large discernible cluster marked by *prx1b*,  
13 *twist1a*, *foxc1a*, and *snai1a*, which was separated into both chondrogenic and general  
14 mesenchyme, as denoted by its differential expression of *barx1* and *dlx2a*. Importantly, nearly  
15 every 48-50 hpf cell type nests with a cluster at 68-70 hpf.

16 (C) Pigment cells clusters reflect differentiation paths described in Fig. 4A. Melanophores at 48-  
17 50 hpf group near to the 68-70 hpf Melanophore cluster, bipotent pigment progenitors bridges  
18 both the Iridophores and Melanophores. Xanthophores cluster separately, reflecting their distinct  
19 lineage of origin at this developmental window.

20 (D) Detailed analysis of the larger Neural/Neuronal cluster shows clear progression of cell fates  
21 from progenitor to differentiating glia or neuron. We confirm the presence of a clear enteric  
22 neuronal population, which is distinct from other subtypes at this data set.

23  
24 **Figure 9. Description of Hox genes expressed per major cell identity within the Atlas.**

25 (A) Dot plot shows both the expression (color) as well as percent of cells (size) for each *hox* factor  
26 assayed. There are discrete *hox* profiles which discern specific cell types.



1 **(B)** *hox* gene expression is ubiquitously detected across the neural, neuronal, mesenchyme, and  
2 pigment clusters. The otic epithelium, muscle and unidentified cell clusters all lack strong *hox*  
3 expression profiles.

4 **(C-G)** Specific exemplary expression profiles shown in the atlas for the cluster types: neural **(C)**,  
5 enteric neuronal **(D)**, fin bud mesenchyme **(E)**, and CNS neuron **(F)**. Lastly, the expression of  
6 *hoxb7a* showed differential expression across several cell types, including certain pigment and  
7 neural cell populations **(G)**.

8  
9

10 **Figure S1. Statistics on generation of high quality single cell transcriptomes at 48-50 hpf**  
11 **and 68-70 hpf.**

12 **(A,B)** Fluorescence activated cell sorting plots highlighting the GFP<sup>+</sup> cell population sorted at 48-  
13 50 hpf **(A)** and 69-70 hpf **(B)**.

14 **(C)** Table of general statistics output as an end result of the sequencing and alignment from the  
15 Cell Ranger pipeline. Additional metrics provided were derived from the Seurat R package.

16 **(D,E)** Plots showing the feature selection for both the 48-50 hpf **(D)** and 69-70 hpf **(E)** data sets.  
17 Cells were selected such that they had fewer than 2500 features to reduce spuriously sorted  
18 cells.

19 **(F,G)** Top 2000 most variably expressed genes were identified and used for further downstream  
20 identification of significant principal components.

21 **(H,I)** Most significant principle components (top 20 for both data sets) were selected to be used  
22 for subsequent cluster identification and cell embedding in tSNE and UMAP spaces.

23

24 **Figure S2. Major Cell Type Categories and Cell Cycle Distributions of the scRNA-seq data**  
25 **sets.**

- 1 **(A,B)** tSNE plots summarizing the G1, S and G2/M phase cell cycle phase occupancies of the  
2 cells in the 48-50 and 68-70 hpf time points, respectively.
- 3 **(C,E)** A tSNE plot depicting the expression of *aurkb*, a G2/M phase marker, within the 48-50 and  
4 68-70 hpf data sets, respectively. Relative expression levels are summarized within the color  
5 keys, where color intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.
- 6 **(D,F)** A tSNE plot depicting the expression of *mcm3*, a S phase marker, within the 48-50 and 68-  
7 70 hpf data sets, respectively. Relative expression levels are summarized within the color keys,  
8 where color intensity is proportional to expression level of each gene depicted.
- 9 **(G)** Bar graphs summarizing the cell cycle phase occupancies, as a fraction of cells within the  
10 total data sets for each time point.
- 11 **(H)** Bar graphs summarizing the Major Cell Type categories, as a fraction of cells within the total  
12 data sets for each time point.
- 13 **(I)** Table summarizing the cell cycle genes used to demarcate cell cycle phase occupancy  
14 categories within the scRNA-seq data sets.

15

16 **Figure S3. Table summarizing the top identify markers used for major Cell type and**  
17 **subtype cellular classifications for each cluster at 48-50 and 68-70 hpf.**

18

19 **Figure S4. Identification of otic vesicle, muscle, and central nervous system (CNS) cellular**  
20 **populations**

21 **(A)** Panel of tSNE feature plots at 48-50 hpf that identify combinatorial expression of otic  
22 vesicle (*otomp*, *cldna*, *cldn7b*, and *epcam*), muscle (*ckmb*, *actc1b*, *tnnt3a*, and *tpma*), or CNS  
23 (*slc32a1*, *gad1b*, *slc6a5*, *gata2a*) markers. Cluster of interest denoted by black arrows.

24 **(B)** Panel of tSNE feature plots at 68-70 hpf that identify combinatorial expression of otic vesicle  
25 markers (*otomp*, *cldna*, *cldn7b*, and *epcam*) or muscle (*ckmb*, *actc1b*, *tnnt3a*, and *tpma*). Cluster  
26 of interest denoted by black arrows.

1

2 **Figure S5. Identification of fin bud and sensory neuronal progenitor cellular populations**

3 **(A)** Panel of tSNE feature plots of sensory neuronal progenitors at 48-50 hpf that show  
4 combinatorial expression of *neurod4*, *neurod1*, *vim*, and *ngfrb*, Cluster of interest denoted by  
5 black arrows.

6 **(B)** Panel of tSNE feature plots of fin bud makers at 48-50 hpf (top) and 68-70 hpf (bottom) that  
7 show combinatorial expression of *tbx5a*, *hand2*, *hoxd13a*, and *prrx1a*. Cluster of interest denoted  
8 by black arrows.

9

10 **Figure S6. Enteric neuron subtype diversification gene expression patterns seen in enteric**  
11 **neuron sub-cluster.**

12 **(A)** Panel of tSNE feature plots magnified and cropped to focus on progressively differentiating  
13 enteric neurons (highlighted by *etv1* expression). Subtype diversification and IPAN emergence  
14 depicted via combinatorial gene expression (*etv1*, *ntng1aa*, *pbx3b*, *slc18a3a*, *calb2a*, and *ache*)  
15 localized to the distal tip of sub-cluster 4. Inhibitory neuron markers, *nos1*, *vip*, and galanin (*galn*)  
16 were present within the pocket of diverging enteric subtypes.

17

18 **Figure S7. Wholemount *in situ* hybridization of select ENCC, Mesenchyme and Neural**  
19 **markers at 48-50 hpf.**

20 **(A,A')** The marker *sox10* is shown along the vagal region and within ENCC along the foregut in  
21 **(A'**; highlighted via arrowheads). Scale bar in **A**: 60  $\mu$ M, in **A'**: 40  $\mu$ M.

22 **(B, B')** Expression of *phox2bb* is shown within the hindbrain-axial level of the embryo, as well as  
23 within ENCC within the foregut (**B'**; highlighted via arrowheads). Scale bar in **A**: 60  $\mu$ M, in **A'**: 40  
24  $\mu$ M.

1 **(C,D)** The mesenchyme markers *mmp2* (**C**, highlighted via arrowheads) and *foxc1a* (**D**;  
2 highlighted via arrowheads) are expressed within the posterior pharyngeal arches and the ventral  
3 mesenchyme.

4 **(E,F)** The neural markers *notch1a* (**E**) and *dla* (**F**) are expressed within the hindbrain and spinal  
5 cord (arrowheads). **(F)** *dla* expression is seen in the ENCC (arrow).

6 Scale bar in **C-F**: 60  $\mu$ M

7

### 8 **Figure S8. Annotated Atlas labeled by cell-types.**

9 **(A)** UMAP visualization of cells labeled by source identity (either 48-50 hpf or 68-70 hpf) following  
10 integration. All 48-50 hpf cells approximately map to a major cluster found at 68-70 hpf.

11 **(B)** Following label transfer integration, major cell type classifications group together into distinct  
12 clusters.

13 **(C)** High resolution visualization of both hierarchical clustering of cell categories as well as their  
14 position within the UMAP. Cell categories segregate in the dendrogram largely as expected from  
15 the UMAP visualization.

16 **(D)** Additional markers for validation of the Neural/Neuronal clusters.

17

### 18 **Figure S9. Resources for generation and preparation of whole mount chromogenic *in situ*** 19 **and HCR probes.**

20 **(A)** Novel probes for *notch1a*, *dla*, and *foxc1a* were generated via PCR with the listed primers.  
21 Sources from previously published probes are also listed.

22 **(B)** Table of genes used for HCR analysis. HCR amplifier ID is listed to demonstrate capacity for  
23 multiplexing with probes such that each assay contains only unique IDS. All probes were  
24 designed by Molecular Instruments to target the named Refseq Transcriptome sequence as  
25 listed.

26

- 1 **Table S1. Top significantly enriched genes per cluster in the *sox10*:GFP scRNA-seq data**
- 2 **sets**
- 3
- 4 **Table S2. Top significantly enriched genes per sub-cluster, following subset and re-**
- 5 **clustering of Cluster 5 and 12 at 68-70 hpf.**
- 6
- 7 **Table S3. Top significantly enriched genes per Major Cell Type identity in the *sox10*:GFP**
- 8 **merged Atlas.**
- 9
- 10 **Table S4. Melanophore Populations shared and unique genes at 68-70 hpf.**

## FIGURE 1

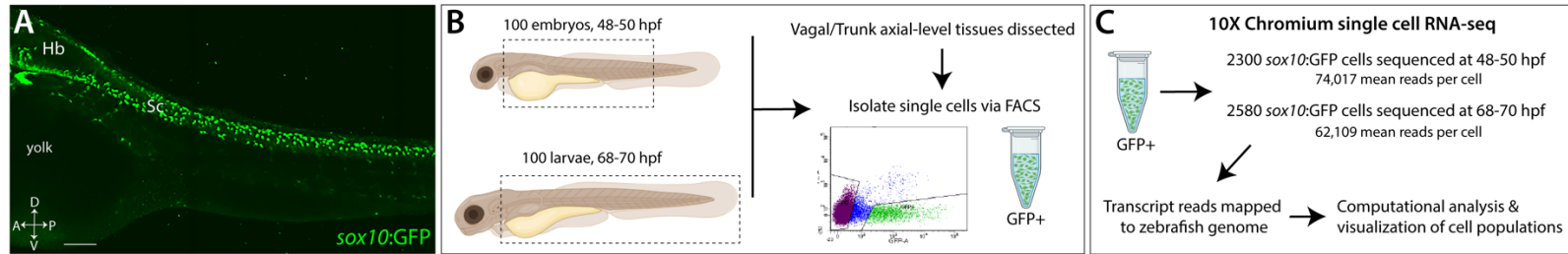


FIGURE 2

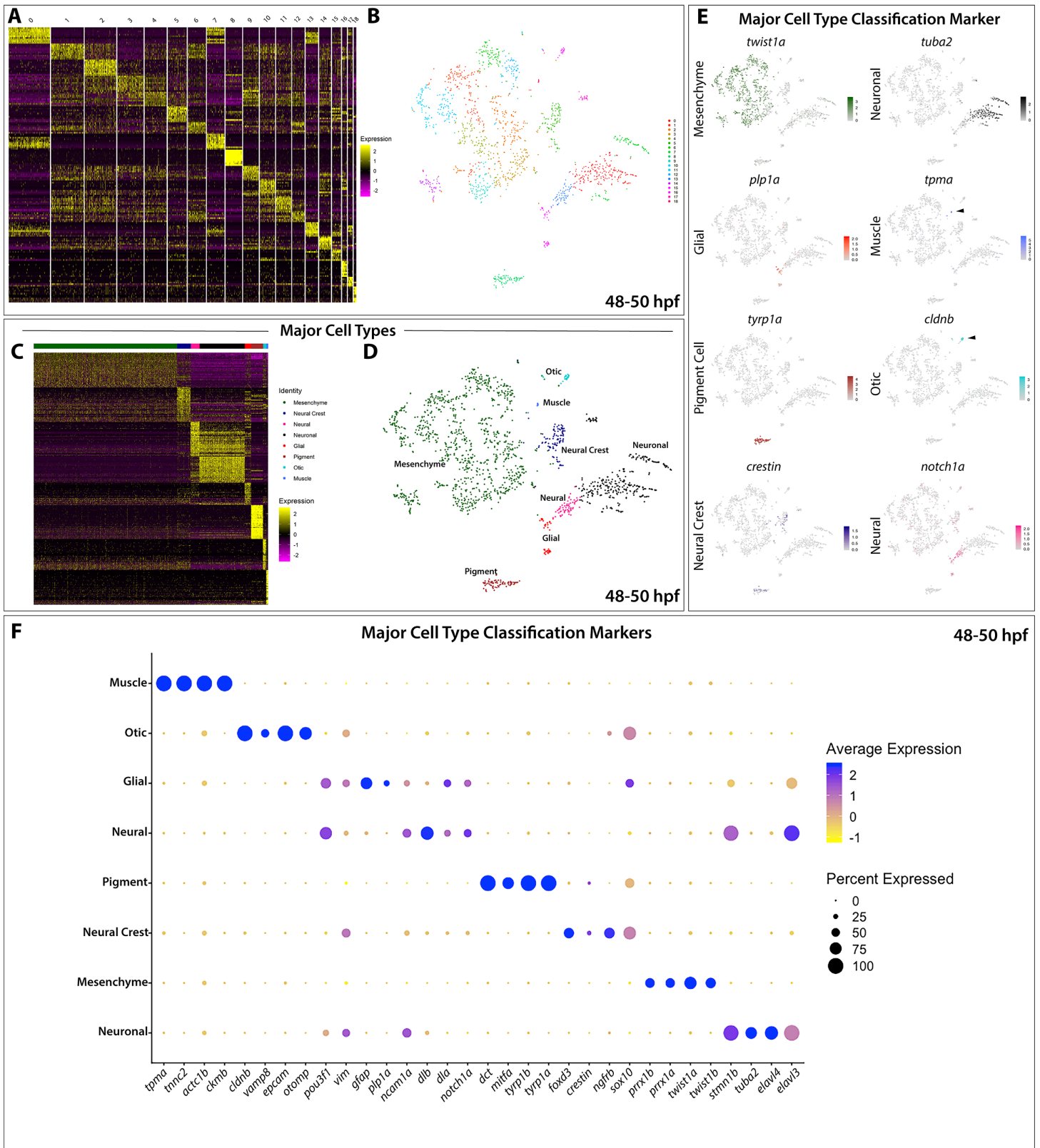




FIGURE 3

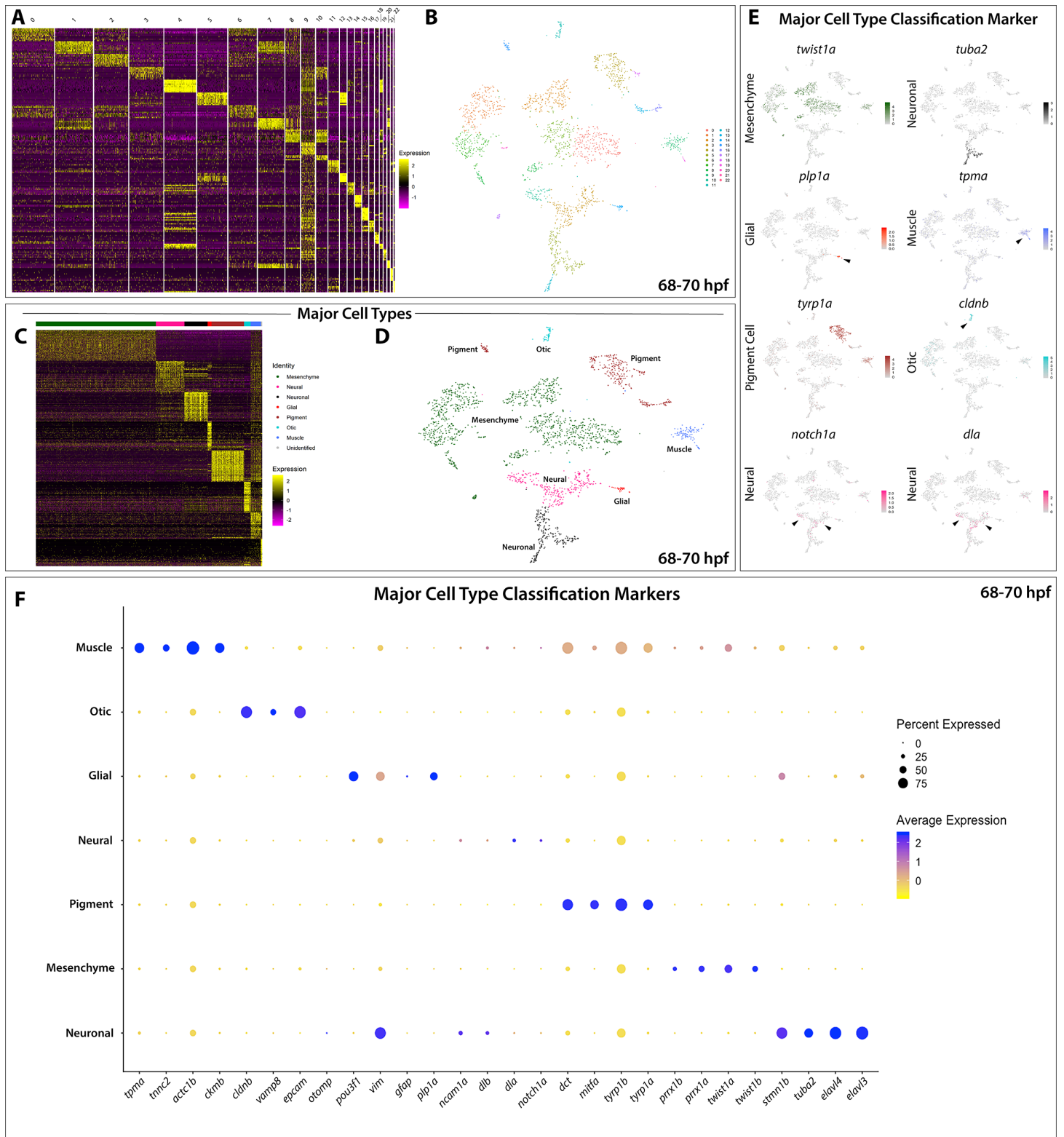


FIGURE 4

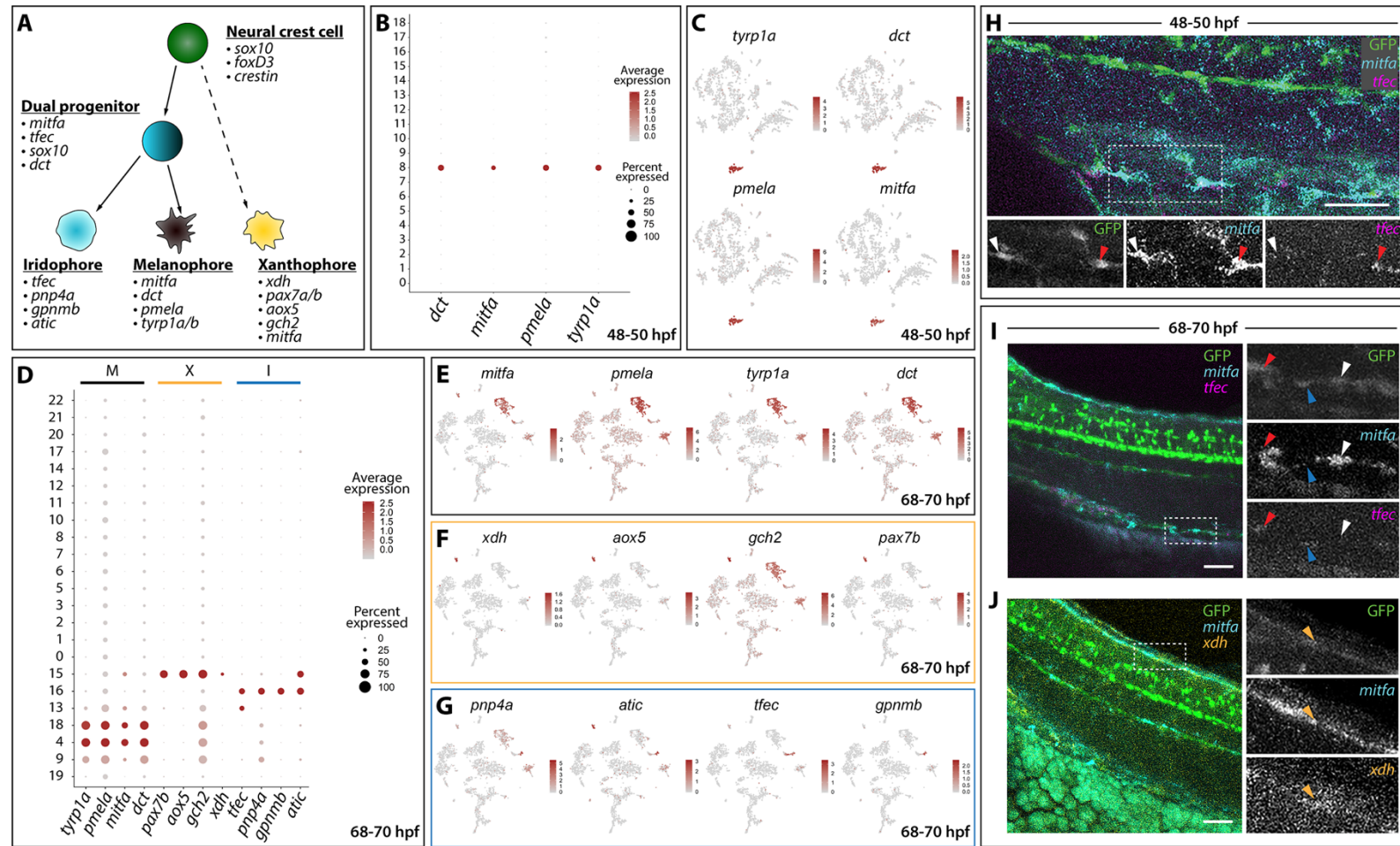


FIGURE 5

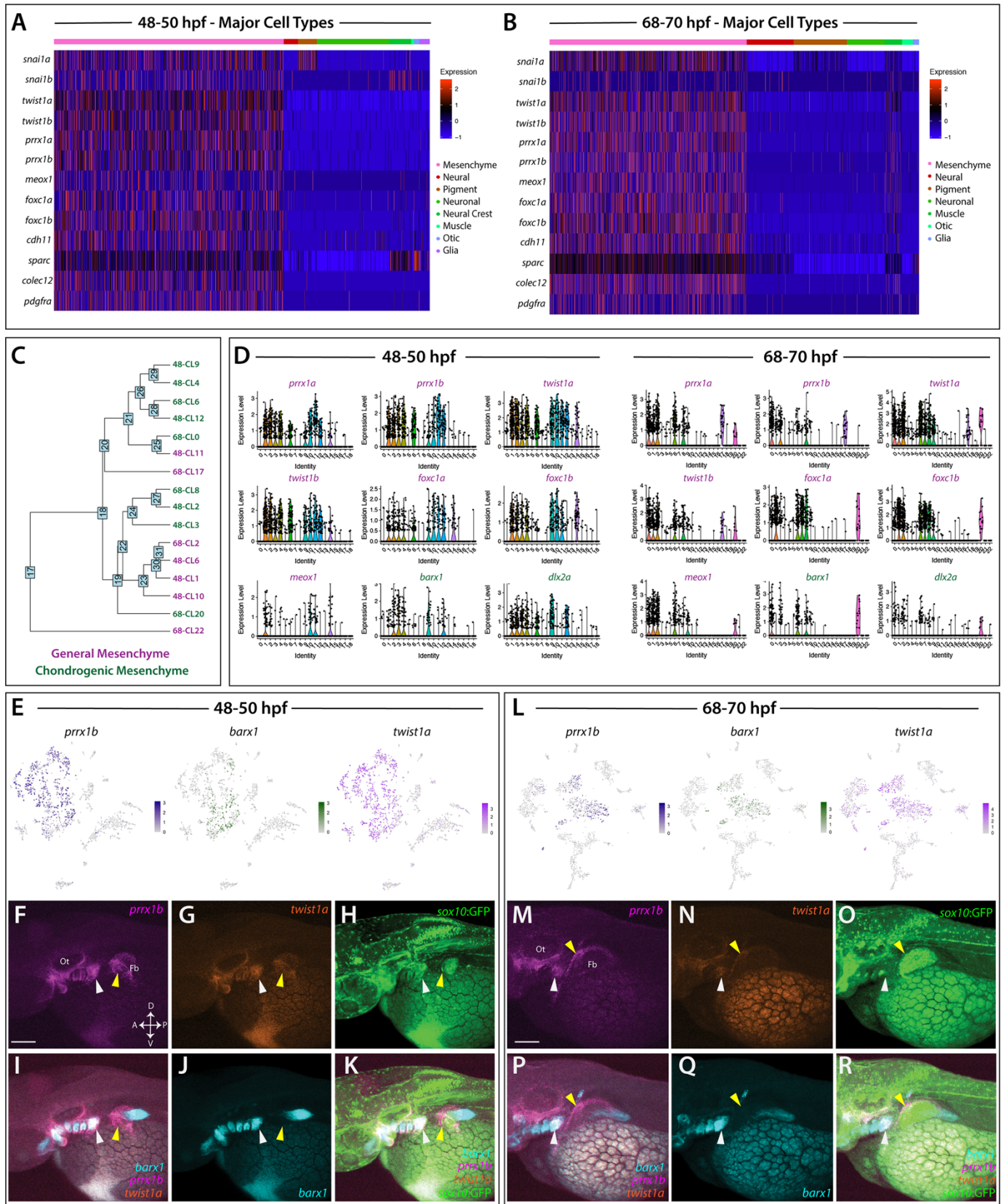




FIGURE 6

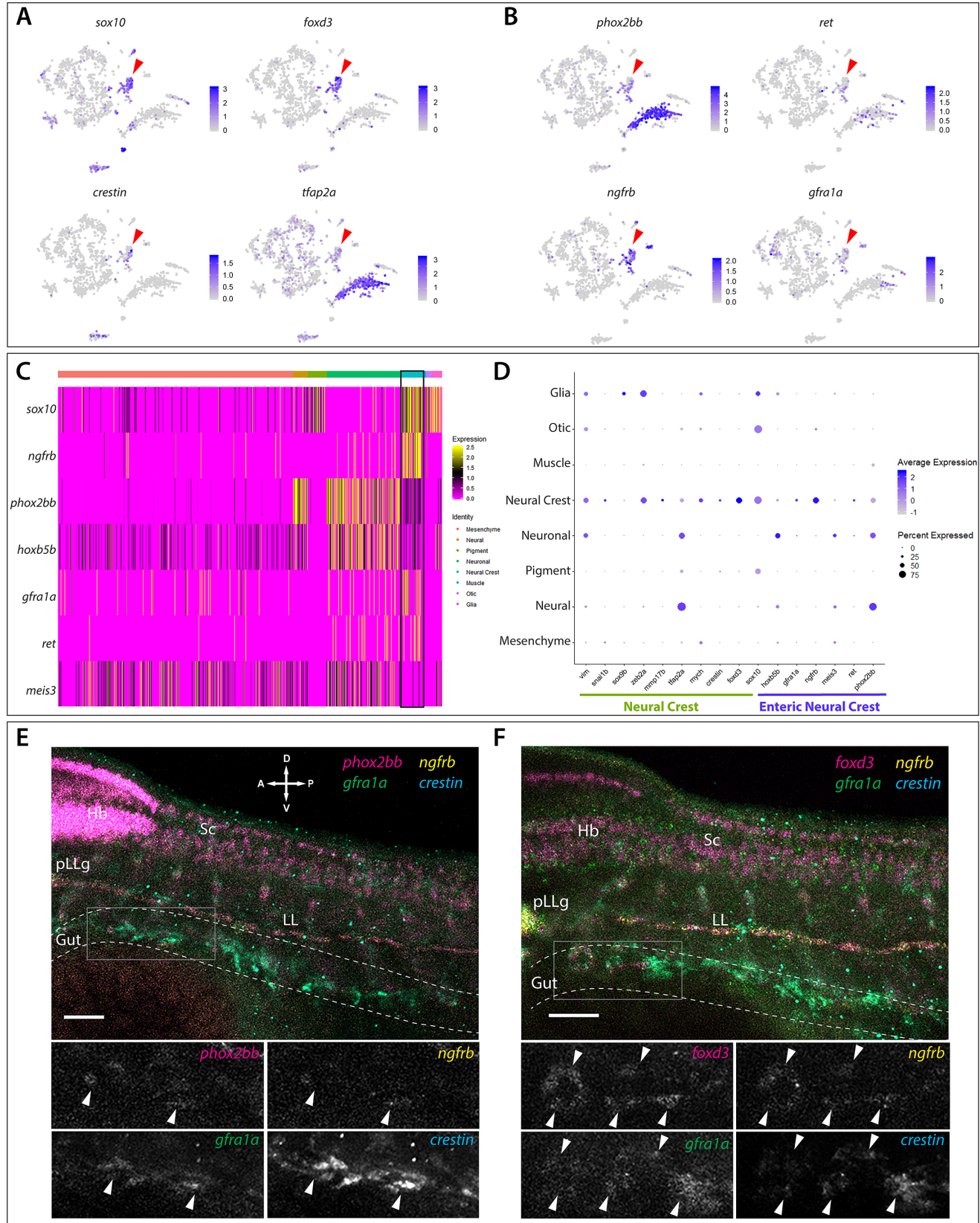


FIGURE 7

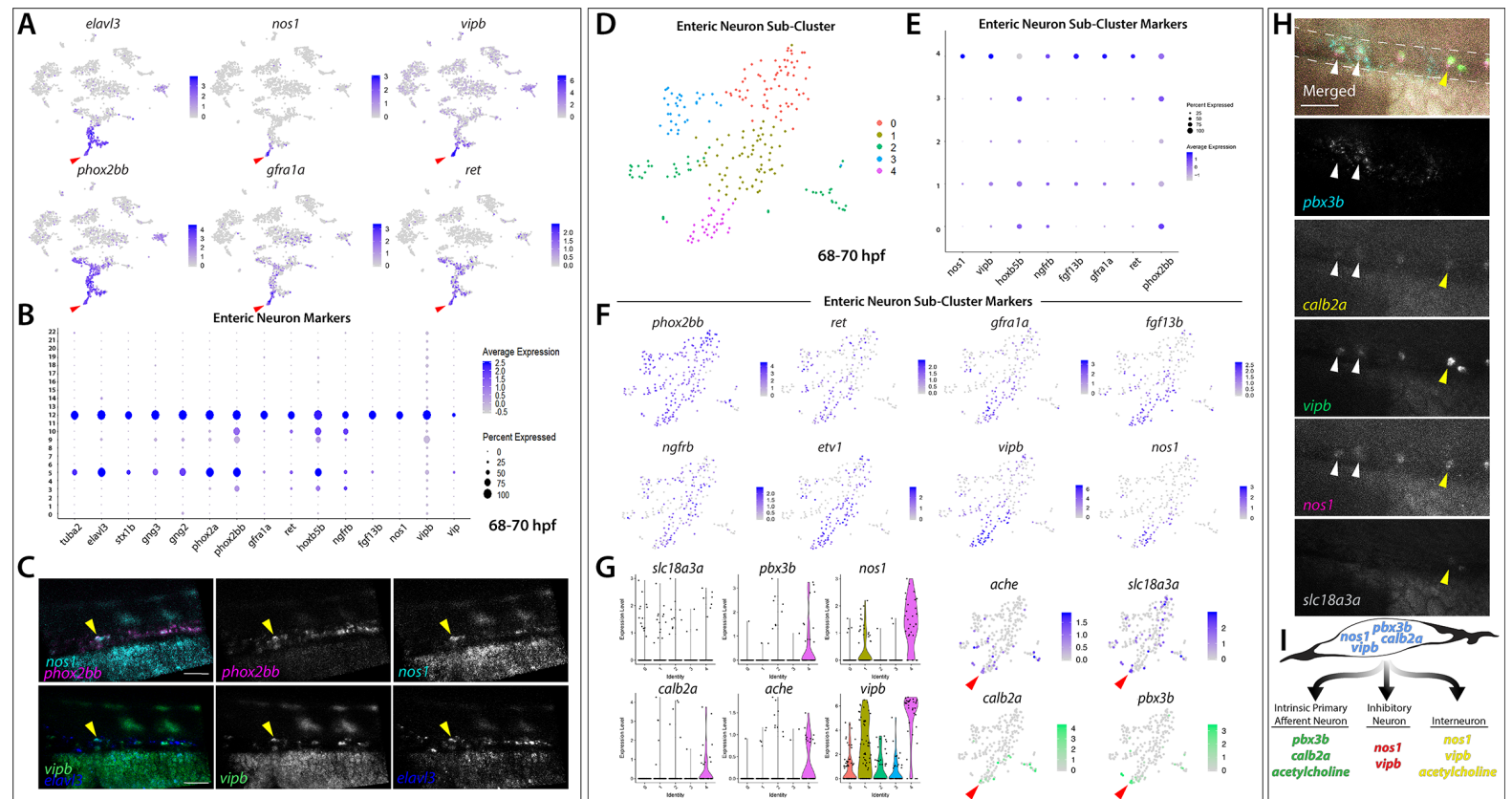
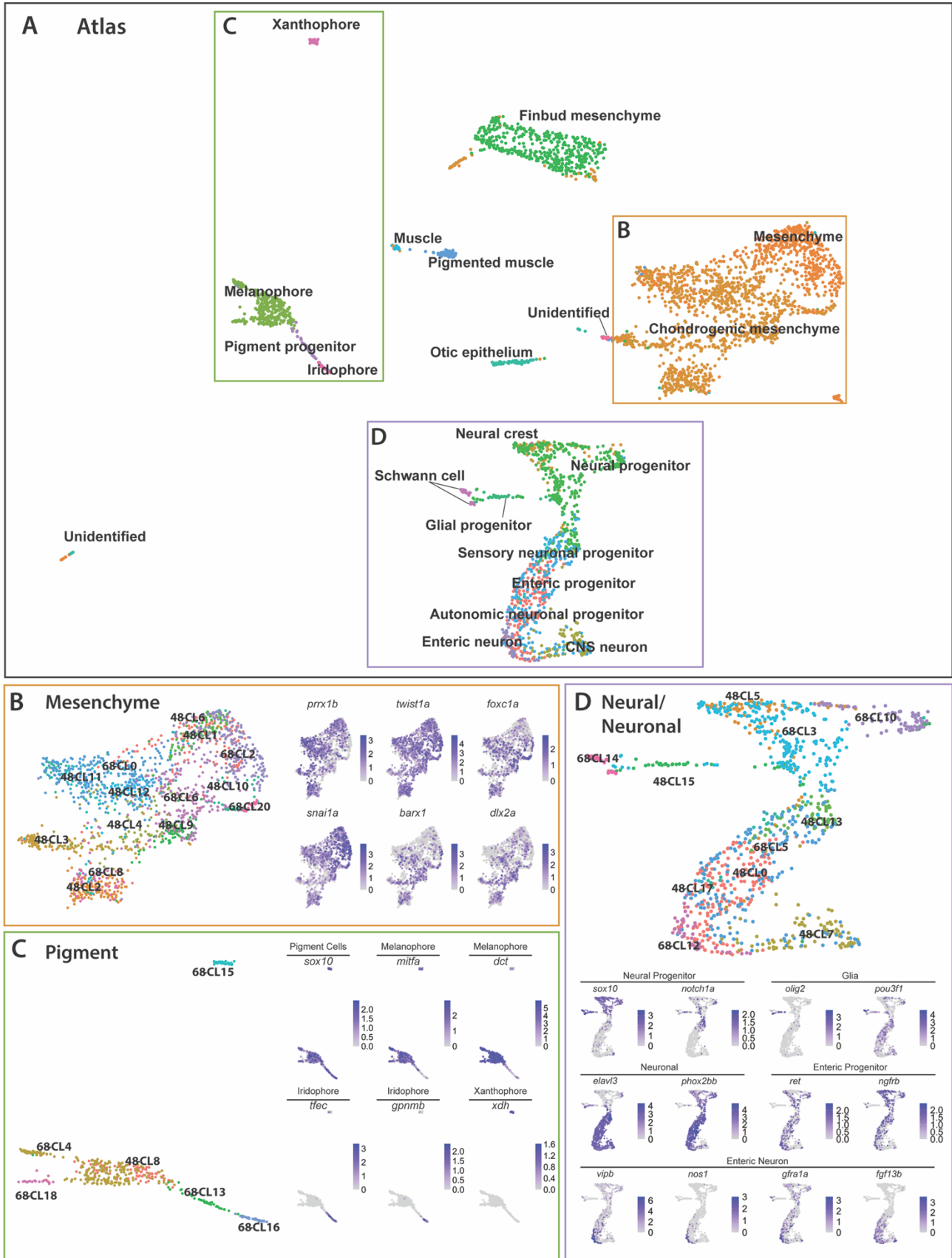
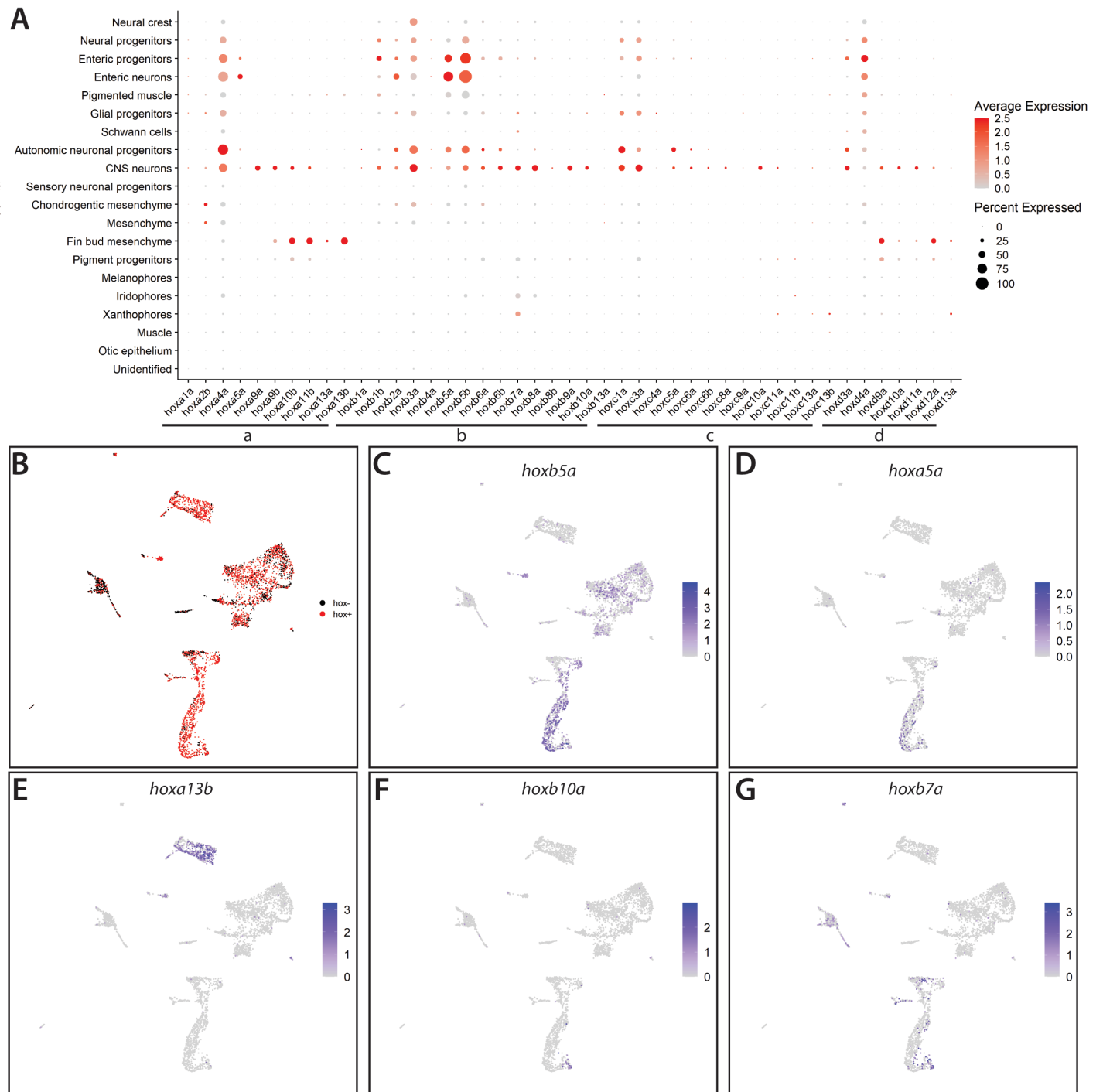


FIGURE 8



**FIGURE 9**





**FIGURE S1**

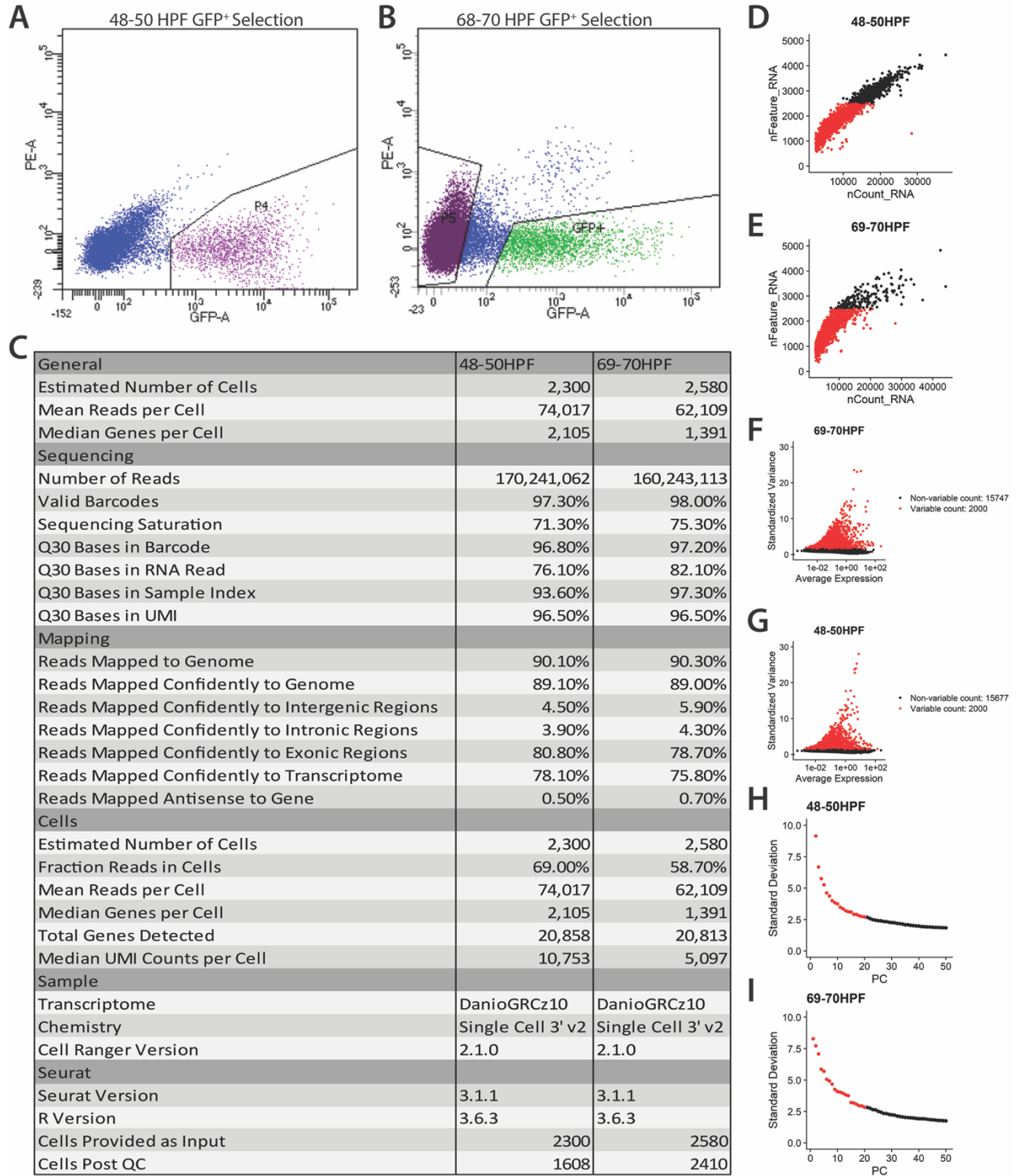






FIGURE S4

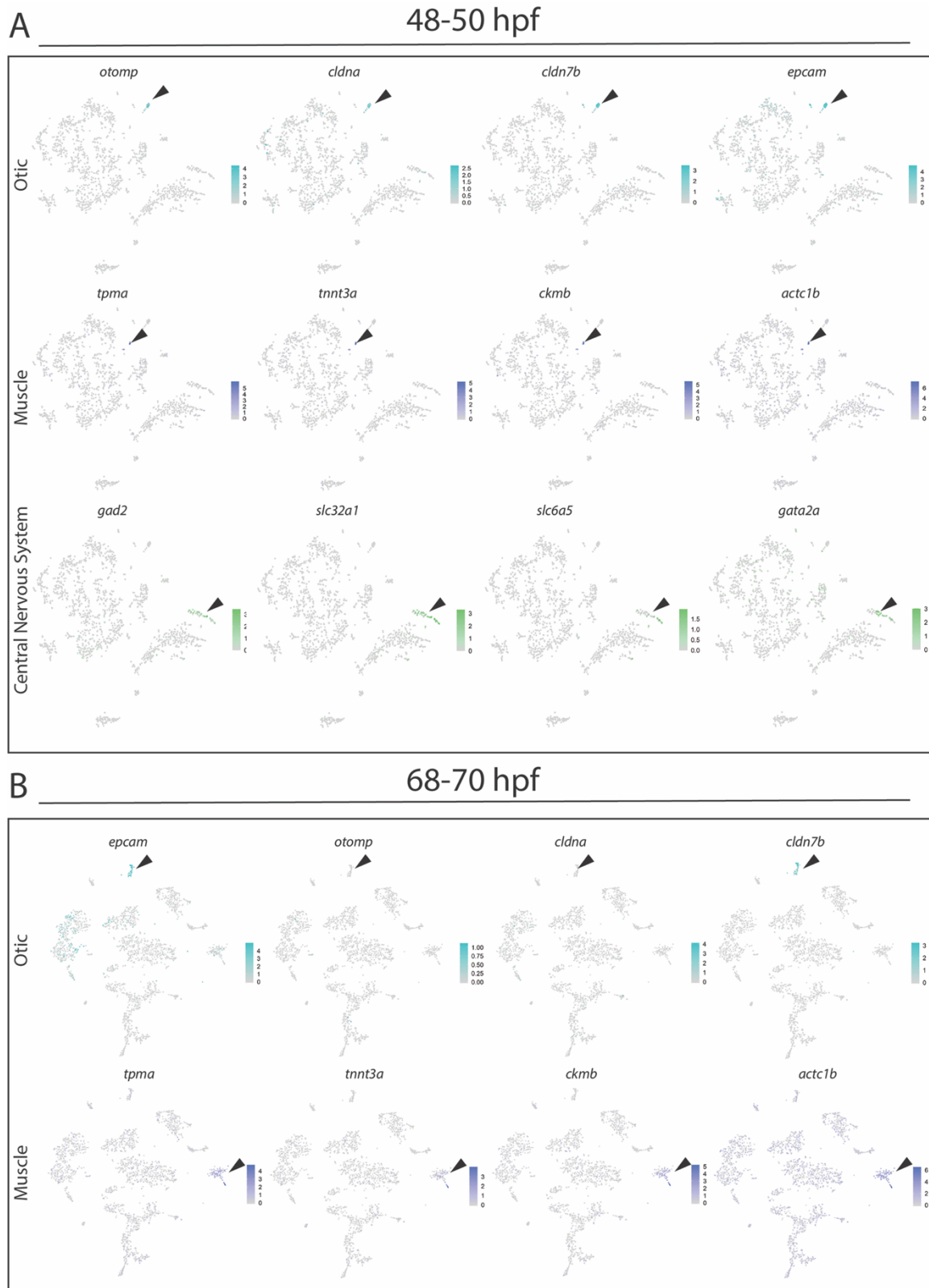


FIGURE S5

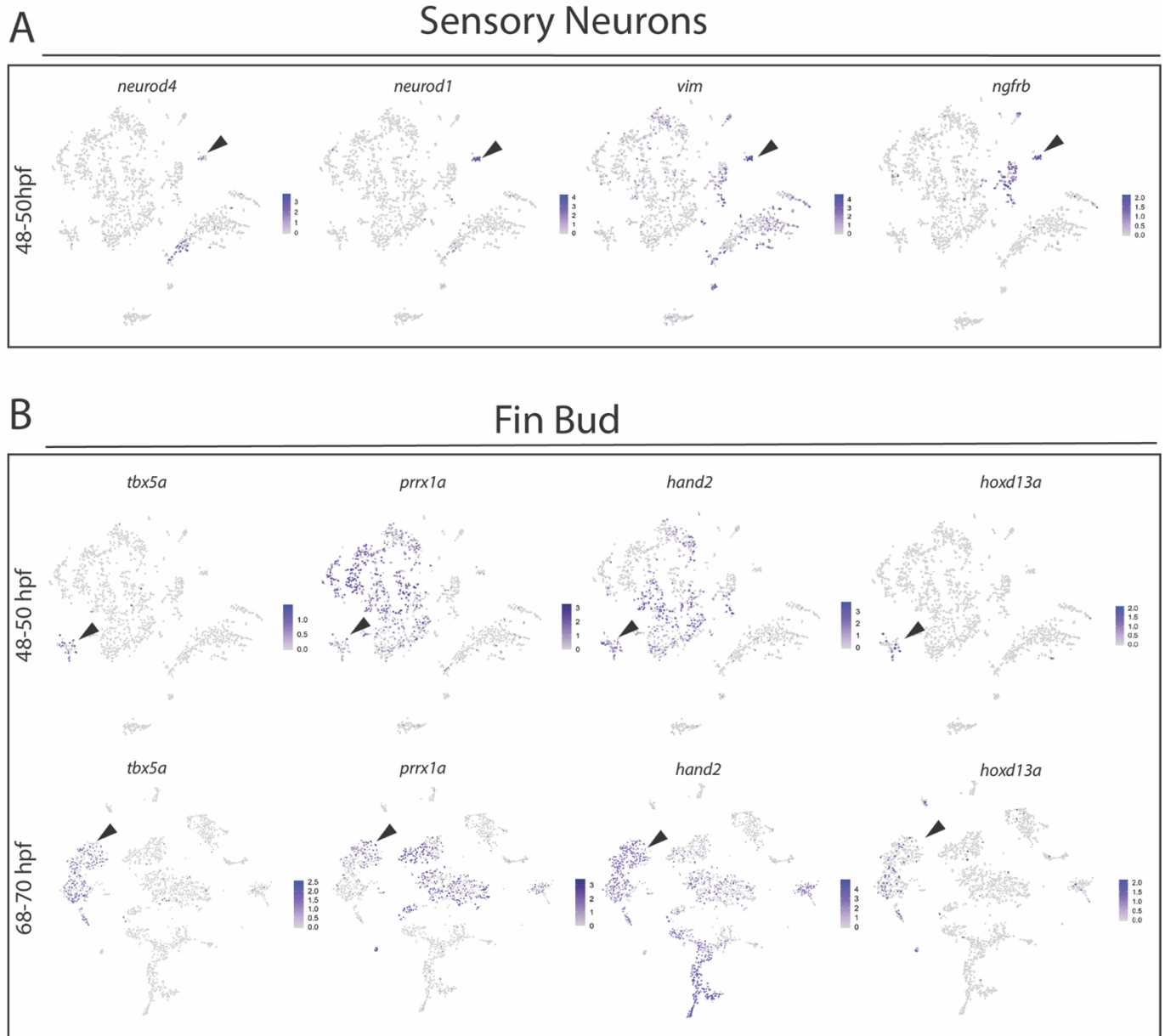
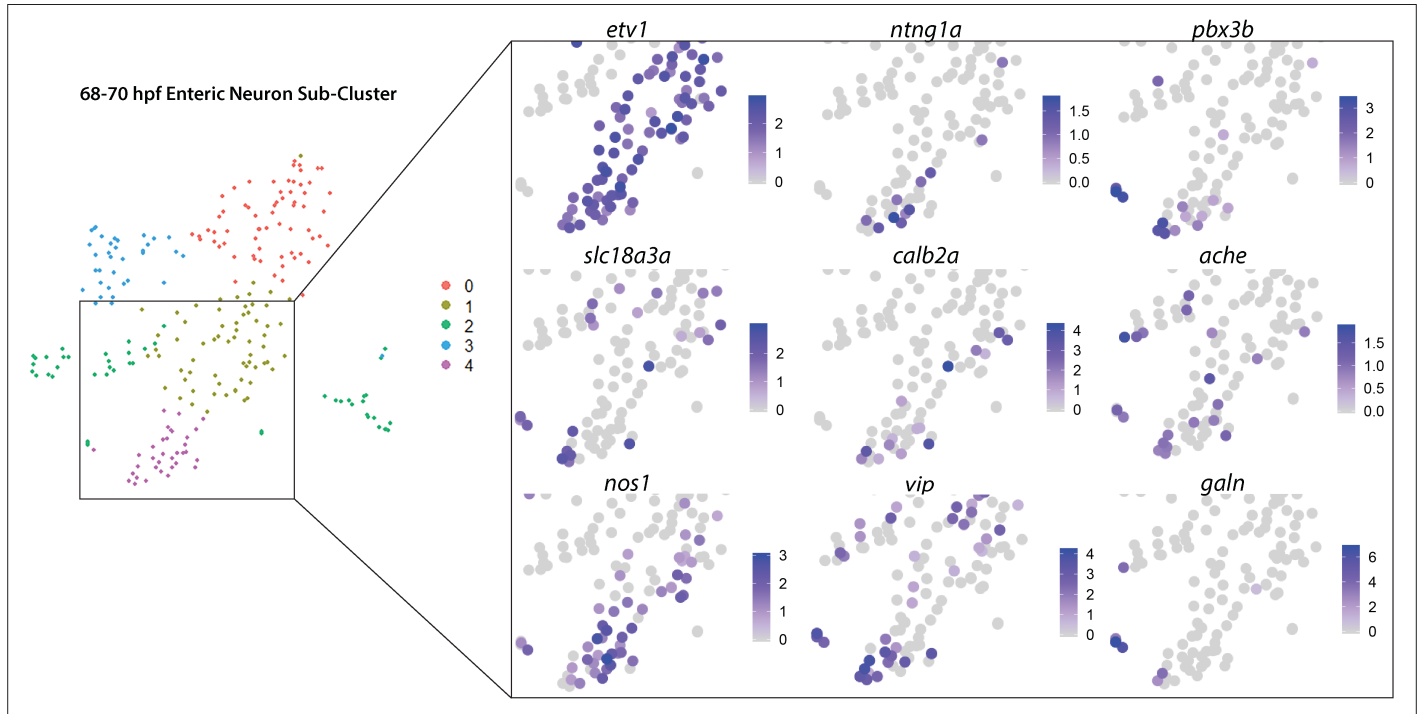
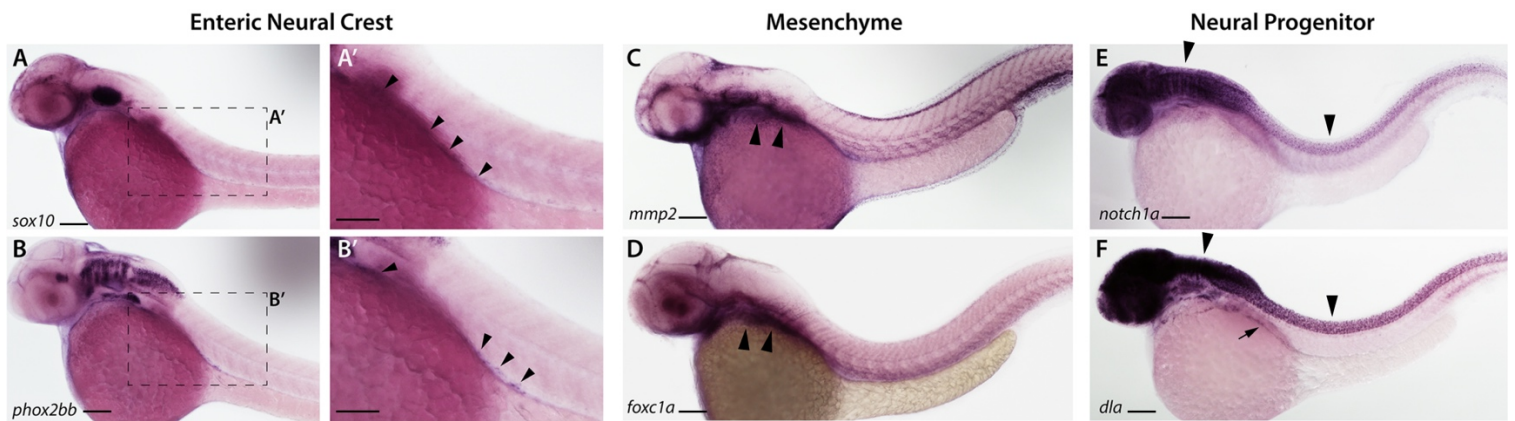


FIGURE S6

A

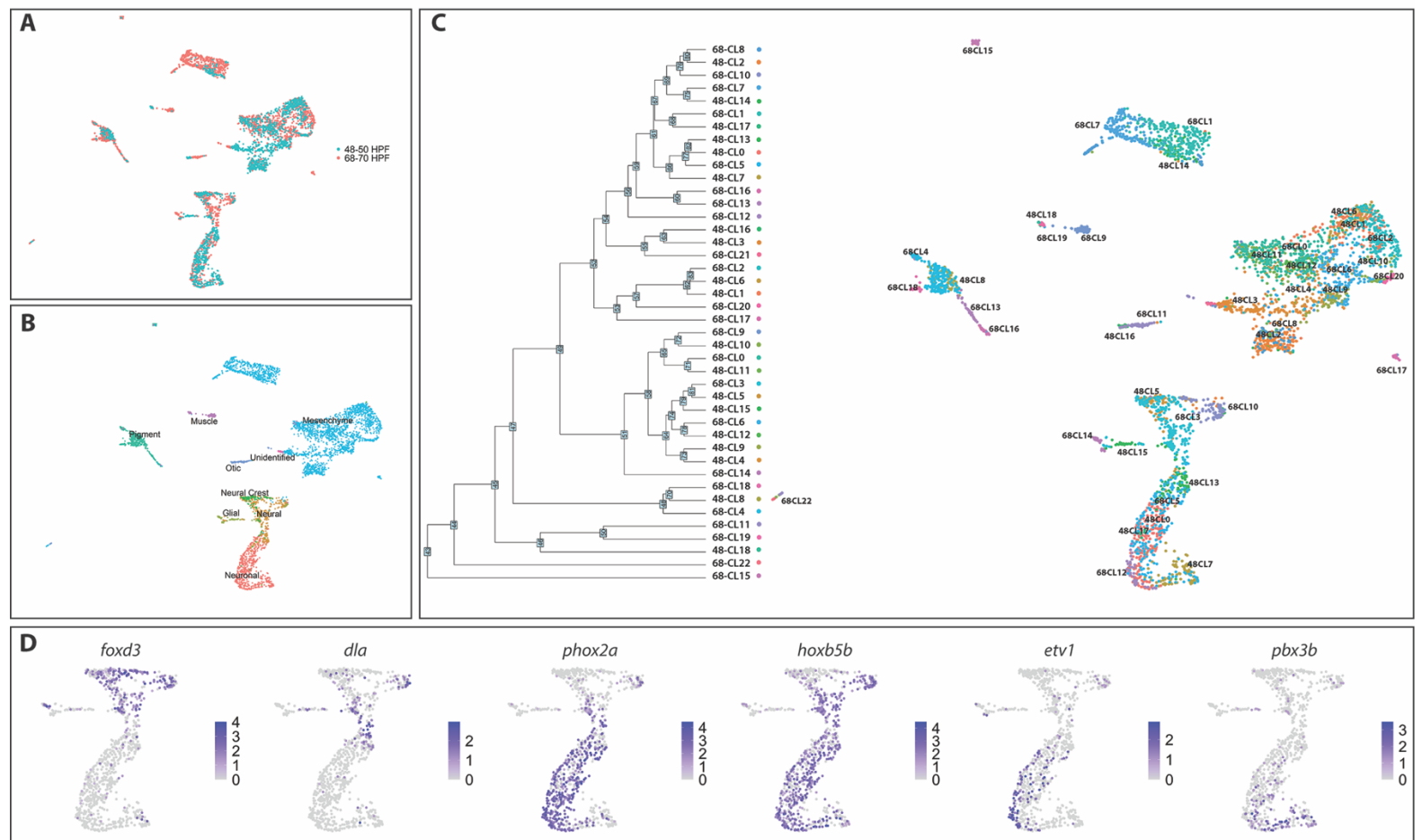


**FIGURE S7**





**FIGURE S8**



**FIGURE S9**

**A**

<i>In Situ</i> probes		
Gene	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
<i>notch1a</i>	CAGTGGACTCAGCAGCATC	CCTTCCGACCAATCAGACAAG
<i>dla</i>	CAGCCAAGTTGCTCAGAG	GTACAGAGAACCAGCTCATC
<i>foxc1a</i>	ATACGGTGGACTCTGTGG	CAGCGTCTGTCA GTATCG
Gene	Source	
<i>phox2bb</i>	Uribe and Bronner, 2015	
<i>sox10</i>	Dutton et al., 2001	
<i>mmp2</i>	Strausberg et al., 2002	

**B**

Gene Name	HCR amplifier	Refseq Transcript ID	Gene Name	HCR amplifier	Refseq Transcript ID
<i>barx1</i>	B3	NM_001024949.1	<i>pbx3b</i>	B2	BC131865.1
<i>calb2a</i>	B1	NM_200718.1	<i>phox2bb</i>	B1	NM_001014818.1
<i>crestin</i>	B3	AF195881.1	<i>prrx1b</i>	B4	NM_200050.1
<i>elavl3</i>	B2	NM_131449	<i>slc18a3a</i>	B3	NM_0010775550.1
<i>gfra1a</i>	B4	NM_131730.1	<i>tfec</i>	B2	NM_001030105.2
<i>mitfa</i>	B1	NM_130923.2	<i>twist1a</i>	B1	NM_130984.2
<i>ngfrb</i>	B5	NM_001198660.1	<i>vipb</i>	B4	NM_001114555.1
<i>nos1</i>	B5	NM_131660.1	<i>x dh</i>	B5	XM_683891.7