Local circuit allowing hypothalamic control of hippocampal area CA2 activity and consequences for CA1

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Abstract

The hippocampus is critical for memory formation. Area CA2 has been shown to contribute to several essential brain functions including social novelty discrimination, sharp-wave ripple initiation and spatial encoding. The supramammillary nucleus (SuM) sends long-range projections to area CA2, is active during novelty exposure, and the SuM-CA2 connection has recently been shown to be important for social novelty discrimination. However, the properties and targets of the SuM input in CA2 are unknown. Using optogenetics, we found that stimulation of SuM axons elicited mixed excitatory and inhibitory responses in area CA2 pyramidal neurons (PNs). We examined the strength of the SuM excitatory input to interneurons in area CA2 and identified parvalbumin-expressing basket cells as responsible for the feedforward inhibitory drive of SuM over area CA2. We demonstrated that inhibition recruited by the SuM input onto area CA2 PNs increased the precision of their action potential firing both in conditions of low and high cholinergic tone. Furthermore, we observed a clear modulation of CA1 activity with SuM stimulation in area CA2 in vivo and in slice, indicating that synchronized CA2 output drives a pulsed inhibition in area CA1. Hence, the network revealed here lays basis for understanding how SuM activity directly acts on the local hippocampal circuit to allow social memory encoding.

Introduction

The hippocampus is critical for memory formation and spatial navigation (Buzsáki and Moser, 2013; Eichenbaum and Cohen, 2014), yet basic questions persist regarding the circuitry and cellular components allowing these processes. While area CA2 has been shown to play a significant role in several hippocampal processes including social memory formation (Hitti and Siegelbaum, 2014; Stevenson and Caldwell, 2014) sharp-wave ripple generation (Oliva et al., 2016) and spatial encoding (Kay et al., 2016), information about the local circuitry and cellular processes allowing these functions is lacking. There is mounting evidence that generalizations cannot be made from the rich understanding of areas CA1 and CA3, as neurons in area CA2 have been shown to have unique molecular expression profiles (Cembrowski et al., 2016; Lein et al., 2004), morphology (Bartesaghi and Ravasi, 1999; No, 1934) and cellular properties (Robert et al., 2020; Srinivas et al., 2017; Sun et al., 2014). Notably, and in contrast to area CA1, CA2 pyramidal neurons do not undergo NMDA-mediated synaptic plasticity (Dasgupta et al., 2020; Zhao et al., 2007). Rather, the excitability of this region is tightly controlled by a highly plastic network of inhibitory neurons (Leroy et al., 2017; Nasrallah et al., 2015; Piskorowski and Chevaleyre, 2013). When active, CA2 pyramidal neurons (PNs) can strongly drive area CA1 (Chevaleyre and Siegelbaum, 2010; Kohara et al., 2014; Nasrallah et al., 2019), thereby influencing hippocampal output. Furthermore, CA2 neurons also project to area CA3, where they recruit inhibition (Boehringer et al., 2017; Kohara et al., 2014) and act to control hippocampal excitability. Thus, CA2 neurons are poised to have long-reaching effects in the hippocampus, and a better understanding of the regulation of this region is needed.

The hypothalamic supramammillary (SuM) nucleus sends projections to both area CA2 and the dentate gyrus (Haglund et al., 1984; Vertes, 1992). These long-range connections have been shown in several species including rodents, primates and humans (Berger et al., 2001; Haglund et al., 1984; Wyss et al., 1979) where they are present in early hippocampal development. The SuM has been found to be active during a wide variety of conditions including novel environment exposure (Ito et al., 2009), reinforcement learning (Ikemoto, 2005; Ikemoto et al., 2004), food anticipation (May et al., 2019), and during REM sleep and arousal (Pedersen et al., 2017; Renouard et al., 2015). This nucleus is also known for participating in hippocampal theta rhythm (Pan and McNaughton, 2002, 1997), possibly by its direct projection to the hippocampus or by modulation of the medial septum (Borhegyi et al., 1998; Vertes and Kocsis, 1997) and regulating spike-timing between hippocampus and the cortex (Ito et al., 2018). Disruption of SuM neuron activity with pharmacological methods (Aranda et al., 2008; Shahidi

et al., 2004) or lesions (Aranda et al., 2006) has been reported to disrupt hippocampal memory. Serotonin depletion of the SuM leads to deficiencies in spatial learning in the Morris water maze, and results in altered hippocampal theta activity (Gutiérrez-Guzmán et al., 2012; Hernández-Pérez et al., 2015). Salient rewarding experiences also activate the SuM, as evidenced by cFos expression in monoaminergic SuM neurons by consumption of rewarding food (Plaisier et al., 2020). Furthermore, the rewarding aspects of social aggression have been shown to involve an excitatory circuit between the hypothalamic ventral premammillary nucleus and the SuM (Stagkourakis et al., 2018). It has recently been shown that there are two separate populations of cells in the SuM that target either CA2 or the DG (Chen et al., 2020). In the DG, the SuM terminals release both glutamate and GABA (Boulland et al., 2009; Hashimotodani et al., 2018; Pedersen et al., 2017; Soussi et al., 2010). The SuM-DG projection has been recently shown to play a role in modulating DG activity in response to contextual novelty (Chen et al., 2020) and spatial memory retrieval (Li et al., 2020). In contrast, functional studies of the SuM-CA2 projection have found that this connection is entirely glutamatergic (Chen et al., 2020). It was recently discovered that the CA2-projecting SuM neurons are active during social novelty exposure, and their selective stimulation prevents expression of a memory of a familiar conspecific (Chen et al., 2020). These findings strongly suggest that the SuM-CA2 connection conveys a social novelty signal to the hippocampus. Furthermore, recent in vivo recordings from the SuM in anaesthetized rats recently reported that a subset of SuM neurons were active earlier than CA2 and other hippocampal cells during SWR (Vicente et al., 2020), indicating a possible role for the SuM-CA2 projection in shaping area CA2 activity prior to SWR onset.

Even with the anatomical and in vivo data, the properties and consequences of SuM activation on area CA2 activity remain unexplored. In this study, we use a combination of approaches to specifically examine the effects of SuM input stimulation on neuronal activity in hippocampal area CA2. Here, we show that the SuM-evoked post-synaptic excitation of CA2 PN is controlled by SuM-driven inhibition. We identified PV-expressing basket cells as the neuronal population most strongly excited by SuM input in area CA2, and thus likely responsible for the feedforward inhibition evoked by SuM in CA2 PNs. We found that recruitment of this inhibition enhances the precision of AP firing by area CA2 PNs in conditions of low and high cholinergic tone. Finally, we observed that the resulting synchronized CA2 PN activity drives inhibition in area CA1, thereby providing a circuit mechanism through which SuM can modulate hippocampal excitability by controlling area CA2 output.

Results

In order to functionally investigate the SuM projection to area CA2, we used an anterograde strategy in two separate transgenic mouse lines (Figure 1A and Supplemental Figure 1F). It has been shown that the source of vesicular glutamate transporter 2 (VGluT2)-immunopositive boutons in area CA2 originate from the SuM (Halasy et al., 2004). To further assess where these VGluT2-expressing SuM cells project into the hippocampus, we injected an AAV to express channelrhodopsin(H143R)-YFP (ChR2-EYFP) under the control of Cre into the SuM of a transgenic mouse line with Cre expression controlled by the VGluT2 promoter, the Tg(Slc17ab-icre)10Ki line (Borgius et al., 2010) (Supplemental Figure 1F). In parallel, we used a novel mouse line, the Csf2rb2-Cre line that selectively expresses Cre in the SuM (Chen et al., 2020) (Figure 1A). To find the optimal injection site, we injected a retrograde canine adenovirus type 2 (CAV-2) into area CA2 of the hippocampus to permit the expression of Cre-recombinase (Cre) in hippocampal-projecting SuM neurons, and an adeno-associated virus (AAV) was injected into the SuM to allow the expression of EGFP under the control of Cre (Supplemental Figure 1A). In 5 animals the injection of retrograde CAV-2 was sufficiently targeted to area CA2, as indicated by the presence of EGFP-expressing SuM axonal fibers primarily in this hippocampal area (Supplemental Figure 1B). We stained for calretinin to define the boundaries of the SuM nucleus (Pan and Mcnaughton, 2004). Consistent with what has been described (Chen et al., 2020), we observed that CA2-projecting cells co-express calretinin and are located in the medial SuM (Supplemental figure 1C-D). These cells were located bilaterally, ventral to the fiber bundles that traverse the SuM (Supplemental Figure 1C).

We found that with both transgenic mouse lines we could reproducibly restrict expression of ChR2-EYFP in the SuM and avoid infecting nearby hypothalamic regions that also may project to the hippocampus (Figure 1A, Supplemental Figure 1F). For all experiments, injection sites were examined post hoc to ensure correct targeting of the SuM. With both lines of transgenic mice, we observed identical patterns of SuM fiber localization in the hippocampus. EYFP-containing SuM axons were found throughout the supragranular layer of the DG and in area CA2 (Figure 1B) where they clustered around the pyramidal layer (stratum pyramidale, SP) and spread in stratum oriens (SO). The SuM fiber projection area was clearly restricted to area CA2, as defined by expression of the CA2-specific markers PCP4 and RGS14 and did not spread to neighboring areas CA3 and CA1 (Figure 1B). In order to maximize the precision of our

experiments, we frequently only achieved partial infection of the SuM, as indicated by the sparseness of ChR2-EYFP-containing fibers in comparison to the number of vGluT2-stained boutons in this region (Supplemental Figure 1G-H).

SuM axons provide excitatory glutamatergic input to pyramidal neurons in area CA2 and CA3a

In order to better understand the cellular targets and consequences of SuM input activity in area CA2, we applied the above experimental strategy to express ChR2-EYFP in SuM axonal fibers and performed whole-cell current and voltage clamp recordings of PNs across the hippocampal CA regions and activated projecting axons with pulses of 488 nm light in acute hippocampal slices. Following all recordings, we performed post-hoc anatomical reconstructions of recorded cells and axonal fibers, as well as immunohistochemical staining for CA2-area markers.

We observed that photostimulation of SuM axons elicited excitatory post-synaptic responses in 63 % of PNs (n = 166 of 263 cells) located in area CA2. PNs in this region shared similar overall dendritic morphologies and electrophysiological properties (Table 1) but differed along two criteria. First, in *stratum lucidum* some PNs clearly had thorny excrescences (TE) while others had very smooth apical dendrites (Figure 1C-D). Based on the presence of TEs, we classified cells as CA2 or CA3 PNs (unequivocal distinction was possible for 148 neurons). Second, the distribution locations of PN soma along the radial axis of the hippocampus allowed us to cluster them as deep (closer to *stratum oriens*, SO) or superficial (closer to *stratum radiatum*, SR) subpopulations (unequivocal distinction was possible for 157 neurons). We found that the SuM-PN connectivity was not different between CA2 and CA3 PNs (Table 2, χ^2 test for CA2 and CA3 PNs, $p = 0.572$) or between deep and superficial PNs (Table 2, χ^2 test for deep and superficial PNs, $p = 0.946$). Light-evoked excitatory post-synaptic potentials (EPSPs) and excitatory post-synaptic currents (EPSCs) recorded at -70mV were of fairly small amplitude (Figure 1C and 1D) that were similar regardless of the PN type or somatic location (Table 2, Mann-Whitney U test for CA2 and CA3 PNs, $p = 0.409$; Mann-Whitney U test for deep and superficial PNs, $p = 0.306$). Because no significant differences in post-synaptic responses to SuM input stimulation were observed between CA2 and CA3 PNs as well as between deep and superficial PNs, data from all PNs was pooled for the rest of the study. The small amplitude of SuM input-evoked post-synaptic responses in PNs was not due to under-stimulation of SuM axons as EPSC amplitudes rapidly reached a plateau when increasing light intensity (Supplemental Figure 2). We are confident that this transmission is due to action potential-generated vesicle release because all transmission was blocked following application of tetrodotoxin (TTX) (Supplemental Figure 2). The pure glutamatergic nature of the SuM input

163 was confirmed by the complete block of light-evoked synaptic transmission following the
164 application of NBQX and D-APV (Supplemental Figure 2; amplitudes were 16 ± 4.8 pA in
165 control and 1.8 ± 0.3 pA in NBQX & D-APV, n = 6; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p = 0.03).
166 These data confirm that SuM inputs provide long-range glutamatergic excitation to CA2 and
167 CA3 PNs in area CA2.

168 PNs in area CA2 receive mixed excitatory and inhibitory responses from SuM input

169 Photostimulation of SuM input elicited excitatory post-synaptic potentials (EPSPs) of fairly
170 small amplitude in area CA2 PNs held at -70 mV (Figure 1E and 1F). Because current clamp
171 experiments also show that SuM stimulation input also recruits feedforward inhibition in area
172 CA2 (Figure 1 C4 and D4), we asked if the amplitude of SuM input stimulation-evoked EPSPs
173 in PNs could be controlled by inhibition. Interestingly, blocking inhibitory transmission with
174 the $GABA_A$ and $GABA_B$ receptor antagonists SR95531 and CGP55845A led to a significant
175 increase of light-evoked EPSP amplitude recorded in area CA2 PNs (Figure 1F and 1G;
176 amplitudes of the first response were 0.18 ± 0.05 mV in control and 0.24 ± 0.05 mV in SR95531
177 & CGP55845A, n = 14; Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, p = 0.004 for the first PSP, p = 0.013 for
178 the second PSP, p < 0.001 for the third PSP). Thus, this result demonstrates a negative control
179 of SuM-driven excitation by feedforward inhibition.

180 Basket cells are strongly recruited by SuM inputs

181 Because the hippocampus hosts a variety of interneurons (INs) that are involved in controlling
182 specific aspects of PN excitability, we wished to establish which kind of IN was targeted by the
183 SuM input to area CA2. We performed whole-cell recordings from INs in this area and assessed
184 post-synaptic excitatory responses to SuM axons stimulation in these cells (Figure 2). In
185 contrast with previous reports of an exclusive innervation of PNs by SuM (Maglóczky et al.,
186 1994), we observed robust light-evoked excitatory transmission from SuM axons in 35 out of
187 62 interneurons (INs) with soma located in SP. Following anatomical biocytin-streptavidin
188 staining and reconstructions of recorded INs (allowing unequivocal identification in 48
189 neurons), we were able to classify INs based on their physiological properties, somatic location
190 and axonal arborization location. We classified 22 cells as basket cells (BCs) because their
191 axonal arborizations were restricted to SP (Figure 2A). BCs fired APs at high frequency either
192 in bursts or continuously upon depolarizing current injection and showed substantial
193 repolarizing sag current when hyperpolarized (Table 3). Light-evoked EPSCs and EPSPs were
194 readily observed in the vast majority of BCs (Figure 2A and C, Table 4) and reached large
195 amplitudes in some instances. An additional 26 INs with soma in SP were classified as non-

196 BCs because their axon did not target SP (Figure 2B). In our recordings, these cells fired in
197 bursts and showed little sag during hyperpolarizing current injection steps (Table 3). We
198 consistently observed no or very minor light-evoked excitatory transmission onto non-BCs
199 (Figure 2C, Table 4). Furthermore, we recorded from 17 INs that had soma in stratum oriens
200 (SO) and 9 in stratum radiatum (SR). Like non-BCs, these INs did not receive strong excitation
201 from SuM fibers (Table 4). This data is consistent with the conclusion that SuM input
202 preferentially forms excitatory synapses onto basket cells in area CA2.

203 To fully assess the strength of SuM inputs onto the different cell types, we examined the
204 following parameters for each population: the connectivity, success rate, amplitude, potency,
205 kinetics, and latencies of EPSCs as well as the resulting depolarization of the membrane
206 potential. First, SuM inputs preferentially innervated BCs as evidenced by a higher connectivity
207 of EPSCs in BCs than in PNs or other INs (Table 4). Importantly, excitatory responses had
208 short latencies with limited jitter (Table 4) indicating that the connection was monosynaptic in
209 all cell types. When voltage-clamping cells at -70 mV, light-evoked EPSCs could be compared
210 between different cell populations. However, not every photostimulation gave rise to an EPSC
211 leading to an average success rate that tended to be highest in BCs (Table 4). In addition, BCs
212 appeared to receive more excitation from SuM inputs than other cells types, as the amplitude
213 of EPSCs were larger in BCs than in PNs (Table 4). EPSCs recorded in BCs also had faster
214 kinetics than in PNs (Table 4). Interestingly, combining the success rate of EPSCs with their
215 respective amplitudes to compute the potency of the SuM synapses revealed that it was
216 significantly larger in BCs than in PNs and non-BCs (Figure 2C; potencies were 12 ± 1.6 pA
217 for PNs, n = 166; 29 ± 7.8 pA for BCs, n = 18; 5.9 ± 1.5 pA for non-BCs, n = 13; Kruskal-
218 Wallis test with Dunn-Holland-Wolfe post hoc test, $p = 0.022$). Consequently, EPSPs recorded
219 at -70 mV were of larger amplitude in BCs than in PNs and non-BCs (Figure 2D; amplitudes
220 were 0.44 ± 0.06 mV for PNs, n = 20; 1.71 ± 0.57 mV for BCs, n = 10; 0.53 ± 0.07 mV for non-
221 BCs, n = 4; Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn-Holland-Wolfe post hoc test, $p < 0.001$). When
222 recording cell-attached or current-clamping BCs at their resting membrane potential (V_M),
223 photostimulation of SuM axons was able to evoke AP firing (Figure 2E) in multiple instances
224 (n = 7 of 13), this was never observed in PNs (n = 0 of 78), non-BCs (n = 0 of 16), SR INs (n
225 = 0 of 9) or SO INs (n = 0 of 8). These results show that SuM projections to area CA2
226 preferentially provide excitation to BCs that are likely responsible of the feedforward inhibition
227 observed in PNs. This is in accordance with an efficient control of area CA2 PNs excitation by

228 the SuM inhibitory drive as axons from BCs deliver the feedforward inhibition to the peri-
229 somatic region of PNs.

230 Parvalbumin-expressing basket cells mediate the feedforward inhibition recruited by SuM

231 In the hippocampus, BCs express either cholecystokinin (CCK) or parvalbumin (PV)
232 (Klausberger and Somogyi, 2008). We found that in response to a 1 second depolarizing pulse,
233 most BCs that received strong SuM excitatory input displayed very fast AP firing with little
234 accommodation in the AP firing frequency (Table 3, Figure 3A and B). This firing behavior is
235 similar to what has been reported for fast spiking PV-expressing BCs in CA1 (Pawelzik et al.,
236 2002). In contrast, CCK-expressing BCs show a lower firing frequency and more
237 accommodation during the train (Pawelzik et al., 2002). This result suggests that BCs connected
238 by the SuM may be expressing PV. To directly confirm this hypothesis, we performed post-hoc
239 immunostaining of recorded interneurons that received strong excitation from SuM input.
240 Because of the dialysis inherent to the whole-cell recording conditions, we encountered
241 difficulty staining for multiple cells. However, PV-immunoreactivity could unequivocally be
242 detected in either the soma or dendrites of 7 connected BCs (Figure 3C). Therefore, this data
243 demonstrates that at least a fraction of the recorded BCs connected by the SuM are expressing
244 PV.

245 Hence, to address whether the lack of PV staining in some cells was a consequence of dialysis
246 or resulted from the fact that non-PV BC are also connected, we made use of a different strategy
247 to differentiate PV and CCK INs. It has previously been demonstrated that PV+ BC
248 transmission can be strongly attenuated by mu opioid receptor activation (MOR) while CCK+
249 BC transmission is insensitive to MOR activation (Glickfeld et al., 2008). Thus, in order to
250 determine if SuM inputs preferentially target one subpopulation of BCs, we recorded from PNs
251 in area CA2 and examined the sensitivity of light-evoked IPSCs to the application of the MOR
252 agonist DAMGO (Figure 4A). We found that there was a near complete block of the light-
253 evoked IPSC amplitude following 1 μM DAMGO application (Figure 4A; IPSC amplitudes
254 were 343 ± 123 pA in control and 31 ± 12.4 pA in DAMGO hence a 88 ± 5.0 % block by
255 DAMGO, n = 6 PNs; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p = 0.031), while direct excitatory
256 transmission remained unaffected (Figure 4A; EPSC amplitudes were 6.7 ± 1.1 pA in SR95531
257 & CGP55845A and 5.6 ± 0.9 pA after DAMGO, n = 17 PNs; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p =
258 0.19).

Because a fraction of PV+ INs in area CA2 is also the substrate of an iLTD of feedforward inhibition from CA3 mediated by delta opioid receptor (DOR) activation, we sought to further refine our characterization of the SuM feedforward inhibition by assessing its sensitivity to DOR activation. Application of 0.5 μM of the DOR agonist DPDPE led to a long-term reduction of light-evoked IPSCs recorded in area CA2 PNs, similar to the iLTD seen by CA3 input stimulation (Figure 4B; amplitudes were 168 ± 28 pA in control and 64 ± 22 pA in DPDPE hence a 61 ± 14 % block by DPDPE, n = 7; paired-T test, p = 0.015), while leaving direct EPSCs unaffected (Figure 4B; amplitudes were 4.0 ± 1.6 pA in SR95531 & CGP55845A and 3.1 ± 1.1 pA after DPDPE, n = 7; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p = 0.22). Further confirming the PV+ nature of INs responsible for the SuM feedforward inhibition, this result reveals that both the local CA3 and long-range SuM inputs converge onto the same population of INs to inhibit area CA2 PNs, thus enabling cross-talk between these routes through synaptic plasticity of PV+ INs.

Following up on this observation, we wished to genetically confirm that PV+ INs are responsible for the SuM feedforward inhibition over area CA2 PNs. As the dichotomy between PV+ versus CCK+ INs sensitivity to opioids has not been directly verified in area CA2, we used inhibitory DREADD to selectively inhibit PV+ INs in area CA2 while monitoring feedforward IPSCs from area CA2 PNs in response to SuM stimulation. To achieve that, we injected AAVs expressing a Cre-dependent h4MDi inhibitory DREADD in area CA2 of PV-Cre mice together with AAVs expressing ChR2 with a pan-neuronal promoter in the SuM (Figure 4C). We observed a substantial reduction of SuM-evoked IPSC amplitude recorded in area CA2 PNs upon application of 10 μM of the DREADD ligand CNO (Figure 4D; amplitudes were 847 ± 122 pA in control and 498 ± 87 pA in CNO hence a 42 ± 6.0 % block by CNO, n = 13; paired-T test, p < 0.001). Although we never measured a complete block of inhibitory responses, this result unequivocally places PV+ INs as mediators of the SuM feedfoward inhibition of area CA2 PNs. The incomplete block of IPSCs in these experiments could be a consequence of partial infection of PV+ INs in area CA2 by AAVs carrying DREADDs (Figure 4E; fraction of PV+ INs expressing DREADDs in CA2 = 75 ± 3.5 %, n = 13) and partial silencing of DREADD-expressing PV+ INs by CNO. Altogether, these combined results strongly indicate that SuM axons are efficiently and selectively exciting PV+ BCs in area CA2, thus driving a feedforward inhibition onto neighboring PNs.

<u>The feedforward inhibitory drive from SuM controls pyramidal neurons excitability</u>

291 Given SuM axonal stimulation triggers an excitatory-inhibitory sequence in post-synaptic PNs,
292 we asked which effect would prevail on PN excitability. In order to assess this, we mimicked
293 an active state in PNs by injecting constant depolarizing current steps sufficient to sustain AP
294 firing during 1 second while photostimulating SuM axons at 10 Hz (Figure 5A and 5B). We
295 observed that recruitment of SuM inputs significantly delayed the onset of the first AP (Figure
296 5C; latency to the first AP were 221 ± 19.9 ms in control and 233 ± 19.1 ms with
297 photostimulation, hence a 12.1 ± 4.3 ms increase upon photostimulation, n = 12; paired-T test,
298 p = 0.016). In addition, given SuM neurons display theta-locked firing *in vivo*, we asked if
299 rhythmic inhibition driven by SuM inputs in area CA2 could pace AP firing in PNs by defining
300 windows of excitability. Indeed, photostimulation of SuM axons at 10 Hz led to a significant
301 decrease of variability in the timing of AP firing by PNs (Figure 5D and 5E; standard deviations
302 of the first AP timing were 36.9 ± 11 ms in control and 24.7 ± 7.4 ms with photostimulation,
303 hence a 12.3 ± 5.3 ms decrease upon photostimulation, n = 12; Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, p <
304 0.001 for the first AP, p = 0.008 for the second AP, p = 0.004 for the third AP). Both the delay
305 of AP onset and the reduction of AP jitter stemmed from the feedforward inhibition recruited
306 by SuM inputs as application of $GABA_A$ and $GABA_B$ receptor antagonists abolished these
307 effects of SuM stimulation (Figure 5C-E; latency to the first AP were 232 ± 19.8 ms in SR95531
308 & CGP55845A and 235 ± 18.0 ms with photostimulation, n = 6; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p
309 = 0.44; standard deviations of the first AP timing were 11.9 ± 2.0 ms in SR95531 &
310 CGP55845A and 7.1 ± 1.5 ms with photostimulation, n = 6; Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, p =
311 0.22 for the first AP, p = 0.16 for the second AP, p = 0.09 for the third AP). These results reveal
312 that the purely glutamatergic SuM input, by recruiting feedforward inhibition, has an overall
313 inhibitory effect on PN excitability and can influence the timing and jitter of area CA2 PN
314 action potential firing.

315 It has been reported that the AP discharge of SuM neurons in vivo is phase-locked to the
316 hippocampal theta rhythm (Kocsis and Vertes, 1994). Because theta rhythm is a brain state
317 characterized by elevated levels of acetylcholine, we approximately mimicked these conditions
318 in the hippocampal slice preparation by bath application of 10 μM of the cholinergic agonist
319 carbachol (CCh). Under these conditions, CA2 PNs depolarize and spontaneously fire rhythmic
320 bursts of APs, and the properties of these AP bursts are tightly controlled by excitatory and
321 inhibitory synaptic transmission (Robert et al., 2020). Of note, we observed that CCh
322 application depressed the SuM-CA2 excitatory and inhibitory drive and decreased short-term
323 depression at these synapses (Supplemental Figure 3). Under these conditions, we asked how

324 this spontaneous AP bursting activity would be affected by activation of the SuM input by
325 triggering 10 second-long trains of 0.5 ms light pulses delivered at 10 Hz to stimulate SuM
326 axons at the onset of bursts (Figure 6A). Because of the intrinsic cell-to-cell variability of
327 bursting kinetics, we photo-stimulated SuM inputs only during interleaved bursts in the same
328 cells. To do this, bursts were detected automatically with an online threshold detection system
329 that started the photostimulation pulse train after the first AP of every alternating burst, starting
330 with the second burst (Figure 6A and B). For analysis, the number of APs and bursting kinetics
331 could be compared within the same cell. We observed a significant decrease in the number of
332 APs fired during a burst when SuM inputs were photo-stimulated as compared to interleaved
333 control bursts (Figure 6C and 6D; numbers of APs per burst were 15.2 ± 2.3 in control and 6.9
334 ± 1.3 with photostimulation, $n = 7$; paired-T test, $p = 0.031$). In control bursts, the AP firing
335 rate of CA2 PNs initially increases, and then progressively decreases. In the photo-stimulation
336 bursts, the initial increase of AP firing frequency was absent, and the subsequent AP firing
337 frequency was reduced (Figure 6E; 2-way ANOVA on firing rate over time in light-on vs light-
338 off conditions; light factor, $p < 0.001$; time factor, $p < 0.001$; light x time factor, $p = 0.052$).

339 In the presence of CCh, spontaneous AP bursting is preceded by a membrane depolarization.
340 Following several seconds of AP firing, the membrane potential of CA2 PNs remains
341 depolarized for several seconds, and slowly hyperpolarizes until the next burst event. We
342 observed that photo-stimulation of SuM inputs resulted in a striking reduction in the amount of
343 time the membrane potential remained depolarized, and this is likely why the burst duration
344 was significantly shorter in bursts with SuM photo-stimulation (Figure 6F and G; burst duration
345 was 4.0 ± 1.1 s in control and 1.6 ± 0.5 s with photostimulation, $n = 7$; paired-T test, $p = 0.037$).
346 The rate and level of V_M repolarization following bursts were not significantly changed by SuM
347 input photostimulation (V_M repolarization rate was -3.3 ± 0.6 mV/s in control and -3.6 ± 0.7
348 mV/s with photostimulation, $n = 7$; paired-T test, $p = 0.601$; post-burst V_M was -62.8 ± 1.7 mV
349 in control and -62.0 ± 2.0 mV with photostimulation, $n = 7$; paired-T test, $p = 0.173$), however
350 the inter-burst time interval was reduced. Indeed, AP bursts with SuM input activation were
351 followed more rapidly by another burst of AP than the ones without SuM input activation
352 (Figure 6B, H; time until next burst was 93 ± 14 s in control and 59 ± 17 s with photostimulation,
353 $n = 7$; paired-T test, $p = 0.001$), which could be due to both short-term depression of inhibitory
354 transmission after repeated activation during the SuM input photostimulation train and reduced
355 activation of hyperpolarizing conductances during bursts shortened by SuM input

356 photostimulation. Thus, in our preparation, SuM input activation is able to modify the
357 spontaneous bursting activity of CA2 PNs under conditions of high cholinergic tone.

358 As SuM input controls burst firing of action potentials and likely paces activity in area CA2,
359 we wondered how the subsequent output of CA2 PNs would affect their post-synaptic targets.
360 Because CA2 PNs strongly project to CA1 PNs, this activity is likely to influence CA1 encoding
361 and hippocampal output. Thus, we examined the consequences of SuM-CA2 input stimulation
362 on area CA1 both in vivo and in acute slices treated with CCh to induce spontaneous activity
363 (Figure 7).

364 ChR2-EYFP was expressed in the SuM of Csf2rb2-cre mice in a cre-dependent manner and the
365 mice were implanted with a microdrive targeting tetrodes to region CA1 and an optical fiber to
366 the SuM terminals in CA2 (Figure 7A). Mice were placed in a small box (familiar context) and
367 left free to explore as blue (473 nm) laser light pulses (50 ms pulse width) were applied to the
368 SuM terminals at 10 Hz. Across 23 recording sessions in five mice we found that the activation
369 of SuM terminals in CA2 resulted in a significant and reproducible change in the multiunit
370 spiking activity recorded in the pyramidal cell layer of CA1 on 34 of 55 tetrodes. The firing
371 rate change was similar across individual tetrodes (Figure 7B and C), with a decrease in the
372 normalized firing rate starting shortly after laser onset and continuing for about 10 ms, followed
373 immediately by a rebound-like increase to about 20 % greater than baseline firing rate (Figure
374 7B and C).

375 In order to get a better mechanistic understanding of this observation, we set out to decipher
376 how SuM activity in area CA2 influences CA1 in the hippocampal slice preparation. To this
377 end, we used the same photostimulation protocol used in vivo that consisted of light stimulation
378 trains of 50 ms-long pulses delivered at 10 Hz for 1 second, repeated every 10 seconds for 2
379 minutes and interleaved with light-off sweeps of the same duration, with the microscope
380 objective centered on area CA2. Whole-cell patch-clamp recordings of CA1 PNs were obtained
381 in acute hippocampal slices superfused with CCh and subjected to this light stimulation protocol
382 (Figure 7D). We asked what synaptic events may be responsible for the decreased firing of CA1
383 units observed 10 – 20 ms after light onset in vivo (Figure 7A-C). Whole-cell recordings of
384 CA1 PNs showed an absence of EPSCs time-locked to the photostimulation in all but one case
385 (n = 11/12) (Figure 7E and F). In contrast, we often (n = 7/12) observed light-evoked IPSCs in
386 CA1 PNs occurring 10 – 20 ms after light onset (Figure 7G and H). Therefore, the reduction in
387 firing of CA1 units in vivo is likely caused by increased inhibitory inputs onto CA1 PNs within
388 10 – 20 ms of SuM fiber stimulation over area CA2. This result highlights a contribution of

389 SuM input to controlling CA2 output that regulate CA1 activity in vivo and provides a
390 mechanistic interpretation of this observation at the circuit level.

391

392 **Discussion**

393 In this study, we provide direct evidence for a functional connection between the hypothalamus
394 and the hippocampus. Using stereotaxic injection of viral vectors in combination with
395 transgenic mouse lines to express channelrhodopsin in a projection-specific manner, we have
396 been able to selectively stimulate SuM axons in area CA2 of the hippocampus, allowing for the
397 direct examination of synaptic transmission. This approach yielded novel functional
398 physiological information about the SuM post-synaptic targets and overall consequences of
399 activation. We found that, in contrast to previous anatomical reports, SuM inputs form synapses
400 onto both PNs and INs in area CA2. The excitatory drive evoked by light-stimulation of SuM
401 inputs was significantly larger for BC INs, which we demonstrate are likely PV+. The resulting
402 feedforward inhibition recruited by SuM input stimulation enhanced the precision of AP timing
403 of CA2 PNs in conditions of low and high cholinergic tone. The modified CA2 output evoked
404 poly-synaptic inhibition in area CA1, likely responsible for a decrease firing rate of CA1 units
405 in vivo. Overall, we demonstrate that SuM input controls CA2 output to area CA1 by recruiting
406 feedforward inhibition.

407 <u>SuM inputs to area CA2 form a microcircuit where PV+ basket cells strongly inhibit pyramidal</u>
408 <u>neurons</u>

409 Glutamatergic innervation of area CA2 by the SuM has been previously described by tracing
410 studies (Kiss et al., 2000; Soussi et al., 2010) and presumed to form synapses exclusively onto
411 PNs (Maglóczky et al., 1994). Our experimental strategy allowed for the direct examination of
412 the post-synaptic targets of SuM glutamatergic axons. Our results confirm that PNs in area CA2
413 indeed receive excitatory synapses from SuM axons. However, in contrast to what had been
414 proposed in previous studies, we observed that SuM inputs target not only PNs but also INs in
415 area CA2. Importantly, we identified a specific subpopulation of INs as PV+ BCs which were
416 the cell type most potently excited by SuM. These BCs could fire action potentials upon SuM
417 inputs photostimulation leading to a substantial feedforward inhibition of neighboring PNs.
418 Consistent with the perisomatic targeting of BCs axons, recruitment of BCs by SuM resulted in
419 the control of PNs excitability. This finding demonstrates that SuM activity can pace action
420 potential firing in PNs through recruitment of PV+ BCs. The inhibitory action of the SuM input

421 to area CA2 contrasts with the overall excitatory effect of the SuM-DG path (Hashimotodani et
422 al., 2018; Li et al., 2020; Mizumori et al., 1989; Nakanishi et al., 2001).

423 Consequences of SuM input on area CA2 output

424 Recent work has demonstrated a strong excitatory drive from area CA2 to CA1 (Chevaleyre
425 and Siegelbaum, 2010; Kohara et al., 2014; Nasrallah et al., 2019). Consequently, modification
426 of CA2 output through synaptic plasticity (Nasrallah et al., 2019) or neuromodulation (Tirko et
427 al., 2018) affects CA1 activity. This observation is critical when considering social memory
428 formation, which is known to depend on CA2 output (Hitti and Siegelbaum, 2014; Stevenson
429 and Caldwell, 2014) and is likely encoded in downstream ventral CA1 (Okuyama et al., 2016).
430 CA2-targeting cells in the SuM have recently been shown to be highly active during novel
431 social exploration (Chen et al., 2020). From our results, we hypothesize that this novel social
432 signal from the SuM, acts via the PV+ inhibitory network in area CA2 to control the timing of
433 CA2 output onto area CA1.

434 The population of INs potently excited by SuM transmission display many features that allow
435 us to classify them as PV+ BCs. They have somas located in the somatic layer, have densely
436 packed perisomatic-targeted axons, are fast spiking, show PV immuno-reactivity, are sensitive
437 to MOR and DOR activation, and their selective silencing reduces SuM driven feed-forward
438 inhibition of area CA2 PNs. Recent studies have indicated that DOR-mediated inhibitory
439 synaptic plasticity of PV+ INs in area CA2 is required for social recognition memory
440 (Domínguez et al., 2019) and further, that exposure to a novel conspecific induces a DOR-
441 mediated plasticity in this same inhibitory network in area CA2 (Leroy et al., 2017) Thus, our
442 finding that SuM input acts via PV+ interneurons fits with previous results, and provides a link
443 between social novelty information and local hippocampal inhibitory plasticity.

444 By recruiting feedforward inhibition, SuM activity paces and temporally constrains AP firing
445 from CA2 PNs undergoing depolarization. More critically, in conditions of elevated cholinergic
446 tone relevant to SuM activity in vivo, CA2 PNs depolarize and fire bursts of APs that can be
447 shaped by SuM input both by controlling AP firing as well as membrane depolarization. While
448 this result was obtained by triggering SuM input stimulation to the onset of burst firing by CA2
449 PNs, in vivo and acute slice experiments revealed a consistent influence of CA1 PN AP firing
450 by SuM input to area CA2 regardless of the timing of SuM input stimulation relative to CA2
451 PN AP burst firing. These results demonstrate a powerful control of SuM input over CA2 output
452 when PNs are spontaneously firing bursts of APs, a firing mode that is most efficient at
453 influencing CA1 activity (Tirko et al., 2018). Optogenetic experiments have recently shown

454 that CA2 PNs can drive a strong feedforward inhibition in area CA1 (Nasrallah et al., 2019).
455 Although SuM input likely does not directly drive feedforward inhibition in area CA1 (Chen et
456 al., 2020), the recruitment of feedforward inhibition in area CA2 by SuM input activation could
457 curtail the time window of spontaneous firing in CA2 PNs and effectively lead to a
458 synchronized drive of feedforward inhibition by area CA2 over area CA1. We postulate that
459 the concerted IPSC that we detect in area CA1 with SuM fiber photostimulation in area CA2
460 corresponds to the large decrease in firing that is observed in CA1 multi-unit recordings in vivo.
461 Thus, these data provide evidence for a long-range control of CA2 bursting activity and the
462 consequences in downstream area CA1 in conditions of high cholinergic tone that accompanies
463 theta oscillations in vivo during which SuM is active.

464 Gating of area CA2 activity by PV+ INs and significance for pathologies

465 The density of PV+ INs in area CA2 is strikingly higher than in neighboring areas CA3 and
466 CA1 (Botcher et al., 2014; Piskorowski and Chevaleyre, 2013). This population of INs has been
467 shown to play a powerful role in controlling the activation of CA2 PNs by CA3 inputs
468 (Nasrallah et al., 2015). We show in this study that long-range inputs from the SuM can strongly
469 recruit PV+ BCs, which in turn inhibit PNs in this area. Hence, both intra-hippocampal inputs
470 from CA3 and long-range inputs from the SuM converge onto PV+ INs to control CA2 PN
471 excitability and output.

472 Postmortem studies have reported losses of PV+ INs in area CA2 in pathological contexts
473 including bipolar disorder (Benes et al., 1998), Alzheimer's disease (Brady and Mufson, 1997),
474 and schizophrenia (Benes et al., 1998; Knable et al., 2004). Consistent with these reports, in a
475 mouse model of the 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, we found a loss of PV staining and deficit of
476 inhibitory transmission in area CA2 that were accompanied by impairments in social memory
477 (Piskorowski et al., 2016). We postulate that the PV+ INs altered during pathological conditions
478 may be the same population of PV+ BCs recruited by long-range SuM inputs. Indeed, the DOR-
479 mediated plasticity onto PV+INs is altered in the 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, and we show here
480 that the PV+ INs targeted by the SuM also express DOR. Thus, the loss of function of PV+ INs
481 in area CA2 could disrupt proper long-range connection between the hippocampus and the
482 hypothalamus and possibly contribute to some of the cognitive impairments observed in
483 schizophrenia animal models. Further, pharmacological mouse models of schizophrenia have
484 reported increased c-fos immunoreactivity in the SuM as well as memory impairments (Castañé
485 et al., 2015). Although several alterations in these models of schizophrenia could lead to deficits

486 of hippocampal-dependent behavior, abnormalities of the SuM projection onto area CA2 appear
487 as a potential mechanism that warrants further investigation.

488

489 **Materials & Methods**

490 All procedures involving animals were performed in accordance with institutional regulations.
491 Animal sample sizes were estimated using power tests with standard deviations and ANOVA
492 values from pilot experiments. A 15 % failure rate was assumed to account for stereotaxic
493 injection errors and slice preparation complications.

494 Use of the Tg(Slc17ab-icre)10Ki mouse line: we used the Tg(Slc17ab-icre)10Ki mouse line
495 that was previously generated (Borgius et al., 2010) and expresses the Cre recombinase under
496 the control slc17a6 gene coding for the vesicular glutamate transporter isoform 2 (VGluT2).

497 Use of the csf2rb2-Cre mouse line: We used the csf2rb2-Cre mouse line that was recently
498 generated (Chen et al., 2020) and expresses the Cre recombinase under control of the csf2rb2
499 gene that shows selective expression in the SuM.

500 Use of the Pvalbtm1(cre)Arbr/J mouse line: we used the Pvalbtm1(cre)Arbr/J mouse line that
501 was previously generated (Hippenmeyer et al., 2005) and expresses the Cre recombinase under
502 the control Pvalbm gene coding for parvalbumin (PV).

503 Stereotaxic viral injection: Animals were anaesthetized with ketamine (100 mg/kg) and
504 xylazine (7 mg/kg). The adeno-associated viruses AAV9.EF1a.DIO.hChR2(H134R).EYFP and
505 AAV9.hSynapsin.EGFP.WPRE.bGH were used at $3x10^8$ vg, the
506 AAV.Synapsin.DIO.hM4D(Gi).mCherry was used at $3.6x10^9$ vg and the
507 AAV2/9.hSyn.hChR2(H134R).EYFP.WPRE.hGH was used at $3.7x10^{13}$ vg. The retrograde
508 tracer CAV2-cre virus was used at $2.5x10^{12}$ vg. 500 nL of virus was unilaterally injected into
509 the brain of 4 week-old male wild type C57BL6, Tg(Slc17ab-icre)10Ki (VGluT2-Cre), csf2rb2-
510 cre (SuM-Cre) or Pvalbtm1(cre)Arbr/J (PV-Cre) mice at 100 nL/min and the injection cannula
511 was left at the injection site for 10 min following infusion. In the case of
512 AAV.Synapsin.DIO.hM4D(Gi)-mcherry injection in PV-Cre mice, bilateral injections were
513 performed in dorsal CA2. The loci of the injection sites were as follows: anterior–posterior
514 relative to bregma: -2.8 mm for SuM, -1.6 mm for CA2; medial-lateral relative to midline: 0
515 mm for SuM, 1.9 mm for CA2; dorsal-ventral relative to surface of the brain: 4.75 mm for SuM,
516 1.4 mm for CA2.

517 Electrophysiological recordings: Transverse hippocampal slices were prepared at least 3 weeks
518 after viral injection and whole-cell patch-clamp recordings were performed from PNs and INs
519 across the hippocampal CA regions. In the case of PV-Cre mice injected with
520 AAV.Synapsin.DIO.hM4D(Gi)-mcherry, slices were prepared 6 weeks after viral injection.
521 Animals were deeply anaesthetized with ketamine (100 mg/kg) and xylazine (7 mg/kg), and
522 perfused transcardially with a N-methyl-D-glucamin-based (NMDG) cutting solution
523 containing the following (in mM): NMDG 93, KCl 2.5, NaH_2PO_4 1.25, $NaHCO_3$ 30, HEPES
524 20, glucose 25, thiourea 2, Na-ascorbate 5, Na-pyruvate 3, $CaCl_2$ 0.5, $MgCl_2$ 10. Brains were
525 then rapidly removed, hippocampi were dissected out and placed upright into an agar mold and
526 cut into 400 μm thick transverse slices (Leica VT1200S) in the same cutting solution at 4 °C.
527 Slices were transferred to an immersed-type chamber and maintained in artificial cerebro-spinal
528 fluid (ACSF) containing the following (in mM) : NaCl 125, KCl 2.5, NaH_2PO_4 1.25, $NaHCO_3$
529 26, glucose 10, Na-pyruvate 2, $CaCl_2$ 2, $MgCl_2$ 1. Slices were incubated at 32°C for
530 approximately 20 min then maintained at room temperature for at least 45 min prior to patch-
531 clamp recordings performed with either potassium- or cesium-based intracellular solutions
532 containing the following (in mM): K- or Cs-methyl sulfonate 135, KCl 5, EGTA-KOH 0.1,
533 HEPES 10, NaCl 2, MgATP 5, Na_2GTP 0.4, Na_2-phosphocreatine 10 and biocytin (4 mg/mL).

534 ChR2 was excited by 488 nm light delivered by a LED attached to the epifluorescence port of
535 the microscope. Light stimulations trains consisted of 2-10 pulses, 0.5 ms long, delivered at 10
536 Hz, repeated every 20 s for at least 20 sweeps. For the patch-clamp recordings in area CA1 with
537 stimulation of SuM axons in area CA2, 50 ms long light stimulation pulses were delivered every
538 10 seconds. We used a light intensity of 25 mW/mm^2 which was experimentally determined as
539 the lowest irradiance allowing TTX-sensitive maximal responses in all cell types and
540 conditions. Data were obtained using a Multiclamp 700B amplifier, sampled at 10 kHz and
541 digitized using a Digidata. The pClamp10 software was used for data acquisition. Series
542 resistance were < 20 MOhm and were not compensated in voltage-clamp, bridge balance was
543 applied in current-clamp. An experimentally determined liquid junction potential of
544 approximately 9 mV was not corrected for. Pharmacological agents were added to ACSF at the
545 following concentrations (in μM): 10 NBQX and 50 D-APV to block AMPA and NMDA
546 receptors, 1 SR95531 and 2 CGP55845A to block $GABA_A$ and $GABA_B$ receptors, 1 DAMGO
547 to activate μ-opioid receptors (MOR), 0.5 DPDPE to activate δ-opioid receptors (DOR), 10
548 clozapine N-oxide (CNO) to activate hM4D(Gi) DREADDs, 10 CCh to activate cholinergic
549 receptors, 0.2 tetrodotoxin (TTX) to prevent sodic action potential generation.

550 Surgery for *in vivo* recordings: All surgeries were performed in a stereotaxic frame (Narishige).
551 Csf2rb2-cre male mice from 3 to 6 months of age were anaesthetized using 500 mg/kg Avertin.
552 pAAV.DIO.hChR2(H134R).EYFP was injected into the SuM (–2.7 mm AP, +0.4 mm ML,
553 –5.0 mm DV) using a 10 µL Hamilton microsyringe (701LT, Hamilton) with a beveled 33
554 gauge needle (NF33BL, World Precision Instruments (WPI)). A microsyringe pump (UMP3,
555 WPI) with controller (Micro4, WPI) were used to set the speed of the injection (100 nl/min).
556 The needle was slowly lowered to the target site and remained in place for 5 min prior to start
557 of the injection and the needle was removed 10 min after infusion was complete. Following
558 virus injection, a custom-built screw-driven microdrive containing six independently adjustable
559 nichrome tetrodes (14 µm diameter), gold-plated to an impedance of 200 to 250 kΩ was
560 implanted, with a subset of tetrodes targeting CA1, and an optic fiber (200 µm core diameter,
561 NA=0.22) targeting CA2 (–1.9 mm AP, +/– 2.2 mm ML, –1.6 mm DV). Following recovery,
562 the tetrodes were slowly lowered over several days to CA1 pyramidal cell layer, identified by
563 characteristic local field potential patterns (theta and sharp-wave ripples) and high amplitude
564 multiunit activity. During the adjustment period the animal was habituated every day to a small
565 box in which recording and stimulation were performed.

566 *In vivo* recording protocol: Recording was commenced following tetrodes reaching CA1. To
567 examine the impact of SuM terminal stimulation in CA2 the mice were returned to the small
568 familiar box and trains of 10 light pulses (473 nm, 10 mW/mm^2 and pulse width 50 ms) were
569 delivered to the CA2 at 10 Hz. The pulse train was repeated every 10 seconds for at least 20
570 times as the animals freely explored the box. Multiunit activity was recorded using a
571 DigitalLynx 4SX recording system running Cheetah v.5.6.0 acquisition software (Neuralynx).
572 Broadband signals from each tetrode were filtered between 600 and 6,000 Hz and recorded
573 continuously at 32 kHz. Recording sites were later verified histologically with electrolytic
574 lesions as described above and the position of the optic fiber was also verified from the track.

575 *In Vivo* data analysis:

576 Spike and event timestamps corresponding to onset of each laser pulse were imported into
577 Matlab (MathWorks) and spikes which occurred 50 ms before and 100 ms after each laser pulse
578 were extracted. Raster plots were generated using a 1 ms bin size. Similar results were obtained
579 using 5 ms and 10 ms bin size (data not shown). Firing rate histograms were calculated by
580 dividing total number of spikes in each time bin by that bin's duration. Each firing rate
581 histogram was normalized by converting it into z-score values. Mean standard deviation values
582 for the z-score calculation were taken from pre-laser pulse time period. To average the response

583 across all mice, for each tetrode the firing rate in each bin was normalized to the average rate
584 in the pre-laser period.

585 Immunochemistry and cell identification: Midbrains containing the injection site were
586 examined post-hoc to ensure that infection was restricted to the SuM.

587 Post-hoc reconstruction of neuronal morphology and SuM axonal projections were performed
588 on slices and midbrain tissue following overnight incubation in 4 % paraformaldehyde in
589 phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Midbrain sections were re-sliced sagittally to 100 μm thick
590 sections. Slices were permeabilized with 0.2 % triton in PBS and blocked overnight with 3 %
591 goat serum in PBS with 0.2 % triton. Primary antibody (life technologies) incubation was
592 carried out in 3 % goat serum in PBS overnight at 4°C. Channelrhodopsin-2 was detected by
593 chicken primary antibody to GFP (Life technologies) (1:10,000 dilution) and a alexa488-
594 conjugated goat-anti chick secondary. Other primary antibodies used were mouse anti-RGS14
595 (Neuromab) (1:300 dilution), rabbit anti- PCP4 (Sigma) (1:600 dilution), guinea pig anti-vGlut2
596 antibody (Milipore) (1:10,000 dilution), rabbit anti-parvalbumin antibody (Swant) (dilution
597 1:2000). Alexa-546-conjugated streptavidin (life technologies), secondary antibodies and far-
598 red neurotrace (life technologies) incubations were carried out in block solution for 4 hours at
599 room temperature. Images were collected with a Zeiss 710 laser-scanning confocal microscope.

600 Reconstructed neurons were classified as either PNs or INs based on the extension and
601 localization of their dendrites and axons. CA1, CA2 and CA3 PNs were identified based on
602 their somatic localization, dendritic arborization and presence of thorny excrescences (TE).
603 Among INs with somas located in the pyramidal layer (stratum pyramidale, SP), discrimination
604 between BCs and non-BCs was achieved based on the restriction of their axons to SP or not,
605 respectively. When available, firing patterns upon injection of depolarizing current step
606 injection, action potential (AP) half-width, amount of repolarizing sag current upon
607 hyperpolarization from -70 mV to -100 mV by current step injection, membrane resistance (R_M)
608 and capacitance (C_M) were additionally used for cell identification. CA2 and CA3a PNs
609 displayed similar firing patterns, AP width, sag current, R_M and C_M. In contrast, INs had faster
610 firing rates, shorter AP width, higher R_M and lower C_M than PNs. BCs further differed from
611 non-BCs by the presence of a larger sag current. All recorded neurons that could not be
612 unequivocally identified as PNs or INs were excluded from analysis.

613 Data analysis and statistics: Electrophysiological recordings were analyzed using IGORpro
614 (Wavemetrics) and Clampfit (Molecular devices) software. For accurate measurements of the
615 kinetics and latencies of post-synaptic responses, the following detection process was used. For

each cell, average traces were used to create a template waveform that was then fitted to individual traces and measurements were performed on the fitted trace. When only amplitudes of responses were needed, standard average peak detection was used. Results are reported ± SEM. Statistical significance was assessed using χ^2 test, Student's T test, Mann-Whitney U test, Wilcoxon signed-rank test, Kolmogorov-Smirnoff test, Kruskal-Wallis test, one-way or two-way ANOVA where appropriate.

Author Contributions

RAP, VR & TM designed experiments. RAP, VR, VC, LT, RB, AJYH performed experiments. VR, RAP and DP completed analysis. VR and RAP wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

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837

838

839 **Figures legends**

840 **Figure 1. Selective functional mapping of SuM neurons that project to hippocampal area**
841 **CA2.** A. Left, diagram illustrating the injection of AAVs into the SuM. Middle, sagittal image
842 indicating the infected SuM area expressing hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP (green). Right, expanded
843 view of injection site in the Csf2rbr-Cre mouse line. B. Left, hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP -
844 expressing SuM fibers (green) and nissl staining (blue) in the hippocampus. Right, higher
845 magnification image of area CA2 with hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP -expressing SuM fibers (green)
846 and nissl staining (blue) and RGS14 staining (magenta) to label area CA2. C. CA2 pyramidal
847 neurons in the SuM-innervated region receive excitatory transmission. (C1) Example CA2 PN
848 reconstruction (dendrites in black, axons in grey, hippocampal stratum borders shown in dotted
849 line, area demarcated in blue corresponds to the expanded image in C2). (C2) Biocytin labeling
850 of the recorded cell proximal dendrites, scale bar represents 10 μm. (C3) AP firing and
851 repolarizing sag current in response to steps of +800 and -400 pA current injection. (C4) Light-
852 evoked EPSPs (top traces, individual traces shown in grey, average trace shown in black) and
853 EPSCs (bottom traces, individual traces shown in grey, average trace shown in black). **D.** CA3
854 pyramidal neurons in the SuM-innervated region receive excitatory transmission. (D1) Example
855 CA3 PN reconstruction (dendrites in brown, axons in light brown, hippocampal stratum borders
856 shown in dotted line, area demarcated in blue corresponds to the expanded image in D2). (D2)
857 Biocytin labeling of the recorded cell proximal dendrites, note the presence of thorny
858 excrescences, as indicated by the red arrows; scale bar represents 10 μm. (D3) AP firing and
859 repolarizing sag current in response to steps of +800 and -400 pA current injection. (D4) Light-
860 evoked EPSPs (top traces, individual traces shown in grey, average trace shown in black) and
861 EPSCs (bottom traces, individual traces shown in grey, average trace shown in black). E.

862 Diagram illustrating the whole-cell recordings of area CA2 PNs and SuM fiber light stimulation
863 in acute slice preparation. F. Sample traces of three 10 Hz SuM light-evoked PSPs before and
864 after blocking inhibitory transmission (control shown in black, SR95531 & CGP55845A shown
865 in grey). G. Summary graph of light-evoked PSP amplitudes recorded in PNs before and after
866 application of 1 μM SR95531& 2 μM CGP55845A (individual cells shown as thin lines,
867 population average shown as thick line, error bars represent SEM, n = 14; Wilcoxon signed-
868 rank tests, p = 0.004 for the first PSP, p = 0.013 for the second PSP, p < 0.001 for the third
869 PSP).

870

871 **Figure 2. SuM input provides excitatory glutamatergic transmission to diverse population**
872 **of PNs in area CA2.** A-B. Left, diagrams illustrating whole-cell recordings in area CA2 and
873 SuM fiber stimulation in acute slice preparation. Middle, example reconstruction of different
874 cell types (soma and dendrites in thick lines, axon in thin lines, hippocampal strata in dotted
875 grey lines). Right, sample traces of light-evoked EPSPs (top, individual traces in grey, average
876 trace in black) and EPSCs (bottom, individual traces in grey, average trace in black). A. A
877 Basket cell in area CA2. B. Non-basket cell. C. Summary graph of light-evoked EPSC potencies
878 in PNs, BCs and non-BCs in area CA2 (individual cells shown as dots, population average
879 shown as thick line, error bars represent SEM, PNs : n = 166; BC INs: n = 18; non-BCs: n =
880 13; Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn-Holland-Wolfe post hoc test, p = 0.022). D. Summary graph
881 of light-evoked PSP amplitudes in PNs, BCs and non-BCs (individual cells shown as dots,
882 population average shown as thick line, error bars represent SEM, PNs : n = 20; BCs : n = 10;
883 non-BCs : n = 4; Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn-Holland-Wolfe post hoc test, p < 0.001). E.
884 Left, proportion of post-synaptic CA2 PNs, BCs and non-BCs firing action potentials time-
885 locked to light stimulation of SuM input. Right, sample traces of light-evoked action potentials
886 in a BC recorded in current-clamp at resting membrane potential (top) and in cell-attached
887 (bottom) configurations.

888

889 **Figure 3. SuM inputs provide excitation to Parvalbumin-expressing BCs.** A. Three
890 biocytin reconstructions of BC INs with dendrites in red and axons in light red. Inset, current
891 clamp steps to -400 pA and +400 pA display high-frequency AP firing and repolarizing sag
892 current. B. Corresponding light-evoked EPSCs and EPSPs for the three reconstructed neurons
893 (individual traces in grey, average trace in black). C. Corresponding PV immunostaining of the

three interneurons: parvalbumin staining, biocytin labeling of the recorded cell, and merge (PV in magenta and biocytin in green).

Figure 4. Parvalbumin-expressing BCs mediate the feedforward inhibition recruited by photostimulation of SuM fibers. A. Application of the mu-opioid receptor agonist, DAMGO, results in the complete abolition of light-evoked SuM inhibitory transmission. A1, sample traces (top, control in red, DAMGO in grey) and summary graph of light-evoked IPSC amplitudes recorded in area CA2 PNs before and after application of 1 μM DAMGO (bottom, n = 6, error bars represent SEM). A2, sample traces (top, SR95531 & CGP55845A in black, DAMGO in grey) and summary graph of light-evoked EPSC amplitudes recorded in area CA2 PNs before and after application of 1μM DAMGO (bottom, n = 17, error bars represent SEM). B. Application of the delta-opioid receptor agonist, DPDPE, results in the long-term depression of light-evoked SuM inhibitory transmission. B1, sample traces (top, control in red, DPDPE in grey) and summary graph of light-evoked IPSC amplitudes recorded in area CA2 PNs before and after application of 0.5 μM DPDPE (bottom, n = 7, error bars represent SEM). B2, sample traces (top, SR95531 & CGP55845A in black, DAMGO in grey) and summary graph of light-evoked EPSC amplitudes recorded in area CA2 PNs before and after application of 0.5 μM DPDPE (bottom, n = 7, error bars represent SEM). C. Left, diagrams illustrating the method to infect SuM neurons and selectively inhibit PV+ INs in area CA2. An AAV allowing the Cre-dependent expression of inhibitory DREADD was injected bilaterally into area CA2 of the dorsal hippocampus and another AAV allowing the expression of ChR2 was injected into the SuM of PV-Cre mice, allowing optogenetic stimulation of SuM inputs and pharmacogenetic inhibition of PV+ INs by application of the DREADD agonist CNO at 10 μM. Right, diagram of the recording configuration. D. Silencing of PV+ INs by inhibitory DREADDs reduces SuM feedforward inhibition onto area CA2 PNs. Sample traces (left, control in red, CNO in grey) and summary graph (right) of light-evoked IPSC amplitudes recorded in CA2 PNs before and after application of 10μM CNO (n = 13, error bars represent SEM). E. Example immunostaining against PV and DREADD with biocytin labelling in area CA2 from a slice used in these experiments.

Figure 5. Area CA2 PNs receive a net inhibitory drive from SuM that controls AP firing properties. A. Diagram illustrating whole-cell recordings of area CA2 PNs and SuM fiber light stimulation in acute slice preparation. B. Example traces of a CA2 PN action potential firing in

927 response to current injection in the absence (black traces) or presence of 10 Hz photostimulation
928 of SuM inputs (red traces). C. Action potential onset is increased with 10 Hz SuM input
929 photostimulation. Left, sample traces of the first AP in control and with inhibition blocked by
930 1 μM SR95531 & 2 μM CGP55845A application (light-off in black, light-on in red, light-off
931 in SR95531 & CGP55845A in grey, light-on in SR95531 & CGP55845A in purple). Right,
932 summary graph of photostimulation-induced delay of AP firing in area CA2 PNs before and
933 after application of SR95531 & CGP55845A (control shown in red, n = 12, paired-T test, p =
934 0.016; SR95531 & CGP55845A shown in purple, n = 6; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p = 0.44;
935 individual cells shown with dots, boxplot represents median, quartiles, 10th and 90th percentiles).
936 D. Sample traces of AP firing in repeated trials (light-off in black, light-on in red, light-on in
937 SR95531 & CGP55845A in purple; during experiment photostimulation was interleaved with
938 control, but are grouped here for demonstration purposes). E. AP jitter in CA2 PNs is reduced
939 by activation of SuM inputs. Left, summary graph of the standard deviation of AP firing with
940 or without 10 Hz photostimulation (n = 12; Wilcoxon signed-rank test, p < 0.001 for the first
941 AP, p = 0.008 for the second AP, p = 0.004 for the third AP; individual cells shown with thin
942 lines, population average shown as thick line, error bars represent SEM). Right,
943 photostimulation-induced reduction of AP firing standard deviation in control and in SR95531
944 & CGP55845A (control, n = 12; Wilcoxon signed-rank tests, p < 0.001 for the first AP, p =
945 0.008 for the second AP, p = 0.004 for the third AP; SR95531 & CGP55845A, n = 6; Wilcoxon
946 signed-rank tests, p = 0.22 for the first AP, p = 0.16 for the second AP, p = 0.09 for the third
947 AP; individual cells shown with dots, boxplot represents median, quartiles, 10th and 90th
948 percentiles).

949

950 **Figure 6. SuM input shapes CA2 PN AP bursts in conditions of elevated cholinergic**
951 **tone.** A. Diagram illustrating whole-cell recordings of area CA2 PNs with light stimulation of
952 SuM fibers in an acute slice preparation. B. Sample trace of spontaneous AP bursting activity
953 recorded from a CA2 PN during bath application of 10 μM CCh. For every even-numbered
954 burst, a 10 Hz photostimulation (blue bars) was delivered to excite SuM inputs in area CA2
955 allowing a comparison of burst AP firing in the same cell. C. Sample traces of AP firing
956 during bursts for light-off (left, black) and light-on (right, red) epochs. D. Comparison of AP
957 number / burst for light-off (black) and light-on (red) events (n = 7; individual cells shown as
958 thin lines, population average shown as thick line, error bars represent SEM; paired-T test, p =
959 0.031). E. Average firing rate during spontaneous burst events with SuM photostimulation

960 (red, light-on) and controlled inter-leaved burst events (black, light-off). Shaded area
961 represents SEM for 7 cells each with between 3 and 13 bursts analyzed in light-on and light-
962 off conditions (2-way ANOVA, light factor: $p < 0.001$, time factor: $p < 0.001$, light x time
963 factor: $p = 0.052$). F. Example burst events with (red) and without (black) SuM
964 photostimulation overlayed and on a scale that shows the rapidly hyperpolarizing membrane
965 potential that occurs with SuM input stimulation. G. Comparison of bursts duration for events
966 with (red) and without (black) photostimulation (n = 7; individual cells shown as thin lines,
967 population average shown as thick line, error bars represent SEM; paired-T test, $p = 0.037$).
968 H. Comparison of time elapsed to next burst onset following bursts with (red) or without
969 (black) photosimulation (n = 7; individual cells shown as thin lines, population average shown
970 as thick line, error bars represent SEM; paired-T test, $p = 0.001$).

971 **Figure 7. Consequences of SuM input on area CA2 output to CA1.** A. Diagram
972 illustrating in vivo recording in CA1 with tetrodes and SuM axon terminals stimulation over
973 CA2 with an implanted optical fiber. B. Representative data from 4 multi-unit recordings.
974 Raster plot (top) showing CA1 AP firing activity before and during photostimulation of SuM
975 fibers in area CA2. The corresponding firing rate histogram (middle) of four tetrodes placed
976 in the CA1 pyramidal cell layers, as well as plots of standard deviation (SD; bottom). Red
977 lines indicate +/- 3SD. C. Individual (grey) and average (red) normalized firing rates from 31
978 multiunit recordings, 3 consecutive light stimulation epochs are displayed to help visualizing
979 the consistency of the effect of SuM input light stimulation over area CA2 on CA1 multi-unit
980 firing; the shaded area represents the SEM. D. Diagram illustrating whole-cell recordings of
981 area CA1 PNs and SuM fiber light stimulation over area CA2 in acute slice preparation. E-H.
982 Example waterfall plots (E, G) and corresponding peri-stimulus time histogram (F, H,
983 population average shown as thick line, shaded area represents SEM) of EPSCs (black) and
984 IPSCs (red) recorded from a CA1 PN ex vivo during photostimulation of SuM input over area
985 CA2 with bath application of 10 μM CCh.

986 **Supplemental figure legends**

987 **Supplemental Figure 1.**

988 A. Diagram illustrating the intersectional strategy used to label CA2-projecting SuM neurons.
989 B – E. Labelling of CA2-projecting SuM neurons with the retrograde CAV-2 carrying Cre-
990 recombinase injected in CA2 and the anterograde AAV carrying DIO-EGFP injected in SuM
991 of wild type mice. B. Labelling of SuM fibers in the hippocampus from CA2-projecting SuM
992 neurons. Left, nissl staining (blue) and EGFP expression (green) in the hippocampus. Right,
993 PCP4 staining (magenta) and EGFP expression (green) in area CA2. C. Retrograde-labeled
994 SuM neurons that project to hippocampal area CA2. Left, nissl staining (blue) and EGFP
995 expression (green) in SuM. Right, calretinin staining (magenta) and EGFP expression (green)
996 in SuM. D. Higher magnification image of CA2-projecting SuM neurons. Left, nissl staining
997 (blue) and EGFP expression (green) in SuM. Center, nissl (blue) and calretinin staining
998 (magenta) in SuM. Right, calretinin staining (magenta) and EGFP expression (green) in SuM.
999 E. VGluT2 expression of CA2-projecting SuM neurons. Left, nissl staining (blue) and EGFP
1000 expression (green) in SuM. Right, VGluT2 staining (red) and EGFP expression (green) in SuM.
1001 F. Top, diagram illustrating the injection of AAVs into the SuM. Bottom, sagittal image of the
1002 injection site in SuM to express hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP (green) in the VGluT2-Cre line. G and
1003 H. Anterograde labelling of SuM projections to the hippocampus from AAV carrying DIO-
1004 ChR2-EYFP injected in SuM of VGluT2-Cre mice. G. Left, VGluT2 (red) and nissl staining
1005 (blue) in the hippocampus. Right, hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP -expressing SuM fibers (green) and
1006 nissl (blue) staining in the hippocampus. H. Left, higher magnification image of area CA2 with
1007 VGluT2 (red) and nissl (blue) staining. Center, hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP -expressing SuM fibers
1008 (green) and nissl staining (blue). Right, hCHR2(H134R)-EYFP -expressing SuM fibers (green)
1009 and VGluT2 staining (red).

1010 **Supplemental Figure 2.**

1011 A. Diagram illustrating the whole-cell recording configuration of PNs in area CA2 and SuM
1012 fiber stimulation in acute hippocampal slices. B. Light-evoked EPCSs from SuM inputs are
1013 completely blocked following application of tetrodotoxin (TTX). Sample traces (top, control
1014 shown in black, +TTX shown in grey) and power-response curves (bottom) of light-evoked
1015 EPSC amplitudes recorded in PN before (black) and after application of 0.2 μM TTX (grey) at
1016 different light intensities (n = 5, error bars represent SEM). C. Light-evoked EPCSs from SuM
1017 inputs are completely blocked following application of NMDA and AMPA receptor blockers
1018 (NBQX & APV). Sample traces (top, control shown in black, NBQX & APV shown in grey)

1019 and time course (bottom) of light-evoked EPSC amplitudes upon application of 10 μM NBQX
1020 & 50 μM APV (n = 6, error bars represent SEM).

1021 **Supplemental Figure 3.**

1022 A. Diagram illustrating the whole-cell recording configuration of PNs in area CA2 and SuM
1023 fiber stimulation in acute hippocampal slices. B and C. Effect of 10 μM CCh on SuM light-
1024 evoked PSCs recorded in CA2 PNs under different conditions : voltage clamp at -70 mV with
1025 inhibitory transmission blocked (B, SR95531 & CGP55845A shown in grey, SR95531 &
1026 CGP55845A + CCh shown in orange), and voltage clamp at +10 mV (C, control shown in red,
1027 CCh shown in orange). Left, sample traces. Middle, power-response curves (B, n = 7; two-way
1028 ANOVA with repeated measures, $p < 0.001$; C, n = 17; two-way ANOVA with repeated
1029 measures, $p < 0.001$; error bars represent SEM). Right, comparison of PPRs (B, n = 7; paired-
1030 T test, $p < 0.001$; C, n = 17; paired-T test, $p = 0.001$; individual cells shown as grey lines,
1031 population average shown as horizontal line, error bars represent SEM).

Table 1. Electrophysiological properties of pyramidal neurons in SuM-innervated area

	V_M (mV)	R_M (MOhm)	C_M (pF)
CA2 PN (n = 81)	-69.8 ± 0.70	59.2 ± 2.65	209 ± 11.4
CA3 PN (n = 31)	-70.3 ± 1.06	72.4 ± 4.82	211 ± 15.7
Statistics	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.997	Student T test p = 0.020*	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.625
PN deep (n = 57)	-71.1 ± 0.76	64.0 ± 3.94	200 ± 12.3
PN superficial (n = 76)	-69.3 ± 0.67	64.9 ± 3.19	196 ± 11.8
Statistics	Student T test p = 0.077	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.777	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.588

Table 2. Characteristics of SuM light-evoked transmission onto pyramidal neurons

	EPSC					
cell type	connectivity (%)	amplitude (pA)	rise time (ms)	decay time (ms)	latency (ms)	success rate
CA2 PN	56 (n = 58 of 103)	16 ± 1.9	2.9 ± 0.1	14 ± 0.8	2.4 ± 0.2	0.44 ± 0.03
CA3 PN	49 (n = 22 of 45)	23 ± 5.9	3.0 ± 0.2	14 ± 0.9	2.7 ± 0.3	0.56 ± 0.06
Statistics	χ^2 test p = 0.572	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.409	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.391	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.797	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.156	Student T test p = 0.074
PN deep	56 (n = 35 of 63)	15 ± 2.0	3.5 ± 0.2	16 ± 1.0	3.5 ± 0.4	0.39 ± 0.03
PN superficial	56 (n = 53 of 94)	20 ± 3.0	3.1 ± 0.2	15 ± 0.9	2.7 ± 0.3	0.51 ± 0.04
Statistics	χ^2 test p = 0.946	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.306	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.051	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.314	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.083	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.072
	IPSC					
cell type	connectivity (%)	amplitude (pA)	rise time (ms)	decay time (ms)	latency (ms)	success rate
CA2 PN	35 (n = 19 of 55)	197 ± 41.3	3.8 ± 0.4	25 ± 1.2	6.3 ± 0.7	0.55 ± 0.06
CA3 PN	57 (n = 16 of 28)	145 ± 23.4	4.5 ± 0.4	25 ± 1.2	7.5 ± 0.9	0.54 ± 0.05
Statistics	χ^2 test p = 0.134	Mann-Whitney U test	Student T test	Mann-Whitney U test	Mann-Whitney U test	Student T test

		p = 0.870	p = 0.203	p = 0.896	p = 0.303	p = 0.893
PN deep	47 (n = 16 of 34)	199 ± 40.6	3.8 ± 0.4	25 ± 1.4	7.2 ± 0.8	0.52 ± 0.07
PN superficial	47 (n = 26 of 55)	167 ± 27.5	4.9 ± 0.4	26 ± 1.2	6.8 ± 0.7	0.50 ± 0.05
Statistics	χ^2 test p = 0.987	Mann-Whitney U test p = 0.258	Student T test p = 0.047*	Student T test p = 0.564	Student T test p = 0.706	Student T test p = 0.796

Table 3. Electrophysiological properties of interneurons in SuM-innervated area

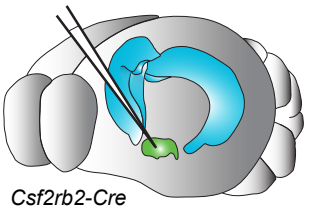
	V_M (mV)	R_M (MOhm)	C_M (pF)	firing adaptation index	sag (mV)
Basket cell (n = 16)	-57.3 ± 1.38	144 ± 28.1	64.0 ± 8.70	0.74 ± 0.05	9.4 ± 1.0
non-Basket Cell (n = 12)	-55.6 ± 1.84	224 ± 46.8	52.0 ± 5.90	0.57 ± 0.06	5.9 ± 1.4
interneuron SO (n = 6)	-57.0 ± 3.16	201 ± 21.0	44.7 ± 5.31	0.61 ± 0.11	7.6 ± 1.9
interneuron SR (n = 8)	-60.1 ± 2.89	282 ± 49.8	39.6 ± 3.18	0.65 ± 0.09	8.1 ± 2.1
Statistics	1-way ANOVA test p = 0.527	1-way ANOVA test p = 0.100	Kruskal-Wallis test p = 0.354	1-way ANOVA test p = 0.238	1-way ANOVA test p = 0.292

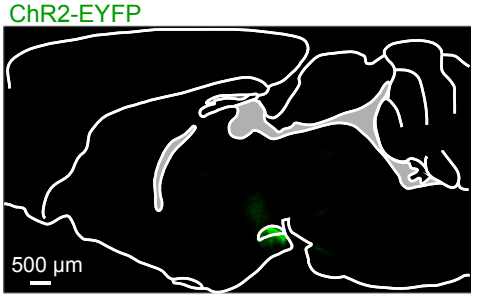
Table 4. Characteristics of excitatory SuM light-evoked transmission onto interneurons & pyramidal cells

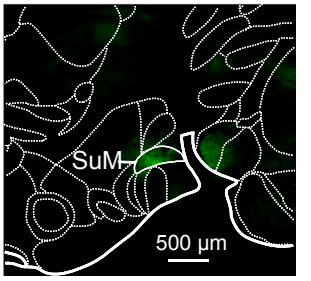
cell type	connectivity (%)	amplitude (pA)	rise time (ms)	decay time (ms)	latency (ms)	success rate
Pyramidal Cell	63 (n = 166 of 263)	19 ± 1.6*	3.4 ± 0.1*	15 ± 0.5*	2.9 ± 0.1	0.46 ± 0.02
Basket Cell	82 (n = 18 of 22)	43 ± 8.7*	1.7 ± 0.3*	8.4 ± 1.3*	3.1 ± 0.4	0.59 ± 0.07
non-Basket Cell interneuron SO interneuron SR	39 (n = 10 of 26) 12 (n = 2 of 17) 11 (n = 1 of 9)	16 ± 2.8	2.6 ± 0.5	12 ± 1.4	3.4 ± 0.7	0.36 ± 0.06
Statistics	χ^2 test p = 0.006*	Kruskal-Wallis test p = 0.016 Dunn-Holland-Wolfe post hoc p < 0.05*	1-way ANOVA test p < 0.001 Tukey post hoc p < 0.001*	1-way ANOVA test p < 0.001 Tukey post hoc p < 0.001*	1-way ANOVA test p = 0.580	1-way ANOVA test p = 0.066

A

AAV9.EF1a.DIO.hCHR2(H134R).EYFP







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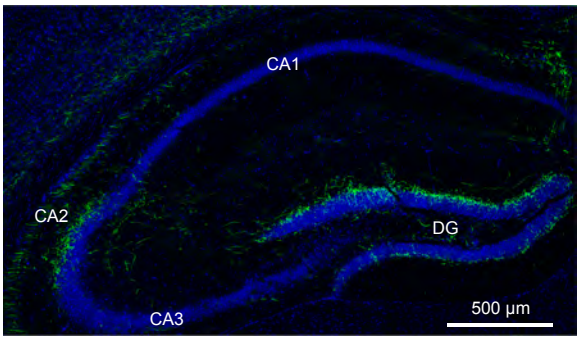
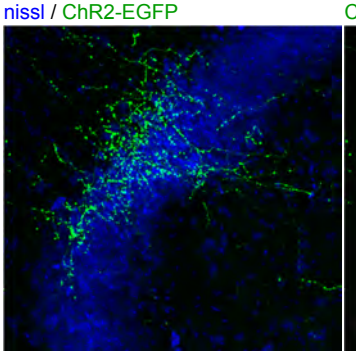
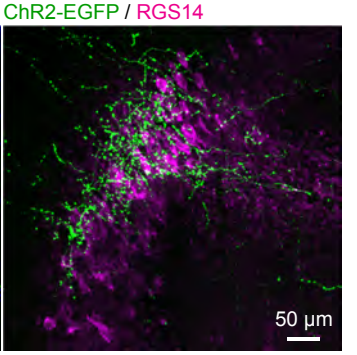
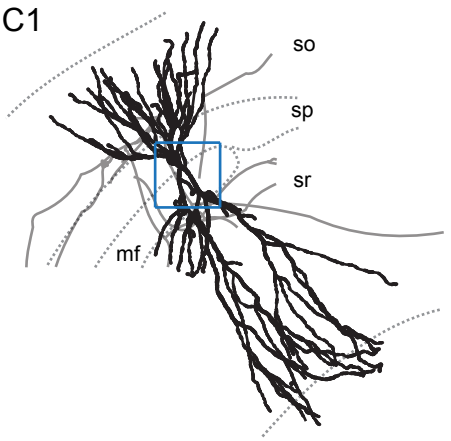
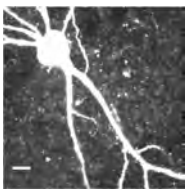


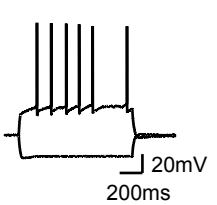


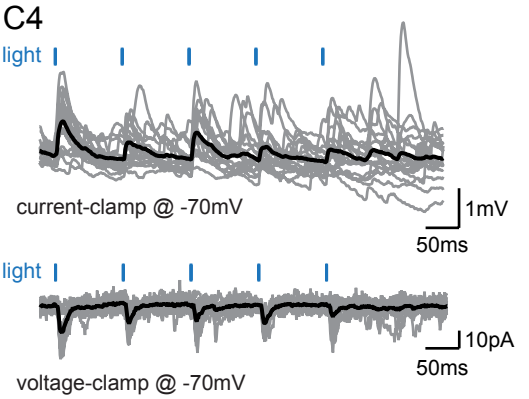


C CA2 pyramidal neuron

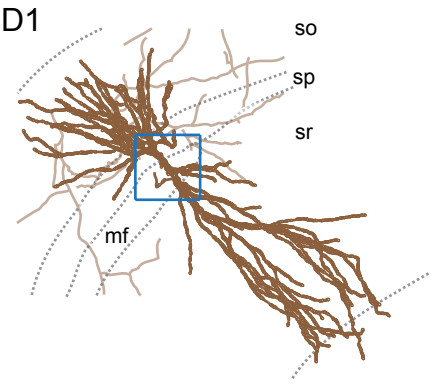


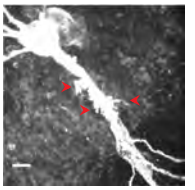


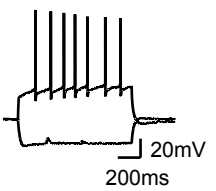


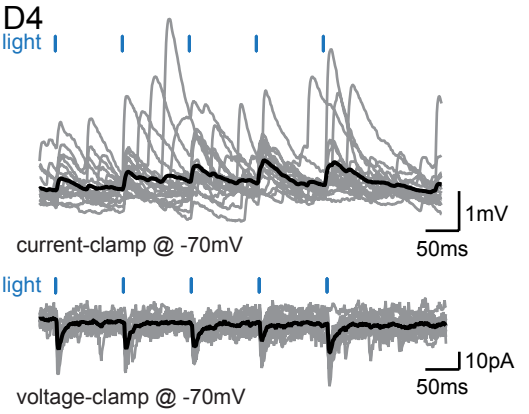


D CA3a pyramidal neuron









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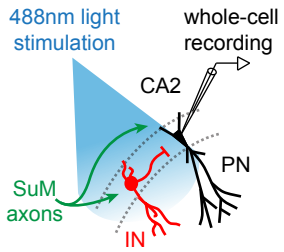

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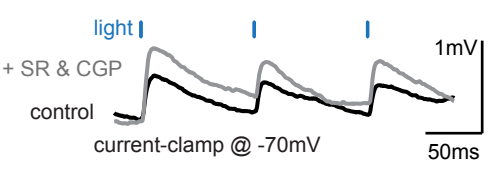

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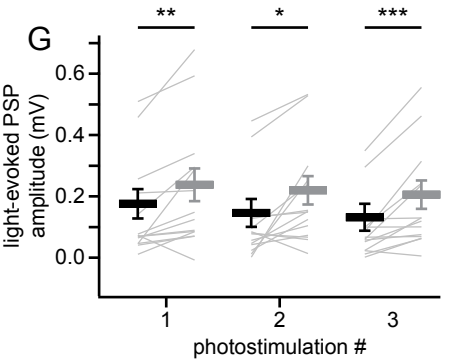


Figure 1.

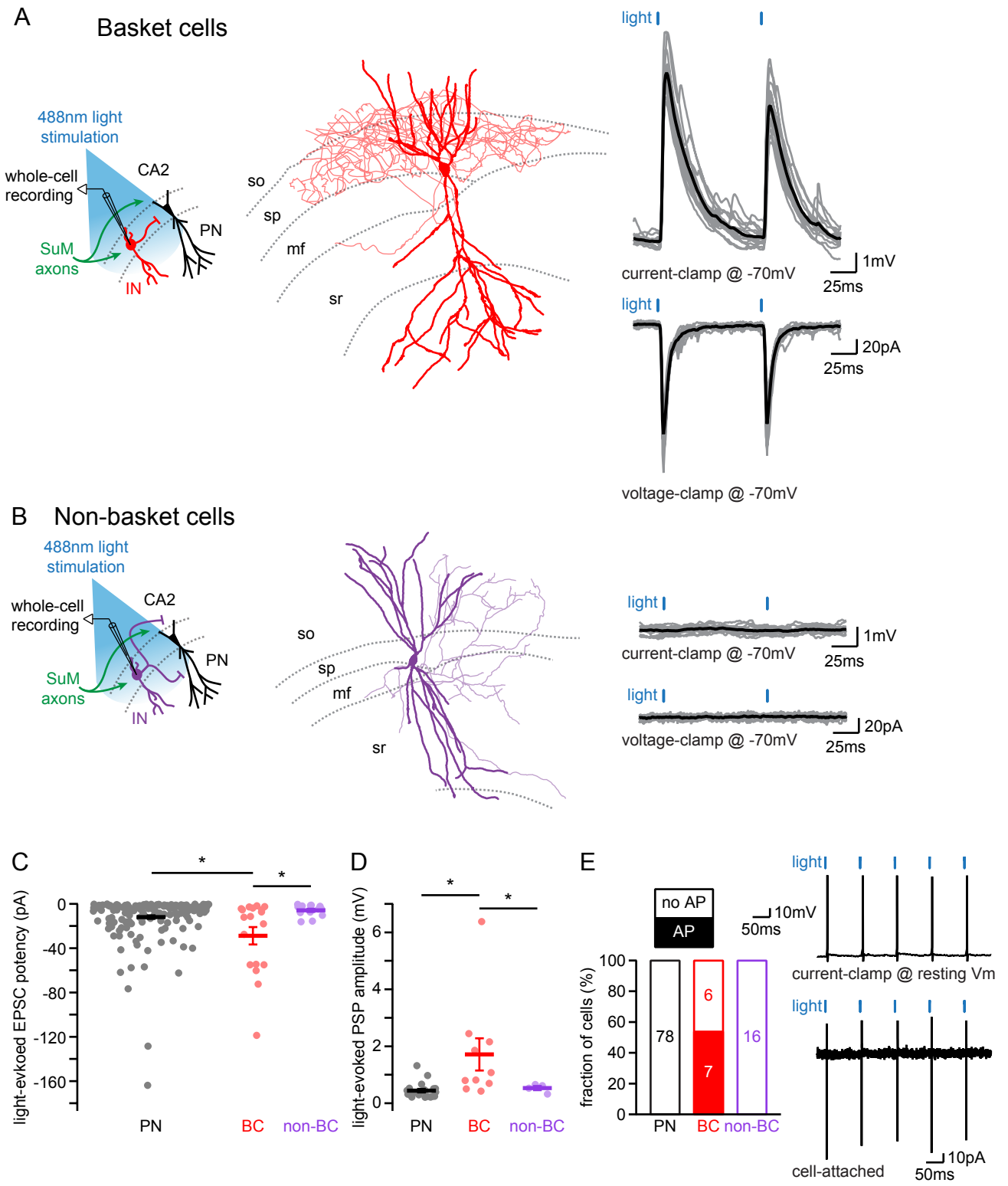

A
Basket cells
488nm light stimulation
whole-cell recording
CA2
PN
SuM axons
IN
so
sp
mf
sr
light
current-clamp @ -70mV
1mV
25ms
light
20pA
25ms
voltage-clamp @ -70mV
B
Non-basket cells
488nm light stimulation
whole-cell recording
CA2
PN
SuM axons
IN
so
sp
mf
sr
light
current-clamp @ -70mV
1mV
25ms
light
voltage-clamp @ -70mV
20pA
25ms
C
light-evkoed EPSC potency (pA)
0
-40
-80
-120
-160
PN
BC
non-BC
D
light-evoked PSP amplitude (mV)
0
2
4
6
PN
BC
non-BC
E
no AP
AP
fraction of cells (%)
100
80
60
40
20
0
78
6
7
16
PN
BC
non-BC
light
10mV
50ms
current-clamp @ resting Vm
light
cell-attached
10pA
50ms

Figure 2.

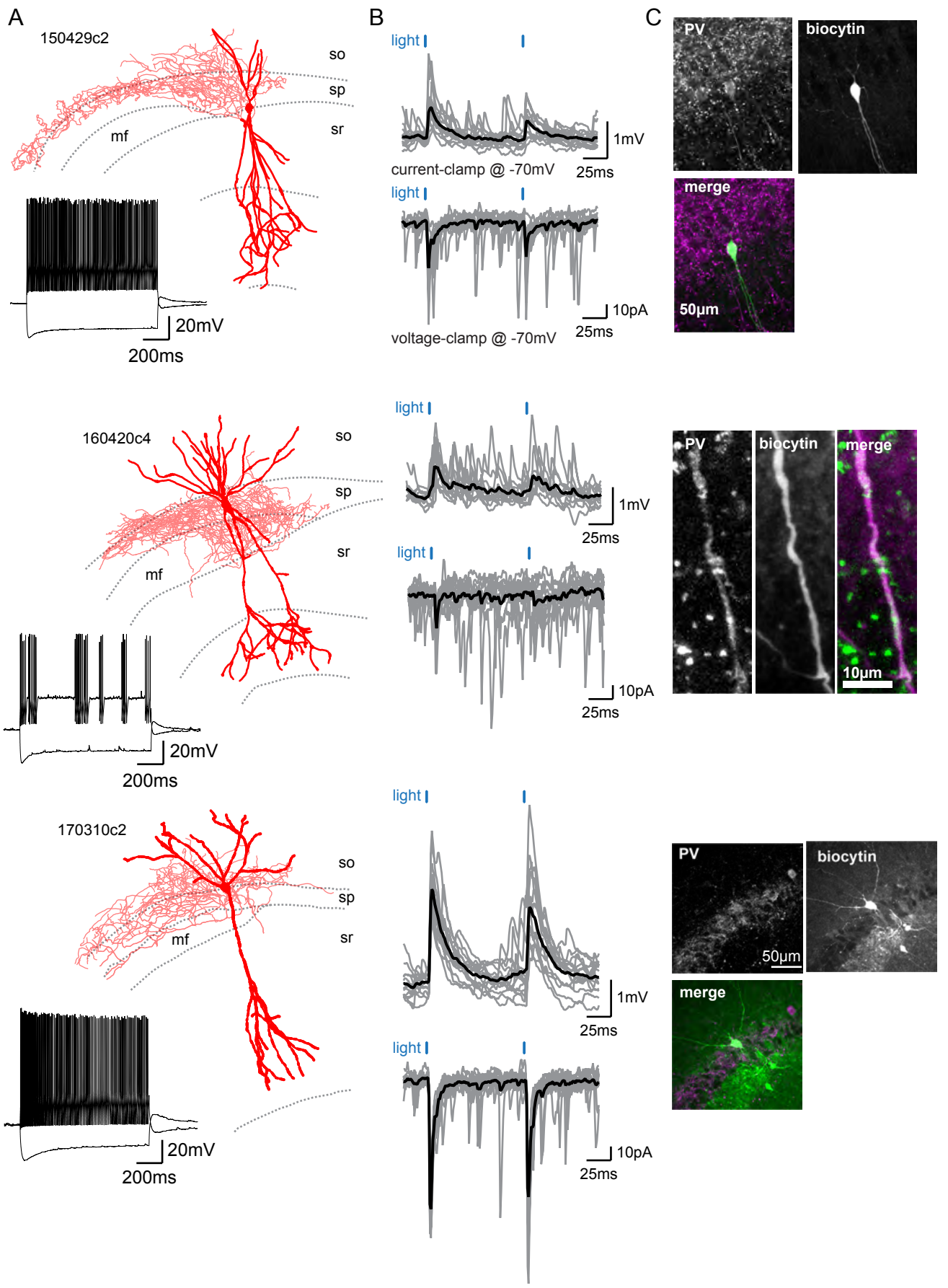

A
150429c2
so
sp
sr
mf
20mV
200ms
B
light
1mV
current-clamp @ -70mV
25ms
light
10pA
voltage-clamp @ -70mV
25ms
C
PV
biocytin
merge
50µm
160420c4
so
sp
sr
mf
20mV
200ms
light
1mV
25ms
light
10pA
25ms
PV
biocytin
merge
10µm
170310c2
so
sp
sr
mf
20mV
200ms
light
1mV
25ms
light
10pA
25ms
PV
biocytin
50µm
merge

Figure 3.

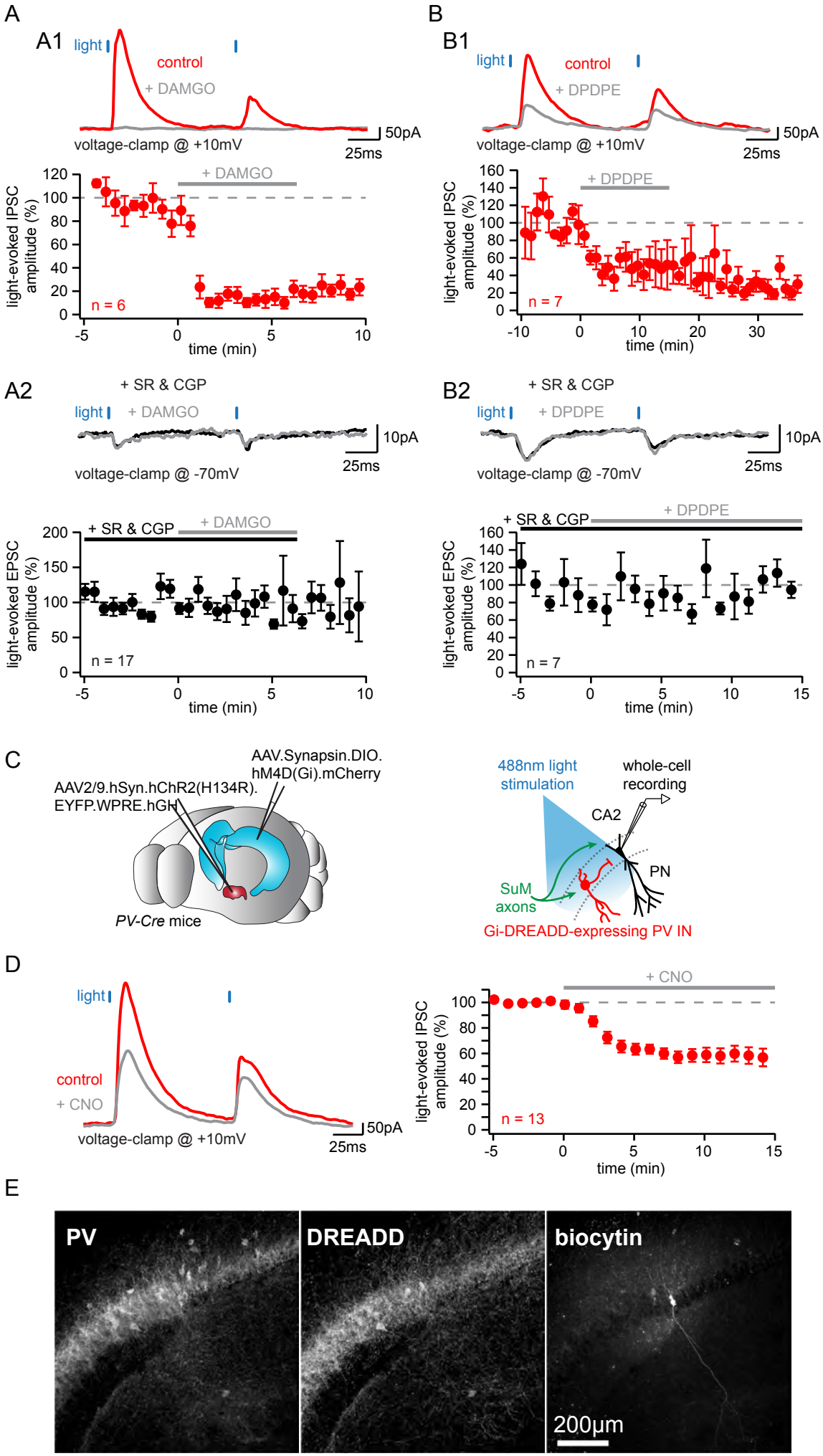

A
A1
light
control
+ DAMGO
voltage-clamp @ +10mV
50pA
25ms
light-evoked IPSC amplitude (%)
+ DAMGO
n = 6
time (min)
B
B1
light
control
+ DPDPE
voltage-clamp @ +10mV
50pA
25ms
light-evoked IPSC amplitude (%)
+ DPDPE
n = 7
time (min)
A2
+ SR & CGP
light
+ DAMGO
voltage-clamp @ -70mV
10pA
25ms
light-evoked EPSC amplitude (%)
+ SR & CGP
+ DAMGO
n = 17
time (min)
B2
+ SR & CGP
light
+ DPDPE
voltage-clamp @ -70mV
10pA
25ms
light-evoked EPSC amplitude (%)
+ SR & CGP
+ DPDPE
n = 7
time (min)
C
AAV.Synapsin.DIO.
hM4D(Gi).mCherry
AAV2/9.hSyn.hChR2(H134R).
EYFP.WPRE.hGH
PV-Cre mice
488nm light
stimulation
whole-cell
recording
CA2
PN
SuM
axons
Gi-DREADD-expressing PV IN
D
light
control
+ CNO
voltage-clamp @ +10mV
50pA
25ms
+ CNO
light-evoked IPSC amplitude (%)
n = 13
time (min)
E
PV
DREADD
biocytin
200µm

Figure 4.

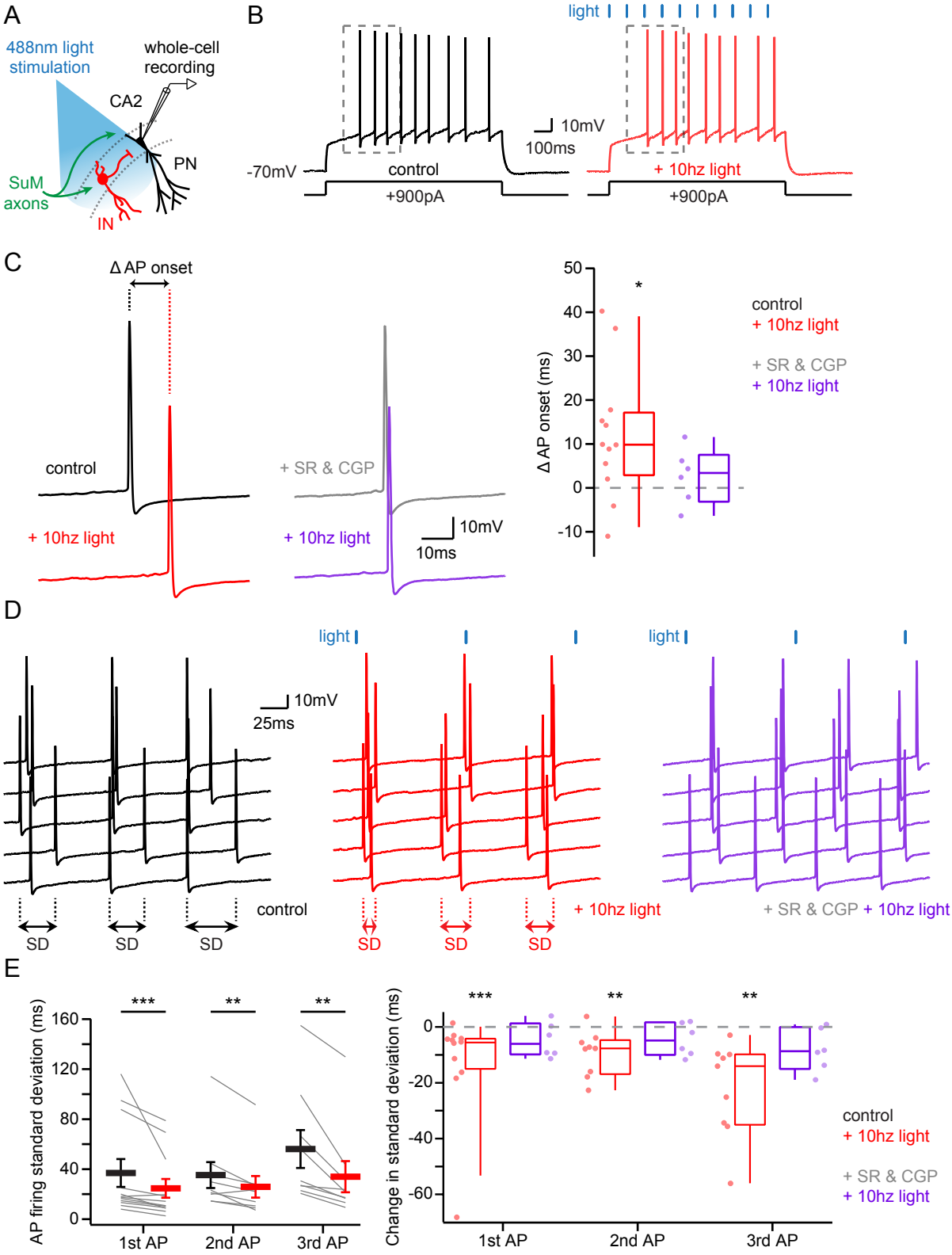

A
488nm light stimulation
whole-cell recording
CA2
PN
SuM axons
IN
B
light
10mV
100ms
-70mV
control
+900pA
+ 10hz light
+900pA
C
Δ AP onset
control
+ 10hz light
+ SR & CGP
+ 10hz light
10mV
10ms
Δ AP onset (ms)
control
+ 10hz light
+ SR & CGP
+ 10hz light
D
light
10mV
25ms
control
SD
+ 10hz light
+ SR & CGP + 10hz light
E
AP firing standard deviation (ms)
1st AP
2nd AP
3rd AP
Change in standard deviation (ms)
control
+ 10hz light
+ SR & CGP
+ 10hz light

Figure 5.

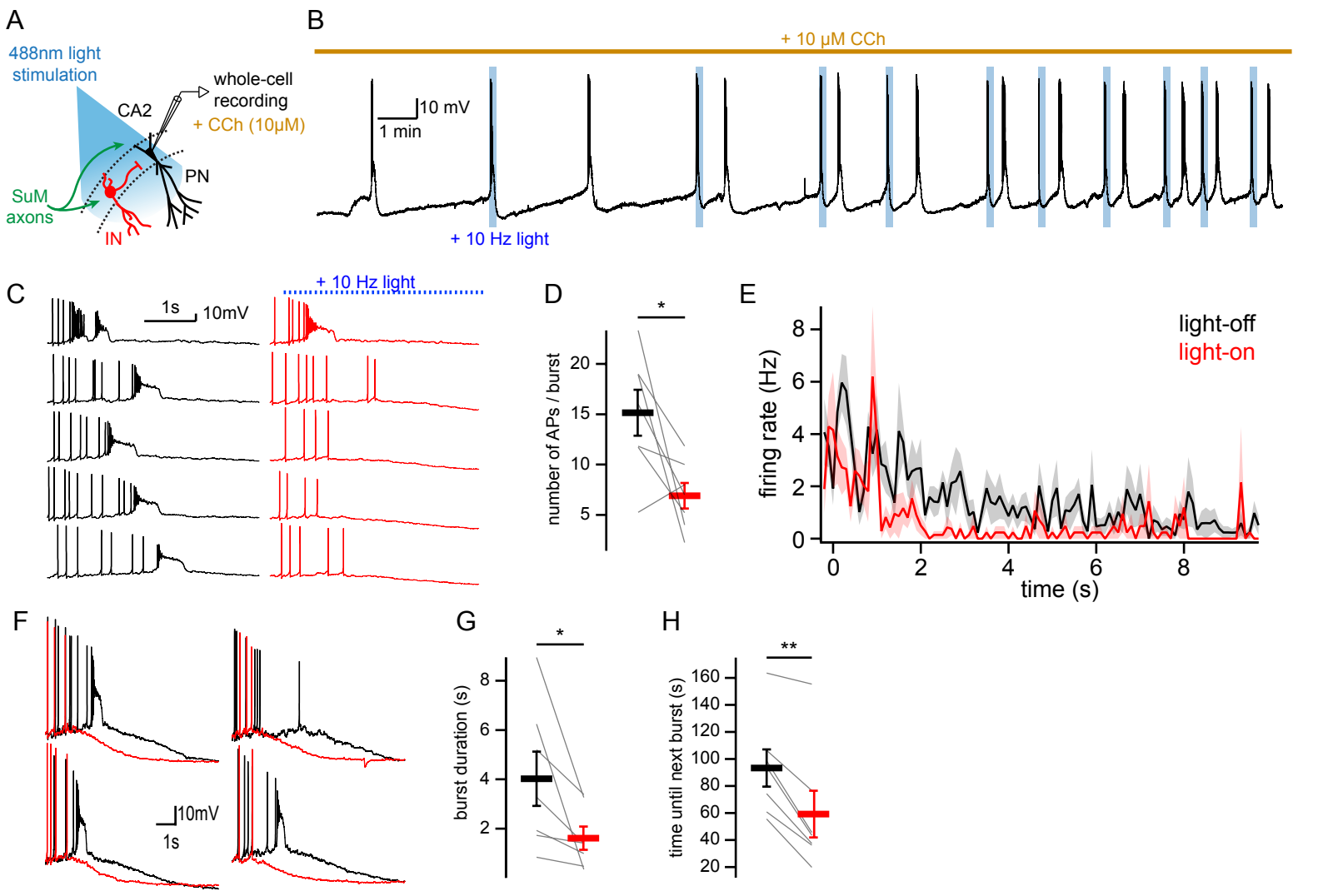

A
488nm light stimulation
whole-cell recording
+ CCh (10μM)
CA2
PN
SuM axons
IN
B
+ 10 μM CCh
10 mV
1 min
+ 10 Hz light
C
1s
10mV
+ 10 Hz light
D
*
number of APs / burst
E
light-off
light-on
firing rate (Hz)
time (s)
F
10mV
1s
G
*
burst duration (s)
H
**
time until next burst (s)

Figure 6.

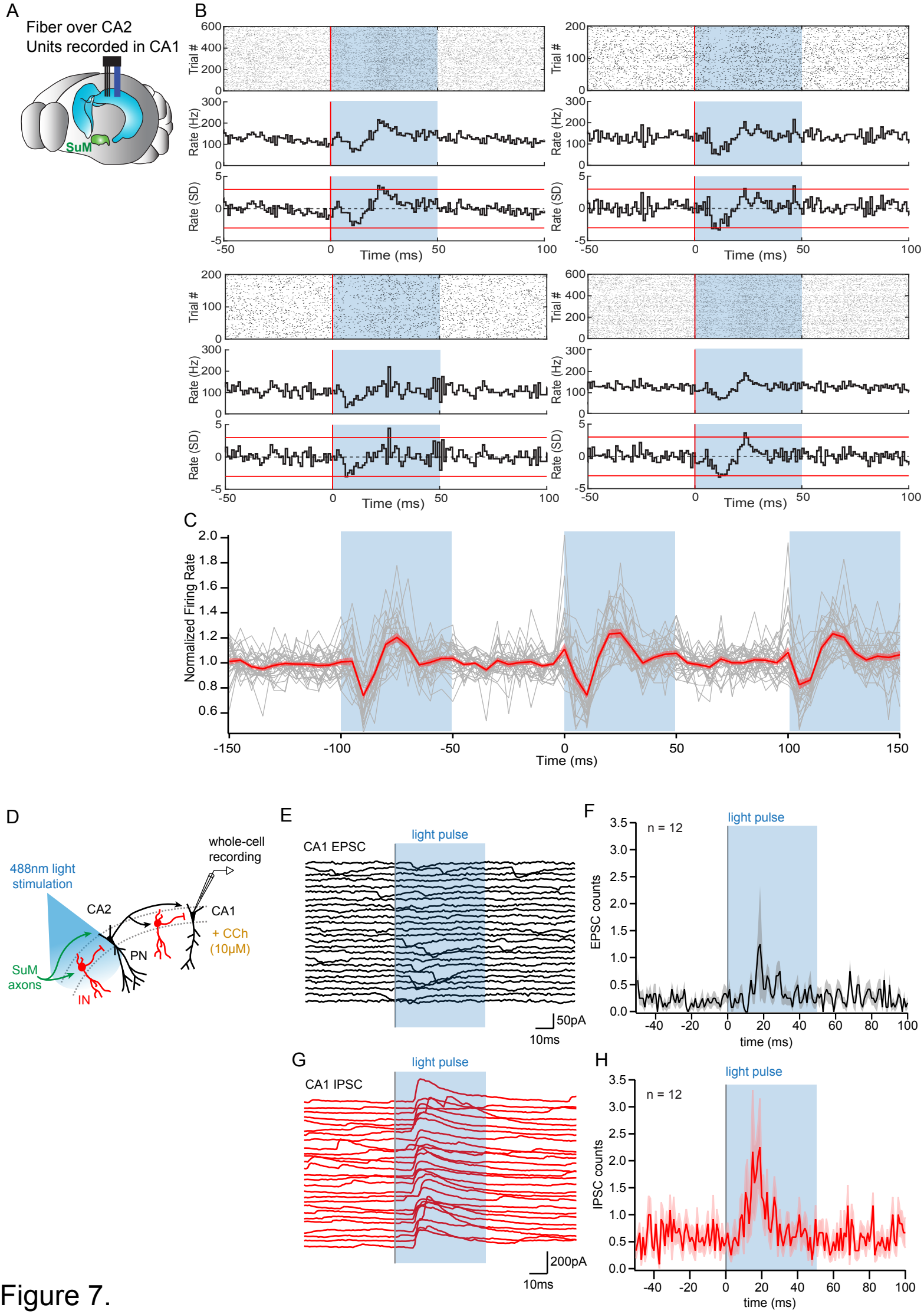
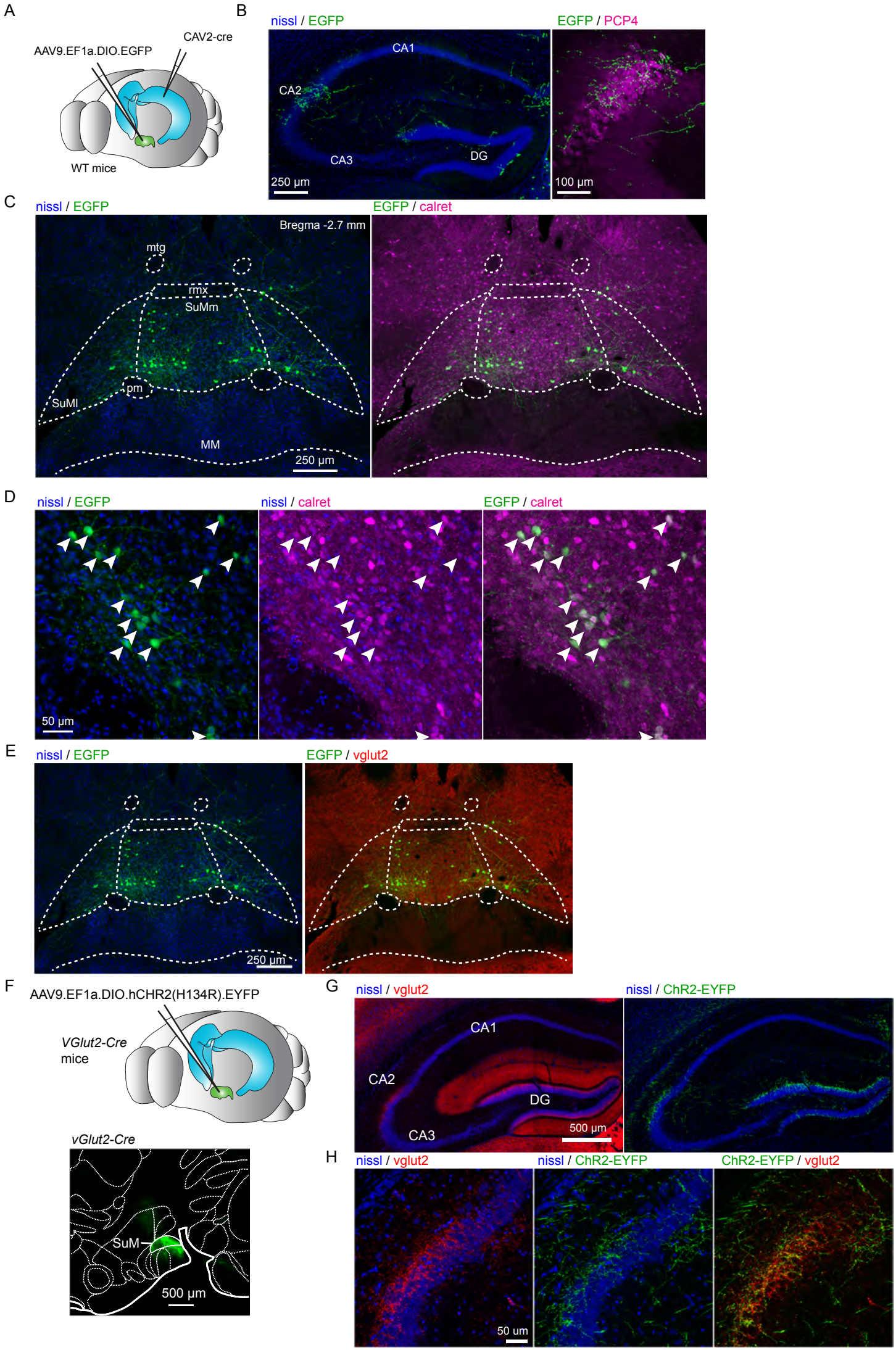
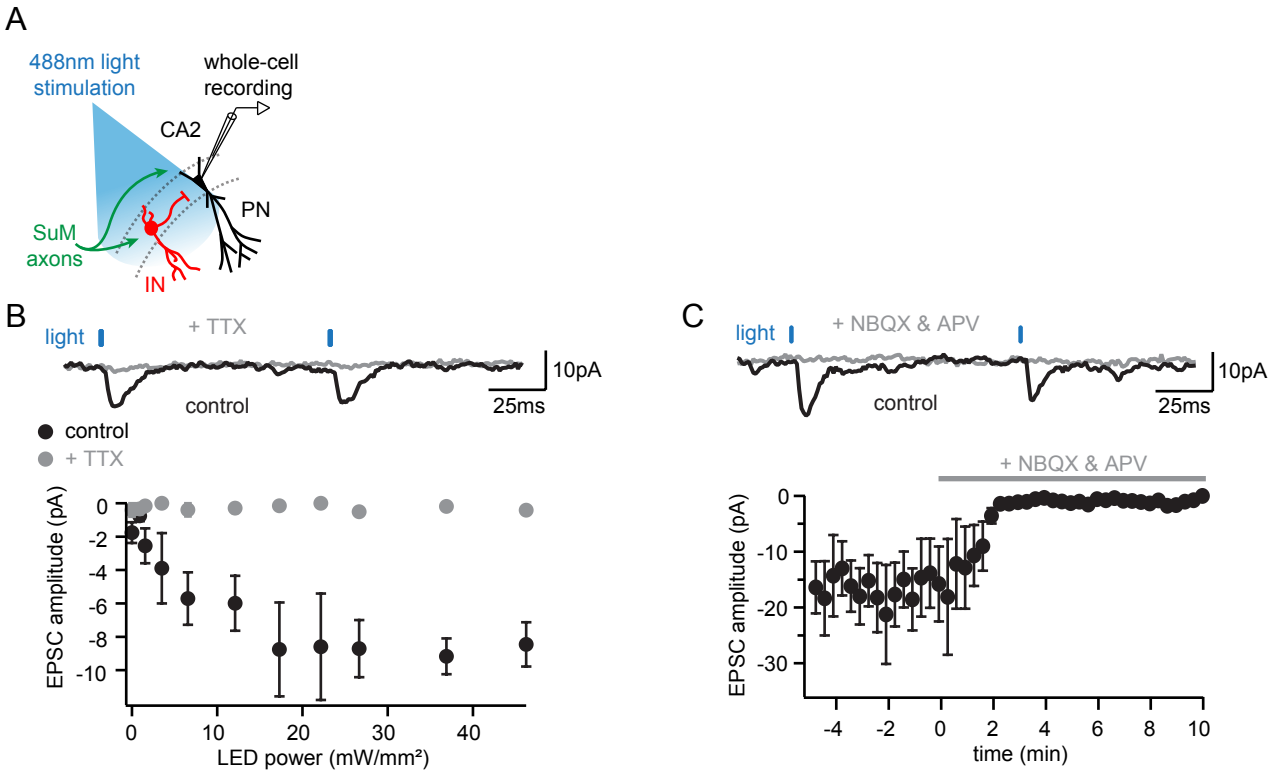

A
Fiber over CA2
Units recorded in CA1
SuM
B
Trial #
Rate (Hz)
Rate (SD)
Time (ms)
C
Normalized Firing Rate
Time (ms)
D
488nm light stimulation
whole-cell recording
CA2
CA1
+ CCh (10μM)
PN
SuM axons
IN
E
CA1 EPSC
light pulse
50pA
10ms
F
n = 12
light pulse
EPSC counts
time (ms)
G
CA1 IPSC
light pulse
200pA
10ms
H
n = 12
light pulse
IPSC counts
time (ms)

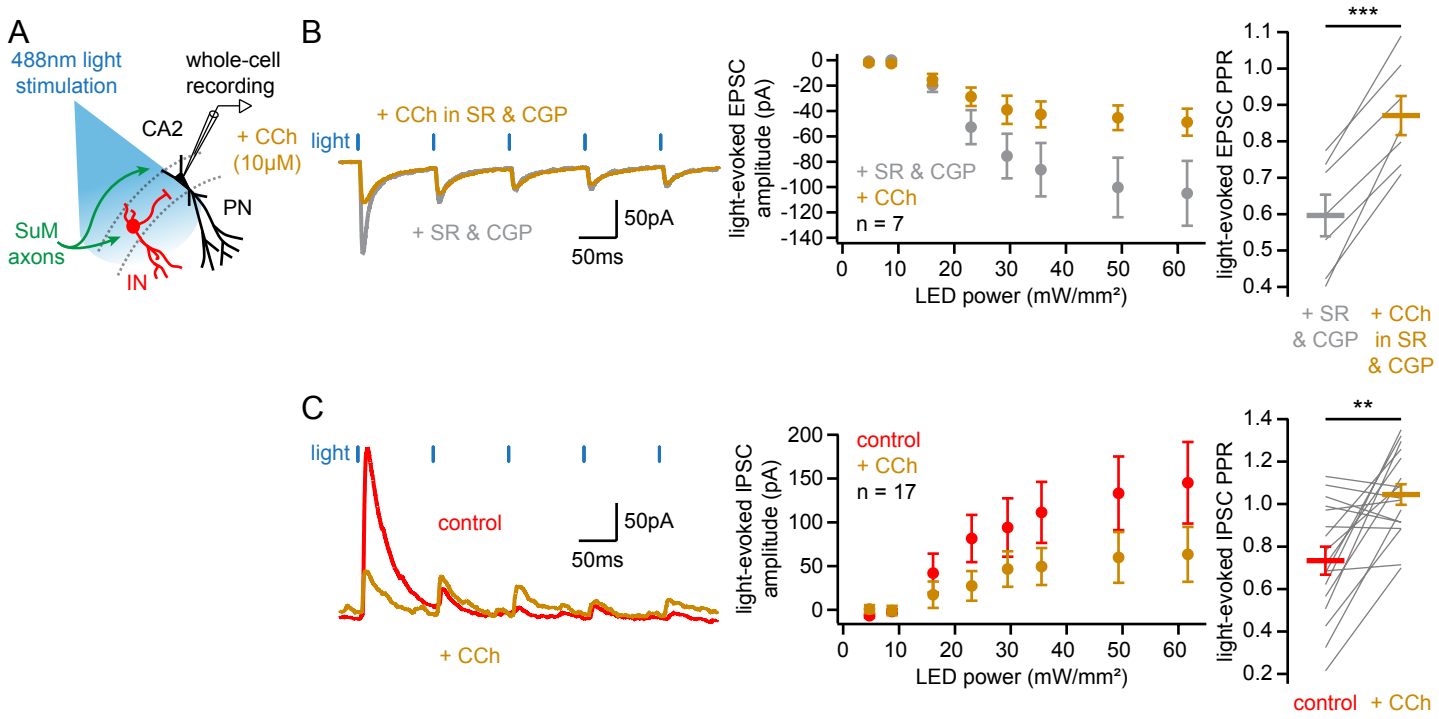
Figure 7.



Supplemental Figure 1.



Supplemental Figure 2.



Supplemental Figure 3.