

# Temporal evolution of single-cell transcriptomes of *Drosophila* olfactory projection neurons

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## Abstract

Neurons undergo substantial morphological and functional changes during development to form precise synaptic connections and acquire specific physiological features. What are the underlying transcriptomic bases? Here, we obtained the single-cell transcriptomes of *Drosophila* olfactory projection neurons (PNs) at four developmental stages. We decoded the identity of 21 transcriptomic clusters corresponding to 20 PN types and developed methods to match transcriptomic clusters representing the same PN type across development. We discovered that PN transcriptomes reflect unique biological processes unfolding at each stage—neurite growth and pruning during metamorphosis at an early pupal stage; peaked transcriptomic diversity during olfactory circuit assembly at mid-pupal stages; and neuronal signaling in adults. At early developmental stages, PN types with adjacent birth order share similar transcriptomes. Together, our work reveals principles of cellular diversity during brain development and provides a resource for future studies of neural development in PNs and other neuronal types.

## Introduction

Cell-type diversity and connection specificity between neurons are the basis of accurate information processing underlying all nervous system functions. The precise assembly of neural circuits involves multiple highly regulated steps. First, neurons are born from their progenitors and acquire unique fates through a combination of (1) intrinsic mechanisms, such as lineage, birth order, and birth timing; (2) extrinsic mechanisms, such as lateral inhibition and extracellular induction, and (3) developmental stochasticity in some cases (Jan & Jan, 1994; Johnston & Desplan, 2010; Kohwi & Doe, 2013; Holguera & Desplan, 2018; Li et al., 2018). During wiring, neurons extend their neurites to a coarse targeting region, elaborate their terminal structures, select

43 pre- and post-synaptic partners, and finally form synaptic connections (Sanes & Yamagata, 2009;  
44 Jan & Jan, 2010; Kolodkin & Tessier-Lavigne, 2011; Sanes & Zipursky, 2020). Studies from the  
45 past few decades have uncovered many molecules and mechanisms that regulate each of these  
46 developmental processes.

47 The development of *Drosophila* olfactory projection neurons (PNs) has been extensively  
48 studied (Jefferis et al., 2004; Hong & Luo, 2014). PNs are the second-order olfactory neurons that  
49 receive organized input from olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs) at ~50 stereotyped and  
50 individually identifiable glomeruli in the antennal lobe, and carry olfactory information to higher  
51 brain regions (Vosshall & Stocker, 2007; Wilson, 2013) (Figure 1A). Different types of PNs send  
52 their dendrites to a single glomerulus or multiple glomeruli (Marin et al., 2002; Lai et al., 2008;  
53 Yu et al., 2010; Tanaka et al., 2012; Bates et al., 2020). PNs are derived from three separate  
54 neuroblast lineages—anterodorsal, lateral, and ventral lineages, corresponding to their cell bodies’  
55 positions relative to the antennal lobe (Jefferis et al., 2001). PNs produced from the anterodorsal  
56 and lateral lineages (adPNs and IPNs) are cholinergic excitatory neurons. The fate of  
57 uniglomerular excitatory PN types, defined by their glomerular targets, is predetermined by their  
58 lineage and birth order (Jefferis et al., 2001; Yu et al., 2010; Lin et al., 2012). PNs produced from  
59 the ventral lineage (vPNs), on the other hand, are GABAergic inhibitory neurons (Jefferis et al.,  
60 2007; Liang et al., 2013; Parnas et al., 2013). The connectivity and physiology of PNs have also  
61 been systematically studied (Bhandawat et al., 2007; Jeanne et al., 2018; Bates et al., 2020).

62 Despite the fact that PNs are among the most well-characterized cell types in all nervous  
63 systems, their genome-wide gene expression changes across different developmental stages with  
64 cell-type specificity are still unknown. This information can help us obtain a more complete picture  
65 of both known and unexplored pathways underlying neural development and function. Recently,  
66 the advent of single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) has paved the way towards obtaining such  
67 data (Li et al., 2017; Kalish et al., 2018; Zhong et al., 2018; Li, 2020). Here, we profiled and  
68 analyzed the single-cell transcriptomes of most uniglomerular excitatory PNs. We identified the  
69 correspondence between two-thirds of transcriptomes and PN types at one stage, and developed  
70 methods to reliably match transcriptomic clusters corresponding to the same types of PNs across  
71 different stages. We discovered that PN transcriptomes exhibit unique characteristics at different  
72 stages, including birth-order, neurite pruning, wiring specificity, and neuronal signaling.

73

## 74 **Results**

### 75 **Single-cell transcriptomic profiling of *Drosophila* PNs at four developmental stages**

76 The development of PNs follows the coordinated steps previously described. 18 out of 40 types of  
77 adPNs are born embryonically and participate in the larval olfactory system. Then, during the  
78 larval stage, the rest of adPNs and all IPNs are born (Jefferis et al., 2001; Marin et al., 2005; Yu et  
79 al., 2010; Lin et al., 2012). During metamorphosis following puparium formation, embryonically  
80 born PNs first prune terminal branches of dendrites and axons, and then re-extend their dendrites  
81 into the future adult antennal lobe, and axons into the mushroom body and lateral horn following  
82 the neurites of larval-born PNs (Marin et al., 2005). From 0 to 24 hours after puparium formation  
83 (APF), PNs extend their dendrites into the developing antennal lobe and occupy restricted regions.  
84 ORN axons begin to invade antennal lobe at ~24 hours APF. PN dendrites and ORN axons then  
85 match with their respective partners beginning at ~30 hours APF and establish discrete glomerular

86 compartments at ~48 hours APF. Thereafter, they expand their terminal branches, build synaptic  
87 connections, and finally form mature adult olfactory circuits (Jefferis et al., 2004) (Figure 1B).

88 To better understand the molecular mechanisms that control these dynamic developmental  
89 processes underlying neural circuit assembly, we performed scRNA-seq of PNs from 4 different  
90 developmental stages: 0–6 hours APF, 24–30 hours APF, 48–54 hours APF, and 1–5 days adult  
91 (hereafter 0, 24, 48h APF and adult) (Figure 1C). We used *GHI46-GAL4* (Stocker et al., 1997) to  
92 drive *UAS-mCD8-GFP* (Lee et al., 1999) expression in most PNs at 24h, 48h, and adult, which  
93 labels ~90 of the estimated 150 PNs in each hemisphere, covering ~40 of the 50 PN types. At 0h  
94 APF, *GHI46-GAL4* also labels cells in the optic lobes (Figure 1—figure supplement 1A), which  
95 are inseparable from the central brain by dissection. Therefore, we used *VT033006-GAL4* to label  
96 PNs at 0h APF (Figure 1C and Figure 1—figure supplement 1B) (Tirian & Dickson, 2017).  
97 *VT033006-GAL4* labels most PNs from the anterodorsal and lateral lineage, but not PNs from the  
98 ventral lineage or anterior paired lateral (APL) neurons like *GHI46-GAL4*. It is expressed in ~95  
99 cells that innervate ~44 glomeruli which largely overlap with PNs labeled by *GHI46-GAL4* (Inada  
100 et al., 2017; Elkahlah et al., 2020). In addition to PNs labeled by *GHI46-GAL4* and *VT033006-*  
101 *GAL4* (we will refer them as ‘most PNs’ hereafter), we have collected single-cell transcriptomic  
102 data using drivers that only label a small number of PN types for mapping the transcriptomic  
103 clusters to anatomically defined PN types.

104 For scRNA-seq, fly brains with a unique set of PN types labeled using different drivers at  
105 each developmental stage were dissected and dissociated into single-cell suspensions. GFP+ cells  
106 were sorted into 384-well plates by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS), and sequenced  
107 using SMART-seq2 (Picelli et al., 2014) (Figure 1D) to a depth of ~1 million reads per cell (Figure  
108 1—figure supplement 1C). On average ~3000 genes were detected per cell (Figure 1—figure  
109 supplement 1D), and after quality filtering (see Methods), we obtained ~3700 high quality PNs in  
110 addition to the previously sequenced ~1200 PNs (Li et al., 2017), yielding ~5900 PN cells for  
111 analysis in this study (Figure 1E). All analyzed PNs express high levels of neuronal markers but  
112 not glial markers, confirming the specificity of sequenced cells (Figure 1—figure supplement 1E).  
113 Unbiased clustering using overdispersed genes from all PNs readily separates them into different  
114 groups according to their stage (Figure 1F), suggesting that gene expression changes across these  
115 four developmental stages represent a principal difference in their single-cell transcriptomes.

## 116 **Decoding the glomerular identity of transcriptomic clusters by sequencing subsets of PNs at** 117 **24h APF**

118 PNs labeled by *GHI46-GAL4* at 24h APF form ~30 distinct transcriptomic clusters. We previously  
119 matched 6 of these transcriptomic clusters to specific anatomically and functionally defined PN  
120 types (Li et al., 2017), hereafter referred to as “decoding transcriptomic identity.” Unlike ORNs,  
121 whose identities can be decoded using uniquely expressed olfactory receptors (Li et al., 2020a),  
122 PNs lack known type-specific markers. Instead, PN types are mostly specified by combinatorial  
123 expression of several genes (Li et al., 2017), making it more challenging to decode their  
124 transcriptomic identities.

125 To circumvent these challenges and decode the transcriptomic identities of more types of  
126 PNs, we took advantage of the extensive driver line collection in *Drosophila* (Luan et al., 2006;  
127 Jenett et al., 2012; Dionne et al., 2018). We searched for split-GAL4 lines that only labeled a small  
128 proportion of all PNs (Yoshi Aso, unpublished data). Using such drivers, we could sequence a few

129 types of PNs at a time, map those cells onto clusters formed by most PNs, and then use  
130 differentially expressed markers among them to decode their identities one-by-one.

131 *split#28-GAL4* labeled two types of PNs—those that project their dendrites to the DC3 and  
132 DA4l glomeruli in developing and adult animals (Figure 2A, B; note that PN types are named after  
133 the glomeruli they project their dendrites to). We sequenced those PNs (*split#28+* PNs hereafter)  
134 at 24h APF. We chose this stage because this is when different PN types exhibit the highest  
135 transcriptome diversity as hinted by the number of clusters seen in Figure 1F (see following  
136 sections for more detailed analysis). To visualize sequenced *split#28+* PNs, we performed  
137 dimensionality reduction using 561 genes identified from most 24h PNs using Iterative Clustering  
138 for Identifying Markers (ICIM), a unsupervised machine learning algorithm (Li et al., 2017),  
139 followed by embedding in the tSNE space. *Split#28+* PNs (orange dots) fell into two distinct  
140 clusters and intermingled with *GHI46+* PNs (grey dots) (Figure 2C). One cluster mapped to  
141 previously decoded DC3 PNs (Li et al., 2017), and the other cluster expressed *zfh2* (Figure 2—  
142 figure supplement 1A). We validated that this cluster indeed represents DA4l PNs by visualizing  
143 the expression of *zfh2* in PNs utilizing an intersectional strategy by combining *zfh2-GAL4*, *GHI46-*  
144 *Flp*, and *UAS-FRT-STOP-FRT-mCD8-GFP* (hereafter referred to as “intersecting with *GHI46-*  
145 *Flp*”) (Figure 2—figure supplement 1B).

146 *split#7-GAL4* labeled 3 types of PNs in the adult stage (Figure 2—figure supplement 2A).  
147 However, when we sequenced cells labeled by this GAL4 line at 24h APF and visualized them  
148 using tSNE, 8 distinct clusters were found (Figure 2F). We reasoned that this could be due to loss  
149 of driver expression in adult stage for some PN types. To test this hypothesis and reveal PNs that  
150 are labeled by this driver transiently during development, we used a permanent labeling strategy  
151 to label all cells that express *split#7-GAL4* at any time of development (*split#7+* PNs hereafter)  
152 by combining it with *UAS-mCD8-GFP*, *Actin promoter-FRT-STOP-FRT-GAL4*, and *UAS-Flp*.  
153 Using this strategy, we observed labeling of 8 types of PNs (Figure 2D), consistent with number  
154 of clusters we observed by sequencing. Among *split#7+* PNs, 4 types belong to the adPN lineage  
155 (*acj6+*) and the other 4 types belong to the lPN lineage (*vvl+*) (Figure 2E). Only 1 lPN type, DA1  
156 (*CG31676+*), has previously been decoded (Figure 2—figure supplement 2B). We identified  
157 differentially expressed genes among *split#7+* PNs and obtained existing GAL4 lines mimicking  
158 their expression. By intersecting those GAL4 lines with *GHI46-Flp*, we mapped all 7 previously  
159 unknown transcriptomic clusters to 7 PN types (Figure 2—figure supplement 2 C–H; see legends  
160 for detailed description).

161 In addition to screening through collections of existing driver lines, we also utilized  
162 scRNA-seq data to find drivers that label a subpopulation of PNs. One such marker we found was  
163 the gene *knot* (*kn*), which was expressed in 7 transcriptomic clusters among all *GHI46+* PNs  
164 (Figure 2—figure supplement 3A). One of the *kn+* clusters expressing *trol* has been previously  
165 mapped to VM2 PNs (Li et al., 2017). When *kn-GAL4* was intersected with *GHI46-Flp*, 6 types  
166 of adPNs (*acj6+*) and several vPNs (*Lim1+*) were labeled (Figure 2G, J). Among the 6 adPN types,  
167 VM7 and VM5v PNs were also labeled by *split#15-GAL4* (Figure 2H). Although it has been  
168 previously reported that *GHI46-GAL4* is not expressed in VM5v PNs (Yu et al., 2010), labeling  
169 of these PNs when *GHI46-Flp* was intersected with either *kn-GAL4* or *split#15-GAL4* indicates  
170 that *GHI46-Flp* must be expressed in VM5v PNs at some point during development. Using  
171 *split#15-GAL4*, we were able to decode the two clusters to be either VM7 or VM5v PNs (Figure  
172 2—figure supplement 3B). Due to the lack of existing GAL4 drivers for differentially expressed  
173 genes between these two clusters, we could not further distinguish them so far, but we could create

174 new GAL4 drivers to decode their identities in future studies. Other than these two clusters, we  
175 were able to match transcriptomic clusters and glomerular types for the rest of adPNs one-to-one  
176 (Figure 2—figure supplement 3C-E). In addition to excitatory PN types, one *kn+* vPN type innervated  
177 DA1 glomerulus (because DA1 glomerulus is innervated only by IPNs and vPNs, not adPNs). We  
178 found that *DIP-beta* was expressed in one *kn+* vPN cluster but not in IPNs innervating DA1  
179 glomerulus (Figure 2—figure supplement 3F, G). Intersecting *DIP-beta-GAL4* with *GHI46-Flp*  
180 confirmed that *DIP-beta+* vPN indeed targeted their dendrites to DA1 glomerulus, illustrating the  
181 *DIP-beta+* vPN cluster to be DA1 vPNs (Figure 2—figure supplement 3H).

182 In summary, by sequencing a small number of known PN types at a time and analyzing the  
183 expression pattern of differentially expressed genes, we have now mapped a total of 21  
184 transcriptomic clusters corresponding to anatomically defined PN types at 24h APF (Figure 2K,  
185 L). Ultimately, we aimed to match the transcriptomes of the same types of PN types across development.  
186 Prior to achieving this goal, we carried out global analysis of gene expression changes across  
187 development, which could help us reliably identify transcriptomic clusters representing different  
188 PN types at different developmental stages.

### 189 **Global gene expression dynamics across four developmental stages**

190 All sequenced PN types segregated into different clusters according to their developmental stages using  
191 unbiased, over-dispersed genes for clustering (Figure 1F) regardless of PN types. Even when we  
192 used the genes identified by ICIM for clustering, which emphasizes the differences between  
193 different PN types (Li et al., 2017), we still observed that individual PN types were separated principally  
194 by developmental stages (Figure 3A). Together, these observations illustrate global transcriptome  
195 changes of PN types from pupa to adult.

196 To understand what types of genes drive this separation, we searched for genes that were  
197 differentially expressed in different developmental stages (Figure 3B, C). We clustered the genes  
198 into different groups based on their expression pattern throughout development. Six groups of  
199 genes showed clear developmental trends—four groups were down-regulated from pupa to adult  
200 and two groups were up-regulated (Figure 3D–E). Consistent with our previous knowledge, neural  
201 development-related genes, including those with functions in morphogenesis and cytoskeleton  
202 organization, were enriched in developing PN types; genes related to synaptic transmission, ion  
203 transport, and behavior, on the other hand, were up-regulated in mature PN types (Li et al., 2017; Li et  
204 al., 2020b).

### 205 **Single-cell transcriptomes of PN types reveal dominant biological processes at different stages of** 206 **development**

207 Because PN transcriptomes exhibited global development-dependent dynamics, we needed to find  
208 a method to reliably and consistently classify transcriptomic clusters representing different PN  
209 types at all stages. We first identified informative genes for clustering from each stage using ICIM  
210 and used them for further dimensionality reduction. However, using this method, we obtained  
211 different numbers of clusters at each stage (Figure 4A). Closer examination of each stage revealed  
212 unique biological features of PN development.

213 At 0h APF, PN types always formed two distinct clusters—a larger cluster consisting of both  
214 adPNs and IPNs, and a smaller one with only adPNs (Figure 4B, Figure 4—supplement 2A). As  
215 introduced earlier, although all IPNs and many adPNs are born during the larval stage, some adPNs  
216 are born during the embryonic stage. We hypothesized that the smaller cluster could represent

217 embryonically born PNs, which undergo metamorphosis including the pruning of their dendrites  
218 and axons (Marin et al., 2005). Neurite pruning in *Drosophila* depends on the function of the  
219 steroid hormone ecdysone receptor (EcR) (Levine et al., 1995; Thummel, 1996; Schubiger et al.,  
220 1998; Lee et al., 2000) cell autonomously (Lee et al., 2000). Upon binding of the steroid hormone  
221 ecdysone, EcR and its co-receptor Ultraspiracle (Usp) form a complex to activate a series of  
222 downstream targets, including a transcription factor called Sox14, which in turn promotes  
223 expression of the cytoskeletal regulator Mical and Cullin1 SCF E3 ligase (Figure 4C) (Lee et al.,  
224 2000; Kirilly et al., 2009; Kirilly et al., 2011; Wong et al., 2013). To test our hypothesis, we  
225 examined the expression of genes which are known to participate in neurite pruning and genes that  
226 showed elevated expression in the mushroom body  $\gamma$  neurons during pruning (Alyagor et al., 2018).  
227 We found that *Sox14*, *Mical*, *Cullin1*, and two sorting complexes required for transport (ESCRT)  
228 genes—*shrb* and *Vps20*, indeed showed higher expression levels in the smaller cluster (Figure 4D).  
229 We also confirmed our hypothesis by mapping two types of embryonically born PNs, DA4I and  
230 VA6 PNs, to this smaller cluster (Figure 4—figure supplement 2B; see mapping details in Figure  
231 7).

232 At 24h APF, we observed the highest number of clusters reflecting different PN types.  
233 Moreover, dimensionality reduction using the top 2000 overdispersed genes also showed more  
234 distinct clusters at this timepoint compared to the others (Figure 4—figure supplement 1).  
235 Quantifications of transcriptomic similarity among PNs at each stage indeed confirmed the highest  
236 diversity among PNs at 24h APF (Figure 4E–G). This is likely explained by the fact that at this  
237 stage, PNs refine their dendrites to specific regions and begin to prepare themselves as targets for  
238 their partner ORN axons. Both processes require high level of molecular diversity among different  
239 PN types to ensure precise wiring, warranting more distinction between their transcriptomes at this  
240 stage.

241 In contrast to the high transcriptomic diversity in 24h APF PNs, adult PNs only formed  
242 three clusters (Figure 4A bottom, indicated by dashed lines). The three clusters represent excitatory  
243 PNs (marked by *VAcHT*), and two *Gad1*+ GABAergic inhibitory cell types—vPNs and APL  
244 neurons (*VGlut+*), respectively (Figure 4H). This is likely because after wiring specificity is  
245 achieved, all excitatory PNs may perform similar functions in comparison with the other two  
246 neuronal types.

247 Thus, at three different developmental stages, the differentially expressed genes we  
248 identified all revealed the most defining biological processes those neurons are undertaking. Our  
249 observations showed that PN transcriptomes reflect the pruning process of embryonically born  
250 PNs at 0h APF, PN type and wiring distinction at 24h APF, and neurotransmitter type in adults.

## 251 **Identifying PN types at all developmental stages**

252 With the exception of the 24h APF PNs, gene sets identified from each of the other stages could  
253 not resolve distinct clusters reflecting PN type diversity (Figure 4). Therefore, we tried to use the  
254 genes identified by ICIM from 24h APF PNs to cluster PNs of the other stages. We found that this  
255 gene set outperformed all other gene sets in separating different PN types at all timepoints (Figure  
256 5A). In fact, most gene sets found by different methods at 24h APF, including overdispersed genes,  
257 ICIM genes, as well as differentially expressed genes between different clusters, exceeded gene  
258 sets identified at other stages for clustering PNs according to their types (data not shown), further  
259 confirming that transcriptomes of 24h APF PNs carry the most information for distinguishing  
260 different PN types, even for other developmental stages.

261 Following this observation, we decided to use differentially expressed genes between 24h  
262 PN clusters for PN-type identification for all stages. We applied meta-learned representations for  
263 single cell data (MARS) for identifying and annotating cell types (Brbić et al., 2020). MARS learns  
264 to project cells using deep neural networks in the latent low-dimensional space in which cells  
265 group according to their cell types. Using this approach, we found ~30 cell types in each stage  
266 (Figure 5B). Independently, we also validated MARS cluster annotations using two distinct  
267 methods: HDBSCAN clustering based on tSNEs or Leiden clustering based on neighborhood  
268 graphs (Figure 5—figure supplement 1) (Blondel et al., 2008; Levine et al., 2015; Traag et al.,  
269 2019). Clusters identified by HDBSCAN and Leiden largely agreed with MARS annotations,  
270 confirming the reliability of MARS. We compared cluster annotations by these three methods to  
271 known PN types at 24h APF (Figure 5—figure supplement 1C) and found that MARS performed  
272 better at segregating closely related clusters representing multiple PN types (Figure 5—figure  
273 supplement 1D), demonstrating the robustness of MARS at identifying unique cell types.

#### 274 **Matching the same PN types across four developmental stages**

275 We next sought to match transcriptomes of the same PN type across different developmental stages.  
276 To develop reliable approaches to perform this task, we first used *kn+* PNs as test case. We  
277 collected PNs labeled by *kn-GAL4* from 24h APF, 48h APF, and adult brains for scRNA-seq  
278 (Figure 6A). Dimensionality reduction of these cells showed a consistent number of clusters across  
279 stages (Figure 6B). One exception is an extra vPN cluster observed at 48h APF and adult stages.  
280 This discrepancy with 24h APF data is likely caused by the lower number of vPNs sequenced at  
281 24h APF.

282 When *kn+* PNs from all three stages were plotted together, all adPNs (*acj6+* clusters on  
283 the upper side) formed relatively distinct clusters and did not intermingle with adPNs from the  
284 other timepoints (Figure 6C), reflecting substantial changes in the transcriptome of the same type  
285 of PNs across development. To match the same type of PNs, we took two independent approaches  
286 (Figure 6D). In the first approach, clusters were automatically matched based on their  
287 transcriptomic similarity. Briefly, we identified a set of genes that were differentially expressed in  
288 each cluster compared to all the rest at the same stage. Then, we calculated the percentage of genes  
289 shared between each pair of clusters across two stages (Jaccard similarity index) (Figure 6E). If  
290 two clusters from two stages both had the highest similarity score with each other, we considered  
291 them to be matched. In the second approach, we used markers that were expressed in a consistent  
292 number of clusters at each stage. Those markers, or marker combinations, were used to manually  
293 match the same type of PNs (some example markers used are shown in Figure 6F). Using these  
294 two approaches, we were able to match the same types of PNs across three developmental stages,  
295 and the results from the two approaches consistently agreed with each other (Figure 6G). In  
296 addition, these data further validated an earlier conclusion (Figure 4) that as development proceeds  
297 from 24h APF and 48h APF to adults, the transcriptomic difference between identified PN types  
298 becomes smaller (Figure 6G; quantified in Figure 6—figure supplement 1).

299 We next applied the same approaches for matching *kn+* PN types across 3 stages to match  
300 most PNs (sequenced using either *GHI46-GAL4* or *VT033006-GAL4*) across 4 stages (Figure 7A).  
301 In addition to marker gene expression, we also used subset of PNs we had sequenced from different  
302 stages to manually match PN types (Figure 7—figure supplements 1A–D). For the manually  
303 matched PN types with known identity, we summarized markers and marker combinations we  
304 used in a dot plot, where both average expression as well as percentage of cells expressing each  
305 marker were shown (Figure 7—figure supplement 2). Using both manual and automatic approaches,

306 we were able to match many PN types across 2 or more developmental stages (Figure 7B), which  
307 includes 18 PN types that we have decoded in Figure 2 and 7 transcriptomic clusters with unknown  
308 identity. The majority of the PNs we matched were confirmed mutually by both the automatic  
309 (transcriptomic similarity-based) and manual (marker-based) methods (Figure 7C and Figure 7–  
310 figure supplement 1E).

### 311 **Gene expression dynamics in a type-specific manner**

312 Matching the same PN types across multiple developmental stages enabled us to investigate gene  
313 dynamics in each PN type. Genes with temporal dynamics in PNs on the bulk level displayed  
314 features of neurite growth during development and synaptic transmission in adult stage (Figure 3).  
315 However, not many genes known to be involved in wiring-specificity were observed in the  
316 differentially expressed gene list when we only considered developmental stage (but not PN type)  
317 as a variable. We hypothesized that genes with wiring function might display type-specific  
318 dynamics that could not be observed on the global level. Thus, we sought to systematically identify  
319 those genes.

320 We first focused on 6 types of *kn+* adPNs from 3 stages. We searched for two categories  
321 of type-specific dynamic genes: (i) dynamic-dynamic genes, and (ii) dynamic-stable genes. We  
322 defined dynamic-dynamic genes to be those that show significant changes in the opposite  
323 directions between at least two PN types at two stages, and dynamic-stable genes to be those that  
324 have altered expression level in some PN types but maintain stable expression or are not expressed  
325 in all stages (Figure 8A). We identified 26 dynamic-dynamic genes and 50 dynamic-stable genes  
326 with false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.01 among *kn+* PNs (Figure 8B, C). Two examples of these  
327 type-specific dynamic genes—*Pvf3*, a ligand for the receptor tyrosine kinase encoded by *PvR*, and  
328 *rad*, a Rap-like GTPase activating protein—are shown in Figure 8D. The expression of *Pvf3*  
329 peaked at different timepoints for D PNs (at 0h APF), VA1v PNs (48h APF), and VM7 or VM5v  
330 PNs (in adults). The expression of *rad* decreased in VA1v PNs and increased in VM2 PNs from  
331 48h APF to the adult stage. Interestingly, more than half of the dynamic-dynamic genes (14 out  
332 of 26) are cell surface molecules (CSMs) and transcription factors (TFs). Consistent with our  
333 hypothesis, both CSMs and TFs are known to play critical roles in PN wiring (Hong & Luo, 2014;  
334 Li et al., 2017).

335 Next, we extended this analysis to more PN types. We focused on 13 PN types that were  
336 matched across all 4 developmental stages (12 PN types with known identity and 1 with unknown  
337 identity). The increased number of PN types and the additional timepoint produced more type-  
338 specific dynamic genes. In particular, at FDR < 0.01 we identified 327 dynamic-dynamic genes  
339 (Figure 8E–F). Among the 327 dynamic-dynamic genes, we compared the gene distribution at 3  
340 transitions: 0h to 24h, 24h to 48h, and 48h to adult. We found more dynamic genes during the first  
341 and last transitions compared to the middle one. This is consistent with our expectations because  
342 PNs from 0h to 24h, or from 48h to adult, are transitioning into or out of circuit assembly,  
343 respectively. We further compared the number of dynamic genes found at all stages between each  
344 pair of 12 decoded PN types (Figure 8G). We found that PN types from two different lineages  
345 (rectangle-bound corner) tended to have more dynamic genes between each other than PN types  
346 within the same lineage. However, there were exceptions—for example, VA6 and VA1v PNs are  
347 both from the adPN lineage but possessed the highest number of type-specific dynamic genes. This  
348 is likely because VA6 and VA1v PNs are born during different developmental stages (born in  
349 embryos vs larvae, respectively), with VA6 but not VA1v PNs undergoing dendrite and axon  
350 pruning followed by re-extension during morphogenesis.



351 **PN types with adjacent birth order share more similar transcriptomes at early stages of**  
352 **development**

353 Previous works have shown that the PN glomerular types are prespecified by the neuroblast  
354 lineages and birth order within each lineage (Jefferis et al., 2001; Yu et al., 2010; Lin et al., 2012)  
355 (Figure 9A). Decoding the transcriptomic identities of different PN types at different timepoints  
356 allowed us to ask: to what extent is transcriptomic similarity contributed by lineage, birth order,  
357 and/or spatial position of their glomeruli? Do these contributions persist through development?

358 To address these questions, we performed hierarchical clustering on all excitatory PN  
359 clusters we identified from each timepoint. We plotted the dendrogram and the correlation between  
360 each pair of clusters (Figure 9—figure supplement 1). We observed some lineage-related similarity  
361 between PN types at 0h APF: transcriptomes of PNs from the same lineage tended to be clustered  
362 together in the dendrogram and their correlations are higher, although the relationship was not  
363 absolute. Such similarity was gradually lost as development proceeded (as inferred by both the  
364 dendrogram as well as correlation between PNs from the same lineage). Interestingly, we noticed  
365 that some PNs with adjacent birth order appeared to be neighbors in the dendrogram at 0h and 24h  
366 APF.

367 To further investigate the relationship between birth order of PNs and their transcriptomic  
368 similarity, we selected all decoded PNs from the anterodorsal lineage, ordered them according to  
369 their birth order, and computed their correlation (Figure 9B). 0h APF adPNs showed high  
370 correlation between their birth order and their transcriptomic similarity, as indicated by the high  
371 correlations in boxes just off the diagonal line. To test if the transcriptomic similarity of adPNs  
372 indeed covaries with their birth order, we performed permutation tests, comparing the Spearman  
373 correlations between birth-order ranking and transcriptomic similarity ranking (Figure 9C, see  
374 Materials and Methods for details). The results confirmed that 0h and 24h APF PNs, but not 48h  
375 APF and adult PNs, exhibited high correlations between their birth orders and transcriptomic  
376 similarities. In addition, developmental trajectory analysis of adPNs born at the larval stage using  
377 Monocle 3 also showed that the unbiased pseudo time recapitulated their birth order (Figure 9D)  
378 (Cao et al., 2019).

379 A previous study profiled the transcriptomes of PN neuroblasts at various larval stages and  
380 identified 63 genes with temporal gradients (Liu et al., 2015). Among those genes, the authors  
381 have validated that two RNA-binding proteins, *Imp* and *Syp*, regulate the fate of PNs born at  
382 different times. Therefore, we analyzed expression of these genes at 0h APF to see if any of these  
383 genes with temporal gradients has persisted expression in postmitotic PNs. We found 15 out of the  
384 63 genes (including *Imp* but not *Syp*) maintained the same temporal gradient patterns according to  
385 their birth order at 0h APF (Figure 9E) but not at the later stages (data not shown). This result  
386 suggested that the expression of some birth order-related molecular features, including some cell-  
387 fate regulators, were maintained till early pupal stage.

388 In summary, our data demonstrated that PN types with adjacent birth order shared more  
389 similar transcriptomes, illustrating sequential transition of gene expression profiles in PN  
390 neuroblasts. Such transcriptomic similarity was maintained at early pupal stages and was gradually  
391 lost as PNs mature.

392 **Differentially expressed genes in different PN types in adults**

393 Our analyses have shown that transcriptomic differences between different PN types diminish as  
394 development proceeds (Figure 4). However, different PN types in adults still exhibited some  
395 degree of differential gene expression, as demonstrated by the clustering of adult PNs (Figure 5)  
396 and the negative correlations observed between some PN types (Figure 9–figure supplement 1D).  
397 Such differential expression could be contributed by residual developmentally differentially  
398 expressed genes, by new categories of differentially expressed genes in mature PNs reflecting  
399 functional differences between different PN types, or a combination of both. To distinguish  
400 between these possibilities, we compared differentially expressed (DE) genes among different  
401 transcriptomic clusters of PNs at 24h APF and at the adult stage.

402 About a third of the DE genes were shared between these two stages (Figure 10A). Gene  
403 ontology analysis revealed that these shared genes were predominately related to neural  
404 development (Figure 10B, middle). In addition, CSMs and TFs were enriched in 24h APF and  
405 adult DE genes compared to the entire genome, albeit to a lesser extent for TFs (Figure 10C).  
406 These data suggested that some DE genes found among adult PN types were residual  
407 developmentally differentially expressed genes.

408 Interestingly, many gene ontology terms related to the physiological properties of PNs  
409 among the adult only DE genes (Figure 10B, bottom). These include ion channels, G-protein-  
410 coupled receptors, and regulators of synaptic transmission (some selected examples are shown in  
411 Figure 10D). These results suggested different PN types in adults might exhibit different  
412 physiological properties. Future studies can address whether such differences in the adult PN  
413 transcriptomes have an impact on their physiological properties.

414

## 415 **Discussion**

### 416 **Deciphering single-cell transcriptomes for connectivity-defined neuronal types**

417 Traditionally, neurons are classified based on their morphology, physiology, connectivity, and  
418 signature molecular markers. More recently, scRNA-seq has allowed classification of cell types  
419 based entirely on their transcriptomes. Many studies have illustrated that cell-type classification  
420 based on the single-cell transcriptomes largely agrees with classifications by some of the more  
421 traditional criteria (Zeng & Sanes, 2017).

422 For *Drosophila* olfactory PNs, the most prominent type-specific feature is their pre- and  
423 post-synaptic connections, which determines their olfactory response profiles and the higher order  
424 neurons they relay olfactory information to. Thus, different PN types are largely defined by their  
425 differences in their connectivity. We have previously observed that the transcriptomic identity of  
426 PNs corresponds well with their types during development, and for three identified PN types,  
427 transcriptomic differences peak during the circuit assembly stage (Li et al., 2017). Here, we  
428 generalized these findings across many more PN types by showing that transcriptomic differences  
429 are the highest around 24h APF, a stage when PNs are making wiring decisions and preparing cues  
430 for subsequent ORN-PN matching (Figure 4), and by demonstrating that clustering of PNs  
431 according to their types from all stages are best done using differentially expressed genes at 24h  
432 APF (Figure 5). Additionally, our data indicate that at certain stages, differences among those type-  
433 specific genes can be masked by other genes belonging to pathways of a more dominating  
434 biological process (such as neurite pruning at 0h APF for PNs). As a consequence, it may be  
435 challenging to identify genes carrying type-specific information at certain timepoints even when

436 sophisticated algorithms are applied, which can lead to underestimation of cell type diversity. Thus,  
437 to determine single-cell transcriptomes of connectivity-defined neuronal types such as fly olfactory  
438 PNs, it may be a general strategy to first obtain their single-cell transcriptomes during their circuit  
439 assembly and then use this information to supervise cell-type classification in other developmental  
440 stages, including adults.

#### 441 **Tracing the same cell type in different states**

442 Both cell types and their biological states can split single-cell transcriptomes into distinct clusters  
443 (Zeng & Sanes, 2017; Cembrowski & Menon, 2018; Tasic, 2018). We observed that the same  
444 types of PNs of different developmental stages—reflecting different states—indeed exhibit very  
445 distinct transcriptomic profiles (Figures 5 and 6). To identify transcriptomic clusters corresponding  
446 to the same PN types across multiple timepoints, we developed and applied two complementary  
447 methods—one manual based on the marker gene expression, and one automatic based on the  
448 similarity between transcriptomic clusters. By applying both methods, we can confidently track  
449 the transcriptomes of the same cell type throughout development and study the unique molecular  
450 features of each stage.

451 Our methods can be applied to other single-cell studies where diverse cell types and  
452 multiple states are involved. This can be especially useful for tissues with high cellular diversity  
453 but lack unique markers for each cell type.

#### 454 **Using single-cell RNAseq data to identify new candidate molecules for future studies**

455 In this study, we have obtained high-quality single-cell transcriptomes of most excitatory PNs from  
456 early pupal stage to adulthood (Figure 1). We have used combinations of markers and drivers to  
457 decode the transcriptomic identity of 21 transcriptomic clusters at 24h APF (Figure 2), and  
458 matched clusters representing the same PN type across four developmental stages (Figure 7).

459 Using this rich and well-annotated dataset, researchers can now explore different aspects  
460 of PN development and function to identify candidate molecules for future studies. For example,  
461 one can search for novel molecules involved in neurite pruning among the differentially expressed  
462 genes between the embryonically-born and larval-born PNs at 0h APF (Figure 4B–D).  
463 Developmentally enriched genes and genes with type-specific dynamics, on the other hand, can be  
464 good candidates for studies on neural development and wiring specificity (Figure 3 and 8).  
465 Differentially expressed neuronal signaling genes in adult PNs can be used to explore differences  
466 in physiological properties and information processing (Figure 10). In addition, driver lines for  
467 specific types of PNs can be made using genes that show consistent expression pattern across  
468 different stages (Figure 7–figure supplement 2) to label and genetically manipulate specific PN  
469 types. Together with a companion paper on single-cell transcriptomes of olfactory receptor  
470 neurons across multiple stages (McLaughlin et al.), these studies have established foundations of  
471 gene expression for the two principal types of neurons in the *Drosophila* olfactory system and  
472 should catalyze new biological discoveries.

473 **Methods and Materials**

474 **Key Resource Table**

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>GHI46-GAL4</i>	(Stocker et al., 1997)	RRID: BDSC_30026	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>VT033006-GAL4</i>	(Tirian & Dickson, 2017)	RRID: BDSC_73333	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>Mz19-GAL4</i>	(Jefferis et al., 2004)	RRID: BDSC_41573	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>knot-GAL4</i>	(Lee et al., 2018)	RRID: BDSC_67516	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>split#28-GAL4</i>	Yoshi Aso (unpublished)		SS01265
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>split#7-GAL4</i>	Yoshi Aso (unpublished)		SS01867
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>split#15-GAL4</i>	Yoshi Aso (unpublished)		SS01165
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>GHI46-Flp</i>	(Potter et al., 2010)		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>UAS-FRT-STOP-FRT-mCD8GFP</i>	(Potter et al., 2010)	RRID: BDSC_30125	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>zfh2-GAL4</i>	(Lee et al., 2018)	RRID: BDSC_86479	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>Act-FRT-STOP-FRT-GAL4</i>	(Pignoni & Zipursky, 1997)		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>UAS-Flp</i>	(Duffy et al., 1998)		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>C15-p65<sup>AD</sup></i>	(Xie et al., 2019)		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>C15-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup></i>	This study		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>danr-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup></i>	This study		

Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>VT033006-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup></i>	Yoshi Aso (unpublished)		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>DIP-zeta-GAL4</i>	(Cosmanescu et al., 2018)	RRID: BDSC_90317	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>DIP-eta-GAL4</i>	(Cosmanescu et al., 2018)	RRID: BDSC_90318	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>AstA-GAL4</i>	(Deng et al., 2019)	RRID: BDSC_84593	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>DIP-beta-GAL4</i>	(Carrillo et al., 2015)	RRID: BDSC_90316	
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>kn-p65<sup>AD</sup></i>	This study		
Genetic reagent ( <i>D. melanogaster</i> )	<i>elav-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup></i>	(Luan et al., 2006)		
Antibody	Rat anti-Ncad	Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank	RRID: AB_528121	1:40 in 5% normal goat serum
Antibody	Chicken anti-GFP	Aves Labs	RRID: AB_10000240	1:1000 in 5% normal goat serum
Software	ZEN	Carl Zeiss	RRID: SCR_013672	
Software	ImageJ	National Institutes of Health	RRID: SCR_003070	
Software	Illustrator	Adobe	RRID: SCR_010279	
Software	STAR 2.5.4	(Dobin et al., 2013)	RRID: SCR_015899	<a href="https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR">https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR</a>
Software	HTseq 0.11.2	(Anders et al., 2015)	RRID: SCR_005514	<a href="https://github.com/htseq/htseq">https://github.com/htseq/htseq</a>
Software	Scanpy	(Wolf et al., 2018)	RRID: SCR_018139	<a href="https://scanpy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/">https://scanpy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/</a>
Software	Iterative Clustering for Identifying Markers (ICIM)	(Li et al., 2017)		<a href="https://github.com/felixhorns/FlyPN">https://github.com/felixhorns/FlyPN</a>

Plasmid	<i>pT-GEM(0)</i>	(Diao et al., 2015)	RRID: Addgene_62891	
Plasmid	<i>pBS-KS-attB2-SA(2)-T2A-p65AD-Hsp70</i>	(Diao et al., 2015)	RRID: Addgene_62915	
Plasmid	<i>pU6-BbsI-chiRNA</i>	(Gratz et al., 2013)	RRID: Addgene_45946	

## 475 ***Drosophila* Stocks and genotypes**

476 Flies are maintained on standard cornmeal medium at 25 °C with 12-h light–dark cycle. The  
477 following lines were used in this study: *GHI46-GAL4* (Stocker et al., 1997), *VT033006-GAL4*  
478 (Tirian & Dickson, 2017), *Mz19-GAL4* (Jefferis et al., 2004), *knot-GAL4* (Lee et al., 2018),  
479 *GHI46-Flp*, *UAS-FRT-STOP-FRT-mCD8-GFP* (Potter et al., 2010), *zfh2-GAL4* (Lee et al., 2018),  
480 *Act-FRT-STOP-FRT-GAL4* (Pignoni & Zipursky, 1997), *UAS-Flp* (Duffy et al., 1998), *C15-p65<sup>AD</sup>*  
481 (Xie et al., 2019), *DIP-beta-GAL4*, *DIP-eta-GAL4*, *DIP-zeta-GAL4* (Carrillo et al., 2015;  
482 Cosmanescu et al., 2018), *AstA-GAL4* (Deng et al., 2019), and *elav-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* (Luan et al., 2006).  
483 *VT033006-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>*, split-GAL4 line #7 (SS01867), #15 (SS01165), and #28 (SS01265) are  
484 unpublished reagents generously provided by Yoshi Aso (Janelia Research Campus).

## 485 **Generation of *danr-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>*, *kn-p65<sup>AD</sup>*, and *C15-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>***

486 *danr-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* was generated using CRISPR mediated knock-in. ~2000 bp of genomic sequence  
487 flanking the targeted insertion site was amplified by Q5 hot-start high-fidelity DNA polymerase  
488 (New England Biolabs) and inserted into *pCR-Blunt-TOPO* vectors (Thermo Fisher). Using this  
489 vector, we generated homology directed repair (HDR) vector *TOPO-danr-T2A-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>-P3-*  
490 *RFP* by inserting *T2A-GAL4(DBD)::Zip+* and *3XP3-RFP-SV40* (cloned from *pT-GEM(0)*  
491 Addgene #62891) 45bp downstream of the start codon of *danr*. CRISPR guide RNA (gRNA)  
492 targeting a sequence inside *danr* (AACATCCGGATGAGCACGCG) were designed by the  
493 flyCRISPR Target Finder tool and cloned into a *pU6-BbsI-chiRNA* vector (Addgene #45946). The  
494 HDR and gRNA vectors were co-injected into *nos-Cas9* (gift from Dr. Ben White) embryos. RFP+  
495 progenies were selected and individually balanced.

496 *kn-p65<sup>AD</sup>* was generated by co-injecting *pBS-KS-attB2-SA(2)-T2A-p65AD-Hsp70*  
497 (Addgene #62915) and ΦC31 into the embryos of *MI15480* (BL61064). All *yellow<sup>-</sup>* progenies were  
498 individually balanced.

499 *C15-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* was generated using methods similar to *danr-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>*. But because C15  
500 have been shown to be involved in PN dendrite targeting (Li et al., 2017), instead of inserting  
501 driver elements into the coding region, the stop codon of *C15* was replaced by *T2A-*  
502 *GAL4(DBD)::Zip+* to prevent disruption of the gene.

## 503 **Immunofluorescence**

504 Fly brains were dissected and immunostained according to previously described methods (Wu &  
505 Luo, 2006). Primary antibodies used in this study included rat anti-Ncad (N-Ex #8; 1:40;  
506 Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank), chicken anti-GFP (1:1000; Aves Labs). Secondary  
507 antibodies conjugated to Alexa Fluor 488/647 (Jackson ImmunoResearch) were used at 1:250. 5%  
508 normal goat serum in phosphate buffered saline was used for blocking and diluting antibodies.  
509 Confocal images were collected with a Zeiss LSM 780 and processed with ImageJ.

## 510 **Single-cell RNA sequencing procedure**

511 Single-cell RNA sequencing was performed following previously described protocol (Li et al.,  
512 2017). Briefly, *Drosophila* brains with mCD8-GFP labeled cells using specific GAL4 drivers were  
513 dissected at appropriate timepoints (0–6h APF, 24–30h APF, 48–54h APF, and 1–5 day adults).  
514 Optic lobes were removed from brain during dissection for all timepoints except for 0-6h APF.  
515 Single-cell suspension were prepared and GFP positive cells were sorted using Fluorescence  
516 Activated Cell Sorting (FACS) into individual wells of 384-well plates containing lysis buffer  
517 using SH800 (Sony Biotechnology). Full-length poly(A)-tailed RNA was reverse-transcribed and  
518 amplified by PCR following the SMART-seq2 protocol (Picelli et al., 2014). cDNA was digested  
519 using lambda exonuclease (New England Biolabs) and then amplified for 25 cycles. Sequencing  
520 libraries were prepared from amplified cDNA, pooled, and quantified using BioAnalyser (Agilent).  
521 Sequencing was performed using the Novaseq 6000 Sequencing system (Illumina) with 100  
522 paired-end reads and 2 x 8 bp index reads (all except *split#28-GAL4*). *split#28-GAL4* is sequenced  
523 using NextSeq 500 Sequencing system (Illumina) with 75 paired-end reads and 2 x 8 bp index  
524 reads.

## 525 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

526 Unless otherwise specified, all data analysis was performed in Python using Scanpy (Wolf et al.,  
527 2018), Numpy, Scipy, Pandas, scikit-learn, and custom single-cell RNA-seq modules (Li et al.,  
528 2017; Brbić et al., 2020). Gene Ontology analysis were performed using Flymine (Lyne et al.,  
529 2007).

## 530 **Sequence alignment and preprocessing**

531 Reads were aligned to the *Drosophila melanogaster* genome (r6.10) using STAR (2.5.4) (Dobin  
532 et al., 2013). Gene counts were produced using HTseq (0.11.2) with default settings except “-m  
533 intersection-strict” (Anders et al., 2015). We removed low-quality cells having fewer than 100,000  
534 uniquely mapped reads. To normalize for differences in sequencing depth across individual cells,  
535 we rescaled gene counts to counts per million reads (CPM). All analyses were performed after  
536 converting gene counts to logarithmic space via the transformation  $\text{Log}_2(\text{CPM}+1)$ . We further  
537 filter out non-neuronal cells by selecting cells with high expression of canonical neuronal genes  
538 (*elav*, *brp*, *Syt1*, *nSyb*, *CadN*, and *mCD8-GFP*). We retained cells expressing at least 8  
539  $\text{Log}_2(\text{CPM}+1)$  for least 2/6 markers.

## 540 **Dimensionality reduction and clustering**

541 To select variable genes for dimensionality reduction, we used previously described methods to  
542 search for either overdispersed genes (Satija et al., 2015) or ICIM genes (Li et al., 2017). We then  
543 further reduced its dimensionality using tSNE to project the reduced gene expression matrix into  
544 a two-dimensional space (van der Maaten & Hinton, 2008). We observed that our most recently  
545 sequenced cells using NovaSeq (all newly sequenced cells in this study except for *split#28-GAL4*)  
546 exhibited some small batch effect with PNs sequenced using NextSeq [*split#28-GAL4*+ PNs and  
547 PNs from (Li et al., 2017)]. To overcome this batch effect (in Figure 2, and Figure 7–figure  
548 supplement 2 A, C), we performed principal component analysis (PCA) on the ICIM matrix,  
549 applied Harmony to correct for batch effect on the principal components (PCs) (Korsunsky et al.,  
550 2019), and used tSNE to further project the Harmony-corrected PCs into a two-dimensional space.

551 To cluster PNs in an unbiased manner, we applied the hierarchical density-based clustering  
552 algorithm, HDBSCAN, on the tSNE projection (McInnes et al., 2017). Parameters

553 min\_cluster\_size and min\_samples were adjusted to separate clusters representing different types  
554 of PNs. In addition, we also clustered cells using an independent, community-detection method  
555 called Leiden on the neighborhood graph computed based on the ICIM gene matrix (Blondel et al.,  
556 2008; Levine et al., 2015; McInnes et al., 2018). Both methods appeared to agree with each other  
557 for all datasets we examined (examples in Figure 5–figure supplement 1), and we assigned PN  
558 types in Figure 2 based on HDBSCAN clustering.

### 559 **Global level dynamic gene identification**

560 To identify dynamically expressed genes on the global level (Figure 3), we first identified the top  
561 150 most differentially expressed genes (Mann-Whitney U test) between every two stages and  
562 combined them to obtain a set of 474 dynamic genes. We calculated the median expression of each  
563 gene at each timepoint and normalized these median expression values by dividing them by the  
564 maximum value across time points. We then performed dimensionality reduction on the expression  
565 profiles of the genes using tSNE, and identified clusters using HDBSCAN on the projected  
566 coordinates. This resulted in identification of 8 sets of genes with distinct dynamic profiles, of  
567 which 2 sets are upregulated (Figure 3E), 4 sets are down regulated (Figure 3D), and 2 sets without  
568 obvious trend from 0h APF to adult cells (data not shown).

### 569 **Transcriptomic similarity calculation**

570 To analyze the transcriptome differences of PNs in different stages (Figure 4E, F), we first isolated  
571 IPNs and adPNs to analyze cells from each lineage separately. Cell-level analysis was performed  
572 by calculating for each cell mean inverse Euclidean distance in the 2-dimensional UMAP space  
573 from all other cells within each stage using the 1215 genes identified by ICIM from most PNs of  
574 all stages (Figure 3A). Box plots show the distance distribution at each stage (Figure 4E and F,  
575 left). Cluster-level analysis was performed on the MARS clusters. We identified a set of  
576 differentially expressed genes for each cluster and calculated Pearson correlation on differentially  
577 expressed genes between all pairs of clusters. Bar plots represent mean values across all pairs and  
578 errors are 95% confidence intervals determined by bootstrapping with n=1,000 iterations (Figure  
579 4E and F, right).

### 580 **PN type identification for most PNs**

581 We observed that the transcriptomes of different PN types are the most distinct at 24h APF and  
582 variable genes identified at this stage carry type-specific information (Figure 5). Therefore, we  
583 calculated the differentially expressed genes among 24h APF clusters and applied MARS to  
584 identify clusters in the space of those genes. MARS is able to reuse annotated single-cell datasets  
585 to learn shared low-dimensional space of both annotated and unannotated datasets in which cells  
586 are grouped according to their cell types. However, initially we did not have any annotated  
587 experiments so we first applied MARS to annotate 24h APF clusters. We then used 24h APF  
588 clusters as annotated dataset and moved to annotate PNs at 48h APF. We then repeated the same  
589 procedure by gradually increasing our set of annotated datasets. In particular, we used 24h and 48h  
590 APF data to help in annotating 0h APF, and finally all three datasets (0h, 24h, 48h) for the adult  
591 PNs. We proceed in this order according to the expected difficulty to identify PN types at a  
592 particular stage (Figure 5). At each stage, we ran MARS multiple times with different random  
593 initializations and architecture parameters to increase our confidence in the discovered clusters,  
594 and combined annotations from these different runs. For each cluster, we additionally manually  
595 checked the expressions of known PN markers to confirm the annotations.



596 **Matching clusters representing the same PN type across development using marker**  
597 **expression**

598 For each cluster, we used Mann-Whitney U test to find genes that are highly expressed in that  
599 cluster compared to the rest. Then, among those genes, we searched for genes or 2-gene  
600 combinations which are uniquely expressed in 1 cluster. We check each gene or combination of  
601 genes at the other stages, and if they are also only expressed in 1 cluster and they are of the same  
602 lineage, we consider them to be the same types of PNs. Genes used to match clusters representing  
603 the same PN types at different timepoints are summarized in a dot-plot in Figure 7—figure  
604 supplement 2.

605 In addition, we used previously sequenced subset of PNs using *Mz19-GAL4* and *kn-GAL4*  
606 to overlay with most PNs in combinations of those markers to confirm our matching.

607 **Matching clusters representing the same PN type across development using similarity**  
608 **calculation**

609 For each cluster, we found the set of differentially expressed genes in that cluster compared to all  
610 other clusters at the same stage. Next, we computed the similarity of the sets of identified  
611 differentially expressed genes between all pairs of clusters across subsequent stages. Specifically,  
612 we computed similarity scores between all pairs of clusters from (i) 0h and 24h APF, (ii) 24h and  
613 48h APF, and (iii) 48h and adult APF. The similarity of the sets of differentially expressed genes  
614 was computed as the Jaccard similarity index defined as the ratio of the cardinality of the  
615 intersection of two sets and the cardinality of the union of the sets. We excluded clusters  
616 representing vPNs and APLs for matching most PNs across 4 stages (Figure 7). For each cluster,  
617 we then identified its most similar cluster at the adjacent stage according to the Jaccard index. If  
618 the clusters between two stages coincide—meaning that two clusters from two stages have the  
619 highest similarity to each other, we consider the clusters to be matched. Empirically, we found this  
620 matching procedure to be stringent, resulting in high confidence matching pairs.

621 **Identification of type specific dynamic genes**

622 We first identified all dynamic and stable genes. For each PN type matched across all  
623 developmental stages, we consider all genes that significantly change their expression between  
624 any two adjacent time points as dynamic genes. Statistical significance was determined by two-  
625 tailed t-test and p-values were adjusted for multiple hypothesis testing using Benjamini–Hochberg  
626 method. To ensure that gene is expressed in at least one time point, we required that  $\text{Log}_2(\text{CPM}+1) >$   
627 2 in at least 50% of cells at one time point. Further, for each PN type we characterized all genes  
628 with FDR adjusted p-value larger than 0.9 at all time points as stable genes.

629 If the same gene is identified as dynamic in two PN types at the same time transition but it  
630 shows opposite dynamics, we consider it as dynamic-dynamic gene (Figure 8A). Here, opposite  
631 dynamics means that the mean expression increases in one PN type in the transition from one stage  
632 to another but decreases in the another PN type. On the other hand, if the same gene is identified  
633 as dynamic in one PN type but stable in another PN type, we consider it as dynamic-stable gene  
634 (Figure 8A).

635 **Correlation between different PN types**

636 MARS clusters of excitatory PNs were used for analysis in Figure 9. We performed PCA on the  
637 entire matrix and calculated their correlation based on the PCs. Dendrograms shown in Figure 9—

638 figure supplement 1 are generated using distance calculated using Farthest Point Algorithm and  
639 organized so the distance between successive leaves is minimal.

640 To observe the relationship between birth timing and their transcriptomic similarity, for  
641 each stage, we selected adPN clusters, performed PCA among all genes detected, calculated their  
642 correlation, and plotted the correlation matrices according to their birth order (Yu et al., 2010)  
643 (Figure 9B). For the two clusters representing either VM7 or VM5v PNs, we ordered them based  
644 on their correlation with decoded PN types whose birth order are adjacent to either of these two  
645 PN types. We are showing adPNs in the figure because we decoded much fewer transcriptomic  
646 clusters belonging to the IPN lineage, which is too few to carry out analysis shown in Figure 9C–  
647 D with robust statistical backing. Nevertheless, we still observed higher correlation between IPN  
648 types with adjacent birth-order in 0h and 24h APF (data not shown).

#### 649 **Spearman's rank correlation calculation and permutation test**

650 For consistency, 8 adPN types that were decoded across 4 stages were selected for this analysis  
651 (Figure 9C). For each PN type X, the group of PNs that are born either earlier or later than X was  
652 selected depending on which direction contains more PN types (each group contains at least 5  
653 types of PNs). Then, we ranked the PN types according to their correlation with X and calculated  
654 the Spearman's rank correlation of this ranking with the ranking based on their birth order. For  
655 each stage, we obtained the average correlation coefficients and plotted the result as a red dot on  
656 the x-axis for each timepoint. Higher value indicates higher correlation between birth order and  
657 order calculated based on their transcriptomic similarity.

658 To determine if we can reject the null hypothesis that the adPN transcriptomic similarity  
659 do not covary with the ranks of the birth order, we performed permutation test. We randomly  
660 shuffled the birth order and performed the aforementioned correlation calculation for 5000  
661 iterations. The distribution of the simulated average correlations is shown in the histogram of  
662 Figure 9C. We obtained the p-value by dividing the number of times of the simulated correlation  
663 is greater than the observed correlation by the total number of iterations.

#### 664 **Developmental trajectory analysis**

665 Pseudo-time analysis of 0h APF adPNs was performed using the monocle package in R (Trapnell  
666 et al., 2014; Qiu et al., 2017; Cao et al., 2019). We selected only adPNs born at larval stage because  
667 the embryonically born adPNs have a very distinct transcriptomes which skew clustering. We  
668 applied the dimensionality reduction method UMAP (Becht et al., 2018) on 561 24h ICIM genes  
669 to resolve distinct PN types. This dimensionally reduced dataset was then used as the basis for a  
670 developmental trajectory graph created by Monocle 3. We then selected the cluster representing  
671 DL1 PNs to be the root node of the trajectory and computed the pseudo-times based on distance  
672 from the root in accordance to the trajectory.

673

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681 **Additional information**

682 Competing interests

683 The authors declare that no competing interest exists.

684

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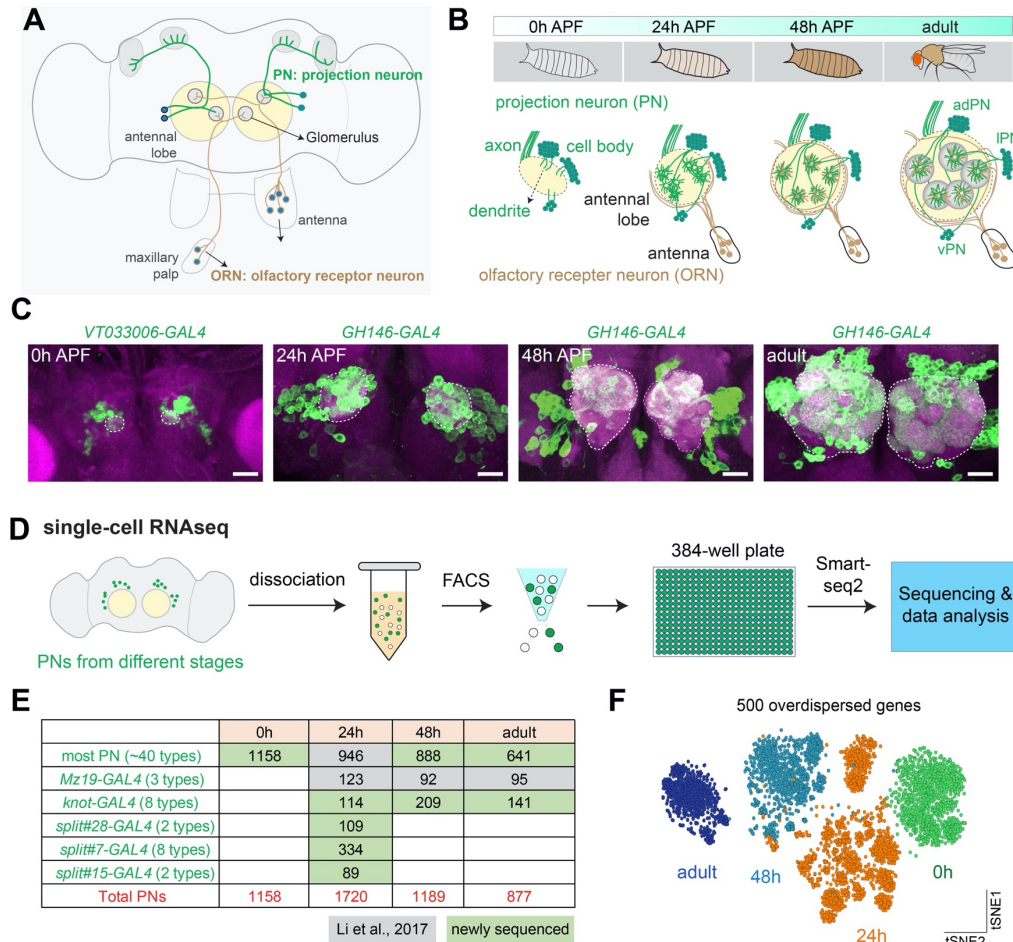
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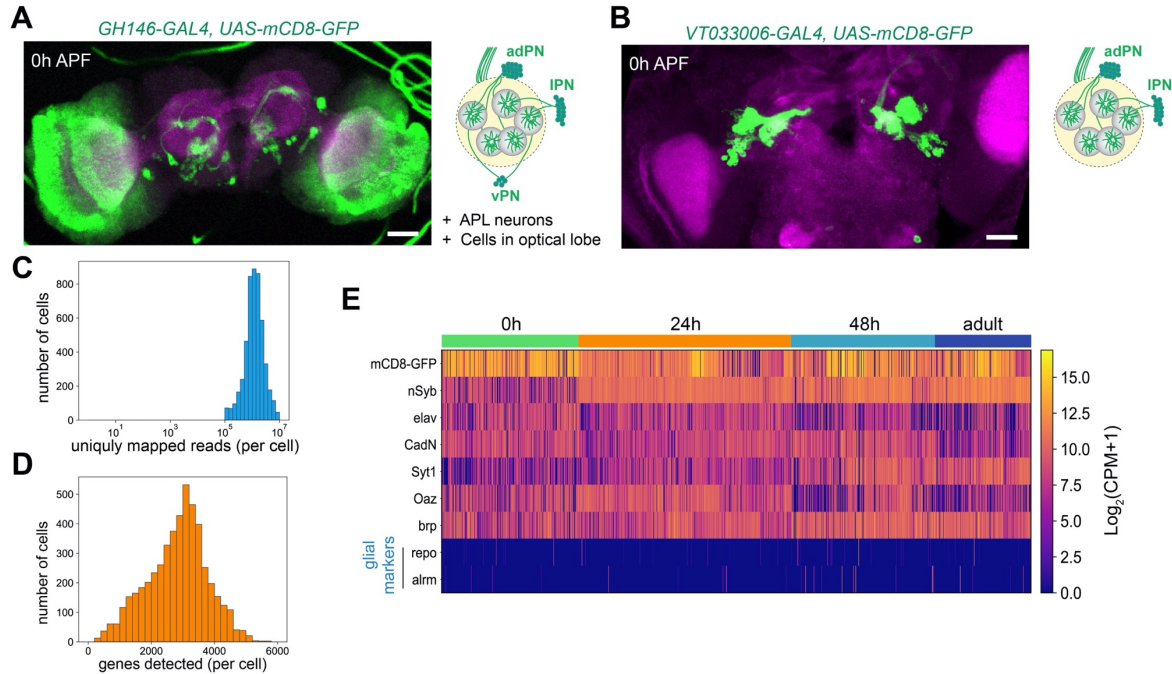


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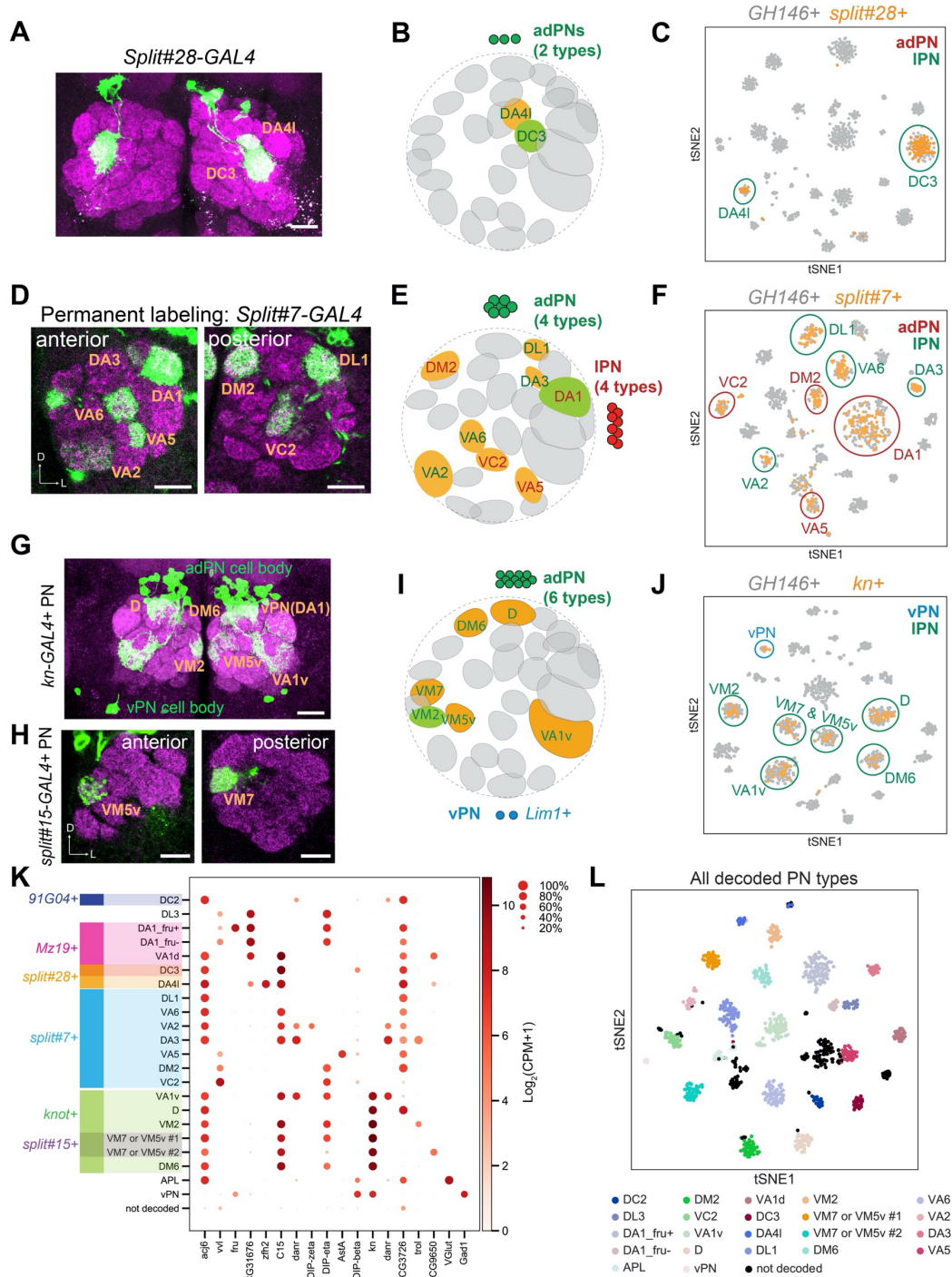
958 **Figures**



959  
 960 **Figure 1.** Overview of single-cell transcriptomic profiling of *Drosophila* olfactory projection neurons (PNs). (A)  
 961 Schematic of the adult *Drosophila* olfactory system. 50 types of olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs) form one-to-one  
 962 synaptic connections with 50 types of excitatory PNs at 50 glomeruli in the antennal lobe. Illustrated are two types  
 963 each of ORNs (brown) and PNs (green), as well as two glomeruli to which their axons and dendrites target. (B)  
 964 Schematic of the developmental process of the adult *Drosophila* olfactory system. The ~50 types of excitatory PNs  
 965 are from either anterodorsal (adPN) or lateral (IPN) neuroblast lineages. PNs with cell body on the ventral side are  
 966 inhibitory ventral PNs (vPNs). (C) Representative confocal images of PNs from four different developmental stages,  
 967 0h APF, 24h APF, 48h APF, and adult. APF: after puparium formation. Images are shown as maximum z-projections  
 968 of confocal stacks. Antenna lobe is outlined. Scale bars, 40  $\mu$ m. (D) Workflow of the single-cell RNA sequencing  
 969 using plate-based SMART-seq2. FACS: fluorescence-activated cell sorting. (E) Summary of the number of high-  
 970 quality PNs sequenced at each timepoint and driver lines used. Most PNs refer to PNs sequenced using either *GHI146-*  
 971 *GAL4* or *VT033006-GAL4*. (F) Visualization of all sequenced PNs from four different developmental stages using  
 972 tSNE plot. Dimensionality reduction was performed using the top 500 overdyspersed genes identified from all  
 973 sequenced PNs.  
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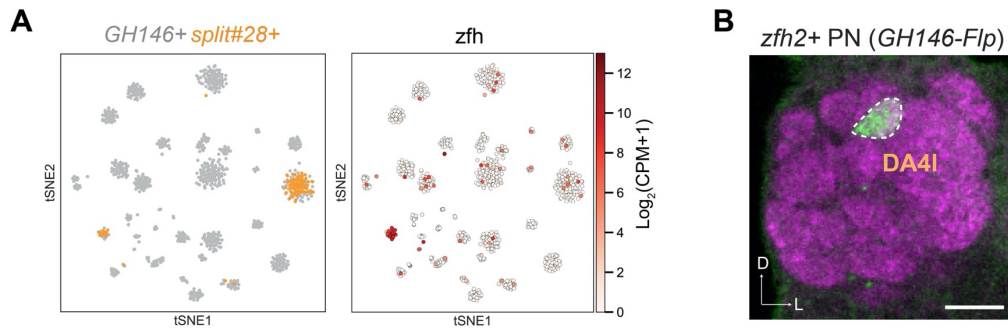


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 976 **Figure 1—figure supplement 1.** Technical characteristics of PN scRNA-seq. **(A)** Representative confocal image  
 977 and illustration of cells labeled by *GH146-GAL4* at 0h APF. Other than PNs and a pair of APL neurons in the central  
 978 brain, many cells in the optic lobes are also labeled. **(B)** Representative confocal image and illustration of cells  
 979 labeled by *VT033006-GAL4* at 0h APF. This driver labels excitatory PNs, but not cells in the optic lobes or vPN or  
 980 APL neurons. Scale bars, 40  $\mu\text{m}$ . **(C)** Distribution of the number of uniquely mapped reads per cell. **(D)** Distribution  
 981 of the number of detected genes per cell. **(E)** Heatmaps showing the expression of: *mCD8-GFP*, pan-neuronal  
 982 makers (*nSyb*, *elav*, *CadN*, *Syt1*, and *brp*), PN marker (*Oaz*), and glial markers (*repo* and *alrm*). Expression levels  
 983 are indicated by the color bar (CPM, counts per million).  
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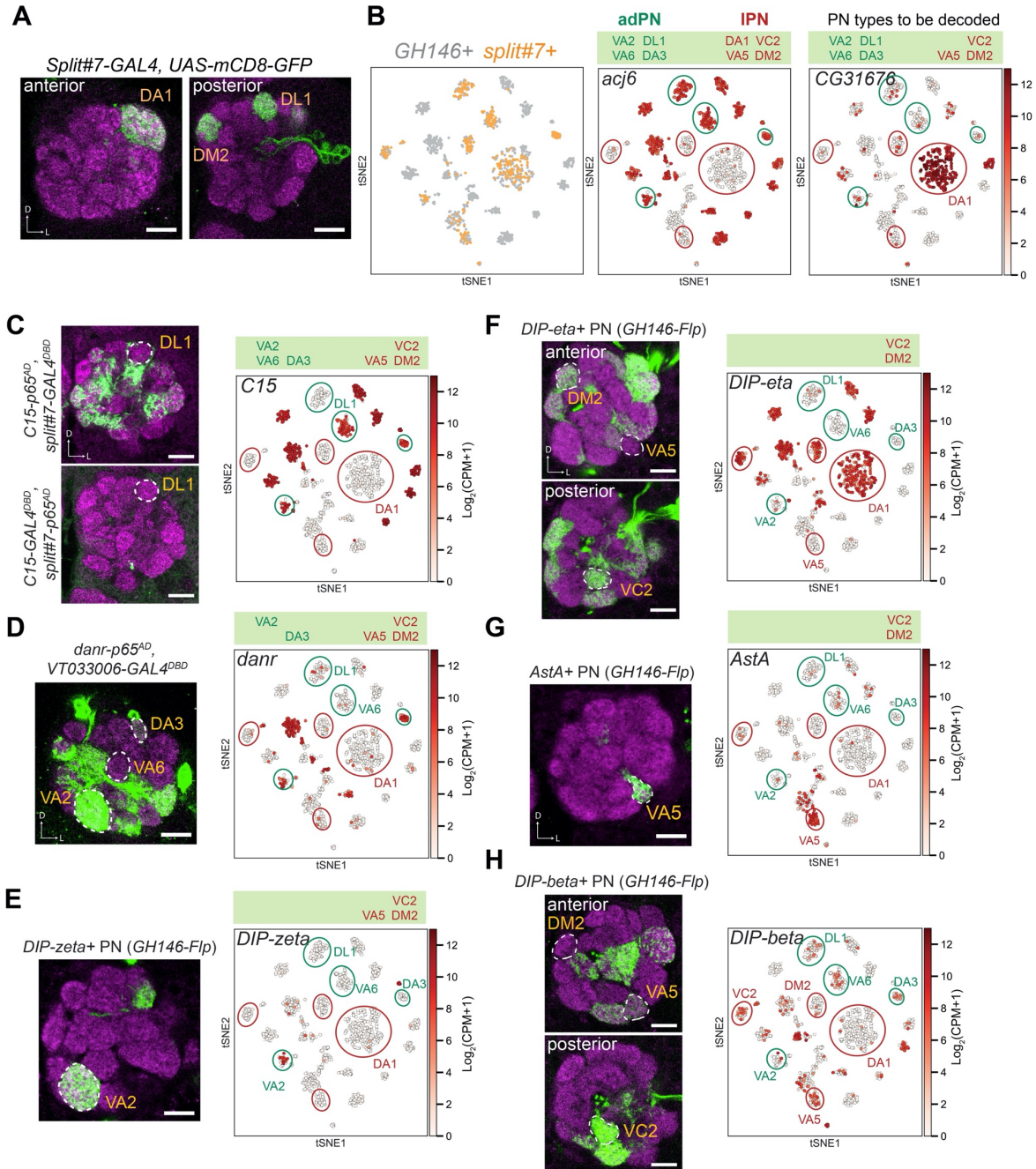


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986 **Figure 2.** Matching 15 transcriptomic clusters to specific PN types at 24h APF. (A) Representative maximum z-  
987 projection of confocal stacks of *split#28-GAL4* in adults. Dendrites of *split#28-GAL4*+ PN target the DC3 and DA41  
988 glomeruli. (B) Diagram of *split#28-GAL4*+ PN. (C) tSNE plot showing newly sequenced *split#28-GAL4*+ PN,  
989 which form two clusters that can be assigned to DC3 and DA41 PN (see also Figure 2–figure supplement 1). (D)  
990 Representative confocal images of *split#7-GAL4* labeled PN using permanent labeling strategy. One anterior section  
991 and one posterior section of the antennal lobe are shown. Using permanent labeling, we found that this driver is  
992 expressed in 8 PN types. Genotype: *split#7-GAL4, UAS-Flp, Actin promoter-FRT-STOP-FRT-GAL4, UAS-mCD8-*  
993 *GFP*. (E) Diagram of *split#7-GAL4*+ PN. *split#7-GAL4* labels 8 types of PN. 4 from the adPN lineage and 4 from  
994 the IPN lineage. (F) tSNE plot of *split#7-GAL4* PN with *GH146+* PN (see Figure 2–figure supplement 2 for details

995 on the decoding procedure). **(G)** Representative maximum z-projection of confocal stacks of *kn+* PNs in the adult.  
996 *kn-GAL4* was intersected with *GHI46-Flp* to restrict the expression of GAL4 in only PNs. **(H)** Representative confocal  
997 images of *split#15-GAL4* in adults, which labels 2 *kn+* PN types. **(I)** Diagram showing that *kn+* PNs include 6 types  
998 of adPNs (VM2 was decoded) and two vPNs. **(J)** tSNE plot of *kn-GAL4* PNs with *GHI46+* PNs (see Figure 2—figure  
999 supplement 3 for details on the decoding procedure). **(K)** Dot plot summarizing drivers and marker genes we used to  
1000 map 21 transcriptomic clusters to 20 PN types [14 adPNs, 5 IPNs—DA1 PNs form two clusters, one *fru+* and one  
1001 *fru-* (Li et al., 2017)—and 1 vPNs] and the anterior paired lateral (APL) neurons at 24h APF. Gene expression level  
1002 [ $\log_2(\text{CPM}+1)$ ] is shown by the dot color, and percentages of cells expressing a marker are shown by dot size. **(L)**  
1003 tSNE plot showing *GHI46+* PNs colored by PN types. Scale bars, 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Axes, D (dorsal), L (lateral). In panel B, E,  
1004 and I, orange glomeruli represent PN types of unknown transcriptomic identity prior to this study. Green glomeruli  
1005 represent PN types whose transcriptomic identity were previously decoded.  
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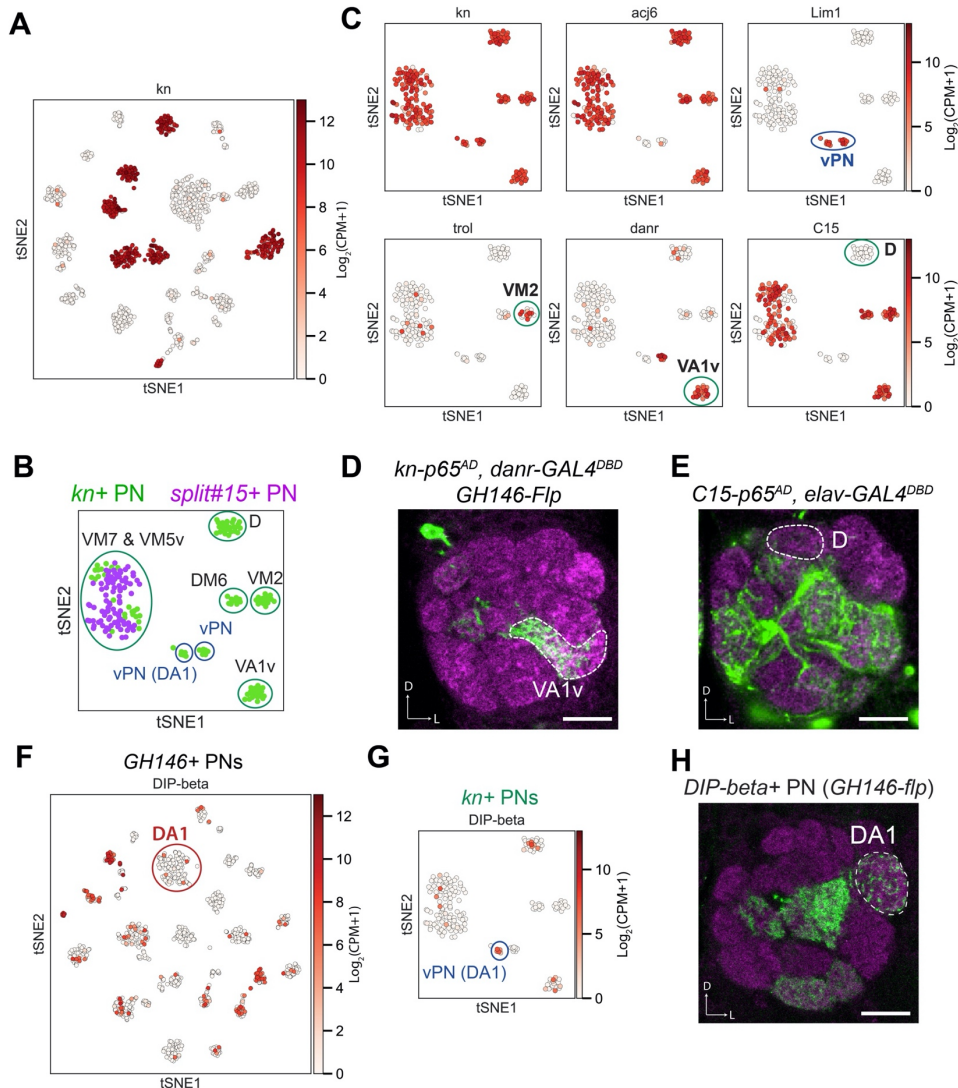


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1010 **Figure 2—figure supplement 1.** Validation of DA41 PN identity. **(A)** Visualization of *GHI46+* and *split#28-GAL4+*  
1011 PNs using tSNE. Cells are colored according to driver genotypes (left) or by the expression of *zfh* (right). **(B)** *zfh2-*  
1012 *GAL4*, after intersecting with *GHI46-Flp*, labels DA41 PNs. Scale bars, 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Axes, D (dorsal), L (lateral).  
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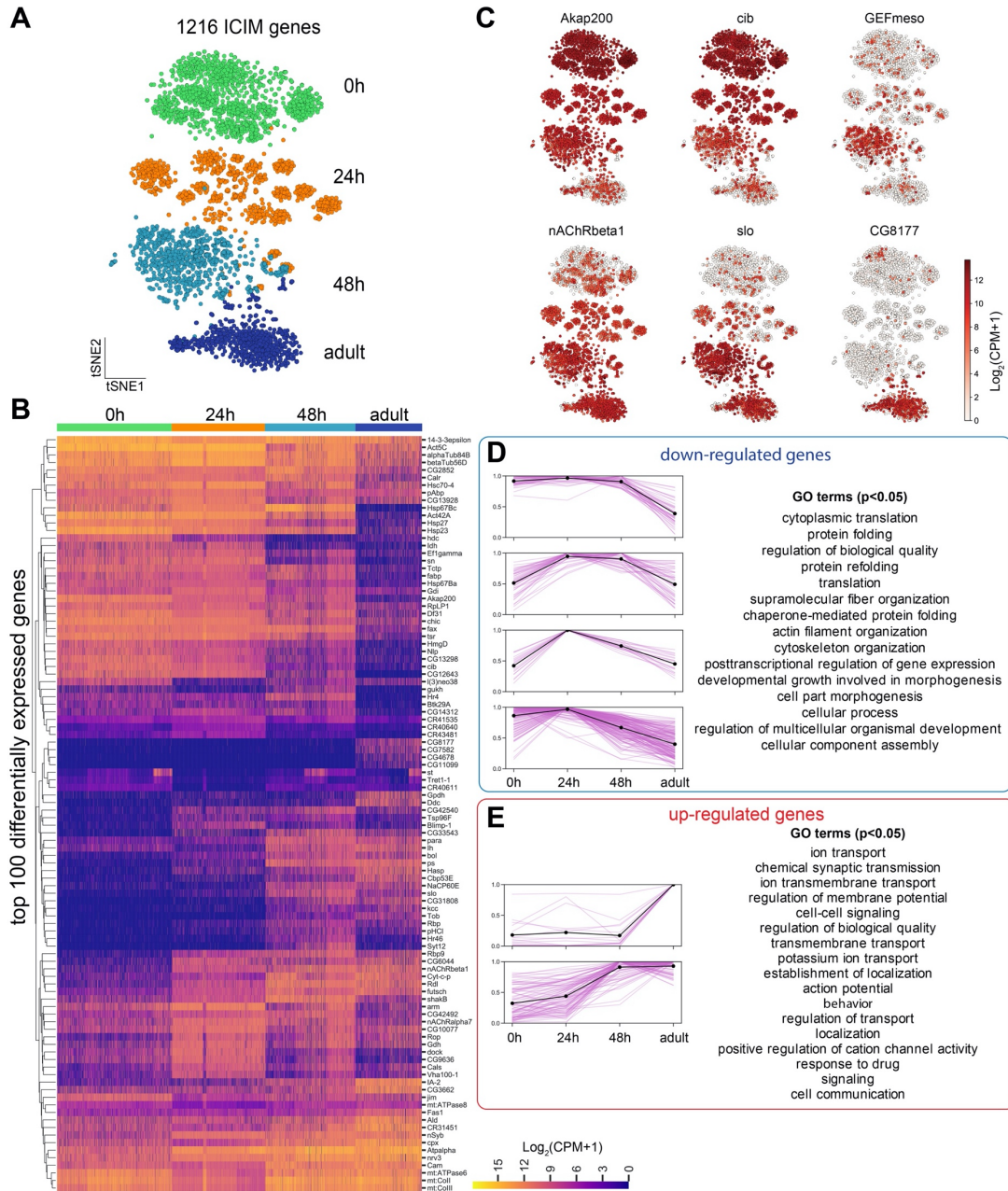


1014  
 1015 **Figure 2—figure supplement 2.** Decoding *split#7*+ PNs. (A) Representative confocal images of *split#7*+ PNs.  
 1016 Without permanent labeling, this driver is strongly expressed in 3 PN types in adults. Permanent labeling showed that  
 1017 it can label 8 adult PN types (Figure 2D), suggesting that this driver is expressed in 8 PN types during development  
 1018 and turned off in 5 of them in adult stage. (B) Visualization of *GH146*+ and *split#7*+ PNs colored according to  
 1019 genotype (left), *acj6* (middle), and *CG31676* (right) expression. Previously, we know among those *split#7*+ PNs, the  
 1020 cells with *CG31676* expression are DA1 PNs (Li et al. 2017). (C) Among *split#7*+ adPN clusters (circled in green),  
 1021 only one cluster does not express *C15*. Intersection between *C15-p65<sup>AD</sup>* and the GAL4 DNA-binding domain (DBD)  
 1022 from *split#7* (top) as well as intersection between *C15-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* and the p65-activating domain (AD) from *split#7*  
 1023 (bottom) revealed that the *C15* negative cluster represents DL1 PNs. (D) Among *split#7*+ adPNs (circled in green),  
 1024 two clusters are *danr*-. One of those cluster represents DL1 PNs. Intersection between *danr-GAL4<sup>AD</sup>* and *VT033006-*  
 1025 *GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* (split-GAL4 with PN specific expression) revealed the other *danr*- adPN is VA6 PNs. (E) One *split#7*+  
 1026 cluster specifically expresses *DIP-zeta*. Intersection between *DIP-zeta-GAL4* and *GH146-Flp* revealed this cluster

1027 represents VA2 PNs. As three out of four adPN clusters are assigned, we assigned the last unassigned to be DA3 PNs.  
 1028 **(F)** Among *split#7+* IPNs (circled in red), only one cluster is *DIP-eta+*. Intersection between *DIP-eta-GAL4* and  
 1029 *GHI46-Flp* revealed the identity of this cluster as VA5 PNs. **(G)** The *DIP-eta-* cluster also specifically expresses *AstA*.  
 1030 Intersection between *AstA-GAL4* and *GHI46-Flp* only labels VA5 PNs, further confirming its identity. **(H)** Among  
 1031 the last two unmapped clusters, one is *DIP-beta+*. Intersection between *DIP-beta-GAL4* and *GHI46-Flp* revealed the  
 1032 cluster negative for *DIP-beta* is DM2 PNs. And we assigned the remaining *split#7+* IPN cluster to be VC2 PNs. Scale  
 1033 bars, 20  $\mu$ m. Axes, D (dorsal), L (lateral).  
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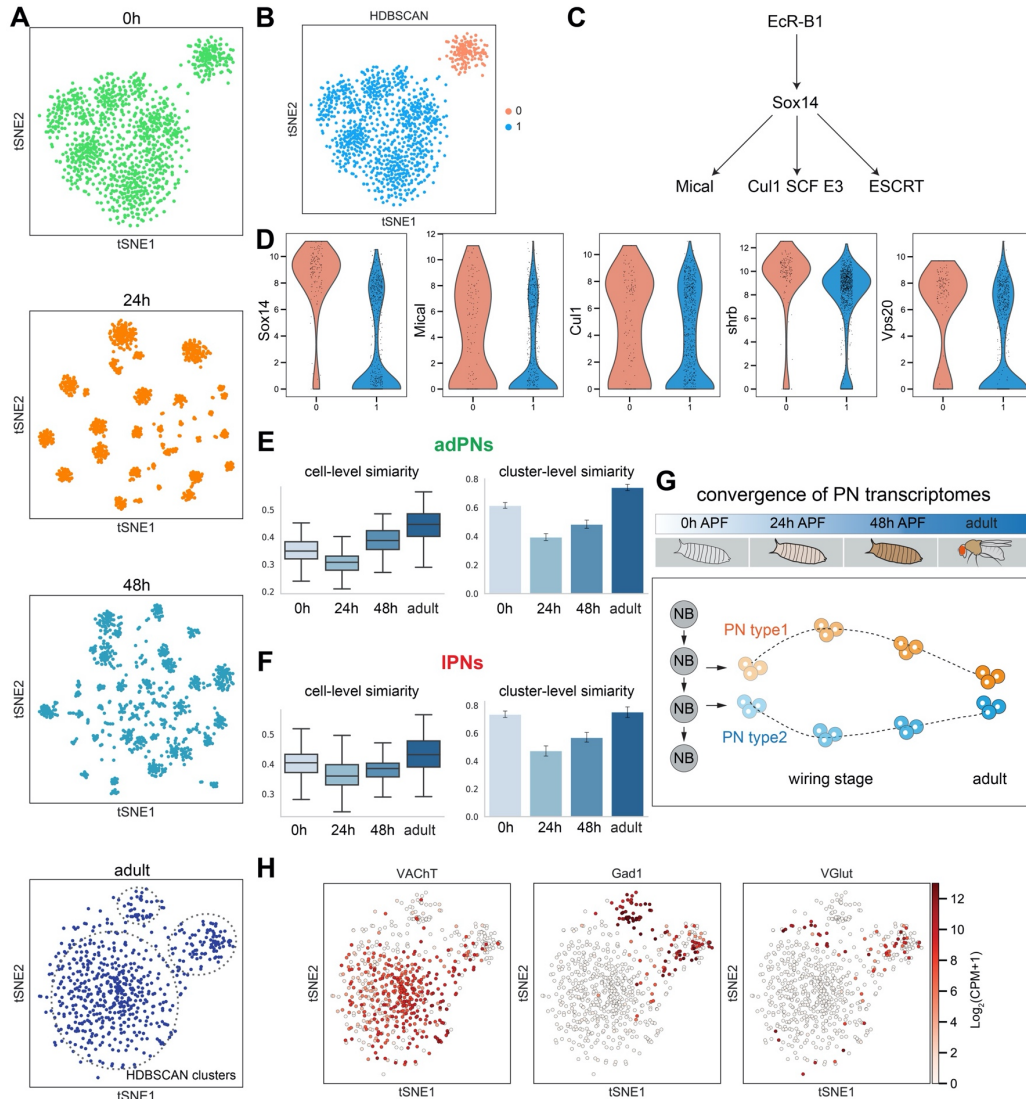


1036 **Figure 2—figure supplement 3.** Decoding the identity of *kn+* PNs. **(A)** *kn* is expressed in 7 transcriptomic cluster  
 1037 in *GHI46+* PNs at 24h APF. **(B)** Visualization of *kn+* and *split#15-GAL4+* PNs at 24h APF using tSNE. *kn+* PNs  
 1038 (green) form 8 clusters, two of them intermingled with *split#15-GAL4+* PNs (purple). These 8 clusters are assigned  
 1039 to specific PN types using information in the following panels. **(C)** Summary of marker genes used to decode the  
 1040 identity of *kn-GAL4+* PNs. *trol+* cluster represents VM2 PNs (Li et al., 2007). **(D)** Intersection between *kn-p65<sup>AD</sup>*  
 1041 and *danr-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* with *GHI46-Flp* revealed that the cluster positive for both *kn* and *danr* is VA1v PNs. **(E)**  
 1042 Intersection between *C15-p65<sup>AD</sup>* and *elav-GAL4<sup>DBD</sup>* revealed that the cluster positive for *acj6* but negative for *C15* is  
 1043 D PNs. **(F)** Visualization of *DIP-beta* expression among *GHI46+* PNs. DA1 IPNs does not express *DIP-beta*. **(G)**  
 1044 Visualization of *DIP-beta* expression among *kn+* PNs. One vPN cluster expresses *DIP-beta*. **(H)** Representative  
 1045 confocal image of *DIP-beta-GAL4* after intersecting with *GHI46-Flp*. Innervation of the DA1 glomerulus indicated  
 1046 the *DIP-beta+* vPN cluster is vPN (DA1). Scale bars, 20  $\mu$ m. Axes, D (dorsal), L (lateral).  
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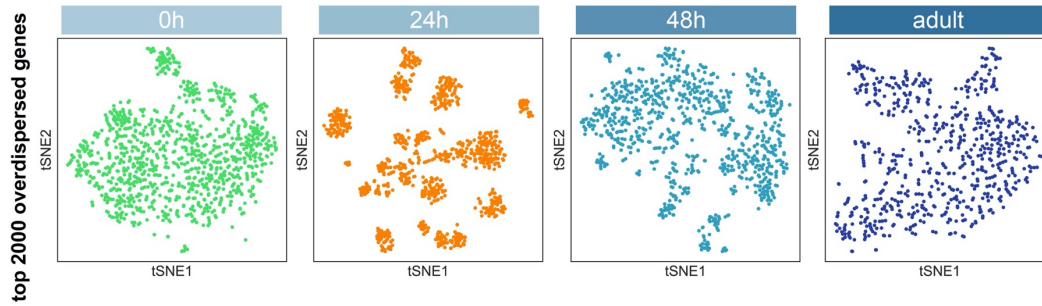


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1049 **Figure 3.** Global-level gene expression dynamics of PNs. **(A)** Visualization of PNs from 4 different developmental  
1050 stages: 0h APF, 24h APF, 48h APF, and adult sequenced using either *VT033006-GAL4* or *GHI46-GAL4*. tSNE  
1051 dimensionality reduction was performed using 1216 genes identified by iterative clustering for identifying markers  
1052 (ICIM) among them. **(B)** Hierarchical heatmap showing the expression of the top 100 out of 474 differentially  
1053 expressed genes identified among PNs of different developmental stages. **(C)** Examples of the expression of the  
1054 dynamic genes. Cells are colored according to the expression level of each gene. **(D, E)** Top 474 differentially  
1055 expressed genes can be divided into 8 groups based on their dynamic profiles—2 groups without obvious  
1056 developmental trend (not shown), 4 groups of down-regulated genes (D), and 2 groups of up-regulated genes (E).  
1057 Pink lines represent individual genes and the black line shows mean expression of genes in each group. The highest  
1058 expression is normalized as 1 for all genes. GO terms for developmentally up-regulated and down-regulated genes  
1059 are shown on right.



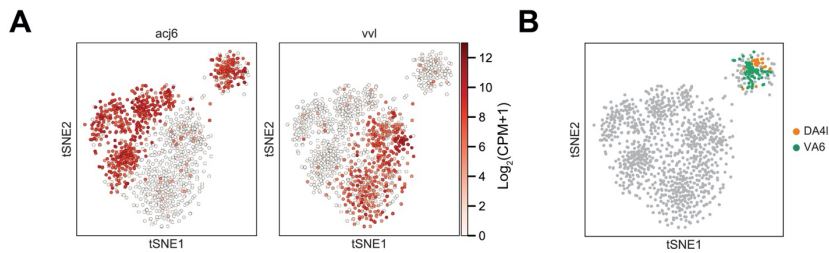


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 1061 **Figure 4.** PN transcriptomes show distinct features at different stages of development. **(A)** Visualization of most PNs  
 1062 from 0h APF, 24h APF, 48h APF, and adults using tSNE based on genes identified by ICIM at each stage. Adult  
 1063 clusters (circled) are identified using HDBSCAN. **(B)** Clustering of 0h APF PNs using HDBSCAN identified two  
 1064 clusters. **(C)** Part of the molecular pathways critical for neurite pruning in *Drosophila*. **(D)** Genes whose function have  
 1065 been implicated in neurite pruning have higher expression in cluster 0: *Sox14* (p-value: 5.01E-51), *Mical* (p-value:  
 1066 1.49E-09), *Cull1* (p-value: 8.15E-4), *shrb* (p-value: 6.37E-19) and *Vps20* (p-value: 1.23E-17) (Mann-Whitney U test).  
 1067 **(E, F)** PN transcriptomic similarity calculated at the cell level (mean inverse Euclidean distance calculated using  
 1068 1216 ICIM genes identified from PNs of all 4 stages) and the cluster level (Pearson correlation calculated using  
 1069 differentially expressed genes identified from 24h PN clusters) for adPNs (E) [0h APF: 587 cells, cell-level similarity  
 1070 (mean ± standard deviation): 0.350 ± 0.036, 15 clusters, cluster-level similarity (mean ± standard deviation): 0.615 ±  
 1071 0.160; 24h APF: 547 cells, cell-level similarity: 0.292 ± 0.041, 15 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.395 ± 0.189; 48h  
 1072 APF: 301 cells, cell-level similarity: 0.377 ± 0.046, 13 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.484 ± 0.212; adult stage:  
 1073 209 cells, cell-level similarity: 0.422 ± 0.058, 15 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.741 ± 0.129] and IPNs (F) [0h  
 1074 APF: 484 cells, cell-level similarity: 0.402 ± 0.052, 10 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.736 ± 0.129; 24h APF: 354  
 1075 cells, cell-level similarity: 0.360 ± 0.056, 10 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.474 ± 0.057; 48h APF: 296 cells, cell-  
 1076 level similarity: 0.385 ± 0.043, 10 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.570 ± 0.171; adult stage: 191 cells, cell-level  
 1077 similarity: 0.444 ± 0.057, 8 clusters, cluster-level similarity: 0.754 ± 0.141] **(G)** Schematic summary of the  
 1078 convergence of PN transcriptomes from early pupal stage to adulthood. PN diversity peaks during circuit assembly  
 1079 around 24h APF and gradually diminishes as they develop into mature neurons. **(H)** Expression of *VAcHT*, *Gad1*, and  
 1080 *VGlut* in adult PNs.



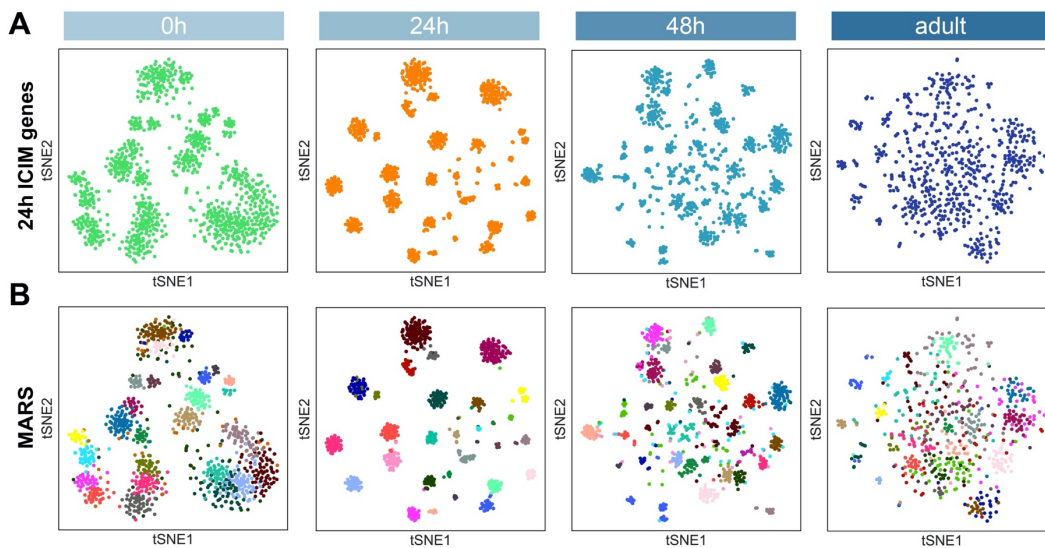
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**Figure 4—figure supplement 1.** Visualization of most PN at different stages using tSNE. Dimensionality reduction was computed using overdispersed genes found at each stage.



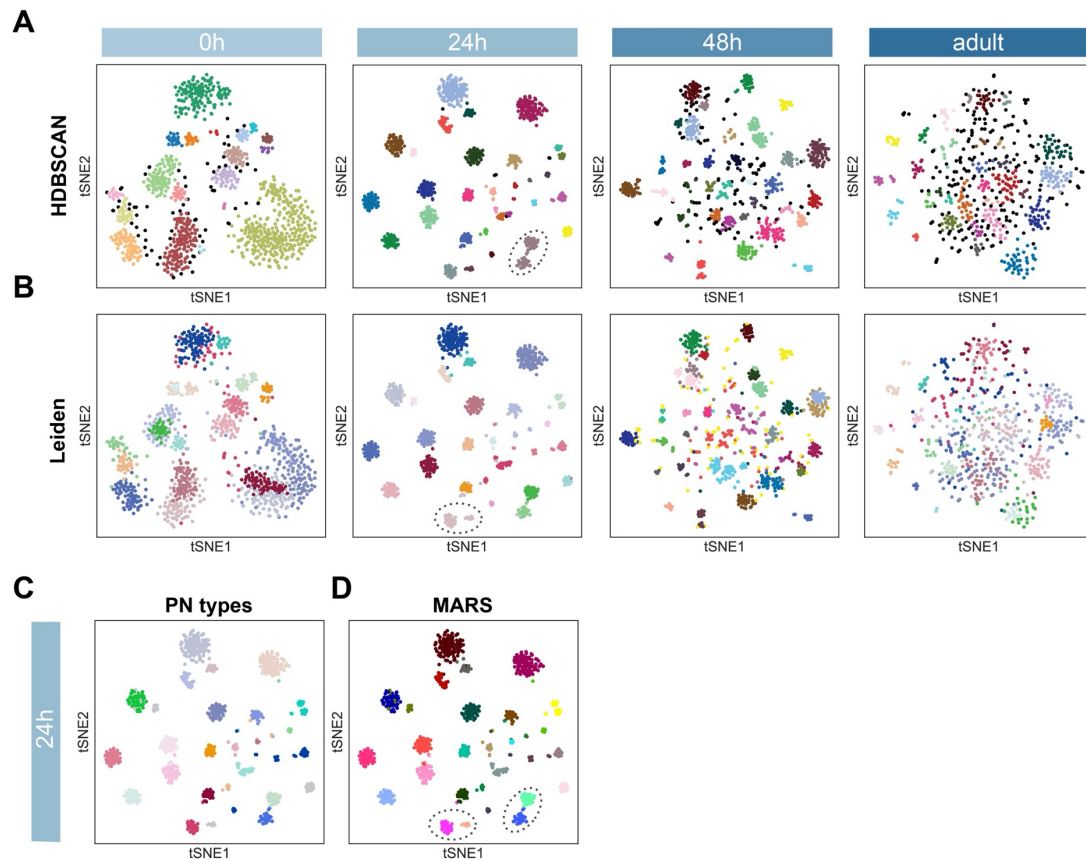
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**Figure 4—figure supplement 2.** Embryonically born and larval born PNs at 0h APF. **(A)** The larger cluster consists of both adPNs (*acj6*+) and IPNs (*vvl*+) while the smaller cluster contains only adPNs. **(B)** Two types of embryonically born PNs, DA4l and VA6 PNs, are both mapped to the smaller cluster (details in Figure 7).

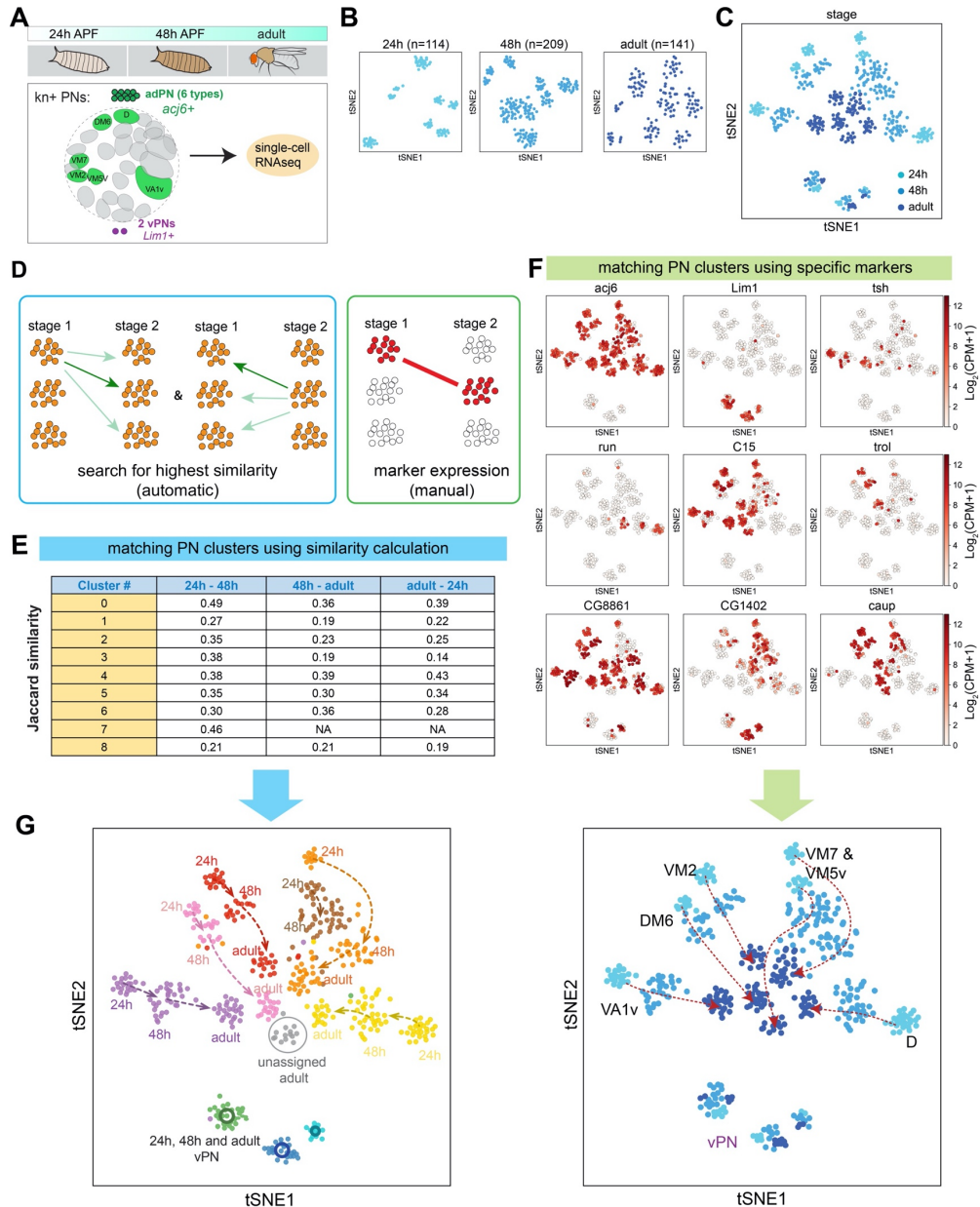


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**Figure 5.** PN type identification by MARS. **(A)** Dimensionality reduction of most PNs at 4 developmental stages by 561 ICIM genes found at 24h APF. **(B)** PN types identified by MARS. Different PN types are illustrated in different colors.

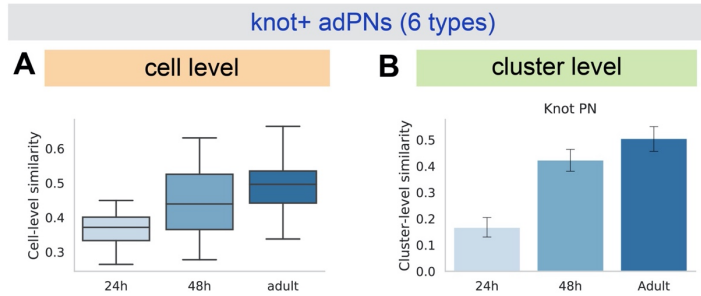


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1098 **Figure 5—figure supplement 1.** PN type identification using two other independent methods. **(A)** Dimensionality  
1099 reduction by 24h ICIM genes followed by cluster identification using HDBSCAN. Circled cells belong to two PN  
1100 types but are assigned to the same cluster using HDBSCAN. **(B)** Cluster identification by Leiden based on  
1101 neighborhood graph computed on 24h ICIM genes. Circled cells belong to two PN types but are assigned to the same  
1102 cluster using Leiden. **(C)** 24h APF PNs colored according to PN types validated in Figure 2. **(D)** PN types identified  
1103 using MARS (same as Figure 5B). PN types which are incorrectly annotated by HDBSCAN or Leiden are correctly  
1104 annotated as distinct clusters by MARS.  
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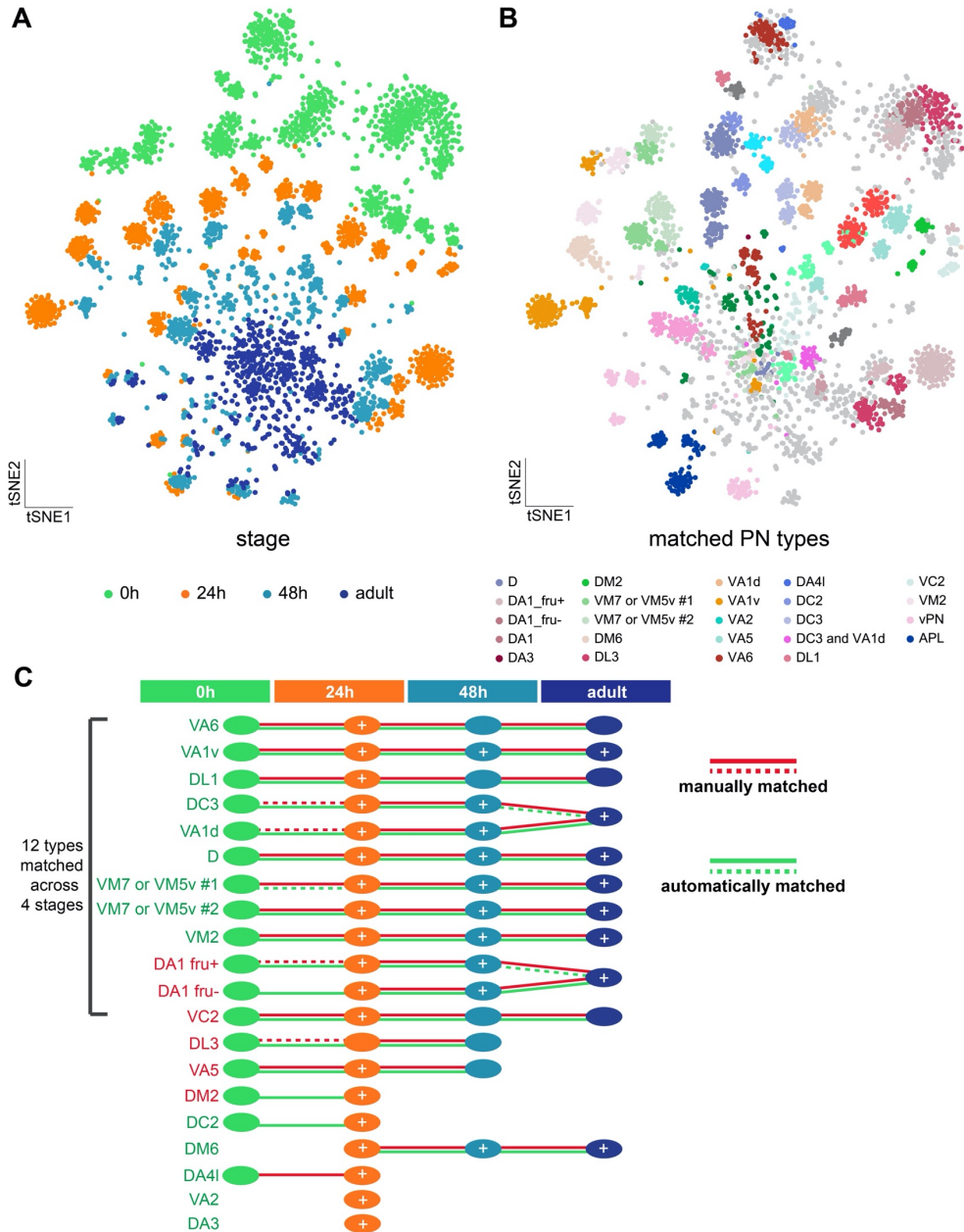
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**Figure 6.** Two complementary approaches to match transcriptomic clusters representing same PN types at different developmental stages. **(A)** scRNA-seq was performed for *kn+* PNs from 3 different developmental stages: 24h APF, 48h APF, and adult. **(B)** tSNE plots showing *kn+* PNs from three different stages, plotted separately. Cells are clustered according to 24h ICIM genes. Cell numbers are indicated. **(C)** *kn+* PNs from three different stages plotted in the same tSNE plot. Cells are clustered according to 24h ICIM genes. **(D)** Two approaches were used for matching the same PN types at different stages: 1) automatic prediction by calculating the transcriptomic similarity between clusters at two stages 2) manual matching of clusters using specific markers or marker combinations. **(E)** Jaccard similarity index of automatically matched transcriptomic clusters from different stages. **(F)** Examples of markers used to manually match transcriptomic clusters representing the same PN types across different stages. **(G)** All *kn+* PN types (6 adPNs and 3 vPNs) are matched from three different stages. Two independent approaches (automatic and manual) produced similar results.

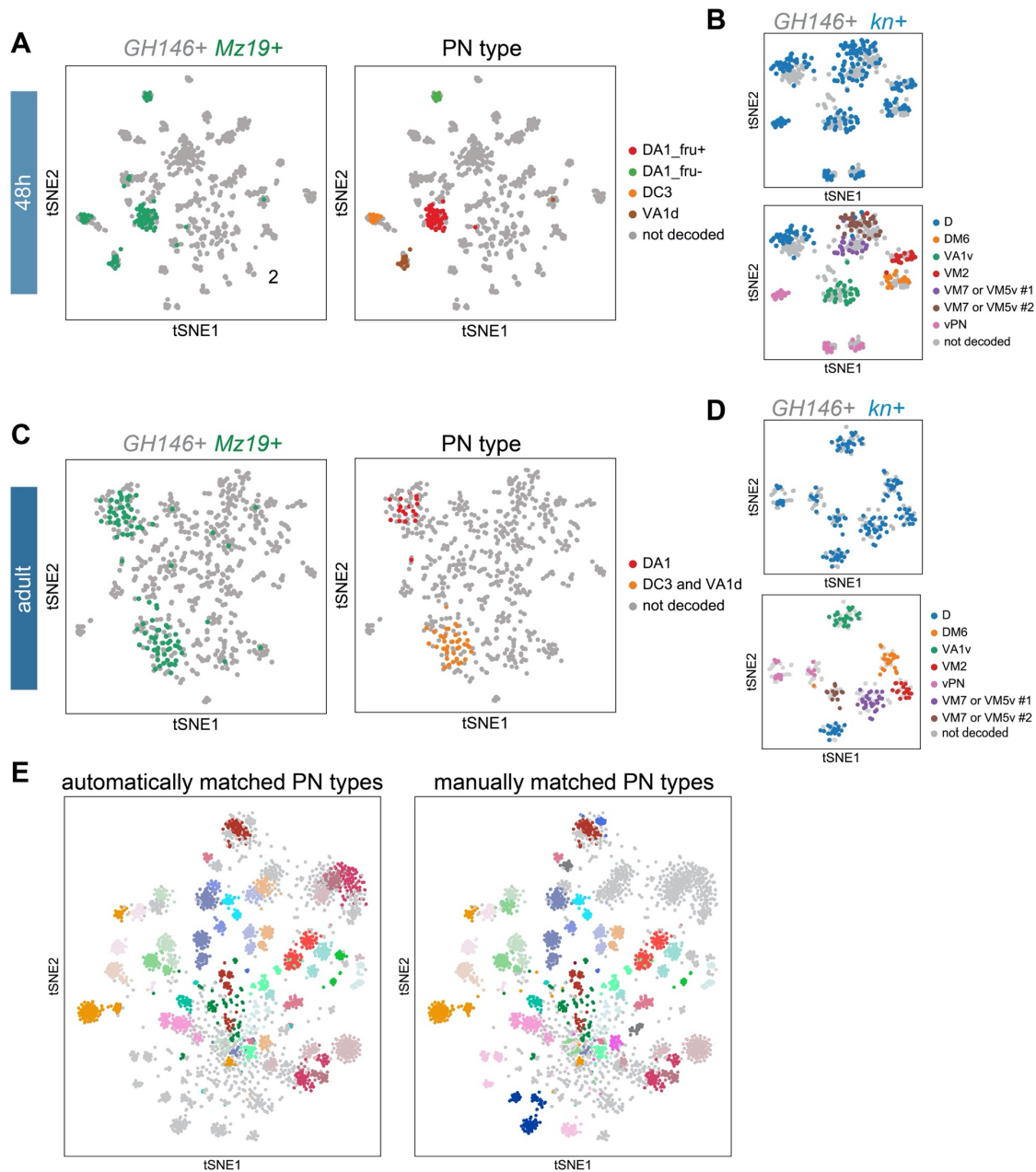


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**Figure 6—figure supplement 1.** *kn*+ adPN transcriptomes become more similar as development proceeds. **(A)** Box plot of Euclidean distance between all pairs of *kn*+ cells using ICIM genes identified among them. *kn*+ vPNs are excluded from this analysis. 24h APF: 98 cells, mean ± standard deviation:  $0.374 \pm 0.066$ ; 48h APF: 174 cells, mean ± standard deviation (std):  $0.446 \pm 0.091$ ; adult: 124 cells, mean ± std:  $0.493 \pm 0.085$  **(B)** Bar plot of Pearson's correlation between all pairs of *kn*+ adPN clusters. 24h APF: 8 clusters, mean ± std:  $0.167 \pm 0.141$ ; 48h APF: 8 clusters, mean ± std:  $0.424 \pm 0.170$ ; adult: 8 clusters, mean ± std:  $0.506 \pm 0.187$ .

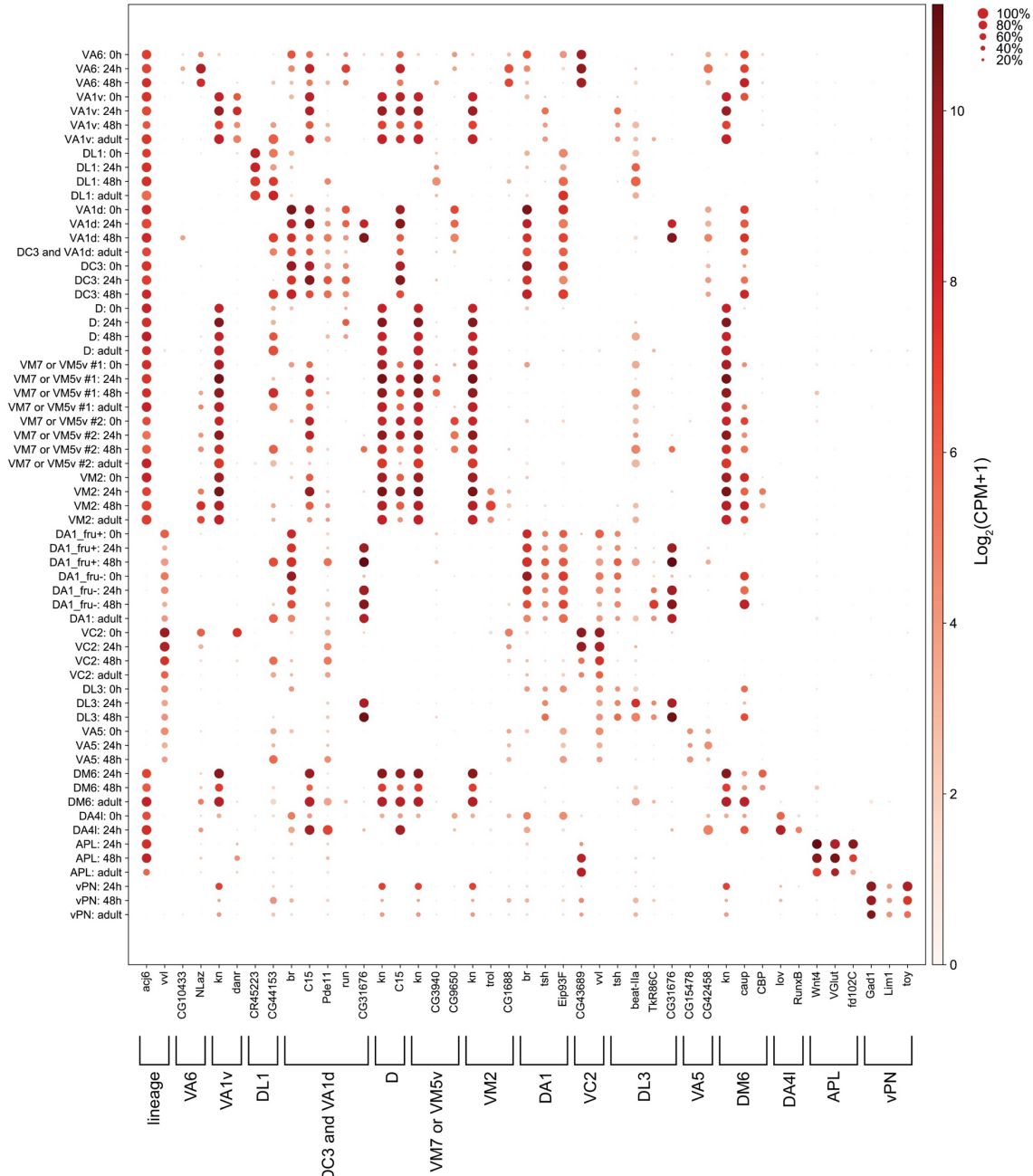


1127  
1128 **Figure 7.** Matching transcriptomic cluster representing the same PN types across four developmental stages. **(A)**  
1129 Visualization of most PNs in 4 different developmental stages: 0h APF, 24h APF, 48h APF, and adult. 561 ICIM  
1130 genes at 24h APF PNs are used for dimensionality reduction. **(B)** Visualization of the same types of PNs at all  
1131 developmental stages. Clusters with the same color represent same neuronal type. Light grey dots indicate cells that  
1132 have neither been decoded nor matched. **(C)** Summary of transcriptomic clusters mapped to known PN types at  
1133 different developmental stages. Solid red-lines indicate clusters we can unambiguously match using marker  
1134 combinations; dashed red-lines indicate PN types we can narrow down to less than 3 transcriptomic clusters. Solid  
1135 green-lines indicate clusters that are two-way matched automatically (two clusters from two stages are the most similar  
1136 to each other); dashed green-lines indicates clusters that are one-way matched automatically (one cluster is the most  
1137 similar with the other but not the other way around). Circles with white “+” on it indicate this PN type have been  
1138 sequenced and confirmed at that stage using additional GAL4 lines (see figure 7—figure supplement 1).



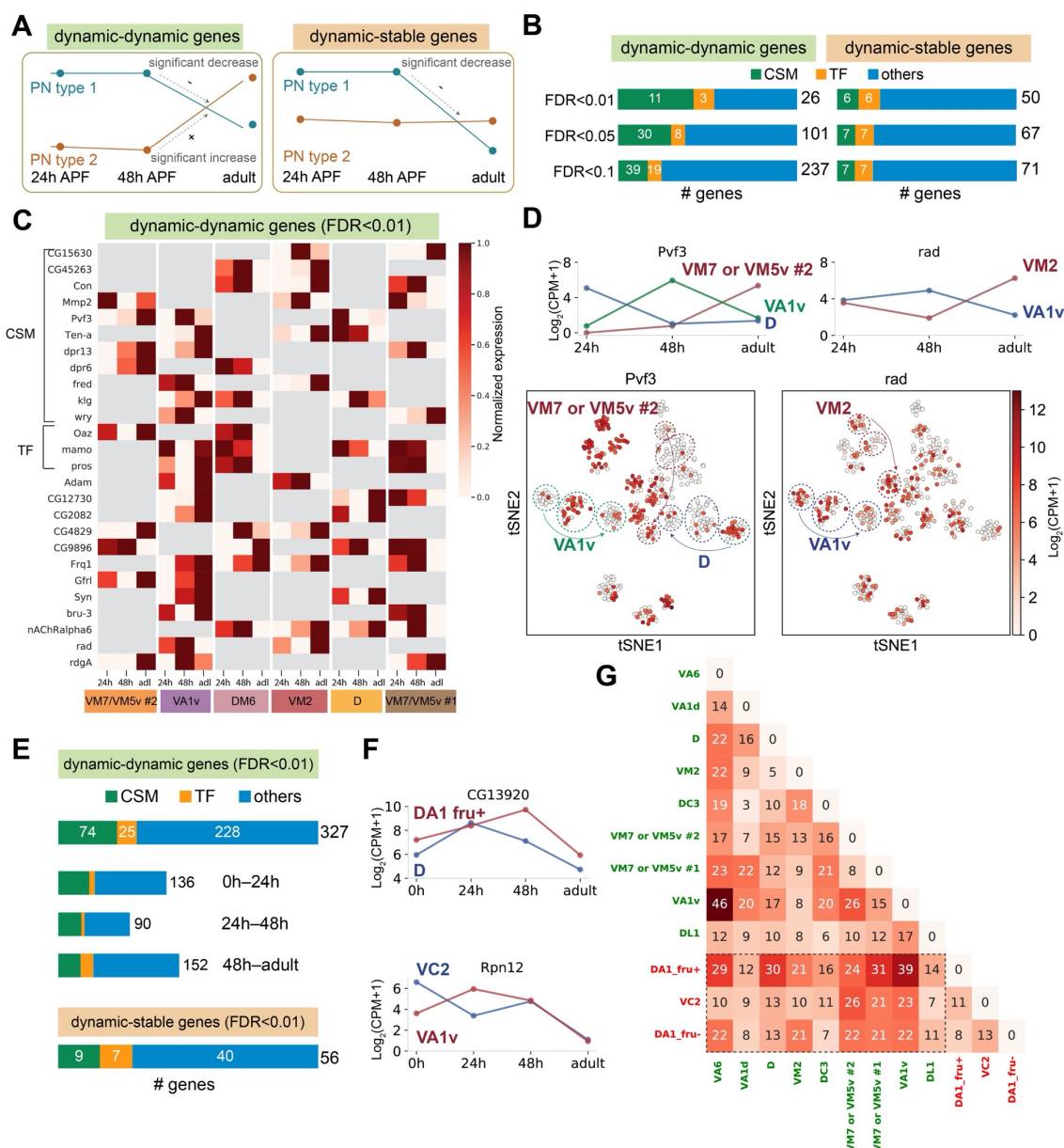
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1140 **Figure 7—figure supplement 1.** Supporting evidence for matching PN types across developmental stages. **(A, C)**  
1141 Visualization of sequenced *GH146+* PNs (grey) with *Mz19+* PNs (green) at 48h APF **(A)** and at the adult stage **(C)**.  
1142 PN type of *Mz19+* PNs shown on left were decoded previously (Li et al. 2017). **(B, D)** Visualization of *kn+* PNs from  
1143 cells sequenced using *GH146-GAL4* (in grey) and cells sequenced using *kn-GAL4* (in blue) at 48h APF **(A)** and at the  
1144 adult stage **(C)**. Annotation of *kn-GAL4+* cells was done in Figure 6. **(E)** Visualization of the same types of PNs  
1145 matched automatically or manually. Transcriptomic clusters representing the same PN types of different  
1146 developmental stages are labeled in the same color. Colors used to indicate PN types are consistent with those in  
1147 Figure 7B.  
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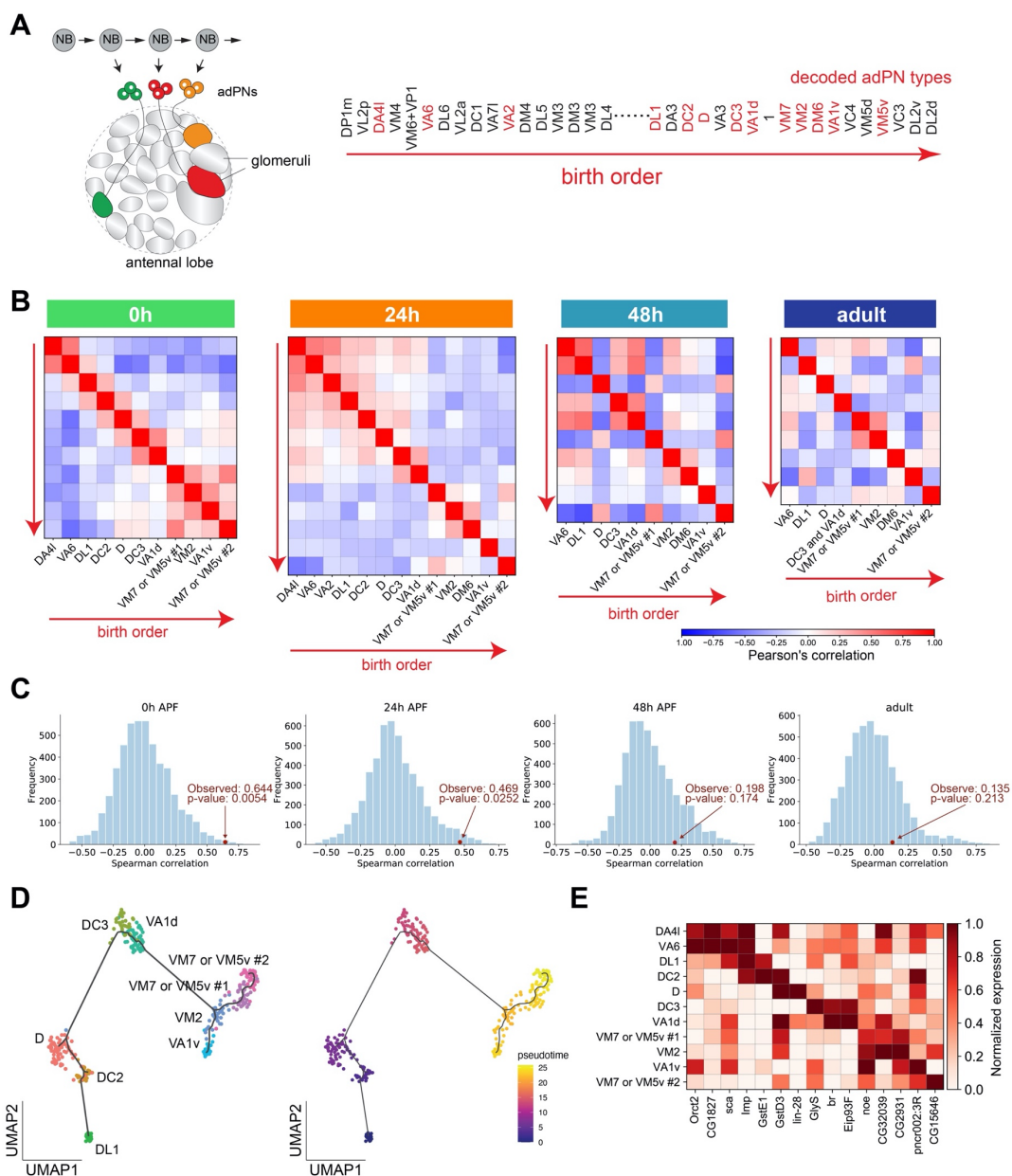
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**Figure 7—figure supplement 2.** Markers used for manually matching PNs. Dot plot of markers used to match the same types of PNs across different stages. Size of the dot represents percentage of cells expressing a given marker in a cluster at a given stage, and color of the dot represents expression level.



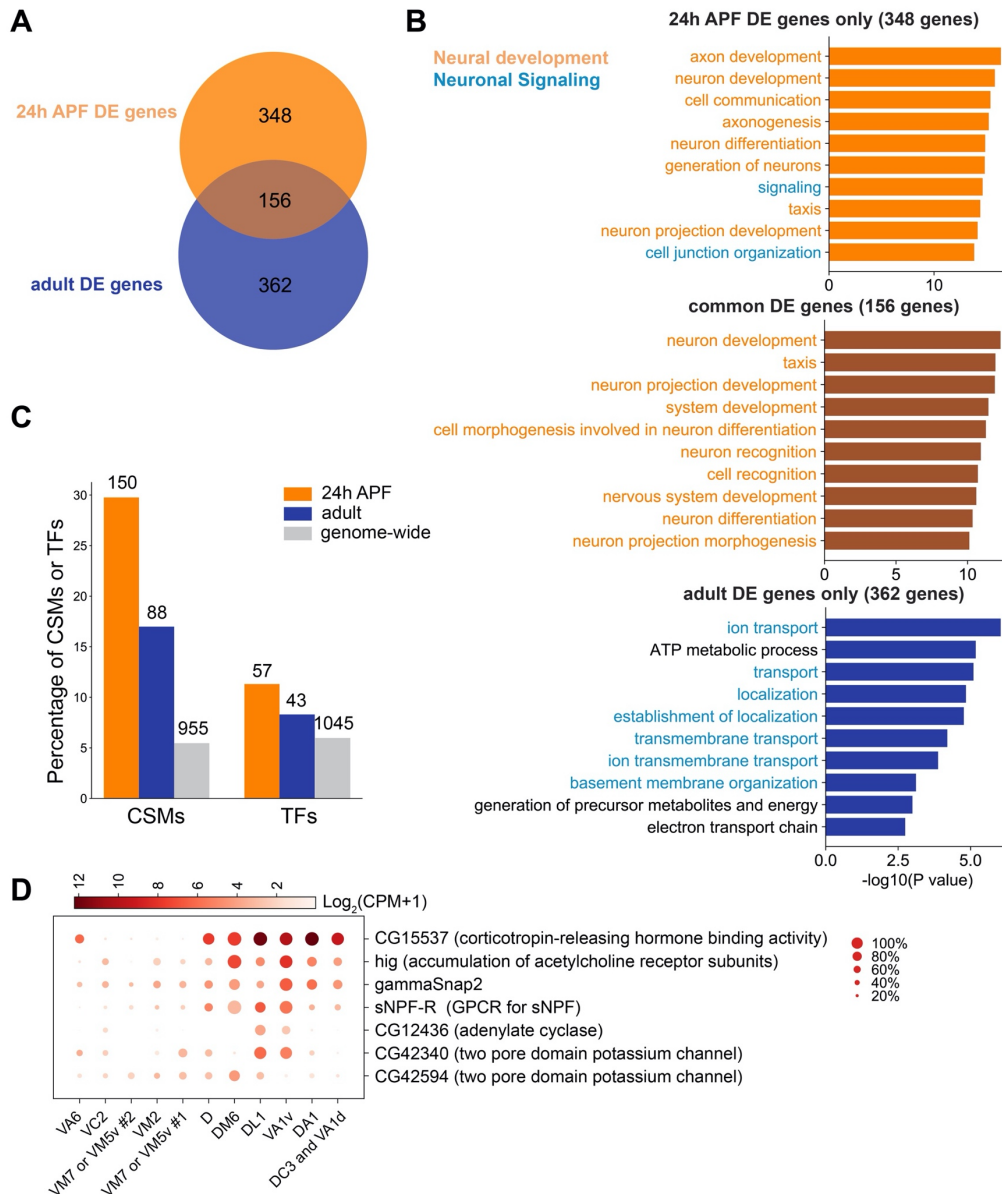
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**Figure 8.** Type-specific dynamic genes among PNs. **(A)** Illustration of an example of dynamic-dynamic genes (left) and dynamic-stable genes (right). **(B)** Number of genes with type-specific dynamics found in *kn+* adPNs using different false discovery rate (FDR) cutoffs. We highlighted the number of cell surface molecules (CSMs) or transcription factors (TFs). **(C)** Heatmap of dynamic-dynamic genes found among *kn+* adPNs with FDR < 0.01. Each row shows expression patterns of a gene in different PN types from 24h APF to the adult stage. Gray color means no significant change were observed in that PN type across development. The highest expression is normalized to 1. **(D)** Examples of dynamic-dynamic genes found among *kn+* PNs. Top: average expression of *Pvf3* and *rad* in PN types with different dynamics. Bottom: tSNE plot of *kn+* PNs colored by the expression level of *Pvf3* and *rad*. **(E)** Number of genes with type-specific dynamics found among the PN types we matched in all four stages (FDR < 0.01). For the 327 dynamic-dynamic genes, we also categorized them according to the two-stage transitions the PN-type specific dynamics are observed (note that some genes have type-specific dynamics in more than one transition). **(F)** Examples of dynamic-dynamic genes reported in (E). **(G)** Number of dynamic-dynamic genes found between each pair of the 12 decoded PN types. Names of adPNs are in green and names of IPNs are in red. Comparison between adPNs are highlighted in the dashed box.



1169  
 1170 **Figure 9.** PN types with adjacent birth order share more similar transcriptomes at early pupal stages. **(A)** Different  
 1171 PN types born from a common neuroblast follow a stereotyped sequence. The birth order of PN types determines to  
 1172 which glomerulus their dendrites target. The birth order of adPNs are shown on right. PN types with known  
 1173 transcriptomic identities are highlighted in red. **(B)** Correlation matrix of the transcriptomes of adPNs with known  
 1174 identities (Pearson's correlation). PN types are ordered according to their birth order. At 0h and 24h APF, PN types  
 1175 with birth orders adjacent to each other exhibit the highest correlations in their transcriptomes, as indicated by high  
 1176 correlations in boxes just off the diagonal line. **(C)** Results of permutation test under the null hypothesis that the  
 1177 ranks of adPN transcriptomic similarity do not covary with the ranks of birth order. Observed values is the average  
 1178 Spearman correlation of 8 adPN types decoded in all 4 stages (red dot). The distribution is the average Spearman  
 1179 correlations obtained by randomly permutating the birth order for 5000 iterations (histogram). **(D)** Developmental  
 1180 trajectory analysis showing an unbiased pseudo time of 0h APF adPNs (embryonically born types excluded). The  
 1181 pseudo time roughly matches their birth order. **(E)** Expression levels of 15 genes in adPNs with known identity at 0h  
 1182 APF. These genes have been shown to have temporal expression gradient in PN neuroblasts (Liu et al. 2015). The  
 1183 highest expression is normalized as 1 for all genes.





1190  
 1191 **Figure 10.** Differentially expressed genes among different PN types in the adult stage. **(A)** Venn diagram of  
 1192 differentially expressed genes (DE genes) at 24h APF (504 genes) and in adults (518 genes). DE genes are genes  
 1193 with adjusted p-value less than 0.01 by Mann-Whitney U test in at least one cluster compared to the rest. **(B)** Top 10  
 1194 biological process terms of DE genes found in 24h APF PNs only (top), in both 24h APF and adults PNs (middle),  
 1195 and in adult PNs only (bottom). **(C)** Percentage of CSMs or TFs in 24h APF DE genes, adult DE genes, and all  
 1196 *Drosophila* genes. Total numbers of genes within each category are labeled above the bars. 51/88 CSMs and 29/43  
 1197 TFs of adult DE genes were also found among 24h APF DE genes. **(D)** Dot plot showing the expression of 7  
 1198 example genes related to neuronal signaling in adult PNs. Example genes were manually selected based on their  
 1199 differential expression pattern among decoded transcriptomic clusters and functions.