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**A *Drosophila* RNAi screen reveals conserved glioblastoma-related adhesion genes that regulate collective cell migration**

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Key Words: *Drosophila*, cell adhesion, collective migration, glioblastoma, *α-catenin*, *Symplekin*, *Lachesin*, *roughest*, *dreadlocks*, *Wnt4*, *dachsous*, *fat*

Running Title: RNAi screen for brain tumor-related migration genes

23 **ABSTRACT:**

24 Migrating cell collectives are key to embryonic development but also contribute to invasion and  
25 metastasis of a variety of cancers. Cell collectives can invade deep into tissues, leading to tumor  
26 progression and resistance to therapies. Collective cell invasion is also observed in the lethal brain  
27 tumor glioblastoma, which infiltrates the surrounding brain parenchyma leading to tumor growth  
28 and poor patient outcomes. *Drosophila* border cells, which migrate as a small cell cluster in the  
29 developing ovary, are a well-studied and genetically accessible model used to identify general  
30 mechanisms that control collective cell migration within native tissue environments. Most cell  
31 collectives remain cohesive through a variety of cell-cell adhesion proteins during their migration  
32 through tissues and organs. In this study, we first identified cell adhesion, cell junction, and  
33 associated regulatory genes that are expressed in human brain tumors. We performed RNAi  
34 knockdown of the *Drosophila* orthologs in border cells to evaluate if migration and/or cohesion of  
35 the cluster was impaired. From this screen, we identified eight adhesion genes that disrupted border  
36 cell collective migration upon RNAi knockdown. Bioinformatics analyses further demonstrated  
37 that subsets of the orthologous genes were elevated in the margin and invasive edge of human  
38 glioblastoma patient tumors. These data together show that conserved cell adhesion and adhesion  
39 regulatory proteins with potential roles in tumor invasion also modulate collective cell migration.  
40 This dual screening approach for adhesion genes linked to glioblastoma and border cell migration  
41 thus may reveal conserved mechanisms that drive collective tumor cell invasion.

## 42 INTRODUCTION

43 While migrating cells contribute to many processes during embryonic development and adult  
44 wound healing, abnormal cell migration drives tumor cell invasion and metastasis. During  
45 development and in cancer, cells either migrate as single cells or as interconnected small to large  
46 groups of cells called collectives (Friedl and Gilmour 2009; Friedl et al. 2012; Scarpa and Mayor  
47 2016; Te Boekhorst et al. 2016). Especially in cancer, cells can interconvert their modes of  
48 movement, transitioning from collective to single cell movement and back (Te Boekhorst and  
49 Friedl 2016). A wide variety of cancer cells, including breast, colorectal, and thyroid carcinomas,  
50 are now known to migrate and invade as collectives both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Cheung and Ewald  
51 2016; Wang et al. 2016; Kim et al. 2017; Ilina et al. 2018; Libanje et al. 2019; Padmanaban et al.  
52 2019). Recent work has shown that tumor cell collectives promote tumor invasion and metastasis  
53 and may provide a mechanism for resistance to radiation (Aceto et al. 2014; Cheung et al. 2016;  
54 Haeger et al. 2019).

55       The *Drosophila* border cells, which migrate collectively during late oogenesis, are a simple  
56 and genetically tractable model to identify genes required for collective cell migration (Montell et  
57 al. 2012; Saadin and Starz-Gaiano 2016). The border cell cluster consists of 4-8 epithelial-derived  
58 follicle cells that surround a central pair of polar cells (Figure 1, A-C, and F). Individual border  
59 cells stay adhered together and their movement is coordinated as an entire unit during the 3- to 4-  
60 hour journey to the oocyte (Figure 1, A-C). Multiple studies have used border cells to identify  
61 conserved genes that contribute to the migration of a variety of cancer cells, including those that  
62 invade as collectives (Yoshida et al. 2004; Madsen et al. 2015; Stuelten et al. 2018; Volovetz et al.  
63 2020).

64 Glioblastoma (GBM) is the most common primary malignant brain tumor (Ostrom et al.  
65 2014) and is refractory to many therapies including radiation and chemotherapy (Bao et al. 2006,  
66 Chen et al. 2012,). Given the dismal prognosis of GBM, identifying the underlying mechanisms  
67 that drive progression, including cell invasion, remains an immediate priority. While many genes  
68 are known to be dysregulated in glioma patients, it is difficult to know which ones are most relevant  
69 to disease progression, including tumor invasion. We and others recently showed that glioma cells  
70 and GBM cancer stem cells (CSCs), which can drive tumor growth, migrate collectively in some  
71 contexts (Gritsenko et al. 2017; Gritsenko and Friedl 2018; Volovetz et al. 2020). Using several  
72 patient derived GBM CSC tumor models, we found that a gene required in border cells, the small  
73 GTPase Rap1, also contributes to GBM collective cell invasion (Chang et al. 2018; Sawant et al.  
74 2018; Volovetz et al. 2020). Because patient derived GBM CSC tumor models are less genetically  
75 accessible for screening approaches, we have turned to *Drosophila* border cells to identify  
76 conserved genes that may drive GBM collective tumor invasion but also may have a more general  
77 role in collective cell migration.

78 Cell-cell and cell-matrix adhesions are critical for cells to stay together and move  
79 collectively *in vivo* (Friedl and Mayor 2017; Janiszewska et al. 2020). Thus, genes that regulate  
80 cell adhesion are strong candidates to promote collective cell cohesion, migration and invasion.  
81 Here we used the border cell system to screen a subset of adhesion and adhesion-related genes that  
82 have the potential to regulate GBM tumor migration and invasion. We selected conserved adhesion  
83 genes, genes associated with cell junctions, and genes that regulate cell-cell adhesion. We further  
84 focused on those adhesion-related genes whose expression correlated with glioma patient survival  
85 but at the time of the screen did not have known functions in brain cancer. We performed an RNAi  
86 screen targeting 23 of these adhesion genes in border cells. Here, we report the identification of

87 eight genes, *α-catenin* (*α-Cat*), *Symplekin* (*Sym*), *Lachesin* (*Lac*), *roughest* (*rst*), *dreadlocks* (*dock*),  
88 *Wnt4*, *dachsous* (*ds*), and *fat* (*ft*), whose knockdown disrupted border cell migration and/or cluster  
89 cohesion to differing degrees. We then identified three human orthologs of target genes that were  
90 enriched in the leading edge and invasive portion of GBM tumors, the *α-Cat* ortholog CTNNA2,  
91 the *Lac* ortholog NEGR1, and the *Rst* ortholog KIRREL3. While further work needs to be done to  
92 test these genes in GBM tumors, this study supports the use of *Drosophila* genetic approaches to  
93 provide insights into human diseases such as GBM.

94

## 95 **METHODS & MATERIALS**

### 96 **Identification of candidate genes**

97 FlyBase FB2014\_5 version (released September 9, 2014) was queried for adhesion genes using  
98 the following Gene Ontology (GO) controlled vocabulary (CV) terms: ‘apical junction complex’,  
99 ‘focal adhesion’, ‘cell adhesion molecule binding’, ‘cell junction maintenance’, ‘cell junction  
100 assembly’, and ‘cell-cell adherens junction’. A total of 133 *Drosophila* genes were identified.  
101 Human orthologs were identified by *Drosophila* RNAi Screening Center Integrative Ortholog  
102 Prediction Tool (DIOPT) scores (Hu et al. 2011; Table 1). A PubMed search was performed for  
103 these genes along with ‘glioma’, ‘glioblastoma’, or ‘brain cancer’ to eliminate genes with a known  
104 function in or association with these cancers. This step narrowed the list to 44 genes. The NCBI  
105 REMBRANDT database was next used to identify genes that are associated with brain cancer  
106 patient survival; these results were then confirmed using The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA).  
107 Genes associated with better (“positive”), or worse (“negative”) patient survival were selected.  
108 These analyses resulted in 23 conserved fly genes (34 human genes) that were the final candidate  
109 genes tested in the *in vivo* border cell RNAi screen.

110

## 111 **Bioinformatics analyses of human genes in tumor databases**

112 Regional gene expression data from GBM tumor tissue was obtained from the Ivy Glioblastoma  
113 Atlas Project (Ivy GAP) database (<https://glioblastoma.alleninstitute.org/static/home>, accessed  
114 June 20, 2021), which contains gene expression data from several anatomical features of GBM  
115 tumors in a 41 patient dataset. Analysis of gene expression based on glioma grade (grades II, III,  
116 and IV) was performed using The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) data downloaded from the  
117 Gliovis data portal (<http://gliovis.bioinfo.cnio.es/>, accessed May 5, 2021). The GEPIA (Gene  
118 Expression Profiling Interactive Analysis; <http://gepia.cancer-pku.cn/>, accessed March 30, 2021)  
119 database (Tang et al. 2017) was used to compare differential expression of gene orthologs in GBM  
120 tumor tissue (n=163) and non-tumor brain tissue (n=207). Thresholds were set at a log<sub>2</sub> fold  
121 change > 1 and a p value < 0.01.

122

## 123 ***Drosophila* RNAi Screen and Genetics**

124 All genetic crosses were set up at 25°C. The tub-GAL80ts ('tsGAL80') transgene (McGuire et al.,  
125 2004) was included to prevent early GAL4-UAS expression and potential lethality at larval or  
126 pupal stages of development. *c306*-GAL4, tsGal80; Sco/CyO was used to drive UAS-RNAi line  
127 expression in border cells. UAS-mCherry RNAi crossed to *c306*-GAL4 tsGal80; Sco/CyO was  
128 used as a control. The expression pattern of *c306*-GAL4 was confirmed by crossing *c306*-GAL4,  
129 tsGal80; Sco/CyO to UAS-nls.GFP (BDSC 4776). Multiple RNAi lines for the 23 cell adhesion  
130 candidate genes and UAS-mCherry RNAi were obtained from the Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi  
131 Center (VDRC) or the Harvard Transgenic RNAi Project (TRiP) collection from the Bloomington  
132 *Drosophila* Stock Center (BDSC). All lines with stock numbers and construct IDs are listed in

133 Table 2. Males from each UAS-RNAi line were crossed to virgin *c306*-GAL4, *tsGal80* females.  
134 Three-to-five-day old F1 progeny females (*c306*-GAL4, *tsGAL80*/+; +/UAS-RNAi) from these  
135 crosses were fattened on wet yeast paste for  $\geq 14$  hours at 29°C prior to dissection. This allowed  
136 maximum GAL4-UAS expression and full inactivation of *tsGAL80*. Each RNAi line was tested  
137 one time in the primary screen, with a subset of lines tested at least three times in the secondary  
138 screen unless otherwise noted (Table 2).

139

### 140 **Immunostaining and Imaging**

141 Ovaries were dissected in Schneider's *Drosophila* Medium (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham,  
142 MA, USA). After dissection, ovaries were fixed in 4% formaldehyde (Polysciences, Inc.,  
143 Warrington, PA, USA) in 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4 for 10 minutes. NP40 block  
144 (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP40, 5 mg/ml bovine serum albumin [BSA])  
145 was used for intermediate washes and antibody dilutions. Primary antibodies were obtained from  
146 Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (DSHB, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA) and  
147 used at the following dilutions: rat monoclonal anti-E-Cadherin 1:10 (DCAD2), mouse  
148 monoclonal anti-Armadillo 1:100 (N27A1), and mouse monoclonal anti-Singed 1:25 (Sn7C).  
149 Anti-rat or isotype-specific anti-mouse secondary antibodies conjugated to Alexa Fluor-488 or -  
150 568 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were used at 1:400 dilution. 4',6-Diamidino-2-phenylindole  
151 (DAPI, Millipore Sigma) was used at 2.5 $\mu$ g/ml to label nuclei. Aqua-Poly/Mount (Polysciences,  
152 Inc.) was used to mount egg chambers on slides, a coverslip was added, and the mounting media  
153 allowed to harden for three days prior to microscope imaging. The stained egg chambers were  
154 imaged either using an upright Zeiss AxioImager Z1 microscope with Apotome.2 optical  
155 sectioning or on a Zeiss LSM 880 confocal microscope (KSU College of Veterinary Medicine

156 Confocal Core), using a 20x 0.75 numerical aperture (NA) objective. Images were processed in  
157 Zeiss ZEN 2 or FIJI software. Figures were prepared in Adobe Photoshop 2021 and line drawings  
158 were made in Adobe Illustrator 2021.

159

## 160 **Graphs and statistics**

161 Graphs were prepared in GraphPad Prism 8 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA). For the  
162 secondary screen and subsequent analyses, three trials were performed for each RNAi line ( $n \geq 30$   
163 egg chambers scored in each trial). The cutoff value for a migration defect was calculated based  
164 on the background mean migration defect ( $3\% \pm 0.02$ ) in control egg chambers (*c306-GAL4*  
165 *tsGAL80/+; +/UAS-mCherry RNAi*). To determine genuine “hits” from the screen, RNAi lines  
166 with  $\geq 10\%$  migration defects were scored as positive hits in the primary and secondary screens. P-  
167 values were calculated using an unpaired two-tailed t test in Microsoft Excel. For GBM regional  
168 and grade-dependent gene expression analyses, differences between groups were determined using  
169 a one-way ANOVA. N’s and p-values for each trial are included in the figure legends and tables.

170

## 171 **Data Availability**

172 Strains are available upon request. The authors affirm that all data necessary for confirming the  
173 conclusions of the article are present within the article, figures, and tables. Table 2 contains the  
174 complete results of the screen, including the RNAi lines tested, availability from the public stock  
175 centers (BDSC “BL” and VDRC), and detailed results from the primary and secondary screens.  
176 Supplementary Table 1 includes statistics for Figure 4 and Supplementary Figure 1.  
177 Supplementary Figure 1 shows the regional expression of the rest of the human orthologs in GBM  
178 patient tumors. Supplementary Figure 2 shows the expression of human ortholog adhesion genes



179 in different glioma tumor grades. Supplementary Figure 3 shows a comparison of human ortholog  
180 adhesion gene expression in GBM versus non-tumor brain tissue.

181  
182 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

183 **Identification of conserved brain tumor-associated adhesion genes**

184 Cell-cell adhesion is essential for cells to stay connected during cohesive collective migration  
185 (Friedl and Mayor 2017). Reduction (or loss) of adhesion genes, such as E-cadherin (*Drosophila*  
186 *shotgun* [*shg*]), disrupts the integrity of the cluster and blocks the migration of the border cell  
187 cluster to the oocyte (Figure 1, D and E) (Niewiadomska et al. 1999; Sarpal et al. 2012; Desai et  
188 al. 2013; Cai et al. 2014; Chen et al. 2020, Raza et al. 2019). Many adhesion genes are conserved  
189 from flies to humans and could contribute to both border cell migration and GBM invasion (Figure  
190 1F). To identify these conserved adhesion genes, we first performed a search of the *Drosophila*  
191 genome (FB2014\_05), using Gene Ontology (GO) controlled vocabulary (CV) terms associated  
192 with cell adhesion (see Methods & Materials for details; Figure 1G). From the 133 fly genes  
193 associated with one or more of these terms, we identified likely human orthologs by analyzing  
194 their DIOPT scores (Table 1; Hu et al., 2011). Using these human orthologs, we performed a  
195 PubMed search for those genes to determine if there was an already-known association with either  
196 glioma or GBM. This allowed us to focus on genes that may have a novel association with brain  
197 tumors. The remaining 44 genes were then analyzed in the Repository of Molecular Brain  
198 Neoplasia Data (REMBRANDT), a database for transcript expression levels that are associated  
199 with brain tumor patient survival (Gusev et al., 2018). Ten genes were not found in  
200 REMBRANDT. Of the remaining 34 human genes, expression of 18 genes (13 fly genes) were  
201 associated with better (“positive”) patient survival while expression of 16 genes (13 fly genes)  
202 were associated with worse (“negative”) patient survival (Table 1). Many fly genes have multiple

203 human orthologs. A few of these, for example *α-cat*, *G protein alpha i subunit*, and *G protein*  
204 *alpha o subunit*, have multiple human orthologs each of whose expression is associated with  
205 different predicted glioma patient outcomes (Table 1). The 23 unique fly genes were chosen for  
206 further follow-up to determine their role, if any, in border cell collective migration.

207

### 208 **RNAi screen in border cells identifies eight genes associated with GBM**

209 For the primary screen, multiple RNAi lines were used to specifically target and knock down each  
210 of the 23 conserved fly adhesion genes in border cells (Table 2). We drove expression of the  
211 respective UAS-RNAi lines using *c306-GAL4 tsGAL80*, a follicle cell driver highly enriched in  
212 border cells; *tsGAL80* was used to bypass early lethality (Figure 1, A-C). All border cell clusters  
213 from control (*c306-GAL4 tsGAL80/+; +/UAS-mCherry RNAi*) egg chambers completed their  
214 migration by stage 10 (Figure 2, A and B; Table 2). Twenty-one of these genes displayed a  
215 migration defect above the minimum cutoff of  $\geq 10\%$  with at least one RNAi line (*see Methods &*  
216 *Materials*).

217 To further determine which of these genes were genuine hits, we retested the RNAi lines  
218 in a secondary screen. Each RNAi line was crossed to *c306-GAL4 tsGAL80* three times and scored  
219 for the ability of border cells to complete their migration to the oocyte. For three genes (*ds*, *Lac*,  
220 *rst*), additional RNAi lines were obtained and tested. We specifically analyzed if RNAi border  
221 cells failed to initiate migration (“no migration”), stopped along the migration pathway but did not  
222 reach the oocyte (“partial migration”), reached the oocyte (“complete migration”), or if clusters  
223 had defective cohesion and split into multiple parts (“% splitting”). Control border cells completed  
224 their migration to the oocyte by stage 10 (Figure 2, A and B; Figure 3, A and B; Table 2). We  
225 found that knockdown of eight genes, *α-Cat*, *Sym*, *Lac*, *rst*, *dock*, *Wnt4*, *ds*, and *ft*, consistently

226 disrupted border cell migration with at least two RNAi lines, providing more confidence that these  
227 genes are required for collective cell migration (Figures 2 and 3; Table 2). Border cell migration  
228 defects upon knockdown of these genes ranged from 10 to 76% depending on the gene and the  
229 RNAi line; some RNAi lines for these genes had less than 10% migration defects. Below we report  
230 and discuss the results for these eight genes in more detail.

231 *Adherens junction genes*:  $\alpha$ -Cat (human CTNNA1, CTNNA2, CTNNA3) is a critical  
232 component of the cadherin-catenin complex that regulates adherens junctions by linking E-  
233 cadherin and  $\beta$ -catenin to the F-actin cytoskeleton (Maiden and Hardin 2011). E-cadherin is  
234 required for adhesion of border cells to the nurse cell substrate, which provides traction for border  
235 cells to keep moving forward and thus facilitates forward movement while maintaining tension-  
236 based directional motility (Niewiadomska et al. 1999; Cai et al. 2014).  $\alpha$ -Cat was the strongest  
237 candidate from our primary screen (Table 2), and we recently described the phenotypes for  $\alpha$ -Cat  
238 knockdown in detail (Chen et al. 2020).  $\alpha$ -Cat was knocked down using two independent RNAi  
239 lines, which reduced  $\alpha$ -Cat protein levels in border cells (Chen et al. 2020).  $\alpha$ -Cat RNAi strongly  
240 disrupted migration, with 66-76% border cells failing to complete their migration (Figure 2, C, D  
241 and M; Table 2). Border cell clusters deficient for  $\alpha$ -Cat also had significant cohesion defects, with  
242 the cluster splitting into two or more parts in 35% of egg chambers (Figure 2, C and D). Thus,  
243 *Drosophila*  $\alpha$ -Cat is required for both successful border cell migration and for proper cohesion of  
244 cells within the cluster (this study; Sarpal et al. 2012; Desai et al. 2013; Chen et al. 2020). The role  
245 for  $\alpha$ -Cat in cluster cohesion and migration closely resembles that of  $\beta$ -Cat (*Drosophila* Armadillo)  
246 and E-cadherin, thus it is likely that  $\alpha$ -Cat functions in the classical cadherin-catenin complex in  
247 border cells (Niewiadomska et al. 1999; Sarpal et al. 2012; Desai et al. 2013; Cai et al. 2014; Chen  
248 et al. 2020).

249 *Other junctional genes:* Four genes, *Sym*, *Lac*, *rst*, and *dock*, encode proteins that localize to  
250 various types of cell junctions and/or are known to regulate cell adhesions. *Sym* (human SYMPK)  
251 is a scaffolding protein, which along with other polyadenylation factors, forms a complex that  
252 mediates processing of polyadenylated and histone mRNAs but also functions at tight junctions  
253 (Keon et al. 1996; McCrea et al. 2009; Sullivan et al. 2009). During *Drosophila* oogenesis, *Sym*  
254 is required for histone pre-mRNA processing in the histone locus body during endoreplication of  
255 the follicular epithelium (Tatomer et al. 2014). Later in oogenesis, *Sym* protein localizes to the  
256 tricellular junctions of follicle cells. Here, *Sym* may facilitate cytoplasmic mRNA polyadenylation  
257 and thus translation of mRNAs required to regulate and/or maintain adhesion at cell junctions  
258 (Tatomer et al, 2014). Border cells expressing *Sym* RNAi had significant migration defects along  
259 with splitting of the cluster (Figure 2, E and F, N; Table 2). The two strongest *Sym* RNAi lines  
260 (VDRC 33469 and 33470), which target the same region of the *Sym* gene, caused significant  
261 migration defects, with 5-10% of border cells failing to start migration and an additional 18-22%  
262 failing to reach the oocyte. *Sym* RNAi border cell clusters had cohesion defects, with 11% of  
263 clusters visibly splitting apart. A third independent RNAi line (BL 39041) did not impair migration  
264 (Figure 2N). Based on our observed phenotypes and the known roles for *Sym*, we speculate that  
265 *Sym* may maintain cell-cell contacts between border cells during collective migration, possibly  
266 through regulation of as-yet-unknown targets by mRNA polyadenylation at cell-cell junctions.

267 *Lac* (human LSAMP and NEGR1) is a membrane-localized protein with three extracellular  
268 immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains that can mediate cell-cell adhesion (Finegan and  
269 Bergstralh 2020). *Lac* localizes to both immature and mature basolateral septate junctions and is  
270 required for tracheal morphogenesis in *Drosophila* (Llimargas et al. 2004). Knockdown of *Lac* by  
271 four RNAi lines, which together target two non-overlapping regions of the *Lac* gene, mildly

272 disrupted migration and cluster cohesion (Figure 2, G and H, O; Table 2). Two *Lac* RNAi lines  
273 (VDRC 35524 and BL 28940) disrupted migration in 11% of egg chambers, whereas two RNAi  
274 lines (VDRC 107450 and BL 38536) had fewer migration defects and were not significantly  
275 different from control (Figure 2O; Table 2). While the phenotypes caused by *Lac* RNAi  
276 knockdown are mild, *Lac* is likely to be a true regulator of border cell migration. Recent work by  
277 Alhadyian et al. found that four additional septate junction proteins, Macroglobulin complement-  
278 related (Mcr), Contactin, Neurexin-IV and Coracle, localize to border cells and are required for  
279 both border cell cluster migration and cohesion (Alhadyian et al. 2021). Because border cells do  
280 not have mature septate junctions (which form the tight occluding junctions), septate junction  
281 proteins may instead regulate cluster polarity and/or adhesion during migration (Alhadyian et al.  
282 2021). Further work will be needed to determine if the mild phenotypes observed with *Lac* RNAi  
283 are due to partial knockdown or to redundancy with other septate junction genes.

284 Rst (human KIRREL1, KIRREL2, KIRREL3) is a member of the Irre Cell Recognition  
285 Module (IRM) family of transmembrane proteins. In particular, Rst encodes an immunoglobulin  
286 superfamily cell adhesion molecule (IgCAM) with five Ig-like domains (Finegan and Bergstralh  
287 2020). IRM proteins, including Rst, control the adhesion and patterning of various tissues  
288 including the developing ommatidia in the *Drosophila* eye (Bao and Cagan 2005; Johnson et al.  
289 2011; Finegan and Bergstralh 2020). Border cells expressing *rst* RNAi showed consistent though  
290 mild migration defects with three RNAi lines (VDRC 27223, VDRC 27225, and BL 28672), which  
291 in total target two non-overlapping regions of the *rst* gene. Migration defects ranged from 10-16%  
292 (Figure 2, I and J, P; Table 2). Cluster cohesion was mildly affected (6% of clusters split apart;  
293 Figure 2I). A fourth RNAi line did not disrupt migration or cohesion compared to control (Figure  
294 2P; VDRC 951). Interestingly, Rst is required for progression through *Drosophila* adult oogenesis,

295 including development of the germline (Valer et al. 2018; Ben-Zvi and Volk 2019). Rst is also  
296 expressed in follicle cells prior to the stages that border cells develop from the follicle cell  
297 epithelium (Valer et al. 2018), further supporting a later role in border cell migration.

298 Dock (human NCK1) is an SH2/SH3 domain-containing adaptor protein involved in receptor  
299 tyrosine kinase signaling, actin regulation, cell adhesion, and other processes (Buday et al. 2002;  
300 Chaki and Rivera 2013). In *Drosophila*, Dock regulates axon guidance, myoblast fusion during  
301 embryonic development, and ring canal morphogenesis in the ovarian germline-derived nurse cells  
302 (Garrity et al. 1996; Rao and Zipursky 1998; Kaipa et al. 2013; Stark et al. 2021). Knockdown of  
303 *dock* in border cells, using two independent RNAi lines that target non-overlapping regions of the  
304 *dock* gene (VDRC 37524 and BL 27228), resulted in migration defects but did not disrupt cohesion  
305 of border cells (Figure 2, K, L, and Q; Table 2). Specifically, *dock* RNAi disrupted migration in  
306 13-19% of stage 10 egg chambers (Figure 2Q; Table 2). One RNAi line (VDRC 107064) did not  
307 impair border cell migration but showed mild splitting (6%), whereas another line (VDRC 37525)  
308 from the primary screen was no longer available so could not be confirmed in the secondary screen  
309 (Figure 2Q; Table 2). Dock is required for myoblast fusion during muscle formation by regulating  
310 cell adhesion and F-actin (Kaipa et al. 2013). In this context, Dock colocalizes with and/or binds  
311 to several cell adhesion proteins from the IgCAM superfamily including Rst, one of the genes  
312 identified in this screen (see above). Additionally, Dock genetically and biochemically interacts  
313 with the Ste20-like serine-threonine kinase Misshapen (Msn) to control motility of photoreceptor  
314 growth cones in the developing eye (Ruan et al. 1999). Notably, Msn is required for border cell  
315 migration, where it is required for the formation of polarized protrusions and coordinated  
316 actomyosin contractility of the cluster (Plutoni et al. 2019). Thus, it will be of interest in the future  
317 to determine if Dock, Rst, and Msn interact to control border cell migration.

318 *Atypical cadherins and planar cell polarity genes:* Three genes, *Wnt4*, *ds*, and *ft* encode  
319 proteins with annotated roles in both planar cell polarity and cell-cell adhesion (FlyBase; Figure  
320 3; Table 2). *Wnt4* (human WNT9A) is a conserved secreted protein of the Wnt family, which  
321 regulates cell adhesion through recruitment of focal adhesion complexes during the migration of  
322 epithelial cells in the pupal ovary (Cohen et al. 2002). We tested four RNAi lines for *Wnt4*, which  
323 in total target two independent regions of the gene. Migration defects for the four tested *Wnt4*  
324 RNAi lines ranged from 9 to 23% (Figure 3, C, D, I; Table 2). These data suggest a role for *Wnt4*  
325 in regulating border cell movement. Previous studies suggested that *Wnt4* participates in  
326 establishing planar polarity within the developing eye and wing (Lim et al. 2005; Wu et al. 2013).  
327 Indeed, several core planar cell polarity genes including *frizzled* and *dishevelled* regulate border  
328 cell migration (Bastock and Strutt 2007). However, recent studies that used multiple gene  
329 knockouts now indicate that the Wnt family of proteins, including *Wnt4*, are not required for  
330 *Drosophila* planar cell polarity (Ewen-Campen et al. 2020; Yu et al. 2020). Thus, we favor a role  
331 for *Wnt4* in the movement and adhesion of border cells, similar to what was found during earlier  
332 stages of *Drosophila* ovarian development (Cohen et al. 2002).

333 *Ds* (human DCHS1) and *Ft* (human FAT4) encode large protocadherin proteins, each of which  
334 has multiple extracellular cadherin repeats (27 for *Ds* and 34 for *Ft*) (Fulford and McNeill 2020).  
335 Heterophilic binding between *Ds* and *Ft* via their extracellular domains is essential for cell-cell  
336 communication, particularly in the regulation of tissue growth through Hippo signaling and planar  
337 polarization of various tissues (Matakatsu and Blair 2004; Bosveld et al. 2016; Blair and McNeill  
338 2018; Fulford and McNeill 2020). Knockdown of *ds* with any of three independent RNAi lines  
339 (VDRC 36219, VDRC 4313, and BL 32964) mildly disrupted migration, ranging from 12-14% of  
340 border cells failing to reach the oocyte (Figure 3, E, F, J; Table 2). *ds* RNAi border cell clusters

341 only displayed mild cohesion defects, with 5% of clusters splitting apart (Figure 3E). Two  
342 independent RNAi lines that target *ft* (VDRC 108863 and VDRC 9396) also showed consistent  
343 though mild migration defects (11-13%), with only a few clusters (3%) splitting apart (Figure 3,  
344 G, H, K; Table 2). Interestingly, *ds* is required for the collective directional migration of  
345 *Drosophila* larval epidermal cells (LECs) during morphogenesis of the pupal abdominal  
346 epithelium (Bischoff 2012; Arata et al. 2017). An imbalance in Ds protein levels between LECs  
347 during collective migration is detected by Ft at cell junctions leading to the formation of  
348 lamellipodia at the posterior side of the LECs (Arata et al. 2017). Further experiments will be  
349 needed to determine if Ft and Ds similarly coordinate protrusions in border cells or regulate some  
350 other aspect of border cell collective migration.

351

### 352 **Analysis of regional expression of border cell screen hits in GBM tumors**

353 Based on the results of the functional *Drosophila* screen, we next sought to link individual genes  
354 to invasion in human GBM patient tumors. We first assessed the Ivy GAP database that provides  
355 regional RNA expression across anatomically defined regions of tumors ranging from the tumor  
356 core to the infiltrating edge (see Methods & Materials). Using this database, we found that NEGR1  
357 and KIRREL3 were specifically enriched in anatomical regions with elevated invasion potential,  
358 namely the leading edge (LE) and infiltrating tumor (IT), compared to all other assessed  
359 anatomical regions (Figure 4A; Supplementary Table 1). These regions included cellular tumor  
360 (CT), perinecrotic zone (PNZ), pseudopalisading cells around necrosis (PAN), hyperplastic blood  
361 vessels (HBV), and microvascular proliferation (MP). Additionally, CTNNA2 had significant  
362 expression in the LE and IT regions though was expressed in other regions of the tumor  
363 (Supplementary Figure 1; Supplementary Table 1). However, we also observed some *Drosophila*



364 screen hits that did not demonstrate regional heterogeneity in terms of expression, such as SYMPK  
365 and CTNNA1 (Figure 4B; Supplementary Table 1). Other genes had a mixture of expression  
366 profiles across human GBM anatomical regions (CTNNA3, DCHS1, FAT4, KIRREL1,  
367 KIRREL2, NCK1; Supplementary Figure 1; Supplementary Table 1). WNT9A was not found in  
368 the Ivy GAP database. It is worth noting that this initial validation approach takes advantage of  
369 regional differences within the same GBM tumor. Therefore, such GBM anatomical expression  
370 surveys may be a better surrogate of cellular invasion than expression in GBM compared to lower-  
371 grade or non-neoplastic neural tissue; these latter analyses rely on gene expression in tissue  
372 obtained mainly from the core of the tumor and may miss areas of the tumor that undergo active  
373 invasion (Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). Nonetheless, we observed a variety of human adhesion  
374 ortholog gene-dependent increases or decreases in GBM tumors compared to lower-grade or non-  
375 neoplastic neural tissue (Supplementary Figures 2 and 3). Together, these assessments provide a  
376 first step in validating novel, conserved molecular mechanisms of GBM invasion for future  
377 therapeutic development. Invasive GBM is thought to be driven by CSCs, which can migrate and  
378 invade as single cells, finger-like collectives, or as a mixture of migration modes (Cheng et al.  
379 2011; Volovetz et al., 2020). Human Rap1a, originally identified in a *Drosophila* screen of  
380 collective border cell migration, influences CSC-mediated GBM cell invasion (Aranjuez et al.,  
381 2012; Volovetz et al. 2020). Interestingly, knocking down *Sym* and  *$\alpha$ -Cat* in the border cells caused  
382 the most severe migration and cluster cohesion defects. While the respective human orthologs  
383 SYMPK, CTNNA1, and CTNNA2 did not show regional tumor heterogeneity, they are each  
384 expressed in GBM tumors and/or are generally elevated in different grades of glioma including  
385 GBM (Grade IV; Supplementary Figure 2).

386

387 **CONCLUSION**

388 GBM, the most common primary malignant brain tumor in adults, is also one of the most lethal  
389 (Ostrom et al. 2014; Ostrom et al. 2018). These tumors are highly invasive and possess a self-  
390 renewing CSC population. CSCs are highly invasive and can migrate either individually or  
391 collectively (Cheng et al. 2011, Volovetz et al. 2020). Here we used a human GBM-informed  
392 approach to identify conserved regulators of adhesion during collective cell migration and  
393 invasion, particularly focused on testing genes in the border cell model. We identified eight  
394 adhesion-related *Drosophila* genes (orthologs of 13 human genes) associated with glioma patient  
395 survival. Of the eight adhesion-related *Drosophila* genes found to be essential for collective cell  
396 migration, two human orthologs, NEGR1 and KIRREL3 showed significant regional enrichment  
397 in the leading edge and infiltrating tumor of human GBM tumors, areas associated with enhanced  
398 cell invasion. CTNNA2 was expressed in these invasive regions, though was also expressed at  
399 high levels in other regions of the tumor. Knockdown of these eight genes disrupted border cell  
400 migration to varying degrees, with two genes *α-cat* and *Sym* significantly disrupting both cohesion  
401 of the cluster and successful cell migration. These eight *Drosophila* genes thus represent a starting  
402 point to further investigate the specific mechanisms by which these genes regulate normal  
403 collective cell migration. Whether the human orthologs function through an adhesion-dependent  
404 or -independent manner in GBM tumors needs to be determined with follow up experiments, using  
405 both mammalian and non-mammalian models of GBM (Shahzad et al. 2021). Overall, the strategy  
406 used in this study has the potential to identify new genes and conserved mechanisms that drive  
407 collective cell migration of normal cells and those in invasive cancers such as GBM.

408

409

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423

424 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

425 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

426

427 **LITERATURE CITED**

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614

615

616 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

617 **Figure 1.** Screen to identify conserved GBM-associated adhesion genes in collective cell  
618 migration. (A-C) Migration of wild type border cells in stage 9 and 10 egg chambers. *c306-*  
619 GAL4 drives nuclear GFP (UAS-nls.GFP, green) in egg chambers labelled with Armadillo  
620 (magenta) to show cell membranes and nuclei stained for DAPI (grey). Arrowheads indicate the  
621 position of the border cell cluster within the egg chamber during migration stages: pre-migration  
622 (A), mid-migration (B), and end-migration (C). (D-E) Knockdown of *E-cadherin* by RNAi  
623 (*c306-GAL4 tsGAL80/+; +/UAS-E-cadherin RNAi* line v103962) in border cells disrupts  
624 migration and cluster cohesion at stage 10. Arrowheads indicate border cell clusters and split  
625 clusters. (F) Schematic overview of the RNAi screening approach in border cells. (G)  
626 Experimental flow chart used to identify novel GBM-associated adhesion genes through  
627 *Drosophila* and human glioma databases.

628

629 **Figure 2.** Cell adhesion and cell junction genes whose RNAi knockdown impairs border cell  
630 migration. (A-L) Stage 10 egg chambers expressing RNAi for the indicated genes (or control) in  
631 border cells labeled for E-cadherin (red), a cell membrane and adhesion marker, Singed (green),  
632 which is highly expressed in and marks border cells, and DAPI to label all cell nuclei (blue). Two  
633 images are shown to indicate the general extent of phenotypes with RNAi knockdown for each  
634 gene. White arrowheads show the position of border cell clusters; the scale bar (A, B) indicates  
635 the image magnification for all images in the figure. Anterior is to the left. (A and B) Border cells  
636 expressing the control, *mCherry* RNAi, reach the oocyte at stage 10. (C-L) RNAi knockdown of  
637 *α-Catenin/α-Cat* (C and D, line v107298), *Symplekin/Sym* (E, line v33470; F, line v33469),  
638 *Lachesin/Lac* (G and H, line BL28940), *Roughest/Rst* (I and J, line v27223) and *Dock* (K, line

639 v37524; L, line BL27728) driven by *c306*-GAL4 tsGAL80 disrupts the collective migration of  
640 border cells. The average percentage of egg chambers with border cell cluster splitting defects (%  
641 splitting) from the RNAi line with the strongest migration defect is indicated. (M-Q)  
642 Quantification of the extent of border cell migration (no migration, red; partial migration, blue;  
643 complete migration, green) in stage 10 egg chambers expressing the indicated RNAi lines for *α*-  
644 *Cat* (M), *Sym* (N), *Lac* (O), *Rst* (P) and *Dock* (Q) along with the matched control *mCherry* RNAi.  
645 Error bars represent SEM for three trials,  $n \geq 30$  egg chambers in each trial. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.005$ ;  
646 \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , unpaired two-tailed t test.

647

648 **Figure 3.** Atypical cadherins and planar cell polarity genes whose RNAi knockdown impairs  
649 border cell migration. (A-H) Stage 10 egg chambers expressing RNAi for the indicated genes (or  
650 control) in border cells labeled for E-cadherin (red), a cell membrane and adhesion marker, Singed  
651 (green), which is highly expressed in border cells, and DAPI to label all cell nuclei (blue). Two  
652 images are shown to indicate the general extent of phenotypes with RNAi knockdown for each  
653 gene. White arrowheads show the position of border cell clusters; the scale bar (A, B) indicates  
654 the image magnification for all images in the figure. Anterior is to the left. (A and B) Border cells  
655 expressing the control, *mCherry* RNAi, reach the oocyte at stage 10. (C-H) RNAi knockdown of  
656 *Wnt4* (C and D, line v38011), *Dachsous/ds* (E, line 32964; F, line v4313) and *Fat/ft* (G and H, line  
657 BL28940) driven by *c306*-GAL4 tsGAL80 disrupts the collective migration of border cells. The  
658 average percentage of egg chambers with border cell cluster splitting defects from the RNAi line  
659 with the strongest migration defect is indicated. (I-K) Quantification of border cell migration (no  
660 migration, red; partial migration, blue; complete migration, green) in stage 10 egg chambers  
661 expressing the indicated RNAi lines for *Wnt4* (I), *ds* (J), and *ft* (K) along with the matched control

662 *mCherry* RNAi. Error bars represent SEM for three trials,  $n \geq 30$  egg chambers in each trial.  
663 \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.005$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , unpaired two-tailed t test.

664

665 **Figure 4.** Regional expression of representative human ortholog adhesion genes in GBM patient  
666 tumors. (A) Expression of human orthologs of adhesion genes neuronal growth regulator 1  
667 (NEGR1) and kirre like nephrin family adhesion molecule 3 (KIRREL3) is significantly enriched  
668 in the leading edge (LE) and infiltrating tumor (IT) compared to other tumor regions, including  
669 the cellular tumor (CT), perinecrotic zone (PNZ), pseudopalisading cells around necrosis (PAN),  
670 hyperplastic blood vessels (HBV), and microvascular proliferation (MP). (B) In contrast,  
671 expression of human orthologs symplekin (SYMPK) and catenin alpha 1 (CTNNA1) demonstrated  
672 little to no significant change when comparing different regions of tumor. Data from the Ivy GAP  
673 are shown as mean expression  $\pm$  SD across GBM tumor regions. Statistics are shown in  
674 Supplementary Table 1: \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , one way ANOVA with Tukey HSD.

675

676 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Regional expression of human ortholog adhesion genes in GBM patient  
677 tumors for additional human genes. See Figure 4 legend for abbreviations of the tumor regions.  
678 Data from the Ivy GAP are shown as mean expression  $\pm$  SD across GBM tumor regions. Statistics  
679 are shown in Supplementary Table 1: \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , one way ANOVA with  
680 Tukey HSD.

681

682 **Supplementary Figure 2.** Expression of human ortholog adhesion genes across glioma tumor  
683 grade. Box plots of mRNA expression obtained from the TCGA database in grade II ( $n=226$ ),

684 grade III (n=244), and grade IV (n=150) patient gliomas. \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001, one  
685 way ANOVA with Tukey HSD.

686

687 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Expression of human ortholog adhesion genes in GBM compared to  
688 non-tumor brain tissue. Box plots of mRNA expression obtained from the GEPIA database in non-  
689 tumor (n=207) and GBM tumor (n=163). \*p<0.01.

690

691 **Supplementary Table 1.** Statistics for the Ivy GAP regional gene expression for all human  
692 adhesion gene orthologs. Graphed data are shown in Figure 4 and Supplementary Figure 1.



693 **Table 1.** *Drosophila* and human brain tumor-associated adhesion genes.

<b>Gene name (<i>Drosophila</i>)</b>	<b>Human ortholog</b>	<b>DIOPT score out of 15</b>	<b>Best score</b>	<b>Best reverse score</b>	<b>Glioma patient survival</b>
<i>alpha-Catenin</i>	CTNNA1	12	No	Yes	Negative
	CTNNA2	13	Yes	Yes	ND
	CTNNA3	7	No	Yes	Positive
<i>CAP</i>	SORBS1	5	No	Yes	Positive
<i>Caskin</i>	CASKIN1	4	Yes	Yes	Positive
	CASKIN2	4	Yes	Yes	Positive
<i>CG3770</i>	LHFPL2	12	Yes	Yes	Negative
<i>CG45049</i>	PERP	10	No	Yes	Negative
<i>Dachsous</i>	DCHS1	11	Yes	Yes	Negative
<i>Dock</i>	NCK1	14	Yes	Yes	Negative
<i>Fat</i>	FAT4	13	Yes	Yes	Positive
<i>G protein alpha i</i>	GNAI2	11	No	Yes	Negative
	GNAZ	5	No	Yes	Positive
<i>G protein alpha o</i>	GNAI3	3	No	No	Negative
	GNAT3	3	No	No	Positive
<i>Glilotactin</i>	NLGN2	5	Yes	No	Positive
<i>Lachesin</i>	LSAMP	5	No	No	Positive
	NEGR1	9	Yes	Yes	Positive
<i>Liprin-alpha</i>	PPFIA1	11	No	Yes	Negative
<i>Lowfat</i>	LIX1L	13	Yes	Yes	Positive
	LIX1	7	No	Yes	Positive
<i>Mesh</i>	SUSD2	13	Yes	Yes	Negative
<i>Parvin</i>	PARVA	14	Yes	Yes	Positive
	PARVB	13	No	Yes	Positive
<i>Roughest</i>	KIRREL1	13	Yes	Yes	Negative

<b>Gene name (<i>Drosophila</i>)</b>	<b>Human ortholog</b>	<b>DIOPT score out of 15</b>	<b>Best score</b>	<b>Best reverse score</b>	<b>Glioma patient survival</b>
	KIRREL3	12	No	Yes	Negative
	KIRREL2	11	No	Yes	Negative
<i>schizo</i>	IQSEC2	12	No	Yes	Positive
<i>Shroom</i>	SHROOM1	2	No	Yes	Negative
	SHROOM3	8	Yes	Yes	Negative
<i>Symplekin</i>	SYMPK	14	Yes	Yes	Negative
<i>Vulcan</i>	DLGAP1	7	Yes	Yes	Positive
	DLGAP2	6	No	Yes	Positive
<i>Wnt4</i>	WNT9A	4	No	Yes	Positive
<i>Wunen</i>	PLPP2	9	No	No	Negative

694

695 ND, not determined

696 Human orthologs of adhesion genes obtained from the *Drosophila* RNAi Screening Center  
 697 Integrative Ortholog Prediction Tool (DIOPT). DIOPT score depicts the number of alignment  
 698 tools that support an orthologous gene-pair. Best score (yes or no) indicates if the given  
 699 score is the highest score. Glioma patient survival (positive or negative) is listed for each gene  
 700 from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and NCI REMBRANDT.

701

702 **Table 2.** Results of the primary and secondary RNAi screens in border cells.

Gene	RNAi	Stock center	Construct ID	Migration defect (Primary screen)	Migration defect (Secondary screen): Mean $\pm$ [SD]
<b><i>alpha-catenin</i></b> <b>(<math>\alpha</math>-cat)</b>	<b>20123<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD8808</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>76% <math>\pm</math> 0.07<sup>#</sup></b>
	<b>107298</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>KK107916</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>66% <math>\pm</math> 0.05</b>
	<b>40882</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD8808</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>ND</b>
<i>CAP</i>	106309	VDRC	KK107936	0.80%	2% $\pm$ 0.01
	19054	VDRC	GD8545	7%	4% $\pm$ 0.01
	30506	BL	HMS05250	11%	4% $\pm$ 0.03
	36663	BL	HMS01551	6.30%	5% $\pm$ 0.01
<i>Caskin</i>	24526	VDRC	GD7723	11%	9% $\pm$ 0.02
	25222	VDRC	GD7723	10%	9% $\pm$ 0.00
<i>CG3770</i>	4064	VDRC	GD2223	8%	9% $\pm$ 0.01 <sup>§</sup>
	103556	VDRC	KK101078	26%	2% $\pm$ 0.01
	61262	BL	HMJ2304	9%	8% $\pm$ 0.01
<i>CG45049</i>	102985	VDRC	KK112983	13%	4% $\pm$ 0.01
	102025	VDRC	KK110412	8%	8% $\pm$ 0.01
	32403	VDRC	GD8606	20%	12% $\pm$ 0.02
	9673	VDRC	GD3956	8%	8% <sup>§</sup>
<b><i>Dachsous</i></b> ( <b><i>ds</i></b> )	<b>36219</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD14350</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>14 <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
	<b>4313</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD2646</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12% <math>\pm</math> 0.07</b>
	<b>32964</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>HMS00759</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>13% <math>\pm</math> 0.05</b>
<b><i>Dreadlocks</i></b> <b>(<i>dock</i>)</b>	<b>37524</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD4034</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>19% <math>\pm</math> 0.03</b>
	<b>37525</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD4035</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>NA</b>
	<b>107064</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>KK102500</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4% <math>\pm</math> 0.04</b>
	<b>27228</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>JF02810</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>13% <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
<b><i>Fat</i></b> ( <b><i>ft</i></b> )	<b>108863</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>KK101190</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11% <math>\pm</math> 0.04</b>
	<b>9396</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD881</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>11% <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
<i>G protein alpha</i> <i>i</i> subunit	40890	BL	HMS02138	20%	2% $\pm$ 0.02
	31133	BL	JF0168	12%	3% $\pm$ 0.02
	28150	VDRC	GD12576	5%	5% $\pm$ 0.01
<i>G protein alpha</i> <i>o</i> subunit	34653	BL	HMS01129	4%	3% $\pm$ 0.04
	34924	BL	HMS01273	16%	2% $\pm$ 0.01
	110552	VDRC	KK109018	21%	3% $\pm$ 0.01
	19124	VDRC	GD8640	6%	15% $\pm$ 0.06
<i>Gliotactin</i>	37115	VDRC	GD1735	9%	10% $\pm$ 0.01

Gene	RNAi	Stock center	Construct ID	Migration defect (Primary screen)	Migration defect (Secondary screen): Mean $\pm$ [SD]
<b><i>Lachesin (Lac)</i></b>	37116	VDRC	GD1735	12%	6% $\pm$ 0.02
	107258	VDRC	KK105971	8%	2% $\pm$ 0.03
	38284	BL	HMS01737	10%	1% $\pm$ 0.01
	58115	BL	HMJ22052	10%	3% $\pm$ 0.04
	<b>35524</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD 12649</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10% <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
	<b>107450</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>KK 107469</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>5% <math>\pm</math> 0.03</b>
	<b>38536</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>HMS01756</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>5% <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
	<b>28940</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>HM05151</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>10% <math>\pm</math> 0.01</b>
<i>Liprin-alpha</i>	106588	VDRC	KK10116	6%	5% $\pm$ 0.05
	51707	VDRC	GD7232	14%	7% $\pm$ 0.01
	53868	BL	HMC03183	19%	5% $\pm$ 0.06
<i>Lowfat</i>	32145	VDRC	GD7934	5%	ND
	32146	VDRC	GD7934	3%	ND
	107630	VDRC	KK102118	9.4%	ND
	28755	BL	JF03183	3.5%	ND
<i>Mesh</i>	40940	VDRC	GD3139	16%	3% $\pm$ 0.04
	6867	VDRC	GD3140	6%	NA
<i>Parvin</i>	11670	VDRC	GD3687	7.40%	8% $\pm$ 0.01
	105356	VDRC	KK102567	5%	2% $\pm$ 0.04
	42831	BL	HMS02523	19%	3% $\pm$ 0.02
<b><i>Roughest (rst)</i></b>	<b>27223</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD14475</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16% <math>\pm</math> 0.03</b>
	<b>27225</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD14475</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>11% <math>\pm</math> 0.01</b>
	<b>951</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD86</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>4% <math>\pm</math> 0.04</b>
	<b>28672</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>JF03087</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>10% <math>\pm</math> 0.01</b>
<i>Schizo</i>	36625	VDRC	GD14895	7%	13% $\pm$ 0.03
	36627	VDRC	GD14895	1.50%	NA
	106168	VDRC	KK103616	14%	4% $\pm$ 0.03
	39060	BL	HMS01980	5%	3% $\pm$ 0.01
<i>Shroom</i>	47147	VDRC	GD16363	6%	5% $\pm$ 0.005
	100672	VDRC	KK106863	34%	7% $\pm$ 0.04
	107966	VDRC	KK108450	9.7%	7% $\pm$ 0.02
	40942	BL	HMS02190	7.4%	7% $\pm$ 0.07
<b><i>Symplekin (Sym)</i></b>	<b>33469</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD9722</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>23% <math>\pm</math> 0.1</b>
	<b>33470</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD9722</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>32% <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
	<b>39041</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>HMS01961</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6% <math>\pm</math> 0.01</b>

Gene	RNAi	Stock center	Construct ID	Migration defect (Primary screen)	Migration defect (Secondary screen): Mean $\pm$ [SD]
<i>Vulcan</i>	46229	VDRC	GD16319	14%	3% $\pm$ 0.05
	46230	VDRC	GD16319	10%	6% $\pm$ 0.01
	40925	BL	HMS02173	4%	10% $\pm$ 0.03
<b><i>Wnt4</i></b>	<b>38011</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD5347</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>
	<b>38010</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>GD5347</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>12% <math>\pm</math> 0.02</b>
	<b>104671</b>	<b>VDRC</b>	<b>KK102348</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13% <math>\pm</math> 0.06</b>
	<b>29442</b>	<b>BL</b>	<b>JF03378</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9% <math>\pm</math> 0.01</b>
<i>Wunen</i>	51090	VDRC	GD15706	5.1%	ND
	51091	VDRC	GD15706	7%	ND
	6446	VDRC	GD1640	7.6%	ND
<i>mCherry</i>	35785	BL	VALIUM20-mCherry	2-11%	3% $\pm$ 0.02

703 ND, not determined; NA, not available; SD, standard deviation; §, RNAi line tested in two trials  
704 (stock dead or no longer available at the stock center); #, data from Chen et al., 2020.

705 RNAi stock numbers, source of RNAi line, and construct IDs for the 23 candidate genes from the  
706 screen. Primary screen results indicate percentage of stage 10 egg chambers with migration defects  
707 for each RNAi line of the corresponding gene. Secondary screen results include mean migration  
708 defects for each RNAi line from three trials along with the standard deviation. Genes considered  
709 as “hits” from the screen are highlighted in bold text.

710

Figure 1

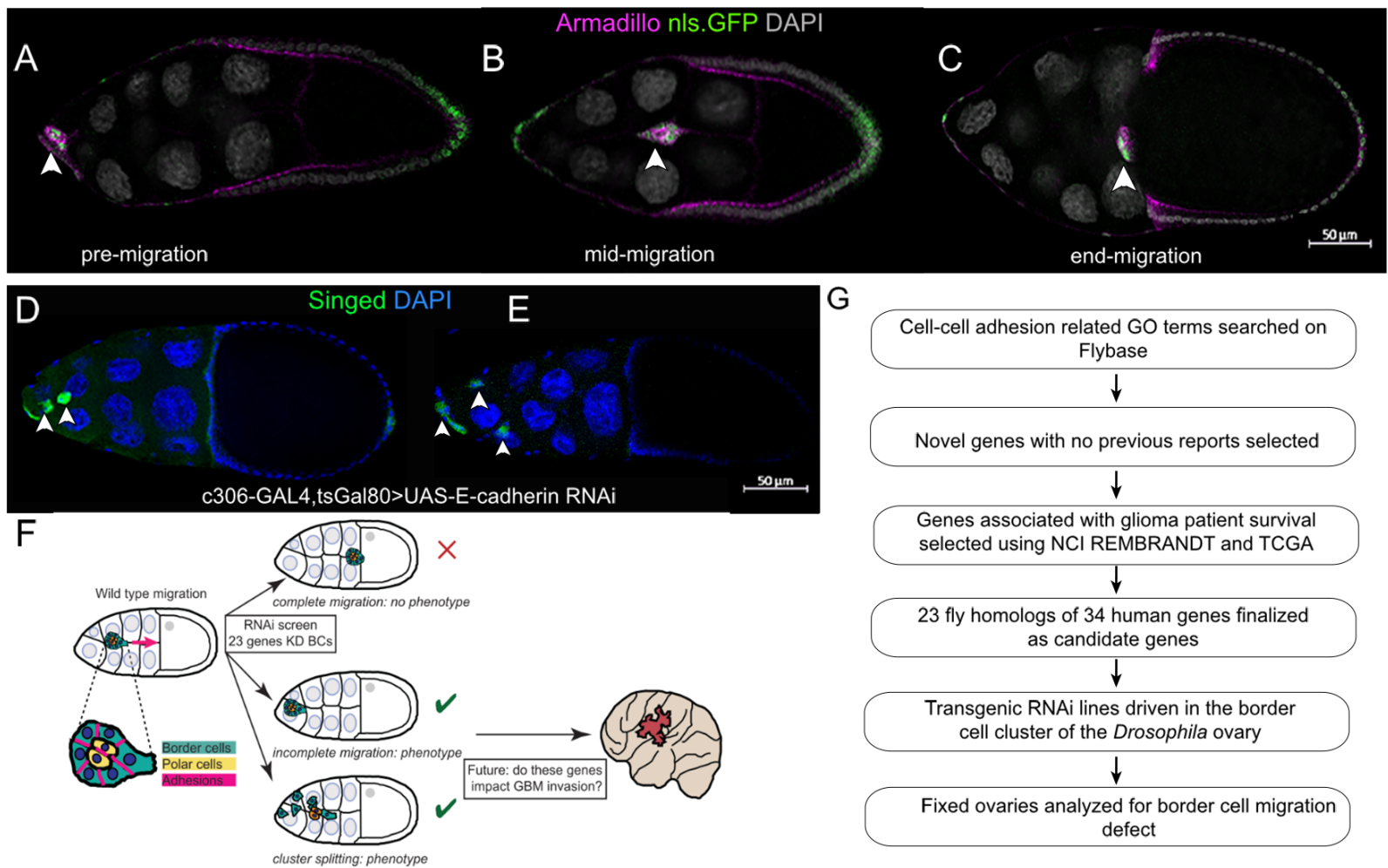


Figure 2

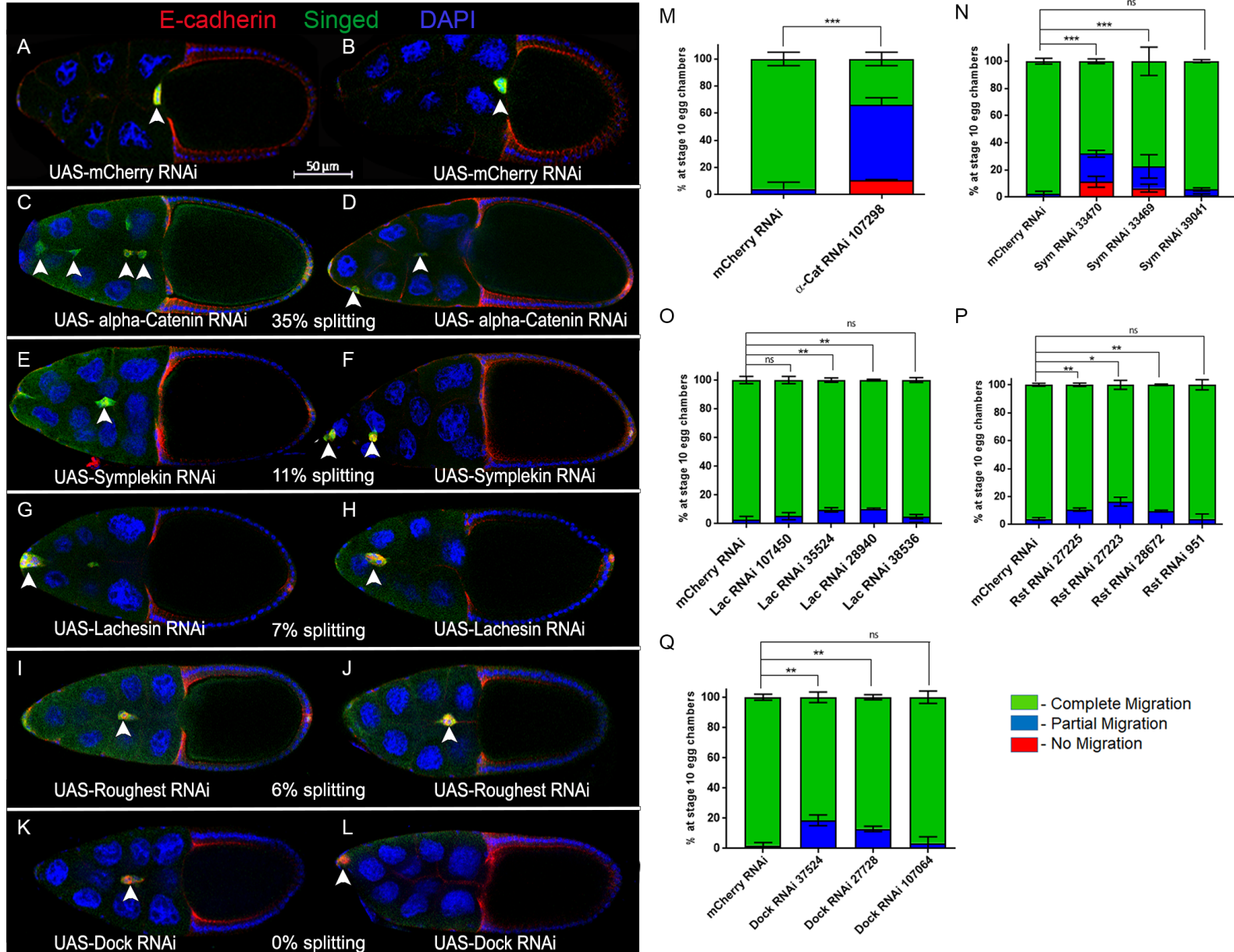
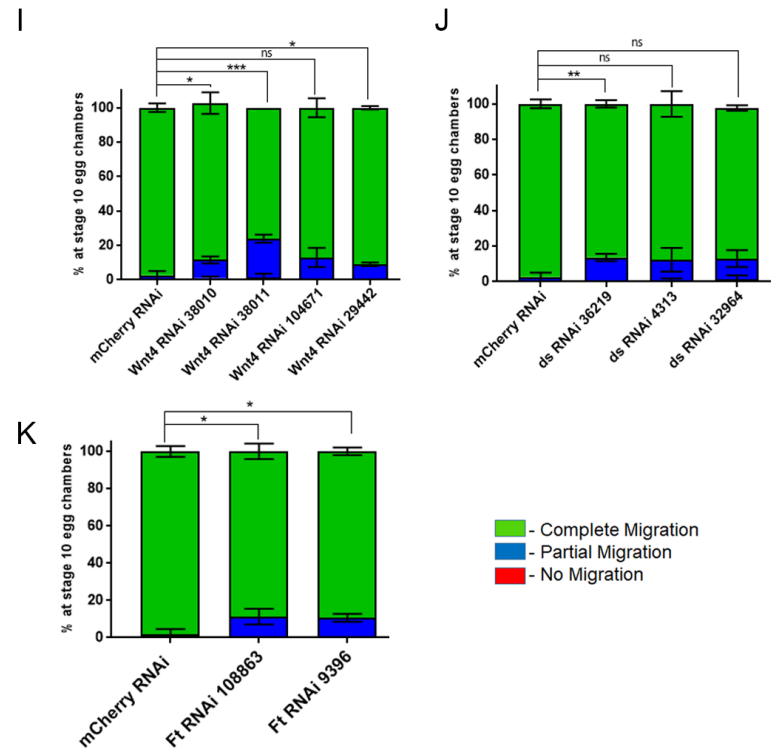
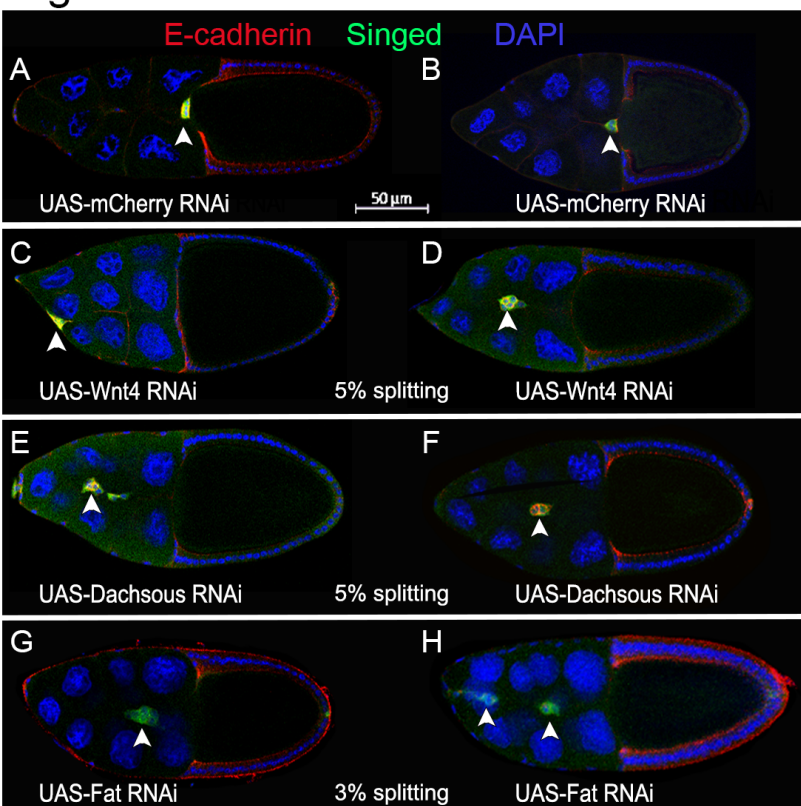


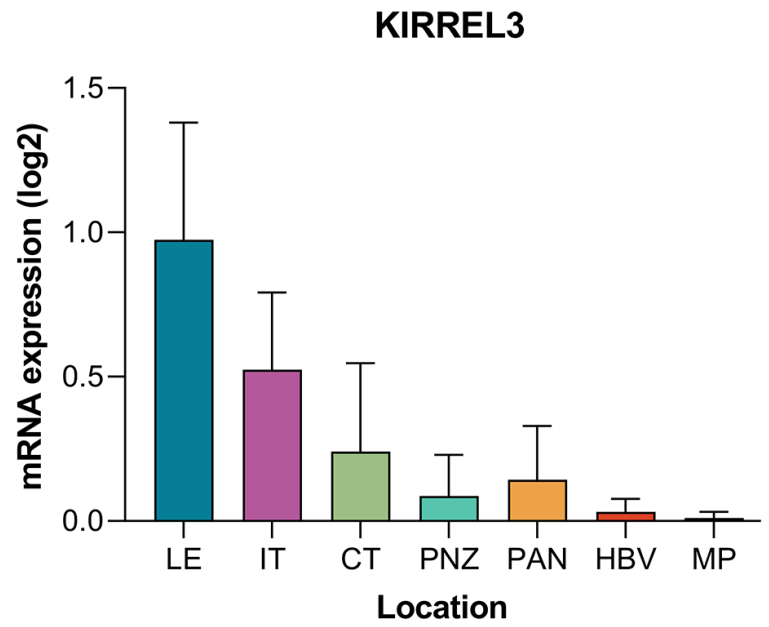
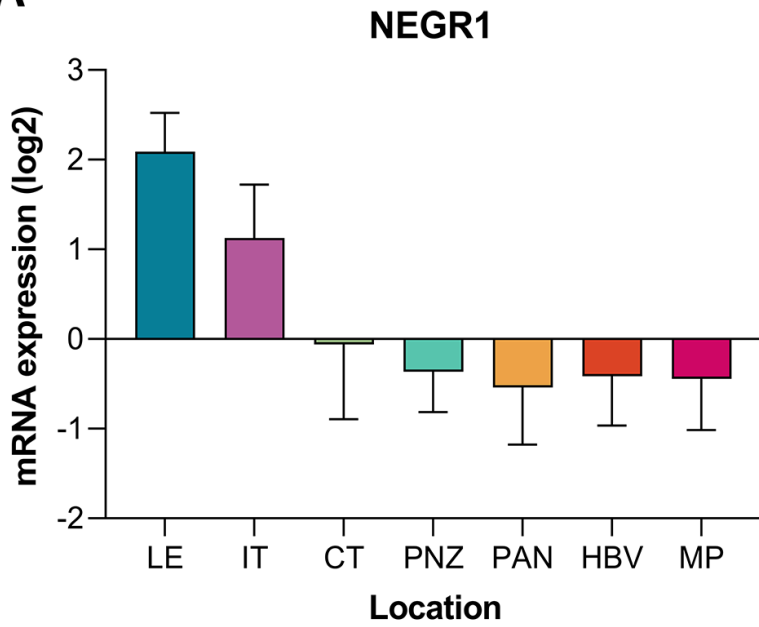
Figure 3





## Figure 4

**A**



**B**

