

1 **Title: Early pre-neural serotonin modulates balance of late monoamines and behavioral patterns in**
2 **fish model system**

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22

23 **Summary**

24 The presence of serotonergic system during early pre-neural development is enigmatic
25 and conserved amongst all studied invertebrate and vertebrate animals. We took advantage of
26 zebrafish model system to address what is the role of early serotonin before first neurons form.
27 Unexpectedly, we experimentally revealed the existence of delayed developmental neurogenic
28 and behavioral effects resulting from the manipulations of pre-neural (zygote, blastula and
29 gastrula) serotonergic system. In particular, the delayed effects included differences in the
30 synthesis of serotonin in early serotonergic neurons in the central nervous system as well as in
31 behavioral alterations after habituation in zebrafish larvae. These effects appeared as highly
32 specific and did not coincide with any major abnormalities. The same manipulations of the
33 serotonergic system at neural developmental stages did not show such effects, which confirms
34 that early effects of serotonergic system manipulation are not based on retained serotonin in
35 embryonic cells. Accordingly, gene expression analysis demonstrated specific changes only in
36 response to the elevation of early pre-neural serotonin, which included the delayed and pre-
37 mature onsets of different gene expression programs. Taken together, our results introduce a
38 novel function of early pre-neural serotonergic system in a vertebrate embryo – tuning and fine
39 control of specific mechanisms at later neural developmental stages that result in a mild
40 variation of a behavioral adaptive spectrum.

41

42

43 Introduction

44 Small molecules represent one of the most ancient and abundant groups of regulators spread in
45 all branches of life. Presumably, appearing as metabolites of structural and energy-carrying molecules,
46 many of those underwent long evolution diversifying their roles in nature. Serotonin (5-
47 hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT) is one of those ubiquitously-spread regulatory small molecules. Indeed, 5-HT
48 is a well-recognized component of many ancient and archetypical signaling systems widely distributed
49 among all major phyla [1].

50 In vertebrates, 5-HT serves as a classical neurotransmitter and a hormone playing a key role in
51 diverse cellular and physiological processes such as memory formation, feeding, social and reproductive
52 behavior, smooth muscle contraction, ciliary motility, blood coagulation and many others [2].

53 5-HT is synthesized from tryptophan and requires two enzymes that must act sequentially: the
54 rate-limiting enzyme tryptophan hydroxylase (TPH) followed by aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase
55 (AADC). The teleost fish, a popular model system for investigating the serotonergic system, has two
56 genes of TPH, two genes of 5-HT membrane transporter (SERT) and one gene of monoamine oxidase
57 (MAO). MAO is responsible for 5-HT catabolism that also serves as a source of reactive oxygen species
58 implicated in cell signaling [3]. There are exceptions to the rule and some teleost fish, for instance,
59 zebrafish and medaka, have three forms of TPH (*tph1a*, *tph1b* and *tph2*). In addition, tyrosine
60 hydroxylase (TH2) can also synthesize 5-HT in zebrafish [4]. Concentration of 5-HT inside of a cell may
61 rely on a speed of SERT-mediated 5-HT re-uptake, which is K^+/Na^+ -dependent and can be controlled by
62 phosphorylation, NO-synthase and integrin coupling [5–7]. Importantly, some 5-HT-dependent
63 regulations are based on serotonylation - a covalent binding of 5-HT molecule to a target protein by
64 transglutaminase [8], which renders intracellular localization and local concentration of 5-HT an
65 important parameters. Most of the 5-HT effects are implemented through a number of membrane-
66 bound receptors that are subdivided into seven main families. Numerous genes of these 5-HT receptors
67 are duplicated in teleost fishes, which led to diversification of their functions as compared to their
68 homologs in other vertebrates [9].

69 Remarkably, even the organisms lacking nervous system such as bacteria, protists, plants, and
70 some multicellular animals are also capable of producing and using 5-HT. In line with this, all animals
71 with nervous system, where serotonergic system was investigated in the past, revealed the presence of
72 5-HT in oocytes, cleaving blastomeres and early pre-neural developmental stages, where the role of 5-
73 HT is not directly related to the nervous system development and is currently poorly understood. When
74 it comes to diverse and enigmatic functions of the early pre-neural serotonin, it appeared that 5-HT can
75 stimulate or block maturation of oocytes as well as it can take part in the re-initiation of meiosis in a
76 number of animals [10–12]. Mutations in 5-HT synthesis genes in *Drosophila* result in malformations of
77 embryonic cuticle and can also lead to death of an embryo during pre-neural stages [13]. In addition,
78 application of specific antagonists of 5-HT receptors leads to a complete block or, at least, a significant
79 slowdown of cleavage divisions in nudibranch mollusk and sea urchin embryos [14,15]. In a freshwater
80 gastropod snail *Lymnaea stagnalis*, the increase of 5-HT levels at early cleavage stage results in later
81 disruption of gastrulation [16]. In amphibians and birds, 5-HT and its proper distribution within a
82 cleaving embryo is an important condition for the left-right polarity-establishing mechanism [17–20].
83 Finally, early pre-neural embryos of the teleost fish show the clear presence of 5-HT, while the role of
84 serotonin at such early stages was not sufficiently investigated [21,22]. In line with this, 5-HT receptors
85 HTR1aa, 1ab, 1b, 2a and 5a, turned out to be expressed in a zebrafish cleaving and gastrulating embryos
86 [23]. At later, neural developmental stages, 5-HT signaling is involved in pharyngeal arch morphogenesis
87 in zebrafish [21], *Xenopus* [24] and mice [25]. In the nervous system of teleost fish and mammals, 5-HT
88 promotes developmental [26,27] and adult neurogenesis [28]. Depletion of 5-HT in zebrafish larvae

89 affects locomotor behavior as well as the body length and notochordal morphology [29]. Thus, all
90 findings mentioned above suggest that 5-HT is an important integrative regulator of a fish development
91 combining traits that are common with other vertebrates.

92 Notably, serotonin clearly participates in a variety of reproductive functions in the adult fish
93 including the control of gonadotropin-releasing hormone, gonadotropin and luteinizing hormone
94 release, gonadal maturation, and socio-sexual behavior [30]. More generally, 5-HT has been identified as
95 an important regulator of fish female gonadal function [31–34] and a modulator of the effects of
96 melatonin on steroid-induced oocyte maturation [35]. Furthermore, 5-HT is known as an important
97 neuro-endocrine regulator of sexual plasticity [36], and the increased serotonergic signaling can prevent
98 sex change in the saddleback wrasse in socially permissive conditions [37]. Such specific involvement in
99 reproduction, maturation of gonads and production of oocytes together with the presence at early pre-
100 neural embryonic stages suggests that the mother-derived serotonin can influence some aspects of
101 embryonic development and, through this, can transmit non-genetic information from parents to
102 progeny. Recently, we revealed such a case – a novel role of serotonin in a gastropod mollusk
103 development, behavior and ecology, where 5-HT mediated non-genetic information transmission based
104 on serotonin production in the reproductive tract of a mother snail [38]. This mother-derived 5-HT
105 influenced the development of the snail embryo and caused delayed behavioral effects in juvenile
106 individuals.

107 In this study, we tested the possible evolutionary-conserved information-transmitting role of
108 pre-neural serotonin in a vertebrate teleost model system using zebrafish in a number of
109 pharmacologic, embryologic and behavioral experiments. As a result, we demonstrated that early pre-
110 neural 5-HT influences the later stages of neural development in a systemic way, and also leaves a
111 footprint on the behavior of juvenile fish larvae, thus, making this mechanism of 5-HT-based adaptive
112 information transfer possible in nature.

113

114 **Results**

115 **1. Pre-nervous serotonergic system in zebrafish is in place and active**

116 To investigate pre-nervous serotonergic system, we firstly analyzed the presence and
117 distribution of 5-HT by immunohistochemistry (Fig. 1A-H). Serotonin itself was expressed at all
118 developmental stages analysed (from 2-cell to 50% epiboly). We found that 5-HT was present in the
119 early zebrafish embryos mostly in a blastodisc and later in a blastoderm, being equally distributed both
120 in a cytoplasm of each cell and between blastomers without any significant gradients (Fig. 1 A-C, F-H).
121 Brightness of anti-5-HT staining, and thus expression, compared to the cytoplasm was higher in the
122 nuclei of some cells (Fig. 1C). Most of the staining showed distinct punctate pattern corresponding to
123 small cytoplasmic vesicle-like structures 300-700 nm in diameter in blastoderm, blastodisc and in
124 periblast, but not in yolk (Fig. 1D, E). After the formation of a periblast, 5-HT was present there in the
125 same concentration as compared to the nearby cells, while forming a sharp drop in expression at the
126 border with yolk (Fig. 1D, G).

127 Expression of different components of serotonergic system, including enzymes of 5-HT synthesis
128 and degradation, 5-HT membrane and vesicle transporters was addressed by PCR at subsequent
129 developmental stages of zebrafish. *Tph1b* (tryptophan hydroxylase 1b), *serta* (*slc6a4a*, serotonin
130 transporter *SERTa*), *vmat* (*slc18a2*, vesicular monoamine transporter) and *maoa* (monoamine oxidase a)
131 appeared to be expressed at pre-nervous stages of 4-8 blastomeres, 32-64 blastomeres, blastula, 30%
132 epiboly, germ shield stage and 4dpf (Fig. 1I). Expression of *tph1a* (tryptophan hydroxylase 1a) was
133 detected at aforementioned stages while expression of *tph2* (tryptophan hydroxylase 2) and *sertb*
134 (*slc6a4b*, serotonin transporter b) was clearly observed only from blastula stage and onwards (Fig. 1I).

135 In addition to direct PCR we analyzed zebrafish and human developmental transcriptomics data
136 obtained from independent studies [39,40]. We found an evident gene cluster containing transcripts
137 related to 5-HT and its derivative melatonin that demonstrated the expression maxima specifically at
138 pre-neural stages of zebrafish development. This cluster of genes included transcripts essential for the
139 synthesis of these compounds, their catabolism, transport, receptors and some downstream genes (Fig.
140 S1A). This notion was found to be conserved in other vertebrates including humans (Fig. S1B).

141 To investigate the activity of serotonin synthesis system we performed functional tests based on
142 the incubation of zebrafish embryos at 16-32 blastomeres, 64-128 blastomeres, blastula and germ shield
143 stages in biochemical precursors of 5-HT. Incubation of embryos at all aforementioned stages in L-
144 tryptophan and 5-hydroxytryptophan resulted in a statistically significant increase in brightness of anti-5-
145 HT staining (Fig. 1L, M; Fig. S2A, C-F). On the contrary, intensity of staining in yolk did not show
146 significant changes in response to pre-incubation in those compounds at all analyzed stages (Fig. S2B).
147 Interestingly, pharmacological blockade of both key synthesis enzymes did not result in a drop of the 5-
148 HT level. At the same time, incubation of early embryos in 5-HT biochemical precursors with the
149 simultaneous 5-HT synthesis blockade, resulted in lower 5-HT levels compared to when embryos were
150 incubated only in biochemical precursors (Fig. 1N, O).

151 Both uptake and efflux of 5-HT are active processes that play an important role in maintaining
152 proper balance of 5-HT concentration in the developing embryo. To address the uptake of serotonin at
153 pre-nervous stages we firstly incubated teleost embryos in solutions with a range of 5-HT
154 concentrations. We identified that all cells in cleaving and gastrulating embryos, could efficiently uptake
155 5-HT in a concentration-dependent mode (Fig. 1N, O; Fig. S2A-G). In case of blastula, after the 5-HT
156 uptake, the gradient of 5-HT formed between the outer and the inner cell “layers” of the blastoderm
157 (Fig. 1J). As expected, SSRIs could decrease the 5-HT uptake, whereas none of these compounds
158 significantly influenced natural 5-HT levels (Fig. 1N). Treatment with reserpine, a VMAT inhibitor,
159 decreased 5-HT levels via allowing cytoplasmic vesicles to release 5-HT (where it is catabolized by MAO)
160 while blocking the re-loading of the vesicles with 5-HT via VMAT action (Fig. 1K, O). The effect of
161 injection of reserpine was similar to the effect of incubation of embryos with reserpine solution.
162 Reserpine treatment also decreased 5-HT level in case of a co-incubation of embryos with 5-HT (Fig. 1K).

163 In order to assay intracellular transport of 5-HT and the effects of disturbing 5-HT distribution in
164 embryo, we injected 5-HT into yolk and blastomeres. After the injections of 5-HT into the yolk from
165 zygote to 32-cell stage, 5-HT efficiently moved into the cytoplasm of blastomeres. Administered 5-HT
166 left only slight traces in the yolk already after 5 min post-injection (Fig. 1P, S₁-S₂) and absolutely no
167 traces were observed in 15 min and later (Fig. 1T₁-U₂). At the same time, the co-injected TRITC-dextran
168 (10 KDa) was also distributed evenly from zygote to 16-cell-stage but formed a lasting gradient in
169 between cells in case of being applied at 32-64-cell stages (Fig. 1Q, V₁-V₃). Also no 5-HT gradient was
170 formed in case of 5-HT injections into separate blastomeres at least up to 32 cell-stage. 5-HT staining
171 was equalized between blastomeres already in 10 min after injection (data not shown). At a later
172 timepoint, after the injection into a yolk cell at a blastula stage, most 5-HT stayed in the periblast. A
173 weak gradient of 5-HT formed in nearby cells, but it was quickly dissolved in a layer of 10-15 cells (Fig.
174 1R, W₁-W₃). When the injection of 5-HT was made into a zygote, increased anti-5-HT staining brightness
175 was retained in an embryo and could be detected with immunohistochemistry at least up to 32 hpf (Fig.
176 S2I).

177 **2. Early pre-nervous serotonergic system modulation causes delayed effects in larvae**

178 We firstly investigated larvae at 1, 2 and 4 dpf after anti-5-HT immunostaining. At 1 dpf larvae
179 injected with 5-HT into zygote demonstrated increased levels of 5-HT immunoreactivity in all tissues and
180 even in the lumen of the neural tube. However, we could not identify 5-HT positive neurons in the brain
181 and neural tube from these injected animals as compared to the non-injected controls (Fig. 2A₁-A₄, C₁-

182 C₄). In line with this, in these experimental animals, anti-5-HT staining in the serotonergic sensory cells in
183 the skin was poorly contrasted. When we checked the 2 dpf larvae injected at zygote, we consistently
184 observed the reduced contrast of 5-HT staining in serotonergic neurons of hypothalamus, anterior and
185 inferior raphe, arrowhead population and pineal gland (Fig. 2H₁-I, O-T). At 4 dpf, 5-HT immunostaining in
186 the CNS of treated embryos did not differ from controls. Importantly, the 1-2 dpf larvae injected with 5-
187 HT at blastula stage (contrary to the injection at zygote stage) did not show any differences to control
188 embryos in staining of serotonergic cells while could demonstrate some elevation of 5-HT level in some
189 tissues (mostly in trunk; Fig. 2D₁-G).

190 In order to obtain positive control, we incubated embryos in 5-HT precursor 5-HTP at early
191 neuronal developmental stages (between 1 and 2 dpf). Later (2 dpf and beyond) these larvae
192 demonstrated generally elevated levels of 5-HT in numerous tissues as well as in serotonergic neurons
193 located in CNS. While all serotonergic elements persisted well distinguishable in staining (Fig. 2K₁-K₂).

194 Contrary of the experiments with 5-HT level exogenous elevation, both incubation and injections
195 of reserpine into a zygote did not influence the level and localization of 5-HT at 1-4 dpf (Fig. 2B₁-B₄, J₁-J₂,
196 O-T). On the contrary, incubation in reserpine at 1-2 dpf drastically decreased the level of 5-HT in all
197 tissues (Fig. 2L₁-L₂).

198 Despite all direct manipulations with 5-HT levels in cleaving embryos, the general morphology of
199 larvae was not affected notably (Fig. S3A). Since 5-HT depletion is known to affect growth of larvae [29]
200 we assayed rostro-caudal length and head-to-body length proportion in larvae at 2 and 4 dpf after
201 incubation in 5-HT and other substances from zygote to epiboly stage (Fig. S3B-F). We did not detect
202 changes in length of the experimental fish after 5-HT (Fig. S3A) although some drifts of body proportions
203 were noticeable. In case of reserpine incubations, experimental fish turned out to be shorter without
204 body proportion change. The strongest effects on the fish morphology were observed after the
205 incubations in the blocker of the 2nd stage of 5-HT synthesis NSD-1015 and tryptophan. NSD-1015 and
206 pCPA influenced the proportions of the head and the rest of the body, while tryptophan made fish
207 proportionally shorter (scaling down the general size). In all these cases, the effects were rather minor
208 but significant in case of 3-4 repetitions and large numbers of fishes analyzed (Fig. S3C-E).

209 In addition to the general morphology and growth, we analyzed possible left-right asymmetry
210 anomalies by looking at cardiac morphology after incubation in blockers of 5-HT synthesis, reserpine,
211 number of SSRIs and antagonist of 5-HT₄ receptors GR-113808, which is known to affect normal left-
212 right asymmetry in *Xenopus* embryos being applied at early developmental stages [18]. We did not
213 observe any significant differences between experimental and control groups (Fig. S4B).

214 Furthermore, we did not find any visible disturbances of early development in the fish incubated
215 between zygote- and 50% epiboly-stage in a number of known serotonergic system modulators we
216 tested. Namely, antagonists of 5-HT receptors (1-100 μM): methiothepin, mianserin, metoclopramide,
217 NAN-190, trazodone, ritanserin, SB 203186, SB 269970, spiperone, (S)-WAY100135, tropanil, zolopride;
218 5-HT receptor agonists (1-100 μM): 5-CT, 5-MeO-DMT, 8-OH-DPAT, alpha-methylserotonin, Br-LSD, DOI,
219 mCPP; 5-HT transporter blockers (1-100 μM): fluoxetine, citalopram, fluvoxamine, imipramine,
220 clomipramine. Blockers of the transglutaminase-mediated serotonylation MDC (100 μM) and cystamine
221 (1 mM) also did not affect early development of fish.

222 ***3. Modulation of serotonin level at the early stages affects content of monoamines and their*** 223 ***metabolites in larvae***

224 In order to perform direct measurements of monoamines and their metabolites, we utilized a
225 highly sensitive HPLC-based approach that allowed us to perform investigations at the level of individual
226 fish embryos or larvae (or their separated heads) (Fig. 3A, S5A). The whole-body analysis showed that 2
227 dpf larvae injected with 5-HT at zygote stage demonstrate significant general elevation of 5-HT and its

228 major metabolite 5-HIAA (Fig. 3B, E, H-I). At the same time, the proportion of 5-HIAA and 5-HT did not
229 differ from control in the case of whole-body measurements. However, if heads were analyzed
230 separately from the body, we detected differences in the proportion of 5-HT and its metabolite: the
231 level of 5-HT did not differ significantly from control larval heads, while 5-HIAA levels turned out to be
232 1.5-fold lower than a norm. However, at 6 dpf the experimental fish heads showed similar 5-HT and 5-
233 HIAA levels as compared to controls (Fig. 3D, F). Incubation of 1-2 dpf larvae in 5-HTP significantly
234 increased the levels of 5-HT in the heads of 2 dpf larvae, while 5-HIAA was slightly (non-significant)
235 increased (Fig. 3C, F). These experimental fish maintained the differences in 5-HT (non-significant
236 elevation) and 5-HIAA (significant elevation) even at 6 dpf (Fig. 3D, F). Injections of reserpine into a
237 zygote caused a small but significant elevation of 5-HT in the head at 2dpf larvae. Incubation of 1-2 dpf
238 larvae in reserpine led to a cardinal reduction of all monoamines and also shifted
239 metabolite/monoamine ratio towards metabolites (Fig. 3C-D, G).

240 Since behavioral effects of 5-HT metabolism changes in brain are often promoted through the
241 coordinated reflection in other monoamine systems, catecholamines noradrenaline (NA), dopamine
242 (DA) and its metabolites DOPAC and HVA were also taken into analysis (Fig. S5B). DA and its main
243 metabolite DOPAC level was increased in the heads of 2 dpf fish subjected to the elevation of 5-HT both
244 at zygote and 1-2 dpf (through the application of 5-HTP) stages. By 6 dpf these differences disappeared.
245 NA was affected only by later but not early increase of 5-HT. It was higher than in control in 2 dpf and
246 lower in 6 dpf. DOPAC unlike HVA was touched in both variants of experiment with 5-HT increase.

247 Taken together, changes in monoamines and their metabolites differ in the head and whole
248 body of fish. Principal components analysis reveals that changes in measured substances level after the
249 injection of 5-HT into a zygote are different (and often opposite) from the changes in experimental fish
250 incubated with 5-HTP at neural 1-2 dpf stages. Accordingly, incubation in reserpine at 1-2 dpf caused
251 different effects on the concentration of serotonin and catecholamines as compared to the effects
252 resulting from the injection of reserpine into a zygote. Generally, the effects of 5-HT injected at a zygote
253 stage on later monoamine concentrations were almost undetectable at 6 dpf. On the other hand, the
254 effects of incubation in 5-HTP at 1-2 dpf remained pronounced at 6 dpf (Fig. 3J-N).

255 ***4. Larval behavior is affected by increase rather than decrease of 5-HT in the early pre-nervous*** 256 ***embryos***

257 Disturbances in the level of 5-HT or catecholamines have been shown to cause specific changes
258 in larval behavior of zebrafish [41]. In order to confirm our observation on early 5-HT action we
259 performed number of behavior tests on 1 dpf – 6 dpf old fish (see scheme at Fig. 4A).

260 We firstly found that elevation of 5-HT at early pre-nervous stages led to an increase in the
261 frequency of coiling (spontaneous trunk contractions) in 1 dpf embryos. Pharmacological compounds
262 enhancing synaptic 5-HT signaling (reserpine and SSRIs) also influenced this parameter (Fig. 4B). Startle
263 response to touch test at 4 dpf revealed no significant differences to control in fish that were injected
264 with 5-HT during a zygote stage. Similarly, we found no effects in either spontaneous swimming or
265 startle response to acoustic stimulation at 5-6 dpf (Fig. 4F-H, S6A-B).

266 In contrast, larvae incubated in 5-HTP at 1-2 dpf demonstrated higher activity in a touch
267 response test at 4 dpf (Fig. 4C) and reduced spontaneous activity at 6 dpf (Fig. 4E). At the same time, in
268 these fish we did not find any differences compared to the control in the frequency of coiling (1 dpf),
269 spontaneous swimming and acoustic startle response at 5 dpf (Fig. 4B, C-H). Thus, the effects of 5-HT
270 level increase through the application of 5-HTP between 1 and 2 dpf differ from the effects resulting
271 from 5-HT increase at pre-neural stages.

272 Decreasing 5-HT level at cleavage stages by reserpine injection into the zygote did not induce
273 significant effects in any tests we have assayed (Fig. 4C-H). In contrast, reserpine application at 1-2 dpf
274 significantly reduced all types of larval behavioral activities (Fig. 4C-H).

275 We next assessed the habituation to repetitive tactile (2-4 dpf) or acoustic (5-6 dpf) stimulation
276 by measuring the proportion of larvae responding to sequential stimulus application. Larvae injected
277 with 5-HT at a zygote stage demonstrated significant differences from control at 4-6 dpf in both
278 aforementioned tests (Fig. 4I-M). We observed significant differences in the speed of decline in
279 response to repetitive stimulations (Span and K – Fig. 4N, O, P), as well as in the minimal proportion of
280 responding fish (Plateau, Fig. 4N, Q). The differences in response to stimulation appeared to be larger at
281 6 dpf than at 2 dpf.

282 Serotonergic anterior raphe neurons in zebrafish are known to be implicated in the arousal and
283 behavioral reactions to dark-light cycling [42] we decided to expose larvae to dark-light pulse test. The
284 larvae were subjected to 10 min of complete darkness. Swimming activity was recorded continuously
285 starting 10 min before the dark pulse, and for 10 min after the end of the dark pulse (Fig. S6C). The
286 response to sudden dark onset is a complex behavioral reaction that involves multiple signaling systems,
287 which eventually result in an abrupt increase in activity (about 1s), followed by sustained hyperactivity
288 (Fig. S6C-D). Although the shape of the response appears similar (Fig. S6C, H, J), the larvae injected with
289 5-HT display a small but significant reduction in the initial response (Fig. S6I-J), hyperactivity decline in
290 the darkness (Fig. S6C, H) and increased activity after light is switched on again (Fig. S6C, E, J-K).

291 In summary, our results revealed that the effect of a zygotic injection of 5-HT at zygote stage
292 and incubation with fluoxetine at 4-5 dpf had similar effects. But expression level of the treatment's
293 behavioral effect in case of 5-HT administration to zygote was much milder than hyperserotonergic
294 phenotype resulted from SSRI treatment at 4-5 dpf. Incubation in fluoxetine at 4-5dpf significantly
295 enhanced the effects of zygotic 5-HT injection (Fig. 4I-L; Fig. S6G, H, G-H). However, some parameters
296 and reactions did not sum up (Fig. 4D, F-G; Fig. S6A-C, J). That indicates complexity of the effect and
297 some differences to classical serotonin syndrome caused by SSRIs.

298 ***5. Exogenous elevation but not reduction of 5-HT in cleaving embryos induces systemic changes in the*** 299 ***transcriptome of the developing zebrafish larva***

300 Transcriptomic analysis in response to 5-HT increase and decrease at zygote stage was
301 performed at 2 and 4 dpf in two replicates with control. The overall effect of 5-HT moderation on
302 transcriptome was relatively modest compared to the control experiment: 2.5% of all probesets
303 changed their expression more than two-fold in 2 dpf, and 1.3% of all probesets had more than two-fold
304 change at 4 dpf, and only 0.2% of all probesets changed their expression more than 4-fold at 2 or 4 dpf
305 compared to the control (Fig. 5B). Effect of 5-HT decrease by early reserpine injection was very
306 moderate unlike to increase (Fig. 5C).

307 In order to functionally characterize the effect of the serotonin and distinguish it from the
308 transcriptome changes caused by development course itself, we considered three log ratios for the
309 analysis: relative to control effect of 5-HT at 2 dpf (HT2), relative to control effect of 5-HT at 4 dpf (HT4),
310 relative difference of gene expression in control experiments between 4 and 2 dpf (DAY_CONTROL). We
311 observed striking negative dependence between normalized responses to serotonin in 4 and 2 dpf (Fig
312 5B). The difference in response to 5-HT elevation between 4 and 2 dpf was specific and not redundant
313 with changes between days in control experiments (Fig 5D). We have not observed this effect for
314 reserpine experiment, where the amplitude of the response was much smaller and did not show
315 significant correlation between 2 and 4 dpf (Fig 5C, E). See the data for all probesets and recognized
316 genes in the tab All probesets in Supplementary File 1.

317 Clustering analysis of 1000 most variable genes across all conditions revealed 4 major groups of
318 genes (Fig. 5F, G): positive or negative 5-HT effect and positive or negative day effect. Importantly, the
319 response to reserpine was substantially weaker and at the same time opposite to the response to 5-HT
320 for the majority of genes in these identified groups where the input into the dispersion of response to
321 the compound was higher as compared to the input into the dispersion of the day effect (Fig. 5F).

322 According to the results of clustering analysis and PCA, the embryos injected with reserpine took an
323 intermediate position between controls and embryos injected with 5-HT (Fig. 5H-I).

324 In order to validate microarray transcriptomics data on bulk RNA probes isolated from control
325 and 5-HT-injected embryos, we selected a number of genes with different 5-HT scores and all-effects
326 variance. qPCR assay confirmed that for the majority of these genes, the direction of their change and
327 the order of their response correspond to the microarray data (Fig. 5J-L).

328 After ranking the genes according to their relative expression between the two days (HT4-HT2),
329 we checked for the functional enrichment of zebrafish Gene Ontologies in the resulted ranking, using
330 Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA). In the negative part of the ranking, we observed significant
331 enrichment (corrected p -value <0.05) of several functional categories of genes related to the small
332 GTPases: such as GO:0005083, SMALL GTPASE REGULATOR ACTIVITY (with *wasb*, *cdc42bpb*, *mink1* in
333 the top ranked genes in the core enrichment), GO:0051056, REGULATION OF SMALL GTPASE MEDIATED
334 SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION (*sos2*, *rgl3a*, *tsc2*, *rgl2* genes) and GO:0005452, INORGANIC ANION EXCHANGER
335 ACTIVITY (with *slc4* gene family in the top contributing genes) (See Supplementary File 1). These
336 functional categories are upregulated compared to the control in day 2, and become relatively
337 downregulated in day 4. The positive part of the ranking shows the opposite trend (downregulation in 2
338 dpf and upregulation in 4 dpf). In this part, we observed enrichment in diverse functional categories)
339 such as GO:0006457, PROTEIN FOLDING (*cwc27*, *sec63*, *vbp1*, *ppiab*, *uri1*, *dnajb11*, *fkbp9* in the top
340 genes), GO:0016874, LIGASE ACTIVITY (*ube2g1b*, *adssl*, *traf6*, *ube2na*, *arih1l*, *arih1*, *ube2a*) and
341 GO:0006184, GTP CATABOLIC PROCESS (*rab2a*, *ralba*, *rhead*, *nras*). The detailed results of GSEA analysis
342 are provided in the tab GSEA in Supplementary File 1.

343 In addition, we used ZEOGS tool for GO term analysis with a focus on anatomical categorization
344 [43] which showed that for 2-4 dpf CNS was the most prominent GO term (tegmentum, CNS, cranial
345 ganglion, hidbrain, forebrain, spinal cord and other). Also, the effect of 5-HT was apparent among the
346 genes associated with peripheral sensory structures, cardiovascular and excretory systems. These
347 effects were the most stable among nervous and excretory systems (Fig. 6A-E). See the full list of
348 anatomical GO terms in the tab Anatomical GO Terms in Supplementary File 1.

349 Meta-analysis of GO term lists categorized according to the biological processes revealed
350 membrane transport and ion homeostasis as the most robust groups. GO terms focused on the cellular
351 structure showed the potential importance of a cell membrane as well as adhesive and cell-substrate
352 junctions (Fig. 6F-H).

353 Next, we analyzed the potential reactome. Using OFTEN analysis tool, we found that the genes
354 from the 5-HT score list formed a statistically significant network (Fig. 6I) with robust guanine-binding,
355 RHOC-related and b-catenin-related subnets (Fig. S7). Among main hubs of reactome network we found
356 such an important for the process of development genes as *cdc42*, *rac1*, *egr1* *mapk14* and *ctnnb1*.
357 Application of analysis based on REACTOME pathway database [44] (zebrafish subset) revealed the
358 highest score amongst the predicted networks connected with Rho, p38 and non-canonical Wnt
359 signaling (Fig. 6J).

360 Next, we applied network-based analysis of top HT4-HT2 genes using REACTOME pathway
361 database [44] (zebrafish subset). Using OFTEN analysis tool [45], we found that the first 300 genes from
362 the 5-HT score list formed a statistically significant connected network (Fig. 6I, J). The set of genes
363 connected in this network was enriched with Rho, p38 and non-canonical Wnt signaling pathways (Fig.
364 6J). Among main hubs of the network we found such an important for the process of development
365 genes as *cdc42*, *rac1*, *egr1*, *mapk14* and *ctnnb1*. Similar analysis using HPRD protein interaction network
366 [46] also highlighted guanine-binding, RHOC-related and b-catenin-related subnetworks (Fig. S7).

367 Discussion

368 The enigma of pre-neural serotonin and its role during early stages of embryonic development
369 in different invertebrate animals inspired us to investigate its role in early pre-neural vertebrate
370 development. Our previous work on the invertebrate model of *Lymnaea stagnalis* revealed that increase
371 of 5-HT exclusively during early pre-neural developmental stages affects later developmental aspects
372 and behavior of juvenile snails [38]. This study clearly suggested that mother-derived serotonin affects
373 the lifestyle of progeny in a delayed and non-genetic manner. To investigate whether this holds true for
374 vertebrates as well, we used zebrafish embryos and larvae to address the role of pre-neural serotonin.
375 We found that increase rather than decrease of 5-HT level in zygotes and early cleaving embryos results
376 in conceptually-similar delayed effects in juvenile and adult individuals.

377 We firstly analyzed the development of serotonergic system starting from a zygote stage.
378 Consistently with earlier studies, we detected the presence of serotonin [21,22] as well as some
379 receptors and AADC in cleaving embryos of teleost fish [23,47]. Our experiments demonstrated that pre-
380 neural zebrafish embryos synthesize and capture 5-HT from the environment, and that this 5-HT is
381 anisotropically distributed, being mostly present in a cleaving part of an embryo. Some earlier studies
382 suggested that differential distribution of 5-HT in cleaving blastomeres may play the role of an
383 instructive morphogenetic gradient [48]. However, unlike the situation in *Xenopus* [18], 5-HT did show
384 any signs of a gradient in blastomeres of zebrafish. Moreover, when we experimentally created such a
385 gradient, no major developmental processes were affected.

386 The presence of a multicomponent and complex serotonergic system at early pre-neural
387 developmental stages suggested the importance of serotonin for key developmental transitions in fish.
388 However, the pharmacological screen with a number of serotonergic system-related drugs did not
389 reveal any disturbances in cleavage, gastrulation and other developmental processes, even in those that
390 were previously reported to be affected in similar experimental settings in annelid worms [49], mollusks
391 [14,16,38], insects [13], sea urchins [15], ascidians [50], amphibians [51] and mammals [52,53].
392 Importantly, we did not detect any abnormalities in left-right asymmetry development, which has been
393 shown to be the case when serotonergic system was affected in amphibians and birds [17,18]. Overall,
394 the early development of teleost fish turned out to be surprisingly stable and quite insensitive to the
395 modulation of early serotonergic system. At the same time, multiple components of serotonergic
396 system are present at early developmental stages of a fish and are conservative, rendering this aspect as
397 highly similar to other vertebrate and invertebrate groups of animals. Thus, the pre-neural early
398 developmental serotonin might play some other subtle roles, for instance, controlling delayed or mild
399 effects operating in mid-, late- and post-embryonic development. To address such delayed effects of
400 serotonin, we performed experiments with modulations of pre-neural embryonic 5-HT followed by the
401 analysis of larval serotonergic system together with behavioral tests, morphology of larval body and
402 measurements of monoamines and their metabolites. As a result, we did not detect any significant
403 morphologic abnormalities in fish larvae that developed from the early-manipulated embryos.
404 Unexpectedly, juvenile fish with modulated early pre-neural serotonergic system demonstrated subtle
405 but significant changes in their behavior. These effects were restricted to the early pre-neural stage
406 treatments, since disturbances of serotonergic system at any later time point, including stages of neural
407 development, could not recapitulate the early stage-treatment effects. Thus, the early stage effects
408 cannot be based on retained and stored serotonin. In nature, such mechanisms may play a potent
409 adaptive role. For instance, the serotonin from the mother or from the immediate environment, where
410 embryos develop, may define the fine aspects of young fish lifestyle.

411 These results reveal different roles of pre-neural and neural serotonin and suggest a new
412 explanatory framework that clarifies some logical incongruence found in previously published data. For
413 instance, previous studies demonstrated that experimental reduction of 5-HT achieved by blocking the
414 TPH activity, or, alternatively, performing a gene knock out or inducing a pharmacological inhibition of
415 AADC at 1-4 dpf, suppress fish movements with minor further recovery [29,47]. On the other hand, the

416 elevation of 5-HT in fish results in some paradoxical effects. For instance, direct injection of 5-HT into
417 the pericardium of 4 dpf larva leads to the increased locomotor activity [54], whereas the increase of 5-
418 HT levels by inhibition of MAO from zygote to 5-7 dpf results in hypolocomotion of zebrafish larvae [55].
419 Furthermore, Sallinen et al. revealed that both general level of 5-HT and local content in specific tissues
420 in such fish are significantly augmented. This hyperserotonergic phenotype in larvae after MAO inhibition
421 included noticeable decrease of 5-HT immunoreactivity in the serotonergic cell soma in the brain [55]. In
422 our study, we found the similar reduction of anti-5-HT staining at 2 dpf achieved by the elevation of 5-
423 HT level starting earlier at zygote stage. Another type of hyperserotonergic phenotype characterized by
424 hypolocomotion is observed in case of blocking SERT, and the decrease in swimming activity appears in
425 case of incubation in SSRI only starting from 3 dpf. At the same time, drug administration between 10
426 and 72 hpf causes no alteration in locomotion [56]. Hence, all these contradictions can be explained by
427 our concept of different action and role played by early pre-neural versus late serotonin during fish
428 development. Indeed, the gene expression analysis showed that injection of 5-HT in zygote causes wide
429 changes that show a trend coherent with our findings showing diverging roles of serotonin at different
430 developmental stages. Numerous genes that should be switched on at 2dpf stayed downregulated and
431 instead were seen upregulated at 4 dpf, when they should be already downregulated as compared to
432 the stage-matched controls. Therefore, increased zygotic serotonin delays the expression of many
433 genes, and at the same time it also causes the premature expression of some rather late genes. In the
434 latter case, the number of such early upregulated genes is much lower as compared to the number of
435 genes that are delayed in their expression level.

436 Complementary to our reasoning in the previous paragraph, it is worth mentioning that the
437 catecholaminergic system is connected with the serotonergic system in the brain. In agreement with
438 this, both pre-neural and early neural increase of 5-HT in our experiments resulted in upregulated
439 catecholamine's metabolism. The experiments involving MAO inhibition did not affect the content of
440 catecholamines themselves, but led to the decrease of MAO-related dopamine metabolite DOPAC [55].
441 Comparisons with data from the literature revealed that MAO blocking described by Sallinen et al. and
442 application of 5-HT or 5-HTP in our experiments caused similar order of changes in 5-HT concentrations.
443 Despite this, the effects on larval behavior were much less pronounced in case of 5-HT or 5-HTP
444 administration. Thus, hyperserotonergic phenotype can develop also via influencing catecholaminergic
445 system in addition to serotonergic system-mediated effects.

446 In our experiments, in addition to particular changes in larval behavior in response to the early
447 serotonin manipulation, we observed that serotonergic neurons in 2 dpf embryos showed significantly
448 less serotonin after 5-HT application to zygote or early cleavage stages (but not to the later stages of
449 development). Serotonergic neurons in the dorsal root nuclei mediate short-term motor learning in
450 zebrafish larva [57]. These neurons activation decreases acoustic startle response habituation while 5-
451 HT depletion leads to its enhancing [58]. Similarly to Sallinen with co-authors [55], we could clearly see
452 the reduction of 5-HT in all types of serotonergic cells as a part of hyperserotonergic phenotype. This
453 invariably implies that 5-HT synthesis is affected in all cells where it depends on different isoforms of
454 TPH. At the same time, the transcriptomics profiling did not reveal significant shifts in the expression of
455 enzymes and transporters related to 5-HT metabolism and turnover, which suggests an alternative
456 molecular mechanism.

457 One of the possible explanations might include different mechanisms of a post-translational
458 control of TPH activity. In *Sert^{-/-}* mice, the *in vivo* level of 5-HT synthesis is upregulated without changes
459 in expression and *in vitro* activity of both TPH isoforms [59]. The mechanisms of such control can include
460 phosphorylation of TPH, synthesis and regeneration of tetrahydrobiopterin coenzyme, changes in iron
461 metabolism or inactivation of TPH by reactive oxygen species [60]. Unexpectedly, 5-HT and its
462 metabolite 5-HIAA showed different levels in the head and the rest of the body of advanced larvae after
463 5-HT administration into a zygote. Therefore, we observed a conceptual difference between metabolism

464 of 5-HT in a head and in the rest of the body in response to the early pre-neural increase of 5-HT
465 concentration. The subtle difference between the results of anti-5-HT IHC staining and direct
466 measurements based on HPLC might be explained by masking of intracellular decrease of 5-HT with
467 increased level of 5-HT in blood and intercellular spaces. Additionally, in the brain, local 5-HT synthesis
468 and degradation might be regulated by inhibitory neuronal feedback loops [61]. Our results suggest that
469 such regulation may exist not only within neurons but also in other cell types at different time points
470 during development.

471 The delayed nature of effects of pre-neural serotonin is not based on the retained serotonin
472 since we tested for this by performing later treatments. On the other hand, the observed phenomenon
473 requires an explanation at the molecular level. In principle, the delayed effects can be transmitted
474 through the intermediate developmental stages via the states of secondary messenger systems,
475 retained expression of transcription factors, changes in epigenetic landscapes or post-translational
476 modifications of proteins including their serotonylation (post-translational control of a protein function,
477 which is based on the covalent binding of serotonin to the residues of glutamines). Serotonylation
478 directly depends on the intracellular concentration of serotonin, and, thus, can be a convenient mean of
479 delaying and relaying a signal in our settings. The potential role of serotonylation in 5-HT-related aspects
480 of vertebrates development can be similar to its signal-relaying function revealed in our previous study
481 on *Lymnaea stagnalis* [38]. However, our experiments did not support its direct involvement into the
482 early 5-HT-related regulations in zebrafish. The reason of this may be in fact that during zebrafish
483 development unlike in *Lymnaea stagnalis* or mammals, the oocyte size is large while the volume of the
484 body does not increase much between a zygote and a first feeding stage. This means that 5-HT
485 deposited into an egg by the mother or 5-HT captured from the environment would be retained, unless
486 new synthesis or intense catabolism is involved. This might enable a fine 5-HT-dependent control at any
487 pre-neural or neural developmental step, including delayed effects in the presence of a strong
488 catabolism or later body growth dissolving the original concentration. Once deposited by a mother, the
489 early pre-neural serotonin can cause the delayed effects such as affecting the formation of different
490 populations of differentiating neurons, which, in turn, might “imprint” specific behavioral features
491 retained for the rest of the animal’s life (Fig. 6L). In line with this, our results demonstrate that the 5-HT
492 content in a zygote and synthesis of 5-HT in the early embryonic neurons are interlinked by a negative
493 feedback loop. This is fully consistent with the fact that early pre-neural elevation of 5-HT causes an
494 increase of a short-term behavioral habituation.

495 Thus, natural variation of 5-HT level in a zygote may represent one of the sources for the inter-
496 individual behavioral plasticity. In our previous work on *L. stagnalis*, we found that 5-HT is released from
497 the embryo to the environment [38]. Capacity of pre-neural zebrafish embryos to uptake 5-HT from the
498 media suggests that 5-HT may additionally serve as a quorum sensing molecule mediating
499 communication between developing embryos as well as for sensing the environment in general, which
500 might be necessary for the formation of the adaptive behavioral diversity in juveniles and adult fish (Fig.
501 6L).

502

503

504 **Materials and Methods**

505 **Animal maintenance and general manipulation procedures**

506 For experiments we used AB line fish kept in Karolinska Institutet zebrafish core facility. All
507 works were performed according to Swedish laws and regulations on animal experimentation. Fish eggs
508 were obtained by natural fertilization process with the standard procedures described before [62,63].

509 **Pharmacological treatments**

510 Injections of embryos were performed using Eppendorf FemtoJet microinjector. We co-injected
511 substances with lysine-fixable TRITC-conjugated fluorescent dextran (Molecular Probes, USA). To avoid
512 impact of differences in permeability, we dechorionated zebrafish eggs at zygote stage using proteinase
513 K protocol [62] for the most of the pharmacological treatments.
514 The following drugs were used for pharmacological treatment (produced by Tocris, unless otherwise
515 specified): serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine hydrochloride, 5-HT, Sigma-Aldrich); L-tryptophan
516 (tryptophan, Trp, Sigma-Aldrich); 5-hydroxy-L-tryptophan (5-HTP, Sigma-Aldrich); 3-
517 hydroxybenzilhydrazine (NSD-1015, Sigma-Aldrich); m-CPP hydrochloride (mCPP); 4-iodo-2,5-
518 dimethoxy- α -methylbenzene ethanamine hydrochloride (DOI); mianserin hydrochloride (mianserin);
519 spiperone hydrochloride (spiperone); ritanserin tartrate (ritanserin); methysergide maleate
520 (methysergid); cyproheptadine hydrochloride (cyproheptadine); trazodone hydrochloride (trazodone,
521 Sigma-Aldrich); ketanserin tartrate (ketanserin), citalopram hydrobromide (citalopram), clomipramine
522 hydrochloride (clomipramine), fluoxetine hydrochloride (fluoxetine), fluvoxamine hydrochloride
523 (fluvoxamine), imipramine hydrochloride (imipramine), cystamine dihydrochloride (cystamine, Sigma-
524 Aldrich), monodansylcadaverin (MDC, Sigma-Aldrich), 5-carboxamidotryptamine (5-CT), 5-methoxy-N,N-
525 dimethyltryptamine (5-MeO-DMT), 7-(Dipropylamino)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-ol (8-OH-DPAT),
526 α -Methylserotonin (α MS), (6aR,9R)-5-bromo-N,Ndiethyl-7-methyl-4,6,6a,7,8,9-hexahydroindolo[4,3-
527 fg]quinoline-9-carboxamide (Br-LSD, kindly gift of Dr. Laszlo Hiripi), tropanyl-3,5-dimethylbenzoate
528 (tropanyl), (S)-WAY 100135 dihydrochloride (WAY-100.135), SB 269970 hydrochloride (SB269970), GR-
529 113808, zacopride hydrochloride (zacopride), NAN-190 hydrobromide (NAN-190) all mineral salts were
530 obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. 5-HT, 5-HTP and tryptophan solutions of specified concentrations were
531 freshly prepared in embryo medium. All other solutions were prepared as 10 mM stocks in DMSO, d.i.
532 water of 95% ethanol and stored at -20°C prior to application to the embryo medium.

533 Immunohistochemistry, image acquisition and analysis

534 For IHC staining dechorionated embryos and larvae were fixed overnight in 4% PFA on 1x PBS.
535 Embryos and larvae up to 2 dpf were permeabilized with 5% triton X-100 solution in PBS (overnight,
536 4°C). 4 dpf fish were additionally treated with proteinase K [62]. Samples were incubated in polyclonal
537 rabbit anti-5-HT antibody (ImmunoStar, Hudson, USA, #20080, polyclonal, rabbit, dilution 1:2000) during
538 48-72 hours at 10°C . Primary antibodies were detected with donkey-anti-rabbit Alexa 488 and Alexa 633
539 -conjugated IgG (Molecular Probes, USA, diluted 1:800 in PBS), 8 h at 4°C . Cell nuclei were stained with
540 DAPI or Hoechst 33342. After 3x10 min washing in PBS, the specimens were immersed in 2,2'-
541 thiodiethanol (TDE) and placed to the glass bottom dishes for microscopic analysis and image
542 acquisition.

543 For 5-HT level estimation, we obtained confocal images of immunostained early embryos. Scans
544 were performed with fully open pinhole. Measurements and analysis were performed with FIJI
545 software. Entire embryos or relevant parts were manually delineated, and average pixel intensity was
546 obtained inside of the border in arbitrary fluorescence units (a. u.). Measurements of 5-HT level in the
547 brain cells were done in volume basing on the full 3D scans of fish head. We manually traced each slice
548 for the segmentation of cell volumes using Imaris software (Bitplane), then estimated mean brightness
549 within volumes delimited by the 3D surfaces.

550 Measurements of monoamines and their metabolites

551 Whole fish or freshly dissected heads were homogenized at 0°C with 100 μl of 0.2 M perchloric
552 acid containing 100 μM EDTA-2Na. Following standing for 30 min on ice, the homogenates are
553 centrifuged for 5 min at 12,000 x g at 4°C . The supernatants are carefully aspirated and mixed with 1M
554 sodium acetate buffer at a ratio 5:1 (v/v). Resulting solution was filtered through a centrifuge filter (30K
555 PES membrane, VWR) for 7 min at 12,000 x g at 4°C . The filtrates were analyzed immediately.

556 Measurements of monoamines concentrations were performed using high pressure liquid
557 chromatography (HPLC) with electrochemical detection as described elsewhere [64]. Briefly, the HPLC
558 system consisted of a HTEC500 unit (Eicom, Kyoto, Japan), and a CMA/200 Refrigerated Microsampler
559 (CMA Microdialysis, Stockholm, Sweden) equipped with a 20 μ L loop and operating at +4°C. The
560 potential of the glassy carbon working electrode was +450 mV versus the Ag/AgCl reference electrode.
561 The separation was achieved on a 200 x 2.0 mm Eicompak CAX column (Eicom). The mobile phase was a
562 mixture of methanol and 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 6.0) (30:70, v/v) containing 20 mM potassium
563 chloride and 0.13 mM EDTA-2Na. The chromatograms were recorded and integrated by use of a
564 computerized data acquisition system Clarity (DataApex, Prague, Czech Republic). The detection limit
565 (signal-to-noise ratio = 3) for NA, DA and 5-HT was 0.5 fmol in 10 μ l injected onto the column
566 respectively.

567 Concentrations of DOPAC, HVA and 5-HIAA were determined by a separate HPLC system with
568 electrochemical detection (HTEC500). The potential of the glassy carbon working electrode was +750
569 mV versus the Ag/AgCl reference electrode. The separation was achieved on a 150 x 3.0 mm Eicompak
570 SC-5ODS column (Eicom). The mobile phase was a mixture of methanol and 0.1 M citrate/0.1 M sodium
571 acetate buffer solution (pH 3.5) (16:84, v/v) and contained 0.971 mM octanesulphonic acid sodium salt
572 and 0.013 mM EDTA-2Na. The detection limit (signal-to-noise ratio = 3) for DOPAC, HVA and 5-HIAA was
573 20 fmol in 10 μ l injected onto the column respectively. The chromatograms were recorded and
574 integrated by use of the computerized data acquisition system Clarity (DataApex).

575 In order to determine number of larvae per sample essential for measurements, we built
576 normalization dependences of concentration to fish number which showed linear character and thus
577 concentrations were expressed in quantity of substance per fish or fish's head.

578 **Behavioral tests**

579 For the analysis of spontaneous coiling activity in 1 dpf larvae we recorded 5 min footages, then
580 manually counted the number of contraction. The response to touch was analyzed in 2-4 dpf larvae.
581 Each larva was repeatedly stimulated by gently touching it with a needle in the trunk region. A
582 significant response was recorded when the stimulation was followed by a displacement of at least 1
583 body length. Each fish was stimulated ~50 times (~1 touch per second). All experiments were
584 videorecorded and analyzed manually.

585 Behavioral assays on 5 and 6 dpf fish were performed using integrated high throughput systems
586 for videotracking and environmental control (DanioVision, Noldus, Wageningen, Netherlands) as
587 previously described [63]. The larvae were plated individually in 48-well plates (round wells, 10 mm in
588 diameter) at least 1h before testing. All experiments were performed during the light phase of the
589 diurnal cycle (light/dark 14h/10h). Spontaneous swimming was recorded under white light illumination
590 for 5 min before the dark pulse. A sound stimulus was applied by means of a solenoid plunger hitting the
591 base of the recording chamber. Both white light illumination and acoustic stimulation were controlled
592 by the videotracking software and synchronized with the video recording. Swimming activity was
593 recorded under constant infrared illumination at 50 fps and tracked in live mode. The XY coordinates
594 were exported as ASCII files and analyzed using custom-made routines implemented in Matlab™ (The
595 Mathworks, Natick, MD, USA).

596 The acoustic startle response was first evaluated by averaging the response to 10 consecutive
597 stimulations applied with 1 min intervals to avoid habituation. The habituation to acoustic stimulation
598 was assessed by decreasing the interval between stimuli to 10 s.

599 The dark pulse experiment consisted of a 10-min long interval when the light was turned off
600 during the light phase of the dark/light cycle. Swimming activity was tracked for 10 min before, during
601 the dark episode, and for 10 min after the turning the light back on. We analyzed the dark pulse-induced

602 hyperactivity, the gradual decline in activity level during the dark pulse and the response to turning the
603 light back.

604 **PCR and qPCR**

605 40-60 fish embryos or larvae were placed into trizol reagent and total RNA was extracted using
606 the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen). 1 µg of total RNA was treated with RQ1 Rnase-free DNase (Promega) and
607 reverse transcribed using SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen) and random primers (RT+
608 reaction). Parallel reactions without reverse transcriptase enzyme were performed as a control (RT-
609 reaction), and SYBR Green I real-time quantitative PCR assays were carried out, as described in [65].
610 Expression levels were obtained by normalization to the value of housekeeping genes, obtained for
611 every sample in parallel assays. For the information about the primers used to obtain the results
612 presented on Fig.1I and 5L-M, see the Supplementary Tables 2 and 3 respectively.

613 **Microarray assay**

614 Total RNA was extracted from 30-40 2 and 4 dpf zebrafish larvae from each experimental group.
615 Total RNA from each sample was used for the synthesis of cDNA, which was hybridized to 902007
616 Affymetrix® Zebrafish Gene 1.0 ST Array with Ambion WT terminal labeling and hybridization protocol.
617 In the annotation provided by Affymetrix for Zebrafish Gene 1.0 ST Array chip, 24497 probesets from
618 73244 were annotated by gene names. We re-mapped the sequences of the probesets to Zv9/danRer7
619 reference genome of zebrafish and used the RefSeq mRNA annotation track from UCSC genome browser
620 annotation database to assign names for 30784 probesets in total, which were used in further analysis.

621 Two replicates showed good correlation between both controls and 5-HT-induced conditions
622 (Pearson correlation coefficient calculated for all probesets, $r=0.98$, $p\text{-value}<10^{-16}$). Therefore, in the
623 calculations we always used average values between two replicates.

624 Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) was performed using the standard GSEA software, pre-
625 ranked analysis [66] was done with Gene Ontologies for zebrafish. The gene ranks were formed by
626 selecting the probesets showing the maximal by absolute value difference between two compared
627 conditions. All probesets annotated by gene names have been considered in this analysis, which
628 resulted in the values associated to 20691 distinct gene names.

629 The transcriptomic data discussed in this publication have been deposited in NCBI's Gene
630 Expression Omnibus and are accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE122201.

631 **Statistical analysis**

632 For the statistical analysis we used Statistica 10 (StatSoft), XLstat (Addinsoft) or Prism 7
633 (GraphPad) software packages. All data are presented as average \pm s.e.m. or 95% confidence interval
634 (see Figure legends). Unpaired Student's t-test was used when two groups were compared after the
635 normal distribution test was passed otherwise ANOVA test was applied. A non-linear regression with
636 one phase exponential decay equation and further comparison of the equation parameters with an
637 extra sum-of-square F-test was used to estimate differences in the habituation to startle response. More
638 detailed information on the statistical analysis is given in the Figure legends. Differences were taken as
639 statistically significant in case of $p<0.05$.

640 Figure legends

641 Fig. 1. Distribution, synthesis and transport of 5-HT in zebrafish embryo during early developmental 642 stages.

643 (A-H) – Distribution of 5-HT in zebrafish early embryos. (A) – 2-cell stage; (B) – 32-cell stage; (C-E) – 128-
644 cell stage; (F) – blastula; (G-H) – 50%-epiboly. (A-C, F and H) – General view. (D-E, G) – Optical sections.
645 Note the absence of a 5-HT concentration gradient within the cleaving part of the embryo.

646 (I) – Expression of 5-HT membrane transporters (*serta*, *sertb*), vesicular monoamine transporter (*vmat*),
647 tryptophan hydroxylases (*tph1a*, *tph1b*, *tph2*) and monoamine oxidase (*maoa*) and ribosomal protein
648 *rpl5b* as an internal control in embryos and 4dpf larva.

649 (J) – Zebrafish embryo (blastula) is capable to uptake 5-HT from the media (for other stages see Fig. S1).
650 Sagittal optic sections and a full stack (30 min) of control and experimental embryos from three
651 consecutive time points after 5-HT application. Fluoxetine (Flx) selectively inhibits the 5-HT reuptake.
652 Note the variation in 5-HT uptake capability among cells both in periderm and in deeper layers.

653 (K) – Reserpine, a specific blocker of monoamines vesicular transporter, causes a decrease of 5-HT level.
654 High magnification images, single optical sections of 128-cell embryo.

655 (L-O) – Quantification of a 5-HT level in the cleaving part of the embryo after specific pharmacological
656 manipulations. Relative brightness of a 5-HT immunostaining is plotted on the corresponding graphs. 1st
657 and 2nd steps of 5-HT synthesis (tryptophan hydroxylase (L) and aromatic decarboxylase (M),
658 respectively) as well 5-HT uptake (N) and release (O) are tested. Note that inhibition of neither 1st nor
659 2nd stage of 5-HT synthesis results in significant 5-HT decrease. But the same substances reduce the
660 synthesis of 5-HT from supplemented precursors. SSRIs (fluoxetine and citalopram) demonstrate the
661 same effect on 5-HT level within the analyzed cells. While blocker of vesicular monoamine transport
662 reserpine reduces a 5-HT level. Data represented as mean \pm s.e.m.; T-test; n=20-60 embryos; ns – non-
663 significant; ** – $p < 0.01$; *** – $p < 0.001$.

664 (P-W) – Analysis of 5-HT distribution after co-injection with TRITC-dextran marker. (P-R) – Experimental
665 strategy outlines. (S1, T1, U1, V1 and W1-W2) – maximum intensity projection view; (V2) – optical
666 section. (S2, T2, U2, V3, W3) – Linear brightness plots for the green and red channels generated from a
667 single optical section. Note that 5-HT localization and amounts do not differ from the uniform
668 distribution of 5-HT in a later embryo after the injection in a zygote or in a 64-cell embryo. At the same
669 time, the injection into blastula leads to the preferential accumulation of 5-HT in the periblast with
670 some gradient forming in the adjacent cells.

671 Scale bars: (A-C, G-H, J, S1, T1, U1, V1, W1) – 100 μ m; (D, K) – 15 μ m; (E) – 5 μ m; (V2) – 30 μ m; (W3) – 50
672 μ m.

673

674 Fig. 2. Modulation of pre-neural 5-HT causes delayed effects in 5-HT distribution in zebrafish larvae.

675 (A-C) – 5-HT-positive cells in 1 dpf zebrafish larva injected with 5-HT or reserpine in combination with
676 TRITC-dextran at zygote stage. (A1-A4) – TRITC-dextran- and DMSO-injected control; (B1-B4) – injection
677 with reserpine; (C1-C4) – injection with 5-HT. Note that in case of 5-HT administration, the levels of the
678 background staining in tissues are increased, while characteristic 5-HT-containing cells are not
679 contrasted at all.

680 (D-G) – 5-HT-expressing cells in the head region of the fish injected with 5-HT and TRITC-dextran into
681 yolk at a blastula stage. (D-E) – 1 dpf, (F-G) – 2 dpf. (D1-D2, F) – TRITC-dextran and DMSO-injected
682 control; (E1-E2, G) – 5-HT-injected fish.

683 (H-L) – 5-HT-expressing cells in the head of 2 dpf zebrafish larvae. (H1-H2) Vehicle; (I1-I2) fish injected
684 with 5-HT and (J1-J2) reserpine at a zygote stage; (K1-K2) fish incubated in 1 mM 5-HTP and (L1-L2) 10
685 μ M reserpine for 24 hours between 1 dpf and 2 dpf.

686 (M-N) – 5-HT-positive neurons in the brain of 4 dpf larvae. Vehicle (M) and fish injected with 5-HT at a
687 zygote stage.

688 (O-T) – Relative brightness of the anti-5-HT staining in cells of 2 dpf larvae. (O, P) – head of the fish (O)
689 with 3D rendering (P) used to generate measurements of brightness in the volume of serotonergic cells
690 plotted on the graphs in panels (R-T). (HY) - Cells belonging to hypothalamus together with superior
691 raphe; (AP) arrowhead population and (PG) pineal gland. (R-T) – brightness of 5-HT staining
692 measurements. Data represented as mean \pm s.e.m.; T-test; n=7-10 larvae.

693 Scale bars: (A-C, D1, E1, F-G, H1, I1, J1, K1, L1, O-P) – 100 μ m; (D2, E2) – 30 μ m; (H2, I2, J2, K2, L2) – 50
694 μ m.

695

696 **Fig. 3. HPLC measurements of monoamines and their metabolites in fish after the modulation of 5-HT**
697 **levels at pre-neural (zygote) and early neural (1-2 dpf) developmental stages.**

698 (A) – Scheme of the experiment.

699 (B-D) – 5-HT and its main metabolite 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA) content in the whole 2 dpf
700 zebrafish larvae (B) and in the separated heads of 2 dpf (C) and 6 dpf (D) fish. 5-HIAA/5-HT – metabolite
701 to monoamine ratio. Measurements are plotted for the control (vehicle), the fish injected with 5-HT or
702 reserpine at a zygote stage and for the larvae incubated in 1 mM 5-HTP or 10 μ M reserpine for 24 hours
703 between 1 and 2 dpf (see the color code in the figure). In (B-C) the measurements were done for 5
704 whole fish or severed heads per sample (B, C) and for the one fish in (D). Data for the other measured
705 substances can be found in Fig. S5. Data represented as mean \pm s.e.m., T-test.

706 (E-G) – Summarized results of measurements of relative quantities of all analyzed substances shown as
707 folds to control. Groups of experiments were the same as outlined in (B-D).

708 (H-N) – PCA (principal component analysis) plots of monoamines and their metabolites content as
709 variables identified in the experimental groups listed above.

710 (H-I) – Comparing the monoamine levels in 2 dpf whole fish and separated heads in control and after 5-
711 HT administration in a zygote. (H) – Group barycenters shown on the plane of the first two principal
712 components together with 95% confidence ellipses. (I) – Visualizing variable contributions to the first
713 two principal components of (H).

714 (J-N) – Comparisons of the monoamine levels in 2 dpf and 5 dpf fish heads analyzed at different
715 experimental steps. (J) – All group barycenters shown on the plane of the first two principal
716 components. Confidence ellipses are plotted for the experimental groups at 2 dpf (K) and 6 dpf (L)
717 derived from the same PCA plot. (M) – Visualizing variable contributions to the first two principal
718 components of (J). (N) – Barycenter displacement for the 2 dpf and the 6 dpf groups shown on the plane
719 of the first two principal components.

720

721 **Fig. 4. Selective modulation of a 5-HT level in a cleaving pre-neural embryo alters larval behavior.**

722 (A) – Outline of treatments and behavioral assays.

723 (B) – The frequency of spontaneous coiling of a trunk in 1 dpf larvae after the 5-HT injections into a
724 zygote and also after the incubation of embryos in different substances starting from a zygote till late
725 blastula stage.

726 (C) – Startle response to tactile stimulation, 4 dpf.

727 (D, E) – Spontaneous swimming activity of 5 dpf and 6 dpf larvae. (D) – Larvae administered with 5-HT at
728 a zygote stage without or with the following incubation in fluoxetine for 24 hours between 4 dpf and 5
729 dpf. (E) – Fish injected with 5-HT or reserpine at a zygote stage and either incubated in 1 mM 5-HTP or in
730 10 μ M reserpine for 24 hours between 1 and 2 dpf.

731 (F-H) – Startle response test (sound stimulation). (F) - Illustration of a startle response. (G) – The same
732 design as shown in panel (D). (H) – The same design as shown in (E).

733 (I-R) – Short term habituation to a touch response (I and J) and to a startle response (K and L). Results
734 are presented as a proportion of the responding fish to the total number for each stimulus. (I and J)
735 Graphs showing the data for the control (vehicle) condition and for the fish injected with 5-HT into a
736 zygote. Plots in panels (K and L) represent the same treatments as described in a panel (D). Graphs show
737 a non-linear regression with one phase exponential decay equation and p-values for the comparison of
738 the regression equation parameters with an extra sum-of-square F-test. (M) – Summary plot for the
739 regression graphs of the experimental points from panels (I-L). (N) – Explanatory graph for the equation
740 parameters. X-axis is a time; Y-axis is a response. Y starts as equal to (Span + Plateau) and decreases to
741 Plateau with a rate constant K. (O-R) – Comparison of fit's equation parameters for the experimental
742 points given on the plots (I-L). Span and Plateau are expressed in the same units as the Y-axis. K is
743 expressed in the inverse manner of the units used for the X-axis (stimulus number).

744 Data represented as mean \pm s.e.m. (B-H), or mean \pm 95% confidence interval (O-Q) ; (B, C, E, G, H) - T-
745 test; (D) – one-way ANOVA and T-test; (I-L) – extra sum-of-squares F test for the equality of regression
746 fit curves; (D-H) - n=150-200 larvae; ns – non-significant; * – p<0.05; ** – p<0.01; *** – p<0.001.

747

748 **Fig. 5. Increase of pre-neural 5-HT induces systemic and long-lasting changes in the transcriptome of**
749 **the developing fish.**

750 (A) – Scheme of the experiment.

751 (B, C) – Dependence of normalized response in 2 dpf and 4 dpf fish to 5-HT (B) and reserpine (C)
752 injections at the zygote stage. For 5-HT Pearson correlation coefficient $r = -0.41$, p-value $< 10^{-16}$. Red
753 circles (for 5-HT n=611; 0.4% of the total number of probe sets) represent the probe sets with the \log_2
754 ratio between days 4 and 2 more than 2.0, and green circles (for 5-HT n=305; 0.2%) are the probe sets
755 with the \log_2 ratio between days 4 and 2 less than -2.0.

756 (D, E) – Day-effect on the response to 5-HT (D) and reserpine (E) as a function of the day-effect in the
757 control experiments.

758 (F) – Results of hierarchical clustering using 1000 most variable probesets across all conditions. (G) –
759 Correlation matrix for the same probesets. For (G and H) the data were normalized by applying double
760 centering to the initial logged expression matrix.

761 (H) – PCA plot (horizontal plane) and clustering the experimental conditions (Z axis), based on 1000 most
762 variable probesets; biological replicas are averaged. (I) – same PCA as on (H), shifts between day points
763 are shown.

764 (L, M) – Measured expression changes for the selected genes in 2 dpf (L) and 4 dpf (M) fish injected with
765 5-HT. The fold changes measured by microarray (dark grey) are validated by qPCR measurements (light
766 grey).

767 (N) – Scores of the 5-HT effect and variance among all experimental groups for genes chosen for qPCR
768 validation.

769

770 **Fig. 6. Analysis of systemic changes in the transcriptomes of zebrafish larvae in response to the early**
771 **pre-neural 5-HT modulation.**

772 (A-E) – Gene ontology term enrichment analysis using ZEOGS tool for identifying organs characterized by
773 specific expression of genes with the highest 5-HT-effect scores in 2 dpf (A) and 4 dpf (B) larvae. (C-E)
774 highlights the locations corresponding to the most statistically significant anatomical terms for the genes
775 in 2 dpf fish (C), 4 dpf fish brain (D) and whole 4 dpf fish (E).

776 (F-H) – REVIGO visualization of gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) results using gene ranking
777 accordingly to the 5-HT-effect score. GO terms are grouped by biological process (F), cellular structure
778 (G) and molecular function (H) of related gene sets. See Supplementary Dataset 1 for the complete lists.

779 (J-K) – Network analysis of the genes with the highest level of 5-HT-effect scores, using network of high-
780 confidence (not only computationally predicted) functional interactions from REACTOME pathway
781 database (Zebrafish subset). (J) - top 5-HT-reacting genes are functionally related (interact with each
782 other), more frequently than expected by random choice of genes with the same connectivity
783 distribution; the significance is estimated using OFTEN score, with a peak at 300 top ranked genes. (K) –
784 the functional interaction network between top ranked 5-HT-reacting genes, constructed from
785 REACTOME; three over-represented pathways are highlighted by node edge color.

786 (L) – Proposed model for the early 5-HT role in zebrafish.

787

788

789 **Fig. S1. Expression of 5-HT-related, melatonin-related and kynurenine-related genes during early**
790 **development of zebrafish and human.**

791 Hierarchical clustering of developmental transcriptomics data for zebrafish (A) and human (B). Data
792 were obtained from public sources (see the text).

793

794 **Fig. S2. Synthesis and transport of 5-HT in an early zebrafish embryo.**

795 (A-B) – 5-HT-levels measured as a relative brightness of a 5-HT immunostaining in the cleaving part (A)
796 and the yolk cell (B) of an embryo after incubations in tryptophan, 5-HTP and 5-HT at different stages of
797 zebrafish early development.

798 (C-F) – 5-HT-immunostaining of embryos after incubations in tryptophan, 5-HTP and 5-HT. Incubation
799 intervals are the same as shown in (A-B).

800 (G-H) – 5-HT-levels (relative brightness of a 5-HT immunostaining) in the cleaving part of an embryo. (G)
801 - 5-HT was applied in different concentrations for 1 hour at a 2-cell stage. (H) – change of 5-HT-level
802 through the time after the application of 5-HT at 2-cell stage with or without SSRI citalopram.

803 (I) – Change of 5-HT-level (measured as a relative brightness of a 5-HT immunostaining) over time in the
804 whole embryo volume after the injection into a zygote, folds change to control. The sample size for each
805 point is given in parentheses.

806 All data represented as mean \pm s.e.m.; T-test; ns – non-significant; ** – $p < 0.01$; *** – $p < 0.001$.

807 Scale bars: (C-F) – 100 μ m.

808

809 **Fig. S3. Rostrocaudal length in zebrafish embryos after the exposure to 5-HT and 5-HT-related**
810 **substances during early pre-neural developmental stages.**

811 (A) – Examples of representative 2 dpf fish larvae after early pre-neural application of 5-HT, its
812 precursors and blockers of synthesis.

813 (B) – Scheme of measurements.

814 (C-E) – Comparison of rostrocaudal fish length (C, E) and head/body proportions (D, F) in 2 dpf (C, D)
815 and 4 dpf (E, F) larvae. Data represented as mean \pm s.e.m.; $n = 20-110$; T-test; * – $p < 0.05$; ** – $p < 0.01$;
816 *** – $p < 0.001$.

817

818 **Fig. S4. Left-right polarity is not affected after the exposure of cleaving zebrafish embryos to the**
819 **selective 5-HT₄ receptor antagonist GR-113808 and inhibitors of a 5-HT synthesis and transport.**

820 (A) – Left-right polarity abnormalities of the heart. Atrioventricular heart asymmetry orientation in 2-3
821 dpf larvae was analyzed.

822 (B) – Ratio of heart asymmetry abnormalities in embryos exposed to different substances starting from a
823 zygote until the late blastula stage.

824

825 **Fig. S5. HPLC-measurements of monoamines and their metabolites in fish after modulations of 5-HT**
826 **levels at pre-neural (zygote) and early neural (1-2 dpf) developmental stages.**

827 (A) – Calibration curves for the measured substances (experiment performed with different numbers of
828 2-dpf larvae per measured sample).

829 (B) – Levels of dopamine (DA), noradrenaline (NA), dopamine metabolites 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic
830 acid (DOPAC) and homovanillic acid (HVA) in the whole 2 dpf zebrafish larvae and in the severed heads
831 of 2 dpf and 6 dpf fish. Experimental groups and conditions are the same as shown in the Fig. 3(A-D).

832

833 **Fig. S6. Analysis of 5 dpf larvae behavior after the early 5-HT increase and 4-5 dpf exposure to**
834 **fluoxetine.**

835 (A-C) – Spontaneous swimming activity. (A) – Speed, (B) – bouts frequency, (C) – displacement per bout.

836 (D-H) – Results of the dark pulse test for 5 dpf fish. The larvae were subjected to a 10-min interval of
837 complete darkness. Swimming activity was recorded continuously starting 10 min before the dark pulse,
838 in darkness and for 10 min after the end of the dark pulse. Experimental groups were the same as
839 described in Fig 4D.

840 (I-L) – Hyperactivity in response to sudden change in light intensity. (I, J) – Turning the light off triggers a
841 stress response and is followed by sustained increase in activity. 5-HT injection at zygote stage, or Flx

842 incubation for 24h prior to testing decrease the amplitude of the response. (K, L) – Turning the light on
843 (virtually instantaneous increase in white light intensity from 0 to ~300 lux) triggers a startle response
844 followed by transient increase in spontaneous activity. The amplitude of the startle response is reduced
845 by incubation with Flx for 24h prior to testing.

846 All data represented as mean \pm s.e.m.; factorial ANOVA followed by student's t-test for pair-wise
847 comparisons; n=150-200 larvae; * – $p < 0.05$; ** – $p < 0.01$.

848

849

850 **Fig. S7. Reactome functional interaction network analysis with OFTEN method.**

851 (A) – The largest connected component formed by functional interactions from REACTOME database
852 between 400 top scored 5-HT-effect genes, with both signs, positive (shown by red) and negative
853 (shown by green). Dashed lines correspond to functional interactions of low confidence (mostly,
854 predicted by computational methods or deduced from co-participation in a molecular complex).

855 (B) – Guanine nucleotide binding-related subnetwork (all proteins functionally interacting with GNB1
856 through one interaction). (C) – RHOC-related subnetwork (all proteins functionally interacting with
857 RHOC through one or two interactions). (D) – β -catenin-related subnetwork (all proteins functionally
858 interacting with CTNNB1 through one interaction).

859

860

861 **Bibliography**

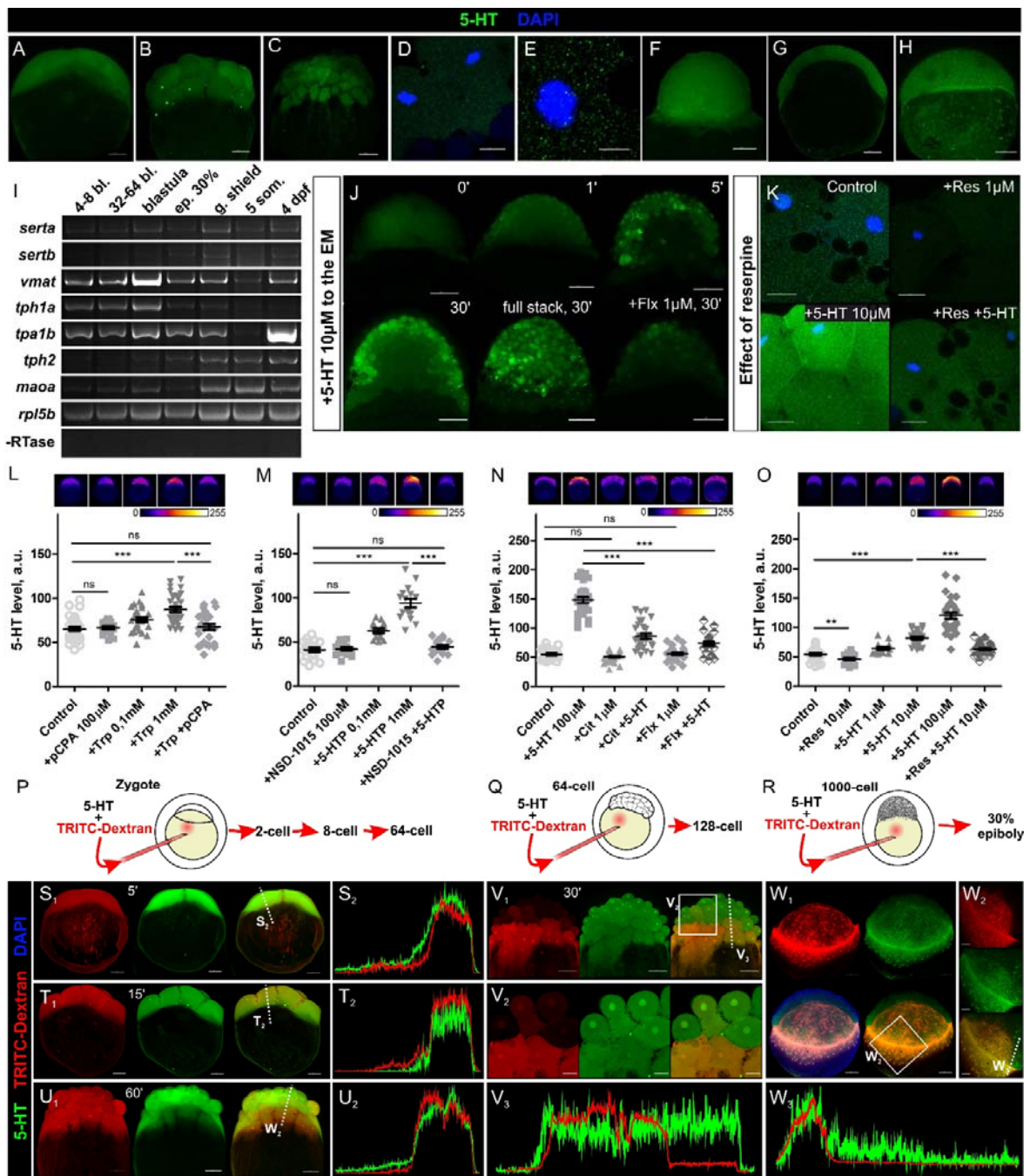
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1038

Figure 1

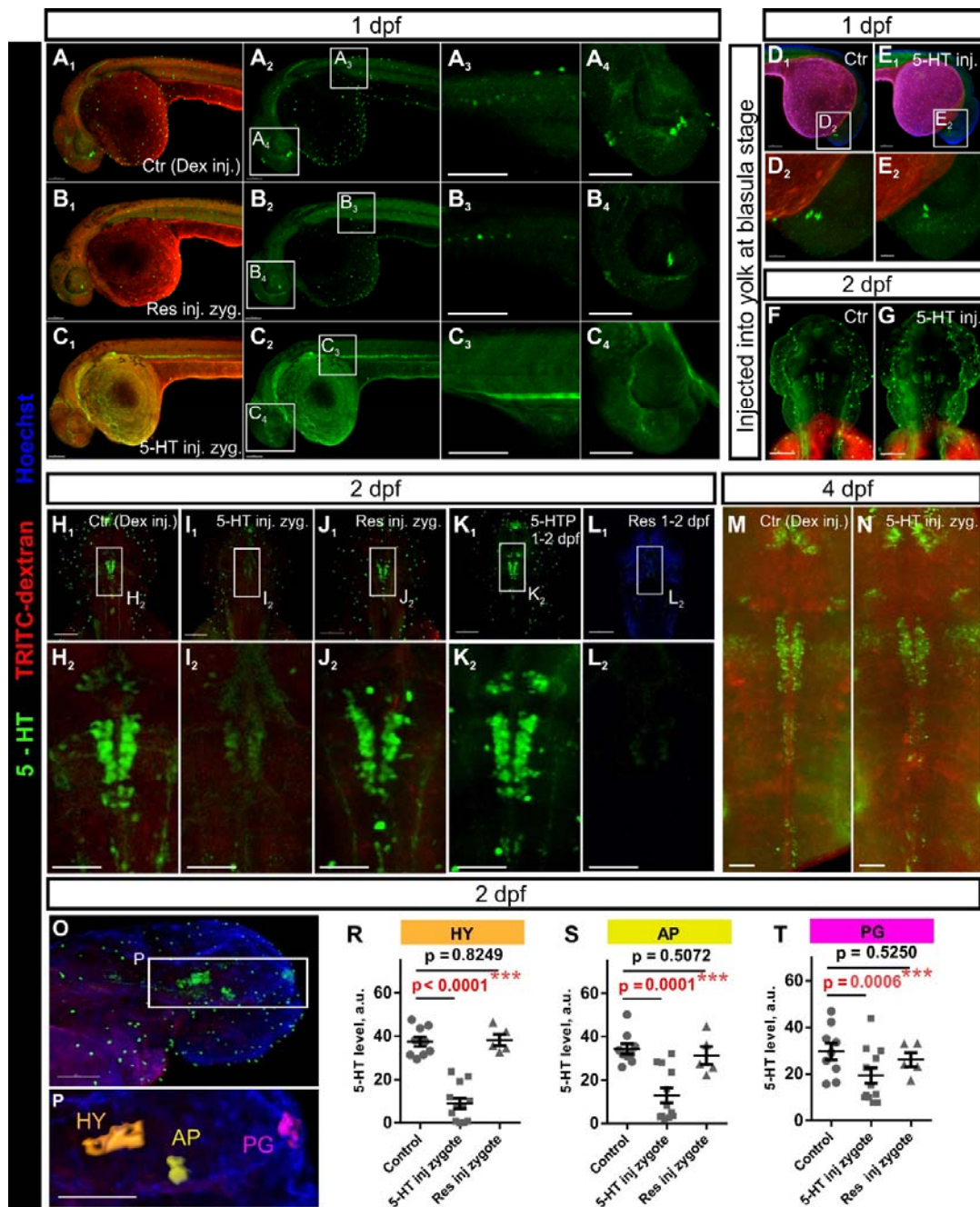
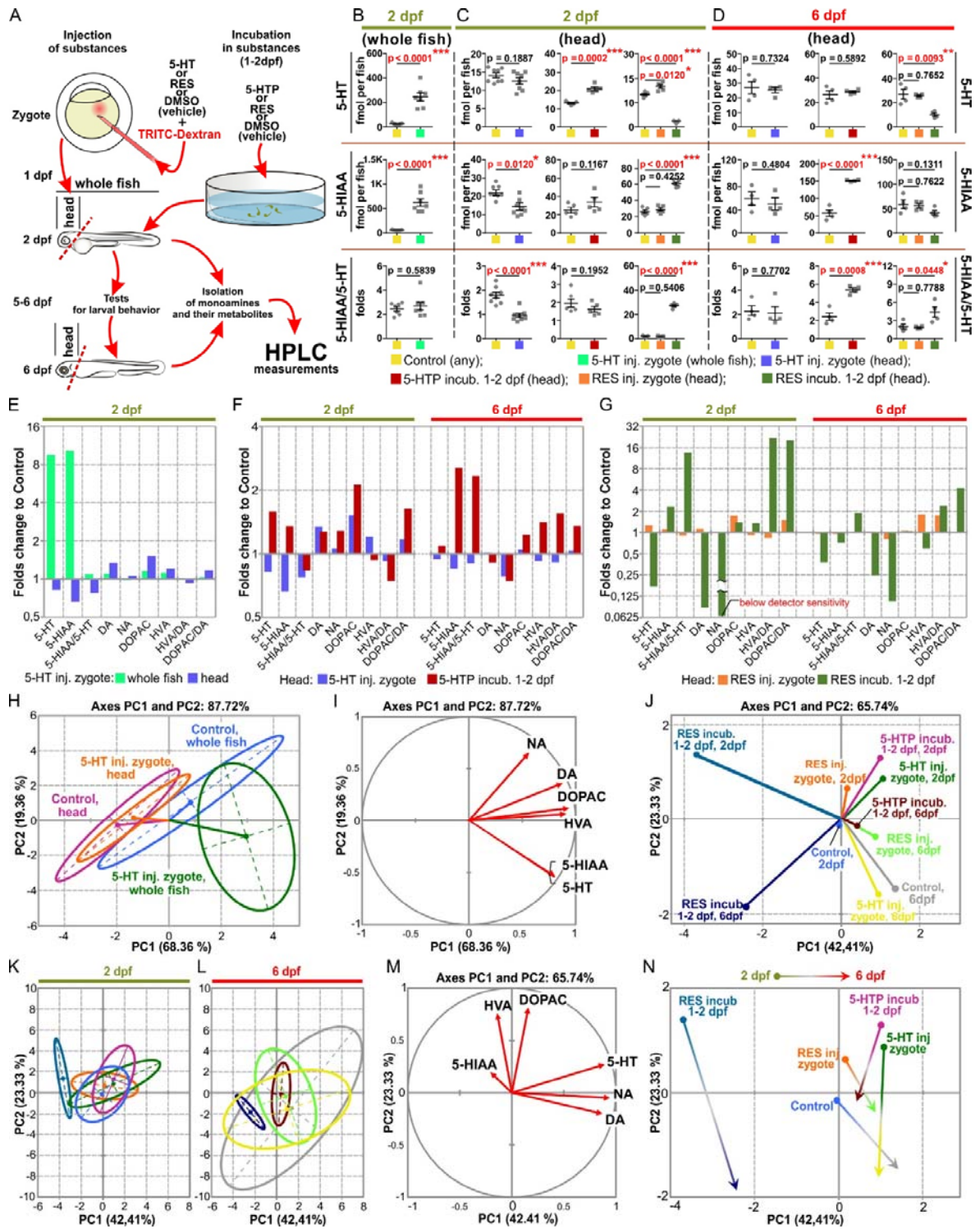
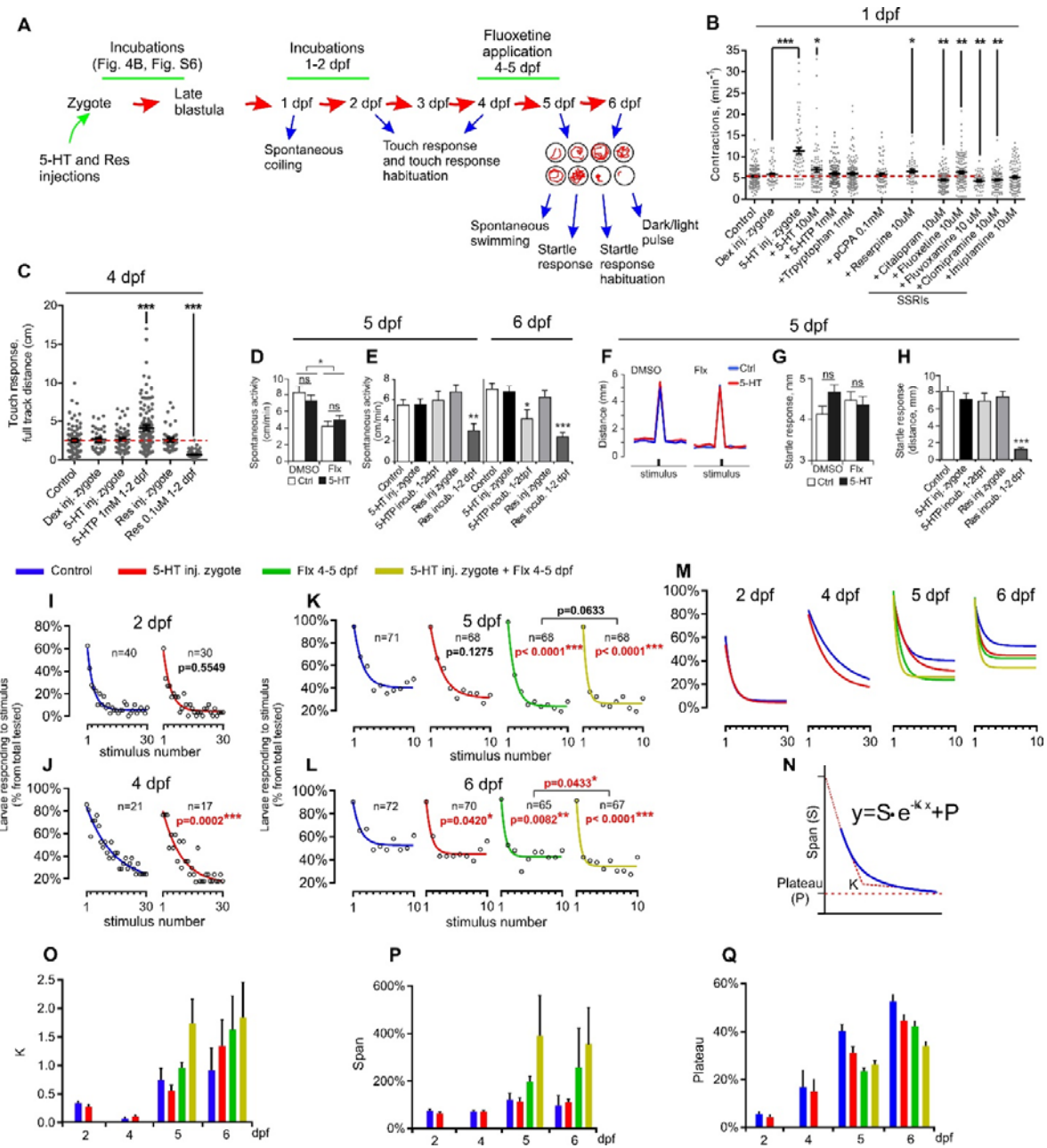


Figure 2



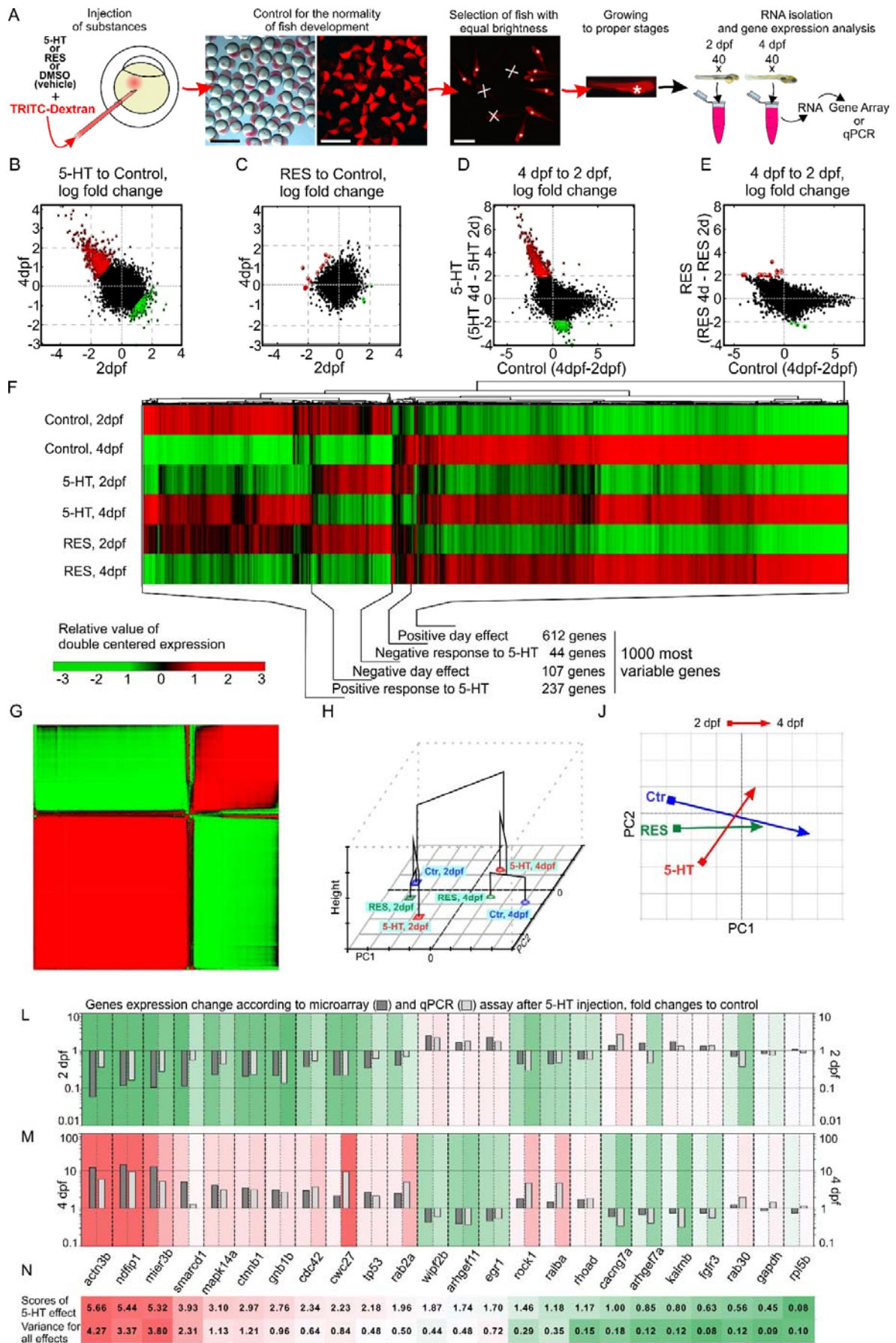
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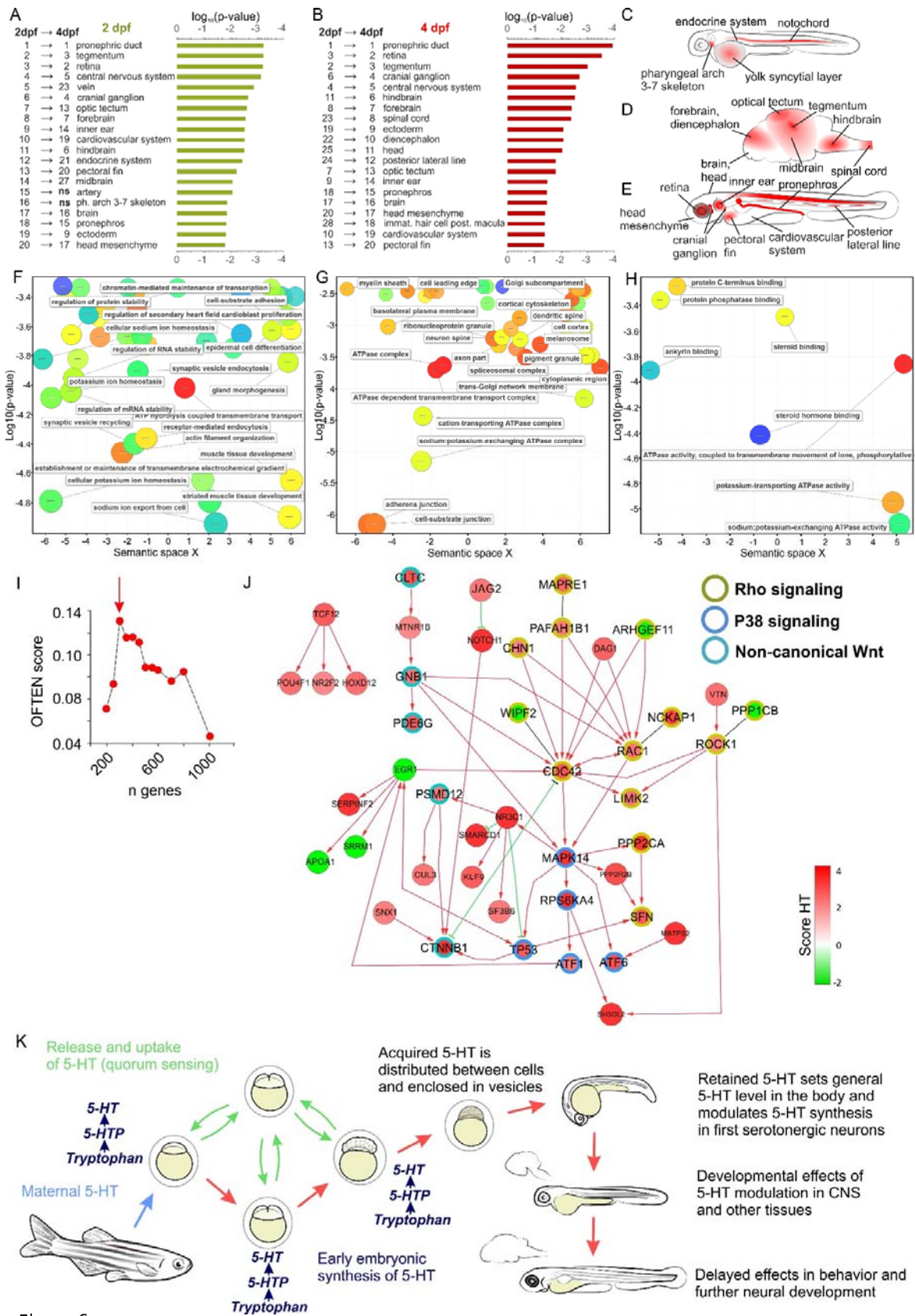
Figure 3



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Figure 4





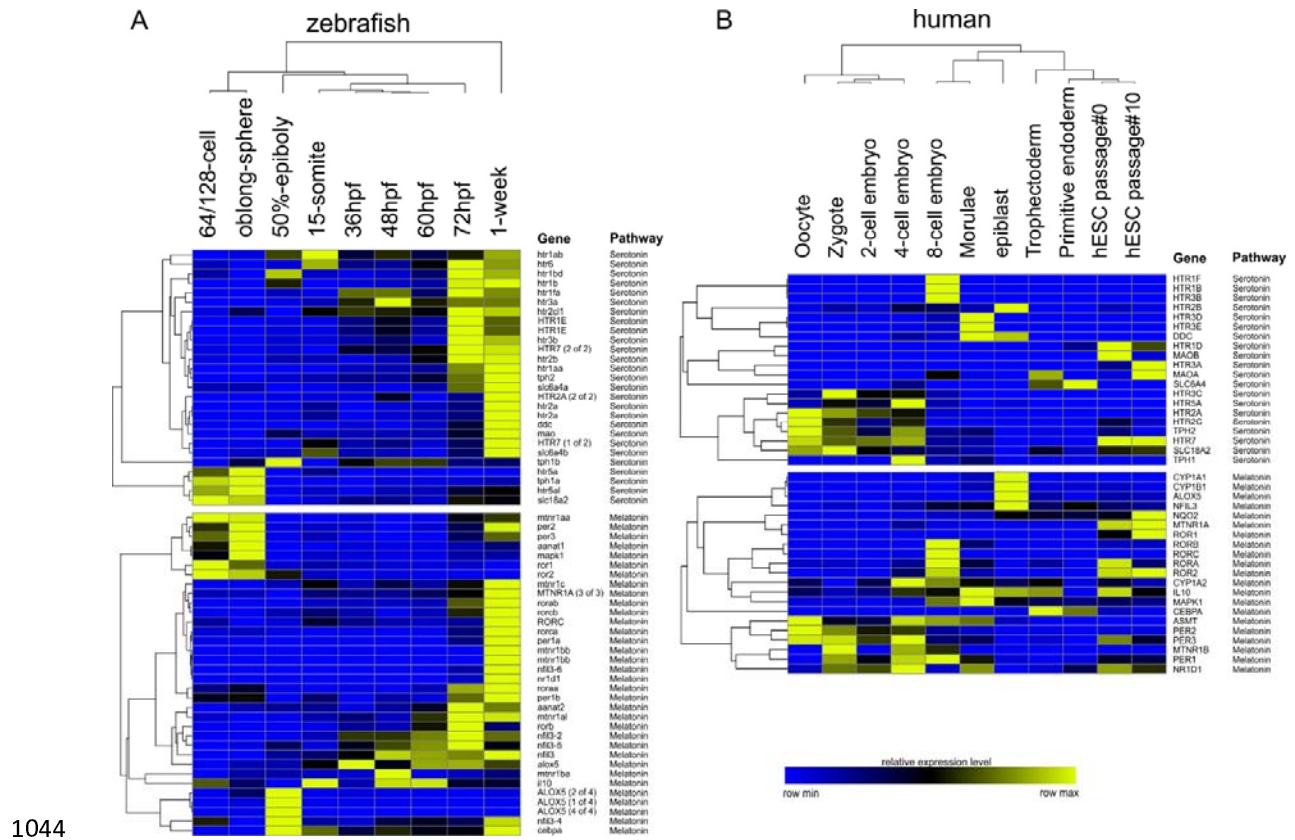
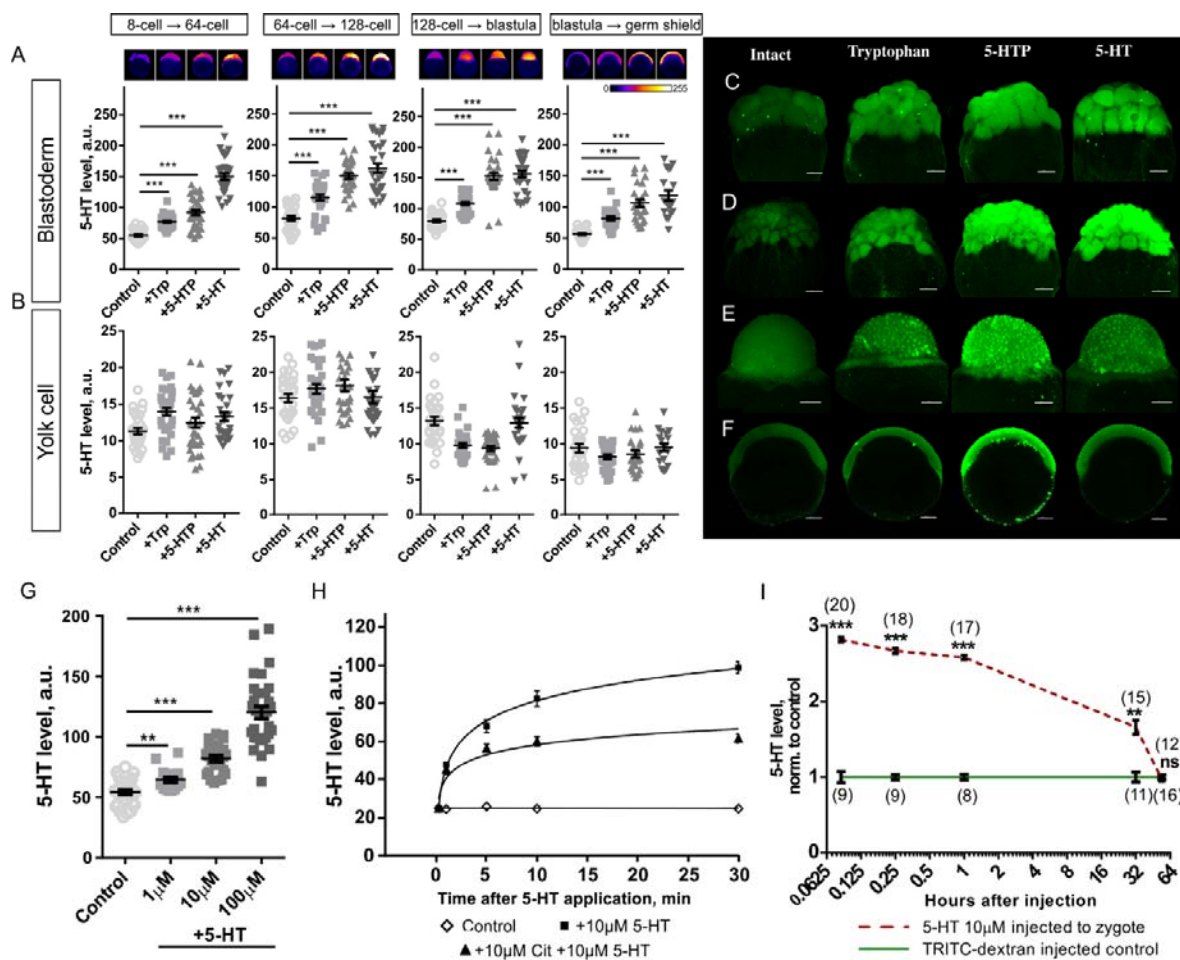
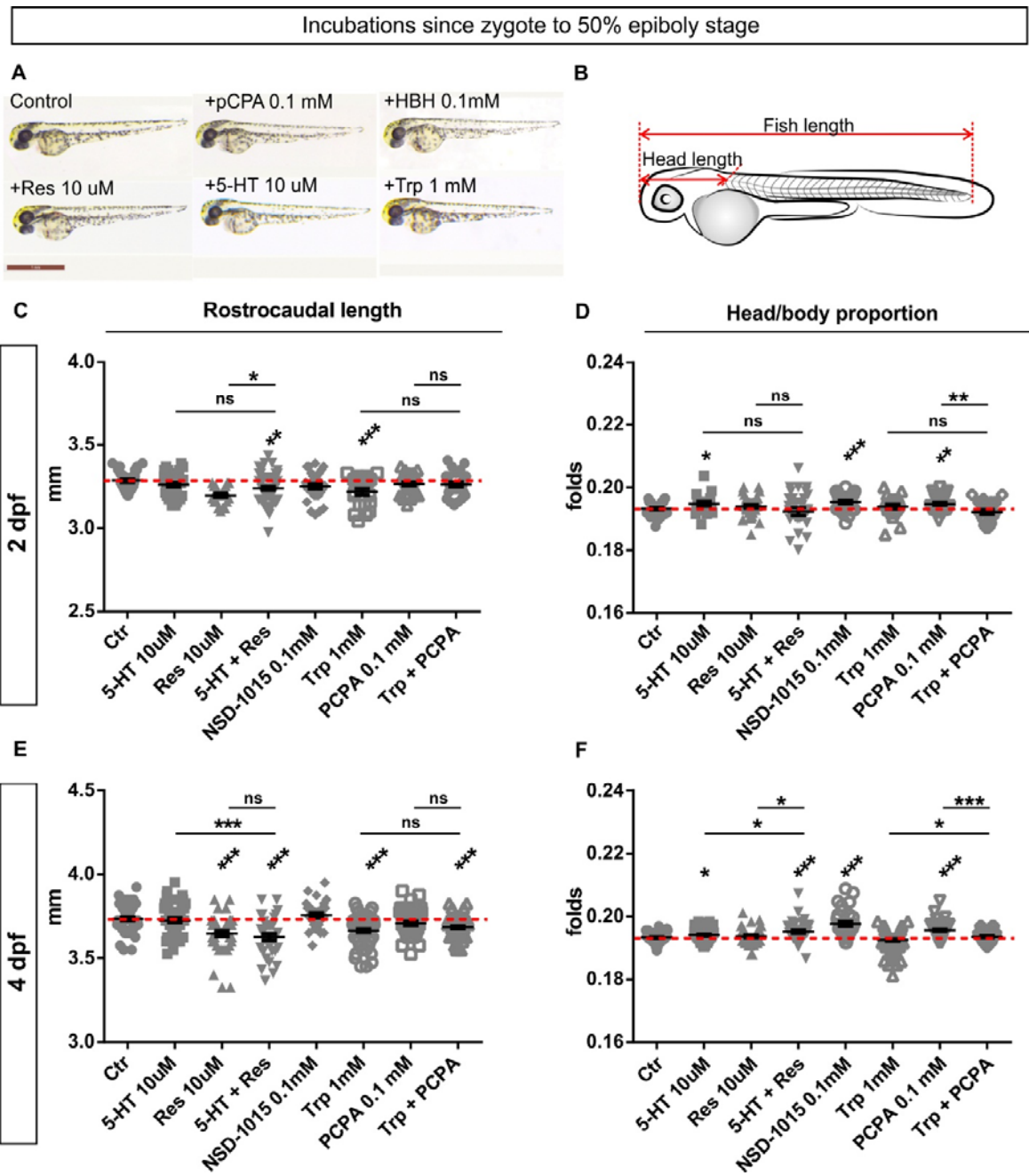


Figure S1



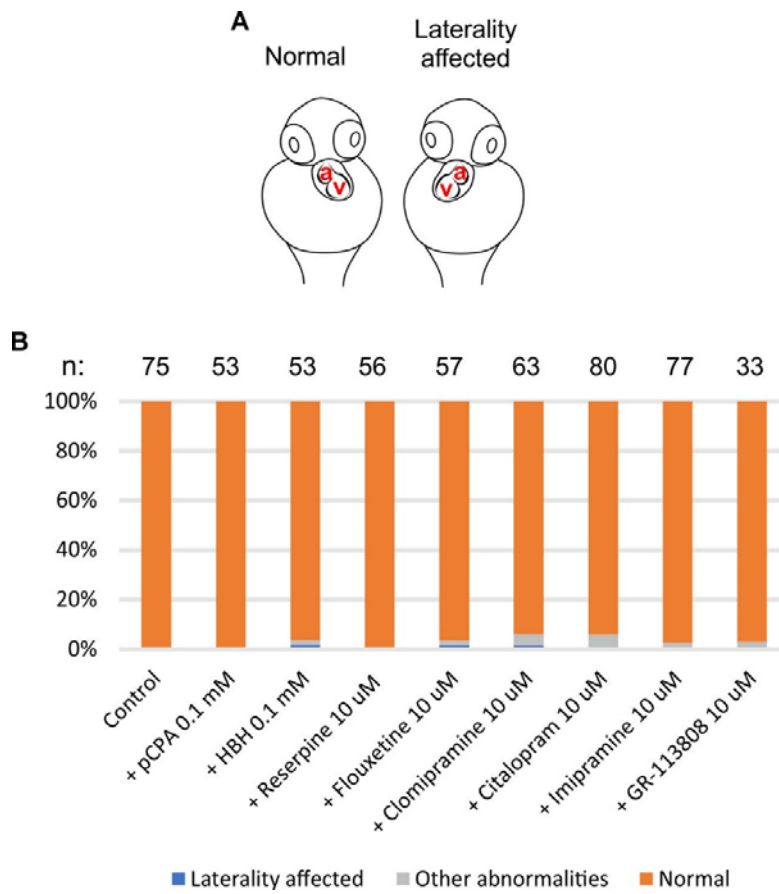
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Figure S2



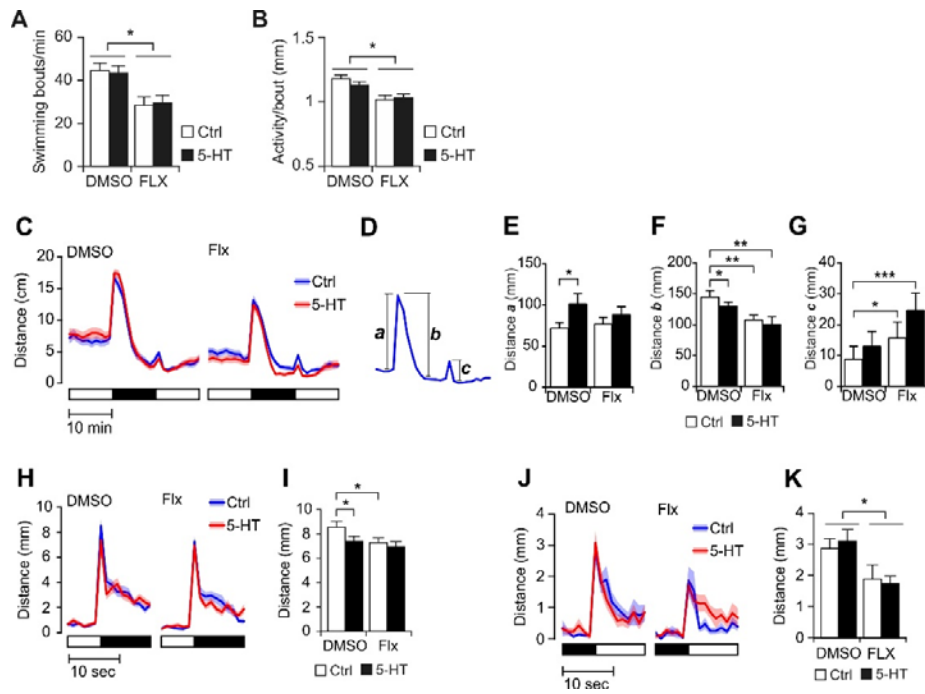
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Figure S3



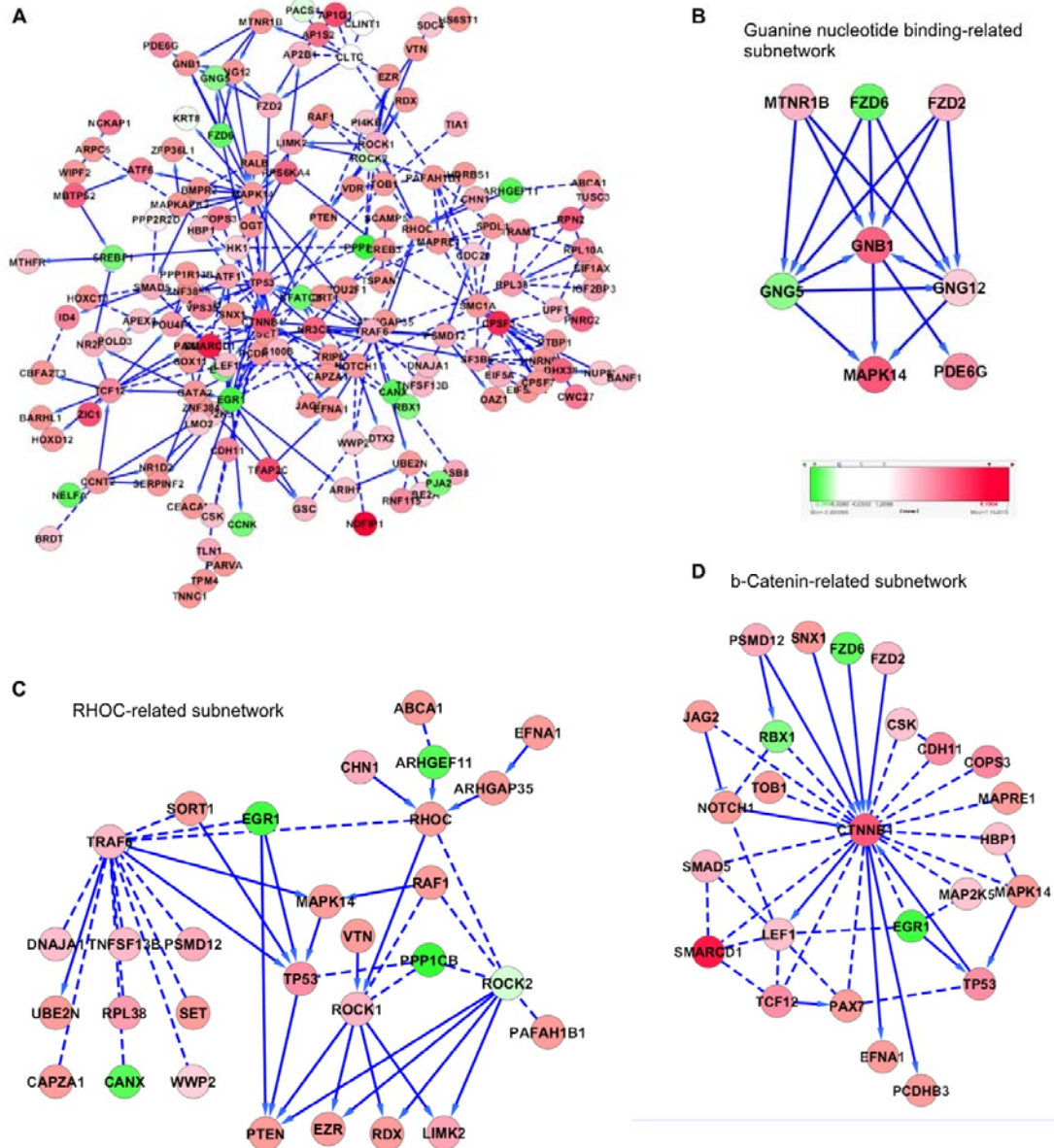
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Figure S4



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Figure S6



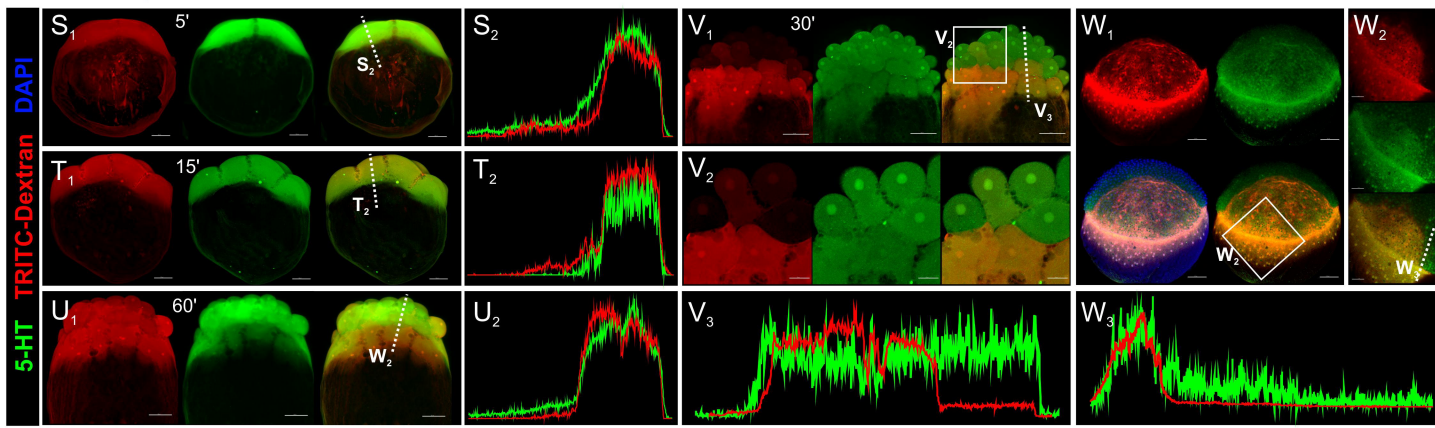
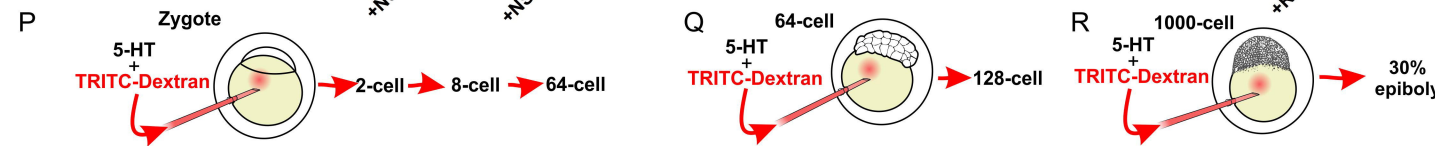
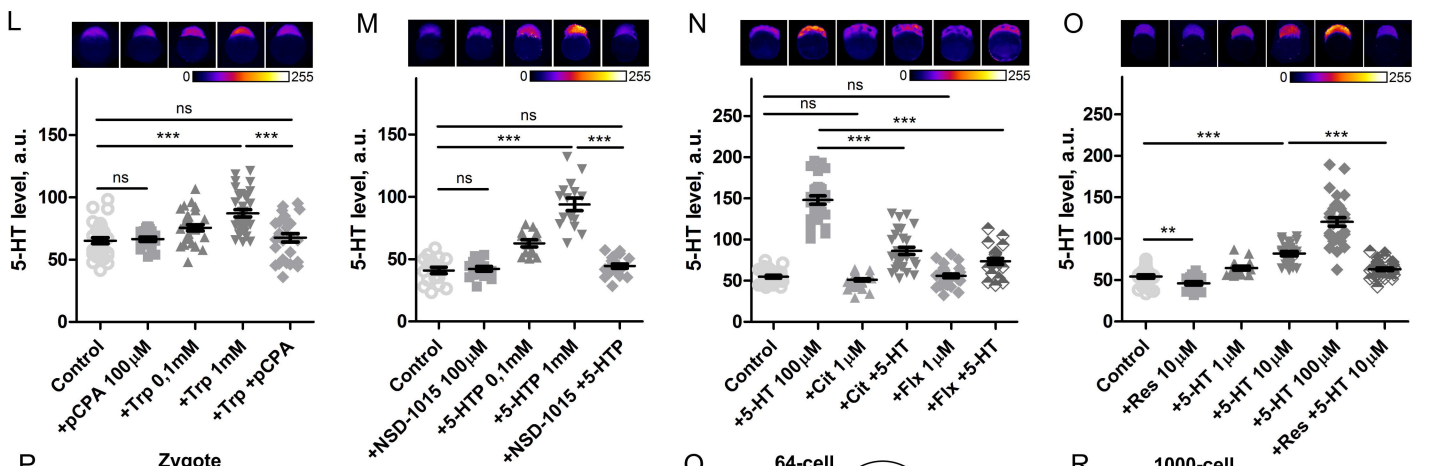
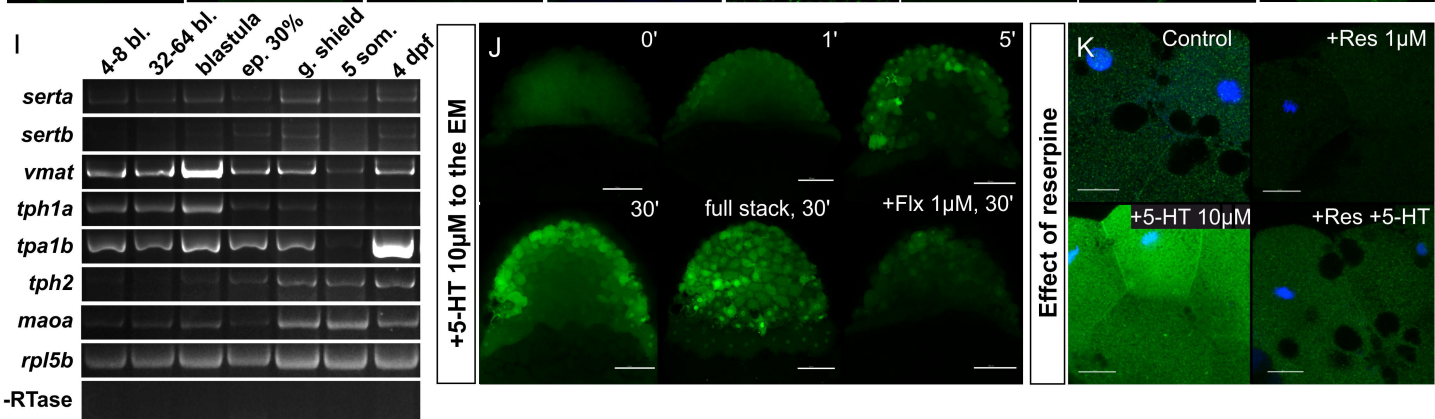
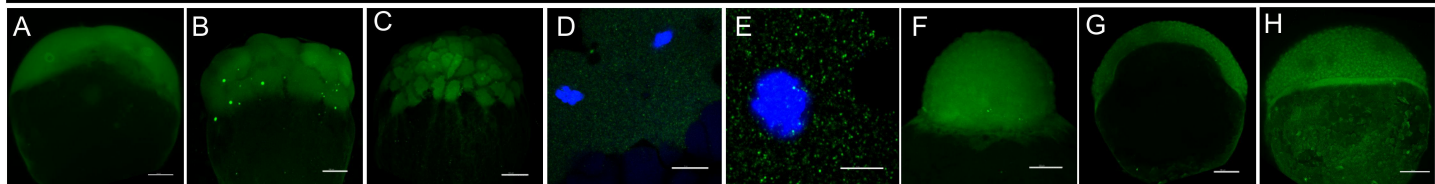
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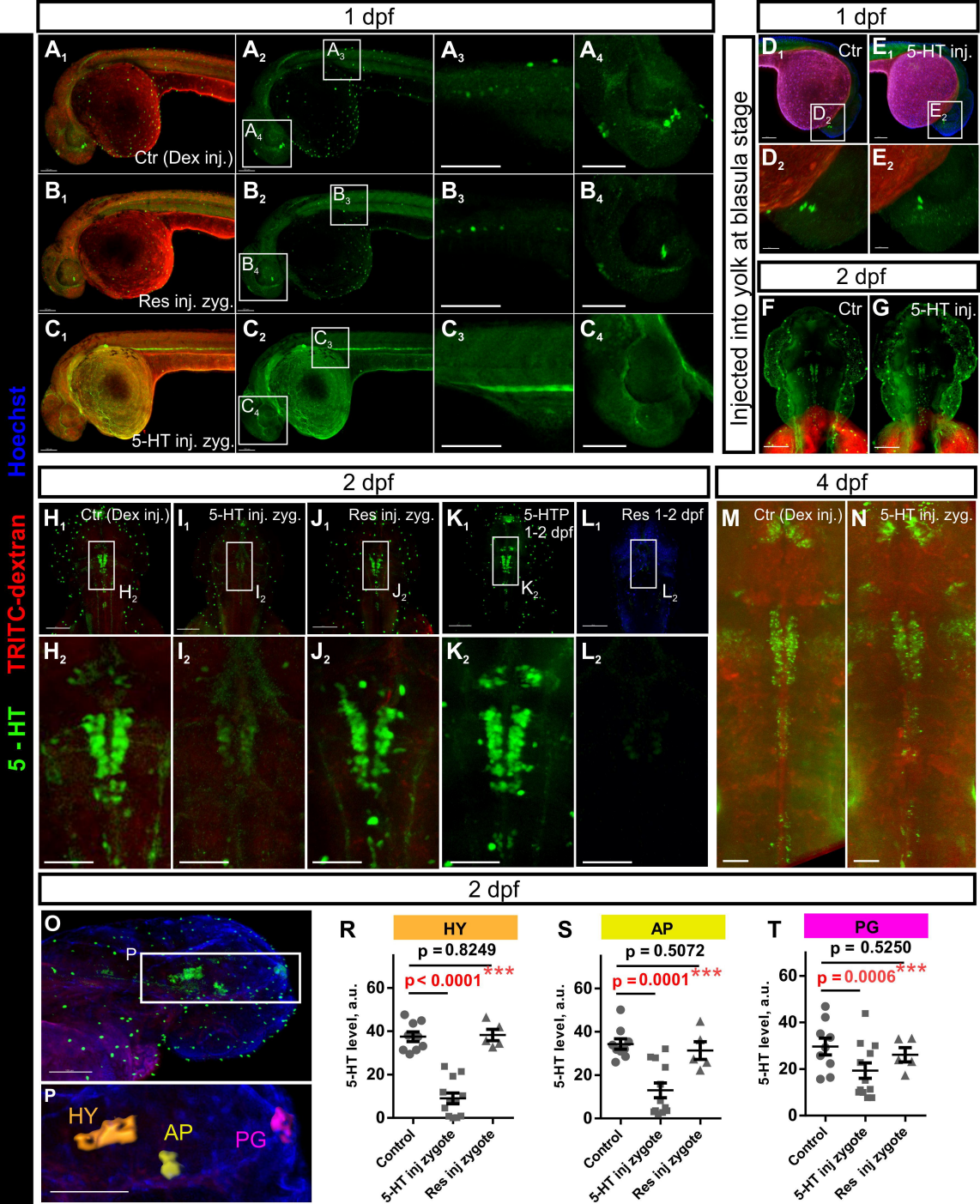
Figure S7

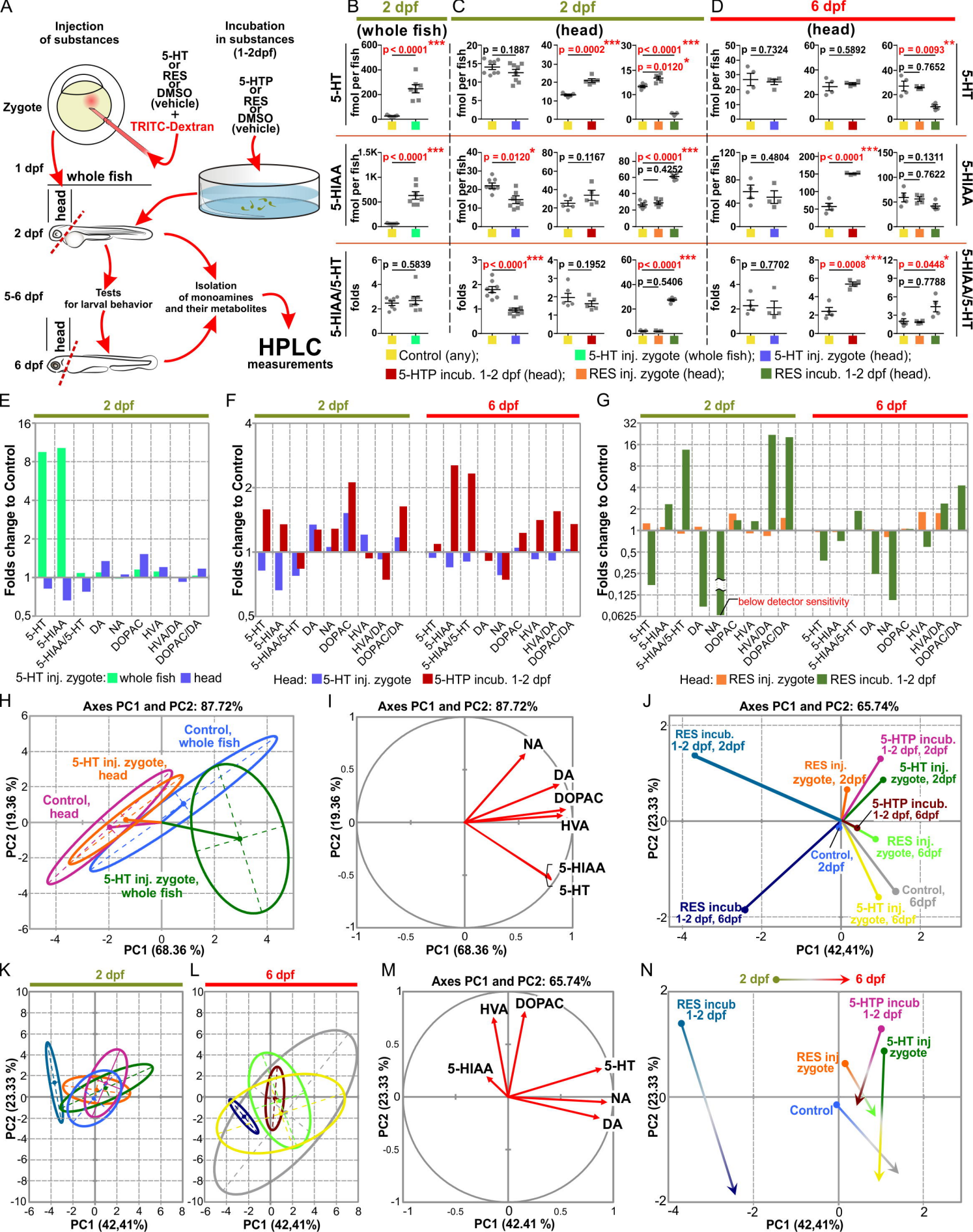
1051 Supplementary File 1: Transcriptomic data collected for assessing the transcriptomic response to
1052 injections of 5-HT and reserpine to zygote at day 2 and day 4 of the developmental course (Excel
1053 file). Results of the gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA). List of anatomical GO terms obtained
1054 using ZEOGS tool.

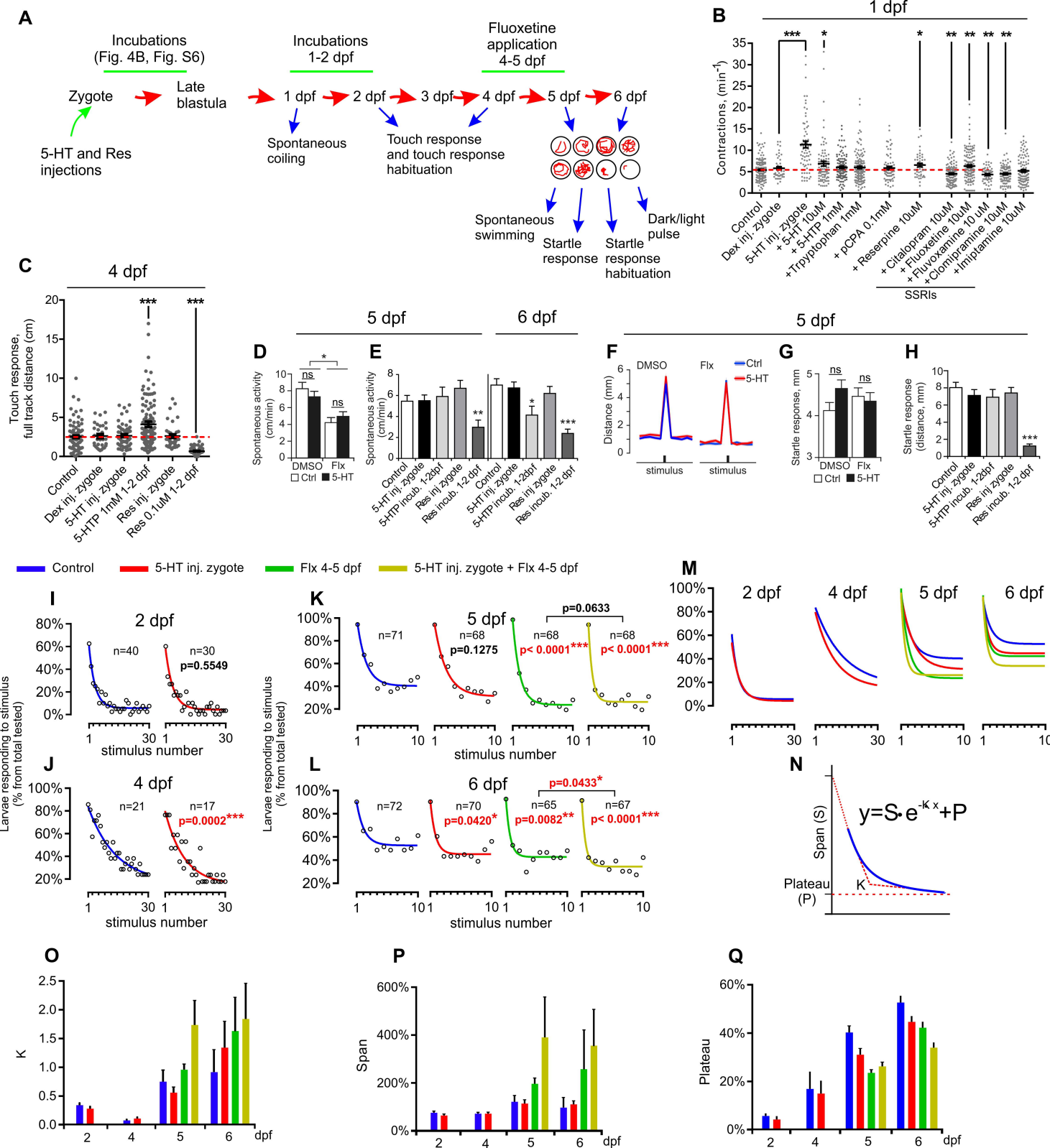
1055 Supplementary File 2: PCR primers used in this study.

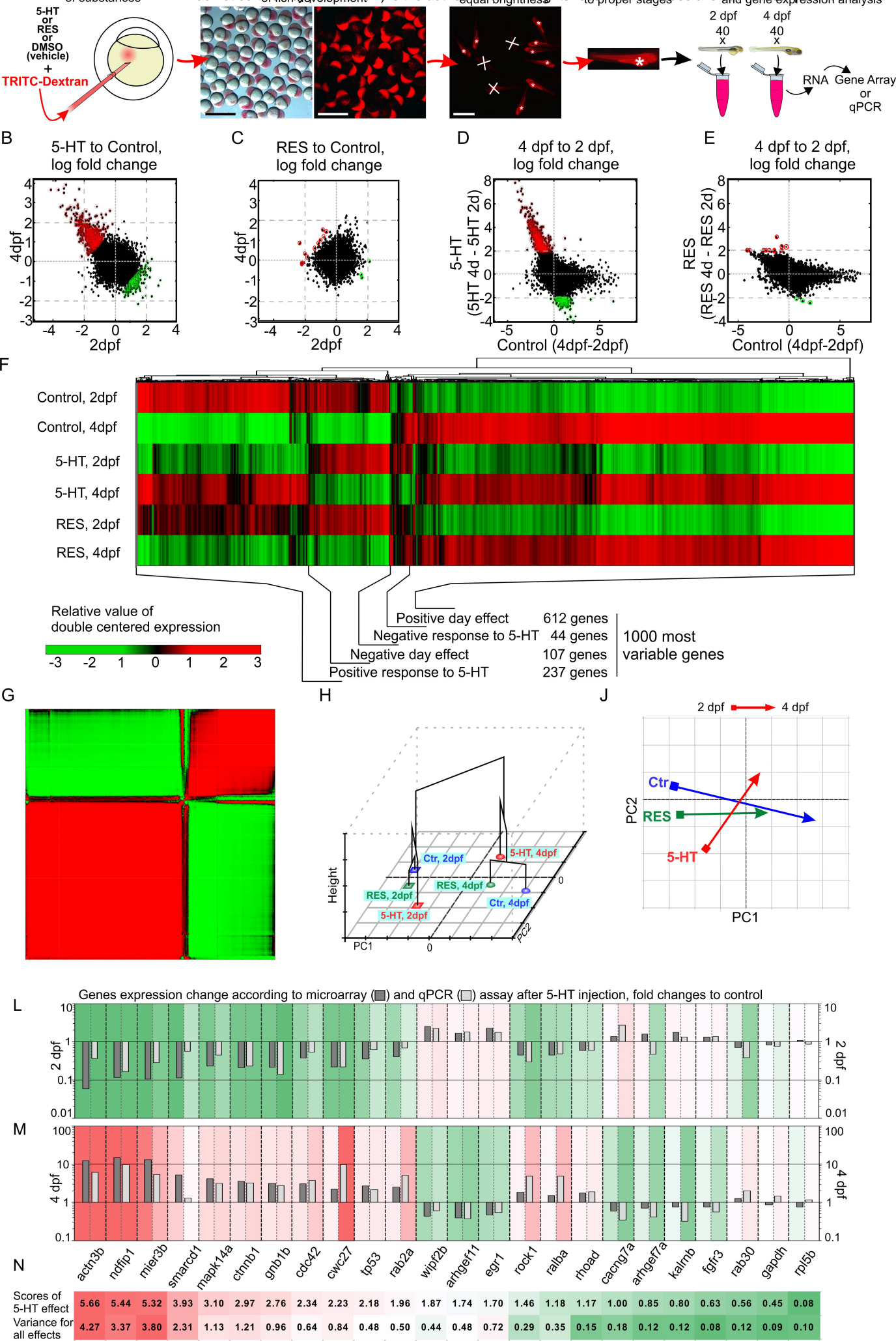
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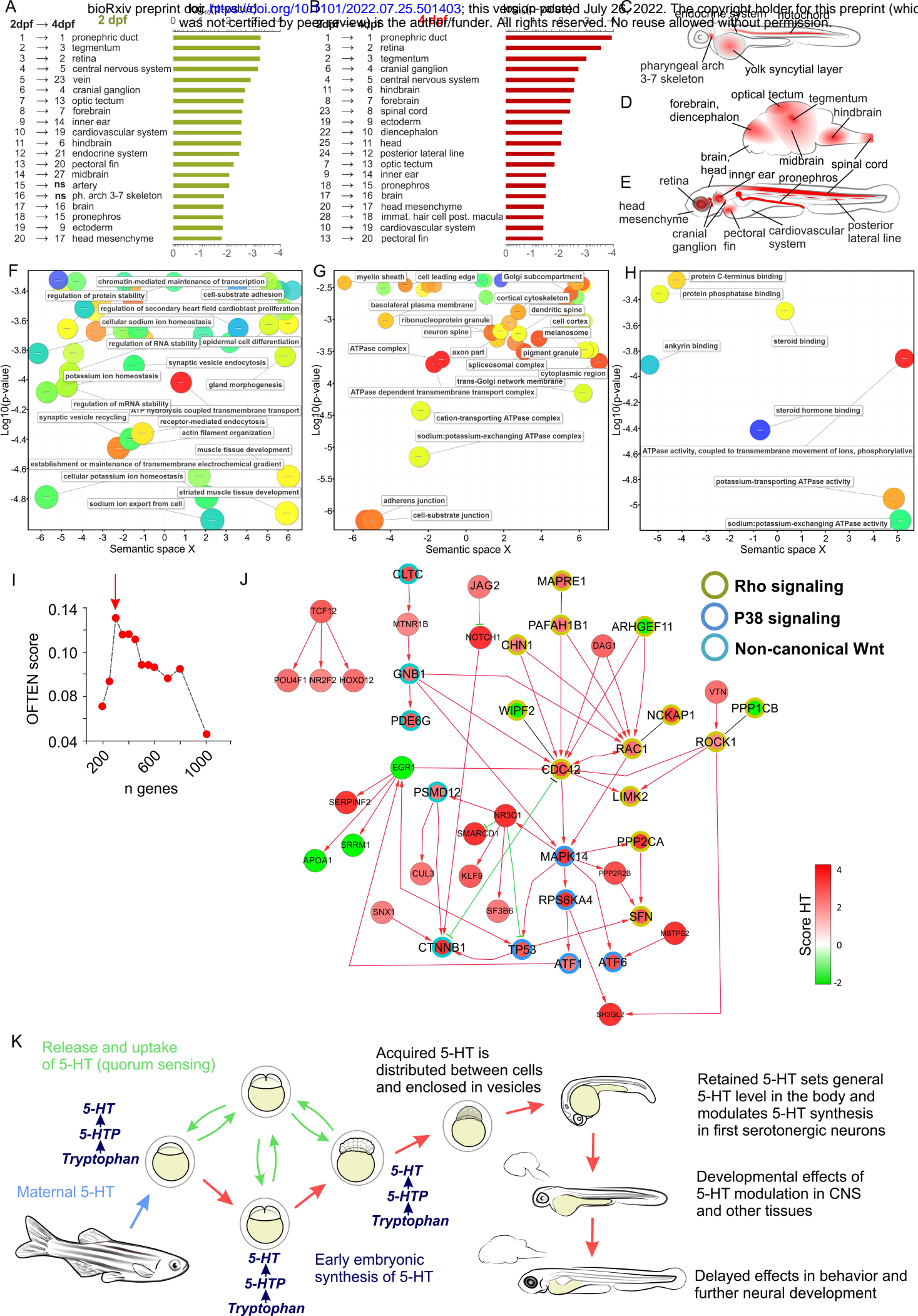


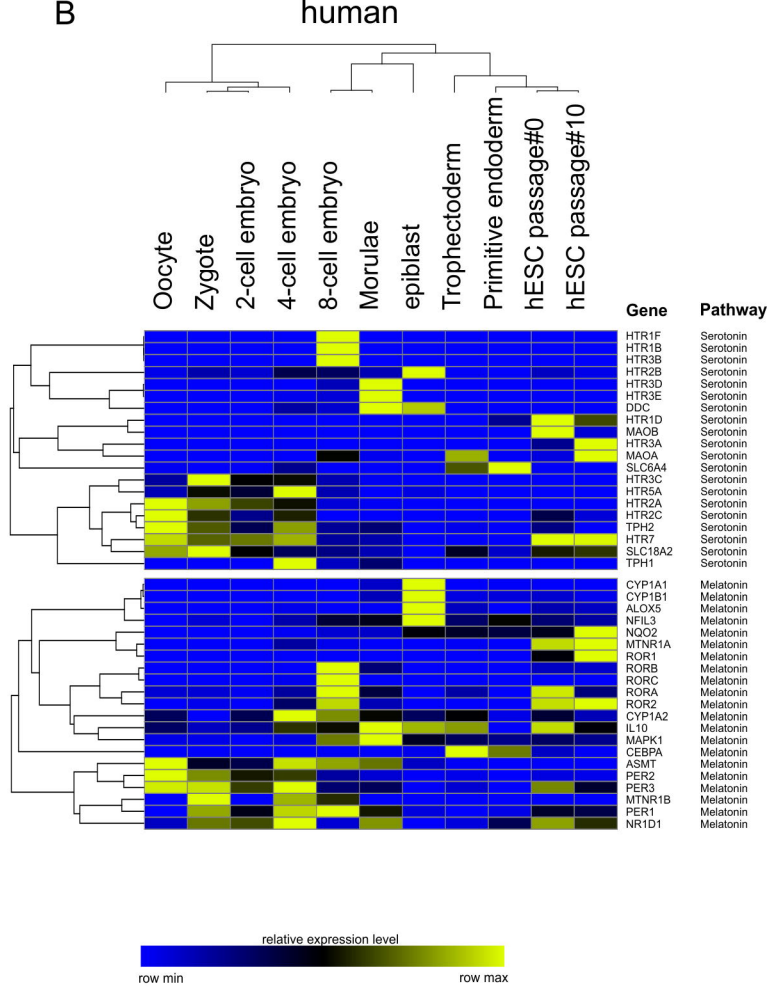
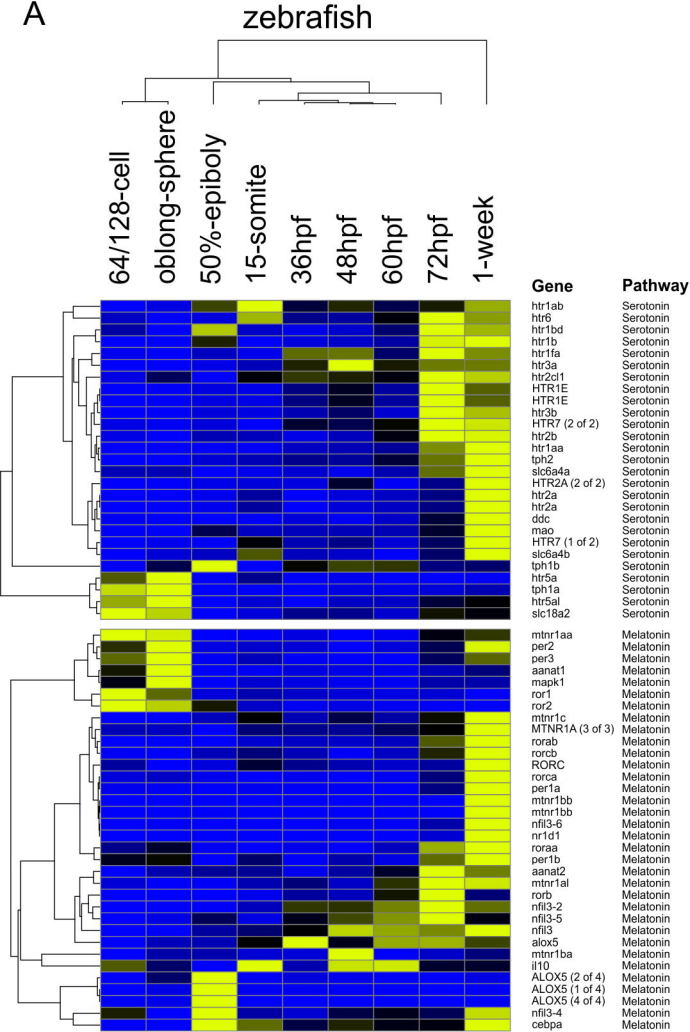


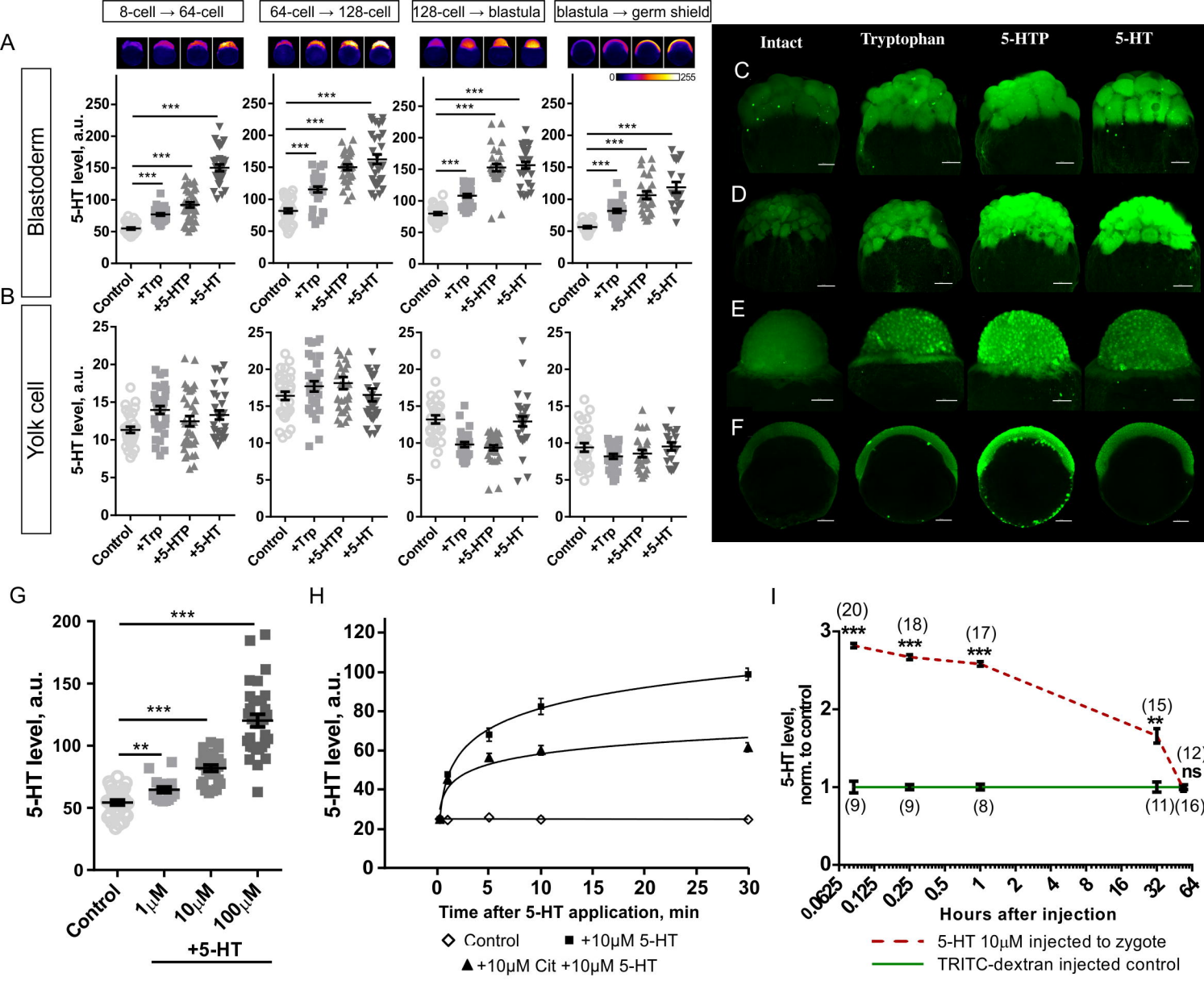


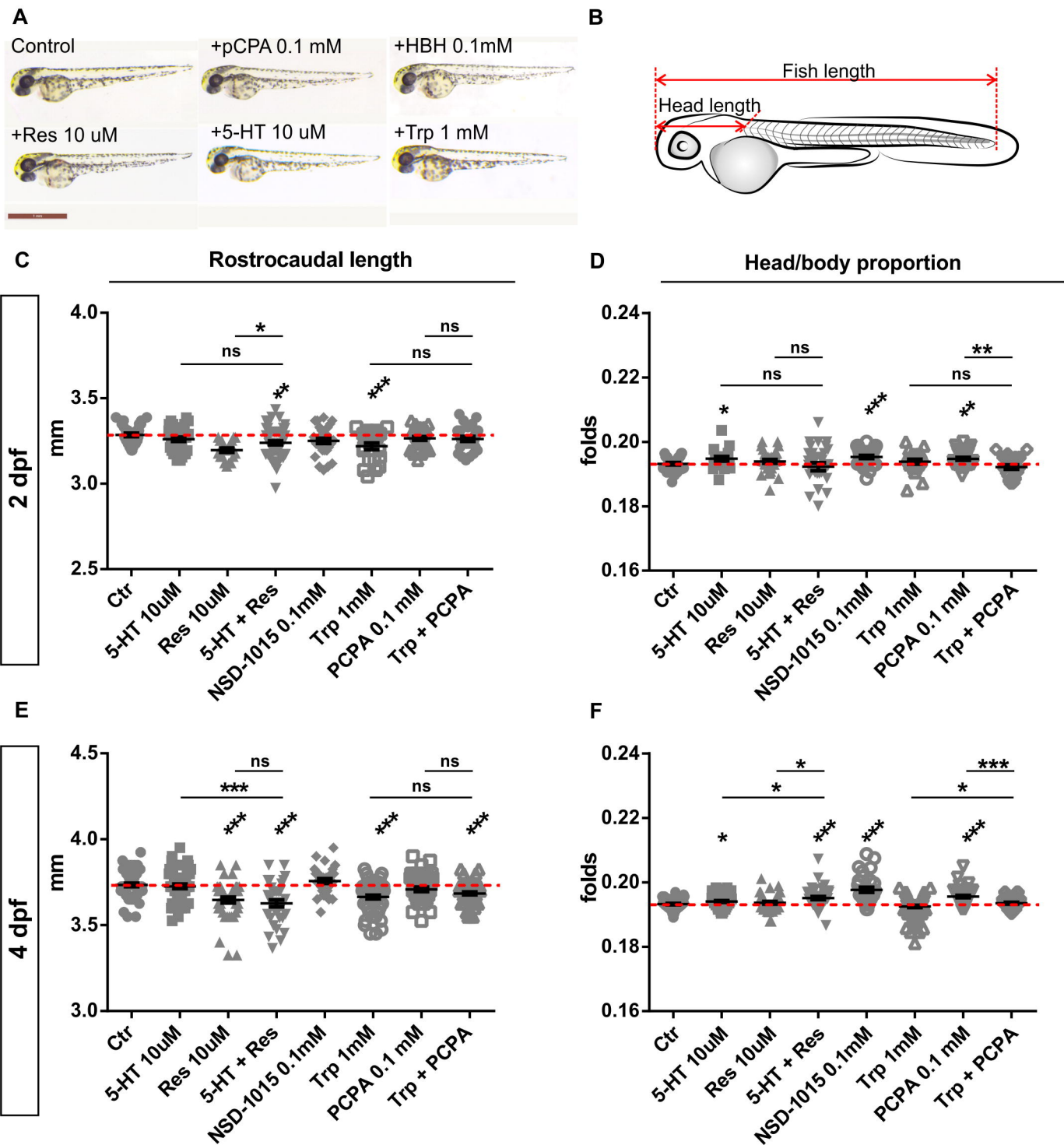








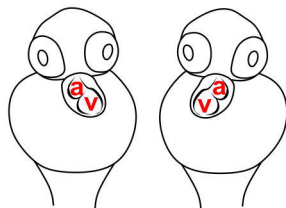




A

Normal

Laterality affected

**B**