# Id2 GABAergic interneurons: a neglected fourth major group of cortical inhibitory cells

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**Summary**

Cortical GABAergic interneurons (INs) represent a diverse population of mainly

locally projecting cells that provide specialized forms of inhibition to pyramidal neurons

and other INs. Most recent work on INs has focused on subtypes distinguished by

expression of Parvalbumin (PV), Somatostatin (SST), or Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide

(VIP). However, a fourth group that includes neurogliaform cells (NGFCs) has remained

enigmatic due to a lack of genetic tools. Here, we show that these INs can be accessed

experimentally using intersectional genetics with the gene *Id2*. We find that outside of

layer 1 (L1), the majority of Id2 INs are NGFCs that express high levels of neuropeptide

Y (NPY) and exhibit a late-spiking firing pattern, with extensive local connectivity. While

much sparser, non-NGFC Id2 INs had more variable properties, with most cells

corresponding to a diverse group of INs that strongly expresses the neuropeptide CCK.

*In vivo*, using silicon probe recordings, we observed several distinguishing aspects of

NGFC activity, including a strong rebound in activity immediately following the cortical

down state during NREM sleep. Our study provides insights into IN diversity and NGFC

distribution and properties, and outlines an intersectional genetics approach for further

study of this neglected group of INs.

**Introduction**

The neocortex is comprised of two primary neuronal classes: pyramidal cells that release the excitatory neurotransmitter glutamate, and interneurons that release the inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA. Pyramidal neurons project their axons locally and distally to form extended circuit ensembles across cortical and subcortical areas, whereas GABAergic interneurons (INs) typically project their axons locally to regulate the excitability of nearby pyramidal cells and other INs. Pyramidal neurons share a common dendritic structure characterized by an apical dendrite that typically extends up towards the pial surface with extensive arborization in cortical layer 1 (L1), a cell sparse region that receives diverse long-range cortical and thalamic axonal projections (1-4). In combination with its basal dendrite and somatic inputs, the pyramidal neuron thus has the ability to distinguish and integrate inputs from bottom-up and top-down sources in real-time, a key feature that enables dynamic cortical activity and adaptability during the animal's interactions with the external world.

While the morphological diversity of IN dendrites and axons was noted over a century ago by Ramón y Cajal, recent work has begun to elucidate how this specialization of IN subtypes allows for compartment-specific inhibition across the entire pyramidal neuron (5-10). The discovery of molecular markers in tandem with electrophysical and morphological approaches has enabled the delineation of several major IN groups and subtypes, each with distinctive roles in the cortical circuit (5, 11-17). INs that express the $Ca^{2+}$ binding protein parvalbumin (PV), which account for ~40% of the GABAergic INs, exhibit fast-spiking properties, with most projecting their axons to form perisomatic baskets on nearby pyramidal neuron soma (18). In layer 4 of

sensory cortical areas, these PV INs form a canonical circuit in which they provide

feedforward inhibition of excitatory neurons receiving core thalamic inputs. A distinct but

less abundant subtype of PV INs are the chandelier cells, whose axons form cartridge-

like inputs on the pyramidal neuron axon initial segment, thereby enabling control and

coordination of the axonal output of pyramidal neuron ensembles (19-21). Somatostatin

(SST) expressing interneurons (accounting for 30% of the INs) represent a second

major group of INs, with the majority characterized by an ascending axonal arbor that

targets the distal apical dendrites of pyramidal cells (SST Martinotti cells) (5, 22). A third

major group of INs is distinguished by the expression of the neuropeptide vasoactive

intestinal peptide (VIP); these interneurons account for ~12% of the INs in the neocortex

and include cells that preferentially target other interneurons, particularly SST INs, and

thus act to disinhibit the local circuit (23-26). The vast majority of recent studies

exploring the roles of INs in cortical function have focused on these three groups, in no

small part due to the establishment of genetic tools in rodents for targeting and

manipulating the activity of each group (11, 27-29). This work has revealed how IN

diversity facilitates greater flexibility and computational power in cortical circuits.

In addition to the three main IN groups described above, there remains an

additional population of GABAergic interneurons (about 18% of the INs in the

neocortex) that have been much less studied. The composition of this IN population,

particularly enriched in superficial layers of the neocortex, includes ~90% of the INs in

layer 1 (5, 30) as well as neurogliaform cells (NGFCs) in all layers and "CCK basket

cells" (CCK BCs), two IN types previously identified in the neocortex that do not express

PV, SST or VIP (31-34). NGFCs are an interneuron type that exhibits several

remarkable properties, including an extremely high degree of output connectivity to

other cells (pyramidal neurons and other INs) and the ability to induce postsynaptic

GABA-B responses following a single action potential (35-38). CCK BCs are a rare

species in the neocortex whose synapses on pyramidal neurons exhibit

endocannabinoid mediated depolarization induced suppression of inhibition (DSI) (34,

39).

Here, we show that Id2 is a marker for the INs in the neocortex that do not

express PV, SST or VIP, including the non-VIP cells in L1, NGFCs in L2-6 and a variety

of CCK INs. Using intersectional genetic strategies to label and optogenetically

stimulate Id2 INs, we find that the vast majority of Id2 INs in L2-6 are NPY-expressing

NGFCs that exhibit the late-spiking firing pattern and broad connectivity characteristic of

these cells. In contrast, the much rarer non-NGFC Id2 INs display diverse firing patterns

and DSI but sparse local connectivity. Combining opto-tagging with *in vivo* silicon probe

recordings, we describe the brain state dependence of the activity of Id2 INs, and

observe several intriguing features of NGFC in vivo behavior, such as a robust rebound

in activity immediately following the cortical down state. Thus, our work furthers the

study of IN diversity and enables genetic access to a group of INs that despite their

potent GABAergic output have remained somewhat mysterious to date.

**Results**

Cortical GABAergic INs are specified during embryogenesis in the medial and caudal ganglionic eminences of the ventral telencephalon (MGE and CGE, respectively) (40-42), with a fraction of non-MGE derived INs originating from the preoptic area (POA) (43). All cortical PV and SST INs arise from Nkx2.1+ progenitors within the MGE (44), and express Lhx6 during tangential migration and in the adult (45). Cortical CGE derived INs, i.e., the non-PV, non-SST subtypes labeled in the Htr3a(BAC)-EGFP mouse line (the 5HT3aR INs) (46) can be divided into two primary populations: VIP- and non-VIP-expressing (5, 47). While transgenic targeting approaches for PV, SST, and VIP INs have been developed and widely implemented (11, 28), accessing non-VIP CGE (or 5HT3aR) INs – a fourth major IN group – has been challenging due to a lack of genetic strategies to target this population, and therefore the IN subtypes present in this population are not well characterized.

We examined cortical single-cell transcriptome data (scRNAseq) from the Allen Institute (13) and observed that expression of the Id2 gene was highly enriched in the INs in their collection that do not express PV, SST or VIP (Fig. 1A) (48). The Id2 IN population includes cells that express markers known to be present in non-VIP CGE INs such as Reelin (49), and NPY (50), as well as the more recently identified markers NDNF, Lamp5 and Sncg (13). Updated and expanded cortical and hippocampal scRNAseq data from the Allen Institute (17) confirms that Id2 is a useful marker for studying non-PV, SST, or VIP INs (Fig. S1). To develop a transgenic approach to target Id2 INs, we took advantage of an existing Id2-CreER driver line (51) that expresses a tamoxifen-inducible form of Cre recombinase (52). Since Id2 is also expressed in

pyramidal and non-neuronal cell types in the cortex, we crossed the Id2-CreER driver

with a pan-IN Flp driver (Dlx5/6-Flpe) (49) such that only Id2 INs would be targeted with

intersectional reporters (Fig. 1B). In combination with the Cre and Flp dependent

tdTomato reporter Ai65 (27), this intersectional genetics approach yielded labeling of

INs in all cortical layers of the somatosensory cortex barrel field (S1BF) following

tamoxifen administration to activate the CreER (Fig. 1C).

**Histological analysis of Id2 INs.** To determine the proportion of Id2 vs. non-Id2 INs,

we utilized the intersectional/subtractive reporter FLTG (53) where Flp activity results in

tdTomato expression, but Flp + Cre results in EGFP labeling (Fig. 1D). Quantification of

Id2 INs (green) and non-Id2 INs (red) in the S1BF of well-labeled brains yielded an

overall fraction of 18% (680/3812 cells, n=4 brains), with the majority of Id2 INs located

in superficial layers (L1-3; Fig. 1E, F). This proportion and distribution was consistent

with our previous estimates for non-VIP 5HT3aR or CGE INs (5), indicating that this

genetic strategy was successful in targeting this population. We observed a similar

overall proportion of Id2 INs in other sensory areas (e.g., V1), consistent with a recent

comprehensive survey of interneuron subtype distribution (17) (Fig. S1), as well as in a

higher order cortical area, the prelimbic cortex (18%; Fig. S2).

To assess any potential overlap between Id2 INs and PV, SST, or VIP INs, we

performed intersectional genetic labeling experiments with the respective Flp drivers

that cover those populations. Both PV and SST INs originate from Nkx2.1+ progenitors

(i.e., MGE lineages; (44)), and are efficiently labeled using an Nkx2.1-Flpo driver line

(28). However, there is also a substantial population of neurogliaform INs (NGFCs) that

also arise from the MGE, the vast majority of which migrate to the hippocampus (54). A

small fraction of these MGE-derived NGFCs are observed in the neocortex; these are

the sparse deep layer Lamp5/Lhx6 population described and characterized previously

by us using intersectional genetics with Id2 (Id2-CreER; Nkx2.1-Flpo; Ai65) (55, 56).

Id2/Nkx2.1 cells did not show any overlap with PV or SST, and were mostly localized in

L6 (56) (Fig. S3). To examine possible overlap with VIP populations, we generated Id2-

CreR; VIP-Flpo; Ai65 animals and assessed the degree of IN labeling. Here too, we

observed very few labeled cells in S1BF, with most being located along the L1/2 border

(Fig. S3). While Id2/VIP cells were extremely sparse in S1BF, they were somewhat

more prevalent in the prelimbic cortex along the L1/2 border (Fig. S3). Thus, we find

that the vast majority of Id2 INs (>95%) are distinct from PV, SST or VIP populations,

and in the cortex, almost all originate from non-Nkx2.1 lineages (i.e., from the

CGE/POA).

In superficial layers (L1-3), expression of neuropeptide Y (NPY) has been utilized

successfully as a proxy to identify NGFCs (30, 50, 57, 58). We evaluated the overlap

between Id2 INs and NPY by performing fluorescence ISH (FISH) for tdTomato and

NPY on tissue cryosections from Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6; Ai65 brains (S1BF; Fig. 2A-B). The

proportion of Id2/NPY cells vs. the total Id2 labeled population in S1BF ranged from

29% in L1 to 82% in L2/3, 95% in L4-5, and 61% in L6, with a combined proportion in

L2-5 of 87% (638 cells counted, sections from three brains), suggesting that in contrast

to L1, where Id2 INs consist of several subtypes (30), the vast majority of Id2 cells

outside of L1 are NGFCs. Within L1, our findings are consistent with our previous

analysis that about 30% of L1 INs are NPY-expressing NGFCs (30). We further

confirmed that most Id2 INs are NPY-expressing throughout different sensory cortical

areas by generating Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65; NPY-hrGFP animals and comparing

labeling in S1BF, V1 and A1 (Fig. S4).

To explore the nature of the non-NPY Id2 neurons in L2-6, we examined the

overlap between Id2 labeled cells and relatively high levels of CCK expression as the

latter is a proxy for a sparse population of INs that include the large CCK basket cells

(59-61). Using IHC for CCK (Fig. 2C-D), overall in L2-6 of S1BF we observed that 15%

of Id2 labeled INs exhibited strong CCK expression (165/1123 cells, sections from three

brains), with Id2/CCK cells being most abundant in L2 (14% of Id2 cells) and L6 (25%).

Thus, a significant fraction of the Id2/non-NPY population in cortical layers outside of L1

appear to be CCK+ IN subtypes (~80% in L2/3).

**Electrophysiological and morphological properties of Id2 INs.**    The molecular

analysis suggests that the vast majority of Id2 INs are neurogliaform cells (NGFCs). To

test this hypothesis, we characterized the firing properties of Id2 INs in L2-5 of S1BF in

acute brain slices. The cells were filled with biocytin during electrophysiological recording

for post-hoc morphological analysis. NGFCs in L2/3 and L1 have been shown to have a

late-spiking (LS) firing pattern characterized by delayed firing following a slow ramp

depolarization when depolarized with step current injections to near-threshold membrane

potentials (5, 30, 35, 37, 38). NGFCs in these layers were also found to fire spike trains

with little spike frequency adaptation, or even spike frequency acceleration, during

depolarizations close to threshold, and mild adaptation during suprathreshold

depolarizations. Action potentials in NGFCs have a large AHP and a slow ADP (30, 35,

37, 62-64). We found that in a sample of randomly recorded Id2 cells (n=76), the large

majority in L2-5 had a LS firing pattern (36/45; 80% in L2/3 and 28/31; 90% in L4-L5)

(Figure 3). These proportions are similar to the proportion of Id2/NPY cells (Fig. 2). The

Id2 LS cells also showed weak spike frequency adaptation during near threshold

membrane depolarizations and had other electrophysiological properties typical of

NGFCs (Table 1).

Morphologically, the LS cells in L2-5 had the characteristic features of NGFCs with

short multipolar dendrites emanating around the cell body and a significantly larger, dense

axonal arbor surrounding the cell body and dendritic arbor (Figure 3A-B and S5; n=15),

consistent with previous descriptions of NGFC in these layers across several neocortical

areas (35-38, 64). NGFCs in L1 resemble NGFCs in L2-5 in having short dendrites and

dense axonal arborization, but their axonal arbor extends for longer horizontal distances,

spanning several columns (9, 10, 30, 62, 65, 66) and have been called "elongated

neurogliaform cells" (9, 10). We found that in the LS cells in deeper layers, the axonal

arbor was also asymmetrical, often extending in the vertical (columnar) direction. These

differences between NGFCs across cortical layers are also evident in the NGFC

morphologies illustrated in a recent patch-seq study (16). The remaining Id2 cells (20%

in L2/3 and 10% in L4-5) had either an irregular or a bursting firing pattern during low to

moderate depolarizations (Fig. 3C , 3D, 3F, and Table 1) and narrower action potentials

(Fig. 3E). We also observed that a small minority of the non-LS Id2 cells in L2/3 (~15%)

were likely alpha-7 cells, a L1 Id2 interneuron subtype typically localized in the deeper

part of L1, which has a bursting firing pattern that can be distinguished from other L2/3

bursting cells by the properties of the burst, significantly lower input resistance, and

morphology (Fig. S5) (30).

The histological analysis showed that the majority (~80% in L2/3) of the non-NPY

Id2 cells strongly express the neuropeptide CCK (Fig. 2). CCK is expressed at varying

levels by many types of cortical neurons, including GABAergic and glutamatergic cells,

however it is particularly high in a group of GABAergic interneurons known as "CCK-

CB1R interneurons" or "CCK basket cells" that have been described in the hippocampus

and L2/3 of the neocortex (33, 39, 59, 67, 68). Although much less abundant than other

GABAergic interneurons in the neocortex, they are of special interest because of their

unique synaptic properties (67, 69, 70). In particular, these cells express CB1 cannabinoid

receptors in their presynaptic terminals that mediate a phenomenon known as

depolarization-induced suppression of inhibition (DSI) (71, 72). Depolarization of a

connected pyramidal cell leads to the production of endocannabinoids by the latter that

are transported retrogradely to the presynaptic terminals of the CCK basket cells, where

they bind to the CB1 receptors in the terminal, leading to suppression of GABA release

(73-75).

To test the hypothesis that non-LS Id2 neurons include "CCK basket cells", we first

examined the effect of depolarization of a pyramidal cell on the PSP generated on L2/3

PCs by light stimulation of Id2 neurons expressing the ChR CatCh (Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-

Flpe; Ai80; Fig. 4A-C). Depolarization of the PC reduced the synaptic response by ~20%,

and this reduction was prevented by application of the CB1 receptor antagonist AM251

(Fig. 4B-C) suggesting that some of the presynaptic cells innervating the cell had

undergone DSI. In paired recordings of L2/3 LS Id2 cells and PCs, we find that the

synaptic response elicited by NGFCs does not undergo DSI (n=9; Fig. 4E). In contrast, in

paired recordings of non-LS Id2 cells, we observed DSI in 3 out of the 5 pairs tested (Fig.

4E). Of the cells showing DSI, two were irregular spiking and one was bursting; of the two

cells that did not show DSI, one was burst spiking and the other was a putative alpha-7

cell. These results indicate that the suppression of GABA release observed when the

whole population of Id2 cells is stimulated is occurring on the terminals of the non-LS Id2

cells. Interestingly, the proportion of the GABAergic response elicited by light activation

of Id2 cells that was suppressed by depolarization of the post-synaptic PC is similar to

the representation of non-LS cells in the L2/3 Id2 population. These observations,

together with the molecular analysis, suggest that the majority of the non-LS Id2 cells are

"CCK basket cells" (see Discussion). The morphology of IS and BS non-LS Id2 cells was

similar, and quite distinct from the NGFCs, with significantly longer dendrites and a less

symmetrical and much less dense axonal arborization (Fig. 3C-D and S5), which

resembles the morphology of published CCK basket cells in the neocortex (33, 68).

*In vivo* **properties of Id2 INs**

Although NGFCs are a substantial population of GABAergic INs, particularly in the

superficial layers of the cortex (where they are slightly more abundant than SST INs), the

lack of genetic strategies to study these cells has limited the characterization of their *in*

*vivo* properties (see Discussion). Nevertheless, given their broad output connectivity,

these neurons are likely to contribute significantly to inhibition throughout the cortical

column. We utilized our intersectional genetics approach to express CatCh in Id2 INs

(Id2-CreER; Dlx/5/6-Flpe; Ai80; also see Fig. 4) in order to optogenetically identify and

stimulate these cells in multichannel silicon probe recordings in the posterior parietal

cortex and V1 of freely moving and behaving animals (Fig. 5A). Single units were isolated

(N = 571 units from 5 mice) and separated into putative pyramidal cells (PC), narrow

waveform (NW) INs and wide waveform (WW) INs (76). Id2 INs expressing CatCh were

distinguished from other cells adjacent to the probes by measuring their firing rates in

response to light stimulation (Fig. 5B). Applying stringent filtering criteria (see Methods),

we selected 11 Id2 INs that exhibited robustly increased firing following light stimulation

for further analysis (Fig. 5B-C). We then characterized the firing properties of these Id2

INs identified in vivo in relation to PCs and other INs. These Id2 INs exhibited WW

characteristics, and were readily distinguishable from NW cells, previously identified as

PV fast-spiking INs and some SST INs (56) (Fig. 5B and D). Consistent with this, these

11 Id2 INs had wider auto-correlograms than other PC and NW INs, similar to the overall

WW group (Fig. 5E). These results indicate that the previously described WW group (76)

includes an unknown proportion of Id2 INs.

In addition to the 11 WW Id2 INs described above, we also observed two light

responsive Id2 INs with narrower waveform properties, although these cells did not pass

the selection criteria for further analysis. We estimate that the majority of Id2 INs that

could be identified by optotagging in our silicon probe experiments were located in deeper

layers (~L3-5), where the proportion of Id2 NGFC cells is >90% (Fig. 2). Thus, we

tentatively conclude that the 11 Id2 WW INs we selected for analysis are NGFCs, and

that the Id2 cells exhibiting narrower waveform properties are likely to be non-NGFC

CCK+ types.

The firing rates of PC, NW and WW neurons varied across behavioral states,

typically showing lower activity during sleep (Fig. 5F). In contrast, putative Id2 NGFC INs

exhibited relatively consistent firing rates across all conditions, with moderately increased

activity during REM sleep (Fig. 5F). During NREM sleep, the cortex interleaves periods

of high spiking activity (up states) with transient silences (down states) (56, 77). To gain

insights into the nature of the firing dynamics of Id2 neurons during sleep, we aligned the

activity of all recorded neurons to the peak of the down state (Fig. 5G). Most of the

neurons decreased their activity during down states, and steadily recovered their baseline

activity after the down state (post-down; Fig. 5H). Putative Id2 NGFCs decreased their

activity during down states to a similar extent as the other cell groups, but strongly

increased their firing above baseline levels immediately following the termination of the

down state (Fig. 5H, bottom; ~4 s.d. above pre-down rate for Id2; 0.2, 0.6 and -0.03 for

PC, NW and WW, respectively). This rebound in activity was negatively correlated with

the degree of firing suppression during down states for the Id2 group (Fig. 5I), suggesting

that intrinsic membrane properties of the Id2 INs could be mediating, at least in part, their

increased activity after down states. No other neuron group showed a significant

correlation between down and post-down state activity, notwithstanding the considerably

bigger sample size (Fig. 5I). Furthermore, Id2 INs fired at an early position during the up

states sequences (Fig. 5J), as estimated by the normalized rank order during the detected

up state epochs (see Methods).

Finally, to understand how Id2 IN activity impacts cortical circuit dynamics *in vivo*,

we performed optogenetic stimulation of the Id2 IN population and analyzed which

fraction of putative PC, NW, or WW were suppressed (neg mod in Fig. 6A), activated (pos

mod) or unchanged (no mod). Light stimulation resulted in a significant decrease in firing

rate for about half of the population of all considered cell types (Fig. 6A), consistent with

the broad direct inhibition expected from NGFCs. PCs in the supra-granular layers were

more frequently suppressed than deeper layer PCs, while both NW and WW INs showed

the opposite trend. Interestingly, we also observed a slow positive activity modulation of

a subset of INs, and to a lesser extent PCs, following stimulation of Id2 INs (Fig. 6A;

darker quantiles in Fig. 6B).  Positively modulated responses consistently lagged the

negative responses (Fig. 6B-C), suggesting an indirect disinhibitory mechanism for the

positive responses. Overall, we find that the recruitment of Id2 INs leads to a wide range

of response dynamics throughout the cortical column, including both inhibitory and to a

lesser extent disinhibitory effects.

**Discussion**

Initiated by the finding that fast-spiking interneurons specifically express PV (78),

the use of molecular markers to classify subpopulations of cortical GABAergic

interneurons (INs) has evolved tremendously over the last decade, particularly with the

advent of single-cell RNA sequencing methods to profile transcriptome diversity (13, 15,

17, 79). These approaches have enhanced our ability to design and implement genetic

strategies to label and experimentally manipulate defined populations of INs in order to

understand their specialized functions in cortical circuitry. However, several critical

issues have emerged from this body of work that require consideration. First,

differentially expressed genes that exhibit distinct labeling patterns as assessed by

immunohistochemistry (IHC) or in situ hybridization (ISH) may also be expressed at

lower levels in broader cell populations that escape detection with those methods. In

transgenic animals expressing recombinases such as Cre, labeling strategies that utilize

viral or genetically encoded Cre-dependent reporters typically reveal these additional

populations due to the lower expression threshold required for labeling with these

genetic methods compared to IHC or ISH. For example, expression of the marker CCK

as assessed by IHC or ISH has been used to identify subsets of INs with relatively high

levels of CCK, but the use of CCK-Cre with a genetic reporter results in much more

extensive labeling of INs (Fig. S6) as well as pyramidal cells. Second, the

developmental trajectory of marker gene expression can vary substantially, in that the

adult expression pattern for a particular marker may be much more restricted than its

cumulative expression. This appears to be the case for the marker 5HT3aR (Htr3a),

where expression of EGFP from a BAC transgenic mouse line labels virtually *all* non-PV

or SST INs (i.e., all of the CGE-derived INs), a finding that lead to the conclusion that

PV, SST and 5HT3aR INs account for all the INs in the neocortex (46, 47).  We

compared labeling efficiencies obtained with a knock in Htr3a-Flpo line (30) with that of

an Htr3a(BAC)-Cre line (80) and the Htr3a(BAC)-EGFP line used by Lee et al., and

found that two copies of the Htr3a-Flpo driver could largely recapitulate the cell labeling

observed with the higher copy number BAC transgenic lines (Fig. S7). This result, along

with ISH images of Htr3a expression at embryonic and adult ages (e.g., Allen Brain

Atlas) is consistent with broad but transient Htr3a expression in non-PV/non-SST INs

that then becomes restricted to a subpopulation of these INs (81).

Leveraging the scRNAseq resources provided by the Allen Institute (13), we

identified Id2 as a marker for the vast majority of the INs that do not express PV, SST,

or VIP. While Id2 is also expressed in pyramidal neurons and several non-neuronal cell

types, we employed intersectional genetics with a pan-IN driver (Dlx5/6-Flpe) to restrict

labeling to Id2 INs. This labeling approach relies on the use of an Id2-CreER driver,

which has its own pros and cons: tamoxifen induction of cre activity in Id2 cells in P21 or

older animals avoids spurious cell labeling arising from developmental Id2 expression,

but the efficiency of CreER-mediated recombination can be highly variable from animal

to animal depending on the effectiveness of tamoxifen administration. Overall, in well-

labeled brains, we found that Id2 INs comprised ~18% of the total IN population in

S1BF, which is consistent with our previous estimates for the prevalence of non-

PV/non-SST/non-VIP INs (5). In L1, a layer consisting only of GABAergic INs, >90% of

which are non-PV/non-SST/non-VIP, we previously identified three distinct

subpopulations: NGFCs, canopy cells, and alpha-7 cells (30).  Here, we find that in L2-

5, this fourth group of INs is mostly comprised of NGFCs (~87%), with the remainder

consisting of a variety of CCK+ cells. While to date NGFCs have mainly been recorded

in superficial layers (L1-3), here we find that NGFCs are present in all layers, including

deep layers, but are enriched in L2/3. On the other hand, CCK+ INs are mainly located

in superficial L2/3 along the border with L1 and in L6. As previously shown for the

5HT3aR INs (5), compared to L4-5, the proportion of Id2 INs increases in L6, where this

group accounts for about 15% of all INs (Fig. 1). Within the L6 Id2 population, about

60% were NPY+ (putative NGFCs), and about 25% were strongly CCK+, with about

10% unaccounted for (Fig. 2). Thus, like L1, L6 is a specialized case that merits its own

study to elucidate the distinct IN species that reside there.

The massive scale of the recent cell type survey from the Allen Institute (17)

offers an unprecedented look at cortical and hippocampal IN diversity, and presents the

opportunity to assess the expression profile of specific genes across all IN types.

Focusing on the "CGE" branch of interneurons, we find that Id2 expression largely

encompasses the "Lamp5" and "Sncg" branches of their dendrogram (Fig. S1).

However, it is important to note that neither Lamp5 or Sncg are uniformly expressed

across the different subtypes in their respective branches. In the case of Sncg, many of

the CCK+ subtypes within that branch express low if any *Sncg* itself (e.g., within the

Serpinf1 sub-branch; Fig. S1). Furthermore, there is substantial overlap with VIP in the

Sncg population overall (~50% of cells), but this VIP/Sncg population does not appear

to be well labeled using our Id2 strategy (Fig. S3), likely due to the lower levels of Id2 in

these cells (Fig. S1). The recent development of new drivers for Lamp5 (Lamp5-Flpo;

Jax #037340) and Sncg (Sncg-Flpo; Jax#034424) (82) will enable new transgenic

targeting approaches for these respective IN populations, but the breadth and efficiency

of labeling achieved with these new driver lines remain to be determined. Future work

will hopefully resolve how this relatively sparse but remarkably diverse CCK+ IN

population functions within the cortex, and whether some of these cells might relate to

primate-specific CCK+ IN types such as the rosehip cell (83).

The genetic strategies described here have also facilitated the *in vivo* recording

of NGFCs. Outside of L1, where NGFCs express NDNF, a gene that has been used to

facilitate the identification and *in vivo* recording of these neurons (84-86), recording of

NGFCs has been limited to blind recordings followed by post-hoc identification (87-89),

a very low yield approach. Here, we combined optogenetic labeling via Id2

intersectional genetics with silicon probe recordings to identify putative NGFCs in vivo

(Fig. 5). We identified 11 Id2 INs located approximately in L3-5 where the vast majority

(>90%) of Id2 INs are NGFCs, as defined by histology and electrophysiology (Figs. 2-4).

We found that these putative NGFCs have a number of unique properties, including

relatively constant firing rates throughout different brain states and a strong rebound in

activity immediately following the down state during NREM sleep. We also found that

optogenetic stimulation of Id2 INs produced widespread inhibition of PCs and other INs

and delayed their activation, suggesting that the recruitment of NGFCs might drive a

widespread switch in the activity of all other cortical neurons. The notable rebound in

NGFC activity following the down state, together with the extensive output connectivity

of these neurons, suggests an important role for this form of GABAergic inhibition in

setting the stage for new incoming information during bouts of cortical activity. Future

work will certainly continue to elucidate the function of this important but neglected

GABAergic cell type in regulating cortical circuitry.

**Materials and Methods**

*Mice*

The following primary lines of mice were used to generate the compound transgenic

crosses described in this paper: Id2-CreER (Jax #016222) (51), Dlx5/6-Flpe (Jax

#010815) (49), NPY-hrGFP (Jax #006417) (90), Nkx2.1-Flpo (Jax #028577) (28), VIP-

Flpo (Jax #028578) (28), Ai65 (Jax #021875) (27), Ai80 (Jax #025109) (29), and FLTG

(Jax #026932) (53). The reporter lines Ai65, Ai80 and FLTG were maintained as

homozygous stocks prior to crossing with compound heterozygous driver lines (e.g.,

Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe X Ai65 homozygous), with the resulting pups genotyped for Cre

and Flpe to obtain experimental animals (e.g., Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65).

Genotyping was performed on genomic DNA extracted from pup toe clippings using the

following primers (sequences are 5' to 3'): Cre (fwd primer: caacgagtgatgaggttcgca, rev

primer: cgccgcataaccagtgaaaca, product = 304 bp), Flpe (fwd primer:

tctttagcgcaaggggtagga, rev primer: aagcacgcttatcgctccaa, product = 312 bp) and Flpo

(fwd primer: ccacattcatcaactgcggc, rev primer: gggccgttcttgatagcgaa, product = 355

bp). To activate CreER, a stock solution of tamoxifen (Sigma T5648; dissolved in corn

oil at 20 mg/ml on a shaker at 55°C for several hours) was administered to P21-P35

animals by oral gavage (4 mg/20g mouse) 3-4x over 5-7 days. All experiments were

performed in accordance with protocols approved by the Department of Comparative

Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

*Histology*

To obtain brain tissue for histology, animals were transcardially perfused with 4%

paraformalydehyde/PBS (diluted from a 32% stock; Electron Microscopy Sciences

cat#15714) and the brain dissected, with a post-dissection fix period of 0-16 hrs. For the

preparation of thin cryosections, brains were equilibrated in 30% sucrose/PBS overnight

before freezing in mounting medium (Tissue-Plus O.C.T. compound; Scigen 4583). For

the quantification of Id2 vs non-Id2 interneurons in Fig. 1, vibratome sections (50 $\mu$m)

were generated following perfusion/PBS washes using a Leica vibratome (VT1000S).

Brain cryosections (20 $\mu$m) were generated using a Leica CM3050 cryostat, collected

on glass slides (Shandon ColorFrost Plus; ThermoScientific cat#9991013), and stored

at -20°C. For immunohistochemistry (IHC), tissue sections were washed in PBS,

blocked for 1 hour at room temperature with PBS/0.1% Triton-X 100/2% normal donkey

serum, incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibody (rabbit anti-CCK; Frontier

Institute cat#Af350) in blocking solution, washed in PBS, incubated 1 hour at RT with

secondary antibodies (for CCK IHC: donkey anti-rabbit AlexaFluor-488; Invitrogen

cat#A-21206). Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization for NPY and tdTomato (Fig. 2A-B) was

performed as described previously (30), with the following primers used to amplify

templates for labeled cRNA antisense probe synthesis: NPY fwd primer: 5'-

tcacagaggcacccagagc-3'; NPY rev primer (w/T7 sequence): 5'-

attaatacgactcactatagcggagtccagcctagtggtg-3'; tdTomato fwd: 5'-atcaaagagttcatgcgcttc-

3'; tdTomato rev primer (w/T7 sequence): 5'-

cattaatacgactcactatagggttccacgatggtgtagtcctc-3'.

*Slice preparation*

Adult transgenic mice of either sex (postnatal day range 30-120; mean age ± SEM =

46.6 ± 1.5) were terminally anesthetized with isoflurane, and once unresponsive, were

perfused with ice-cold sucrose-ACSF containing the following (in mM): 87 NaCl, 75

sucrose, 2.5 KCl, 26 NaHCO$_3$, 1.25 NaH$_2$PO$_4$, 10 glucose, 1.0 CaCl$_2$, and 2.0 MgCl$_2$,

saturated with 95% O$_2$/5% CO$_2$. Next, the mice were decapitated and the brains were

extracted. The brain was glued to a stage, placed into a chamber filled with bubbled ice-

cold sucrose ACSF, and sliced into 300 µm-thick coronal sections, angled 15º towards

the blade, using a Leica VT1200S vibratome. The slices were incubated at 35°C for 30

min in the above sucrose solution or the recording-ACSF described below and then

transferred to room temperature for at least 1 hour before recording commenced.

*Electrophysiology recordings*

Slices were transferred to a recording chamber perfused with ACSF containing (in mM):

120 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 25 NaHCO$_3$, 1.4 NaH$_2$PO$_4$, 21 glucose, 0.4 Na-Ascorbate, 2 Na-

Pyruvate, 1 CaCl$_2$, and 2 MgCl$_2$, saturated with 95% O$_2$/5% CO$_2$ and maintained at 29 –

32°C. For some experiments, the bath solution contained the NMDA receptor blocker D-

AP5 (25 µM; Abcam), the AMPA receptor blocker CNQX (10 µM; Abcam), or the GABA$_B$

receptor blocker CGP-35348 (60 µM; Tocris). Neurons were visualized on an upright

Olympus microscope (BX50WI or BX51WI) using DIC and fluorescence illumination

from an LED power source (Mightex) for tdTomato and/or GFP. All neurons were

recorded in the barrel field of the primary somatosensory cortex in layers 2-5. Layers

were identified visually under DIC optics using several features. The L1-2 border was

marked by a sharp increase in soma density from L1. The L3-4 border was identified

under 4x power by the top of the barrels, the presence of horizontal fibers under 40x (in

L4), and the absence of pyramidal cells (PCs) seen in L2/3. L5a was a clear band below

L4 and the L5b-6 border was determined under 40x by a sharp drop in PCs. Neurons

were recorded in whole-neuron patch-clamp in current clamp and voltage clamp mode

using an internal solution containing (in mM): 130 K-Gluconate, 10 HEPES, 1.1 EGTA,

2 Mg-ATP, 0.4 Na-GTP, 10 Na-phosphocreatine, and 1.5 $MgCl_2$, 0.3-0.5% biocytin, and

titrated with 1 M KOH to a final pH of 7.3. Glass pipettes were pulled on a horizontal

puller (Sutter Instruments) using borosilicate glass (inner/outer diameter 1.5 mm / 0.86

mm) and had resistances of 2-6 MΩ. Before gaining whole-neuron access, a gigaseal

was obtained, and the pipette capacitance was compensated. Access resistances were

monitored throughout recordings and were completely compensated. The intrinsic

properties of neurons with access resistances >40 MΩ were not analyzed. All data were

collected using a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Molecular Devices), a Digidata digitizer

(1440A or 1550B series, Molecular Devices), and Clampex version (10.6 or 10.7)

software (Molecular Devices); data were sampled at 20 kHz and low-pass filtered at 10

kHz.

*Electrophysiological characterization and analysis*

A total of 178 cells were recorded. This includes a sample of 76 cells that were

randomly selected for patching, and this group was used to determine the proportions of

each type. In addition, neurons were recorded in the same Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe;

Ai65 mice but recordings were biased to superficial layer 2/3 to maximize the chances

of obtaining non-LS Id2 INs. Lastly, a third group included cells from animals where

NPY cells were labeled with GFP (i.e. Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65; NPY-hrGFP) to

facilitate the identification of non-LS Id2 INs. Neurons were characterized for intrinsic

and active properties in current-clamp mode from a resting potential of ~-70 mV.

Neurons were injected with 1 s long square pulses of increasing current. Parameters

relating to the neuron's intrinsic and active properties were assessed as follows:

*First spike latency and cell type classification:* Once rheobase was determined, several

current steps were delivered at rheobase to characterize the behavior of the cell. The

recorded cells fell into three readily separable groups. The first and most numerous

group exhibited a single-spike at rheobase with latencies of >500 ms and were termed

late-spiking (LS). The second group displayed a high-frequency (>100 Hz) burst of two

or more APs at rheobase and were termed burst-spiking (BS). The third group of cells

had single spikes at rheobase with latencies of <100 ms consistent with the charging of

the membrane capacitance (fivefold a tau of 20 ms). These cells also exhibited irregular

spiking (CV of ISI: $0.112 \pm 0.029$ vs. $0.053 \pm 0.004$ in LS, p=0.0066, Mann-Whitney

Test, see the section below for how CV of ISI was measured) and were classified as

irregular-spiking (IS).

*Input resistance:* This was determined from Ohm's Law based on the voltage response

to a 150 ms long negative voltage step of typically 20 pA.

*Membrane time constant (τ):* This was determined by fitting an exponential decay to the

voltage response from 1 s long current pulses below rheobase.

*AP waveform properties:* To measure these properties, only the first APs from each

sweep were considered, as APs in neurons with initial bursts tended to widen

significantly for subsequent APs, and all such APs from sweeps with total AP counts

<50 were considered. AP threshold and peak were calculated first and then t=0 was

defined at the time of AP peak. AP threshold was the voltage reading when the voltage

derivative was 20 mV/ms. AP peak amplitude was the maximum voltage reached in the

2 ms after the threshold was passed. AP half-width was the time of the AP when the

voltage was above the midpoint between the threshold and peak. The

afterhyperpolarization (AHP) was calculated as the difference in voltage between the

AP threshold and AP reset (minimum voltage in 10 ms window after AP peak). Finally,

AP max and decay slopes were the maximum and minimum values for dV/dt reached in

the 10 ms after the threshold was passed. Parameters were calculated separately for

each AP and then averaged together for the mean neuronal value.

*Rheobase and firing rates:* Rheobase was determined to be the current step that

resulted in a single spike, or for bursting cells, a single burst. The firing rate was

measured for each voltage sweep by counting the number of spikes in the sweep and

taking or interpolating the value at 2 x rheobase.

*Spike frequency adaptation:* For LS cells, spike frequency adaptation was measured at

2 x rheobase and near rheobase, during the first depolarization where a spike train was

observed throughout the pulse (1.3 x rheobase). For IS and BS cells, the adaptation

index was only measured at 2 x rheobase, since near rheobase, firing was often highly

irregular. The adaptation index was measured as follows: For each voltage sweep

during which the neuron spiked at least six times (five ISIs), an exponential function,

$f_{adap}(t)$, was fit to the firing-rate vs. time plot. The adaptation index (AI) for that sweep

was defined as AI = $f_{adap}(1000 \text{ ms}) / f_{adap}(100 \text{ ms})$, and the values at 1.3 x rheobase or 2

x rheobase were taken or interpolated to represent adaptation for the cell.

*Spiking regularity:* For each voltage sweep, all inter-spike intervals (ISIs) from the last

500 ms of the current step were considered. The spiking regularity was measured as

the coefficient of variation (CV) for these ISIs, and the reported value was taken from

the sweeps at 2 x rheobase.

*DSI – optogenetics and paired recordings*

For optogenetics experiments, L2/3 PCs were identified visually under DIC, patched in

whole-cell mode, and then confirmed as PCs by a brief electrophysiological

characterization. Blue light (470 nm) pulses (2 ms / >100 mA) were delivered to the slice

using TTL-pulses to a Mightex brand LED under 40x power with the PC soma centered.

Optically evoked IPSCs were recorded under a voltage clamp at a holding potential of -

50 mV with D-AP5 and CNQX present to block glutamatergic transmission and CGP

35348 to block the large $GABA_B$ component of the current characteristic of NGFCs (37).

Cannabinoid dependence of DSI was assessed by optogenetic experiments carried out

in the presence of the CB1 receptor blocker AM251 (10 µM; Abcam).

For paired recordings, Id2 neurons were identified as tdT+ soma in the Id2-CreER;

Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65 mouse line or tdT+/GFP± somas in the Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65;

NPY-hrGFP cross. The Id2 firing pattern was briefly characterized, and the neuron was

tagged as late-spiking (LS), irregular-spiking (IS), or burst-spiking (BS). A nearby PC

was also patched (Id2-PC inter-soma distance range 10-130 µm, average distance ±

SEM = 53 ± 4), and connectivity to the Id2 cell was assessed under voltage-clamp for

both cells by eliciting escape spikes from the Id2 cell and looking for the presence of

IPSCs in the PC at a holding voltage of -50 mV. If a connection was not seen, either a

new Id2-PC pair was tested, or the PC pipette was withdrawn with the Id2 neuron still

held, and another nearby PC was patched and tested. If a connection was identified,

then the DSI protocol was run as described in Figure 4.

*Morphology*

During whole-cell electrophysiological recordings, neurons were held for at least 15 min

with an internal solution containing ~0.4 or ~1.0% biocytin. Some slices, especially the

ones with neurons held close to 15 min, were retransferred to the incubation chamber to

allow for more biocytin diffusion inside the recorded cell. After filling, the slices were

fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde/PBS (diluted from a 32% stock; Electron Microscopy

Sciences cat#15714) for 1-7 days at 4°C. Fixed slices were then thoroughly washed

with PBS and left overnight at 4°C in a 0.4% streptavidin (AlexaFluor 647 conjugate;

Invitrogen) solution (498 µl 0.3% Triton X-100 in PBS, 2 µl streptavidin per slice). Slices

were then washed in PBS, mounted with Fluoromount-G (Invitrogen) on a glass

microscope slide, and imaged under a 40-63x oil-immersion objective using a confocal

microscope (Zeiss). Confocal images were then used to morphologically reconstruct

neurons in three dimensions using Neurolucida. In a few cases, cells were

juxtacellularly labeled and processed using CUBIC before morphological reconstruction

(30).

*Silicon probe implantation and recordings*

Mice (N = 5, 28–35 g, 3–10 months old) were implanted with 64-site silicon probes

(NeuroNexus, Cambridge NeuroTech or Diagnostic Biochips) in the PPC (AP 2.0 mm,

ML 1.75mm, DL 0.6mm), as described previously (56). Ground and reference wires

were implanted in the skull above the cerebellum, and a grounded copper mesh hat was

constructed, protecting, and electrically shielding, the probes. Probes were mounted on

plastic microdrives that were advanced to layer 6 over the course of 5–8 d after surgery.

A 100–200-µm fiber optic was attached to one of the shanks of the silicon probe. After

implantation, animals were allowed to recover for at least 1 week and were housed

individually under standard conditions (71–73 °F and 40–50% relative humidity) in the

animal facility and kept on a 12-h reverse light/dark cycle. We recorded the mice while

they slept or walked around freely in the home cage, and the recording session started

1-2 hr after the onset of the dark phase. Electrophysiological data were acquired using

an Intan RHD2000 system (Intan Technologies LLC) digitized with a 30 kHz rate. The

wide-band signal was downsampled to 1.25 kHz and used as the LFP signal. For

optogenetic tagging of specific neuron types, blue laser light (450 nm, Osram) pulses

were delivered in the PPC/V1. The maximum light power at the tip of the optic fiber was

1–4 mW. 100-ms light pulses with 70% of the maximum power were delivered (n = 500–

1,000 times at each intensity at 400 ± 200-ms random intervals).

*Unit activity analysis*

Spike sorting was performed semi-automatically with KiloSort 1

(https://github.com/cortex-lab/KiloSort), as previously described (56) and using our own

pipeline KilosortWrapper (a wrapper for KiloSort, DOI;

https://github.com/brendonw1/KilosortWrapper). This was followed by manual

adjustment of the waveform clusters using the software Phy 2

(https://github.com/kwikteam/phy) and plugins for phy designed in the laboratory

(https://github.com/petersenpeter/phy-plugins). Unit clustering generated three clearly

separable groups based on their spike autocorrelograms, waveform characteristics and

firing rate (76). Pyramidal cell (PC), narrow waveform (NW) INs and wide waveform

interneurons (WW) were tentatively separated based on these two clusters. A more

reliable cell identity was assigned after inspection of all features, assisted by

monosynaptic excitatory and inhibitory interactions between simultaneously recorded,

well-isolated units and light responses (56, 91). Units were defined as optogenetically

responsive cells based on the combination of three criteria

(https://github.com/valegarman/hippoCookBook): (1) an average firing response higher

than 2SD, (2) significant modulation using a p-value cutoff of $10^{-3}$ (45) and (3) against

randomly shuffled pulse times (500 replicates) and testing for significant difference

between the observed value and the random distribution. To calculate the layer identity

of the units, we aligned depth profiles of electrophysiological landmarks. These included

the largest amplitude peak of high-frequency LFP power (500 Hz–5 kHz) corresponding

to mid-layer 5 and four prominent sinks and sources from the averaged down–up

current-source density (CSD) maps for each animal, as previously described (56).

Rank-order estimation was used to identify the position of units repeating consistently

across up events. The timing from multiple units recorded simultaneously was

transformed in a normalized sequence order from 0 to 1 within an up event. The rate

centroid from each unit in an up event was considered for the rank order.

Brain state scoring was performed as previously described (56, 91, 92) with the

MATLAB resource SleepScoreMaster (https://github.com/valegarman/hippoCookBook).

Briefly, spectrograms were constructed with a 1-s sliding 10-s window FFT of 1250 Hz

data at log-spaced frequencies between 1 and 100 Hz. Three types of signals were

used for state scoring: broadband LFP, narrowband theta frequency LFP, and

electromyogram (EMG). For broadband LFP signal, principal components analysis

(PCA) was applied to the z-transformed (1-100 Hz) spectrogram. The first principal

components in all cases were based on power in the low (< 20 Hz) frequency range and

had negatively weighted power in the higher (> 32 Hz) frequencies. The state scoring

algorithm was performed by a series of divisions with thresholds set at the trough

between the peaks of distributions in these three metrics. After automated brain state

scoring, all states were manually reviewed by the experimenter. The awake-sleep index

was estimated as $(\text{rate}^{Awake} - \text{rate}^{Sleep})/ (\text{rate}^{Awake} + \text{rate}^{Sleep})$, where $\text{rate}^{Awake}$ is the

average between the firing rate during Run and Quiet, and $\text{rate}^{Sleep}$ was the average

between REM sleep and NREM sleep.

*Statistical analysis*

Statistical analyses were performed with standard MATLAB functions or GraphPad

Prism. No specific analysis was used to estimate a minimal population sample, but the

number of animals, trials, in vitro and in vivo recorded cells were larger or similar to

those employed in previous works (91). All data presented were obtained from

experimental replicates with at least four independent experimental repeats for each

assay. All attempts of replication were successful. Data collection was not performed

blinded to the subject conditions. Data analysis was performed blinded to the scorer or

did not require manual scoring. Unless otherwise noted, for all tests, non-parametric

two-tailed Wilcoxon's paired signed-rank test and Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of

variance were used. For multiple comparisons, Tukey's honesty post hoc test was

employed, and the corrected $*P < 0.05$, $**P < 0.01$, $***P < 0.001$ are indicated. P-values

for Spearman's correlations are computed using a Student's t distribution for a

transformation of the correlation. Results are displayed as median +/- 25th/75th

percentiles, unless indicated otherwise. Dispersion represents ± IC95.

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## Author contributions

Conceptualization: RM and BR; Methodology: RM, SD, MV; Formal analysis: SD, MV, JM; Investigation: RM, SD, MV, IK, HZ, JH, YH, BS; Resources: GB, BR; Writing: RM, MV, SD, BR; Visualization: RM, MV, SD, HZ, JH, YH; Supervision: RM, BR; Funding acquisition: GB, BR.

## Declaration of interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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# Fig. 1: Id2 expression delineates a fourth major group of INs

**A**

primary lineages — Lhx6 'MGE', Adarb2 'CGE'

four major groups — Pvalb, Sst, Vip, Id2

Id2 related markers — Reln, Ndnf, Npy, Lamp5

Id2/Sncg type — Cck, Sncg

**B**

Id2 → CreER

+

Dlx5/6 tg → Flpe

Intersectional reporter: Ai65

CAG → frt STOP frt loxP STOP loxP RFP

Intersectional/Subtractive reporter: FLTG

CAG → frt STOP frt loxP RFP STOP loxP GFP

**C** Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65  S1BF

L1, L2/3, L4, L5, L6, wm

20 μm thick coronal section

**D** Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; FLTG

L1, L2/3, L4, L5, L6

**E** % Id2/total INs

L1: 83%

L2/3: 27%

L4: 8%

L5: 7%

L6: 15%

Id2 INs overall: 18%

**F** pia

Id2

non-Id2

laminar position

wm

soma distribution

**Figure 1: Id2 expression delineates a fourth major group of INs**.

(**A**) Public scRNAseq data (from Tasic et al., 2016; comprised of ~ 3000 INs purified from the visual cortex, with transcriptome diversity represented as tSNE plots; see Mayer et al., 2018) underlying the hypothesis that the non-VIP CGE IN population can be distinguished by the expression of *Id2*. Primary IN lineages originating from the medial (MGE) and caudal (CGE) ganglionic eminences express *Lhx6* and *Adarb2*, respectively. To a first approximation, MGE-derived INs are comprised of parvalbumin (*Pvalb*) and somatostatin (*Sst*) subtypes, whereas CGE-derived INs consist of vasoactive intestinal peptide (*Vip*) and inhibitor of DNA binding 2 (*Id2*) subtypes. Expression of the marker genes Reelin (*Reln*), neuron-derived neurotrophic factor (*Ndnf*), neuropeptide Y (*Npy*) and cholecystokinin (*Cck*) is evident within the Id2 population, which roughly corresponds to the lysosomal associated membrane protein 5 (*Lamp5*) plus synuclein-γ (*Sncg*) IN categories in Tasic et al., 2016. (**B**) Intersectional genetic strategies for targeting Id2 INs. The Id2-CreER knock in driver line combined with the Dlx5/6-Flpe transgenic line allows for labeling of Id2 INs with tdTomato when crossed with the Ai65 intersectional reporter (or the channelrhodopsin CatCh when crossed with Ai80). The use of the intersectional/subtractive reporter FLTG enables the dual color labeling of Id2 and non-Id2 INs. (**C**) Image of coronal cryosection (20 μm thick) of an Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65 labeled brain (P30) reveals the distribution of Id2 INs throughout the layers of the cortical S1 barrel field (S1BF). (**D**) Image of a coronal field in S1BF of Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; FLTG labeled brain with Id2 INs in green and non-Id2 INs in red. (**E**) Proportion of Id2 vs. non-Id2 INs across the layers of S1BF determined from cell counts of the cross in (D). Id2 INs comprise 18% of the

overall IN population (3812 cells counted across 4 brains). (**F**) Distribution of Id2 and non-Id2 IN somas across S1BF lamina. Scale bars in panels C and D represent 100 µm.

**Fig. 2: Histological analysis of Id2 INs (S1BF)**

**Figure 2: Histological analysis of Id2 INs in S1BF.**

(**A-B**) Assessment of *Npy* expression in Id2 INs (Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65). Fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) with cRNA probes for *tdTomato* (red; panel A) and *Npy* (green; both red and green channels shown in panel B) mRNAs on brain cryosections (20 μm thick) reveals that outside of L1, the vast majority of Id2 INs express *Npy* (L2-5: 87%). The percentages of Id2/*Npy* cells (yellow) in each layer are represented as pie charts on the right. (**C-D**) Assessment of CCK expression in Id2 INs (Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65). Immunofluorescent histochemistry (IHC) for tdTomato (red; panel A) and CCK (green) reveals that a fraction (15%) of Id2 cells in L2-6 express high levels of CCK (CCK[hi]), with the highest proportion of Id2/CCK cells observed in L2 and L6. The percentages of Id2/CCK cells (yellow) in each layer are represented as pie charts on the right. Scale bars in panels B and D represent 100 μm.

**Fig. 3: Electrophysiology and morphology of Id2 INs in S1BF**

**Figure 3. Electrophysiology and morphology of Id2 INs in S1BF.** (**A-D**) Four examples of the types of cells encountered in this survey and their respective locations in the cortical column: (**A-B**) Late-spiking (LS), (**C**) Irregular-spiking (IS), and (**D**) Burst-spiking (BS). For electrophysiological characterization, cells were injected with current to bring them to -70 mV. Each voltage trace shows the response of the cell to a 1s long current injection at the indicated levels which are: i) a negative current to hyperpolarize the cell to -100 mV [black-lower trace], ii) current steps just below [grey trace], at [blue trace], and just above rheobase [red trace], and iii) current at roughly double the rheobase [black-upper trace]. To the right of each cell's voltage traces is the morphological reconstruction from biocytin fills of the same recorded cell with the cortical layers and barrel fields indicated with dashed lines. Dendrites are shown in black and axons are shown in gray. (**E**) Overlay of first action potential waveforms at rheobase from the three described cell types. (**F**) Proportions of the three main cell types encountered in L2/3 and L4/5. For L2/3, 45 randomly selected cells were patched and characterized electrophysiologically. The proportions of the cell types were: 80% LS, 18% IS, and 2% BS. For L4/5, 31 randomly selected cells were characterized, and the proportions of the cell types were: 90% LS, 10% IS, and 0% BS.

# Fig. 4: The non-LS Id2 population exhibits DSI

**Figure 4. The non-LS Id2 population exhibits DSI.** (**A**) Protocol used for revealing depolarization-induced suppression of inhibition (DSI). DSI was first assessed via optogenetics in L2/3 pyramidal cells (PCs) in the following manner: PCs were recorded in voltage-clamp mode in cortical slices from Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai80 animals, in which the channelrhodopsin CatCh is widely expressed in the Id2 IN population. Control IPSCs were elicited by light pulses of 2ms in duration. Then, after a 60s interval, the PC was stepped to +10 mV for 5s, and after a 2s recovery, another IPSC was elicited in the same manner. (**B**) Sample traces from optogenetic experiments. In the drug-free condition (left panel), the peak current decreases slightly but noticeably and recovers by the next stim 60s later. However, in the presence of the CB1 receptor antagonist AM251 (10 µM) [right panel], this decrease was not observed. (**C**) Summary data from all cells tested as in (B). Thin, faint lines are the averages for each cell across three or more repetitions. Dark, solid lines are the averages across all cells. The average decrease in IPSC amplitude in the control condition was 16±2% (n = 18 cells, N = 8 animals). Two-tailed paired t-tests of Post vs. Pre and Recovery vs. Post were significant (p=1e-6, p=6e-6). The average decrease in IPSC amplitude in the AM251 condition was 8±1% (n = 11 cells, N = 4 animals). Also, the average decrease post-depolarization in Control vs. AM251 was significant by a two-tailed unpaired t-test (p=0.002). (**D**) A subset of five cells was tested in which the DSI protocol was carried out with (dp+) or without (dp-) a depolarization to +10 mV to control for variability or rundown of the synaptic current. Trials that incorporated the depolarization step exhibited significantly greater decreases in IPSC amplitude than those that lacked it (p=0.014, two-tailed paired t-test). (**E**) DSI was also detected in several nonLS-PC pairs but not in LS-PC pairs. Recording

configuration and sample current traces from two PCs: a post-synaptic PC to a nonLS cell (left) and a post-synaptic PC to an LS cell (right). Current traces represent a DSI experiment. Several probe stimuli were given to obtain a baseline average (black trace), then the depolarization step to +10 mV was delivered to the PC, and 1-2 s later, the PC was probed again (red trace). The cell was then probed several times afterwards to assess recovery (grey trace). The mouse lines used for these experiments were Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai65 or the same with the addition of an NPY-hrGFP allele to facilitate the identification of nonLS cells. Out of 46 nonLS-PC pairs tested, only 9 (20%) were connected (compared to 24% for $CB_1$IS$\rightarrow$P in Galaretta et al 2008). Out of 27 LS-PC pairs tested, 19 (70%) were connected. DSI was assessed in 9 LS-PC pairs and not observed in any of them, whereas out of 5 nonLS-PC pairs tested for DSI, 3 pairs exhibited it.

# Fig. 5: Activity of Id2 INs *in vivo*

**Figure 5. Activity of Id2 INs *in vivo*.** (**A**) Schematic of the opto-tagging experiments that were used to identify Id2 INs in freely behaving mice. Combined light fiber-recording probes were implanted in Id2-CreER; Dlx5/6-Flpe; Ai80 mice. (**B**) Peristimulus time histogram (PSTH) from 31 isolated neurons from a single recording session. Note one light-responsive neuron in position 11. The peristimulus raster plot, waveform and auto-correlogram for that light-responsive Id2 IN-light responsive unit are shown in brown. All remaining cells from this session are shown in clear gray for comparison. (**C**) Peristimulus histogram (PSTH) for all isolated units classified as Id2 IN-light responsive neurons (from N = 5 mice). (**D**) Average spike waveform (mean ± 95% confidence interval (CI95)) and through-to-peak spike duration (inset; $P < 10^{-61}$, Kruskal-Wallis test) for PCs, NW INs, WW neurons and Id2 INs (N = 317 PCs, 155 NW INs and 88 WW neurons). The average waveform from all Id2 IN-light responsive neurons are overlayed in yellow. (**E**) Same as in **D** but for the average firing auto-correlogram (ACG) in log scale and time constant of the rising phase of the ACG (inset; $P < 10^{-24}$). (**F**) Median firing rates of PCs, NW INs, WW neurons, and light responsive-Id2 INs (Cell type: $F_{3,2261} = 151.44$, $P < 10^{-89}$; State: $F_{3,2261} = 10.74$, $P = 0.035$; Interaction: $F_{9,2261} = 0.97$, $P = 0.46$). Sleep to Awake index ($P = 0.051$, Kruskal-Wallis test) and coefficient of variance of the firing rate ($P = 0.034$, Kruskal-Wallis test) as insets. Sleep to Awake index was near zero only for the Id2 IN group (PC: $Z = 2.55$, $P = 0.010$; NW: $Z = 3.16$, $P = 0.002$; WW: $Z = 0.08$, $P = 0.98$; one-sample Wilcoxon signed rank test). (**G**) Peri-down state Z-scored firing histogram for light-responsive-Id2 INs (top), and all PCs, NW INs, WW neurons (middle to bottom), as ranked according to their magnitude of event response. Solid lines delimit the ±50-ms window used to estimate the unit

responses during down states. Dashed lines delimit the +90-ms to +200-ms window used to estimate the post-down state responses. Id2 INs increase their firing rate during the post-down epoch. (**H**) Temporal dynamics of the Z-scored peri-down-state responses across all groups (top; mean ± IC95). Contrary to what was observed in PCs, NW INs and WW neurons, Id2 neurons significatively increased their firing rate above baseline levels during the post-down epoch (post-down: $P < 10^{-8}$; down: $P < 10^{-15}$). (**I**) The magnitude of the post-down state response as a function of the activity during the down state events. Only Id2 neurons show a significant correlation (Spearman correlation). (**J**) Group differences of the average rank position during up state epochs ($P < 10^{-5}$, Kruskal-Wallis test). Id2 INs lead the up-state sequences.

# Fig. 6: Circuit effects of Id2 IN stimulation *in vivo*

**Figure 6. Circuit effects of Id2 IN stimulation *in vivo*.** (**A**) Fraction of negatively modulated (neg mod), positively modulated (pos mod), and unmodulated neurons (no mod) in the PC, NW and WW groups across cortical layers. Average peristimulus histogram for all three modes of response (pos mod, neg mod, and no mod) is shown in the top inset. (**B**) Peristimulus histograms for PCs, NW INs, and WW neurons, each separated into 5 quantiles based on their +0-ms to +100-ms average firing rate response (light to dark shades). (**C**) Peak latency for the light-evoked responses in all neuron groups as a function of the +0-ms to +100-ms rate response. Positively modulated responses peaked consistently later than negative responses (Spearman correlation).

| Electrophysiological property | LS in L2/3 (n ≥ 15) | LS in L4-5 (n ≥ 5) | IS in L2/3 (n ≥ 5) | BS in L2/3 (n ≥ 5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| First AP latency (ms) | 804 ± 16 | 827 ± 32 | 53 ± 4 | 143 ± 37 |
| Input Resistance (MΩ) | 188 ± 7 | 130 ± 11*** | 199 ± 32 | 301 ± 32*** |
| Membrane τ (ms) | 12 ± 0.5 | 11 ± 0.8 | 13 ± 1.2 | 17 ± 1.4** |
| AP half-width (ms) | 0.70 ± 0.02 | 0.63 ± 0.08 | 0.48 ± 0.04*** | 0.57 ± 0.05* |
| AP threshold (mV) | -35 ± 1 | -33 ± 2 | -38 ± 2 | -41 ± 2* |
| AP rise slope (mV/ms) | 283 ± 15 | 367 ± 61 | 404 ± 60 | 322 ± 46 |
| AP fall slope (mV/ms) | -84 ± 4 | -108 ± 20 | -150 ± 19*** | -135 ± 29* |
| AHP amplitude (mV) | 14.4 ± 0.5 | 12.9 ± 1.1 | 9.9 ± 0.9*** | 6.6 ± 1.3*** |
| Rheobase (pA) | 150 ± 17 | 205 ± 44 | 155 ± 18 | 51 ± 7*** |
| Firing rate (Hz) (at 2 x rheobase) | 38 ± 3 | 29 ± 4 | 40 ± 6 | 31 ± 7 |
| Firing Regularity (at 2 x rheobase) | 0.053 ± 0.004 | 0.050 ± 0.008 | 0.112 ± 0.029** | 0.262 ± 0.124** |
| Adaptation Index (near rheobase) | 1.14 ± 0.08 | 1.06 ± 0.11 | -- | -- |
| Adaptation Index (at 2 x rheobase) | 0.76 ± 0.03 | 0.72 ± 0.03 | 0.26 ± 0.05*** | 0.24 ± 0.14** |

**Table 1. Electrophysiological properties of Id2 INs in S1BF.** Values are reported as

Mean ± SEM. Significance was tested for each group against LS in L2/3 using the

Mann-Whitney test, * denotes significance between 0.01-0.05, ** denotes significance

between 0.001-0.01, and *** denotes significance <0.001. Significance was not

assessed for the first spike latency as cells were categorized on that basis. For some

cells, not all of the parameters were assessed, so the n values are the minimum number

of cells used to calculate all of the parameters. See Materials and Methods section for

how these parameters were obtained.