Synaptic mechanisms modulate the spatiotemporal dynamics of striatal direct pathway neurons and motor output

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Abstract

Striatal spiny-projection neurons (SPNs) integrate glutamatergic inputs from the motor

cortex and thalamus with neuromodulatory signals to regulate motor output. *In vivo* Ca^{2+}

imaging has demonstrated that spatially overlapping ensembles of direct and indirect

pathway SPNs (dSPNs, iSPNs) are co-active during spontaneous movement. This co-

activity is statistically greater among nearby neurons, correlates with behavioral state,

and changes in an SPN-type-specific manner under pathological conditions. How this

co-activity arises and whether is important for movement are not well understood. Co-

activity likely arises from shared excitatory inputs, the strength of which are scaled by

well-characterized mechanisms of synaptic plasticity. Here, we show that the Group I

metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 (mGluR5), which regulates the strength of

corticostriatal synapses, is a key mediator of behaviorally relevant SPN co-activity.

Pharmacological modulation of mGluR5 signaling bidirectionally altered movement and

co-activity, but not the absolute level of activity in dSPNs. Targeted deletion of mGluR5

in dSPNs recapitulated the effects on spatiotemporal neural dynamics and movement,

consistent with a striatum-specific effect of mGluR5 modulation. Targeted deletion of

mGluR5 also produced changes in the synaptic properties of dSPNs. Separate from any

effects on overall activity, our results show that excitatory synaptic modulation

influences motor function by coordinating the spatial co-activation of dSPNs *in vivo*.

Introduction

The dorsal striatum is central to movement initiation and to regulating the kinematics of

learned movements [1,2]. Synaptic plasticity in this input structure of the basal ganglia has

been demonstrated to be important for motor learning [3]. In particular, the strength of

corticostriatal synapses between the motor cortex and spiny-projection neurons (SPNs)

in the dorsolateral striatum (DLS) are strengthened by learning a motor sequence [4] or

during the acquisition of a motor skill [5,6]. These glutamatergic, corticostriatal inputs form

synapses onto two types of SPNs that are distinguished by their expression of

dopamine receptor subtypes and downstream axonal projections. The D1 dopamine

receptor-expressing, or direct pathway SPNs (dSPNs) project monosynaptically to the

output nuclei of the basal ganglia, the substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr) and globus

pallidus internal segment (GPi). By contrast, D2 dopamine receptor-expressing SPNs

(iSPNs) project indirectly to basal ganglia output nuclei via the globus pallidus external

segment (GPe) and the subthalamic nucleus (STN) [7]. In classical models of the basal

ganglia circuit, activity in dSPNs facilitates movement and activity in iSPNs inhibits

movement. Therefore, the relative level of activity between the two populations is

predicted to correlate with an animal's motor state (*e.g.*, moving or at rest).

This rate-model framework of striatal function garnered early support from

anatomical and pharmacological observations as well as findings from studies

investigating the neuropathology of striatum-related neurodegenerative disease [8].

However, the model is inconsistent with more recent observations employing *in vivo*

imaging techniques. In these studies, where the activity of genetically defined iSPNs

and dSPNs can be monitored concurrently in awake behaving animals, dSPNs and

iSPNs are consistently co-active during movement initiation and procession through

movement sequences [9]. More recently, it was shown that dSPNs and iSPNs

simultaneously activate with spatially clustered dynamics, and that this spatiotemporal

organization is important for motor control [10-12]. Spatiotemporal clustering, or heightened

co-activity among proximal SPN pairs, is most pronounced during periods of rest, but

also transiently increases during transitions from rest to movement then subsides as

SPNs become more active during movement progression [10-13]. Importantly, dopamine

signaling appears to play an important role in sculpting these dynamics. The loss of

dopamine diminishes the spatiotemporal coordination of iSPN activity, while heightened

dopamine release de-correlates activity in dSPNs and heightens iSPN co-activity [10-13].

Although the mechanisms that constrain the spatiotemporal coordination of

dSPN and iSPN activity are not precisely known, SPNs have hyperpolarized resting

membrane potentials that prevent action potential generation in the absence of

glutamatergic input [14,15]. Given that glutamate is required for SPN activation, and given

dopamine's role in modifying the strength of glutamatergic synapses in SPNs, it is likely

that synaptic plasticity influences the spatiotemporal dynamics of SPNs by regulating

their collective sensitivity to convergent excitatory inputs [16,17].

dSPNs and iSPNs receive excitatory input from the cortex and thalamus. Cortico-

and thalamostriatal synapses differ in their expression of pre- and post-synaptic

neurotransmitter receptors and forms of synaptic plasticity[18]. Extensive *in vitro* work has

demonstrated various mechanistically distinct types of long-term potentiation (LTP) and

long-term depression (LTD) at cortical inputs to dSPNs and iSPNs [19,20]. While the range

of physiological and neuromodulatory mechanisms of corticostriatal plasticity are

complex, one well-studied type of plasticity is endocannabinoid (eCB) dependent LTD,

induced *in vitro* by moderate to high frequency stimulation of corticostriatal inputs paired

with postsynaptic depolarization [18]. Importantly, corticostriatal LTD requires activation of

postsynaptic Gq-linked, Group I metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGluRs). mGluR

activation causes the mobilization of endocannabinoids (eCBs) from the postsynaptic

neuron which act as a retrograde signal by activating presynaptic CB1 receptors to

reduce the release probability of glutamatergic corticostriatal synapses [21]. mGluR LTD

occurs at corticostriatal synapses in both dSPNs and iSPNs [22] but not at thalamostriatal

synapses [18]. eCB release and retrograde signaling can also produce transient

modulation of presynaptic release to cause the short-term depression of corticostriatal

synapses [23,24], similar to what has been observed at synapses in several other brain

regions [25]. Despite extensive *in vitro* work, little is known about the circumstances under

which eCB-dependent synaptic modulation occurs *in vivo* and how it may relate to

motor behavior. Moreover, it is unknown how the modulation of corticostriatal synaptic

strength regulates the level and/or spatiotemporal dynamics of SPN activity with respect

to movement.

In the striatum, mGluR5 has been shown to have a prominent role in mGluR-

dependent synaptic plasticity. Therefore, we asked whether mGluR5 signaling

contributes to voluntary movement and the dynamics of dSPN activity in the DLS. We

found that manipulating mGluR5 signaling had bidirectional effects on movement and

the spatiotemporal dynamics of dSPN activity, with minimal effects on their overall

levels of activity. Specifically, using *in vivo* Ca^{2+} imaging we found that pharmacological

inhibition of mGluR5 signaling produced a reduction in spontaneous movement and

heightened the spatially clustered patterns of co-activity in dSPNs, whereas positive

modulation of mGluR5 signaling had the opposite effects. Consistent with these

findings, conditional knockout of mGluR5 in dSPNs (D1 cKO mice) had minimal effects

on the levels of dSPN or iSPN activity but specifically increased the spatiotemporal

coordination of dSPN activity and reduced spontaneous locomotion. Collectively, these

findings suggest that mGluR-mediates synaptic plasticity mechanisms bidirectionally

constrain the spatiotemporal coordination, but not the levels of dSPN activity, into states

that correlate with increased or decreased locomotor activity. Our study lays the

groundwork for dissociating the separable roles of the activity rates versus patterning of

SPN activity in motor control and has implications for correcting disruptions of this

patterning in basal ganglia-associated diseases.

Results

dSPNs exhibit spatially clustered activity that varies with movement

There is a strong correlation between spatiotemporal patterns of SPN activity and motor

output [10-12], but it is not known if synaptic properties modulate this coordinated activity *in*

vivo. To assess the activity of dSPNs during spontaneous motor behavior, we implanted

gradient refractive index (GRIN) lenses into the dorsolateral striatum of mice expressing

Cre-recombinase in dSPNs under the control of the *Drd1a* promoter. A Cre-dependent

AAV to express GCaMP6f was introduced either by a prior stereotaxic injection of virus

or by coating the lenses with a silk fibroin film containing the AAV (**Figure 1a**) [26]. The

GRIN lens was coupled to a head-mounted miniscope for 1P imaging of somatic Ca^{2+}

events[27]. **Figure 1b** shows an example of a field of view from one mouse and the

segmented outlines of neurons after processing of the videos (*see* **Methods**) and

examples of individual dSPN Ca^{2+} dynamics (**Figure 1c**). Consistent with prior

observations [13], Ca^{2+} event rates in dSPNs increased during periods of movement

(**Figure 1d, e**). The probability of a Ca^{2+} events in detected cells (defined as

fluorescence change of 2.5× the baseline for each cell, *see* **Methods**) increased during

movement (**Figure 1d**) and the Ca^{2+} event rate increased with increasing animal

velocity (**Figure 1e**). Previous work has demonstrated that dSPNs and iSPNs are

spontaneously co-active in spatially intermingled clusters, a feature that has been

proposed to be important for action selection [10-12,28]. To examine this spatiotemporal

coordination and its modulation by movement state, we measured dSPN co-activity

using a Jaccard index of dSPN pairs as a function of the Euclidean distance between

the cell pairs in the DLS. This measure captures co-activity between neuron pairs (as

opposed to co-inactivity) more specifically than a linear correlation coefficient (**Figure**

1f; Methods) [11]. Across all cell pairs in the field-of-view for each session, a correlation

matrix was generated in which, for each frame of the recording, the cell pair was scored

a 1 if both cells were active, or 0 otherwise. These scores for each frame were divided

by the number of events in both cells to generate a co-activity score for that pair. **Figure**

1f shows schematized raster plots to demonstrate this process. Then, those values

were normalized to averages measured from independently shuffled Ca^{2+} traces for

each cell in the recording (using 1000 independent shuffles for each cell trace), to

control for changes in mean activity level between conditions (**Figure 1f**). If cells were

co-active independently of distance, then a plot of co-activity normalized to the shuffled

data as a function of distance would be flat (**Figure 1g, top**), while clustered co-activity

(*i.e.*, higher among proximal cells) would show a downward sloping curve (**Figure 1g,**

bottom). Consistent with prior reports [10-12], this analysis revealed that co-activity among

neuron pairs is markedly higher among proximal cells and decreases with increasing

Euclidean distance between pairs (**Figure 1h, top**). Furthermore, as we had previously

demonstrated, co-activity among all pairs was higher during rest and decreased during

periods of movement (**Figure 1h, top**) [13].

We next quantified the extent to which activity was higher in proximal cells versus

distal neurons in each frame of the recording using a spatial coordination index (SCI),

as defined previously [11]. Here, for each frame of the down-sampled video, we preserved

the cell activity traces but shuffled the pairwise distances for each neuron pair. We then

performed a pair of Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests (**methods**) to determine if the

cumulative distribution of active cell distances in each frame was smaller (*i.e.*, left-

shifted or more "clustered") or greater (right-shifted or less "clustered") than that of the

shuffled data. This analysis allows for visualization of how the spatiotemporal dynamics

SPN activity change instantaneously (*e.g.*, during movement onset). Consistent with

that reported previously, the degree of "clustered" activity quantified in this way

increased significantly during movement onset (within 2.5 seconds of the mouse

initiating movement) [11]. This transient increase contrasts with the increased basal co-

activity at all cell-cell distances seen during periods when mice were at rest (defined as

centroid velocity below a given threshold).

The spatiotemporal dynamics of dSPN activity is modulated by mGluR5

The dominant form of synaptic plasticity at corticostriatal synapses is mediated by

Group1 mGluRs [18], and the primary receptor of this class expressed in SPNs is mGluR5

[29]. Germline deletion of mGluR5 causes significant motor phenotypes, but it is not

known how mGluR5 signaling directly affects motor function [30]. Due to the known

importance of mGluR5 in modulating synaptic weight at corticostriatal synapses, we

hypothesized that pharmacological modulation of mGluR5 would affect SPN dynamics

in vivo.

To assess the effects of modulating mGluR5 activity on dSPN dynamics during

spontaneous behavior, we injected mice with vehicle or the mGluR5 negative allosteric

modulator (NAM) fenobam (26 mg/kg via i.p. injection) immediately prior to a 60-minute

open field test. We analyzed dSPN activity from 8 animals expressing GCaMP6f in

dSPNs and implanted with GRIN lenses in the DLS (**Figure 2a–c**). We measured

activity as mice spontaneously explored the open field arena. On average we recorded

from 91 dSPNs per mouse in these experiments.

Fenobam treatment uniformly reduced locomotion (**Figure 2d, e**), an effect that

was driven more by a reduction in movement bout duration than the frequency of

movement bouts (**Figure 2f**). Interestingly, dSPN event rates were unchanged following

fenobam injection, with Ca^{2+} event rates in dSPNs increasing with spontaneous

locomotor speed across the range of running speeds in both fenobam and vehicle

injected animals (**Figure 2g**). Fenobam also had no effect on the amplitude or duration

of Ca^{2+} events (**Figure 2 supplement**).

However, fenobam treatment significantly increased the pairwise co-activity of

dSPNs across the whole range of cell-cell distances (**Figure 2h**). Notably, while co-

activity at all distances was enhanced by fenobam treatment, we did not resolve any

differences in spatial coordination, measured using the SCI, between vehicle and drug

treatment as animal transitioned from rest to movement. In both cases, the SCI peaked

around the time of movement onset (**Figure 2i**). This suggests that the most significnat

effect of mGluR5 on dSPN co-activity is to increase its overall extent, rather than the

relative extent to which it becomes more or less "clustered" during behavioral state

transitions. As fenobam treatment reduced movement, and co-activity is modulated by

movement, we separated our analysis into periods of movement and rest to compare

equivalent behavioral states during vehicle and drug treatment. While fenobam

treatment increased dSPN co-activity during both rest and movement, its effects were

most pronounced during periods of rest (**Figure 2j, k**). However, in analyzing the

relative increase in coactivity between rest and movement, there was no significant

difference between fenobam and vehicle treated animals (**Figure 2l**).Taken together

these results suggest that fenobam may suppress movement by transitioning

spatiotemporal dSPN ensemble dynamics towards a rest-associated state of high

overall co-activity,without affecting the absolute rates of their activity. In this rest-

associated state, overall neuronal activity is reduced but more correlated, resulting in a

higher degree of co-activity.

An mGluR5 positive allosteric modulator (PAM) increases movement and decreases

SPN co-activity

Next, we sought to determine how promoting mGluR5 signaling affects motor output

and SPN dynamics. We selected JNJ-46778212/VU0409551 (JNJ) an mGluR5 PAM

with demonstrated *in vivo* efficacy and known pharmacokinetics in mice [31]. We

administered JNJ (100 mg/kg) or vehicle via i.p. injection 30 minutes prior to measuring

dSPN dynamics for one hour during locomotion in an open field arena. In contrast to

fenobam, JNJ treatment decreased the amount of time the animal spent at rest (**Figure**

3a). However, there was no statistically significant effect on mean velocity (**Figure 3b**),

number of bouts (Figure 3c), or bout length (**Figure 3d**). Like fenobam, JNJ did not

affect the levels of dSPN activity when measured as a function of the animal's running

speed (**Figure 3e**). Additionally, there was no effect on the amplitude or duration of Ca^{2+}

events (**Figure 3 supplement**). However, JNJ significantly decreased the co-activity

among dSPN cell pairs measured across a range of Euclidean distances (**Figure 3f**).

Again, as with fenobam, animals from both the vehicle and drug treatment groups

showed significant increases in spatial coordination surrounding movement onset

(**Figure 3g**). The effect on overall co-activity was most pronounced, and statistically

significant, during periods of rest (**Figure 3i, j**). Therefore, JNJ treatment had effects

that were qualitatively inverse to the effects of fenobam on locomotion and dSPN co-

activity during periods of rest. These findings are consistent with the idea that JNJ

promoted movement by inducing movement-associated dSPN ensemble dynamics by

de-correlating their activity.

mGluR5 activation in the striatum results in the mobilization of eCBs, specifically

2-AG, in dSPNs[21,23-25]. Therefore, we asked whether enhancing eCB levels by

preventing 2-AG degradation using the monoacylglycerol lipase (MAGL) inhibitor JZL-

184 affected the spatiotemporal dynamics of dSPN activity. We administered to mice

JZL-184 (10 mg/kg i.p.) before recording dSPN Ca^{2+} activity for 60 minutes in an open

field arena. Interestingly, in contrast to the mGluR5 PAM, JZL-184 significantly reduced

rate of Ca^{2+} events (**Figure 3k**) but did not affect the co-activity of dSPNs (**Figure 3l**).

These results suggest that broadly enhancing eCB levels does not recapitulate the

effects of potentiating mGluR5 signaling specifically.

Collectively these results demonstrate that potentiating mGluR5 signaling shifts

dSPN dynamics to a less correlated state, while inhibiting mGluR5 signaling enhances

the correlated state of dSPNs. It is notable that spontaneous dSPN activity is less

correlated during periods of movement than rest, and de-correlated dSPN activity has

been shown to occur in hyperkinetic states (*e.g.*, dyskinetic and hyperdopaminergic

states [11,13]). These observations suggest that inhibition of mGluR5 signaling suppresses

movement by altering the spatiotemporal dynamics of dSPNs through synaptic

mechanisms that alter their collective recruitment via excitatory afferents.

mGluR5 reduces corticostriatal glutamatergic transmission at dSPN synapses in the

dorsolateral striatum

Our experiments demonstrated changes in striatal dSPN network activity that correlate

with changes in motor behavior mediated by pharmacologically modulating mGluR5. To

determine whether modulating mGluR5, specifically in striatal dSPNs, mediates the

observed effects on locomotor and striatal activity, we used a genetic approach to

selectively manipulate mGluR5 in D1 receptor-expressing neurons. To do this, we

crossed *Grm5fl/fl* mice [32] to D1-Cre mice [33] to create conditional knockout mice (D1 cKO)

mice. Further crossing with a Cre reporter allele (Ai9) [34] enabled us to perform patch-

clamp recordings from visually identified dSPNs in striatal slices to record corticostriatal

EPSCs (**Figure 4a**). As we have previously demonstrated [24], a ten-minute application of

the group 1 mGluR agonist DHPG (100 µM) caused a depression of EPSCs in WT

recordings (**Figure 4b**). This effect was significantly diminished in recordings from cKO

mice, demonstrating a disruption of mGluR5 signaling (**Figure 4c**).

A number of behavioral phenotypes have been described in mice with

constitutive, germline *Grm5* deletion [30]. Given our previous observations and the fact

that SPN activity in the dorsal striatum is important for motor control, we asked whether

selective ablation of *Grm5* in dSPNs affected locomotion and motor learning. Tracking

distance traveled in the open field, we found that the D1 cKO mice had reduced

spontaneous locomotion (**Figure 4d**) and displayed a reduction in total distance

traveled (**Figure 4e**). We also found the D1 cKO mice had diminished digging behavior

in a novel environment (**Figure 4f**). Taken together these results demonstrate that

selectively disrupting mGluR5 signaling in dSPNs reduces spontaneous movement in

novel environments.

To measure locomotion in the home cage setting, we introduced running wheels

and monitored activity over 7 days. During the first 3 days, D1 cKO mice demonstrated

significantly reduced voluntary running (**Figure 4h, i**). However, both control and D1

cKO mice increased the time spent running over the course of 7 days such that the

difference between the groups was not significant by day 7 (**Figure 4i**).

Finally, on an accelerating rotarod D1 cKO mice showed a consistently reduced

latency to fall over the course of 12 training trials across three days (**Figure 4g**).

Despite this deficit, D1 cKO mice did improve over the course of training, indicating that

they were capable of learning the task. Thus, the D1 cKO mice exhibited a primary

deficit in spontaneous motor activity with only minor deficits in the learned motor tasks

of running on a wheel or forced locomotion on the rotarod.

Because of the clear motor phenotype in D1 cKO mice, we determined whether

there were any changes in the intrinsic or synaptic properties of dSPNs in these mice.

Whole-cell current-clamp recordings from visually identified dSPNs expressing

tdTomato found no difference in the voltage response to increasing current injection

suggesting no alteration in the intrinsic excitability of dSPNs in D1 cKO mice (**Figure 4j,**

k). In recordings of mEPSCs, that reflect all excitatory synapses (corticostriatal and

thalamostriatal), we found that the amplitudes of mEPSCs were unchanged, but their

frequency was significantly increased in dSPNs from D1 cKO mice (**Figure 4l–m**),

indicating increased release probability when mGluR5 expression is disrupted.

Spatiotemporal activity of dSPNs is disrupted in D1 cKO mice

To measure the *in vivo* dynamics of dSPNs in D1 cKO mice, we implanted GRIN lenses

into the DLS of control and D1 cKO mice and analyzed dSPN Ca^{2+} activity during 20

minutes of open field exploration (**Figure 5a–e**). We performed control imaging

experiments in mice expressing Cre in dSPNs but with the wild type *GRM5* allele (D1

cre; *GRM5* +/+). Consistent with our previous results, the event rate of dSPN Ca^{2+}

transients increased with locomotor speed in both experimental and control mice

(**Figure 5d**). Selective mGluR5 deletion in *Drd1a*-expressing neurons did not alter the

rate of dSPN Ca^{2+} events compared to control mice (**Figure 5d**). cKO mice and control

animals also showed similar distributions of event amplitudes and durations (**Figure 5**

supplement). Instead, the normalized coactivity of dSPNs (analyzed across 50-µm bins

of pairwise cell distances) was significantly increased in D1R cKO mice, similar to the

effect of the mGluR5 NAM fenobam (**Figure 5e**). Additionally, D1R cKO mice and

control mice showed a transient peak in coactivity surrounding motion onset (**Figure 5f**).

When measured over all frames, the coactivity in both control and cKO mice increased

during continuous period of rest compared to periods of continuous movement, however

there was no difference in this effect between groups (**Figure 5g)**. Therefore, targeted

genetic deletion of mGluR5 in dSPNs had qualitatively similar effects as systemic

administration of the mGluR5 NAM on co-activity of dSPNs.

Finally, because both dSPNs and iSPNs exhibit spatially clustered activity *in vivo*,

and because they are synaptically connected through recurrent collaterals [35], it is

possible that disruption of mGluR5 signaling in dSPNs may also affect the levels and

spatiotemporal dynamics of activity in intermingled iSPNs. To address this question, we

used a viral "Cre-off" strategy to express GCaMP6 in Cre-negative, iSPNs of *Drd1a*-Cre;

Grm5^{*fl/fl*} mice[36]. We found that the deletion of mGluR5 in dSPNs had no effects on either

the levels of activity in iSPNs (**Figure 5h**) or their spatiotemporal clustering (**Figure 5i**).

Therefore, the alteration in SPN dynamics in D1 cKO mice appear to be cell-

autonomous, as specific targeting of mGluR5 in dSPNs did not affect iSPN activity in D1

cKO mice.

Together, these results demonstrate that the manipulation of mGluR5 signaling,

through pharmacological or targeted genetic means, leads to changes in the

spatiotemporal patterns of activity in dSPNs with minimal effects on their overall levels

of activity. Notably, these spatiotemporal dynamics varied with locomotor speed under

normal conditions, and manipulations of mGluR5 signaling induced changes in these

dynamics that correlated with locomotor state. These findings suggest that these two

facets of activity—levels and spatiotemporal patterning of activity—are separable and

provide important insights into the role of spatiotemporally coordinated activity in the

generation of movement.

Discussion

The rate-model of basal ganglia function posits that activity in dSPNs and iSPNs have

distinct and opposing effects on movement. This framework is primarily based on

anatomical evidence from the distinct projection targets of dSPNs and iSPNs and

electrophysiological recordings in their downstream projection targets under conditions

modeling parkinsonism [8]. These target nuclei inhibit motor control nuclei in the hindbrain

mesencephalic locomotor region and thalamic regions that project to the motor cortex

[37,38]. In this context, dSPN activation is predicted to increase activity in these motor

control regions to facilitate movement, while iSPN activation is predicted to decrease

activity in these same regions to inhibit movement.

However, this classical model is not supported by recent *in vivo* imaging studies

using fiber photometry or endoscopy to record Ca^{2+} activity in genetically specified

dSPNs or iSPNs. In contrast to the predictions of the rate-model, dSPNs and iSPNs are

indistinguishably responsive to increases and decreases in movement [9]. Intriguingly, *in*

vivo endoscopy has shown that overlapping clusters of dSPNs and iSPNs co-activate

during movement, with small but statistical correlations between the activation of

different clusters during different movement types [10]. These findings suggest an

alternative model where, in contrast to the relative level of activity in each SPN type, the

degree of co-activity among SPNs and ensemble identity may be important for

specifying proper motor output.

Despite evidence that SPNs may influence movement via the coordination of

their activity, the biological mechanisms responsible for these coordinated patterns are

not known. Seminal *in vitro* electrophysiology studies demonstrated that SPNs fire

action potentials coincident with large excitatory inputs that shift their resting membrane

potential to transiently stable, depolarized "up" states [14,15]. These excitatory inputs arise

from the cortex and thalamus. Our results suggest that the modulation of the synaptic

weight, particularly at corticostriatal synapses where several forms of plasticity require

mGluR5 receptors, is a crucial mechanism constraining the patterns of dSPN co-activity

in states associated with movement or rest.

Spontaneous motor output correlates with the level of coactivity in dSPNs

In the current work, we used pharmacological and genetic manipulations to examine

how activity in dSPNs varies with movement while targeting the receptor controlling the

dominant form of synaptic plasticity in the DLS. Systemic administration of the mGluR5

negative allosteric modulator, fenobam, led to significant increases in co-activity among

dSPNs and reduced locomotor activity. By contrast, systemic administration of the

mGluR5 positive allosteric modulator JNJ decreased dSPN co-activity and increased

locomotion. Notably, neither pharmacological manipulation of mGluR5 led to significant

changes in the rate of dSPN Ca^{2+} events. Our results suggest a model whereby either

potentiating or inhibiting mGluR5 signaling alters the recruitment of dSPNs such that the

overall activity level is preserved but that the patterns of their co-activity change in a

manner that corresponds to motor output. This is further confirmed by our data from

animals with targeted deletion of mGluR5 in dSPNs, which similarly showed no change

in event rate but an increase in co-activity.

Our results are consistent with prior analysis demonstrating that the co-activity

among pairs of dSPNs is higher at rest than during movement [13]. Here we found that

pharmacological manipulations that alter these clustered co-activity states

correspondingly alter the levels of spontaneous motor output. Specifically, shifting the

dSPN network to a level of higher co-activity, as with fenobam treatment or mGluR5

deletion in dSPNs, leads to a reduction in the amount of time animals spent moving. By

contrast, potentiating mGluR5 receptors with systemic JNJ administration led to an

increase in time spent moving and a corresponding decrease in the dSPN co-activity.

Our *ex vivo* electrophysiology data from cKO animals further supports these

conclusions, as disrupting endogenous mGluR5 signaling in dSPNs does not result in

changes in the excitability of neurons. Instead, genetic deletion of mGluR5 altered the

synaptic properties of dSPNs, likely an adaptive response consistent with the

established role of mGluR5 in regulating corticostriatal synaptic weights. These findings

suggest that these selective changes in synaptic plasticity may underlie the altered

spatiotemporal patterning of dSPN activity without changes in their overall levels of

activity observed *in vivo*.

It is important to note that, in our pharmacological experiments, we observed that

inhibition of mGluR5 with systemically administered fenobam increased the co-activity

among active neuron pairs across all distance bins we measured. That is, co-activity

was increased in both proximal and distal neuron pairs and this increased co-activity

correlated with decreased ambulatory behavior. Administration of an mGluR5 PAM

decreased co-activity when measured across all binned distances of neuron pairs and

this occurred in coincidence with increased ambulatory behavior. It has previously been

demonstrated [11], and we replicated here, that surrounding movement onsets there is an

increase in the extent to which proximal neuron pairs are statistically more likely to be

co-active than distal neuron pairs. Using a previously established metric for quantifying

this increase, the spatial correlation index, we did not resolve any significant changes in

the onset related changes in this metric following either genetic or pharmacological

alterations of mGluR5 activity. Our central finding, observed with both pharmacological

and genetic manipulations, is that manipulating mGluR5 signaling alters overall dSPN

co-activity, irrespective of cell proximity, in a manner that correlates with changes in

motor output. We hypothesize that these changes are likely due to alterations in

synaptic weight at dSPN synapses that occur following mGluR5 manipulation.

One way in which mGluR5 may modify synaptic weight is through long-term

plasticity. *In vitro* studies have demonstrated that mGluR5 activation occurs following

pairing of postsynaptic depolarization with moderate to high frequency excitatory

synaptic input [21]. mGluR5 activation can result in the long-term depression (LTD) of

synaptic transmission or a more transient depression in release probability [23,24,39]. If rest

associated ensembles of dSPNs are substantially different in composition from

movement and/or movement-onset ensembles, then our data suggests that synapses

onto dSPNs may have a lower synaptic weight during spontaneous behavior than

movement or movement onset ensembles, potentially due to eCB release. Inhibiting

mGluR5, either through pharmacology or genetics, may increase this synaptic weight,

thereby promoting activation of rest ensembles and decreasing motor output. This input

that primarily governs the activation of movement-related ensembles could either be a

separate population of cortical inputs with higher synaptic weight or thalamostriatal

inputs more resilient to mGluR5 manipulations [18].

Our results are an important step in understanding how the regulation of synaptic

weights by mGluR5 may act on the coordinated activity of dSPNs *in vivo* to regulate

behavior.

Global enhancement of eCB levels does not alter clustered co-activity

The lack of change in spatiotemporal coordination following systemic administration of

the 2-AG degradation inhibitor JZL-184 suggests that global enhancement of eCB levels

does not produce a similar outcome as modulating mGluR5 signaling. However, in

contrast to selective mGluR5 modulation we did observe a reduction in overall dSPN

event rates with JZL. One possibility is that a degree of synaptic specificity is required to
affect clustered activation of dSPNs. Thus, JZL treatment may have exerted such broad
effects on the circuit that it resulted in a different outcome for neural clustering and
motor output than that observed following treatment with the allosteric modulators of
mGluR5 receptors that modify the weight of specific active synapses.

These results support a model whereby the level of co-activity among specific
groups of dSPNs is potentially important for controlling motor output. Therefore, globally
altering the synaptic weights of all neurons may overshadow the results of synaptic
alterations in specific subsets of SPNs. This idea is consistent with the notion that
individual dSPNs may be precisely tuned to have specific roles in regulating motor
output, such that altering the activity of one dSPN subgroup would not have the same
effect as altering the activity of a different sub-group. This interpretation is also at odds
with the classical rate-based models of SPN activity.

Role of non-dSPN mGluR5 receptors in regulating movement

There are notable differences in the design of our experiments using conditional
deletion of mGluR5 from dSPNs and systemic administration of a negative allosteric
modulator of mGluR5. Following fenobam administration, we observed a significant
increase in co-activity when animals were at rest and a smaller increase during
movement, however the relative increase in coactivity between rest and movement did
not differ significantly from controls in either cKO animals or following fenobam
treatment. Therefore, in both cases, inhibition of mGluR5 may promote the activation of
rest ensembles and thereby inhibit motor output.

Within the striatum alone, mGluR5 is expressed in iSPNs and interneurons and
modulation of these cell types by systemically administered compounds could produce
changes in behavior and striatal circuit function. dSPNs receive GABAergic input from
both iSPNs as well as striatal interneurons. Of particular note, parvalbumin-positive fast-
spiking interneurons also receive excitatory input from the cortex and provide
feedforward inhibition onto both subtypes of SPNs, and genetic disruption of mGluR5 in

parvalbumin interneurons increases striatum-dependent repetitive behaviors [40]. The

modulation of synaptic strength at these connections by fenobam and JNJ could also

partly account for the effects of these compounds on dSPN activity and behavior when

systemically administered, which would not occur in cKO animals.

Collateral inhibition between SPNs is another potential source for modulation of

co-activity. *In vitro* electrophysiology has shown that dSPNs are more likely to form

synapses onto other dSPNs, while iSPNs form synapses onto neurons of both

pathways with equal probability [35]. However, the strength of collateral synapses formed

by dSPNs appears to be smaller than that of synapses formed by iSPNs. Our analysis

of iSPN activity in cKO mice suggests that iSPN circuit properties are largely normal

when mGluR5 is genetically disrupted in dSPNs, perhaps reflecting the less substantial

modulation of iSPN circuitry by dSPNs reported in the striatum, at least during

spontaneous behavior. Whether this relationship holds across additional behavioral

states remains to be addressed. Additionally, whether disruption of iSPN networks

affects dSPN networks, perhaps due to stronger unidirectional iSPN-dSPN connectivity,

is a key question for further research.

Translation implications of dSPN spatiotemporal dynamics

The relationship of mGluR5 pharmacology to dSPN spatial coordination and motor

output is clinically relevant to the treatment of motor disorders. Prior studies examining

the spatial coordination of SPNs in parkinsonian mice demonstrated that, following

dopamine depletion to model a parkinsonian state, dSPN activity was reduced but

maintained spatial coordination [11]. However, when levodopa induced dyskinesia (LID)

was modelled in these animals, dSPNs lost spatial coordination. In the current work, we

show that pharmacological inhibition of mGluR5 increases spatial coordination. It is

tempting to speculate, therefore, that in the case of LID, the therapeutic efficacy of

mGluR5 NAMs may involve regulation of the spatially coordinated co-activity of dSPNs.

Additionally, further examination of how spatially coordinated SPN activity is disrupted in

motor diseases involving basal ganglia pathology, may be a promising avenue for future

therapeutic development.

In summary our data demonstrate that the modulation of signaling that affects

synaptic properties of excitatory synapses onto dSPNs is a key mediator of the normal

patterns of SPN co-activity that typify the striatum's neural ensemble dynamics in

relation to spontaneous movement. These results provide further support for models

where the local synchronization of SPNs (and the basal ganglia circuit in general) is a

stronger determinant of motor output than their overall levels of activity. Our results also

provide a framework for future lines of inquiry to address how striatal synaptic properties

shape circuit function and striatum-dependent behavior.

Methods:

Mice

Animals were group housed with 14-hr:10-hr Light/Dark cycle and food and water were

provided ad libitum. Mice of both sexes, between 4-12 months old, were used and all

experiments were performed in accordance with procedures approved by the

Northwestern University IACUC. To express GCaMP6f in dSPNs we used mice

expressing Cre recombinase under the control of the drd1a promoter (D1cre, Drd1a-Cre

Ey262) [41]. A Cre-dependent GCaMP6f under the control of the synapsin promoter

(pAAV.Syn.Flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40, 100833-AAV9 from Addgene) was used for

delivery of the construct. For in vitro patch clamp electrophysiology experiments we

further crossed the D1Cre line to mice expressing a Cre-dependent tdTomato reporter

inserted in the *Gt26Sor* (Rosa26) locus (Ai9), in order to identify dSPNs in the DLS [42].

For genetic deletion of mGluR5 we used floxed mGluR5 mice (mGluR5$^{loxP/loxP}$) [32]

crossed to either D1cre mice (D1cre; mGluR5$^{f/f}$) for in vivo imaging experiments, or D1

cre mice crossed with Ai9 mice (D1cre; mGluR5$^{f/f}$; Ai9$^{+/+}$) for patch clamp experiments.

All mice were maintained on the C57BL6/J background strain.

Behavioral analysis

Motor learning on the accelerating rotarod:

Mice of both sexes were placed on the rotarod and the initial revolution speed set to 4

rpm for 120 s. The rotarod then accelerated at a rate of 0.12 rpm·s^{-1} for 300 s. Mice

were trained in three trials per day with a 30 min inter-trial interval for four consecutive
days (12 trials total).

Open Field:

The dimensions of the square open field arena (in cm) were 60 l × 60 w × 30 h .
Animals were placed in the middle of the arena at the start of the test and remained in
the arena for 30 min during which time their position was tracked using an overhead
camera and analyzed using software (Limelight; Actimetrics).

Digging behavior:

Mice were placed in a novel cage containing wood chip bedding (3-cm deep) in a
brightly lit, open area. Animals remained in the testing cage for 15 min. Mouse digging
time was manually scored using a stopwatch.

Voluntary Wheel Running:

Mice of either sex were single-housed with wireless running wheels (MedAssociates) for
at least 7 days. Total distance run was quantified for each day.

Virus Injection:

For mice that received a viral injection (pAAV.Syn.Flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40,
100833-AAV9 from Addgene) prior to GRIN lens implant, we anesthetized mice with
isoflurane (2% in O_2) and stereotaxically injected virus at a rate of 250 nl min^{-1} into the
DLS using a microsyringe with a 28-gauge beveled-tip needle (Hamilton Company,
Reno, NV). Stock titer virus was diluted 1:10 with sterile PBS. The coordinates for
injection were: A/P +/- 0.05 mm, M/L +/- 1.8 mm, D/V -2.4mm (from dura). For all DV
coordinates, we went 0.1 mm past the injection target and then withdrew the syringe
back to the target for the injection. After each injection, we left the syringe in place for
10 minutes and then slowly withdrew the syringe. We then sutured the scalp, injected
analgesic (Buprenorphine SR, 1 mg kg^{-1}), as well as meloxicam (2x / day for 48 hours, 5
mg·kg^{-1}), and allowed the mice to recover for at least 14 days.

Silk fibroin coating of GRIN lenses:

For animals in which we implanted a GRIN lens coated with a fibroin:AAV mixture, we

autoclaved both GRIN lenses, and a small aliquot of 5% W/V silk fibroin solution, prior

to coating. Then, the sterile fibroin solution was mixed 1:1 with stock titer AAV

(pAAV.Syn.Flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40, 100833-AAV9 from Addgene). A microsyringe

with a 23 gauge flat tip needle (Hamilton Company, Reno, NV) with a manual

stereotaxic injector (Stoelting) was used to apply a 1µL droplet of the mixture to the tip

of the GRIN lens in a biological safety cabinet. The mixture was allowed to dry slightly

for 5 minutes with the droplet in contact with both the GRIN lens surface and the syringe

needle tip before the syringe needle was removed, this prevented the mixture from

coating the side of the lens. Once the needle was removed the droplet was allowed to

fully dry to the surface of the lens for at least 1 hour before implanting. Lenses were

stored at 4°C for implanting either the same day or within approximately 24 hours.

Surgical implantation of GRIN lens and viral transduction:

Mice were anesthetized with isoflurane in O_2 (induction 4%; maintenance 2–3%).

Following verification of anesthesia, hair was trimmed from the incision site, the scalp

cleaned with three alternating swabs of betadine and 70% ethanol, and an incision

made through the scalp to uncover the skull. The skull surface was cleaned and verified

to be level by measuring the coordinates of bregma, lambda, and two sites +/- 2mm

lateral to the midline. The M/L and A/P coordinates for implantation of the GRIN lens

were marked on the skull (A/P +/- 0.05 mm, M/L +/- 2 mm) and a Dremel with a

sterilized 0.6-mm tip was used to remove an approximately 2-mm circular region around

the implant site. The skull was cleaned, dried, and scored crosswise with a scalpel.

While continuously perfusing the tissue with ACSF, the dura and cortex were removed

using a 26 GA blunt-end needle connected to a vacuum line until the fibers of the

corpus callosum became visible, at which point a 30 GA blunt-end needle was used to

carefully remove the fibers of the callosum until striatal tissue became visible under a

dissecting microscope. A 1-mm or 1.8-mm diameter GRIN lens was then lowered into

the aspiration site (D/V -2.4 mm), held in place using a pipette tip and vacuum line

attached to the stereotax. The lens was secured to the skull using dental cement

(Metabond) and cyanoacrylate glue. Buprenorphine SR, (1 mg·kg^{-1}) was administered

following surgery, as well as meloxicam (2x / day for 48 hours, 5 mg·kg^{-1}),

dexamethasone (1x / day, 0.2 mg·kg^{-1} for 7 days), and Sulfatrim (for 7 days in the

drinking water). Mice were allowed to recover for 2–4 weeks before mounting the

miniature microscope.

Miniscope Mounting and Imaging:

Two-to-four weeks following surgery to implant the GRIN lens, the mouse was again

anesthetized under the stereotax and a miniscope (UCLA V3 or V4) with a baseplate

attached was lowered to the top focal plane of the GRIN lens. Once the optimal imaging

plane was found, the baseplate was secured with dental cement (Metabond, Parkell).

In vivo Ca^{2+} imaging and Analysis:

All mice were habituated to the weight of the miniscope over a 60-minute session in the

open field. Following habituation, we placed mice in the open field for 60 minutes each

day for 1-3 days with the miniscope attached. For analysis of calcium dynamics in dSPN

cKO mice, we analyzed data from the first 20 minutes of day 1 of these sessions. In the

majority of animals used in these experiments, we used v3 miniscopes which required

higher LED intensities compared to v4 miniscopes. Therefore, we limited recording to

20 minutes to limit photobleaching. For experiments testing fenobam, JZL and JNJ, 60

minutes of open field activity were recorded following IP injection. For these

experiments we used v4 scopes which allowed for the use of lower LED intensities.

Fenobam (26 mg/kg) and JZL (10 mg/kg) were administered immediately prior to the

test, following a 15-minute habituation. Due to its pharmacokinetics, JNJ was

administered 30 minutes prior to beginning the test. Fenobam was diluted in 40% beta-

cyclodextrin, 10% DMSO, JZL and JNJ were diluted in 10% DMSO and 90% corn oil.

We used open source V3 and V4 miniscopes (https://github.com/Aharoni-

Lab/Miniscope-v4) that were connected to a coaxial cable which connected to a

miniscope data acquisition board (DAQ) 3.3. The DAQ was connected to a computer via

a USB 3.0 cable. Data was collected via the Miniscope QT Software

(https://github.com/Aharoni-Lab/Miniscope-DAQ-QT-Software) at 20 frames per second.

Simultaneous video recordings of behavior were performed at approximately 30 fps,

and data was aligned posthoc using the time stamps collected by the miniscope

software for each frame. Miniscopes and DAQ boards were purchased from Open

Ephys, LabMaker, or parts were machined by Shylo Steitler (UCLA) and assembled.

Pre-processing and motion correction:

Videos were preprocessed to remove sensor noise using a 2D FFT spatial frequency

filter and lowpass butterworth filter (https://github.com/Aharoni-Lab/Miniscope-

v4/tree/master/Miniscope-v4-Denoising-Notebook) and then motion correction was

performed using the normcorr algorithm in the CaImAn package [43].

Identification of neurons (CNMF-E):

Cells were automatically identified using the CNMF-E algorithm [44]. Recordings were

grouped in batches of 1-5000 frames for processing, and spatially downsampled 2x

during running of the CNMF-E algorithm. The maximum neuron diameter was

determined based on manual observation of each of the motion corrected videos in

ImageJ and the minimum local correlation value (Cn) and signal to noise ratio (SNR) for

a pixel to be used as a cell "seed" was determined by visualizing the correlation image

for a subset of recording frames of each video. The threshold for merging neurons was

set at 0.65, neurons were merged if their distances were smaller than two pixels and

they had highly correlated spatial shapes (correlation >0.8) and small temporal

correlations (correlation <0.4). The output of the CNMF-E analysis performed on the

video was then manually checked to ensure accuracy.

Analysis of Ca^{2+} activity:

The cell Ca^{2+} activity traces from CNMF-E were processed first by scaling to the 99-

percentile value of each cell's activity trace during the recording session. The resulting

normalized trace was then expressed as a Z-score by subtracting each sample from the

mean and dividing by the standard deviation of the entire trace. Finally, this trace was

downsampled to 5Hz (using the maximum value within the down sampled regions) and

this result was used for further analysis.

Ca^{2+} event rate and correlation to velocity:

A threshold crossing algorithm was used to detect peaks that were ≥2.5 s.d. above the

baseline signal value for 1 second and the time of each event was calculated as the

midpoint between the maximum value of the event and the preceding minimum [11]. We

used EZ track [45] to compute the frame by frame velocity of the animal in the openfield

arena. Using custom Python scripts we applied a 1 second median filter to this velocity

trace and downsampled to 5Hz for alignment to the Ca^{2+} activity data.

Pairwise cell co-activity:

The Jaccard index of pairwise coactivity was calculated following 1 second "forward-

smoothing" of the Ca^{2+} activity traces as described previously [11]. The mean value of the

Jaccard index was calculated as a function of the Euclidean distance between cells in a

neuron pair and the mean values were binned into either 50 or 250 μm bins. These

values were normalized to shuffled data sets where the Ca^{2+} traces for each cell were

shuffled in time, using 1,000 independent shuffles of the binarized Ca^{2+} event traces for

each cell. This data was used for statistical comparison of coactivity between groups as

a function of distance, and behavioral state, i.e. moving or resting.

Spatial coordination index

To measure spatial coordination, the extent to which co-activity is greater among more

proximal neurons versus more distal cells, during each frame of the video we calculated

a previously used metric, the spatial coordination index (SCI) [11]. For each frame of the

down-sampled video, we shuffled the pairwise distances for each neuron pair (1000

independent shuffles for each frame of the video), but not each cell's Ca^{2+} activity

signal. From these 1000 different distributions of distances between cell pairs, we

calculated the cumulative distribution of active cell distances for the actual dataset and

each shuffled dataset. We then performed a pair of Kolmogorov–Smirnov tests to

determine if the cumulative distribution of active cell distances in each frame was

smaller (i.e. left shifted or more "clustered") or greater (right-shifted or less "clustered")

than that of the shuffled data. We took the logarithm (base ten) of the smaller p value

from either test and used this value as the spatial coordination index. If a frame did not

have any active cell pairs the index is 0. This analysis allows for visualization of how

spatiotemporal dynamics change more specifically during movement onset.

Detection of movement onset

To most precisely detect instances of movement onset, specifically forward ambulatory

motion, for our SCI analysis, we used the frame by frame velocity calculated from the

mouse's centroid location detected by ezTrack. We then filtered the velocity traces by

determining if the animal's centroid moved by more than 1cm from its location in the

current frame at any point over the next 1 second of the recording. If not, we set the

velocity to 0 for that frame. We then smoothed the resulting trace using a .167ms

moving average. To find periods of movement onset that would allow us to more clearly

measure whether there were consistent changes in spatial coordination, we identified

where this velocity trace exceeded 0.5cm/sec for at least 2 seconds preceded by a

period of rest for 4 seconds. We used the timestamps recorded by the miniscope

software to find the matching period in our SCI signal. This allowed us to clearly

measure how the degree of spatial coordination among dSPNs changes between rest

and movement.

Slice procedure and in vitro Electrophysiological Recording:

Parasagittal slices containing the dorsal striatum were prepared using standard

techniques. Mice were deeply anesthetized (xylazine 10mg/kg and ketamine 100mg/kg

i.p.) before undergoing transcardial perfusion with an ice-cold sucrose artificial

cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF) solution containing (in mM): 85 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1.25

NaH_2PO_4, 25 $NaHCO_3$, 25 glucose, 75 sucrose, 0.5 $CaCl_2$ and 4 $MgCl_2$, equilibrated

with 95% O_2 and 5% CO_2. The brain was removed and mounted on the stage of

vibratome (Leica Microsystems, Inc). 350 µm thick sections were made in ice-cold

sucrose ACSF. Slices were transferred to a recovery chamber containing the sucrose

slicing ACSF solution, which was gradually exchanged for a normal ACSF containing (in

mM): 125 NaCl, 2.4 KCl, 1.2 Na_2PO_4, 25 $NaHCO_3$, 25 glucose, 1 $CaCl_2$ and 2 $MgCl_2$,

while the slices were maintained at 30°C. Individual slices were transferred to a

recording chamber and visualized under DIC. Micro-Manager open source software was

used for collecting the CCD camera image [46]. For extracellular recordings, slices were

perfused with normal ACSF containing (in mM): 125 NaCl, 2.4 KCl, 1.2 Na_2PO_4, 25

$NaHCO_3$, 25 glucose, 2 $CaCl_2$ and 1 $MgCl_2$. Recording electrodes were manufactured

from borosilicate glass pipettes and had resistances of 3-5 MΩ when filled with regular

ACSF. For whole-cell voltage clamp experiments, recording electrodes were filled with

internal solution containing (in mM) 95 CsF, 25 CsCl, 10 Cs-HEPES, 10 Cs-EGTA, 2

NaCl, 2 Mg-ATP, 10 QX-314, 5 TEA-Cl, 5 4-AP for recording of EPSCs, or 75

$CsCH_3SO_3$, 60 CsCl, 1 $MgCl_2$, 0.2 EGTA, 10 HEPES, 2 Mg-ATP 0.3 GTP-Na_2, 10 Na_2-

phosphocreatine,10 TEA, 5 QX-314. Striatal projection neurons (SPNs) were visually

identified and were voltage clamped at -80mV. Miniature events (mEPSCs) were

recorded in the presence of the Na^+ channel blocker TTX (1µM) and bicuculline (10

µM). Analysis of mEPSCs was performed using Eventer software

(https://eventerneuro.netlify.app/).

Histology:

Following in vivo imaging experiments, mice were anesthetized using ketamine/xylazine

and perfused with PBS containing 0.02% sodium nitrite and 4 mM $MgSO_4$ followed by

2% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.5) for 6 min, and 2%

paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M sodium borate buffer (pH 8.5) for 12–18 min. The brains

were removed from the skull, post-fixed overnight in 2% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M

sodium borate buffer (pH 8.5), then sectioned coronally at 50 µm on a Leica Vibratome

VT1000s in PBS. The sections were collected and stored at 4 °C in PBS containing

0.02% sodium azide. Free-floating sections were rinsed for 30 min in PBS followed by

four 15-min washes in PBS containing 0.1% Triton X-100 (Sigma, T8787) and 0.1%

bovine serum albumin (BSA; Sigma, A4503). The sections were then blocked with 3%

normal donkey serum (NDS; Jackson ImmunoResearch, 017-000-121) for 1 h and then

incubated in primary antibody overnight (Mouse anti-GFP, Millipore, MAB3580).

Sections were washed three times for 15 min and then incubated in secondary antibody

for 1 h and washed three times prior to mounting and imaging with a 20× objective on a

Nikon A1 confocal microscope. Z-series were taken with a 0.82 µm step size.

Statistics:

For comparisons of single mean values per mouse, for instance mean velocity per

animal, we used non-parametric Mann Whitney U test or the Wilcoxon Signed Rank

test. Where the same measurement was made multiple times, we used a repeated

measures ANOVA. For cases where multiple different but correlated, non-independent,

comparisons were made within mice, for instance in comparing mean event rates at

different speeds or mean coactivity across neuron pairs at difference distances, we

used a linear mixed effects model (LMM) to account for the non-independence of

measurements made from the same animal. The model was implemented using the

statsmodels python package (https://www.statsmodels.org), the drug treatment or

genotype was the independent variable, mean values measured per mouse are the

dependent variables and individual mice are the group term. Where this model was

used, we tested for the effect of genotype or drug treatment, and reported the

significance for that measurement. In all figures, individual data points represent the

mean of a group, and errors bars the standard error of the mean. N numbers for each

group are specified in the figure legend.

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Figures and legends:

Figure 1) dSPNs exhibit spatially clustered activity that varies with movement

(**a**) Cartoon representation of implanted GRIN lens and miniscope imaging in the DLS.

(**b**) Examples of segmented cell outlines from the CNMF-E algorithm in a single mouse.

(**c**) Example of Ca^{2+} traces from corresponding colored and filled segmented cells shown in (b). (**d**) The probability of a Ca^{2+} event in detected cells increases during movement in dSPNs. (**e**) The Ca^{2+} event rate in detected cells increases during movement in dSPNs (p=0.240, Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, events/second during bins with velocity>0.5 cm/sec vs. during bins with velocity<0.5 cm/sec). (**f**) Cartoon schematic to illustrate analysis of co-activity as a function of distance between cell pairs. Across all cell pairs in the field-of-view for each session, a correlation matrix was generated, in which, for each frame of the recording, the cell pair was scored a 1 if both cells were active, or 0 otherwise. These scores for each frame were averaged across all frames in the recording, to generate an average co-activity score for that pair. Then, those values were normalized to averages measured from independently shuffled Ca^{2+} traces for each cell in the recording (using 1000 independent shuffles for each cell trace), to control for changes in mean activity level between conditions. (**g**) Hypothetical plot of shuffle-normalized jaccard scores versus distance when coactivity is not "clustered" and hypothetical plot of "clustered" co-activity. Co-activity decreases during periods of movement (Linear Mixed Effects Model/LMM, p<0.000, z=-4.852, β=-1.671, SE = 0.344, 95% CI: [-2.346 -0.996] , N=5 mice). (**i**) The spatial coordination index (SCI) peaks during movement onset (p<0.000, z=12.21, Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, comparing the peak value of the normalized SCI during 2.5 seconds following movement onset to 1).

975 **Figure 1 – supplementary data 1**

Mouse	Total Cells	Sessions
19.2	318	5
1.2	78	2
20.2	311	2
24.2	20	2
25.2	307	4
26.2	176	2
2.7	136	3

978 **Table 1)** Number of cells per animal and recording sessions from animals used in figure
979 1 analysis

Figure 2) A negative allosteric modulator of mGluR5 increases coactivity among dSPN pairs(**a**) Cartoon representing implanted GRIN lens and miniscope imaging in the DLS (**b**) Examples of segmented cell outlines from the CNMF-E algorithm in a single mouse. (**c**) Example of Ca^{2+} traces from corresponding filled segmented cells shown in (b) (**d**) Binned velocity of animal. Fenobam increased the amount of time the animal spends at rest (Vehicle mean: 0.324 ± 0.091, fenobam mean: 0.635 ± 0.043, p=0.024, U=10, Mann-Whitney U test) (**e**) Mean velocity of animals following vehicle or fenobam treatment. The fenobam effect on mean velocity during the open field test is not significant (Mann-Whitney U test, p=0.103, U=48) (**f**) Mean bout length of animals during vehicle or fenobam. Fenobam reduces the mean bout length (Vehicle: 7.098 seconds ± 1.272, Fenobam: 2.886 seconds ± 0.160, Mann-Whitney U test, p<0.001, U=0), but does not affect the number of bouts (Mann-Whitney U test, p=0.793, U=35). (**g**) The average event rate of dSPNs at each movement velocity of the mouse. This relationship is not affected by fenobam administration (Linear Mixed Effects Model/LMM, p=0.754, z=-0.313, β=-0.002, SE = 0.006, 95% CI: [-0.014 0.010] , N=8 mice). (**h**) Fenobam increases the pairwise coactivity of dSPNs when grouped into 50 μm bins (LMM, p<0.000, z=-6.050, β=-0.828, SE = 0.137, 95% CI: [-1.096 -0.560] , N=8 mice) (**i**) Following both vehicle and drug treatment spatial coordination peaks during movement onset (Veh: p<0.000, z=12.21, Drug: p<0.000, z=10.1804) (**j**) Pairwise coactivity during rest with vehicle and fenobam treatment (velocity <0.5 cm*sec^{-1})(LMM, p<0.000, z=-4.448, β=-1.292, SE = 0.290, 95% CI: [-1.861 -0.723] , N=8 mice) (**k**) Pairwise coactivity during movement (velocity >0.5 cm*sec^{-1}) with vehicle and fenobam (LMM, p=0.008, z=-2.673, β=-0.220, SE = 0.082, 95% CI: [-0.381 -0.059] , N=8 mice) (**l**) Fenobam does not affect the relative decrease in coactivity seen during movement

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Figure 2 supplementary data 1

a) Averaged Ca^{2+} transients from vehicle and fenobam treated mice **b)** Fenobam
treatment does not affect the distribution of event amplitudes (LMM, p=0.246, z=-1.160,
β=-0.555, SE=0.478, 95% CI: [-1.493 0.383], N=8 mice) **c**) Fenobam treatment does not
affect the distribution of event lengths (LMM, p=0.499, z=-0.676, β=-0.044, SE=0.065,
95% CI: [-0.173 0.084], N=8 mice)

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1036 **Figure 2 – supplementary data 2**

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1038 Vehicle sessions for fenobam experiments

Mouse	Cells	Sessions
2.7	96	2
2.8	40	2
2.14	58	2
m974	293	1
m973	277	1
f979	164	1
f977	136	1
f976	387	1

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1040 Fenobam sessions

Mouse	Cells	Sessions
2.7	100	2
2.8	41	2
2.14	84	1
m974	91	1
m973	191	1
f979	29	1
f977	157	1
f976	219	1

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1043 **Table 2)** Number of cells per animal and recording sessions from animals used in figure
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Figure 3) A positive allosteric modulator of mGluR5, JNJ-46778212, decreases clustered coactivity of dSPNs

(**a**) Time animal spent in each velocity bin and (**b**) Mean velocity of the animals during vehicle and after JNJ administration. JNJ decreases the amount of time the animal spends at rest (Vehicle mean: 0.661 ± 0.066, JNJ mean: 0.294 ± 0.041, p=0.012, U=25, Mann-Whitney U test), however the change in mean velocity (**b**) is not significant (p=0.060, U=3, Mann-Whitney U test), nor is the mean bout length during vehicle and JNJ (p=0.060, U=3, Mann-Whitney U test) (**d**) Comparison of mean number of bouts of each animal during vehicle and JNJ (p=0.403, U=8, Mann-Whitney U test). (**e**) Mean event rate of Ca^{2+} transients in dSPNs during movement. JNJ administration does not significantly affect the event rate in dSPNs (LMM, p=0.058, z=1.893, β=0.010, SE = 0.005, 95% CI: [-0.000 0.020], N=4 mice) (**f**) Coactivity of pairs of dSPNs (50 µm bins) during total time in open field. Systemic JNJ administration reduces pairwise coactivity (LMM, p=0.003, z=2.964, β=-0.450, SE = 0.152, 95% CI: [-0.153 0.748], N=4 mice) (**g**) Spatial coordination increases at movement onset in both vehicle and drug groups (VEH: p<0.000, z=6.249, JNJ: p<0.000, z=9.111, Wilcoxon Signed Rank test) (**i**) Normalized co-activity of dSPNs during rest. JNJ produces a small but significant reduction in coactivity measured during rest (velocity < 0.5 cm*sec^{-1})(LMM, p=0.030, z=2.165, β=0.618, SE = 0.285, 95% CI : [0.059 1.177] , N=4 mice) (**j**) Normalized co-activity of dSPNs during movement (velocity > 0.5 cm*sec^{-1}). JNJ had a significant effect on dSPN clustered activity (LMM, p=0.027, z=-2.212, β=-1.694, SE = 0.766, 95% CI: [-3.195 -0.193], N=4 mice).(**k**) Event rate in dSPNs during vehicle and after JZL administration. JZL-184 administration reduces the event rate (LMM, p=0.001, z=3.195, β=0.007, SE = 0.002, 95% CI: [0.003 0.012] , N=5 mice) (**l**) Normalized co-activity of dSPNs against Euclidean distance. JZL had no effect on coactivity (LMM, p=0.065, z=-1.847, β=-1.204, SE = 0.652, 95% CI: [-2.481 0.074] , N=5 mice) (**m**) Time animals spent in velocity bins. JZL did not affect time spent at rest (p=0.531, U=16, Mann-Whitney U test).

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Figure 3 supplementary data

a) Averaged Ca^{2+} transients from vehicle and JNJ treated mice **b)** JNJ treatment does not affect the distribution of event amplitudes (LMM, p=0.955, z=0.056, β=0.048, SE=0.863, 95% CI: [-1.644 1.741], N=5 mice) **c**) JNJ treatment does not affect the distribution of event lengths (LMM, p=0.913, z=0.110, β=0.021, SE=0.188, 95% CI: [-0.348 0.389], N=5 mice)

Figure 3 – supplementary data 2

Vehicle Sessions for JNJ experiments

Mouse	Total Cells	Sessions
2.20	111	2
2.21	150	2
2.25	671	3
2.24	107	2
2.26	199	2

JNJ sessions

Mouse	Total Cells	Sessions
2.20	152	2
2.21	94	2
2.25	822	3
2.24	58	2
2.26	36	2

Vehicle Sessions for JZL experiments

Mouse	Total Cells	Sessions
2.8	150	4
2.14	129	2
2.19	203	2
2.20	80	2
2.26	22	2

JZL sessions

Mouse	Total Cells	Sessions
2.8	65	2
2.14	33	2
2.19	29	1
2.20	120	2
2.26	20	2

Table 3) Number of cells per animal and recording sessions from animals used in figure 3 analysis

Figure 4) mGluR5 cKO in Drd1a-expressing neurons reduces spontaneous motor behaviors and affects synaptic properties of dSPNs

(**a**) (Top) Cartoon representation of the role of mGluR5 in mobilizing eCBs at corticostriatal synapses. (Bottom) Representative EPSCs recorded prior to and during DHPG in WT mice (**b**) Example time course of corticostriatal EPSCs recorded in dSPNs during application of 100 µM DHPG in slice from WT mice. (**c**) Grouped data of DHPG depression. D1 cKO mice lack DHPG induced synaptic depression (cKO normalized EPSC amplitude: 0.754 ± 0.082, Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test, p=0.018, W=2; WT normalized amplitude: 0.992 ± 0.992, Wilcoxon Signed Rank Test p=0.834, W=9). (**d**) Time course of activity in open field and (**e**) Total distance traveled by WT and cKO mice. D1 cKO mice have reduced activity in the open field, measured as distance traveled over time and total distance traveled during a 30-minute open-field session (Mann-Whitney U Test, U=245, p<0.001, N = 16 WT, 17 cKO). (**f**) Digging time in WT and cKO mice. D1 cKO mice spend less time digging when placed into a novel home cage (Mann-Whitney U Test, U=51.5, p=0.008, N = 7 WT, 8 cKO). (**g**) Latency to fall in the accelerating rotarod test. dSPN cKO mice have consistently reduced latency during the accelerating rotarod test over 3 days, with 4 sessions per day (p=0.024, F=5.709, Two-way repeated measures ANOVA, N = 12 WT, 17 cKO). (**h**) Running distance per hour on wireless wheels placed in home cage over 7 days. (**i**) Total distance run per day during first 3 days and over 7 days. D1 cKO mice ran significantly less during the first 3 days of testing (Mann-Whitney U Test, U=173, p=0.049) (**j**) Example traces of voltage response to 200pA current injection in WT and cKO mice. (**k**) There is not significant difference in the input output curve for current injection and AP firing between genotypes (LMM, p=0.056, z=1.913, β=1.197, SE = 0.626, 95% CI: [-0.029 2.424], N=26 cells, WT, N=22 cells, cKO). (**l**) Example mEPSC recordings in dSPN from WT and D1 cKO mice (**m**) Average amplitude of mEPSCs and cumulative distribution of amplitudes in WT and D1 cKO mice. There is no difference in amplitudes in recordings from the two genotypes (WT AMP: 21.04 ± 1.71 pA, N=15, cKO AMP: 16.66 ± 1.12, N=8, Mann-Whitney U Test, U=86.5, p=0.093) (**n**) Average mEPSC frequency and cumulative interevent intervals in WT and D1 cKO animals. D1 cKO mice have

1142   increased mEPSC frequency (WT Hz: 1.920 ± 0.3319 pA, N=15, cKO Hz: 3.325 ±

1143   0.525, N=8, Mann-Whitney U Test, U=27.5, p=0.039)

Figure 5) D1 cKO mice show cell autonomous increase in clustered coactivity in dSPNs

(**a**) Cartoon representation of miniscope imaging in the DLS (**b**) Example segmented image from cKO mice (**c**) Example Ca^{2+} activity traces from identified dSPNs in cKO mice, filled cells in (b) (**d**) Mean event rate during movement in WT and cKO animals. The event rate in dSPN cKO mice is unchanged from WT (LMM, p=0.651, z=0.452, β=0.003, SE = 0.007, 95% CI: [-0.011 0.017] , N=9 wt, 6 cKO) (**e**) Coactivity of pairs of dSPNs (50 μm bins) in WT and cKO animals. D1 cKO mice have increased coactivity across all pairwise distances (MLM, p=0.021, z=2.305, β=3.989, SE = 1.731, 95% CI : [0.597 7.382] , N=9 wt, 6 cKO) (**f**) Spatial coordination peaks at movement onset in both wt and cko mice (WT: p<0.000, z = 7.301, KO: p<0.000, z = 6.700, Wilcoxon Signed Rank test) (**g**) The relative increase in coactivity during rest is not statistically different between cKO and wt mice (LMM, p=0.552, z=0.595, β=1.391, SE=2.339, 95% CI: [-3.193 5.976]) (**h**) iSPN event rate in D1 cKO and WT animals is unchanged (LMM, p=0.310, z=1.016, β=0.017, SE = 0.016, 95% CI: [-0.015 0.048], N=3 wt, 3 cKO) (**i**) Clustered coactivity of iSPNs in WT and D1 mGluR5 cKO animals is unaffected (LMM, p=0.691, z=0.398, β=2.368, SE = 5.953, 95% CI: [-9.300 14.035], N=3 wt, 3 cKO).

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Figure 5 supplementary data 1

a) Averaged Ca^{2+} transients from wt and cKO mice **b)** Wt and cKO mice show similar distributions of event amplitudes (LMM, p=0.497, z=-0.679, β=-0.177, SE=0.261, 95% CI: [-0.690 0.335], N=5 mice) **c**) Wt and cKO mice show similar distributions of event length (LMM, p=0.284, z=1.072, β=0.140, SE=0.130, 95% CI: [-0.116 0.395], N=5 mice)

1185 **Figure 5 supplementary data 2**

1186 WT (D1 cre ; *GRM5* +/+) – dSPNs

Mouse	Cells	Sessions
2.1	23	1
2.19	83	2
1.13	35	1
1.26	22	2
1.27	45	1
1.32	237	2
1.33	128	2
1.35	280	3
1.39	159	3

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1188 cKO (D1 cre ; *GRM5* f/f) - dSPNs

Mouse	Cells	Sessions
1.9	143	1
1.11	202	1
1.12	139	2
1.18	104	2
1.38	377	3
1.41	2	1

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1190 WT (D1 cre ; *GRM5* +/+) – iSPNs

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Mouse	Cells	Sessions
DO_1	114	1
DO_2	125	1
DO_3	39	1

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1193 cKO (D1 cre ; *GRM5* f/f) – iSPNs

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Mouse	Cells	Sessions
DO_4	63	1
DO_5	116	1
DO_6	221	1

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1196 **Table 5)** Number of cells per animal and recording sessions from animals in figure 5

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