Dynamic regulation of mRNA acetylation at synapses by spatial memory in mouse hippocampus

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Abstract

Precise regulation of protein synthesis is critical for brain functions such as long-term memory, and its dysregulation is implicated in numerous memory disorders. While mRNA methylation such as N6-methyladenosine (m6A) that has been widely studied in memory, the role of mRNA acetylation remains largely unknown. N4-acetylcytidine (ac4C), the only known form of RNA acetylation in eukaryotes, promotes mRNA stability and translation. In this study, we identified the ac4C epitranscriptome in mouse hippocampal homogenates and synaptosomes through ac4C-RNA immunoprecipitation followed by next-generation sequencing (acRIP-seq). The Morris water maze (MWM) was employed to induce and evaluate memory acquisition and forgetting processes. We show that synaptic ac4C levels are dynamically regulated, increasing after memory formation and returning to baseline after natural forgetting. The dynamic changes of ac4C-mRNAs regulated by memory were validated by ac4C dot-blot, liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), and acRIP-qPCR analysis. We further demonstrate that NAT10, the ac4C writer, in mouse hippocampus is important for spatial memory via regulating memory-related mRNAs, proteins, and ultimately synaptic plasticity. Lastly, we generated a freely-accessible website (http://ac4catlas.com) that included the dataset of ac4C epitranscriptome in mouse hippocampus. Altogether these results demonstrate that dynamic and localized mRNA acetylation is a critical for synaptic plasticity and memory.

Introduction

Spatiotemporal regulation of protein synthesis is essential for brain functions, particularly learning and memory[1,2]. For instance, local protein synthesis near stimulated synapses plays critical roles in synaptic plasticity and memory consolidation[3,4]. Mechanistically, epigenetic regulations on DNA and histone proteins have been widely studied in the context of learning and memory[5,6]. However, the roles of chemical modifications on mRNA in learning and memory have only become appreciated in recent years[7-9]. Especially, N6-methyladenosine (m6A), a well-studied form of mRNA methylation has been shown to regulate synaptic plasticity as well as learning and memory[10-12].

N4-acetylcytidine (ac4C) is the only known form of RNA acetylation in eukaryotes[13]. Initially, ac4C was identified in the transfer RNA (tRNA) anticodon[14-17]. Later studies revealed that ac4C also occurred in the 18S ribosomal RNA (rRNA)[18]. More recently, ac4C has been found in mRNA from mammalian cells, where it was reported to promote mRNA stability and translational efficiency[19,20]. N-acetyltransferase 10 (NAT10) is the only known ac4C writer in mammalian cells[21]. NAT10-mediated mRNA acetylation has been reported to regulate tumorigenesis[22,23], stem cell differentiation[24], cardiac remodeling[25], germ cell maturation[26] and pain signaling in the spinal cord[27,28]. However, the function and regulatory mechanisms of mRNA acetylation in the brain remain poorly understood.

The hippocampus plays an important role in learning and memory[29]. Pyramidal neurons in the CA3 region of hippocampus establish direct projection to CA1 pyramidal neurons through the Schaffer collateral (SC) pathway, known as the SC-CA1 synapse. The glutamatergic transmission at SC-CA1 synapses was found to be enhanced following training in the Morris water maze (MWM)[30], a behavioral paradigm for learning and memory[31]. Long-term potentiation (LTP), a widely-studied form of synaptic plasticity in hippocampus, is most closely linked to learning and memory[32]. Several studies showed that mRNAs and ribosomes were present in the synaptosomes, contributing to protein synthesis at synapses[33]. In principle, neural activities can

regulate local protein synthesis through post-transcriptional modification of synaptic mRNAs[34]. However, whether synaptic mRNAs are subjected to NAT10-mediated acetylation and whether this process contributes to synaptic plasticity and memory remain elusive.

In this study, we conducted ac4C dot-blots, liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) and acRIP-seq to study the ac4C modification of mRNA in mouse hippocampus during and after training in the MWM. We found that ac4C modification of mRNA was increased in the synaptosomes (SYN), rather than in the homogenates (HOM), following memory, and subsequently returned to baseline after memory forgetting. We further demonstrate that NAT10, the ac4C writer, in mouse hippocampus is important for memory through regulating memory-related mRNAs, proteins and ultimately synaptic plasticity. Collectively these results demonstrate the importance of mRNA acetylation in memory. The dataset of ac4C epitranscriptome from mouse hippocampus is freely accessible at the website (http://ac4catlas.com/).

Results

Presence of ac4C modification of polyA RNA in mouse hippocampus

Recent studies raised the debate about the presence of ac4C mRNA from mammalian cells[35,36]. We first investigate whether ac4C is a detectable modification of mRNA from mouse hippocampus. To this end, we purified polyadenylated (polyA) RNA from HOM of mouse hippocampus and determine their ac4C levels using LC-MS/MS. The purity of polyA RNA was verified by bioanalyzer analysis (Figure 1A and 1B) and dramatic reduction of 18S rRNA relative to total RNA in the analysis of reverse transcription followed by quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) (Figure 1C). An ac4C standard curve was generated to calculate the stoichiometry levels of ac4C in polyA RNA samples. Both the ac4C (or C) and m6A (or A) peaks can be detected by the chromatograms in the standard samples but not in the blank solution (Figure 1D-G). The polyA RNA purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus showed ac4C peaks with a stoichiometry level of 0.426 ± 0.049% (n = 3 biological replicates) (Figure 1H). Likewise, the polyA RNA

88 purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus showed m6A peaks with a
89 stoichiometry level of 0.223 ± 0.046% (n = 3 biological replicates) (Figure 1I), which
90 is consistent with the previous study from mouse brain[37]. When the polyA RNA samples
91 were incubated with 50 mM NH_2OH for 1 h before LC-MS/MS, a protocol of chemical
92 deacetylation[38], the stoichiometry levels of ac4C were significantly reduced (Figure
93 1H), indicating the validity of the LC-MS/MS analysis. By contrast, the stoichiometry
94 levels of m6A in polyA RNA samples remained unchanged after NH_2OH treatment
95 (Figure 1I), supporting the specificity of the deacetylation protocol. Altogether these
96 results demonstrate the presence of ac4C modification in polyA RNA from mouse
97 hippocampus. Given that polyA RNA consists of mRNA and long noncoding RNA
98 (lncRNA)[39], we further performed acRIP-seq to analyze the ac4C mRNA in mouse
99 hippocampus.

100 **Characterization of ac4C mRNA in the HOM of mouse hippocampus after**
101 **memory**

102 We used the behavioral protocol of MWM[40] to study how memory regulate mRNA
103 acetylation in mouse hippocampus. The control mice were placed in the MWM with a
104 visible platform once a day for 2 days, and thus could reach the visible platform in the
105 target region without training (Figures S1A and S1B). However, the control mice could
106 not remember the target region during the probe test at day 6 (Figures S1A and S1C).
107 In contrast, the memory mice were subjected to training in the MWM with a hidden
108 platform (Figures S1D and S1E). The memory mice took 5 days of training to remember
109 the target region during the probe test at day 6 (Figures S1E and S1F), indicative of
110 memory. Consistent with the previous study[41], the memory mice could not remember
111 the target region during the probe test at day 20 after staying in the home cages for 2
112 weeks without training (Figures S1D and S1G), indicating that memories were naturally
113 forgotten (Figures S1H).

114 We next performed acRIP-seq[19] to identify ac4C mRNA in the HOM of mouse
115 hippocampus. Two libraries of RNA (acRIP and input) were subjected to the next-
116 generation sequencing (NGS) for each sample (Table S1). The acRIP-seq reads were

mapped to mouse hippocampal transcriptome to identify ac4C enriched regions relative to input, and the fold enrichment (FE) of an ac4C peak was defined as acRIP / input (Figure S2A). An ac4C peak was considered positive when its FE > 2 and adjusted p-values < 0.05[42].

We performed acRIP-seq for three HOM replicates from control and memory mice one hour after probe tests in the MWM (i.e., at day 6). The ac4C peaks and ac4C mRNAs identified in three biological replicates of control and memory mice were largely overlapped (Figures S2B and S2C). These results indicate the consistency of the acRIP-seq for mouse hippocampus. The ac4C peak that were identified from at least two of the three biological replicates were considered reliable. Only mRNAs corresponding to these reliable ac4C peaks are defined as reliably ac4C mRNAs. We identified 14516 ac4C peaks and 8303 ac4C mRNAs from the HOM of control mice (Figure S2B and Table S2), and 13348 ac4C peaks and 8107 ac4C mRNAs from the HOM of memory mice (Figures S2C and Table S2). Moreover, the acRIP-seq revealed the same consensus motif AGCAGCTG in the ac4C peak regions from three biological replicates of control and memory mice (Figure S2D).

When we compared the transcripts with ac4C modifications to the entire transcriptome, we found that 54.1 ± 2.62% (n = 3 biological replicates) of the mRNAs in the mouse hippocampus were modified by ac4C. In line with the previous study from HeLa cells[19], metagene profile analysis revealed that most ac4C peaks were located within the coding sequence (CDS) of mRNAs in mouse hippocampus, with lower density in the 5' and 3' untranslated regions (Figures S2E and S2F). To further assess the reproducibility of our ac4C detection, we performed Upset plot analysis which revealed 4,494 peaks common to all three biological replicates in control mice and 4,110 peaks in memory mice (Figures S2G and S2H). The comparable overlap patterns between control and memory conditions confirm the stability of global ac4C modification patterns following memory formation. The numbers of ac4C peak per acetylated mRNA were comparable across three biological replicates and between control and memory mice (Figure S2I). Likewise, the ac4C dot-blots of polyA RNA,

and the cumulative distribution of ac4C mRNAs in the HOM were similar between the control and memory mice (Figures S2J and S2K). The cumulative distribution of mRNA counts in the HOM that were revealed by the NGS of input RNA were also similar between control and memory mice (Figure S2L). Altogether these results suggest that the total levels of ac4C mRNA in the HOM of mouse hippocampus may not be altered by memory.

Dynamic change of ac4C polyA RNA in the SYN of mouse hippocampus during memory

We next purified the SYN fraction from mouse hippocampus, enriched for synaptic proteins (PSD95 and synapsin 1) and depleted of cytoplasm (the S2 fraction)-restricted protein (α-tubulin) (Figure 2A). We then analyzed the levels of ac4C polyA RNA purified from the SYN with the ac4C dot-blots. The control and memory mice showed similar levels of ac4C polyA RNA in the SYN at day 1 (Figure 2B). Strikingly, the levels of ac4C polyA RNA showed a significant increase in the SYN of memory mice at day 6, compared with controls (Figure 2C). However, the levels of ac4C polyA RNA returned to control levels in the SYN of memory mice at day 20 (Figure 2D). These results suggest that acetylation of polyA RNA was upregulated in the SYN of mouse hippocampus during memory but returned to control levels after memory forgetting. The dynamic change of ac4C RNA in the SYN of mouse hippocampus during memory was verified by the assay of LC-MS/MS (Figure 2E).

Characterization of ac4C mRNA in the SYN of mouse hippocampus

Given that the amount of RNA that could be purified from SYN (200 ng per mouse hippocampus) is much less than that from HOM (50 μg per mouse hippocampus), we used the protocol of low-input acRIP-seq to identify ac4C mRNAs in the SYN (see details in the Methods). Due to the limited yield of SYN RNA, we purified the SYN RNA from the hippocampus of 10 adult mice and combined them into one sample. Six total samples from control and memory mice at days 1, 6, and 20 were subjected to low-input acRIP-seq. Two libraries (acRIP and input) were sequenced for each sample (Table S1). To increase the data reliability for low-input acRIP-seq, transcripts that were

identified in our own sequencing and at least two of the three synaptosome databases[43-45] were considered reliable and included in the analysis.

The transcripts and ac4C mRNAs identified from the SYN of control and memory mice at days 1, 6 and 20 were largely overlapped (Figures S3A-B and S3E-F; Table S3). We found that 58.61 ± 1.39% of the mRNAs in the SYN from control mouse hippocampus were modified by ac4C. On average, every acetylated transcript had 1.77 ± 0.05 ac4C peaks in the SYN from control mouse hippocampus. Moreover, the low-input acRIP-seq revealed the same consensus motif AGCAGCTG in the ac4C peak regions of SYN mRNA from control and memory mice at days 1, 6 and 20 (Figure S3C and S3G). In line with the results from HOM, most ac4C peaks were identified in CDS of SYN mRNA from both control and memory mice (Figures S3D and S3H). These results indicate the consistency of the low-input acRIP-seq for SYN mRNA.

Dynamic change of ac4C mRNA in the SYN of mouse hippocampus during memory

The cumulative distribution of ac4C mRNAs in the SYN did not differ between control and memory mice at day 1 (Figure 2F). In contrast, the cumulative distribution curve of ac4C mRNAs in the SYN of memory mice had a significant rightward shift at day 6, compared with control mice (Figure 2G). Intriguingly, the cumulative distribution of ac4C mRNAs in the SYN of memory mice became indistinguishable from that of control mice at day 20 (Figure 2H). The cumulative distribution of mRNA counts in the SYN were similar between control and memory mice at days 1, 6, and 20 (Figures 2I-2K). These results suggest that acetylation of mRNA rather than the total levels of mRNA was increased in the SYN after memory, and mRNA acetylation returned to control levels after memory forgetting, supporting the dynamic change of acetylation of polyA RNA in the SYN during memory (Figures 2B-2E).

To further validate the distinct molecular characteristics of the “memory-day6” group, we performed principal component analysis (PCA) based on global ac4C modification profiles. The first two principal components accounted for 38% and 26% of the total variance, respectively. The “memory-day6” samples clustered distinctly

from the other five groups, confirming a unique epitranscriptomic signature associated with memory (Figures S3I). To identify the memory-induced synaptic ac4C (MISA) mRNA, we analyzed the fold change (FC) of ac4C mRNA in the SYN of memory versus control mice (L/C) at days 1, 6, 20 (Figures S3J-S3L). Here we analyzed the FE of all ac4C peaks to better reflect the acetylation level of individual mRNA. Acetylation of MISA mRNA should be upregulated after memory and return to control levels after memory forgetting. In other words, the ac4C of MISA mRNA should be upregulated specifically at day 6 (the cutoff value of upregulation is FC > 2) but not at days 1 or 20. Per these criteria, we identified 1237 MISA mRNAs whose ac4C levels were increased at day 6 rather than at days 1 or 20 in memory mice, compared with controls (Figure S3M; Table S4). In contrast, the transcription levels of MISA mRNAs were similar at days 1, 6, and 20 between control and memory mice (Figure S3M; Table S4).

A representative MISA mRNA for Arc

Gene ontology (GO) analysis indicated that MISA mRNAs were significantly enriched in the biological processes (BP) related with synaptic plasticity and learning or memory (Figure 3A; Table S4). Protein-protein interaction (PPI) network analysis of MISA mRNAs involved in learning or memory revealed several core genes such as activity-regulated cytoskeleton associated protein (Arc), glutamate receptor NMDA type subunit 1 (Grin1), and presenilin 1 (Psen1) (Figures 3A and 3B). ARC protein can be transported into dendrites and translated near activated postsynaptic sites after neural activities[46,47]. Different from other immediately early genes (IEG), Arc underwent repetitive cycles of transcription and local translation, which is critical for memory consolidation[48,49]. Although Arc is a promising “master regulator” of protein synthesis-dependent forms of memory, the mechanisms underlying the regulation of local translation of Arc in the SYN remained to be elucidated[50]. Analysis of the acRIP-seq data indicate that memory mice have elevated ac4C Arc mRNA in the SYN at day 6 rather than days 1 or 20, and similar levels of ac4C Arc mRNA in the HOM at day 6, compared with control mice (Figure 3C). The genome browser tracks for the ac4C of all MISA mRNAs were accessible at the ac4C website (http://ac4catlas.com/) to show

233 altered ac4C in the SYN, and similar lack of change for those same RNAs in the HOM
234 at day 6.

235 Next, we used an orthogonal method to verify the dynamic change of ac4C Arc
236 mRNA in the SYN during memory. To this end, performed RT-qPCR analysis for Arc
237 mRNA from the input and acRIP samples from the SYN. The levels of input and acRIP-
238 Arc mRNA were similar in the SYN of control and memory mice at days 1 and 20
239 (Figures 3D, 3E, 3G and 3H). Likewise, the protein levels of ARC were also comparable
240 in the SYN of control and memory mice at days 1 and 20 (Figures 3F and 3I). Although
241 the levels of input Arc mRNA were not altered in the SYN of memory mice at day 6
242 (Figure 3J), the levels of acRIP-Arc mRNA and ARC proteins were significantly
243 increased in the SYN of memory mice at day 6, compared with controls (Figures 3K
244 and 3L). In contrast, the levels of Arc mRNA and ARC proteins were similar in the
245 HOM of control and memory mice at day 6 (Figures 3M and 3N). Note that Arc mRNA
246 levels in the IgG-IP samples were much lower than that in the acRIP samples (Figures
247 3E, 3H and 3K), indicating the specificity of RT-qPCR for acetylated Arc mRNA.
248 Altogether the results demonstrate that acetylation of Arc mRNA is specifically
249 increased in the SYN after memory but returned to control levels after memory
250 forgetting.

251 **Expression of Nat10 in the mature neurons of mouse hippocampus**

252 NAT10 is the only known ac4C writer[21]. Since the commercially available NAT10
253 antibodies were not suitable for immunostaining in the hippocampal slices, we used the
254 strategy of genetic labeling[51,52] to investigate the expression pattern of Nat10. To this
255 end, a heterozygous knockin mouse line ($Nat10^{Cre/+}$) that expressed the Cre
256 recombinase right after the start codon (ATG) of Nat10 gene was generated using the
257 CRISPR/Cas9 techniques (see details in the Method). Since the Cre recombinase and
258 Nat10 share the same regulatory elements for gene expression in the $Nat10^{Cre/+}$ mice,
259 the Nat10 expression pattern can be revealed through the Cre-reporting adeno-
260 associated virus (AAV) that express EGFP in a Cre-dependent manner. In this way, the
261 Nat10-positive cells would express EGFP in the Nat10 reporter mice (Figure 4A).

262 The dorsal hippocampus integrates multiple synaptic inputs from other brain
263 regions, and is critical for learning and memory[53-55]. To study the expression pattern of
264 Nat10 in the dorsal hippocampus of adult mice, we injected Cre-reporting AAV into the
265 dorsal hippocampus of 7-week-old Nat10$^{Cre/+}$ mice, and the fluorescent protein EGFP
266 was analyzed 3 weeks after AAV injection. Analysis of the EGFP-positive cells revealed
267 that Nat10 was mainly expressed in the pyramidal cell layer (sp) of CA1 region and
268 granule cell layer (gcl) of dentate gyrus (DG) (Figure 4B). Around 80% of Nat10-
269 expressing cells are mature neurons, evidenced by the overlay between EGFP and NeuN,
270 a protein marker for mature neurons (Figures 4C and 4D). Note that about 20% of
271 Nat10-positive cells are non-neuronal and probably glia cells. Moreover, about 75% of
272 Nat10-positive cells are excitatory pyramidal neurons in the CA1 region of mouse
273 hippocampus, indicated by the co-localization of EGFP with Neurogranin (NG), a
274 protein marker for excitatory pyramidal neurons (Figures 4C and 4E). Collectively
275 these results indicate that Nat10 is mainly expressed by mature neurons in adult mouse
276 hippocampus.
277 To generate Nat10-reporter mice, Nat10-Cre mice were crossed with Ai14
278 tdTomato reporter mice, leading to tdTomato expression in Nat10-expressing cells. To
279 validate the neuronal expression pattern of Nat10, we utilized Nat10-reporter mice and
280 observed tdTomato signals predominantly in neurons within the CA1 region (Figure 4F
281 and 4G). Collectively, these results demonstrate that Nat10 is primarily expressed in
282 mature neurons.
283 **Increase of NAT10 proteins in the SYN after memory**
284 The above-mentioned data showed that the levels of ac4C mRNA were increased in the
285 SYN of mouse hippocampus after memory. Next, we aim to investigate whether the
286 protein levels of NAT10, the only known ac4C writer[21], are also regulated by memory.
287 Toward this aim, we purified the SYN fraction from the hippocampus of control and
288 memory mice at days 1, 6 and 20, and analyzed the protein levels of NAT10 by western
289 blots (Figure 5A). The protein levels of NAT10 in the SYN were similar between
290 control and memory mice at day 1 (Figure 5B). Interestingly, the protein levels of

291 NAT10 were significantly increased in the SYN of memory mice at day 6 (Figure 5C),
292 but returned to control levels at day 20 (Figure 5D). These results indicate that protein
293 levels of NAT10 are increased in the SYN after memory but return to normal levels
294 after memory forgetting (Figure 5E).

295 The protein levels of NAT10 were not altered in HOM of memory mice at day 6,
296 compared to controls (Figure 5F), suggesting that memory did not upregulate the de
297 novo protein synthesis of NAT10 in mouse hippocampus. To further explore the
298 distribution of NAT10 proteins in other subcellular fractions, we purified the nucleus
299 (N), cytoplasm (S2) and post-synaptic density (PSD) fractions from the hippocampus
300 of control and memory mice at day 6, and analyzed the protein levels of NAT10 in
301 different subcellular fractions (Figure 5G). The nuclear fraction was enriched for
302 histone but was depleted of cytoplasmic protein α-tubulin or synaptic protein SYN1
303 and PSD95, and vice versa for the S2 and PSD fractions (Figure 5H). The protein levels
304 of NAT10 in the nucleus did not change at day 6 after memory (Figure 5I). Strikingly,
305 the NAT10 proteins were significantly reduced in the cytoplasm (S2 fraction) but
306 increased in the PSD fraction at day 6 after memory (Figures 5J and 5K). These results
307 suggest that NAT10 proteins might be relocated from the cytoplasm to synapses in
308 mouse hippocampus after memory.

309 NAT10 belongs to the p300/CBP-associated factor (PCAF) subfamily of protein
310 acetyltransferase[56]. Next, we aim to investigate whether memory changed protein levels
311 of PCAF in the subcellular fractions of mouse hippocampus. The protein levels of
312 PCAF did not change in the nucleus, cytoplasm or PSD fractions of memory mice at
313 day 6, compared to controls (Figures 5L-5N), indicating that memory may not alter the
314 subcellular distribution of PCAF.

315 Next, we performed immunofluorescent staining to study the synaptic distribution
316 of NAT10 proteins before and after chemical LTP (cLTP) stimulation in cultured
317 hippocampal neurons (Figure S4A) – a cellular model of learning and memory[57,58]. In
318 control neurons treated with vehicle, NAT10 was mainly expressed in the nucleus and
319 cytoplasm (Figure S4B), which is consistent with the results of western blots (Figures

320 5I-5J). However, 60 minutes after cLTP stimulation, the colocalization of NAT10 with
321 PSD95, a protein marker for PSD fraction, was significantly increased, compared with
322 control neurons (Figures S4C-S4D).

323 **Induction of ac4C modification of Arc by cLTP in hippocampal slices**

324 Given our observation that cLTP stimulation promotes the redistribution of NAT10
325 protein to the postsynaptic density, we further examine the effects of cLTP stimulation
326 on the ac4C levels of Arc, a typical MISA mRNA (Figure 3). The local translation of
327 Arc at synapses is known to be activated by neural activities and important for LTP
328 consolidation[59]. We employed acRIP-qPCR to analyze the ac4C levels of Arc mRNA
329 in mouse hippocampal slices after cLTP stimulation. The results indicated that ac4C
330 modifications of Arc mRNA in the synaptosomes were significantly increased (after
331 being normalized by transcription levels) 1 h after cLTP stimulation compared with
332 controls (Figures S4E and S4F), which is accompanied by the increase of Arc proteins
333 in the synaptosomes after cLTP stimulation (Figure S4G). These results from cLTP in
334 mouse hippocampal slices corroborate the in vivo findings that memory can regulate
335 ac4C modification of Arc mRNA in mouse hippocampus.

336 **NAT10-dependent ac4C polyA RNA in mouse hippocampus**

337 To demonstrate the NAT10-dependent ac4C modification of poly A RNA, we used the
338 Cre/Loxp strategy[60] to downregulate Nat10 expression in adult mouse hippocampus
339 through injection of AAV-EGFP-P2A-Cre into the hippocampus of $Nat10^{flox/flox}$ mice.
340 Given that Nat10 is mainly expressed in the mature neurons (Figure 4), the expression
341 of EGFP-2A-Cre in the AAV was driven by the human synapsin 1 (Syn1) promoter, a
342 neuron-specific promoter[61]. The $Nat10^{flox/flox}$ mice injected with AAV-EGFP and AAV-
343 EGFP-P2A-Cre were named control and Nat10 conditional knockout (cKO) mice
344 hereafter. Both the control and Nat10 cKO mice received stereotaxic AAV injection into
345 the dorsal hippocampus, and the HOM of dorsal hippocampus were collected for
346 biochemical assay 3 weeks after AAV injection (Figure S5A).

347 The fluorescent protein EGFP was expressed mainly in the CA1-3 regions and DG
348 of mouse hippocampus 3 weeks after AAV injection (Figure S5B), indicating the

successful infection of AAV. The protein levels of NAT10 were significantly reduced in the hippocampus of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figures S5C and S5D), verifying the effective knockdown of NAT10 by the Cre/Loxp strategy. NAT10 was previously described as a protein acetyltransferase against α-tubulin and histones[62,63]. However, immunoblotting with acetylation-specific antibodies showed no significant change of protein acetylation in Nat10 cKO hippocampus, compared to controls (Figures S5C, S5E and S5F). These results suggest the redundancy of acetyltransferases for α-tubulin and histones in mouse hippocampus. In contrast, the ac4C modification of polyA RNA was significantly decreased in the hippocampus of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figures S5G and S5H). As a control experiment, downregulation of NAT10 did not affect the m6A modification of polyA RNA (Figures S5I and S5J). The LC-MS/MS analysis of polyA RNA indicated that the stoichiometry levels of ac4C rather than m6A were significantly reduced in the hippocampus of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figures S5K and S5L). The partial reduction of ac4C in the Nat10 cKO mice might be due to the limited infection areas of Cre-AAV, or the Nat10 expression in non-neuronal cells, or the presence of other unknown ac4C writers. Nonetheless, these results demonstrate that NAT10 specifically regulates ac4C rather than m6A modification of polyA RNA in mouse hippocampus.

NAT10-dependent ac4C mapping of SYN mRNA in memory mice

Given that memory increased ac4C mRNA specifically in the SYN, we next aim to identify NAT10-dependent ac4C modification of synaptic mRNAs. To this end, we performed low-input acRIP-seq for SYN RNA purified from the hippocampus of control and Nat10 cKO mice at day 6 after memory (Figure S6A). Due to the limited yield of SYN RNA, we purified SYN RNA from the hippocampus of 10 mice and combined them into one sample. Two biological samples from control and Nat10 cKO mice at day 6 were subjected to low-input acRIP-seq to demonstrate the NAT10-dependent ac4C modification of SYN mRNA. Two libraries (acRIP and input) were sequenced for each biological sample (Table S3).

We identified 7097 and 1933 ac4C peaks from the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO

mice, respectively (Figure S6B). These results suggest a reduction of the ac4C peak number by knockout of Nat10 in mature neurons of adult mouse hippocampus. Out of 7097 ac4C peaks identified in control mice, 6331 peaks were abolished and 408 peaks were downregulated in Nat10 cKO mice, and these ac4C peaks were named NAT10-dependent synaptic ac4C (NASA) peaks (Figure S6C) which were mainly localized in the CDS region of mRNA (Figure S6D)

The Nat10 cKO mice also showed a reduction of ac4C mRNA number in the SYN, compared with controls (Figure S6E). In contrast, the number of mRNA in the SYN was similar between control and Nat10 cKO mice (Figure S6F). Likewise, the levels of ac4C mRNA rather than total mRNA were significantly reduced in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls, evidenced by the leftward-shifted cumulative distribution curve of FE of ac4C mRNA in the Nat10 cKO mice (Figures 6A-6C). Out of 3,778 ac4C-modified mRNAs identified in the SYN of control mice, 2,507 were classified as diminished, indicating that their ac4C enrichment fell below the detection threshold or became undetectable in Nat10 cKO mice (FE < 1 or peak lost). An additional 839 mRNAs were downregulated, defined as showing significantly reduced but still detectable ac4C levels in cKO mice compared to controls. Collectively, these transcripts were referred to as NASA mRNAs (Figure S6G; Table S5). Analysis of the overlap between MISA and NASA indicated that 717 out of 1237 MISA mRNAs were regulated by NAT10 (Figure 6D).

To further investigate the molecular basis underlying the differential regulation of MISA mRNAs by NAT10, we performed sequence motif analysis on the two distinct gene populations - 717 NAT10-dependent MISA mRNAs (present in both MISA and NASA populations) and 520 NAT10-independent MISA mRNAs (present only in MISA but absent in NASA) (Figure 6D). Remarkably, these two gene sets exhibited distinct ac4C consensus motifs (Figure 6D). The NAT10-dependent MISA mRNAs, displayed the canonical AGCAGCTG motif that was consistently observed throughout our study. In contrast, the NAT10-independent MISA mRNAs showed a fundamentally different motif pattern, characterized by RGGGCACTAACY sequence. The complete

divergence in motif sequences between these two populations suggests that the NAT10-independent MISA mRNAs may be regulated by as yet unidentified ac4C writers.

We next analyzed the cellular expression pattern of NASA mRNAs through the single-cell RNA-seq atlas of mouse hippocampus (dropviz.org)[64]. The results indicated that the expression of NASA mRNAs was mostly enriched in excitatory neurons (Figure S6H), which is in line with the cellular expression pattern of NAT10 in mouse hippocampus (Figure 4). In addition, about 13% of NASA mRNAs were relatively enriched in glia cells (Figure S6H), which is consistent with the notion that processes of glia cells contribute to formation of the tripartite synapses[65,66].

Regulation of ac4C and protein levels of memory-related mRNAs by NAT10

Arc, a representative MISA mRNA (Figure 3), is critical for memory[67]. The mRNA of Ca^{2+}/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase 2α (Camk2α) and Grin 2b encode the protein kinase CaMKIIα and the GluN2B subunit of NMDA receptor, respectively. CaMKIIα and GluN2B are synapse-enriched proteins and play important roles in LTP as well as memory[68,69]. Recent studies demonstrate that CaMK2α interaction with GluN2B is critical for the induction and maintenance of LTP[70,71]. Analysis of the low-input acRIP-seq data indicated the reduction of ac4C peaks of Arc, Camk2α and Grin 2b mRNAs in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figures 6E-6G). The genome browser tracks for the ac4C of all NASA mRNAs were accessible at the ac4C website (http://ac4catlas.com/) to show reduced or diminished ac4C peaks in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. Despite the presence of a common AGCAGCTG motif in both groups, Nat10 deletion disrupted the local CXX sequence context, reflecting a shift in ac4C deposition specificity upon loss of Nat10 enzymatic activity (Figures S6I). Deconvolution with CIBERSORT identified neurons as the top enriched cell type for both NAT10-dependent and NAT10-independent MISA mRNAs. The neuronal enrichment did not differ between the two sets, which argues against differences in cellular origin (Figure S6J). Moreover, BP enrichment of the 717 shared ac4C-modified mRNAs revealed significant enrichment in biological processes such as synapse organization and dendrite development, indicating a potential role of ac4C

436 modification in regulating synaptic structure and neuronal connectivity (Figure S6K).

437 Next, we performed RT-qPCR analysis for input and acRIP RNAs purified from
438 the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO mice at day 6 after memory to verify the NAT10-
439 dependent ac4C modification of Arc, Camk2α and Grin2b mRNAs. The input mRNA
440 levels of Arc, Camk2α and Grin2b in the SYN were comparable between control and
441 Nat10 cKO mice (Figure 6H). In contrast, the acRIP mRNA levels of Arc, Camk2α and
442 Grin2b in the SYN were significantly reduced in Nat10 cKO mice, compared with
443 controls (Figure 6I). Given that ac4C modification of mRNA has been shown to
444 enhance translation efficiency[19,20], we sought to determine whether NAT10 influences
445 the protein levels of ARC, CaMKIIα and GluN2B in the SYN by western blot analysis.
446 The protein levels of ARC, CaMKIIα and GluN2B were significantly decreased in the
447 SYN at day 6 from Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figure 6J). Altogether,
448 these results demonstrate that NAT10 regulates ac4C and protein levels of Arc, Camk2α
449 and Grin2b in the SYN of mouse hippocampus at day 6.

450 **Regulation of LTP as well as memory by NAT10 in mouse hippocampus**

451 In the following study, we investigate whether NAT10 in mouse hippocampus is
452 important for synaptic plasticity. The body and brain weight were similar between
453 control and Nat10 cKO mice (Figures S7A and S7B). The number and intrinsic
454 excitability of CA1 pyramidal neurons were also comparable between control and
455 Nat10 cKO mice (Figures S7C and S7D). To address whether NAT10 regulates LTP,
456 we performed electrophysiology recording of fEPSP (field excitatory postsynaptic
457 potential) at the SC-CA1 synapses before and after high frequency stimulation (HFS)
458 (Figure 7A). The induction of LTP was comparable between control and Nat10 cKO
459 mice (Figures 7B-7E). However, the maintenance of LTP especially the late phase of
460 LTP was severely impaired in Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figures 7B,
461 7C and 7F).

462 To further study whether Nat10 is important for synaptic plasticity after memory,
463 we performed fEPSP recording to investigate glutamatergic transmission at the SC-
464 CA1 synapses in the control and Nat10 cKO mice at day 6 (Figure 7G). Consistent with

465 the previous report[72], the glutamatergic transmission at the SC-CA1 synapses was
466 significantly enhanced at day 6 in memory mice, compared with mice without
467 memory (Figures 7H and 7I). The glutamatergic transmission at the SC-CA1 synapses
468 was similar between control and Nat10 cKO mice without memory, which indicate that
469 Nat10 may be dispensable for the basal glutamatergic transmission at the SC-CA1
470 synapses. However, the memory-induced enhancement of glutamatergic transmission
471 at the SC-CA1 synapses was significantly impaired in Nat10 cKO mice, compared with
472 controls (Figures 7H and 7I). Altogether these results indicate that NAT10 is important
473 for synaptic plasticity related with memory in mouse hippocampus.

474 To investigate whether NAT10 is critical for memory, both control and Nat10 cKO
475 mice were subjected to training in the MWM for 5 days, and the probe test was
476 performed at day 6. Both groups exhibited an overall decline in the latency to reach the
477 platform at the early stage (day 1-2) of training (Figure 7J). However, the Nat10 cKO
478 mice failed to improve performance during the late training stage (day 3-5), compared
479 with controls (Figure 7J). During the probe tests, the control and Nat10 cKO mice
480 showed similar distance travelled (Figures 7K and 7L). However, the time spent in the
481 target area and the number of platform crossing were significantly reduced in the Nat10
482 cKO mice, compared with controls (Figures 7L-7N). These results demonstrate that
483 NAT10 in mouse hippocampus is important for spatial memory.

484

485 **Discussion**

486 In this study, we demonstrated the dynamic regulation of synaptic mRNA acetylation
487 by memory in mouse hippocampus. We identified 1237 MISA mRNAs that were
488 increased in the SYN of mouse hippocampus after memory but returned to normal
489 levels after memories were naturally forgotten. Interestingly, the protein levels of
490 NAT10 were also increased in the SYN after memory but returned to control levels after
491 forgetting. We further showed NAT10-dependent ac4C mapping of SYN mRNAs
492 through the acRIP-seq and verified the NAT10-dependent ac4C modification of Arc,
493 Camk2α and Grin2b mRNAs. The maintenance of LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses as well

as the behaviors of memory were severely impaired in the Nat10 cKO mice. In support of the importance of ac4C in memory, our recent study showed that ac4C modification of several MISA mRNAs including Arc, Grin1 and Psen1 was significantly reduced in the hippocampus of 5×FAD mouse, an animal model of Alzheimer's disease that was characterized by deficient synaptic plasticity and memory[73]. Altogether these results demonstrate the importance of NAT10-mediated mRNA acetylation in memory.

The dynamic regulation of protein acetylation in the SYN by memory has been shown in our previous studies[74-77]. In contrast to the well-characterized acetyltransferases and deacetylases for protein acetylation[78], the writer and eraser of mRNA acetylation are less well understood. The NAT10 acetyltransferase is the only known ac4C writer in the mammalian cells[24,79]. Recently, the deacetylase SIRT7 has been shown to erase the ac4C modification of ribosomal RNA (rRNA) and small nucleolar RNA (snoRNA)[80,81]. However, the mechanisms underlying the deacetylation of mRNA need further exploration.

A pivotal and unexpected finding of our study fundamentally expands the regulatory landscape of ac4C in neurons. We discovered that a substantial fraction of MISA mRNAs (520 out of 1237, approximately 42%) is acetylated in a NAT10-independent manner. This is not a minor detail, but rather points to the existence of a parallel regulatory system for synaptic mRNA acetylation that is co-activated during memory formation. Strikingly, bioinformatic analysis revealed that these NAT10-independent targets possess a consensus motif (RGGGCACTAACY) completely distinct from the canonical motif associated with NAT10. This strongly suggests the involvement of at least one other, as-yet-unidentified, ac4C writer enzyme with a different sequence specificity. This possibility is supported by the reports of NAT10-independent acetylation in other biological contexts[82-84]. The existence of this robust parallel pathway may also explain why the Nat10 cKO phenotype, while significant, is not absolute. This discovery transforms the narrative from a single-enzyme mechanism to a more complex, multi-faceted regulatory network and opens up critical new questions for future research regarding the identity of this novel writer and the

523 functional specialization of these parallel ac4C pathways in synaptic plasticity.

524 How the ac4C modification of mRNA is regulated by neural activities remains
525 largely unknown. Our previous studies showed that overnight starvation downregulated
526 the ac4C modification of tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) mRNA in the sympathetic nerve
527 terminus that innervate the olfactory mucosa in mice, which reduced TH protein levels
528 and dopamine synthesis in the mouse olfactory mucosa after overnight starvation[85]. In
529 this study, we demonstrate that memory regulate the dynamic change of ac4C
530 modification of mRNA at synapses of mouse hippocampus. Altogether these studies
531 provide evidence that neural activities regulate acetylation of mRNA in a
532 spatiotemporally specific manner.

533 NAT10 proteins were increased in the SYN but reduced in the cytoplasm of mouse
534 hippocampus at day 6 in the MWM. These results suggest a relocation of NAT10 from
535 the cytoplasm to synapses after memory, which was corroborated by the
536 immunostaining study of NAT10 distribution in cultured mouse hippocampal neurons
537 after cLTP stimulation. Previous proteomic studies showed that NAT10 were detected
538 in the interactome with several motor proteins such as kinesin proteins[86], which raised
539 the possibility that NAT10 might be transported by the motor proteins in hippocampal
540 neurons during memory. NAT10 was highly expressed in the nucleus of hippocampal
541 neurons, but protein levels of nuclear NAT10 were not altered at day 6 in the MWM.
542 NAT10 has been shown to be important for regulating nuclear functions such as
543 nucleolar assembly[63] and nuclear architecture[87]. The function of NAT10 in the nucleus
544 of neurons waits for future investigations.

545 The subcellular change of NAT10 proteins at day 6 apparently may not be caused
546 by stress during the training in the MWM. The mice were well handled before and
547 during the training, and thus the stress should be minor if any. The control mice were
548 exposed to the training using visible platform at day 1, the stress levels in the control
549 mice may vary with the memory mice. If mild stress during the training in the MWM
550 could cause the relocation of NAT10 to the SYN, the protein levels of NAT10 in the
551 SYN would be increased at day 1. However, the protein levels of NAT10 in the SYN

552 were similar at day 1 between control and memory mice. In addition, chronic mild stress
553 has been shown to increase the total protein levels of NAT10 in mouse hippocampus[88].
554 In contrast, the total protein levels of NAT10 in mouse hippocampus did not alter at day
555 6 in the MWM. These results suggest that the increased NAT10 proteins in the SYN at
556 day 6 in the MWM may be related with memory rather than stress.

557 The stoichiometry levels of ac4C in polyA RNA has been reported to be ~0.2% in
558 HeLa cells[19], ~0.1% in human embryonic stem cells[24], ~0.2% in liver[89], and ~0.3% in
559 heart[25]. Here we showed that ~0.4% of cytidine was acetylated in mouse hippocampus.
560 Although the total protein levels of NAT10 has been reported to be relatively lower in
561 the whole brain tissue compared with reproductive tissues such as testis and ovary[26],
562 the NAT10 was shown to be highly expressed in hippocampal neurons[90]. Future studies
563 are warranted to investigate how the acetyltransferase activity of NAT10 toward mRNA
564 was regulated in different brain regions and different tissues.

565 The basal glutamatergic transmission at the SC-CA1 synapses was unaltered in the
566 Arc knockout mice[91], which is consistent with the phenotypes in the Nat10 cKO mice.
567 On the other hand, ARC has been shown to accelerate AMPA receptor endocytosis[92],
568 and thus the induction of LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses was enhanced in the Arc
569 knockout mice[91]. Although ARC protein levels were decreased in the SYN of Nat10
570 cKO mice, the induction of LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses was not increased in the Nat10
571 cKO mice, which might be due to the reduction of other LTP-promoting proteins such
572 as CaMKIIα and GluN2B in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice.

573 In line with the phenotypes of Nat10 cKO mice presented in this study, the Arc
574 knockout mice showed deficits in the late phase of LTP at SC-CA1 synapses and
575 impairment of memory consolidation in the MWM[91]. Consistent with the function of
576 Arc in memory consolidation, the acetylation of Arc mRNA was increased in the SYN
577 at day 6 rather than day 1 following MWM training, a period during which memories
578 were consolidated. Furthermore, our findings from cLTP in mouse hippocampal slices
579 suggest that this acetylation process can be induced rapidly. We observed a significant
580 increase in the ac4C levels of Arc mRNA in mouse hippocampal slices one hour after

cLTP stimulation, a timescale consistent with the consolidation phase of LTP, for which sustained local synthesis of Arc is known to be critical[67,93]. In sum, the data presented here reveal a novel mechanism underlying how neural activity regulates local protein synthesis at synapses using Arc as an example.

Although our current study primarily focuses on ac4C modifications of mRNA, we cannot exclude the possibility that Nat10 deficiency also affects post-translational regulatory pathways. Moreover, the function of NAT10 in regulating tRNA or rRNA might also contribute to memory. New techniques for overexpression and erasure of site-specifically acetylated mRNA need to be developed to precisely study the function of mRNA acetylation. Nonetheless, the results presented here provide evidence that NAT10-mediated mRNA acetylation may contribute to the protein synthesis at synapses during memory in mouse hippocampus.

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Methods

Animals

Male C57BL/6 mice were used throughout this study. For stereotaxic injection of AAV, six-week-old mice were used. For behavioral analysis, 9 to 10-week-old mice were used. For ac4C dot-blots, LC-MS/MS, acRIP-seq, mice aged between nine and ten weeks were used. For immunofluorescence, western blots and electrophysiology, ten-week-old mice were used. Animals were housed in rooms at 23°C and 50% humidity in a 12 h light/dark cycle and with food and water available ad libitum. Animal experimental procedures were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of East China Normal University. The Ai14 Cre-dependent tdTomato reporter mouse line (stock no. 007914) was obtained and used for generating reporter mice.

Generation of Nat10$^{Cre/+}$ knockin mice

The mouse Nat10 gene has 29 exons and the translational start codon (ATG) is localized in exon 2. We employed CRISPR/Cas9 technology in conjunction with homologous recombination to insert a Cre-WPRE-polyA expression cassette at the translational start codon of the Nat10 gene in C57BL/6J mice. The process commenced with the synthesis of Cas9 mRNA and a guide RNA (gRNA) targeting the start codon of Nat10, with the gRNA sequence being 5′-catcatgaatcggaagaaggtgg-3′. A donor vector was then

constructed using In-Fusion cloning, containing 2.6 kb 5′ and 3′ homology arms flanking the Cre-WPRE-pA cassette, designed for Cre recombinase expression, enhanced by the WPRE element and concluded with a polyadenylation signal. The cocktail of Cas9 mRNA, gRNA, and the donor vector was microinjected into fertilized C57BL/6J mouse embryos, leading to the birth of F0 generation mice. These mice were screened for the precise genomic integration of the cassette through PCR amplification and sequencing. Successful modifications were observed in F0 mice, which were subsequently bred with C57BL/6J mice to secure F1 progeny harboring the modification.

The resulting offspring were genotyped using PCR, with primers designed to detect the Cre within the Nat10 gene. The primers for genotyping wt Nat10 allele are as follows: forward: 5’tgtctttcctgtggtggtgt3’; reverse: 5’tgcgcactgaaaccctacaa3’. the primers for genotyping Nat10-cre allele are as follows: forward: 5’gaaatcatgcaggctggtgg3’; reverse: 5’aaagtcccggaaaggagctg3’. The PCR products for wt Nat10 and Nat10-Cre alleles were 392 and 393 bp, respectively.

Generation of Nat10$^{flox/flox}$ mice

The generation of Nat10$^{flox/flox}$ mice involved targeted modification of exon 4 within the Nat10 gene, utilizing CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene editing. Two guide RNAs (gRNAs) were specifically designed to target and flank exon 4, enabling a precise floxed modification. The sequences for these gRNAs were as follows: gRNA1: 5′-tcagcagaccactttaaagatgg-3′ and gRNA2: 5′-tgcctgacatagtaaggtctggg-3′. Both Cas9 mRNA and gRNAs were produced through in vitro transcription techniques. A donor vector for homologous recombination was constructed using In-Fusion cloning. This vector included a 3.0 kb 5′ homology arm, a 0.7 kb loxp-flanked region (flox), and a 3.0 kb 3′ homology arm to ensure accurate genomic insertion at the Nat10 locus. The mixture of Cas9 mRNA and the two gRNAs was injected into the cytoplasm of one-cell stage embryos. These embryos were subsequently implanted into pseudopregnant females and carried to term. The resulting offspring were genotyped using PCR, with primers designed to detect the floxed exon 4 of Nat10 gene. The primers for genotyping the wt and floxed Nat10 allele are as follows: forward: 5’tgccgaggggatgtactcat3’; reverse: 5’agaaccccacgaactgtcct3’. The PCR products for wt Nat10 and floxed Nat10 allele were 302 and 356 bp, respectively.

Morris water maze (MWM)

1042 The MWM, a widely recognized method for assessing spatial memory[40], was
1043 implemented with the following protocol: mice were acclimated to the testing
1044 environment over a period of three days through 10-minute daily handling sessions. To
1045 aid navigation, visual cues were strategically positioned around the perimeter of the
1046 maze. To ensure consistency and minimize the impact of external variables, all
1047 experimental sessions were conducted simultaneously each day. During the core phase
1048 of the experiment, spanning five days, mice were subjected to four trials daily. In each
1049 trial, they were released from different quadrants into the maze, with the escape
1050 platform being fixed in the first quadrant. A trial was deemed complete when a mouse
1051 successfully located the platform within a 60-second timeframe. If unsuccessful, the
1052 mouse was gently guided to the platform at the 60-second mark. The mice were handled
1053 for 10 minutes each day following the completion of the four trials.

1054 On Day 6, a probe test was conducted to assess memory retention: the platform
1055 was removed, and mice were released from the third quadrant. The number of crossings
1056 over the previous platform location during the 60-second trial was recorded. To
1057 evaluate visual and motor function independent of spatial memory, a visible platform
1058 test was conducted on a separate cohort of control mice. The platform was made visible
1059 by placing a flag above the surface, and its location was changed between trials to
1060 prevent spatial memory. Mice underwent four trials in one day, with performance
1061 measured by latency to reach the visible platform. This design was chosen to match
1062 handling and navigation exposure, while minimizing spatial memory.

1063 On Day 20, a second probe test was conducted using the same conditions as on
1064 Day 6, to assess long-term memory retention after a two-week interval in the home cage.
1065 Control mice underwent both the visible platform test and were subjected to identical
1066 handling procedures and probe test conditions on Day 6 and Day 20. This design
1067 ensured that differences observed in probe test performance reflected spatial memory
1068 rather than sensory or motor deficits. Mice designated for molecular or histological
1069 analysis were euthanized 60 minutes after the probe test began. This time point was
1070 selected based on established literature indicating that memory retrieval-related
1071 molecular signatures, such as the activation of immediate early genes and RNA
1072 modifications, occur at this time[94].

1073 **Chemical and reagents**

1074 All chemicals and reagents utilized in this study were of analytical grade. RNA was

extracted using TRIzol® Reagent (15596-026, Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) following the manufacturer's protocol. Chloroform and other general laboratory chemicals were obtained from Merck (109634, Darmstadt, Germany). The ACQUITY HSS T3 column (2.1×100 mm, 1.8 μm) for LC-MS/MS analysis was purchased from Waters Corporation (186008499, Milford, MA, USA). Phosphodiesterase was obtained from Sigma (P3243-1VL, St. Louis, MO, USA). Nuclease P1 and alkaline phosphatase, used for RNA digestion, were obtained from Takara (2410A and 2250A). Hydroxylamine was from Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology Co., LTD (H164487). RNase inhibitor, which is critical for preserving RNA integrity during manipulations, was purchased from New England Biolabs (M0314S, NEB, CA, USA). Methylene blue, which is used for nucleic acid visualization, was obtained from Abcam (M9140). Poly-D-lysine was purchased from Sigma (Cat No. P1149). Tamoxifen was purchased from Sigma (Cat T5648).

Subcellular fractionation

The procedure of subcellular fractionation was adapted from the methodologies in our previous studies[74,75]. Mouse brain tissues were processed starting with homogenization in Buffer A, which consists of 0.32 M sucrose, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM PMSF, and a protease inhibitor cocktail to ensure comprehensive cell lysis while preserving protein integrity. The resultant homogenates were then filtered to remove cell debris and subsequently subjected to centrifugation at 500g for 5 minutes using a fixed-angle rotor. This step separates the homogenate into the pellet (P1) and supernatant (S1) fractions. The P1 fraction, containing primarily nuclei and unbroken cells, was further purified by resuspension in Buffer B (10 mM KCl, 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$, and 10 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.4) followed by a repeat centrifugation under the same conditions to remove any remaining debris. The final pellet was resuspended in Buffer C (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.9, 25% glycerol, 1.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 1.4 M KCl, 0.2 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM PMSF, and 0.5 mM DTT), which is designed for nuclear protein extraction and incubated with agitation at 4 °C for 30 minutes to facilitate the release of nuclear proteins. A final centrifugation at 12,000g for 10 minutes was performed, and the supernatant, containing the nuclear protein fraction, was collected. The initial supernatant (S1), following the removal of P1, was further centrifuged at 10,000g for 10 minutes to partition it into the P2 fraction, which included the crude synaptosomes, and the cytosolic S2 fraction.

1108 **Western blot**

1109 Homogenates of hippocampus tissue were prepared in the RIPA buffer containing 50
1110 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 1% sodium deoxycholate, 1%
1111 SDS, 1 mM PMSF, 50 mM sodium fluoride, 1 mM sodium vanadate, 1 mM DTT, and
1112 protease inhibitors cocktails. All the protein samples were boiled at 100 °C water bath
1113 for 10 minutes before western blot. Homogenates were resolved on SDS/PAGE and
1114 then transferred to nitrocellulose membranes, which were incubated in the TBS buffer
1115 (0.1% Tween-20 and 5% milk) for 1 hour at room temperature followed by incubation
1116 of primary antibodies overnight at 4 °C. After washing, the membranes were incubated
1117 with HRP-conjugated secondary antibody in the same TBS buffer for 2 hours at room
1118 temperature. Immunoreactive bands were visualized by ChemiDocTM XRS + Imaging
1119 System (BIO-RAD) using enhanced chemiluminescence (Pierce) and analyzed with
1120 Image J (NIH). The following primary antibodies were used: anti-Histone H3 (1:1000,
1121 Cell Signaling, 9715), anti-SYN1 (1:1000, Cell Signaling, 2312), anti-α-tubulin
1122 (1:10000, Cell Signaling, 3873), anti-NAT10 (1:1000, Abcam, ab194297), anti-Acetyl-
1123 Histone H3 (1:1000, Cell Signaling, 9649), anti-ARC (1:1000, Proteintech, 66550-1-
1124 Ig), anti-PSD95 (1:1000, Cell Signaling, 3450), anti-PCAF (1:1000, Cell Signaling,
1125 3378), and anti-GAPDH (1:5000, Abways, ab0037). The following secondary
1126 antibodies were used: HRP-conjugated secondary antibody (goat-anti-mouse, G-21040;
1127 goat-anti-rabbit, G-21234; 1:2000, Thermo Fisher).

1128 **Immunofluorescence**

1129 The mouse brains were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde at room temperature for 1 hour
1130 and dehydrated in 20% sucrose at 4 ℃ overnight. Then the tissues were placed in an
1131 embedding mold and frozen in OCT media at 0 ℃. The embedded tissues were cut into
1132 slices with the thickness of 30 μm using a Leica microtome (CM3050S). The brain
1133 slices were permeabilized with 0.3% Triton-X 100 and 5% BSA in PBS and incubated
1134 with primary antibodies at 4 °C overnight. After washing with PBS for three times,
1135 samples were incubated with secondary antibodies for 2 hours at room temperature.
1136 Samples were mounted with Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Labs) and images
1137 were taken by Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope. The following primary antibodies
1138 were used: rabbit anti-NeuN (1:1000, Abcam, ab177487), rabbit anti-Neurogranin
1139 (1:500, Abcam, ab217672). The following secondary antibodies were employed:
1140 Rabbit IgG (H+L) Highly Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody (A32732, 1:500,

1141 Thermo Fisher). Unbiased stereology TissueFAX Plus ST (Tissue Gnostics, Vienna,
1142 Austria) was applied to count the number of Nat10-positive neurons. The detailed
1143 methods for cell number counting are available on the website
1144 (https://tissuegnostics.com/products/single-cell-analysis/tissuequest).

1145 **Detection of ac4C and m6A modifications by LC-MS/MS**

1146 1 μg of total RNA or polyA RNA was digested by 4 μl of nuclease P1 in 40 μl buffer
1147 (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.0, 100 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM $ZnCl_2$) at 37°C for 12 hours,
1148 followed by incubation with 1 μl of alkaline phosphatase at 37°C for 2 hours. The RNA
1149 solution was then diluted to 100 μl and analyzed by LC-MS/MS. The separation of
1150 nucleosides was accomplished by means of an Agilent C18 column, and detection was
1151 achieved by AB SCIEX QTRAP 5500. Standard curves were generated to reflect the
1152 linear relationship between the ac4C (or C) concentration and their peak area during the
1153 LC-MS/MS analysis. A known concentration of ac4C or C that falls into the linear
1154 range of the standard curve (i.e, the standard samples) was analyzed alongside with the
1155 testing samples. The concentration of ac4C or C in the testing samples were calculated
1156 through normalization of the peak areas from testing samples by that from standard
1157 samples. The stoichiometry levels of ac4C were determined by the ratio of
1158 concentration of ac4C to C. The same strategies were used for analysis of the
1159 stoichiometry levels of m6A.

1160 **ac4C and m6A dot-blot**

1161 The total RNA of mouse hippocampus was extracted with Trizol according to the
1162 manufacturer's instructions. The polyA RNA was then purified using the Dynabeads™
1163 polyA RNA purification kit (61006, Thermo Fisher). The dot-blot was performed
1164 according to the previous study[27]. We used 0.5 μg of polyA RNA that fall in the linear
1165 range for each blot. For each HOM replicate, we purified 0.5 μg of polyA RNA from
1166 the hippocampus of one mouse. In contrast, for each SYN replicate, we purified 0.5 μg
1167 of polyA RNA from the hippocampus of five mice. In brief, the polyA RNA was
1168 denatured at 95 °C for 5 min using a heat block, immediately kept on ice for 1 min,
1169 loaded onto Amersham Hybond-N+ membrane and crosslinked with UV254 for 30 min.
1170 The membranes were blocked with 5% nonfat milk for 2 h at room temperature (RT),
1171 and incubated with the rabbit anti-m6A (1:2000, Synaptic System, #202003) or anti-
1172 ac4C antibody (1:500, Abcam, ab252215) at 4°C overnight. After wash with 0.05%
1173 PBST for three times, the membranes were incubated with the HRP-conjugated

secondary antibody (goat-anti-rabbit, G-21234, 1:2000, Thermo Fisher) at RT for 2 h. The signals were visualized by ChemiDocTM XRS + Imaging System (BIO-RAD) using ECL and analyzed with Image J (NIH). RNA loading was verified by staining the membranes with 0.2% methylene blue. The intensity of each dot was normalized to total RNA.

Primary neuronal culture

The primary culture of mouse hippocampal neurons was performed according to our previous studies[95]. Hippocampal explants from embryonic day 16 (E16) mouse embryos were digested with 0.125% trypsin solution for 30 min at 37°C, followed by trituration with pipette in plating medium (DMEM with 10% fetal bovine serum, 10% F-12, and 1% penicillin-streptomycin). The dissociated neurons were plated onto poly-D-lysine-coated coverslips at a density of 1×10^5 cells per 35 mm dish. Following a 4-hour incubation period, the plating medium was replaced with Neurobasal™ medium (Thermo Fisher, 21103049) supplemented with 2% B-27™ (Thermo Fisher, 17504044), 1% GlutaMax™ (Thermo Fisher, 35050061), and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Invitrogen). Cytarabine (Sigma, C1768-100MG) was added after 2 days to a final concentration of 1 μM, to inhibit the proliferation of dividing non-neuronal cells. Half volume of the culture medium was replaced every 3-4 days with freshly prepared medium. The neurons were harvested at 14 days in vitro (DIV 14) for immunofluorescence experiments.

Chemical LTP (cLTP) and immunofluorescence

For cLTP, neurons were incubated with 300 μM glycine in a cell incubator set at 37°C with 5% CO_2 and 95% humidity for 3 minutes, followed by an additional 60 minutes without glycine at 37°C [96]. Neurons were then fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 30 minutes on ice to preserve cell membranes. After washing with PBS, the neurons were penetrated with 0.3% Triton-X100 and blocked with 1% BSA in PBS for 30 min at RT. After that, neurons were incubated with primary antibodies (chicken anti-MAP2 antibody, 1:2000, Abcam, ab5392; mouse monoclonal anti-PSD95 antibody, 1:800, Abcam, ab192757; and rabbit monoclonal anti-NAT10 antibody, 1:800, Abcam, ab194297) overnight at 4°C. Neurons were then washed by PBS for three times before incubation with fluorescent secondary antibodies for 2 hours at 37°C. The following secondary antibodies were employed: Chicken IgY (H+L) Secondary Antibody (A-11039, 1:500, Thermo Fisher), Rabbit IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody

1207 (A-21244, 1:500, Thermo Fisher), Rabbit IgG (H+L) Highly Cross-Adsorbed
1208 Secondary Antibody (A32732, 1:500, Thermo Fisher), and Mouse IgG (H+L) Highly
1209 Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody (A32727, 1:500, Thermo Fisher). After washing
1210 with PBS, the neurons were placed on mounting solution with DAPI (Beyotime, P0131).
1211 Confocal stacks were acquired from 3-6 individual fields on multiple coverslips per
1212 culture using a Leica SP8 confocal microscope. Two independent cultures were
1213 analyzed for each condition, including vehicle-treated control and glycine-treated
1214 neurons.

1215 **Regular acRIP-seq for HOM**

1216 The acRIP-seq was performed following the previous studies[19,97]. The total RNA was
1217 extracted from the HOM of mouse hippocampus using TRIzol, the quality of the RNA
1218 was evaluated through gel electrophoresis in order to ascertain its integrity and purity,
1219 and the concentration and purity of the RNA were detected. Total RNA samples,
1220 initially 100 μg, were treated with the rRNA depletion kit (New England Biolabs, Cat.
1221 No. E6310) to remove rRNA. After rRNA depletion, the RNA was subjected to
1222 immunoprecipitation using the anti-ac4C antibodies and the ac4C RIP kit (GenSeq, Cat
1223 No. GS-ET-005) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, total RNAs were
1224 randomly fragmented to ~200 nt by RNA Fragmentation Reagents (NEB, Cat No.
1225 M0348S). Protein A/G Dynabeads (Share-Bio, SB-PR001) were coupled to the anti-
1226 ac4C antibody by rotating at room temperature for 1 h. The RNA fragments were then
1227 incubated with the beads-linked anti-ac4C antibodies (2 μg) in the 100 μl acRIP buffer
1228 (PBS containing 1% Triton X-100, 2 mM BSA, and 1 mM RNase inhibitor) and rotated
1229 at 4°C for 4 h. After incubation, the RNA/antibody complexes were washed for four
1230 times with the acRIP buffer, and then RNAs were eluted by elution buffer (containing
1231 0.1 M Glycine, 0.5% Triton X-100, PH 2.5-3.1) at room temperature for 10 minutes.
1232 Finally, add NaOH solution to adjust the pH of the elution product to neutral. Both the
1233 immunoprecipitated RNA and 1% input RNA are reverse transcribed with random
1234 hexamers, followed by RNA library preparation with Ultra™ II Directional RNA
1235 Library Prep Kit (New England Biolabs, Cat No. E7760) according to the
1236 manufacturer's instructions.

1237 The quality of RNA libraries was assessed using Agilent 2100 bioanalyzer and then
1238 subjected to the next-generation sequencing through the NovaSeq 6000 platform
1239 (Illumina). The quality of the sequencing data is measured using Q30 scores, and low-

quality reads and 3' adaptors are removed using Cutadapt (v1.9.3). High-quality reads are then aligned to the reference genome using Hisat2 (v2.0.4). Raw counts are generated using HTSeq (v0.9.1) and normalized using edgeR (v3.16.5). Gene expression was quantified by logged transcript per million mapped reads (log_2TPM) (with a cutoff TPM >1). The ac4C peaks and mRNAs that were identified from at least two of the three biological replicates of HOM were considered reliable.

Low-input acRIP-seq for SYN

The low-input acRIP-seq included some modifications, compared with the regular acRIP-seq. First, the RNA amount is relatively smaller (~ 2 μg, purified from the hippocampus of 10 mice) for low-input acRIP-seq, compared with regular acRIP-seq (~ 100 μg, purified from the hippocampus of 2 mice). Second, the total RNA purified from the SYN was not treated by the rRNA depletion kit before acRIP to avoid the non-specific RNA loss during the rRNA depletion process. Third, the RNA libraries for low-input acRIP-seq were generated by a different kit - SMARTer Stranded Total RNA-Seq Kit v2-Pico Input Mammalian (Takara, Cat No. 634413). To increase the data reliability for low-input acRIP-seq, transcripts that were identified in our own sequencing and at least two of the three synaptosome databases[43-45] were considered reliable and included in the analysis. Considering the principle of 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) for animal ethics, we used one biological replicate for each time point from control and memory mice, but each replicate consists of SYN RNA purified from 10 mice. The mitochondrially encoded mRNAs and long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) were filtered out before analysis of the acRIP-seq data since the current study focused on ac4C of regular mRNA in the SYN.

Identification of ac4C peaks

Following RNA integrity assessments, acRIP enrichment verification, and library quality checks, raw sequencing reads from both acRIP and input samples underwent rigorous quality control. Initially, sequencing quality was evaluated using Q30 scores and FastQC to ensure base-level accuracy. Low-quality reads and 3' adaptor sequences were identified and removed using Cutadapt software (v1.9.3), resulting in high-quality clean reads for further analysis.

Post-alignment filtering was applied to exclude reads that mapped to mitochondrial DNA (chrM) and non-concordant mate pairs, which often arise from sequencing artifacts or alignment errors. The remaining clean reads were then aligned to the mouse

genome (mm10) using Hisat2 software (v2.0.4), with parameters allowing a maximum of five mismatches per read to ensure alignment accuracy above 95%. Ensembl gene annotations (Release 75) were incorporated to guide accurate mapping to annotated regions. To account for transcript variability, canonical transcript sequences from the UCSC genome browser were used to generate a Bowtie2 index, enabling transcriptome mapping. Reads were aligned in local mode, which is well-suited for fragmented RNA sequences.

Acetylation peaks (ac4C peaks) were identified using MACS software (v1.4.2)[98], optimized for transcriptomic data. The shifting model and local lambda options were disabled to accommodate the unique characteristics of transcriptome data, and the genome size was set according to the total transcript base count. Input samples were used as controls to distinguish true ac4C-enriched peaks from background noise. The fold enrichment (FE) of ac4C peak was calculated though the MACS software by normalizing the read counts of acRIP ac4C peak to that of input ac4C peak. We established strict screening criteria in the peak calling process: adjusted $P < 0.05$ and $FE > 2$. The adjusted p-value was acquired by MACS software using a Poisson distribution model after posthoc Benjamini-Hochberg analysis. The ac4C peaks were generated on the UCSC genome browser (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgGateway) using the IGV software (http://www.igv.org/).

Sequence motif analysis

Sequence motifs were identified using HOMER[99] and visualized using ggseqlogo package from R software. HOMER identifies motifs that are specifically enriched on memory set of sequences relative to control (e.g., peaks upstream and downstream sequences relative to the entire genome sequence) based primarily on the principle of ZOOPS scoring with hypergeometric enrichment.

Gene ontology and functional category analysis

Gene ontology (GO) analysis to detect enrichment for GO terms in differential acetylation genes in R using the clusterProfiler[100], and the possible roles of these differential acetylation genes were annotated according to MF, BP and CC. GO terms with a false-discovery rate adjusted P.adj of < 0.05 were visualized using R scripts to plot. The R package clusterProfiler to visualize the genes composing KEGG pathways, and $P.adj < 0.05$ was used as the threshold of significant enrichment.

Analysis of ac4C fold enrichment (FE) for individual mRNA

The FE of ac4C mRNA was reflected by the average FE values of all ac4C peaks identified in the entire transcript including the 5'UTR, CDS and 3'UTR. Averaging the cumulative distribution of these peaks offers a more comprehensive overview of the abundance of ac4C modifications across the mRNA molecule, avoiding the artificial increase of FE of long mRNAs[101]. Additionally, in instances where ac4C modifications on mRNA are more dispersed or present in low abundance, a single prominent peak may not be observable; instead, multiple low-abundance peaks might emerge. In such scenarios, the accumulation of multiple peaks can enhance detection sensitivity, better capture dynamic changes, and mitigate biases inherent in individual experiments.

$$Average\ FE\ of\ ac4C = \frac{\Sigma peak\ (1 + 2 + 3 \ldots \ldots + n)}{n}$$

Analysis of ac4C fold change (FC) for individual mRNA

The fold change of ac4C mRNA is representative of the degree of change in the overall acetylation level of mRNA in the memory group (M) compared with the control group (C). To prevent a value of 0 in the denominator in the FC calculation, we added 1 to the FE of ac4C. The FC of ac4C mRNA was calculated using the following quantification index:

$$FC\ of\ ac4C = \frac{(FE\ of\ ac4C + 1)\ in\ M}{(FE\ of\ ac4C + 1)\ in\ C}$$

Analysis of PPI network

The STRING (https://string-db.org/) (version 12.0) knowledge base was used to create a protein-protein interaction (PPI) network. The PPI network was generated with a confidence score of 0.7 and visualized using Cytoscape (version 3.10.1). Molecular Complex Detection (MCODE) (v2.0.3) algorithm was employed to identify the components of the densely connected network.

The following software and algorithms were used for the quantification and statistical analysis of ac4C epitranscriptome.

Software and algorithms, application, authors		
R v4.3.2	Statistical computing and graphics.	R Core Team. R Foundation for Statistical Computing 2023.
Python v3.11	Object-oriented programming language.	Van R et al. CreateSpace 2009.
ggplot2	Creating graphics, based on The Grammar of Graphics.	Hadley W et al, Springer-Verlag New York 2016.

ggseqlogo	Generating publication-ready sequence logos using ggplot2.	Wagih et al. Bioinformatics 2018.
tidyverse	Collection of R packages designed for data science.	Wickham et al. Journal of Open Source Software 2019.
ComplexHeatmap	Arrange multiple heatmaps and supports annotation graphics.	Gu Z et al. Bioinformatics 2016.
HOMER v4.11	Motif Discovery and gene sequencing analysis.	Heinz S et al. Mol Cell 2010.
bedtools	Compare large sets of genomic features.	Aaron Q et al. Bioinformatics 2010.
cutadapt v1.9.3	Remove sequencing data adaptor.	Martin M. EMBnet 2011.
Hisat2 v2.04	Mapping sequencing reads to a single reference genome.	Zhang Y et al. Genome Research 2021.
MACS v1.4.2	Identifying transcript factor binding sites.	Yong Z et al. Genome Biology 2008.
Pandas v2.1.4	Cleaning data.	The pandas development team. Zenodo 2020.
IGV	Interactive genome visualization application.	James T et al. Bioinformatics 2023.
HTSeq (v0.9.1)	Analysing high-throughput sequencing data.	Simon A et al. Bioinformatics 2014.
edgeR (v3.16.5)	Empirical analysis of digital gene expression data.	McCarthy DJ et al. Nucleic Acids Research 2012.
CIBERSORT	Cell-type identification by estimating relative subsets of RNA transcripts.	Aaron M et al. Nature methods 2015.

Identification of relative abundance of gene expression in different cell types

To determine the cellular origin of the ac4C mRNAs, we performed a bioinformatic deconvolution analysis using the CIBERSORT algorithm[102]. CIBERSORT is a computational method that uses a set of reference gene expression signatures to estimate the relative proportions of different cell types within a bulk RNA-sequencing dataset. This analysis is based on a machine learning approach, specifically ν-support vector

regression (ν-SVR), which is robust against noise and confounding factors present in complex tissue samples. The analysis first required the construction of a high-quality reference signature matrix containing the gene expression profiles of pure cell populations. We constructed this matrix using a publicly available single-cell RNA-sequencing dataset of the adult mouse hippocampus from the McCarroll Lab (http://dropviz.org/) [64].From this dataset, we extracted the expression signatures for four major hippocampal cell types: excitatory neurons, inhibitory neurons, astrocytes, and microglia, creating a signature matrix that reflects the unique transcriptomic profiles of these cells. Three groups of ac4C mRNAs (520 NAT10-independent MISA mRNAs, 717 NAT10-dependent MISA mRNAs, and 2629 NASA mRNAs that are not belong to MISA) were served as the input "mixture" file for this analysis. We then ran the CIBERSORT algorithm in R, using our custom reference signature matrix to deconvolve the NASA mRNA list. The algorithm was run with 100 permutations to ensure statistical significance of the deconvolution results. The output of CIBERSORT provides an estimation of the relative contribution of each reference cell type to the total expression of the input gene set, which allowed us to infer which cell types were the primary contributors to the three groups of ac4C mRNAs.

RT-qPCR

The cDNA was obtained through reverse transcription using the HiScript III RT SuperMix for qPCR kit (Vazyme, R323-01), followed by amplification using the ChamQ Universal SYBR qPCR Master Mix kit (Vazyme, Q711-02). Gene expression levels measured with RT-PCR were normalized to Gapdh. The primers used in qPCR for this study were as follows: Gapdh-forward, 5’gggtgtgaaccacgagaaat3’; Gapdh-reverse 5’actgtggtcatgagcccttc3’; Arc-forward, 5’ggagggaggtcttctaccgtc3’; Arc-reverse 5’cccccacacctacagagaca3’; Grin2b-forward, 5’ctggtgaccaatggcaagcatg3’; Grin2b-reverse, 5’ggcacagagaagtcaaccacct3’; Camk2α-forward, 5’agccatcctcaccactatgctg3’; Camk2α-reverse 5’gtgtcttcgtcctcaatggtgg3’.

Stereotaxic injection of AAV into mouse hippocampus

AAV2/9-Syn1-EGFP and AAV2/9-Syn1-EGFP-P2A-Cre were generated by Hanbio Technology (Shanghai) Corp., Ltd., with a titer of 10^{12}/μl. We injected 0.3 μl AAV into each side of the mouse hippocampus. Six-week-old Nat10$^{flox/flox}$ mice received an intraperitoneal injection of alphaxalone at a dosage of 40 mg/kg for anesthesia and then were immobilized in a stereotaxic frame provided by RWD Life Science. Similarly,

AAV2/9-CAG-DIO-EGFP, generated by Hanbio Technology (Shanghai) Corp., Ltd., with a titer of 10^{12}/μl, was injected into the hippocampus of seven-week-old Nat10$^{Cre/+}$ mice. The AAVs were delivered into mouse hippocampus through a stereotaxic injector at a flow rate of 0.1 μl/min. The precise coordinates for the stereotaxic injection were set to anteroposterior (AP) −2.3 mm, dorsoventral (DV) −1.8 mm, and mediolateral (ML)±1.75 mm, relative to the Bregma. To induce Cre enzyme expression, mice were fed a custom-made tamoxifen-infused diet over a period of one week[103].

Electrophysiological recording

Hippocampal slices were prepared as previously described[104]. Briefly, mice (10 weeks old, male) were decapitated and transverse hippocampal slices (400 μm) were prepared using a Vibroslice (VT 1000S; Leica) in ice-cold ACSF. For field potential recording, the same ACSF was used for slice preparation and recording: 120 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 1.2 mM NaH_2PO_4, 2.0 mM $CaCl_2$, 2.0 mM $MgSO_4$, 26 mM $NaHCO_3$ and 10 mM glucose. After sectioning, hippocampal slices were allowed to recover in the chamber for 30 min at 34°C and then for a further 2-8 h at room temperature (25 ± 1°C). All solutions were saturated with 95% O_2/5% CO_2 (vol/vol).

The slices were placed in the recording chamber, which was superfused (3 mL/min) with ACSF at 32-34°C. fEPSPs were evoked in the CA1 stratum radiatum by stimulating the SC with a bipolar stimulating electrode (FHC) and recorded in current clamp using a HEKA EPC 10 amplifier (HEKA Elektronik) with ACSF-filled glass pipettes (1-3 MΩ). Test stimuli consisted of monophasic 100-μs pulses of constant current (intensity adjusted to produce 25% of the maximum response) at a frequency of 0.033 Hz. The strength of synaptic transmission was determined by measuring the initial amplitude of fEPSPs. L-LTP was induced by 4 trains of 100 Hz stimuli of 50 pulses each at 100 Hz, 10 s apart, at the same intensity as the test stimulus. The level of E-LTP / L-LTP was determined at an average of 55-60 / 115-120 min after HFS stimulation. To study glutamatergic transmission at SC-CA1 synapses, we recorded fEPSP input/output (I/O) curves at SC-CA1 synapses. To construct an I/O curve, fEPSPs were evoked by a series of incremental intensities (0.02-0.2 mA in 0.02 mA increments, 100 μs duration, at 0.033 Hz). Whole-cell patch-clamp recordings from

1401 CA1 neurons were visualized with infrared optics using an upright microscope
1402 equipped with a 40× water-immersion objective (BX51WI; Olympus) and an infrared-
1403 sensitive CCD camera. To analyze the intrinsic excitability of CA1 pyramidal neurons,
1404 the current clamp was used and neurons were held at 0 pA and then injected with step
1405 currents (duration: 500 ms; increments: 20 pA; range: -100 to 400 pA; interval: 10 s).
1406 The input-output relationship was determined by plotting the injected currents against
1407 the number of action potentials. All data were acquired at a sampling rate of 10 kHz
1408 using PATCHMASTER version 2 x 90.1 software (HEKA Elektronik) and filtered off-
1409 line at 1 kHz.

1410 **Generation and use of the ac4C website**

1411 The ac4Catlas website was constructed using HTML (a scripting language for front-
1412 end development), PHP (a scripting language for backend development), and MySQL
1413 (a structured query language for data operation). All the website codes were deployed
1414 in a Linux server equipped with Centos environment. The raw data, processed data and
1415 annotated files were stored in "Data Downloads" section. JBrowse (https://jbrowse.org)
1416 was integrated to visualize the ac4C epitranscriptomic data on genomic regions of
1417 interest. Briefly, ac4Catlas provides user-friendly interactive interfaces which allow
1418 researchers to freely browse and perform extended operations, such as searching,
1419 comparing, and downloading. Besides, the browse module stores detailed information
1420 of samples and corresponding datasets as well as ac4C levels of mRNA and
1421 differentially acetylated regions between groups.

1422 **Statistical analysis**

1423 The cumulative distribution curve was analyzed by Kolmogorov-Smirnov test in R. The
1424 statistical analysis of percentage of ac4C summits occurring within CDS or UTRs was
1425 performed by chi-square test in R. The regular quantification data were shown as mean
1426 ± SEM unless otherwise mentioned. The sample size justification was based on the
1427 previous studies and met the requirement of statistics power. For normally distributed
1428 data with 1 experimental variable, statistical analyses were performed by parametric
1429 analysis: unpaired (two-tailed) student's t-test for two groups and one-way ANOVA

with the Tukey's or sidak multiple-comparison test for 3 groups. Data with >1 experimental variable were evaluated by two-way ANOVA, with post hoc Tukey, Dunnett or Sidak's multiple-comparison tests. All these statistical analyses were performed by the software of GraphPad Prism 10. Statistically significant difference was indicated as follows: *** $P < 0.001$, ** $P < 0.01$ and * $P < 0.05$.

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Author contributions

H.-Q.Z. and H.J. performed biochemical and behavioral analysis, H.-Q.Z., Z.Z. and J.-W.Z. analyzed the data, W.-P.L., Y.-Y.D., and S.L. performed electrophysiology. D.-M.Y. conceived the idea, supervised the work and wrote the paper. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data and materials availability

All data are available in the main text, supplementary or source data files. The original data of acRIP-seq is accessible via the website (http://ac4Catlas.com/) or GEO database (GSE261922). All unique materials used are readily available from the corresponding

author upon reasonable requests.

Code availability

Custom code used in this paper is available at https://github.com/YinDMlab/ac4CRIP-seq-analysis.

Figures and Legends

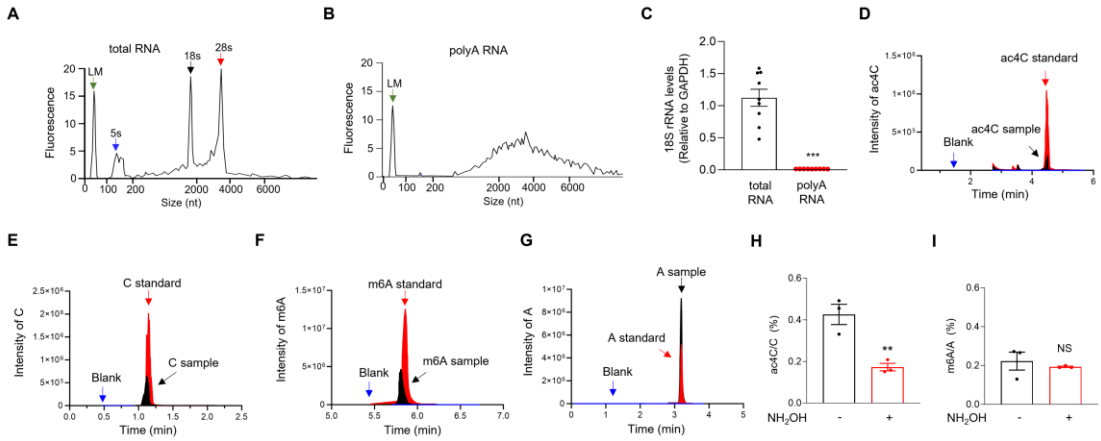


Figure 1 The presence of ac4C modification in PolyA RNA of mouse hippocampus. (A, B) Verification of the purity of PolyA RNA through the bioanalyzer profiling. The x-axis represents the size of nucleotides, and the y-axis represents the fluorescent signal from the bioanalyzer. LM, Lower Marker. (A), total RNA. (B), polyA RNA. (C) Diminished levels of 18S rRNA in the polyA RNA samples, compared with total RNA samples, which was revealed by RT-qPCR analysis. The levels of 18S rRNA were normalized by that of Gapdh. *** $P < 0.001$, two-tailed t-test, $n = 6$ biological replicates. (D-G) The chromatograms of blank, standard and testing samples of ac4C (D), C (E), m6A (F) and A (G) in the LC-MS/MS analysis. Shown are the representative peaks of ac4C, C, m6A and A identified in the polyA RNA samples purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus. (H) Reduction of ac4C levels by the chemical deacetylation protocol. The stoichiometry levels of ac4C in polyA RNA from control and NH_2OH-treated samples were quantified. ** $P = 0.008$, two-tailed t-test, $n = 3$ biological replicates. (I) Unchanged m6A levels by the chemical deacetylation protocol. The stoichiometry levels of m6A in polyA RNA from control and NH_2OH-treated samples

were quantified. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 3 biological replicates. Quantification data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

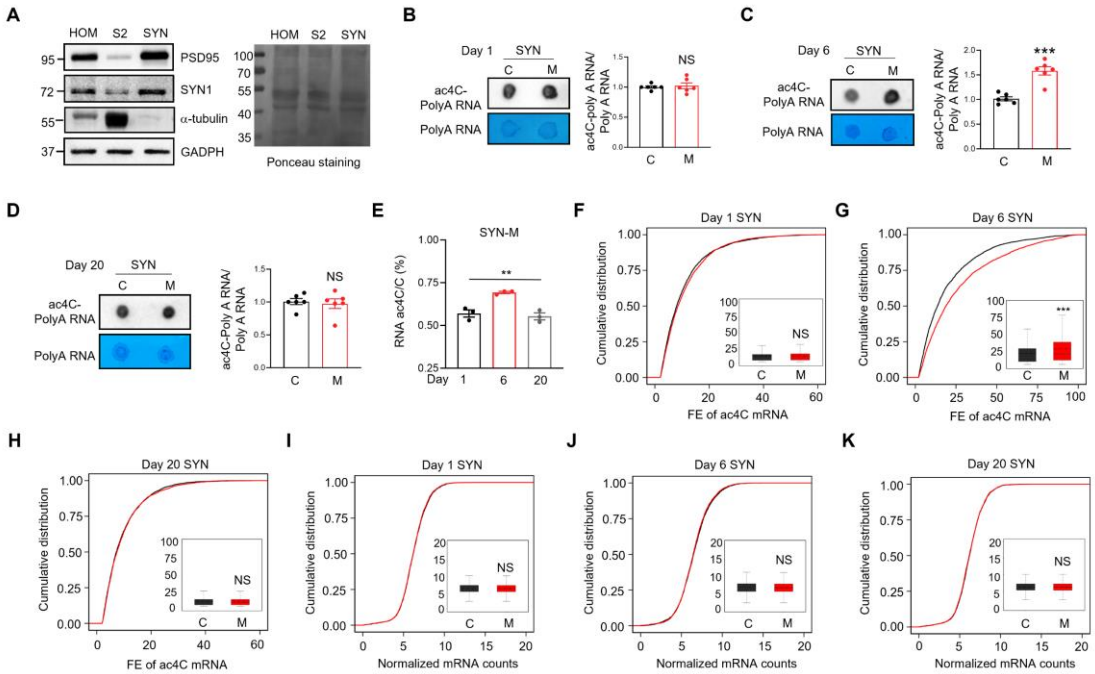


Figure 2 Increased mRNA acetylation in the SYN of mouse hippocampus after memory. (A) The purified synaptosomes (SYN) of mouse hippocampus expressed high levels of PSD95 and synapsin 1 (SYN1), two synaptic protein markers, but very low levels of α-tubulin, a cytoplasmic protein marker. The homogenates (HOM), cytoplasm (S2) and SYN of mouse hippocampus were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. Left panel, representative images of western blots; right panel, Ponceau staining to show equal protein loading. (B) Acetylation of polyA RNA was not altered in SYN of mouse hippocampus at day 1. The polyA RNA purified from the SYN of control and memory mice at day 1 after MWM training were subjected to ac4C dot-blots and methylene blue staining. Left, the representative images; right, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. Data were normalized by controls. (C) Acetylation of polyA RNA was increased in the SYN of mouse hippocampus at day 6. The polyA RNA purified from the SYN of control and memory mice at day 6 after MWM training were subjected to ac4C dot-blots and methylene blue staining. Left, the representative images; right, quantification data. ***

P <0.001, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. Data were normalized by controls. (D) Acetylation of polyA RNA was not altered in the SYN of mouse hippocampus at day 20. The polyA RNA purified from the SYN of control and memory mice at day 20 after MWM training were subjected to ac4C dot-blots and methylene blue staining. Left, the representative images; right, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. Data were normalized by controls. (E) Acetylation of RNA in the SYN was increased during memory but returned to normal levels after forgetting. The stoichiometry levels of ac4C of total RNA purified from the SYN of memory (M) mice were shown at days 1, 6 and 20 after MWM training. ** P = 0.0023, one-way-ANOVA, n = 3 biological replicates. (F-H) Acetylation of mRNA was increased after memory but returned to normal levels after forgetting in the SYN of mouse hippocampus. Shown are cumulative distribution curves of FE of ac4C mRNA purified from the SYN of control (C) and memory (M) mice at days 1 (F), 6 (G), and 20 (H) after MWM training. The FE of ac4C mRNA was quantified in the quartile boxplots, where the solid line in the box is the median and the dashed line is the mean, where the maximum and minimum values are identified. NS, not significant, *** adj-P = 9.9814e-13, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. (I-K) The total mRNA levels were not significantly altered in the SYN of mouse hippocampus during memory. Shown are cumulative distribution curves of normalized mRNA counts for SYN in control (C) and memory (M) mice at days 1 (I), 6 (J) and 20 (K) after MWM training. The normalized mRNA counts were quantified in the quartile boxplots, where the solid line in the box is the median and the dashed line is the mean, where the maximum and minimum values are identified. NS, not significant, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. C, control; M, memory. FE, Fold Enrichment. Quantification data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

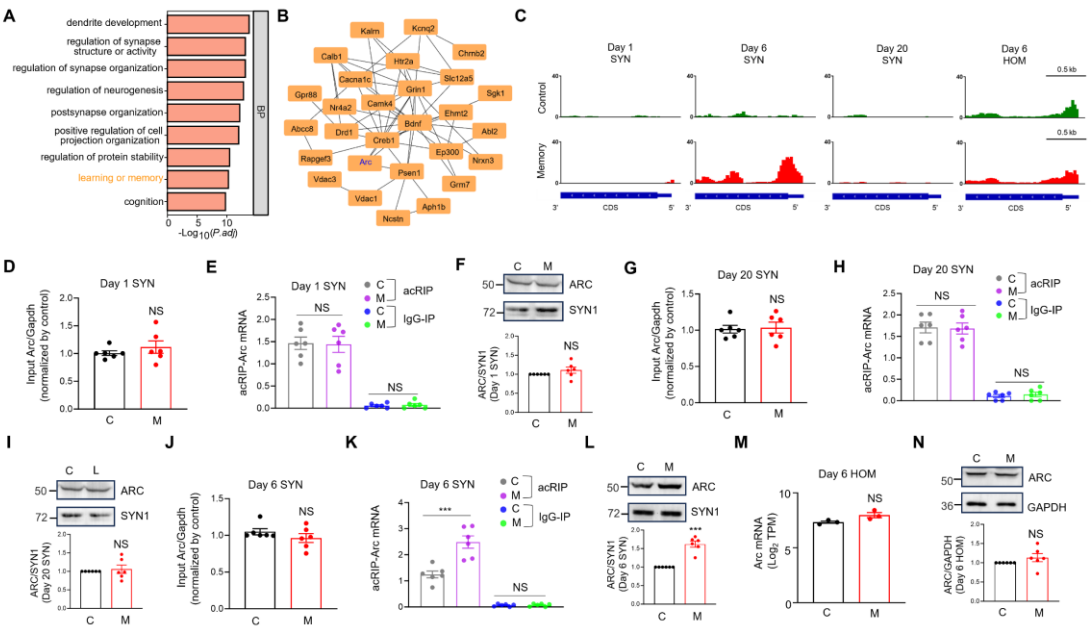


Figure 3 A representative MISA mRNA for Arc. (A) The biological processes (BP) in which MISA mRNAs are significantly overrepresented. The x-axis represents the negative logarithm of the adjusted p-value, reflecting the significance of the enrichment, while the y-axis shows the biological processes. (B) The protein-protein interaction (PPI) network of MISA mRNA implicated in the BP of learning or memory. P < 1.0e-16, Hypergeometric Test**.** (C) Increased ac4C modification of Arc in the SYN rather than in the HOM at day 6. Also note the unaltered ac4C Arc mRNA at days 1 or 20 in the SYN. Shown are the IGV maps of the ac4C peaks from the 3' UTR to the 5' UTR of Arc mRNA. The ac4C peaks were represented by acRIP/input (See details in the Method). (D, G) Arc mRNA levels from the input of SYN were not altered at days 1 (D) or 20 (G) after MWM training. The RNA purified from the SYN was subjected to the RT-qPCR analysis. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The levels of Arc mRNA were normalized by that of Gapdh in each sample, and then the ratio of Arc to Gapdh were normalized by controls. (E and H) The ac4C modification of Arc mRNA was not altered in the SYN at days 1 (E) or 20 (H) after MWM training. The RNA purified through the acRIP and IgG-IP products of SYN was subjected to the RT-qPCR analysis. NS, not significant, two-way-ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, n = 6 biological replicates. Data were normalized by input. (F and I**)** The protein levels of ARC did not change in the SYN at days 1 (F) or

20 (I) after MWM training. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The protein levels of ARC were normalized by that of SYN1 in each sample, and then the ratio of ARC to SYN1 were normalized by controls. (J) Arc mRNA levels from the input of SYN were not altered at day 6 after MWM training. The RNA purified from the SYN was subjected to the RT-qPCR analysis. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The levels of Arc mRNA were normalized by that of Gapdh in each sample, and then the ratio of Arc to Gapdh were normalized by controls. (K) The ac4C modification of Arc mRNA was significantly increased in the SYN at day 6 after MWM training. The RNA purified from the acRIP and IgG-IP products of SYN was subjected to the RT-qPCR analysis. *** $P < 0.001$, two-way-ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, n = 6 biological replicates. Data were normalized by input. (L) The protein levels of ARC were significantly increased in the SYN at day 6 after MWM training. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. *** $P < 0.001$, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The protein levels of ARC were normalized by that of SYN1 in each sample, and then the ratio of ARC to SYN1 were normalized by controls. (M) Arc mRNA levels from the HOM were not altered at day 6 after MWM training. The Arc mRNA levels were revealed by the $\log_2$TPM from the next-generation sequencing of the HOM RNA. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 3 biological replicates. (N) The protein levels of ARC did not change in the HOM at day 6 after MWM training. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The protein levels of ARC were normalized by that of GAPDH in each sample, and then the ratio of ARC to GAPDH were normalized by controls. C, control; M, memory. Quantification data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

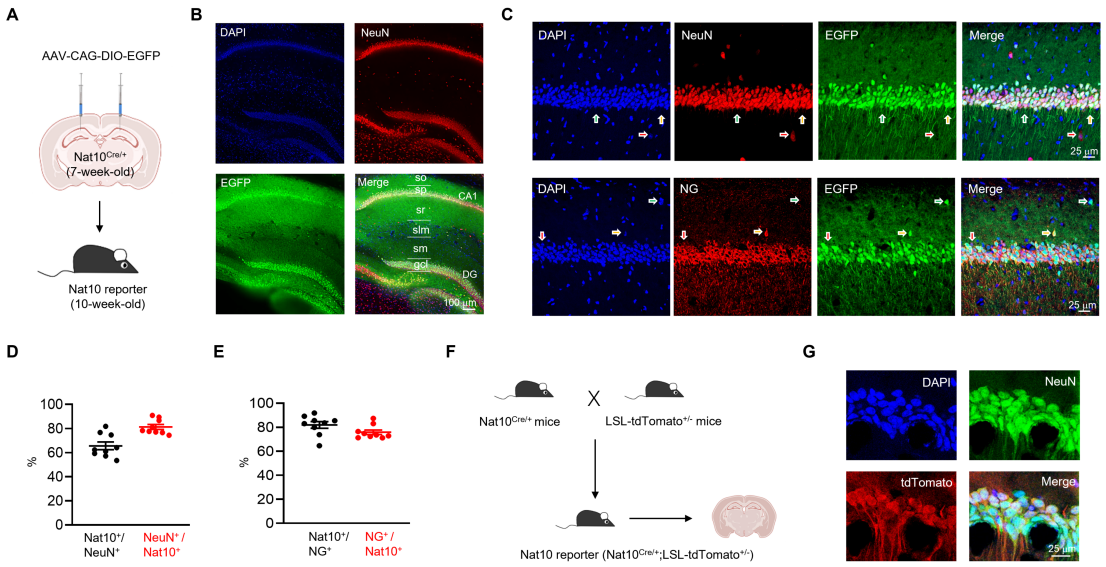


Figure 4 Expression of Nat10 in mature neurons of mouse hippocampus. (A) Experimental design. Cre-reporting AAV was injected into the dorsal hippocampus of 7-week-old Nat10$^{Cre/+}$ mice. Three weeks after AAV injection, the fluorescent protein EGFP was analyzed in the Nat10 reporter mice. (B) Co-localization of EGFP with NeuN in the hippocampus of Nat10 reporter mice. The hippocampal slices from Nat10 reporter mice were immunostained with anti-NeuN antibodies. so, stratum oriens; sp, stratum pyramidale; sr, stratum radiatum; slm, stratum lacunosum-moleculare; sm, stratum moleculare; gcl, granule cell layer; DG: dentate gyrus. Scale bar, 100 μm. (C) Co-localization of EGFP and NeuN or NG in the CA1 region of Nat10 reporter mice. The hippocampal slices from Nat10 reporter mice were immunostained with anti-NeuN or anti-NG antibodies. The yellow arrow indicates a neuron or excitatory pyramidal neuron that expresses Nat10, whereas the red arrow represents a neuron or excitatory pyramidal neuron that does not express Nat10. The green arrow indicates a non-neuronal cell that expresses Nat10. Scale bar, 25 μm. (D) Quantification of the percentage of NeuN-positive cells expressing Nat10 (Nat10^{+} / NeuN^{+} = 65.61 ± 3.245%) and the percentage of Nat10-positive cells expressing NeuN (NeuN^{+} / Nat10^{+} = 81.31 ± 2.029%). n = 9 slices from 3 mice. (E) Quantification of the percentage of NG-positive cells expressing Nat10 (Nat10^{+} / NG^{+} = 81.87 ± 2.765%) and the percentage of Nat10-positive cells expressing NG (NG^{+} / Nat10^{+} = 75.82 ± 1.882%). n = 9 slices from 3 mice. (F) Experimental design of generate Nat10 reporter mice. (G) Co-localization

of tdTomato with NeuN in the hippocampus of Nat10 reporter mice. The hippocampal slices from Nat10 reporter mice were immunostained with anti-NeuN antibodies. Scale bar, 25 μm.

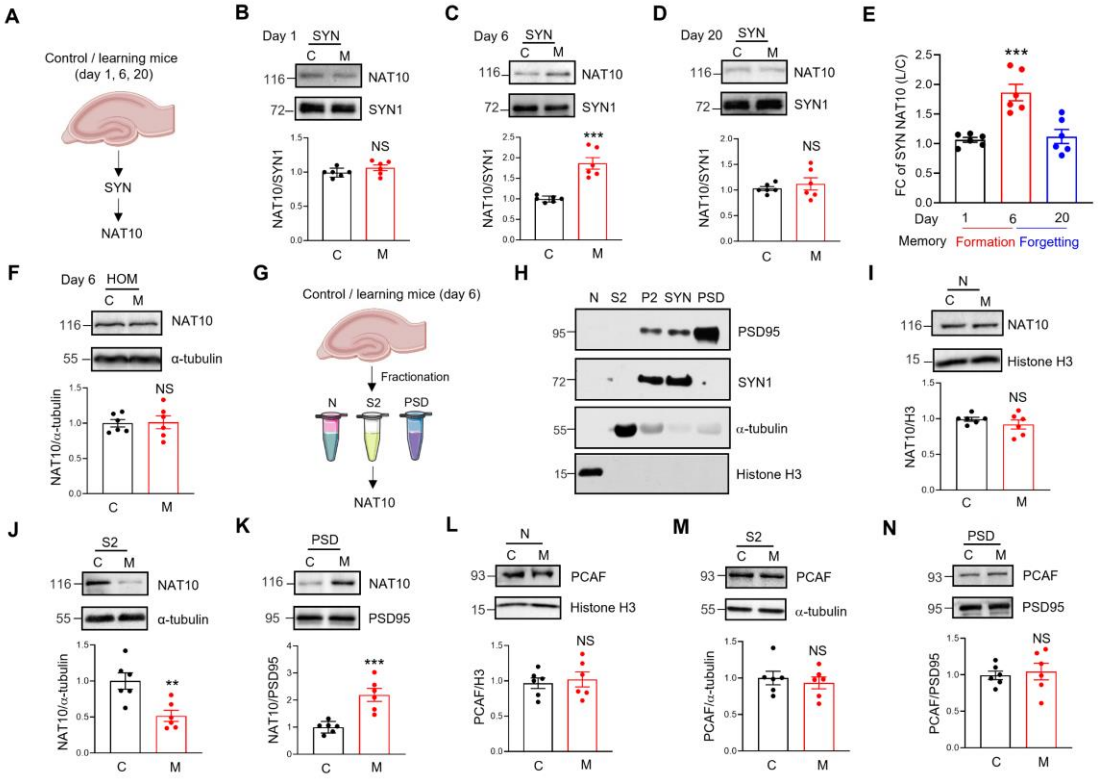


Figure 5 Increased NAT10 proteins in the SYN of mouse hippocampus after memory. (A) Experimental design. The SYN fractions were purified from the hippocampus of control and memory mice at days 1, 6 and 20. The NAT10 protein levels in the SYN were then assessed by western blots. (B-D) Protein levels of NAT10 were increased in the SYN after memory but returned to normal levels after forgetting. The SYN proteins from control and memory mice at days 1 (B), 6 (C), and 20 (D) were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. The protein levels of NAT10 were normalized by that of SYN1 in each sample, and then the ratio of NAT10 to SYN1 was normalized by controls. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. NS, not significant, ***P < 0.001, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. (E) The fold change (FC) of NAT10 proteins in panel B-D was quantified. ***P < 0.001, one-way-ANOVA, n = 6 biological replicates. (F) Protein levels of NAT10 were not altered in the HOM at day 6. The HOM proteins from control and

memory mice at day 6 were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. Data were normalized by controls, n = 6 biological replicates at each condition. The protein levels of NAT10 were normalized by that of α-tubulin in each sample, and then the ratio of NAT10 to α-tubulin was normalized by controls. (G) Experimental design. Proteins were extracted from nucleus (N), cytoplasm (S2), and postsynaptic density (PSD) of control and memory mice hippocampus at day 6, and then NAT10 protein levels were assessed by western blots. (H) Expression of different protein markers in the nuclear (N), cytoplasmic (S2), P2 (Crude synaptosomes fraction), SYN, and PSD fractions of mouse hippocampus. Shown are representative images of western blots. Protein samples purified from different subcellular fractions of mouse hippocampus were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. (I) Protein levels of NAT10 were not altered in the nuclear fraction of mouse hippocampus after memory. The nuclear protein samples from control and memory mice at day 6 were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 4 biological replicates. The protein levels of NAT10 were normalized by that of Histone H3 proteins in each sample, and then the ratio of NAT10 to Histone H3 was normalized by controls. (J) Protein levels of NAT10 were significantly reduced in the S2 fraction of mouse hippocampus after memory. The cytoplasmic protein samples from control and memory mice at day 6 were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. ** P = 0.0052, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The protein levels of NAT10 were normalized by that of α-tubulin in each sample, and then the ratio of NAT10 to α-tubulin was normalized by controls. (K) Protein levels of NAT10 were significantly increased in the PSD fraction of mouse hippocampus after memory. The PSD protein samples from control and memory mice at day 6 were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. *** P = 0.0008, two-tailed t-test. n = 6 biological replicates. The

protein levels of NAT10 were normalized by that of PSD95 in each sample, and then the ratio of NAT10 to PSD95 was normalized by controls. (L-N) Protein levels of PCAF were not altered in the nuclear (L), S2 (M), or PSD fraction (N) of mouse hippocampus after memory. The protein samples purified from the different subcellular fractions of the hippocampus of control and memory mice at day 6 were subjected to western blots with the indicated antibodies. Top, representative western blot images; bottom, quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The protein levels were normalized by the protein markers in different subcellular fractions and then were normalized by controls. C, control; M, memory. Quantification data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

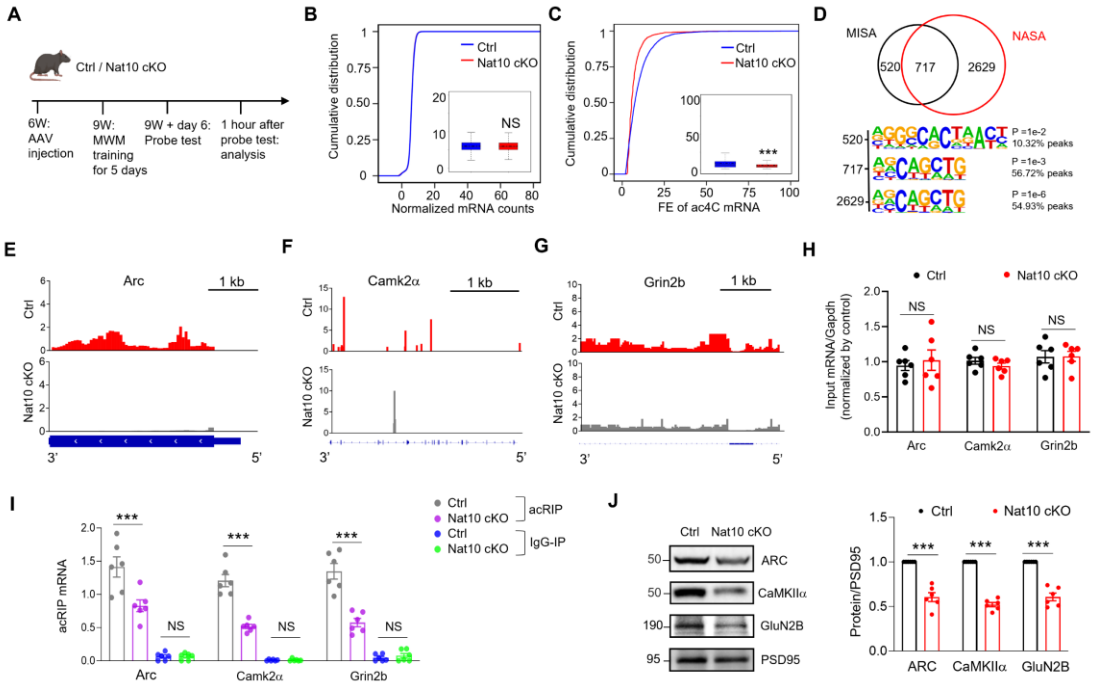


Figure 6 NAT10-dependent ac4C modification of memory-related mRNAs in the SYN of memory mice. (A) Experimental design. Three weeks after AAV injection, the control (Ctrl) and Nat10 conditional knockout (cKO) mice were subjected to MWM training and probe test, and then the SYN fractions were purified from hippocampal tissues for low-input acRIP-seq. (B) The total mRNA levels were not significantly altered in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice, compared to controls. Shown are cumulative distribution curves of normalized mRNA counts for SYN in control and Nat10 cKO

mice at day 6 after MWM training. The normalized mRNA counts were quantified in the quartile boxplots, where the solid line in the box is the median and the dashed line is the mean, where the maximum and minimum values are identified. NS, not significant, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. (C) Acetylation of mRNA in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice was significantly reduced, compared with controls. Shown are cumulative distribution curves of FE of ac4C mRNA purified from the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO mice at day 6 after MWM training. The FE of ac4C mRNA was quantified in the quartile boxplots, where the solid line in the box is the median and the dashed line is the mean, where the maximum and minimum values are identified. *** adj-P = 1.20076e-12, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. (D) Venn diagrams show overlapping between MISA mRNA and NASA mRNA. Distinct consensus motifs distinguish NAT10-dependent and NAT10-independent MISA mRNAs. Sequence motif analysis reveals fundamentally different consensus sequence patterns between the two MISA mRNA populations identified in the Venn diagram. (E-G) Reduced ac4C modification of Arc (E), Camk2α (F), and Grin2b (G) mRNA in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice at day 6, compared with controls. Shown are the IGV maps of the ac4C peaks from the 3' UTR to the 5' UTR of transcripts. The ac4C peaks were represented by acRIP/input (See details in the Method). (H) The mRNA levels of Arc, Camk2α and Grin2b from the input of SYN were similar between control and Nat10 cKO mice. The RNA purified from the SYN was subjected to the RT-qPCR analysis. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The levels of mRNA were normalized by that of Gapdh in each sample, and then the ratio of mRNA to Gapdh were normalized by controls. (I) The ac4C modification of Arc, Camk2α, and Grin2b mRNA was significantly reduced in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice at day 6, compared with controls. The RNA purified from the acRIP and IgG-IP products of SYN was subjected to the RT-qPCR analysis. *** $P < 0.001$, two-way-ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, n = 6 biological replicates. Data were normalized by input. (J) The protein levels of ARC, CaMKIIα and GluN2B were significantly decreased in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice at day 6, compared with controls. Left, representative western blot

images; right, quantification data. *** P < 0.001, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates. The protein levels were normalized by that of PSD95 in each sample, and then the ratio of protein to PSD95 were normalized by controls. Quantification data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

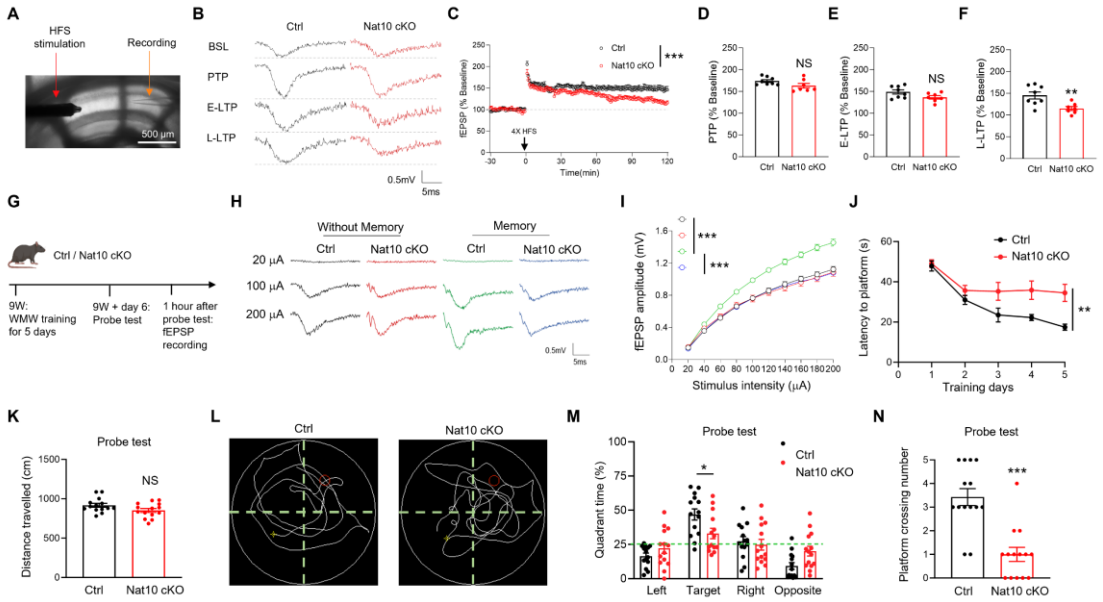
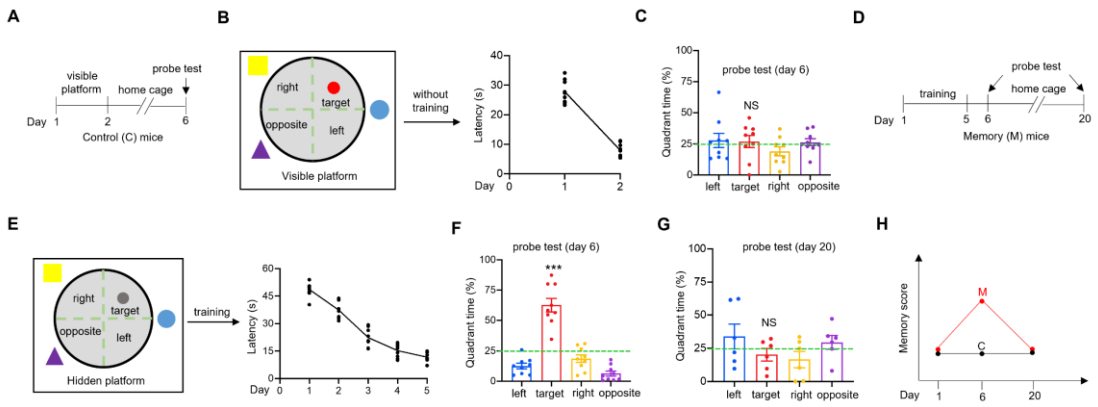


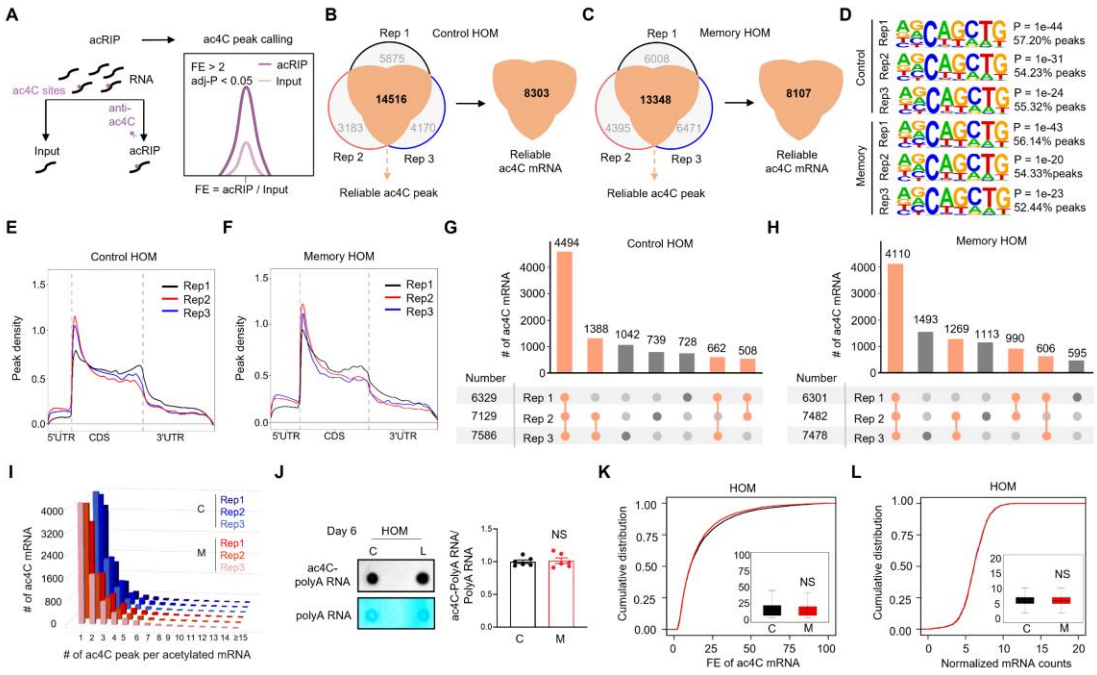
Figure 7 Impaired LTP as well as memory in the Nat10 cKO mice. (A) A representative image showing recording LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses from Nat10 cKO mice using the protocol of high-frequency stimulation (HFS). Scale bar, 500 μm. (B) The representative fEPSP traces from baseline (BSL), post-tetanus potentiation (PTP), early phase of LTP (E-LTP, 55-60 min after HFS) and late phase of LTP (L-LTP, 115-120 min after HFS). (C) Impaired maintenance of L-LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses in Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. Normalized fEPSP amplitudes were plotted every 1 min for hippocampal slices from control and Nat10 cKO mice. *** P < 0.001, two-way ANOVA, n = 8 slices from 4 mice for each group. (D) Normal LTP induction at the SC-CA1 synapses in Nat10 cKO mice, compared to controls. The PTP in panel C was quantified. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. n = 8 slices from 4 mice for each group. (E) Unaltered E-LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses in Nat10 cKO mice, compared to controls. The E-LTP in panel C was quantified. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. n = 8 slices from 4 mice for each group. (F) Impaired L-LTP at the SC-CA1 synapses in

Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. The L-LTP in panel C was quantified. ** P = 0.008, two-tailed t-test. n = 8 slices from 4 mice for each group. (G) Experimental design. The control and Nat10 cKO mice were subjected to fEPSP recording at the SC-CA1 synapses after training and probe test in the MWM. (H, I) Memory-induced enhancement of glutamatergic transmission at SC-CA1 synapses was significantly impaired in Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. (H) Representative fEPSP traces from control and Nat10 cKO mice. (I) Quantification of the fEPSP amplitudes in panel H. *** Genotype $F_{(3, 680)} = 128.2$, $P < 0.001$, two-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparison test, n = 18 slices from 5 mice each group. (J) Impaired memory process in Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. Shown are the memory curves of control and Nat10 cKO mice in the MWM. n = 14 mice per group, ** Genotype $F_{(1, 130)} = 24.08$, ** P = 0.0014, two-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparison test. (K) Similar distance travelled during probe tests between control and Nat10 cKO mice. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 14 mice per group. (L) Representative swimming traces of control and Nat10 cKO mice during probe tests. (M) Time spent in the target quadrant was significant reduced in Nat10 cKO groups during probe tests, compared with controls. * P = 0.0198, two-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparison with post hoc t-test, n = 14 mice per group. (N) Number of platform crossing was significantly reduced in Nat10 cKO mice during probe tests, compared with controls. *** $P < 0.001$, two-tailed t-test, n = 14 mice per group. Quantification data are expressed as mean ± SEM.

Supplementary Figures



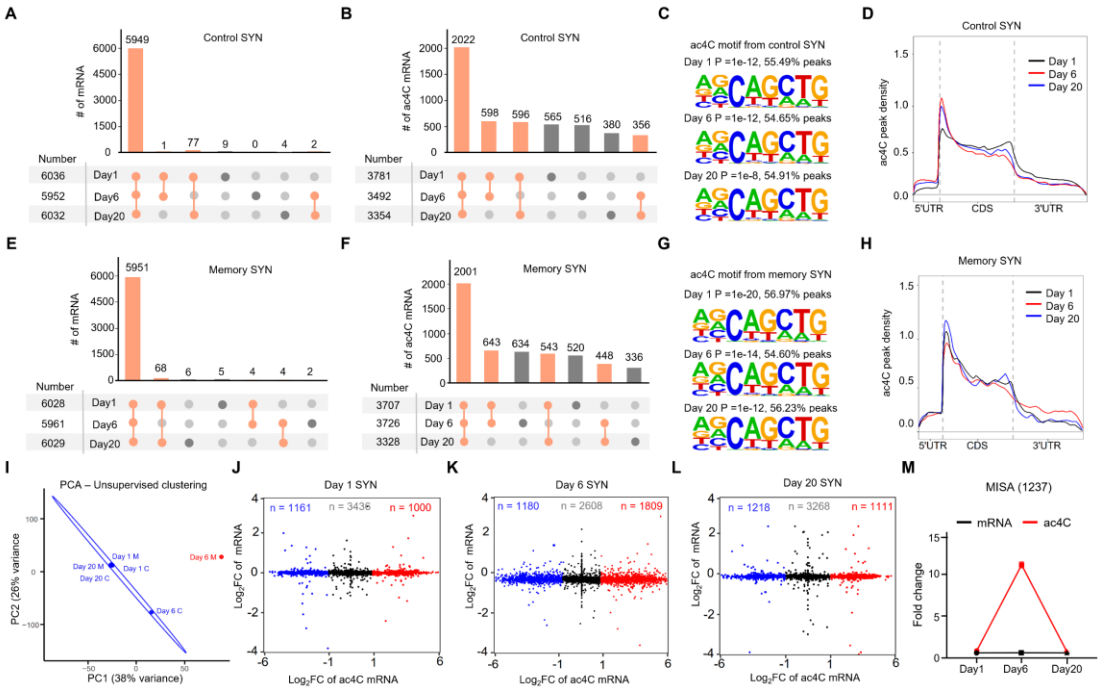
Supplementary Figure 1 Protocols of MWM for control and memory mice. (A) MWM protocol for control mice. The control mice were placed in MWM with a visible platform at day 1 and 2, after which they returned to home cage and were subjected to probe tests at day 6. (B) Control mice were able to discern the visible platform above the water surface and consequently locate it rapidly. Shown are the latency to find the visible platform at day 1 and 2. (C) Control mice were not able to remember the target quadrant during probe tests on day 6. Shown are the percentage of time staying in each quadrant during probe tests. n = 9 mice, NS, not significant, one-way ANOVA. (D) MWM protocol for memory mice. The memory mice were trained in MWM with a hidden platform from day 1 to 5, and then were subjected to probe tests at day 6 and 20. (E) Memory mice showed improvement in their ability to find the hidden platform during the training process. Shown are the memory curves. (F) Memory mice could remember the target quadrant during probe tests at day 6. Shown are the percentage of time staying in each quadrant during probe tests. n = 9 mice, *** $P < 0.001$, one-way ANOVA. (G) Memory mice could not remember the target quadrant during probe tests at day 20. Shown are the percentage of time staying in each quadrant during probe tests. n = 6 mice, NS, not significant, one-way ANOVA. (H) Schematic summary of memory score of control and memory mice at day 1, 6, and 20 after MWM training. Memories were recalled at day 6 but were forgotten at day 20 in memory mice. The memory score indicates spatial memory performance in the MWM test.



Supplementary Figure 2 No significant change of ac4C mRNA in the homogenates of mouse hippocampus after memory. (A) Experimental design. The RNA samples were divided into input and acRIP. Among them, input was used to eliminate background and acRIP was performed with ac4C antibodies. The process of sequencing peak calling identifies reliable ac4C peaks and calculates FE for each ac4C peak based on the sequencing information of the two-part sample. FE, Fold Enrichment. (B and C) Venn diagrams demonstrating substantial overlap of ac4C peaks and ac4C-modified mRNAs across biological replicates in control mice. (B) Venn diagram showing the intersection of ac4C peaks among three biological replicates from hippocampal homogenates (HOM) of control mice on day 6. The numbers indicate unique and shared peaks between replicates, with 8303 peaks common to all three replicates. (C) Venn diagram showing the intersection of ac4C-modified mRNAs among the same three biological replicates, with 8107 mRNAs common to all three replicates. (D) Consensus motif analysis reveals consistent ac4C modification patterns across biological replicates in both control and memory groups. HOMER motif analysis identified the identical consensus sequence AGCAGCTG in ac4C peak regions across all biological replicates. For control mice, the motif shows highly significant p-values with target percentages at 99% confidence intervals of 57.20% (Rep 1), 54.23% (Rep 2), and 55.32% (Rep 3). For

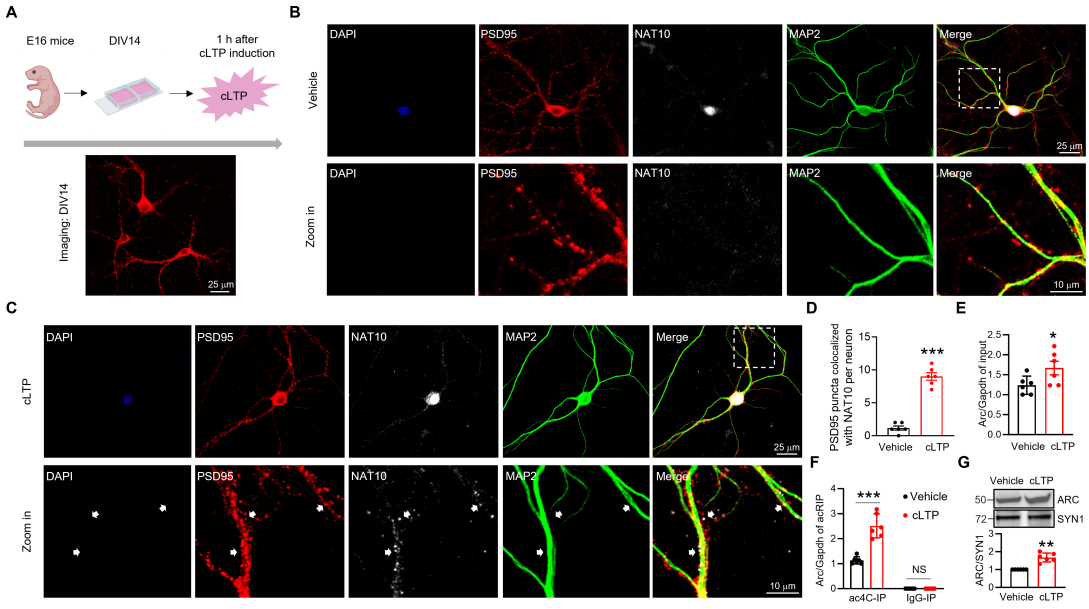
memory mice, similarly significant p-values were observed with target percentages of 56.14 (Rep 1), 54.32% (Rep 2), and 52.44% (Rep 3). The consistency of this motif across both conditions and all replicates demonstrates the specificity of ac4C modification sites. (E and F) Distribution of ac4C peak density along mRNA transcripts in control and memory groups. Metagene profiles display the relative density of ac4C peak coverage across different regions of acetylated mRNAs. Peak density distribution in HOM samples shows enrichment primarily within the CDS region, with lower density in the 5' and 3' UTRs. The analysis encompasses all three biological replicates from control (E) and memory groups (F). (G-H) Upset plots illustrating the overlap patterns of ac4C mRNAs across biological replicates. Because many genes express multiple splice isoforms, ac4C calls were summarized at the gene level (a gene is counted as present if ≥1 isoform is ac4C-positive); isoform-specific differences between replicates may therefore not be visible at the transcript level. (G) Upset plot displaying the intersection of ac4C mRNAs among three biological replicates from control HOM samples. The analysis reveals 4494 peaks common to all three replicates, with varying numbers of peaks shared between pairs of replicates or unique to individual samples. (H) Upset plot showing the intersection of ac4C mRNAs among three biological replicates from memory HOM samples. The analysis identifies 4110 peaks common to all three replicates. The distribution patterns and overlap characteristics remain comparable between control and memory conditions, further supporting the stability of ac4C modifications after memory formation. (I) The number of ac4C peaks for each ac4C mRNA is comparable across the three biological replicates in both the HOM control and memory groups. (J) Acetylation of polyA RNA was not altered in HOM of mouse hippocampus after memory. The polyA RNA samples used for each ac4C dot-blot were 0.5 μg that falls into the linear range. The HOM polyA RNA samples of control and memory mice on day 6 after MWM training were subjected to ac4C dot-blots and methylene blue staining. Left, representative images of ac4C dot-blots and methylene blue staining; right, quantification data. n = 6 biological replicates at each condition, NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. Data were normalized by

controls. (K) Acetylation levels of ac4C mRNA were not significantly changed after memory in HOM of mouse hippocampus. Shown are cumulative distribution curves of ac4C levels for HOM in control (C) and memory (M) mice on day 6 after MWM training. The FE of ac4C mRNA was quantified in the quartile boxplots, where the solid line in the box is the median and the dashed line is the mean, where the maximum and minimum values are identified. NS, not significant, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. FE, Fold Enrichment. (L) The normalized mRNA counts were not significantly changed in HOM of mouse hippocampus on day 6 after MWM training. Shown are cumulative distribution curves of normalized mRNA counts for HOM in C and M mice on day 6 after MWM training. The normalized mRNA counts of each group were quantified in the quartile boxplots, where the solid line in the box is the median and the dashed line is the mean, where the maximum and minimum values are identified. NS, not significant, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.



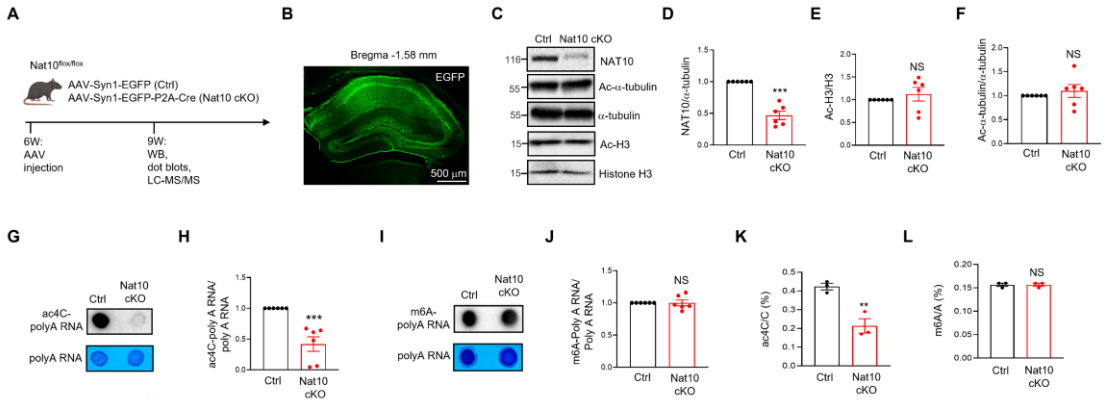
Supplementary Figure 3 Memory-induced synaptic ac4C mRNAs (MISA) in mouse hippocampus. (A-B and E-F) The transcripts and ac4C mRNAs are largely overlapping across the SYN control group (A-B) and memory group (E-F) at days 1, 6, and 20. The upset plot shows the number of mRNAs (A and E) and ac4C mRNAs (B

and F) between samples. (C and G) The same consensus motif, AGCAGCTG, was identified in ac4C peak regions across the SYN control (C) and memory group (G) at days 1, 6, and 20. Consensus motif and its adjusted p-values generated by HOMER of the SYN group at days 1, 6, and 20 in acRIP-seq. (D and H) Density of ac4C peaks across different mRNA regions in the SYN control group (D) and SYN memory group (H) at days 1, 6, and 20. The line plot illustrates the density distribution of ac4C peaks in 5'UTR, CDS, and 3'UTR. The black line represents day 1, the red line represents day 6, and the blue line represents day 20. (I) PCA to demonstrate that the sample SYN memory-day6 separates from the other five samples. (J-L) Scatter plot showing the correlation between changes in mRNA expression and acetylation levels on days 1, 6, and 20. The x-axis represents the fold change in acetylation levels, while the y-axis shows the fold change in mRNA expression. (M) The ac4C levels of MISA mRNA are upregulated following memory and return to control levels after memory retrieval. At days 1, 6, and 20, there are no significant changes in MISA mRNA levels. The black line represents the trend of mRNA expression changes, and the red line represents the trend of ac4C level changes.



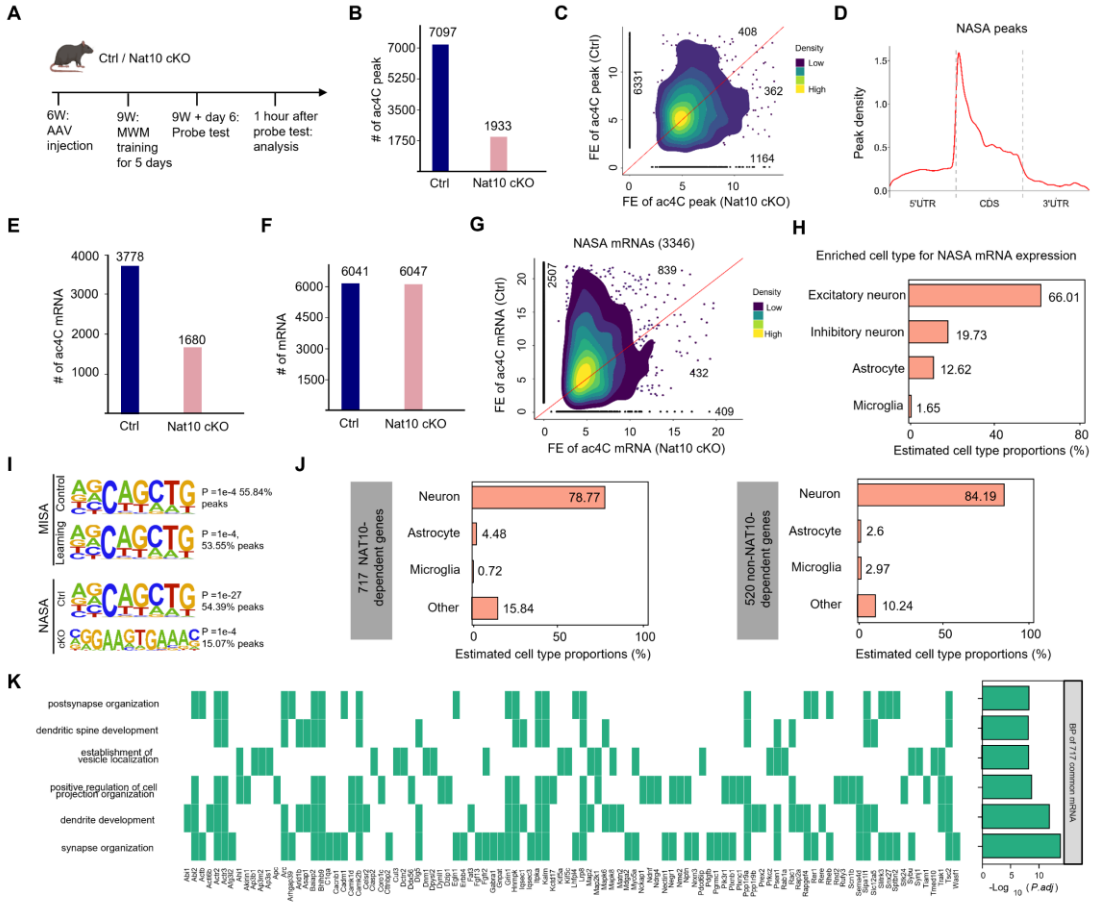
Supplementary Figure 4 Increase of NAT10 proteins and ac4C modification of Arc mRNA in the SYN of mouse hippocampal neurons and slices after cLTP

stimulation. (A) Experimental design. (B and C) Distribution of NAT10 in the PSD were increased in cultured hippocampal neurons after cLTP stimulation. Shown are the fluorescent images of NAT10 were significantly increased in the PSD fraction of primary neuronal of mouse hippocampal after cLTP stimulated. Scale bar, 25 μm and 10 μm. (D) Quantification of PSD95 puncta colocalized with NAT10 per neuron. *** $P < 0.001$, two-tailed t-test. n = 6 independent experiments. (E) cLTP stimulation slightly increased Arc mRNA levels in the synaptosomes of mouse hippocampal slices. RNA purified from input samples was subjected to RT-qPCR analysis. Arc mRNA levels were normalized by Gapdh and then normalized to controls. * $P = 0.0242$, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 independent experiments. (F) ac4C modification of Arc mRNA was significantly increased after cLTP stimulation. Mouse hippocampal slices were subjected to vehicle treatment or glycine-induced cLTP stimulation, and 1 h after that, followed by RNA purification from acRIP and IgG-IP products and RT-qPCR analysis. Data were normalized by input. *** $P < 0.001$, two-way-ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test, n = 6 independent experiments. (G) cLTP increases ARC protein in synaptosomes. Quantification data for representative western blot images. ** $P = 0.0011$, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 independent experiments.



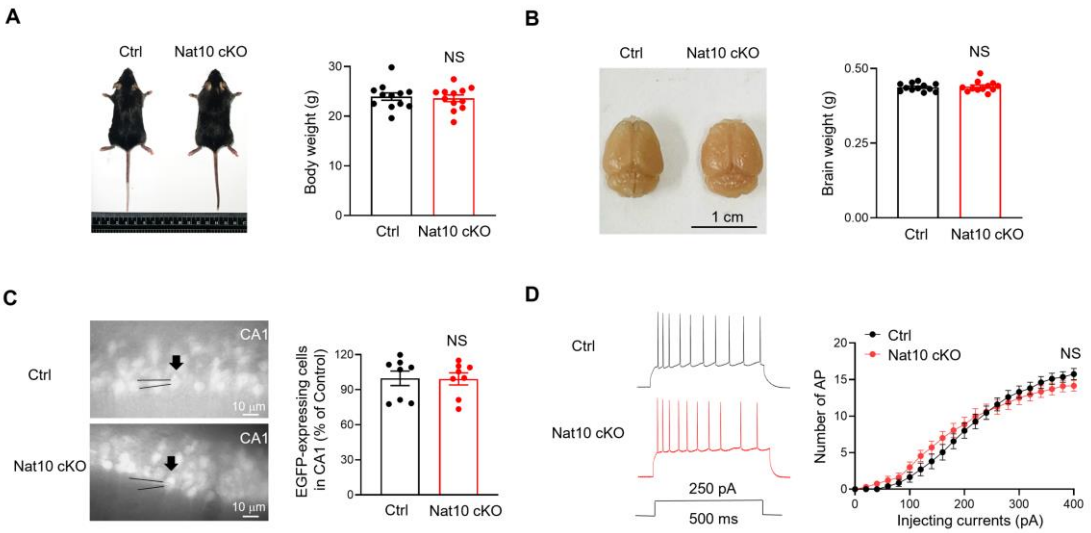
Supplementary Figure 5 NAT10-dependent ac4C modification of polyA RNA in mouse hippocampus. (A) Experimental design. Three weeks after AAV injection, Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice underwent MWM training and probe test, followed by hippocampal tissue collection for biochemical assays. (B) Infection of AAV in the dorsal mouse hippocampus. Fluorescent images of the mouse hippocampus expressing EGFP are shown. Scale bar, 500 μm. (C) Representative western blot images. Protein

samples from Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mouse hippocampus were probed with antibodies against NAT10, Ac-α-tubulin, α-tubulin, Ac-H3, and Histone H3. (D) Reduction of NAT10 protein levels in Nat10 cKO mice compared to Ctrl. Quantification data for panel C are shown. *** $P < 0.001$, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates per condition, Data were normalized by controls. (E) Similar ac-H3 levels between Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice. Quantification data for panel C are shown. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates per condition, Data were normalized by controls. (F) Similar Ac-α-tubulin levels in Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice. Quantification data for panel C are shown. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates per condition, Data were normalized by controls. (G and H) Reduced ac4C modification of polyA RNA in the hippocampus of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. The polyA RNA samples purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus were subjected to ac4C dot-blots and methylene blue staining. (G) Representative images. (H) Quantification data. *** $P < 0.001$, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates per condition. Data were normalized by controls. (I and J) Similar m6A modification of polyA RNA in the hippocampus of control and Nat10 cKO mice. The polyA RNA samples purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus were subjected to m6A dot-blots and methylene blue staining. (I) Representative images. (J) Quantification data. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 6 biological replicates per condition. (K) Reduced ac4C modification of polyA RNA in the hippocampus of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. The polyA RNA samples purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus were subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis. The stoichiometry levels of ac4C from LC-MS/MS analysis were quantified. ** $P = 0.0077$, two-tailed t-test, n = 3 biological replicates per condition. (L) Similar m6A modification of polyA RNA in the hippocampus of control and Nat10 cKO mice. The polyA RNA samples purified from the HOM of mouse hippocampus were subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis. The stoichiometry levels of m6A from LC-MS/MS analysis were quantified. NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test, n = 3 biological replicates per condition.



Supplementary Figure 6 NAT10-dependent of ac4C mapping in the SYN of memory mice. (A) Experimental design. Three weeks after AAV injection, the control (Ctrl) and Nat10 conditional knockout (cKO) mice were subjected to MWM training and probe test, and then the SYN fractions were purified from hippocampal tissues for low-input acRIP-seq. (B) Reduction of ac4C peak number in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. 7097 and 1933 ac4C peaks were identified in the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO mice, respectively. (C) Definition of NAT10-dependent ac4C peaks through acRIP summits displaying higher FE values in control relative to Nat10 cKO mice. Shown are the density scatter plot of ac4C peaks. Each dot represents an ac4C peak. 6331 ac4C peaks are specifically identified in the SYN of control but not Nat10 cKO mice. The FE of 408 ac4C peaks was higher in the SYN of control mice than Nat10 cKO mice. (D) NAT10-dependent ac4C peaks are predominantly located in the CDS region of mRNA. The plot shows the density of ac4C peaks along various mRNA regions, including the 5'UTR, CDS, and 3'UTR. (E) Reduction of ac4C mRNA

number in the SYN of Nat10 cKO mice, compared with controls. 3778 and 1680 ac4C mRNAs were identified in the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO groups, respectively. (F) Similar mRNA numbers identified in the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO mice. 6041 and 6047 mRNAs were identified in the SYN of control and Nat10 cKO mice, respectively. (G) Definition of NAT10-dependent synaptic ac4C (NASA) mRNA through acRIP summits displaying higher FE values in control relative to Nat10 cKO mice. Shown are the density scatter plot of ac4C mRNA. Each dot represents an ac4C mRNA. 2507 ac4C mRNAs are specifically identified in the SYN of control but not Nat10 cKO mice. The FE of 839 ac4C mRNA was higher in the SYN of control mice than Nat10 cKO mice. (H) The expression of NASA mRNA is mostly enriched in excitatory neurons of mouse hippocampus. Shown are the percentage of NASA mRNA whose expression was relatively enriched in different cell types of mouse hippocampus through analysis of the single-cell RNA-sequencing dataset (http://dropviz.org). (I) A shared consensus motif, AGCAGCTG, was consistently enriched within ac4C peak regions in both the MISA and NASA groups, as identified by HOMER from acRIP-seq data. Notably, in Nat10 cKO samples, the ac4C-associated motifs exhibited a marked loss of the CXX sequence feature, suggesting that Nat10 depletion alters the sequence preference for ac4C deposition. (J) Analysis of the cell-type enrichment using the method of CIBERSORT reveals that both Nat10-dependent and independent MISA mRNAs are highly expressed in neurons. (K) Gene Ontology BPs associated with the 717 common mRNAs from Figure 6D are significantly enriched. The x-axis indicates both the included mRNAs and the negative logarithm of the adjusted p-values, representing enrichment significance, while the y-axis displays the corresponding biological processes.



Supplementary Figure 7 Downregulation of NAT10 in mouse hippocampus does not affect body or brain weight, neuronal number or intrinsic excitability. (A) Similar body weight between 10-week-old Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice. Left, representative images of the mice, right, quantification of body weight. n = 12 mice for each group, NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. (B) Similar brain weight between 10-week-old Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice. Left, representative images of mouse brain, right, quantification of brain weight. n = 12 mice for each group, NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. (C) Similar number of neurons expressing EGFP in the CA1 region of 10-week-old Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice. Left, representative images of CA1 neurons expressing EGFP, right, quantification of EGFP-expressing cells in CA1 region. n = 8 slices from 4 mice, NS, not significant, two-tailed t-test. Data were normalized by Ctrl. (D) Similar intrinsic excitability of CA1 pyramidal neurons between 10-week-old Ctrl and Nat10 cKO mice. Left, representative traces of action potentials (AP) of CA1 pyramidal neurons; right, quantification of AP number after injection of different currents into CA1 pyramidal neurons. n = 20 cells from 4 mice per group, NS, not significant, two-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's multiple comparison test.

Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1. Library Information of acRIP-seq.

Supplementary Table 2. List of mRNAs identified by regular acRIP-seq (HOM).

Supplementary Table 3. List of mRNAs identified by low-input acRIP-seq (SYN).

1956 Supplementary Table 4. The information of MISA mRNA.

1957 Supplementary Table 5. The information of NASA mRNA.