A unified rodent atlas reveals the cellular complexity and evolutionary divergence of the

dorsal vagal complex

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20 **Keywords:**

21 DVC, area postrema, nucleus of the solitary tract, cell atlas, GLP1, PDGFRA, CCK, TH

Abstract

The dorsal vagal complex (DVC) is a region in the brainstem comprised of an intricate network of specialized cells responsible for sensing and propagating many appetite-related cues. Understanding the dynamics controlling appetite requires deeply exploring the cell types and transitory states harbored in this brain site. We generated a multi-species DVC cell atlas using single nuclei RNAseq (sn-RNAseq), thorough curation and harmonization of mouse and rat data which includes >180,000 cells and 123 cell identities at 5 granularities of cellular resolution. We report unique DVC features such as Kcnj3 expression in Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes as well as new cell populations like neurons co-expressing *Th* and *Cck*, and a leptin receptor-expressing neuron population in the rat area postrema which is marked by expression of the progenitor marker, *Pdgfra*. In summary, our findings suggest there are distinct cellular populations specific to the DVC compared to other brain sites and our comprehensive atlas is a valuable tool for the study of this metabolic center.

Introduction

Regulating appetite in response to changing environmental conditions to maintain energy balance requires the intricate interplay of multiple organs. Within the central nervous system, an incredible diversity of discrete brain regions and cell types control appetite([1]). More specifically, the dorsal vagal complex (DVC) of the brainstem, comprising the area postrema (AP), nucleus of the solitary tract (NTS) and dorsal motor nucleus of the vagus (DMV), acts as a key nexus point for metabolic signals, evidenced by the dense expression of many relevant hormone receptors([2]). Separately, the DVC also serves as the primary site of gut-based signals via vagal afferents([3-5]). Functionally, the DVC was long considered a site promoting meal termination([6]) but growing evidence suggests the DVC also regulates long-term energy balance([7, 8]).

Much of the interest in DVC neurons' role in appetite and energy balance stems from their role as therapeutic targets for obesity and anorexia in cancer cachexia([9, 10]). For many years, most pharmacotherapies failed to produce efficacious and long-lasting weight loss in obesity and increase appetite in cancer cachexia([11]). More recently however, the glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor (GLP1R) agonists are eclipsing the weight loss achieved by previous generations of therapeutics([12]). While expressed across the central nervous system, GLP1R expression is particularly enriched in DVC neurons([13]) and it is the DVC that mediates many of the effects of GLP1R agonists([14]). Separately, an emerging strategy for treating cancer cachexia is inhibiting growth differentiation factor 15 (GDF15) signaling in the DVC by blocking the action of GDNF Family Receptor Alpha Like (GFRAL)([15]), the receptor for GDF15([16]). Given the clinical significance of the DVC for this spectrum of conditions, understanding the

molecular heterogeneity and function of this region is essential to understand appetite regulation without major side effects.

Traditionally, identification and ensuing study of DVC cell types was limited to known neurotransmitter and receptor-expressing cell types. For instance, the cholecystokinin and monoamine-expressing cells, demarcated by tyrosine hydroxylase (*Th*) expression, were previously shown to be non-overlapping cell populations with unique roles in appetite suppression(*17*). More recently, the advent of single-cell mRNA sequencing approaches made unbiased molecular censuses of heterogenous populations possible. Such studies focusing on the mouse have revealed the complexity of the mouse DVC, comprised of dozens of transcriptionally distinct cell types(*2, 18, 19*). Moving forward, unifying information from multiple single-nuclei RNA sequencing (snRNA-seq) datasets of the DVC into a reference atlas is needed to more fully understand the cells within the DVC and generate a common and scalable classification for cell classes. Such a reference atlas is also needed to contrast the cell types found within the mouse to other research models, including the rat, which are prominent models for DVC biology(*2, 20*).

To address this, we generated a comprehensive snRNA-seq based atlas of the mouse and rat DVC. This atlas features mouse and rat labelled cells with increasing granularity and an accompanying computational toolbox including the mouse and rodent atlas label transfer environment using treeArches. The mouse DVC atlas reveals a higher degree of cellular complexity than previously appreciated. The cellular census of the rat DVC exhibits many similarities to the mouse but also rat-specific cells including a novel population of leptin receptor and *Pdgfra*-expressing neurons localized to the AP. We then used this unified atlas to uncover the cell types that transcriptionally respond to meal consumption which may hold the potential of suppressing appetite without gastrointestinal side effects.

Results

The murine dorsal vagal complex cell classes

To generate a snRNA-seq atlas of the mouse DVC, we isolated the DVC from 30 adult C57BL/6J mice and subjected them to 10X Genomics-based snRNA barcoding and sequencing (**Fig.1A**). From the CellRanger pre-processing pipeline(*21*) we obtained 110,167 cells of which 99,740 were retained after processing. Cell identities were initially mapped to 5 databases from different brain regions and then curated manually using 473 cell identity markers (**Tables S1-S2**). We distinguished clusters of neurons and glial, vascular and connective tissue cells, a first layer of cell identity (**Fig.1B**; **Table S3**). We further describe a second layer of cellular resolution, which are subgroups of the first layer that contain the cell classes (**Fig.1C**; **Table S3**).

Among the ten neuronal cell classes identified at layer 2 resolution, we found two major groups
which we called 'magnaclass1' and 'magnaclass2' (**Fig.S1**). Magnaclass1 neurons
predominately express genes required for inhibitory neurotransmission (e.g. *Gad1*, *Gad2*) and
share transcriptomic markers with the Sall3-class of neurons, whereas magnaclass2 neurons
express mostly excitatory transcripts (e.g. the glutamate transporter VGLUT2) also found in the
Lhx2-class and monoamine-class (**Fig.1D-E**; **Fig.S1**). However, as described in other brain
areas(*22, 23*), evidence of co-transmission/co-release of multiple primary neurotransmitters
was found in at least 55% of neurons regardless of their cell class (**Fig.1D-E**; **Table S4**). We
also identified 8 transcriptionally distinct neural classes in addition to the magnaclasses. The
Golli-class expresses myelin-associated genes such as *Mag* and *Mog*(*24-26*) (**Fig.1D**; **Table**
S5). Moreover, we describe the corelautus-class (Latin: 'washed nucleus'), distinguished by a
large number of downregulated genes in the nuclei compared to other neuronal classes, and
a class with genes normally upregulated in astrocytes (e.g. *Slc6a11*) and related to clearance
and uptake of glutamate, gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), Ca^+ and bicarbonate (*27, 28*),
which we named 'pH-related class' (**Table S5**). When interrogating snRNA-seq data from the
hypothalamus(*29*) (**Fig.S2**), another brain site important for energy balance, we could not find
clusters sharing all markers with our neuronal classes, indicating DVC-specific neuronal
programs (**Fig.S2C**).

<u>The murine DVC cells at their highest resolution</u>
To better define the heterogeneity of the mouse DVC, we further assigned a clustering-based
third layer of cellular resolution resulting in fifty cell identities, of which 15 are non-neuronal
(**Fig.2A**). At this resolution we differentiated between two major groups of astrocytes.
Differential expression in synapse-related factors revealed a group of highly excitable
astrocytes with high expression of the inwardly rectifying GIRK1 (*Kcnj3*) channel(*30*) and lack
of expression of the AMPAr subunit GluA2 (*Gria2*), additionally rendering them $K^+/Na^+/Ca^+$-
permeable(*31, 32*) (**Fig.2B**). We speculate these astrocytes are specific to the DVC as we could
not find Kcnj3+; Gria2- astrocytes in the hypothalamus, cortex or hippocampus(*29, 33*)
(**Fig.S2D**; **Fig.S3**). In addition, we distinguished a spectrum of DVC mature oligodendrocytes,
including a group resembling the intermediate oligodendrocytes described in the other brain
sites that decrease in number with age(*34*) (**Fig.2C**). This gradient of expression of markers
including *Fyn*, *Opalin* and *Anln* in oligodendrocytes (**Fig.2C**), do not respond to a
developmental trajectory (**Fig.S4**). Although 'myelinating-intermediate' and 'myelinating'
oligodendrocytes include cells with overlapping gene expression programs, there is no
evidence that each oligodendrocyte will follow a single trajectory (**Fig.S4**). Furthermore, to
properly separate some cell identities, we performed sub-clustering in three DVC clusters (i.e.
clusters 23, 26 and 27) (**Fig.S5A**). This permitted us to label pre-myelinating oligodendrocytes,

endothelial and mural cells, and distinguish two fibroblast sub-types (**Fig.S5**). One of these
subtypes expresses high *Stk39* previously described in fibroblast stress-response(*35*) and so
was termed 's-fibroblasts' for stress-associated fibroblasts (**Fig.S5B**), which we failed to detect
in the hypothalamus (**Fig.S2E**). Additionally, there was no evidence of reactive microglia as we
mapped minimal levels of the activation genes *Cxcl10*, *Cd5*, *Cxcl9* and *Zbp1*(*36*), therefore we
posit that our DVC microglial cells are in a basal state (**Fig.S6**). We also obtained the DVC gene
expression markers of the main cell types in the central nervous system and neurons (**Fig.2D**).
142
To more thoroughly classify DVC neural types, we subset and re-clustered the 10 neural
classes from layer 2 which resulted in 35 neuronal identities as a third layer of granularity
(**Fig.3A**; **Table S5**). These identities include 'preganglionic' or *Chat*-expressing neurons and a
large number of neurons with unspecific markers which we called 'mixed neurons' (**Table S5**).
A mixed neurons-like group of cells was previously described in the murine hypothalamus(*37*).
Additionally, we split the monoamine-class into four layer-3 cell identities (i.e. M0, M1, M2 and
M3) with specific cell markers (**Fig.3B**; **Table S5**). M0 and M1 neurons express genes for
enzymes synthesizing norepinephrine and serotonin, but M0 expresses minimal levels of the
transporter VMAT2 (*Slc18a2*) (**Fig.3C**; **Table S5**). Due to the low proportion of cells expressing
Th and *Tph2* in M2 and M3 neurons, we consider them monoamine-modulators as they seem
to synthesize trace amines (**Fig.3C**; **Table S5**). Of note, the receptor for GDF15, GFRAL, is
expressed heavily by a subset of M0 neurons, some of which co-express the calcium sensing
receptor (*Casr*) gene (**Fig.3C**).
156
157 We named 'GLP1' a neuronal cluster with high expression of the pre-proglucagon gene (*Gcg*)
158 (**Fig.3D**; **Table S5**), which also expresses high levels of both the prolactin and leptin
159 receptors(*38*) (**Fig.3E**). Additionally, these cells have the highest proportion of DVC neuronal
160 co-expression of glutamate and GABA related genes (**Fig.3F**).
161
162 In our analysis we found a subset of monoaminergic neurons that express the cholecystokinin
163 (*Cck*) gene (**Fig.4A**). While the *Cck* and *Th*-expressing DVC neurons are considered to be non-
164 overlapping cell types with distinct physiologies(*39*), we confirmed co-expression of *Th* and
165 *Cck* results by *in-situ* hybridization (**Fig.4B**). The majority of this overlap occurs in cells
166 belonging to the COE-Atp10a and monoamine class (i.e. M0, M3) cell identities (**Fig.4A**).
167
The murine DVC cell atlas
To generate a comprehensive murine DVC database from multiple datasets, we utilized
treeArches(*40*) to harmonize our snRNA-seq DVC labels with that from a publication by Ludwig
and collaborators (i.e. the 'Ludwig dataset')(*2*) (**Fig.5A-B**). After building our initial cell hierarchy
(**Fig.S7**), we integrated our dataset with the Ludwig dataset, giving a total of 171,868 cells

(**Fig.5B**). Next, the labeled cell identities from the Ludwig dataset(*2*) were incorporated into our
tree based on the similarity between the transcriptomic programs of our labeled identities and
the Ludwig-labeled identities using progressive learning through scHPL(*41*) (**Fig.5A**). Some of
the Ludwig dataset identities failed to be incorporated into our tree, like the oligodendrocyte
precursor cells (OPCs), which contain a mix of OPCs and pre-myelinating oligodendrocytes
(**Fig.S8A**). The mix of cell programs makes it impossible for treeArches to correctly add one
branch of the Ludwig OPCs to the tree as ideally it would be added as a subpopulation of both
the OPCs and pre-myelinating oligodendrocytes, which is not biologically possible. The
resultant murine hierarchy has a fourth layer of cellular resolution as some of Ludwig identities,
mainly neurons, are subgroups of our cell identities (**Fig.S8B**).
183
We confirmed the validity of our cell hierarchy using three methods. First, by using the learned
model to predict the labels of the cells we used to develop them (i.e. this study and the Ludwig
dataset), for which we obtained highly concordant cell labeling (**Fig.5C**). Secondly, we used
the learned model to predict the labels of another publicly available dataset from Dowsett and
collaborators (i.e. the 'Dowsett dataset')(*18*) (**Fig.5D**). Using this approach, we were able to
successfully label 95% of these cells at high resolution (i.e. layer 3 or 4 of cell identity
granularity); further validating our combined DVC labels. Finally, we manually mapped the
marker genes from Ludwig(*2*) and Dowsett(*18*) neuronal clusters in our dataset and confirmed
the sub-groups of neurons among our identities pointed out by treeArches (**Fig.S8B**).
193
<u>An integrated rodent DVC cell hierarchy</u>
To identify rat DVC cell clusters and subclusters and contrast these with the mouse DVC atlas,
we generated a *de novo* ad libitum-fed rat dataset (cells n=12,167) (**Fig.6A**) and labeled it by
mapping the top 5 gene expression markers of each of our murine layer-3 cell identities (**Table
S6**). After manual curation at three granularities (**Fig.6B-C**; **Table S7**), we obtained 52 DVC rat
identities at high cellular resolution (**Fig.6C**) including a small group of 'unspecific' cells (n=35)
that we could not confidently label because its top gene expression markers have unknown
functions and none of our known identities' genes clearly marked this population (**Fig.6B-C**;
Table S6).
203
We established 10, layer-3 neuronal identities not previously found in the murine data (**Fig.6C**;
Fig.S9A; **Table S7**). Notably, two of those did not belong to any of the existing murine neuronal
classes (i.e. layer-2 of cellular granularity), therefore we created two new layer-2 classes
(**Fig.6B**). One of these, the immunity-related neurons, have high cystatin C, *Inpp5d* and *Csf1r*
expression, genes commonly associated with immunity-related processes in microglia and
with immunomodulation in cancer(*42-44*) (**Fig.7**; **Table S7**). The second neural class identified
in rat but not mouse DVC were the 'Pdgfra neurons' (**Fig.7**). These neurons express *Pdgfra*,

Arhgap31 and *Itga9*, known markers for progenitor cells for which we named this cell class
'ortus-akin' (Latin: 'origin') because they are similar to cells giving origin to other cells(*45*)
(**Fig.7A**; **Table S7**). Interestingly, this neuronal class not only expressed *Pdgfra*, but also other
OPC signature genes (**Fig.7A**). Mapping the expression levels of metabolic-associated
receptors revealed that both immunity-akin and ortus-akin express GFRAL, prolactin receptor
and leptin receptor (**Fig.7B**), although they seem to have a varied neurotransmitter profile
(**Fig.S9B**). To confirm the presence of *Pdgfra*-expressing neurons in the rat DVC, we performed
immunostaining in the mouse and rat brainstem. Within the mouse, we found PDGFRA-
immunoreactivity(IR) in the two morphologically distinct cells; matching OPC and blood vessel-
associated fibroblast morphologies(**Fig.7C**). However, within the rat, we identified PDGFRA-IR
in cells with three morphologies, one of which resembled neurons with an enlarged cell body
and protruding cellular processes (**Fig.7C**). To determine if these PDGFRA-IR cells were
neurons, we co-stained with the neural marker, HuC/D and noted several PDGFRA and HuC/D
copositive cells (**Fig.7D**); confirming our sequencing data that a PDGFRA-expressing neural
class exists in the rat DVC and localizing these cells to the area postrema.
226
To construct an integrated rodent DVC cell atlas, we incorporated the labeled rat dataset into
our hierarchy using treeArches(*40*) (**Fig.8**). The rodent data was projected onto the mouse
datasets (**Fig.8A**) and the 42 high resolution rat cell identities were appended to the tree
(**Fig.8B**; **Fig.S10**). The final hierarchy has 123 labels of which 99 are high resolution according
to our cellular granularity (i.e. layers 3 to 5) (**Fig.8B**). In addition it has 20 layer-2 identities and
7 cell identities that are novel from the rat dataset (**Fig.8B**).
233
<u>*Hcrt* and *Agrp* expression in the DVC</u>
Since *Agrp* has been described to be expressed in the DVC(*46*), we mapped this and other
neuropeptide genes in DVC neurons. Surprisingly, we found *Hcrt* and *Agrp* mRNA in neurons
in our dataset (**Fig.S11A**). We then performed *in-situ* hybridizations for these transcripts in both
the mouse hypothalamus and DVC. While both *Hcrt* and *Agrp* were readily detectable in the
hypothalamus, we failed to observe signal within the DVC (**Fig.S11B**). Since we also found
expression of *Hcrt* and *Agrp* in neurons of the Dowsett and Ludwig datasets(*2, 18*) (**Fig.S11C**),
we then mapped the sequenced reads from these transcripts and confirmed that most of them
mapped to intronic and non-coding regions of these genes (**Fig.S11D**). Furthermore, our rat
DVC dataset was pre-processed excluding introns from the reads mapping, and the *Hcrt* and
Agrp expression levels observed is minimal (**Fig.S11E**), which is in agreement with the non-
coding location of the reads. These data explain absence of signal from our *in-situ*
hybridizations and suggests DVC cells do not produce HCRT or AGRP neuropeptides.
247

<u>Meal-related transcriptional programs in the murine DVC</u>

As the DVC acts as a primary node for meal-related signals(*47*), we wanted to define which of

our cell identities responded to meal consumption and thus performed differential gene

expression analysis between DVC cell types from mice that were euthanized under fasting

conditions, with ad libitum access to food or two hours post-refeeding following an overnight

fast (**Fig.1A**; **Fig.9**). This analysis revealed widespread transcriptional changes across nearly

every neural cell identity, the exceptions being corelautus, Golli class and pH classes (**Fig.9A**).

Additionally, the size of the transcriptional changes were relatively small, with approximately

90% of the differentially expressed genes having increases or decreases between 0.5 and 1.0

log2 fold-change, with only ~10% of the gene changes being ≥1 log2 fold-change between

conditions (**Fig.9A**). Of the responding neurons, magnaclasses 1 and 2, which represent large

populations of predominately inhibitory and excitatory neurons (**Fig.S1**), showed the greatest

number of differentially expressed genes following refeeding for both comparisons refed

versus fasting, and refed versus ad libitum food access (**Fig.9A**). To understand how refeeding

transcriptionally alters inhibitory compared with excitatory DVC neurons, we compared

differentially expressed genes between these two classes across conditions. Intriguingly,

despite being in transcriptionally distinct classes, we found meal consumption altered many of

the same genes (**Fig.9B-D**), suggesting these cells may be receiving similar postprandial

signals which are propagated via these cells in unique manners. This is supported by the

similar receptor expression profile of magnaclass 1 and 2 (**Fig.S12**). One notable exception is

Cckbr which is upregulated in magnaclass 2 and downregulated in magnaclass 1 in refeeding

when compared with ad libitum fed mice, while in refed versus fasted mice (**Table S9**). We also

note that oligodendrocytes contained the highest number of differentially expressed genes in

refeeding (**Fig.9A**), however the roles of oligodendrocytes in refeeding responses within the

DVC have yet to be determined and the biologic significance of these changes are presently

unclear.

Discussion

The recent success of DVC-based therapies(*12, 48*) have moved DVC biology to the forefront

of weight control therapies and there is now clear clinical impetus to fully define DVC cell types

and their functions. Previous studies detailing DVC cell types describe a high degree of

heterogeneity(*2, 18, 19*), however, these studies lacked an in-depth analysis of

neurotransmitter profiles of neurons, any cross-species evaluation of DVC cell types, or an

analysis of how meal consumption transcriptionally regulates these cells. We therefore

developed *de novo* mouse and rat DVC cell atlases to address these points.

To more fully describe the cellular complexity within the DVC, we combined a pipeline of cell
label transfer using brain existing published datasets and thorough curation of cell identities,
which resulted in a 4-layer mouse cell hierarchy and a 5-layer rodent cell hierarchy of the DVC.
Within this hierarchy we found several unique features of DVC glial cells. First, we found highly
excitable Ca^+-permeable astrocytes in the DVC in which *Gfap* is almost exclusively expressed
and they coexpress *Kcnj3* (GIRK1 potassium channel). These cells largely lack *Gria2*,
consistent with findings in Bergmann glial cells in which colocalization of *Gria2* and GFAP was
found to alter neuron-glial interactions([49]). Comparing Ca^+-permeable DVC astrocytes to
hypothalamic astrocytes([29]), we found the same expression pattern with minimal overlap
between *Gria2* and *Gfap.* However, DVC astrocytes seem to have some unique properties
when compared with hypothalamic, cortical and hippocampal astrocytes. Principally DVC
astrocytes express the GIRK1 channel, likely rendering them more excitable. Additionally,
while we identified hypothalamic fibroblasts which express high *Aldh1a1* similar to the DVC p-
fibroblasts, we failed to find a group equivalent to s-fibroblasts. Other cell populations seem to
be consistent to what has been found in other brain sites, like the intermediate
oligodendrocytes that are found enriched in the hypothalamus and the corpus callosum in
mice([34]). In summary, these findings show that some cell populations may be specific to the
DVC compared to other brain sites and we were able to capture them in our atlas, further
supporting its utility for studying this brain region.
303
Within the mouse neural classes, we found overlap between *Cck* and *Th*-expressing cells. As
these cells have previously been described as non-overlapping, this was unexpected([17]). Our
in-situ hybridization confirmed the presence of *Cck/Th* positive cells within the NTS and AP.
We believe the discrepancy may be due to detection methods as these cells were initially
defined as non-overlapping using immunofluorescent detection of *Th* protein and a *Cck*
genetic reporter([17]). Within the NTS, *Cck* neurons are strongly aversive whereas *Th*-labelled
neurons are non-aversive([50]). The role of dual Cck/Th positive neurons remains to be
determined. While no functional characterization of *Cck* and *Th* neurons of the AP has been
performed, we posit that as some *Th*-expressing AP neurons also express *Gfral* and *Casr*, both
having potently aversive ligands (e.g. GDF15, deoxynivalenol)([16, 51]); they are likely to
mediate aversive anorexia.
315
Our snRNA-Seq data also resulted in detected transcripts for both *Agrp* and *Hcrt*. While both
neuropeptides have long been considered to have hypothalamic-exclusive expression, a
recent report describes *Agrp*-expressing cells within the mouse DVC([46]). To confirm our
sequencing data, we performed *in-situ* hybridizations for both *Agrp* and *Hcrt* but failed to
detect any transcripts within the DVC, in agreement with this finding is that the mapped reads

within the *Agrp* and *Hcrt* gene overwhelmingly mapped to non-coding regions, suggesting to
us that the AGRP and HCRT neuropeptides are not produced by DVC cells in rodents.
323
Beside the classical dichotomy of inhibitory or GABAergic and excitatory glutamatergic,
neurons, subpopulations of neurons have been shown to be capable of co-releasing GABA
and glutamate(*52*) and other neurotransmitter combinations(*53*). By co-expression analysis of
genes implicated in synthesis or neurotransmitter vesicle packing, we confirmed that over 50%
the DVC neurons co-transmit/co-release more than one primary neurotransmitter. This complex
functionality of the DVC is further exemplified by the presence of neurons with seemingly mixed
programs which we called 'mixed neurons'. Similar groups have been described in the
hypothalamus(*37*) suggesting that some neurons may have hybrid-functionalities. As these
mixed neurons share transcriptomic features with many other cell identities, we foresee them
to be difficult to target or to be affected by treatments not directed to them as an off-target
effect. Finally, we were not able to clearly associate our neuronal classes with the cell classes
that had been previously identified in hypothalamic snRNA-seq data(*29*) which is in line with
the complementarity of different metabolic centers in the brain suggesting that the
hypothalamic and brain stem neuronal populations involved in feeding control and energy
balance, share only some functionality, possibly reflective of their complementary roles in
metabolic regulation.
340
To perform a cross-species analysis, we generated a rat-based DVC atlas and compared it
with the mouse DVC. Our rat dataset was smaller than the mouse data, it is possible some of
the of the new neuronal cell identities (e.g. M_sema, M4) may contain cells belonging to
multiple cell types, as treeArches did not appended these identities to the tree. Despite this,
we corroborated two new cell types in the rat DVC that are not present in mice the *Pdgfa*-
expressing (ortus-akin class) and the immunity-related neurons. *Pdgfra* is a well described
marker gene for OPCs and fibroblasts within the central nervous system(*45*) but, to our
knowledge, has not been associated with neurons. Notably, although the PDGFRA immuno-
signal in HuC/D+ neurons is clearly discernible, it is less intense than in OPCs and fibroblasts.
Since it was previously demonstrated that OPCs can give rise to neurons in the adult brain(*54*),
it is possible that these PDGFRA+/HuCD+ cells in the AP represent a transient stage of
PDGFRA+ OPCs differentiating into neurons.
353
Regardless of their maturity, we speculate that the Pdgfra neurons (ortus-akin class) have roles
in appetite regulation as they express leptin receptor and *Gfral*. Interestingly, while multiple
studies have failed to detect *Lepr* via Cre-based reporters(*38, 55*) or leptin-induced
phosphorylated STAT3 in the AP of mice(*56*), *Lepr* and leptin-induced phosphorylated STAT3

are detectable within the rat AP(*57-59*). We believe one explanation for this species
discrepancy in *Lepr* expression is the absence of the ortus class neurons in mice.
360
DVC-targeting obesity therapeutics, including amylin and GLP1 mimetics, produce clinically
relevant weight loss but are associated with multiple gastrointestinal adverse events and there
is a need to develop new obesity therapies that can reduce appetite without unwanted
gastrointestinal side effects(*60, 61*). Indeed, the DVC cells that regulate appetite suppression
and nausea are separable(*50*), making targeting such cells an attractive target for
pharmacotherapy. As meal consumption is generally not associated with gastrointestinal
distress, we sought to identify refeeding responsive cells within the mouse DVC. From this
analysis, we found nearly all neural cell identities are transcriptionally altered by meal
consumption. Therefore, identifying neurons that promote non-aversive anorexia via the
transcriptional response to refeeding as the basis of pharmacotherapy is unlikely to yield
specific targetable pathways.
372
373   In general, the limitations of our study are that it is based on nuclear RNA which may reflect a
374   fraction of biological changes, and that cell viability and isolating nuclei from cells are
375   challenging. In addition, for meal consumption, we were unable to analyze responses in
376   individual mice but due the number of cells recovered from each mouse DVC, pooling was the
377   most amenable option in our pipeline.
378
As the amount of snRNA-Seq data performed on the DVC continues to grow, there is a need
for a common, scalable label set that can be applied to new studies and integrate new
sequencing data. To develop such a label set, we started with a *de novo* DVC atlas, we
generated three layers of cellular granularity for both neural and non-neuronal cell types. Then,
using the treeArches pipeline(*40*) we harmonized our snRNA-Seq labels with the Ludwig
dataset(*2*) and increased our cellular granularity from three to four layers of resolution. This
approach of manual curation and harmonization enhanced the reach of our cell atlas to capture
the complexity of the DVC neurons since not all groups seem to contain easily delineable
subgroups of cells. For example, eleven of the labels incorporated into our cell hierarchy in this
pipeline belong to the monoaminergic neuronal class, which seem to encompass multiple
subgroups of specialized cells. We further constructed the rodent DVC cell atlas which resulted
in a fifth layer of cell identity to the monoaminergic M3 neurons. Although the number of
identities increases as layers are more specific, this gives this unified atlas greater adaptability
to different research needs. Additionally, our labels can be accurately harmonized with new
databases regardless of size and new DVC snRNA-Seq data can be added to the tree to
generate new branches. Thus, our unified rodent DVC atlas is highly amenable to future
research elucidating new biologic and therapeutic insights into DVC cell types.

Materials and methods

Experimental design

To generate a snRNA-Seq based atlas of the mouse dorsal vagal complex (DVC), we isolated the DVC from 30 adult C57BL/6J mice and subjected them to 10x Genomics-based single-nuclei RNA barcoding and sequencing. Mice were either fasted overnight (n=5), fasted overnight and then refed 2 hours prior to euthanasia (n=10), fed ad libitum (n=5), injected with LiCl (n=5) or injected with vehicle (n=5). Conserved cell clusters across these groups were then identified.

Animals

All animals were bred in the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine at the University of Michigan and the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. Procedures performed were approved by the University of Michigan Committee on the Use and Care of Animals, in accordance with Association for the Assessment and Approval of Laboratory Animal Care and National Institutes of Health guidelines. Alternatively, procedures were approved by the animal care committee of McGill University.

Mice for sn-RNA sequencing assay

Wild-type C57BL/6J mice (Jackson laboratories) were given ad libitum access to food (Purina Lab Diet 5001) and water in temperature-controlled (22°C) rooms on a 12-hour light-dark cycle with daily health checks. Mice were euthanized by isoflurane anesthesia and decapitated, then the brain was removed from the skull and aligned in a brain matrix. The cerebellar cortex was removed and the DVC was microdissected using AP-centric targeting and flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Frozen tissue was stored at -80°C until use.

For assessment of feeding-related gene expression, mice were either ad libitum fed or food was removed at the onset of the dark cycle and the animals were fasted overnight. Animals were then euthanized the next morning under ad libitum fed or fasting conditions. A subset of fasted animals (n=5) were provided food and allowed to refeed for 2 hours prior to euthanasia.

Mice for *in-situ* hybridization assays

Mice were provided with ad libitum access to food (Purina Lab Diet 5001) and water in temperature-controlled (22°C) rooms on a 12 h light-dark cycle with daily health status checks. C57BL/6J mice (Jackson laboratories) were euthanized by isoflurane anesthesia followed by CO_2 asphyxiation. Mice were then trans-cardially perfused with phosphate buffered saline for 3 minutes followed by 5 minutes perfusion with 10% formalin. Brain tissue was then collected

and postfixed for 24 hours in 10% formalin before transfer into 30% sucrose for a minimum of
24 hours. Brains were then sectioned as 30 μm thick, free floating sections.

Rats
Wild-type Sprague Dawley rats (Charles River) were provided with given access to food (Purina
Lab Diet 5001) and water in temperature-controlled (22°C) rooms on a 12-hour light-dark cycle
with daily health checks. Rats were euthanized by intraperitoneal injections of pentobarbital
and decapitated, then the brain was removed from the skull and aligned in a brain matrix. The
cerebellar cortex was removed and the DVC was dissected out in an AP-centric manner then
flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Frozen tissue was stored at -80°C until use.

Isolation of nuclei from DVC tissue
Frozen tissue (from 2 to 3 mixed sex mice of the same treatment or 1 rat per sample) was
homogenized in Lysis Buffer (EZ Prep Nuclei Kit, Sigma-Aldrich) with Protector RNAase
Inhibitor (Sigma-Aldrich) and filtered through a 30mm MACS strainer (Miltenyi). Filtered
samples were centrifuged at 500 rcf for 5 minutes at 4°C, and pelleted nuclei were
resuspended in fresh-made wash buffer (10 mM Tris Buffer, pH 8.0, 5 mM KCl, 12.5 mM MgCl2,
1% BSA with RNAse inhibitor) before undergoing a second filtration and centrifugation. The
pelleted nuclei were resuspended in wash buffer with propidium iodide (Sigma-Aldrich) and
underwent FACS sorting on a MoFlo Astrios Cell Sorter to remove debris. PI+ nuclei were
collected and centrifuged at 100 rcf for 5 minutes at 4°C and resuspended in wash buffer to
obtain a concentration of 750-1,200 nuclei/μL in preparation for sequencing.

Single-nuclei RNA-sequencing
Library preparation was handled by the Advanced Genomics Core at the University of
Michigan. RT mix was added to target approximately 10,000 nuclei recovered per sample and
loaded onto the 10× Chromium Controller chip. The Chromium Single Cell 3′ Library and Gel
Bead Kit v3, Chromium Chip B Single Cell kit, and Chromium i7 Multiplex Kit were used for
subsequent RT, cDNA amplification, and library preparation, as instructed by the
manufacturer. Libraries were sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 (pair ended with read
lengths of 150 nt).

Processing of the snRNA-seq files
From the snRNA-seq, we obtained four FASTQ files (two per sequencing lane, containing
forward and reverse sequences respectively) per mouse treatment and two files with the
forward and reverse sequences for the rat samples. We pre-processed the murine FASTQ files
using either CellRanger 5.0.1 with inclusion of introns or CellRanger 7.0.1 with default

parameters (which include intronic sequences) to align sequencing reads to the murine
genome(*21*). We aligned to the *Mus musculus* refdata-gex-mm10-2020-A reference genome.
For the rat files, we used CellRanger 3.0.1 with no introns inclusion and aligned using the *Rattus*
norvegicus genome assembly Rnor_6.0(*21*). We obtained 110,167 and 13,360 cells from the
murine and rat experiments, respectively. In addition to these two datasets, we also used the
following steps to process the murine Dowsett dataset(*18*) publicly available as a raw gene
expression matrix set of files. We processed the gene expression matrices in R(*62*) with Seurat
v5 and SeuratObject v5 to remove low quality cells(*63*). For processing and analysis, R
v.4.3.1(*62*) was used. We filtered cells with ≥500 number of genes mapped and >1.22 RNA
unique molecular identifiers (UMIs) counts/genes mapped ratio (based on the first 2
percentiles per sample) (**Table S10**). Subsequently, we merged the data per treatment,
calculated the median RNA content of clusters at resolution 1.0 and those below the first
quartile of the median distribution were removed (**Table S11**). Additionally, we used
DoubletFinder v.2.0.3 based on the expected doublets rates by 10X Genomics after adjusting
for homotypic doublets modeled as the sum of squared annotation frequencies(*64*) (**Table**
S12). On each iteration we processed the data with libraries scaled to 10,000 UMIs per cell
and log-normalized. We identified the most variable genes computing a bin Z-score for
dispersion based on 20 bins average expression. We regressed UMI counts and used
principal component (PC) analysis for dimensionality reduction on to the top 2,000 most
variable genes. We used the first 30 PCs for *k*-nearest neighbors clustering and for uniform
manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) projections using Seurat v5(*63*) default
parameters. Murine samples integration in a single matrix was done with Harmony(*65*), after
which clustering and UMAP projections were performed using the harmony embeddings
instead of PCs.
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<u>Mapping of our murine data to existing brain databases</u>
We mapped the resulting murine integrated high quality singlets to the celldex v1.12.0 built-in
mouse RNA-seq reference and other four mouse databases(*37, 66-68*) (**Table S1**) using
SingleR v2.4.1(*69*) and scRNAseq v2.16.0(*70*) packages in R(*62*). Since each database has
its own cell type nomenclature, in our murine dataset we established a 'likely-cell type' to be
unanimous among all databases, for example if all databases labeled a cell as 'neuron'. We
initially labeled the cells with conflicting or unassigned label by one or more databases as
'unknown'. In order to confirm the cell type of all the cells labeled and to identify the unknown
cell identities, we mapped 473 markers from the literature. For this, the average expression per
marker gene was obtained on scaled data for each cluster at resolution 1.0 (i.e. 48 clusters)
(**Table S2**). We also manually visualized UMAP projections from all these markers in our
dataset. Some clusters (e.g. cluster 27) showed in the previous step to contain cells belonging
to different cell types, so we subset and reprocessed these clusters using the Harmony

embeddings to assign their cell identity based on marker expression at the smallest resolution
that allowed to separate them (**Fig.S5**).

<u>Assigning high resolution clustering-based cell identity in the murine dataset</u>
In the murine dataset, for all non-neuronal clusters at resolution 1.0 gene expression markers
were obtained using the FindConservedMarkers function from Seurat v5(*63*) package in R(*62*).
The function was run using the MAST algorithm(*71*) on scaled data with a log fold-change (FC)
threshold of 0.25. Only upregulated marker genes detected on 40% of all cells in that cluster,
were retained. Since the FindConservedMarkers gives a log2FC output per sample, we
calculated the average log2FC across samples and the proportion of samples for which a gene
had an adjusted p-value ≤0.05. A marker gene was considered as such if it had an average
log2FC>1 across samples and was significant (i.e. had an adjusted p-value ≤0.05) in more
than 80% of the samples. Furthermore, neurons were subset, reprocessed and subjected to
new clustering through Seurat v5(*63*). We obtained the gene markers per cluster at resolution
1.0 as described. We named the clusters based on the known functions of the
upregulated/downregulated genes (e.g. myelinating oligodendrocytes), peculiarities of the cell
groups (e.g. Ca^+-permeable astrocytes) or their upregulated gene expression markers if the
previous methods were unsuitable (e.g. Ano2 neurons) (**Table S5**). All visualizations, unless
otherwise stated, were done using ggplot2 v3.5.0 and ComplexHeatmap v2.18.0 packages in
R(*62*).

<u>Oligodendrocytes trajectory inference</u>
We subset the oligodendrocytes (i.e. pre-myelinating, myelinating intermediate and
myelinating) in our murine dataset and placed each cell on an inferred cellular trajectory using
their transcriptomic data in R(*62*). We used the SCORPIUS v1.0.9 package(*72*) with default
parameters to perform dimensionality reduction by PCA on log-normalized counts and to
obtain the trajectory image, with a random seed of 1,000. We additionally performed the
analysis on the Harmony embeddings from the original data integration.

<u>Gene expression files format interconversions</u>
To convert Seurat ('RDS') DVC datasets to 'h5ad' format and vice versa, we used reticulate
v1.35.0(*73*) and anndata 0.7.5.6(*74*) packages in R(*62*) with import of scipy, scanpy, numpy
and anndata modules from Python v3.9(*75*). To convert .csv and .tsv datasets (i.e. the Ludwig
dataset(*2*) and the cortex/hippocampus database(*33*)), we converted those to 'h5ad' format in
Python v3.9(*75*).

 Murine DVC hierarchy construction

We converted our murine labeled count matrix to h5ad. We used treeArches(*40*) in Python
v3.9(*75*) to create a manual tree using the three layers of cellular granularity in our database.
We reprocessed the samples using the treeArches pipeline(*40*) to normalize the count data
(counts normalized per cell and then log-normalized), identify the top 2,500 most variable
genes and integrate the samples using scVI(*76*). This reference latent space obtained after
integration was used to generate the UMAP embeddings. We trained our manual tree based
on the cell identity layer-3 labels using default parameters.

We subset the Ludwig dataset to match the initial 2,500 most variable genes from our datasets
and performed surgery to incorporate labels from the Ludwig dataset(*2*). The two layers of
granularity established by Ludwig(*2*) were combined in the variable "identity_layer3" to contain
the highest granularity of cell identity for neurons and non-neuronal cell types. Next, we
normalized the count data as specified for our murine dataset, and mapped the Ludwig dataset
on the reference latent space using scArches. We then used the learn_tree function with default
parameters for hierarchical progressive learning from scHPL v1.0.5(*41*) which yielded a
hierarchy of harmonized cell labels from both datasets. We printed all trees using matplotlib
v3.8.2(*77*) and scHPL v1.0.5(*41*). All steps performed and scripts used in this phase are
available in the GitHub repository: https://github.com/LabSabatini/DVC_cell_atlas.

Corroboration of the validity of our murine cell hierarchy using treeArches prediction modality
Using treeArches(*40*) and its dependencies in Python v3.9(*75*) we compared the original cell
labels in our and Ludwig datasets with the resulting prediction of the label for each cell using
our learned hierarchy. We used the predict_labels function from scHPL v1.0.5(*41*) with default
parameters, and the latent representation obtained when we constructed our murine hierarchy.
We compared the original and the predicted labels through a heatmap visualization. Next, we
predicted the labels of new data, a murine dataset by Dowsett which comprises the NTS, a
part of the DVC(*18*). We processed the Dowsett data similarly to the Ludwig dataset and
obtained the query latent representation. We then used the predict_labels function from scHPL
v1.0.5(*41*) with default parameters to transfer the labels in our hierarchy to the Dowsett dataset
based on gene expression similarity among the 2,500 initial most variable genes. We then
compared the resulting labels from this prediction to the manual mapping of our cell identities
based on maker expression (**Table S3**) using UMAP embeddings in R(*62*).

Labeling of our rat DVC dataset
We processed our rat dataset as previously described to obtain high-quality singlets. Based
on the three layers of cell identity that we created to label the murine data from our experiments,
we calculated the average expression of the top 5 marker genes for each of the layer-3

identities (except duplicated genes and mouse-specific genes) on every rat cluster to identify
those that were equivalent and could be labeled as the murine data (**Tables S5** and **S6**). Since
this dataset is smaller than the mouse data, we decided to use clusters at resolution of 2.0 to
capture more heterogeneity and delineate better the non-neuronal cell populations. Clusters
27 and 29 were further subset and reclustered since we found them to contain a mix of
endothelial cells, mural cells, tanycytes and fibroblasts based on marker expression. The
smallest resolution that allowed to separate these populations was used to label the cells.
Neurons were also subset and we mapped the murine neuronal classes markers to resolution
2.0 markers which were manually curated to delineate better the different populations within
them. For all cell identities, and because we only applied one treatment to the rats (i.e. fed ad
libitum), we used the FindMarkers function from Seurat v5(*63*) package in R(*62*) to obtain gene
expression markers of each rat cell population. The function was run using the MAST
algorithm(*71*) with same parameters used for the murine data (**Table S7**).
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<u>Construction of the rodent DVC hierarchy</u>
We then integrated our rat labeled dataset to the murine samples in Python v3.9(*75*) using the
initial top 2,500 most variable genes initially defined in our mouse data. Incorporation of rat
labels was done as previously described for the Ludwig dataset using the learn_tree function
for hierarchical progressive learning from scHPL v1.0.5(*41*). The cell populations that were not
rejected but placed at the bottom of the tree were moved manually to their belonging parent
branches (**Fig.8A**; **Fig.S10**). For example, the 'smooth_muscle_rat' label was moved to be a
children node of the mural cells node (**Fig.8A**). If the parent branch did not exist, we created
it. For example, the 'immunity_related_rat' label belonged to a new rat neuronal class, therefore,
we incorporated this parent node within the neurons node and then we moved the
'immunity_related_rat' label to be a children node (**Fig.8A**). After manual curation, we re-trained
the tree. We printed all trees using matplotlib v3.8.2(*77*) and scHPL v1.0.5(*41*). All steps
performed and scripts used in this phase are available at the GitHub repository
https://github.com/LabSabatini/DVC_cell_atlas for reproducibility.
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<u>Mapping gene expression in other brain-site snRNA-seq datasets</u>
We downloaded labeled datasets from two brain regions different from the DVC: the
HypoMap(*29*) and the cortex/hippocampus databases(*33*). For the HypoMap data, we subset
the database by randomly selecting cells belonging to 32 included hypothalamic samples. We
processed the datasets in Seurat v5(*63*) as previously described and obtained Harmony(*65*)
embeddings to obtain UMAP projections. The labels used in the visualization are the original
curated labels provided on each dataset. Neurons were further subset from the processed
datasets and reprocessed as previously described. The cortex/hippocampus dataset was

processed in the same manner, except that since it mainly contained astrocytes, these were
subset.

Differential gene expression analysis in murine treatments
We subset the murine dataset neurons and glial cells at layer 2 granularity of identity and
obtained differential gene expression for pair-wise comparison of treatments (i.e. refed versus
ad libitum fed, refed versus fasted and LiCl versus vehicle injected mice). We used the
FindMarkers function from Seurat v5(*63*) package in R(*62*) using the MAST algorithm(*71*) on
log-normalized counts with a minimal log fold-change threshold of 0.1 and default parameters.
The number of cells per treatment can be found in **Table S13**.

Immunofluorescent staining
Free-floating brain sections from mouse and rat were washed with PBS, three times for five
minutes. The sections were then blocked for one hour in PBS containing 0.1% Triton X-100 and
3% normal donkey serum (Fisher Scientific). The sections were incubated overnight at room
temperature with Goat anti-PDGFRA (Invitrogen, CAT#, 1:200), HuC/HuD (Invitrogen, A-21271,
1:30). The following day, sections were washed and incubated for two hours with Alexflour488
and Cy3 conjugated secondary antibody (Jackson immunoresearch, 1:500). Tissues were then
washed three times in PBS before being mounted onto glass slides, covered in mounting media
(Fluoromount-G, Southern Biotechnology) and coverslipped. Imaging was performed using an
Olympus BX61 microscope and a Zeiss LSM780-NLO laser scanning confocal microscope
equipped with IR-OPO lasers at the Molecular Imaging Platform, Research Institute of the
McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC), Montreal, CA.

In-situ hybridization and imaging
Brain sections containing the DVC from four wild-type C57BL/6J mice obtained as previously
described, were fixed on glass slides and stored at -20°C for no more than 36 hours. We
followed the manufacturer's ACD 323100 user manual for the RNAscope® Multiplex
Fluorescent Reagent Kit v2 Assay for fixed frozen tissue samples. Briefly, we rinsed the slides
with 1X PBS and incubated them at room temperature (RT) for 10 minutes after adding ~1-2
drops of H_2O_2 per section. We removed the H_2O_2 from slides and rinsed them twice with distilled
water (diH$_2$O). Next, we submerged the slides in 200 mL of hot diH$_2$O for 10 seconds followed
by 200mL of RNAscope® 1X Target Retrieval Reagent for 5 minutes, using a steamer with lid.
After briefly transferring the slides to RT diH$_2$O, we submerged them in 100% ethanol for 3
minutes and allowed them to air dry. We applied approximately 1-2 drops of RNAscope®
Protease III to each section and incubated them at 40°C for 30 minutes in a HybEZ™ oven with

diH$_2$O wet paper in the tray. After rinsing the slides with diH$_2$O, we hybridized the probes at
40°C for 2 hours.

From this point on, we performed all steps by incubating the slides at 40°C in the HybEZ™
oven with humid tray followed by rinse using RNAscope® 1X Wash Buffer. We applied
approximately 1-2 drops of RNAscope® reagents AMP1, AMP2, AMP3 and then intercalated
HRP channel (15 minutes), fluorophore (30 minutes) and HRP blocker (15 minutes) for each
channel present in the probe mix. The mix of probes used for the *Th*/*Cck* co-expression assay
was RNAscope® Mm-Th-C2 (317621-C2) and Mm-Cck-C3 (402271-C3) diluted in probe
diluent as specified in the user manual. For *Hcrt* we used RNAscope® Mm-Hcrt-C2 (490461-
C2) and for *Agrp*, Mm-Agrp (400711), in a dilution as specified in the user manual. The used
fluorophores were Cy3 for *Cck* and *Hcrt* (1:1,500), and Cy5 for *Th* and *Agrp* (1:1,000) diluted
in RNAscope® TSA buffer. DAPI dye (1:1,000) was applied at the end of the assay, and the
samples were stored for ~48 hours at -4°C, protected from light, before imaging. We imaged
the sections using a Zeiss LSM780-NLO laser scanning confocal microscope with IR-OPO
lasers at the Molecular Imaging Platform at the RI-MUHC, Montreal, CA.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank authors of the Ludwig and the Dowsett publications for making publicly
available their datasets. We thank M. Myers Jr. for the valuable help provided; S. Hebert and
S. Bailey for their insights and suggestions in regards to the bioinformatic analysis; members
of the Kokoeva lab for their insights on the *in-situ* hybridization and immunohistochemistry
pipelines; S. Feng and M. Fu for technical assistance for images acquisition at the Molecular
Imaging Platform at the RI-MUHC, and A. Duensing for assistance with relevant file transfer.
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Funding

This research was also supported by grants from Canadian Institutes for Health Research
(PJT180590 for PVS and 202010PJT for MK) the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research
Council of Canada (RGPIN-2022-03390). HJM was funded in part by the Canada First
Research Excellence Fund and Fonds de recherche du Quebec, awarded to the Healthy
Brains, Healthy Lives initiative.
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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Data and materials availability

All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper and/or the Supplementary Materials. FASTQ files have been deposited in the NCBI Sequence Read Archive (Accession: PRJNA1161292). In addition, our murine and rat datasets have been made available for visualization and analysis through the Broad Institute Single Cell Portal (https://singlecell.broadinstitute.org/single_cell/study/SCP2773). The labels from our cell atlas can be transferred to new datasets through treeArches using the available hosted Jupyter Notebook in Google Colab for the mouse data (https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1v983gcQxIwBN-4lGx18JXPweZoKqMbwX#scrollTo=SJTZppZWa-63), and for the rodent data (https://colab.research.google.com/drive/10tAmfRosMscuBak6wHX80TgdEBsHeWQB#scrollTo=941ab5c1-8910-4e67-a632-4d18601d45b4). Original code used for constructing the murine and rodent cell hierarchies and predicting labels using treeArches are available in the GitHub repository https://github.com/LabSabatini/DVC_cell_atlas.

 Figure legends

 Figure 1: Two layers of cell identity for the murine DVC cells from snRNA-seq

 data

 A. Adult C57BL/6J mice were subjected to 10X Genomics-based snRNA barcoding
 and sequencing after dissection of their DVC (n=30). **B.** Labeled UMAP plot of the
 mouse DVC (cells n=99,740) at the lowest resolution (layer 1) including 4 cell
 identities, and **C.** the cell class (layer 2) including 18. **D.** Heatmap of the main marker
 genes (average log2FC expression >80 percentiles of upregulated genes) for each
 neuronal class of the mouse DVC (MAST algorithm; neurons n= 48,131; adj. p<0.05).
 Each column is one cell and each row is one marker gene. **E.** Stacked barplot of log-
 normalized counts of genes for 10 transcripts (i.e. *Gad2*, *Gad1*, *Slc6a5*, *Slc17a6*,
 Slc18a2, *Addc*, *Sst*, *Npy*, *Cck* and *Slc5a7*) related to transmission/release of 8
 neurotransmitters and neuropeptides, by neuronal cell class. Each bar represents one
 neuron (n=48,131).

 snRNA-seq=single-nuclei RNA-sequencing; DVC=dorsal vagal complex; FACs=fluorescence-
 activated cell sorting; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; FC=fold-change;
 adj.=adjusted; GABA=gamma-aminobutyric acid

 Figure 2: Third layer of non-neuronal murine DVC cell identities

 A. Labeled UMAP plot of the mouse DVC with the 15 non-neuronal cell identities shown
 (total cells n=99,740; non-neuronal cells n=51,609). **B.** UMAP plot showing scaled
 expression of *Gfap*, *Gria2* and *Kcnj3* genes in Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes (circled; total
 cells n=99,740; Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes n=1,719). **C.** Barplot of log-normalized
 expression of six genes in oligodendrocytes (premyelinating n=267; myelinating
 intermediate n=25,692; myelinating n= 6,170). Only premyelinating oligodendrocytes
 lack expression of *Mobp*, involved in myelin formation. Reduction of *Synpr* and *Opalin*
 expression is observed as *Anln* and *Aff3* increase in myelinating oligodendrocytes. **D.**
 Balloon plot of the main cell types of non-neuronal cells and neurons showing average
 log-normalized counts of their marker genes (MAST algorithm; adj. p<0.05). Markers
 shown are upregulated genes in >80% of cells per group with average log2FC>4, or
 upregulated in >70% of cells with average log2FC>8.

 DVC=dorsal vagal complex; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; APNTS=Area
 postrema and nucleus of the solitary tract; OL=oligodendrocyte; OPC=oligodendrocyte precursor cell;
 Smc=smooth muscle cells

 Figure 3: Neuronal populations of the murine DVC

 A. Labeled UMAP plot with the neuronal layer 3 cell identities (neurons n=48,131). **B.**
 Monoamine class balloon plot showing average log-normalized expression of marker

genes for each cell identity (MAST algorithm; M0 cells n=770, M1 cells n=551, M2 cells n=666 and M3 cells n=2,593; adj. p<0.05), and **C.** heatmap of expression of monoamine related genes. In the heatmap, each column represents one cell and each row, one gene. **D.** Barplot of *Gcg* average log-normalized expression by neuronal cell identity. **E.** UMAP plot showing the expression of leptin receptor and prolactin receptor genes in neurons. The GLP1 cluster is highlighted (GLP1 cells n=153). **F.** Stacked barplot of the proportion of cells expressing one or more GABA-related genes (i.e. *Slc32a1*, *Gad1*, *Gad2*) and glutamate-related genes (i.e. *Slc17a6*, *Slc17a7*). The proportion of cells per cell group co-expressing GABA and glutamate associated genes are shown in purple. Only cells with log-normalized counts >0 were considered to express the genes.

DVC=dorsal vagal complex; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; Res.=resolution; GABA=gamma-aminobutyric acid

Figure 4: *Th* and *Cck* co-expression in the DVC

A. UMAP plot of neuronal *Th* and *Cck* scaled expression and cells with co-expression of both genes (neurons n=48,131; *Th*-expressing neurons n=764; *Cck*-expressing neurons n=3,821; *Th*/*Cck* co-expressing neurons n=80). On the right plot, cells highlighted in magenta are the co-expressing neurons. The three neuronal cell identities in which the majority of nuclear co-expression of *Th* and *Cck* mRNA is found, as well as the percentage of total co-expressing neurons, are shown. **B.** *In-situ* hybridization of *Cck* and *Th* mRNA in coronal mouse DVC sections corresponding to -7.2mm and -7.56mm relative to bregma showing overlap of *Th*/*Cck*. Some of the cells with overlapping signal are highlighted with an arrow in the enhanced merged image.

DVC=dorsal vagal complex; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection

Figure 5: The murine DVC cell hierarchy

A. Dendrogram of the harmonized hierarchy which incorporates cells from Ludwig and our datasets. Orange cell identities are a fourth layer of cell identity resolution obtained as some of the Ludwig dataset identities are subgroups of our original cell identities at their highest resolution. Magenta labels represent layer 3 of cellular granularity. These two layers are considered high-resolution. **B.** UMAP plot of the integration between our and Ludwig datasets using treeArches (cells n=171,868). **C.** Pairwise heatmap showing the proportion of cells originally labeled in this study and in Ludwig dataset (y-axis), predicted to belong to each identity group (x-axis) by treeArches using our learned harmonized hierarchy. In blue are the labels considered non-specific for a high-resolution cell identity (n=2,324; 1.3%). In pink are the cell labels for rejected cells, therefore not assigned any identity by treeArches (n=3,108; 1.8%).

D. UMAP plot of the Dowsett dataset labeled through treeArches using the learned
harmonized hierarchy representation from our murine DVC atlas. The 'unlabeled' cells
include those rejected by the algorithm and thus without an assigned identity, and
those with an unspecific layer-3/4 label. For example, some were labeled 'neuron' or
'monoamine-class' but without a high-resolution cell identity.
UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; APNTS=Area postrema and nucleus of the
solitary tract; Lnc=long non-coding; OL=oligodendrocyte; OPC=oligodendrocyte precursor cell;
Neur=neuronal; COE=collier/Olf1/EBF transcription factor
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Figure 6: The snRNA-seq derived cell identities for the rat DVC
A. Schematic of the pipeline for snRNA-seq of the rat DVC. **B.** Labeled UMAP plots of
the low resolution (i.e. layers 1 and 2 of granularity) and **C.** high resolution (i.e. layer
3) cell identities in our rat DVC dataset (cells n=12,167). We labeled four layer-1,
nineteen layer-2 and fifty-two layer-3 cell identities. Those labels novel to this dataset
and not present in the murine data are highlighted with a pink ♦ symbol. We found a
small cluster (cells n=35) that we could not corroborate its identity at any layer of
cellular granularity that we named 'unspecific'.
snRNA-seq=single-nuclei RNA-sequencing; DVC=dorsal vagal complex; FACs=fluorescence-
activated cell sorting; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; APNTS=Area postrema
and nucleus of the solitary tract; Lnc=long non-coding; OL=oligodendrocyte; OPC=cursor cell;
Neur=neuronal; COE=collier/Olf1/EBF transcription factors
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Figure 7: Two novel neuronal classes specific to the rat DVC
A. Balloon plots comparing the expression of the marker genes of the two novel
neuronal classes found in rats (cells n=12,167): immunity-akin and the ortus-akin
classes (framed in gray). Expression is shown across the layer-2 rat cell identities.
Based on the expression of two DVC neuronal markers *Mtus2* and *Syt1*, we
corroborated those cell classes contain neurons, and not microglial or
vascular/endothelial cells (In orange and red, respectively). The immunity-akin class
(n=48 neurons) shares high expression of *Cst3*, *Inpp5d*, *Csf1r*, *Slco2b1* and *Lyn* with
microglial cells. Meanwhile, the ortus-akin class (n=34 neurons) shows higher overlap
of gene expression markers (i.e. *Arhgap31*, *Pdgfra*, *Bcas1*, *Ppfibp1* and *Itga9*) with
OPCs (highlighted with a ♦ symbol). Mouse cell identities (cells n=99,740) do not
show these expression patterns (framed in black). Average expression was calculated
using log-normalized counts. **B.** Violin plots of scaled expression of 10 genes (i.e.
Glp1r, Gfral, Calcr, Ramp3, Gipr, Lepr, Cckar, Cckbr ,Mc4r and *Prlr*) coding for
metabolism-associated receptors in the Pdgfra and immunity-related rat neurons
(Pdgfra neurons n=34; immunity-related neurons n=48). Pdgfra neurons are the only

layer-3 identity within the ortus-akin class. An overlapping dotplot shows one dot per
cell. **C.** Immunofluorescent detection of PDGFRA in mouse and rat DVC. Pink
arrowheads point to cells with OPC morphology, white arrowheads point to cells with
fibroblast morphology and the yellow arrowhead points to cells with neural
morphology.   **D.** Co-staining for PDGFRA and HuC/D in rat DVC with high
magnification (right images) of area postrema PDGFRA-expressing cells . Yellow
arrowheads indicate colocalization of HuC/D and PDGFRA.

DVC=dorsal vagal complex; OPC=oligodendrocyte precursor cell; AP=area postrema; NTS=nucleus
of the solitary tract; PDGFRA= Platelet-derived growth factor receptor A; CC=central canal

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Figure 8: The rodent DVC cell hierarchy
A. UMAP plot of the integration between the murine hierarchy and our rat dataset using
treeArches (cells n=184,035). **B.** Dendrogram of the harmonized hierarchy of our
labeled rat dataset and the murine DVC hierarchy. We highlight the incorporated rat
cell identities (blue and magenta). Those in magenta are the novel rat identities
established by us. The immunity-akin and the ortus-akin classes were not found in the
murine datasets. The M3 and M5 rat identities are subgroups of a Ludwig layer 4 cell
identity, therefore yields a fifth layer within the monoamine neuronal class.

UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; DVC=dorsal vagal complex; APNTS=Area
postrema and nucleus of the solitary tract; Lnc=long non-coding; OL=oligodendrocyte;
OPC=oligodendrocyte precursor cell; Neur=neuronal; COE=collier/Olf1/EBF transcription factors

1403

Figure 9: Meal-related transcriptional changes in the mouse DVC
A. Horizontal barplots of the number of differential genes between refed and ad libitum
fed, and refed and fasted mice in glial cells and neurons per layer-2 cell identity (MAST
algorithm on log-normalized counts; adj. p<0.05; refed neurons n=14,396; refed glial
cells n=18,019; ad libitum fed neurons n= 9,885; ad libitum fed glial cells n=4,610;
fasted neurons n=8,829; fasted glial cells n=12,496). **B.** Venn Diagrams of the
differentially expressed genes in magnaclass 1 and magnaclass 2 neurons between
refed and ad libitum fed, and between refed and fasted treatments (MAST algorithm
on log-normalized counts). The number of overlapping log2FC≥1 upregulated genes
between the two magnaclasses per treatment are highlighted. The treatment-induced
changes in only one cell class are shown as non-overlapping. The percentage is
based on the total differential genes surveyed per comparison. **C.** Volcano plots of the
differential genes in neurons belonging to the magnaclass 1 and the magnaclass 2
between refed and ad libitum fed, and **D.** refed and fasted treatments (MAST algorithm
on log-normalized counts; adj. p<0.05). Each point represents one gene. Only genes
upregulated or downregulated with a log2FC≥2 are labeled. Since we considered a

minimum log fold-change of 0.1 between treatments per cell group, those genes with
very low variance (i.e. log fold-change<0.1) were excluded from the differential
expression analysis, therefore a variable number of genes are shown per comparison
per identity, in the volcano plots.
DVC=dorsal vagal complex; vr=versus; OPC=oligodendrocyte precursor cell;   FC=fold-change;
adj.=adjusted; NS=non-significant
1426

Supplementary Files

Figure S1: Mapping of *Gad2* and VGLUT2 in neurons

UMAP plot of the murine neurons (n=48,131) showing scaled log-normalized expression of **A.**

Gad2, a gene related to GABA synthesis and transmission, **B.** and VGLUT2, a glutamate

transporter. Cells with higher expression of *Gad2* belong to the neuronal magnaclass1, while

cells with higher expression of VGLUT2 (*Slc17a6*) to the magnaclass2 (both highlighted in

yellow in adjacent plots). However, the expression is not mutually exclusive among both

classes, nor every neuron belonging to each class express the respective transcript.

UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; GABA=gamma-aminobutyric acid; VGLUT2=vesicular

glutamate transporter-2

1437

Figure S2: Mapping of DVC populations in a murine hypothalamic dataset

UMAP plots of a randomly selected subset of the HypoMap database (cells n=76,260; samples

n=32) labeled **A.** by sample and **B.** by original curated cell class. **C.** Balloon plot showing

average expression of the top 5 upregulated gene markers of each neuronal DVC class (MAST

algorithm; adj. p<0.05) in the neurons of the HypoMap subset (n=45,679). We selected the

neuronal curated class cells from our initial HypoMap subset and reprocessed them, including

clustering through *k*-nearest neighbors algorithm using the first 30 PCs and Harmony reduction

embeddings. Resulting clusters at resolution 0.5 are shown. Average expression in the

HypoMap neurons was calculated using log-normalized counts. **D.** Set of UMAP plots showing

scaled expression of three genes (i.e. *Gfap*, *Gria2* and *Kcnj3*) which have a specific pattern of

expression in murine DVC Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes. The astrocytic population is circled in

purple (astrocytes n=7,629) and while *Gfap* and *Gria2* expression is in agreement to what we

observe in Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes, in the hypothalamic astrocytes *Kcnj3* is not expressed.

E. Set of UMAP plots of expression of *Aldh1a1* and *Stk39* which are markers of p-fibroblasts

and s-fibroblasts in the DVC. The hypothalamic fibroblasts are circled in magenta (fibroblasts

n=300).

DVC=dorsal vagal complex; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; AMPAr=α-amino-3-hydroxy-

5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic acid receptor; GIRK1=G protein-coupled inwardly rectifying potassium channel 1;

OPC=Oligodendrocyte precursor cell; NG=*Ng2* glial cell

1457

Figure S3: Mapping of DVC astrocytes in a murine cortical/hippocampal dataset

UMAP plots of a cortical/hippocampal astrocytes dataset by **A.** sample, **B.** brain area and **C.**

original astrocyte type (cell n=1,811). **D.** Set of UMAP plots showing scaled expression of three

genes (i.e. *Gfap, Gria2* and *Kcnj3*) which have a specific pattern of expression in murine DVC

Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes. There is some overlap in *Gfap* and *Gria2* expression and almost no

expression of *Kcnj3*, different from what we observe in DVC Ca$^+$-permeable astrocytes.

1464

Figure S4: Trajectory inference of the oligodendrocyte lineage

Dotplot of the two principal components obtained through dimensionality reduction using the

main 50 principal components analysis on log-normalized gene expression data in

oligodendrocytes (cells n=32,129) **A.** merged and **B.** by sample, and on Harmony embeddings

in oligodendrocytes **C.** merged and **D.** by sample. Cellular trajectory was inferred using

SCORPIUS also on normalized gene expression data (**A.** and **B.**) and on the Harmony

embeddings (**C.** and **D.**), and drawn across the data points (black line). Each data point

represents one cell.

OL=oligodendrocyte

1474

Figure S5: Murine DVC clusters

A. UMAP plot of the mouse DVC clusters at resolution 1 (cells n=99,740). Cells from mice

exposed to 5 food and aversion-related treatments were integrated using the Harmony

algorithm in R and the resulting embeddings were used to calculate the clusters and UMAP

projections. We subset and re-clustered three clusters containing oligodendrocytes, vascular

cells and fibroblasts, respectively (highlighted). **B.** Violin plots of the two types of fibroblasts in

cluster 26, distinguished by *Skt39* (stress-response 's-fibroblasts') and *Aldh1a1* (perivascular

'p-fibroblasts') expression. Each data point represents one cell (s-fibroblasts n=244; p-

fibroblasts n=559). **C.** UMAP plot of subclusters from clusters 23 (oligodendrocytes) and **D.** 27

(vascular cells) using the Harmony embeddings. Gene expression markers for cell populations

were mapped (**Table S2**) and the smallest resolution that allowed to separate them was further

used to label the cells. Cells in subclusters 1 and 2 from cluster 23 were labeled

'premyelinating_OL' whilst subclusters 0 and 3 were labeled 'myelinating_intermediate_OL'. In

cluster 27, subcluster 7 was labeled 'pericyte', subcluster 4 was labeled 'smooth_muscle' and

the rest of the clusters were considered to be endothelial cells.

DVC=dorsal vagal complex; Res.=resolution; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection;

OL=oligodendrocyte; smc=smooth muscle cell.

1492

1493   Figure S6: Mapping of markers for reactive microglia

1494   UMAP plot of the microglia from the mouse DVC showing scaled log-normalized expression of

1495   *Cd5*, *Zbp1*, *Cxcl9* and *Cxcl10*. Microglia was subset and re-processed using the harmony

1496   integration embeddings to obtain the UMAP coordinates (n=2,787).

1497   UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; DVC=dorsal vagal complex

1498

Figure S7: Initial murine cell hierarchy using our samples

A. UMAP plot of the integration of our samples (based on the five mouse treatments

administered to mice prior to euthanasia; see **Methods**) using treeArches. There were two

cohorts of refed mice. **B.** UMAP plot of the fifty layer-3 cell identities obtained using the

treeArches pipeline. **C.** Dendrogram showing the initial hierachy of the three layers of cell
identity established by us in this study.

1508

<u>Figure S8: Incorporation of the Ludwig dataset to our initial hierarchy using treeArches</u>
A. Barplot of log-normalized expression of OPC markers (i.e. *Pdgfra*, *Cspg4*, *C1ql1*) and
premyelinating OL markers (i.e. *Bmp4*, *Fyn*) in the OPCs-labeled cells from the Ludwig dataset
(total cells n=1,770; cells expressing >1 marker gene n=1,104). Cells labeled as OPCs in the
Ludwig dataset are a mix of OPC and premyelinating OL. Some cells lack expression of the
five marker genes used in this plot, they are represented on the left side with an empty bar and
those expressing *Fyn*/*Bmp4* but not expressing the OPC markers are likely premyelinating OLs.
Cells were ordered using hierarchical clustering based on these five gene expression data
through the Ward's method in R. We only indicate the 'likely cell identity' for cells with
expression of the five marker genes. **B.** UMAP showing the manual mapping of Ludwig and
Dowsett neuronal clusters and identities in neurons from this study. We used the gene
expression markers for all clusters from Ludwig and Dowsett to identify which of our neurons
shared identity with those described in both publications. Only groups and clusters
successfully mapped manually are shown. The Ludwig identities are in black, Dowsett
identities are in blue and our identities are in purple. Most of neuronal clusters in both publicly
available datasets, are subgroups of our cell identities.

1528

<u>Figure S9: Rat DVC neurons</u>
A. Labeled UMAP plot with the neuronal layer 3 cell identities in our rat dataset (neurons
n=4,721). Neurons were subset and re-processed to obtain the UMAP coordinates. **B.** Violin
plots of scaled expression of 12 genes (i.e. *Gad2, Gad1, Slc6a5, Slc17a7, Slc17a6, Th, Ddc,*
Nos1, Sst, Npy, Cck and *Slc5a7*) related to transmission/release of GABA, glutamate,
monoamines, nitric oxide, somatostatin, neuropeptide-Y, cholecystokinin and acetylcholine in
the Pdgfra and immunity-related rat neurons (Pdgfra neurons n=34; immunity-related neurons
n=48). An overlapping dotplot shows one data point representing each cell.

1539

1540   <u>Figure S10: Dendrogram after incorporation of the rat dataset to the murine hierarchy</u>

1541   Dendrogram (i.e. tree) resulting from incorporating our rat dataset (cells n=12,167) to the

1542   existing murine DVC cell hierarchy using treeArches. The rat cell populations in red that did

1543   not show similarity with the previously existing murine identities are appended at the bottom

1544   by treeArches (shown in red).

1545

<u>Figure S11: Expression of *Agrp* and *Hcrt* in DVC neurons</u>

A. UMAP plots of the neurons (n=48,131) from our murine DVC dataset showing scaled

expression of *Agrp* and *Hcrt*. **B.** *In-situ* hybridization images of *Agrp* and *Hcrt* in the DVC show

no exonic mRNA. We included tissue sections of the arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus and

in the lateral hypothalamus as controls, and *Agrp* and *Hcrt* were present in these sites,

respectively. For each reaction, tissue from the same mouse was used through two different

sections, one including the DVC and one including the hypothalamic region. **C.** UMAP plots of

the Dowsett (n=8,288) and the Ludwig datasets neurons (n=49,392) showing scaled

expression of *Agrp* and *Hcrt*. **D.** Genome visualization of reads coverage in the *Agrp* and *Hcrt*

regions of the *Mus musculus* refdata-gex-mm10-2020-A reference from two of our mouse

sample sequencing replicates. Resulting BAM files from the original murine DVC FASTQ files

were obtained after processing. We visualized the reads from these BAM files that mapped to

the *Agrp* and *Hcrt* genes using IGV v2.16.1(*78*). The coverage of these genes (*Agrp* region:

chr8:105,566,180–105,582,268; *Hcrt* region: chr11:100,761,693–100,762,931) are shown in

gray. The majority of the reads mapped to the intronic regions of *Agrp*, and to the last part of

the 3'-end of exon 2 and the 3'-untranslated region of *Hcrt*. **E.** UMAP plot of rat DVC neurons

(n=4,721) showing scaled expression of *Agrp* and *Hcrt*. For all UMAP projections, neurons

from each dataset were subset based on our labeling for our murine and rat datasets, the

treeArches resulting labeling for the Dowsett dataset, and the original labeling from Ludwig

and collaborators. Then the neurons were processed using Seurat(*63*) and integrated using

Harmony(*65*), to yield the final UMAP embeddings.

<small>DVC=dorsal vagal complex; UMAP=uniform manifold approximation and projection; AP=area postrema;</small>

<small>NTS=nucleus of the solitary tract; ARH=arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus; 3v=third ventricle; ME=median</small>

<small>eminence; LH=lateral hypothalamus. BAM=binary alignment map</small>

1570

<u>Figure S12: Expression of metabolism-associated receptors in the DVC magnaclasses</u>

Violin plots of scaled expression of 10 genes (i.e. *Glp1r, Gfral, Calcr, Ramp3, Gipr, Lepr, Cckar,*

Cckbr ,Mc4r and *Prlr*) coding for metabolism-associated receptors in the magnaclass1 and

magnaclass2 neurons of the mouse DVC in fasted (magnaclass1 n=2,756; magnaclass2

n=2,789) and refed (magnaclass1 n=4,586; magnaclass2 n=4,423).

<small>DVC=dorsal vagal complex</small>

1577

1578 <u>Table S1: Murine brain databases used to map our unlabeled mouse dataset</u>

1579 We used four databases included in the scRNAseq v2.16.0(*34, 37, 66, 67, 70*) R package and

1580 the celldex v1.12.0 built-in mouse RNA-seq reference (which we called 'SingleR' database)

1581 using SingleR (*69*) function to transfer labels to our dataset in R(*62*). The name, brain area and

1582 reference in which each database was made public are specified.

1583

<u>Table S2: Literature-derived markers per central nervous system cell identity</u>

We thoroughly searched in the literature for established markers at the mRNA and/or protein

level. Some markers were found to be described for more than one cell population which are

specified in columns 'notes' and 'notes_2'. After initial labeling of our murine dataset with the

databases as described, we proceeded to obtain the average expression (on log-normalized

counts) of each gene coding for the markers for the labeled cells (i.e. astrocyte, endothelial,

microglia, neuron and oligodendrocyte) and unlabeled cells (i.e. unknown). We also calculated

the average expression for each cluster in our dataset, established during our processing

pipeline, at resolution 1.0.

1593

<u>Table S3: Literature-derived markers per central nervous system cell identity</u>

Breakdown of the cell identities (except neurons at layer 3 of cellular resolution) we established

and corroborating using a combination of markers surveyed in **Table S2** and additional markers

established using the FindConservedMarkers function from Seurat v5(*63*) package, indicating

a cell state derived from the literature. For example, 's_fibroblasts' were named after finding

high expression of *Stk39*, a stress-related marker(*35*).

1600

<u>Table S4: Expression of neurotransmitter-related genes in our murine neurons</u>

Expression of genes coding for neurotransmitter synthesis enzymes TH, DBH, TPH, GABA,

NOS, prohormone SST and primary neurotransmitter transporters VMAT2, VGLUT1, VGLUT2,

GLYT2 per neuron in our dataset. Expression and glutamate and GABA release are specified

as binary variables (i.e. 0=no expression; 1=expression) in the green and blue columns,

respectively. The percentile of the log-normalized expression is shown. ~55% of the neurons

display expression of genes related to the synthesis/release of >1 primary neurotransmitter.

1608

<u>Table S5: Description of our DVC layer-3 neuronal cell identities established in mice</u>

Neurons were subset and reprocessed before labeling at layer-3 granularity. The MAST

algorithm(*71*) was used through Seurat v5(*63*)on scaled data with a log fold-change threshold

of 0.25 and detection threshold on ≥40% of cells on each neuronal cluster at resolution 1.0. We

searched the resulting gene expression markers in the literature and compiled them. We then

based the names for our cell identities on these genes.

1615

1616 <u>Table S6: Expression of the murine DVC identity markers by rat DVC clusters</u>
1617 Average log-normalized expression of the top 5 gene expression markers of each of our murine
1618 layer-3 cell identities (except duplicated genes n=37, and mouse specific genes n=27; total
1619 genes included=186) by rat DVC cluster at resolution 2.0.

1620

<u>Table S7: Description of our DVC layer-3 neuronal cell identities established in rats</u>
Rat neurons were subset and reprocessed before labeling at layers 2 and 3 of granularity. We
used neuronal class gene expression markers to identify clusters at resolution 2.0 that
belonged to each neuronal cell class. These cell classes were further subclustered and
markers from Table S6 and UMAP projections were used to label each population in the
dataset.

<u>Table S8: Genes with ≥2 log2 fold-change differential expression in neurons by magnaclass</u>
<u>between meal-related treatments</u>
List of genes with a ≥2 log2 fold-change in magnaclass 1, magnaclass 2 or both
magnaclasses neurons between meal-related treatments (i.e. refed versus ad libitum fed,
and refed versus overnight fasted).

1632

<u>Table S9: Receptor expression in magnaclasses 1 and 2 between meal-related treatments in</u>
<u>mice</u>
Differential expression analysis (MAST algorithm)(*71*) results for genes coding for metabolism
related receptors between meal-related treatments (i.e. refed versus ad libitum fed, and refed
versus overnight fasted) and per neuronal magnaclass. If a receptor is missing for any given
comparison for any of the magnaclasses, the log fold-change of that gene between both
treatments in that neuronal class was <0.1, therefore it is not reported (see **Methods**).

1640

1641 <u>Table S10: Filtering of our and Dowsett datasets during processing</u>
1642 Compilation of statistics and cells processed for the initial high quality cell filtering per sample.

1643

1644 <u>Table S11: Cluster filtering of our and Dowsett datasets during processing</u>
1645 Compilation of low quality cluster analysis statistics to filter high quality clusters per sample.

1646

1647 <u>Table S12: Singlets retained per dataset after processing</u>
1648 Number of doublets and singlets identified by DoubletFinder(*64*) after initial filtering of our and
1649 Dowset dataset per sample. Doublets were removed from the datasets before sample
1650 integration with Harmony(*65*) (this step was not performed in the rat dataset as it was only one
1651 sample, n=2 rat DVC).

1652

1653   Table S13: Labeled cells in our murine dataset

1654   Number of cell per treatment per identity layer 2.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9