Teneurin-3 and latrophilin-2 are required for somatotopic map formation and somatosensory topognosis

Kevin T. Sangster[1,2], Xinying Zhang[1,2], Daniel del Toro[3], Christina Sarantopoulos[1,2], Ashley M. Moses[4], Shreya Mahasenan[1], Daniel T. Pederick[4], Sophie Perreault[5], Catherine Fallet-Bianco[6,7], R. Brian Roome[8], Elena Seiradake[9], Liqun Luo[4], Artur Kania[1,2,10,11] *

Affiliations:

[1]Institut de Recherches Cliniques de Montréal (IRCM), Montréal, QC, Canada, [2]Integrated Program in Neuroscience, McGill University, Montréal, QC, Canada, [3]Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Institute of Neurosciences, IDIBAPS, CIBERNED, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, [4]Department of Biology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA, [5]Azrieli Research Center at CHU Sainte-Justine, Montréal, QC, Canada, [6]Department of Pathology, CHU Sainte-Justine, Montréal, QC, Canada, [7]Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada [8]Spinal Circuits and Plasticity Unit, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Bethesda, MD, USA, [9]Department of Biochemistry, Oxford University, Oxford, UK, [10]Division of Experimental Medicine, McGill University, Montréal, QC, H3A 2B2, Canada, [11]Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, McGill University, Montréal, QC, H3A 0C7, Canada

*Corresponding author. Email: artur.kania@ircm.qc.ca

Abstract:

Somatotopy is a recurring organizational feature of the somatosensory system where adjacent neurons and

their connections represent adjacent regions of the body. The molecular mechanisms governing the

formation of such "body maps" remain largely unknown. Here we demonstrate that the cell surface proteins

teneurin-3 and latrophilin-2 are expressed in opposing gradients in multiple somatotopic maps in the mouse,

including within the dorsal horn of the spinal cord. Genetic manipulation of these proteins in spinal dorsal

horn or sensory neurons distorts the somatotopy of neuronal connections and impairs accurate localisation

of a noxious stimulus on the surface of the body. Our work provides the foundation for a molecular model

of somatotopic map formation and insights into their function in localisation of somatosensory stimuli or

topognosis.

Introduction

The structure of neuronal connections can reveal their functional logic. One of the organising principles of neuronal circuits are "topographic maps" which maintain the spatial relationship between a group of neurons and their post-synaptic targets. The consequence of this in the context of sensory processing is that information concerning adjacent stimuli is communicated by adjacent neurons at multiple levels of a sensory system. The classical system for studying the development of such maps has been the retinotopic map, where it has been shown that map formation is driven by specific cell surface effectors of neuronal connectivity and refinement by neuronal activity (*1–8*). However, our understanding of the development of other sensory maps, particularly in the somatosensory system, remains limited.

Somatotopic maps are a unique example of topographic maps where nearby neurons represent contiguous anatomical structures. Somatotopic organization is characteristic of most vertebrate somatosensory regions, including but not limited to the dorsal horn of the spinal cord (DH) (*9–11*), dorsal column nuclei (*12–14*), ventrobasal thalamus (*15, 16*), and primary somatosensory cortex (*17, 18*). The rodent DH exhibits a rostrocaudal organization that corresponds to the dermatomes organised along the rostrocaudal axis of the body, as well as a mediolateral (ML) organisation that corresponds to the proximodistal (PD) axis of the body (*9–11*). The medial dorsal horn receives sensory inputs from distal regions (e.g. the paw), while the lateral dorsal horn corresponds to more proximal regions of the body (e.g. the shoulder/hip to midline). The ML map is oriented orthogonally to the dorsal horn laminae that receive modality-specific sensory afferents (*19, 20*); the result is a columnar-like architecture where a vertical "columel" processes noxious, thermal and light touch information originating in a particular PD zone on the surface of the limb (*21, 22*). This somatotopic map has been thoroughly demonstrated both in terms of neuronal activity induced by sensory stimuli (*22–27*), and in terms of the organisation of incoming sensory afferents (*10, 11, 28*).

Despite the discovery of somatotopic maps over a century ago and much speculation as to their role in internal representation of our bodies, the mechanisms that underly their development remain poorly

understood (*17*, *29–31*). It is known that neuronal activity plays a critical role in the refinement of

developing ST maps (*32–34*). On the other hand, afferent sensory axons show an somatotopic organization

upon entry in the DH, suggesting a contribution by hard-wiring molecular signals (*28*, *35–38*). However,

the identity of such cues has remained elusive: none of the classical neuronal connectivity molecules appear

to be involved despite their extensive study. Here, we identify cell surface proteins teneurin-3 (Ten3) and

latrophilin-2 (Lphn2) as being essential cues for the formation of the DH somatotopic map.

Ten3 and Lphn2 expression reflects the ST organization of the DH

Recent work has shown that heterophilic repulsion Ten3 and Lphn2, in combination with Ten3-

Ten3 homophilic attraction, establish a point-to-point topography of neuronal connections in the

hippocampus (*39–41*). To determine whether Lphn2 and Ten3 could direct the development of DH

connectivity, we examined their expression in the mouse lumbar DH at embryonic day 14.5 (e14.5), when

cutaneous afferents begin their entry into spinal laminae I through IV (*42*, *43*). There, we observed

complementary mRNA gradients that spanned the limb somatotopic map: *Lphn2* mRNA expression was

high in the medial DH (subserving the distal limb) but low in the lateral DH, while *Ten3* mRNA expression

was high in the lateral DH (subserving the proximal limb), but low in the medial DH (Fig. 1 A). Analysis

of protein expression using an anti-Ten3 antibody (*39*) and *Lphn2-mVenus* knock-in mice (*44*) revealed

similar mediolateral gradients (Fig. 1B).

Although there is no somatotopic organisation of DRG neurons at the level of individual ganglia,

their anterio-posterior position correlates with the identity of the dermatome innervated by them (*9*, *45*, *46*).

In DRG neurons we observed widespread expression of *Ten3* and *Lphn2* in all major sensory neuron

subtypes (Fig. S1A). However, we did not observe any spatial bias to *Ten3* or *Lphn2* expression in individual

ganglia along either the dorsoventral or mediolateral axes (Fig. S1B). On the other hand, we did observe an

inverse relationship between *Ten3* and *Lphn2* mRNA levels in individual DRG neurons, where those that

expressed a high level of *Ten3* mRNA, also expressed low levels of *Lphn2* and vice versa (Fig. S1C).

Additionally, reflecting the dermatome organisation, ganglia enriched in distal hindpaw-innervating

neurons, such as L3-5, tended to have high *Lphn2* and low *Ten3* levels of expression. Conversely, ganglia

enriched in more proximally-projecting neurons, such as L1-2 and L6, tended to have low Lphn2 and high

Ten3 levels of expression (Fig. 1C). Thus, the level of sensory neuron expression of Lphn2 and Ten3

correlated with DH Lphn2 and Ten3 gradients and the somatotopic map of limb: distal limb sensory neurons

expressing high *Lphn2* levels innervated the proximal DH region expressing low levels of Ten3, and those

sensory neurons that expressed high levels of Ten3 innervated the distal DH regions expressing low Lphn2

levels. A similar correlation could be made between the protein gradients in the DRG axons located in the

dorsal root entry zone (DREZ) immediately outside the DH and the gradients in the DH (Fig. 1B and S1D).

Next, to identify if Ten3 and Lphn2 gradients align with somatotopic maps in other somatosensory regions,

we examined *Ten3* and *Lphn2* expression in the ventrobasal (VB) thalamus (postsynaptic to projection

neurons in the DH) and uncovered a similar gradient that aligned with the VB somatotopic map (Fig. S1E).

Finally, to examine whether such Ten3/Lphn2 gradients are evolutionarily conserved we examined the

expression of *TENM3* and *ADGRL2* mRNAs, encoded by the human homologues of mouse Ten3 and

Lphn2, in the human fetal dorsal horn (Fig. S1F). Therefore, *Ten3* and *Lphn2* are expressed in gradients

along the proximodistal axis of somatotopic maps in a conserved manner across the somatosensory system.

Ten3 and Lphn2 are required for the somatotopy of sensory afferents

Based on the observed expression patterns in the DH and DRG, as well as the previously described

functions of these proteins (*40*), we hypothesized the following (Fig. 1D): (1) repulsion from Ten3 in the

DH acting on Lphn2 in DRG axons directs distal limb afferents to the medial DH, (2) a combination of

repulsion from Lphn2 in the medial DH acting on Ten3 in the DRG axons and attraction from Ten3 in the

lateral DH acting on Ten3 in DRG axons cooperate to direct proximal limb afferents to the lateral DH. To

test our hypothesis, we first challenged DRG axons with a purified Lphn2$^{\text{Lec}}$ (lectin domain) and Ten3

proteins. We found that both Lphn2[Lec] and Ten3 are repulsive to DRG axons *in vitro* (Fig. S2), thereby

demonstrating that Ten3 and Lphn2 are capable of guiding DRG axons *in vitro*. We then generated

conditional knockouts (cKOs) of *Ten3* and *Lphn2* in the DRG and DH (Fig. S3A, methods), hereby referred

to as Ten3[ΔDRG], Lphn2[ΔDRG], Ten3[ΔDH], and Lphn2[ΔDH]. To assess the distribution of sensory afferents along

the mediolateral extent of the DH, we co-injected cholera toxin subunit B (CTB) and wheat germ agglutinin

(WGA) subcutaneously, which preferentially label myelinated and unmyelinated sensory afferents,

respectively (*11*, *34*, *47*). This allowed us to examine the targeting of superficial versus deep (SD) DH of

unmyelinated afferents which convey pain and thermal information and innervate the superficial DH

laminae, from myelinated afferents which convey innocuous touch information and innervate deeper DH

laminae. We are also able to assess the alignment of these two classes of inputs along the mediolateral axis.

We first examined distal limb afferent inputs to the DH, which we hypothesized to be guided by

Ten3 (DH) → Lphn2 (DRG) repulsion. We therefore examined these afferents in Ten3[ΔDH] and Lphn2[ΔDRG]

cKO mice compared to littermate controls by injecting CTB/WGA into the hindpaw and quantified the

distribution of the labelled axons along the ML and SD axes of the DH (Fig. S3B). In wild-type mice, the

paw representation is disproportionally large and duplicated at the most medial extreme of the dorsal horn

(*11*, *22*, *34*, *48*). In our controls, we saw the expected wild-type distribution of afferents but in Ten3[ΔDH]

cKO mice we observed a dramatic shift in the ML distribution of afferents (Fig. 2A-C, S3C). Meanwhile,

CTB and WGA-labelled axons remained in register along the ML axis (Fig. S3D), and there was no shift

in the distribution of CTB and WGA-labelled axons along the orthogonal SD axis (Fig. S3E-G). The

Lphn2[ΔDRG] cKO mice exhibited a milder but significant shift along the ML axis and no change in the SD

axis distribution or in the ML alignment between CTB and WGA-labelled afferents (Fig. 2D-F, S3H-L).

We next examined proximal afferent inputs to the DH, which we hypothesize are guided by a

combination of Lphn2 (DH) → Ten3 (DRG) repulsion and Ten3 (DH) → Ten3 (DRG) attraction. We

therefore examined these afferents in Ten3[ΔDH], Lphn2[ΔDH], and Ten3[ΔDRG] cKO mice and compared them to

littermate controls by injecting CTB/WGA subcutaneously at the dorsal midline. Like for the distal limb

afferents, we observed a dramatic shift in the ML distribution of proximal afferents in the Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO

mice (Fig. 3A-C, S4A). However, this was accompanied by a decrease in the ML alignment of the CTB

with the WGA-labelled afferents (Fig. S4B), and an expansion in the SD distribution of both classes of

afferents (Fig. S4C-E). Lphn2$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO mice exhibited a comparatively mild but significant shift along the

ML and SD axes, without a consequence on the alignment of CTB with the WGA-labelled afferents (Fig.

3D-F, S4F-J). Unexpectedly, the Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKO mice did not exhibit any significant changes in the targeting

of afferents in the DH (Fig. 3G-I, S4K-O), indicating that Ten3 in the DRG may be dispensable for correct

somatotopic and laminar targeting. Importantly, Ten3 (DH) → Lphn2 (DRG) repulsion is likely intact in

Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKO mice, suggesting that this repulsion alone may be sufficient to separate the distal and

proximal inputs along the ML axis. Together, our cKO experiments demonstrate that Ten3 and Lphn2 are

essential for the correct somatotopic organization of primary sensory afferents in the DH, with the severity

of miswiring phenotypes that depended on the ablated gene and targeted tissue.

Computational modelling of somatotopic map formation in the DH

To better understand our observed phenotypes and gain further insights into the developmental

programs that produce the DH somatotopic map, we sought to develop a comprehensive computational

model of DH somatotopic map formation. Over the past 40 years, several computational models of

topographic map formation in the visual system have been developed and iteratively improved with

experimental data. We first sought to determine if these theoretical models of topographic map formation

could be applied to somatotopic maps. We therefore adapted the Koulakov model (*8, 49, 50*) (see methods)

as it is a relatively abstract model without excessive constraints regarding the cellular mechanisms. It also

effectively predicts the observed effects of genetic manipulations (*51*), and incorporates guidance cues,

competition, and activity-dependent refinement into a single unified model (*8*). After adapting this model

to the DH somatotopic map, we then performed Bayesian Simulation-Based Inference (SBI) using the

Sequential Monte Carlo method for Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC-SMC) to identify parameter

values for our model that fit both the observed control and cKO data in an unbiased manner (Fig. 4A; see

methods).

We first confirmed that this model was able to accurately reproduce the proximal → lateral and

distal → medial connectivity between DRG and DH neurons under wild-type conditions (Fig. 4B and Fig.

S5A). We then confirmed we were able to closely recapitulate the observed distributions of CTB/WGA

along the ML axis in both controls and all cKOs examined experimentally above (Fig. 4C). Inspection of

the parameter values (Table S1) reveals that the best fitting model incorporates a prominent role for activity-

dependent refinement of connectivity, consistent with previous experimental results (*32–34*). Our model

also indicates that there is strong competition between DRG axons for limited space in the DH along the

ML axis, consistent with previous results showing an expansion of the saphenous nerve afferent termini

when the afferents of the sciatic nerve are eliminated (*52, 53*). We recreated this experiment *in silico* by

ablating proximal limb DRG neurons in our model and observed a similar expansion of the remaining axons

to fill the available ML extent of the DH (Fig. S5B, C). Additional inferences of our model are that Ten3

(DH) → Lphn2 (DRG) repulsion plays a more prominent role than Lphn2 (DH) → Ten3 (DRG) repulsion

or Ten3 (DH) → Ten3 (DRG) attraction, and that there is an effect on both guidance and activity-dependent

refinement, particularly in the Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs. Taken together, despite being developed for a different

sensory system being patterned by unrelated molecular cues, theoretical models of topographic map

formation in the visual system can be applied to developing somatotopic maps. We also show that our

observed cKO data are consistent with the model that gradients of Ten3/Lphn2 cooperate to specify the DH

somatotopic map.

Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs exhibit an altered somatotopic distribution of neural activity and behavioural

responses

Given the observed miswiring phenotypes, we sought to examine if this miswiring was

accompanied by alterations in the function of DH circuitry. Towards this end, we selected the cKO with the

most severe miswiring phenotype (Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$) and examined the consequence of injection the hindpaw with

formalin, a noxious stimulus that causes a somatotopically restricted induction of the neuronal activity

proxy marker Fos in DH neurons (*23*). Following injection of formalin into the distal regions of the

hindpaw, both Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO mice and control littermates displayed a significant induction of Fos expression

in the DH ipsilateral to the injection (Fig. S6A, B). While the control littermates showed increased Fos

expression predominantly in the somatotopically appropriate medial region of the DH, in line with the

innervation pattern from distal limb DRG afferents, the Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO mice exhibited a greater number of

Fos-expressing cells in the lateral DH (Fig. 5A-D). Matching the more widespread induction of Fos, cKO

mice also had more Fos-expressing cells overall on the side ipsilateral to the injection when compared to

control littermates (Fig. S6C-E).

In addition to being able to induce somatotopically restricted Fos activity, formalin injection into

the glabrous skin of the paw, i.e., the distal hindlimb, elicits highly accurate licking of the injected site.

Thus, using this paradigm we sought to examine the functional impact of somatotopic miswiring on the

ability to locate a stimulus on the surface of the body, or topognosis. We first examined the precision of

topognosis in Ten3 constitutive knockout (Ten3^{KO}) mice (*39*, *54*). Compared to control littermates, Ten3^{KO}

mice spent less time licking regions of the limb close to the injection site and more time licking regions of

the limb farther from the injection (Fig. S6F,G), potentially indicating a deficit in their ability to precisely

locate the stimulus. Meanwhile, the duration of licking, an indication of stimulus intensity, was not different

between KO and control mice (Fig. S6H). However, Ten3^{KO} mice also showed defects in the ability to

remove an adhesive tape placed on their hindlimbs, suggesting broad deficits in sensorimotor coordination

(Fig. S6I,J). We next assessed topognosis in Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO mice given the magnitude of their anatomical

miswiring phenotype. Similar to the Ten3^{KO} mice, Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO mice exhibited a reduction in time spent

licking areas close to the injection and increase in time licking areas farther from the injection site (Fig. 5E,

S6L), indicating they also had showed impaired topognosis. Again, this phenotype was not accompanied

by any significant changes in licking duration (Fig. S6K). Finally, unlike the Ten3^{KO} mice, Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ mice

performed normally in the adhesive removal assay (Fig. S6M,N), indicating a lack of defects in

sensorimotor coordination.

Discussion

Our study provides foundational insights into the molecular logic of somatotopic map formation.

First, our experimental observations and modelling argue that the somatotopic map formed between

peripheral sensory neurons and those endogenous to the spinal DH is driven by graded expression of Ten3

and Lphn2. This complements previous studies on their role in establishing of neuronal connections through

their binary or all-or-nothing attractive and repulsive signalling. Additionally, we also provide direct

functional evidence of the importance of somatotopic maps in the localisation of a stimulus on the surface

of the skin.

Several parallels and distinctions between our work and that on the formation of retinotopic

connectivity can also be made. Like in retinotopic maps, past studies and this work suggest that axon-axon

interactions such as pre-ordering prior to arrival in target area and inter-axon competition, as well as

activity-dependent refinement, play an important role in the establishment of the DH somatotopic map.

However, the nature of the miswiring phenotypes observed by us differs significantly from those following

Eph/ephrin signalling manipulations in the retinocollicular system. While Eph/ephrin signalling loss largely

result in the formation of additional compact terminal zones of retinal axons in the superior colliculus (*4*,

5, *55*), we generally observe broadening of sensory axon terminal zones in the ML axis of the DH, without

the formation of any additional ones, suggesting fundamental cellular/molecular differences between these

processes. Of particular interest would be the significance of Ten3/Lphn2 and Eph/ephrins gradient co-

expression, the latter of which has been implicated in somatosensory cortex somatotopic map formation

afferent thalamic axon connectivity (*56*, *57*). Finally, the presence of Ten3/Lphn2 gradients in many regions

227 of the developing nervous system raises the possibility that they pattern all somatotopic maps within the

228 somatosensory system, and more generally, circuits whose organising principle requires the preservation of

229 spatial relationship between neurons and their targets (*58*).

230 Although we cannot rule out other DH functions of Ten3 contributing to the impaired topognosis

231 phenotype, the unchanged licking duration in Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs suggests that stimulus intensity and location

232 can be dissociated, echoing the idea of parallel motivational/affective and discriminatory systems

233 underlying nociception (*59*). Importantly, our data provide some of the only functional evidence

234 supporting the importance of somatotopic maps in somatosensory function. Penfield's original

235 experiments involved stimulating cortical neurons and do not allow any inferences regarding the

236 requirement of somatotopic maps (*17*). Our genetics-based precise manipulation of a somatotopic map

237 provides a new potential inroad into questions such as map plasticity, the integration of somatotopic

238 somatosensory maps with somatotopic motor maps, or those of other sensory modalities, and their overall

239 function in representing our bodies and whole body action planning (*31*).

Acknowledgments: We thank Meirong Liang for technical support; the IRCM animal facility staff; Drs.

Jeffrey Mogil and Samantha Butler for comments on the manuscript; Dr. Farin Bourojeni and other

members of the Kania laboratory for advice, feedback, and support. **Funding:** This work was supported by

project grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR; PJT-162225, MOP-77556, PJT-

153053, PJT-159839, and PJT-197987) to AK and National Institutes of Health (NIH; R01-NS050580) to

LL. AK holds the Doggone Foundation Chair of Excellence in Pain and receives support from the Fondation

IRCM. KTS is a recipient of a CIHR doctoral scholarship (FRN:494078). XZ is a recipient of a Fonds de

recherche du Québec -Santé doctoral scholarship. **Author contributions:** K.T.S. Performed all experiments

except for the *in-vitro* and behavioural experiments, analyzed the data, and performed the computational

modelling. The *in-vitro* experiments were performed and analyzed by D.d.T. with reagents generated by

E.S. Behavioural experiments using Ten3[KO] mice were performed by A.M.M. and D.T.P. and quantified by

S.M. Behavioural experiments using Ten3[DH] mice were performed by X.Z. and quantified by C.S. R.B.R

contributed to investigation and conceptualization. L.L., S.P., T.B. and C.F.B. provided reagents. A.K.

supervised the study and acquired funding. A.K. and K.T.S. wrote the paper. **Ethics:** All vertebrate animal

experiments were carried out in accordance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care guidelines and

approved by the IRCM Animal Care Committee (Protocol 2023-11 AK and 2021-12 AK). **Competing

interests:** The authors declare no competing financial interests. **Data and materials availability:** All data

are available in the main paper and supplementary materials. All materials are available through requests

to the corresponding author.

Materials and Methods:

Acquisition of human tissue: Collection of the human fetal spinal cord samples were with the parent's

written informed consent. They were obtained through a spontaneous or induced abortion donor program

at the Centre hospitalier universitaire - Sainte-Justine (CHU-SJ), approved by the IRCM and CHU-SJ

Research Ethics Committee under the name "Pour une meilleure compréhension du développement de la

moelle épinière et des maladies qui y sont associées". Donor spinal cords were dissected and fixed for 24h

in formalin, then processed for cryosectioning as below.

Mouse lines: All animal studies were approved by the IRCM's Animal Care Committee in agreement with

Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines, as per protocol numbers 2021-12AK and 2023-

11AK. Mice were group housed with access to food and water *ad libitum*. All mice were maintained on a

mixed C57BL/6 and 129/Sv background and mixture of both male and female mice were used for all

experiments. All experiments were done using littermate controls. Mouse lines used in this study include

Lbx1:Cre (60), PLAT:Cre (61), Ten3^{fl} (39), Lphn2^{fl} (44) and *Ten3^{KO} (54)*. Within the spinal cord, *Lbx1:Cre*

drives recombination within the dI4/dILA, dI5/dILB populations which make up the majority of the dorsal

horn while sparing most other spinal populations and the DRG (*62–64*). Meanwhile, *PLAT:cre* targets

neural crest derived cells, including the neurons of the DRG, while sparing the spinal cord and brain (*61*).

PLAT:Cre was chosen over alternatives like *Pirt:Cre* and *Advilin:Cre* since it is expressed in neural crest-

derived cells as early as Theiler Stage 15 (e9.5) and is widespread throughout DRG neurons by e11.5 (Fig.

S2A).

Cutaneous CTB/WGA injections: Adult mice (>8 weeks old) were anaesthetised via continuous

inhalation of isofluorane (1-3%) and injected with 4 μl of a mixture of 5 mg/ml CTB-AF488 (Thermo,

C34775) and 20 mg/ml WGA-AF555 (Thermo, W32464) dissolved in sterile PBS. Blunt forceps were

used to pinch and stabilize the skin and injections were performed into the dermis using a beveled glass

capillary needle. Distal injections were performed to the glabrous skin of the hindpaw between the two

distal-most promontories. Proximal injections were performed at the dorsal midline at the same

rostrocaudal level as the iliac crest. All mice were perfused after three days following the injection as

described below.

Formalin Assay and Fos induction: The formalin assay was performed as previously described (*65–67*).

Mice were first habituated to the testing chamber (a clear plastic cylinder filmed from below). They were

then subcutaneously injected with 20 µl of 2% formalin (in 0.9% saline) to the plantar surface of the hind

paw using a 28G needle and returned to the chamber. Video was recorded from below for 60 minutes

following injection. Time spent licking each region of the body was quantified in both the acute (0-10

minutes after injection) and chronic phase (11-60 minutes). Mice were then anesthetized and, after an

additional 30 minutes, perfused as described below to analyze the distribution of Fos protein (after a total

of 90 minutes following the stimulus).

Tissue fixation, freezing and sectioning: Mice were anesthetized via intraperitoneal injection of a

Ketamine/Xylazine mixture (0.1ml/g body weight of 10 mg/ml Ketamine, 1 mg/ml Xyaline, in 0.9%

saline). Mice were then perfused with approximately 15 ml of 1x PBS followed by 15 ml of 4% PFA in

PBS. Brains and spinal cords were post-fixed in 4% PFA overnight, washed 3x with PBS and left in a

30% sucrose in PBS solution until they had sunk. Tissue was cryosectioned into 25 µm sections for adult

tissue used for immunohistochemistry and 12 µm sections for embryonic tissue and adult tissue used for

RNAscope.

DRG explant culture on Ten3/Lphn2 stripes: DRG explants from E15.5 embryos were dissected out and

plated on 6 cm dishes. Coating was performed using 20 µg/ml laminin and either (1) 50 µg/ml of FC or

Lphn2 ectodomain or (2) 50 µg/ml of FC or Ten3 ectodomain. Explants were then cultured for 1-3 days *in*

vitro at 37°C, 5% CO_2 in Neurobasal medium plus B27 supplement with the addition of 20ng/ml NGF and

10ng/ml GDNF. Samples were then fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 10 minutes and processed for

immunostaining.

Immunohistochemistry: Tissue sections were washed three times with 1x PBS for 5 minutes, blocked for

30 minutes using a solution of 5% heat-inactivated horse serum (HIHS) and 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS

(0.1% tPBS). They were then incubated primary antibody solution (primary antibody in 1% HIHS, 0.1%

tPBS) overnight and washed three times with 1x PBS for 5 minutes before being incubated with a secondary

antibody (in 1% HIHS, 0.1% tPBS) for 1 hour at room temperature, washed three more times with 1x PBS

for 5 minutes, and counterstained with DAPI. Slides were coverslipped using a solution of 10% Mowiol

(Sigma) and 25% glycerol, then allowed to dry in the dark prior to imaging.

RNAscope ISH and analysis: RNAscope *in situ* hybridization was performed according to the

manufacturer's protocol using the RNAscope multiplex fluorescent reagent kit (ACDbio cat. no. 323100).

Probes used were Mm-Tenm3-C1 (ACDbio, Cat # 411951) and Mm-Lphn2-C2 (ACDbio, Cat #319341-

C2). RNAscope images were quantified using QuPath bioimage analysis software (*68*). Nuclear

segmentation was performed using StarDist (*69*) and individual puncti and clusters were identified using

the QuPath subcellular object detection pipeline. Subcellular detection counts associated with individual

cells and their associated coordinates were exported from QuPath and analyzed further in R. The x

coordinate location of each cell (mediolateral position) was remapped to a 100-unit standard space and

counts for a cells within a given area were binned and visualized as mean counts per cell ± one standard

error.

CTB and WGA Image analysis: Initial preprocessing of images from CTB/WGA injections was

performed using Fiji (version 2.14.0/1.54f). Images were first cropped to the dorsal horn up until lamina V

and an outline was manually drawn to indicate the region of interest (ROI). For analyses of both tracers,

the two channels were first merged using the imageCalculator "Add" function. Fluorescence intensity from

all channels were scaled using "Enhance Contrast" with "saturated=0.1" before being thresholded using the

auto threshold method "MaxEntropy dark". Preprocessed images and manually drawn ROIs were then

further analyzed in R. To account for the curvature of the dorsal horn (with laminae curved downward

almost 90 degrees at the lateral extreme), pixel coordinates within each ROI were remapped to a set of

anatomical coordinates according to the following functions:

$$f_{ML}(x,y) = \begin{cases} x, & x \leq max(x)/2 \\ \tan^{-1}((x - x_0)/(y - y_0)), & x > max(x)/2 \end{cases}$$

340   for mapping x and y pixel coordinates to ML coordinates, and

$$f_{SD}(x,y) = \begin{cases} y, & x \leq max(x)/2 \\ \sqrt[2]{(x - x_0)^2 + (y - y_0)^2}, & x > max(x)/2 \end{cases}$$

for mapping x and y pixel coordinates to SD coordinates. Where (x_0, y_0) is the origin, with x_0 set at the

midpoint of the ROI and y_0 set at the lamina IV/V border for f_{SD} and the lamina V/VI border for f_{ML}. Note

that $max(x)$ refers to the maximum x coordinate within the ROI not the whole image. ML and SD

coordinates were then normalized to between 0 and 1. Representative examples of these remapped

coordinates are provided here (Fig. S2B). The DH was then divided into 50 bins along the ML or SD axes.

Since the bins are created based on distance along the given axis, they are not necessarily of equal size (also

given the unevenness of the DH) and so the fluorescence intensity is first normalized to bin area, then

rescaled to be between 0 and 100 for each image.

Fos image analysis: Counts of Fos-positive cells was performed manually using the Cell Counter plugin

for Fiji (version 2.14.0/1.54f) and xml files containing the coordinates of each marker were exported for

further processing in R. Marker coordinates were remapped to standardized anatomical coordinates as

described above. For the remainder of the analyses, the DH was then divided into 5 bins along the ML or

SD axes and the raw unnormalized count of Fos positive cells per bin was used.

Computational modelling: To adapt the Koulakov model (8, 49, 50) to the DH ST map, we added

parameters governing the strength of Ten3/Lphn2 repulsion/attraction since the original model assumed all

repulsive/attractive interactions to be of equal strength which may not hold in our case. We also reasoned

that it was possible for activity-dependant refinement to be disrupted in our cKOs, either due to the synaptic

roles of Teneurins and Latrophilins (*70*), or as a secondary circuit-level consequence of ST miswiring,

which might then further contribute to the observed ML distribution shifts. We thus incorporated into our

model the ability for cKOs to affect activity-dependent refinement and added additional parameters to

govern how this interaction occurs, if at all. These parameters govern how much the effect of activity-

dependent refinement should be dampened in each cell based on the decrease in Ten3 or Lphn2 in that cell

compared to the amount it would express under wild-type conditions using the following formula:

365
$$f(x) = 1 - a \cdot \frac{x^{1/b}}{x^{1/b} + 1}$$

Where x is the absolute decrease in expression compared to wild-type conditions for that cell. For a

complete list of model parameters and their description see Table S1. The Koulakov model itself has been

described in detail previously (*8, 51*). Briefly, the model stochastically adds or removes connections to

attempt to minimize a global energy value $E = E_{chem} + E_{act} + E_{comp}$ that contains three components:

chemoaffinity energy (E_{chem}), activity energy (E_{act}), and competition energy (E_{comp}) where the

probability of adding or removing a connection proportional to the change in energy. E_{chem} is calculated

according to the following equation:

373
$$E_{chem} = a_{chem} \cdot \sum_{(A,D)\epsilon S_C} k_{tl} \cdot t(D) \cdot l(A) + k_{lt} \cdot l(D) \cdot t(A) - k_{tt} \cdot t(D) \cdot t(A)$$

374   With functions *t* and *l* describing the levels of Ten3 and Lphn2 in a given axon *A* or dendrite *D* and S_C

375   denoting the set of all connected pairs of axons and dendrites. Meanwhile E_{act} is calculated according to:

376
$$E_{act} = -\frac{\gamma}{2} \sum_{(A_1,D_1),(A_2,D_2)\epsilon S_C} e^{-dist(A_1,A_2)/b_{act}} \cdot e^{-dist(D_1,D_2)^2/2a_{act}^2}$$

377   and E_{comp} by:

378
$$E_{comp} = \sum_{A\epsilon S_A} -a_{comp} \cdot \sqrt[2]{n(A)} + b_{comp} \cdot n(A)^2 + \sum_{D\epsilon S_D} d_{comp} \cdot n(D)^2$$

Where *n* describes the number of synapses formed by a given axon or dendrite and S_A and S_D describing

the sets of all axons and dendrites respectively. Parameter values for the Koulakov model (Table S1) were

fit using ABC-SMC (*71*) using the PyABC package (version 0.12.16) (*72*). PyABC was run with a

population size of 1000, and with maximum number of populations equal to 10, and epsilon values

determined using the quantile epsilon method with parameters alpha equal to 0.1. From this, we obtained

posterior distributions over the simulation parameters and a point estimate for the best model (Table S1).

Statistical Analysis: All statistical analyses were performed in R (version 4.0.5) and the specific

statistical tests used are described in figure legends.

References:

1.   R. W. Sperry, Chemoaffinity in the orderly growth of nerve fiber patterns and connections*.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences **50**, 703–710 (1963).

2.   J. Walter, B. Kern-Veits, J. Huf, B. Stolze, F. Bonhoeffer, Recognition of position-specific
properties of tectal cell membranes by retinal axons in vitro. *Development* **101**, 685–696
(1987).

3.   H. T. Cline, M. Constantine-Paton, NMDA receptor antagonists disrupt the retinotectal
topographic map. *Neuron* **3**, 413–426 (1989).

4.   J. Frisén, P. A. Yates, T. McLaughlin, G. C. Friedman, D. D. M. O'Leary, M. Barbacid, Ephrin-A5
(AL-1/RAGS) Is Essential for Proper Retinal Axon Guidance and Topographic Mapping in the
Mammalian Visual System. *Neuron* **20**, 235–243 (1998).

5.   D. A. Feldheim, Y.-I. Kim, A. D. Bergemann, J. Frisén, M. Barbacid, J. G. Flanagan, Genetic
Analysis of Ephrin-A2 and Ephrin-A5 Shows Their Requirement in Multiple Aspects of
Retinocollicular Mapping. *Neuron* **25**, 563–574 (2000).

6.   A. Brown, P. A. Yates, P. Burrola, D. Ortuño, A. Vaidya, T. M. Jessell, S. L. Pfaff, D. D. M. O'Leary,
G. Lemke, Topographic Mapping from the Retina to the Midbrain Is Controlled by Relative but
Not Absolute Levels of EphA Receptor Signaling. *Cell* **102**, 77–88 (2000).

7.   T. Rashid, A. L. Upton, A. Blentic, T. Ciossek, B. Knöll, I. D. Thompson, U. Drescher, Opposing
Gradients of Ephrin-As and EphA7 in the Superior Colliculus Are Essential for Topographic
Mapping in the Mammalian Visual System. *Neuron* **47**, 57–69 (2005).

8.   J. W. Triplett, C. Pfeiffenberger, J. Yamada, B. K. Stafford, N. T. Sweeney, A. M. Litke, A. Sher, A.
A. Koulakov, D. A. Feldheim, Competition is a driving force in topographic mapping.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences **108**, 19060–19065 (2011).

9.   G. Grant, J. Ygge, Somatotopic organization of the thoracic spinal nerve in the dorsal horn
demonstrated with transganglionic degeneration. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **202**, 357–
364 (1981).

10.   Y. Takahashi, T. Chiba, M. Kurokawa, Y. Aoki, Dermatomes and the central organization of
dermatomes and body surface regions in the spinal cord dorsal horn in rats. *Journal of
Comparative Neurology* **462**, 29–41 (2003).

11.   K. Odagaki, H. Kameda, T. Hayashi, M. Sakurai, Mediolateral and dorsoventral projection
patterns of cutaneous afferents within transverse planes of the mouse spinal dorsal horn.
Journal of Comparative Neurology **527**, 972–984 (2019).

12.   S. G. Nord, Somatotopic organization in the spinal trigeminal nucleus, the dorsal column
nuclei and related structures in the rat. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **130**, 343–356
(1967).

13. S. Maslany, D. P. Crockett, M. D. Egger, Somatotopic organization of the dorsal column nuclei
in the rat: transganglionic labelling with B-HRP and WGA-HRP. *Brain Research* **564**, 56–65
(1991).

14. S. L. Florence, J. T. Wall, J. H. Kaas, Somatotopic organization of inputs from the hand to the
spinal gray and cuneate nucleus of monkeys with observations on the cuneate nucleus of
humans. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **286**, 48–70 (1989).

15. J. T. Francis, S. Xu, J. K. Chapin, Proprioceptive and Cutaneous Representations in the Rat
Ventral Posterolateral Thalamus. *Journal of Neurophysiology* **99**, 2291–2304 (2008).

16. R. R. Tasker, L. W. Organ, P. Hawrylyshyn, Sensory Organization of the Human Thalamus.
Applied Neurophysiology **39**, 139–153 (1976).

17. W. Penfield, E. Boldrey, Somatic motor and sensory representation in the cerebral cortex of
man as studied by electrical stimulation. *Brain* **60**, 389–443 (1937).

18. F. F. Ebner, J. H. Kaas, "Chapter 24 - Somatosensory System" in *The Rat Nervous System*
(Fourth Edition), G. Paxinos, Ed. (Academic Press, San Diego, 2015;
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780123742452000243), pp. 675–701.

19. B. Rexed, The cytoarchitectonic organization of the spinal cord in the cat. *Journal of
Comparative Neurology* **96**, 415–495 (1952).

20. G. Gatto, S. Bourane, X. Ren, S. Di Costanzo, P. K. Fenton, P. Halder, R. P. Seal, M. D. Goulding,
A Functional Topographic Map for Spinal Sensorimotor Reflexes. *Neuron* **109**, 91-104.e5
(2021).

21. W. D. Willis, R. E. Coggeshall, *Sensory Mechanisms of the Spinal Cord* (Springer US, Boston,
MA, 1991; http://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-1-4899-0597-0).

22. A. Levinsson, H. Holmberg, J. Broman, M. Zhang, J. Schouenborg, Spinal Sensorimotor
Transformation: Relation between Cutaneous Somatotopy and a Reflex Network. *J. Neurosci.*
22, 8170–8182 (2002).

23. E. Bullitt, Somatotopy of spinal nociceptive processing. *Journal of Comparative Neurology*
312, 279–290 (1991).

24. C. Molander, J. Hongpaisan, P. Shortland, Somatotopic redistribution of c-fos expressing
neurons in the superficial dorsal horn after peripheral nerve injury. *Neuroscience* **84**, 241–253
(1998).

25. T. Sugimoto, H. Ichikawa, S. Mitani, A. Hitsu, N. Tadao, Changes in c-fos induction in dorsal
horn neurons by hindpaw formalin stimulation following tibial neurotomy. *Brain Research* **642**,
348–354 (1994).

26. M. Tabata, R. Terayama, K. Maruhama, S. Iida, T. Sugimoto, Differential induction of c-Fos and
phosphorylated ERK by a noxious stimulus after peripheral nerve injury. *International Journal
of Neuroscience* **128**, 208–218 (2018).

27.   C. Warwick, J. Salsovic, J. Hachisuka, K. M. Smith, T. D. Sheahan, H. Chen, J. Ibinson, H. R.
460   Koerber, S. E. Ross, Cell type-specific calcium imaging of central sensitization in mouse
461   dorsal horn. *Nat Commun* **13**, 5199 (2022).

462   28.   K. Mirnics, H. R. Koerher, Prenatal development of rat primary afferent fibers: II. Central
463   projections. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **355**, 601–614 (1995).

464   29.   A. S. F. Grünbaum, C. S. Sherrington, Observations on the physiology of the cerebral cortex of
465   some of the higher apes. (Preliminary communication.). *Proceedings of the Royal Society of*
466   *London* **69**, 206–209 (1901).

467   30.   R. Hassler, "New Aspects of Brain Functions Revealed by Brain Diseases" in *Frontiers in Brain*
468   *Research*, J. D. French, Ed. (Columbia University Press, 2019;
469   http://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.7312/fren91252-011/html), pp. 242–288.

470   31.   E. M. Gordon, R. J. Chauvin, A. N. Van, A. Rajesh, A. Nielsen, D. J. Newbold, C. J. Lynch, N. A.
471   Seider, S. R. Krimmel, K. M. Scheidter, J. Monk, R. L. Miller, A. Metoki, D. F. Montez, A. Zheng, I.
472   Elbau, T. Madison, T. Nishino, M. J. Myers, S. Kaplan, C. Badke D'Andrea, D. V. Demeter, M.
473   Feigelis, J. S. B. Ramirez, T. Xu, D. M. Barch, C. D. Smyser, C. E. Rogers, J. Zimmermann, K. N.
474   Botteron, J. R. Pruett, J. T. Willie, P. Brunner, J. S. Shimony, B. P. Kay, S. Marek, S. A. Norris, C.
475   Gratton, C. M. Sylvester, J. D. Power, C. Liston, D. J. Greene, J. L. Roland, S. E. Petersen, M. E.
476   Raichle, T. O. Laumann, D. A. Fair, N. U. F. Dosenbach, A somato-cognitive action network
477   alternates with effector regions in motor cortex. *Nature* **617**, 351–359 (2023).

478   32.   B. Mendelson, Chronic embryonic MK-801 exposure disrupts the somatotopic organization of
479   cutaneous nerve projections in the chick spinal cord. *Developmental Brain Research* **82**, 152–
480   166 (1994).

481   33.   S. Beggs, C. Torsney, L. J. Drew, M. Fitzgerald, The postnatal reorganization of primary afferent
482   input and dorsal horn cell receptive fields in the rat spinal cord is an activity-dependent
483   process. *European Journal of Neuroscience* **16**, 1249–1258 (2002).

484   34.   M. Granmo, P. Petersson, J. Schouenborg, Action-Based Body Maps in the Spinal Cord Emerge
485   from a Transitory Floating Organization. *J. Neurosci.* **28**, 5494–5503 (2008).

486   35.   C. L. Smith, The development and postnatal organization of primary afferent projections to the
487   rat thoracic spinal cord. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **220**, 29–43 (1983).

488   36.   M. Fitzgerald, Prenatal growth of fine-diameter primary afferents into the rat spinal cord: A
489   transganglionic tracer study. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **261**, 98–104 (1987).

490   37.   I. Silos-Santiago, B. Jeng, W. D. Snider, Sensory afferents show appropriate somatotopy at the
491   earliest stage of projection to dorsal horn: *NeuroReport* **6**, 861–865 (1995).

492   38.   M. J. Arcaro, P. F. Schade, M. S. Livingstone, Body map proto-organization in newborn
493   macaques. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **116**, 24861–24871 (2019).

494   39.   D. S. Berns, L. A. DeNardo, D. T. Pederick, L. Luo, Teneurin-3 controls topographic circuit
495   assembly in the hippocampus. *Nature* **554**, 328–333 (2018).

40.   D. T. Pederick, J. H. Lui, E. C. Gingrich, C. Xu, M. J. Wagner, Y. Liu, Z. He, S. R. Quake, L. Luo,
Reciprocal repulsions instruct the precise assembly of parallel hippocampal networks.
Science (2021).

41.   E. C. Gringrich, D. T. Pederick, Y. Zhang, L. Luo, Ten3–Lphn2-mediated target selection across
the extended hippocampal network demonstrates a repeated strategy for circuit assembly.
bioRxiv (2025).

42.   S. Ozaki, W. D. Snider, Initial trajectories of sensory axons toward laminar targets in the
developing mouse spinal cord. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **380**, 215–229 (1997).

43.   H. Hasegawa, S. Abbott, B.-X. Han, Y. Qi, F. Wang, Analyzing Somatosensory Axon Projections
with the Sensory Neuron-Specific Advillin Gene. *J. Neurosci.* **27**, 14404–14414 (2007).

44.   G. R. Anderson, S. Maxeiner, R. Sando, T. Tsetsenis, R. C. Malenka, T. C. Südhof, Postsynaptic
adhesion GPCR latrophilin-2 mediates target recognition in entorhinal-hippocampal synapse
assembly. *Journal of Cell Biology* **216**, 3831–3846 (2017).

45.   C. Molander, G. Grant, Cutaneous projections from the rat hindlimb foot to the substantia
gelatinosa of the spinal cord studied by transganglionic transport of WGA-HRP conjugate.
Journal of Comparative Neurology **237**, 476–484 (1985).

46.   A. Prats-Galino, A. Puigdellívol-sánchez, D. Ruano-Gil, C. Molander, Representations of
hindlimb digits in rat dorsal root ganglia. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **408**, 137–145
(1999).

47.   S. Maslany, D. P. Crockett, M. David Egger, Organization of cutaneous primary afferent fibers
projecting to the dorsal horn in the rat: WGA-HRP versus B-HRP. *Brain Research* **569**, 123–135
(1992).

48.   J. E. Swett, C. J. Woolf, The somatotopic organization of primary afferent terminals in the
superficial laminae of the dorsal horn of the rat spinal cord. *Journal of Comparative Neurology*
231, 66–77 (1985).

49.   A. A. Koulakov, D. N. Tsigankov, A stochastic model for retinocollicular map development.
BMC Neurosci **5**, 30 (2004).

50.   D. N. Tsigankov, A. A. Koulakov, A unifying model for activity-dependent and activity-
independent mechanisms predicts complete structure of topographic maps in ephrin-A
deficient mice. *J Comput Neurosci* **21**, 101–114 (2006).

51.   J. J. J. Hjorth, D. C. Sterratt, C. S. Cutts, D. J. Willshaw, S. J. Eglen, Quantitative assessment of
computational models for retinotopic map formation. *Developmental Neurobiology* **75**, 641–
666 (2015).

52.   M. Fitzgerald, The sprouting of saphenous nerve terminals in the spinal cord following early
postnatal sciatic nerve section in the rat. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **240**, 407–413
(1985).

53.   M. Fitzgerald, C. J. Woolf, P. Shortland, Collateral sprouting of the central terminals of
533   cutaneous primary afferent neurons in the rat spinal cord: Pattern, morphology, and influence
534   of targets. *Journal of Comparative Neurology* **300**, 370–385 (1990).

535   54.   C. A. Leamey, S. Merlin, P. Lattouf, A. Sawatari, X. Zhou, N. Demel, K. A. Glendining, T.
536   Oohashi, M. Sur, R. Fässler, Ten_m3 Regulates Eye-Specific Patterning in the Mammalian
537   Visual Pathway and Is Required for Binocular Vision. *PLOS Biology* **5**, e241 (2007).

538   55.   P. Suetterlin, U. Drescher, Target-Independent EphrinA/EphA-Mediated Axon-Axon Repulsion
539   as a Novel Element in Retinocollicular Mapping. *Neuron* **84**, 740–752 (2014).

540   56.   P. Vanderhaeghen, Q. Lu, N. Prakash, J. Frisén, C. A. Walsh, R. D. Frostig, J. G. Flanagan, A
541   mapping label required for normal scale of body representation in the cortex. *Nat Neurosci* **3**,
542   358–365 (2000).

543   57.   A. Dufour, J. Seibt, L. Passante, V. Depaepe, T. Ciossek, J. Frisén, K. Kullander, J. G. Flanagan, F.
544   Polleux, P. Vanderhaeghen, Area Specificity and Topography of Thalamocortical Projections
545   Are Controlled by ephrin/Eph Genes. *Neuron* **39**, 453–465 (2003).

546   58.   Ur. Chon, D. T. Pederick, J. T. Song, Y. Zhang, Rana, L. Luo, Inverse expression of Ten3 and
547   Lphn2 across the developing mouse brain reveals a global strategy for circuit assembly.
548   *bioRxiv* (2025).

549   59.   R. Melzack, K. Casey, Sensory, motivational, and central control determinants of pain.
550   Kenshalo DR, editor. The skin senses: proceedings. Springfield (Illinois): Charles C. *Thomas*,
551   423–443 (1968).

552   60.   M. A. Sieber, R. Storm, M. Martinez-de-la-Torre, T. Müller, H. Wende, K. Reuter, E. Vasyutina, C.
553   Birchmeier, Lbx1 Acts as a Selector Gene in the Fate Determination of Somatosensory and
554   Viscerosensory Relay Neurons in the Hindbrain. *J. Neurosci.* **27**, 4902–4909 (2007).

555   61.   T. Pietri, O. Eder, M. Blanche, J. P. Thiery, S. Dufour, The human tissue plasminogen activator-
556   Cre mouse: a new tool for targeting specifically neural crest cells and their derivatives in vivo.
557   *Developmental Biology* **259**, 176–187 (2003).

558   62.   H. C. Lai, R. P. Seal, J. E. Johnson, Making sense out of spinal cord somatosensory
559   development. *Development* **143**, 3434–3448 (2016).

560   63.   T. Müller, H. Brohmann, A. Pierani, P. A. Heppenstall, G. R. Lewin, T. M. Jessell, C. Birchmeier,
561   The Homeodomain Factor Lbx1 Distinguishes Two Major Programs of Neuronal Differentiation
562   in the Dorsal Spinal Cord. *Neuron* **34**, 551–562 (2002).

563   64.   S. Paixão, A. Balijepalli, N. Serradj, J. Niu, W. Luo, J. H. Martin, R. Klein, EphrinB3/EphA4-
564   Mediated Guidance of Ascending and Descending Spinal Tracts. *Neuron* **80**, 1407–1420
565   (2013).

566   65.   S. Hunskaar, K. Hole, The formalin test in mice: dissociation between inflammatory and non-
567   inflammatory pain. *Pain* **30**, 103–114 (1987).

66.   J. S. Mogil, S. G. Wilson, K. Bon, S. Eun Lee, K. Chung, P. Raber, J. O. Pieper, H. S. Hain, J. K.
Belknap, L. Hubert, G. I. Elmer, J. Mo Chung, M. Devor, Heritability of nociception I: Responses
of 11 inbred mouse strains on 12 measures of nociception. *Pain* **80**, 67–82 (1999).

67.   R. B. Roome, F. B. Bourojeni, B. Mona, S. Rastegar-Pouyani, R. Blain, A. Dumouchel, C.
Salesse, W. S. Thompson, M. Brookbank, Y. Gitton, L. Tessarollo, M. Goulding, J. E. Johnson, M.
Kmita, A. Chédotal, A. Kania, Phox2a Defines a Developmental Origin of the Anterolateral
System in Mice and Humans. *Cell Reports* **33**, 108425 (2020).

68.   P. Bankhead, M. B. Loughrey, J. A. Fernández, Y. Dombrowski, D. G. McArt, P. D. Dunne, S.
McQuaid, R. T. Gray, L. J. Murray, H. G. Coleman, J. A. James, M. Salto-Tellez, P. W. Hamilton,
QuPath: Open source software for digital pathology image analysis. *Sci Rep* **7**, 16878 (2017).

69.   U. Schmidt, M. Weigert, C. Broaddus, G. Myers, "Cell Detection with Star-Convex Polygons" in
Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention – MICCAI 2018, A. F. Frangi, J.
A. Schnabel, C. Davatzikos, C. Alberola-López, G. Fichtinger, Eds. (Springer International
Publishing, Cham, 2018)*Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, pp. 265–273.

70.   T. C. Südhof, Signaling by latrophilin adhesion-GPCRs in synapse assembly. *Neuroscience*,
doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2025.03.041 (2025).

71.   S. A. Sisson, Y. Fan, M. Beaumont, *Handbook of Approximate Bayesian Computation* (CRC
Press, 2018).

72.   Y. Schälte, E. Klinger, E. Alamoudi, J. Hasenauer, pyABC: Efficient and robust easy-to-use
approximate Bayesian computation. *Journal of Open Source Software* **7**, 4304 (2022).

Fig. 1. Complementary expression of *Ten3* and *Lphn2* in the DH and DRG. (A) RNAscope for *Ten3* and *Lphn2* mRNA in the lumbosacral dorsal horn at e14.5 (left). Quantification of RNAscope puncta and fluorescence intensity (right). **(B)** Immunostaining for Ten3 and Lphn2 (anti-GFP antibody) in the lumbar dorsal horn and adjacent dorsal root entry zone (DREZ) of *Lphn2-mVenus* knock-in mice at e14.5 (left). Quantification of fluorescence intensity in the DH (right) **(C)** RNAscope for *Ten3* and *Lphn2* in lumbar dorsal root ganglia at e14.5 (left) and quantification of RNAscope puncta (right). **(D)** Hypothesized interactions governing DH somatotopic map formation based on the expression and previously described roles of Ten3 and Lphn2. All data shown as mean ± SEM. Scale bars in A, B = 100 μm, C = 50 μm. Axis labels in this and subsequent figures: M, medial; L, ventral; D, dorsal; V, ventral

Fig. 2. Altered somatotopy of distal sensory afferents in Ten3 and Lphn2 cKOs. (A and **D)** Schematic of lost and preserved interactions in (A) Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs and (D) Lphn2$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKOs (top) and the observed shift in the ST distribution of afferents in the cKOs (bottom, filled lines) compared to controls (bottom, dotted lines). **(B** and **E)** Representative images of CTB and WGA labeled afferents in (B) Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs and (E) Lphn2$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKOs compared to controls. **(C** and **F)** Quantification of the distribution of CTB and WGA signal across the ML axis of the DH in cKOs and control littermates. All data shown as mean ± SEM. Two-way mixed ANOVA was performed and genotype x bin interaction terms are reported. ***$P \leq$ 0.001; **$P \leq$ 0.01; *$P \leq$ 0.05. Scale bars = 100 μm.

Fig. 3. Altered somatotopy of proximal sensory afferents in Ten3 and Lphn2 cKOs. (A, D and **G)** Schematic of lost and preserved interactions in (A) Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, (D) Lphn2$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, and (G) Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKOs (top) and the observed shift in the ST distribution of afferents in the cKOs (bottom, filled lines) compared to controls (bottom, dotted lines). **(B, E** and **H)** Representative images of CTB and WGA labeled afferents in (B) Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs (insets show more medially located CTB/WGA in cKOs), (E) Lphn2$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, and (H) Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKOs compared to controls. **(C, F** and **I)** Quantification of the distribution of CTB and WGA signal across the ML axis of the DH in cKOs and control littermates. All data shown as mean ± SEM. Two-way mixed ANOVA was performed and genotype x bin interaction terms are reported. ***$P \leq$ 0.001; **$P \leq$ 0.01; *$P \leq$ 0.05. Scale bars = 100 μm.

Fig. 4. Computational modelling of DH somatotopic map formation. (A) Simplified schematic of model parameters and ABC-SMC procedure. **(B)** Correct distal → medial and proximal → lateral mapping from one representative simulation under wild-type conditions. Simulated ML density of terminal zones in the DH from 10 DRG axons selected across the PD axis. **(C)** Observed and simulated tracer injections for controls and cKOs across all genotype/injection site combinations examined. Average distributions of each condition are shown. Simulated distribution taken from the average of 10 independent simulations.

Fig. 5. Altered ST of neural activity and behavioral responses induced by a noxious stimulus in Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs. (A) Representative images of immunostaining for Fos in the DH induced by formalin injection to the hindpaw of Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs and contols. **(B-D)** Quantification of Fos positive cells in Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO mice and control littermates. (B) Distribution of Fos positive cells across the ML axis of the DH. Two-way mixed ANOVA test was performed and genotype x bin interaction term is reported along with Benjamini-Yekutieli corrected post-hoc p-values for individual bin comparisons. (C) 2D kernel density plots showing their distribution of Fos positive cells in the DH. Hotelling T^2 p-value 0.03. (D) Average ML position of Fos cells. Welch's t-test was performed. **(E)** Quantification of nocifensive licking behavior in response to formalin injection to the hindpaw near the digits, depicted as a percent of total

linking time per limb region. Two-way mixed ANOVA was performed and genotype x location interaction
term is reported. Post-hoc Mann-Whitney tests were performed for each limb location. All data shown as
mean ± SEM. ***P ≤ 0.001; **P ≤ 0.01; *P ≤ 0.05. Scale bars = 100 μm.

Fig. S1. Additional characterization of Ten3 and Lphn2 expression. (**A**) Dual
RNAscope/Immunostaining for *Ten3* and *Lphn2* with DRG neuron subtype markers TrkA (left), TrkB
(middle), and TrkC (right) in e14.5 DRG. (**B**) RNAscope for *Ten3* and *Lphn2* in e14.5 DRG cross sections
(left) and quantification of puncta counts and fluorescence intensity (right) showing no spatial bias for
either across the DV or ML axes. Insets show DRG neurons with high *Lphn2* ('), a mix of *Lphn2* and *Ten3*
(''), and high *Ten3* ('''). (**C**) Quantification of RNAscope puncta in (B) for *Lphn2* in *Ten3*-low compared to
Ten3-high cells and or *Ten3* in *Lphn2*-low compared to *Lphn2*-high cells. Counts per cell were averaged
such that each point corresponds to one embryo. High cells were defined as the top 90% and low cells
were defined as the bottom 10% of cells expressing each respective gene after filtering out cells that do
not express either. (**D**) Related to Fig. 1B, quantification of fluorescence intensity of immunostaining for
Ten3 and Lphn2 (anti-GFP antibody) in the white matter adjacent to the DH of Lphn2-mVenus knock-in
mice at e14.5. Shown as fluorescence intensity normalized per image (left) or as a proportion of total
fluorescence intensity at each ML position (right). (**E**) RNAscope for *Ten3* and *Lphn2* in the e16.5
ventrobasal (VB) thalamus aligning with the proximal to distal somatotopic organization (dorsolateral to
ventromedial VB). (**F**) RNAscope for *TENM3* and *ADGRL2* (human orthologues of *Ten3* and *Lphn2*) in
the human gestational week (GW) 20 DH. All data shown as mean ± SEM. A paired t-test was performed
in (C). ***P ≤ 0.001; **P ≤ 0.01; *P ≤ 0.05. Scale bars in (A) = 25 μm, in (B, E and F) = 100 μm.

Fig. S2. Ten3 and Lphn2 guide DRG axons *in-vitro*. (**A**) Explants of e15.5 lumbar DRGs labelled with
anti-βIII-tubulin antibody grown on stripes of: FC (black), FC (red, left), Lphn2-lectin domain (Lphn2-
Lec, red, middle), or Lphn2 non-Teneurin-binding mutants (Lphn2-Lec^{LT}, red, right) proteins. Red stripes
are also marked by white arrowheads. (**B**) Quantification of βIII-tubulin on red stripes as a percentage of
the total βIII-tubulin signal. While there is no preference for red or black stripes in either FC/FC or FC/
Lphn2-Lec^{LT} controls, there are significantly fewer βIII-tubulin labelled axons on the red Lphn2-Lec
stripes. (**C**) Explants of e15.5 lumbar DRGs labelled with anti-βIII-tubulin antibody grown on stripes of:
FC (black), FC (red, left), or Ten3 (red, right) proteins. Red stripes are also marked by white arrowheads.
(**D**) Quantification of βIII-tubulin on red stripes as a percentage of the total βIII-tubulin signal. While
there is no preference for red or black stripes in FC/FC controls, there are significantly fewer βIII-tubulin
labelled axons on the red Ten3 stripes. ***P ≤ 0.001; **P ≤ 0.01; *P ≤ 0.05. Scale bars = 200 μm.

Fig. S3. Additional characterization of distal sensory afferents in Ten3 and Lphn2 cKOs. (**A**)
Validation of cre lines used in this study showing cre-driven tdTomato expression in the DH and DRG at
E11.5 and E16.5 (**B**) A representative example showing mapping of x and y axes to anatomically-relevant
axes used in quantifications in this study to account for DH curvature. (**C** and **H**) ML distribution of
WGA (left) and CTB (right) in (C) Ten3^{ΔDH} cKOs and (H) Lphn2^{ΔDRG} cKOs compared to littermate
controls. (**D** and **I**) Average Pearson correlation coefficient per animal between WGA and CTB signal
across the ML axis of the DH in (D) Ten3^{ΔDH} cKOs and (I) Lphn2^{ΔDRG} cKOs compared to littermate
controls. (**E, F, J** and **K**) SD distribution of CTB and WGA signal in controls (E and J) and cKOs (F and
K) showing SD separation of afferents labeled by the two tracers. (**G** and **L**) SD distribution of WGA
(left) and CTB (right) between cKOs and control littermates showing no shift along this axis. All data
shown as mean ± SEM. Welch's t-test was performed in (D) and (I), in all others two-way mixed ANOVA
was performed and genotype x bin interaction term is reported. ***P ≤ 0.001; **P ≤ 0.01; *P ≤ 0.05.
Scale bars = 100 μm.

Fig. S4. Additional characterization of proximal sensory afferents in Ten3 and Lphn2 cKOs. (A, F and K) ML distribution of WGA (left) and CTB (right) in (A) Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, (F) Lphn2$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, and (K) Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKOs compared to littermate controls. **(B, G and L)** Average Pearson correlation coefficient per animal between WGA and CTB signal across the ML axis of the DH in (B) Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, (G) Lphn2$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs, and (L) Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKOs compared to littermate controls. **(C, D, H, I, M and N)** SD distribution of CTB and WGA signal in controls (C, H, and M) and cKOs (D, I, and N) showing SD separation of afferents labeled by the two tracers. **(E, J and O)** SD distribution of WGA (left) and CTB (right) between cKOs and control littermates. All data shown as mean ± SEM. Welch's t-test was performed in (B), (G) and (L), in all others two-way mixed ANOVA was performed and genotype x bin interaction term is reported. ***P ≤ 0.001; **P ≤ 0.01; *P ≤ 0.05.

Fig. S5. Further evaluation of computational model performance. (A) PD origin of DRG axons compared to the position of their ML terminal zones showing correct distal → medial and proximal → lateral mapping from one representative simulation under wild-type conditions. **(B and C)** Simulated nerve cut experiment from one representative simulation under wild-type conditions showing expansion of remaining axons along the entire ML extent of the DH. (B) PD origin of DRG axons compared to the position of their ML terminal zones. (C) Simulated ML density of terminal zones in the DH from 10 DRG axons selected across the PD axis.

Fig. S6. Additional characterization of neural activity and somatosensory behavioral responses in Ten3 mutants. (A and B) Related to Fig. 5, quantification of Fos+ cells in the contralateral and ipsilateral DH relative to the side of the formalin injection in (A) controls and (B) cKOs. **(C and D)** Quantification of Fos+ cells in cKOs compared to littermate controls in the (C) contralateral and (D) ipsilateral DH relative to the site of injection. **(E)** SD distribution of Fos+ cells in cKOs compared to littermate controls in the ipsilateral DH. **(F-H)** Quantification of nocifensive licking behavior in Ten3 global KOs compared to control littermates in response to formalin injection to the hindpaw near the digits. (F) The percent of total licking time per limb region. (G) Licking time in seconds per limb region. (H) Total licking time. **(I)** Latency to remove adhesive tape from the hindpaw in KOs and control littermates. **(J)** Number of attempts to remove adhesive tape from the hindpaw in KOs and littermate controls. **(L-N)** Same as in panels (F), and (H-J) respectively, except performed in Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKOs and control littermates. All data shown as mean ± SEM. Welch's t-test was performed in (A-D) and Mann-Whitney tests were performed in (H-J) and (K-N). In (F), (G) and (L) a two-way mixed ANOVA was performed, genotype x bin interaction term is reported, and post-hoc Mann-Whitney tests were performed for each limb location. ***P ≤ 0.001; **P ≤ 0.01; *P ≤ 0.05. Scale bars = 100 μm

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A

ABC-SMC

Parameters

Ten3/Lphn2 interactions   Competition   Activity   etc.   ...

Simulator (Koulakov model) → Compare to observed ML distributions → Accept/reject, mutate and resample

Posterior parameter distributions

Point estimate ("best model")

B

Density   ML position   PD position

C

Distal afferents   Proximal afferents

Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO   Lphn2$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKO   Ten3$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO   Lphn2$^{\Delta DH}$ cKO   Ten3$^{\Delta DRG}$ cKO

% total fluorescence   ML position

- - - Control   —— Control (simulated)
- - - cKO   —— cKO (simulated)

Figure 5

Figure S1

Figure S2

Figure S3

Figure S4

Figure S5

Figure S6