1	Spatiotemporally controlled genetic perturbation for
2	efficient large-scale studies of cell non-autonomous effects
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13	Impact statement
14	A novel genetic strategy for induction of reproducible neural tumors (or any
15	other deleterious phenotype) in a single Drosophila stock (applicable to other
16	organisms).
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18	
19	Major subject areas, keywords, and research organism
20	Cell non-autonomous effects, reproducible tumor, neural stem cell, Drosophila
21	melanogaster

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23 Abstract

24 Studies in genetic model organisms have revealed much about the 25 development and pathology of complex tissues. Most have focused on cell-26 intrinsic gene functions and mechanisms. Much less is known about how 27 transformed, or otherwise functionally disrupted, cells interact with healthy ones towards a favorable or pathological outcome. This is largely 28 29 due to technical limitations. We developed new genetic tools in Drosophila 30 *melanogaster* that permit efficient multiplexed gain- and loss-of-function genetic perturbations with separable spatial and temporal control. 31 32 Importantly, our novel tool-set is independent of the commonly used 33 GAL4/UAS system, freeing the latter for additional, non-autonomous, 34 genetic manipulations; and is built into a single strain, allowing one-35 generation interrogation of non-autonomous effects. Altogether, our design 36 opens up efficient genome-wide screens on any deleterious phenotype. 37 Specifically, we developed tools to study extrinsic effects on neural tumor 38 growth but the strategy presented has endless applications within and 39 beyond neurobiology, and in other model organisms.

40

42 Introduction

43 Despite numerous and versatile genetic mosaic strategies available for 44 genetically amenable model organism *Drosophila melanogaster*, none up to now was suited for efficient large-scale screening for cell non-autonomous effects on 45 46 developmentally deleterious genotype. Given the requirement for а 47 combinations of genetic manipulations, non-autonomous effects are more 48 challenging to investigate yet well known to play crucial roles in development 49 and disease contexts such as cancer. The challenge applies to any tissue but is 50 particularly evident in the central nervous system (CNS) due to diversity of cell 51 types and uniqueness of each lineage with respect to gene expression, size, 52 projection patterns, as well as lethality frequently associated with their 53 disruption. A much needed, transformative, new tool would be: (i) a viable 54 parental stock in which (ii) chosen individual lineages could be (iii) triggered to 55 assume a deleterious genotype (iv) with temporal control (v) from which point 56 they would become permanently labeled by a reporter and (vi) with which a 57 single cross to existing stocks would produce progeny with genetically perturbed 58 cell types of interest other than the labeled lineages. To illustrate in our specific 59 case: no available genetic tool allowed large-scale screening for non-autonomous 60 effects on neural tumor growth as animals harbouring neural tumors cannot be 61 kept as a stable stock.

62 Drosophila has been a canvas for pioneering mosaic tools, at the heart of which 63 lie heterologous binary systems for transcriptional activation or recombination 64 (Griffin *et al.* 2014). Transcriptional activation systems include the yeast 65 transcription factor GAL4 and its binding site, named Upstream Activating

66 Sequence (UAS); the bacterial LexA/LexA Operator (LexAop); and the fungal 67 QF/QUAS system (Brand and Perrimon 1993; Yagi et al. 2010; Potter et al. 2010). Recombination systems include the bacteriophage Cre recombinase and its loxP 68 69 target; the yeast Flippase/Flippase Recognition Target sites (FLP/FRT) and its 70 variant mFLP5/mFRT71; and other veast recombinases (KD, R, B2, and B3) and 71 their cognate recognition sites (Golic and Linquist, 1989; Siegal and Hartl 1996; 72 Hadjieconomou *et al.* 2011; Nern et al., 2011). The modularity of binary systems 73 grants them combinatorial flexibility, and ingenious Boolean logic gates between 74 recombination and transcriptional activation/silencing systems have expanded 75 their applications (eg., Struhl and Basler 1993; Lee and Luo 1999; Griffin et al. 76 2009; Yu et al. 2009; Yagi et al. 2010; Hadjieconomou et al. 2011; Hampel et al. 77 2011; von Philipsborn et al. 2011; Awasaki et al., 2014). Binary systems have 78 been extensively employed to perform large-scale screens using publically 79 available UAS libraries to provide molecular understanding into numerous 80 conserved cell intrinsic processes (St Johnston 2002; Kawakami et al. 2016). 81 Genome-wide screens remain to be applied to extrinsic processes modifying an 82 adverse genotype.

83 We wished to determine the effects of microenvironment or systemic cues on 84 tumor progression. To this end we needed to generate reproducible neural 85 tumors in order to quantitatively assess growth. Tumor reproducibility requires 86 control over lineage, induction time and consistency of levels of downregulation 87 of tumor-suppressors and/or upregulation of oncogenes. We therefore aimed at 88 generating tumors in restricted lineage subsets with a fast inducing event in 89 parental (F0) animals, independently of GAL4/UAS so that we might employ this 90 binary system (for which most modules exist in Drosophila, including for near

91 genome-wide gain- and loss-of-function, readily available to the community) to 92 cause non-autonomous perturbations on F1 progeny. Due to possible fate 93 transformations and expression-level variations of regulatory sequences, we 94 wanted tumors to become irreversibly labeled under the control of a ubiquitous 95 and strong regulatory sequence from the time of induction. Various but not all of 96 these features can be achieved with suppressible/inducible LexA, Q and FLP 97 systems (Weigmann and Cohen 1999; Yagi et al. 2010; Riabinina et al. 2015). 98 Maintenance of an F0 stock with capacity for tumor induction requires 99 suppression of the deleterious genotype until desired. However, whilst the 100 lexA^{GAD} derivative (superscript indicating the GAL4 activation domain) can be 101 suppressed by GAL80, it is not compatible with continuous non-autonomous 102 gene inductions via GAL4 as these would also be affected. Also, alleviation of OF 103 suppression by quinic acid, or estrogen induction of FLPEBD (superscript 104 indicating an estrogen-binding domain) requires ingestion and metabolization of 105 the effector molecule, resulting in relatively long induction kinetics and 106 variability, thus impairing reproducibility in the fast-developing fly tumor 107 models (Weigmann and Cohen 1999; Potter et al. 2010).

108 Our design presented achieves the desired features via the employment of two 109 very efficient transcriptional termination sequences (STOP cassettes) upstream 110 of an oncogenic sequence and reporter. Each STOP cassette is flanked by 111 recombinase target sequences selective for two distinct recombinases, one 112 constitutively expressed in selected lineages, conferring spatial specificity; the 113 other whose expression is induced by heat-shock (hs), conferring rapid temporal 114 resolution. We tested and refined the new genetic tools by recapitulating two 115 well-established *Drosophila* neural tumor models, one generated by

116 downregulation of the homeodomain transcription factor Prospero (Pros), which 117 can lead to tumorigenesis in all neural lineages (of which there are around 100 118 per central brain lobe); another by downregulation of the NHL-domain protein 119 Brain tumor (Brat), whose depletion leads to tumorigenesis specifically in so-120 called type II lineages (of which there are eight per brain lobe (Figure 1-figure 121 supplement 1) (Sousa-Nunes *et al.* 2010). Starting from the units presented here 122 our design can be multiplexed beyond two to produce further spatial 123 intersections, or multiple temporal steps, along with any assemblies of gene 124 expression downstream (downregulation and/or upregulation, plus reporter 125 labeling). This strategy is therefore of broad interest, applicable to other tissues, 126 organisms and biological questions, opening-up large-scale screening for non-127 autonomous effects.

128

129 **Results**

130 FOFO tool design features

Key to the design of this tumor-generating tool is that expression of deleterious sequences by the ubiquitous strong *actin5C* promoter, was blocked by not one (as commonly done), but two stringent STOP cassettes. Each STOP cassette was flanked by the selective recombination sites FRT and mFRT71, specifically recognized by FLP and mFLP5, respectively (Hadjieconomou *et al.* 2011). We called this design "FOFO", for Flp-Out-mFlp5-Out. The prediction was that expression would be unblocked only in the presence of the two Flippases, with

spatiotemporal control achieved by lineage-restricted expression of FLP and hs-induction of mFLP5 (Figure 1a).

140 We wanted our tumor-generating tool to induce expression not only of oncogenes but to also allow downregulation of tumor suppressors, in addition to 141 142 a reporter gene (in this case enhanced green fluorescent protein, EGFP). 143 Multicistronic expression of oncogenic and reporter proteins can be easily 144 achieved by sandwiching T2A peptide (Gonzalez et al. 2011; Diao and White 145 2012) codons between coding sequences (cds). We therefore focused on 146 achieving a layout that reconciled strong reporter expression with gene 147 downregulation by short hairpin artificial microRNAs (miRs). Artificial miRs 148 consist of 21 bp sequences designed for RNA interference, embedded into a 149 sequence backbone of a naturally occurring miR; they are very effective in 150 downregulating gene expression (more so than long double-stranded RNAs; Ni et 151 al. 2011), can be transcribed by RNA polymerase II (Pol II) (Lee et al. 2014), and 152 can be concatenated for synergistic effect (Chen et al. 2007). We placed the EGFP 153 cds downstream of an intron as this increases transcript expression (Haley et al. 154 2010) and has the additional advantage of being able to host miRs without 155 disrupting transcript stability by their processing, unlike when miRs are placed 156 in the 3' untranslated region (3'UTR) (Bejarano et al. 2012).

Wishing to study strictly cell non-autonomous effects employing the GAL4/UAS system, we included miRs targeting GAL4 as well as those targeting a tumor suppressor (two miRs per target). Therefore, if the GAL4 expression domain overlapped with the tumor domain, GAL4 would be silenced within the tumor. miRs targeting the neural tumor suppressors *pros* or *brat* were used for tumor

induction and those targeting CD2 were used as control (Yu *et al.* 2009). To
minimize position effects and enhance expression, all constructs generated for
this study were flanked by gypsy insulators and integrated into the *Drosophila*genome by PhiC3-mediated transgenesis, selecting sites reported to produce low
basal and high induced expression (Markstein *et al.* 2008).

167 The utility of this design lies in its combination with two distinct Flippases plus a 168 desired GAL4 transgene in a single organism (Figure 1b, F0 left). Once 169 assembled, this stock can then be crossed to any other carrying a UAS-transgene 170 (Figure 1b, F0 right). The spatially-restricted FLP will excise the first STOP 171 cassette with a domain reproducibility that depends on enhancer reliability and 172 strength as well as efficacy of the excision activity. In any case, neither reporter 173 nor deleterious sequences should be expressed due to the additional STOP cassette. Consequently, until heat-shock, F0 and its F1 progeny should contain a 174 175 single mFLP5-Out cassette within the FLP-expressing domain. F1 should also 176 express the UAS-transgene in the GAL4 domain, and not express the miRs or 177 reporter (Figure 1b, F1 left). Following F1 heat-shock (Figure 1b, F1 middle), the 178 mFRT71-flanked STOP cassette should be excised (without spatial constraints, 179 its efficacy depending on heat-shock duration); following which the miRs and 180 reporter can be expressed but only within the FLP-expressing domain (Figure 181 1b, F1 right). If the GAL4 domain overlaps with the FLP spatial domain (as 182 schematized in Fig. 1b), strictly non-autonomous effects can still be studied since 183 GAL4 expression will be wiped-out therein by the GAL4^{*miRs*} (Figure 1b, F1 right). 184 A more naturalistic schematic illustrating brain tumours and GAL4 driven in all 185 glia is depicted in Figure 1c.

186

187 Efficacy of STOP cassettes

Central to the success of this strategy is the efficacy of the STOP cassettes. For each we used tandem transcriptional terminators, as others before us. Whereas some degree of STOP leakiness can be afforded to simply label cells or to generate a deleterious genetic perturbation by means of a cross, it is absolutely incompatible with our aim of harbouring a "locked" deleterious perturbation within a stable stock. We tested a few transcriptional terminators until we obtained the tightly controlled expression necessary.

195 Removal of the lamin cds from the STOP cassette used in Flybow 196 (Hadijeconomou *et al.* 2011) resulted in failure to terminate transcription 197 despite concatenated *hsp70Aa* and *hsp27* terminators, seen by EGFP expression 198 in the absence of Flippase (data not shown). In contrast, concatenation of 199 hsp70Bb and SV40 terminators, successfully precluded unintended EGFP 200 expression. We therefore created a version of FOFO (FOFO1.0) with the two 201 STOPs identical to the latter (Figure 2a). FOF01.0 was tested with publicly 202 available stocks of FLP and mFLP5 both under the control of the strong hs 203 promoter. Encouragingly, in the presence of both hs-FLP and hs-mFLP5 and only 204 after hs, extensive patches of EGFP were observed in all transgenics (FOF01.0-205 CD2^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}, FOF01.0-pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs} and FOFO1.0-brat^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}) 206 (Figure 2b). Furthermore, only in the presence of the oncogenic miRs were 207 ectopic neural stem cells (NSCs) observed (Figure 2b white-boxed insets: note 208 NSC density within EGFP patches in brains expressing oncogenic miRs versus 209 controls). However, ectopic NSCs were sometimes observed also outside the EGFP domain in *FOFO1.0* carrying *pros^{miRs}* or *brat^{miRs}* (Figure 2b yellow-boxed 210

inset). Because this was never seen in the absence of hs it was a Flippasedependent process, likely due to inefficient termination of Pol II following
excision of only one of the STOP cassettes. We concluded that our design,
containing phenotype-inducing miRs ~200 bp downstream of STOP cassettes,
was a sensitive reporter of Pol II readthrough (Proudfoot 2016) and that this
STOP cassette was unsuitable for our purpose.

217 We next generated a FOF02.0 version containing two longer and potentially 218 stronger, STOP cassettes: the Flybow one including *lamin* cds and a 219 concatenation of four SV40 terminators (Jackson et al. 2001; Hadjieconomou et 220 al. 2011). As with FOF01.0, in the presence of both hs-FLP and hs-mFLP5 and only after hs, extensive patches of EGFP were observed in all FOF02.0 221 222 transgenics; and only in the presence of oncogenic miRs were ectopic NSCs 223 observed (Figure 2c white-boxed insets). This was the case for hs of 20 min and 224 1 h. When we performed a double hs of 1.5 h each 24 h apart on FOF02.0pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs} we occasionally saw tumors in the presence of only hs-mFLP5 225 226 (one central brain lineage in 8 out of 12 brains, which amounts to a frequency of 227 ~ 0.3 % as previously reported for cross-reactivity of hs-mFLP5 with FRT sites; 228 Hadjieconomou et al. 2011). To ascertain that there was no leaky miR 229 transcription in the absence of detectable EGFP, we counted the number of NSCs 230 per larval central brain lobe and saw no differences between wild-type (WT) and pros^{miRs} and brat^{miRs} central brains, in the absence of hs or the presence of a 231 232 single Flippase (or, in the few cases where hs-mFLP5 cross-reacted with FRT 233 sites, outside the EGFP domain) (Figure 2–figure supplement 1). Crucially, with 234 FOFO2.0 supernumerary NSCs were never observed outside the EGFP domain 235 (Figure 2c). In summary, the FOFO2.0 design confirmed low-frequency cross-

reactivity between mFLP5 and FRT sites but largely blocked miR transcription in
the absence of either Flippase and successfully unblocked it in the presence of
both, with perfect correspondence to EGFP reporter expression.

239

240 Functionality of GAL4^{miRs}

241 To test efficacy of GAL4^{miRs}, we crossed hs-FLP; hs-mFLP5,FOFO2.0-pros^{miRs}-242 GAL4^{miRs} flies to those where all neural lineages are labeled in GAL4/UAS-243 dependent manner (GAL4 expressed in the domain of the Achaete-scute family 244 transcription factor Asense (Zhu *et al.* 2006; Bowman *et al.* 2008) in the genotype 245 *ase-GAL4,UAS-NLS::RFP*). The prediction was that wherever EGFP-labelled clones 246 would be induced (by heat-shock) the RFP signal would be wiped out due to co-247 expression of *GAL4^{miRs}*. Indeed, following heat-shock, RFP-negative patches were 248 observed in perfect overlap with EGFP-labeled clones, as expected from efficient 249 GAL4 knock-down (Figure 3).

This experiment also illustrates successful combination of FLP/FOFO tools with
GAL4/UAS as intended for independent genetic manipulations and genome-wide
screens.

253

254 New enhancer-FLP(D) transgenics

The next step was to employ FOFO2.0 to generate spatiotemporal controlled tumors in the larval CNS. Because of the report that mFLP5 can act on FRT sequences at low frequency but not the converse (Hadjieconomou *et al.* 2011), we used FLP for constitutive spatial control (lineage-specific *enhancer-FLP*) and

259 mFLP5 for transiently-induced temporal control (hs-mFLP5). Few lineage-260 specific FLP lines are currently available so we set out to generate some suited 261 for our purpose. For type II lineages, we used the *R19H09* and *stg*¹⁴ enhancers 262 previously described to be expressed therein (Bayraktar *et al.* 2010; Wang *et al.* 263 2014). We then browsed images reporting larval CNS expression of a large 264 collection of Drosophila GAL4 lines (Manning et al. 2012) and selected twenty-six with restricted expression for further analysis. Induction of *pros* or *brat* tumors 265 266 requires that these neural tumor suppressors be downregulated in progenitors, 267 not in differentiated progeny. We thus screened selected GAL4 lines for the 268 ability to induce supernumerary NSCs (inferred by larger reporter gene domain) 269 when crossed to pros^{RNAi} – a functional screen for expression in neural 270 progenitors. Ones of interest were further tested for the ability to induce 271 supernumerary NSCs also when crossed to *brat^{RNAi}*. Downregulation of *pros* 272 should induce supernumerary NSCs in all central brain lineages (type I or II) 273 whereas downregulation of *brat* should induce supernumerary NSCs only in type 274 II. Furthermore, because we aimed to generate lines to induce an irreversible 275 intrachromosomal recombination event, it was relevant to check not only 276 expression at a particular timepoint but the "complete" expression pattern from 277 onset, permanently reported by a FLP-out event. Altogether, we chose 9 278 enhancers from which to generate FLP lines (Figure 4–Figure supplement 1).

The degree of reproducibility of FOFO-induced tumors depends on reproducibility of the expression domain of FLP, the strength of this expression and recombination efficiency. We employed a mutated form of FLP called FLP(D), which at position 5 contains an aspartic acid instead of glycine residue (Babineau *et al.* 1985) and is reported to be at least ten-fold more efficient than the original (Nern et al. 2011). Two different promoters were compared: that of *hsp70* and the *Drosophila* Synthetic Core Promoter (DSCP) employed in the generation of the GAL4 lines tested (Pfeiffer et al. 2008; Han et al. 2011). In all cases, expression controlled by the *hsp70* promoter was less widespread relative to that controlled by the DSCP (Figure 4), which could be due either to less background or sensitivity. Aiming for spatial restriction, we used the *hsp70* promoter lines for subsequent experiments.

291

292 FLP cross-reactivity with mFRT71 at very low frequency

293 Newly generated *enhancer-FLP* lines containing the *hsp70* promoter were tested 294 by crossing to *FOFO2.0-pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}*. The prediction was that no induction of 295 supernumerary NSCs or EGFP expression would occur in progeny, whether or 296 not heat-shocked, since hs-mFLP5 was not provided. Most lines behaved as 297 expected but some enhancer-FLPs did very occasionally lead to induction of EGFP 298 clusters containing supernumerary NSCs in the absence of hs. This indicates that 299 FLP can cross-react with very low frequency with non-cognate mFRT71 sites 300 (overall frequency of ~ 0.04 % based on the number of such clones within the 301 ~100 neural lineages per central brain). This cross-reactivity was never detected 302 when crossing *hs-FLP* alone to *FOF02.0* lines even following long double heat-303 shocks (Figure 2-supplement Figure 1), suggesting that this phenomenon is 304 either due to the FLP(D) structural variation, its enhanced recombination 305 efficiency, and/or the fact that it is provided constitutively by the spatially-306 restricted enhancers as opposed to transiently via a hs-mediated pulse. In any

307 case, the almost negligible cross-reactivity indicated that these *enhancer-FLP*308 lines could be used for our purpose.

309

310 FOFO2.0-induced tumor reproducibility

311 Each of the FOFO2.0 transgenics (FOFO2.0-CD2^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}, FOFO2.0-pros^{miRs}-312 GAL4^{miRs} and FOF02.0-brat^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}) was next recombined with hs-mFLP5. 313 We then crossed these recombinants to *enhancer-FLP(D)* lines before combining 314 them into a single stock. As expected, EGFP-labelled supernumerary NSCs were 315 consistently observed following hs. It was possible to combine all transgenes in a 316 single animal stock with the exception of R12H06-FLP(D) and FOF02.0-pros^{miRs}-317 *GAL4^{miRs}*, which was the only one with a reasonable degree of tumor induction in 318 the absence of heat-shock (Figure 5–Supplement figure 1). The heat-shock 319 regime that led to best tumor reproducibility was a double pulse of 1.5 h each. 320 with the first at the end of embryogenesis and a second during L1 (when brain 321 NSCs are still quiescent), thus providing two doses of mFLP5 \sim 24 h apart 322 without intervening NSC divisions. Following heat-shock, patches of EGFP-323 labelled supernumerary NSCs were observed for all enhancer-FLP(D) lines, with 324 both hs-mFLP5;F0F02.0-CD2^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs} (controls) and hs-mFLP5;F0F02.0-325 pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs} but only the latter presented tumors (Figure 5). Concerning brat tumors, with hs-mFLP5;FOF02.0-brat^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs} following heat-shock, 326 327 patches of EGFP-labelled supernumerary NSCs were were efficiently generated 328 with *stq14-FLP(D)* but rarely observed for *R19H09-FLP(D)* (Figure 6; Figure 329 6-supplement figure 1) suggesting that the latter enhancer is relatively weak. 330 Concerning reproducibility, examples of various specimen for a type I NSC

enhancer-FLP and a type II NSC *enhancer-FLP* are shown (Figure 6). In summary
we were able to generate spatiotemporally-controlled lineage-restricted labeled
CNS tumors in a single stock in the absence of the GAL4/UAS system.

334

335 **Discussion**

336 We engineered genetic tools with which to generate labeled lineage-restricted 337 CNS tumors (applicable to any other deleterious genetic perturbation) in a single 338 stock, and independently of GAL4/UAS. We demonstrate successful combination 339 of novel FLP/FOFO tools with GAL4/UAS and efficacious GAL4 knock-down 340 within domains of FLP/mFLP5 and GAL4 intersection. This validates our tool for 341 independent genetic manipulations in strictly non-overlapping domains, which is 342 transformative for the study of cell non-autonomous effects. Our design opens up 343 for the first time the ability to perform efficient genome-wide screening for non-344 autonomous effects on deleterious genotypes.

We show that employment of 4 miRs is efficacious and permits simultaneous downregulation of multiple genes in the labeled domain; furthermore, T2A sequences can be added for simultaneous overexpression of coding sequences in addition to that for a reporter. The system can be used also to refine spatial domains, intersecting various enhancer-recombinases (in addition or not to hs control).

The sensitivity of our design (with miR expression inducing a readily detectable and quantifiable phenotype even in non-labelled cells) allowed us to define STOP cassettes appropriate to curb even short Pol II readthrough. The discrete number

of progenitors from which tumors are initiated provided a convenient platform to quantify Flippase cross-reaction and revealed low-level cross-reaction of FLP(D) with mFRT71 sites, not described before. The degree of tumor reproducibility reported differences in strength and/or robustness of the lineage-restricted enhancers (eg., as seen by non-symmetric *brat* tumors with *R19H09-FLP(D)* versus bilaterally symmetric ones with *stg*¹⁴-*FLP(D)*.

360 With this setup, any desired GAL4 line can now be added to the stock containing 361 the other elements (spatially restricted-FLP, hs-mFLP5, FOFO) and screens can 362 be performed with a number of convenient criteria. For example, the presence of 363 larval neural tumors induces developmental delay whose extent is proportional to tumor size (our unpublished observation); and in some lineages leads to adult 364 365 sub-lethality (i.e., presence of adults bearing tumors in a sub-Mendelian 366 proportion). Therefore, the extent of developmental delay and of adult escapers 367 can be used as first-pass proxies for tumor size, for speedy screening of non cell-368 autonomous modifiers of these parameters. Tumor volume can be subsequently 369 measured directly. Additionally, a FOFO version containing a Luciferase reporter 370 can be generated in order to use Luciferase activity as an efficient method of 371 quantifying reporter-expressing cells (in our case tumor volume) in homogenized tissue (Homem et al. 2014). 372

373 Custom-made FOFO tools can be applied to any desired topic and cell types. 374 Within the CNS, other examples include investigating cell non-autonomous 375 modifications of axon misguidance, perturbed arbor growth or synapse 376 formation, roles of glia on neurodegeneration, etc. Furthermore, even without 377 gene perturbations, the FOFO tool allows sparse labeling of specifically targeted

cells (sparseness achieved by short heat-shock and cell-type targeting provided
by *enhancer-FLP*), which is extremely useful for studying cellular morphology
and/or migration. Beyond the CNS, the resurgence of interest in metabolism and
physiology, for example, has had strong contribution from *Drosophila* research
(Rajan and Perrimon 2013). These are disciplines that involve interplay between
cell types and different organs and tools like the ones described here will
undoubtedly propel them forward.

385 The principles of the FOFO design can be applied to other model organisms 386 where distinct site-specific recombinases work, such as is the case for zebrafish 387 and mouse (Nern et al. 2011; Femi et al. 2016; Carney and Mosimann 2018; 388 Yoshimura et al. 2018) for refined spatial and/or temporal control of gene 389 expression. In zebrafish, heat-shock induced gene expression allows for faster 390 and/or focal induction of gene expression as compared to drug-induced 391 expression (Halloran et al. 2000). Direct translation of a FOFO tool with the aim 392 here described (large-scale screening for non-autonomous effects) is feasible in 393 zebrafish by employment of the GAL4/UAS or Q/QUAS systems (Subedi et al. 394 2014; Kawakami et al. 2016). In mouse, one way thermal shock can be focally-395 induced (thus minimizing unwanted damage of most cells) is by Brownian 396 motion of iron oxide nanoparticles when subject to a magnetic field. Once 397 injected into specific tissues, these nanoparticles remain static and can be 398 visualized by magnetic resonance imaging (Pankhurst et al. 2003), which means 399 the site of injection, and therefore of heat-shock, can be located any time post-400 injection. Translating the example of this study into mice, induction of 401 tumorigenesis focally in specific cell types by a combination of heat-shock and a 402 cell-type specific recombinase, in a way that allows identification of exactly 403 where the tumor was initiated, will be invaluable to study the earliest events in 404 mammalian tumorigenesis. This is largely a "black box" in *in vivo* mammalian 405 cancer studies, with assumed extrapolation from *in vitro* findings, since by the 406 time a tumor can be visualized it is usually already of a substantially advanced 407 stage. FOFO applications are thus myriad and versatile.

408

409 Materials and Methods

410 **Plasmid backbone.** A modified *pCaSpeR* plasmid containing an *actin5C* 411 promoter and a PhiC31-Integrase *attB* site was kindly provided by C. Alexandre 412 and further modified as described next. To enhance expression and avoid 413 positional effects, gypsy insulators were amplified from *pVALIUM20*²⁴ adding 5' 414 EcoRI and XhoI, and 3' BamHI and NheI restriction sites: the gypsy PCR product 415 digested with EcoRI and NheI was cloned into identical sites in the modified 416 *pCaSpeR*, making *act5C-gypsy1*; the *gypsy* PCR product digested with XhoI and 417 BamHI was cloned into identical sites in *act5C-gypsy1*, making *act5C-gypsy2*. To minimise recombination, this plasmid as well as its FOFO derivatives were best 418 grown in XL10-Gold Ultracompetent Cells (Agilent Technologies, Cat. No. 419 420 200314) at 30 °C at 150 rpm.

FOFO modules. An initial FOFO insert containing *CD2^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}* and
restriction sites at key locations for modularity was generated by gene synthesis
(Integrated DNA Technologies) and cloned into XhoI-NotI sites in *act5C-gypsy2*.

424 Short hairpin design and exchange. All miR sequences were embedded in the
425 *Drosophila miR-1* stem-loop backbone (Haley *et al.* 2008), within the *ftz* intron

426 (Haley *et al.* 2010). Control miRs were those previously used to downregulate 427 CD2 (Yu et al. 2009); both GAL4 miRs and one each for pros and brat were sequences selected by the Transgenic RNAi Project (TRiP; Ni et al. 2011); other 428 429 pros and brat miRs were selected by us (sequences below) from the output of the 430 Designer of siRNA (DSIR) software (Vert al. 2006; et http://biodev.extra.cea.fr/DSIR/DSIR.html). In brief, target mRNA sequences 431 were fed into the software and output sequences BLASTed against the Drosophila 432 433 transcriptome; sequences with \geq 16-bp contiguous matches to other targets 434 were excluded. Hairpin sequences targeting pros or brat along with ones 435 targeting GAL4, flanked by AscI on the 5' end and AvrII on the 3' end, were 436 generated by gene synthesis (GenScript). The AscI-AvrII fragments were cloned 437 into identical sites in FOF01.0, making FOF01.0-pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs} or FOF01.0*brat^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}*. The restriction sites (lowercase) and hairpin sequences (sense 438 439 and antisense indicated in **bold**) used in this study were:

- 440 *GAL4^{miRs}*:
- 441 cctaggAACATCCCATAAAACATCCCATATTCAGCCGCTAGCAGT**CAGGATTATTTGT**
- 442 **ACAAGATA**TAGTTATATTCAAGCATA**TATCTTGTACAAATAATCCTG**GCGAATTC
- 443 AGGCGAGACATCGGAGTTGAAACTAAAACTGAAATTTACTAGAAAACATCCCATAAA
- 444 ACATCCCATATTCAGCCGCTAGCAGT**TCGGAAGAGAGTAGTAACAAA**TAGTTATAT
- 445 TCAAGCATA**TTTGTTACTACTCTCTCCGA**GCGAATTCAGGCGAGACATCGGAGTT
- 446 GAAACTAAAACTGAAATTTCCTAGG
- 447 *pros^{miRs}*:
- 448 ggcgcgccAACATCCCATAAAACATCCCATATTCAGCCGCTAGCAGT**CAGGATGTGGA**
- 449 **ACAAGAACAA**TAGTTATATTCAAGCATA**TTGTTCTTGTTCCACATCCTG**GCGAATT

- 450 CAGGCGAGACATCGGAGTTGAAACTAAAACTGAAATTTACTAGAAAACATCCCATAA
- 451 AACATCCCATATTCAGCCGCTAGCAGT**TAGCAGTAGTAGTAACAATAA**TAGTTATA
- 452 TTCAAGCATA**TTATTGTTACTACTGCTA**GCGAATTCAGGCGAGACATCGGAGT
- 453 TGAAACTAAAACTGAAATTTCCTAGG
- 454 *brat*^{miRs}:
- 455 ggcgcgccAACATCCCATAAAACATCCCATATTCAGCCGCTAGCAGTCTGTGTCAAGGT
 456 GTTCAACTATAGTTATATTCAAGCATATAGTTGAACACCTTGACACAGGCGAATTC
 457 AGGCGAGACATCGGAGTTGAAACTAAAACTGAAATTTACTAGAAAACATCCCATAAA
- 458 ACATCCCATATTCAGCCGCTAGCAGTCGGCGTGGTGGTCAACGACAATAGTTATAT
- 459 TCAAGCATA**TTGTCGTTGACCACCACGCCG**GCGAATTCAGGCGAGACATCGGAGTT
- 460 GAAACTAAAACTGAAATTTCCTAGG

461 STOP cassettes. FOF01.0 contained two identical STOP cassettes consisting of hsp70Bb (Nern et al. 2011) and SV40 terminators. FOF02.0 contained a first 462 463 STOP cassette consisting of the lamin cds plus hsp70Aa and hsp27 polyA generated by PCR using FB2.0 (Hadjieconomou *et al.* 2011) as template with the 464 465 primers (Forward and Reverse always indicated in this order): gat cga tcc ccg ggt 466 acc gcg gcc gcA TAG GGA ATT GGG AAT TCG C and cga att ccc aat tcc cgt tta aaC 467 TCG AGG GTA CCA GAT CTG (uppercase indicating complementarity to 468 template); and a second STOP cassette consisting of four tandem SV40 polyA 469 sequences generated by PCR using the plasmid *Lox-Stop-Lox TOPO* (Addgene; 470 Jackson *et al.* 2001) as template with the primers: gat cga tcc ccg ggt acc gcg gcc 471 gcG AAG TTC CTA TAC TTT CTA G and ttt ggc ttt agt cga CTC TAG TTT AGG CGT AAT CG. Products were inserted by Gibson Assembly (NEB) into FOFO-EGFPnls 472 473 backbones digested with Notl and Pmel to remove the existing STOP cassettes.

474 Primers were designed either manually or, for Gibson Assembly, with the New
475 England Biolabs builder tool (http://nebuilder.neb.com/).

476 **Reporter.** The reporter gene used was EGFP, fused in its N-terminal to a
477 membrane targeting sequence (CD8), obtained by PCR from FB2.0
478 (Hadjieconomou *et al.* 2011); or in its C-terminal to the SV40 NLS
479 GSPPKKKRKVEDV (GGA TCC CCC CCC AAG AAG AAG CGC AAG GTG GAG GAC GTC
480 TAG) engineered by Gibson Assembly (New England Biolabs) from a sequence
481 kindly provided by G. Struhl and including a Kozak consensus. The 3'UTR used
482 was *His2av3'UTR*-PolyA (Manning *et al.* 2012).

483 **Enhancer-FLPs.** For the enhancer-FLP(D) constructs, the plasmid pDEST-484 HemmarG (Addgene; Han et al. 2011) was modified using Gibson Assembly (New 485 England Biolabs) as described next. CD4-tdGFP cds was removed with XhoI and 486 XbaI and replaced by a PCR fragment encoding FLP(D) obtained from *pIFRC150*-487 20XUAS-IVS-Flp1::PEST (Addgene; Nern et al. 2011) with the primers: cct ttt cgt 488 tta gcc aag act cga gAA TCA AAA TGC CGC AGT TTG and act ggc tta gtt aat taa ttc 489 tag att aAA TAC GGC GAT TGA TGT AG. We call the resulting plasmid pDEST-490 *Hemmar-FLP(D)*. This was transformed into One Shot® ccdB Survival[™] 2 T1R 491 Competent Cells (Life Technologies, Cat. No. A10460). A modified version of *pDEST-Hemmar-FLP(D)* containing the *DSCP* promoter (Pfeiffer *et al.* 2008) and 492 493 the ftz intron (Haley et al. 2010) was generated using Gibson Assembly (New 494 England Biolabs) using *pBPGUw* as a template. *pDEST-HemmarG* was digested 495 with BbvcI and XbaI, removing part of the *ccdB cds* as well as the *hsp70* 496 promoter, the zeste intron and CD4-tdGFP cds. PCR fragments containing the 497 sequences for completing the *ccdB cds* as well as for the *DSCP* promoter, *ftz*

498 intron and *FLP(D) cds* were obtained using the primers: gga aaa tca gga agg gat 499 ggc tga ggT CGC CCG GTT TAT TGA AAT G and cgg cca att cAG CTG AAC GAG AAA 500 CGT AAA ATG (*attR1* + *ccdB cds*), tcg ttc agc tGA ATT GGC CGC GTT TAA AC and 501 gat tct cga gCC TGC AGG TCT TTG CAA TC (*DSCP* and *ftz* intron), gac ctg cag gCT 502 CGA GAA TCA AAA TGC C and act ggc tta gtt aat taa ttc tag atc tag att aAA TAC 503 GGC GAT TGA TGT AG (FLP(D) cds) and assembled into the BbvcI-XbaI pDEST-504 HemmarG fragment. We call the resulting plasmid pDEST-Hemmar-DSCP-ftz-505 FLP(D).

506 Enhancer fragments were generated by PCR from gDNA and cloned into 507 *pENTR/D-TOPO* (Life Technologies, Cat. No. K2400-20). Primer sequences 508 contained CACC at the 5' end of the forward primer for Gateway cloning. LR 509 reaction products between *pENTR/D-TOPO* containing enhancer fragments and 510 *pDEST-Hemmar-FLP(D)* or *pDEST-Hemmar-DSCP-ftz-FLP(D)* were used to 511 generate transgenic flies.

Drosophila stocks and transgenesis. hs-FLP, UAS-CD8::GFP, UAS-brat^{SH}, UASpros^{SH}/CyO and Janelia Farm GAL4 lines were obtained from the Bloomington
Stock Centre; act>STOP>GAL4,UAS-GFP was a gift from W. Chia; UASFLP,tub>STOP>Gal4,UAS-CD8::GFP was a gift from M. Landgraf; ase-GAL4
recombined with UAS-myr::RFP was a gift from A. Bailey. Bc/CyO; hs-mFLP5/TM2
was a gift from I. Salecker.

PhiC31 Integrase-mediated transgenesis was performed by BestGene Inc. into *attP40 (FOFO), attP18 (enhancer-FLP), attP16 (hs-FLP or hs-mFLP5)* strains
mutant for the gene *white,* which results in white eyes; since all transgenes

521 included the *white* gene, insertions were selected by eye color in the F1 522 generation. For *FOFO* transgenesis, animals were injected and reared at 18 °C.

523 Heat-shocks. Larvae were heat-shocked by tube emersion into a 37 °C water-

524 bath. Duration as indicated in text and/or figures.

525 Immunohistochemistry and imaging. For immunohistochemistry, CNSs were 526 fixed for 15 min in 3.7% formaldehyde in PBS. Mouse anti-Miranda (mAb81 527 1/50; gift from F. Matsuzaki) was used to label NSCs. Secondary antibodies were conjugated to either Alexa-Fluor-488 or Alexa-Fluor-555 (Molecular Probes) and 528 529 used at 1/500. DNA stain was TO-PRO3 iodide (Molecular Probes). Tissues were 530 mounted in Vectashield (Vector Laboratories) and images obtained using a Zeiss 531 LSM510 confocal microscope. Images were acquired using the same confocal 532 (laser power, gain and pinhole) conditions. Maximum intensity z-stack 533 projections were generated and brightness/contrast of whole images adjusted 534 with FIJI software.

535 Quantifications and statistics. No randomization nor blinding was used except 536 for data shown in Supplementary Figure 2, where NSC counts were performed 537 blind for genotype. Here, each data point corresponds to a different individual of 538 the designated genotype or condition. Sample size calculation is unwarranted 539 due to the small standard deviation of the number of NSCs per central brain lobe 540 in WT and the large effect that tumour induction has on this (many standard 541 deviations above the mean). Each experiment was performed twice (biological 542 replicates). Biological replicates refer to biologically distinct samples 543 (independent crosses) grown in the same conditions and undergone the 544 experimental procedure; sample number is indicated in each appropriate figure

545	legend. Data was checked for normalcy via the Liliefors test; significance of
546	difference between each genotype and WT was tested by Ordinary One Way
547	ANOVA, multiple comparisons. No data was excluded. Statistical tests and graphs
548	were generated using Prism software.

549

550 Author contributions

A.M. and F.O. generated constructs. A.M. performed preliminary experiments with FOFO1.0 and acquired some of the data in Supplementary Figure 3. A.C. acquired all other data shown. A.C., A.M. and R.S.-N. analysed and interpreted data. R.S.-N. was responsible for the concept, design and supervision of the project, and wrote the manuscript, which all authors revised.

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569

570 Competing Interests

571 The authors declare no financial or non-financial competing interests.

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Figure 1 FOFO design and application. (a) FOFO construct design: the actin5C promoter is blocked from inducing transcript expression by two efficient transcriptional terminator (STOP) cassettes. Each of these is flanked by FRT or mFRT71, specifically recognized by FLP and mFLP5, respectively. Therefore, miRs and EGFP will only be expressed in cells containing the two flippases. Spatial and temporal control is achieved by providing a spatially restricted FLP and hs-induced mFLP5. SD, splice donor; SA, splice acceptor. Following excision of the fushi tarazu (ftz) intron, miRs are processed without detriment to reporter expression. Gypsy insulators minimize position effects whilst enhancing expression levels; attB sites allow site-specific insertion into attP-containing host strains. (b) Schematic of FOFO application. Expression of deleterious sequences (either knock-down by miRs or overexpression alongside the reporter by means of T2A) can be induced (by heat-shock) in a single fly stock (without need to cross) carrying FOFO, a lineagespecific enhancer1-FLP and hs-mFLP5. The point is then to add in the same flies (F0 generation) a GAL4 transgene (enhancer2-GAL4) and cross to UAS responders. The FOFO containing stock expresses FLP in the spatially restricted domain defined by enhancer1 (yellow) in a tissue represented by the grey shape. FLP expression will constitutively excise the first STOP cassette but the presence of a second STOP cassette precludes expression of anything downstream unless flies are subject to hs. The F1 progeny expresses a transgene (purple) in the GAL4-expressing domain defined by enhancer2 (black). Following hs, mFLP5 expression leads to excision of the second STOP cassette and thus expression of miRs and EGFP in the domain covered by the lineage-specific enhancer. Even if the domain of the latter overlaps with that of enhancer2 as depicted, GAL4 miRs will delete GAL4 expression in the EGFP-expressing domain so that the GAL4 domain never overlaps with that of enhancer1 and only cell non-autonomous effects are assessed. (c) Schematic representation of a FOFO application with the tools designed for this study. EGFP-labelled neural tumors (green) are generated within brain lobes (grey shape) in a stock also carrying a GAL4 expressed in glia (purple). Crossing this stock to any UAS-responder lines (could be genome-wide gain- or loss-of function) will allow identification of genes whose glial expression affects tumor size.



Figure 1–Figure supplement 1. A Schematics of *Drosophila* type I and II larval brain lineages with color-coded cell types; key on the right. NSC, neural stem cells; GMC, ganglion mother cell; INP, intermediate neural progenitor. Wild-type (WT), *pros*^{-/-} and *brat*^{-/-} lineages (tumorigenic) are schematized. In *pros* mutant lineages, GMCs revert to NSCs in type I, and to INPs in type II; *brat* mutation affects only type II lineages, in which INPs revert to NSCs. **B** Schematic of the *Drosophila* CNS and its regionalization: each brain lobe consists of central brain and optic lobe regions; each central brain contains ~100 NSCs: 8 type II (circles outlined in red) and ~90 type I (circles filled in red). Posterior to the brain is the ventral nerve cord (VNC). (Optic lobe and VNC NSCs are represented by grey circles within amplified schematic). The region outlined by dashed line is the neuropil.



Figure 2 FOFO1.0 versus FOFO2.0. **(a)** FOFO.1.0 and FOFO2.0 differ in their STOP cassettes (drawn roughly to scale unlike remainder of construct). **(b)** Wandering thirdinstar larval brain lobes. In the absence of hs, the brains of animals carrying FOFO1.0 as well as hs-FLP1 and hs-mFLP5 look WT. Following hs, miR and EGFP expression is induced and supernumerary NSCs characteristic of these tumors are generated within the EGFP domain (notice NSC density in white-boxed insets). However, supernumerary NSCs outside the EGFP domain were also observed (notice NSC density in yellow-boxed inset, comparable to that of white-boxed inset of same sample). **(c)** Wandering thirdinstar larval brain lobes. In the absence of hs, the brains of animals carrying FOFO2.0 as well as hs-FLP1 and hs-mFLP5 look WT. Following hs, miR and EGFP expression is induced and supernumerary NSCs characteristic of these tumors are generated only within the EGFP domain (white-boxed insets). All images are maximum intensity projections of Z-series but those of brains containing tumors are projections of only a few optical sections. Images are of a representative example obtained from two biological replicates (n>10 per condition). Scale bar: 100 µm.



Figure 2–Figure supplement 1 FOF02.0 precludes formation of supernumerary NSCs unless both FLP and mFLP5 are provided. Quantification of the number of NSCs (identified by expression of Miranda) per brain lobe in third-instar larvae of the indicated genotypes (above histograms) crossed to either both hs-FLP and hs-mFLP5 or just one of them (as indicated below graph), subjected or not to heat-shock (indicated by thermometers). One brain lobe per animal was picked at random. Histograms heights represent the mean and error bars the S.D.. There was no statistically significant difference between any of the conditions. Data points shown were collected from two biological replicates (in order of histograms presented: n=13; n=12, p=0.7177; n=12, p=0.964; n=11, p=0.9999; n=11, p=0.9899; n=11, p=0.9995; n=12, p=0.9963).

* At low frequency (0.3 %) tumors were observed in heat-shocked animals carrying only hsmFLP5 and *FOFO2.0-pros^{shmiRs}-GAL4^{shmiRs}*; tumors were labeled by EGFP expression and in those cases only NSCs outside the green domain were counted.



Figure 3 GAL4 miRs efficiently downregulate GAL4. *hs-FLP; hs-mFLP5,FOFO2.0-pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}* flies were crossed with *ase-GAL4,UAS-NLS::RFP* (which express RFP in all CNS lineages) flies. Wandering third-instar larval brain lobes of progeny are shown. Following heat-shock, EGFP and *GAL4^{miRs}* are expressed by the FOFO construct leading to RFP-negative patches in perfect overlap with EGFP-labeled clones as expected from efficient GAL4 knock-down. Images are of a representative example obtained from two biological replicates (n>10 per condition). Scale bar: 100 µm.

R66B05-FLP(D)

R73G11-FLP(D)

R51F05-FLP(D)



R12H06-FLP(D)



R16C01-FLP(D)



R71A05-FLP(D)



R14E01-FLP(D)



stg¹⁴-FLP(D)



Figure 4 The *hsp70* promoter induces less expression of *enhancer-FLP(D)* lines than the *DSCP* promoter. New *enhancer-FLP(D)* lines were crossed to *act>STOP>GAL4,UAS-GFP* and wandering third-instar larval CNSs imaged for endogenous GFP expression. All genotypes were processed in parallel and imaged with identical conditions. In all cases, expression controlled by the *hsp70* promoter was less relative to that controlled by the DSCP, which could be due either to less background or sensitivity. Images are of a representative example obtained from two biological replicates (n>10 per condition). Scale bar: 100 μm.

UAS-FLP, tub>STOP>GAL4,UAS-CD8::GFP



Figure 4–Figure supplement 1. Examples of wandering third-instar larval CNSs of indicated genotypes. The left column contains images of ventral nerve cords and all other images are of brain lobes. All images are maximum intensity projections of Z-series. Images are of a representative example obtained from two biological replicates (n>10 per condition). Scale bar: 100 μ m.



Figure 5 FOF02.0-mediated lineage-restricted CNS tumor generation within a single stock. Shown are wandering third-instar CNSs of hs-induced labeled tumors obtained with eight *enhancer-FLP(D)* and *hs-mFLP5,F0F02.0-pros^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}* compared with non-tumor labeled lineages (same *enhancer-FLP(D)s* with *hs-mFLP5,F0F02.0-CD2^{miRs}-GAL4^{miRs}*) and background (no hs) tumor incidence. In the absence of heat-shock, tumors were occasionally induced with incomplete penetrance (inset in top right; numbers indicate frequency of CNSs devoid of tumours) but these were much smaller than those intentionally induced by heat-shock. Images are of a representative example obtained from two biological replicates (n>10 per condition and exact number indicated for the background condition – third column). Scale bar: 100 µm.



Figure 5–Supplement figure 1 Examples of third-instar larval CNSs from progeny of the cross between indicated genotypes. When subject to heat-shock extensive tumors are induced throughout the CNS (labeled in green and containing supernumerary NSCs). In the absence of heat-shock tumors (albeit much smaller) are induced. All images are maximum intensity projections of Z-series. Images were obtained from two biological replicates (n>13 per condition). Scale bar: 100 μm.



Figure 6 Selection of appropriate enhancer-FLP(D) in combination with hsmFLP5 allows reproducible CNS tumor generation within a single stock via FOF02.0. Shown are white prepupal CNSs (compare with analogous enhancers in Fig. 5 driving FOF02.0 containing CD2^{miRs}). Images were obtained from two biological replicates (n=6 for left column; n=16 for right). Scale bar: 100 μ m.



Figure 6–Supplement Figure 1 Examples of third-instar larval CNSs from a stable stock of the indicted genotype subject to heat-shock. Small tumors are only occasionally induced in this genotype (arrow). All images are maximum intensity projections of Z-series. Images were obtained from two biological replicates (n=14). Scale bar: 100 µm.