

## **Identification of *Slit3* as a locus affecting nicotine preference in zebrafish and human smoking behaviour.**

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## ABSTRACT

Although there is clear evidence of genetic contributions to smoking behaviour, it has proved difficult to identify causal alleles and pathways from human studies. To facilitate smoking genetics research we examined the ability of a screen of mutagenized zebrafish to predict loci affecting smoking behaviour. We identified *Slit3* as a gene affecting nicotine preference in fish. Focussed SNP analysis of the homologous human locus in cohorts from UK and Finland identified two SNP variants in the *SLIT3* locus that predict level of cigarette consumption and likelihood of cessation. Characterisation of *Slit3* mutant larvae and adult fish revealed altered behavioural sensitivity to amisulpride, a dopaminergic and serotonergic antagonist, and increased *5htr1aa* mRNA expression in mutant larvae. No effect on neuronal pathfinding was detected. These findings reveal a role for SLIT3 signalling in development of pathways affecting responses to nicotine and confirm the translational relevance of zebrafish for exploring complex human behaviours.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 Tobacco smoking is the leading preventable cause of death worldwide placing a  
3 heavy social and financial burden on society (1–3). It is well established that aspects  
4 of smoking behaviour have a strong genetic component (4–7). However, identifying  
5 causal genetic factors and exploring the mechanisms by which they act is challenging  
6 in human studies: the field has been characterized by small effect sizes and lack of  
7 replication such that there are remarkably few genes and loci that can be confidently  
8 linked to smoking. The strongest evidence for causal effects is for functional variants  
9 in *CHRNA5* and *CYP2A6*, affecting amount smoked and nicotine metabolism,  
10 respectively. Recent large studies have identified numerous new association loci, but  
11 their significance is yet to be biologically characterised (6,7).

12  
13 As approaches to identify genetic risk are difficult in humans, research has been  
14 facilitated by studies in animal models, with a focus on genomic analysis of inbred  
15 and selectively-bred, naturally occurring genetic strains (8). This type of study  
16 produces quantitative trait loci (QTL) maps of multiple loci, each with a small impact  
17 on the phenotype. However, as with human studies, it is inherently difficult to identify  
18 relevant genes from QTL maps, as the overall phenotype cannot be predicted by  
19 individual genotypes. Mutagenesis studies in animal model systems can overcome  
20 these limitations: e.g. N-ethyl-N-nitrosourea (ENU) mutagenesis introduces thousands  
21 of point mutations into the genome with the potential to generate much stronger  
22 phenotypes than those occurring in a natural population thereby facilitating  
23 identification of causal mutations. Examination of phenotypic variation in ENU  
24 mutagenized model species could be applied to identify novel, naturally occurring

25 variants influencing human addictive behaviour by identifying key genes and  
26 pathways affecting conserved behavioural phenotypes.

27 Drug-induced reinforcement of behaviour, that reflects the hedonic value of drugs of  
28 abuse including nicotine, is highly conserved in both mammalian and non-mammalian  
29 species (9–12). Conditioned place preference (CPP), where drug exposure is paired  
30 with specific environmental cues, is commonly used as a measure of drug-induced  
31 reward or reinforcement (13). ENU Mutagenesis screens for cocaine or amphetamine-  
32 induced CPP have been undertaken in zebrafish (8,14), however, despite successful  
33 isolation of lines with altered reinforcement responses to these drugs, the causal  
34 mutations have not been identified and the predictive validity of these screens for  
35 human behaviour has not been established.

36 Here, we conducted a forward genetic screen of families of ENU-mutagenized  
37 zebrafish for nicotine-induced CPP. Zebrafish express the same set of neuronal  
38 nicotinic acetylcholine receptors as found in other vertebrates ( $\alpha 2$ ,  $\alpha 3$ ,  $\alpha 4$ ,  $\alpha 6$ ,  $\alpha 7$ ,  $\alpha 8$ ,  
39  $\beta 2$ ,  $\beta 3$ ,  $\beta 4$ ) (15,16) with similar binding characteristics (17,18). Zebrafish show robust  
40 CPP to nicotine (18–21) and nicotinic receptor partial agonists that modulate striatal  
41 dopamine release in response to nicotine in mammalian systems also inhibit nicotine-  
42 induced CPP in zebrafish (18). Further, on prolonged exposure to nicotine or ethanol,  
43 adult zebrafish show conserved adaptive changes in gene expression and develop  
44 dependence-related behaviours, such as persistent drug seeking despite adverse  
45 stimuli or reinstatement of drug seeking following periods of abstinence (21). These  
46 data demonstrate the existence of a conserved nicotine-responsive reward pathway  
47 and support the suitability of zebrafish to examine the genetic and molecular  
48 mechanisms underlying behavioural responses to nicotine.

49 To evaluate the use of a behavioural CPP screen in zebrafish to predict loci affecting  
50 human smoking behaviour we initially assessed 1) the ability of varenicline and  
51 bupropion, pharmacological agents used to treat human nicotine addiction, to reduce  
52 zebrafish nicotine-induced place preference and 2) the heritability of nicotine  
53 responses in ENU-mutagenized fish. We then screened 30 families of ENU-  
54 mutagenized fish to identify families with increased/decreased CPP for nicotine. For  
55 two families with altered CPP response, the phenotype was confirmed following  
56 independent replication with a larger number of fish. Exome sequence information  
57 was used to generate a list of coding, loss of function candidate mutations affecting  
58 the phenotype. One family with a mutation co-segregating with increased nicotine  
59 CPP was selected for further study. Firstly, the effect of the identified gene on  
60 nicotine-induced CPP was confirmed using an independent line carrying a similar  
61 predicted loss of function mutation in the same gene. We then characterized the  
62 mutation using gene expression analysis, immunohistochemical analysis of neuronal  
63 pathways and behavioural responses to acoustic startle; a response known to be  
64 modulated by serotonergic and dopaminergic signalling and, in humans, associated  
65 with vulnerability to addiction (22–24). Finally, we used focused SNP analysis of  
66 human cohorts to assess the predictive validity of findings in fish for human smoking  
67 behaviour.

68

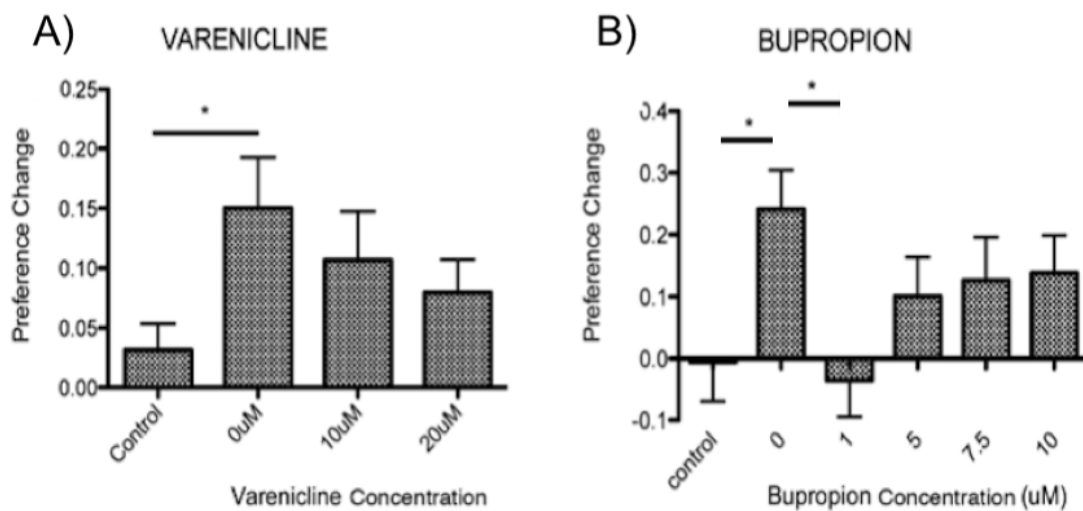
69 In agreement with previous studies zebrafish showed a robust CPP to nicotine.  
70 Nicotine-induced CPP was abolished by varenicline and bupropion and found to be  
71 heritable in fish. The screening of ENU mutagenized families identified mutations in  
72 the *Slit3* gene influencing sensitivity to rewarding effects of nicotine. *Slit3* mutant  
73 larvae and adult fish showed altered behavioural sensitivity to amisulpride and larvae

74 showed increased *5ht1aa* receptor expression. No effect on neuronal pathfinding was  
75 detected. Analysis of the *SLIT3* locus in two independent human cohorts identified  
76 two genetic markers that predict level of cigarette consumption and likelihood of  
77 cessation. This proof of principle study demonstrates that screening of zebrafish is  
78 able to predict loci affecting complex human behavioural phenotypes and suggests a  
79 role for SLIT3 signalling in the development of dopaminergic and serotonergic  
80 pathways affecting behaviours associated with nicotine sensitivity.

## 81 RESULTS

### 82 Nicotine CPP in zebrafish is inhibited by varenicline and bupropion

83 The hedonic value of drugs of abuse, that gives rise to reinforced behaviour, is  
84 commonly assessed using either self-administration protocols or CPP. The ability of  
85 compounds used as therapeutics in humans to prevent rodent nicotine self-  
86 administration is used to support the translational relevance of nicotine-self  
87 administration in that model (25–27). As our aim was to use nicotine-CPP to predict  
88 genes affecting smoking behaviour, we assessed the ability of the nicotine  
89 therapeutics varenicline and bupropion to inhibit nicotine induced CPP in zebrafish.  
90 As seen previously (19,21,28), 10 $\mu$ M nicotine induced a robust 15-20% change in  
91 place preference. Pre-incubation in varenicline or bupropion dose-dependently  
92 inhibited the nicotine CPP response (Figure 1).



93

94 **Figure 1. 10 $\mu$ M nicotine induced place preference in zebrafish is sensitive to**  
95 **inhibition by therapeutics effective in humans. A) varenicline (nicotine partial**  
96 **agonist) and B) bupropion (norepinephrine and dopamine reuptake inhibitor with**



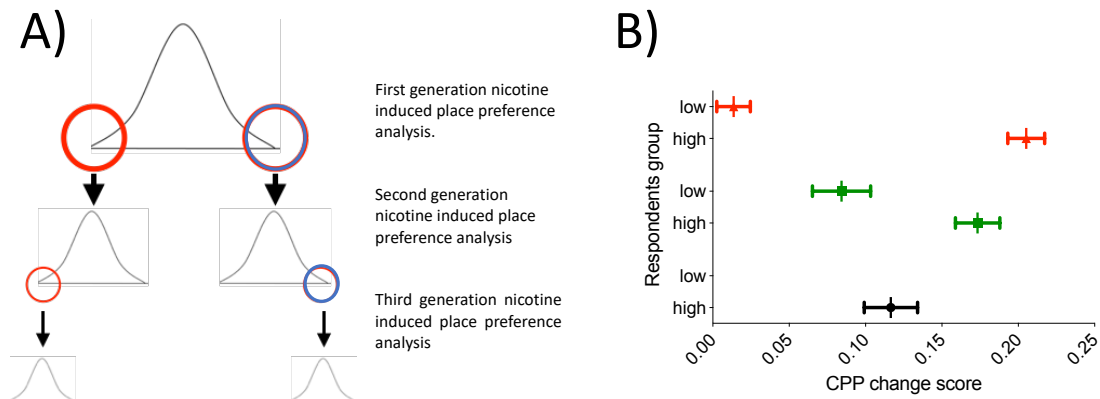
97 nicotine antagonist properties when metabolised). Bars represent mean and error bars  
98 represent +SEM. Asterics (\*) represents significance at  $p < 0.05$ .

### 99 **Nicotine CPP is heritable in zebrafish**

100 We selected a nicotine concentration predicted to induce a minimal detectable CPP in  
101 wildtypes (5 $\mu$ M) (19,20), to enable us to detect both increased and decreased response  
102 to nicotine in mutants. To ensure that this strategy could detect genetic factors  
103 affecting response to nicotine, we assessed the heritability of the CPP response in  
104 ENU mutagenized fish using a selective breeding approach over three generations.  
105 Figure 2A shows our assessment strategy where fish showing the highest and lowest  
106 CPP response are selected for further breeding. In the first generation, the CPP change  
107 score phenotype was normally distributed (Shapiro-Wilks  $p = 0.83$ ) and there was a  
108 mean CPP change score of 0.11 to the drug paired side. CPP change scores ranged  
109 from - 0.4 to 0.6.

110

111 An increasing difference in nicotine preference between offspring of fish from the  
112 upper vs lower extremes of the distribution (Shift of Cohen's  $d = 0.89$  in Second  
113 generation CPP to  $d = 1.64$  in Third generation CPP) indicates that nicotine CPP  
114 behaviour is heritable in zebrafish (Figure 2B), and that our CPP strategy is able to  
115 identify heritable differences in both extremes of the distribution. Phenotypes in the  
116 second and third generation screen are presumably stronger as a result of selecting for  
117 multiple co-segregating mutations in each generation.



118

119 **Figure 2. A) Breeding and selection to assess heritability of nicotine-induced**

120 **place preference in ENU-mutagenized zebrafish.** To test whether nicotine

121 preference is heritable, fish in the upper and lower 10% of the change in preference

122 distribution curve were inbred and screened for CPP (Second generation CPP assay).

123 A similar approach was used for the third generation CPP assay. **B) CPP for nicotine**

124 **is heritable.** Mean preference change is increasingly distinct for the second and third

125 generation of CPP assay. Plot represents mean and  $\pm$ SEM. First generation

126 (corresponding to the F<sub>3</sub> families used for the screen) (n=120): mean=0.11; SD=0.17.

127 Second generation: Offspring of fish from *upper* 10% of the first generation screen

128 (n=92): mean=0.17; SD=0.14. Offspring of fish from *lower* 10% of the first

129 generation screen (n=64): mean=0.08; SD=0.15. Third generation. Offspring of fish

130 from *upper* 10% of the second generation screen (n=69): mean=0.21; SD=0.10.

131 Offspring of fish from *lower* 10% of the second generation screen (n=67):

132 mean=0.01; SD=0.09.

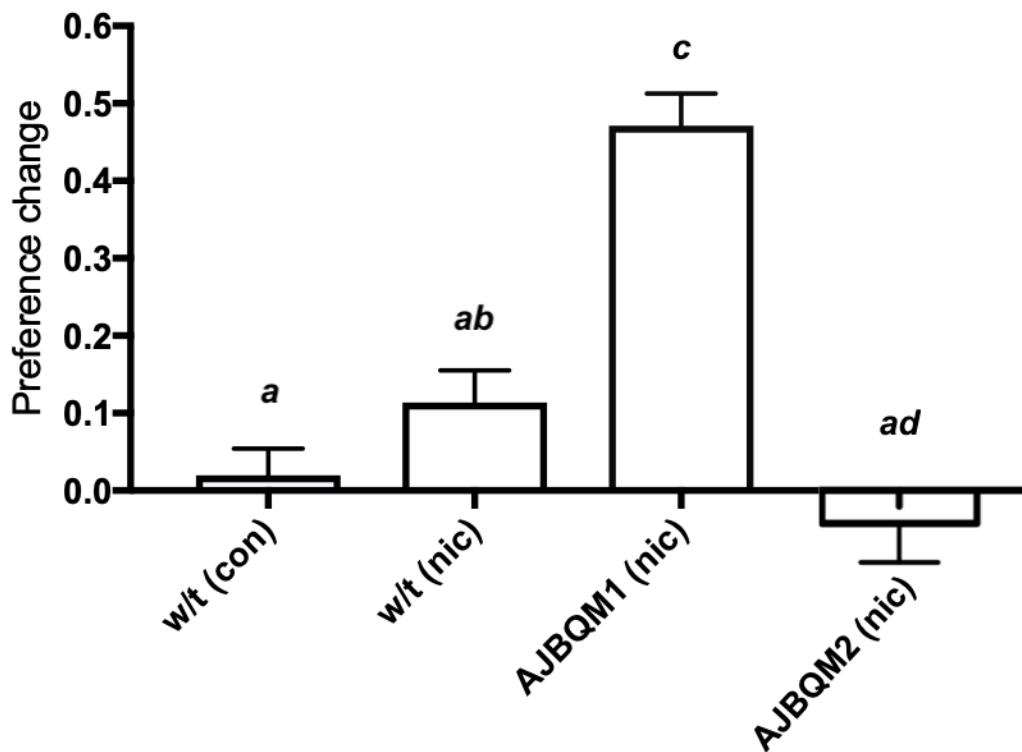
133 **Identification of Slit3 mutations affecting nicotine place preference in zebrafish**

134 To identify candidate mutations affecting nicotine preference in fish, we focussed on

135 families where all individuals included in the screen clustered at one or other extreme

136 of the distribution curve. Two families (called AJBQM1 and AJBQM2 after the

137 researcher who conducted the screen), which clustered at the top (AJBQM1) and  
138 bottom (AJBQM2) of the nicotine preference distribution, were selected for further  
139 study. We first assessed nicotine CPP in the remaining siblings not initially included  
140 in the screen. As shown in Figure 3, the phenotypes were conserved when remaining  
141 siblings were assessed. Exome sequencing of fish (29) used to generate AJBQM1 and  
142 AJBQM2 identified 25 nonsense and essential splice site mutations. We genotyped  
143 fish at these 25 loci and determined the co-segregation with nicotine preference.



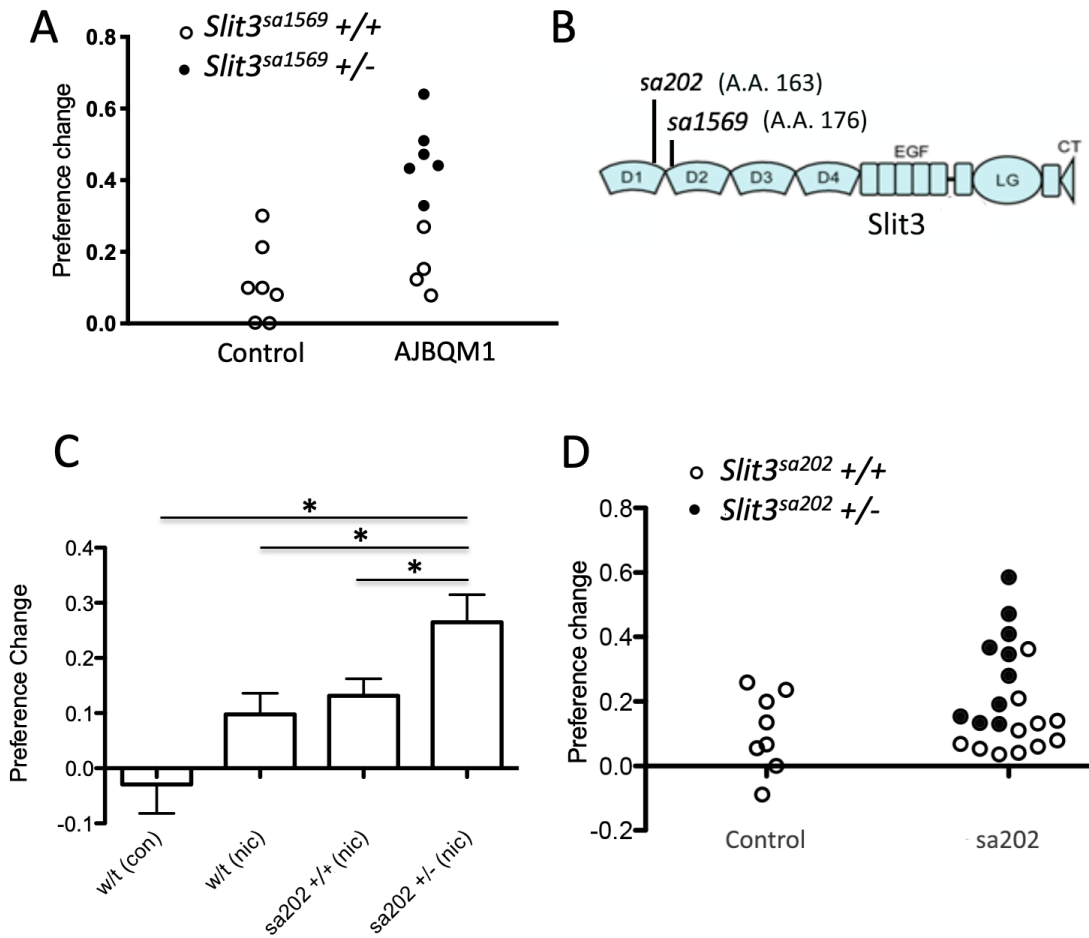
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145 **Figure 3. Identification of *Slit3* mutations affecting nicotine place preference in**  
146 **zebrafish. AJBQM1 and AJBQM2 families show increased and decreased**  
147 **nicotine place preference, respectively. AJBQM1 and AJBQM2 siblings, not**  
148 **included in the screen (n=10 for AJBQM1; n=14 for AJBQM2), AJBQM1**  
149 **significantly differed from TLF wildtype (w/t) saline control (n=17) and wildtype**  
150 **nicotine exposed fish (n=7). AJBQM2 differed from wildtype nicotine exposed fish**

151 but not wildtype saline controls. Different superscript letters indicate significant  
152 difference ( $p < 0.05$ ). Bars indicate Mean  $\pm$  SEM.

153 Of the 25 coding, predicted loss of function mutations in AJBQM1 and AJBQM2  
154 (Listed in Supplementary Table 1), only *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/+</sup> (exon 7 splice acceptor site  
155 disruption at amino acid position 176), segregated with nicotine preference (Figure  
156 4A & Supplementary Table 5A). None of the coding, predicted loss of function  
157 mutations in AJBQM2 segregated with nicotine preference and this line was not  
158 examined further (Supplementary Table 5B).

159 To confirm that loss of *Slit3* function was related to nicotine seeking behaviour we  
160 used a second, independent allele, *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup>, with a G>T transversion producing a  
161 premature stop codon at amino acid position 163. Although not as marked as in  
162 AJBQM1 mutants (hereafter called *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup>), heterozygous *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup> fish showed  
163 enhanced nicotine CPP ( $p = 0.03$ ) compared to wildtype siblings (Figure 4C & 4D).  
164 Both *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> and *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup> mutations affect splicing in the region before the second  
165 leucine rich repeat (LRR) domain in the encoded protein (Figure 4B), which is  
166 essential for interaction with ROBO receptor proteins (30).



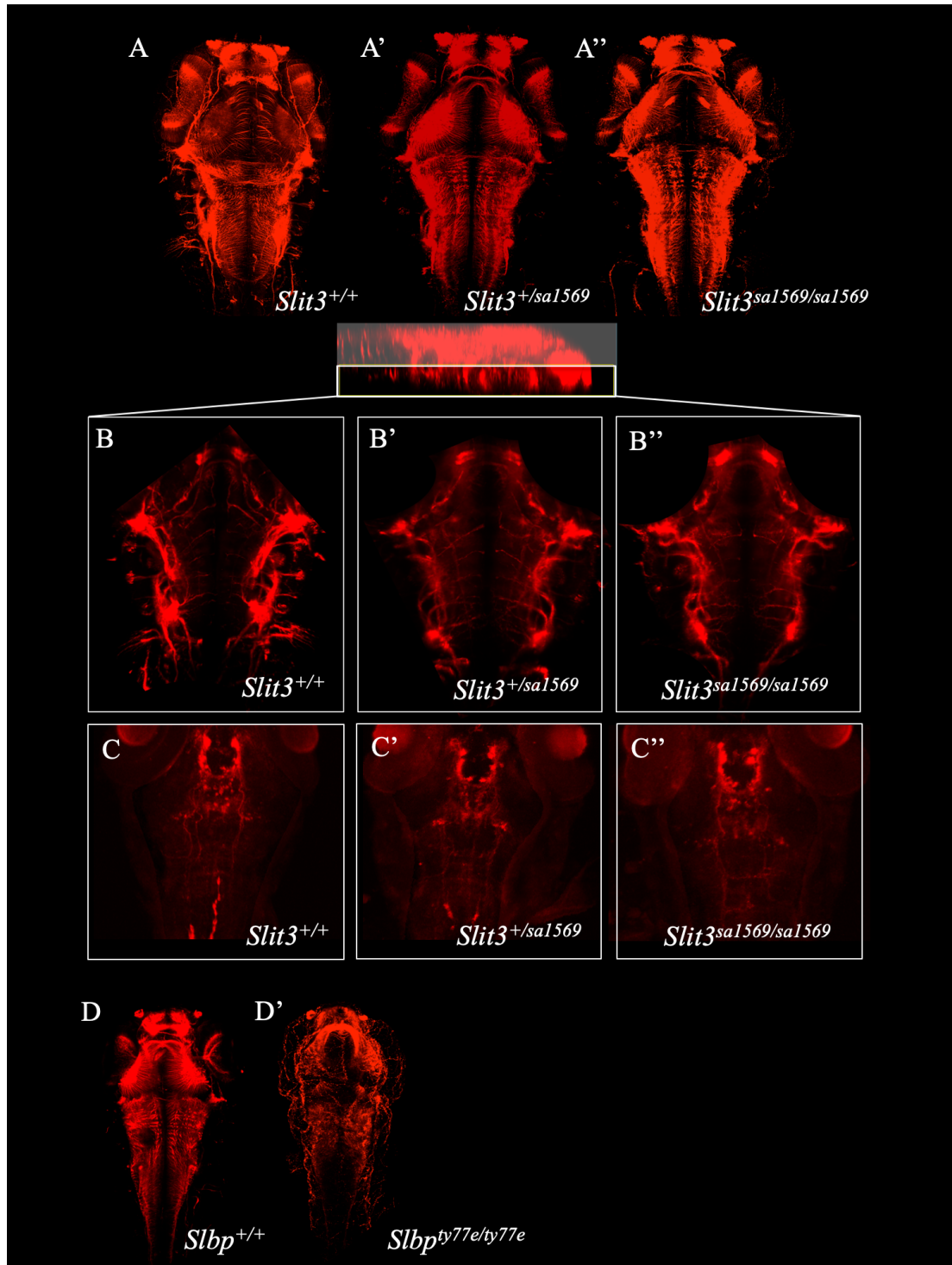
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168 **Figure 4. A. Segregation of *Slit3<sup>sa1569</sup>* mutation with nicotine seeking.** CPP change  
 169 scores for individual un-mutagenized TLF wildtype fish (n=7) and AJBQM1 fish  
 170 (n=10). Following CPP analysis, fish were genotyped for 25 loss of function  
 171 mutations contained within the family. Black dots indicate *Slit3<sup>sa1569/+</sup>* heterozygous  
 172 mutant fish. White dots indicate *Slit3<sup>sa1569+/+</sup>* fish. Heterozygosity for *Slit3<sup>sa1569</sup>*  
 173 segregates with increased nicotine seeking behaviour. **B. Position of ENU-induced**  
 174 **mutations in zebrafish *Slit3* protein.** *Slit3<sup>sa1569</sup>* (A>G transition) disrupts a splice site  
 175 in intron 7 affecting translation at amino acid 176. *Slit3<sup>sa202</sup>* (G>T transversion)  
 176 introduces a stop codon at amino acid 163. Both mutations truncate the protein before  
 177 the leucine rich repeat domain 2 (D2), which interacts with membrane bound ROBO  
 178 during SLIT-ROBO signalling. **C: Nicotine preference of *Slit3<sup>sa202</sup>* line.** *Slit3<sup>sa202/+</sup>*

179 fish (n=18) show increased nicotine preference compared to wildtype TLF controls  
180 (n=8) (p = 0.001) and wildtype siblings *Slit3*<sup>+/+</sup> (n=14) (p<0.05). Bars indicate mean  
181 +SEM. **D: Segregation of *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup> allele with nicotine seeking.** CPP change scores  
182 for individual un-mutagenised TLF wildtype parent strain fish (n=8) and *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup> fish  
183 (n=21). Black dots indicate *Slit3*<sup>sa202/+</sup> heterozygous mutant fish, white dots indicate  
184 *Slit3*<sup>sa202+/+</sup> fish. Mutations in *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup> co-segregate with nicotine preference.  
185 Heterozygous *Slit3*<sup>+/sa202</sup> present increased place preference compared to *slit3*<sup>sa202+/+</sup>  
186 siblings (n=11).

### 187 **Characterisation of *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> mutants**

188 SLIT3 is a member of a family of proteins with established axon guidance properties  
189 and previously suggested to be involved in dopaminergic and serotonergic pathfinding  
190 (31). Therefore we performed immunostaining of the axonal projections in three-day-  
191 old zebrafish larvae and looked at the expression patterns along the midline in the  
192 ventral forebrain, where *Slit3* is known to be expressed (32). No differences between  
193 *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> mutant and wildtype larvae were observed in axonal tracts labelled by anti-  
194 acetylated tubulin antibody (Figure 5 A-A'' and B-B'') nor in catecholaminergic  
195 tracts labelled by anti-tyrosine hydroxylase antibody (Figure 5 C-C''). Staining of  
196 *Slbp*<sup>ty77e/ty77e</sup> mutant larvae, known to have fewer neurons and axonal defects (16)  
197 were used as positive control (Figure 5 D & D').



198

199 **Figure 5: Fluorescent immunohistochemistry in three-day old wild type**

200 *Slit3*<sup>sa1569+/+</sup> (A-C), heterozygous mutant *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/+</sup> (A'-C') and homozygous

201 mutant *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup> (A''-C'') larvae show no obvious differences in axon

202 pathfinding across genotype groups along the midline in the ventral forebrain.

203 *Slit3* loss-of-function seems not to impair overall axon pathfinding or the

204 catecholaminergic axonal network. **A-A''**: Dorsal view of maximum projection anti-  
205 acetylated tubulin staining. **B-B''**: Detailed view of the ventral third of anti-acetylated  
206 tubulin stained embryos as indicated in insert above B-B''. **C-C''**: Anti-tyrosine  
207 hydroxylase staining. **D-D'**: Anti-acetylated tubulin staining for *Slbp*<sup>ty77e/ty77e</sup> mutants.  
208 *Slbp*<sup>ty77e/ty77e</sup> were used as positive control for antibody staining, as these mutants have  
209 fewer neurons and show axonal defects (33). n=10 samples per genotype group.

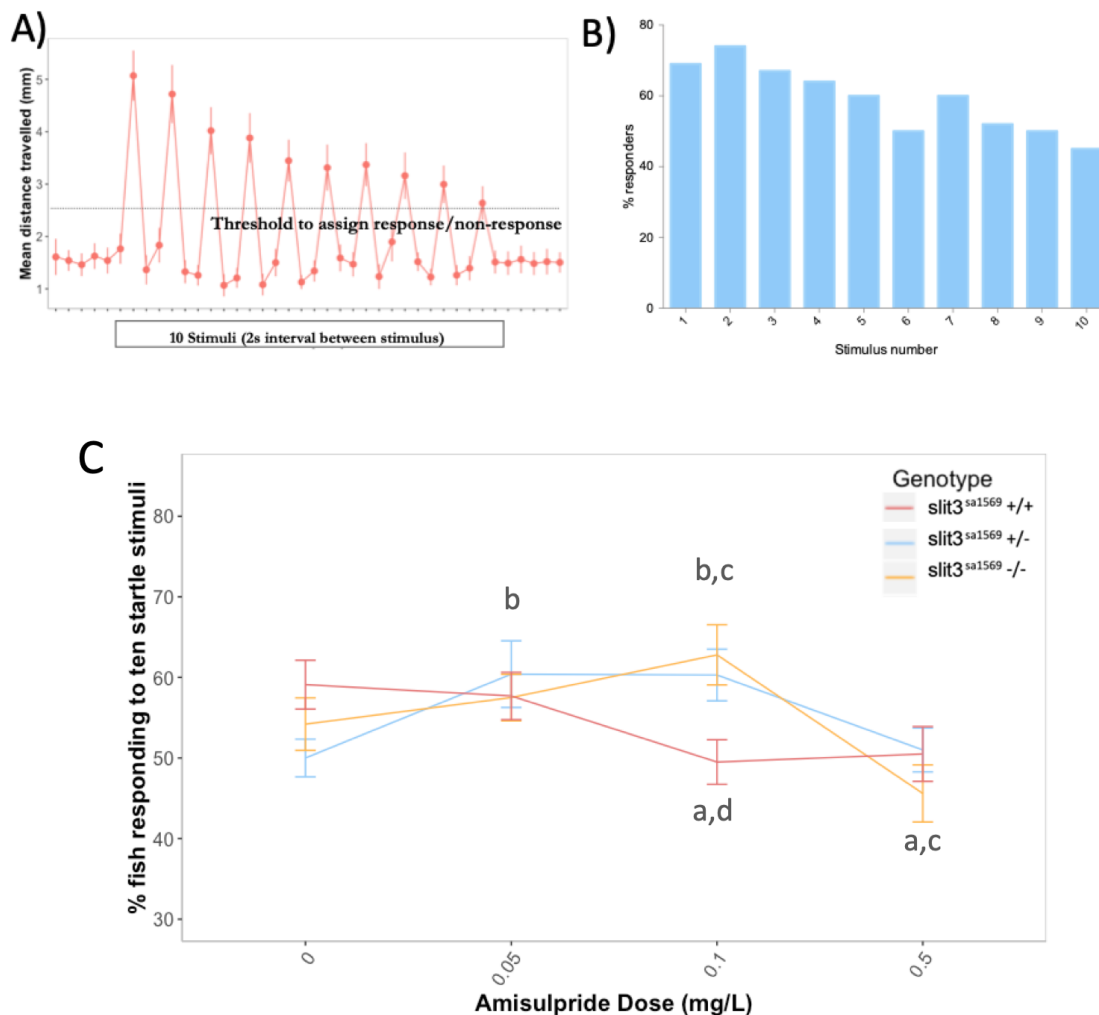
210 As subtle effects on circuit formation may not have been detected by our antibody  
211 staining, we examined the response and habituation to acoustic startle stimuli in  
212 wildtype and mutant fish. Habituation to acoustic startle is known to be sensitive to  
213 dopaminergic/serotonergic antagonists such as amisulpride (34) and, in humans, is  
214 associated with vulnerability to addiction (22–24). Five day old larvae were subjected  
215 to 10 sound/vibration stimuli over a total of 20 seconds (2 second interval between  
216 each stimulus) in the presence of 0, 0.05 mg/L, 0.1 mg/L or 0.5 mg/L amisulpride in  
217 0.05% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The distance travelled one second after each  
218 stimulus was recorded for each fish.

219 Response and habituation to the stimuli was quantified as the percentage of fish  
220 moving more than 2.5 mm, which corresponds to 50% of the mean distance travelled  
221 one second after the first startle (Figure 6A). In line with the habituation response  
222 paradigm (35), a lower percentage of fish responded as the number of stimuli  
223 increased (Figure 6B). In wildtype fish higher doses of amisulpride caused a decrease  
224 in responsiveness (Main effect of 0.1 and 0.5 mg/L amisulpride across the ten taps  
225  $p < 0.05$ ) (Figure 6C, red line). However *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> mutants showed an inverted U-  
226 shaped response to amisulpride: a reduction of habituation at low doses and increase  
227 at the higher dose (Figure 6C, blue and orange lines). The presence of a *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup>



228 genotype by amisulpride dose interaction was confirmed by regression analysis of  
229 genotype and dose on percentage of responders ( $p < 0.05$ ).

230 There were no significant differences in locomotion in the 15 seconds before the first  
231 startle, in magnitude of the response to the first tap stimulus, nor in total distance  
232 moved across all tap stimuli across experimental groups (Supplementary Figure 1)  
233 indicating that differences in behaviour were not confounded by differences in  
234 locomotion per se.



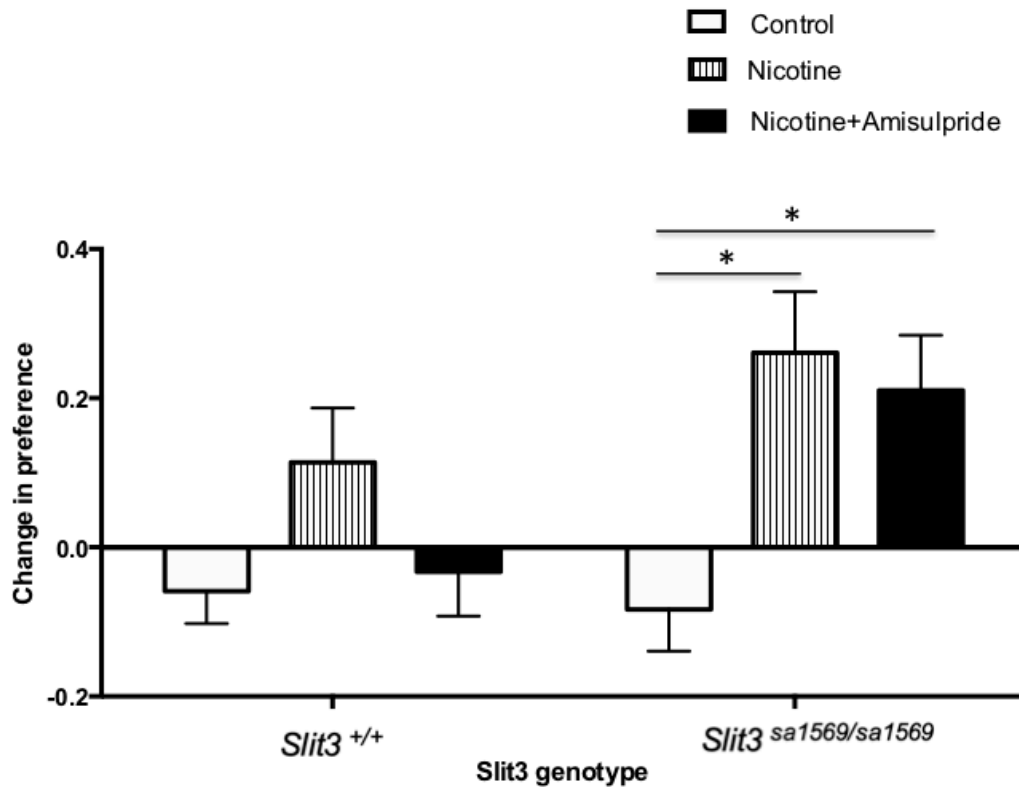
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236 **Figure 6. Habituation response in the presence and absence of amisulpride. A:**

237 **Response and habituation to 10 stimuli with two seconds interval between stimuli**

238 **in wildtype, drug free zebrafish.** Mean distances travelled were measured in one  
239 second time bins. Line indicates 2.5 mm, which corresponds to 50% of the mean  
240 distance travelled one second after the first stimulus. **B: Habituation response in**  
241 **wildtype zebrafish:** The percentage of fish responding to the stimuli decreases with  
242 stimulus/tap number (Main effects of tap number  $p < 0.05$ ). Respondents are defined as  
243 fish moving more than 2.5 mm. **C: Mean percentage of responders across the ten**  
244 **stimuli ( $\pm$ SEM), stratified by *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> genotype and amisulpride dose.** The effect  
245 of amisulpride on habituation varies by genotype: *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> mutants show a U-shaped  
246 response to amisulpride, in contrast with wildtype fish (Genotype by amisulpride dose  
247 interaction ( $p < 0.05$ )). Letters (a)-(c) indicate amisulpride doses that significantly  
248 differed from the carrier control within each genotype group ( $p < 0.5$  as per Tukey  
249 test). (a) corresponds to *Slit3* wildtype, (b) to *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/+</sup> and (c) to *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup>.  
250 Letter (d) indicates significant genotype effect between *Slit3* wildtype and *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup>  
251 mutants at 0.1 mg/L amisulpride. n=42-48 fish per experimental group.

252 Adult *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup> mutant zebrafish showed a qualitatively different response to  
253 inhibition of CPP by amisulpride compared to wildtype siblings, consistent with a  
254 persistent difference in sensitivity to this drug. The minimal CPP induced by 5 $\mu$ M  
255 nicotine in wild type fish was prevented by pre-exposure to 0.5mg/L amisulpride.  
256 Nicotine-induced CPP in *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> homozygous mutants was not affected (Figure 7).

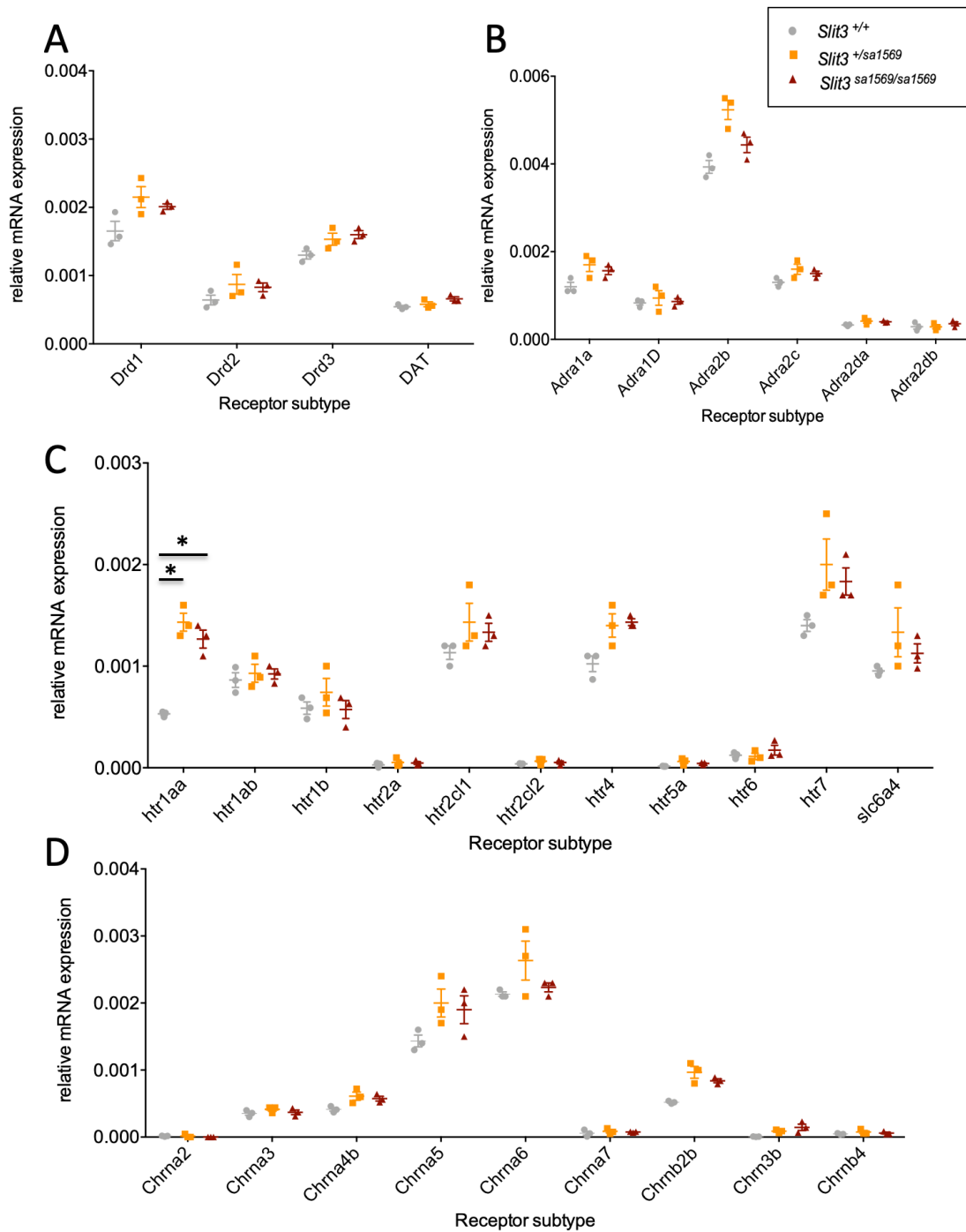


257

258 **Figure 7. CPP induced by 5 $\mu$ M nicotine is blocked by 0.5mg/L**  
259 **dopamine/serotonin antagonist amisulpride in wildtype *Slit3*<sup>sa1569+/+</sup> fish but not**  
260 **in *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> homozygous mutants. Bars represent mean (+SEM). (n=11-14 fish per**  
261 **group). \*Two-way ANOVA followed by post-hoc Tukey tests (p < 0.05).**

262

263 As *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> homozygous mutant fish showed altered sensitivity to nicotine and  
264 amisulpride, we examined whether expression of dopamine, serotonin, adrenergic or  
265 nicotinic receptor mRNA was dis-regulated in *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> mutant larvae using  
266 quantitative real-time pcr (qpcr). Only *Htr1aa* ([F(2,6)=44], p=0.0003) showed a  
267 significant difference across genotypes after correcting for multiple testing (Figure 8).



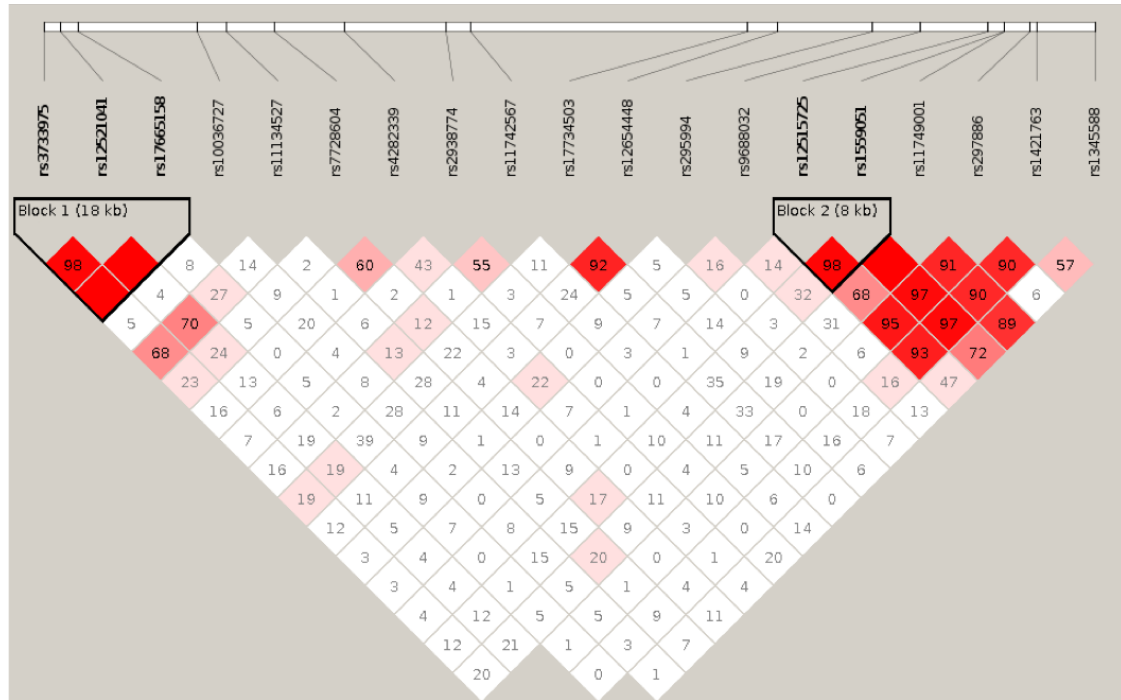
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269 **Figure 8. Quantitative real-time pcr analysis of five day old wildtype *Slit3*<sup>sa1569+/+</sup>,**  
 270 ***Slit3*<sup>sa1569/+</sup> heterozygous and *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup> homozygous mutant larvae (Total**  
 271 **n=30, 3 samples per experimental group with n=10 embryos per sample). Only**  
 272 ***Htr1aa* ([F(2,6)=44], p=0.0003) showed a significant difference across genotypes**

273 after correcting for multiple testing. \*Two-way ANOVA followed by post-hoc Tukey  
274 test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

### 275 **Variations at the *SLIT3* locus predict smoking behaviour in human samples**

276 We next examined associations between 19 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)  
277 in the human *SLIT3* gene and smoking behaviour in two London cohorts. Two SNPs,  
278 rs12654448 and rs17734503 in high linkage disequilibrium (Figure 9) were associated  
279 with level of cigarette consumption ( $p=0.00125$  and  $p=0.00227$ ). We repeated the  
280 analysis on heavy smokers: rs12654448 ( $p=0.0003397$ ) and rs17734503  
281 ( $p=0.0008575$ ) were again associated with cigarette consumption together with  
282 rs11742567 ( $p=0.004715$ ). The SNP rs11742567 was associated with cigarette  
283 consumption in light smokers ( $<20$  cigarettes per day,  $p=0.003909$ ) and with  
284 quitting. Associations are reported in Table 1. No other *SLIT3* polymorphisms were  
285 associated with smoking initiation, persistent smoking or cessation (Supplementary  
286 Tables 6 & 7).



287  
288

**Figure 9: Linkage disequilibrium (LD) plot of *SLIT3* SNPs in human smoking**

289 **association analysis.** Numbers within each square indicate  $D'$  values (white:  $D' < 1$ ,  
290  $LOD < 2$ ; blue:  $D' = 1$ ,  $LOD < 2$ ; pink:  $D' < 1$ ,  $LOD \geq 2$ ; and bright red:  $D' = 1$ ,  $LOD$   
291  $\geq 2$ .)

292 **Table 1. Associations of *SLIT3* SNPs with level of tobacco consumption** for the London study groups. Regression coefficients, confidence  
293 intervals and p-values from linear regression of cigarettes smoked per day (CPD) on minor allele count for smokers from COPD, asthma and  
294 general cohorts, adjusted for age, sex and cohort.  $\beta$  coefficient represents effect of each additional minor allele. Benjamini-Hochberg cut-off at q-  
295 value 0.1 = 0.01053. **Associations of *SLIT3* SNPs with tobacco consumption in a subset of heavy smokers ( $\geq 20$  cigs/day).** Adjusted for age,  
296 sex and cohort. (q-value 0.1 = 0.01579). **Associations of *SLIT3* SNPs in a subset of light smokers (<20 cigs/day).** Adjusted for age, sex and  
297 cohort (q-value 0.1 = 0.00526). **Association analysis of *SLIT3* SNPs with smoking cessation.** Logistic regression of current smokers vs ever  
298 smokers controlling for age, sex and cohort. Odds ratio >1 indicates minor allele increases odds of persistent smoking relative to major allele. P:  
299 p-value, SE: standard error, L95: lower limit of 95% confidence interval, U95: upper limit. For all panels, associations in bold remained  
300 significant after adjustment for multiple comparisons using a Benjamin-Hochberg procedure to control false discovery rate at 10%.

301

SNP	Tobacco consumption				Tobacco consumption - heavy smokers (≥20 cigs/day)				Tobacco consumption - light smokers (<20 cigs/day)				Smoking cessation				
	P value	β	SE	95% CI	P value	β	SE	95% CI	P value	β	SE	95% CI	OR	SE	L95	U95	P value
rs10036727	0.629	-0.388	0.802	(-1.960, 1.183)	0.448	-0.653	0.860	(-2.337, 1.032)	0.940	-0.051	0.686	(-1.396, 1.293)	0.947	0.160	0.693	1.295	0.734
rs11134527	0.218	1.014	0.822	(-0.596, 2.625)	0.327	-0.867	0.883	(-2.599, 0.864)	0.261	0.795	0.705	(-0.586, 2.176)	0.665	0.165	0.482	0.918	0.013
<b>rs11742567</b>	0.135	-1.166	0.779	(-2.691, 0.361)	<b>0.005</b>	<b>-2.346</b>	<b>0.825</b>	<b>(-3.962, -0.730)</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>1.888</b>	<b>0.644</b>	<b>(0.6258, 3.151)</b>	<b>1.586</b>	<b>0.163</b>	<b>1.153</b>	<b>2.183</b>	<b>0.005</b>
rs11749001	0.059	1.972	1.044	(-0.074, 4.018)	0.873	0.177	1.103	(-1.985, 2.338)	0.206	1.200	0.944	(-0.651, 3.051)	0.953	0.206	0.637	1.426	0.817
rs12515725	0.592	-0.406	0.756	(-1.888, 1.076)	0.488	-0.565	0.813	(-2.159, 1.029)	0.278	-0.688	0.631	(-1.925, 0.550)	1.028	0.151	0.765	1.381	0.855
rs12521041	0.904	-0.105	0.865	(-1.801, 1.591)	0.996	-0.005	0.942	(-1.851, 1.841)	0.059	-1.354	0.710	(-2.746, 0.038)	1.554	0.178	1.096	2.205	0.013
<b>rs12654448</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>-4.241</b>	<b>1.307</b>	<b>(-6.803, -1.680)</b>	<b>0.0003</b>	<b>-4.830</b>	<b>1.334</b>	<b>(-7.444, -2.216)</b>	0.410	-1.034	1.251	(-3.486, 1.417)	1.625	0.279	0.941	2.808	0.082
rs1345588	0.240	-1.268	1.078	(-3.380, 0.845)	0.253	-1.334	1.164	(-3.616, 0.948)	0.869	-0.150	0.907	(-1.927, 1.627)	1.417	0.222	0.918	2.189	0.116
rs1421763	0.272	-0.982	0.894	(-2.735, 0.770)	0.978	-0.027	0.959	(-1.908, 1.853)	0.162	-1.074	0.764	(-2.571, 0.424)	0.917	0.176	0.649	1.294	0.622
rs1559051	0.961	-0.040	0.819	(-1.644, 1.564)	0.458	0.656	0.882	(-1.073, 2.384)	0.507	0.455	0.685	(-0.880, 1.797)	0.919	0.163	0.668	1.265	0.606
rs17665158	0.131	1.338	0.884	(-0.394, 3.070)	0.236	1.114	0.939	(-0.727, 2.955)	0.034	1.620	0.758	(0.1354, 3.106)	0.723	0.172	0.516	1.013	0.060
<b>rs17734503</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>-3.987</b>	<b>1.299</b>	<b>(-6.534, -1.441)</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>-4.458</b>	<b>1.325</b>	<b>(-7.055, -1.861)</b>	0.410	-1.034	1.251	(-3.486, 1.417)	1.616	0.275	0.942	2.773	0.081
rs2938774	0.140	1.101	0.745	(-0.359, 2.562)	0.528	0.496	0.786	(-1.044, 2.036)	0.015	-1.655	0.674	(-2.976, -0.333)	0.753	0.148	0.563	1.007	0.056
rs295994	0.714	0.283	0.770	(-1.227, 1.793)	0.643	0.378	0.813	(-1.215, 1.971)	0.238	-0.796	0.672	(-2.114, 0.521)	0.799	0.154	0.591	1.082	0.147
rs297886	0.620	0.442	0.890	(-1.303, 2.187)	0.961	-0.048	0.986	(-1.979, 1.884)	0.489	0.488	0.704	(-0.891, 1.867)	1.108	0.177	0.784	1.568	0.561
rs3733975	0.909	-0.099	0.860	(-1.784, 1.587)	0.982	0.022	0.934	(-1.809, 1.852)	0.059	-1.354	0.710	(-2.746, 0.038)	1.488	0.176	1.054	2.101	0.024
rs4282339	0.669	-0.434	1.013	(-2.419, 1.552)	0.942	-0.080	1.103	(-2.241, 2.081)	0.238	-1.006	0.849	(-2.670, 0.658)	0.984	0.203	0.661	1.464	0.936
rs7728604	0.701	0.286	0.744	(-1.173, 1.745)	0.321	0.827	0.832	(-0.803, 2.457)	0.654	0.262	0.583	(-0.880, 1.404)	0.935	0.149	0.698	1.253	0.653
rs9688032	0.948	-0.050	0.766	(-1.551, 1.451)	0.770	0.246	0.839	(-1.398, 1.890)	0.080	-1.076	0.610	(-2.272, 0.119)	1.066	0.156	0.786	1.446	0.680



302 We subsequently investigated associations with more detailed smoking phenotypes in  
303 the Finnish twins cohort (36) (Table 2). Associations were observed between  
304 rs17734503 and DSM-IV nicotine dependence symptoms ( $p=0.0322$ ) and age at onset  
305 of weekly smoking ( $p=0.00116$ ) and between rs12654448 and age at onset of weekly  
306 smoking ( $p=0.00105$ ). Associations were seen elsewhere between *SLIT3* markers and  
307 Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND), cigarettes smoked each day,  
308 sensation felt after smoking first cigarette and time to first cigarette in the morning. In  
309 keeping with the London studies the minor allele was associated with a lower degree  
310 of dependence and decreased cigarette consumption.

311 The SNPs rs12654448 and rs17734503 are in non-coding domains, therefore it was  
312 not possible to predict loss or gain of function of *SLIT3* from the SNP location. No  
313 evidence of affecting gene expression was found as per GTEx database  
314 (<https://gtexportal.org/home/>).

315 **Table 2: Associations between detailed nicotine dependence phenotypes and SLIT3 genotype in a Finnish twin cohort.** Associations of  
316 *SLIT3* SNPs with DSM-IV nicotine dependence symptoms, Fagerström scores (FTND), cigarettes smoked each day (CPD), and sensation felt  
317 after smoking first cigarette and time to first cigarette in the morning. The three SNPs that were linked to smoking behaviour in the London  
318 cohorts are shown in bold.

SNP	DSM-IV ND diagnosis			DSM-IV ND symptoms			FTND ( $\geq 4$ )			FTND score		
	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value
<b>rs12654448</b>	-0.0343	0.0262	0.190975	-0.1839	0.0964	0.056728	0.0526	0.0287	0.066509	0.075	0.1365	0.58286
<b>rs17734503</b>	-0.0354	0.0259	0.171821	-0.2044	0.0954	<b>0.032199</b>	0.0474	0.0283	0.094383	0.0443	0.135	0.743052
<b>rs11742567</b>	0.0006	0.0163	0.97262	-0.0359	0.0601	0.55086	0.0134	0.0179	0.45384	0.0449	0.0851	0.597682
rs17665158	0.0117	0.019	0.538639	0.1536	0.0696	0.027544	0.0178	0.0207	0.391096	0.0935	0.0988	0.344157
rs1345588	-0.0031	0.0222	0.889847	-0.0389	0.0817	0.634184	0.0578	0.0242	0.01708	0.1901	0.1157	0.100729
rs7728604	-0.0049	0.0162	0.761485	-0.0442	0.0597	0.459743	0.0004	0.0177	0.980706	-0.0261	0.0846	0.757849
rs11134527	0.0296	0.0171	0.084576	0.0927	0.063	0.141369	0.0324	0.0187	0.083498	0.1376	0.0891	0.122807
rs10036727	0.0067	0.0165	0.68406	0.0207	0.0605	0.732266	0.0022	0.018	0.903865	0.046	0.0857	0.591583
rs1559051	0.0249	0.0193	0.198647	0.0492	0.0703	0.484353	-0.0433	0.0208	0.037736	-0.1011	0.0995	0.309836
rs12515725	0.0072	0.0159	0.6502	0.0277	0.0584	0.635739	0.0586	0.0172	0.000696	0.2482	0.0824	0.002637
rs2938774	0.0042	0.0173	0.80717	0.0096	0.0642	0.881054	-0.0157	0.0191	0.41163	-0.0173	0.0907	0.848978
rs295994	-0.014	0.0171	0.410864	-0.0144	0.0622	0.816397	-0.016	0.0184	0.38542	-0.0985	0.0879	0.262584
rs9688032	-0.0174	0.0173	0.31299	-0.0347	0.0636	0.585081	0.0234	0.0189	0.216144	0.0626	0.09	0.4869
rs11749001	0.0178	0.0235	0.448278	-0.0062	0.0865	0.942516	0.0224	0.0257	0.383552	0.0067	0.1222	0.956097
rs4282339	0.0118	0.0201	0.557544	0.0526	0.0739	0.476216	-0.0077	0.0219	0.724058	0.1623	0.1045	0.120641
rs297886	-0.0216	0.0171	0.207835	-0.045	0.0634	0.478517	-0.0256	0.0188	0.173314	-0.1354	0.0897	0.131469
rs1421763	0.0079	0.0187	0.671624	0.0178	0.0687	0.795522	0.0641	0.0203	0.001641	0.2582	0.0971	0.007892
rs3733975	-0.013	0.0167	0.436903	-0.0798	0.0613	0.192755	-0.0384	0.0181	0.034371	-0.2083	0.0866	0.016295
rs12521041	-0.0098	0.0167	0.559173	-0.0669	0.0613	0.275274	-0.0365	0.0182	0.044962	-0.1905	0.0868	0.028295

SNP	CPD			max CPD			Age of onset of weekly smoking			First time sensation			FTND time to first cigarette		
	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value	$\beta$	SE	P value
rs12654448	-0.3509	0.5669	0.536029	-1.0602	0.7743	0.171106	0.7826	0.2384	<b>0.001051</b>	-0.0861	0.1423	0.545206	0.0047	0.0802	0.953291
rs17734503	-0.479	0.5608	0.393086	-1.2329	0.7657	0.107544	0.7689	0.2362	<b>0.001156</b>	-0.1039	0.1406	0.460344	0.0188	0.0795	0.812682
rs11742567	0.0179	0.3532	0.959588	-0.4621	0.4823	0.338159	0.0965	0.1493	0.518066	-0.1003	0.0884	0.256427	-0.0216	0.05	0.665265
rs17665158	0.8135	0.4096	0.047191	1.5424	0.5587	0.005828	0.0562	0.1732	0.745385	0.2476	0.1027	0.01603	-0.0884	0.058	0.12787
rs1345588	0.294	0.4805	0.54066	0.3968	0.6562	0.54542	0.0989	0.2031	0.626431	-0.0618	0.1204	0.607606	-0.1303	0.068	0.055678
rs7728604	-0.0772	0.3511	0.825888	0.0691	0.4795	0.885363	-0.0261	0.1486	0.860643	-0.029	0.0875	0.740682	-0.0193	0.0497	0.6978
rs11134527	0.1831	0.3705	0.621187	0.7441	0.5057	0.141392	-0.2347	0.1563	0.133517	0.1142	0.093	0.21965	-0.1089	0.0523	0.037681
rs10036727	0.1482	0.3557	0.67697	0.4246	0.4858	0.382161	-0.0456	0.1507	0.762197	0.0289	0.0896	0.74711	-0.0639	0.0504	0.205061
rs1559051	-0.4816	0.413	0.243693	-0.4779	0.5641	0.397066	0.1437	0.175	0.411533	-0.0289	0.1045	0.782381	0.0731	0.0586	0.212174
rs12515725	0.5491	0.3429	0.10948	0.7708	0.4684	0.100032	-0.1629	0.1452	0.26192	-0.0368	0.0865	0.670165	-0.1385	0.0485	0.00434
rs2938774	-0.2796	0.377	0.45835	0.1945	0.5149	0.70567	-0.0575	0.1598	0.718862	0.043	0.0933	0.645221	-0.0136	0.0533	0.797909
rs295994	-0.2793	0.3651	0.444276	-0.2585	0.4988	0.604451	0.1543	0.1548	0.318928	0.0625	0.0926	0.499881	0.0527	0.0517	0.307869
rs9688032	0.2452	0.3738	0.511921	0.4211	0.5107	0.409766	-0.1142	0.1584	0.471283	-0.2227	0.0937	0.01755	-0.0517	0.0531	0.329867
rs11749001	-0.0301	0.5078	0.952789	0.0574	0.6939	0.934054	-0.1994	0.2147	0.353064	0.1497	0.1274	0.240255	0.0075	0.0718	0.916823
rs4282339	0.4086	0.434	0.346592	0.3083	0.593	0.603197	0.0952	0.1836	0.603958	-0.0394	0.1084	0.716204	-0.0524	0.0614	0.394221
rs297886	-0.1375	0.3727	0.712273	-0.4782	0.5091	0.347622	0.1262	0.1575	0.423104	0.0519	0.0928	0.576255	0.0632	0.0527	0.230861
rs1421763	0.5585	0.4037	0.166723	0.6702	0.5515	0.224417	-0.1481	0.1706	0.385475	-0.0799	0.1018	0.432497	-0.1269	0.0571	0.026442
rs3733975	-0.7784	0.3597	0.030606	-1.0555	0.4911	0.031758	0.0902	0.1521	0.553335	-0.2932	0.0896	0.001085	0.1373	0.0509	0.007035
rs12521041	-0.7312	0.3602	0.042534	-0.8864	0.492	0.071805	0.0522	0.1523	0.731943	-0.3129	0.0897	0.000499	0.1257	0.051	0.01373

## 320 **DISCUSSION**

321 The aim of this study was to use forward genetic screening in zebrafish to identify  
322 loci affecting human smoking behaviour. We identified two loss of function mutations  
323 in the zebrafish *Slit3* gene that were associated with increased nicotine place  
324 preference. We established the relevance in humans by identifying two markers in  
325 *SLIT3* where the presence of the minor allele was associated with fewer cigarettes  
326 smoked each day and with smoking cessation. Studies in a separate twin cohort  
327 showed that these same alleles were associated with DSM-IV nicotine dependence  
328 symptoms and age at onset of weekly smoking. Taken together these findings suggest  
329 that the alleles are linked in humans with a disruption of SLIT3 function that may  
330 affect propensity to develop tobacco dependence.

331 We screened 30 ENU-mutagenized zebrafish families followed by sibling re-screen to  
332 identify families of fish showing altered nicotine preference. This proof of principle  
333 study indicates the relevance of zebrafish for human studies and emphasizes the  
334 advantage of first using a screen with a low number of individuals per family to  
335 increase efficiency. The classic three generation forward genetic screen examines  
336 phenotypes in groups of 20 or more individuals from each family (37). Logistical  
337 considerations make it difficult to apply such an approach to adult behavioural  
338 screens. Our approach increases efficiency by initially screening a small number of  
339 individuals from a large number of families and only selecting those families that  
340 occur at the extremes of the distribution for further analysis. Although in this study  
341 we were able to confirm phenotypes using a relatively small population of siblings,  
342 re-screening of a larger number would increase the power of the analysis and allow  
343 more subtle phenotypes to be identified.

344 We identified a loss of function mutation in the zebrafish *Slit3* gene associated with  
345 increased nicotine place preference and confirmed the phenotype in an independent  
346 line. SLIT molecules bind to ROBO receptors through a highly conserved leucine-rich  
347 repeat (LRR) domain (38). In the AJBQM1 (*Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup>) line the loss of function  
348 mutation causes a truncation at amino acid 176 and in the *Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup> line at amino acid  
349 163. These are immediately adjacent to the LRR2 domain responsible for SLIT3's  
350 functional interaction with ROBO proteins (38) and would therefore be predicted to  
351 lead to formation of non-functional proteins. Initially identified as a family of axon  
352 guidance molecules, SLIT proteins are known to be expressed in a range of tissues  
353 and, by regulating cell polarity, to play major roles in many developmental process  
354 including cell migration, proliferation, adhesion, neuronal topographic map formation  
355 and dendritic spine remodelling (39). *In vitro* SLIT proteins bind promiscuously to  
356 ROBO receptors suggesting that the proteins may co-operate *in vivo* in areas in which  
357 they overlap. However, their restricted spatial distributions, particularly of SLIT3 in  
358 the central nervous system (40) suggest the individual proteins play subtly different  
359 roles *in vivo*.

360 Despite its neuronal expression, the most prominent phenotype seen in SLIT3  
361 deficient mice is postnatal diaphragmatic hernia (41,42) with no obvious neuronal or  
362 axon pathfinding defects having been reported. Similarly, we did not detect any major  
363 differences in axon pathfinding in *Slit3* mutant zebrafish larvae. As suggested  
364 previously (43) it may be that overlap of expression with other SLIT molecules  
365 compensates for loss of SLIT3 in the brain preventing gross neuronal pathfinding  
366 defects. However, subtle differences in circuit formation and/or axon branching may  
367 have escaped our analysis.

368 *Slit3*<sup>sal1569</sup> mutants showed altered sensitivity of the startle response to amisulpride.  
369 Acoustic startle is sensitive to modulation of dopaminergic and serotonergic  
370 signalling in all species studied (34,44,45). Our finding that amisulpride increased  
371 habituation to acoustic startle in wildtype fish is in agreement with the effect of  
372 amisulpride in humans (34). In contrast to results in wildtype fish, *Slit3*<sup>sal1569</sup> mutant  
373 larvae showed decreased habituation in the presence of low dose amisulpride. During  
374 adulthood, amisulpride inhibited nicotine-induced CPP in wildtype fish but not in  
375 *Slit3*<sup>sal1569</sup> mutants. These findings are consistent with a disrupted dopaminergic or  
376 serotonergic system caused by *Slit3* loss of function.

377 Although gene expression analyses revealed subtle upregulation in several receptors  
378 in *Slit3* mutants, significant difference was only seen for the *5ht1aa* receptor subtype.  
379 The observation of increased *5htr1aa* expression in *Slit3* mutants is of interest:  
380 Serotonergic signalling has been previously linked to drug reward processes including  
381 nicotine use and dependence (46,47). Manipulations which decrease brain serotonin  
382 neurotransmission (e.g., a neurotoxic serotonin depletion or a lasting serotonin  
383 synthesis inhibition) elevate self-administration of several different drugs including  
384 nicotine in rats (47–49). Compounds that facilitate serotonin neurotransmission, like  
385 selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, decrease nicotine intake (50). Nicotine  
386 increases serotonin release in the striatum, hippocampus, cortex, dorsal raphe nucleus  
387 (DRN), spinal cord and hypothalamus (51). The effects in the cortex, hippocampus,  
388 and DRN involve stimulation of *5htr1a* receptors, and in the striatum, *5htr3* receptors.  
389 In the DRN, *5htr1a* receptors play a role in mediating the anxiolytic effects of  
390 nicotine. In contrast, in the dorsal hippocampus and lateral septum, these same  
391 receptors mediate its anxiogenic effects. Although it is possible that an anxiolytic  
392 effect of nicotine contributed to the increased nicotine-induced place preference,

393 preliminary assessment of anxiety-like responses (tank diving) in *Slit3* mutants, where  
394 mutants show decreased anxiety-like behaviour (n.s), argue against this.

395 Pharmacological studies in rodents have shown that the *5htr1a* receptor antagonists  
396 WAY100635 and LY426965 alleviate the behavioural responses induced by nicotine  
397 withdrawal (52–54). WAY100635 has also been reported to block the nicotine  
398 enhancement of cocaine and methamphetamine self-administration in adolescent rats  
399 (55). Our findings of an increase in *5ht1aa* expression, altered sensitivity to  
400 amisulpride and altered nicotine CPP support a role for *Slit3* signalling in the  
401 formation of serotonergic pathways involved in responses to nicotine. Whilst  
402 speculative, it is also potentially of interest that variants in both *5htr1a* and *Slit3* are  
403 associated with psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia (56–58), known to involve  
404 serotonergic pathways. Further analyses, out of the scope of this study, are required  
405 in order to tease out the exact brain regions and processes affected.

406 Whilst we confirmed the translational effects of *Slit3* gene variants in a human study  
407 and the association was validated in another independent cohort, there are limitations  
408 to our findings: larger studies would be necessary to obtain greater precision on  
409 estimates of the effect size. Further studies are also required to determine the effects  
410 of genetic variation in *SLIT3* on anatomical pathways in the human brain and their  
411 functioning with view to identifying people who are at high risk of developing  
412 dependence. This could be achieved by using imaging techniques to study brain  
413 activation in response to smoking related cues in smokers who have the *SLIT3*  
414 polymorphisms linked to smoking (particularly rs12654448).

415 To our knowledge, this is the first report of a forward behavioural genetic screen in  
416 adult zebrafish successfully predicting a novel human coding genetic region involved  
417 in a complex human behavioural trait. Taken together, these results provide evidence

418 for a role for *SLIT3* in regulating smoking behaviour in humans and confirm adult  
419 zebrafish as a translationally relevant animal model for exploration of addiction-  
420 related behaviours. Further work analysing the cellular processes affected as a result  
421 of the *Slit3* mutation may provide useful targets when designing tailored treatments to  
422 aid smoking cessation.  
423



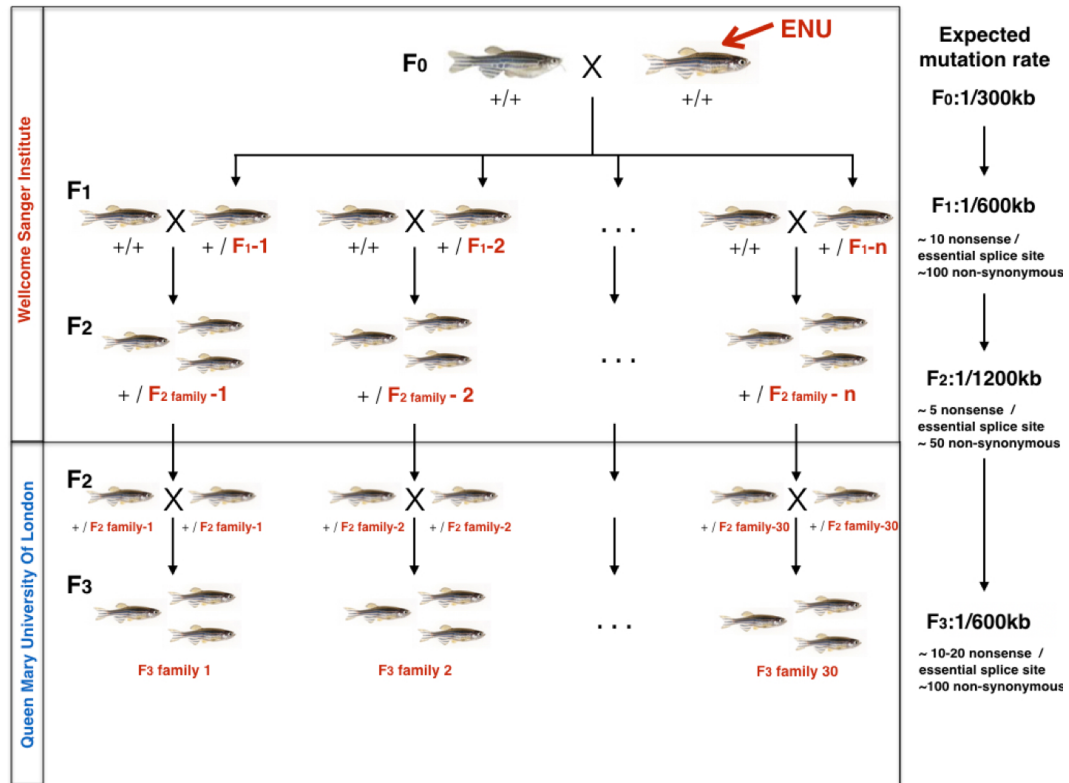
424 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

425

426 *Generation of F3 families of ENU-mutagenised fish:* Wildtype and ENU-  
427 mutagenized Tubingen longfin (TLF) fish were obtained from the Sanger Institute, as  
428 part of the Zebrafish Mutation Project which aimed to create a knockout allele in  
429 every zebrafish protein-coding gene  
430 [<https://www.sanger.ac.uk/resources/zebrafish/zmp/>]. At the Sanger, ENU-  
431 mutagenized TLF F<sub>0</sub> males were outcrossed to create a population of F<sub>1</sub> fish  
432 heterozygous for ENU-induced mutations. Due to the high ENU mutation rate (1/300  
433 kb) and homologous recombination when F<sub>1</sub> gametes are generated, all F<sub>2</sub> were  
434 heterozygous for multiple mutations. F<sub>2</sub> families, each generated from a separate F<sub>1</sub>  
435 fish, were imported from the Sanger Institute to Queen Mary University of London  
436 (QMUL).

437

438 At QMUL a single male and female fish from each F<sub>2</sub> family were inbred to generate  
439 30 F<sub>3</sub> families that would be 25% wildtype, 50% heterozygous and 25% homozygous  
440 mutant for any single mutation, assuming Mendelian genetics. Based on exome  
441 sequencing data from the F<sub>1</sub> generation performed at the Sanger, each F<sub>3</sub> family  
442 contained 10-20 known predicted loss of function exonic mutations, approximately  
443 100 non-synonymous coding mutations and approximately 1500 unknown mutations  
444 in non-coding domains across the entire genome (29). Breeding scheme is detailed in  
445 Figure 10.



446

447 **Figure 10. Zebrafish breeding scheme to generate F<sub>3</sub> families.** F<sub>2</sub> ENU-  
 448 mutagenized zebrafish, heterozygous for multiple mutations across the entire genome  
 449 were obtained from the Wellcome Sanger Institute as part of the Zebrafish Mutation  
 450 Project. At Queen Mary University of London, heterozygous F<sub>2</sub> fish were inbred to  
 451 generate 30 F<sub>3</sub> families, each containing 10-20 nonsense or essential splice site  
 452 mutations and about 1500 additional exonic and intronic point mutations. F<sub>3</sub> Families  
 453 were arbitrarily numbered 1-30. Expected mutation rate and type of mutations in  
 454 coding regions are specified on the right hand side.

455

456 ***Fish maintenance:***

457 Fish were housed in a recirculating system (Techniplast, UK) on a 14h:10h light:dark  
 458 cycle (0830–2230). The housing and testing rooms were maintained at ~25–28°C.  
 459 Fish were maintained in aquarium-treated water and fed three times daily with live

460 artemia (twice daily) and flake food (once). All procedures were carried out under  
461 license in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and under  
462 guidance from the local animal welfare and ethical review board at Queen Mary  
463 University of London.

464

465 ***Conditioned place preference (CPP)***: All fish were age and weight matched for all  
466 behavioural analysis and were approximately 5 months old, weighing 0.2-0.25g at the  
467 start of testing. Following habituation and determination of basal preference, animals  
468 were conditioned to 5 $\mu$ M nicotine (Sigma, Gillingham, UK Catalogue number:  
469 N1019) over three consecutive days and assessed for a change in place preference the  
470 following day. 5 $\mu$ M nicotine was used because it was predicted to induce a minimum  
471 detectable change in place preference based on results of previous studies (19,21).  
472 This minimal effective dose was used to avoid possible ceiling effects if using a  
473 higher concentration. CPP was assessed as described previously (19,20,59): The  
474 testing apparatus was an opaque 3 L rectangular tank that could be divided in half  
475 with a Perspex divider. Each end of the tank had distinct visual cues (1.5cm diameter  
476 black spots versus vertical 0.5cm wide black and white stripes, matched for  
477 luminosity). After habituation to the apparatus and handling, we determined the basal  
478 preference for each fish: individual fish were placed in the tank for 10 min and the  
479 time spent at either end determined using a ceiling mounted camera and Ethovision  
480 tracking software (Noldus, Wageningen, NL). Any fish showing >70% preference for  
481 either end was excluded from further analysis. Fish were then conditioned with  
482 nicotine in the least preferred environment for 20 min, on 3 consecutive days: Each  
483 day each fish was restricted first to its preferred side for 20 min in fish water and then  
484 to its least preferred side with nicotine or, if a control fish, vehicle (fish water) added,

485 for another 20 min. After 20 min in the nicotine (or vehicle)-paired environment each  
486 fish was returned to its home tank. After 3 days of conditioning, on the following day,  
487 fish were subject to a probe trial whereby each fish was placed in the conditioning  
488 tank in the absence of divider and the time spent at either end of the tank over a 10  
489 min period was determined as for assessment of basal preference. The change in place  
490 preference was determined as the proportion time spent in the nicotine-paired zone  
491 during the probe trial minus the proportion time spent in the nicotine-paired zone  
492 during basal testing. The CPP procedure has been used and validated previously with  
493 nicotine as well as other drugs (19,20,59) .

494

495 Data analysis: Change in preference scores were calculated as proportion time spent  
496 in drug paired stimulus after conditioning minus proportion time spent in drug paired  
497 stimulus before conditioning. Population means between generations were compared  
498 using independent two-sample t-tests, and effect-sizes ascertained using Cohen's d  
499 (60). For the rescreen of outlier sibling families and *Slit3<sup>sa202</sup>* line, mutant lines were  
500 compared with wildtype controls using an independent two-sample t-test.

501

502 ***CPP in the presence or absence of antagonists:*** To assess the ability of compounds  
503 (varenicline (Sigma, Gillingham, UK, PZ0004), bupropion (Sigma, Gillingham, UK,  
504 B1277) or amisulpride (Tocris, Bristol, UK, C2132) to inhibit subjective effects of  
505 nicotine a modified version of the CPP procedure was used (20). In this modified  
506 version, following habituation and establishment of basal preference, each day each  
507 fish was restricted first to its preferred side for 20 min in fish water and then removed  
508 from the conditioning tank and transferred to a tank containing the appropriate  
509 concentration of test compound or fish water (plus carrier where required) for 10min.  
510 After 10min the fish was returned to its least preferred side in the conditioning tank  
511 with nicotine or, if a control fish, vehicle (fish water) for another 20 min. After 20  
512 min in the nicotine (or vehicle)-paired environment, each fish was returned to its

513 home tank. After three days of conditioning to nicotine in the presence or absence of  
514 test compound, on the following day, fish were subject to a probe trial whereby each  
515 fish was placed in the conditioning tank in the absence of divider and the time spent at  
516 either end of the tank over a 10 min period determined. To assess the ability of  
517 varenicline (0-20 $\mu$ M) or bupropion (0-10 $\mu$ M) to inhibit subjective effects of nicotine  
518 in wildtype fish, fish were incubated in the presence and absence of increasing doses  
519 of test compound (or vehicle) for 10 min before conditioning to 10 $\mu$ M nicotine.  
520 Statistical analysis was performed using a univariate analysis of variance (ANOVA),  
521 followed by Tukey's post hoc test.

522 To test the effect of amisulpride on nicotine -induced CPP in wildtype and *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup>  
523 mutant fish, fish were incubated in the presence or absence of 0.5mg/L amisulpride  
524 for 10 min before conditioning to 5 $\mu$ M nicotine. Two-way ANOVA was performed  
525 with genotype (*Slit3*<sup>+/+</sup> and *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup>) and treatment (control, nicotine,  
526 nicotine+amisulpride) as independent variables. Values of p<0.05 were considered  
527 significant.

528

529 ***Breeding and selection to assess heritability of nicotine-induced place preference:***

530 To test whether nicotine preference is heritable, fish falling in the upper and lower  
531 deciles of the 'change in place preference' distribution were kept for analysis and  
532 further breeding. Individuals were bred (in-cross of fish from the upper decile and in-  
533 cross of fish from the lower decile done separately) and their offspring screened for  
534 CPP (Second Generation CPP analysis). The same approach was repeated again: fish  
535 at the extremes of the Second Generation CPP distribution curve were selected and in-  
536 crossed, and their offspring were used to perform a Third Generation CPP analysis.

537

538 ***Identification of ENU-induced mutations influencing nicotine place preference:*** To

539 investigate whether ENU-induced mutations affect fish sensitivity to the rewarding  
540 effects of nicotine, candidate families were selected when the 3-4 fish from a family

541 tested clustered together at one or other extreme of the change in preference  
542 distribution curve. To confirm the genetic effect on the CPP phenotype in candidate  
543 families, all remaining siblings of that family were assessed for nicotine induced CPP,  
544 along with non-mutagenized TLF control fish, to confirm the genetic effect on the  
545 phenotype.

546

547 Candidate mutations, obtained from exome sequencing on F<sub>1</sub> fish, were assessed for  
548 co-segregation with behaviour using site specific pcr (61) (See Supplementary  
549 Methods). Once a co-segregating candidate mutation was identified, larvae from an  
550 independent line carrying a predicted loss of function allele in the same gene were  
551 obtained from the Sanger Institute (*Slit3*<sup>sa202</sup>) to confirm the association.  
552 Heterozygous *Slit3*<sup>sa202/+</sup> and sibling *Slit3*<sup>+/+</sup> larvae were reared to adulthood and  
553 assessed for nicotine-induced CPP as described above. All fish were fin clipped and  
554 genotyped following CPP.

555

#### 556 ***Characterization of larvae:***

557 ***Antibody staining:*** In order to visualize axonal pathways, fluorescent  
558 immunohistochemistry was carried out in three day old embryos from wildtype  
559 *Slit3*<sup>+/+</sup>, heterozygous mutant *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/+</sup> and homozygous mutant *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup> in-  
560 crosses. To prevent skin pigmentation, embryos were incubated in 0.2mM of 1-phenyl  
561 2-thiourea (Sigma, Gillingham, UK) from 24 hours after fertilization. At three days,  
562 they were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (Sigma, Gillingham, UK) to avoid tissue  
563 degradation. For the immunostaining, rabbit polyclonal anti-tyrosine hydroxylase  
564 primary antibody (1:200; Sigma, Gillingham, AB152) and mouse anti-acetylated  
565 tubulin monoclonal antibody (1:1000; Sigma Gillingham, UK, T6793) were used.

566 Both primary antibodies were detected with Alexa 546-conjugated secondary  
567 antibodies (1:400; Fisher Scientific, Loughborough, UK A11010). Whole-mount  
568 immunohistochemistry and mounting was performed as described previously (62).

569

570 **Confocal microscopy imaging and analysis:** Images were acquired using a Leica SP5  
571 confocal microscope. Confocal z-stacks were recorded under the same conditions  
572 using diode laser and images were processed under ImageJ environment.

573

574 **Startle response in the presence or absence of amisulpride:** Five day old larvae,  
575 generated from adult *Slit3* wildtype and homozygous mutant (*Slit3*<sup>sa1569/sa1569</sup>) fish as  
576 for quantitative pcr, were individually placed in 24 well plates. In the drug-free  
577 condition, each well contained 300µl system water and 0.05% of dimethyl sulfoxide  
578 (DMSO, Sigma, Gillingham, UK). In the pharmacological conditions, serial dilutions  
579 of the dopaminergic and serotonergic antagonist amisulpride (Tocris, Bristol, UK,  
580 71675-86-9) were prepared to give final concentrations of 0.05 mg/L, 0.1 mg/L or 0.5  
581 mg/L amisulpride in 0.05% DMSO. Amisulpride concentrations were chosen based  
582 on previous studies in zebrafish (63) and correspond to 50, 100 and 500 times its Ki  
583 value for the D2 receptor in mammals (64,65). To ensure that larvae were exposed to  
584 the drug for the same amount of time, amisulpride was added 15 minutes before  
585 undertaking the experiment. Care was taken regarding the distribution of  
586 concentrations and genotypes to ensure that experimental groups were randomly  
587 distributed in the plates. Plates were placed in a custom-made filming tower with a  
588 tapping device that applied 10 sound/vibration stimuli with two seconds interval  
589 between them. The setup for this device has been described elsewhere (66). Larval

590 movement was recorded using Ethovision XT software (Noldus Information  
591 Technology, Wageningen, NL) and data were outputted in one second time-bins.

592

593 For each fish, distance travelled (mm) during one second after each tap was recorded.  
594 Linear mixed models were calculated to assess differences in baseline distance  
595 moved, distance moved one second after the first stimulus and distance moved during  
596 all the stimuli across groups. To assess response and habituation to the stimuli, we  
597 calculated the percentage of fish exhibiting a response  $\geq 50\%$  of the mean startle  
598 response to the first tap stimulus (set to 2.5mm because this was 50% of the mean  
599 distance travelled across all groups at tap one, and response to the first stimulus was  
600 not significantly different across experimental groups (n.s.)).

601

602 The percentage of fish responding to stimulus together with amisulpride dose,  
603 stimulus number and genotype group were modelled in a beta regression conducted  
604 using the R package “betareg”. To determine whether stimulus number, dose or  
605 genotype variables are significant, likelihood ratio tests for nested regression models  
606 were performed. Results of all statistical analyses were reported with respect to a  
607 type-1 error rate of  $\alpha=0.05$ . Post-hoc tests were conducted using Tukey's HSD.

608

609 ***Real-time quantitative pcr:*** Adult *Slit3* wildtype and *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> homozygous mutant  
610 fish, generated from a *Slit3*<sup>sa1569/+</sup> heterozygous in cross, were bred to generate  
611 homozygous wildtype, heterozygous mutant and homozygous mutant larvae. Embryos  
612 were carefully staged at 1, 24 and 48 hour and at five day post fertilisation to ensure,  
613 based on morphological criteria, there were no differences in development between  
614 groups. mRNA from 3 samples of five day old embryos (n=10 pooled embryos per



615 sample) for each genotype was isolated using the phenol-chloroform method. cDNA  
616 was generated using the ProtoScript® II First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (NEB (UK  
617 Ltd.), Hitchen, UK). Relative qPCR assays were performed using the LightCycler 480  
618 qPCR system from Roche Diagnostics, Ltd. with all reactions carried out in triplicates.  
619 Reference genes for all the qPCR analyses were  $\beta$ -actin, *ef1a* and *rpl13a* based on  
620 previous studies (59,67,68). Accession numbers and primer sequences for the genes  
621 can be found in Supplementary Table 2.

622

623 Relative mRNA expression in qPCR was calculated against reference gene cycle-  
624 threshold (Ct) values, and then subjected to one-way ANOVA. To account for  
625 multiple testing a Bonferroni correction was applied, and significance was declared at  
626 a threshold of 0.001.

627

628 **Human Cohorts:** In London human subjects were recruited from three clinical  
629 groups: patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (Cohort 1;  
630 n=272); patients with asthma (Cohort 2; n=293); and residents and carers in sheltered  
631 accommodation, with neither condition (Cohort 3; n=298). The methods used for  
632 recruitment and definition of phenotypes are reported elsewhere (69–71). The studies  
633 were approved by East London and The City Research Ethics Committee 1  
634 (09/H0703/67, 09/H0703/76 and 09/H0703/112). Written informed consent was  
635 obtained from all participants.

636

637 Details of the Finnish twin cohort are reported elsewhere (72–74). In brief, twin pairs  
638 concordant for moderate to heavy smoking were identified from the population-based  
639 Finnish Twin Cohort survey responders. The twin pairs and their siblings were invited

640 to a computer-assisted, telephone-based, structured, psychiatric interview (SSAGA)  
641 (72), to yield detailed information on smoking behaviour and nicotine dependence as  
642 defined by Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND) and DSM-IV  
643 diagnoses. Human phenotypes to be investigated in relation to zebrafish nicotine  
644 seeking behaviour were determined by consensus *a priori*.

645

646 Sample characteristics of the human cohorts and detailed definitions of both London  
647 and Finnish phenotypes can be found in the supplementary material and  
648 Supplementary Table 3.

649

650 **Human genotyping:** For the London cohorts, DNA from participants was extracted  
651 from whole blood using the salting-out method (75) and normalized to 5ng/μl. 10ng  
652 DNA was used as template for 2 μl TaqMan assays (Applied Biosystems, Foster City,  
653 CA, USA) performed on the ABI 7900HT platform in 384-well format and analysed  
654 with Autocaller software. Pre-developed assays were used to type all SNPs. See  
655 Supplementary Table 4 for primer and reporter sequences. Typing for two SNP  
656 (rs6127118 and rs11574010) failed. For the Finnish cohort, DNA was extracted from  
657 whole blood and genotyping was performed at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute  
658 (Hinxton, UK) on the Human670-QuadCustom Illumina BeadChip (Illumina, Inc.,  
659 San Diego, CA, USA), as previously described (72–74).

660 **Human association analyses:** London cohort association analysis was performed  
661 using PLINK v1.07 (76). SLIT3 SNPs that had been previously associated with  
662 disease phenotype were identified and the 20 with the highest linkage disequilibrium  
663 score selected for analysis. Of twenty SLIT3 SNPs, one departed from Hardy-  
664 Weinberg equilibrium (rs13183458) and was excluded. Linear regression was

665 performed on average number of cigarettes smoked per day, controlling for age, sex  
666 and cohort. This analysis was repeated on heavy smokers ( $\geq 20$  cigarettes per day)  
667 and light smokers ( $< 20$  cigarettes per day) to investigate whether effects were related  
668 to intake level. Smoking cessation (current vs ever smokers) was analysed using  
669 logistic regression controlling for age, sex and cohort. All analyses were performed  
670 under the additive genetic model and multiple testing was taken into account using the  
671 Benjamini-Hochberg adjustment. Only individuals from European ancestry were  
672 included in analyses.

673 Association analyses for the Finnish Twin Cohort were performed using GEMMA  
674 v0.94 (77) with linear mixed model against the allelic dosages controlling for age and  
675 sex. Sample relatedness and population stratification were taken into account by using  
676 genetic relatedness matrix as random effect of the model.

677

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## **Competing interests**

The authors of this manuscript certify that they have NO affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript

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## Supplementary Methods

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**Zebrafish genomic DNA extraction:** Genomic DNA was extracted from fin-clips using QIAGEN DNeasy® Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen, Manchester, UK) according to manufacturer's instructions. Samples were eluted into distilled water and stored at -20°C until later use.

**Site Specific Polymerase Chain Reaction:** Allele-specific pcr single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) assays were used for genotyping F3 individuals for mutations known to be present in the ENU-mutagenized F1 generation. Four primer pairs were designed to carry out pcr genotyping as previously described (61). The list of loss-of-function mutations in the AJBQM1 and AJBQM2 lines is detailed in Supplementary Table 1. For each line, a primer was designed with 3' complementary to the ENU-SNP with a second primer ~100bp downstream. The second pair had one primer with 3' complementary to the wild-type base with a second primer ~200bp upstream. The resulting pcr results in a 300bp fragment that spans the region and acts as an internal control for the pcr plus one 100bp fragment if homozygous for the mutation, 2 bands of 100bp and 200bp if heterozygous, and one 200bp fragment if homozygous wild-type. The 4-primer groups were designed with melting temperatures as close as possible using the NCBI primer design tool and were ordered from Eurofins, MWG operon (Ebersberg, DE).

**Supplementary Table 1:** List of loss-of-function mutations in the AJBQM1 (A) and AJBQM2 (B) lines. List was derived from exome sequencing and provided by the Wellcome Sanger Trust, Hinxton, Cambridge.

A)



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SNP Name	Allele Number	Location	Description
cacna1ba (Cacna1b)	sa1562	Zv9:5:31016641	voltage-dependent N-type calcium channel subunit alpha-1B
vcana (VCAN)	sa1563	Zv9:5:48057817	novel protein similar to vertebrate chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan 2
si:ch211-157f15.1 (EVPL)	sa1564	Zv9:6:21645941	envoplakin
mobkl2a (MOBKL2A)	sa1565	Zv9:8:20954361	mps one binder kinase activator-like 2A
ENSDARG00000068026 (PRKG1)	sa1566	Zv9:8:53199402	protein kinase, cGMP-dependent, type I
glis3 (GLIS3)	sa1567	Zv9:10:663606	zinc finger protein GLIS3
si:dkey-220f10.4 (TULP2)	sa1568	Zv9:12:21973687	novel tub family member protein
slit3 (SLIT3)	sa1569	Zv9:14:25591202	slit homolog 3 protein
dchs1 (DCHS1)	sa1570	Zv9:15:31441900	dachsous 1
flad1 (FLAD1)	sa1571	Zv9:16:25049338	Molybdenum cofactor biosynthesis protein-like region FAD synthase region
si:ch211-199m3.2 (AKD1)	sa1572	Zv9:20:33741430	adenylate kinase domain containing 1
si:dkey-4c23.3 (???)	sa1573	Zv9:22:25367694	novel protein similar to vitellogenin 1 (Vg1)
magi2 (MAGI2)	sa1574	Zv9:25:21478784	membrane associated guanylate kinase, WW and PDZ domain containing 2
zgc:101050 (TRIMM55)	sa158	Zv9:23:17631394	hypothetical protein LOC445187 (tripartite motif-containing 55)

27 **B)**

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SNP Name	Allele Number	Location	Description
capn3 (CAPN3)	sa150	Zv9:17:45493087	calpain-3
chrna9 (CHRNA9)	sa975	Zv9:1:22190803	cholinergic receptor, nicotinic, alpha 9
snrnp70 (SNRNP70)	sa976	Zv9:3:32068963	U1 small nuclear ribonucleoprotein 70 kDa
zgc:158677 (SV2B)	sa977	Zv9:7:16060160	synaptic vesicle protein 2B homolog
wu:fa96e12 (AC103686.1)	sa978	Zv9:7:44124381	DNA-dependent protein kinase catalytic subunit
kctd4 (KCTD4)	sa980	Zv9:9:19495015	potassium channel tetramerisation domain containing 4
LOC557854 (SLC19A3)	sa981	Zv9:15:34443534	solute carrier family 19, member 3
tspan3a (TSPAN3)	sa984	Zv9:18:26858396	tetraspanin 3
rapsn (RAPSN)	sa985	Zv9:18:20289900	43 kDa receptor-associated protein of the synapse
si:ch211-132b12.1 (SLC6A11)	sa986	Zv9:18:38859333	hypothetical protein LOC100034467
pkhd1l1 (PKHD1L1)	sa987	Zv9:19:23349482	polycystic kidney and hepatic disease 1 (autosomal recessive)-like 1
klf11a (KLF-11)	sa988	Zv9:20:29529553	kruppel-like factor 11a

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30 **Supplementary Table 2.** Gene ID and primer sequences used in gene expression analysis.

Gene name	Transcript ID	Sequence (5' -> 3')	Fragment size (bp)
<i>Serotonergic pathway</i>			
<i>Htr1aa</i>	NM_001123321.1	Forward: TTCTACATCCCGCTCATCCTCA Reverse: CCTCCAAGTTTTACCCACCTCTC	180
<i>Htr1ab</i>	NM_001145766.1	Forward: AAACACCGAGGCGAAGAGGAA Reverse: GGCAGCCAACACAGAATGAAAGT	99
<i>Htr2a</i>	XM_684208.9	Forward: TACGGTGGCTGGGAACATTTTAG Reverse: GGGACACAGTGATGCAGGAAA	187
<i>Htr5a</i>	NM_001126410.2	Forward: TGGATCAAAGAGGACCAACACC Reverse: CTGAAACGTCACCGTGGCAT	118
<i>Htr2cl1</i>	NM_001129893.1	Forward: AACTTCTTCCTCCGCTCACTCG Reverse: ATGGCACACAGGTGCATGATGG	179
<i>Htr2cl2</i>	XM_001339004.7	Forward: CACAACCCACCAACTTCTTCC Reverse: ACGTCCAGAAAGATCCACAGCG	152
<i>Htr4</i>	XM_021481160.1 XM_009291062.3	Forward: GTTTCTTTCCAAGCGCCTC Reverse: ACTTCTTCCATCTCAGGCATC	168
<i>Htr6</i>	XM_009297078.3	Forward: ACTACAGTCATCAGGAGCCACC Reverse: GCCAGGCACTGAAGAATAGTCC	147
<i>Htr7</i>	XM_003199584.5	Forward: TGGATGTGATGTGCTGTACCGC Reverse: GCCATGCACTTTCCACTCTGTCT	118
<i>slc6a4/ SERT</i>	NM_001039972.1	Forward: ACCAGGGGCGAAGCCAAGCA Reverse: GCCACAGGCCCCCGCTGTTA	117
<i>Htr1b</i>	NM_001128709.1	Forward: CCTTGTCGTCAGTTCTGGGT Reverse: ATCAGAAAGTTCGCCGGTGT	112
<i>Nicotinic pathway</i>			
<i>Chrna2</i>	NC_007128.7	Forward: TGGCTGCAGATCAGTCAAAGAC Reverse: CCCTCTAACTGTCCCTTCACAA	271
<i>Chrna3</i>	Not found in BLAST	Forward: TGTACATCCGCCGATTACCGCT Reverse: TCCGCAGTCGGAGGGCAGTA	?
<i>Chrna4b</i>	ENSDART00000018614.7	Forward: TTACAAGAGGTTTGGGCGCT Reverse: ACAGACCAGTAGATCATCACTCC	90
<i>Chrna5</i>	NM_001017885.1	Forward: GGCTCCCAGGTTCGACATTCTC Reverse: AACCCCGGTTACCAGTGGCCT	103
<i>Chrna6</i>	NM_001042684	Forward: AGGCTCTTTCGTCGTTTATTC Reverse: TCTCAGCCAAAGGTTTGTTC	156
<i>Chrna7</i>	ENSDART00000171463.3 and ENSDART00000166391.2	Forward: ACCGTGTCACATTGTTCACTCTC Reverse: ACAGGTCTCTCCAGTGGGTTA	105

<i>Chrnb2b</i>	ENS DART00000041625.7 and ENS DART00000185728.1	Forward: CACAAAGTCACGCTCCGATAC Reverse: CCGTCGCTCTGAGCAGATAA	160
<i>Chrnb3b</i>	ENS DARG00000038508.5	Forward: CAGGAGTCAACCTCCGCTTT Reverse: TGAATCTGAACGCACTGGCT	106
<i>Chrnb4</i>	NC_007129.7	Forward: ATGTGAATGAATGGCGGTGTGTG Reverse: ATGCGCGTGTTCAGATTTACCC	203
<i>Dopaminergic pathway</i>			
<i>Drd1b</i>	NM_001135976.2	Forward: TGGTTCCTTTCTGCAACCCA Reverse: AGTGATGAGTTCGCCCAACC	100
<i>Drd2a</i>	XM_009291617.3 and XM_005157501.4	Forward: TCCACAAAATCAGGAAAAGCGT Reverse: CAGCCAATGTAAACCGGCAA	106
<i>Drd3</i>	XM_021470111.1 and XM_005162673.4	Forward: ATCGAGTTTCGCAGAGCCTT Reverse: TCCACAGTGTCTGAAAGCCG	95
<i>Slc6a3</i>	NM_131755.1	Forward: GCCTGGTTTTACGGAGTGGA Reverse: GGAGGATTGAAGGTGGCGAA	66
<i>Adrenergic pathway</i>			
<i>Adra1aa</i>	NM_001324454.1	Forward: AAGAAGGCCGCAAGACTTT Reverse: GTCCGAGGGTCTGTACGTTG	114
<i>Adra1d</i>	XM_691951.6	Forward: AAGCTGCTAAAACCCTCGCC Reverse: GGCTTCAGAGCTGGGAAGAAT	103
<i>Adra2b</i>	NM_207638.1	Forward: AAAAGCCAGGCCTCCTCAACTT Reverse: GGGCTTGCAGAAGGTTGTTG	92
<i>Adra2c</i>	NM_207639.1	Forward: CGCCGTTTTAACGAGCAGAG Reverse: AGTGTGGCCACCAGAATGTC	87
<i>Adra2da</i>	NM_194364.2	Forward: CATCATCCTCGTGGTGTCCC Reverse: ATCCCATGATCTCGTTGGCG	188
<i>Adra2db</i>	NM_194365.1	Forward: TGCCACTTTGGTCATTCCGT Reverse: AGCCAGGTAGAAAGCACACC	88

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33 **Supplementary Table 3: Sample characteristics of the human cohorts.** Detailed inclusion  
 34 and exclusion criteria for the London cohorts can be found in <https://clinicaltrials.gov>.  
 35 Further details about recruitment and definition of medical phenotypes can be found  
 36 elsewhere (69–71). \*\*Differences in sample size for Finnish cohorts was due to hard-call  
 37 genotype probability threshold. DSM-IV nicotine dependence symptoms, Fagerström scores  
 38 and cigarettes smoked each day (N = 1715). Sensation felt after smoking first cigarette (N =  
 39 1915). Time to first cigarette in the morning (N= 1726).

<i>Cohort name</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Cohort description</i>	<i>ClinicalTrials.gov ID</i>	<i>Mean age (years)</i>	<i>% female</i>	<i>Smoking phenotypes investigated</i>	<i>N heavy smokers</i>
ViDiCO	272	UK	Subjects with mild, moderate or severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) treated with the same bi-monthly 3mg vitamin D3 intervention.	NCT00977873	64.6	40	Tobacco consumption; smoking cessation (current vs ever smokers)	249
ViDiAs	293	UK	Adult patients with asthma treated with inhaled corticosteroids treated with a bi-monthly 3mg vitamin D3 intervention	NCT00978315	47	56	Tobacco consumption; smoking cessation (current vs ever smokers)	17
ViDiFLU	298	UK	Adults in sheltered accommodation given 10 mcg vitamin D3 daily as well as bi-monthly 3mg vitamin D3 interventions	NCT01069874	66.8	66	Tobacco consumption; smoking cessation (current vs ever smokers)	66
Finnish Twins	1915, 1715, 1726*	Finland	Study sample ascertained from the Finnish Twin Cohort study (N=35834 adult twins) concordant for moderate to heavy smoking	NA	55	48	DSM-IV nicotine dependence symptoms; Fagerström scores; cigarettes smoked each day; sensation felt after smoking first	NA

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cigarette and  
time to first  
cigarette in the  
morning

40 **Phenotype definitions for the London cohorts:** *Amount smoked* was defined as the average  
41 number of cigarettes smoked per day (CPD) for each participant. Participants met criteria for  
42 *smoking cessation* if they reported being ‘ever smokers’ and reported **not** smoking currently.  
43 The percentage of current smokers in the cohort was 42%, 7% and 18% for ViDiCO, ViDiAs  
44 and ViDiFLU, respectively.

45

46 **Phenotype definition for the Finnish twin cohort study:** Definitions of the phenotypes  
47 were adapted from Broms et al (74).

48

49 *Amount smoked*

50 Cigarettes per day (CPD) constitutes of eight categories: 1-2, 3-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-19, 20-25,  
51 26-39,  $\geq 40$  CPD. In the statistical analyses of the CPD variables, original categorical  
52 observations were replaced with class means of CPD (1.5, 3.5, 8, 13, 17.5, 22.5, 32.5, and 45  
53 cigarettes per day, respectively). Regression coefficients can therefore be interpreted as the  
54 average change in number of cigarettes smoked per day when the number of minor allele is  
55 increased by one.

- 56
- **CPD:** Number of cigarettes smoked per day during month of heaviest smoking.  
57 Values ranged from 1 to  $>40$  with mean=19.8 cigarettes per day.
  - **Maximum CPD:** Maximum number of cigarettes ever smoked during one day (24h  
58 period). Values ranged from 2 to 98 with mean=30 cigarettes per day.  
59

60

61 *Smoking initiation*

- 62       • ***Age of onset of weekly smoking:*** Age (years) when started to smoke weekly (“How  
63       old were you when you first smoked a cigarette at least once a week for at least two  
64       months in a row?”). Values ranged from 6 to 54, mean=17.3 years.
- 65       • ***First time sensation.*** Sensation felt after smoking the first cigarette or first puffs.  
66       Sensation measured as: ”While smoking your very first cigarettes, did you (1) like the  
67       taste or smell of the cigarette, (2) cough, (3) feel dizzy or light-headed, (4) feel more  
68       relaxed, (5) get a headache, (6) feel a pleasurable rush or buzz, (7) feel your heart  
69       racing, (8) feel nauseated, like vomiting, (9) feel your muscles tremble or become  
70       jittery, (10) feel burning in your throat”). Sum score of 10 questions (items #1, #4,  
71       and #6 were reverse-scored before summation): 0 points if answered “No”, 1 = ”A  
72       little bit”, 2=”Some”, 3= ”Quite a bit”, 4=”A great deal”. Cronbach’s alpha = 0.70.  
73       Values ranged from 3.6 to 15.8. Mean =10.2.

74

75    *Nicotine dependence*

- 76       • ***DSM-IV ND diagnosis:*** Nicotine dependence by DSM-IV diagnosis ( $\geq 3$  symptoms  
77       out of 7 occurring within a year). Prevalence = 53.5%.
- 78       • ***DSM-IV ND symptoms:*** Number of DSM-IV ND symptoms from 0 to 7. Mean=3
- 79       • ***FTND ( $\geq 4$ ):*** Nicotine dependent if  $\geq 4$  out of 10 points in Fagerström Test for  
80       Nicotine Dependence. Prevalence = 50.4%
- 81       • ***FTND score:*** Fagerström Test for Nicotine Dependence (FTND) score: 0 to 10  
82       points. Mean=3.7.
- 83       • ***FTND time to first cigarette (TTF):*** Time to first cigarette in the morning (one item  
84       of the FTND scale). Five categories: 0-5 min, 6-15 min, 16-30 min, 31-60 min,  
85       >60 min. Categorization differs from original four categories (3), i.e., 6-30 minutes is  
86       split into 6-15 min and 16-30 min. In our data set 46% of smokers belong to the group

87 of 6-30 min, and from the smoking behaviour point of view there is a significant  
88 difference whether one smokes the first cigarette within 6 minutes or 30 minutes from  
89 waking up. In this data set 22% of smokers belong to the 6-15 min and 24% to the 16-  
90 30 min group. Values ranged from 1 to 5 with a mean=3.1.

1 **Supplementary Table 4.** Primer and reporter sequences used for human genotyping.

GENE	SNP	Sequence name	Sequence
<i>CYP3A4</i>	rs2740574	Forward	CCAGGCATAGGTAAAGATCTGTAGGT
		Reverse	CTCAAGTGGAGCCATTGGCATA
		Reporters	ACAAGGGCAAGAGAG and ACAAGGGCAGGAGAG
<i>CUBN</i>	rs3740165	Forward	GCAATGAGATTAATCTTCAGGAAACACA
		Reverse	CTGGAGGTATAGGAAGCAGTGAAG
		Reporters	CCGCCATATGGCCTG and CGCCATACGGCCTG
<i>RXRA</i>	rs7861779	Forward	TGGCCCATGCACGAGTAG
		Reverse	ACCGAGACAGGCCAAACTC
		Reporters	CAGCAGAGGTGGCCGA and CAGCAGAGATGGCCGA

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### Supplementary results

6 **Supplementary Table 5: Site specific pcr genotyping of AJBQM1 (A) and AJBQM2 (B)**

7 **outlier siblings.** The siblings were genotyped at each of the candidate loci using site specific  
8 pcr and results compared with each individual place preference change scores. P-values result  
9 from independent two-sample t-tests comparing preference change scores between wildtype  
10 and subjects with a copy of mutant allele at each locus.

11 **(A)**

Gene name	CPP Change Score										P-value
	0	0.01	0.07	0.15	0.32	0.43	0.44	0.47	0.51	0.6	
<i>Slit3</i>	WT	WT	WT	WT	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	7.6592x10 <sup>-5</sup>
<i>Cacne</i>	WT	HET	WT	WT	HOM	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT	0.691
<i>Vcan</i>	HET	HET	WT	HET	HOM	WT	HET	HET	WT	WT	0.259
<i>Evgl</i>	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	-
<i>Mob3a</i>	HET	HET	HET	HOM	HOM	HET	WT	HET	WT	HET	0.236
<i>Prkg1</i>	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	HOM	HOM	-
<i>Glis3</i>	WT	HET	HET	HET	WT	WT	WT	HET	WT	HET	0.602
<i>Tulp2</i>	HOM	HOM	WT	HET	WT	HET	HET	HET	WT	WT	0.481
<i>Dchs1</i>	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	-
<i>Flad1</i>	HOM	HOM	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	HET	HET	HET	0.981
<i>Akd1</i>	HOM	HOM	WT	HET	WT	HET	HET	HET	WT	WT	0.418
<i>MagI2</i>	HET	WT	HET	WT	HET	HOM	WT	WT	HOM	HET	0.73
<i>Trimm55</i>	WT	HET	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT	HET	WT	0.51

12

13 (B)

Gene name	CPP Change Score														P-value
	-0.38	-0.28	-0.27	-0.23	-0.21	-0.18	-0.17	-0.17	-0.12	-0.09	-0.09	-0.07	0.04	0.07	
<i>Tspan3a</i>	HET	HET	HET	WT	WT	WT	HET	HET	WT	WT	WT	HET	HET	HET	0.583
<i>Raspn</i>	WT	HOM	WT	WT	WT	HOM	HOM	HOM	WT	WT	WT	HOM	WT	HOM	0.792
<i>A9</i>	WT	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	HET	WT	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	HET	0.339
<i>Capn3</i>	HET	HET	HET	WT	HET	WT	WT	HET	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT	0.911
<i>Klf11a</i>	WT	WT	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	HET	WT	WT	HET	WT	HET	WT	0.318
<i>Kctd4</i>	HET	WT	WT	HET	WT	WT	HET	WT	HET	HET	HET	HET	WT	WT	0.252
<i>Slc6a11</i>	HET	HET	HET	WT	HET	WT	HET	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT	HET	WT	0.697
<i>Pkhd11l</i>	WT	WT	WT	HET	HOM	HOM	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	HOM	0.499
<i>Slc19a3</i>	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	-
<i>Sv2b</i>	WT	WT	HET	WT	WT	WT	WT	HET	HOM	HET	HOM	HOM	HET	HOM	0.269
<i>Snrnp70</i>	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	-
<i>Ac10103686</i>	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	-

14

15

16 **Supplementary Table 6:** Results of association analysis of *SLIT3* SNPs on **smoking**  
17 **initiation.** Logistic regression of initiation vs non-initiation on additive genotype, controlling  
18 for age, sex and cohort. OR: Odds ratio. >1 value indicates that the minor allele increases  
19 odds of persistent smoking relative to the major allele, SE: standard error, L95: lower limit of  
20 95% confidence interval, U95: upper limit of 95% confidence interval. Benjamini Hochberg  
21 cut off at  $0.1 = 0.00526$ .

<b>SNP</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>L95</b>	<b>U95</b>	<b>P value</b>
rs2938774	0.7253	0.1418	0.5493	0.9578	0.02357
rs11742567	1.328	0.1538	0.9825	1.796	0.06496
rs4282339	0.7277	0.1815	0.5099	1.039	0.07991
rs297886	1.328	0.176	0.9405	1.875	0.1071
rs9688032	1.269	0.1495	0.9467	1.701	0.111
rs7728604	1.198	0.1446	0.9024	1.591	0.2112
rs1345588	0.7788	0.2046	0.5215	1.163	0.2218
rs17734503	0.7362	0.2632	0.4395	1.233	0.2445
rs12515725	0.8612	0.1458	0.6471	1.146	0.3052
rs11749001	0.8698	0.1951	0.5933	1.275	0.4746
rs3733975	1.116	0.1641	0.8092	1.54	0.5029
rs12521041	1.116	0.1641	0.8092	1.54	0.5029
rs11134527	0.9212	0.155	0.6798	1.248	0.5964
rs12654448	0.8718	0.2654	0.5182	1.467	0.6052
rs1559051	0.9257	0.1575	0.6799	1.26	0.6241
rs17665158	0.9304	0.171	0.6654	1.301	0.673
rs1421763	0.9423	0.1704	0.6748	1.316	0.7271
rs295994	0.9732	0.1404	0.7391	1.281	0.8464
22 rs10036727	1.01	0.1522	0.7491	1.361	0.9503

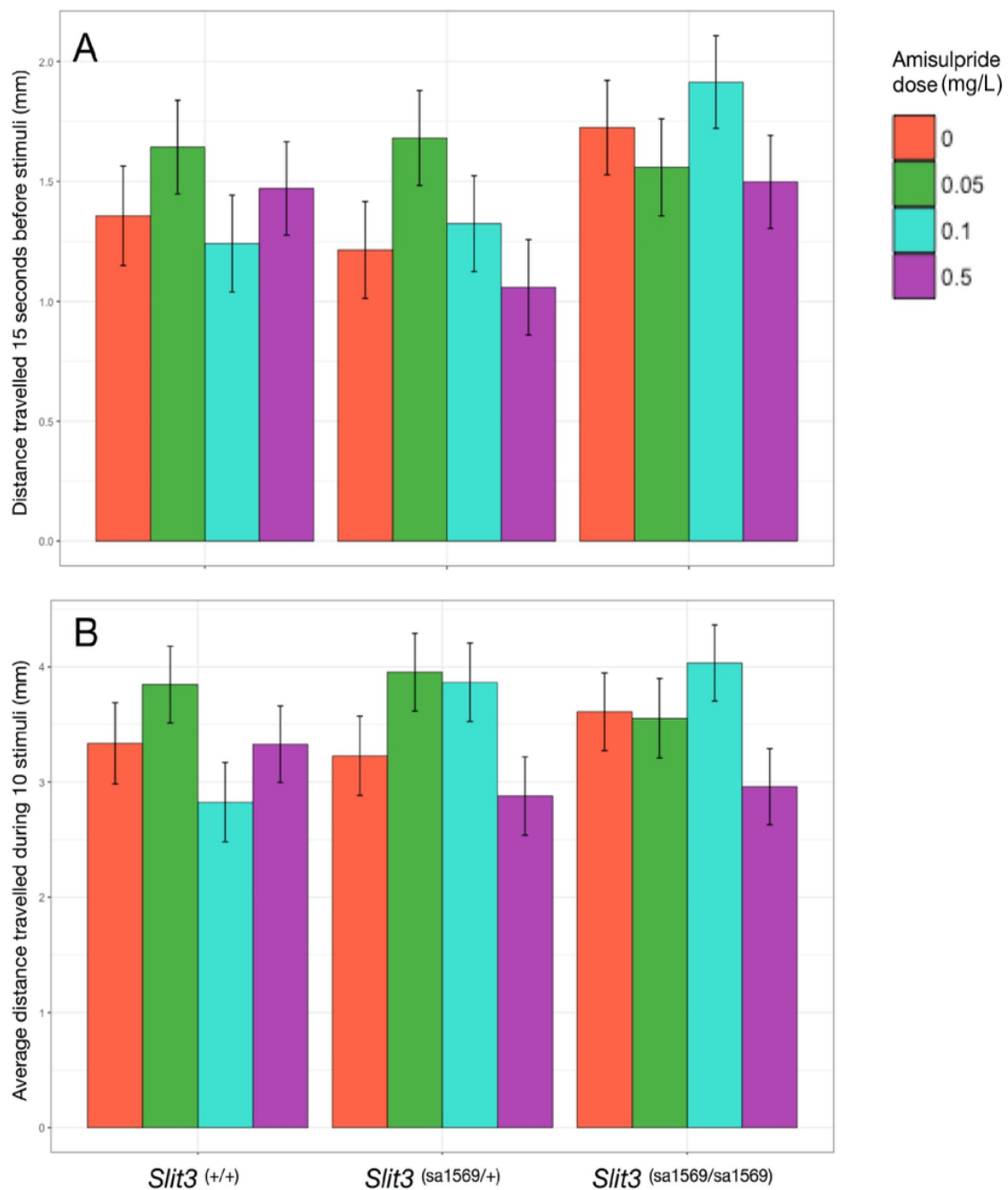
23

24 **Supplementary Table 7:** Results of association analysis of *SLIT3* SNPs on **persistent**  
 25 **smoking.** Logistic regression of initiation vs non-initiation on additive genotype, controlling  
 26 for age, sex and cohort. OR: Odds ratio. >1 value indicates that the minor allele increases  
 27 odds of persistent smoking relative to the major allele, SE: standard error, L95: lower limit of  
 28 95% confidence interval, U95: upper limit of 95% confidence interval. Benjamini Hochberg  
 29 cut off at  $0.1 = 0.00526$ .

30

<b>SNP</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>L95</b>	<b>U95</b>	<b>P value</b>
rs11134527	1.428	0.1573	1.049	1.943	0.02359
rs12521041	0.6871	0.1736	0.489	0.9655	0.03061
rs11742567	0.7288	0.1547	0.5382	0.987	0.04089
rs3733975	0.7165	0.1712	0.5123	1.002	0.05146
rs17734503	0.6142	0.2631	0.3667	1.029	0.06398
rs1345588	0.6786	0.2145	0.4457	1.033	0.07068
rs17665158	1.338	0.163	0.9722	1.842	0.07393
rs12654448	0.6225	0.2671	0.3688	1.051	0.07597
rs2938774	1.232	0.1394	0.9373	1.619	0.1348
rs295994	1.214	0.1443	0.9147	1.61	0.1796
rs7728604	1.152	0.1434	0.8699	1.526	0.3232
rs1559051	1.115	0.1549	0.8231	1.511	0.4821
rs12515725	0.9108	0.1456	0.6846	1.212	0.521
rs297886	0.9342	0.1726	0.6661	1.31	0.6932
rs4282339	0.9391	0.19	0.6471	1.363	0.7411
rs10036727	0.9596	0.1516	0.713	1.292	0.7857
rs1421763	1.029	0.1671	0.7417	1.428	0.8633
rs9688032	1.013	0.1511	0.7531	1.362	0.9328
31 rs11749001	0.9943	0.1969	0.676	1.463	0.977

32



33

34 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Average distance moved before (Figure 1A) and during startle

35 stimuli (Figure 1B) in wildtype and *Slit3*<sup>sa1569</sup> mutant five day old zebrafish larvae. **A)**

36 Distance moved as function of amisulpride dose, fish *Slit3* genotype and their interaction.

37 The effect of dose and genotype was tested in a linear mixed model. Timepoint, well where

38 the fish were placed and plate were also included as fixed factors and the fish ID as random

39 factor. **B)** Distance moved during taps as function of amisulpride dose and fish *Slit3*

40 genotype. Drug and genotype effects were examined in a linear mixed model including  
41 stimulus number, well, plate used and distance moved before stimuli as fixed factors and Fish  
42 ID as random factor. Zebrafish larvae did not differ in the distance travelled before or during  
43 startle stimuli as a function of amisulpride dose nor genotype ( $p > 0.05$ ). Bars represent  
44 estimated marginal means  $\pm$  SEM (n=42-48 fish per group).

45

46

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47

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