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*Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* mutation are not sufficient to reproduce mouse phenotypes caused by the Williams Syndrome critical region

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1 **Abstract**

2

3 Williams syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder caused by a 1.5-1.8Mbp deletion on  
4 chromosome 7q11.23, affecting the copy number of 26-28 genes. Phenotypes of Williams  
5 syndrome include cardiovascular problems, craniofacial dysmorphology, deficits in visual-  
6 spatial cognition, and a characteristic hypersocial personality. There are still no genes in the  
7 region that have been consistently linked to the cognitive and behavioral phenotypes,  
8 although human studies and mouse models have led to the current hypothesis that the  
9 general transcription factor 2 I family of genes, *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1*, are responsible. Here  
10 we test the hypothesis that these two transcription factors are sufficient to reproduce the  
11 phenotypes that are caused by deletion of the Williams syndrome critical region (WSCR).  
12 We compare a new mouse model with loss of function mutations in both *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1*  
13 to an established mouse model lacking the complete WSCR. We show that the complete  
14 deletion model has deficits across several behavioral domains including social  
15 communication, motor functioning, and conditioned fear that are not explained by loss of  
16 function mutations in *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1*. Furthermore, transcriptome profiling of the  
17 hippocampus shows changes in synaptic genes in the complete deletion model that are not  
18 seen in the double mutants. Thus, we have thoroughly defined a set of molecular and  
19 behavioral consequences of complete WSCR deletion, and shown that other genes or  
20 combinations of genes are necessary to produce these phenotypic effects.

## 1 Introduction

2  
3 Contiguous gene disorders provide a unique opportunity to understand genetic  
4 contributions to human biology, as their well-defined genetic etiology delimits specific  
5 genomic regions strongly affecting particular phenotypes. Williams syndrome (WS; OMIM  
6 #194050) is caused by a 1.5-1.8Mbp deletion of 26-28 genes on chromosome 7q11.23 in the  
7 Williams syndrome critical region (WSCR). Williams syndrome is phenotypically  
8 characterized by supravalvular aortic stenosis, craniofacial dysmorphology, and a distinct  
9 cognitive profile consisting of intellectual disability, severe visual-spatial deficits, yet  
10 relatively strong language skills. Other common cognitive and behavioral difficulties include  
11 high levels of anxiety, specific phobias, and a characteristic hypersocial personality  
12 manifested as strong eye contact, indiscriminate social approach, and social disinhibition  
13 (see (1–3) for reviews). Despite increased social interest, individuals with Williams  
14 syndrome have difficulties with social awareness and social cognition (4, 5). In contrast, the  
15 reciprocal duplication results in dup7q11.23 syndrome (OMIM #609757), which presents  
16 with both similar and contrasting phenotypes to WS, such as high levels of anxiety yet less  
17 social interest (6). It is also associated with autism spectrum disorders (7). The recurrent  
18 deletion and duplications of chr7q11.23 indicate that one or more genes in this region are  
19 dose sensitive and have a large effect on human cognition as well as human social behavior.

20 Substantial efforts have been taken to understand which genes in the WSCR  
21 contribute to different aspects of the phenotype. Three approaches have driven advances in  
22 genotype-phenotype correlations in the WSCR: phenotyping individuals with atypical  
23 deletions in the region, human induced pluripotent stem cell models, and mouse models.  
24 Patients with atypical deletions have firmly connected haploinsufficiency of the elastin  
25 (*ELN*) gene with supravalvular aortic stenosis and other elastic tissue difficulties in WS (8,  
26 9). However, human studies have not conclusively linked other genes to specific  
27 phenotypes. Three atypical deletions that span the *ELN* gene to the typical telomeric  
28 breakpoints showed the full spectrum of the WS phenotype, suggesting that most of the  
29 phenotypes are driven by the telomeric end of the deletion, which contains genes for two  
30 paralogous transcription factors *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1* (10, 11). Indeed, most of the atypical  
31 deletions that have been reported that delete the centromeric end of the region and don't  
32 affect the copy number of *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1*, show mild to none of the characteristic  
33 facial features or cognitive and behavioral phenotypes of WS (12–20). While there are  
34 contrasting examples of deletions that spare *GTF2I* and still have mild facial characteristics  
35 of WS, lower IQ, and the overfriendly social phenotype (12, 21), the preponderance of  
36 evidence from these rare partial deletions have led to the dominant hypothesis being that  
37 *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1* mutation are necessary to cause the full extent of the social,  
38 craniofacial, visual-spatial and anxiety phenotypes. However, there are limitations to these  
39 human studies, primarily due to the rarity of partial deletions. First, because of the variable  
40 expressivity of the phenotypes even in typical WS, it can be difficult to confidently interpret  
41 any phenotypic deviation in the rare partial deletions (4, 5, 22). Second, given the rarity of  
42 WS and partial deletions, and lack of relevant primary tissue samples, it is challenging to  
43 link genetic alterations to the specific downstream molecular and cellular changes that  
44 could mediate the organismal phenotypes.

45 To overcome this second barrier, researchers have turned to using patient induced  
46 pluripotent stem cells to study the effects of the WSCR deletion and duplication on different  
47 disease relevant cell types (23–27). While linking molecular changes to organismal behavior  
48 is not possible with cell lines, this approach is amenable to studying cellular and molecular  
49 phenotypes, such as changes to the transcriptome and cellular physiology. By studying  
50 differentiated neural precursor cells from an individual with a typical WS deletion and an

1 individual with an atypical deletion that spares the copy number of the *FZD9* gene,  
2 Chailangkarn et al. (23) showed that *FZD9* is responsible for some of the cellular  
3 phenotypes, such as increased apoptosis and morphological changes. Lalli et al. (25) used a  
4 similar approach to show that knocking down the *BAZ1B* gene in differentiated neurons was  
5 sufficient to reproduce the transcriptional differences and deficits in differentiation that  
6 were observed in WS differentiated neurons. Finally, Adamo et al. (24) studied the effects of  
7 *GTF2I* on iPSCs from typical WS deletions, dup7q11.23, and typical controls. By  
8 overexpressing and knocking down *GTF2I* in the three genotypes, they showed that *GTF2I*  
9 was responsible for 10-20% of the transcriptional changes. Overall, using iPSCs from  
10 patients with WS has highlighted a role for both the *GTF2I* family and other less appreciated  
11 genes in the molecular consequences of the WSCR mutation. This suggested the possibility  
12 that several genes may play a role in the cognitive phenotypes and *GTF2I* alone may not be  
13 sufficient for all neural molecular changes and hence cognitive phenotypes. However, iPSC  
14 studies face the limitation that they cannot be used to model whole organismal effects like  
15 anxiety or social behavior. Further, while some cellular and molecular phenotypes can be  
16 evaluated, both gene expression and cellular physiology using *in vitro* differentiation  
17 systems do not perfectly reflect the phenotype of mature neural cells, fully integrated into a  
18 functioning or dysfunctioning brain.

19 Mouse models have been used to link genes in WSCR to specific molecular and  
20 cellular phenotypes, as well as to the functioning of conserved organismal behavioral  
21 circuits that could be related to human cognitive phenotypes. Mouse models are particularly  
22 suitable because a region on mouse chromosome five is syntenic to the WSCR, enabling  
23 models of corresponding large deletions, including a mouse line with a complete deletion  
24 (CD) of the WSCR genes that shows both behavioral disruptions and altered neuronal  
25 morphology (28). In addition, a key advantage over human partial deletions is that  
26 researchers can easily manipulate the mouse genome to delete targeted subsets of genes in  
27 the locus, and generate large numbers of animals with identical partial mutations, enabling  
28 statistical analyses to overcome variable expressivity. For example, there are mouse models  
29 of large deletions that show that genes in the distal and proximal half of the region may  
30 contribute to separate and overlapping phenotypes (29). Likewise, many single gene  
31 knockouts exist that show some phenotypic similarities to the human syndrome, though a  
32 limitation is that some of these studies model full homozygous loss of function, rather than a  
33 hemizygous decrease in gene dose. Nonetheless, specifically for *Gtf2ird1* (30–32) and *Gtf2i*  
34 (33–35), multiple mouse models of either gene have shown extensive behavioral deficits  
35 including social and anxiety-like behaviors, some of which present contrasting evidence.  
36 However, each of these studies has been conducted in isolation, by different labs, with fairly  
37 different phenotyping assays, making it difficult to directly compare findings to other mouse  
38 models of WS.

39 Mouse models uniquely enable a direct way to test the sufficiency of individual  
40 mutations to recreate the organismal phenotypes detected when the entirety of the WSCR is  
41 deleted. By crossing different mutant lines together, we can create genotypes unavailable in  
42 human studies and conduct a well-powered and controlled study to directly test if specific  
43 gene mutations are sufficient to reproduce particular phenotypes of the full deletion. Since  
44 both human and mouse literature suggest that *GTF2IRD1* and *GTF2I* each contribute to the  
45 molecular, cognitive, and social phenotypes, we set out here to test if loss of function of both  
46 of these genes is sufficient to recapitulate the phenotypes of the entire WSCR deletion at  
47 both the molecular and behavioral circuit levels, or if instead, as hinted by the iPSC studies  
48 and other human mutations, other or more genes may be involved. Using CRISPR/Cas9 we  
49 generated a new mouse line that has loss of function mutations in both *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* on  
50 the same chromosome. We then crossed them to the CD full deletion model to directly

1 compare behavior and transcriptomes of the *Gtf2i/Gtf2ird1* mutants to both WT and CD  
2 littermates. Examining both previously defined and newly characterized behavioral and  
3 molecular disruptions, we demonstrate that mutation of these two genes is not sufficient to  
4 replicate *any* of the CD phenotypes. In contrast to a dominant hypothesis arising from  
5 human partial deletions, this study provides strong evidence that *Gtf2i/Gtf2ird1* mutation  
6 alone may not be responsible for key WS cognitive and behavioral phenotypes.

## 7 8 **Results**

9  
10 *Generation and validation of Gtf2i and Gtf2ird1 loss of function mutation on the same*  
11 *chromosome.*

12  
13 Prior work from comparing phenotypes of humans with partial deletions of the  
14 WSCR highlighted *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1* as likely involved in cognitive phenotypes in WS  
15 (10, 13, 20). Likewise, single gene mutant mouse models of both genes showed that each  
16 may contribute to relevant phenotypes (30–33, 36). We wanted to test if heterozygous loss  
17 of function mutants of both *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* are sufficient to replicate the phenotypes that  
18 are caused when animals are hemizygous for the entire WSCR (Figure 1A).

19 Therefore, to test the sufficiency of these genes, we generated a mutant of *Gtf2i* and  
20 *Gtf2ird1* genes on the same chromosome using CRISPR/Cas9. Two gRNAs were designed to  
21 target constitutive exons of *Gtf2i* or *Gtf2ird1* (Figure 1B) and were co-injected with Cas9  
22 mRNA into the eggs of the FVB strain. Of the 57 pups born we detected 21 editing events  
23 using the T7 endonuclease assay. From these animals PCR amplicons around each targeted  
24 site were deeply sequenced and mutations were characterized via manual inspection of the  
25 reads in IGV. Of the founders there were five that only had mutations in *Gtf2i*, five with  
26 mutations only in *Gtf2ird1*, and 15 that had mutations in both genes (Supplemental Figure  
27 1A). Most founders had more than one allele within a gene indicating high rates of  
28 mosaicism (60%, 15/25 mice). Breeding a selection of the mosaic founders to WT animals  
29 revealed that some of the founders were mosaic in the germline as well (40%, 4/10 mice),  
30 with one founder transmitting three different alleles.

31 To test if haploinsufficiency of both *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* is sufficient to replicate the  
32 phenotype of hemizygosity of the entire WSCR, we moved forward with characterizing a  
33 mouse line that has a G > C polymorphism followed by an eight base pair insertion in exon  
34 five of *Gtf2i* and a five base pair deletion in exon three of *Gtf2ird1*; these will be referred to  
35 as the *Gtf2i\** mouse line (Figure 1B). These mutations are inherited together indicating that  
36 they are on the same chromosome. The mutations cause frameshifts and introduce  
37 premature stop codons in early constitutive exons (Figure 1B), and were thus expected to  
38 trigger nonsense mediated decay and lead to loss-of-function alleles, mimicking the  
39 effective gene dosage of WSCR region deletions for these two genes.

40 We first performed RT-qPCR and western blots to confirm the effects of the  
41 frameshift mutations at the transcript and protein levels in embryonic day 13.5 (E13.5)  
42 littermates that were WT, heterozygous, and homozygous mutant at the locus. We used  
43 E13.5 brains for two reasons 1) homozygosity of *Gtf2i* null mutants is embryonic lethal (33,  
44 37) and 2) both *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* proteins are more highly expressed during embryonic  
45 time points in the brain, with undetectable levels of *Gtf2ird1* in the WT adult mouse brain  
46 (Supplemental Figure 1B and C).

47 The frameshift mutation in exon five of *Gtf2i* reduced the amount of transcript  
48 detected by qPCR, consistent with nonsense mediated decay. This mutation led to a 50%  
49 decrease of the protein in heterozygous animals and no protein in homozygous mutants  
50 (Supplemental Figure 1D). Indeed we were not able to recover pups that were homozygous

1 for the *Gtf2i*\* mutations after birth, but we were able to harvest homozygous embryos up to  
2 E15.5. The embryos had exencephaly consistent with other *Gtf2i* mouse models (33, 37).

3 In contrast, the frameshift mutations in exon three of *Gtf2ird1* increased the amount  
4 of transcript, as expected. Increases in transcript of *Gtf2ird1* due to a loss of function  
5 mutation have been described in another *Gtf2ird1* mouse model, and both EMSA and  
6 luciferase reporter assays indicated that Gtf2ird1 protein represses the transcription of the  
7 *Gtf2ird1* gene (38). The increase in transcript was commensurate with the dosage of the  
8 mutation (Supplemental Figure 1E). However, we saw that the protein levels in our mutants  
9 did not change with dosage of the mutation and did not follow the trend of the transcript  
10 (Supplemental Figure 1E).

11 Production of detectable protein after the frameshift was surprising, especially since  
12 the increased *Gtf2ird1* mRNA levels were indeed consistent with prior studies of loss of  
13 functional Gtf2ird1 protein, so we investigated this phenomena further. We noticed that the  
14 homozygous Gtf2ird1 protein bands looked slightly shifted in the western blots. This lead us  
15 to hypothesize that there could be a translation reinitiation event at the methionine in exon  
16 three downstream of the frameshift mutation in a different open reading frame  
17 (Supplemental Figure 1F). In another targeted mutation of *Gtf2ird1*, where the entire exon  
18 two, which contains the conical start codon, was removed, the authors noted that there was  
19 still three percent of protein being made, and the product that was made was similarly  
20 shifted (38). From our mutation we would expect a 65aa N-terminal truncation, which  
21 corresponds to a 7KDa difference between WT. We ran a lower percentage PAGE gel to get  
22 better separation between WT and homozygous animals and we saw a slight shift,  
23 suggesting that there was reinitiation of translation at methionine-65 in a different open  
24 reading frame (Supplemental Figure 1G). This was indicative of the loss of the N-terminal  
25 end of the protein, which contains a leucine zipper that is thought to be important in DNA  
26 binding (38). This is consistent with the mRNA evidence that the allele is loss of function.

27 We therefore tested the hypothesis that we had abolished the DNA binding capacity  
28 of the truncated protein, to confirm loss of function. We performed ChIP-qPCR and pulled  
29 down DNA bound to Gtf2ird1 protein and then amplified the promoter region of *Gtf2ird1*,  
30 which has previously been shown to be bound by the Gtf2ird1 protein. We compared this to  
31 two off-target regions in the genome near *Bdnf* and *Pcbp3*. We performed this experiment in  
32 E13.5 brains of WT and homozygous *Gtf2i*\* embryos. There was a 15-20 fold enrichment of  
33 the on target *Gtf2ird1* promoter region compared to the off target regions in the WT  
34 animals, while the truncated protein did not show any enrichment (Supplemental Figure  
35 1H and 1I). This suggested that while a truncated protein was still being made it did not  
36 have the DNA binding functionality of the WT protein. This indicated that the frameshift  
37 mutation in exon three of *Gtf2ird1* was a loss-of-function mutation and provided evidence  
38 that the N-terminal end of the protein, which contains a leucine zipper, is necessary for DNA  
39 binding. Thus, we confirmed we had generated a mouse line with loss of function alleles on  
40 the same chromosome for these *Gtf2i*\* genes.

41 To test the sufficiency of mutation in these two transcription factors to replicate  
42 phenotypes observed by deleting the entire WSCR, we crossed the *Gtf2i*\* mutant to the CD  
43 mouse (Figure 1C), which is hemizygous from exon five of *Gtf2i* to *Fkbp6* (Figure 1A). The  
44 *Gtf2i*\* mutants were generated on the FVB/AntJ background, whereas the CD mice were  
45 generated on the C57BL/6J background. Therefore, we only used the first generation from  
46 this cross for all experiments to ensure all mice had the same genetic background. As above,  
47 we assessed the transcript and protein levels of genotypes from this cross to confirm loss of  
48 function. Again, the CD/*Gtf2i*\* genotype was embryonic lethal, but we did observe that  
49 genotype up to E15.5. The levels of *Gtf2i* transcript and protein were similar between CD  
50 heterozygous and *Gtf2i*\* heterozygous animals (Figure 1D). The levels of *Gtf2ird1* transcript

1 increased in *Gtf2i*\* animals similar to what was seen in *Gtf2i*\* heterozygous animals on the  
2 pure FVB/AntJ background. In contrast, the CD heterozygous animals had decreased levels  
3 of *Gtf2ird1* transcript. In the CD/*Gtf2i*\* animals the level of transcript returned to WT levels.  
4 Again, the levels of *Gtf2ird1* transcript were not reflected in the protein levels. We saw a  
5 trend to similar slight decreases in protein levels in the both heterozygous genotypes;  
6 however, they were not significantly different from WT levels. This was interesting because  
7 in the CD animals were missing one entire copy of this gene, opposed to a frameshift  
8 mutation. This also suggested that the frameshift mutation in exon three of *Gtf2ird1* did  
9 affect the amount of protein being made, but not drastically. We did see a significant  
10 decrease in protein levels (60% of WT) in the CD/*Gtf2i*\* genotype (Figure 1E). Again  
11 suggesting that the frameshift mutation was decreasing the levels of protein.

### 12 13 *Gtf2i*\* mutation is not sufficient to reproduce WSCR-mediated alterations of vocal 14 communication

15  
16 We next tested if haploinsufficiency for both genes would recapitulate behavioral  
17 phenotypes seen in mice hemizygous for the entire WSCR (CD mice) (Table 1). Since single  
18 gene knockout studies of both *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1*, and larger deletion models showed  
19 evidence for disrupted social behavior we wanted to directly compare the effects of *Gtf2i*\*  
20 haploinsufficiency to the effects of hemizygoty of the entire WSCR on social behavior.

21 We first measured maternal separation induced ultrasonic vocalizations (USVs) in  
22 postnatal day three and postnatal day five pups. This is a form of developmental  
23 communication and was shown to be increased in mice that had three or four copies of *Gtf2i*  
24 compared to mice with normal copy number or only one functional copy (34). We saw a  
25 significant effect of day ( $F_{1,116.00}=5.43$ ,  $p=0.021$ ) and genotype on the call rate ( $F_{2,60.7}=6.09$ ,  
26  $p=0.004$ ), as well as a genotype by day interaction ( $F_{2,61.64}=6.80$ ,  $p=0.002$ ). Post hoc analysis  
27 within day showed that on day five CD mice made fewer calls than WT littermates  
28 ( $p<0.001$ ) and *Gtf2i*\* mutant littermates ( $p=0.045$ ) (Figure 2A). We included the weight of  
29 the mouse as a covariate to make sure the decrease in call number was not due to  
30 differences in weight. We saw that weight has a trending effect ( $F_{1,75.48}=3.95$ ,  $p=0.05$ ), but  
31 the day by genotype interaction term remained significant.

32 We also observed differences in the temporal and spectral features of the calls.  
33 There was a significant effect of genotype on pause length between bouts ( $F_{2,60}=11.9069$ ,  
34  $p=4.31e-5$ ), with CD mice exhibiting longer pauses on day five compared to WT mice ( $p=0.0004$ )  
35 and *Gtf2i*\* mice ( $p=0.0014$ ); this is correlated with fewer calls produced by CD  
36 animals (Supplemental Figure 2A). There was also significant genotype by day interaction  
37 for the duration of a call bout ( $F_{2,61}=7.26$ ,  $p=0.001$ ), with CD mice exhibiting a shorter  
38 duration on day five compared to WT ( $p=0.046$ ) (Supplemental Figure 2B). Overall, our  
39 study of vocalization provides evidence that *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* mutation alone are not  
40 sufficient to produce a CD-like deficit in this behavior.

41 Maternal-separation induced USVs are only produced during a transient period of  
42 development from postnatal day three to postnatal day 10, peaking at postnatal day seven  
43 and postnatal day nine in FVB/AntJ and C57BL/6J strains, respectively (39). Therefore the  
44 alteration in the CD animals could reflect an overall shift in developmental trajectory. To  
45 assess this, we checked weight gain and developmental milestones in our cohorts. No  
46 differences in developmental weights were observed between genotypes. The detachment  
47 of the pinnae at postnatal day five, a physical milestone, was similar across all genotypes  
48 ( $\chi^2=2.593$ ,  $p=0.4628$ , Supplemental Table 1). However, there were weight deficits in CD  
49 animals in adulthood (Supplemental Figure 2C). There was a significant effect of day on  
50 weight ( $F_{4,240}=1610.9$ ,  $p < 2.2e-16$ ), a significant effect of genotype ( $F_{2,60}=7.2059$ ,

1 p=0.001568), and a significant day by genotype interaction ( $F_{8,240}=6.9258$ ,  $p=3.332e-8$ ).  
2 These data suggest that gross developmental delay in CD animals does not explain the  
3 observed communication deficit.

4  
5 *Gtf2i\* mutation is not sufficient to reproduce WSCR-mediated alterations of social behavior*  
6

7 We went on to test adult social behaviors. We first applied the standard three-  
8 chamber social approach, which has not been reported in CD mice. In this task the mice are  
9 allowed to freely explore an apparatus with three chambers: a center chamber, a social  
10 chamber that contains a cup with a sex and age-matched mouse, and an empty chamber that  
11 only contains an empty cup (Figure 2B). This test measures the voluntary social approach of  
12 mice. We saw the expected preference for the social stimulus across all mice ( $F_{1,53}=83.2013$ ,  
13  $p=1.894 \times 10^{-12}$ ), with no impact of genotype ( $F_{2,53}=1.1516$ ,  $p=0.3239$ ) or genotype by  
14 stimulus interaction ( $F_{2,53}=0.5845$ ,  $p=0.5609$ ). Post hoc comparisons within genotypes  
15 confirmed that all genotypes spent significantly more time investigating the social stimulus  
16 than the empty cup (WT  $p < 0.001$ ; *Gtf2i\**  $p < 0.001$ ; CD  $p=0.00456$ ; Figure 2C). Thus,  
17 sociability as measured in this task is not sensitive enough to discern a hypersocial  
18 phenotype in these animals.

19 In a test for social novelty, a novel stranger mouse was then placed in the empty cup.  
20 All genotypes showed the expected preference for the novel stimulus animal  
21 ( $F_{1,53}=50.3816$ ,  $p=3.137 \times 10^{-9}$ ), again with no effect of genotype ( $F_{2,53}=1.3948$ ,  $p=0.2568$ ) or  
22 genotype by stimulus interaction ( $F_{2,53}=0.5642$ ,  $p=0.5722$ ). Post hoc comparisons showed  
23 that all the genotypes spent significantly more time investigating the novel stimulus (WT  $p$   
24  $< 0.001$ ; *Gtf2i\**  $p = 0.00321$ ; CD  $p=0.0012$ ; Supplemental Figure 2D). Additionally in this task,  
25 we did notice a significant effect of genotype on overall distance traveled ( $F_{2,53}=3.98$ ,  $p$   
26  $0.024$ ) with the *Gtf2i\** mutants traveling further distance than the WT animals in the  
27 sociability trial ( $p=0.0305$ ; Supplemental Figure 2E), and a corresponding trend during the  
28 social novelty trial ( $F_{2,53}=2.87$ ,  $p=0.115$ ). This suggests that the double mutants have a slight  
29 hyperactive phenotype in this task that is not seen in the CD mutants.

30 Previous reports on social phenotypes in mouse models of WS have described a lack  
31 of habituation to a social stimulus. To test this we repeated the three-chamber social  
32 approach task in a new cohort of animals with an extended sociability trial to test if the  
33 *Gtf2i\** mutants or the CD animals showed the preference for the social stimulus after the  
34 prolonged amount of time. Similar to the classic three-chamber results we saw a significant  
35 effect of the social stimulus in the first five minutes ( $F_{1,56}=19.3683$ ,  $p=4.891e-5$ ), there was a  
36 trend of a genotype effect ( $F_{2,56}=3.098$ ,  $p=0.053$ ) and no interaction ( $F_{2,56}=0.4650$ ,  
37  $p=0.6350$ ). Interestingly, we observed a significant preference for the social chamber in the  
38 WT and *Gtf2i\** mutants, but the CD animals only trended in this direction (Supplemental  
39 Figure 2F). To determine if the CD mutants do indeed maintain a prolonged social interest  
40 compared to WT littermates, we examined the last five minutes of the 30 minute sociability  
41 trial. While there was a significant effect of stimulus ( $F_{1,56}=4.82$ ,  $p=0.03$ ), there was still no  
42 effect of genotype ( $F_{2,56}=0.0523$ ,  $p=0.949$ ) or an interaction ( $F_{2,56}=0.454$ ,  $p=0.637$ ). In fact,  
43 the significant effect of chamber was driven by the proportion of animals investigating the  
44 novel empty cup more than the social stimulus (Supplemental Figure 2G). These data lead  
45 us to conclude that the double mutants and CD animals show a WT-like habituation to social  
46 stimulus in this task.

47 We also tested social dominance in the tube test in these mice. Previous studies  
48 using partial deletions of the WSCR showed that the proximal deletion which contains *Gtf2i*  
49 and *Gtf2ird1* as well as deletions of both the proximal and distal regions in mice resulted in  
50 different win/loss ratios than WT mice and mice lacking just the distal end of the WSCR



1 (29). In contrast, here, the *Gtf2i*\* and CD animals did not exhibit dominance behavior  
2 different than chance would predict (WT vs *Gtf2i*\*  $p=0.8318$ , WT vs CD  $p=1$ ). *Gtf2i*\* and CD  
3 animals also had similar proportions of wins when paired together (*Gtf2i*\* vs CD  $p=0.6291$ )  
4 (Figure 2D).

5 The contrasts in our findings with those reported in prior papers could be due to  
6 differences in background strain. Different inbred mouse strains show different dominance  
7 behavior (40), and other phenotypes, such as craniofacial morphology in WS models has  
8 been shown to be strain dependent (13, 30, 41). We tested the effects of the background  
9 strain of the *Gtf2i*\* and CD models by performing the same task on the respective  
10 background of each line and comparing them to their WT littermates. This showed that the  
11 *Gtf2i*\* mutants had a WT-like phenotype while the CD mice had a submissive phenotype  
12 with significantly more losses to WT littermates (Supplemental Figure 2H). Thus, the  
13 submissive phenotype of the CD allele is dependent on strain which is not observed in the  
14 *Gtf2i*\* mutants.

15 Finally, we tested the male mice in a resident-intruder paradigm. In this task, male  
16 mice were singly housed for 10 days to establish their territory and, in a series of three test  
17 days, novel WT C57BL/6J animals were introduced into their territories as intruders. This  
18 task measures both social interactions and bouts of aggression between two freely moving  
19 animals (Figure 2E). In our study, only one mouse showed aggressive behavior towards the  
20 intruder mouse, so we did not further quantify this behavior. Assessment of the social  
21 interactions showed a significant main effect of genotype ( $F_{2,31}=5.241$ ,  $p=0.011$ ) with no  
22 effect of day ( $F_{2,62}=2.470$ ,  $p=0.093$ ) or day by genotyping interaction ( $F_{4,62}=0.1095$ ,  
23  $p=0.978$ ). Post hoc tests within each day showed that the CD animals spent less total time  
24 on day two ( $p=0.0248$ ) and day three ( $p=0.0318$ ) engaged in anogenital sniffing compared  
25 to the WT animals (Figure 2F). These differences could not be explained by differences in  
26 total activity levels between the genotypes ( $F_{2,31}=1.399$ ,  $p=0.262$ ; Supplemental Figure 2I).  
27 The decrease in total time spent in anogenital sniffing was driven by a shorter average bout  
28 time ( $F_{2,31}=5.852$ ,  $p=0.007$ , Supplemental Figure 2J) and not the number of times the  
29 animals initiated the sniffing behavior ( $F_{2,31}=2.7961$ ,  $p=0.0765$ ; Supplemental Figure 2K).  
30 The same differences also held for nose-to-nose sniffing (Figure 2G). There was a significant  
31 effect of genotype ( $F_{2,31}=3.737$ ,  $p=0.0352$ ) and no effect of day ( $F_{2,62}=3.01$ ,  $p=0.056$ ) or day  
32 by genotype interaction ( $F_{4,62}=0.8156$ ,  $p=0.520$ ). Post hoc analysis showed that on day two  
33 the CD animals participated in nose-to-nose sniffing significantly less than the WT animals  
34 ( $p=0.0160$ ), while the trend was present in the other days but was not significant. These  
35 results indicated that some aspect of social behavior was disrupted in these animals and  
36 *Gtf2i*\* mutants could not recapitulate the full CD phenotype. While we predicted that the WS  
37 models would show increased social interest similar to the human condition, individuals  
38 with WS have difficulties with other aspects of social behavior, such as social cognition and  
39 social awareness (4, 5), which may be reflected in these data.

#### 41 *Gtf2i*\* mutation is not sufficient to reproduce WSCR mediated alterations of motor behavior

42  
43 Along with a characteristic social behavior, WS also presents with other cognitive  
44 phenotypes including poor coordination, increased anxiety, specific phobias, repetitive  
45 behaviors, and mild intellectual impairment (42). Human studies and mouse models have  
46 suggested that *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1* contribute in aspects of the visual-spatial deficits and  
47 other cognitive phenotypes (17, 20). These genes are also highly expressed in the  
48 cerebellum, which could contribute to the coordination problems (43, 44). Therefore, we  
49 next tested if CD mice had any motor phenotypes and if haploinsufficiency of these two  
50 transcription factors were sufficient to reproduce any deficits.

1 We performed a sensorimotor battery to assess balance, motor coordination and  
2 strength in mutants and WT littermates. All genotypes were similar in the time to initiate  
3 walking, and reach the top of a 60 degree inclined screen or a 90 degree inclined screen. All  
4 genotypes were able to hang onto an inverted screen for the same amount of time  
5 (Supplemental Figure 3A-D). CD animals were significantly quicker on turning around on a  
6 pole and quicker to get off of the pole than WT animals (Supplemental Figure 3E-F), which  
7 may be related to body size. There was a significant effect of genotype on time to fall in the  
8 ledge task ( $H_2=12.505, p=0.001925$ ), in which CD animals fell off the ledge faster than either  
9 WT ( $p=0.0071$ ) or *Gtf2i*\* ( $p=0.0069$ ) littermates (Figure 3A). Similarly, there was a  
10 significant effect of genotype on the time spent balancing on a platform task ( $H_2= 7.1578,$   
11  $p=0.02791$ ) (Supplemental Figure 3G). Despite their comparable performance in strength  
12 and coordination tasks, the CD animals tended to have poorer balance, while the double  
13 mutants performed similar to WT animals. These findings suggest that other genes in the  
14 WSCR contribute to this balance deficit.

15 To test motor coordination in a more sensitive manner, we evaluated the mice on an  
16 accelerating rotarod. This task was performed over three days and tests coordination by  
17 quantifying how long a mouse can stay on a rotating rod. There was a main effect of day  
18 ( $F_{2,339} = 81.58, p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ) and a main effect of sex ( $F_{1,63}=10.0227, p = 0.002383$ ), but no  
19 main effect of genotype ( $F_{2,63}=2.0394, p=0.13861$ ). We did not observe a sex by genotype  
20 interaction ( $F_{2,63}=0.8155, p=0.447035$ ) but did see a day by genotype interaction  
21 ( $F_{4,333}=3.6270, p=0.006558$ ). A post hoc comparison between genotypes within each day of  
22 testing showed that *Gtf2i*\* animals fell off more quickly compared to CD animals on day  
23 three ( $p=0.04$ ) with no difference between WT and CD animals (Supplemental figure 3H). In  
24 contrast to the balance deficit seen on the ledge task but consistent with pole and screen  
25 performance, the rotarod results showed that all genotypes have similar motor  
26 coordination.

27 Marble burying is a species-specific behavior that assesses the natural tendency of  
28 mice to dig. This task also requires motor skills and has been used as a proxy for repetitive  
29 behaviors (45), which are seen in individuals with WS. It has been previously shown that CD  
30 animals bury fewer marbles than WT littermates (46, 47). Here we similarly show that  
31 there was significant effect of genotype in this task ( $F_{2,66}=15.243, p=3.61 \times 10^{-6}$ ). CD animals  
32 buried fewer marbles than both WT ( $p < 0.001$ ), and *Gtf2i*\* mutants ( $p=0.000265$ ) (Figure  
33 3B), indicating that *Gtf2i*\* mutation is not sufficient to recapitulate CD phenotype. The  
34 differences in marble burying was not explained by any differences in activity levels  
35 between the genotypes during the task ( $F_{2,65}=0.8974, p=0.4126$ ; Supplemental Figure 3I).  
36 However, we did see a significant effect of genotype on distance traveled in the center of the  
37 apparatus ( $F_{2,66}=13, p=0.0015$ ), with CD mice traveling less distance in the center compared  
38 to WT ( $p=0.0301$ ) and *Gtf2i*\* ( $p=0.002$ ) littermates (Figure 3C). There was also a  
39 corresponding significant effect of genotype on time spent in the center ( $F_{2,66}=14.389,$   
40  $p=0.00075$ ) with CD mice spending less time in the center than WT ( $p=0.0079$ ) and *Gtf2i*\*  
41 ( $p=0.0017$ ) littermates. Avoidance of the center is generally interpreted in rodents as an  
42 increase in anxiety-like behavior (Figure 3D). Thus, these results provided further support  
43 to the hypothesis that genes besides *Gtf2i*\* contribute to an anxiety-related phenotype. It  
44 also suggested that the decreased marbles buried may be secondary to the decreased time  
45 in center and could reflect a phenotype secondary to anxiety rather than a direct stereotypy  
46 phenotype.

47 Finally, to test if the mutants have normal sensorimotor gating we looked at PPI.  
48 Similar to other tasks, contrasting evidence has been observed in WS mouse models in this  
49 task. Mouse of models of just *Gtf2i* showed no phenotype (33), whereas the proximal  
50 deletion mice showed decreased PPI; however, when combined with the distal deletion the

1 phenotype that was suppressed (29). Here we show that all genotypes exhibited the  
2 expected increased PPI with an increasing pre-pulse stimulus ( $F_{2,112}=620.61$ ,  $p < 2e-16$ ), but  
3 with no effect of genotype ( $F_{2,56}=0.7742$ ,  $p=0.466$ ) or a pre-pulse by genotype interaction  
4 ( $F_{4,112}=1.926$ ,  $p=0.111$ ) (Supplemental Figure J). A decrease was observed for overall startle  
5 response to the 120dB stimulus by CD animals, but when we included weight in the  
6 statistical model this effect disappeared (genotype  $F_{2,55}=1.48$ ,  $p=0.2365$ ; weight  
7  $F_{1,55}=26,001$ ,  $p=4.34e-6$ ). Thus, the only phenotypic difference seen simply reflected the  
8 smaller size of the CD mice and not a change in sensorimotor gating (Supplemental Figure  
9 3K).

### 11 *WSCR mutation does not produce robust anxiety-like behaviors*

13 WS patients have heightened anxiety (42), and mouse models of *Gtf2i* (33, 35) and  
14 *Gtf2ird1* (30, 31) mutations have produced mixed evidence to support the role of these  
15 genes in anxiety phenotypes. Larger deletion models that have either the proximal or distal  
16 regions deleted showed anxiety-like phenotypes in the open field, but not in light-dark  
17 boxes (29). Similarly the CD model has been shown to not have any differences in the open  
18 field task (28). We wanted to directly compare animals with *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* mutations to  
19 CD animals in the same tasks to test exploratory and anxiety-like phenotypes. First, we  
20 looked at the behavior of the mice in an one hour locomotor activity task. We did not see  
21 any effect of genotype on the total distance traveled ( $F_{2,66}=0.6324$ ,  $p=0.53449$ ), however  
22 there was a trend towards a time by genotype interaction ( $F_{10,330}=1.7817$ ,  $p=0.06283$ ;  
23 Figure 3E) with the *Gtf2i*\* mutants traveling further distance. This was consistent with the  
24 behavior observed during the three-chamber social approach task. In contrast to the marble  
25 burying task, here we did not see a significant main effect of genotype on the time spent in  
26 the center of the chamber ( $F_{2,66}=2.3104$ ,  $p=0.10720$ ) though we observed a trend in the first  
27 ten minutes for CD mice to spend less time in the center (Figure 3F). However, the *Gtf2i*\*  
28 mice did not show a similar trend. To further test for anxiety-like phenotypes, we  
29 performed elevated plus maze testing. Across the three days of testing, all genotypes spent  
30 similar percent time in the open arms of the apparatus ( $F_{2,63}=0.6351$ ,  $p=0.5332$ ;  
31 Supplemental Figure 3L). Overall, our experiments indicate there may be a subtle increase  
32 on some tasks in anxiety-like behavior in CD mice. However, if there is such a phenotype, we  
33 see no evidence that *Gtf2i*\* mutations are sufficient to produce it.

### 35 *GTF2I\* mutation is not sufficient to reproduce WSCR mediated alterations of fear conditioning*

37 Finally, as patients with WS have both intellectual disability and increased  
38 prevalence of phobias (42, 48), we tested associative learning and memory of the mice  
39 using a contextual and cued fear conditioning paradigm. These behaviors are also mediated  
40 by brain regions that have shown to be altered in mouse models of WS and human patients,  
41 namely the amygdala and hippocampus. Individuals with WS have altered structural and  
42 functional reactivity in the hippocampus and amygdala as reviewed in (2) compared to  
43 typically developing controls. Both of these regions play a role in both contextual and cued  
44 fear conditioning (49). Likewise, CD mice have been shown to have altered morphology and  
45 physiology in the hippocampus (28, 50), thought to be important in contextual fear  
46 conditioning.

47 We therefore tested associative learning and memory of the animals using a three  
48 day conditioned fear task (Figure 4A). During the conditioning trial on day one we saw a  
49 significant difference in baseline freezing during the first two minutes, when the mice were  
50 initially exploring the apparatus. There was a main effect of genotype

1 ( $F_{2,53}=5.31, p=0.00794$ ) and a main effect of minute ( $F_{1,53}=7.28, p=0.009$ ), with the CD  
2 animals freezing more than the WT animals ( $p=0.04$ ) and the *Gtf2i*\* mutants ( $p=0.05$ )  
3 during minute one prior to any shock. By minute two of baseline, all animals showed similar  
4 levels of freezing. During the pairing of the foot shock with the context and tone during  
5 minutes three through five, we saw a significant effect of time ( $F_{2,106}=100.3071, p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ )  
6 and genotype ( $F_{2,53}=3.4304, p=0.039723$ ) as well as a time by genotype interaction  
7 ( $F_{4,106}=3.9736, p = 0.004812$ ). Specifically, all mice increased the amount of freezing after  
8 each foot shock, but after the last foot shock the *Gtf2i*\* mutants froze less than the CD  
9 animals ( $p=0.002$ ; Figure 4B), but similarly to the WT littermates. On the subsequent day, to  
10 test contextual fear memory, mice were put back in the same apparatus and freezing  
11 behavior was measured. Comparing the average of the first two minutes of freezing during  
12 fear memory recall on day two to the baseline of the conditioning day, we saw that all  
13 genotypes exhibited contextual fear memory; indicated by the increased levels of freezing  
14 when put back in the same context they were conditioned in ( $F_{1,53}=36.4882, p=1.56 \times 10^{-7}$ ;  
15 Supplemental Figure 4A). Looking across time during the fear memory recall we saw a  
16 significant effect of time ( $F_{7,371}=2.7166, p=0.009291$ ) with no main effect of genotype  
17 ( $F_{2,53}=1.2507, p=0.294625$ ), but a time by genotype interaction ( $F_{14,371}=2.499, p=0.002085$ ).  
18 Post hoc analysis within time showed that CD mice froze more than WT and *Gtf2i*\*  
19 littermates during minute three of the task (Figure 4C).

20 To test cued fear conditioning, on the subsequent day the mice were put in a  
21 different context and were played the tone that was paired with the foot shock during the  
22 conditioning day. All animals had similar freezing behavior during baseline ( $F_{2,53}=1.061,$   
23  $p=0.353$ ). For the duration of the tone, there was a significant effect of time ( $F_{7,371}=21.5824,$   
24  $p < 2 \times 10^{-16}$ ) but no effect of genotype ( $F_{2,53}=0.3014, p=0.741$ ) or genotype by time interaction  
25 ( $F_{14,371}=0.2128, p=0.999$ ) (Figure 4D). Finally, the differences in freezing behavior could not  
26 be explained by sensitivity to the foot shock as all mice showed similar behavioral  
27 responses to increasing shock doses ( $F_{2,56}=1.4521, p=0.2427$ ; Supplemental Figure 4B).  
28 Overall, CD mice showed an enhancement of fear response to a contextual fear memory, and  
29 mutations in *Gtf2i*\* were not sufficient to reproduce this phenotype.

30  
31 *Gtf2i*\* mutation is not sufficient to reproduce WSCR mediated alterations of hippocampal gene  
32 expression.

33  
34 In addition to permitting behavioral phenotyping, mouse models also allow for well-  
35 powered and controlled examination of the molecular consequences of mutation in the  
36 environment of a fully developed and functioning central nervous system. Therefore, we  
37 turned from behavioral phenotyping of cognitive tasks to molecular phenotyping in the  
38 brains of these mice to 1) identify candidate molecular mediators of the behavioral  
39 phenotypes and 2) determine to what extent any transcriptional phenotype of WSCR  
40 mutation might be mediated by the haploinsufficiency of these two transcription factors.  
41 We specifically focused on the hippocampus, since we saw deficits in marble burying and  
42 differences in contextual fear memory, two behaviors thought to be mediated by  
43 hippocampal function (49, 51). Other studies in the CD animals have also shown there to be  
44 differences in LTP in the hippocampus as well as differences in *Bdnf* levels (47, 50). Yet the  
45 transcriptional consequences genome-wide of WSCR loss have not been characterized in the  
46 hippocampus.

47 First, we conducted a targeted analysis of the genes in the WSCR locus. Of the 26  
48 genes that make up the WSCR, only 15 were measurably expressed in the adult mouse  
49 hippocampus. Consistent with expectation, all genes in the WSCR region showed a decrease  
50 in RNA abundance in the CD animals, and genes that lie immediately outside the region

1 were not affected. *Gtf2i*\* mutants only showed disruption of *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* in directions  
2 consistent with what was previously seen in our RT-qPCR. This confirmed the genotype of  
3 the samples, and indicated that these transcription factors are not robust trans regulators of  
4 any other genes in the locus (Figure 5A).

5 Next, we conducted differential expression analysis comparing WT to CD littermates  
6 to identify the molecular consequences of WSCR loss. At an FDR < 0.1 we found 39 genes to  
7 be differentially expressed. Of the 39 genes, 15 were genes that are located in the WSCR.  
8 This small number of differentially expressed genes was surprising given that several of the  
9 WSCR genes are described as transcription factors. In addition to these differentially  
10 expressed genes, the magnitude of the changes were small (Figure 5B and Supplemental  
11 Figure 5A). Interestingly, *Slc23a1* showed to be slightly but consistently more lowly  
12 expressed in the CD animals compared to the WT animals. This is a GABA transporter,  
13 suggesting that inhibitory signaling could be altered in the hippocampus. This gene has also  
14 been shown to decreased in WS-derived cortical neurons (23). Also of note, the *lqgap2* gene  
15 was shown to be elevated in the CD animals compared to WT animals. This gene was also  
16 upregulated in WS iPSCs (24). We also looked at genes that have been investigated  
17 previously in the CD mouse, such as *Bdnf* and *Pi3kr* (46, 47) and we show that there was  
18 little change in gene expression between genotypes (Supplemental Figure 5B).

19 To determine if *Gtf2i*\* loss is sufficient to drive these transcriptional changes, we  
20 next examined differential expression comparing *Gtf2i*\* mutants to WT littermates. In  
21 contrast to WSCR mutation, we found only *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* to be differentially expressed  
22 at an FDR < 0.1 (Figure 5C). To get a broader idea of how similar the transcriptomes of the  
23 two genotypes are we compared the genes that are nominally up and downregulated  
24 between each mutant line and WT controls. We saw that there was about a 9% overlap  
25 between CD and *Gtf2i*\* up and down regulated genes (Figure 5D). This is slightly below the  
26 amount of genes shown to be changed by *GTF2I* in iPSCs (24). Again this suggests that other  
27 genes in the WSCR are driving 90% of the transcriptional changes in the CD hippocampus.

28 To understand what role the nominally changed genes have in common we  
29 conducted a GO analysis. The biological processes that the CD genes were found to be  
30 involved in included synaptic functioning as well as nervous system differentiation.  
31 Interestingly processes that control balance were enriched and we and others have  
32 reported on balance deficits in CD animals (Figure 5E). When comparing these to 1000  
33 random differential gene lists these biological processes are very specific to the genotype  
34 comparisons. For instance, out 1000 random test, positive regulation of excitatory synapses  
35 only occurred in the top 10 enriched GO terms two times (Supplemental Table 2). The  
36 cellular components that the genes are enriched for are extracellular, which is a similar  
37 result to the iPSC studies (24), as well as synapses. The molecular function ontologies which  
38 are enriched for the differentially expressed genes included calcium binding (Supplemental  
39 Figure 5). When comparing these to randomly determined gene expression changes, all but  
40 the extracellular components seem to be specific to the CD versus WT comparison  
41 (Supplemental Table 2). In contrast, the *Gtf2i*\* GO analysis showed that these genes are  
42 enriched for more general organ system development and are not very nervous system  
43 specific (Figure 5F and Supplemental Table 3).

44 Overall, we have shown that the hemizygous loss of the WSCR has a mild but  
45 significant effect on the hippocampal transcriptome. Yet, the changes that do occur point to  
46 aberrations in synapses and nervous system development. Furthermore, loss of function  
47 mutations in *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* have an even smaller effect on the transcriptome and can  
48 only account for 9% of the changes incurred by loss of the WSCR.

## 49 Discussion

1  
2 Contiguous gene disorders such as WS provide insight into regions of the genome  
3 that have large effects on specific aspects of human cognition and behavior. The specific  
4 cognitive profile of WS is characterized by deficits in visual-spatial processing with relative  
5 strengths in language, and the archetypal behavioral profile consists of increased social  
6 interest, strong eye contact, high levels of anxiety, and in some cases specific phobias and  
7 hyperactivity. Here we used a new mouse model to test if loss of the paralogous  
8 transcription factors *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* are sufficient to phenocopy the behaviors and  
9 transcriptomic changes of mice that lack the entire WSCR.

10 Overall, CD mice consistently have more severe phenotypes than the *Gtf2i*\* mutants.  
11 We saw that the CD animals have a deficit in social communication as measured by  
12 maternal separation induced pup ultrasonic vocalizations. The *Gtf2i*\* mutants on average  
13 make fewer calls than the WT littermates, however not significantly so, but this may suggest  
14 that these two transcription factors contribute slightly to this phenotype but other genes in  
15 the region are necessary to produce the full phenotype seen in the CD animals. Previously it  
16 was shown that animals that have increased copy number of *Gtf2i* increased the number of  
17 pup USVs emitted while animals with only one copy produced similar number of calls to WT  
18 animals (34). This was interpreted as increased separation anxiety. Here we see that lower  
19 copy number of the entire region produces the opposite effect of increased *Gtf2i* copy  
20 number. Decreased USVs could mean there is a lack of motivation to make the calls or an  
21 inability to make as many calls. A model of *Gtf2ird1* mutant animals was shown to have  
22 different USV production due to a difference in the muscle composition of the larynx (32).  
23 This has not been shown in the CD animals but it could contribute to the phenotype as well  
24 as differences in the skull morphology (28). Another possible explanation is that since the  
25 production of USVs is a developmentally regulated trait, it could be that deleting 26 genes  
26 could disrupt typical developmental trajectories. While we do not see any gross  
27 developmental problems such as lower weight or delayed detachment of pinnae, the  
28 deletion could have a more severe effect on brain development, thus affecting  
29 developmentally regulated behavioral traits.

30 To our surprise, there was no detectable social phenotype in the *Gtf2i*\* mutants or  
31 CD animals in the classical three-chamber social approach assay. Our results showed that all  
32 genotypes on average prefer to investigate the social stimulus for a similar amount of time.  
33 The preference for social novelty is also intact across all the groups. In an attempt to test if  
34 the WS models fail to habituate to a social stimulus we showed that after thirty minutes of  
35 having the opportunity to investigate an unfamiliar mouse or an empty cup, all genotypes  
36 habituate to the social stimulus and by the end of the thirty minutes seem to have a small  
37 preference for the empty cup. The three-chamber social approach task has been done in the  
38 larger partial deletion models where they have shown that the proximal deletion and the  
39 trans full deletion models have a significant preference for the social stimulus, and the WT  
40 and distal deletion mice do not show a preference, suggesting that the proximal deletion,  
41 which harbors genes such as *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1*, are involved in this social task (29). Mouse  
42 models that are haploinsufficient for only *Gtf2i* have shown in the three-chamber approach  
43 task that after eight minutes WT animals investigate a novel object the same amount as a  
44 social stimulus, but the *Gtf2i* mutants still have a significant preference suggesting a lack of  
45 habituation (33). In another *Gtf2i* model, Martin et al. compared animals with one, two,  
46 three, and four copies of *Gtf2i* in the three-chamber social approach task, and showed that  
47 only animals with one and three copies of *Gtf2i* displayed a significant preference for the  
48 social stimulus (36), but WT animals did not. These three-chamber social approach tests are  
49 interpreting a lack of significance as evidence for increased social behavior and not directly  
50 comparing the levels of investigation between genotypes (52). Furthermore, in some cases

1 the WT controls are not showing the expected preference for the social stimulus, thus,  
2 possibly confounding interpretation of the mutant preference.

3 The three-chamber social approach assay has come under recent criticism due to  
4 how dependent it is on activity levels of mice and its lower heritability compared to tests of  
5 direct social interaction (53). The CD animals had not previously been tested in this  
6 procedure exactly, but have been tested in a modified social approach where the time spent  
7 investigating a mouse in a cup is measured but with no competing non-social stimulus (28,  
8 46, 47). The data showed that the CD animals investigated the social stimulus for more time  
9 than the WT animals and delivery of *Gtf2i* cDNA by AAV9 via the magna cisterna can return  
10 the investigation time to normal levels (46). Here, we showed that all animals preferred the  
11 social stimulus. It is possible that the standard social approach suffers from several  
12 confounding factors, such as lower heritability, as well as activity and anxiety-like  
13 components that make this task less sensitive to detect a hypersocial phenotype in WS  
14 models. It could also be that the three-chamber social task does not test the specific aspects  
15 of social behavior that are disrupted in WS models. For example, newer tasks, such as social  
16 operant tasks that test motivation to receive a social stimulus may more directly test the  
17 aspects of social behavior that are affected in WS. This task has been performed on *Gtf2i*  
18 mutants and mice that have only one copy of *Gtf2i* will work harder to receive a social  
19 reward (36).

20 Direct social tasks have higher heritability than the three-chamber social approach  
21 and offer a more natural social experience (53), which may make them a more sensitive  
22 assay for testing social behaviors. Direct tasks have shown that *Gtf2i* models have increased  
23 nose-to-nose investigation time (36), mouse models lacking the proximal end of the region  
24 have increased investigation frequency (29), and *Gtf2ird1* mutants make fewer aggressive  
25 actions but show increased following time (30). We employed the resident-intruder  
26 paradigm as a full contact social assay. While we did not see bouts of aggression from any of  
27 the genotypes, we could see differences in social investigation. To our surprise, the CD  
28 animals spent less time overall in anogenital sniffing and nose-to-nose sniffing of the  
29 intruder animals when compared to WT littermates. The double mutants were not  
30 significantly different from the WT animals but had intermediate values between the WT  
31 and CD animals. This phenotype was being driven by the decreased time per bout of  
32 investigation in the CD animals, as all genotypes had a similar frequency of the sniffing  
33 behavior. This result was contrary to what would be predicted from the human condition  
34 and previous mouse results. However, while individuals with WS are described as having  
35 prosocial behavior in terms of increased social approach and friendliness (54), they also  
36 have difficulties maintaining long term relationships because of deficits in other aspects of  
37 social behavior (4, 5, 55, 56), and on scales measuring social reciprocity often score in the  
38 autistic range (5). In addition, there is a high co-morbidity with ADHD which has features of  
39 impulsiveness (57). While the CD animals did not show the expected increase in social  
40 interest, this may be a manifestation of attention deficits that are present from deleting the  
41 26 genes in the WSCR, but this needs to be examined. Loss-of-function mutations in *Gtf2i*  
42 and *Gtf2ird1* were not sufficient to produce as strong an effect in these investigative  
43 behaviors. However, the somewhat intermediate effect suggests they could contribute to it.

44 One limitation of our study is that some aspects of the social phenotype in the  
45 models tested here could be masked by the mouse background strain. While we have  
46 controlled for mouse background strain in our experiments by only using the F1 generation  
47 of the FVB/AntJ and C57BL/6J cross, the hybrid background may prevent the manifestation  
48 of a social phenotype caused by the mutations tested. For example, it has been documented  
49 that craniofacial phenotypes in *Gtf2ird1* models are sensitive to background strain (13, 30,  
50 41, 44). Here, the double mutants and CD animals on the hybrid background showed no

1 dominance phenotype in the tube test. However, when we tested each mutation on the  
2 respective mouse background strain, we saw that the CD animals had a submissive  
3 phenotype, but the double mutants did not. Studies done in the larger partial deletions have  
4 shown altered win/loss ratios in the tube test in the proximal deletion and full trans  
5 deletion models (29), suggesting that the CD models on the C57BL/6J background can  
6 replicate this phenotype, but other genes in the proximal region besides *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1*  
7 are also required.

8 In this study, we have replicated several of the phenotypes previously seen in the CD  
9 animals, such as marble burying and balance deficits (28, 47, 50). It was shown that CD  
10 animals bury fewer marbles than WT animals and rescuing the *Gtf2i* levels in the  
11 hippocampus did not rescue this phenotype. Both the results presented here and in  
12 Borralleras et al. suggest that other genes in the region beyond *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* are  
13 important in this behavior. Here we have extended the results to suggest that there could be  
14 an anxiety-like component to the marble burying deficit. By tracking the animals during the  
15 task we see that CD animals spend less time and travel less distance in the center of the  
16 apparatus. This could preclude them from burying as many marbles in the center. It could  
17 also be that the CD animals do not show the normal motivation to dig.

18 CD animals showed difficulty in balancing tasks, but normal motor coordination.  
19 Motor coordination of WS has been tested using the rotarod. The larger partial deletion  
20 models showed that the distal deletion and proximal deletion mice had intermediate  
21 phenotypes with the full trans deletion mice falling off the rotarod sooner (29). Similarly the  
22 CD mice have shown deficits in the rotarod and addition of *Gtf2i* coding sequence does not  
23 rescue this phenotype (50). The CD mice in this study did not show a deficit in the rotarod  
24 despite having poor balance on the ledge and platform tasks. CD animals were not able to  
25 balance on a ledge or platform as long as their WT and *Gtf2i*\* mutant littermates. This  
26 suggests that motor coordination, as tested by our rotarod paradigm, is intact in these WS  
27 models, but balance is specifically affected in the CD animals. The discrepancy could be due  
28 to body size. The adult CD animals are significantly smaller than the WT and *Gtf2i*\* mutants,  
29 which could make staying on the wider rotarod less challenging. This study also used a  
30 different accelerating paradigm where the rod itself is continuously accelerating until the  
31 mouse falls off while other paradigms test the mice at different continuous rotation speeds.

32 Along with balance and coordination problems, individuals with WS tend to have  
33 specific phobias and high levels of non-social anxiety (42). We showed that CD animals had  
34 an altered fear conditioning response. We saw that the CD animals have an increased fear  
35 response in contextual fear but not cued fear. It was previously reported that CD animals  
36 showed a slight decrease in freezing but was not significant (28). Two separate *Gtf2ird1*  
37 mutations have shown contrasting results, one showed an increased fear response (16)  
38 while another showed decreased fear response (30). It could be that this hybrid background  
39 used here is more sensitive to see increases in freezing because FVB/AntJ do not exhibit as  
40 much freezing in conditioned fear tasks as C57BL/6J animals (58). The observed increased  
41 contextual fear response could be due to differences in the hippocampus and amygdala,  
42 both regions that have been shown to be disrupted in WS. We did not see a robust anxiety-  
43 like behavior phenotypes in one hour locomotor task or the elevated plus maze, which is  
44 consistent with previous findings in the CD model (28). However, we did see reduced time  
45 and distance traveled in the center during the marble burying task. Perhaps suggesting that  
46 the novel environment in combination with the novel marbles can induce slightly higher  
47 levels of anxiety in the CD model.

48 Given the behavioral differences in marble burying and contextual fear, two  
49 behaviors thought to be mediated by the hippocampus (49, 51), we examined the  
50 transcriptomes of the hippocampus of the *Gtf2i*\* mutants and CD animals and compared



1 them to WT littermates. This provided the first transcriptional profile documenting the  
2 consequences of the 26 gene deletion in a mature brain, and allowed us to determine what  
3 portion of that was driven by *Gtf2i*\* proteins. Surprisingly, we did not see any significantly  
4 differentially expressed genes between the *Gtf2i*\* mutants and WT littermates, besides the  
5 mutated genes themselves. Looking at the overlap of nominally differentially expressed  
6 genes between CD-WT and *Gtf2i*\*-WT comparisons, showed a small overlap of about 9%.  
7 This is slightly less than the estimate from Adamo *et al.*, of 15-20% of genes dysregulated in  
8 WS iPSCs being attributed to reduced levels of *GTF2I*. Perhaps these general findings  
9 suggest that *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* contribute to small transcriptional changes broadly across  
10 the genome, and in combination with other genes in the WSCR more profound neural  
11 specific gene disruptions become apparent.

12 Our transcriptional studies overall showed limited impact of *Gtf2i*\* mutation in the  
13 brain. The global brain transcriptome of *Gtf2i* mutants has not been investigated, but brain  
14 transcriptome studies of *Gtf2ird1* knockout mouse models have not found any evidence of  
15 differentially expressed genes (59). These data suggest that in the adult hippocampus these  
16 two transcription factors do not greatly affect the transcriptome. There are some limitations  
17 to this negative result. It could be that we are diluting some of the signal because we are  
18 studying the effects on the transcriptome of the whole hippocampus, which has a diverse  
19 cellular composition. Larger effect sizes might be detected in more homogenous cellular  
20 populations. Likewise, if these genes regulate dynamics of gene expression rather than  
21 baseline values, greater differences might become apparent after experimental  
22 manipulations that activate transcription.

23 One additional limitation of our study is that the mutated *Gtf2ird1* allele is still  
24 producing an N-terminally truncated protein. However, we show that N-truncated *Gtf2ird1*  
25 does not bind to its known target, the promoter region of *Gtf2ird1*, and this absence leads to  
26 increased RNA from the locus, consistent with a loss of its transcriptional repressor  
27 function. Thus, we confirmed this truncated protein is a loss of function for the only known  
28 roles for *Gtf2ird1*. However, it is possible that the protein does have other unknown  
29 functions we could not assay here. It has also been proven to be a remarkably challenging  
30 gene to completely disrupt, across multiple studies (30, 38). The combination of the  
31 upregulation of its RNA upon deletion with the ability to re-initiate at a variety of  
32 downstream codons is intriguing. One possibility is that *Gtf2ird1* has an unusual amount of  
33 homeostatic regulation at both transcriptional and translational levels that are attempting  
34 to normalize protein levels. Another possibility is that these kinds of events are actually  
35 quite common across genes, but that they are detected in *Gtf2ird1* because the WT protein  
36 is at such low abundance it is on par with what is actually an infrequent translation re-  
37 initiation event. Our detection of *Gtf2ird1* protein in the brain required substantial  
38 optimization and is still only apparent in younger brains. Indeed, in validations of mutations  
39 of more abundant proteins, the immunoblots may not be routinely developed long enough  
40 to see a trace re-initiation event that might occur. Regardless, future studies aimed at  
41 understanding the transcriptional and translational regulation of this unusual gene would  
42 be of interest.

43 Examining the profile of CD mutants compared to WT littermates, we do define a  
44 number of transcriptionally dysregulated genes. Of the genes in WSCR that are expressed in  
45 the hippocampus all had decreased expression in the CD animals. In addition, there were 24  
46 genes outside the WSCR that had a FDR < 0.1 between CD and WT controls. Among these  
47 genes is *Slc23a1*, the GABA vesicle transporter, which is down regulated in CD animals.  
48 Interestingly this gene was also found to be down regulated in human iPSC derived neurons  
49 from individuals with WS (23). This points to aberrant inhibitory activity in the CD brain,  
50 which could lead to functional deficits. Also consistent with other human WS derived iPSC

1 studies, the gene *Iqgap2* was shown to be upregulated in the CD hippocampus (24), and has  
2 the potential to interact with the cytoskeleton through actin binding (60). Broadening the  
3 analysis to include nominally differentially expressed genes and conducting systems-level  
4 analyses, the CD-WT comparison highlighted genes involved in the positive regulation of  
5 excitatory postsynaptic potential. Chailangkarn et al. showed that WS derived iPSC neurons  
6 had increased glutamatergic synapses. Our data also showed some signal in the GO term for  
7 postsynaptic density assembly. Taken together these data suggest abnormal synapse  
8 functioning in the CD animals and potentially altered inhibitory/excitatory balance. This  
9 also suggests pharmacological agents that increase GABA tone may be of use in reversing  
10 some WS phenotypes. The RNA-seq data also had signal in neuromuscular processes  
11 controlling balance. Altered gene expression in the CD animals could be contributing to the  
12 balance deficits. In contrast to the synapse and neural specific GO term enrichment seen in  
13 the CD-WT comparison, comparing the transcriptomes of the *Gtf2i*\* mutants and WT shows  
14 signal in more general organ development, such as ossification and eye development.

15 Taken together, our results support the hypothesis that other genes in the WSCR  
16 besides *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* are necessary to produce some phenotypes that are seen when  
17 the entire WSCR is deleted. While these two transcription factors have been highlighted in  
18 the human literature as large contributors to the WS phenotype, the literature is also  
19 consistent with a model where most genes contribute to aspects of different phenotypes in  
20 WS, but the full phenotypic effects occur when all the genes are deleted (Figure 6). Studying  
21 patients with atypical deletions highlights the variability of the region. Even within families  
22 that have inherited small deletions some of the cardiovascular, cognitive, and craniofacial  
23 phenotypes have incomplete penetrance (12, 14, 19). Comparing the deletion sizes and  
24 corresponding phenotypes shows a large overlap of genes that are deleted, but no clear  
25 pattern of which specific phenotypes are affected. Many of atypical deletions described to  
26 date that do not have *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* deleted show no overfriendly phenotype, but there  
27 are examples where this is not true. Recent work in zebrafish that was done to dissect  
28 which genes in the 16p11.2 region contribute to craniofacial dysmorphology led to a similar  
29 conclusion, that multiple genes in the region contribute to the phenotype but in  
30 combination some have synergistic effects and others have additive effects (61). Sanders *et*  
31 *al.* also suggested that copy number variations with higher gene content are more likely to  
32 have several genes of smaller effect sizes suggesting an oligogenic pattern of contribution  
33 (7). Our data suggests that looking beyond the general transcription factor 2I family at  
34 possible combinations of more genes in the region may more completely reproduce the WS  
35 phenotype. Given the ease of making new mouse models with current genome editing  
36 technology, a combinatorial dissection of the region is feasible and could lead to interesting  
37 new insight into the underlying mechanisms that contribute to the phenotypic spectrum of  
38 WS.

## 39 **Materials and Methods**

### 40 *Generating genome edited mice*

41  
42  
43  
44 sgRNAs were designed to target early constitutive exons of the mouse *Gtf2i* and  
45 *Gtf2ird1* genes. The gRNAs were cloned into the pX330 Cas9 expression plasmid (Addgene)  
46 and transfected into N2a cells to validate the cutting ability of each gRNA using the T7  
47 enzyme assay. Primers used to amplify target regions tested by the T7 enzyme assay are in  
48 Supplemental Table 4. One guide was selected for each gene based on cutting activity  
49 (Supplemental Table 4). The gRNAs were in vitro transcribed using MEGAShortScript  
50 (Ambion) and Cas9 mRNA was in vitro transcribed, G-capped, and poly-A tailed using the

1 mMessageMachine kit (Ambion). The mouse genetics core at Washington University School  
2 of Medicine co-injected the Cas9 mRNA (25ng/ul) along with both gRNAs (13ng/ul of each  
3 gRNA) into FVB/NJ fertilized eggs and implanted the embryos into recipient mothers. This  
4 resulted in 57 founders. Founders were initially checked for any editing events using the T7  
5 assay. There were 36 animals with no editing events. We deep sequenced the expected cut  
6 sites, as described below, in the remaining 21 founders to identify which alleles were  
7 present. Founders were crossed to wild type (WT) FVB/AntJ  
8 (<https://www.jax.org/strain/004828>) animals, which are different from FVB/NJs at two  
9 loci; *Tyr<sup>c-ch</sup>* results in a chinchilla coat color and they are homozygous WT for the  
10 129P2/OlaHsd *Pde6b* allele, which prevents them from developing blindness due to retinal  
11 degeneration. Coat color was visually genotyped and the functional FVB/AntJ *Pde6b*  
12 allele was genotyped using primers recommended by Jackson labs (Supplemental Table 5). The  
13 mice were crossed to FVB/AntJ until the mutations were on a background homozygous for  
14 the FVB/AntJ coat color and *Pde6b* alleles.

15

### 16 *Genotyping*

17

18 Initial founder genotyping was performed by deep sequencing amplicons around  
19 the expected cuts sites of each gRNA. Primers were designed around the cut sites using the  
20 NCBI primer blast tool. To allow for Illumina sequencing we concatenated the Illumina  
21 adapter sequences to the designed primers (Supplemental Table 5). The regions  
22 surrounding the cut sites were amplified using the following thermocycler conditions: 95° C  
23 4 minutes, 95° C 35 seconds, 58.9° C 45 seconds, 72° C 1 minute 15 seconds, repeat steps 2  
24 through 4 35 times, 72° C for 7 minutes, hold at 4° C. A subsequent round of PCR was  
25 performed to add the requisite Illumina P5 and P7 sequences as well as sample specific  
26 indexes using the following thermocycler conditions: 98° C 3 minutes, 98° C 10 seconds, 64°  
27 C 30 seconds, 72° C 1 minute, repeat steps 2 through 4 20 times, 72° C 5 minutes, hold 4° C.  
28 The PCR amplicons were pooled and run on a 2% agarose gel and the expected band size  
29 was gel extracted using the NucleoSpin gel extraction kit (Macherye-Nagel). The samples  
30 were sequenced on a MiSeq. The raw fastq files were aligned to the mm10 genome using  
31 bwa v0.7.17 -mem with default settings (62), and the bam files were visualized using the  
32 integrated genome visualizer (IGV)v2.3.29 to determine the genotype.

33 Once the alleles of the founder lines were shown to be in the germline, we designed  
34 PCR genotyping assays that can distinguish mutant and WT alleles. Since the *Gtf2i* mutation  
35 and the *Gtf2ird1* mutation are in linkage and are always passed on together, primers were  
36 designed that would only amplify the five base pair deletion in exon three of *Gtf2ird1*. The  
37 primer was designed so that the three prime end of the forward primer sits on the new  
38 junction formed by the mutation with an expected size of 500bp. Beta actin primers, with an  
39 expected size of 138bp, were also used to help ensure specificity of the mutation specific  
40 *Gtf2ird1* primers as well as act as a PCR control (Supplemental Table 5). The CD animals  
41 were genotyped using primer sequences provided by Dr. Victoria Campuzano and primers  
42 that amplify the WT *Gtf2ird1* allele as a PCR control (Supplemental Table 5).

43 PCR was performed on toe clippings that were incubated overnight at 55° C in tail  
44 lysis buffer (10mM Tris pH 8, 0.4M NaCl, 2mM EDTA, 0.1% SDS, 3.6U/mL Proteinase K  
45 (NEB)). The proteinase K was inactivated by incubation at 99° C for 10 minutes. 1ul of  
46 lysate was used in the PCR reactions. Two bands indicated a heterozygous mutation in *Gtf2i*  
47 and *Gtf2ird1*. The cycling conditions for the 5bp *Gtf2ird1* deletion were: 95° C 4 minutes, 95°  
48 C 35 seconds, 66.1° C 45 seconds, 72° C 1 minute 15 seconds, repeat steps 2 through 4 35  
49 times, 72° C for 7 minutes, hold at 4° C. The cycling conditions for the CD genotyping were:

1 95° C 4 minutes, 95° C 35 seconds, 58° C 45 seconds, 72° C 1 minute 15 seconds, repeat  
2 steps 2 through 4 35 times, 72° C for 7 minutes, hold at 4° C.

### 3 4 *Western blotting*

5  
6 E13.5 whole brains were dissected in cold PBS and immediately frozen in liquid  
7 nitrogen and stored at -80°C until genotyping was performed. Frozen brains were  
8 homogenized in 500ul of 1x RIPA buffer (10mM Tris HCl pH 7.5, 140mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA,  
9 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% DOC, 0.1% SDS, 10mM Na<sub>3</sub>V0<sub>4</sub>, 10mM NaF, 1x protease inhibitor  
10 (Roche)) and RNAase inhibitors (RNasin (Promega) and SUPERase In (Thermo Fisher  
11 Scientific) and incubated on ice for 20 minutes. Lysates were cleared by centrifugation at  
12 10,000g for 10 minutes at 4° C. The lysate was split into two 100ul aliquots for protein  
13 analysis and 250ul of lysate was added to 750ul of Tizol LS (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for  
14 RNA analysis. Protein concentration was quantified using a BCA assay and loaded at 25-  
15 50ug in 1x Lamelli Buffer with B-mercaptoethanol onto a 4-15% TGX protean gel (Bio-Rad).  
16 In some experiments to achieve greater separation to detect the N-truncation, the protein  
17 lysates were instead run on a 7.5% TGX protean gel (Bio-Rad). The protein was transferred  
18 to PVDF 0.2um membrane by wet transfer. The membrane was blocked for one hour at RT  
19 with TBST 5% milk. The membranes were cut at 75KDa, and the top of the membrane was  
20 probed for either Gtf2i or Gtf2ird1, and the bottom of the membrane was probed for Gapdh,  
21 with the following primary antibodies: Rabbit anti-GTF2IRD1 (1:500, Novus, NBP1-91973),  
22 Mouse anti-GTF2I (1:1000 BD Transduction Laboratories, BAP-135), and Mouse anti-Gapdh  
23 (1:10,000, Sigma Aldrich, G8795). Primary antibodies were incubated overnight at 4° C in  
24 TBST 5% milk. We used the following secondary antibodies: HRP-conjugated Goat anti  
25 Rabbit IgG (1:2000, Sigma Aldrich, AP307P) and HRP-conjugated Goat anti Mouse IgG  
26 (1:2000, Bio Rad, 1706516) and incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. Signal was  
27 detected using Clarity Western ECL substrate (Bio-Rad) in a MyECL Imager (Thermo  
28 Scientific). Quantification of bands was performed using Fiji (NIH) (63) normalizing to  
29 Gapdh levels and a WT reference sample.

### 30 31 *Transcript measurement using RT-qPCR*

32  
33 Total RNA from E13.5 brains lysates was extracted from Trizol LS using the Zymo  
34 Clean and Concentrator-5 with on column DNAase I digestion and eluted in 30ul of water.  
35 RNA quantity and purity was determined using a Nanodrop 2000 (Thermo Scientific). cDNA  
36 was prepared using 1ug of total RNA and the qscript cDNA synthesis kit (Quanta  
37 Biosciences). 25ng of cDNA was used in a 10ul RT-qPCR reaction with 2x PowerUP SYBR  
38 Green Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) and 500nM primers that would amplify constitutive  
39 exons of *Gtf2ird1* (exons 8/9), *Gtf2i* (exons 25/27) or *Gapdh* (Supplemental Table 5). The  
40 RT-qPCR was carried out in a QuantStudio6Flex machine (Applied Biosystems) with the  
41 following cycling conditions: 95° C 20 seconds, 95° C 1 second, 60° C 20 seconds, repeat  
42 steps 2 through 3 40 times. There were three biological replicates per genotype in all  
43 experiments and each cDNA was assessed in triplicate technical replicates. Relative  
44 transcript abundance of *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* was determined using the deltaCT method  
45 normalizing to *Gapdh*.

### 46 47 *ChIP-qPCR*

### 48 49 **Chromatin preparation**

50

1 Chromatin was prepared by homogenizing one frozen E13.5 brain in 10mL of 1x  
2 cross-linking buffer (10mM HEPES pH7.5, 100mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 1mM EGTA, 1%  
3 Formaldehyde (Sigma)) using the large clearance pestle in a Dounce homogenizer and  
4 allowed to crosslink for 10 minutes at room temperature with end-over-end rotation. The  
5 formaldehyde was quenched with 625ul of 2M glycine. The cells were spun down at 200g at  
6 4° C and the pellet was washed with 10mL 1x PBS 0.2mM PMSF and spun again. The pellet  
7 was resuspended in 5mL L1 buffer (50mM HEPES pH 7.5, 140 mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 1mM  
8 EGTA, 0.25% Triton X-100, 0.5% NP40, 10.0% glycerol, 1mM BGP (Sigma), 1x Na Butyrate  
9 (Millipore), 20mM NaF, 1x protease inhibitor (Roche)) and homogenized using the low  
10 clearance pestle in a Dounce homogenizer to lyse the cells and leave the nuclei intact. The  
11 homogenate was spun at 800g for 10 minutes at 4° C to pellet the nuclei. The pellet was  
12 washed in 5mL of L1 buffer and spun again and resuspended in 5mL of L2 buffer (10mM  
13 Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 200mM NaCl, 1mM BGP, 1x Na Butyrate, 20mM NaF, 1x protease inhibitor)  
14 and incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes while shaking. The nuclei were pelleted  
15 by spinning at 800g for 10 minutes and resuspended in 950ul of L3 buffer (10mM Tris-HCl  
16 pH 8.0, 1mM EDTA, 1mM EGTA, 0.3% SDS, 1mM BGP, 1x Na Butyrate, 20mM NaF, 1x  
17 protease inhibitor) and transferred to a milliTUBE 1mL AFA Fiber (100)(Covaris). The  
18 sample was then sonicated to a DNA size range of 100-500bp in a Covaris E220 focused-  
19 ultrasonicator with 5% duty factor, 140 PIP, and 200cbp. The sonicated samples were  
20 diluted to 0.1% SDS using 950ul of L3 buffer and 950ul of 3x Covaris buffer (20mM Tris-HCl  
21 pH 8.0, 3.0% Triton X-100, 450mM NaCl, 3mM EDTA). The samples were spun at max speed  
22 in a tabletop centrifuge for 10 minutes at 4° C to pellet any insoluble matter. The  
23 supernatant was pre-cleared by incubating with 15ul of protein G coated streptavidin beads  
24 (ThermoFisher) for two hours at 4° C.

25

## 26 Chromatin IP

27

28 GTF2IRD1 antibody (Rb anti GTF2IRD1 NBP1-91973 LOT:R40410) was conjugated  
29 to protein G coated streptavidin beads by incubating 6ug of antibody (10ul) with 15ul of  
30 beads in 500ul TBSTBp (1x TBS, 0.1% Tween 20, 1% BSA, .2mM PMSF) and end-over-end  
31 rotation for one hour at room temperature. The antibody-conjugated beads were washed  
32 three times with 500ul of TBSTBp. 400ul of the pre-cleared lysate was added to the  
33 antibody-conjugated beads and rotated end-over-end at 4° C overnight. 80ul of the pre-  
34 cleared lysate was added to 120ul of 1x TE buffer with 1% SDS and frozen overnight to be  
35 the input sample.

36 The IP was washed two times with a low salt buffer (10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 2mM  
37 EDTA, 150mM NaCl, 1.0% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS), two times with a high salt buffer (10mM  
38 Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 2mM EDTA, 500mM NaCl, 1.0% Triton X-100, 0.1% SDS), two times with  
39 LiCl wash buffer (10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1mM EDTA, 250mM LiCl (Sigma), 0.5%  
40 NaDeoxycholate, 1.0% NP40), and one time with TE (10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1mM EDTA)  
41 buffer. The samples were eluted from the beads by incubating with 100ul of 1x TE and 1%  
42 SDS in an Eppendorf thermomixer R at 65° C for 30 minutes, mixing at 1400rpm. This was  
43 repeated for a total of 200ul of eluate. The samples and input were then de-crosslinked by  
44 incubating in a thermocycler (T1000 Bio-Rad) for 16 hours at 65° C. The samples were  
45 incubated with 10ug of RNaseA (Invitrogen) at 37° C for 30 minutes. The samples were  
46 then incubated with 140ug of Proteinase K (NEB) at 55° C in a thermomixer mixing at  
47 900rpm for two hours. The DNA was extracted using phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol  
48 (Ambion) and cleaned up using Qiagen PCR purification kit and eluted two times using 30ul  
49 of buffer EB for a total of 60ul. The concentration was assessed using the high sensitivity

1 DNA kit for qubit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). A portion of the input DNA was run on a 2%  
2 agarose gel post stained with ethidium bromide to check the DNA fragmentation.

### 4 ChIP qPCR

6 Primers were designed to amplify the region around the *Gtf2ird1* transcription start  
7 site (TSS), which has been shown to be a target of Gtf2ird1 binding (38). Two primer sets  
8 were also designed to amplify off target regions, one 10kb upstream of the *Bdnf* TSS and one  
9 7Kbp upstream of the *Pcbp3* TSS. These were far enough away from any TSS that it would  
10 be unlikely that there would be a promoter region. The primers can be found in  
11 Supplemental Table 5. A standard curve was made by diluting the input sample for each IP  
12 sample 1:3, 1:30, and 1:300. The input, the input dilutions, and the IP samples for each  
13 genotype condition were run in triplicate using the Sybr green Power UP mastermix  
14 (AppliedBiosystems) and primers at a final concentration of 250nM. The PCR was carried  
15 out in a QuantStudio6Flex machine (Applied Biosystems) with the following cycling  
16 conditions: 50° C for 2 minutes, 95° C for 10 minutes, 95° C 15 seconds, 60° C for 1 minute,  
17 repeat steps 3 through 4 40 times. Relative concentrations for the IP samples were  
18 determined from the standard curves for that sample and primer set. The on target relative  
19 concentration for each genotype was divided by either off target relative concentration to  
20 determine the enrichment of Gtf2ird1 binding.

### 22 *Hippocampus RNA-sequencing*

#### 24 Library preparation

26 The hippocampus was dissected from adult animals of the second behavior cohort  
27 (Table1). We used six animals of each genotype, three males and females of the WT and CD  
28 animals and two males and four females of the *Gtf2i\** genotype. The hippocampus was  
29 homogenized in 500ul of 1x RIPA supplemented with two RNase inhibitors, RNasin and  
30 SUPERase In, and 250ul of the homogenate was added to 750ul of Trizol LS and stored at -  
31 80° C until RNA extraction. RNA was extracted using the Zymo clean and concentrator-5 kit  
32 following the on column DNase I digestion protocol and eluted in 30ul of water. The quality  
33 and concentration of the RNA was determined using a nanodrop 2000 and Agilent RNA  
34 Highsenstivity Tape screen ran on the TapeStation 2000 (Agilent). All RINe scores were  
35 above seven.

36 1ug of RNA was used as input and rRNA was depleted using the NEBNext rRNA  
37 Depletion kit (Human/Mouse/Rat). RNAseq libraries were prepared using the NEB Next  
38 Ultra II RNA library Prep Kit for Illumina. The final uniquely indexed libraries for each  
39 sample were amplified using the following thermocycler conditions: 98° C for 30 seconds,  
40 98° C 10 seconds, 65° C 1 minute and 15 seconds, 65° C 5 minutes, hold at 4° C, repeat steps  
41 2 through 3 6 times. Each sample had a unique index. Samples were pooled at equal molar  
42 amounts and 1x50 reads were sequenced on one lane of a HiSeq3000 at the Genome  
43 Technology Access Center at Washington University School of Medicine. The RNAseq data is  
44 available at GEO with accession number (submitted, waiting on accession number).

#### 46 RNAseq analysis

48 The raw reads were trimmed of Illumina adapters and bases with base quality less  
49 than 25 using the Trimmomatic Software (64). The trimmed reads were aligned to the  
50 mm10 mouse genome using the default parameters of STARv2.6.1b (65). Samtools v1.9 (66)

1 was used to sort and index the aligned reads. Htseq-count v0.9.1 (67) was used to count the  
2 number of reads that aligned to features in the Ensembl GRCm38 version 93 gtf file.

3 The htseq output was analyzed for differential gene expression using EdgeR v3.24  
4 (68). Lowly expressed genes were defined as genes that had a cpm less than two across all  
5 samples. Lowly expressed genes were then filtered out of the dataset. We used the  
6 exactTest function to make pairwise comparisons between the three groups: WT versus  
7 *Gtf2i\**, WT versus CD, and CD versus *Gtf2i\**. Genes were considered differentially expressed  
8 if they had an FDR < 0.1.

9 GO analysis was performed using the goseq R package (69). Nominally significant up  
10 and down regulated genes for each comparison were considered differentially expressed  
11 genes and the background gene set included all expressed genes after filtering out the lowly  
12 expressed genes. The top 10 most significant go terms for each ontology category were  
13 reported. To test how unlikely it is to see these go terms given the differentially expressed  
14 genes from the genotype comparisons, we shuffled the genotypes among the samples and  
15 repeated the differential expression analysis and go term analysis 1000 times and counted  
16 how many times the same go terms were identified in the top ten most significant go terms.  
17

### 18 *Behavioral tasks*

### 19 **Animal statement**

20  
21  
22 All animal testing was done in accordance with the Washington University in St.  
23 Louis animal care committee regulations. Mice were same sex and group housed with mixed  
24 genotypes in standard mouse cages measuring 28.5 x 17.5 x 12cm with corn cob bedding  
25 and ad libitum access to food and water in a 12 hour light dark cycle, 6:00am-6:00pm light.  
26 The temperature of the colony rooms was maintained at 20-22° C and relative humidity at  
27 50%. Two cohorts of mice were used in the behavior and RNA-seq experiments. The CD  
28 animals (Del (5*Gtf2i*-*Fkbp6*)1*Vcam*) were a gift from Dr. Victoria Campuzano and have been  
29 previously described (28) and were maintained on the C57BL/6J strain  
30 (<https://www.jax.org/strain/000664>). The first behavior cohort (Table 1) used *Gtf2i\** and  
31 CD females as breeders. The second behavior cohort (Table 1) used just CD female breeders  
32 as male CD animals were frequently not successful at breeding. Male and female mice were  
33 included in the behavior tasks. Experimenters were blind to genotype during all testing.  
34 Besides the maternal separation induced pup ultrasonic vocalization, all behaviors were  
35 done in adult animals older than 60 days and less than 150 days old. Mice were moved to  
36 the testing facility at least 30 minutes before the test to allow the mice to habituate to the  
37 room. The male experimenter was present during this habituation so the mice could also  
38 acclimate to the experimenter. Sex differences were assessed in all experiments, and are  
39 discussed when they were significant. Otherwise, the data is presented with the males and  
40 females pooled. Animals were removed from analysis if they were outliers, defined as  
41 having values greater than 3.5 standard deviations above or below the mean for their  
42 genotype group. Animals were also removed if the video and tracking quality were too poor  
43 to be analyzed. All filtering was conducted blind to genotype.  
44

### 45 **Maternal separation induced pup ultrasonic vocalization**

46  
47 To assess early communicative behaviors we performed maternal separation  
48 induced pup ultrasonic vocalization (USVs). Animals were recorded on postnatal day three  
49 and postnatal day five, days when FVB/AntJ animals begin to make the most calls (39). The  
50 parents were placed in a new cage, and the home cage containing the pups was placed in a

1 warming box (Harvard Apparatus) set at 33° C for at least 10 minutes prior to the start of  
2 recording. Pups were individually placed in an empty standard-mouse cage (28.5 x 17.5 x  
3 12cm) located in a MDF sound-attenuating box (Med Associates) that measures 36 x 64 x  
4 60cm. Prior to recording, the pup's skin temperature was recorded using a noncontact HDE  
5 Infrared Thermometer, as it has been shown that decreased body temperature elicits  
6 increased USVs (70). There was no difference in body temperature between genotypes  
7 ( $F_{2,61} = 2.521$ ,  $p = 0.089$ ) (Supplemental Table 1). USVs were detected using an Avisoft  
8 UltraSoundGate CM16 microphone placed 5cm above the bottom of the cage, Avisoft  
9 UltraSoundGate 416H amplifier, and Avisoft Recorder software (gain=3dB, 16bits, sampling  
10 rate =250kHz). Animals were recorded for 3 minutes, weighed, checked for detachment of  
11 pinnae, and then placed back into the home cage in the warming chamber. After all animals  
12 had been recorded the parents were returned to the home cage. Sonograms of the  
13 recordings were prepared in MATLAB (frequency range =25-120kHz, FFT [Fast Fourier  
14 Transform] size=512, overlap=50%, time resolution =1.024ms, frequency resolution =  
15 488.2Hz) along with number of syllables and spectral features using a previously published  
16 protocol (39, 71) based on validated methods (72).

17

### 18 **Sensorimotor battery**

19

20 We assessed motoric initiation, balance, coordination, and strength as described in  
21 (73, 74) over two days using the following tasks: day 1) walking initiation, ledge, platform,  
22 pole; day 2) 60 screen, 90 screen, and inverted screen. Each task was performed once then  
23 the animals were allowed a 20 minute break then the tests were repeated in reverse order  
24 to control for practice effects. The two trials for each task were then averaged to be used in  
25 analysis. Walking initiation was tested by recording the time it takes for the mouse to exit a  
26 demarcated 24 x 24cm square on top of a flat surface. To assess balance, the mice were  
27 placed on a plexiglass ledge with a width of 0.5cm and a height of 38cm. We recorded how  
28 long the mouse balanced on the ledge up to 60 seconds. Another test of balance required the  
29 mouse to balance on a wooden platform measuring 3.0cm in diameter, 3.5cm thick and was  
30 25.5cm high. The amount of time the animal balanced on the platform was recorded up to  
31 60 seconds. Motor coordination was tested by placing the mouse at the top of a vertical pole  
32 with the head facing upward. The time it took the mouse to turn so the head was facing  
33 down was recorded as well as the time it took the mouse to reach the bottom of the pole up  
34 to 120 seconds. On day two the mice performed screen tasks that assessed coordination and  
35 strength. Mice were placed head facing downward in the center of a mesh wire grid that had  
36 16 squares per 10cm and was 47cm off the ground and inclined at 60 degrees. The time it  
37 took the mice to turn and reach the top of the screen was recorded up to 60 seconds.  
38 Similarly the mice were placed in the center facing downward of mesh wire screen with 16  
39 squares per 10cm, elevated 47cm from the surface of a utility cart, and inclined at 90  
40 degrees. The time it took the mice to turn around and reach the top was recorded up to 60  
41 seconds. To test strength, the mice were placed in the center of a mesh wire grid used for  
42 the 90 screen task and then inverted so the mouse was hanging from the screen that was  
43 elevated 47cm. The time the mouse was able to hang onto the screen up to 60 seconds was  
44 recorded.

45

### 46 **One hour locomotor activity**

47

48 We tested the animals' general exploratory activity and emotionality in an one hour  
49 locomotor activity task (74). Animals were placed in the center of a standard rat cage (47.6 x  
50 25.4 x 20.6cm) and allowed to explore the cage for one hour in a sound-attenuating



1 enclosure with the lightening set to 24 lux. The one hour sessions were video recorded and  
2 the animals position and horizontal movements were tracked using the ANY-maze software  
3 (Stoelting Co.: RRID: SCR\_014289). The apparatus was split into two zones: a 33 x 11cm  
4 center zone, and a bordering 5.5cm edge zone. ANY-maze recorded total distance traveled  
5 in the apparatus, and total distance traveled, time spent, and entries into each zone. The  
6 mouse was considered to have entered a zone when 80% of the body was detected within  
7 the zone. The rat cages are thoroughly cleaned with 70% ethanol between mice.  
8

### 9 **Marble burying**

10  
11 Marble burying is a task that measures the natural digging behavior of mice and is  
12 correlated to compulsive behaviors and hippocampal function (45). Following our  
13 previously published methods (74), a standard rate cage (47.6 x 25.4 x 20.6cm) was filled  
14 with autoclaved aspen bedding to a depth of 3cm and placed in a sound-attenuating  
15 enclosure with lighting set to 24 lux. 20 glass marbles were arranged in 5 x 4 grid on the  
16 surface of the bedding. Mice were placed in the center of the rat cage and allowed 30  
17 minutes to explore and bury the marbles. The session was recorded using a digital camera  
18 and the animals horizontal movements and position in the apparatus were tracked using  
19 ANY-maze with the same center and edge zones as described in the one hour activity task.  
20 After 30 minutes mice were put back in their home cage and the number of marbles not  
21 buried was counted by two observers. A marble was considered buried if 2/3 of the marble  
22 was underneath the bedding. The average of the two scorers was used to calculate the  
23 average number of marbles buried. The marbles and rat cages were thoroughly cleaned  
24 with 70% ethanol between mice.  
25

### 26 **Three-chamber social approach**

27  
28 To assess voluntary sociability and preference for social novelty we used the three-  
29 chamber social approach assay as previously described (74–76). The task took place in a  
30 plexiglass arena with two partitions with rectangular openings (5 x 8cm) dividing the arena  
31 into three chambers that each measure 19.5 x 39 x 22cm. The openings could be closed  
32 using plexiglass doors that slide into the openings. The task consisted of four consecutive 10  
33 minute trials. During trial one the animals were habituated to the middle chamber with the  
34 openings to the side chambers closed. In trial two the animals were allowed to explore the  
35 entire apparatus. Trial three was the sociability trial. In one side chamber there was an  
36 empty steel pencil cup (Galaxy Pencil/Utility Cup, Spectrum Diversified Designs, Inc.) that  
37 was placed upside with an upside clear drinking cup secured to the top to prevent animals  
38 from climbing on top of the cup; this was the empty side. In the other side chamber there  
39 was an identical pencil cup that housed an age- and sex-matched, sexually naive, unfamiliar  
40 C57BL/6J stimulus animal; this was the social side. The pencil cups allowed sniffing  
41 behavior to occur and exchange of odor cues, but limited physical contact to prevent  
42 aggressive behaviors. The experimental animal was allowed to explore the whole  
43 apparatus. The side of the empty cup and social cup were counterbalanced across all the  
44 samples. In trial four we tested preference for social novelty. A new stranger stimulus  
45 animal was placed in the formerly empty cup. All stimulus animals were habituated to the  
46 apparatus and the cups for 10 minutes one day prior to testing. Each stimulus animal was  
47 used only once per day. During all trials the task was video recorded and the animal's  
48 position, animal's head, and movement was tracked with ANY-maze software. We quantified  
49 how much time the animal spent in each chamber, as well as distance traveled and number  
50 of entries. A 2cm area around the cups was defined as the investigation zone, and the

1 animal's head was used to determine when it was investigating the stimulus animals or the  
2 empty cup. The first five minutes of the social and novelty trials were analyzed because this  
3 is when the majority of the social investigation occurs (77). The entire apparatus was  
4 thoroughly cleaned after each animal using 2% chlorhexidine (Zoetis). The stimulus cups  
5 were cleaned using 70% ethanol.

### 6 7 **Modified social approach**

8  
9 To test for habituation to social stimuli over extended amounts of time, we slightly  
10 modified the social approach task. We used the same apparatus as described above. We  
11 included an additional day of habituation to the apparatus for the experimental animals on  
12 the day prior to the actual test to ameliorate novelty induced exploration of the apparatus  
13 and to potentiate exploration of the investigation zones. During the habituation day the  
14 animals were placed in the center chamber for 10 minutes with the doors to the side  
15 chambers closed. Next, the animals were allowed to explore the whole apparatus for 20  
16 minutes. The stimulus animals were habituated to the cups in the apparatus for 30 minutes  
17 prior to the test day. Trial one and trial two were the same as the social approach described  
18 above. For trial three, the sociability trial, the experimental animals were placed in a  
19 cylinder in the center chamber, while the empty cup and stimulus animal cup were being  
20 placed in the side chambers. This ensures a random starting direction for the experimental  
21 mouse so we could make an unbiased measure of which chamber the experimental mouse  
22 chose to enter first. The sociability trial lasted for 30 minutes, in which the experimental  
23 animal was allowed to freely explore the apparatus and investigate the empty cup and  
24 social cup. The social novelty trial was not conducted.

### 25 26 **Tube test of social dominance**

27  
28 The tube test of social dominance tests for social hierarchy behaviors in mice (74,  
29 78). This task took place over five days. Days one and two were habituation trials. During  
30 day one, the animals were placed in the left entrance of a clear acrylic tube measuring 3.6cm  
31 in diameter and 30cm in length and allowed to walk through the entire tube and exit the  
32 tube on the right side. Day two was the same but the mice started on the opposite side of the  
33 tube. These two habituation days allow the mice to acclimate to the tube, and potentiates  
34 task performance. On each of three consecutive test days, two mice of different genotypes  
35 were placed in the entrances to the tube and allowed to meet in the middle, at a clear acrylic  
36 partition. When both mice were at the acrylic partition, it was removed and the trial began.  
37 The trial ended when one mouse was pushed out or backed out of the tube so that all four  
38 paws were out of the tube, or two minutes had passed. The mouse that remained in the tube  
39 was considered the dominant winner and the mouse that was no longer in the tube was  
40 considered the submissive loser. If both mice were still in the tube after two minutes it was  
41 considered a tie. Each mouse was tested only once each day, and the mice were tested  
42 against a novel mouse each day. After each test, the tube was cleaned with 2% chlorhexidine  
43 (Zoetis) solution. All of the test sessions were recorded using a USB camera connected to a  
44 PC laptop (Lenovo). The observer scored the test from the videos.

### 45 46 **Rotarod**

47  
48 The accelerating rotarod (Rotamex-5; Columbus Instruments, Columbus, OH) tests  
49 motor coordination, motor learning, and balance. We used a previously published rotarod  
50 paradigm (79–81) that tests animals on three conditions: 1) stationary rod 2) continuous

1 rotation and 3) accelerating rotation during three different sessions that were separated by  
2 three days to minimize motor learning. During each day the animals had five trials; one  
3 stationary trial, two continuous trials, and two accelerating trials. During the stationary  
4 trial, the animals were placed on the stationary rod and the time that the animals stayed on  
5 the rod was recorded up to 60 seconds. During the continuous trials, the animals were  
6 placed on the rod rotating at three rotations per minute. The time the animals stayed on the  
7 rotating rod was recorded up to 60 seconds. In the accelerating trials, the animals were  
8 placed on the rod that was rotating at two rotations per minute. Once the animals were on  
9 the rotating rod, the rod began to accelerate at 0.1rpm and reached 17rpm at 180 seconds.  
10 The time the animals stayed on the rod up to 180 seconds was recorded. The two trials for  
11 the continuous rotation and accelerating rotation during each session were averaged for  
12 analysis. If an animal fell off the rod during any session within the first five seconds, the  
13 animal was placed back on the rod and the time was reset up to two times. If the mouse fell  
14 off within five seconds on the third try that time was recorded.

### 15 16 **Elevated Plus Maze**

17  
18 The elevated plus maze was used to assess anxiety-like behaviors in mice using  
19 previously published protocols (76, 82, 83). The apparatus had two closed arms that  
20 measured 36 x 6.1 x 15cm, two open arms, and a central platform that measured 5.5 x  
21 5.5cm. The time spent in the open arms was used as a measure of anxiety-like behavior in  
22 mice, since mice prefer to be in an enclosed area. Each mouse was tested once per day for  
23 three consecutive days. During the test the animals had five minutes to freely explore the  
24 apparatus. The animals position, movement, entries into each arm, and time spent in each  
25 arm were determined by beam breaks of pairs of photocells arranged in a 16 (x-axis) x 16  
26 (y-axis) grid. Beam breaks were monitored by the Motor Monitor software (Kinder  
27 scientific). The test was conducted in the dark with black lights, and was recorded by an  
28 overhead digital camera using the night vision setting.

### 29 30 **Pre-pulse inhibition (PPI)**

31  
32 To test for normal sensorimotor gating and normal acoustic startle response we  
33 performed PPI on the animals. Mice were placed in a cage located on top of a force  
34 transducer inside of a sound-attenuating box with a house light on (Kinder Scientific). The  
35 force transducer measured the startle response of the animals in Newtons. We used a  
36 protocol adapted from (76, 84). The protocol was run using the Startle Monitor II software  
37 (Kinder scientific). The protocol started with five minutes of acclimation to the 65dB  
38 background white noise, which is played continuously throughout the procedure. After  
39 acclimation there were 65 trials that pseudo-randomly alternated between different  
40 stimulus conditions, beginning with five consecutive trials of the startle stimulus, which was  
41 a 40msec 120dB pulse of white noise. The middle trials cycled through blocks of pre-pulse  
42 conditions, blocks of non-startle conditions, where only the background noise is played, and  
43 two blocks of startle conditions. Each block consisted of five trials. The testing ended with  
44 single trials of pulses played at 80dB, 90dB, 100dB, 110dB, followed by five more startle  
45 trials of 120dB. There were three different pre-pulse conditions, where a pulse of 4dB, 8dB,  
46 or 16dB white noise above the background sound was played 100msec preceding the  
47 120dB startle stimulus. The average startle response during the middle two blocks of startle  
48 trials was considered to be the animal's acoustic startle response(ASR). Each trial measured  
49 the startle of the animal for 65msec after the stimulus, and the average force in Newtons  
50 across this time was used as the startle response. The pre-pulse inhibition was calculated as

1 the difference of the average ASR and the startle response during the respective pre-pulse  
2 trial (PP) divided by the ASR of the startle trials multiplied by 100:  $((ASR - PP)/ASR)*100$ .

#### 4 **Contextual and Cued Fear Conditioning**

6 Contextual and cued fear conditioning were used to assess associative learning and  
7 memory. We followed a previously published method (81, 85). The test occurred over three  
8 days. A camera placed above the apparatus recorded the session. Freezing behavior during  
9 each minute was detected in .75s intervals using the FreezeFrame (Actimetrics, Evanston,  
10 IL) software. Freezing behavior was defined as no movement except for normal respiration,  
11 and is presented as percent time freezing per minute. During day one, animals were allowed  
12 to explore the Plexiglas chamber (26cm x 18cm x 18cm; Med Associates Inc.) with a metal  
13 grid floor and a peppermint scent that was inaccessible to the animals. A trial light in the  
14 chamber turned on for the duration of the five minute trial. During the first two minutes  
15 animals were habituated to the apparatus, and freezing during this time was considered the  
16 baseline. An 80db white noise tone was played for 20 seconds at 100 seconds, 160 seconds,  
17 and 220 seconds during the test. During the last two seconds of the tone (conditioned  
18 stimulus CS) a 1.0mA foot shock (unconditioned stimulus UCS) was delivered. The mice  
19 were returned to their home cage at the end of the five minute trial. On day two contextual  
20 fear memory was tested. The animals were placed into the same chamber with peppermint  
21 scent and the illuminated light and no tone or shock was delivered. Freezing behavior was  
22 measured over the eight minute task. The amount of time freezing in the first two minutes  
23 on day two was compared to the baseline freezing on day one to test the effects of the  
24 contextual cues associated with the UCS from day one. On day three the animals were  
25 placed in a new context, a chamber with black walls, and a partition that creates a triangle  
26 shaped area and an inaccessible coconut odor. During this 10 minute task, the trial light was  
27 on for the entire duration. The animals explored the apparatus for the first two minutes to  
28 determine baseline freezing and then the same 80dB (CS) tone from day one was played for  
29 eight minutes. The freezing behavior during this time tested the effects of the CS associated  
30 with the UCS shock from day one. Shock sensitivity was tested for each mouse three days  
31 after the cued fear test following the procedure previously described in (81). Mice were  
32 placed in the chamber with the wire grid floor and delivered a two second shock of 0.05mA.  
33 The mA of the shock was increased by 0.05mA up to 1.0mA. At each shock level the animal's  
34 behavior was observed and the current level at which the animal flinched, exhibited escape  
35 behavior, and vocalized was recorded. Once the animal had exhibited each of the behaviors  
36 the test ended. Shock sensitivity assessment served to confirm differences in conditioned  
37 fear freezing were not confounded by differences in reactivity to the shock current.

#### 39 **Resident intruder**

41 The resident-intruder paradigm, as described previously (86), was used as a direct  
42 social interaction test. Only males were used in this experiment. Male mice were  
43 individually housed in standard mouse cages for 10 days. Cages were not changed so the  
44 mice could establish a territory. The testing took place over three days in which the home  
45 cage of the experimental animal was placed in a sound-attenuating box in the dark with two  
46 infrared illuminators placed in the box. A clear Plexiglas covering with holes was placed  
47 over the cage to prevent animals from jumping out of the cage. A digital camera using the  
48 night vision setting recorded the task. On each day a WT C57BL/6J stimulus animal  
49 (intruder), age and sex matched was introduced into the experimental animal's (resident)  
50 home cage. The animals were allowed to interact for 10 minutes after which the stimulus

1 animal was removed from the cage. A stimulus animal was only used once per day. The  
2 testing was repeated for two more days, during which the experimental animals were  
3 paired with novel intruders.

4 The videos were tracked using Ethovision XT 13 software (Noldus Information  
5 Technology) using the social interaction module. This module allows for simultaneous  
6 tracking of two unmarked animals. The initial tracking was further corrected manually  
7 using the track editing tools, to ensure the head and the tail points were oriented correctly.  
8 All of the video tracks were smoothed first with the loess method and then with the minimal  
9 distance moved method. The variables of interest were the mean bout of time, frequency,  
10 and the cumulative duration of time that the experimental animal's nose was less than  
11 0.6cm from the stimulus animal's nose, interpreted as nose-to-nose sniffing, or when the  
12 experimental animal's nose was less than 0.45cm from the tail base of the stimulus animal,  
13 interpreted as anogenital sniffing. These distance thresholds were determined by an  
14 experimenter blind to genotype, examining the videos using the plot integrated view  
15 functionality to ensure that the events called by the software accurately defined the social  
16 behavior.

### 17 *Statistical Analysis*

18  
19  
20 All statistical tests were performed in R v3.4.2. Western blots and qPCR were  
21 analyzed using a one factor ANOVA and the post hoc Tukey all pairwise comparison test  
22 was used to determine differences between groups using the multcomp package (87).

23 For all behavior tests the data was assessed for univariate testing assumptions of  
24 normality and equal variances. Normality was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilkes test as  
25 well as manual inspection of qq plots. Equality of variances was tested using the Levene's  
26 test. Behaviors that violated these assumptions were analyzed using non parametric tests.  
27 Repeated measures were analyzed using linear mixed models with the animal as the  
28 random effect. Significance of fixed effects were tested using the Anova function from the  
29 Car (88) package in R. Post hoc testing was done using the Tukey HSD test from the  
30 multcomp package. Tukey HSD test 'within time point' was used for post hoc repeated  
31 measures comparisons, as appropriate. See Supplemental Tables 1 and 6 for descriptions of  
32 all statistical tests.

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41 intruder analysis.

### 42 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

43  
44 None of the authors have any conflict of interest that could bias the work presented here.  
45  
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49  
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15  
16 **Figure Legends**

17  
18 **Figure 1. Generation of double mutant *GTF2I*\* model.** **A** Schematic of the syntenic WSCR  
19 in mouse on chromosome 5. The two transcription factors being tested here are highlighted  
20 in grey and the genes that are deleted in the CD animals are highlighted in yellow. **B** Gene  
21 models of *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* showing the multiple isoforms of each gene. The WT sequences  
22 with the gRNA target underlined and the PAM highlighted in blue with the mutant  
23 sequences below along with the corresponding amino acid sequence. **C** Breeding scheme  
24 for the behavior tasks **D**. E13.5 whole brain *Gtf2i* western and qPCR of *Gtf2i*\* x CD. *Gtf2i*  
25 protein and transcript are similarly reduced in the *Gtf2i*\* and CD animals. **E** E13.5 whole  
26 brain *Gtf2ird1* western and qPCR of *Gtf2i*\* x CD. *Gtf2ird1* protein is slightly reduced in the  
27 *Gtf2i*\*/CD brain compared to WT. *Gtf2ird1* transcript is increased in the *Gtf2i*\* genotype,  
28 decreased in the CD genotype, and returns to WT levels in *Gtf2i*\*/CD genotype. \* p < 0.05, \*\*  
29 p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001

30  
31 **Figure 2. CD mice have deficits in ultrasonic vocalizations and decreased social**  
32 **investigation.** **A** Callrate across two days shows that on postnatal day 5 CD animals  
33 produce fewer ultrasonic vocalizations than either WT or *Gtf2i*\* littermates. **B** Schematic of  
34 the three-chamber social approach task. **C** All genotypes show preference for social stimulus  
35 in three-chamber social approach assay. **D** *Gtf2i*\* and CD animals show similar dominance  
36 behavior to WT animals in the tube test for social dominance. **E** Schematic of the resident  
37 intruder paradigm. **F** CD animals show decreased time engaged in anogenital sniffing in  
38 resident intruder task. **G** CD animals show decreased time engaged in nose-to-nose sniffing  
39 in resident intruder task. \* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001 Sample sizes are shown as  
40 numbers in parentheses

41  
42 **Figure 3. CD mice have motor deficits.** **A** CD mice fall off a ledge sooner than WT or *Gtf2i*\*  
43 mutants. **B** CD mice bury fewer marbles than either the WT or *Gtf2i*\* mutants. **C** CD mice  
44 travel less distance in the center during marble burying task **D** CD animals spend less time

1 in the center during marble burying task. **E** All genotypes travel similar distance in open  
2 field. **F** All genotypes spend similar time in the center during open field. \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p <$   
3  $0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$  Sample sizes are shown as numbers in parentheses

4  
5 **Figure 4. CD mice have more severe contextual fear phenotypes than double mutants.**

6 **A** The conditioned fear task design. Day one animals are delivered a tone and then a  
7 footshock throughout the five minute task. Day two the animals are put in the same context  
8 without a footshock to measure contextual fear memory. Day three animals are put in a new  
9 chamber and delivered the tone to measure cued fear memory **B** Percent time freezing  
10 during conditioned fear acquisition. CD mice have increased baseline freezing during  
11 minute one and *Gtf2i*\* mutants show decreased freezing during minute five **C** Percent time  
12 freezing during contextual fear memory recall. CD mice show elevated freezing during fear  
13 memory recall. **D** Percent time freezing during cued fear memory recall. All animals show  
14 increased freezing when the tone is played. \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$  Sample sizes  
15 are shown as numbers in parentheses

16  
17  
18 **Figure 5. CD mice have altered mRNA for synaptic genes in a hippocampus**

19 **transcriptome.** **A** CD animals show decreased expression of the WSCR that are expressed  
20 in the hippocampus. **B** volcano plot comparing CD and WT differentially expressed  
21 genes. WSCR genes are highlighted in yellow and genes with  $FDR < 0.1$  are highlighted in  
22 red. **C** Besides *Gtf2i* and *Gtf2ird1* there are no significantly differentially expressed genes **D**  
23 There is a 9% overlap between nominally significantly up and down regulated genes  
24 between CD and *Gtf2i*\* comparisons to WT controls. **E** CD differentially expressed genes are  
25 enriched for GO biological processes involved in synapses and nervous system  
26 development. **F** *Gtf2i*\* differentially expressed genes are enriched for GO biological  
27 processes involved in more general organ development.

28  
29 **Figure 6. Human atypical deletions support oligogenic contribution of genes in the**

30 **WSCR to phenotypes.** Schematic of the WSCR on chr7q11.23. The arrows indicate the  
31 regions of low copy repeats. The typical deletion is demarcated using the yellow box.  
32 Atypical deletions demarcated in blue show no contribution to the WSCP. Atypical deletions  
33 demarcated in green show contribution to the WSCP. Atypical deletions demarcated in  
34 purple provide evidence of deletions that spare *GTF2I* and *GTF2IRD1* that show  
35 contributions to across phenotypic domains including social behavior. Atypical deletions  
36 demarcated in red provide evidence that the telomeric region is sufficient to produce the  
37 full spectrum of phenotypes. The large amount of overlap of all deleted regions and the mild  
38 phenotypes present across the atypical deletions suggests an oligogenic pattern. SVAS  
39 (supravalvular aortic stenosis), WSCP (Williams syndrome cognitive profile) ID (intellectual  
40 disability) NT (Not tested), - absent, + present, +/- milder than typical WS.

1

2 **Tables**

3

4 **Table1: Behavior cohorts**

<b>cohort 1</b>		<b>male</b>			<b>female</b>		
<b>behavior</b>	<b>WT</b>	<b><i>Gtf2i</i>*</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>WT</b>	<b><i>Gtf2i</i>*</b>	<b>CD</b>	
pup USV P3 and P5	11	12	8	12	12	9	
sensorimotor battery	12	15	7	13	11	11	
elevated plus maze	12	13	7	12	12	10	
1 hour locomotor activity	12	14	8	13	12	10	
marble burying	12	14	8	13	12	10	
rotarod	12	14	8	13	12	10	
three-chamber social approach	10	12	6	10	8	10	
resident intruder	12	14	8	NA	NA	NA	

<b>cohort 2</b>		<b>male</b>			<b>female</b>		
<b>behavior</b>	<b>WT</b>	<b><i>Gtf2i</i>*</b>	<b>CD</b>	<b>WT</b>	<b><i>Gtf2i</i>*</b>	<b>CD</b>	
modified three-chamber social approach	10	3	9	11	14	12	
tube test of social dominance	11	3	9	11	14	12	
pre-pulse inhibition	10	3	9	11	14	12	
conditioned fear	9	3	8	10	14	12	
shock sensitivity	10	3	9	11	14	12	

5

6 **Abbreviations**

7

8 Williams syndrome (WS), Williams syndrome critical region (WSCR), *Gtf2i*\* (*Gtf2i*/*Gtf2ird1*-

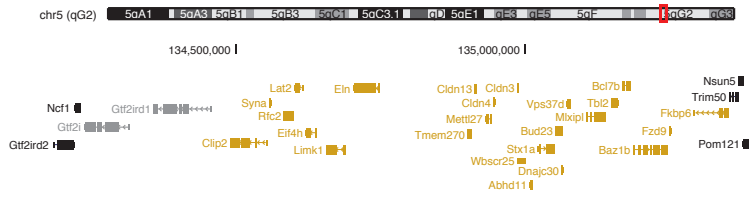
9 /\*), Complete deletion (CD), wild type (WT), pre-pulse inhibition (PPI), ultrasonic

10 vocalizations (USVs), conditioned stimulus (CS), unconditioned stimulus (UCS)

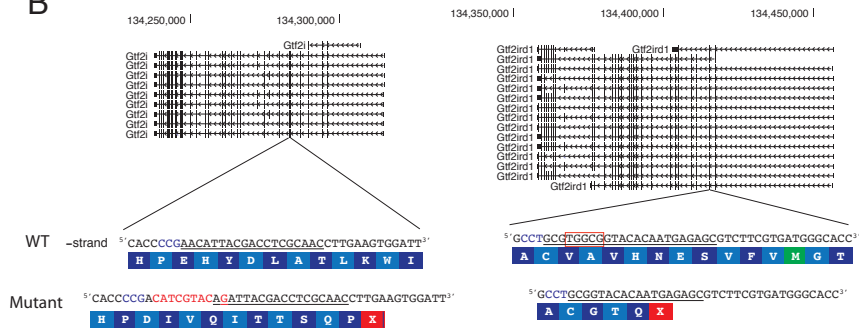
11



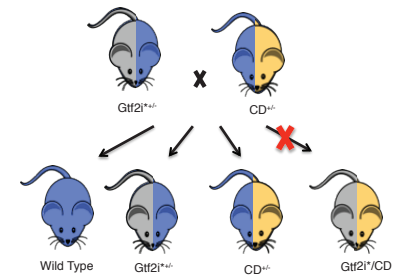
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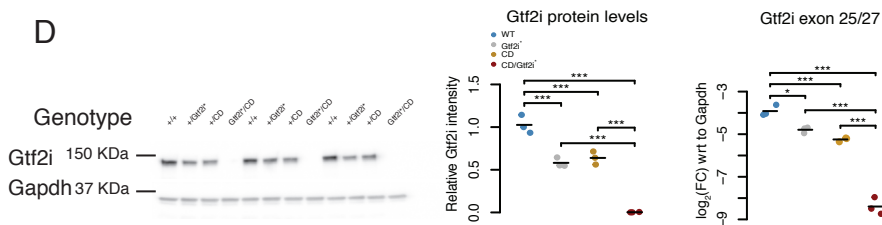
B



C



D



E

