# A neural system for encoding odor-reward associations which influences approach behaviors

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Running head: Valence and approach in olfaction

**Abstract**

Odors may elicit strong emotional and behavioral responses which are known to be strengthened through learning. Here we investigated how olfactory circuits transform odor information throughout their association with learned rewarded outcomes and also sought to link those neural systems with displays of reinforcement-based approach behaviors. First, we investigated the representation of odor-reward associations within two areas recipient of dense olfactory input using multi-site electrophysiological recordings and separately, fiber photometry from mice engaged in a reward-based olfactory learning task. As expected, neurons in both the posterior piriform cortex (pPCX) and olfactory tubercle (OT) represented the reward-associated valence of odors, yet both the proportion of neurons recruited by conditioned rewarded odors and the magnitudes of their recruitment were distinctly pronounced in the OT. The photometry results revealed that odor valence coding in the OT occurs among D1- but not D2-type medium spiny neurons, the principal neuron type in the OT. In both the recordings and imaging, statistically meaningful changes in activity occurred prior to instrumental behavior responses. Finally, using optogenetics we show that OT D1-MSNs influence reward-motivated approach behavior. Together our results contribute to a model whereby OT D1 MSNs support olfactory valence and ultimately hedonic-based behavioral responses.

**Key Words**

## Introduction

Upon learning, stimuli may acquire meaning, also known as valence, which is considered integral in guiding behavioral choice (Berridge and Aldridge, 2008; Chikazoe et al., 2014; Gottfried, 2009; Kumar et al., 2012; Pessoa and Adolphs, 2010; Veldhuizen et al., 2009). Learning to associate a stimulus with an outcome shapes our actions in profound manners – including impacting the choices of foods we eat and can lead to maladaptive outcomes such as those resulting from engaging in compulsive behaviors. This process enables stimuli to hold 'valence' (Lewin, 1935) which is of essence in the execution of behaviors which support satiation of basic needs (Lewin, 1935; Tolman, 1932). Despite holding fundamental importance for our day-to-day actions, the neural systems underlying the generation of valence within the brain are unresolved.

Neural signatures of valence can be observed in the form of flexible expressions of neural activity in response to stimuli throughout reward- or emotion-based associative learning (*e.g.,* (Berridge, 2019; Gore et al., 2015; Hickey and Peelen, 2015; Isosaka et al., 2015; Morrison and Salzman, 2009; Schoenbaum et al., 1998)). In mammals, this has been well established in the orbitofrontal cortex and basolateral amygdala, for instance, wherein neurons in these associative structures display differential firing following reinforcement learning for stimuli conditioned to predict a salient outcome (Roesch et al., 2007; Schoenbaum and Eichenbaum, 1995; Schoenbaum et al., 2003).

Behavioral displays linked to odor valence have been observed in all animals studied to date and involve a variety of brain systems (Knaden and Hansson, 2014; Li and Liberles, 2015). In the mammalian olfactory system, olfactory cortical structures, including both the piriform cortex (PCX) and olfactory tubercle (OT) encode the valence of odors. Specifically, work from several groups including ours (Gadziola et al., 2015; Gire et al., 2013; Roesch et al., 2007; Schoenbaum and Eichenbaum, 1995), have demonstrated that PCX and OT neurons are more greatly recruited by odors conditioned to predict rewards versus those which are unreinforced. These results have indicated that olfactory cortices encode learned odor valence by a combination of recruiting neurons into an ensemble and also divergent firing for rewarded odors.

The representation of odor valence by both PCX and OT neurons leads to the assumption that valence is a distributed, global property of the olfactory cortex. Indeed, that both PCX and OT neurons encode odor valence with divergent firing (Gadziola et al., 2015; Gire et al., 2013; Roesch et al., 2007; Schoenbaum and Eichenbaum, 1995) suggests a possible substrate wherein information within these systems is more-or-less equally relayed into downstream structures important for learning and memory (PCX; (Gottfried, 2010; Wilson and Sullivan, 2011)) or those integral for motivated and affective behaviors (OT; (Wesson and Wilson, 2011; Zhang et al.,

2017a)). However, this assumption is not warranted since presently no information exists
regarding whether either of these structures are more specialized in their capacity to encode odor
valence. As a specific void, no investigations of these structures simultaneously during valence
learning exist. Thus, an alternative system may be in place: that olfactory cortices differentially
represent odor valence in manners suggesting that one structure is specialized in valence
assignment functions. Determining whether valence is a global property distributed among the
PCX and OT is an important question in the overall goal of resolving the neural circuitry underlying
olfactory valence.

Based upon the representation of learned odor valence in the OT (Gadziola et al., 2015;
Murata et al., 2015), and the positioning of the OT within the ventral striatum (Heimer et al., 1982;
De Olmos and Heimer, 1999) wherein it receives dense innervation from dopaminergic neurons
in the ventral tegmental area (Ikemoto, 2007; Voorn et al., 1986), we predicted that the OT is a
central figure in assigning odors with valence. Infusion of psychoactive substances into the OT is
reinforcing, and rodents more robustly seek infusions into the OT than even into the nucleus
accumbens (Ikemoto, 2003) – highlighting the likely importance of OT dopamine in guiding
approach behavior, as also indicated by a recent optogenetic study (Zhang et al., 2017b). An
additional feature of the OT which supports this hypothesis is its cellular composition. The OT is
primarily composed of medium spiny neurons expressing either the D1- or D2-type dopamine
receptor (Murata et al., 2015). D1 MSNs in many striatal structures are activated by appetitive
stimuli and are often considered integral for promoting stimulus reward and approach, whereas
at least some reports indicate D2-type MSNs are less shaped by reinforcement (for reviews (Lobo
and Nestler, 2011; Soares-Cunha et al., 2016). Therefore, it is possible that previous reports of
neuromodulation driving reinforcement through the OT is due to direct actions upon OT D1-type
MSNs. Supporting this hypothesis, c-Fos expression is elevated in OT D1-type MSNs following
associative learning (Murata et al., 2015). Based upon the above, we predicted that OT D1-type
MSNs may underlie odor valence representations in the OT and separately, should therefore also
be capable of promoting reward-motivated approach behaviors, similar to that needed to subserve
engagement with odors.

Here we tested the above hypotheses through a combination of multi-site single-unit
recordings, cell type-specific fiber photometry, and cell type-specific optogenetic studies, all in
mice engaged in reward-motivated operant tasks. All together our results contribute to a model
whereby the OT, and specifically OT D1 MSNs support olfactory hedonics and ultimately hedonic-
based behavioral responses.

**Results**

*Compared to pPCX, neurons in the OT robustly encode valence.*

We began by examining whether valence is a global property distributed among the pPCX and OT. We simultaneously monitored OT and posterior PCX (pPCX) single-unit activity from 11 mice implanted with chronic electrode arrays (**Fig 1 & S1A**) while they engaged in a head-fixed odor discrimination task requiring them to lick a spout for a palatable reinforcer available at the offset of conditioned-rewarded but not unrewarded odors (**Fig 1B&C**). This head-fixed paradigm allows odor-guided behaviors while maintaining precision in odor-delivery (Verhagen et al., 2007). To optimize the data contributed from each animal, all mice were shaped to discriminate between 2-4 odor pairs (Methods). Further, by excluding trials wherein animals prematurely licked during the odor we can reduce influences of motor planning or execution on the neural analyses. Baseline and odor-evoked activity were measured for isolated single neurons. The baseline firing rates of OT (median rate: 3.1 Hz; range = 0 - 56.9 Hz) and pPCX neurons (median rate: 2.1 Hz; range = 0 - 35.6 Hz) were low across the sampled population (**Fig S1B**, measured 2s prior to odor onset). In both structures, odor-evoked firing was observed in response to the odors and occurred soon after odor onset (0.35 ± 0.31s [OT], 0.57 ± 0.48s [pPCX], **Fig 1D**).

After mice learned to discriminate between odor pairs (**Fig S1C**) we observed that the majority of OT neurons were significantly modulated in their firing during the task window (65%, 52/80 OT neurons 'task-responsive' within 7s of odor onset). This was comparable to the population of pPCX neurons modulated in the same time ($X^2$(*df*=1, *n*=87) = 3.32, *p*>0.05; 44%, 35/79 neurons). To characterize responses across these populations, we measured the temporal response profile of each neuron-odor pair during correct trials by quantifying changes in firing rate from baseline using a sliding receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis (Cohen et al., 2012; Gadziola et al., 2015; Veit and Nieder, 2013). Area under the ROC curve (auROC) values greater than 0.5 indicate increases (excitation) in firing rate compared to baseline, with values under 0.5 indicating decreases (suppression). This analysis revealed that 91% (189/208) of OT neuron-odor pairs and 78% (110/140) of pPCX neuron-odor pairs displayed significant stimulus-evoked activity during odor presentation, with significant changes in firing rate observed shortly (<500 ms) after odor onset. Of these responses, 71% of OT and 59% of pPCX neurons increased their firing rate relative to baseline, with the remaining neurons suppressing their firing rates relative to baseline.

Across the population of neurons from both regions, we observed that OT neurons displayed more divergent responses to the conditioned odors than pPCX neurons, with more

robust and longer-lasting responses to conditioned rewarded than unrewarded odors (**Fig 2**). To
test whether the populations of OT and pPCX neurons preferentially encode one conditioned odor
over the other, we averaged the auROC values computed across the first 500-ms following odor
onset. OT neurons preferentially responded to rewarded odor with higher firing than the
unrewarded odors (0.59 ± 0.02 vs 0.55 ± 0.01, respectively; paired $t$ test: $t_{(103)}$ = -6.05, $p$ <
0.0001), whereas pPCX neurons did not respond differentially to rewarded and unrewarded odors
across the population (0.53 ± 0.01 vs 0.53 ± 0.01, respectively; paired $t$ test: $t_{(69)}$ = -0.73, $p$ =
0.47). Furthermore, average auROC values in response to rewarded odors were greater for the
population of OT neurons when compared to pPCX neurons (0.59 ± 0.02 vs 0.53 ± 0.01,
respectively; two-sample $t$ test: $t_{(172)}$ = -3.49, $p$ < 0.001). There were no discernable differences in
the temporal response pattern of neurons that increased vs decreased firing rates, suggesting
that these neurons are similarly driven by conditioned odors (**Fig S2**). Next, we compared the
duration of significant auROC responses in the first 500ms after odor onset across the population
of neurons in both regions (including units with ≥ 1 significant bin). OT responses were
significantly longer in duration compared to pPCX responses (209 ± 97 vs 166 ± 91 ms,
respectively; two-sample $t$ test: $t_{(290)}$ = -3.64, $p$ < 0.001). In addition, OT response durations to
rewarded odors were longer than unrewarded odors (225 ± 94 vs 193 ± 98 ms, respectively;
paired $t$ test: $t_{(96)}$ = -12.01, $p$ < 0.0001), and longer than pPCX responses to rewarded odors (225
± 94 vs 167 ± 84 ms, respectively; two-sample $t$ test: $t_{(141)}$ = -3.51, $p$ < 0.0001). These results
support the conclusion that the representation of odor valence is not equally distributed among
the OT and pPCX – with the OT dominating in assigning valence.

*OT D1-type MSNs display divergent responses to conditioned rewarded odors.*

Which neurons are responsible for the pronounced display of valence in the OT? We
addressed this question by performing fiber photometry-based imaging (*e.g.,* (Gunaydin et al.,
2014; Kudo et al., 1992)) of GCaMP6f (Chen et al., 2013) from D1 and D2 MSNs in the OT – the
prominent cell populations in the OT. Mice expressing Cre-recombinase in either MSNs
expressing the D1 receptor (D1-Cre) or D2 receptor (D2-Cre) (Gong et al., 2003) were injected
with floxed GCaMP6f into their OT and later implanted with optical fibers (see Methods) before
being water deprived and shaped in the same lick/no-lick odor discrimination task used above.
During imaging (**Fig 3A & B**), the GCaMP6f emission spectrum was collected as a measure of
aggregate OT D1 or D2 neuron activity. Simultaneously, we also collected endogenous UV

emission spectrum as a control measure for movement artifacts. The resultant GCaMP6f signal

was subtracted from the UV signal for a single output, which is considered closely reflective of

aggregate neural activity.

We imaged 5 D1- and 5 D2-Cre mice with fiber implants and GCaMP6f expression both

confirmed in the OT (**Fig S3**) throughout learning and performance in the lick/no-lick odor

discrimination task. To enhance each animal's contributions for a more rigorous data set, we

shaped each mouse on several odor pairs over differing daily sessions, yet only one pair of odors

in a given session. This allowed each animal to contribute odor-modulated GCaMP6f signals to

2-3 rewarded and unrewarded odors (on different sessions) at or above criterion performance

(mean rewarded odor trials / session = 44.5 [24-75 min-max range]; mean unrewarded odor trials

/ session = 91.3 [52-133 min-max range]). Across all rewarded and unrewarded odors, we

observed modulations in both D1 and D2 MSN activity following odor onset. This was evident

both looking within individual mice at subsets of trials (**Fig 3C & D**), and averaged across mice

over several sessions (**Fig 3E & F**).  No discernable differences were observed in the time prior

to odor onset, or before 0.5s following odor onset between any stimulus type in either D1 or D2

mice (**Fig 3E & F**). Later during the odor period however (0.5-0.75s), across all D1 mice,

conditioned rewarded and unrewarded odors elicited differing amounts of activity ($p$<0.001; **Fig**

**3E**). Whereas D1 neurons were largely unmodulated by the conditioned unrewarded odor,

conditioned rewarded odors elicited large increases in activity during the odor. In contrast, no

differential representation of conditioned rewarded versus unrewarded odors was observed in D2

mice, with both conditioned stimuli eliciting similar increases in activity during odor ($p$=0.483; **Fig**

**3F**).

*The responses of OT D1-type MSNs are flexible and encode the associated outcomes of odors.*

Having imaged D1 and D2-type OT MSNs and observing that they differently encode odor-

reward associations, we were next able to ask whether this differential representation of

conditioned rewarded odors observed among the D1 neuron population is flexible. In other words,

does the representation of conditioned-rewarded odors flexibly follow as odors are associated to

predict new outcomes? To address this, in a separate behavioral session we used reversal

learning to reverse the odor-outcome contingencies so that a previously rewarded odor is no

longer rewarded and a previously unrewarded odor is now rewarded. Most mice were shaped

upon at least 2 odor-reversals (differing odor pairs, range 2-3). If a population of MSNs is 'identity'
encoding they should exhibit the same odor selectivity before and after reversal learning, whereas
a population encoding the associative valence of an odor (rewarded or not) should reverse its
odor preference (Gire et al., 2013; Roesch et al., 2007). Animals took several sessions to learn
the reversal to criterion in this task requiring them to withhold licking until odor offset, and
comparisons were made only from sessions following task acquisition, during blocks consisting
of criterion-level performance, and correct responses during each trial.

On average across animals, the evoked GCaMP6f signals in D1-Cre mice tracked the
behavioral contingencies – with the original rewarded odor and the newly rewarded odor eliciting
evoked responses with similar amplitudes ($p$=0.202; **Fig. 3G**). Likewise, the original unrewarded
odors elicited similar responses as the new unrewarded odors ($p$=0.177). In contrast, no effect of
reversal on either the rewarded ($p$=0.785) or unrewarded odors ($p$=0.522) were observed in the
D2-Cre mice (**Fig. 3H**). D2 neurons maintained somewhat positive responses for all odors,
regardless of valence, indicating that while these neurons are modulated by odor, they do not
represent odor valence. These data support our hypothesis that OT MSNs, specifically D1-type
MSNs, are responsible for the profound representation of odor valence in the OT.

*OT D1 MSNs drive robust approach behaviors.*

Having observed reward-associated odor valence coding in OT D1, but not D2 MSNs, we
next asked whether the activity of these neurons directly influences the occurrence of approach
behaviors. Indeed, the latency and robustness of D1-MSN encoding of conditioned rewarded
odors may serve as an effective way whereby to activate approach behaviors. To test this, D1-
Cre mice injected with a floxed AAV encoding channelrhodopsin (ChR2) [n = 7] (or floxed AAV
encoding a reporter fluorophore [n = 5]) into their ventral striatum were later implanted with an
unilateral optical fiber into their OT (**Fig 4A and S4**). Mice were shaped in an optical intra-cranial
self-stimulation task, adapted from (Carlezon and Chartoff, 2007; Ilango et al., 2014; Vicente et
al., 2016), allowing for assaying of stimulation-seeking goal-directed behaviors (**Fig 4B**). Shaping
in this instrumental task occurred over several phases (See Methods). In the first phase, mice
could poke their snout into either of two ports in exchange for blue light stimulation into their OT
(25Hz, for 2s). All but one of the D1-Cre mice injected with AAV.ChR2 reached a level of criterion
performance (40 pokes into either port during a 1 hr session)(**Fig 4C**), indicating that they readily

learned to poke in exchange for blue light stimulation. No control AAV injected mice reached

criterion performance (**Fig 4C**). The mice reaching criterion on Phase 1 then progressed onto

Phase 2 wherein only one of the two ports delivered light. The port receiving the greater number

of pokes during Phase 1 was selected as the 'active' port for Phase 2. The vast majority of

AAV.ChR2 mice (5/6) reached criterion on Phase 2, with some poking over 500 times in the single

hour of testing (**Fig 4Di & ii**). To ensure that these mice were indeed seeking light stimulation, on

the subsequent Phase 3, the location of the active port was reversed and despite this, all the mice

who reached criterion on Phase 2 redirected their responding for the new active port. Compared

to the first session of reversal phase testing, there were significant more pokes for the active port

during both the last session of phase 2 testing ($p$=0.0002), as well as during the last session of

reversal ($p$=0.0004). These results indicate that OT D1-MSNs support behavioral approach,

specifically by signaling reinforcement.

**Discussion**

The olfactory system holds a remarkable capacity for experience-based plasticity and informing

a wide-range of critical behaviors. Here we build off of previous studies which have uncovered

odor-reward association based plasticity among neurons in both the PCX and OT (in separate

studies; (Calu et al., 2007; Gadziola et al., 2015; Gire et al., 2013)) to interrogate the respective

roles of each of these structures in the representation of odor valence by means of simultaneous

single-unit recordings. After identifying robust odor valence coding among neurons in the OT

significantly more-so than those in the PCX, we employed fiber photometry in D1-Cre and D2-Cre

mice to uncover evidence indicating that OT D1-, but not D2-type neurons encode odor valence.

Finally, we linked the activity of OT D1 neurons to the display of reward-driven behaviors,

specifically nose-poke based approach behaviors.

This work adds to a growing body of literature seeking to understand the brain systems

governing the generation of stimulus hedonics and preferences (for review (Berridge and

Kringelbach, 2015)). Attraction to odors is well established and may employ innate (unlearned) or

acquired (learned) mechanisms. Since the olfactory bulb is the starting-point for odor perception,

it is not surprising that the olfactory bulb holds importance for both innate and learned odor

hedonics (*e.g.,* (Doucette et al., 2011; Kermen et al., 2016; Kobayakawa et al., 2007; Wilson et

al., 1987). Indeed, recent work uncovered evidence that a specific zone within the main olfactory

bulb is necessary for generating odor hedonics (Kermen et al., 2016). The hedonic information of

odors in the OB next may be distributed into the OT and PCX. Both PCX and OT neurons may

be recruited to encode odor valence and do so with divergent firing to conditioned rewarded

versus unrewarded odors (Gadziola et al., 2015; Gire et al., 2013; Roesch et al., 2007;

Schoenbaum and Eichenbaum, 1995). A key prediction in this work was that OT units would more

greatly represent odor valence than those in the PCX. That said, it is quite surprising the

magnitude at which we found this occurs. OT units far surpassed the size of the population of

pPCX units encoding valence and also surpassed pPCX units in their magnitude of firing for

conditioned rewarded odors.  Thus, through simultaneous recordings in behaving mice, this work

uncovers that systems downstream from the OB are specialized in their representation of odor

valence. This outcome is consistent with our hypothesis and also that of other groups (Kermen et

al., 2016).

Specific cell populations in several brain regions have been linked to stimulus valence or

to approach responses (Betley et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2019; Li and Liberles, 2015; Li et al., 2019;

Miller et al., 2019; Soares-Cunha et al., 2016). This work adds D1-MSNs in an underappreciated

ventral striatum structure, the OT, to this list and suggests a model wherein OT D1-MSNs may

influence downstream systems which also shape approach like the amygdala or hypothalamic

nuclei. This would be potentially powerful in cases wherein odors associated with positive

outcomes, which as we show here are represented in OT D1-MSNs, could influence downstream

limbic systems to strengthen approach responding through their coordinated output. All together

these results support a role for OT D1 neurons, not unlike D1 neurons in the nucleus accumbens

(Lobo and Nestler, 2011), in behaviors integral for valence -- reinforcement and stimulus-seeking.

It is tempting to speculate on the circuitry downstream of OT D1 MSNs which may translate

valence encoding or the approach behavior phenomenon we uncovered into behavior. This is a

highly relevant issue, especially given the broad connectivity of OT D1 MSNs through the brain's

affective and sensory centers (Zhang et al., 2017a).

Taken together, our results contribute to a model whereby the OT is a specialized center

for encoding odor valence. This along with the finding that OT D1-type MSNs encode olfactory

valence and robustly motivate reinforcement-seeking in nose-poke based task which emulates

snout-directed investigation behaviors like those used by rodents to sample odors, leads us to

predict that OT D1-type MSNs are a fundamental component of brain systems needed to inform

and respond to the hedonics of odors.

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**Figure Legends**

**Figure 1. Paradigm for investigating the distribution of odor valence encoding among olfactory cortices. A)** Recording schematic indicating simultaneous monitoring of OT and pPCX activity with multi-channel arrays in mice (8 wires/region). pPCX and OT activity were recorded on opposite hemispheres within mice. **B)** Schematic of head-fixed behavioral set-up and **C)** experimental trial outline. Water-deprived mice implanted with chronic multi-site arrays into their OT and pPCX (as in A) and a head-bar were acclimated to head restraint and shaped in a lick/no-lick odor discrimination task wherein following a variable inter-trial interval (ITI) one odor signaled the availability of a small palatable fluid reward from a reward spout following odor offset (during the 'lick reward available' epoch). Alternative (unreinforced) odors were conditioned to not signal reward availability. OT and pPCX unit activity was acquired throughout performance in the task. **D)** Example OT and pPCX unit activity indicating odor valence encoding by neurons in both structures. Multiunit activity (MUA) was spike sorted off-line to identify single-unit activity (SUA) using template matching and cluster cutting with principal component analyses. Vertical lines on the lick trace indicate timing of individual licks (detected with an infrared photo-beam in front of the lick spout). Vertical scale bar applies to both OT and pPCX MUA channels. Data are from two consecutive trials.

**Figure 2. OT neurons display greater divergent responses to conditioned odors than pPCX. A)** Time course of odor-evoked changes in firing rate relative to baseline as indicated by auROC in response to unrewarded and rewarded odors in the pPCX (left; n=70 neurons) and OT (right; n=104 neurons). Each row represents one single responsive neuron, and neurons are sorted by baseline rates during rewarded odor trials (top row = lowest rate). **B)** Population average auROC values for all responsive neurons in response to rewarded and unrewarded odors compared against a shuffled control distribution. Both regions show an increase in auROC values >0.5 shortly after odor onset, indicating increases in firing relative to baseline. Across the population, OT neurons displayed more divergent responses to conditioned odors than pPCX neurons, with the rewarded odor eliciting larger and more persistent changes to firing rate relative to the unrewarded odor. Population values represent the mean ± SEM.

**Figure 3. D1-type medium spiny neurons underlie odor valence coding in the OT. A)** Example localization of an optical fiber implant into a mouse injected with GCaMP6f (green). The optical fiber was positioned to terminate immediately dorsal to the OT. **B)** Schematic of the fiber photometry system for use in head-fixed behaving mice. 465nm and 405nm LEDs excitation

wavelengths passed through dichroic mirrors prior to being sent into the implanted optical fiber
via a patch cable. GCaMP6f and UF emission were then both amplified by femtowatt
photoreceivers prior to being digitized simultaneously with behavioral data and stimulus
presentation events. Please see Fig 1 for a description of the head-fixed paradigm. Example
GCaMP6f responses to the original rewarded and unrewarded odors in a single D1-Cre **(C)** and
D2-Cre mouse **(D)** averaged over 10 trials of correct behavioral responses during blocks of
criterion behavioral performance. These example averaged traces indicate divergent responses
to the original rewarded odor vs the original unrewarded odor in D1-Cre but not D2-Cre mice,
which is maintained at the population level when averaging across 5 mice, throughout 2-3
sessions during criterion behavioral performance (**E & F**). The encoding of odor valence in D1-
Cre mice (as in **E**) was confirmed in experiments wherein the odor-reward contingencies were
reversed (original rewarded = no unrewarded, and vice versa) (**G & H**). Insets in **G & H** display
the mean delta f/f during 0.5-0.75sec of odor in for all four stimulus types. ***=$p$<0.001. ns = not
significant ($p$>0.05). no significance was found in any planned comparison in the D2-Cre mice
(**H**).

**Figure 4**. **D1-type OT medium spiny neurons promote reinforcement and approach**
**behaviors. (A)** Example expression of channelrhodopsin2 (ChR2) in OT D1-type MSNs. **(B)**
Optogenetic intracranial self-stimulation (opto-ICSS) task schematic wherein mice were required
to nose poke in exchange for blue-light mediated optogenetic excitation of OT D1-MSNs. At least
2 weeks following injection with either a floxed AAV encoding ChR2 and a reporter fluorophore
(AAV.ChR2) or a floxed AAV solely encoding a reporter fluorophore (AAV), mice were shaped on
the opto-ICSS task. Please see text for a description of the four task phases. **(C)** Pie chart
indicating that all but one AAV.ChR2 mouse reached criterion performance on phase 1 of the
task. **(Di)** Performance of two example mice during phases 2-4 of the opto-ICSS task. The mice
displayed diversity in their number of pokes into the active port, and in their % of pokes displayed
for the active (blue-light emitting) versus inactive ports. Both of these mice reached criterion on
phase 2 and phase 3 wherein they had to learn to redirect their poking for a new active port
location (reversal learning). Shown also is the behavior of these two mice during extinction,
wherein the port lights were on (viz., both ports were visually 'active') but no optogenetic
stimulation was available regardless of poking. **(Dii)** A win-loss plot for mouse 127 from session
2-5. **(E)** Quantification of opto-ICSS data indicating that ChR2 mediated stimulation of OT D1-
MSNs promotes reinforcement and approach behaviors.  The first phase of reversal learning

resulted in a significant reduction in % pokes for the new active port, which with experience was
restored on the last session of the reversal phase.

**Supplementary Figure Legends**

**Supplementary Figure 1. A)** Histological verification of pPCX and OT recording sites. **B)**
Background firing rate distribution of all pPCX and OT single-units used for analysis. **C)** Summary
of learning and performance in the lick/no-lick odor discrimination task for mice contributing single-
unit data. Red dashed horizontal line = criterion behavioral performance level.

**Supplementary Figure 2.** Time course of odor-evoked changes in firing rate separated by
response type. Population average auROC values for all responsive neurons in PCX and OT
(same neurons as in Fig. 2), separated by whether the response was excited or suppressed
relative to baseline. Population values represent the mean ± SEM.

**Supplementary Figure 3. A)** Histological verification of optical fiber implants from all mice
contributing fiber photometry data. Summary of learning and performance in the lick/no-lick odor
discrimination task for D1-Cre **(B)** and D2-Cre mice **(C)** contributing fiber photometry data. Red
dashed horizontal line = criterion behavioral performance level.

**Supplementary Figure 4. A)** Histological verification of optical fiber implants from mice
contributing optical-intracranial self-stimulation data (opto-ICSS).

**Methods**

*Animals.* Eleven 2-4 months of age male C57bl/6 mice originating from Harlan Laboratories (Indianapolis, IN) were used for single-unit recordings. For fiber photometry, we utilized male bacterial artificial chromosome transgenic mice expressing Cre-recombinase under control of the *drd1a* (D1-Cre; *n* = 7; obtained from the UC Davis Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center, strain EY262Gsat/Mmucd) or *drd2* gene (D2-Cre; *n* = 7; obtained from the UC Davis Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center, strain ER44Gsat)(Gong et al., 2003). Genotyping was performed following standard protocols using tail tissue DNA. Mice were housed on a 12:12 h light-dark cycle with food and water available *ad libitum*, except when water was restricted for behavioral training (see below). Up to 5 mice were co-housed in a cage before experimentation, but all post-surgical animals were housed individually. All experimental procedures were conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health and were approved by the Case Western Reserve University and University of Florida Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees.

*Methods for multi-site single-unit recordings during lick/no-lick odor discriminations.*
Surgical procedures were conducted as described previously (Gadziola et al., 2015; Gadziola & Wesson, 2016). Briefly, mice were anesthetized with Isoflurane (2-4% in oxygen, Abbott Laboratories, Green Oaks, IL), and mounted in a stereotaxic frame with a water-filled heating pad (38°C) beneath to maintain body temperature. An injection of a local anesthetic (0.05% marcaine, 0.1 ml s.c.) was administered before exposing the dorsal skull. A craniotomy was made to access the OT and pPCX, each contralateral from another (see **Fig S1A** for distribution). An 8-channel micro-wire electrode array (PFA-insulated tungsten wire, with four electrode wires encased together in a 254 µm diameter polyimide tube (Gadziola et al., 2015)) was implanted within the OT (4.9 mm ventral) and posterior PCX (4.2 mm ventral) (**Fig 1A and S1A**), and cemented in place, along with a headbar for later head fixation. The hemisphere receiving an array into each structure was not held constant across animals but instead varied (**Fig S1A**). Additional craniotomies were drilled over a single neocortex for placement of a stainless steel ground wire. During a three-day recovery period, animals received a daily injection of carprofen (5 mg/kg, s.c., Pfizer Animal Health, New York, NY) or meloxicam (5mg/kg; Putney, Inc., Portland, ME) and *ad libitum* access to food and water. Animals were allowed 5-7 days for post-op recovery before beginning water restriction.

*Olfactory lick/no-lick odor discrimination and reversal learning behavioral task.* Mice were mildly

water-restricted for three days prior to behavioral training. Bodyweight was monitored daily and

maintained at 85% of their original weight. Mice were trained in cohorts of three to four. All

behavioral procedures were performed during the light hours, in a dim room. Head-fixed mice

were trained in a lick/no-lick odor discrimination task (**Fig 1C**) across multiple 1 hour recording

sessions in which the mice obtained a fluid reward for licking a spout positioned in front of their

snouts in trials with reinforced odors (Gadziola et al., 2015), adapted from (Verhagen et al., 2007).

Licking was measured by a pair of infrared photo-beams positioned to cross in front of the lick

spout by ~2 mm. Mice were first trained to lick the water spout for reward, with a progressively

increasing inter-trial interval (ITI) (3 ± 1 s, Phase 1). In Phase 2, odor presentation began with a

10 ± 2 s ITI, and mice were only rewarded for licking during a 2 s period after odor offset (FR1).

Licking during the odor was discouraged by moving the lick spout further away from the snout. In

Phase 3, trials were randomized between rewarded and unrewarded trials (17 ± 2 sec ITI); for

unrewarded odor trials, mice were presented with a "blank" stimulus (mineral oil) and had to learn

to withhold licking during these trials. Finally, in Phase 4, trials (17 ± 2 s ITI) were randomized

between the rewarded and unrewarded odors. In go trials, mice would receive a reward for licking

a spout within 2sec following the offset of the rewarded odor (hit); not licking would be considered

a miss. In no-go trials, mice were presented with an unreinforced odor and did not receive a water

reward regardless of whether they licked (false alarm) or correctly withheld licking for the total

odor duration of the trial (correct reject). Next, mice continued on Phase 5 to learn a novel odor

pair. Phase 5 consisted of pseudo-random trials (17 ± 2 s ITI) among which all four odors were

separately presented, with the two reinforced odors both resulting in a low-value reward. Finally,

in Phase 6, the four odors were presented (17 ± 2 s ITI), with one rewarded odor being assign to

the high value saccharine and the other to the low value saccharine. Mice discriminated among

the four odors, two of which predicted presentation of reward (either low or high value saccharine),

and two unrewarded odors. These sessions include the original training odor set, as well as novel

odors presented on a different experimental day (each mouse was shaped on 2 novel sets of four

odors on different sessions). No major effects were observed between high versus low value

rewarded odor evoked responses nor behavior and therefore herein any odors paired with

reinforcers are classified as conditioned rewarded odors, whereas those not paired are termed

conditioned unrewarded odors. Throughout all phases, behavioral performance was evaluated in

blocks of 20 trials, and mice were required to achieve a performance criterion ≥80% correct for

two consecutive blocks in order to advance to the next phase. Neural activity was recorded

throughout all training phases, but analysis of odor-evoked activity was restricted to post-training
sessions.

*Stimulus Delivery.* Odors were presented through a custom air-dilution olfactometer with
independent stimulus lines up to the point of entry into the odor port. In addition to a blank stimulus
(mineral oil), odors included ethyl butyrate, 1,7-octadiene,  isopentyl acetate, heptanal, 2-
heptanone, (+)-limonene, ethyl propionate, (-)-limonene, methanol, methyl valerate, 2-butanone,
1,4-cineole, butanal, propyl acetate, allylbenzene, allyl bromide, isobutyl propionate, and 2-
methylbutyraldehyde (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis, MO; all >97% purity). These molecularly diverse
odors were diluted in their liquid state to 1 Torr (133.32 Pa) in mineral oil and were then further
diluted to 10% (vol/vol) by mixing 100 ml odor vaporized $N_2$ with 900 ml medical grade $N_2$ (Airgas,
Radnor, PA). Thus, stimuli were delivered at a total flow rate of 1 L/min. Not all animals were
tested with all odors. The rewarded and unrewarded odor pairs were pseudo-randomly assigned
to each cohort prior to training (neurons were not initially screened for odor responsiveness). The
experimenter was not blind to odor assignment, but all stimulus presentation was automated.
Presentation of rewarded and unrewarded odors were pseudo-randomized within each block,
delivered for 2 s duration with a 17 ± 2 s ITI through a Teflon odor-port (9 mm diameter opening)
directed towards the animal's snout at a distance of 1 cm. Odor was continuously flowing to the
odor-port but was removed by a vacuum before exiting towards the animal. Recordings with a
photoionization detector (miniPID, Aurora Scientific, Ontario, Canada) were used to confirm the
temporal dynamics of the odor presentation in this design. While the dynamics may vary slightly
across odors, they confirm the precision and stability of the odor presentation methods used in
this study.

*Reward Delivery.* Reward fluids were delivered through a custom 3D-printed polylactic acid lick
spout, as reported previously (Gadziola and Wesson, 2016). Independent stimulus lines
terminated onto 20G blunted needles that passed through one of seven 1-mm holes and extended
to the tip of the spout. In the current task, two adjacent holes on the lick spout were used for
reward delivery, three were connected to a vacuum line, and the last two unused holes were
blocked. Animals were reinforced with a 4µL drop of 2-20mM saccharin (Sigma Aldrich, St. Louis,
MO; dissolved in water). Reward volumes were calibrated for the individual reward valves.

*In vivo Electrophysiology.* The outputs of the electrode arrays were amplified, digitized at 24.4
kHz, filtered (bandpass 300-5000 Hz), and monitored (Tucker-Davis Technologies, Alachua, FL),

along with licking (300 Hz sampling rate), and odor and reward presentation events. One
electrode wire was selected to serve as a local reference for each headstage. Our electrode
arrays were fixed in place and no attempt was made to record from unique populations of neurons
on different sessions. To compensate for the possibility that the same neurons were recorded
across multiple days, two different behavioral tasks were employed and statistical comparisons
are only made within each task type. Sessions of the same task and odor pair were run for 1-3
consecutive days to achieve adequate behavioral performance and/or capture the dynamics of
newly identified neurons. On average, 3.5 ± 1.9 single neurons were identified per mouse per
session (range: 1-7 neurons), with an average of 1.4 ± 0.6 neurons recorded per viable electrode
wire per mouse per session (range: 1-3 neurons). Numbers were comparable when separated by
region (± 0.1 single units / region difference).

*Analysis of odor-evoked electrophysiology data.* Single neurons were sorted offline in Spike2
(Cambridge Electronic Design, Cambridge, England), using a combination of template matching
and cluster cutting based on principle component analysis. Single neurons were further defined
as having <2% of the spikes occurring within a refractory period of 2 ms. Spike times associated
with each trial were extracted and exported to MATLAB (Mathworks, Natick, MA) for further
analysis. To examine modulations in firing rate within a single trial, spike density functions were
calculated by convolving spike trains with a function resembling a postsynaptic potential
(Thompson et al., 1996). Mean firing rates across trials were measured in 50 ms bins, along with
the 95% confidence interval. Mean baseline firing rate for each neuron was averaged across a 2
s period prior to odor onset.
Animals were typically presented with at least 40 trials of each rewarded and unrewarded
odor set per session. To ensure that animals were engaged in the task, only blocks possessing
high behavioral performance were analyzed. On some trials, mice may have been licking during
odor presentation. Any trials in which the animal licked during the first 1.5s period after odor onset
were removed. This ensured that any odor-evoked activity observed during the first several
hundred ms was not due to licking-related activity. Of the 11 animals with bilateral implants, 10
were confirmed to reside within the OT and 8 within the PCX. One of the 10 OT-confirmed animals
did not contribute data since they did not yield well-isolated neurons. From all mice contributing
data, 7 yielded simultaneous OT and PCX single-units.

*ROC Analysis.* The area under the receiver operating characteristic (auROC) is a nonparametric

measure of the discriminability of two distributions (Green and Swets, 1966). To normalize activity

across neurons, we used an auROC method that quantifies stimulus-related changes in firing rate

to the baseline activity on a 0-1 scale (for more details see (Cohen et al., 2012)). A value of 0.5

indicates completely overlapping distributions, whereas values of 0 or 1 signal perfect

discriminability. We calculated the auROC at each 50-ms time bin over a 4 s period centered on

stimulus onset for each neuron. Values greater than 0.5 indicate the probability that firing rates

were increased relative to the pre-stimulus background (excitation), whereas values less than 0.5

indicate the probability that firing rates were decreased relative to the pre-stimulus background

(inhibition). Similar trial numbers have been used for calculating auROC (Veit and Nieder, 2013;

Gadziola et al., 2015, Gadziola & Wesson, 2016). To obtain mean auROC values, the auROC

values of individual neurons were averaged at each time bin. In some cases mean auROC values

were computed separately for all excitatory and inhibitory neurons.

*Methods for fiber photometric-based imaging of D1- and D2-type OT MSNs during lick/no-lick*

*odor discrimination and reversal learning.*

*Virus injection and optical fiber Implantation.* To achieve cell-type specific GCaMP6f (Chen et al.,

2013) expression, D1- and D2-Cre mice were injected with AAV5-EF1a-DIO-GCaMP6f-WPRE

($5.43^{e13}$ GC/ml, obtained from the Penn Vector Core in the Gene Therapy Program of the Univ of

Pennsylvania). Stereotaxic surgery was performed as described above with exceptions as noted

below. 1μl of virus was infused into the OT at a rate of 0.1nl/sec and allowed to diffuse for 10mins

before needle was slowly withdrawn over the subsequent 20mins. This injection paradigm was

not intended to infect solely OT neurons, but to yield a bolus of infected cells which could be later

targeted selectively for imaging by careful localization of the optical fiber. Following, the

craniotomy was sealed with wax and the wound margin closed. Animals were allowed 2 weeks

for the virus to transduce and then a 400μm core, 0.48NA optical fiber, threaded through metal

ferrules were chronically implanted to terminate within the OT. Implants were cemented in place

along with a headbar for later head fixation. As with the single-unit recordings, animals were

allowed 5-7 days for post-op recovery before beginning water restriction. D1- and D2-Cre mice

were tested in mixed cohorts.

*Imaging.* 465nm (GCaMP excitation wavelength, driven at 210 Hz) and 405nm (UV excitation

wavelength, driven at 330Hz; control channel) light emitting diodes were coupled to a 5 port

fluorescence mini cube (FMC5, Doric Lenses) using 400µm core, 0.48NA, 2.5mm FCM optical

fiber patchcords. Excitation and emission light were directed through a single optical fiber

patchcord connected to the animal via a 2.5mm metal ferrule. Emission light was directed through

the 5-port mini cube, and subsequently coupled to a pair of femtowatt photoreceivers (model

2151, Newport) for monitoring of the GFP and UV fluorescence. Photometry data were digitized

and pulse demodulated at 1kHz, along with the timing of behavioral events (licking) and odor and

reward delivery using a Tucker Davis Technologies digital processor (TDT).

*Lick/no-lick odor discrimination and reversal learning during photometry.* The methods for

operant olfactory behavior employed for fiber photometry were mostly identical to those used

for the single-unit recordings (see above) with two exceptions. First, during the fiber photometry

imaging, mice were only asked to discriminate between two odors in any given session (one

conditioned rewarded and one conditioned unrewarded). Second, mice were shaped in a

reversal learning paradigm wherein following reaching successful criterion performance in the

original odor discrimination, the contingencies were reversed so that the original rewarded odor

no longer signals reinforcement availability (now the 'new unrewarded odor') and the original

unrewarded odor now signals reward availability (now the 'new rewarded odor').

Processing and analysis of photometry data

Off-line, the UV signal was subtracted from that of the GFP, filtered (2nd order, 25Hz low-

pass), smoothed, and down sampled to 200Hz using a custom script written in Spike2 (Cambridge

Electronic Design, Inc). Photometry recordings were normalized across trials off-line, using the

mean signal across 3 sec before odor delivery as a trial specific baseline for the $\Delta F/F$ values. Of

the 7 D1-Cre animals with bilateral implants, 1 was confirmed to have poor/weak viral expression

and one have a fiber tip residing outside of the OT. Of the 7 D2-Cre mice, 2 were confirmed to

have fiber tips residing outside of the OT. Thus, in total, 5 mice per genotype, which had 1)

criterion-level behavioral performance, 2) on target OT fiber tips, and 3) quality viral expression

contributed data.

*Methods for optogenetic stimulation of OT D1 MSNs and intra-cranial self-stimulation.*

The surgical methods to allow for expression of ChR2 in OT D1-MSNs are similar to those used

for GCaMP6f as described above. Two surgical procedures were performed on each mouse. First,

mice were intracranially injected with one of two floxed AAV vectors to allow for expression of

AAV5.EF1a.DIO.hChR2(H134R).eYFP or mCherry (to yield optogenetic stimulation) or

AAV5.EF1a.DIO.eYFP or mCherry (as control). AAVs were obtained from the University of North

Carolina viral vector core. Second, mice were intracranially implanted with a unilateral optic fiber

(300um, 0.39NA) into their OT which was attached to a ferrule to allow light transmittance into the

brain. AAV injections and ferrule implants occurred in the left hemisphere or right hemisphere to

prevent biasing results towards effects which may be lateralized. Using a light meter (Thorlabs,

Inc., Newton, New Jersey), all fiber optic implants were verified prior to implantation to deliver 6.5-

7.5mW[3] of light energy when using the same LED and LED driver as used during Opto-ICSS

testing (see below).

*Opto-ICSS apparatus and light stimulation*

We used a dual nose-poke port apparatus wherein poke into each port is monitored by 880nm

infrared photobeams and digitized for later analysis. The floor and three walls of the apparatus

were made of black acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) plastic (30cm tall walls), consisting of a

15 x 15cm square floor and a guillotine style ABS door to allow gentle insertion and removal of

the mouse from the testing apparatus. One wall of the apparatus was constructed of clear acrylic

to allow visual monitoring of the mouse by an experimenter when needed. The ceiling was 'open'

to allow for tethering of the animal to an optical rotary joint (Doric Lenses, Inc., Quebec, Canada)

which was suspended above the apparatus. The nose-poke ports were 3D-printed out of

polylactic acid plastic and were T-shaped with a 2cm opening which faced into the behavioral

apparatus to allow nose-entry and monitoring of infrared beam breaks. Photobeam status (open

or closed) was acquired continuously and relayed to a PC for data collection using an Arduino

microcontroller board running custom code written in the Arduino open source language (Arduino,

https://www.arduino.cc). Immediately next to each port was a 3mm white LED, also controlled by

the Arduino, which could signal to the mouse active port status (on = active and optical stimulation

available, off = inactive and no available optical stimulation).

Optogenetic stimulation (25Hz train, 15ms pulse width, 2 sec duration [for opto-ICSS the 2

sec stimulation occurred regardless of the nose-poke duration]) was accomplished by means of

a 447.5nm LED (Luxeon Rebel ES, Luxeon Stars, Lethbridge, Alberta) driven by a Thorlabs T-

Cube LED driver (Thorlabs) and controlled by the digital output of an Arduino microcontroller. This

stimulation paradigm was selected following the results of physiological and behavioral pilot

studies. An SMA adapter was adhered atop of the LED using optical epoxy to allow for butt
coupling of an SMA terminated multimode fiber to the LED. The fiber used to connect the LED to
the optic rotary joint as well as the fiber used to connect the rotary joint to the mouse were both
300μm core multimode fibers with a 0.39NA (same as the fiber used for the optical implants),
encased in 2mm furcation tubing.

*Opto-ICSS shaping and testing*

All behavioral procedures were performed during the light hours, in a dim room. At the start of all
sessions, the mice were first gently connected to the fiber optic tether. The mice were then placed
into the apparatus and the door closed. The stages of shaping and testing in the opto-ICSS task
are illustrated in **Figure 4** and occurred on separate daily 60min sessions. In phase 1, both ports
were active (both active port LEDs were on) and nose-poke into either port triggered blue light
stimulation. After performing ≥ 40 pokes into either or both ports in a given session, for at least
two consecutive sessions, mice were then transitioned into phase 2 of the task. In phase 2, the
port wherein the mouse displayed the greatest number of pokes on subsequent days, was set to
be active (port LED on, blue light stimulation available) and the alternative port was inactive (port
LED off, blue light stimulation unavailable). Only nose poke into the active port triggered light
stimulation. After mice reached criterion performance in phase 2 (≥40 pokes, with ≥80% into the
active port), they were switched to phase 3 wherein the active and inactive ports were reversed
so that the previously inactive port is now the only port which would trigger light stimulation. Phase
3 is thus a test of reversal learning and ensures that the animal's tendency to poke is indeed
motivated by light-mediated ChR2 stimulation. Those mice which reached criterion performance
on phase 3 (see above), were advanced onto phase 4. In all of the previous phases stimulation
was available on an FR1 (fixed ratio of 1) schedule. In phase 4, both ports were rendered inactive
(both port LEDs were off, blue light off) in a test of extinction. Transitions between phases
occurred on subsequent daily testing sessions. Mice which did not reach criterion performance
on a given phase by the end of the 6th session of that phase were eliminated from further testing.

*Histology*

Following the end of experiments, mice were overdosed with Fatal-plus (0.01mL/g; Vortech
Pharmaceutical, Dearborn, MI) and perfused with 10mL of cold saline followed by 15mL of cold

10% phosphate buffered formalin. Brains were stored in 10% formalin/30% sucrose (4ºC) prior to

sectioning at 40μm thickness on a Leica sliding microtome. Tissue was later mounted on slides

using Fluoromount-G containing DAPI (for fluorescence analysis; 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole;

Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) or stained with 1% cresyl-violet (for tissue contributing single-unit data).

Microscopic examination of tissue was conducted on a Nikon Ti2e inverted fluorescent

microscope equipped with 5MP color and 15MP monochrome cameras. Histological definition of

brain regions was aided by use of a brain atlas (Paxinos and Franklin, 2000).

*Overall statistical methods*

All performed tests were two-sided and met assumptions of normality (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test).

Sample sizes are consistent with numbers reported in the field and no statistical method was used

to predetermine these. Statistical analyses were performed in SPSS 22.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago,

IL) or MATLAB. All data are reported as mean ± SD unless otherwise noted. Specific details

regarding some analytical methods (*e.g.,* ROC) can be found in above sections.

# Figure 1

# Figure 2

# Figure 3

# Figure 4

# Figure S1

**A**

pPCX

OT

-0.5 mm Bregma

+2 mm Bregma

pPCX

OT

-2 mm Bregma

+0.5 mm Bregma

◯ right hemisphere
◯ left hemisphere

**C**

Phase 1   Phase 2   Phase 3   Phase 4

% Correct

1st   last   1st   last   1st   last 1st   last
relative block within training phase

number of sessions

1   2   3   4
Phase

**B**

# units

PCX
n=109 units

0  2  4  6  8  10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 >40

# units

OT
n=98 units

0  2  4  6  8  10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 >40

Background firing Hz (2-sec pre odor)

**Figure S2**

rewarded (odor suppressed)
rewarded (odor excited)
unrewarded (odor suppressed)
unrewarded (odor excited)
shuffled control

# Figure S3

# Figure S4

## A

+2 mm Bregma

OT

+0.5 mm Bregma

⬭ learned phase 1
⬭ failed phase 1