Full Title (171/250 characters): Selective neurodevelopmental and behavioral

deficits in *Scrib* conditional knock-out mice recapitulate some phenotypes

associated with the Verheij/8q23.4 deletion syndrome.

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Short Title (105/105 characters): Genetic dissection of *Scrib* functions during forebrain
development and its relevance to Verheij syndrome.

Abstract (226/300 words)

Neurodevelopmental disorders often arise from combined defects in processes
including cell proliferation, differentiation, neuronal migration, axonal pathfinding and
commissure formation. Cell polarity proteins serve as a nexus to transduce signals for
the establishment of these essential processes. Scribble (Scrib) is an evolutionarily
conserved polarity protein that is known to regulate the establishment of apicobasal and
planar cell polarity. Mutations in the human *SCRIB* gene are associated with neural tube
defects and this gene is located in the minimal critical region deleted in the rare
Verheij/8q24.3 deletion syndrome. In the present study, we evaluated the contribution of
Scrib to some of the neurological features found in patients with this syndrome,
including microcephaly and corpus callosum agenesis. Using various brain-specific
conditional mouse mutants and *in utero* electroporation experiments, we assessed the
impact of the spatio-temporal selective *Scrib* deletion on brain morphogenesis and
animal behavior. Our results showed that global embryonic deletion of *Scrib* in the
telencephalon lead to a reduction of cortical thickness and an alteration of
interhemispheric connectivity. In addition, we identified cell-autonomous effects of Scrib
on neuronal migration, and we suggest a non-cell-autonomous effect in axonal
guidance. Finally, comparative behavioral analysis showed that mice with *Scrib*
invalidation have psychomotor deficits. Altogether, our mouse models recapitulate a
number of the phenotypes associated with Verheij/8q24.3 deletion syndrome patients,
supporting the possibility that *Scrib* contributes to this rare disease.

Key words: Scrib ; Verheij/8q24.3 deletion syndrome ; contiguous gene syndrome ;
planar cell polarity PCP; neurodevelopmental disorders ; microcephaly ; corpus
callosum

Author Summary (176/200 words)

The mammalian brain, seat of cognitive and behavioral processing, is the result of numerous, complex but coordinated mechanisms of development such as cell proliferation, migration, neuritogenesis, synaptogenesis and neural network formation. Patients with disruptions in these fundamental processes will typically exhibit neurodevelopmental disorders. As such, the rare Verheij syndrome is a condition where patients display some neurological features such as microcephaly (dramatic reduction in brain cortical size) or agenesis of the corpus callosum (loss of the main commissure between hemispheres). The human gene *SCRIB* is included within a region, identified as 8q24.3, which is deleted in patients with this syndrome. In this paper, we generated mouse models to assess the consequences of selective genetic inactivation of Scrib on the brain architecture and function. From the neuroanatomical standpoint, we show that Scrib controls the formation of the cerebral cortex and the corpus callosum. This is correlated with behavioral deficits such as disrupted locomotion, learning and memory. Altogether, this work validates the association between *Scrib* loss and the brain-associated clinical features observed in individuals with Verheij/8q24.3 deletion syndrome.

Introduction

Verheij syndrome, also called 8q24.3 deletion syndrome (VRJS, OMIM #615583), is characterized by complex features such as growth retardation, short stature, dysmorphic facial features as well as renal and cardiac defects [1,2]. The neurological symptoms of this syndrome include delayed psychomotor development, mild intellectual disability and epilepsy that are frequently associated with neurodevelopmental defects such as microcephaly and/or agenesis of the corpus callosum (ACC) [1,2]. The 8q24.3 region is a site of copy-number variants (CNVs) associated with neurodevelopmental disorders [3]. For instance, patients with a large deletion on chromosome 8 show microcephaly and ACC [4], and a more specific deletion of the 8q24.3 region is associated with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD) [5]. Additionally, duplication of the 8q24.3 region is associated with profound psychomotor retardation, idiopathic epilepsy and growth delay [6]. VRJS is considered as a contiguous gene syndrome because it results from the haploinsufficiency of the *SCRIB* and *PUF60* genes, which are both located within the minimal critical region [2]. While the idea that *PUF60* is the critical contributor of most of the phenotypes observed in this syndrome is gaining traction [2,7–14], the potential contribution of *SCRIB* to some of the observed structural and psychomotor deficits has not been assessed in mammals and is still a matter of debate. The best support for *Scrib* participating in VRJS came from morpholino-based knockdown experiments in zebrafish showing altered brain size in either *scrib* or *puf60* morphants [2]. Interestingly, a recent study reported the existence of a *PUF60-SCRIB* fusion transcript in a patient with 8q24.3 microdeletion and atypical VRJS [15].

Scribble (Scrib) is a conserved scaffold protein that acts as a hub for several signaling pathways and that functions in cell polarity during development [16,17]. In rodents, a homozygous *Scrib* mutation in a spontaneous mutant called *Circletail* (*Crc*) leads to early lethality accompanied by a severe form of neural tube defects (NTDs). Perturbation of *Scrib* in this mutant leads to major tissue polarity defects [18] that are hallmarks of planar cell polarity (PCP) signaling pathway deregulation [19], which can ultimately impact on the developing (and adult) nervous system [20–23]. Importantly, *Scrib* has been shown to participate in motor neuron migration [24], axonal guidance in

the hindbrain [25] and central nervous system myelination [26]. Additionally, our group
recently showed a role for *Scrib* in the brains of adult mice in fine tuning of excitatory
synapses and correlated its deletion with some features of ASDs [27–29]. In humans,
similar embryonic lethality and NTDs were reported for the *SCRIB* gene [30–32], and
microdeletions in 8q24.3 (encompassing both *PUF60* and *SCRIB*) were found in
children presenting microcephaly [2]. All these data suggest a role for *Scrib* in early
vertebrate brain development and call for further investigation.

To clearly establish the structural and psychomotor consequences of *Scrib*
deletion in the mammalian brain, we developed a conditional gene-targeting strategy to
generate three mouse lines [33]. The results showed that early deletion of *Scrib* in the
dorsal telencephalon recapitulated several neuroanatomical features observed in VRJS
patients, including reduced brain cortical size and agenesis of two commissural
bundles, including the corpus callosum (CC), while late deletion of *Scrib* in postmitotic
neurons resulted in mild cortical layering defects. Behavioral analysis of *Scrib* cKO
animals showed altered psychomotor behavior associated with memory deficits.
Altogether, our results show that the absence of *Scrib* during brain development
recapitulates some structural and behavioral deficits typical of VRJS, supporting a
molecular contribution of the gene to the pathology of this syndrome.

Results

***Scrib* expression is consistent with a developmental function in the forebrain**

We evaluated the expression profile of Scrib in the developing brain using *in situ*
hybridization [27] and an in-house Scrib antibody for immunohistochemistry [34]. At
E16.5, *in situ* hybridization for Scrib indicated that it was expressed throughout the
dorsal forebrain and enriched in specific regions such as the upper layers of the cortical
plate (CP) along the medio-lateral axis (from the cingulate to the piriform cortex), in in
the sub-ventricular and ventricular zones (SVZ and VZ, respectively) and the Indusium
Griseum (IG) at the cortical midline **(Fig 1A-A'')**. Immunostaining confirmed this
expression pattern, with enrichment in the SVZ and VZ at cell-cell junctions in both
apical (labeled by Pals-1) and basal domains **(Fig 1B)**. At birth (day P0), Scrib is

colocalized with RC2+ radial glial cells in the cortex **(Fig 1C)** and it is also found in axonal tracts, especially in the interhemispheric commissural fibers such as the Ephrin-B2 positive fibers of the CC [35] **(Fig 1D)**. Double staining of Scrib (green) and GFAP (glial fibrillary acidic protein, a marker of mature glial cells, red) revealed that many cells among the midline glia are labeled for both markers **(Fig 1E)**.

Early *Scrib* deletion results in microcephaly and cortical layering defects

We crossed floxed *Scrib*$^{fl/fl}$ mice [29,36] with either *Emx1*-Cre mice, which express the Cre recombinase starting at E10.5 only in the dorsal telencephalic progenitors [37], or *FoxG1*-Cre mice, which express the Cre recombinase as early as E8.5 in the entire telencephalon [38] (hereafter reported as *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ and *FoxG1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ cKOs respectively). Specific *Scrib* excision in conditional mutants was validated **(Fig S1A-F)**, and the spatial expression pattern of Cre recombinase was further confirmed by crossing *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mice with the Ai6 reporter mice [39] **(Fig S1G-H)**. The cerebral hemispheres of *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ cKOs were significantly smaller than those of their control littermates **(Fig 2A)**. Histological brain analysis at the rostral and caudal levels **(Fig 2B)**, revealed a pronounced decrease in the thickness of the caudal cerebral cortex (~25%) **(Fig 2C)**. This decrease was observed throughout the cingulate (Cg), motor (M), primary somatosensory (S1) and secondary somatosensory (S2) cortices and was maintained in adults (data not shown). This phenotype was absent in more rostral regions of *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ cKO brains **(Fig 2D)**. *FoxG1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant brains displayed a similar but more severe reduction of cortical area and thickness along the entire rostrocaudal axis **(Fig S2A-D)**. We next examined the expression of markers of late-born neurons, such as CuxI and Satb2 (layer II/III) and earlier-born neurons such as Ctip2 (layer V), some of these markers being essential to the formation of the CC [40,41]. In *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant P0 pups, we observed a reduction in the numbers of CuxI-positive cells (ctrl, 28.2% ± 4.8; mutant, 18.5% ± 3.7; p = 0.04) and Satb2-positive cells (ctrl, 46.6% ± 2.4; mutant, 32.7% ± 3.5; p = 0.002), suggesting defects in cell fate **(Fig 2E-F)**. This was particularly pronounced in bins 2-4, corresponding to layers II-III. In contrast, the expression of Ctip2, a marker of early-born neurons, was unchanged

(ctrl, 22.3% ± 2.5; mutant, 19.1% ± 1.8; p = 0.24), but its cortical distribution was

altered: many Ctip2-positive neurons were mislocalized in the deeper layers of the

motor cortex (bins 8-10), implying migration defects **(Fig 2G)**. Notably, similar results

were observed within the somatosensory cortex (data not shown). A comparative

analysis in *FoxG1-Scrib*-/- mutant mice showed a more severe phenotype than that of

Emx1-Scrib-/- mutants, with a dramatic reduction in CuxI, Satb2 and Ctip2 expression

(Fig S2E-G). These deficits probably arise from a combination of defects in cell fate and

migration, as depicted in **Fig 2H** and **S2H**. To confirm the role of *Scrib* in neuronal

migration, we used an approach based on *in utero* electroporation approach employing

a previously validated shRNA construct [27]. Scrib depletion resulted in a significant

increase in the fraction of electroporated cells mislocalized in the VZ/SVZ (ctrl shRNA,

5.4% ± 0.5; Scrib shRNA, 15% ± 1.4) associated with a significant decrease in the

fraction of cells reaching the upper layers (UL) (ctrl shRNA, 47.1% ± 1.4; Scrib shRNA,

30.7% ± 1.9) **(Fig 2I-J)**. Altogether, these results indicate that embryonic deletion of

Scrib reduces the size of the cortex, and alters the generation and positioning of the

cortical neurons, including callosal projection neurons (CPNs) in the upper layers of the

cortex.

Early deletion of *Scrib* affects corpus callosum and hippocampal commissure

development

Histological analysis was performed along the rostrocaudal axis in order to assess the

impact of early Scrib loss on the major forebrain commissure (the CC) but also the

dorsal and ventral hippocampal commissure (DHC and VHC) and the anterior

commissure (AC) [42] **(Fig S3A-B)**. Coronal histological sections of P0 *Emx1-Scrib*-/-

mutant brains revealed ACC in caudal sections, with callosal axons apparently unable

to cross the midline **(Fig 3A-B)**. As in many mutant mouse models of ACC, failure of the

axons to cross was accompanied by large bundles of aberrantly projecting axons near

the midline, known as Probst bundles, which are frequently associated with hemispheric

fusion defects [43] **(Fig 3A'-B')**. Anterograde axonal tracing studies using DiI staining

confirmed the absence of midline-crossing callosal axons **(Fig 3A''-B'')**. In contrast,

callosal fibers in rostral sections from the brains of *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mice crossed the midline despite an apparent thinning suggestive of CC hypoplasia **(Fig 3C-D'')**. Of note, a similar phenotype was observed in adult *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice using 3D light-sheet microscopy of uDISCO solvent-cleared brains [47] injected in the caudal cortex with an adenovirus encoding GFP **(Fig 3E-F')** suggesting that ACC is not due to a developmental delay. The deletion of *Scrib* in the *FoxG1*-Cre strain led to ACC along the entire rostrocaudal axis **(Fig S4)**. Since *Scrib* is expressed in glial midline structures **(Fig 1G)** that are critical for promoting hemisphere fusion and allowing the CC to cross between hemispheres with the help of axonal guidance signals [44–46], we next sought to determine whether CC agenesis observed in *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice may result from mislocalization of glial structures. Immunostaining of P0 coronal sections at the caudal level using antibodies against GFAP and the axonal marker L1-CAM revealed that early deletion of Scrib resulted in a severe disorganization of the midline glia, with GFAP-positive cells scattered along the dorsal part of the ventricle **(Fig 3G-H')**. Parasagittal and horizontal brain sections of the *Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant confirmed the presence of callosal defects **(Fig 4, S5)**. We found that the CC length was respectively reduced by ~60% and ~40% in *FoxG1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ and *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice, respectively, compared with control littermates **(Fig 4A-C and S5A-C)**. Horizontal sections from P0 *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice confirmed the previously observed ACC and showed a dramatic thinning of the DHC **(Fig 4D-E')**, a phenotype that was worsened in *FoxG1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mice forming PB instead **(Fig S5D,E')**. In contrast, both *Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice lines had relatively intact VHC **(Fig 4G' and S5G')** and AC (arrowheads in **Fig 4B and S5B)**. 3D imaging of adult *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice brains cleared with uDISCO injected in the hippocampus with an adenovirus encoding mCherry, confirmed the absence of the hippocampal commissure in adult animals **(Fig 4H-I')**. These findings indicate that early and broad deletion of *Scrib* in the dorsal telencephalon (including the cerebral cortex and the hippocampus) is responsible for the selective agenesis of the CC and dorsal hippocampal commissure.

Postmitotic deletion of *Scrib* affects cortical layering

To specifically evaluate the effects of *Scrib* invalidation in postmitotic neurons, we generated a third cKO mouse strain using mice expressing the Cre recombinase under the *Nex* promoter around E11.5 in virtually every postmitotic excitatory neuron in the forebrain [48,49] (these mice will be labeled hereafter as *Nex-Scrib*[-/-] mutant mice). After proper characterization **(Fig S1A-C)**, we observed that *Nex-Scrib*[-/-] mutants showed no obvious reduction of cortical area or thickness **(Fig 5A-B)**. Despite a mild CC hypoplasia, *Nex-Scrib*[-/-] mutants display normal callosal fibers crossing the midline either at the caudal **(Fig 5C-F)** which was consistent with normal glial midline structures **(Fig 5G-H')**. Immunohistological analysis of the cortical layering in *Nex-Scrib*[-/-] mutant mice revealed no major CPN production defects (see histograms in insets in **Fig 5I-K**). However, the distribution of both early- and late-born neurons was affected with many CPN mislocalized in deeper layers of the cortex at P0 (see arrowheads in **Fig 5I-K**). These defects in layering are exemplified by the quantification of markers in bin 10 (deepest bin), showing an increase in CuxI- (ctrl, 0.6% ± 0.1; mutant, 17.3% ± 10.8; *p* = 0.046) **(Fig 5I)**, Satb2- (ctrl, 20.3% ± 4.6; mutant, 48.6% ± 17.3; *p* = 0.04) **(Fig 5J)**, and Ctip2 percentages (ctrl, 12.2% ± 5.1; mutant, 43.7% ± 17.3; *p* = 0.04) **(Fig 5K)**, as summarized in **Fig 5L**. These results highlight a late and cell-autonomous neuronal role of *Scrib* in neuronal migration.

Both early and late deletion of *Scrib* affect psychomotor development

Since VRJS patients show altered psychomotor development, we next subjected our mutant models with a variety of behavioral tests that required sensory-motor, emotional and cognitive integration. We administered cortex-dependent tasks, including tests of anxiety-like behavior, locomotor and exploratory activity, to adult *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] and *Nex-Scrib*[-/-] mice and their littermate controls (10–20 weeks). The most remarkable behavior phenotype we observed was the effect on locomotor activity. Compared with their controls, *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] mutant mice showed significantly increased activity in a novel environment, as measured by the distance traveled in the elevated plus-maze (*Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] *vs*. Ctrl, *t*-test; t_{17} = 3.02, *p < 0.01*; **Fig 6A'**), open field (*Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] *vs*. Ctrl, *t*-

test; t_{17} = 2.35, *p < 0.05*; **Fig 6B'**) and Y maze (*Emx1-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, t-test; t_{17} = 2.39, *p < 0.05*; **Fig 6C'**) over the testing periods. In contrast, *Nex-Scrib-/-* mutant mice exhibited significantly reduced exploration in the same tests, as the elevated plus-maze (*Nex-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, t-test; t_{24} = 2.55, *p < 0.05*; **Fig 6A''**), open field (*Nex-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, t-test; t_{25} = 2.13, *p < 0.05*; **Fig 6B''**) and Y maze (*Nex-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, t-test; t_{24} = 3.09, *p < 0.01*; **Fig 6C''**). Another measure of spontaneous activity performed in a novel home cage yielded similar results **(Fig 6D', 6D'')**. *Emx1-Scrib-/-* mutant mice were significantly more active than their controls (genotype effect: $F_{1,143}$ = 8.757, *p < 0.05*; **Fig 6D'**) whereas *Nex-Scrib-/-* mutant mice were significantly less active than their controls (genotype effect: $F_{1,143}$ = 6.36, *p < 0.05*; **Fig 6D''**). In addition, nycthemeral locomotor activity in their home cages was enhanced *in Emx1-Scrib-/-* mutant mice and lowered in *Nex-Scrib-/-* mutant mice compared to the control mice, as determined by 24-hr continuous monitoring of locomotor activity (*p* <0.05 for all genotype effect; **Fig 6D',6D''**). Notably, the *Emx1-Scrib-/-* and *Nex-Scrib-/-* mice did not display anxiety-like behavior **(Fig S6B, S6C)** and no deficit was found in terms of balance or motor coordination **(Fig 6E', 6E'', S6E, S6F)**. Considering that our models also had impaired hippocampal and cortical connectivity, we assessed associative memory by testing animals in the contextual fear-conditioning task, in which the animals have to associate environmental cues with an electric shock [50]. All groups of mice were submitted to the acquisition phase of the fear conditioning test **(Fig 6G)** and displayed a normal freezing behavior with no reduction in pain tolerance **(Fig 6F)**. Mice were re-exposed to the same environment 24 hr after training to evaluate the recent memory and 7 days after training to evaluate the remote memory, which depends on the structural integrity of the cortex **(Fig 6G', G'', H', H'')**. As classically observed, all groups of mice exhibited an increase in freezing during the context and tone presentation tested at both 24-hr (*Emx1-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, context/cue effect: $F_{3, 55}$ = 23,28, *p < 0,0001*; *Nex-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, context/cue effect: $F_{3, 54}$ = 34,87, *p < 0,0001*; **Fig 6H**) and 7 days after training (*Emx1-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, context/cue effect: $F_{3, 55}$ = 28,16, *p < 0,0001*; *Nex-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, context/cue effect: $F_{3,54}$ = 49,38, *p < 0,0001*; **Fig 6I**). We found a deficit in cued remote fear memory among *Emx1-Scrib-/-* mice, indicating a defect causing premature extinction of cortex-dependent memory in this strain (*Emx1-Scrib-/- vs. Ctrl*, genotype effect: $F_{3, 55}$ =

10.18, p = 0,0024; Cue J7: t =2.924 p < 0.05; **Fig 6G'**), whereas recent memory was

unaffected (*Emx1-Scrib*^{-/-} *vs. Ctrl*, no genotype effect: $F_{3, 55}$ = 1,646, p > 0,05; **Fig 6G'**).

In contrast, no difference was found in the recent (*Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} *vs. Ctrl*, no genotype

effect: $F_{1, 54}$ = 0,0129, p > 0,05, **Fig 6G"**) or remote memory **(***Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} *vs. Ctrl*, no

genotype effect: $F_{1, 54}$ = 0,00016, p > 0,05, **Fig 6H"**) of *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} mice. Altogether,

these results suggest that *Emx1-Scrib*^{-/-} mutant mice, in contrast to *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} mutant

mice, display hyperactivity in novel and familiar environments, which is compatible with

the altered psychomotor behavior observed in VRJS patients. In addition, the remote

memory deficits we observed in this mouse model may guide memory evaluation in

older VRJS patients.

Discussion

Our present study addresses the question of the participation of *Scrib* in some of the

structural and psychomotor phenotypes associated with Verheij/8q24.3 deletion

syndrome. Using several conditional mouse strains, we showed that early deletion of

Scrib leads to microcephaly and cortex layering defects associated with corpus

callosum and hippocampal commissure agenesis. Behavioral analysis of the same

mutants showed alterations in locomotor behavior accompanied by memory defects

which are reminiscent of the psychomotor defects observed in some VRJS patients.

Postmitotic deletion of *Scrib* in neurons resulted in mild layering defects that were also

associated with locomotor activity alterations. Our integrative neuroanatomical and

behavioral study of *Scrib*^{-/-} mutant mice supports the participation of *Scrib* in

Verheij/8q24.3 deletion syndrome.

308   *Scrib* deletion is associated with brain structural deficits consistent with

309   Verheij/8q24.3 deletion syndrome.

Both mouse models with early deletion of *Scrib* (*FoxG1-Scrib*^{-/-} and *Emx1*-Scrib^{-/-} mutant

mice) display microcephaly in a range that is comparable to other well-established

microcephalic mouse models [51]. Our analysis shows that Scrib-dependent

microcephaly arises from a depletion in the neuronal lineage, as observed by a

decrease in Cuxl- and Satb2-positive (layer II/III) CPNs, but also in Ctip2-positive (layer

V) CPNs, which is probably combined with migration defects. The late deletion of *Scrib*

in postmitotic glutamatergic neurons (*Nex-Scrib*[-/-] mutant mice*) led to cortical layering

defects with mispositioned neurons from layers II/III and V, suggesting migration defects

that were validated by acute *Scrib* knockdown. Deficits in any of these critical

mechanisms (neurogenesis, cell fate, or migration) can participate in brain

malformation [52] and contribute to callosal neuron loss leading to abnormal

connectivity. From our data, we can suggest that the microcephaly observed in mutants

with embryonic *Scrib* deletion is most likely the result of a combination of disrupted

neurogenesis, cell fate and migration processes. This multifactor effect of *Scrib* is

consistent with its expression profile. We observed Scrib enrichment in the ventricular

zone (VZ) and sub-ventricular zone (SVZ) where it can contribute to asymmetric cell

division (ACD) and cell fate determination, as observed in other systems [53–55]. It is

also expressed in the cortex, including the radial glia, consistent with a role in migration.

The other phenotype we observed in the two mouse models with an early

deletion of Scrib was the CC and DHC agenesis. *Scrib* inactivation resulted in complete

ACC in both rostral and caudal domains in *FoxG1-Scrib*[-/-] cKOs, while *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-]

cKOs display ACC only in the caudal part. The most likely explanation for this restricted

phenotype at the caudal level is that *Emx1* is expressed on a high-caudal to low-rostral

gradient [56,57]. In the rostral telencephalon, Scrib-dependent ACC is associated with

the formation of abnormal swirls of axons called Probst bundles [46]. Such a phenotype

is associated with failure of the callosal axons to cross the midline rather a problem with

outgrowth or guidance towards the midline. The expression of *Scrib* in the midline glia

and the observation of the disruption of the organization of that structure in *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-]

mutant mice suggest that a *Scrib*-dependent non-autonomous mechanism affects the

crossing of the axons of the CC. Mutations in guidance cues expressed by the midline

glia typically lead to a Probst bundles phenotype; thus, we can envision that *Scrib*

deletion affects midline glial cells maturation and/or guidance cues secretion [42,44,45]

as seen in other systems [58,59]. Alternatively, these astroglial structures are essential

during interhemispheric remodeling that allows the crossing of callosal fibers [60].

Tissue fusion is central in the neural tube closure process [61], and PCP is a recurrent theme in every tissue where fusion processes are extensively involved [62]. Finally, we cannot completely exclude an autonomous role of *Scrib* in axon guidance as it was shown to be important for axonal misrouting at the chiasm [63] and disrupts the formation of spinal commissures in zebrafish [64], although the absence of CC or HC deficits in the *Nex-Scrib*-/- mutant mouse model supports the hypothesis of a non-autonomous effect.

Our results support the theory that the microcephaly and ACC observed in VRJS patients could be the result, at least partially, of *Scrib* haploinsufficiency. Interestingly, Edwards and collaborators discriminate two categories of human syndromes: on one hand the ones that display only a microcephalic phenotype and, on the other hand, the ones that do encompass both ACC and microcephaly [65]. We and others have shown that several genetic mutations can result in complex neurodevelopmental disorders that combine cortical alterations with ACC [66–69]. We believe that the human *SCRIB* gene may also fall into this category: using different mouse models for *Scrib* invalidation, the present work suggests and involvement in both microcephaly and ACC, reflecting a possible concomitant function for this protein in cortical organization and axonal guidance in the brain of VRJS patients during development.

Scrib deficiency during embryogenesis leads to cognitive disabilities in adult animals.

Behavioral analysis of the *Scrib* cKO mice revealed alterations in psychomotor behavior. Specifically, we observed hyperactive locomotor behavior when *Scrib* was deleted embryonically (*Emx1-Scrib*-/- mutant mice) and hypoactive locomotor behavior when *Scrib* was deleted postmitotically (*Nex-Scrib*-/- mutant mice) in every paradigm tested (both in a novel and a familiar environment). These results strongly support a critical role for *Scrib* in regulating locomotor behavior of the animal, but also highlight a spatial and temporal dependence on *Scrib* regarding this regulation. Because of the broad and early expression of *Emx1* in the brain, it is not possible to identify what region drives the locomotor hyperactive behavior. On the other hand, *Nex* expression is

restricted to postmitotic glutamatergic neurons, supporting the hypothesis that the

pathological origin for the hypoactive locomotor behavior, also observed in some VRJS

patients, has a strict neuronal origin.

Exploration of cognitive performances shows that *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-], but not *Nex-*

Scrib[-/-] mutant mice, display memory deficit for a cortex-dependent remote-cued fear

memory recall. These results are interesting in light of the microcephaly and

commissural deficits present in the former but not the latter mutant. The CC primary

function is to integrate motor, sensory, and cognitive activity between the two

hemispheres [65,70]. The DHC provides interhemispheric connections between

hippocampi and despite few studies of the function of the DHC, one can envision that

the ability of the hippocampus to communicate effectively with contralateral homologous

regions via the DHC may be important for cognitive performance. Either this lack of

communication and/or the microcephaly and/or layering defects could be the cause of

these cognitive deficits. These results are in line with another study from our team that

revealed that loss of Scrib in postnatal excitatory hippocampal neurons (using *CaMKII-*

Scrib[-/-] mutant mice) led to an impaired hippocampus-dependent spatial memory [29].

Remarkably, the function of this pathway in the process of learning and memory seems

to extend toward the invertebrate phylum where *Scrib* is pivotal to the regulation of

active forgetting [71].

Considering the scarce number of VRJS patients, one can speculate that their

true phenotype spectrum may be wider than indicated by previous publications which

for the most part do not provide detailed neuropsychiatric evaluation. Neurological-

associated features for this syndrome include so far mild intellectual disability, delay of

developmental milestones such as standing upright and walking, delayed speech,

feeding issues and generalized seizures. All of these features, combined with

neuroanatomical features such as microcephaly and CC agenesis can fall under the

umbrella of a neurodevelopmental disorder whose affected individuals develop

psychomotor deficits reminiscent as those observed in ASDs, ADHD and schizophrenia.

Interestingly, a case for a male patient with ADHD revealed a chromosomal

translocation breakpoint at 8q24.3 has been reported [72] and this region appears to

overlap with ASDs as well [5]. From the molecular standpoint, glutamatergic

signalization is at the center of all attention for being a major player in these two

neurodevelopmental diseases [73]. Work from our group recently highlighted the

possibility that *Scrib*-impaired mice might be a model for studying synaptic dysfunction

and human psychiatric disorders such as ASDs [22,27], at least in part, by the

regulation of the glutamatergic signalization [28].

Most of the VRJS patients are fairly young individuals, and additional long-term

follow-up studies are needed, with special emphasis on locomotor hyper/hypoactivity

and cognitive dysfunction in these patients. Altogether, our results indicate that the

absence of *Scrib* during development causes the profound defects in the cortical

layering and interhemispheric connectivity that underlie cognitive disabilities.

Scrib participation in other symptoms of VRJS

The original report for Verheij syndrome described two patients with a multiorgan

developmental disorder characterized by features such as growth retardation,

dysmorphic facial features, feeding problems, cardiac ventricular septal defects,

coloboma and skeletal abnormalities [1]. Additional neurological features included

delayed psychomotor development, recurrent seizures with one patient who died early

of subdural hemorrhage and another who showed microcephaly, a hypoplastic CC and

delayed myelination. These observations were in line with previous observations of

patients with microcephaly, thin CC and intellectual disability mapping on 8q23.2-q24.12

[4]. In a subsequent landmark publication, Dauber et al. [2] reported 5 unrelated children

with 5 different heterozygous de novo interstitial deletions of chromosome 8q24.3. They

had global growth retardation, short stature and facial dysmorphism (5/5),

developmental delay and renal dysfunction (4/5) and microcephaly (3/5). More variable

features included vertebral abnormalities (3/5), coloboma and cardiac ventricular

defects (2/5) as well as seizures (1/5). The minimal common deletion found in patient #1

encompassed 3 genes including *SCRIB* and *PUF60* and displayed most of the cardinal

features of VRJS. Morpholino knockout of these genes in zebrafish, aimed at attributing

specific features to the loss of specific genes, showed that haploinsufficiency for *Scrib*

and *Puf60* was likely to contribute to the clinical features: knockdown of either *Puf60* or

Scrib recapitulated short stature, microcephaly, and reduced jaw size. *Scrib* knockdown resulted in coloboma and renal abnormalities, while *Puf60* knockdown resulted in cardiac defects. Knockdown of both genes exacerbated the short stature phenotype, suggesting the possibility that the two genes may functionally interact [2]. Subsequent studies in human genetics have mostly focused their attention on the *PUF60* gene as the main driver of VRJS. In addition to 8q24.3 microdeletions, there have been 26 reported cases to date with CNVs in *PUF60* [2,7–14]. The most common phenotypes observed in VRJS patients (for those tested) are recapitulated including developmental delay/intellectual disability, facial dysmorphism and short stature (18/26), cardiac defects (14/23), feeding difficulties (12/19), coloboma (9/26), and renal anomalies (6/24). Importantly, although *PUF60* appears to be a major driver of these features of VRJS syndrome, we noticed that neurological features were also reported, but in a much lower proportions, such as microcephaly (8/26), CC hypoplasia/agenesis (4/26), psychomotor alterations and seizure (3/26), indicating that *PUF60* CNVs are not the main cause of these features.

The results of this study support a role for *Scrib* in some of the structural deficits observed in VRJS patients. Our results also show psychomotor alteration when *Scrib* is deleted, and we further identify cognitive disruption in our animal models. Additional data from the literature suggest that *Scrib* could participate in extraneurological features of VRJS. While most cardiac defects observed in VRJS patients are attributed to *PUF60* deficiency, data from the Henderson laboratory show that both the *Scrib* spontaneous mutant *Crc* and myocardium-specific *Scrib*[-/-] cKOs have ventricular septal defects and a thinned myocardial wall that recapitulate cardiac features of VRJS patients [74,75] in accordance with a fetal case carrying *SCRIB* haploinsufficiency [76]. In addition, a recent exome sequencing analysis identified a rare nonsynonymous variants in *SCRIB* that resulted in superior coloboma [77]. A common denominator that may explain the defects observed after *SCRIB* loss such as neural tube defects, CC agenesis, ventricular septal defects and coloboma, is a failure in the tissue fusion process [62]. In addition to neural tube closure and interhemispheric fusion, it is important to note that tissue fusion is essential to ventricular septal wall closure or to the formation of superior ocular sulcus during eye formation and appears to depend on the PCP pathway and

466 *Scrib* [62,77]. *Scrib* deficiency may also explain the renal defects observed in VRJS

467 patients as the morpholino-based knockdown of *Scrib* in zebrafish impaired pronephros

468 development and induced cyst formation [78], while it appeared to be dispensable for

469 podocyte function and development [79].

Concluding remarks

Our findings uncover an essential role for *Scrib* in mammalian forebrain development

and connectivity, both of which ultimately affect animal behavior. Given that several

aspects of the neurological manifestations of the Verheij/8q24.3 syndrome were

recapitulated in our models, we suggest that *Scrib* may participate in human VRJS

syndrome. From the human genetics standpoint, any VRJS-related phenotype due to

SCRIB loss may prove difficult to observe because most mutations in human *SCRIB*

lead to severe neural tube defects so deleterious that they may obscure more "subtle"

phenotypes [30–32]. Further studies using models, including ours, are warranted in

order to determine whether other reproducible behavioral phenotypes such as reduced

seizure thresholds (i.e., seizure susceptibility) are also recapitulated in *Scrib*[-/-] cKOs.

While it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions without analysis of additional patients

with 8q24.3 deletions, follow-up analyses in VRJS patients should systematically be

performed to determine whether ASDs and/or ADHD are underdiagnosed features of

VRJS patients. We suggest that rare *SCRIB* CNVs should be researched in the case of

VRJS patients who do not show *PUF60* CNVs. Altogether, our study demonstrates that

Scrib[-/-] mutant mice can provide an entry point to model representative contiguous gene

deletion syndrome such as VRJS.

Materials and methods

Animal care and use

492 All mice were housed in the animal facility of the Neurocentre Magendie, in

493 polypropylene cages under controlled conditions (at 23 ± 1 °C, with lights on from 7:00

494 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.). Food and water were available *ad libitum*. For timed pregnancy, the

morning in detection of vaginal plug was designated as embryonic day E0.5. This study
was performed according to the European Communities Council Directives
(2010/63/EU) and has been approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee
(Bordeaux) under the numbers 5012016-A and 5012015-A.

Generation of brain-specific *Scrib* conditional knock-outs

Scrib spontaneous mouse mutant *Circletail* causes severe brain and neural tube
damages that result in neonatal lethality [80], precluding the analysis of the role of *Scrib*
during forebrain development [27]. In order to circumvent this issue, we have applied a
conditional gene-targeting strategy to inactivate *Scrib* at different developmental stages
and in different cellular types in the brain. *FoxG1*-Cre, *Emx1*-Cre and the Cre reporter
mouse strain B6.Cg-*Gt(Rosa)26Sor*$^{tm6(CAG-ZsGreen1)Hze}$/J (Ai6) mice were purchased from
The Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME). *Nex*-Cre mice were obtained from Klaus-
Armin Nave (Max Plank Institute, Germany). *Scrib*$^{fl/fl}$ floxed mice were generated
previously in collaboration with Neal Copeland, Nancy Jenkins and Rivka Rachel at
NIC/NIH [36]. *Scrib* mouse gene contains 38 exons that are translated into a full-length
180 kDa protein. In *Scrib*$^{fl/fl}$ floxed mice, lox-P sequences are inserted before exon 2
and after exon 8 [29]. When crossed with a mouse line expressing the Cre
recombinase, all the exons between 2 and 8 are excised, leading to the loss of the full
length protein. Heterozygous rodents were intercrossed to generate homozygous and
wildtype littermates as previously published [81]. *Scrib*$^{fl/fl}$ floxed mice were either
crossed with *FoxG1*-Cre*, Emx1*-Cre or *Nex*-Cre mice to obtain compound mice,
respectively referred to as *FoxG1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$, *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ and *Nex-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutant mice
with early excision in different cellular types in the brain. All Scrib$^{-/-}$ cKO mice are viable,
fertile and do not display any gross physical abnormalities. Cre-mediated recombination
in *FoxG1*-Cre mice starts as early as E8.5 and occurs mostly in all cells from both
dorsal and ventral telencephalon [38]. This includes progenitors from neuroepithelium
that will specify various neuronal and glial cells from the neocortex and hippocampus,
but also from the ganglionic eminence that will give rise to GABAergic interneurons. In
Emx1-cre mice, the Cre recombinase is expressed later as compared with *FoxG1*-Cre
mice, starting as early as E10.5 and only in the dorsal telencephalon [37]. Emx1 pattern
of expression lead to the excision of *Scrib* in the vast majority of the neurons of the

neocortex and hippocampus, in glial cells of the pallium, but not in the GABAergic interneurons. *Nex*-Cre mice express the Cre recombinase at or before E12.5 in the hippocampus and in precursor cells in the VZ/SVZ, which eventually generate pyramidal neurons that disperse throughout the cortex [48,49]. Most importantly for our study, Cre-mediated recombination in *Nex*-Cre mice occurs neither in glial cells, oligodendrocytes nor interneurons. Genotyping was performed as described previously by PCR using the following primers: F (5'-gcacactgggtatcatggcta-3'), R1 (5'-gcaatctccagagccttacaga-3'), R2 (5'-cccttggaaacctacatcccaa-3') [29]. Wild-type (WT), floxed, deleted *Scrib* alleles were distinguished by the following amplified products: for WT band (F+R1; 437 bp), flox band (F+R1; 541 bp) and cKO band (F+R2; 193 bp) **(Fig S1A)**. Cre genotyping was performed using the following primers: F (5'-cggcatggtgcaagttgaata-3'), R (5'-gcgatcgctattttccatgag-3'), resulting in a 300 bp band. Cre minus littermates showed no detectable phenotype and were used as controls. The body weight of Emx1-Scrib$^{-/-}$ was slightly lighter than their littermate controls (data not shown), which was not the case in Nex-Scrib$^{-/-}$ mutant mice **(Fig S6A)**. It is worth noting that none of the *Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mutants were homozygous for the knock-in Emx1-Cre allele (i.e., all were obligate Cre heterozygotes), thus avoiding potential confounds related to Emx1 loss-of-function [82]. The Cre reporter mouse strain B6.Cg-*Gt(Rosa)26Sor*$^{tm6(CAG-ZsGreen1)Hze}$/J (Ai6) [39] which expresses ZsGreen1 from the *Rosa26* locus, was used for evaluation of Emx1-Cre-induced recombination efficiency. *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ mice were crossed with Ai6 reporter mice, resulting in enhanced green fluorescent protein (ZsGreen1) expression following Cre-mediated recombination selectively in Emx1-expressing cells within the cortex, hippocampus, fimbria and fibers within the caudate putamen **(Fig S1G-H)**. In contrast, the striatum (ZsGreen1-negative) lacked Cre activity, consistent with Emx1 expression pattern in the dorsal telencephalon.

Histology, *in situ* hybridization analysis and Immunofluorescence

For histology, heads (E16.5 embryos) or brains (P0 new-born) were harvested and fixed in Bouin's or Carnoy's fixative (Electron Microscopy Sciences) overnight as previously described [83]. Samples were dehydrated in ethanol, paraffin-embedded, and sectioned (20 μm) coronally, horizontally or sagitally. Sections were collected onto Superfrost plus Gold slides (Thermo Scientific), stained with hematoxylin and mounted with Entellan

(Millipore). The brains sections were examined using Leica MZ-16 stereomicroscope,

imaged in the Bordeaux Imaging Center (http://www.bic.u-bordeaux.fr) using the

NanoZoomer 2.0-HT slide scanner and analyzed using the Hamamatsu NDP viewer

software (Hamamatsu). For *in-situ* hybridization, E16.5 and E17.5 embryos brains were

dissected out, transferred in OCT solution and placed into the dry ice for storage at -

80°C before sectioning. *In situ* hybridization was performed using previously validated

digoxigenin-labeled cRNA probes [27]. 16 µm coronal embryonic brain sections of were

postfixed in 4% paraformaldehyde / 0.2% glutaraldehyde for 10 min at room

temperature (RT), bleached with 6% H2O2, digested in Proteinase K (5 µg/ml in PBS)

for 2.5 min and postfixed in 4% paraformaldehyde / 0.2% glutaraldehyde for 10 min at

RT. Then, slides were acetylated into freshly prepared 0.1M triethanolamine / PBS, pH

8, for 10 min at room temperature; 0.25% acetic anhydride acid was added for the last 5

min. Between each step, slides were rinsed with PBS. All subsequent steps were

performed as previously described in [27]. Images were acquired with Nanozoomer

(Hamamatsu). For immunofluorescence staining (IF), P0 pups were anesthetized with

pentobarbital, then perfused transcardially with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PB

buffer (0.1% PBS, 0.9% NaCl, PH = 7.4). Dissected brains were postfixed in 4% PFA

overnight at 4°C, infused in 30% sucrose in PB overnight and embedded in O.C.T

(Sakura Finetek). The OCT-embedded brains were cryosectioned coronally at a

thickness of 20 µm, mounted on Superfrost plus slides (VWR), washed with PBS, and

immunostaining was performed. Sections were hydrated with PBS, permeabilized with

0.2 % Triton-X100/PBS (PBS-T), blocked using 10% Normal Goat Serum (NGS) and

incubated overnight with the following primary antibodies in 5% NGS overnight at 4°C:

rabbit anti-GFAP (DAKO; 1:1000), rat anti-L1-CAM (Millipore; 1:1000), mouse anti-RC2

(DSHB; 1:100), rat Ctip2 (Abcam; 1:500), mouse Satb2 (Abcam; 1:100), rabbit Tbr1

(Millipore; 1:500), rabbit Cux1 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology; 1:100), rabbit anti-Scrib

(homemade AbMM468; 1:300) [34]. For Scrib immunostaining, brains were not perfused

but only briefly fixed in 4% PFA for 30 min. Samples were washed three times in PBS-T

and were incubated for 2 hr with the secondary antibodies Alexa Fluor® 488 or 546

Goat Anti-Mouse/Rat/Rabbit IgG (Life Technologies; 1:200) and then with DAPI (Life

Technologies; 1:20000) for 30 min. Finally, samples were washed three times in PBS

and mounted with Prolong Gold anti fading reagent (Invitrogen). Immunostained

sections were imaged at similar brain region using a Zeiss Axio Imager Z1 microscope

and Axio Vision (Version 4.7) imaging analysis software (Carl Zeiss). All images were

processed with Photoshop CS5 software (Adobe) and ImageJ software

(http://imagej.nih.gov).

Quantitative analysis of laminar position in the cerebral cortex

Sections chosen for analysis were matched along the rostral-caudal axis and observed

at the caudal level for every sample (where ACC is observed in Emx1-Scrib$^{-/-}$ cKO

brains). Immunofluorescence images were converted to gray values and normalized to

background staining. Regions of interest (ROIs) with a fixed width (but of variable

length, corresponding to the thickness of the cortex) were positioned in the motor cortex

region with the long axis perpendicular to the pial surface. Each ROI was subdivided

into ten equal bins from the pia (bin 1) to the outer border of the intermediate zone (bin

10) to assess CPN distribution across the layers of the cortex. In such arrangement,

layers II-III (Cux1- and Satb2-positive) were corresponding to bins 2-4 while layer V

(Ctip2-positive) was corresponding to bins 5-7 (highlighted in red in every figure). Slides

were evaluated blindly to the genotype and the number and distribution of CuxI-, Satb2-,

Ctip2- and DAPI-labeled cells in each zone was determined manually using the cell

counter plugin for ImageJ (http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/plugins/cell-counter.html). In order to

take into account a possible effect of Scrib deletion on total cell number in the cortex,

data are given as a ratio (in percent) of the total of cells positive for each marker to

DAPI-positive cells in each bin (mean ± SEM). Analysis was performed using at least 3

independent experiments (3 to 4 brains per genotype were quantified). The effect of the

genotype on the distribution of cells within the bins was assessed using the Student test

(*t test*).

Callosal Axon tracing

Corticocortical tract tracing was performed as previously described [84] using

fluorescent carbocyanine dye (1, 1′-Dioctadecyl-3, 3, 3′, 3′-

Tetramethylindocarbocyanine Perchlorate; DiI, Invitrogen). Brains were dissected at P0

and fixed in 4% PFA. A single DiI crystal was inserted in the dorsomedial cortex and

allowed to diffuse for 1 month. Coronal vibratome sections of 150 μm thickness were cut

on a vibratome, mounted on slides and imaged as described in the previous paragraph.

UDisco

Eight to ten-week old *Emx1-Scrib-/-* mice received unilateral stereotaxic microinjections

of a AAV (0.5/1μl at 300 nl per min) expressing GFP under the control of the promoter

hSyn1 (AAV9-hSyn1-GFP-2A-GFP-f, titer 4.8 x10^{12} GC/ml) in the sensory-motor cortex

region (anteroposterior [Y] -2 mm from Bregma, mediolateral [X] ± 1,2 mm, dorsoventral

[Z] -0,5 mm) or expressing mCherry under the control of the CamKII promoter (AAV2/9-

CamKII(0,4)-mcherry-WPRE, Vector Biolabs, titer 1.2 x1013 GC/ml) in the CA3 region

of hippocampus (anteroposterior [Y] -2 mm from Bregma, mediolateral [X] ± 3 mm,

dorsoventral [Z] -2,5 mm). Four weeks after surgery, the animals were perfused

transcardially with PB followed by 4% PFA in PBS; the brains were removed and

postfixed in 4% PFA for 24 hrs at 4°C and maintained in PBS. The entire brains were

cleared using the uDISCO technique as described [47]. The ultramicroscopy was

performed using the system from LaVision BioTec (Bielefeld, Germany) equipped with a

Fianium white laser, a sCMOS Andor camera, and a 0.5 NA 2X objective with a deeping

lens. A zoom from 0.63 to 6.3 could be applied. Images and 3D reconstruction were

analyzed with Image J and Imaris software.

Western blot

Cerebral cortices of P0 cKO pups and their control littermates were homogenized in

RIPA buffer (10 mM Tris-Cl (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 1% Triton X-100,

0.1% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 140 mM NaCl) supplemented with protease

inhibitor cocktail (Complete™; Roche). Protein concentration was determined using

Pierce BCA Protein assay kit (Thermo Scientific). Equal amounts of protein were diluted

in sample buffer, separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate–polyacrylamide gel

electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), and visualized using the enhanced chemiluminescence

(ECL) as previously described [85]. Briefly, protein extracts were separated on an 8%

SDS-PAGE and transferred overnight to polyvinylidene difluoride membranes

(Millipore). Membranes were blocked with 5% nonfat milk in 1×Tris-buffered saline pH

7.4; 0.05% Tween-20 (TBS-T) for 30 min at room temperature (RT) and were probed

with homemade rabbit anti-Scrib (MM468; 1:500) [34] and mouse anti-GAPDH

(Millipore; 1:1000) for 1hr RT. Membranes were incubated with secondary antibodies

(GE Healthcare UK; donkey anti-rabbit or anti-mouse IgG conjugated to horseradish

peroxidase, 1:5000) in 1% nonfat milk in TBS-T for 1hr RT. Each incubation step was

followed by 3 washes with TBS-T for 10 min and immunoreactive signals were detected

using Pierce ECL substrate (Thermo Scientific). Band intensity was analyzed by

densitometry with the ImageJ software (http://imagej.nih.gov) and quantified as a

percentage of control band intensity using a representative of at least three independent

experiments.

In-utero electroporation and tissue processing

In utero electroporation experiments were performed according to protocols previously

described [86,87]. The Animal Care and Use Committee (Bordeaux) has approved the

experimental procedure under the number 5012015-A. Pregnant Swiss CD-1 mice were

anesthetized using 4 % isoflurane in an anesthesia induction chamber, maintained with

2 % isoflurane with an anesthetic mask and injected before surgery with buprenorphine.

Mice were subjected to abdominal incision; uterine horns were exposed and E14.5

embryos were placed on humidified gauze pads. Plasmid DNA was purified on Qiagen

columns (EndoFree Plasmid Maxi Kit), resuspended in sterile endotoxin-free buffers

(Qiagen) and mixed with Fast Green (Sigma). mCherry plasmid, together with pSuper or

validated pSuper-Scrib shRNA construct [27] were microinjected at a 1:3 ratio into the

lateral ventricles of embryos. Five current pulses (50 ms pulse / 950 ms interval; 35–36

V) were delivered across the heads of the embryos using 7 mm electrodes

(Tweezertrode 450165, Harvard Apparatus) connected to an electroporator (ECM830,

BTX). Surgical procedure was completed with suture of the abdomen wall and skin.

E18.5 embryos or P0 pups were processed for tissue analysis and immunostaining as

described in the histology section. Subregions of the cerebral cortex (VZ/SVZ, IZ, LL

and UL) were identified based on cell density using DAPI staining (Life Technologies;

1:20000). For each condition, sections from three embryos obtained from three

separate litters were quantified. Quantification of mCherry-positive cells was performed

using the cell counter plugin for ImageJ (http://rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/plugins/cell-

counter.html). Data are given as a percentage of the total of cells positive for mCherry in
each cortical subregion (mean ± SD).

Behavioral testing

Behavioral experiments were conducted with *Emx1-Scrib-/-* cKOs, *Nex-Scrib-/-* cKOs and
their control littermate male mice of 10–11 weeks of age at the start of behavioral tests.
All behavioral experiments were performed during the light phase (between 9:00 A.M.
and 7.00 P.M.) of a 12 h light/dark cycle, under conditions of dim light and low noise.
One week before starting the experiments, mice were housed in individual cage.
Several cohorts of animals and multiple behavioral tests were used. Whenever possible,
naïve animals were employed for behavioral testing; when the same cohort was used
for multiple tests, the most stressful essays were administered last, to minimize
between-test interference. To look for behavioral abnormalities mice were tested in
activity cages (to measure locomotor activity); in elevated plus maze, open field and Y-
maze (to measure exploratory activity and anxiety-like behavior); in rotarod, hot plate,
beam walking and grid handling test (to measure sensory-motor activity); and in the fear
conditioning test maze (to measure early and remote contextual end cued memory
performances). All experimental apparatuses were cleansed with hydroalcoholic
solution (Phagospray-DM) between subjects to remove odor residuals.

Plus maze, Open field, Y maze and locomotor activity. Elevated plus maze, Open field
and Y-maze experiments were performed as described previously [27,29]. Locomotor
activity in response to novelty and daily rhythm of activity experiments were performed
as described previously [27].

Rotarod. Mice performances on the rotarod, which accelerates from 4 to 40 rpm in 5
minutes, were evaluated for 5 trials per session on three consecutive days. A resting
time of 15 minutes was allowed between each trial. The end of a trial was considered
when mice were falling off the rod. Latency to fall was recorded for each trial. The
average latency was calculated for each testing day.

Hot plate. Animals were placed individually on a hot plate with the temperature adjusted
to 49°C.Response latency (sec) to jump or lick the hind paws was measured. The cut
off time was taken as 30 seconds to avoid risk of thermal injury to the skin.

Beam walking. During three successive days, mice were placed on one end of a wood

beam (180 cm in length with a 2 or 1 cm square cross-section) at a height of 50 cm

above a container with soft bedding and the time required to reach an enclosed safety

box at the other end (80 cm away) is measured. On training day 1, beam was place

horizontally and each mouse was trained to traverse the 2cm beam and then the 1cm

beam. On training day 2, each mouse was trained to traverse the horizontal 1cm beam

and then the 1cm beam inclined at an angle of 10° from ground. Tree training sessions

par beam and the mice rest for 10 min in their home cages between training sessions

on the two beams. On the day test, time taken to traverse the 1cm beam inclined at an

angle of 10° from ground and the number of paw faults or slips are recorded. Analysis of

each measure was based on the mean scores of the two best trials.

Grid handling. Mice were placed on a metal grid (spacing 1 cm2) and allowed to grip the

grid with four paws. The grid was inverted at an angle of 180°, 20 cm above the ground

and the time for the mouse to fall onto soft bedding was measured in seconds.

Fear conditioning. On day1, mice were trained in a standard fear conditioning

apparatus. The training consisted of a single trial and was performed in a constantly

illuminated Plexiglas cage (transparent walls and metal grid floor). Fear conditioning

was performed by placing the mice in context A for 180s acclimation period followed by

three conditional-unconditional stimulus (CS-US) separated by 120s interval. The CS-

US consisted of 3 successive tones (CS, 20 s, 65 dB) and a footshock (US, 0.4 mA, 1 s,

constant current) delivered through a stainless-steel grid floor. The fear conditioning

chamber was thoroughly cleaned with 70% ethanol before each mouse was placed in

the box. Memory for the context and the tone are evaluated on day 2 (recent memory)

or 8 (remote memory) following conditioning. For the contextual memory test, mice are

placed into the conditioning chamber and allowed to explore for 360 sec. For the tone

memory test, mice are placed in a novel cage (cage with colored walls and flat plastic

floor) 3 hr after the contextual memory test, allowed to acclimate to the chamber for

180sec and then presented with tone (180 sec, 65 dB). Freezing, an index of fear

defined as the lack of movement except for heart-beat and respiration, was recorded

during the 180sec acclimation period and context or tone presentation.

Quantification, statistical analysis and data representation.

Details of statistical analyses and n values are provided in the figure legends subsections referring to individual assays. Statistical analyses were carried out using the GraphPad Prism statistical package (GraphPad). Normality of distribution and homogeneity of variance were validated and unpaired Student's two-tailed t-tests for two data sets were used to compare groups with similar variance and are indicated along the P values in figures. P≤0.05 was considered as statistically significant. Statistics were derived from at least three independent experiments and not from technical replicates. For behavior analyses, two-way ANOVA testing or repeated measure ANOVA was used for the evaluation of the effect of genotype and time in actimetry, motor activation, rotarod and fear conditioning behavioral test. The Bonferroni posthoc test was used when appropriate. The Student's t-test was used for comparing genotype in other behavior tests. Whenever adequate, individual data points were reported as scatterplots to provide full information about the variability of data sets [88].

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Figures

Fig 1. Scrib expression in the mouse developing forebrain.

A-A'', Representative *Scrib* expression pattern by ISH on E16.5 mouse embryo sections. The dashed box in A are magnified in A' and A''. Scrib mRNA is detected on the cortical plate (CP) in the subventricular zone (SVZ), the ventricular zone (VZ) and in the indusium griseum (IG, arrows) and in ependymal cells (arrowheads) next to the choroid plexus (CPx). MZ: marginal zone, IZ: intermediate zone. Scale bar: 0.5 mm (A) and 0.1 mm (A'-A''). **B,** Representative Scrib (green) expression pattern by IF on E16.5 mouse embryo coronal sections. The dashed boxes in B are magnified in the inset. Scrib protein is detected on the cortical plate (CP) but mostly in the SVZ and the VZ. Higher magnification illustrates Scrib accumulation at cell-cell contacts in the entire VZ, but no overlap with Pals-1 (red) apical marker. Scale bar: 0.1 mm (B). **C, D, E,** Representative Scrib (green) expression pattern by IF on P0 cortex (C), Corpus Callosum (CC) (D) and midline glia (E). Scrib labeling overlaps with RC2 (a marker of radial glia, red in C), Ephrin-B2 (a marker of the CC, red in D) but also markedly enriched in GFAP-positive (red in E) structures including the indusium griseum (IG) and the midline zipper (MZ). Cg is the cingulate cortex. Higher magnification for selected insets (boxed areas) illustrates strong Scrib expression in glial midline structures (see arrowheads). Scale bar: 0.1 mm (E-G).

Fig 2. Early deletion of *Scrib* leads to microcephaly associated with cortical layering and neuronal migration defects. A, Dorsal views of P0 *Emx1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO mouse brains. Cortical plate areas are marked with a yellow dashed line for comparison and quantification. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (**P<0.05*) using between 5 and 7 brains per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SD. Scale bar: 1 mm. **B**, Schematic dorsal view of a P0 mouse brain that was sectioned coronally and observed either at the rostral (R.) or caudal (C.) level as indicated by the red dashed lines. **C-D**, Representative hematoxylin staining of coronal sections from newborn *Emx1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO motor cortex at the caudal (C) and rostral (D) levels and their respective controls. Note a marked reduction of the caudal motor cortex thickness (M) in cKOs that extends to the cingulate (Cg) and somatosensory (S1-S2) cortex. No major difference in cortical thickness was observed at the rostral level. Cortical plate thickness was measured radially from the top of the upper layer (UL) to the bottom of the lower layer (LL) of the cortex. IZ: intermediate zone, SVZ: sub-ventricular zone, VZ: ventricular zone. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (***P<0.01, ***P<0.001*) using 8 measurements per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SEM. Scale bar: 0.2 mm. **E-G**, Representative immunofluorescence staining of CuxI (E), Satb2 (F) and Ctip2 (G) on coronal sections from newborn *Emx1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO brains (orange) and their respective controls (white) in the caudal motor cortex. Quantification of CuxI-, Satb2- and Ctip2-positive neurons is shown as a percentage of total DAPI-positive cells (not shown) for each ROI (see methods). In each ROI, layers II-III (Cux1- and Satb2-positive) correspond to bins 2-4 while layer V (Ctip2-positive) corresponds to bins 5-7 (highlighted in red in every figure).The proportion of CuxI- and Satb2-positive late-born neurons is decreased in *Emx1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO brains, while the Ctip2 percentage is unchanged (see insets). Migration defects are suggested by the fact that several ectopic Ctip2-positive cells are mislocalized in lowers, namely bins 8-10 (white arrowheads). Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (**P<0.05, **P<0.01*) using between 3 and 4 measurements per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SD. **H**, Schematic representation of cortical layering in the caudal motor cortex of *Emx1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO and its control. Early-born neurons (brown) are mislocalized,

while late-born neurons (blue) are decreased in proportion suggesting both migration

and cell fate defects after early loss of *Scrib* function. **I,** Cortical neurons were

electroporated *in utero* at E14.5 with an mCherry expressing vector together with control

shRNA or a previously validated Scrib shRNA. Brains were fixed at E18.5/P0. Nuclei

were stained with DAPI (blue) in order to delineate cortical subregions: dotted lines

represent boundaries between the upper layers (UL) and lower layers (LL) of the cortex,

the intermediary zone (IZ), the subventricular zone (SVZ) and the ventricular zone (VZ).

Arrowheads indicate either neurons reaching the upper layers of the cortex in the

control condition or Scrib shRNA-electroporated cells that remain in the deepest layers

of the cortex. **J,** Quantification of the distribution of mCherry-positive cells in distinct

subregions of the cerebral cortex for each condition (shRNA control, white bar; Scrib

shRNA, black bar) as shown in I. Analysis was performed using at least 3 independent

experiments. Error bars indicate SD. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed *t*-test (*P<0.01)

per condition from at least 3 independent experiments. See also Supplementary Fig S2.

Fig 3. Partial corpus callosum agenesis in *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] *cKO* mutants is associated with impaired midline glia structure positioning. A-D, Representative hematoxylin staining of coronal sections from newborn *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO brains (B and D) and their respective controls (A and C) at the caudal (A-B) or rostral (C-D) levels. Dashed boxes in A-D are magnified in A'-D'. **A'-D'**, Higher magnification for selected insets (boxed areas) from (A-D) illustrating high penetrance of CC agenesis (ACC) at the caudal level. At P0, 93% of *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] (n=28) cKO brains displayed ACC. Instead of crossing the midline, CC axons formed whorls (Probst bundles, PB) on either side of the midline that are indicated with an asterisk. Compared with control brains, a gap between hemispheres indicates fusion defects. Despite an apparent thinning, CC fibers do cross the midline at the rostral level. **A''-D''**, DiI crystals placed in the dorsomedial cortex trace CC axons in *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO brains (B'' and D'') and their respective controls (A'' and C'') at the caudal (A''-B'') or rostral (C''-D'') levels at P0. *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO[-/-] brains displayed occasional stalled fibers in some mutant brains (asterisk in B''). Abbreviations: cortex (Cx), hippocampus (Hp), corpus callosum (CC). The midline is indicated as a white dashed line. **E-F'**, 3D imaging of adult brains cleared with uDISCO from *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO brains (F and F', orange) and their respective controls (E and E'). 3D reconstruction of the GFP expressed after viral infection in the sensory-motor cortex are represented in yellow. In *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO brains, agenesis of the corpus callosum is confirmed by the absence of cortical fibers passing through the contralateral side (asterisk in F'). **G-H'**, Representative immunofluorescence staining of L1-CAM (red) and GFAP (green) as a merged image (E and F) or GFAP only (E' and F', gray) on coronal sections from newborn *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO brains (F and F', orange) and their respective controls (E and E') at the caudal level. In *Emx1-Scrib*[-/-] cKO brains, agenesis of the corpus callosum is confirmed by the failure of L1-CAM-positive axonal fibers to cross the midline. GFAP-positive midline glial structures such as the MZ are missing in these mutants, resulting in improper hemisphere fusion and failure for the IG to form and localize appropriately. Scale bars: 1 mm in (A-D, E-F'), 0.1 mm in (A'-D', A''-C'', G-H). See also Supplementary Fig S4.

Fig 4. ACC is accompanied by hippocampal commissure agenesis in *Scrib^-/-* cKO mutants. A-B, Representative hematoxylin staining of para-sagittal sections from newborn *Emx1-Scrib^-/-* KO brains (B) and its control (A). Commissural plates are magnified in each inset. The AC (indicated by arrowheads) is still present in brains from cKO mutants. Scale bar: 1 mm (A) and 0.2 mm (B). **C**, Marked reduction of CC length (arbitrary units, a.u.) along the rostrocaudal axis in the brains of *Emx1-Scrib^-/-* cKO brains (orange, n=5) as compared with those of their control littermates (orange, n=5). Statistical analysis via a two-tailed *t*-test (***P<0.0001*) using between 3 and 5 brains per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. (indicated by an asterisk). **D-G**, Representative hematoxylin staining of serial horizontal sections from newborn *Emx1-Scrib^-/-* (E, G) cKO brains and their respective controls (D, F) at the dorsal (D-E) and ventral level (F-G). Dashed boxes in D-G are magnified in D'-G'. **D'-G'**, Higher magnification for selected insets (boxed areas) from (D-G) illustrating agenesis of the DHC (E') and CC hypoplasia (E',G'). Either dorsal (D'-E') or ventral (F'-G') sections showed showed some callosal and hippocampal axon bundles still crossing through the midline. **H-I'**, Light-sheet microscopy imaging of *Emx1-Scrib^-/-* cKO adult brains (I) and its control (H) cleared with uDISCO. 3D reconstruction of the mCherry expressed after viral infection in the CA3 region of the hippocampus cortex is represented in yellow. The HC (indicated by an arrowhead in control) is absent in brains from cKO mutants (asterisk in I,I'). Scale bars: 1 mm in (A-B,D-G, H-I'), 0.2 mm in (D'-G'). See also Supplementary Fig S5.

Fig 5. Late deletion of *Scrib* specifically in postmitotic neurons does not dramatically affect brain development. A, Dorsal views of P0 *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mouse brains. Cortical plate areas are marked with a yellow dashed line for comparison and quantification. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed *t*-test using at least 5 brains per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SEM. Scale bar: 1 mm. **B**, Representative hematoxylin staining of coronal sections from newborn *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO motor cortex at the caudal level and its control. No significant reduction of the caudal motor cortex thickness was observed in the mutant. Cortical plate thickness was measured radially from the top of the upper layer (UL) to the bottom of the lower layer (LL) of the cortex. IZ: intermediate zone, SVZ: subventricular zone, VZ: ventricular zone. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed *t*-test using at least 5 measurements per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SD. Scale bar: 0.2 mm. **C-D**, Representative hematoxylin staining of coronal sections from newborn *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains (D) and control brains (C) at the caudal level. Dashed boxes in C-D are magnified in E-F. Scale bar: 1 mm. **E-F**, Higher magnification for selected insets (boxed areas) from (C-D) illustrating the persistence of corpus callosum in the *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains. Scale bar: 0.1 mm. **G-H',** Representative immunofluorescence staining of L1-CAM (red) and GFAP (green) as a merged image (G and H) or GFAP only (G' and H', gray) on coronal sections from newborn *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains (H and H', green) and their respective controls (G and G') at the caudal level. GFAP-positive midline glia structures do form normally in *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mutants. Scale bar: 0.1 mm. **I-K**, Representative immunofluorescence staining of CuxI (I), Satb2 (J) and Ctip2 (K) on coronal sections from newborn *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains (green) and its control in the caudal motor cortex. Quantification of CuxI-, Satb2- and Ctip2-positive neurons is shown as a percentage of total DAPI-positive cells (not shown) for each ROI (see methods). In each ROI, layers II-III (Cux1- and Satb2-positive) correspond to bins 2-4 while layer V (Ctip2-positive) corresponds to bins 5-7 (highlighted in red in every figure). The proportion of CuxI- and Satb2-positive late-born neurons is decreased in *Emx1-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains, while the Ctip2 percentage is unchanged (see insets). Migration defects are suggested by the fact that several ectopic Ctip2-positive cells are mislocalized in lower bins, namely bins 8-10 (white arrowheads).

Statistical analysis via a two-tailed *t*-test (**P<0.05, **P<0.01*) using between 3 and 4

measurements per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars

indicate the SD. **L**, Schematic representation of cortical layering in the caudal motor

cortex of *Nex-Scrib*[-/-] cKO and its control. Early-born neurons (brown) are mislocalized,

while late-born neurons (blue) are decreased in proportion suggesting both migration

and cell fate defects after early loss of *Scrib* function.

Fig 6. Psychomotor alterations and memory deficits in *Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mutant mice.

A-H, Behavioral responses in adult *Emx1-Scrib*^{-/-} (orange) and *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mice (green) as compared with their littermate control (white). **A-,** Spontaneous locomotor activity. In the elevated plus maze test (A-A"), in the open field test (B-B"), in the Y-maze (C-C") and during exposure to a novel home cage (D-D"). While *Emx1-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mice travel longer distances than their respective controls (A', B', C', D'), *Nex-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mice display the opposite phenotype (A", B", C", D"). The circadian profile of the locomotor activity was measured in 1-hr increments during 24 hr in 12 hr light (blocks 18 to 6) and 12 hr dark conditions (blocks 6 to 18). E-E"**,** Motor coordination. In the rotarod test, no group of mice showed a deficit in coordination. F-F", In a hot-plate test, no group of mice showed a deficit in sensorimotor integration (F'). G-H**,** Percentage of freezing measured before training (basal), 24 hours (24 hr) and 7 days (D7) after training. In the cued fear conditioning test, *Emx1-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO mice showed a profound deficit in remote (D7) memory for the cued context when compared to control littermate mice. Values are presented at means ± s.e.m. from 6-15 mice per genotype. *(*P<0.05, **P<0.01)* versus control littermate group.

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Fig S1. Generation and characterization of *Scrib* conditional knockout mouse mutants. A, PCR genotyping to detect wild-type (437 bp), floxed (541 bp) and targeted cKO (193 bp) alleles. *Cre*-mediated excision was confirmed in P0 pups cortices by the presence of a 300 bp product (lanes 3, 4 and 5). In the absence of Cre, the wild-type and floxed alleles remain intact as determined by 437 and 541 bp fragments, respectively (lane 1 and 2). When Cre-mediated recombination occurs (lanes 3, 4 and 5), the floxed allele is excised, resulting in a 193 bp band, suggesting efficient recombination. **B,** Schematic representation of the genomic organization of mouse *Scrib* gene with 38 exons (solid boxes) including exons encoding for LRR (green boxes) or PDZ (purple boxes) domains of the protein. Cre recombinase-based excision of exons 2-8 leads to the expression of an unstable truncated protein of 135KDa (see methods). **C,** Representative western blots from control and *Scrib*-/- cKO cerebral cortices showing full-length (180 KDa) Scrib protein. Cortical protein extracts of P0 *FoxG1-Scrib*-/-, *Emx1-Scrib*-/- and *Nex-Scrib*-/- cKOs were immunoblotted with anti-Scrib MM468 antibody and anti-GAPDH as a control. cKO lysates (lanes 2, 4 and 6) show reduced levels of Scrib when compared with control littermates (lanes 1, 3 and 5). **D,** Histograms summarizing western blot quantification (densitometric intensity values). In the cKOs, the protein levels are variably reduced (from strong to moderate depending on the Cre line considered), with residual expression most likely derived from glia, blood vessels and tissue that do not express the Cre recombinase. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test ($P^{**}<0.001, P^{***}<0.0001$) using between 4 and 8 cortical samples per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SEM. **E,** Scrib expression on coronal cryosection of P0 *Emx1-Scrib*-/- cKOs mutants and control littermates. Comparison of Scrib immunostaining shows dramatic decrease in the level of Scrib protein expression in cortex and hippocampus. Negligible labeling of Scrib in *Emx1-Scrib*-/- cKOs mutants cortex (Cx), hippocampus (Hp) and fimbria (area surrounded by yellow dashed line) verify the specificity of the Scrib antibody. Persistence of Scrib expression in the ventro-medial structures verifies the specificity of the excision (see star *). Scale bar: 0.5mm. **F,** Higher magnification insets for the Hp and Cx areas from E. Scale bar: 0.1mm. **G-H,** P0 coronal sections of *Emx1-Scrib*-/--Ai6

1014   mouse brains. By crossing *Emx1-Scrib^{-/-}* into a Ai6 reporter mouse strain, we confirmed

1015   the Emx1-driven expression of the Cre recombinase in Cx, Hp and fimbria (Fi). Both

1016   rostral (G) and caudal (H) sections show robust ZSGreen1 expression in the dorsal

1017   forebrain, thus assessing efficient recombination, while the striatum show almost no

1018   sign of Cre−mediated recombination (see star *). Scale bar: 0.5mm.

1019

Supplementary Fig S2. Early deletion of *Scrib* leads to microcephaly. Cortical layering is severely disturbed in *FoxG1-Scrib*-/- cKO brains. A, Dorsal views of P0 *FoxG1-Scrib*-/- cKO mice brains. Cortical plate areas are marked with a yellow dashed line for comparison and quantification. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (*P***<0.05*) using between 5 and 8 brains per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SD. Scale bar: 1 mm. **B**, Schematic dorsal view of a P0 mouse brain that were sectioned coronally and observed either at the rostral (R.) or caudal (C.) level as indicated by the red dashed lines. **C-D**, Representative hematoxylin staining of coronal sections from newborn *FoxG1-Scrib*-/- cKO motor cortex at the caudal (C) and rostral (D) levels and their respective controls. Note a marked reduction of the motor cortex thickness (M) in cKOs that extends to the cingulate (Cg) and somatosensory (S1-S2) cortex at both rostral (C) and caudal (D) levels. Cortical plate thickness was measured radially from the top of the upper layer (UL) to the bottom of the lower layer (LL) of the cortex. IZ: Intermediate Zone, SVZ: Sub-Ventricular Zone, VZ: Ventricular Zone. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (*P*****<0.0001*) using between 6 to 8 measurements per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SEM. Scale bar: 0.2 mm. **E-G**, Representative Immunofluorescence staining of CuxI (E), Satb2 (F) and Ctip2 (G) on coronal sections from newborn *FoxG1-Scrib*-/- cKO brains (dark red) and their respective controls (red) in caudal motor cortex. Quantification of CuxI-, Satb2- and Ctip2-positive neurons is shown as a percentage of total DAPI-positive cells (not shown) for each ROI (see methods). In each ROI, layers II-III (Cux1- and Satb2-positive) are corresponding to bins 2-4 while layer V (Ctip2-positive) is corresponding to bins 5-7 (highlighted in red in every figure). Severe reduction of CuxI (ctrl, 29.9% ± 3.4; mutant, 9.75% ± 2.3; *p* = 0.003), Satb2 (ctrl, 40.5% ± 2.2; mutant, 17.9% ± 2.4; *p* = 0.001) and Ctip2 (ctrl, 11.4% ± 0.8; mutant, 6.1% ± 0.9; *p* = 0.006) percentages were observed in *FoxG1-Scrib*-/- cKO caudal motor cortices. A few Ctip2-positive cells were also found in deeper layers of the cortex, suggesting migration defects in addition to potential neurogenesis impairment. Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (*P***<0.05, P****<0.01*) using between 3 to 4 measurements per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. Error bars indicate the SD. **H**, Schematic representation of cortical layering in caudal motor cortex

1051   of *FoxG1-Scrib^{-/-}* cKO and its control. Both early-born (brown) and late-born neurons

1052   (blue) are massively decreased in proportion suggesting cell fate defects after *Scrib*

1053   early invalidation in this cKO strain. See also Fig 5.See also Fig3.

1054

Supplementary Fig S3. Schematic representation of section through the commissural plate.

A, Schematic para-sagittal depiction of a P0 mouse brain commissural plate. **B**, Higher magnification of the commisural plate (green) from (A) depicting the Corpus Callosum (CC in purple), the Dorsal Hippocampal Commissure (DHC in yellow), the Ventral Hippocampal Commissure (VHC in blue) and the Anterior Commissure (AC in brown). Brains sections were observed either caudally (C.) or rostrally (R.) along the rostro-caudal axis as indicated by the red dashed lines. Relative to Figure 3, 5 and S4. **C-D,** Schematic para-sagittal view of a P0 mouse brain. Brains were sectioned either para-sagitally (Ps. in C) or horizontally (in D) as indicated by the red dashed line. (D), Higher magnification of the commisural plate (green) from (C) depicting the Corpus Callosum (CC in purple), the Dorsal Hippocampal Commissure (DHC in yellow), the Ventral Hippocampal Commissure (VHC in blue) and the Anterior Commissure (AC in brown). CC length (L.) was determined as indicated by the red bracket. Brains were sectioned either para-sagitally (C) or horizontally along the dorso-ventral axis (D) and were observed either at the dorsal (D.) or ventral (V.) level as indicated by the red dashed lines. Relative to Fig 4 and S5.

Supplementary Fig S4. Complete corpus callosum agenesis in *FoxG1-Scrib*^{-/-} *cKO* mutants. A, Schematic para-sagittal depiction of a P0 mouse brain commissural plate. **B**, Higher magnification of the commisural plate (green) from (A) depicting the Corpus Callosum (CC in purple), the Dorsal Hippocampal Commissure (DHC in yellow), the Ventral Hippocampal Commissure (VHC in blue) and the Anterior Commissure (AC in brown). Brains sections were observed either caudally (C.) or rostrally (R.) along the rostro-caudal axis as indicated by the red dashed lines. **C-F**, Representative hematoxylin staining of coronal sections from newborn *FoxG1-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains (D and F) and their respective controls (C and E) at the caudal (C-D) or rostral (E-F) levels. Dashed boxes in C-F are magnified in C'-F'. **C'-F'**, Higher magnification for selected insets (boxed areas) from (C-F) illustrating high penetrance of CC agenesis (ACC) both at the caudal and rostral level. At P0, 100% of *FoxG1-Scrib*^{-/-} (n=12) cKO brains displayed ACC. Instead of crossing the midline, CC axons formed whorls (Probst bundles, PB) on either side of the midline that are indicated with an asterisks in D' and F'. **C''-F''**, DiI crystals placed in the dorsomedial cortex trace CC axons in *FoxG1-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains (D" and F") and their respective controls (C" and E") at the caudal (C"-D") or rostral (E"-F") levels at P0. In *FoxG1-Scrib*^{-/-} cKO brains, misrouted callosal axons form dense PB (asterisks in D", F") lateral to the midline. Abbreviations: Cortex (Cx), Hippocampus (Hp), Corpus Callosum (CC). Midline is indicated as a white dashed line. Scale bars: 1 mm in (C-F), 0.1 mm in (C'-F'). See also Fig3.

Supplementary Fig S5. ACC is accompanied by hippocampal commissure agenesis in *Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO mutants. A-B, Schematic dorsal (A) or para-sagittal (B) views of a P0 mouse brain. Brains were sectioned either para-sagitally (Ps. in A) or horizontally (in B) as indicated by the red dashed line. **C**, Higher magnification of the commisural plate (green) from (B) depicting the Corpus Callosum (CC in purple), the Dorsal Hippocampal Commissure (DHC in yellow), the Ventral Hippocampal Commissure (VHC in blue) and the Anterior Commissure (AC in brown). CC length (L.) was determined as indicated by the red bracket. Brains were sectioned either para-sagitally (D-F) or horizontally (G-J') along the dorso-ventral axis and were observed either at the dorsal (D.) or ventral (V.) level as indicated by the red dashed lines. **D-E**, Representative hematoxylin staining of para-sagittal sections from newborn *FoxG1-Scrib⁻/⁻* KO brains (E) and its control (D). Commissural plates are magnified in each inset. The AC (indicated by arrowheads) is still present in brains from cKO mutants. **F**, Marked reduction of CC length (arbitrary units a.u) along the rostro-caudal axis in *FoxG1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO brains (red, n=8) as compared with their control littermates (white, n=6). Statistical analysis via a two-tailed t test (*P***<0.0001*) using between 5 and 8 brains per genotype from at least 3 independent experiments. **H-O**, Representative hematoxylin staining of serial horizontal sections from newborn *FoxG1-Scrib⁻/⁻* (I,M) and *Emx1-Scrib⁻/⁻* (K,O) cKO brains and their respective controls (H,L,J,N) at the dorsal (H-K) and ventral level (L-O). Dashed boxes in H-O are magnified in H'-O'. **G-J**, Representative hematoxylin staining of serial horizontal sections from newborn *FoxG1-Scrib⁻/⁻* (H, J) cKO brains and their respective controls (G, I) at the dorsal (G-H) and ventral level (I-J). Dashed boxes in G-J are magnified in G'-J'. **G'-J'**, Higher magnification for selected insets (boxed areas) from (G-J). Sections through the *FoxG1-Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO brains reveal the complete absence of the CC and DHC. Misrouted callosal axons form dense PB (asterisks) lateral to the midline in dorsal sections (H') and failed to reach the contolateral hemisphere ventrally (J', asterisk). Despite an apparent thinning, the VHC is still observed in ventral sections (J').These defects were penetrant in all *Scrib⁻/⁻* cKO mutants observed (n=3 for each genotype). Scale bars: 1 mm in (C-F, H-O), 0.2 mm in (H'-O'). See also Fig4.

Supplementary Fig S6. Genetic deletion of *Scrib* in mice does not induce anxious or neophobic behavior and does not affect balance and motor coordination. A-F, Behavioral responses in adult *Emx1-Scrib*$^{-/-}$ cKO mice (orange) and adult *Nex-Scrib* cKO mice (green) as compared with their control littermate. **A,** Body weight of adult mice. **B,** Time spent in open arms during 5min in the elevated plus maze. Compared to the control littermate, all mutant mice spent a normal amount of time in the open to total arms (*t*-test; *Emx1 vs*. Ctrl, t_{19}=1.15; *Nex vs*. Ctrl, t_{25}=1.17; all n.s). **C,** Time in center of the open field during 5 min. Consistently, all mutant mice spent a comparable amount of time in the center region of the open field area, as compared with WT mice (*t*-test; *Emx1 vs*. Ctrl, t_{20}=0.06; *Nex vs*. Ctrl, t_{26}=0.76; all n.s). **D,** Total number of entry in Y maze during 5min. In experiments exploring neophobia, both Scrib mutant mice displayed normal spontaneous spatial novelty preference in the Y maze test indicated by comparable number of arms entries than controls mice (*t*-test; *Emx1 vs*. Ctrl, t_{20}=1.02; *Nex vs*. Ctrl, t_{25}=1.41; all n.s). **E**, Total spent time (right panel), velocity (middle panel) and number of flips (left panel) during the beam walking test. **F**, Measured of latency to fall during the grid handling test. Values are presented at means ± SEM from 8–14 mice per genotype.

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure S1

Figure S2

Commissural plate   Corpus callosum (CC)

Dorsal Hippocampal commissure (DHC)

Ventral Hippocampal commissure (VHC)

Anterior Commissure (AC)

Figure S3

Figure S4

Figure S5

Figure S6