

1 **Extended amygdala-parabrachial circuits alter threat assessment to**
2 **regulate feeding**

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29 **Abstract:**

30 An animal's evolutionary success depends on the ability to seek and consume foods while
31 avoiding environmental threats. However, how evolutionarily conserved threat detection circuits
32 modulate feeding is unknown. In mammals, feeding and threat assessment are strongly
33 influenced by the parabrachial nucleus (PBN), a structure that responds to threats and inhibits
34 feeding. Here, we report that the PBN receives dense inputs from the bed nucleus of the stria
35 terminalis (BNST), an extended amygdala structure that encodes affective information. Using a
36 series of complementary approaches, we identify opposing BNST-PBN circuits that modulate a
37 genetically-defined population of PBN neurons to control feeding. This previously unrecognized
38 neural circuit integrates threat assessment with the intrinsic drive to eat.

39

40 **Keywords:** extended amygdala; bed nucleus of the stria terminalis; parabrachial nucleus;
41 feeding; threat assessment; anxiety; motivation

42 **Main text:**

43

44 **Introduction**

45 All animals must successfully seek and consume food while avoiding environmental
46 threats to survive. The internal state of an animal directly impacts the expression of risky
47 behaviors, such as exploring a dangerous environment to obtain rewards and maintain
48 homeostasis. Animals must adaptively prioritize certain behaviors to appropriately respond to their
49 internal state (Alhadeff et al., 2018; Burnett et al., 2016). While many studies have explored the
50 interaction of metabolic need states with behavior, how mammals integrate affective-threat
51 assessment with internal need states remains largely unknown.

52 Several recent reports have found that in mammals, food consumption and threat
53 assessment are heavily influenced by the parabrachial nucleus (PBN), a pontine structure that
54 integrates visceral and sensory information to encode metabolic needs (Campos et al., 2016,
55 2018; Carter et al., 2013; Essner et al., 2017; Han et al., 2015; Mu et al., 2017; Roman et al.,
56 2016; Ryan et al., 2017; Zséli et al., 2016). The amygdala and extended amygdala are
57 evolutionarily conserved brain regions that encode and integrate valence, stress, and threat to
58 alter behavioral states. Anatomical data suggest that the PBN receives input from several regions
59 that may encode affective information, including the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST), a
60 structure in the extended amygdala (Douglass et al., 2017; Kim et al., 2013; Mazzone et al., 2018;
61 Zséli et al., 2016). However, the neural circuit mechanisms that underlie the integration of an
62 animal's own motivation to eat with internal affective states regarding environmental threats are
63 still unknown. Here, we identified two previously unknown afferents from distinct populations
64 within the BNST to the PBN that underlie the complex integration of threat-assessment and
65 feeding signals to modulate PBN activity and ultimately regulate state-dependent feeding.

66

67

68 **Results**

69 **Anatomical and Molecular Characterization of Opposing BNST-PBN Circuits**

70 The BNST is a heterogeneous population comprised of glutamatergic, GABAergic, and
71 peptidergic neurons (Daniel and Rainnie, 2016; Giardino et al., 2018; Gungor and Paré, 2016;
72 Gungor et al., 2018; Jennings et al., 2013a, 2013b). To determine whether distinct neuronal
73 circuits from the BNST innervate the PBN to alter feeding behaviors, we injected Cre-inducible
74 anterograde AAVs expressing channelrhodopsin-2 with an eYFP reporter (AAV5-DIO-ChR2-
75 eYFP) into the BNST of vesicular GABA transporter (vGAT)-Cre and vesicular glutamate
76 transporter (vGLUT2)-Cre mice, which revealed robust axonal projections to the PBN from
77 GABAergic (**Figures 1A and S1F-S1K**) and glutamatergic (**Figure 1D**) BNST neurons. To further
78 substantiate our anterograde tracing findings, we used Cre-inducible retrograde adeno-
79 associated viruses (retro-AAV2) expressing an enhanced yellow fluorescent protein (eYFP)
80 reporter (AAV2retro-DIO-eYFP) (Tervo et al., 2016) into the PBN of vGAT-Cre or vGLUT2-Cre
81 mice (**Figure S1A**). Retrograde tracing revealed populations of both GABAergic and
82 glutamatergic BNST neurons that innervate the PBN (**Figure S1A**).

83 We next assessed whether these distinct populations make functional monosynaptic
84 connections to PBN neurons using *ex vivo* patch-clamp electrophysiology. We collected acute
85 brain slices containing the PBN from either vGAT-Cre or vGLUT2-Cre mice expressing DIO-
86 ChR2-eYFP in BNST-PBN projections. We optogenetically evoked post-synaptic currents in PBN
87 neurons receiving BNST GABAergic (**Figure 1B**) or glutamatergic (**Figure 1E**) innervation during
88 whole-cell patch clamp recording. Optogenetic activation of GABAergic BNST terminals in the
89 PBN evoked IPSCs that were pharmacologically blocked using GABA_A antagonists (**Figure 1C**),
90 while optogenetic activation of glutamatergic BNST terminals in the PBN evoked EPSCs that were
91 pharmacologically blocked using AMPAR/NMDAR antagonists (**Figure 1F**). Postsynaptic
92 currents occurred <5ms after the light pulse, suggesting that both excitatory and inhibitory
93 connections are monosynaptic (**Figure S1B-E**).

94 We further characterized the molecular expression profiles of these distinct inhibitory and
95 excitatory BNST-PBN projections by using translating ribosome affinity purification (TRAP) to
96 determine their translational signature (Doyle et al., 2008). We generated a new Cre-dependent
97 TRAP construct within the retro-AAV2 vector (AAV2retro-DIO-TRAP) and injected it into the PBN
98 of vGAT-Cre and vGLUT2-Cre mice to isolate RNA transcripts from each BNST-PBN projection
99 population with genotype and projection specificity (Parker et al., 2019; Tervo et al., 2016). We
100 then isolated and sequenced ribosome-bound mRNA from the BNST in each group (**Figures 1G,**
101 **S2A, and S2B**). The vGAT and vGLUT2 projections are enriched in several genes of interest
102 (**Figures 1H, 1I, and S2C-S2E**). BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons are enriched in the neuropeptide
103 mRNAs *tachykinin 2 (Tac2)* (Zelikowsky et al., 2018) and *galanin (Gal)*, as well as a somatostatin
104 receptor (*Sstr3*) and *melanocortin-2 receptor accessory protein 2 (Mrap2)*, which play important
105 roles in limiting anxiety, responses and regulating feeding behavior (Ahrens et al., 2018; Asai et
106 al., 2013; Bruschetta et al., 2018; Elsilä et al., 2018). BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons are enriched in
107 *Adcyap1*, which encodes the neuropeptide PACAP, previously identified as a major regulator of
108 stress responses in the BNST (Hammack et al., 2009; Roman et al., 2014), including in contexts
109 of addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder (Miles et al., 2018; Ressler et al., 2011). Both
110 BNST-PBN^{vGAT} and BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons express calcitonin receptor (*Calcr*), recently
111 associated with the regulation of feeding (Cheng et al., 2020; Pan et al., 2018), and *nociceptin*
112 (*Pnoc*), linked to motivated behaviors including feeding (Hardaway et al., 2019; Parker et al.,
113 2019; Toll et al., 2016). We further validated these RNAseq findings by performing fluorescent in-
114 situ hybridization experiments, which revealed co-expression of *Tac2*, *Sstr3*, and *Calcr* with
115 vGAT and *Adcyap1* with vGLUT2 neurons within the BNST (**Figures S2F-S2I**).

116

117 **Feeding and Threat Differentially Engage Excitatory and Inhibitory BNST-PBN Circuits**

118 To determine whether these distinct genetically-defined BNST-PBN circuits modulate
119 feeding behavior, we used fiber photometry to monitor calcium-mediated fluorescence, a proxy

120 for neuronal activity, of BNST-PBN terminals in freely-behaving mice (Gunaydin et al., 2014;
121 Pologruto et al., 2004). To determine whether GABAergic BNST-PBN terminals are engaged
122 during feeding behavior, we targeted AAVDJ-DIO-GCaMP6s to the BNST of vGAT-Cre mice and
123 positioned optical fibers above the PBN for measurement of BNST-PBN GABAergic terminal
124 calcium activity (**Figures 2A, 2B, and S3A, S3C, and S3E**). We found that BNST-PBN^{vGAT}
125 GCaMP activity increased as an animal engaged in both sated and hedonic feeding (i.e. sucrose),
126 as well as in other food seeking modalities including high-fat, food deprived, and normal chow
127 within novel-anxiogenic environments (**Figures 2C-2K and S3G**). Conversely, to assess whether
128 glutamatergic input to the PBN is altered during feeding behavior, we targeted AAVDJ-DIO-
129 GCaMP6s to the BNST of vGLUT2-Cre mice and similarly positioned optical fibers above the PBN
130 for measurement of BNST-PBN glutamatergic terminal calcium activity (**Figures 3A, 3B, and**
131 **S3B, S3D, and S3F**). In these experiments, we found that BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} GCaMP activity
132 decreased when an animal engaged in these same feeding behaviors (**Figures 3C-3K**). Together,
133 these data suggest a differential opposing role for GABAergic and glutamatergic BNST-PBN
134 circuits in modulating feeding behavior.

135 Food-seeking requires an alteration of threat assessment and anxiety-like behavior in
136 order to adaptively seek out and consume food as necessary for survival. We therefore
137 hypothesized that if these circuits indeed alter feeding behavior concurrently with threat
138 assessment, GABAergic or glutamatergic BNST-PBN input may be differentially engaged during
139 aversive threat stimuli, respectively. To assess this, we recorded from BNST-PBN terminals in
140 vGAT-Cre and vGLUT-Cre mice during the presentation of multiple shock stimuli (**Figure 4A**).
141 When animals were presented with an aversive shock, BNST-PBN^{vGAT} calcium transient activity
142 rapidly decreased in response (**Figures 4B-4D**), while BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} activity increased
143 following shock (**Figures 4E-4F**). These observations indicate that inhibitory GABAergic BNST-
144 PBN circuits may act to diminish threat signaling to engage and allow feeding, while excitatory

145 glutamatergic BNST-PBN circuits could be recruited to enhance threat signaling and suppress
146 feeding behaviors.

147

148 **Excitatory and Inhibitory BNST-PBN Circuit Activation Drive Opposing Feeding Behavior**

149 Since photometry measurements at the terminals revealed that these two opposing BNST-
150 PBN projections are modulated during feeding and threat responses, we next utilized optogenetic
151 approaches to assess whether manipulating neural circuit activity of BNST-PBN circuits alters
152 feeding, threat, and affective valence, and to determine direct causality of this circuit in regulating
153 behavior. We targeted AAV5-EF1 α -DIO-ChR2 to the BNST of vGAT-Cre or vGLUT2-Cre mice
154 and positioned optical fibers above the PBN for photo-stimulation of BNST-PBN GABAergic or
155 glutamatergic terminals (**Figure 5A**). First, we measured food consumption with or without
156 genetically defined neural circuit photo-activation while mice had free access to different foods
157 (**Figure 5B**). Activation of ChR2 in BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons increased food consumption
158 compared to control mice under sated conditions (**Figure 5C and S4B**). This increase also
159 occurred with sucrose and high-fat foods (**Figures S4D-S4F**). Furthermore, photoactivation of
160 BNST-PBN^{vGAT} signaling also increased consumption of less-palatable salt-enriched or bitter (i.e.
161 quinine-enriched) foods (**Figure S4G-S4I**). Notably, this BNST-PBN^{vGAT}-mediated increase in
162 feeding was present when the animal was sated but was not evident after food deprivation (**Figure**
163 **5C, Figure S4C**). Together, these results suggest that the inhibitory BNST-PBN circuit is sufficient
164 to drive feeding in sated states, regardless of food type, and likely overrides the valence of the
165 food. In contrast, we saw a ceiling effect in the food-deprived state, suggesting that inhibitory
166 BNST-PBN circuits are already engaged, consistent with our fiber photometry data (**Figure S3G**).
167 Additionally, optogenetic inhibition of the BNST-PBN^{vGAT} circuit using Arch3.0 revealed its
168 necessity for hunger-driven feeding (**Figures S4P-S4R**). In contrast to activation of BNST-
169 PBN^{vGAT}, activation of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} circuits in a food-deprived state decreased consumption
170 of normal chow (**Figures 5D and S5A-S5E**), demonstrating that the excitatory BNST-PBN circuit

171 is sufficient to reduce feeding when mice in a food-deprived state, suggesting binary and opposing
172 BNST-PBN circuits.

173

174 **Excitatory and Inhibitory BNST-PBN Circuit Activation Drive Opposing Affective States**

175 Internal state (affective valence) alters an animal's ability to assess potential threats and
176 explore different environments, a requirement to locate and consume foods. Therefore, we sought
177 to assess the affective valence of these distinct BNST-PBN circuits by subjecting mice to real-
178 time-place-preference (RTPP) tests and operant-reinforcement assays (Al-Hasani et al., 2015;
179 McCall et al., 2015; Seo et al., 2016). We injected AAV5-EF1 α -DIO-ChR2 into the BNST of vGAT-
180 Cre or vGLUT2-Cre mice, placing an optic fiber above the PBN, and tested whether stimulation
181 of this BNST-PBN^{vGAT} pathway was reinforcing or aversive. In the RTPP assay, photoactivation
182 of ChR2 in BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons resulted in a robust place preference for the photostimulation-
183 paired side, while photoactivation of ChR2 in BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons resulted in a robust place
184 aversion for the photostimulation-paired side, as compared to controls (**Figures 5E and 5F**). In
185 an operant self-stimulation paradigm, photoactivation of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons significantly
186 increased the number of nose pokes for self-stimulation relative to controls (**Figure 5H**),
187 demonstrating that BNST-PBN^{vGAT} stimulation is positively reinforcing. Conversely,
188 photoactivation of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons significantly increased the number of nose pokes
189 mice performed to turn off photostimulation (**Figures 5I and 5F**), demonstrating that BNST-
190 PBN^{vGLUT2} stimulation is negatively reinforcing. These data indicate that activation of GABAergic
191 and glutamatergic BNST-PBN circuits have innate positive and negative affective valence,
192 respectively (Namburi et al., 2016).

193 To assess whether BNST-PBN circuits modulate threat-assessment, we tested mice in
194 the elevated zero maze (EZM), which measures anxiety-like behaviors and exploration in a novel
195 brightly lit anxiogenic context (McCall et al., 2015). When EZM experiments were conducted in a
196 brightly lit aversive setting, mice with photoactivation of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons spent more time

197 in the open arms compared to controls (**Figures 5J, S4K, and S4L**), consistent with increased
198 exploratory drive. In contrast, mice with photoactivation of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons showed
199 decreased exploration of the open arms (**Figure 5K**), indicating that stimulation of this circuit is
200 sufficient to reduce exploration of an anxiogenic environment. As a further test of whether BNST-
201 PBN^{vGAT} activation can suppress defensive behaviors associated with threat, we subjected mice
202 to threat-conditioning and measured their defensive response (freezing) to a conditioned stimulus.
203 Mice were trained to associate a conditioned stimulus (tone) with a highly aversive unconditioned
204 stimulus (0.7 mA, 2-s footshock). Photostimulation of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons robustly reduced
205 the defensive responses to the conditioned stimulus (**Figures 5L and 5M**). These data indicate
206 that BNST-PBN circuits are sufficient and necessary for regulating opposing behavioral states
207 including anxiety and threat within the context of feeding behavior.

208

209 **pDyn-expressing PBN neurons receive BNST input and alter feeding and affective behavior**

210 We next aimed to determine the specific targets of BNST^{vGAT} and BNST^{vGLUT2} projections
211 in the PBN. Previous studies have identified diverse neuronal populations within the primarily
212 glutamatergic PBN (Carter et al., 2013; Geerling et al., 2015; Miller et al., 2011; Ryan et al., 2017).
213 Here we examined dynorphin (pDyn) neurons, previously shown to regulate thermoregulation
214 (Cintron-Colon et al., 2019; Geerling et al., 2015), and CGRP neurons (Campos et al., 2016;
215 Carter et al., 2013; Han et al., 2015), shown to function as a general alarm system that responds
216 to threats and inhibits feeding when activated. In-situ hybridization experiments demonstrated
217 that pDyn neurons and CGRP neurons form genetically and anatomically distinct populations in
218 the PBN (**Figures 6A and 6B**). Using a transynaptic rabies tracing method (Beier et al., 2015;
219 Schwarz et al., 2015; Wickersham et al., 2007), we found that BNST neurons indeed form
220 monosynaptic connections with pDyn-expressing neurons in the PBN (**Figures 6C-6E**) and may
221 therefore be a critical downstream node for the behavioral effects of inhibitory and excitatory
222 BNST-PBN inputs.

223 We targeted dynorphin-expressing PBN neurons in pDyn-Cre mice with AAV5-EF1 α -DIO-
224 ChR2 and subjected the mice to a both feeding and affective behavioral tests (**Figures 6F and**
225 **6G**). Consistent with the effects of excitatory BNST-PBN activation, we found that
226 photostimulation of PBN^{pDyn} produces a robust real-time place aversion (**Figures 6H-6J, S6A,**
227 **and S6B**) and reduced feeding when animals were in a food-deprived state (**Figures 6K and**
228 **S6C**). Additionally, inhibition of the broader PBN^{vGLUT2} population rapidly and reversibly increased
229 food consumption (**Figures S6D and S6E**). Likewise, chemogenetic inhibition of PBN^{pDyn} neurons
230 using the hm4Di DREADD strategy (Armbruster et al., 2007) decreased the latency to consume
231 food in an anxiogenic environment and increased overall food consumption in mice expressing
232 the inhibitory DREADD when given CNO compared to saline, while control animals did not differ
233 between treatments (**Figure 6L-6P**). Consistent with this finding, the inhibition of PBN^{pDyn} neurons
234 produced anxiolytic behavior in an EZM test (**Figure 6Q**). These data reveal a previously
235 unrecognized functional role of PBN^{pDyn} neurons as primary integrators of BNST afferents that
236 coordinate feeding drive with threat assessment.

237

238 **Discussion**

239 These studies indicate that discrete and opposing neural circuitry from the BNST to the
240 PBN integrates internal states, threat assessment, and feeding behavior. The BNST has been
241 shown to be involved in numerous functions related to threats and motivated behaviors (Lebow
242 and Chen, 2016), and our findings demonstrate that the BNST conveys sensory and affective
243 information to the PBN to alter behavior critical to an animal's survival.

244 Recent studies have demonstrated BNST input to the PBN and revealed that BNST
245 neurons may influence respiration and anxiety via increased metabolic activity in the parabrachial
246 nucleus (Kim et al., 2013; Mazzone et al., 2018). Nonetheless, studies to date had not determined
247 the identity of these projections. Employing the use of genetic targeting in our study, we unveil a
248 separable role for discrete genetically-defined BNST-PBN projections. We also identify the

249 complement of mRNAs actively translated by PBN-projecting BNST neurons in a cell-type specific
250 manner, revealing several peptides and receptors that may act as neuromodulatory regulators
251 influencing affect and feeding (**Figures 1G-1I**). Notably, these peptides and receptors provide an
252 entryway to follow up studies and the development of new therapeutic strategies for treating
253 feeding and affective diseases including obesity, generalized anxiety, and depression. Future
254 studies employing Cre driver lines and pharmacological approaches will be critical to dissect the
255 neuropeptide and receptor systems influencing these complex anxiety-like and feeding behaviors.

256 In this study, we also probe the neural dynamics and functional roles of opposing BNST-
257 PBN circuits using fiber photometry together with optogenetics. Our results reveal that the
258 GABAergic BNST-PBN circuit is engaged by and drives feeding behavior and exploration, while
259 the glutamatergic BNST-PBN circuit is disengaged during feeding and suppresses state-
260 dependent feeding and exploration (**Figures 2-5**). Interestingly, the distinct circuits begin
261 increasing or decreasing their activity prior to the consumption itself, suggesting that the circuit is
262 not only encoding the consumption but the appetitive behavior as well. Furthermore, we
263 demonstrate that these opposing inhibitory and excitatory circuits act to drive these behaviors
264 partly via the attribution of valence inherent to the circuit itself (**Figure 5**). Further studies exploring
265 both acute and learned threat detection with opposing feeding states will be needed to explore
266 how these circuits adapt under various environmental influences. Here we demonstrate that
267 activation of these circuits is sufficient to alter feeding, exploration, and threat assessment. Given
268 that eating disorders are highly associated with varying affective states (Hardaway et al., 2015),
269 further investigation of these circuits under varying affective states imposed by external adverse
270 experiences such as pain or stress is necessary to fully understand the extent of their involvement.

271 The PBN consists of many cell-types that may mediate separable aspects of feeding and
272 aversion (Campos et al., 2018; Fu et al., 2019; Park et al., 2020; Ryan et al., 2017). Of these cell-
273 types, neurons expressing calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) located in the ventral/external
274 lateral parabrachial (PBNel) thought to function as a general alarm system that sends aversive

275 signals throughout the brain are of the most notable (Palmiter, 2018). However, our results
276 demonstrate that GABAergic and glutamatergic BNST terminals are most dense in the
277 dorsolateral and medial regions of the PBN and lacking in the ventrolateral region where CGRP
278 neurons reside (**Figures 1A, 1D, 6A, 6B, and S1A**). This was both interesting and surprising to
279 us because this reveals that although CGRP neurons mediate feeding and aversion, they are not
280 the sole neuropeptide population in the PBN mediating these behaviors. In our studies, we have
281 demonstrated that dynorphin-expressing neurons located in the dorsolateral PBN (PBN^{pDyn}) are
282 also critically poised as functional mediators of feeding and affective behaviors (Bhatti et al.,
283 2018). Additionally, recent studies seem to suggest that PBN^{pDyn} may communicate with CGRP
284 neurons in response to noxious pain stimuli (Chiang et al., 2019). Prior to this study, the primary
285 function for PBN^{pDyn} was thought to be for thermoregulation (Cintron-Colon et al., 2019; Geerling
286 et al., 2015). Altogether, these studies with our results suggest that a primary role for PBN^{pDyn} is
287 to integrate internal states including threat assessment, anxiety, thermoregulation, or pain, in
288 order to adaptively seek and consume or avoid food.

289 Here we present two opposing neural circuits from the BNST to the PBN that mediate
290 threat-assessment, exploration, and feeding behaviors in part via their connections to dynorphin-
291 expressing PBN neurons. Our results implicate these circuits, neuropeptide candidates, and both
292 inhibitory and excitatory BNST neurons as critical integrators with the PBN for adaptive and
293 affective behaviors necessary for survival. These findings may provide new avenues for the
294 development of unique strategies to mitigate maladaptive behaviors related to eating patterns or
295 affective state.

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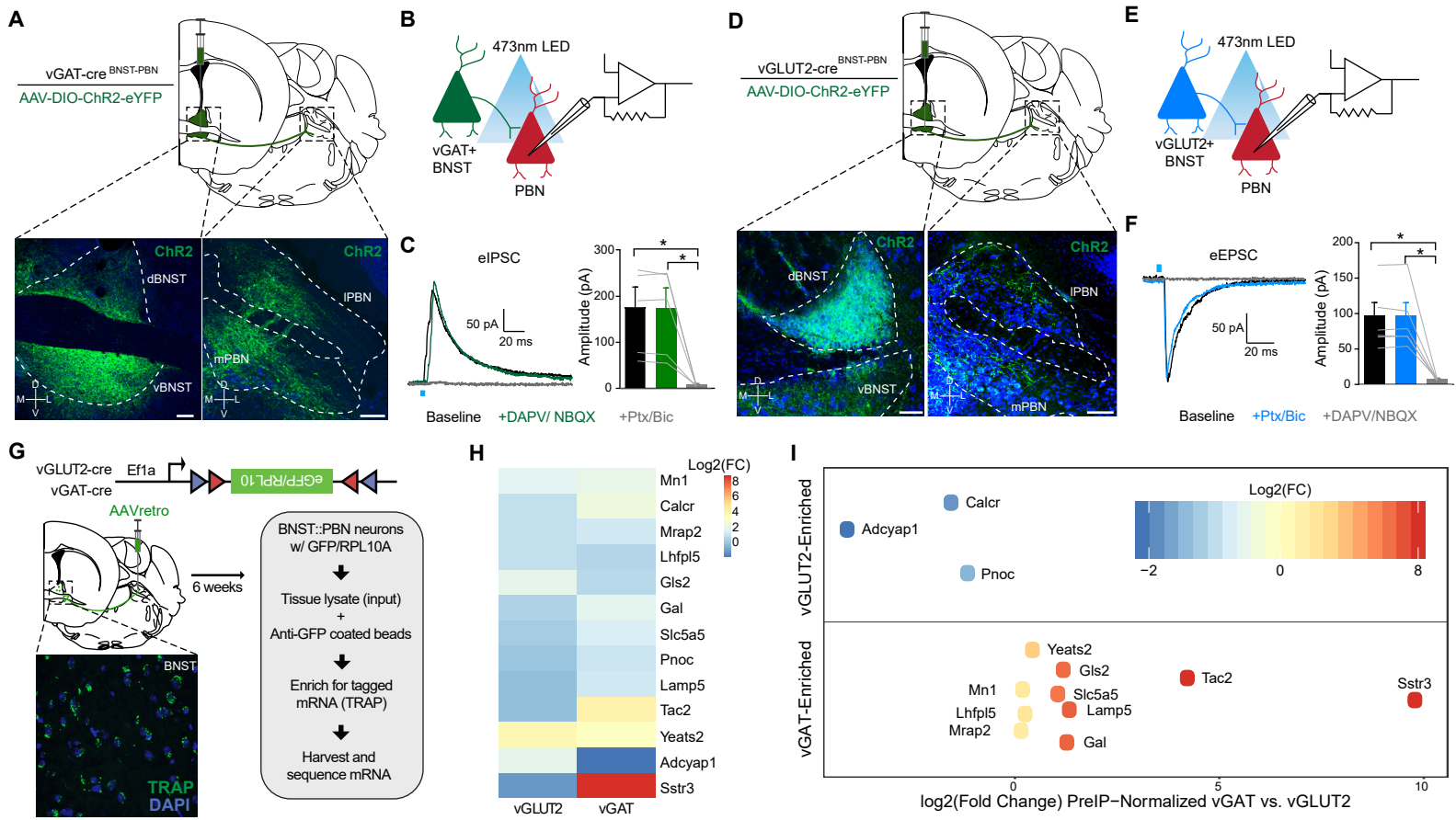
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467
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479 M.R.B. conceptualized and designed the entire study. D.L.B., A.T.L., C.E.P., K.K., H.O.B., and
480 A.S. performed stereotaxic surgeries, behavioral experiments, and histology. D.L.B. performed
481 electrophysiological experiments. A.T.L. and C.E.P. performed fiber photometry experiments.

482 A.T.L. and B.M. performed RNA sequencing experiments. D.L.B., A.T.L., C.E.P, and B.M.
483 performed statistical analysis. D.L.B., A.T.L., and M.R.B. made the figures. D.L.B., A.T.L., and
484 M.R.B. wrote the manuscript with collective input from all authors. J.D.D. supervised RNA
485 sequencing experiments. R.W.G. supervised electrophysiological experiments. M.R.B.
486 supervised the entire study. **Competing Interests:** Although there are no studies we report here
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FIGURE 1



494 **Figure 1. Anatomical and molecular characterization of opposing BNST-PBN circuits.**

495 **(A)** Schematic of viral injection and representative image depicting expression in BNST^{vGAT} soma
496 and their terminals in the PBN (scale bar: 100 μ m). Blue = Nissl. Green = eYFP.

497 **(B)** Schematic of whole-cell patch clamp electrophysiology recordings of optically-evoked IPSCs.

498 **(C)** Optogenetic activation of BNST^{vGAT} terminals elicit IPSCs in PBN neurons that are abolished
499 by GABA_A receptor antagonism (n=5 cells, 4 mice).

500 **(D)** Schematic of viral injection and representative image depicting expression in BNST^{vGLUT2}
501 soma and their terminals in the PBN (scale bar: 100 μ m). Blue = Nissl. Green = eYFP.

502 **(E)** Schematic of whole-cell patch clamp electrophysiology recordings of optically-evoked EPSCs.

503 **(F)** Optogenetic activation of BNST^{vGLUT2} terminals elicit EPSCs in PBN neurons that are
504 abolished by AMPA/NMDA receptor antagonism (n=6 cells, 5 mice).

505 **(G)** Cartoon of injection of TRAP into PBN of vGLUT2-Cre or vGAT-Cre animals. Tagged mRNA
506 was extracted from the BNST and sequenced. Inset: representative image of TRAP-GFP
507 expression in BNST.

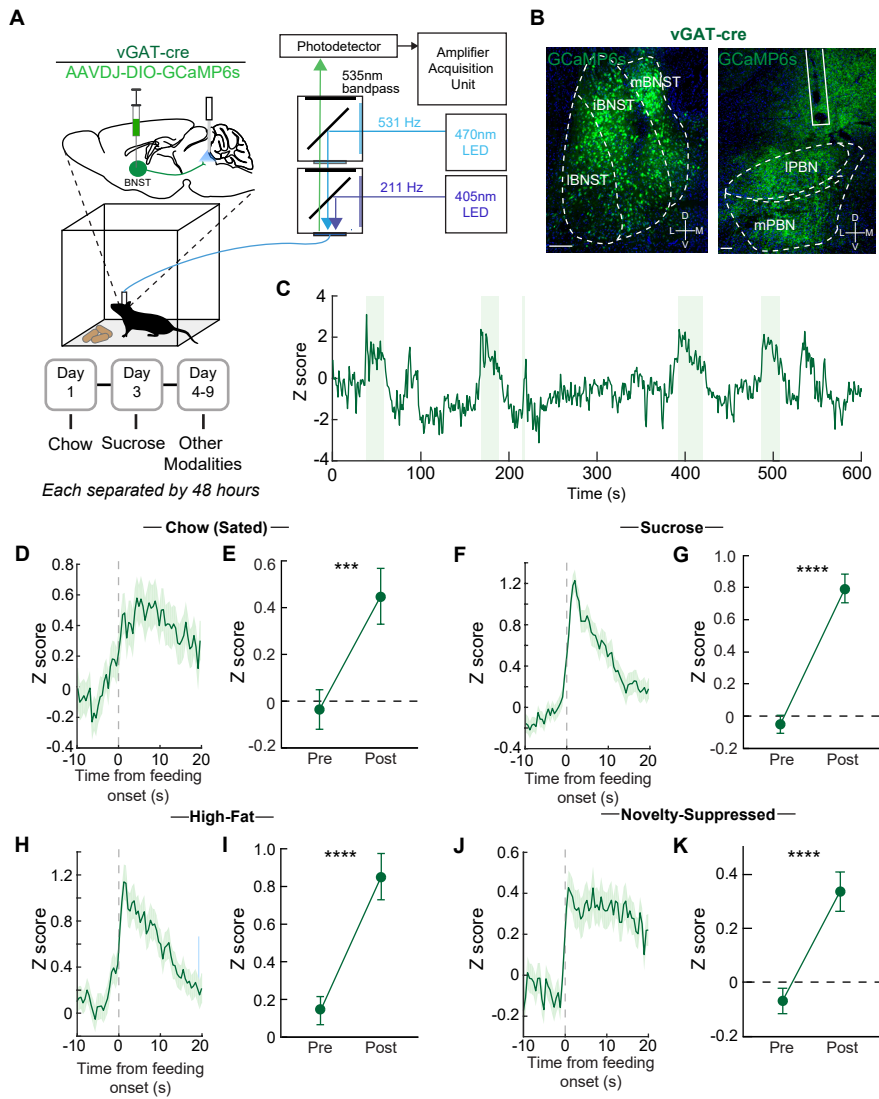
508 **(H)** Heatmap of transcripts enriched in either vGAT or vGLUT2 projections from BNST to PBN
509 over input homogenate (pre-IP) (n=3 vGLUT2-Cre samples; n=2 vGAT-Cre samples).

510 **(I)** Transcripts enriched in either vGAT or vGLUT2 projections from BNST to PBN, after
511 normalization to respective input (pre-IP) homogenates. Positive Log₂(FC) values indicate
512 transcript enrichment in BNST-PBN^{vGAT} neurons relative to BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons;
513 negative Log₂(FC) values indicate relative enrichment in BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} neurons.

514 **p* < 0.05. Error bars indicate SEM.

515 See also Figure S1 and S2.

FIGURE 2



516 **Figure 2. Feeding behavior engages an inhibitory BNST-PBN circuit.**

517 **(A)** Schematic of *in vivo* fiber photometry and behavior.

518 **(B)** Representative GCaMP6s expression in the BNST and PBN of a vGAT-Cre mouse (scale
519 bars: 100 μ m BNST, 200 μ m PBN).

520 **(C)** Representative responses of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals during food consumption trials
521 (shaded areas represent periods of eating).

522 **(D and E)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals during consumption
523 of normal chow under sated conditions (n=57 bouts; 7 mice) and averaged activity of 10-
524 seconds pre- compared to post- consumption initiation over the testing period.

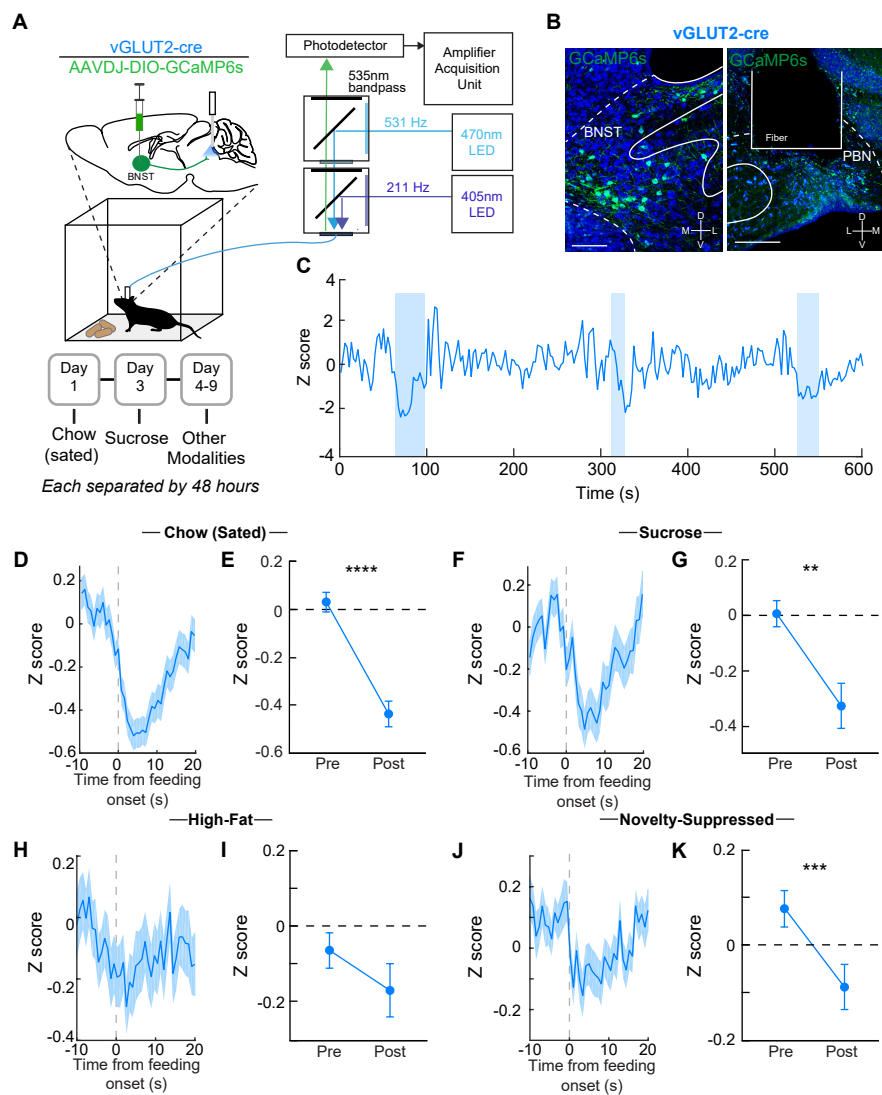
525 **(F and G)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals during consumption
526 of sucrose (n=93 bouts; 7 mice) and averaged activity of 10-seconds pre- compared to post-
527 consumption initiation over the testing period.

528 **(H and I)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals during consumption of
529 high-fat (n=77 bouts; 7 mice) and averaged activity of 10-seconds pre- compared to post-
530 consumption initiation over the testing period.

531 **(J and K)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals during consumption
532 of normal chow under anxiogenic conditions (n=121 bouts; 7 mice) and averaged activity of
533 10-seconds pre- compared to post- consumption initiation over the testing period.

534 ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Error bars indicate SEM.

535 See also Figure S3.



536 **Figure 3. An excitatory BNST-PBN circuit is disengaged during feeding.**

537 **(A)** Schematic of *in vivo* fiber photometry and behavior.

538 **(B)** Representative GCaMP6s expression in the BNST and PBN of a vGLUT2-Cre mouse (scale
539 bars: 100 μ m BNST, 200 μ m PBN).

540 **(C)** Representative responses of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals during food consumption trials
541 (shaded areas represent periods of eating).

542 **(D and E)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals during consumption
543 of normal chow under sated conditions (n=133 bouts; 6 mice) and averaged activity of 10-
544 seconds pre- compared to post- consumption initiation over the testing period.

545 **(F and G)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals during consumption
546 of sucrose (n=87 bouts; 6 mice) and averaged activity of 10-seconds pre- compared to post-
547 consumption initiation over the testing period.

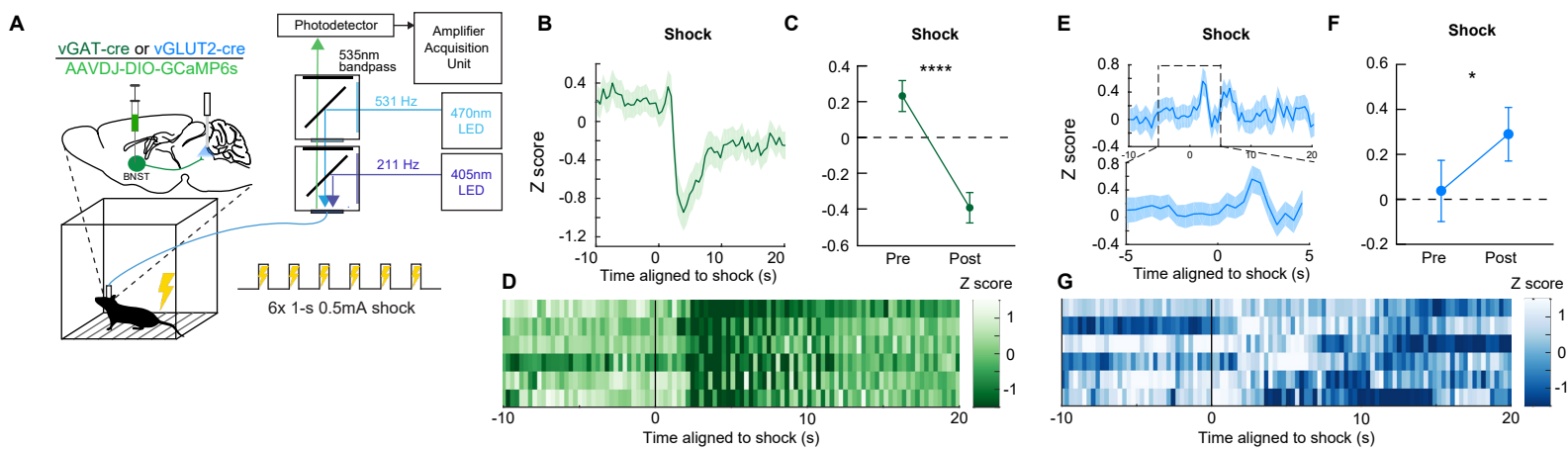
548 **(H and I)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals during consumption
549 of high-fat (n=56 bouts; 6 mice) and averaged activity of 10-seconds pre- compared to post-
550 consumption initiation over the testing period.

551 **(J and K)** Average z-scored calcium response of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals during consumption
552 of normal chow under anxiogenic conditions (n=77 bouts; 6 mice) and averaged activity of 10-
553 seconds pre- compared to post- consumption initiation over the testing period.

554 ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Error bars indicate SEM.

555 See also Figure S3.

FIGURE 4



556 **Figure 4. Distinct BNST-PBN circuits display opposing responses to aversive stimuli.**

557 **(A)** Schematic of *in vivo* fiber photometry and behavior.

558 **(B)** Average z-scored calcium transient responses of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals to an aversive
559 shock (n=7 mice).

560 **(C)** Mean z-scored calcium transient responses of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminals (n=7 mice) 10-
561 seconds before and after the shock initiation.

562 **(D)** Representative heatmap of BNST-PBN^{vGAT} terminal calcium transient activity of a single
563 mouse during aversive shock presentation.

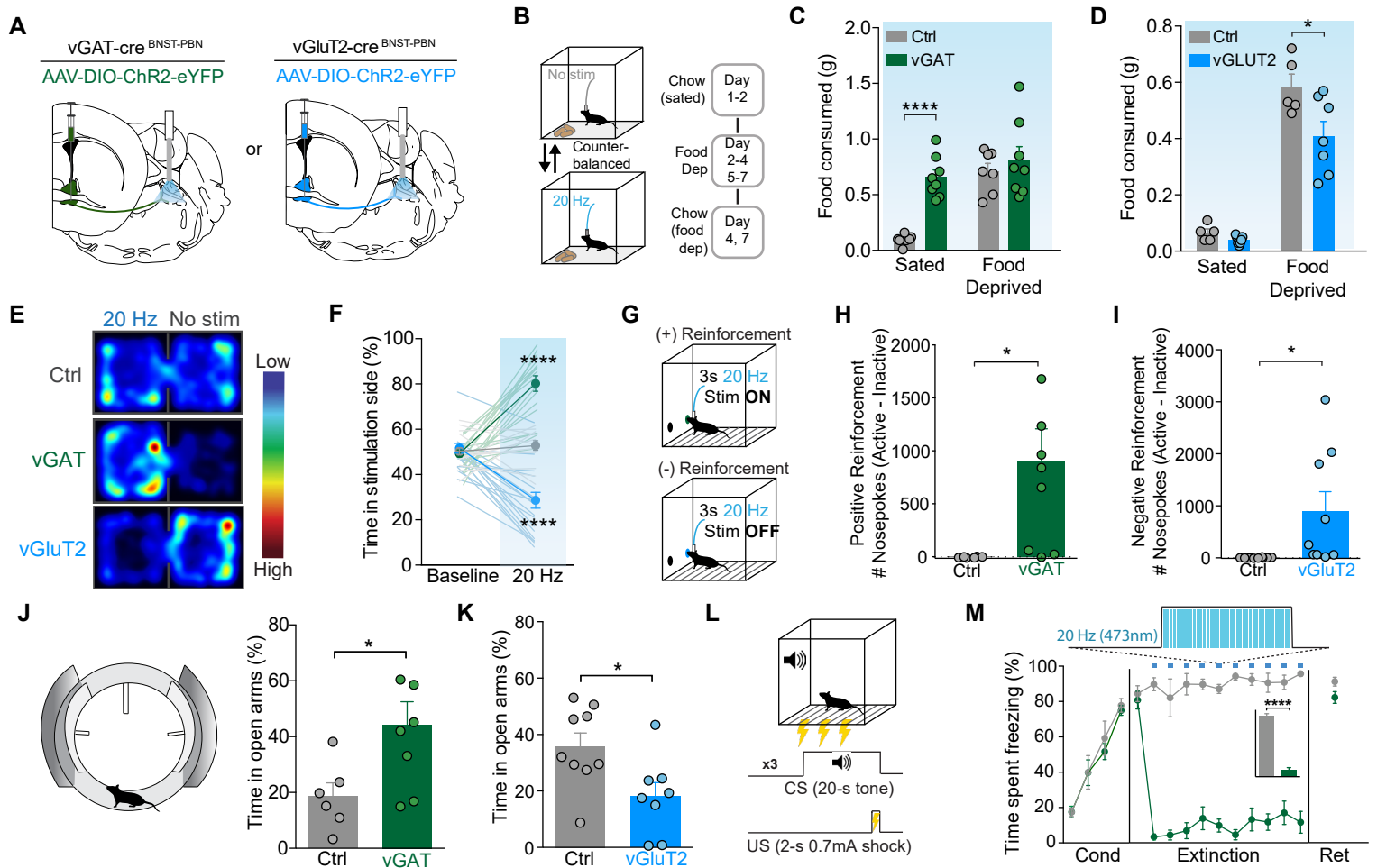
564 **(E)** Average z-scored calcium transient responses of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals to an aversive
565 shock (n=6 mice).

566 **(F)** Mean z-scored calcium transient responses of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminals (n=6 mice) 10-
567 seconds before and after the shock initiation.

568 **(G)** Representative heatmap of BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} terminal calcium transient activity of a single
569 mouse during aversive shock presentation.

570 ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Error bars indicate SEM.

571 See also Figure S3.



572 **Figure 5. Distinct BNST-PBN circuits drive opposing feeding and affective behaviors.**

573 **(A)** Schematic of optogenetic approach to target BNST-PBN^{vGAT} and BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2}.

574 **(B)** Schematic of food consumption assay.

575 **(C)** BNST-PBN^{vGAT} activation increases consumption of normal chow under sated conditions
576 (ChR2, $n = 8$; Ctrl, $n = 7$).

577 **(D)** BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} activation decreases consumption of normal chow after food-deprivation
578 (ChR2, $n = 7$; Ctrl, $n = 5$).

579 **(E)** Representative heatmaps of time spent in the RTPP for Ctrl, BNST-PBN^{vGAT}:ChR2, and
580 BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2}:ChR2 mice.

581 **(F)** BNST-PBN^{vGAT} activation elicits a real-time place preference, while BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} activation
582 elicits a real-time place aversion compared to control mice (vGAT:ChR2, $n = 18$;
583 vGLUT2:ChR2, $n = 18$; Ctrl, $n = 25$).

584 **(G)** Schematic of positive (+) and negative (-) reinforcement tasks for assessment in BNST-
585 PBN^{vGAT}:ChR2 and BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2}:ChR2, respectively.

586 **(H)** BNST-PBN^{vGAT} activation is positively reinforcing in an operant-self stimulation task (ChR2, n
587 = 8; Ctrl, $n = 6$).

588 **(I)** BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} activation is negatively reinforcing in an operant task to turn off optogenetic
589 stimulation (ChR2, $n = 8$; Ctrl, $n = 6$).

590 **(J)** BNST-PBN^{vGAT} activation increases time spent in the open arms in the elevated zero maze
591 (ChR2, $n = 8$; Ctrl, $n = 6$).

592 **(K)** BNST-PBN^{vGLUT2} activation decreases time spent in the open arms in the elevated zero maze
593 (ChR2, $n = 9$; Ctrl, $n = 8$).

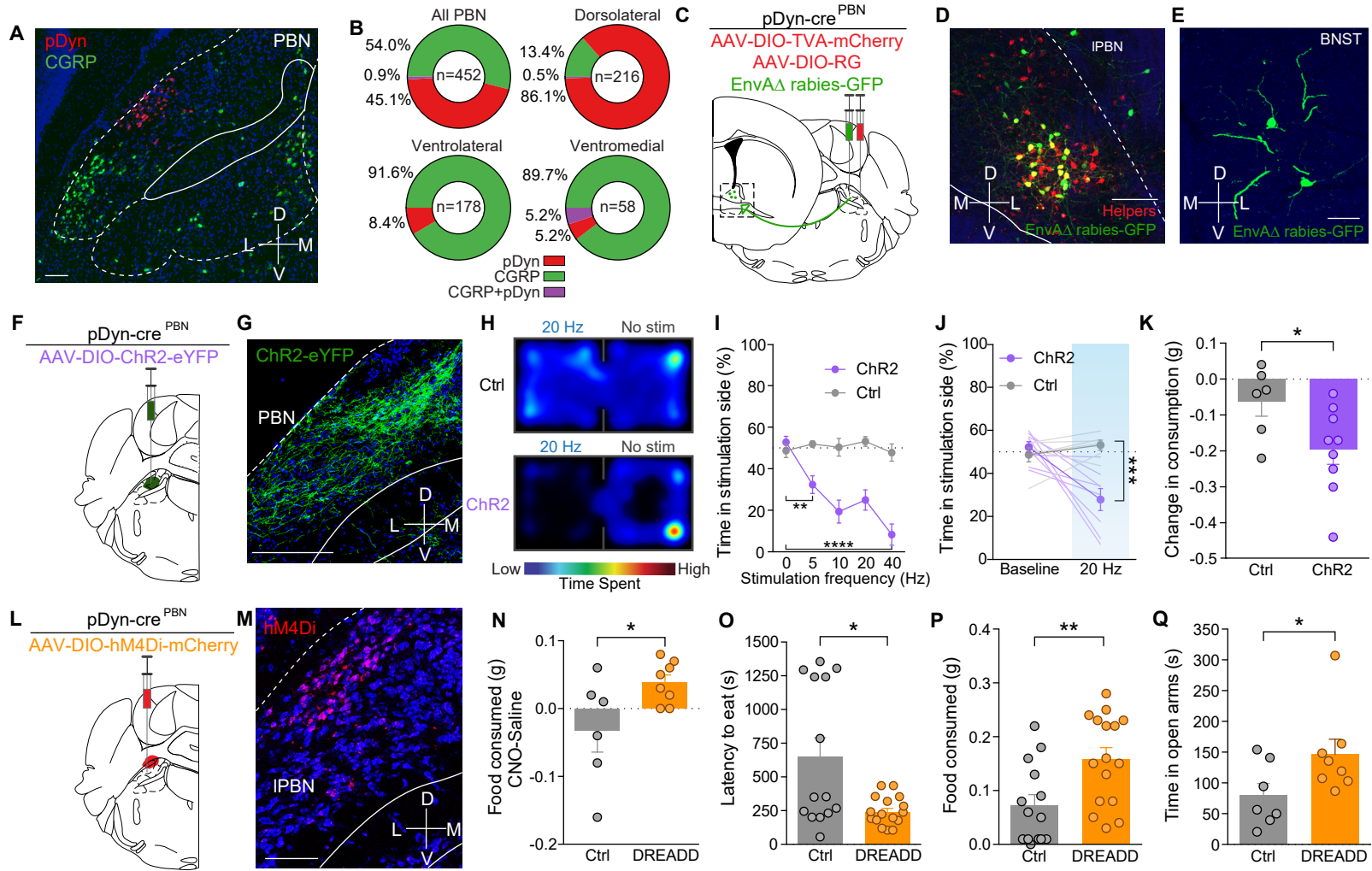
594 **(L)** Schematic of the fear conditioning protocol.

595 **(M)** BNST-PBN^{vGAT} activation suppresses cued-defensive responses (i.e. freezing) after
596 conditioning (ChR2, $n = 8$; Ctrl, $n = 6$).

597 * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Error bars indicate SEM.

598 See also Figure S4 and S5.

FIGURE 6



599 **Figure 6. Dynorphin-expressing PBN neurons receive BNST input to bidirectionally**
600 **modulate feeding and affective behaviors.**

601 **(A)** Fluorescent *in-situ* hybridization of pDyn and CGRP in the PBN (scale bar: 100 μ m).

602 **(B)** pDyn and CGRP neurons are genetically and anatomically distinct populations in the PBN
603 (n=452 cells).

604 **(C)** Viral schematic for rabies tracing of monosynaptic inputs to PBN^{pDyn} neurons.

605 **(D)** Starter cells in the PBN expressing TVA-mCherry and rabies-GFP (scale bar: 100 μ m).

606 **(E)** and their corresponding input cells in the BNST (scale bar: 50 μ m).

607 **(F)** Schematic of optogenetic approach to target PBN^{pDyn} neurons.

608 **(G)** Chr2-eYFP expression in PBN^{pDyn} neurons (scale bar: 200 μ m).

609 **(H)** Representative heatmaps of time spent in the RTPP for Ctrl and PBN^{pDyn}:Chr2 mice.

610 **(I and J)** PBN^{pDyn} activation elicits a real-time place aversion in a **(I)** frequency-dependent manner
611 including at **(J)** 20 Hz (Chr2, n = 8; Ctrl, n = 6).

612 **(K)** PBN^{pDyn} activation decreases food consumption after food-deprivation (Chr2, n = 8; Ctrl, n =
613 6).

614 **(L)** Schematic of chemogenetic approach to target PBN^{pDyn} neurons.

615 **(K)** hM4Di -mCherry expression in PBN^{pDyn} neurons (scale bar: 100 μ m).

616 **(N-Q)** Chemogenetic inhibition of PBN^{pDyn} neuron increases **(N)** food consumption, **(O)** decreases
617 latency to eat and **(P)** while increasing food consumed in a novelty-suppressed feeding task
618 and **(Q)** time spent in the open arms of elevated zero maze (DREADD, n = 7-8; Ctrl, n = 6-7).

619 * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. Error bars indicate SEM.

620 See also Figure S6.

1 **Methods**

2 **Key Resources Table**

3

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
retroAAV2-EF1a-DIO-hChR2-(H134R)-eYFP	WashU HOPE Center Viral Core	N/A
AAV5-EF1a-DIO-hChR2-(H134R)-eYFP	WashU HOPE Center Viral Core	N/A
retroAAV2-231-TRAP-Cre-On	WashU HOPE Center Viral Core	N/A
AAV-DJ-EF1a-DIO-GCaMP6s	Stanford University Gene Vector and Viral Core	N/A
AAV5-EF1a-DIO-Arch3.0-eYFP	UNC Vector Core	N/A
AAV5-Ef1a-DIO-hM4D(Gi)-mCherry	UNC Vector Core	N/A
AAV5-CAG-FLEX-RG	UNC Vector Core	N/A
AAV8-EF1a-FLEX-TVA-mCherry	UNC Vector Core	N/A
EnvA-G-Deleted Rabies-eGFP	Salk	N/A
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Clozapine-N-Oxide (CNO)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#C0832
NeuroTrace 435/455 Blue Fluorescent Nissl Stain	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# N21479
VECTASHIELD Hardset Antifade Mounting Medium	Vector Laboratories	Cat#H-1400
Critical Commercial Assays		
RNAscope Fluorescent Multiplex Kit 2.0	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#320850
Wash Buffer Reagents	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#310091
Protease III & IV Reagents	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#322340
CGRP (<i>Calca</i>)	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#420361
Pdyn	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#318771
vGAT (<i>Slc32a1</i>)	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#319191
vGLUT2 (<i>Slc17a6</i>)	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#319171
eGFP	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#400281

Adcyap1	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#405911
Sstr3	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#460621
Tac2	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#446391
Calcr	Advanced Cell Diagnostics	Cat#494071
Deposited Data		
RNA sequencing	GEO	GSE133484
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Mouse: vGAT-IRES-Cre (<i>Slc32a1</i> ^{tm2(cre)Lowl} /J)	The Jackson Laboratory	Stock #016962
Mouse: vGLUT2-IRES-Cre (<i>Slc17a6</i> ^{tm2(cre)Lowl} /J)	The Jackson Laboratory	Stock # 016963
Mouse: <i>Pdyn</i> ^{tm1.1(cre)Mjkr} /J	The Jackson Laboratory	Stock #027958
Software and Algorithms		
Image processing, cell counter module	ImageJ/Fiji	https://imagej.net/Fiji
Graphpad Prism 6.0 and 8.0	GraphPad Software	https://www.graphpad.com/scientificsoftware/prism/
Illustrator CS6	Adobe	https://www.adobe.com/products/illustrator.html
EthoVision XT 10	Noldus	https://www.noldus.com/animal-behavior-research/products/ethovision-xt
MATLAB	MathWorks	https://www.mathworks.com/
pClamp 10 (Clampfit,Clampex)	Molecular Devices	https://www.moleculardevices.com/systems/conventional-patch-clamp/pclamp-10-software
R	R Foundation for Statistical Computing	https://www.r-project.org
Leica LAS X	Leica Microsystems	https://www.leica-microsystems.com/products/microscope-software/p/leica-las-x-ls/

Med-PC V Software Suite	Med-Associates, Inc.	https://www.med-associates.com/med-pc-v/
STAR	Doblin et al., 2013	https://code-google-com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/archive/p/rna-star/

4

5 **Contact for Reagent and Resource Sharing**

6 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be
7 fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Dr. Michael Bruchas (mbruchas@uw.edu).

8

9 **Experimental Model and Subject Details**

10

11 **Animals**

12

13 Adult male vGAT-IRES-Cre (*Slc32a1^{tm2(cre)Lowl}/J*; Jackson Laboratory #016962) (Vong et al.,
14 2011), vGLUT2-IRES-Cre (*Slc17a6^{tm2(cre)Lowl}/J*; Jackson Laboratory # 016963), and
15 preprodynorphin(*Pdyn*)-IRES-Cre (*Pdyn^{tm1.1(cre)Mjkr}/J*; Jackson Laboratory #027958) (Krashes et
16 al., 2014) mice were group housed, given access to food and water *ad libitum*, and maintained
17 on a 12:12 hr light:dark cycle (lights on at 7:00 AM). All animals were kept in an isolated and
18 sound-attenuated holding facility within the lab and adjacent to behavior rooms one week prior to
19 surgery, post-surgery, and throughout the duration of the behavioral assays to minimize stress.
20 All procedures were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Washington University
21 and the University of Washington and conformed to US National Institutes of Health guidelines.

22

23 **Method Details**

24

25 **Stereotaxic Surgeries**

26

27 After the animals were acclimated to the holding facility for at least seven days, the mice were
28 anaesthetized in an induction chamber (2% isoflurane) and placed into a stereotaxic frame (Kopf
29 Instruments, Model 1900) where they were maintained at 1-2% isoflurane. Mice were then
30 injected using a blunt needle (86200, Hamilton) at a rate of 100 nL/min with 300-400 nL in the
31 BNST (AP +0.14, ML \pm 0.9, DV -4.5) or PBN (AP -5.3, ML \pm 1.1, DV -3.5); unilateral for optogenetic
32 activation, tracing, and fiber photometry experiments; bilateral for optogenetic or chemogenetic
33 experiments. Needle was slowly removed from the brain 10 min after cessation of injection to
34 allow for diffusion. For fiber photometry experiments, mice were also implanted with a 400- μ m
35 fiber optic (Doric Inc., MFC_400/430-0.48_MF2.5_FLT) in the same surgery. Mice recovered for
36 at least 6 weeks prior to behavioral testing, permitting optimal expression of the virus. For
37 optogenetic activation and fiber photometry experiments, five weeks after viral injection,
38 intracranial optic fiber implants were directed above the PBN unilaterally (AP -5.3, ML \pm 1.1, DV
39 -3.0). For optogenetic inhibition inhibition, fiber optics were placed bilaterally. The fiber optic
40 implants were secured using two bone screws (CMA, 743102) and affixed with TitanBond
41 (Horizon Dental Products) and dental cement (Lang Dental).

42

43 **Immunohistochemistry**

44

45 Immunohistochemistry was performed as previously described (McCall et al., 2017). In brief, mice
46 were anesthetized with sodium pentobarbital and transcardially perfused with 4%
47 paraformaldehyde (PFA), post-fixed overnight in 4% PFA, and cryo-protected in 30% sucrose for
48 at least 24 hours. Brains were then sectioned (30 μ m) and placed in 0.1M PB until
49 immunohistochemistry. Free-floating sections were washed in 0.1M PBS for 3 x 10 minutes
50 intervals. Sections were then placed in blocking buffer (0.5% Triton X-100 and 5% natural goat
51 serum in 0.1 M PBS) for 1 hr at room temperature. After blocking buffer, sections were incubated
52 in NeuroTrace (1:400, 435/455 blue fluorescent Nissl stain, Invitrogen #N21479) for 1 hour,
53 followed by 3 x 10 minute 0.1 MPBS then 3 x 10 minute 0.1 M PB washes. After immunostaining,
54 sections were mounted and coverslipped with Vectashield HardSet mounting medium (Vector
55 Laboratories) and imaged on a Leica TCS SPE confocal microscope. Animals that did not show
56 targeted expression were excluded.

57

58 **Fluorescent In-Situ Hybridization (FISH)**

59

60 Animals were anesthetized and rapidly decapitated. Brains were quickly removed and fresh
61 frozen in dry ice, then stored at -80°C. Sections were cut at 20 μ m, mounted on slides, and stored
62 at -80°C. Sections were fixed in 4% PFA for 15 min, dehydrated in serial ethanol concentrations
63 (50%, 70%, and 100%) and processed with RNAscope (Advanced Cell Diagnostics, cat. No.
64 320293). Sections were hybridized with the probes listed below. Sections were then
65 counterstained with DAPI and coverslipped. Confocal images were obtained on an Olympus
66 FV3000RS microscope. Circular ROIs were drawn around each cell, and these ROIs were then
67 used for co-expression analysis.

68

69 **Slice Electrophysiology**

70

71 Acute brain slices were prepared using a protective cutting and recovery method (Ting et al.,
72 2014). Anesthetized mice infected with AAV5-EF1a-DIO-hChR2-(H134R)-eYFP were
73 transcardially perfused with NMDG-substituted aCSF containing (in mM) 93 NMDG, 2.5 KCl, 1.25
74 NaH₂PO₄, 30 NaHCO₃, 20 HEPES, 25 glucose, 5 ascorbic acid, 2 thiourea, 3 Na-pyruvate, 12
75 N-acetyl-L-cysteine, 10 MgSO₄, 0.5 CaCl₂ (pH = 7.3-7.4). 200 μ m thick coronal sections of the
76 PBN were cut using a Vibratome VT1000s (Leica) and transferred to an oxygenated recovery
77 chamber containing NMDG aCSF for 5–10 min at 32°C –34°C before being transferred to a
78 holding chamber filled with modified aCSF containing (in mM) 92 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1.2 NaH₂PO₄,
79 30 NaHCO₃, 20 HEPES, 25 glucose, 2 CaCl₂, 2 MgCl₂ (pH adjusted to 7.3-7.4 with NaOH), and
80 Osm 290-310. Whole-cell patch-clamp recordings were made using fire-polished glass pipettes
81 with a resistance of 3-5 M Ω filled with (in mM): 120 K⁺ gluconate, 5 NaCl, 2 MgCl₂, 0.1 CaCl₂,
82 10 HEPES, 1.1 EGTA, 4 Na₂ATP, 0.4 Na₂GTP, 15 phosphocreatine; pH adjusted to 7.3 with
83 KOH, 291 mOsm. BNST axonal projections in the PBN were visualized through a 40x objective
84 using IR-DIC microscopy on an Olympus BX51 microscope, and neurons with YFP⁺ axons in
85 close proximity were identified using epifluorescent illumination. Recordings were made with
86 Patchmaster software controlling a HEKA EPC10 amplifier. Following gigaseal formation and
87 stable whole-cell access, currents elicited by 10 ms-pulse stimulation of ChR2-containing axonal
88 terminals and isolated by blocking AMPA/KARs (10 μ M NBQX, Abcam), NMDARs (50 μ M D-APV,
89 Abcam), GABAARs (100 μ M picrotoxin and 50 μ M bicuculline, Abcam) through bath application
90 of the antagonists in aCSF solution. Neurons were voltage clamped at -70 mV for eEPSCs and 0
91 mV for eIPSCs. Input resistance was monitored to maintain cells with a stable R_s < 35 M Ω , and
92 only these neurons were included in our analysis. eIPSC and eEPSC amplitudes were averaged
93 across 5 sweeps per cell.

94

95 **Translating Ribosome Affinity Purification (TRAP)**

96

97 In order to specifically capture transcribed RNA from GABAergic and glutamatergic
98 neurons synapsing on the PBN, we generated an adenoviral vector encoding a floxed fusion GFP-
99 ribosomal protein (RPL10A), and packaged it into the retrofecting AAV serotype rAAV2-retro
100 (Tervo et al., 2016). This design restricts expression of the GFP•RPL10A fusion to a target (Cre-
101 expressing) cell type, and further restricts expression to cells of that type synapsing onto the
102 transduced region.

103 In order to selectively capture transcripts from those excitatory and inhibitory neurons in
104 the BNST synapsing onto the PBN, we delivered the floxed eGFP•Rpl10a retro-AAV2 into the
105 PBN of adult male mice ages 4m-10m expressing Cre recombinase under a glutamatergic
106 (vGLUT2) or GABAergic (vGAT) neuron-specific promoter. At least 6 weeks were given for
107 surgical recovery and transgene expression before mice were sacrificed for brain dissection,
108 homogenization, and GFP-targeted immunoprecipitation.

109 In order to control for stress and circadian effects on BNST transcripts between replicates,
110 mice to be sacrificed were always retrieved between 10AM and 12PM immediately before deep
111 anesthetization by isoflurane, followed by rapid removal of the brain. A 1mm coronal slab of brain
112 tissue was collected from AP ± 0.5 mm, ML ± 1.2 mm, DV -3.8 to -4.8mm and microdissected in ice
113 cold PBS containing RNase inhibitors (rRNasin, Superasin), 500 μ M DTT, and cycloheximide (to
114 arrest translation in progress to keep ribosomes associated with their RNAs for later capture).
115 Three dissected BNSTs were pooled per replicate in order to minimize effects of dissection and
116 incidental injection of structures adjacent to PBN. Pooled tissue was homogenized and processed
117 using the standard TRAP protocol as previously described (Rieger et al., 2018). All RNA samples
118 were quality checked for RINe (estimated RNA integrity number) on an Agilent TapeStation 4200
119 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California) using the High-Sensitivity RNA Assay Kit. All
120 sequenced samples had a RINe of > 7.5 with total mass yielded per sample ranging from 2.5 ng
121 to 250ng.

122 RNA samples were submitted to Washington University in St Louis' Genome Technology
123 Access Center for library preparation and mRNA sequencing. cDNAs were synthesized using
124 polyA capture (DynaL mRNA Direct Kit, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, California). cDNAs were
125 synthesized by polyA-targeted priming, followed by cDNA amplification using the Clontech
126 SMARTer kit (Takara Bio, Mountain View, CA).

127 Single-read, 50bp RNA-seq of IP fractions and total homogenate from 5 replicates per cell
128 type (20 samples total) was performed on a single lane of a HiSeq 3000 (Illumina, San Diego,
129 California), yielding ~ 350 M reads, ranging from 10M to 25M per sample. Reads were processed
130 using a standard pipeline of read trimming with Trimmomatic (Bolger et al., 2014), removal of
131 rRNA reads using BowTie (Langmead et al., 2009), and alignment to mouse genome build 38.p5
132 along with gene-level feature counts using STAR aligner (Dobin et al., 2013).

133 Samplewise read counts were first subsetted to those reads with a normal distribution in
134 order to perform downstream differential expression analysis, as recommended for analyses in
135 EdgeR (McCarthy et al., 2012; Robinson et al., 2010). Gene counts were then quality-checked by
136 hierarchical clustering to rule out batch effects and off-target cell enrichment. One replicate
137 clustered separately from all other samples and was excluded. Additional quality checks included
138 plotting relative enrichment / depletion of vGAT/vGLUT2-specific marker genes and that of off-
139 target cell types (e.g. astrocytes and oligodendrocytes). Ultimately, 3 replicates for vGLUT2
140 neurons and 2 replicates for vGAT neurons were used for analysis.

141 Differential expression analysis was performed in EdgeR using the following model for
142 single-cell type enriched transcripts, where group was vGLUT2 IP, vGLUT2 input, vGAT IP, or
143 vGAT input:

144 Expression $\sim 0 + \text{group}$

145 Enrichment in cell types was then determined using EdgeR's glmQLFtest function using
146 contrasts of vGLUT2 Enriched = (vGLUT2 IP) - (vGLUT2 Input) and likewise for vGAT.

147 Differential expression analysis between cell types was performed using the same model
148 as above but with a contrast of (vGLUT2-vGAT Differential Expression) = (vGLUT2 IP – vGLUT2
149 Input) – (vGAT IP – vGAT Input). This contrast thus regresses potential effects of dissection
150 heterogeneity before comparing the target immunoprecipitated cell types. The supplementary
151 data (**Table S2-S5**) contains differential expression results for all of the contrasts described
152 above, as well as an additional contrast between immunoprecipitates for vGLUT2 and vGAT
153 without normalizing for input RNAs (that is, vGLUT2-vGAT differential expression, alternate
154 calculation = vGLUT2 IP – vGAT IP). Raw data can be found in the NCBI Gene Expression
155 Omnibus (GEO) database (GSE133484).

156

157 **Behavior**

158

159 Behavioral assays were performed in sound attenuated rooms maintained at 23°C. Lighting was
160 measured and stabilized at ~100 lux for anxiety testing in vGAT-Cre experiments, ~20 lux for
161 anxiety testing in vGlut-Cre experiments, and ~200 lux for place testing. All behavioral
162 apparatuses were cleaned with 70% ethanol in between animals. Movements were video
163 recorded and analyzed using Ethovision Software or recorded with Media Recorder.

164

165 *Real-Time Place Preference (RTPP)*

166 Mice were placed into a custom-made unbiased, balanced two-compartment conditioning
167 apparatus (52.5 x 25.5 x 25.5 cm) as previously described (McCall et al., 2017) and allowed to
168 freely roam the entire apparatus for 30 min. Entry into one compartment triggered constant
169 photostimulation (0-40 Hz; 5-10 mW light power) while the animal remained in the light-paired
170 chamber. Entry into the other chamber ended the photostimulation. The side paired with
171 photostimulation was counterbalanced across mice. Time spent in each chamber and total
172 distance traveled for the entire 30 min trial was measured using Ethovision 8.5 (Noldus). Data are
173 expressed as mean +/- S.E.M percent time spent in photostimulation-paired chamber.

174

175 *Operant Conditioning: Positive Reinforcement*

176 For positive reinforcement induced by vGAT-containing BNST-PBN projections, mice with optical
177 fibres implanted above the PBN were trained in one 1-hr session to nose poke on a fixed-ratio 1
178 schedule for optical self-stimulation (3-s, 20-Hz, ~10 mW, 473nm) in a mouse operant chamber
179 (17.8 x 15.2 x 18.4 cm; Med Associates) (Jennings et al., 2013). The following day, the mice were
180 run again with the same conditions and the number of nosepokes recorded in the hour session
181 was recorded.

182

183 *Operant Conditioning: Negative Reinforcement*

184 For negative reinforcement induced by vGLUT2-containing BNST-PBN projections, mice with
185 optical fibres implanted above the PBN were trained in one 1-hr session to nose poke on a fixed-
186 ratio 1 schedule to turn off optical self-stimulation in a mouse operant chamber (17.8 x 15.2 x 18.4
187 cm; Med Associates). Constant photostimulation (20-Hz, ~10 mW, 473nm) began at the start of
188 each session. Each nose poke resulted in the cessation of the photostimulation for 3-s. The
189 following day, the mice were run again with the same conditions. The number of nosepokes
190 recorded in the hour session was recorded. About 50% of Cre+ mice did not learn the operant
191 task and thus were excluded from the results as non-responders (**Fig. S7F**). Non-responders
192 were classified as animals whose difference of responses between active and inactive was < 5.

193

194 *Threat Conditioning*

195 Pavlovian threat conditioning was performed in Med Associates Fear Conditioning
196 Chambers (NIR-022MD). This equipment consisted of a conductive grid floor inside a 29.53 cm
197 L x 23.5 cm W x 20.96 cm H chamber inside of a soundproof box lit by an infrared light.

198 vGAT-Cre experiments: Mice were conditioned to four 20s tones co-terminating with 2-s
199 0.7mA shocks on Day 1. On Day 2, mice were placed back into the chamber. Eleven tone
200 presentations in the absence of shock were presented. During the first tone, no optostimulation
201 occurred. During the next ten tone presentations, 20 Hz blue light was delivered. On the third day,
202 we assessed extinction recall by placing the mice into the chamber and presented the tone once.
203 Freezing behavior was measured during all tone presentations.

204 All fiber photometry animals were conditioned to 6 20-second tones terminating with a 1-
205 s 0.5mA shock.

206 *Feeding Assays*

208 Feeding assays were performed in a square plexiglass arena (27 cm × 27 cm). Chow,
209 High-fat, sucrose, or salt pellets (Envigo) were placed in the corner of the arena. Mice were then
210 introduced into the arena for 30 min. To record the amount of food consumed, pellets were
211 measured before and after the assay. Baseline feeding and feeding whilst photostimulation (20
212 Hz; 5-10 mW light power) or photoinhibition (constant; ~5 mW light power) were performed in a
213 counterbalanced fashion across mice.

214 In addition to counterbalanced experiments across days, we also performed within-
215 session manipulations to assess whether the effects are immediately reversible. Mice were
216 introduced into the arena for 60 minutes: 20 min pre-stimulation, 20 min 20 Hz stimulation or
217 constant inhibition, and 20 min post-stimulation. Food weight was measured at each 20 min point
218 (**Fig. S5J, S7E, S8E**).

219 *Elevated Zero Maze*

221 EZM testing was performed as described previously (McCall et al., 2017) , the EZM
222 (Harvard Apparatus) was made of grey plastic, 200 cm in circumference, comprised of four 50 cm
223 sections (two opened and two closed). The maze was elevated 50 cm above the floor and had a
224 path width of 4 cm with a 0.5 cm lip on each open section. Mice were connected to fiber optic
225 cables, positioned head first into a closed arm, and allowed to roam freely for 7 min. Animals
226 received 20 Hz (10 ms pulse width) photostimulation (5-10 mW light power). Open arm time was
227 the primary measure of anxiety-like behavior.

228 **Fiber Photometry**

231 Fiber photometry recordings were performed as previously described (Parker et al., 2019).
232 Briefly, an optic fiber was attached to the implanted fiber by a ferrule sleeve, then GCaMP6s was
233 stimulated by two LEDs, a 531-Hz sinusoidal light (Thorlabs M470F3), bandpass filtered at $470 \pm$
234 20nm , and a 211-Hz sinusoidal light (Thorlabs M405FP1), bandpass filtered at $405 \pm 10\text{nm}$. (Filter
235 cube: Doric FMC4; LED driver: DC4104). The 470 nm signal evokes Ca^{2+} -dependent emission,
236 while the 405 nm signal evokes Ca^{2+} -independent isobestic control emission. Prior to recording,
237 a 180s period of GCaMP6s excitation with both light channels was used to remove the majority
238 of baseline drift. Laser intensity at the optic fiber tip was adjusted to $\sim 50 \mu\text{W}$ before each day of
239 recording. GCaMP6s fluorescent signal was isolated by bandpass filtering ($525 \pm 25\text{nm}$),
240 transduced by a femtowatt silicon photoreceiver (Newport 2151), and recorded by a real-time
241 processor (TDT RZ5P). The envelopes of 531 Hz and 211 Hz signals were extracted in real time
242 by the TDT program Synapse at a sampling rate of 1017.25 Hz.

243 Fiber recordings were analyzed using custom MATLAB scripts available on Github. Motion
244 artifacts were removed by subtracting the isobestic 405 nm signal from the 470 nm excitation
245 signal. Baseline drift due to slow photobleaching artifacts was corrected by fitting a double
246 exponential curve to the raw trace, then the photometry trace was z-scored relative to the mean
247 and standard deviation of the signal. The mean z-score during the ten seconds preceding and
248 following an event were compared using paired t tests.

249

250 **Statistical analyses**

251

252 All summary data are expressed as mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance was taken as * $p < 0.05$,
253 ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$, as determined by the Student's t-test (paired and
254 unpaired): One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) or One-Way Repeated Measures ANOVA,
255 followed by Bonferroni post hoc tests as appropriate. Statistical analyses were performed in
256 GraphPad Prism 6.0 or 8.0. All statistical information is listed in **Table S1**.

257

258 **Data and Code Availability**

259

260 RNA sequencing data from Figure 1 have been deposited and are available from GEO
261 (Accession: GSE133484). Custom MATLAB analysis code was created to appropriately organize,
262 process, and combine photometry recording data with associated behavioral data. Analysis code
263 for photometry from Figures 2, 3, and 4 is available online at <https://www.github.com/BruchasLab>.
264 The full behavioral dataset supporting the current study are available from the corresponding
265 author upon request.