

Local 5-HT signal bi-directionally regulates the coincidence time window of associative learning

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22 **Abstract**

23 Temporal coincidence between the conditioned stimulus (CS) and unconditioned stimulus (US) is
24 essential for associative learning across species. Despite its ubiquitous presence, the mechanism
25 that may regulate this time window duration remains unclear yet. Using olfactory associative
26 learning in *Drosophila* as a model, we find that suppressing or promoting serotonin (5-HT) signal
27 could respectively shorten or prolong the coincidence time window of odor-shock associative
28 learning and synaptic plasticity in mushroom body (MB) Kenyon cells (KCs). Capitalizing on
29 GPCR-activation based (GRAB) sensors for 5-HT and acetylcholine (ACh), we characterized the
30 *in vivo* 5-HT dynamics in MB lobes during odor and shock stimulations and further dissected this
31 microcircuit. Interestingly, local KC-released ACh activates nicotinic receptors on the dorsal paired
32 medial (DPM) neuron, and in turn the DPM neuron releases 5-HT to inhibit the ACh signal via the
33 5-HT_{1a} receptor. Finally, we demonstrated that the DPM-mediated serotonergic feedback circuit
34 is sufficient and necessary to regulate the coincidence time window. This work provides a model
35 for studying the temporal contingency of environmental events and their causal relationship.

36 **Main**

37 To survive and proliferate in constantly changing environments, animals including humans have
38 evolved associative learning to build a causal relationship between the neutral conditioned stimulus
39 (CS) and the punitive or rewarding unconditioned stimulus (US). A prerequisite for successful
40 associative learning is that the inter-stimulus interval (ISI) between two stimuli must fall within a
41 relative short time window, also called the coincidence time window. The temporal contingency is
42 critical for both Pavlovian conditioning (Pavlov and Anrep, 1927) and operant conditioning (Skinner,
43 1938) in a wide range of behaviors across species, including the siphon withdrawal reflex in *Aplysia*
44 (Carew et al., 1981; Hawkins et al., 1986), olfactory associative learning in *Drosophila* (Tully and
45 Quinn, 1985) and the eye-blinking task in humans (Bernstein, 1934; McAllister, 1953). Significantly,
46 an altered coincidence time window has been associated with a variety of neurodevelopmental
47 disorders, brain injuries, psychological diseases and psychedelic states (Bolbecker et al., 2011;
48 Frings et al., 2010; Harvey, 2003; Harvey et al., 1988; McGlinchey-Berroth et al., 1999; Oristaglio
49 et al., 2013; Perrett et al., 1993; Woodruff-Pak and Papka, 1996). Experimental evidences and
50 computational theories have suggested that neuromodulatory signals play essential roles in the
51 temporal discrimination of spike-timing-dependent plasticity (STDP), which is a cellular model for
52 learning (Brzosko et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020a; Pawlak et al., 2010). However, the underlying
53 molecular or circuit basis for regulating the coincidence time window remains incompletely
54 understood. Unraveling these mechanisms will provide valuable insights into how the brain
55 determines the relationship between temporally discrete events and may shed new light on how
56 brain disorders affect learning and memory.

57 Mushroom body (MB) is the major region involved in olfactory associative learning in *Drosophila*,
58 which has highly ordered architecture and abundant genetic tools (Aso et al., 2014; Heisenberg,
59 2003; Mao and Davis, 2009; Tanaka et al., 2008), making it an ideal model for addressing
60 fundamental questions regarding learning and memory. Recent progress in *Drosophila* brain
61 electron microscopy (EM) connectomics (Eichler et al., 2017; Li et al., 2020; Scheffer et al., 2020;
62 Takemura et al., 2017) and MB transcriptomics (Aso and Rubin, 2016; Croset et al., 2018) have
63 provided additional evidences and will accelerate functional studies. The MB primarily consists of
64 ~2000 Kenyon cells (KCs) per hemisphere, with their dendrites forming the calyx and their axons
65 bundled into three lobes, called the α/β lobe, α'/β' lobe and γ lobe. These lobes are further
66 segmented into 15 compartments, which are tiled by the axonal projections of dopaminergic
67 neurons (DANs) and the corresponding dendrites arising from mushroom body output neurons

68 (MBONs). During olfactory learning, KCs receive the CS signal from the olfactory circuit and
69 punitive or rewarding US signal from DANs (Burke et al., 2012; Claridge-Chang et al., 2009; Kim
70 et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2012; Qin et al., 2012; Schroll et al., 2006; Schwaerzel et al., 2003). Besides
71 DA, other neuromodulators also converge on this MB microcircuit, including octopamine (OA),
72 gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), 5-HT and glutamate.

73 The temporal relationship between the CS and US affects olfactory learning in *Drosophila* in two
74 major aspects. First, the CS-US and US-CS pairing yield memories with opposite valence and this
75 phenomenon is attributed to different dopamine receptors and intracellular cascades (Berry et al.,
76 2012; Berry et al., 2018; Cohn et al., 2015; Handler et al., 2019; Hige et al., 2015; Himmelreich et
77 al., 2017). Second, with a fixed temporal order such as CS-US pairing, the learning index declines
78 as the interval between the CS and US increases, with a coincidence time window on the order of
79 tens of seconds (Aso and Rubin, 2016; Gerber et al., 2019; Gerber et al., 2014; Tanimoto et al.,
80 2004; Tomchik and Davis, 2009; Tully and Quinn, 1985). However, the specific neuromodulator
81 and circuit-based mechanism that regulate the coincidence time window is currently unknown.

82 5-HT plays a critical role in learning and memory across species, including *Aplysia* (Kandel, 2001;
83 Kandel and Schwartz, 1982), *C. elegans* (Zhang et al., 2005), mice (Fonseca et al., 2015; Li et al.,
84 2016; Liu et al., 2014; Lottem et al., 2018; Miyazaki et al., 2018; Ren et al., 2018), humans (Buhot
85 et al., 2000; Liu et al., 2020b) and *Drosophila*. The essential role of 5-HT in *Drosophila* learning
86 and memory was firstly established in a place-learning paradigm (Sitaraman et al., 2008). In each
87 hemisphere of the MB, the serotonergic DPM neuron innervates all three lobes, which has been
88 reported to be involved in olfactory learning in both adults and larvae. (Ganguly et al., 2020;
89 Johnson et al., 2011; Keene et al., 2006; Keene et al., 2004; Krashes et al., 2007; Lee et al., 2011;
90 Waddell et al., 2000; Wu et al., 2011; Yu et al., 2005). However, the *in vivo* dynamics of 5-HT
91 release from the DPM neuron, in responses to physiological stimuli and its regulation, are poorly
92 understood. Moreover, little is known regarding how 5-HT affects the learning circuit in the MB.

93 In this work, we found that the coincidence time window for olfactory associative learning could be
94 regulated by 5-HT in *Drosophila*. Taking advantage of the GPCR activation-based sensors for ACh
95 (GRAB_{ACh3.0}, ACh3.0) (Jing et al., 2020; Jing et al., 2018), we varied the CS-US the coincidence
96 time window while monitoring KC-MBON synaptic plasticity, and found that it is regulated by 5-HT
97 levels. Moreover, using GRAB_{5-HT1.0} (5-HT1.0) (Wan et al., 2021) we observed compartmental 5-
98 HT signals in response to the odorant application and electric shock and identified the DPM neuron
99 as the source of these 5-HT signals. Combining functional imaging with optogenetics and
100 pharmacology, we found that the DPM neuron receives local excitation from KCs and then provides
101 inhibitory serotonergic feedback to KCs. In addition, suppressing or promoting 5-HT release from
102 DPM neurons respectively shortens or prolongs the coincidence time window of synaptic plasticity
103 and learning behavior. These results suggest that the coincidence time window can be selectively
104 regulated by local 5-HT release from DPM neurons in MB, which is critical for the organisms to
105 efficiently form the correlation between environmental CS and US.

106 107 **Results**

108 **5-HT modulates the coincidence time window of one-trial olfactory learning behavior**

109 To measure the coincidence time window of olfactory associative learning, we used the T-maze
110 paradigm to train flies by pairing a 10-s odorant (CS+) and electric shocks (US) with varying inter-
111 stimulus intervals (ISI), and presented another odorant (CS-) as an unpaired stimulus. After training,
112 we tested flies' performance index towards the CS+ and CS- (Figures 1A and 1B). We found that

113 control flies (Canton-S) learned to avoid the CS+ when the ISI is ≤ 15 s, but had poor or no learning
114 at longer ISI (Figure 1C). We used a sigmoid function to fit the relationship between the relative
115 performance index against the ISI and the coincidence time window was indicated by the t_{50} of the
116 fitted curve, which is 16.9 s for the control group. Next, we wanted to figure out whether the
117 coincidence time window could be regulated by a specific neuromodulator, we focused on 5-HT
118 due to its unclear function in short-term memory. By preventing 5-HT production through mutating
119 the tryptophan hydroxylase (Trh) gene (Qian et al., 2017), which encodes the rate-limiting enzyme
120 in 5-HT biosynthesis, we found that the coincidence time window was shortened to 10.8 s (Figure
121 1D). Given that the CS+ duration is 10 s, it means that Trh mutant flies cannot learn as soon as
122 the CS and US cease to overlap. Conversely, when flies were pretreated with the selective
123 serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) that is thought to elevate synaptic 5-HT levels (Ries et al., 2017;
124 Yuan et al., 2005), the coincidence time window was extended to 25.2 s (Figure 1E). These results
125 suggest that the coincidence time window in aversive associative learning can be bi-directionally
126 regulated by the neuromodulator 5-HT.

127

128 **5-HT modulates the coincidence time window of circuit plasticity**

129 A potential mechanism underlying this bi-directional behavioral modulation is that 5-HT could
130 regulate the change of synaptic plasticity induced by odorant-shock pairing. Previous
131 electrophysiological results suggest that pairing an odorant with dopaminergic reinforcement
132 induces synaptic depression between KCs and the MBON- $\gamma 1$ pedc (Hige et al., 2015). Similar
133 depression was observed using Ca^{2+} imaging in the MBON- $\gamma 1$ pedc after odorant-shock pairing
134 (Felsenberg et al., 2018; Perisse et al., 2016). Therefore, to measure the change in plasticity before
135 and after odorant-shock pairing in live flies, we expressed GCaMP6s in the postsynaptic MBON-
136 $\gamma 1$ pedc neurons (Figure S1A). During the pairing session, a paired odorant (CS+) and electric
137 shocks were delivered to the head-fixed fly with a 10-s ISI. Another odorant (CS-) was delivered
138 as an unpaired stimulus (Figure S1B). In the postsynaptic MBON- $\gamma 1$ pedc, odorant-shock pairing
139 significantly depressed the Ca^{2+} responses to the CS+, while the Ca^{2+} responses to the CS-
140 remained (Figure S1C), which is consistent with previous reports (Hige et al., 2015). Given that
141 KCs release the excitatory neurotransmitter ACh (Barnstedt et al., 2016), we then examined ACh
142 dynamics in the $\gamma 1$ compartment by expressing ACh3.0 in KCs (Figure 2A). Similar to the
143 phenomenon observed for the postsynaptic Ca^{2+} signal, we found that odorant-shock pairing
144 specifically reduced ACh release in response to the CS+, but had no significant effect on the CS-
145 (Figures 2B and 2C). These findings revealed that odorant-shock pairing depresses presynaptic
146 ACh release and the postsynaptic Ca^{2+} signal.

147 To explore whether the induction of presynaptic ACh signal depression also relies on a specific
148 coincidence time window, we systematically profiled the relationship between the ISI and synaptic
149 plasticity change. In control flies, we found that the synaptic depression occurred only when the
150 odorant and shock were delivered ≤ 14 s (Figure 2D). The t_{50} of the sigmoid function-fitted curve of
151 the ACh change (Δ ACh) is 14.7 s, which is close to the 16.9-s coincidence time window for
152 aversive learning behavior (Figure 1C). To examine whether 5-HT also regulates the coincidence
153 time window for synaptic depression in the $\gamma 1$ compartment, we profiled the time window of Trh
154 mutant and SSRI fed flies. Consistent with our behavior results, we found that the coincidence time
155 window in Trh mutant flies was shortened to 10.5 s (Figure 2E), while SSRI feeding slightly
156 prolonged the coincidence time window to 18.8 s (Figure 2F). These results indicated that
157 modulating the 5-HT level could bi-directionally regulate coincidence time windows of synaptic

158 plasticity in the γ 1 compartment of the MB.

159 **5-HT signal in MB is from the DPM neuron**

160 Each hemisphere of the *Drosophila* brain contains only one DPM neuron that innervates all three
161 MB lobes and the peduncle region (the joint between dendrites and axons of KCs) (Figures 3A and
162 S2). Previous studies used the Ca^{2+} indicator GCaMP or the pHluorin-based pH reporter synapto-
163 pHluorin to indirectly measure neurotransmission from the DPM neuron, which only reflects the
164 neuronal activity but does not dissect the role of specific neurotransmitter (Yu et al., 2005). To
165 directly measure 5-HT release selectively from the DPM neuron, we performed *in vivo* two-photon
166 imaging on flies expressing the green fluorescent 5-HT1.0 sensor in the KCs and the opsin
167 CsChrimson in the DPM neuron (Figures 3A and 3B). Optogenetic stimulation induced transient
168 changes in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in the peduncle region and all γ lobe compartments (Figure 3C-
169 3G). Taking the γ 2-5 compartments as examples, we found that the 5-HT1.0 response increased
170 incrementally with light pulse number, with no notable difference among the four compartments,
171 suggesting homogenous release ability of 5-HT at the DPM neuron's terminals throughout these
172 regions.

173 Next, we used 5-HT1.0 to probe 5-HT dynamics evoked by either odorant application or electric
174 shock (Figures 3H and 3I). We found that both odorant application (Figure 3J) and electric shock
175 (Figure 3K) induced time-locked increases of 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in the γ lobe. Interestingly, we
176 found that these stimuli induced responses differed among different compartments in the γ lobe of
177 control flies, with the strongest response occurring in the γ 3 compartment (Figures 3J and 3K). In
178 contrast, optogenetic stimulation produced a relatively uniform response throughout the γ lobe
179 (Figures 3E-3G). For Trh mutant flies, the fluorescence response was eliminated under odorant
180 and shock stimulus, similar results were obtained when the DPM neuron was silenced by
181 expressing the inward rectifying potassium channel Kir2.1, while direct application of 5-HT still
182 elicited a robust response (Figure 3L). These results together demonstrate the chemical specificity
183 of fluorescence responses and suggest that the endogenous 5-HT signal measured in MB γ lobe
184 arises from the DPM neuron.

185

186 **The DPM neuron and KCs are reciprocally connected and functionally correlated**

187 To better understand the 5-HT modulation on coincidence time window in MB, we explored
188 upstream and downstream connections of DPMs. Previously, the DPM neuron was suggested to
189 form a recurrent loop with KCs in the α'/β' lobe (Krashes et al., 2007). However, that has not been
190 verified experimentally. An analysis of recently published EM connectomics (Li et al., 2020;
191 Scheffer et al., 2020) revealed that the DPM neuron forms reciprocal connections with KCs, as
192 well as other cell types, including DANs in the paired posterior lateral 1 (PPL1) cluster, DANs in
193 the protocerebral anterior medial (PAM) cluster and a single GABAergic anterior paired lateral (APL)
194 neuron (Figures S3A, S3B, S3D, and S3E). Furthermore, both the input and output synapses of
195 the DPM neuron are distributed in all compartments of the MB. By analyzing the percentile from
196 each cell type, we found that more than 80% of the DPM's upstream cells are KCs and KCs
197 comprise more than 50% of the DPM's downstream cells (Figures S3B and S3E). Moreover, we
198 found that all 1931 KCs examined in our analysis form reciprocal connections with the DPM neuron.
199 On average, each KC has 28 pre-synapses and 16 post-synapses that are connected with the
200 DPM neuron (Figures S3, S3C, S3F and S3G).

201 To further examine the functional relationship between the DPM and KCs (Figure S4A), we used

202 ACh3.0 to measure ACh release from KCs. Additionally, we used GCaMP5 and 5-HT1.0 to
203 measure the DPM neuronal activity and 5-HT release from the DPM neuron. We performed *in vivo*
204 two-photon imaging in the γ 2-5 compartments in flies expressing each sensor, while applying an
205 odorant or electric shock stimuli. By comparing the resulting patterns, we found that ACh dynamics
206 are positively correlated with the Ca^{2+} signal in the DPM neuron and 5-HT dynamics (Figures S4B
207 and S4C), suggesting that the DPM neuron and KCs are both reciprocally connected and
208 functionally correlated.

209

210 **KCs are both necessary and sufficient for activating the DPM neuron**

211 To figure out the input-output relationship between the DPM and KCs, we generated transgenic
212 flies expressing both the inhibitory DREADD (Designer Receptor Exclusively Activated by Designer
213 Drugs) hM4Di (Armbruster et al., 2007; Becnel et al., 2013; Roth, 2016) and 5-HT1.0 in KCs (Figure
214 4A). When the hM4Di agonist deschloroclozapine (DCZ) (Nagai et al., 2020) was applied to
215 suppress KCs activity, we found that the odor- and shock-induced 5-HT release in the γ lobe was
216 abolished (Figures 4B and 4C), suggesting that KC excitatory input is required for the 5-HT release
217 from the DPM neuron during odor and shock stimulations.

218 Next, we examined whether ACh is sufficient to activate the DPM neuron (Figure S5A). We found
219 that perfusing ACh on the horizontal lobe induced an increase in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence that can be
220 blocked by the nicotinic ACh receptor (nAChR) antagonist mecamylamine (Meca) (Figures S5B
221 and S5C), which is consistent with recent transcriptomics data showing that nicotinic ACh receptors,
222 but not muscarinic receptors (mAChR), are expressed in the DPM neuron (Figure S6A (Aso et al.,
223 2019)). Importantly, adding other neurotransmitters such as DA, OA, glutamate (Glu) or GABA in
224 the presence of Meca also did not cause an increase in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence, whereas application
225 of 5-HT elicited a robust response (Figures S5B and S5C). Thus, ACh provides the excitatory input
226 to the DPM neuron.

227 Because externally ACh perfusion lacks cell type specificity, we further examined whether
228 selectively activating KCs is sufficient to trigger the release of 5-HT from the DPM neuron. We
229 therefore expressed CsChrimson and 5-HT1.0 in KCs (Figure 4D). Optogenetic activation of KCs
230 induced a 5-HT signal in the γ lobe (Figures 4E, 4F and S7) and this signal can be blocked by the
231 nAChR antagonist Meca but not the mAChR antagonist tiotropium (Tio). In addition, we used a 2-
232 photon laser to activate a specific region of the MB and observed localized 5-HT release (Figure
233 S8). These results indicate that activation of KCs is both necessary and sufficient to drive the
234 localized release of 5-HT from the DPM neuron, and this effect is mediated by nAChRs.

235

236 **The DPM neuron provides inhibitory feedback to the KCs**

237 Besides the KCs to the DPM neuron regulation, we next examined the effect of 5-HT released from
238 the DPM neuron on KCs. We therefore expressed the CsChrimson to optogenetically activate the
239 DPM neuron, with ACh3.0 in the KCs to measure both basal and stimuli-evoked fluorescent signals,
240 indicating tonic and phasic ACh dynamics respectively (Figure 4G). Because the DPM neuron is
241 connected to a GABAergic APL neuron via gap junctions, we used the gap junction blocker
242 carbenoxolone (CBX) to prevent indirect activation of the APL neuron (Connors, 2012). In the
243 absence of optogenetic stimulation, application of either odorant or electric shock induced phasic
244 ACh release in the γ lobe, and these responses were significantly reduced when the stimuli (i.e.

245 odor or shock) were presented 10 s after shining the red light (Figures 4H and 4I). This DPM-
246 activation evoked inhibitory effect was largely abolished in Trh mutant flies (Figure S9A-9C).
247 Moreover, both the odor and shock evoked ACh release in MB were significantly increased in Trh
248 mutant flies (Figure S9D and S9E). These two lines of evidences strengthen the inhibitory tone of
249 5-HT in the MB.

250 It has been documented that KCs show abundant neuronal activity in the absence of odor
251 stimulation (Turner et al., 2008). Therefore, we measured the tonic ACh signal, and found it was
252 reduced by activation of the DPM neuron (Figures 4H and 4I). 5-HT mediated inhibition to ACh
253 release was largely abolished in Trh mutant flies. Analysis of recent transcriptomic data (Aso et al.,
254 2019) revealed that both the 5-HT1a and 5-HT1b receptors are expressed in KCs in the γ lobe
255 (Figure S6B). Both receptor subtypes are coupled to the inhibitory G_{ai} pathway (Saudou et al.,
256 1992). Therefore, to determine which 5-HT receptor subtype mediated inhibitory 5-HT signaling to
257 KCs, we applied 5-HT receptor subtype specific antagonists (Suzuki et al., 2020) and found that
258 blocking the 5-HT1a receptor with WAY100635 prevented the optogenetically induced decrease of
259 tonic ACh signaling. In contrast, blocking the 5-HT1b, 5-HT2a, or 5-HT2b receptor had no such
260 effects (Figures 4J-4L). Taken together, these functional results reveal a reciprocal relationship
261 between the DPM neuron and KCs in the γ lobe, in which KCs release ACh to locally activate the
262 DPM neurons, while the DPM neuron releases 5-HT to inhibit ACh release via the 5-HT1a receptor.

263

264 **DPM-mediated serotonergic feedback inhibition modulates the coincidence time window**

265 Having established functional relationships between the DPM neuron and KCs, we then examined
266 the role of serotonergic inhibitory feedback for synaptic plasticity change in the γ 1 compartment
267 revealed by ACh3.0 imaging (Figures 5A and 5B). By specifically silencing the DPM neuron with
268 Kir2.1, we found that the coincidence time window was shortened to 10.9 s (Figures 5C, 2E).
269 Whereas the optogenetical activation of the DPM neuron with CsChrimson significantly prolonged
270 the coincidence time window to 24.0 s (Figure 5D). To demonstrate the necessity of 5-HT
271 metabolism specifically in the DPM neuron, we conducted optogenetic stimulation with Trh mutant
272 flies and yielded an 11.2-s coincidence time window, which was similar to that found in Trh mutant
273 and DPM silenced flies (Figure 5E). Moreover, the coincidence time windows were shortened when
274 we mutated the 5-HT1a receptor (Qian et al., 2017) (Figure 5F) or knocked down its expression in
275 KCs with RNAi (Figure 5G) (12.3 s for 5-HT1a mutant flies, and 12.2 s for 5-HT1a RNAi flies
276 respectively).

277 Finally, we wanted to confirm whether the time regulating function of DPM-mediated serotonergic
278 feedback inhibition holds true for the learning process. (Figures 6, A and B). For DPM neuron
279 silenced flies, the coincidence time window was shortened to 10.5 s (Figure 6C). Whereas the time
280 window was prolonged to 44.1 s for the DPM neuron activated group (Figure 6D). When we
281 specifically expressed the TRH in the DPM neuron of Trh mutant flies, interestingly, we found the
282 coincidence time window was not only rescued but further prolonged to 33.4 s, supporting the
283 sufficiency of 5-HT signal from the DPM neuron (Figure 6E). Systematically Mutating 5-HT1a or
284 specifically knocking down the 5-HT1a in KCs shortened the coincidence time window to 14.7 s
285 and 10.6 s respectively (Figures 6F and 6G).

286 Taken together, our results indicate that modulating the DPM activity or 5-HT signal yields shifted
287 coincidence time windows of synaptic plasticity in the γ 1 compartment of the MB, which are
288 positively correlated with the coincidence time windows of the learning behavior (Figure 7A).
289 Meanwhile, the learning ability as well as the amplitude of the ACh depression is not affected

290 (Figure 7B). In summary, the 5-HT signal from the DPM neuron selectively serves as a specific
291 timing modulator to regulate the coincidence time window in the olfactory associative learning
292 process (Figure 7C).

293

294 **Discussion**

295 Nearly a century ago, Ivan Pavlov proposed the associative conditioning theory, stating that “A ...
296 *most essential requisite for ... a new conditioned reflex lies in a coincidence in time of ... the neutral*
297 *stimulus with ... unconditioned stimulus*” (Pavlov and Anrep, 1927). Here, we reported that the
298 coincidence time window between CS and US for olfactory learning of *Drosophila* could be bi-
299 directionally regulated by 5-HT signal. We further dissected the microcircuit in the MB, where the
300 DPM neuron releases 5-HT to provide inhibitory feedback to KCs. These results support a circuitry
301 model in which the animal can maintain a physiologically precise time window to extract meaningful
302 associations from the surrounding environment.

303

304 **Serotonergic neuromodulation in the olfactory mushroom body**

305 Despite the known importance of serotonergic signaling in olfactory learning in *Drosophila*
306 (Ganguly et al., 2020; Johnson et al., 2011; Keene et al., 2006; Keene et al., 2004; Krashes et al.,
307 2007; Lee et al., 2011; Sitaraman et al., 2008; Waddell et al., 2000; Wu et al., 2011; Yu et al., 2005),
308 the dynamics of 5-HT signaling *in vivo* and the mechanisms that regulate this signaling processes
309 are largely unknown. Previously, addressing these fundamental biological questions has been
310 difficult due to the absence of suitable tools for monitoring 5-HT dynamics *in vivo* with high
311 spatiotemporal resolution. Using our 5-HT1.0 sensor, we measured 5-HT release in specific
312 compartments in the MB γ lobe in response to odor application (CS) and electric shock (US), which
313 is regulated by local ACh release from KCs. Each hemisphere contains at least three serotonergic
314 neurons that project to the MB, the DPM neuron innervates all lobes and the peduncle, the
315 serotonergic projection neuron (SPN) innervates only the peduncle (Scheunemann et al., 2018),
316 and the contralaterally-projecting serotonin-immunoreactive deutocerebral interneuron (CSDn)
317 innervates the calyx (Coates et al., 2020; Coates et al., 2017; Dacks et al., 2006; Suzuki et al.,
318 2020; Zhang et al., 2019a). However, our finding that the physiological stimulation-evoked increase
319 in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in the γ lobe disappeared when the DPM neuron was silenced suggests
320 that the DPM neuron is the principal source of 5-HT release in the γ lobe.

321

322 **Inhibitory feedback circuits in the learning center**

323 Based on previous light microscopy images and behavioral studies, the DPM neuron and KCs are
324 believed to form a recurrent loop in the α'/β' lobe (Krashes et al., 2007), and this notion is supported
325 by EM connectomics (Li et al., 2020; Scheffer et al., 2020). In addition to this structural connection,
326 our functional imaging results reveal that the DPM neuron provides inhibitory feedback to KCs.
327 Although the DPM neuron has been shown to release both 5-HT and GABA (Haynes et al., 2015),
328 our results indicate that the inhibitory effect on KCs, which regulates the coincidence time window,
329 is mediated primarily by 5-HT acting on 5-HT1a receptors in the KCs.

330 Each hemisphere contains a GABAergic APL neuron with neuropils that ramify throughout the MB,
331 including the calyx (Liu and Davis, 2009). The APL is not only anatomically similar to the DPM
332 neuron, but functionally the APL also forms reciprocal connections with KCs and provides inhibitory

333 feedback (Amin et al., 2020; Inada et al., 2017; Papadopoulou et al., 2011; Wu et al., 2012).
334 Moreover, GABA_A receptors-mediated inhibitory feedback can control the sparseness of odorant
335 coding in KCs, which allows the animal to discriminate between similar odors (Lei et al., 2013; Lin
336 et al., 2014). Here, our report that the DPM-mediated serotonergic inhibitory feedback regulates
337 the coincidence time window between stimuli. Given that 5-HT and GABA signals in MB operate
338 in parallel to regulate the time window and sparseness of odorant coding (Lee et al., 2011)
339 respectively, MB likely recruits two inhibitory feedback signals in order to execute orthogonal
340 functions of learning.

341

342 **Odorant-shock pairing induces presynaptic depression**

343 A large number of studies reported a wide range of olfactory learning–related changes in synaptic
344 plasticity in the *Drosophila* MB (Akmal et al., 2010; Berry et al., 2018; Bilz et al., 2020; Boto et al.,
345 2014; Boto et al., 2019; Bouzaiane et al., 2015; Cohn et al., 2015; Dylla et al., 2017; Felsenberg
346 et al., 2017; Felsenberg et al., 2018; Gervasi et al., 2010; Handler et al., 2019; Hige et al., 2015;
347 Louis et al., 2018; McCurdy et al., 2021; Oswald et al., 2015; Perisse et al., 2016; Placais et al.,
348 2013; Sabandal et al., 2021; Sejourne et al., 2011; Stahl et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2008; Yu et al.,
349 2006; Yu et al., 2005; Zhang and Roman, 2013; Zhang et al., 2019b; Zhou et al., 2019). However,
350 some studies differed with respect to the location (i.e., the specific MB compartment), direction (i.e.,
351 potentiation vs. depression) and whether the change occurs in presynaptic KCs or postsynaptic
352 MBONs. By performing *in vivo* imaging with ACh3.0 and GCaMP, we found that odorant-shock
353 pairing induces depression of the ACh signal released from KCs and Ca²⁺ signal within the MBON-
354 γ 1pedc. In addition, we found that postsynaptic Ca²⁺ responses to the CS- are unaffected by
355 odorant-shock pairing, suggesting that the change in synaptic plasticity is more likely to occur in
356 the presynaptic KCs.

357

358 **Regulating the coincidence time window**

359 Activities of the DPM neuron are reported to be required only for consolidating middle-term memory
360 (i.e., 3-hour) but not for short-term memory (Keene et al., 2004; Lee et al., 2011; Yu et al., 2005).
361 Previous studies were performed with an overlapped CS-US pairing protocol, meaning that the ISI
362 is shorter than 10 s. This work focuses on short-term memory, and we found that the 5-HT released
363 from the DPM neuron specifically regulated the coincidence time window. In accordance with
364 previous studies, we found that 5-HT does not affect magnitudes of performance index and
365 synaptic plasticity when the ISI is ≤ 10 s (Figure 7B). However, when the ISI > 10 s, learning
366 differences emerged between fly groups. Given that the CS was delivered for 10 s during odorant-
367 shock pairing, it seems reasonable to speculate that the serotonergic DPM circuitry is involved
368 primarily in trace conditioning when a temporal gap exists between the CS and US (Shuai et al.,
369 2011). In nature, flies do not experience precisely controlled CS and US as in the lab. Their learning
370 needs to be flexible to different CS/US regimes. Thus, the serotonin modulation extends the ability
371 of the flies to learn in nature and improves their chance of successfully determining cause and
372 effect.

373 At the neural circuit level, we found that 5-HT from the DPM neuron can bi-directionally regulate
374 the coincidence time window of synaptic depression in the γ 1 compartment, which partially
375 explains our behavioral results. However, olfactory learning is the net result of synaptic plasticity
376 changes in 15 MB compartments (Hige, 2018; Waddell, 2016) and each compartment has a

377 specific set of learning rules (Aso and Rubin, 2016). Thus, whether 5-HT plays a general role in
378 regulating timing in distinct compartments remains an open question.

379 Our findings prompt a series of questions about the physical basis for the coincidence time window
380 and the role 5-HT modulation of KCs plays in extending or reducing the window. We propose two
381 classes of hypotheses. One hypothesis is that the time window is documented by the CS-induced
382 Ca²⁺ activity in KCs. According to previous studies, adenylyl cyclase Rutabaga detects the
383 coincidence of odor-induced Ca²⁺ and shock-induced dopamine signal (Davis et al., 1995; Dudai
384 et al., 1976; Dudai et al., 1985; Gervasi et al., 2010; Levin et al., 1992; Livingstone et al., 1984;
385 Tomchik and Davis, 2009), and increases cAMP levels, therefore modulating synaptic plasticity
386 (Figure 7C). However, we find it difficult to fit the 5-HT signal directly into this model, as activating
387 the DPM neuron inhibits ACh release from KCs (Figure 4G-4L), and G_{αi}-coupled 5-HT_{1a} curbs the
388 learning-related cAMP signal, both of which shorten the window. The other hypothesis is that the
389 coincidence time window is biochemical, for example the CaMKII autophosphorylation activity,
390 which also determines the copulation duration of *Drosophila* (Thornquist et al., 2020; Thornquist
391 et al., 2021). It would then imply that 5-HT can somehow prolong the CaMKII autophosphorylation
392 states. There are many interesting unknowns that can perhaps be resolved by imaging intracellular
393 signaling cascades in KCs in the future.

394 In mammals, the serotonergic system plays a critical role in cognition and serves as a
395 pharmacological target for various hallucinogens and antidepressants. A growing body of evidence
396 suggests that 5-HT affects the perception of time and the temporal control of various behaviors
397 (Buhot et al., 2000; Harmer et al., 2002; Meneses, 1999; Park et al., 1994; Wittmann et al., 2007).
398 Moreover, recent rodent studies involving associative learning paradigms found that tonic 5-HT
399 signaling encodes “patience”, as artificially inhibiting or activating serotonergic neurons can bi-
400 directionally regulate the time that animal waits between the CS and the US (Fonseca et al., 2015;
401 Li et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2020b; Lottem et al., 2018; Miyazaki et al., 2011a, 2012a; Miyazaki et al.,
402 2011b, 2012b; Miyazaki et al., 2014). In our study, 5-HT also bi-directionally regulates the
403 coincidence timing between the CS and US. In addition, studies of the rabbit nictitating membrane
404 response found that the hallucinogen LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide, or “acid”), a non-selective
405 5-HT receptor agonist, can facilitate learning when the ISI is outside of the optimal range (Harvey,
406 2003; Harvey et al., 1988). This finding is reminiscent of our observations in *Drosophila* that the
407 SSRI can increase learning when the ISI exceeds the optimal coincidence time window. Thus, a
408 similar serotonergic neuromodulatory mechanism may be used in both vertebrates and
409 invertebrates to modulate the timing of associative learning.

410

411 **Materials and Methods**

412 Materials

413

| REAGENT or RESOURCE | SOURCE | IDENTIFIER |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Antibodies | | |
| Anti-GFP | Abcam | Cat #13970, RRID: AB_300798 |
| Anti-mCherry | Abcam | Cat #ab167453, RRID: AB_2571870 |
| Anti-nc82 | DSHB | Cat #2314866, RRID: AB_2314866 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| AlexaFlour488 anti-chicken | Molecular Probes | Cat #A-11039, RRID: AB_142924 |
| AlexaFlour555 anti-rabbit | AAT Bioquest | Cat #16690 |
| AlexaFlour647 anti-mouse | AAT Bioquest | Cat #16562 |
| Chemicals | | |
| Dopamine (DA) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #H8502 |
| Acetylcholine (ACh) | Solarbio | Cat #G8320 |
| Mecamylamine (Meca) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #M9020 |
| Tiotropium Bromide (Tio) | Dexinjin Bio & Tech | N/A |
| All Trans-Retinal | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #R2500 |
| 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) | Tocris | Cat #3547 |
| Deschloroclozapine (DCZ) | MedChemExpress | Cat #HY-42110 |
| Octopamine (OA) | Tocris | Cat #2242 |
| Glutamate (Glu) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #V900408 |
| γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) | Tocris | Cat #0344 |
| Ketanserin (Keta) | Aladdin | Cat #K107929 |
| Metoclopramide (Meto) | APEX BIO | Cat #A3599 |
| SB216641 (SB) | APEX BIO | Cat #B6653 |
| WAY100635 (WAY) | Macklin | Cat #W855249 |
| Mineral Oil | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #69794 |
| 3-Octanol (OCT) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #218405 |
| 4-Methylcyclohexanol (MCH) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #153095 |
| Isoamyl acetate (IA) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #306967 |
| Fluoroshield | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #F6182 |
| Fluoxetine | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #F132 |
| Carbenoxolone (CBX) | Sigma-Aldrich | Cat #C4790 |
| Drosophila strains | | |
| LexAop2-ACh3.0 (chr2) | (Jing et al., 2020) | BDSC: 86551 |
| UAS-5-HT1.0 (chr2) | (Wan et al., 2021) | BDSC: 90874 |
| LexAop2-5-HT1.0 (chr2) | (Wan et al., 2021) | BDSC: 90876 |
| LexAop2-5-HT1.0 (chr3) | (Wan et al., 2021) | BDSC: 90877 |
| R13F02-Gal4 | Yi Rao | BDSC: 48571 |
| R13F02-LexA | Yi Rao | BDSC: 52460 |
| MB247-LexA | Yi Zhong | N/A |
| UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry | Chuan Zhou | BDSC: 82181 |
| VT064246-Gal4 | Yi Rao | VDRC: 204311 |
| UAS-GCaMP5 | Bloomington <i>Drosophila</i> Stock Center | BDSC: 42037 |
| UAS-hM4Di | Donggen Luo | N/A |
| Trh01 (Trh mutant) | (Qian et al., 2017) | N/A |
| QYJ-SI-5HT1a[Gal4] (5-HT1a mutant) | (Qian et al., 2017) | N/A |
| UAS-Kir2.1 | Chuan Zhou | N/A |
| Canton-S (W1118) | Yi Rao | N/A |
| 30y-Gal4 | Yi Rao | BDSC: 30818 |
| UAS-GCaMP6s | Bloomington <i>Drosophila</i> Stock Center | BDSC: 42746 |
| R12G04-LexA | Bloomington <i>Drosophila</i> Stock Center | BDSC: 52448 |
| LexAop2-GCaMP6s | Bloomington <i>Drosophila</i> Stock Center | BDSC: 44274 |
| C316-Gal4 | Bloomington <i>Drosophila</i> Stock Center | BDSC: 30830 |
| UAS-Trh | Bloomington <i>Drosophila</i> Stock Center | BDSC: 27638 |
| UAS-5HT1a-RNAi | TsingHua fly center | THU1216 |
| Software | | |
| Origin | OriginLab | |
| ImageJ | NIH (https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/index.html) | |

| | |
|---------|---|
| Arduino | https://www.arduino.cc |
| MatLab | MathWorks |

414
415
416

Experiment model and subject details

417

Flies

418 Transgenic flies were raised on corn meal at 25°C in 50% humidity, under a 12-hour light/12-hour
419 dark cycle. For optogenetics, flies were transferred to corn meal containing 400 µM all-*trans*-retinal
420 after eclosion and raised in the dark for 1-3 days before performing functional imaging and
421 behavioral experiments. For fluoxetine feeding, flies were transferred to a tube containing a filter
422 paper loaded with 150 µl 5% sucrose solution with 10 mM fluoxetine for 14 hours before performing
423 behavioral experiments.

424

425 The following fly strains were used in the experiments corresponding to the following figures.

426

Figure 1

427

Canton-S (control and SSRI groups)

428

Trh01 / Trh01

429

Figure 2, Figure S1 and Figure S2

430

UAS-GCaMP6s / +; 30y-Gal4 / +

431

R12G04-LexA / CyO; LexAop2-GCaMP6s / TM2

432

LexAop2-ACh3.0 / CyO; MB247-LexA / TM6B (control and SSRI groups)

433

R13F02-LexA / LexAop2-ACh3.0; Trh01 / Trh01

434

Figure 3 and Figure S2

435

UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry / R13F02-LexA; VT064246-Gal4 / LexAop2-5HT1.0

436

UAS-5HT1.0 / CyO; R13F02-Gal4 / TM2

437

UAS-Kir2.1 / R13F02-LexA; VT064246-Gal4 / LexAop2-5HT1.0

438

R13F02-LexA / LexAop2-5HT1.0; Trh01 / Trh01

439

Figure 4 and Figure S4-8

440

LexAop2-ACh3.0 / CyO; MB247-LexA / TM6B

441

UAS-GCaMP5 / CyO; VT064246-Gal4 / TM6B

442

UAS-5HT1.0 / CyO; C316-Gal4 / TM2

443

UAS-hM4Di / +; UAS-5HT1.0 / +; R13F02-Gal4 / +

444

UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry / R13F02-LexA; 30y-Gal4 / LexAop2-5HT1.0

445

UAS-5HT1.0 / CyO; R13F02-Gal4/TM2

446

LexAop2-ACh3.0 / UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry; MB247-LexA / VT064246-Gal4

447

LexAop2-ACh3.0 / UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry; MB247-LexA, Trh01 / VT064246-Gal4, Trh01

448

Figure 5

449 UAS-Kir2.1 / LexAop2-ACh3.0; VT064246-Gal4 / MB247-LexA
450 UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry / LexAop2-ACh3.0; VT064246-Gal4/ MB247-LexA
451 LexAop2-ACh3.0 / UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry; MB247-LexA, Trh01 / VT064246-Gal4, Trh01
452 LexAop-ACh3.0/+; MB247-LexA, 30y-Gal4/UAS-5-HT1a-RNAi
453 QYJ-SI-5HT1a[Gal4]/ QYJ-SI-5HT1a[Gal4]; MB247-LexA/LexAop2-ACh3.0
454 Figure 6
455 UAS-Kir2.1 / CyO; VT064246-Gal4 / TM3
456 UAS-CsChrimson-mCherry / CyO; VT064246-Gal4 / TM6B
457 UAS-Trh/UAS-Trh; VT064246-Gal4, Trh01/ VT064246-Gal4, Trh01
458 UAS-5-HT1a-RNAi/30y-Gal4
459 QYJ-SI-5HT1a[Gal4]/ QYJ-SI-5HT1a[Gal4]

460

461 **DETAILED METHODS**

462

463 **Functional imaging**

464 Adult female flies within 2 weeks after eclosion were used for imaging experiments. The fly was
465 mounted to a customized chamber using tape, and a 1 mm X 1 mm rectangular section of tape
466 above the head was removed. The cuticle between the eyes, the air sacs, and the fat bodies were
467 carefully removed in order to expose the brain, which was bathed in adult hemolymph-like solution
468 (AHLS) containing (in mM): 108 NaCl, 5 KCl, 5 HEPES, 5 D-trehalose, 5 sucrose, 26 NaHCO₃, 1
469 NaH₂PO₄, 2 CaCl₂ and 2 MgCl₂.

470 The experiments in Figure 3A-3G were conducted using a Leica SP5 II confocal microscope, with
471 a 488 nm laser for excitation and the 490-560-nm spectrum for the green fluorescence signal.
472 Other functional imaging experiments were conducted using an Olympus FVMPE-RS microscope
473 equipped with a Spectra-Physics InSight X3 two-photon laser, with 920-nm laser for excitation and
474 a 495-540-nm filter to collect the green fluorescence signal. For odorant stimulation, the odorant
475 was diluted 200-fold in mineral oil, then diluted 5-fold in air and delivered to the antenna at a rate
476 of 1000 ml/min. The odorant isoamyl acetate was used for the experiments in Figures 3-4, while
477 3-octanol (OCT) and 4-methylcyclohexanol (MCH) were used in the experiments in Figures 4-5
478 and Figure S6-8. For single-photon optogenetic stimulation, a 635-nm laser (Changchun Liangli
479 Photo Electricity Co., Ltd.) was used, and an 18 mW/cm² light was delivered to the brain via an
480 optic fiber. For two-photon optogenetic stimulation, a 1045-nm laser was used, and a 20-mW light
481 was delivered to the region of interest. For electric shock stimulation, two copper wires were
482 attached to the fly's abdomen and 80-V pulses were delivered. To apply various neurotransmitters
483 (e.g., 5-HT, ACh, DA, OA, Glu, and GABA) and chemicals (e.g., ketanserin, metoclopramide,
484 SB216641, and WAY100635) to the brain, a small patch of the blood-brain-barrier was carefully
485 removed with tweezers before the experiment. The following sampling rates were used: 5 Hz
486 (Figure 3A-3G), 6.8 Hz (Figures 3J-3K, and 4A-4C), 1 Hz (Figures 3L and 4J-4L), 10 Hz (Fig. 4D-
487 4F), and 4 Hz (Figures 2, 4G-4I and 5).

488

489 **Immunostaining and confocal imaging**

490 The brains of female and male adults within 7-14 days after eclosion were dissected into ice-cold
491 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), fixed in ice-cold 4% (w/v) paraformaldehyde solution for 1 h, and

492 washed three times with washing buffer (PBS containing 3% NaCl, 1% Triton X-100) for 10 min
493 each. The brains were then incubated in penetration/blocking buffer (PBS containing 2% Triton X-
494 100 and 10% normal goat serum) for 20 h at 4°C on a shaker. The brains were then incubated with
495 primary antibodies (diluted in PBS containing 0.25% Triton X-100 and 1% normal goat serum) for
496 24 hours at 4°C, and then washed three times in washing buffer for 10 min each on a shaker. The
497 brains were then incubated with the appropriate secondary antibodies (diluted in PBS containing
498 0.25% Triton X-100 and 1% normal goat serum) overnight at 4°C in the dark, then washed three
499 times with washing buffer for 10 min each on a shaker. The samples were mounted with
500 Fluoroshield and kept in the dark. The following antibodies were used at the indicated dilutions:
501 chicken anti-GFP (1:500), rabbit anti-mCherry (1:500), mouse anti-nc82 (1:40), Alexa Fluor 488
502 goat anti-chicken (1:500), Alex Fluor 555 goat anti-rabbit (1:500), and Alex Fluor 647 goat anti-
503 mouse (1:500). Fluorescence images were obtained using a Nikon Ti-E A1 confocal microscope.
504 Alexa Fluor 488, Alexa Fluor 555, and Alexa Fluor 647 were excited using a 485-nm, 559-nm, and
505 638-nm laser, respectively, and imaged using a 525/50-nm, 595/50-nm, and 700/75-nm filter,
506 respectively.

507

508 Behavioral assay

509 These experiments were performed in a dark room at 22°C with 50-60% humidity. Flies within 24-
510 72 hours after eclosion were transferred to a new tube 12 hours before the experiment. The airflow
511 rates of the training arm and the testing arms were maintained at 800 ml/min throughout the
512 experiment. Before training, 50-100 flies were loaded in the training arm and accommodated for 2
513 min. During training, the CS+ (diluted by 67-fold in mineral oil) was delivered via the airflow for 10
514 s. Three 90-V electric shocks were delivered via the copper grid contained within the training arm
515 at 0.2 Hz, with a varying ISI. For optogenetic stimulation, a 635-nm laser (Changchun Liangli Photo
516 Electricity Co., Ltd.) was used, and a 10 mW/cm² light was delivered to the training arm via an
517 optic fiber. 2 min after the end of CS+, the CS- (diluted by 67-fold in mineral oil) was delivered via
518 the airflow for 10 s. One min after training, the flies were transferred to the elevator and allowed
519 to accommodate for 3 min before testing. During testing, the paired and unpaired conditioned
520 stimuli (CS+ and CS-, respectively) were delivered from two ends of the arms for 30 s, after which
521 the number of flies in each arm (N) was counted. The performance index was calculated using the
522 following formula: $[N(\text{CS}+) - N(\text{CS}-)] / [N(\text{CS}+) + N(\text{CS}-)]$. One group of flies were used in only
523 one trial training and testing. To reduce the possible bias of innate preference, each data point is
524 the average result of two groups of flies (electric shock paired with OCT in one group, and electric
525 shock paired with MCH in the other group).

526

527 Quantification and data analysis

528 Imaging data from *Drosophila* brains were firstly processed using Image J software (National
529 Institutes of Health), followed by replotting graphs using Origin 9.1 (OriginLab). The fluorescence
530 responses ($\Delta F/F_0$) were calculated using the formula $(F-F_0)/F_0$, in which F_0 is the basal fluorescent
531 signal. The Relative $\int \Delta F/F_0$ (Figure 2 and 5) was the calculation of the area under curve during
532 odor application followed by normalization to that in control group. The behavioral performance
533 index (Figure 1 and 6) was calculated as mentioned above in behavioral assay part. For better
534 comparison, in the sigmoid function fitted traces of learning behavior, the performance index
535 against ISI = 5 s was related to 1. In the sigmoid function fitted traces for synaptic plasticity, the
536 ΔACh is the $\int \Delta F/F_0 (\text{Pre}) - \int \Delta F/F_0 (\text{Post})$.

537 Except where indicated otherwise, all summary data were presented as the Mean \pm SEM, and
538 group differences were analyzed using Student's t-test and One-Way ANOVA test.

539

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546

547 Author Contributions

548 Y.L. conceived and supervised the project. J.Z. and X.L. performed the immunofluorescence
549 imaging and all functional imaging experiments, unless otherwise noted. Z.Z., X.L., and J.Z.
550 performed the behavioral experiments and analyzed the EM data. X.L. analyzed the
551 transcriptomics data. M.L. performed the neurotransmitter perfusion experiments. Y.W. contributed
552 to the experiments using hM4Di. K.T. and Y.W. contributed to the synaptic plasticity experiments.
553 X.X. contributed to the fly preparation. J.W. and M.J. provided the 5-HT1.0 and ACh3.0 sensors,
554 respectively. All authors contributed to the data interpretation and data analysis. Y.L. wrote the
555 manuscript with input from all other authors.

556

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558

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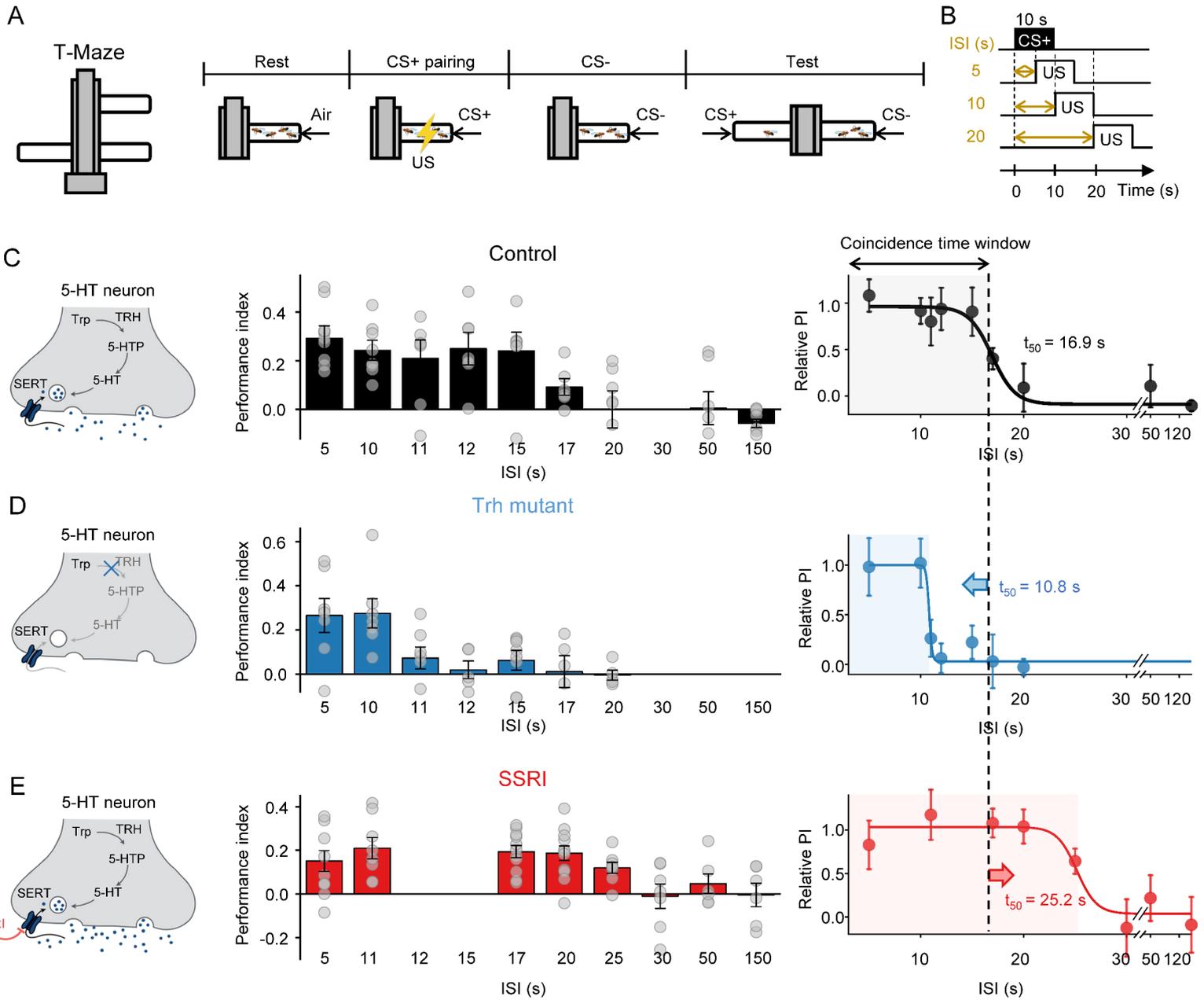
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Figure 1

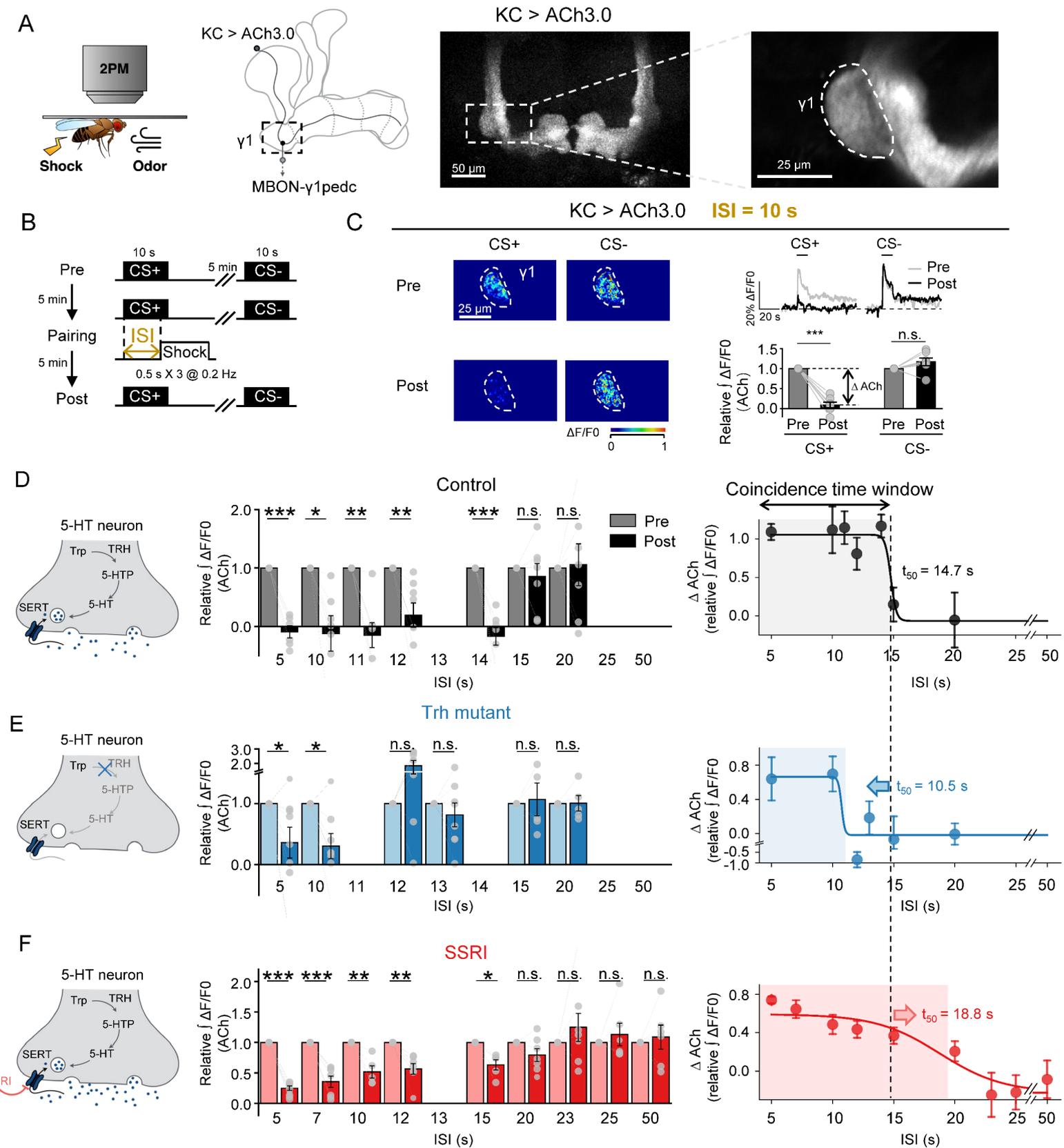


913 **Figure 1. 5-HT signaling can bi-directionally regulate the coincidence time window of**
914 **olfactory learning.**

915 **(A-B)** Schematic diagram depicting the T-maze protocol **(A)** for measuring how the inter-
916 stimulus interval (ISI) affects odorant-shock pairing-induced aversive memory **(B)**.

917 **(C-E)** Schematic diagram depicting the 5-HT synthesis process (left). Group data summarized
918 the performance index measured with different ISI indicated at the X-axis (middle). Average
919 performance index against the ISI, which is fitted with a sigmoid function. The coincidence
920 time window is defined as the t_{50} of the sigmoidal function, and indicated with the shaded
921 area. The dashed vertical lines at 16.6 s represents the coincidence time window of the WT
922 flies. In **(D)**, Trh mutant flies were used. In **(E)**, flies were pretreated with the SSRI fluoxetine
923 before experiment.

Figure 2



925 **Figure 2. 5-HT signaling can bi-directionally modulate the coincidence time window for**
926 **synaptic plasticity change.**

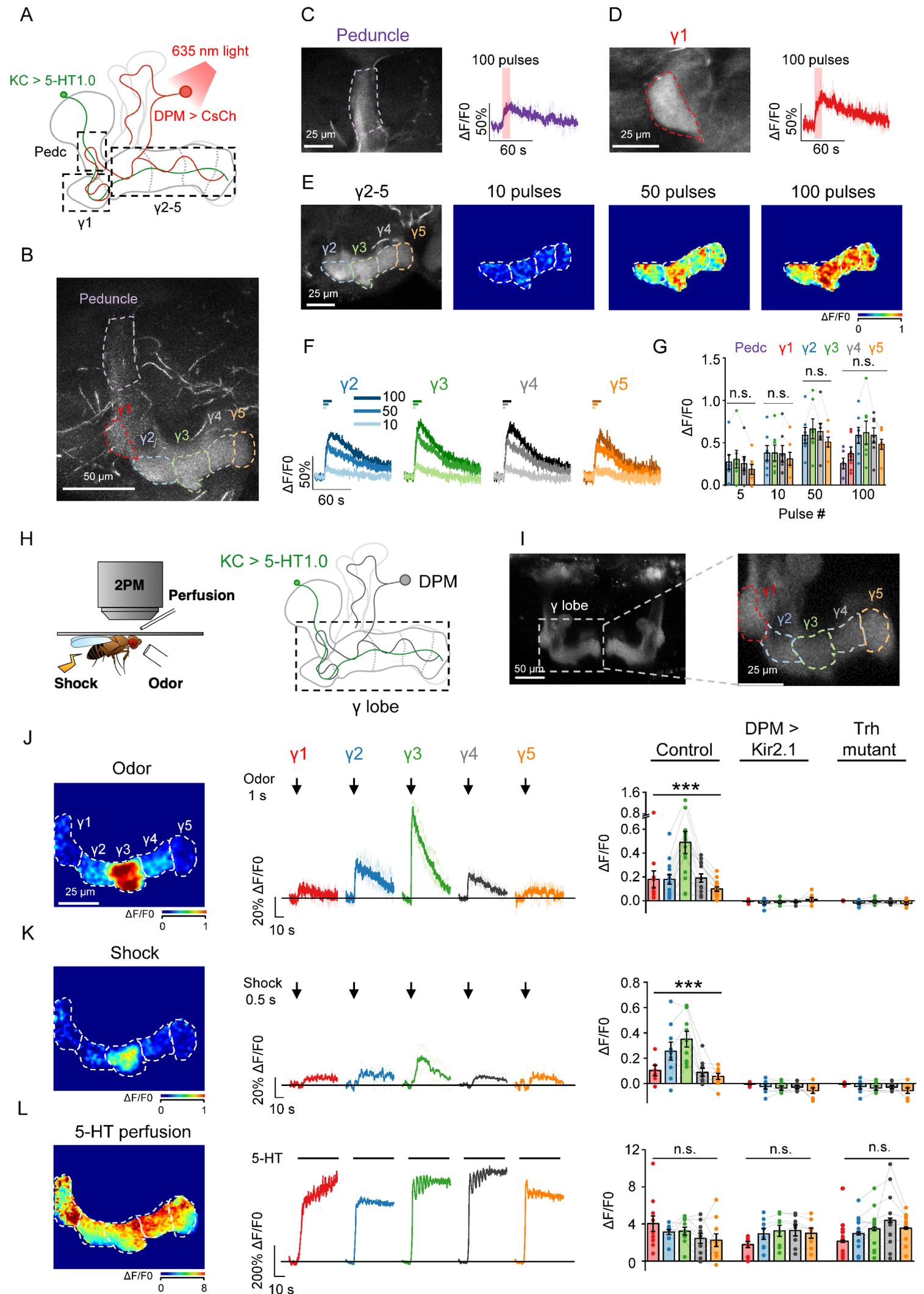
927 (A) Schematic diagram (left and middle) depicting the strategy for measuring the synaptic
928 plasticity changes in the $\gamma 1$ compartment. ACh was measured using ACh3.0 expressed in KCs
929 (right).

930 (B) Schematic diagram showing the experimental protocol.

931 (C) Representative pseudocolor images (left), average traces (top right), and group data
932 (bottom right) showing the change in ACh3.0 fluorescence in response to the paired
933 conditioned stimulus (CS+) and the unpaired conditioned stimulus (CS-) pre and post CS-US
934 pairing with a 10-s ISI in control flies.

935 (D-F) Left: schematic diagrams showing the strategy for each experiment. Middle: group
936 relative change in ACh3.0 fluorescence in response to CS+ measured before (light) and after
937 (dark) CS-US pairing using the indicated ISI (X-axis). Right: plot depicting the relative responses
938 against ISI, where the ACh decrease level (Δ ACh) after pairing are fitted by a sigmoid function.
939 The coincident time window is defined as the t_{50} of the sigmoidal function, and indicated with
940 the shaded area. The dashed vertical line at 14.7 s represents the coincidence time window
941 in control flies. In (E), Trh mutant flies were used. In (F), flies were pretreated with the SSRI
942 fluoxetine before experiment. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, and *** $p < 0.001$ (Student's *t*-test).

Figure 3



944 **Figure 3. 5-HT1.0 can be used to detect 5-HT release from the DPM neuron induced with**
945 **optogenetics, odorant, and shock stimuli.**

946 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup combining *in vivo* imaging with
947 optogenetic stimulation. The CsChrimson-expressing DPM neuron (red) was activated with 1-
948 ms pulses of 635-nm light delivered at 10 Hz, and 5-HT was measured using 5-HT1.0 expressed
949 in KCs (green). The MB (solid line) and compartments (dashed line) of the γ lobe are shown in
950 gray. The nicotinic ACh receptor antagonist mecamylamine (Meca, 100 μ M) was present
951 during the optogenetic experiments to avoid interference from indirect activation.

952 (B) Representative *in vivo* fluorescence image of 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

953 (C and D) Representative fluorescence images and traces of 5-HT1.0 in the peduncle (C) and
954 the γ 1 compartment (D); where indicated, 100 light pulses were applied.

955 (E-G) Representative fluorescence image (E, left panel), pseudocolor images (E, right panels),
956 traces (F), and group data (G) of the change in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in response to the
957 indicated number of optogenetic stimuli in the different γ lobe compartments.

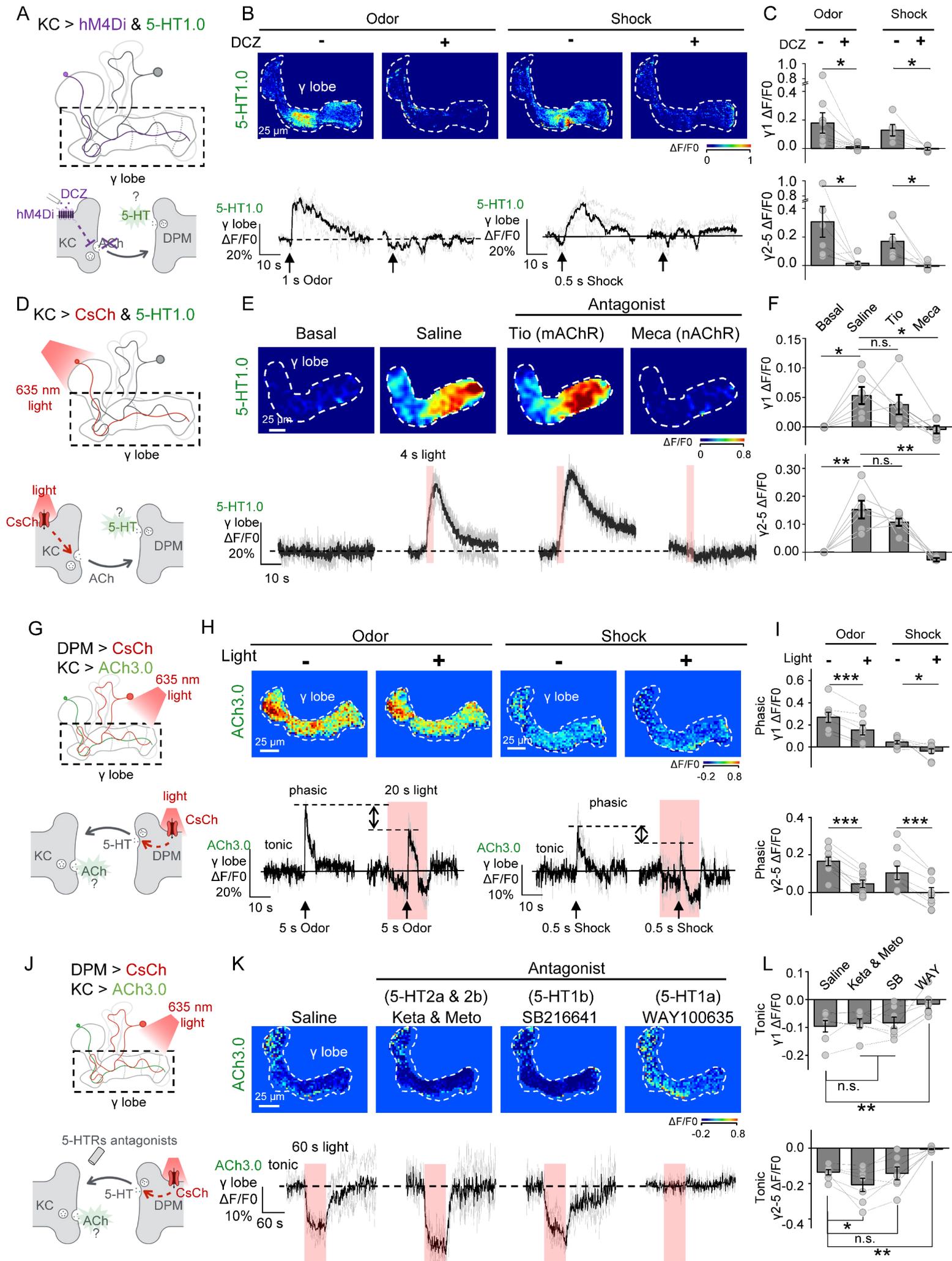
958 (H) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup combining *in vivo* imaging with
959 physiological stimuli and perfusion. 5-HT was measured in the γ lobe using 5-HT1.0 expressed
960 in KCs.

961 (I) Representative fluorescence images of 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

962 (J-L) Representative pseudocolor images (left), traces (middle), and group data (right) of the
963 change in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in response to a 1-s odorant (J), a 0.5-s electric shock (K), or
964 application of 100 μ M 5-HT (L) in control flies, flies overexpressing Kir2.1 to silence the DPM
965 neuron, and Trh mutant flies to reduce 5-HT production. In this and subsequent figures, traces
966 are shown as the average response (bold) with corresponding individual responses (light)
967 measured in a single fly.

968 In this figure, group data are presented as the mean \pm SEM, overlaid with the data obtained
969 from each fly. * p <0.05, *** p <0.001, and n.s., not significant (one-way ANOVA).

Figure 4



971 **Figure 4. 5-HT release from the DPM neuron is induced by ACh release from KCs and**
972 **provides inhibitory feedback to KCs.**

973 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the setup used for the experiments shown in (B) and (C).
974 hM4Di-expressing KCs were silenced by applying 30 nM deschloroclozapine (DCZ), and 5-HT
975 was measured in the γ lobe using 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

976 (B and C) Representative pseudocolor images (B, top), traces (B, bottom), and group data (C)
977 of the change in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in response to a 1-s odorant application or 0.5-s electric
978 shock in the absence or presence of 30 nM DCZ.

979 (D) Schematic diagram depicting the setup used for the subsequent experiments. CsChrimson-
980 expressing KCs were activated by 40 1-ms pulses of 635-nm light applied at 10 Hz, and 5-HT
981 was measured in the γ lobe using 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

982 (E and F) Representative pseudocolor images (E, top), traces (E, bottom), and group data (F)
983 of the change in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in response to optogenetic stimulation in saline, the
984 muscarinic ACh receptor antagonist Tio (100 μ M), or the nicotinic ACh receptor antagonist
985 Meca (100 μ M).

986 (G) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup for the subsequent experiments. The
987 CsChrimson-expressing DPM neuron was activated using 1-ms pulses of 635-nm light at 10 Hz,
988 and ACh was measured in the γ lobe using ACh3.0 expressed in KCs.

989 (H and I) Representative pseudocolor images (H, top), traces (H, bottom), and group data (I)
990 of the change in ACh3.0 fluorescence in response to a 1-s odorant application or 0.5-s electric
991 shock either with or without a 20-s optogenetic stimulation.

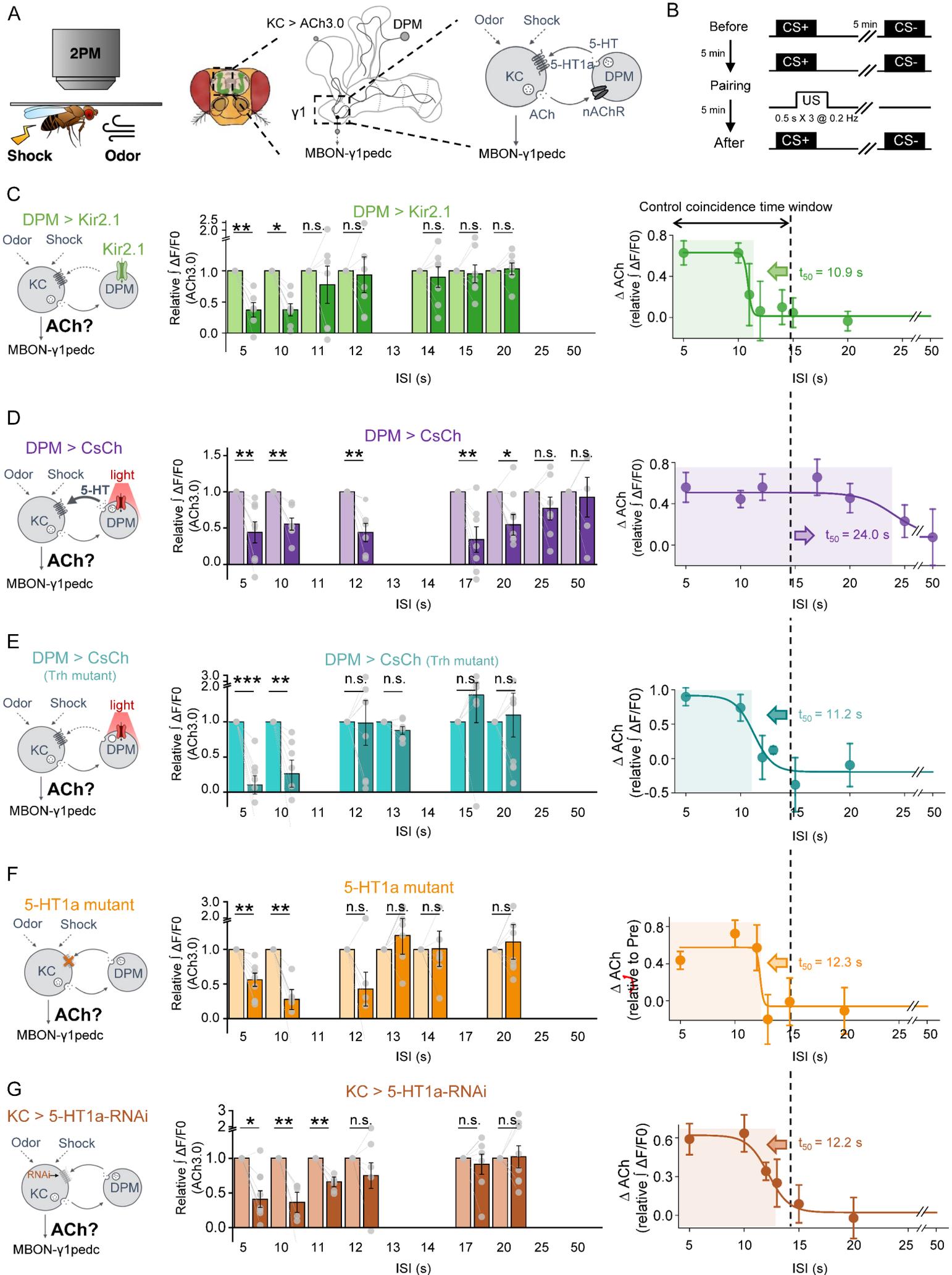
992 (J) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup for the subsequent experiments.
993 Similar to (I), but different 5-HT receptor antagonists are applied.

994 (K and L) Representative pseudocolor images (K, top), traces (K, bottom), and group data (L)
995 of the change in ACh3.0 fluorescence in response to a 60-s optogenetic stimulation. Different
996 compounds were sequentially added into the bath solution without washing, including the 5-
997 HT2a antagonist ketanserin (Keta), the 5-HT2b antagonist metoclopramide (Meto), the 5-HT1b
998 antagonist SB216641, and the 5-HT1a antagonist WAY100635 (all applied at 20 μ M each). In
999 this figure, group data are presented as the mean \pm SEM, overlaid with the data obtained from
1000 each fly. * p <0.05, ** p <0.01, *** p <0.001, and n.s., not significant (Student's t -test).

1001 For these experiments in (D - L), the gap junction blocker CBX (100 μ M) was included.

1002

Figure 5



1004 **Figure 5. 5-HT signals from DPM can bi-directionally modulate the coincidence time window**
1005 **for changing synaptic plasticity.**

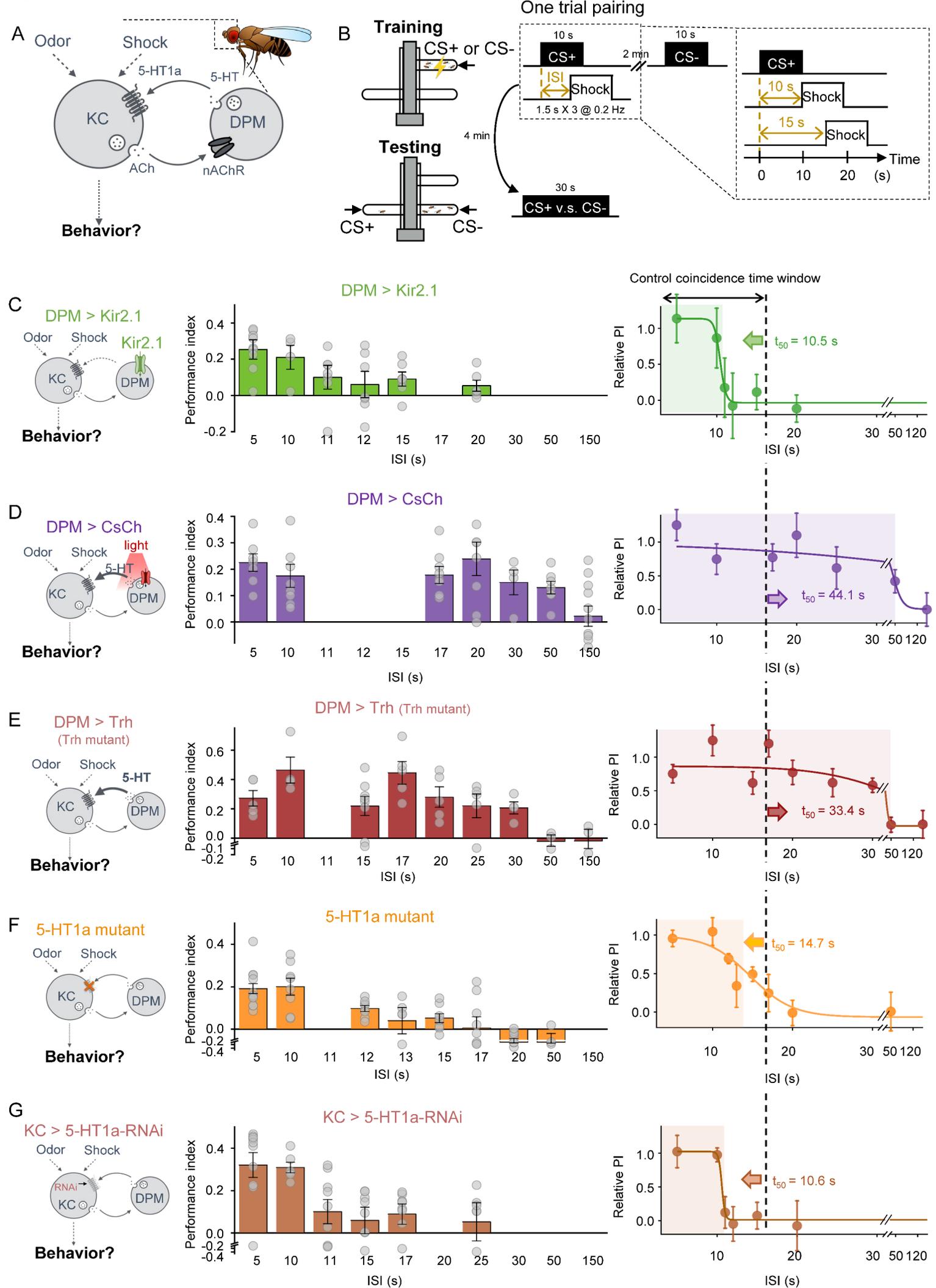
1006 (A) Schematic diagram (left and middle) depicting the strategy for measuring the effect of
1007 DPM-mediated serotonergic inhibitory feedback on changes in synaptic plasticity in the $\gamma 1$
1008 compartment. ACh was measured using ACh3.0 expressed in KCs (right).

1009 (B) Schematic diagram showing the experimental protocol.

1010 (C-G) Left: schematic diagrams showing the strategy for each experiment. Middle: group
1011 relative change in ACh3.0 fluorescence in response to CS+ measured before (light) and after
1012 (dark) CS-US pairing using the indicated ISI. Right: plot depicting the relative depression of
1013 ACh signals in response to CS+ against ISI, where the decreases are fitted by a sigmoid function.
1014 The coincident time window is defined as the t_{50} of the sigmoidal function, and indicated with
1015 the shaded area. The dashed vertical line at 14.7 s represents the coincidence time window
1016 in control flies. In (C), the DPM neuron expressed Kir2.1. In (D), the DPM neuron expressed
1017 CsChrimson, which was activated using 10-ms pulses of 635-nm light at 4 Hz, applied from the
1018 start of odorant application to 4.5 s after electric shocks were applied. In (E), the DPM
1019 expressed CsChrimson in Trh mutant flies, which was activated using identical protocols as in
1020 (D). In (F), the 5-HT1a receptor was mutated. In (G), the 5-HT1a receptor was knocked down
1021 in KCs with RNAi. Data fitted with a nonlinear Dose-Response function.

1022 In this figure, group data are presented as the mean \pm SEM, overlaid with the data obtained
1023 from each fly. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, and *** $p < 0.001$ (Student's t -test).

Figure 6



1025 **Figure 6. 5-HT signaling can bi-directionally modulate the coincidence time window of**
1026 **olfactory learning.**

1027 **(A)** Schematic diagram depicting the DPM-mediated inhibitory serotonergic feedback to KCs.

1028 **(B)** T-maze protocol for measuring how the inter-stimulus interval (ISI) affects odorant-shock
1029 pairing-induced aversive memory.

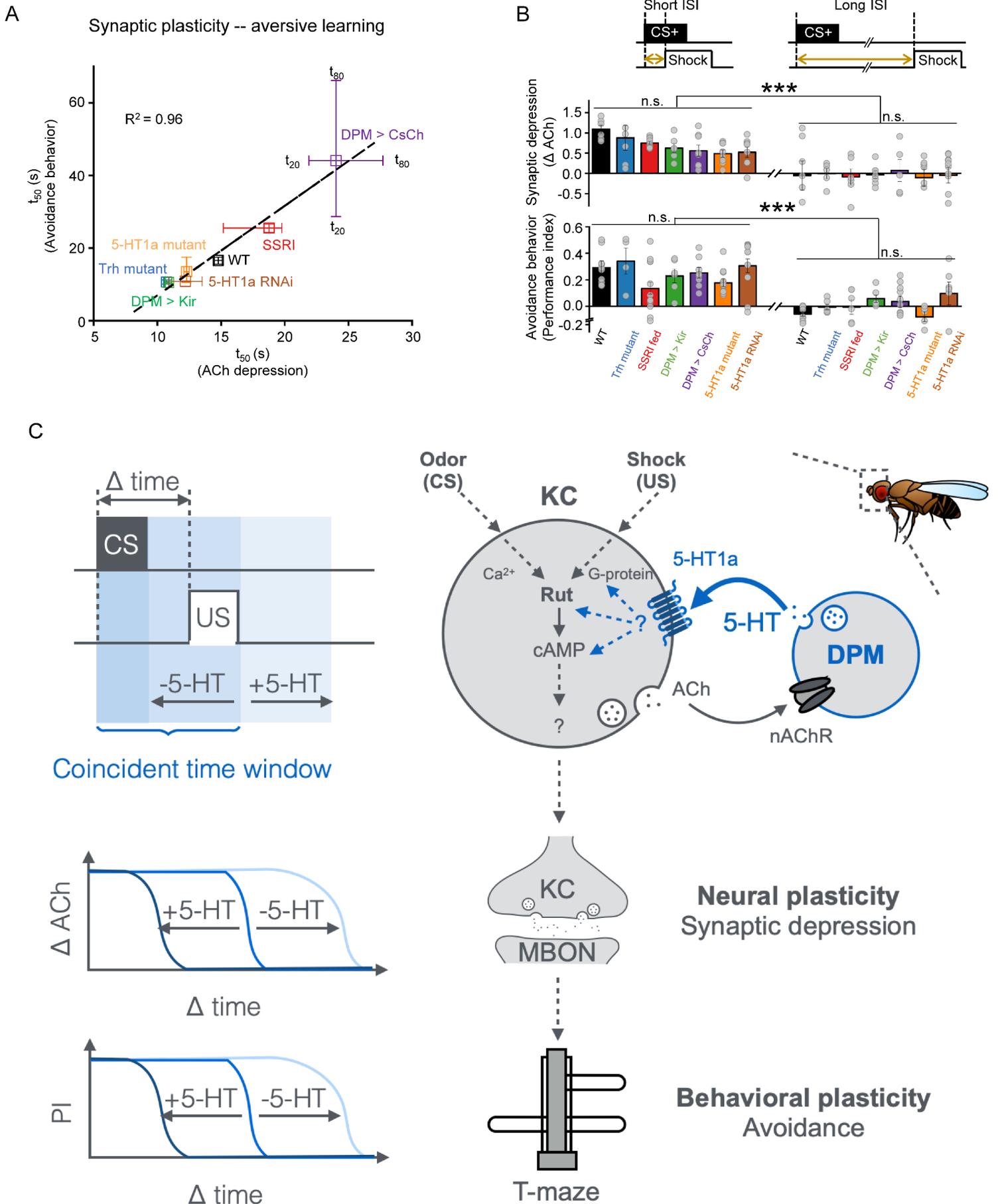
1030 **(C-G)** Left: schematic diagrams showing the strategy for each experiment. Middle: group data
1031 summarizing the performance index measured using the indicated ISI. Right: plot depicting
1032 the averaged relative performance index against the ISI, which is fitted with a sigmoid function.
1033 The coincident time window is defined as the t_{50} of the sigmoidal function, and indicated with
1034 the shaded area. The dashed vertical line at 16.5 s represents the coincidence time window
1035 of the control flies. In **(C)**, the DPM neuron expressed Kir2.1. In **(D)**, the DPM neuron expressed
1036 CsChrimson, which was activated with continuous 635-nm light applied from the beginning of
1037 the odorant application to 3.5 s after the electric shocks were applied. In **(E)**, the Trh was
1038 conditional over-expressed in DPM in Trh mutant flies. In **(F)**, the 5-HT_{1a} receptor was
1039 mutated. In **(G)**, the 5-HT_{1a} receptor was knocked down in KCs with RNAi.

1040 Data in **C-G** are fitted with a nonlinear Dose-Response function.

1041

1042

Figure 7



1044 **Figure 7. 5-HT signal bi-directionally regulates the coincidence time window of associative**
1045 **learning**

1046 **(A)** Correlation analysis of coincidence time windows (t_{50}) between synaptic plasticity (X-axis)
1047 and aversive learning performance (Y-axis) and synaptic plasticity of indicated fly groups. Error
1048 bars indicate the temporal range from t20 to t80. The data were fit to a linear function, with
1049 the corresponding correlation coefficients shown.

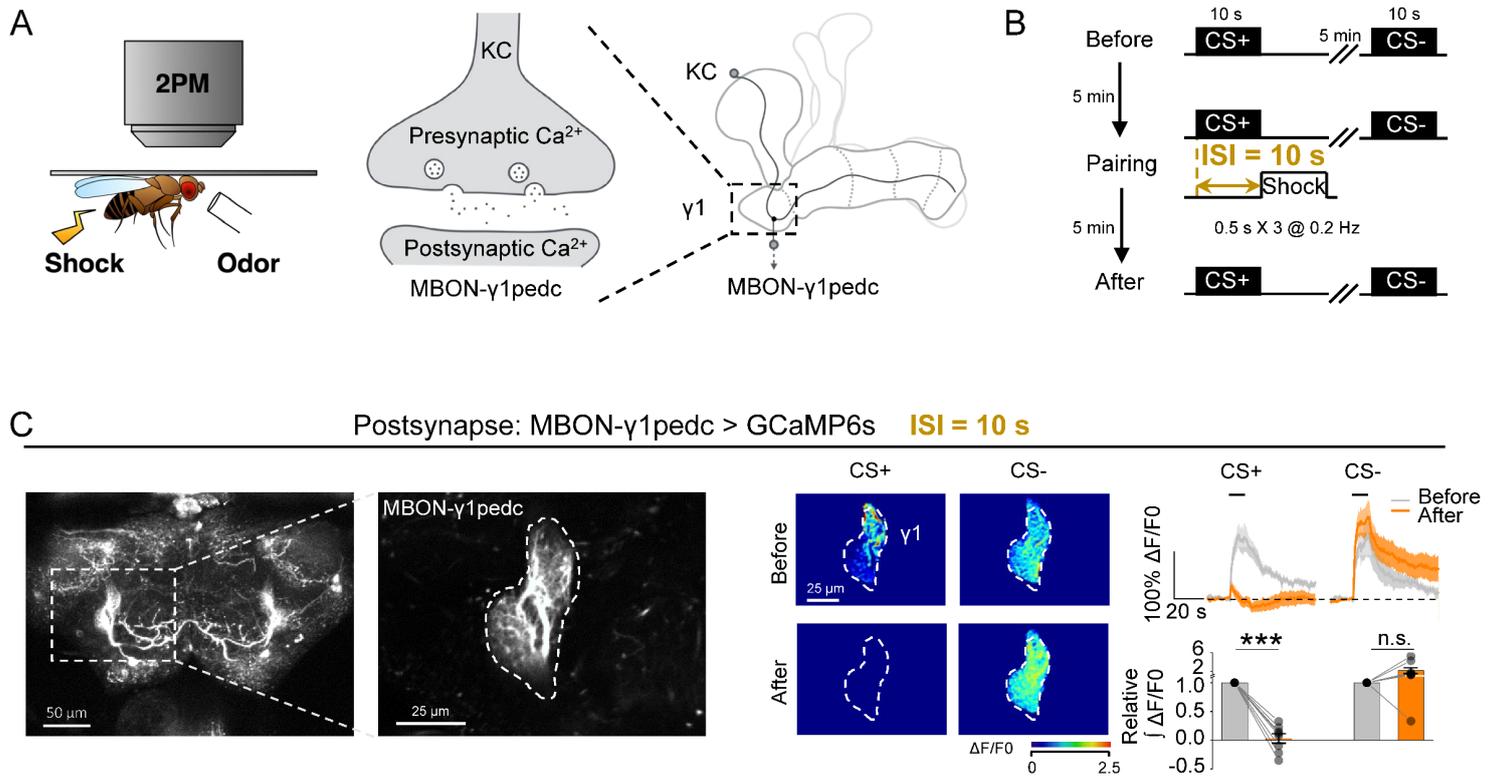
1050 **(B)** Comparing the amplitudes of behavioral avoidance and synaptic depression with different
1051 temporal range of indicated fly groups. Short ISI: data of avoidance behavior and synaptic
1052 plasticity are quantified when ISI = 5 s for all fly groups. Long ISI: data of avoidance behavior
1053 are quantified when ISI = 20 s for WT, Trh mutant and DPM > Kir2.1, and when ISI = 150 s for
1054 DPM > CsChrimson and SSRI; data of synaptic plasticity are quantified when ISI = 20 s for WT,
1055 Trh01 and DPM > Kir2.1 when ISI = 50 s for DPM > CsChrimson and when ISI = 50 for SSRI.

1056 **(C)** Working model depicting the mechanism by which local 5-HT signaling can bi-directionally
1057 modulate the coincidence time window of associative learning. In the *Drosophila* olfactory
1058 associative learning center, the Kenyon cells (KCs) receive inhibitory feedback from a single
1059 serotonergic dorsal paired medial (DPM) neuron. The KC innervates the mushroom body
1060 output neurons (MBONs). Pairing between the conditioned stimulus (CS) and the
1061 unconditioned stimulus (CS) regulating the coincidence time window for the change in
1062 synaptic plasticity and subsequent learning behavior.

1063 Data in **A** and **B** are re-organized from Fig. 1, 2, 5 and 6. Data presented in **B** as the mean \pm
1064 SEM. n.s., no significant difference. ***, $p < 0.001$ (One-way ANOVA).

1065

Figure S1



1066

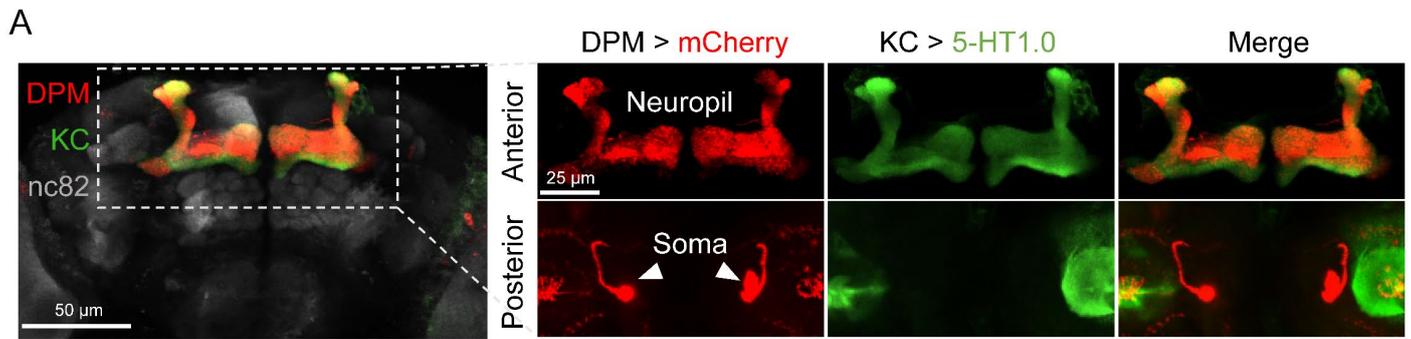
1067 **Figure S1. Ca^{2+} signals reveal changes in synaptic plasticity in the γ 1 compartment.**

1068 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used to image Ca^{2+} signals in the MBON- γ 1pedc
1069 induced by odorant application or electric shock.

1070 (B) The experimental protocol. CS+ and CS- represent the paired conditioned stimulus and the
1071 unpaired conditioned stimulus, respectively.

1072 (C) Fluorescence images (left), change in GCaMP6s fluorescence (middle), average traces (top
1073 right), and relative group responses (bottom right) of postsynaptic Ca^{2+} signals in response to
1074 CS+ and CS- before and after pairing. *** $p < 0.001$ and n.s., not significant (Student's t -test).

1075



1076

1077 **Figure S2. Immunofluorescence images of the DPM neuron and KCs.**

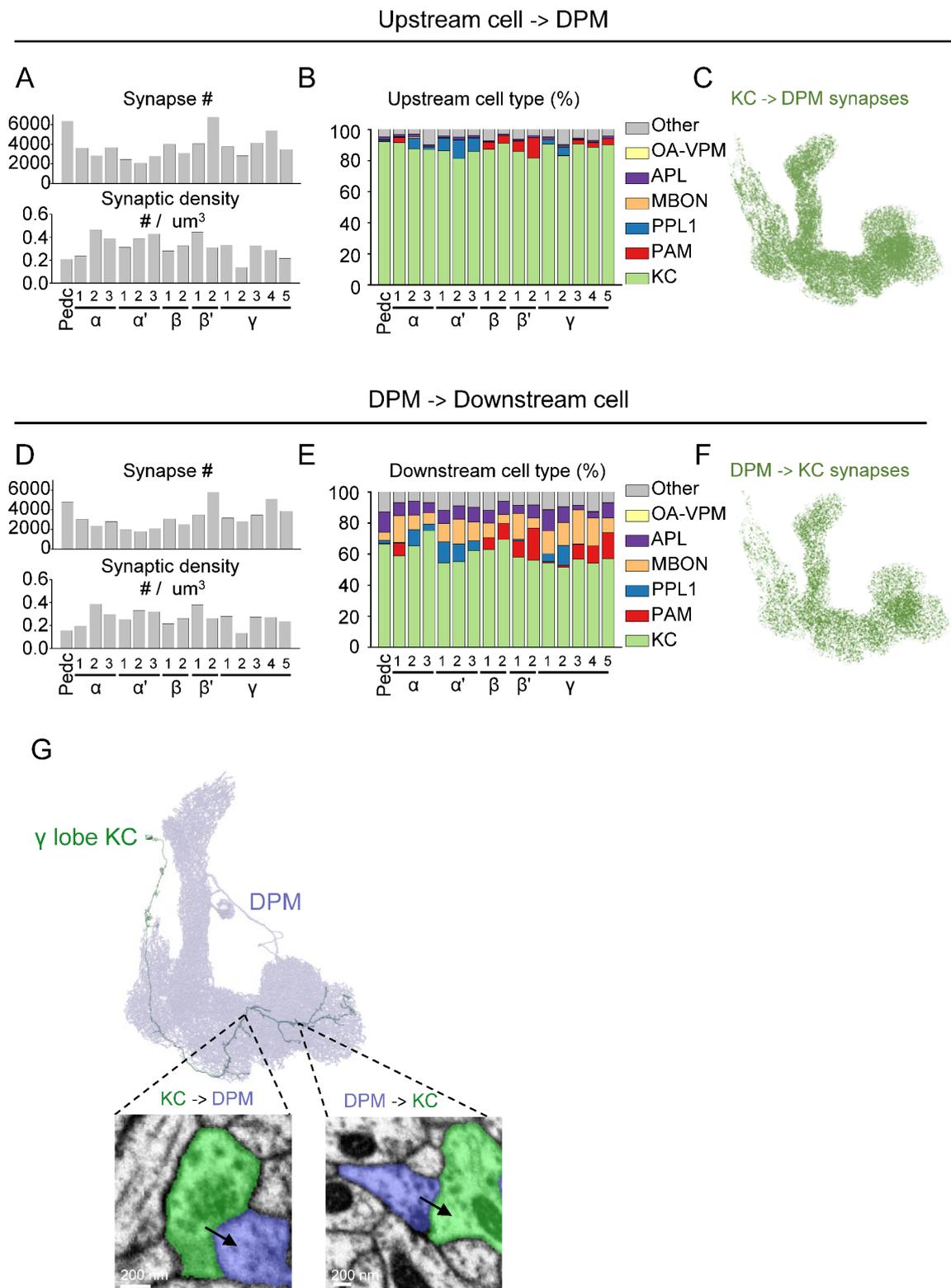
1078

1079 Immunofluorescence images of the dissected brain from a fly expressing mCherry (red) in the
1080 DPM neuron and 5-HT1.0 (green) in the KCs. Each image is a projection of several slices
1081 through the MB. Arrowheads indicate the somas of the two DPM neurons.

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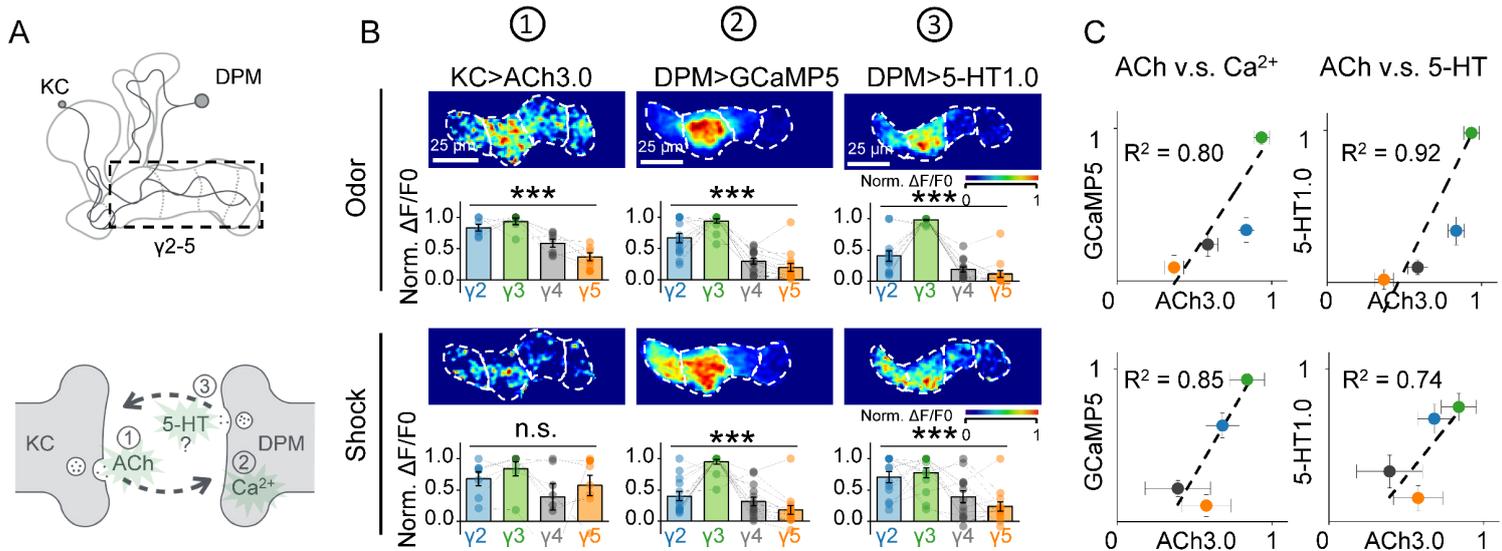
1088 **Figure S3. EM connectomics reveals reciprocal connections between the DPM neuron and**
1089 **KCs.**

1090 **(A and B)** Quantification of the number **(A, top)** and density **(A, bottom)** of synapses upstream
1091 from the DPM, and percentage of cell types in the indicated MB compartments.

1092 **(C)** Synapses from the KCs to the DPM neuron.

1093 **(D-F)** Similar to **(A-C)**, except that the synapses downstream of the DPM were measured.

1094 **(G)** Representative cartoon and EM images of a KC forming reciprocal connections with the
1095 DPM neuron in the γ lobe. Arrows indicate the orientation of the annotated synapses. Version
1096 1.1 of the hemibrain connectome (Scheffer et al., 2020) was used for the analysis, and only
1097 synapses with a confidence value >0.75 were included. Pedc, peduncle; OA-VPM,
1098 octopaminergic VPM neurons; APL, GABAergic anterior paired lateral neurons; MBON,
1099 mushroom body output neurons; PPL1, paired posterior lateral 1 cluster neurons; PAM,
1100 protocerebral anterior medial cluster neurons; KC, Kenyon cell.



1101

1102 **Figure S4. The heterogeneous pattern of 5-HT release is highly correlated with the ACh**
1103 **release from KCs**

1104 **(A)** Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used to image ACh, 5-HT, and Ca^{2+} in the γ 2-5
1105 compartments.

1106 **(B)** Representative normalized pseudocolor images and group data of the indicated
1107 fluorescence signals measured in the γ 2-5 compartments in response to a 1-s odorant
1108 stimulation or a 0.5-s electric shock. For each fly, fluorescence signals were normalized to the
1109 compartment with the highest response.

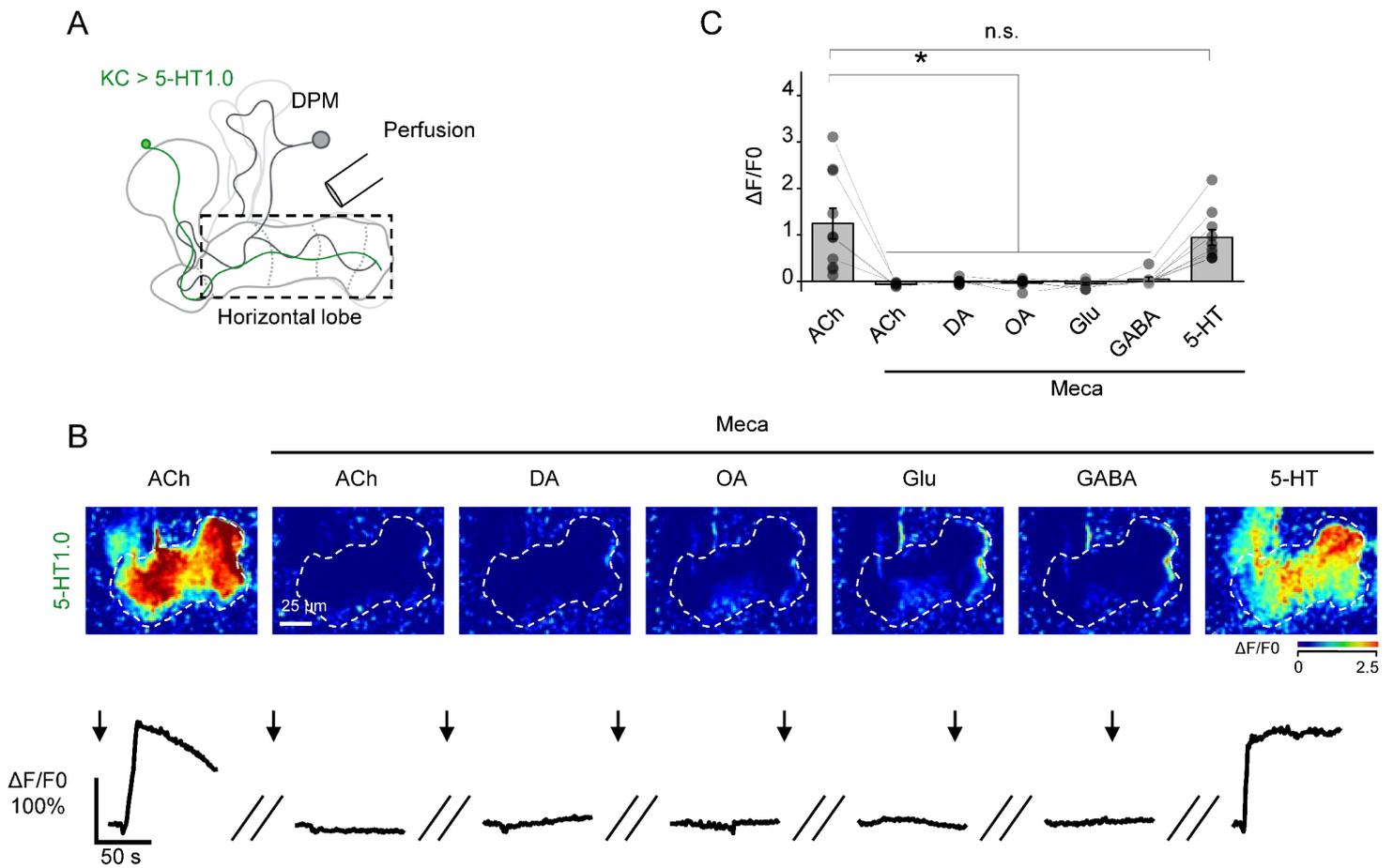
1110 **(C)** Correlation analysis of the change in fluorescence measured in response to the indicated
1111 stimuli. The data were fit to a linear function, with the corresponding correlation coefficients
1112 shown.

1113 Group data are presented as the mean \pm SEM, overlaid with the data obtained from each fly.
1114 * $p < 0.05$, (One-way ANOVA).

1115

1116

Figure S5



1117

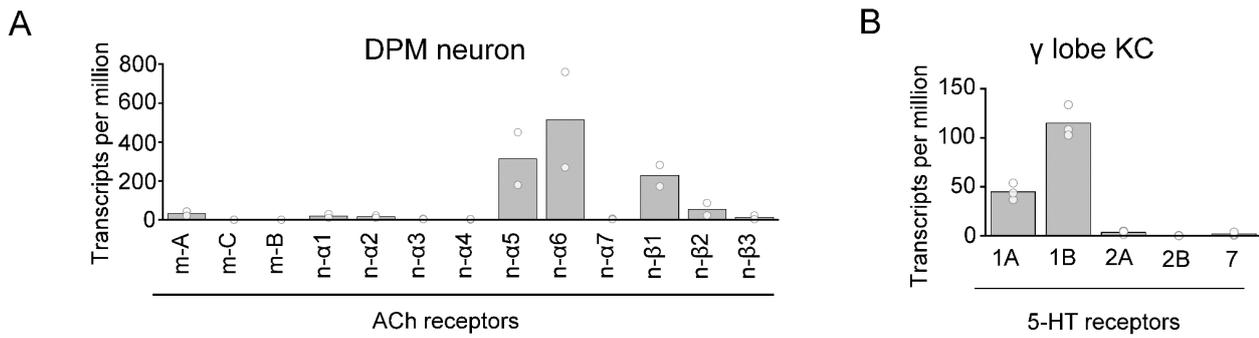
1118 **Figure S5. ACh application induces 5-HT release via nAChRs.**

1119 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used for the perfusion experiments; 5-HT was
1120 measured using 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

1121 (B and C) Representative pseudocolor images (B, top), corresponding traces (B, bottom), and
1122 group data (C) of the change in 5-HT1.0 fluorescence in response to application of the
1123 indicated neurotransmitters (at 1 mM) in the absence or presence of the nicotinic ACh
1124 receptor antagonist Meca (100 μ M). * $p < 0.05$ and n.s., not significant (Student's *t*-test). ACh,
1125 acetylcholine; DA, dopamine; OA, octopamine; Glu, glutamate; GABA, gamma-aminobutyric
1126 acid.

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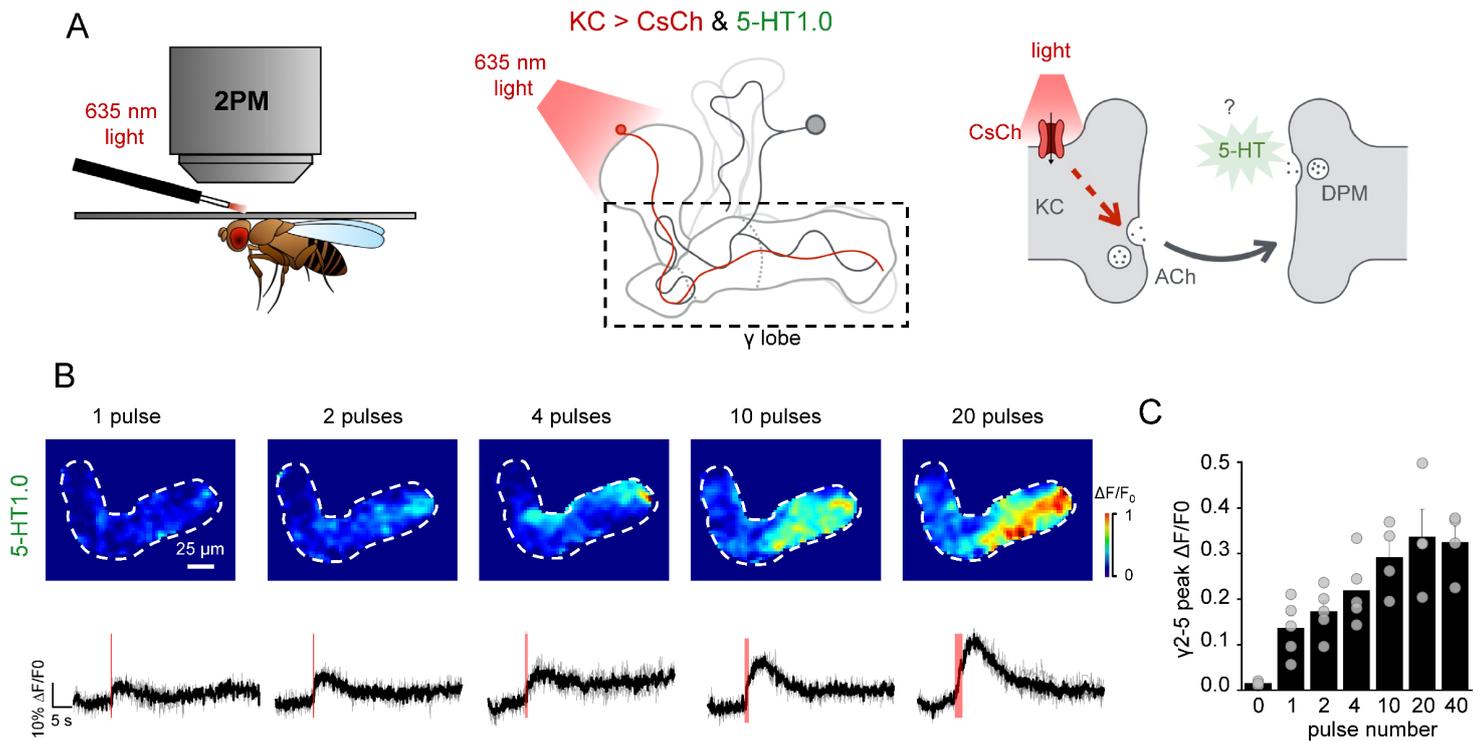
1130 **Figure S6. Transcriptomics analysis of ACh receptor subtypes and 5-HT receptor subtypes**
1131 **in the DPM neuron and KCs, respectively.**

1132 (A) Relative abundance of the indicated transcripts measured in DPM neurons.

1133 (B) Relative abundance of the indicated transcripts measured in KCs in the γ lobe. Group data
1134 are shown as the mean value overlaid with data from each sample. One sample includes 123
1135 or 130 cells (a), or 2500 cells (B), collected from 60-100 fly brains. The transcript database
1136 (Aso et al., 2019) was used for analysis.

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1140

1141 **Figure S7. DPM receive excitatory input from KCs.**

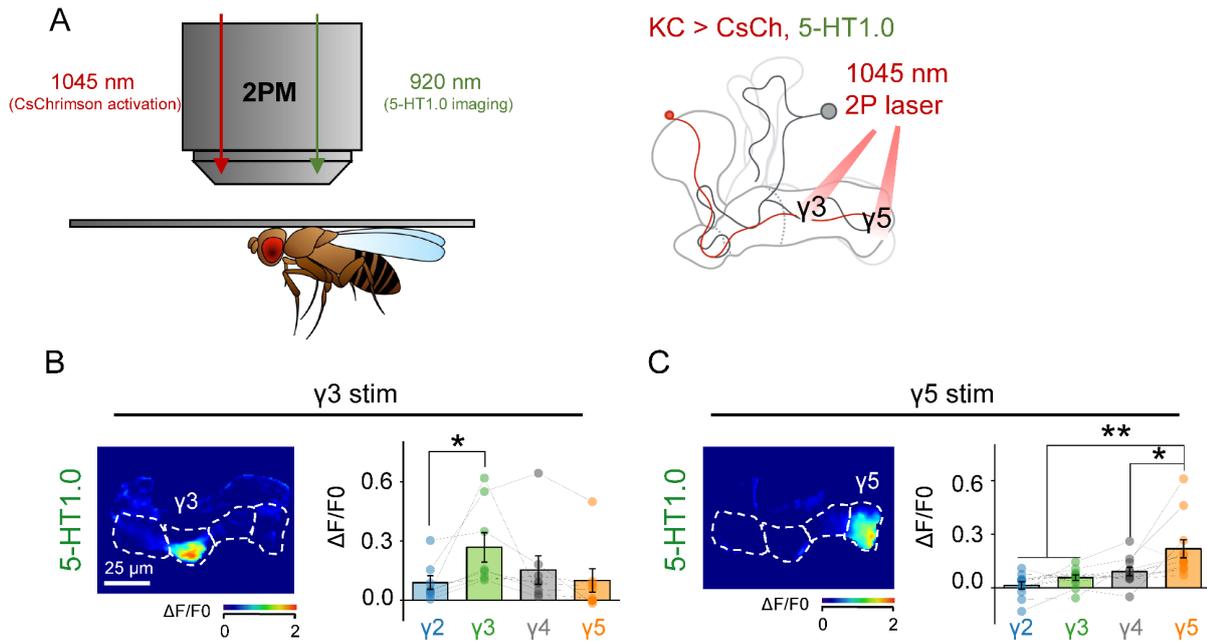
1142 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used for the experiment. KCs were activated by
 1143 635 nm light (10Hz, 1ms/pulse) with CsChrimson. 5-HT was measured using 5-HT1.0
 1144 expressed in KCs.

1145 (B and C) Representative pseudocolor images (B) and group data (C) of the change in 5-HT1.0
 1146 fluorescence in response to different pulses activation of KCs.

1147

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Figure S8



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Figure S8. Local activation of KCs induces heterogenous 5-HT release.

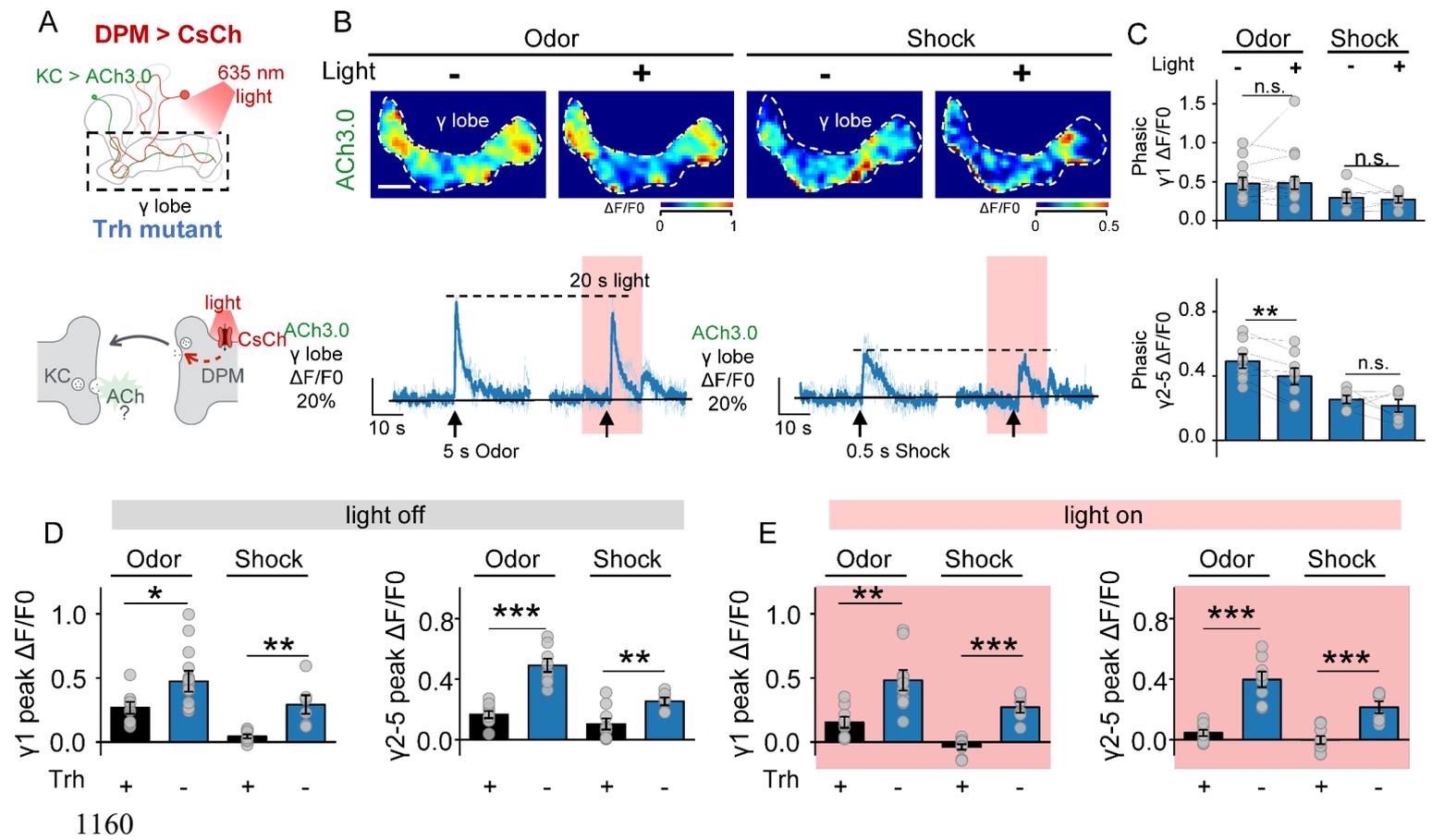
1152 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used for the experiment. A 1045-nm two-photon
1153 laser was used to locally activate CsChrimson expressed in KCs. 5-HT signal was measured with
1154 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

1155 (B and C) Representative pseudocolor images (left) and group data (right) of the change in 5-
1156 HT1.0 fluorescence in response to local optogenetic stimulation in the $\gamma 3$ (B) and $\gamma 5$ (C)
1157 compartments. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, and n.s., not significant (Student's *t*-test)

1158

1159

Figure S9



1160
 1161 **Figure S9. 5-HT from DPM provides feedback inhibition to KCs.**

1162 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup for the subsequent experiments. In
 1163 Trh mutant flies, DPM is activated with CsChrimson by 635-nm light at 10Hz, 1 ms / pulse. ACh
 1164 signals are measured with ACh3.0 expressed in KCs.

1165 (B and C) Representative pseudocolor images (B, top), traces (B, bottom), and group data (C)
 1166 of the change in ACh3.0 fluorescence in response to a 20-s optogenetic stimulation in saline.

1167 (D and E) Group comparison of odor and shock evoked ACh release in control flies (black) and
 1168 Trh mutant flies (blue) without (D) or with DPM activation (E).

1169 Data plotted with Meas ± SEM. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, and *** $p < 0.001$ (Student's *t*-test).

1170

1171