

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

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4       Jianzhi Zeng<sup>1,2,3,9</sup>, Xuelin Li<sup>1,2,9</sup>, Zimo Zhangren<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Mingyue Lv<sup>1,2</sup>, Yipan Wang<sup>1,2</sup>, Ke Tan<sup>1,2</sup>, Xiju  
5                   Xia<sup>1,2,5</sup>, Jinxia Wan<sup>1,2</sup>, Miao Jing<sup>6</sup>, Yang Yang<sup>7,8</sup>, Yan Li<sup>7,8</sup>, Yulong Li<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6\*</sup>

6  
7       <sup>1</sup>State Key Laboratory of Membrane Biology, Peking University School of Life Sciences;  
8       Beijing 100871, China.

9       <sup>2</sup>PKU-IDG/McGovern Institute for Brain Research; Beijing 100871, China.

10       <sup>3</sup>Peking-Tsinghua Center for Life Sciences, Academy for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies,  
11       Peking University; Beijing 100871, China.

12       <sup>4</sup>Yuanpei College, Peking University; Beijing 100871, China.

13       <sup>5</sup>PKU-THU-NIBS Joint Graduate Program; Beijing 100871, China.

14       <sup>6</sup>Chinese Institute for Brain Research, Beijing 102206; China.

15       <sup>7</sup>Institute of Biophysics, State Key Laboratory of Brain and Cognitive Science, Center for  
16       Excellence in Biomacromolecules, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100101, China.

17       <sup>8</sup>University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China.

18       <sup>9</sup>These authors contributed equally: Jianzhi Zeng, Xuelin Li.

19  
20       \*Manuscript correspondence:

21       Yulong Li (yulongli@pku.edu.cn)

## 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<sub>1a</sub> 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  $\alpha/\beta$  lobe,  $\alpha'/\beta'$  lobe and  $\gamma$  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<sub>ACh3.0</sub>, 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<sub>5-HT1.0</sub> (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  $\leq 15$  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  $\leq 14$  s (Figure 2D). The  $t_{50}$  of the sigmoid function-fitted curve of  
151 the ACh change ( $\Delta$  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  $\gamma$ 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  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  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  $\gamma$  lobe compartments (Figure 3C-  
169 3G). Taking the  $\gamma$ 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  $\gamma$  lobe. Interestingly, we  
176 found that these stimuli induced responses differed among different compartments in the  $\gamma$  lobe of  
177 control flies, with the strongest response occurring in the  $\gamma$ 3 compartment (Figures 3J and 3K). In  
178 contrast, optogenetic stimulation produced a relatively uniform response throughout the  $\gamma$  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  $\gamma$  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  $\alpha'/\beta'$  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  $\gamma$ 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  $\gamma$  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  $\gamma$  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  $\gamma$  lobe, and these responses were significantly reduced when the stimuli (i.e.

245 odor or shock) were presented 10 s after shinning 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  $\gamma$  lobe  
255 (Figure S6B). Both receptor subtypes are coupled to the inhibitory  $G_{\alpha i}$  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  $\gamma$  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  $\gamma 1$  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  $\gamma 1$  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  $\gamma$  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  $\gamma$  lobe disappeared when the DPM neuron was silenced suggests  
320 that the DPM neuron is the principal source of 5-HT release in the  $\gamma$  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  $\alpha'/\beta'$  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<sub>A</sub> 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 Ca<sup>2+</sup> signal within the MBON-  
354  $\gamma$ 1pedc. In addition, we found that postsynaptic Ca<sup>2+</sup> 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  $\leq 10$  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  $\gamma$ 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  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  activity in KCs. According to previous studies, adenylyl cyclase Rutabaga detects the  
383 coincidence of odor-induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  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  $G_{\alpha i}$ -coupled 5-HT<sub>1a</sub> 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
<b>Antibodies</b>		
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
<b>Chemicals</b>		
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
$\gamma$ -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
Carboxoxolone (CBX)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat #C4790
<b>Drosophila strains</b>		
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	VDR: 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
<b>Software</b>		
Origin	OriginLab	
ImageJ	NIH ( <a href="https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/index.html">https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/index.html</a> )	

---

Arduino	<a href="https://www.arduino.cc">https://www.arduino.cc</a>
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 NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 1  
469 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 2 CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>.

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/cm<sup>2</sup> 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/cm<sup>2</sup> 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  $\Delta \text{ACh}$  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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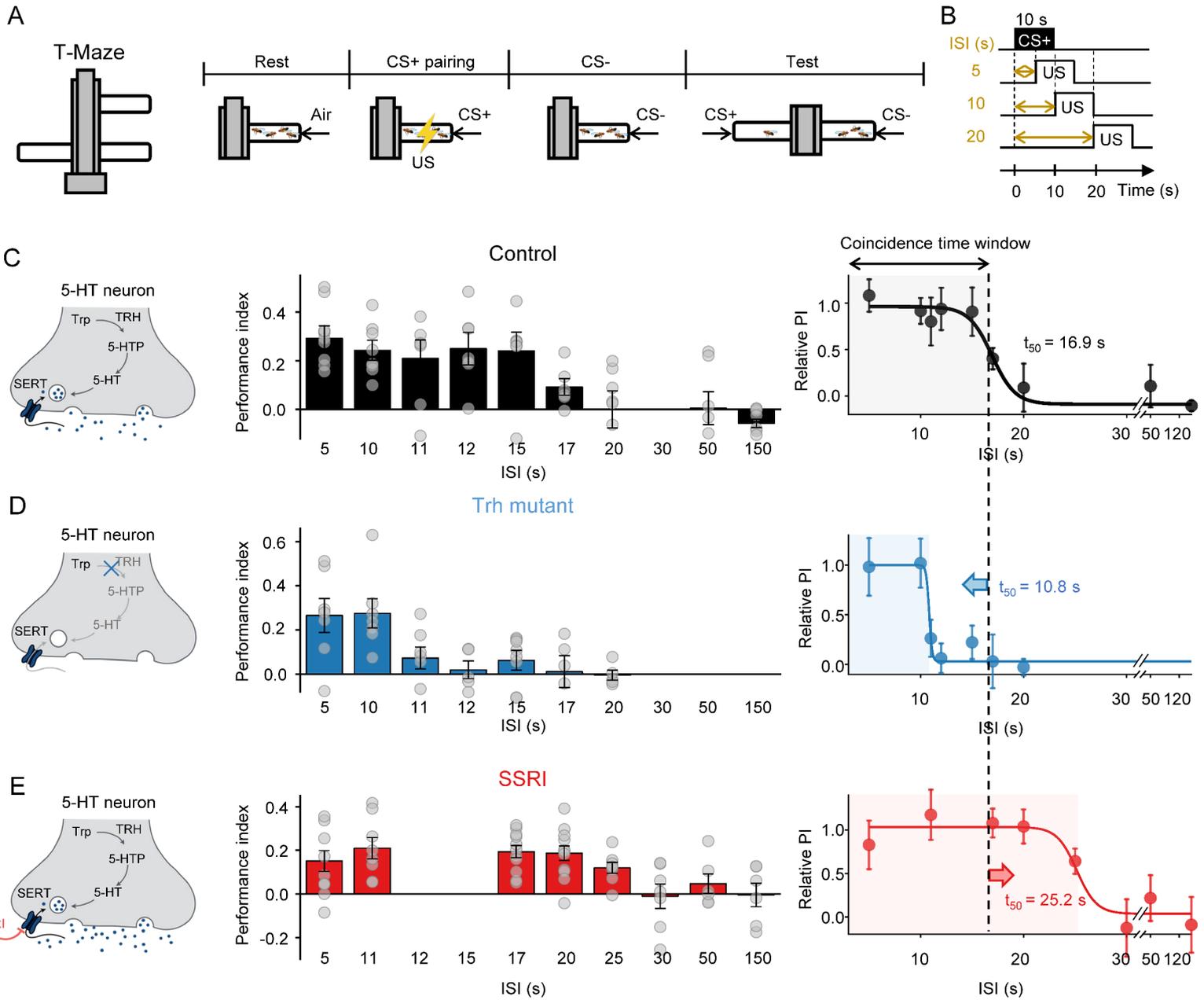
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910  
911

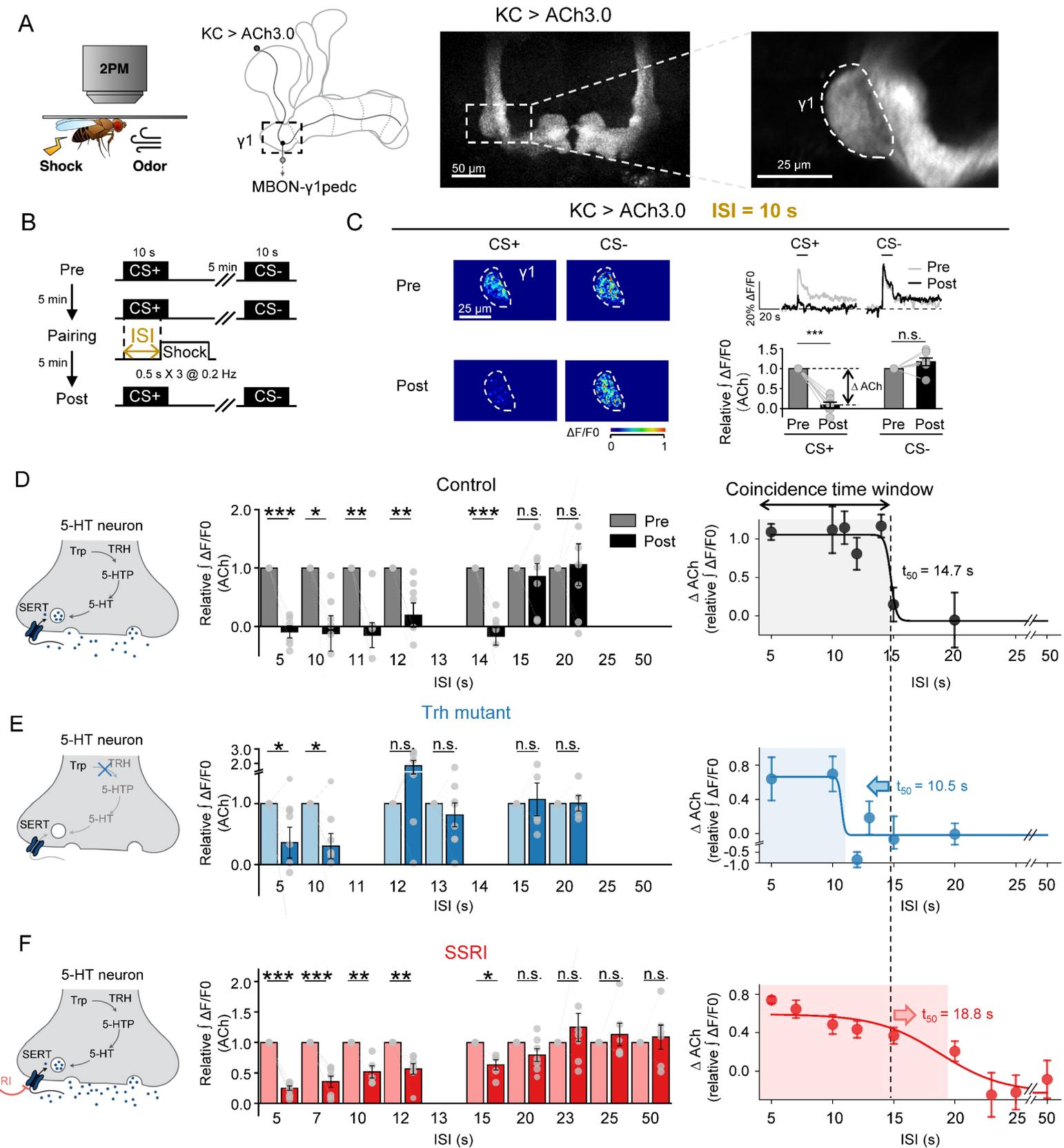
# Figure 1



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.



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

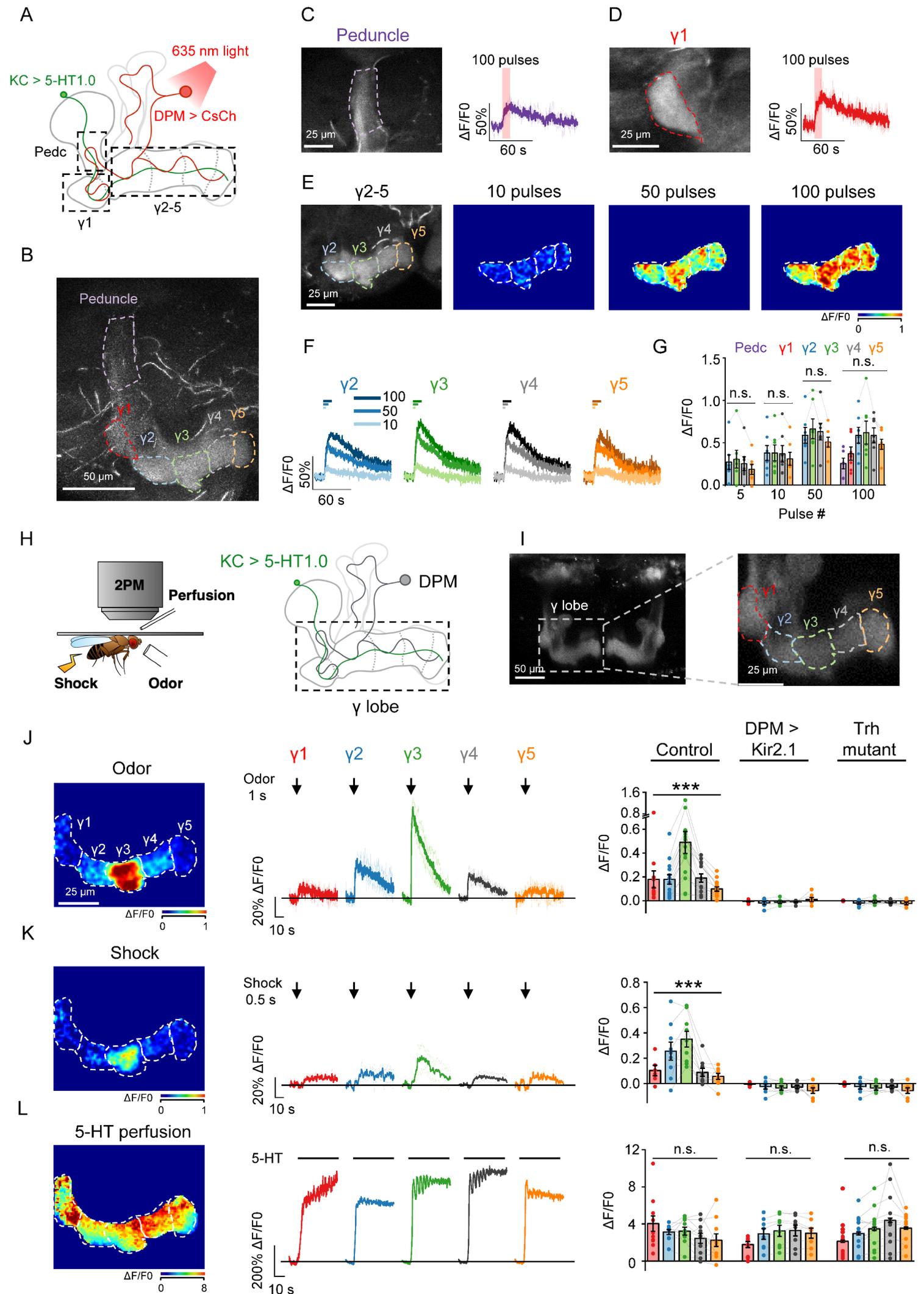
927 (A) Schematic diagram (left and middle) depicting the strategy for measuring the synaptic  
928 plasticity changes in the  $\gamma 1$  compartment. ACh was measured using ACh3.0 expressed in KCs  
929 (right).

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 ( $\Delta$ 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  $\gamma$  lobe are shown in  
950 gray. The nicotinic ACh receptor antagonist mecamylamine (Meca, 100  $\mu$ 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  $\gamma$ 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  $\gamma$  lobe compartments.

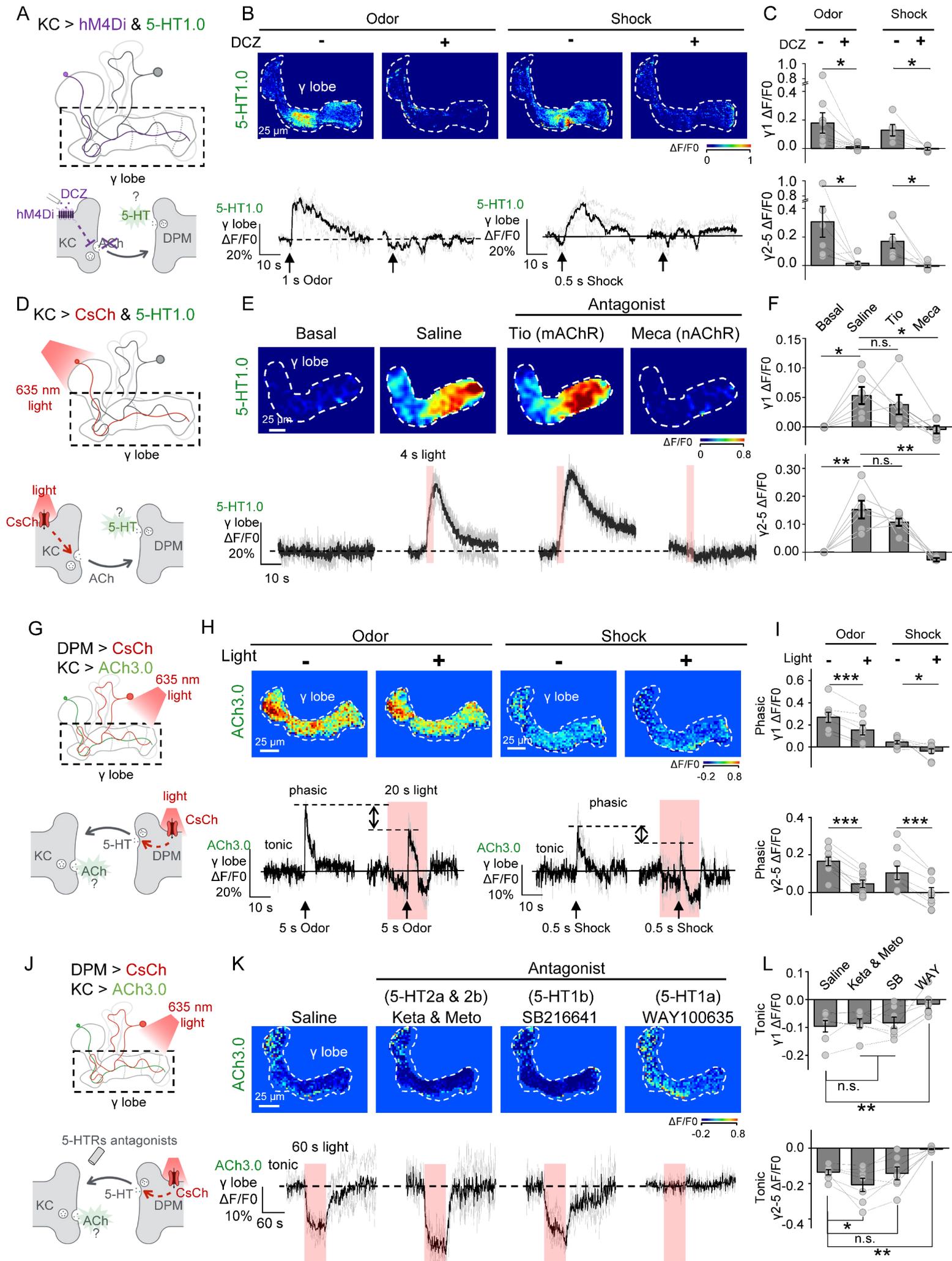
958 (H) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup combining *in vivo* imaging with  
959 physiological stimuli and perfusion. 5-HT was measured in the  $\gamma$  lobe using 5-HT1.0 expressed  
960 in KCs.

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  $\mu$ 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  $\gamma$  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  $\gamma$  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  $\mu$ M), or the nicotinic ACh receptor antagonist  
985 Meca (100  $\mu$ 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  $\gamma$  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.

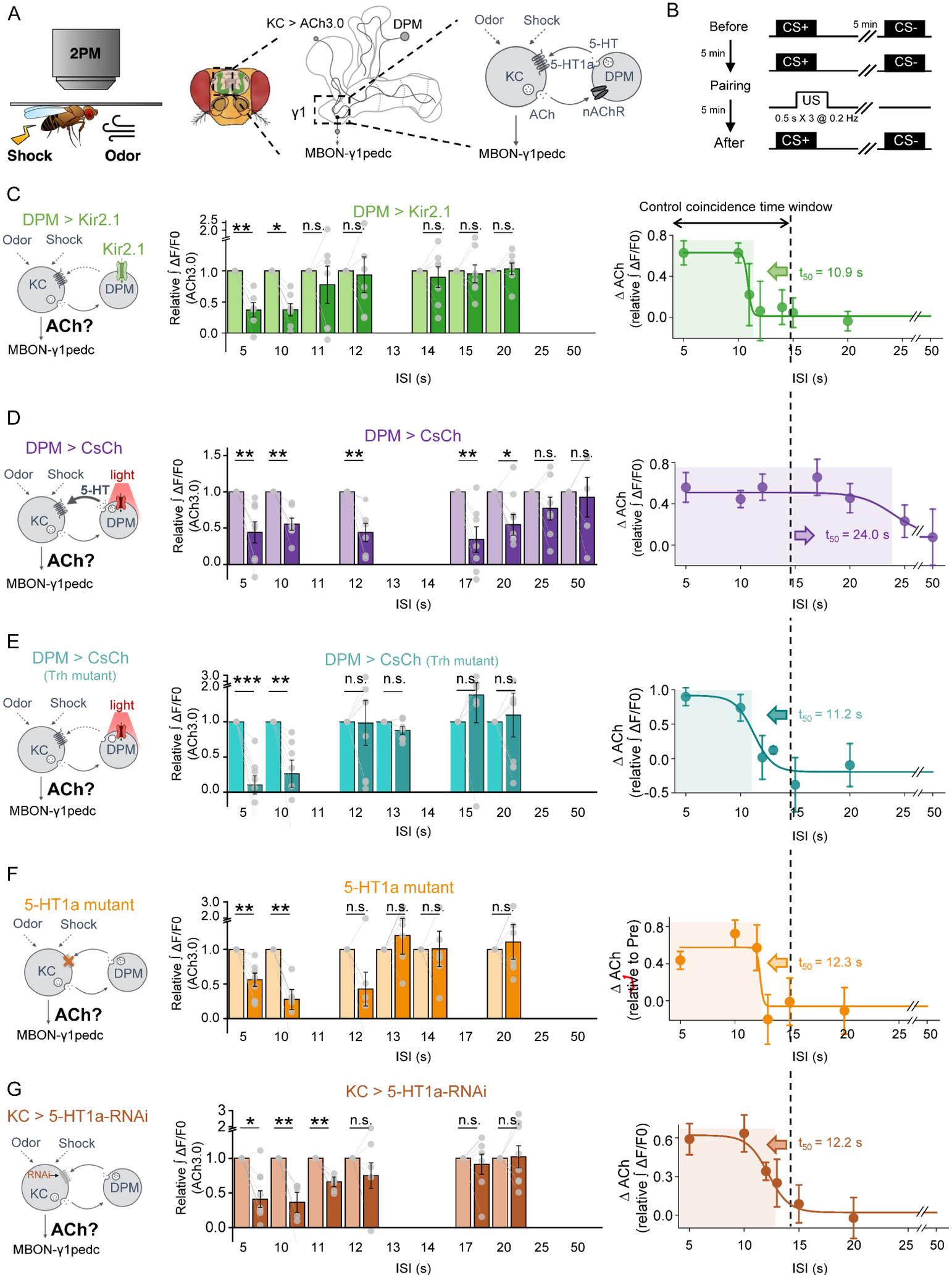
992 (J) Schematic diagram depicting the experimental setup for the subsequent experiments.  
993 Similar to (I), but different 5-HT receptor antagonists are applied.

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  $\mu$ 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  $\mu$ 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.**

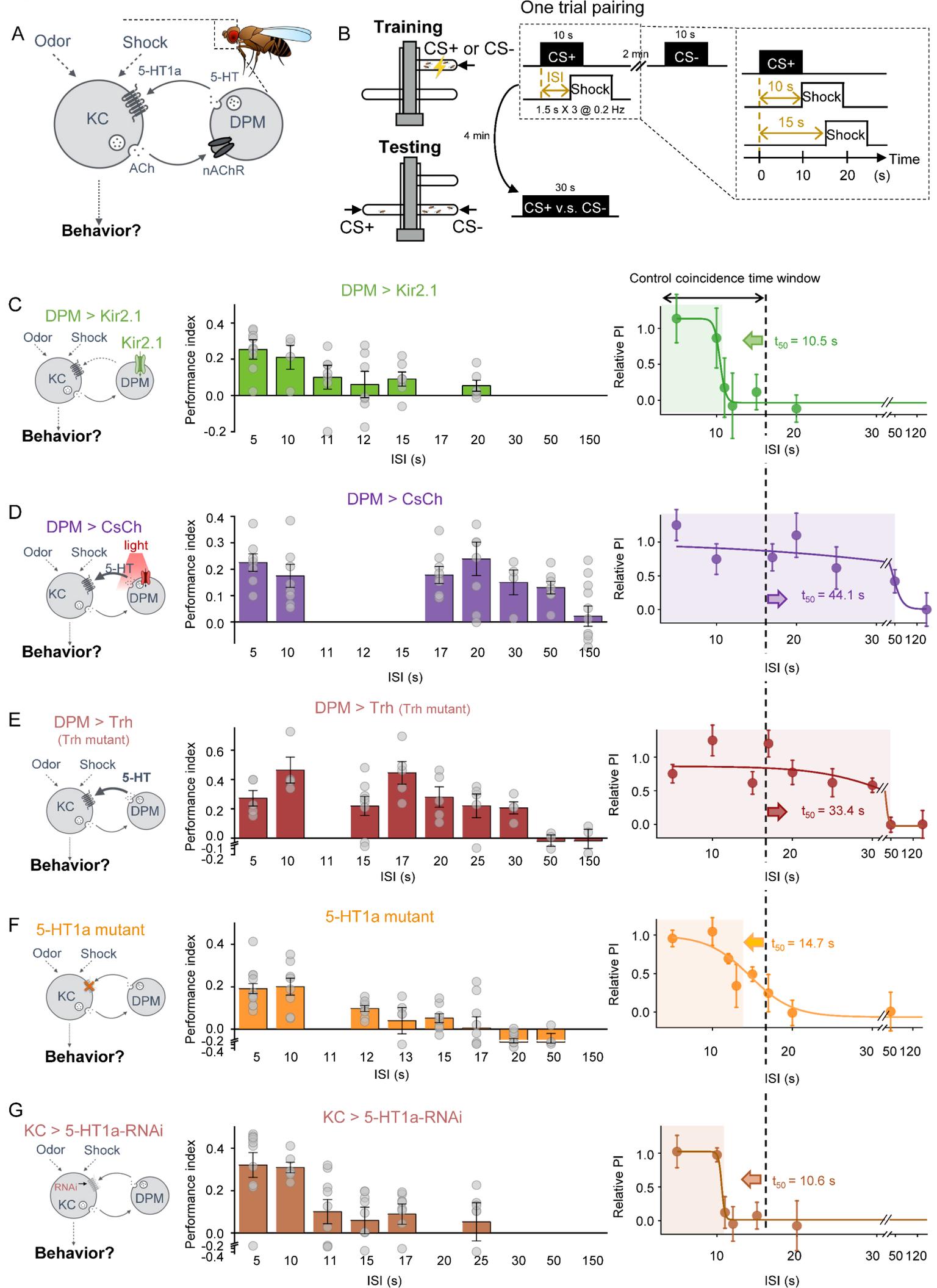
1006 (A) Schematic diagram (left and middle) depicting the strategy for measuring the effect of  
1007 DPM-mediated serotonergic inhibitory feedback on changes in synaptic plasticity in the  $\gamma 1$   
1008 compartment. ACh was measured using ACh3.0 expressed in KCs (right).

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.

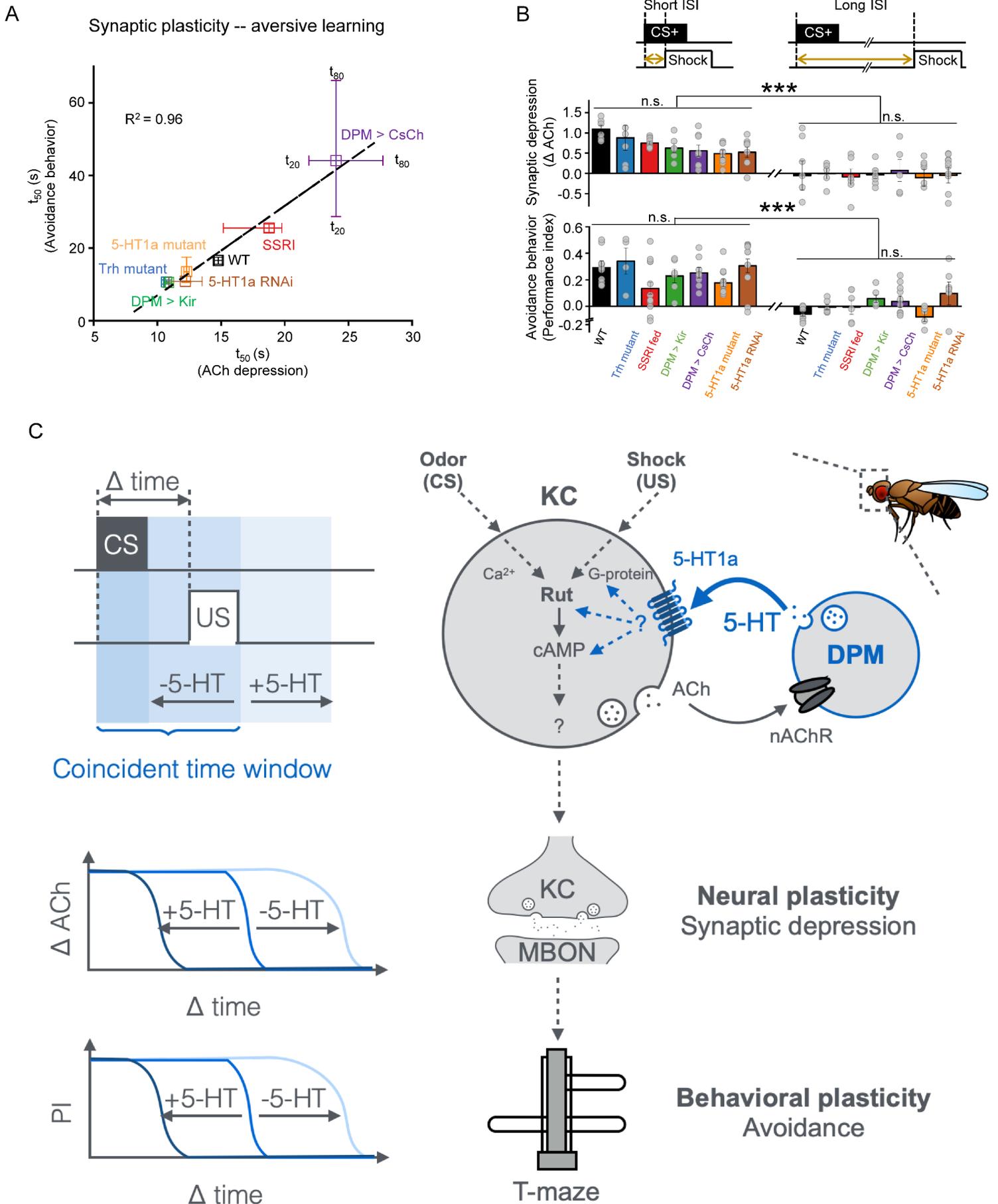
1030 **(C-G)** Left: schematic diagrams showing the strategy for each experiment. Middle: group data  
1031 summarizing the performance index measured using the indicated ISI. Right: plot depicting  
1032 the averaged relative performance index against the ISI, which is fitted with a sigmoid function.  
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<sub>1a</sub> receptor was  
1039 mutated. In **(G)**, the 5-HT<sub>1a</sub> 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.

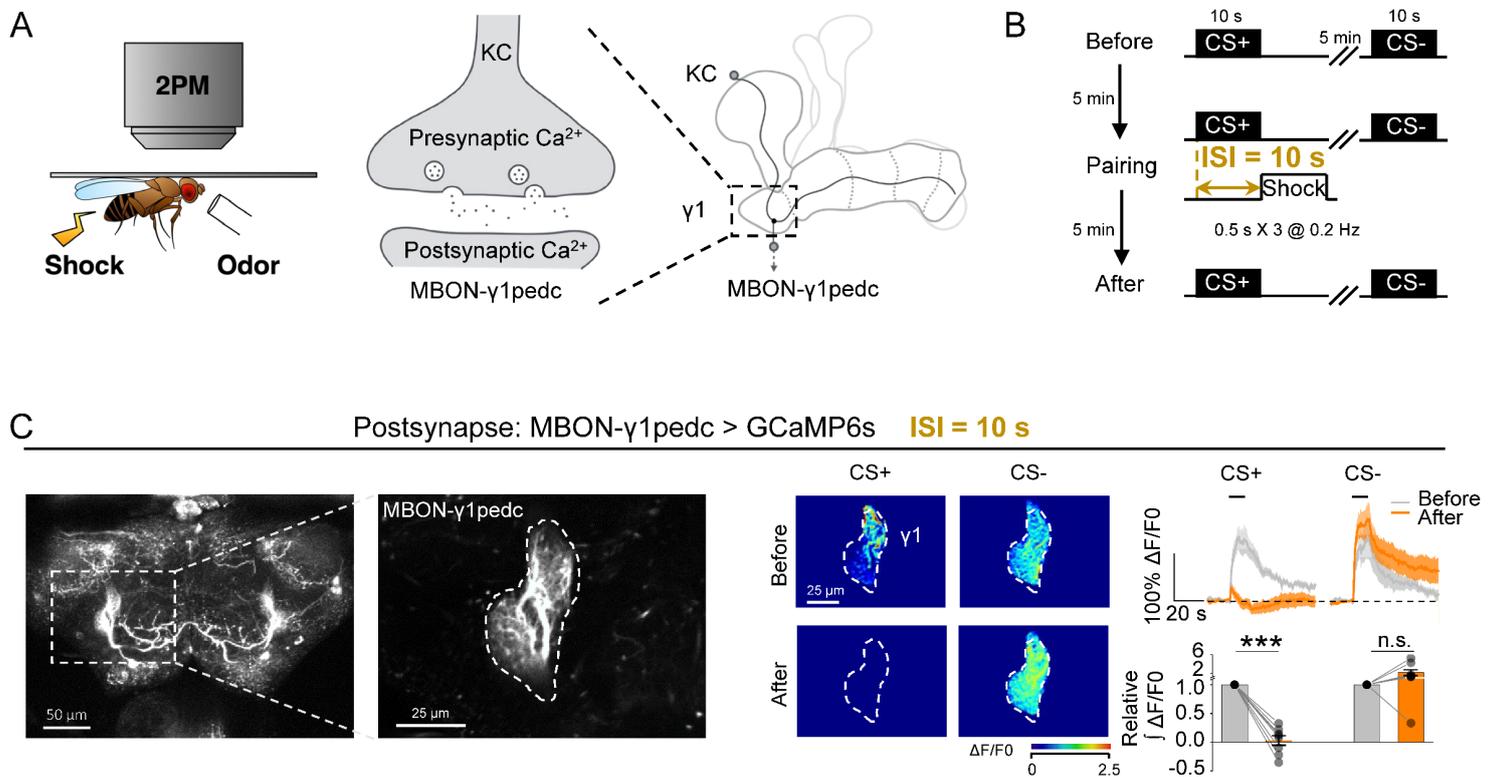
1050 **(B)** Comparing the amplitudes of behavioral avoidance and synaptic depression with different  
1051 temporal range of indicated fly groups. Short ISI: data of avoidance behavior and synaptic  
1052 plasticity are quantified when ISI = 5 s for all fly groups. Long ISI: data of avoidance behavior  
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  $\gamma$ 1 compartment.**

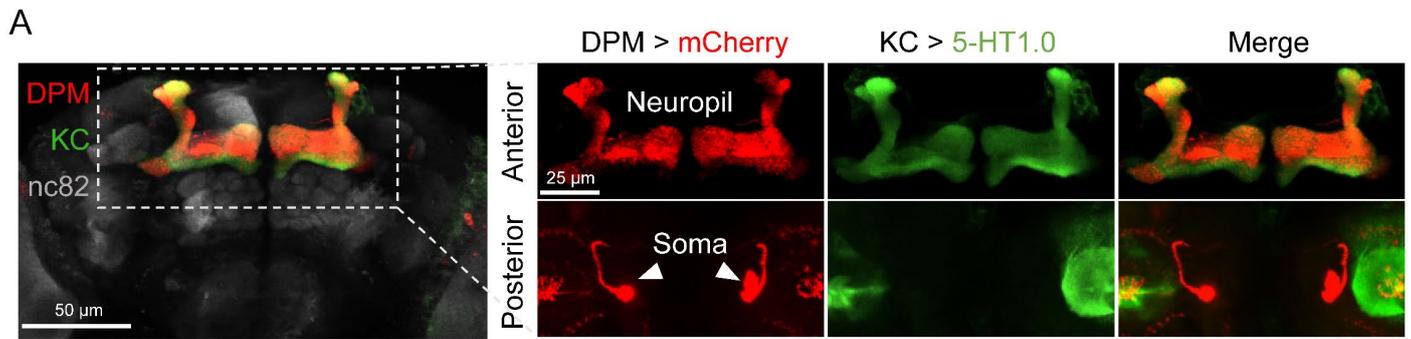
1068 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used to image  $Ca^{2+}$  signals in the MBON- $\gamma$ 1pedc  
1069 induced by odorant application or electric shock.

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

Figure S2



1076

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

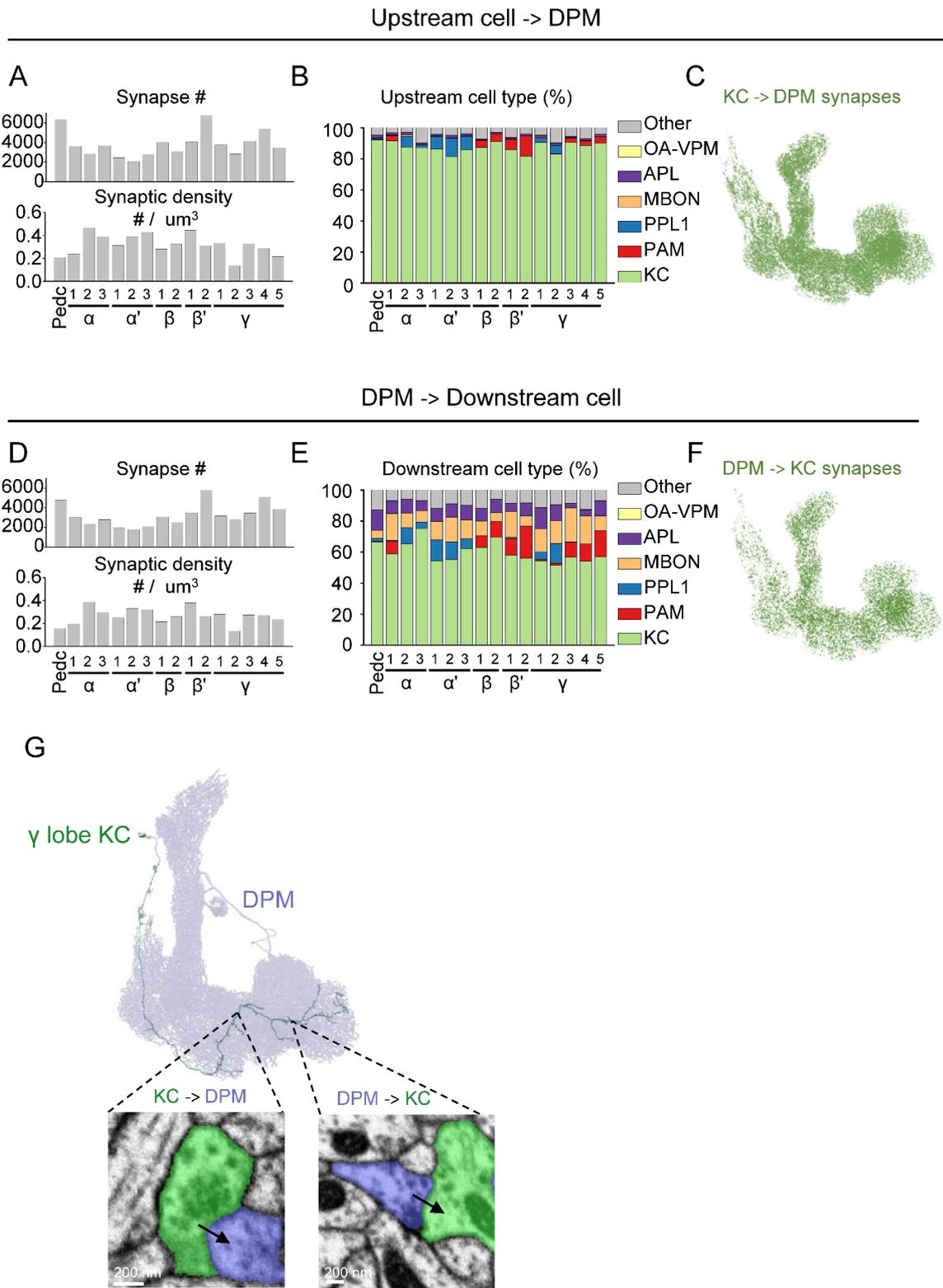
1078

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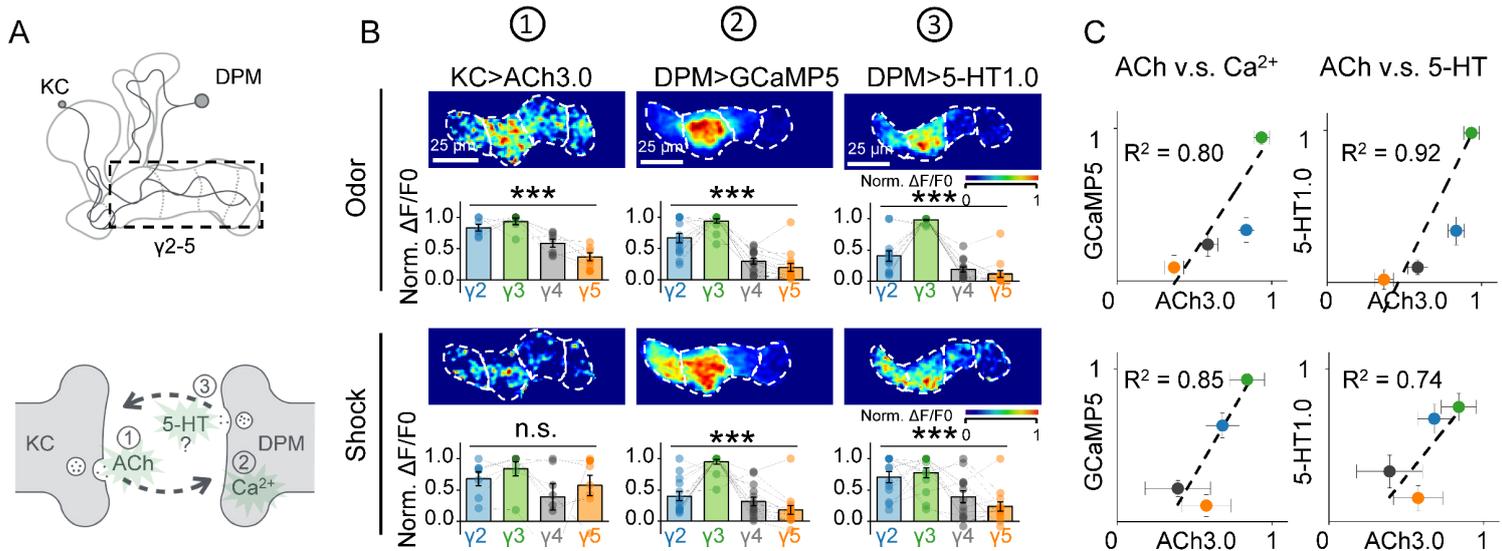
1088 **Figure S3. EM connectomics reveals reciprocal connections between the DPM neuron and**  
1089 **KCs.**

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  $\gamma$  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  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in the  $\gamma$ 2-5  
 1105 compartments.

1106 (B) Representative normalized pseudocolor images and group data of the indicated  
 1107 fluorescence signals measured in the  $\gamma$ 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.

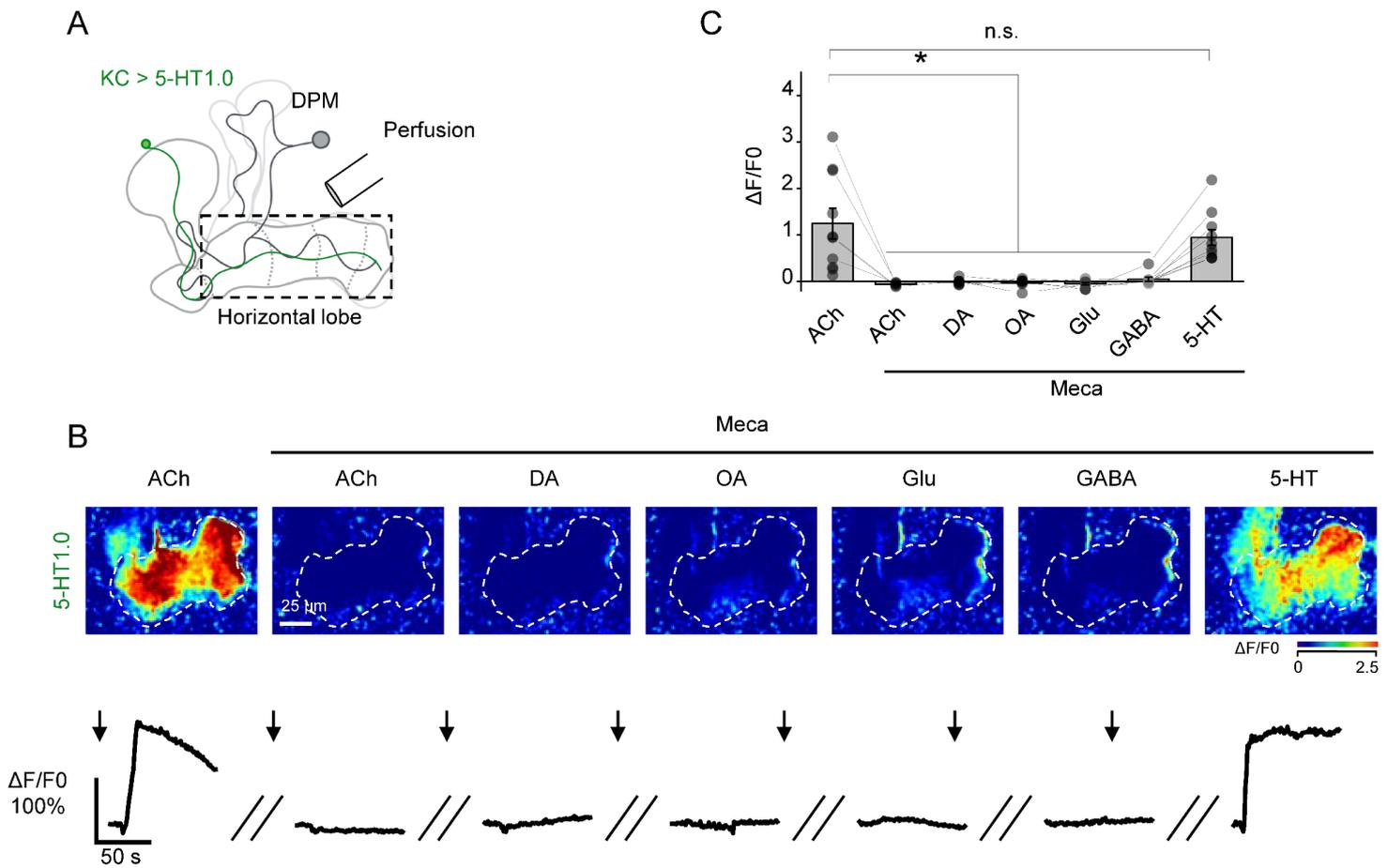
1110 (C) Correlation analysis of the change in fluorescence measured in response to the indicated  
 1111 stimuli. The data were fit to a linear function, with the corresponding correlation coefficients  
 1112 shown.

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

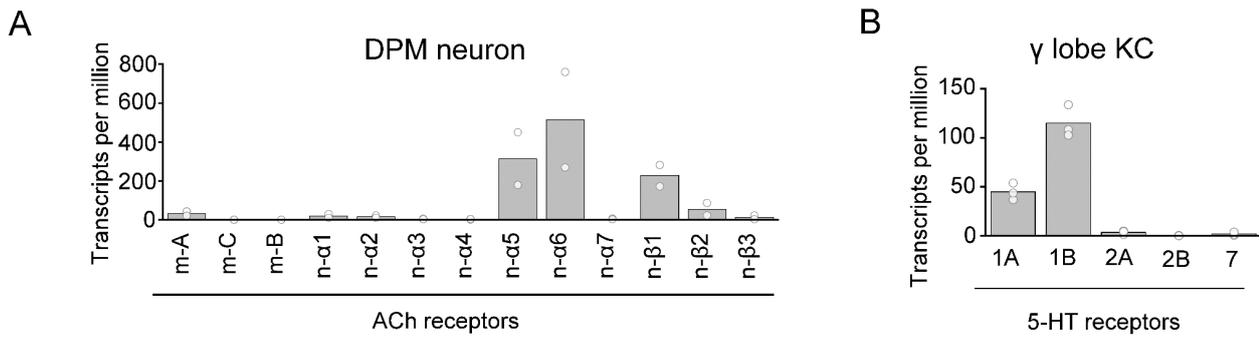
1118 **Figure S5. ACh application induces 5-HT release via nAChRs.**

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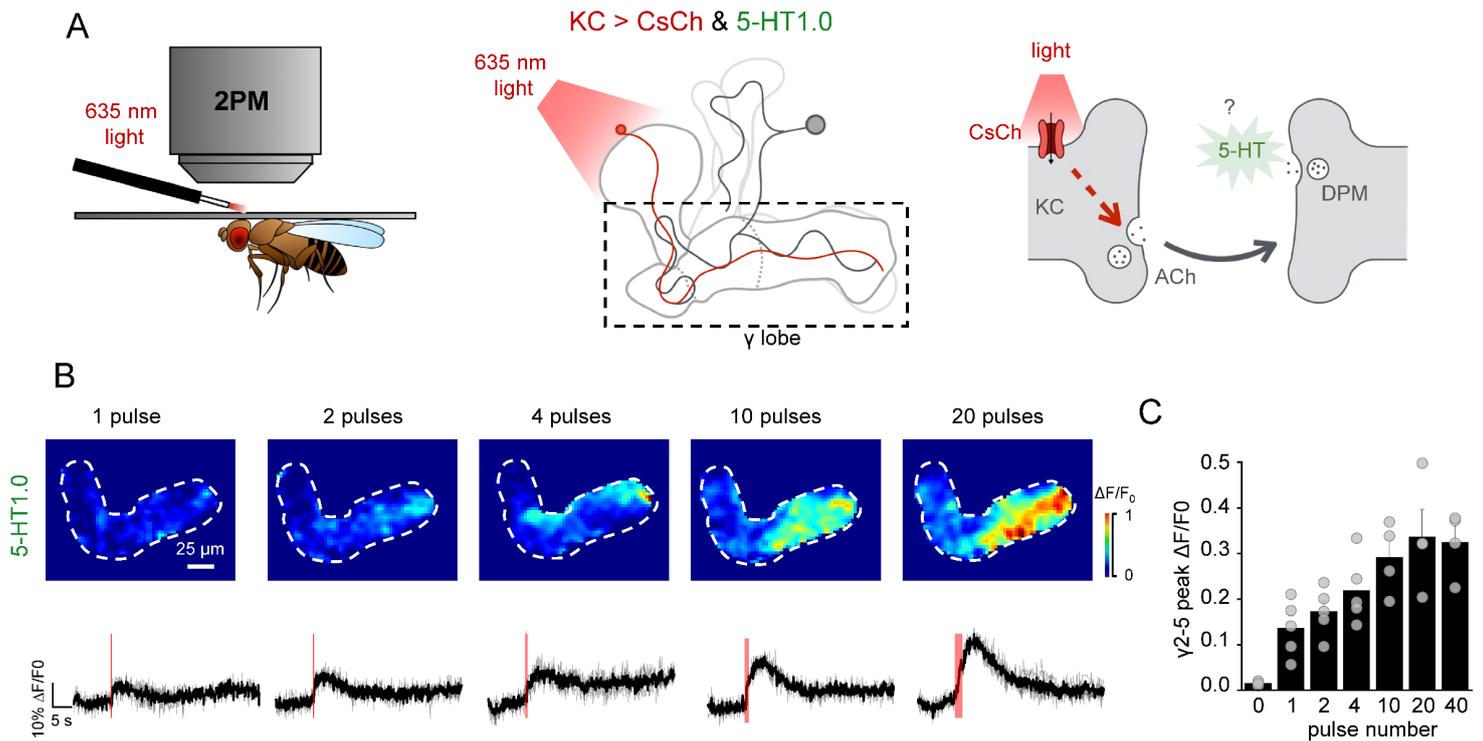
1130 **Figure S6. Transcriptomics analysis of ACh receptor subtypes and 5-HT receptor subtypes**  
1131 **in the DPM neuron and KCs, respectively.**

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  $\gamma$  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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1141 **Figure S7. DPM receive excitatory input from KCs.**

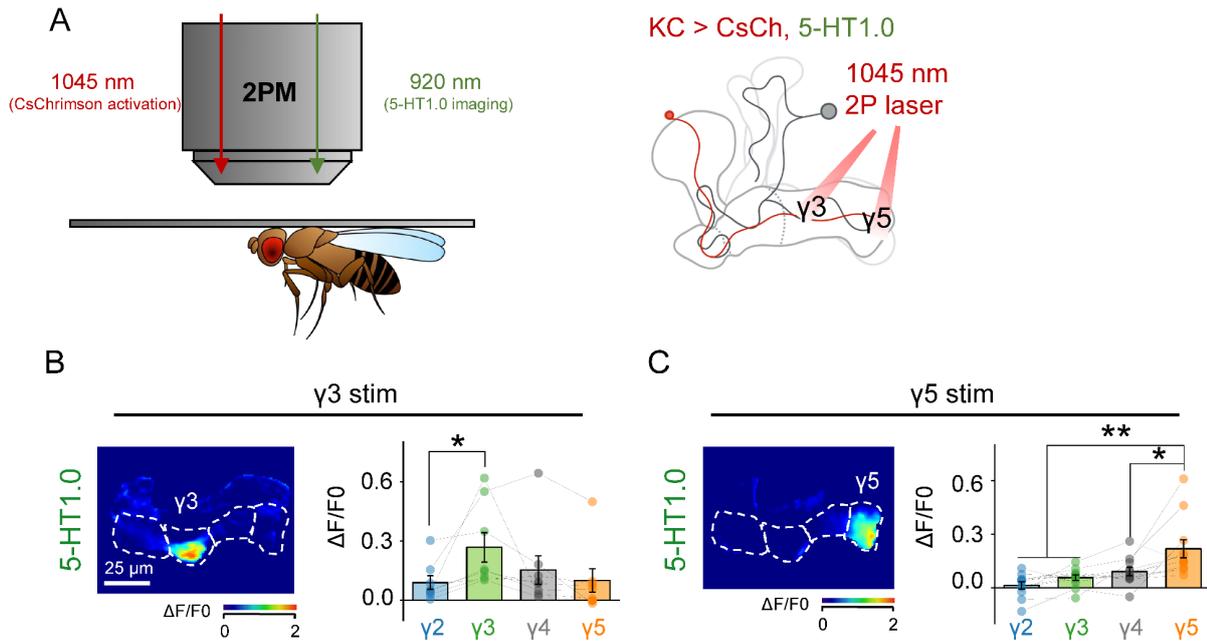
1142 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used for the experiment. KCs were activated by  
1143 635 nm light (10Hz, 1ms/pulse) with CsChrimson. 5-HT was measured using 5-HT1.0  
1144 expressed in KCs.

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.

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1148

## Figure S8



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1151

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

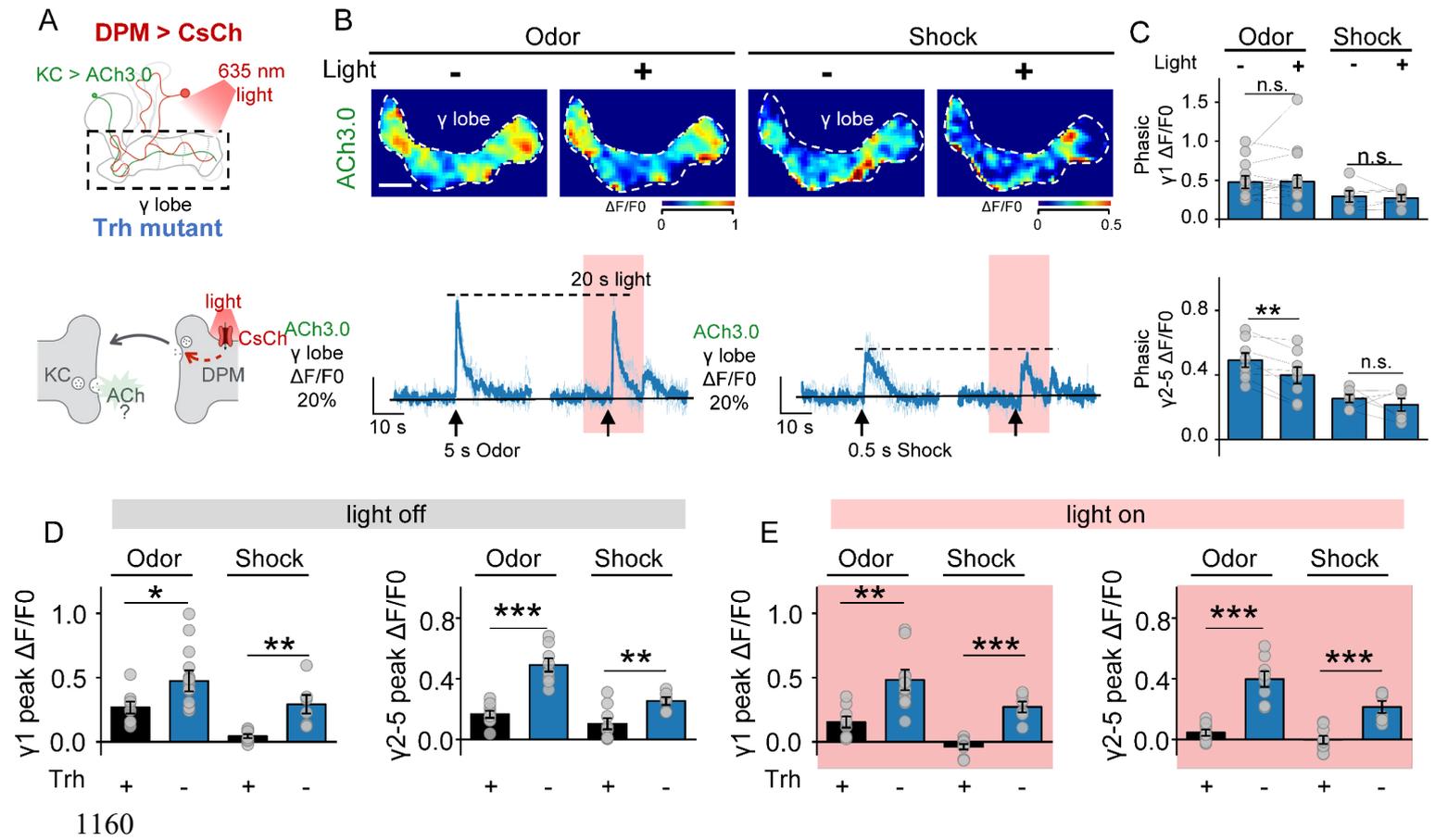
1152 (A) Schematic diagram depicting the strategy used for the experiment. A 1045-nm two-photon  
1153 laser was used to locally activate CsChrimson expressed in KCs. 5-HT signal was measured with  
1154 5-HT1.0 expressed in KCs.

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



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