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Dysbindin-1 Isoform-Specific Modulation of Astrocytic and Basal Ganglia Do-

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pamine/Behavioral Phenotypes

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26 Abstract

Background. The mechanisms underlying the dichotomic cortical/basal ganglia dopaminergic abnormalities in schizophrenia are unclear. Astrocytes are important non-neuronal modulators of brain
circuits, but their role in dopaminergic system remains poorly explored.

Methods. Microarray analyses, immunohistochemistry, and two-photon laser scanning microscopy 30 were used to delineate the impact of dysbindin-1 (Dys1) on astrocytic reactivity. In vitro cell cultures 31 32 and gene expression analyses from post-mortem human and mouse brains were used to explore distinct neuronal/astrocytes expression and developmental patterns of Dys1 isoforms. A comprehensive 33 behavioral and electrochemical assessment in mice selectively lacking the Dys1A isoform unraveled 34 35 then Dys1 isoform-specific impact on cortical/basal ganglia dopaminergic and behavioral phenotypes. Ex vivo electron microscopy and protein expression analyses corroborated the isoform-specific 36 Dys1 influence in distinct neuronal/astrocytic intracellular trafficking processes. Finally, post-mor-37 38 tem human samples from healthy subjects and schizophrenia cases were used to explore the clinical relevance of basal ganglia Dys1 isoform-specific processes. 39

40 Results. Dys1 hypofunction increases the reactivity of astrocytes, which express only the Dys1A 41 isoform. Notably, selective Dys1A disruption results in behavioral and dopaminergic/D2 alterations 42 ascribable to functioning in basal ganglia, but not in the cortex. Moreover, selective Dys1A disruption 43 alters intracellular trafficking in astrocytes, but not in neurons. These processes have clinical rele-44 vance because the caudate and not the cortex of patients with schizophrenia shows a selective reduc-45 tion of the Dys1A isoform.

46 Conclusions. We show a hitherto unknown role for the Dys1A isoform in the astrocytic machinery
47 associated with selective alterations of basal ganglia behavioral and dopaminergic phenotypes rele48 vant to schizophrenia.

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50 Keywords

- 51 Astrocytes; dopamine; dysbindin-1A; D2 receptor; schizophrenia; globus pallidus external segment;
- 52 motivation; sensorimotor gating.

54 Introduction

Dysbindin-1 (Dys1) protein, coded by the Dystrobrevin Binding Protein 1 (DTNBP1) gene, has 55 been implicated in cognitive processes (1, 2), responses to antipsychotic drugs (1, 3, 4), and genetic 56 risk for schizophrenia (3-5). In agreement, dystrophin and its binding partners (Dys1 being a compo-57 nent of the dystrophin complex) are implicated in schizophrenia (6), in line with linkage studies (7-58 10), and evidence of reduced Dys1 levels in post-mortem brain samples from patients with schizo-59 60 phrenia (11, 12). These clinical implications have been linked to Dys1-related modulation of neuronal dopaminergic and glutamatergic signaling (3, 4, 12-15), through receptor-mediated intracellular traf-61 ficking mechanisms, including D2-like receptors (1, 3, 16, 17). 62 63 Drosophila dysbindin (dDys) has shown dichotomic regulation of glutamatergic and dopaminergic

64 transmission, with the latter involving glial cells (18). Notably, an active role for astrocytes in dopaminergic signaling has emerged (19-22). However, whether Dys1 might participate in the machinery 65 66 of astrocytic activity and related control of dopaminergic signaling is unexplored. Similarly, the behavioral implications and possible clinical relevance of astrocytic regulation remain unknown. In 67 mammals, Dys1 exists in at least three spliced transcripts, Dys1A, 1B, and 1C (17), with 1A and 1C 68 being orthologues in humans and mice (14, 17, 23). These isoforms are believed to have distinct 69 70 functions as they are differentially distributed in brain synaptosomes, are present in different func-71 tional domains, and have distinct binding partners (14, 24, 25). However, the contribution of each Dys1 isoform in physiological functions, specifically in astrocyte activity, and the related behavioral 72 outcomes, is unknown. 73

Here, we report that the Dys1A spliced transcript is prevalently implicated in astrocytic machinery, as well as in basal ganglia dopamine/D2 signaling and related behavioral processes. We show that clinically relevant Dys1 genetic variations alter astrocyte activity. Specifically, we find that Dys1A is the only isoform expressed in astrocytes and is preferentially involved in astrocytic, but not neuronal, intracellular trafficking. Notably, selective disruption of Dys1A induces behavioral and dopaminergic alterations related to the basal ganglia, while sparing them at the cortical level. This might be clinically relevant as we found that, in contrast to data from cortical samples, Dys1A is decreased
in the caudate of patients with schizophrenia. Overall, we show a hitherto unknown role for Dys1Aastrocyte-dopamine interaction in the basal ganglia mediating behavioral dysfunctions relevant to
schizophrenia.

85 Methods and Materials

- 86
- 87 Mice

All procedures were approved by the Italian Ministry of Health (permit n. 230/2009-B, 107/2015-PR, 88 and 749/2017-PR) and local Animal Use Committee and were conducted in accordance with the 89 90 Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals of the National Institutes of Health and European 91 Community Council Directives. Routine veterinary care and animal maintenance were provided by dedicated and trained personnel. Male and female littermate mice between 3-7 months of age were 92 used. Animals were housed 2-4 per cage, in a climate-controlled animal facility ($22^{\circ}C \pm 2^{\circ}C$) and 93 maintained on a 12-hr light/dark cycle (08:00 on; 20:00 off), with food and water available ad libitum. 94 The experimenter handled the mice on alternate days during the week preceding the tests. Body 95 weight and general appearance of mice were recorded before starting behavioral testing. 96

Dys1 and Dys1A mutant mice. The Dys1 heterozygous mutant mice (Dys1+/-) and their wild-type 97 98 littermates (Dys1+/+), on C57BL6/J background were bred and used as previously described (1, 3). The Dys1A_{flox/flox} mice generated by Glaxo SmithKline (26) were retained on C57BL6/J background 99 and presented two loxP sites flanking exon 5, which is necessary for correct expression of the Dys1A 100 long isoform. Constitutive Dys1A deletion (Dys1A-/-) or partial reduction (Dys1A+/-) was obtained 101 crossing Dys1A_{flox/flox} mice with a germline Cre deleter transgenic strain (Taconic-Artemis Ger-102 many). The breeding scheme used consisted of mating one male Dys1A+/- with two Dys1A+/- fe-103 males. All mutant mice used were viable, fertile, normal in size and did not display any gross physical 104 105 or behavioral abnormalities.

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107 Behavior

Locomotor activity. Mice were tested in an experimental apparatus consisting of four gray, opaque
 open field boxes (40x40x40 cm) evenly illuminated by overhead lighting (5±1 lux). Each session was
 video-recorded using an overhead camera from ANY-maze (Stoelting Co., Wood Dale, IL, USA)

with the experimenter absent from the room during the test. Activity was tracked during the first exposure to the empty open field arena for 30 minutes. For amphetamine experiments, mice were tested in the same open field arenas. First, mice were placed in the empty open field and allowed to explore for 10 minutes. Then, mice were removed from the arena, injected with 1.5 mg/kg/10ml Damphetamine sulphate (i.p.; Sigma-Aldrich) and returned to the open field for an additional 60 minutes. This procedure was repeated for five consecutive days. All sessions were videotaped and tracked with ANY-maze software (Stoelting Co.).

118 *Male-female social interaction.* The test was conducted in Tecniplast cages (35x23x19 cm) illumi-119 nated $(5\pm1 \text{ lux})$ and video-recorded using a Unibrain Fire-i digital camera. The video camera was 120 mounted facing the front of the cage to record the session for subsequent scoring of social investiga-121 tion parameters as previously described (27). Unfamiliar female stimulus mice in estrus were matched 122 to the subject male mice by age and maintained in social groups of four per home cage.

123 Social habituation/dishabituation task. Naive mice were tested in Tecniplast cages (35x23x19 cm) illuminated (5±1 lux) and video-recorded using a Unibrain Fire-i digital camera. As described previ-124 125 ously (27), mice were placed individually for environmental habituation to the test cage 1h prior to testing. A stimulus mouse (unfamiliar of the same sex) was introduced into the testing cage for a 1-126 min interaction. At the end of the 1-min trial, the stimulus animal was removed and returned to an 127 128 individual holding cage for 3 minutes. We repeated this sequence for three trials with 3-min intertrial intervals. In a fifth 'dishabituation' trial, we introduced a new (unfamiliar) stimulus mouse into 129 the testing cage. Videos of behaviors were recorded and subsequently scored offline. 130

Attentional set-shifting task. Attentional set-shifting was tested in the two-chamber intradimensional/extradimensional (ID/ED) Operon task as previously described (3, 28). After random selection of mice for the ID/ED task, all behavioral parameters were obtained blind to the genotype of the animals. For habituation to the apparatus, during the first 2 days mice were habituated for 45 min to the apparatus with only neutral stimuli (Habituation 1) and trained to move from one chamber to the other (Habituation 2). Any nose poke into the nose-poke holes resulted in a pellet delivery into the

food receptacle. The next day, mice were trained to perform two randomly presented simple discrim-137 138 inations (e.g. between smooth vs. sand cardboard; light on vs. light off; peach vs. sage) so that they were familiar with the stimulus dimensions (Habituation 3). These exemplars were not used again. 139 The mice had to reach a criterion of eight correct choices out of ten consecutive trials to complete 140 this and each following testing stage. Performance was measured in all phases of all experiments 141 using number of trials to reach the criterion; time (in minutes) to reach the criterion and time (in 142 143 seconds) from breaking the photobeams adjacent to the automated door to a nose-poke response (latency to respond). A session started when a mouse was placed in one of the two chambers where all 144 the stimuli were neutral. Then the transparent door was dropped to give the mouse access to the other 145 146 chamber where the stimuli cues were on. The series of stages comprised a simple discrimination (SD), 147 compound discrimination (CD), compound discrimination reversal (CDRe), intradimensional shift (IDS), IDS reversal (IDSRe), a second IDS (IDS2), IDS2 reversal (IDS2Re), extradimensional shift 148 149 (EDS), and EDS reversal (EDSRe). The mice were exposed to the tasks in this order so that they could develop a set, or bias, toward discriminating between the correct and incorrect nose poke hole. 150 151 Acoustic startle response and prepulse inhibition (PPI). Acoustic startle response and PPI were measured using SR-Lab Systems (San Diego Instruments, San Diego, CA, USA) and TSE Startle 152 153 Response System (TSE Systems GmbH, Bad Homburg, Germany) following previously described 154 protocols (1, 29). Briefly, a sudden acoustic stimulus (120 dB) elicits the startle response, while an acoustic, non-startling pre-pulse (74; 78; 82; 86; 90 dB) preceding the startle stimulus inhibits the 155 startle response (PPI). The startle response elicited by sudden sensory stimuli and its PPI are among 156 157 some of the most widely studied phenotypes that are highly conserved across mammalian species. A background level of 70 dB white noise was maintained throughout the test session. 158

159 Progressive ratio test. We tested mice in a motivational nose-poke operant paradigm for 14 mg 5-160 TUL pellets (Test Diet) as described previously (30). To avoid confounding factors linked to food 161 restriction/deprivation experience, mice were always provided with food and water *ad libitum*. The 162 operant chambers used (MED Associates Inc, VT, USA) were equipped with two nose-poke holes

mounted at the left and right of a central food magazine, each equipped with infrared photobeams 163 164 connected to a computer with MED-PC V software. Nose poking into one of the two holes resulted in pellet delivery (active hole), whereas nose poking into the other hole (inactive hole) triggered the 165 house light for 5 seconds (left and right randomly assigned and balanced between groups). Free water 166 was available all times via a water bottle dispenser. Pellets were delivered to the food magazine by 167 an automated dispenser situated outside the experimental chamber. Mice were placed into the operant 168 169 chambers in the evening around 17:00 and taken out the following morning around 9:00-10:00. Lights within the sound attenuating boxes in which the operant chambers were located ensured mice experienced a light/dark 170 cycle identical to that of holding rooms. Training and testing started automatically from the beginning to the 171 172 end of the dark phase (20:00 to 8:00). Initially, a fixed ratio (FR)-1 reinforcement schedule was applied, i.e. one nose poke in the active hole resulted in delivery of one pellet. Mice were exposed to the FR1 173 schedule until they reached the criterion of > 80% active pokes during the entire night for two consecutive 174 175 nights. Mice that met this learning criterion were switched to a FR3 reinforcement schedule, i.e. three nose-pokes in the active hole produced delivery of one pellet. The FR3 reinforcement schedule lasted 176 two nights if mice met the criterion of > 80% active pokes during the entire night. Afterward, mice were 177 exposed to a progressive ratio (PR) schedule that lasted two hours from the beginning of the night 178 179 phase and was changed nightly; first night: PR3; second night: PR6; and third night: PR9. Mice were 180 returned to their home cage after the PR test. During the PR experiment, the number of active nosepokes required to obtain each successive food pellet was progressively increased by three (PR3, 181 3n+3), six (PR6, 6n+6) and 9 (PR9, 9n+9; where n=number of pellets earned). For example, in PR3 182 183 earning the first reinforcer required three active nose pokes, the second six nose pokes, the third nine nose pokes, etc. Likewise, in PR9 earning the first reinforcer required 9 active nose-pokes, the second 184 185 eighteen nose-pokes, the third twenty-seven nose-pokes, etc. Following each PR session, we calculated the breakpoint (BP) as the last ratio level completed before the end of the two-hour testing 186 session. For example, under the PR3 or the PR9 reinforcement schedules, to earn the third food pellet 187 a mouse had to poke 3+6+9 or 9+18+27 times in the active hole, and thus was given a BP value of 9 188

or 27, respectively. The BP is a well-validated measure reflecting the strength of the reinforcer andthe motivational state of the animal (30).

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192 Immunohistochemistry

Mice were deeply anesthetized (urethane 20%) and perfused transcardially with PBS followed by 4% 193 formaldehyde solution (Sigma-Aldrich) in PBS, pH 7.4. Brains were extracted, post fixed overnight 194 195 in 4% formaldehyde and cryoprotected in 30% sucrose in PBS. 40-µm-thick coronal sections containing regions of interest were cut on a freezing microtome (VT1000S, Leica Camera AG, Wetzlar, 196 Germany) and collected in PBS before being processed for immunohistochemistry. For GFAP im-197 198 munostaining, free-floating slices were first washed once in 0.3% Triton X-100 PBS (PBS-T) for 10 minutes, and twice with 0.1% PBS-T, then incubated for 1 h in a blocking solution of 5% normal goat 199 serum (NGS) in 0.1 % PBS-T. Subsequently they were incubated overnight at 4 °C with 1:300 rabbit 200 201 polyclonal anti-GFAP antibody (Novus Biologicals, Centennial, CO, USA) in blocking solution. Slices were then mounted with ProLong[™] Gold Antifade Mountant (ThermoFisher Scientific) and 202 imaged in an inverted laser scanning confocal microscope (A1 Nikon, Shinjuku, Japan) using a 20x 203 or 40x objective. Quantification and analysis were performed using Fiji software (Wayne Rasband, 204 NIH, USA), outlining regions of interest. 205

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207 Electron microscopy

Mouse brains were perfused with 4% formaldehyde and 2% glutaraldehyde and embedded as described previously (31). Bright field transmission electron microscopy images were acquired from thin (70 nm) sections using a Gatan Orius SC1000 series CCD camera (4008 x 2672 active pixels) (Gatan, Pleasanton, USA), fiber optically coupled to high-resolution phosphor scintillator under a JEOL JEM-1011 transmission electron microscope (TEM) (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) with thermionic source (W filament) and maximum acceleration voltage 100 kV. All transverse sections of the Golgi

Complex (GC) were taken at the same magnification (x6000) and analyzed using point-counting pro-214 215 cedures, with surface densities of Golgi Complex (SviGC) and Cytoplasm (SviCYT) determined according to Leitz ASM system. Moreover, a qualitative score from 1 to 3 was assigned by two different 216 persons blind to the experimental groups to all GC: the maximum score (3) was given when finding 217 a group of cisternae organized in stacks containing tubular and vesicular structures, as defined for 218 GC, and the lower score (1) was given when GC structure was destroyed. Double tilt high angular 219 220 annular dark field (HAADF) scanning TEM (STEM) tomography was performed using a Tecnai F20 transmission electron microscope (FEI Company, Eindhoven, The Netherlands), equipped with a 221 field-emission gun operating at 200 kV and a Gatan Ultrascan US1000 (Gatan, Pleasanton, USA). 222 223 For reconstruction of the Golgi apparatus in Dys1+/- mouse astrocytes a 300-nm-thick section was tilted through $\pm 60^{\circ}$ with the following tilt scheme: 1° at tilt higher than $\pm 30^{\circ}$ and 2° intervals at 224 intermediate tilts. The images were acquired using a HAADF detector at a magnification of x40,000. 225 226 Computation of each double tilt tomogram was performed by combining two tilt series taken around two orthogonal axes with the IMOD software package. 3D reconstruction was performed using 227 228 Amira[™] Software (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

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230 Cell cultures

231 Astrocyte-enriched cell cultures were obtained from cortices dissected from post natal day 1 (PND1) mice. Pups were sacrificed by cervical dislocation and cortices were quickly dissected in ice-cold 232 HBSS (Hanks' Balanced Salt Solution, Gibco ThermoFisher Scientific). Samples were incubated in 233 HBSS with 0.125% Trypsin-EDTA (ThermoFisher Scientific) and 1 mg/mL DNAase I (Sigma-Al-234 drich) for 20 minutes at 37°C. A solution of DMEM (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium, Gibco 235 ThermoFisher Scientific) with 10% horse serum and 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich) 236 was added to the samples, which were then centrifuged at 1200 rpm and washed twice in complete 237 medium. Samples were dissociated mechanically in complete medium and filtered through 40 µm 238 cell strainers. Cell suspensions were finally plated on poly-D-lysine coated plates. Cells were cultured 239

until 100% confluence. Neuronal cell cultures were obtained from E18 mice embryos. Cortices were 240 241 dissected in ice-cold HBSS and incubated in HBSS with 0.125% Trypsin-EDTA and 0.25 mg/mL DNAase I for 30 minutes at 37°C. A solution of NeurobasalTM medium (Gibco ThermoFisher Scien-242 tific) with 10% inactivated fetal bovine serum (Sigma-Aldrich), 1% penicillin-streptomycin, 1% Glu-243 taMAXTM Supplement and 2% B27TM Supplement (Gibco ThermoFisher Scientific) was added to the 244 samples, which were then centrifuged 1200 rpm and resuspended in complete medium before me-245 246 chanical dissociation. Samples were filtered with 40 µm cell strainers, centrifuged 700 rpm and resuspended in complete medium. Cell suspensions were finally plated on poly-D-lysine coated plates. 247 Neurons were cultured until complete maturation. 248

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250 Western Blot

For western blot analysis of Dys1 isoforms, we used Dys1+/+ mice at embryonic stage E14.5, PND7, 251 252 PND35 and PND90, Dys1 and Dys1A knockout mice, glial and neuronal cell cultures. Animals were sacrificed by cervical dislocation; brains were rapidly dissected and stored at -80°. Tissues or cultured 253 254 cells were lysed in RIPA buffer and Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich). Western blot analysis was performed using mouse polyclonal anti-dysbindin antibody (PA3111 validated and produced 255 by (17) and anti-actin antibody (Sigma Aldrich). Protein (25µg) from precipitated homogenates was 256 257 separated on SDS-PAGE, electro- transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes, and then probed with primary antibodies: mouse monoclonal anti-dysbindin antibody (1:1000) and mouse anti-actin anti-258 body (1:10000). Immune complexes were detected using appropriate peroxidase-conjugated second-259 ary antibodies (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and a chemiluminescent reagent (ECL prime; GE 260 Healthcare Europe GmbH, Milan, Italy). Densitometric analysis was performed using ImageQuantTL 261 software (GE Healthcare Europe GmbH). Results were normalized to respective control conditions. 262 For western blot analyses in globus pallidus externus (GPe), GPe were homogenized in a glass-glass 263 potter in cold 0.32-M sucrose buffer pH 7.4 containing 1-mM HEPES, 0.1-mM PMSF, in presence 264 of commercial cocktails of protease (Roche, Monza, Italy) and phosphatase (Sigma-Aldrich, Milan, 265

Italy) inhibitors and then sonicated. Total proteins have been measured in the total homogenate ac-266 267 cording to the Bradford Protein Assay procedure (Bio-Rad, Milan, Italy), using bovine serum albumin as calibration standard. 10 µg of proteins for each sample were run on a sodium dodecyl sulfate-10% 268 polyacrylamide gel under reducing conditions and then electrophoretically transferred onto nitrocel-269 lulose membranes (GE Healthcare, Milan, Italy). Blots were blocked 1h at room temperature with I-270 Block solution (Life Technologies Italia, Italy) in TBS + 0.1% Tween-20 buffer and then incubated 271 272 with antibodies against the total proteins of interest. The conditions of the primary antibodies were the following: anti-RAB5 (1:2000, Cell Signaling Technology Inc., RRID: AB 823625), anti-RAB9 273 (1:2000, AbCam, RRID: AB 303323), anti-GALT (1:1000, AbCam, Cat# ab178406), anti-GM130 274 275 (1:1000, Sigma-Aldrich, RRID: AB 532244), and anti-β-Actin (1:10000, Sigma-Aldrich, RRID: AB 476697). Expression levels of every single protein were normalized using its own β-Actin load-276 ing control, which was detected by evaluating the band density at 43kDa. Optic density (OD) of 277 278 immunocomplexes was visualized by chemiluminescence using the Chemidoc MP Imaging System (Bio-Rad Laboratories, RRID: SCR 008426). Gels were run two times each and the results represent 279 the average from two different runs. We used a correction factor to average the different gels: correc-280 tion factor gel 2 = average of (OD protein of interest/OD β -actin for each sample loaded in gel 1)/(OD 281 282 protein of interest/OD β -actin for the same sample loaded in gel 2)(32).

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284 Slice surface biotinylation

These experiments were performed as previously described (1, 3). Mice were anesthetized with isoflurane and decapitated. The brain was sectioned in cold carboxygenated HBSS enriched with 4mM MgCl, 0,7 mM CaCl₂ and 10 mM D-glucose, and equilibrated with 95% O2 and 5% CO2 to yield pH 7.4, on a vibrating microtome at a thickness of 300 µm. Dorsal striatum (STR) and prefrontal cortex (PFC) were dissected from coronal slices. Before starting the surface biotinylation reaction, and to ensure a gradual cooling of the cells, the tissues were washed twice for 5 minutes in ice-cold

HBSS buffer. The filters holding the tissues were transferred to a well containing an excess of bioti-291 292 nylation reagent solution of 100 µM NHS-LC-biotin (Pierce, Appleton, WI, USA) in HBSS. After 45 min of incubation, the tissues were transferred to another well and washed twice with HBSS buffer 293 containing 200 mM Lysine (Sigma-Aldrich) to block all reactive NHS-LC-biotin in excess. The tis-294 sues were washed twice with ice-cold HBSS and immediately placed on ice to mechanically disrupt 295 the tissue in 120 µl of lysis buffer (1% TX-100, PBS1X and a cocktail of protease inhibitors (Sigma-296 297 Aldrich). To discard extra debris, homogenates were centrifuged for 5 min at 4°C at 13.000 rpm and supernatants were collected. To precipitate the biotinylated proteins from the homogenates 50 µl of 298 immobilized Streptavidin beads (Pierce) were added to the samples and the mixture was rotated for 299 300 three hours at 4°C. The precipitates were collected by brief centrifugation, mixed with 50 µl of SDS-PAGE loading buffer, boiled for 5 minutes and stored at -80°C until use. Protein extracts were sepa-301 rated on precast 10% SDS/PAGE (Biorad, Milan, Italy) and transferred to nitrocellulose membranes. 302 303 Blots were incubated with primary antibodies overnight at 4°C. Antibodies used were dopamine D2 receptor (sc-5303, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, TX, USA, and AB5084P, Millipore), Synapto-304 305 physin (sc-365488, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) and Transferrin Receptor (sc-21011, Santa Cruz Biotechnology). Immune complexes were detected using appropriate peroxidase-conjugated secondary 306 307 antibodies (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and a chemiluminescent reagent (ECL prime; GE Healthcare 308 Europe GmbH, Milan, Italy). Densitometric analysis was performed by ImageQuantTL software (GE 309 Healthcare Europe GmbH). Results were normalized to respective control conditions.

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311 Stereotaxic injections

All surgeries were performed under aseptic conditions. Mice were deeply anesthetized by inhalation of a mixture of isoflurane/oxygen (2%/1%) and mounted into a stereotaxic frame (David Kopf Instruments, Tujunga, CA, USA). Following shaving and preparation of the skin, a cranial hole was made above the targeted area. All measurements were made relative to bregma, in accordance with the mouse brain atlas (33). The viral injection (60% AAV5.GfaABC1DcytoGCaMP6f.SV40, 40% GfaABC1D.cyto-tdTomato.SV40, Addgene, Watertown, MA, USA) was performed using a borosilicate pipette at a rate of 50nl/min using a 10-µL Hamilton syringe. After each injection, 10-15 minutes
were allowed before slowly withdrawing the micropipette.

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321 *Ex vivo* calcium signaling in astrocytes

Coronal slices of 300 µm were obtained from mice at postnatal days 90-120 three weeks after AAV 322 injections. Animals were anaesthetized with isoflurane and the brain was removed and transferred 323 into an ice-cold artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF, in mM: 125 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 2 CaCl2, 1 MgCl2, 324 25 glucose, pH 7.4 with 95% O2 and 5% CO2). Coronal slices were cut with a vibratome (VT1000S, 325 326 Leica Camera AG) in the solution described in (34). Then, slices were transferred for 1 minute in a solution at room temperature (RT, in mM: 225 D-mannitol, 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH2PO4, 26 NaHCO3, 327 25 glucose, 0.8 CaCl2, 8 MgCl2, 2 kynurenic acid with 95% O2 and 5% CO2). Finally, slices were 328 329 transferred in sACSF at 32°C for 20 min and then maintained at RT for the entire experiment. To image Ca²⁺ dynamics in GCaMP6f-astrocytes, we used a two-photon (2P) laser scanning microscope 330 (Multiphoton Imaging System, Scientifica Ltd., Uckfield, UK) equipped with a pulsed IR laser (Cha-331 meleon Ultra 2, Coherent, USA) tuned at 920 nm. Laser power at the sample was kept in the range 332 5-10 mW to avoid photostimulation and photobleaching. The excitation wavelength used was 920 333 334 nm for both GCaMP6f and tdTomato. Images were acquired at 1.53Hz acquisition frame rate, for 2 minutes, through a water-immersion objective (Olympus, LUMPlan FI/IR 20×, 1.05 NA). The field 335 of view ranged between 700×700 μ m and 120×120 μ m depending on the zoom factor. Ca²⁺ signal 336 recordings were performed in cortical layers II/III in PFC brain slices. Brain slices were continuously 337 perfused in a submerged chamber at a continuous rate of 3 ml/min with the following (in mM): 120 338 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1 NaH₂PO₄, 26 NaHCO₃, 1 MgCl₂, 2 CaCl₂, 10 glucose, pH 7.4 (with 5% CO₂/95% 339 O₂) at room temperature. Tetrodotoxin (1µM; Hellobio, Bristol, UK) was also added to the perfusion 340 solution to block neuronal activity in all recordings. Detection of astrocyte region of interests (ROIs) 341

displaying Ca²⁺ elevations was performed with ImageJ in a semi-automated manner using the GECI-342 quant plugin (35). The software was used to identify ROIs corresponding first to the soma (>30 µm²; 343 confirmed by visual inspection), then to the proximal processes (>20 μ m² and not corresponding to 344 the soma) and finally to the microdomains (between 2 and 20 μ m² corresponding to neither the soma 345 nor the proximal processes). All pixels within each ROI were averaged to give a single time course 346 of fluorescence values, F(t). Analysis of Ca^{2+} signals was performed with ImageJ (NIH) and a custom 347 software developed in MATLAB 7.6.0 R2008 A (Mathworks, Natick, MA, USA)(36). To compare 348 relative changes in fluorescence between different cells, we expressed the Ca²⁺ signal for each ROI 349 as $\Delta F/F0 = (F(t) - F0)/(F0)$. F0 was defined as the 15th percentile of the whole fluorescent trace for 350 351 each ROI and considered as a global baseline. For each ROI we then defined as baseline trace the points of the $\Delta F/F0$ trace with absolute values smaller than twice the standard deviation of the overall 352 signal. Significant Ca^{2+} events were then selected with a supervised algorithm as follows. Firstly, a 353 354 new standard deviation was calculated on the baseline trace, and all local maxima with absolute values exceeding twice this new standard deviation were identified. Secondly, among these events, we 355 considered significant only those associated with local Ca²⁺ dynamics with amplitude larger than 356 fourfold the new standard deviation. The amplitude of each Ca²⁺ event was measured from the 20th 357 percentile of the fluorescent trace interposed between its maximum and the previous significant one. 358 Essentially, this procedure combines a threshold measured from the global baseline with a stricter 359 threshold computed from a local baseline. We adopted this method to reduce artifacts from the re-360 cording noise superimposed on the slow astrocytic dynamics. All Ca²⁺ traces were visually inspected 361 to exclude the ROIs dominated by noise. For each astrocyte we calculated the number of active ROIs, 362 defined as the ROIs displaying at least one significant Ca²⁺ event, the frequency, i.e. the total number 363 of Ca^{2+} events per minute and the mean amplitude of the Ca^{2+} events. For each parameter, we then 364 calculated the mean value among all analyzed astrocytes. 365

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367 Chromatographic analyses of dopamine, DOPAC, HVA, NA, 5HT, and 5HIAA

Ex vivo tissue collection. Brains were harvested following rapid decapitation and sliced in 1 mm sections in a chilled stainless-steel mouse brain matrix. Slices were frozen on glass slides mounted on dry ice. Using a 2 mm biopsy punch, bilateral PFC, STR and globus pallidus externus (GPe) tissues were collected accordingly to the mouse brain atlas (33), and stored at -80°C until neurochemical analyses.

In vivo microdialysis. Microdialysis procedure was performed as previously described (1, 3). A con-373 374 centric dialysis probe with a dialyzing portion of 1 mm was prepared and stereotaxically implanted in the right GPe (coordinates of the dialyzing portion tip, in mm, relative to bregma, according to the 375 atlas (33): anteroposterior (AP)=-0.4, lateral (L)=+1.9, ventral (V)=-4.5) under isoflurane anesthesia. 376 377 After surgery, mice were housed individually to recover for 24 hours. On the day of microdialysis, probes were perfused at a constant flow rate (1 µl/min), with artificial cerebrospinal Fluid (aCSF, in 378 mM: 147 NaCl, 4 KCl, 2.2 CaCl₂) by means of a microperfusion pump. After 30 min stabilization, 379 380 samples were collected every 20 min and stored in dry ice until the end of the experiment. Three groups of three dialysates (one hour per group) were consecutively collected: "baseline" (aCSF per-381 fusion), "quinpirole" (perfusion of 25 nM quinpirole), and "wash-out" (aCSF perfusion). At the end 382 of the microdialysis experiment, brains were collected and sliced to check probe implantation; only 383 data obtained from mice with probes correctly implanted in GPe were included in the results. 384

385 Quantification of monoamines and metabolites by HPLC. PFC, STR, and GPe tissue samples were lysed by sonication in 0.1 M perchloric acid, and centrifuged (15,000 x g, 10 minutes, 4°C). The 386 supernatant was filtered by centrifugation (20,000 x g, 5 min, 4°C) in ultra-free microcentrifuge tubes 387 388 (Millipore, Burlington, Massachusetts, USA). Supernatants obtained from PFC, STR or GPe samples, and from dialysates obtained from GPe in vivo microdialysis were injected (11 µl) into a high-perfor-389 mance liquid chromatography apparatus (Alexys UHPLC/ECD Neurotransmitter Analyzer, Antec 390 Scientific, Zoeterwoude, The Netherlands), equipped with an autosampler (AS 100 UHPLC, micro, 391 6-PV, Antec Scientific). The mobile phase [containing (in mM) 100 phosphoric acid, 100 citric acid, 392 0.1 EDTA.2H 2H₂O, 3 octanesulfonic acid. NaCl plus 8% acetonitrile, adjusted to pH 3.0 with NaOH 393

solution (50%)] was delivered at 0.050 ml/min flow rate with a LC 110S pump (Antec Scientific) 394 395 through an Acquity UPLC HSS T3 column (1 x 100 mm, particle size 1.8 µm; Waters, Milford, Massachusetts, USA). Detection of dopamine, DOPAC and HVA was confirmed and carried out with 396 two system. An electrochemical detector (DECADE II, Antec Scientific) equipped with a SenCell 2 397 mm glassy carbon working electrode (Antec Scientific) set at +600 mV versus Ag/AgCl. Output sig-398 nals were recorded with Clarity (Antec Scientific). The second HPLC was equipped with a reversed-399 400 phase column (C8 3.5 um, Waters, USA) and a coulometric detector (ESA Coulochem III; Agilent Software). The electrodes of the analytical cell were set at +350 mV (oxidation) and -200 mV (re-401 duction). The mobile phase contained 50 mM CH₃COONa, 0.07 mM Na₂EDTA, 0.5 mM n-octyl 402 403 sulfate, and 12% (v/v) methanol, the pH of mobile phase was adjusted with CH₃COOH to 4.21. The sensitivity of the assay for DA/DOPAC/HVA was 5 fmol/sample. For tissue sample analysis, data 404 were normalized by tissue weight. Dialysate contents were converted into percentages of the average 405 406 baseline level calculated from the three fractions of the first hour of collection ("baseline" period), and are expressed as averaged percentages of "baseline", "quinpirole" and "wash-out" periods, ob-407 408 tained in each experimental group.

409

410 **Drosophila**

411 Stocks and crosses. The UAS-Ddysb-RNAi Drosophila line (v34355) used in this study was obtained 412 from VDRC (Vienna Drosophila Stock Center). The Gal4 activator lines tubulin-Gal4 (5138), repo-413 Gal4 (7415), and elav-Gal4 (458), and the transgenic lines UAS-GalT-GFP (30902), were obtained 414 from the Bloomington Stock Center, Indiana University. Experimental crosses were performed at 415 28°C.

Immunochemistry. Drosophila immunostaining was performed on wandering third instar larvae reared at 28°C. Third-instar larvae were dissected in PBS and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS for 15 minutes, washed in PBS 0,1% Triton X-100 (PBTX), and incubated with primary antibody overnight, and secondary antibody for 1 hour. The primary antibody anti-Repo-8D12 (1:200, DSHB) and anti-ELAV (1:200, DSHB) were used. Secondary antibody Cy5coniugated Goat anti-Mouse IgG (115-175-003) was from Jackson Immuno Research, and was used at 1:500. Third instar larvae were then mounted with Mowiol 488 and imaged using a Nikon EZ-C1 confocal microscope equipped with a Nikon Plan APO $60.0 \times /1.40$ oil immersion objective. Z-stacks with a step size of 1 µm were taken using identical settings. Each stack consisted of 15 to 20 plane images of 10 animals per genotype. The images obtained were processed and analyzed using *ImageJ*.

426 *qRT-PCR.* Drosophila samples (8 mg each) were homogenized and total RNA was subsequently isolated as in (37). Quantification of D2R gene expression was performed on Eco Real-Time PCR 427 (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) using One Step SYBR PrimeScript RT-PCR II kit (Takara Bio, 428 429 Shiga, Japan). The expression level of RP49 was used as a housekeeping (normalizing) gene. Relative gene expression was quantified with the $\Delta\Delta$ Ct Comparative method. The primers used for expression 430 of D2R gene were: forward primer, 5'-CCTTCTACAACGCCGACTTTA-3', reverse primer 5'-431 432 ACTCCTCAGCGCCTTGAA-3'. To avoid eventual contamination by genomic DNA primers were designed to span an intron-exon boundary and RNA samples were treated with DNase. 433

434 *Electron microscopy*. The TEM projections images of Drosophila brains were acquired from ultra-

thin sections under a FEI Tecnai-12 transmission electron microscope (FEI Netherlands) as in (38).

436

437

438 Human samples

The mRNA expression values are referred to DTNBP1 NM_183040 gene expression in the human postmortem dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC) of normal subjects across lifespan. The data are available in the open access on-line application "The Brain Cloud", which allows the query of genome-wide gene expression data and their genetic control, <u>http://www.libd.org/braincloud</u>. We selected the single isoform values on the base of Illumina probes used for the quantification. The Illumina probes used to identify the human dysbindin-1 isoforms were, for Dysbindin-1A hHA - chr6:15632467-15632536, and for Dysbibdin-1C the hHC -chr6:15735609-15735678, both referred
to Human Assembly March 2006 (NCBI 36/hg18).

Caudate samples from 18 healthy control samples and 22 schizophrenia cases were obtained from the 447 NSW Tissue Resource Center. The tissue was processed at Neuroscience Research Australia as ap-448 proved by the University of New South Wales Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC 12435; 449 Sydney, Australia). No significant differences were found in the demographic variables of age, sex, 450 451 pH, or PMI between the diagnostic groups (Supplementary Fig. S6). The rostral caudate was dissected from anatomically matched fresh frozen coronal sections cut at 60 µm through the head of the cau-452 date. Caudate extracted samples (run in duplicates) were denatured in loading buffer 2X, and boiled 453 454 for 5 min at 95°C, then the denatured samples were centrifuged at 10,000 g for 5 min. Each lane was 455 loaded with 20 mg of total protein, as in previous studies (Talbot et al. 2011; Tang et al. 2009).

456

457 Statistics

For animal experiments, no statistical methods were used to predetermine sample sizes, although 458 459 sample sizes were consistent with those from previous studies (1, 3, 29, 39). No explicit randomization method was used to allocate animals to experimental groups and mice were tested and data pro-460 cessed by investigators blind to animal identity. Statistical analyses were performed using commer-461 462 cial software (STATISTICA- 13.5, StaSoft, Tulsa, OK, USA, and Prism 7, GraphPad, San Diego, CA, USA). Results are expressed as mean \pm standard error of the mean (SEM) throughout. Multiple 463 Student's *t*-tests, one-way and two-way ANOVAs were used, as appropriate. The accepted value for 464 significance was P<0.05. Newman-Keul's test for post hoc analysis was performed once ANOVA 465 highlighted a statistical significance for main effects. Data distribution was tested using the D'Ago-466 stino and Pearson normality test. The experiments reported in this work were repeated independently 467 two to four times, using mice from at least four different generations. Numbers of mice are reported 468 in the figure legends. 469

471 **Results**

472 **Dys1 hypofunction alters astrocytic reactivity**

Unbiased microarray analysis showed increased expression of reactive astrogliosis-related genes in
Dys1 knockout mice compared to wild-type Dys1+/+ (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Fig. S1). Thus, to
better investigate if Dys1 regulates astrocytic activity in mammals, we used Dys1 heterozygous mice
(Dys1+/-), a model with direct translational validity for both healthy human subjects and patients with
schizophrenia (1, 3).

Microarray indication was confirmed by higher immunoreactivity of the astroglial marker glial
fibrillary acid protein (GFAP) in Dys1+/- compared to Dys1+/+ littermates (Fig. 1b), which was similarly evident in prefrontal cortex (PFC), and basal ganglia (NAcc, dorsal striatum: STR, GPe) regions
(Fig. 1c).

By two-photon laser scanning microscope experiments in slice preparations from Dys1+/+ and Dys1+/- mice we next evaluated Ca^{2+} signal dynamics in GCaMP6f-expressing astrocytes (Fig. 1d). We found that the number of spontaneous Ca^{2+} events occurring in astrocyte fine distal processes (i.e. microdomains) was markedly increased in Dys1+/- mice compared to Dys1+/+ mice, while the mean Ca^{2+} peak amplitudes was unchanged (Fig. 1e, f, g). Ca^{2+} activity at soma and proximal processes showed no significant differences (Fig. 1e, f, g). These results confirm a hyperactivity of astrocytes in Dys1 hypofunctioning mice.

489 Overall, these data provide initial evidence that reduced levels of Dys1 alter astrocyte microdomain490 signals.





Figure 1. Dys1 modulates astrocytic reactivity. a. Heat map of 65 inflammatory markers selected 493 by a microarray screening from Dys1+/+ (n24), and Dys1+/- (n25) littermates. The heat map is based 494 on hierarchical clustering of genes involved in inflammation states. All gene expression levels were 495 transformed to scores ranging from -0.5 to 0.5 and were colored blue, white, or red to represent low, 496 moderate, or high expression levels, respectively. The relative expression levels were scaled based 497 on their mean and do not represent expression levels in comparison with controls. Dys1+/- mice show 498 499 higher expression for these genes compared to Dys1+/+ littermates (t-test: t_{128} =-2.23, p=0.028). *p<0.05 vs Dys1+/+. b. Quantification of cumulative GFAP intensity from confocal images from 500

- PFC, NAcc, STR and GPe displayed by Dys1+/+ and Dys1+/- littermates (n4/genotype, 1/brain re-501 gion averaged from 9 samples each). Scale bars, $20\mu m$ (t-test: t_{31} =-2.32, p=0.027) *p<0.05 vs 502 Dys1+/+. c. Representative confocal images of GFAP positive astrocytes in the analyzed brain re-503 gions. d. Two-photon images (average fluorescence of 2min acquisition) of tdTomato (red) and 504 GCaMP6f (green) expressing astrocytes in cortical slices from Dys1+/+ and Dys1+/- mice. Scale 505 bars, 10 μ m. e. Representative Ca²⁺ signal traces from the main astrocytic compartments. f. Raster 506 plots of Ca²⁺ transients from all GCaMP6 astrocyte microdomains in Dys1+/+ and Dys1+/- mice. g. 507 Mean number of events per minute per astrocyte and mean peak amplitudes of Ca²⁺ transients per 508 active ROI in Dys1+/+ and Dys1+/- astrocytes (11 for Dys1+/+ and 12 for Dys1+/- mice, 4 animals 509 each; microdomain events: t-test: t_{22} =-5.83, p<0.0001). ***p<0.0001 vs Dys1+/+. Bar graphs show 510
- 511 mean±s.e.m.

512 Distinct neuronal/astrocytic expression and developmental patterns of Dys1 isoforms

513 We then asked whether Dys1 isoforms might be differentially expressed in neurons and astrocytes.

Dys1A was expressed in adult mouse brain, in cultured astrocytes cells, and in cultured neuronal 514 cells (Fig. 2a). In contrast, Dys1C was missing in astrocytes cells, while its expression was higher 515 than Dys1A in the brain as well as in cultured neuronal cells (Fig. 2a). Dys1A showed a stable ex-516 pression over time in glial and neuronal cultures, while Dys1C was always absent in astrocytes cul-517 518 tures and increased its expression over time in neuronal cells (Fig. 2b,c). We confirmed divergent developmental patterns of expression of these two Dys1 isoforms, with similar findings in human and 519 mouse brains. Specifically, samples of human dorsolateral PFC revealed higher Dys1A expression in 520 521 the embryonic phase, which gradually decreased across development (Fig. 2d). Conversely, Dys1C expression was lower in embryonic and childhood stages and then increased from adolescence (Fig. 522 2d). Similarly, in mouse PFC the expression of Dys1A protein decreased from the embryonic phase, 523 524 while Dys1C increased its expression in adolescence (Fig. 2e).

525 Overall, these data show a similar developmental pattern of Dys1 isoforms expression between 526 mice and humans, and define a previously unexpected constraint of Dys1A expression in astrocytes.





Figure 2. Neuronal and astrocytic expression and developmental patterns of Dys1 isoforms. a. 529 Representative western blots and densitometric analysis of Dys1A (50 kDa) and Dys1C (38 kDa) 530 isoforms. β-actin used as loading control. In brain lysate of adult PND90 mice both isoforms were 531 532 revealed, with higher expression for Dys1C compared to Dys1A (t-test: t_{10} =-5.77, p=0.0002). Dys1A was the only isoform expressed in glial cells (t-test: t_{20} =-6.32, p<0.0001). Similar to brain lysate, 533 neuronal cultures show the expression of both isoforms with relative higher levels of Dys1C (t-test: 534 535 t_{10} =-2.57, p=0.02). **b.** Astrocytes cultures at different developmental time points (day 7=DIV7; day 14= DIV14; day 21= DIV21) confirming no expression of Dys1C in astrocytes. c. Neuronal cultures 536 at different developmental time points (DIV7, 14 and 21) showing relative higher expression of 537 Dys1C compared to Dys1A. d. mRNA expression of Dys1A and Dys1C isoforms from the human 538 dorsolateral PFC by the open-access Brain Cloud databank at different developmental ages. Ns: Em-539 bryos=38; Child=32; Teen=50; Young adult=25; Adult=122. Dys1A expression was highest at the 540 embryonic stage and then decreased, while Dys1C expression increased from adolescence (two-way 541 ANOVA, isoforms*age interaction: F_{5,250}=68.84; p<0.0001). ###p<0.0001 vs consecutive ages for 542 Dys1A, and vs preceding ages for Dys1C. e. Protein expression of Dys1A and Dys1C isoforms from 543 the mouse prefrontal cortex at different developmental ages. n6 mice/time point. Dys1A expression 544 was highest at the embryonic stage and then decreased, while Dys1C expression increased from ad-545 olescence (two-way ANOVA, isoforms*age interaction: $F_{3,17}=32.77$; p<0.0001). #p<0.01 and 546 ^{###}p<0.0001 vs consecutive ages for Dys1A, and vs preceding ages for Dys1C. Bar graphs show 547 mean±s.e.m. 548 549

550 Dys1A disruption alters basal ganglia- but not cortical-dependent behaviors

The observation that only the Dys1A isoform is expressed in astrocytes prompted us to explore the effects of a selective Dys1A disruption using a mouse line with flanking LoxP sites targeted to the exon 5 of Dtnbp1 on chromosome 13a (Dys1A^{flox/flox}), backcrossed with a germline Cre deleter mouse line (26).

555 Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- mice have a gene dosage-dependent reduction and lack of Dys1A isoform, 556 respectively, and unaltered Dys1C expression (Fig. 3a and Supplementary Fig. S2). We then per-557 formed in Dys1A knockout mice a comprehensive battery of behavioral tests that were previously 558 applied to mice with disruption of both Dys1 isoforms (1, 3, 40, 41).

559 In agreement with an initial characterization (26), Dys1A+/- and -/- mice were viable with no evident alterations in general health and sensory functions. Similar to this previous study, Dys1A-/-560 mice presented a hyperactive phenotype compared with Dys1A+/+ littermates (Fig. 3b), as in Dys1 561 562 knockout mice (1, 41). Moreover, as in Dys1 knockout mice (41), locomotor responses to both acute and sub-chronic amphetamine were not affected by deletion of Dys1A (Supplementary Fig. S2). I 563 these mice, in contrast to Dys1 knockout mice (40, 42, 43), no Dys1A-dependent alterations were 564 evident in sociability and social memory (Fig. 3c,d). These results indicate that Dys1A is involved in 565 566 locomotor activity, but not in social interactions.

567 Dys1 hypofunction is associated with PFC-dependent executive functions deficits in mice, healthy humans, and patients with schizophrenia (1, 3). Thus, we tested Dys1A mice in the attentional set-568 shifting task (ASST), which allows assessment of discrete cognitive executive functions with trans-569 lational validity to humans (3, 28). In contrast to Dys1 knockout mice (1, 3), Dys1A+/- and -/- mice 570 show no deficits in extradimensional set-shifting (EDS) but serial reversal learning was altered (Fig. 571 3e,f). EDS alterations imply dopaminergic dysfunction in PFC (28, 44), while serial reversal learning 572 is linked to dopaminergic tone in striatal regions (28, 45). This prompted us to assess behaviors more 573 related to basal ganglia dopamine-related functioning. 574

Prepulse inhibition (PPI) deficits are consistently linked to overactive dopamine/D2 signaling in
basal ganglia (46-48). We found a gene-dosage effect for reduced PPI in Dys1A+/- and -/- compared
with Dys1A+/+ littermates (Fig. 3g). No Dys1A-dependent effects were evident for acoustic startle
responses or body weight (Supplementary Fig. S2), excluding potential confounding factors.

579 Motivation to receive a reward is another behavioral trait strongly related to dopaminergic func-580 tioning within the basal ganglia (49-51). We found reduced reward-motivated behavior in Dys1A+/-581 and -/- compared with Dys1A+/+ littermates (Fig. 3h), when tested in a progressive ratio paradigm 582 designed to assess motivational processes (30). No Dys1A-dependent differences were present during 583 acquisition phases (Supplementary Fig. S2), excluding deficits in motor coordination, learning and 584 memory.

585 Overall, these findings point to a prominent involvement of Dys1A in behavioral phenotypes me-586 diated by dopaminergic signaling in the basal ganglia (Fig. 3i).



Figure 3. Dys1A disruption impairs basal ganglia- but not PFC-dependent behaviors. a. Selective reduction of Dys1A does not affect Dys1C expression. Western blots and densitometric analysis
 in Dys1A+/+, +/- and -/- littermates. Expression of Dys1A (50 kDa), Dys1C (38 kDa). β-actin used

as loading control. Expression of Dys1A is reduced in Dys1A+/- and absent in Dys1A-/- in PFC (one-592 way ANOVA, F_{2.6}=60.48; p<0.0005). *p<0.01 vs Dys1A+/+ littermates. Expression of Dys1C was 593 intact across all genotypes (one-way ANOVA, F_{2.9}=0.09; p=0.92). n4 mice/group. **b.** Spontaneous 594 distance traveled by Dys1A+/+ (n17), Dys1A+/- (n22) and Dys1A-/- (n10) during 30-min exposure 595 to an open field arena. Dys1A-/- show increased locomotion during the first 10 min in the open field 596 597 (Two-way repeated measure ANOVA, time*genotype interaction: F_{10,215}=3.04; p=0.001). **p<0.005 vs Dys1A+/+ at the same time point. c. Male-female social interaction, displayed by Dys1A+/+ (n6), 598 Dys1A+/- (n7) and Dys1A-/- (n6) littermates. No genotype-dependent difference was evident in the 599 number of events or exploration time (two-way ANOVA; events: F_{2,15}=0.52; p=0.60; duration: 600 $F_{2.15}=0.75$; p=0.49). d. Social habituation-dishabituation, displayed by Dys1A+/+ (n14), Dys1A+/-601 (n16) and Dys1A-/- (n10) littermates. No genotype-dependent difference was evident (two-way re-602 peated measure ANOVA genotype: $F_{2,37}=0.37$; p=0.69; genotype*time interaction: $F_{8,148}=1.88$; 603 p=0.07). e. Attentional Set-Shifting Test (ASST), performed in Dys1A+/+ (n14), Dys1A+/- (n14) and 604 Dys1A-/- (n10) littermates. In contrast to Dys1A+/+, both Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- mice did not show 605 the expected reduced trials to criterion in serial reversal stages (two-way repeated measure ANOVA; 606 reversal stage: $F_{1.35}=11.46$; p=0.002; genotype*reversal stage interaction: $F_{2.35}=4.27$; p=0.02). 607 **p<0.005 vs Dys1A+/- and -/- at the same time point. All mice showed the expected increase in 608 trials to criterion at EDS stage independent of genotype (two-way repeated measures ANOVA; shift-609 610 ing stage: $F_{1,35}=17.45$; p=0.0002; genotype*shifting stage interaction: $F_{2,35}=0.09$; p=0.92). ###p<0.0005 vs CD/IDS2 stages. f. Days needed to reach criterion in ASST stages shown by 611 Dys1A+/+ (n14), Dys1A+/- (n14) and Dys1A-/- (n10) littermates. In contrast to Dys1A+/+ mice, 612 both Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- mice did not show the expected reduced days to criterion in serial re-613 versal stages (two-way repeated measure ANOVA; reversal stage: $F_{1,35}=5.01$; p=0.03; genotype*re-614 versal stage interaction: F_{2.35}=2.60; p=0.05). g. Percent PPI of the 120dB acoustic startle response 615 616 displayed by Dys1A+/+ (n10), Dys1A+/- (n15) and Dys1A-/- (n12) littermates. Dys1A-/- have lower PPI compared to Dys1A+/+ mice (two-way repeated measure ANOVA; genotype: $F_{2,34}=4.44$ 617 p=0.019). *p<0.01 vs Dys1A+/+. h. Breakpoint during a food-driven operant behavior test with in-618 creasing progressive ratio (PR) displayed by Dys1A+/+ (n12), Dys1A+/- (n13) and Dys1A-/- (n10) 619 littermates. Both Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- mice showed lower breakpoints than Dys1A+/+ mice (two-620 way repeated measures ANOVA; genotype: F_{4,64}=2.8; p=0.032). *p<0.05 vs Dys1A+/+. Bar and line 621 graphs show mean \pm s.e.m. i. Schematic drawing summarizing the behavioral data obtained in Dys1A 622 623 knockout mice, pointing to a major alteration of basal ganglia-dependent, but not PFC-dependent, 624 phenotypes.

Dys1A disruption alters dopamine/D2 homeostasis in basal ganglia but not in PFC 626

627 Dopaminergic signaling in basal ganglia is implicated in locomotion, motivation, serial reversal learning, and PPI (45, 46, 48), which are altered in Dys1A knockout mice. Thus, we assessed Dys1A 628 modulation of dopaminergic system in basal ganglia and, as comparison, in PFC. 629

We first revealed a higher expression of Dys1A protein in GPe compared to PFC and STR (Fig. 630 4a). Notably, GPe is an astrocyte-enriched brain region (20). In contrast, Dys1C was equally ex-631 pressed in all regions considered (Fig. 4b).

Dys1A disruption increased the expression of total D2 receptors in GPe, but not in PFC or STR 633 (Fig. 4c). Moreover, Dys1A disruption increased cellular surface D2 receptors in STR and GPe, but 634 635 not in PFC (Fig. 4d). Notably, disruption of both Dys1 isoforms resulted in comparable D2 alterations, but both in PFC and striatal regions (1, 3) Supplementary Fig. S3). Similarly, a Dys1A geno-636 typic effect on dopamine content was present in STR and GPe, but not in PFC (Fig. 4e-g). In partic-637 638 ular, Dys1A-/- mice had lower dopamine levels than Dys1A+/+ in both STR and GPe, and lower HVA levels in STR (Fig. 4f-g). DOPAC/dopamine and HVA/dopamine ratios were indistinguishable 639 across genotypes in all regions, suggesting a normal rate of dopamine catabolism (Supplementary 640 Fig. S3). No Dys1A genotype effects on levels of noradrenaline, serotonin, and 5HIAA were evident 641 (Supplementary Fig. S3). 642

643 Consistent with our behavioral assessments, our data show that the selective disruption of the Dys1A isoform alters the dopaminergic system in basal ganglia, but not in PFC. 644

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Figure 4. Dys1A alters the dopaminergic system within basal ganglia but not PFC. Protein ex-647 pression displayed by C57BL6J adult mice of a. Dys1A and b. Dys1C isoforms in the PFC, STR, 648 NAcc, and GPe relative to PFC and normalized to their own β -actin. Dys1A expression is higher in 649 GPe compared to PFC and STR (one-way ANOVA: F_{3.16}=5.02; p=0.02). *p<0.05 vs PFC and STR. 650 Dys1C expression is uniform across the selected brain areas (one-way ANOVA: $F_{3,16}=0.045$; p=0.98). 651 c-d. D2 receptor expression in Dys1A+/+ (n9), Dys1A+/- (n10) and Dys1A-/- (n10). Synaptophysin 652 was used as cytoplasmic control, and D2 expression normalized on transferrin as loading control. c. 653 Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- mice show increased total D2 expression compared to Dys1A+/+ in GPe 654 (one-way ANOVA: F_{2.16}=4.93; p=0.021), but not in PFC (F_{2.25}=0.724; p=0.49), and STR (one-way 655 ANOVA: F_{2.22}=1.44; p=0.26). d. Biotinylation protocol for brain slices treated with biotin to label all 656 surface proteins, precipitated by streptavidin. Dys1A-/- mice have increased expression of D2 recep-657 658 tors on cellular surface compared to Dys1A+/+ littermates in STR and GPe (one-way ANOVA: STR F_{2.14}=4.20; p=0.04; GPe F_{1.6}=6,18; p=0.04), but not in PFC (one-way ANOVA: F_{2.24}=0.44; p=0.64). 659 *p<0.05 vs Dys1A+/+. e-g. Dopamine (DA), DOPAC, and HVA content by HPLC, expressed as 660 ng/mg of tissue in e. PFC, f. STR, and g. GPe dissected from Dys1A+/+ (n4), Dys1A+/- (n4), and 661 Dys1A-/- (n4) littermates. No Dys1A-dependent changes were observed in PFC (one-way ANOVA: 662 F_{2.5}=0.23; p=0.80). Dys1A-/- show reduced DA and HVA levels relative to Dys1A+/+ in the STR 663 (one-way ANOVA: F_{1,10}=5.17; p=0.05). Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- show reduced DA levels relative to 664 Dys1A+/+ in GPe ($F_{1,10}=10.44$; p=0.02). *p<0.05 vs Dys1A+/+. Bar graphs show mean±s.e.m. 665

667 Dys1A hypofunction alters Golgi trafficking in astrocytes, but not in neurons

Dys1 influences the dopaminergic system by altering intracellular vesicular trafficking (16, 52, 53). Thus, we first checked different markers of vesicular trafficking in GPe of Dys1A knockout mice. Our focus on GPe was driven by Dys1A-dependent dopaminergic alterations prevalently in this region (Fig. 4), and because this is an astrocyte-enriches area (20).

Dys1A disruption decreased the expression of Rab5 (Fig. 5a, Supplementary Fig. S4), that regulates the internalization and trafficking of membrane receptors (vesicle fusion and receptor sorting in the early endosomes), and Rab9 (Fig. 5b, Supplementary Fig. S4), a protein that mediates endosometo-trans-Golgi Network (TGN) transport (54, 55). Similarly, the trans-Golgi marker Galt (56) as well as the cis-Golgi marker GM130 (57) were both reduced in Dys1A knockout mice (Fig. 5c,d, Supplementary Fig. S4). These data indicate that disruption of the single Dys1A isoform is sufficient to generate alterations in vesicular trafficking within the basal ganglia.

679 Using electron microscopy analyses, we then investigated if there could be any visible Dys1Adependent morphological alteration in intracellular vesicles that differ between neuronal and astro-680 cytic cells. Compared to Dys1A+/+, we found in Dys1A-/- mice more irregularly shaped and swollen 681 cisternae of the Golgi complex with enlarged vesicle-like structures in astrocytic, but not neuronal 682 cells (Fig. 5e and Supplementary Video V1). In contrast, deletion of all Dys1 isoforms disrupted 683 684 Golgi complex morphology in an equivalent way, but in both neuronal and astrocytic cells (Fig. 5f). Equivalent results in altered Golgi complex morphology were obtained by knocking down drosophila 685 dDys either ubiquitously (Fig. 5g) or in glial cells and no obvious dysfunctions were observed in 686 687 neuronal reduction (Supplementary Fig. S5). These findings further support a more prominent role for Dys1A in basal ganglia astrocytic functioning. 688







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Figure 5. Dys1A disruption alters vescicular trafficking and Golgi complex morphology in basal ganglia astrocytes. a. Rab5, b. Rab9, c. GALT, and d. GM130 protein levels in the whole homogenate of GPe from Dys1A+/+ (n=6), Dys1A+/- (n=12) and Dys1A-/- (n=8) mice. Protein expression of Rab5, Rab9, GALT and GM130 are reduced in both Dys1A+/- and Dys1A-/- mice (One-way ANOVA: Rab5: $F_{2,23}=5.01$; p=0.016; Rab9: $F_{2,23}=36.24$; p<0.0001; GALT: $F_{2,23}=27.34$; p<0.0001;

GM130: F_{2.23}=5.21; p=0.014). Bar graphs show mean±s.e.m.and are expressed as percentages of 696 Dys1A+/+ mice. Representative immunoblots are shown below each graph (complete immunoblots 697 in Supplementary Fig. S4. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 vs Dys1A+/+ mice, ## p<0.01 vs 698 Dys1A+/- mice. e. Representative transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images of the Golgi 699 Complex (GC, red arrows) from Dys1A+/+ and Dys1A-/- littermates in neuronal and astrocytic cells. 700 701 Surface density of GC (SvGC/SvCyt) in Dys1A-/- was not altered in neurons (t-test: t_{80} =-0.54, p=0.59), but increased compared with Dys1A+/+ control mice in astrocytic cells (t-test: t_{68} =-3.38, 702 p<0.001). **p<0.001 vs Dys1A+/+ littermates. f. Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images 703 of the Golgi Complex (GC) in neurons and astrocytes in Dys1+/+ and Dys1+/- littermates. Surface 704 density of GC (SvGC/SvCyt) in Dys1+/- mice was significantly higher than in Dys1+/+ littermates 705 (neurons t_{21} =-2.70, p=0.013; astrocytes t_{12} =-4.40, p=0.0009). *p<0.05, **p<0.001 vs Dys1+/+. g. 706 Maximum intensity projections of ventral ganglion cells, from Drosophila third instar larvae express-707 ing UAS-GalT-GFP to visualize Golgi cisternae, for controls (tubulin-Gal4/+) and UAS-Dysb RNAi. 708 Tissues were labeled with anti aRepo antibody to visualize glial cells. Scale bar 20 µm. On the right 709 TEM images of third instar larvae brain showing the Golgi apparatus of ventral ganglion for the above 710 genotypes. Flies expressing UAS-RNAi Dybs ubiquitously showed swelling of largely inflated Golgi 711 cisternae (arrows). Scale bar 500 nm. 712

714 Dys1A is reduced in the caudate of schizophrenia cases

Finally, to verify if Dys1A-modulation of basal ganglia-related phenotypes has clinical relevance, 715 we measured Dys1 isoforms in the caudate of schizophrenia cases and matched healthy controls (Sup-716 plementary Fig. S6). This revealed reduced Dys1A, but not Dys1C, in patients with schizophrenia 717 compared with controls (Fig. 6a). Notably, previous findings reported reduced Dys1C, but not 718 Dys1A, in the PFC of patients with schizophrenia (17). To directly compare our results to these pre-719 720 vious reports, we calculated a mean case control ratio where zero indicates no differences between cases and controls, negative values reduced expression in schizophrenia, and positive values in-721 creased expression. In the caudate, Dys1A was reduced in 15 out of 22 case-control pairs, while 722 Dys1C ratios were inconsistent in direction, and of generally smaller magnitude (Fig. 6b). Together, 723 these data suggest that, in contrast to PFC, Dys1A may have a role in basal ganglia-related schizo-724 phrenia pathobiology. 725





Figure 6. Dys1A, but not Dys1C, is reduced in the caudate of patients with schizophrenia. a. 729 730 Expression of Dys1A and Dys1C isoforms in postmortem caudate from 22 patients with schizophrenia (Schizophrenia) and 18 matched healthy subjects (Control). No differences were present in non-731 diagnostic variables (i.e., age, sex, post-mortem interval, pH: Supplementary Fig. S6). Expression of 732 Dys1A, normalized by β -actin, is reduced in the caudate of patients with schizophrenia compared to 733 control subjects (t-test: p=0.02). Dys1C expression is not changed between the two groups (t-test: 734 p=0.71). *p<0.05 vs Control. **b.** Plotting of β -actin normalized data for Dys1A and Dys1C for all 735 case-control pairs. Each bar indicates the log2 transformed ratio of isoform in a schizophrenia case 736 compared to that in its matched control (i.e. the ratio for one case-control pair). Pair-wise analysis of 737 these ratios (Wilcoxon signed-rank test) showed significant difference between schizophrenia cases 738 and their matched controls for Dys1A (W=154.00; p=0.02), but not for Dys1C (W=162.00; p=1.00). 739 Bar graphs show mean \pm s.e.m. 740

742 Discussion

In this study, we reveal Dys1A as a molecule participating in astrocytic functioning with a bias towards basal ganglia-related behavioral and dopaminergic phenotypes, with implications for schizophrenia. Specifically, the Dys1A isoform that is reduced in the caudate of patients with schizophrenia, is the only Dys1 isoform expressed by astrocytes. Disruption of Dys1A is sufficient to alter astrocytic, but not neuronal, vesicular trafficking and is associated with basal ganglia-dependent, but not PFCdependent, dopamine and behavioral phenotypes.

Dys1A affected basal ganglia dopaminergic and behavioral functions, while sparing cortex-related 749 phenotypes. In contrast to Dys1A, the expression of Dys1C increases during cortical development 750 751 (Fig. 2), and it is selectively reduced in PFC of patients with schizophrenia (14). This suggests that well-established Dys1-dependent dopaminergic and behavioral alterations at the cortical level (1, 3, 752 13, 58) may be more related to neuronal Dys1C. Moreover, recent evidence suggests that astrocytic 753 754 mechanisms related to dopamine signaling might differ between PFC (21), basal ganglia GPe (20), and NAcc (22). In particular, in the PFC the astroglial vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2) 755 756 has a major involvement on dopaminergic signaling (21), while D2 but not D1 receptors within the GPe (20), and D1 but not D2 receptors in the NAcc (22). Thus, Dys1A modulation of astrocytic 757 functioning and D2 receptor expression may constitute another biological substrate explaining its bias 758 759 toward basal ganglia dopamine and behavioral alterations. Our findings also suggest astrocytes as a novel player in the dopaminergic cortical/basal ganglia dichotomy and related behavioral abnormal-760 ities consistently reported in schizophrenia (59, 60). The differential control exerted by astrocytic 761 Dys1A on cortical and basal ganglia dopamine-related behaviors also adds to increasing evidence for 762 heterogeneous astrocyte-mediated processes across different brain regions (61-63). Future studies are 763 needed to clarify the mechanisms by which astrocytic Dys1A modulates behaviors and related dopa-764 minergic circuits within the basal ganglia. 765

We reveal that the interaction between astrocytes and dopamine system at the level of the basal 766 767 ganglia have evident effects on motivated behavior and saliency detection. In particular, Dys1A reduction decreased dopamine content and increased levels of D2 receptors in basal ganglia, and this 768 was associated with avolition and sensorimotor gating deficits. This is in agreement with compelling 769 evidence that dopamine levels in basal ganglia are proportionally related to motivational behavior 770 (64). Similarly, striatal overexpression of D2 receptors by the CaMKII promoter (65), which is also 771 772 present in astrocytes (66), reduced motivation (49). In contrast, Dys1A disruption affected less gross motor functions and did not alter locomotor responses to amphetamine, despite altering dopamine 773 signaling within GPe. Historically, GPe has been implicated in movement control (67). However, in 774 775 agreement with our findings, recent studies show GPe involvement in motivational and sensorimotor gating processes (68-71). Moreover, dopaminergic manipulations within GPe may not alter motor 776 777 functions (68, 71, 72), and D2 receptors do not contribute to amphetamine-evoked astrocytic and 778 locomotor responses (22). Instead, astrocyte-dopamine interactions within VTA-NAcc dopamine/D1 pathways are involved in locomotor processes (22). Overall, our data show that Dys1A regulates 779 780 astrocytes, motivational and sensorimotor gating processes involving dopamine/D2-dependent alterations in STR/GPe pathways. Astrocytic Dys1A represents therefore a potential cell-specific target 781 782 for the treatment of motivational and other neuropsychiatric disorders associated with disrupted dopamine/D2 signaling. 783

In agreement with previous studies on Dys1 (16, 52, 53), we here report that Dys1A reduction is 784 sufficient to disrupt intracellular vesicular trafficking. Dys1-dependent disruptions of vesicular traf-785 786 ficking cause an increased presence on the neuronal surface of those receptors that normally rely on internalization/degradation processes (16, 52, 53). In particular, dopamine D2-like receptors, in con-787 trast to D1-like, follow these intracellular pathways (73, 74), and are consequently influenced by 788 Dys1 disruption (3, 16, 53). Accordingly, we found that Dys1A disruption altered the surface expres-789 sion of D2 receptors. However, as Dys1A seemed to alter intracellular trafficking mainly in astrocytes 790 and not in neurons, it is tempting to speculate that D2 overexpression would be present only on the 791

surface of astrocytes. The conundrum would be why Dys1A, which is also expressed in neurons, is 792 793 influencing primarily astrocytes. It is noteworthy that our developmental profiling reveals that in adult brains, expression of Dys1A is lower than Dys1C. Moreover, we found that in neurons expression of 794 Dys1C is higher than Dys1A. Thus, Dys1A might have a more marginal function in adult neuronal 795 cells. Furthermore, the greater neuronal prominence of Dys1C might compensate the Dys1A disrup-796 tion. In contrast, as astrocytes express only the Dys1A isoform, its disruption would generate more 797 798 consistent alterations. In particular, the defective morphology of Golgi apparatus, observed at both structural and molecular level, likely contributes to the impaired secretory traffic or simply reflect 799 altered astrocytic homeostasis dependent specifically from Dys1A disruption. Moreover, the intracel-800 lular trafficking markers addressed in our study have been reported to participate in astrocytic func-801 tioning and, more importantly, in the regulation of intracellular Ca^{2+} in these cells (75-77). This might 802 then be related to Dys1-dependent alterations astrocytic Ca²⁺ signal dynamics that we observed. Over-803 804 all, our findings indicate a direct link between Dys1A and astrocyte-related dopaminergic signaling, with an impact on clinically relevant behavioral abnormalities. However, more focused in vitro cel-805 806 lular studies are needed to elucidate the exact intracellular mechanisms linking Dys1A and astrocytic functioning. 807

In summary, we uncovered a previously unexplored role for the Dys1A isoform in the modulation of astrocytic activity and dopamine/D2 signaling that is prevalently evident in basal ganglia, with implications for motivational and sensorimotor gating abilities relevant to schizophrenia. These findings further indicate an astrocyte involvement in dopamine-related behavioral dysfunctions in psychiatric disorders. Indeed, our clinically-relevant findings point to basal ganglia astrocytes as a promising target for the treatment of dopamine dysfunctions in schizophrenia.

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827 Author Contributions

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- AL, LC, FF, VF, GO, RM, FM, GP, AF, GC, MADL, FM and FP; Resources, GO, DR, JLW, GML,
- GC, CSW, FM and FP; Writing, all authors; Visualization, RM, GT, DD, CD, GL, AL, GL, GO, RM,
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833 Competing Interests statement

834 The authors declare no competing interests.

836 **References**

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