

Supplementary Materials for

An autophagy-related protein *Becn2* regulates cocaine reward behaviors in the dopaminergic system

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Table S1

Supplementary Figure Legends and Table

Figure S1. Cocaine dose-response and food CPP in WT and *Becn2* mutant mice.

(A) Dose response of cocaine-induced locomotor stimulation. Open field test on WT (*Becn2*^{+/+}), *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, and *Becn2*^{S97L} KI mice in response to injection of low (5 mg/kg) or high (30 mg/kg) doses of cocaine. 5 mg/kg cocaine injection: WT, N=10, *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, N=8; *Becn2*^{S97L} KI, N= 5. 30 mg/kg cocaine injection: WT, N=9; *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, N=12; *Becn2*^{S97L} KI, N=7. **(B)** Western blot analysis of *Becn1* in the NAc of *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice and WT littermates. N=5 mice. T-test. **(C)** WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice show similar CPP to food, a non-drug reward. WT, N=8; *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, N=6. **, P<0.01; ***, P<0.001; NS, not significant.

Figure S2. Physiological and neurotransmitter profiling of *Becn2* KO mice upon cocaine treatment.

(A-B) Quantification of cocaine-induced extracellular accumulation of neurotransmitters ACh, 5-HT, and glutamate **(A)** and DA metabolites DOPAC and HVA **(B)** in the nucleus accumbens of *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice and WT littermates by microdialysis and UPLC. Area under the curve (AUC) is quantified for 120 min after cocaine injection. WT, N=7; *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, N=8. T-test. **(C)** Percentage of baseline dopamine and GABA in the prefrontal cortex of WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice at the indicated time points before and after cocaine injection. AUC is quantified for 120 min after cocaine injection. WT, N=7; *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, N=9. **(D)** Cocaine-induced kinase activation is blunted in *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mouse striatum. Western blot analyses and quantification of cocaine-induced MEK and ERK phosphorylation in the striatum of WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mouse brain 15 min after cocaine (15 mg/kg) or vehicle i.p. injection. N=5 mice. *, P<0.05; NS, not significant.

Figure S3. *Becn2*^{+/-} KO and WT mice show comparable anxiety levels.

Quantification of distance, crossings, and time in open areas (upper) and the traveling path (lower) of WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice in the elevated zero maze. WT, N=13; *Becn2*^{+/-} KO, N=13. T-test. NS, not significant.

Figure S4. Deletion of *Becn2* in DA neurons using *Becn2*^{flox/flox} (*Becn2*^{ff}) mice.

(A) Generation and validation of *Becn2*^{flox/flox} mice. (Left) Genomic structure of *Becn2* and *Becn2* conditional KO targeting vector. (Right) Southern blot analyses of genomic DNA from *Becn2*^{+/+} and *Becn2*^{flox/+} ES cells. Probes hybridizing to both 5' and 3' regions of the targeting vector were used. **(B)** RT-PCR analysis of Cre expression in the VTA and the prefrontal cortex of *Becn2*^{flox/flox} mice sham treated or stereotaxically microinjected with AAV-TH-Cre. **(C)** Loss of *Becn2* immunofluorescence in TH-expressing DA neurons in the VTA of *Becn2*^{flox/flox} mice stereotaxically microinjected with AAV-TH-Cre. Scale bar: 100 μ m (upper); 25 μ m (lower).

Figure S5. AAV2/9-directed rescue of *Becn2* expression in DA neurons of *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice.

(A) RT-PCR analysis of GFP expression in the VTA and the prefrontal cortex of *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice sham treated or stereotaxically microinjected with AAV2/9-TH-GFP. **(B)** Immunofluorescence of GFP in the VTA, but not the SN (substantia nigra), of *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice stereotaxically microinjected with AAV2/9-TH-GFP. TH immunostaining indicates DA neurons. Scale bar: 100 μ m (upper); 25 μ m (lower).

Figure S6. Autophagy is partially affected in neuronal cells by loss of *Becn2*.

(A) Fluorescence microscopy (upper) and quantification (lower) of GFP-LC3 puncta in the whole cell, soma, and major neurites of primary DA neurons isolated from WT or *Becn2*^{+/-} GFP-LC3 reporter mice. The lysosomal inhibitor bafilomycin A1 (BafA1) was applied to compare the autophagy flux. N=21-30. Scale bar: 10 μ m. **(B)** Western blot analysis of LC3 and p62 in SH-SY5Y neuroblasts transfected with scrambled control or *Becn2* shRNA. The lysosomal inhibitor

bafilomycin A1 (BafA1) was applied to compare the autophagy flux. **(C)** Immunostaining of endogenous LC3 and TH in the VTA of WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice injected with PBS or 50 mg/kg lysosomal inhibitor chloroquine (CQ) 4 hr prior to sample collection. N=3 mice (50 cells/mouse). Scale bar: 10 μ m. *, P<0.05; **, P<0.01; ***, P<0.001; NS, not significant.

Figure S7. Loss of *Becn2* does not cause proteostasis toxicity or morphological or growth abnormality of DA neurons.

(A) Proteostat fluorescence of SH-SY5Y neuroblast cells transfected with scrambled or *Becn2* shRNA. Cells treated with 10 μ M MG132 for 4 hr were used as positive control. **(B)** Quantification of proteostat fluorescence of SH-SY5Y neuroblast cells transfected with scrambled (sh-scrambled) or *Becn2* (sh-*Becn2*) shRNA. Cells treated with 50 μ M chloroquine for 16 hr were used as positive control. N=3 experiments. **(C)** Immunofluorescence of the DA neuron marker TH in primary DA neuron cultures isolated from WT or *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice. Scale bar: 10 μ m. **(D)** Dendrite Sholl analysis showing average intersection numbers at indicated distances from the soma in primary DA neurons isolated from WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mouse embryos. **(E)** Immunostaining of TH in the NAc of WT and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice. Quantification of the TH density is shown. N=3 mice (9 areas/mouse). Scale bar: 25 μ m. One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test. *, p<0.05; **, p<0.01; NS, not significant.

Figure S8. Dopamine-related receptor analysis in brains regions of *Becn2* KO mice.

(A) The striatal level of D1R or DAT is unaffected in *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice. Western blot analysis of D1R and DAT in the striatum of WT, *Becn1*^{+/-} KO, and *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice. N=3 mice. NS, not significant. **(B)** (Left) Scheme of a biochemical method we adapted to isolate presynaptic membranes from pooled mouse striatum tissues. (Right) Western blot validation of isolated synaptosomes using 2 presynaptic markers (SVP38 and DAT) and 4 postsynaptic markers (Homer1, PSD95, GluR1 and NR1). WCL, whole cell lysates; Crude, crude synaptosomes; Pre,

presynaptic membrane; PNS, post-nucleus supernatant; S2, supernatant fraction 2. **(C)** Synaptosomes and the presynaptic membrane fraction were isolated from the NAc or the prefrontal cortex tissues pooled from 10 WT (+/+) or *Becn2*^{+/-} KO (+/-) mice. The level of D2R in crude synaptosomes and presynapses (Pre) in the two brain regions was analyzed by Western blot studies. Synaptophysin (SVP38), presynaptic marker; PSD95, postsynaptic marker. Quantification is shown above the protein bands. **(D)** Semi-quantitative RT-PCR of *Becn1* and *Becn2* in HEK293 cells transfected with scrambled control or *Becn2* shRNA. **(E)** *Becn2* depletion does not affect the levels of endosomes and lysosomes. Corrected total cell fluorescence (CTCF) and Integrated density of immunostained EEA1 and LAMP1 in HEK293 cells transfected with scrambled or *Becn2* shRNA, quantified by ImageJ software. N=20-29. NS, not significant. **(F)** PNS (post-nucleus supernatant) and S2 (supernatant fraction 2) were collected during synaptosome isolation from the NAc pooled from 10 *Becn2*^{flox/flox} (*Becn2*^{f/f}) mice sham-treated or stereotaxically microinjected with AAV expressing TH-Cre. The level of D2R in these fractions was analyzed by Western blot studies. Synaptophysin (SVP38), presynaptic marker; PSD95, postsynaptic marker. Quantification is shown above each protein band. f/f, *Becn2*^{flox/flox}; f/f TH, *Becn2*^{flox/flox}; AAV-TH-Cre.

Figure S9. Generation of *Becn2* point mutant knock-in (KI) mice that lose GASP1 interaction by the CRISPR technique.

(A) Amino acids 69-88 deletion or the I80S point mutation in human *Becn2* blocks agonist-induced D2R degradation. Biotin protection degradation assay in Flag-D2R HEK293 cells expressing WT *Becn2* or loss-of-GASP1 interaction mutants *Becn2*^{Δ69-88} and *Becn2*^{I80S}. NTm, shRNA non-targeting mutant. **(B)** Protein sequence alignment of the GASP1-binding region in human and mouse *Becn2*, analyzed by NCBI BLAST. **(C)** Targeting strategy and Southern blot analysis of CRISPR/Cas9 *Becn2*^{S97L} KI clones. **(D)** Sequencing of *Becn2*^{S97L} (TCT-->TTG) KI mice generated by CRISPR/Cas9. **(E)** Genotyping of *Becn2*^{S97L} F2 pups by PCR.

Figure S10. The upstream autophagy inhibitor SBI-0206965 increases presynaptic D2R in the NAc of WT mice, but not *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice. Western blot analyses of D2R in WCL (whole cell lysates), crude synaptosomes, and presynaptic membranes in the NAc pooled from 10 WT or 10 *Becn2*^{+/-} KO mice intraperitoneally treated with either vehicle (DMSO) or SBI-0206965 (SBI) at 2 mg/kg once daily for 5 days. Synaptophysin (SVP38) or Synapsin I (SYN1), presynaptic marker; PSD95, postsynaptic marker. Quantification is shown above each protein band.

Table S1. Statistical analysis using ANOVA or Student's t-test.

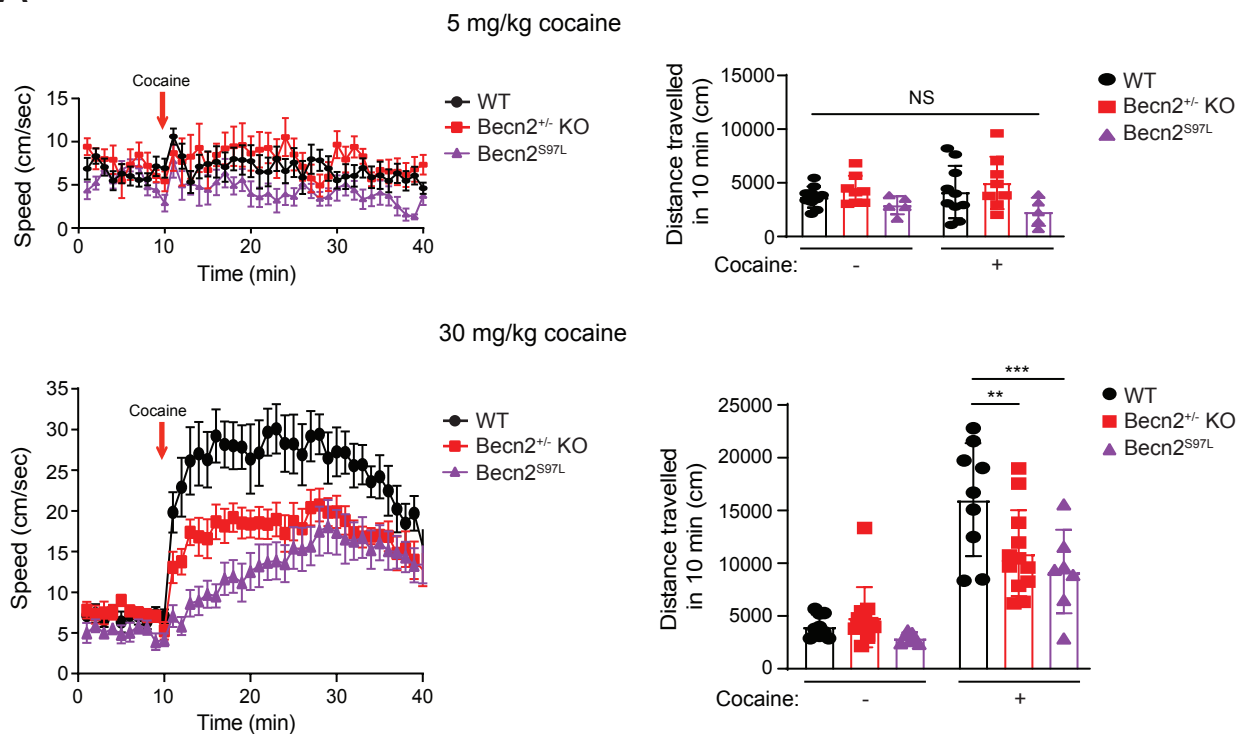
Figure	Test	Statistical data
1A	Two-way repeated-measures ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	Genotype X cocaine injection interaction: $F_{(2,50)}=13.06$, $p<0.001$; Genotype: $F_{(2,50)}=8.692$, $p<0.001$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,50)}=89.40$, $p<0.001$
1B	Two-way repeated-measures ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	Genotype X cocaine injection interaction: $F_{(1,41)}=4.414$, $p=0.0418$; Genotype: $F_{(2,50)}=39.16$, $p<0.0001$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,41)}=5.823$, $p=0.0204$
1C	Two-way repeated-measures ANOVA with Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) post hoc test	Active nose-poke×days interaction: $F_{(9,198)}=5.618$, $p<0.0001$; inactive nose-poke×days interaction: $F_{(9,198)}=1.777$, $p=0.0746$; infusion×days interaction: $F_{(9,198)}=3.508$, $p=0.0016$
1D	Two-way repeated-measures ANOVA with Fisher's Least Significant Difference (LSD) post hoc test	Active nose-poke: $F_{(2,28)} = 11.72$, $p=0.0002$; infusion: $F_{(2,28)} = 14.40$, $p<0.0001$; intake: $F_{(2,28)} = 47.83$, $p<0.0001$
2A	T-test	$t=2.46$, $df=15$
2B	One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	MEK: $F_{(3,16)} = 5.712$, $p=0.0074$; ERK: $F_{(3,16)} = 28.37$, $p<0.0001$
2C	One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	$F_{(3,12)} = 8.0632$, $p=0.0033$
3A	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	Genotype: $F_{(1,24)}=5.068$, $p=0.034$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,24)}=24.363$, $p<0.0001$; Interaction: $F_{(1,24)}=5.404$, $p=0.029$

3B	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	Interaction: $F_{(1,48)} = 7.251$, $p=0.0097$; CPP: $F_{(1,48)} = 23.58$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1,48)} = 2.461$, $p=0.1232$
3C	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,60)} = 81.47$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(2,60)} = 6.945$, $p=0.0019$; Interaction: $F_{(2,60)} = 9.120$, $p=0.0003$
3D	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	CPP: $F_{(1,42)} = 42.46$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(2,42)} = 5.078$, $p=0.0106$; Interaction: $F_{(2,42)} = 3.981$, $p=0.0261$
4B	T-test	$t=4.717$, $df=4$, $p<0.01$
4C	One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	LAMP1: $F_{(5,89)}=22.13$, $p<0.0001$; EEA1: $F_{(5,83)}=41.51$, $p<0.0001$
5A	Three-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	D2R antagonist treatment: $F_{(1, 45)} = 5.444$, $p=0.0242$; Genotype: $F_{(1, 45)} = 10.11$, $p=0.0027$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1, 45)} = 181.8$, $p<0.0001$; D2R antagonist treatment x Genotype: $F_{(1, 45)} = 6.321$, $p=0.0156$; D2R antagonist treatment x Cocaine injection: $F_{(1, 45)} = 20.27$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype x Cocaine injection: $F_{(1, 45)} = 20.08$, $p<0.0001$; D2R antagonist treatment x Genotype x Cocaine injection: $F_{(1, 45)} = 8.279$, $p=0.0061$
5B	Three-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	Cocaine CPP: $F_{(1, 34)} = 71.11$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1, 34)} = 0.000304$, $p=0.9862$; D2R antagonist: $F_{(1, 34)} = 0.05688$, $p=0.8129$; Cocaine CPP x Genotype: $F_{(1, 34)} = 3.488$, $p=0.0705$; Cocaine CPP x D2R antagonist: $F_{(1, 34)} = 2.488$, $p=0.1239$; Genotype x D2R antagonist: $F_{(1, 6)} = 11.29$, $p=0.0152$; Cocaine CPP x Genotype x D2R antagonist: $F_{(1, 6)} = 2.315$, $p=0.1790$
5C	T-test	$t=2.129$, $p=0.0659$
6C	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,52)} = 75.41$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1,52)} = 20.91$, $p<0.0001$; Interaction: $F_{(1,52)} = 27.80$, $p<0.0001$
6D	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,52)} = 153.7$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(2,52)} = 7.592$, $p=0.0013$; Interaction: $F_{(2,52)} = 7.601$, $p=0.0013$
6E	One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni test	MEK: $F_{(3,16)} = 9.455$, $p=0.0008$; ERK: $F_{(3,16)} = 5.559$, $p=0.0083$
7A	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test	Interaction: $F_{(5,122)} = 5.489$, $p=0.0001$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,122)} = 80.88$, $p<0.0001$; Drug treatment: $F_{(5,122)} = 8.789$, $p<0.0001$

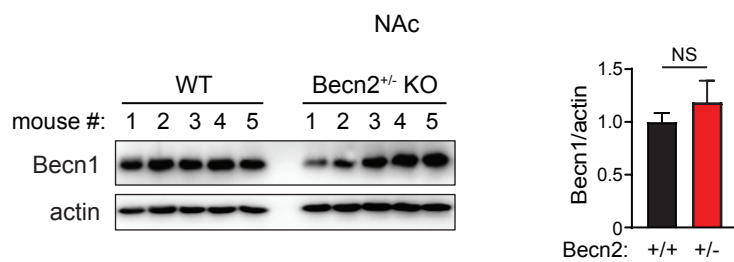
7B	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's comparison test	multiple	Interaction: $F_{(4,88)} = 6.171$, $p=0.0002$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,88)} = 40.61$, $p<0.0001$; Treatment: $F_{(4,88)} = 4.142$, $p=0.0040$
8A	T-test		$t=2.698$, $df=10$, $p=0.0224$
8B	T-test		MEK of cocaine-injected group, $t=2.813$, $df=6$, $p=0.0307$; ERK of cocaine-injected group, $t=6.950$, $df=6$, $p=0.0004$
S1A	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test		Cocaine 5 mg/kg: Interaction: $F_{(2,40)}=0.4458$, $p=0.6434$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,40)}=0.1033$, $p=0.7496$; Genotype: $F_{(2,40)}=4.118$, $p=0.0237$. Cocaine 30 mg/kg: Interaction: $F_{(2,50)}=4.316$, $p=0.0187$; Cocaine injection: $F_{(1,50)}=72.36$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(2,50)}=5.132$, $p=0.0094$
S1C	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test		Food CPP: $F_{(1,24)} = 27.24$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1,24)} = 0.2020$, $p=0.6572$; Interaction: $F_{(1,24)} = 0.08755$, $p=0.7699$
S2C	T-test		Dopamine: $t=2.176$, $df=14$, $p=0.0471$; GABA: $t=0.1175$, $df=14$, $p=0.9081$
S2D	T-test		MEK in <i>Becn2</i> WT: $t=2.949$, $df=8$, $p=0.0184$; MEK in <i>Becn2</i> ^{+/-} KO: $t=0.9550$, $df=8$, $p=0.3675$; ERK in <i>Becn2</i> WT: $t=2.878$, $df=8$, $p=0.0206$; ERK in <i>Becn2</i> ^{+/-} KO: $t=1.231$, $df=8$, $p=0.2533$
S6A	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's comparisons test	multiple	Whole cell - Interaction: $F_{(1,99)}=20.95$, $p<0.0001$; BafA1: $F_{(1,99)}=284.4$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1,99)}=23.29$, $p<0.0001$. Soma - Interaction: $F_{(1,99)}=26.63$, $p<0.0001$; BafA1: $F_{(1,99)}=210.4$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1,99)}=24.68$, $p<0.0001$. Neurite - Interaction: $F_{(1,99)}=5.310$, $p=0.0233$; BafA1: $F_{(1,99)}=136.9$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype: $F_{(1,99)}=7.649$, $p=0.0068$.
S6B	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test		LC3-II/actin: shRNA: $F_{(1,8)} = 5.11345$, $p=0.0532$; BafA1: $F_{(1,8)} = 41.1953$, $p=0.00020$; shRNA X BafA1: $F_{(1,8)} = 6.1838$, $p=0.0377$. p62/actin: shRNA: $F_{(1,8)} = 0.4806$, $p=0.5078$; BafA1: $F_{(1,8)} = 2.4158$, $p=0.1514$; shRNA X BafA1: $F_{(1,8)} = 7.6163$, $p=0.0247$. BafA1[LC3-II/actin]/Basal[LC3-II/actin]: $T=2.9417$, $df=4$, $p=0.0423$. <i>Becn2</i> /actin: $t=5.952$, $df=10$, $p=0.0001$.
S6C	Two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test		Genotype: $F_{(1,8)} = 95.6016$, $p<0.0001$; CQ injection: $F_{(1,8)} = 59.3139$, $p<0.0001$; Genotype X CQ injection: $F_{(1,8)} = 35.3898$, $p=0.0003$

S8A	One-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test	D1R: $F_{(2,6)} = 2.297$, $p=0.1817$; DAT: $F_{(2,6)} = 0.6348$, $p=0.5623$
S8E	T-test	CTCF EEA1: $t=0.9168$, $df=55$, $p=0.3632$; CTCF LAMP1: $t=0.6446$, $df=43$, $p=0.5226$; Integrated density EEA1: $t=1.266$, $df=55$, $p=0.2107$; Integrated density LAMP1: $t=0.1518$, $df=43$, $p=0.88$

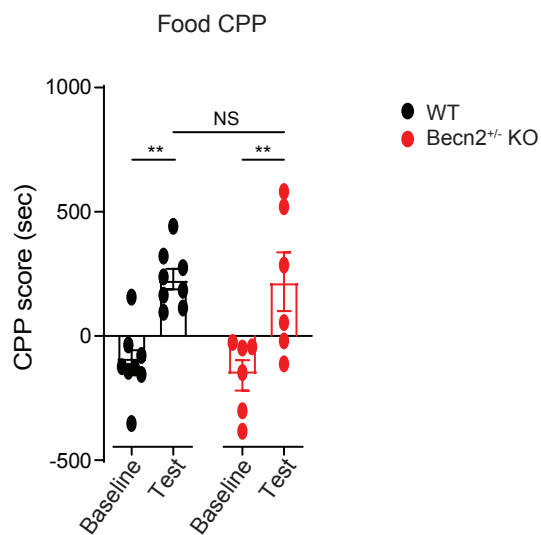
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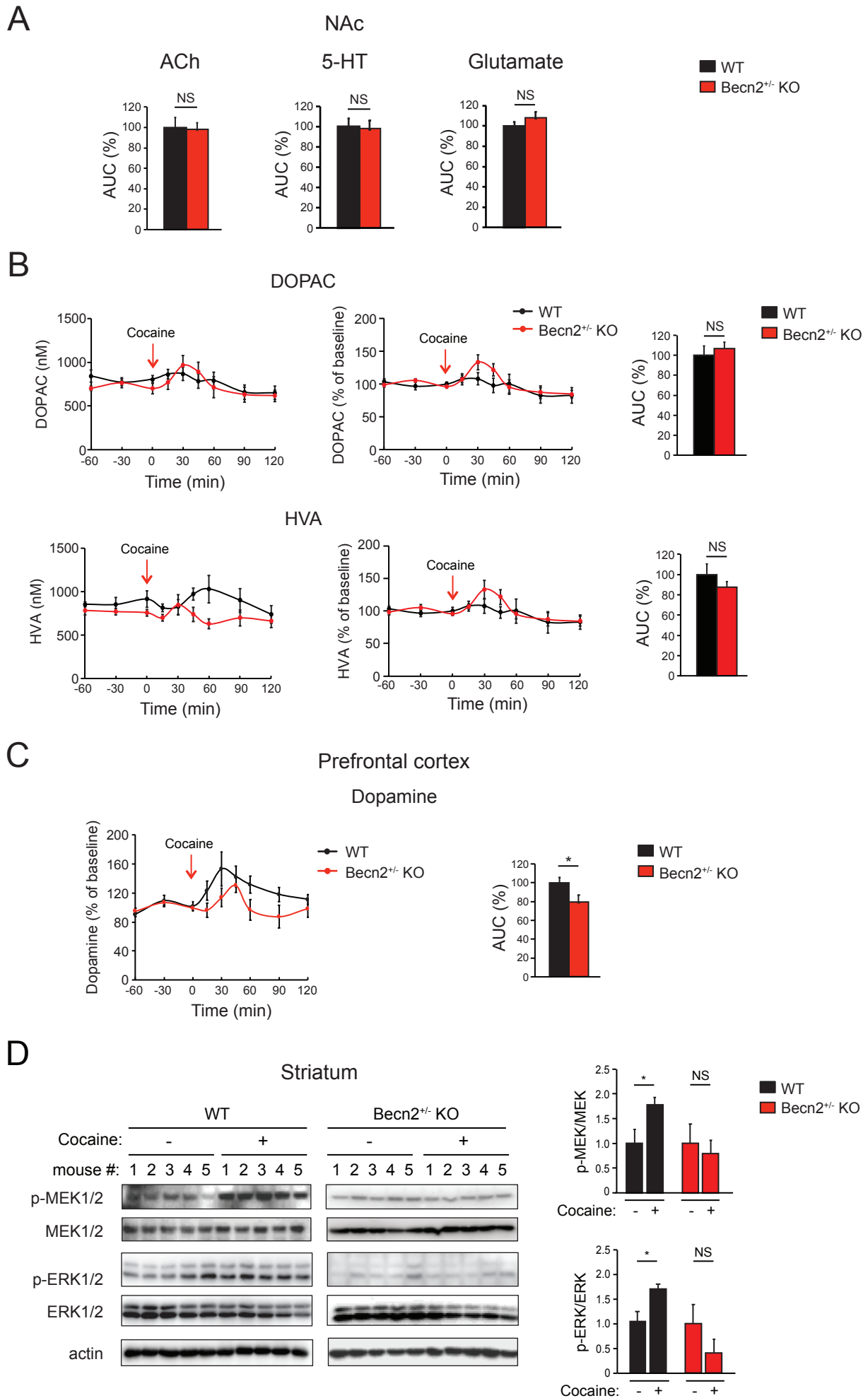


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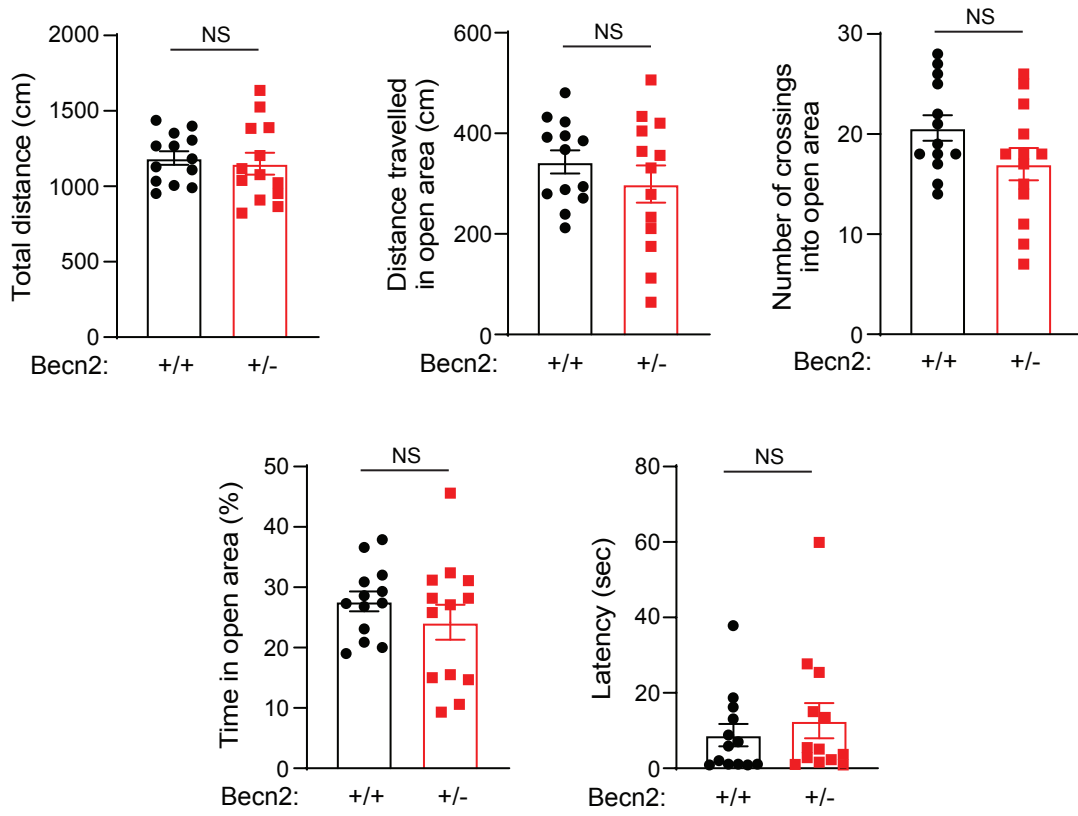


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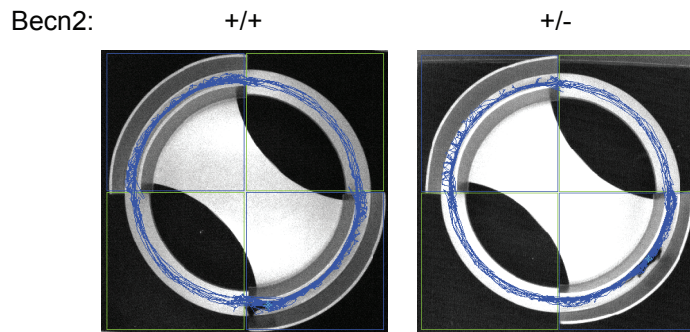


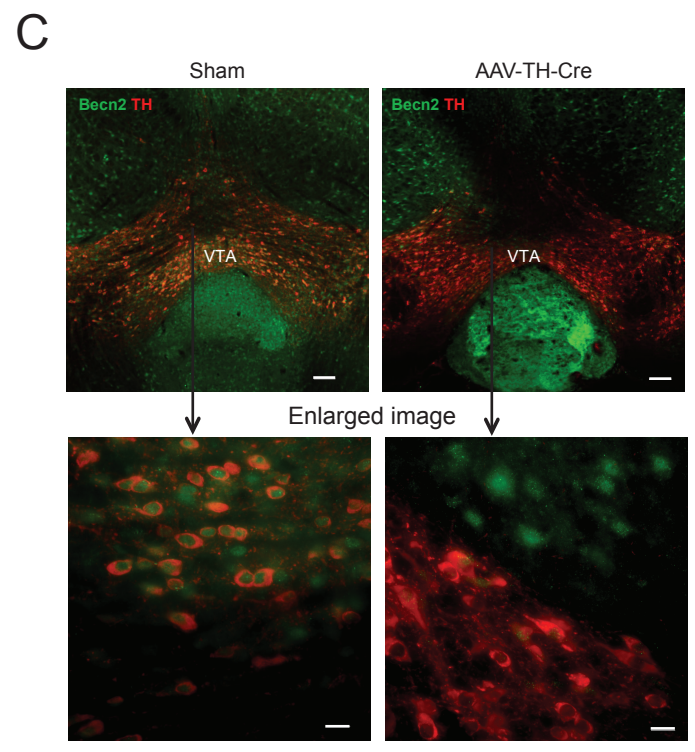
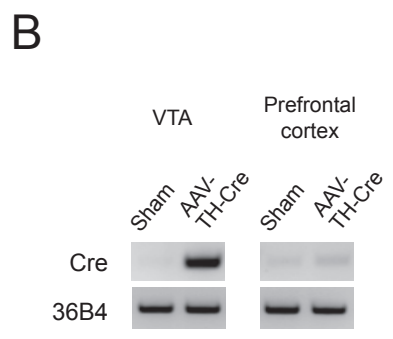
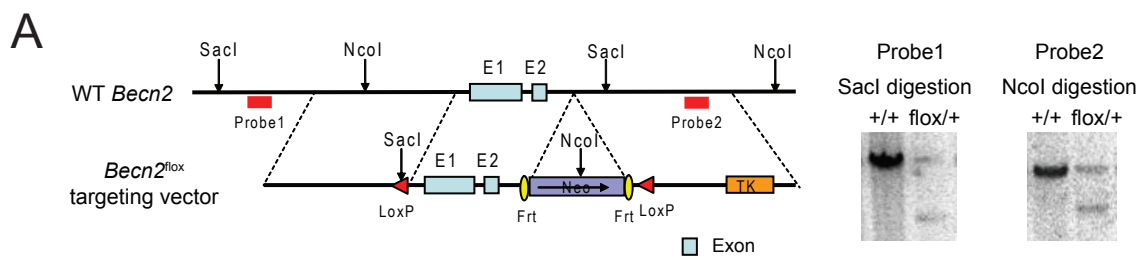


Elevated zero maze

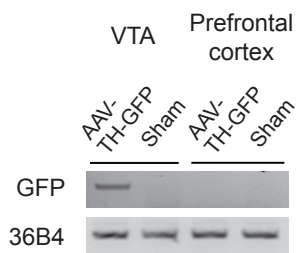


Traveling path

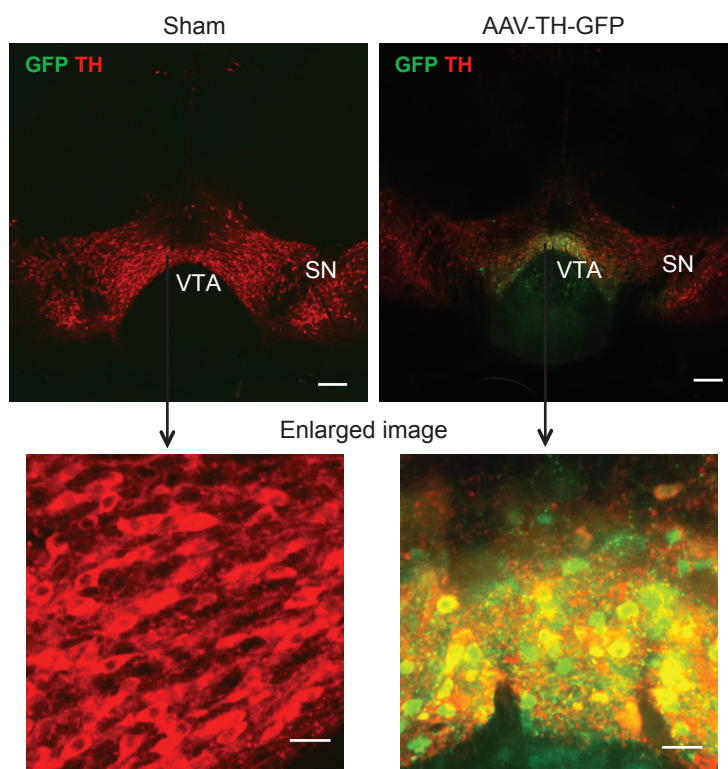




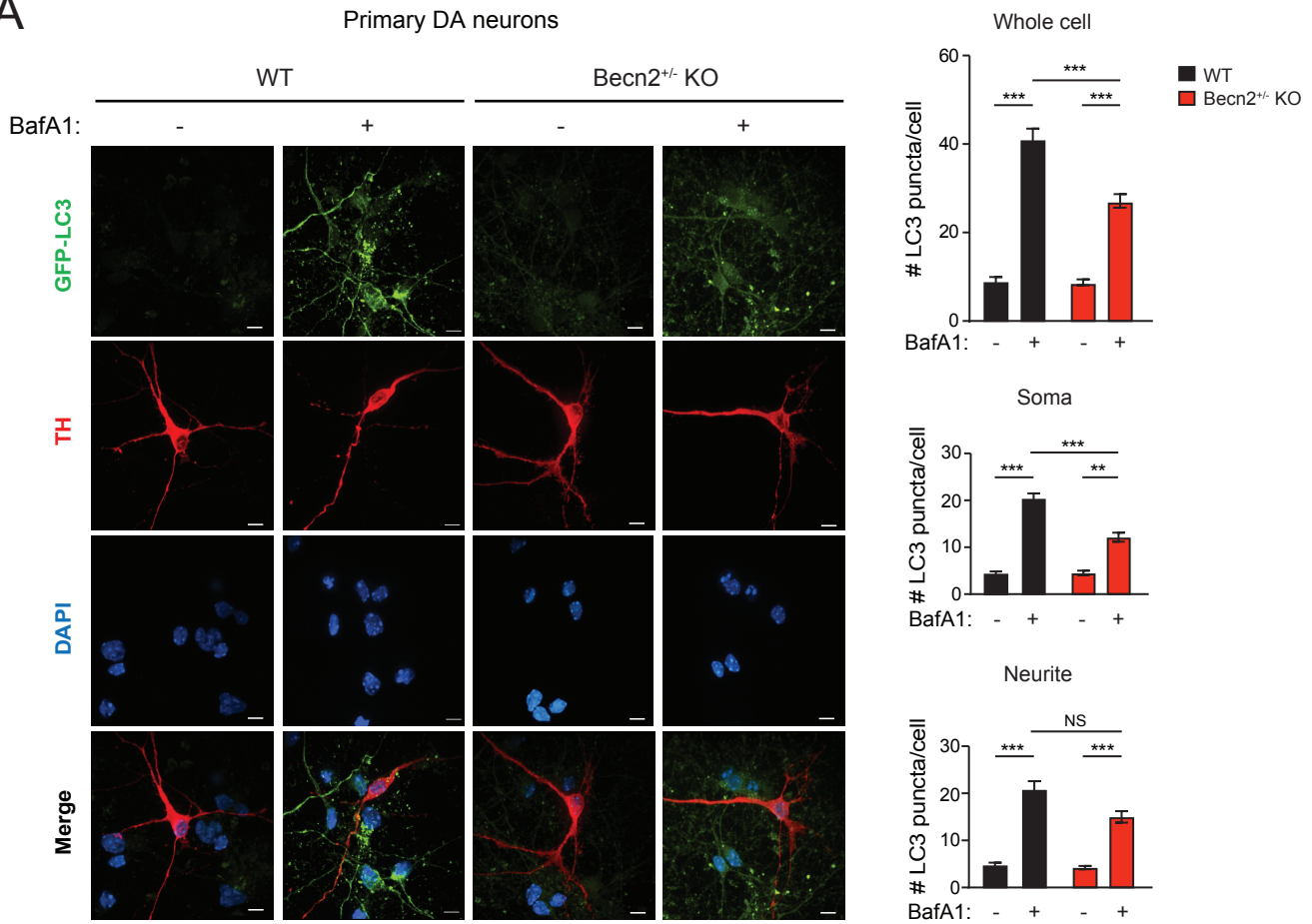
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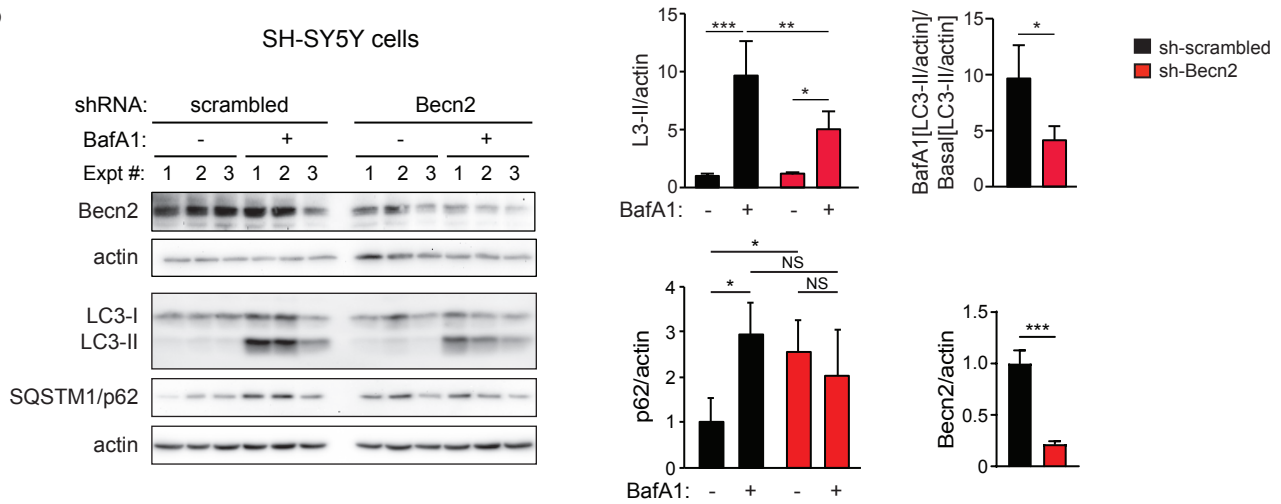
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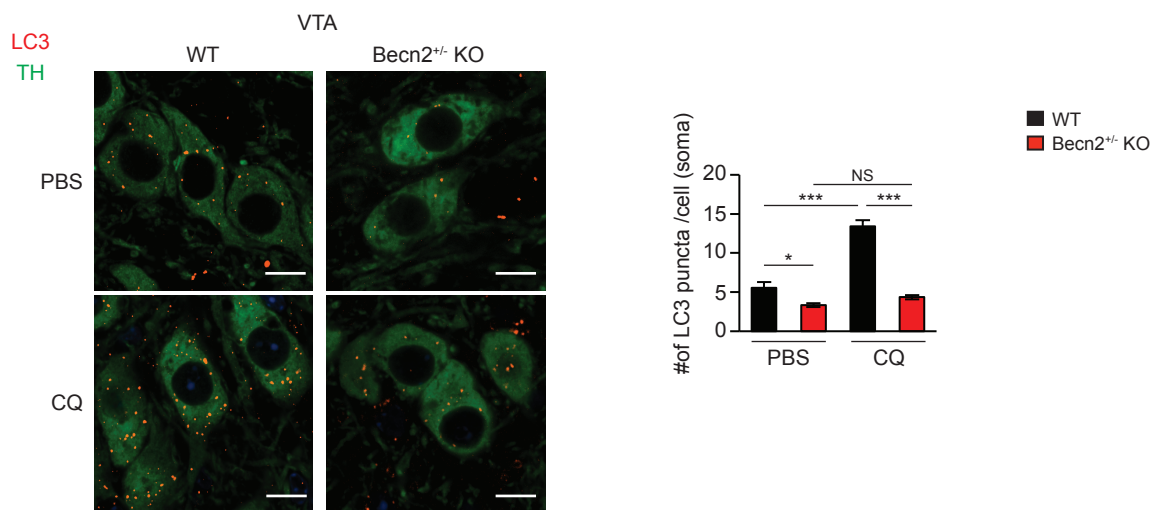
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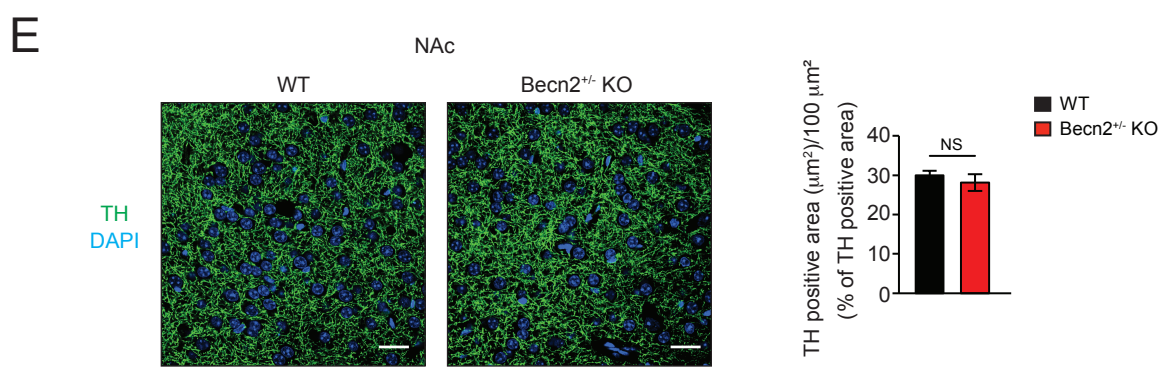
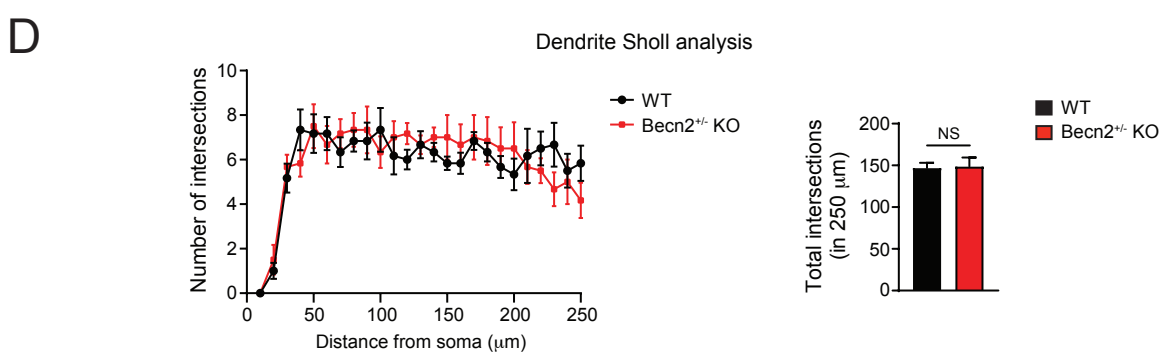
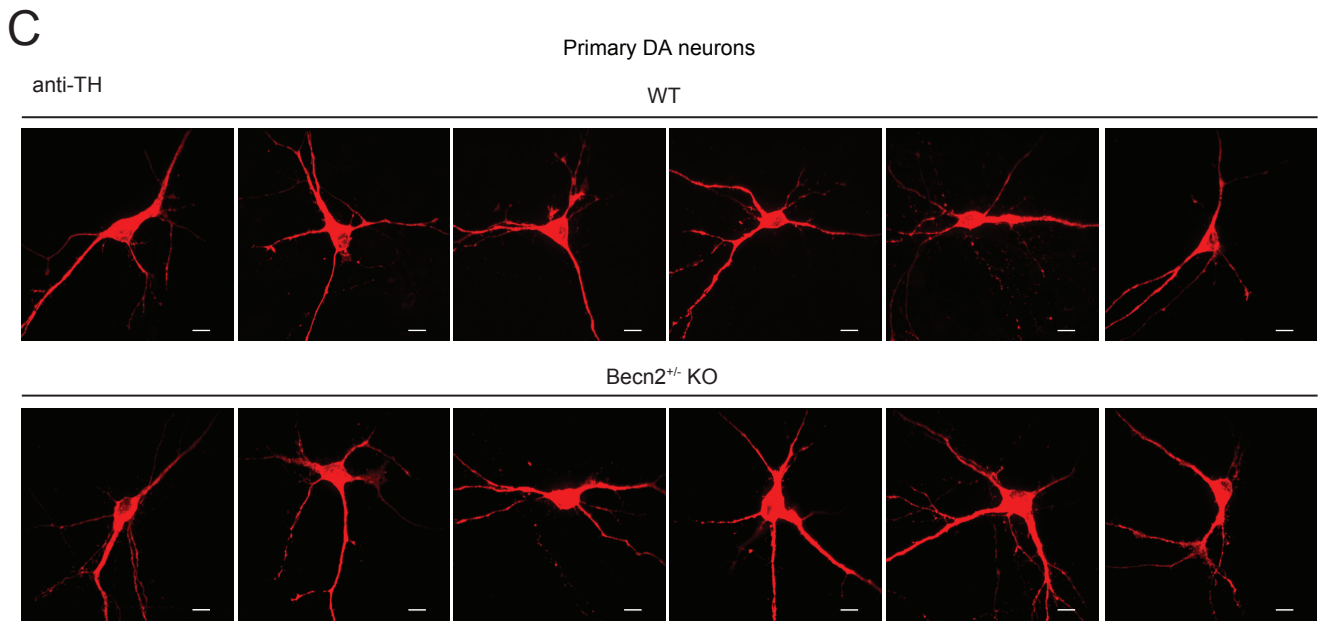
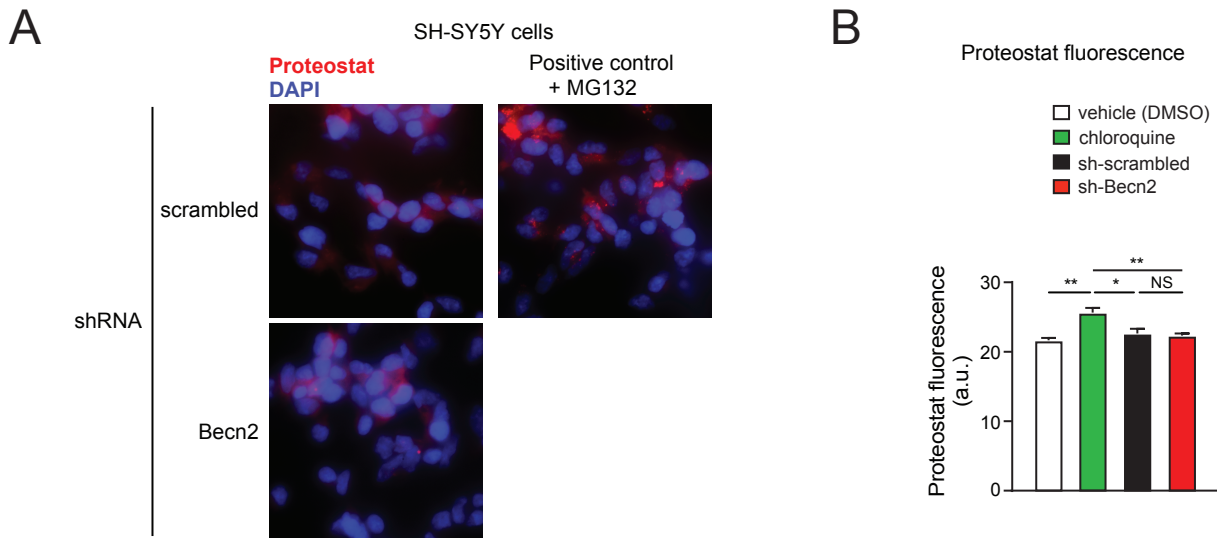


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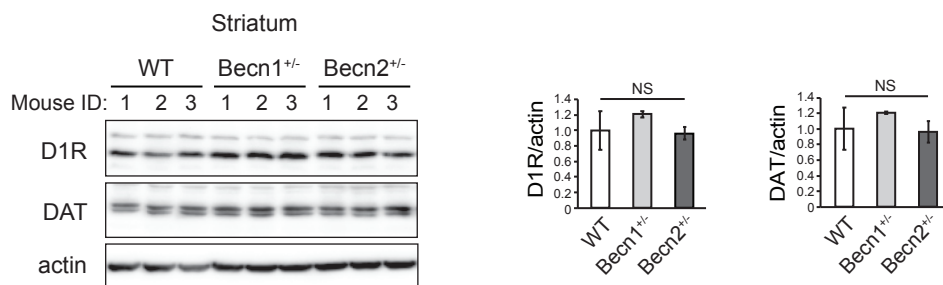


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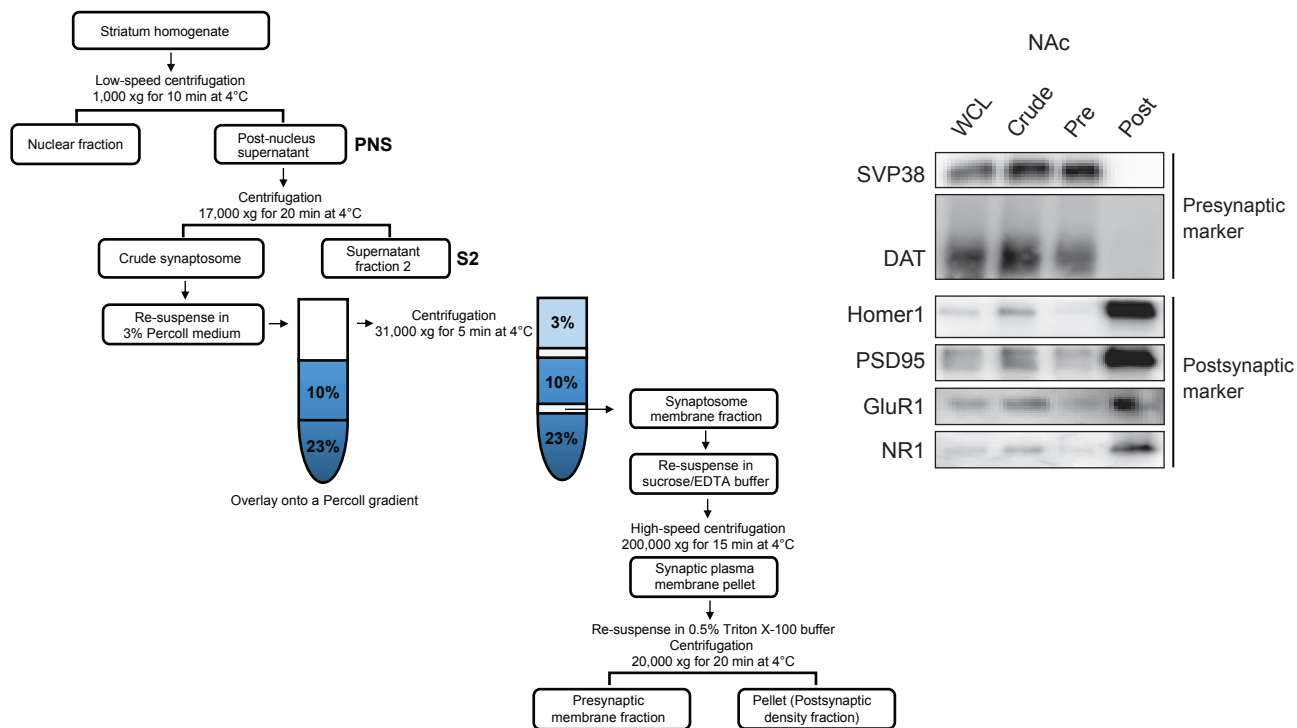




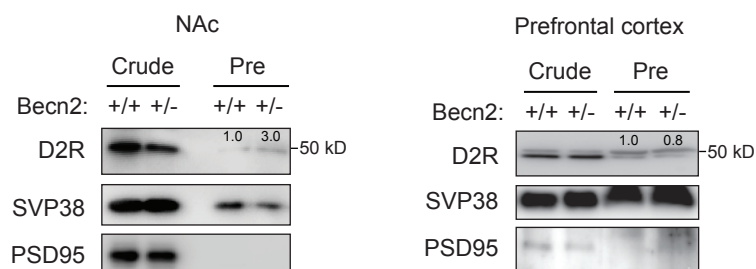
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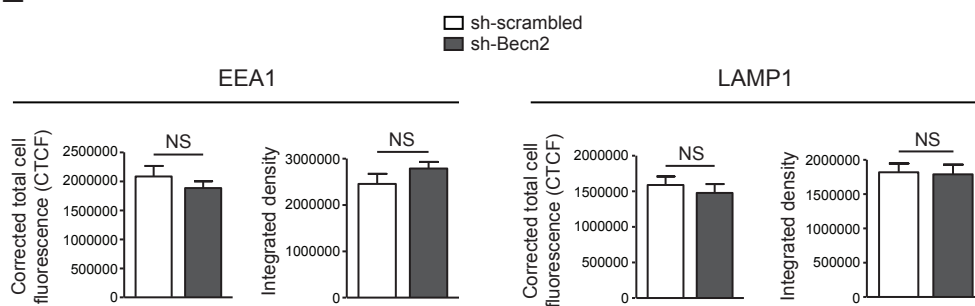
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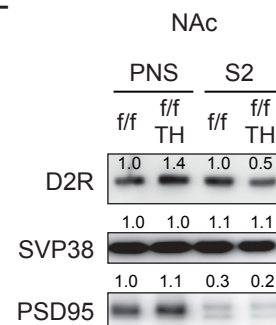
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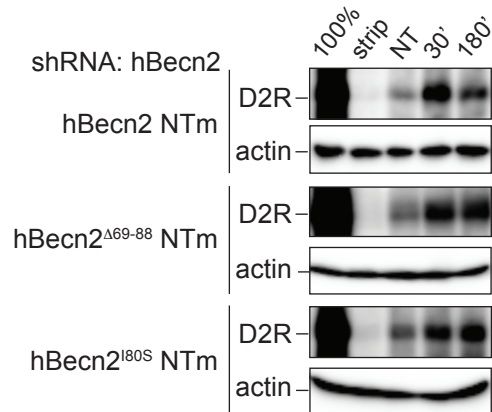
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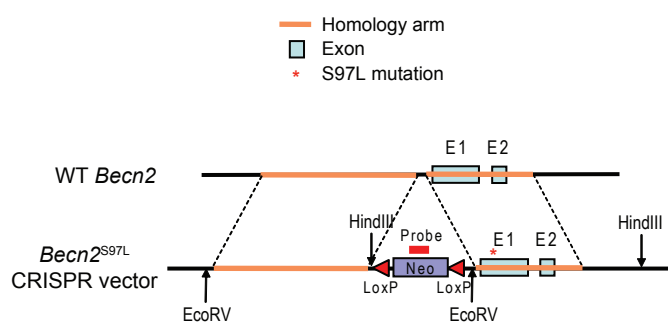
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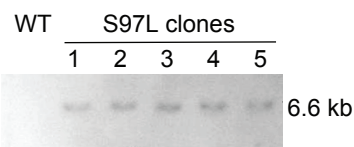
B



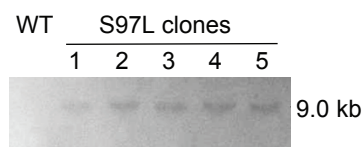
C



EcoRV digestion



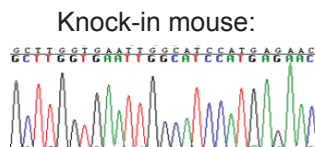
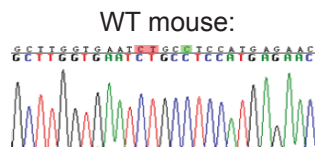
HindIII digestion



D

CRISPR Targeting strategy::

5'-actctgcttggtaattggcattccatgagaactatgaacactatccaaaatactgtctta-3'(tct>ttg, gcc>gca)



E

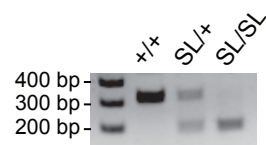


Figure S10

