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**Restoration of physiological expression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> into the primary cilia of null mutant neurons lengthens both primary cilia and dendrites.**

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## **5-HT<sub>6</sub>R Rescue Lengthens Primary Cilia and Dendritic Length**

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List of nonstandard abbreviations

CNS – Central Nervous System

GPCR – G-protein Coupled Receptor

DIV – Day in Vitro

NBA – Neurobasal A

GM – Growth Medium

WT - Wildtype

PFA/PHEMS – Paraformaldehyde/PIPES, HEPES, EGTA, MgCl<sub>2</sub> buffer

EV – Empty Vector

HA – Hemagglutinin

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## Abstract

5-HT<sub>6</sub> serotonin receptors are promising targets for a variety of neuropsychiatric disorders and have been linked to several cellular signaling cascades. Endogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors are restricted to the primary neuronal cilium, a small sensory organelle stemming from the cell body that receives numerous extra-synaptic signals. Inhibition of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors decreases cilia length in primary neuronal cultures, but the signaling mechanisms involved are still unclear. Intense overexpression of exogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors increases the likelihood for receptors to localize outside of the primary cilium and have been associated with changes in cilia morphology and dendritic outgrowth. In the present study, we explore the role of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R rescue on neuronal morphology in primary neuronal cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO mice, while maintaining a more physiological level of expression, wherein the receptor localizes to cilia in 80-90% of neurons (similar to endogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localization). We found that rescue of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R expression is sufficient to increase cilia length and dendritic outgrowth, but primarily in neurons in which the receptor is located exclusively in the primary cilia. Additionally, we found that expression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R mutants, deficient in agonist-stimulated cAMP or without the predicted Fyn kinase binding domain, maintain constitutive activity for stimulating cAMP and still increased the length of cilia, while the proposed Fyn kinase domain was required for stimulating dendritic outgrowth. These findings highlight the complexity of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R function and localization, particularly when using exogenous overexpression, and provide greater understanding and potential mechanisms for 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R drug therapies.

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## Introduction

The 5-HT<sub>6</sub> serotonin receptor (5-HT<sub>6</sub>R) is a promising target to treat a variety of neurological and cognitive disorders, including cognitive impairment, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, obesity, schizophrenia, motor disorders, sleep, and depression (Mitchell and Neumaier, 2005; Hirst *et al.*, 2006; Wesolowska and Nikiforuk, 2007; Ferguson *et al.*, 2008; King *et al.*, 2008; Morairty *et al.*, 2008; Arnt *et al.*, 2010; Carr *et al.*, 2010; Meffre *et al.*, 2012; M W J de Bruin and G Kruse, 2015; Aldrin-Kirk *et al.*, 2016; Brodsky *et al.*, 2016). Despite mounting evidence for the therapeutic value of this receptor, little is known about the specific mechanisms underlying 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R signaling. 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R is expressed nearly exclusively in CNS, in a limited number of brain regions including cortex, hippocampus, and most abundantly in the striatum (East *et al.*, 2002; Hirst *et al.*, 2003; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017); however, localization of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R *in vivo* is notoriously difficult because commercially available antibodies with sufficient specificity have been inconsistently available. Additionally, the subcellular localization of the receptor can be easily overlooked because 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R is the only serotonin receptor that localizes to the primary neuronal cilium (Brailov *et al.*, 2000; Berbari *et al.*, 2008; Domire and Mykytyn, 2009; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017; Hu *et al.*, 2017).

Primary cilia were described over a century ago and are ubiquitous to almost all non-dividing mammalian cells, including neurons, yet these singular non-motile appendages were frequently misinterpreted as vestigial organelles until recently (Fuchs and Schwark, 2004; Louvi and Grove, 2011). Now the primary cilium is recognized as an important regulator of cellular function by acting as a “cellular antenna”, sensing extracellular signals in the extra-synaptic environment (Singla, 2006; Green and

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Mykytyn, 2014). Trafficking of specific proteins into primary cilia is strictly regulated by the basal body and involves active transport along the central microtubule doublet that provides the cilia structure (Pazour and Bloodgood, 2008; Louvi and Grove, 2011; Stepanek and Pigino, 2016). Disruption of primary cilia function is linked with a variety of disorders termed ciliopathies, such as Bardet Biedl Syndrome, polycystic kidney disorder, polydactyly, hydrocephalus, obesity, disrupted neurogenesis, and cognitive disorders (Louvi and Grove, 2011; Lee and Gleeson, 2011; Valente *et al.*, 2013; Gazea *et al.*, 2016; Trulioff *et al.*, 2017; Schmidt *et al.*, 2017).

Shortly after the cloning and identification of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs, expression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs was reported to be faintly scattered throughout dendrites particularly in striatum, but soon it was recognized that 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs are predominantly found in the primary neuronal cilia (Ruat *et al.*, 1993; Kohen *et al.*, 1996; Hamon *et al.*, 1999; Berbari *et al.*, 2008; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). As a G-protein coupled receptor, 5-HT<sub>6</sub> is positively coupled with G-proteins that stimulate production of cAMP, presumably through adenylyl cyclase III (AC3), the only adenylyl cyclase known to localize only to primary neuronal cilia (Sebben *et al.*, 1994; Kohen *et al.*, 2001; Kang *et al.*, 2005; Bishop *et al.*, 2007; Domire and Mykytyn, 2009). More recently, proteomic analysis of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R protein association has identified a variety of non-canonical signaling pathways, including CDK5, Fyn kinase, Jab1 and mTOR (Yun *et al.*, 2010; Riccioni *et al.*, 2011; Meffre *et al.*, 2012; Duhr *et al.*, 2014). 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R displays a high level of ligand-independent constitutive activity, and this was proposed to regulate cortical neuronal migration and morphology (Grimaldi *et al.*, 1998; Romero *et al.*, 2007; Jacobshagen, Niquille, and Chaumont-Dubel, 2014; Dayer *et al.*, 2015). However, the mechanism by which 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R signaling

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*in cilia* impacts morphology is still unclear, although several recent reports have attempted to elucidate this connection. Following *in utero* electroporation and heterologous overexpression, 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R overexpression induced malformations and elongation of primary neuronal cilia and inhibited dendritic outgrowth (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013). Interestingly, in this study they also found that overexpression not only caused AC3 to be excluded from the ciliary compartment, but induced cilia branching, which is not typically observed (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013). The same lab also found that expression of a range of mouse 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R mutants in NIH3T3 cells, including nonfunctional mutants, all increased cilia length compared to controls (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013). On the other hand, another study found a positive association between exogenous overexpression of human 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and an increase in dendritic outgrowth whereas siRNA knockdown inhibited dendritic outgrowth (Duhr *et al.*, 2014); they concluded that the Cdk5 interaction with 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R was responsible since inhibition of Gs-coupled cAMP signaling had no effect. Recently, in Alzheimer's mouse models, 5-HT<sub>6</sub> was shown to have a potential role in regulating cilia and axon initial segment morphology (Hu *et al.*, 2017).

Of note, most of these studies interrogated 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R function using exogenous overexpression in wildtype animals rather than modulating endogenous receptor activity, and many did not focus on 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localization to primary neuronal cilia. Recently, we measured the effect of specific drugs on endogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and found that selective antagonists shortened primary cilia, while none of the drug treatments increased dendritic outgrowth (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). During this study, we coincidentally found that increasing amounts of exogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R transfection led to drastically increased ectopic expression outside of the primary cilia. Additionally, mutations that

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deleted a potential cilia targeting sequence on the third intracellular loop decreased 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R trafficking to cilia (Berbari *et al.*, 2008; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). However, these mutations were unable to prevent cilia targeting entirely; highlighting the robust proclivity for 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R to traffic into primary cilia.

In the present study, we investigated the effect of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localization and signaling pathways on primary cilia and dendritic morphology, systematically accounting for receptor localization within each neuron. Using primary striatal neurons cultured from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-null (5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO) mice (Tecott *et al.*, 2000), we found that rescue of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R expression was sufficient to increase cilia length and stimulate dendritic outgrowth, particularly when the receptor was restricted to primary cilia. Additionally, using a 5-HT-insensitive 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-mutant (D106A) and a mutant lacking the predicted Fyn Kinase binding domain (426-431del), we support the idea that 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-dependent kinase cascades are essential for 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-dependent dendritic outgrowth. We hypothesize that many of the conflicting findings regarding the interplay of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R with neuronal morphology might be related to heterologous overexpression and extra-ciliary mis-localization. These findings highlight the careful consideration of expression level and subcellular distribution needed when studying 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and solidifies the predicted role of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R in neuronal morphology.

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## Materials and methods

**Animals.** Animal procedures were approved by the University of Washington's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and carried out with NIH guidelines "Principles of Laboratory Animal Care" (NIH publication No. 86-23, 1996). 5-HT<sub>6</sub>KO mice on a C57BL/6 background were a generous gift provided by Dr. Lawrence Tecott (Bonasera *et al.*, 2006). Breeding and genotyping of mice were carried out as previously described (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017).

**Cell culture.** Primary dissociated striatal cultures were generated from postnatal day 0-1 5-HT<sub>6</sub>KO mice from both sexes. Crude membranes were removed prior to dissection and separation of striatum and cortical hemispheres. We and others have found that striatal neurons survive in primary culture longer when co-cultured with a small number of cortical neurons (10% cortical and 90% striatal). Minced cortical and striatal tissues were dissociated independently using papain (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) and trituration through a fire-polished glass pipette. Cells were plated at a density of  $7 \times 10^4$  cells per cm<sup>2</sup> in culture dishes pre-coated with poly-L-lysine (Sigma; molecular weight 300,000). Cultures were maintained in Growth Media (GM) consisting of Neurobasal A (NBA) medium (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA) supplemented with B27 and Glutamax (1X, Life Technologies) throughout treatment days. From the fourth day in vitro (DIV) until homogenization or fixation, culture media was supplemented with 1  $\mu$ M Ara-C (Sigma). This culturing method was adapted from previously described methods (Lesiak *et al.*, 2015; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017), and result in cultures consisting of approximately 70% neurons and 30% glia. Of note, glia cells have been shown not to express significant levels of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R mRNA and were thus not imaged or included in our



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analysis (Gokce *et al.*, 2016). Cultures were maintained at 37°C under 5% CO<sub>2</sub> from DIV0 until homogenization or fixation.

**Plasmids/Transfection.** The hemagglutinin (HA)-tagged rat 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017)) was used as the wild-type receptor from which the following mutants were generated: HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> (single base pair substitution) and HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> (removal of base pairs corresponding to PPPPTR, amino acids 406-411) using Gibson Assembly Master Mix (NEB E2611S) and oligonucleotide primers (Sigma). Rat WT and Mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid maps can be found at Neumaier Lab Website (<http://depts.washington.edu/mnsl/>). Primary neuronal cultures were transfected on DIV7 using Lipofectamine 2000 as previously described (Lesiak *et al.*, 2015; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017), wherein transfection efficiency is about 1-10%. Total plasmid for transfections consisted of 1 µg DNA/well using a standard 24-well plate, with “transfection %” representing the proportion that each plasmid constituted relative to the 1 µg total transfected per well of a 24-well plate. When included, 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmids were transfected at 15% of total transfected plasmid except in the dose-response experiments where they were transfected at a range from 0-80%. Map2B-RFP plasmid (Wayman *et al.*, 2008) was transfected as 30% of the total transfected plasmid to mark transfected neurons, since Map2B associates with the microtubules in the somatodendritic compartment of neurons and is excluded from the axon (Wayman *et al.*, 2006). The remaining plasmid consisted of empty vector (EV, pCAGGS from Wayman Lab) and 5-HT<sub>6</sub> plasmid to reach the final 100% of total transfected plasmid.

**Immunohistochemistry and Image Analysis.** Cultured neurons were fixed on DIV10 with 32°C 4% PFA/PHEMS buffer (20 min), permeabilized with 1XPBS with 0.5% Triton-

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X100 (10 min), blocked with 10% BSA in 1XPBS, and stained overnight with corresponding primary antibodies diluted in 1%BSA in 1XPBS, as previously described (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). Primary antibodies used were anti-HA rabbit (1:1000, Cell Signaling) and anti-Arl13b (1:1000, 73-287; NeuroMab, Davis, CA). Fluorescent secondary antibodies, Alexa 488 anti-rabbit and Alexa 568 anti-mouse used at a dilution of 1:4000 (Invitrogen). All antibodies were diluted in 1%BSA in 1XPBS. Coverslips were mounted using ProLong Gold Antifade media containing DAPI (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). Microscopic images used for morphology were acquired on a Leica inverted widefield fluorescence microscope using Metamorph software at the University of Washington Keck Microscopy Facility. Experimenters were blind to conditions during imaging and analysis. Transfected neurons were identified and selected on each coverslip using the red channel (Map2B-RFP expression) in order to avoid bias for receptor localization (anti-HA Green) or cilia presence (anti-Arl13b FarRed). Z-stack images were z-projected and analyzed using FIJI; dendrite length and branching and cilia length was analyzed using the NeuronJ plugin. Super-resolution images were acquired using a Zeiss LSM 880 confocal microscope with the AiryScan super-resolution detector and FAST module.

**Drugs and Drug Treatments.** The 5-HT<sub>6</sub>-selective agonist WAY-208466 and antagonist SB-399885 (Tocris Biosciences) were used as described in (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017), and cultures were treated for 48 hrs, from DIV8-10 prior to fixation.

**cAMP Accumulation Assay.** cAMP accumulation assays were conducted on transfected IMCD-3 kidney cells (ATCC, Manassas, VA) as previously described (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017) following the same transfection conditions described above for

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primary neuronal cultures with receptor plasmids at 15% of the total DNA. Cultured cells were treated with 5-HT<sub>6</sub> agonist WAY-208466 (1 $\mu$ M) for 10 minutes before lysis.

**Western Blot and Fyn-IP.** HEK293 cells were plated and transfected with

Lipofectamine using the same transfection and dose dependent expression as described above for primary cultures and treated with vehicle or 5-HT<sub>6</sub> agonist (WAY-208466, 1 $\mu$ M final concentration) diluted in culture media for time specified in each figure legend for the corresponding experiments. For western blot, samples were lysed using RIPA buffer supplemented containing 1:100 dilution of inhibitors for protease (Sigma P8340) and phosphatases (Calbiochem 524624), run on NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris Gels (Life Sciences, NP0323) then transferred to PVDF membrane. Membranes were blocked for 1 hour with Aquablock (ab166952, Thermo Fisher) then primary antibodies were diluted in Aquablock (1:1000), and blots were incubated at 4 $^{\circ}$ O/N. DyLight secondary antibodies were diluted in Aquablock 1:4000 (anti-Rabbit 800 5151S, anti-Mouse 680 5470S, Cell Signaling) for 1-2 hours. After washing, blots were scanned on an Olympus Odyssey Scanner, and blots were analyzed with Image Studio. Fyn-IP was initially conducted following the Fyn-IP protocol of (Riccioni *et al.*, 2011) without detecting Fyn. For Fyn-IP, transfected HEK cells grown on 6-well plates were lysed in 500 $\mu$ l of 1X TBS with 1:100 dilution of Igepal, NaF, NaOv, protease inhibitor and phosphatase inhibitor (Sigma); a 50 $\mu$ l fraction of samples was saved as input. Samples were pre-incubated with 3 $\mu$ l of anti-Fyn antibody (Millipore MABT208) and rotated for 4 hours at 4 $^{\circ}$ C. Anti-A/G magnetic beads (Pierce 88803, 100 $\mu$ l) were added and samples were rotated at 4 $^{\circ}$ C O/N. Samples were washed with fresh lysis buffer, IP samples were eluted into RIPA buffer, and input fraction was added to RIPA buffer before being run as

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other western blot samples. Primary antibodies used for western blot antigen detection were as follows: anti-HA (C294 Cell Signaling), anti- $\alpha$ -Tubulin (DM1A Millipore), anti-Fyn (EPR5500 Millipore), anti-phospho-Src (Tyr416) (clone 9A6 Millipore). For both Western Blot and IP experiments, total protein concentrations were normalized across conditions prior to loading into the gel using Qubit and the Qubit Protein Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher).

**Data Analysis.** For measurements illustrated in Figure 2, 7-8 transfected neurons on 2 coverslips (15-16 total) were imaged and analyzed at each dose of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> transfection. Statistics in Figure 2 used a T-test of the slope of the regression line against a null-linear model. For measurements illustrated in Figures 4-5, 3-6 transfected neurons from each coverslip were imaged and measurements of cilia and dendrites were averaged to generate each data point (n); 3-6 coverslips were analyzed from 8 independent cultures for each experimental condition. For Figure 6, only cultures including drug-treated conditions were included in analysis, and 3-6 neurons from 1-3 coverslips across 6 independent cultures were analyzed. For Figure 6, individual neurons were treated as single data points (n) for analysis. Average cilia length remained constant across experiments, but average dendritic length varied significantly from culture to culture; therefore, average dendritic length of empty vector (EV)-controls were normalized across cultures. Cilia length data was analyzed using the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's multiple comparison post-hoc, dendritic outgrowth (total dendritic length and branches) data was analyzed using 1-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc tests, and ciliation-dependent and receptor localization-dependent dendritic length analysis was analyzed using 2-Way ANOVA. All statistics were run using GraphPad Prism or Excel

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software, and all statistical values for experiments can be found in (Supplemental Table 1).

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## Results

### HA-Tagged 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localization to primary neuronal cilia

For all experiments, primary striatal neuron cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO mice were transfected using lipofection with plasmids expressing Map2B-RFP and empty vector (pCAGGS, EV) or HA-tagged-5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs (Rat wild-type (WT) or mutants) on the seventh day in vitro (DIV7), fixed on DIV10, and immunostained for HA-tag and a marker for primary cilia, Arl13b. We have previously confirmed overlap of cilia staining between Arl13b and adenylyl cyclase III (AC3) in primary cultured striatal neurons (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). Super-resolution images of transfected neurons illustrate the presence of primary neuronal cilia on 5-HT<sub>6</sub>-KO neurons (Figure 1A,C) and heterologously expressed HA-tagged receptor localizing exclusively to the Arl13b marked primary neuronal cilia (Figure 1B,D). We did not observe 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R expression (endogenous or transfected) in cells displaying glial morphology.

### Increased expression of exogenously expressed 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R increases extra-ciliary localization and aberrant cilia lengthening

Lipofection using increasing amounts of plasmid in primary cultures has been shown to lead to increased expression of exogenous mRNA and protein (Susa *et al.*, 2008; Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). Accordingly, as the proportion of HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid transfected into HEK293 cells increased (balanced by corresponding empty vector), significantly greater levels of HA-tagged-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R protein was expressed (Figure 2A). Likewise increasing the proportional amount of HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid transfected into HEK293 cells led to significant increases in levels of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R mRNA, while expression of

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a stable amount of a transfected gene (GFP-CRE) and endogenous housekeeping genes did not change from condition to condition (Figure 2B).

In primary neuronal cultures of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO neurons, exogenously expressed HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localize exclusively to primary neuronal cilia in about 70% of transfected neurons; however, in some neurons, particularly those without primary cilia, the receptor is distributed throughout the entire neuron (Figure 2 C-E). In a very small minority of neurons, despite the presence of Arl13b positive cilia, the receptor was expressed throughout the cell body (Figure 2E).

Increasing amounts of HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R transfected into primary neuronal cultures decreased the number of neurons with cilia-restricted HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localization but did not alter the proportion of neurons with detectable primary cilia (Figure 2F). Interestingly, we found that, with increasing amounts of transfected HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, the length of cilia-associated HA-immunostaining significantly increased in neurons in which HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R was restricted to the primary cilium, while the length of the Arl13b within the cilia remained constant (Figure 2G, example neuron inset). In these cases, the cilia, as measured by HA immunostaining, was unusually long while the cilia-specific marker Arl13b was not detectable along the entire length of the presumed cilia. This may be a pathological change related to excessive 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R trafficking and is similar to previously described effects of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R overexpression on cilia (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013; Hu *et al.*, 2017). However, we did not observe any receptor-dose effect on dendritic branching or total dendritic length, in ciliated or unciliated neurons (Figure 2H-I). In a previous study we found that the percentage of ciliated striatal neurons cultured from wild-type animals containing endogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R was about 80% (Brotsky *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, in

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subsequent experiments we decided to use a modest amount of receptor plasmid (15% of total transfected plasmid) to express exogenous receptors because this level of transfection most closely replicated normal ciliation and endogenous receptor targeting to primary cilia in WT neurons (Figure 2F).

### **HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R mutant receptor generation**

In addition to investigating wild type HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, we generated two mutants to investigate how 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R signaling properties affect primary neuron morphology. The 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R has extensive constitutive activity (Boess *et al.*, 2002; Jacobshagen, Niquille, and Chaumont-Dubel, 2014; Nadim *et al.*, 2016); therefore, we generated and tested a previously described mutant receptor that is insensitive to 5-HT and other 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R agonists yet continues to display constitutive activity after heterologous expression in cell lines (5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>). The second mutant, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, is predicted to interrupt 5-HT<sub>6</sub> signaling associated with interactions with fyn kinase (Yun *et al.*, 2007). Compared to IMCD3 cells transfected with EV plasmid, transfection with each of these three receptors increased cAMP levels in the absence of added agonist, consistent with constitutive activity of these receptors, although only the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> mutant significantly increased cAMP when compared to EV controls (Figure 3A). Treatment of cells expressing WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub> or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>(406-411del)</sup> with a 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R agonist (WAY-208466, 1μM) increased cAMP levels (Figure 3B) and stimulated cAMP accumulation was blocked by the further addition of the 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R inverse agonist SB-399885 (1μM). However, agonist treatment had no effect on cAMP levels in IMCD3 cells expressing the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> receptor. Unfortunately, repeated attempts to demonstrate 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-mediated phosphorylation of fyn kinase or 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R co-immunoprecipitation with CDK5 using



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previously published methods (Yun *et al.*, 2007; Duhr *et al.*, 2014) and several other strategies were unsuccessful (Figure 3C,D). We found that transfection with WT or mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R had no effect on Fyn expression or the phosphorylation of Fyn at Y-420, with or without agonist treatment (Figure C-D, and data not shown). Therefore, we could not confirm that the deletion of aa406-411 in the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>(406-411del)</sup> mutant affected fyn kinase phosphorylation or the direct interaction of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R with Cdk5. Additionally, we detected no difference in fyn phosphorylation, with or without agonist treatment, at low or high doses of receptor expression (Supplemental Figure 1).

### **5-HT<sub>6</sub>R rescue elongates primary neuronal cilia**

As previously reported (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017), approximately 80% of primary striatal neurons cultured from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R -KO had primary cilia, similar to neurons from WT mice, and this was not altered by transfection with 15% wild-type or either of the two mutant receptors (Figure 4A). In all measured neurons, regardless of whether wild-type or mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors were expressed, approximately 60-70% of neurons displayed exogenous receptor localized exclusively to the cilia (Figure 4B). In ciliated neurons under these conditions, wild-type or mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors were localized exclusively to the cilia about 90% of the time (Figure 4C), highlighting the proclivity of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors to localize to the cilia when a cilium is present. Expression of WT and both mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs significantly increased the length of cilia (as defined by Arl13b staining) compared to empty vector controls (Figure 4D). The length of cilia when defined by HA staining of primary cilia in neurons where HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R was exclusively localized in cilia was the same as when measured by Arl13b staining (Figure 4E). These findings highlight that neurons expressing exogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R have longer cilia compared to

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neurons lacking 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, and that this effect was not ligand-activation dependent nor requiring the presence of the predicted Fyn Kinase binding domain. Cilia in neurons transfected with the WT or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> mutants were neither longer nor shorter than those transfected with the 5-HT insensitive 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> mutant (Figure 4D-E).

### 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R rescue increases dendritic length

Map2B is exclusively localized to dendrites (Wayman *et al.*, 2012), so we co-transfected Map2B-RFP with wild-type and mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs and then measured dendritic morphology in the same transfected neurons used to measure cilia length and receptor localization as described above. Rescue of wild-type 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R expression in these neurons cultured from 5-HT<sub>6</sub> KO mice significantly increased average total dendritic length compared to empty vector controls, without changing dendritic branching (Figure 5 A-C). This increase in average total dendritic length did not appear to depend on receptor sensitivity to 5-HT, as the 5-HT insensitive 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> receptor mutant still increased average dendritic length (Figure 5 A-C). On the other hand, the average dendritic length of the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> mutant was not different from negative controls (Figure 5 A-C), suggesting that constitutive activation of cAMP production is insufficient to impact dendritic outgrowth, but perhaps another signaling event that is disrupted by the deletion of residues 406-411 is involved in regulating dendritic outgrowth.

Even in transfected neurons lacking 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, the presence of cilia was associated with an increase in total dendritic length (Figure 5D). 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R rescue significantly increased dendritic outgrowth compared to empty vector controls in ciliated neurons. Expression of the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> mutant had no effect on dendritic length

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regardless of ciliation, but the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> receptor expression, like WT 5-HT<sub>6</sub>, significantly increased dendritic outgrowth compared to empty vector controls in ciliated neurons. Ciliation did not significantly change total dendritic length in neurons expressing WT or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> (Figure 5D), suggesting that 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R activity altered dendritic growth whether or not the receptor was exclusively localized in cilia.

In transfected neurons with discernable cilia, we found that cilia-restricted wild-type 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> expression increased total dendritic length compared to ciliated control (Figure 5E). The 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> mutant receptor continued to have no effect on dendritic outgrowth regardless of localization. The 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> mutant, like the WT receptor, only increased dendritic outgrowth in neurons where the receptor localized exclusively to cilia (Figure 5E). Of note, due to the receptors targeting outside of the primary cilia in only ~10% of ciliated neurons the number of ciliated neurons with cell-wide receptor expression included in the analysis was very low.

### **Pharmacological regulation of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R in 5-HT<sub>6</sub>-KO neurons**

In prior studies examining endogenous expression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs in primary cultures, we observed that a 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-selective antagonist decreased the length of neuronal primary cilia in a dose and time-dependent manner, while selective agonists had little effect on cilia length (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). Of note, in order to maintain primary neuronal culture integrity, cultures were grown in the presence of serum, which contains 5-HT that might potentially activate the WT and mutant 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors following transfection. In that study we did not observe agonist or antagonist effects on the average dendritic length in WT primary striatal neuron cultures (Brodsky *et al.*, 2017). Similarly, neither the selective agonist (1 μM WAY-208466) nor antagonist (1 μM

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SB-399885) significantly changed dendritic outgrowth or primary cilia length compared to vehicle controls (Figure 6), with the exception that neurons expressing WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R<sub>s</sub> treated with SB-399885 had a small but significant decrease in total dendritic length (Figure 6F). These pharmacological treatments did not change dendritic length in either ciliated or unciliated neurons. However, unciliated neurons transfected with empty vector or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> had significantly shorter dendrites as compared to the corresponding ciliated neurons, replicating our results from Figure 4 (Figure 6 C and O). While there was no overall interaction between the localization of transfected receptors (inside vs. outside the cilia) with drug treatments in any cases, extra-ciliary localization of the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> and 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> mutants significantly decreased dendritic outgrowth (Figure 6 L and P), suggesting that the trafficking of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R may be an important determinant of its effects on total dendritic length.

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## Discussion

Our findings support several conclusions that impact the interpretation of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R studies. First, receptor location matters, and careful attention needs to be paid to whether 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R are being appropriately trafficked to primary cilia, as has been well established for wild-type 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R (Hamon *et al.*, 1999; Brailov *et al.*, 2000; Berbari *et al.*, 2008)<sup>3</sup>. Second, these receptors display substantial constitutive activity (at least when ectopically localized and exogenously expressed), and this complicates the interpretation of pharmacological manipulation, emphasizing the potential importance of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor inverse agonists for drug development (Duhr *et al.*, 2014). Third, the extent of heterologous expression contributes to extra-ciliary localization of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and malformation of primary cilia. This effect is potentially due to disrupted trafficking and this may in turn alter the availability of signaling partners that are generally localized to primary cilia, for example AC3 (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013; Hu *et al.*, 2017). Likewise, exogenous and heterologous overexpression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R increases extra-ciliary targeting, and this may lead to interactions with signaling molecules that are not typical partners with 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R within the primary cilium. Finally, the presence of cilia, and 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R within these cilia, has important implications for the regulation of neuronal morphology.

One important finding from our study is that drastic overexpression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R causes radical cilia elongation and leads to increased rates of extra-ciliary receptor trafficking and cilia malformation. Interestingly, in both the present report and Brodsky *et al.* 2017, Arl13b length did not change with high levels of HA-5HT<sub>6</sub>R overexpression, but in many cases the overexpressed receptor accumulated in the cilia and dramatically extended the cilia compartment as measured by HA immunostaining. Previous studies

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have observed aberrant cilia formation after overexpression (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013; Hu *et al.*, 2017); however these studies described extensive cilia branching but did not measure the length of a cilia marker (like Arl13b or AC3) and did not quantify the extent to which they overexpressed 5-HT<sub>6</sub>-eGFP. As such, we used low levels of heterologous expression to rescue receptor expression in a more physiologically relevant manner, and we assessed ciliation and receptor localization in order to recapitulate endogenous receptor function. We did not demonstrate whether increased cAMP production or other signaling events mediated the increase in cilia length, as we tested mutants that interfered with ligand-mediated signaling or signaling dependent on residues 406-411. Recently, in a similar study, strong overexpression of WT 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R stimulated cilia lengthening and branching, but 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R mutants that were deficient in cAMP production did not induce cilia lengthening (or produce aberrant cilia morphology) (Hu *et al.*, 2017). These results are still puzzling because previous reports have observed that overexpression of both Gs- and Gi-coupled receptors (5-HT<sub>6</sub> and SSTR3, respectively) caused cilia elongation, while in other reports mutations affecting 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R function had little to no impact on preventing this elongation (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013; Hu *et al.*, 2017). However, in these previous findings, strong overexpression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> disrupted localization of other important ciliary proteins (e.g. AC3 and Arl13b), and caused cilia to branch, which is not observed naturally. We suggest that it is critical to report the rates of neuronal ciliation and whether heterologously-expressed receptors localize inside or outside of cilia when drawing conclusions about the contribution of different signaling pathways to 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R actions in neurons. At more physiologically-relevant levels of receptor rescue, cilia were never branched, and in ciliated neurons (about 75% using

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Arl13b staining as a criteria) 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs overwhelmingly co-localized with Arl13b as expected (~95% of ciliated neurons).

High rates of constitutive activity of exogenously expressed 5-HT<sub>6</sub>Rs have been reported, albeit not when localized exclusively to primary cilia (Duhr *et al.*, 2014). This is partly due to the limitations of using biochemical measurements of cAMP in this and other reports, that cannot readily determine the rate of ciliation or fidelity of trafficking. Nevertheless, constitutive activity could potentially explain why more physiologically relevant rescue of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R in KO cultures increased cilia length in each of the mutations we tested, and why strong exogenous overexpression resulted in excessively long cilia. Expression of other receptors that occasionally traffic to primary cilia, like type 1 dopamine receptors, have also been associated with increased cilia length (Avasthi *et al.*, 2012; Schou *et al.*, 2015).

We found that inhibition of exogenously expressed 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R with SB-399885 decreased cilia length in some but not all expected cases, whereas we previously observed that this antagonist shortened cilia length in wild-type mouse neurons expressing endogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R (Brotsky *et al.*, 2017). One interpretation is that SB-399885 is not a full inverse agonist in this experimental system and is unable to entirely reverse the effects of the strong expression of exogenous 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R on cAMP or possibly other signaling pathways. Exogenous expression, even at modest levels, results in significantly more mRNA and protein production compared to endogenous expression. Additionally, since the culture media was not dialyzed, residual 5-HT present in the culture medium could have contributed to cAMP production by WT 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R<sup>406-411del</sup> to some extent. Another interesting dimension is the impact of rescuing 5-

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HT<sub>6</sub>R at different developmental stages considering that this receptor has tremendous impacts on cell migration and maturation (Jacobshagen, Niquille, Chaumont-Dubel, *et al.*, 2014). Cultured wild-type neurons will express 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R throughout *in vitro* development, while in the present study 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R was only present in 5-HT<sub>6</sub>-KO neurons from DIV7-10. This difference could have led to differences in responsiveness to pharmacological manipulation at the time of drug treatment on DIV9. Finally, intense overexpression of cilia-targeted receptors may alter the biology of cilia in unpredictable manners, especially since trafficking of GPCRs in and out of the primary cilium involves a complex interaction between intraflagellar transport complexes, “BBsome” proteins that are involved in complex network of interacting proteins that continues to be elucidated (Schou *et al.*, 2015; Ye *et al.*, 2017).

Previous studies reported that exogenous overexpression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R in NG108-15 cells and neuronal explants stimulated neurite outgrowth, while *in utero* electroporation of the receptor led to aberrant cilia formation and inhibited dendritic outgrowth (Guadiana *et al.*, 2013; Duhr *et al.*, 2014). The relevance of cilia length on neuronal physiology continues to be unclear, and we found no correlations between cilia length and dendritic morphology. On the other hand, we found that dendritic morphology was correlated with the presence of a cilium and the localization of the receptor to the cilium and that 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R had the greatest impact on dendritic outgrowth when they were in the cilia. These findings highlight the importance of monitoring 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor localization, as we found that rescue of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R increased dendritic outgrowth significantly only in neurons with identifiable cilia. This effect was further amplified in neurons with the receptor exclusively localized to primary cilia (Figure 5 D-E).



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Interestingly, this effect was not observed for the 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup> mutant receptor that deleted the predicted Fyn Kinase binding domain (Yun *et al.*, 2007), and unaffected by inhibiting ligand-dependent receptor activation with 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup> expression. Although, we were unable to detect agonist stimulation of Fyn phosphorylation in cells expressing WT 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and confirm the predicted effect of deleting residues 406-411 on Fyn Kinase, this deletion may interfere with other protein interactions and signaling cascades. For example, CDK5 and  $\beta$ -Arrestin association are potentially disrupted. CDK5 was previously identified as important for 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-dependent dendritic outgrowth and constitutive activity of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R (Duhr *et al.*, 2014).  $\beta$ -Arrestins, particularly  $\beta$ -Arrestin 2, has been shown to play an important role for trafficking activated somatostatin receptor 3 out of the cilium in neurons, so we cannot rule out the possibility that the 406-411 deletion in the c-terminal did not also affect  $\beta$ -Arrestin association with 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R (Green *et al.*, 2015).

Taken together, our findings highlight the complexity of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor signaling on neuronal physiology and support the idea that this receptor modulates neuronal morphology. We suggest that future studies and experiments should take into consideration receptor localization and the nuances of exogenous overexpression as they seek to clarify the mechanisms underlying the role of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R and other proteins. It is increasingly clear that 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors are targets of promising therapeutics; however, interpretation of the mechanism by which they exert their effect on neuronal function and morphology remains elusive.

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## **Author Contributions**

*Participated in Research Design:* Lesiak, Brodsky, and Neumaier

*Conducted Experiments:* Lesiak

*Contributed New Reagents or Analytic Tools:* Lesiak, and Brodsky

*Performed Data Analysis:* Lesiak, Cohenca, and Croicu

*Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript:* Lesiak and Neumaier

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## Footnotes

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**Figure 1: Rescued 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localizes to the primary cilium in 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO neurons.**

Super-resolution images taken on Zeiss LSM 880 with Airyscan of primary striatal/cortical primary neuronal cultures. Primary cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO mice were transfected with 30% Map2B-RFP (Red) ± A) Empty Vector or B) 15% WT-HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor plasmid, fixed and imaged. C-D) XYZ projected images demonstrating co-localization of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R (Green) with Arl13B (cilia marker magenta) on the primary neuronal cilium.

**Figure 2: Dose-dependent receptor expression alters 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptor localization to primary cilia.** A) Graph and representative Western Blot of HEK 293 cells

transfected with increasing amount of total transfected plasmid demonstrating plasmid dose dependent increase of exogenous protein expression. n=1 sample per concentration of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>. B) Graph of qPCR data of mRNA expression following HEK 293 cells transfected with increasing % of total transfected plasmid and 15% transfection of GFP-CRE demonstrating increased expression of exogenous mRNA with increased plasmid transfection (GFP-CRE plasmid used to represent stable expression pattern of other exogenously expressed mRNA and HPRT and β-Actin mRNA used as housekeeping genes); n=3 samples per concentration of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>. (C-I) Primary neuronal cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO mice were transfected on DIV7 with 30% Map2B-RFP (Red) ± varying doses of HA-WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid and on DIV 10, they were fixed, mounted, then imaged. C-E) Representative images of HA-WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R localization in 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R-KO primary neurons depicting C) localization of receptor to primary cilium, D) ectopic localization of receptor in neurons without primary cilium, and E) ectopic localization of

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receptor in neurons with a primary cilium. F) Graph depicting plasmid dose-dependent changes in % of transfected neurons with cilia, % of transfected neurons with receptor exclusively localized to cilia, and % of ciliated transfected neurons in which the receptor localized exclusively to cilia. Red dashed line represents % of neurons with cilia in WT cultures (Brotsky et al., 2017). G) Graph depicting average cilium length in transfected neurons as determined by HA and Arl13B staining (inset representative image of extreme cilium lengthening and Arl13B exclusion at high doses of HA-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R expression). H) Graph depicting average number of dendritic branches and average total dendritic length of transfected neurons at each receptor dose. I) Graph depicting average total dendritic length of ciliated and unciliated transfected neurons at each receptor dose. For F-I, n=15-16 neurons/condition. All statistical measures used t-test on the slope of the regression line against a null-linear model.

**Figure 3: Signaling properties of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> Receptor Mutants.** IMCD3 cells were transfected with empty vector ± 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid (WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R<sup>D106A</sup>, 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R<sup>del406-411</sup>) and treated with vehicle, 1 μM WAY-208466 (agonist), or 1 μM SB-399885 (antagonist), or 1 μM of both drugs before cell lysis and tissue harvest for cAMP assay. A) Absolute cAMP levels and (B) cAMP relative to corresponding vehicle controls are shown after 10 min of drug treatment. C-D) HEK 293 were transfected with empty vector ± 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid or mutant receptors and treated with vehicle or 1 μM WAY-208466 for 15 minutes. Immunoprecipitation from cell lysates was conducted using anti-Fyn Ab, bound material was eluted, subjected to SDS-PAGE, and then immunoblotted for Fyn and phosphorylated Fyn (p-Y420). C) Representative western blot of IP isolated

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Fyn and Fyn phosphorylated at Y-420. D) Graph depicting p-Y-420 intensity/Fyn intensity. 1-Way ANOVA, n=3 biological replicates for each experiment. Bonferroni post-hoc. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001 compared to EV control. \$ p<0.01 compared to receptor vehicle control.

**Figure 4: 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R rescue elongates primary neuronal cilia.** Primary striatal/cortical co-cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>RKO pups were transfected on DIV7 with Map2B-RFP ± 70% empty vector or 55% EV + 15% WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>. On DIV10 cultures were fixed, immunostained for Arl13B and HA, then imaged and analyzed. A) Average percentage of neurons with cilia. B) Average percentage of neurons in which the receptor is exclusively in the primary cilium. C) Average percentage of ciliated neurons in which the receptor is exclusively in the primary cilium. D) Average cilia length. E) Average HA length. Statistical analysis was conducted using Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's multiple comparison post-hoc. Data measured from 3-6 neurons per coverslip and pooled into a single data point. 3-6 coverslips were analyzed across 8 experiments (n coverslips, n=EV-31, WT-32, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>-31, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>-33). \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001.

**Figure 5: 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R rescue increases dendritic length.** Primary striatal/cortical co-cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R KO pups were transfected on DIV7 with Map2B-RFP ± 70% empty vector or 55% EV + 15% WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>. On DIV10 cultures were fixed, immunostained for Arl13B and HA-tag then imaged and analyzed. A) Representative images of neurons transfected with different 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors and

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mutants. B) Average number of dendritic branches. C) Average dendritic length. D) Average dendritic length of ciliated vs. unciliated neurons. E) Average dendritic length of ciliated neurons with and without the receptor in cilia. Data measured from 3-6 neurons per coverslip (same cells and cultures as in Figure 4) and pooled into a single data point. 3-6 coverslips were analyzed across 8 experiments. B-C) (n coverslips, n=EV-31, WT-32, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>-31, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>-33), 1-way ANOVA, Bonferroni post-hoc. D) n coverslips=ciliated/unciliated, EV n=30/20, WT n=29/24, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>-29/22, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>-30/22), 2-way ANOVA, Bonferroni post-hoc. E) n coverslips=cilia with receptor/cilia without receptor, EV n=0/31, WT n=27/26, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>-29/27, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>-30/23). Post-hoc analysis, \*p<0.05, p<0.01 compared to EV (ciliated or cilia without receptor control) and \$ p<0.05 compared to EV ciliated or EV receptor without cilia control.

**Figure 6: Pharmacological regulation of 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R in 5-HT<sub>6</sub>-KO neurons.** Primary striatal/cortical co-cultures from 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R KO pups were transfected on DIV7 with Map2B-RFP ± 70% empty vector or 55% EV + 15% WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>, 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, or 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>. On DIV9 cultures were treated with vehicle, either 1µM WAY-208466 (agonist) or 1µM SB-399885 (antagonist), or 1µM of both drugs until DIV 10 when cultures were fixed, immunostained for Arl13B and HA-tag then imaged and analyzed. For analysis, 3-6 neurons individual neurons were measured from 1-3 coverslips across 6 independent experiments, statistical analysis on cilia was completed using Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn's multiple comparison posthoc, on dendrites 1-way ANOVA with Bonferroni posthoc, and on dendritic measures separating cilia and receptor localization 2-way ANOVA with Bonferroni posthoc. For average cilia length and dendritic length, n=

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neurons, A,B) Empty Vector, n=103,52,45,45. E,F) WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, n=120, 48, 47,39. I,J) 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, n=115, 42, 39, 31. M,N) 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>, n= 123, 48, 40, 42. For effect of cilium presence on dendritic length, n= neurons ciliated/unciliated C) Empty Vector, Veh: n=83/20, WAY: n=43/9, SB: n=37/8, Both: n=28/7. G) WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, Veh: n=87/33, WAY: n=36/12, SB=37/10, Both=30/9. K) 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, Veh: n=91/24, WAY: n=35/7, SB: n=32/7, Both: n=22/9. O) 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>, Veh: n=98/25, WAY: n=43/5, SB: n=32/8, Both: n=35/6. For effect of receptor localization on dendritic length, n= neurons cilia with receptor/without, D) Empty Vector H) WT-5-HT<sub>6</sub>R, Veh: n=80/40, WAY: n=34/14, SB=32/15, Both=30/9. L) 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>406-411del</sup>, Veh: n=78/37, WAY: n=31/11, SB: n=29/10, Both: n=19/12. O) 5-HT<sub>6</sub><sup>D106A</sup>, Veh: n=95/28, WAY: n=39/9, SB: n=26/14, Both: n=35/6.  
\*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001.

Figure 1

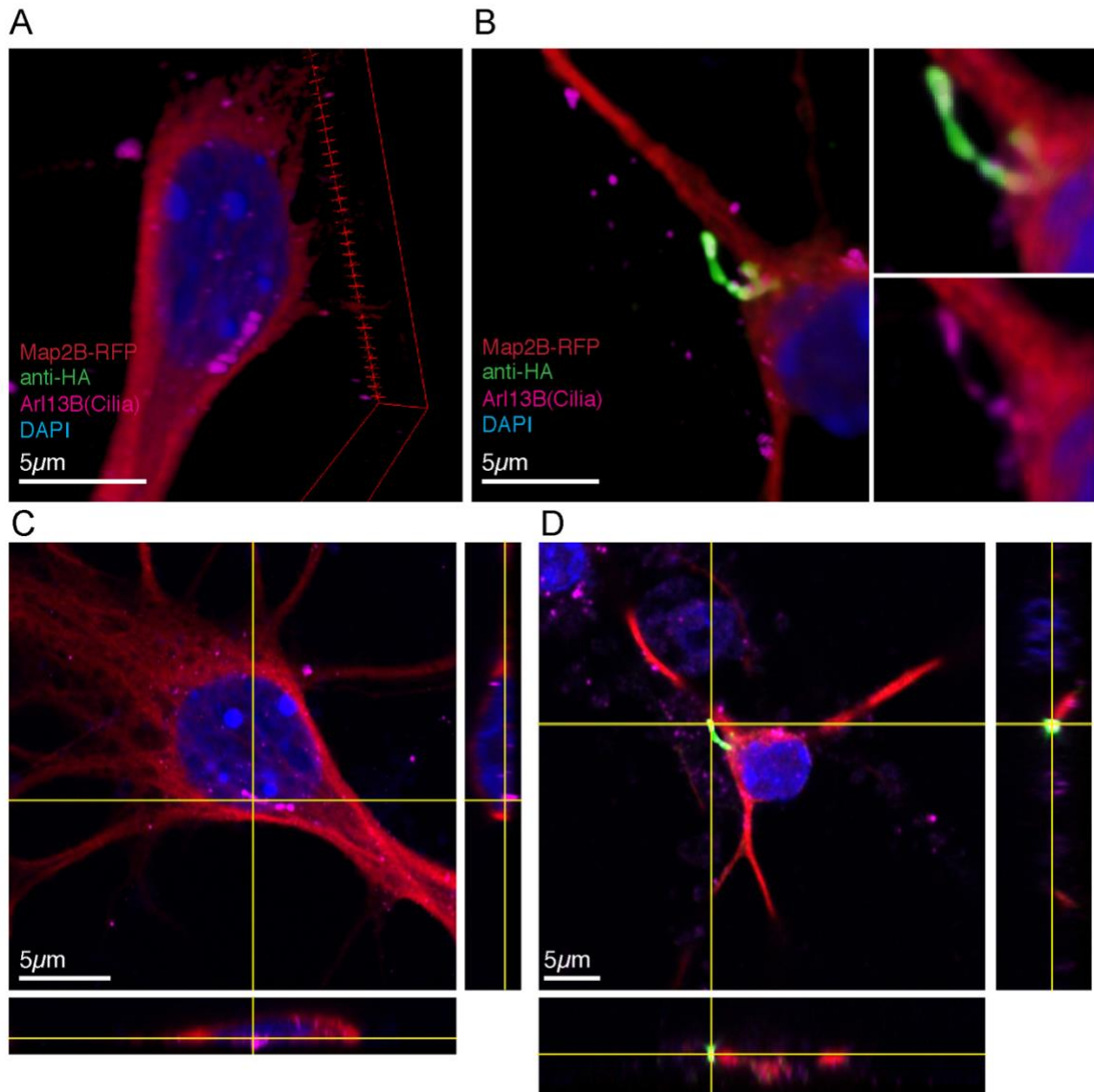




Figure 2

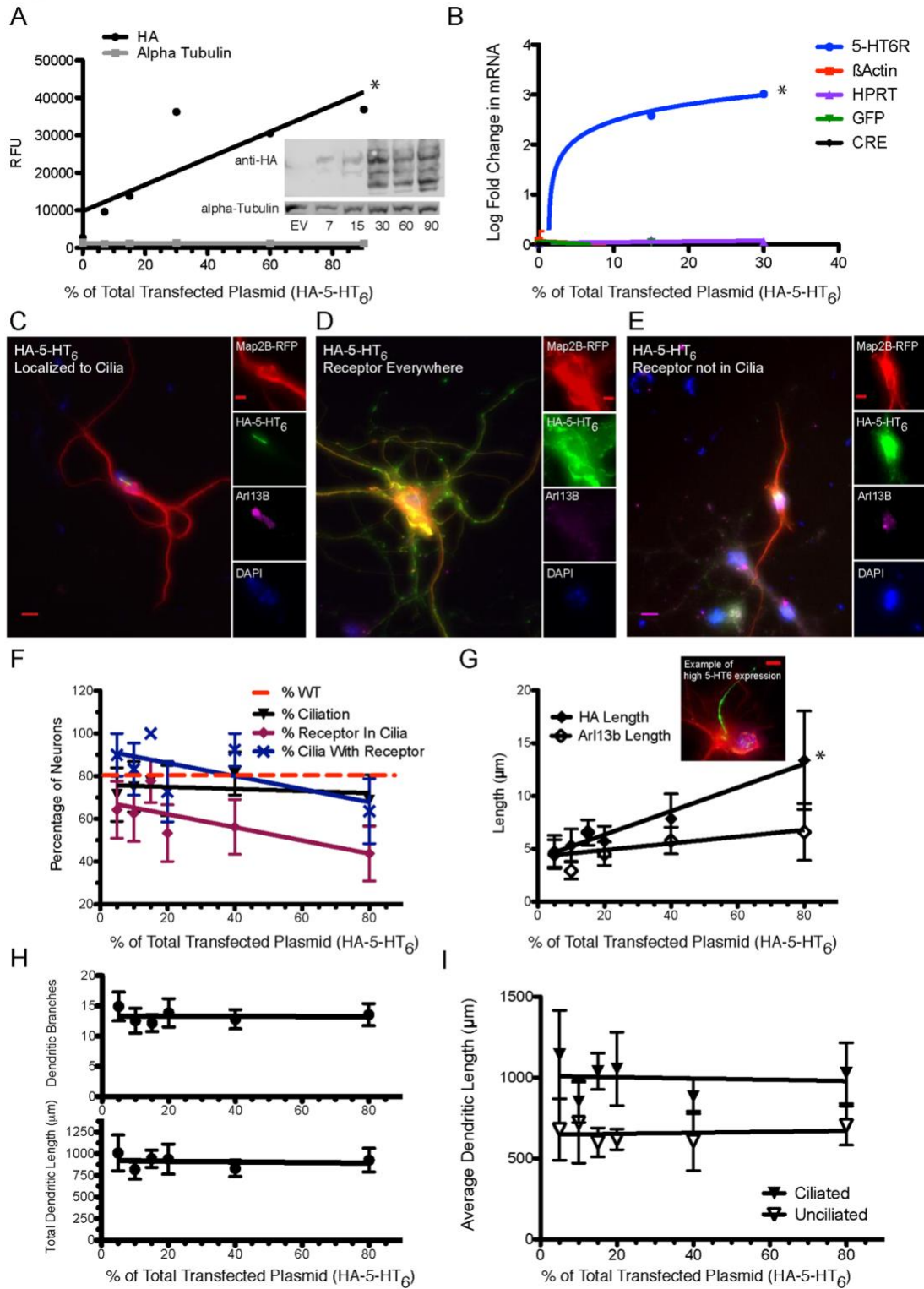


Figure 3

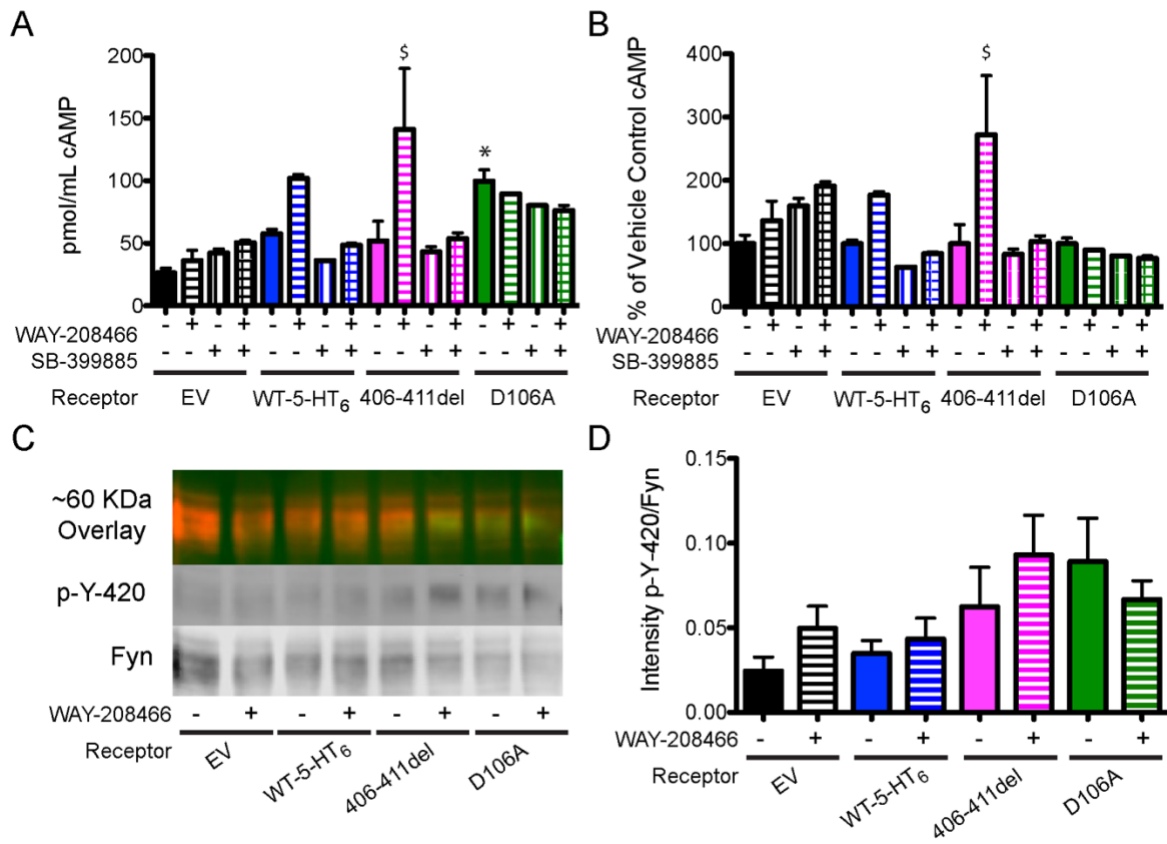


Figure 4

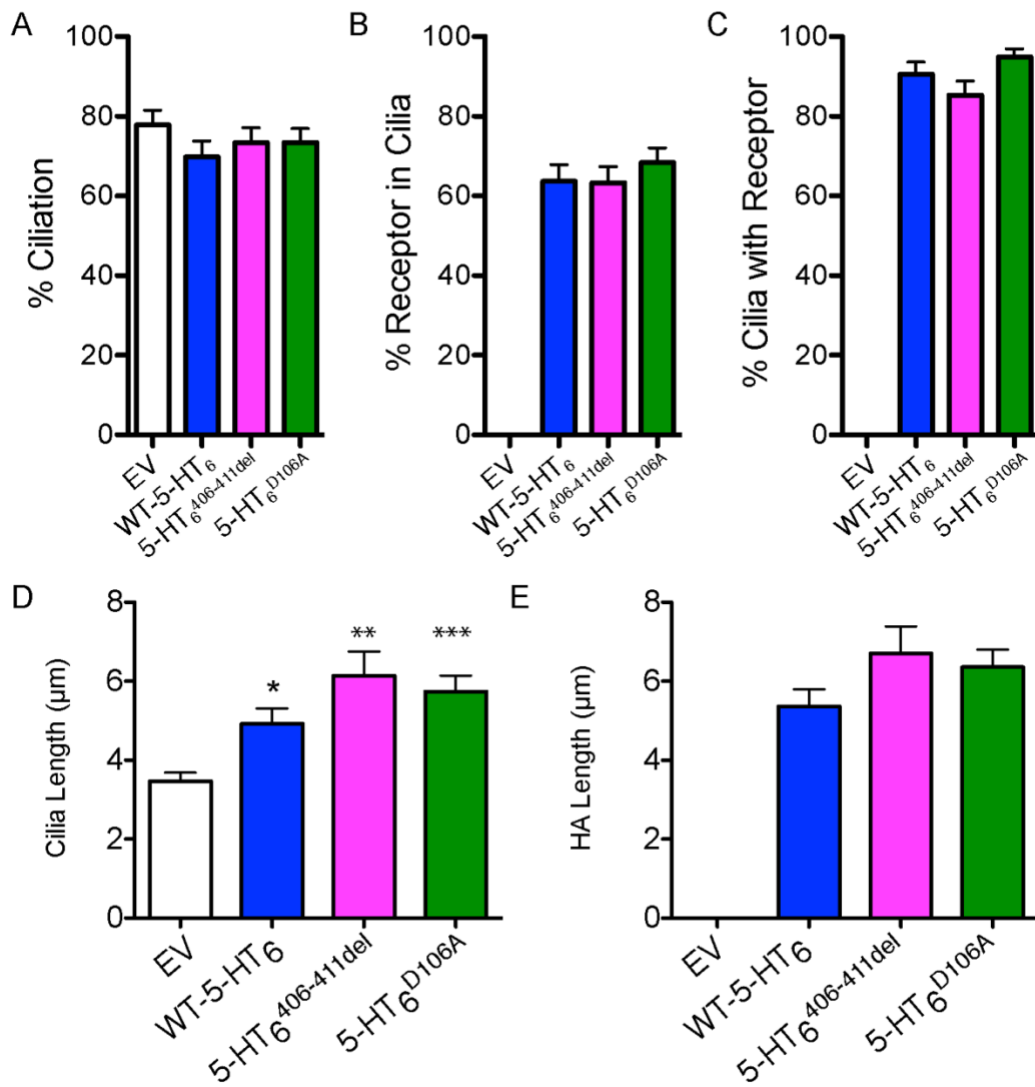
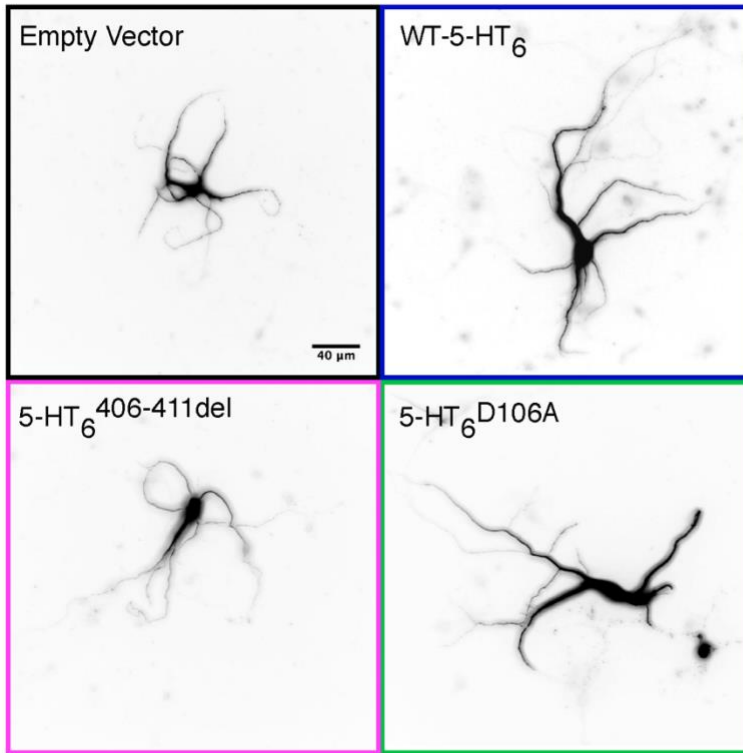
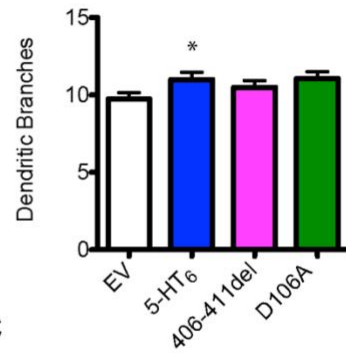


Figure 5

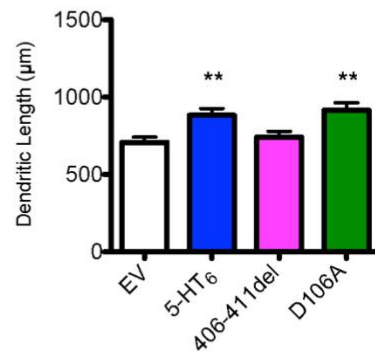
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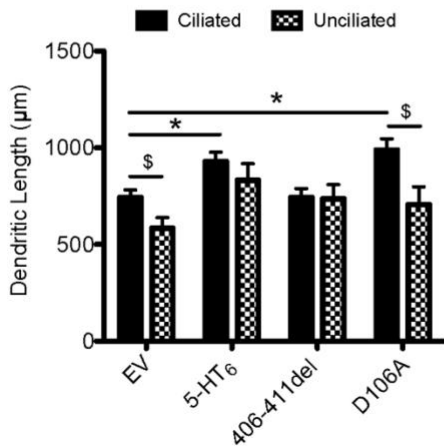
B



C



D



E

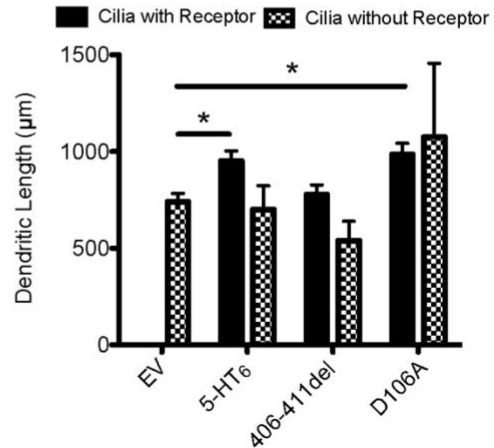
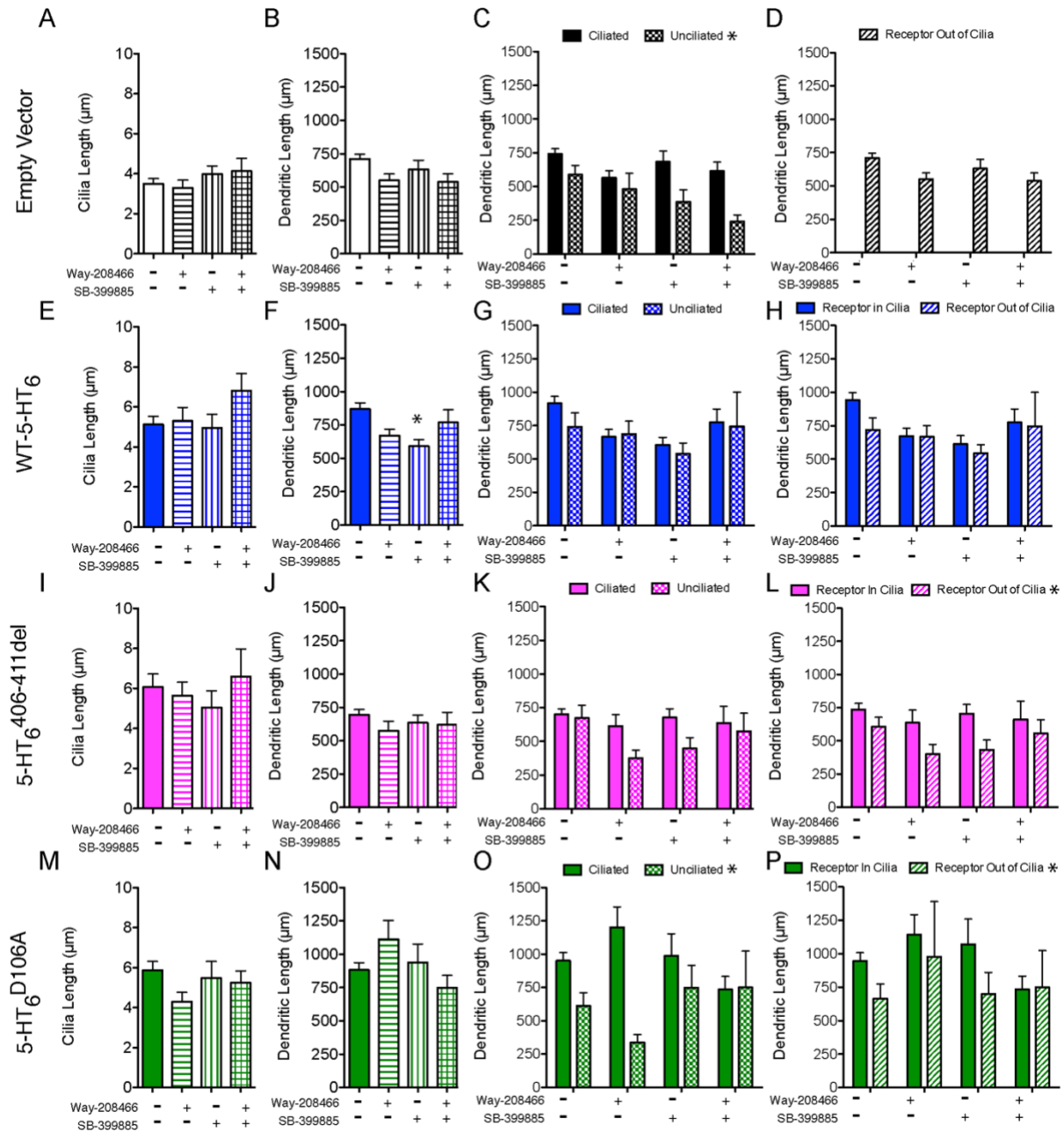


Figure 6



**Restoration of physiological expression of 5-HT<sub>6</sub> into the primary cilia of null mutant neurons lengthens both primary cilia and dendrites.**

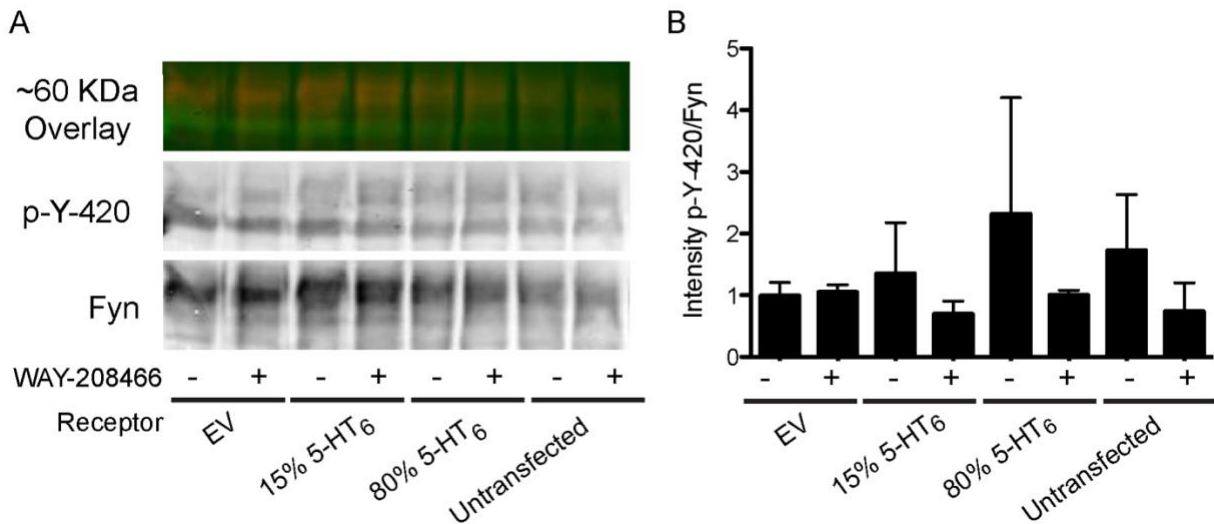
Atom J. Lesiak, Matthew Brodsky, Nathalie Cohenca, Alex Croicu, and John F.

Neumaier

Molecular Pharmacology

**Supplemental Materials**

Supplemental Figure 1



**Supplemental Figure 1: 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R dose does not affect Fyn phosphorylation in HEK**

**293 cells.** HEK 293 cells were transfected with empty vector, 5-HT<sub>6</sub>R plasmid at different doses, or untransfected, then treated with vehicle or 1 $\mu$ M WAY-208466 for 15 minutes. Immunoprecipitation from cell lysates was conducted using anti-Fyn Ab, bound material was eluted, subjected to SDS-PAGE, and then immunoblotted for Fyn and phosphorylated Fyn (p-Y420). A) Representative western blot of IP isolated Fyn and Fyn phosphorylated at Y-420. B) Graph depicting p-Y-420 intensity/Fyn intensity. 1-Way ANOVA, n=3 biological replicates for each experiment.

# Supplemental Table 1: Statistical Data for Figures

**Supplemental Table 1: Table of Statistical Analysis**

Figure 2	Panel	Test	Protein	n	r <sup>2</sup>	t	df	p-value
A	T-test on Regression Against a Null Linear Model	Test	5-HT <sub>6</sub>	5	0.864	2.976	3	0.058
			CRE	5	0.112	0.196	3	0.856
			mRNA	n	r <sup>2</sup>	t	df	p-value
			5-HT <sub>6</sub>	3	0.999	505.613	1	0.001
			CRE	3	-0.991	-7.569	1	0.083
			β-Actin	3	-0.905	-2.134	1	0.278
B	T-test on Regression Against a Null Linear Model	Test	HPRT	3	0.659	0.878	1	0.541
			GFP	3	-0.802	-1.344	1	0.407
			Measure	n	r <sup>2</sup>	t	df	p-value
			%Ciliation	6	-0.302	-0.634	4	0.561
			%Receptor in Cilia	6	-0.749	-2.267	4	0.085
			%Cilia with Receptor	6	-0.638	-1.657	4	0.172
F	T-test on Regression Against a Null Linear Model	Test	HA Length	6	0.983	10.88	4	0.0004
			Arl13b Length	6	0.621	1.587	4	0.187
			Measure	n	r <sup>2</sup>	t	df	p-value
			Dendritic Branches	6	-0.043	-0.087	4	0.934
			Dendritic Length	6	-0.136	-0.275	4	0.796
			Measure	n	r <sup>2</sup>	t	df	p-value
G	T-test on Regression Against a Null Linear Model	Test	Ciliated Dendritic Length	6	-0.097	-0.196	4	0.854
			Unciliated Dendritic Length	6	0.163	0.332	4	0.756

Figure 3	Panel	Test	F	r <sup>2</sup>	df(treatment)	df(residual)	p-value
A	ANOVA, Bonferroni Post-Hoc		5.327	0.7141	15	32	<0.0001
B	ANOVA, Bonferroni Post-Hoc		4.263	0.666	15	32	0.0003
		Protein					
D	ANOVA, Bonferroni Post-Hoc	Fyn	0.908	0.284	7	16	0.524
		p-Y-420 (pFyn)	0.64	0.219	7	16	0.716
		p-Y-420/Fyn	2.075	0.475	7	16	0.107

Figure 4	Panel	Test	H	p-value
A	Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's Multiple Comparison Post-hoc		2.209	0.5302
B	Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's Multiple Comparison Post-hoc		1.043	0.5937
C	Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's Multiple Comparison Post-hoc		5.767	0.0559
D	Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's Multiple Comparison Post-hoc		19.35	0.0002
E	Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's Multiple Comparison Post-hoc		1.449	0.4845

Figure 5	Panel	Test	F	r <sup>2</sup>	df(treatment)	df(residual)	p-value
B	ANOVA, Bonferroni Post-Hoc		2.645	0.06	3	123	0.0522
C	ANOVA, Bonferroni Post-Hoc		5.246	0.113	3	123	0.0019
		Test	F	df	df (residual)	% of total variance	p-value
D	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	2.419	3	198	3.25	0.0674
		Ciliation	5.613	1		2.51	0.0188
		Receptor Expression	4.244	3		5.69	0.0062
E	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	2.288	3	216	2.84	0.0795
		Receptor Localization	6.966	1		2.88	0.0089
		Receptor Expression	3.896	3		4.84	0.0097

Figure 6	Panel	Test	Receptor	H	p-value			
Cilia Length	A	Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn's Multiple Comparison Post-hoc	EV	2.645	0.482			
	E		WT 5-HT <sub>6</sub>	5.246	0.203			
	I		5-HT <sub>6</sub> <sup>406-411del</sup>	0.936	0.816			
	M		5-HT <sub>6</sub> <sup>D106A</sup>	3.141	0.37			
Dendritic Length	B	ANOVA, Bonferroni Post-Hoc	EV	3.063	0.0384			
	F		WT 5-HT <sub>6</sub>	4.674	0.0531			
	J		5-HT <sub>6</sub> <sup>406-411del</sup>	0.902	0.012			
	N		5-HT <sub>6</sub> <sup>D106A</sup>	1.958	0.023			
			Test	F	df	df (residual)	% of total variance	p-value
	C	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	0.968	3	227	1.17	0.408
Ciliation Dependent	G	2-Way ANOVA	Ciliation	11.45	1		4.62	0.0008
			Receptor Expression	2.134	3		2.58	0.0968
			WT 5-HT <sub>6</sub>	0.299	3	246	0.35	0.8256
			Ciliation	0.67	1		0.26	0.4137
			Receptor Expression	2.069	3		2.45	0.1049
	K	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	0.468	3	219	0.62	0.704
Dendritic Length	L	2-Way ANOVA	Ciliation	2.972	1		1.31	0.0861
			Receptor Expression	0.996	3		1.32	0.3952
	O	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	1.664	3	244	1.95	0.175
			Ciliation	6.196	1		2.42	0.0135
			Receptor Expression	0.144	3		0.17	0.933
			Test	F	df	df (residual)	% of total variance	p-value
Dendritic Length	D	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	Not capable of statistical analysis because Receptor Never in Cilia				
Receptor Localization	H	2-Way ANOVA	Receptor Localization					
			Receptor Expression					
			WT 5-HT <sub>6</sub>	0.456	3	246	0.54	0.713
			Receptor Localization	1.256	1		0.49	0.263
			Receptor Expression	2.281	3		2.68	0.079
	L	2-Way ANOVA	Interaction	0.3368	3	219	0.44	0.7988
Dendritic Length	P	2-Way ANOVA	Receptor Localization	6.95	1		3.03	0.009
			Receptor Expression	0.8478	3		1.11	0.4691
			Interaction	0.4248	3	244	0.51	0.7354
			Receptor Localization	2.448	1		0.97	0.1189
			Receptor Expression	1.166	3		1.39	0.3232