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Regional and cell-type-specific afferent and efferent projections of the mouse claustrum

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SUMMARY

The claustrum (CLA) is a conspicuous subcortical structure interconnected with cortical and subcortical regions. Its regional anatomy and cell-type-specific connections in the mouse remain not fully determined. Using multimodal reference datasets, we confirmed the delineation of the mouse CLA as a single group of neurons embedded in the agranular insular cortex. We quantitatively investigated brain-wide inputs and outputs of CLA using bulk anterograde and retrograde viral tracing data and single neuron tracing data. We found that the prefrontal module has more cell types projecting to the CLA than other cortical modules, with layer 5 IT neurons predominating. We found nine morphological types of CLA principal neurons that topographically innervate functionally linked cortical targets, preferentially the midline cortical areas, secondary motor area, and entorhinal area. Together, this study provides a detailed wiring diagram of the

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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cell-type-specific connections of the mouse CLA, laying a foundation for studying its functions at the cellular level.

Graphical Abstract

In brief

The claustrum is a subcortical structure interconnected with cortical and subcortical regions and its cellular anatomy remains not fully resolved. Wang et al. show regional and cell-type-specific inputs and outputs of the mouse claustrum. Its strong connections with the prefrontal module support the claustrum's involvement in higher cognitive functions.

INTRODUCTION

The claustrum (CLA) is a small, elongated, and sheet-like subcortical structure located between the insular cortex and the striatum, well conserved from reptiles to mammals.^{1–3} It is also the most highly reciprocally connected structure with the cortex. $4-7$ Although its function is not understood,⁸ recent studies suggest that the CLA is involved in sleep,^{2,9,10} selective attention,^{11–13} engagement with the external world¹⁰ and task switching.^{14,15} Furthermore, top-down signals from the anterior cingulate cortex may go through the CLA to influence posterior sensory and association cortices.¹⁶ Because it is amenable to advanced transgenic tools and newly developed technologies, the laboratory mouse has become a popular animal model for studying CLA functions $17-20$

There are discrepancies in how the mouse CLA is defined, with a total of five parcellation schemes in existence. In one, the CLA is split into dorsal and ventral subdivisions underneath the gustatory and agranular insular areas.²¹ In a second scheme, the CLA is divided into core and shell.^{10,22–27} The third one defines CLA as a combination of the first and second schemes.28,29 In a fourth scheme, the CLA is delineated largely underneath the gustatory, agranular insular, and visceral cortical areas, but not further subdivided.^{1,30} A fifth scheme defines the CLA as a single, densely packed group of neurons embedded in the agranular insular area.^{5,31–33} Reconciling these differences is necessary for correctly quantifying and interpreting tract-tracing data, electrophysiological recording and opto/ chemogenetic manipulations.

The afferent and efferent connections of CLA have been extensively studied in mammals.^{8,17,18,34,35} As in humans, non-human primates, and cats,^{4,36–41} the CLA in mice is reciprocally connected with frontal, parietal, temporal, and occipital cortices.5,6,9,11 It also receives inputs from olfactory areas, cortical subplate, striatum, pallidum, hippocampal formation, thalamus, hypothalamus, midbrain, and pons.^{6,9,11}

The inputs to the CLA predominantly originate from cortical pyramidal neurons.^{5,6,11} These are classified into three major cell types: intra-telencephalic (IT) neurons in layer 2 (L2) to L6, extra-telencephalic (ET) neurons in L5, and corticothalamic (CT) neurons in L6, on the basis of their downstream targets.^{7,42,43} In the primary visual area (VISp), L6 IT neurons project to the CLA, $44,45$ while in the secondary motor area (MOs), L2/3 IT and L5 IT neurons send projections to it. 46 Given that different cortical cell types convey different kinds of information,^{47,48} comprehensively understanding cell-type-specific connections of the mouse CLA is important.

The principal neurons within the CLA are heterogeneous in terms of their intrinsic electrical properties and projection targets. They have recently been classified into two,¹⁶ four,^{20,49} and five cell types²⁵ on the basis of their intrinsic electrical properties and into four cell types on the basis of their axonal projections.⁷ It is not known how morphological cell types are related to electrophysiological ones.

To address these issues, we characterized the location, brain-wide connectivity pattern, and full morphology of single principal neurons using systematic labeling, whole-brain imaging, and informatics approaches. Specifically, we performed new experiments by injecting monosynaptic retrograde rabies viral tracer into the CLA of transgenic mice and combined these with complementary datasets on CLA outputs and inputs mapped with anterograde Cre-dependent adeno-associated virus (AAV) tracer injections from the Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas.^{50,51} We reconstructed additional individual CLA principal neurons in sparsely labeled transgenic mice⁷ and found more diverse principal neuron types that innervate functionally linked targets. By integrating all these datasets, this study provides a detailed wiring diagram of the afferent and efferent projections of the mouse CLA at regional, laminar, and cell-type levels.

RESULTS

Delineation of the anatomical boundary of the mouse CLA

The CLA is embedded in the agranular insular area (AI) as a more densely packed group of neurons with heavy labeling in the Nissl-stained specimen compared with its adjacent structures (Figure 1A). It corresponds to a densely packed group of neurons in the transgenic mouse line Rorb-IRES2-Cre;Ai110 with red nuclear labeling (Figure 1B) and in the immunostained specimen for NeuN (nuclear protein Fox3, in red) (Figure 1C). The CLA is surrounded by densely labeled myelinated fibers revealed by immunostaining with an antibody against NF-160 (neurofilament M, in green) (Figure 1C) and an antibody against SMI-99 (basic myelin protein, in red) (Figure 1D). Similarly, the CLA is an oval shape surrounded by darkly stained AchE-positive fibers (Figure S1A). Figures 1E–1H show four Cre driver lines with enriched gene expression in the CLA and relatively weak expression in adjacent structures. Complementary to these transgenic lines, three other Cre driver lines with enriched gene expression in L6 of isocortex, tapering off from the gustatory cortical area (GU) to AI with little or no expression in CLA (Figures 1I–1K). Transgenic line Calb2-IRES2-Cre shows enriched gene expression in L2/3 of AI and GU but no expression in CLA (Figure 1L). These positive or negative gene expression patterns are consistent with the marker genes (in situ hybridization [ISH] data) (Figures S1B-S1L). Most positive marker genes are co-expressed in CLA and its adjacent structures AI, GU and the dorsal endopiriform nucleus (EPd) but with stronger expression in CLA than in its surroundings.⁵² Some of them express not only in L6 of lateral cortical areas, including GU and AI, but also in CLA and EPd, whereas others avoid expression in CLA but in L6 of AI, ACA and EPd, or in L6b and L6 of the cortex or in L5 and L6 of the cortex. CLA is embedded in AI, which is bordered dorsally by GU and ventrally by EPd (Figures 1 and S1). Additionally, anterograde viral tracing data show dense projections to CLA from cortical areas such as the anterior cingulate area (ACA).⁵ Our retrograde rabies injections into the primary motor cortex (MOp), GU and AI and the reunion nucleus (RE) of the thalamus show retrograde neurons labeled in deep layers of the GU or AI or a combination of both (Figures S2A–S2D). In our two-dimensional (2D) mouse brain atlas, CLA extends to the anterior forceps of the corpus callosum (Figure S2E), consistent with what has been shown in rats.³² Because all anatomical reference datasets show differential characteristics between CLA and its surroundings, we believe that the current and previous studies accurately delineate the boundary of CLA in CCFv3.^{5,33}

Whole-brain presynaptic inputs to the CLA revealed with retrograde rabies tracing

To map whole-brain presynaptic inputs to the CLA, we used monosynaptic retrograde cell-type-specific rabies tracing method⁵³ by injecting a Cre-dependent AAV helper virus into CLA of Gnb4-IRES2-Cre and Ntng2-IRES2-Cre mice, followed by injection of EnvA pseudotyped, glycoprotein-deleted rabies virus into the same location. Two sequential injections resulted in retrograde nuclear EGFP labeling of the presynaptic neurons that form synaptic contacts with starter cells, which were infected with both Cre-dependent AAV helper virus and rabies virus. All starter cells were manually counted in each experiment (see Method details) and were labeled more in CLA than its adjacent structures (Figure S2F). From 11 injections (Table S1), we selected 5 injections whose injection sites are

mainly located in CLA and are spaced out along the anteroposterior axis of the CLA for quantitative analyses (Figure 2A, red dots) but excluded 6 injections with significant contamination, leakage along injection track, and segmentation artifacts.

Figure 2B shows a representative example of retrograde rabies injection sites. AAV helper virus-infected neurons (in red) were labeled mostly in the CLA (Figure 2C). The starter cells (in yellow) were labeled mostly in CLA but sparsely in GU or EPd. Presynaptic neurons (in green) were labeled widely in CLA and other structures. The presynaptic neurons in the whole brain are shown in the dorsal view (Figure 2D), more frequently in the ipsilateral than the contralateral hemisphere. The fraction of total fluorescent volume detected in 5 injections is the highest in isocortex (61%), moderate in olfactory areas (OLF; 12%), hippocampal formation (HPF; 7%), cortical subplate (CTXsp; 9%) and thalamus (TH; 7%), low in striatum (STR; 1%) and pallidum (PAL; 1%), and vanishing in hypothalamus (HY), midbrain (MB), pons (P), medulla (MY), and cerebellum (CB; $HY + MB + P + MY + CB$ 1%) (Figure 2E; Table S2). Although the numbers of starter cells vary by more than an order of magnitude, the overall presynaptic input patterns appear similar across 5 injections.

We further analyzed presynaptic neurons at the fine structural level of the mouse ontology (314 structures in each hemisphere). As presynaptic neurons are mainly derived from the isocortex, we used the isocortical flatmap (computationally flattened 2D cortical map from CCFv3) to visualize presynaptic neuron distribution. The reference flatmap shows isocortical areas and subdivisions on the left side and the six cortical modules (prefrontal, lateral, medial, somatomotor, visual, and auditory) with different colors on the right side (Figure 2F).51 Flatmaps and quantification of the retrograde tracing data normalized by starter cells and each structural volume show that presynaptic neuron labeling is heavier in ipsilateral prefrontal and lateral modules than in the medial, visual, somatomotor, and auditory modules (Figures 2G–2J). Contralateral presynaptic labeling looks like a mirror image of ipsilateral labeling, but with fewer presynaptic neurons, except in the anterior cingulate, prelimbic (PL), and secondary motor areas whose presynaptic neurons are more numerous on the contralateral than on the ipsilateral side (Figures 2G–2J; Table S2).

To reveal the laminar distribution of presynaptic neurons, we computed averaged presynaptic input volume in each layer by dividing the sum of the total presynaptic input volume of each cortical area for 5 injections (Figure 2K; Table S2). Presynaptic neurons are denser in infragranular than in supragranular layers in both ipsilateral and contralateral cortical areas, except ventro-lateral orbital frontal area (ORBvl). Within infragranular layers, most cortical areas contain more presynaptic neurons in L5 than in L6, whereas a few cortical areas such as VISp and GU do the opposite (Figure 2K). Representative examples show the laminar distribution of presynaptic neurons in the frontal, temporal, parietal, and occipital cortical areas at high magnification (Figures 3A–3F). Presynaptic labeling shows a variety of patterns encompassing L2/3, L5, and L6 but never L4.

Presynaptic neurons are found in many structures across major brain divisions. Thirty-one of these retrogradely labeled structures were validated with anterograde AAV injections and are listed in Figure 2J. One-third of these, especially midline structures, have bilateral presynaptic labeling with an ipsilateral predominance (Figures 3G–3R). Presynaptic neurons

are more in CLA, EPd, basolateral amygdala nucleus (BLA), paraventricular nucleus (PVT), central medial nucleus (CM), and dorsal raphe nucleus (DR) than in other structures.

Inputs to CLA revealed with anterograde AAV tracing

To validate retrograde tracing results and to fully characterize cell-type-specific inputs to the CLA, we systematically reviewed experiments from the Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas.50,51 This dataset consists of 1,007 injections into isocortical areas and 1,472 injections into 175 structures across 11 other major brain regions of wild-type and Cre driver transgenic mouse lines. All injections are listed in Table S1. A total of 321 isocortical injections and 107 subcortical injections were found to send projections to CLA and these injection sites are shown (Figure S3A). Figure S3B shows examples of these injection sites in the entire cortical layers, L2/3 IT, L5 IT, L5 IT ET, L5 ET, and L6 CT of six cortical areas. Using anterograde tracing data, we confirmed that almost all cortical areas send projections to the CLA. The sole two exceptions are MOp and primary somatosensory (SSp) cortices, which do not project to the CLA but to its adjacent structures GU and AI. By quantitatively analyzing averaged axon labeling volume within CLA for each cell type of cortical pyramidal neurons, we found that the prefrontal module and MOs have more cell types projecting to the CLA than the sensory and medial modules (Figure S4). In most cortical areas, L5 IT (including L5 IT ET) neurons send stronger projections to the CLA than other cell types, whereas in VISp and VISl, L6 IT neurons predominate but with weak projections.

Figure 4A shows several examples of cell-type-specific inputs to the CLA from cortical areas PL, ACAd, ACAv, and MOs. We found two axonal projection patterns in the CLA and its surroundings from cortical areas. One pattern shows denser projections to its surroundings than to CLA itself from structures, such as PL, and another pattern shows denser projections to the CLA than to its surroundings from structures, such as ACA. L5 IT neurons in the medial entorhinal area (ENTm) send stronger projections to ipsilateral CLA than other cell types. In contrast, L2/3 IT and L5 IT neurons in the lateral entorhinal area (ENTl) project preferentially to EPd and insular cortex compared with CLA.

Presynaptic inputs to CLA from 31 subcortical structures in Figure 2J were confirmed with anterograde tracing data (Table S3). Figure 4B shows examples of axons in the CLA from 24 of these structures. Some structures such as anterior olfactory nucleus (AON), BLA, and PVT project to bilateral CLA with an ipsilateral predominance, while others such as ventral CA1 (vCA1) and anteromedial nucleus (AM) project to ipsilateral CLA. Surprisingly, the interposed nucleus (IP) in the cerebellum sends projections only to the contralateral CLA. As isocortex, these subcortical structures show two distinct projection patterns to CLA and its surroundings. One projection pattern shows preferential inputs to CLA over AI from structures, such as AM and PVT, while another pattern shows denser projections to AI over CLA from structures, such as AON and BLA (Figure 4B).

CLA outputs revealed with anterograde AAV tracing

To reveal brain-wide outputs, we re-analyzed our bulk anterograde tracing dataset by adding two newly generated CLA injections and excluding a contaminated injection from our

previous study.⁵ Five injections into transgenic lines are shown in the rotated lateral view (Figure 2A, green dots). Figures 5A–5B shows a representative example of these bulk anterograde AAV injections. Claustro-cortical projections terminate in the lower part of L1, L2/3, L5, and L6 with different densities across isocortical areas (Figures 5C–5F). We quantified CLA output volume in each layer of each cortical area and averaged these volumes across five injections listed in Table S3. This quantitative analysis shows that axons are denser in L2/3 and L5 than in other layers in most cortical areas (Figure 5G). In a few cortical areas, such as GU and visceral area (VISC) axons are denser in L6 than in other layers. In VISp, axons are denser in L2/3 than in other layers (Figures 5F and 5G). In the retrohippocampal region, claustral outputs are much denser in the deep layers than in the superficial layers of ENTm and ENTI, while they are denser in the superficial layers than in the deep layers of the postsubiculum (POST), presubiculum (PRE) (Figure 5F) and parasubiculum (PAR).

To reveal axon distributions, we mapped claustro-cortical projections onto isocortical flatmap and found similar projection patterns across injections (Figures 5H–5J). Claustrocortical projections were found in all ipsilateral isocortical areas, preferentially in the prefrontal and lateral modules and motor areas; moderately in VISp, SSs, and RSP; and sparsely in the higher visual, primary somatosensory, and auditory cortical areas (Figures 5H–5J). Sparse contralateral projections were consistently found in ACA, MOs, and RSP.

The quantitative analysis by averaging CLA output volumes in cortical areas across five injections confirmed the above qualitative observation that CLA sends stronger output to the prefrontal and lateral modules as well as motor cortices than other modules (Figure 5K). The CLA also sends projections strongly to the ENT, AON, and piriform area (PIR) and weakly to dorsal peduncular area (DP), taenia tecta (TT), subiculum complex, and BLA (Figure 5K).

Diverse cell types of CLA principal neurons

To better understand the diversity of individual neurons, we fully reconstructed 54 single CLA principal neurons using sparsely labeled transgenic Gnb4-IRES2-CreERT2 mice; 25 of these neurons were newly reconstructed in this study and 29 neurons were taken from our previous publication.⁷ For comparison and visualization purposes, 33 neurons reconstructed on the left side were flipped to the right side. The somata of these neurons are distributed throughout the anteroposterior extent of the CLA (Figure 6A). Examples of CLA neurons show dense axonal projections to the midline cortical targets and ENT (Figures 6B and S5A–S5C). Enlargements along axon fibers resembling synaptic boutons are barely present along the axon shafts (insets 1–3) within the CLA but are plentiful along axon branches (insets 4–6) in the neuron's target regions. Its axon shafts travel rostrally and caudally within the CLA with almost no local collaterals.

Individual CLA neurons densely and frequently project to PL, ACA, MOs, RSP, VISp, and ENT but sparsely and infrequently to the lateral, auditory, somatosensory, and visual modules (except VISp) (Figures S5D and S5E). Neurons project to targets topographically. Most bilaterally projecting CLA neurons (10 of 12) are distributed in the anterior part of the CLA, and a few (2 of 12) are in the middle. Anterior CLA neurons send few

projections to the visual areas, POST, PRE, and PAR, while the posterior CLA neurons project substantially to these areas. Anterior and middle CLA neurons send projections frequently to ORB, PL, and infralimbic area (ILA), while posterior CLA neurons barely send projections to these areas (Figure 6C). The combined projections of all 54 neurons recapitulate our anterograde tracing results, with projections to all ipsilateral cortical areas and several contralateral ones (Figure S6A) but sparsely terminate in the ipsilateral lateral module and MOp.

To classify these cells into distinct types, we first manually separated them into ipsilaterally projecting neurons ($n = 42$) and bilaterally projecting neurons ($n = 12$). Unsupervised clustering analysis classified ipsilaterally projecting neurons into 7 clusters and bilaterally projecting neurons into 2 clusters on the basis of 11 and 2 morphological features, respectively (Figure 6D). Individual CLA neurons in the 9 clusters are visualized in dorsal and lateral views (Figure 6E) and their axonal and dendritic features are listed in Table S4.

We mapped axons of individual single neurons into isocortical flatmaps (Figures S6B–S6J). CLA neurons in C1–C7 innervate the diverse sets of target regions and in C8 and C9 project to ipsilateral ACA with or without projections to RSP.

Violin plots reveal the laminar distribution of axons by averaging total axon lengths in each cortical layer of all single CLA neurons (Figure S6K). CLA axons terminate in the lower part of L1 to L6 but with different densities, similar to our anterograde tracing results. In the frontal pole (FRP), PL, ORB, and TEa, axons are denser in L5 than in other layers. In AI, GU, and ECT, axons are denser in L6 than in other layers. In ACA, MOs, and RSP, axons are dense across all layers. In VISp, axons are denser in the lower L1 and upper L2/3 than in other layers.

Figure S7A shows fully reconstructed dendrites of 54 CLA neurons. Their dendrites arborized along the long anteroposterior axis of CLA are very narrow mediolaterally without typical apical dendrites and are restricted to the CLA boundary.⁵⁴ Dendritic spines are observed on the dendritic trees of the individual CLA principal neurons (Figures S7B–S7C).

To quantitatively compare the dendritic morphology of different CLA neuron types as clustered above, we measured 11 dendritic features (Table S4). In the whole dataset of 9 clusters, significant differences were detected in 4 of the dendritic features (F < 0.05, ANOVA), including the distance of soma location measured from the very front of the CCFv3, dendritic arbor length and depth, and average bifurcate to bifurcate angle, which is an average value of the angle formed by a bifurcating node and its 2 child bifurcating nodes. For statistical significance analysis in the following, some clusters of small samples were pooled together on the basis of their similar axonal projecting directions and dominant targeting regions. The statistical difference between each pair of the groups, including data-pooled groups, was compared using a t test.

On average, the distance of bilaterally projecting neuronal soma locations is significantly shorter along the anteroposterior axis than that of ipsilaterally projecting CLA neurons $(p < 0.01)$, of which C8 has the shortest distance. The dendrites of bilaterally projecting CLA neurons present some features differently from ipsilaterally projecting ones, including

significantly thicker depth ($p = 0.01$) and bigger branching angles ($p < 0.01$). C9 has the biggest branching angle among clusters.

C2 and C7 that project only backward have significantly longer distances of soma location along the anteroposterior axis and a higher number of dendrites compared with pooled C1, C3 and C4 that project forward only or dominantly ($p = 0.02$, $p = 0.02$). In addition, C2 and C7 present significantly thinner dendritic clusters compared with pooled C1 and C5 $(p = 0.04)$. C2 and C7 also have significantly longer distances of soma location along the anteroposterior axis ($p < 0.01$), a higher number of dendrites ($p < 0.01$) and thinner dendritic clusters $(p < 0.01)$ compared with those of pooled C8 and C9.

DISCUSSION

The anatomical boundary of the mouse CLA

How to accurately delineate the boundary of the mouse CLA remains open to debate. As described in the Introduction, there are five distinct parcellation schemes, unlike in humans, non-human primates, and cats whose CLA is easily identifiable as a thin sheet of densely packed neurons embedded between two fiber tracts, the external and extreme capsules.55–57 Because of the lack of an obvious extreme capsule, the CLA in rodents is difficult to define. By registering multimodal anatomical reference datasets to the CCFv3, we found that the mouse CLA is restricted to the "core" or "ventral" CLA (vCLA) and that the "shell" or "dorsal" CLA (dCLA) belongs to L6 of the overlying AI and GU.^{5,33} The differences between CLA and AI and GU are evident in the cyto-, myelo-, geno-, chemo-architecture and connectivity. Such differences have also been reported in recent studies but are interpreted as the "core" and "shell" sending projections differentially to their targets.26,27 This interpretation is different from ours in that the "dCLA" falls into L6 of GU spatially and the "shell" is equivalent to L6 of AI. L6 neurons of GU and AI have distinct downstream targets compared with those of CLA .^{6,29} Our retrograde rabies injections into GU, MOp, Ald and RE clearly show retrograde neurons densely labeled in the deep layer of GU or AI or a combination of both, which is named "dCLA" or "shell" in some of the previous CLA studies.^{28,29} These differential connections^{58,59} between CLA and its surroundings could underly their physiological and functional differences.^{10,60} Similarly, we interpret marker genes, such as Pcp4, Nnat, and Slc30a3, as defining L6 of GU and AI, whereas others use these genes for defining the "shell" of CLA.²⁷

Our definition of the mouse CLA meets all anatomical criteria and is consistent with a developmental study, 61 a combination of tract-tracing and immunohistochemical studies^{62–64} and is fully compatible with projection-defined viral tracing data for those downstream targets at the network level,⁶ in contrast with others.^{20,29}

The input and output connections of CLA with isocortex

The CLA has been reported to be reciprocally connected with a variety of cortical areas.5,6,9,11 However, the prior reports are inconsistent not only in the total number of efferent and afferent connections of CLA with isocortex but also in the projection strengths. By systematically analyzing retrograde and anterograde viral tract-tracing data and single

neuron tracing data, we demonstrate that the CLA reciprocally connects with all cortical modules, preferentially with the prefrontal module (Figures 7A and 7B). However, we did not confirm inputs to CLA from MOp and SSp, two major nodes of the somatomotor network using anterograde tracing data. This mismatch between anterograde and retrograde results is likely due to the contamination of retrograde injections. Thus, cross-validation using multiple tracing datasets is imperative. Our finding of cortico-claustral projections is in line with electrophysiological *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies, in which CLA neurons were activated mostly by the frontal inputs but barely by single sensory or primary motor inputs.65,66 The strong and reciprocal connections with the prefrontal module, especially ACA, are consistent with other studies, $6,62,65,67$ supporting that CLA is involved in cognitive control.10,14,68

Cell types and laminar origin of cortical pyramidal neurons projecting to the CLA

We demonstrate that cell types projecting to the CLA are determined by cortical areas and layers. Specifically, the prefrontal module has more cell types projecting to CLA than the lateral, medial, and sensory modules do. In most cortical areas, L5 IT neurons send stronger projections to the bilateral CLA than other cell types/layers, while L6 IT neurons in VISp predominate the projections. These anterograde tracing results are consistent with our retrograde tracing ones and others showing that cortical neurons projecting to CLA are denser in the infragranular layers than in the supragranular layers across cortical areas.^{6,69,70} Our finding of cell-type-specific inputs to CLA with different strengths could hold the key to uncovering CLA functions in the future.

Diverse morphological types of CLA principal neurons and their axonal distribution in cortical areas

The existence of diverse types of CLA principal neurons has been suggested by injecting multiple retrograde tracers into different combinations of cortical areas.^{6,20,26,38,71,72} The retrograde tracing method, however, has a limitation to trace many projection targets in one animal at once. Recently, principal neurons within the mouse CLA have been classified into different cell types on the basis of their intrinsic electrical properties, or their long-range axonal projections. One study using whole-cell patch-clamp recording combined with retrograde tracing classified principal neurons into 2 distinct cell types,¹⁶ while another study classified ACA-projecting principal neurons into 4 cell types.⁴⁹ These 4 electrophysiological cell types may relate to our 4 morphological cell types: ipsilaterally and bilaterally ACA-projecting cell types (with or without ipsilateral RSP projections).

Our data not only reveal the topographical organization of individual CLA neurons along its anteroposterior extent but also uncover additional cell types. The nine morphological types innervate anatomically and functionally linked targets.^{50,51,73,74} Interestingly, all these CLA types belong to the same Car3 transcriptomic cell type.⁷ It will be important to establish the relationship between the morphological and electrophysiological cell types.²⁰

The laminar distribution of claustro-cortical projections has been investigated in cats and mice.6,12,55,75–79 Our single neuron reconstruction, which does not suffer from contamination, reveals that CLA axon projections are denser in L5 and L2/3 than in L1

and L6 of the prefrontal module, denser in L6 than in other layers of the lateral cortical module (AI and GU), denser in the lower part of L1 and upper part of $L2/3$ than in other layers of the sensory modules but avoid branches in L4. This distribution pattern is similar to those in the previous studies^{6,12} but disagrees with one study showing denser axons in L6 of the frontal areas than in other layers. 80 This discrepancy is most likely due to the contamination of bulk anterograde tracer injections. The laminar distribution of claustro-cortical projections can influence different neuron types in RSP compared with that of thalamo-cortical projections. 81 Our findings suggest that different cell types transmit signals to different sets of anatomically and functionally linked cortical targets, rather than synchronizing the entire cortex.⁹

The dendritic morphology of CLA principal neurons in rats is different from that of the adjacent insular cortex.⁵⁴ Our current and previous studies⁷ confirm such a difference in mice. Recent studies in mouse slices show two 82 or four 20 distinct principal neuron types based on their electrical properties and dendritic morphologies. However, slice studies cannot reveal the relationship between dendritic morphologies and axon targets of individual CLA principal neurons. In the present study, we completely reconstructed the full morphology of single CLA neurons. Our quantitative classification shows multiple types of CLA principal neurons on the basis of both axonal projections and dendritic morphologies. This finding provides the anatomical basis for further exploring their functional roles in information processing.

The connections of CLA with subcortical structures

The mouse CLA has been reported to receive inputs from subcortical structures and sends outputs back to a few of these regions.6,9,11 However, the prior reports are inconsistent in the total number of efferent and afferent connections of the claustrum with subcortical structures. In this study, we found that CLA receives inputs from 31 structures across 10 major divisions, and in turn, sends projections back to only a few of them (Figures 7C and 7D). We found 7 thalamic nuclei that project to CLA. Collectively, these thalamic nuclei have reciprocal connections with the midline and higher association cortices^{50,51} and have been suggested to involve arousal and higher cognitive functions.83–85 Our results clearly reveal the existence of indirect thalamo-claustro-cortical pathways.

CLA neurons receive inputs from neuromodulatory systems $86-88$ and have corresponding receptors to these neuromodulators.89,90 We confirmed inputs to CLA from NDB (cholinergic neurons), CS and DR (serotonergic neurons), VTA (dopaminergic neurons), and LC (noradrenergic neurons) and added inputs from PPN (cholinergic neurons) and RPO (serotonergic neurons) to the list (Figure 7C). Our finding of dopaminergic innervation of the mouse CLA is consistent with tract-tracing and immunohistochemical studies^{11,90} but disagrees with others.^{9,91} Studies of cholinergic and serotonergic inputs to CLA in acute slice recordings suggest their different influences on CLA neuron activities.^{90,92} Psilocybin, a partial serotonin 2A $(5-HT_{2A})$ receptor agonist, has been suggested to alter the functional connectivity of CLA to cortical networks that support perception, memory, and attention.93,94

A recent study reported projections from the superior cerebellar peduncle to CLA by injecting conventional tracers into the superior cerebellar peduncle but did not specify projections from which part of the cerebellum.95 Our results showed sparse projections from IP to the contralateral CLA but not from the den-tate and fastigial nuclei. This finding suggests that the IP signal could reach the prefrontal module through CLA.

Functional implications

We here demonstrate that CLA receives inputs from more cell types in the prefrontal module than from other cortical modules, with L5 IT neurons predominating. L5 IT pyramidal neurons predominantly sending projections to CLA is consistent with what has been shown in rat prelimbic cortex with single neuron tracing.⁹⁶ CLA neurons, in turn, send projections back to functionally linked cortical areas, predominantly along the midline and MOs as well as to ENT. Thus, cell-type-specific inputs and outputs of the CLA form direct, closed excitatory cortico-claustro-cortical loops, different from the indirect, inhibitory-dominant cortico-basal ganglia-thalamo-cortical loops (movement related) and the thalamo-corticothalamic loops (sensory relay and alertness related). Many subcortical structures, such as higher-order thalamic nuclei, send unidirectional projections to CLA, supporting the hypothesis that CLA is involved in higher cognitive processing.^{8,14,66} The accumulated evidence further supports such involvement of (1) CLA-ENTm pathway modulating the function of contextual memory⁹⁷; (2) CLA-medial prefrontal pathway regulating impulsivity, 98 attentional set-shifting, 12 and salience detection $11,13$; and (3) CLA-ACA pathway modulating engagement with the external world.¹⁰ Recent Neuropixels recordings, combined with optogenetics, permit the investigation of multiple claustro-cortical pathways and cell types and layers simultaneously.19 Such techniques can be used to study celltype-specific inputs and outputs of the CLA in mice that are engaged in tasks requiring competitive attentional and/or cognitive control.

Limitations of the study

Viral tracing data should be interpreted cautiously due to technical limitations.53 For retrograde rabies virus tracing, low-level leaky expression of TVA in the absence of Cre is sufficient for rabies infection. Leaky expression, in combination with retrograde neurons derived from AAV helper virus in Cre-driver expressed areas, might create undesired starter cells that complicate interpretation. Retrograde rabies tracing may not reveal all presynaptic neurons even with the higher transsynaptic efficiency of CVS-N2C used. Injection site contamination contributes to labeling for both anterograde and retrograde viral tracing, as transgene expression is not restricted to a single structure that we wanted to label. Therefore, verifying retrograde labeling with other datasets, such as anterograde tracing data, single neuron tracing data, and BARseq data, and vice versa is crucial for a better understanding of CLA circuitry.

Data segmentation and registration should also be considered. In some cases, false-positive and false-negative results were found because of uneven background signal and undetected weak fluorescent signal, respectively. The procedures for removing false-positive artifacts for both retrograde rabies tracing data and anterograde AAV tracing data are detailed in Method details. To avoid missing projection targets, false-negative results should be

carefully and visually checked with high magnification. For anterograde AAV tracing data, axons of passage may not be completely excluded from terminal fields. This might cause an overestimation of axon terminal fields in some regions in some injections. As all tracing data were registered to CCFv3 for quantification, it is possible that some tracing data were not registered perfectly with CCFv3 because of different imaging modalities or other reasons.

STAR★**METHODS**

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact—Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Dr. Quanxin Wang (quanxinw@alleninstitute.org).

Materials availability—This study did not generate new unique reagents.

Data and code availability

- **•** All data reported in this paper are publicly available through the Allen institute portal [\(http://portal.brain-map.org/](http://portal.brain-map.org/)) and the archive Brain Imaging library (BIL, [https://www.brainimagelibrary.org/\)](https://www.brainimagelibrary.org/).
- **•** No original code has been generated.
- **•** Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the lead contact upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Animal care and use—All experimental procedures were approved by the Allen Institute Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and conform to NIH guidelines. Both male and female wild-type C57BL/6J and transgenic mice P56 were used in this study listed in Table S1. All animals were housed 3–5 per cage, under constant temperature, humidity, and light conditions (14/10 h light/dark cycles) and given food and water ad libitum.

METHOD DETAILS

Histology and immunohistochemistry—The histology and double immunohistochemistry (IHC) procedures are detailed at the Allen Mouse Brain Connectivity Atlas documentation page ([http://help.brain-map.org//display/](http://help.brain-map.org//display/mouseconnectivity/Documentation) [mouseconnectivity/Documentation\)](http://help.brain-map.org//display/mouseconnectivity/Documentation) and in our previous publications.^{5,33} Briefly, adult mice were anesthetized with 5% isoflurane and intracardially perfused with 10 mL saline (0.9% NaCl) followed by 50 mL freshly prepared 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). Brains were rapidly dissected, postfixed, and transferred to a 30% sucrose solution. After sunk, brains were sectioned at 25 μm on a Leica 3050 S cryostat. A series of alternative sections from each brain were collected for Nissl-staining, or double IHC. Nissl-stained sections were delipidated with the xylene substitute Formula 83 (CBG Biotech, Columbus, OH; catalog No. CH0104) and ethanol rehydrated. The sections were stained in 0.21% thionine for 3 min and dehydrated by sequential immersion in increasing concentrations of ethanol.

Differentiation and monitoring were performed at 95% ethanol before completion with pure ethanol. Dehydrated sections were subsequently incubated in Formula 83 and coverslipped with mounting medium and then scanned with the x10 objective on ScanScope (Aperio Technologies, Vista, CA).

For double IHC, sections were washed after antigen retrieval with 10 mM sodium citrate and then incubated in blocking solution (4% normal goat serum plus 0.3% Triton X-100 in PBS) for 1 h. After brief rinsing, each series of sections was incubated with a pair of the following primary antibodies: Calbindin1 (Calb1; Swant, catalog No. CB38.Rabbit final dilution 1:2,000 in blocking solution) and SMI-99 (Covance, Berkeley, CA; catalog No. SMI-99P; 1:1,000), or NeuN (Millipore, Bedford, MA; catalog No. MAB377, RRID:AB_10048713; 1:1,000) and NF-160 (Abcam, Cambridge, MA; catalog No. ab9034, RRID:AB_306956; 1:1,000) overnight and then incubated in a pair of the secondary antibodies: goat antirabbit-488 (final dilution 1:1,000 in blocking solution for Calb1, and 1:500 for NF160) and goat anti-mouse-594 (1:500 for SMI-99 and NeuN) overnight. After rinsing, sections were counterstained with DAPI (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA; catalog No. D1306) and coverslipped with Fluoromount G medium (Southern Biotechnology, Birmingham, AL; catalog No. 0100–01). Sections were scanned with VS110/120 (Olympus, Center Valley, PA) at x10 objectives.

Tracer injections—Detailed procedure for anterograde viral tracing has been described elsewhere.50,51 Surgery procedures for all experiments were the same with different tracers and mice used. A pan-neuronal AAV vector expressing EGFP under the human synapsin I promoter (AAV2/1.pSynI.EGFP.WPRE.bGH, Penn Vector Core, AV-1-PV1696, Addgene ID 105539) was as an anterograde tracer for injections into C57BL/6J mice and a Credependent AAV vector expressing EGFP (AAV2/1.pCAG.FLEX.EGFP.WPRE.bGH, Penn Vector Core, AV-1-ALL854, Addgene ID 51502), or a Cre-dependent AAV virus expressing a synaptophysin-EGFP fusion protein (AAV2/1.pCAG.FLEX.sypEGFP.WPRE.bGH, Penn Vector Core) was used as an anterograde tracer for injections into Cre driver mice (Table S1). All adult mice were anesthetized with 5% isoflurane briefly and secured to a stereotaxic frame (Model# 1900, Kopf, Tujunga, CA) before surgery. During surgery, anesthesia was maintained at 2% isoflurane. After the skin incision, a small divot was made on the skull surface with a fine drill burr. To reveal the brain surface, a tiny thin layer of bone was removed with miniature forceps. For injection, a glass pipette (inner tip diameter of 10–20 μm) loaded with AAV was inserted into the desired brain depth from the pial surface. The coordinates for injections into cortical and subcortical structures were listed on our portal (connectivity.brain-map. org) based on the mouse brain atlas.²¹ These viral tracers were delivered by iontophoresis (current 3 μA, and 7s on/7s off duty cycle) for 5 min 2165 injections were made in the right hemisphere and 314 injections in the left hemisphere.

The procedure for monosynaptic retrograde rabies tracing has been described in detail elsewhere.53 First, Cre-dependent anterograde viral tracer AAV1-pSyn-DIO-TVA66T-dTom-CVS N2cG as helper virus was delivered to the CLA of transgenic mice (Gnb4-IRES2-Cre and Ntgn2-IRES2-Cre) by iontophoresis with the parameters as described above. Two weeks later, EnvA CVS-N2C g-H2B-EGFP rabies virus (500nL) was pressure-injected into the same location in the CLA. The injection coordinates for CLA were based on the mouse

brain atlas²¹ at different anterior-posterior locations: AP $-0.34 - 1.78$ mm from bregma, ML 1.85–3.5mm from the midline, DV 2.83–3.10mm from pia surface.

Whole-brain imaging—After the survival, mice were anesthetized with 5% isoflurane and intracardially perfused with 10 mL of saline (0.9% NaCl) followed by 50 mL of freshly prepared 4% PFA. Brains were rapidly dissected, post-fixed in 4% PFA at room temperature for 3–6 h and overnight at 4°C, then rinsed briefly with PBS and stored in PBS with 0.1% sodium azide. The brains were subsequently placed in 4.5% oxidized agarose (made by stirring $10 \text{ mM } \text{Na} \text{O}_4$ in agarose), transferred to a phosphate buffer solution, and put in a grid-lined embedding mold for standardized orientation in an aligned coordinate space. High-resolution 140 block-face coronal images were scanned with serial two-photon tomography (STPT) (TissueCyte 1000 system, TissueVision, Cambridge, MA) with $20\times$ objective.

Data processing and quantification—STPT images were processed using the informatics data pipeline (IDP). The IDP contains two key algorithms: image alignment and signal detection. The global alignment process between the Cre mouse brains or AAVinjected brains and the average template consists of three steps: 1) a coarse registration, 2) a rigid registration, and 3) a 12-parameter affine registration. The signal detection algorithm was applied to each image to segment positive fluorescent signals from the background. Median filtering and large kernel low pass filter were then applied to remove noise. Two variations of the algorithm were employed, depending on the virus used for that experiment; one was tuned for EGFP, and one for SypEGFP detection. High-threshold edge information was combined with spatial distance-conditioned low-threshold edge results to form candidate signal object sets. For the SypEGFP data, filters were tuned to detect smaller objects (punctate terminal boutons vs long fibers). In addition, high-intensity pixels near the detected objects were included in the signal pixel set. Detected objects near hyper-intense artifacts occurring in multiple channels were removed. We developed an additional filtering step using a supervised decision tree classifier to filter out surface segmentation artifacts, based on morphological measurements, location context, and the normalized intensities of all three channels. The output is a full-resolution mask that classifies each 0.35 μ m \times 0.35 μm pixel as either signal or background. An isotropic 3-D summary of each brain is constructed by dividing each image into 10 μ m \times 10 μ m grid voxels. Segmentation and registration results are combined to quantify the signal for each voxel in the reference space and for each structure in the reference atlas ontology by combining voxels from the same structure.

To quantify retrogradely labeled neurons in the whole brain, we modified the above algorithm to automatically detect fluorescence signal of nucleus-localized H2B-EGFP over the background and measured the pixel intensity in each anatomical structure.⁵³ we used the automatically quantified retrograde labeling pixels as a proxy for the number of retrogradely labeled neurons in each structure.

Counting starter cells—All sections putatively containing the injection site were collected for immunostaining with an anti-RFP antibody (rabbit, Rockland Antibodies and Assays, 600-401-379) to amplify the tdTomato signal for the AAV1-pSyn-CVS-N2C-g-

TVA-tdTomato virus. These immunostained sections were imaged by confocal microscopy (SP8, Leica) using $10\times$ objective, 4 μ m z-step size stacks. Maximum intensity images of each section were generated and used to manually count starter cells using ImageJ. Cells co-labeled for both tdTomato (in red) and native histone-GFP (in green) signals were identified as starter neurons (in yellow). The CLA was identified as a densely labeled cluster of neurons counterstained with DAPI.

Full morphological reconstruction of single CLA principal neurons—The full morphological reconstruction procedure has been described previously.⁷ Vaa3D, an opensource software was used for visualization, reconstruction, and analysis. The new modules TeraFly and TeraVR, which improved both efficiency and precision of the reconstruction, were incorporated into Vaa3D. In some cases, two or multiple similar-looking segments were intertwined or bundled together so closely that could not be separated even using Tera-VR. For those special cases, an extending segment and its branches were kept if it continued reaching all ends or given up if it was eventually connected to a main axonal stem that connect to another soma, and then continued to trace the other segment that branches further extending to normal axonal terminals. A neuron was considered fully reconstructed in the case that all dendrites and axonal arbors were traced as an example shown in Figures S5A–S5C. In order to avoid missing uncompleted ends of a complex axon, a marker was added to each trace end when reconstructing to a normal axonal terminal that typically ended with a well-labeled and enlarged bouton. Finally, a quality control (QC) procedure was performed by an experienced annotator using Tera-VR by double-checking the entire reconstruction of each reconstructed neuron. At high magnifications, special attention was paid to the proximal axonal part or a main axonal trunk of an axon cluster where axonal collaterals often emerged and branches but was more frequently missed due to the local image environment being composed of crowded high contrasting structures. The finalized reconstruction of a completed neuron had a soma node connecting multiple dendritic and axonal trees, without reconstruction errors such as breaks, loops, etc. In total, 54 single principal neurons within the CLA were reconstructed and 29 of them have been used in our previous study.⁷ All these single neurons were analyzed and visualized in the present study.

Quantification of axons of single CLA principal neurons—SWC files were processed and examined with Vaa3D plugins to ensure topological correctness: sorted single tree with root node as soma. SWC files were resampled with a step size of 5 microns. In this study, we used CCFv3 ontology, a manually curated set of 314 non-overlapping structures. Ipsi- and contra-lateral sides of brain regions to the somata were calculated separately. To quantitatively analyze the distribution of voxels of axons in brain-wide targets, fMOST images, and 3D reconstructed individual single CLA neurons were registered into the CCFv3. Total axon lengths in targets derived from single CLA principal neurons were measured as a proxy for projection strengths.

Unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis of axon projections for single CLA principal neurons—Using the online software, Morpheus, ([https://](https://software.broadinstitute.org/morpheus/) software.broadinstitute.org/morpheus/) to conduct unsupervised hierarchical clustering analysis, we classified single CLA neurons based on distinct axon morphological features.

These morphological features are intuitive to show the similarity and dissimilarity among individual single neurons. Ipsilaterally projecting neurons have 11 axon features and bilaterally projecting neurons have 2 features. All features are listed in Table S4. Each feature was normalized to the same scale so that Euclidean distance can be used to make these clusters better discerned throughout various heights in the dendrogram.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Eleven dendritic features were quantified using Vaa3D. ANOVA test was performed for a parametric comparison of these dendritic features across multiple groups. For the parameters tested with a significant statistical difference in ANOVA test, t test was performed between every two individual groups.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

We support inclusive, diverse, and equitable conduct of research.

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Highlights

- The prefrontal module sends stronger input to CLA than the other 5 cortical modules
- The claustrum receives stronger input from L5 IT neurons than from other cell types
- **•** The claustrum receives inputs from 31 subcortical structures
- **•** Nine types of claustrum principal neurons innervate diverse cortical targets

Figure 1. Delineation of the boundary of the mouse CLA

(A) The CLA is a densely packed group of neurons with heavy Nissl stain.

(B) The CLA is a densely packed group of neurons (in red) in Rorb-IRES2-Cre mouse..

(C) The CLA is a densely packed group of neurons immunostained with antibody against NeuN (in red) and is surrounded by myelin fibers immunostained with antibody against NF-160 (in green).

(D) The CLA is surrounded by myelin fibers immunostained with antibody against SMI-99 (in red). A subset of GABAergic neurons (in green) is labeled with immunostaining against calcium-binding protein calbindin (Calb1).

(E–H) Four transgenic lines, Esr2-IRES2-Cre. (E), Gnb4-IRES2-CreERT2 (F), Tacr1-T2A-Cre (G), and Grp-Cre (H), have enriched gene expression in the CLA.

(I–L) Four transgenic lines, Htr1a-IRES2-Cre (I), Dig-Cre_KG118 (J), Fezf2-CreER (K), and Calb2-IRES-Cre (L), have enriched gene expression in GU, AI, and EPd. Scale bars, 200 μm. Dashed line indicates the boundary of CLA in (A)–(L). Arrowhead indicates the border between cortical areas in (A)–(L). Numbers represent cortical layers in (A)–(D). For abbreviations, see Table S1. See also Figures S1 and S2.

Figure 2. Whole-brain presynaptic inputs to the CLA revealed with retrograde rabies tracing (A) Red and dark green dots indicate Cre-dependent retrograde rabies and anterograde AAV injection sites, respectively. The curved light green objects represent CLA in the left and right hemispheres. The numbers are experiment IDs. The circled injections are shown as examples in (G)–(I) and Figure 5H–5J.

(B) One representative example of retrograde rabies injection sites in coronal view at low magnification. Scale bar, 1 mm.

(C) An enlargement of the boxed area in (B). Neurons were infected with the AAV helper virus (in red) and with rabies virus (in green). Arrowheads indicate starter cells (in yellow). The dashed line indicates the border of CLA. Scale bar, 200 μm.

(D) Presynaptic neurons (in green) to the CLA in the dorsal view. "Ipsi," ipsilateral to the injection site (same in G–I).

(E) A fraction of whole-brain presynaptic input to the CLA from 12 major brain divisions (n $= 5$).

(F) Flatmap showing all isocortical areas on the left side and six cortical modules colorcoded differently on the right. A, anterior; P, posterior; M, medial; L, lateral.

(G–I) Flatmaps reveal similar presynaptic labeling patterns across 3 CLA injections, arranged from anterior (G), middle (H), to posterior (I). Each black dot in the flatmap represents a presynaptic neuron.

(J) Bar graph showing a fraction of total presynaptic labeling for each of the brain structures normalized by starter cells and structural volume. Blue and pink bars represent presynaptic labeling in the ipsilateral and contralateral hemispheres, respectively. Data are represented as mean \pm SD (n = 5).

(K) Quantitative analysis shows the laminar origin of cortical presynaptic neurons to the CLA ($n = 5$). Six cortical modules are color-coded differently. Cortical areas that do not have L4 in CCFv3 are color-coded in gray in the matrix. The color scale bar presents the range between 0 and 1.

For abbreviations see Table S1. See also Table S2.

Figure 3. Cortical and subcortical presynaptic inputs to the CLA

(A–F) Examples of presynaptic neurons in prefrontal (A and B), lateral (C and D), parietal (E), and occipital (F) cortices. Green dots are nuclear EGFP-labeled presynaptic neurons. Dashed lines indicate the borders of cortical layers and CLA. Arrowheads indicate the borders between cortical areas. Scale bar, 400 μm.

(G–R) Examples of presynaptic neurons labeled in other main brain regions outside isocortex are shown at high magnification, including AON (G) of the olfactory areas; ventral CA1 (H) of the hippocampal formation; CLA and EPd (I) and LA and BLA (J) of the cortical subplate; NDB (K) of the pallidum; PVT, CM, RE, and AM (L) and POL and PIL (M) of the thalamus; SUM (N) of the hypothalamus; DR (O) and CS (P) of the midbrain; LC (Q) of the pons; and IP (R) of the cerebellum. Scale bar, 200 μm. For abbreviations, see Table S1.

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Figure 4. Anterograde AAV tracing reveals inputs to the CLA from cortex and subcortex (A) Examples showing axons in the CLA and its adjacent structures from injections into cell-type-specific transgenic lines for L2/3 IT, L5 IT, L5 IT ET, L6 IT, and L6 CT of cortical areas PL, ACAd, ACAv, MOs, ENTm, and ENTl. Dashed line represents the border of the CLA (same in B). Red L (left) and R (right) indicate injection sites on the left side of the brain and the rest of these injections are on the right side. Scale bar, 100 μm. (B) Examples showing axons in the CLA and its adjacent structures with anterograde injections into 24 subcortical structures. Scale bar, 100 μm. For abbreviations, see Table S1. See also Figures S3 and S4 and Table S3.

Figure 5. Efferent projections of the CLA revealed with bulk anterograde Cre-dependent AAV tracing

(A and B) A representative example of bulk anterograde Cre-dependent AAV injections into the CLA showing strong projections to the midline and association cortical areas in the dorsal (A) and lateral (B) views. Red cross inside a black circle represents injection site. White lines in (A) and (B) indicate coronal section levels shown in (C)–(F). Scale bar, 1 mm. (C–F) High-power images showing axons in different cortical areas at the frontal (C), parietal (D and E), and occipital (F) levels. Arrowhead indicates the border between cortical areas. Dashed lines indicate the borders of cortical layers. For abbreviations see Table S1. Scale bar, 400 μm.

(G) Quantitative analysis of normalized axon volumes showing laminar distributions of claustro-cortical projections in different ipsilateral cortical areas on the basis of five injections. The color scale bar shows the range (0–2) of averaged axon projection volumes. (H–J) Flatmaps of the isocortex showing similar claustro-cortical projection patterns from three anterograde Cre-dependent AAV injections. "Ipsi," ipsilateral to the injection site. (K) Bar graph showing the normalized axon volumes in the ipsilateral isocortical and subcortical structures by injection sites (n = 5 injections). Data are represented as mean \pm SD. For abbreviations, see Table S1. See also Table S3.

Figure 6. Diverse cell types of CLA principal neurons revealed by single neuron reconstruction (A) Soma locations of individual principal neurons (gray balls) within the CLA (in light green) shown in the dorsal view.

(B) A representative example of synaptic bouton distribution of individual principal neurons shown in the dorsal view. Manually plotted synaptic boutons are marked (in red) in the midline cortical areas, but they are not plotted in the entorhinal cortex (in cyan). The insets (1–6) in (B) are enlarged under (A) and (B). Insets 1, 2, and 3 show axon shafts without bouton-like enlargements within the CLA, and insets 4, 5, and 6 show axonal arbors bearing synaptic bouton-like enlargements in the targets. Scale bar, 10 μm.

(C) Matrix showing the total lengths of axons of individual principal neurons in their targets. Along the x axis, the reconstructed neurons are arranged on the basis of their soma locations from rostral (3.51 mm measured from the very front of the main olfactory bulb

(MOB) to caudal (6.49 mm from MOB). The y axis shows projections in target regions. For abbreviations, see Table S1.

(D) Seven clusters of ipsilaterally projecting neurons in the dendrogram on the left and 2 clusters of the bilaterally projecting neurons on the right. The numbers on the x axis are the IDs of individual neurons. The numbers on the y axis represent the morphological features. (E) CLA neuron projections in C1–C3 and C7–C9 shown in the dorsal view and in C4–C6 shown in the dorsal and lateral views. Individual CLA principal neurons in each cluster are color-coded differently.

See also Figure S6 and Table S4.

Figure 7. A wiring diagram of cell-type-specific input and output connections of the mouse CLA (A and B) Cortical cell-type-specific inputs to the CLA (A) and CLA outputs to isocortex (B). The CLA (in white) is an anteroposterior elongated and curved strip in each hemisphere. Red stars in the CLA represent principal neurons. These are the same in (C) and (D). Solid and dashed arrows represent strong and weak projections, respectively. Major brain divisions seen through the transparent cortex are represented by different background colors.

(C and D) Subcortical structures send inputs to bilateral, ipsilateral, or contralateral CLA (C), and the CLA sends outputs to some structures ipsilaterally or bilaterally (D).

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

