

# CD20 is a mammalian odorant receptor expressed in a subset of olfactory sensory neurons that mediates innate avoidance of predators

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## Article

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1 **Title:** CD20 is a mammalian odorant receptor expressed in a subset of olfactory sensory  
2 neurons that mediates innate avoidance of predators

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27 **Summary:**

28 The mammalian olfactory system detects and discriminates between millions of odorants  
29 to elicit appropriate behavioral responses. While much has been learned about how  
30 olfactory sensory neurons detect odorants and signal their presence, how specific innate,  
31 unlearned behaviors are initiated in response to ethologically relevant odors remains  
32 poorly understood. Here, we show that the 4-transmembrane protein CD20, also known  
33 as MS4A1, is expressed in a previously uncharacterized subpopulation of olfactory  
34 sensory neurons in the main olfactory epithelium of the murine nasal cavity and functions  
35 as a mammalian odorant receptor that recognizes compounds produced by mouse  
36 predators. While wild-type mice avoid these predator odorants, mice genetically deleted  
37 of CD20 do not appropriately respond. Together, this work reveals a novel CD20-  
38 mediated odor-sensing mechanism in the mammalian olfactory system that triggers  
39 innate behaviors critical for organismal survival.

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42 **Keywords:** MS4A, CD20, Odorant receptor, Olfaction, Innate avoidance, Olfactory  
43 Sensory Neuron, Chemoreceptor

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**Introduction:**

To survive, animals must accurately detect, correctly interpret, and appropriately respond to sensory stimuli in their environment. For most non-primate mammals, the richest source of this information is the immense variety of small molecules present in their external surroundings, which may signify the presence of predators, food, or mates (Brennan and Zufall, 2006). These chemicals are primarily detected by odorant receptors (ORs) expressed at the sensory endings of peripheral olfactory sensory neurons (OSNs), which are coupled to the higher brain circuits tasked with mediating odor perception and initiating olfactory-driven behavior (Bargmann, 2006; Buck and Axel, 1991; Leinwand and Chalasani, 2011; Su et al., 2009). However, how mammals detect and process different classes of olfactory stimuli to initiate distinct behaviors is still not well understood (*i.e.*, how does a mouse know to avoid a cat but to actively seek out a piece of cheese?).

One emerging hypothesis is that distinct subpopulations of OSNs might be responsible for different behaviors. The olfactory system can be subdivided into multiple anatomically and molecularly distinct subpopulations of OSNs. In the mouse there are at least nine distinct olfactory subsystems, each of which is made up of unique, and non-overlapping, collections of OSNs (Bargmann, 1997; Hu et al., 2007; Liberles and Buck, 2006; Lin et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2009; Omura and Mombaerts, 2014, 2015; Rivière et al., 2009; Shinoda et al., 1989). A handful of these olfactory subsystems have been extensively studied, which has led to significant insight into their role in olfactory perception and odor-driven behaviors. Particularly important for elucidating the role of these olfactory subsystems has been the identification of the ORs that they express. Each subsystem expresses different types of ORs, which enable them to detect subsets of chemical space and mediate specific behaviors. For instance, the largest subdivision in the mouse, the main olfactory system, owing to its immense receptor repertoire of approximately 1000 distinct ORs (Buck and Axel, 1991), is able to detect essentially all volatile odorants and therefore plays a key role in odor discrimination and odorant-dependent learning (Kajiya et al., 2001; Sanchez-Andrade and Kendrick, 2009; Touhara, 2002). Smaller subsystems, such as the vomeronasal subsystem and the trace amine-associated receptor (TAAR) subsystem express much smaller receptor repertoires that are more narrowly tuned to recognize specific classes of behaviorally relevant odorants (Dulac and Axel, 1995; Liberles and Buck, 2006) and may therefore have more specialized roles in identifying odors of innate significance and initiating specific patterns of unlearned behaviors critical for survival (Del Punta et al., 2002; Dewan et al., 2013; Liberles and Buck, 2006).

Nonetheless, despite progress in elucidating the function of a few of these olfactory subsystems, the specific roles of others remain poorly understood. One of the least understood is the olfactory necklace subsystem, which seems to mediate seemingly opposing behaviors for both feeding and innate avoidance of noxious stimuli (Hu et al., 2007; Munger et al., 2010). Perhaps the biggest hurdle toward understanding the role of the necklace system in odor-driven behavior is that until recently it was unclear how it detects odorants. We identified the membrane spanning 4A (MS4A) family of proteins as

93 a novel set of ORs in mammalian necklace OSNs (Greer et al., 2016). Heterologous  
94 expression of individual MS4A proteins in HEK293 cells conferred the ability to respond  
95 to specific chemical compounds. Moreover, the *in vitro* odor receptive fields of MS4A  
96 proteins matched those of the necklace OSNs in which MS4A proteins were expressed  
97 (Greer et al., 2016). Nonetheless, an absence of mouse lines in which *Ms4a* gene  
98 expression was genetically manipulated meant that the role of MS4A proteins in necklace  
99 olfactory function was only examined in *in vitro* and *ex vivo* experiments, therefore  
100 preventing a rigorous assessment of whether MS4A proteins participate in odor detection  
101 *in vivo*. Indeed, because MS4A proteins do not resemble any previously described  
102 odorant receptors – they are four-transmembrane spanning proteins rather than seven-  
103 transmembrane GPCRs, there remains some skepticism about whether MS4A proteins  
104 function as ORs *in vivo* (Zimmerman and Munger, 2021). Here, we use newly generated  
105 *Ms4a* knockout mice to show that MS4A proteins function as *bona fide* ORs *in vivo*.  
106 Moreover, we show that the MS4A family member MS4A1, (better known as CD20, a  
107 protein previously identified as a co-receptor for the B cell receptor in lymphocytes), is not  
108 expressed in the necklace, but is instead expressed in a novel subset of OSNs outside  
109 the necklace. Within this subpopulation of OSNs, MS4A1 senses predator odorants  
110 leading to innate, unlearned avoidance behaviors.

## 111 112 113 **Results:**

### 114 **MS4A proteins function as chemoreceptors in necklace OSNs *in vivo* and mediate** 115 **specific odor-driven avoidance behaviors**

116 Our previous work suggested that *Ms4a* genes encode a new family of non-GPCR  
117 mammalian ORs (Greer et al., 2016). However, a lack of genetically modified mice in  
118 which *Ms4a* expression could be manipulated precluded a definitive determination of  
119 whether *Ms4a* genes do in fact encode *bona fide* ORs that function *in vivo*. Addressing  
120 this issue is particularly important given the unusual structure and expression pattern of  
121 MS4A proteins in the mammalian olfactory system (Greer et al., 2016). To circumvent  
122 potential issues of redundancy between *Ms4a* family members, we took advantage of a  
123 mouse in which CRISPR/Cas9 technology was deployed to delete all 17 murine *Ms4a*  
124 genes (hereafter, referred to as *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice) (Figures 1A, S1A, and S1B).  
125 *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice are viable, fertile, produced at Mendelian frequency, and are  
126 overtly indistinguishable from their wild-type littermates, enabling us to assess olfactory  
127 performance in these *Ms4a*-deficient animals (Figure S1C).

128  
129 To begin to test the role of *Ms4a* genes in olfactory function, we initially exposed  
130 freely behaving *Ms4a*-deficient mice or their wild-type littermates to 2,5-dimethylpyrazine  
131 (2,5-DMP), oleic acid (OA), or alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), previously described *in vitro*  
132 ligands of MS4A6C, MS4A6D, and MS4A4B, respectively, and measured activation of  
133 necklace OSNs, which express MS4A proteins (Greer et al., 2016), by detecting S6  
134 phosphorylation (pS6), a well-established marker of OSN activation (Jiang et al., 2015).  
135 Deletion of *Ms4a* genes eliminated necklace OSN pS6 responses to each of the MS4A-  
136 triggering compounds (Figures 1B and 1C). By contrast, *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice  
137 necklace cells responded without impairment to carbon disulfide (CS<sub>2</sub>), which is detected  
138 by necklace cells through the actions of the receptor guanylate cyclase, GCD, in an

139 MS4A-independent manner (Figures 1B and 1C). Thus, *Ms4a* deletion did not disrupt the  
140 health of necklace cells or their capacity to respond to odors in general, but instead  
141 specifically prevented their detection of MS4A ligands suggesting that MS4A proteins  
142 function as ORs in necklace OSNs *in vivo*.

143  
144 Next, we wanted to examine what role, if any, MS4A odorant receptors play in  
145 odor-driven behavior. The necklace olfactory system in which *Ms4a* genes are expressed  
146 has been implicated in two distinct MS4A-independent olfactory behaviors—the innate  
147 avoidance of CO<sub>2</sub> at concentrations above those naturally found within the atmosphere  
148 (Hu et al., 2007), and the social transmission of food avoidance triggered by CS<sub>2</sub> (Munger  
149 et al., 2010) or the urinary peptides, guanylin and uroguanylin (Leinders-Zufall et al.,  
150 2007). Each of these behaviors is thought to be mediated through the receptor guanylate  
151 cyclase, GCD (Leinders-Zufall et al., 2007; Munger et al., 2010; Sun et al., 2009). As  
152 MS4A receptors are also expressed in necklace OSNs (Greer et al., 2016), we sought to  
153 determine whether MS4A receptors contribute to similar types of innate odor-driven  
154 behaviors.

155  
156 We initially focused our efforts on determining whether MS4A receptors mediate  
157 innate, odor-driven avoidance responses as these behaviors are robust, reproducible, do  
158 not require prior training, and are easily quantifiable. To begin to determine whether  
159 MS4As mediate innate avoidance behaviors, we first tested whether any previously  
160 identified MS4A ligands induce avoidance in wild-type mice in an unlearned manner. 2,3-  
161 dimethylpyrazine (2,3-DMP), 2,5-DMP, OA, linolenic acid (LA), ALA, and arachidonic acid  
162 (AA) all activate MS4A-expressing cells *in vitro* and necklace OSNs *in vivo* (Greer et al.,  
163 2016). 2,3-DMP and 2,5-DMP are found in the urine of wolves and ferrets, natural mouse  
164 predators, respectively, and prior work has suggested that these compounds are  
165 ethologically relevant odors for mice (Apfelbach et al., 2015; Brechbühl et al., 2013;  
166 Osada et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2005). By contrast, OA, LA, ALA, and AA are long chain  
167 fatty acids found in natural food sources of mice (Abedi and Sahari, 2014; Cordova et al.,  
168 2012). To determine whether any of these MS4A ligands trigger innate avoidance  
169 responses, we compared the aversive behavior of *Ms4a* cluster knockout and wild-type  
170 mice in response to these compounds and to 2,3,5-trimethyl-3-thiazoline (TMT), a  
171 component of fox feces (Fendt et al., 2005) that is not an MS4A ligand. The MS4A ligands  
172 2,3-DMP and 2,5-DMP as well as the previously described aversive odorant, TMT,  
173 induced innate, unlearned avoidance responses in wild-type mice (Figures 1D, 1E and  
174 S1D). Although wild-type mice robustly avoided DMP, *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice were  
175 oblivious to DMP and behaved as though no odor was present (Figures 1D and 1E). This  
176 effect of *Ms4a* deletion on mouse avoidance behavior was specific to DMP; *Ms4a* cluster  
177 knockouts exhibited similar aversive behaviors as their wild-type littermates in response  
178 to other ethologically relevant aversive odors that are not MS4A ligands, such as TMT  
179 (Figures 1D and 1E). In addition, deletion of *Ms4as* did not affect other non-odor mediated  
180 avoidance behaviors such as the amount of time spent in open arms in an elevated plus  
181 maze assay (Figure S1E). Taken together, these results indicate that *Ms4a* genes encode  
182 ORs that mediate specific odor-driven avoidance responses in mammals.

183

184 **Ms4a6c detects DMP in necklace OSNs *in vivo* but does not fully mediate avoidance**  
185 **behaviors to DMP**

186  
187 We next sought to determine which of the 17 *Ms4a* family members were  
188 responsible for mediating the unlearned avoidance mice exhibit in response to DMP.  
189 Because DMP is sensed by MS4A6C *in vitro* (Greer et al., 2016), we initially focused on  
190 this MS4A family member and utilized a mouse line in which the *Ms4a6c* gene was  
191 specifically deleted (Figures S2A and S2B). Like *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice, *Ms4a6c*  
192 knockout mice were viable, fertile, and overtly indistinguishable from their wild-type  
193 littermates (Figures S2C and S2D). Consistent with previous work demonstrating that  
194 MS4A6C detects DMP *in vitro*, *Ms4a6c* knockout necklace neurons did not respond to  
195 2,3-DMP or 2,5-DMP as assessed by pS6 staining (Figures 2A and 2B). By contrast,  
196 necklace neurons of *Ms4a6c* knockout mice still robustly responded to OA, the *in vitro*  
197 ligand of the closely related MS4A family member, MS4A6D (Greer et al., 2016) and to  
198 CS<sub>2</sub>, a GCD ligand (Munger et al., 2010), indicating that *Ms4a6c* deletion specifically  
199 impairs the ability of necklace cells to detect 2,3-DMP and 2,5-DMP and does not  
200 generally disrupt their ability to sense non-MS4A6C odorants (Figures 2A and 2B).

201  
202 To determine whether the failure of necklace cells to detect MS4A6C ligands  
203 altered avoidance of these odorants, we assessed innate avoidance responses to 2,5-  
204 DMP by *Ms4a6c*-deficient mice. Surprisingly, although *Ms4a6c* knockout mice avoided  
205 2,5-DMP somewhat less than wild-type mice, they avoided 2,5-DMP significantly more  
206 than *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice (Figures 2C, 2D, and 3E). This result suggests that at  
207 least one additional *Ms4a* family member may mediate innate avoidance of DMP.

208  
209 **CD20 responds to DMP and mediates DMP-driven innate avoidance behaviors**

210  
211 To identify additional MS4A receptor(s) that sense DMP, we assessed the ability  
212 of all 17 murine MS4A family members to detect 2,5-DMP by detecting DMP-induced  
213 calcium responses to odorants in HEK293 cells co-expressing individual *Ms4a* genes with  
214 the genetically encoded, fluorescent calcium indicator, GCaMP6s. HEK293 cells do not  
215 express endogenous MS4A proteins (Greer et al., 2016), but exogenously expressed  
216 MS4A proteins are efficiently trafficked to the plasma membrane within these cells (Figure  
217 S3A). HEK293 cells expressing either MS4A6C or MS4A1, but none of the other MS4A  
218 family proteins, responded to 2,5-DMP to generate a transient calcium signal (Figures 3A  
219 and 3B), suggesting that MS4A1 is the other MS4A family member mediating the mouse's  
220 innate avoidance response to 2,5-DMP. To test this hypothesis, we assessed the ability  
221 of *Ms4a1* knockout mice to avoid 2,5-DMP. *Ms4a1* knockout mice acted like *Ms4a* cluster  
222 knockout mice – exhibiting no avoidance responses to this predator-derived compound  
223 (Figures 3C-E). The failure of *Ms4a1*-deficient mice to respond to 2,5-DMP was specific  
224 to this odor since *Ms4a1* knockout mice avoided other aversive odorants such as TMT to  
225 the same extent as wild type mice (Figures 3C and 3D). Moreover, *Ms4a1* knockout mice  
226 were overtly indistinguishable from wild type mice in other ways - they exhibited similar  
227 locomotive behaviors and behaved similarly to wild-type mice in assays of anxiety (such  
228 as the elevated plus maze) (Figures S3B and S3C), strongly suggesting that the failure

229 to respond to 2,5-DMP was a specific defect in this particular odor-driven behavior and  
230 not a sign of more general nervous system dysfunction.

231  
232 The observation that MS4A1 is required for a mouse to avoid the predator-derived  
233 compound 2,5-DMP was surprising since the only previously ascribed function of MS4A1  
234 is as a co-receptor for the B-cell receptor in circulating mature lymphocytes, where it is  
235 known as CD20 (Tedder and Engel, 1994; Tedder et al., 1988). Although it seemed  
236 unlikely that lymphocytes would play a critical role in mediating this olfactory-driven  
237 behavior, we assessed the ability of Rag-1-deficient mice, which lack all mature  
238 lymphocytes (Mombaerts et al., 1992), to avoid 2,5-DMP. Rag-1 knockout mice avoided  
239 DMP to a similar extent as wild-type mice, indicating that mature lymphocyte function was  
240 not required for avoidance of 2,5-DMP and further suggesting that CD20 might act in cells  
241 outside of the immune system to mediate avoidance of this odor (Figures S3D and S3E).

242  
243 **CD20 is expressed in a previously unidentified subpopulation of OSNs**

244  
245 To identify cells in the olfactory system in which *Ms4a1* might be expressed, we  
246 stained coronal sections of the mouse olfactory epithelium with an antibody specific for  
247 MS4A1. A relatively sparse population of MS4A1-expressing cells that did not express  
248 lymphoid markers was found, whose cell bodies reside within the epithelial layer of the  
249 main olfactory epithelium (MOE) (Figure 4A). To verify this unexpected observation, we  
250 stained coronal sections of the mouse olfactory epithelium with two additional anti-MS4A1  
251 antibodies (raised in different species and recognizing different MS4A1 epitopes). These  
252 three anti-MS4A1 antibodies all co-labeled the same cells in the MOE (Figure 4B). These  
253 antibodies did not stain any cells in olfactory epithelial sections obtained from *Ms4a1*  
254 knockout mice, confirming their specificity (Figure 4C). Moreover, combined fluorescent  
255 *in situ* hybridization and immunohistochemistry experiments detected *Ms4a1* mRNA and  
256 MS4A1 protein in the same cells indicating that *Ms4a1* is expressed in non-lymphoid cells  
257 of the mouse olfactory system (Figure 4D).

258  
259 The cell bodies of MS4A1-expressing cells resided in the same anatomic location  
260 as OSN cell bodies and extended what appeared to be sensory dendrites to the lumen of  
261 the MOE and axonal-like structures toward the olfactory bulb suggesting that MS4A1-  
262 expressing cells might be OSNs. To confirm that MS4A1-expressing cells are neurons,  
263 we co-stained for MS4A1 and the neuronal marker NeuN and found that all MS4A1-  
264 expressing cells in the olfactory epithelium also expressed NeuN (Figure 4E). Consistent  
265 with this observation, MS4A1 cells did not stain for KI18, a marker of glial support cells  
266 (Holbrook et al., 2011), KI17, a marker of horizontal basal cells (Holbrook et al., 2011), or  
267 NeuroD1, a marker of globose basal cells (Packard et al., 2011) (Figure 4E). MS4A1-  
268 expressing cells expressed CNGA2, a cyclic nucleotide gated olfactory channel found in  
269 mature OSNs (Brunet et al., 1996; Firestein, 2001), but not OMP, a marker of  
270 conventional GPCR OR-expressing OSNs (Danciger et al., 1989; Margolis, 1972) (Figure  
271 4F). Together, these results suggest that MS4A1 is expressed in an unconventional  
272 neuronal cell type in the olfactory epithelium.

273

274 In mammals, a number of distinct subpopulations of olfactory sensory neurons  
275 have been previously identified, which are characterized by their unique anatomic and/or  
276 molecular features (Bargmann, 1997; Hu et al., 2007; Liberles and Buck, 2006; Lin et al.,  
277 2007; Liu et al., 2009; Omura and Mombaerts, 2014, 2015; Rivière et al., 2009; Shinoda  
278 et al., 1989). To determine to which, if any, of these olfactory subdivisions, the MS4A1-  
279 expressing cells we identified might belong, we performed immunohistochemical and  
280 fluorescent *in situ* hybridization analyses. MS4A1 was not expressed in Gucy1b2-  
281 expressing OSNs, TrpC2- or TrpM5-positive OSNs, Pde2a-expressing necklace OSNs  
282 (Figures 4G and 4H), or OSNs of the vomeronasal organ (Figure 4H). Nonetheless, using  
283 a combination of iDISCO tissue clearing and light sheet microscopy, we found that like  
284 other OSN populations, MS4A1-expressing neurons also extended their axons into  
285 glomeruli within the mouse olfactory bulb suggesting that MS4A1 is expressed in a  
286 previously uncharacterized population of olfactory sensory neurons in the olfactory  
287 epithelium and that like other members of the MS4A family, MS4A1 might also function  
288 as an olfactory chemoreceptor (Figure 4I).

289

### 290 **MS4A1 detects nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds *in vitro***

291

292 To begin to test this hypothesis, and to explore what types of odors MS4A1 might  
293 detect, we examined whether heterologously expressed MS4A1 might respond to  
294 additional extracellular chemicals to mediate a calcium influx in HEK293 cells co-  
295 expressing GCaMP6s (Figure 5A). Expression of MS4A1 did not increase the baseline  
296 rate of calcium transients in HEK293 cells (Figure S5A) but increased intracellular calcium  
297 spikes upon presentation of specific chemicals (Figures 5A and 5B). This was true for  
298 both human and mouse MS4A1 proteins (Figures 5A and S5B). MS4A1 responses were  
299 tuned to nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds, including 2,3-DMP, 2,5-DMP and 2,6-  
300 DMP, and to a lesser extent indole and quinoline (Figures 5B and S5C). However, not all  
301 nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds induced calcium transients in MS4A1-expressing  
302 cells, nor did non-nitrogenous compounds like isoamyl acetate and vanillin, indicating  
303 some ligand specificity (Figure 5B). Dose response curves revealed nanomolar and low  
304 micromolar EC50s for two specific MS4A1-ligand pairs, which is well within the range of  
305 what has been observed for other mammalian odorant receptor/ligand relationships  
306 (Figure 5C). Moreover, depletion of extracellular calcium completely eliminated all  
307 calcium transients observed in response to ligand presentation (Figure 5D). Together,  
308 these observations suggest that MS4A1 is a chemoreceptor that detects nitrogenous  
309 heterocyclic compounds.

310

### 311 **Nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds activate MS4a1-expressing OSNs *in vivo***

312

313 These experiments were all carried out *in vitro*, and it remains unclear whether  
314 MS4A1 functions as an OR in an intact mouse. To test this, freely behaving mice were  
315 exposed to the *in vitro* identified ligands for MS4A1 in gas phase, and the activation of  
316 MS4A1-expressing cells was then assessed. 2,3-DMP and 2,5-DMP both activated  
317 MS4A1-expressing OSNs *in vivo* (Figures 6A and 6B). By contrast, ligands for other non-  
318 MS4A olfactory receptors, such as such as eugenol and CS<sub>2</sub>, did not activate MS4A1-  
319 expressing cells above background (Figures 6A and 6B). These experiments reveal that



320 during conditions of active exploration, MS4A1-expressing cells respond to the chemicals  
321 we identified as MS4A1 ligands, indicating that MS4A1 functions as an olfactory receptor  
322 *in vivo*.

323  
324

### 325 **Discussion:**

326 Here, we took advantage of *Ms4a* knockout mice and used a combination of  
327 behavioral experiments and neuronal activation assays to show that MS4A proteins  
328 function as ORs within necklace subsystem OSNs *in vivo*. We also identified a new OSN  
329 subsystem that expresses MS4A1/CD20, but not other GPCR or MS4A ORs that were  
330 probed. MS4A1-expressing OSNs were sparse and located in the MOE, but were  
331 dispersed rather than geographically localized. We showed that MS4A1 recognizes  
332 nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds found in the urine of mouse predators and their  
333 sensing triggers innate, unlearned avoidance behavior.

334

335 These experiments convincingly demonstrate for the first time the existence of a  
336 non-GPCR family of mammalian ORs. All previously identified mammalian OR families  
337 were exclusively seven transmembrane spanning GPCRs (Buck and Axel, 1991). The  
338 discovery that *Ms4a* genes encode a polymorphic set of non-GPCR ORs raises questions  
339 about why this family of ORs evolved and what advantages it provides to mammalian  
340 olfaction. MS4A chemoreceptors respond to fairly non-descript chemical classes,  
341 including nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds, long-chain fatty acids, and steroids that  
342 can also be sensed by conventional GPCR ORs (Saito et al., 2009) (HCJ, SJP, and PLG  
343 unpublished observation). This finding suggests that MS4A proteins probably did not  
344 evolve to detect chemical compounds that the rest of the olfactory system doesn't  
345 recognize, but rather, more likely evolved to mediate specific types of odor-driven  
346 behaviors. This is in line with the observation that in contrast to the "one-receptor, one-  
347 neuron" pattern of expression displayed by all other studied mammalian ORs, whereby  
348 each OSN expresses one, and only one of the approximately 1200 OR genes encoded  
349 by the murine genome (Buck and Axel, 1991; Mombaerts, 2004), many different MS4A  
350 proteins are co-expressed within the same necklace sensory neuron (Greer et al., 2016).  
351 This unorthodox pattern of expression suggests that MS4As may be important for  
352 mediating specific patterns of behavior, rather than for the exquisite discriminatory  
353 capacity, which the rest of the olfactory system possesses. Interestingly, our experiments  
354 suggest that necklace-expressed MS4A proteins, unlike MS4A1, which is expressed  
355 outside the necklace, do not play a major role in innate avoidance responses to their  
356 ligands. They likely are important in initiating other types of odor-driven behavior that  
357 remain to be defined. Perhaps the most likely behaviors induced by the necklace system  
358 may be social behaviors, since MS4A ligands are enriched for semiochemicals and  
359 pheromones (Greer et al., 2016). Moreover, necklace neurons have been implicated in  
360 the social transmission of food preference (Munger et al., 2010), a behavior whereby a  
361 mouse conveys its prior food experience to a conspecific animal. Thus, it is intriguing to  
362 speculate that MS4A proteins may participate in these or related behaviors.

363

364 While questions remain about the role of necklace-expressed MS4A members in  
365 odor-driven behaviors, this work identifies a function of the non-necklace cell-expressed

366 MS4A family member, MS4A1. Here, we report that *Ms4a1* encodes an olfactory  
367 chemoreceptor that is expressed in a previously uncharacterized population of OSNs  
368 within the MOE. MS4A1 detects nitrogenous heterocyclic compounds that are found at  
369 high abundance in the urine of natural predators of the mouse such as the wolf and the  
370 ferret, and we find that MS4A1 is required for the innate avoidance responses that mice  
371 exhibit in response to these compounds. Intriguingly, MS4A1 is expressed in a relatively  
372 small population of OSNs in the MOE, and prior work from a number of other laboratories  
373 has revealed that other discrete populations of sensory neurons, including TAAR-  
374 expressing cells, necklace cells, and Gruenberg ganglion neurons also mediate innate  
375 avoidance responses (Brechtbühl et al., 2008; Dewan et al., 2013; Hu et al., 2007; Munger  
376 et al., 2010). Little is known about the neural circuitry downstream of these specialized  
377 OSN subpopulations that trigger innate avoidance responses, and in the future,  
378 elucidating how information flows from MS4A1-expressing neurons (and other olfactory  
379 subsystems that trigger innate avoidance), is likely to reveal how odor-driven innate  
380 avoidance behaviors are generated.

381  
382 To address these questions, it will be important to fully characterize all of the  
383 different subpopulations of sensory neurons within the mammalian olfactory system. Our  
384 identification of a previously undescribed population of OSNs, with a corresponding newly  
385 characterized OR, suggests that there are likely still additional populations of OSNs (and  
386 ORs) to be found. The fact that MS4A1 falls outside of the canonical GPCR rubric,  
387 suggests that the traditional means of identifying additional ORs by relying on homology  
388 to known ORs, may be insufficient. RNA sequencing and spatial transcriptomics will  
389 facilitate the identification of additional olfactory subsystems.

390  
391 This work may also have implications for understanding immune function. The only  
392 previously ascribed function for MS4A1 is as a co-receptor for the B-cell receptor in  
393 mature lymphocytes (Tedder and Engel, 1994; Tedder et al., 1988). The discovery that  
394 MS4A1 possesses chemoreceptive properties within the olfactory system suggests that  
395 MS4A1 may also function as a chemoreceptor in immune cells. Consistent with this idea,  
396 we find that B lymphocyte signaling is also activated by the MS4A1 ligand, 2,5-DMP  
397 (Figures 6C and 6D). Future work to identify what ligands MS4A1 senses in B  
398 lymphocytes and what effects their sensing has on B cell function are likely to be  
399 revealing. Other MS4A family members, besides MS4A1, are also found in other cell  
400 types and tissues throughout the body, including peripheral immune cells, microglia,  
401 reproductive cells, and lung cells (Hammond et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2019; Mattioli et al.,  
402 2019; Silva-Gomes et al., 2022). Polymorphisms in *Ms4a* genes have been strongly and  
403 reproducibly linked to a number of human diseases not obviously linked to olfaction,  
404 including Alzheimer's Disease and asthma (Hollingworth et al., 2011; Lympany et al.,  
405 1992; Naj et al., 2011; Sandford et al., 1993). Therefore, characterizing the role of this  
406 family of chemoreceptors in non-olfactory contexts is likely to provide insight into  
407 organismal function in both healthy and disease states.

408  
409  
410  
411

## Materials and Methods:

412

## 413 **Mice**

414 Mice were maintained under standard light/dark cycle conditions (12 hours light:12  
415 hours dark) and were given food and water *ad libitum*. *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice were  
416 generated in the Datta Lab (Harvard Medical School) by standard approaches using  
417 CRISPR/Cas9 technology and will be described in detail elsewhere. *Ms4a6c* knockout  
418 mice were generated by KOMP using homologous recombination. These *Ms4a* knockout  
419 mice were kindly provided by the Datta Laboratory. *Ms4a1* knockout mice (C57/BL6) were  
420 obtained from the Tedder Lab, Duke University (Uchida et al., 2004). All behavioral and  
421 immunostaining experiments with knockout mice were performed with littermate wild-type  
422 control mice. The following primer sequences were used for genotyping: 1) *Ms4a* cluster  
423 knockout, common primer (5'-GACAAATGAACTAACCTTGCTTGG-3'), wild type specific  
424 primer (5'- TCCAGTGGGAAGTGGTTTTGC-3'), and deletion specific primer (5'-  
425 GCCTTGGCTAGGCTACAACC) were used to amplify a fragment of 412 bp from the wild-  
426 type allele and 259 bp from the deleted allele. 2) *Ms4a6c* knockout, a 204 bp fragment  
427 from the wild type allele was amplified with one primer set (5'-  
428 GGACAGAAACGCCTAAAGGT-3' and 5'-AGAGAAGGGAGATGGTGACTACTA-3'), and  
429 a second set of primers (5'-CTAAACTCAAGAGGTCATTGAAG-3' and 5'-  
430 GCAGCGCATCGCCTTCTATC-3') amplified a 280 bp fragment from the targeted allele.  
431 3) *Ms4a1* knockout, a 487 bp fragment from the wild type allele was amplified with one  
432 primer set (5'-GATATCTACGACTGTGAACC-3' and 5'-TGGCATGTGCCAGTAAGCC-  
433 3'), and a second set of primers (5'-TTTGGGGGCTGTCCAATCATG-3' and 5'-  
434 CATCGCCGACAGAATGCCC-3') amplified a 445 bp fragment from the targeted allele.  
435 All mouse husbandry and experiments were performed following institutional and federal  
436 guidelines and approved by University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School's  
437 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

438

## 439 **Plasmids**

440 mCherry was cloned into the pcDNA3.1(+) backbone (mCherry-pcDNA3.1). The  
441 complete coding sequences of mouse *Ms4a2*, *Ms4a3*, *Ms4a4a*, *Ms4a4b*, *Ms4a4c*,  
442 *Ms4a4d*, *Ms4a5*, *Ms4a6b*, *Ms4a6c*, *Ms4a7*, *Ms4a8a*, *Ms4a10*, *Ms4a13*, *Ms4a15*, *Ms4a18*  
443 were cloned into mCherry-pcDNA3.1. Mouse or human *Ms4a1* DNA coding sequences  
444 were cloned into the tetracycline inducible mammalian expression plasmid, pcDNA5-  
445 FRT-TO. pGP-CMV-GCaMP6s was a gift from Douglas Kim (Addgene, #40753). pISH-  
446 *Gucy1b2*-probe1 (Addgene, #105454), pISH-*Gucy1b2*-probe2 (Addgene, #105455),  
447 pISH-*Trpc2*-probe1 (Addgene, #105473), pISH-*Trpc2*-probe2 (Addgene, #105474),  
448 pISH-*Trpm5* (Addgene, #105993), pISH-*Gucy2d-1* (Addgene, #105459), pISH-*V1rb1*  
449 (Addgene, #16010) were gifts from Peter Mombaerts.

450

## 451 **Antibodies**

452 Primary antibodies/concentrations used were as follows: rabbit anti-phospho-S6  
453 ribosomal protein (Serine240/244) (1:100, Cell Signaling Technologies, #2215), rabbit  
454 anti-phospho-S6 ribosomal protein (Serine244/247) (1:150, Invitrogen, #44-923G), rabbit  
455 anti-MS4A1/CD20 (1:250 for immunostaining, 1:100 for iDISCO, Cell Signaling  
456 Technology, #98708), rabbit anti-MS4A1 (1:200, MyBioSource, #MBS2051903), goat  
457 anti-MS4A1 (1:50, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, #sc-7735), rat anti-MS4A1 (1:100,

458 LifeSpan Biosciences, #LS-C107163-100), guinea pig anti-VGLUT2 (1:500, SYSY, #135  
459 404), rabbit anti-NeuN (1:500, Abcam, #ab104225), rabbit anti-KI18 (1:500, Abcam,  
460 #ab52948), rabbit anti-KI17 (1:500, Abcam, #ab53707), goat anti-NeuroD1 (1:50, R&D  
461 Systems, #AF2746), goat anti-OMP (1:1000, Wako Chemicals, #544-10001-WAKO),  
462 rabbit anti-CNGA2 (1:200, Alomone Labs, #APC-045), and rabbit anti-PDE2A (1:500,  
463 FabGennix, #PD2A-101AP).

464 Secondary antibodies/concentrations used were as follows: Alpaca anti-rabbit-  
465 Alexa488 (1:333, Jackson ImmunoResearch, #611-545-215), alpaca anti-rabbit-  
466 rhodamine red X (RRX) (1:333, Jackson ImmunoResearch, #611-295-215), goat anti-  
467 rabbit-Alexa647 (1:333, Invitrogen, #A-21245), bovine anti-goat Alexa488 (1:333,  
468 Jackson ImmunoResearch, #805-545-180), bovine anti-goat Alexa647 (1:333, Jackson  
469 ImmunoResearch, #805-605-180), goat anti-rat Alexa488 (1:333, Invitrogen, #A-11006),  
470 donkey anti-rat RRX (1:333, Jackson ImmunoResearch, #712-295-153), and goat anti-  
471 guinea pig Alexa647 (1:333, Invitrogen, #A21450).

472

### 473 **Odors**

474 Eugenol, CS<sub>2</sub>, 2,3-DMP, 2,5-DMP, OA, ALA, indole, quinoline, pyridine,  
475 pyrrolidine, vanillin, and isoamyl alcohol (IAA) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. TMT  
476 was purchased from BioSRQ. All odor compounds were obtained at the highest purity  
477 possible.

478

### 479 **Odor exposure for phospho-S6 immunostaining**

480 8–12-week-old mice, including *Ms4a* cluster knockout, *Ms4a6c* knockout, *Ms4a1*  
481 knockout, and littermate wild-type control mice, were individually acclimated to the clean  
482 plastic cage (Innovive, # M-BTM) for at least 16 hours before the start of experiments.  
483 Before introducing odors to the mice, the mice were fasted for 2 hours. To initiate the  
484 experiments, water or odor stimulus (eugenol, CS<sub>2</sub>, 2,3-DMP, 2,5-DMP, OA, ALA) were  
485 introduced into each cage. The stimuli were applied by placing 150  $\mu$ L of water or odorant  
486 on filter paper (Sigma-Aldrich, #WHA10347509) in 35 mm petri dishes. After 2 hours of  
487 exposure to the odor, the mice were euthanized, and nasal epithelial sections were  
488 collected.

489

### 490 **Tissue slice preparation**

491 The mice were euthanized, and their noses, including the olfactory epithelia and  
492 attached olfactory bulbs, were dissected from the skull. The dissected tissue was fixed  
493 overnight in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA, Electron Microscopy Sciences, #15714) in  
494 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) at 4°C. After washing three times for 5 minutes with 1X  
495 PBS, noses were decalcified overnight at 4°C in 0.45M EDTA in PBS. Subsequently, the  
496 noses were sequentially incubated in 10%, 20%, and 30% sucrose in PBS (Sigma-  
497 Aldrich, #S0389) overnight at 4°C. Finally, the tissues were embedded in Tissue Freezing  
498 Medium (Tissue-Tek, #4583). Cryosections of 20 micron thickness were cut onto  
499 Superfrost Plus glass slides (VWR #48311-703) and stored at -80°C until staining.

500

### 501 **Combined pS6 immunostaining and RNAscope fluorescent in situ hybridization** 502 **(FISH)**

503 For *Car2* and *Ms4a1* RNA detection, RNAscope FISH was performed on nasal  
504 epithelial sections from 8-12-week-old C57/BL6 wild-type, *Ms4a* cluster knockout, *Ms4a1*  
505 knockout, and *Ms4a6c* knockout mice that were exposed to water or odors as described  
506 above. The staining protocol followed the guidelines provided in the Advanced Cell  
507 Diagnostics RNAscope Multiplex Fluorescent Reagent Kit v2 Assay User Manual  
508 (323100-USM) without the target retrieval step, and all required reagents were obtained  
509 from RNAscope Multiplex Fluorescent Detection kit v2 (Advanced Cell Diagnostics,  
510 #323110).

511 Frozen sections were thawed at room temperature for 10 minutes, then were fixed  
512 with 4% PFA in PBS for 15 minutes at 4°C. The sections were dehydrated with 50%, 70%,  
513 and 100% ethanol for 5 minutes each at room temperature (RT). The sections were  
514 treated with hydrogen peroxide for 10 minutes at RT, then washed with MilliQ water three  
515 times. Sections were treated with protease III at 40°C in a hybridization oven (HybEZ  
516 oven, Advanced Cell Diagnostics, #310010) for 30 minutes, then washed with MilliQ water  
517 three times. Subsequently, the sections were hybridized with either the 3-Plex positive  
518 control RNA probe, the 3-Plex negative control RNA probe, *Car2* RNA probe, or *Ms4a1*  
519 RNA probe in a 1:50 ratio for 2 hours at 40°C in the oven.

520 To amplify hybridization signal, the section slides underwent incubation with three  
521 different amplifiers: AMP1 for 30 minutes, AMP2 for 30 minutes, and AMP3 for 15  
522 minutes, all at 40°C in the oven. After the amplification steps, slides were treated with  
523 horseradish peroxidase (HRP) for 15 minutes at 40°C in the oven. Following this, the  
524 sections were incubated with diluted TSA plus Cy-3 (1:750, PerkinElmer,  
525 #NEL741001KT) for 30 minutes at 40°C in the oven, then the sections were incubated  
526 with HRP blocker for 15 minutes at 40°C in the oven. Washing was performed with  
527 RNAscope wash buffer (2 minutes twice at RT) between each step following probe  
528 hybridization. The mouse target probes used in this study were as follows: *Ms4a1-c2*,  
529 #318671-C2 and *Car2-c2*, #313781-C2.

530 For the pos-RNAscope immunostaining, sections were blocked with blocking  
531 buffer (0.1% Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich, #X100) 5% Normal Donkey serum (Jackson  
532 ImmunoResearch, #017-000-121), 3% Bovine Serum Albumin (VWR, #97061-416) in  
533 PBS) for 30 minutes at RT. Sections were then incubated with anti-pS6 antibodies (1:100)  
534 in blocking buffer overnight at 4°C. On the following day, the slides were washed three  
535 times with PBS (5 minutes each at RT) and then incubated with the secondary antibody  
536 (1:300) in blocking solution for 45 minutes at RT. Afterwards, the slides were washed  
537 three times with PBS (5 minutes each at RT) and mounted using Vectashield antifade  
538 mounting media with DAPI (Vector Laboratories, #H-1200-10). To secure the coverslips,  
539 nail polish was applied, and the slides were imaged using confocal microscopy, following  
540 the procedures described below.

541

## 542 **Conventional FISH**

543 For *Gucy1b2*, *Trpc2*, *Trpm5*, *Gucy2d*, and *V1rb1* RNA detection, conventional  
544 FISH was performed on nasal epithelial sections from C57/BL6 wild-type mice, following  
545 a modified protocol (Ishii et al., 2004). The RNA probes for these genes were previously  
546 described (Omura and Mombaerts, 2014, 2015; Parrilla et al., 2016; Rodriguez et al.,  
547 2002). Fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC, Roche, #11685619910)-labeled riboprobes  
548 were generated through *in vitro* transcription from fully linearized and purified template

549 plasmids (described in Plasmids) containing target gene sequences, using equilibrated  
550 phenol (Sigma-Aldrich, #P9346) - chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (Sigma-Aldrich, #25666).  
551 Frozen sections were air-dried, fixed with 4% PFA/1X PBS for 10 minutes, and then  
552 acetylated with a mixture of 0.1M triethanolamine (Sigma-Aldrich, #90279) and 0.25%  
553 acetic anhydride (Sigma-Aldrich, #320102) for 15 minutes at RT. Pre-hybridization was  
554 performed in a prehybridization solution (10 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 600 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA,  
555 0.25% SDS, 1X Denhardt's (Sigma, #D-2532), 50% formamide (Roche, #1814320),  
556 300µg/ml yeast tRNA (Sigma-Aldrich, #R6750)) for 5 hours at 65 °C. Following pre-  
557 hybridization, the sections were hybridized overnight at 60 °C with FITC-labeled RNA  
558 probes (1 µg/ml) in a hybridization solution (10 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 200 mM NaCl, 5 mM  
559 EDTA, 0.25% SDS, 1X Denhardt's, 50% formamide, 300 µg/ml yeast tRNA, 10% dextran  
560 sulfate (Bio Basic, #DB0160), 5 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 5 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>).

561 On the subsequent day, the slides were sequentially washed with the following  
562 buffers: 5X standard saline citrate buffer (Invitrogen, #AM9765) (10 minutes, 65 °C), 50%  
563 formamide/1X SSC (30 minutes, 65 °C), TNE buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 0.5M NaCl, 1  
564 mM EDTA) (20 minutes, 37 °C), 2X SSC (20 minutes, 65 °C), and 0.2X SSC (20 minutes,  
565 65 °C) twice. Quenching of endogenous peroxidase activity was performed using 1%  
566 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Sigma-Aldrich, #216763)/1X PBS for 15 minutes at 4 °C, followed by blocking with  
567 a blocking buffer (0.1 M Tris, pH 7.5, 100 mM maleic acid (Sigma-Aldrich, #M0375), 150  
568 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20, 2% blocking reagent (Roche, #11096176001), 10% heat-  
569 inactivated sheep serum (Equitech-Bio, #SS32-0100)) for 30 minutes at RT. The samples  
570 were then incubated overnight at 4°C with anti-fluorescein-POD (1:2000, Roche,  
571 #11426346910).

572 On the third day, the slides were washed three times with PBST (1X PBS/0.1%  
573 Tween-20), incubated with diluted TSA plus fluorescein (1:50) for 5-10 minutes at RT,  
574 and washed five times with PBST. Finally, the sections were immunostained with anti-  
575 MS4A1 antibodies and imaged using confocal microscopy, following the procedures  
576 described below.

577

### 578 Immunostaining

579 Sections were incubated in a blocking solution containing 5% normal donkey  
580 serum, 0.1% Triton-X100, and 1X Tris-buffered saline (TBS) for 1 hour at RT.  
581 Subsequently, sections were incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibodies diluted  
582 in blocking solution. On the following day, slides were washed three times with TBST  
583 (0.1% Triton-X100 in TBS) and then incubated with secondary antibodies in blocking  
584 solution for 1 hour at RT. Afterwards, the slides were washed three times with TBST,  
585 counterstained, and mounted using Vectashield antifade mounting media with DAPI. To  
586 secure the coverslips, nail polish was applied, and the slides were imaged using confocal  
587 microscopy, following the procedures described below.

588

### 589 Confocal microscopy

590 Slides were imaged using an LSM 900 Airyscan2 confocal microscope (Zeiss)  
591 equipped with various objective lenses, including 10X/0.45 M27, 20X/0.8 M27, 40X/1.1  
592 water Corr M72, and 63X/1.4 oil DIC. To enhance image quality, acquired digital images  
593 were processed by applying a median filter to remove debris that was significantly smaller

594 than the structures being analyzed. Additionally, multi-channel Z-stacks were projected  
595 into two dimensions using Zen blue 3.1 software (Zeiss).

596

### 597 **Quantification of phospho-S6 (pS6) positive cells**

598 Car2 or Ms4a1 positive cells were selected using imageJ software. pS6 intensity  
599 was determined following subtraction of background signal from cells in the olfactory  
600 epithelium lacking Car2 or Ms4a1 signal. For necklace cells, 12 sections from the  
601 posterior olfactory epithelium were collected, and three Car2-positive regions were  
602 randomly selected from each section to perform quantification. For Ms4a1-positive cells,  
603 24 sections equally spaced throughout the anterior to posterior axis of the olfactory  
604 epithelium were collected, and all the Ms4a1-positive cells from these sections were  
605 analyzed. Analysis was performed blinded to genotype and stimulus to ensure unbiased  
606 quantification.

607

### 608 **iDISCO**

609 iDISCO was performed on the olfactory bulbs of 8-12 week old C57/BL6 wild-type  
610 mice following the protocol described by Renier and colleagues (Renier et al., 2014)  
611 (online protocol: <http://idisco.info/idisco-protocol>). Initially, mice were euthanized, and  
612 their olfactory bulbs were dissected and fixed for 2 hours in 4% PFA in PBS at 4 °C. The  
613 samples were then washed three times with PBS for 30 minutes each at RT and then  
614 dehydrated using a series of methanol solutions (20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, 100%, Sigma-  
615 Aldrich, #179337-4X4L) for 1 hour each at RT. Subsequently, the samples were  
616 incubated overnight in a mixture of 66% dichloromethane (Sigma-Aldrich, #270997) and  
617 33% methanol at RT and washed twice with methanol. The samples were then bleached  
618 using 5% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>/ methanol solution at 4 °C overnight. Following bleaching, the samples  
619 were rehydrated using a series of methanol solutions (80%, 60%, 40%, 20%) and PBS  
620 for 1 hour each at RT.

621 The samples were incubated in permeabilization solution (0.2% Triton X-100, 0.3  
622 M glycine (Merck, #G5417), 20% DMSO (Corning, #25-950-CQC) in PBS) at 37 °C  
623 overnight and then placed in blocking solution (0.2% Triton X-100, 6% donkey serum,  
624 10% DMSO in PBS) at 37 °C overnight. Subsequently, the samples were washed in  
625 PTwH buffer (0.2% Tween-20, 10 µg/ml heparin (Sigma-Aldrich, #H3393) in PBS)  
626 overnight and incubated with primary antibodies diluted in PTwH buffer supplemented  
627 with 5% DMSO and 3% donkey serum at 37 °C for 3 days. The samples were extensively  
628 washed in PTwH buffer for 1 day and then incubated with secondary antibodies diluted in  
629 PTwH buffer with 3% donkey serum at 37 °C for 3 days. Finally, the samples were washed  
630 in PTwH buffer overnight before the clearing and imaging process. For clearing, the bulb  
631 samples were dehydrated using a series of methanol solutions (20%, 40%, 60%, 80%,  
632 100%, 100%) for 1 hour each at RT. The samples were incubated in 66%  
633 dichloromethane/33% methanol at RT for 3 hours and then incubated in 100%  
634 dichloromethane until they sank to the bottom of the vial. Finally, the samples were  
635 incubated in dibenzyl ether (Sigma, #108014) at RT overnight. The cleared samples were  
636 directly imaged using a light-sheet microscope (Ultramicroscope II; LaVision BioTec). The  
637 images were acquired using InspectorPro software (LaVision BioTec), and three-  
638 dimensional reconstruction and analysis were performed using Imaris x64 software  
639 (v.8.0.1, Bitplane).

640

641 **Odor-driven behavior assay**

642 For behavioral experiments, 8–12-week-old *Ms4a* cluster knockout, *Ms4a6c*  
643 knockout, *Ms4a1* knockout and littermate wild-type control mice were group housed in  
644 the behavioral assay room and allowed to acclimate for at least one day prior to the start  
645 of the experiments. Two hours prior to the behavioral assay, mice were individually fasted  
646 in their home cage. During the experiment, mice were placed in single use, disposable  
647 cages (Innovive, #M-BTM) with a disposable paper curtain separating the avoidance zone  
648 from the odorized zone. Only the odorized zone was enclosed by an acrylic sheet on the  
649 top of cage. A clean filter paper was placed in a 35 mm petri dish within the odorized  
650 zone. Without any odor stimulus, mice were first allowed to freely explore their  
651 surroundings for 30 minutes. Subsequently, the mice were exposed to water (40  $\mu$ L)  
652 applied to the filter paper in the odorized zone for a duration of 3 minutes. After water  
653 exposure, the same mouse was then exposed to 40  $\mu$ L of odorant for 3 minutes. The  
654 odorant was delivered onto a fresh filter paper for the experiment. Animal behavior during  
655 the entire experiment, including habituation, water exposure, and odor exposure was  
656 recorded with a webcam (Logitech, #LOWCC920S). Those videos were then analyzed  
657 with ezTrack (Pennington et al., 2019).

658

659 **Elevated plus maze assay**

660 The elevated plus maze (EPM) apparatus consisted of plus-shaped (+) apparatus  
661 with two open and two enclosed arms. The closed arms are enclosed by black walls  
662 (30  $\times$  5  $\times$  15 cm) and the open arms are exposed (30  $\times$  5  $\times$  0.25 cm). The maze was  
663 elevated 45 cm above the floor, and a red fluorescent light was positioned 1 meter above  
664 the maze as light source. The whole assay was performed in a darkroom. 8–12-week-old  
665 *Ms4a* cluster knockout, *Ms4a6c* knockout, *Ms4a1* knockout, and littermate wild-type  
666 control mice were group housed in the darkroom for 1 hour prior to the experiment.  
667 Individual mice were placed at the center of the maze, and the mouse was allowed to  
668 freely explore the maze for 5 minutes. The time the mice stayed in the open arm and the  
669 closed arm is automatically measured by the system. The maze was cleaned with rubbing  
670 alcohol prior and between experiments. The maze was design by Andrew Tapper (Molas  
671 et al., 2017).

672

673 **RNA-Sequencing**

674 Three 8-12-week old *Ms4a* cluster knockout, *Ms4a6c* knockout, and littermate wild-  
675 type control mice were euthanized according to our IACUC protocol, and the main  
676 olfactory epithelium was dissected and immersed quickly in 0.6 ml of ice-cold Trizol  
677 (Invitrogen, #15596018). Olfactory epithelia were ground and homogenized with  
678 nuclease-free disposable pestles (Fisher Scientific, #12-141-368) in an Eppendorf tube  
679 (Eppendorf, #2231000347). The homogenized sample was incubated for 5 minutes at  
680 room temperature. 0.1  $\mu$ L of chloroform was added to the sample and mixed by inverting  
681 for 20 seconds. The sample was then incubated for 3 minutes at RT. The sample was  
682 centrifuged at 12,000  $\times$ g for 15 minutes at 4  $^{\circ}$ C. The clear aqueous phase was collected  
683 into a nuclease-free Eppendorf tube, and an equal volume of 70% ethanol (Sigma-Aldrich,  
684 #E7023) was added and mixed. The sample was then loaded into RNeasy spin column  
685 and RNA was extracted with a RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, #74104). NEBNext Ultra II



686 Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB, #E7490S and #E7760S) was used to  
687 construct sequencing libraries following the manufacturer's guidelines with one alteration,  
688 which was to increase the insert length to around 300 bp. Libraries were sequenced using  
689 paired-end 150 cycle reads on a Novaseq6000 (Novogene). The sequencing reads were  
690 processed using the DolphinNext RNAseq pipeline  
691 (<https://dolphinsnext.umassmed.edu/index.php?np=1&id=732>) (Yukselen et al., 2020). The  
692 default settings were employed, except that STAR v.2.6.1 and RSEM v.1.3.1 were used  
693 for alignment and quantification, respectively (Dobin et al., 2013; Li and Dewey, 2011).  
694 Transcriptome build: gencode M25. The count matrix was loaded to R (v.4.0.0 or later),  
695 and DEseq2 (v.1.30.1) was used to normalize the matrix and perform differential gene  
696 expression analysis (Love et al., 2014).

697

### 698 **Cell culture and transfection**

699 Human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK293) cells (ATCC, #CRL-3216) were cultured  
700 in complete media, which consisted of DMEM-high glucose (Sigma-Aldrich, #D5671)  
701 supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (R&D Systems, #S12450H),  
702 penicillin/streptomycin/glutamine (Gibco, #10378016), and maintained in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub>  
703 humidified tissue culture incubator at 37 °C. For calcium imaging experiments, HEK293  
704 cells were transfected with calcium phosphate. 0.5 x 10<sup>6</sup> cells were seeded in each well  
705 of a 12-well plate, and 1 µg of GCaMP6s and 1 µg of either mCherry or mCherry-MS4A  
706 fusion plasmid DNA were mixed with 250 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. The solutions were resuspended by  
707 pipetting four times and combined with 2X HBS (containing 50 mM HEPES, 10 mM KCl,  
708 12 mM D-glucose, 280 mM NaCl, and 1.5 mM Na<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> at pH 7.06). The reaction mixtures  
709 were incubated for 5 minutes at RT and then added dropwise to each well. For the  
710 expression of MS4A1 protein, 1 hour after transfection, tetracycline (Sigma-Aldrich,  
711 #T7660) was added to a final concentration of 1 µg/mL. For surface immunostaining,  
712 HEK293 cells were plated on 12 mm round German glass coverslips (Bellco  
713 Biotechnology, #1943-10012A) coated with poly-d-lysine hydrobromide (Sigma-Aldrich,  
714 #P0296) in a 24-well plate and incubated in complete media. The cells were transfected  
715 using the same calcium phosphate method as described above.

716

### 717 **Generation of lentiviral CRISPR/CAS9-mediated Ms4a1 knockout B cell lines and** 718 **pS6 immunostaining**

719 To produce lentivirus, HEK293T cells were transfected with pLentiCRISPR v2  
720 plasmids containing guide sequences targeting the control gene  
721 (ACTATCATGGCACCCAATTG) and the Ms4a1 gene (GATGGGTGCGAAGACCCCTG)  
722 (Wang et al., 2014), along with delta-Vpr packaging plasmid and the VSV-G envelope  
723 plasmid. X-tremeGENE 9 Transfection reagent (Roche, #XTG9-RO) was used for the  
724 transfection. Lentivirus-containing media were collected 24 hours after changing to fresh  
725 media. The supernatant containing the virus was used without concentration after one  
726 cycle of freeze and thaw to eliminate any residual HEK293T cells. The virus was then  
727 transduced into A20 cells (ATCC, #TIB-208), a mouse BALB/c B cell lymphoma line (Kim  
728 et al., 1979), with 10 µg/ml polybrene for 1 hour using centrifugation at RT. The cells were  
729 incubated for 24 hours, and the media was replaced with media containing 1 µg/ml  
730 puromycin to select for transduced cells. Single-cell clones were selected, expanded, and  
731 subjected to Western blot analysis to generate single cell-derived Ms4a1 knockout A20

732 cells. For the pS6 activation experiments, both control and Ms4a1 knockout cells on  
733 coverglass were incubated in serum-free media for 30 minutes and treated with either  
734 vehicle or 2,5-DMP for 30 minutes in a tissue culture incubator at 37 °C. Subsequently,  
735 the cells were fixed with 4% PFA/PBS for 20 minutes at RT, followed by three washes  
736 with PBS. The cells were incubated in blocking buffer for 30 minutes at RT, and then with  
737 anti-pS6 antibodies (1:400) in blocking buffer overnight at 4°C. On the following day, the  
738 cells were washed three times with PBS and then incubated with secondary antibody  
739 (1:300) in blocking solution for 45 minutes at RT. After three washes with PBS, the cells  
740 were mounted using Vectashield antifade mounting media with DAPI.

741

## 742 **Calcium imaging**

743 24 hours post-transfection, media in the wells were aspirated and washed twice  
744 with 1X Ringer's solution supplemented with 1 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> (Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Ringer's solution). The  
745 wells were then incubated for 30 minutes in the cell culture incubator with Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Ringer's  
746 solution. Following the incubation, the plate was transferred to a Lionheart LX Automated  
747 microscope (BioTek), and calcium imaging was performed using Gen5 software (BioTek).  
748 Preliminary images were acquired with brightfield, RFP, and GFP filters at 20X  
749 magnification prior to each experiment, focusing on an imaging field containing cell  
750 numbers between 50 and 200. Subsequently, using the same field of view and fixed z-  
751 axis, images were captured for 10 minutes (1 FPS). During the kinetic image acquisition,  
752 either Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Ringer's solution as a negative control or specific odorants (50 μM for 2,3-  
753 DMP, 2,5-DMP, 2,6-DMP, indole, quinoline, pyridine, pyrrolidine, vanillin, IAA) solubilized  
754 in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Ringer's solution were pipetted into the upper edge of each well after 360 seconds  
755 for a duration of 10 seconds. To determine dose-response curves and calculate the EC50,  
756 HEK293 cells co-expressing GCaMP6s and either mCherry or mCherry-MS4A1 were  
757 treated with six logarithmic orders of 2,3-DMP or 2,5-DMP (ranging from 10 nM to 1 mM)  
758 starting with the lowest concentration. For experiments conducted without extracellular  
759 calcium, all solutions were replaced with 1X Ringer's solution supplemented with 1 mM  
760 EGTA and 1 mM EDTA to chelate calcium. All acquired images were aligned to the first  
761 image of each experiment using Gen5 software, and subsequent images were analyzed  
762 using Fiji software.

763

## 764 **Analysis of calcium imaging data**

765 Mp4 videos were converted into a sequence of PNG images with ffmpeg software,  
766 the image sequence was then imported into Fiji. GCaMP6s and mCherry positive cells  
767 were selected, and their GCaMP6s intensities were calculated across the whole image  
768 sequence, which was subsequently analyzed using a customized R script. Briefly, for  
769 each selected cell, the average intensity and standard error of GCaMP6s 30 seconds  
770 prior to ligand presentation was calculated. 2.5-fold of the standard error above mean  
771 intensity was then used as a threshold to determine if the cell responded to the odor.

772

## 773 **Statistics and reproducibility**

774 For quantification of pS6, at least three biological repeats were performed for each  
775 odorant treatment. All analyses were conducted blinded to genotype and stimulus to  
776 ensure unbiased quantification. One-way ANOVA was performed to calculate the  
777 statistical difference of mean intensity of pS6 from all groups. A post-hoc Dunnett's test

778 was used to determine if the mean intensity of pS6 from a given odorant treatment was  
779 significantly different from the eugenol control group.

780 For the odor-driven behavior assay, at least five biological repeats were performed  
781 for each odorant. The analysis was conducted in an automated manner whenever  
782 possible in the absence of human supervision to ensure blinding to genotype and  
783 stimulus. For the total distance traveled, an unpaired Welch t-test was performed to  
784 calculate statistical differences. For the distance between the mouse's center of mass  
785 and the odor, a paired t-test was performed to calculate statistical differences. For  
786 comparing the proportion of time spent in the odorized zone and the distance between  
787 the mouse's center of mass and odor (unpaired), a one-way ANOVA was performed to  
788 calculate statistical differences between all groups. A post-hoc Dunnett's Test was  
789 applied to determine if the values from a given odorant treatment are significantly different  
790 from those from the water control group. For the avoidance index, an unpaired Welch t-  
791 test was used to compare each knockout group and their wild-type littermates. A false-  
792 discovery rate was controlled using a two-stage step-up developed by Benjamini, Krieger,  
793 and Yekutieli.

794 For the EPM assay, at least five biological repeats were performed for each  
795 genotype. An unpaired Welch t-test was used to compare time spent in the open arm  
796 between groups.

797 For calcium imaging, at least nine biological repeats were performed for each  
798 odorant. The analysis was conducted blinded to protein expressed and stimulus to ensure  
799 unbiased quantification. For identifying 2,5-DMP responsive MS4A receptors, a one-way  
800 ANOVA was performed using a post-hoc Dunnett's test. For screening chemicals that  
801 might activate MS4A1-expressing cells, a one-way ANOVA was performed with a post-  
802 hoc Dunnett's test to compare to cells exposed to Ringer's solution only. For assessing  
803 whether the presence of extracellular calcium affects the response rate of MS4A1-  
804 expressing cells, a one-way ANOVA was performed with a post-hoc Tukey's test.

805 For all the symbols indicating statistical significance in this article: \*\*\*\*,  $p < 0.0001$ ;  
806 \*\*\*,  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*,  $p < 0.01$ ; \*,  $p < 0.05$ ; ns,  $p \geq 0.05$ .

807

### 808 **Data availability**

809 All RNA sequencing data described in this manuscript are deposited at GEO  
810 accession GSE240378, which is associated with Figures S1B and S2B.

811

### 812 **Code availability**

813 All the scripts used for this study can be found at:  
814 [https://github.com/Greerlab/CD20\\_2023\\_paper](https://github.com/Greerlab/CD20_2023_paper).

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817

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#### 1025 **Figure legends:**

#### 1026 **Figure 1. Deletion of all members of the MS4A family prevents *in vivo* detection of** 1027 **MS4A ligands by necklace OSNs and the innate avoidance behaviors triggered by** 1028 **these ligands**

1029 (A) Schematic representation of the genomic organization of the 19 Ms4a family members  
1030 in tandem array on chromosome 19.

1031 (B) Example images of the cul-de-sac regions (where necklace cells reside) of the main  
1032 olfactory epithelia of mice exposed to the indicated odorant, co-labeled for the necklace  
1033 cell marker Car2 (purple) and the neuronal activity marker phospho-S6 (pSerine240/244)  
1034 (green) from wild-type (left panels) or Ms4a cluster knockout animals (right panels). EUG;  
1035 eugenol, CS<sub>2</sub>; carbon disulfide, 2,5-DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine, OA; oleic acid, ALA;  
1036 alpha-linolenic acid.

1037 (C) Quantification of the proportion of pS6+ necklace cells in odor-exposed wild-type mice  
1038 (left panel) or Ms4a cluster knockout mice (right panel). Data are presented as mean ±  
1039 SEM, n ≥ three independent experiments, \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, Dunnett's test following one-way  
1040 ANOVA compared to null exposure. TMT; 2,3,5-trimethyl-3-thiazoline.

1041 (D) Heat maps of the occupancy of wild-type (left panels) or cluster knockout mice (right  
1042 panels) in the odor avoidance chamber in response to the indicated odorants. Small  
1043 square represents location of odorant, and dashed line demarcates the odor avoidance  
1044 zone from the rest of the chamber. Scale bar, 5 cm.

1045 (E) Quantification of odor avoidance behavior. The distance between the average center  
1046 of mass of the mouse and the location of odorant (top panels) and the proportion of time  
1047 spent in the odorized zone (bottom panels) were determined for wild-type mice (left) and  
1048 Ms4a cluster knockout mice (right). Each circle represents an individual mouse. Data are  
1049 presented as mean ± SEM, n ≥ five independent experiments, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001,  
1050 unpaired Welch t-test or post-hoc Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA or a paired t-  
1051 test compared to water exposure.



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**Figure 2. The knockout of *Ms4a6c* impairs the ability of necklace OSNs to detect DMP, a predator-derived compound, but does not significantly affect DMP-mediated innate avoidance behavior**

(A) Example images of the cul-de-sac regions of the main olfactory epithelia of mice exposed to the indicated odorant, co-labeled for the necklace cell marker, Car2 (purple), and the neuronal activity marker, phospho-S6 (pSerine240/244) (green), from wild-type (left panels) or *Ms4a6c* knockout animals (right panels). EUG; eugenol, CS<sub>2</sub>; carbon disulfide, 2,3-DMP; 2,3-dimethylpyrazine, 2,5-DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine, OA; oleic acid. (B) Quantification of the proportion of pS6+ necklace cells in odor-exposed wild-type mice (left panel) or *Ms4a6c* knockout mice (right panel). Data are presented as mean ± SEM, n ≥ three independent experiments, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA to null exposure. (C) Heat maps of the occupancy of wild-type (left panels) or *Ms4a6c* knockout mice (right panels) in the odor avoidance chamber in response to the indicated odorants. Small square represents location of odorant, and dashed line demarcates the odor avoidance zone from the rest of the chamber. Scale bar, 5 cm. TMT; 2,3,5-trimethyl-3-thiazoline. (D) Quantification of odor avoidance behavior. The distance between the average center of mass of the mouse and the location of odorant (top panels) and the proportion of time spent in the odorized zone (bottom panels) were determined for wild-type mice (left) and *Ms4a6c* knockout mice (right). Each circle represents an individual mouse. Data are presented as mean ± SEM, n ≥ five independent experiments, \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.001, \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, unpaired Welch t-test or post-hoc Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA or a paired t-test compared to water exposure.

**Figure 3. MS4A1/CD20 facilitates the detection of DMP, and deletion of *Ms4a1* eliminates innate avoidance of DMP**

(A) GCaMP6s fluorescence in response to the indicated chemicals in HEK293 cells expressing the indicated MS4A protein (odor delivery indicated by red bars). RS; Ringer's Solution, 2,5-DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine. (B) Quantification of responses of expressed MS4A protein to 2,5-DMP as in (A). n ≥ 3 independent experiments. Dashed red line indicates mean plus 2.5 standard deviations above the responses of HEK293 cells expressing mCherry alone in response to 2,5-DMP. \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA compared to mCherry alone. (C) Heat maps of the occupancy of wild-type (left panels) or *Ms4a1* knockout mice (right panels) in the odor avoidance chamber in response to the indicated odorants. Small square represents location of odorant, and dashed line demarcates the odor avoidance zone from the rest of the chamber. Scale bar, 5 cm. TMT; 2,3,5-trimethyl-3-thiazoline. (D) Quantification of odor avoidance behavior. The distance between the average center of mass of the mouse and the location of odorant (top panels) and the proportion of time spent in the odorized zone (bottom panels) were determined for wild-type mice (left) and *Ms4a1* knockout mice (right). Each circle represents an individual mouse. Data are presented as mean ± SEM, n ≥ five independent experiments, \*\*\*p < 0.001, \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, unpaired Welch t-test or post-hoc Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA or a paired t-test compared to water exposure.

1097 (E) An avoidance index was calculated for cluster knockout mice, *Ms4a6c* knockout mice,  
1098 *Ms4a1* knockout mice, and their wild-type littermate controls by subtracting the average  
1099 distance in cm between the average position of a mouse from water from the average  
1100 position of the mouse and 2,5-DMP. A more positive value represents a larger avoidance  
1101 of DMP. The avoidance index was calculated for > five mice per genotype, and the data  
1102 are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , using an unpaired Welch t-test compared to  
1103 wild-type mice.  
1104

1105 **Figure 4. MS4A1 is expressed in a previously unidentified subpopulation of OSNs**

1106 (A) Expression of MS4A1 protein in solitary cells of the main olfactory epithelium. Scale  
1107 bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1108 (B) Immunostaining performed with rabbit polyclonal (green), goat polyclonal (purple),  
1109 and rat monoclonal (cyan) anti-MS4A1 antibodies recognizing different epitopes of the  
1110 protein. Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1111 (C) Immunostaining of MS4A1 in the main olfactory epithelia of wild-type and *Ms4a1*  
1112 knockout mice. MS4A1-expressing cells are detected in sections obtained from wild-type  
1113 (indicated by white arrow heads, left panels) but not *Ms4a1* knockout (right panels) mice.  
1114 Scale bar, 80  $\mu$ m.

1115 (D) Detection of *Ms4a1* mRNA expression (purple) in anti-MS4A1 antibody labeled cells  
1116 (green) using combined single-molecule fluorescent *in situ* hybridization and  
1117 immunohistochemistry. Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1118 (E) Determination of whether MS4A1-expressing cells co-express NeuN (neuronal  
1119 marker, top panels) KI18 (sustentacular cell marker, second panels from the top), KI17  
1120 (horizontal basal cell marker, third panels from the top), and NeuroD1 (globose basal cell  
1121 marker, bottom panels). Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1122 (F) Expression of CNGA2 (lower panels) but not OMP (upper panels) in MS4A1+ OSNs.  
1123 Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1124 (G) MS4A1-expressing cells do not express the genes *Gucy1b2*, *Trpc2*, *Trpm5*, and  
1125 *Pde2a*, markers of previously described olfactory subsystems. Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1126 (H) MS4A1 is undetected in necklace cells marked by their expression of *Gucy2d* (upper  
1127 panels) and vomeronasal olfactory neurons marked by their expression of *V1rb1* (lower  
1128 panels). Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

1129 (I) iDISCO (left panel) and immunostaining (right panels) using antibodies of MS4A1 and  
1130 VGLUT2, an olfactory glomerular marker, reveal that MS4A1-expressing cells coalesce  
1131 their axons in the olfactory bulb.  
1132

1133 **Figure 5. MS4A1 is a chemoreceptor that detects nitrogenous heterocyclic**  
1134 **compounds**

1135 (A) GCaMP6s fluorescence in response to the indicated chemicals in HEK293 cells  
1136 expressing MS4A1 protein (odor delivery indicated by red bars). RS; Ringer's Solution,  
1137 2,3-DMP; 2,3-dimethylpyrazine, 2,5-DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine, 2,6-DMP; 2,6-  
1138 dimethylpyrazine, IAA; isoamyl alcohol.

1139 (B) Quantification of responses of cells expressing MS4A1 protein to the indicated  
1140 chemicals as in (A).  $n \geq$  three independent experiments. Dashed red line indicates mean  
1141  $\pm$  2.5 standard deviations of responses of HEK293 cells expressing mCherry alone in

1142 response to 2,5-DMP. \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA compared  
1143 to mCherry alone. RS; ringer solution.

1144 (C) Dose-response curves reveal low micromolar/high nanomolar  $EC_{50}$ s for MS4A1/2,3-  
1145 DMP (top panel) and MS4A1/2,5-DMP (bottom panel). Each data point represents the  
1146 mean  $\pm$  SEM from at least three independent wells.

1147 (D) The requirement of extracellular calcium for MS4A1 ligand responses was assessed  
1148 by stimulating HEK293 cells co-expressing GCaMP6s and either MS4A1 or mCherry with  
1149 2,5-DMP in the presence or absence of extracellular calcium. Data are presented as  
1150 mean  $\pm$  SEM from at least six wells per condition. \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , Tuckey's test following one-  
1151 way ANOVA compared to no extracellular calcium.

1152  
1153 **Figure 6. The MS4A1 ligands, 2,3-DMP and 2,5-DMP, activate MS4A1-expressing**  
1154 **cells *in vivo***

1155 (A) Example images of the main olfactory epithelia of mice exposed to the indicated  
1156 odorant, immunostained for the neuronal activity marker, phospho-S6 (pSerine240/244)  
1157 (green). *Ms4a1* is detected by fluorescent in situ hybridization (purple), see experimental  
1158 procedures. EUG; eugenol, CS<sub>2</sub>; carbon disulfide, 2,3-DMP; 2,3-dimethylpyrazine, 2,5-  
1159 DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine.

1160 (B) Quantification of the proportion of pS6+ MS4A1-expressing OSNs (right panel) in  
1161 response to the indicated odorants. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM, from three  
1162 independent experiments, \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$ , Dunnett's test following one-way  
1163 ANOVA compared to null exposure.

1164 (C) Example images of 2,5-DMP stimulated wild-type (left panels) or *Ms4a1* knockout  
1165 A20 cells, a BALB/c mouse B cell lymphoma cell line, immunostained for the activity  
1166 marker phospho-S6 (pSerine240/244) (green).

1167 (D) Quantification of the proportion of pS6+ A20 cells in response to 2,5-DMP. Data are  
1168 presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM, from at least five independent experiments,

1169  
1170  
1171  
1172

1173 **Figure S1 related to Figure 1.**

1174 (A) PCR analysis of genomic DNA from wild-type and heterozygous or homozygous  
1175 *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice.

1176 (B) Heatmap of expression of *Ms4a* family member mRNA transcripts detected by RNA  
1177 sequencing experiments performed on RNA isolated from the main olfactory epithelia of  
1178 wild-type and *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice.

1179 (C) Quantification of the velocity of *Ms4a* cluster knockout mice and their wild-type  
1180 littermate controls during the odor avoidance assays.

1181 (D) Heat maps (top panels) of the occupancy of wild-type mice in the odor avoidance  
1182 chamber in response to the indicated odorants. Small square represents location of  
1183 odorant, and dashed line demarcates the odor avoidance zone from the rest of the  
1184 chamber. Scale bar, 5 cm. Bottom panels represent quantification of the avoidance mice  
1185 exhibit in response to the indicated odors. \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , a paired t test compared  
1186 to water. EUG; eugenol, LA; linolenic acid, OA; oleic acid, ALA; alpha-linolenic acid, AA;  
1187 arachidonic acid, 2,3-DMP; 2,3-dimethylpyrazine, 2,5-DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine.

1188 (E) Quantification of the amount of time male (left panel) and female (right panel) *Ms4a*  
1189 cluster knockout mice and their wild-type littermate controls spend in open arms in an  
1190 elevated plus maze assay. Unpaired Welch t-test compared to wild-type mice.

1191

1192 **Figure S2 related to Figure 2.**

1193 (A) PCR genotyping analysis of the wild-type (top) and deleted (bottom) *Ms4a6c* alleles  
1194 from, wild-type and heterozygous or homozygous *Ms4a6c* knockout mice.

1195 (B) Heatmap of expression of *Ms4a* family member mRNA transcripts detected by RNA  
1196 sequencing experiments performed on RNA isolated from the main olfactory epithelia of  
1197 wild-type and *Ms4a6c* knockout mice. The residual *Ms4a6c* transcripts detected in  
1198 *Ms4a6c* knockout mice all map to 5' UTR regions of the gene, which were not targeted.

1199 (C) Quantification of the velocity of *Ms4a6c* knockout mice and their wild-type littermate  
1200 controls during the odor avoidance assays. Unpaired Welch t-test compared to wild-type  
1201 mice.

1202 (D) Quantification of the amount of time male (left panel) and female (right panel) *Ms4a6c*  
1203 knockout mice and their wild-type littermate controls spend in open arms in an elevated  
1204 plus maze assay. Unpaired Welch t-test compared to wild-type mice.

1205

1206 **Figure S3 related to Figure 3.**

1207 (A) Representative confocal images of HEK293 cells transfected with an N-terminal  
1208 mCherry-fusion version of MS4A1 (purple) in which the surface expression of MS4A1 was  
1209 determined using non-permeabilized staining conditions and an anti-MS4A1 antibody  
1210 (cyan).

1211 (B) Quantification of the velocity of *Ms4a1* knockout mice and their wild-type littermate  
1212 controls during the odor avoidance assays. Unpaired Welch t-test compared to wild-type  
1213 mice.

1214 (C) Quantification of the amount of time male (left panel) and female (right panel) *Ms4a1*  
1215 knockout mice and their wild-type littermate controls spend in open arms in an elevated  
1216 plus maze assay. Unpaired Welch t-test compared to wild-type mice.

1217 (D) Quantification of the velocity of *Rag1* knockout mice and their wild-type littermate  
1218 controls during the odor avoidance assays. Unpaired Welch t-test compared to wild-type  
1219 mice.

1220 (E) Quantification of odor avoidance behavior. The distance between the average center  
1221 of mass of the mouse and the location of odorant was determined for *Rag1* knockout mice  
1222 (right). Each circle represents an individual mouse. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM,  
1223  $n \geq$  five independent experiments, \* $p < 0.05$ , a paired t test compared to water exposure.  
1224 2,5-DMP; 2,5-dimethylpyrazine.

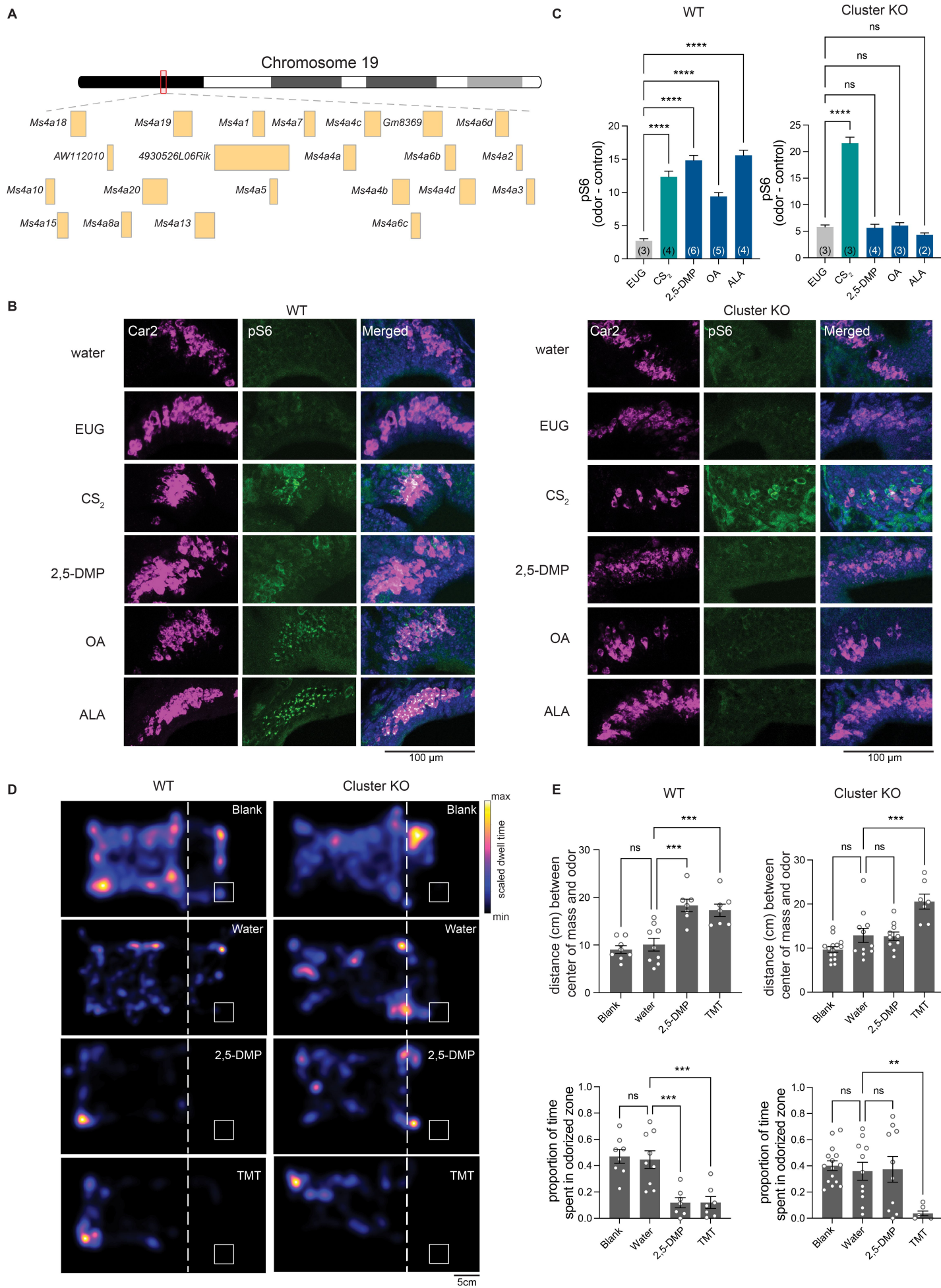
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1226 **Figure S5 related to Figure 5.**

1227 (A) Quantification of baseline responses of HEK293 cells expressing MS4A1 protein in  
1228 the absence of chemical stimulation.  $n \geq$  six independent experiments.

1229 (B) Quantification of responses of HEK293 cells expressing either mouse MS4A1 protein  
1230 or human MS4A1 protein in response to 2,5-DMP.  $n \geq 6$  independent experiments. \*\*  $p <$   
1231 0.01, Dunnett's test following one-way ANOVA compared to mCherry alone. 2,5-DMP;  
1232 2,5-dimethylpyrazine.

1233 (C) Quantification of responses of HEK293 cells expressing mCherry or MS4A1 to the  
1234 indicated chemicals as in Figures 5A and 5B.  $n \geq$  three independent experiments. \* $p <$   
1235 0.05, \*\* $p <$  0.01, \*\*\* $p <$  0.001, a paired t test compared to GCaMP6s only. 2,3-DMP; 2,3-  
1236 dimethylpyrazine, 2,6-DMP; 2,6-dimethylpyrazine.  
1237

**Figure 1**

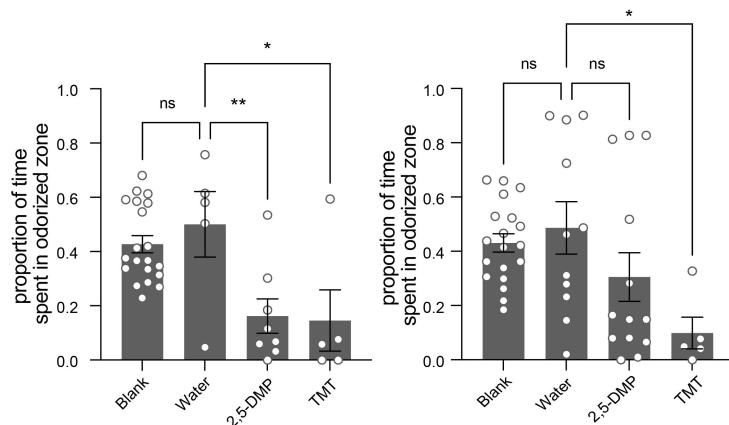
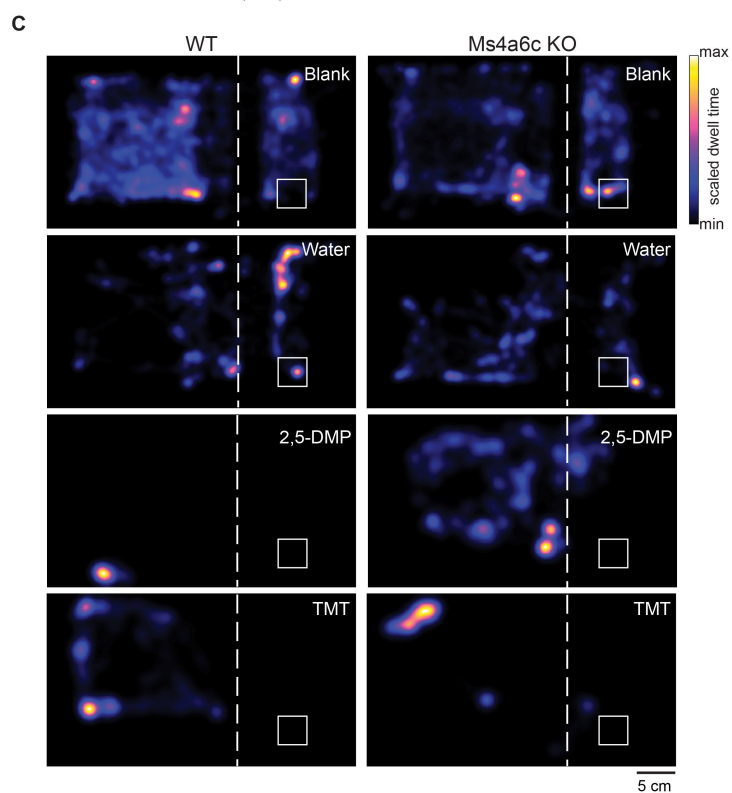
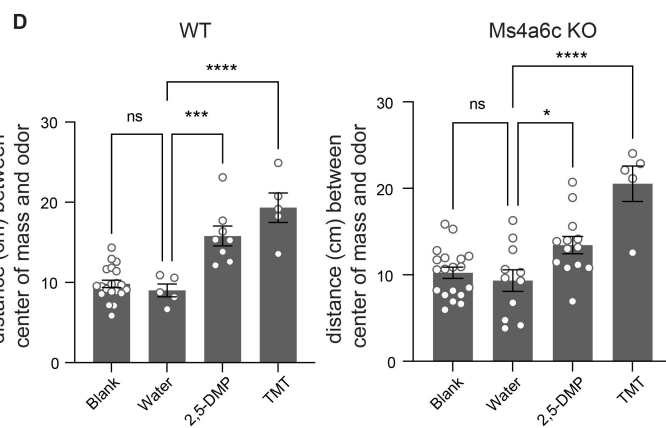
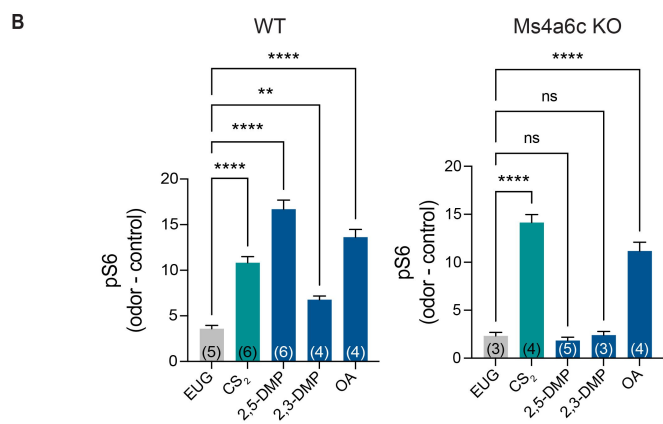
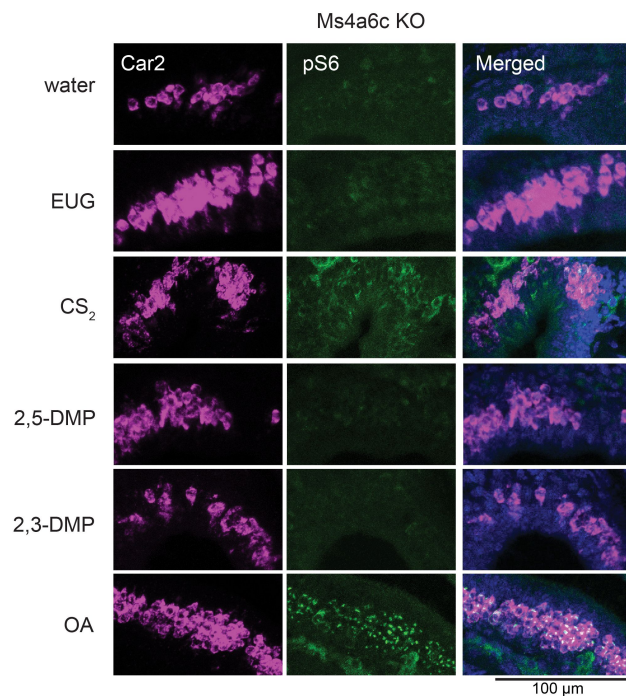
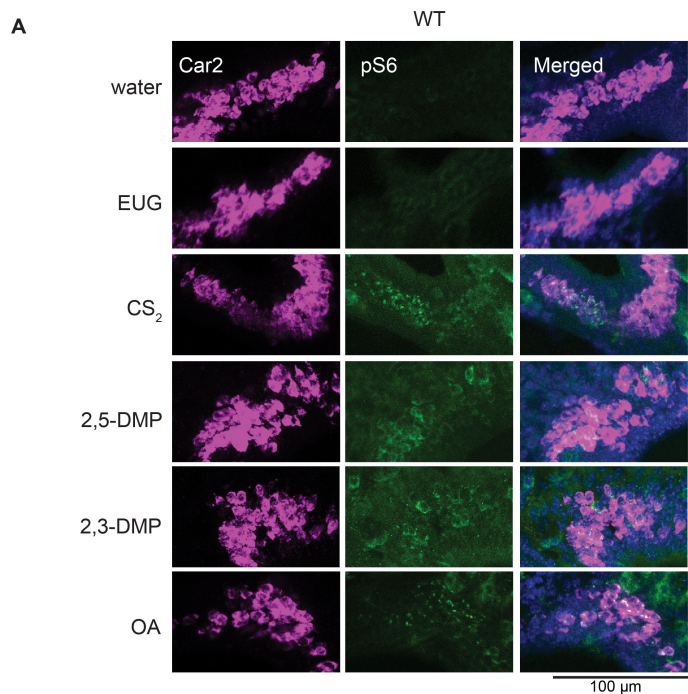
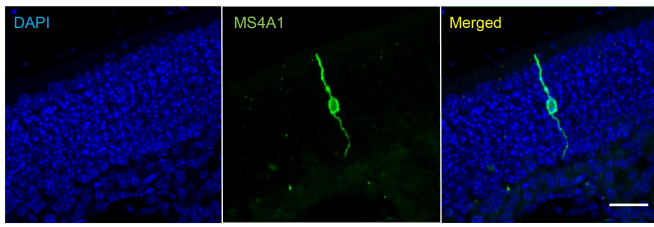
**Figure 2**



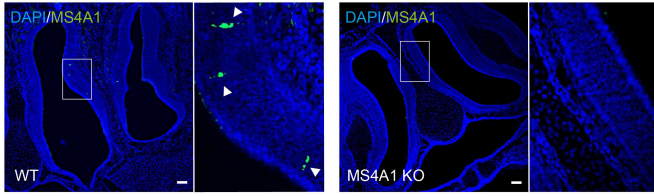


Figure 4

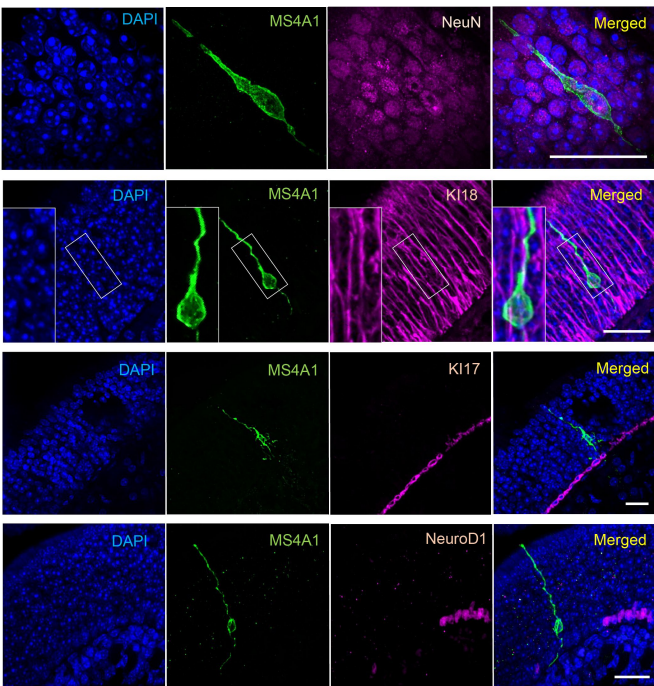
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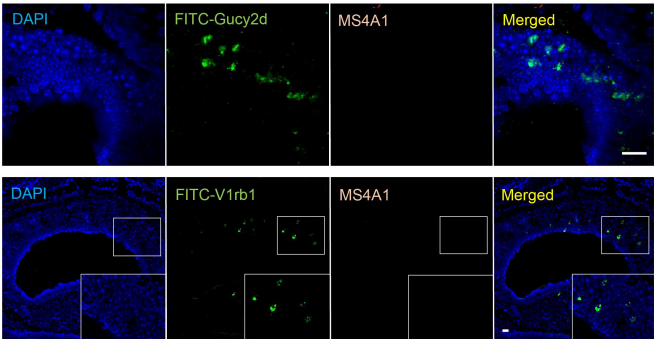
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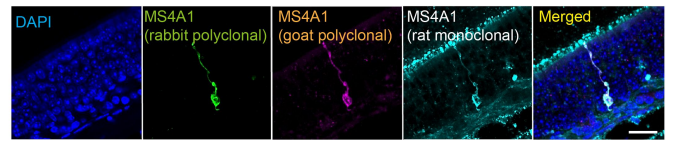
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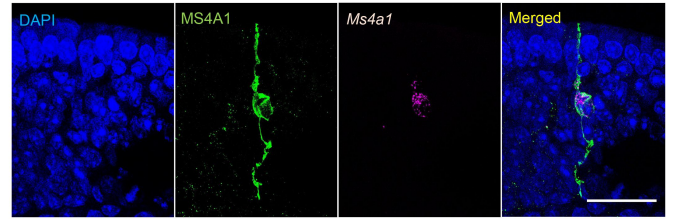
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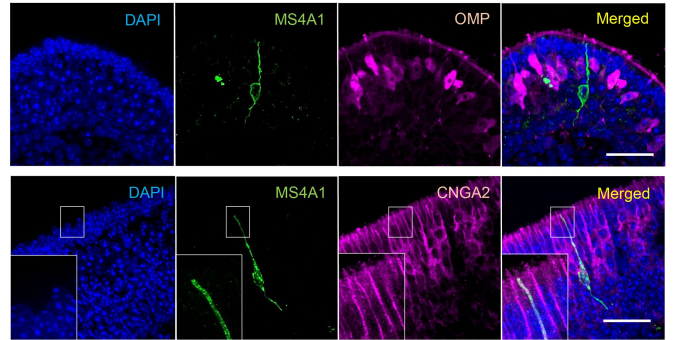
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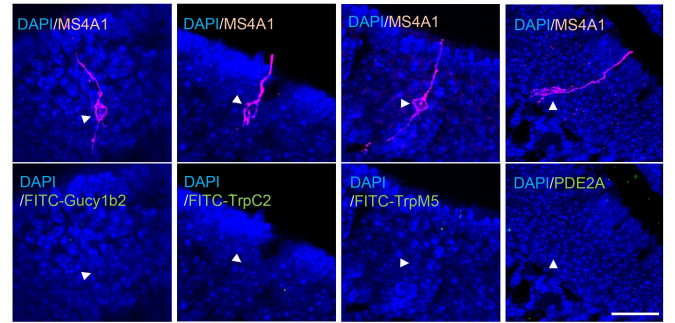
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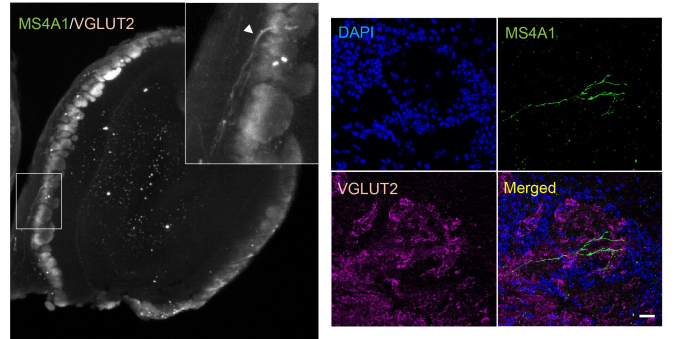
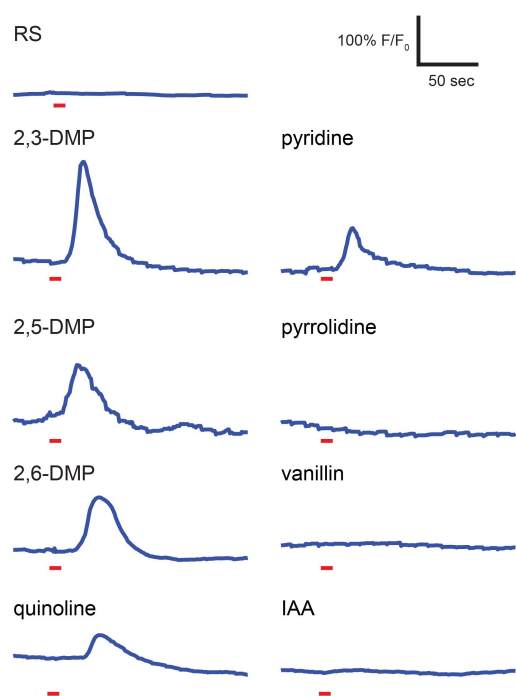
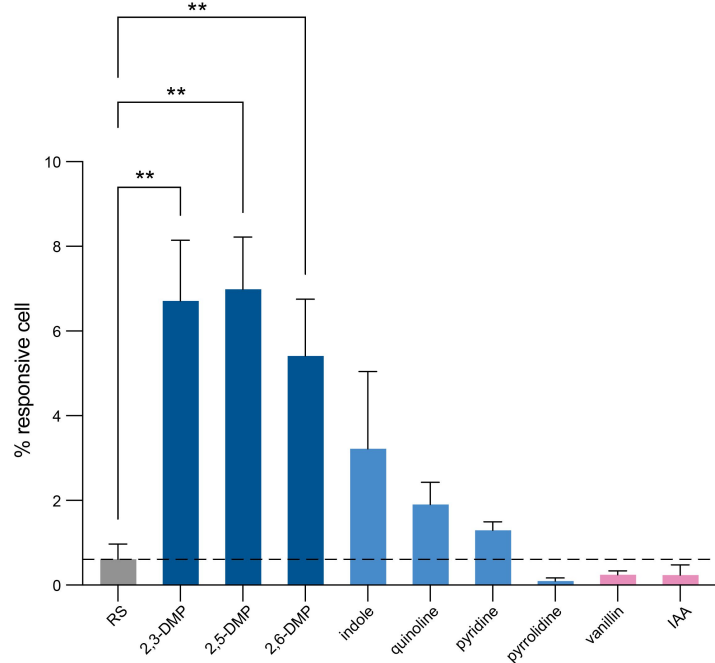


Figure 5

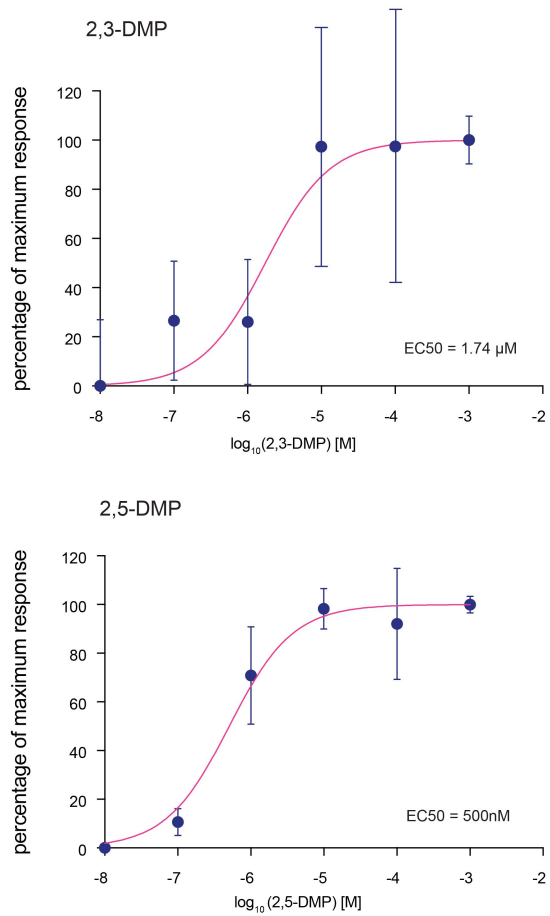
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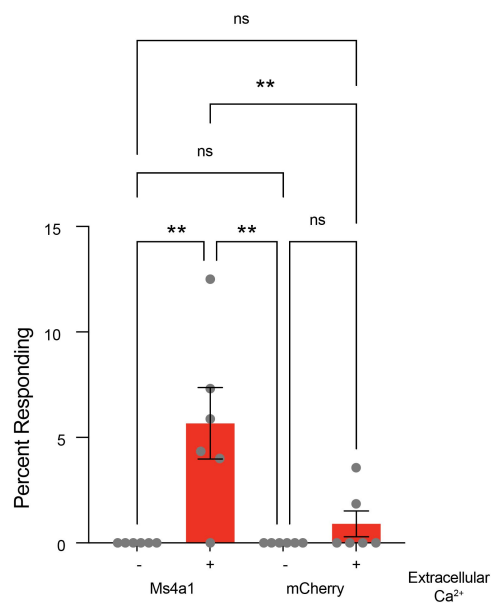


Figure 6

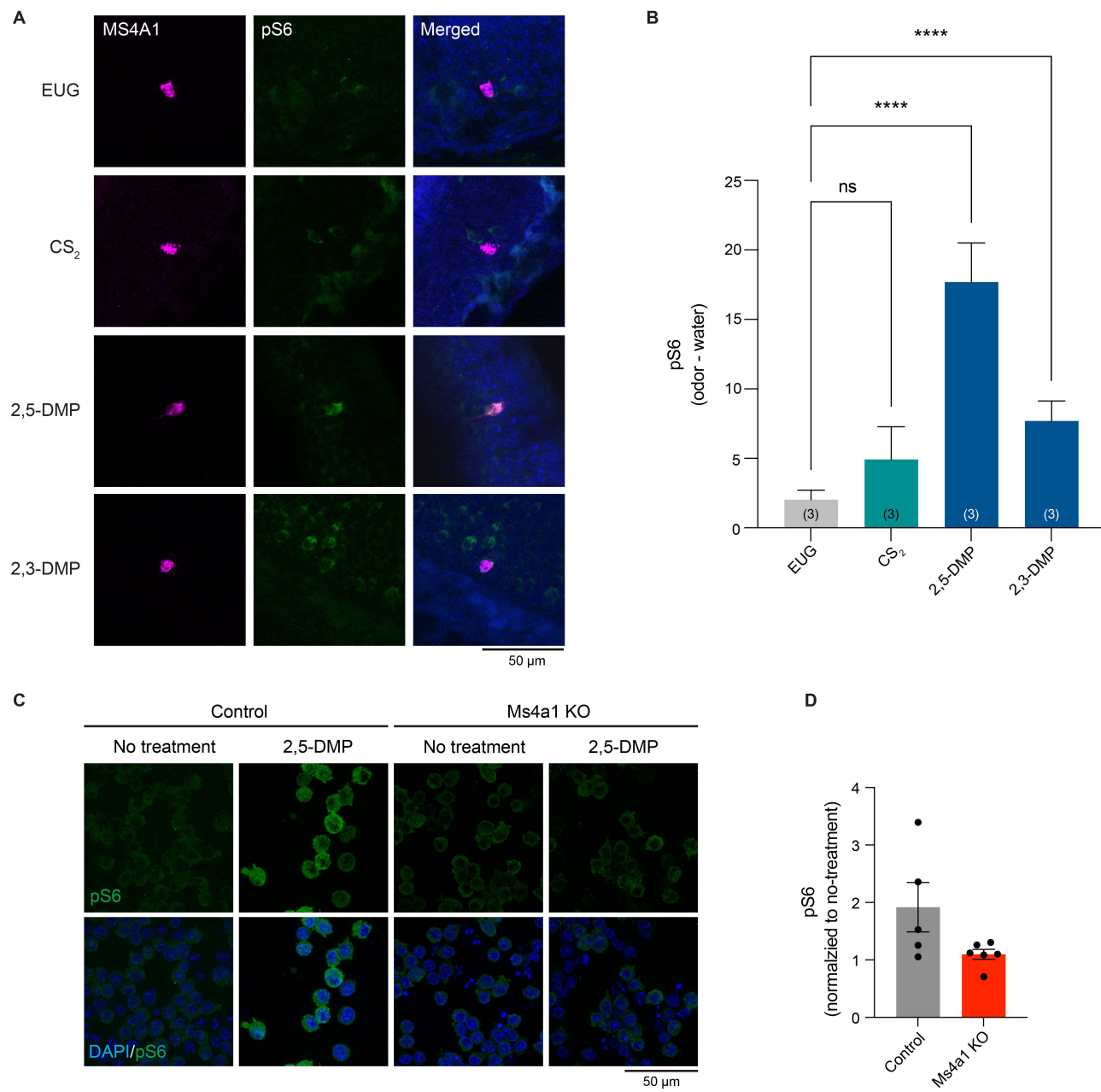


Figure S1 related to Figure 1

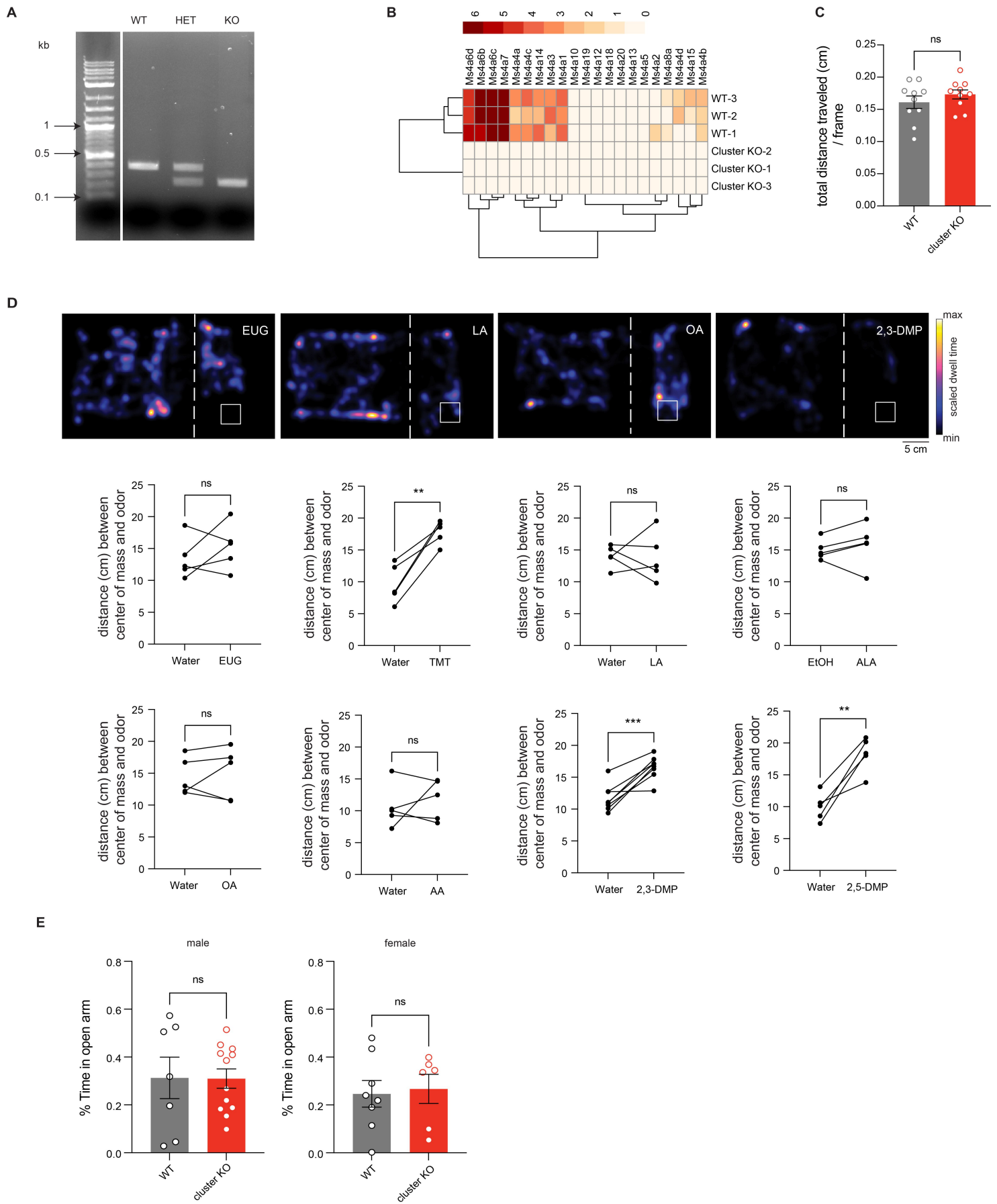


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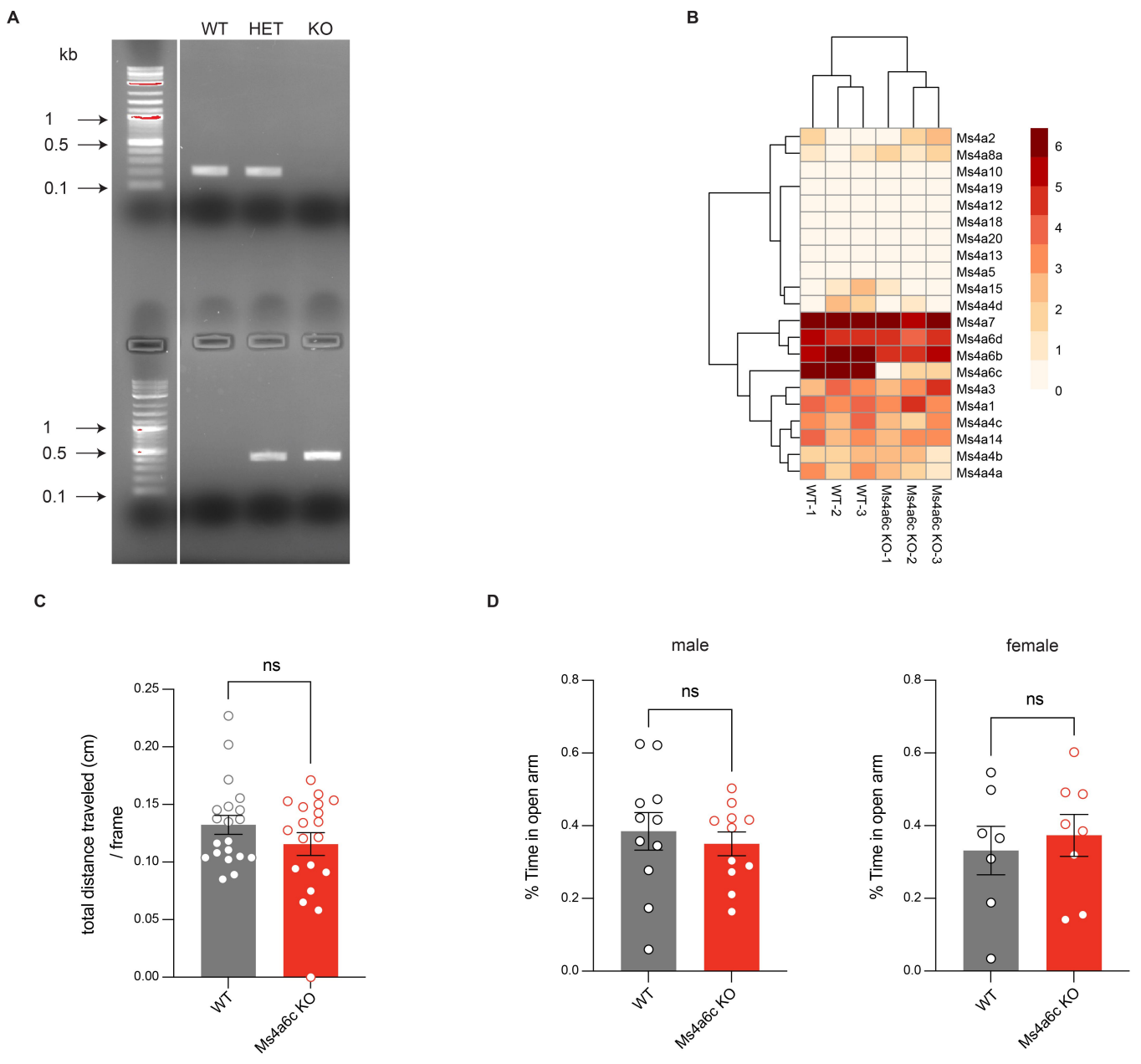


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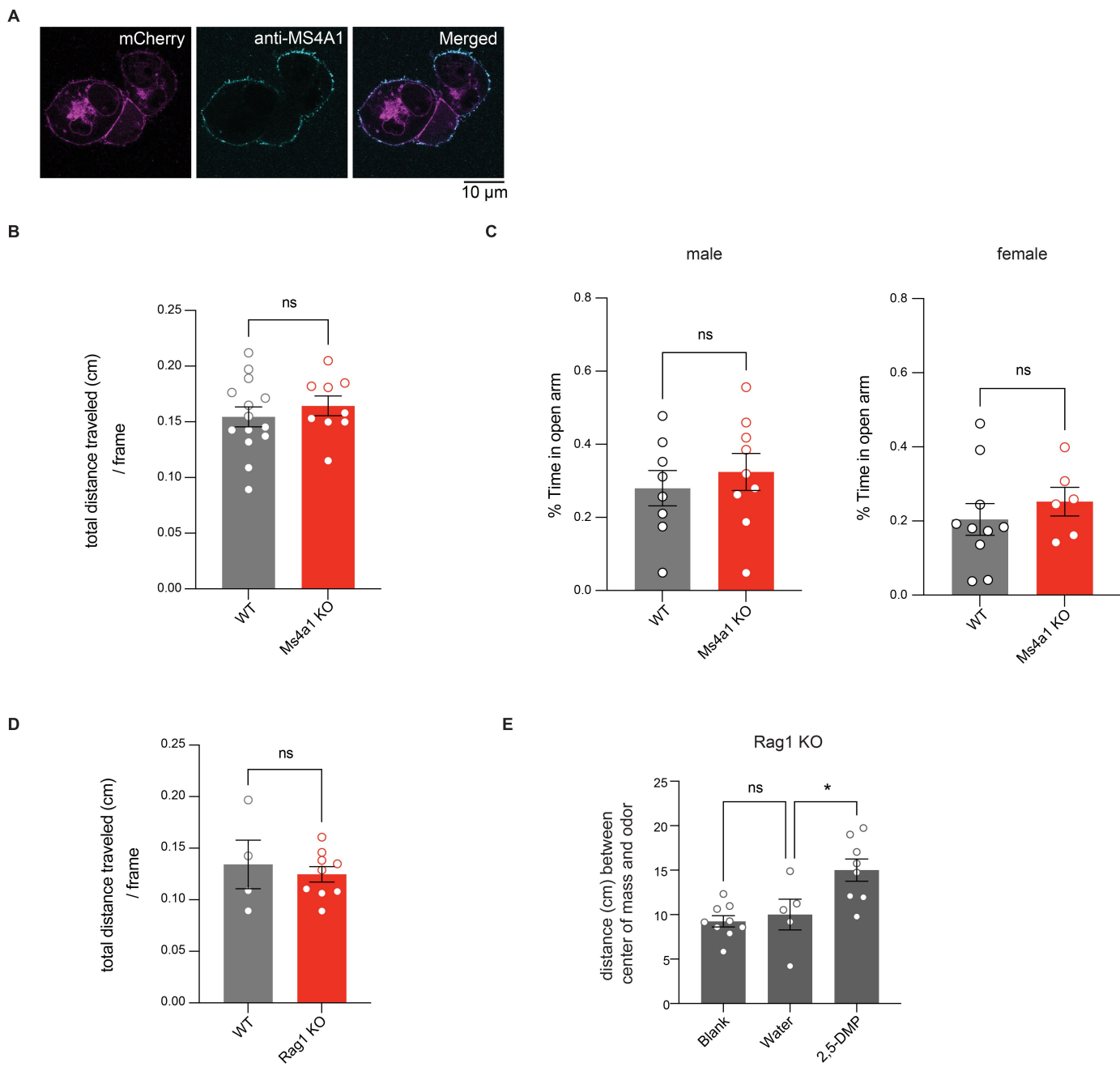


Figure S5 related to Figure 5

