

## **Organ injury accelerates stem cell differentiation by modulating a fate-transducing lateral inhibition circuit**

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## Abstract

Injured epithelial organs must rapidly replace damaged cells to restore barrier integrity and physiological function. In response, injury-born stem cell progeny differentiate faster compared to healthy-born counterparts, yet the mechanisms that pace differentiation are unclear. Using the adult *Drosophila* intestine, we find that injury speeds cell differentiation by altering the lateral inhibition circuit that transduces a fate-determining Notch signal. During healthy intestinal turnover, a balanced ratio of terminal (Notch-active) and stem (Notch-inactive) fates arises through canonical lateral inhibition feedback, in which mutual Notch-Delta signaling between two stem cell daughters evolves to activate Notch and extinguish Delta in exactly one cell. When we damage intestines by feeding flies toxin, mutual signaling persists, but a cytokine relay from damaged cells to differentiating daughters prevents the Notch co-repressor Groucho from extinguishing Delta. Despite Delta persistence, injured organs preserve the Notch-inactive stem cell pool; thus, fate balance does not hinge on an intact circuit. Mathematical modeling predicts that increased Delta prompts faster Notch signaling; indeed, *in vivo* live imaging reveals that the real-time speed of Notch signal transduction doubles in injured guts. These results show that in tissue homeostasis, lateral inhibition feedback between stem cell daughters throttles the speed of Notch-mediated fate determination by constraining Delta. Tissue-level damage signals relax this constraint to accelerate cell differentiation for expedited organ repair.

## 1 Introduction

2 Mature organs must respond to unpredictable environmental insults throughout  
3 an animal's lifetime. For barrier epithelial organs, the need to quickly regenerate dam-  
4 aged cells following such insults is acute because damage to the barrier compromises  
5 the integrity of the body. In response to injury, adult epithelial stem cells accelerate the  
6 rate of replacement divisions. These new stem cell progeny cannot form an effective  
7 barrier, however, because they are born in an undifferentiated state. This predicament  
8 raises the question of whether injury-born cells differentiate at an accelerated pace.

9 Longstanding observations suggest that injury can indeed drive stem cell prog-  
10 eny to differentiate faster. In the barrier epithelia that line the mammalian and adult  
11 *Drosophila* intestinal tract<sup>1-6</sup> as well as mammalian airway<sup>7,8</sup> and skin<sup>9,10</sup>, stem cell prog-  
12 eny in damaged tissues acquire morphological and transcriptional maturity in less time  
13 compared to undamaged tissues. Expediting the differentiation of new stem cell prog-  
14 eny should restore the barrier and other physiological functions to damaged tissues  
15 more rapidly. Moreover, it would prevent the accumulation of excess undifferentiated  
16 cells that otherwise might predispose to disease.

17 Cell differentiation is instructed by fate signals, and the identities of these signals  
18 are unchanged by injury. In principle, faster transduction of fate signals might provide  
19 the impetus for faster cell differentiation. Direct evidence for this model is wanting,  
20 however, and, although much is known about how injury alters the milieu of signaling  
21 factors available to cells, how injury might modulate the speed at which signal trans-  
22 duction occurs is unclear.

23 We examined these issues following injury of the intestinal epithelium that lines  
24 the adult *Drosophila* midgut. In the fly gut, as in many mammalian organs including  
25 skin, airway, and mammary gland, cell differentiation is instigated by Notch receptor  
26 activation<sup>7,11-19</sup>. During tissue homeostasis, signaling occurs via a lateral inhibition cir-  
27 cuit between stem cell daughter pairs<sup>20-22</sup>: Delta ligand on one cell activates Notch on its  
28 partner, which causes the partner cell to downregulate Delta (Fig. 1a) (ref- lateral inhibi-  
29 tion reviews). Over time, this circuit resolves to generate a balanced ratio of terminal  
30 (Notch-active) and stem (Notch inactive) fates; hence, it was assumed that ensuring  
31 proper fate balance was its primary function<sup>20-22</sup>. Intriguingly, however, we find that in

32 injured guts—which maintain balanced division fate outcomes<sup>23</sup>—Notch activation no  
33 longer yields Delta downregulation. Thus, lateral inhibition is dispensable for fate bal-  
34 ance.

35 Instead, we find that this injury-altered circuit drives faster signaling. Uncou-  
36 pling Delta downregulation from Notch activation results in a higher level of Delta,  
37 which in turn accelerates real-time Notch signal activation. This rewiring is a conse-  
38 quence of phospho-inactivation of Groucho, a Notch co-repressor that controls Delta  
39 transcription<sup>22,24–26</sup>, and is triggered by cytokines released from damaged intestinal en-  
40 terocytes.

41 Thus, in tissue homeostasis, lateral inhibition feedback throttles the speed of  
42 Notch-regulated cell differentiation by limiting Delta ligand. Tissue injury opens this  
43 throttle by deploying damage signals that remove this kinetic limiter. The consequently  
44 accelerated tempo of differentiation works in concert with faster stem cell divisions to  
45 expedite production of mature, physiologically functional cells that the injured tissue  
46 needs.

## 47 **Background**

48 In the fly intestinal epithelium, the gut's enterocyte lineage, which accounts for  
49 >90% of midgut cells, comprises just three, ontogenically linked cell types: stem cells,  
50 enteroblasts, and enterocytes (Fig. 1b, 1c). Stem cells both self-renew and generate enter-  
51 oblasts, which are post-mitotic precursors that mature directly into enterocytes. These  
52 terminal enterocytes are polarized epithelial cells that form the intestinal barrier and se-  
53 crete digestive enzymes. Unlike the mammalian intestine's crypt-villus architecture, fly  
54 stem cells and enteroblasts are dispersed among the much-larger enterocytes (Fig. 1c).  
55 Midgut stem cells and enteroblasts are collectively termed progenitors and are marked  
56 by the transcription factor Escargot (Esg) (Fig. 1b).

57 The stem-to-enteroblast transition offers a uniquely tractable system to study  
58 Notch fate regulation in maturity. While most *in vivo* models involve multicellular fields  
59 with multiple receptors and ligands, the stem-to-enteroblast transition typically occurs  
60 in isolated, two-cell pairs and involves a single receptor-ligand complex (Fig. 1c). Both  
61 stem cells and newborn daughters express the Notch receptor and its ligand Delta.  
62 When these cells contact—either post-division or through physical collision<sup>27</sup>—they

63 engage in juxtacrine signaling (Fig. S1a). This sets into motion a feedback loop that re-  
64 sembles a classic lateral inhibition circuit (Fig. 1a)<sup>20-22,28</sup>. Cells that accumulate sufficient  
65 Notch activity become enteroblasts and, by downregulating Delta, maintain their part-  
66 ners as Notch-inactive stem cells. Eventually, the enteroblasts will themselves attenuate  
67 Notch as they mature into large, terminal enterocytes (Fig 1b)<sup>13</sup>.

68 To quantify Notch activity, we measured single-cell intensities of the sensitive re-  
69 porter NRE-GFP::nls (Fig S1b)<sup>20,27</sup>. Using *esgGAL4;UASHis2b::CFP* (hereafter, *esg*) to  
70 identify progenitors in healthy guts<sup>29</sup>, we confirmed that the GFP intensities of *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells  
71 form a sharp bimodal distribution (Fig 2a), as previously reported<sup>27</sup>. Retrospective anal-  
72 ysis of long-term live movies showed that these two populations correspond to stem  
73 cells and enteroblasts respectively<sup>27</sup>. As an incipient enteroblast activates Notch, its  
74 *NRE-GFP::nls* intensity ‘moves’ over time from NRE<sup>low</sup> to NRE<sup>hi</sup>; the stem-to-enteroblast  
75 transition takes place when the cell’s Notch activity level crosses the trough separating  
76 the two states<sup>27</sup>, which we designate NRE<sup>low</sup> and NRE<sup>hi</sup>.

## 77 **The Notch threshold for terminal fate specification remains constant in injury**

78 One potential mechanism to accelerate differentiation during injury would be to  
79 make the enteroblast differentiation program more sensitive to Notch signaling, such  
80 that injury-born cells acquire enteroblast fate at a lower level of Notch activity com-  
81 pared to healthy-born cells. Heightened sensitivity to Notch would manifest, for exam-  
82 ple, as a leftward shift in the position of the trough between NRE<sup>low</sup> (stem) and NRE<sup>hi</sup>  
83 (enteroblast) peaks.

84 To investigate this possibility, we compared the population-scale distribution of  
85 Notch signaling in healthy and injured states. We induced injury by feeding flies bleo-  
86 mycin during days 3-4 of adult life. Bleomycin is a DNA-damaging agent that targets  
87 mature enterocytes while sparing progenitor cells<sup>4</sup>. At the moderate concentration (25  
88 µg/ml) we used, barrier integrity and organismal survival are not impacted during the  
89 two-day duration of these injury experiments<sup>4</sup>. Bleomycin treatment dramatically in-  
90 creased the number of *esg*<sup>+</sup> progenitor cells per gut, as expected from damage-induced  
91 regeneration<sup>4,30</sup>.

92 As with healthy guts (Fig. 2a), we measured NRE-GFP::nls intensities in individ-  
93 ual *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells in injured guts (Fig. 2b). The GFP distribution remained bimodal, with

94 distinct  $NRE^{low}$  and  $NRE^{hi}$  populations. We observed that injury increased the propor-  
95 tion of  $NRE^{hi}$  cells (Fig 2b), consistent with rapid production of replacement cells during  
96 regeneration (refs). Yet despite this proportional shift, Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM)  
97 analysis reveals that injury preserves fundamental features of the  $NRE^{low}$  and  $NRE^{hi}$   
98 states: The overall range of GFP intensities, the modes of both populations, and the po-  
99 sition of the trough (decision boundary) between the populations all remain similar to  
100 healthy guts (Fig. 2c). Thus, while injury shifts the distribution of cells across the two  
101 Notch signaling states, it does not fundamentally alter the states themselves.

102 We next compared the Notch activity level at which cells transition from stem  
103 cells to enteroblasts by using mitotic activity as an orthogonal identifier of stem cells.  
104 Mitoses are virtually exclusive to stem cells in both healthy<sup>12,13,29,31–33</sup> and bleomycin-in-  
105 jured guts<sup>32</sup>. We identified mitotic cells by immunostaining for the M-phase marker  
106 phospho-Histone H3 (PH3). As expected from prior reports of damage-induced stem  
107 cell hyperproliferation<sup>4,6,30,32,34–41</sup>, injured guts contained markedly greater numbers of  
108 PH3<sup>+</sup> cells. We measured the *NRE-GFP:nls* intensities of individual PH3<sup>+</sup> cells in healthy  
109 and injured guts and compared these to the corresponding all-progenitor GFP distribu-  
110 tions (Fig 2d, 2e).

111 These comparisons revealed that the stem-to-enteroblast transition occurs at a  
112 near-identical *NRE-GFP:nls* intensity in healthy and injured guts. First analyzing  
113 healthy guts, we found that nearly all (98%) PH3<sup>+</sup> cells were  $NRE^{low}$  (Fig. 2d). Further-  
114 more, the shape of the healthy-gut PH3<sup>+</sup> cell distribution (Fig. 2d) virtually matches that  
115 of  $NRE^{low}$  cells in the all-progenitor distribution (Fig. 2a). These patterns corroborate  
116 prior live imaging (Martin 2018) and confirm that the trough between  $NRE^{low}$  and  $NRE^{hi}$   
117 represents the Notch signaling level at which cells become enteroblasts.

118 Next analyzing injured guts, we found this pattern was upheld: 93% of PH3<sup>+</sup> cells  
119 were  $NRE^{low}$  (Fig. 2e), and the GFP distribution of injured-gut PH3<sup>+</sup> cells (Fig. 2f) again  
120 resembles that of the all-progenitor  $NRE^{low}$  population (Fig. 2b). These data demonstrate  
121 that mitotic behavior remains tightly associated with the  $NRE^{low}$  state in injury. Since  
122 the threshold GFP intensity that separates  $NRE^{low}$  and  $NRE^{hi}$  is the same in injured and  
123 healthy guts (Fig. 2c), then by implication, cells become enteroblasts at the same Notch  
124 signaling level. We conclude that injury does not alter the level of Notch signaling re-  
125 quired for enteroblast fate and that injured guts must use other mechanisms to acceler-  
126 ate enteroblast differentiation.

## 127 **Notch-Delta feedback is disrupted in injury**

128 An alternative scenario is that accelerated differentiation arises from injury-in-  
129 duced changes to Delta ligand. To explore this notion, we first characterized the rela-  
130 tionship between Delta expression and Notch activation during tissue homeostasis.  
131 Three lines of evidence demonstrated that individual cells either express Delta or acti-  
132 vate Notch signaling—but not both: First, immunostaining for Delta protein in healthy  
133 guts of genotype *NRE-GFP::nls, esg>his2b::CFP* showed that Delta<sup>+</sup> cells typically lacked  
134 GFP and were frequently paired with Delta<sup>-</sup> cells that exhibited bright GFP (Fig. 2g), as  
135 has been reported previously<sup>20-22</sup>. Second, GFP measurements demonstrated that the  
136 vast majority (84%) of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells were NRE<sup>low</sup> (Figs. 2i, 2j) and that a similar majority  
137 (86%) of NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells were Delta<sup>-</sup> (Fig. S2a, S2b). Third, our analysis of published single-  
138 cell transcriptomes<sup>42</sup> revealed strong anti-correlation between Delta ligand and Notch  
139 target gene expression (Fig. S1c-f). Altogether, these data exemplify two-cell lateral inhi-  
140 bition: Cells express Delta until they reach the precise threshold of Notch activity  
141 marked by the trough between NRE<sup>low</sup> and NRE<sup>hi</sup> peaks; at this point, they simultane-  
142 ously turn off Delta and become enteroblasts.

143 Injury dramatically altered the relationship between Delta expression and Notch  
144 activation. In sharp contrast to healthy guts, progenitors in injured guts showed wide-  
145 spread co-expression of Delta and NRE-GFP::nls (Fig. S2b): In injured *NRE-GFP::nls,*  
146 *esg>his2b::CFP* guts, immunostaining revealed numerous Delta<sup>+</sup> cells with bright GFP  
147 signal<sup>43</sup> (Fig. 2h). These cells often formed clusters with other Delta<sup>+</sup>, GFP-expressing  
148 cells and with Delta<sup>+</sup> cells that lacked GFP (Fig. 2h)<sup>43</sup>. Measuring single-cell GFP intensi-  
149 ties, we found that 62% of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells were NRE<sup>hi</sup> (Fig 2k, 2l)—a striking, four-fold in-  
150 crease compared to healthy guts. Correspondingly, proportions of Delta<sup>+</sup>, NRE<sup>low</sup> cells  
151 and Delta<sup>-</sup>, NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells dropped by 60% and 49%, respectively (Fig. 2m, 2n, and S2b).  
152 The dramatic emergence of dual, Delta<sup>+</sup>, NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells indicates that injury uncouples  
153 Delta downregulation from Notch activation, disrupting the feedback circuit that nor-  
154 mally drives cells toward opposing signaling states (Fig. 2o).

155 Our Fig 2a-e results reveal the identity of this dual Delta<sup>+</sup>, NRE<sup>hi</sup> population.  
156 Since NRE-GFP::nls levels reliably distinguish cell fates even during injury—with NRE<sup>hi</sup>  
157 marking enteroblasts and NRE<sup>low</sup> marking stem cells—we conclude that these Delta<sup>+</sup>,  
158 NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells are enteroblasts that fail to downregulate Delta (Fig. 2o). This persistent ex-  
159 pression of Delta in most injury-born enteroblasts demonstrates widespread loss of

160 Notch-Delta feedback in injured guts. (Incidentally, these data also imply that Delta im-  
161 munostaining, which is conventionally used to mark stem cells in healthy guts, no  
162 longer distinguishes stem cells from enteroblasts after injury.) Yet despite pervasive loss  
163 of feedback, 38% of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells remain NRE<sup>low</sup> (Fig. 2l) and thus maintain stemness, a  
164 finding consistent with twin-spot MARCM evidence that asymmetric division fates re-  
165 main prevalent in injury<sup>23</sup>. It is currently unclear how injured-gut stem cells selectively  
166 escape Notch activation. Nonetheless, robust maintenance of an NRE<sup>low</sup> population is  
167 crucial to avoid exhaustion of the stem cell pool. Most importantly, these findings imply  
168 that Notch-Delta lateral inhibition feedback—traditionally considered the basis for  
169 asymmetric fate determination—is dispensable for specifying binary fates.

### 170 **Modeling links Notch-Delta feedback to Notch signaling speed**

171 We wondered whether disrupted Notch-Delta feedback underlies faster Notch-  
172 driven fate signaling in injury. To examine this possibility, we used a mathematical  
173 model of lateral inhibition in which transactivation of Notch by its partner's Delta is  
174 coupled to same-cell inhibition of Delta by activated Notch<sup>ICD</sup><sup>28</sup> (Fig. 3a; see Methods).  
175 The model is governed by two dimensionless parameters:  $K_N$ , which is the threshold for  
176 Notch activation by Delta, and  $K_D$ , which is the threshold for Delta inhibition by  
177 Notch<sup>ICD</sup> (Fig. 3a). Both cells initially have high Delta and low Notch, with symmetry  
178 broken by a slight elevation of Notch in one cell. The time evolution of Notch activity  
179 and Delta level is defined by Eqs. 1 and 2 (Fig. 3a) using experimentally-derived param-  
180 eter ranges from healthy guts<sup>21</sup> (see Methods).

181 We first sought to identify model parameters that reproduce the injury-induced  
182 high-Notch/high-Delta state. Since  $K_N$  is inversely proportional to cell-cell contact area  
183<sup>21</sup>, and contact area increases in injury<sup>43</sup> (compare Fig. 2g,h), we predicted that injury  
184 would decrease  $K_N$ . However, reducing  $K_N$  in our simulations failed to produce an in-  
185 jury-like state—instead of maintaining high Delta, cells with high Notch showed re-  
186 duced Delta (Fig. 3b). This result persisted in a three-cell model simulating injury-in-  
187 duced clusters (see Modeling Supplement). Thus, changes in  $K_N$  alone cannot explain  
188 the injury phenotype.

189 We then examined  $K_D$ , which is inversely related to Notch<sup>ICD</sup>'s ability to suppress  
190 Delta. Since many high-Notch cells continue to express Delta during injury,  $K_D$  is pre-  
191 sumably increased. Indeed, increasing  $K_D$  in both two- and three-cell simulations



192 resulted in high-Notch cells with elevated Delta, reproducing the injury state (Fig. 3b,  
193 3c; Modeling Supplement).

194 Having identified increased  $K_D$  as a key parameter change, we next investigated  
195 its effect on Notch signaling dynamics. When  $K_D$  is elevated, cells maintain higher Delta  
196 levels during Notch-Delta signaling, potentially providing more ligand to activate  
197 Notch. We hypothesized this would accelerate Notch target gene accumulation and  
198 thus cell differentiation. To test this, we added a Notch<sup>ICD</sup>-driven reporter to our model  
199 (see Methods) and calculated Notch signaling speed as the rate of reporter accumula-  
200 tion. Consistent with our hypothesis, increased  $K_D$  led to faster Notch signaling during  
201 the initial, linear phase of signaling across a broad range of  $K_{NS}$  (Fig. 4d, e). Overall,  
202 these analyses predict that disrupted Notch-Delta feedback accelerates Notch signaling  
203 speed.

#### 204 **Notch signal activation and deactivation both accelerate in response to injury**

205 We examined this prediction by performing real-time imaging of single-cell  
206 Notch dynamics in healthy and injured guts *in vivo*. We opened a viewing window in  
207 the animal's dorsal cuticle (Fig 4a), enabling imaging of the midgut in awake, moving  
208 flies<sup>27</sup>. Using this 'Windowmount' protocol, flies continue to ingest food and defecate  
209 throughout imaging, and the GI tract, with all its associated tissues including neurons,  
210 trachea, immune cells, and fat, remain physiologically functional for up to 20 hours<sup>27</sup>.

211 To monitor Notch signaling in single differentiating cells with high temporal res-  
212 olution, we expressed a dual-color kinetic reporter (UAS-TransTimer)<sup>44</sup> under control  
213 of the Notch Response Element (NRE-GAL4)<sup>45</sup> (Fig. 4b). The TransTimer's fast-folding,  
214 destabilized dGFP (maturation ~0.1 h; half life ~2h)<sup>44</sup> sensitively reports changes in  
215 NRE-GAL4 activity. By contrast, its slow-folding, long-lived RFP (maturation ~1.5 h;  
216 half life ~20 h)<sup>44</sup> persists in cells after Notch deactivation; these cells, which are in later  
217 stages of the enteroblast-to-enterocyte transition (Fig. 1b), exhibit RFP but not GFP sig-  
218 nal.

219 We acquired two-channel Windowmount movies of NRE-driven TransTimer  
220 (hereafter NRE>TransTimer) in both healthy and injured midguts of 3-day old adults  
221 (Fig. 4d, 4e; Movies 1-2). Our imaging strategy generated high-quality, single-cell data  
222 by combining three key features: (1) organ-scale, volumetric imaging (~250x250x150  
223  $\mu\text{m}$ ) for unbiased, simultaneous capture of multiple NRE>TransTimer cells per gut; (2)

224 micron-level spatial resolution for precise 3D segmentation; and (3) frequent time points  
225 (every 7.5 minutes) over 20-hour sessions for high temporal resolution during biologi-  
226 cally meaningful timespans. We traced individual NRE>TransTimer cells from their first  
227 appearance until either signal loss or the end of imaging. At each timepoint, single-cell  
228 GFP and RFP intensities were quantified (see Methods).

229 Analysis of the resulting single-cell traces revealed four NRE activity patterns:  
230 activation, stability, deactivation, and activation→deactivation (Fig 4f-i; Movies 3-6).  
231 Strikingly, in injured guts, most tracked cells (55%) underwent activation→deactivation  
232 transitions—exceeding the other three categories combined (Fig. 4j). In healthy guts, by  
233 contrast, only 25% of cells exhibited activation→deactivation transitions. Activation→  
234 deactivation traces displayed the expected temporal offset between dGFP and RFP dy-  
235 namics; on the other hand, other traces typically showed little or no offset, likely be-  
236 cause NRE dynamics changed on a timescale similar to or slower than the ~20-hour  
237 half-life of RFP. These real-time TransTimer traces provide ground-truth data for the in-  
238 terpretation of TransTimer fluorescence in fixed analyses dependent on endpoint  
239 GFP:RFP ratios. Overall, the prevalence of activation→deactivation transitions in in-  
240jured, but not healthy guts, implies that injury accelerates Notch signaling.

241 Next, we took advantage of the sensitive measurements of fast-folding Tran-  
242 sTimerGFP fluorescence to precisely calculate real-time Notch signaling speed by meas-  
243 uring the slope of NRE>TransTimerGFP tracks (see Methods). In definitive support of  
244 the prediction from modeling that injury-mediated disruption of lateral inhibition re-  
245 sults in faster Notch signaling, we found that the rate of increase of NRE>Tran-  
246 sTimerGFP is almost two-fold higher in injured guts than control (Fig 4p). Similarly, the  
247 rate of NRE>TransTimerGFP decrease is nearly twice as fast in injured guts than con-  
248 trols (Fig 4q). Thus, injured progenitors are not only traveling through Notch activation  
249 and deactivation stages more frequently, but their rates of Notch activation and deacti-  
250vation are considerably accelerated.

251 These data show the first real-time, single-cell kinetics of a fate-specifying signal  
252 in a live adult organ. We now have the unprecedented view that stem cell daughters are  
253 not only generated faster following tissue damage, but that the speed of the Notch sig-  
254 nals governing their fate outcomes is explicitly accelerated. This, in conjunction with  
255 our characterization of the modulation of lateral inhibition in injured tissues, describes a

256 mechanism by which fate-determining signaling circuits can be flexibly adjusted to  
257 ramp up new mature cell generation and support rapid organ repair.

## 258 **Injury-induced inactivation of the Groucho co-repressor underlies loss of Notch-** 259 **Delta feedback**

260 The notion that higher  $K_D$  underlies injury-induced disruption of lateral inhibi-  
261 tion aligns with our in vivo findings that the activity of the E(spl) co-repressor Groucho  
262 (Gro) is both essential to turn off Delta in NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells during homeostasis and sufficient  
263 to re-establish Delta downregulation in NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells during injury (Fig. 2). We propose  
264 that injury-induced disruption of lateral inhibition occurs by raising  $K_D$  through disrup-  
265 tion of Gro-mediated Delta repression.

266 Groucho is a global transcriptional corepressor which acts to regulate Notch sig-  
267 nal transduction in conjunction with the Hairless-Su(H) complex <sup>46</sup> (Fig S1a). Following  
268 Notch activation, Gro interacts and cooperates with Notch transcriptional targets such  
269 as the E(spl)-C proteins <sup>26</sup>. In the *Drosophila* midgut, Gro functions as a corepressor for  
270 E(spl)-C to suppress Delta expression, inhibit cell-cycle re-entry, and facilitate cell dif-  
271 ferentiation in enteroblasts<sup>22</sup>.

272 We were struck by prior work that showed depleting *gro* in *Drosophila* gut pro-  
273 genitor cells led to the accumulation of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells and disrupted lateral inhibition<sup>22</sup>,  
274 reminiscent of the Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells we see in injury. We performed a similar experi-  
275 ment with two independent *groRNAi* lines driven by the progenitor-specific driver  
276 *esgGAL4* with the temperature-sensitive repressor GAL80<sup>ts</sup> in the background  
277 (*esgGAL4; tubGAL80<sup>ts</sup>* – hereafter, *esg<sup>ts</sup>*). In uninjured guts with Gro knockdown, virtu-  
278 ally all *esg*<sup>+</sup> progenitors (visualized by UAS-*his2b::CFP*) stain strongly for Delta (Fig 5a),  
279 regardless of their Notch activity (as identified by NRE-GFP:nls expression). Indeed, we  
280 quantify over 86% of all *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells are Delta<sup>+</sup> in both Gro knockdown conditions (Fig  
281 S2c). Amongst the Delta-expressing populations, a large proportion (31% and 52%, re-  
282 spectively) correspond to NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells (Fig S2c). Conversely, quantifying the proportion  
283 of NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells that are Delta<sup>+</sup> in Gro-depleted guts reveals that ~85% of enteroblasts now  
284 retain Delta expression (Extended Data Figs S2c, S5b). Therefore, the increase in Delta<sup>+</sup>  
285 cells in Gro-depleted guts can be predominantly attributed to NRE<sup>hi</sup> enteroblasts, con-  
286 firming a requisite role for Gro in coupling Notch activation to Delta downregulation.

## 287 **Ectopic Groucho re-establishes injury-disrupted Notch-Delta feedback**

288           Given that Gro is necessary for coupling Notch activation to Delta repression un-  
289 der homeostasis, we asked whether and how its activity may be altered during injury to  
290 modulate lateral inhibition circuitry. Importantly, it has been reported in other tissues  
291 that Gro's repressive functions can be downregulated by EGFR/MAPK-mediated phos-  
292 phorylation<sup>47-49</sup>; compellingly, EGFR/MAPK signaling is one of the major pathways ac-  
293 tivated upon injury and infection to promote stem cell proliferation and epithelial re-  
294 generation in the *Drosophila* midgut<sup>37-40,50,51</sup>. If endogenous Gro function is being down-  
295 regulated by injury-induced phosphorylation, we reasoned that overexpressing Gro in  
296 injured guts might restore functional Gro levels and thus, restore lateral inhibition.

297           We again used the *esg<sup>ts</sup>* driver to overexpress Gro in all progenitors of injured  
298 guts. We first examined the effect of overexpressing wild-type Gro (Gro<sup>WT</sup>), which is  
299 subject to the same phosphorylation-mediated downregulation as endogenous Gro.  
300 Suggestively, these tissues present milder hallmarks of damage: there are fewer multi-  
301 cell progenitor clusters and, most noticeably, reduced Delta expression in NRE-GFP:nls-  
302 expressing cells (Fig 5c). Examining single-cell NRE-GFP:nls intensities in the Delta<sup>+</sup>  
303 population of injured guts with Gro<sup>WT</sup> overexpression reveals a distinct decrease in  
304 Notch signaling levels, suggesting a partial reinstatement of lateral inhibition (Fig 5d). In-  
305 deed, the proportion of progenitors that are both Delta<sup>+</sup> and NRE<sup>hi</sup> in injured guts is re-  
306 duced by ~40% with overexpression of Gro<sup>WT</sup> (Fig S2d). However, ~25-55% of NRE<sup>hi</sup> en-  
307 teroblasts in individual guts (Fig S5c) continued to express Delta, signifying that overex-  
308 pression of phosphorylation-sensitive Gro<sup>WT</sup> is not able to robustly restore Notch-Delta  
309 lateral inhibition. Additionally, the wide range in proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells per  
310 gut suggests the degree of phosphorylation-mediated downregulation can vary be-  
311 tween individual animals.

312           To account for phosphorylation-mediated downregulation of overexpressed Gro,  
313 we leveraged a Gro variant with two putative MAPK phosphorylation sites replaced by  
314 alanine residues (*gro<sup>AA</sup>*, T308A and S510A, Hasson et al 2005). We expected that this  
315 modified Gro would be resistant to phosphorylation and restore lateral inhibition more  
316 consistently than Gro<sup>WT</sup>. Remarkably, Gro<sup>AA</sup> expression in injured guts caused them to  
317 largely resemble healthy guts, with greatly reduced abundance of *esg<sup>+</sup>* cells, few if any  
318 progenitor clusters, and smaller, less pronounced enteroblast populations (Fig 5e). The  
319 distribution of single-cell NRE-GFP:nls intensities for Delta<sup>+</sup> progenitors in injured guts

320 with Gro<sup>AA</sup> expression further supports restoration of lateral inhibition; there are far  
321 more Delta<sup>+</sup> cells in the NRE<sup>low</sup> population, reminiscent of homeostatic proportions (Fig  
322 5f). Indeed, the additional presence of constitutively active Gro is enough to reduce the  
323 Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> population by ~60% (Fig S2e), such that consistently only 35-45% of injured  
324 NRE<sup>hi</sup> enteroblasts still express Delta (Fig S5d). This decreased range in per gut variabil-  
325 ity compared to when we overexpressed Gro<sup>WT</sup> further supports the ability of active Gro  
326 to maintain Delta repression in NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells.

327 Taken together, these results suggest that Gro's repressor functionality is being  
328 altered in injury, thus allowing for Delta expression to perdure in Notch-activated en-  
329 teroblasts. We propose a unifying mechanism (Fig 5g) where injury-activated phosphor-  
330 ylation inhibits Gro, which in turn derepresses Delta downstream of Notch activation.  
331 The resulting disruption of Notch-Delta lateral inhibition is thus a direct consequence of  
332 injury-activated signals and offers an elegant means for restoring homeostatic lateral in-  
333 hibition once the tissue recovers. In the absence of continued damage, mature cells no  
334 longer produce EGFR ligands, phosphorylation events are reduced, and Gro-mediated  
335 repression of Delta in enteroblasts is restored. In this way, Notch-Delta lateral inhibition  
336 can be flexibly modulated so that the tissue seamlessly switches between homeostatic  
337 and injury-responsive signaling regimes.

### 338 **Injury-induced Jak-STAT signaling is necessary and sufficient to disrupt Notch-Delta** 339 **feedback**

340 Thus far, we have explored the effects of injury on the Notch-Delta signaling cir-  
341 cuit between progenitors. But what other tissue-wide signals coordinate injury response  
342 between the damaged mature cells and the progenitor pool tasked with rebuilding the  
343 tissue? Significant work in the field has established the conserved cytokine Jak-STAT  
344 pathway as integral to mediating regeneration and homeostasis in the *Drosophila* mid-  
345 gut, particularly after insults such as injury or infection<sup>30,34,40,52-54</sup>. Damaged and dying  
346 enterocytes release cytokines (namely Upd3) that activate Jak-STAT signaling in stem  
347 cells, stimulating increased proliferation frequency<sup>30,52-54</sup>. Enteroblasts also express the  
348 Jak-STAT receptor Domeless and exhibit elevated signal activation in response to injury  
349<sup>30,37,54</sup>. We set out to determine how these intracellular signals affecting both stem and  
350 terminal progenitors may feed into Notch-Delta lateral inhibition regulation during in-  
351 jury.

352 We first inhibited Jak-STAT signaling in injured guts by overexpressing a domi-  
353 nant-negative allele of the domeless receptor (*dome<sup>DN</sup>*) in all progenitors. In injured guts  
354 with *esg<sup>ts</sup>>dome<sup>DN</sup>*, Delta signal is conspicuously reduced throughout the tissue (Fig 6a),  
355 with only ~38% of all progenitors expressing Delta (Fig S2f). Analysis of single-cell  
356 Notch signaling distribution demonstrates a near-complete restoration of healthy pro-  
357 portions despite tissue damage, with the majority (83%) of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells residing in the  
358 left, NRE<sup>low</sup> peak (Fig 6b). The population of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> progenitors is reduced from  
359 ~45% in injured guts to ~6% when Jak-STAT is blocked, matching numbers normally  
360 found in homeostatic guts (Fig S2f). Additionally, the proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> enteroblasts  
361 does not differ significantly from that of homeostatic guts (Fig S5e), indicating that in-  
362 jury-induced lateral inhibition disruption is completely suppressed. Taken together,  
363 these results indicate that blocking Jak-STAT signaling in injured guts restores Notch-  
364 Delta lateral inhibition, demonstrating that the injury-responsive pathway is required to  
365 lift Delta repression in Notch-activated enteroblasts.

366 Next, we examined the inverse case of ectopically activating Jak-STAT in unin-  
367 injured guts to see if these signals are sufficient to mount an injury response and disrupt  
368 Notch-Delta lateral inhibition in the absence of damage. We overexpressed a dominant  
369 active allele of the *Drosophila* Jak kinase, hopscotch Tumorous-lethal (*hop<sup>Tuml</sup>*, H Luo  
370 1995) in all progenitors of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> otherwise healthy guts. Interestingly, in unin-  
371 injured guts with *esg<sup>ts</sup>>hop<sup>Tuml</sup>*, we do see the appearance of multi-cell progenitor clusters  
372 and many large, Delta<sup>+</sup>, NRE-GFP:nls-expressing cells (Fig 6a). Examining single-cell  
373 NRE-GFP:nls Notch signaling distributions, the proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> progenitors  
374 increases moderately (Fig 6b); this modest relative shift is consistent with the expecta-  
375 tion that the Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>low</sup> stem cell population should also proportionately increase  
376 upon Jak-STAT-activated stem cell divisions. Moreover, we quantify that the proportion  
377 of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> lateral inhibition-disrupted progenitors is ~2x that of homeostatic guts  
378 (Fig S2f), and nearly half (~43%) of NRE<sup>hi</sup> enteroblasts retain Delta expression (Fig S2f,  
379 S5e). This indicates that Jak-STAT activation in the absence of injury is indeed capable of  
380 disrupting lateral inhibition in the progenitor population.

381 These observations further support the notion that the relaxation of tight lateral  
382 inhibition feedback at the stem-to-terminal fate transition is an intrinsic feature of injury  
383 response. The involvement of Groucho and Jak-STAT, in conjunction with our live im-  
384 aging evidence of accelerated Notch signaling during injury, describes a mechanism by

385 which fate-determining signaling circuits can be flexibly adjusted to ramp up new ma-  
386 ture cell generation and support rapid organ repair.

387

## 388 **Materials and Methods**

### 389 ***Drosophila* husbandry**

390 All experiments were performed on mated adult females. Animals were raised on  
391 standard cornmeal–molasses media (water, molasses, cornmeal, agar, yeast, Tegosept,  
392 propionic acid). For experiments, we collected adult females post-eclosion and kept  
393 them with males in cornmeal-molasses vials supplemented with a ~1cm<sup>2</sup> sized dollop of  
394 yeast paste (Red Star, Active Dry Yeast mixed with water) unless otherwise noted.

395 Genotypes for all fixed experiments included GAL80<sup>ts</sup> (i.e. *esg<sup>ts</sup>>*). We reared crosses at  
396 18°C, collected adults on day 0 post-eclosion, then shifted flies to 29°C to inactivate  
397 GAL80<sup>ts</sup> and induce GAL4-mediated expression. Flies were dissected on day 4 post-  
398 eclosion.

399 Live imaging experiments did not involve GAL80<sup>ts</sup>. Flies and crosses were kept at 25°C.  
400 We collected female flies on day 0 post-eclosion and live-imaged animals on day 3 for  
401 all conditions. During all live-imaging experiments, we fed flies via a microcapillary  
402 feeder tube with a base recipe of 10% sucrose in water.

### 403 **Bleomycin feeding to induce gut injury**

404 To injure the gut, we fed flies Bleomycin (sulfate) (Cayman Chemical #13877) diluted in  
405 water to a final concentration of 25µg/ml and mixed into a paste with yeast (Red Star,  
406 Active Dry Yeast). For all injury experiments, we fed flies bleomycin in yeast paste as  
407 their only food source atop flugs wetted with water for 48 hours prior to dissection or  
408 live imaging. For live imaging of injured guts, we fed flies 10µg/ml bleomycin in 10%  
409 sucrose in water via a feeder tube throughout the imaging session.

### 410 **Immunostaining and sample preparation for confocal microscopy**

411 For Ph3 staining (Fig 2d-f), guts were fixed in situ for 25-30 min at room temperature in  
412 8% formaldehyde (Polysciences 18814-20), 200 mM sodium cacodylate, 100 mM sucrose,  
413 40 mM KOAc, 10 mM NaOAc, and 10 mM EGTA. After fixation, guts were blocked in  
414 0.3% PBT (0.3% Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich X100) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS))  
415 with 5% normal goat serum (NGS; Capralogics GS0250) for 4 hours at room tempera-  
416 ture or overnight at 4°C. Primary and secondary antibodies were incubated in 0.3% PBT



417 + 5% NGS for 4 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C. Guts were washed 5  
418 times in PBT between antibody incubations and before mounting.

419 For staining with mouse anti-Delta, we dissected guts into cold Schneider's media, fixed  
420 in 4% formaldehyde in Schneider's media at room temperature for 2 hours, and then in-  
421 cubated in 2N HCl in PBS for 20 minutes at room temperature. Next, we washed guts 5x  
422 15 min with Schneider's media and blocked in 0.3% PBT + 5% NGS at room temperature  
423 or overnight at 4°C. We incubated guts in primary antibodies in 0.3% PBT + 5% NGS for  
424 4 hrs at room temperature or overnight at 4°C, then washed 5x 15 min in PBS before in-  
425 cubating with secondary antibody. Secondary antibodies were diluted in 0.3% PBT + 5%  
426 NGS, and we incubated for 4 hours at room temperature or overnight at 4°C. Finally,  
427 we again fixed guts in 4% formaldehyde in PBS for 30 min and washed 4x 15min in PBS  
428 before mounting.

429 We mounted immunostained guts in 3% low-melting 2-hydroxyethyl agarose (Sigma-  
430 Aldrich 39346-81-1) and Prolong Gold or Prolong Diamond Antifade mounting media  
431 (Thermo Fisher P10144, P36965). We allowed slides to dry at room temperature for 12-  
432 24 hrs and stored slides at -20°C until imaging.

433 We used the following primary antibodies: rabbit anti-PH3 (EMD Millipore 06-570,  
434 1:400), mouse anti-Delta (DSHB C594-9B – concentrate 1:100, supernatant 1:20). We used  
435 the following secondary antibodies: donkey anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 647 (Invitrogen A-  
436 31571, 1:400), donkey anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 555 (Invitrogen A-31572, 1:400). Nuclei  
437 were stained with DAPI (Invitrogen D1306, 1:1000 or 1:500).

438 Further details on antibodies and reagents used are provided in Supplementary Table 2.

### 439 **Confocal microscopy**

440 Fixed samples were imaged on a Leica SP8 WLL (Fig. 2a-f) or a Leica Stellaris 8 DIVE  
441 confocal microscope with either a HC PL APO 20x immersion or a 40x oil objective (for  
442 figure images). We collected serial optical sections at 2-3µm intervals throughout the en-  
443 tirety of whole-mounted, immunostained guts using Leica Application Suite X (LAS X)  
444 (Version 3.5.7.23225). We used Fiji (Version 2.14.0) and Bitplane Imaris x64 (Version  
445 10.1.1) for image analysis.

446 All image-based quantifications were performed on the R4ab region<sup>55</sup> of the posterior  
447 midgut.

## 448 **Quantifying NRE-GFP activity distributions in fixed tissues**

449 For all NRE-GFP::nls intensity measurements, we imaged whole-mounted guts on a  
450 Leica SP8 or Stellaris 8 DIVE confocal microscope. Initial .lif files were converted to .ims  
451 files and opened in Bitplane Imaris. We used the Add New Surfaces Function in the Sur-  
452 pass Module to generate surfaces for all progenitor nuclei in the *esgGAL4>his2b::CFP*  
453 (*esg*<sup>+</sup>) channel. Settings for surface recognition were kept as consistent as possible using  
454 the following settings: Smoothing enabled, Surface Grain Size = 0.5 $\mu$ m, Background  
455 Subtraction enabled, Diameter of Largest Sphere = 6.00 $\mu$ m, manual threshold value =  
456 4400-max, region growing estimated diameter 3.60 $\mu$ m, 'Classify Seed Points' Quality  
457 adjusted for each file, 'Classify Surfaces' Number of Voxels adjusted for each file 10-  
458 ~800 voxels. Surfaces were checked for accuracy and manually edited as needed. For  
459 lateral inhibition assay experiments, we identified Delta<sup>+</sup> cells via immunostaining from  
460 the existing *esg*<sup>+</sup> surfaces and processed this Delta<sup>+</sup>,*esg*<sup>+</sup> subset as a separate group.  
461 Mean NRE-GFP::nls intensity data for both Delta<sup>+</sup>,*esg*<sup>+</sup> and all-*esg*<sup>+</sup> populations was ex-  
462 ported as .xlsx and .csv files. Files were loaded in MATLAB (R2024b) and plotted as log-  
463 scale histograms with a set bin width interval of 10<sup>0.04</sup> or 10<sup>0.05</sup> (Fig 2a-c). We used the  
464 two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test to evaluate statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ )  
465 difference between distributions.

466 Specifically for measurements of NRE-GFP::nls in PH3-stained mitotic cells (Fig 2d-f),  
467 we individually inspected PH3<sup>+</sup> cells for goodness of fit to the generated surface. Sur-  
468 faces that overlapped with nuclear signals from neighboring cells were edited to ensure  
469 that NRE-GFP::nls signal was only coming from the appropriate cell of interest. Cells for  
470 which an adjacent, bright GFP<sup>+</sup> enteroblast interfered with accurate measurement of  
471 NRE-GFP::nls intensity were excluded from analysis.

## 472 **Analyses of NRE-GFP distributions via Gaussian Mixture Model (GMM)**

473 Using the MATLAB `fitgmdist()` function, we fitted two-component Gaussian mixture  
474 models (GMMs) to the distributions of all *esg*<sup>+</sup> progenitor cell NRE-GFP::nls intensities  
475 for each condition. We took the respective mixing proportions/prior probabilities of the  
476 two components to represent the proportions of cells residing in the NRE<sup>low</sup> peak and  
477 NRE<sup>hi</sup> peaks (Fig 2a-c). We took the GMM decision boundary (equal posterior probabili-  
478 ty threshold) as a proxy for the mean NRE-GFP::nls intensity where cells above this  
479 threshold are defined as NRE<sup>hi</sup>.

480 For analysis of PH3<sup>+</sup> cell NRE-GFP::nls distributions (Fig 2d-f), we again fitted two-com-  
481 ponent GMMs to the distributions of all *esg*<sup>+</sup> progenitor cell NRE-GFP::nls intensities in  
482 homeostatic and injured controls, respectively. PH3<sup>+</sup> cell NRE-GFP::nls intensity distri-  
483 butions are displayed as raincloud plots for each condition. We computed the posterior  
484 probability prediction of each component (NRE<sup>low</sup> vs NRE<sup>hi</sup>) for the PH3<sup>+</sup> datasets  
485 against the GMM for their respective condition.

486 For quantification of progenitor cell Delta-Notch signaling states (Fig S2), we filtered  
487 NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells from both the all *esg*<sup>+</sup> and the Delta<sup>+</sup>,*esg*<sup>+</sup> datasets for each experimental con-  
488 dition using the decision boundary from their respective tissue state GMM (i.e., healthy  
489 background against healthy control GMM, bleo-fed against injured control GMM), with  
490 the latter defined as the Delta<sup>+</sup>,NRE<sup>hi</sup> group.

#### 491 **Single-cell cross-correlation of Notch target and *Delta* mRNAs**

492 We downloaded single-nuclear sequencing 10x Genomics expression matrix files for the  
493 *Drosophila* gut from the Fly Cell Atlas site (<https://flycellatlas.org/#data>) and parsed  
494 them in Python (Version 3.12.3) with Jupyter notebook. Cells from 5do female flies an-  
495 notated as “intestinal stem cell” and “enteroblast” were parsed out and combined into  
496 one all-progenitor pool. We then queried all progenitors for expression levels of Delta  
497 and the three most highly expressed E(spl)-C Notch target genes (-ma, -mb, -m3, also  
498 identified in Guo et. al) as well as *klumpfuss*, a transcription factor induced specifically  
499 in enteroblasts (Korzelius 2019). Cells with zero levels for both Delta and the respective  
500 Notch target gene were excluded from further analysis. Normalized expression values  
501 were imported into GraphPad Prism 10 (Version 10.3.1) for plotting and correlation  
502 analysis.

#### 503 **Modeling Notch-Delta lateral inhibition**

504 We considered that the active Notch levels of a cell is an increasing function of the Delta  
505 levels of neighboring cells, and that Delta levels of the cell is a decreasing function of  
506 the active Notch levels of that cell. We formulate this interaction between pairs of cells  
507 using standard mathematical models of Notch-Delta lateral inhibition<sup>21,28</sup>. In its dimen-  
508 sionless form, the equations can be written as:

509

$$\frac{dN_{1,2}}{dt} = \frac{D_{2,1}^r}{K_N^r + D_{2,1}^r} - N_{1,2} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

$$\frac{dD_{1,2}}{dt} = v \left( \frac{1}{1 + (N_{1,2}/K_D)^h} - D_{1,2} \right) \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

510

511 Where the subscript denotes the Notch/Delta of cell 1 or 2. In these equations,  $K_N$  is the  
512 dimensionless threshold of Notch activation by Delta ligand of neighboring cell, and  $K_D$   
513 is the dimensionless threshold of Delta inhibition by activated Notch of the same cell.  
514 The parameter  $v$  is the ratio of degradation rate of Notch to Delta, which following pre-  
515 vious work, we are assuming is equal to one<sup>21,28,56</sup>. According to<sup>21</sup>,  $K_N$  is inversely re-  
516 lated to the contact area between two cells. More generally,  $K_N$  dictates the intercellular  
517 aspect of Notch-Delta interaction, while  $K_D$  dictates the intracellular aspect. The param-  
518 eters  $r$  and  $h$  are the hill coefficients for Notch activation and Delta inhibition and are  
519 considered  $r=h=2$  to account for the cooperative nature of these processes<sup>28</sup>.

520 To simulate the activation of a downstream Notch reporter, we assumed that re-  
521 porter expression is directly related to activated Notch levels:

522

$$\frac{d\text{Reporter}_{1,2}}{dt} = \beta N_{1,2} - \alpha \text{Reporter}_{1,2} \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

523

524 Where  $\beta$  is the maximal production rate of reporter, and  $\alpha$  is the degradation rate of re-  
525 porter. Since the dimensionless Notch levels range between zero and one, the above  
526 equation would show no reporter expression prior to Notch activation and the reporter  
527 levels would reach steady state at  $\beta/\alpha$  after full Notch activation. Immediately after  
528 Notch activation, the reporter expression is dominated by production rate and invaria-  
529 ble to the degradation rate. Therefore, we approximate the reporter level by the follow-  
530 ing:

$$\text{Reporter}_{1,2} = \int N_{1,2} dt \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

531

### 532 **Modeling simulation conditions**

533 We numerically solved the above equations to derive the time dynamics of Notch and  
534 Delta using the odeint function from python's scipy library. Cells are initially consid-  
535 ered to be low Notch and high Delta. To break the symmetry between the two cells, cell  
536 2 has a slightly higher initial Notch level than cell 1 (0.010 versus 0.011). We used a plau-  
537 sible range of  $K_N$  and  $K_D$  parameters to study the behavior of Notch-Delta dynamics<sup>21,56-</sup>  
538 <sup>58</sup>(Guisoni et al., 2017; Sprinzak et al., 2010; Pei and Baker, 2008; Friedmann and Kovall,  
539 2010). Particularly, data fitted to wildtype cells from Guisoni et al., 2017 Figure 4<sup>21</sup>  
540 shows a  $K_D$  range of 0.2-0.3, and a  $K_N$  range of 0.1-10.

### 541 **Windowmount live imaging**

542 We performed Windowmount live imaging of the *Drosophila* midgut as previously de-  
543 scribed<sup>27</sup>. Briefly, we glued female flies to the imaging apparatus and opened a window  
544 in the dorsal cuticle of the abdomen. The R4 region of the midgut was identified,  
545 nudged through the cuticular window, and stabilized with 3% agarose before being  
546 bathed with live imaging media. We then imaged the exposed region of the midgut us-  
547 ing an upright Leica SP5 multi-photon confocal microscope with a 20x water immersion  
548 objective (Leica HCX APO L 20x NA 1.0). We fed flies via a microcapillary feeder tube  
549 throughout the entire imaging process. Movies were captured at room temperature (20-  
550 25°C). Confocal stacks were acquired with a Z-step of 2.98  $\mu\text{m}$  at 7.5min intervals and  
551 typically contained ~35-40 slices.

### 552 **Live imaging media recipe**

553 All live imaging used the following recipe adapted from Marco Marchetti and Bruce Ed-  
554 gar (University of Utah), who have since published an updated version<sup>59</sup>: 61.5mM L-  
555 Glutamic acid monosodium salt (made in Schneider's media), 55.5mM Trehalose (made  
556 in Schneider's media), 2.2mM N-Acetyl Cysteine (made in water), 1.1mM Tri-sodium  
557 Citrate (made in Schneider's media), 11% Fetal Calf Serum (or fetal bovine serum  
558 (FBS)), Schneider's media, Penicillin-streptomycin 0.55%. Stocks of the above ingredi-  
559 ents were made in advance, filter sterilized using a 0.2 $\mu\text{m}$  syringe filter, and stored at  
560 4°C for up to 3 months. We made live imaging media fresh on the day of imaging. Me-  
561 dia was stored at 4°C and used until the next day if needed.

## 562 **Live imaging movie registration**

563 After acquisition, movies were processed on a Windows computer (Windows 10 Educa-  
564 tion) with a 3.70 GHz quad-core Intel Xeon processor and 128 GB memory. LIF files  
565 (\*.lif) from Leica Application Suite: Advanced Fluorescence were uploaded into Fiji as a  
566 hyperstack for registration. To correct for X-Y drift, movies were converted to RGB files  
567 and processed with the Fiji plugin StackReg<sup>60</sup>. To correct for global volume movements,  
568 movies were processed with the Fiji plugin Correct 3D Drift<sup>61</sup>. We evaluated movies for  
569 viability based on criteria established in <sup>27</sup>.

## 570 **Live imaging cell identification, tracking, and quantification in Imaris**

571 To perform cell tracking, processed and registered movies were converted from .tiff for-  
572 mat to .ims file format using the Bitplane Imaris File Converter software. We performed  
573 cell segmentation in Bitplane Imaris 9.2.0 using the TransTimerRFP channel to generate  
574 3D “spots” with the “Spots” module. All spots were generated using a standardized  
575 spot diameter of 9.02 μm. We used the Brownian motion tracking algorithm to track  
576 cell surfaces and spots for all labeled cells across all movie time points. Any errors in  
577 cell surface generation and tracking were visually inspected and corrected. Once cell  
578 recognition was verified for all cells for all time points, we exported individual cell  
579 measurements for mean intensity GFP and mean intensity RFP as Microsoft Excel files.  
580 For each channel within a movie, mean intensity values were normalized to a 0-to-1  
581 scale by setting the maximum intensity measurement to 1. Data was imported into  
582 MATLAB or GraphPad Prism for analysis.

## 583 **Quantifying slopes of NRE>TransTimerGFP tracks**

584 After we standardized normalizing TransTimerGFP values over time for each movie,  
585 we plotted tracks over time for each cell and smoothed the data using the ‘rloess’  
586 method and a moving time-average spanning 5 timepoints in MATLAB. Cells were ex-  
587 cluded from further analysis if the average of the first half of the data points in the track  
588 were <0.1 mean GFP intensity. Cells that still had visible TransTimerRFP expression but  
589 had TransTimerGFP intensity < 0.1 were designated as recently Notch-OFF cells that  
590 were excluded from slope analysis. Next, to enable accurate slope analysis of tracks  
591 with distinct positive and negative slope segments, we split tracks into two parts at the  
592 maximum value of the smoothed data. Data before the maximum should have a posi-  
593 tive slope, and after, a negative slope. We then fit the equation ( $y=mx+b$ ) to the

594 smoothed data. Fitted lines were excluded from further analysis if: (1) there were fewer  
595 than 8 data points for the line to fit or (2) the slope of the fit line had an opposite direc-  
596 tion (+ or -) slope from what it should. Slope measurements were separated into positive  
597 and negative slopes for plotting and comparison.

## 598 **Statistical analyses**

599 Statistical analyses and histogram plotting for fixed NRE-GFP::nls quantifications were  
600 done in MATLAB and edited in Adobe Illustrator (Version 29.0). For comparisons of  
601 NRE-GFP::nls distributions, we used the two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnoff (K-S) test to  
602 assess statistical significance.

603 All plots for TransTimer tracks and slopes (Fig 4g, i-l), single-cell cross correlation plots  
604 (Fig S3), and violin plots of  $\Delta^+$ ,NRE<sup>hi</sup> proportions (Fig S5) were made in GraphPad  
605 Prism 10 and edited in Adobe Illustrator. For comparisons of distributions of cell slopes,  
606 we used unpaired two-tailed Mann-Whitney tests to assess median and statistical sig-  
607 nificance. For comparisons of cell numbers, we used unpaired Student's two-tailed t-  
608 tests to assess mean and statistical significance. For single-cell cross-correlation (Fig S3),  
609 we used Pearson correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) and p-values (two-tailed t-test) to assess cor-  
610 relation and statistical significance. For  $\Delta^+$ ,NRE<sup>hi</sup> violin plots (Fig S4), we used ordi-  
611 nary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons test to assess mean and sta-  
612 tistical significance.

613 The number of experimental replicates for each assay is indicated in the figure legends.  
614 Statistical tests used are indicated in the figure legends.

615 For all experiments, randomization was not relevant/not performed. Data collection and  
616 analysis were not performed blind to the conditions of the experiments. All data were  
617 acquired and processed identically and in parallel. We used GraphPad Prism 8/9/10  
618 (Versions 8.0.0 through 10.3.1), Microsoft Excel 365 (Version 16.90), MATLAB (R2024b),  
619 and Python (Version 3.12.3) for statistics and graph generation. We used Adobe Illustra-  
620 tor (Version 29.0) for figure assembly.

## 621 **Data and code availability**

622 All data and code that support the findings of this study are available from the authors  
623 upon reasonable request.

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## 641 **Contributions**

642 E.N.S and L.E.O. conceived and designed the initial study. H.-T.S. and L.E.O. conceived  
643 and designed the current study. H.-T.S. and S. G. van D. performed and analyzed all  
644 fixed tissue experiments in this study. S.T. performed the modeling experiments in this  
645 study. S.T. and C.F.L. analyzed the modeling experiments in this study. E.N.S. and Y.-  
646 H.S. performed the live imaging experiments in this study. E.N.S. and A.L. analyzed the  
647 live imaging experiments in this study. E.N.S., A.L. and J.I. processed the live imaging  
648 movies in this study. H.-T.S., E.N.S., and L.E.O. prepared the figures. L.E.O., H.-T. S.,  
649 S.T., and C.F.L. wrote the manuscript. L.E.O., H.-T. S, C.F.L., E.N.S., and S.X. revised the  
650 manuscript. L.E.O. supervised the project.

651



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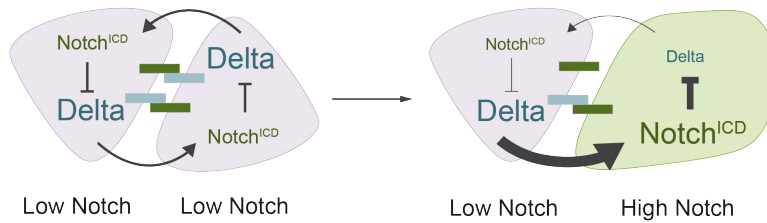
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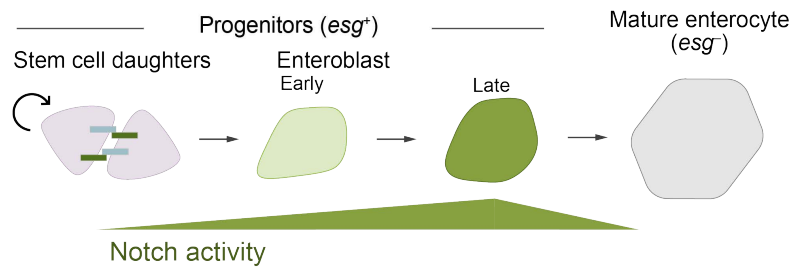
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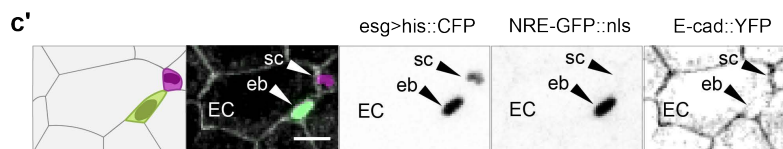
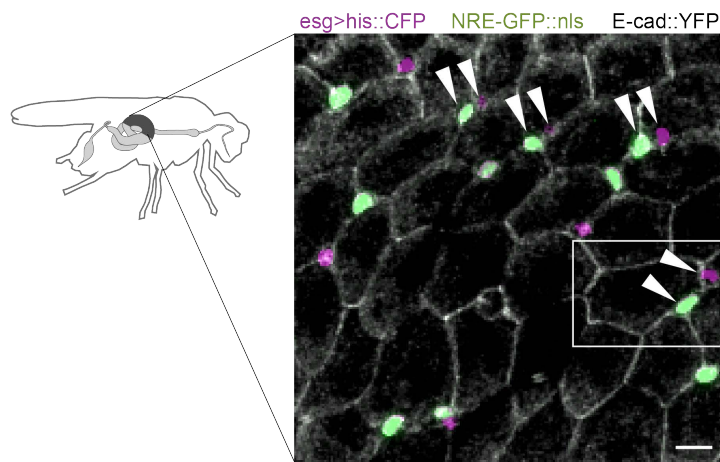
**a Two-cell lateral inhibition**



**b Notch activity determines enteroblast fate**



**c Tissue organization of Notch-Delta signaling**



**Figure 1. Notch-Delta signaling in the *Drosophila* adult midgut.**

(a) Two-cell lateral inhibition through Notch-Delta signaling. Initially, both cells express Notch receptor (dark green) and Delta ligand (blue). Stochastic differences in the two cells' signaling levels are amplified through a feedback circuit in which Notch-Delta trans-activation and release of the Notch intracellular domain (Notch<sup>ICD</sup>) results in downregulation of Delta (Extended Data Fig 1a). Over time, this circuit resolves into opposing cell states of high Notch, low Delta and low Notch, high Delta.

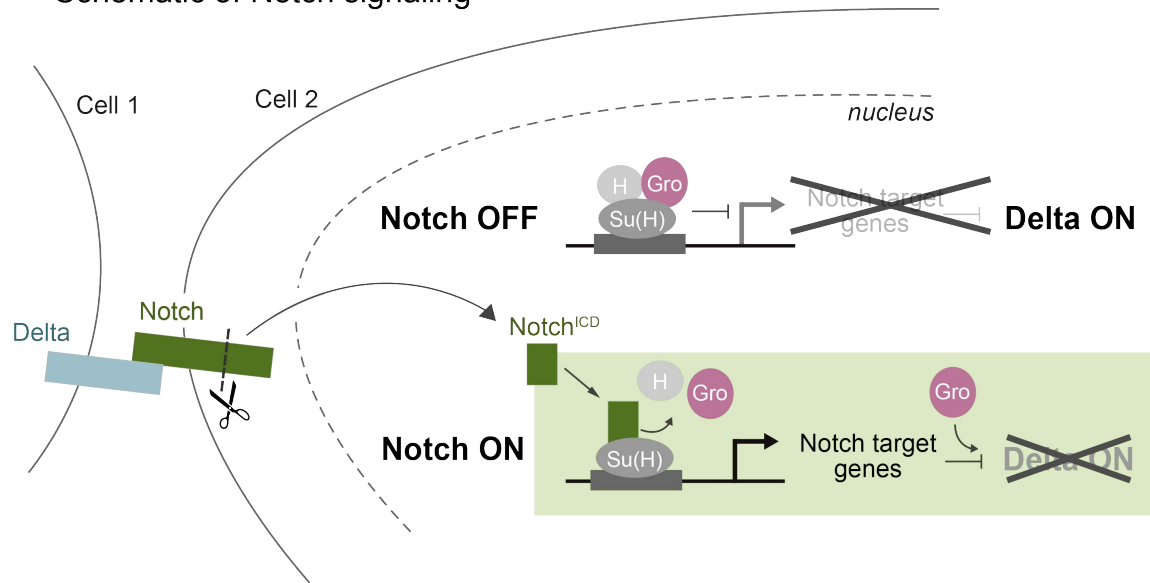
(b) Notch-Delta fate specification in the absorptive lineage. New mitotic stem cell daughters (pink) engage in mutual Notch-Delta signaling. Cell fate is determined by Notch activity:

daughters that remain at sub-threshold Notch activity remain stem cells, while those that exceed the threshold differentiate into enteroblasts (early: light green; late: dark green). Enteroblasts progressively mature into terminal enterocytes (gray). The immature progenitor population (stem cells and enteroblasts) is marked by *escargot* (*esg*).

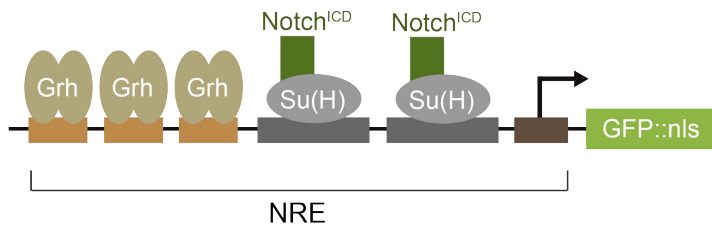
(c) Tissue organization of Notch-Delta signaling. Small progenitor cells (*esg>his2b::CFP*, magenta) are interspersed among large enterocytes (outlined by *ubi-E-cad::YFP*, grayscale). Notch activity is visualized using the *NRE-GFP::nls* reporter (green; Fig S1b). Progenitors frequently form pairs of one GFP<sup>+</sup> and one GFP<sup>-</sup> cell (arrowheads). Both GFP<sup>+</sup> and GFP<sup>-</sup> cells are *esg*<sup>+</sup>, although GFP<sup>+</sup> cells appear light green in the overlay. Scale bar, 10µm.

(c') Single-channel views of a representative cell pair (white box in c) demonstrate *esg* expression in GFP<sup>+</sup> and GFP<sup>-</sup> cells. Scale bars, 10µm.

**a Schematic of Notch signaling**



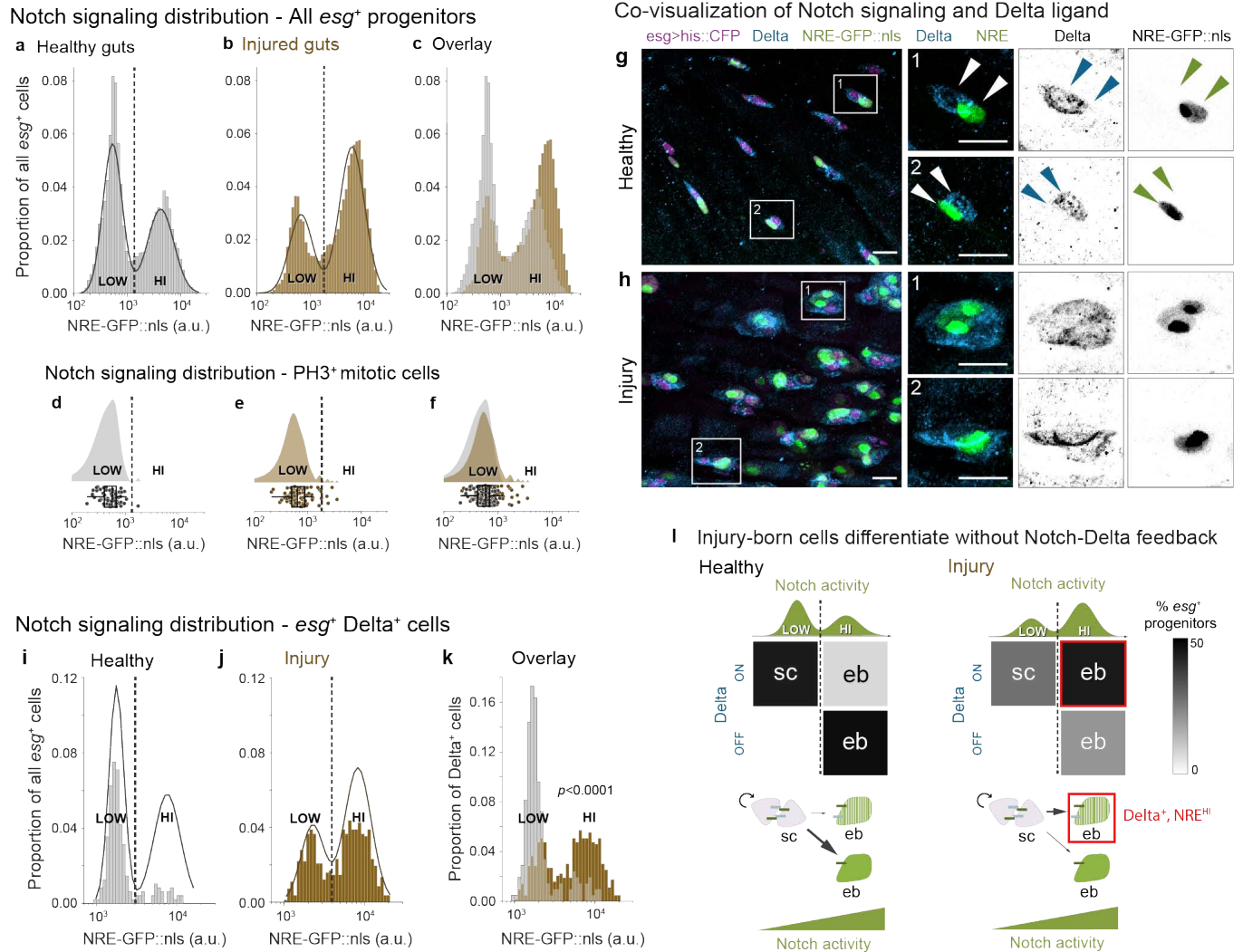
**b Schematic of Notch Response Element (NRE)**



**Supplemental Figure 1: Molecular regulation of Notch target genes and the Notch Response Element (NRE)**

(a) Simplified schematic of Notch target regulation. In the inactive state (Notch OFF), Suppressor of Hairless (Su(H)) bound to DNA sites (gray boxes) recruits co-repressors Hairless (H) and Groucho (Gro), silencing Notch targets while permitting Delta expression. In the active state, Delta ligand (blue) binds Notch receptor (green) (Notch ON), releasing the Notch intracellular domain (Notch<sup>ICD</sup>). Notch<sup>ICD</sup> enters the nucleus, binds Su(H), and displaces H/Gro. The Notch<sup>ICD</sup>/Su(H) complex then drives Notch target gene expression. Notch targets, together with Gro, repress Delta transcription.

(b) Structure of the Notch Response Element (NRE) reporter. Sensitive detection of Notch activation is conferred by the combination of two Su(H) binding sites with three binding sites for the transcriptional activator Grainyhead (Grh) (Furriols and Bray, 2001). The NRE drives expression of nuclear GFP (GFP:nls) in all figures except Figure 4, where it drives GAL4.



**Fig. 2. Injury disrupts Notch-Delta lateral inhibition feedback while maintaining cell fates.**

(a-c) Notch signaling (NRE-GFP::nls) in progenitors (*esg>his2b::CFP*) from (a) healthy and (b) bleomycin-injured guts. Both conditions show bimodal NRE<sup>low</sup> and NRE<sup>hi</sup> populations (solid lines: Gaussian mixture model (GMM) fits; dashed lines: classification thresholds). (c) Overlay shows injury increases the proportion of NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells while maintaining GFP intensity ranges and thresholds. Healthy: n=5681 cells, N=6 guts. Injury: n=8819 cells, N=6 guts.

(d-f) NRE-GFP::nls in mitotic (PH3<sup>+</sup>) cells shown as raincloud plots (top) and single-cell measurements (bottom) from (d) healthy and (e) injured guts. Dashed lines show classification thresholds from panels a-b. In both conditions, PH3<sup>+</sup> cells match the NRE<sup>low</sup> peak distribution and classification (healthy: 98% NRE<sup>low</sup>; injured, 93% NRE<sup>low</sup>). (f) Overlay. Healthy: n=60 cells, N=27 guts. Injury: n=83 cells, N=8 guts.

(g-h) Co-visualization of Notch signaling (*NRE-GFP::nls*, green) and Delta immunostain (blue) in *esg>his2b::CFP* progenitors (magenta). (g) In healthy guts, Delta<sup>+</sup> cells typically lack GFP and pair with Delta<sup>-</sup>, GFP<sup>+</sup> cells. (h) In injured guts, many Delta<sup>+</sup> cells show bright GFP and often

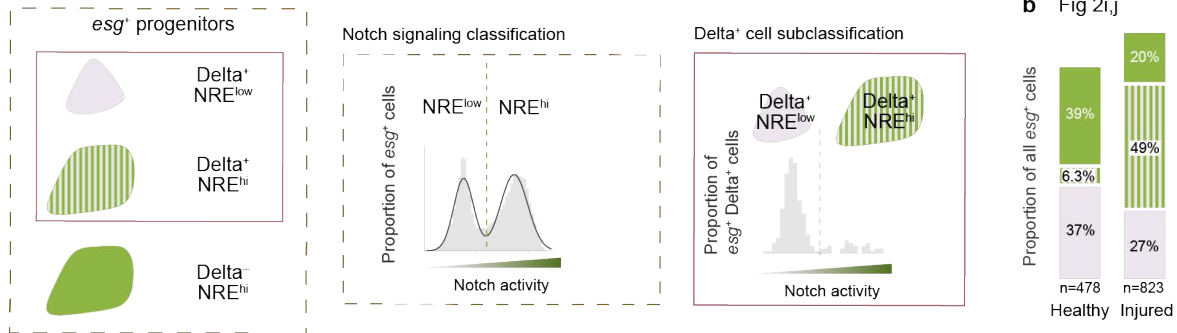


form clusters with other Delta<sup>+</sup>, GFP<sup>+</sup> as well as Delta<sup>+</sup>, GFP<sup>-</sup> cells. Boxed regions shown at higher magnification with split channels. Scale bars, 10µm.

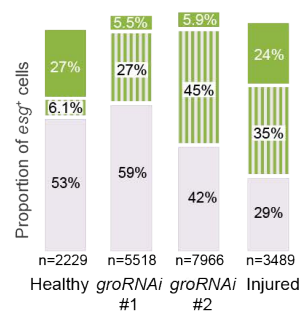
(i-k) Quantification of Delta and Notch signaling relationships. Notch signaling (NRE-GFP::*nls*) specifically in Delta<sup>+</sup> cells from (i) healthy and (j) injured guts, as a proportion of all *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells. Solid lines: GMM fits for all *esg*<sup>+</sup> population. NRE-GFP::*nls* raw values and classification thresholds (dashed lines) differ from panels a-c due to use of a different imaging system (see Methods). Overlay of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells from (i) healthy and (j) injured as a proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells only. Injury shifts Delta<sup>+</sup> cells from predominantly NRE<sup>low</sup> (84%) to predominantly NRE<sup>hi</sup> (62%) ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Healthy:  $n = 478$  *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells,  $n = 208$  Delta<sup>+</sup> cells;  $N = 2$  guts. Injured:  $n = 823$  *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells,  $n = 631$  Delta<sup>+</sup> cells;  $N = 3$  guts.  $p$ -value, two-sample K-S test.

(l) Summary: Injury-born cells differentiate in the absence of Notch-Delta feedback. In healthy guts, mitotic stem cells (sc) express Delta and maintain low Notch activity, while lateral inhibition feedback drives differentiating enteroblasts (ebs) to the opposing state of high Notch activity and no Delta. In injury, differentiating enteroblasts maintain Delta despite acquiring high Notch. Gray shading indicates percent of progenitors in each Notch/Delta state; green curves show GMM NRE-GFP::*nls* distributions (Fig 2a-c). Progenitors lacking both Delta and GFP were excluded from quantitation.

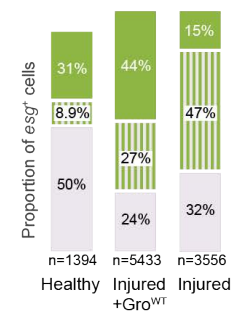
**a** Per-figure overview of Notch/Delta signaling states



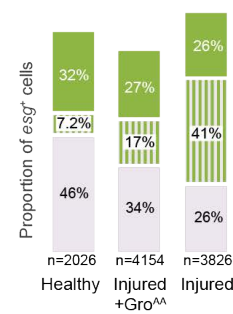
**c** Fig 5b: *groRNAi*



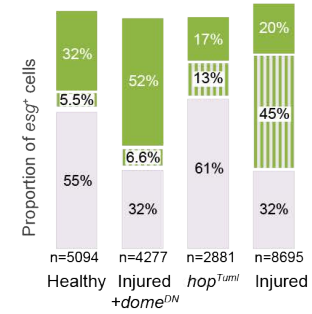
**d** Fig 5d: Injured + *gro*<sup>WT</sup>



**e** Fig 5f: Injured + *Gro*<sup>AA</sup>



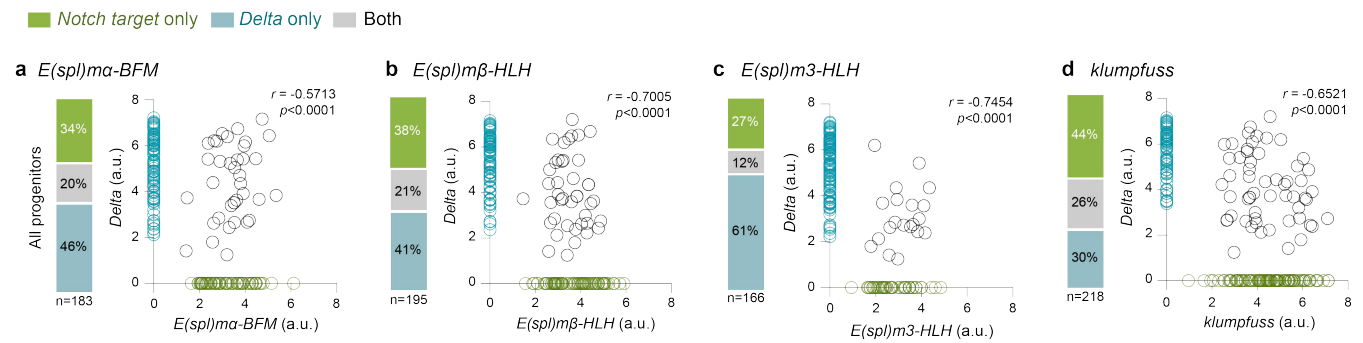
**f** Fig 6b: JAK-STAT



**Supplemental Figure 2: Overview of Notch/Delta signaling states across experimental conditions**

(a) Classification framework for Notch/Delta signaling states in midgut progenitors (*esg*<sup>+</sup>). (b-f) Quantitation of signaling states (percent of total *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells) for: (b) Fig 2i,j: Healthy vs injury; (c) Fig 5b: *gro* RNAi; (d) Fig 5d: Injury + *gro*<sup>WT</sup>; (e) Fig 5f: Injury + *gro*<sup>AA</sup>; (f) Fig 6b: JAK-STAT pathway perturbations. Values shown as percentage of total *esg*<sup>+</sup> cells. Delta<sup>-</sup>, NRE<sup>low</sup> cells excluded as they do not signal, so proportions sum to <100%.

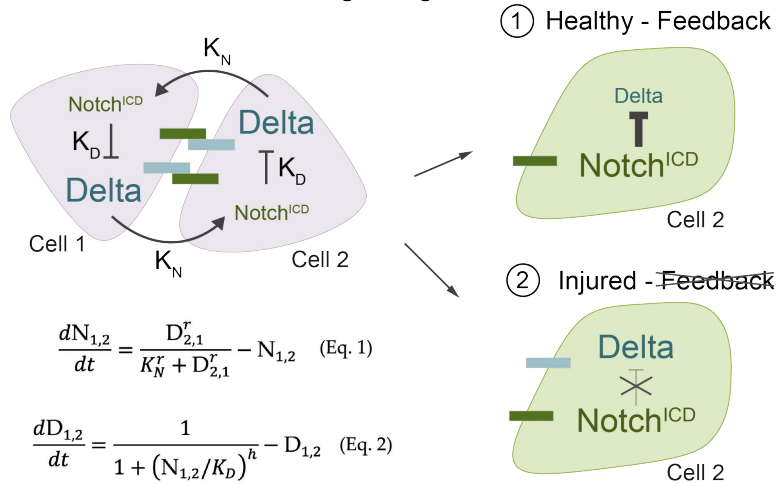
### Single-cell cross-correlation of Notch target and *Delta* mRNAs



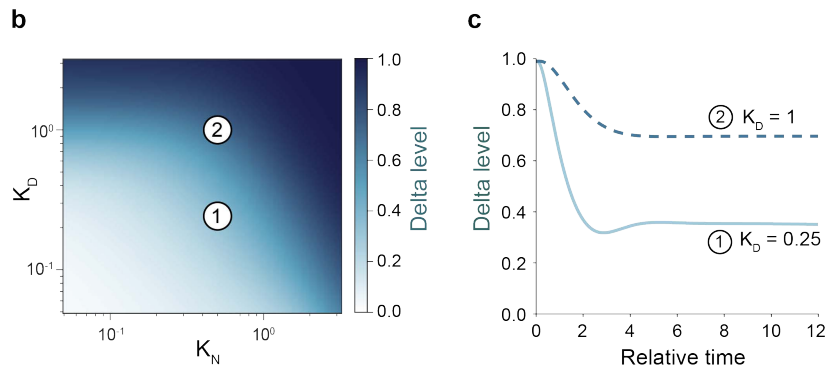
### Supplemental Figure 3: Anti-correlation of Delta and Notch target mRNAs in healthy-gut progenitors.

Single-cell expression analysis of Delta and four major midgut Notch target genes: (a) *E(spl)ma-BFM*, (b) *E(spl)m $\beta$ -HLH*, (c) *E(spl)m3-HLH*, and (d) *klumpfuss* (Guo 2019, Bardin 2010, Korzelius 2019). Stacked bars quantify proportions of progenitor cells expressing Delta-only (blue), Notch target-only (green) or both (gray). Scatter plots show Delta versus Notch target mRNA levels per cell, with corresponding color-coding. Data from 5-day-old, mated female flies (Fly Cell Atlas, Li et al. 2022). See Methods.  $r$  = Pearson's correlation coefficient;  $p$ -values from two-tailed t-test.

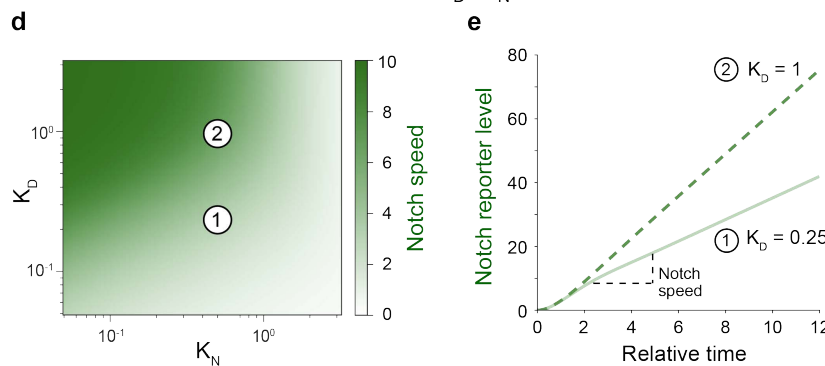
**a Model of Notch-Delta signaling**



**Dependence of Delta on  $K_D$ ,  $K_N$**



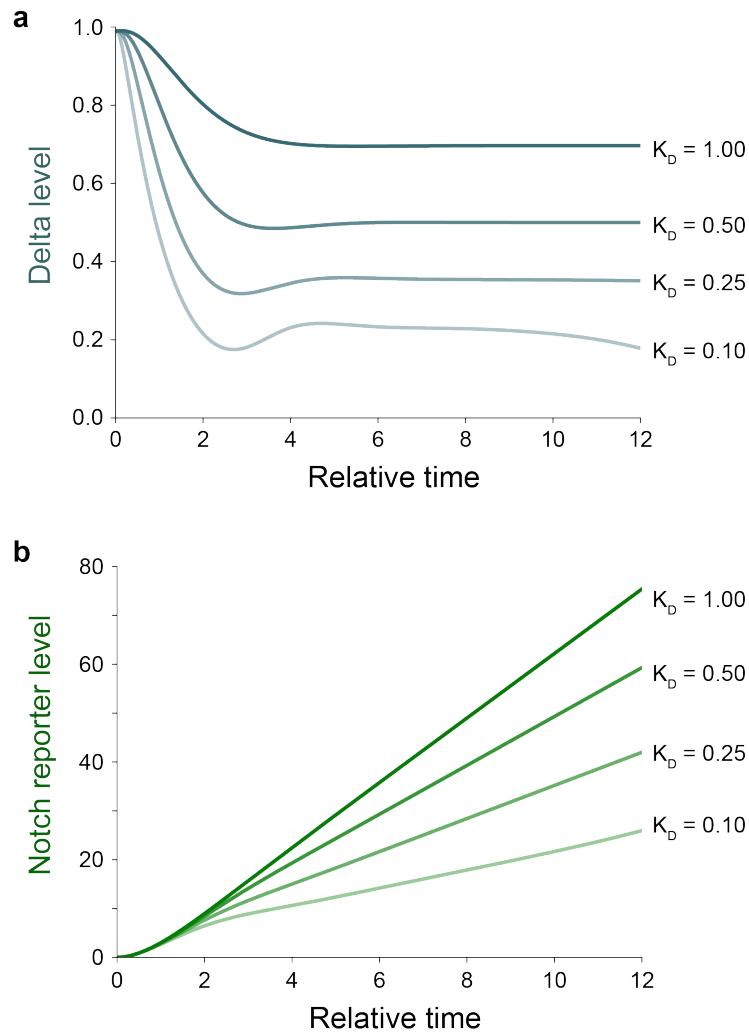
**Dependence of Notch speed on  $K_D$ ,  $K_N$**



**Figure 3: Disrupted Notch-Delta feedback can accelerate Notch signaling.**

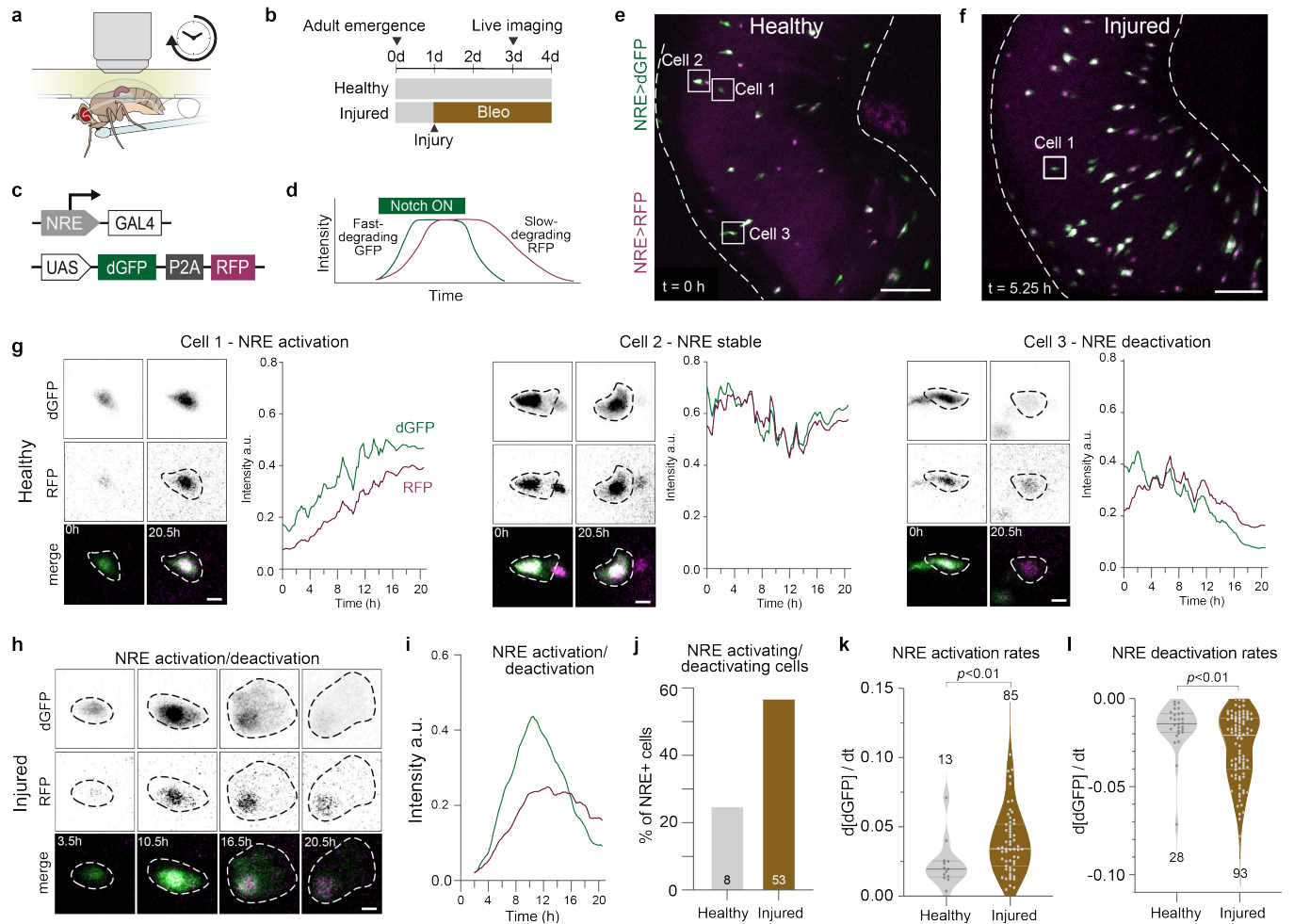
(a) Model schematic for Notch-Delta lateral inhibition (Collier 1996, Guisoni 2017). Two key parameters govern the system:  $K_N$  (the threshold for Notch activation by Delta) and  $K_D$  (the threshold for Delta inhibition by Notch). Cell 2 is initialized with slightly higher Notch activity. Outcomes 1 (high-Notch/low-Delta) and 2 (high-Notch/high-Delta) represent the dominant enteroblast states in healthy and injured guts, respectively. Equations 1-2 describe the time evolution of Notch activity and Delta levels. Hill coefficients  $r=h=2$ .

(b-d) Model parameter space and dynamics. Parameter values for Point 1 ( $K_N=0.5$ ,  $K_D=0.25$ ); Point 2 ( $K_N=0.5$ ,  $K_D=1$ ). (b) Steady-state Delta level ( $t=12$ ) as a function of  $K_N$  and  $K_D$ . While injury decreases  $K_N$  and increases  $K_D$  (see Results), only increased  $K_D$  reproduces the high-Notch/high-Delta injury state. (c) Simulated time evolution of Delta levels for Points 1 and 2. See Fig. S4a for additional  $K_D$  values. (d) Notch signaling speed as a function of  $K_N$  and  $K_D$ . Signaling speed is defined as the mean rate of Notch reporter accumulation from  $t=2$  to  $t=12$ . Increased  $K_D$  accelerates signaling speed. (e) Simulated time evolution of Notch reporter levels for Points 1 and 2. See Fig. S4b for additional  $K_D$  values.



#### Supplemental Figure 4: Delta and Notch signaling dynamics across $K_D$ values

Simulated time evolution of (a) Delta levels and (b) Notch reporter levels at the indicated  $K_D$  values. Increased  $K_D$  produces higher levels of both Delta and Notch reporter.  $K_N = 0.5$  in all simulations.



**Figure 4: Injury accelerates Notch signal activation and deactivation**

(a) Schematic of long-term live imaging setup (Martin 2018). The R4ab region of the midgut is imaged overnight through a “window” cut in the cuticle of the living adult fly. Flies feed through a microcapillary tube.

(b) Feeding scheme for live imaging experiments. Adult females are collected on day 0 post-eclosion and placed in vials with males. For the injury condition, flies are fed 25ug/mL bleomycin in yeast paste for 48 hours prior to imaging. Guts are imaged starting adult day 3.

(c) Schematic of TransTimer multi-cistronic genetic construct. The Notch response element GBE-Su(H)-GAL4 (NRE) drives GAL4-mediated expression of a fast-folding, fast-degrading GFP (dGFP) as well as a slower-folding, slow-degrading RFP, connected by a P2A peptide.

(d) Schematic of hypothetical NRE>TransTimer dGFP and RFP intensity traces in response to activation and deactivation of Notch.

(e) Representative still of a healthy live-imaged NRE>TransTimer gut. Boxed cells correspond to representative cells in (g). Scale bar: 50µm. See also Movie 1.

(f) Representative still of an injured live-imaged NRE>TransTimer gut. Boxed cell corresponds to representative cell in (h). Scale bar: 50 $\mu$ m. See also Movie 2.

(g) Representative stills of three healthy progenitor cells from (e) and their TransTimerGFP/RFP traces through 1-NRE activation: increasing TransTimerGFP and RFP intensity; 2-NRE stable: flat TransTimer traces; and 3-NRE deactivation: decreasing TransTimer intensity. Scale bars: 5 $\mu$ m. See also Movies 3-5.

(h) Representative stills of an injured progenitor cell from (f) going through both NRE activation and deactivation stages in the course of a single movie. Scale bar: 5 $\mu$ m. See also Movie 6.

(i) Representative TransTimerGFP/RFP traces for an injured progenitor cell from (f) going through NRE activation and deactivation in the course of a single movie.

(j) Quantification of percentage of NRE+ cells that go through both NRE activation and deactivation stages in the course of a single movie for both healthy and injured conditions. Healthy: 25%; n=8 cells; N=2 guts. Injured: 57%; n=53 cells; N=3 guts.

(k) Quantification of rates of Notch activation by measuring the slopes of the increasing portions of NRE>TransTimerGFP cell tracks. Notch activation is roughly twice as fast in injured guts compared to healthy controls. Healthy: n=13 cells; N=2 guts. Injured: n=85 cells; N=3 guts. Horizontal lines represent median and 25th, 75th percentiles. *p*-values and medians, Mann-Whitney test.

(l) Quantification of rates of Notch deactivation by measuring the slopes of the decreasing portions of NRE>TransTimerGFP cell tracks. Notch deactivation is nearly twice as fast in injured guts compared to healthy controls. Healthy: n=28 cells; N=2 guts. Injured: n=93 cells; N=3 guts. Horizontal lines represent median and 25th, 75th percentiles. *p*-values and medians, Mann-Whitney test.



### **Movie 1: 20-hour live imaging movie of a healthy NRE>TransTimer gut**

See Figure 4e. Two-channel, wide-field, volumetric movie of a healthy NRE>TransTimer gut. White lines initially outline the gut boundaries. NRE>TransTimerGFP (green) marks cells with active Notch signaling. NRE>TransTimerRFP (magenta) marks recent Notch signaling activity. Scale bar, 50 $\mu$ m.

### **Movie 2: 20-hour live imaging movie of an injured NRE>TransTimer gut**

See Figure 4f. Two-channel, wide-field, volumetric movie of an injured NRE>TransTimer gut. White lines initially outline the gut boundaries. NRE>TransTimerGFP (green) marks cells with active Notch signaling. NRE>TransTimerRFP (magenta) marks recent Notch signaling activity. Scale bar, 50 $\mu$ m.

### **Movie 3: Healthy NRE>TransTimer cell exhibiting NRE activation**

See Figure 4g, Cell 1. Cell in frame increases both NRE>TransTimerGFP (first panel, green; second panel, inverted gray) and NRE>TransTimerRFP (first panel, magenta; third panel, inverted gray) signal over the course of the 20-hour movie. Each time point is the projection of a confocal z-stack. Scale bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

### **Movie 4: Healthy NRE>TransTimer cell exhibiting stable NRE signal**

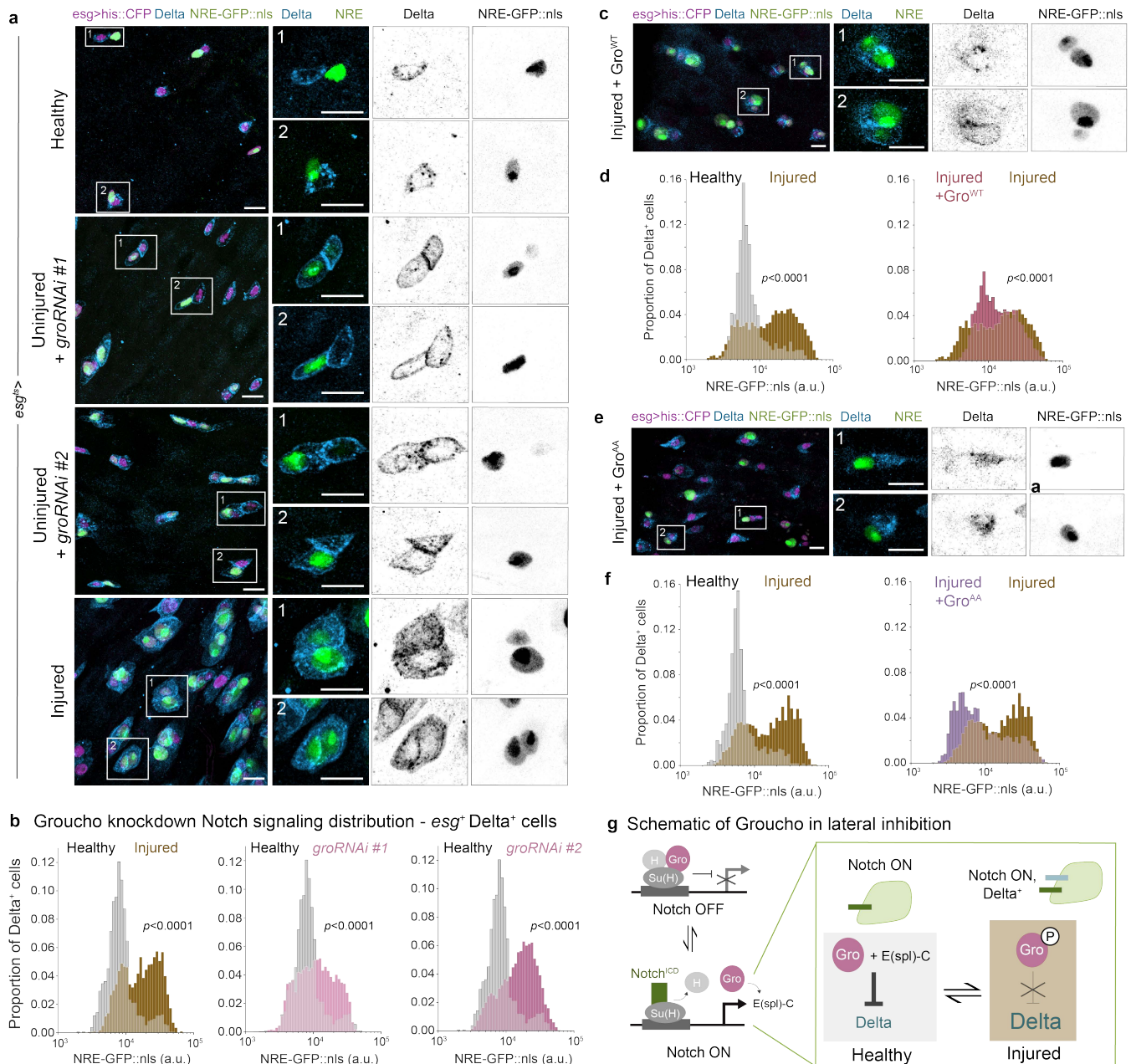
See Figure 4g, Cell 2. The centermost GFP+ cell in frame exhibits stable NRE>TransTimerGFP (first panel, green; second panel, inverted gray) and NRE>TransTimerRFP (first panel, magenta; third panel, inverted gray) signal over the course of the 20-hour movie. Each time point is the projection of a confocal z-stack. Scale bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

### **Movie 5: Healthy NRE>TransTimer cell exhibiting NRE deactivation.**

See Figure 4g, Cell 3. The centermost GFP+ cell in frame (denoted by white arrow) exhibits decreasing NRE>TransTimerGFP (first panel, green; second panel, inverted gray) and NRE>TransTimerRFP (first panel, magenta; third panel, inverted gray) signal over the course of the 20-hour movie. Each time point is the projection of a confocal z-stack. Scale bar, 5 $\mu$ m.

### **Movie 6: Injured NRE>TransTimer cell exhibiting both NRE activation and deactivation.**

See Figure 4h. Cell in frame exhibits both increasing and decreasing NRE>TransTimerGFP (first panel, green; second panel, inverted gray) and NRE>TransTimerRFP (first panel, magenta; third panel, inverted gray) signal in the course of the 20-hour movie. Each time point is the projection of a confocal z-stack. Scale bar, 5 $\mu$ m.



**Figure 5. Groucho is necessary and sufficient to maintain Notch-Delta lateral inhibition**

(a) Progenitor cells (*esg>his2b::CFP*, magenta) in healthy (4-day) guts, uninjured guts with *esg*<sup>ts</sup> driving *groucho* RNAi for adult days 0-4, and injured guts (bleomycin ingestion for adult days 3-4). Nearly all progenitors in both lines of *groRNAi* knockdown guts express Delta (anti-Delta immunostain, blue), with or without NRE-GFP::nls expression (green). *groRNAi* #1: VDRC #KK110546. *groRNAi* #2: BDSC #91407. Scale bars: 10  $\mu$ m.

(b) Comparison of single-cell Notch signaling distributions for all Delta<sup>+</sup> cells in healthy, uninjured + *groRNAi*, and injured guts. Histograms show single-cell NRE-GFP::nls intensities for all Delta<sup>+</sup>, *esg>his2b::CFP* cells in the gut R4ab region. Large proportions of Delta<sup>+</sup> cells shift to the NRE<sup>hi</sup> peak when *gro* is depleted. Delta<sup>+</sup> cells identified by immunostaining. Healthy: n=1328 cells; N=7 guts. Uninjured + *groRNAi* #1: n=4766 cells; N=14 guts. Uninjured + *groRNAi* #2:

n=6945 cells; N=14 guts. Injured: n=2251 cells; N=6 guts. *p*-values, two-sample K-S test. See also Figures S2c, S5b.

(c) Progenitor cells in injured guts with *esg<sup>ts</sup>>UAS-gro<sup>WT</sup>* (overexpression of wildtype groucho). Prevalence of large multi-cell Delta<sup>+</sup> progenitors is reduced, as is overall Delta expression (anti-Delta immunostain), though many individual cells still exhibit both *NRE-GFP::nls* and Delta. Scale bars: 10 μm.

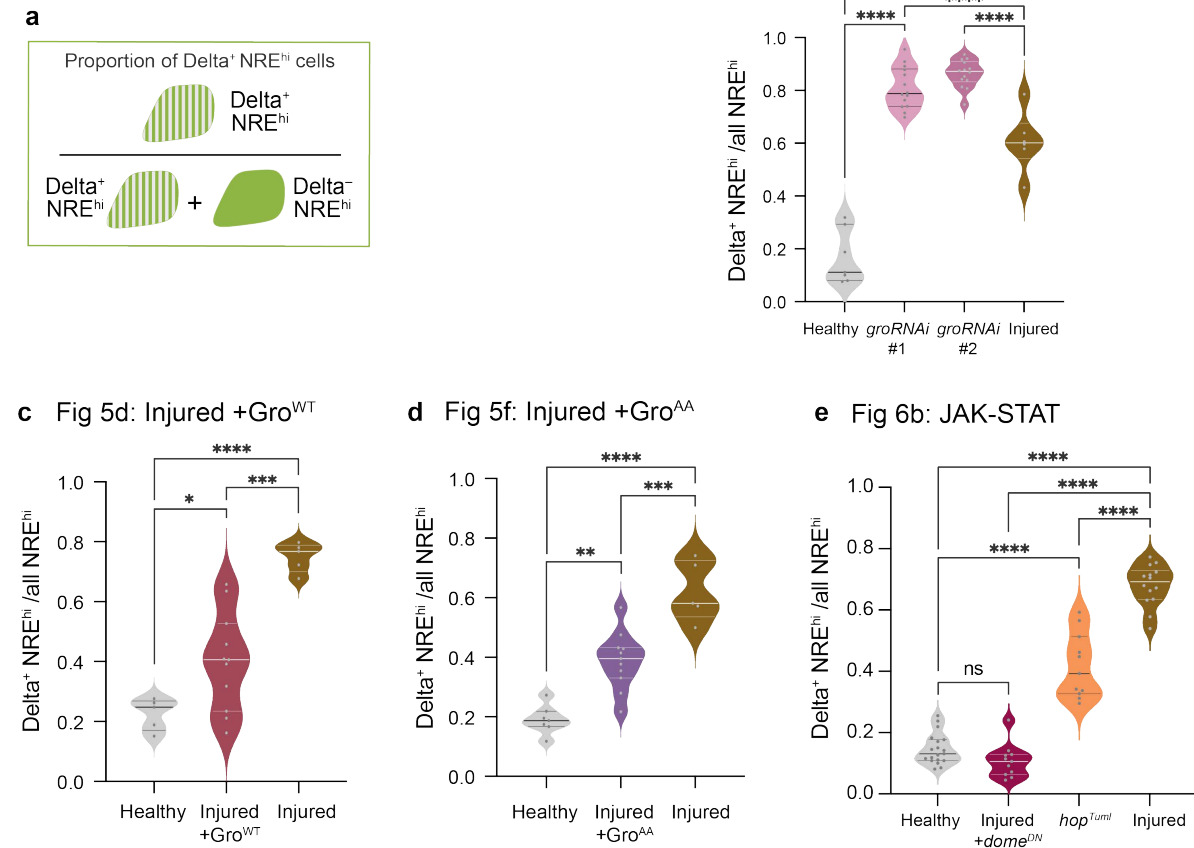
(d) Comparison of Notch signaling distributions for all Delta<sup>+</sup> cells in healthy, injured + *esg<sup>ts</sup>>UAS-gro<sup>WT</sup>*, and injured guts. Some proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>low</sup> cells in injured guts is restored by *gro<sup>WT</sup>* overexpression. Healthy: n=821 cells; N=7 guts. Injured + *gro<sup>WT</sup>*: n=738 cells; N = 11 guts. Injured: n=2814 cells; N=5 guts. *p*-values, two-sample K-S test. See also Figures S2d, S5c.

(e) Progenitor cells in injured guts with *esg<sup>ts</sup>>UAS-gro<sup>AA</sup>* (overexpression of phosphorylation-resistant groucho). Progenitors rarely form multi-cell clusters, and fewer individual cells exhibit both *NRE-GFP::nls* and Delta. Scale bars: 10 μm.

(f) Comparison of Notch signaling distributions for all Delta<sup>+</sup> cells in healthy, injured + *esg<sup>ts</sup>>UAS-gro<sup>AA</sup>*, and injured guts. The proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>low</sup> cells in injured guts is largely restored by *gro<sup>AA</sup>* overexpression. Healthy: n=1083 cells; N=5 guts. Injured + *gro<sup>AA</sup>*: n=2119 cells; N=11 guts. Injured: n=2581 cells; N=5 guts. *p*-values, two-sample K-S test. See also Figures S2e, S5d.

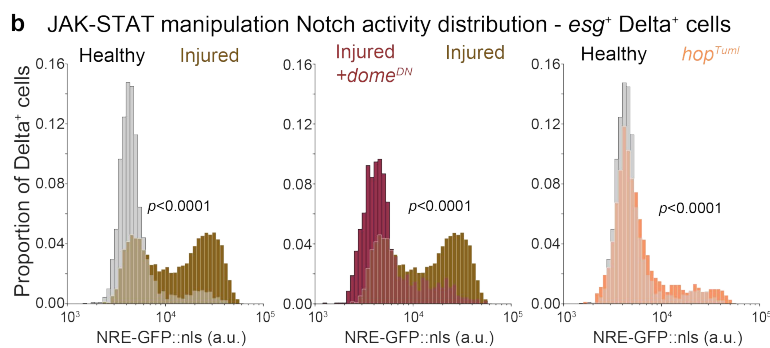
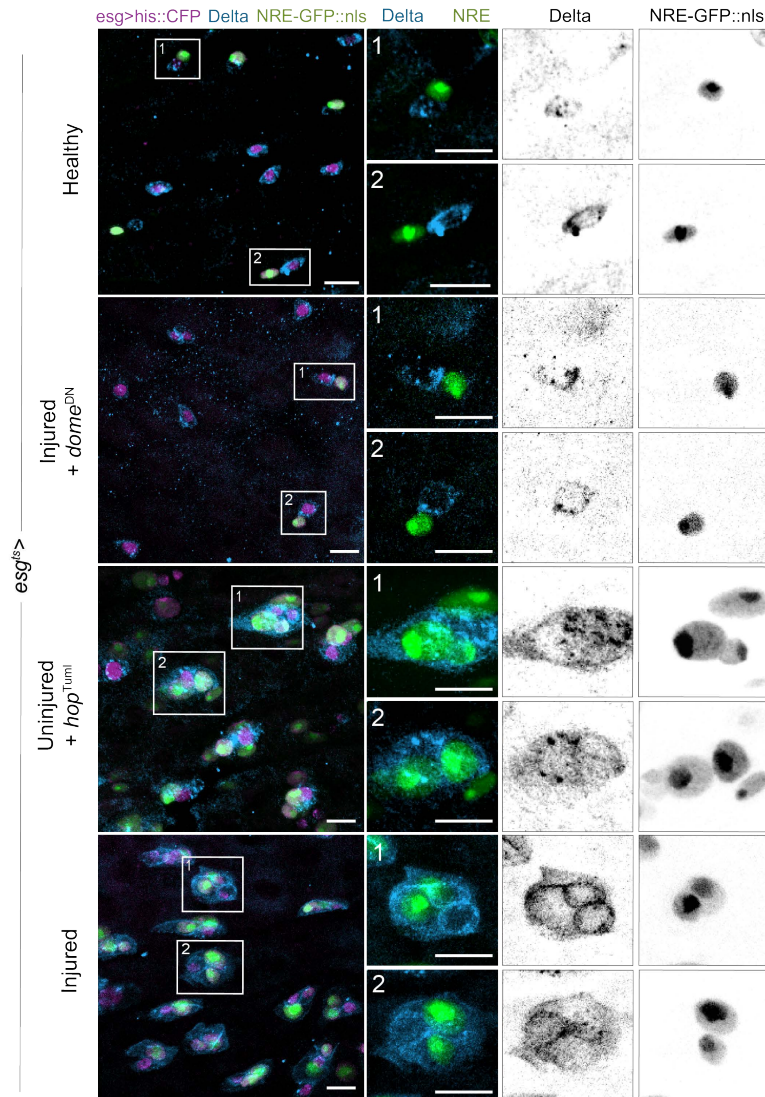
(g) Schematic of how Groucho's function is modulated in injured vs healthy guts. In the absence of Notch<sup>ICD</sup>, Gro complexes with Hairless (H) and Suppressor of Hairless (Su(H)) as a corepressor of Notch target genes. When Notch<sup>ICD</sup> is activated and binds to Su(H), Notch targets such as the Enhancer of split complex (E(spl)-C) are transcribed. In healthy guts, Gro then works with E(spl)-C to repress Delta in the now Notch-ON cell. However, in injury, Gro can be phosphorylated to downregulate its function, thus releasing repression of Delta and attenuating lateral inhibition feedback leading to Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells.

## Proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells



## Supplemental Figure 5: Analysis of the proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> enteroblasts on a per gut basis across conditions

(a) Schematic of calculation for proportion of NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells that are Delta<sup>+</sup>. Violin plots of the proportion of NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells that are Delta<sup>+</sup> for data corresponding to: (b) Fig 5b, (c) Fig 5d, (d) Fig 5f, and (e) Fig 6b. Each dot represents one gut. Horizontal lines represent median and 25th, 75th percentiles. *p*-values, Ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons. ns, not significant; \*, *p*<0.05; \*\*, *p*<0.01; \*\*\*, *p*<0.001; \*\*\*\*, *p*<0.0001.



**Figure 6. JAK-STAT is a critical mediator of injury-induced disruption of lateral inhibition.**

(a) Progenitor cells (*esg*<sup>></sup>*his2b*::*CFP*, magenta) in healthy guts, injured guts with *esg*<sup>ts</sup> driving *UAS-dome*<sup>DN</sup> post eclosion, uninjured guts with *esg*<sup>ts</sup>>*UAS-hop*<sup>Tuml</sup> post eclosion, and injured guts. Almost no cells expressing *NRE-GFP::nls* (green) also express *Delta* (anti-*Delta* immunostain, blue) in injured guts with *dome*<sup>DN</sup> overexpression. Progenitor distribution and

appearance are nearly indistinguishable from healthy despite adult day 3-4 bleomycin ingestion. Conversely, uninjured guts with *hop<sup>TumI</sup>* overexpression exhibit phenotypic hallmarks of injury such as large multi-cell progenitor cell clusters and strong Delta expression in NRE-GFP::*nls*-expressing cells. Scale bars: 10  $\mu$ m.

(b) Comparison of single-cell Notch signaling distributions for all Delta<sup>+</sup> cells in healthy, injured + *esg<sup>ts</sup>>dome<sup>DN</sup>*, uninjured + *esg<sup>ts</sup>>hop<sup>TumI</sup>*, and injured guts. Histograms show single-cell NRE-GFP::*nls* reporter intensities for all Delta<sup>+</sup>, *esg>his2b::CFP* cells in the gut R4ab region. The proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>low</sup> cells in injured guts is nearly completely restored to healthy levels by *dome<sup>DN</sup>* overexpression. The relative proportion of Delta<sup>+</sup> NRE<sup>hi</sup> cells in uninjured guts is subtly but significantly increased by *hop<sup>TumI</sup>* overexpression. Healthy: n=3103 cells; N=19 guts. Injured + *dome<sup>DN</sup>*: n=1648 cells; N=11 guts. Uninjured + *hop<sup>TumI</sup>*: n=2121 cells; N=11 guts. Injured: n=6690 cells; N=14 guts. *p*-values, two-sample K-S test. See also Figures S2f, S5e.

**Table 1 – Genotypes in Figure Panels**

FIGURE	GENOTYPE
Fig 1c	esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/+; ubi-E-cadherin::YFP/+
Fig 2a-k	w1118; esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/+; tubGAL80ts/+
Fig 4e-l	NRE>TransTimer: GBE-Su(H)GAL4/Cyo; UAS-IVS-syn21-nls-sfGFP-MODC-P2A-nlsTagRFP(attP2)/TM3,Ser
Fig 5a,b	w1118; esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/+; tubGAL80ts/+, esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/+; tubGAL80ts/UAS-groRNA <sup>iKK110546</sup> , esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/UAS-groRNA <sup>iBL91407</sup> ; tubGAL80ts/+
Fig 5c,d	esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/UAS-Gro.CC; tubGAL80ts/+
Fig 5e,f	esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/UAS-Gro.AA; tubGAL80ts/+
Fig 6a,b	w1118; esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/+; tubGAL80ts/+, esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/ UAS-dome $\Delta$ cyt 3-1; tubGAL80ts/Dr UAS-hopTuMI; esgGAL4, UAS-his2b::CFP, GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/+; tubGAL80ts/+,

**Table 2 – Reagents and Resources**

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
<b>Antibodies</b>		
Mouse anti-Delta (concentrate 1:100, supernatant 1:20)	DSHB	C594-9B
Mouse anti-Phospho-histone H3 (1:400)	EMD Millipore	06-570
Donkey anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 647	Invitrogen	A-31571; RRID: AB_162542
Donkey anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 555	Invitrogen	A-31572; RRID: AB_162543
<b>Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins</b>		
Bleomycin (sulfate) (25µg/ml)	Cayman Chemical	13877; CAS Number 9041-93-4
DAPI (1:1000)	Invitrogen	D1306
Prolong Gold antifade	Thermo Fisher	P10144
Prolong Diamond antifade	Thermo Fisher	P36970
Gibco™ Schneider's Drosophila Medium	Thermo-Fisher Scientific	21720024
L-Glutamic acid monosodium salt	Spectrum Chemical MFG Corp.	GL135-500GM; CAS: 6106-04-3
D-(+)-Trehalose	Sigma-Aldrich	IT9449-25G; CAS:6138-23-4
N-Acetyl Cysteine	Cayman Chemical Company	20261; CAS:616-91-1
Tri-sodium Citrate	Sigma-Aldrich	PHR1416-1G; CAS:6132-04-3
Fetal Bovine Serum	Sigma-Aldrich	F4135-100ML
Penicillin-streptomycin	Thermo Fisher	BW17-745H
Sodium Cacodylate	Sigma-Aldrich	C0250-25G; CAS: 6131-9-3
Formaldehyde	Polysciences	18814-20
Sucrose	Sigma-Aldrich	84097-250G; CAS: 57-50-1
KOAc	Sigma-Aldrich	P1190-100G; CAS:127-08-2
NaOAc	Sigma-Aldrich	S2889-250G; CAS:127-09-3
EGTA, for molecular biology ≥ 97%	Sigma-Aldrich	E3889; CAS: 67-42-5
2-hydroxyethylagarose	Sigma-Aldrich	A4018; CAS: 39346-1-1



KWIK-SIL adhesive silicon glue	World Precision Instruments	KWIK-SIL
<b>Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains</b>		
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>w</i> ; <i>ubi-E-cadherin::YFP</i> ; + --	Denise Montell	PMID: 24855950
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls</i> ; +	Joaquin de Navascués lab	PMID: 22522699
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>esg-GAL4</i> ; +	Kyoto DGGR	112304; FLYB: FBti0033872
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>UAS-his2b::CFP</i>	Yoshihiro Inoue lab (Miyachi et al. 2013)	PMID: 24850412
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>w[*]</i> ; <i>P{w[+mC]=tubP-GAL80[ts]}2/TM2</i>	BDSC	7017; FLYB: FBti0027797
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>esgGAL4</i> , <i>UAS-his2b::CFP</i> , <i>GBE-Su(H)-GFP:nls/Cyo</i> ; <i>tubGAL80ts/(TM6B,Tb,Hu)</i>	This paper	<i>esg</i> <sup>ts</sup> , NRE
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>w1118</i> ; + ; +	BDSC	RRID: BDSC_5905
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>UAS-groRNAi (#1)</i>	VDRC	KK110546
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>y[1] sc[*] v[1] sev[21]; P{y[+t7.7] v[+t1.8]=TRiP.HMS06033}attP40/CyO</i> ( <i>UAS-groRNAi #2</i> )	BDSC	RRID: BDSC_91407
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>UAS-groORF-CC</i> ; +/+ ( <i>Gro</i> <sup>WT</sup> )	FlyORF	FBgn0001139
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>w[*]</i> ; <i>P{w[+mC]=UAS-gro.AA}2/CyO</i> ( <i>Gro</i> <sup>AA</sup> )	BDSC	RRID: BDSC_76323
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>UAS-hopTuml</i> ; + ; +	David Bilder lab	
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>w</i> ; <i>UAS-dome [Delta]cyt 3-1/Cyo</i> ; <i>Dr/TB6C</i>	David Bilder lab	
<i>Drosophila</i> : <i>GBE-Su(H)-GAL4</i> ; + ( <i>NRE</i> >)	Steve Hou	

*Drosophila: If/Cyo ; UAS-IVS-syn21-nls-sfGFP-MODC-P2A-nlsTagRFP(attP2)*  
(UAS-TransTimer)  
Norbert Perrimon

*Drosophila: GBE-Su(H)-GAL4/Cyo; UAS-IVS-syn21-nls-sfGFP-MODC-P2A-nlsTagRFP(attP2)/TM3,Ser*  
(NRE>TransTimer)  
This paper