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Differential Expression of Neurexin Genes in the Mouse Brain

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Abstract

Synapses, highly specialized membrane junctions between neurons, connect presynaptic neurotransmitter release sites and postsynaptic ligand-gated channels. Neurexins (Nrxns), a family of the presynaptic adhesion molecules, have been characterized as major regulators of synapse development and function. Via their extracellular domains, Nrxns bind to different postsynaptic proteins, generating highly diverse functional readouts through their postsynaptic binding partners. Not surprisingly given these versatile protein interactions, mutations and deletions of *Nrxn* genes have been identified in patients with autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disabilities and schizophrenia. Therefore, elucidating the expression profiles of the *Nrxns* in the brain is of high significance. Here, using chromogenic and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, we characterize the expression patterns of *Nrxn* isoforms throughout the brain. We found that each *Nrxn* isoform displays a unique expression profile in a region-, cell type- and sensory system-specific manner. Interestingly, we also found that *aNrxn1* and *aNrxn2* mRNAs are expressed in non-neuronal cells, including astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. Lastly, we found diverse expression patterns of genes that encode Nrxn binding proteins, such as Neuroligins (*Nlgns*), Leucine-rich repeat transmembrane neuronal protein (*Lrrtms*) and Latrophilins (*Adgrls*), suggesting that Nrxn proteins can mediate numerous combinations of trans-synaptic interactions. Together, our anatomical profiling of *Nrxn* gene expression reflects the diverse roles of Nrxn molecules.

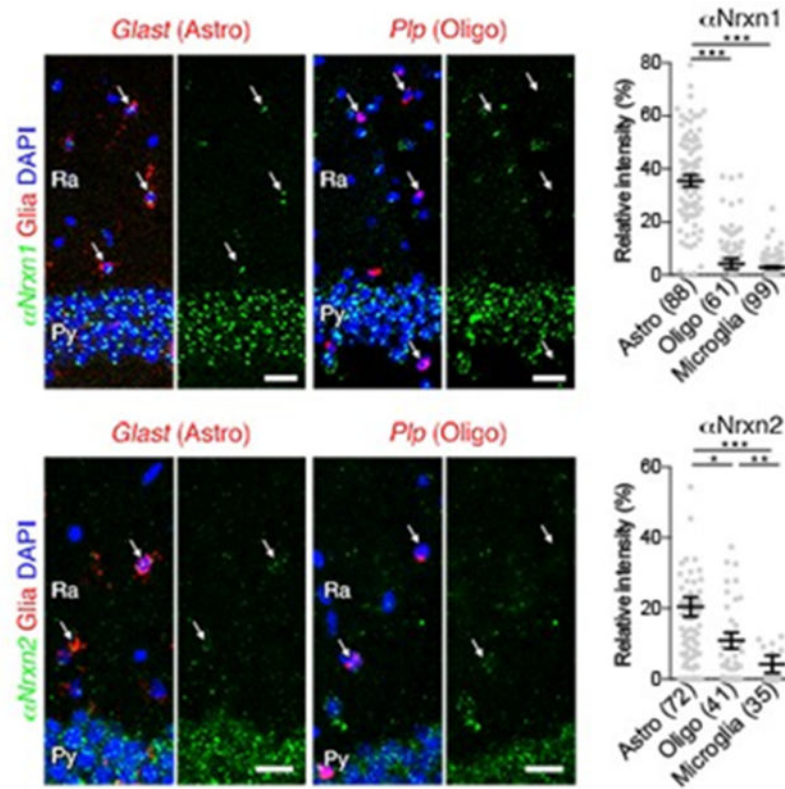
Graphical Abstract

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ROLE OF AUTHORS

M.U., A.C. and K.F. designed research; M.U., A.C., J.S. and K.F. carried out experiments; M.U., and A.C. analyzed data; M.U., A.C., W.M. and K.F. wrote the paper.

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INTRODUCTION

Neurexin (Nrxn) is a presynaptic cell adhesion molecule that was originally identified as an α -latrotoxin receptor (Ushkaryov et al., 1992). In mammals, three Nrxn genes (*Nrxn1*, *Nrxn2*, and *Nrxn3*) are transcribed as longer alpha (α Nrxn1, α Nrxn2, α Nrxn3), shorter beta (β Nrxn1, β Nrxn2, β Nrxn3), and *Nrxn1*-specific gamma (γ Nrxn1) isoforms from two different promoters (Tabuchi and Sudhof, 2002; Sterky et al., 2017). The longer isoforms, α Nrxns, have six extracellular laminin/neurexin/sex-hormone-binding globulin (LNS) domains, three interspersed epidermal growth factor-like repeats, an O-linked sugar modification sequence, a cysteine loop, a transmembrane region, and a short intracellular carboxyl terminal. Shorter isoforms, β Nrxns, contain a unique β isoform-specific domain with the sixth LNS and intracellular domain of α Nrxns (Sudhof, 2017). *Nrxn* isoforms also have six alternative splicing sites, resulting in thousands of potential Nrxn variants (Puschel and Betz, 1995; Ullrich et al., 1995; Gorecki et al., 1999; Schreiner et al., 2014; Treutlein et al., 2014).

The diversity of the *Nrxn* isoforms are thought to encode synapse specification (Sudhof, 2017). In fact, they can bind to various postsynaptic binding partners at different extracellular sites in the presence or absence of splicing sites (Boucard et al., 2005; Reissner et al., 2008; Koehnke et al., 2010). Neuroligins (NLgns) (Ichtchenko et al., 1995; Ichtchenko et al., 1996), LRRTMs (leucine rich repeat transmembrane neuronal protein) (de Wit et al., 2009; Ko et al., 2009), GABA_A receptors (Zhang et al., 2010), cerebellins (Uemura et al., 2010), SPARCL1 (secreted protein acidic and rich in cysteines 1, also referred to as Hevin) (Singh et al., 2016), and latrophilins (Boucard et al., 2012) can bind to the sixth LNS domain shared with both α *Nrxns* and β *Nrxns*. Emerging evidence reveals that interactions of *Nrxns* with NLgns play a key role in synaptogenesis and excitatory and inhibitory synaptic transmission (Graf et al., 2004; Boucard et al., 2005; Nam and Chen, 2005; Chih et al., 2006; Futai et al., 2007; Kang et al., 2008; Futai et al., 2013). Interestingly, a variety of molecules critical for synaptogenesis have been reported to bind to specific *Nrxn* isoforms. For example, neurexophilins (Missler et al., 1998) and dystroglycan (Sugita et al., 2001) bind to the second LNS domain specific to α *Nrxns*. IgSF21 can promote presynaptic differentiation of inhibitory synapses through the first LNS domain of α *Nrxn2* (Tanabe et al., 2017). C1ql2/3 can interact with the fifth splicing site of α/β *Nrxn3*, and recruit kainate receptors to synaptic sites (Matsuda et al., 2016). These findings suggest isoform-specific roles of *Nrxns* in synapse specification.

Mutations and deletions of *Nrxn* loci have been associated with neuropsychiatric and neurodevelopmental disorders. Copy number alterations (Sebat et al., 2007; Szatmari et al., 2007) and deleterious (Yan et al., 2008; Zahir et al., 2008) mutations in *α Nrxn1* are the most commonly reported *Nrxn* isoform-specific modifications predisposing people to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), intellectual disability, schizophrenia, and Tourette syndrome (Kim et al., 2008; Ching et al., 2010; Clarke et al., 2012). Increasing genetic evidence, including deletions in chromosome 2p16.3 where *Nrxn1* is located, reveals an overlap between ASD and schizophrenia comorbidity and symptomatology (Vinas-Jornet et al., 2014; Autism Spectrum Disorders Working Group of The Psychiatric Genomics, 2017). Mutations in *Nrxn3* have also been identified in rare ASD cases (Vaags et al., 2012; RK et al., 2017). Taken together, these findings suggest that *Nrxn* expression should prevail in brain regions that coordinate higher cognitive functions. However, brain region- and cell type-specific expression of *Nrxns* is poorly understood.

The three *Nrxn* genes are transcribed in the brain, but display differential expression patterns, with the abundance of α *Nrxns* exceeding that of β *Nrxns* (Ullrich et al., 1995). Some studies have revealed cell type-specific *Nrxn* expression and distinct expression of *Nrxn* mRNA splice variants in a given cell by single cell RT-PCR or RNA-Seq (Schreiner et al., 2014; Treutlein et al., 2014). Proteomic analysis highlights the specificity of *Nrxn* splice isoform expression in different brain regions (Schreiner et al., 2015). However, our knowledge of *Nrxn* expression in different brain regions and subregions is still limited. To fill this current knowledge gap, we conducted brain-wide mapping of α and β isoforms of *Nrxn1*, *Nrxn2*, and *Nrxn3* by *in situ* hybridization, and report region- and cell type-dependent expression of *Nrxn* isoforms in the mouse brain.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals and section preparations

All animal protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. C57BL6 male mice at postnatal day 28 were used, which represents the age when the expression levels of major synaptic proteins has stabilized (Gonzalez-Lozano et al., 2016). For chromogenic *in situ* hybridization, mice were transcardially perfused with 4% paraformaldehyde/0.1M phosphate buffer (PB, pH 7.2) under isoflurane anesthesia and postfixed for 3 days with the same fixatives. For double fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH), brains were freshly obtained under isoflurane anesthesia and immediately frozen with powdered dry ice. Sections (20 μ m) were prepared on a cryostat (CM3050S; Leica Microsystems). Fresh frozen sections were further mounted on silane-coated slides.

Plasmids

Total RNA was extracted from hippocampal primary cultures (days *in vitro* 14) using RNAqueous Micro Kits (Ambion) and reverse-transcribed using Superscript III kits (Invitrogen). *Nrxn*, tyrosine hydroxylase (*Th*), P2Y purinoceptor 12 (*P2ry12*), *Nlgn*, *Lrrtm*, and *Adgrl* fragments listed in Table 1 were PCR amplified and sub-cloned into the pBluescript-SK(-) vector (Stratagene). We obtained the *Nlgn3* probe from Dr. Tanaka (Tanaka et al., 2010). All *Nrxn* probes were designed for the coding regions and/or 5'-untranslated regions (5'-UTRs) to detect all splice variants for each *Nrxn* isoform.

Preparation of cRNA probes

Chromogenic and double fluorescent *in situ* hybridization were performed as previously described (Yamasaki et al., 2001; Yamasaki et al., 2010; Kudo et al., 2012). cRNA probes used in the present study are shown in Table 1. By using linearized pBluescript-SK(-) clones as templates, fluorescein- or digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled cRNA probes were transcribed with RNA labeling kit (Sigma) and T3 or T7 RNA polymerase (Promega). cRNA probes were suspended in 50% formamide.

Chromogenic *in situ* hybridization

All experiments were carried out at room temperature, unless otherwise noted. Sections were pretreated as follows: acetylation with 0.25% acetic anhydride/0.1M triethanolamine-HCl (pH 8.0) for 10 min, wash with 2 \times SSC (1 \times SSC is composed of 150 mM NaCl and 15 mM sodium citrate) in 0.1% Tween 20 for 10 min, and prehybridization with hybridization buffer (50% formamide, 33 mM Tris-HCl [pH 8.0], 0.1% N-Laurosylsarcosine sodium salt, 1 \times Denhardt's solution, 0.6 M NaCl, 200 μ g/ml of tRNA, 1 mM EDTA, 10% dextran sulfate) for 30 min. Hybridization was carried out at 63.5 or 75°C in a 1:1,000 or 1:10,000 dilution of DIG-labeled cRNA probe (see Table 1) supplemented with hybridization buffer. Successive post-hybridization washing was done at 61 or 75°C; 5 \times SSC, 0.0005% Tween 20 for 20 min, 4 \times SSC, 50% formamide, 0.001% Tween 20 for 40 min, 2 \times SSC, 50% formamide, 0.001% Tween 20 for 40 min, and 0.1 \times SSC, 0.0005% Tween 20 for 20 min. For *Nrxn1 β* mRNA, sections were alternatively washed with 2 \times SSC, 0.1 % Tween 20 at 75°C

for 30 min twice, 20 µg/ml RNase, 0.5M NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA at 37°C for 30 min, and 0.2× SSC, 0.1% Tween 20 at 37°C for 30 min. Sections were incubated with 20 µM iodoacetamide, 0.5 M NaCl, 0.01 M Tris-HCl [pH 8.0], 5 mM EDTA, 0.0005% Tween 20 for 30 min, DIG blocking solution (1% DIG blocking reagent [Sigma] in maleic acid buffer [pH 7.5]) for 30 min, and alkaline phosphatase-conjugated anti-DIG antibody (1:500, Roche Diagnostics) in DIG blocking buffer for 2 hours. After washing with TNT buffer (0.1 M Tris-HCl [pH 7.5] and 0.15 M NaCl) three times, sections were incubated with NBT/BCIP solution (1:50; Roche Diagnostics) in 0.01 M Tris-HCl (pH 9.5), 0.01M MgCl₂ at 4°C for up to 3 days. Sections were mounted on gelatin-coated slides and dehydrated in 100% methanol for 10 min, 100% ethanol two times for 10 min each, 100% Xylene three times for 10 min each, and embedded with Entellan New (Millipore). The specificity of cRNA probes against each *Nrxn* isoform mRNA was validated by the identical signal pattern obtained by two different probes and lack of hybridization signals with their sense probes (Figure 1).

Double-labeled fluorescent *in situ* hybridization

Fresh frozen sections were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde, 0.1M PB for 30 min, acetylated with 0.25% acetic anhydride in 0.1M triethanolamine-HCl (pH 8.0) for 10 min, and prehybridized with hybridization buffer for 30 min. After dehydration, hybridization was then performed with a mixture of fluorescein- or DIG-labeled cRNA probes at a dilution of 1:1,000 or 1:10,000 (see Table 1) in hybridization buffer. Post-hybridization washing was performed as described for chromogenic *in situ* hybridization. To visualize signals, we adopted a two-step detection method. For the first detection, sections were blocked with DIG blocking solution for 30 min and 0.5% tryamide signal amplification (TSA) blocking reagent in TNT buffer for 30 min, and incubated with peroxidase-conjugated anti-fluorescein antibody (1:500, Roche Diagnostics) for 1 hour. After washing with TNT buffer three times, sections were incubated by using TSA Plus Fluorescein amplification kit (PerkinElmer) for 10 min. Residual peroxidase activity was inactivated with 3% H₂O₂ in TNT buffer for 30 min. For the second detection, sections were again blocked with DIG blocking solution and 0.5% TSA blocking reagent in TNT buffer for 30 min each, and incubated with peroxidase-conjugated anti-DIG antibody (1:500 Roche Diagnostics) for 1 hour. After washing with TNT buffer three times, signals were visualized with TSA Plus Cy3 amplification kit (PerkinElmer) for 10 min. Nuclear counterstaining was performed with DAPI (1:5000, Sigma-Aldrich) for 10 min. The specificity of cRNA probes for *Th* and *P2ry12*, which were newly generated in this study, were validated by unique signal patterns with labeled cells distributed selectively in catecholaminergic nuclei (Figures 14 and 15) and scattered in the neuropil region (Figures 16 and 17), respectively.

Image acquisition, analysis and quantification

Chromogenic images were acquired with a dissecting microscope (SZX16, Olympus) equipped with a CCD digital camera (INFINITY3–IUC, Lumenera) or a fluorescence microscope (BZ-X710, Keyence) with a 20× objective lens (NA 0.75). Images were analyzed with ImageJ software (SCR 003070). Briefly, images were converted to grayscale with the dark background. The mean *Nrxn* signal intensity in a given region was measured and normalized to the mean intensity in the pyramidal cell layer of the piriform cortex,

which exhibited high signals for all isoforms (Figures 2g–l and 3a–f). The background noise was defined as the mean intensity outside the section and subtracted from each density before normalization. We scored >70% of the normalized intensity as strong (+++), 30–70% as moderate (++), 10–30% as weak (+), and <10% as very weak or not detected (–) (Table 2). FISH images were acquired with a fluorescence microscope (BZ-X710, Keyence) with a 20× objective lens (NA 0.75) or a confocal microscope (FV1200, Olympus) with a UPlanSapo 20× objective (NA 0.75). The images were captured with exposure times respective to each *Nrxn* isoform. On the confocal, the size of images was 800 × 800 or 1000 × 1000 pixels. For quantification, simultaneously stained sets of cells on the same slide were imaged using identical settings. Measurements were performed with one section from each brain by using ImageJ software. Briefly, background levels were determined with the signal intensity in DAPI-negative neuropil regions, and subtracted from each image. The same circular region of interest (ROI) was applied to cell bodies containing DAPI+ nuclei with or without labeling for cell type-specific markers, and the mean signal intensity was measured.

The expression of *Nrxns* in glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons were examined with double FISH sections for glutamic acid decarboxylase 1 (*Gad1*), a marker of GABAergic neurons, and *Nrxn* mRNAs. In the somatosensory cortex, most DAPI+ nuclei were divided into two types: large and pale nuclei containing a few heavily stained puncta for DAPI, reflecting decondensed chromatin (arrowheads in Figure 8a, b), and small and dark nuclei (arrows in Figure 8a, b). The former DAPI+ nuclei were classified as neuronal nuclei, and the latter as non-neuronal nuclei (Yu et al., 2015). Most glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons, identified by type 1 vesicular glutamate transporter (*Vglut1*) and *Gad1* mRNA expression, respectively, displayed large and pale DAPI signals (*Vglut1*: 99.2% /total 249 *Vglut1*+ nuclei; *Gad1*: 98.8% /84). All cells with small and dark DAPI+ nuclei (n = 134 nuclei) did not express *Vglut1* or *Gad1*. Thus, *Gad1*(–) cells with large and pale DAPI+ nuclei were analyzed as glutamatergic neurons. Occasionally, cells with small and dark DAPI+ nuclei were found, but not used for quantitative analysis. In the hippocampus and cerebellar cortex, glutamatergic neurons were densely distributed in pyramidal or granule cell layers, and predominate over other types of cells. Thus, *Gad1*(–) cells in these cell layers were classified as glutamatergic neurons.

Statistical analyses

The data were obtained from two mice and pooled. Results are reported as means ± SEM. For comparison between two neuronal types, Mann-Whitney non-parametric test was performed. For multiple comparisons, Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric ANOVA followed by Dunn's post hoc test were performed using Prism 5 (Graph Pad Software). Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

1. Overall expression in the brain and validation of ISH probes

Two non-overlapping antisense probes for the unique amino terminus and/or 5'-UTR region of each *Nrxn* isoform (total, 12 probes) were used to determine overall expression in the brain (Figure 1). Chromogenic *in situ* hybridization with sagittal brain sections showed

distinct signal patterns for each isoform. Strong signals for $\alpha Nrxn1$, $\alpha Nrxn2$, and $\beta Nrxn2$ mRNAs were distributed in the olfactory bulb, neocortex, hippocampus, and cerebellum (Figure 1a–d, i, j). Expression of $\beta Nrxn1$ mRNA was high in the neocortex, hippocampus, and cerebellum (Figure 1g, h). High expression of $\alpha Nrxn3$ mRNA was observed in the olfactory bulb, neocortex, hippocampus, and caudate-putamen (Figure 1e, f), while $\beta Nrxn3$ mRNA was enriched in the olfactory bulb and cerebellum (Figure 1k, l). In the thalamus and brainstem, all isoforms of *Nrxn* mRNAs were differentially expressed at low to moderate levels. Two cRNA probes for each isoform yielded somewhat different intensities, particularly for $\alpha Nrxn3$ and $\beta Nrxn1$ labeling, but importantly, exhibited the same spatial patterns of labeling. Furthermore, no signals were found with the sense cRNA probes (Figure 1m–x). These results indicate the specificity of cRNA probes and hybridizing signals with use of them.

2. Region-specific expression of *Nrxn* isoforms

To map the expression of each *Nrxn* isoform in the brain, we used coronal sections of mouse brains at the age of one month. In the following analysis, two non-overlapping cRNA probes were used in mixture to increase the intensity of hybridizing signals. The expression levels of each *Nrxn* isoform were assessed based on signal intensity (Table 2).

2.1. Telencephalon

2.1.1 Olfactory bulb: All six *Nrxn* isoforms were detected in the olfactory bulb (Figure 2a–f), consistent with a previous study (Ullrich et al., 1995). $\alpha Nrxn1$ and $\alpha Nrxn3$ mRNAs were highly expressed in each neuronal layer, i.e., the glomerular, mitral cell, and granule cell layers, while $\alpha Nrxn2$ mRNA was more enriched in the mitral and granule cell layers than in the glomerular layer. All three $\beta Nrxn$ mRNAs were, though generally low compared with $\alpha Nrxns$, dominantly expressed in the mitral cell layer.

2.1.2 Neocortex: In the neocortex, distinct laminar patterns were observed (Figures 2g–l, 3, and 4), as previously described in rat brains (Ullrich et al., 1995). Among six isoforms, $\alpha Nrxn1$ mRNA was expressed uniformly in cortical layers 2–6 (Figures 2g, 3a, and 4a), while others varied among cortical layers. $\alpha Nrxn2$ mRNA peaked in layers 2/3 and 5 (Figures 2h and 3b), $\alpha Nrxn3$ mRNA peaked in layers 5 and 6 (Figures 2i, 3c, and 4c), and $\beta Nrxn1$ and $\beta Nrxn2$ mRNAs were dominantly expressed in layers 2/3 and 4 (Figures 2j, k, 3d, e, and 4d, e). Layers with the highest level of $\beta Nrxn3$ mRNA varied in different neocortical areas: layers 2/3 in the primary motor (Figure 2l), layer 4 in the primary somatosensory (Figure 3f), and layers 2/3 and 4 in the primary auditory cortex (Figures 3f and 4f).

High expression of all six isoforms was found in the pyramidal cell layer of the piriform cortex (Figures 2g–l and 3a–f). Similarly, all six isoforms were highly expressed in the upper layers of the lateral entorhinal cortex at rostral levels (Figure 4a–f). At more caudal levels, $\alpha Nrxn3$ and $\beta Nrxn3$ mRNA signal intensities were lower in the lateral and medial entorhinal cortex (Figure 5c, f), whereas expression levels were maintained there for other isoforms (Figure 5a, b, d, e). This suggests a rostrocaudal gradient of $\alpha Nrxn3$ and $\beta Nrxn3$ expression within the entorhinal cortex.

2.1.3 Hippocampus: The hippocampal formation, including the Ammon's horn (CA1-CA3), subiculum, and dentate gyrus, was one of the regions with the highest signals for each isoform in the brain (Figures 3a–f and 4a–f). Consistent with previous studies (Ullrich et al., 1995; Nguyen et al., 2016), expression patterns in neuronal cell layers varied by *Nrxn* isoforms and hippocampal subregion. *αNrxn1* and *βNrxn2* mRNAs were uniformly expressed across different subregions (Figures 3a, e and 4a, e). In contrast, *αNrxn2* mRNA expression peaked in the CA2 (Figure 3b), *αNrxn3* mRNA in the CA1-CA3 (Figures 3c and 4c), and *αNrxn1* mRNA in the CA3 and dentate gyrus (Figures 3d and 4d). The expression pattern of *βNrxn3* mRNA was unique, in that it was hardly detected in the rostral portion of the dentate gyrus (Figure 3f), but expressed in more caudal portions of the dentate gyrus, particularly its ventral part (Figure 4f), suggesting a septotemporal gradient of *βNrxn3* expression within the dentate gyrus. In neuropil layers, some scattered cells were labeled for *αNrxn1-3* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs, suggesting their expression in interneurons (arrows in Figure 4a–c, f).

2.1.4 Cerebral nuclei: In the caudate-putamen and nucleus accumbens, *αNrxn3* mRNA was predominantly expressed (Figure 2i). The island of Calleja showed intense signals for *αNrxn2*, *αNrxn3*, *βNrxn1*, and *βNrxn3* mRNAs (Figure 2h–j, l). In the lateral septal nucleus and nucleus of the diagonal band, three *αNrxn* isoforms were discernible, but *βNrxn* isoforms were at low or undetectable levels (Figure 2g–l). In the amygdala, *αNrxn1*, *αNrxn2*, *αNrxn3*, and *βNrxn2* mRNAs were uniformly expressed in three subnuclei, the lateral, basal and central nuclei, while *βNrxn2* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs were more enriched in the lateral or central nucleus, respectively (Figure 3a–f).

2.2. Diencephalon—In the medial habenular nucleus, high to moderate expression was noted for *αNrxn1*, *αNrxn2*, and *βNrxn2* mRNAs, and *αNrxn3* mRNA expression was confined to its dorsomedial portion (Figure 3a–c, e). Expression levels were generally low in the lateral habenular nucleus, with relatively higher levels for *αNrxn1* mRNA (Figure 3a). In the thalamus, *αNrxn1*, *βNrxn1*, and *βNrxn3* mRNAs were expressed widely and highly, as exemplified by ventral posteromedial and posterolateral nuclei, mediodorsal nucleus, and medial geniculate nucleus (Figures 3a–f and 4a–f). In the subthalamic nucleus and reticular thalamic nucleus, *αNrxn1* or *αNrxn3* mRNA, respectively, was a predominant isoform (Figure 3a, c). In the hypothalamus, three *αNrxn* isoforms were predominantly expressed, with some different intensities among the lateral, dorsomedial, ventromedial, and arcuate nuclei (Figure 3a–f). A moderate expression level was also found for *βNrxn2* mRNA in the arcuate nucleus (Figure 3e).

2.3. Midbrain—Three *αNrxn* isoforms were widely and predominantly expressed in the midbrain, showing heterogeneous regional patterns (Figures 4a–c, 5a–c, and 6a–c). *αNrxn2* mRNA was predominant in the Edinger-Westphal nucleus (Figure 4b) and the dorsal raphe nucleus (Figure 5b). while *αNrxn3* mRNA was predominant in the substantia nigra pars compacta, ventral tegmental area, Nucleus of Darkschewitsch, and lateral part of the dorsal raphe nucleus (Figures 4c and 5c). Sparse cells within the inferior colliculus expressed *αNrxn3* mRNA at high levels (Figure 6c). Expression levels of three *βNrxn* isoforms were generally low or undetectable in the midbrain (Figures 4d–f, 5d–f, and 6d–f), but *βNrxn3*

mRNA was detected in some sparse cells in the inferior colliculus (Figure 6f) and other midbrain regions.

2.4. Pons—In the pons, *αNrxn3* mRNA was predominant in many nuclei (Figures 5c and 6c), with the strongest signals in the nucleus of the trapezoid body (Figure 5c) and the lowest signals in the facial nucleus (Figure 6c). *αNrxn1* and *αNrxn2* mRNAs were expressed at low to moderate levels in the pontine tegmentum, including the lateral and medial parabrachial nuclei, locus coeruleus (LC), and laterodorsal tegmental nucleus (Figure 6a, b). In addition, *αNrxn2* mRNA expression was moderately expressed in the facial nucleus (Figure 6b). Three *βNrxn* mRNAs were generally low in the pons, except for moderate expression of *βNrxn2* mRNA in the LC (Figure 6e) and *βNrxn3* mRNA in the dorsal part of the lateral parabrachial nucleus (Figure 6f). Cells expressing *βNrxn3* mRNA were scattered over the pons, such as in the ventral cochlear nucleus and principal sensory nucleus of trigeminal nerve (Figure 6f).

2.5. Medulla—Like in the pons, *αNrxn3* mRNA was most prevalent in the medulla (Figures 6c and 7c). However, *αNrxn3* mRNA was not detected in the inferior olivary complex, where *αNrxn1*, *αNrxn2*, *βNrxn1*, and *βNrxn2* mRNAs were weakly expressed (Figure 7a, b, d, e). The nucleus of the tractus solitarius (NTS) and dorsal motor nucleus of vagus nerve expressed high levels of all three *αNrxn* isoforms and low to moderate levels of all three *βNrxn* isoforms (Figure 7a–f).

2.6. Cerebellum—In the cerebellar cortex, all six *Nrxn* isoforms were highly expressed in the granule cell layer, where *αNrxn3* mRNA was restricted to a few scattered cells and the rest were expressed diffusely (Figures 6 and 7). In the molecular layer, *αNrxn3* mRNA was expressed predominantly in scattered cells (Figures 6c and 7c). Various isoforms were less expressed in the Purkinje cell layer, with the highest level for *αNrxn3* mRNA.

3. Cell type-specific expression of *Nrxn* isoforms

To address the type of cells expressing each *Nrxn* isoform, we employed double FISH for *Nrxns* and cellular markers, and measured the fluorescent intensity of each *Nrxn* isoform in given types of cells.

3.1. Glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons—Using *Gad1* mRNA as a neuronal marker of GABAergic neurons, we measured the signal intensity of *Gad1(+)* GABAergic and *Gad1(-)* glutamatergic neurons in the primary somatosensory cortex (Figures 8 and 9), hippocampus (Figures 10 and 11), and cerebellar cortex (Figures 12 and 13). Indeed, in the primary somatosensory cortex, cells that had large and DAPI-pale nuclei expressed either *Vglut1* which is selectively expressed in cortical glutamatergic neurons (arrowheads in Figure 8a), or *Gad1* (arrowheads in Figure 8b) mRNA, thus being assigned as glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons, respectively. Cells having small and DAPI-dark nuclei without *Vglut1* or *Gad1* mRNA are likely glial cells (arrows in Figure 8a, b; See Materials and Methods) (Yu et al., 2015). The mean intensity in each neuronal layer of the primary somatosensory cortex was calculated for glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons (Figures 8c–h and 9a–f). The mean fluorescent intensity in glutamatergic neurons (blue dots in

Figures 8d, f, h and 9b, d, f) was comparable to optical intensity by chromogenic *in situ* hybridization (Figure 3a–f). Compared to glutamatergic neurons, *Nrxn* expression in GABAergic neurons exhibited different laminar patterns (red dots in Figures 8d, f, h and 9b, d, f). Significantly higher levels in GABAergic neurons than in glutamatergic neurons in the same layer were noted for *αNrxn2* mRNA in layers 4 and 6 (Figure 8e, f), *αNrxn3* mRNA in layers 4–6 (Figure 8g, h), *βNrxn1* mRNA in layer 6 (Figure 9a, b), *βNrxn2* mRNA in layers 4 and 6 (Figure 9c, d), and *βNrxn3* mRNA in layers 2/3, 5, and 6 (Figure 9e, f). Conversely, significantly lower levels were noted for *Nrxn1* mRNA in layers 4 and 5 (Figure 8c,d) and *βNrxn1* mRNA in layers 2–4 (Figure 9a,b).

In the dorsal hippocampus, the pattern of mean *Nrxn* fluorescent intensity in *Gad1*(–) glutamatergic neurons among different subregions (Figures 10 and 11) was generally comparable to that of chromogenic signals (Figure 3a–f). In the CA1–CA3 subregions, GABAergic neurons tended to be significantly lower in *Nrxn* mRNA expression than glutamatergic neurons. In the dentate gyrus, by contrast, GABAergic neurons expressed significantly higher levels for all three *αNrxn* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs (Figure 11a, b).

In the cerebellar cortex, distinct neuron type-dependent expression, as suggested from distinct layer labeling and sparse vs. diffuse labeling (Figures 6 and 7), was substantiated by double FISH (Figures 12 and 13). GABAergic interneurons in the molecular layer mainly expressed *αNrxn3* mRNA, with additional very low signals for *αNrxn1*, *αNrxn2*, *βNrxn1*, and *βNrxn2* mRNAs. GABAergic Purkinje cells expressed *αNrxn3* mRNA at the highest level, and more or less expressed the other isoforms. On the other hand, all six *Nrxn* isoforms were highly expressed in GABAergic Golgi cells. Granule cells highly expressed all six *Nrxn* isoforms except for *αNrxn3* mRNA.

3.2. Catecholaminergic neurons—We also examined the expression patterns of *Nrxn* mRNAs in catecholaminergic neurons including dopaminergic (DA) neurons in the midbrain and noradrenergic (NA) neurons in the LC and NTS (Figures 14 and 15). Catecholaminergic neurons were identified as cells positive for tyrosine hydroxylase (*Th*) mRNA, the rate-limiting enzyme for catecholamine biosynthesis. *αNrxn1* mRNA was expressed at higher levels in midbrain DA neurons and NTS NA neurons than in LC NA neurons (Figure 14a, b). In contrast, *αNrxn2* mRNA was expressed at higher levels in both NA neurons than in midbrain DA neurons (Figure 14c, d). *αNrxn3* mRNA expression is the highest in midbrain DA neurons (Figure 14e, f). *βNrxn1* mRNA was hardly detected in the three catecholaminergic neurons analyzed (Figure 15a, b). *βNrxn2* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs were expressed at the highest level in locus coeruleus NA neurons and midbrain DA neurons, respectively (Figure 15c–f). Taken together, our double FISH data demonstrate that *Nrxn* expression in given neural regions is highly variable depending on neuron types and subregions, but that there is no specific or preferential assignment of given *Nrxn* isoforms to neurochemical types of neurons.

4. Non-neuronal expression of *αNrxn1* and *αNrxn2* mRNA

In our double FISH data, we encountered signals for *αNrxn1* and *αNrxn2* mRNA in *Gad1*(–) putative glial cells in the hippocampus and cortex. Therefore, we first addressed the

expression of six *Nrxn* mRNAs in non-neuronal cells in the hippocampal CA1 region (Figure 16a–f) and somatosensory cortex layers 2/3 (Figure 17a–f). Non-neuronal *Nrxn* signal intensities were normalized to the neuronal expression. Neuronal and non-neuronal cells were identified as pyramidal neurons and *Gad1(-)* neuropil cells in the hippocampus, and the cells with large and pale DAPI+ nuclei and small and dark DAPI+ nuclei in the somatosensory cortex, respectively. Prominent expression of *aNrxn1* and *aNrxn2* was found in nonneuronal cells in both brain areas (Figures 16g and 17g). Next, we performed double FISH for *aNrxn1* and *aNrxn2*, and glial markers: glutamate/aspartate transporter (*Glast*) for astrocytes, proteolipid protein (*Plp*) for oligodendrocytes, and purinergic receptor P2Y (*P2ry12*) for microglia to identify the cell type expressing *aNrxn1* and *aNrxn2* (Figures 16h–o and 17h–o). Signals for *aNrxn1* mRNA frequently overlapped with those for *Glast* mRNA, but not *Plp* or *P2ry12* mRNA, in the hippocampal CA1 (Figure 16h–k), somatosensory cortex (Figure 17h–k), and other brain regions examined (data not shown), thus demonstrating *aNrxn1* expression in astrocytes. In contrast, signals for *aNrxn2* mRNA overlapped with those for *Glast* or *Plp*, but not *P2ry12* mRNA, in the hippocampal CA1 (Figure 16l–o), somatosensory cortex (Figure 17l–o) and other brain regions examined (data not shown), thus revealing *aNrxn2* expression in astrocytes and oligodendrocytes.

5. Gene expression of trans-synaptic Nrxn binding proteins in the brain

Both diverse expression patterns of *Nrxn* in the brain and the variety of postsynaptic Nrxn binding partners should generate massive combinations of trans-synaptic protein interactions (Sudhof, 2017). Importantly, the expression of Nrxns and their trans-synaptic binding partners have not been well compared. Therefore, we studied the expression of the genes encoding the major trans-synaptic Nrxn binding partners, *Nlgn1-3* (Ichtchenko et al., 1995; Ichtchenko et al., 1996), *Lnntm1-4* (de Wit et al., 2009; Ko et al., 2009) and *Adan11-3* (Latrophilin1-3) (Boucard et al., 2012), in the brain using chromogenic *in situ* hybridization (Figure 18a–j). For this analysis, cRNA probes were designed for unique coding and/or 5'-UTR region of each *Nlgn*, *Lnntm* and *Adgn1* isoform (total, 11 probes). No signals were found using the corresponding sense probes (Figure 18a–j, insets), indicating the specificity of hybridization signals.

5.1 Nlgns—*Nlgn1* mRNA expression was weak throughout the brain with the highest signals in the hippocampus (Figure 18a). In contrast, we observed much stronger signals for *Nlgn2* and *Nlgn3* mRNAs. Striking expression of *Nlgn2* mRNA was noted in not only the hippocampus, but also olfactory mitral cell layer and cerebellar Purkinje cell layer (Figure 18b). *Nlgn3* mRNA was ubiquitously expressed throughout the brain with peak signal levels visualized in the hippocampus (Figure 18c).

5.2. Lrrtms—*Lrrtm1* mRNA displayed prominent expression in the hippocampus, neocortex, thalamus, and olfactory bulb (Figure 18d). Similarly, *Lrrtm2* mRNA expression was discernible in the hippocampus, neocortex, and thalamus (Figure 18e). The hippocampus exhibited similar expression patterns of *Lrrtm1* and *Lrrtm2* mRNAs with higher intensity in the CA1 and dentate gyrus than in the CA3. In contrast, *Lrrtm3* and *Lrrtm4* mRNAs were predominant in the cerebellum (Figure 18f) and dentate gyrus (Figure 18g), respectively.

5.3. *Adgrl*s (Latrophilins)—*Adgrl1* mRNA was widely and richly expressed throughout the brain (Figure 18h). *Adgrl2* and *Adgrl3* mRNAs were also expressed ubiquitously (Figure 18i, j). However, the signal intensities for *Adgrl2* and *Adgrl3* mRNAs were much weaker than that for *Adgrl1* mRNA. *Adgrl2* mRNA showed peak intensity in the hippocampal CA1 region (Figure 18i), while *Adgrl3* mRNA was highly expressed in the hippocampal CA1 and dentate gyrus regions (Figure 18j).

DISCUSSION

In this study, *Nrxn* mRNA expression was systematically mapped by *in situ* hybridization in the adult mouse brain. Consistent with previous reports (Puschel and Betz, 1995; Ullrich et al., 1995; Gorecki et al., 1999; Schreiner et al., 2014; Treutlein et al., 2014), we confirmed highly diverse expression profiles of *Nrxns* throughout the brain. Although the translational regulation of *Nrxn* proteins should be considered, our brain-wide and detailed expression analysis revealed distinct regional and cellular expression patterns of the six principal isoforms of *Nrxns* at the mRNA level.

First, we found cortical layer- or subregion-dependent differences in *Nrxn* mRNA expression in glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons. In the somatosensory cortex, the mean signal intensities for *αNrxn2*, *αNrxn3*, and *βNrxn3* mRNAs were significantly higher in GABAergic neurons than in glutamatergic neurons (Figures 8f, h and 9f). In the hippocampus, the mean signal intensities for all six isoforms were significantly lower in GABAergic neurons than in glutamatergic neurons (Figures 10b, d, f and 11b, d, f). This difference may underlie to some extent brain region-specific phenotypes on synaptic transmission in *Nlgn3* KO or *Nlgn3* R451C mice, which lack or decrease postsynaptic expression of *Nlgn3*, one of the binding partners of *Nrxn* proteins (Tabuchi et al., 2007; Etherton et al., 2011). In addition, the variance of the signal intensities of *Nrxn* mRNAs appeared high in cortical GABAergic neurons (Figures 8–11). This is supported by the notion that distinct subsets of inhibitory neurons in cortical structures differ in their expression patterns of *Nrxn* mRNAs (Fuccillo et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2017). In particular, we found some inhibitory neurons with high signals for *αNrxn2* mRNA in the deep cortical layer (Figure 8e, f). *αNrxn2* can selectively induce inhibitory presynaptic differentiation via its interaction with postsynaptic IgSF21, which is expressed in the deep layer neurons (Tanabe et al., 2017). This molecular interaction could contribute to synapse specification at a subset of inhibitory synapses.

Next, we found unique expression of *Nrxn* mRNAs in the hippocampus. Consistent with previous studies (Ullrich et al., 1995; Nguyen et al., 2016), the CA1 pyramidal cell layer highly expressed mRNAs for all the isoforms except *βNrxn1* (Figures 3 and 4). The CA2 and CA3 pyramidal layers expressed all *Nrxn* mRNAs, however, *αNrxn2* was preferentially expressed in the CA2 region (Figures 1c, d, k and 3b) and *βNrxn3* had septotemporal gradient expression in the CA3 region (Figures 1k, l, 3f, and 4f). Furthermore, the dentate gyrus had a septotemporal gradient of *βNrxn3* (Figures 3f and 4f) mRNA expression, and its upstream entorhinal cortex also had a rostrocaudal gradient of *αNrxn3* (Figures 4c and 5c) and *βNrxn3* (Figures 4f and 5f) mRNA expressions. Different parts of the entorhinal cortex project to different septotemporal levels of the dentate gyrus (Amaral and Pierre, 2006). The

rostromedial entorhinal cortex, which expresses both *αNrxn3* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs at high levels, projects to the temporal half of the dentate gyrus, which highly expresses *βNrxn3* mRNA. In contrast, the caudolateral entorhinal cortex, which expresses *αNrxn3* and *αNrxn3* mRNAs at low levels, projects to the septal half, where *βNrxn3* mRNA expression is low. This coincidence of the topographic projections and *Nrxn3* expression between the entorhinal cortex and dentate gyrus could underlie a unique function of *Nrxn3* in memory formation. Furthermore, a specific splicing variant of *Nrxn3* protein can recruit postsynaptic kainate receptors via C1ql2/3 at dentate gyrus-CA3 synapses (Matsuda et al., 2016). Although we did not map splicing variants of *Nrxn3* gene in this study, our data raise a possibility of topographical differences in the postsynaptic recruitment of kainate receptors.

We also investigated the region- and cell type- dependent expression of *Nrxn* mRNAs in catecholaminergic neurons including midbrain DA neurons and LC and NTS NA neurons (Figures 14 and 15). Similar to glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons, midbrain DA neurons expressed multiple *Nrxn* isoforms, consistent with *Nrxn* protein expression at striatal DA synapses formed by midbrain DA neurons (Uchigashima et al., 2016). In addition, we found *Nrxn* mRNA expressions with different combinations in LC and NTS NA neurons. Different expression patterns of *Nrxn* mRNAs among catecholaminergic neurons may provide distinct molecular bases to control the release of each catecholamine. Indeed, pan-*Nrxn* deletion causes different phenotypes in synaptic transmissions from distinct neurons with their own repertoires of *Nrxn* mRNAs (Chen et al., 2017). Therefore, region- and cell type-dependent expression patterns of *Nrxn* mRNAs would provide the molecular-anatomical basis for the diversity of synapse specification at various types of synapses.

We found a unique expression of the *Nrxn3* gene in the auditory system. Several auditory relay stations, including the ventral cochlear nucleus, nucleus of trapezoid body, and inferior colliculus, displayed high expressions of *αNrxn3*, *βNrxn3*, or both mRNAs (Figures 5c and 6c, f). The medial geniculate nucleus, which is the thalamic nucleus relaying auditory information to the neocortex, highly expressed both *αNrxn3* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs as well as other *Nrxn* isoforms (Figure 4a–f). Furthermore, the primary auditory cortex had a unique expression pattern of *βNrxn3* mRNA. *βNrxn3* mRNA was expressed with a peak density in layers 2/3 as well as layer 4 region (Figures 3f and 4f), while the primary somatosensory cortex exhibited peak expression in layer 4 only (Figure 3f). Above all, the predominant expression of *αNrxn3* and *βNrxn3* mRNAs may suggest the importance of *Nrxn3* in auditory function. Indeed, a patient with a rare mutation of the *Nrxn3* gene exhibited difficulty in auditory processing (Vaags et al., 2012).

In the olfactory system, all isoforms of *Nrxn* mRNAs were highly expressed in mitral cell layer neurons (Figure 2a–f), the second order neurons receiving input from olfactory cells, and in pyramidal neurons in the piriform cortex (Figures 2g–l and 3), which are the third order neurons receiving input from mitral cell layer neurons. We also noted striking expression of *αNrxn* mRNA in the granule cells of the olfactory bulb (Figure 2a–c), and of *αNrxn2*, *αNrxn3*, *βNrxn1*, and *βNrxn3* mRNAs in the island of Calleja (Figure 2h, i, l), which is anatomically associated with the piriform cortex (Fallon et al., 1978). Interestingly, some ASP patients exhibit olfactory deficits (Galle et al., 2013). *αNrxn3* KO mice have

impaired GABAergic synaptic transmission in the olfactory bulb, leading to deficits in olfactory function (Aoto et al., 2015). Interestingly, both *aNrxx1* and *aNrxx2* KO mice, which show autism-related behaviors, have been reported to have intact olfaction, highlighting the importance of *Nrxx3* in olfaction (Grayton et al., 2013; Dachtler et al., 2014).

Some nuclei in the brainstem share similar *Nrxx* mRNA expression patterns. *aNrxx2* mRNA was remarkable in facial nucleus (Figure 6b) and hypoglossal nucleus (Figure 7b), consistent with the requirement of α Nrxns in high fidelity synaptic transmission at mouse neuromuscular junctions and relay synapses (Sons et al., 2006). Our findings suggest that neurons associated with particular functions could partly share a similar expression profile with the six principal isoforms of *Nrxx* mRNAs.

It is important to note that we did not find any neuronal populations that express only a single *Nrxx* isoform. This provides support for the redundancy of Nrxn proteins, which could reduce deleterious consequences of synaptic dysfunction if one of the co-expressed Nrxns has detrimental mutations. We identified brain regions that express all six *Nrxx* isoforms, including olfactory bulb mitral cell layer, hippocampal CA3 and piriform cortex pyramidal cell layers. The expression of all *Nrxns* were particularly high in piriform cortex. Piriform cortex is the first cortical area receiving olfactory information and contains strong associational circuits (Hagiwara et al., 2012). Expression of multiple *Nrxx* isoforms may be important to maintain the connectivity of this high-fidelity circuit.

We identified *aNrxx1* as the most ubiquitous *Nrxx* isoform in any brain region. Importantly, *aNrxx1* mRNA was expressed in neuronal cell types (glutamatergic, GABAergic, catecholaminergic neurons) and astrocytes. This may explain the strong association of *aNrxx1* mutations with neurodevelopmental disorders, including ASD, ADHD, intellectual disability, schizophrenia, and Tourette syndrome (Sebat et al., 2007; Szatmari et al., 2007; Kim et al., 2008; Yan et al., 2008; Zahir et al., 2008; Ching et al., 2010; Clarke et al., 2012; Vinas-Jornet et al., 2014; Autism Spectrum Disorders Working Group of The Psychiatric Genomics, 2017).

We found the non-neuronal expressions of *aNrxx1* and *aNrxx2*. It is important to identify the cell type(s) that interacts with *aNrxx1* and *aNrxx2* mRNA-expressing astrocytes. It has been reported that Nlgn3 expressed in astrocytes control synaptogenesis and astrocyte morphogenesis (Stogsdill et al., 2017). It is intriguing to address the role of Nlgn-Nrxn protein interaction between astrocytes. Addressing the involvement of Nrxns on gliotransmission or exocytotic release of neurotransmitters and factors from astrocytes to neurons should help to elucidate the role of Nrxns in astrocytes (Parpura and Zorec, 2010). We found *aNrxx2* as a major *Nrxx* mRNA in oligodendrocytes (Figures 16 m, o and 17m, o). α Nrxn2 protein expression was reported in oligodendrocyte-like cells in the early developing human cerebral cortex (Harkin et al., 2017). It has been suggested that Nlgn3 expressed in oligodendrocytes and axonal Nrxn protein interactions are important for oligodendrocyte differentiation (Proctor et al., 2015). Further studies addressing the role of *aNrxx2* in oligodendrocyte development and function are required.

Lastly, we examined the mRNA expression patterns of three gene families, *Nlgns*, *Lrrtms* and *Adgrls*, that encode major Nr1n binding proteins, and compared their brain region-specific expression patterns to that of *Nrxns*. All three gene families had diverse expression profiles throughout the brain (Figure 18). In particular, hippocampal CA1 pyramidal neurons, which receive excitatory inputs from CA3 pyramidal neurons, expressed most of these genes except *Lrrtm3* and *Lrrtm4*, likely contributing to numerous combinations of trans-synaptic interactions. In contrast, CA3 pyramidal neurons, which form associational circuits with each other, expressed only *Nlgns* and *Adgr11* at high levels. Considering the expression of multiple *Nrxn* isoforms in CA3 pyramidal cells, the differential expression of Nr1n binding partners in postsynaptic neurons could underlie the distinct distributions of different Nr1n proteins at presynaptic terminals, thus providing unique region- and cell type-specific connections important for synaptic transmission (Sudhof, 2017).

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ABBREVIATIONS

3v:	Third ventricle
A1:	Primary auditory cortex
aq:	Cerebral aqueduct
Arc:	Arcuate nucleus
BA:	Basal nucleus of amygdala
BS:	Brainstem
CA:	Central nucleus of amygdala
CA1:	Field CA1 of hippocampus
CA2:	Field CA2 of hippocampus
CA3:	Field CA3 of hippocampus
Cb:	Cerebellum
Cl:	Clastrum
CM:	Centromedian thalamic nucleus
CPu:	Caudate-putamen
Cx:	Cortex
DG:	Dentate gyrus

DLL:	Dorsal nucleus of lateral lemniscus
DMH:	Dorsomedial hypothalamus
DMX:	Dorsal motor nucleus of vagus nerve
DRD:	Dorsal part of dorsal raphe nucleus
DRL:	Lateral part of dorsal raphe nucleus
DRV:	Ventral part of dorsal raphe nucleus
Epl:	External plexiform layer of olfactory bulb
EW:	Edinger-Westphal nucleus
Gl:	Glomerular layer of olfactory bulb
GrC:	Granule cell layer of cerebellum
GrO:	Granule cell layer of olfactory bulb
GRN:	Gigantocellular reticular nucleus
Hi:	Hippocampus
IC:	Inferior colliculus
ICj:	Islands of Calleja
IL:	Infralimbic cortex
IO:	Inferior olivary complex
IPN:	Interpeduncular nucleus
L1:	Cortical layer 1
L2/3:	Cortical layers 2/3
L4:	Cortical layer 4
L5:	Cortical layer 5
L6:	Cortical layer 6
LA:	Lateral nucleus of amygdala
LC:	Locus coeruleus
LD:	Laterodorsal thalamic nucleus
LDTg:	Laterodorsal tegmental nucleus
LEnt:	Lateral entorhinal cortex
LH:	Lateral hypothalamus

LHb:	Lateral habenula
LP:	Lateral posterior thalamic nucleus
LPB:	Lateral parabrachial nucleus
LRN:	Lateral reticular nucleus
LS:	Lateral septal nucleus
M1:	Primary motor cortex
MD:	Mediodorsal thalamic nucleus
MEnt:	Medial entorhinal cortex
MGN:	Medial geniculate nucleus
MHb:	Medial habenula
Mi:	Mitral layer of olfactory bulb
ML:	Molecular layer of cerebellum
MPB:	Medial parabrachial nucleus
MRN:	Medullary reticular nucleus
NAc:	Nucleus accumbens
ND:	Nucleus of Darkschewitsch
NDB:	Nucleus of diagonal band
NTB:	Nucleus of trapezoid body
NTS:	nucleus of tractus solitaries
Ob:	Olfactory bulb
OT:	Olfactory tubercle
PAG:	Periaqueductal gray
PBG:	Parabigeminal nucleus
PCL:	Purkinje cell layer of cerebellum
Pir:	Piriform cortex
PRN:	Pontine reticular nucleus
PrV:	Principal sensory nucleus of trigeminal nerve
PrL:	Prelimbic cortex
PVT:	Paraventricular thalamic nucleus

RSG:	Retrosplenial granular cortex
Rt:	Reticular thalamic nucleus
S1:	Primary somatosensory cortex
SC:	Superior colliculus
SNc:	Substantia nigra pars compacta
SNr:	Substantia nigra pars reticulata
SOP:	Paraolivary region of superior olivary complex
SpV:	Spinal nucleus of trigeminal nerve
STN:	Subthalamic nucleus
Su:	Subiculum
Th:	Thalamus
V1:	Primary visual cortex
VC:	Ventral cochlear nucleus
VII:	Facial nucleus
VMH:	Ventromedial hypothalamus
VPL:	Ventral posterolateral thalamic nucleus
VPM:	Ventral posteromedial thalamic nucleus
VTA:	Ventral tegmental area
XII:	Hypoglossal nucleus

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Here we used chromogenic and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization to characterize the expression pattern of Neurexin (Nrxn) isoforms. While each Nrxn isoform displayed a unique expression profile in different regions and cell types, α Nrxn1 and α Nrxn2 mRNAs were interestingly expressed in non-neuronal cells, including astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. Nrxn postsynaptic binding partners, such as Neuroligins and Latrophilins, were also diversely expressed throughout the mouse brain, emphasizing the numerous combinations of trans-synaptic interactions that can occur between these molecules.

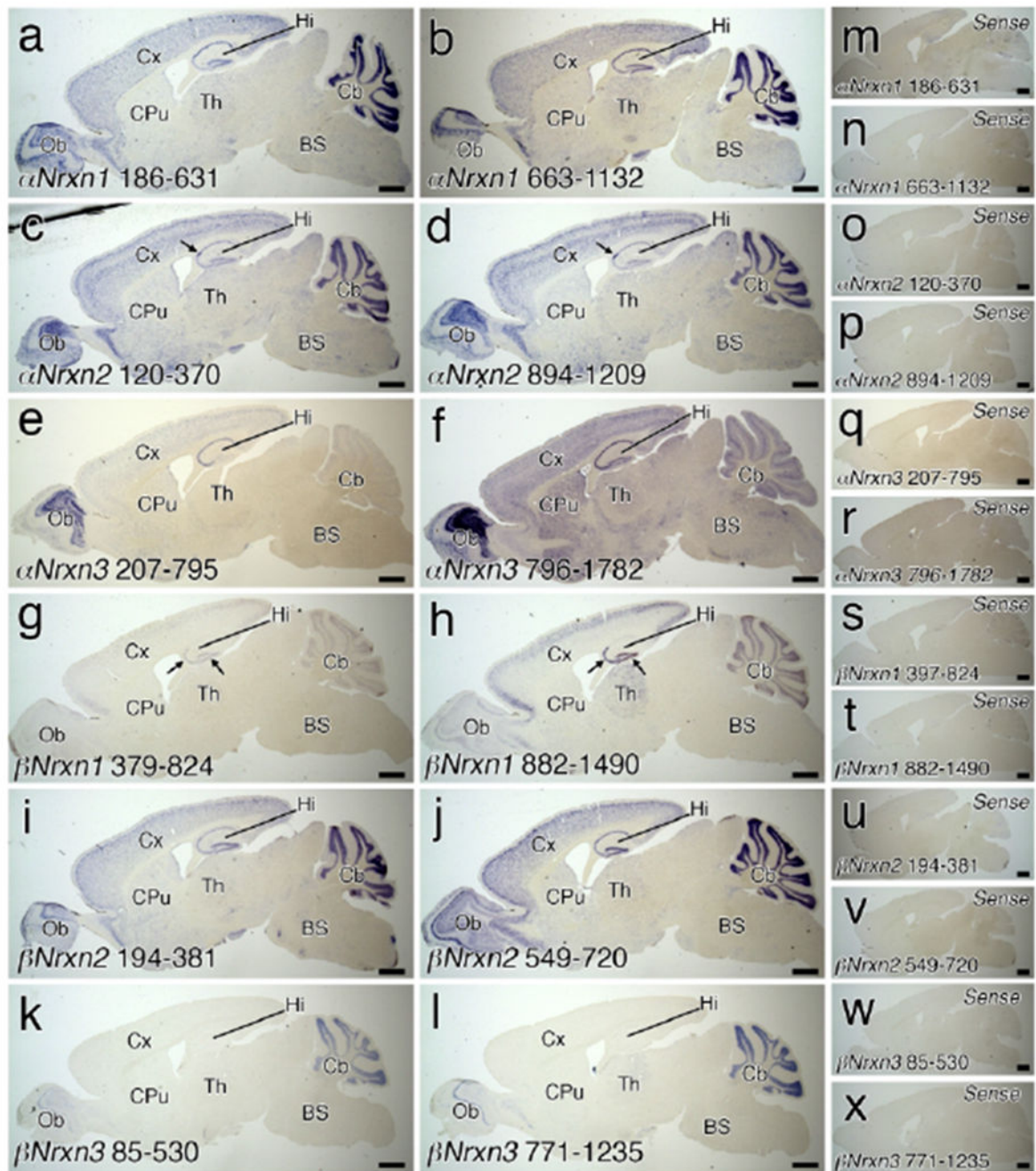


Figure 1.

Validation of Nrnx ISH probes in the brain. (a-l) Whole brain sagittal views of chromogenic hybridization signals with Nrnx-isoform-specific antisense cRNA probes. Two cRNA probes are prepared for α Nrxn1 (a, b), α Nrxn2 (c, d), α Nrxn3 (e, f), β Nrxn1 (g, h), β Nrxn2 (i, j), and β Nrxn3 (k, l) mRNAs. Arrows indicate dense staining patterns in the CA2 for α Nrxn2 mRNA (c, d) and in the CA3 and dentate gyrus for β Nrxn1 mRNA (g, h). (m-x) Whole brain sagittal views of chromogenic hybridization signals with two sense cRNA probes lacking

signal for α Nrxn1 (m, n), α Nrxn2 (o, p), α Nrxn3 (q, r), β Nrxn1 (s, t), β Nrxn2 (u, v), and β Nrxn3 (w, x) mRNAs. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 1 mm.

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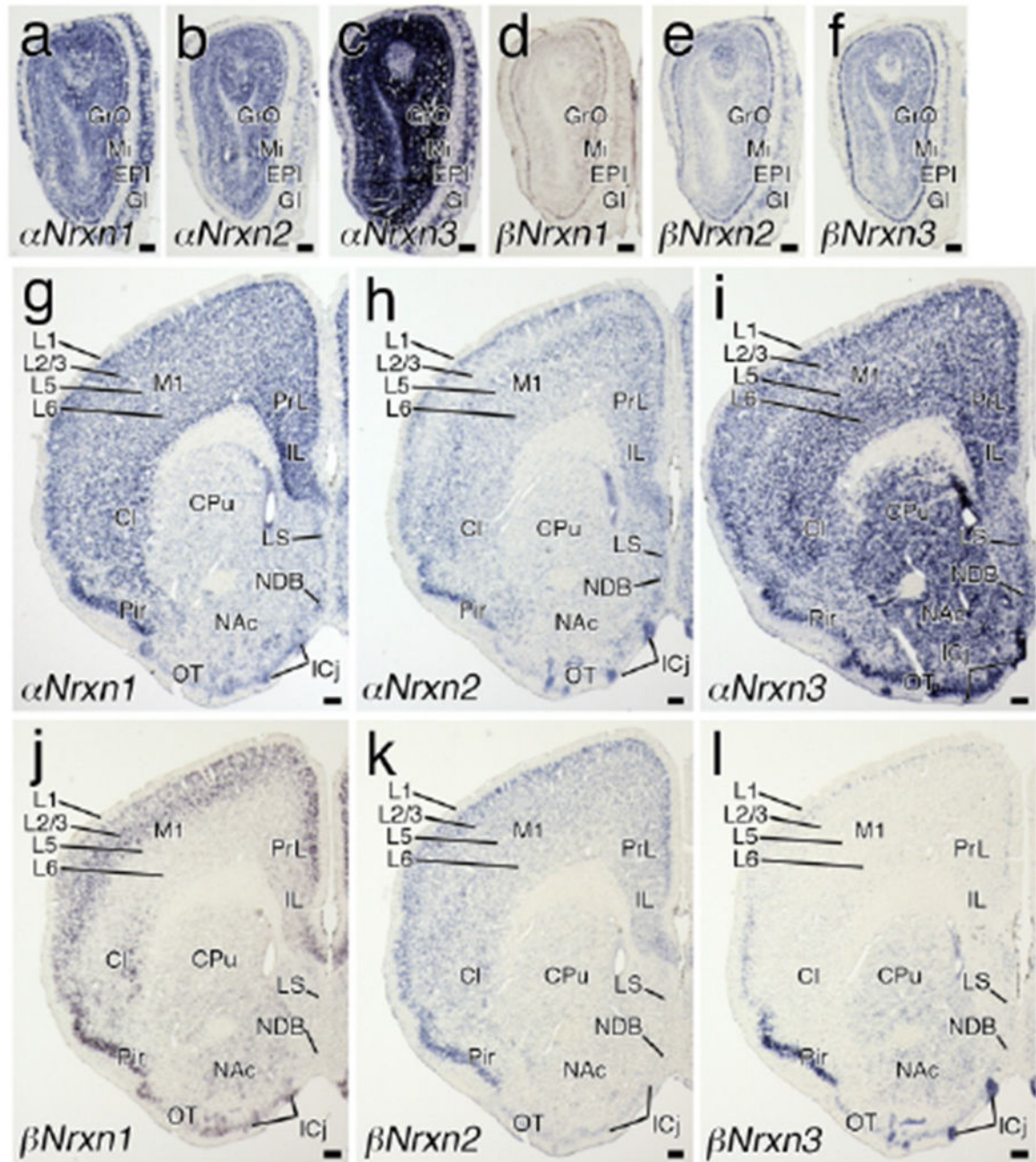


Figure 2.

Region-specific expression of Nrnx mRNAs in the telencephalon and diencephalon. Coronal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for α Nrxn1 (a, g), α Nrxn2 (b, h), α Nrxn3 (c, i), β Nrxn1 (d, j), β Nrxn2 (e, k), and β Nrxn3 (f, l) mRNAs in the mouse brain. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 200 μ m.

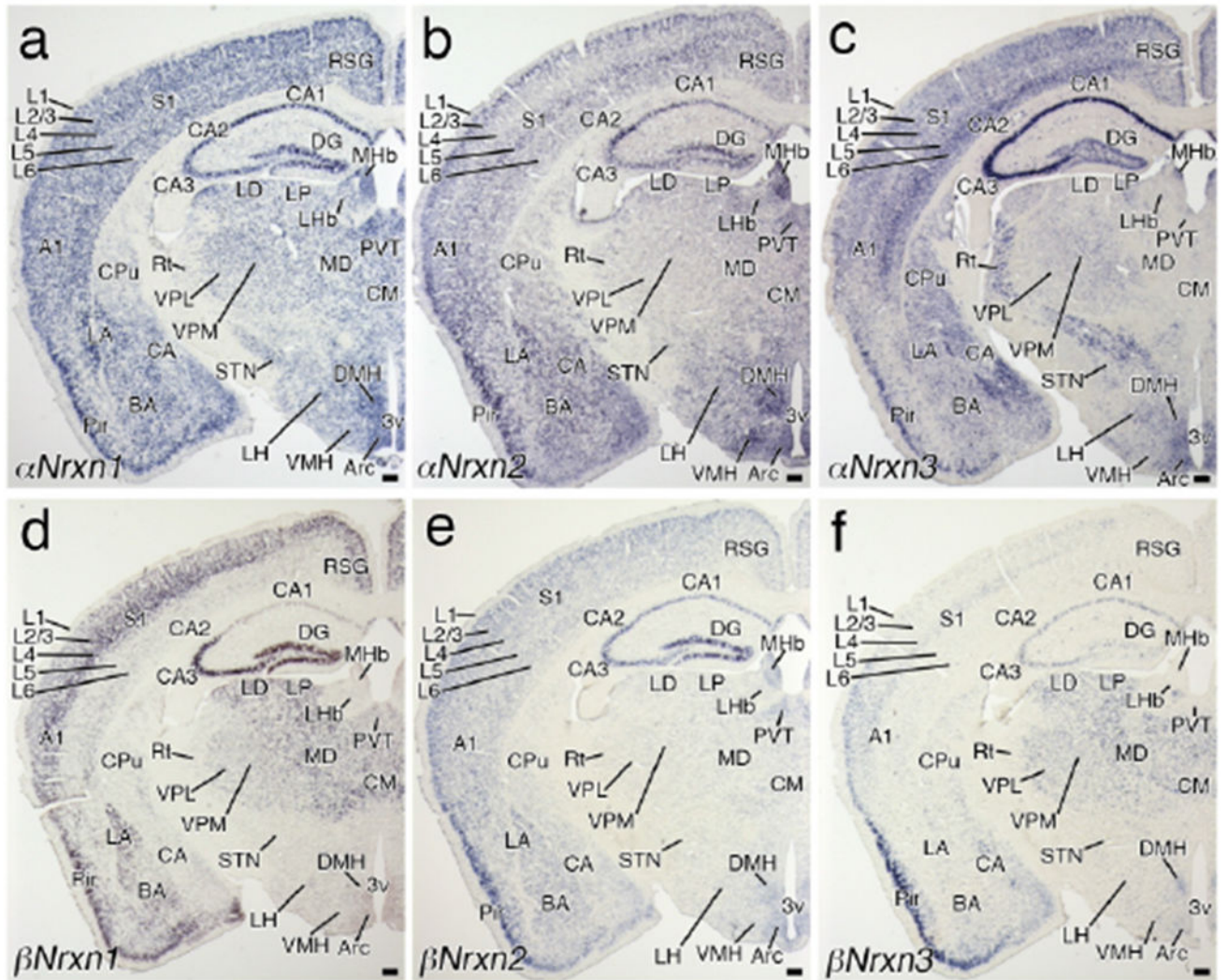


Figure 3.

Region-specific expression of Nrxn mRNAs in the telencephalon and diencephalon. Coronal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), and β Nrxn3 (f) mRNAs in the mouse brain. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 200 μ m.

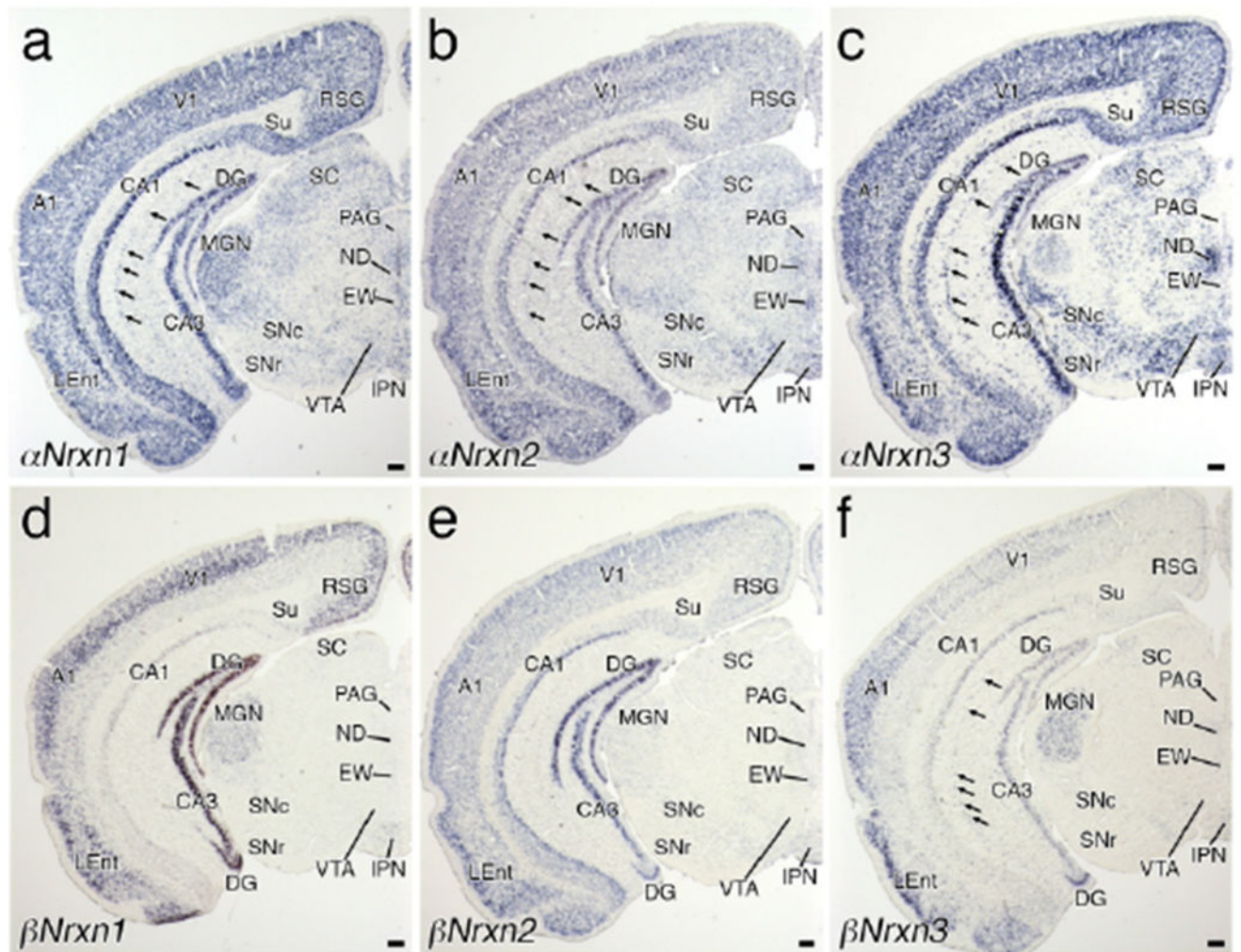


Figure 4. Region-specific expression of Nrxn mRNAs in the midbrain. Coronal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), and β Nrxn3 (f) mRNAs in the mouse brain. Arrows indicate cells expressing α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), and α Nrxn3 (f) mRNAs in the neuropil layer of the hippocampus. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 200 μ m.

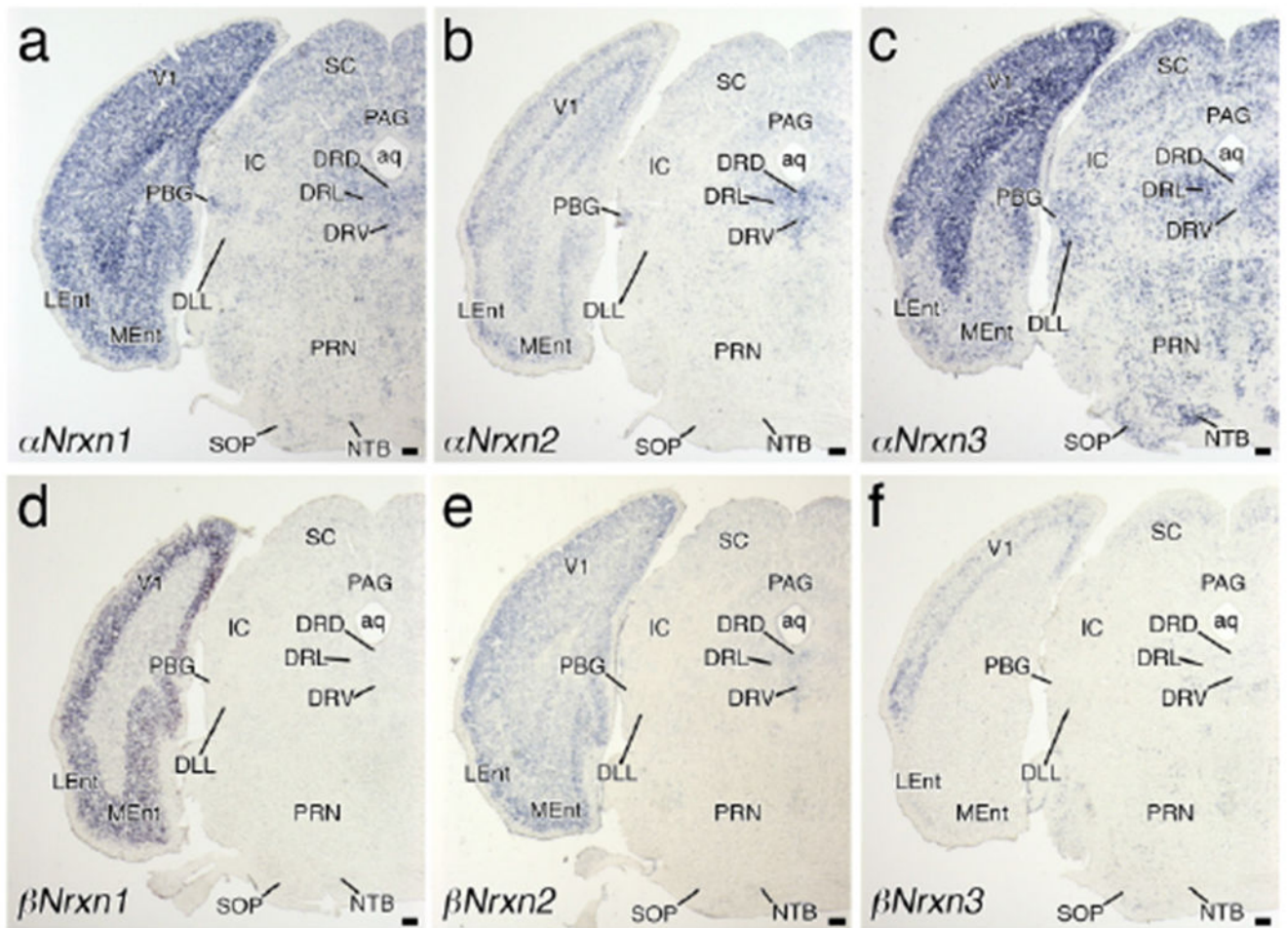


Figure 5.

Region-specific expression of Nrnx mRNAs in the pons. Coronal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), and β Nrxn3 (f) mRNAs in the mouse brain. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 200 μ m.

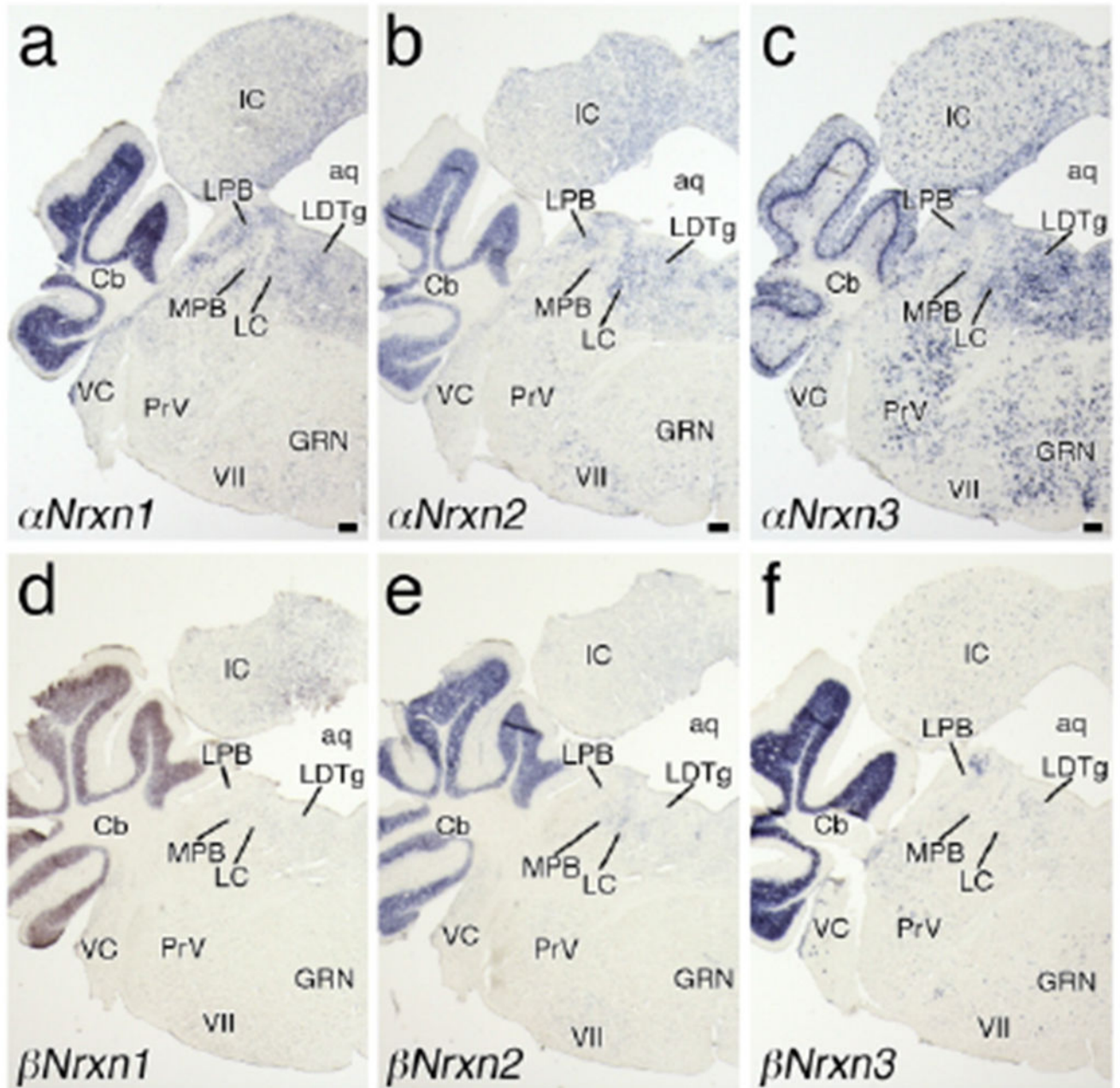


Figure 6. Region-specific expression of Nrxn mRNAs in the anterior medulla. Coronal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), and β Nrxn3 (f) mRNAs in the mouse brain. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 200 μ m.

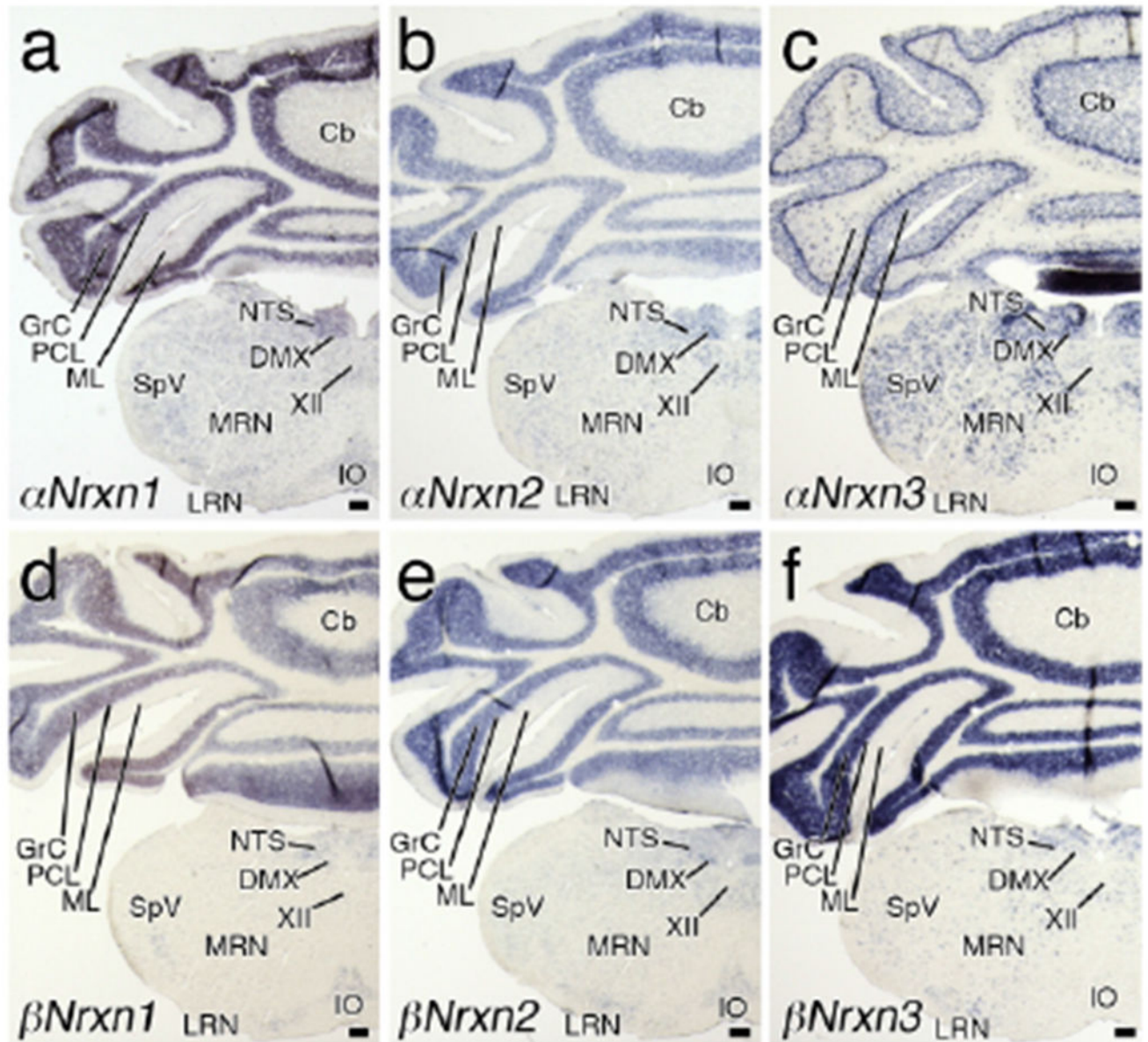


Figure 7. Region-specific expression of Nrxn mRNAs in the posterior medulla. Coronal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), and β Nrxn3 (f) mRNAs in the mouse brain. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 200 μ m.

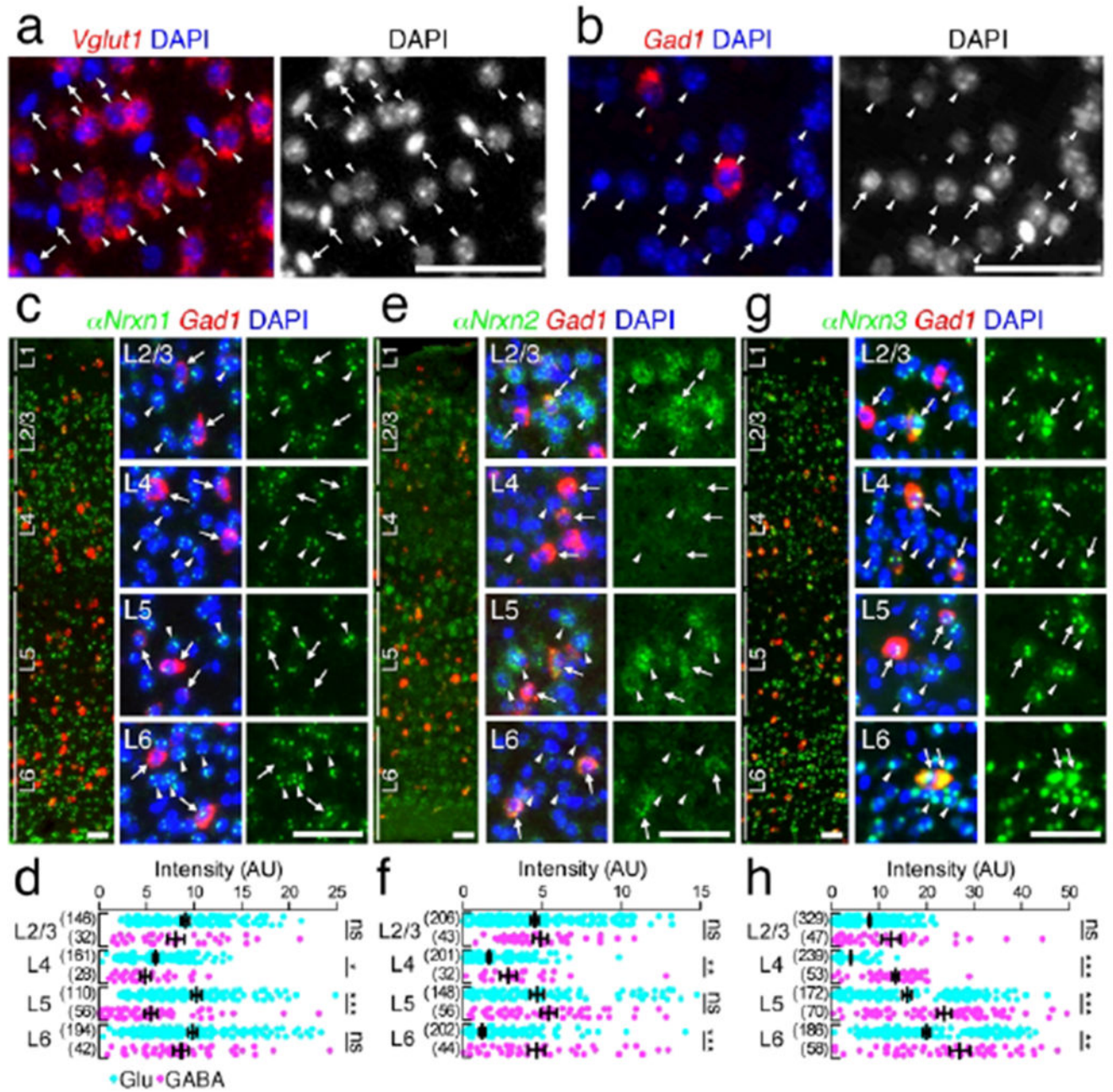


Figure 8.

Layer-specific expression of α Nrxn mRNAs in the primary somatosensory neocortex. (a, b) Single FISH for Vglut1 (red, a) and Gad1 (red, b) mRNAs with DAPI staining (blue and gray on the left and right, respectively). Note that Vglut1 (a) or Gad1 (b) mRNA-expressing neurons have large and pale DAPI+ nuclei (arrowheads), but not small and dark DAPI+ nuclei (arrows), (c, e, g) Double FISH for α Nrxn1 (c), α Nrxn2 (e), α Nrxn3 (g) and Gad1 mRNAs showing distinct laminar-specific patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) between Gad1(+) GABAergic (red, arrows) and Gad1(-) glutamatergic (arrowheads) neurons. The left panel presents a low power-magnified image including the entire cortical layers, and the

middle and right panels present high power-magnified images of layers 2/3, 4, 5, and 6 (L2/3, L4, L5, and L6) in order from the top. Note that the signals for Nrns in GABAergic neurons tend to be variable. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). (d, f, h) Summary scatter plots for α Nrxn1 (d), α Nrxn2 (f), or α Nrxn3 (h) mRNA in glutamatergic (aqua) and GABAergic (magenta) neurons. The numbers of cells analyzed are indicated in the parenthesis to the left of each column. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Mann-Whitney test). Scale bars, 50 μ m.

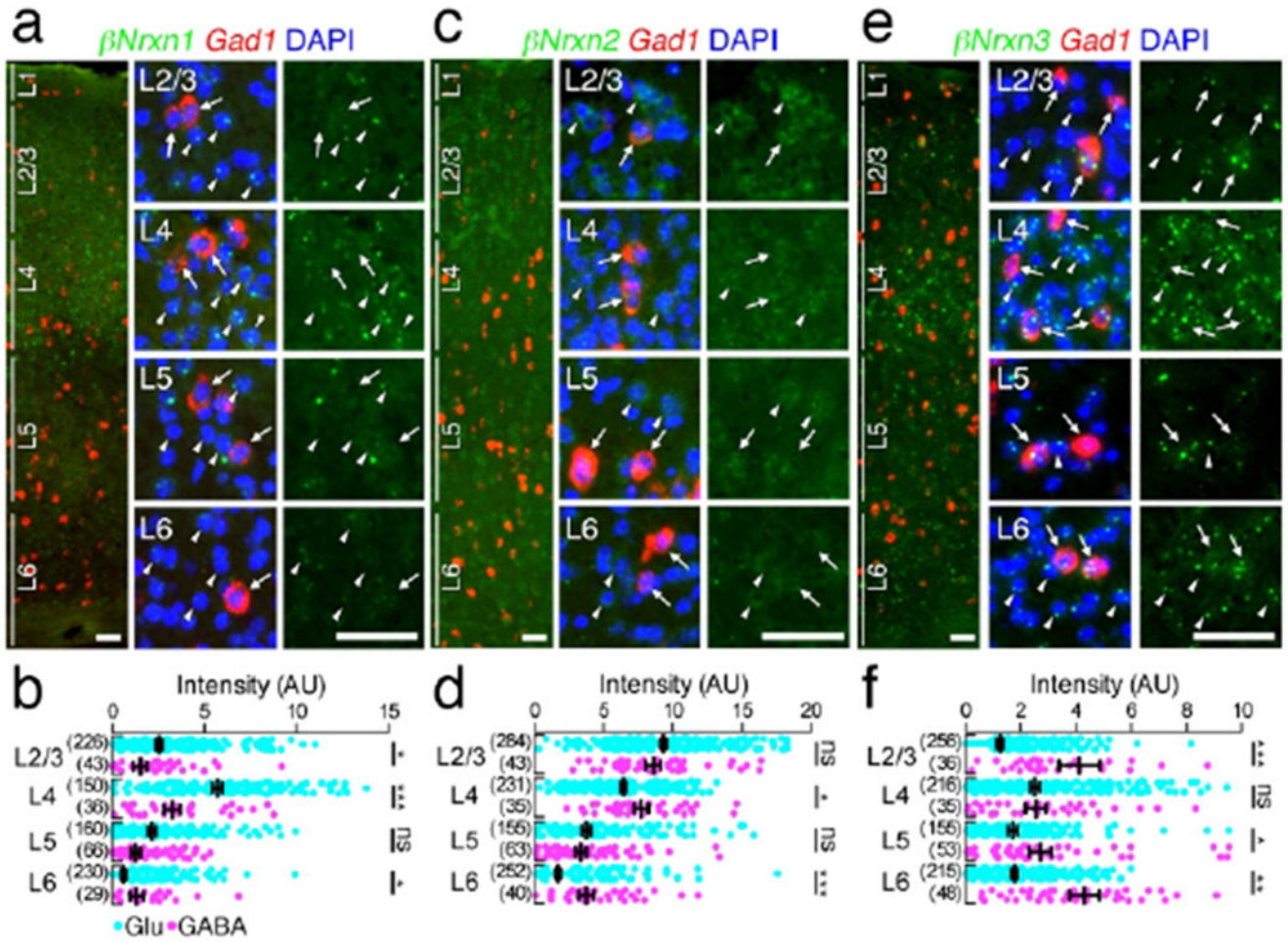


Figure 9.

Layer-specific expression of β Nrxn mRNAs in the primary somatosensory neocortex. (a, c, e) Double FISH for β Nrxn1 (a), β Nrxn2 (c), or β Nrxn3 (e) and Gad1 mRNAs showing distinct laminar-specific patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) between Gad1(+) GABAergic (red, arrows) and Gad1(-) glutamatergic (arrowheads) neurons. The left panel presents a low power-magnified image including the entire cortical layers, and the middle and right panels present high power-magnified images of layers 2/3, 4, 5, and 6 (L2/3, L4, L5, and L6) in order from the top. Note that the signals for Nrxns in GABAergic neurons tend to be variable. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for β Nrxn1 (b), β Nrxn2 (d), or β Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in glutamatergic (aqua) and GABAergic (magenta) neurons. The numbers of cells analyzed are indicated in the parenthesis to the left of each column. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Mann-Whitney test). Scale bars, 50 μ m.

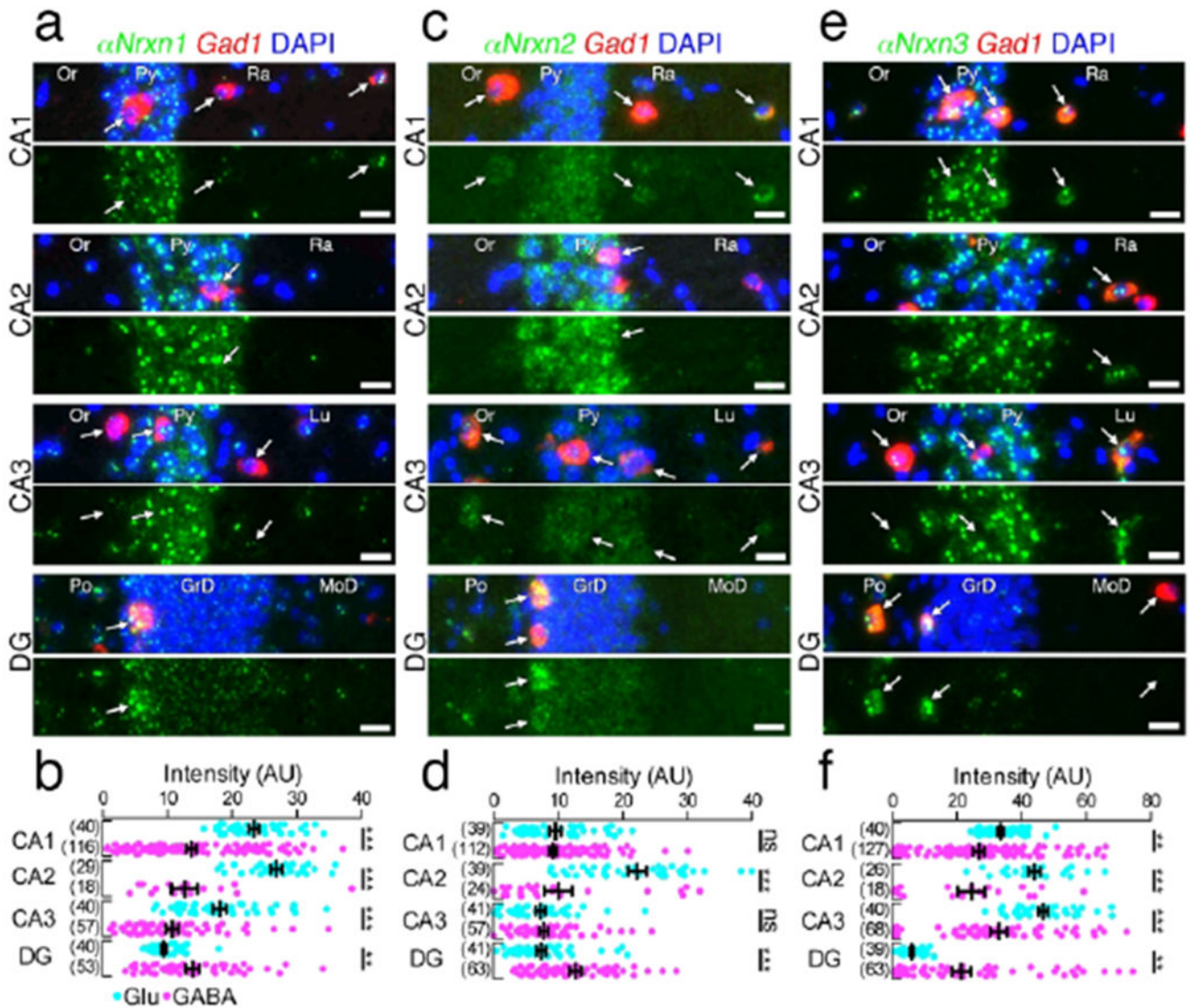


Figure 10.

Hippocampal subregion-specific expression of α Nrxn mRNAs. (a, c, e) Double FISH for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (c), or α Nrxn3 (e) and Gad1 mRNAs in the hippocampus showing different subregion-specific patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) between Gad1(+) GABAergic (red, arrows) and Gad1(-) glutamatergic neurons. The four pairs of panels show the CA1, CA2, CA3, and dentate gyrus (DG) in order from the top. Note that the signal intensity in individual GABAergic neurons is variable, compared with that in glutamatergic neurons. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Or, stratum oriens; Py, Pyramidal cell layer; Ra, stratum radiatum; Lu, stratum lucidum; Po, polymorphic layer; GrD, granule cell layer; MoD, molecular layer. (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for α Nrxn1 (b), α Nrxn2 (d), or α Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in glutamatergic (aqua) and GABAergic (magenta) neurons. The number in the parentheses next to each column indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Man-Whitney test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

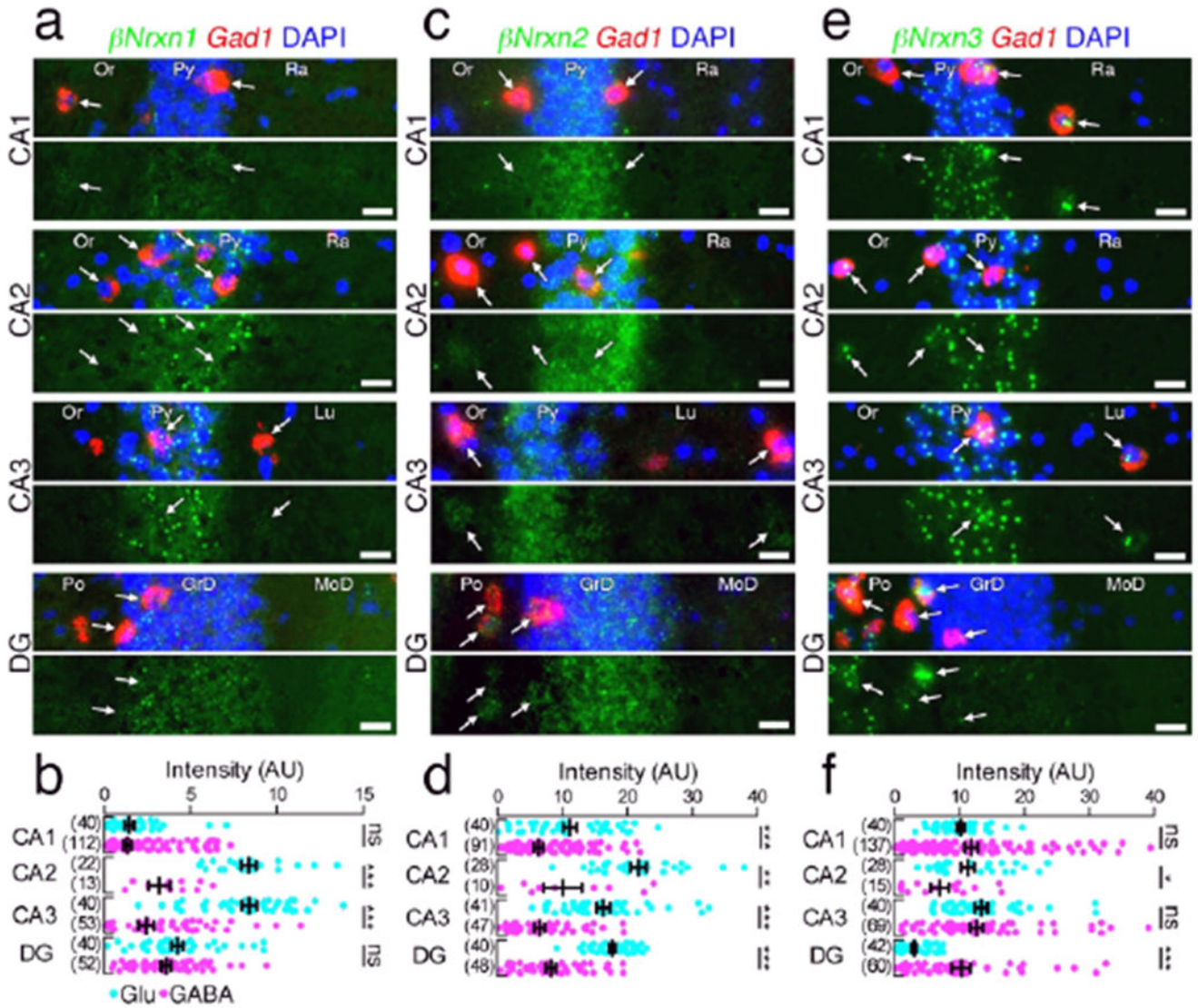


Figure 11.

Hippocampal subregion-specific expression of β Nrxn mRNAs. (a, c, e) Double FISH for β Nrxn1 (a), β Nrxn2 (c), or β Nrxn3 (e) and Gad1 mRNAs in the hippocampus showing different subregion-specific expression patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) between Gad1(+) GABAergic (red, arrows) and Gad1(-) glutamatergic neurons. The four pairs of panels show the CA1, CA2, CA3, and dentate gyrus (DG) in order from the top. Note that the signal intensity in individual GABAergic neurons is variable, compared with that in glutamatergic neurons. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Or, stratum oriens; Py, Pyramidal cell layer; Ra, stratum radiatum; Lu, stratum lucidum; Po, polymorphic layer; GrD, granule cell layer; MoD, molecular layer. (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for β Nrxn1 (b), β Nrxn2 (d), or β Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in glutamatergic (cyan) and GABAergic (magenta) neurons. The number in the parentheses next to each column indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0,05$; ** $P < 0,01$; *** $P < 0,001$ (Man-Whitney test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

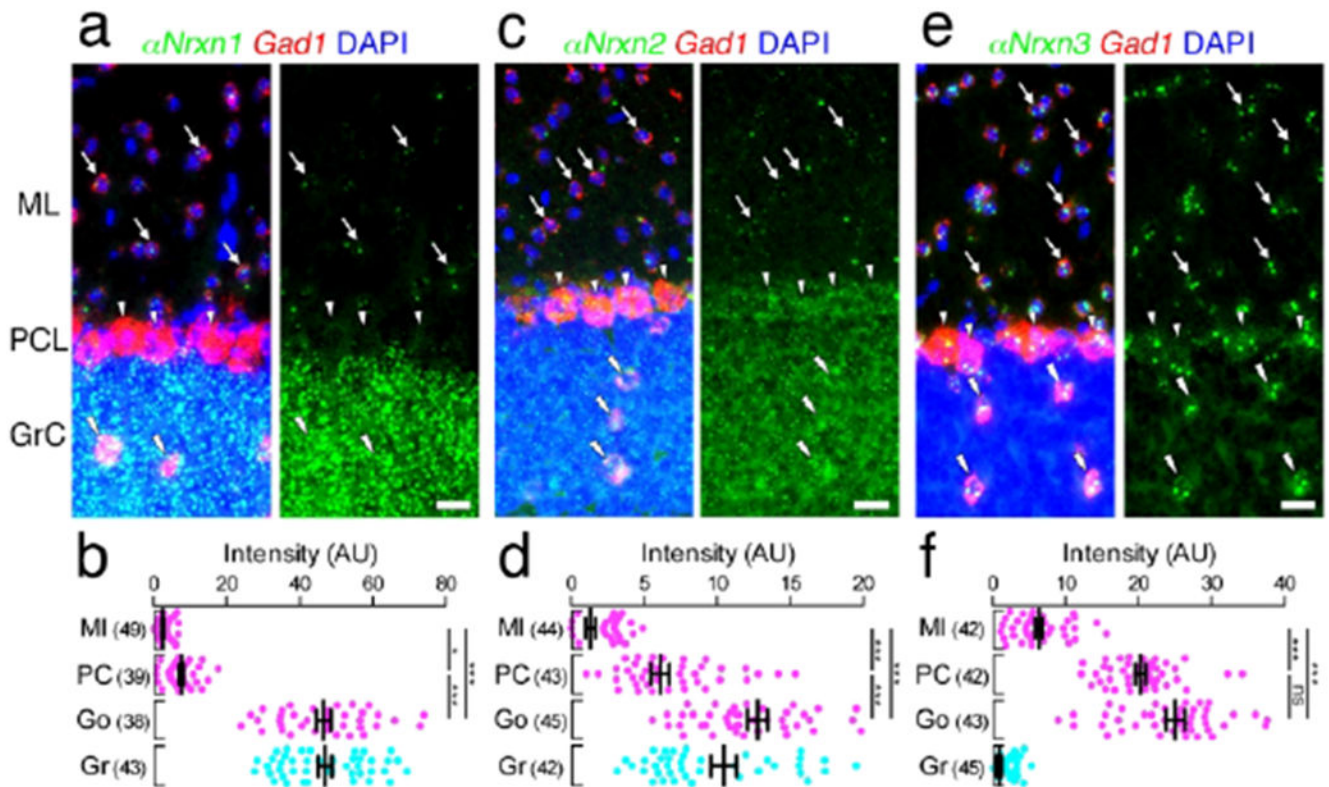


Figure 12.

Cell type-dependent expression of α Nrxn mRNAs in the cerebellar cortex. (a, c, e, g, i, k) Double FISH for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (c), or α Nrxn3 (e) and Gad1 mRNAs in the cerebellar cortex showing different expression patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) in Gad1 mRNA (red)-labeled molecular layer interneurons (arrows), Purkinje cells (arrowheads), and Golgi cells (double arrowheads) and Gad1 mRNA-unlabeled granule cells. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for α Nrxn1 (b), α Nrxn2 (d), or α Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in molecular layer interneurons (magenta, MI), Purkinje cells (magenta, PC), Golgi cells (magenta, Go), and granule cells (cyan, Gr). The number in the parentheses next to each column indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Kruskal-Wallis test with post hoc Dunn's test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

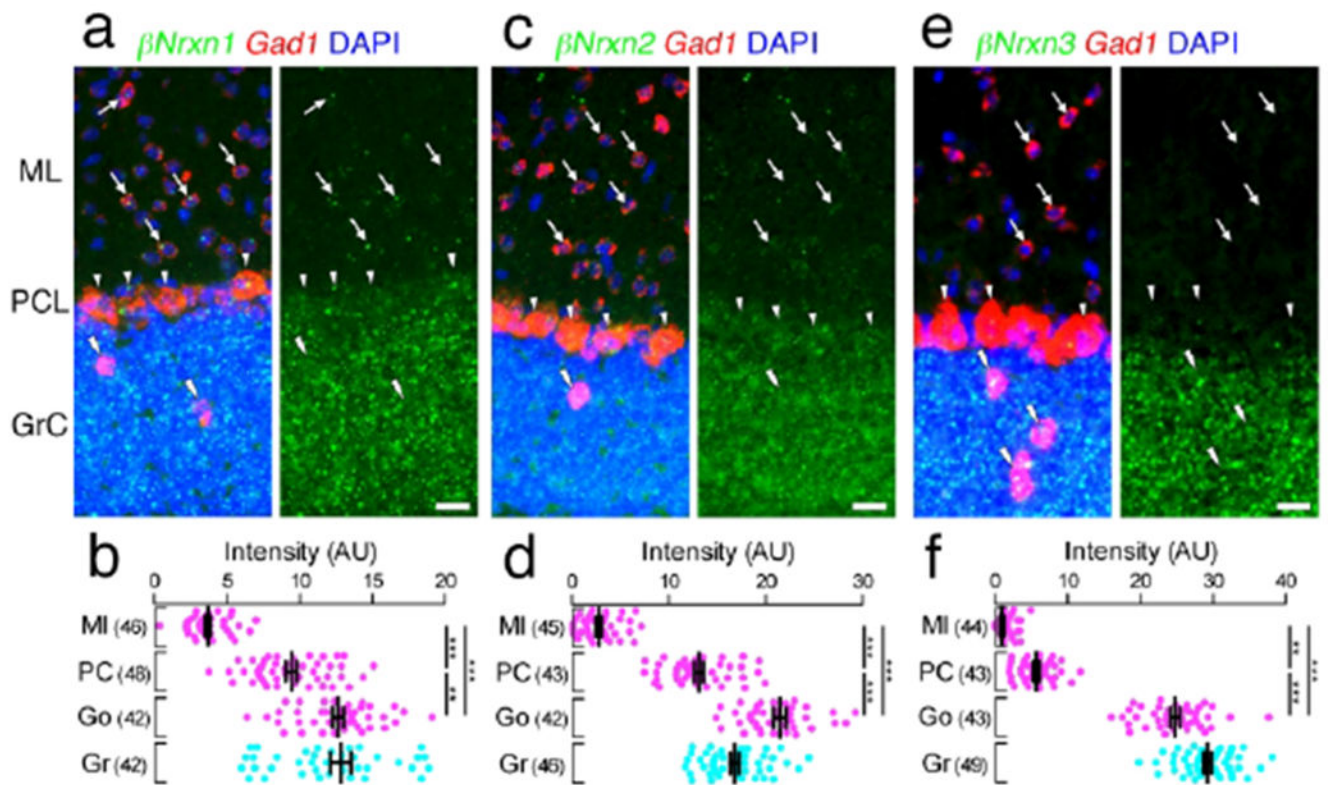


Figure 13.

Cell type-dependent expression of β Nrxn mRNAs in the cerebellar cortex. (a, c, e) Double FISH for β Nrxn1 (a), β Nrxn2 (c), or β Nrxn3 (e) and Gad1 mRNAs in the cerebellar cortex showing different expression patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) in Gad1 mRNA (red)-labeled molecular layer interneurons (arrows), Purkinje cells (arrowheads), and Golgi cells (double arrowheads) and Gad1 mRNA-unlabeled granule cells. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for β Nrxn1 (b), β Nrxn2 (d), or β Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in molecular layer interneurons (magenta, MI), Purkinje cells (magenta, PC), Golgi cells (magenta, Go), and granule cells (cyan, Gr). The number in the parentheses next to each column indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Kruskal-Wallis test with post hoc Dunn's test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

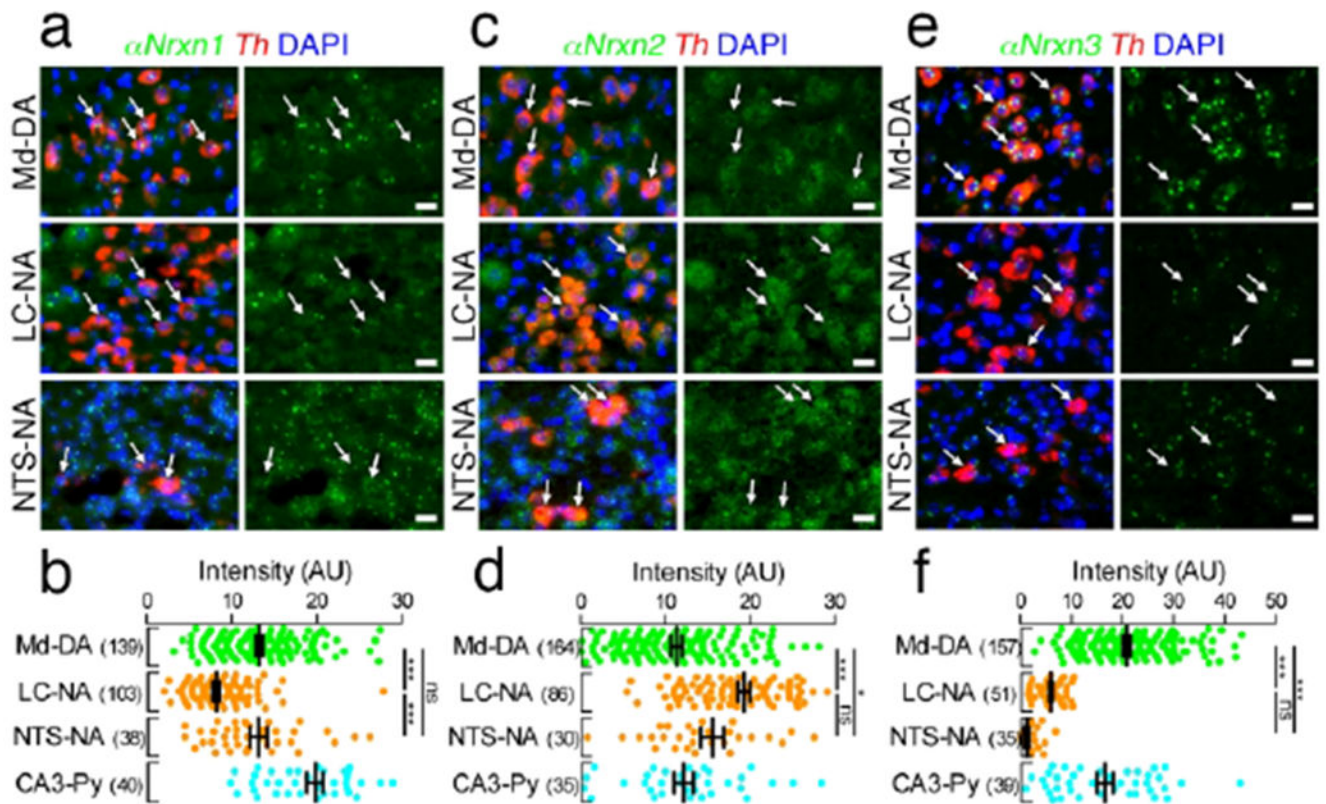


Figure 14.

Distinct expression of α Nrxn mRNAs in catecholaminergic neurons. (a, c, e) Double FISH for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (c), or α Nrxn3 (e) and Th mRNAs showing distinct expression patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) in Th mRNA (red)-labeled DA neurons in the midbrain (Md-DA, top) and NA neurons in the LC (LC-NA, middle) and NTS (NTS-NA, bottom). Arrows indicate catecholaminergic neurons. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for α Nrxn1 (b), α Nrxn2 (d), or α Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in Md-DA (green), LC-NA (orange), and NTS-NA (orange) neurons. Signals are compared to hippocampal CA3 pyramidal neurons (CA3-Py) obtained from the same section (aqua). The number in the parentheses next to each column indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Kruskal-Wallis test with post hoc Dunn's test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

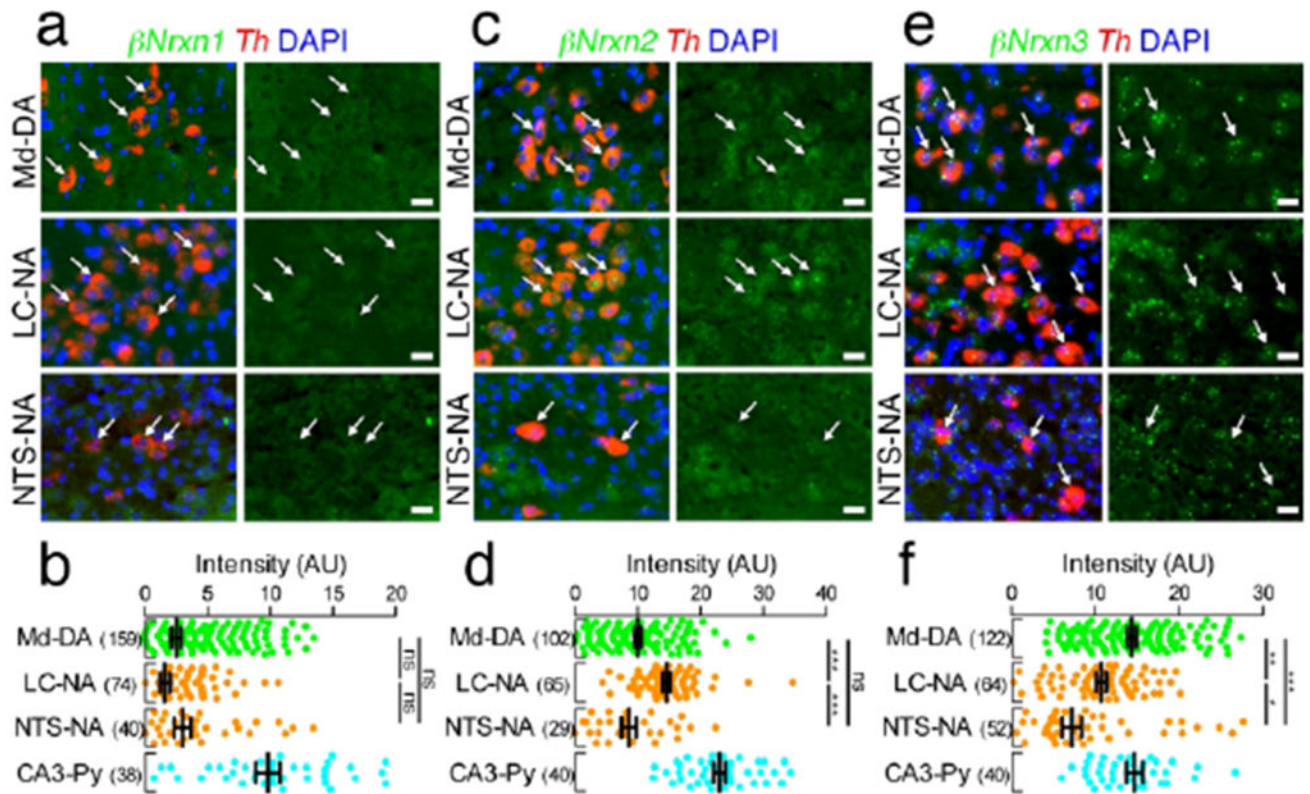


Figure 15.

Distinct expression of β Nrxn mRNAs in catecholaminergic neurons. (a, c, e) Double FISH for β Nrxn1 (a), β Nrxn2 (c), or β Nrxn3 (e) and Th mRNAs showing distinct expression patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) in Th mRNA (red)-labeled DA neurons in the midbrain (Md-DA, top) and NA neurons in the LC (LC-NA, middle) and NTS (NTS-NA, bottom). Arrows indicate catecholaminergic neurons. Nuclei are stained with DAPI (blue). (b, d, f) Summary scatter plots for β Nrxn1 (b), β Nrxn2 (d), or β Nrxn3 (f) mRNA in Md-DA (green), LC-NA (orange), and NTS-NA (orange) neurons. Signals are compared to hippocampal CA3 pyramidal neurons (CA3-Py) obtained from the same section (agua). The number in the parentheses next to each column indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. ns, not significant; * $P < 0,05$; ** $P < 0,01$; *** $P < 0,001$ (Kruskal-Wallis test with post hoc Dunn's test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

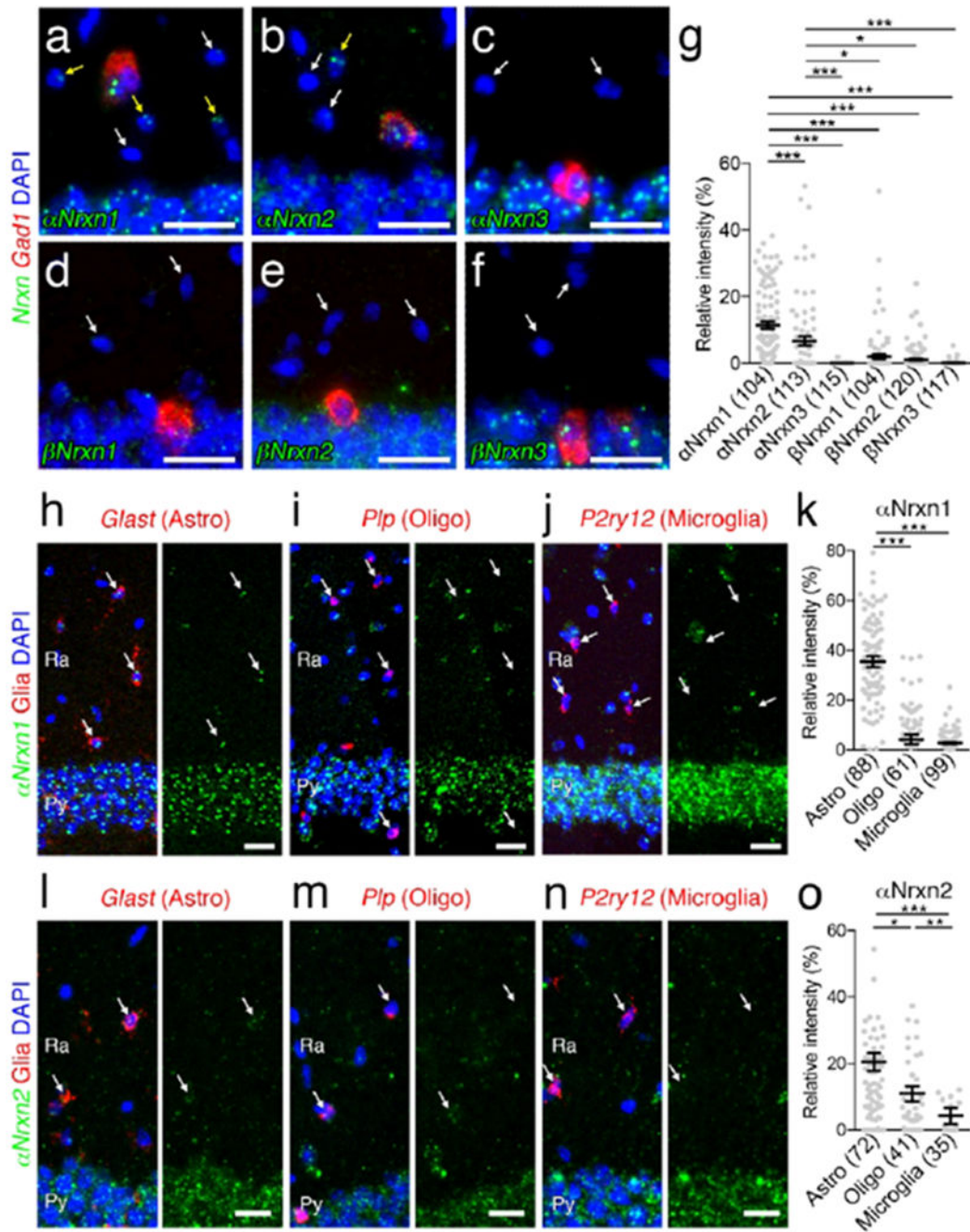


Figure 16.

Non-neuronal α Nrxn1 and α Nrxn2 expression in the hippocampal CA1 subregion. (a - f) Double FISH for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), or β Nrxn3 (f) and Gad1 mRNAs in the hippocampus CA1 region showing different expression patterns of Nrxn mRNAs (green) in non-neuronal cells identified by neuropil cells negative for Gad1 mRNA (red). Yellow and white arrows indicate non-neuronal cells with or without Nrxn expression, respectively. (g) Summary scatter plot for six Nrxn mRNAs in non-neuronal cells. The signal intensity in each cell is normalized to that in CA1 pyramidal cells, (h-j, l-n)

Double FISH for α Nrxn1 (h-j) or α Nrxn2 (l-n) mRNA (green) and non-neuronal markers (red), including Glast (h, l), Plp (i, m), and P2ry12 (j, n) for astrocytes (Astro), oligodendrocytes (Oligo), and microglia, respectively. Arrows indicate non-neuronal cells. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Ra, stratum radiatum; Py, Pyramidal cell layer. (k, o) Summary scatter plot for α Nrxn1 (k) or α Nrxn2 (o) mRNA in astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, and microglia. The signal intensity in each cell is normalized to that in CA1 pyramidal cells. The number in the parentheses below the scatter plot indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Kruskal-Wallis test with post hoc Dunn's test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

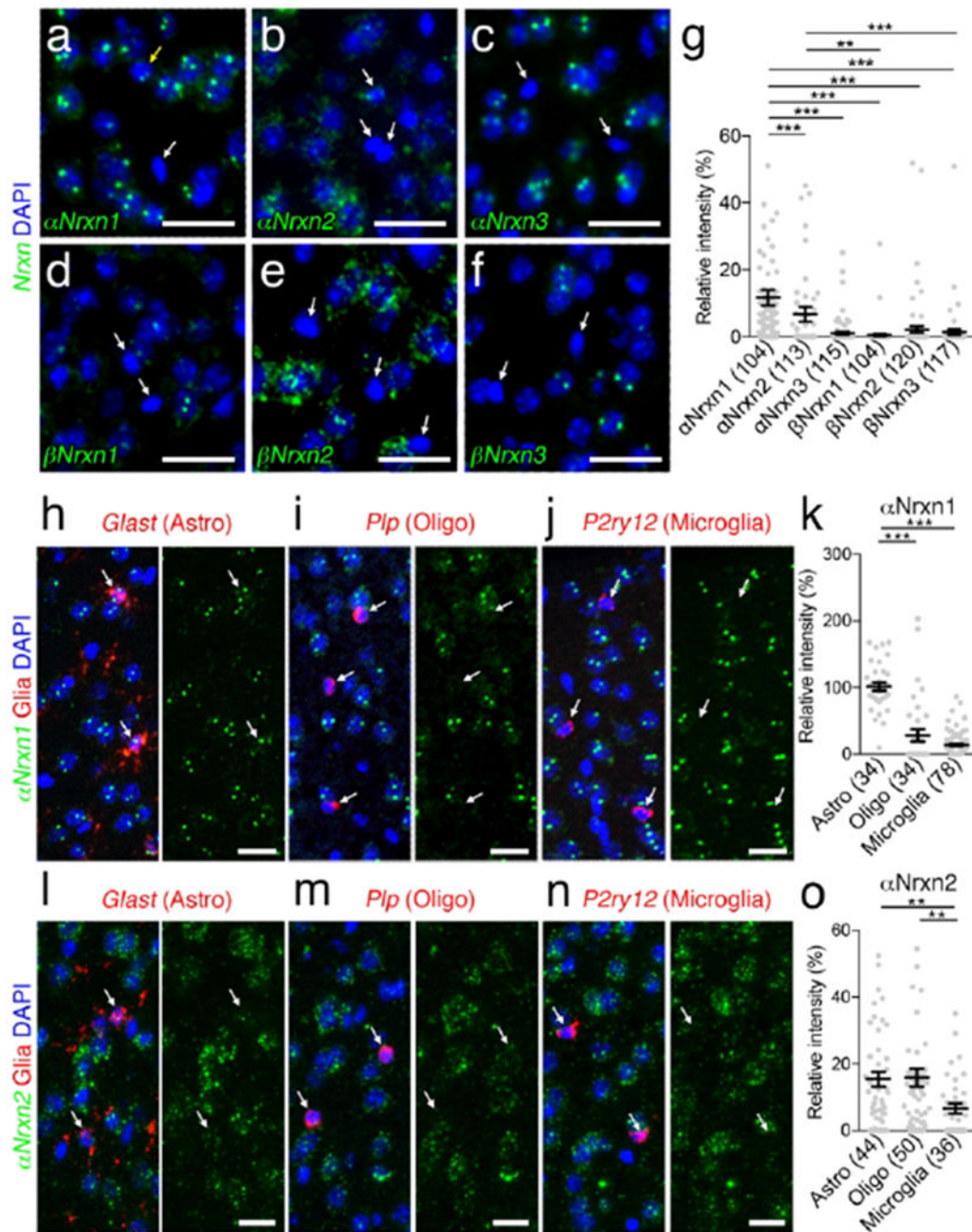


Figure 17.

Non-neuronal α Nrxn1 and α Nrxn2 expression in the somatosensory cortex. (a - f) Single FISH for α Nrxn1 (a), α Nrxn2 (b), α Nrxn3 (c), β Nrxn1 (d), β Nrxn2 (e), or β Nrxn3 (f) in the somatosensory cortex showing different expression patterns of Nrnx mRNAs (green) in non-neuronal cells with small and dark DAPI+ nuclei. Yellow and white arrows indicate non-neuronal cells with or without Nrnx expression, respectively, (g) Summary scatter plot for six Nrnx mRNAs in non-neuronal cells. The signal intensity in each cell is normalized to that in cortical neurons with large and pale DAPI+ nuclei. (h-i, l-n) Double FISH for

α Nrxn1 (h-i) or α Nrxn2 (l-n) mRNA (green) and non-neuronal markers (red), including Glast (h, l), Plp (i, m), and P2ry12 (i, n) for astrocytes (Astro), oligodendrocytes (Oligo), and microglia, respectively. Arrows indicate non-neuronal cells. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Ra, stratum radiatum; Py, Pyramidal cell layer, (k, o) Summary scatter plot for α Nrxn1 (k) and α Nrxn2 (o) mRNA in astrocytes, oligodendrocytes, and microglia. The signal intensity in each cell is normalized to that in cortical neurons. The number in the parentheses below the scatter plot indicates the number of cells analyzed. Data are represented as means \pm SEM. * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; *** $P < 0.001$ (Kruskal-Wallis test with post hoc Dunn's test). Scale bars, 20 μ m.

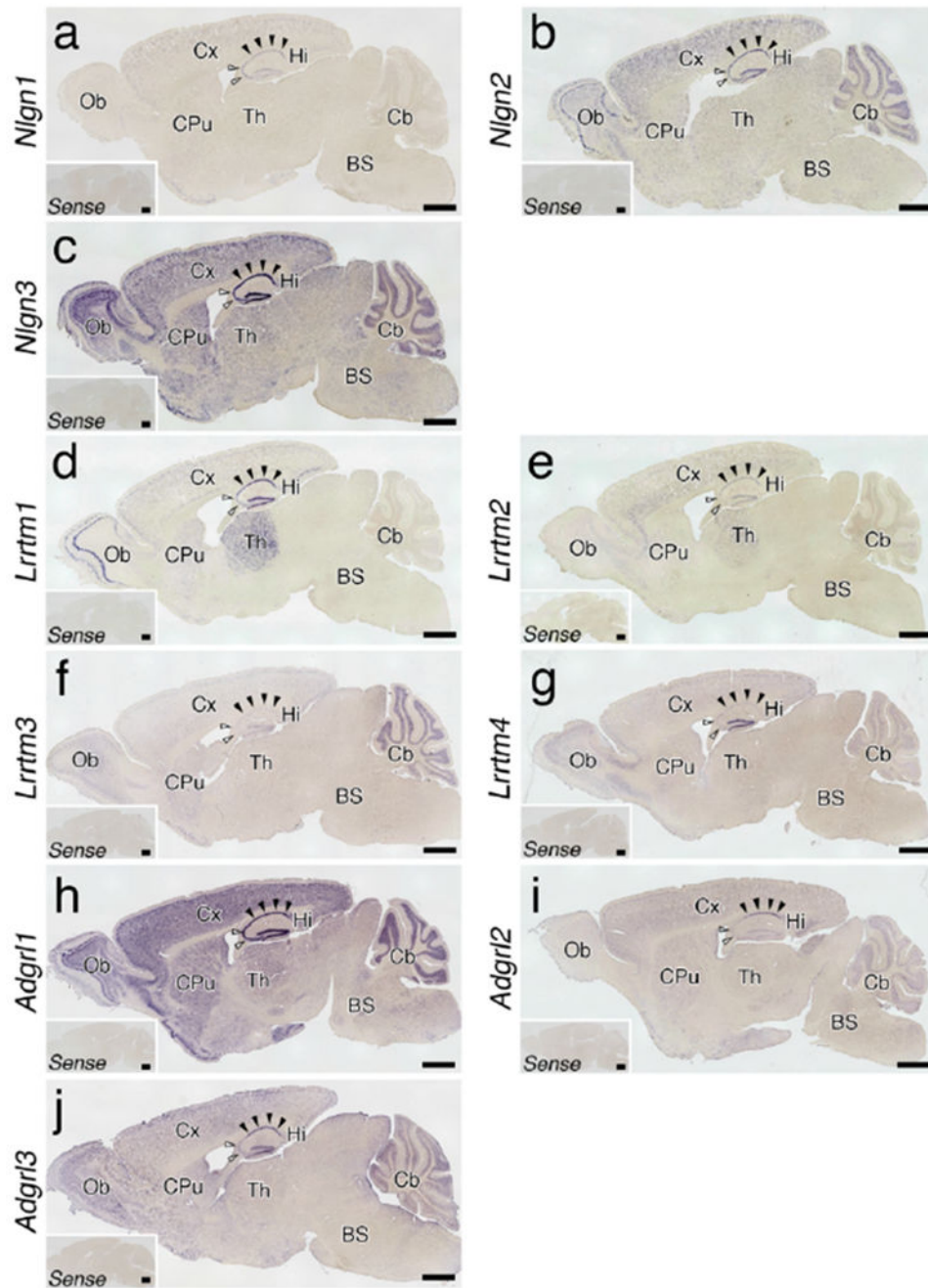


Figure 18.

Expression of Nrxn binding partners in the brain. (a-j) Whole brain sagittal views of chromogenic hybridization signals for Nlgn1-3 (a-c), Lrrtm1-3 (d-f) and Adgrl-4 (g-j) mRNAs. Insets showing no hybridization signals with sense cRNA probes. Filled and open arrows indicate the CA1 and CA3 pyramidal cell layers, respectively. For abbreviations, see list. Scale bars, 1 mm

Molecule	Sequence	Accession # (Genebank or NCBI)	Dilution	Hybridization Temperature (°C)	Reference
<i>P1p</i>	1-1359	NM_011123	1:1,000	63.5	(Yamasaki et al., 2001)
	CTTTTCATTGCCAGGAGAAGGACAAAGATACTCAGAGAGAAAAGGAGAGAAAGGACAGAGACTGGAGAGACCAGGATCCCTCCAGCTGAGCAAAAGT CAGCCGCAAAACACAGACTAGCCAACAGGCTACAGTTGGAGTGCAGAGATGGGTGTAGAGTGTGGTAGATGTCTGTAGGCGCCCTT TTGCTCCCTGGCCACTGGATTGGTTTCTTTGGAGTGCAGTGTCTGTGGATGGACATGAAAGTCTCACTGTGACAGAAAAGCTAAATGAGACTT AATTCCTCAAACACTACCAGCATATGATATCTATGATCTCCAGTAAGACCTGATGATAACACTCCCTTTCCTTTCCCTTTATGAGGGCC TCTGTGTCTACACCACCGGCCCTGCAGCAGATCTTGGGACTACAAGACCACATCTGGCGAAGGGCTGAGCGCAACCGTAAAC AGGGGCCAGAAAGGGGAGGGTCCAGAGGCCAACATCAAGTCAITTTTGGAGGGGTGTGATTTGGGAAATGGGTAGGACATCCCGACAAG TTTGGGACACCTTACCTGTGATGCTCCTGTGATGCTGTGATGCTCCGCTCGGCTGATGCTGATGCTGATGCTTCAATACCTTGCCACCATGTCAGT CTATTTGGCTCCCTAGCAAAGACTCTGCCAGTATAGGCAAGTCTGGCGTATGCAAGATGTTGTTCCTCCATGGAATGCTTTCCCTGGCAAGGTTT GTGGCTCAAACCTTGCTCACTGCAAAACAGCTGATGCTCAAATGACCTTCACCTGTATTGTGGCTTTGTGGGTGTCCGGCCACACTAGTHTTCCCT GCTCACCTCATGATGTGCCCACTTACAACTGCGCTGCCTTAACACTAGGGCCGAGGCAACAAGTTTCAGCTCCATAGAAAATCTCCCTTTGTCTCAAT GCAAAGCTTAAACACAGCTACAGTGTGTGTTTAACTTCCTGCTTTGCCACTGATTTGGCCCTCTTCTACTGTATGATAAACAAGAAAGGAGAGTCTT TGCAGTGATTAATCTCTCTGTGGACTTCCCTCTAGTACCTTTTAGTCAITTTGTCTCCAGAGGCTCTGTAGAAATGGGGGATGCTGTGAGAAGG TGACTCCCAAGCTCAAGTCCGAGGAGGAGTAAAGTCTTAATGTATTGCAAGCATCTCTCTGAAAGACAGGATGTCTTCCTTCTCAAAGGGCACCTCCCAA CTGAGGAGAGCAGAACCGAAAGGTTCTCAGG	NM_027571	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>P2rv1/2</i>	347-846		1:1,000	63.5	this study
	ACTCAAGGCTGCTGTAAGTCTCTGAGAGTCTATATCACAGAGGGCTTTGGGAACTATGCAAGTCACTGAGAAGAAAGCAACAGATGCCAGTCTGCA AGTTCACACTACTAGTATTTCCCGGAGACACTCATACTCTCAGATTCCAGCAAACAACTAAAGTGCCATCCAGGACATCACTCAGACCTTACAGGAAGAATCCACACCAGTCAAT CCTTCTCCCTGGGACCAGCCCTGTGGTCAAGACTAACAAGATCACCAGGTTCTTCCCATTTGCTGTACACCGTCTGTCTTTGTCTGGGCTCATCA CGAACAGCTTGGGAATGAGGATTTCTTTCAGATCCGAGTAATCCCACTATCATTTTTCTTAAGAACACGGTCACTCTGTGATCTACTTAATGATTTCAAACCTT TTCCCATTTAAATTTCTTAGTGTATGCTAAACTGGGAGCCCGGCTCTGAGAACCTTGGTGTGCCAAGTTACTTACAGTCACATTTATTTT	NM_138666	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>N1gn1</i>	3098-3790		1:1,000	75	this study
	CCAGAAAGACCAAGCTTTATCCTATTTGGATTAAACCGAGAGTAAAGAGCAATTACAGACCATAAGGTAATAATCTGGTGGGAGCTGGTACTCAICTG CATAATCTCAATGACATTTCTCAGTATCTCGACAACAATAAAGTGCCATCCAGGACATCACTCAGACCTTACAGGAAGAATTCACACCAGTCAAT CAGGCTTTCCACTGCCCCAACAGGATGATCCAAAGCAACAAAGCCCTTCTCGGTGGATCAGAGGACTACTCCACAGAGTAAAGTGTACTATCGCA GTGGGGCCCTCTCTGTGTGTTTCAACATCTTGCTTGTGCAAGGATTAAGAGAGTAAAGAGTATGATCCACCGAGGTGTGCGACCCCTCA GCACAGCACAACCGACTAACCCTTCTCTCCAGAGAGGAATATGTCTCTCCAAATGAGCAGCTGATTTGGATCCGAGTGTGACTTCCATCCATCC ACATGAGGTGTCTTTCGGACCGCTGTCCCAAGATTAATCTTAGCTATGAGGAGGTCACCTGTGATGTATTCACATAAGACACCATCACAAATG ATTTCCCAACTAATACAGGGGATTTGATGCTTACATACACTGAGAGGACAGAATAATACACTGCCCCCA	NM_198862	1:1,000	75	this study
<i>N1gn2</i>	2041-2895		1:1,000	63.5	(Tanaka et al., 2010)
	ACTGGTGACCCCAACAGCTGTGCCACAGGACACCAAGTTTCATCCACCAAGCCCAACCGCTTTGAAGAGGTAGTGTGGAGCAAGTTCAACAGCAAGGA AAAGCAGTATCTGCATAGGCTTGAACACCGGTGGCCCACTACCTGGTCCCAACAAAGTGGCCCTTCTGGCTGGAGCTGTGGCCCAACCTGCACAAC TGCACACAGACTTCCACCAACCCTGGCTCCCTCTATGCCCACGCTGGCACCTGCACACTGGTCTGGCCTTCCCGCCACACCGCCGTCCT CCCCACCTGCCCCTGCCACTGACTGTGATTTGACCTAGGCCCAAGGGCCTATGACCGCTTCCCGGTGACTCGAGGACTACTCCACGGAGGTAAG CGTGTGTGGCAGTGGTGGCTTCCCTCTTTCTCACATCTTGGCTTTGCCCTCTATTACAAAGCGGGACCGGGCCAGGAGTGGCGGTGCGCGG AGGCTAGCCCAACCAGGAGGTTCAGGCTCAGGTGTGCTGGTGGGCCCCTGTGTTCCCACTGGTCCAGTACCCCGGAGGGAGGCTAGTA TCGCTGAGTGAAGCGGGTGGTGTGTTGGGGGGACCTGCTGAGGCTGTCCCTGCCTGTCCACCGACTATACCTTGGCTTGGCCCGGGCA CCGAGCAGTGTGCCTCTTTGGCCCCGGGCCCTAACCCTGCTGCTAGTGGCTGTGGGGCCCCCGCCCGGCCAGCCCCCTTCTCTCCATCCCCCTTTG GGCCCTTCCCAACCCCCACCCCCACTGTCTACAGCCACAAAACAACAGCTACCC	NM_172932	1:1,000	63.5	(Tanaka et al., 2010)
<i>N1gn3</i>	2939-3782		1:1,000	63.5	(Tanaka et al., 2010)

Molecule	Sequence	Accession # (Genebank or NCBI)	Dilution	Hybridization Temperature (°C)	Reference
	ATGCACCCGCATGTACAAAAACAACAATAATCCAGAGCTGAAACCTGATATAGGCCCTTCAATATGGGGACACATACAGTAGCTCTTGTTGTACCAAGGGCCCATGGAACA GCAGCTGGAACCGACACTCTGAGCCCGACAGACACAGACATCGCTGGGCCCTGGAGCAACCGCCAGCCTGGCTTGCCCTTCGGAACTGCAC CTCTACCAACTGCAGACTGGAGCTTTAAAGAGAGGATAGACTCTCTCCCTCCAGACTTCTCTGGCTCTCTCTCTCTGGCTTTGTTGTTATTTTCATTTT TAAATGGAAACCAATGCTTTTCCAAACCTTAGAGTGTAGCAAGCTCTGGAAGGGAGGGTCCAAAGATCAGGACGCTCTGGCTCTGGACCTCCCAATGTACA TACAATCAGACCAAGGAGAGACTCTCCAAAGCAGAGCTTGGGCAAAAGACTATGGGTAGAGGAGAGAGGCTAGCAATGAATGGGTCTTGAG GGCCAGCAAGGACAGAGCACTCTGCTGCTGGCCCTCCAGAGAGACTACAGAGCTACAGGCTGACCTTTCTGCAAGGCGCCAGCACAGCGCT GCCTGGAGAAGCCTAGTTGATGAACTAATGACTGTGGAGGCCCTGACCTATTGGGCCCCCTGGGTATATAATCTGGGTTCTGCCTCTGCCCCCTTGGGGAC ATGATATCAGAAAATTTGCCCCAATTTTCTTACAGTCTCTCTGTTCTCCTGCTATTTCTTCAAAAACAACAGTGTGTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTGGTTGTGTGG CTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTAAGAAAA	NM_028880.3	1:1,000	75	this study
<i>Lrrtm1</i>	1286-2134	NM_028880.3	1:1,000	75	this study
	AGCCGGAATAAGTTGGCCATTGTGTGTCTCTGACTCTCTGACTGGGTTTTGGGAAATTTGGAGAAAATGGACTTTGTGGGAACGAGATCGAATAACATGAGCCCAT GTGTTTCGAGACCCTCCACTGTGACAGACCTGACGTGACTCCAACCGCTCACCCTACCTACATTGAGCCCGTATTCACATCCCTGGAAGTCCCTTACCGAGC ATCACTGTGCCGGGAACTGTGGGACTGTGGGGCAAGCTGTGTGTCTAGCTTCTGTGGTCTCAGAACTTCCAGGGACGTAGCATGCTAATCTGACAGTG CGCCAGCCCAAGATACGCACAGGGCAGGAGCTTGTGGTGTGGTGTGTGGGAGGCTTGTGAGTGTGGTGTGTTGAGTGTGGGAGGCTGACAGCGCCACCTCT GTCGGTGGCCCTACTAAACCGACTGACCTAACCGCCCCAGAGAGCTCACCGACTCTGTGGAGCGTGGGGAGGCGCCAGGATGGCAGCTTTGAGCC CATCACTGTGGCTTTCCAGGCGGGAGCACGAGAGAAACGGTGTGCAAAATCCAAAGTGTCACTGGCACCAATGGCCCTCATCTTCTCTCCATCAG TGGTCTCTACTCTACGTATCCCTGGGAGTTTCCAGCCAGCTCAGCAGCTCAGACAGTGTGTTGTCACGAGGCGGACAGGAGGAGGAGAGCAAGCAACAG ACCATGCATCAGATGGCTGCTATGTCAGCCAGGATGATGTGATTACAAACCTAACCCACATCGAGGGGGGCCCTGCTGTTATCATCAACGAGTACCGGTTCC TGTACCTGTCAACCAGCACCTGGAGGGATGGGAGGTTGTA	NM_178005.4	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>Lrrtm2</i>	183-682	NM_178005.4	1:1,000	63.5	this study
	TATTAACCTATAATCAAGCCGGTTTAAAGGGATCAGAGCACAGGGAAATGACACCCAGTGTCTTCCAGAGGATATCCTTAAGGGAATAAATAATTCACCCCTGA TAGACTTGAATTTTACTTTGAAAGGCTGGGGCACAGAAACAGGAAACTGTGTAAGAGCTTCTGATTTAGAGCCCTTTTACAGACTCACTGCGTGTGAGTCTG ACAACTCGACTGAATGCAGCTCCAAATGTGCTCAGAGATGGGTACTATTTAAAGTGCCCATATAGGGGCCCTTGTGGCCAGCAATAATATGCAATGAG TGTGGTATTAATAATGTCTGCCTGCCCTGGGTATGGGTTTCCACTAAATGCGCGTGTGAAAAGCTGCTATTCTACTGCGACTCTCAGGGCTTCCACTCAGT GCCAAACGCCACAGACAAGGGTTCCTTGGGTCTGTCCCTGAGGCCAATCAACATCACAGGCGCTTGAAGAGATCAATTTGGCAGGCTTTCAG	NM_178678	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>Lrrtm3</i>	1882-2281	NM_178678	1:1,000	63.5	this study
	CCGCGAGCATGAAGCGCTGCGAGCCAGCCGAGGAGAGCGCACCAGCAAGGAAATGCCTCAAGCCAAAGCTCAAGCGATGACTCCAGGCCACCCAGGAATTT TATGTAGATTAATAAACCACACACCGGAGACAGCGAGATGCTGTGAACGGAAACGGACCCCTGCACCTATAGCAAATCAGGCTCCAGGGAAATGTGAGA TACCTTATCAATGAATGTGCAACCTTTCTGGCATGTACCCAGCCCAATAATAGTACTGTGGGTCCATCATGAATCCCTCCATAAGTCTTTTGAACCG AATGCACAGGAAGACAGATGGAAGCCACCTAGAGACTGAGCTGGACTTGAGCAACAATCAGCTCAGTGGCCCCATCAGTGACCATAAAACCA	NM_001134743	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>Lrrtm4</i>	1608-2107	NM_001134743	1:1,000	63.5	this study
	CTCCGTTGCCCATTCTCTGGTGATCTATGTGTCTTGGAAACCGGTACCAGCCAGCAATGAACAACACTCCAACAGCACTCATTTATGAGAGGAGACGAA AAAGCGGAGGATCTGGGAGACAGATGAATTCCTCTTACAGATACTACGTGGACTACAAACAGCACTGAGACTGAGACCATGGATATCGGTATAATGG ATCTGGTCCCTGCATATATCAATCTCTGGCTCCAGGGAGTGTAGATACCACCATGTGAAGCCCTGCGGTATACAGTATGACCACCAACAGTATTGG GTACTGCCAGCCCACCCAGCCTCCACATCAACAAGGCTGTGATAGAACAGGATGCAAGGATGACAGCCCAAGTGTGGAGCTGGGAGAGCAACACA GCTTCAATGGCCACCATAGCCAGTCCGCTGCACTGCTGCAATTTATCTGGAGAGAATAACAACAACTAACAGCGAAACTACTTCTAGATGAAGAGC	NM_181039	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>Adgrl1</i>	2943-3392	NM_181039	1:1,000	63.5	this study
	TCTTGGAGTAACTGTGTGAACCGGCAAGTGCAGGAGTTGGTGTCCCCCAAGAGTATCCAGAACTCCATTCAGCTCTCCGCCAAGACC ATCAAGCAGAAACAGCCGAACCGTGTGGTGAAGATTGCTTCACTTCTACAACACCTGGCCCTCTTTGTCCAGGAGAAATGCCACATGTAAGCTGGCA GGTGAAGGCAGGGACAGGTGGCCCTGGAGGTGCCCTCCCTGGTGGTCAACTCAGAGGTATCCGAGCATCATCAATAAGAGTCTAGCCCGGCTCTCTCAT GGACCTGTCACTTACTGTAGCCCACTTGGAGGCCAAGAACCACTCAATGCAAACTCTCTGGAACTACTACAGAGCCGCTCCATGCTGTGGGTACTG GTCAACCCAGGGCTGCCGATTGGTGGAGTCCATAAGACCCATA	NM_001081298	1:1,000	63.5	this study
<i>Adgrl2</i>	1834-2233	NM_001081298	1:1,000	63.5	this study

Molecule	Sequence	Accession # (Genebank or NCBI)	Dilution	Hybridization Temperature (°C)	Reference
<i>Adgrl3</i>	2410-2809	NM_001347367	1:1,000	63.5	this study
	GCAATTGTGGACACGGTAGACAAACCTTCTGAGAGCTGAGGCTTTGGAAATCCCTGGAAACACATGAATTTTCAGAGCAGGGCCACACAGCCACAATGTTGTTG GATACCCTTGGAGAGAAAGGAGCATTTCGTCCTAGCAGACAAACCTTTTGGAAACCAACAGGGTCTCCATGCCCACAAGAAATATTTTAAAGAGTTGCTGTCCCTCA GCACGGAAGGCAGGTCCAAAGACTTTAAATTCCTCTGGGCTTAAAGGGTTGGGAGCTCCATCCAGCTCTCTGCCAACACGGTCAAACAGAAACAGCAGG AATGGGCTGGCCAAAGCTGTGATTCATCATTTTACCCTGGAGCCTGGGACAATTCCTAAGCACCTGAGAACCGCAACCCATAAAGCTGGGTGCCAGACCTCA				
	CTGGATAGTAGATCAGGGCCGGTACATCATGAGACAAGTCTCCTACATCTCTCCACCAATTCACCTCGACTCTGAACCTAGAAAGGCCCCCTGTCTAGAGGGATT TCTACCACAGGATCCCTGGGTATGGAAAGCACGACCAACAGCACCCCTCCGGACCAACAACCTGGAAACATAGGCAGGATACCCCGCATCTTGGCCGG GCAGAAAGAAACCCGAGTACAGCAGCCCATCCCGCGGTAGAGGTGCTGGATGAGCTCACACACACTGGCCCTGGCAGCCTCCCAATCCAGCTAT GGAAGAGAGCTCCGAGGCTGTGGAAAGCCCGAGAAATCATGTGGTTTAAAGACCAGACAGGGGCAGGTAGCAAAAGCAGCCATGCCCAAGCAGGAACCATAG				

Table 2

Expression levels of 6 isoforms of *Nrxn* mRNAs in individual regions

Region	<i>Nrxn</i> mRNA expression						Figures
	α Nrxn1	α Nrxn2	α Nrxn3	β Nrxn1	β Nrxn2	β Nrxn3	
Telencephalon							
Olfactory bulb (Ob)							
Glomerular layer (Gl)	+++	+	+++	+	±±	+	2
Mitral cell layer (Mi)	+++	++	+++	++	+++	+++	2
Granule cell layer (GrO)	+++	++	+++	+	±±	±±	2
Neocortex (Primary somatosensory cortex: S1)							
Layer 1	+	+	+	-	-	+/-	3, 8, 9
Layers 2/3	++	++	++	++	++	+	3, 8, 9
Layer 4	++	+	±	±±	±	±±	3, 8, 9
Layer 5	++	++	±±	±±	+	+	3, 8, 9
Layer 6	++	+	±±	+	+	+	3, 8, 9
Neocortex (Primary motor cortex: M1)							
Layer 1	+	+	+	-	-	=	2
Layers 2/3	++	++	++	++	++	+ ^s	2
Layer 5	++	++	±±	+	+	+	2
Layer 6	++	+	±±	+	+	+	2
Neocortex (Primary auditory cortex: A1)							
Layer 1	+	+	+	±	-	=	3, 4
Layers 2/3	++	++	++	++	++	++	3, 4
Layer 4	++	+	±±	±±	±	±±	3, 4
Layer 5	++	++	±±	+	+	+	3, 4
Layer 6	++	+	±±	+	+	+	3, 4
Retrosplenial granular cortex (RSG)							
Piriform cortex (Pir)	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	2, 3
Lateral entorhinal cortex (LEnt)	±±	±±	±±	±±	±±	4, 5	
Medial entorhinal cortex (MEnt)	±±	++	+	±±	++	±	5
Olfactory tubercle (OT)	+	+	+++	+	+	++	2

Region	Nrxa mRNA expression						Figures
	α Nrxn1	α Nrxn2	α Nrxn3	β Nrxn1	β Nrxn2	β Nrxn3	
Hippocampus							
CA1	+++	++	+++	+	+++	++	3, 4, 10, 11
CA2	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++	3, 4, 10, 11
CA3	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	3, 4, 10, 11
Subiculum (Su)	++	++	++	+	+	±	4
Dentate gyrus (DG)	+++	++	++	+++	+++	±	3, 4, 10, 11
Caudate-putamen (CPu)	+	+	+++	+	+	++	2
Nucleus accumbens (NAc)	+	+	+++	+	+	++	2
Island of Calleja (ICj)	±±	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	2
Lateral septal nucleus (LS)	+	++	++	+	+	+	2
Nucleus of the diagonal band (NDB)	++	++	++	±	+	+	2
Amygdala							
Lateral nucleus (LA)	++	++	++	++	++	+	3
Basal nucleus (BA)	++	++	++	+	++	+	3
Central nucleus (CA)	++	++	++	+	++	++	3
Clastrum (Cl)	++	+	+++	±±	±±	±	3
Diencephalon							
Epithalamus							
Lateral habenular nucleus (LHb)	++	+	±	-	+	±	3
Medial habenular nucleus (MHb)	±±±	+++	±	-	++	-	3
Thalamus							
Ventral posteromedial nucleus (VPM)	++	+	+	+	+	++	3
Ventral posterolateral nucleus (VPL)	++	+	+	+	+	++	3
Lateral dorsal nucleus (LD)	++	+	+	++	+	++	3
Lateral posterior nucleus (LP)	++	+	+	++	+	++	3
Mediodorsal nucleus (MD)	++	+	±	++	+	++	3
Centromedian nucleus (CM)	++	+	±	++	+	++	3
Paraventricular nucleus (PVT)	±±	±±	±	+	++	±	3
Medial geniculate nucleus (MGN)	++	+	+	++	+	++	4
Reticular thalamic nucleus (Rt)	+	+	++	=	+	±	3

Region	Nrxx mRNA expression						Figures
	αNrxx1	αNrxx2	αNrxx3	βNrxx1	βNrxx2	βNrxx3	
Subthalamic nucleus (STN)	++	+	+	-	±	±	3
Hypothalamus							
Lateral area (LH)	++	++	±	=	+	±	3
Dorsomedial nucleus (DMH)	+++	+++	++	=	++	++	3
Ventromedial nucleus (VMH)	++	+++	+	=	+	+	3
Arcuate nucleus (Arc)	+++	++	+++	+	++	+	3
Midbrain							
Superior colliculus(SC)	++	±±	§ ±	=	+	± §	4,5
Inferior colliculus (IC)	++	±	§ ±	+	±±	± §	5,6
Parabigeminal nucleus (PBG)	++	++	+	±	±	±	5
Periaqueductal gray (PAG)	++	+	+	±	+	=	4,5
Nucleus of Darkschewitsch (ND)	+	±±	+++	-	+	±	4
Edinger-Westphal nucleus (EW)	+	±±	±	-	+	±	4
Dorsal raphe nucleus							
Dorsal part (DRD)	++	±±	+	-	++	±	5
Ventral part (DRV)	++	±±	+	-	++	±	5
Lateral part (DRL)	++	±±	±±	-	+	±	5
Substantia nigra pars reticulata (SNr)	+	+	±	-	±	±	4
Substantia nigra pars compacta (SNc)	+	++	±±	-	+	+	4, 14, 15
Ventral tegmental area (VTA)	±±	++	±±	-	+	+	4
Interpeduncular nucleus (IPN)	±±	++	++	+	+	+	4
Pons							
Dorsal nucleus of lateral lemniscus (DLL)	+	+	±±	-	=	±	5
Nucleus of trapezoid body (NTB)	+	-	±±	-	-	-	5
Paraoivary region of superior olivary complex (SOP)	+	-	±	-	-	+	5
Pontine reticular nucleus (PRN)	+	=	§ ±	-	=	± §	5
Laterodorsal tegmental nucleus (LDTg)	±±	±±	±±	-	+	±	6
Locus coeruleus (LC)	+	++	+	-	++	+	6, 14, 15

Region	<i>Nrxn</i> mRNA expression							Figures
	α Nrxn1	α Nrxn2	α Nrxn3	β Nrxn1	β Nrxn2	β Nrxn3		
Lateral parabrachial nucleus (LPB)	++	+	+	-	+	β	6	
Medial parabrachial nucleus (MPB)	+	\pm	+	-	\pm	+	6	
Ventral cochlear nucleus (VC)	\pm	-	β	-	\pm	β	6	
Facial nucleus (VII)	+	++	-	-	+	-	6	
Principal sensory nucleus of trigeminal nerve (PrV)	\pm	=	β	-	\pm	β	6	
Medulla								
Gigantocellular reticular nucleus (GRN)	+	+	β	-	β	β	6	
Spinal nucleus of trigeminal nerve (SpV)	+	+	\pm	+	+	+	7	
Nucleus of the tractus solitarius (NTS)	++	++	++	+	β	++	7, 14, 15	
Dorsal motor nucleus of vagus nerve (DMX)	++	++	β	\pm	++	\pm	7	
Hypoglossal nucleus (XII)	+	++	+	-	++	+	7	
Inferior olivary complex (IO)	+	\pm	-	+	β	-	7	
Medullary reticular nucleus (MRN)	+	+	β	-	\pm	+	7	
Lateral reticular nucleus (LRN)	+	+	\pm	-	+	\pm	7	
Cerebellum								
Purkinje cell layer (PCL)	\pm	++	+++	\pm	++	\pm	6, 7, 12, 13	
Granule cell layer (GrC)	+++	++	β	+++	+++	+++	6, 7, 12, 13	
Molecular layer (ML)	+	+	β	-	-	-	6, 7, 12, 13	

+++; strong; ++, moderate; +, weak; -, very weak or not detected. See Materials and Methods for the criteria to determine the expression levels of *Nrxn* isoforms in individual regions.

β Regions including sparse cells highly expressing *Nrxn* isoforms.