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Oligophrenin-1 Moderates Behavioral Responses to Stress by Regulating Parvalbumin Interneuron Activity in the Medial Prefrontal Cortex

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SUMMARY

Ample evidence indicates that individuals with intellectual disability (ID) are at increased risk of developing stress-related behavioral problems and mood disorders. Yet, a mechanistic explanation for such a link remains largely elusive. Here, we focused on characterizing the syndromic ID gene *oligophrenin-1* (*OPHN1*). We find that *Ophn1* deficiency in mice markedly enhances helpless/depressive-like behavior in the face of repeated/uncontrollable stress. Strikingly, *Ophn1* deletion exclusively in parvalbumin (PV) interneurons in the prelimbic medial prefrontal cortex (PL-mPFC) is sufficient to induce helplessness. This behavioral phenotype is mediated by a diminished excitatory drive onto *Ophn1*-deficient PL-mPFC PV interneurons, leading to hyperactivity in this region. Importantly, suppressing neuronal activity or RhoA/Rho-kinase signaling in the PL-mPFC reverses helpless behavior. Our results identify *OPHN1* as a critical regulator of adaptive behavioral responses to stress and shed light onto the mechanistic link between *OPHN1* genetic deficits, mPFC circuit dysfunction, and abnormalities in stress-related behaviors.

eTOC

Wang et al. show that deficiency of the intellectual disability gene *Ophn1* enhances stress-induced helpless/depressive-like behavior. This phenotype is mediated by a diminished excitatory drive onto *Ophn1*-deficient parvalbumin interneurons in the prelimbic medial prefrontal cortex, leading

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

M.W. and L.V.A. conceived and designed the project. M.W., N.B.G., and Y.T. performed all experiments, analyzed the data, and made the figures. B.L. assisted with behavioral analyses. L.V.A. wrote the paper with input from M.W., N.B.G., and B.L. All authors edited and approved the manuscript.

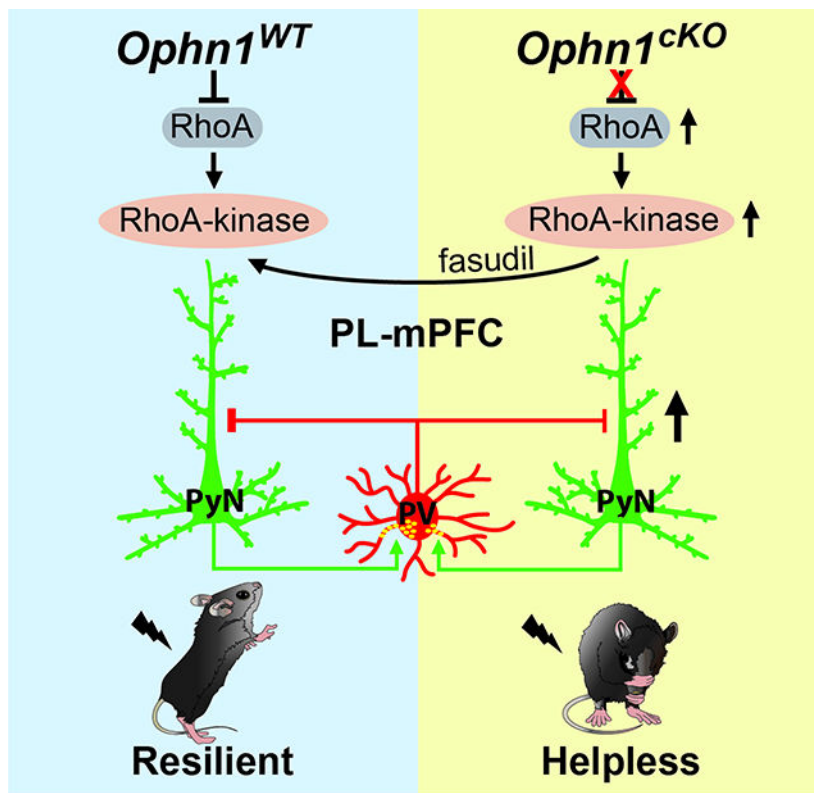
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

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to hyperactivity in this region. Suppressing neuronal activity or RhoA/Rho-kinase signaling reverses helpless behavior.

Graphical Abstract



INTRODUCTION

Aversive or stressful events are a prominent risk factor for behavioral problems and mood disorders (Kendler et al., 1999; McEwen and Morrison, 2013; Russo et al., 2012). However, not all people who encounter aversive/stressful events develop untoward outcomes, and more individuals show resilience and develop adaptive responses to control aversive situations. Individuals susceptible to stress adapt poorly and express inappropriate responses that can precipitate behavioral problems and/or mood disorders, including depression (Atkinson et al., 2009; Feder et al., 2009; Franklin et al., 2012; Krishnan et al., 2007; Maier, 2015; Southwick and Charney, 2012; Southwick et al., 2005). Great efforts are being devoted to understanding why some individuals are resilient to stress, while others are not. Though recent studies have begun to shed light on the environmental, epigenetic, and neurophysiological factors involved (Bagot et al., 2014; Cathomas et al., 2019; Han and Nestler, 2017; Herman, 2013; Klengel and Binder, 2015; Lammel et al., 2014; Macri, 2012; Maier, 2015; Price and Drevets, 2012; Riga et al., 2014; Wu et al., 2013), the genetic factors that underlie or promote either resilience or susceptibility to stress-induced maladaptive behavioral phenotypes remain largely elusive.

It is now well-known that individuals with intellectual disability (ID) have increased risk of developing stress-related behavioral problems and mood disorders (Baudewijns et al., 2018; Borthwick-Duffy, 1994; Embregts et al., 2010; Gacek et al., 2017; Hartley and Maclean, 2008, 2009; Hurley, 2006; Janssen et al., 2002; Scott and Havercamp, 2014). Such individuals are more often exposed to stressful/uncontrollable events in everyday life, like bullying and demanding problem-solving situations, than those without ID. Moreover, they may have less control over both minor and major daily life decisions (e.g., what to eat or where to live) (Bannerman et al., 1990; Dulin et al., 2013). In addition, people with ID typically have more difficulty effectively coping with stressful negative situations, often using maladaptive coping strategies (Hartley and Maclean, 2008, 2005; Janssen et al., 2002; Scott and Havercamp, 2014; Wayment and Zetlin, 1989). Prevalence studies estimate 10–50% of individuals with ID exhibit some sort of behavioral problems and/or mood disorders (Baudewijns et al., 2018; Bertelli et al., 2012; Borthwick-Duffy, 1994; Cooper et al., 2009; Cooper et al., 2007; Deb et al., 2001; Esbensen and Benson, 2006; Hartley and Maclean, 2009; Scott and Havercamp, 2014; Smiley et al., 2007). Frequently reported problems/symptoms include aggression, self-injury, emotional imbalance/instability, and/or helplessness/hopelessness, all of which have been linked to stress and/or lack of control (Baudewijns et al., 2018; Esbensen and Benson, 2006; Gacek et al., 2017; Hartley and Maclean, 2008, 2009; Janssen et al., 2002; Scott and Havercamp, 2014). A number of genes underlying ID with co-occurrent stress-related behavioral problems and mood disorders have been identified (Chiurazzi and Pirozzi, 2016; Hagerman et al., 2018; Mehregan et al., 2016; Morgan et al., 2008; Plummer et al., 2016). To date, however, little is known as to how perturbations in such genes contribute to or facilitate the development of stress-related behavioral problems/disorders. To gain insight, we focused on the X-linked ID gene *oligophrenin-1* (*OPHN1* in humans, *Ophn1* in mice).

OPHN1, which encodes a Rho GTPase-activating protein (GAP), was the first identified Rho-linked ID gene (Bienvenu et al., 1997; Billuart et al., 1998). Mutations in *OPHN1*, located at Xp12, cause a syndromic form of X-linked ID, with affected individuals exhibiting mild to moderate/severe ID, vermian and/or hemispheric cerebellar hypoplasia, and behavioral problems (Bergmann et al., 2003; Chabrol et al., 2005; des Portes et al., 2004; Moortgat et al., 2018; Philip et al., 2003; Pirozzi et al., 2011; Santos-Reboucas et al., 2014; Schwartz et al., 2019; Tentler et al., 1999; Zanni et al., 2005). Most *OPHN1* mutations identified to date have been shown, or predicted, to result in *OPHN1* loss of function (Santos-Reboucas et al., 2014; Schwartz et al., 2019). Behavioral problems include hyperactivity, emotional imbalance, and intolerance to frustration, which can trigger helpless/depressive reactions and are often precipitated or exacerbated by stress (Busa et al., 2017; Moortgat et al., 2018; Philip et al., 2003; Santos-Reboucas et al., 2014; Schwartz et al., 2019; Tentler et al., 1999; Waschbusch et al., 2003; Zanni et al., 2005). The severity of the behavioral phenotypes is typically milder in females than males (Al-Owain et al., 2011; Bienvenu et al., 1997; Moortgat et al., 2018; Schwartz et al., 2019). *OPHN1* is highly expressed in the brain, where it is found in neurons of all major brain regions involved in cognitive/adaptive processes, including the hippocampus and cortex (Billuart et al., 1998; Fauchereau et al., 2003; Govek et al., 2004). To date, *OPHN1* function has mostly been studied in the hippocampus, with multiple studies unveiling key roles for *OPHN1* in

regulating hippocampal synaptic structure/function and plasticity, as well as learning and memory (Govek et al., 2004; Khelifaoui et al., 2007; Khelifaoui et al., 2014; Khelifaoui et al., 2009; Nadif Kasri et al., 2009; Nadif Kasri et al., 2011; Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2009; Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2014; Powell et al., 2012). Despite the stress-related behavioral problems observed in *OPHN1* patients, its role in modulating maladaptive behavioral responses and resilience to stress remains unexplored.

In this study, we genetically ablated *Ophn1* either globally or locally in distinct brain regions/neuronal cell types in mice and assessed the effects on performance in the learned helplessness (LH) procedure (Chourbaji et al., 2005; Kim et al., 2016; Li et al., 2011; Maier and Watkins, 2005; Perova et al., 2015; Vollmayr and Henn, 2001; Wang et al., 2014) to determine OPHN1's involvement in establishing adaptive vs. maladaptive behavioral responses to inescapable/uncontrollable stress. We found that male mice lacking *Ophn1* globally or selectively in the prelimbic (PL) region of the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) display a marked increase in LH, a "depression-like" phenotype whereby animals show reduced escape from escapable foot shocks. In line with this, *Ophn1*-deficient mice also exhibited maladaptive behavioral responses in a repeated social defeat stress model. Strikingly, *Ophn1* deletion exclusively in PL-mPFC parvalbumin (PV) interneurons (INs), but not somatostatin (SOM) INs or *Emx1*-expressing pyramidal neurons (PyNs), was sufficient to induce helpless behavior. At a cellular level, we found that excitatory synaptic transmission onto PL-mPFC PV INs lacking OPHN1 is weakened, leading to decreased spike output of inhibitory PV INs and consequently increased activity in the PL-mPFC. Importantly, suppressing PL-mPFC neuronal activity with an inhibitory DREADD (designer receptors exclusively activated by designer drugs) or by increasing the activity of PL-mPFC PV INs with an excitatory DREADD reversed the helpless behavioral phenotype of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. Furthermore, we uncovered that OPHN1's effect on neuronal activity and stress-related helpless behavior depends on its inhibition of the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway. Suppressing this pathway normalized the elevated PL-mPFC neuronal activity and alleviated the helpless behavior of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. Thus, our results uncover a previously unknown role of OPHN1 in regulating PL-mPFC PV IN activity required for shaping adaptive behavioral responses in the face of stress and provide mechanistic insights into how mutations in *OPHN1* may contribute to the behavioral issues in *OPHN1* patients.

RESULTS

Global Deletion of *Ophn1* Induces Maladaptive Behavioral Responses to Stress

To investigate the role of OPHN1 in regulating stress-related behaviors, we generated a mouse line carrying a floxed allele of *Ophn1* (Fig. S1A). Given that the mouse *Ophn1* gene, like its human counterpart, is ubiquitously expressed with high levels in the brain (Billuart et al., 1998; Fauchereau et al., 2003; Govek et al., 2004), we crossed *Ophn1*-*flox* (*Ophn1*^{flox/+}) mice with β -*actin*-*Cre* (*ACTB*^{Cre}) mice to achieve global *Ophn1* deletion. Loss of *Ophn1* expression was confirmed by Western blot of OPHN1 using total lysates from whole brain tissue or cerebral cortices of 50-day-old mice (Fig. S1B). Because the mouse *Ophn1* gene is located on the X chromosome only male *Ophn1* knockout (KO) mice (*Ophn1*^{flox/Y};*ACTB*^{Cre/+}) and their wild-type (WT) littermates (*Ophn1*^{+/Y};*ACTB*^{Cre/+}) were

used unless otherwise specified; for simplicity, we will refer to these as *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}*, respectively. The *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice were viable, fertile, and without developmental disadvantages and displayed a largely intact brain architecture (Fig. S1C). While some lateral ventricle enlargement was observed (Fig. S1C), the structure and lamination of all major brain regions, including the cerebral cortex and hippocampus, appeared normal overall (Fig. S1D, E). Similar findings were previously reported for conventional *Ophn1* KO mice (Khelifaoui et al., 2007). Thus, globally ablating *Ophn1* does not majorly affect gross brain development.

To assess if *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice present aberrant behavioral responses to uncontrollable stress, we used the well-established LH procedure. Seven-week-old *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice and their WT littermates were subjected to two successive induction sessions of unpredictable and inescapable foot shocks; then, their coping capabilities were evaluated in a testing session of escapable foot shocks (Fig. S1F). Escape latency and number of escape failures—the most commonly reported indices of LH (Chourbaji et al., 2005; Li et al., 2011; Perova et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014)—were measured. The mice were classified as learned helpless or resilient by *k*-means clustering analysis of the number of escape failures and latency to escape, with helpless mice having significantly more failures and longer escape latencies than resilient mice (see Methods; Fig. S1G). Consistent with previous studies (Chourbaji et al., 2005; Perova et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014), we found that ~24% of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* mice displayed LH (Fig. 1A). Strikingly, 74% of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice exhibited LH (Fig. 1A), implying that *Ophn1* deficiency promotes helpless behavior in the face of stress.

To verify that the observed behavioral phenotype was not an indirect consequence of a lack of pain sensitivity in *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice, we subjected the animals to the conventional hot plate test (Bannon, 2001; Shin et al., 2015). We saw no difference in hotplate response latency between *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice and their WT littermates (Fig. S1H), indicating that *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice do not have impaired pain sensitivity. We also validated that *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice do not exhibit defective/decreased locomotor activity in an open field test (Wang et al., 2014) (Fig. S1I). In fact, we found that the mutant mice traveled over a longer distance and at a higher speed than their WT littermates (Fig. S1I). Moreover, while a previous study reported a high occurrence of perseverance behaviors in conventional *Ophn1* KO mice using a Y-maze spatial working memory test (Zhang et al., 2017), we observed that *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice displaying helpless behavior typically remain in a corner of the cage and move very little, similar to their WT littermates exhibiting helpless behavior (Videos S1–3). Thus, the behavioral phenotype observed in *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice was not secondary to uncoordinated/indirect movements or perseverative behaviors. We detected no substantial differences in the frequency of visits, time spent, or distance traveled in the center area (the anxiety zone) of the open field between the two genotypes (Fig. S1I), suggesting that naïve *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice do not exhibit increased anxiety-like behavior. To corroborate this, we performed elevated plus-maze and light/dark exploration tests (File et al., 2005; Walsh et al., 2017). In both tests, the performance of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice was comparable to that of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* mice (Fig. S1J, K), indicating that under basal conditions, *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice were not more anxious than their control littermates. Finally, we verified that the observed behavioral phenotype was not due to learning deficits

in the avoidance task. We subjected the animals to only the testing session (i.e., without preceding unpredictable/inescapable foot shocks). We found that *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice were indistinguishable from their WT littermates with respect to both escape latencies and failures (Fig. 1B), indicating that *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice are principally capable of learning and performing the avoidance task. Thus, the observed increase in LH likely reflects a stress-coping deficit in male *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice.

As aforementioned, mutations in the human *OPHN1* gene cause a syndromic form of X-linked ID, with behavioral alterations being milder in females. Hence, we also investigated if *Ophn1* deletion in female mice impacts their behavioral responses to stress. We subjected *Ophn1* heterozygous (*Ophn1^{flox/+};ACTB^{Cre/+}*) and homozygous (*Ophn1^{flox/flox};ACTB^{Cre/+}*) female KO mice and their WT (*Ophn1^{+/+};ACTB^{Cre/+}*) littermates to the LH procedure. We found that the behavioral responses of *Ophn1* heterozygous and homozygous female KO mice were not significantly different from those of their control littermates, with respect to both escape latencies and failures. Only 17% and 22.7% of *Ophn1^{flox/+};ACTB^{Cre/+}* and *Ophn1^{flox/flox};ACTB^{Cre/+}* mice, respectively, displayed LH, which was not significantly different from the 23.5% seen in the control group (Fig. 1C). Thus, in line with observations in humans, maladaptive behavioral responses are blunted/absent in female *Ophn1*-deficient mice.

To further reinforce our findings that *Ophn1* deficiency in male mice leads to increased stress susceptibility, we implemented an independent animal stress model: the repeated social defeat stress model (Golden et al., 2011; Shin et al., 2015) (Fig. 1D). Male *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice and their control littermates were exposed to a larger, more aggressive male CD1 mouse for 5 days as a social defeat stressor. The mice were then subjected to a social interaction behavior test in an open area with an interaction zone and a corner zone 24 hours after the fifth defeat episode (Fig. 1D). Under non-defeated conditions, baseline social interactions of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice were similar to those of their WT littermates (Fig. 1E). However, after 5 days of defeat stressor exposure, the *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice spent significantly more time in the corner zone than their WT littermates, maximizing distance from the unfamiliar, aggressive CD1 mouse (Fig. 1F, G). No difference in total distance traveled was observed between the two genotypes (Fig. 1H). These data reveal a strong social avoidance behavior in *Ophn1*-deficient mice. Of note, this stress model can only be applied using male C57BL/6 mice, mainly because innate aggression of male toward female mice is limited (Beery and Zucker, 2011).

Together, our results from two different stress models indicate that *Ophn1*-deficient male mice are more susceptible to stressful events and unveil a critical role for OPHN1 in regulating stress-related behaviors.

***Ophn1* Deletion in the PL-mPFC and in PV INs Promotes Stress-Induced Helpless Behavior**

The *Ophn1* gene is broadly expressed in the central nervous system, and the protein is present in both excitatory and inhibitory neurons of all major brain regions (Billuart et al., 1998; Fauchereau et al., 2003; Govek et al., 2004; Powell et al., 2012; Redolfi et al., 2016). Thus, we next sought to determine which brain region(s) and which neuronal cell type(s)

contribute to the emergence of maladaptive behavioral responses to stress in *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice.

We initially focused on the mPFC and hippocampal CA1, as both brain regions have been implicated in stress-related behaviors (Amat et al., 2005; Arnsten, 2009; Dias-Ferreira et al., 2009; Franklin et al., 2012; Ghosal et al., 2017; Goldwater et al., 2009; McGuire and Botvinick, 2010; Perova et al., 2015; Schmidt et al., 2010; Seese et al., 2013; Shrestha et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014; Warden et al., 2012; Yuen et al., 2011) and the OPHN1 protein is abundantly expressed in both these regions (Govek et al., 2004). In particular, we examined if deleting *Ophn1* specifically in the PL-mPFC and/or hippocampal CA1 is sufficient to promote helpless behavior. We began with the PL area of the mPFC given that this subregion reportedly plays a role in mediating behavioral responses to stress in the LH procedure (Perova et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014). An adeno-associated virus (AAV) expressing Cre-GFP or control GFP was bilaterally injected in the PL-mPFC or hippocampal CA1 of *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice at postnatal day 21 (P21) (Fig. 2A, D). About 4 weeks later, the mice were subjected to the LH procedure. OPHN1 depletion in AAV-Cre-GFP-infected cells in the respective areas was confirmed by immunohistochemistry (Fig. 2B, E). Intriguingly, *Ophn1* ablation in the PL-mPFC resulted in a significant increase in escape latency and number of escape failures (Fig. 2C). Indeed, 50% of *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice injected with AAV-Cre-GFP displayed LH, while only 24% of *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice injected with control GFP-expressing virus exhibited LH. The behavioral defect significantly correlated with the number of Cre-GFP-expressing neurons in the PL-mPFC (Fig. S2A, B), demonstrating the specificity and potency of our manipulation. In contrast, *Ophn1* ablation in hippocampal CA1 did not affect the animals' escape latency or failures (Fig. 2F). Ablating *Ophn1* in either the PL-mPFC or hippocampal CA1 did not affect locomotion or anxiety-like behavior (Fig. S2C–H). Thus, deleting *Ophn1* in the PL-mPFC, but not hippocampal CA1, promotes LH.

It is worth noting that separate, often opposite roles have been reported for the PL-mPFC and the adjacent infralimbic area of the mPFC (IL-mPFC) in affective behaviors, particularly fear expression/extinction (Lammel et al., 2014; Mukherjee and Caroni, 2018; Sierra-Mercado et al., 2011; Vidal-Gonzalez et al., 2006) and more recently, mood disorders (Capuzzo and Floresco, 2020; Hamani et al., 2010a; McKevee et al., 2015). Hence, we also examined the effect of *Ophn1* deletion in the IL-mPFC on animals' behavioral responses to stress, using a similar approach as described above. We found that *Ophn1* ablation in the IL-mPFC (Fig. 2G, H) did not significantly alter the animals' escape latency and failures (Fig. 2I). Thus, in contrast to the PL-mPFC, *Ophn1* deletion in the IL-mPFC does not promote LH.

Regarding the neuronal cell type(s) involved, we first examined the impact of selective *Ophn1* deletion in two major interneuron (IN) subtypes—PV and SOM INs—and in Emx1-expressing PyNs, on animals' behavioral responses to stress. OPHN1 is expressed in all three cell types (Fig. 3A, C, E). To selectively ablate *Ophn1* in PV-, SOM-, or Emx1-expressing neurons, we crossed *Ophn1^{flox/+}* mice with *PV-Cre*, *SOM-Cre*, or *Emx1-Cre* mice, respectively. *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV^{Cre/+}* (*PV-Ophn1^{cKO}*), *Ophn1^{flox/Y};Sst^{Cre/+}* (*SOM-Ophn1^{cKO}*), and *Ophn1^{flox/Y};Emx1^{Cre/+}* (*Emx1-Ophn1^{cKO}*) mutant offspring were all viable and displayed no developmental disadvantages. Also, their brain architecture was overall

intact and appeared similar to that of their corresponding WT littermates (*PV-Ophn1*^{WT}, *SOM-Ophn1*^{WT}, and *Emx1-Ophn1*^{WT}) (data not shown). Immunofluorescence staining confirmed that OPHN1 expression was depleted in PV+, SOM+, and Emx1+ neurons (Fig. 3A, C, E).

Seven-week-old *PV-Ophn1*^{CKO}, *SOM-Ophn1*^{CKO}, and *Emx1-Ophn1*^{CKO} mutant mice and their WT littermates were then subjected to the LH procedure. Interestingly, similar to the *ACTB-Ophn1*^{CKO} mice, *PV-Ophn1*^{CKO} mice exhibited longer escape latencies and more escape failures than their control littermates (Fig. 3B). At least 69% of the *PV-Ophn1*^{CKO} mice displayed LH, while only 28% of the *PV-Ophn1*^{WT} mice reached criteria for LH. In contrast, the behavioral responses of *SOM-Ophn1*^{CKO} and *Emx1-Ophn1*^{CKO} mice were indistinguishable from those of their control littermates, with respect to both escape latencies and failures (Fig. 3D, F). None of the mutant mice exhibited altered locomotion or anxiety-like behavior compared to their WT littermates (Fig. S3A–I). These data show that *Ophn1* deletion in PV INs, but not SOM INs or Emx1-expressing PyNs, promotes helpless behavior in the face of stress.

***Ophn1* Deletion Exclusively in PL-mPFC PV INs is Sufficient to Induce LH**

Our above findings demonstrate a key role for OPHN1 in the PL-mPFC and PV INs in mediating adaptive behavioral responses to stress. Yet in these experiments, *Ophn1* was deleted either in multiple cell types in the PL-mPFC or in all PV INs throughout the brain. To further investigate if *Ophn1* ablation specifically in PL-mPFC PV INs is sufficient to promote LH, we developed a strategy that enables selective deletion of *Ophn1* in PV INs in the PL-mPFC. In this strategy, we exploited both the Cre-loxP and Flp-FRT recombination systems by generating *Ophn1*^{fllox/Y};*PV-Flp* mice, in which the flippase (Flp) recombinase is selectively expressed in PV INs in an *Ophn1*^{fllox/Y} genetic background. We then bilaterally injected the PL-mPFC of these mice (at P21) with an AAV we engineered to express Cre-GFP in a Flp-dependent manner (AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP) (Fig. 4A, B). Injecting this virus, but not control virus (AAV-fDIO-mCherry), into the PL area of *Ophn1*^{fllox/Y};*PV-Flp* mice led to OPHN1 depletion specifically in PV INs in the PL-mPFC (Fig. 4C, D).

About 4 weeks post-AAV injection, the mice were subjected to the LH procedure. Strikingly, we found that deleting *Ophn1* selectively in PL-mPFC PV INs resulted in a significant increase in escape latency and number of escape failures: 56% of *Ophn1*^{fllox/Y};*PV-Flp* mice injected with AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP virus displayed LH as opposed to just 21% of the control AAV-fDIO-mCherry-injected mice (Fig. 4E). The behavioral defect significantly correlated with the number of GFP-expressing PV INs in the PL-mPFC (Fig. S4A, B). Ablating *Ophn1* from PL-mPFC PV INs did not affect locomotion or anxiety-like behaviors (Fig. S4C–E). Thus, deleting *Ophn1* exclusively in PV INs in the PL-mPFC is sufficient to promote LH. These data also imply that *Ophn1* inactivation during adolescence into adulthood is sufficient to induce helpless behavior and suggests that a circuitry defect is a major contributing factor to the stress-induced helpless behavioral phenotype.

Excitatory Drive onto PL-mPFC PV INs Lacking OPHN1 is Reduced

We next investigated how loss of OPHN1 affects mPFC PV IN function, leading to maladaptive behavioral responses to stress. We first examined if excitatory and/or inhibitory synaptic transmission onto *Ophn1*-deleted PL-mPFC PV INs was altered. Before doing so, we confirmed by Sholl analysis that *Ophn1* deletion does not affect the gross morphology of PL-mPFC PV INs (Fig. S5A–C). To identify PV-expressing cells in electrophysiological measurements, we generated *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice, in which the red fluorescent protein tdTomato is expressed in PV INs following Cre-mediated recombination in the respective genetic backgrounds (Madisen et al., 2010).

Acute brain slices were prepared from both genotypes and whole-cell patch-clamp recordings of layer II/III PV INs in the PL-mPFC region were performed. Miniature excitatory and inhibitory postsynaptic currents (mEPSCs and mIPSCs, respectively) were recorded. We found that both the frequency and amplitude of mEPSCs onto PL-mPFC PV INs were reduced in *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* mice compared to *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice (Fig. 5A, B), while no significant difference in mIPSCs onto these neurons was observed between the two genotypes (Fig. 5C, D). These data indicate that the strength of excitatory synapses onto PV INs in the PL-mPFC is selectively weakened in *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice. Of note, the resting membrane potential and input resistance of PL-mPFC PV INs were not different between the two genotypes (Fig. S5D, E). Similar results were obtained when recordings were performed on PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1^{fllox/Y};PV-Flp* mice injected with AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP. Both the frequency and amplitude of mEPSCs onto PL-mPFC PV INs were reduced in AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP-injected mice compared to AAV-fDIO-mCherry-injected mice (Fig. 5E, F). Contrary to PL-mPFC PV INs, *Ophn1* deletion in PL-mPFC SOM INs did not affect the frequency or amplitude of mEPSCs onto such INs (Fig. 5G, H).

To corroborate and extend these findings, we examined the responses of *Ophn1*-deficient and WT PV INs to excitatory synaptic inputs from neighboring PyNs (Fig. 5I). We simultaneously recorded pairs of adjacent PyNs and PV INs in layers II/III of the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice, in which PyNs were stimulated to generate a single action potential (AP). While no difference in connection probability from PyNs onto PV INs was observed between the two genotypes (WT, 8 of 43 pairs connected; cKO, 15 of 68 connected; Fisher's exact test, $p > 0.05$), we found that the average amplitude of unitary EPSCs (uEPSCs) in PV INs of *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* mice was markedly smaller than that of *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice (Fig. 5J, K). These data show that excitatory synaptic transmission from PyNs onto PV INs in the PL-mPFC is impaired in *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice and further substantiate our above findings.

We also examined the responses of PyNs to inhibitory synaptic inputs from neighboring *Ophn1*-deficient or WT PV INs by performing paired recordings in layers II/III of the PL-mPFC of the two respective mouse genotypes, in which PV INs were stimulated to generate a single AP (Fig. 5L). No differences were observed between the *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* groups with respect to both connection probability from PV INs onto PyNs (WT, 10 of 39 pairs connected; cKO, 16 of 68 connected; Fisher's exact test, $p > 0.05$) and the average amplitude of uIPSCs in PyNs (Fig. 5M, N). These results indicate that GABAergic synaptic transmission from PV INs onto PyNs is intact in *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice at

least when PV INs are stimulated strongly enough to elicit postsynaptic responses. They further imply that OPHN1 depletion in PL-mPFC PV INs does not directly impact their presynaptic function.

Our above findings reveal that *Ophn1* deficiency in PL-mPFC PV INs leads to a decrease in excitatory synaptic transmission onto such INs. To gain further insight into the underlying mechanism(s), we examined if the observed decrease was the result of pre- and/or post-synaptic alterations. We first measured the paired-pulse ratio (PPR), an indicator of presynaptic release probability, of evoked EPSCs onto PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice. No difference in PPR of evoked EPSCs recorded from PL-mPFC PV INs was seen between the two genotypes (Fig. S5F, G). We then assessed whether the number of excitatory synapses on *Ophn1*-deficient PV INs was altered. Brain sections from *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice were coimmunostained with antibodies to PV and post- and pre-synaptic markers for excitatory synapses, PSD-95 and VGLUT1, respectively, and the density of PSD-95 puncta colocalizing with VGLUT1 on PV IN cell bodies and dendritic processes in the PL-mPFC was quantified. We found that the density of PSD-95 puncta colocalizing with VGLUT1 was significantly reduced on both the cell body and dendritic processes in the *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* group compared to that of the control group (Fig. S5H–J). Thus, the observed decrease in excitatory drive onto *Ophn1*-deficient PL-mPFC PV INs is likely the result of a reduced number of excitatory synapses on such neurons. Consistent with our electrophysiological data (Fig. 5G, H), the density of PSD-95 puncta colocalizing with VGLUT1 on the cell body and dendritic processes of SOM INs was not significantly different between the *SOM-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *SOM-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* groups (Fig. S5K–M).

***Ophn1* Deficiency in PV INs Leads to Enhanced Neuronal Activity in the PL-mPFC**

Next, we further examined the consequences of reduced excitatory drive onto *Ophn1*-deficient PL-mPFC PV INs. While *Ophn1* deficiency does not appear to directly affect the presynaptic function of PL-mPFC PV INs, we reasoned that the decrease in excitatory drive onto these neurons could affect the activity/output of these cells and consequently alter the activity of neighboring PyNs. To test this hypothesis, we measured the spontaneous firing rate of PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice and found that it was significantly reduced in *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* mice compared to *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice (Fig. 6A, B), indicating that *Ophn1*-deficient PV INs are less active.

We then asked if the decrease in PV IN activity leads to enhanced activity in neighboring PyNs. We performed whole-cell recordings to measure spontaneous EPSCs (sEPSCs) in PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* and control *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice and found that the frequency (but not amplitude) of sEPSCs was significantly increased in *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* mice compared to control littermates (Fig. 6C, D). Similarly, an increase in sEPSC frequency was observed in AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP-injected *Ophn1^{fllox/Y};PV-Flp* mice (Fig. 6E, F), supporting the idea that ablating *Ophn1* in PL-mPFC PV INs leads to increased PyN activity. In accordance with our findings that *Ophn1* deficiency in SOM INs or Emx1-expressing PyNs did not affect the animals' behavioral responses to stress, no difference in

the frequency or amplitude of sEPSCs in PL-mPFC PyNs was observed between the *SOM-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* and *SOM-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* groups or the *Emx1-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *Emx1-Ophn1^{WT}* groups (Fig. S6A–D). Finally, we also measured sEPSCs in PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice, which like *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice display maladaptive behavioral responses to stress. As seen in *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice, the frequency (but not amplitude) of sEPSCs was significantly increased in *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice compared to control littermates (Fig. 6G, H). Together, these data indicate that *Ophn1* deficiency dampens excitatory synaptic transmission onto PL-mPFC PV INs, leading to less active PV INs and consequently increased PL-mPFC neuronal activity.

Normalizing PL-mPFC Neuronal Activity Alleviates Helpless Behavior in *Ophn1*-Deficient Mice

Our above findings raise the question: is the increase in PL-mPFC neuronal activity resulting from less active PV INs responsible for the helpless behavior observed in *Ophn1*-deficient mice? To address this, we first sought to increase the activity of PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice and then test whether such manipulation could alleviate helpless behavior. To increase PV IN activity, we took a chemogenetic approach utilizing the excitatory DREADD hM3D(Gq), a modified form of the human Gq-coupled receptor that can be activated by the clozapine metabolite clozapine-N-oxide (CNO) (Pei et al., 2010; Rogan and Roth, 2011; Smith et al., 2016). We bilaterally injected an AAV that expresses in a Cre-dependent manner hM3D(Gq) tagged with the fluorescent protein mCherry (AAV-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry) in the PL-mPFC of P21 *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice (Fig. 7A, S7A). We confirmed functional DREADD hM3D(Gq) expression by whole-cell recordings of mCherry-positive PL-mPFC PV INs in brain slices prepared from *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice 4–5 weeks after AAV-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry injection. Local CNO puff application increased spiking activity in all of the mCherry-positive PV cells tested (n=6 cells from 3 animals) (Fig. 7B).

To determine if increasing the activity of PV INs could mitigate/reverse the helpless phenotype of *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice, we administered CNO or saline intraperitoneally to AAV-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry-injected *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice during the LH procedure (Fig. 7C). Strikingly, we found that escape latency and number of escape failures were significantly reduced in the CNO-treated group compared to the saline-treated group (Fig. 7D). While 63.6% of the saline-treated group displayed LH, only 14.3% of the CNO-treated group exhibited LH (Fig. 7D). Administering CNO to *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice injected with control AAV-DIO-mCherry did not change the helpless behavior of the animals (Fig. 7D). Thus, increasing the activity of *Ophn1*-deficient PL-mPFC PV INs is sufficient to alleviate the stress-induced helpless behavior of *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice.

Next, we examined if suppressing the elevated PL-mPFC neuronal activity with the inhibitory DREADD hM4Di could alleviate the helpless phenotype of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice. hM4Di is a modified form of the human M4 muscarinic (hM4) receptor that can be activated by CNO (Pei et al., 2010; Rogan and Roth, 2011; Smith et al., 2016). Similar as above, we bilaterally injected AAV-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry in the PL-mPFC of P21 *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice (Fig. 7E, S7B) and first confirmed functional DREADD hM4Di expression

by whole-cell recordings of mCherry-positive PL-mPFC neurons in brain slices from *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice 4–5 weeks after AAV-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry injection. Of note, we found by coimmunostaining for the PyN marker neurogranin that 88% of the mCherry-positive cells were PyNs (Fig. S7B, C). Local CNO puff application suppressed spiking activity in the majority of mCherry-positive PyNs (5 of 6 cells from 3 animals) (Fig. 7F). No effect of CNO was observed in mCherry-negative cells (Fig. S7D). We then tested if suppressing neuronal activity in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice could reverse their helpless phenotype by delivering CNO or saline intraperitoneally to AAV-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry-injected *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice during the LH procedure (Fig. 7G). The escape latency and number of escape failures were significantly reduced in the CNO-treated group compared to the saline-treated group (Fig. 7H). While 77% of the saline-treated group displayed LH, only 17% of the CNO-treated group reached criteria of LH (Fig. 7H). Administering CNO to *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice injected with AAV-DIO-mCherry did not change their helpless behavior (Fig. 7H). Notably, in contrast to administering CNO 30 min prior to the induction sessions of the LH procedure, CNO administration to *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice just before the testing session did not reverse the helpless behavioral phenotype of such animals (Fig. S7E, F), implying that suppressing PL-mPFC activity prevents the emergence of helpless behavior.

Together, these data reveal that the increased PL-mPFC neuronal activity resulting from less active PV INs is responsible for the helpless behavior seen in *Ophn1*-deficient mice.

OPHN1's Effect on PL-mPFC Neuronal Activity and Stress-Related Behavior Depends on its Inhibition of the RhoA/Rho-kinase Pathway

Next, we investigated the underlying molecular mechanism by which loss of *Ophn1* leads to aberrant/elevated PL-mPFC neuronal activity and stress-induced helpless behavior. OPHN1 is a multi-domain-containing Rho-GAP that interacts with a number of adaptor/signaling molecules, including Homer 1b/c, endophilins, RhoA/Rho-kinase, and nuclear receptor Rev-erb α (Billuart et al., 1998; Govek et al., 2004; Khelifaoui et al., 2009; Nadif Kasri et al., 2009; Nadif Kasri et al., 2011; Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2009; Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2014; Valnegri et al., 2011). OPHN1's interaction with RhoA/Rho-kinase is particularly relevant: OPHN1 through its GAP activity regulates PyN spine/synapse development by suppressing the activities of RhoA and its downstream effector Rho-kinase (Govek et al., 2004; Nadif Kasri et al., 2009). These findings, together with the fact that both RhoA and Rho-kinase are expressed in PV INs (Jiang et al., 2016), prompted us to examine if elevated RhoA/Rho-kinase activity in PV INs lacking OPHN1 could be the primary cause of the reduced number of excitatory synapses on such neurons and the consequent increase in neuronal activity in the PL-mPFC. We reasoned that if this were the case, then antagonizing the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway should rescue the decrease in excitatory synapse number on PV INs, rectify the decrease in synaptic transmission onto such neurons, and normalize the elevated neuronal activity in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1*-deficient mice.

To test this, we chose the isoquinoline derivative fasudil, a potent inhibitor of Rho-kinase that is well-tolerated and brain-penetrable (Koch et al., 2018; Meziane et al., 2016; Takayasu et al., 1986). Fasudil or saline was intraperitoneally injected into P40 *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14*

and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice twice a day for 10 days. Brain sections were then collected and coimmunostained with antibodies against PV, VGLUT1, and PSD-95, and the density of PSD-95 puncta colocalizing with VGLUT1 on PV IN cell bodies and dendritic processes in the PL-mPFC was quantified. Interestingly, fasudil treatment successfully rescued the reduced number of excitatory synapses on PL-mPFC PV IN cell bodies and dendritic processes in *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* mice, while it had no effect on their WT littermates (Fig. S8A–C). Fasudil treatment also did not affect the number of excitatory synapses on PL-mPFC SOM IN cell bodies and dendritic processes in *SOM-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* and *SOM-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice (Fig. S8D–F).

We then examined if fasudil could rectify the decrease in synaptic transmission onto PL-mPFC PV INs in *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* mice. We recorded mEPSCs in PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice treated with fasudil or saline. We found that fasudil was able to rectify the observed decrease in mEPSC frequency and amplitude in PV INs in *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* mice, while it had no effect on WT littermates (Fig. 8A, B). Finally, we examined whether inhibiting the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway could reverse the elevated neuronal activity in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. We recorded sEPSCs in PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* mice treated with fasudil or saline. Fasudil effectively reversed the increased sEPSC frequency observed in *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice, while it had no effect on sEPSC frequency in *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* mice (Fig. 8C, D). Thus, suppressing the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway is able to rectify the decrease in excitatory drive onto PV INs and thereby normalize the elevated neuronal activity in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1*-deficient mice.

Next, we investigated if antagonizing RhoA/Rho-kinase signaling could alleviate the helpless behavioral phenotype of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. We administrated fasudil or saline intraperitoneally to *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice and corresponding control littermates (Fig. 8E) (Garcia-Rojo et al., 2017; Zhao et al., 2015) and subjected the animals to the LH procedure. We found that escape latency and number of escape failures were significantly reduced in fasudil-treated *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice compared to saline-treated animals (Fig. 8F, G). While 73% and 90%, respectively, of saline-treated *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice exhibited LH, only 14% and 18%, respectively, of fasudil-treated *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice displayed LH. Administering fasudil to corresponding WT littermates did not significantly change their helpless behavior (Fig. 8F, G). Thus, systemic administration of fasudil can alleviate the helpless behavioral phenotype of *Ophn1*-deficient mice.

To determine if fasudil exerts its effect by acting on PV INs in the PL-mPFC, fasudil or saline was infused via cannulae implanted in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice (Fig. 8H) (Arita et al., 2009; Swanson et al., 2017). We found that fasudil infusion significantly reduced the escape latency and number of escape failures of both mouse lines (Fig. 8I, J). While 69% and 75%, respectively, of saline-infused *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice displayed LH, only 17% and 25%, respectively, of fasudil-infused *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice were helpless. Fasudil infusion in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT}* or *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* mice had no effect (Fig. 8I, J). A previous study reported that deregulation of protein kinase A (PKA) in the mPFC of conventional *Ophn1*

KO mice impairs their working memory, as evaluated in Y-maze spatial working memory tests (Zhang et al., 2017). Hence, we also examined the effect of PKA inhibition on the helpless behavioral phenotype of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. We used the same PKA-signaling antagonist cAMPS-Rp at the same concentration used by Zhang *et al.* (Zhang et al., 2017) and a similar delivery protocol (Fig. S9A). Unlike fasudil, the infusion of cAMPS-Rp in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice did not significantly alter/reduce the escape latency and number of escape failures of the mice, and its infusion in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* mice also had no effect (Fig. S9B). Thus, while suppressing the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway can alleviate the helpless behavioral phenotype of *Ophn1*-deficient mice, suppressing PKA signaling fails to do so, suggesting that different mechanisms mediate behavioral responses to stress than those involved in spatial working memory.

Together, these data demonstrate that OPHN1's effect on PL-mPFC neuronal activity and stress-related behavior depends on its inhibition of the RhoA/Rho-kinase signaling pathway.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we investigated the role of the syndromic X-linked ID protein OPHN1 in the development of behavioral responses to stressful/aversive events. To do so, we employed the LH procedure, an animal stress model widely used to study neural changes underlying resilient vs. susceptible phenotypes following repeated/uncontrollable stress. We chose this model because people with ID frequently encounter uncontrollable stressful events in their everyday life and, furthermore, individuals with *OPHN1* mutations commonly display behavioral problems, including emotional imbalance and frustration intolerance—core symptoms of helplessness/hopelessness. Our results revealed that *Ophn1*-deficient mice subjected to the LH procedure display a marked increase in helpless behavior compared to their control littermates. In accordance with findings in humans, this phenotype was robust in male, but not female, *Ophn1*-deficient mice. Importantly, the increase in stress susceptibility in male *Ophn1*-deficient mice was also observed in a repeated social defeat stress model, with *Ophn1*-deficient mice displaying strong social avoidance behavior. Thus, our data uncover a previously unrecognized role for OPHN1 in establishing adaptive behavioral responses to stress.

To gain insight into the underlying brain/neural mechanisms, we focused on the mPFC, a structure required for executive function and emotional regulation that plays a central role in stress adaptation. Stress has consistently been found to cause structural and functional changes in multiple subregions of the mPFC in both rodents and humans (Dias-Ferreira et al., 2009; Drevets et al., 2008; Goldwater et al., 2009; McEwen, 2007; McEwen and Morrison, 2013; Ota et al., 2014; Perova et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014; Yuen et al., 2011), and mPFC dysfunction has been linked to maladaptive behavioral responses to different types of stressors (Amat et al., 2005; Lammel et al., 2014; Ota et al., 2014; Perova et al., 2015; Shrestha et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014; Warden et al., 2012) and to mood disorders (Drevets et al., 2008; Duman et al., 2019; Price and Drevets, 2012; Rudebeck et al., 2019). Recent studies have begun to dissect the mPFC circuits underlying or contributing to stress-induced behavioral changes, revealing how different circuits within mPFC subregions mediate distinctive behavioral phenotypes/symptoms (reviewed in Ghosal et al., 2017;

Lammel et al., 2014; Riga et al., 2014; and see further below). Emerging evidence suggests that the PL and IL areas of the mPFC mediate separate and often opposite effects on stress susceptibility/resilience (Capuzzo and Floresco, 2020; Hamani et al., 2010a; Lammel et al., 2014; McKlveen et al., 2015). In line with this, we found that deleting *Ophn1* in the PL-mPFC promotes helpless behavior, while its deletion in the IL-mPFC had no significant effect.

Our data further uncover a critical role for OPHN1 in regulating PV IN activity in the PL-mPFC and present evidence that such regulation is required for shaping adaptive behavioral responses to stress. We observed that *Ophn1* deficiency exclusively in PV, but not SOM, INs in the PL-mPFC is sufficient to induce helpless behavior and that *Ophn1* deficiency selectively weakens excitatory synaptic transmission onto PL-mPFC PV INs. Notably, the strength of excitatory synaptic transmission onto PL-mPFC PV, but not SOM, INs was similarly found to be weakened in helpless mice compared to resilient or naïve mice (Perova et al., 2015). Our data further revealed that this decrease in excitatory drive leads to less active PV INs and an increase in the frequency of sEPSCs in neighboring PL-mPFC PyNs. Based on these findings, we put forward a model in which decreased PV IN activity causes PyN disinhibition in the PL-mPFC, leading to PL-mPFC hyperactivity (Fig. S9C). An alternative explanation, though, is that decreased PV IN activity triggers some network changes (i.e., the entire cortex is affected), causing homeostatic changes in PyNs that could be reflected by an increase in sEPSCs. Regardless, this alternative explanation would still support the conclusion that *Ophn1* deficiency in PL-mPFC PV INs leads to increased PL-mPFC activity.

Evidence from our studies indicates that the enhanced activity in the PL-mPFC resulting from *Ophn1* deficiency in PV INs promotes helpless behavior. Pharmacogenetically activating PV INs (with an excitatory DREADD) or suppressing overall neuronal activity (with an inhibitory DREADD) in the PL-mPFC during the LH procedure alleviated the stress-induced helpless behavior phenotype of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. While it has recently been reported that the DREADD ligand CNO can convert back to its parent compound clozapine, potentially causing behavioral off-target effects (Manvich et al., 2018; Martinez et al., 2019), our data show that CNO administration to non-DREADD-expressing animals does not produce any phenotype in the LH procedure, supporting that normalizing mPFC neuronal activity in *Ophn1*-deficient mice indeed improves the helpless phenotype.

Our findings, to the best of our knowledge, are the first to show a critical role for OPHN1 in regulating PV INs. Previous studies revealed a central role for OPHN1 in regulating glutamatergic spine/synapse maturation and plasticity in hippocampal PyNs (Khelifaoui et al., 2007; Khelifaoui et al., 2014; Khelifaoui et al., 2009; Nadif Kasri et al., 2009; Nadif Kasri et al., 2011; Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2009; Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2014). Silencing OPHN1 in CA1 PyNs was found to largely prevent the increase in mEPSC frequency that normally occurs during the development of CA3–CA1 synapses (Nadif Kasri et al., 2009). While we also observed a decrease in mEPSC frequency (but not amplitude) in *Emx1*-expressing cortical PyNs lacking OPHN1 (Fig. S6E, F), the overall network activity was not altered, and no increase in helpless behavior was detected in *Emx1-Ophn1*^{CKO} mice. Moreover, *Ophn1* deletion in both inhibitory and excitatory neurons resulted in enhanced

excitatory drive within the PL-mPFC, and, accordingly, *Ophn1*-deficient (*ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}*) mice displayed increased LH. Thus, OPHN1, by regulating PV IN activity, maintains the proper balance of excitation and inhibition (E/I) within mPFC microcircuits required for shaping adaptive behavioral responses to stress (Fig. S9C). As to how OPHN1 controls the activity of PV INs, we show that OPHN1 regulates PV IN synapse development and thereby proper E/I balance in the PL-mPFC by suppressing RhoA/Rho-kinase signaling. First, inhibiting the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway with fasudil rescued the reduced number of excitatory synapses on PV INs, rectified the decrease in synaptic transmission onto these neurons, and normalized the elevated neuronal activity in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1*-deficient mice. Second, suppressing the RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway either systemically or locally with fasudil in the PL-mPFC alleviated the stress-induced helpless behavior in *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice. Given that fasudil has been successfully used to treat cerebral vasospasm in Japan and does not appear to produce any major adverse side effects (Olson, 2008; Tanaka et al., 2005), it could be a promising drug for the stress-related behavioral problems of *OPHN1* patients.

Our data further support the notion that different subpopulations/types of mPFC neurons or microcircuits play specific roles in a particular behavior(s) or response(s) to stress (Lammel et al., 2014; Maier and Seligman, 2016; Riga et al., 2014). Previous studies have reported that acute inhibition of SOM INs in the PL-mPFC increases anhedonic-like behaviors in mice (Soumier and Sibille, 2014). We found that *Ophn1* deficiency in SOM INs neither affects excitatory synaptic transmission onto such neurons nor influences LH behavior. Moreover, as mentioned above, synaptic transmission onto SOM INs was not altered in helpless mice, suggesting that these neurons are not critically involved in moderating helpless behavioral responses to unpredictable/uncontrollable stress. In support of this, inhibiting PV, but not SOM, INs promoted LH (Perova et al., 2015; and data not shown). In a similar vein, stimulating different neuronal subpopulations or circuits were found to produce distinct, sometimes opposite, behavioral responses and/or mediate distinctive behavioral phenotypes (Baratta et al., 2009; Cerniauskas et al., 2019; Covington et al., 2010; Ferenczi et al., 2016; Hamani et al., 2010a; Hamani et al., 2010b; Holz et al., 2019; Kumar et al., 2013; Lammel et al., 2014; Marcus et al., 2020; Riga et al., 2014; Warden et al., 2012). For instance, stimulating the projection of the mPFC to the dorsal raphe nucleus (DRN) caused decreased immobility in a forced swim test, while stimulating the projection to the lateral habenula (LHb) increased immobility (Amat et al., 2005; Dolzani et al., 2016; Li et al., 2011; Warden et al., 2012). Thus, stimulating the mPFC-DRN pathway promotes resilience, while stimulating the mPFC-LHb pathway induces depression-like responses. Of note, in nearly all of the above studies, both the PL and IL regions of the mPFC were stimulated. Future studies could explore if the effect of *Ophn1* deficiency in PL-mPFC PV INs, which leads to enhanced activity in neighboring PyNs and increased helpless behavior, is predominated by the PL-mPFC-LHb pathway.

In summary, our study unveils a previously unidentified function of OPHN1 in regulating PV IN activity and thereby E/I balance in mPFC microcircuits and sheds light on the mechanistic links among *OPHN1* genetic deficits, mPFC circuit dysfunction, and abnormalities in stress-related behaviors (Fig. S9C). It also further suggests that aberrant

activity within specific mPFC microcircuits could contribute to the development of stress-related behavioral problems and mood disorders in individuals with ID.

STAR METHODS

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact—Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Linda Van Aelst (vanaelst@cshl.edu).

Materials availability—All unique reagents generated in this study are available from the Lead Contact with a completed Material Transfer Agreement.

Data and code availability—All data have been presented in Figures and Supplemental Figures and Videos. Original images/data will be made available upon request.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Mice—All protocols and procedures followed the guidelines of the Animal Care and Use Committee of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL). *Ophn1*-flox mice were generated using ES cell clones from the European Conditional Mouse Mutagenesis Program (EUCOMM) with knock-out first mutation (EPD0109_5_D11; <http://www.mousephenotype.org/data/alleles/MGI:2151070/tm1a> (KOMP)Wtsi). ES clones were injected into C57BL/6J blastocysts, and the resulting chimeras were mated to C57BL/6J females to obtain germ-line transmission. Offspring were genotyped by PCR using the following primers: D11–1, 5'-CCAGGTTACCCCAACAAG; D11–2, 5'-CCAACTGACCTTGGGCAAGAACAT; D11–3, 5'-CACACCTCCCCTGAACCTGAAA; D11–5, 5'-CATTCTACTTCATTGAGCAATTC (see Fig. S1A). Detection of PCR products (272 bp for D11–1 and D11–2 primer pair and 816 bp for D11–3 and D11–5 primer pair) indicated the presence of KO-first reporter-tagged insertion. Heterozygous F1 female mice (*Ophn1*^{KO-flox/+}) were mated with *ACTB-FLPe* mice (B6.Cg-Tg(ACTFLPe)9205Dym/J; JAX Stock 005703) to remove the promoter-driven selection cassette of the knock-out first mutation, and the resulting offspring (*Ophn1*^{flox/+;FLP+} and *Ophn1*^{flox/Y;FLP+}) were subsequently mated with C57BL/6J mice to segregate the *FLPe* transgene. Heterozygous female *Ophn1*^{flox/+} mice derived from the latter cross were mated to *ACTB-Cre* (B6N.FVB-*Tmem163*^{Tg(ACTB-cre)2Mrt/CjDswJ}, JAX Stock 019099), *PV-Cre* (B6;129P2-*Pvalb*^{tm1(cre)Arbr/J}, JAX Stock 008069), *SOM-Cre* (B6N.Cg-*Sst*^{tm2.1(cre)Zjh/J}, JAX Stock 018973), or *Emx1-Cre* (B6.Cg-*Zfp335*^{tm1.2CawEmx1tm1(cre)Krij/J}, JAX Stock 022762) mice to generate *Ophn1*^{flox/Y}; *ACTB*^{Cre/+} (*ACTB-Ophn1*^{cKO}) and *Ophn1*^{+Y}; *ACTB*^{Cre/+} (*ACTB-Ophn1*^{WT}), *Ophn1*^{flox/Y}; *PValb*^{Cre/+} (*PV-Ophn1*^{cKO}) and *Ophn1*^{+Y}; *PValb*^{Cre/+} (*PV-Ophn1*^{WT}), *Ophn1*^{flox/Y}; *SOM*^{Cre/+} (*SOM-Ophn1*^{cKO}) and *Ophn1*^{+Y}; *SOM*^{Cre/+} (*SOM-Ophn1*^{WT}), and *Ophn1*^{flox/Y}; *Emx1*^{Cre/+} (*Emx1-Ophn1*^{cKO}) and *Ophn1*^{+Y}; *Emx1*^{Cre/+} (*Emx1-Ophn1*^{WT}) mice, respectively. Female *Ophn1*^{flox/+} mice were also mated to *ACTB-Cre* to generate *Ophn1*^{flox/+}; *ACTB*^{Cre/+} (*ACTB-Ophn1*^{HET}) and *Ophn1*^{+/+}; *ACTB*^{Cre/+} (*ACTB-Ophn1*^{WT}) female mice and to *Ophn1*^{flox/Y}; *ACTB*^{Cre/Cre} to generate *Ophn1*^{flox/+}; *ACTB*^{Cre/+} (*ACTB-Ophn1*^{HET}) and *Ophn1*^{flox/flox}; *ACTB*^{Cre/+} (*ACTB-Ophn1*^{HOM}) female mice. *Ophn1*^{flox/Y}; *ACTB*^{Cre/Cre} mice were obtained by crossing male

ACTB-Cre mice with *Ophn1^{flox/+};ACTB^{Cre/+}* mice. Presence of the *Cre* allele was in all cases determined by PCR analysis using previously published methods (Hippenmeyer et al., 2005; Taniguchi et al., 2011). To generate *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PVAlb^{Cre/+};Ai14^{+/-}* (*PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14*) and *Ophn1^{+Y};PVAlb^{Cre/+};Ai14^{+/-}* (*PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14*) mice, we first mated *Ophn1^{flox/+}* female mice with the *Ai14* Cre-dependent reporter line (*Ai14^{+/+}*; B6;129S6-*Gt(ROSA)26Sor^{tm14(CAG-tdTomato)Hze}/J*, JAX Stock 007908) to obtain *Ophn1^{flox/+};Ai14^{+/-}* female offspring. These mice were crossed with *Ai14^{+/+}* mice to generate *Ophn1^{flox/+};Ai14^{+/+}* mice, which were then mated to *PV-Cre* mice. The presence of the *Ai14* allele was analyzed by PCR as previously described (Madisen et al., 2010). *Ophn1^{flox/+};Ai14^{+/+}* mice were also mated to *SOM-Cre* mice to generate *Ophn1^{flox/Y};SOM^{Cre/+};Ai14^{+/-}* (*SOM-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14*) and *Ophn1^{+Y};SOM^{Cre/+};Ai14^{+/-}* (*SOM-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14*). For the generation of *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PVFlp^{+/-}* (*Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV-Flp*) mice, we first crossed *Ophn1^{flox/+}* mice to *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice to obtain homozygous female *Ophn1^{flox/flox}* mice. Offspring were genotyped by PCR using primers: D11-1 and D11-5 (see above). The sizes of the PCR products are 554 bp (WT band) and 649 bp (mutant band). *Ophn1^{flox/flox}* mice were then mated with *PV-Flp* mice (gift from Josh Huang, CSHL) (He et al., 2016) to generate *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV-Flp* mice. All mice were maintained in standard housing conditions on a 12 h light/dark cycle with food and water provided ad libitum.

HEK293T cell culture—HEK293T (ATCC, RRID: CVCL_0063) were maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM) (Thermo Fisher Scientific) containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (HyClone), 100 IU/ml penicillin (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in a humidified incubator at 37°C with 5% CO₂. The cell line used in this study was not further authenticated and not found to be on the list of commonly misidentified cell lines (International Cell Line Authentication Committee).

METHOD DETAILS

Experimental Design—Animals were randomly allocated to experimental groups prior to experimental manipulation(s), and the experimenter was blinded to the condition until the experiment and quantifications/analyses were complete. For electrophysiology experiments, analyses were performed on brains from a minimum of 3 animals. For immunostaining and morphometric experiments, quantifications/analyses were performed on cells from at least 3 individual animals. Western blotting experiments were performed in triplicate and depicted images are representative. No statistical methods were used to predetermine sample size in experiments.

Western blotting—Whole brains or cerebral cortices collected from 2-month-old male *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* or *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice were homogenized using micropestles (Eppendorf) in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCL pH 7.5, 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 5 mM NaF, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, and 1x cComplete™ EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich)). Total lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and transferred to an Immobilon-P PVDF membrane (Millipore). Membranes were blocked in Tris-buffered saline with 0.5% Tween 20 (TBST) containing 5% fat-free milk for 30 min at room temperature (RT) and then incubated in TBST with 5% bovine serum albumin (BSA)

(Equitech-Bio, Inc.) and 0.05% NaN₃ containing primary antibodies overnight at 4°C. The following day, the membranes were incubated in blocking buffer containing horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary antibody for 1 hour at RT. The following primary antibodies were used: anti-OPHN1 (rabbit pAb, 1724, 1:500; (Govek et al., 2004)) and anti-GAPDH (rabbit mAb, 1:10,000; Cell Signaling Technology 5174). HRP-conjugated goat anti-rabbit secondary antibody (Cell Signaling Technology 7074) was used at 1:5,000. Pierce™ ECL and Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) was used for detection of HRP activity.

Immunohistochemistry—For immunostaining of mouse brain sections, animals were deeply anesthetized with isoflurane and perfused transcardially with PBS followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS. Brains were isolated and post-fixed in 4% PFA in PBS overnight at 4°C and then cryoprotected with a 30% PBS-buffered sucrose solution for 36 h. Brains were subsequently embedded in 3% low melting point agarose (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and coronal brain sections (40–50 μm) were prepared using a vibratome (Leica VT1000S). Brain sections were washed in PBS (3 × 5 min), incubated in PBST (0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS) for 15 min at RT, and washed again with PBS (3 × 5 min). Next, brain sections were blocked in 10% normal goat serum (NGS) in PBST for 30 min at RT, followed by incubation with primary antibodies overnight at 4 °C. Sections were washed with PBS (3 × 15 min) and incubated with fluorescently-conjugated secondary antibodies at RT for 1 h. After washing with PBS (3 × 15 min), sections were mounted onto glass slides with Fluoromount-G (SouthernBiotech 0100–01). Images were taken using a LSM800 or 710 confocal microscope with a Plan-Apochromat 20x/0.8 M27 objective (Zeiss). The primary antibodies used were: anti-OPHN1 (rabbit pAb, 1724, 1:100, (Govek et al., 2004)), anti-NeuN (mouse mAb, 1:100, Millipore MAB377), anti-parvalbumin (mouse mAb, 1:1000, Sigma P3088), anti-somatostatin (rat mAb, 1:500, Millipore MAB354), anti-neurogranin (mouse mAb, 1:500, Biolegend 845602), anti-VGLUT1 (Rabbit pAb, 1:1000, Synaptic Systems 135 302), and anti-PSD-95 (mouse mAb, 1:200, Millipore MAB1598). The secondary antibodies used were: Alexa Fluor (AF) 488 goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) (Thermo Fisher Scientific A11008), AF 488 goat anti-mouse IgG2a (Thermo Fisher Scientific A21131), AF 555 goat-anti-mouse IgG (H+L) (Thermo Fisher Scientific A21422), AF 555 goat anti-rat IgG (H+L) (Thermo Fisher Scientific A21434), AF 555 goat-anti-mouse IgG1 (Thermo Fisher Scientific A21127), and AF 647 goat-anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) (Thermo Fisher Scientific A21245).

Cresyl violet/Nissl staining—Post-fixed brains were embedded in 3% low melting point agarose and coronal brain sections (40–50 μm) were generated using a vibratome (Leica VT1000S). Brain sections were immersed in 75% ethanol once and 95% ethanol once for 3 min each time, followed by two immersions in 100% ethanol (Sigma-Aldrich) for 3 min each time. The sections were then immersed in xylene (Poly Scientific R&D Corp) twice for 3 min each time. The previous steps were subsequently repeated in reverse, first by dipping the sections in xylene twice for 3 min each time, then two immersions in 100% ethanol for 3 min each time, followed by dipping in 95% ethanol once and 75% ethanol once for 3 min each time, before they were placed in a container with Milli-Q water for 1 min. The sections were then immersed in 0.1% cresyl violet staining solution (Sigma-Aldrich) for 10 min and

washed again in a container with distilled water for another 2 min. Next, the sections were dipped again in 75% ethanol for 3 min, then 95% ethanol for 3 min, followed by two immersions in 100% ethanol for 3 min each time. The final three immersions were in xylene solution for 5 min each. Brain sections were then mounted onto glass slides with Fluoromount-G mounting medium (SouthernBiotech 0100–01).

Behavioral procedures—All behavioral experiments were performed using groups of 4–8 littermate male or female mice of 7–8 weeks of age. Mice were single housed at least for one week before the start of the experiments. When mice were subjected to multiple behavioral procedures, the learned helplessness (LH) procedure was performed last, following the open field, elevated plus maze, and light/dark exploration tests. All experiments were done during the light phase, the second part of the day.

Open field (OF) test. The OF test was performed in a nontransparent box (43 × 43 × 40 cm) at least 3 h before the onset of the dark cycle (Wang et al., 2014). Lighting condition for the OF test is 150–200 lux. Mice were placed in one of the corners of the arena at the start of each session. The center zone was set to 21 × 21 cm in the middle of the arena. Mice explored the arena for 5 min while being monitored using a PC6EX3 infrared camera (SuperCircuits Inc.) connected to a computerized video tracking system (Ethovision XT 5.1, Noldus). The arena was cleaned thoroughly between each trial. Total distance traveled, average velocity, and the frequency of visits, time spent, and distance traveled in the center zone were measured.

Elevated plus maze (EPM) test. The apparatus used for the EPM test consisted of two “open” arms (30 × 5 × 2 cm) and two “closed” arms (30 × 5 × 15 cm) forming a cross. The arms were separated by a central platform (5 × 5 cm), and the maze was elevated 60 cm above the floor. Lighting condition for the EPM test is 150–200 lux. Mice were placed on the central platform facing one of the open arms (File et al., 2005). Behavior was monitored using a PC6EX3 infrared camera connected to a computerized video tracking system (Ethovision XT 5.1, Noldus). The apparatus was cleaned thoroughly between each trial. Total distance traveled, time spent in open and closed arms, and frequencies of entries in open and closed arms were measured.

Light/dark box (L/D) test. The L/D apparatus consisted of a plexiglass box divided into two compartments by a partition with a small opening. One compartment (28 × 21 × 21 cm) was brightly lit (500 lux), whereas the other (14 × 21 × 21 cm) was dark. At the beginning of the test, mice were placed in the lit compartment (light zone) facing away from the opening and allowed to freely explore for 5 min (File et al., 2005; Walsh et al., 2017). Behavior was monitored using a PC6EX3 infrared camera connected to a computerized video tracking system (Ethovision XT 5.1, Noldus). The apparatus was cleaned thoroughly between each trial. The distance traveled and time spent in the light zone, and the number of transitions between the light and dark compartments, were measured.

LH procedure. The LH procedure in mice was conducted based on previously described procedures (Chourbaji et al., 2005; Perova et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014). In brief, mice were first exposed to two induction sessions that were separated by 24 h. Each session

consisted of 360 inescapable, uncontrollable electric foot shocks over a 60 min period. The shock intensity was set at 0.3 mA, the duration of each shock was randomized between 1 and 3 s, and the inter-shock intervals (ITIs) were randomized between 1 and 15 s. 24 h after the second induction session, mice were subjected to a testing session. The testing, which was fully automated using Graphic State 3.0 software (Coulbourn Instruments), was performed in a shuttle box (14 × 7 × 12 inches; Coulbourn Instruments) equipped with an electrical grid floor, a door separating the two halves, and photocell detectors. The shuttle box was placed in a sound-attenuating chamber. Mice explored the shuttle box for 2 min, and behavioral performance was evaluated over 30 trials of escapable foot shocks (0.3 mA intensity, 10 s duration, with ITIs of 30 s). Each trial started with a 5 s cue light, followed by the foot shocks. When an animal shuttled to another compartment of the box during the 5 s cue light presentation (and thus before the shock onset), avoidance was scored. If the animal shuttled during the 10 s shocks (i.e., escaped), escape latency was measured. Failure was recorded if no shuttling was made during the 10 s shock presentation. Shocks were terminated if the animal shuttled to another side of the box (in case of escape) or at the end of the 10 s shock (in case of failure). Animals' behavior was classified as being "resilient" or "learned helpless" based on their behavioral parameters in the LH testing session. A *k*-means (*k* = 2) cluster analysis was applied to a database consisting of 98 wild-type C57BL/6J mice subjected to the LH procedure. We used failures and escape latency, the most commonly reported indices of helplessness (Chourbaji et al., 2005; Seligman, 1978; Wang et al., 2014), as parameters for classification. We further performed a linear discriminant analysis on the clustering results, with the number of failures and escape latency as predictor variables, to obtain classification equations for new cases: $R = -2.28185 + (2.17825 * \text{escape latency}) + (-0.57025 * \text{failures})$; and $LH = -26.97824 + (-0.10226 * \text{escape latency}) + (2.15966 * \text{failures})$, where the escape latency and the number of failures define the classification scores, R (resilience) and LH (learned helplessness). A mouse is classified as being resilient if $R > LH$, or learned helpless if $LH > R$ (Chourbaji et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2014). For the "test-only" group (Fig. 1B), mice were exposed to one LH testing session (i.e., without prior induction sessions) as described above.

Hot plate test. Mice were subjected to the hot plate test to rule out altered pain sensitivity as a confounding factor for LH (Bannon, 2001; Shin et al., 2015). The surface of the hotplate was heated to a constant temperature of $54 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. The mice were then placed on the surface of the hot plate and covered by a transparent plexiglass cylinder. The latency to the first response (licking forepaws, flinching, or jumping) was recorded manually. The duration of the test was a maximum of 30 s, and the test was terminated if the mouse did not respond after 30 s.

Social defeat stress and social interaction. The social defeat procedure was performed largely as described before (Golden et al., 2011; Shin et al., 2015). In brief, each *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* or *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* male mouse was placed into the home cage of an unfamiliar, aggressive CD1 resident mouse for 5–10 min, which resulted in physical defeat of the intruder *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* or *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mouse by the CD1 mouse. After the defeat, both the resident CD1 mouse and the intruder mouse were housed together, separated by a perforated plastic divider that allowed visual, olfactory, and auditory contacts, but prevented physical interaction, for the remainder of the 24 h period. The same *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* or

ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO} mouse was then subjected to social defeat from a different resident CD1 mouse each day for 5 consecutive days. Non-defeated control mice were handled daily and housed opposite of another wild type C57BL/6 mouse instead of a CD1 mouse. 24 h after the last social defeat session, the test mice (i.e., defeated *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice and non-defeated mice) were subjected to the social interaction test. The latter was performed in a 43 × 43 cm arena equipped with a wire mesh cage (10 × 6.5 cm). The approach-avoidance behavior of a test mouse to a CD1 mouse was recorded with a video tracking system (Ethovision XT 5.1, Noldus). The social interaction test consisted of two 5 min sessions. In the first 5 min ‘no target’ session, the test mouse was allowed to explore the open arena freely with an empty wire mesh cage. For the second 5 min ‘target’ session, an unfamiliar CD1 mouse was placed into a new wire mesh cage. The wire mesh cage allowed visual, olfactory and auditory interactions between the test mouse and the target CD1 mouse but prevented direct physical contact. The time spent by the test *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* or *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* mouse in the ‘interaction zone’ (26.0 × 14.5 cm) and ‘corner zone’ (43 × 8.0 cm) of the arena were measured by the video tracking system.

Adeno-associated virus (AAV) vector construction and production—For the construction of the flippase-dependent pAAV-CAG-fDIO-Cre-GFP vector, a DNA cassette harboring two pairs of incompatible *FRT* sites (*FRT* and *F5*) (*FRT*: 5’-GAAGTTCCTATTCTCTAGAAAGTATAGGAAGTTC; *F5*: 5’-GAAGTTCCTATTCTTCAAAGGTATAGGAAGTTC) was synthesized and Cre-GFP encoding sequences isolated from pCAG-Cre:GFP (Addgene plasmid # 13776; gift from Connie Cepko; (Matsuda and Cepko, 2007)) were inserted between the two sites in the reverse orientation. The resulting cassette was then cloned into a modified version of pAAV-CAG-GFP (Addgene plasmid #: 37825; gift from Ed Boyden) in which the GFP-encoding sequences were removed. The integrity of the insert was confirmed by DNA sequencing. The pAAV-CAG-fDIO-Cre-GFP plasmid was subsequently packaged into functional viruses that were pseudotyped with AAV-DJ/8 capsid proteins (AAV-DJ/8 Helper Free Expression System, Cell Biolabs, Inc.) to produce AAV-DJ/8 viruses. Pseudotyped viruses were produced by helper virus-free transfection of HEK293T cells (using polyethylenimine method) with three plasmids (pAAV-CAG-fDIO-Cre-GFP, pAAV-DJ/8, and pHelper), and the resultant viruses were purified by CsCl gradient ultracentrifugation, as previously described (Ayuso et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2011). Virus preparations were dialyzed to remove remaining CsCl. The titer of purified viruses was determined using a qRT-PCR-based method and the viruses were then stored in aliquots at –80°C until use. For the construction of the pAAV-CAG-Cre-GFP vector, Cre-GFP (see above) was cloned into pAAV-CAG-GFP in which the GFP-encoding sequences were removed. The pAAV-CAG-Cre-GFP plasmid was subsequently packaged into functional viruses that were pseudotyped with AAV-DJ/8 capsid proteins to produce AAV/DJ8 viruses, as described above. AAV9-CAG-GFP (construct: Edward Boyden, MIT, Addgene plasmid #: 37825) was produced by the University of North Carolina (UNC) Vector Core Facilities. AAV2-hSyn-DIO-mCherry was obtained from Addgene (construct: Bryan Roth, UNC, Addgene viral prep #: 50459-AAV2). AAV8-EF1 α -DIO-hM4Di-mCherry was produced by the Viral Gene Transfer Core of the McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT (construct: Rachael Neve, Gene Delivery Technology Core, Massachusetts General Hospital). AAV-hSyn-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry was obtained from Addgene

(construct: Bryan Roth (Krashes et al., 2011), UNC, Addgene viral prep # 44361-AAV2). The AAV8-EF1 α -fDIO-mCherry was a gift from Josh Huang (CSHL) (Lu et al., 2017).

Stereotactic surgery and viral injection—Standard surgical procedures were followed for stereotaxic injection (Li et al., 2011). Briefly, mice were anaesthetized with ketamine (100 mg/kg of body weight) supplemented with dexmedetomidine hydrochloride (0.4 mg/kg of body weight) and positioned in a stereotaxic injection frame (myNeuroLab.com). A digital mouse brain atlas was linked to the injection frame to guide the identification and targeting of the prelimbic (PL) and infralimbic (IL) regions of the mPFC and hippocampal CA1 region (Angle Two Stereotaxic System, myNeuroLab.com). Viruses were delivered with a glass micropipette through a skull window (1–2 mm²) by pressure application (5–12 psi, controlled by a Picospritzer III, General Valve Corp). The following stereotaxic coordinates were used: PL-mPFC, 1.94 mm anterior from bregma, 0.40 mm lateral to midline, and 2.2–2.5 mm ventral from the bregma level; IL-mPFC, 1.94 mm anterior from bregma, 0.40 mm lateral to midline, and 2.8–3.2 mm ventral from the bregma level; and CA1, 2.18 mm posterior from bregma, two sites per hemisphere with 1.0 and 1.5 mm lateral to midline, and 1.3–1.6 mm ventral from the bregma level. For all viral injections, 0.5–0.8 μ l of viral solution ($\sim 10^{13}$ virus particles/ml) was bilaterally injected into the PL-mPFC, IL-mPFC, or hippocampal CA1. Throughout the entire surgical procedure, animals were kept on a heating pad and brought back to their home cages after regaining movement. For postoperative care, mice were hydrated by intraperitoneal injection with 0.3–0.5 ml of lactated Ringer's solution. Metacam (meloxicam, 1–2 mg/kg of body weight) was used as an analgesic and to reduce inflammation. To assess the viral infection efficiency (for Fig. S2A and B; S4A and B), the number of GFP-positive cells within the PL-mPFC area was quantified using ImageJ, and the density of virus-infected cells (i.e., GFP-positive cells) was determined by dividing the number of infected cells with the PL-mPFC area. Five slices per brain were chosen every 150 μ m for analysis.

Preparation of acute brain slices and electrophysiology—Mice (male, 40–45 d old) were anaesthetized with isoflurane and decapitated, and brains were quickly removed and chilled in ice-cold dissection buffer (110 mM choline chloride, 25 mM NaHCO₃, 1.25 mM NaH₂PO₄, 2.5 mM KCl, 0.5 mM CaCl₂, 7 mM MgCl₂, 25 mM glucose, 11.6 mM ascorbic acid, and 3.1 mM pyruvic acid, gassed with 95% O₂ and 5% CO₂). Coronal slices (300 μ m) containing the mPFC were cut in dissection buffer using a Leica VT1000S vibratome and subsequently transferred to a storage chamber containing artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF; 118 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM KCl, 26.2 mM NaHCO₃, 1 mM NaH₂PO₄, 20 mM glucose, 2 mM MgCl₂, and 2 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.4, gassed with 95% O₂ and 5% CO₂) kept at 34°C. After at least 40 min recovery time, slices were transferred to RT and constantly perfused with ACSF.

Whole-cell patch-clamp recordings were performed on PV⁺ or SOM⁺ INs or neurons fulfilling the morphological criteria of PyNs in layers II/III in the PL region of the mPFC. The PL region was identified based on landmarks (i.e., forceps minor of the corpus callosum) and by measuring the distance from the midline and the cortical surface. Neurons in the area of 0.4–0.7 mm from the midline and 1.2–1.8 mm from the cortical surface were

regarded as belonging to the PL region. In addition, we took advantage of the *Ail4*Cre-dependent reporter line to label PV or SOM INs with the red fluorescent protein tdTomato. Recordings were obtained with Multiclamp 700B amplifiers (Molecular Devices) and were under visual guidance using a Zeiss Axioskop microscope equipped with both transmitted light and epifluorescence illumination. Miniature and spontaneous postsynaptic currents were recorded in voltage-clamp mode with borosilicate pipettes (3.5–5 M Ω). For recordings in voltage-clamp mode, the internal solution contained the following: 115 mM caesium methanesulphonate, 20 mM CsCl, 10 mM HEPES, 2.5 mM MgCl₂, 4 mM Na₂-ATP, 0.4 mM Na₃GTP, 10 mM Na-phosphocreatine, and 0.6 mM EGTA (pH 7.2). mEPSCs were recorded at a holding potential of –60 mV (for PV and SOM INs or –70 mV (for Emx1-expressing PyNs) with picrotoxin (PTX; 100 μ M) and tetrodotoxin (TTX; 1 μ M) added to the ACSF. mIPSCs were recorded at a holding potential of 0 mV with 6-cyano-7-nitroquinoxaline-2, 3-dione (CNQX, 20 μ M), DL-2-amino-5-phosphonopentanoate (DL-AP5, 100 μ M), and TTX (1 μ M) added to the ACSF. sEPSCs of PyNs were recorded at a holding potential of –70 mV with PTX (100 μ M) added to the ACSF. The PyNs were selected based on their characteristic pyramidal-like morphology. Simultaneous whole-cell patch-clamp recordings were performed on pairs of PV INs and neighboring PyNs located within 50 μ m of selected PV cells. For evoked EPSCs in PV INs and IPSCs in PyNs, postsynaptic responses were evoked by injecting under current clamp configuration a brief current pulse (duration, 20 ms; amplitude, 200–300 pA) in the presynaptic neurons sufficient to elicit an action potential. Evoked EPSCs and IPSCs were low-pass filtered at 2 kHz and recorded under voltage clamp mode at holding potentials of –70 mV and –50 mV, respectively. Only the successful events during EPSC or IPSC recordings were calculated (referred to as “unitary” EPSC or IPSC amplitudes (uEPSCs, uIPSCs, respectively)). The internal solution for the paired recordings consisted of 130 mM potassium gluconate, 5 mM KCl, 10 mM HEPES, 2.5 mM MgCl₂, 4 mM Na₂ATP, 0.4 mM Na₃GTP, 10 mM Na-phosphocreatine, and 0.6 mM EGTA (pH 7.2). Resting membrane potential was measured in the current-clamp configuration. Input resistance was calculated from hyperpolarizing current injections in the voltage-clamp configuration. For spontaneous firing frequency measurements of PV INs, a modified ACSF solution (5 mM KCl, 0.5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM CaCl₂; Yang et al., 2013) was used and PV INs were recorded in a tight-seal cell-attached configuration (0.3–1 G Ω) with pipettes filled with the same solution used for paired recordings. For measurements of paired-pulse ratio of PV INs, a bipolar stimulation electrode was placed in the deep layers of the PL-mPFC about 150–200 μ m from the recorded cells, which were kept at a holding potential of –60 mV. Pairs of stimulation with 5 Hz, 10 Hz, 20 Hz, 50 Hz were delivered to the recorded cells and the ratio between the amplitude of the second evoked EPSC to the amplitude of the first evoked EPSC was calculated as the paired-pulse ratio. To validate the effect of the inhibitory DREADD hM4Di and excitatory DREADD hM3D(Gq), recordings were performed in current clamp mode. The internal solution was the same as that for paired recordings. The holding potentials were adjusted to make the cells fire at a rate of ~0.5 Hz. After 5 min of stable recording, CNO (20 μ M) was puff applied from another glass pipette placed within 50 μ m of the recorded neuron. Electrophysiological data were acquired using pCLAMP 10 software (Molecular Devices) and analyzed using the same software (for evoked EPSCs) or Mini Analysis Program (Synaptosoft) for mEPSCs, mIPSCs, and sEPSCs.

Morphometric analyses—To visualize PV INs, 0.2 μ l of AAV-DIO-mCherry was bilaterally injected into the PL-mPFC of 5-week old male *PV-Ophn1^{WT}* and *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice to sparsely label PV INs. Two weeks later, brain sections were prepared as described above and subsequently imaged using an LSM 800 confocal laser-scanning microscope (Zeiss) with a 63x oil-immersion objective and sequential acquisition settings applied at resolution of 1024 \times 1024 pixels. For all 3D reconstructions, 200 μ m \times 200 μ m images of single mCherry+ PV INs, which were spatially isolated from other mCherry+ PV INs and processes, were collected in the PL-mPFC using a z-series of 80–90 images with a depth interval of 0.3 μ m. Sholl analyses were carried out using an Imaris algorithm for branching analysis (Bitplane, Inc). In brief, all processes (dendrites and axon) from each analyzed mCherry+ cell were first traced manually in three dimensions, assisted by the AutoPath protocol, and the soma of each cell was identified as the center for Sholl analysis. The number of process intersections was determined for each ring in the series of concentric spheres spaced at 5 μ m intervals from the somal center point. Soma area was quantified using the “create surface” tool in Imaris to generate a solid surface best matching the neuronal anatomy of the cell soma.

Analysis of the density/number of PSD-95 puncta colocalizing with VGLUT1 on PV and SOM IN cell bodies and dendrites—To quantify PSD-95-VGLUT1 puncta colocalization, images of coronal brain slices (50 μ m thick) prepared from *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14*, *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14*, *SOM-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* or *SOM-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* mice and immunostained for PSD-95, VGLUT1, and PV or SOM were acquired using an LSM 710 or 800 confocal laser-scanning microscope (Zeiss) with a 63x oil-immersion objective and acquisition settings applied at a resolution of 1024 \times 1024 pixels. Images of cell bodies and proximal dendritic processes of isolated neurons in layers II/III of the PL-mPFC were collected using a z-series of 30–50 images with a depth interval of 0.23 μ m. Imaris was used to process stacked images, select regions of interest, and quantify PSD-95-VGLUT1 co-localization (Fogarty et al., 2013). The “create surface” tool in Imaris was used to generate a solid surface best matching the neuronal cell body or dendritic processes based on the fluorescence signal. All immunostaining of the postsynaptic protein PSD-95 falling outside of the boundary of the cell surface and all immunostaining of the presynaptic protein VGLUT1 within the boundary of the cell surface were disregarded using the “mask all” feature in Imaris. The spots detection algorithm in Imaris was used to quantify VGLUT1 and PSD-95 puncta using a spot diameter threshold of 0.3 μ m. Imaris’ “co-localize spots” algorithm was then used to determine which PSD-95 postsynaptic puncta were within a 1- μ m threshold distance of VGLUT1 presynaptic specializations. These co-localized PSD-95-VGLUT1 spots were subsequently superimposed onto the neuronal surface of the cell body or dendrites to provide their location and distribution using Imaris’ “find spots close to surface” algorithm (distance threshold of 1 μ m). The density of PSD-95 puncta that co-localized with VGLUT1 (puncta number/ μ m²) on the somatic surface of the neuron was then calculated by dividing the number of PSD-95-VGLUT1 puncta on the somatic surface by the area of the somatic surface. For dendrite surface rendering, the regions of interest were selected manually with the dendrites chosen to be 10–30 μ m away from the cell soma. Dendritic lengths were determined using Imaris’ “auto depth” algorithm. The density of PSD-95 puncta that co-localized with VGLUT1 (puncta number/ μ m) on dendrites was then

calculated by dividing the number of PSD-95-VGLUT1 puncta on the dendrites by the length of the selected dendrites.

Chemogenetic manipulation—*ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice were bilaterally injected in the PL-mPFC with AAV-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry, AAV-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry, or AAV-DIO-mCherry. Four to five weeks later, the mice were injected intraperitoneally with either saline solution or clozapine N-oxide (CNO) (Sigma-Aldrich, C-0832; NIMH Chemical Synthesis and Drug Supply Program, C-929) (5 mg/kg of body weight for hM4Di and 1 mg/kg of body weight for hM3D(Gq)) during the LH procedure (i.e., 30 min before the onset of each of the two LH induction sessions, and again 30 min before the onset of the testing session), 30 min before the onset of each of the two induction sessions, or 30 min before the onset of the testing session.

Cannula implantation—Mice were anaesthetized with ketamine (100 mg/kg of body weight) supplemented with dexmedetomidine hydrochloride (0.4 mg/kg of body weight), placed in a stereotaxic injection frame (myNeuroLab.com), and their skull was exposed. Two stainless-steel guide cannulae (26-gauge; RWD Life Science) were implanted into the PL-mPFC (anterior–posterior (AP): 1.98 mm; mediolateral (ML): \pm 0.5 mm; dorsoventral (DV): –2 mm under the skull surface, relative to bregma). One cannula was introduced to this position at 0° while the other was laterally tilted by 30° with respect to the vertical axis. The cannulae were fixed to the skull using dental cement (Metabond, Parkell, Inc.). 33-gauge dummy cannulae (RWD Life Science Inc.) were subsequently inserted into the guide cannulae to prevent clogging and reduce the risk of infection. After surgery, the mice were single housed and allowed to recover for at least 7 days prior to administration of the Rho-kinase inhibitor fasudil or PKA inhibitor cAMPS-Rp.

Fasudil and cAMPS-Rp administration—Fasudil (40 μ M, K_i = 0.33 μ M) and cAMPS-Rp (22 μ M, K_i = 11 μ M) were dissolved in 0.9% saline. Prior to local fasudil or cAMPS-Rp infusion, tip-sharpened 33-gauge injection cannulae were inserted into each of the guide cannulae to ensure clear passage. They were thereafter removed and replaced with new tip-sharpened 33-gauge injection cannulae connected to a microsyringe. Approximately 0.5 μ l of fasudil or 0.4 μ l cAMPS-Rp solution was then infused (0.2 μ l/min) via the injection cannulae to deliver the drug locally into each of the implantation sites in the PL-mPFC. To allow penetration of the drug, the injection cannulae were left in place for an additional 5 min. Mice were subjected to the LH procedure following the 5th infusion of fasudil (see Fig. 8H). cAMPS-Rp was infused 30 min before the onset of each of the two LH induction sessions and again 30 min before the onset of the testing session (see Fig. S9A). Following completion of all behavioral tests, the mice were injected with 0.5 μ l CTB-488 solution via the 33-gauge injection cannulae to verify the site of drug infusion. Mice were euthanized 30 min after CTB injection, brain slices were prepared, and the cannulae positions were verified. Only data from mice with the correct injection sites were used. For intraperitoneal injections, mice were injected with fasudil (10 mg/kg of body weight) twice daily for 10 days (see Fig. 8E).

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Data analysis and statistics—Statistical tests were performed with GraphPad Prism and the R programming environment. Normality was tested with the Shapiro-Wilk normality test and homogeneity of variances with the Fligner-Killen test. Behavioral parameters for LH were analyzed with *k*-means cluster analysis and linear discriminant analysis followed by a non-parametric Mann-Whitney test for comparison of two experimental groups or by non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis H one-way ANOVA with a Dunn's post-hoc test for comparison of three experimental groups. For non-parametric tests of multiple factors and their interactions, Aligned-Rank Transform ANOVA from the R ARTool package followed by multiple comparisons using Mann-Whitney test with Bonferroni correction was used. For parametric tests of two experimental groups, two-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-tests were used. For parametric tests of multiple factors and their interactions, two-way ANOVA or two-way repeated measures ANOVA followed by Bonferroni (Amat et al., 2005) post-hoc test were used. Behavioral data from animals in which viral injection missed the target area were excluded from the analysis. Correlations between viral infection efficiency in PL-mPFC and the behavioral effect were computed using Pearson's correlation coefficient.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Highlights

- *Ophn1* deficiency markedly enhances stress-induced helpless/depressive-like behavior
- *Ophn1* deletion in PV interneurons in PL-mPFC is sufficient to induce helplessness
- *Ophn1* deficiency in PV interneurons leads to enhanced PL-mPFC neuronal activity
- Inhibiting neuronal activity or RhoA/Rho-kinase pathway reverses helpless behavior

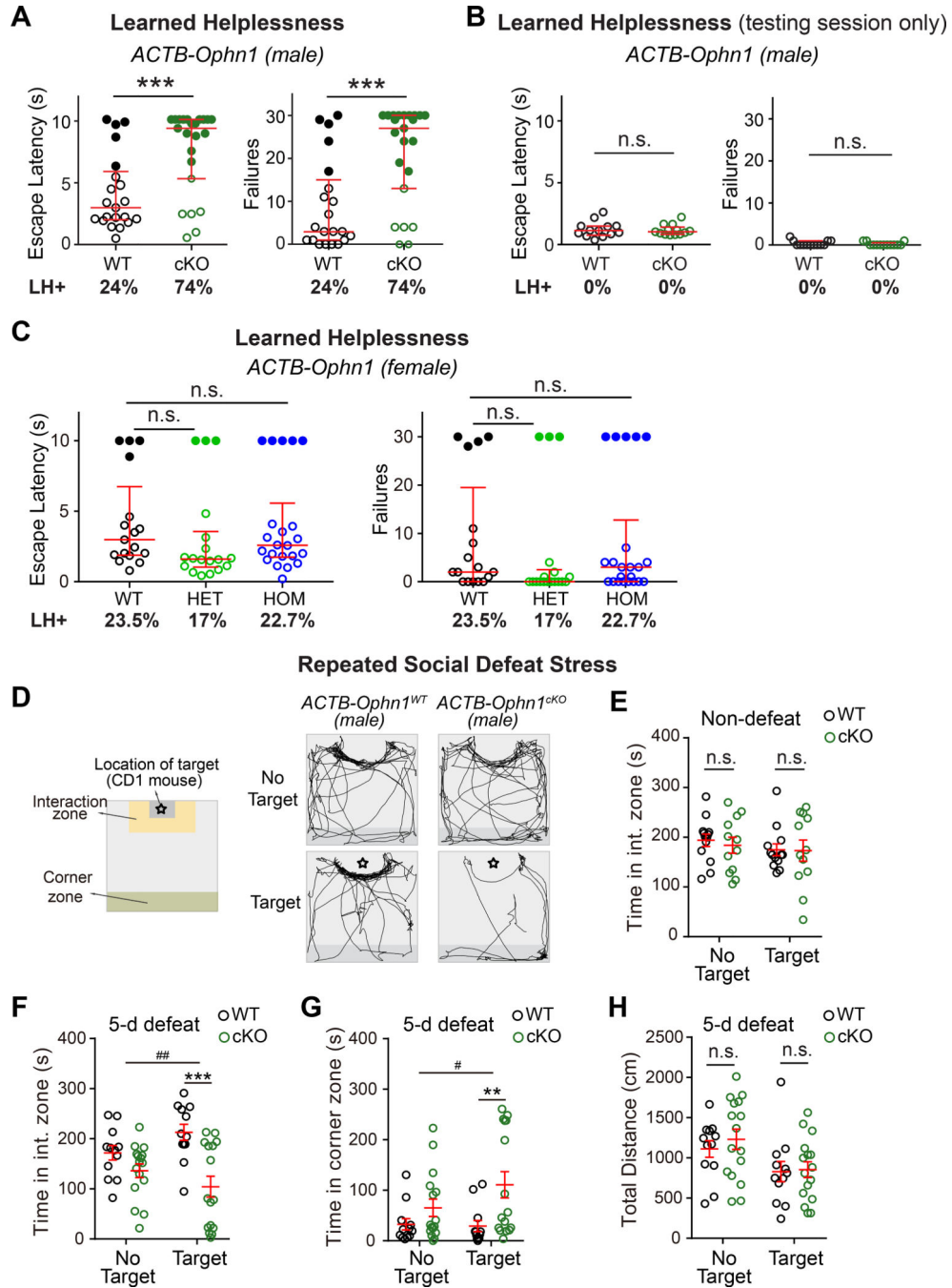


Figure 1. *Ophn1* Deficiency Induces Maladaptive Behavioral Responses to Stress
 (A) Learned helplessness (LH) test of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* (WT) and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* (cKO) male mice. Escape latencies and number of failures are presented. n = 21–23 mice per group; Mann-Whitney test.
 (B) Testing session only (see Methods) of the LH test of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* male mice. n = 13 mice per group; Mann-Whitney test.

(C) LH test of *Ophn1^{+/+};ACTB^{Cre/+}* (*ACTB-Ophn1*-WT), *Ophn1^{flox/+};ACTB^{Cre/+}* (*ACTB-Ophn1*-HET), and *Ophn1^{flox/flox};ACTB^{Cre/+}* (*ACTB-Ophn1*-HOM) female mice. n = 17–22 mice per group; Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn's post-hoc test.

(D) Social interaction test following 5-d social defeat stress of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* male mice. Left: Schematic of social interaction arena. Right: Representative movement tracks of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* male mice in either the absence or presence of a social defeat target (i.e., CD1 mouse 🐭).

(E) Quantification of time spent in interaction zone by non-defeated *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice. n = 12–13 mice per group; Two-way RM ANOVA (genotype $F_{(1, 23)} = 0.1435$, $p = 0.7$) with Bonferroni post-hoc test.

(F, G) Quantification of time spent in interaction zone (F) and corner zone (G) by defeated *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice. n = 12–16 mice per group; Two-way RM ANOVA (in F, genotype x target interaction $F_{(1, 26)} = 7.85$, $p = 0.0095$; in G, genotype x target interaction $F_{(1, 26)} = 4.401$, $p = 0.046$) with Bonferroni post-hoc test.

(H) Quantification of total distance traveled by *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* and *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice following social defeat stress. n = 12–16 mice per group; Two-way RM ANOVA (genotype $F_{(1, 26)} = 0.2712$, $p = 0.6$) with Bonferroni post-hoc test.

For A-C, data are presented with the median and interquartile ranges shown in red. Closed and open circles represent LH and resilient mice, respectively. Percentage of LH+ mice is indicated at the bottom of each genotype. For E-H, data are mean \pm SEM. n.s., $p > 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, # $p < 0.05$, ## $p < 0.01$.

See also Figure S1.

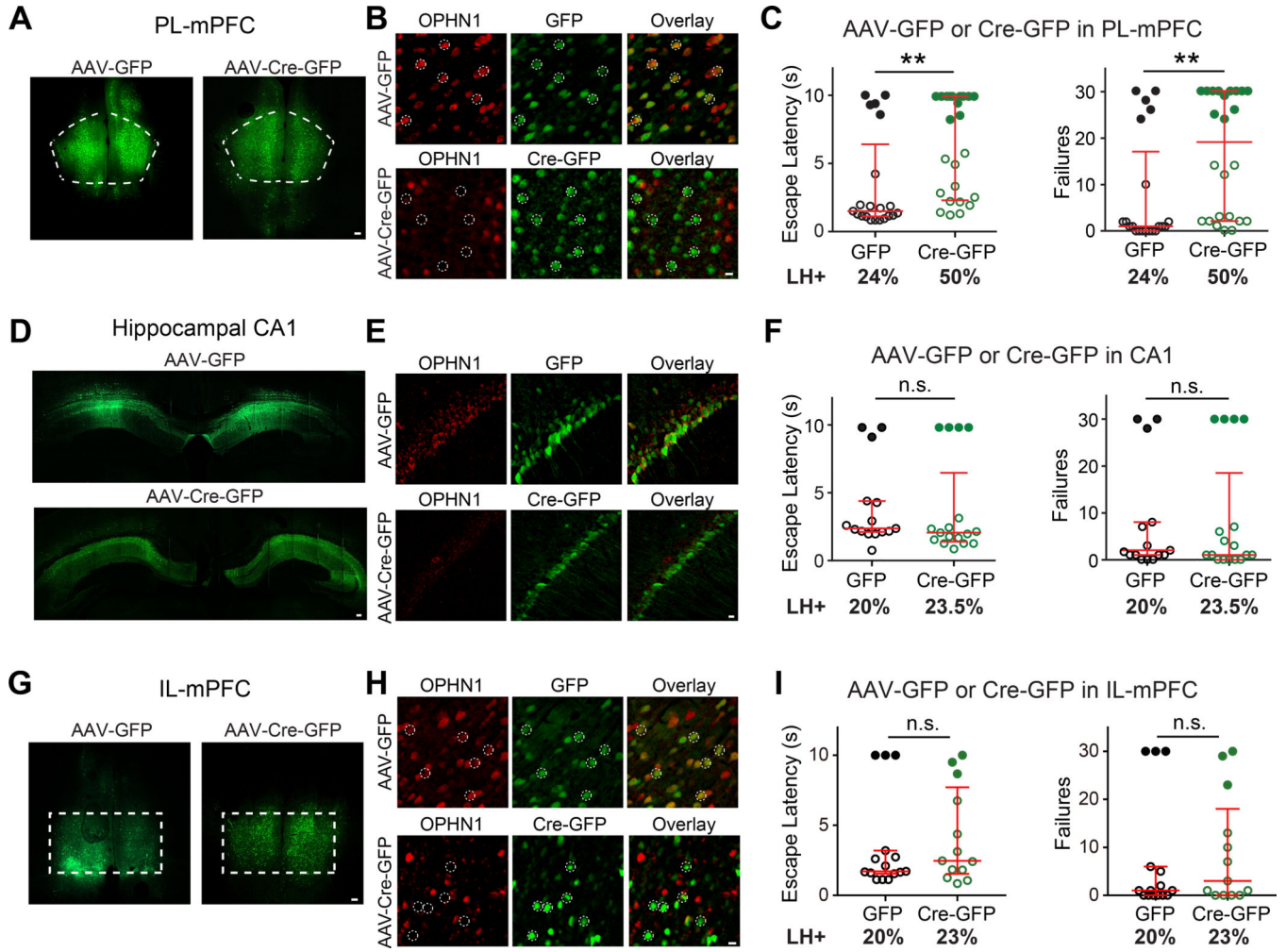


Figure 2. *Ophn1* Deletion in PL-mPFC but not Hippocampal CA1 or IL-mPFC Promotes LH (A, D, G) Representative images showing expression of GFP or Cre-GFP in the prelimbic area of the medial prefrontal cortex (PL-mPFC) (A), hippocampal CA1 (D), and infralimbic area of the mPFC (IL-mPFC) (G) of *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice injected with AAV-GFP and AAV-Cre-GFP, respectively. Scale bars, 100 μ m. (B, E, H) Representative images of neurons in the PL-mPFC (B), hippocampal CA1 (E), and IL-mPFC (H) of *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice injected with AAV-GFP or AAV-Cre-GFP with immunostaining for OPHN1. Dashed-line circles depict randomly selected representative cells. Scale bars, 10 μ m. (C, F, I) LH test of *Ophn1^{flox/Y}* mice in which the PL-mPFC (C), hippocampal CA1 (F), or IL-mPFC (H) was injected with AAV-GFP or AAV-Cre-GFP. n = 13–24 mice per group; Mann-Whitney test. Data are presented with the median and interquartile ranges shown in red. Closed and open circles represent LH and resilient mice, respectively. Percentage of LH+ mice is indicated at the bottom of each group. n.s., p > 0.05, ** p < 0.01. See also Figure S2.

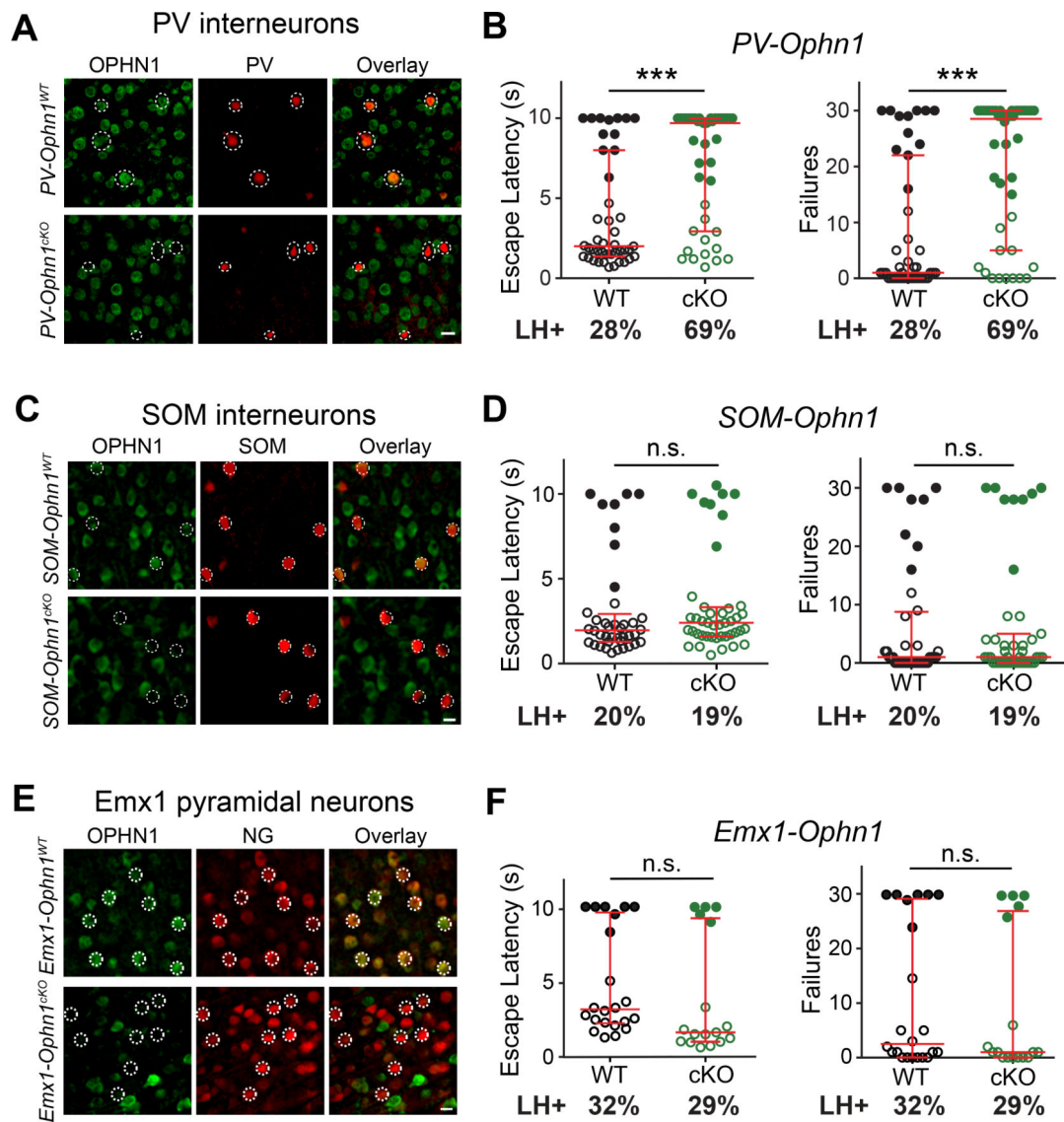


Figure 3. *Ophn1* Deletion in PV INs, but not SOM INs or Emx1-expressing PyNs, Promotes LH (A, C, E) Representative images of neurons in the PL-mPFC of P50 *PV-Ophn1*^{WT} and *PV-Ophn1*^{cKO} (A), P50 *SOM-Ophn1*^{WT} and *SOM-Ophn1*^{cKO} (C), and P50 *Emx1-Ophn1*^{WT} and *Emx1-Ophn1*^{cKO} (E) mice with immunostaining for OPHN1 and parvalbumin (PV) (A), somatostatin (SOM) (C), or neurogranin (NG) (E). Scale bars, 10 μ m. (B, D, F) LH test of *PV-Ophn1*^{WT} and *PV-Ophn1*^{cKO} (B), *SOM-Ophn1*^{WT} and *SOM-Ophn1*^{cKO} (D), and *Emx1-Ophn1*^{WT} and *Emx1-Ophn1*^{cKO} (F) mice. n = 17–43 mice per group; Mann-Whitney test.

All data are presented with the median and interquartile ranges shown in red. Closed and open circles represent LH and resilient mice, respectively. Percentage of LH+ mice is indicated at the bottom of each genotype. n.s., p > 0.05, ***p < 0.001. See also Figure S3.

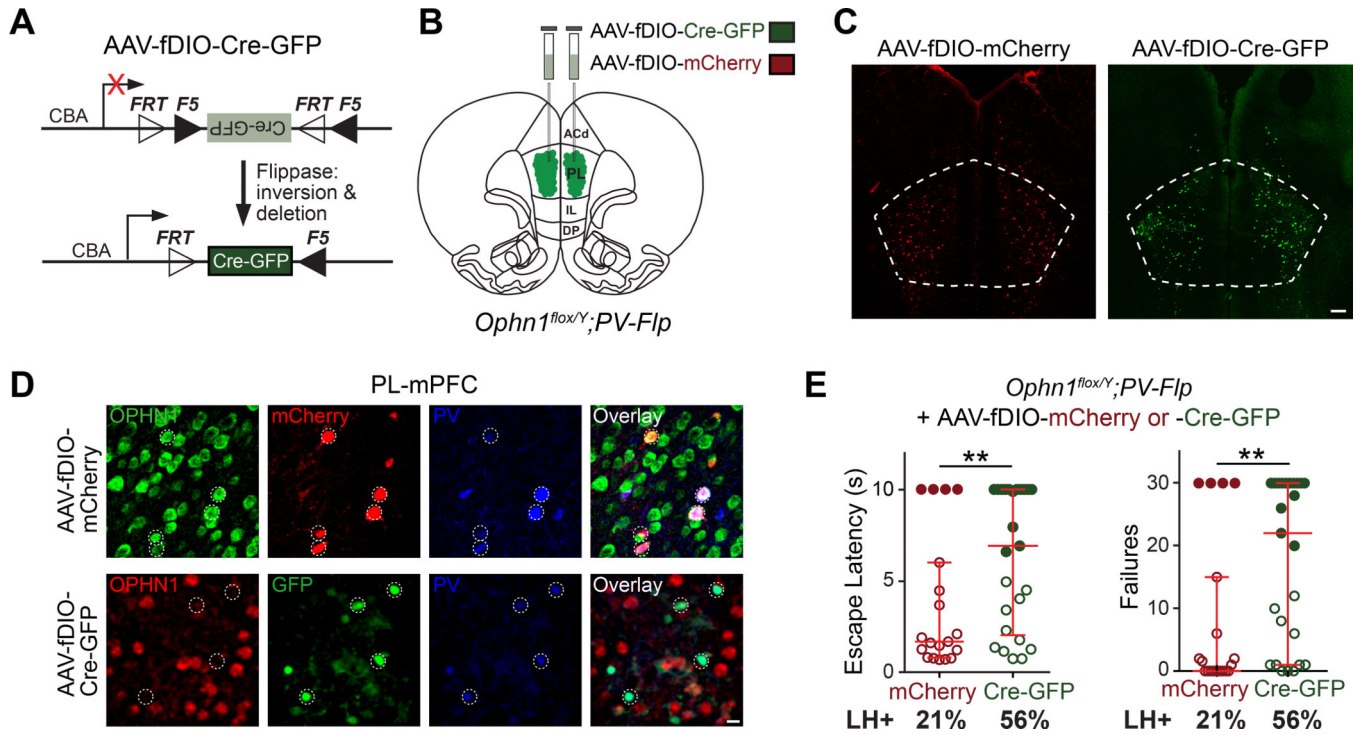


Figure 4. *Ophn1* Deletion Selectively in PV INs in PL-mPFC is Sufficient to Induce LH

(A) AAV vector expressing flippase-dependent Cre-GFP (AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP) for gene deletion with spatial and cell-type specificity.

(B) Schematic for depleting *Ophn1* in PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV-Flp* mice (PL, prelimbic; IL, infralimbic; DP, dorsal peduncular; ACd, dorsal anterior cingulate).

(C) Representative images of neurons infected with control AAV-fDIO-mCherry or AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP in the PL-mPFC. Scale bar, 200 μ m.

(D) Representative images showing selective depletion of OPHN1 in PL-mPFC PV INs of *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV-Flp* mice injected with AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP but not AAV-fDIO-mCherry. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

(E) LH test of *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV-Flp* mice in which the PL-mPFC was injected with AAV-fDIO-mCherry or AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP. $n = 19$ – 25 mice per group; Mann-Whitney test. Data are presented with the median and interquartile ranges shown in red. Closed and open circles represent LH and resilient mice, respectively. Percentage of LH+ mice is indicated at the bottom of each group. ** $p < 0.01$.

See also Figure S4.

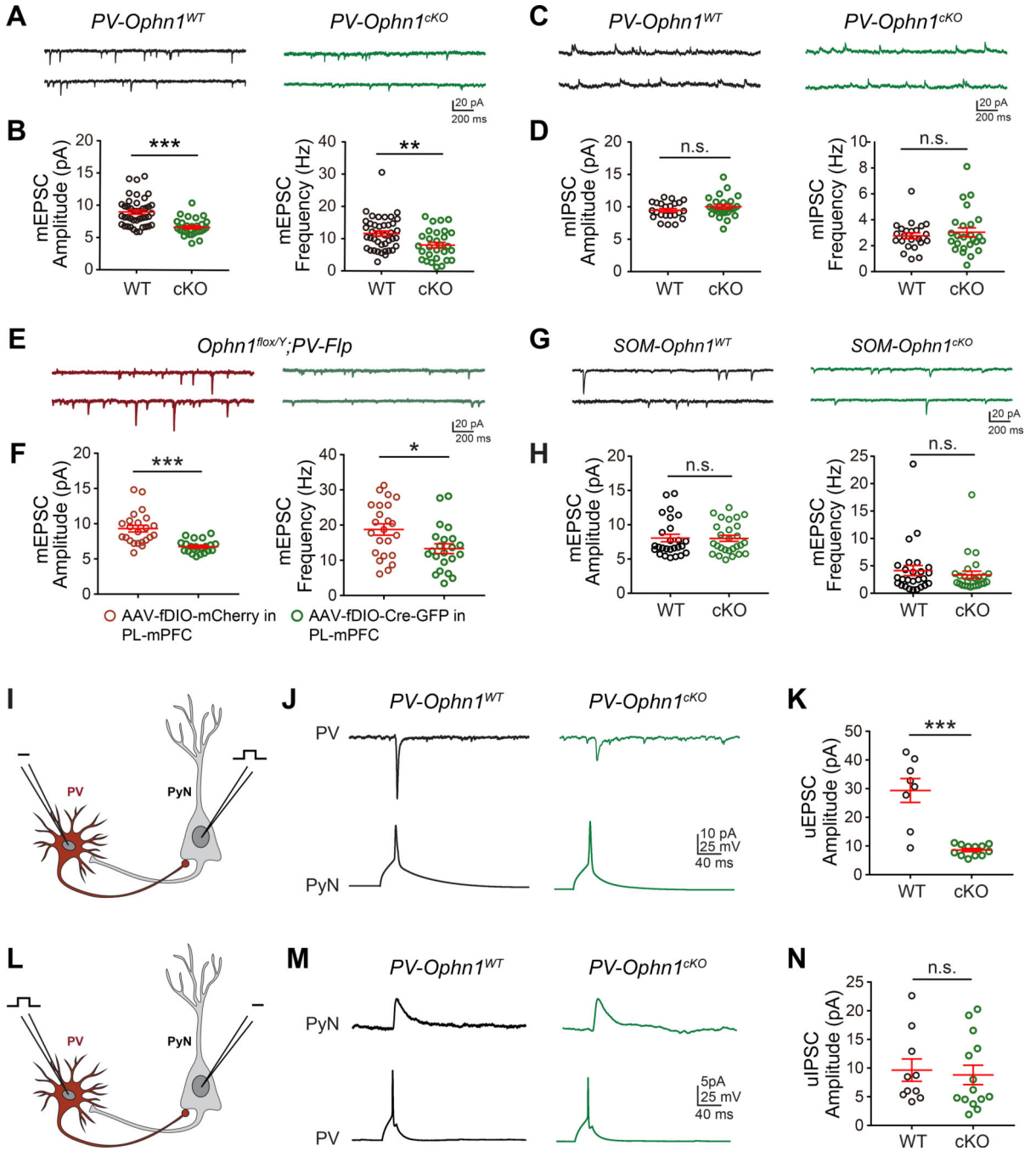


Figure 5. Reduced Excitatory Drive onto PL-mPFC PV INs Lacking OPHN1

(A, C) Representative traces of mEPSCs (A) and mIPSCs (C) recorded from layer (L) II/III PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* (WT) and *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* (cKO) mice. (B, D) Quantification of mEPSC (B) and mIPSC (D) amplitude and frequency. n = 23–41 cells from 3–5 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

(E) Representative traces of mEPSCs recorded from LII/III PV INs in the PL-mPFC region of *Ophn1^{flox/Y};PV-Flp* mice injected with AAV-fDIO-mCherry or AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP.

(F) Quantification of mEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 22–23 cells from 3 mice for each condition; Student's t-test.

(G) Representative traces of mEPSCs recorded from LII/III SOM INs in the PL-mPFC region of *SOM-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* (WT) or *SOM-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* (cKO) mice.

(H) Quantification of mEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 26–27 cells from 3 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

(I) Schematic of the recording configuration for J and K.

(J) Representative traces showing averaged uEPSCs (30 trials) recorded in a PV IN after presynaptic spike from PyN in LII/III of the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* mice.

(K) Quantification of uEPSC amplitude. n = 8–12 pairs from 5–7 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

(L) Schematic of the recording configuration for M and N.

(M) Representative traces showing averaged uIPSCs (30 trials) recorded in a PyN after presynaptic spike from PV IN in LII/III of the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{CKO};Ai14* mice.

(N) Quantification of uIPSC amplitude. n = 10–14 pairs from 6–8 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

Data are mean ± SEM. n.s., p > 0.05, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

See also Figures S5 and S6.

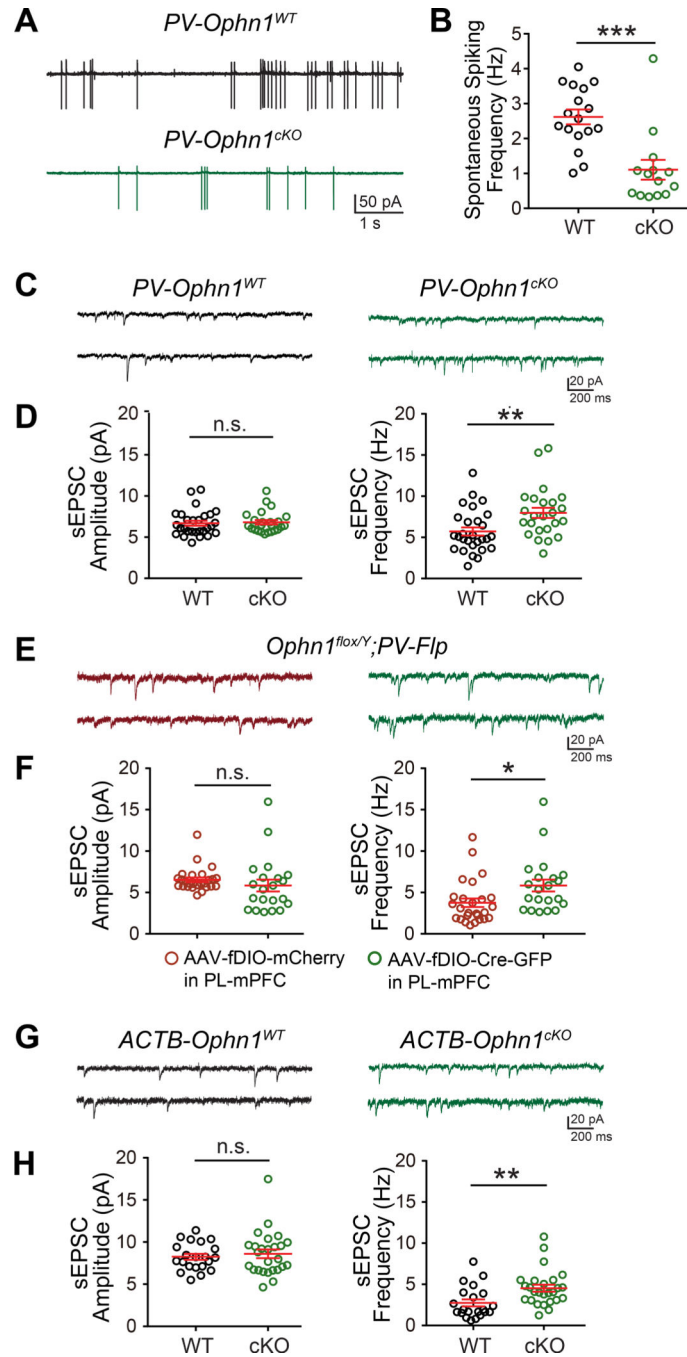


Figure 6. *Ophn1* Deficiency Leads to Less Active PV INs and Increased Activity in Neighboring PyNs in the mPFC

(A) Representative traces of spontaneous spiking activity in PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* (WT) and *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* (cKO) mice.

(B) Quantification of spontaneous spiking frequency. $n = 14\text{--}17$ neurons from 4 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

(C) Representative traces of sEPSCs recorded from LII/III PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT};Ai14* and *PV-Ophn1^{cKO};Ai14* mice.

(D) Quantification of sEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 24–28 cells from 3 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

(E) Representative traces of sEPSCs recorded from LII/III PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *Ophn1^{flloxY};PV-Flp* mice injected with AAV-fDIO-mCherry or AAV-fDIO-Cre-GFP.

(F) Quantification of sEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 21–26 cells from 3 mice for each condition; Student's t-test.

(G) Representative traces of sEPSCs recorded from LII/III PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* (WT) and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* (cKO) mice.

(H) Quantification of sEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 21–26 cells from 3 mice for each genotype; Student's t-test.

Data are mean ± SEM. n.s., p > 0.05, *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

See also Figure S6.

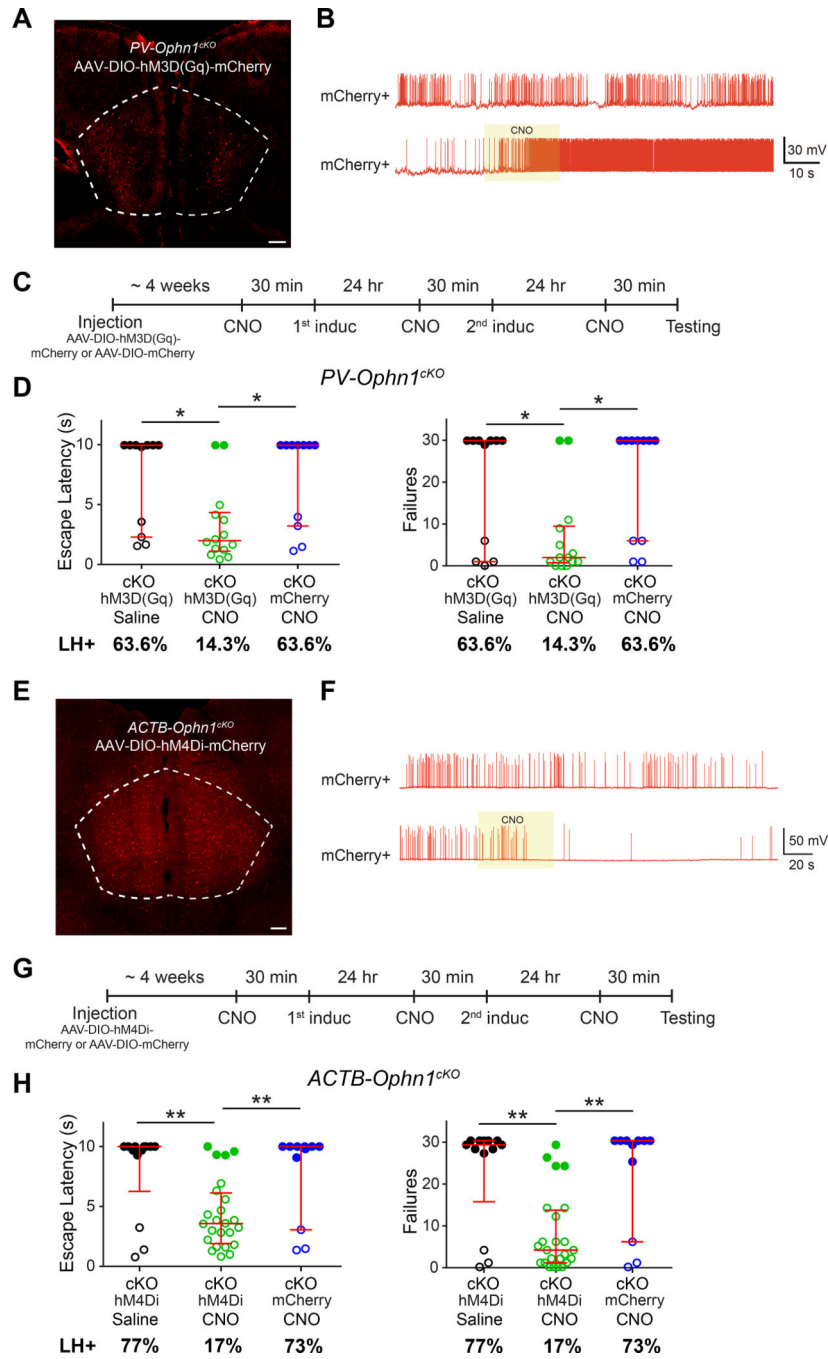


Figure 7. Normalizing PL-mPFC Neuronal Activity Alleviates Helpless Behavior in *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice

(A) Representative image showing expression of hM3D(Gq)-mCherry in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* mice injected with Cre-dependent excitatory DREADD (AAV-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry). Scale bar, 200 μ m.

(B) Representative traces of spontaneous spikes of hM3D(Gq)-mCherry-positive PV INs (mCherry+) without or with (yellow box) focal/puff application of CNO (20 μ M).

(C) Schematic of experimental procedure for D.

(D) LH test of *PV-Ophn1^{CKO}* (cKO) mice in which the PL-mPFC was injected with AAV-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry or AAV-DIO-mCherry and subsequently treated with saline or CNO. n = 11–14 mice per group; Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn's post-hoc test.

(E) Representative image showing expression of hM4Di-mCherry in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* mice injected with Cre-dependent inhibitory DREADD (AAV-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry).

Scale bar, 200 μ m.

(F) Representative traces of spontaneous spikes of hM4Di-mCherry-positive neurons (mCherry+) without or with (yellow box) focal/puff application of CNO (20 μ M).

(G) Schematic of experimental procedure for H.

(H) LH test of *ACTB-Ophn1^{CKO}* (cKO) mice in which the PL-mPFC was injected with AAV-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry or AAV-DIO-mCherry and subsequently treated with saline or CNO. n = 11–24 mice per group; Kruskal-Wallis with Dunn's post-hoc test.

For D, H, data are presented with the median and interquartile ranges shown in red. Closed and open circles represent LH and resilient mice, respectively. Percentage of LH+ mice is indicated at the bottom of each group. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01.

See also Figure S7.

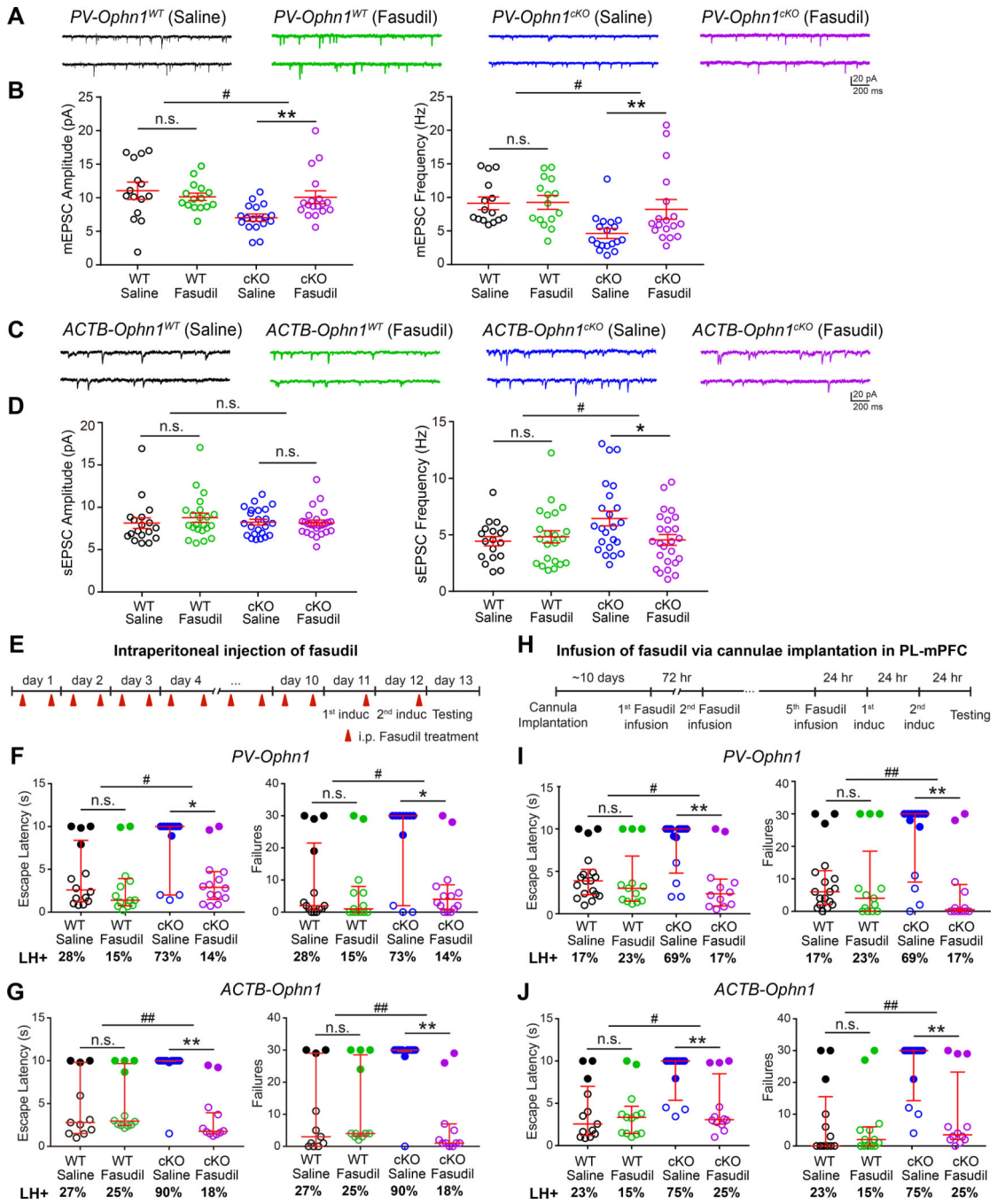


Figure 8. Suppressing RhoA/Rho-Kinase Pathway Normalizes PL-mPFC Neuronal Hyperactivity and Attenuates Helpless Behavior in *Ophn1*-Deficient Mice

(A) Representative traces of mEPSCs recorded from LII/III PV INs in the PL-mPFC of *PV-Ophn1^{WT}* (left) and *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* (right) mice treated with saline or fasudil.

(B) Quantification of mEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 15–18 cells from 3 mice for each genotype/condition; Two-way ANOVA (Amplitude: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 62)} = 6.539$, $p = 0.013$; Frequency: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 62)} = 4.069$, $p = 0.048$) with Bonferroni post-hoc test.

- (C) Representative traces of sEPSCs recorded from LII/III PyNs in the PL-mPFC of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* (left) and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* (right) mice treated with saline or fasudil.
- (D) Quantification of sEPSC amplitude and frequency. n = 18–25 cells from 3–4 mice for each genotype/condition; Two-way ANOVA (Amplitude: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 84)} = 1.507$, $p = 0.223$; Frequency: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 84)} = 4.394$, $p = 0.04$) with Bonferroni post-hoc test.
- (E) Schematic of experimental procedure for F and G.
- (F) LH test of *PV-Ophn1^{WT}* (WT) and *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* (cKO) mice treated with saline or fasudil. n = 11–14 mice per group; Aligned-Rank Transform ANOVA (Escape latencies: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 48)} = 4.097$, $p = 0.048$; Failures: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 48)} = 5.314$, $p = 0.025$) followed by multiple comparisons using Mann-Whitney test with Bonferroni correction.
- (G) LH test of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* (WT) and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* (cKO) mice treated with saline or fasudil. n = 10–12 mice per group; Aligned-Rank Transform ANOVA (Escape latencies: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 40)} = 9.092$, $p = 0.0044$; Failures: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 40)} = 11.98$, $p = 0.0013$) followed by multiple comparisons using Mann-Whitney test with Bonferroni correction.
- (H) Schematic of experimental procedure for I and J.
- (I) LH test of *PV-Ophn1^{WT}* (WT) and *PV-Ophn1^{cKO}* (cKO) mice with guide cannulae in the PL-mPFC infused with saline or fasudil. n = 12–18 mice per group; Aligned-Rank Transform ANOVA (Escape latencies: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 52)} = 6.37$, $p = 0.015$; Failures: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 52)} = 7.662$, $p = 0.0078$) followed by multiple comparisons using Mann-Whitney test with Bonferroni correction.
- (J) LH test of *ACTB-Ophn1^{WT}* (WT) and *ACTB-Ophn1^{cKO}* (cKO) mice with guide cannulae in the PL-mPFC infused with saline or fasudil. n = 12–13 mice per group; Aligned-Rank Transform ANOVA (Escape latencies: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 46)} = 4.689$, $p = 0.035$; Failures: genotype x treatment interaction $F_{(1, 46)} = 7.528$, $p = 0.0086$) followed by multiple comparisons using Mann-Whitney test with Bonferroni correction.
- For B and D, data are mean \pm SEM. For F, G, I, J, data are presented with the median and interquartile ranges shown in red. Closed and open circles represent LH and resilient mice, respectively. Percentage of LH+ mice is indicated at the bottom of each group. n.s., $p > 0.05$, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, # $p < 0.05$, ## $p < 0.01$. See also Figures S8 and S9.

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Rabbit polyclonal anti-OPHN1	This paper	N/A
Rabbit monoclonal anti-GAPDH	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 5174 RRID: AB_10622025
Mouse monoclonal anti-NeuN	Millipore	Cat#MAB377 RRID:AB_2298772
Mouse monoclonal anti-PSD-95	Millipore	Cat#MAB1598 RRID:AB_94278
Mouse monoclonal anti-Parvalbumin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# P3088 RRID: AB_477329
Rat monoclonal anti-Somatostatin	Millipore	Cat# MAB354 RRID: AB_2255365
Mouse monoclonal anti-Neurogranin	BioLegend	Cat# 845602 RRID: AB_2566622
Rabbit polyclonal anti-VGLUT1	Synaptic Systems	Cat# 135_302 RRID: AB_887877
Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) Alexa Fluor 488	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A11008 RRID: AB_143165
Goat anti-Mouse IgG2a Alexa Fluor 488	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A21131 RRID:AB_141618
Goat Anti-Mouse IgG (H+L) Alexa Fluor 555	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A21422 RRID: AB_2535844
Goat anti-Rat IgG (H+L) Alexa Fluor 555	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A21434 RRID: AB_2535855
Goat anti-Mouse IgG1 Alexa Fluor 555	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A21127 RRID:AB_141596
Goat anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) Alexa Fluor 647	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A-21245 RRID:AB_141775
Goat anti-Rabbit IgG, HRP-linked Antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	Cat# 7074 RRID: AB_2099233
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
AAV/DJ8-CAG-Cre-GFP	This paper	N/A
AAV9-CAG-GFP	Viral Vector Core, University of North Carolina	Addgene plasmid # 37825 (gift from Edward Boyden)
AAV/DJ8-CAG-fDIO-Cre-GFP	This paper	N/A
AAV8-Ef1a-fDIO-mCherry	Gift from Z.J. Huang (Lu et. al., 2017)	N/A
AAV8-Ef1a-DIO-hM4Di-mCherry	MIT Viral Core	Generated by Rachael L. Neve
AAV2-hSyn-DIO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry	Addgene	Addgene viral prep # 44361-AAV2 (plasmid # 44361 was a gift from Bryan Roth)
AAV2-hSyn-DIO-mCherry	Addgene	Addgene viral prep # 50459-AAV2 (plasmid # 50459 was gift from Bryan Roth)
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
cOmplete, EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# 11873580001
Clozapine N-oxide	Sigma-Aldrich/NIMH	Sigma-Aldrich Cat# C-0832/NIMH Cat# C-929
Bovine serum albumin	Equitech-Bio, Inc.	Cat# BAH65
Tetrodotoxin (TTX)	Tocris	Cat# 1078
Picrotoxin (PTX)	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# 010M1441
6-cyano-7-nitroquinoxaline-2, 3-dione	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# C127
DL-2-amino-5-phosphonopentanoic acid	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# 074K38051
Cresyl violet	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# C5042
Xylene	Poly Scientific R&D Corp.	Cat# c823
DPX mounting medium	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# 06522

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Fluoromount-G	SouthernBiotech	Cat# 0100-01
Fasudil Mono HCl Salt	LC Laboratories	Cat# F-4660
cAMPS-Rp, triethylammonium salt	TOCRIS Bioscience	Cat# 1337
Critical Commercial Assays		
AAV-DJ/8 Helper Free Expression System	Cell Biolabs, Inc	Cat# VPK-410-DJ-8
Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay Kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 23225
Pierce™ ECL Western Blotting Substrate	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 32106
Experimental Models: Cell Lines		
HEK293T	ATCC	Cat# CRL-3216 RRID: CVCL_0063
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Mouse: <i>Ophn1</i> -cKO	This paper	N/A
Mouse: B6N.FVB- <i>Tmem163</i> ^{Tg} (<i>ACTB-cre</i>)2 <i>Mrt</i> /CjDswJ	Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR_JAX:019099
Mouse: B6.Cg- <i>Zfp335</i> ^{tm1.2Caw} <i>Emx1</i> ^{tm1(cre)Krlj} J	Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR_JAX:022762
Mouse: B6N.Cg- <i>Sst</i> ^{tm2.1(cre)Zjh} J	Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR_JAX:018973
Mouse: B6;129P2- <i>Pvalb</i> ^{tm1(cre)Arbj} J	Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR_JAX:008069
Mouse: PV-Flp	Gift from Z.J. Huang (He et al., 2016)	N/A
Mouse: B6;129S6- <i>Gt(ROSA)26Sor</i> ^{tm14(CAG-tdTomato)Hze} J	Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR_JAX:007908
Mouse: C57BL/6J	Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR_JAX:000664
Mouse: CD1	Charles River	Cat# CRL:22 RRID: IMSR_CRL:22
Recombinant DNA		
pCAG-Cre:GFP	Gift from Connie Cepko (Matsuda et al., 2007)	Addgene plasmid # 13776
pAAV-CAG-GFP	Gift from Edward Boyden	Addgene plasmid # 37825
pAAV-CAG-Cre-GFP	This paper	N/A
pAAV-CAG-fDIO-Cre-GFP	This paper	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
ImageJ	NIH	http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/ ; RRID: SCR_003070
LSM 5 Image Browser	Zeiss	http://www.embl.de/eamnet/html/body_image_browser.html ; RRID: SCR_014344
Zeiss Zen (Blue Edition) Imaging Software	Zeiss	http://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/en_us/products/microscope-software/zen.html#introduction ; RRID: SCR_013672
Axon pCLAMP 10 Electrophysiological Data Acquisition & Analysis Software	Molecular Devices	http://www.moleculardevices.com/products/software/pclamp.html RRID: SCR_011323
Mini Analysis Program	Synaptosoft	http://www.synaptosoft.com/MiniAnalysis/ ; RRID: SCR_002184
GraphPad Prism 7	GraphPad	http://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism ; RRID: SCR_002798
Adobe Illustrator CS6	Adobe	http://www.adobe.com/products/illustrator.html RRID:SCR_014198
R Project for Statistical Computing	r-project.org	http://www.r-project.org/ RRID: SCR_001905
Graphic State 3.03	Coulbourn Instruments	N/A

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Ethovision XT 5.1	Noldus	https://www.noldus.com/ethovision RRID: SCR_000441
Imaris 9.6	Oxford Instruments	http://www.bitplane.com/imaris RRID: SCR_007370

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