

Supplemental Material

Transcriptional programs mediating neuronal toxicity and altered glial-neuronal signaling in a *Drosophila* knock-in tauopathy model

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Supplemental Methods

Sectioning, immunostaining and imaging

Adult flies were fixed in formalin at 1, 10 and 30 days of age and embedded in paraffin. Serial frontal sections including the entire brain were prepared. Sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin to assess brain vacuolization, which was quantified by counting vacuoles larger than 5 microns throughout the entire brain. For immunostaining, antigen retrieval was performed by microwaving the sections in 10 mM sodium citrate buffer. Immunohistochemistry was performed with the avidin–biotin–peroxidase complex detection method (Vector Laboratories). For immunofluorescence, secondary antibodies coupled to Alexa 488 or Alexa 555 (Invitrogen, 1:200) were used and sections were mounted in DAPI containing mounting media. The number of PCNA-positive cells throughout the entire brain was counted following immunostaining. For quantification of pH2Av, a region of interest comprised of approximately 100 Kenyon neurons was identified in well-oriented sections of the mushroom body and the number of neurons containing one or more than one immuno-positive foci was determined. Images were taken on Zeiss LSM800 confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss, AG), and quantification was performed using Image-J software. For all histological analyses, at least 6 brains were analyzed per genotype and time point. The sample size (n), mean and SEM are given in the figure legends. All statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism 5.0. For comparisons across more than 2 groups, one-way ANOVA with Tukey post-hoc analysis was used. For comparison of 2 groups Student's *t*-tests were performed.

Comet assay

Two brains per genotype were dissected from adult flies in ice cold PBS. The brains were homogenized with a plastic pestle and subjected to comet using commercially available reagents (CometAssay, Trevigen). Fifty nuclei were quantified per trail using Casplab software. The experiment was repeated 3 times.

Measurement of oxygen consumption and extracellular acidification rates

The OCR and extracellular acidification rate were measured as previously described (Sarkar et al. 2020). Briefly, brains from 10-day-old flies were dissected and plated at one brain per well on XFe96 plates (Seahorse Bioscience) and metabolic parameters were assayed. 6 brains per genotype were analyzed. OCR values were normalized to DNA content using a CyQUANT assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific) following the manufacturer's protocol.

scRNA sequencing: sample preparation

To dissociate fly brains for the scRNA sequencing we modified previously published fly brain dissociation protocols (Li et al. 2017; Davie et al. 2018). Briefly, 20 male and 20 female brains from 10-day-old flies were dissected on ice cold Schneider's medium with FBS (Gibco, filtered 10% FBS). After a brief centrifugation, the supernatant was removed and the brains washed with ice cold PBS to remove Schneider's medium. The brains were then incubated at 25 °C with 300 μ l of 0.05% trypsin-EDTA (Fisher Scientific) for 30 minutes, with continuous pipetting every 5 minutes. Additionally, the solution containing brain chunks was passed through 25-gauge needle (25G 5/8), without introducing air

bubbles, roughly 50 times. After the brains were fully dissociated, the resultant solution was poured through a 10 µm pluri-select cell strainer (Fisher Scientific) and 400 µl of ice-cold Schneider's medium containing FBS was added to inactivate trypsin. The sample was centrifuged for 15 minutes at 600 x g and the supernatant was removed without disturbing the pellet. The pellet was suspended in sterile PBS containing 0.04% BSA. The cells were quantified, and the viability was determined using AO-PI reagents (Logos Biosystems).

Single-cell encapsulation, sequencing, and downstream processing

We proceeded only with samples having more than 90% viability for the single-cell encapsulation. The samples were encapsulated, 6 libraries were prepared, 3 control and 3 tau P251L knock-in, at the single-cell core facility at Harvard Medical School, following the manufacturer's protocol (10x Genomics). The libraries were sequenced on NovaSeq 6000 V1.5 S2 located in the Harvard Medical School Biopolymers Facility.

10x raw data processing

The sequenced libraries were processed using Cellranger (version 6.0, 10x Genomics). The *Drosophila* reference genome BDGP6.32 was used and built following 10x Genomics users guide instruction. The output of Cellranger were used as an input of SoupX (version 1.5.2) and Scrublet (version 0.2.2) to remove potential ambient RNA and doublets, respectively. The resulting count matrices, indicating transcripts (UMI) and cells (barcodes) detected by sequencing, were used for quality control and downstream analysis.

Seurat data processing

The ambient RNA and doublet removed count matrices were used as input of Seurat in R (version 4.1.0) (Team 2016; Butler et al. 2018). For each library, cells with less than 10% of mitochondrial genes were kept for upstream analysis. In addition, cells with feature counts and UMI counts within 3 standard deviations of the mean library feature counts and UMI counts were kept for downstream processing. In addition, only features detected in at least 3 cells were kept. Data normalization was then performed across libraries to remove variation of sequencing depth, by employing a global-scaling normalization method “LogNormalize” (i.e., the feature expression measurements for each cell were divided by the total expression, multiplied by a scale factor of 10,000, and then log-transformed). The top 2,000 most variable features were selected and used for downstream analysis including dimension reduction. To annotate cell types and perform differential expression analysis between conditions in an experiment, libraries sequenced in one experiment were integrated by identifying common anchors between conditions. The dimensions of the expression matrices were then reduced by principal component analysis (PCA). The ElbowPlot function was used to determine the optimal number of dimensions used to identify cell clusters. Cell clusters were identified with the default method in Seurat. In brief, a K nearest neighbors (KNN) graph was first constructed based on the Euclidean distance of cells in PCA space, and the edge weights between any two cells were refined based on the shared overlap in their local neighborhoods (Jaccard similarity). Louvain algorithm was applied to iteratively group cells together to form optimized communities with the resolution parameter of 0.5. Cells within the graph-based clusters determined above were further visualized and explored by Uniform Manifold

Approximation and Projection (UMAP) non-linear dimensional reduction (Becht et al. 2019). The cell clusters were then annotated based on manual inspection of top feature genes and known marker genes expression in each cluster. Finally, the differentially expressed genes across conditions were examined by comparing expression profile of each cluster across experimental conditions using MAST 1.23.1 (Finak et al. 2015). The significant differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were defined as FDR-adjusted p-value < 0.05 and absolute \log_2 fold-change > 0.25 . The top DEGs were also shown in the volcano plots and the heatmap.

Cell cluster annotation, gene enrichment, and Ontology analyses

To annotate cluster identity, we used data collated by the *Drosophila* RNAi Screening Center single-cell RNA sequencing DataBase (DRscDB) from previous *Drosophila* brain single cell sequencing analyses (Davie et al. 2018; Hu et al. 2021; Li et al. 2022). Gene enrichment and Ontology analyses were performed with FlyEnrichr (Chen et al. 2013; Kuleshov et al. 2016) using 2 differentially enriched gene lists: 1) differentially up-regulated genes, FDR-adjusted p-value < 0.05 and \log_2 fold-change > 0.25 , throughout all brain cell clusters, and 2) differentially down-regulated genes, FDR-adjusted p-value < 0.05 and \log_2 fold-change > -0.25 throughout all cell clusters in the tau P251L *Drosophila* brain. GeneRIF terms were used for Gene Ontology analysis. We showed the top 5 enriched terms for all the gene enrichment analysis and removed the redundant terms in the same gene sets. Enrichment analysis data is presented as a combined score, which is the combination of the p-value (computed using Fisher exact test) and z-score (computed to assess the deviation from the expected rank) calculated by multiplying the two scores, giving the combined score $(c) = \log(p) * z$ (Chen et al. 2013). Gene enrichment

terms, genes, genes contributing to the identified enrichment terms, p-values, z-scores, and combined scores are given in each supplementary files and displayed in the corresponding figures.

Protein-protein interaction network and cell-cell communication analysis

For the protein-protein network analysis, all the annotated clusters in the single-cell RNA sequencing dataset were classified based on their location within the *Drosophila* brain: central body, optic lobe, and glial cells. Differentially expressed genes with a \log_2 fold change > 0.25 and < -0.25 with $FDR < 0.05$, were used as input for the OmicsIntegrator protein-protein interaction package (Tuncbag et al. 2016). Fold change was used as the prize. Network hyperparameters were sorted hierarchically by the average node specificity, node robustness, and KS statistic of the degree of predicted nodes to that of prize nodes to choose a parameter set. In short, robustness was determined as the percentage of times a node appeared in the network after 100 random permutations of the network edges. Node specificity was the percentage of networks in which the node was observed after randomly shuffling the prize values and re-running the algorithm 100 times. A network parameter set corresponding to smaller specificity values, higher robustness values, and smaller KS statistics was selected. The genes identified in each network were used to annotate the biological processes using FlyEnrichr (Kuleshov et al. 2016). The cell-cell interaction analysis was performed as previously published (Liu et al. 2022).

Trajectory analysis

Trajectory analysis was performed using Slingshot (Street et al. 2018) on astrocyte subclusters. Trajectories were calculated on defined subclusters with the cell type

showing the highest entropy used as a starting cluster (Guo et al. 2017). Differential gene expression along each pseudotime lineage was calculated using a generalized additive model (Chambers and Hastie 2017). The first 1000 genes from all lineages were calculated and top 100 genes were shown on the heatmaps.

Gene regulatory network analyses

The previously published pySCENIC (v 0.10.0) (Single-Cell rEgulatory Network Inference and Clustering) pipeline with the *Drosophila* genome 9 (Dm9) reference genome was used to assess gene regulatory networks (Van de Sande et al. 2020). The level of regulon activity in each cell was scored using AUCell, which was then converted to a binary scale to reflect the presence or absence of the regulon.

Supplemental Tables

Supplemental Table S1: Top 10 markers of the identified clusters, number of cells, and types of cells in the final integrated dataset. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S1.xlsx

Supplemental Table S2: Normalized read counts of the identified genes in all the clusters. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S2.xlsx

Supplemental Table S3: Differentially regulated genes (DEGs) and Gene Ontology terms in the P251L KI brains. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S3.xlsx

Supplemental Table S4: Up- and down-regulated genes and Gene Ontology terms in the major cluster types in tau P251L KI brains. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S4.xlsx

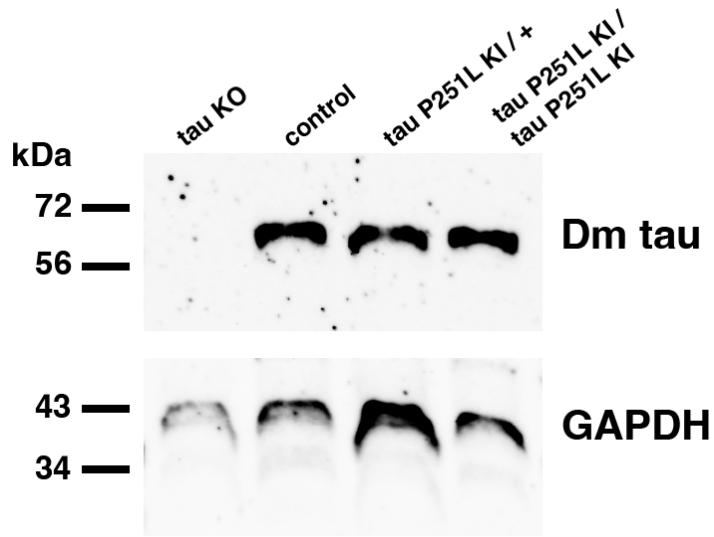
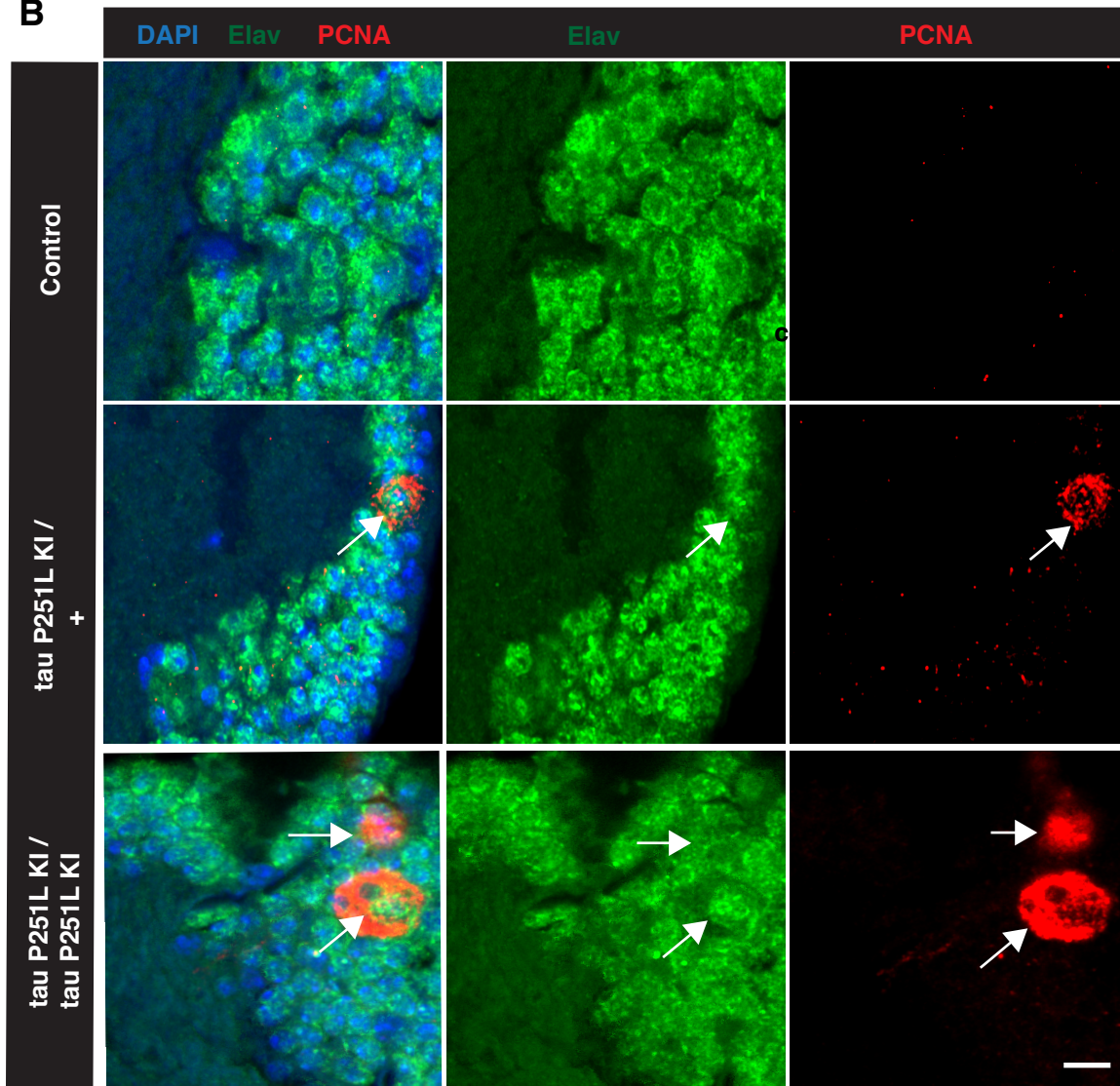
Supplemental Table S5: Up- and down-regulated DEGs and Gene Ontology in glial cell clusters and pseudotime DEGs in astrocyte clusters. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S5.xlsx

Supplemental Table S6: Up- and down-regulated DEGs and Gene Ontology in Kenyon cell clusters of tau P251L KI brains compared to controls. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S6.xlsx

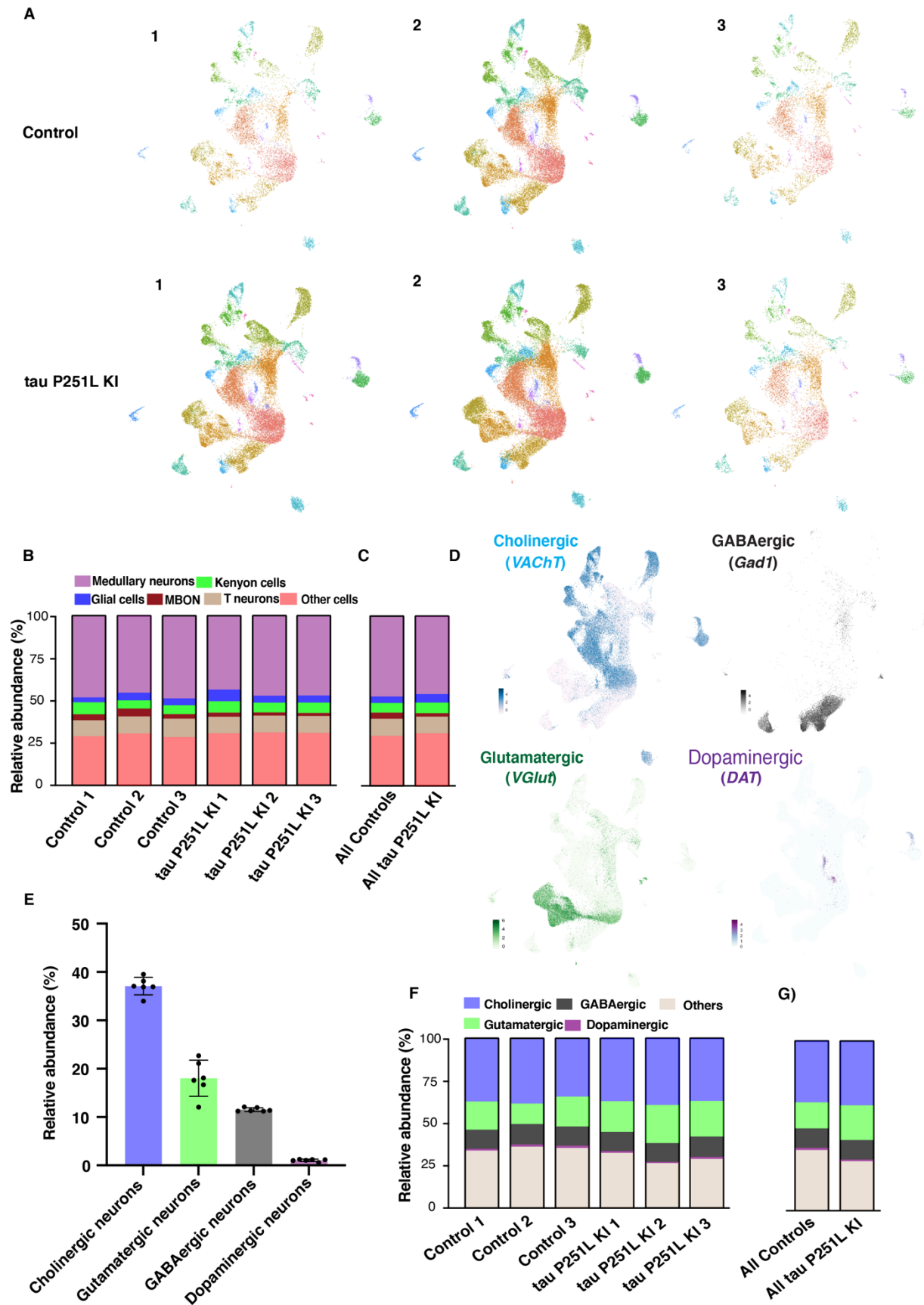
Supplemental Table S7: Details of regulons identified, via gene regulatory network analysis, in control and tau P251L KI Kenyon cells. Refer to Supplemental_Table_S7.xlsx

Supplemental Figure S1: Multiple sequence alignment of tau across species.

Alignment of human tau (4 repeat) and *C. elegans* PTL1 (tau homolog) to tau from different species. Conserved residues are highlighted in bold, and human proline 301 and orthologous prolines in other species are shown in bold red. The alignment highlights conservation of microtubule binding domains (MTBD).

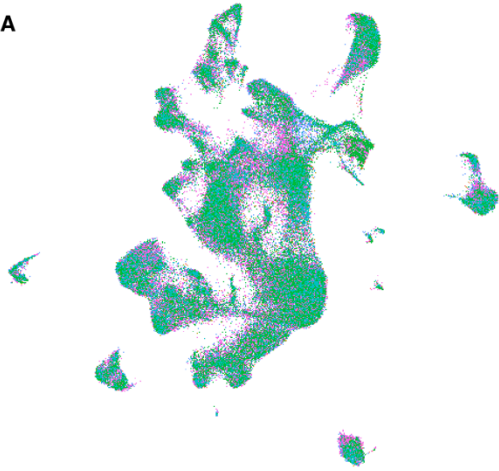
A**B**

Supplemental Figure S2: *Drosophila* tau levels and PCNA staining in tau P251L KI brains compared to controls. Immunoblotting analysis using an antibody to *Drosophila* tau shows equivalent levels of wild type and P251L tau (A). The blot is reprobbed with an antibody to GAPDH to illustrate equivalent protein loading. Representative images of proliferating cell nuclear antigen staining in control and tau P251L knock-in Kenyon cells (arrows, identified with the neuronal marker *elav*) (B). Control is *elav-GAL4/+*. Flies are 10 days old in (A) and 30 days old in (B).



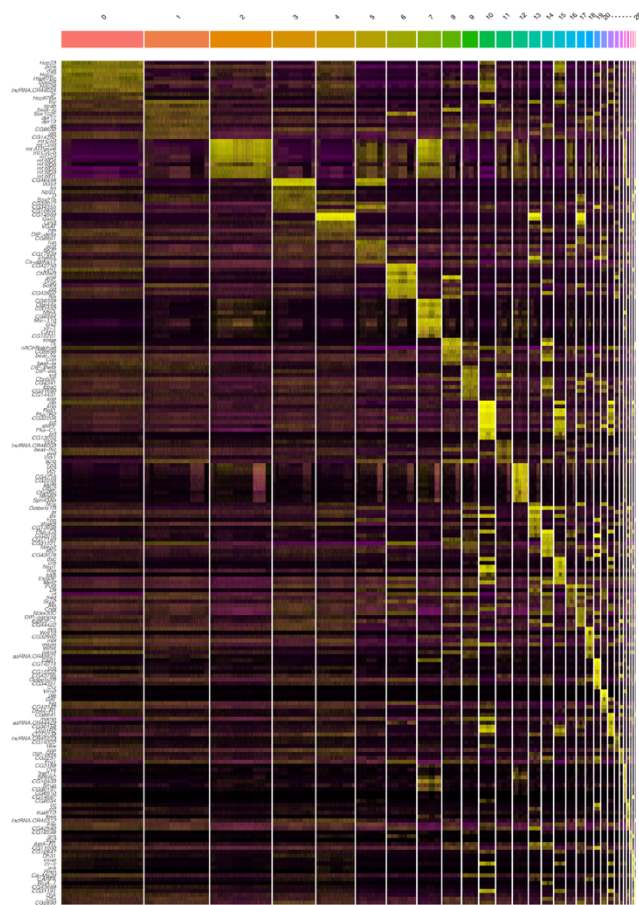
Supplemental Figure S3: Relative abundance of the cells and neuronal identities within the final integrated dataset. Individual 10x runs were integrated and contained cells from all clusters: 3 of control and 3 of tau P251L KI and relative abundance (%) of the medullary neurons (14 clusters), Kenyon cells (3 clusters), glial cell (2 clusters), MBON cluster, and T-neurons (3 clusters) in the individual scRNA-seq runs (A,B). Relative abundance (%) of the 3 integrated control and tau P251L KI datasets (C). Relative expression (>2 fold) of the key neuronal identity markers genes, such as *VACHT* for cholinergic neurons, *Gad1* for GABAergic neurons, *VGlut* for glutamatergic neurons, and *DAT* for dopaminergic neurons, within the integrated dataset (D). Relative abundance (%) of the neuronal identities within the integrated dataset (E). Relative abundance (%) of the neuronal identities in the individual scRNA-seq runs (F). Relative abundance (%) of neuronal identities in the 3 integrated control and tau P251L KI datasets (G).

A



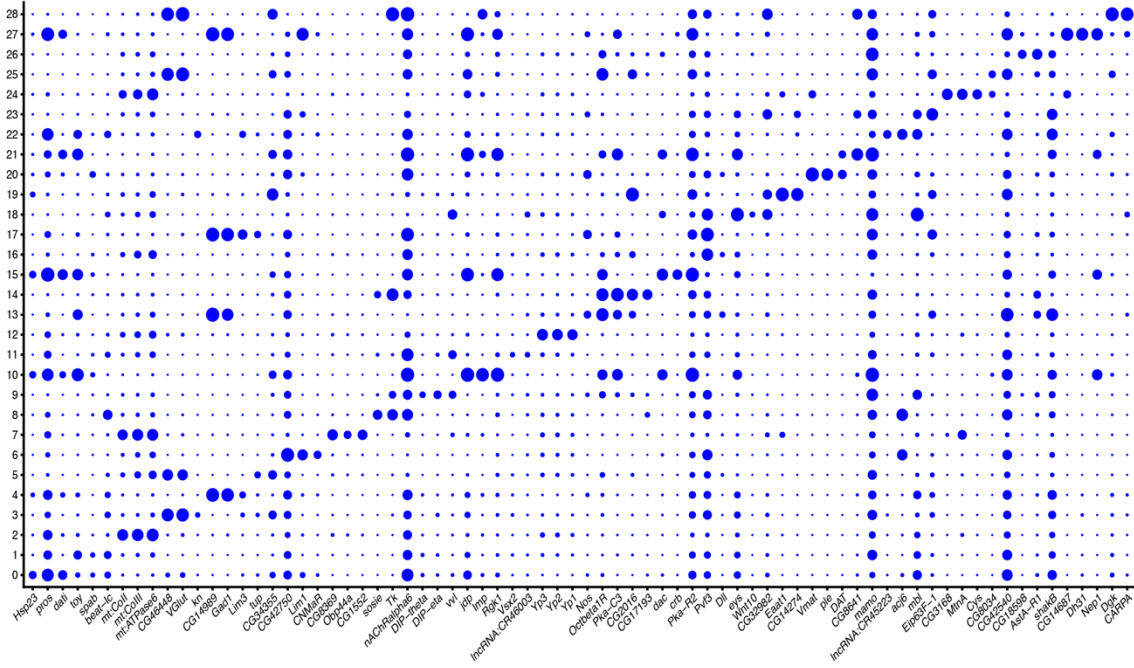
● Control 1 ● Control 2 ● Control 3
● tau P251L KI 1 ● tau P251L KI 2 ● tau P251L KI 3

B



Percent Expressed Average Expression
 • 0
 • 25
 • 50
 • 75
 • 100

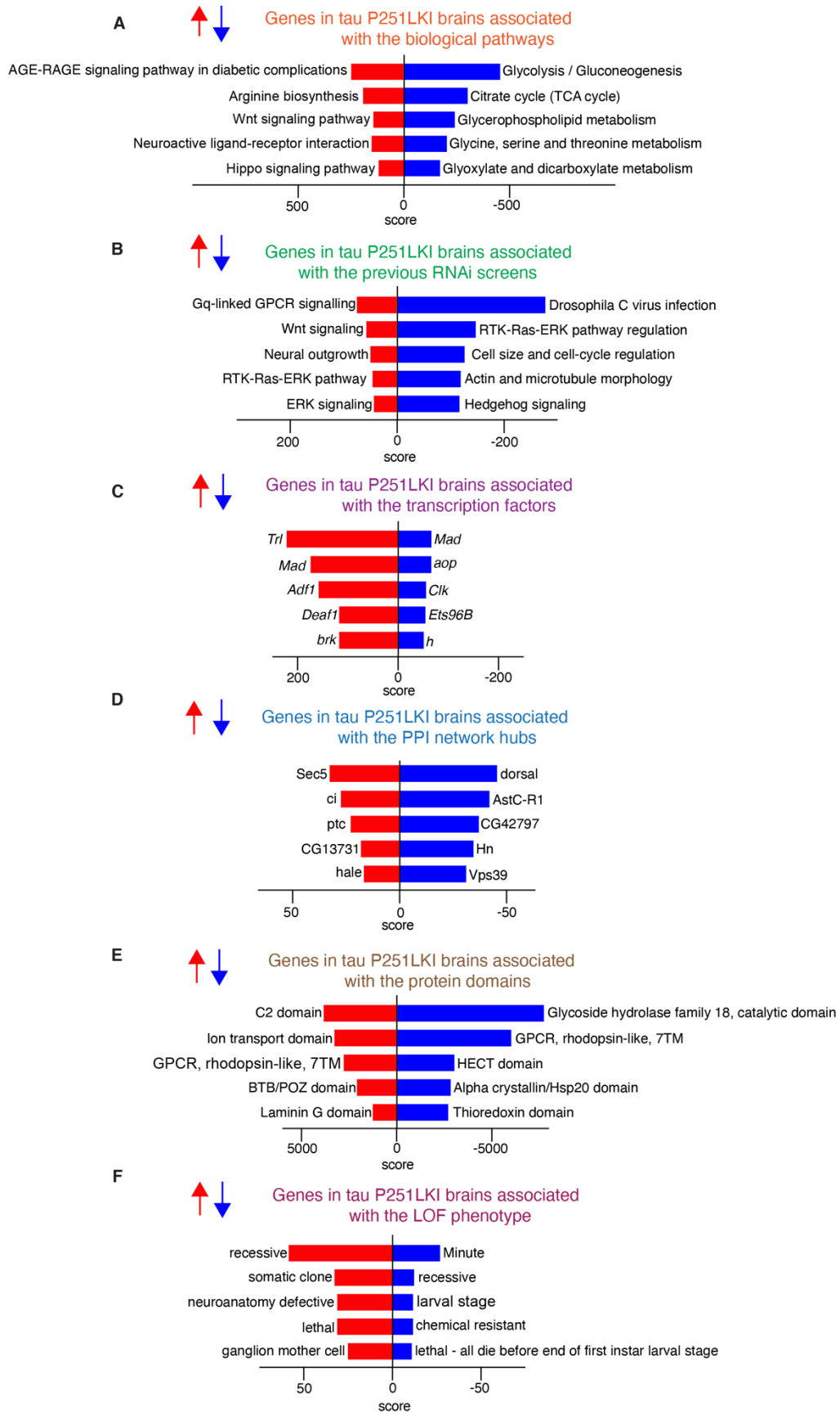
C



Supplemental Figure S4: Expression profile of the top genes within the integrated dataset. The proportion of each sample, 3 of control and 3 of tau P251L KI, within the final integrated dataset obtained after scRNA-seq bioinformatics pipeline (A). Heatmap of the top 10 highly expressed genes emerged after dimensionality reduction in all the clusters within the integrated dataset (B). A dot plot showing the percentage expression of the top 3 genes within each single cell cluster identified in the integrated dataset. These 3 top markers and other top 7 markers (top 10 markers) were used to annotate the single cell cluster identities (C).

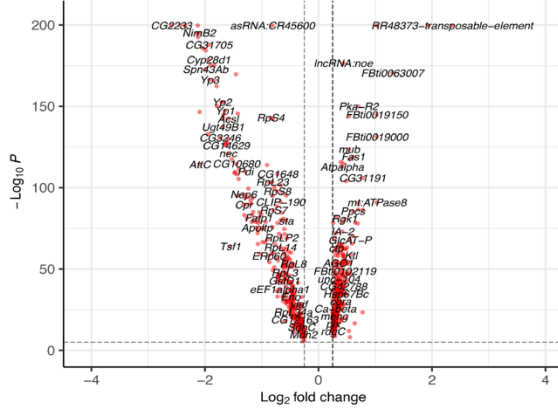


Supplemental Figure S5: Individual expression UMAP plots of the top 3 genes used to annotate cellular populations. Relative expression of the top marker genes, such as *dac*, *crb*, and *jdp*, within the integrated dataset used to annotate Kenyon cells (A). Relative expression of top marker genes, such as *Yp1*, *Yp2*, and *Yp3*, within the integrated dataset used to annotate mushroom body output neurons (MBON) (B). Relative expression of top marker genes, such as *MtnA*, *CG8369*, and *CG1522*, within the integrated dataset annotating the glial cells (C). Relative expression of top marker genes, such as *CG34355*, *Gad1*, and *mamo*, within the integrated dataset, used to annotate the medullary neurons (D). Relative expression of top marker genes, such as *acj6*, *Lim1*, and *sosie*, within the integrated dataset, used to annotate the T neurons (E).

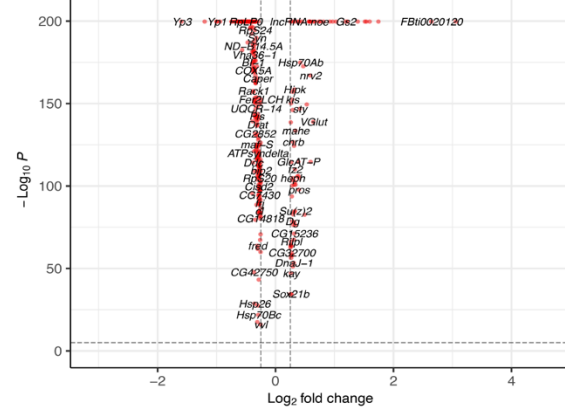


Supplemental Figure S6: Differentially regulated enrichment terms in tau P251L KI brains compared to controls. KEGG pathways analysis of all up-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains identified the AGE-RAGE signaling pathway in diabetic complications and the glycolysis pathway for the down-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains (A). RNAi screen from genome RNAi identified Gq-linked GPCR signaling RNAi screen for the up-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains and *Drosophila C* virus infection screen for the down-regulated in tau P251L KI brains (B). The transcription factor analysis identified most of the up-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains as associated with the *Trl* transcription factor and down-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains as associated with the *Mad* transcription factor (C). Protein-protein interactions network hub analysis identified up-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains associated with the Sec5 and down-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains to be associated with dorsal PPI network hub (D). InterPro domain analysis identified the C2 domain as associated with the up-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains and the Glycoside hydrolase family 18 as associated with the down-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains (E). Loss of function (LOF) phenotype analysis identified the term recessive associated with the up-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains and minute associated with the down-regulated genes in tau P251L KI brains (F). score = $\log(p) * z$.

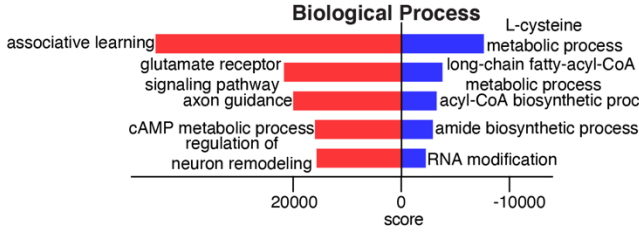
A DEGs in the central body of tau P251L KI brains



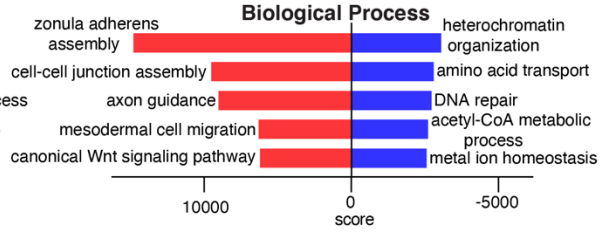
C DEGs in the optic lobe of tau P251L KI brains



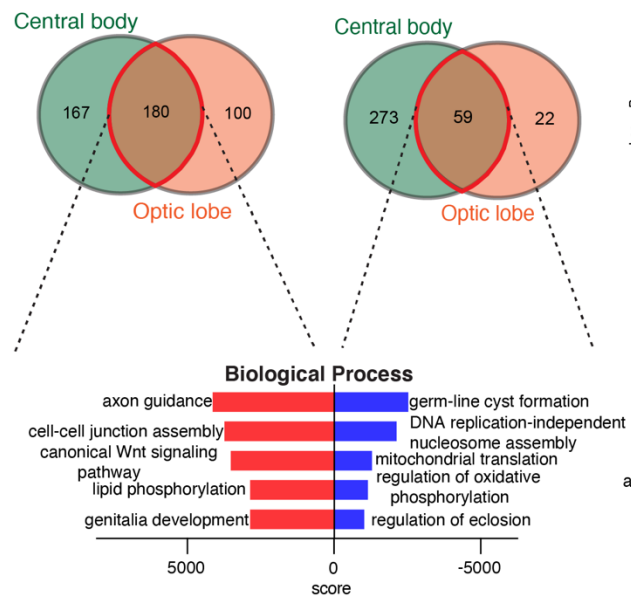
B GO terms in the central body of tau P251L KI brains



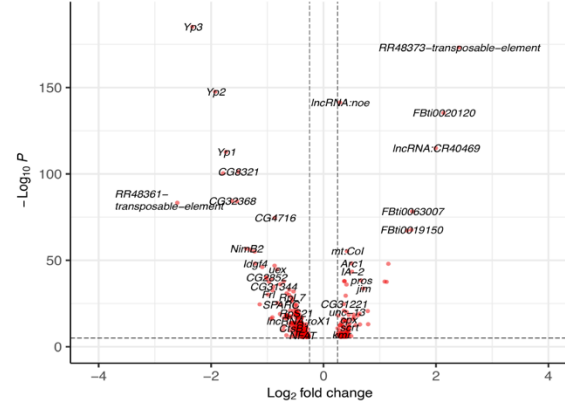
D GO terms in the optic lobe of tau P251L KI brains



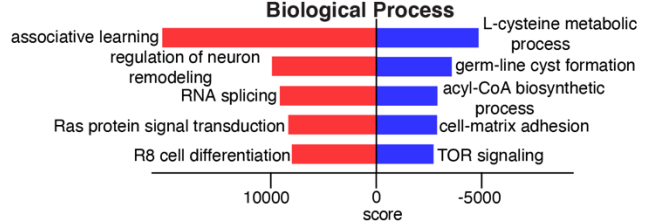
E Common DEGs and GO terms in the central body and optic lobe of tau P251L KI brains



F DEGs in the glia of tau P251L KI brains

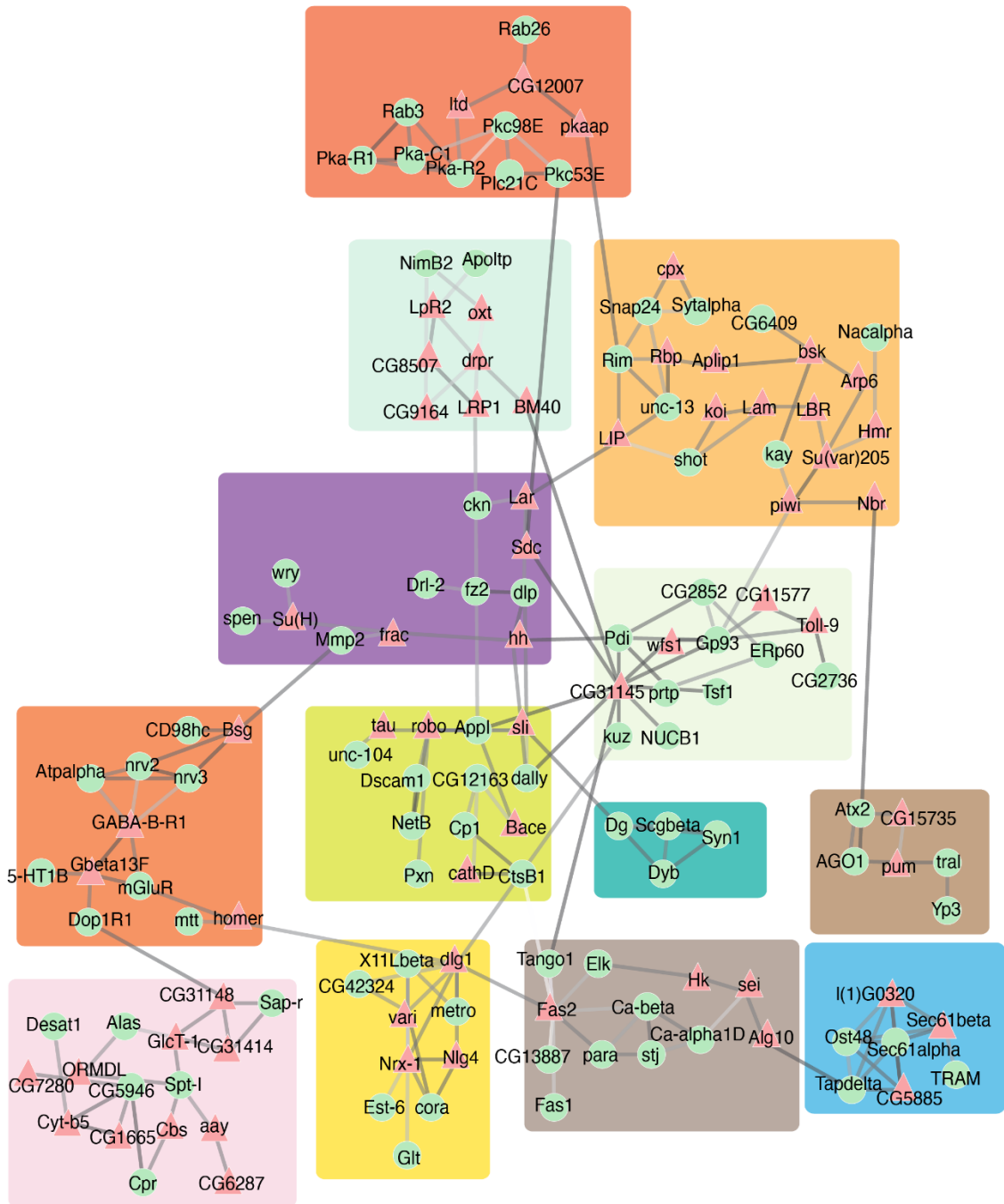


G GO terms in the glia of tau P251L KI brains

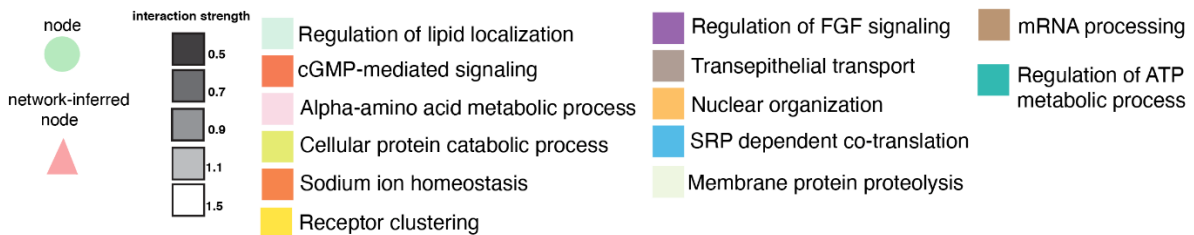


Supplemental Figure S7: Differential gene expression in the central body, optic lobe, and glia in tau P251L knock-in brains compared to controls. Differentially regulated genes, both up- and down-regulated, in the central body of tau P251L knock-in brains (A). GO analysis shows biological processes associated with up-regulated and down-regulated genes in the central body of tau P251L knock-in brains (B). Differentially regulated genes, both up and down-regulated, in the optic lobe of tau P251L knock-in brains (C). GO analysis shows biological processes associated with up-regulated and down-regulated genes in the optic lobe of tau P251L knock-in brains (D). Biological processes, up and down-regulated, in the common neuronal genes in the central body and optic lobe (E). Differentially regulated genes, both up and down-regulated, in glia of tau P251L knock-in brains (F). GO analysis shows biological processes associated with up-regulated and down-regulated genes in the glia of tau P251L knock-in brains (G). All dots on the volcano plots are significant at $FDR < 0.05$ and $\log_2\text{fold-change} > 0.25$ for up-regulated and < -0.25 for down-regulated genes. The score represents the combined score $c = \log(p) * z$ (Chen et al. 2013).

Protein interaction networks enriched in the central body of tau P251L KI brains

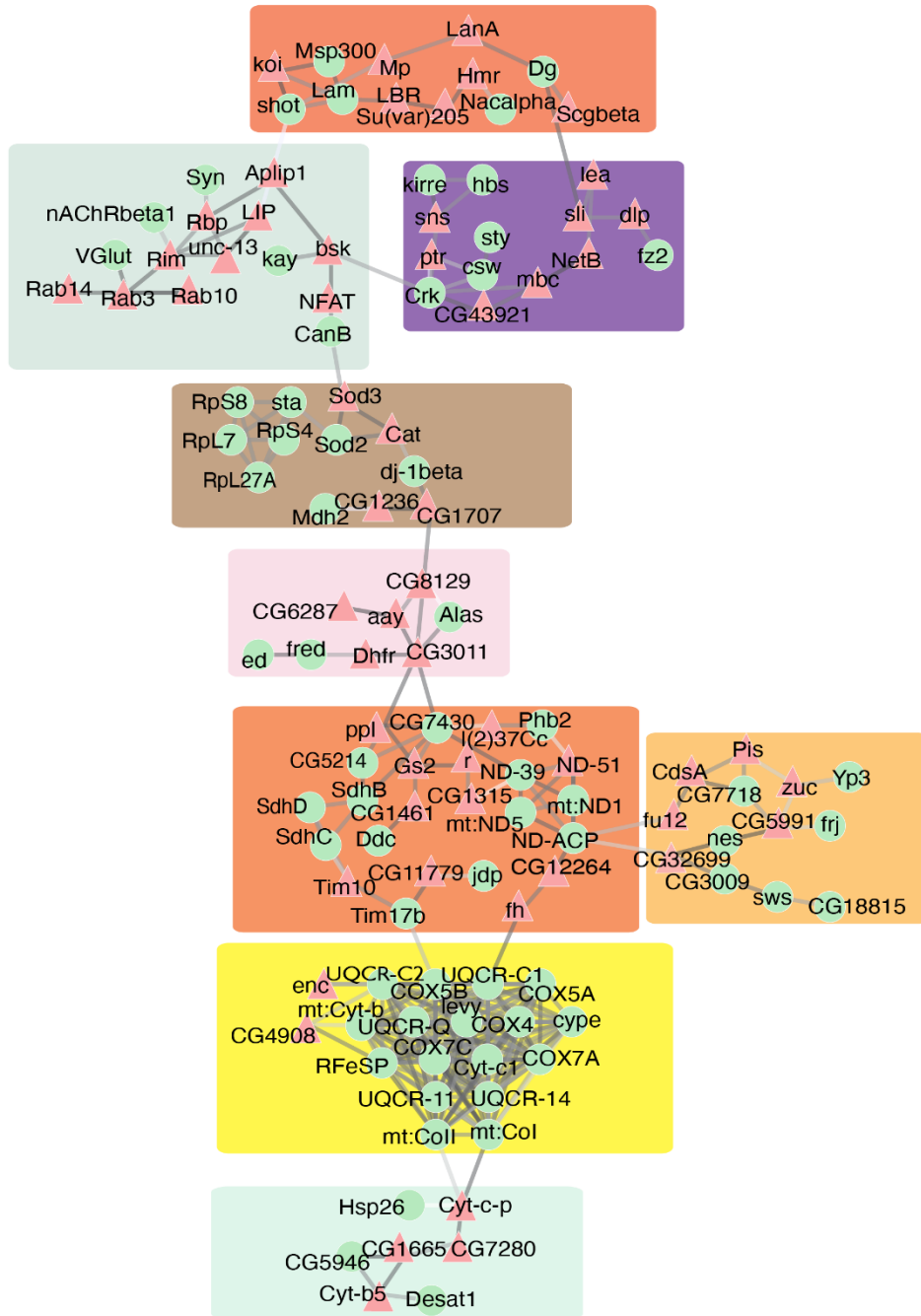


louvain clusters

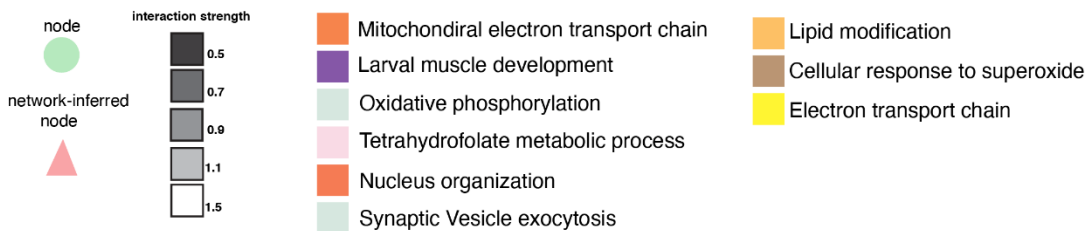


Supplemental Figure S8: Protein interaction networks enriched in the central body of tau P251L KI brains. OmicsIntegrator identified various PPI interaction maps in the central body of tau P251L KI brains, including regulation of lipid localization, cGMP-mediated signaling, alpha-amino acid transport, cellular protein catabolic process, sodium ion homeostasis, receptor clustering, regulation of FGF signaling, transepithelial transport, nuclear organization, SRP dependent co-translation, membrane protein proteolysis, mRNA processing, and electron transport chain.

Protein interaction networks enriched in the optic lobe of tau P251L KI brains

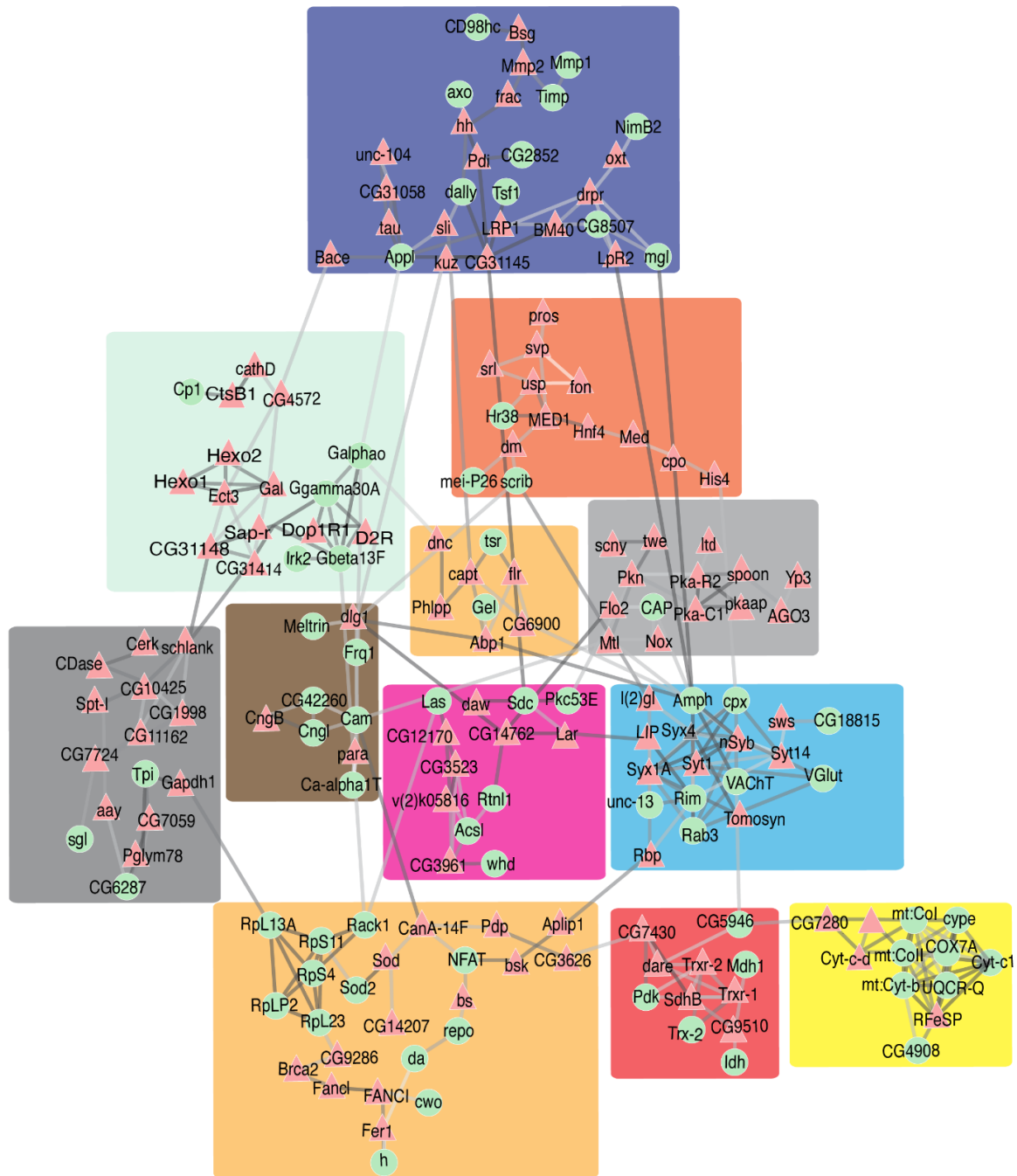


louvain clusters

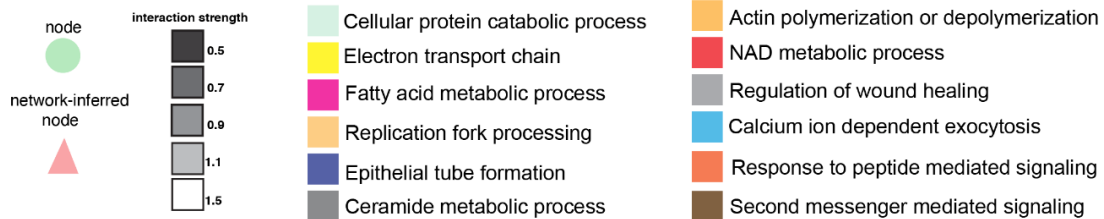


Supplemental Figure S9: Protein interaction networks enriched in the optic lobe of tau P251L KI brains. OmicsIntegrator identified various PPI interaction maps in the optic lobe of tau P251L KI brains, including mitochondrial electron transport chain, larval muscle development, oxidative phosphorylation, tetrahydrofolate metabolic process, nucleus organization, synaptic vesicle exocytosis, lipid modification, cellular response to superoxide and electron transport chain.

Protein interaction networks enriched in the glia of tau P251L KI brains

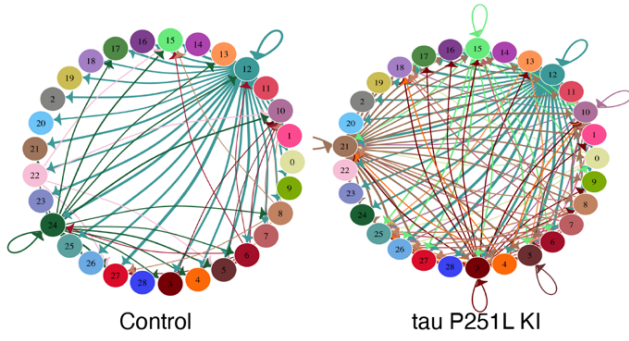


louvain clusters

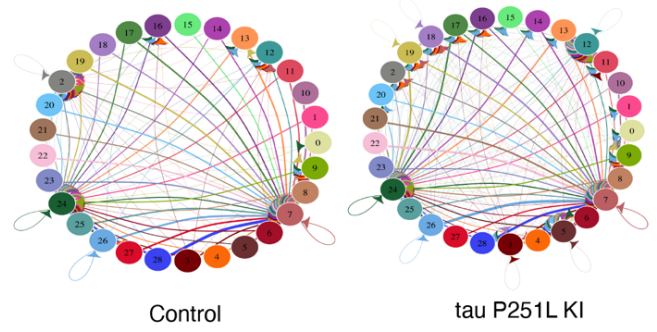


Supplemental Figure S10: Protein interaction networks enriched in glial cells of tau P251L KI brains. OmicsIntegrator identified various PPI interaction maps in glial cells of tau P251L KI brains, including cellular protein catabolic process, electron transport chain, fatty acid metabolic process, replication fork processing, epithelial tube formation, ceramide metabolic process, actin polymerization or depolymerization, NAD metabolic process, regulation of wound healing, calcium ion-dependent exocytosis, response to peptide-mediated signaling, second messenger mediated signaling.

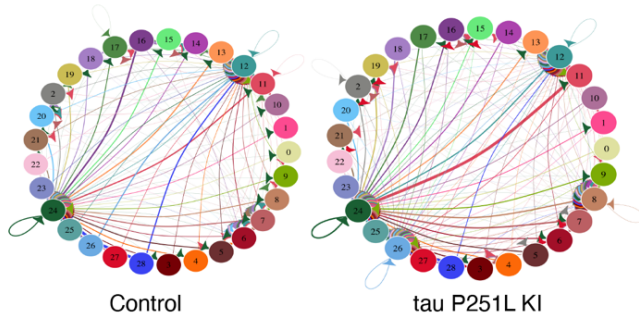
A Integrin mediated signaling



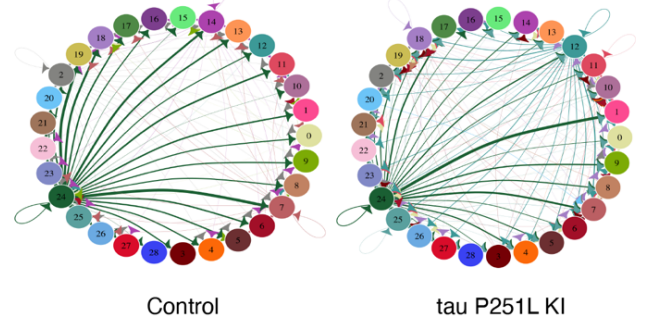
B FGFR signaling



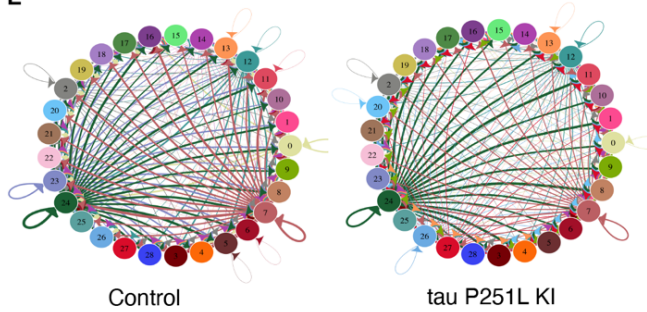
C EGFR signaling



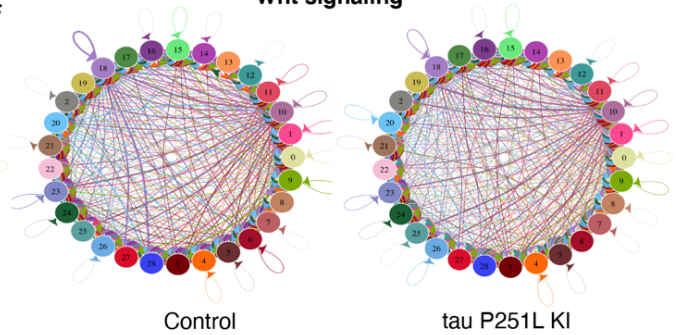
D Hedgehog signaling



E Insulin signaling

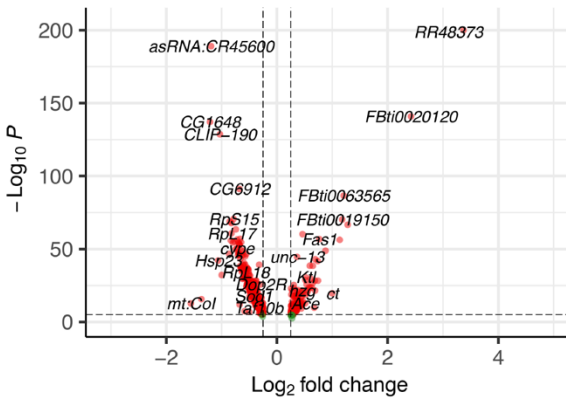


F Wnt signaling

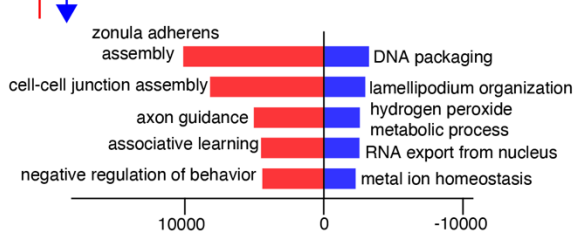


Supplemental Figure S11: Compared to control, cell-cell communication analysis of *tau* P251L KI brains reveals a distinctive role of glial and Kenyon cells. Perineurial glial cells actively send ligands of integrin-mediated signaling to other clusters in the control brain, but perineurial don't send these signals in tau P251L KI brains (A). EGFR signaling increases from perineurial glial cells to the other tau P251L KI brain clusters. Further, 4 clusters send ligands of the EGFR signaling in control, but 5 clusters send ligands in tau P251L KI brains (B). Like EGFR signaling, FGFR signaling increases in tau P251L KI brains: 4 clusters send ligands in the control brain, but 8 clusters send ligands in tau P251L KI brains (C). An increase of hedgehog signaling from the perineurial glial cells to other clusters can be observed in tau P251L KI brains. Further, 4 clusters send hedgehog signaling ligands in the control brains, but 5 clusters in tau P251L KI brains (D). A decrease of insulin (10 clusters send ligands in the control while 8 clusters send ligands in tau P251L KI brains) and Wnt signaling (decreased communication lines from cluster 18 in tau P251L KI brains) in tau P251L KI brains (E&F).

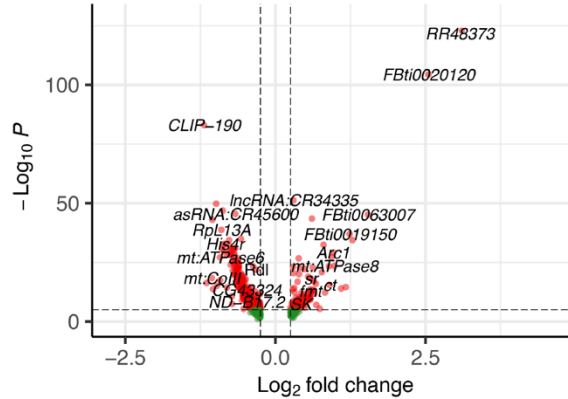
A DEGs in the γ KC of tau P251L KI brains



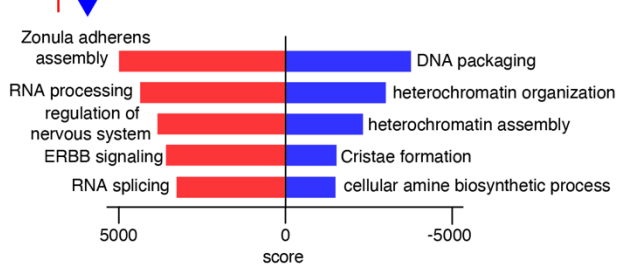
B GO terms in the γ KC DEGs



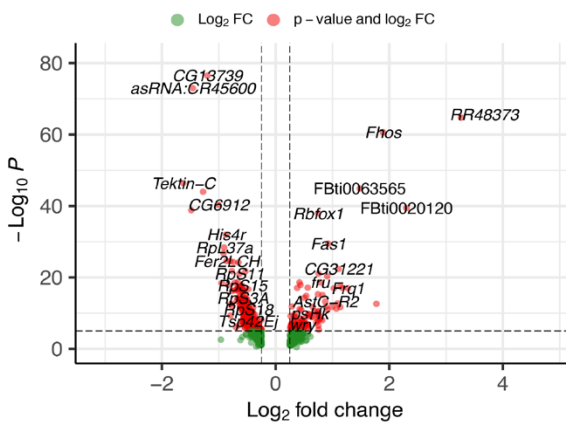
C DEGs in the α/β KC of tau P251L KI brains



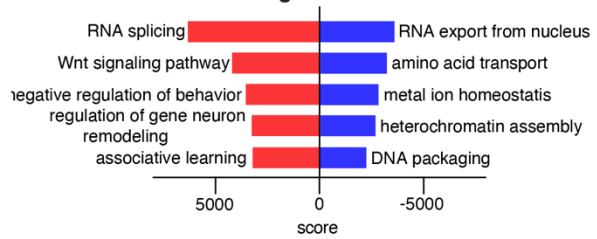
D GO terms in the α/β KC DEGs



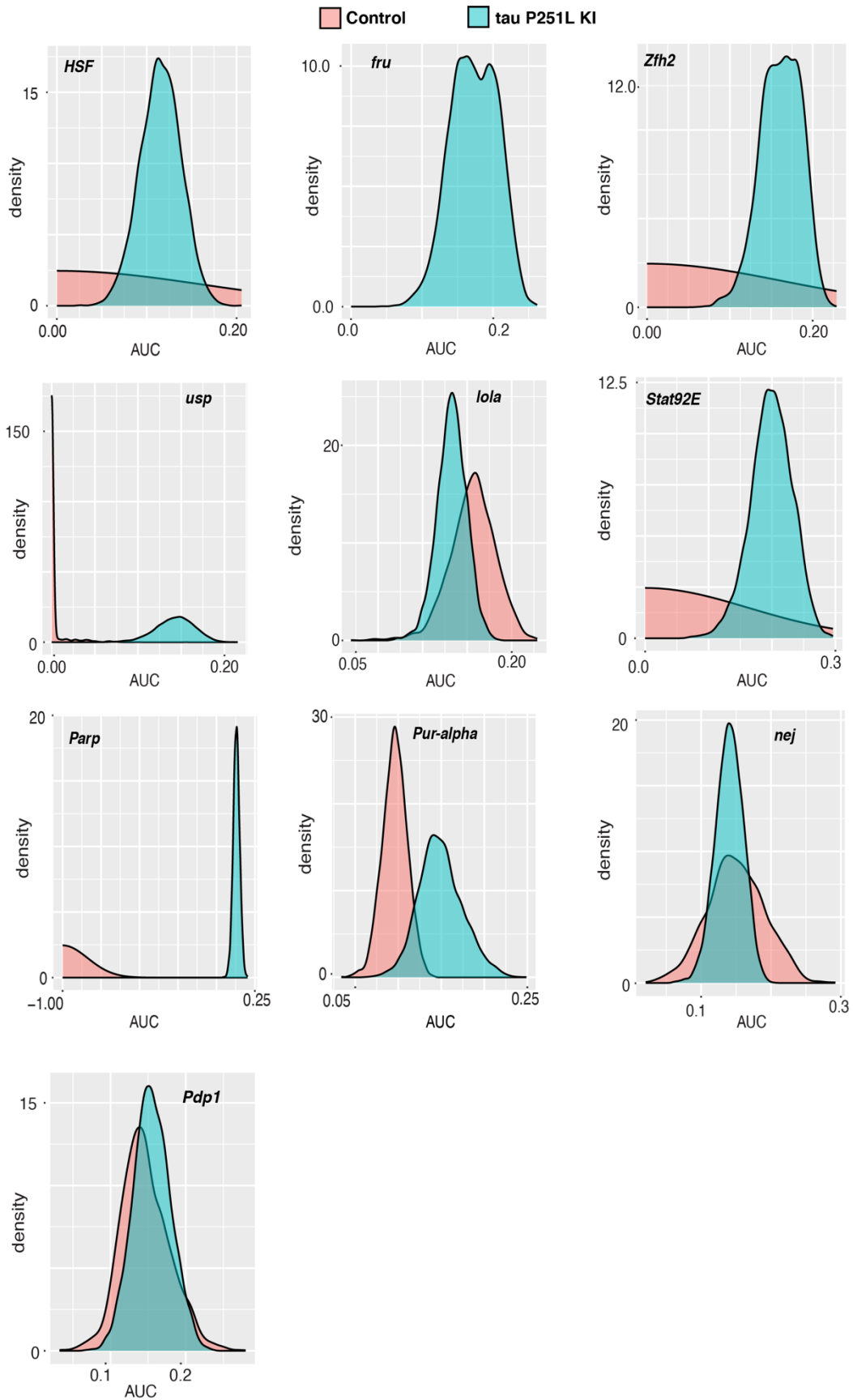
E DEGs in the α/β' KC of tau P251LKI brains



F GO terms in the α/β' KC DEGs



Supplemental Figure S12: Differential gene expression and enrichment analysis in the Kenyon cells (KC) of tau P251L KI brains compared to controls. The volcano plot shows differentially up and down-regulated genes in the γ KC cluster (A). Gene Ontology analysis found zonula adherens assembly to be the most common up-regulated and DNA packaging to be the most common down-regulated biological process in the γ KC cluster (B). The volcano plot shows differentially up and down-regulated genes in the α/β KC cluster (C). Gene Ontology analysis found zonula adherens assembly to be the most common up-regulated and DNA packaging to be the most common down-regulated biological process in the α/β KC cluster (D). The volcano plot shows differentially up and down-regulated genes in the α'/β' KC cluster (E). Gene Ontology analysis found RNA splicing to be the most common up-regulated and RNA export from the nucleus to be the most common down-regulated biological process in the α'/β' KC cluster (F). All red dots on the volcano plots are significant genes meeting the cutoff of FDR-adjusted p-value < 0.05 and \log_2 fold-change > 0.25 for up-regulated and < - 0.25 for down-regulated genes, score = $\log(p) \times z$.



Supplemental Figure S13: Density plots compare the expression of regulons enriched in tau P251L knock-in Kenyon cells compared to controls. The density plots comparing the expression of regulons in the control vs tau P251L knock-in Kenyon cells show that the expression of regulons such as *HSF*, *fru*, *Zfh2*, *usp*, *Stat92E*, and *Parp* is significantly elevated in tau P251L knock-in Kenyon cells compared to controls.

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