## **Expression of the** *PPM1F* **Gene Is Regulated by Stress and Associated With Anxiety and Depression**

### *Supplemental Information*

### **Supplemental Methods**

### *Animals*

All experiments were performed on adult (2–3 months old) wild-type C57BL/6J mice obtained from Jackson Labs. Male and female mice were group-housed in a temperature-controlled vivarium, with ad libitum access to food and water. They were maintained on a 12-h light/dark cycle, with all behavioral procedures being performed during the light cycle. All procedures conducted at Emory were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Emory University and in compliance with National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. All procedures conducted at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona were approved by the Committee of Ethics of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Generalitat de Catalunya. They were also carried out in accordance with the European Communities Council Directive (2010-63-UE) and Spanish legislation (RD 53/2013).

### *Immobilization Stress*

Immobilization Stress (IMO) procedures, as previously described (1-3), were conducted in a room separate from housing and behavioral paradigms. Each animal was immobilized by gently restraining their four limbs in a prone position to metal arms attached to a wooden board for 2 h in a brightly lit room, previously shown to lead to a very large and robust behavioral and physiological stress response (4). All cage-mate animals received the same treatment of IMO or handling. Handling lasted ~ 1 min per mouse and consisted of letting the mouse walk on top of their home cage and in the hands of the experimenter

wearing latex gloves. After treatment, mice where returned to their home cage where they remained undisturbed until fear-learning procedures or sacrifice for gene expression analysis (2).

### *Drugs*

Corticosterone Fluka (WA11926) was used at a 40 mg/kg dose. Vehicle was ethanol 5% in 0.9% NaCl. Corticosterone or vehicle were given 1 hour after IMO.

#### *Microarray Hybridization and Analysis*

Mice were sacrificed under basal conditions (Home Cage *Control Group*) and 6 or 8 days after a 2 hour immobilization (IMO *Stress Group*). The two amygdala microarrays and the mPFC microarray were performed in the same lab at the same time but originally designed for two different studies (amygdala microarrays for one study and mPFC microarray for another study). The reason to have two amygdala microarrays was to replicate the findings on day 6 with those on day 8 and get more robust results. When we analyzed the amygdala microarrays and the human data replicating those results we thought that it would be interesting to consider the mPFC microarray we already had (6 days). This is why there are two amygdala microarrays and one mPFC microarray. Brains were immediately fresh frozen on dry ice and stored at -80°C. Amygdala and medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) tissue from both hemispheres was extracted by 1mm micropunch and each structure from each mouse was individually stored. Total RNA was isolated and purified from the tissue with the RNeasy Mini Kit catalog # 74106 (Qiagen) following the manufacturer's instructions. We obtained ~2 ug RNA per side for a total of ~4 ug per brain. For the microarray, only amygdala tissue was used with 4 animals per condition. Electrophoresis assays and electropherograms were performed to ensure RNA quality with an Agilent 2100 BioAnalyzer PicoChip (Agilent Technologies) before the microarray. Illumina Mouse WG-6 v2 Expression BeadChip microarray (Illumina, Inc.) was assayed for 45,281 transcripts. RNA quality control, hybridizations and preliminary Wingo *et al.* Supplement

data analysis were conducted at the Cancer Genomics shared resource, Winship Cancer Institute (Emory University). Data retuned were Pair-wise two-condition comparisons including relative levels of RNA, fold change, and p-value. Heat maps with hierarchical clustering were performed with GENE-E (Broad Institute, Inc.) version 3.0.204. We first performed the amygdala RNA microarrays, and the top genes regulated after stress were selected using these criteria: a) Probe present at least one time in both lists (6 and 8 days after stress), b) >1.5 fold change compared to control, c) significant difference at p<.05 (nominal pvalue), d) clearly present at moderate to high levels in amygdala (search in the Allen Brain Atlas). These top genes are shown in Supplemental Table S1. After analyzing this amygdala microarray, the mPFC microarray was performed following similar methodology. Given the small number of biological replicates, there was low statistical power to detect genes differentially expressed at 1.5-fold, and hence we adopted a more liberal threshold of 1.30 for the mPFC genes, in the interest of increasing the likelihood of discovery genes in common with those in the amygdala. Hence, the criteria for highly regulated probes on this microarray were: a) >1.30 fold change (There are only 6 genes which survive a 1.5 cut-off criteria), b) significant at nominal p<.05 (5), c) clearly present at moderate to high levels in amygdala (based on *Allen Brain Atlas*). Our analysis performed without adjusting for correct for multiple testing increases the risk of false positives. This is why we performed different replications of the gene expression studies in different cohorts of mice.

### *Bioinformatics of the Microarray Analysis*

The top genes regulated after stress in different microarrays in amygdala and mPFC were further analyzed with bioinformatics to understand their functions in the brain. Note that *Ppm1f* was the only top gene present in all the microarrays (Figure 1E); The list of the genes studied are highlighted in yellow or red in Supplemental Tables S1, S2, S4 and S5. The functional profiles of genes identified in the microarray analysis were analyzed with DAVID Bioinformatics resources 6.8. This DAVID analysis was performed with

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these parameters in Functional Annotation Chart (Thresholds: Count 2, EASE 0.1; Display: Benjamini, #Records 10, see Supplemental Figure S10). The top three functional pathways altered after stress in the amygdala and mPFC are depicted in Figure 2A. The detailed functions of the gene lists (Figure 2B) and network analysis (Supplementary Figure S1) were generated through the use of QIAGEN's Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA® QIAGEN Redwood City, [www.qiagen.com/ingenuity\)](http://www.qiagen.com/ingenuity). The IPA analysis was performed using these parameters: A) Direct and indirect relationships; B) All node types; C) Confidence, experimentally observed; D) All species; and E) All tissues and cell lines.

### *Reverse Transcription and PCR Quantification*

Total RNA was isolated with RNeasy kit Catalog # 74106 (Qiagen) or Maxwell RSC simplyRNA Tissue Kit catalog # AS1390 (Promega). Gene expression changes in the amygdala tissue was detected by relative quantitative reverse transcription PCR (FAST 7500; Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Bilateral tissue punches were performed using a 1mm micropunch. At the time the mice were killed, brains were placed on ice and rapidly blocked, and tissue punches were obtained for isolation of RNA. cDNA was obtained by reverse transcription using the RT2 First Strand Kit catalog # 330401 (Qiagen) or High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit catalog # 4368814 (ThermoFisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instructions. TaqMan assays (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA) were used to quantify the expression of *Ppm1f* Mm01344949\_m1 (#4331182) and *Camk2g* Mm00618054\_m1 (#4331182) normalized to mouse *Gapdh* (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase)(1). Graphics are represented by fold change obtained with the 2^-ddCt method.

### *RT-PCR Arrays*

RNA was isolated and reverse transcribed as outlined in the section above. See Supplemental Table S3 for details on the SYBR green primers used. We used a custom plate format 24 x 4 catalog #CAPM10412 (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA). Results were normalized with GAPDH values as a reference. Half of the brains were collected 6 days after stress and the other half 8 days after stress in the "6 and 8 days after IMO" group.

#### *Immunohistochemistry*

Immunohistochemistry was performed by first removing cryoprotectant solution with 3 KPBS washes. Unspecific binding was next achieved with blocking buffer (2% albumin and 2% fetal calf serum) incubated for one hour at room temperature. The primary antibodies used were PPM1F polyclonal antibody PA5-15572 (Invitrogen, 1:50) and Camk2g monoclonal IgG1 Antibody 8G10C1 (Santa Cruz, 1:50); antibodies were diluted in blocking buffer and incubated overnight at 4°C. After primary antibody incubation, slices were washed 3 times with KPBS. Secondary antibodies used were goat anti-rabbit IgG conjugated with Alexa Fluor 488 (Jackson Laboratories,1:500) and goat anti-mouse IgG1 A21124 (Invitrogen, 1:500); antibodies were diluted in blocking buffer and incubated in agitation for 2h at room temperature. After incubation, slices were washed three times with KPBS and finally nuclei were stained with DAPI at 1:1000 dilution.

Immunofluorescence images were visualized and captured using Aixo Examiner D1 Confocal microscope (Carl Zeiss) and Zen2010 software (Zeiss). Fluorescence signal was captured under a 40x magnification lens with immersion oil. Z-stacks of 5 slices each were obtained. Three lasers were used with varying intensities, 488nm (7.5%) for channel 1, 568nm (8.0%) for channel 2 and 405nm (2.0%) for channel 3. Images were obtained at a 1024x 1024 resolution and in 16 bit color format. Master gain was set at 850 units and digital offset at -3500 units for both channels.

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Images were processed using IMARIS 8.0 software (Bitplane). To define PPM1F cells, we created a surface mask on channel 1 using the background subtraction function for a 0.500 um diameter area, intensity threshold value was set at 1750 and filtering discarded values below 1500. The surface mask was manually corrected for artifacts. After creating this mask, we made an overlay mask to delimitate channel 2 signals inside PPM1F cells. To define CaMK2g positive cells we created a spots mask on the previously masked channel 2, XY diameter of the spots was set to 1um, Z diameter to 2um and threshold manually set at 4500. To extract the data we created a cell mask that was merged with the previously created masks. Mean fluorescence values for Ppm1f and Camk2g were averaged by photograph for each brain area and compared depending on the group (IMO, Control). To calculate the colocalization ratio, a cutoff criterion of 2 vesicles (detected by IMARIS software) of Camk2g per cell was used to identify positive cells, ratios were compared between groups.

### *Mouse Behavioral Assays:*

*Elevated plus maze.* The elevated plus maze consisted of two open arms (50 × 6.5 cm) and two closed arms with a wall (50  $\times$  6.5  $\times$  15 cm) attached to a common central platform (6.5  $\times$  6.5 cm) to form a cross. The maze was elevated 65 cm above the floor. Mice received an 8 μl/g systemic saline intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection 1 hour after IMO (5) only for experiments in Figure 1. Test sessions lasted 5 minutes and behaviors were continuously recorded using a video camera placed over the apparatus. Activity was analyzed with a stopwatch by a researcher blind to the each mouse treatment. Arm entry was considered complete if all four paws entered a closed or open arm from the central platform.

*Tail suspension test***.** Mice were suspended with duct tape ~2 cm at the end of the tail. The session lasted for 6 minutes. Behavior was recorded by a video camera and a researcher blind to the experimental groups analyzed the immobility time. Mice that climbed on their tail were removed from the analysis.

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*Mouse fear conditioning.* Mice were fear conditioned in standard rodent modular test chambers (ENV-008-VP; Med Associates Inc, St. Albans, VT) with an inside area of 30.5cm (L) x 24.1cm (W) x 21.0cm (H). The tone conditioned stimulus was generated by a Tektronix function generator audio oscillator delivered through a high-frequency speaker (Motorola, Model 948) attached to side of each chamber. The illumination was provided by white light. Mice received 5 trials of a conditioned stimulus (CS; 30 second tone, 6 kHz, 70 dB) co-terminating with a footshock (500ms, 0.6mA) unconditioned stimulus (US). The PreCS and intertrial interval (ITI) were 180 seconds. The apparatus was cleaned with Quatricide® after each mouse.

#### *Human Study Participants*

Participants were recruited from general medical care waiting rooms at Grady Memorial Hospital by the Grady Trauma Project (GTP), which investigates genetic and environmental factors contributing to PTSD, from a population of inner city, low income, and high stress and trauma exposure (6-8). Inclusion criteria consisted of being 18 or older, understanding English, and being able to give informed consent. Exclusion criteria included being acutely suicidal, psychotic, or having acute medical problems. Participants gave informed consent, completed a battery of psychological measures, and provided blood for genetic materials. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Emory University School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital.

This is a cross-sectional study. Trauma was ascertained by participants' retrospective self-report using the Traumatic Event Inventory (TEI). The TEI is a 14-item instrument to assess for lifetime history of traumatic events. Traumas include categories such as natural disaster, serious accident or injury, lifethreatening illness, combat-related or military-related trauma, witnessing a family member or close friend being attacked or murdered, being attacked with a weapon, witnessing violence between parents/caregivers as a child, excessive physical punishment during childhood, emotional abuse during

childhood, and sexual abuse during childhood, and any other traumatic event that the participant experienced but not listed on the TEI.

PTSD symptoms were assessed with the modified PTSD Symptom Scale (PSS) (9). A PSS cutoff score of 14 yielded a 91% sensitivity and 62% specificity for identifying PTSD compared to the diagnosis of PTSD made by the clinician-administered PTSD scale (10). Hence, we defined PSS scores 314 to indicate significant current PTSD symptoms. Depressive symptoms were measured with the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) (11). Among African American (AA) participants, a BDI cutoff score of 14 yielded a 88% sensitivity and 84% specificity compared to diagnosis of major depressive disorder made by a focused interview using DSM-IV criteria (12). Given these data, we used a BDI score  $314$  to indicate significant current depression. Cases with current symptoms of comorbid PTSD and depression (PTSD&Dep) were defined as having PSS<sup>3</sup> 14 and BDI<sup>3</sup> 14. Controls were defined as not having either PTSD or depressive symptoms, as reflected by a PSS  $£7$  and BDI $£7$ , despite have been exposed to trauma.

### *Statistics*

For the mouse studies, GraphPad v5.0 or SPSS v20 were used for statistics. The results are presented as means  $\pm$  or + SEM, statistical significance was set at P  $\leq$  0.05. Analysis of the distribution of the data and detection of outliers were performed and removed when necessary. T-test (two tailed, type 2), one-way ANOVA or repeated measures ANOVA were used were appropriate. For Figure 5, Mann-Whitney U test was used for comparisons when one of the distributions did not reach the normality and/or homoscedasticity criteria. Post-hoc analysis used in Figure 7 were DMS.

### **Figure S1: Principal variance component analysis and volcano plots for mouse amygdala and mPFC microarrays at 6, 7, or 8 days post**

**IMO stress.** A) Amygdala expression 6 days after IMO; red circles denote stressed mice and blue circles control mice. B) Amygdala expression 8 days after IMO; red circles denote stressed mice, blue circles control mice. C) mPFC expression 6 days after IMO; red circles denote stressed mice, blue circles control mice. D) Volcano plot for amygdala microarray 6 days after IMO. E) Volcano plot for amygdala microarray 8 days after IMO. F) Volcano plot for mPFC microarray 6 days after IMO.



## **Figure S2.** *Ppm1f* **levels are not altered by fear conditioning.**

Mice were exposed to cued-fear conditioning (FC) and sacrificed at the time points shown below for amygdala (A and B) and medial prefrontal cortext (mPFC, C) microarray studies. The control group was home cage which was not exposed to FC. Results showed that a mild stress such as FC did not alter *Ppm1f* mRNA levels in the amygdala or mPFC. N=4 per group.

# **Amygdala** *Ppm1f* **mRNA levels after fear conditioning**



# **mPFC** *Ppm1f* **mRNA levels after after fear conditioning**



**Figure S3. DAVID analysis.** Functional analysis of the top genes regulated 6 and 8 days after stress in both the amygdala and mPFC. Results show that the Phosphoprotein, Cytoplasm and Alternative splicing are the three top categories involved in acute stress in mice.



## Functional Annotation Chart

**Figure S4. Network analysis of the top gene candidates regulated after stress in amygdala and the mPFC.** PPM1F has direct relationships with the CaMKII family (blue arrow) and indirect relationship with BDNF, Creb, ERK1/2 and MAP2K1/2.



**Figure S5. PPM1F expression in the brain**. These images modified from the Allen Brain Atlas show that *PPM1F* mRNA expression in both mice and humans at basal levels is ubiquitous including the amygdala and the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC). Legend of the images: Green = low expression; Yellow = moderate expression;  $Red = high expression.$  White arrow = amygdala; blue arrow = mPFC.





*PPM1F* **expression in the Human and Mouse Brain mPFC and Amygdala**



### **Figure S6. Camk2g mRNA levels are altered after stress in mouse amygdala and its blood mRNA levels are associated with PTSD&Depression.**

A) Top associations between CAMK2 blood mRNA level and PTSD&Dep, adjusting for gender, age, and population substructure (n=230); B) CAMK2G has significantly decreased expression level in blood in PTSD&Dep cases versus controls after adjusting for gender, age, and population substructure. C) There was an increase, marginally significant, in amygdala CamK2G mRNA basal levels 6 days after stress exposure t=2,213 df=8, p=0.0578, n=8 control group, n=3 stress group. D) Fear conditioning does not change amygdala CamK2g mRNA levels two hours later, home cage n=8, fear conditioning, n=7, immobilization-fear conditioning n=4.





# **Ppm1f Males**

# **Figure S7.**

Ppm1f is upregulated in the central amygdala (CeA) (A), Basolateral amygdala (BLA) and in the amygdala (CeA+BLA) 6 days after stress immobilization (IMO) in male mice. Moreover, IMO also enhanced Ppm1f levels in the medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC: Cg+Prl+IL). P\*p≤0.05, \*\*p≤0.01, \*\*\*p≤0.001. A.U.= Arbitrary Units. N=7-8 per group.



5000

 $\mathbf 0$ 

Control

 $\overline{1}$ MO



## **Ppm1f Males**

## **Figure S8.**

Ppm1f is upregulated in the Basolateral amygdala (BLA) 6 days after stress immobilization (IMO) in female mice. P\*p≤0.05. A.U.= Arbitrary Units. N=7-8 per group.













## **Figure S9.**

Camk2g is upregulated in the central amygdala (CeA) (A), Basolateral amygdala (BLA) and in the amygdala (CeA+BLA) 6 days after stress immobilization (IMO) in male mice. Moreover, IMO also enhanced Ppm1f levels in the medial prefrontal cortex<br>(mPFC:  $Cg+PrI+IL$ ).  $P^*p \le 0.05$ ,  $*p \le 0.01$ ,  $(mPFC: Cg+PrI+IL). P*p≤0.05,$ \*\*\*p≤0.001. A.U.= Arbitrary Units. N=7-8 per group.





4000-

 $\frac{1}{2}$  3000<br>  $\frac{1}{2}$  2000<br>  $\frac{1}{2}$  1000

0

Control

Mean fluorescensce

Camk2g levels are similar in control vs stress groups 6 days after stress immobilization (IMO) in female mice. A.U.= Arbitrary Units. N=7-8 per group.

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 $\overline{IMO}$ 

## Supplemental Table 1. Gene regulation in the amygdala microarrays.

List of the genes that survived these criteria: a) Probe present at least one time in both lists (6 and 8 days after stress), b) >1.5 fold change compared to control, c) significant difference at p<.05 (nominal p-value), d) clearly present at moderate to high levels in amygdala (search in the Allen Brain Atlas).

Red color = High expression in the brain Yellow color = Moderate expression in the brain





Supplemental Table 2. RT-PCR arrays plates. This list shows the top hits of the microarray replicated by RT-PCR arrays including the controls used for these experiments (mGDC, RTC, PPC).



Supplemental Table 3. Amygdala microarray replications. From the initial

gene list (Supplementary Figure 1) probes highlighted in red here are those replicated in two independent cohorts of mice - including ppm1f. Genes highlighted in yellow are genes replicated only in one cohort.



Supplementary Table 4. Associations between human blood mRNA levels of the five stress-regulated genes in mouse amygdala in PTSD&Dep, covarying for gender, age, and population substructure.



### Supplemental Table 5. Gene regulation of the mPFC microarray. List of

the genes that survived these criteria: a) >1.30 fold change (There are only 6 genes which survive a 1.5 cut-off criteria), b) significant at nominal p<.05, c) clearly present at moderate to high levels in amygdala (based on Allen Brain Atlas).

Red color = High expression in the brain Yellow color = Moderate expression in the brain





## Supplemental Table 6. Sociodemographic characteristics of the 230 African American GTP participants.



 $a_p$ -values were from Wilcoxon Rank Sums or Fisher-Exact test

<sup>b</sup>PSS: PTSD symptom severity score from the PTSD Symptom Scale

<sup>c</sup>BDI: depression severity score from the Beck Depression Inventory





 $a_p$ -values were from Wilcoxon Rank Sums or Fisher-Exact test

## Supplemental Table 8: Comparing the GTP genetic dataset to GTP gene expression subset



PSS: PTSD symptom severity score from the PTSD Symptom Scale

BDI: Depression severity score from the Beck Depression Inventory

### **Supplementary References**

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