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Supplemental Information

The Role of m⁶A/m-RNA Methylation in Stress Response Regulation

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Figure S1

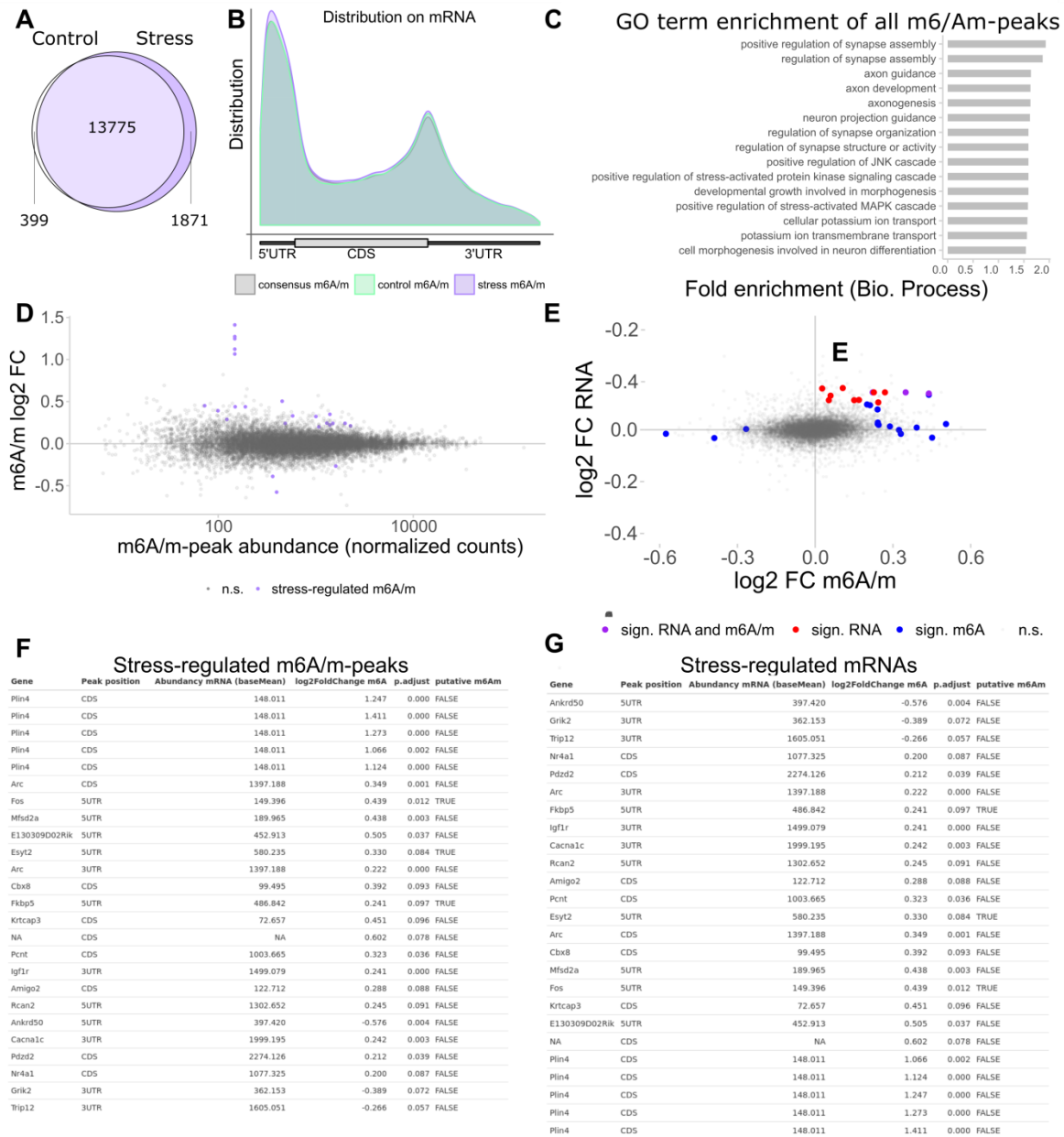


Figure S1. Additional analysis of the m⁶A/m-Seq data. Related to Figure 1.

FC= fold change

(A) m⁶A/m-peaks detected in basal and stress cortex samples mostly overlap. Shown are number and overlap of detected peaks per condition (in minimum 2/3 of the samples without additional abundancy filters applied to consensus peaks.). Upon visual inspection condition-unique peaks consist of peaks close to calling-threshold rather than true condition-unique signatures.

(B) m⁶A/m-peaks detected in basal and stress cortex samples have the same distribution on mRNA.

(C) m⁶A/m- methylated genes are enriched for genes related to synaptic structures and to neuronal development. (15 highest enriched Biological Process gene ontology (GO)

terms. Overrepresentation test of m⁶A/m-peaks compared to all genes detected in input samples with FDR-corrected $Q < 0.1$.)

(D) MA-Plot of stress-regulation of m⁶A/m-peaks mapped by m⁶A/m-peak abundance.

(E) Genes regulated by stress on m⁶A/m level and RNA expression level only partially overlap (3) with no clear correlation between gene m⁶A/m and RNA change. (GLM coefficient 0.04, $R^2 = 0.02$, $P < 2 \cdot 10^{-16}$.)

(F) Full list of m⁶A/m-peaks significantly regulated by acute stress.

(G) Full list of mRNAs significantly regulated by acute stress.

Figure S2

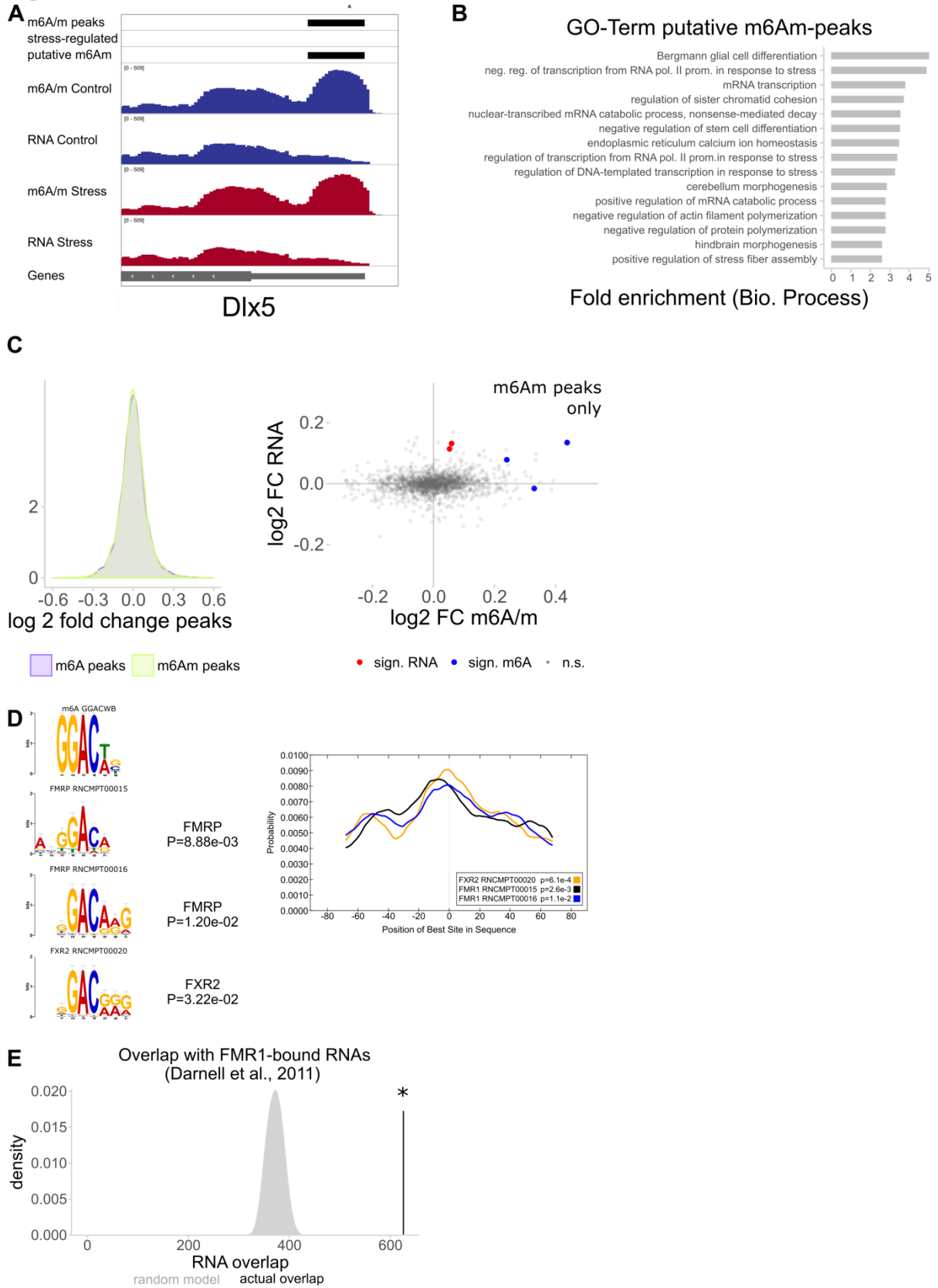


Figure S2. Additional analysis of the m⁶A/m-Seq data, continued. Related to Figure 1.
FC= fold change

(A) Example of a putative m⁶A-peak shows the specific enrichment of m⁶A-RIP reads at the transcription start site of m⁶A-peaks.

(B) In contrast to all m⁶A/m-peaks, putative m⁶A peaks are more enriched for genes related to cellular stress response and RNA metabolism. (15 highest enriched Biological Process gene ontology (GO) terms. Overrepresentation test of putative m⁶A-peaks compared to all genes detected in input samples with FDR-corrected $Q < 0.1$.)

(C) Putative m⁶A peaks show similar fold changes as all m⁶A/m-peaks and do also not correlate majorly with RNA change by stress. (GLM coefficient 0.03, $R^2 = 0.01$, $P < 1.12 \cdot 10^{-05}$).

(D) Comparing the m⁶A-motif GGACWB to known motifs of RNA-binding proteins, 2 motifs for FMR1 as well as a motif for FXR2 are found to be most similar and centrally enriched in m⁶A/m-peaks. FMR1 co-occurrence was not observed in putative m⁶A peaks. (Tomtom motif comparison results: FMR1 RNCMPT00015 ($P = 8.88 \cdot 10^{-03}$, $E = 2.17$), FMR1 RNCMPT00016 ($P = 1.02 \cdot 10^{-02}$, $E = 2.93$), FXR2 RNCMPT00020 ($P = 3.22 \cdot 10^{-02}$, $E = 8.37$). All 3 motifs are centrally enriched in m⁶A/m-peaks).

(E) Previously reported genes bound by mouse FMR1 are significantly enriched for m⁶A/m-bound genes found in our study. (The amount of overlap observed (black line) was compared to distributions gained from 100 random permutations (grey distributions) of all observed expressed genes [Z-Test $P < 0.05$, analysis limited to genes detected in both data sets].)

Figure S3

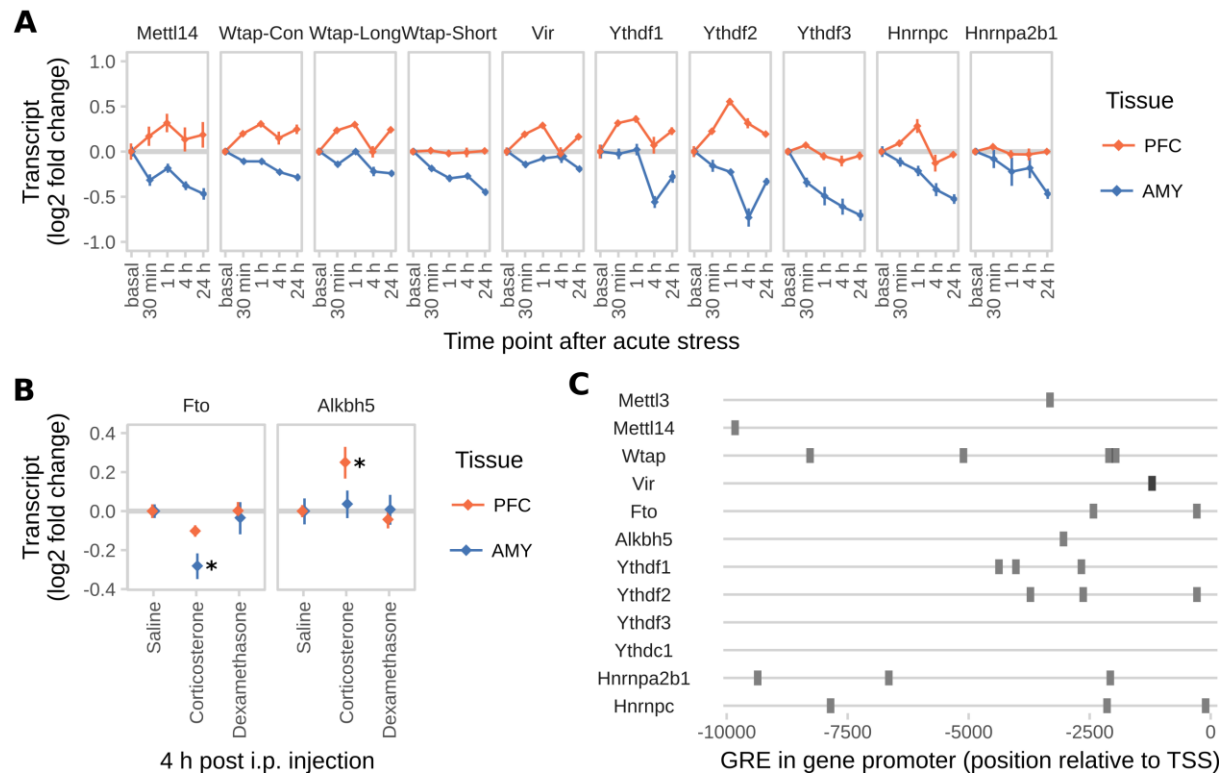


Figure S3. Acute injection of corticosterone i.p. leads to similar changes in global m⁶A/m in the PFC and AMY like acute stress, suggesting that the effect on m⁶A/m is mainly mediated by glucocorticoids. Related to Figure 2.

(A) Several m⁶A/m-related genes are not regulated by acute stress indicating specificity of stress effects. Wtap expression is measured specifically for the long and short isoform as well as with primers measuring both (Con). (n = 12, log₂ fold change ± SEM. 2-way MANOVA without significant interaction or main stress effects (FDR-corrected P < 0.05 and n² > 0.01). Full statistics see Supplementary Table 2.)

(B) Gene expression regulation of m⁶A/m-demethylases Fto and Alkbh5 in the PFC and AMY shows similar patterns of regulation after corticosterone injection like after acute stress. (Fold change measured with qPCR; n = 12, mean ± SEM. Kruskal-Wallis-Test PFC Alkbh5 and AMY Fto P < 0.05, Stars: omnibus post-hoc comparisons to basal, P < 0.065).

(C) The majority of m⁶A/m regulatory genes have upstream Glucocorticoid Response Elements (GRE). Prediction of high confidence GRE sites based on GRE consensus motif MA0113 10 kb upstream of the transcription start site (JASPAR, 90% relative profile score threshold).

Figure S4

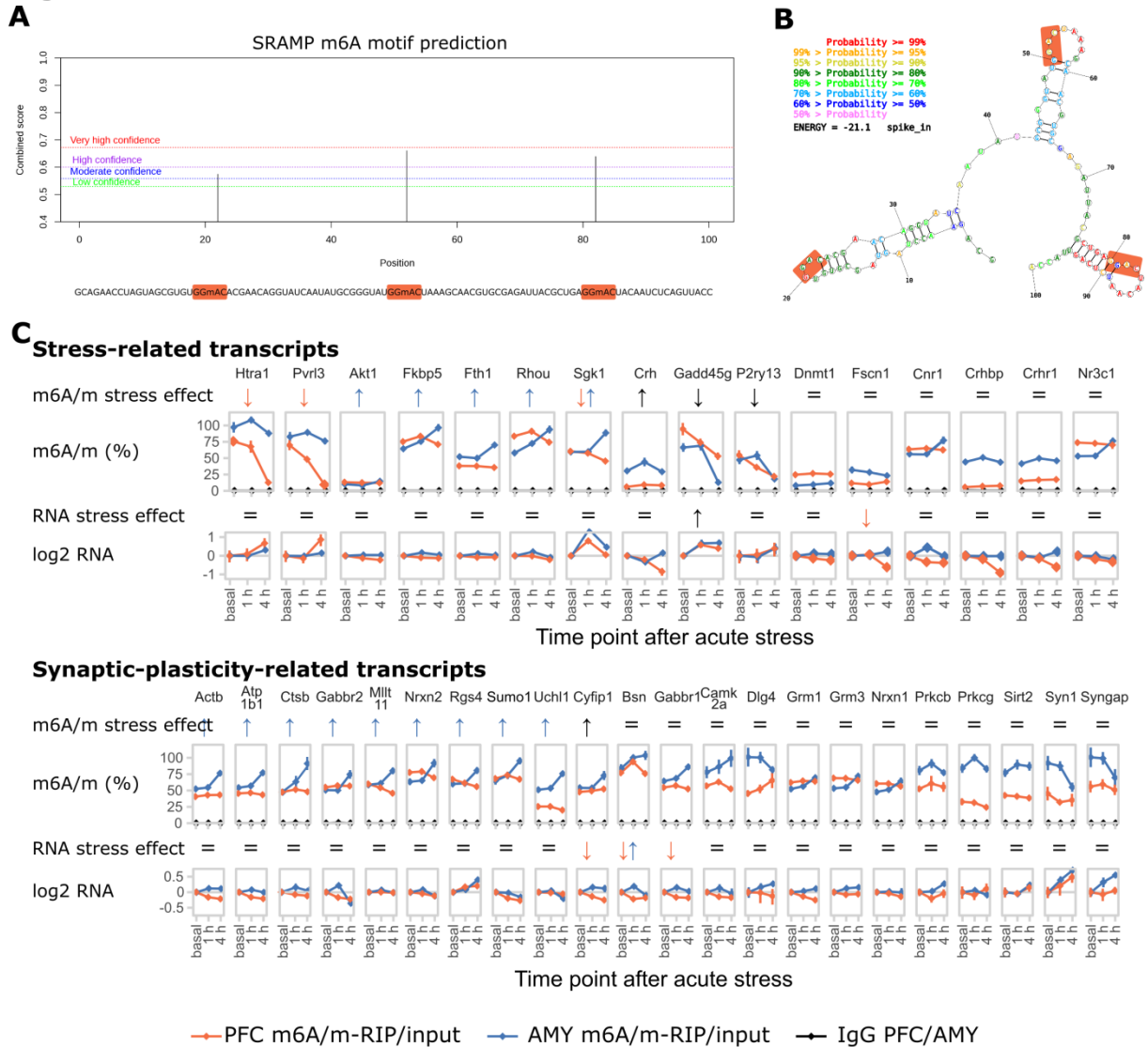


Figure S4. In-depth analysis of the m⁶A/m-RIP-qPCR data. Related to Figure 3.

(A) Sequence and m⁶A/m-site prediction of the synthetic spike-in oligo. The GGAC consensus motif containing the m⁶A/m sites is marked up in the sequence string.

(B) Maximum free energy secondary structure of the oligo.

(C) Absolute full length m⁶A/m-levels of stress-related and synaptic plasticity-related transcripts are differentially regulated in PFC and AMY of stress-related candidate transcripts and synaptic-plasticity-related candidate transcripts after stress. Extended data from Figure 3. % m⁶A/m = % expression after precipitation relative to the total abundance in input, normalized for immunoprecipitation efficiency by an internal methylated spike-in control. log₂ RNA = log₂ fold changes of transcript in input samples normalized to 5 housekeeping genes. (n = 8, mean ± SEM. Significant effects observed in FDR-corrected 2-way MANOVA (P < 0.05, n² > 0.01) are coded in the rows “m⁶A/m stress effect” and “RNA stress effect”: orange/blue arrows = PFC-/AMY-specific stress effect (interaction effect 2-way ANOVA, one-way follow up significant in respective tissue), black arrow = stress main stress

effect, equals sign = no interaction or stress main effect in 2-way ANOVA. For full statistics see Supplementary Table 2).

Figure S5

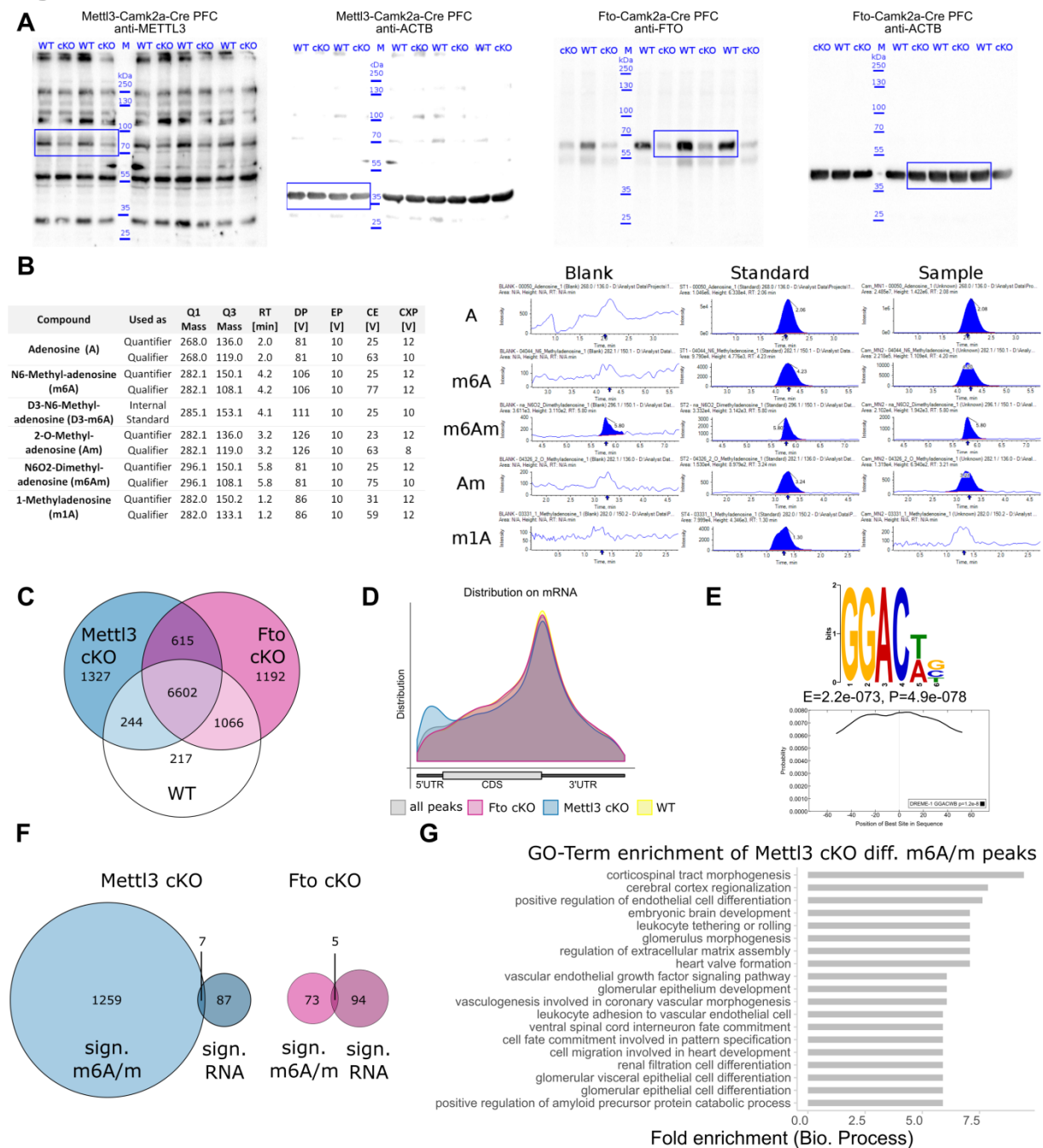


Figure S5. Additional analysis of Camk2a-Cre Mettl3 cKO and Camk2a-Cre Fto cKO mice. Related to Figure 4.

(A) Full blots of data shown in Figure 4B with bands spliced for the main figures and molecular weight marker shown in blue. Blots were first probed with anti-METTTL3 or anti-FTO antibody and developed to show the full range of signal, and then stripped and re-probed with anti-ACTB antibody. Quantification shown in Figure 4B was performed on all samples using only the band at the marked up molecular weight (corresponding to the molecular weight of the protein).

(B) Measured nucleosides and parameters in LC-MS/MS including example traces for each one blank, synthetic standard and measured mouse mRNA per nucleoside. m¹A

could not be detected within quantitative measurement range in any of the measured mouse brain mRNAs.

(C) m⁶A/m-peaks detected per group mostly overlap. Shown are number and overlap of detected peaks per group (in minimum 2/3 of the samples without additional abundance filters applied to consensus peaks).

(D) m⁶A/m-peaks detected per group as well as consensus peaks detected across all samples and used for differential methylation analysis have similar distribution on mRNA with a small enrichment of 5'UTR peaks specifically in Mettl3 cKO mRNA. (Peak distribution mapped along mRNA relative position).

(E) Consistent with the analysis of cortical m⁶A/m after acute stress, GGACWB is the most abundant motif detected in m⁶A/m-peaks and enriched at peak summits. Shown is the top detected sequence motif and its position across the detected m⁶A/m-peaks.

(F) In addition to differentially methylated m⁶A/m-peaks, several genes were detected differentially expressed in Mettl3 cKO and Fto cKO relative to WT animals, with low overlap between genes differentially methylated and differentially expressed and no clear correlation between m⁶A/m methylation and gene expression (not shown).

(G) Genes differentially m⁶A/m-methylated in Mettl3 cKO mRNA compared to WT are enriched for genes related to brain and tissue development. (15 highest enriched Biological Process gene ontology (GO) terms. Shown are Go terms overrepresented in m⁶A/m-peaks genes compared to all genes detected in input samples with FDR-corrected $Q < 0.1$. Genes differentially m⁶A/m-methylated in Fto cKO mRNA compared to WT did not result in any significantly enriched gene sets [not shown]).

Figure S6

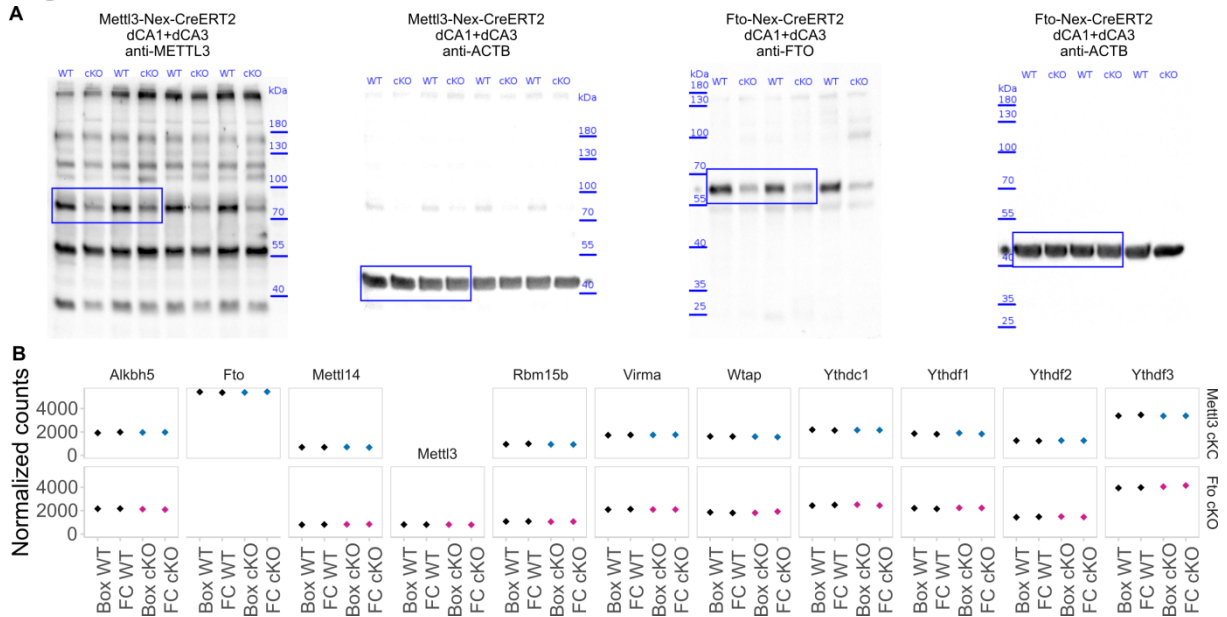


Figure S6. Additional analysis of Nex-CreERT2 Mettl3 cKO mice. Related to Figure 5.

(A) Full blots of data shown in Figure 5A with bands spliced for the main figures and molecular weight marker shown in blue. Blots were first probed with anti-METTL3 or anti-FTO antibody and developed to show the full range of signal, and then stripped and re-probed with anti-ACTB antibody. Quantification shown in Figure 5A was performed on all samples using only the band at the marked up molecular weight (corresponding to the molecular weight of the protein)

(B) Depletion of Mettl3 or Fto in adult excitatory neurons is not compensated by changes of expression in other genes catalysing and or binding m⁶A/m nor is the expression of those genes changed 24 hr after fear conditioning. (Normalized counts of genes plotted across both Mettl3 cKOs and Fto cKOs and respective wild type animals (WT) including animals 24 hr after fear conditioning (FC) and baseline animals (Box). n = 5. No significant genotype or fear-conditioning effects were detected at Q < 0.1).

Figure S7

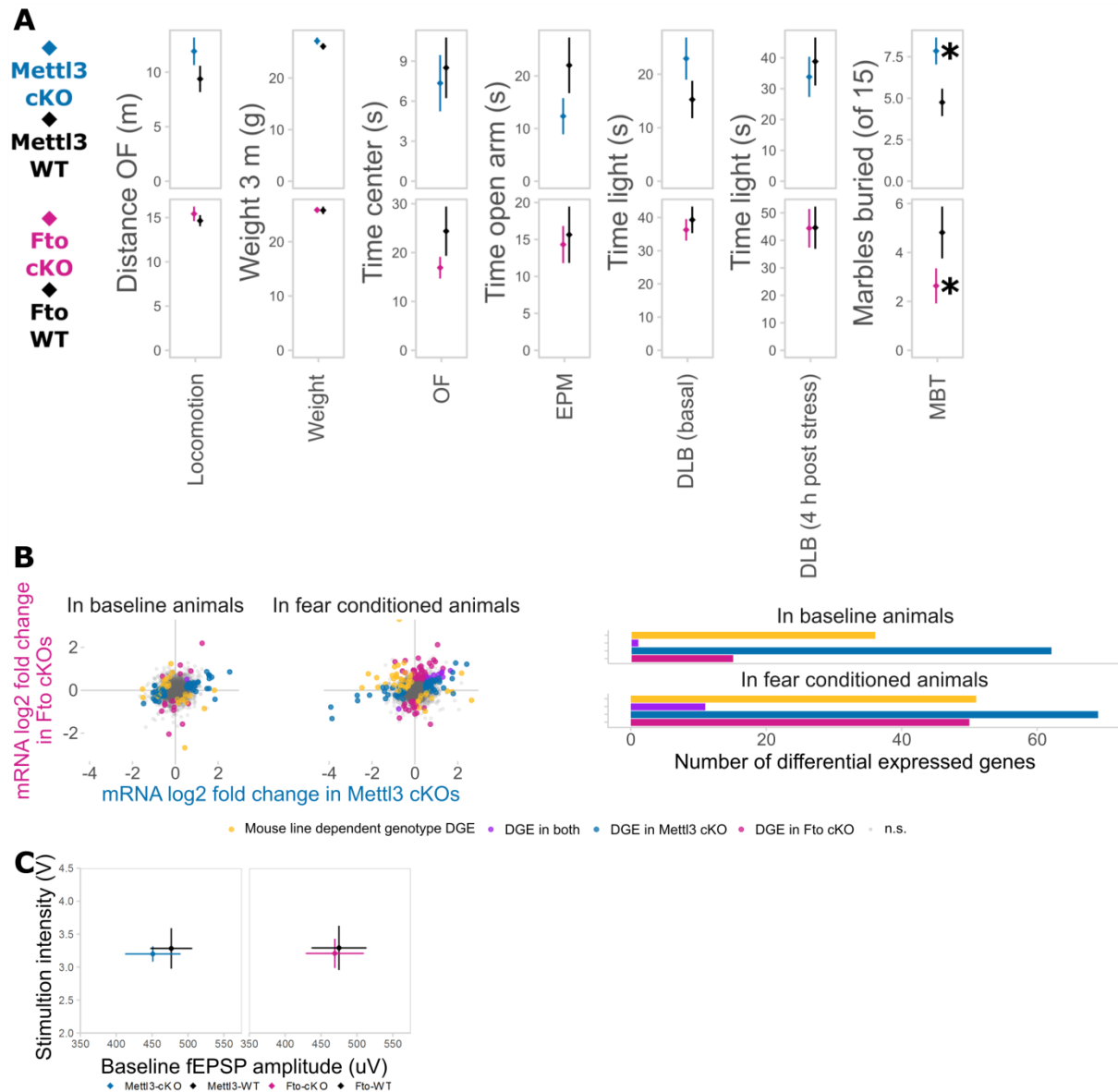


Figure S7. Anxiety-like behaviour is not changed in Mettl3 cKO and Fto cKO animals. Related to Figure 6.

(A) cKO animals did not differ in locomotion, weight or several measurements of anxiety-like behaviour, but spontaneous digging behaviour. OF = Open Field Test, EPM = Elevated Plus Maze, DLB = Dark Light Box, MBT = Marble Burying Test, WT = wild type animals, cKO = conditional knockout animals. Spontaneous burying behaviour as measured by the MBT was increased in Mettl3 cKO animals while decreased in Fto cKO animals. Weight 6 w post induction with Tamoxifen (average 12 w of age). Marbles buried within 10 min. (n = 11-13, mean ± SEM. * depict T-Tests P < 0.05).

(B) Gene expression changes in Mettl3 cKOs compared to their respective gene expression change in Fto cKOs are more diverse in fear conditioned animals than in baseline Box-control animals. The increase in differentially expressed genes after fear conditioning is larger in Fto cKO than in Mettl3 cKO mice. (Differentially expressed genes marked by colour: blue = genes differentially expressed in Mettl3 cKOs compared to WT,

pink = genes differentially expressed in Fto cKOs compared to WT, purple = genes differentially expressed in both, orange = genes expressed in a mouse line x genotype fashion. n = 5)

(C) Input/output properties of CA3-CA1 neurotransmission in Mettl3 cKO and Fto cKO are not altered. (Plotted are ranges baseline fEPSP in uV amplitudes to stimulation intensity in V, n = 10-12 slices from 5-6 animals, mean \pm SEM).

Figure S8

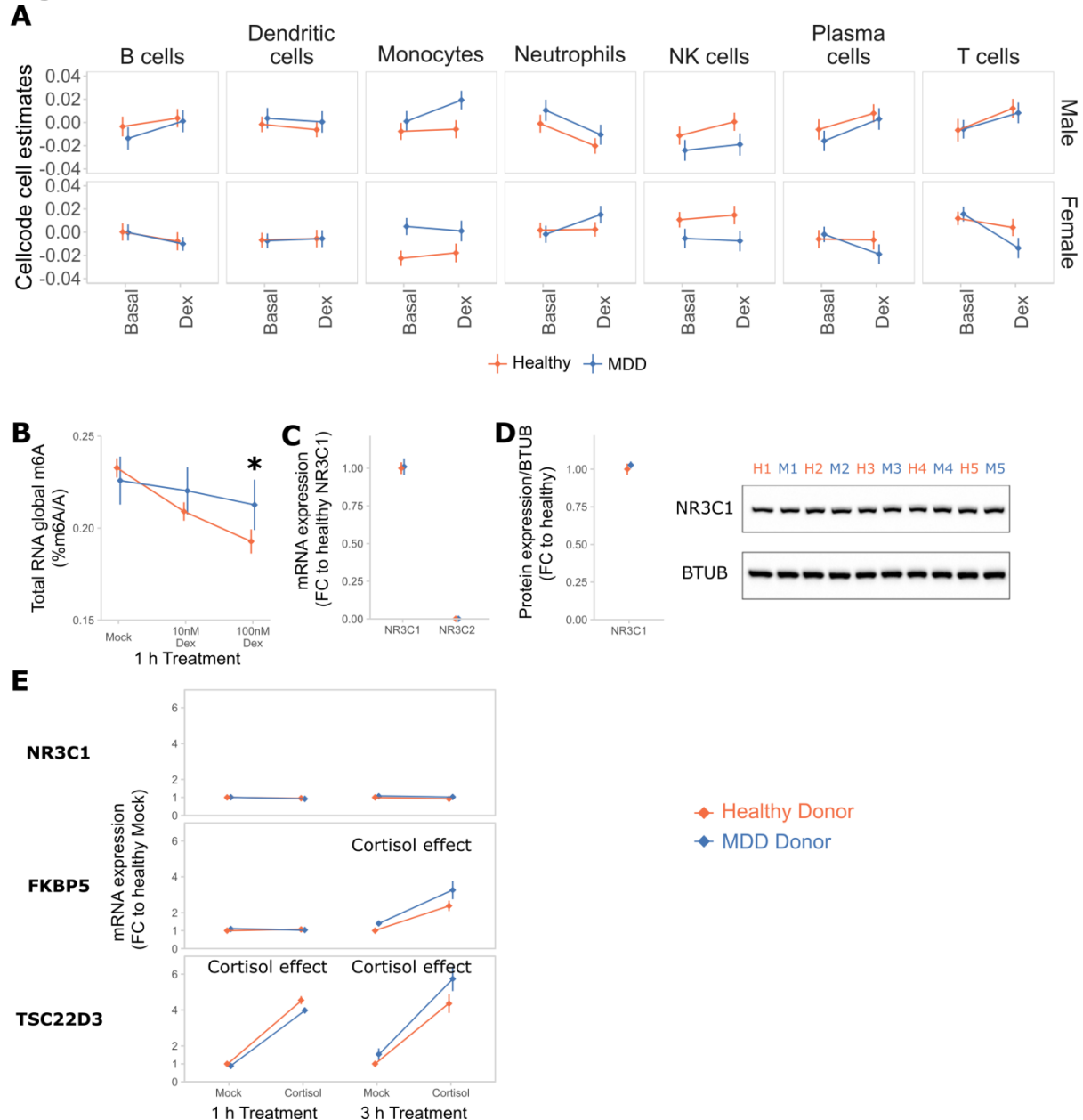


Figure S8. Additional data for Figures 6 and 7.

Dex = dexamethasone.

(A) Blood cell composition is not altered in blood samples used for m⁶A/m measurement. (CellCODE cell composition estimates based on the residuals of the transcriptome-wide gene expression from the same blood samples used for Figure 7F did not yield any changes in blood cell composition by dexamethasone x diagnosis x sex interaction, dexamethasone x diagnosis interaction or dexamethasone main effects. Neutrophils, T cells, B cells and Plasma cells are significantly for sex x dexamethasone ($Q < 0.1$) which was however not regulated in the m⁶A/m measurements. All blood samples used for m⁶A/m measurements taken from Arloth et al., 2015.)

(B) Global m⁶A/m in BLCLs after dexamethasone treatment is decreased in BLCLs from healthy, but not MDD-donors, similar of the effect of cortisol. (Global m⁶A/m assay

on total RNA, n = 5 biological replicates with 3 technical replicates each, mean \pm SEM. 2-way ANOVA: significant interaction effect of Dex and donor status ($F(3, 24) = 10.127, P = 0.001$). * depicts omnibus Tukey post-hoc tests to basal $P < 0.05$).

(C) BLCLs from healthy and MDD donors have comparable levels of NR3C1 mRNA. Levels of NR3C2 are very low but also unchanged. (qPCR, n = 5 biological replicates, mean \pm SEM).

(D) BLCLs from healthy and MDD donors have comparable levels of NR3C1 protein. (Western Blot quantification of NR3C1 relative to B-TUBULIN (BTUB), n = 5 biological replicates, mean \pm SEM).

(E) BLCLs from healthy and MDD donors similarly upregulate FKBP5 and TSC22D3 after cortisol-treatment (100 nM). (qPCR, n = 5 biological replicates, mean \pm SEM. 2-way ANOVA: “Cortisol effect” indicates a significant main effect of cortisol treatment: FKBP5 3 H: $F(1, 16) = 13.171, P < 0.001$, TSC22D3 1 hr: $F(1, 16) = 55.245, P < 0.001$, TSC22D3 3 H: $F(1, 16) = 71.518, P < 0.001$).

Figure S9

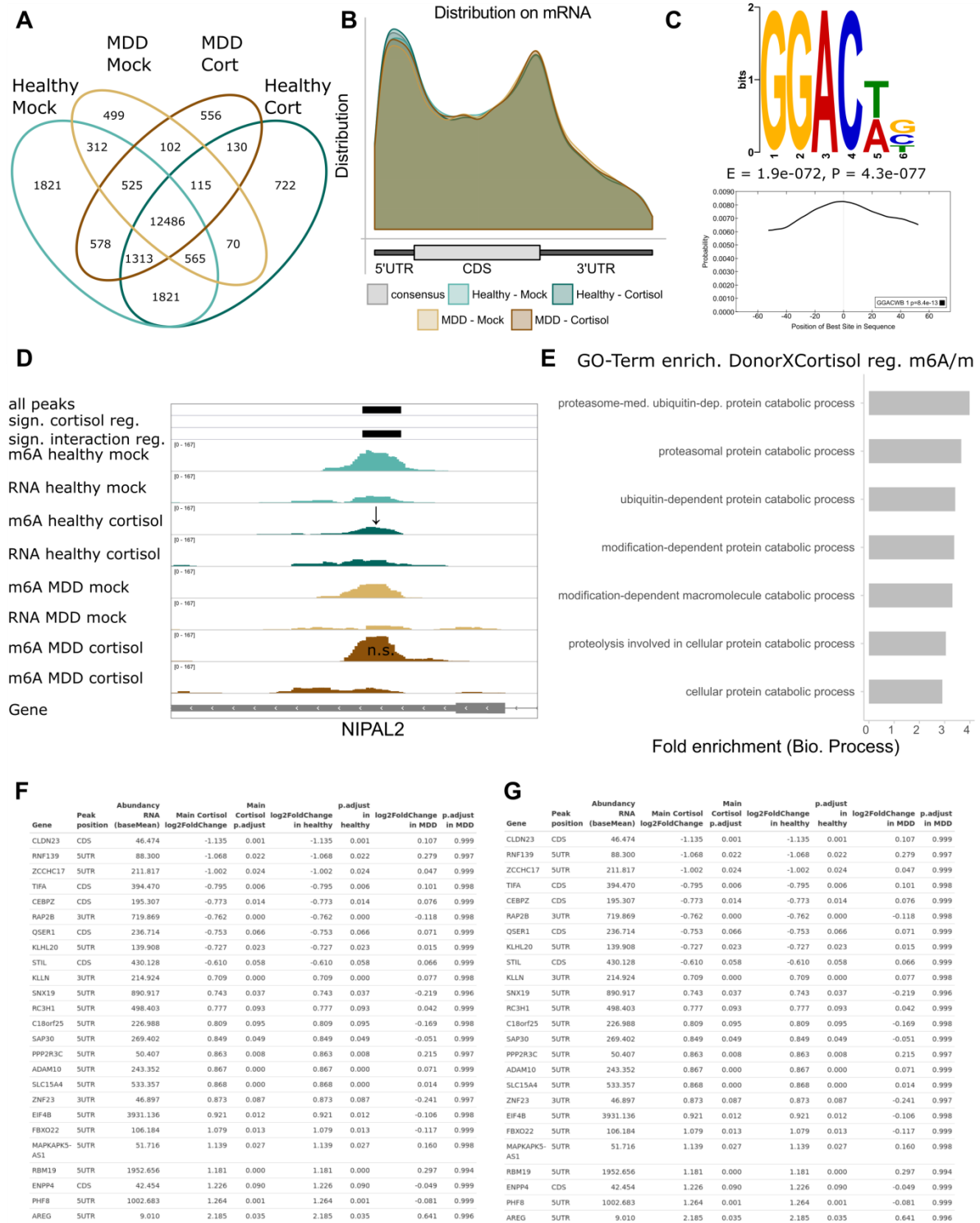


Figure S9. Additional analysis of m⁶A/m-Seq of human BLCLs. Related to Figure 8.

(A) m⁶A/m-peaks detected per group mostly overlap. Shown are number and overlap of detected peaks per group (in minimum 2/3 of the samples without additional abundance filters applied to consensus peaks).

(B) m⁶A/m-peaks detected per group as well as consensus peaks detected across all samples and used for differential methylation analysis have similar distribution as seen for mouse brain m⁶A/m-peaks.

(C) Consistent with mouse brain m⁶A/m, in human BLCLs GGACWB is the most abundant motif detected in m⁶A/m-peaks and enriched at peak summits. Shown is the top detected sequence motif and its position across the detected m⁶A/m-peaks.

(D) Example of an m⁶A/m-peak regulated in a donor-specific fashion (downregulated in healthy donor cells but not in MDD donor cells). Shown are averaged sequence tracks m⁶A/m-Seq and RNA-Seq per group and detected m⁶A/m-peaks. Arrows indicate quantitatively regulated peaks ($Q < 0.1$, $\text{abs log}_2\text{FC} > 0.5$).

(E) m⁶A/m-peaks in BLCLs regulated by cortisol in a donor-specific fashion are enriched for genes with catabolic rather than metabolic functions. (Enriched Biological Process gene ontology (GO) terms. Overrepresentation test of m⁶A/m-peaks in BLCLs compared to all genes detected in input samples with FDR-corrected $Q < 0.1$.)

(F) Top 25 regulated m⁶A/m-peaks by cortisol.

(G) Top 25 regulated m⁶A/m-peaks by cortisol in a donor-specific fashion.