| Conjunctiva | Receptors/ch | annels | | | Neuropeptides/cytokines | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|
| Sample | Ntrk2 (TrkB) | Ntrk3 (TrkC) | Mrgprd | Mrgpra3 | Trpm8 | Sst | Calca (CGRP*) | Tac1 (SP) | Fam19a1 | | |
| CJ28 | 0 | 10.23184082 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64.30677702 | 0 | 14.09304737 | | |
| CJ18 | 0 | 5.707343085 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| CJ10 | 0.085879066 | 1.016409221 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.087395318 | 0.002279768 | | |
| CJ16 | 0 | 0.722126268 | 1.048730198 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.919881624 | 0.074420034 | 0 | | |
| CJ25 | 0.225820536 | 0.411268104 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.552619146 | 0.021943142 | 0 | | |
| CJ24 | 0.266985867 | 0.335063475 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.827902159 | 0.079665958 | 0 | | |
| CJ21 | 0 | 0 | 2.209927591 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.251399601 | 0.126659545 | 0 | | |
| CJ19 | 0 | 0.095979986 | 2.051702233 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.150941178 | 0.042902195 | 0 | | |
| CJ26 | 0 | 0 | 1.307184847 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.181684938 | | |
| CJ1 | 0 | 0 | 0.879209912 | 0.329880379 | 0 | 0.064804958 | 0.83359204 | 0.065648145 | 0 | | |
| CJ34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.915913132 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.047044501 | 0.013859186 | | |
| CJ27 | 0 | 0.776110815 | 0 | 1.188974449 | 0 | 0 | 9.057395288 | 0 | 0 | | |
| CJ6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75.71783945 | 3.010820199 | 0 | | |
| CJ15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 53.92762435 | 1.117258955 | 0 | | |
| CJ3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17.85245451 | 0.191096007 | 0.609192181 | | |
| CJ9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11.95441468 | 0.22554216 | 0 | | |
| CJ4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.178015846 | | |
| CJ12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.035270372 | 0 | 0.383370638 | | |
| CJ11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.012138585 | 0.023256321 | 0 | 0.29206771 | | |
| CJ32 | 0 | 0.123281494 | 0.094475535 | 0 | 0.3450744 | 0 | 0.003112141 | 0.18018701 | 0 | | |
| CJ17 | 0.001171559 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2.183398506 | 0.095114821 | 0 | | |
| CJ7 | 0 | 0.043961776 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.267141406 | 0.006361483 | 0 | | |
| CJ13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.059047597 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| CJ23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.002872462 | 0.005782444 | 0 | | |
| CJ29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.042729831 | 0 | | |
| CJ30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| CJ31 | 0 | 0.010926249 | 0.068497651 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.216181027 | 0 | | |
| CJ33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.017376418 | 0 | 0.014233937 | 0 | | |
| CJ35 | 0.063617439 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| CJ36 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| CJ37 | 0 | 0 | 0.036092427 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.106970986 | 0 | | |
| CJ38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.123055312 | 0 | | |

| Suppl | emental | Tak | ble 🗄 | S1: | Single | e cell d | aRT-l | PCR | of trie | geminal | ganc | lion | neurons | retrog | radel | v labe | led fro | m the | con | junctiv | /a or | cornea. |
|-------|---------|-----|-------|-----|--------|----------|-------|-----|---------|---------|------|------|---------|--------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-----|---------|-------|---------|
| | | | | | | | | | | 0 | | , | | | | | | | | | | |

| Cornea | Receptors/cha | nnels | | | Neuropeptides/cytokines | | | | | |
|--------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Sample | Ntrk2 (TrkB) | Ntrk3 (TrkC) | Mrgprd | Mrgpra3 | Trpm8 | Sst | Calca (CGRP*) | Tac1 (SP) | Fam19a1 | |
| CR26 | 1.269327821 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.053758214 | 4.257599384 | 87.56103496 | 0 | |
| CR23 | 1.036381834 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24.74093381 | 995.4859374 | 0 | |
| CR36 | 0 | 0.140035463 | 0.013344142 | 0 | 4.17915 | 0.175379508 | 0 | 0.306099437 | 0 | |
| CR31 | 0.005992392 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.9649502 | 0 | 0 | 3.846688128 | 0.004487782 | |
| CR22 | 0 | 0.188712405 | 0 | 0 | 0.7313721 | 0 | 1.873590399 | 20.75629208 | 0.826478946 | |
| CR30 | 0.105119278 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.044922038 | 0.427916188 | 30.58461784 | 2.182437476 | |
| CR24 | 0 | 0.277049977 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.404154245 | 19.60114128 | 0.910380782 | |
| CR1 | 0 | 0.254008931 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.325270763 | 0 | |
| CR13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.018989119 | 2.599649059 | 27.65350729 | 0.001410002 | |
| CR12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.028444021 | 1.206485922 | 32.59720082 | 0 | |
| CR15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.526719791 | 18.31495313 | 0.27027379 | |
| CR29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.528509691 | 10.2540089 | 0.734153397 | |
| CR28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.029363732 | 0.042180505 | 1.423224156 | 0 | |
| CR10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000180839 | 0.0229345 | 0.737879265 | 0 | |
| CR3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.12424425 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.003793388 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.003870113 | |
| CR5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.159347505 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.038742951 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.008447362 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.006106275 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR33 | 0.003148709 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| CR34 | 0.006134872 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.144837325 | 0.013036401 | |
| CR35 | 0.052027298 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.209803181 | 0 | |
| CR37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.014634097 | |

Note:

*CGRP has two forms in mice: α - and β -CGRP, which are encoded by *Calca* and *Calcb*, respectively.

Expression level is presented as folds of *Gapdh* expression, calculated using 2⁻(Ct(target Gene)-Ct(Gapdh)).

Numbers marked in red stand for data points significantly higher than others in the group shown in Fig. 1s

Supplemental Table S2: The axonal projection of various populations of primary sensory neurons to the conjunctiva, cornea and skin

| Table 1: Mouse lines | Conjunctiva | Cornea | Back Skin |
|--|-------------|--------|-----------|
| Pirt ^{GCaMP3/+} | +++++ | +++++ | +++++ |
| Nav1.8: Scn10a ^{cre/+} ; Rosa26 ^{tdT/+} | +++ | +++++ | ++++ |
| Trpv1 ^{ALPP/+} | +++ | ++++ | +++ |
| Trpm8 ^{gfp/+} | + | ++++ | ++ |
| Mrgprd ^{egfp/+} | + | absent | +++ |
| Mrgpra3 ^{cre/+} ; Rosa26 ^{tdT/+} | +++ | absent | +++ |
| Sst ^{cre/+;} Rosa26 ^{tdT/+} | absent | absent | +++ |
| Vglut3: Slc17a8 ^{cre/+} ; Rosa26 ^{tdT/+} | absent | ++ | +++ |
| CGRP (immunofluorescence) | +++ | ++++ | +++ |

Supplemental Figures



Fig. S1: Low-threshold mechanosensitive C fiber neurons that express vesicular glutamate transporter 3 (VGLUT3, gene *Slc17a8*) do not innervate the conjunctiva (**A**) *Slc17a8^{cre/+}; Rosa26^{tdTomato/+}* (*Slc17a8^{tdTomato/+}*) sensory fibers in a section of an eyelid. (**B**) High magnification view of boxed area in (**A**). Asterisk indicates a hair follicle. Arrow indicates *Slc17a8^{tdTomato/+}* sensory fibers (**C**) *Slc17a8^{tdTomato/+}* sensory fibers in a section of cornea. Arrows indicate VGLUT3⁺ sensory fibers. (**D-F**) WGA-mediated retrograde labeling of corneal afferent neurons in *Slc17a8^{tdTomato/+}* mice. Arrows indicate co-localization of tdTomato⁺ neurons (red) and WGA (green) in the section of trigeminal ganglion. Arrowhead indicates a large diameter neuron labelled only by WGA. Representative images shown were chosen from 3 trigeminal ganglia imaged from three mice. Scale bars: 50 µm.



Fig. S2: Sparse innervation of TRPM8⁺ sensory fibers in the conjunctiva (**A**) $Trpm8^{gfp/+}$ sensory fibers in a section of an eyelid. (**B**) High magnification view of boxed area in (**A**). Arrows indicate GFP⁺ fibers. Asterisks indicate hair follicles in the eyelid skin. Representative images were chosen from 6 conjunctivae imaged from three mice. Scale bars: 50 µm.



Fig. S3: A group of conjunctival afferent neurons express MrgprA3. (**A-C**) Dil-mediated retrograde labeling of conjunctival afferent neurons in *MrgprA3^{gfp-cre}* mice. Arrows indicate co-localization of GFP⁺ neurons (green) and Dil (red) in the section of trigeminal ganglion. Representative images shown were chosen from 3 trigeminal ganglia imaged from 3 mice. Scale bars: 50 μ m.



Fig. S4: TRPM8 mediates ocular pain induced by the cold temperature. (**A**) Blinking responses to air flow (0.5 L/min) at different temperatures in WT (n=11, 6, 9, respectively) and *Trpm8^{-/-}* mice (n=11, 8, 3, respectively). Data are expressed as mean \pm s.e.m Statistical analysis by two tailed Student's t-test (**P=0.0015). (**B**) Eye-closing behavior to air flow (0.5 L/min) at different temperature in WT (n=6) and *Trpm8^{-/-}* mice (n=3).



Fig. S5: Genetic- and temporal-specific ablation of MrgprA3⁺ neurons. (**A**) Combining Cre-Lox and diphtheria toxin receptor (DTR, gene *HBEGF*) approaches to ablate MrgprA3⁺ neurons. (**B-C**) All *Mrgpra3^{gfp-cre}* neurons (green) express DTR (blue). No ectopic DTR expression was detected. (**D-E**) Stacked confocal microscopy images of the whole DRG from *Mrgpra3^{gfp-cre}*; *Rosa^{HBEGF/+}* mice before (**D**) and after (**E**) diphtheria toxin treatment. Representative images were chosen from DRGs imaged from 3 mice. Scale bars: 50 µm.



Fig. S6: MrgprA3⁺ conjunctival fibers response to histamine. (**A**) *Mrgpra3^{gfp-cre/+}; Rosa26^{tdTomato/+}; Pirt^{GCaMP3/+}* sensory fibers (red) in the conjunctiva. (**B**) Baseline of GCaMP3 fluorescence in the conjunctiva explant. (**C**) Increased GCaMP3 fluorescence upon 2 mM histamine stimulation. Arrows indicate activated MrgprA3⁺ sensory fibers. (**D**) Dynamics of GCaMP3 fluorescence upon histamine stimulation in MrgprA3⁺ sensory fibers from (**C**). Representative images were chosen from 5 conjunctival explants imaged from 3 mice. Scale bars: 50 µm.



Fig. S7: MrgprA3⁺ DRG neurons respond to chloroquine but not serotonin. (**A**) DRG neurons cultured from *Mrgpra3^{cre/+}; Rosa26^{tdTomato/+}; Pirt^{GCaMP3/+}* mice. White arrows indicate MrgprA3⁺ DRG neurons. (**B**) Increased GCaMP3 fluorescence upon 10 μ M serotonin stimulation. (**C**) Increased GCaMP3 fluorescence upon 1 mM chloroquine stimulation. Green arrows indicate serotonin-sensitive neurons, which do not express MrgprA3 and are insensitive to chloroquine. The experiment was repeated independently three times with similar results. Scale bars: 100 μ m.



Fig. S8: Chloroquine-mediated entry of QX-314 decreases inward sodium current in MrgprA3⁺ neurons. (**A**) Diagram depicting the action model of QX-314 in MrgprA3⁺ neurons. (**B**) Representative photomicrograph of a recorded sensory neuron from *Mrgpra3^{gfp-cre/+}; Rosa26^{tdTomato/+}* (*Mrgpra3^{tdTomato/+}*) mice. (**C**) The presence of tdTomato (red) indicates that the recorded neuron is MrgprA3⁺. Scale bars: 100 μ m. (**D**) Inward currents triggered by application of chloroquine and QX-314 (**E**) Representative traces of inward sodium current recorded before and after application of CQ and QX-314.



Fig. S9: Dose-dependent ocular scratching behavior evoked by topical chloroquine application in the conjunctiva sac of WT mice (n=5/group). All data are expressed as mean \pm s.e.m. Statistical analysis by two tailed Student's *t*-test (4 mM vs. saline, P=0.744; 8 mM vs. saline, *P=0.04; 12 mM vs. saline, ***P=0.0009).



Fig. S10: MrgprA3⁺ neurons do not express substance P. (**A**) DRG section of *Mrgpra3^{gfprre/+}* mouse. (**B**) Immunofluorescence of substance P. (**C**) Merged image of (**A**) and (**B**). Arrows indicate MrgprA3⁺ DRG neurons, which do not overlap with substance P immunofluorescence signals. Representative images were chosen from DRGs imaged from 3 mice. Scale bars: 50 μ m.