

### Supplementary Material

**Supplementary Table 1:** Nucleotide sequence of the forward and reverse primers used for Real-Time PCR.

Target name	Primer Sequence (5' -3')	Gene Bank Number
<i>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></i>	Fw GGCCTCCCTCTCATCAGTTC	NM_013693.3
	Rv CACTTGGTGGTTTGCTACGA	
<i>IL-1<math>\beta</math></i>	Fw TGAAAGCTCTCCACCTCAATG	NM_008361.4
	Rv CCAAGGCCACAGGTATTTTG	
<i>IL-6</i>	Fw CTCACAAGTCGGAGGCTTA	NM_031168.2
	Rv CAAGTGCATCATCGTTGTTT	
<i>IDO1</i>	Fw TGCAGACTGTGTCTGGCAAACCT	NM_008324.2
	Rv GCCCTTGTCGCAGTCCCCAC	
<i>CD14</i>	Fw AGATGTGGAATTGTACGGCG	NM_009841.4
	Rv CGTAAGCCGCTTTAAGGACA	
<i>CD86</i>	Fw GTAGACGTGTTCCAGAACTTA	NM_019388.3
	Rv TGTTTTGAGCCTTTGTAAAT	
<i>CD11b</i>	Fw ACGCCATCTACATGATTGTCAC	NM_001082960.1
	Rv AAGACTACACTGACAGGGAGGC	
<i>IL-4</i>	Fw CCAAGGTGCTTCGCATATTT	NM_021283.2
	Rv ATCGAAAAGCCCGAAAGAGT	
<i>TGF-<math>\beta</math>1</i>	Fw CAAGGGCTACCATGCCAACTT	NM_011577.2
	Rv GTTGTGTTGGTTGTAGAGGGC	
<i>IL-1Ra</i>	Fw AAGCCTTCAGAATCTGGGATAC	NM_031167.5
	Rv TCATCTCCAGACTTGGCACA	
<i>CD206</i>	Fw CAAGGAAGGTTGGCATTGT	NM_008625.2
	Rv CCTTTCAGTCCTTTGCAAGT	
<i>Arg1</i>	Fw CTCCAAGCCAAAGTCCTTAGAG	NM_007482.3
	Rv AGGAGCTGTCATTAGGGACATC	
<i>CypA</i>	Fw AGCATAAGGTCCTGGCATC	NM_008907.2
	Rv TTCACCTTCCCAAAGACCAC	

**Supplementary Table 2: Summary of the statistical analysis for the behavioural data**

Mice receiving standard or VTX enriched diet for 4 weeks received an intraperitoneal injection of either LPS or saline. Six hours after LPS or vehicle injection feeding, body weight, behaviour in the open field and serum corticosterone levels were evaluated, while 24 hours after the immune challenge we assessed behaviour in the open field, sucrose preference and performance in the novel object recognition test. Data were analyzed with a two-factor (diet x LPS) analysis of variance (ANOVA); \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Parameter		Univariate ANOVA	Main effects		Interaction	
			LPS	DIET	LPS*DIET	
LPS effect (6 hours)	Body weight	** $p = 0.001$ F(3;43)=6.402	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;43)=18.683	↔ $p = 0.379$ F(1;43)=0.541	↔ $p = 0.959$ F(1;43)=0.003	
	Food intake	↔ $p = 0.056$ F(3;43)=2.729	* $p = 0.013$ F(1;43)=6.687	↔ $p = 0.348$ F(1;43)=0.900	↔ $p = 0.467$ F(1;43)=0.539	
Open field (6 hours after LPS)	Total distance (whole arena)	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;41)=26.850	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;41)=62.805	↔ $p = 0.074$ F(1;41)=3.415	↔ $p = 0.114$ F(1;41)=2.642	
	Rearings	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;41)=18.284	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;41)=47.596	↔ $p = 0.786$ F(1;41)=0.087	↔ $p = 0.092$ F(1;41)=2.975	
	Total resting time	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;43)=14.121	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;43)=34.124	↔ $p = 0.490$ F(1;43)=0.489	↔ $p = 0.443$ F(1;43)=0.606	
	Percent Time in the center	* $p = 0.033$ F(3;41)=3.207	↔ $p = 0.077$ F(1;41)=3.330	↔ $p = 0.179$ F(1;41)=1.884	↔ $p = 0.666$ F(1;41)=0.189	
Serum corticosterone		*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;42)=51.098	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;42)=153.023	↔ $p = 0.810$ F(1;42)=0.056	↔ $p = 0.322$ F(1;42)=1.000	
SPT	Sucrose preference 24 hours	** $p = 0.010$ F(3;37)=4.479	*** $p = 0.001$ F(1;37)=12.718	↔ $p = 0.351$ F(1;37)=0.896	↔ $p = 0.636$ F(1;37)=0.228	
	Liquid intake 24 hours	↔ $p = 0.397$ F(3;43)=1.013	↔ $p = 0.993$ F(1;43)=0.000	↔ $p = 0.162$ F(1;43)=2.030	↔ $p = 0.322$ F(1;43)=1.005	
Open field (24 hours after LPS)	Total distance (whole arena)	↔ $p = 0.651$ F(3;43)=0.550	↔ $p = 0.961$ F(1;43)=0.002	↔ $p = 0.112$ F(1;43)=2.672	↔ $p = 0.998$ F(1;43)=0.000	
	Rearings	↔ $p = 0.191$ F(3;41)=1.656	↔ $p = 0.198$ F(1;41)=1.712	↔ $p = 0.164$ F(1;41)=2.013	↔ $p = 0.887$ F(1;41)=0.024	
	Total resting time	↔ $p = 0.954$ F(3;43)=0.110	↔ $p = 0.843$ F(1;43)=0.40	↔ $p = 0.741$ F(1;43)=0.111	↔ $p = 0.678$ F(1;43)=0.117	
	Percent Time in the center	↔ $p = 0.323$ F(3;43)=1.198	↔ $p = 0.172$ F(1;43)=1.946	↔ $p = 0.776$ F(1;43)=0.082	↔ $p = 0.207$ F(1;43)=1.653	
NORT	Training	Total interaction	↔ $p = 0.839$ F(3;43)=0.280	↔ $p = 0.743$ F(1;43)=0.109	↔ $p = 0.829$ F(1;43)=0.050	↔ $p = 0.409$ F(1;43)=0.697
		Total distance travelled	↔ $p = 0.120$ F(3;43)=2.067	↔ $p = 0.179$ F(1;43)=1.870	↔ $p = 0.204$ F(1;43)=1.670	↔ $p = 0.111$ F(1;43)=2.059
		Total exploring time	↔ $p = 0.256$ F(3;43)=1.401	↔ $p = 0.190$ F(1;44)=1.774	↔ $p = 0.929$ F(1;44)=0.008	↔ $p = 0.137$ F(1;44)=2.299
	Test	Total interaction	↔ $p = 0.340$ F(3;43)=1.151	↔ $p = 0.090$ F(1;43)=3.014	↔ $p = 0.189$ F(1;43)=0.666	↔ $p = 0.550$ F(1;43)=0.363
		Total distance travelled	↔ $p = 0.275$ F(3;43)=1.338	↔ $p = 0.140$ F(1;43)=2.262	↔ $p = 0.198$ F(1;43)=1.711	↔ $p = 0.679$ F(1;43)=0.173
		Total exploring time	↔ $p = 0.624$ F(3;43)=0.586	↔ $p = 0.203$ F(1;44)=1.670	↔ $p = 0.859$ F(1;44)=0.032	↔ $p = 0.850$ F(1;44)=0.036

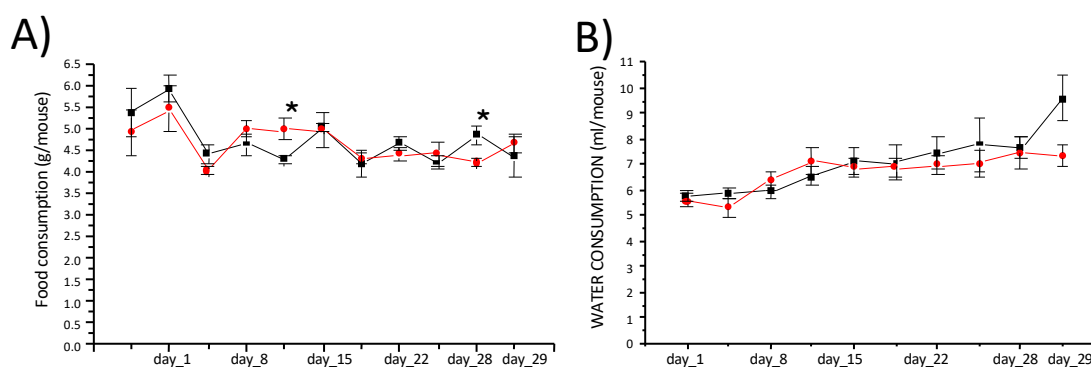
**Supplementary Table 3: Summary of statistical analysis for gene expression results in the dorsal and ventral hippocampus in animals chronically fed with standard diet or VTX-enriched diet sacrificed 6 hours after receiving LPS or saline.**

Expression levels of mRNAs coding for pro-inflammatory cytokines (*TNF- $\alpha$* , *IL-1 $\beta$*  and *IL-6*), *IDO1*, markers of activated microglia (*CD14*, *CD86* and *CD11b*), anti-inflammatory cytokines (*IL-4* and *TGF- $\beta$ 1*), cytokine antagonist (*IL-1Ra*) or markers of microglia M2 phenotype (*CD206* and *Arg1*) in the dorsal hippocampus or in the ventral hippocampus were evaluated using Real Time PCR. Mice receiving standard or VTX enriched diet for 4 weeks were sacrificed 6 hours after an intraperitoneal injection of either LPS or saline. The mRNA levels were normalized to the endogenous control, cyclophilin A. For a quantitative evaluation of change comparative  $\Delta\Delta Ct$  method was performed using as calibrator, average of saline control animals. Data were analyzed with a two-factor (diet x LPS) analysis of variance (ANOVA); \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

TARGETS	Dorsal hippocampus				Ventral hippocampus			
	Univariate ANOVA	Main effects		Interaction	Univariate ANOVA	Main effects		Interaction
		LPS	DIET			LPS*DIET	LPS	
<i>TNF-<math>\alpha</math></i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;36)=32.403	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;36)=96.822	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.417$ F(1;36)=0.674	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.244$ F(1;36)=1.407	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;37)=30.529	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;37)=88.535	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.202$ F(1;37)=1.690	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.106$ F(1;37)=2.757
<i>IL-1<math>\beta</math></i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;35)=21.581	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)=43.759	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.382$ F(1;35)=0.785	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.886$ F(1;35)=0.021	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;36)=11.637	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;36)=23.375	** $p = 0.005$ F(1;36)=9.119	** $p = 0.094$ F(1;36)=2.973
<i>IL-6</i>	** $p = 0.004$ F(3;36)=5.242	*** $p = 0.001$ F(1;36)=14.046	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.695$ F(1;36)=0.157	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.250$ F(1;36)=1.373	** $p = 0.004$ F(3;37)=5.296	** $p = 0.001$ F(1;37)=13.547	** $p = 0.299$ F(1;37)=1.111	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.133$ F(1;37)=2.367
<i>IDO1</i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;36)=16.250	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;36)=33.931	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.212$ F(1;36)=1.623	*** $p = 0.001$ F(1;36)=12.669	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;36)=15.803	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;36)=42.075	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.182$ F(1;36)=1.862	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.062$ F(1;36)=3.742
<i>CD14</i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;37)=23.949	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;37)=61.357	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.053$ F(1;37)=4.030	* $p = 0.012$ F(1;37)=6.991	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;36)=25.943	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;36)=75.758	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.108$ F(1;36)=2.726	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.245$ F(1;36)=1.403
<i>CD86</i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;37)=8.023	*** $p = 0.001$ F(1;37)=14.777	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.206$ F(1;37)=1.661	* $p = 0.011$ F(1;37)=7.240	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;37)=13.414	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;37)=27.468	** $p = 0.005$ F(1;37)=8.862	** $p = 0.008$ F(1;37)=7.958
<i>CD11b</i>	** $p = 0.001$ F(3;38)=7.352	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.395$ F(1;38)=0.743	** $p = 0.004$ F(1;38)=9.296	** $p = 0.002$ F(1;38)=11.456	** $p = 0.007$ F(3;36)=4.858	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.095$ F(1;36)=2.957	* $p = 0.038$ F(1;36)=4.682	* $p = 0.012$ F(1;36)=7.047
<i>IL-4</i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;35)=15.915	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)=32.073	** $p = 0.003$ F(1;35)=10.171	** $p = 0.005$ F(1;35)=9.244	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;35)=19.079	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)=31.216	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)=21.087	** $p = 0.006$ F(1;35)=8.493
<i>TGF-<math>\beta</math>1</i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;36)=21.690	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;36)=54.109	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.990$ F(1;36)=0	** $p = 0.004$ F(1;36)=9.674	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;37)=27.557	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;37)=79.776	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.351$ F(1;37)=0.895	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.182$ F(1;37)=1.855
<i>IL-1Ra</i>	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;35)=27.511	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)=81.799	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.346$ F(1;35)=0.561	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.387$ F(1;35)=0.538	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;35)=8.887	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)=28.880	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.160$ F(1;35)=2.065	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.155$ F(1;35)=2.126
<i>CD206</i>	** $p = 0.001$ F(3;37)=7.364	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;37)=19.486	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.431$ F(1;37)=0.636	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.223$ F(1;37)=1.543	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(3;35)=11.953	*** $p < 0.0001$ F(1;35)= 35.76	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.809$ F(1;35)=0.059	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.841$ F(1;35)=0.041
<i>Arg1</i>	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.327$ F(3;37)=1.192	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.944$ F(1;37)=0.005	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.610$ F(1;37)=0.265	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.078$ F(1;37)=3.309	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.380$ F(3;37)=1.057	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.308$ F(1;37)=1.072	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.581$ F(1;37)=0.311	$\leftrightarrow$ $p = 0.183$ F(1;37)=1.845

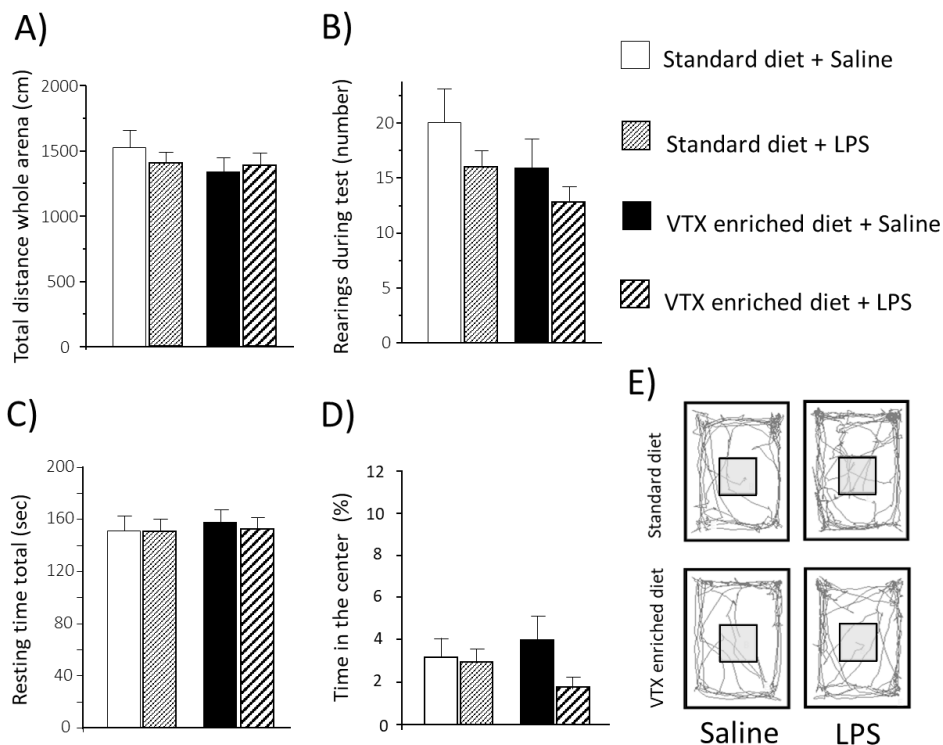
**Supplementary result: food and water consumption during a 28-day dietary administration of vortioxetine or standard diet**

During the experimental period we monitored food and water consumption. No gross changes in animal's feeding and drinking behavior were found. Fluctuations were observed in food intake at day 11, where VORT-receiving animals ate more than CTRL ( $t=-2.467$ ;  $p=0.022$ ), and at day 28, when the opposite happened ( $t=2.510$ ;  $p=0.031$ ). As for water consumption, there were no significant differences between groups during the course of the experiment. On the 29<sup>th</sup> day, before receiving either LPS or saline, no difference was found in food and water consumption between mice treated chronically with vortioxetine and those fed with standard diet.



**Supplementary figure 1: Food intake (A) and water consumption (B) in male C57BL6/J mice receiving either standard diet or chronic dietary administration of vortioxetine for 4 weeks. n= 43-44 mice per group. Data are represented as means  $\pm$  S.E.M. and were analysed with t-test (standard diet ■ vs VTX-enriched diet ●) \* $p < 0.05$  vs standard diet.**

## Supplementary figure 2



**Supplementary figure 2:** 24 hours after LPS/saline injection, animals did not display any alteration in locomotor activity or anxiety-like behavior, irrespective of the diet they received before the immune challenge. Histograms represent the behaviors in the open field test. (A) Total distance travelled (cm) in the entire open field area. (B) Number of rearing during test. (C) Resting time during test. (D) Percent time spent in the center of the open field. (E) Representative movement traces of all groups in the open field. Treatment as indicated in the legend,  $n = 12$  mice per group. Data are represented as means  $\pm$  S.E.M.