

1 **The serine protease homologue, Scarface, is sensitive to**
2 **nutrient availability and modulates the development of the**
3 ***Drosophila* blood brain barrier**

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34 **Abstract**

35 The adaptable transcriptional response to changes in food availability not only ensures animal
36 survival, but also lets progressing with embryonic development. Interestingly, the central nervous
37 system is preferentially protected to periods of malnutrition, a phenomenon known as ‘*brain*
38 *sparing*’. However, the mechanisms that mediates this response remains poorly understood. To get
39 a better understanding of this, we used *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model, analysing the
40 transcriptional response of neural stem cells (neuroblasts) and glia of the blood-brain barrier
41 (BBB), from larvae of both sexes, during nutrient restriction using targeted DamID. We found
42 differentially expressed genes in both neuroblasts and glia of the BBB, although the effect of
43 nutrient deficiency was primarily observed in the BBB. We characterised the function of a
44 nutritional sensitive gene expressed in the BBB, the serine protease homologue, *scarface* (*scaf*).
45 *Scaf* is expressed in subperineurial glia in the BBB in response to nutrition. Tissue-specific
46 knockdown of *scaf* increases subperineurial glia endoreplication and proliferation of perineurial
47 glia in the blood-brain barrier. Furthermore, neuroblast proliferation is diminished upon *scaf*
48 knockdown in subperineurial glia. Interestingly, re-expression of *Scaf* in subperineurial glia is able
49 to enhance neuroblast proliferation and brain growth of animals in starvation. Finally, we show
50 that loss of *scaf* in the blood-brain barrier increases the sensitivity to drugs in adulthood suggesting
51 a physiological impairment. We propose that *Scaf* integrates the nutrient status to modulate the
52 balance between neurogenesis and growth of the BBB, preserving the proper equilibrium between
53 the size of the barrier and the brain.

54

55

56 **Significance Statement**

57 The *Drosophila* Blood-brain barrier (BBB) separates the central nervous system from the open
58 circulatory system. The BBB glia is not only acting as physical segregation of tissues but
59 participates in the regulation of the metabolism and neurogenesis during development. Here we
60 analyse the transcriptional response of the BBB glia to nutrient deprivation during larval
61 development, a condition in which protective mechanisms are switched on in the brain. Our
62 findings show that the gene *scarface* reduces growth in the BBB, while promoting the proliferation
63 of neural stem, assuring the balanced growth of the larval brain. Thus, Scarface would link animal
64 nutrition with brain development, coordinating neurogenesis with the growth of the BBB.

65 **Introduction**

66 The formation of the nervous system is a tightly regulated process that is controlled by complex
67 mechanisms that mitigate external perturbations, such as temperature changes and food
68 availability. For example, the developing mammalian brain is protected against intrauterine growth
69 restriction by a phenomenon known as ‘*brain sparing*’, in which the animal adapts to maintain
70 oxygen and nutrient levels in the brain (Cohen et al., 2015). Brain development and function
71 requires a micro-environment that is established and maintained by the blood-brain barrier (BBB),
72 a selective barrier that separates the nervous system from the circulating blood. Therefore, the
73 BBB could act as a metabolic sensor to protect the nervous system against a decrease in nutrient
74 availability.

75 The mammalian BBB is established by endothelial cells forming tight junctions that
76 prevent the paracellular diffusion of macromolecules and ions. Pericytes and astrocyte projections
77 modulate the function of the BBB (Zhao et al., 2015; Gürsoy-özdemir and Tas, 2017; Haddad-
78 Tóvulli et al., 2017), creating a selective barrier and establishing an homeostatic milieu
79 independent from the rest of the body. The insect BBB covers the entire nervous system to isolate
80 it from the haemolymph (the insect blood) (Carlson et al., 2000), and performs similar functions
81 to the mammalian BBB. In insects, the BBB is formed by two layers of glia, perineurial and
82 subperineurial (PG and SPG) (Awasaki et al., 2008; Stork et al., 2008; Hindle and Bainton, 2014;
83 Schirmeier and Klämbt, 2015; O’Brown et al., 2018; Yildirim et al., 2019). The PG form the outer
84 layer of the BBB, which regulates the transport of nutrients and secretes components of the
85 extracellular matrix (the neural lamella) (DeSalvo et al., 2014; Volkenhoff et al., 2015; Kanai et
86 al., 2018). The inner layer, the SPG, forms septate junctions that block the passive movement of
87 solutes across the BBB (Baumgartner et al., 1996; Carlson et al., 2000; Schwabe et al., 2005; Stork

88 et al., 2008), controlling nutrient entry (Galagovsky et al., 2018) and the excretion of xenobiotic
89 molecules (Tapadia and Lakhotia, 2005; Mayer et al., 2009; Hindle et al., 2017).

90 During development, the BBB not only acts as a barrier, but also influences the rate of
91 neurogenesis by secreting growth factors that stimulate neurogenesis (Zhu et al., 2008; Chell and
92 Brand, 2010; Sousa-Nunes et al., 2011; Spéder and Brand, 2014; Kanai et al., 2018). BBB glia
93 mediates the reactivation of neural stem cells (neuroblasts, NB) from a period of quiescence in
94 response to nutrition (Britton and Edgar, 1998; Chell and Brand, 2010; Sousa-Nunes et al., 2011).
95 Periods of starvation during early larval development block neurogenesis by arresting NBs in a
96 quiescent state. However, by third instar larval stages, NB are insensitive to undernourishment and
97 continue proliferating, even after complete starvation, a phenomenon that resembles mammalian
98 ‘*brain sparing*’ (Cheng et al., 2011; Lanet et al., 2013; Lanet and Maurange, 2014; Contreras et
99 al., 2018). This protocol of complete starvation is very effective in reducing the levels of
100 carbohydrates, amino acids and proteins in the larval haemolymph (Cheng et al., 2011; Handke et
101 al., 2013; Yamada et al., 2018). Considering this, it is plausible that the initial response of the
102 central nervous system to the decrease in systemic nutrients is triggered by the BBB glia.
103 Therefore, understanding how BBB gene expression is modulated by nutrition may yield insights
104 into the adaptive mechanisms that govern brain sparing.

105 Here, we performed cell-type-specific transcriptional analysis of the BBB glia under fed
106 and nutrient restriction (NR) conditions. Among the differentially expressed genes in the SPG, we
107 found *scarface* (*scaf*), a member of the serine protease homologue (SPH) family. We show that
108 *scaf* expression is sensitive to nutrition during larval development. *scaf* is expressed by the SPG
109 and is required for controlling SPG growth and PG proliferation. Moreover, Scaf is necessary for
110 proper rate of neurogenesis and its over-expression enhances NB proliferation and brain growth in

111 animals subjected to NR. Finally, we show that knocking down *scaf* in SPG affects the resistance
112 of flies to drugs, suggesting that the function of the BBB is impaired when *scaf* is lost.

113 **Material and Methods**

114 **Fly stocks and husbandry**

115 *Drosophila melanogaster* stocks were cultured in fly food medium at 25°C. Our fly food contains
116 the following ingredients per litre of medium: 100 g yeast, 80 g glucose, 50 g wheat flower, 11 g
117 agar, 6 mL propionic acid, 12 mL 20% Nipagin (Methylparaben). All RNAi experiments were
118 performed at 29°C.

119 For Targeted DamID (TaDa) analysis, we used *tub-GAL80^{ts}*, *UAS-LT3-NDam-RpII215*
120 (*NDam-PolIII*) and *tub-GAL80^{ts}*, *UAS-LT3-NDam* (Southall et al., 2013) crossed to the drivers *wor-*
121 *GAL4* (Albertson et al., 2004), *mdr65/R54C07-GAL4* (Jenett et al., 2012; Spéder and Brand, 2014)
122 or *sema5c/R71C08-GAL4* (Jenett et al., 2012). For functional experiments we used *w¹¹¹⁸* as
123 experimental control, *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}* (VDRC #330286), *UAS-lhScaf^{RNAi}* (VDRC #13249), *UAS-*
124 *DlgA::EGFP* (Koh et al., 1999), *UAS-GFP.nls* (Kyoto DGGR #107-870), *UAS-mCD8-GFP*, *UAS-*
125 *mCD8-RFP*, *UAS-lam::GFP* (BDSC #7378), *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (Rousset et al., 2010). For
126 fluorescent reporters and fusion proteins we used the stocks: *scaf^{PBss}* (*Scaf::GFP*) (Bonin and
127 Mann, 2004), *10xSTAT92E-GFP* (Bach et al., 2007), *TRE-RFP* (Chatterjee and Bohmann, 2012),
128 *LanA::GFP* (VDRC #318155), *Lac::GFP^{G00044}* (Morin et al., 2001), *mdr65-mtdTomato*
129 (Benmimoun et al., 2020). We used the glial drivers *R54C07-GAL4* (*mdr65-GAL4*, BDSC #50472)
130 and *moody-GAL4* (Schwabe et al., 2005) for knockdown and overexpression experiments. We
131 used the mutant alleles *scaf²⁷* (Rousset et al., 2010) and *scaf^{MI09409}* (Bloomington #53101).

132

133 **Nutrient restriction protocol**

134 Nutrient restriction (NR) experiments were performed as previously described (Contreras et al.,
135 2018). Briefly, 68-72 hrs after larval hatching (ALH), larvae were transferred to a tube with fly
136 food (Fed) or 1% Agarose in 1x PBS (NR). Tubes were left at 25°C for 24 hrs or until pupariation.
137 For adult dissection, pupae were transferred to food tubes and adult fly brains were dissected 1-3
138 days after eclosion.

139

140 **Sample collection for Targeted DamID**

141 Briefly, we crossed *tub-GAL80^{ts}; UAS-LT3-NDam* and *tub-GAL80^{ts}; UAS-LT3-NDam- RpII215* to
142 the respective drivers. We collected embryos for 3 hrs and let them develop for eight days at 18°C.
143 Third instar larvae were transferred to 29°C for 1 day to induce the expression of the TaDa
144 construct in either Fed or NR (1% Agarose, 1x PBS) conditions. 50-70 brains of each condition
145 were dissected to extract genomic DNA. 2-5 replicates were processed.

146

147 **DamID sequencing, processing and data analysis**

148 The isolated genomic DNA from each cross was digested and amplified to generate libraries for
149 next-generation sequencing as described (Marshall et al., 2016). Libraries were sequenced in an
150 Illumina HiSeq 1500 with at least 8 million reads per library.

151 TaDa reads were aligned to *Drosophila melanogaster* genome release dm6 and normalised
152 using the damidseq pipeline (Marshall and Brand, 2015). Genome browser views of bedgraph files
153 were displayed as $\text{Log}_2(\text{DamPolII}/\text{Dam})$ using Integrative genomics viewer software (Robinson et
154 al., 2011). PolII bound genes were called using the polii.gene.call R script (Marshall and Brand,
155 2015; Marshall et al., 2016) using *Drosophila* genome release annotation dm6.06. Genes with a

156 False Discovery Rate (FDR) lower than 0.01 were considered as bound by PolIII. All genes from
157 two datasets were compared using polii.correlation.plot R script (Marshall and Brand, 2015).
158 Differentially bound genes have a difference between $\text{Log}_2(\text{Dam-PolIII/Dam})$ values of 0.3, a FDR
159 < 0.01 in at least one dataset, and a ratio of PolIII binding bigger than 2. Student's T was used to
160 analyse p-values between Fed and NR replicates.

161 Gene Ontology analysis of differentially expressed genes was performed using DAVID
162 Bioinformatics Resources 6.8 (Huang et al., 2009a, 2009b). Association networks were done using
163 String (Szklarczyk et al., 2019). Plots and heatmaps using custom R scripts are available upon
164 request. PolIII average $\text{Log}_2(\text{Dam-PolIII/Dam})$ from each replicate were correlated using Pearson
165 method and displayed as a heatmap using R gplots library. Volcano plots were generated using R
166 ggplot2 library, Student's-T p-values were used to compare every replicate from two conditions
167 (Fed and NR) and the difference of $\text{Log}_2(\text{Dam-PolIII/Dam})$ for each gene in the conditions.
168 Heatmaps were done using R pheatmap library and clustering genes using hclust complete method.

169

170 **Data availability**

171 DamID-Seq data was deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus under the accession number
172 GSE145055.

173

174 **Immunostaining**

175 Third instar larval brains were fixed in 4% formaldehyde for 20 min and stained as previously
176 described (Wu and Luo, 2006). The following primary antibodies were used: rat anti-CadN 1:20
177 (DN-Ex #8, DSHB), guinea pig anti-Dpn 1:5,000 (Brand lab), rat anti-Elav 1:20 (7E8A10, DSHB),

178 mouse anti-Fas2 1:20 (1D4, DSHB), rabbit anti-phospho-Histone H3 1:400 (06-570 Merck), rat
179 anti-phospho-Histone H3 1:500 (HTA28, Abcam), mouse anti-Repo 1:20 (8D12, DSHB), rabbit
180 anti-Scaf N°2 1:200 (Rousset et al., 2010). DNA was stained using TO-PRO™-3 1:400 (T3605,
181 Invitrogen) or 0.2 µg/mL DAPI. FITC, Cy3 or Cy5 conjugated secondary antibodies were used at
182 a final concentration of 1:200 (Jackson ImmunoResearch).

183 For BBB permeability assays, larvae were opened at the tail and inverted, exposing the
184 brain. Larvae were incubated with 20 µg/mL Rhodamine-Dextran 10,000 MW (Invitrogen,
185 D1863) in Schneider's insect medium for 30 min at room temperature. Brains were washed in 1x
186 PBS and fixed in 4% Formaldehyde in 1x PBS for 20 min. Samples were washed in PBT (0.3%
187 Triton X-100, 1x PBS). Brains were dissected and mounted in Vectashield (Vector). For adult
188 animals, males were anaesthetised with CO₂, and approximately 60 nL of 12.5 µg/mL Rhodamine-
189 Dextran 10,000 MW was injected in the abdomen using a Nanoject II Auto-Nanoliter Injector
190 (Drummond Scientific Company). Flies were left to recover 2 hrs at room temperature and brains
191 were dissected and fixed.

192

193 **Imaging**

194 Images were acquired using a Leica SP8 or an Olympus Fluoview FV1000 scanning confocal
195 microscopes. Images of wings, pupae and adult flies were taken using a Nikon stereomicroscope
196 with a Canon Rebel 2 Ti camera. Images, diagrams and figures were assembled using Fiji, Adobe
197 Photoshop CC and Adobe Illustrator CC.

198

199 **Behavioural Assays**

200 Larval locomotion was performed by placing 10-12 larvae on a 1% agarose plate and recording a
201 video for 1-2 minutes. Speed was calculating using Image J plugin wrMTrck (Brooks et al., 2016).
202 Adult climbing was performed using a six-tube Counter-current apparatus (Inagaki et al., 2010).
203 Briefly, groups of 15-30 female flies were placed in the first tube of the apparatus and allowed to
204 climb for 30 seconds. Flies that climbed were transferred to the next tube and the process was
205 repeated until the last tube was occupied. Then the number of flies in each tube was counted. The
206 climbing index was calculated with the following equation:
207 $Ci=(N_2+2N_3+3N_4+4N_5+5N_6)/5(N_1+N_2+N_3+N_4+N_5+N_6)$, in which N_1-N_6 corresponds to the
208 number of flies in each of the six tubes. 8 different groups of flies were tested for each genotype.
209 For fly activity and sleep assay, we used *Drosophila* Activity Monitors (DAM2, TriKinetics) and
210 loaded adult flies following a previously described protocol (Chiu et al., 2010). Activity monitors
211 were placed in an incubator with a 12:12 hrs light:dark cycle at 25°C for six days, only the last
212 four days were used for data collection. The data were analysed using ShinyR-DAM (Cichewicz
213 and Hirsh, 2018). Sleep was defined as inactivity in a period of 5 min.

214 For ethanol sedation sensitivity assay, we used groups of 8-10 male flies, placed in an
215 empty vial with a cellulose acetate plug. 1 mL of ethanol was added to the plug and the fraction of
216 immobile flies was counted every min until all flies were sedated (Sandhu et al., 2015). The time
217 at which half the flies were sedated or sedation time 50 (ST50) was estimated by fitting a sigmoidal
218 curve. For malathion resistance assay, we placed groups of 20 female flies in tubes containing 0.5
219 g of instant dry food (Carolina Biological Supply Company) and 2 mL 0.01% malathion in dH₂O.
220 Lethality was counted at 12, 24 and 36 hrs after malathion exposure.

221

222 **Quantifications and data analysis**

223 Pupal volume was estimated as previously described (Layalle et al., 2008), using the ellipsoid
224 volume formula $4/3\pi(L/2)(d/2)^2$ (L, length; d, diameter). Time of pupariation analysis was
225 performed as we previously published (González-Itier et al., 2018). Larval and adult brain size was
226 estimated using Imaris 7 (Bitplane) as described (Contreras et al., 2018). Neuropil size was
227 estimated using the area of CadN staining in a maximal intensity Z-projection. SPG nuclear area
228 was measured by generating a Z-stack max intensity projection and calculating the area of each
229 SPG nucleus using Fiji (Li et al., 2017). The number of SPG nuclei was counted in a 3D
230 reconstruction using Surpass feature of Imaris 7 (Bitplane). Number of PG was counted using
231 *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-DlgA::GFP* or *moody-GAL4, UAS-GFP.nls* to mark SPG nuclei. Repo-
232 positive/GFP-negative nuclei at the anterior surface of larval brain lobes were counted as PG. Scaf
233 intensity was quantified by selecting the BBB optical slice, marking a ROI of the brain lobe and
234 calculating the mean intensity of the Scaf channel using Fiji. For analysing the size of the wings,
235 adult flies, 2-3 days after eclosion, were fixed in 95% ethanol for 24 hrs. Wings were dissected
236 and mounted in a 1:1 lactic acid:ethanol solution. Fiji was used to measure the area of each wing.

237 All diagrams and figures were assembled using Fiji, Adobe Photoshop CC and Adobe
238 Illustrator CC. Graphs and statistical analysis were done using GraphPad Prism 8. Description of
239 each statistical test used is detailed in figure legends. P-values < 0.05, <0.01, <0.001 and <0.0001
240 are shown in plots as *, **, *** and **** respectively. ns stands for non-significant (p-value >
241 0.05).

242 **Results**

243 **A *Drosophila* brain sparing model for understanding the response to nutrient restriction**

244 To understand the transcriptional response of the *Drosophila* blood-brain barrier (BBB) to nutrient
245 restriction (NR), we established the ‘*brain sparing*’ model (Cheng et al., 2011; Contreras et al.,
246 2018) under the temperature conditions required for performing PolII Targeted DamID (TaDa)
247 (Southall et al., 2013). Thus, we allowed development at 18°C until 6 days after larval hatching
248 (ALH) and switched to Fed or NR conditions at 29°C for 1 day (Figure 1A).

249 Following this protocol, the consequences of NR during larval development could be
250 observed as a reduction in the size of the animal in both pupal (Figure 1F-H) and adult (Figure 1I-
251 L) stages. The average size of the pupa after NR (pupal size reflects the maximum size that a larva
252 reached before pupariation) corresponded to 34.51% of Fed animals (Figure 1H). We found that
253 under this condition, larval brains continued growing upon NR, but not at the same rate as their
254 Fed counterparts (Figure 1B-D). For the adult brain, we observed a significant reduction in the
255 brain size of animals that were subjected to NR during larval development (Figure 1M, N). The
256 larval and adult brains of NR animals reached 67.08% and 60.62% of the size of the Fed brains
257 respectively (Figure 1E, O). Therefore, we were able to replicate the ‘*brain sparing*’ effect under
258 the conditions required to perform TaDa since the effect of NR over the growth of the whole animal
259 was greater compared to the brain (body reduction to almost 35% compared to brain reduction to
260 a 67 % of the Fed animal), reflecting the preferential growth of the nervous system during
261 starvation (Cheng et al., 2011).

262

263 **Transcriptional profiling of neuroblasts and blood-brain barrier glial cells under nutrient**
264 **restriction**

265 To determine the transcriptional response of neuroblasts and the BBB to NR, we profiled *in vivo*,
266 and in a cell-type-specific manner, the binding of RNA Polymerase II (RpII215/PolII) using the
267 TaDa technique. Briefly, TaDa uses the GAL4 system (Brand and Perrimon, 1993) to drive
268 expression of a DNA binding or chromatin factor fused to the *E. coli* Dam methylase (Southall et
269 al., 2013; Aughey and Southall, 2016; van den Aamele et al., 2019) (Figure 2-1A, B). We used
270 two GAL4 drivers to target Ndam-PolII expression in the SPG (*R54C07-GAL4*, also referred as
271 *mdr65-GAL4*) or the PG and SPG together (SG, *R71C08-GAL4*, *sema5c-GAL4*, see Figure 2B-B''
272 for driver expression, and Figure 2-1D-G for PolII binding in BBB genes), and *wor-GAL4* for
273 profiling Ndam-PolII binding in all NBs (see Figure 2-1 and Figure 2A for a schematic
274 representations). We performed TaDa under two nutritional conditions, Fed and NR, according to
275 our established protocol (Figure 1A).

276 Meta-analysis of our PolII occupancy data showed the characteristic profile of PolII
277 binding across a gene (Southall et al., 2013) (Figure 2-1C). Our TaDa replicates also correlated
278 with each other as expected, with higher correlation between libraries of the same cell type and
279 lower when NBs were compared to glial cells (Figure 2C). Next, we analysed the data and selected
280 genes that were differentially bound by PolII between Fed and NR conditions in each dataset,
281 considering genes with a false discovery rate (FDR) lower than 0.01, a PolII binding ratio higher
282 than 2 and a difference higher than 0.3 (Figure 2D-F, Figure 2-2). In the NB comparison, we found
283 14 genes upregulated and 246 genes downregulated after NR (Figure 2D, G, H). In the BBB, 12
284 genes were upregulated and 47 downregulated in SPG (Figure 2E, I); while in the SG datasets,
285 PolII TaDa showed 44 genes upregulated and 12 genes downregulated in the NR compared to Fed

286 condition (Figure 2F, J). Importantly, our data showed that PolII binding to genes associated to the
287 drivers used (*wor*, *mdr65* and *sema5c*) was not affected by NR in the corresponding experiment.

288 The ‘*brain sparing*’ model in *Drosophila* was previously shown to maintain NB
289 proliferation upon NR (Cheng et al., 2011). Our NB PolII TaDa Gene Ontology analysis showed
290 that categories involved in ribosome, mitochondria and oxidative phosphorylation metabolism
291 were significantly enriched in downregulated genes (Figure 2G and Figure 2-1H). This suggests
292 that energy metabolism and protein synthesis were affected in neural stem cells during NR.
293 However, we found no significant differences in the growth and proliferation of NBs between Fed
294 and NR conditions (Figure 3A, B), confirming that NB division and neurogenesis were not
295 disrupted by starvation during third instar larval development (Cheng et al., 2011). In addition to
296 this, we analysed the neuropil of larval brains, finding that the relative size of the neuropil was
297 increased in animals under NR (Figure 3C-E), suggesting an effect of starvation over neuropil and
298 cell body proportions.

299 In our BBB TaDa datasets, we found a group of proteins, associated with the JNK and
300 JAK/STAT signalling pathways, that were downregulated after NR (Figure 2-1I). These included
301 *Matrix metalloproteinase 1 (Mmp1)* (Uhlirva and Bohmann, 2006), *scarface (scaf)* (Rousset et
302 al., 2010; Srivastava and Dong, 2015), *eiger (egr*, TNF homologue), *TGF- β activated kinase 1*
303 (*Tak1*) and the JAK/STAT ligands *unpaired 1 (upd1)*, *unpaired 2 (upd2)* and *unpaired 3 (upd3)*
304 (Figure 2I, J and Figure 2-1I). Therefore, we analysed whether the JAK/STAT and JNK pathways
305 were active in the larval BBB and if their activity was modulated by larval nutrition. We used the
306 *10xSTAT92E-GFP* (Bach et al., 2007) and *TRE-RFP* (Chatterjee and Bohmann, 2012) reporters to
307 evaluate JAK/STAT and JNK pathway activity respectively. As expected, both reporters were
308 expressed in the BBB during larval development, however, the expression of these reporters did

309 not change after nutrient restriction (Figure 3F-I'), suggesting that these signalling pathways in the
310 BBB are insensitive (not responding) to the nutritional status of the animal.

311

312 **Nutrient restriction affects the development of the *Drosophila* blood-brain barrier**

313 Since NB growth and proliferation were not affected by NR, we hypothesised that the larval BBB
314 might adapt to starvation, being the first layer of the brain to sense and respond to a decrease in
315 nutrients in the larval haemolymph.

316 The two types of glial cells that form the BBB, the subperineurial (SPG) and perineurial
317 (PG) glia have different mechanisms of growth. SPG grow by endoreplication resulting in
318 polyploid cells (Unhavaithaya and Orr-Weaver, 2012), while PG proliferate, undergoing mitosis
319 (Pereanu et al., 2005; Awasaki et al., 2008; Avet-Rochex et al., 2012). SPG endoreplication takes
320 place by either endocycle or endomitosis (Unhavaithaya and Orr-Weaver, 2012; Øvrebø and
321 Edgar, 2018). Therefore, we checked the SPG for endomitosis by counting the number of SPG
322 nuclei in third instar larval brains subjected to NR. We found a significant reduction in the number
323 of nuclei in SPG (Figure 4A) and a significant decrease in the percentage of multinucleated SPG
324 (Figure 4B). Similarly, the distribution of SPG with multiple nuclei changed significantly from a
325 median of two in Fed animals to one after NR (Figure 4C, D). Given that the size of the nucleus
326 correlates highly with cellular size and DNA content (Frawley and Orr-Weaver, 2015), nuclear
327 size was measured as an indicator of SPG endocycle. We found a significant reduction in average
328 nuclear size after NR (Figure 4E). We also counted the number of PG upon NR to check PG
329 proliferation and observed a reduction in PG proliferation (Figure 4F). These results confirmed a
330 major effect of nutrition on the BBB glial cells: a reduction in SPG endoreplication and a decrease
331 in PG proliferation after food deprivation.

332 A severe reduction in SPG endoreplication affects the maintenance of the subperineurial
333 septate junctions, allowing paracellular diffusion inside the larval brain (Unhavaithaya and Orr-
334 Weaver, 2012; Von Stetina et al., 2018). Therefore, we checked the integrity of SPG septate
335 junctions after nutrient restriction using an endogenously tagged version of the septate junction
336 structural protein *lachesin* (*lac::GFP*) (Morin et al., 2001). We found no major disruptions in the
337 continuity of the septate junctions in larval brains under NR conditions (Figure 4G-H). To test
338 further the integrity of the BBB, we assessed BBB permeability by incubating larval brains with
339 rhodamine labelled dextran (10 kDa) and assayed for penetration inside the ventral nerve cord.
340 Rhodamine-dextran did not enter the central nervous system and remained on top of the
341 subperineurial layer, marked by *mdr65-GAL4*, *UAS-mCD8-GFP* (Figure 4I, J). These results
342 suggest that the integrity of the larval BBB is not disrupted by larval NR, despite the reduction in
343 BBB growth.

344

345 **Scarface is expressed in subperineurial glia and is regulated by nutrient availability**

346 Since the growth of the BBB is affected by NR, we focused on BBB genes that were differentially
347 expressed as indicated by our TaDa analysis. Of those, we centred our interest on *scarface* (*scaf*),
348 one of the most downregulated genes during NR in SPG (see Figure 2I and Figure 5A). Scaf
349 belongs to the serine protease homologue (SPH) family (Ross et al., 2003; Bonin and Mann, 2004;
350 Rousset et al., 2010; Sorrosal et al., 2010). Serine protease homologues resemble proteases but
351 lack the amino acids required for enzymatic activity. Scaf controls epithelial polarity and
352 morphogenesis during embryonic development and thorax formation, acting as a downstream
353 target of the JNK pathway and it has been reported to be a secreted protein (Rousset et al., 2010;
354 Sorrosal et al., 2010; Srivastava and Dong, 2015; Kushnir et al., 2017).

355 To validate that *scaf* was differentially expressed upon NR, we made use of a gene trap
356 line (*scaf*^{P^{Bss}} allele, Scaf::GFP) (Bonin and Mann, 2004) and an antibody against Scaf (anti-Scaf)
357 (Rousset et al., 2010). Although, the *scaf*^{P^{Bss}} is a semi-lethal allele, when used in heterozygosis it
358 is a reliable tool for analysing *scaf* expression. We observed Scaf expression in glial cells at the
359 surface of the larval brain, corresponding to the BBB (Figure 5B-B'' and 5D-D''). As predicted
360 by TaDa, the levels of Scaf were reduced after NR (Figure 5C-C'' and 5E-E''). Intensity
361 quantification of the Scaf signal showed a significant reduction of an average of 47.56% and
362 59.37% of the Scaf intensity of Fed animals (Scaf::GFP and anti-Scaf, respectively) (Figure 5F,
363 G).

364 As predicted by our SPG TaDa analysis, Scaf co-localised with a SPG membrane marker
365 (*mdr65-GAL4, UAS-mCD8-GFP*, Figure 5I-J'') at the surface of the brain, but not with NBs,
366 labelled by Deadpan (Dpn) (Figure 5H). Interestingly, the Scaf signal appeared also on top of the
367 SPG membrane marker in a 3D reconstruction (Figure 5K-K''). To confirm this, we used an
368 endogenously tagged *Laminin A* (*LanA::GFP*) line to label the brain extracellular matrix (neural
369 lamella) and a SG membrane marker (*sema5c-GAL4, UAS-mCD8-RFP*). Since the thickness of
370 the BBB is about 2 μ m, we observed that Scaf signal overlapped with LanA and most of SG
371 membrane signals, thus the entire BBB (Figure 5L-L''). These results showed that during third
372 instar larval development *scaf* is expressed by SPG in a nutrition-sensitive fashion (Figure 5M).

373

374 **Scarface reduces the growth of the blood-brain barrier during larval development**

375 Since SPG expression of Scaf is sensitive to nutrition, we aimed to assess its function in the BBB
376 during normal development. To accomplish this, we performed RNAi-mediated knockdown of
377 *scaf* only in SPG using the *mdr65-GAL4* driver. We tested two different RNAi lines, a short hairpin

378 (*shScaf^{RNAi}*) and a long hairpin (*lhScaf^{RNAi}*), finding that both were able to significantly reduce the
379 levels of Scaf in the BBB (Figure 6A-D). Because *shScaf^{RNAi}* gave the most efficient knockdown
380 (29.63% of control Scaf levels), we used this line in most of our experiments.

381 Knockdown of *scaf* in SPG produced normal larvae, which grew and pupariated as control
382 animals, and emerged into fertile adult flies (Figure 6E-H). We checked the development of the
383 BBB at late third instar larval stage, observing no morphological defects (Figure 6I, J). Thus, we
384 analysed endomitosis of SPG, finding a significant increase in the number of SPG nuclei after *scaf*
385 knockdown (Figure 6K), but without a significant change in the percentage of multinucleated SPG
386 per brain lobe (Figure 6L). This suggested that upon *scaf* knockdown the number of multinucleated
387 SPG is similar, but they contain more nuclei than in control animals. This was confirmed by
388 analysing the distribution of SPG according to the number of their nuclei, showing an increase in
389 the median from one nucleus in control animals to two nuclei in *shScaf^{RNAi}* brains (Figure 6M, N).

390 Next, we checked the nuclear size in SPG, observing a significant increase upon *scaf*
391 knockdown (Figure 6O), which suggests an increase in SPG endocycle. We also found a
392 significant increase in the number of PG in *shScaf^{RNAi}* animals (Figure 6P). We confirmed these
393 results using the *lhScaf^{RNAi}* strain (see Figure 6-1). Next, we assessed whether permeability of the
394 BBB was altered in *scaf* knockdown larval brains using the Rhodamine-dextran assay described
395 before. We did not detect the colorant inside the central nervous system (Figure 6Q, R), ratifying
396 that a reduction in the levels of Scaf increases the growth of the subperineurial layer as well as the
397 number of PG, without affecting the BBB permeability.

398 Given that *scaf* knockdown augmented the growth of the BBB, increasing the levels of
399 Scaf should produce the opposite effect. To perform gain of function experiments in SPG during
400 development, we used a line (*UAS-Scaf*) that rescues *scaf* mutant embryonic lethality (Rousset et

401 al., 2010). Over-expression of Scaf generated normal and viable animals, without affecting larval
402 growth under Fed or NR conditions, however, the timing of pupation was significantly
403 accelerated (see Figure 7A-F). In the BBB, we found that the average number of SPG nuclei did
404 not change upon Scaf over-expression (Figure 7G), however, the percentage of multinucleated
405 SPG in a brain lobe was significantly decreased (Figure 7H). We also observed an increase in the
406 mononucleated fraction of SPG, but without a change in the overall distribution (Figure 7I, J).
407 Interestingly, the size of the SPG nuclei was significantly reduced by Scaf over-expression (Figure
408 7K). These results showed that increasing the levels of Scaf has a mild effect on SPG
409 endoreplication. In the perineurial layer, the number of PG was not affected by Scaf over-
410 expression (Figure 7L), suggesting that there was no impact on PG proliferation. Our data infer a
411 role for Scaf in diminishing the growth of the BBB through decreasing the levels of SPG endocycle
412 and endomitosis during development under normal nutritional conditions.

413

414 **Blood-brain barrier-derived Scarface promotes neurogenesis in the larval brain**

415 Nutrient restriction reduced the levels of Scaf in the BBB, and also produced animals with smaller
416 brains than control Fed condition. We assessed whether Scaf function at the BBB has a non-
417 autonomous effect on neurogenesis. Thus, we knocked down *scaf* in SPG and checked the mitotic
418 index of larval central brain NBs, observing a significant decrease in the fraction of NBs in mitosis
419 (Figure 8A-C). To confirm this result, we used a *scaf* allelic combination of *scaf*²⁷, a deletion
420 resulting in a strong lethal allele (Rousset et al., 2010), with *scaf*^{M109409}, a semi-lethal allele
421 generated by a MiMIC insertion (Venken et al., 2011) producing a truncated Scaf protein (that
422 retains the antibody epitope). This, *scaf*²⁷/*scaf*^{M109409} allelic combination is a hypomorphic
423 condition that is viable and healthy during larval development, but lethal at late pupal stage.

424 Similar to *scaf* knockdown experiments, we found that *scaf* mutant brains had a significantly lower
425 NB mitotic index than heterozygous animals (*scaf*^{27/+}) (Figure 8D). In the same way, the
426 hypomorphic allelic combination, *scaf*^{P^{Bss}/scaf²⁷}, also showed a decreased NB mitotic index
427 compared to the heterozygous control (*scaf*^{P^{Bss}/+}) (Figure 8E, G). Since *scaf* in the BBB was
428 necessary for proper NB proliferation, we conducted a rescue experiment to determine whether
429 the expression of Scaf only in SPG was sufficient to maintain the normal NB mitotic index in *scaf*
430 mutant animals. As seen in Figure 8E, the over-expression of *scaf* was not able to rescue NB
431 mitotic index in a *scaf* mutant background. Thus, Scaf from SPG is not sufficient to maintain NB
432 proliferation in the mutant (Figure 8E). Additionally, the knockdown of *scaf* only in SPG did not
433 have a major impact on the overall size of the brain (Figure 8F). These results suggest that Scaf is
434 necessary in the BBB to maintain the rate of larval neurogenesis, but Scaf in other cell types is
435 also required for NB proliferation.

436 As Scaf downregulation affects the rate of NB proliferation under normal nutritional
437 conditions, we analysed whether Scaf over-expression in SPG could enhance neurogenesis in
438 animals subjected to NR. We found that in NR conditions, expression of Scaf in SPG resulted in
439 a 13.78% increase in the size of the adult brain in comparison to control NR animals (Figure 9A-
440 C). Furthermore, the larval central brain NB mitotic index was also increased upon Scaf over-
441 expression in animals under NR (Figure 9D). For the BBB, Scaf over-expression did not prevent
442 the reduction in the growth of the SPG or PG layers during NR (Figure 9E-J). Importantly, we did
443 not observe a difference in brain growth during normal Fed conditions upon Scaf over-expression
444 (Figure 9K-M), showing that Scaf over-expression enhances brain growth only under starvation.
445 In the case of the growth of other organs, re-expression of Scaf in the BBB during NR, induced a

446 small increase in the size of adult wings (4.76% of increase compared to control animals, see
447 Figure 9N-R).

448 Taken together, these results demonstrate that Scaf, expressed by the SPG layer, is required
449 for maintaining the rate of neurogenesis. This highlights a non-autonomous role for Scaf in
450 coordinating neurogenesis and the growth of the BBB. Additionally, Scaf re-expression is able to
451 promote brain growth during nutrient deprivation.

452

453 **Drug sensitivity is increased upon *scarface* loss in the blood-brain barrier**

454 We found that Scaf modulates the growth of the BBB and has a role in maintaining the rate of NB
455 proliferation in the central brain. However, the loss of *scarface* seemed to have only a mild effect in
456 the development of the central nervous system. Therefore, we wonder whether the phenotypes
457 observed after *scarface* knockdown during larval development, impacts the function of the BBB and
458 the central nervous system of the adult animal.

459 With this goal, we analysed locomotor activity in larval and adult animals upon *scarface*
460 knockdown in SPG. We found no significant differences in the larval crawling speed (average and
461 maximum) of control and *scarface* knockdown animals (Figure 10A, B). Similar results were obtained
462 when we assessed climbing activity in adult flies (Figure 10C). As BBB function has been
463 associated with circadian activity rhythm and sleep (Artiushin et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2018;
464 Cuddapah et al., 2019), we analysed locomotor activity and sleep in adult flies using *Drosophila*
465 activity monitors (DAM2). We found no differences in total activity or activity profile between
466 control and *scarface* knockdown groups (Figure 10D, F). Total sleep was not affected in *scarface*
467 knockdown animals either (note that driver alone sleep did not differ from *scarface* knockdown group

468 in Figure 10E), however, the sleep profile of these animals showed less sleep than both control
469 groups a few hours before the end of the light cycle (Figure 10G).

470 One of the major roles of the BBB is to control the efflux and influx of molecules across
471 the brain and it is known that the sensitivity to different drugs is altered in mutant animals with
472 defects in BBB permeability (Bainton et al., 2005; Mayer et al., 2009). The BBB permeability is
473 controlled by preventing paracellular diffusion (by septate junctions) and by the active extrusion
474 of lipophilic molecules into the haemolymph. Hence, we assessed the sensitivity to ethanol and
475 malathion as a manner to test for BBB function defects. Ethanol, although attractive for the flies,
476 produces incoordination and loss of equilibrium in flies (pass out), and its tolerance is regulated
477 in the BBB by the action of A kinase anchoring protein (Akap200) in PG (Parkhurst et al., 2018).
478 Malathion is an organophosphate insecticide that blocks acetylcholinesterase, inducing
479 hyperexcitability since acetylcholine is the main excitatory neurotransmitter in the fly brain. In
480 *Drosophila*, malathion sensitivity is increased by the loss of the ATP-binding cassette (ABC)
481 transporter, *mdr65* (Sun et al., 2017), which is necessary for BBB xenobiotic efflux (Mayer et al.,
482 2009; Hindle et al., 2017). Similarly, in vertebrates malathion can cross and affect the structure of
483 the BBB (Balbuena et al., 2010, 2011). We found that sensitivity to a single exposure of ethanol
484 was significantly enhanced in animals with *scaf* knockdown in SPG (Figure 11A, B) and animals
485 exposed to malathion, showed a significant increase in lethality compared to control animals
486 (Figure 11C). Interestingly, adult flies that were subjected to larval NR, in which *scaf* is
487 downregulated in the BBB, also showed an increased sensitivity to ethanol (Figure 11D, E).
488 Importantly, the sensitivity to drugs after *scaf* knockdown could not be attributed to an effect over
489 the excretion of drugs, since *scaf* RNAi was not expressed in the adult gut or renal (Malpighian)
490 tubules (see *mdr65-GAL4* expression in Figure 11F, G). Additionally, paracellular permeability of

491 the adult BBB was not affected by *scaf* knockdown (Figure 11H, I), suggesting that extrusion of
492 xenobiotic agents may be affected by the loss of *scaf* in the BBB.

493 These results show that reducing the expression of *scaf* in the BBB, which has an effect
494 over the BBB growth, increases the sensitivity of the central nervous system to exogenous agents,
495 supporting a role of Scaf in the regulation of the function of the BBB.

496 **Discussion**

497 The adaptive response of animals to periods of famine is essential for species survival. In the
498 central nervous system, the brain is preferentially protected over other tissues during starvation.
499 Here, we analyse the transcriptional response of *Drosophila melanogaster* neuroblasts (NBs) and
500 blood-brain barrier (BBB) glial cells to nutrient restriction (NR) during larval development using
501 PolII Targeted DamID (TaDa). Overall, we found differentially expressed genes in NBs,
502 subperineurial and surface glial datasets. We also found that, in our starvation model, the major
503 effect of NR was on the growth of the BBB. Thus, we focused on the function of a gene that is
504 highly regulated by NR in the BBB; the serine protease homologue (SPH) *scarface* (*scaf*). We
505 determined that *scaf* is expressed in the subperineurial glia (SPG) and its expression is modulated
506 by the animal's nutritional state. Tissue-specific knockdown of *scaf* showed that it is required to
507 restrict the growth of the BBB and to maintain a proper rate of NB proliferation. In accordance
508 with this, reintroducing *Scaf* expression in SPG enhances neurogenesis in animals subjected to
509 nutritional stress. Finally, we showed that *scaf* knockdown in the BBB increases the sensitivity to
510 drugs in adult animals, suggesting defects in the control of the influx/efflux of molecules across
511 the BBB.

512

513 **A genetic response of the central nervous system to food scarcity**

514 The maintenance of homeostasis during inanition permits animal survival and developmental
515 progression. Among the different organs, the central nervous system, which is extremely sensitive
516 to stress conditions, is protected from systemic nutrient reduction. The '*brain sparing*' model is
517 good example of this mechanism of protection during development. In *Drosophila*, neural stem

518 cell proliferation depends on nutrition at early larval stages (Britton and Edgar, 1998; Chell and
519 Brand, 2010; Sousa-Nunes et al., 2011), but it is independent of nutrition through the end of third
520 instar larval stage (after acquiring the minimal viable weight) (Cheng et al., 2011). Cheng *et al.*
521 described that NBs maintain their proliferation rate by the action of Jelly belly/Anaplastic
522 lymphoma kinase that activates the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway. However, these
523 pathways do not respond to starvation nor are they modulated by the nutritional state of the animal
524 (Cheng et al., 2011). This raised the question of whether neural stem cells respond to, or are
525 insensitive to, nutrient restriction. It is plausible that molecular adaptation to nutritional stress
526 occurs in other cell types, such as glial cells, or in other organs.

527 Our TaDa data showed that there are transcriptional changes in NBs during NR that could
528 help to maintain proliferation and neurogenesis. We postulate that the decrease in the expression
529 of genes associated with ribosome and mitochondrial metabolism could help to maintain the rate
530 of NB proliferation upon nutrient restriction. During pupal development, oxidative
531 phosphorylation is required for NBs to reduce growth and exit the cell cycle (Homem et al., 2014;
532 van den Aemele and Brand, 2019), but it is also necessary for larval NBs and NB-derived tumour
533 proliferation (Genovese et al., 2019; van den Aemele and Brand, 2019). Hence, modulating
534 mitochondrial metabolism could be a NB response for maintaining neurogenesis during nutrient
535 restriction. However, the actual contribution of this metabolic regulation to neurogenesis is
536 unknown.

537 On the other hand, it is well established that other organs contribute to the ‘*brain sparing*’
538 phenomenon. For instance, upon starvation polyploid tissues such as salivary glands and fat body
539 stop growing (Cheng et al., 2011), and fat body-derived glycogen maintains trehalose levels in the
540 haemolymph (Yamada et al., 2018). Therefore, nutrient stores are mostly available for the central

541 nervous system to continue growing. The role of neurons and glial cells in this process is less
542 understood. In the case of hypoxia, NB proliferation is protected by the formation of lipid droplets
543 in glial cells (Bailey et al., 2015), supporting a protective role of glial cells. In recent work, the
544 group of Simon Sprecher characterised the response of the first instar larval brain to starvation
545 using single cell sequencing. Although, under these conditions neurogenesis is completely
546 blocked, they found a transcriptional response in glial cells to promote lipid catabolism (Brunet
547 Avalos et al., 2019). The glia forming the BBB are likely to be the first sensors of nutrient reduction
548 in the haemolymph. The presence of different macromolecule transporters in the BBB (DeSalvo
549 et al., 2014; Volkenhoff et al., 2015; Galagovsky et al., 2018) and their capacity to store neutral
550 lipids (Bailey et al., 2015), supports the role of the BBB as the nutritional gatekeeper of the brain.

551 In our analysis, we observed that SPG showed an important transcriptional response to
552 nutrient restriction. Among the differentially expressed genes, we found secreted proteins and
553 components of the JNK and JAK/STAT signalling that are well-characterised stress-response
554 pathways. Recently, Prasad and Hens analysed the transcriptional response of the adult brain to
555 starvation and sugar absence, finding many secreted proteins, including serine protease
556 homologues and Scaf secreted from a group of neurons (*'scarface neurons'* in the adult brain),
557 which promote feeding behaviour (Prasad and Hens, 2018). Thus, it is plausible that changes in
558 the expression of secreted proteins, including Scaf, are part of a signature of the brain response to
559 nutrient restriction. Surprisingly, we found that the activity of the JNK and JAK/STAT pathways
560 in the BBB was not affected by nutrient restriction. It would be interesting to evaluate whether
561 during nutrient restriction, a decrease in components of these pathways behave as signals from the
562 BBB to other tissues. This is possible considering that Unpaired cytokines and the TNF Eiger from

563 the fat body regulate homeostasis in a systemic manner, which also depends on nutrition (Rajan
564 and Perrimon, 2012; Agrawal et al., 2016).

565

566 **Scarface coordinates blood-brain barrier growth with neurogenesis in a cell non-**
567 **autonomous manner**

568 From our TaDa analysis we selected Scaf as a good candidate to mediate BBB adaptation to
569 nutrient restriction. Scaf belongs to the serine protease homologue (SPH) family that lacks amidase
570 activity (Ross et al., 2003; Bonin and Mann, 2004). Scaf was previously described to be a
571 transcriptional target of the JNK pathway that controls epithelial polarity and morphogenesis
572 during dorsal closure (Rousset et al., 2010; Sorrosal et al., 2010; Kushnir et al., 2017) and thoracic
573 development (Srivastava and Dong, 2015). We showed that Scaf expression in SPG depends on
574 nutrition and one of its roles is to reduce SPG growth by endocycle/endomitosis as well as PG
575 proliferation. Although, the effect of *scaf* loss is not strong to affect animal development to
576 adulthood, the sensitivity to drugs that cross the BBB is enhanced, revealing a physiological
577 consequence to this defect in the growth of the BBB. We postulate that loss of *scaf* could affect
578 transcellular diffusion of organic molecules across the BBB or the function of efflux transporters
579 that eliminate xenobiotics from the brain (Mayer et al., 2009; Hindle et al., 2017; Sun et al., 2017).

580 How Scaf regulates the growth of the BBB is unknown. As Scaf has been shown to be a
581 secreted protein (Rousset et al., 2010; Sorrosal et al., 2010), we propose that Scaf from SPG
582 modulates the activity of growth factors for both SPG and PG. The balance between SPG
583 endocycle and endomitosis is regulated by the Notch pathway (Von Stetina et al., 2018). This
584 mechanism seems to be an autocrine signalling, because Delta ligand is also necessary in SPG for
585 promoting endocycle over endomitosis (Von Stetina et al., 2018). On the other hand, PG

586 proliferates in response to Insulin and FGF signalling (Franzdóttir et al., 2009; Avet-Rochex et al.,
587 2012). Therefore, it is possible that Scaf could affect these signalling pathways to reduce the
588 growth of the BBB. Given that Scaf represses the JNK pathway during embryogenesis, it was
589 postulated that Scaf could act on an unknown extracellular signal, including components of the
590 extracellular matrix (Rousset et al., 2010). Spheroid, another SPH, regulates Toll pathway
591 activation in a bacterial infection model (Patnogie and Leclerc, 2017), whereas the SPH
592 Masquerade regulates muscle attachment by stabilising cell-matrix interactions (Murugasu-Oei et
593 al., 1995). We showed that Scaf reaches the entire BBB, therefore, Scaf may play a similar role in
594 modulating signalling pathways in the BBB as other SPHs. Alternatively, Scaf could also have a
595 role intracellularly since it can be found in early, late and recycling endosomes in neighbouring
596 cells (Sorrosal et al., 2010).

597 Interestingly, Scaf displays a cell non-autonomous effect over NB proliferation. We did
598 not detect Scaf in NBs, therefore, this effect is indirect. One possibility is that reducing BBB
599 growth could impact on nutrients availability inside the brain. This could explain the fact that Scaf
600 overexpression during nutrient restriction enhances brain growth. Similarly, a reduction in BBB
601 growth, mediated by Scaf, could increase the secretion of growth factors such as Insulin-like
602 peptides and Activin that control NB proliferation (Zhu et al., 2008; Chell and Brand, 2010; Sousa-
603 Nunes et al., 2011). Additionally, its over-expression in the BBB did not rescue the proliferation
604 effect observed in the mutants, suggesting that other glial cells, such as cortex glia, could be
605 expressing Scaf and contributing to the neurogenic niche.

606 We believe that the decrease in Scaf levels is part of a highly complex mechanism to
607 maintain growth in the BBB during NR. Knocking down *scaf* in the BBB does not completely
608 recapitulate the phenotype observed during starvation, suggesting that other pathways are affected.

609 Moreover, re-expression of Scaf during NR does not rescue BBB growth. We propose that during
610 normal development Scaf responds to nutrient availability and acts as a negative feedback over
611 BBB growth, contributing to the fine-tuning of the balance between BBB growth and neurogenesis
612 in the central nervous system. Upon larval starvation, this balance is lost, and neurogenesis is
613 prioritised at the expense of the growth of the BBB. Future experimental evidence will be needed
614 to unveil the molecular mechanisms by which Scaf supports this balance of growth during the
615 development of the nervous system.

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826

827 **Figure Legends**

828

829 **Figure 1. Brain sparing as a model for understanding the adaptation to nutrient restriction.**

830 (A) Scheme showing our nutrient restriction (NR) protocol for Targeted DamID (TaDa)
831 experiments. (B-D) Larval brains stained for DNA (green) at (B) 6 days after larval hatching
832 (ALH), (C) 7 days ALH in Fed conditions and (D) 7 days ALH in NR conditions. Scale bar is 100
833 μm . (E) Quantification of brain volume. “n” is 20, 13 and 16 brains. One-way ANOVA and
834 Tukey’s multiple comparisons test were performed. (F-G) Comparison of pupal size on (F) Fed
835 or (G) NR. Scale bar is 1 mm. (H) Graph showing the pupal volume in Fed and NR animals. “n”
836 is 55 and 52 pupae respectively. Mann Whitney test was performed. (I-L) Representative (I, K)
837 male and (J, L) female adult flies in (I, J) Fed or (K, L) NR conditions. (M, N) Immunostaining
838 against Fas2 (green), CadN (red) and DNA (blue) of adult brains of animals in (M) Fed or (N) NR
839 conditions during larval development. Scale bar is 100 μm . (O) Plot showing the area of adult
840 brains after Fed or NR protocol. “n” is 12 adult brains for each conditions. Unpaired Student’s T-
841 test was used **** is p-value < 0.0001.

842

843 **Figure 2. Targeted DamID in neuroblasts and glial cells of the blood-brain barrier after**

844 **nutrient restriction.** (A) Schematic representation of the different cell types in the larval brain.
845 BBB, blood-brain barrier; CG, cortex glia; GMC, ganglion mother cells; N, neuron; NB,
846 neuroblast; NG, neuropil glia; PG, perineurial glia; SPG, subperineurial glia. See Figure 2-1 for a
847 schematic representation. (B-B’’) Confocal images of larval brain expressing mCD8-GFP in
848 Superficial Glia (PG and SPG, *sema5c-GAL4*, *UAS-mCD8-GFP*, green and grey) and mtdTomato

849 in SPG (*mdr65-mtdTomato*, red and grey). Arrowheads show the overlap of the green and red
850 signals. Scale bar is 20 μ m. PolII binding in BBB marker genes can be found in Figure 2-1 (C)
851 Heatmap diagram showing correlation of all Fed and NR TaDa libraries. (D-F) Volcano plots
852 showing PolII bound genes in NR and Fed conditions in (D) neuroblasts (NB), (E) subperineurial
853 (SPG) and (F) surface glia (SG, SPG+PG). Genes differentially bound by PolII between Fed and
854 NR conditions are highlighted in red. (G) Graph showing the Gene Ontology (GO) categories
855 enriched in genes downregulated in NBs by NR. Check Figure 2-1. (H-J) Heatmaps showing the
856 PolII binding of differentially expressed genes in the TaDa replicates of (H) NBs, (I) SPG and (J)
857 SG. Tables of PolII binding in all genes are in Figure 2-2.

858

859 **Figure 3. Nutrient restriction does not affect neuroblast proliferation and pathway activation**
860 **in the BBB.** (A) Neuroblast (NB) diameter during mitosis (green dots) and interphase (magenta
861 dots) of *w¹¹¹⁸* larval brains in Fed and NR conditions. “n” is 9 and 7 brain lobes respectively. Two-
862 way ANOVA and Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test were performed. (B) Graph showing the
863 NB mitotic index of *w¹¹¹⁸* larval brains under Fed and NR conditions. “n” is 10 and 8 brain lobes
864 respectively. Unpaired Student's T-test was performed. ns is non-significant. (C, D) Larval central
865 nervous systems immunostained for CadN (neuropil marker in green) and DNA (red) under (C)
866 Fed or (D) NR conditions. (E) Plot showing the quantification of the relative size of the neuropil
867 (neuropil/whole brain) from (C, D). “n” is 13 and 12 CNS respectively. Unpaired Student's T-test
868 was performed, **** is p-value <0.0001. (F-I') Ventral nerve cords of (F-G') JAK-STAT
869 (*10xSTAT92E-GFP*) and (H-I') JNK (*TRE-RFP*) pathway reporters under (F, F', H, H') Fed and
870 (G, G', I, I') NR conditions. (F-G') Immunofluorescences for GFP (green and grey), Repo (red)

871 and Elav (blue). **(H-I')** Immunofluorescences for Repo (green) and RFP (red and grey). Scale bars
872 are 20 μm .

873

874 **Figure 4. Nutrient restriction affects the growth of the blood-brain barrier. (A-D)** Analysis
875 of larval subperineurial glia (SPG) endomitosis of animals (*mdr65-GAL4, UAS-DlgA::GFP*) in
876 Fed and NR conditions. **(A)** Graph showing the average number of SPG nuclei per brain lobe. “n”
877 is 49 and 47 brain lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. **(B)** Plot showing the
878 percentage of multinucleated SPG (2 or more nuclei) per brain lobe. “n” is 48 and 47 brain lobes
879 respectively. Mann Whitney test was done. **(C)** Plot showing the number of nuclei in each SPG
880 analysed, median (black line) and interquartile range are shown. Mann Whitney test was done, Fed
881 and NR “n” is 242 and 313 SPG respectively. **(D)** Histogram depicting the relative distribution
882 (percentage) of SPG according to the number of nuclei. **(E)** Graph showing the average size of the
883 SPG nucleus (*moody-GAL4, UAS-GFP.nls*) of larval brains in Fed and NR conditions. “n” is 24
884 and 23 brain lobes respectively. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used is p-value. **(F)** Plot showing
885 the distribution of the number of perineurial glia (PG) per brain lobe. *moody-GAL4, UAS-GFP.nls*
886 were stained for the glial marker Repo and PG were scored as Repo-positive/GFP-negative nuclei.
887 “n” is 26 brain lobes for Fed and NR conditions. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used. **(G, H)** Larval
888 brain lobes of *lac::GFP* animals under **(G)** Fed and **(H)** NR conditions, showing the integrity of
889 septate junctions. Scale bars are 50 μm . **(I, J)** Blood-brain barrier permeability assay in *mdr65-*
890 *GAL4, UAS-mCD8-GFP* animals under **(I)** Fed or **(J)** NR conditions. Images show the ventral
891 nerve cord, SPG membrane in green and 10 kDa Dextran-Rhodamine in red. Plots show the
892 intensity of fluorophores across the yellow line in each image. Scale bar is 20 μm . **, *** and
893 **** are p-value <0.01, <0.001 and < 0.0001 respectively.

894

895 **Figure 5. Scarface is a nutrient sensitive gene expressed in the *Drosophila* blood-brain**

896 **barrier. (A)** Genome view of the *scaf* locus and the binding of PolIII in SPG TaDa in Fed (blue)

897 and NR (red) conditions. Note the reduction on PolIII binding in NR compared to Fed. **(B-C'')**

898 Immunostaining of *scaf::GFP* (*scaf^{P^{Bss}}*, in green) larval brain lobes (optical section at the BBB

899 level) under **(B-B'')** Fed and **(C-C'')** NR conditions stained for Repo (glial marker in red). **(B'',**

900 **C'')** are colour-coded images of Scaf::GFP signal. **(D-E'')** Immunostaining of larval brains under

901 **(D-D'')** Fed and **(E-E'')** NR conditions stained for Scaf (green) and Repo (red). **(D'', E'')** are

902 colour-coded images of anti-Scaf antibody signal. **(F, G)** Graph showing the quantification of the

903 Scaf signal in the BBB using **(F)** Scaf::GFP reporter ("n" is 7 and 8 brains) or **(G)** anti-Scaf

904 antibody ("n" is 11 brains). Unpaired Student's T-test was used, *** is p-value < 0.001. **(H)**

905 Confocal images of a larval brain stained with anti-Scaf (green) and Dpn (NB marker in red). **(I,**

906 **I')** Larval brain expressing mCD8GFP in SPG (*mdr65-Gal4, UASmCD8-GFP*, in red) and stained

907 for Repo (glial marker in blue) and Scaf (green or grey). **(J-J'')** Cross section of larval BBB of

908 *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-mCD8GFP* animals stained against Repo (blue), Scaf (green or grey) and

909 mCD8-GFP (red or grey). **(K-K'')** 3D reconstruction of the larval BBB of *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-*

910 *mCD8GFP* animals stained against Repo (blue), Scaf (green) and mCD8-GFP (red). **(L-L'')**

911 Representative confocal image of a cross section of a larval brain stained against Scaf (blue and

912 grey), *sema5-GAL4, UAS-mCD8-RFP* (red) and LanA::GFP (green and grey) as a neural lamella

913 marker. Scale bars are 20 μ m for (B-E'', H-J'') and 10 μ m for (L-L''). **(M)** Graphic representation

914 of the regulation of *scaf* expression in the blood-brain barrier by nutrition.

915

916 **Figure 6. Scarface is necessary for controlling the growth of the blood-brain barrier. (A-C')**
917 Immunostaining of larval brains of *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-mCD8GFP* animals crossed to **(A, A')**
918 *w¹¹¹⁸* (control), **(B, B')** *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}* and **(C, C')** *UAS-lhScaf^{RNAi}*, and stained for Repo (blue),
919 Scaf (red and grey) and GFP (green). Scale bars are 50 μ m. **(D)** Plot showing the quantification of
920 *scaf* knockdown. "n" is 6, 7, 6 brains respectively. One-way ANOVA and Dunnett's multiple
921 comparisons test were performed. **(E, F)** Images of pupae of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to **(E)** *w¹¹¹⁸*
922 (control) and **(F)** *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*. **(G)** Plot showing the pupal volume for each group. "n" are 45
923 and 52 pupae respectively. Mann-Whitney test was performed. **(H)** Graph showing the timing of
924 pupariation of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (Ctrl, dark) or *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}* (red). "n" is 6 groups
925 of about 35-40 larvae for each condition. **(I, J)** Larval central nervous system of *mdr65-GAL4,*
926 *UAS-DlgA:EGFP* animals crossed to **(I)** *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and **(J)** *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*. *UAS-DlgA:EGFP*
927 labels SPG nuclei and septate junction. Scale bars are 100 μ m. *scaf* knockdown and over-
928 expression effect over animal development is shown in Figure 5-1. **(K-N)** Analysis of larval
929 subperineurial glia (SPG) endomitosis. *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-DlgA::GFP* animals were crossed to
930 *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *scaf* knockdown (*UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*). **(K)** Graph showing the average number of
931 SPG nuclei per brain lobe. "n" is 43 and 46 brain lobes. Unpaired Student's T-test was performed.
932 **(L)** Plot showing the percentage of multinucleated SPG (2 or more nuclei) per brain lobe. "n" is
933 43 and 56 brain lobes. Mann Whitney test was done. **(M)** Plot showing the number of nuclei in
934 each SPG analysed, median (black line) and interquartile range are shown. Mann Whitney test was
935 done, "n" is 230 (Ctrl) 320 (*shScaf^{RNAi}*) SPG. **(N)** Histogram showing the relative distribution
936 (percentage) of SPG according to the number of nuclei. **(O)** Graph showing the average size of the
937 SPG nucleus of larval brains. *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-DlgA::GFP* animals were crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸*
938 (control) and *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*. "n" is 44 and 56 brain lobes respectively. Unpaired Student's T-test

939 was used. **(P)** Plot showing the distribution of the number of perineurial glia (PG) per brain lobe.
940 *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-DlgA::GFP* were stained for the glial marker Repo, Repo-positive/GFP-
941 negative nuclei were counted as PG. “n” is 26 brains for both condition. Unpaired Student’s T-test
942 was performed. **(Q, R)** Blood-brain barrier permeability assay in *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-mCD8-GFP*
943 animals crossed to **(Q)** *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) or **(R)** *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*. Images show the ventral nerve cord,
944 SPG membrane in green and 10 kDa Dextran-Rhodamine in red. *, **, *** and **** are p-value
945 <0.05, <0.01, <0.001 and <0.0001 respectively. ns is non-significant. *scaf* knockdown using UAS-
946 *lhScaf^{RNAi}* is shown in Figure 6-1.

947

948 **Figure 7. Scarface overexpression in subperineurial glia affects larval development and the**
949 **growth of the BBB. (A-D)** Images of pupae of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to **(A, C)** *w¹¹¹⁸* or **(B, D)**
950 *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (Scaf OE) under **(A, B)** Fed or **(C, D)** NR conditions. Scale bar is 1 mm. **(E)**
951 Graph showing the pupal volume. “n” is 57, 57, 67 and 70 pupae respectively. Two-way ANOVA
952 and Bonferroni’s multiple comparisons tests were done. **(F)** Graph showing the timing of
953 pupariation of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (Ctrl, dark) or *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (Scaf OE, green). “n”
954 is 6 groups of around 35-40 larvae for each condition. **(G-J)** Analysis of larval subperineurial glia
955 (SPG) endomitosis of *mdr65-GAL4, UAS-DlgA::GFP* animals crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-*
956 *Scaf::GFP* (Scaf OE). **(G)** Graph showing the average number of SPG nuclei per brain lobe. “n”
957 is 88 and 84 brain lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. **(H)** Plot showing the
958 percentage of multinucleated SPG (2 or more nuclei) per brain lobe. “n” is 89 and 84 brain lobes.
959 Mann Whitney test was done. **(I)** Histogram showing the relative distribution (percentage) of SPG
960 according to the number of nuclei. **(J)** Plot showing the number of nuclei in each SPG analysed,
961 median (black bar) and interquartile range are shown. Mann Whitney test was done, “n” is 531

962 (Ctrl) and 440 (Scaf OE) SPG. **(K)** Plot showing of the average size of SPG nuclei. *moody-GAL4*,
963 *UAS-GFP.nls* was crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (Scaf OE). “n” is 26 brain lobes
964 for each condition. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used. **(L)** Plot showing the distribution of the
965 number of perineurial glia (PG) in brain lobe. *moody-GAL4*, *UAS-GFP.nls* were stained for the
966 glial marker Repo, Repo-positive/GFP-negative nuclei were scored as PG. “n” is 26 and 24 brain
967 lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used. *, **, *** and **** are p-value <0.05, <0.01, <0.001
968 and <0.0001 respectively. ns is non-significant.

969

970 **Figure 8. Scarface modulates neurogenesis in the larval brain.** **(A, B)** Immunostaining of larval
971 brains of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to **(A)** *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and **(B)** *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*, stained for the NB
972 marker Dpn (red) and phospho-Histone H3 (pH3 in green). Scale bar is 20 μ m. **(C)** Graph showing
973 the NB mitotic index (percentage of pH3-positive NB) of control and *scaf* knockdown brains. “n”
974 is 34 and 35 brain lobes respectively. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. **(D)** Graph
975 showing the NB mitotic index of *scaf^{27/+}* (heterozygous) and *scaf^{27/M109409}*, “n” is 12 and 11 brain
976 lobes respectively. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. **(E)** NB mitotic index of *scaf^{PBss/+}*,
977 *mdr65-GAL4* (heterozygous); *scaf^{PBss/27}*, *mdr65-GAL4*; and *scaf^{PBss/27}*; *mdr65-GAL4*, *UAS-*
978 *Scaf::GFP* animals. “n” is 26, 27 and 27 brain lobes respectively. One-way ANOVA and Dunnett’s
979 multiple comparisons test were performed. **(F)** Plot of the size of the adult brain of *mdr65-GAL4*
980 crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*. “n” is 39 and 41 adult brains respectively. Unpaired
981 Student’s T-test was performed. * and **** are p-value <0.05 and <0.0001 respectively. ns is non-
982 significant. **(G)** Working model of Scaf function in the *Drosophila* blood-brain barrier. As a
983 response to nutrient availability, the subperineurial glial cells in the BBB express Scaf. Scaf slows

984 down the growth of SPG and diminishes the proliferation of PG, but at the same time promotes
985 NB proliferation.

986

987 **Figure 9. Expression of Scarface in subperineurial glia increases neurogenesis during**

988 **nutrient restriction. (A, B)** Adult brains stained for CadN (green) of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to (A)

989 *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and (B) *UAS-Scarf::GFP* (Scaf OE) under nutrient restriction (NR). Scale bar is 100

990 μ m. (C) Quantification of the adult brain area. *mdr65-GAL4* animals were crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸*

991 (control) and *UAS-Scarf::GFP* (Scaf OE) under NR. “n” is 38 and 37 adult brains respectively.

992 Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. (D) Graph of the NB mitotic index of *mdr65-GAL4*

993 animals crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-Scarf::GFP* (Scaf OE) larval brains under NR. “n” is

994 11 and 13 brain lobes respectively. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. (E-H) Analysis of

995 larval subperineurial glia (SPG) endomitosis of *mdr65-GAL4*, *UAS-DlgA::GFP* animals crossed

996 to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *scarf* overexpression (*UAS-Scarf::GFP*, Scaf OE) under nutrient restriction

997 (NR). (E) Graph showing the average number of SPG nuclei per brain lobe. “n” is 28 and 26 brain

998 lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. (F) Plot showing the percentage of

999 multinucleated SPG (2 or more nuclei) per brain lobe. “n” is 28 and 26 brain lobes. Mann Whitney

1000 test was used. (G) Plot showing the number of nuclei in each SPG analysed, median (black line)

1001 and interquartile range are shown. Mann Whitney test was performed, “n” is 182 (Ctrl) and 183

1002 (Scaf OE) SPG. (H) Histogram depicting the relative distribution (percentage) of SPG according

1003 to the number of nuclei. (I) Graph showing the average size of the SPG nucleus of larval brains of

1004 *moody-GAL4*, *UAS-GFP.nls* animals crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and Scaf overexpression (*UAS-*

1005 *Scarf::GFP*, Scaf OE) under NR. “n” is 30 and 26 brain lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used.

1006 (J) Plot showing the distribution of the number of perineurial glia (PG) per brain lobe. *moody-*

1007 *GAL4*, *UAS-GFP.nls* were crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *Scaf* overexpression (*UAS-Scaf::GFP*,
1008 *Scaf* OE) under NR, and stained for the glial marker Repo. Repo-positive/GFP-negative nuclei
1009 were scored as PG. “n” is 30 and 26 brain lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used. **(K, L)**
1010 Immunostaining against CadN of adult female brains of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to **(K)** *w¹¹¹⁸* (Ctrl)
1011 or **(L)** *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (*Scaf* OE). Scale bar is 100 μ m. **(M)** Plot showing the size of the adult
1012 brain of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (*Scaf* OE). “n” is 16 and 13
1013 adult brains respectively. Unpaired Student’s T-test was performed. **(N-Q)** Wings of male animals
1014 of *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to **(N, O)** *w¹¹¹⁸* (Ctrl) and **(P, Q)** *UAS-Scaf::GFP* (*Scaf* OE) under **(N, P)**
1015 Fed or **(O, Q)** NR conditions. Scale bar is 1 mm. **(R)** Plot showing the quantification of the size
1016 of the wings for each conditions. “n” is 29, 30, 30 and 30 wings respectively. Two-way ANOVA
1017 and Tukey multiple comparison tests were done. *, **** and ns are p-value <0.05, <0.0001 and
1018 non-significant respectively.

1019

1020 **Figure 10. Locomotion activity is not altered upon *scaf* knockdown in the blood-brain**
1021 **barrier. (A-C)** Locomotion assays of *mdr65-GAL4* animals crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and
1022 *shScaf^{RNAi}*. Graphs showing the larval **(A)** average and **(B)** maximum speed. “n” is 67 and 65
1023 larvae. **(C)** Plot of the adult climbing index using a Countercurrent apparatus. “n” is 8 groups of
1024 about 25 adult flies for each genotype. Unpaired Student’s T-test were performed. **(D)** Activity
1025 measurements using the DAM2 system. Plot shows the daily number of counts per day of single
1026 adult flies of *w¹¹¹⁸* crossed to *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}* (dark dots, control), *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸*
1027 (open dots, control) and *mdr65-GAL4* crossed to *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}* (red dots). “n” is 30, 32 and 30
1028 adult flies respectively. One-way ANOVA and Dunnett’s multiple comparisons test were
1029 performed. **(E)** Sleep assay using the DAM2 system. Graph showing the average sleep fraction

1030 per day of single adult flies of the genotypes: w^{1118} crossed to $UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}$ (dark dots, control),
1031 $mdr65-GAL4$ crossed to w^{1118} (open dots, control) and $mdr65-GAL4$ crossed to $UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}$
1032 (red dots). “n” is 30, 32 and 30 adult flies respectively. One-way ANOVA and Dunnett's multiple
1033 comparisons test were performed. (F) Activity and (G) sleep profiles showing average values in
1034 each time point in a 12:12 light:dark cycle. Adult flies of the genotypes: w^{1118} crossed to $UAS-$
1035 $shScaf^{RNAi}$ (dark dots, control), $mdr65-GAL4$ crossed to w^{1118} (open dots, control) and $mdr65-GAL4$
1036 crossed to $UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}$ (red dots). “n” is 30, 32 and 30 adult flies respectively. ZT is Zeitgeber
1037 time. ns means non-significant.

1038

1039 **Figure 11. Drug sensitivity is affected by *scaf* knockdown in the blood-brain barrier. (A, B)**

1040 Ethanol sensitivity assay. (A) Graph showing the inactive fraction of flies at different time points.

1041 Adult flies of $mdr65-GAL4$ animals crossed to w^{1118} (control, dark dots) and $UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}$ (*scaf*

1042 knockdown, red dots). (B) Sedation time 50 (ST50) was calculated from (A). (B) Bar chart

1043 showing ST50 for each genotype. “n” is 5 groups of 8-10 adult flies for each genotype. Unpaired

1044 Student's T-test was performed. (C) Insecticide resistance assay. Adult flies of $mdr65-GAL4$

1045 crossed to w^{1118} (control, dark dots), $UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}$ (*scaf* knockdown, red dots) and $UAS-$

1046 $lhScaf^{RNAi}$ (*scaf* knockdown, cyan dots). Plot shows the lethal fraction after 12, 24 and 36 hrs of

1047 exposure to 0.01% malathion. “n” is 4 groups of 20 adult flies for each genotype. Two-way

1048 ANOVA and Dunnett's multiple comparisons test were done. (D, E) Ethanol sensitivity assay of

1049 male w^{1118} flies that grew under Fed or NR conditions. (D) Graph showing the inactive fraction of

1050 flies at different time points. Fed (blue) and NR (red). (E) Sedation time 50 (ST50) was calculated

1051 from (D). (E) Bar chart showing ST50 for Fed and NR conditions. “n” is 8 and 6 groups of 8 adult

1052 flies each. Unpaired Student's T-test was performed. ** and **** are p-value <0.01 and <0.0001

1053 respectively. **(F, G)** Expression of the *mdr65-GAL4* driver in adult tissues. **(F)** Images of the adult
1054 brain and **(G)** hindgut (arrowhead) and malpighian tubules (arrow). DAPI was used to stain DNA
1055 (blue) and *UAS-lam:GFP* (green) for marking nuclei. **(H, I)** Blood-brain barrier permeability assay
1056 in *mdr65-GAL4* animals crossed to **(H)** *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) or **(I)** *UAS-shScaf^{RNAi}*. Images show adult
1057 brains, DNA was stained with DAPI in blue and 10 kDa Dextran-Rhodamine in red. Scale bars are
1058 100 μm .

1059

1060 **Extended Data legends**

1061 **Figure 2-1.** **(A)** Drivers used for TaDa in different cell populations. **(B)** Scheme of the TaDa
1062 mechanism showing the binding of the NDam-PolIII fusion protein to the DNA and the methylation
1063 in GATC sequence. **(C)** Meta-analysis of the NDam-PolIII binding using the driver *wor-GAL4*
1064 (NSC, neuroblast). Graph shows NDam-PolIII in Fed and NR replicates. **(D-G)** Genome view of
1065 the **(D)** *moody*, **(E)** *mdr65*, **(F)** *Tret1-1* and **(G)** *vkg* and *Col4a1* loci, showing the binding of PolIII
1066 using *sema5c-GAL4* (blue track) and *mdr65-GAL4* (green track) drivers under normal Fed
1067 conditions. Note that the binding of PolIII across *moody* and *mdr65*, markers of subperineurial glia,
1068 is similar in both drivers, however, the perineurial markers *Tret1-1*, *vkg* and *Col4g1* are only bound
1069 by PolIII in *sema5c-GAL4* dataset. **(H, I)** Diagram showing a String association network of genes
1070 downregulated in **(H)** NBs and **(I)** Subperineurial glia during NR. Genes associated to the JNK
1071 pathway are shown surrounded by a grey background in **(I)**.

1072

1073 **Figure 2-2.** Tables of genes differentially bound by PolIII during Fed and NR conditions in NB,
1074 SPG and SG TaDa. PolIII binding and FDR are given for average data in Fed and NR conditions.
1075 The difference of PolIII binding between Fed and NR (diff) and the ratio between them are shown.
1076

1077 **Figure 6-1. (A-D)** Analysis of larval subperineurial glia (SPG) endomitosis of *mdr65-GAL4*, *UAS-*
1078 *DlgA::GFP* animals crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-lhScaf^{RNAi}* (*scaf* knockdown). **(A)** Graph
1079 showing the average number of SPG nuclei per brain lobe. “n” is 60 and 37 brain lobes. Unpaired
1080 Student’s T-test was performed. **(B)** Plot showing the percentage of multinucleated SPG (2 or more
1081 nuclei) per brain lobe. “n” is 60 and 37 brain lobes. Mann Whitney test was done. **(C)** Plot showing
1082 the number of nuclei in each SPG analysed, median (black line) and interquartile range are shown.
1083 Mann Whitney test was done, “n” is 374 and 189 SPG for Ctrl and *lhScaf^{RNAi}* respectively. **(D)**
1084 Histogram depicting the relative distribution (percentage) of SPG according to the number of
1085 nuclei. **(E)** Graph showing the average size of the SPG nucleus of larval brains of *mdr-GAL4*,
1086 *UAS-DlgA::GFP* animals crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸* (control) and *UAS-lhScaf^{RNAi}*. “n” is 30 and 27 brain
1087 lobes respectively. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used. **(F)** Plot showing the distribution of the
1088 number of perineurial glia (PG) per brain lobe. *mdr65-GAL4*, *UAS-GFP.nls* were crossed to *w¹¹¹⁸*
1089 (control) and *UAS-lhScaf^{RNAi}* and stained for the glial marker Repo. Repo-positive/GFP-negative
1090 nuclei were scored as PG. “n” is 24 and 26 brain lobes. Unpaired Student’s T-test was used. *, **,
1091 *** and **** are p-value <0.05, <0.01, <0.001 and < 0.0001 respectively.

1092

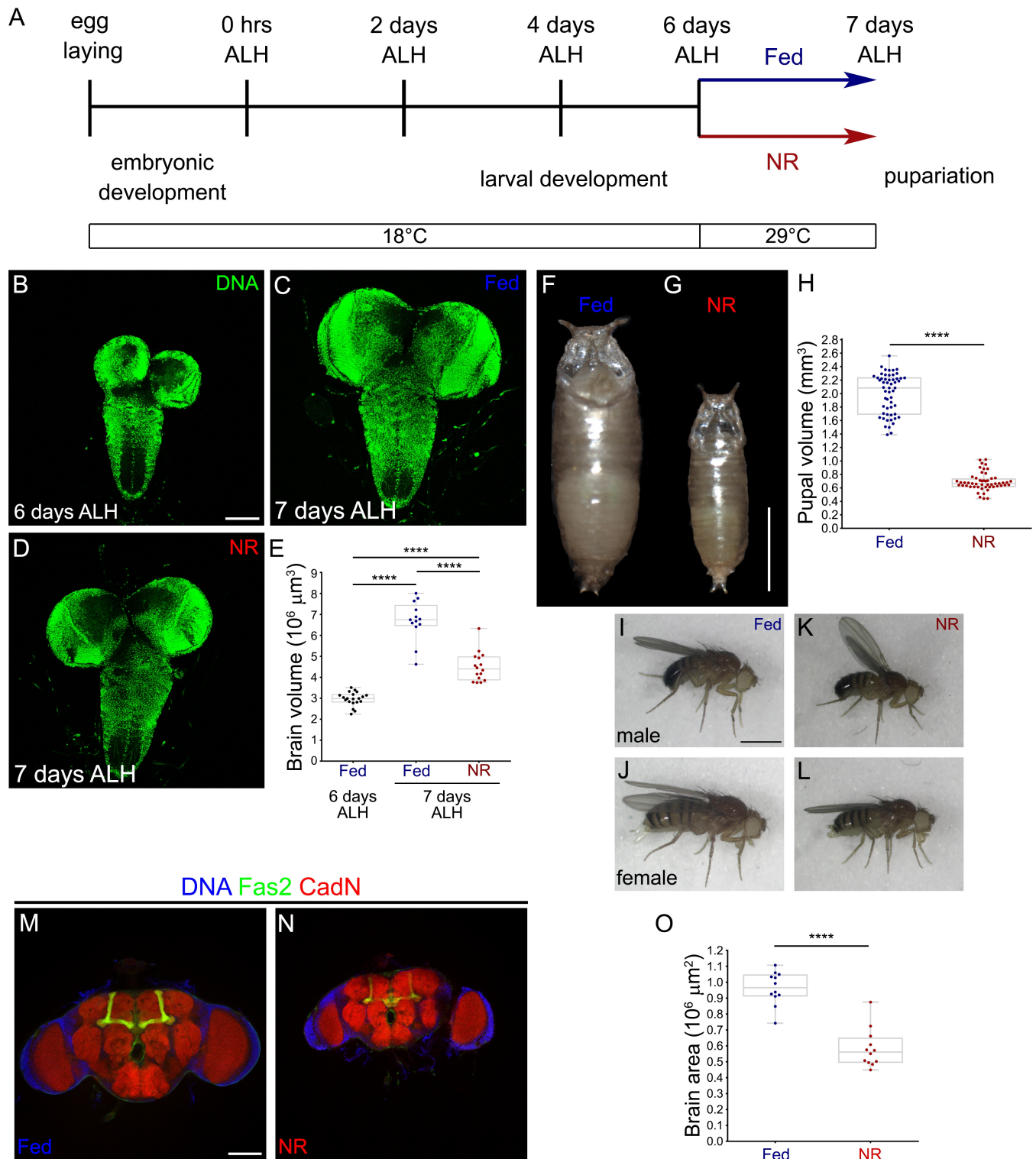


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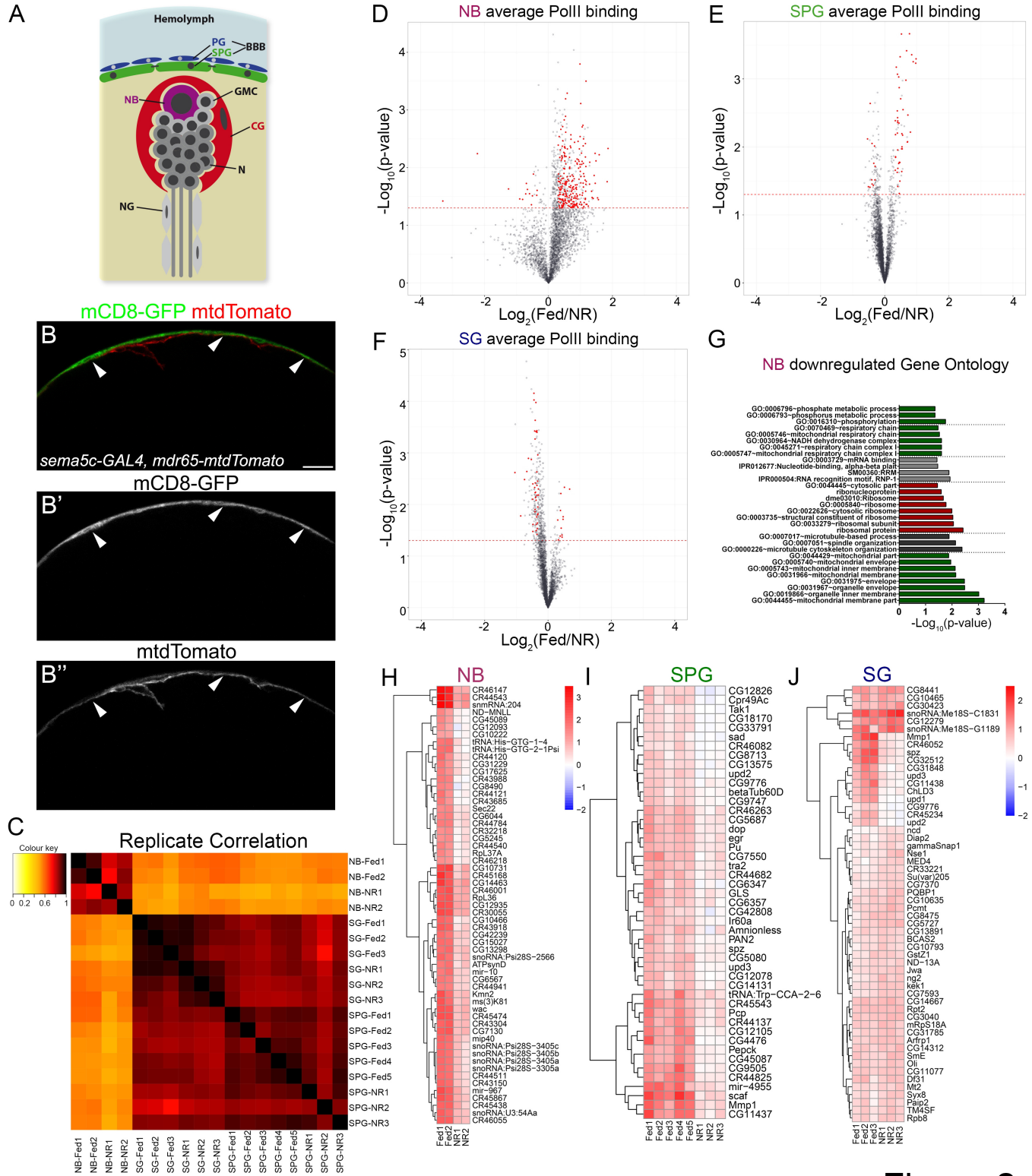


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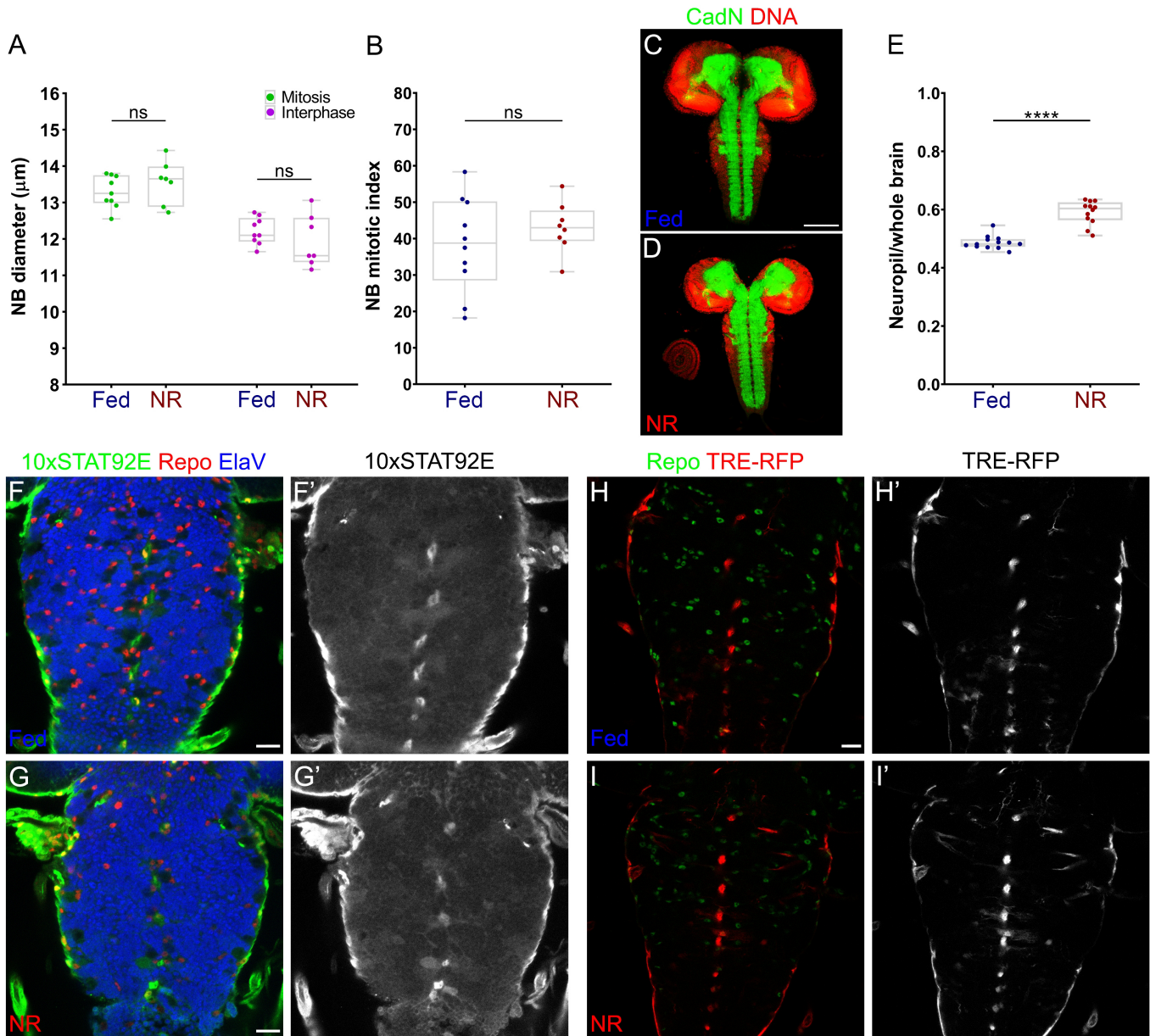


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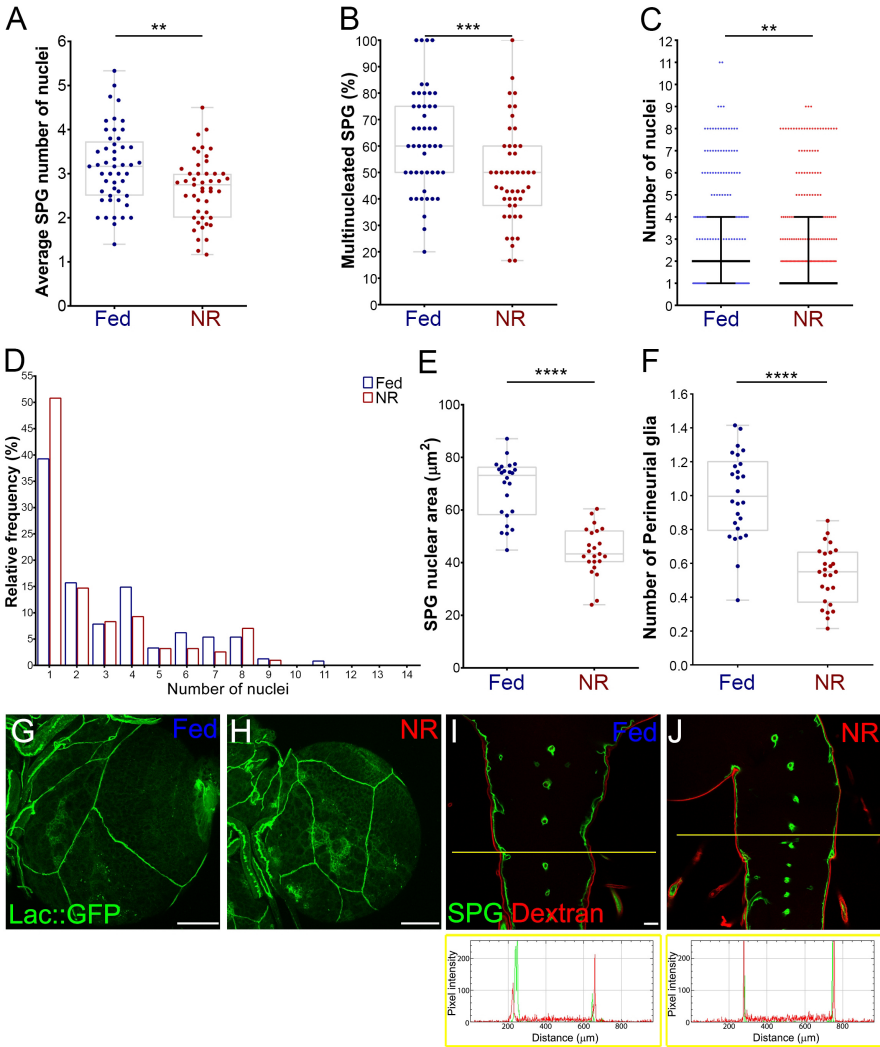


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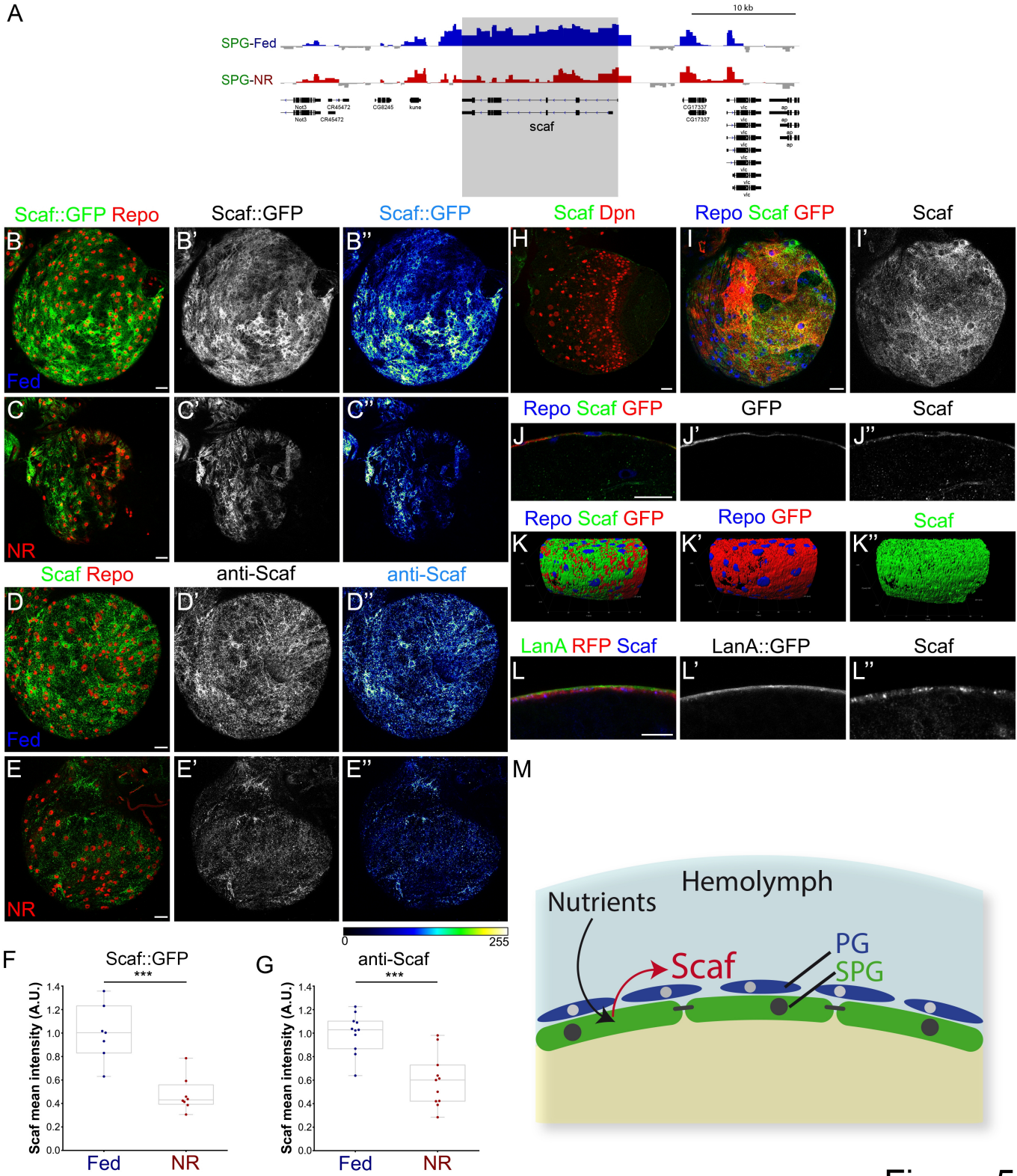


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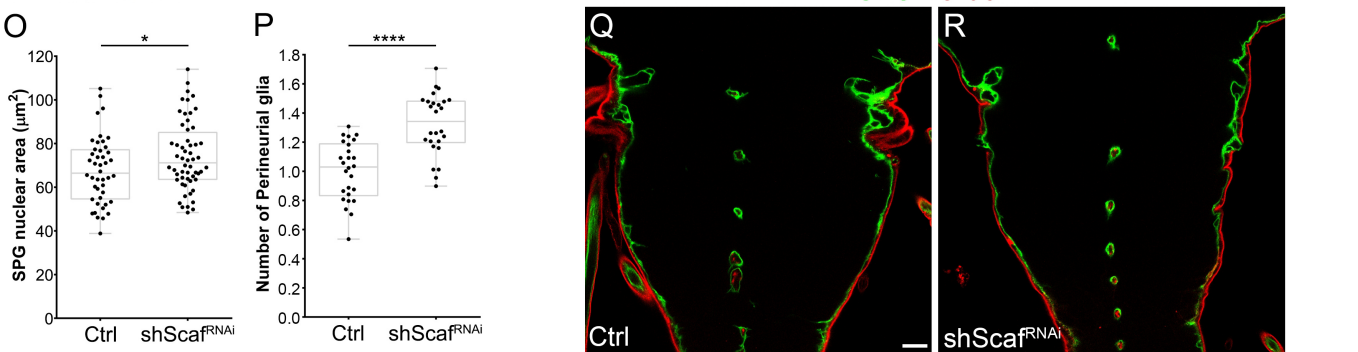
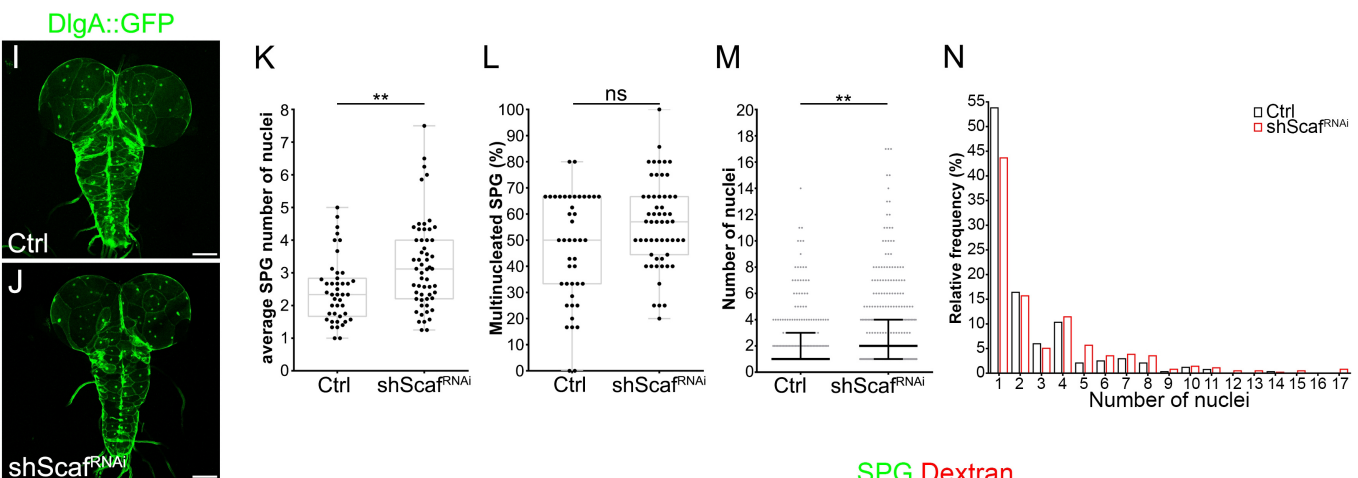
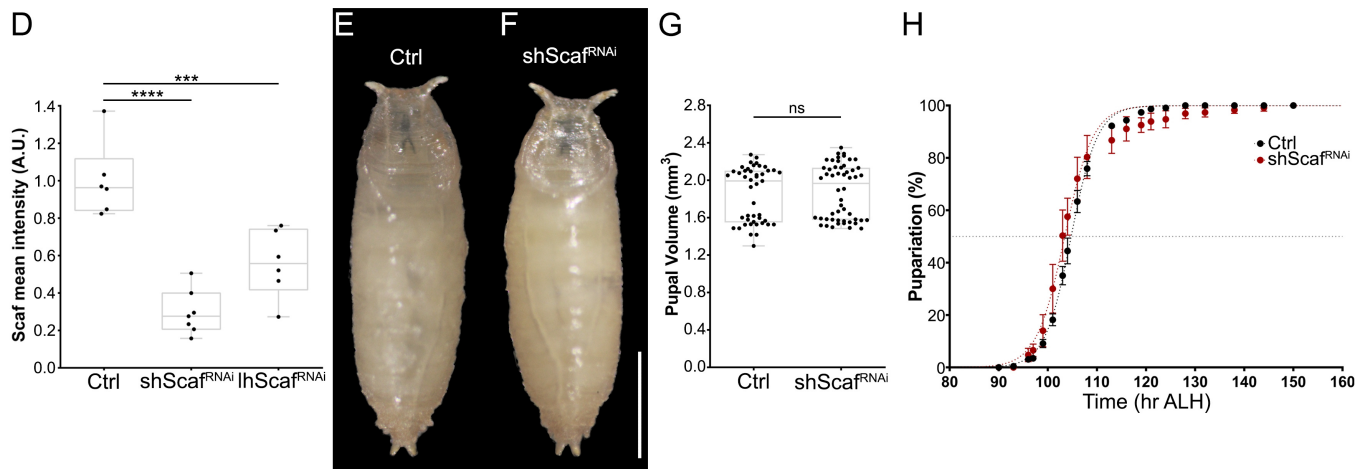
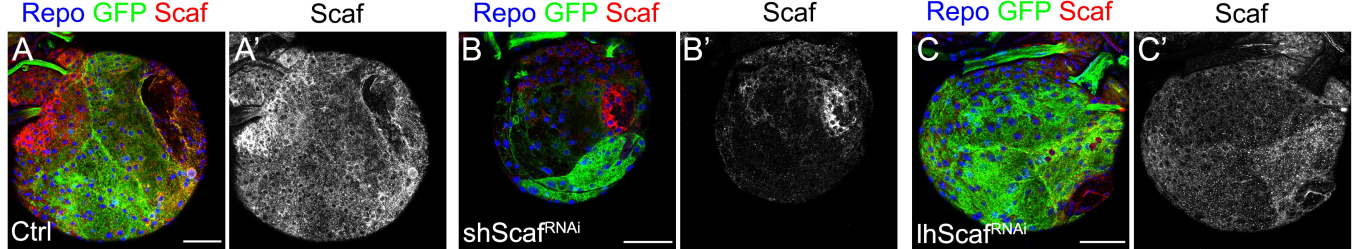


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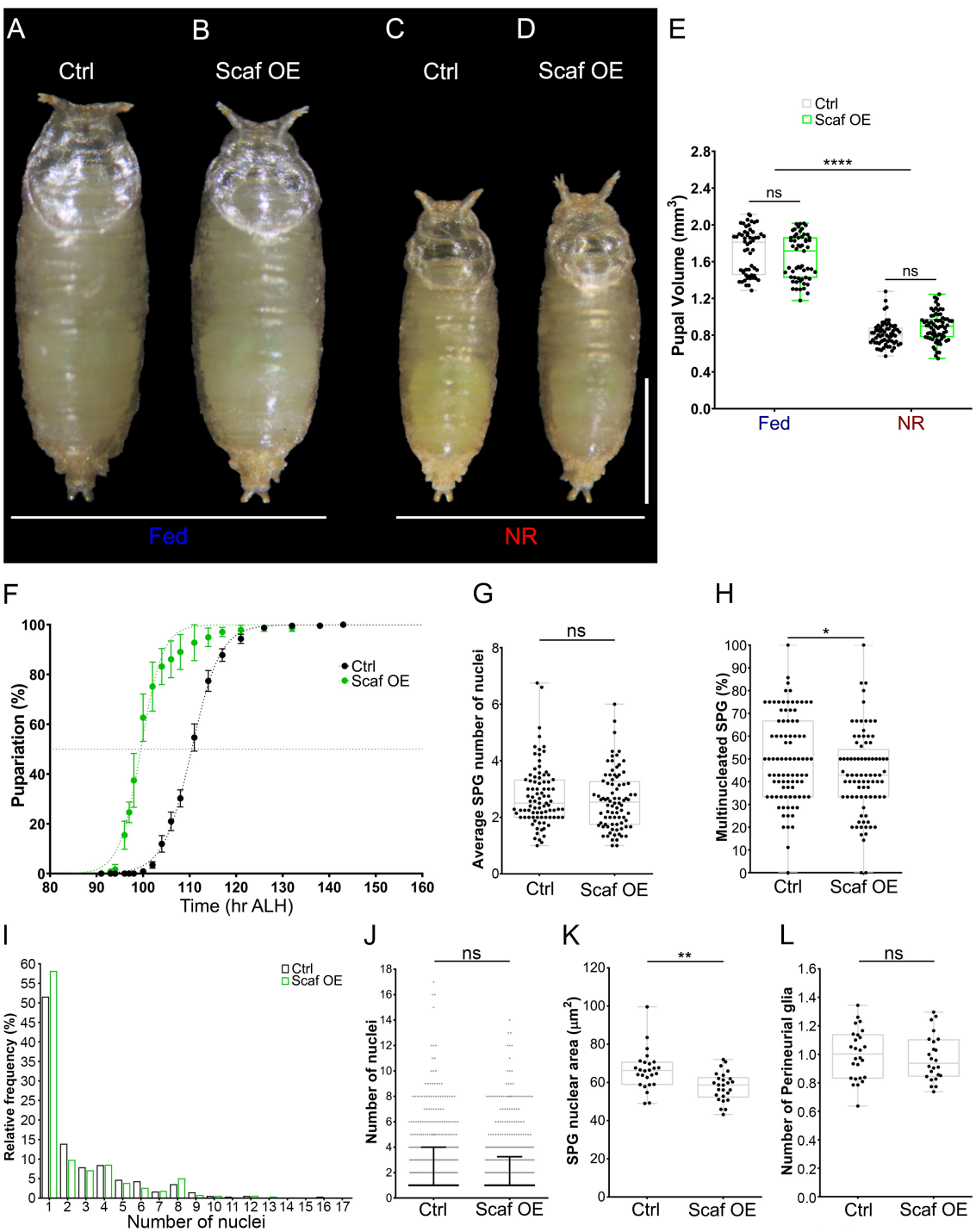


Figure 7

Dpn pH3

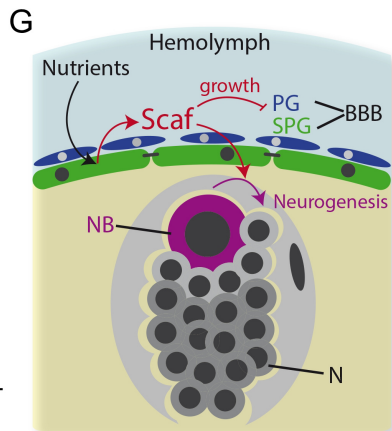
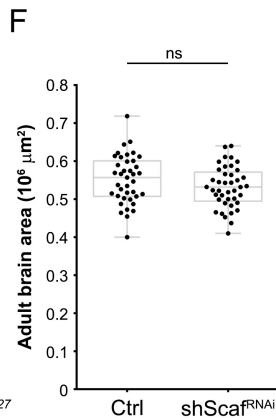
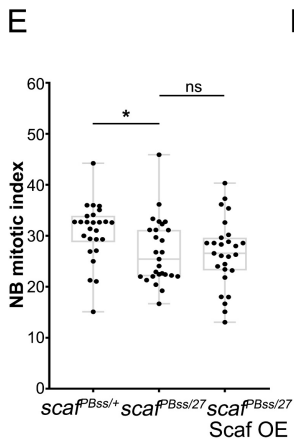
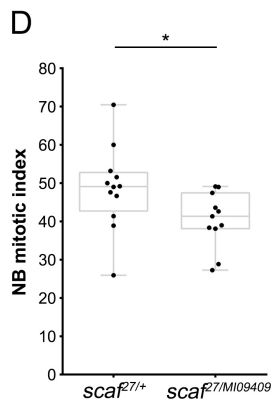
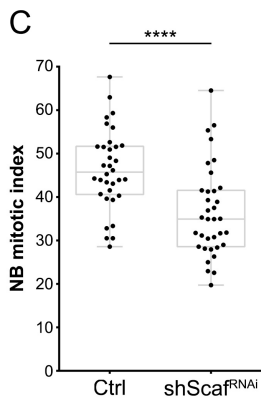
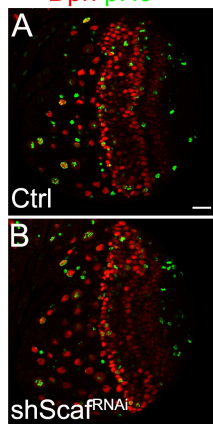


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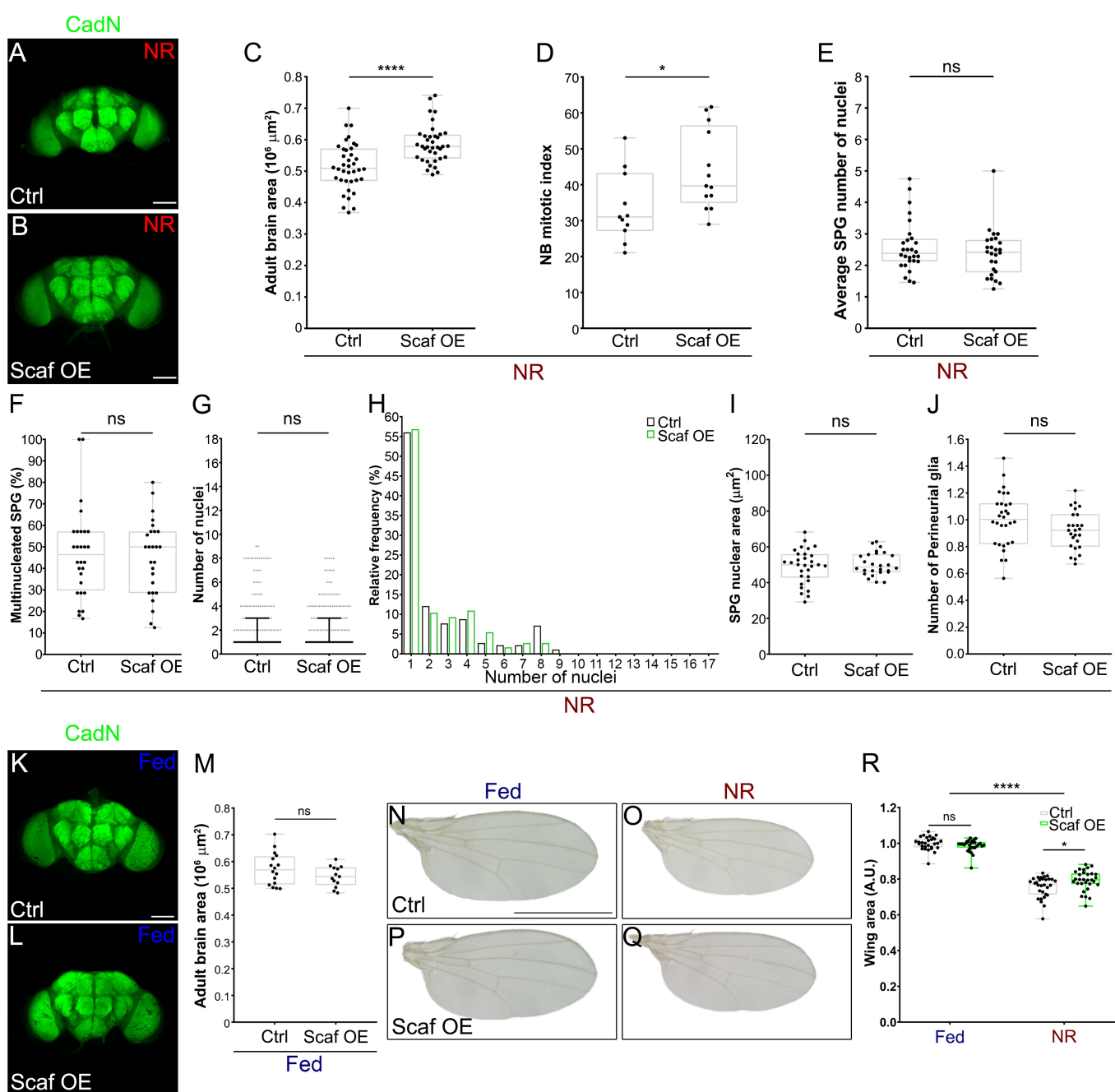


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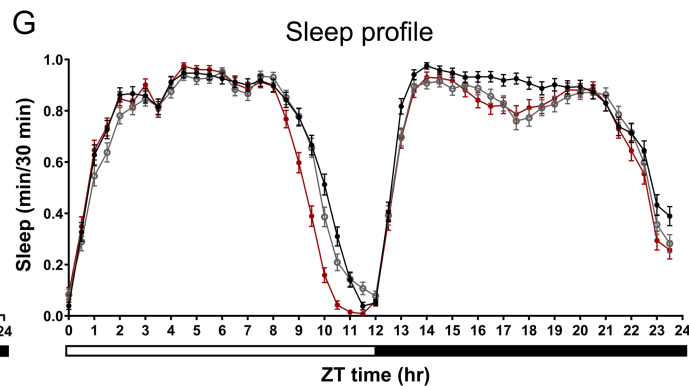
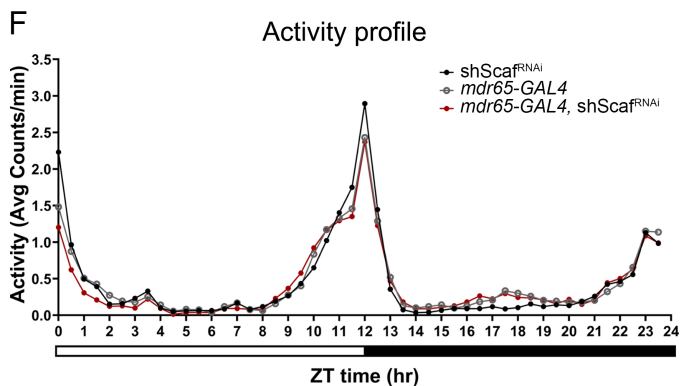
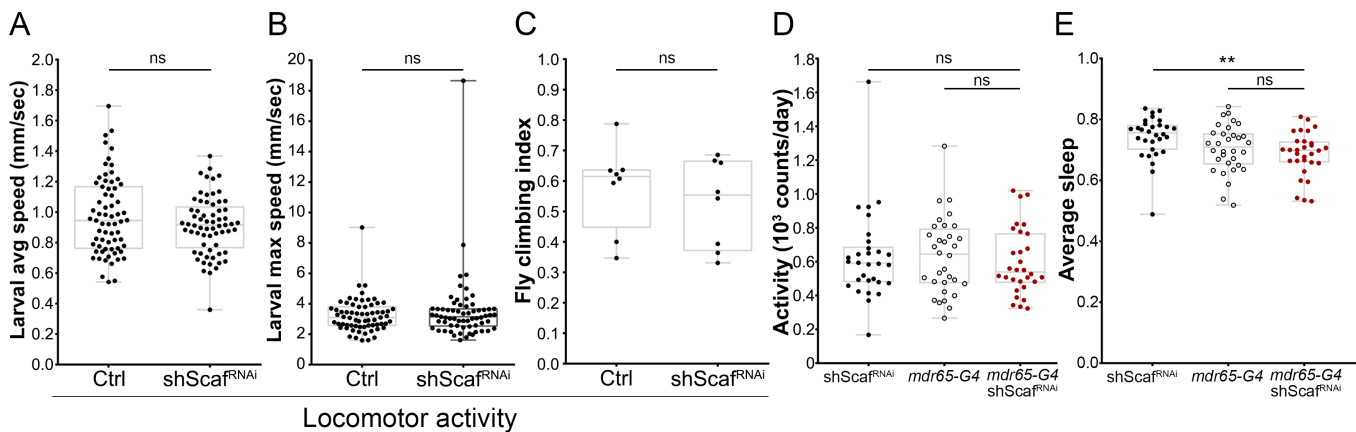


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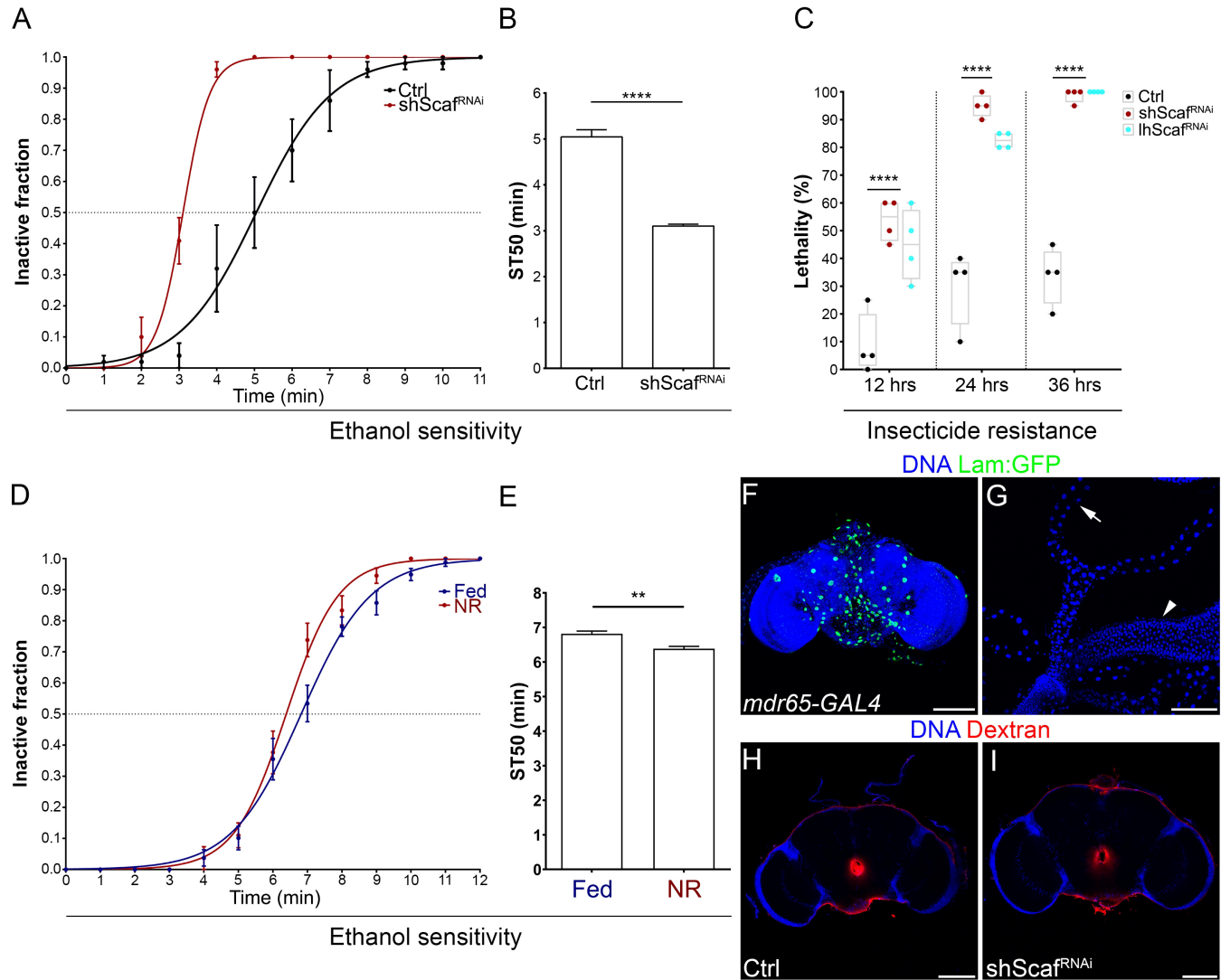


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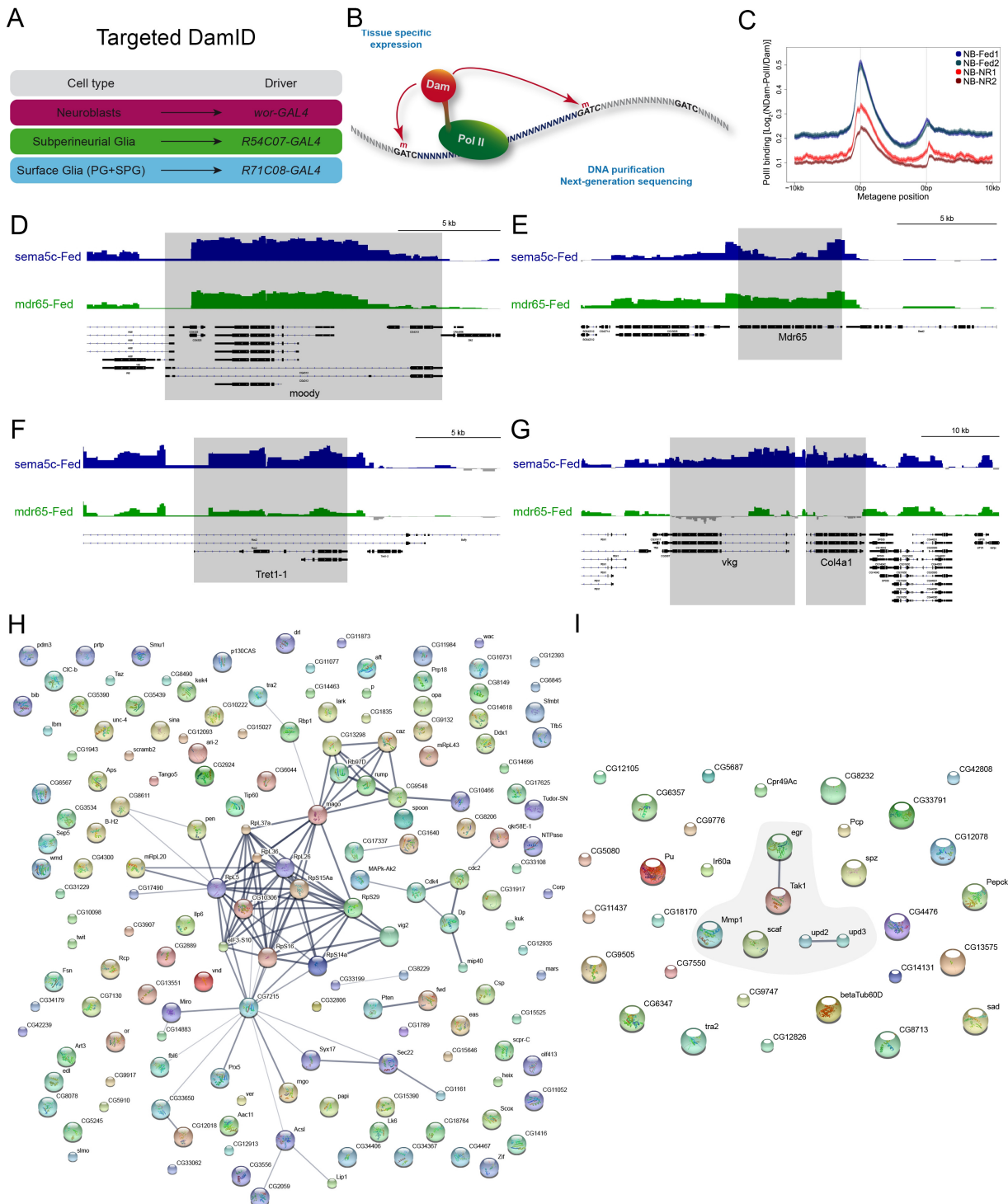


Figure 2-1

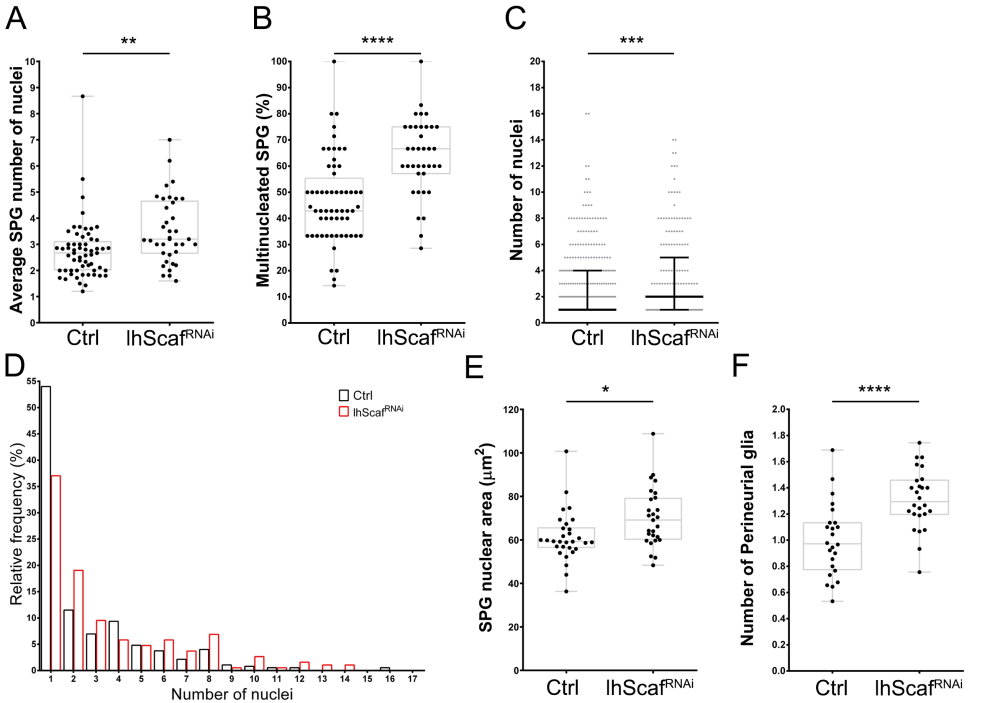


Figure 6-1