

1 **Single-nuclei transcriptomics of schizophrenia prefrontal cortex primarily implicates
2 neuronal subtypes**

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15 Running title: Single nuclei RNAseq in the Schizophrenia cortex

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23 **Abstract (limit 150-250) - 150**

24 Transcriptomic studies of bulk neural tissue homogenates from persons with
25 schizophrenia and controls have identified differentially expressed genes in multiple brain
26 regions. However, the brain's heterogeneous nature prevents identification of relevant cell
27 types. This study analyzed single-nuclei transcriptomics of ~275,000 nuclei from frozen human
28 postmortem dorsolateral prefrontal cortex samples from males with schizophrenia (n = 12) and
29 controls (n = 14). 4,766 differential expression events were identified in 2,994 unique genes in
30 16 of 20 transcriptomically-distinct cell populations. ~96% of differentially expressed genes
31 occurred in five neuronal cell types, and differentially expressed genes were enriched for genes
32 associated with schizophrenia and bipolar GWAS loci. Downstream analyses identified cluster-
33 specific enriched gene ontologies, KEGG pathways, and canonical pathways. Additionally,
34 microRNAs and transcription factors with overrepresented neuronal cell type-specific targets
35 were identified. These results expand our knowledge of disrupted gene expression in specific
36 cell types and permit new insight into the pathophysiology of schizophrenia.

37

38 **Introduction (limit 1500; article excluding abstract 3500) - 478**

39 Schizophrenia is a chronic psychotic illness affecting ~1% of the population worldwide.
40 Transcriptomic studies utilizing bulk homogenates of frozen human postmortem brain tissue
41 from persons with schizophrenia and controls have identified differentially expressed genes
42 (DEGs) in the amygdala¹, hippocampus^{2,3}, superior temporal gyrus⁴, anterior cingulate cortex⁵,
43 and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dlPFC)^{7,8}, with the largest study identifying ~4,800 DEGs
44 associated with schizophrenia in the dlPFC⁹. However, the heterogeneous cellular composition of
45 the bulk homogenates prevents identification of the specific cell types in which relevant genes
46 are differentially regulated and expressed. Two studies used laser capture microdissection
47 followed with transcriptomic analysis by microarray to elucidate the effect of schizophrenia on
48 the transcriptome of individual neural cell types. Examination of layer 3 and 5 pyramidal neurons

49 in the dlPFC identified ~1,400 DEGs¹⁰ in the context of schizophrenia, whereas a study of
50 parvalbumin positive (PVALB+) interneurons in the dlPFC identified ~900 DEGs¹¹. A substantial
51 portion of the DEGs identified in these studies were not detected in previous examinations of
52 bulk homogenates of the same brain regions, suggesting that examination of transcriptomic
53 changes associated with schizophrenia at the level of neural cellular subpopulations is
54 necessary to fully appreciate the neuropathophysiology of the disorder^{10, 11}.

55

56 Laser capture microdissection studies of human postmortem brain tissue are limited by
57 their ability to examine a small number of cell types in a targeted fashion, relatively low
58 throughput, and the pooling of cells, which loses the variability of the transcriptome between
59 cells and may collapse transcriptomically-distinct subpopulations. Recent advances in single
60 nuclei RNA sequencing (snRNAseq) allow for simultaneous transcriptomic profiling of
61 thousands of nuclei, across all neural cell types in frozen human postmortem brain homogenate,
62 with simultaneous indexing of transcripts at the sample, nucleus, and individual transcript level
63 (unique molecular identifier, UMI). The utility of this approach for human postmortem study is
64 supported by evidence suggesting that single cells and their nuclei have similar transcriptomes,
65 with ~98% of transcripts having the same relative levels¹². snRNAseq has identified cell type-
66 specific transcriptomic changes in human postmortem brain samples from Alzheimer's
67 disease¹³, autism¹⁴, multiple sclerosis¹⁵, and major depressive disorder¹⁶.

68

69 In this study, we performed snRNAseq of ~275,000 nuclei from dlPFC of individuals with
70 schizophrenia (n = 12) and controls (n = 14). We chose to examine the dlPFC due to the
71 evidence of dlPFC dysfunction in schizophrenia¹⁷. We identified 4,766 DEGs in 16 of 20
72 transcriptomically-distinct cell populations. ~96% of the DEGs occurred in five neuronal cell
73 types. The DEGs were enriched for genes associated with schizophrenia GWAS loci and
74 overrepresented in gene ontologies and KEGG pathways previously associated with the

75 pathophysiology of schizophrenia. Canonical pathway analysis identified cluster-specific
76 alterations in metabolic and cell signaling pathways, and microRNA, transcription factor, and
77 upstream regulator analyses identified putative regulators of cluster-specific DEG. Taken
78 together, the results of this study help elucidate the cell type-specific transcriptomic and
79 neurobiological changes that underlie schizophrenia.

80

81 **Materials and Methods - 1036**

82 Brain Samples

83 This study was approved by the University of Pennsylvania Institutional Review Board.
84 Fresh frozen postmortem dlPFC tissue from male individuals with schizophrenia (n = 14) and
85 controls (n = 14) were obtained from the Douglas-Bell Canada Brain Bank at McGill University,
86 the Human Brain and Spinal Fluid Resource Center at UCLA and the New South Wales Brain
87 Tissue Resource Center. Schizophrenia cases were individuals who were clinically diagnosed
88 with schizophrenia using DSM-IV criteria and controls were individuals without history of
89 psychiatric disease who died of non-central nervous system-related reasons. All reported age,
90 sex, ethnicity, postmortem interval, and prefrontal cortex pH data are based on associated
91 medical records (Supplementary Table 1). Gray matter samples from the dlPFC were dissected
92 by trained neuroanatomists at their respective brain banks.

93

94 10x Library Preparation, Sequencing, and Quality Control

95 Nuclei were isolated from frozen postmortem dlPFC (~30mg) using a modified version of
96 a previously described protocol¹⁶ (see Supplemental Methods). Microfluidics capture and
97 sequencing library preparation was performed with the 10x Genomics Chromium Single Cell 3'
98 GEM, Library and Gel Bead Kit v3.0 at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Center for Applied

99 Genomics per manufacturer's instructions. To achieve a target capture of ~10,000 nuclei per
100 sample, ~20,000 nuclei per sample were loaded. Libraries were sequenced in pools of eight on
101 Illumina NovaSeq 6000 S2 flow cells. Pools contained schizophrenia and control samples, to
102 minimize any batch effects. CellRanger version 3.1 was used to align reads to the hg38 pre-
103 mRNA transcriptome. Filtered read count matrices for all subjects and nuclei were merged into
104 a single Seurat object for subsequent quality control and clustering using Seurat version 3.1.
105 For initial quality control assessment, the distributions of the numbers of genes and UMIs were
106 determined. Nuclei with the lowest 1% of genes (< 470 genes) were removed, as they were
107 unlikely to be informative in downstream analyses. Likewise, nuclei in the top 1% of UMI count
108 (UMI > 60,335) were removed to reduce the presence of multiplets in downstream analyses.
109 Finally, nuclei with >10% of reads from mitochondrial genes were excluded and mitochondrial
110 transcripts were removed from the dataset¹⁸.

111

112 Calculation of PCs, Clustering, and Cell Type Annotation

113 Transcript counts were normalized to 10,000 counts per subject and scaled. Variably
114 expressed genes were identified with the FindVariableFeatures function in Seurat using the
115 mean.var.plot selection method and analyzing only genes with mean scaled expression
116 between 0.003 and 2. These parameters identified 2,486 highly variable genes, which were
117 used to generate principal components (PCs). Clustering was performed in Seurat using the first
118 50 PCs. Initial clustering was performed at a resolution of 0.25. Two schizophrenia samples did
119 not cluster with the other 26 samples and were removed as outliers. The dataset was
120 reclustered and two cell populations with low mean UMIs were removed. Six clusters with
121 >90% of nuclei coming from ≤2 subjects were also removed, with remaining clusters having
122 <30% of nuclei coming from ≤2 subjects. Major cell types and neuronal subtypes were identified
123 using known cell type markers and methods described in Nagy et al.¹⁹ (see Supplemental

124 Methods). Two clusters with mixed cell type markers were removed for a final total of 20
125 clusters.

126

127 Differential Gene Expression Analysis

128 Count data were normalized to one million reads, extracted from Seurat, and converted
129 to log2 counts per million (cpm). Metadata and cpm were merged to form a SingleCellAssay
130 object for each cluster. Genes expressed in <20% of the nuclei in a cluster were excluded from
131 downstream analyses. Differential expression analysis between cases and controls was
132 performed using the *MAST* R package²⁰ by fitting the following linear mixed model:

133

134 `m <- zlm(~casestatus + gdr + age + sex + batch + (1|subject), sca, parallel = TRUE, method =`
135 `"glmer", ebayes = FALSE, silent=TRUE)`

136

137 Case status, age, the capture and sequencing batch, and the number of genes detected in each
138 nucleus (gdr) were included as fixed effects. Subject was included as a random effect to
139 account for correlations between the nuclei coming from a single person. To optimize the
140 random and fixed effects coefficients in the penalized iteratively reweighted least squares step,
141 the integer scalar in the *lme4* R package was set equal to zero, as previously described¹⁴
142 (https://github.com/DmitryVel/KriegsteinLab/blob/master/snRNAseq_DGE.R). Likelihood Ratio
143 Test was performed in *MAST* to test for differences between the model with and without
144 schizophrenia case status, identifying gene expression differences associated with
145 schizophrenia. DEGs were defined as those that were a) statistically significant after multiple

146 testing correction with false discovery rate (FDR) = 0.1 and b) had at least a 10% difference in
147 expression between case and controls (\log_2 fold change ≥ 0.14).

148

149 Overrepresentation of GWAS loci

150 To determine if schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and Alzheimer's disease GWAS loci
151 were overrepresented in cluster-specific DEGs, MAGMA ²¹ was used to identify significant
152 genes using GWAS summary statistics. Cluster-specific overrepresentation of GWAS loci was
153 determined by performing a hypergeometric test using the overlapping list of genes that were
154 checked for differential expression in each cluster and were significant by MAGMA analysis.

155

156 Enrichment Analysis with FUMA

157 Overrepresentation of brain expressed genes was determined by comparing cluster-
158 specific DEGs to brain region-specific transcriptome data from the Genotype-Tissue Expression
159 (GTEx) project (v8)²² using FUMA^{22, 23}. Similarly, overrepresentation of brain expressed genes
160 throughout the human life span was determined by comparing cluster-specific DEGs to the
161 BrainSpan transcriptomics data ²⁴. Identification of gene ontologies, KEGG pathways,
162 transcription factor targets, and microRNA targets that were significantly overrepresented in
163 cluster-specific DEGs was analyzed using FUMA and data from the Molecular and Signatures
164 Database (MsigDB) v7.0 ²⁵. For all analyses, all genes, except the MHC region, from Ensembl
165 v92 were used for the gene background and all results were corrected for multiple testing using
166 a Bonferroni correction ($\alpha=0.05$).

167

168 Canonical pathways and upstream regulators

169 Canonical pathway and upstream regulator analysis was conducted using Ingenuity
170 Pathway Analysis²⁶. DEGs from each of the primary neuronal clusters were analyzed
171 independently using the Core Analysis function and a list of DEG Ensembl IDs, *MAST* raw p-
172 values, FDR corrected p-values (i.e. q-values), and \log_2 fold change. The analyses from the five
173 clusters were compared using the Compare Analyses function. P-values were calculated using
174 a right-tailed Fisher's exact test and corrected for multiple testing using a Benjamini-Hochberg
175 correction ($\alpha=0.1$).

176

177 **Statistics**

178 Statistical calculations were performed with SPSS (v24).

179

180 **Results – 1100**

181 **Single nuclei RNA sequencing and identification of cell types**

182 To better understand the effects of schizophrenia on the neural transcriptome, we
183 utilized snRNAseq to profile dIPFC nuclei from frozen human postmortem brain samples from
184 12 individuals with schizophrenia and 14 controls (Supplementary Table 1). Schizophrenia and
185 control groups did not differ in mean age, postmortem interval, or pH (Supplementary Table 1
186 and Supplementary Fig. 1). snRNAseq was performed using the 10x Genomics platform and
187 sequenced to an average depth of ~492 million reads per sample. We initially identified 361,681
188 nuclei, with average medians of ~2,987 genes and ~6,886 UMI per nucleus (Supplementary
189 Table 2). The number of sequencing reads per sample, number of nuclei per sample, average
190 sequencing reads per nuclei per sample, median genes per nuclei per sample, and median UMI
191 per nuclei per sample were consistent between schizophrenia and control groups
192 (Supplementary Fig. 2). RIN value was unavailable for all samples, so RNA quality was
193 evaluated by examining sequencing-derived surrogates of RNA quality from CellRanger. RNA

194 quality did not differ between schizophrenia and control groups, with no difference in the fraction
195 of reads mapped confidently to the genome, intergenic regions, exonic regions, intragenic
196 regions, or the transcriptome (all Mann-Whitney U p-values >0.28; Supplementary Table 3).
197 After quality control measures were applied, we identified 273,050 high confidence nuclei:
198 145,120 from control samples and 127,930 from schizophrenia samples. These nuclei were
199 used for all further analyses.

200

201 To identify nuclei from transcriptomically-distinct cellular populations, we used the
202 snRNAseq counts for nuclei from all individuals to perform unbiased clustering using Seurat²⁷,
203 and 20 cellular clusters were identified (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Fig. 3). Clusters were
204 annotated by expression of known cellular subtype markers and all major neural cell types were
205 identified (Fig. 1a-b). The schizophrenia and control groups were consistent for the number of
206 nuclei from major cell types (Fig. 1c) and the number of nuclei per cluster (Fig. 1d & 1e).
207 Excitatory neuron (ExNeuro) and inhibitory neuron (InNeuro) clusters were further annotated
208 using known markers for cortical layers and defined subpopulations (Fig. 1b and Supplemental
209 Fig. 4a-b).

210

211 Differential expression

212 Cell type-specific changes in nuclear transcript levels were compared between the
213 schizophrenia and control groups using a hurdle model, a linear mixed model, in MAST²⁰. 4,766
214 differential expression events were identified in 2,994 unique DEGs (q-value <0.1; expression
215 change $\geq 10\%$; Supplementary Table 4). DEGs were detected in 16 of 20 cellular clusters, with
216 35.3% of differential expression events being upregulation and 64.7% downregulation (Fig. 2a).
217 The number of DEGs per cluster was unrelated to the number of nuclei per cluster ($r(18)=0.16$,
218 $p=0.50$, Pearson's Correlation; Supplementary Fig. 5). Of the unique DEGs, 96.2% occurred in
219 five neuronal cell types (primary neuronal cell types), including four clusters of ExNeuro (cluster

220 10 layer 5 HTR2C+ ExNeuro, cluster 12 layer 5 ExNeuro, cluster 13 layer 4/5 ExNeuro, and
221 cluster 14 layer 2/3 ExNeuro) and a PVALB+ InNeuro cluster (cluster 3; Fig. 2b).

222

223 DEGs associated with GWAS loci

224 MAGMA was used to determine if cell type-specific DEGs were enriched for genes
225 identified in GWAS of schizophrenia²⁸ or bipolar disorder²⁹, because previous studies identified
226 substantial heritability overlap³⁰. Schizophrenia GWAS loci-associated genes were
227 overrepresented in four of five primary neuronal cell types, with cluster 12 also showing
228 overrepresentation of bipolar disorder GWAS genes (Fig. 2c and Supplementary Table 5).

229 Supporting the specificity of these observations, no enrichment was detected for Alzheimer's
230 disease GWAS genes (Fig. 2c and Supplementary Table 5). Similarly, cell type-specific DEGs
231 were enriched for GWAS Catalog genes for schizophrenia in cluster 3 PVALB+ InNeuro and
232 cluster 13 layer 4/5 ExNeuro and for bipolar disorder in cluster 10 layer 5 HTR2C+, cluster 12
233 layer 5, and cluster 13 layer 4/5, and cluster 14 layer 2/3 ExNeuro (Supplementary Table 6).

234

235 Overrepresentation of brain expressed and developmental genes

236 Comparison of cluster-specific DEGs to brain region-specific transcriptomic data from
237 GTEx shows substantial overrepresentation of up and down regulated DEGs throughout the
238 brain for the primary neuronal clusters (Fig. 2d and Supplementary Table 7). Intriguingly, when
239 compared to BrainSpan transcriptomic data, overrepresentation of cluster-specific DEGs was
240 concentrated at eight to thirteen post-conception weeks and two years of age (Fig. 2e and
241 Supplementary Table 8), suggesting a putative neurodevelopmental relevance.

242

243 Gene Ontologies and KEGG pathways

244 To understand the neurobiological consequences of the DEGs in the primary neuronal
245 clusters, FUMA was used to identify gene ontologies (GO; Supplementary Tables 9) and KEGG

246 pathways (Supplementary Tables 10) in which DEGs from each cell cluster were over- or under-
247 represented. GO and KEGG analysis identified cluster-specific representation changes of DEGs
248 in ontologies and pathways previously associated with the pathophysiology of schizophrenia,
249 including those related to mitochondrial function. These results suggest that cluster-specific
250 DEGs may underlie some cell type-specific neurobiological changes associated with
251 schizophrenia neuropathophysiology.

252

253 Canonical Pathways

254 To identify metabolic and cell signaling pathways that are likely to be altered in the
255 primary neuronal clusters, canonical pathway analysis was performed with Ingenuity Pathway
256 Analysis (IPA) using the cluster-specific DEGs. Shared and unique canonical pathways were
257 identified for the primary neuronal clusters (Supplementary table 11). The top five shared
258 canonical pathways for the primary neuronal clusters, as determined by p-value, are presented
259 in Fig. 3a. While the primary neuronal clusters shared predicted disruptions of pathways, the
260 DEGs underlying the effect for each cellular cluster were a combination of shared and unique
261 DEGs (Fig. 3b and Supplementary table 11). These results suggest that a combination of
262 shared and cluster-specific transcriptome alterations drive overall pathway dysfunction.

263

264 Upstream transcription factors, microRNAs, and regulatory networks

265 To identify putative mechanisms for the alterations in gene expression observed in the
266 primary neuronal clusters, we assessed overrepresentation of transcription factor
267 (Supplementary table 12) and microRNA (Supplementary table 13) targets among cluster-
268 specific DEGs. Unique transcription factor and microRNA targets were identified for each of the
269 primary neuronal clusters, suggesting potential cell type-specific mechanism for transcriptional
270 dysregulation. Additionally, a subset of transcription factors and microRNAs had significantly
271 overrepresented targets across the primary neuronal clusters, suggesting a potential shared

272 etiology. Unique and shared putative upstream regulatory networks were also identified for all
273 clusters (Supplementary table 14). The top five shared upstream network master regulators for
274 the primary neuronal clusters, as determined by p-value, are presented in Fig. 4a. These
275 predictions were driven by shared and cluster-specific DEGs (Fig. 4b). These results are
276 supported by the direct detection of predicted alterations for a portion of the upstream
277 regulators. For example, *DDX5* function was predicted to be inhibited in four of five primary
278 neuronal clusters (Fig. 4a) and *DDX5* was found to be significantly downregulated in both
279 cluster 3 PVALB+ InNeuro and cluster 13 layer 4/5 ExNeuro (Supplementary table 14).

280

281 **Discussion – 885**

282 This study examined the transcriptome of ~275,000 single nuclei from the dlPFC of
283 persons with schizophrenia and controls. The median UMI and gene counts per nucleus were
284 approximately double those of three recent human postmortem cortical snRNAseq studies,
285 although the ratio of median UMI count to median gene count was similar¹⁴⁻¹⁶. Differences
286 between versions 2.0 and 3.0 of the 10x Genomics gene expression assay explain at least a
287 portion of our increased gene and UMI yield. The identification of 20 transcriptomically distinct
288 cellular clusters is consistent with other snRNAseq studies of human postmortem cortex^{13, 14, 16}
289 and the number of clusters per major cell type closely approximates those of a recent studies of
290 dlPFC, including identification of a single *HTR2C*+ cluster of pyramidal ExNeuro and two
291 *PVALB*+ clusters of InNeuro¹⁶. 4,766 differential expression events were detected in 16 of 20
292 cellular clusters, with ~96% of DEGs occurring in five neuronal cell types. Prior evidence
293 suggests that GWAS loci and gene sets associated with schizophrenia are primarily expressed
294 in a limited subset of neurons, including PVALB+ InNeuro and glutamatergic pyramidal
295 neurons³¹. Similarly, GWAS loci-related genes were overrepresented in the DEGs of cluster 3
296 *PVALB*+ InNeuro and the cluster 10 layer 5 *HTR2C*+, cluster 12 layer 5, and cluster 14 layer 2/3
297 ExNeuro. Cluster 12 layer 5 ExNeuro also had an overrepresentation of bipolar disorder GWAS

298 loci, fitting prior knowledge that schizophrenia and bipolar disorder share genetic risk loci. These
299 results support the hypothesis that common genetic variants associated with schizophrenia are
300 relevant in specific sets of neuronal cell types and schizophrenia-related transcriptomic
301 alterations are primarily limited to these cells. Several reports provide fairly consistent evidence
302 of presynaptic marker decreases for frontal cortical fast-spiking parvalbumin +- GABAergic
303 interneurons, coupled with increased postsynaptic GABA receptors, both of which may be
304 consistent with partial loss of GABAergic inhibition of glutamatergic pyramidal neurons^{32, 33}. The
305 large number of DEGs in both cell types provides support for dysfunction of a frontal cortex
306 GABAergic-glutamatergic circuit. No DEG occurred in more than five cellular clusters and that
307 no DEG was present in all the clusters of any multi-clustered major cell type underscores the
308 importance of utilizing single nuclei/single cell approaches to neural transcriptomics.

309

310 The substantial overrepresentation of cluster-specific DEGs during critical
311 neurodevelopmental timepoints, 8 to 13 post-conception weeks and 2 years of age (Fig. 2b)
312 supports hypotheses about schizophrenia as a neurodevelopmental disorder³⁴⁻³⁶. Our analyses
313 identified a substantial number of GO terms and KEGG and canonical pathways related to
314 energy metabolism and oxidative stress in the primary neuronal clusters and prior works have
315 hypothesized the prenatal and early developmental dysregulation of oxidative stress may play a
316 role in the development of schizophrenia, particularly in PVALB+ neurons (reviewed³⁷). Taken
317 together, these data suggest potential windows for PVALB+ InNeuro oxidative stress targeted
318 interventions.

319

320 Human postmortem studies are identifying increasing numbers of shared and brain
321 region-specific differentially expressed microRNAs that are associated with schizophrenia³⁸,
322 including a global increase in microRNA levels³⁹. While the experimental approach of this study
323 was unable to directly detect alterations in microRNA expression, complementary approaches to

324 identifying cell type-specific microRNA target overrepresentation yield overlapping predictions of
325 microRNAs known to regulate brain function. For example, miR-424 (aka miR-322) targets were
326 predicted to be overrepresented in the cluster 3 PVALB+ InNeuro and cluster 10 layer 5
327 HTR2C+ and cluster 13 layer 4/5 ExNeuro. miR-424 is known to regulate BDNF expression⁴⁰
328 and literature evidence supports a role for alterations in BDNF expression in schizophrenia
329 pathogenesis⁴¹. Taken together, these data suggest that the neuronal cell type-specific
330 microRNA identified in this study may warrant further investigation.

331

332 Several limitations of this study must be noted. First, the relatively small number of
333 postmortem samples analyzed increases the possibility that the subjects are not representative
334 of the broader populations. Replication in a larger sample, including female samples, will be
335 essential for these results. Second, schizophrenia patients frequently have comorbidities (e.g.
336 smoking, obesity) that are less common in control individuals, presenting analytical confounds.
337 Similarly, schizophrenia patients usually have a history of chronic antipsychotic treatment,
338 whereas controls do not. Thus, it is impossible to know at present whether any of the identified
339 DEGs reflect causality or response to chronic pharmacotherapy. It may also be possible to
340 address this issue by studying postmortem brains of persons with schizophrenia who never had
341 antipsychotic treatment. However, at least in the United States, these patients are uncommon.
342 Third, transcriptome-based methods such as snRNAseq have the potential to miss relevant
343 genes that are regulated primarily at the level of translation or splicing, which may also help to
344 shape transcriptomic architecture and be relevant to schizophrenia pathology. Finally, this
345 project was limited to a single brain region from individuals over 18 years of age. Therefore,
346 spatial and temporal changes in gene expression occurring over the course of the disease
347 would not be identified in our analysis. The findings from this study of dIPFC cannot be
348 extrapolated to other areas of the brain, justifying the need for more comprehensive studies.
349 There is also substantial evidence for neurodevelopmental origins in schizophrenia^{42, 43},

350 suggesting there are relevant transcriptomic differences between cases and controls before
351 adulthood. In summary, we have begun to characterize transcriptome alterations in
352 schizophrenia at the level of single neural cells and extension of this work may provide a new
353 basis for the development of effective treatment strategies.

354

355 **Availability of Data**

356 Raw sequencing data and sample annotations are available at NCBI GEO accession #
357 GSE158516.

358

359 **Acknowledgements**

360 BCR is supported, in part, by a 2017 NARSAD Young Investigator Grant (#26634) from
361 the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation as the Patrick A. Coffer Investigator, funding for
362 which was generously provided by Ronald and Kathy Chandonais. BCR and AEW were
363 supported during part of this work by T32MH014654 (PI is WHB). This work was funded by a
364 National Institutes of Health grant to WHB (R01MH109260). LMS was supported by NIDDK F32
365 DK118818. MRH was supported by NIDDK R01 DK115762. The authors thank Rachel Kember
366 for her assistance with R. The authors would also like to thank Jane Gaisinsky for her help with
367 tissue preparation. Additionally, the authors thank all the participants, and their families, who
368 donated their brain tissue to research, for making these studies possible.

369

370 **Author Contributions**

371 BCR conceptualized this study and performed experiments. BCR and RCC performed
372 bioinformatics and wrote the manuscript. GA contributed to the performance of experiments and
373 manuscript preparation. LMS, AEW, GAD, TNF and MRH contributed to data interpretation and

374 manuscript preparation. WHB provided oversight and contributed to data interpretation and
375 manuscript preparation.

376

377 **Competing Interests Statement**

378 MRH receives separate financial support from Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly & Co
379 that was not used for or related to these studies.

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557 **Figure Legends**

558 **Fig. 1: snRNAseq and clustering.** **a** The transcriptome profile of ~275,000 nuclei were utilized
559 for unbiased clustering and is presented as a uniform manifold approximation and projection
560 (UMAP) dimension reduction plot of all nuclei color coded by cluster. **b** Clusters were annotated
561 with genes known to be markers for major neural cell types. The size and color of dots is
562 proportional to the percentage of cells expressing the gene (Pct. Exp.) and the average
563 expression level of the gene (Avg. Exp.), respectively. The cluster numbers and colors are
564 matched to that of the UMAP. **c** The proportion of major cell types between the schizophrenia
565 and control groups. **d** The proportion of schizophrenia and control nuclei in each cluster. The
566 labels and numbers correspond to those of the UMAP and dot plot. **e** Cluster contribution by
567 individual sample. Colors correspond to those of the UMAP and dot plot. Abbreviations:
568 somatostatin (SST), parvalbumin (PVALB), vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP), synaptic vesicle
569 glycoprotein 2C (SV2C), reelin (RELN), nuclear receptor subfamily 4 group A member 2
570 (NR4A2), sulfatase 2 (SULF2), 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2C (HTR2C), cut like homeobox 2
571 (CUX2), oligodendrocyte precursor cells (OPC).

572

573 **Fig. 2: Differential expression.** **a** The number of up or down regulated genes by cell type. **b**
574 UpSet plot of the number of unique differentially expressed genes (DEGs) that are unique or
575 shared between the five neuronal cell clusters that encompass the majority (~96%) of all DEGs.
576 **c** Overrepresentation of schizophrenia (SZ), bipolar disorder (BP), and Alzheimer's disease
577 (AD) GWAS loci in primary neuronal clusters. **d** Heatmap of the overrepresentation of cluster-
578 specific DEGs throughout the brain. **e** Heatmap of the overrepresentation of cluster-specific
579 DEGs throughout the neural life span.

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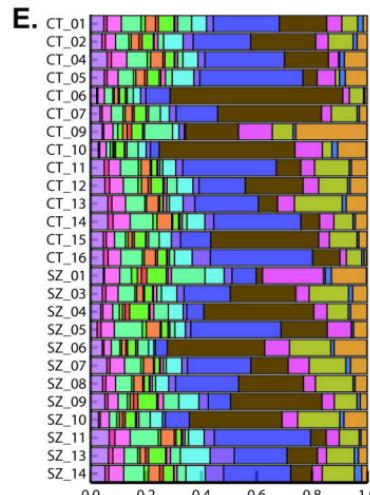
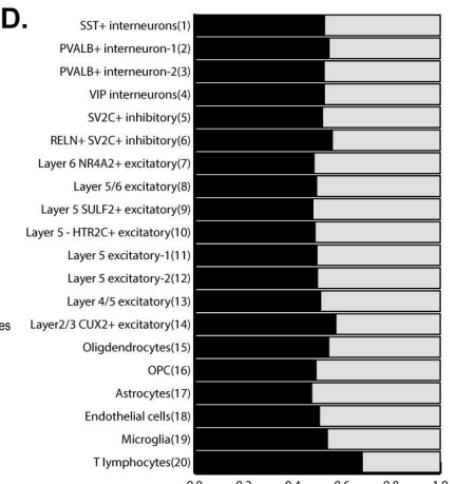
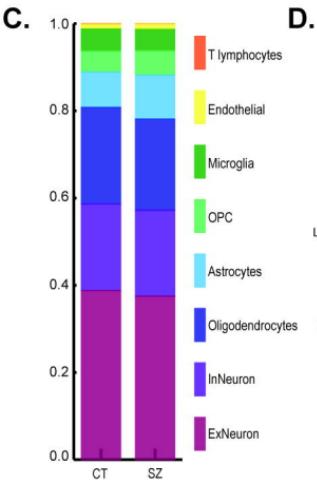
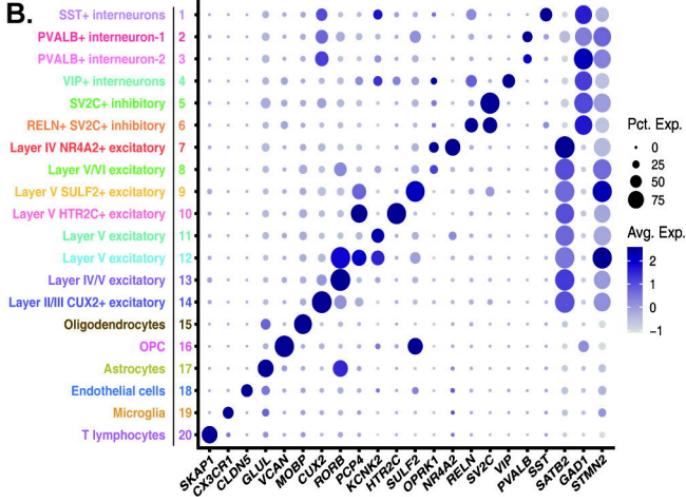
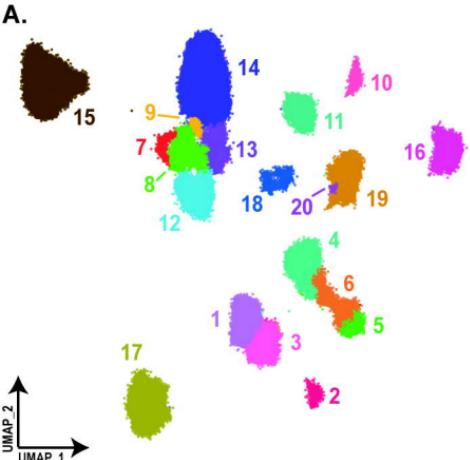
581 **Fig. 3: Canonical pathways.** **a** Overrepresentation of cluster-specific DEGs in the top five
582 shared canonical pathways for the primary neuronal clusters. **b** Shared and unique cluster-
583 specific DEGs that underlie the oxidative phosphorylation canonical signaling pathway.

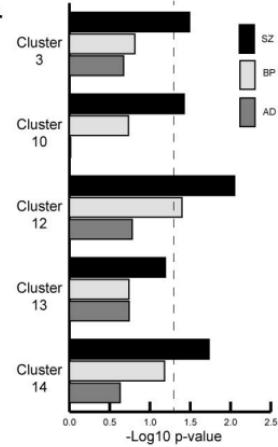
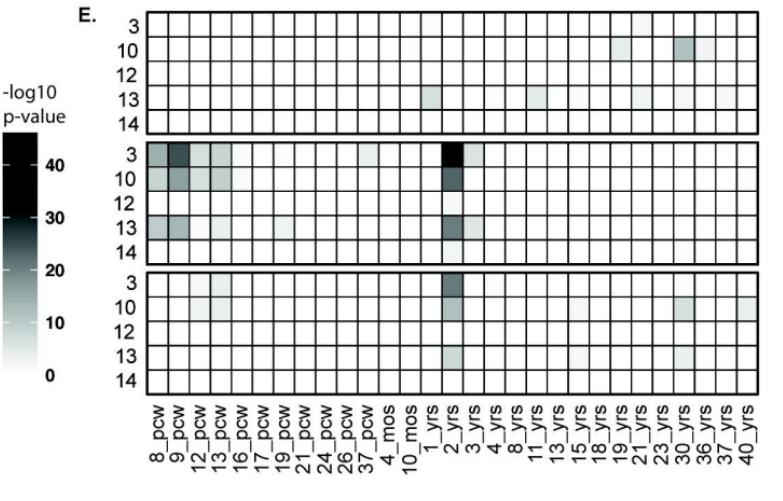
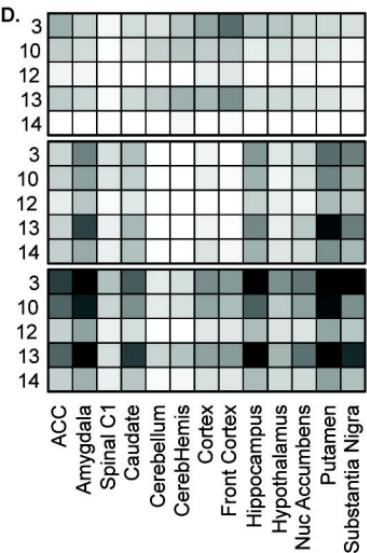
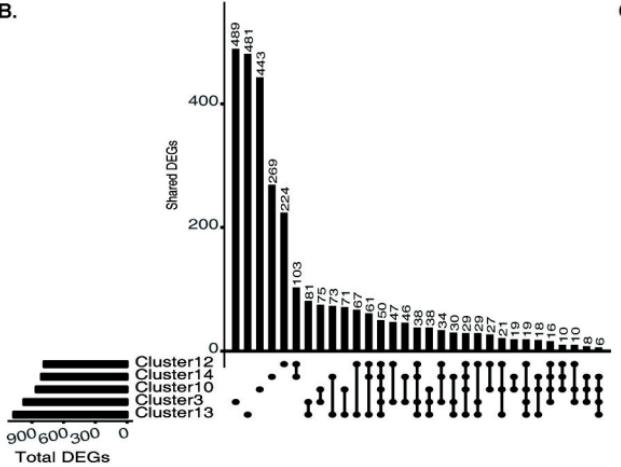
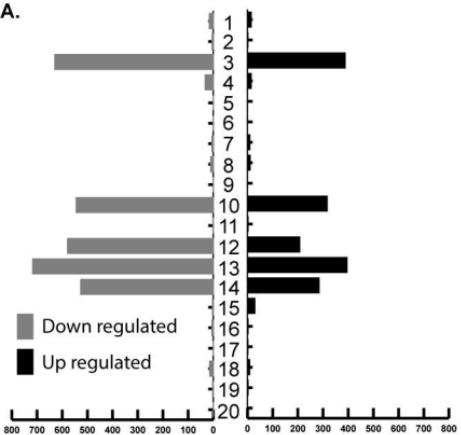
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585 **Fig. 4: Upstream regulators.** **a** Overrepresentation of cluster-specific DEGs in the top five
586 predicted upstream master regulators. **b** Shared and unique cluster-specific DEGs that underlie
587 the prediction of DDX5 as an upstream regulator of cell type-specific DEGs.

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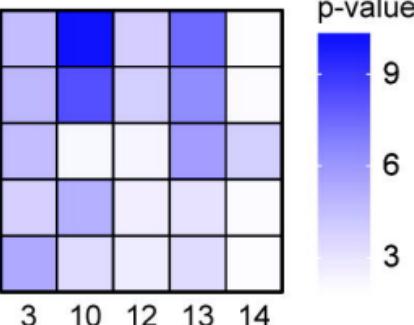
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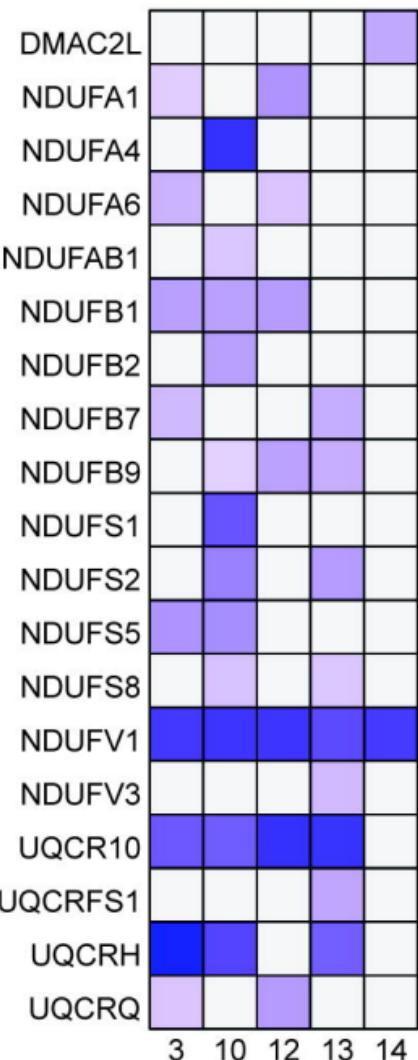
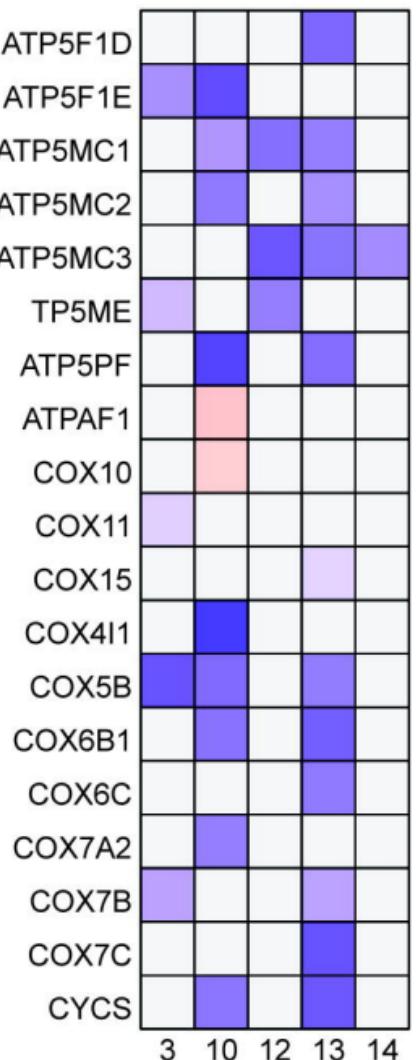


A.

Oxidative Phosphorylation
 Mitochondrial Dysfunction
 Super pathway of Cholesterol Biosynthesis
 Sirtuin Signaling Pathway
 Phagosome Maturation



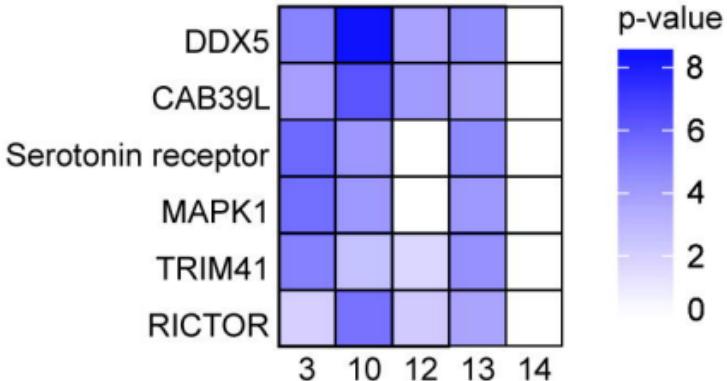
B.



Expr Log Ratio



A.



B.

