

1 Transcriptional Determinism and Stochasticity Contribute to the Complexity of

2 Autism Associated *SHANK* Family Genes

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4 Xiaona Lu¹, Pengyu Ni², Paola Suarez-Meade⁶, Yu Ma⁷, Emily Niemitz Forrest¹, Guilin
5 Wang⁵, Yi Wang⁷, Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa⁶, Mark Gerstein^{2,5}, Yong-hui Jiang^{1,3,4}

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⁷ Department of Genetics¹, Biomedical Informatics & Data Science², Neuroscience³,

⁸ Pediatrics⁴, & Yale Center for Genome Analysis⁵, Yale University School of Medicine

9 New Haven, CT, 06520 USA

¹⁰ Department of Neurosurgery⁶, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL, 32224 USA

¹¹ Department of Neurology⁷, Children's Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai, 201102

12 China

13

14 Correspondence:

15 Yong-hui Jiang, MD, PhD

16 Department of Genetics

17 Yale University School of

18 WWW 313. 333 Cedar Street.

19 New Haven CT 06520

20 Tel: 203 785 2429

21 Fax:203 785 3404

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23 **Abstract**

24 Precision of transcription is critical because transcriptional dysregulation is disease
25 causing. Traditional methods of transcriptional profiling are inadequate to elucidate the
26 full spectrum of the transcriptome, particularly for longer and less abundant mRNAs.
27 *SHANK3* is one of the most common autism causative genes. Twenty-four *Shank3*
28 mutant animal lines have been developed for autism modeling. However, their
29 preclinical validity has been questioned due to incomplete *Shank3* transcript structure.
30 We applied an integrative approach combining cDNA-capture and long-read sequencing
31 to profile the *SHANK3* transcriptome in human and mice. We unexpectedly discovered
32 an extremely complex *SHANK3* transcriptome. Specific *SHANK3* transcripts were
33 altered in *Shank3* mutant mice and postmortem brains tissues from individuals with
34 ASD. The enhanced *SHANK3* transcriptome significantly improved the detection rate for
35 potential deleterious variants from genomics studies of neuropsychiatric disorders. Our
36 findings suggest the stochastic transcription of genome associated with *SHANK* family
37 genes.

38

39 **Introduction**

40 In the central dogma of molecular biology, RNA transcription acts as a rheostat,
41 orchestrating the cellular functions of the genes in response to intrinsic and extrinsic
42 signals. The complex functions in the organs such as brain require a diverse proteome
43 from a relatively small gene pool. This diversity is facilitated by transcriptional
44 regulations involving alternative promoter usage and splicing, occurring in >90% of
45 neuronal genes in mammalian brains¹⁻⁴. Disruption in transcript-specific regulatory

46 elements due to DNA mutations can lead to diseases. Transcriptome-wide changes are
47 implicated in neuropsychiatric conditions, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD)⁵⁻⁸.
48 Accurate annotation and interpretation of these changes relied on a comprehensive
49 transcriptomic profile, either for a given gene or on a genome-wide scale. However,
50 popular short-read sequencing is suboptimal for delineating longer transcripts and
51 discovering novel exons and splicing events⁹. Standard long-read sequencing
52 techniques are not sufficiently sensitive to detect transcripts with lower abundance. A
53 theoretical solution lies in the combination of mRNA/cDNA-capture methods¹⁰ and long-
54 read sequencing, could identify both long and low abundant transcripts. However, this
55 approach has been sparingly reported, probably due to the technical challenge of
56 preserving the mRNA integrity. The current inability to construct a complete
57 transcriptome fuels a continuing debate over the extent of pervasive transcription across
58 the genome and the significance of transcriptional “dark matter” endogenously¹¹⁻¹⁵. The
59 incomplete transcriptome impedes accurate annotation of disease-linked variants and
60 interpretation of transcriptomic data. This shortfall affects the validation of genetically
61 modified disease models used in preclinical research to develop molecular therapies.
62 Previous studies have indicated specific functions of *SHANK3* mRNA transcripts at
63 synapses¹⁶⁻²⁹. An incomplete human *SHANK3* transcriptome could underestimate the
64 contribution of the genetic risk for ASD and other neuropsychiatric disorders. Similarly,
65 the incomplete mouse transcriptome complicate interpretations of their relevance to
66 human *SHANK3* disorders from studies of more than 24 lines of genetically modified
67 animal models^{30 18,31}. To bridge these substantial gaps in knowledge, we performed
68 standard Iso-Seq (**SIS**) for whole transcriptome analysis and paired with targeted cDNA

69 capture and long-read sequencing techniques (Capture-Iso-Seq, **CIS**) to specifically
70 investigate the *SHANK* family genes in humans and mouse brain. We discovered a
71 drastically intricate *SHANK3* transcript structure and a broad transcriptomic diversity
72 across the human and mouse genomes. We identified unexpected extensive fusion
73 transcripts and atypical patterns of transcripts in *Shank3* mutant mice. The enhanced
74 *SHANK3* transcriptome has significantly improved the discovery rate of deleterious
75 variants in genomic and transcriptomic studies of neuropsychiatric disorders. Our study
76 advocates for a paradigm shift in experimental design and evaluation of genetic disease
77 models using genetically modified animals, emphasizing the need to carefully evaluate
78 the molecular validity of these mutant animal models in preclinical research.

79

80 **Results**

81 **Dataset overview and experimental strategy evolution and optimization**

82 We sequenced 56 SMRT libraries of human and mouse brains using the PacBio Sequel
83 II System (**Fig. 1A-B**). Sixteen libraries proceeded using the SIS method. Forty libraries
84 were constructed following the CIS method, which employed targeted capture
85 enrichment with specific oligonucleotide probe panels, that covered the full genomic
86 regions of *SHANK/Shank* family genes (*SHANK1-3*, **Supplementary Table 1-2**). A non-
87 neuronal gene, *TP53*, was included as a comparison. Twenty libraries were synthesized
88 from cerebral cortex of neurotypical children aged 5-6 years, and young adults, aged
89 24-30 years. For mice, 35 libraries were derived from striatum (ST) and prefrontal
90 cortices (PFC) of 21-day-old wild-type (WT) C57BL/6J and *Shank3* mutants (*Shank3*^{Δe4-}
91 ⁹, *Shank3*^{Δe21} and *Shank3*^{Δe4-22})^{19,20,32-34}. We processed only the RNA with an Integrity

92 Number (RIN) above 7 for human and above 8 for mouse samples for subsequent
93 sequencing. The quality and reproducibility of the SIS and CIS platforms were optimized
94 (**Supplementary Fig.1A-I**). For experimental validation, RT-PCR and Sanger
95 sequencing confirmed novel *SHANK3* transcripts from CIS. We performed *in silico*
96 transcriptome analyses using short-read bulk RNA-seq (**srRNA-seq**) and single-cell
97 RNA-seq (**scRNA-seq**) data, and gene discovery analyses of exome sequencing (ES)
98 and whole genome sequencing (WGS) data from PsychENCODE project along with
99 other genomics studies^{5,35-39}.

100

101 **Standard Iso-Seq uncovered more diverse transcriptome genome-wide in mouse**
102 **and human brains**

103 From the SIS of 12 SMRT libraries of human brain, we uncovered 131,585 unique
104 transcripts across 15,308 annotated genes, including 311 novel transcripts (**UCSC**
105 **Track 1**). Distribution of unique transcripts and sequencing reads per gene are shown in
106 **Fig. 1C**. The number of unique transcripts for a given gene was significantly correlated
107 (Pearson $r=0.8871$, $p<0.001$) with its abundance (**Fig. 1D**). From 4 SIS of mouse ST
108 and PFC, we uncovered 154,492 unique transcripts from 16,556 annotated genes, with
109 1,570 being novel (**Fig.1E** and **UCSC Track 2 and 3**).

110

111 In human brains, the average number of isoforms per gene was 19, with an average
112 sequence read count of 63. Notably, 595 genes exhibited over 100 isoforms (**Fig.1E**
113 and **Supplementary Table 3a**). *SEPTIN4* has the highest number of isoforms at 692, a
114 gene encoding a presynaptic scaffold and GTP-binding protein, involved in exocytosis,

115 and interacted with alpha-synuclein, implicated in Parkinson's disease⁴⁰. In mouse
116 brains, the average number of unique transcripts per gene was found to be 8, with an
117 average of 17 sequence reads per transcript. *Sorbs1* had the highest number of
118 isoforms at 158; this gene encodes a Sorbin and SH3 domain containing protein
119 involved in insulin signaling and stimulation⁴¹ (**Supplementary Table 3b**). We identified
120 182 genes with more than 50 isoforms and 19 genes with over 100 isoforms in mouse
121 brains. Of these, seven have human orthologs that also exhibit more than 100 isoforms.
122 Our studies revealed a greater transcript diversity than other studies using the same
123 sequencing platform and analytic algorithm^{8,42}. We examined the transcript diversity of
124 213 highly confident ASD risk genes consolidated from 3 recent extensive ASD
125 genomics studies using our SIS data⁴³⁻⁴⁵ (**Fig. 1F** and **Supplementary Table 4**). On
126 average, individual ASD risk genes exhibited 56 transcripts, with a 90% CI ranging 8-
127 140. *ANK2* was noted for having the highest number of transcripts of 372. Remarkably,
128 the expression level of *SHANK3* was one of the lowest, ranking 212 of 213 ASD risk
129 genes (**Fig. 1F**). Genes associated with brain disorders, especially ASD and
130 neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD), have significantly greater numbers of transcripts
131 compared to genes implicated in disorders not related to the brain (**Fig. 1G-H**).
132

133 **A complex mouse *Shank3* transcriptome from CIS**

134 We noted that the longest annotated *SHANK3/Shank3* transcripts in humans
135 (NM_001372044.2, 7,691 bp, hg38) and mice (NM_021423.4, 7,380 bp, mm39) have
136 not been detected in any published long-read RNA-seq datasets^{6,8,42}. From 4 SIS of
137 mouse ST and PFC, we identified only 5 *Shank3* transcripts (ranging 5,625-6,463 bp) in

138 ST, with none detected in PFC upon validation. The discrepancy in transcript number
139 and the variation between ST and PFC were consistent with the highest expression
140 level of *Shank3* in ST and lower expression in neocortex at P21 days²⁵. The failure to
141 detect longer *Shank3* mRNAs by SIS was most likely due to their low abundance, as
142 transcripts up to 14.5 kb were successfully sequenced in our libraries (**Supplementary**
143 **Fig. 1F-G**).

144

145 With CIS, we detected 545 *Shank3* transcripts in the mouse ST (**Fig. 2A**) and 345 in
146 PFC (**Fig. 3A**), including the longest annotated transcript (NM_021423.4). We
147 successfully validated 51 (85%) out of 60 representative novel transcripts by RT-PCR
148 and sequencing (**Fig. 2E-H** and **Supplementary Table 5**). To evaluate the quality of
149 each transcript, we employed a confidence metric that integrates the transcript
150 abundance, the length of predicted open reading frame (ORF), and validations with
151 srRNA-seq data (**Supplementary Fig. 2A**). In ST, 223 (41%) of *Shank3* transcripts
152 were classified as high confidence, while 382 (59%) were in moderate confidence. In
153 PFC, 168 (49%) transcripts were in high confidence, with the remaining and 176 (51%)
154 of moderate confidence. Analysis revealed 36 and 26 potential transcription start sites
155 (TSS) in ST and PFC, respectively. In the ST, 142 *Shank3* transcripts originated at exon
156 1 of the annotated referenced transcript (NM_021423.4) and terminated at 26 different
157 sites (**Fig. 2B**). Thirty-five transcripts terminated within exon 21, each presenting
158 different ORFs. Exon 21, the largest coding exon of 2,257 bp, was spliced out in many
159 transcripts. Over 90% of transcripts terminated within 100-500 bp of annotated
160 transcription termination sites (TTS) and poly A signals (**Supplementary Fig. 3**). This

161 indicates that the early terminations are not artifacts of RNA degradation or cDNA
162 synthesis errors. Intron retentions were observed in introns 1, 2, 11, 12, and 19, leading
163 to altered ORFs and earlier stop codons. While some transcript structure variations
164 were subtle, they are predicted to encode different ORFs (**Fig. 2C-D**).

165

166 In the PFC, we identified 59 *Shank3* transcripts initiating from 19 different exons and
167 terminating within the last coding exon 22 (**Fig. 3A-B**). Notably, 28 of these transcripts
168 started within exon 21 with different ATG codons. This finding aligns with our prior
169 results obtained from 5' RACE experiments²⁵. We discovered 12 new exons in ST and
170 17 in PFC, with 11 being shared to both regions (**Fig. 2A** and **Fig. 3A**). Additionally, we
171 discovered 4 new untranslated exons, U1-4, located 5' upstream of the annotated
172 *Shank3* exon 1 (**Fig. 2A**). Six new and alternative spliced exons, E9a-f, were identified
173 between exons 9 and 10. The spliced variants between exons 9 and 10 were the most
174 abundant with 4,326 reads in ST and 641 in PFC, while exon 12e was exclusive to the
175 PFC (**Fig. 2E**).

176

177 Surprisingly, we observed a considerable number of novel fusion transcripts, in which
178 different *Shank3* exons were joined to downstream exons 2-5 of the *Acr* gene, which
179 encodes the acrosin protein in the acrosome of spermatozoa⁴⁶ (**Fig. 2A** and **Fig. 3A**).
180 These fusion transcripts were validated by PCR and sequencing (**Fig. 2E-F**). We noted
181 that splice events linking *Shank3* exons 17 and 21 to *Acr* exons occurred more
182 frequently than others. Specifically, fusions from *Shank3* exon 21 to *Acr* exon 2 (208
183 reads) and exon 3 (243 reads) were the most abundant. We also identified splice

184 products from *Shank3* exons 17 and 21 to three novel exons/transcripts (T1-3) situated
185 downstream of *Acr* (**Fig. 2A**). These transcripts in ST and PFC are predicted to yield
186 five ORFs, extending the SHANK3 protein by an additional 64 amino acids
187 (NP_001358973).

188
189 The transcriptomic architecture of *Shank3* revealed by CIS in ST and PFC displayed
190 both shared and unique characteristics. Overall, 230 transcripts (42% of ST, 67% of
191 PFC) were common to both brain regions (**Fig. 3C**). We analyzed the tissue specific
192 usage of TSS and coding sequence starting sites (CDS). Transcripts were categorized
193 as follows: overlapping with the annotated *Shank3* mRNA, U1-4 to *Shank3*, *Shank3-Acr*
194 fusion, and *Shank3-T1-3*. In ST, 75% of transcripts belonged to the category
195 overlapping with the annotated *Shank3*, and 24% fell within the *Shank3-Acr* fusion
196 category (**Fig. 3E**). In PFC, 52% of the transcripts were overlapping with annotated
197 *Shank3*, while 43% were classified as *Shank3-Acr* fusion transcripts (**Fig. 3F**).
198

199 **Protein domain specific mouse SHANK3 proteome**

200 SHANK3 and its family encode proteins possess 6 domains of ubiquitin-like (Ubl),
201 ankyrin repeats (ANKYR), postsynaptic density protein 95/discs large homologue
202 1/zonula occludens 1 (PDZ), an Src homology 3 (SH3), a proline-rich region containing
203 Homer and Cortactin-binding sites (Pro), and a sterile alpha motif (SAM)⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹. As
204 scaffold proteins in the postsynaptic density (PSD) of synapses, SHANK3 protein
205 interacts with various synaptic proteins via these domains, contributing to synaptic
206 architecture and function. There are 474 ORFs predicted from 545 *Shank3* transcripts in

207 ST and 270 ORFs in PFC using GeneMarkS-T⁵⁰, with 261 ORFs being common to both
208 brain regions (**Fig. 3D**). ORFs of novel transcripts were further corroborated by
209 proteome data derived from various *in silico* datasets, utilizing graded criteria for
210 sequence identity and overlap (**Supplementary Fig. 2B**).

211

212 Among the 125 ORFs predicted from 140 *Shank3* transcripts starting from exon 1 in ST,
213 only 4 ORFs encompassed all 6 protein domains (**Fig. 3G**). Among the 270 ORFs
214 predicted from 345 *Shank3* transcripts in PFC, only one ORF contained the complete
215 set of 6 protein domains, while 37 ORFs have more than 3 protein domains (**Fig. 3H-K**).
216 One hundred nineteen SHANK3 ORFs (30%) in PFC comprised only a single protein
217 domain, typically the Pro domain. Approximate 15% of the predicted ORFs lacked
218 recognized protein domains. The protein domain combinations were found to be non-
219 random and tissue-specific; for instance, no predicted ORFs included the SAM-SH3
220 combination. The SAM-Pro-SH3 and SAM-SH3-ANKYR domains combinations were
221 exclusive to PFC, while the Ubl-ANKYR-Pro-SAM and ANKYR-SH3-PDZ-Pro
222 combination were identified only in ST (**Fig. 3L**).

223

224 **Uniquely altered *Shank3* transcriptome in *Shank3* mutant mice**

225 Sixteen *Shank3* mutant mouse lines and 8 mutant rat, dog, and non-human primate
226 featuring various exonic deletions or point mutations, have been generated to model
227 SHANK3 associated ASD³⁰ (**Fig. 4A**). Using the same *Shank3* probe design, we
228 conducted CIS on *Shank3* mutant mice: those with deletions of exons 4-9 (*Shank3*^{Δe4-9}),
229 exons 4-22 (*Shank3*^{Δe4-22}), and exon 21 (*Shank3*^{Δe21})^{19,20,32,33}. In *Shank3*^{Δe4-9}

230 homozygous mice, we detected 69 *Shank3* transcripts in ST and 56 in PFC.

231 Representative mutant and residual transcripts are diagramed in **Fig. 4B**, with details

232 provided in **Supplementary Fig. 4A-B**. In ST and PFC of *Shank3*^{Δe4-9} mice, we

233 identified 3 long transcripts (~7.3 kb), harboring a deletion of exons 4-9. Interestingly,

234 the first exon of these transcripts, with the exon 4-9 deletion, was in intron 1 of the

235 annotated *Shank3*, a TSS was not utilized in WT mice, suggesting an alternative TSS

236 due to the exon 4-9 deletion. These transcripts also lacked coding exon 22 and

237 exhibited fusions between exon 21 of *Shank3* and exon 2 of *Acr*. ORF prediction

238 suggests that the resultant SHANK3-ACR fusion proteins for these mutant transcripts is

239 1254 aa for PB.6361.147, 1073 aa for PB.6623.114, and 833aa for PB.6623.199.

240 Approximately 70% of the residual transcripts are initiated from intron 16/exon 17 and

241 terminate within exon 21/intron 21 of *Shank3* or exon 5 of *Acr*. Transcripts starting at

242 exon 11 were exclusively detected in ST. The proportion of transcripts initiated from

243 intron 16/exon 17 was increased in *Shank3*^{Δe4-9} mice compared to WT. A total of 54

244 ORFs (ranging 113 to 1,327 aa), were predicted in ST, with a similar pattern observed

245 in PFC from residual transcripts of *Shank3*^{Δe4-9} mice.

246

247 In *Shank3*^{Δe21} homozygous mice, we identified 401 *Shank3* transcripts in ST and 148 in

248 PFC (**Fig. 4C**, **Supplementary Fig. 4C-D**). In *Shank3*^{Δe4-22} homozygous mice, the

249 number were 436 in ST and 792 in PFC (**Fig. 4D**, **Supplementary Fig. 4E-F**).

250 Remarkably, over 99% of these transcripts were *Shank3*-ACR fusion events in both

251 brain regions of *Shank3*^{Δe21} and *Shank3*^{Δe4-22} mice. The predominant transcripts in

252 *Shank3*^{Δe21} mice was from the intron 16/exon 17 region in both ST and PFC. Conversely,

253 in *Shank3*^{Δe4-22} mice, transcription primarily initiated from intron 1/exon 2. We also
254 detected multiple novel exons interposed between *Shank3* and *Acr* genes
255 (**Supplementary Fig. 4C*-D***), exclusive to these *Shank3* mutant lines and absent in
256 WT. Fusion transcripts of *Shank3-Acr* were more prevalent in *Shank3*^{Δe4-22}, *Shank3*^{Δe4-9},
257 and *Shank3*^{Δe21} mutants. Moreover, a significant overexpression of *Acr* transcripts was
258 found in neocortex and hippocampus of *Shank3*^{Δe4-22/-} mice (**Fig. 4E-F**). Bulk RNA-seq
259 data analysis from ST of *Shank3*^{Δe4-22/-} mice also indicated a compensatory expression
260 from *Shank1* and *Shank2*, which was protein domain-specific (**Fig. 4H-K**).

261
262 The *Shank3* transcriptomic findings from CIS prompted us to extend our approach to
263 include all *Shank* family genes (*Shank1-3*) using a joint capture strategy. This joint CIS
264 for the *Shank* family genes identified 664 *Shank1* and 495 *Shank2* transcripts in PFC,
265 and 320 *Shank1* and 326 *Shank2* transcripts in ST (**UCSC Tracks 4 and 5**). The overall
266 transcript structures and patterns of *Shank3* from both single-gene and joint CIS were
267 similar. We discovered 7 novel exons upstream of the annotated exon 1 of *SHANK1*
268 (**Supplementary Fig. 5A**). Fusion transcripts involving *Shank1* and *Shank2* with
269 adjacent genes were also detected. The most upstream novel exon of *Shank1*
270 overlapped with the last exon of *Clec11a* gene (NM_009131.3), which is transcribed in
271 the reverse direction to *Shank1* (**Supplementary Fig. 5B**). The fusion transcripts
272 between *Shank1* and *Josd2*, a gene located approximately 100 kb downstream, were
273 exclusively detected in PFC. Two new untranslated exons, U1 and U2, were found
274 about 24kb upstream from the annotated 5' exon 1 of *SHANK2* (**Supplementary Fig.**
275 **5C**)

276

277 **Transcript diversity of SHANK family genes in human brains**

278 In current reference genome (hg38), an annotated human *SHANK3* mRNA (7,691 bp,
279 NM_001372044) is displayed, yet it has not been experimentally validated. With CIS on
280 *SHANK* family genes, we discovered 472 unique *SHANK3* transcripts (**Fig. 5A-C**,
281 **UCSC Track 6**), with the longest was 6,824 bp. Notably, the annotated 7,691 bp
282 *SHANK3* transcript (NM_001372044) was absent. The absence of the longest *SHANK3*
283 transcript is unlikely a result of RNA degradation, because a 10.8 kb *SHANK2* transcript
284 was detected in the same captured sample. Instead, it appeared due to extremely low
285 or no expression of the full-length *SHANK3* transcript in adult frontal and temporal
286 cortices. Most of the 472 unique *SHANK3* transcripts clustered within regions spanning
287 exons 1-9 and 10-22. None incorporated splicing between exon 9 and 10, an area
288 characterized by high GC content (77% of GC) and a CpG island (hg38). Accordingly,
289 43 unique transcripts initiated from this CpG island, implying a TSS within intron 9. *In*
290 *silico* analysis using a parameter-free assembly approach (Cufflinks-Cuffmerge)⁵¹
291 applied to srRNA-seq data also failed to detect any transcripts connecting exon 9 and
292 10.

293

294 Similar to mouse *Shank3*, we detected 66 fusion transcripts between *SHANK3* and *ACR*
295 (**Fig. 5C**). These fusion transcripts, intron retention, and novel exons were validated by
296 RT-PCR and sequencing (**Fig. 5D**). Fifty-eight of them were fusion transcripts
297 constituted exon 19/exon 20 of *SHANK3* (exon 20 is the largest exon in human
298 equivalent to exon 21 in mice) to exons 2-5 of *ACR*. Nine transcripts started within

299 *SHANK3* exon 20 were found to be fused with *ACR*. We observed splicing events
300 connecting *SHANK3* exons 19-20 to uncharacterized downstream exons, T1-2, of *ACR*.
301 We also detected 3 novel untranslated exons (U1-U3) upstream exon 1 of *SHANK3*
302 mRNA (**Fig. 5E**). The sequence of U2 is highly conserved in mouse.
303
304 With the joint capture for *SHANK* family genes, we detected 86 *SHANK1* and 277
305 *SHANK2* transcripts (**UCSC Track 6**), from which 69 ORFs for *SHANK1* and 165 ORF
306 for *SHANK2* were predicted. Across these *SHANK* family ORFs, we observed 17
307 different combinations of six functional domains, with the PDZ domain appearing most
308 frequently (**Fig. 5F**). A complete set of all six functional domains (Ubl, ANKYR, SH3,
309 PDZ, Pro, and SAM) was predicted only in one *SHANK2* transcript.
310
311 The unexpected discovery of extensive fusion transcripts between *SHANK3* and *ACR* in
312 human brain tissue led to a comprehensive genome-wide analysis for fusion transcripts
313 in SIS data. We detected 2,265 fusion transcripts (1.7% of the total transcripts)
314 associated with 3,499 genes in the brains of children and adults, with 963 fusion
315 transcripts common to both groups. About 98% of fusion transcripts are between two
316 adjacent genes. A small number of fusion transcripts are among 3 adjacent genes. No
317 fusion transcript is from distant genes or genes from two chromosomes. Gene Ontology
318 enrichment analysis revealed a significantly enrichment of fusion transcripts in genes
319 associated with ASD (**Fig. 5G-H**).
320

321 To access the functional constraint of novel *SHANK3/Shank3* exons in humans and
322 mice identified by CIS, we utilized Evolutionary Rate Profiling (GERP)^{52,53} and PhyloP⁵⁴
323 conservation scores. In mice, GERP and PhyloP scores for most *Shank3* novel exons
324 were significantly higher than those of non-transcribed region, but they were lower than
325 scores for known coding exons in both PFC and ST (**Fig. 5I-J, supplementary Table**
326 **6A-B**). A concordant pattern was observed in human *SHANK3* (**Fig. 5K-L,**
327 **supplementary Table 6C-D**). These results suggest that the novel exons of *SHANK3/*
328 *Shank3* uncovered by CIS are evolutionarily constrained elements, underscoring their
329 potential functional significance.

330

331 **Transcript diversity and novel transcripts of *TP53* gene in human and mice**
332 To examine whether the transcriptional complexity is exclusively associated with
333 synaptic genes, we applied SIS and CIS to *TP53* in human brain, and to *Trp53* in
334 mouse brains and thymus, where *Trp53* expression is the highest. SIS detected only 5
335 *Trp53* transcripts in mouse ST and 3 in mouse PFC that is consistent with the data in
336 literature^{55,56}. In contrast, CIS identified a comprehensive set of 243 transcripts from
337 thymus, 164 from PFC, and 188 from ST (**Supplementary Fig. 6A-C, UCSC Track 7**).
338 The pattern of unique *Trp53* transcripts is similar amongst the 3 tissues, with 18
339 alternative TSS deduced from thymus transcripts. A significantly higher percentage of
340 transcripts exhibited intron retention in *Trp53* compared to *Shank3*. Additionally, novel
341 tissue-specific 5' exons unique to brain (bU1) and thymus (tU1/tU2) were discovered.

342

343 In human brain, CIS detected 106 *TP53* transcripts, which predicted 60 ORFs, 18 TSSs,
344 and three 3' transcriptional ends (**Supplementary Fig. 6D, UCSC tracks**). We also
345 discovered 3 novel exons (hT1-3) at the 3' end, which extended the C-terminus of TP53
346 ORF by 72aa and is conserved with the mouse *TRP53* (77% identical). These
347 observations underscore the complexity of the *TP53/Trp53* transcriptome, which is
348 complex but less heterogenous than *SHANK* family genes.

349

350 **Developmental, tissue, and cell type specificity of SHANK3/Shank3 transcripts
351 from CIS**

352 To investigate the developmental specificity of *Shank3* transcriptome, we aligned
353 mouse srRNA-seq data of cerebral cortex at different ages from E14.5 to P180 day⁵⁷⁻⁵⁹
354 to *Shank3* transcripts from CIS (**Fig. 6A**). The E14.5 embryos exhibited the least
355 diversity of *Shank3* transcripts of. As development, the number of unique *Shank3*
356 transcripts increased, reaching a maximum at P56 day before declining at P180 day.
357 Further analysis on cell type specificity aligning scRNA-seq data from anterior cingulate
358 area (ACA) of 8-week-old mice³⁹ to *Shank3* transcripts identified by CIS, demonstrated
359 a significantly higher abundance of *Shank3* transcripts in glutamatergic neurons
360 compared to GABAergic neurons. The *Shank3* transcripts including exon 18 was
361 exclusively found in endothelial cells (**Fig. 6B**).

362

363 To investigate tissue specificity, we analyzed the exon usage in mouse *Shank3*
364 transcripts from CIS against scRNA-seq data from 5 cerebral cortex subregions³⁹. The
365 exon usage patterns of *Shank3* CIS transcripts within the same cell type exhibited

366 unique variations across different brain subregions (**Supplementary Fig.7**). The pattern
367 of human *SHANK3* transcripts in infants and children was distinct from adults, when
368 aligned human srRNA-seq data to *SHANK3* transcripts from CIS. The *SHANK3* exon
369 usages were also changes with age.

370

371 We mapped *Shank3* transcripts to 10x Genomics Visium spatial transcriptome of mouse
372 to visualize the expressive pattern *in situ*⁶⁰. Two probes targeting *Shank3* exons 11 and
373 22, and one for *Acr* exon 5, facilitated this analysis. Three *Shank3* transcripts identified
374 by CIS were enriched to distinct anatomical regions (**Fig. 6C-F**). *Shank3* transcript
375 TALONT000202476 containing exon 11, and TALONT000200721 incorporating exon 22,
376 have a similar cell-specific expression pattern, albeit at different levels of abundance.
377 Transcript TALONT000200852, a fusion transcript connecting *Shank3* exon 21 and *Acr*
378 exon 5, displayed a cell type-specific expression pattern. Furthermore, we found a
379 cellular compartment-specific preference for the *Shank3* transcripts. The inclusion of
380 *Shank3* largest exon 21 is significantly more common in synapses than in nuclei from
381 mouse brain scRNA-seq data⁶¹ (**Fig.6G**). The exon 2 of *Acr* gene, frequently fused with
382 *Shank3* exons, was significantly less present in nucleus of AD models compared to WT.
383 The splicing events involving 5' segment of *Acr* exon 5 were more common across both
384 nucleus and synapses in AD mice, while splicing involving the latter 2/3 of *Acr* exon 5
385 was more frequent in nucleus of WT (**Fig. 6H**).

386

387 **Applications of SHANK3 transcriptome from CIS to genome sequencing and**
388 **transcriptome analyses of ASD and other neuropsychiatric disorders**

389 Human *SHANK3* transcripts identified through CIS exhibit expression patterns that are
390 specific to developmental stages and brain regions, such as the cerebral cortex and
391 cerebellum (**Fig. 7A-D** and **Supplementary Fig. 8**). We extended the *in-silico*
392 transcriptome diversity analysis to 213 highly confident ASD risk genes consolidated
393 from 3 recent extensive ASD genomics studies (**Supplementary Table 4**)⁴³⁻⁴⁵. The
394 transcriptome diversity of ASD risk genes was significantly greater than of non-ASD
395 associated genes (Pearson $r=0.386$, $p<0.001$). Specifically, ASD risk genes associated
396 with gene expression regulation and neuronal communication showed significantly
397 higher level of transcriptome complexity, compared to genes in other functional
398 categories (Pearson $r=0.825$ and Pearson $r=0.793$, respectively, both $p<0.001$).
399 *SHANK3*, consistently reported as one of the top 5 ASD causing genes in these
400 studies⁴³⁻⁴⁵, is also implicated in schizophrenia (SCZ)⁶², bipolar disorder (BPD)⁶³, and
401 major depressive disorder (MDD)⁶⁴. To investigate alterations in *SHANK3*
402 transcriptomes across these disorders, we analyzed srRNA-seq data from the
403 PsychENCODE project³⁵. Principle component analysis (PCA) revealed unique
404 transcript patterns for each disorder, especially for ASD and SCZ (**Fig. 7E**). The
405 expressions of a subset of *SHANK3* transcripts varied across ASD, MDD, BD, SCZ, and
406 controls (**Fig. 7E-I**). Brain region and age-specific expression of *SHANK3* transcripts
407 formed distinct cluster in PCA analysis (**Fig. J**). The exons 12, 15, 20, and 22 of
408 *SHANK3* transcripts in BA7 were significantly more represented in ASD brains than
409 controls (**Fig. 7K**), and exon 10 showed a higher expression in BA38 of ASD brains (**Fig.**
410 **7L**).
411

412 While *SHANK3* genetic mutations are implicated in 1-2% of ASD cases and to a lesser
413 extent in other neuropsychiatric disorders^{43-45,65,66}, we sought to examine whether
414 incorporating the enhanced *SHANK3* transcript structure from CIS into public available
415 ES and WGS of ASD/SCZ/BPD datasets could uncover additional disease-associated
416 single nucleotide variants (SNVs)^{45,67-70}. We re-analyzed sequence variants on a large
417 cohort of 177,000 samples of both controls and disease subjects, including ES data
418 from the Autism Sequencing Consortium⁴⁵, BPD Exomes⁶⁸, SCZ Exome Meta-analysis
419 Consortium⁶⁷, as well as WGS of ASD, SCZ, and BP cohorts from BrainVar⁶⁹ and
420 BrainGVEX⁷⁰. Variant identifications and annotations of were previously based on the
421 mRNA reference NM_001372044.2 and hg38 genome assembly. We used Variant
422 Effect Predictor (VEP, release 107)⁷¹ and Genome Aggregation Database (gnomAD,
423 v3.1.2)⁷², for annotation and filtering, including variants with a population allele
424 frequency of <= 0.01 for protein truncating variants (PTVs), and excluding missense and
425 synonymous variants for further analysis. SpliceAI⁷³ and SnpEff⁷⁴ were used to analyze
426 splice variants and evaluate the pathogenic potential of stop-loss, stop-gain, and
427 frameshift variants. This re-annotation identified 1,530 new SNVs across 55,000 cases
428 pooled from ASD (11,986 ES; 923 WGS), BP (14,210 ES), and SCZ (27,648 ES)
429 cohorts (**Fig. 7M**), resulting in the discovery of 27 stop-loss, 60 stop-gain, 52 frameshift,
430 and 53 splice variants in *SHANK3* considered potentially deleterious or PTVs using CIS
431 annotation in disease subjects but not in controls. This was a marked contrast to the
432 variants analyzed using current reference (0 stop-loss, 1 stop-gain, 4 frameshift, and 16
433 splice variants). Accordingly, the detection rate for potential deleterious SNVs of
434 *SHANK3* increased from 1.3% when using current reference (NM_001372044) to 12.5%

435 when annotated with the *SHANK3* CIS transcripts, highlighting the significance of
436 comprehensive transcriptome annotation in uncovering genetic contributions to
437 neuropsychiatric disorders (**Fig. 7N**).

438

439 **Discussion**

440 Diverse transcription is crucial for generating proteomic diversity and facilitating
441 complex cellular functions. Precision of transcription is critical because mutations in the
442 transcriptional regulatory DNA elements can cause numerous single gene disorders.
443 Despite the recent report of the completed human genome⁷⁵, the transcriptome remains
444 largely uncharted. Our work applying SIS on human and mouse brains discovered
445 unprecedented transcriptome diversity^{8,42}. Glinos *et al*¹⁴ reported a maximum of 178
446 isoforms for a single gene, with only 5 genes exhibiting more than 100 isoforms, and a
447 median of 2 isoforms per gene across various tissues and cell lines. Leung *et al*.'s
448 study⁴² noted a peak of 40 isoforms per gene in the human cortex. Furthermore, Chau
449 *et al*⁷⁶ assembled an average of 4 isoforms per gene from bulk RNA-seq of human
450 developing brains. Significantly, these studies uncovered only a few incomplete
451 *SHANK3* mRNA isoforms. However, our study identified as many as 692 isoforms for a
452 single gene, with 595 genes having more than 100 isoforms, and an average of 19
453 isoforms per gene in the human cerebral cortex. Our results suggest that the extent of
454 transcript complexity described in existing literature is significantly underestimated,
455 particularly for genes like *SHANK3*.

456

457 Our targeted capture and long-read sequencing have mapped the SHANK family
458 transcriptomes in detail, with the majority of novel transcripts likely endogenously
459 expressed. This is supported by our strict identification process, validation through RT-
460 PCR and Sanger sequencing, consistency across experiments and brain regions, and
461 conservation between species. Additionally, the specificity of these transcripts was
462 confirmed in Shank3 mutant mice. Despite the high confidence, it remains a possibility
463 that a small fraction might not be expressed endogenously. The discovery of a
464 substantial number of fusion transcripts for *SHANK3/Shank3* in our study was
465 unexpected, with a prevalence that surpassed the findings from other studies^{8,42}. Until
466 recently, fusion transcripts have been largely investigated in cancer-related studies
467 because of their oncogenic properties^{77,78}. Yet, their presence in normal cells has only
468 recently been acknowledged^{8,42,79}. Two recent studies using the SIS method^{8,42}
469 reported a mere 136 fusion transcripts (0.41% of total transcripts) in human brains. In
470 contrast, our study identified 2,265 fusion transcripts in human brains, constituting 1.7%
471 of total transcripts. Interestingly, these fusion transcripts were found to be particularly
472 more enriched in the human ASD-associated transcriptome.

473
474 The enhanced *SHANK3* transcript structure from CIS has significantly increased the
475 detection rate of PTVs or predicted LOF variants in ES and WGS data for
476 neuropsychiatric disorders. Further functional validations are warranted to determine the
477 pathogenicity of these new identified PTVs. Our findings highlight the significance of
478 employing fully characterized transcript structures in genomics studies of disease gene
479 discovery. Transcriptional dysregulations in the brain have been implicated in

480 neuropsychiatric disorders^{5,80}. By integrating the *SHANK3* transcriptome data from CIS
481 and the transcriptome data from PsychENCODE, we discovered brain region-specific
482 dysregulations in *SHANK3* transcriptome associated with ASD and other
483 neuropsychiatric disorders. Notably, brain region-specific DNA methylation in intragenic
484 CpG islands, which show altered methylation in ASD brains^{81,82}, suggest that epigenetic
485 changes could be instrumental in *SHANK3* transcript variations.

486

487 In *Shank3* mutant mice, stable transcripts with exonic deletions indicated truncated
488 protein production or upregulated non-mutant isoforms^{30,83}. Cryptic promoters,
489 especially within intron 16/exon 17, suggest alternative initiation and potential novel
490 protein isoforms. These could perturb the postsynaptic density protein interactome,
491 indicating possible loss and gain of function in *Shank3* mutants. Such complexities
492 question the molecular and phenotypic consistency of *Shank3* mouse models with
493 *SHANK3* disorders^{16-18,30,84,85}. For example, differential behavioral phenotypes and
494 receptor subunit alterations are noted across mutant lines^{19,30,34}. Specifically,
495 *Shank3*^{Δe21} mutants show unique upregulation of alternative transcripts and fusion
496 transcripts, diverging behaviorally from *Shank3*^{Δe4-22} mutants^{30,86}. These molecular
497 nuances challenge the translational fidelity of *Shank3* mouse models for preclinical
498 studies and necessitate re-evaluation, particularly for models in therapeutic
499 development.

500

501 Our study's detailed alignment of *SHANK3/Shank3* transcripts underscores its
502 proteomic diversity at the PSD, essential for complex synaptic functions^{48,49,87}. However,

503 about 15% of the transcripts, possibly arising from cryptic promoters or alternative
504 splicing, lack substantial ORFs or are lowly expressed, hinting at stochastic transcription
505 events previously noted in other species⁸⁸⁻⁹⁷. Challenges to the ENCODE projects'
506 findings on genome transcription by subsequent short-read RNA-seq studies^{11-13,15,98-100},
507 align with our discovery that *SHANK3/Shank3* and *TP53* transcription involves
508 intragenic promoters and frequent intron retention. These regions, less conserved
509 evolutionarily, affirm pervasive transcription and suggest a more deterministic
510 transcriptional landscape for these genes in humans and mice.

511

512 **Limitations of the study**

513 Several limitations of study that are warranted for discussion. We will not be able
514 quantify the extent of stochasticity of transcription from current analysis. The extensive
515 functional validation of transcripts at the protein level remains a challenge, as some
516 transcripts may function uniquely at the RNA level, eluding protein-interaction analyses.
517 Also, our capture-based method trades sensitivity for efficiency when scaling up, as
518 increased gene targets reduce sequence depth, necessitating careful experimental
519 design for quality data.

520

521 **Figure legends**

522 **Fig. 1. Genome wide transcript diversity and abundance in brains detected by SIS.**

523 **A.** Experimental design of SIS and CIS of human and mouse tissues.

524 **B.** Schematic of experimental procedure of RNA capture and long read-sequencing.

525 **C.** Number of unique transcripts (transcript diversity) for individual genes (blue) and the
526 number of sequences reads (abundance) (red) for an individual transcript detected in
527 human cerebral cortex by SIS with projected chromosome coordinates and ideograms.

528 **D.** Transcript diversity was significantly correlated with the sequence reads (abundance)
529 of the transcripts.

530 **E.** Number of transcripts per gene genome-wide from SIS in human and mouse brains.

531 **F.** Number of unique transcripts (Trans_Div) and abundance (Gene_FL) for 213 ASD
532 risk genes, shown an average of 56 transcripts per gene and a median of 35.

533 **G-H.** Human SIS data showed heightened transcript diversity in genes associated with
534 brain disorders, especially ASD and NDD, compared to other diseases. We observed a
535 strong correlation between transcript diversity and abundance in all gene clusters
536 except for those related to dementia/Alzheimer's.

537

538 **Fig. 2. Novel *Shank3* transcriptome in mouse striatum (ST) by CIS.**

539 **A.** CIS revealed a refined *Shank3* gene structure and splicing patterns in WT mouse
540 striatum. The established *Shank3* structure (NM_001034115, mm39) is expanded with
541 newly detected exons shared between striatum and PFC, depicted in purple. Unique
542 splicing events, represented by grey lines and thickness indicating read quantity,
543 include novel striatum-specific exons in dark blue and alternative splices in light blue.
544 Fusion transcript exons near Gm41381 and Acr, shown in green and orange,
545 respectively, feature unique splicing with newly identified red exons (T1-T3) exclusive to
546 *Shank3*. New exon U3 is shared between striatum and PFC. U4 is linked to Gm4138

547 and striatum specific. 21e is a new in-frame exon and 21c is a new exon harbor a stop
548 codon.

549 **B.** 142 unique transcripts started with the canonical exon 1 of annotated *Shank3*
550 (NM_001034115) in ST and terminated at different positions. Pink bar plots on the left
551 are the abundance (log2 counts). Arrows describe the features of given transcripts.

552 **C.** Example of transcripts with similar structures in panorama but different at the
553 sequence level with predicted ORFs and ATG codons. The transcripts of PB.13560.548,
554 PB.13560.628, and PB.13560.547 are similar but the predicted ORFs show different
555 ATG codons and protein domains.

556 **D.** Details of the split exon 1. There is a cryptic splicing of 127 bp (non-capitalized
557 sequence in black) within the annotated exon 1 of transcript PB.106071.171 which
558 resulted in a predicted upstream ATG codon and additional 134 amino acids. Other
559 transcripts have transcriptional starting sites (TSS) in exon 1 but predicted ATG codon
560 in exon 2. Variability in TSS and intron 1 retention, as seen in transcripts PB.13554.484,
561 PB.13554.580, and PB.13554.668, leads to ORFs of 304 aa, 106 aa, and 1,290 aa,
562 respectively.

563 **E.** Validations new transcripts from paired mouse PFC and ST samples. Pair 1, novel
564 exon U1; Pair 2, fusion transcript between *Shank3* exon 21 and *Acr* exon2; Pair 3,
565 splicing event between *Shank3* exon 9 and exon19; Pair 4, splicing event between
566 *Shank3* exon 5 and exon 21; Pair 5, novel exon 9b of *Shank3*; Pair 6, *Shank3*
567 exon11 extension/intron11 retention. The red arrows are the novel products confirmed
568 by Sanger sequencing. Other bands are products from known transcripts.

569 **F.** Sanger sequencing confirmation of a fusion transcript between *Shank3* exon21 and
570 *Acr* exon2 in mouse brain (pair 2 of E)

571 **G.** Fusion transcripts in other tissues. Forward and reverse primers were from exon 20
572 of *Shank3* and exon 5 of mouse *Acr* respectively. lane1, liver in P21 mouse; lane 2,
573 thymus in P21 mouse; lane 3, ovary in P21 mouse; lane 4, ovary in 3 months old mouse;
574 lane 5, testis in P21 mouse; lane 6, testis in 3-month-old mouse. The red arrows are the
575 novel products confirmed by Sanger sequencing as indicated. Other bands are known
576 products.

577 **H.** Sanger sequencing of *Shank3* exon 11 extension/intron 11 retention in mouse brain
578 (lane 6 of G).

579

580 **Fig. 3. Novel *Shank3* transcriptome in mouse PFC by CIS and predicted domain
581 structures of ORFs**

582 **A.** New *Shank3* transcript structure and conch plot of splicing events discovered in WT
583 mouse PFC by CIS. Color code is the same as **Fig. 2A**. The novel exon 9a
584 (chr15:89394416-89394465, mm39) is shared between PFC and ST. Other novel exons
585 such as exon 12e (chr15:89414330-89414640, mm39) were unique to PFC. Novel
586 exons 21a, 21b and 21c are predicted to result in an early stop codon and shorter ORFs
587 (chr15: 89394416-89394465, chr15: 89408698-89408784, chr15: 89418571-89418609,
588 mm39).

589 **B.** Structure of 59 transcripts with different TSSs but terminating at annotated exon 22
590 of *Shank3*. Pink bar plot represents the abundance (log2 counts) of each transcript.

591 **C-D.** The comparison of transcripts and predicted ORFs between mouse ST and PFC.

592 **E-F.** The pattern of deduced TSS and predicted starting sites of the coding sequence
593 (CDS) for all *Shank3* transcripts including new 5' and 3' fusion transcripts from CIS in
594 mouse ST (E) and PFC (F). Each filament represents an individual transcript in different
595 classes of GM41381(U1-U2)-*Shank3*, *Shank3*-T1-3, *Shank3*, *Shank3*-Acr (first column),
596 deduced TSS (middle column), and predicted starting sites of CDS (third column).

597 **G.** A total of 125 unique ORFs are predicted from 142 transcripts starting with exon 1 in
598 ST. The pattern of the combination of 6 protein domains is shown in the outermost ring
599 of the windmill plot. The middle layer shows the abundance of each RNA transcript and
600 the p value of its expression level compared to other transcripts. Only 4 ORFs of
601 transcripts contained all 6 protein domains.

602 **H-K.** Four windmill plots showing 270 predicted ORFs from all 345 transcripts detected
603 in PFC classified by the combination of functional domains.

604 **L.** Spiral plot showing an aggregated functional domain coverage of the transcripts
605 captured by *Shank1-3* joint probe panel by CIS of mouse PFC and ST. Each dot
606 represents a unique transcript. Each color represents a unique combination of functional
607 domain. The dots are ordered from the longest to the shortest transcript, while the
608 colors are arranged from the SAM to UBL domain.

609

610 **Fig. 4. The summary and illustration of altered *Shank3* transcripts in *Shank3*^{Δe4-9},**
611 ***Shank3*^{Δe21} and *Shank3*^{Δe4-22} mutant mice from CIS**

612 **A.** Current annotated mouse *Shank3* and *Acr* (NM_013455, mm39) gene structure. The
613 annotations of genetically targeted mutations in mice, rat, monkey, and dog are shown.
614 (KO: exonic deletions; KI: knock-in mutation)

615 **B.** The gene structure of $Shank3^{\Delta e4-9}$ mutant mice in grey and representative mRNA
616 transcripts from $Shank3^{\Delta e4-9-/-}$ mice are in pink. No transcript using first annotated exon 1
617 was detected. Instead, the first exon, presumably a cryptic TSS (arrow), was detected in
618 intron 1. The exon 4-9 deleted transcript missed exon 11, 12, and 22 but with fusion
619 between $Shank3$ and Acr . The transcripts starting at intron 16/exon 17 (arrows) as first
620 exon were most abundant. Extensive fusion transcripts between $Shank3$ exon 21 and
621 Acr exon 2 were observed. The last coding exon 22 was not detected in any transcripts.

622 **C.** The gene structure of $Shank3^{\Delta e21}$ mutant mice and Acr gene in grey and
623 representative mRNA transcripts from of $Shank3^{\Delta e21-/-}$ mice in blue. The splicing
624 between exon 4 of $Shank3$ and exons of Acr that resulted in fusion transcripts were
625 observed. The transcripts starting at intron 16/exon 17 (arrows) as first exon and fusion
626 between $Shank3$ and Acr were most common. The coding exon 22 were not detected in
627 any transcript.

628 **D.** The gene structure of $Shank3^{\Delta e4-22}$ mutant mice and Acr gene in grey and
629 representative mRNA transcripts in purple. The number of fusion transcripts between
630 $Shank3$ and Acr is significantly increased in $Shank3^{\Delta e4-22-/-}$ mutant mice.

631 **E-F.** Increased expression of Acr transcript in $Shank3^{\Delta e4-22-/-}$ mutant mouse by RT-qPCR.
632 The expression of Acr gene was significantly increased in both striatum and
633 hippocampus by >100 folds.

634 **G-J.** Compensatory expression of the functional domains of SHANK family proteins in
635 striatum of $Shank3^{\Delta e4-22}$ mutant mice. The bulk RNA-seq data of $Shank3^{\Delta e4-22}$ were
636 analyzed for the compensatory expression of other functional domains of $Shank1$ and
637 $Shank2$ genes. The deficiency of ANKRY and SH3 domains of SHANK3 was

638 compensated by SHANK1 but the deficiency of PDZ and SAM domains were
639 compensated by both SHANK1 and SHANK2. The deficiency of SAM and SH3 domain
640 was fully compensated but the deficiency of ANKRY and PDZ domains was partially
641 compensated.

642

643 **Fig. 5. The novel transcripts of human *SHANK3* genes detected by CIS and**
644 **predicted ORFs**

645 **A.** New *SHANK3* transcript structure and Conch plot of *SHANK3* transcripts discovered
646 by CIS in normal human cortex. Black backbone is the annotated *SHANK3* transcript of
647 NM_001372044 (hg38). Blue rectangles represent novel exons of *SHANK3*. The exons
648 of *ACR* are in orange rectangles. The new and uncharacterized exons distal to *ACR* are
649 in red rectangles. The grey line connects adjacent exons while the light blue line
650 illustrates alternative splicing events. The number of sequences reads for the splicing
651 event is shown in the middle of connecting lines and reflected in the thickness of the
652 connecting lines.

653 **B.** Zoomed view of the splicing events between exons 10 and 20 in the human cortex.
654 Exons 16 and 20 of *SHANK3* in humans corresponds to exons 17 and 21 of *Shank3* in
655 mice.

656 **C.** Structure and abundance of the fusion transcripts between *SHANK3* and *ACR* in the
657 human cortex. Majority of fusion transcripts are initiated after exon 10, mainly from
658 introns 16, 17, and exon 21. The fusion transcripts are notably skipping exon 20 (the
659 largest exon) of *SHANK3* and exon 1 of *ACR*.

660 **D.** Validations novel *SHANK3* transcripts in in human brain tissue by RT-PCR and
661 Sanger sequencing. Diagram for the primer design of L1 is shown. RT-PCR gel: L1,
662 fusion transcript between *SHANK3* exon 20 and *ACR* exon 2; L2, fusion transcript
663 between *SHANK3* exon 20 and *ACR* exon 4; Lane 3, fusion transcript between
664 *SHANK3* exon 19 and *ACR* exon 2; L 3, novel exon U3; Lane 4; L5, intron14 retention;
665 L6, intron 15 retention. M, DNA marker. Sanger sequence of RT-PCR product of
666 *SHANK3* exon 20 and *ACR* exon 2 fusion from L1

667 **E.** Three new exons upstream of the annotated exon 1 of *SHANK3* mRNA
668 (NM_001372044) (U1, chr22:50672853-50672979; U2, chr22:50674076-50674097; U3,
669 chr22:50674642-50674705, hg38). A new ATG codon is in U2.

670 **F.** Dandelion plot shows functional domain combinations of the *SHANK1*, *SHANK2*, and
671 *SHANK3* transcripts from CIS. Each dot represents a unique transcript, and each color
672 is a unique combination of functional domains. There are 17 combinations of functional
673 domains of human *SHANK* family genes. The PDZ domain was significantly more
674 present (~70%) in predicted ORFs.

675 **G-H.** Significant enrichment of fusion transcripts in transcriptome data of ASD and
676 schizophrenia. For Gene Ontology enrichment analysis with Enrichr95 in 41 disease-
677 related datasets. The fusion transcripts were significantly enriched in ASD and
678 schizophrenia in Disease Perturbations form GEO dataset (G) and the ClinVar2019
679 dataset (H).

680 **I-J.** Distribution of GERP (G) and PhyloP (H) scores across human *SHANK3* genomic
681 regions of known coding exons, novel exons from CIS, and non-transcribed region in
682 cerebral cortex. **I.** GERP score for novel exons from CIS in cerebral cortex is

683 significantly high than non-transcribed region ($D=0.097$; $p<0.001$) but significantly lower
684 than that of *SHANK3* known exons ($D=0.299$; $p<0.001$). **J.** PhyloP score for novel exons
685 from CIS in cerebral cortex is significantly higher than non-transcribed region ($D=0.133$,
686 $p<0.001$) but significantly lower than that of *SHANK3* known coding exons ($D=0.296$,
687 $p<0.001$).

688 **K-L.** Distribution of GERP and PhyloP scores across mouse *Shank3* genomic regions of
689 known coding exons, novel exons from CIS, and non-transcribed region in PFC and ST.

690 **K.** GERP score for novel exons from CIS in PFC and ST is significantly high than that of
691 non-transcribed region (PFC: $D=0.548$, $p<0.001$; ST: $D=0.602$, $p<0.001$) but significantly
692 lower than known *Shank3* coding exons (PFC: 0.15 , $p<0.001$; ST: $D=0.0960$; $p<0.001$). **L.**
693 PhyloP score for novel exons from CIS in PFC and ST is significantly higher than that of
694 non-transcribed region (PFC: $D=0.385$, $p<0.001$; ST: $D=0.439$, $p<0.001$) but significantly
695 lower than known *Shank3* coding exons (PFC: $D=0.184$, $p<0.001$; ST: $D=0.128$,
696 $P<0.001$).

697

698 **Fig. 6. Developmental, cell type, cell compartment specific, and spatial**
699 **transcriptome of *Shank3* in mouse brains.**

700 **A.** Developmental specific *Shank3* transcripts in mouse cerebral cortex.

701 **B.** Cell type specific *Shank3* transcripts in mouse brains. The scRNA-seq of anterior
702 cingulate cortex (ACA)⁵ was aligned to *Shank3* transcripts detected by CIS.
703 Glutamatergic neurons, especially the L2/3, L4/5, and L6 CTX, have more diverse
704 *Shank3* transcripts compared to GABAergic neuron and non-neuronal cells. Certain

705 transcripts were cell type specific. *Shank3* transcript (PB.10607.933) including exon 18
706 was only detected in endothelial cells.

707 **C-F.** Mouse *Shank3* transcripts in Visium spatial transcriptome. C. Visium spatial
708 anatomy (CA: Cornu Ammonis, DG: Dentate Gyrus, TH: Thalamus, PIR: Piriform cortex,
709 MEA: Medial Amygdala, CP: choroid plexus, CTX: Cortex, HPF: Hippocampal
710 Formation, HY: Hypothalamus).

711 **G.** Cellular compartment specific changes of *Shank3* exon usage in the hippocampus of
712 Alzheimer's disease (AD) mouse model from scRNA-seq data from different cellular
713 compartment. The nucleus, compared to synapses, expressed significantly fewer
714 splicing events of 32 and 33 that correspond to the exon 21, the largest exon of mouse
715 *Shank3*.

716 **H.** Different pattern of *Shank3-Acr fusion* transcripts in nucleus and synapse between
717 WT and AD mice.

718

719 **Fig.7 Improved transcriptome analysis of ASD transcriptome and sequence
720 variant annotations of genome sequence data using SHANK3 transcript structure
721 from CIS**

722 **A-D.** The pattern of human *SHANK3* transcripts from CIS changed at different ages and
723 brain regions. Bulk RNA-seq data of normal controls was aligned to *SHANK3* transcripts
724 detected using CIS (BA, Brodmann area; CBL; cerebellum).

725 **E-I.** PCA of human *SHANK3* transcripts from CIS and bulk RNA-seq data of 2,474
726 cases with ASD, BPD, MDD), or SCZ, and normal controls from PsychENCODE (only
727 data from prefrontal cortex is included). The clusters of MDD and BPD overlapped but

728 are separate from ASD and SCZ. The volcano plots for individual disorders ASD (n=68),
729 MDD (n=87), BPD (n=297), and SCZ (n=736) compared to controls (n=1,286).

730 **J.** PCA analysis of *SHANK3* transcripts in different brain regions and age (BA,
731 Brodmann area; CBL, cerebellum)

732 **K-L:** Brain region-specific change of *SHANK3* transcripts in ASD brains. Bulk RNA-seq
733 data of subregions of the brain from ASD and controls were aligned to *SHANK3*
734 transcripts from CIS. **K.** Exons 11, 15, 20, and 22 of *SHANK3* transcripts were
735 significantly more represented in the BA7 region of ASD. **L.** Exon 10 of *SHANK3*
736 transcripts is significantly more represented in BA38 of ASD brain.

737 **M.** Utilizing the updated *SHANK3* transcript structure from CIS enhanced PTV detection
738 in ASD, SCZ, and BPD exome and genome sequencing data. From 55,000 cases, we
739 identified 1,530 new PTVs, a significant increase from previous annotations using the
740 *SHANK3* transcript NM_001372044.2 in hg38. Of these, 192 variants were likely
741 deleterious, including 27 stop-loss, 60 stop-gain, 52 frameshift, and 53 splice variants,
742 compared to the earlier finding of 22 such variants.

743 **N.** The discovery rate of PTVs for *SHANK3* is increased from 1.3% using
744 NM_001372044.2/hg38 as a reference to 12.5% using the transcript structure from CIS
745 in this study.

746

747

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753 Therapeutics (FAST).

754

755 **Author contributions**

756 XL and YHJ conceived and designed the project. XL performed most of data collection
757 and data analysis. PSM, YM, YW and AQH prepared and process human brain tissues.
758 GW assisted the long-read sequencing production. MG and NP assist the data analysis.
759 XL and YHJ wrote the manuscript together with all co-authors.

760

761 **Competing interests**

762 YHJ is a scientific co-founder of Couragene, Inc but this study is unrelated to his role.
763 The project was supported initially by sponsored research project by Taysha Gene
764 Therapies. Taysha Gene Therapies did not have any direct role for the
765 conceptualization, design, data collection, analysis, decision to publish, or preparation
766 of the manuscript.

767

768 **STAR Methods**

769 **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**

770 ***Lead contact***

771 • Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed
772 to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Yong-Hui Jiang (yong-
773 hui.jiang@yale.edu).

774

775 ***Materials availability***

776 **Materials availability statement**

777 • Oligonucleotide probe panels were synthesized by Integrated DNA Technologies
778 (IDT). The probe coverage and design are provided in Supplementary Tables.

779

780 ***Data and code availability***

781 • Both human and mouse raw sequencing data have been deposited at SRA under
782 BioProject: PRJNA1066952 and are publicly available as of the date of
783 publication. Accession numbers are listed in the key resources table. All UCSC

784 tracks described in manuscript have been deposited at Mendeley and are
785 publicly available as of the date of publication. The DOI is listed in the key
786 resources table.

787 • This paper does not report original code.
788 • Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is
789 available from the lead contact upon request.

790

791 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS**

792 **Human brain tissues**

793 Adult human cortex tissues (n=4, 24-33 years old; frontal cortex, n=2; temporal cortex,
794 n=2) were obtained from Mayo Clinic Florida Biospecimen Bank and processed at Yale
795 University School of Medicine. Children cortex tissues (n=4, 5-12 years old; temporal
796 cortex, n=3; amygdala, n=1) were obtained and processed from the Children's Hospital
797 of Fudan University in Shanghai, followed the same RNA extraction, library preparation
798 and sequencing protocols as Yale site. The IRB protocols were approved both at Mayo
799 Clinic Florida and the Children's Hospital of Fudan University in Shanghai.

800

801 **Mice**

802 Wild type C57BL/6J mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory. *Shank3* mutant
803 mice of *Shank3* exons 4-9 deletion (*Shank3*^{Δe4-9})³⁴ and *Shank3* exons 4-22 (*Shank3*<sup>Δe4-
804 22</sup>)¹⁹ were generated and maintained in Jiang's lab. *Shank3* exon 21 deletion
805 (*Shank3*^{Δe21}) was obtained from Jackson Laboratory (*Shank3*^{tm1.1Pfw}/J and Strain
806 #:018398)¹⁰¹. Mice were housed of 4-5 per cage in pathogen-free mouse facility with
807 free access to food and water on a 12-hour light: dark cycle at the ambient temperature
808 of 20-22°C and humidity of 30-70%. An equal number of male and female mice were
809 used for all experiments. All procedures were performed following the approved animal
810 protocol by Yale University School of Medicine Animal Care and Use Committee.

811

812 **METHOD DETAILS**

813 **RNA Isolation and Quality Control**

814 Mouse brain tissues were snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen immediately after dissection.
815 Human brain tissues were snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen within an hour after dissection.
816 All tissues were stored in liquid nitrogen thereafter. Total RNA was isolated from 20 mg
817 frozen tissues, using NucleoZOL™ (Takara Bio, 740404.200) and NucleoSpin® RNA
818 set for NucleoZOL™ (Takara Bio, 740406.50) following the manufactures specifications,
819 followed by rDNase Set (Takara Bio, 740963) to digest DNA, and NucleoSpin® RNA
820 Clean-up XS (Takara Bio, 740903) for RNA repurification. RNA purity (260/280, 260/230)
821 and concentration were measured on NanoDrop™ 2000/2000c Spectrophotometers.
822 RNA integrity number (RIN) was assessed using Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer system.
823

824 **Generation of standard and captured Iso-seq libraries**

825 The Iso-seq libraries were prepared by following the manufacturer's instructions for
826 each step (Iso-Seq™ Express Template Preparation for Sequel® and Sequel II
827 Systems for standard Iso-seq; Customer Collaboration – Iso-Seq® Express Capture
828 Using IDT xGen® Lockdown® Probes for capture Iso-seq). The 600 ng of total RNA
829 was used as input. Only the RNA with RIN higher than 7 of human samples, and 8 of
830 mouse samples were processed for reverse transcription, amplification, enrichment, and
831 library preparations.

832

833 **Hybridization Capture Panel Design**

834 Hybridization capture panel design was assisted by IDT (Integrated DAN Technologies).
835 Briefly, after extracted as 120-base-length sequence of interested gene, xGen
836 Lockdown probes were aligned to the genome and calculated the number of possible

837 enrichment sites. A “perfect” probe was considered as only has 1 hit (the target of
838 interest) with genome, but most of the sequences returned more than 1 hit. Following
839 IDT proprietary xGen Off-Target QC Method, any probes with more than 50 hits were
840 removed because of non-specific targets in genome. The specifics and details of each
841 probe panel are presented in supplementary table 3.

842

843 **Hybridization Protocol**

844 300 ng of total RNA in less than 5.4 μ L of volume mixed with 2 μ L of NEBNext Single
845 Cell RT Primer Mix. The final volume was brought up to 9 μ L with nuclease-free water.
846 The reaction was placed in a thermocycler and run for 5 minutes at 70°C, followed by
847 holding at 4°C for primer annealing and first-strand synthesis. Reverse transcription
848 template switching reaction was then performed by adding 5 μ L of NEBNext Single Cell
849 RT Buffer, 3 μ L of nuclease-free water, and 2 μ L of NEBNext Single cell RT Enzyme
850 Mix to the first-strand cDNA. The reaction was incubated in a thermocycler at 42°C with
851 the lid at 52°C for 75 minutes, followed by holding at 4°C. After adding 1 μ L of Iso-Seq
852 Express Template Switching oligo to the 19 μ L reaction for a final volume of 20 μ L, the
853 reaction was incubated again in a thermocycler at 42°C with the lid at 52°C for 15
854 minutes, followed by holding at 4°C.

855

856 The Reverse Transcription and Template Switching reaction product was then purified
857 using ProNex Beads before proceeding with cDNA amplification. For amplification, 50
858 μ L of NEBNext Single Cell cDNA PCR master Mix, 2 μ L of NEBNext Single Cell cDNA
859 PCR Primer, 2 μ L of Iso-Seq Express cDNA PCR primer, and 0.5 μ L of NEBNext Cell

860 Lysis Buffer were added to the purified product. The reaction was incubated in a
861 thermocycler and run for 45 seconds at 98°C, followed by 14 cycles of the following
862 steps: 10 seconds at 98°C, 15 seconds at 62°C, and 3 minutes at 72°C. The reaction
863 was then held for 5 minutes at 72°C, followed by holding at 4°C. Finally, the product
864 was purified again using ProNex Beads before proceeding with either the library
865 preparation for standard Iso-Seq (SIS) or the capture steps for capture-based Iso-Seq
866 (CIS).

867

868 As for the capture steps, first concentrate a total of 500ng cDNA in a 1.5 mL LoBind
869 tube along with 7.5 μ L of Cot DNA. To this mixture, add 1.8X volume of ProNex beads
870 and gently pipette mix 10 times, followed by incubation for 10 min at room temperature.
871 Place the tube on a magnet stand and wait until supernatant is clear. Remove the
872 supernatant and wash twice with 200 μ L of freshly prepared 80% ethanol while on the
873 magnet stand. Spin the tube strip briefly after removing the second wash, return to
874 magnetic stand, and remove residual ethanol. Next, immediately add the hybridization
875 reaction mix (which comprises 2X Hybridization Buffer, Hybridization Buffer Enhancer,
876 xGen Asym TSO block, xGen RT-primer-barcode block, and 1X xGen Lockdown Panel)
877 to elute the cDNA. Gently pipette mix 10 times and incubate for 5 min at room
878 temperature. Then, place the tube on the magnetic stand to separate the beads from
879 the supernatant. Transfer 17 μ L of the supernatant to a new 0.2 mL PCR tube and
880 briefly centrifuge it. Ensure that the tube is tightly sealed to prevent evaporation. Finally,
881 place the sample tube in the thermal cycler and start the hybridization program: HYB
882 program (lid set at 100°C), 95°C for 30 sec, 65°C for 4 hr, and lastly hold at 65°C.

883

884 During the incubation, prepare 1X working buffers and beads for capture. Preheat the
885 wash buffers to +65°C in a heat block or water bath. To prepare the capture beads,
886 allow the Dynabeads M-270 Streptavidin to warm to room temperature for 30 minutes
887 prior to use. Thoroughly vortex the beads for 15 seconds to mix them, then aliquot 50
888 µL of beads into a 0.2 mL PCR tube, followed by adding 100 µL of 1X Bead Wash
889 Buffer per capture, and pipette the mixture 10 times. Place the PCR tube on a magnetic
890 rack. When the supernatant is clear, carefully remove and discard it without disturbing
891 the beads. Note: Allow the Dynabeads to settle for at least 1 minute before removing
892 the supernatant. Thereafter, two washes are performed as follows: Add 100 µL of 1X
893 Bead Wash Buffer, pipette 10 times to mix, then place the PCR tube on a magnetic rack,
894 allowing the beads to fully separate from the supernatant. Carefully remove and discard
895 the clear supernatant. Repeat this process for a total of two washes. Finally, resuspend
896 the beads in 17 µL of Bead Resuspension Mix per capture. The Bead Resuspension
897 Mix includes xGen 2X Hybridization Buffer (8.5 µL), xGen Hybridization Buffer Enhancer
898 (2.7 µL), and Nuclease-Free Water (5.8 µL). By following these steps carefully, you can
899 ensure that the buffers and beads are prepared correctly for the capture step and obtain
900 reliable results.

901

902 Then Bind cDNA to the capture beads, by incubating the samples in a thermocycler set
903 to +65C for 45 minutes. Then Wash the captured cDNA with 1X wash buffers and elute
904 the cDNA with 46ul elution buffer. To amplify the captured DNA sample, NEBNext High-
905 Fidelity 2X PCR Master Mix is recommended, and the NEBNext Single Cell cDNA PCR

906 Master Mix is alternative for post capture amplification. Assemble the following PCR
907 reaction: 50 μ L of NEBNext High-Fidelity 2X PCR Master Mix, 2 μ L of NEBNext Single
908 Cell cDNA PCR Primer, 2 μ L of Iso-Seq Express cDNA PCR Primer, 0.5 μ L of NEBNext
909 Cell Lysis Buffer, and 45.5 μ L of the captured library. Amplify the PCR reaction mix
910 using the following PCR protocol: Denature the DNA at 98°C for 45 seconds. Perform
911 14 cycles of the following steps: a. Denature the DNA at 98°C for 10 seconds. b. Anneal
912 the primers at 62°C for 15 seconds. c. Extend the DNA at 72°C for 3 minutes. Final
913 extension at 72°C for 5 minutes, and hold at 4°C. Finally perform the post amplification
914 clean up steps with ProNex brands and ethanol. Use 1 μ L of sample to quantifiy with
915 Qubit dsDNA HS kit and dilute 1 μ L of sample to 1.5ng/ μ L and run 1 μ L on an Agilent
916 Bioanalyzer using the High Sensitivity DNA kit. We used 500ng cDNA for library
917 construction as Sequel II sequence platform required. After DNA damage repair, end
918 repair/A-Tailing, overhang adapter ligation, and purification with ProNex Beads, the
919 cDNA library is ready for sequencing

920

921 **Sequencing Platform**

922 To load the cDNA library onto the PacBio Sequel II System, the diffusion method was
923 applied and followed by a 24-hour movie time and a 2-hour pre-extension time. The
924 samples were cleaned up using ProNex beads and loaded onto the plate at a
925 concentration of 50-100 pM.

926

927 **Sequence data filtering algorithm**

928 The following pipeline was diagramed in Supplementary Fig.1. Sequencing reads were
929 screened initially with Lima (v2.5.0) and IsoSeq (v3). A transcript with both cDNA
930 primers and the poly(A) was identified and called Full-length reads¹⁰². The Full-length
931 reads which had less than 100 base pairs 5' end overhang, less than 30 bases pairs 3'
932 end overhang, and less than 10 base pairs gaps in the middle are considered as the
933 same transcript. Clustering using hierarchical alignment, and iterative cluster merging,
934 generate polished sequence, with quality scores. The output further filtered with
935 SQANTI3 (v4.3) after cluster and collapse to generate unique transcripts. SQANTI3
936 filtered the transcripts as below: If a transcript is Full-Splice Match (FSM), then it was
937 retained unless the 3' end was unreliable (intrapriming). If a transcript was not Full-
938 Splice Match, then it was retained only if all below were met: (1) 3' end is reliable. (2)
939 did not have a junction that was labeled as RT-Switching. (3) all intro-exon junctions
940 were canonical¹⁰². Further criteria included a transcript had to include at least 2 exons,
941 and in the sense orientation and predicted open reading frame (ORF) had longer than
942 100 amino acids for the given transcript.

943

944 **Transcript Confidence Score**

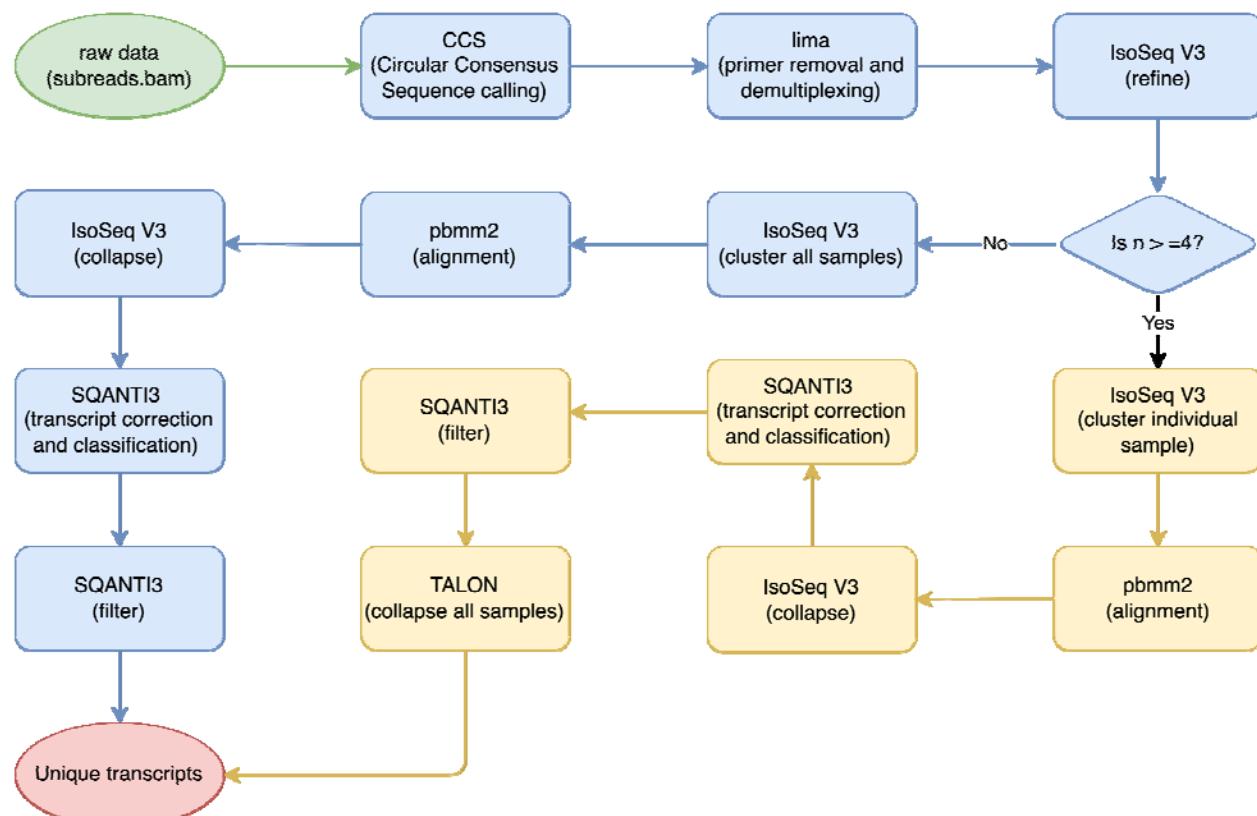
945 To assess the quality of individual transcript, transcripts after filtering steps were scored
946 by the following scoring metrics: (1) Score of 3 point: If the exons of transcript were
947 presented in the sequences of by either Illumina short read methods of the bulk
948 RNAseq (human dataset: UCLA-2022, BrainGVEX, CMC, CommonMind and LIDB) and
949 SMART scRNAseq. (2) Score of 2 points: If a transcript had predicted ORF longer than
950 100AA. (3) If the abundance of a transcript were higher than 20 percentage of the rank

951 of the abundance of all transcripts. The summation of scores was confidence score to
952 define each transcript: high confidence (≥ 4 points), moderate confidence (2-3 points),
953 and low confidence (0-1 point).

954

955 **Iso-seq data analysis pipeline.**

956 The flow chart below described the analytic pipeline for ISO-Seq sequence dat. The
957 subreads.bam file of an Iso-Seq SMRT cell was a raw input. The number of the SMRT
958 cells, instead of the number of multiplex samples sequenced on a SMRT cell,
959 regardless of the library preparation methods [Sta-Iso-Seq (SIS) or Cap-Iso-Seq (CIS)],
960 dictated the direction of the analysis flow.



961

962

963 **Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)**

964 Two µg of total RNA was reverse transcribed into cDNA templates using RNA to cDNA
965 EcoDry™ Premix kit including both random hexamer and oligo(dT)₁₈ primers (Takara
966 Bio, 639548). KAPA SYBR® FAST qPCR Master Mix (2X) Universal (Kapa Biosystems,
967 KK4602) was used for qPCR reactions with 18 ng of cDNA as template input. The
968 following program on CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (BIO-RAD) was
969 used: 3 minutes at 95°C for enzyme activation, followed by 40 cycles of denaturation
970 (95°C, 3 seconds) and annealing, extension, data acquisition (60°C, 30 seconds),
971 followed by dissociation and holding at 4°C. The PCR primers are shown in
972 supplementary Table 3.

973

974 **RNA-Seq Data Processing**

975 Illumina bulk RNAseq raw data in FASTQ format after quality control and filtering with
976 fastp ¹⁰³, and SMART scRNAseq FASTQ data, were aligned to hg38 for human
977 sequences and mm39 for mouse sequences using HISAT 2.2.1 ¹⁰⁴. Aligned RNA-Seq
978 data (aligned to hg37/38) in BAM format were converted to FASTQ format using
979 SAMtools ¹⁰⁵ when the raw FASTQ was not available, followed by the same process as
980 above. Gene expression counts and DEXSeq-counts were calculated using
981 FeatureCount ¹⁰⁶ for further gene expression and exon usage analysis. Detailed
982 RNAseq datasets information summarized in supplementary table 4.

983

984 **Differential Transcript Usage**

985 Transcript-level quantification of the processed RNA-Seq data was performed using the
986 software Salmon 1.4.0 ¹⁰⁷. The transcriptome index used for quantification was built

987 from the reference genome annotation (in GTF format), along with the reference
988 genome FASTA file. Transcript abundances were estimated using the quasi-mapping
989 algorithm (--quasiMAP) mode, which performs a lightweight alignment-free estimation of
990 abundances based on k-mer matching. The output files were generated in TPM
991 (transcripts per million) format.

992

993 **Differential Exon Usage (DEU)**

994 DEXSeq-counts tables were imported into R, analysis with R package DEXSeq¹⁰⁸.
995 Normalization and filtering were performed to remove lowly expressed exons. DexSeq
996 uses a binomial generalized linear model to estimate exon expression, accounting for
997 the variability in exon-exon junction usage across samples. DEU was then tested using
998 the DEXSeq function, which fits a statistical model to test for differences in exon usage
999 between two or more groups of samples. Exons with an adjusted p-value ≤ 0.05 and a
1000 log2 fold change ≥ 1 or ≤ -1 were considered significantly differentially used, and
1001 visualized with built-in function of DEXSeq.

1002

1003 **Whole Genome Sequencing and Exome Analysis**

1004 DNA variation data post variation calling in VCF format were downloaded from Autism
1005 Sequencing Consortium (ASC), Bipolar Exomes (BipEx), whole-exome sequencing
1006 case-control study of epilepsy (Epi25), Schizophrenia exome meta-analysis consortium
1007 (SCHEMA), and PsychENCODE. VCFs initially aligned to hg38 (BipEx and Epi25) and
1008 the datasets (ASC, SCHEMA and PsychENCODE) after alignment lift over from hg37 to
1009 hg38 with UCSC LiftOver tool and chain file, were subsetted to the region of interest

1010 (SHANK3, chr22:50670000-50770000) using BCFtools (v 1.16) (Danecek et al. 2021).
1011 The data format was modified using HTSlib (v 1.16)¹⁰⁹ and TAB-delimited file InderXer
1012 (Tabix, v 0.2.5)¹¹⁰. Then the data were annotated with Ensembl Variant Effect Predictor
1013 (VET, release 107)(McLaren et al. 2016) and filtered with Genome Aggregation
1014 Database (gnomAD, v3.1.2)⁷² by INFO/AF_popmax<=0.01. Filtered DNA variation were
1015 aligned to novel exons detected in SIS and CIS with SpliceAI⁷³ for splicing event
1016 analysis, and with SnpEff⁷⁴ to evaluate other deleterious SNV (stop lost, stop gain and
1017 frameshift).

1018

1019 **Data Visualization**

1020 Visualization was performed using ggplot2 (version 3.3.2) in R (version 4.2.2) for
1021 plotting gene expression, transcript and exon usage profiles and heatmaps.

1022

1023 **Spatial Transcriptional Analysis**

1024 An open access Visium dataset of mouse brain coronal section from 10x Genomics¹¹¹ in
1025 FASTQ format was analyzed using customized references and annotation generated
1026 from mouse *Shank3* CIS transcripts using Cell Ranger¹¹², followed by quantitation with
1027 customized probe-set (probe-transcripts relation spreadsheet) using 10x Genomics
1028 Space Ranger v2.0. The output cloupe file was visualized using 10x Genomics Loupe
1029 Visualization Software v6.5.

1030

1031 **KEY RESOURCES TABLE**

1032 Submitted as a separate file

1033

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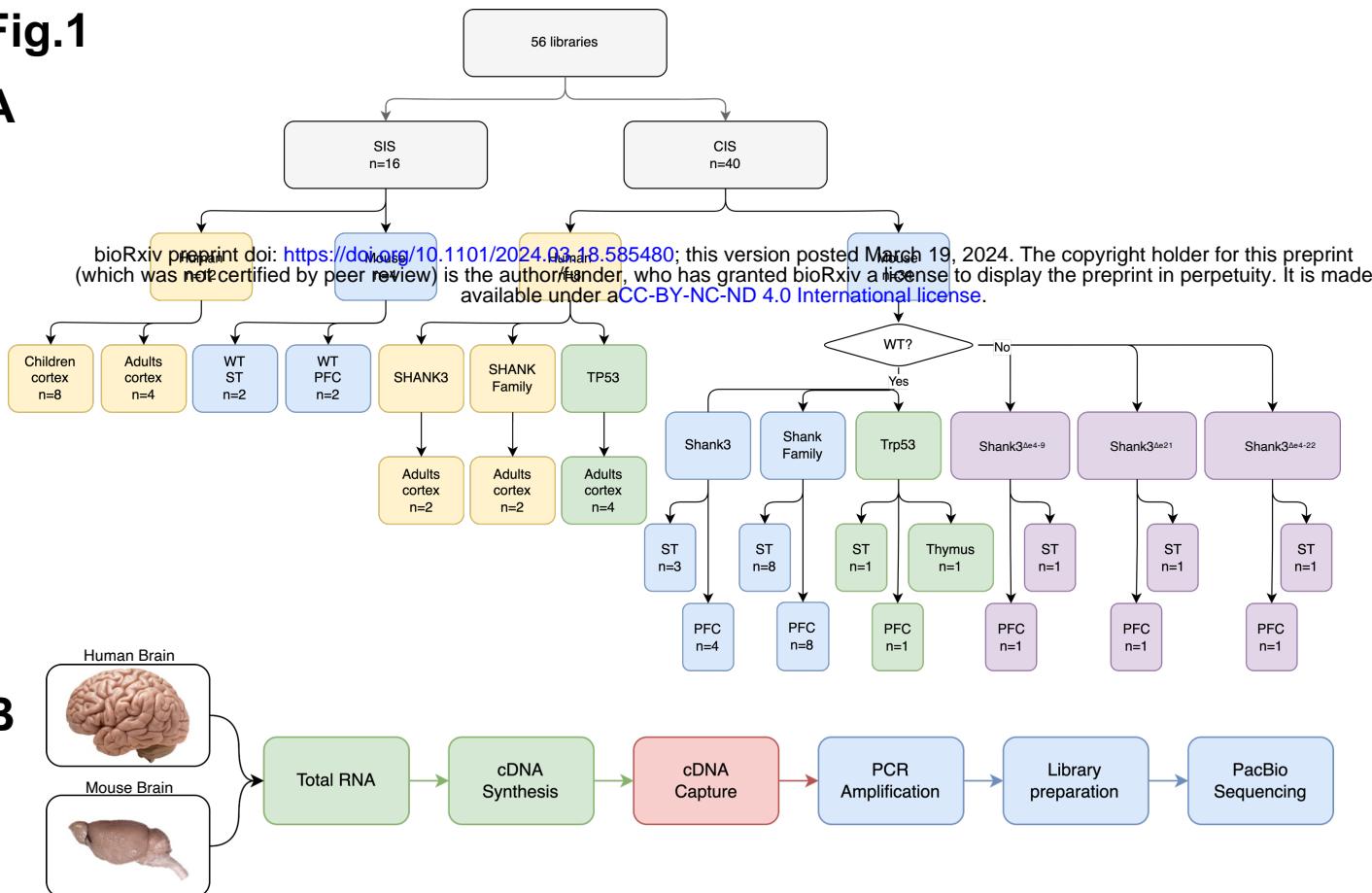
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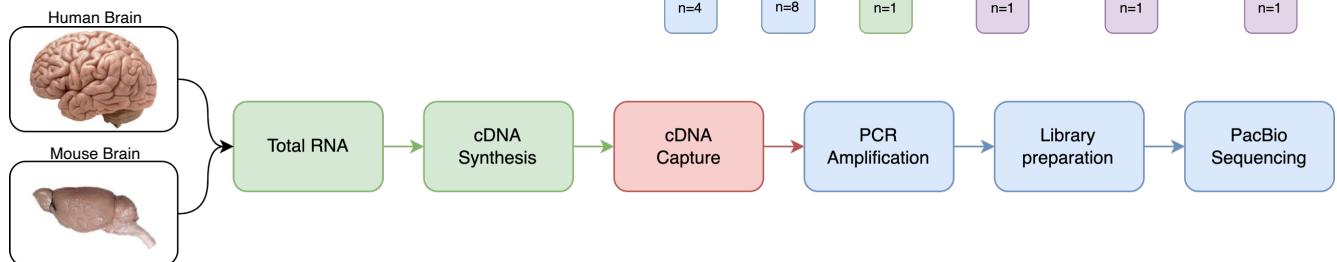
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1398 Bioinformatics 27, 718-719. 10.1093/bioinformatics/btq671.
1399 111. Genomics, x. FFPE Mouse Brain Coronal Section 1 (FFPE), Spatial Gene Expression
1400 Dataset by Space Ranger 2.0.0.
1401 112. Zheng, G.X.Y., Terry, J.M., Belgrader, P., Ryvkin, P., Bent, Z.W., Wilson, R., Ziraldo,
1402 S.B., Wheeler, T.D., McDermott, G.P., Zhu, J., et al. (2017). Massively parallel digital
1403 transcriptional profiling of single cells. Nature Communications 8, 14049.
1404 10.1038/ncomms14049.
1405

Fig.1

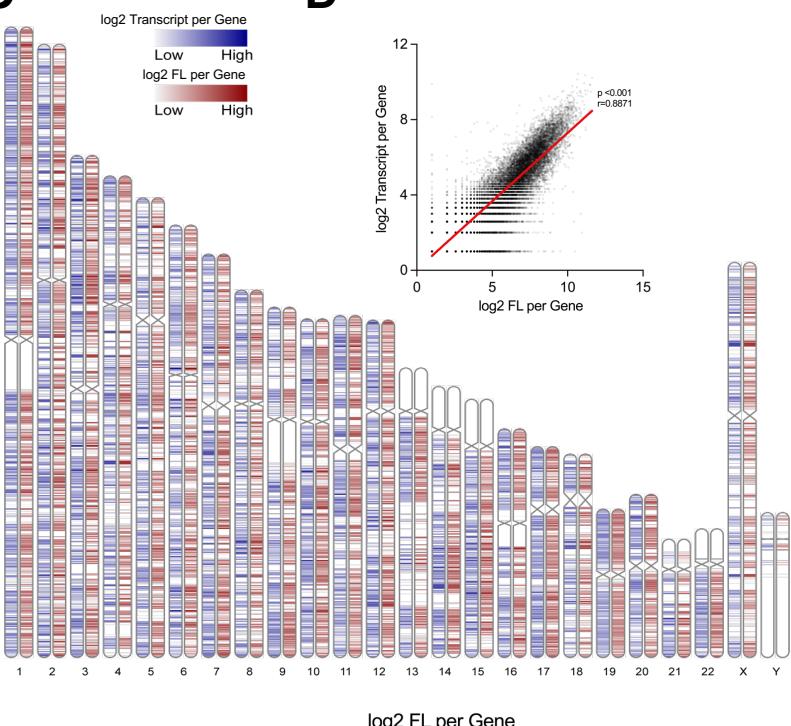
A



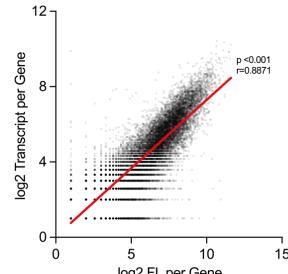
B



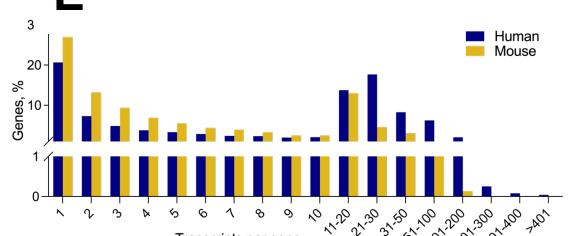
C



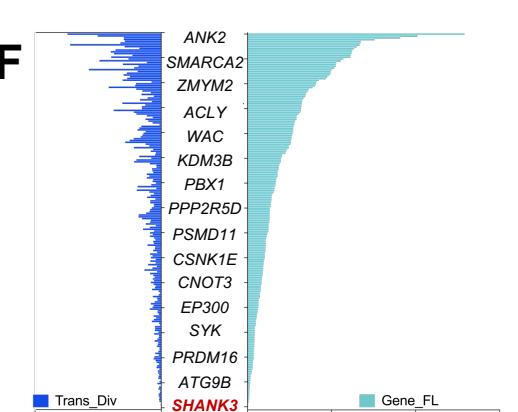
D



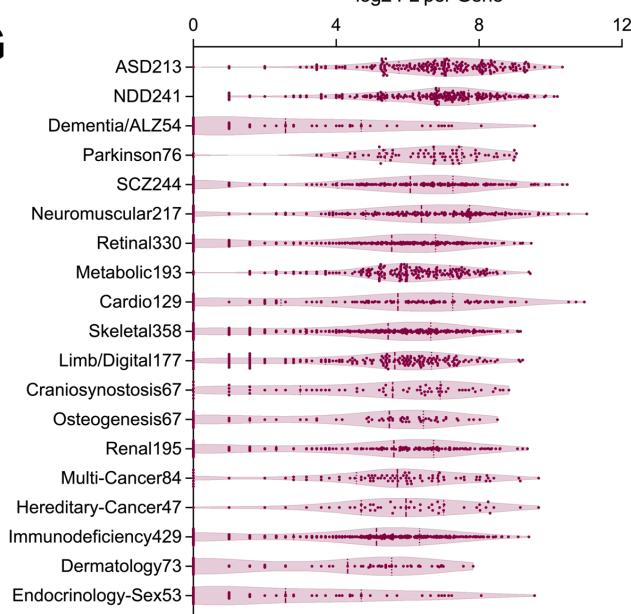
E



F



G



H

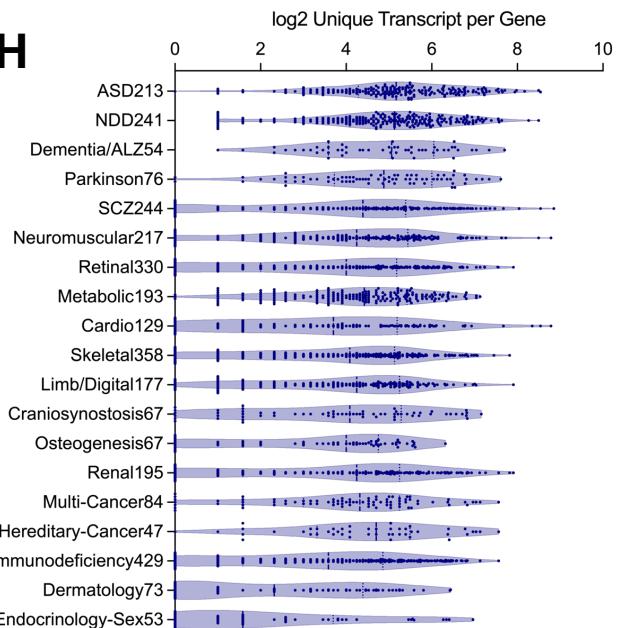


Fig.2

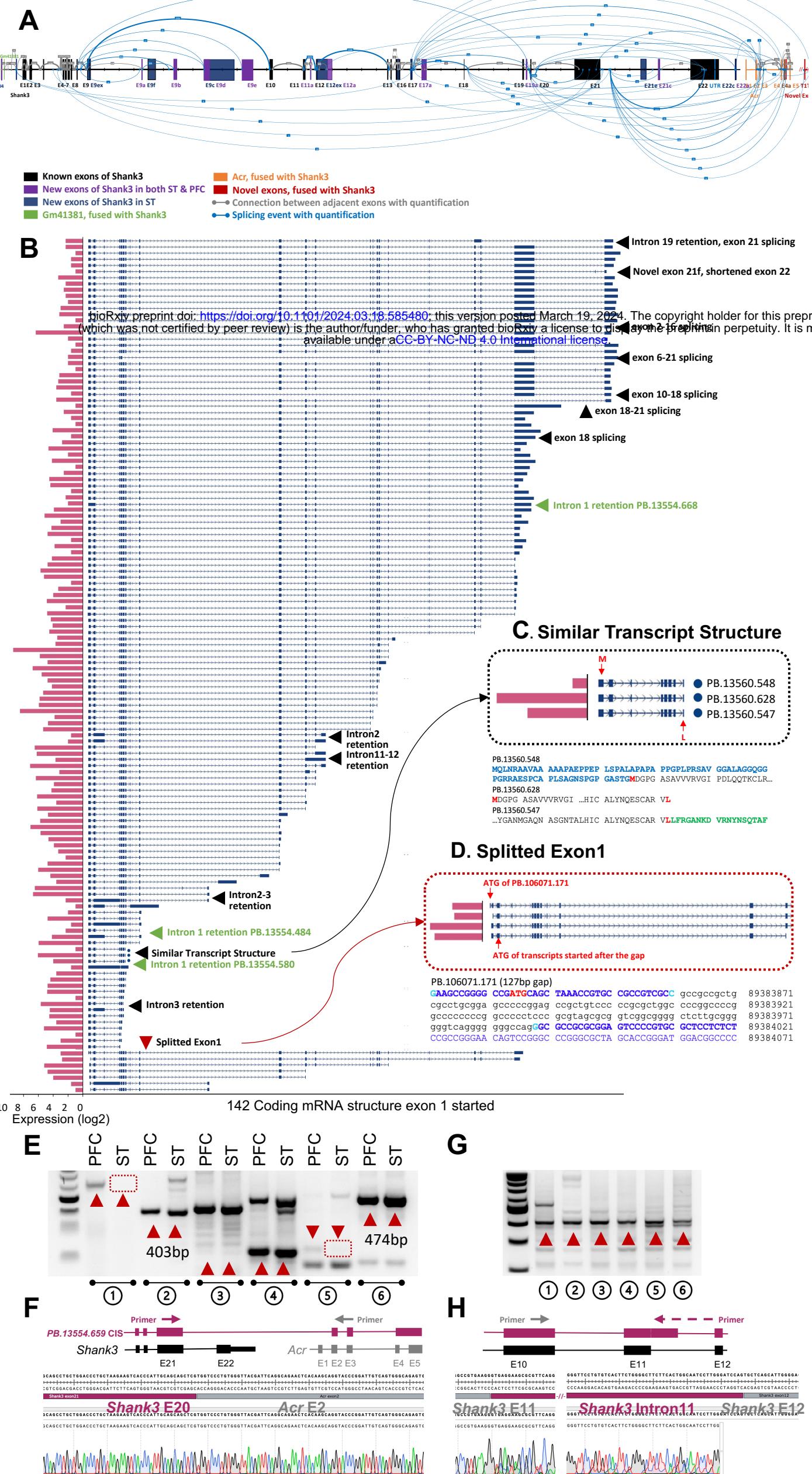


Fig.4

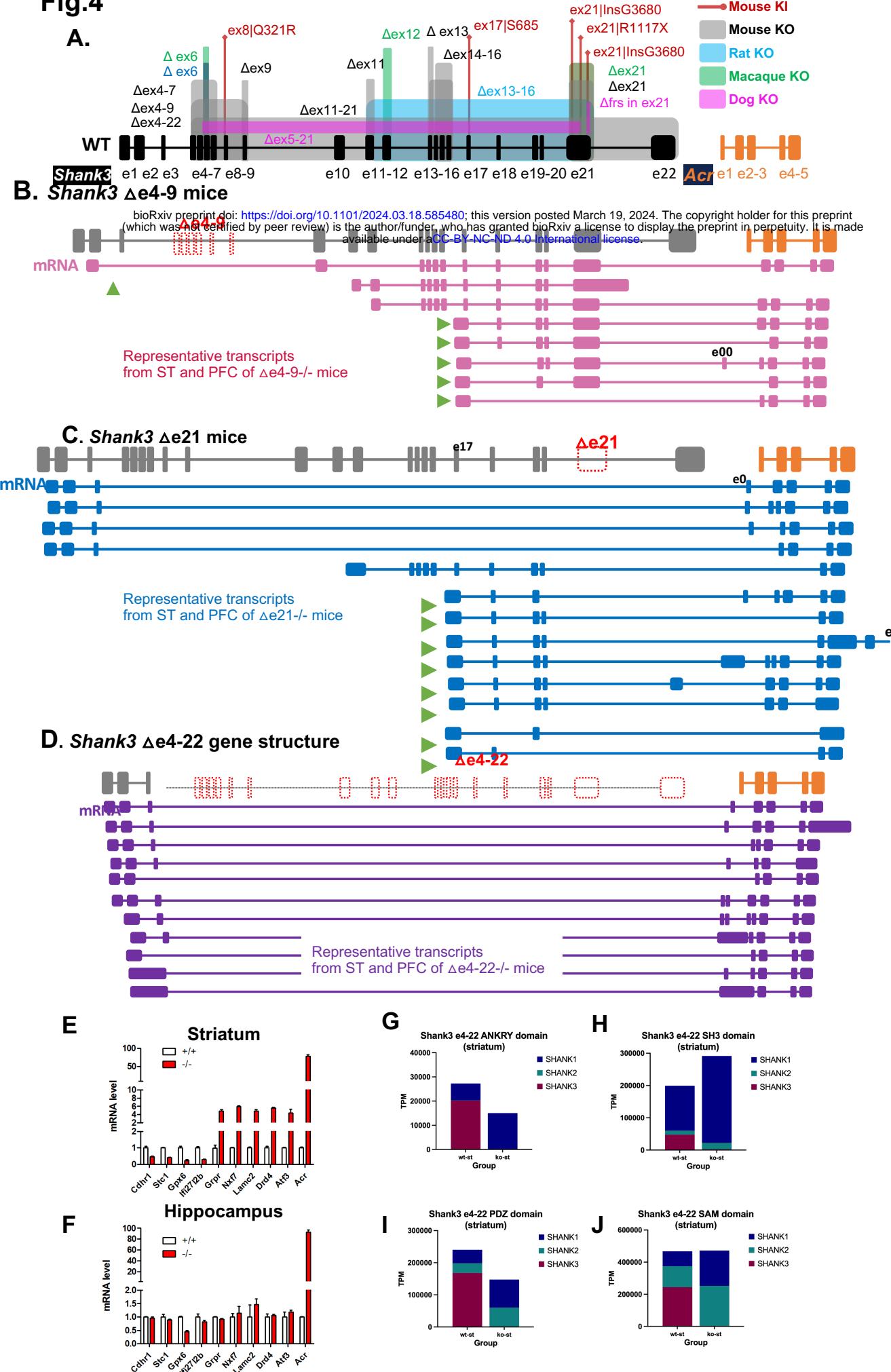


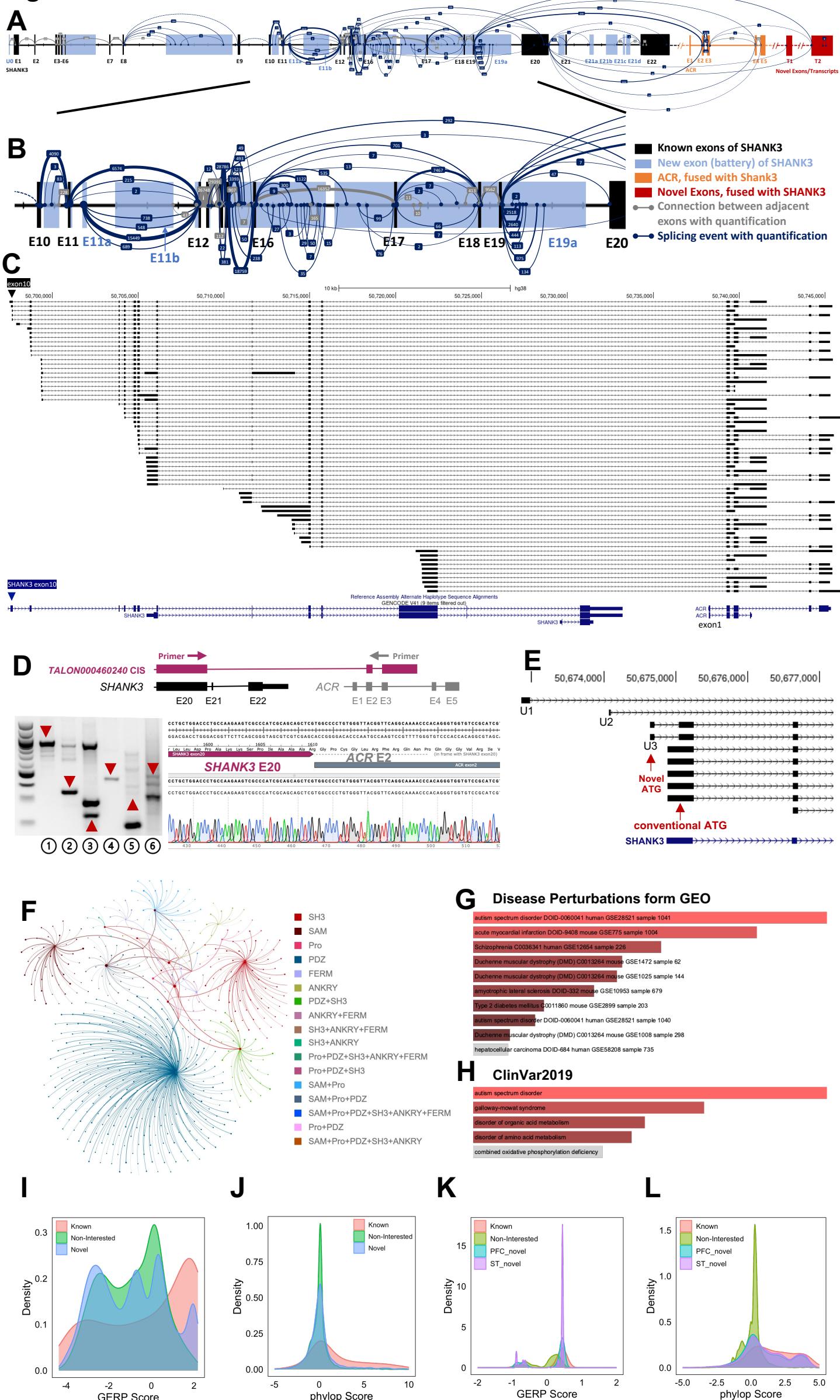
Fig.5

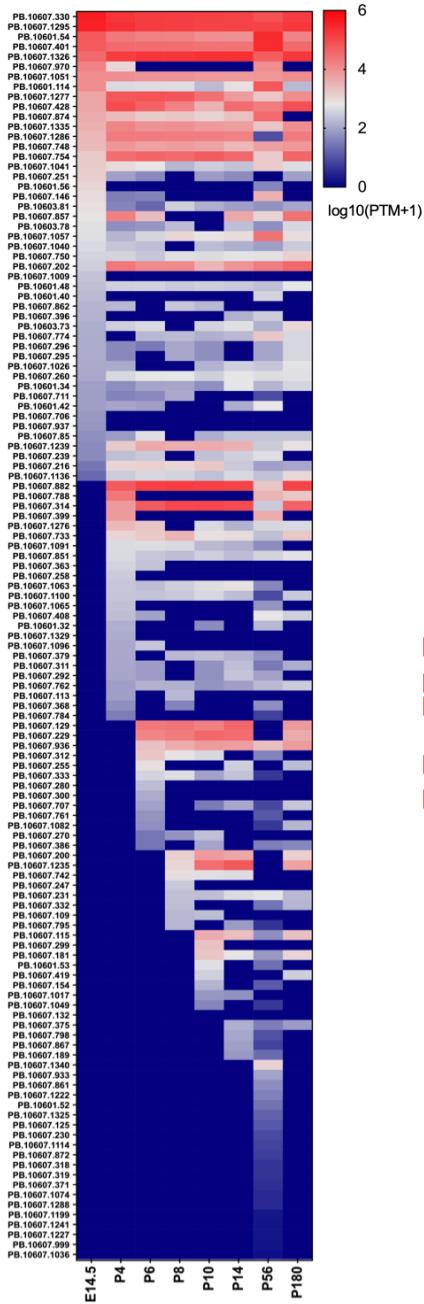
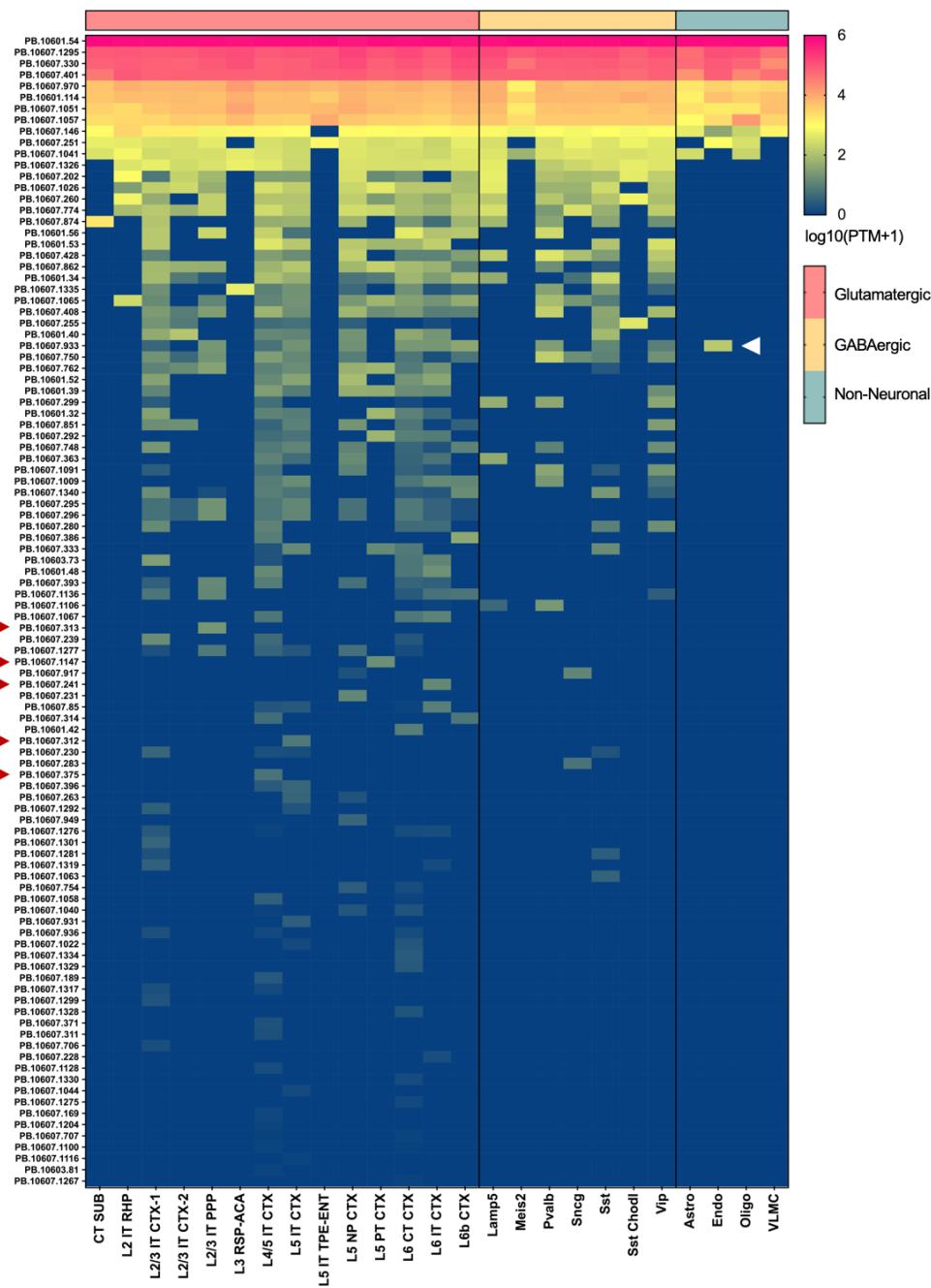
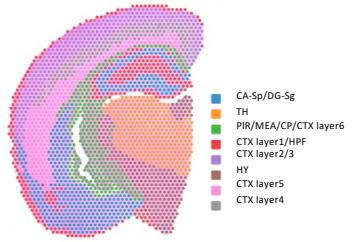
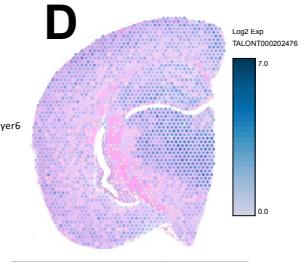
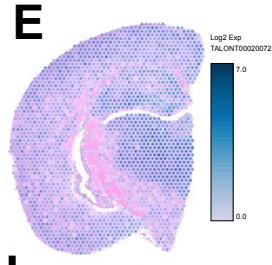
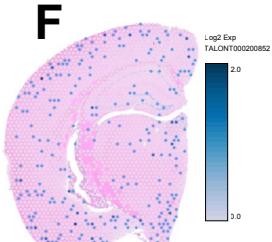
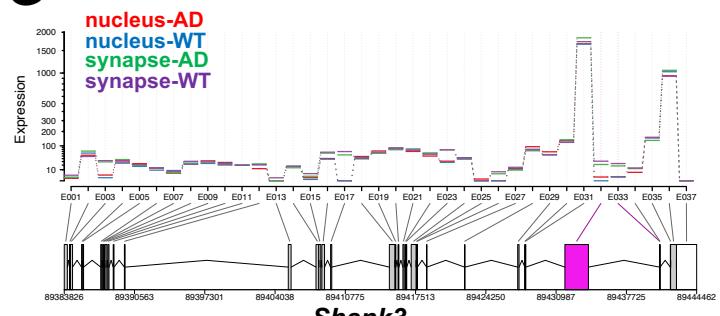
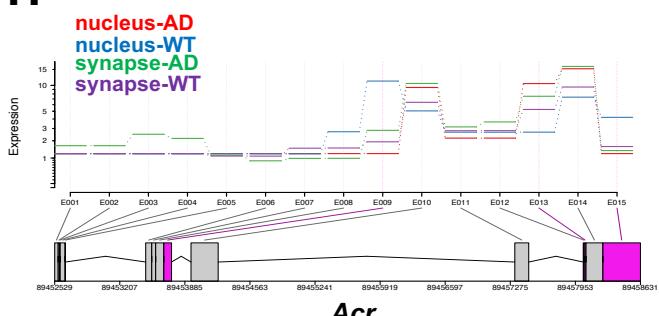
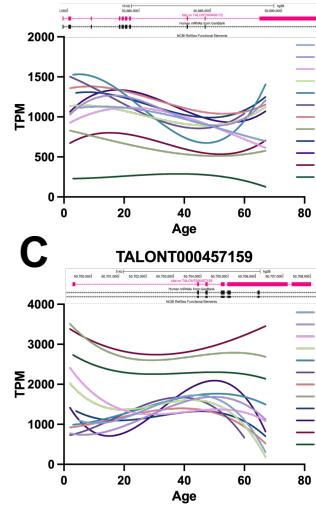
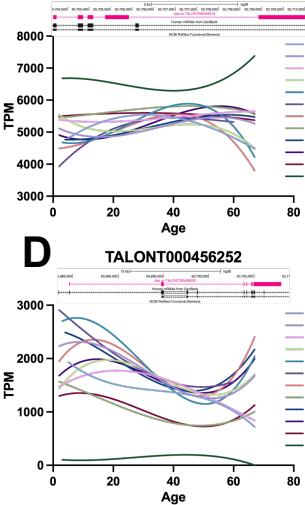
Fig.6**A****B****C****D****E****F****G****H****Acr**

Fig.7**A**

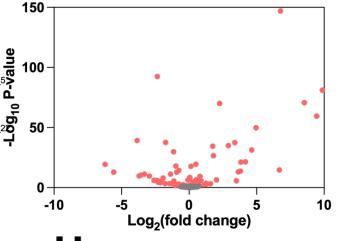
TALONT000456172

**B**

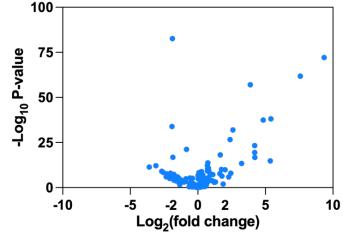
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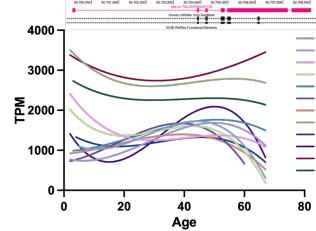
ASD

**G**

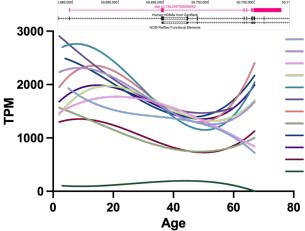
MDD

**C**

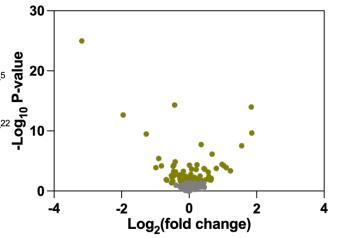
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**D**

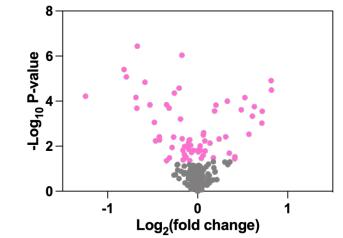
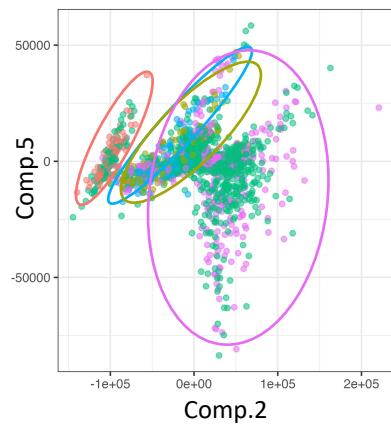
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**H**

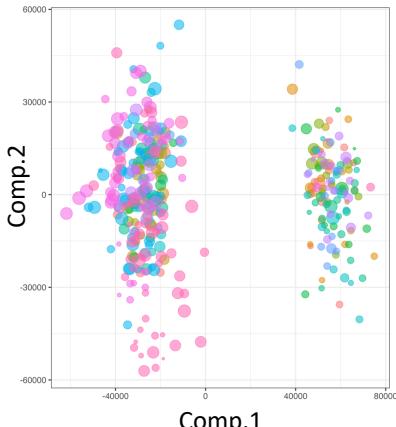
BP

**I**

SCZ

**E**

Dx
 ● ASD
 ● BP
 ● control
 ● MDD
 ● SCZ

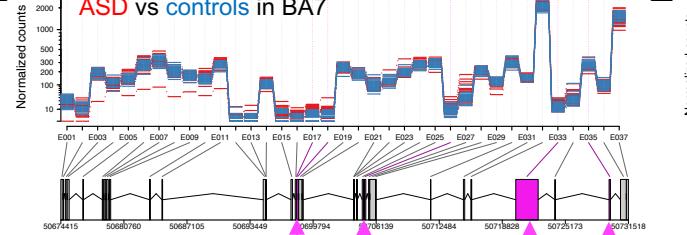
J

Age
 ● 20
 ● 40
 ● 60

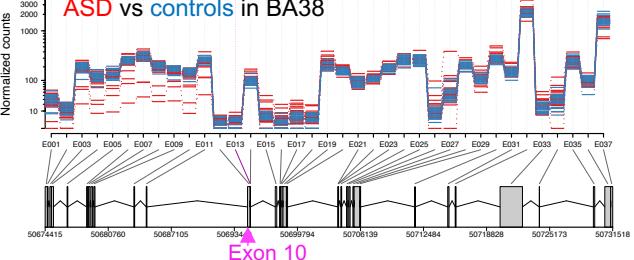
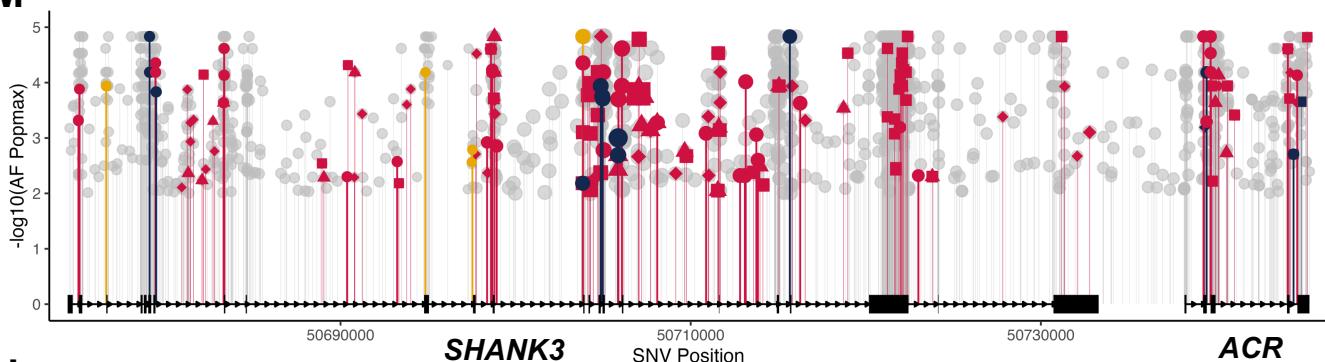
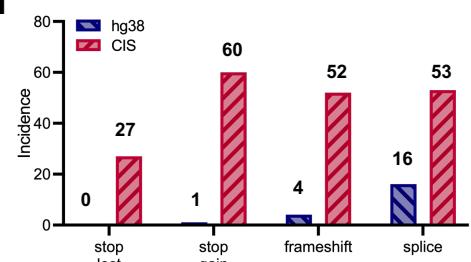
Brain_Region
 ● BA17
 ● BA20_37
 ● BA24
 ● BA3_1_2_5
 ● BA38
 ● BA39_40
 ● BA4_6
 ● BA41_42_22
 ● BA44_45
 ● BA7
 ● BA9
 ● CBL

K

ASD vs controls in BA7

**L**

ASD vs controls in BA38

**M****N****Consequence**

- frameshift
- splice
- stop_gained
- stop_lost

FL

- 0
- 500
- 1000
- 1500

Category

- CIS
- CIS & hg38 partial
- CIS & hg38 consistent