Enhancer-AAVs allow genetic access to oligodendrocytes and diverse populations of astrocytes across species

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27 Abstract: Proper brain function requires the assembly and function of diverse populations of neurons and glia. Single cell gene expression studies have mostly focused on characterization of neuronal cell diversity; however, recent studies have revealed substantial diversity of glial cells, particularly astrocytes. To better understand glial cell types and their roles in neurobiology, we built a new suite of adeno-associated viral (AAV)-based genetic tools to enable genetic access to astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. These oligodendrocyte and astrocyte enhancer-AAVs are highly specific (usually > 95% cell type specificity) with variable expression levels, and our astrocyte enhancer-AAVs show multiple distinct expression patterns reflecting the spatial distribution of astrocyte cell types. To provide the best glial-specific functional tools, several enhancer-AAVs were: optimized for higher expression levels, shown to be functional and specific in rat and macaque, shown to maintain specific activity in epilepsy where traditional promoters changed activity, and used to drive functional transgenes in astrocytes including Cre recombinase and acetylcholine-responsive sensor iAChSnFR. The astrocyte-specific iAChSnFR revealed a clear reward-dependent acetylcholine response in astrocytes of the nucleus accumbens during reinforcement learning. Together, this collection of glial enhancer-AAVs will enable characterization of astrocyte and oligodendrocyte populations and their roles across species, disease states, and behavioral epochs.

43 Introduction

44 Glial cell types play critical roles in CNS development, function, and homeostasis^{1,2}. Astrocytes provide 45 trophic support for neurons^{3,4}, coordinate regional wiring patterns⁵, respond to and regulate

- 46 neurotransmission^{6,7}, and drive repair or pathology after traumatic injury^{8–10}. Oligodendrocytes form
- 47 myelin sheaths¹¹, strengthen circuits¹², secrete critical neurotrophic factors¹³, and contribute to
- 48 pathologic disease progression^{14,15}. Transcriptomic characterization of glial cells has revealed an array
- 49 of astrocyte and oligodendrocyte cell types, often with pronounced regional signatures^{18–20}.
- 50 Furthermore, species-specific features have been described²¹, although the functional significance of
- 51 these differences is unknown. Glial cell types have also been shown to play critical roles in CNS 52 diseases ranging from epilepsy²² to neurodegenerative diseases²³ to cancer^{24,25}. To understand how
- 53 glia differ between cell types, regions, species, and disease states, a set of tools is needed to grant
- 54 targeted genetic access to these specific populations across species.
- 55 Adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors are exceptionally useful tools for somatic transgenesis across
- 56 mammalian species including human^{26–31}. Short enhancer or promoter regulatory elements work 57 effectively in AAV expression cassettes to drive cell-type selective gene expression in the brain or other
- 58 organs^{32–36}. Recent work has shown that selective AAVs can be rationally designed by using enhancers
- 59 identified from epigenetic datasets that are selectively active and fit in an AAV vector $32-36$. Enhancer-
- 60 AAVs were recently developed to target different populations of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the 61 brain, and some enhancers have shown successful targeting of glial cell populations as well^{37,38}.
- 62 However, the field largely relies on glial promoters that have some undesirable characteristics, most
- 63 notably loss of specificity or change in strength in different contexts as seen for astrocytic GFAP 64 promoter fragments^{39–41}. Furthermore, single cell genomics studies have revealed region-specific
- 65 astrocyte cell types for which no current tools are available^{18–20}.
- 66 Here we present a collection of enhancer-AAVs that selectively target astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. 67 Twenty-five astrocyte and 21 oligodendrocyte enhancer AAVs were identified from mouse and human 68 neocortical epigenetic data that produced reporter expression that was highly specific for the intended 69 populations, often labeling more than half of the intended cells in the area, and with a wide range of 70 expression strengths. Multiple astrocyte-targeting vectors exhibited distinct CNS region-specific 71 expression patterns, whereas oligodendrocyte-selective vectors generally drove expression throughout 72 the entire CNS. Several enhancer-AAVs maintained selective expression for astrocytes or 73 oligodendrocytes across rat and macaque. Lastly, several astrocyte tools were adapted to drive 74 expression of functional transgenes like Cre or the detection of neurotransmitters to reveal the role of 75 astrocytes in neurobiology. We used astrocyte-selective AAV expressing iAChSnFR 42 to measure the 76 dynamics of acetylcholine in astrocytes of the nucleus accumbens during reinforcement learning. This 77 collection of tools opens up new opportunities for selective labeling and functional interrogation of glial 78 cell types across species and disease states, and could have translational applications via AAV-based
- 79 therapeutics $43-45$.

80 Results

- 81 Generation of astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs. We identified putative
- 82 enhancers specific for astrocytes and oligodendrocytes from single cell/single nucleus assay for

83 \cdot transposase-accessible chromatin (sc/snATAC-seq^{35,36}) and single nucleus methyl-cytosine sequencing

- 84 (snmC-seq) studies from neocortex^{46–49}. Thousands of astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-selective
- 85 scATAC-seq peaks were identified previously in both human middle temporal gyrus (MTG) and mouse
- 86 primary visual cortex (VISp), averaging approximately 300-600 bp in size (Figure 1A). Additional 87 ATAC-seq datasets confirmed these peaks^{50,51}. Generally, astrocyte and oligodendrocyte candidate
- 88 enhancers were accessible in non-neuronal cells but not in neuronal cells across the human
- 89 forebrain^{35,50} (Extended Data Figure 1A-F), and in the corresponding astrocyte or oligodendrocyte
- 90 subclasses across the mouse forebrain without strong cell type preferences⁵¹ (**Extended Data Figure**
- 91 **1G-J**).

92 We used three strategies to identify putative enhancers for testing: "high specificity", "high strength", 93 and "marker gene" (Figure 1B-E). The "high specificity" nomination criteria (gold square or star icons) 94 required enhancers and their orthologs to show accessibility specifically for both mouse and human 95 astrocytes or oligodendrocytes but not other cell types^{35,36}. In addition, we required that these putative 96 enhancers not be detected in demethylated genomic regions in both mouse and human neuron 97 . populations⁴⁷. A small number of these "high specificity" enhancers also showed specific demethylation 98 in bulk human and mouse glial cells⁴⁶ (marked by gold star icons). "High strength" putative enhancers 99 were selected on the basis of strong astrocyte-specific peaks using only mouse scATAC-seq data 36 , 100 with strength measured by accessibility read count within peaks. Finally, "marker gene" putative 101 enhancers showed specific and strong accessibility near known astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific 102 marker genes.

We tested putative enhancer function in AAV vectors upstream of a minimal promoter driving the reporter SYFP2 and evaluated expression throughout the mouse brain after systemic administration of PHP.eB-serotyped AAVs. Enhancer-AAVs that showed anticipated reporter expression, were further 106 evaluated for specificity, completeness of expression, and cross-species activity (**Figure 1C** and Extended Data Table 1). All three strategies were effective, with approximately half of the candidates for both cell types yielding astrocyte or oligodendrocyte expression patterns during primary screening. Moreover, expression of many of those enhancers was confirmed to be on-target by antibody staining 110 and/or scRNA-seq (Figure 1F, G and see below).

111 A collection of astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs. We screened 50 candidate astrocyte-specific 112 enhancer-AAVs, and 25 (50%) of them labeled astrocytes specifically with SYFP2 expression 113 (Extended Data Figure 2). Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs showed a range of expression strengths 114 and patterns (Figure 2A-I) and vectors were categorized based on their labeling as: "Most of the CNS", 115 "Regional", "Scattered", "Weak" and "Mixed specificities". "Most of the CNS" astrocyte enhancer-AAVs, 116 including eHGT 380h and the human GFAP promoter (GfaABC1D⁵²), labeled cells with astrocyte 117 morphology in both brain and spinal cord (SpC, Figure 2A-B, G-H). Other examples in this category 118 include eHGT 387m, eHGT 390h, eHGT 390m, and the synthetic element ProB12³⁷ (Extended Data 119 Figure 2). "Regional" astrocyte enhancer-AAVs showed regionally restricted expression, such as 120 eHGT 385m that labeled astrocytes primarily in the telencephalon (Figure 2C, I, Extended Data 121 Figure 2). Other "Regional" enhancer-AAVs labeled astrocytes in subcortical domains but not in the 122 telencephalon, such as eHGT 381h and MGT E160m (Extended Data Figure 2); while eHGT 375m 123 only labeled Bergmann glia, specialized astrocytes in the cerebellar cortex (CBX, Figure 2D).

124 Interestingly, enhancers MGT_E120m and MGT_E160m labeled astrocytes in nearly mutually exclusive 125 regions (Extended Data Figure 3). "Scattered" enhancer-AAVs labeled astrocytes strongly but

- 126 sparsely in most brain regions. These enhancer-AAVs include eHGT 374m (Figure 2E) and its
- 127 ortholog eHGT 374h (Extended Data Figure 2). Enhancer-AAVs labeled as "Weak" gave astrocyte-
- 128 specific patterns with low expression of SYFP (e.g., eHGT 373m and 386m, Extended Data Figure 2). 129 Last, we designated several enhancer-AAVs as "Mixed specificities" because they labeled astrocytes
- 130 and neurons. For example, MGT_E118m labels many astrocytes strongly and specifically within the
- 131 telencephalon, but also labels neurons strongly in non-telencephalic structures like midbrain (MB), deep
- 132 cerebellar nuclei (CBN), and globus pallidus, external segment (GPe) (Figure 2F, Extended Data
- 133 Figure 2).
- 134 We quantified the specificity of many of these astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs using multiple
- 135 independent techniques. First, we characterized SYFP2-expressing cells with immunohistochemistry
- 136 (IHC) for Sox9, a marker of astrocytes throughout the brain⁵³ (Figure 2J-O). Many of the astrocyte-
- 137 specific enhancer-AAV vectors show high specificity, which we define as >80% specificity for the target
- 138 cell population³⁵. Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs are usually >95% specific, and often >99% specific 139 in VISp for Sox9-expressing astrocytes (Figure 2P). Second, we also observed high specificity when
- 140 we isolated single SYFP2+ cells by flow cytometry and profiled them by scRNA-seq (Figure 2P).
- 141 Additionally, we assessed completeness of astrocyte labeling using IHC, and we observed that vectors 142 scored as "Most of CNS" often label >50% of astrocytes in VISp, but "Weak" or "Scattered" vectors 143 labeled many fewer astrocytes (Figure 2P). "Regional" vectors showed differing completeness across
- 144 brain regions as expected (Figure 2P). Whole-brain serial two-photon tomography (STPT) of mouse
- 145 brain transduced with astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs demonstrated distinct astrocyte morphologies 146 in multiple brain regions (Figure 2Q). Thus, our collection of astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs are
- 147 diverse with regard to the density of labeled cells, expression strength, and regionalization.

148 A collection of oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs. We screened 43 candidate oligodendrocyte 149 enhancers, of which 21 (49%) gave oligodendrocyte-specific expression patterns (Extended Data 150 Figure 4). Unlike the astrocyte collection, the oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs all produced similar 151 expression patterns throughout the gray matter and white matter tracts without any obvious regional 152 specificity (Figure 3A-I), consistent with the majority of oligodendrocytes in scRNA-seq profiling 153 studies²⁰. Oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors ranged in expression from strong (for 154 example eHGT 410m, eHGT 641m, eHGT 395h, and eHGT 396h Figure 3A-D) to moderate (for example eHGT 409h, Figure 3E, and the Myelin Basic Protein (MBP) promoter^{27,54}, Extended Data 156 Figure 4) to weak (for example eHGT 400h, Figure 3F). These vectors also labeled oligodendrocytes 157 throughout the spinal cord (Figure 3G-I). We confirmed molecular oligodendrocyte characteristics of 158 the vector-labeled cells by co-staining with CC1, a marker of oligodendrocytes⁵⁵, which showed most 159 vectors were highly specific across multiple brain regions (Figure 3J-O). Quantification by 160 immunohistochemistry and scRNA-seq on sorted SYFP2-expressing cells showed >99% specificity and 161 >45% completeness of labeling in VISp for multiple vectors (Figure 3P). STPT demonstrated 162 myelinating oligodendrocyte morphologies in multiple parts of mouse brain (Figure 3Q). This collection 163 of oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors shows a diversity of expression strengths, but 164 appears to label a homogeneous population of oligodendrocytes.

165 Transcriptomic identities of astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. To investigate distinctions among 166 enhancer-AAV-transduced cells, we performed SMARTerV4 scRNA-seq on sorted SYFP2-expressing 167 cells. We characterized 2040 cells from 47 mice injected with 31 different enhancer-AAVs (1-2 mice per 168 enhancer-AAV). After removing low-quality single-cell transcriptomes and cells not expressing the 169 SYFP2 transcript, we focused our analysis on 1946 high-quality single cells. Astrocytes and 170 oligodendrocytes separated in the UMAP space, as did astrocytes sorted from the distinct brain regions 171 including VISp, midbrain/hindbrain (MB/HB), and CBX (Figure 4A). The molecular distinctions among 172 regional astrocyte populations agree with findings from recent whole-brain atlases²⁰. Indeed, mapping 173 to a whole-brain taxonomic atlas indicates that, with high confidence, VISp-profiled astrocytes are 174 predominantly mapped to the Gia1- and Gfap-expressing cluster "5112 Astro-TE NN 3"²⁰, whereas 175 MB/HB-profiled astrocytes marked by eHGT 381h and MGT E160m mapped primarily to the Gja1-176 and Agt-expressing cluster "5109 Astro-NT NN 2^{20} . Likewise, the CBX-profiled Bergmann glia 177 astrocytes mapped primarily to cluster identity "5102 Bergmann NN" as expected (**Figure 4B-D**). In 178 contrast, labeled oligodendrocytes largely mapped to Cldn11- and Mog-expressing and most abundant 179 oligodendrocyte cluster "5158 MOL NN"²⁰ regardless of the enhancer used to label them (Figure 4E),

- 180 confirming that oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs label a largely homogeneous population of
- 181 oligodendrocytes.
- 182 To understand the molecular regulation of our astrocyte and oligodendrocyte-selective enhancer-AAVs,
- 183 we performed de novo motif detection on a collection of specific and strong astrocyte and
- 184 oligodendrocyte enhancers (n = 15 each) using MEME-CHIP⁵⁶. This analysis yielded one motif
- 185 occurring in the majority of enhancers in each set (Figure 4F,G). Thes motifs had strong enrichments 186 as measured by MEME-CHIP E-values less than 0.01, corresponding to the expected number of
- 187 equally sized motifs of same or greater log likelihood ratio occurring in a set of random sequences of
- 188 equal nucleotide content. We mapped these motifs against known transcription factor (TF) motif
- 189 databases^{57–59}, which revealed top matches to the Zic family consensus motifs for astrocytes (JASPAR
- 190 accession numbers MA0697.2, MA1628.1, and MA1629.1; average of these three shown) and the Sox
- 191 family motif for oligodendrocytes (JASPAR accession number MA0442.1 [Sox10 shown], and also 192 Uniprobe accession numbers UP00030.1 and UP00062.1; Figure 4F,G). These analyses suggest that
- 193 Zic and Sox family transcription factors might be key determinants of astrocyte versus oligodendrocyte
- 194 identity in the CNS^{60-63} . Moreover, Zic and Sox gene family members were differentially expressed
- 195 between the profiled astrocytes and oligodendrocytes (Zic5 32-fold mean difference, non-parametric
- 196 Wilcoxon rank-sum test $W = 577624$, $p < 1e-16$; Sox10 455-fold mean difference, non-parametric
- 197 Wilcoxon rank-sum test $W = 9838$, $p < 1e-16$; Figure 4H). These results suggest Zic5 and Sox10 play
- 198 key roles in determining specificity of these glial enhancer-AAVs.
- 199 Regional expression correlates with astrocyte cell type distribution. Using STPT imaging, we observed 200 astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs to have two distinct expression patterns within the basal ganglia 201 circuit. Several enhancer-AAVs showed elevated expression in astrocytes of the dorsolateral striatum 202 and depletion in the globus pallidus (GP; Figure 4I-K), and several other enhancer-AAVs drove 203 stronger transgene expression in astrocytes in the GP compared with those of the lateral striatum 204 (Figure 4L-N, Extended Data Figure 3). To determine if these enhancer-AAV expression patterns 205 correspond to transcriptomically-defined astrocyte cell types, we evaluated the spatial distributions of all

206 astrocyte cell types in the mouse whole brain taxonomy²⁰. Interestingly, two closely related astrocyte 207 cell types were strongly enriched in the dorsolateral striatum and cortex ("5112 Astro-TE NN 3" and 208 "5113 Astro-TE NN_3"), while another was strongly enriched in the GP ("5109 Astro-NT NN_2"), 209 demarcating the same boundaries observed with the collection of astrocyte enhancer-AAVs (Figure

210 4O-R).

211 Measuring and optimizing enhancer strength. In some cases, enhancer-AAV might not drive sufficient 212 levels of a transgene to functionally affect the target cell. We sought to boost the expression levels of 213 some enhancers by assembling concatemers of "core" sequences. These core sequences are 214 responsible for the selective expression patterns and are often found in the central third of the original 215 enhancer region identified by snATAC-seq³⁵ (that is, \sim 100-200 bp core from \sim 300-600 bp original 216 enhancer, Figure 5A). We observed that concatenation of the core can substantially increase 217 expression from the original enhancer, such as eHGT 387m concatenated to 3xCore1(387m) (Figure 218 5B,C), eHGT 390h concatenated to 3xCore2(390h) (Figure 5D,E), or eHGT 390m concatenated to 219 3xCore2(390m) (Figure 5F,G) while retaining similar expression patterns (Figure 5H-J) and cell type 220 specificity (Figure 5K). However, concatenation sometimes resulted in a less dramatic effect on 221 expression, (e.g., 3xCore(410m) and 3xCore(641m); Extended Data Figure 4).

222 We established single-cell measurements of reporter expression to compare enhancer strengths. We 223 found that single-cell reporter fluorescence by flow cytometry correlated with vector read counts from 224 scRNA-seq for both astrocytes and oligodendrocytes (astrocyte Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.63, t 225 = 3.97, df = 24, $p < 0.001$ by correlation t-test; oligodendrocyte Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.53, t 226 $= 2.82$, df = 20, p < 0.05 by correlation t-test; Figure 5L, M, Extended Data Figure 5). These 227 measurements revealed that several concatenated enhancer-AAVs, including 3xCore2(390m) and 228 3xCore2(390h), drove the strongest expression among the vectors we have tested (Figure 5L), 229 consistent with the microscopy results (Figure 5B-J). Conversely, MB/HB (eHGT 381h and 230 MGT E160m) and Bergmann glia (eHGT 375m) astrocyte enhancers have among the weakest 231 expression levels we have tested (Figure 5L), likely a consequence of selecting cortical glial 232 enhancers.

233 Predictability of enhancer-AAV expression across tissues and disease states. Recent work suggests 234 that AAV-mediated transduction and high transgene expression in organs such as the liver and dorsal 235 root ganglia is associated with toxicity^{31,64}. We tested if we could predict off-target activity from 236 enhancer accessibility profiles in a human body-wide epigenetic dataset 65 . Different astrocyte-specific 237 enhancers showed either moderate or low accessibility across many body organs (Figure 6A). We 238 assessed off-target transgene expression in liver after intravenous delivery since PHP.eB capsid 239 transduces the liver⁶⁶. We observed that astrocyte enhancers with moderate levels of accessibility in 240 liver (eHGT_381h, 371m, 371h, and 386m) expressed SYFP2 in many hepatocytes, whereas the 241 enhancers with negligible liver accessibility (eHGT_387m, 375m, 390h, and 390m) expressed SYFP2 242 in only few hepatocytes (Figure 6B-C). In contrast, the GFAP promoter drives expression in many 243 hepatocytes, and that is not predictable from any epigenetic or transcriptomic atlases. Finally, we find 244 one astrocyte enhancer (eHGT 380h) that is predicted to have negligible liver accessibility but 245 expresses SYFP2 in many hepatocytes (Figure $6C$). Thus, the whole-body epigenetic dataset⁶⁵ 246 predicts liver expression from astrocyte enhancer-AAV vectors for 89% (8/9) of vectors tested.

247 GFAP expression can change expression in the context of disease or injury⁹, and the synthetic GFAP 248 promoter can change specificity when delivering different transgenes^{39–41}, suggesting this might be a 249 poor tool for genetic access to astrocytes in disease. We compared GFAP promoter and one of our 250 best enhancer-AAVs (eHGT_390m) in Dravet syndrome model mice since they have strong epilepsy-251 associated reactive astrogliosis⁶⁷. We injected SYFP2-expressing enhancer-AAVs into these mice prior 252 to the Dravet syndrome critical period of high susceptibility to seizures and mortality at P21 and 253 analyzed tissues at P42 (Figure 6D). Significant hippocampal gliosis was seen in Scn1a^{R613X/+} Dravet 254 syndrome model mice, revealed by elevated endogenous GFAP immunoreactivity in all hippocampal 255 layers (Figure 6E). Concomitant with this gliosis, the GFAP promoter-driven AAV reporter changed its 256 expression pattern. Normally, this promoter drives moderate levels of astrocyte-specific reporter 257 expression. However, in the Dravet mice experiencing epilepsy, expression strength in astrocytes was 258 considerably elevated, and ectopic expression was observed in many dentate gyrus granule cell 259 neurons (Figure 6E). In sharp contrast, the eHGT 390m enhancer-AAV vector maintains astrocyte 260 specificity at moderate levels despite the profound reactive gliosis in these diseased animals (Figure 261 6E). These results suggest that some enhancer-AAV vectors can provide astrocyte-specific expression 262 across body organs and across disease states, though this may not be true for all enhancers or disease 263 states.

- 264 Astrocyte-specific AAV-Cre. AAVs that can selectively drive Cre recombinases are valuable tools for 265 mouse genetics since the AAV can be delivered somatically for cell type-specific recombination of 266 floxed alleles. As a proof of principle, we used eHGT_390m to express a partially disabled R297T 267 mutant Cre recombinase in Ai14 reporter mice^{68,69} (Figure 7A-D). This vector produced 99% astrocyte -268 specific recombination in many parts of mouse brain, including medulla, midbrain, hippocampus, and 269 cortex. Despite the high astrocyte specificity in many brain regions, neurons were labeled in the 270 thalamus, pontine gray, and the cerebellum (**Extended Data Figure 2**). Thus, the astrocyte-specific 271 recombination observed in most of the brain will allow this tool to be used in combination with Cre 272 reporters to better understand the roles of astrocytes in brain biology, but other tools will be required for 273 drive astrocyte-selective Cre in certain brain regions.
- 274 Cross-species genetic access to astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. We tested whether several glial-275 selective enhancer-AAV vectors could maintain specific expression across species. We first tested 276 conservation in neonatal rats after ICV administration (Figure 7E). We found that eHGT 641m- and 277 3xCore(410m)-driven AAV vectors labeled rat cortical oligodendrocytes with high specificity (91 and 278 71% specific, Figure 7F, G). We also observed that eHGT 387m and 390m labeled rat cortical 279 astrocytes with high specificity (96 and 87% specific, Figure 7H,I). In addition, an optimized 280 3xCore2(390m) vector containing 4X2C miRNA binding sites to prevent any unwanted expression in 281 excitatory neurons⁷⁰ expressed SYFP2 strongly and specifically throughout the rat forebrain (98% 282 specific, Figure 7J,K). Note that astrocyte labeling completeness and spread to caudal brain structures 283 could not be assessed since ICV administered virus resulted in uneven spread. We also tested some 284 other vectors in rat which appeared to lose specificity for astrocytes (data not shown). Thus, some but 285 not all vectors identified in our mouse screen maintained specificity in rats after ICV injection into 286 neonates.

We extended these cross-species tests to non-human primate (NHP), using multisite intraparenchymal

- 288 injections (Figure 7L). We administered eHGT 410m AAV vector into motor cortex and observed cell
- 289 morphologies of myelinating oligodendrocytes throughout the cortical column (Figure 7M-N). Interestingly, we also observed SYFP2-expressing cells with a different morphology: one to three
- processes that spiral around stretches of tubular structures approximately 15-20 microns in diameter
- 292 often running perpendicular to the cortical pial surface (Figure 70). These tubular structures have not
- yet been defined and were not observed in mouse or rat testing, but both morphological types of
- 294 SYFP2-expressing cells co-expressed the oligodendrocyte marker SOX10 by mFISH with high
- specificity (94%, Figure 7P).
- We also injected the somatosensory cortex with the astrocyte-specific eHGT_390m AAV vector and observed many SYFP2-expressing cells with astrocyte morphology throughout the cortical column (Figure 7Q; note a small number of large layer 5 pyramidal neurons labeled as well, which we did not observe in mouse testing). SYFP2-expressing astrocytes co-expressed GFAP either in parenchyma 300 (Figure 7R) or in apposition to a large blood vessel (Figure 7S), and some showed fibrous morphology 301 in white matter (**Extended Data Figure 6**). Enhancer-AAV-labeled astrocytes also expressed the 302 astrocyte-specific transcript FGFR3 with high specificity (92%) and about half of the FGFR3+ gray 303 matter astrocytes were labeled through the whole cortical depth near the injection site (51%) (Figure 304 7T). These studies suggest that enhancer-AAV vectors provide specific and dependable genetic access to astrocytes and oligodendrocytes across multiple species and reveal morphological glial features not observed in the mouse.
- Astrocyte specific sensing of cholinergic signals in the nucleus accumbens during behavior. We next asked whether our vectors would drive sufficient expression to obtain functional signals in a cell-type specific manner. We created a vector driving astrocyte-specific expression of the acetylcholine indicator iAChSnFR⁴² (Figure 8A,B), to detect extracellular acetylcholine fluctuations in the nucleus accumbens (NAc) in an awake and behaving animal using fiber photometry. After stereotaxic injection, we implanted optical fibers above the injection site to perform fiber photometry. We trained mice to perform a dynamic foraging reinforcement learning task while we recorded photometry signals to assess bulk acetylcholine fluctuations in the NAc. In the task, water-restricted mice chose freely between two lick ports for a water reward after an auditory cue. Reward probabilities of the two lick ports were changed in a block-design manner, which resulted in both rewarded and unrewarded trials (Figure 8C). During these trials, the astrocyte-specific iAChSnFR vector drove sufficient expression to observe fluorescence 318 intensity fluctuations (Figure 8D) which can be seen to differ during individual rewarded and unrewarded licks (Figure 8D, bottom left). Both rewarded and unrewarded trials showed an increase in fluorescent signal at the time of choice, followed by a deviation in signal depending on whether the trial 321 was rewarded (Figure 8E). Astrocyte acetylcholine signals decreased more in rewarded trials than in 322 unrewarded trials (Figure 8E). In summary, these results indicate that glial-selective enhancer-AAVs can be applied to measure functional acetylcholine dynamics in the NAc.
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Discussion

Flexible and dependable tools to target glial cell populations will be essential to understand their diverse roles in brain biology. Here we report a collection of astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancers that can be used in AAV vectors and applied across species. Most of these enhancer-AAVs generated highly specific labeling of astrocytes or oligodendrocytes, and often substantial completeness of labeling. Detailed characterization revealed the enhancers showed a range of expression strengths, and the astrocyte enhancers frequently exhibited regional enrichment and differences in labeling densities. We demonstrate that this enhancer-AAV toolset can be applied: 1) across species in mouse, rat and monkey, 2) in epileptic mice where gliosis is occurring without losing specificity, and 3) to deliver Cre selectively to many astrocyte populations, and 4) to measure circuit 335 dynamics with a neurotransmitter sensor in vivo. As a result, these glial enhancer-AAVs will be useful for interrogating the roles of these glial cell types in health and disease.

337 Lesson learned from screening. Several lessons were learned through the process of screening for astrocyte and oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs. First, multiple selection criteria can identify strong glial enhancer-AAVs. Excellent functional enhancers were derived from genome-wide peak selection across mouse and human datasets of distinct epigenetic modalities, peak selection from one mouse dataset based on peak strength, or peak selection only near marker genes. Second, screening one enhancer-AAV at a time can be efficient for the identification of useful enhancer-AAVs. Nearly half of the candidate enhancers proved to be specific for the targeted type, and this created a large and diverse library of new enhancer-AAVs that labeled astrocytes or oligodendrocytes in different ways. Third, while enhancers were identified from neocortex at the subclass level, brain-wide patterns match well to whole 346 brain cell gene expression atlas patterns²⁰. Specifically, oligodendrocytes appear homogeneous across the brain, while astrocytes show prominent regional enrichments and differences in cell density. Fourth, body-wide specificity of enhancer-AAV expression can be predicted based on body-wide epigenetic datasets⁶⁵. Thus, off-target expression can be predicted and limited during the enhancer selection process, and enhancers can be identified that label different cell types throughout the body. These attributes will make enhancer-AAVs a valuable tool for precision gene therapy where only the cell population of interest is expressing the therapeutic transgene.

Enhancer-AAVs show diverse expression patterns. We tested a large collection of astrocyte-selective enhancer-AAVs and saw a diversity of expression patterns. Some astrocyte enhancer-AAVs predominantly labeled in telencephalic structures, some in MB/HB structures, and others showed sparse "Scattered" but uniform expression. Within the forebrain, we also observed multiple enhancer-AAVs that showed mutually exclusive enriched or depleted expression in dorsolateral striatum or the globus pallidus. These regional differences were reflected by region-specific astrocyte transcriptomic 359 profiles in agreement with recent results²⁰. The GPe astrocytes express high levels of GABA uptake 360 gene SIc6a11^{18,71,72} while striatal and cortical, but not GPe astrocytes express high levels of glutamate 361 uptake gene SIc1a2^{18,72,73}. This suggests that the astrocytes help selectively maintain glutamate or GABA tone depending on the brain structure and astrocyte cell type. The functional roles of astrocytes in different brain regions will require additional experiments that our collection of enhancer-AAVs may facilitate. Similarly, it is not yet clear what produces "Scattered" astrocyte reporter expression, and the answer will await future experiments.

Enhancer-AAVs can be optimized to improve vector function. Achieving functional levels of transgene expression is critical for applying enhancer-AAV tools to learn new biology and deliver gene therapies. We show that two astrocyte enhancers could be optimized through generation of a triple concatenated core to produce significantly higher levels of transgene expression without sacrificing astrocyte specificity. One such optimized tool was used to detect acetylcholine activity in the NAc. The NAc has been implicated in reward-related reinforcement learning and receives inputs from dopaminergic and serotonergic neurons, in addition to local cholinergic signaling^{74–77}. We used enhancer-AAVs to deliver the acetylcholine indicator iAChSnFR to astrocytes within the NAc, and measured dynamics with fiber photometry. This experiment showed that our astrocyte enhancer 3xCore2(390m) maintained faithful astrocyte specificity after direct injection into NAc and expressed sufficient iAChSnFR for sensing of acetylcholine in live awake animals. It also showed that iAChSnFR expressed by astrocytes could readily detect acetylcholine dynamics in NAc, and that astrocytes are a good cellular compartment for the sensor.

Different optimization efforts enabled the generation of a functional Cre-AAV that was specific for astrocytes in most parts of the brain. Cre recombinases can lose specificity when expressed from 381 enhancer-AAVs, possibly due to low-level expression of this potent enzyme³². We were able to successfully generate an astrocyte-selective Cre AAV using an attenuated Cre recombinase with the 383 R297T mutation^{68,69}, in combination with the eHGT 390m enhancer. As a result we produced a highly specific somatic astrocyte Cre, despite some neuronal off-target expression in thalamus, cerebellum, and a small brainstem nucleus. Similar optimization could be applied to generate Cres for oligodendrocytes or other cell populations. We anticipate further optimizations to boost expression and reduce background will be critical to create ideal enhancer-AAV tools.

Enhancers-AAVs can be identified that have conserved specificity from mouse to monkey. Our data demonstrate that some astrocyte and oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs are active and selective across species from mouse through monkey. This property will allow these tools to be applied somatically in multiple organisms besides mice. Testing enhancers in monkeys revealed interesting morphological differences compared to mouse. Abundant mature oligodendrocytes with large dendritic arbors were labeled in both mouse and primate tissues with eHGT_410m, but this enhancer-AAV also labeled SOX10+ cells wrapping around radial tubes (presumably blood vessels) in primate but not mouse. Also, 395 the astrocyte enhancer eHGT 390m labeled abundant protoplasmic astrocytes in the gray matter in mouse and monkey, but also labeled several large fibrous astrocytes that were not observed in our mouse experiments. The ability to function across species and label cells that are not obviously represented in mouse tissue, makes this collection of enhancer-AAVs a powerful toolset to better understand new biology. It also makes a compelling case that some of these enhancer-AAVs could be suitable for use in human gene therapy where astrocyte or oligodendrocyte expression selectivity is required.

402 Enhancer-AAVs can be identified that appear to be state-independent. AAVs that drive expression using promoters can cause gene expression changes in a state dependent fashion. We showed that the GFAP promoter changed expression strength and specificity in the context of epilepsy-induced 405 gliosis using an Scn1a haploinsufficiency model. This is not surprising since the GFAP gene is known 406 to change in response to disease and injury^{8,9}. Enhancer-AAV eHGT-390m, on the other hand, did not show a change of expression. This could be due to it being selected based on cell type identity, and

- most properties of cell types have not been seen to change character dramatically in the context of
- 409 disease^{22,78,79}. Enhancers can also be selected that do not change activity during development, aging,
- or disease, in a similar way to avoid selecting enhancers predicted to have activity in off-target tissues.
- As epigenetic datasets expand to cover these axes of disease, development, and aging, it will be
- feasible to select only putative enhancers with the desired activity profile.

Conclusion. We have characterized a large collection of enhancer-AAV vectors for targeting astrocytes and oligodendrocytes. These vectors will provide researchers with the ability to mark and manipulate these critical cell types in a variety of species, genetic backgrounds, ages, and disease contexts, and could also enable delivery of therapeutics. Combined with other recently discovered AAV-based

- 417 tools^{27,28,33–36,66}, our glial-targeting toolbox will help to advance our understanding of the roles of glial
- cell types in brain biology, make the complex cellular anatomy of the brain more experimentally
- tractable, and advance the development of AAV-based therapeutics for human CNS disorders.

Methods

422 Epigenetic analysis and enhancer nomination. We identified candidate astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancers from cortical epigenetic datasets. We used the following datasets: human middle 424 temporal gyrus snATAC-seq³⁵, mouse primary visual cortex scATAC-seq³⁶, human frontal cortex snmC-425 seq⁴⁷, mouse frontal cortex snmC-seq⁴⁷, human frontal cortex bulk mC-seq⁴⁶, and mouse frontal cortex 426 bulk mC-seq⁴⁶. A single cell glial snmC-seq dataset^{48,49} became available only after initial identification of most of the enhancers described in this study. From the single nucleus/cell ATAC-seq datasets, we aggregated reads according to cell subclass as in the references, and then called peaks using Homer findPeaks (http://homer.ucsd.edu/homer/) with the -region flag, yielding typically tens of thousands of 430 peaks per subclass, sized approximately 300-600 bp, as previously described³⁵. To find differentially methylated regions (DMRs) we either used the published regions by Luo et al. 2017 in Extended Data 432 Tables 5 and 6^{47} , and aggregated by subclass and then to all neurons using bedtools merge (https://bedtools.readthedocs.io/en/latest/). Alternatively for bulk non-neuronal DMRs we used methylpy DMRfind with minimum differentially methylated sites set to 1 on the dataset of Lister 2013, as 435 previously described^{35,47}. To convert mouse and human peak or DMR regions to each other's genomic coordinates for direct intersectional analysis, we used liftOver (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-

- bin/hgLiftOver) with minMatch parameter set to 0.6. All peak regions described in this manuscript
- successfully liftOver from human to mouse, and vice-versa, except eHGT_733m which does not have an obvious human ortholog via liftOver.
- To automatically identify peaks and DMRs genome-wide that are astrocyte- or oligodendrocyte-specific within each dataset, we used a series of bedtools intersectBed
- (https://bedtools.readthedocs.io/en/latest/) operations to filter for regions that are only detected in
- astrocytes or oligodendrocytes. For the "high specificity" criteria, we found peaks that were specifically
- 444 detected in both human and mouse cortical astrocytes/oligodendrocytes^{35,36}, but did not overlap DMRs
- 445 from either human or mouse neurons of any subclass⁴⁷, and these candidate enhancers are marked by
- gold square icons in Figure 1. These criteria yielded a set of 87 candidate astrocyte-specific enhancers
- and 112 candidate oligodendrocyte-specific enhancers, and the top 17 (Astrocyte) or 16
- (Oligodendrocyte) candidate enhancers were chosen from this list as ranked by Homer findPeaks
- score. Homer findPeaks score is a measure of peak significance relative to local background, not peak
- strength. Additionally, a small number of these "high specificity" criteria candidate enhancers also
- 451 overlapped with DMRs from both human and mouse non-neuronal cells⁴⁶ (3 Astrocyte and 4
- Oligodendrocyte), and these are marked by gold star icons in Figure 1 and Extended Data Figure 1.
- For the "high strength" criteria we found peaks that were specifically detectable in cortical astrocytes,
- 454 using mouse scATAC-seq data only³⁶, and agnostic to detection in human and methylation datasets.
- This analysis yielded 2119 (astrocyte) and 3940 (oligodendrocyte) candidate enhancers, which were
- ranked by read counts within the region, and the top 7 candidate enhancers for astrocytes from this list
- were chosen. This ranking led to nomination of peaks that are overall stronger and longer, and these
- candidate enhancers are marked with a purple triangle in Figure 1B, but accessibility profiles were not
- always conserved in human tissue, as shown in Extended Data Figure 1A,C.
- Some candidate enhancers were identified manually in the vicinity of known astrocyte or
- oligodendrocyte marker genes by visual inspection of ATAC-seq read pileups on UCSC browser
- (marked as "M" for Marker genes in Figure 1B). Methylation data was not visualized in this manual
- nomination process. Importantly we found that both automatic and manual approaches can identify
- peaks with high strength and specificity, as shown in Figure 1D-E.
- Additionally, enhancer MGT_E160m was initially identified as a candidate enhancer for pericytes in 466 cortex using the data of Graybuck et al., but it was found in the course of this study to instead label mid/hindbrain astrocytes.
- To model enhancer screening results as a generalized linear model, we confined analysis to 50 screened enhancers where we observed a clear yes/no screening result for both itself and its cross-species ortholog. These candidate enhancers were eHGT_371, 372, 373, 375, 377, 379, 380, 382, 383, 384, 388, 393, 394, 398, 399, 401, 406, 407, 408, 374, 376, 390, 395, 409, and 410, both the m and h orthologs for each. For each of these genomic regions we calculated candidate enhancer strength (read CPM within either astrocytes or oligodendrocytes), candidate enhancer specificity (defined as the proportion of astrocyte or oligodendrocyte enhancer strength relative to the summed 475 strength in all populations, using the data of Mich et al. or Graybuck and Daigle et al. $35,36$), candidate 476 enhancer length in base pairs, region-segmented PhyloP using the previous method³⁵, and tabulated whether each candidate enhancer's partner ortholog worked (binary yes [1] or no [0]). We fit a logistic generalized linear model of testing results from these predictors using glm() in R with the following command:
- 480 glm(Screen result $01 ~\sim$ Length + PhyloP + Specificity + Strength cpm + 481 Ortholog result 01, family=binomial(link='logit'), data = data)
- The significance of each coefficient to predict the screening result was determined from the coefficients of the model, using the data as provided in Extended Data Table 1. Although high peak specificity and strength were important criteria for candidate enhancer identification, these metrics each had little predictive power to explain success or failure of screening collection testing as evidenced by 486 coefficients of fit to a logistic linear model (Extended Data Table 1; strength z-value = 1.43, $p = 0.15$; 487 specificity [defined as proportional strength within target cell subclass] z-value = -1.20, $p = 0.23$), similar 488 to enhancer length (z-value = -0.13 , $p = 0.89$), enhancer sequence conservation measured by PhyloP 489 (z-value = 0.87, $p = 0.38$), and the presence of a functional ortholog in testing (z-value = 1.77, $p =$ 0.077), which suggests that there are additional undiscovered elements that determine successes versus failures in AAV-based enhancer screening. Overall, the null deviance was 67.3 on 49 degrees of freedom, and the residual deviance was 57.7 on 44 degrees of freedom, again indicating little power of these features to predict the screening results.
- 494 Cloning and packaging enhancer-AAVs. With candidate enhancers chosen, we next found their Absequence from genomic reference sequence using Bioconductor package Bsgenome⁸⁰. We extracted the sequence and padded 50 bp to each side of the enhancer to provide room for forward and reverse primer binding sites that capture the entire enhancer. From these padded sequences, we used automatic primer design in Geneious to identify primer pairs within the 50 bp pads to specifically amplify each enhancer, and append a constant 5' homology arm to each enhancer for automatic
- Gibson assembly into reporter-AAV plasmid. We amplified the regions from C57Bl/6 tail snip DNA or
- from human male genomic DNA (Promega catalog # G1471) using FastPhusion 2x Master Mix
- (Thermo Fisher catalog # F548L), and >90% of the PCR reactions were successful on the first try. In
- some cases we redesigned primers to attempt a second amplification.
- 504 We cloned into reporter backbone CN1244 (Addgene plasmid #163493) using the sites Mlul/SacI and the 5' primer homology arms F: TTCCTGCGGCCGCACGCGT and R:
- GACTTTTATGCCCAGCCCGAGCTC, using Infusion kit (Takara catalog # 638949). For some
- enhancers we instead cloned into a next generation reporter vector backbone that includes a SYFP2-
- P2A-3xFLAG-H2B reporter for detection of cytosolic SYFP2 and nuclear FLAG for simultaneous
- expression analysis and snRNA-seq, using the same cut sites and homology arms (see Extended Data
- 510 Table 1). We transformed infusion reactions into Mix N' Go (Zymo Research catalog # T3001)
- 511 chemically competent Stbl3 E. coli (Thermo Fisher catalog # C737303) and selected on 100 ug/mL
- carbenicillin plates. We cultured individual clones at 32 C, verified them by Sanger sequencing,
- 513 maxiprepped them with 100 ug/mL ampicillin, and saved them as frozen glycerol stocks at -80°C.
- We used maxiprep DNA for packaging into PHP.eB AAV particles. For routine enhancer-AAV screening
- by intravenous delivery in mouse we generated small-scale crude AAV preps by transfecting 15 ug
- maxiprep enhancer-reporter DNA,15 ug PHP.eB cap plasmid, and 30 ug pHelper plasmid into one 15-
- cm dish of confluent HEK-293T cells using PEI-Max (Polysciences Inc. catalog # 24765-1). After
- 518 transfection the next day we changed the medium to 1% FBS, and after 5 days the cells and
- supernatant were collected, freeze-thawed 3x to release AAV particles, treated with benzonase (1 uL) for 1 hr to degrade free DNA, then clarified (3000g 10min) and then concentrated to approximately 150
- uL by using an Amicon Ultra-15 centrifugal filter unit at 5000g for 30-60 min (NMWL 100 kDa, Sigma
- #Z740210-24EA), yielding a titer of approximately 3-5 E13 vg/mL. For large-scale gradient preps for
- intraparenchymal injection into NHP or mouse or ICV injection into rat, we transfected 10 15-cm plates
- of cells, and also purified preps by iodixanol gradient centrifugation. We assessed viral titer for both
- crude and gradient AAV preps by digital droplet PCR on a BioRad QX200 system. All vectors showing
- specific expression patterns will be made available through Addgene.
- 527 Optimizing enhancer strength through concatemerization. For some native enhancers that showed specific expression patterns, we sought to boost their expression levels through concatemerization. To concatemerized, we segmented the enhancer (typically approximately 400-600 bp) into approximately
- thirds with approximately 25 bp of overlaps at the junctions (each a candidate "core" of approximately
- 200 bp), then designed a tandem array of three cores in series (approximately 600 bp). These synthetic
- tandem array sequences were gene synthesized by Azenta/GeneWiz PRIORITYGene synthesis
- service with flanking MluI/SacI sites for restriction enzyme digestion and ligation into corresponding
- sites in CN1244. We then packaged and tested concatemerized PHP.eB enhancer-AAVs as above.
- 535 Mice and injections. All mouse experimentation was approved by Allen Institute Institutional Animal
- Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as part of protocol #2020-2002. In these studies, we purchased
- C57Bl/6J mice from The Jackson Laboratory (Stock # 000664). For enhancer screening these C57Bl/6J
- mice were injected with AAVs in the retro-orbital sinus at age P21 with 5E11 genome copies of
- AAV/PHP.eB viral vectors with brief isoflurane anesthesia. For enhancer validation studies (IHC) mice

were injected the same way but between ages P42 to P56. Tissues from mice were harvested at 3 to 4 weeks post injection for analysis. We perfused animals with saline then 4%PFA, and harvested brains or other tissues and post-fixed in 4%PFA overnight, before rinsing and cryoprotecting in 30% sucrose solution before sectioning at 30 micron thickness on sliding microtome with a freezing stage. For enhancer screening we counterstained with DAPI and propidium iodide and mounted in Vectashield Vybrance, and imaged on either a Nikon Ti-Eclipse or Nikon Ti-Eclipse 2 epifluorescent microscope, Olympus FV-3000 confocal microscope, or Leica Aperio slide scanner. In some experiments where noted, we tested enhancer-AAVs after bilateral intracerebroventricular (ICV) injection at age P2 using 548 the technique of Kim et al.⁸¹ These ICV-injected pups were harvested for tissue analysis at age P21. For whole brain imaging of expression pattern, we performed sequential blockface imaging of brains 550 using the TissueCyte 1000 serial two-photon tomography system.

- 551 For testing in Dravet syndrome model mice, 129S1/SvlmJ -Scn1a^{em1Dsf/J} mice (strain # 034129) were 552 purchased from Jackson Laboratories and bred to C57BI/6J mice to create Scn1a^{R613X/+} pups on a F1 hybrid C57Bl/6J:129S1/SvImJ background, and these pups were injected retro-orbitally at P21 with 554 tissue analysis at P42. Additionally, we also tested enhancer-AAV vectors in CMV-Cre; Scn1a^{A1783V/+} 555 pups on C57BI/6J background, which were generated from crossing B6(Cg)-Scn1a^{tm1.1Dsf/J} male mice 556 (The Jackson Laboratory, strain #:026133) with homozygous CMV-Cre female mice (B6.C-Tg(CMV-557 cre)1Cgn/J, The Jackson Laboratory, strain # 006054).
- 558 Mouse immunohistochemistry (IHC). For IHC and ISH, we transcardially perfused mice with ice-cold 25 mL HBSS (Thermo Fisher Scientific # 14175079) containing 0.25 mM EDTA (Thermo Fisher Scientific # AM9260G), followed by 12 mL of ice-cold 4% paraformaldehyde in 1x PBS, freshly prepared from 561 16% PFA (Electron Microscopy Sciences #15710). We dissected brains and other tissues from carcasses and post-fixed them at 4 degrees overnight, and the next morning we rinsed the tissues with fresh PBS, and then transferred to 30% sucrose solution in PBS for cryoprotection. For sectioning on Leica CM3050 cryostat, we then embedded tissues in OCT cryo-compound (Tissue-Tek # 4583) at room temperature at least 3 hours, then froze the blocks on dry ice and stored at -80°C until sectioning at 25 micron thickness. Alternatively, we sectioned half-brains at 25 µm thickness on frozen 30% sucrose solution slabs on a sliding microtome (Leica SM2000R) equipped with freezing stage. Sections were stored at 4 degrees in PBS containing 0.1% sodium azide until analysis.
- For IHC we used the following antibodies: chicken anti-GFP (Aves # GFP-1010), rabbit anti-Sox9 (Cell Signaling clone D8G8H, # 82630S), mouse CC1 antibody (Abcam # ab16794), mouse anti-GFAP 571 (Millipore Sigma clone G-A-5, # G3893), with 5% normal goat serum (Thermo Fisher Scientific # 31872) and 0.1% Triton X-100 (VWR 97062-208) for blocking and permeabilization, and appropriate Alexa Fluor-conjugated secondary antibodies for detection.
- 574 Flow cytometry and single cell transcriptomics. We prepared cell suspensions for flow cytometry and 575 single cell RNA-seq from brain tissue as previously described⁸³. Briefly, for flow cytometry, we perfused mice transcardially under anesthesia with ACSF.1. We harvested the brains, embedded in 2% agarose in PBS, then sliced thick 350 micron sections using a compresstome with blockface imaging, then picked the sections containing the region of interest (VISp, or mid- and hindbrain, or cerebellar cortex), and dissected out the regions of interest. We then treated dissected tissues with 30U/mL papain

(Worthington LK003176) in ACSF.1 containing 30% trehalose (ACSF.1T) in a dry oven at 35°C for 30 minutes. After papain treatment we quenched digestion with ACSF.1T containing 0.2% BSA, triturated sequentially using fire-polished glass pipettes with 600, 300, and 150 micron bores, filtered the released cell suspensions into ACSF.1T containing 1% BSA, centrifuged cells at 100g for 10 min, then resuspended cells in ACSF.1T containing 0.2% BSA and 1 μg/mL DAPI prior to flow cytometry and sorting on a FACSAria III (Becton-Dickinson). SYFP2 reporter brightness was measured as the ratio of positive cell population mean fluorescence intensity, divided by the low mean fluorescence intensity of autofluorescence in non-expressing cells. This measure of reporter brightness is more consistent than positive cell population mean fluorescence intensity alone, due to differences in raw signal across days, cytometers, and cytometer settings.

- For single cell RNA-seq, we sorted single SYFP2+ cells into tubes and processed them via SMARTer 591 \vee v4 using the workflow described previously⁸³, on 47 enhancer-AAV-injected mice. In each experiment
- from one mouse injected with one single enhancer-AAV we sorted and profiled up to 48 cells per
- experiment, and each measurement was taken from a distinct individual cell. After retroorbital
- injections, enhancer-AAV SYFP2-expressing cells consisted of on average 7% of the positive brain cells (range 0.1-20.1% of cells, n = 47 experiments). We sequenced single cell-derived SMARTer
- libraries at 659996 ± 199038 (mean ± standard deviation) reads per library on an Illumina NovaSeq instrument at Broad Institute (Cambridge, MA) or on an Illumina NextSeq instrument at Allen Institute
- (Seattle, WA). We aligned the libraries to mm10 genome using STAR
- (https://github.com/alexdobin/STAR), and also aligned them to the synthetic AAV transgene reference construct using bowtie2 (https://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/index.shtml). From 2040 initial cells, we excluded from analysis the libraries with poor library quality metrics, consisting of: firstly low-quantity or degraded libraries (judged as less than 65% percentage of cDNA library sized greater than 400 bp,
- consisting of 71 [3.4%] libraries in this study), and secondly those that lacked AAV transgene-mapping reads (likely mis-sorted events, 23 [1.1%] of remaining libraries). Applying these filtering criteria yielded
	- 605 a dataset for analysis of 1946 high-quality AAV transgene-expressing cells, with alignment rates of 92 \pm 3% to mm10 genome and 4654 ± 1285 genes detected per cell (mean ± standard deviation). To assess
	- enhancer specificity within the cortex we mapped the high quality transgene-expressing SMARTer cells
	- to the SMARTer-based VISp cellular taxonomy generated by Tasic et al. using bootstrapped
	- 609 hierarchical approximate nearest neighbor mapping^{20,83}, and quantified the specificity as the percentage
	- of positively sorted cells that mapped to the expected cell subclass (astrocytes or oligodendrocytes). To
	- test for significance of correlation of brightness by flow cytometry with expression levels by scRNA-seq,
	- we calculated Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient by cor.test() function in R.
	- To understand different characteristics of different regional astrocyte populations we utilized
	- scrattch.mapping (https://github.com/AllenInstitute/scrattch) from the Allen Institute. To accomplish this
	- we first transformed these cells by principal component analysis and performed UMAP dimensionality
	- reduction on the first 40 principal components for visualization using the default scanpy parameters,
	- which clearly separated oligodendrocytes and regional groupings of astrocytes. For clustering
	- astrocytes we subset the dataset to astrocytes only, then identified the top 2000 genes ranked by
	- variance among them, recomputed UMAP projections from these high-variance genes, then performed
	- 620 Leiden clustering⁸⁴ which identified VISp, MB/HB, and CBX astrocyte clusters as expected, and finally

identified differential genes among them (differential gene expression threshold false discovery rate 622 less than 5% and $log₂$ -fold change greater than 0.5) using scanpy

- (https://scanpy.readthedocs.io/en/stable/). In doing so we detected two major subgroups of VISp
- astocytes that are distinguished by presence or absence of immediate-early gene markers (for
- example, Fos, Fosl2, Nr4a1, Irs2, Pde10a, and Pde7b). This distinction may be an artifact of our cell
- dissociation process for scRNA-seq; for the purposes of this study we collapse these cortical astrocyte
- clusters. In order to understand the different regional characteristics of astrocyte populations we
- mapped cells to whole brain taxonomy we mapped to the best-correlated mean-aggregated taxonomic
- 629 cluster²⁰ with 100 bootstrapped iterations using the top 10% of high-variance genes and omitting a
- variable number of genes (10-50%) each round. We interpret the frequency of correct mapping rounds
- as the mapping confidence. We also used CELLxGENE for single cell visualization
- (https://github.com/chanzuckerberg/cellxgene). Spatial transcriptomic analysis was performed as
- 633 described in the recent whole brain transcriptomic taxonomy study²⁰, and cell type location data was
- visualized using Cirrocumulus (https://cirrocumulus.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html).
- For determination of Zic5 and Sox10 differential gene expression between astrocytes and
- oligodendrocytes, we used two-sided ANOVA on expression measurements from individually profiled
- cells from all the experiments with no exclusion, and no covariates were tested. Testing for normality by
- 638 the Shapiro-Wilk test revealed that Zic5 and Sox10 expression are not normally distributed (Zic5 W = 639 0.539 , p-value < 2.2e-16; $Sox10$ W = 0.958, p-value = 5.1e-16), so we used a non-parametric Wilcoxon
- rank-sum test. No significance thresholds adjustments were made for multiple comparisons since only
- 641 one comparison was performed. For the comparison of $Sox10$ versus Zic5 expression (mean counts
- 642 per million +/- standard deviation, n cells): astrocyte Zic5 expression 32 ± 71 , n = 864; astrocyte Sox10
- 643 expression 0.3 ± 5 , n = 864; oligodendrocyte Zic5 expression 0.6 ± 6 , n = 964, oligodendrocyte Sox10
- expression 456 ± 276, n = 964.
- Motif analysis. We performed de novo motif discovery from the sets of astrocyte and oligodendrocyte enhancers that showed specific and strong expression patterns, excluding those enhancers scored as weak. For astrocytes this list consisted of: eHGT_375m, eHGT_376h, eHGT_376m, eHGT_377m, eHGT_380h, eHGT_381h, eHGT_385h, eHGT_385m, eHGT_380h, eHGT_390h, eHGT_390m, 649 MGT_E120m, MGT_E122m, MGT_E160m, and ProB12. For oligodendrocytes this list consisted of: eHGT_361h, eHGT_395h, eHGT_395m, eHGT_396h, eHGT_397m, eHGT_398h, eHGT_400m, eHGT_401h, eHGT_403h, eHGT_407h, eHGT_409h, eHGT_409m, eHGT_410h, eHGT_410m, and 652 eHGT 641m. We used MEME-CHIP⁵⁶ to identify recurrent de novo motifs in these sets of sequences, using the parameter -meme-maxw 12, and comparing to a background set of random sequence with the same nucleotide content. This analysis revealed one strong motif in each set of sequences, as measured by its E-value, which is an estimate of the number of motifs expected by chance to have as strong a log likelihood ratio as itself within the given sequences. These de novo motifs where then 657 mapped to known sequences using TomTom⁵⁶ which revealed several possible matches to known motifs at significant p-values, but the strongest motif match (lowest p-value) in each case is shown. In the case of the Zic family transcription factors, for simplicity we averaged together the highly correlated strongest hits in the Zic family (JASPAR accession numbers MA0697.2, MA1628.1, and MA1629.1 covering Zic1, Zic2, and Zic3), since Zic5 itself is not present in databases. In the case of Sox10, the

highly correlated Sox family members Sox4 and Sox11 (Uniprobe accession numbers UP00062.1 and UP00030.1) showed slightly stronger motif match p-values than Sox10 (JASPAR accession number MA0442.1), but these were excluded from analysis due to lack of expression in almost all

665 oligodendrocytes as observed by Tasic et al. and in this study.

Enhancer-AAV testing in rat. The Allen Institute Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approved the following in vivo testing experiments in rat under protocol 2010. We procured timed-pregnant female Sprague-Dawley rats from Charles River laboratories. We tattooed and injected ice-anesthetized neonatal pups at P1 with 1.5e11 viral genomes of enhancer-AAV virus, diluted with 1X PBS to a total volume of 10 µL, unilaterally into the forebrain lateral ventricle (ICV delivery) with a 31- gauge, 4 point, 12º bevel 1 inch needle (custom ordered from Hamilton) and 25 µL capacity removable needle syringe (Hamilton, 7636-01). Between injections we washed the needle and syringe with 100% ethanol, and then nuclease-free water. We targeted the ICV space at 2 mm posterior to bregma, 2 mm lateral to the anterior-posterior midline, and at a depth of 2 mm perpendicular to the surface of the skull. We injected into the ventricle slowly over approximately 30 seconds. After injection, we held the needle in place for approximately 10 seconds to prevent viral leakage, then slowly withdrew the needle at the same relative angle as injection and then placed the animal onto a prewarmed heating pad in a clean cage. We sacrificed pups at 18 days post injection, prior to weaning, and transcardially perfused with 1X PBS and then 4% PFA in PBS. We hemisected each brain and cryoprotected in 30% sucrose in deionized water for a minimum of 24 hours before sectioning. We sectioned each brain at 30 µm thickness using a sliding microtome (Leica part number SM2000R) on a leveled mount of Tissue-Tek® O.C.T. Compound, collecting 3 sagittal planes separated by approximately 500 µm. We counterstained sections with 1 µg/mL DAPI and 2.5 µg/mL propidium iodide (Thermo catalog # P1304MP) overnight at 4ºC and mounted in VECTASHIELD® HardSet™ Antifade Mounting Medium prior to imaging by epifluorescence.

NHP enhancer-AAV testing. NHP animals were housed and injected at the Washington National Primate Center according to NIH guidelines and as approved by the University of Washington Animal Care and Use Committee under UW IACUC protocol #41-6701. These animals received several intraparenchymal injections under general anesthesia at spatially distinct sites located at least ~1cm apart throughout the brain. During injection, over the course of 10 minutes we expelled a total of approximately 1e11 gc iodixanol gradient-purified PHP.eB-packaged viral vectors in a total volume of 5 uL at 10 depths ranging from 200 to 2000 microns deep in the animals. After injection the animal rested for 10 minutes between injections. These numbers are approximate and timing, volume, and depths, may be adjusted according to animal anatomy and surgical considerations. The experiments described 695 here result from two injection sites in one male Macaca nemestrina animal. We harvested tissue from this animal after necropsy at 113 days post injection.

After locating the injection sites and cutting out tissue blocks about 1-2cm on each side surrounding the injection sites, we fixed these tissue blocks in 4% PFA for 24 hrs. Then we rinsed the blocks with PBS, cut 350 µm thick slices on the sliding microtome, and postfixed the slices in 4% PFA for 2 hours at room temperature (RT), washed three times in PBS for 10 min each, then transferred to 70% EtOH at 4°C for a minimum of 12 hours, and up to 30 days.

For ISH analysis we first incubated the slices in 8% SDS in PBS at RT for two hours with agitation, then washed the slices at RT with 5X sodium chloride sodium citrate (SSC) for three hours, exchanging with fresh 5X SSC every hour. Next we performed HCR v3.0 using reagents and a modified protocol from 705 Molecular Technologies and Molecular Instruments⁸⁵. We first incubated slices in pre-warmed 30% probe hybridization buffer (30% formamide, 5X sodium chloride sodium citrate (SSC), 9 mM citric acid pH 6.0, 0.1% Tween 20, 50 µg/mL heparin, 1X Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate) at 37°C for 5 min. Then we exchanged hybridization buffer for hybridization buffer containing probes added at a concentration of 2 nM. Molecular Instruments designed the probes using the following accession numbers: SLC17A7 – XM_011768126.1, GAD1 – XM_011744029.1, FGFR3 – XM_011744842.2, 711 SOX10 – XM 011712410.2. Hybridization proceeded overnight at 37°C, and afterwards we washed the tissue thrice with 5X SSC for 10 minutes each (total 30 minutes), then 30% probe wash buffer (30% formamide, 5X SSC, 9 mM citric acid pH 6.0, 0.1% Tween 20, 50 µg/mL heparin) for one hour at 37°C. Then we exchanged probe wash buffer with 5X SSC, then amplification buffer (5X SSC, 0.1% Tween 20, 10% dextran sulfate) for 5 min at room temperature. Meanwhile we pooled even and odd amplification hairpins for each of the three genes and snap-cooled them by heating to 95°C for 90 seconds then cooling to room temperature for 30 min, and afterwards we added the snap-cooled hairpins to amplification buffer at a final concentration of 60 nM, and finally centrifuged at 18000g for 1 minute. Then we incubated tissue slices in amplification solution containing amplification hairpins for 4 hours at room temperature, followed by staining in DAPI (10ug/mL in 2X SSC) for 1 hour at room temperature, and finally washing twice for 30 min in 2X SSC at room temperature before imaging. We prepared a fresh aliquot of 67% 2,2'-Thiodiethanol (TDE) solution for use as a clearing and immersion fluid by mixing ≥99% TDE (Sigma-Aldrich) with deionized water to create a 67% TDE solution with a refractive index of 1.46. We transferred slices to 67% TDE and allowed them to equilibrate for at least 1 hour at room temperature prior to imaging on a confocal microscope (Olympus FV-3000).

726 Stereotaxic injection and fiber implant surgery. Virus injection and optic fiber implantation surgery was performed in C57BL/6J mice (The Jackson Laboratory, #000664) at around P60. Mice were anesthetized with isoflurane and monitored throughout the surgery using breathing rate and tail pinch. The skin above the skull surface was removed to make room for the fiber implant and headframe. After 730 leveling the skull, a craniotomy was drilled above the injection and fiber coordinates (AP: 1.2 mm, ML: -731 1.3 mm, DV: 4.1 mm). First, a glass pipette positioned at the injection coordinates was lowered through the craniotomy and virus injection was performed (100 nl, titer: 4E13). Once the injection was complete, the pipette was slowly raised, and the optic fiber probe was position at the same AP and ML coordinates as the injection. The tip of the fiber was then lowered to 100 μm above the injection site and glued in place where the base of the fiber ferrule contacts the skull. A custom headframe was then glued to the skull to allow head-fixed behavior and imaging. After surgery, the mouse was returned to the home cage and allowed to recover for at least two weeks prior to start of water restriction for behavior and imaging.

Dynamic foraging reinforcement learning task. Water-restricted and head-restrained mice were trained to perform a reinforcement learning task where they freely choose between two lick ports that delivered 741 a water reward with nonstationary probabilities. This is a variation on the task described in Bari et al. 86 . The base reward probability of both lick ports summed to 0.6 where the probabilities of the two lick

ports were selected from two sets of ratios (0.53/0.07, 0.51/0.09). Block lengths that corresponded to each ratio lasted for about 30 trials (min trials per block: 40, max trials per block: 60). Each trial began with an auditory "go cue" that signaled the start of a trial. The mouse was free to choose between the left or right lick port immediately after the "go cue". The trials were separated by a variable inter-trial-interval (range between 1-7 seconds). The data shown in this study was from a two-hour behavior

session that consisted of 438 trials (170 rewarded trials).

749 Fiber photometry and analysis. Fiber photometry was performed using a commercially available photometry system (Neurophotometrics LLC, FP3002). A 470 nm LED was used to excite the iAChSnFR fluorophore, Venus, and the emitted fluorescence signals were collected using a CMOS camera. The 470 nm excitation was interleaved with a 415 nm LED as an isosbestic control to remove motion artifacts. Bonsai acquisition software was used to record the photometry signals as well as the behavior trigger signals events (go-cue, left and/or right lick choices, reward/no reward) for offline alignment of imaging data to behavioral events. Prior to start of acquisition, an ROI was drawn over the fiber image seen on the camera, and fluorescence intensity within this ROI was averaged for real-time signal visualization and offline analysis. First, the fiber photometry acquisition was started, following which the behavior task was initialized. Photometry signals were analyzed using custom python scripts. First, the fluorescence signal was detrended for photobleaching using a fourth order polynomial function and then corrected for motion using the control signal from the 415 nm excitation using 761 standard photometry analysis techniques⁸⁷. Acetylcholine signal changes were calculated as a change in fluorescence intensity over the mean fluorescence (ΔF/F as a percentage). The photometry signals were then aligned to behavior events using simultaneously acquired TTL readouts of behavior events (go-cue, left and/or right lick choices, reward/no reward) using a NI USB card. These behavior events were then used to calculate trial averaged traces of rewarded and unrewarded signals.

Data Availability:

- 768 All AAV viral vector plasmids will be made freely available for research use at Addgene (addgene.org/).
- Mouse scRNA-seq generated from this study will be made available at GEO with the accession number
- 770 GSE235987 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/). Mouse serial two photon tomography datasets will be
- made available through the Brain Imaging Library (https://www.brainimagelibrary.org/). All other data
- will be made available upon request.

Ethics Declarations:

- Competing interests
- Several authors including ESL, JTT, JKM, RAM, XOA, BT and BPL are inventors on one PCT stage
- 776 patent application (PCT US2021 024525) and one provisional patent covering vectors described in
- this manuscript. BPL is a scientific advisor for Patch Bioscience.

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Figures and Figure Legends

Figure 1: Astrocyte and oligodendrocyte enhancer discovery from single cell epigenetics.

(A) Example astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific peaks near the loci of astrocyte-specific gene AQP4 and oligodendrocyte-specific gene OPALIN, identified in human MTG snATAC-seq data³⁵.

(B) Differing approaches to identify candidate enhancers. Specific accessibility peaks are depicted as peaks, and specifically demethylated regions are depicted as troughs. Schemes not utilizing a particular data modality are shown as "Agnostic". Marker gene selection criteria can use accessibility from either mouse or human. Icons represent identification schemes; gold star candidate enhancers undergo more stringent criteria than those with gold squares (see Methods for details).

- (C) Workflow for enhancer cloning, packaging, screening, and validation. Enhancers are cloned into a pAAV plasmid upstream of a minimal human beta-globin promoter and SYFP2 reporter, and plasmids are packaged into PHP.eB AAVs. Enhancer-AAVs are injected intravenously into retro-orbital sinus, and expression is assessed by imaging. Promising enhancer-AAVs then go on to secondary validation experiments consisting of cross-species validation, molecular characterization by IHC and/or multiplexed FISH, and flow cytometry for single cell RNA-seq.
- (D-E) Accessibility profiles of candidate mouse astrocyte-specific (D) and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancers (E). For each genomic region we show their peak nomination scheme matching to Figure 1B, enhancer name, and enhancer accessibility profile transformed to CPM in mouse VISp scATAC-seq dataset³⁶.
- (F-G) Summarized screening results. Overall, we observed high success rates of tested enhancer-
- AAVs giving specific astrocyte or oligodendrocyte expression patterns. Testing result bar: Y = yes,
- 812 enhancer-AAV gives strong or moderate on-target expression pattern; N = no, enhancer-AAV fails to
- express; W = weak on-target expression pattern; Mx = mixed expression pattern consisting of on-target
- cells plus unwanted neuronal populations; Off = off-target expression pattern; ND = no data. Note both
- enhancers giving strong/moderate ("Y") and weak ("W") specific expression are grouped here for overall success rate analysis.
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Figure 2: A collection of astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors with varying regional specificities and expression densities.

- (A-B) Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs marking many astrocytes throughout most of the CNS.
- 824 eHGT 380h (A) and GFAP promoter (B) mark many astrocytes throughout gray matter in FB, MB, HB, and CBX.
- (C-D) Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs marking many astrocytes in isolated regions of the brain. (C)
- 827 eHGT 375m specifically labels cerebellar (CBX) Bergmann glia but not FB, MB, or HB. (D)
- 828 eHGT 385m labels astrocytes in cerebrum (CH) but not in MB, HB, or CBX.
- (E) Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV eHGT_374m marking scattered astrocytes. These scattered astrocytes are located throughout FB, MB, HB, and CBX.
- (F) Mixed specificities from astrocyte enhancer MGT_E118m. MGT_E118m labels astrocytes in the
- cerebrum (CH) but also off-target neuron populations in deep cerebellar nuclei, midbrain, and globus pallidus, external segment (marked by asterisks).
- 834 (G-I) Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs labeling astrocytes in lumbar SpC. eHGT 380h (G) and GFAP promoter (H) label many astrocytes in SpC gray matter, but eHGT_385m (I) does not label SpC astrocytes.
- (J-O) Positive confirmation of molecular astrocyte identity across brain regions. SYFP2+ astrocytes are colabeled with anti-Sox9 immunoreactivity in VISp, CBX, and Pons.
- (P) Quantification of specificity for astrocytes by astrocyte enhancer-AAVs. Specificity and completeness for astrocyte labeling by enhancer-AAVs was quantified by costaining with anti-Sox9 antibody in VISp, Pons, and CBX. Specificity is defined as the number of SYFP2+Sox9+ / total SYFP2+ 842 cells x 100%. Completeness is defined as the number of SYFP2+Sox9+ / total Sox9+ cells x 100%. Brains from one to three mice per condition were analyzed, with range 131-827 cells counted (median 844 311) per brain region analyzed. eHGT 375m-labeling was only quantified in the Purkinje cell layer of CBX, not in the granule or molecular layers. Specificity was also quantified by scRNA-seq, defined as 846 the percentage of sorted SYFP2+ cells mapping as astrocytes within the VISp molecular taxonomy⁸³. Overall, specificity is high for many astrocyte-specific vectors, with "Scattered" and "Weak" vectors 848 showing low completeness, and "Regional" vectors showing more completeness in certain regions.
- (Q) Distinct astrocyte morphologies throughout the brain with eHGT_387m enhancer-AAV targeting "Most of CNS". Images were acquired on a serial blockface imaging platform (TissueCyte).
- Abbreviations: CH cerebrum, dSTR dorsal striatum, CA1 cornu ammonis 1, CBX cerebellar cortex, SpC spinal cord, VISp primary visual cortex.
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Figure 3: A collection of oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors with varying levels of expression.

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858 (A-F) Oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs marking many oligodendrocytes throughout most of the CNS.
- 859 eHGT 410m (A), eHGT 641m (B), eHGT 395h (C), eHGT 396h (D), eHGT 409h (E), and
- 860 eHGT 400h (F) label many oligodendrocytes throughout FB, MB, HB, and CBX, but at differing
- expression levels.
- (G-I) Oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs marking oligodendrocytes in lumbar SpC. eHGT_410m (G),
- 863 eHGT 409h (H), and eHGT 400h (I) mark oligodendrocytes in gray and white matter of SpC, but at different intensities.
- (J-O) Positive confirmation of molecular oligodendrocyte identity across brain regions. SYFP2+ oligodendrocytes are colabeled with CC1 immunoreactivity in VISp, CBX, and Pons.
- (P) Quantification of specificity for oligodendrocytes by oligodendrocyte enhancer-AAVs. Specificity and
- completeness for oligodendrocyte labeling by enhancer-AAVs was quantified by costaining with CC1
- antibody in VISp, Pons, and CBX. Specificity is defined as the number of SYFP2+CC1+ / total SYFP2+
- cells x 100%. Completeness is defined as the number of SYFP2+CC1+ / total CC1+ cells x 100%.
- Brains from one to three mice per condition were analyzed, with range 101-332 cells counted (median
- 147) per brain region analyzed. Specificity was also quantified by scRNA-seq, defined as the
- percentage of sorted SYFP2+ cells mapping as oligodendrocytes within the VISp molecular
- 874 . taxonomy⁸³. Overall, specificity is high for many oligodendrocyte-specific vectors, with "Weak" vectors showing low completeness.
- (Q) Myelinating oligodendrocyte morphologies throughout the brain with eHGT_410m. Sections were visualized with serial blockface imaging on the Tissuecyte platform.
- Abbreviations: SpC spinal cord, VISp primary visual cortex, CBX cerebellar cortex, LSX lateral septal complex, MY medulla.
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Figure 4: Transcriptomic identities of prospectively targeted astrocytes and oligodendrocytes.

 (A-C) Groups of transcriptomically profiled single cells, as visualized by UMAP. Single cells labeled by 885 various astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAVs (n = 1946 quality-filtered cells) were 886 profiled from 47 brains in 47 independent experiments by SMARTerV4 83 . Libraries were aligned to mm10 and transformed into UMAP space for visualization, with coloring by enhancer (A), mapped 888 taxonomic cell type cluster (B), and taxonomic mapping confidence (C). Overall CTX astrocytes group away from CTX oligodendrocytes as expected, and MB/HB astrocytes and Bergmann glia astrocytes 890 group away from CTX astrocytes, consistent with recent results²⁰. Note that eHGT 381h- and 891 MGT_E160m-labeled astrocytes were dissected from MB/HB region, and eHGT_375m-labeled Bergmann glia were dissected from CBX region, but the remainder of the cells were dissected from

- VISp.
- (D-E) Quantifications of taxonomic cell type cluster mapping by enhancer vector. Prospectively labeled
- astrocytes from all enhancer-AAV vectors dissected from VISp predominantly map to cluster "5112
- 896 Astro-TE NN 3", whereas those from MB/HB dissections (eHGT 381h and MGT E160m)
- 897 predominantly map to cluster "5109 Astro-NT NN 2", and eHGT 375m-labeled astrocytes from CBX
- dissections predominantly map to cluster "5102 Bergmann NN". In contrast, all prospectively labeled oligodendrocytes predominantly map to cluster "5158 MOL NN". Cluster identities are from a recent 900 whole mouse brain taxonomy study²⁰.
- (F-H) De novo motif detection in astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer sequences using 902 MEME-CHIP⁵⁶ identifies one strong consensus motif in each set of sequences (top). These de novo motifs were mapped against databases of known TF motifs using TomTom (bottom), which identified the top hits as the Zic family consensus motifs for astrocytes, and Sox family motif for oligodendrocytes (Sox10 shown). These TFs (Zic5 and Sox10) show highly specific expression differences between astrocytes and oligodendrocytes from prospective scRNA-seq profiling (H).
- (I-N) Intrinsic SYFP2 expression from the indicated enhancer-AAVs after retro-orbital administration. Images were generated by STPT. Boxes in I and L correspond to K and N, respectively. Scale in I and K is 500 µm.
- (O-R) MERFISH data showing the distribution of three astrocyte cell types revealed by single cell gene 911 expression from the whole mouse brain²⁰.
- Abbreviations: CTX cerebral cortex, STR striatum, GPe globus pallidus, external segment.
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Figure 5: Optimizing astrocyte and oligodendrocyte enhancer strength.

(A) Native Enhancer and for 3xCore2(Enhancer) vector designs. The central approximate third of the

- enhancer (the "Core2" element) is marked by dark hatches, and this element is triply concatemerized in
- 919 the 3xCore2(Enhancer) vector. Alternatively, the first or third segment ("Core1" or "Core3") may be
- concatemerized (determined empirically).

(B-J) Dramatic increase in expression levels while maintaining specificity using 3xCore1/2(Enhancer)

vector designs. Brains from mice injected with the Enhancer or 3xCore1/2(Enhancer) vectors were

- 923 processed and imaged in parallel in these experiments. (H-J) Zoom in view of eHGT 390m- and 3xCore2(390m)-injected mouse VISp shows high specificity for morphological astrocytes throughout
- cortical layers in both cases.
- (K) Quantification of specificity for astrocytes by concatemer astrocyte enhancer-AAVs within VISp by 927 IHC and scRNA-seq as described in Figure 2P.
- (L-M) Direct correlated quantification of enhancer strength by flow cytometry and scRNA-seq, for both astrocyte- (L) and oligodendrocyte-specific (M) enhancer-AAVs. The left (blue) y-axis represents the log-transformed vector transgene reads per million in individual sorted scRNA-seq-profiled cells. The 931 right (brown) y-axis represents the log-transformed SYFP2 signal intensity of positively gated vector-expressing cells observed on the flow cytometer, quantified as the fold signal of positive cells normalized to non-expressing cell autofluorescence (taken as background). Points represent individual cells observed by scRNA-seq and by flow cytometry, visualized also as violins, and with the horizontal bar representing mean expression levels across all cells expressing that enhancer-AAV, across one to three replicate experiments per vector. Across all experiments, we observe significant correlation between mean expression intensity at the RNA level by scRNA-seq, and mean SYFP2 reporter expression by signal intensity (astrocytes: n = 26 experiments, Pearson correlation coefficient [PCC] 0.63, t =3.97, df = 24, p = 0.00057; oligodendrocyte n = 22 experiments, PCC 0.53, t = 2.82, df = 20, p 940 $= 0.011$). Furthermore, 3xCore astrocyte enhancers are among the strongest enhancers we have characterized, typically several fold stronger than their native counterparts.
- Abbreviations: VISp primary visual cortex.
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Figure 6: Predictability of astrocyte enhancer-AAV expression patterns across body organs and across disease states.

(A) Accessibility profiles of astrocyte-specific enhancers in the human whole-body accessibility atlas⁶⁵.

Single-cell profiles were grouped within each tissue into pseudo-bulk aggregates, then normalized

according to the signal (reads in peaks) within the dataset. Accessibility profiles are likely to predict

- enhancer activities within each tissue. Focusing on liver, some astrocyte-specific enhancers are
- predicted to have high expression, and some are predicted to have very little or no expression. In
- 953 contrast, accessibility atlases do not predict expression of GFAP promoter across tissues.
- (B) Whole livers from mice injected intravenously with eHGT_381h- and eHGT_390m-enhancer-AAV 955 vectors, stained with anti-GFP antibody. eHGT 381h has high liver accessibility, is predicted to have high liver expression, and shows many strong SYFP2-expressing hepatocytes throughout the liver as predicted. In contrast, eHGT_390m has very little liver accessibility and so is predicted to have little liver expression, and in fact shows few positive SYFP2-expressing hepatocytes as predicted.
- (C) Agreement between liver expression predictions and liver expression measurements across several astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors. eHGT_371m, 371h, 381h, and 386m all show many SYFP2- expressing hepatocytes as predicted. eHGT_390m, 390h, 375m, and 387m show few weak SYFP2- 962 expressing hepatocytes as predicted. GFAP promoter shows many expressing hepatocytes, which was not predictable from the accessibility atlases. eHGT_380h shows many SYFP2-expressing astrocytes, in contrast to the epigenetic prediction. Liver images in B and C represent one to two mice analyzed for each vector.
- (D-E) Testing fidelity of enhancer-AAV expression across disease states. We used a Dravet syndrome 967 model Scn1a^{R613X/+} mouse to induce epilepsy-associated hippocampal gliosis, injected enhancer-AAVs prior to the critical period, and analyzed tissue for expression patterns after the critical period (D). We assessed hippocampal gliosis with anti-GFAP antibody and enhancer-AAV expression with anti-GFP 970 antibody (E). eHGT 390m maintained specific expression and similar levels in hippocampal astrocytes 971 regardless of epileptic gliosis. In contrast, GFAP promoter expression strongly increased in gliotic astrocytes, and also was observed in dentate gyrus granule cells. Red dashed rectangles indicate the position of the expanded zoomed view, and the curved arrows indicate a rotated view.
- Abbreviations: ML molecular layer, GCL granule cell layer, PoL polymorphic layer.
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MeHGT_410m

Pia

Figure 7: Genetic targeting of astrocytes and oligodendrocytes with functional transgenes and across species.

(A) Design and testing of an astrocyte-specific mutant Cre-expressing enhancer-AAV.

(B-D) Specific recombination in astrocytes. Ai14 reporter recombination is observed in multiple parts of mouse brain (B), except for a few regions with non-astrocyte recombination including thalamus, pontine gray, and cerebellar granule layer (marked by asterisks). Recombination within cortex is highly specific (C-D).

- (E) Testing enhancer-AAV vectors by neonatal rat ICV injections.
- (F-G) Validation of oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors in rat. eHGT_410m and 641m show 987 specific expression in CC1+ VISp oligodendrocytes.
- (H-J) Validation of astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors in rat. eHGT_387m, 390m, and
- 3xCore2(390m) show specific expression in Sox9+ VISp astrocytes. 3xCore2(390m) vector also
- 990 incorporates 4X2C 3'UTR miRNA binding sites to prevent any off-target labeling in excitatory neurons⁷⁰.

991 (K) 3xCore2(390m) with 4X2C 3'UTR miRNA binding sites⁷⁰ achieves widespread expression

- throughout the rat forebrain.
- (L) Multiple stereotactic intraparenchymal injections into NHP brain.

994 (M-P) Prospective labeling of NHP oligodendrocytes in vivo. eHGT 410m enhancer-AAV vector gives widespread labeling of oligodendrocytes throughout the depth of motor cortex (M). Most labeled NHP oligodendrocytes exhibit multipolar ramified morphology indicative of local axon myelination (N). Some labeled oligodendrocytes exhibit morphologies suggesting wrapping around wider tubular structures highlighted with dashed white lines (O). SYFP2-expressing cells of both morphological types express

- 999 the oligodendrocyte/OPC marker SOX10 with high specificity (P).
- (Q-T) Prospective labeling of NHP astrocytes in vivo. eHGT_390m enhancer-AAV vector gives
- widespread labeling of astrocytes throughout the depth of somatosensory cortex (Q). A few large L5ET
- neurons are also labeled. Labeled astrocytes show the expected bushy morphology and GFAP
- immunoreactivity of astrocytes in parenchyma (R) and sometimes reside near walls of large-diameter
- tubular structures (S). SYFP2-expressing astrocytes express the astrocyte marker FGFR3 with high
- specificity (T).
- Abbreviations: VISp primary visual cortex.
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Figure 8: Astrocyte specific sensing of cholinergic signals in the nucleus accumbens during behavior.

 (A) 3xCore2(390m) driving expression of iAChSnFR. Enhancer vector is cloned into a pAAV plasmid and packaged into PHP.eB AAVs.

- (B) Coronal section showing stereotaxic injection of enhancer virus expressing iAChSnFR in the nucleus accumbens (injection coordinates: AP: 1.2, ML: 1.3, DV: 4.1).
- (C) Behavior and imaging experiment setup. Top: dynamic foraging behavior task schematic. Bottom: Fiber photometry instrumentation schematic and fiber location in a coronal section.
- (D) Fiber photometry signals of acetylcholine fluctuations during task performance. Top: ~30 min
- segment of a 2-hour session of dynamic foraging. Black dots represent the auditory cue, red dots
- represent time of first lick, blue dots represent water reward delivery. Bottom: 100 second (980-1080
- seconds) zoom in on above session with 6 individual trials (4 rewarded and 2 unrewarded trials).
- 1022 (E) Trial-averaged signals of rewarded and unrewarded trials aligned to time of first lick (mean \pm sem).
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Extended Data Figure 1: Epigenetic characterization of candidate enhancers in additional chromatin accessibility datasets.

 (A-D) Accessibility profiles of all tested candidate human astrocyte-specific (A,C) and human

oligodendrocyte-specific (B, D) enhancers. Human enhancer regions are characterized in the datasets

1030 of Mich et al.³⁵ (A-B), who performed snATAC-seq on neurosurgical MTG samples, and of Fullard et

1031 al.⁸⁸ (C-D), who performed bulk ATAC-seq on neuronal (sorted NeuN⁺) and non-neuronal (sorted NeuN⁻

-) nuclei from dissections spanning multiple regions of human postmortem forebrain. Overall, many
- candidate astrocyte- and oligodendrocyte-specific enhancers show accessibility specific to non-
- neuronal cells across much of the human forebrain.
- (E-F) Screening results from testing human candidate enhancers (same as Figure 1F-G, provided
- again for visualization). Testing result bar: Y = yes, enhancer-AAV gives strong or moderate on-target
- expression pattern; N = no, enhancer-AAV fails to express; W = weak on-target expression pattern; Mx
- = mixed specificities consisting of on-target cells plus unwanted neuronal populations; Off = off-target
- expression pattern, ND = no data.
- (G-H) Accessibility profiles for all tested candidate mouse astrocyte-specific (G) and oligodendrocyte-
- 1041 specific enhancers (H). Mouse enhancer regions are characterized in the dataset of Li et al.⁴⁸, who
- performed droplet-based snATAC-seq on many regions spanning the full mouse cerebrum.
- (I-J) Screening results from testing mouse candidate enhancers (same as Figure 1F-G, provided again for visualization).
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astrocyte expression **No astrocyte expression** $\frac{1}{2}$

Extended Data Figure 2: Full screening results of all candidate enhancer-AAVs targeting astrocytes.

We injected mice with the indicated enhancer-AAV vectors between P42 and P56, then after 3-4 weeks we harvested brains, sliced them on a sliding microtome with freezing stage at 30 µm thickness, co-stained the sections with DAPI, then mounted them with Vectashield Vybrance. Insets show a full cortical column from VISp (primary visual cortex), and in some cases also the labeling in MB (midbrain) or HB (hindbrain) or CBX (cerebellar cortex) is also shown. Astrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors are broadly grouped by expression pattern into the following categories: "Most of CNS astrocytes", "Regional" meaning present at medium-to-high levels in one or more broad brain regions but not all, "Scattered" meaning a few astrocytes are strongly labeled throughout the brain, "Weak" meaning many astrocytes throughout the brain are labeled at low level, "Mixed specificities" meaning one or more off-target neuron populations are also labeled in addition to astrocytes, and "No astrocyte expression" meaning failure to detect any clear astrocytes in these whole-brain sagittal images. These screening images were taken on multiple different microscopes, so the absolute levels of expression are difficult 1061 to compare directly across brains.

Extended Data Figure 3: Distinct astrocyte-specific expression domains of MGT_E120m and MGT_E160m.

 We injected mice with the indicated astrocyte-specific SYFP2-expressing enhancer-AAVs and 1068 performed whole-brain blockface imaging using the TissueCyte platform⁸². These vectors display largely non-overlapping zones of astrocyte expression: E120m is expressed in astrocytes within multiple forebrain structures including CTX, STR, OB, LSX, HPF, and TH, as well as MB, whereas E160m is expressed in MB, CBX, and HB structures as well as complementary forebrain structures including HY, MSC, and GPe, and OB. In the OB E120m is expressed in astrocytes within the granule cell layer, internal plexiform layer, and periglomerular cell layer, whereas E160m is expressed in a complementary pattern of astrocytes within the external plexiform layer.

Abbreviations: CTX cerebral cortex, STR striatum, OB olfactory bulb, LSX lateral septal complex, HPF

hippocampal formation, TH thalamus, MB midbrain, CBX cerebellar cortex, HB hindbrain, HY

hypothalamus, MSC medial septal complex, GPe globus pallidus, external layer.

Extended Data Figure 4: Full screening results of all candidate enhancer-AAVs targeting oligodendrocytes.

We injected mice with the indicated enhancer-AAV vectors between P42 and P56, then after 3-4 weeks we harvested brains, sliced them on a sliding microtome with freezing stage at 30 µm thickness, co-stained the sections with DAPI, and mounted them with Vectashield Vybrance. Oligodendrocyte-specific enhancer-AAV vectors are broadly grouped by expression pattern into the following categories: "Strong oligodendrocytes", "Weak" meaning many oligodendrocytes throughout the brain are labeled at low level, "Mixed specificities" meaning several off-target neuron or astrocyte populations are also present in addition to oligodendrocytes, and "No oligodendrocyte expression" meaning failure to detect any clear oligodendrocytes in these whole-brain sagittal images. These screening images were taken on multiple different microscopes, so the absolute levels of expression are difficult to compare directly across injections.

Extended Data Figure 5: Sorting enhancer-AAV-labeled astrocytes and oligodendrocytes.

Example gating strategies for sorting 3xCore2(390h)-labeled astrocytes and eHGT_396h-labeled oligodendrocytes from mouse VISp.

eHGT_390m in NHP somatosensory cortex

Extended Data Figure 6: Diverse morphologies of NHP astrocytes labeled by enhancer-AAVs.

- (A-C) Labeling of both gray matter protoplasmic astrocytes and white matter fibrous astrocytes by
- eHGT_390m enhancer-AAV. We show full cortical column of a somatosensory cortex injection site in A,
- with expanded insets to show protoplasmic astrocytes in gray matter (B) and fibrous astrocytes in white
- matter (C).
- (D) Confirmation of astrocyte identity by mFISH. Fibrous astrocytes in white matter express the
- 1106 astrocyte marker FGFR3, similar to gray matter protoplasmic astrocytes (Figure 7T).
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Extended Data Table 1: Genomic coordinates, sequence characterization, and mouse screening

results of all tested astrocyte and oligodendrocyte enhancers.

Calculations of parameters are as described in Methods section.

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