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# Pyramidal cell regulation of interneuron survival sculpts cortical networks

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**Complex neuronal circuitries such as those present in the mammalian cerebral cortex have evolved as balanced networks of excitatory and inhibitory neurons. Although the establishment of appropriate numbers for these cells is essential for brain function and behaviour, our understanding of this fundamental process is very fragmentary. Here we show that interneuron cell survival in mice depends on the activity of pyramidal cells during a critical window of postnatal development, in which excitatory synaptic input to individual interneurons predicts their outcome. Pyramidal cells regulate interneuron survival through the negative modulation of PTEN signalling, which effectively drives interneuron cell death during this period. Taken together, our findings indicate that activity-dependent mechanisms dynamically adjust the number of inhibitory cells in nascent local cortical circuits, ultimately establishing the appropriate proportions of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the cerebral cortex.**

In the adult neocortex, approximately one in six neurons are inhibitory gamma-aminobutyric acid-containing (GABAergic) interneurons<sup>1,2</sup>, and this ratio is relatively stable across cortical regions and species regardless of total neuronal numbers<sup>3-6</sup>. The cellular balance between excitation and inhibition is critical for brain function and is likely disrupted in a number of neuropsychiatric conditions<sup>7-9</sup>. However, the mechanisms regulating the establishment of appropriate numbers of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the cerebral cortex remain largely unknown.

Programmed cell death, also known as apoptosis, is an essential mechanism that sculpts the central and peripheral nervous systems during development<sup>10-12</sup>. The death of developing neurons is mediated by an evolutionarily conserved signalling pathway that involves the proapoptotic Bcl2 family members Bax and Bak<sup>13</sup>. Previous studies have shown that both cortical pyramidal cells and GABAergic interneurons undergo extensive cell death during postnatal development<sup>14,15</sup>, which suggests that apoptosis may contribute to the establishment of balanced

networks of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the cerebral cortex. However, the temporal relationship and interdependency of the programmed cell death periods for both populations of neurons have not been explored in detail.

### Concatenated waves of neuronal death

To determine the developmental sequence that establishes the final ratio of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the cerebral cortex, we estimated the absolute numbers and relative proportions of pyramidal cells and GABAergic interneurons at different postnatal stages of development using stereological methods in mouse strains in which specific classes of neurons are irreversibly labelled. We chose this method to estimate programmed cell death over the direct quantification of dying cells because classical apoptotic markers such as cleaved caspase-3 have non-apoptotic roles in neurons<sup>16</sup> and are only expressed very transiently (Extended Data Fig. 1a, b). We crossed *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* and *Nkx2-1-Cre* mice with appropriate reporter strains (see Methods) to identify pyramidal cells and GABAergic interneurons, respectively. Expression of Cre under the control of the *Neurod6* locus in *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice labels all cortical excitatory neurons with the exception of Cajal-Retzius cells<sup>17</sup>. *Nkx2-1-Cre* mice specifically label interneurons derived from the medial ganglionic eminence (MGE) and preoptic area (POA), including the two largest groups of cortical GABAergic interneurons, Parvalbumin (PV+) and Somatostatin (SST+) expressing cells<sup>18</sup>.

We observed that the total number of excitatory neurons in the neocortex decreases (~12%) between postnatal day (P) 2 and P5, and then remains stable into adulthood (Fig. 1a, b, e). The reduction in excitatory neurons affects all layers of the neocortex and not only subplate cells (Extended Data Fig. 1c–e), which are known to undergo programmed cell death during this period<sup>19</sup>. By contrast, we found that the number of interneurons is steady until P5, drops extensively between P5 and P10 (~30%), and remains constant into adulthood (Fig. 1c–e). Interneuron cell loss follows the normal maturation sequence of MGE/POA interneurons<sup>20</sup>, with

deep layer interneurons adjusting their numbers ahead of superficial layer interneurons (Fig. 1f). These results revealed that consecutive waves of programmed cell death adjust the final ratio of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the developing cerebral cortex.

### Interneuron activity predicts cell death

Our results indicated that the adjustment of interneuron numbers is preceded by a wave of pyramidal cell death, which suggest that these two processes might be directly linked. Since previous work has shown that neuronal activity and apoptosis rates are inversely correlated in the developing brain<sup>21-23</sup>, we hypothesised that pyramidal cells may impact interneuron survival by increasing the activity of the cells they connect to. We began testing this idea by monitoring the activity of MGE/POA interneurons in the superficial layers of the barrel cortex (S1BF) during the period of interneuron cell death. To this end, we generated mice expressing the fluorescent reporter tdTomato and the genetically encoded calcium sensor GCaMP6s in MGE/POA interneurons (*Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdT/GCaMP6s</sup>*)<sup>24</sup> and performed long-term Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging in the same interneurons from layer 2/3 S1BF of awake, head-restrained pups (Fig. 2a). To select the most appropriate time for these experiments, we estimated interneuron cell death in S1BF during postnatal development and found comparable dynamics to the rest of the neocortex (Extended Data Fig. 2). For layer 2/3, we observed the most prominent decrease in the number of MGE/POA interneurons between P7 and P8 (Fig. 2b).

We first established our ability to identify surviving interneurons at both times. As expected, we observed that the majority of tdTomato+ interneurons in a region of interest (ROI) were present in the same location the following day (Fig. 2c). However, we also observed that a fraction of tdTomato+ interneurons disappeared between P7 and P8 (Fig. 2c). Since MGE/POA interneurons have ceased migration at the end of the first postnatal week<sup>25</sup>, these observations are consistent with the idea that the cells disappearing between P7 and P8 have undergone apoptosis.

We next wondered whether neural activity at P7 in interneurons that die by P8 was different from that of cells that lived past P8. Analysis of calcium event rates (events/min) at P7 indicated that interneurons that died at P8 exhibited significantly fewer calcium events than neurons that lived past P8 (Fig. 2d, e). We next analysed whether P7 event rates could discriminate between neurons that die at P8 and neurons that live beyond this day. Receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) analysis revealed that event rate at P7 performs significantly better than chance in discriminating between these two populations (Fig. 2f). These results suggested that interneurons with relatively low levels of activity immediately before the period of interneuron cell death have an increased probability to undergo apoptosis<sup>26,27</sup>.

### Pyramidal cells regulate interneuron death

The previous experiments led us to hypothesise that interneurons receiving abundant or particularly strong inputs during the period of interneuron cell death would have increased chances to survive. Since PV+ and SST+ interneurons receive most of their inputs from local pyramidal cells during the first postnatal week<sup>28</sup>, we reasoned that modifying the activity of cortical excitatory neurons during the period of interneuron cell death would influence interneuron survival. To test this idea, we transiently modified the activity of pyramidal cells using a chemogenetic approach based on Designer Receptors Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs (DREADDs) that induce neuronal activation or inhibition<sup>29</sup>. We injected the primary somatosensory cortex (S1) of P0 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* (pyramidal cell-specific) mice with the adeno-associated virus (AAV) encoding mutant G protein-coupled receptors that induce neuronal activation (hM3Dq) or inhibition (hM4Di) following administration of the pharmacologically inert molecule clozapine-N-oxide (CNO) (Fig. 3a). We then injected pups with CNO twice daily between P5 and P8, and examined the distribution of interneurons at P21 (Fig. 3a). We found that increasing the activity of pyramidal cells during the period of interneuron cell death prevents this process and leads to a significant increase in the density of PV+ and SST+

interneurons at P21 compared to control mice (Fig. 3b–d). This effect was not due to activity-dependent changes in the expression of PV or SST or in the density of pyramidal cells (Extended Data Fig. 3a, b). We also found that dampening the activity of pyramidal cells decreases the density of PV+ and SST+ interneurons at P21 compared to controls, which indicates that interneuron cell death can be bi-directionally modulated by modifying the activity of pyramidal cells (Fig. 3b–d). In both types of experiments, changes in the density of interneurons were homogeneously distributed across layers containing PV+ and SST+ interneurons (Extended Data Fig. 3c, d). CNO administration did not cause a redistribution of interneurons from neocortical areas adjacent to the injection site (Extended Data Fig. 3e, f). Instead, we observed a prominent increase in the density of cleaved caspase-3 cells following inhibition of the activity of pyramidal cells during the normal period of interneuron cell death (Extended Data Fig. 4a–c). Importantly, control experiments revealed that CNO did not modify the density of PV or SST interneurons in pups not infected with AAV-expressing DREADDs (Extended Data Fig. 4d, e). Similarly, CNO administration between P10 and P13 in hM3Dq- and hM4Di-injected mice revealed no significant changes in the density of PV+ and SST+ interneurons at P21 (Extended Data Fig. 5). Altogether, these experiments demonstrated that pyramidal cells activity is an essential regulator of interneuron survival during the normal period of interneuron cell death.

### **Interneurons match pyramidal cell numbers**

The previous experiments suggest that pyramidal cells ‘rescue’ appropriate numbers of cortical interneurons from programmed cell death through an activity-dependent mechanism. Based on this idea, we reasoned that modifying the number of pyramidal cells prior to the period of interneuron cell death should also influence the number of surviving interneurons. To test this hypothesis, we generated conditional mice in which pyramidal cells specifically lack *Bak* and *Bax*, whose combined function is critical for apoptosis<sup>30</sup>. As expected, we observed that the

number of excitatory neurons in the cerebral cortex of  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mutant mice does not decline between P2 and P21 (Extended Data Fig. 6). Consequently,  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mutant mice have approximately 12% more pyramidal cells than control animals (Fig. 1b and Extended Data Fig. 6).

We next quantified PV+ and SST+ interneurons in S1 of control and  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mutant mice at P21. We found that the density of both PV+ and SST+ interneurons increases by roughly 30% in  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mutant mice compared to controls (Fig. 4a, c), which suggests that interneuron cell death is suppressed when pyramidal cell death is prevented. This increase is homogeneously distributed across layers containing PV+ and SST+ interneurons (Extended Data Fig. 7a), and was also observed in other neocortical areas (Extended Data Fig. 7c, d). To evaluate whether the increase in the number of PV+ and SST+ interneurons represents the entire population of cells that should have normally died through programmed cell death, we generated conditional mice lacking *Bax* and *Bak* in MGE/POA interneurons. We found that the density of PV+ and SST+ interneurons also increases by approximately 30% in  $Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mutant mice compared to controls (Fig. 4b, c). Indeed, fold changes for PV+ and SST+ interneurons were identical for  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  and  $Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mutant mice (Extended Data Fig. 7b). These results revealed that preventing pyramidal cell death is sufficient to abolish programmed cell death in MGE/POA interneurons, which reinforces the idea that excitatory input from pyramidal cells onto interneurons during early postnatal development is critical for establishing the appropriate ratio of excitatory and inhibitory cells in the cerebral cortex.

## **PTEN regulates interneuron cell death**

We next investigated the molecular mechanisms through which pyramidal cell activity prevents programmed cell death in cortical interneurons. In the developing nervous system, the serine-threonine kinase Akt is a critical mediator of neuronal survival<sup>31,32</sup> that is antagonised by the



activity of the phosphatase and tensin homolog PTEN<sup>33,34</sup>. Consistent with this notion, we observed that the relative levels of activated Akt (P-Akt/Akt ratio) transiently increase in the neocortex during the period of interneuron cell death (Fig. 5a). Interestingly, PTEN levels are very heterogeneous among MGE/POA interneurons during the same period (Fig. 5b). PTEN levels are transiently elevated in sparse interneurons in deep and superficial layers of S1 and this increase is concurrent with the peak of interneuron cell death in these layers (Fig. 5c, d and Extended Data Fig. 8a, b). These observations led us to hypothesise that high PTEN levels during this period may drive interneurons towards cell death, and that pyramidal cells might influence this process by regulating PTEN in interneurons.

To test this hypothesis, we generated mice in which we conditionally deleted *Pten* from postmitotic MGE interneurons<sup>35,36</sup>. We observed that *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mutant mice have abnormally large jaws and reduced body weight compared to their littermates by P16, probably due to the embryonic expression of *Lhx6* in the first branchial arch<sup>37</sup>, which prevented their analysis at later developmental stages. We nevertheless found that *Pten* conditional mutants have a significant increase in the density of PV and SST interneurons in S1 compared to control mice (Fig. 5e, f, g and Extended Data Fig. 8c, d), without changing their relative distribution across layers (Extended Data Fig. 8e). Since *Lhx6-Cre* drives recombination in endothelial cells in addition to MGE interneurons<sup>35</sup>, we examined whether a change in the organisation of neocortical blood vessels might contribute to increased survival of interneurons in conditional *Pten* mutants. We found that the density of blood vessels increases in conditional *Pten* mutants compared to controls (Extended Data Fig. 8c, d). However, this change does not affect the density of pyramidal cells (Extended Data Fig. 8c, d), which rules out an indirect effect of blood vessels on interneuron survival through an increase in pyramidal cell density. To discard a direct effect of blood vessels on interneuron survival, we carried out a second series of experiments using acute pharmacological inhibition of PTEN. We injected the PTEN inhibitor bpV(pic)

systemically at P7 and P8 in wild type mice and analysed blood vessel density in S1 at P10 (Extended Data Fig. 9b, c). Mice injected with the PTEN inhibitor did not exhibit increased blood vessel coverage (Extended Data Fig. 9b, c). In contrast, transient PTEN inhibition during the period of interneuron cell death increased the density of MGE interneurons compared to control mice (Extended Data Fig. 9a, d, e). Mice injected with the PTEN inhibitor outside the normal window of interneuron programmed cell death showed similar densities of PV and SST interneurons than controls (Extended Data Fig. 9f–h). These results revealed that PTEN is most likely required cell-autonomously for interneuron apoptosis during the normal period of interneuron cell death.

Finally, we examined whether pyramidal cell activity influences the survival of interneurons by non-cell autonomously regulating the expression of PTEN levels in these cells during the period of interneuron cell death. To this end, we carried out DREADDs experiments similar to those that led to an increased number of cortical interneurons following transient activation of pyramidal cells between P5 and P8 (Fig. 3), but here we analysed PTEN levels in cortical interneurons at P8 (Fig. 5h). We found that PTEN levels are significantly decreased in GABAergic interneurons following the activation of pyramidal cells (Fig. 5i, j). These results strongly suggested that pyramidal cells influence the normal process of interneuron programmed cell death through the activity-dependent inhibition of PTEN, which tips the balance between survival and apoptotic signalling pathways in developing interneurons.

## Discussion

Our results suggest that interneuron programmed cell death has evolved as a mechanism responsible for adjusting the final ratio of excitatory and inhibitory neurons in the cerebral cortex, a critical milestone in the assembly of cortical circuits<sup>38</sup>. Although synaptic mechanisms are known to stabilise excitatory-inhibitory ratios in cortical circuits<sup>39-41</sup>, this effectively requires that the relative proportions of pyramidal cells and interneurons are within certain

parameters<sup>42-44</sup>. Considering the disproportionate expansion of neocortical areas during human evolution<sup>45,46</sup>, it is tempting to speculate that the dependency of interneuron survival on pyramidal cells provides an evolutionary advantage for the preservation of appropriate ratios of excitatory and inhibitory cells during the rapid increase of pyramidal cell numbers in the primate lineage.

Our work indicates that interneuron cell death is non-cell autonomously regulated by pyramidal cells, which seem to be able to ‘rescue’ connected interneurons from their intrinsically determined cell death<sup>14</sup> by inhibiting the activity of PTEN during a critical window in postnatal development. It is worth noting that a sizable proportion of individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and macrocephaly carry deleterious mutations in the *PTEN* gene<sup>47,48</sup>. Our observations indicate that loss of PTEN function is sufficient to disrupt interneuron programmed cell death, which may in turn alter the cellular balance of excitation and inhibition in the cerebral cortex. This mechanism may contribute to deregulation of cortical information processing and social dysfunction in ASD patients carrying PTEN mutations.

The apoptosis rate of pyramidal cells varies among functionally different neocortical areas and even across layers within the same cortical area<sup>49</sup>. This suggests that the proposed mechanism may sculpt the heterogeneous patterns of interneuron distributions that exist across the cerebral cortex<sup>50</sup>. Consequently, the regulation of interneuron programmed cell death by pyramidal cells likely contributes to the cytoarchitectonical specialisation of cortical areas.

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**Supplementary Information** is available in the online version of the paper. A summary of data and statistical analyses for all figures can be found in [Supplementary Table 1](#).

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**Author contributions** F.K.W., K.B., V.S., and O.M. designed experiments. F.K.W., K.B., A.P. and M.F. carried out stereology quantifications. V.S. performed and analysed in vivo imaging experiments. F.K.W. performed and analysed DREADDs experiments, except for the analysis of PTEN levels, which was carried out by K.B. F.K.W. analysed *Bax/Bak* mutant mice. K.B. performed western blots, examined interneuron PTEN levels and analysed *Pten* mutant mice. F.K.W. performed in vivo pharmacological PTEN inhibition experiments. F.K.W., K.B., V.S., and O.M. wrote the manuscript.

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## FIGURE LEGENDS

**Figure 1 | Consecutive waves of programmed cell death for pyramidal cells and interneurons in the early postnatal cortex.** **a, c,** Coronal sections through the primary somatosensory cortex (S1) of *Nex<sup>Cre</sup>;Fucci2* (**a**) and *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* (**c**) mice during postnatal development. **b,** Total number of pyramidal cells in the entire neocortex of *Nex<sup>Cre</sup>;Fucci2* mice (ANOVA,  $F = 4.17$ ,  $*p = 0.02$ ;  $n = 4$  [P2 and P5], 3 [P7] and 5 [P10 and P21] animals). **d,** Total number of MGE/POA interneurons in the entire neocortex of *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice (ANOVA,  $F = 26.80$ ,  $*p = 0.01$ ;  $n = 4$  animals for all ages). **e,** Temporal variation in pyramidal cell and MGE/POA interneuron percentages. **f,** Total number of MGE/POA interneurons in superficial (L1-L4) and deep layers (L5 and L6) of the neocortex (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{interaction}} = 1.01$ ,  $*p = 0.03$  and  $**p = 0.002$ ;  $n = 3$  animals for all ages). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Figure 2 | Interneuron activity levels predict cell death.** **a,** Schematic of experimental design. **b,** Total number of MGE/POA interneurons in layer 2/3 S1BF of *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice ( $n = 3$  animals for all ages). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. **c,** ROI imaged at P7 (left) and P8 (right). **d,** Raster plots showing the occurrence of calcium events at P7 for the four neurons shown in (**c**). **e,** Box plots illustrating event rates for P7 interneurons that live past P8 (magenta) and interneurons that die by P8. Two-sided Mann-Whitney test,  $p = 0.03$ ;  $n = 18$  for cells that die at P8 and 153 for cells that live beyond P8, from 3 different pups. **f,** ROC analysis showing the ability of P7 event rates to discriminate between cells that die by P8 and cells that live past P8, AUC (area under the curve) = 0.65,  $*p = 0.025$ . Scale bar, 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Figure 3 | Bidirectional modulation of pyramidal cell activity regulates the extent of interneuron cell death.** **a,** Schematic of experimental design. mCherry expression at P21 following AAV injection at P0. **b, c,** Coronal sections through S1BF from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice

injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* or *hM4Di-mCherry* viruses followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **d**, Quantification of the density of PV and SST cells at P21. Two-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test, for hM3DQ, \*\*\**p* = 0.0002, \*\**p* = 0.003; for hM4DI, \*\**p* = 0.006 [PV], \*\**p* = 0.004 [SST]; for hM3DQ, *n* = 7 and 9 animals for -CNO PV and SST, respectively; 6 and 7 animals for +CNO PV and SST, respectively; for hM4DI, *n* = 7 animals for -CNO and 5 animals for +CNO for both PV and SST. Data is shown as mean ± SEM. Scale bars, 500 μm (**a**) and 100 μm (**b**).

**Figure 4 | Survival of pyramidal cells rescues interneuron cell death. a, b**, Coronal sections through S1BF from P30 *Bak<sup>+/+</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (**a**), and *Bak<sup>+/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (**b**) mice. **c**, Quantification of the density of PV and SST cells in pyramidal cell-specific Bax/Bak mutant mice, MGE/POA interneuron-specific Bax/Bak mutant mice and their respective controls at P30. Two-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test, for *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>*, \*\**p* = 0.001, \*\*\**p* = 0.0002; for *Nkx-2-1-Cre*, \**p* = 0.04, \*\*\**p* = 0.00004; *n* = 4 animals for *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* [PV] and 5 animals for all other groups. Data is shown as mean ± SEM. Scale bar, 100 μm.

**Figure 5 | Pyramidal cell activity controls interneuron cell survival through PTEN inhibition. a**, P-Akt, Akt and Actin protein levels in the neocortex. Friedman test, *p* = 0.001; \**p* = 0.03 for P5 vs P8, \**p* = 0.0101 for P5 vs P9 and \*\*\**p* = 0 for P5 vs P7; *n* = 6 animals for all ages. **b**, Coronal section through layer 2/3 S1BF from *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice at P8. Some interneurons have much higher PTEN levels (arrowhead) than most (open arrowheads). **c**, Coronal sections through layer 2/3 S1BF from *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice at P5, P7, P8 and P10. PTEN expression is shown as a custom LUT in tdTomato-masked cells. **d**, Cumulative distribution of mean PTEN intensity in layer 2/3 MGE interneurons. Kruskal-Wallis, \*\*\**p* = 1.7x10<sup>-54</sup>; *n* = 223 cells [P5], 184 cells [P7], 394 cells [P8] and 395 cells [P10] from 3 different

animals at each age. **e, f**, Coronal sections through S1BF from *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice at P16. **g**, Quantification of the density of PV and SST cells in P16 *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice. Two-tailed Student's *t*-test, \**p* = 0.04, \*\**p* = 0.005; *n* = 4 *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and 3 *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* animals. **h**, Schematic of experimental paradigm. **i**, Coronal sections through layer 2/3 S1BF from P8 *Nes<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected with hM3Dq-mCherry at P0 followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. PTEN expression is shown as a custom LUT in GABA-masked cells. **j**, Normalised cumulative distribution of PTEN intensity in layer 2/3 S1BF GABAergic cells in vehicle and CNO-treated mice. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, \*\*\* *p* = 1.05x10<sup>-111</sup>; *n* = 1191 cells [vehicle] and 3231 cells [CNO] from 4 vehicle and 8 CNO-treated animals. Data is shown as mean ± SEM. Scale bars, 50 μm (**b**), 100 μm (**c, e, f**), and 10 μm (**j**).

## METHODS

**Animals.** All experiments were performed following the guidelines of King's College London Biological Service Unit and in accordance with the European Community Council Directive of November 24, 1986 (86/609/EEC). Animal work was carried out under licence from the UK Home Office in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Both male and female mice were used indiscriminately throughout the study. For stereology on pyramidal cells, *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice<sup>19</sup> (kindly provided by K.A. Nave) were crossed with *Fucci2* mice<sup>51</sup> (*RCL<sup>Fucci2aR/+</sup>*, kindly provided by R.L. Mort). For stereology on MGE/POA interneurons, *Nkx2-1-Cre* mice<sup>20</sup> (JAX008661) were crossed with *RCL<sup>tdTomato/tdTomato</sup>* mice<sup>28</sup> (JAX 007909). For *in vivo* calcium imaging experiments, *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato/tdTomato</sup>* mice were crossed with *RCL<sup>GCaMP6s/+</sup>* mice<sup>29</sup> (JAX024106) to generate *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato/GCaMP6s</sup>* mice. All designer receptor exclusively activated by designer drugs (DREADDs) experiments were conducted in mice obtained from crossing *Nex<sup>Cre/Cre</sup>* with CD1 mice. To prevent pyramidal cells from undergoing programmed cell death, *Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>* mice<sup>33</sup> (JAX006329) were crossed with *Nex<sup>Cre/Cre</sup>* mice and the F1 inter-crossed to obtain *Bak<sup>+/+</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>* and *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>* mutants. For MGE interneurons, a similar breeding scheme used *Nkx2-1-Cre* mice instead. For the quantification of pyramidal cells in *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>*, these mutants were crossed with *Fucci2* mice to obtain *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>;RCL<sup>Fucci2aR/+</sup>* mutants. *Pten<sup>F/+</sup>* mice<sup>40</sup> (JAX006440) were crossed with *Lhx6-Cre* mice<sup>39</sup> (kindly provided by N. Kessaris) to generate *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>F/+</sup>*, and F1 inter-crosses led to the production of *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>F/F1</sup>* mutant mice. Mice were obtained from Jackson's laboratories unless otherwise stated.

**Histology.** Mice were anaesthetised with an overdose of sodium pentobarbital and transcardially perfused with saline followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). Brains from pups younger than P6 were post-fixed for 4 h while brains from mice older than P6 were post-fixed

for 2 h at 4°C. Brains were sectioned either on the sliding microtome at 30 or 40  $\mu\text{m}$  as previously described<sup>52</sup> or on a vibratome at 40 or 60  $\mu\text{m}$ . All primary and secondary antibodies were diluted in PBS containing 0.25% Triton X-100 and 2% BSA. The following antibodies were used: goat anti-CTGF (1:200, Santa Cruz), rabbit anti cleaved-caspase-3 (1:200, Cell Signalling), rabbit anti-dsRed (1:500, Clontech), goat anti-mCherry (1:500, Antibodies-online), rabbit anti-GABA (1:2000, Millipore), mouse anti-GABA (1:500, Sigma), mouse anti-NeuN (1:500, Millipore) mouse anti-parvalbumin (1:1000, Swant), rabbit anti-parvalbumin (1:5000, Swant), rat anti-somatostatin (1:300, Millipore) and rabbit anti-PTEN (1:500, Abcam). We used Alexa Fluor-conjugated secondary antibodies (Invitrogen). For biotin amplification, sections were incubated with biotinylated secondary antibody (1:200, Vector labs), followed by Alexa Fluor-conjugated Streptavidin (1:200, Vector labs). Blood vessels were stained with Isolectin-B4-FITC or Isolectin-B4-Dylight 594 (1:500, Vector labs).

**Stereology.** The total number of pyramidal neurons and MGE interneurons in the cerebral cortex were estimated using the optical dissector method<sup>53</sup>,

$$N = \frac{\sum Q^- \cdot t}{h \cdot asf \cdot ssf}$$

where  $\sum Q^-$  is the total number of cells counted,  $t$  the mean section thickness,  $h$  the height of the optical dissector (17  $\mu\text{m}$  for pyramidal neuron stereology, 18  $\mu\text{m}$  for MGE stereology), adjusting for the guard zones (1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) above and below the dissector,  $asf$  stands for the area sampling fraction and  $ssf$  stands for the section sampling fraction (frequency of sampling). An ApoTome (Zeiss) equipped with a motorised stage and colour camera was connected to a computer with the Stereo Investigator software (MBF Biosciences). The boundaries of the neocortex were first defined with a 2.5x objective (Zeiss).

For pyramidal neurons, sampling was performed with a 63x objective (Zeiss, numerical aperture (NA) 1.4). The counting frame was set at  $15 \times 15 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $400 \times 400 \mu\text{m}^2$ . The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.0014$ ,  $ssf = 0.25$  (P2);  $0.125$  (all other ages). For MGE interneurons, sampling was performed with a 40x objective (Zeiss, NA 1.3). For the entire cortex stereology analysis, the counting frame was set at  $125 \times 125 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $900 \times 900 \mu\text{m}^2$  (P2),  $1200 \times 1200 \mu\text{m}^2$  (all other ages). The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.019$  (P2);  $0.011$  (all other ages),  $ssf = 0.125$ . For the upper/lower cortical layer stereology analysis, the counting frame was set at  $125 \times 125 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $900 \times 900 \mu\text{m}^2$ . The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.019$ ,  $ssf = 0.125$ . For the stereological analysis of the barrel field, the counting frame was set at  $200 \times 200 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $350 \times 350 \mu\text{m}^2$ . The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.3265$ ,  $ssf = 0.125$ .

**In vivo imaging.** P6 animals were anesthetized with 2% isoflurane and held in a nose-clamp. Isoflurane concentration during surgery was maintained between 1-2% and the body temperature was maintained at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  by a heating pad. The scalp was cleaned with Betadine and cut open to expose the skull covering the dorsal neocortex. The periosteal tissue, surrounding the skull, was gently scraped with a scalpel. The skull was cleaned with Betadine and Ringer's solution. A circular custom-made metal head-post (Luigs and Neumann) was attached over the left-hemisphere with cyanoacrylate glue (Henkel). A thin protective layer of glue was applied over the skull. The glue was allowed to dry for 10 minutes. Dental cement (Paladur) was used to reinforce the attachment of the head-post to the skull. The animal was injected with Buprenorphine ( $2 \mu\text{l/g}$  of a  $50 \mu\text{g/ml}$  solution) and returned to its home cage.

At P7, the animal was anesthetized and head-restrained in a custom-made head holder. A 3-mm craniotomy was opened over the posterior-lateral neocortex. This craniotomy encompassed the primary somatosensory cortex (S1). Care was taken not to damage the dura mater. A circular

coverslip (3 mm diameter, Harvard Apparatus) was placed over the craniotomy and its edges were sealed with cyano-acrylate glue and reinforced with dental cement. Following surgery, Dexamethasone (5  $\mu$ l/g of a 38  $\mu$ g/ml solution) was injected subcutaneously. The animal was allowed to recover for at least 2 hours in its home cage, following which we commenced imaging at P7.

Imaging sessions lasted for 40-60 min and we imaged the same field of view for consecutive days in 3 mice. TdTomato and GCaMP6s<sup>54</sup> were excited using a Ti-Sapphire laser (Coherent Chameleon) tuned to  $\lambda = 930$  nm. The emitted photons were collected by two GaAsP detectors through a 20x objective (Olympus, 1.0 NA). The field of view (FOV) measured 385 x 385  $\mu$ m (512 x 512 pixels). The scan speed was set to 30 Hz and image sequences were obtained in sweeps of 1 minute (1800 images/channel/minute). The average excitation power was between 40 and 50 mW, and this was kept constant over all imaging days.

To correct for motion artefacts, image registration was carried out using custom written spatial cross-correlation methods on the tdTomato channel. Briefly, on every 1 min sweep, a part of the tdTomato image sequence, where the animal was not moving, was chosen and 20 frames were averaged to give a non-moving reference image. Every frame of the tdTomato image sequence was spatially cross-correlated to this reference image and offset along the X- and Y-axes to match the cross-correlation peak. The offsets obtained for each tdTomato frame was applied to the corresponding GCaMP6s frame.

**Calcium imaging analysis.** Circular ROIs (diameter = 20 pixels) were manually drawn around tdTomato expressing cell bodies. The mean GCaMP6s fluorescence intensity in time was extracted. Changes in fluorescence signal were calculated as  $\Delta F/F_0$ , where the baseline fluorescence ( $F_0$ ) is the mode of a kernel density estimate of  $F$  (*ksdensity* function in Matlab). Calcium events were detected by setting a threshold of 3% change in fluorescence from baseline.



**Receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves.** To identify whether the calcium event rate (events/min) at P7 could act as a binary classifier in distinguishing cells that will live and cells that die at P8, we plotted the ROC curve<sup>55</sup> by varying the discrimination threshold (which, in this case, is the P7 event rate) and calculated the area under the curve (AUC). To test for statistical significance, the cell labels were randomly shuffled 5000 times. On each shuffle, we calculated the ROC curve and the corresponding AUC. We then compared our observed AUC to the distribution of shuffled AUCs. The p-value is the fraction of shuffled AUCs  $\geq$  observed AUC.

**Intracranial injections.** *pAAV8-hSyn-DiO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry* and *pAAV8-hSyn-DiO-hM4D(Gi)-mCherry* were gifts from Bryan Roth (Addgene plasmids #44361 and #44362)<sup>56</sup>. P0 mice were anesthetized with isoflurane and were mounted in a stereotaxic frame. Pups were injected with 600 nl of virus diluted in PBS and coloured with 0.5% Fast Green (Sigma). Injections were targeted for the somatosensory cortex with an injection rate of 10nl/s.

**Drugs.** For DREADDs experiments, Clozapine-N-Oxide (CNO, Tocris) was dissolved in 5% dimethyl sulfoxide (Sigma) and then diluted with 0.9% saline to either 1 mg/ml or 5 mg/ml. Pups were injected with vehicle (0.05% DMSO) or CNO (1g/10ml) subcutaneously for 4 days, twice daily. For the PTEN inhibitor experiments, dipotassium bisperoxovanadium(pic) dehydrate (bpV(pic), Sigma) was dissolved in 0.9% saline to 0.2 mg/ml. Pups were injected with vehicle (0.9% saline) or bpV(pic) (1g/10ml) intraperitoneally for 2 days, twice daily. All treatments for CNO and PTEN inhibitor experiments were randomly assigned.

**Western blotting.** Mouse somatosensory cortex tissue was homogenised in RIPA lysis buffer containing 50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 0.5% sodium-deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 1% NP-40 and 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (*cOmplete*<sup>TM</sup> Sigma). Samples were

denatured in Laemmli Sample Buffer<sup>57</sup> and run on 10% SDS–PAGE gels. Separated proteins were electrophoretically transferred onto PVDF membranes. Membranes were blocked with 5% BSA in TBST (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl and 0.1% Tween20) for 1 h and probed with rabbit anti-P-Akt (Ser473, Cell Signalling, 1:1000) overnight at 4°C, followed by an HRP-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit antibody (Thermo Fisher, 1:10,000). The blots were developed using ECL femto Western blotting detection reagents and following read-out, they were stripped (Thermo Fisher). After confirming stripping efficiency, an HRP-conjugated mouse anti-Akt antibody (Cell Signalling, 1:1000) was added overnight at 4°C. The blots were developed using ECL western blotting detection reagents the signals were registered and following stripping, an HRP-conjugated rabbit anti-Actin (Sigma, 1:20,000) was added for 1 h at room temperature. Pico ECL Western blotting reagent was used to detect Actin levels. Signals were read on a Li-COR Odyssey Imaging Band intensities were analysed using ImageStudioLite.

**Image acquisition.** Images used for analysis were obtained from an ApoTome (Zeiss), epifluorescence microscope (Leica), or SP8 confocal microscope (Leica). ApoTome images were taken using the ApoTome function on the Zen2 software. Images obtained with the confocal and epifluorescence microscope were taken using the LAS AF software.

**Cell counting.** Cortical layers were identified based on their distinct histological characteristics. Layer 1 was identified as a sparsely populated cell layer. The border between layers 2/3 and 4 was distinguished by the higher nuclei density of layer 4. Layer 5 was identified as the layer basal to layer 4 and above layer 6, which contains less densely packed nuclei. Cell density, within cortical layers, was quantified either manually or using custom routines written in Matlab (MathWorks). For manual quantification, all analyses were conducted blind and cells were counted in a rectangular area, 551.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide at the pia surface within the somatosensory

cortex, auditory cortex or motor cortex. Cells were counted without using pseudocolour in Fiji. Automatic quantification was carried out by image segmentation using morphological operations.

To identify PTEN staining intensity in tdTomato+ or GABA+ interneurons, self-designed Cell Profiler<sup>58</sup> pipelines were used. Briefly, tdTomato+ or GABA+ interneurons were identified as primary objects using the global Otsu thresholding method and any objects outside the pre-set diameter range (25-100 pixels) were excluded. PTEN intensity was measured under this cell mask.

**Blood vessel analysis.** The fraction of the total area covered by blood vessels and the average vessel diameter were quantified using “Vessel Analysis”, an ImageJ plugin ([http://imagej.net/Vessel\\_Analysis](http://imagej.net/Vessel_Analysis); Govindaraju and Elfarnawany).

**Statistical analyses.** Unless specified, results were plotted and tested for statistical significance using Prism 7. The samples were tested for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk normality test. Unpaired comparisons were analysed using 2-tailed unpaired Student’s *t*-test (normally distributed) and Mann-Whitney test (not normally distributed). Multiple comparisons with single variable were analysed using one-way ANOVA with post hoc Tukey’s test (comparing the mean of each column with the mean of every other column) or Dunnett’s test (comparing the mean of each column with the mean of a control column) for normally distributed samples. For samples with nonparametric distribution, either Kruskal-Wallis (single measures) or Friedman’s test (repeated measures) was performed followed by the post hoc Dunn’s test. For multiple comparisons with more than one variable, a two-way ANOVA with post hoc Sidak’s test was used. The cumulative distributions of PTEN intensity levels were compared using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Analysis of calcium events rate was carried out in Matlab. In box plots, the central mark indicates the median, and the bottom and top edges of the box indicate

the 25th and 75th percentiles, respectively. The whiskers extend to the most extreme data points not considered outliers. Sample sizes were calculated based on similar studies in the literature. All experiments were replicated at least in two different litters.

**Data availability.** All data and/or analyses generated during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

**Code availability.** For automatic quantification, the code was written in Matlab (Mathworks) and is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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## EXTENDED DATA FIGURE LEGENDS

**Extended Data Figure 1 | Extensive cell death in layer 2-6 pyramidal cells.** **a**, Coronal sections through the S1 cortex of P4 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Fucci2* (left) and P7 *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* (right) mice immunostained for cleaved caspase-3 (yellow) and mCherry (green, left) or tdTomato (magenta, right). **b**, Quantification of density of cleaved caspase-3 cells in pyramidal neurons (left, green bars) and MGE interneurons (right, magenta bars) during postnatal development (for pyramidal neurons, ANOVA,  $F = 73.6$ ,  $***p = 0.003$  [P2 vs P4],  $***p = 0.00006$  [P4 vs P7],  $n = 3$  animals for all ages; for MGE interneurons, ANOVA,  $F = 16.91$ ,  $*p = 0.027$  [P5 vs P7],  $**p = 0.0029$  [P7 vs P10],  $n = 3$  animals for all ages). **c**, Coronal sections through the barrel cortex of *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Fucci2* mice during postnatal development immunostained for mCherry (green) and CTGF (yellow). **d**, Total number of pyramidal cells excluding subplate cells in the neocortex of *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Fucci2* mice (ANOVA,  $F = 4.83$  and  $*p = 0.03$ ;  $n = 3$  animals for P2 and P5, and 4 animals for P3, P4 and P21). **e**, Temporal variation in the percentage of pyramidal cells excluding the subplate contribution during postnatal development. Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Extended Data Figure 2 | Interneuron cell loss in the barrel field during postnatal development.** **a**, Coronal sections through S1BF of *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice (magenta, MGE interneurons) during postnatal development counterstained with DAPI (grey). **b**, Total number of MGE/POA interneurons in S1BF of *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice during postnatal development (ANOVA,  $F = 6.40$  and  $*p = 0.03$ ;  $n = 4$  animals for all ages). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Extended Data Figure 3 | Alteration of pyramidal cell activity affects interneuron density but not distribution.** **a**, Coronal sections through S1BF cortex immunostained for GABA (magenta) and NeuN (green) and counterstained with DAPI (grey) from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice

injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* virus followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **b**, Quantification of the density of GABA (left) and NeuN+ but GABA- (right) cells in P21 mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* followed by vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) treatment (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $**p = 0.005$  [GABA],  $p = 0.68$  [NeuN+/GABA-],  $n = 4$  animals for vehicle,  $n = 3$  animals for CNO conditions). **c**, **d** Quantification of the distribution of PV (left) and SST (right) in P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected at P0 with *hM3Dq-mCherry* (**c**) or *hM4Di-mCherry* (**d**) and treated with vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) during P5-P8 (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.48, p = 0.50$  [hM3Dq PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = -0.04, p = 0.99$  [hM3Dq SST],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.88, p = 0.37$  [hM4DI PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.79, p = 0.39$  [hM4DI SST]; for PV,  $n = 7$  animals for hM3Dq and hM4DI -CNO, 6 animals for hM3Dq +CNO, and 5 animals for hM4DI +CNO; for SST,  $n = 9$  animals for hM3Dq -CNO, 7 animals for hM3Dq +CNO and hM4Di -CNO, and 5 animals for hM4DI +CNO). **e**, Coronal sections through auditory cortex immunostained for parvalbumin (PV, magenta, left) or somatostatin (SST, magenta, right) and counterstained with DAPI (grey) from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* viruses followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **f**, Quantification of the density of PV (right) and SST (left) in auditory cortex in P21 mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* followed by vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) treatment (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $p = 0.574$  [PV],  $p = 0.419$  [SST],  $n = 4$  animals for both). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Extended Data Figure 4 | CNO control experiments.** **a**, Schematic of experimental design. **b**, Coronal sections through S1 of P8 *Nex<sup>Cre</sup>* mice injected with *AAV8-dio-hM4Di-mCherry* at P0 and treated with (+CNO) or without (-CNO) between P5 and P8, immunostained for cleaved caspase-3 (magenta) and counterstained with DAPI (grey). **c**, Quantification of the density of cleaved caspase-3 cells in P8 mice injected with hM4Di-mCherry and treated (magenta bar) or not treated (grey bar) with CNO between P5-P8 (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $***p = 0.009$ ,  $n = 8$  animals for -CNO, and  $n = 7$  animals for +CNO). **d**, Schematic of experimental

design for CNO control experiments. **e**, Quantification of the density of PV (left) and SST (right) cells in P21 mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* or *hM4Di-mCherry* and not treated with CNO (grey bars), or not injected with viruses and treated with CNO (magenta bars) between P5-P8 (ANOVA,  $p = 0.24$  [PV] and  $p = 0.65$  [SST] for PV,  $n = 7$  animals for hM3Dq and hM4DI -CNO, 4 animals for non-injected +CNO; for SST,  $n = 9$  animals for hM3Dq -CNO, 7 animals for hM4Di -CNO, and 4 animals for non-injected +CNO). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.

**Extended Data Figure 5 | Alteration of pyramidal cell activity beyond the normal period of interneuron cell death does not affect interneuron survival or distribution.** **a**, Schematic of experimental design. **b, c**, Coronal sections through S1BF immunostained for parvalbumin (PV, **b**) or somatostatin (SST, **c**) and counterstained with DAPI (grey) from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* (left) and *hM4Di-mCherry* (right) viruses followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **d, g**, Quantification of the density of PV (**d**) and SST (**g**) cells in P21 *hM3Dq-mCherry* injected animals (left bars) and *hM4Di-mCherry* injected animals (right bars) followed by vehicle (grey bars) and CNO (magenta bars) treatment at P10-P13 (2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $p = 0.99$  and  $p = 0.087$  respectively; for SST, 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $p = 0.56$  and  $p = 0.37$  respectively;  $n = 4$  animals for hM3Dq -CNO and 3 animals for all other groups). **e, f, h, i**, Quantification of the distribution of PV (**e, f**) and SST (**h, i**) in mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* (**e, h**) and *hM4Di-mCherry* (**f, i**) followed by vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) treatment at P10-P13 (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.15$ ,  $p = 0.71$  [hM3Dq PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.60$ ,  $p = 0.48$  [hM3Dq SST],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 1.00$ ,  $p = 0.37$  [hM4DI PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 1.78$ ,  $p = 0.25$  [hM4DI SST];  $n = 4$  animals for hM3Dq -CNO and 3 animals for all other groups). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.



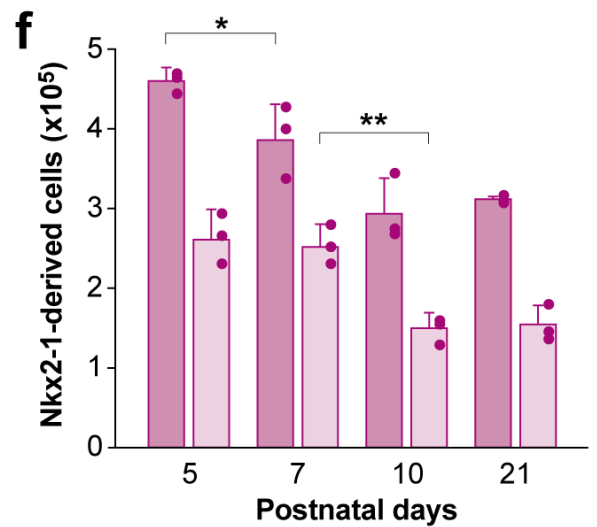
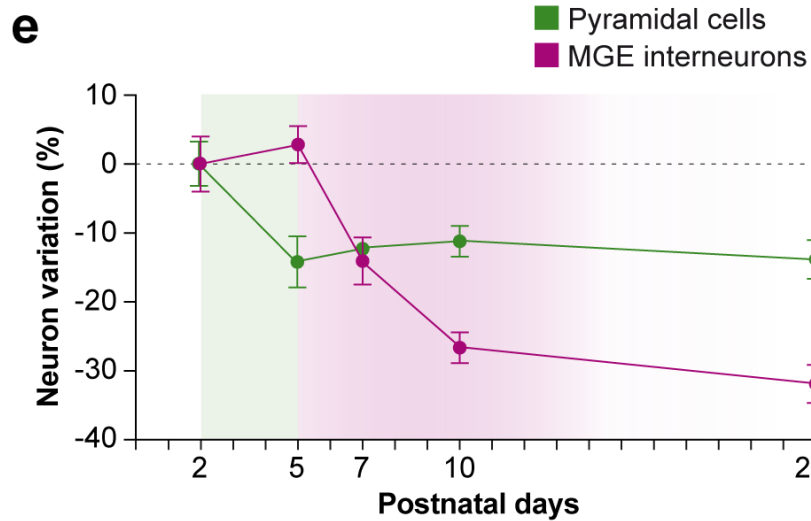
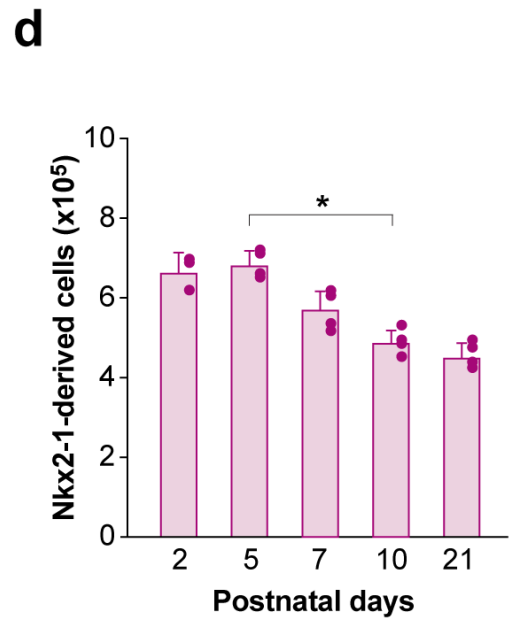
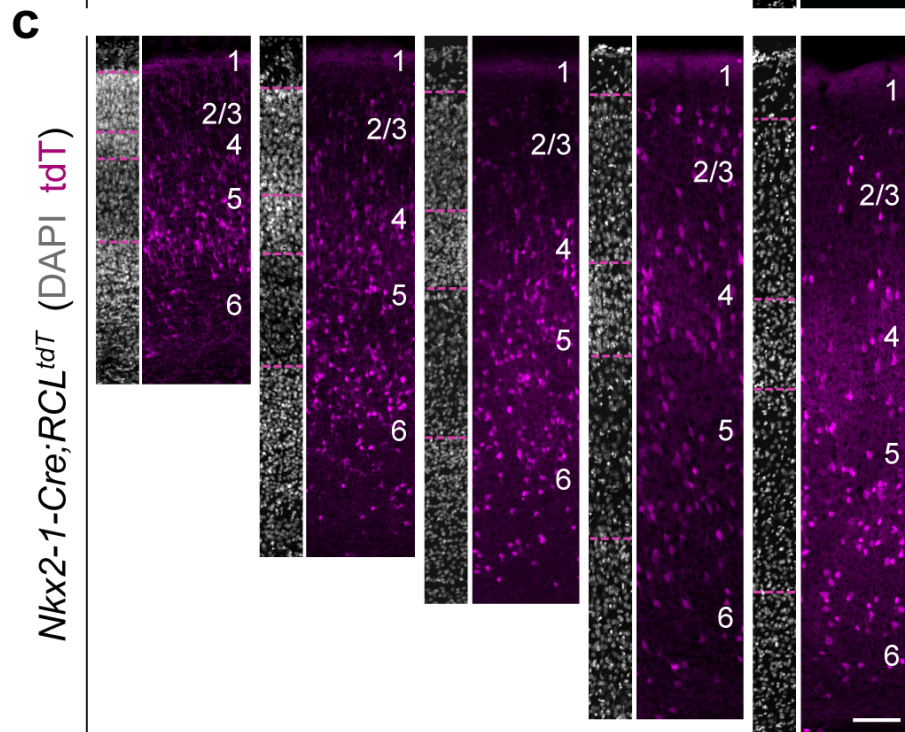
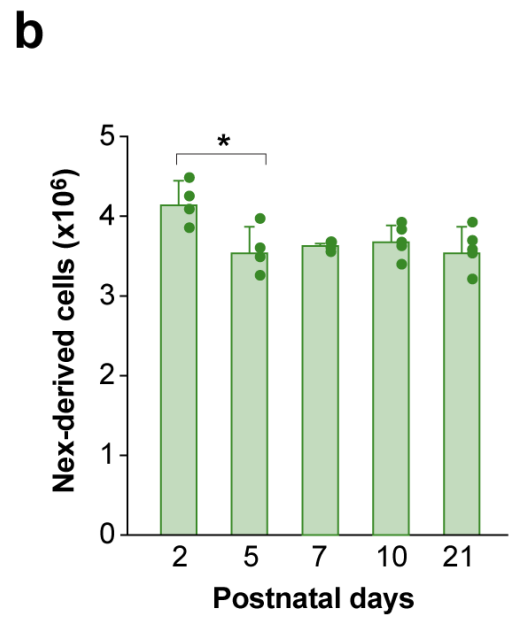
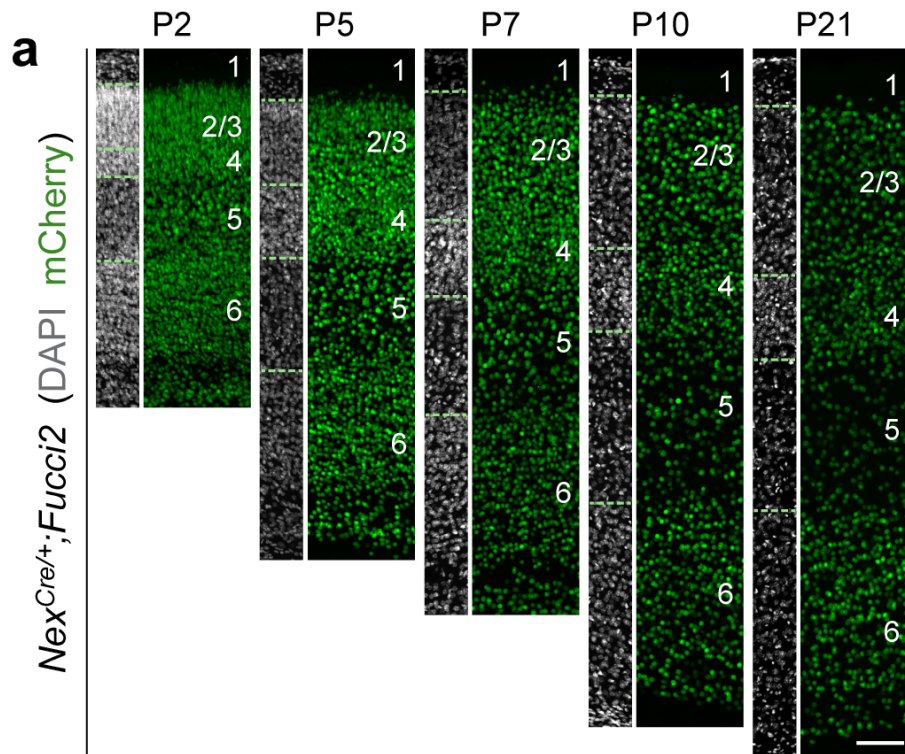
**Extended Data Figure 6 | Loss of Bak and Bax prevents programmed cell death in pyramidal cells.** **a**, Coronal sections through S1BF from P2 and P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Fucci2* mice immunostained for mCherry (green) and CTGF (yellow). **b**, Total number of pyramidal cells (excluding subplate cells) in the neocortex of *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Fucci2* mice (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $p = 0.30$ ;  $n = 3$  animals for both ages). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.

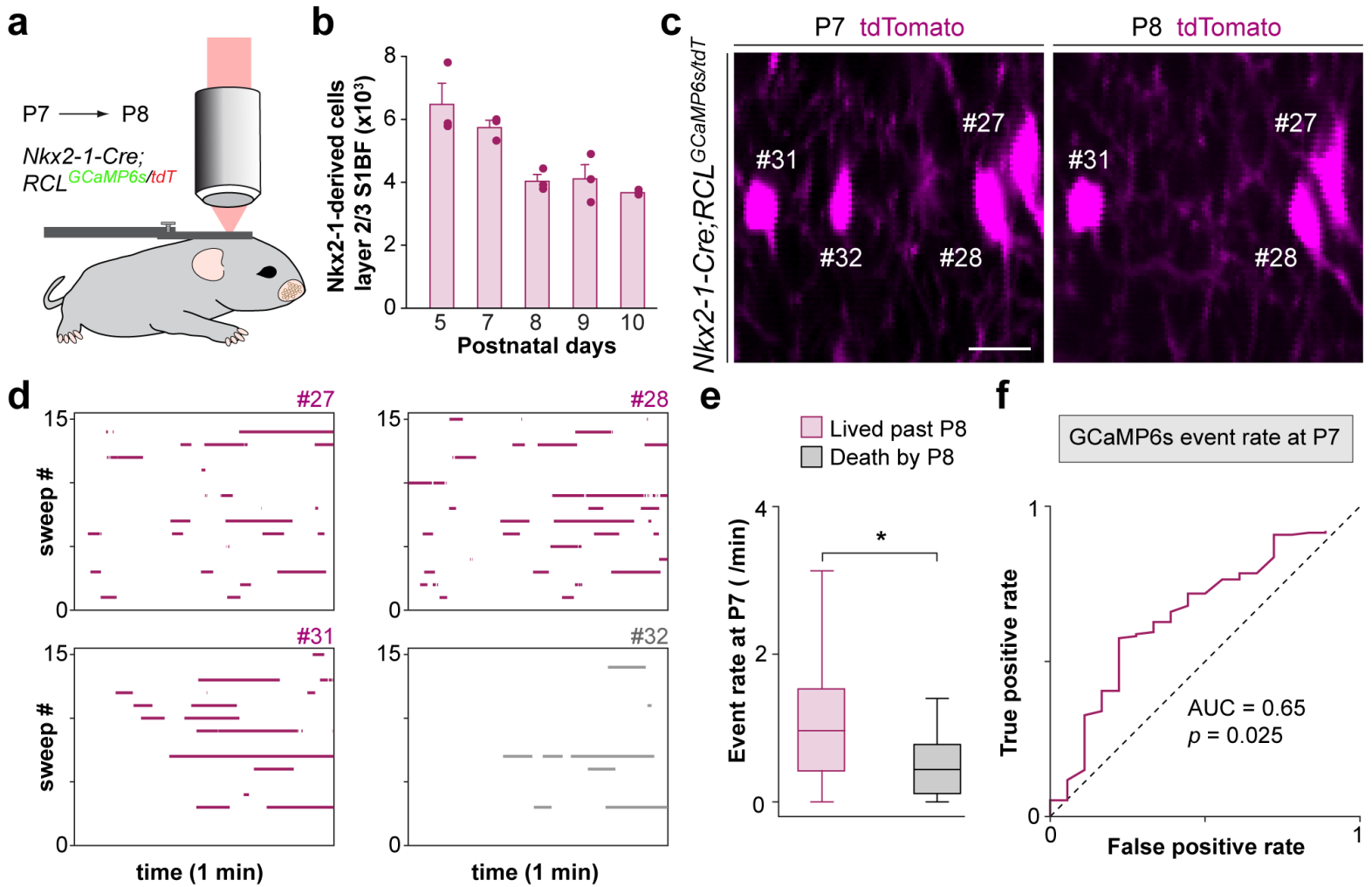
**Extended Data Figure 7 | Loss of Bak and Bax in pyramidal cells or MGE/POA interneurons affects densities but not lamination of MGE/POA interneurons.** **a**, Quantification of the distribution of PV (left) and SST (right) interneurons in P30 control (grey bars), *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (dark magenta bars) and *Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (light magenta bars) mice (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 3.56$ ,  $p = 0.10$  [*Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.44$ ,  $p = 0.53$  [*Nkx2-1-Cre* PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0$ ,  $p = 0.99$  [*Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* SST],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.44$ ,  $p = 0.54$  [*Nkx2-1-Cre* SST],  $n = 4$  animals for *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* [PV] and 5 animals for all other groups). **b**, Quantification of the fold change in the density of PV (top) and SST (bottom) interneurons in *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (dark magenta bars) and *Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (light magenta bars) mice compared to their respective controls (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $p = 0.90$  [PV],  $p = 0.67$  [SST], for PV,  $n = 4$  animals for *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>*, 6 animals for *Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>*, for SST,  $n = 5$  animals for both *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>*). **c**, Coronal sections through the motor cortex of P30 *Bak<sup>+/+</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice immunostained for parvalbumin (PV, left) and somatostatin (SST, right) and counterstained with DAPI (grey). **d**, Quantification of the density of PV (left) and SST (right) cells in the motor cortex control and pyramidal cell-specific Bax/Bak double mutant mice at P30 (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $*p = 0.02$  [PV],  $*p = 0.01$  [SST], for PV,  $n = 4$  animals for both and for SST,  $n = 3$  animals for both). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.

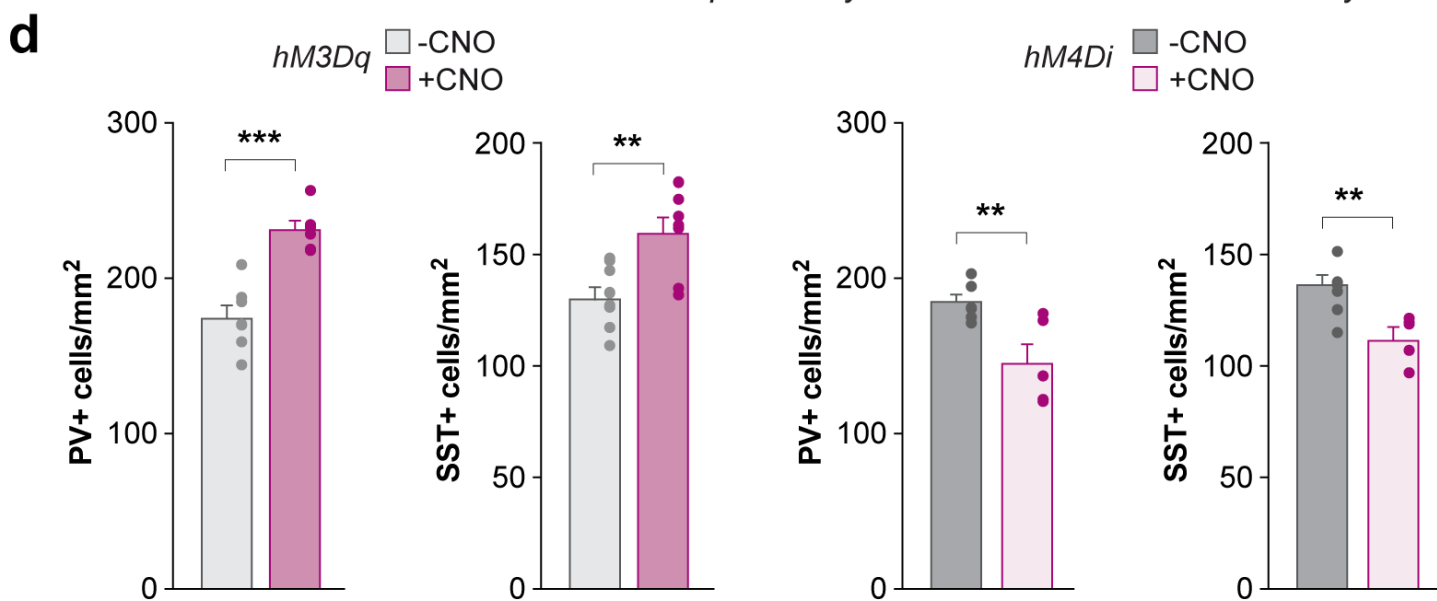
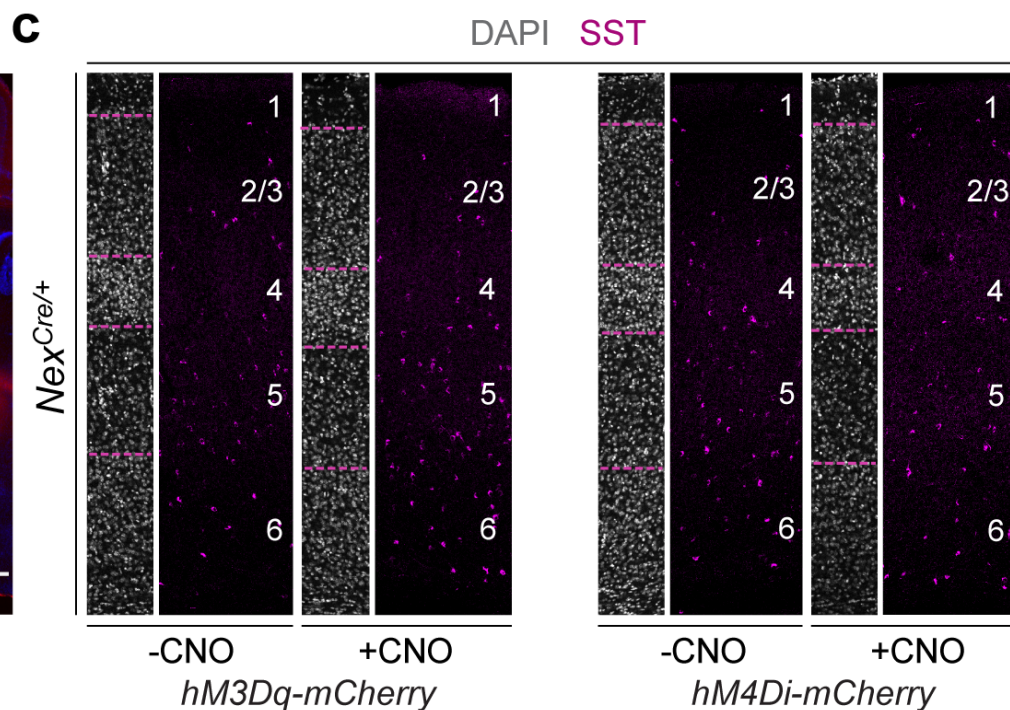
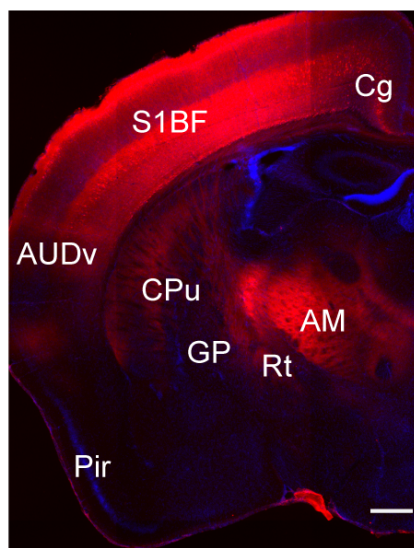
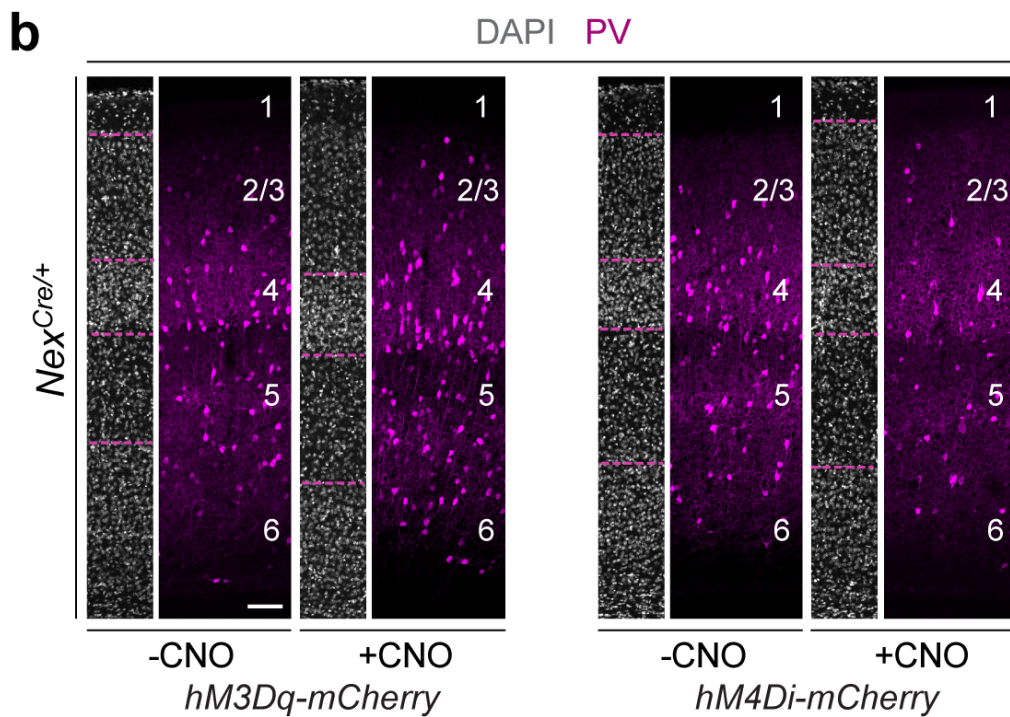
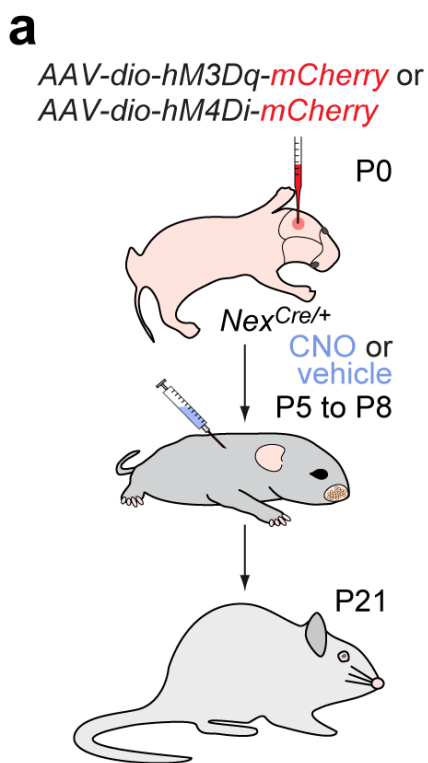
**Extended Data Figure 8 | PTEN expression in deep layer cortical interneurons and effects of loss of *Pten* function on neurons and blood vessels.** **a**, Coronal sections through layer 5 of S1BF from *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice at P5, P7, P8 and P10, immunostained PTEN and counterstained with DAPI (grey). PTEN expression is shown as a custom LUT in tdTomato-masked cells. **b**, Cumulative distribution of mean PTEN intensity in layer 5 and 6 MGE/POA interneurons (Kruskal-Wallis test, \*\*\* $p = 0$ ;  $n = 7270$  cells [P5], 4544 cells [P7], 6780 cells [P8] and 5043 cells [P10] from 3 different animals at each age). **c**, Coronal sections through S1BF from *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice at P16 immunostained for GABA (red, left), NeuN (green, middle) and isolectin B4 (IB4, cyan, right) and counterstained with DAPI (grey). **d**, Quantification of the density of GABA (far left), NeuN+ but GABA- (left) cells, and vessel area (right) and diameter (far right) in P16 *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (grey bars) and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (magenta bars) animals (2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test, \*\* $p = 0.0035$  [GABA], \* $p = 0.0326$  [vessel area],  $p = 0.0810$  [vessel diameter]; Kolmogorov-Smirnov test,  $p = 0.1000$  [NeuN+/GABA-cells],  $n = 3$  animals for both genotypes). **e**, Quantification of the distribution of PV (left), SST (right) cells in P16 *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (grey bars) and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (magenta bars) mice (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{genotype}} = 0.29$ ,  $p = 0.61$  [PV];  $F_{\text{genotype}} = 0.0004$ ,  $p = 0.98$  [SST];  $n = 4$  *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* animals and 3 *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* animals). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

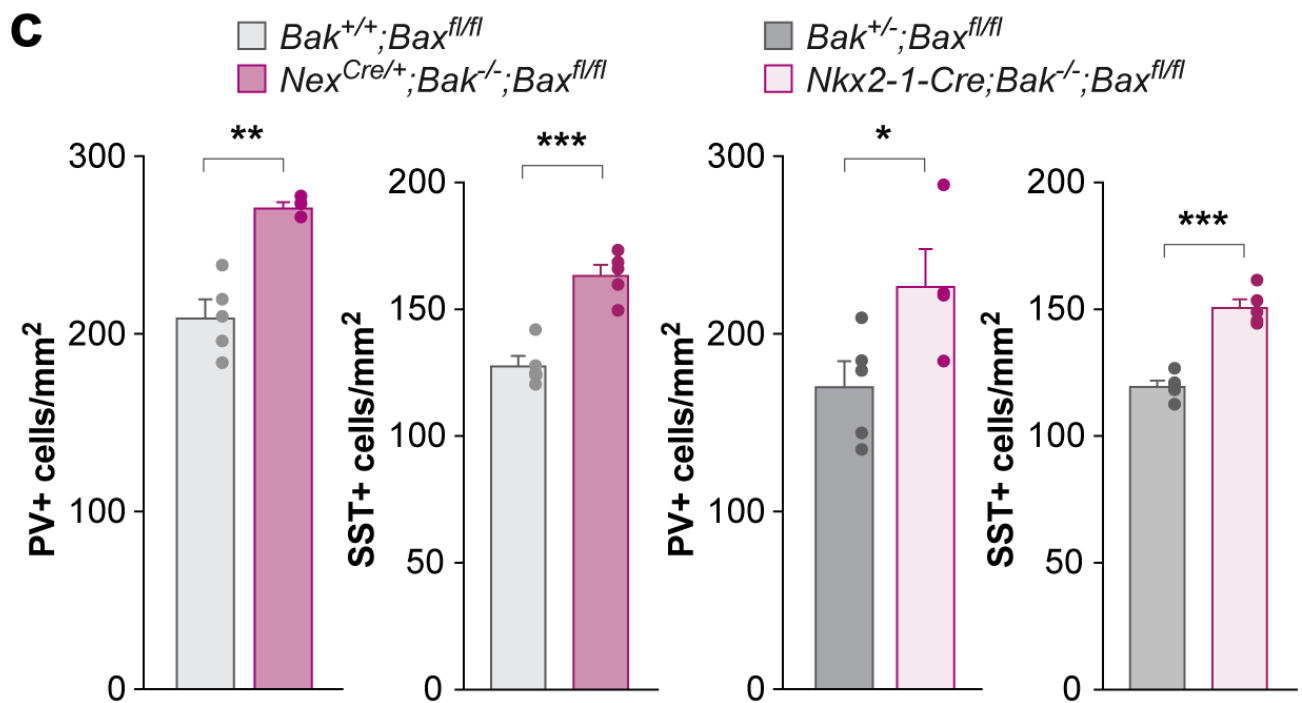
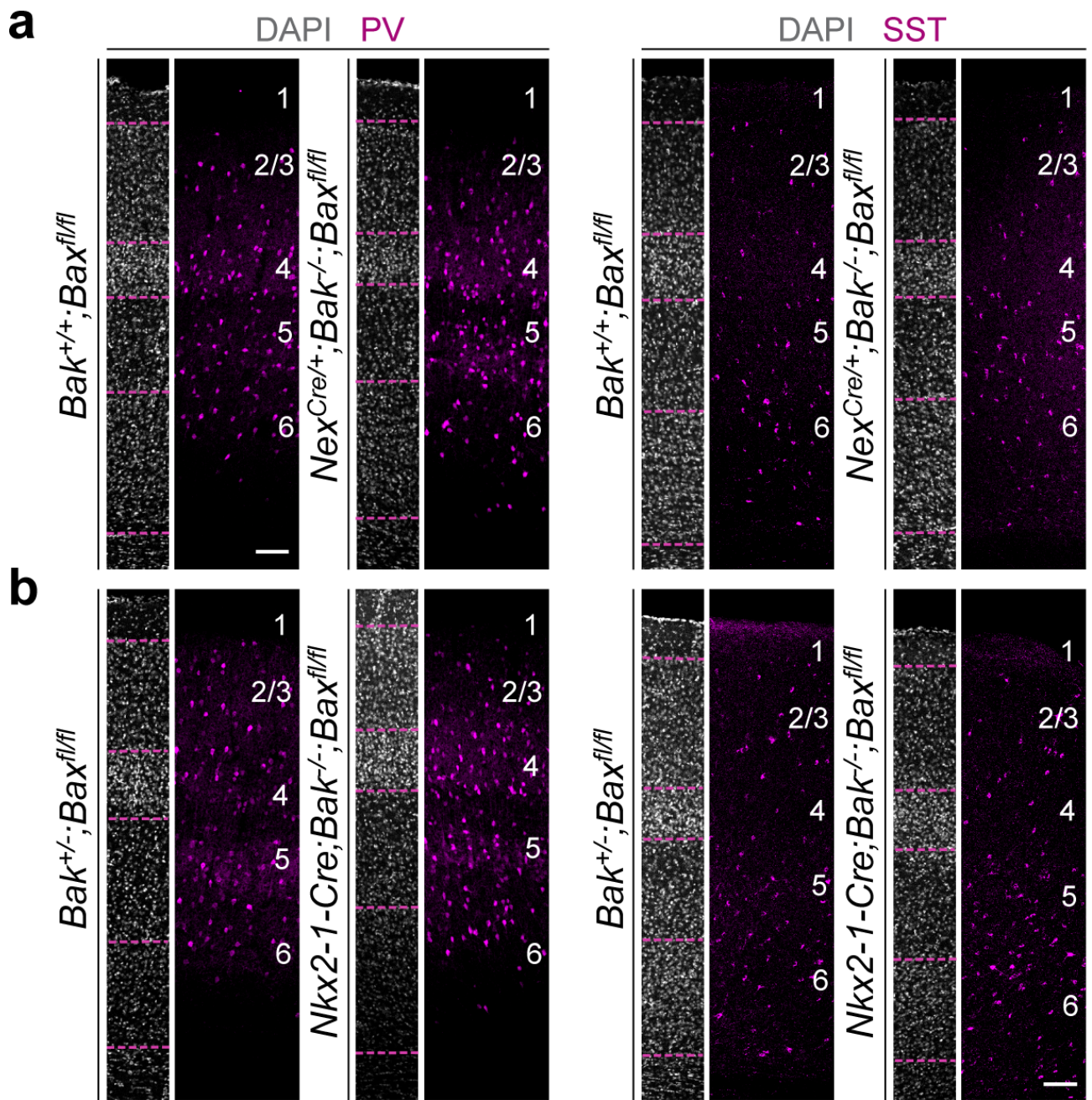
**Extended Data Figure 9 | Pharmacological PTEN inhibition during the interneuron cell death period increases interneuron survival.** **a, f**, Schematics of experimental design. **b**, Coronal sections through S1BF from P10 mice injected at P7-P8 with vehicle (left) or BpV(pic) (right) stained for isolectin B4 (IB4, cyan) and DAPI (grey). **c**, Quantification of blood vessel area (left) and diameter (right) in P10 mice treated with vehicle (grey bars) or BpV(pic) (magenta bars) (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test [vessel area],  $p = 0.60$ ; 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test [vessel diameter],  $p = 0.58$ ,  $n = 3$  animals for each group). **d, g**, Coronal sections through S1BF from P21 mice injected at P7-P8 (**d**) or P12-P13 (**g**) with vehicle (left) or BpV(pic) (right)

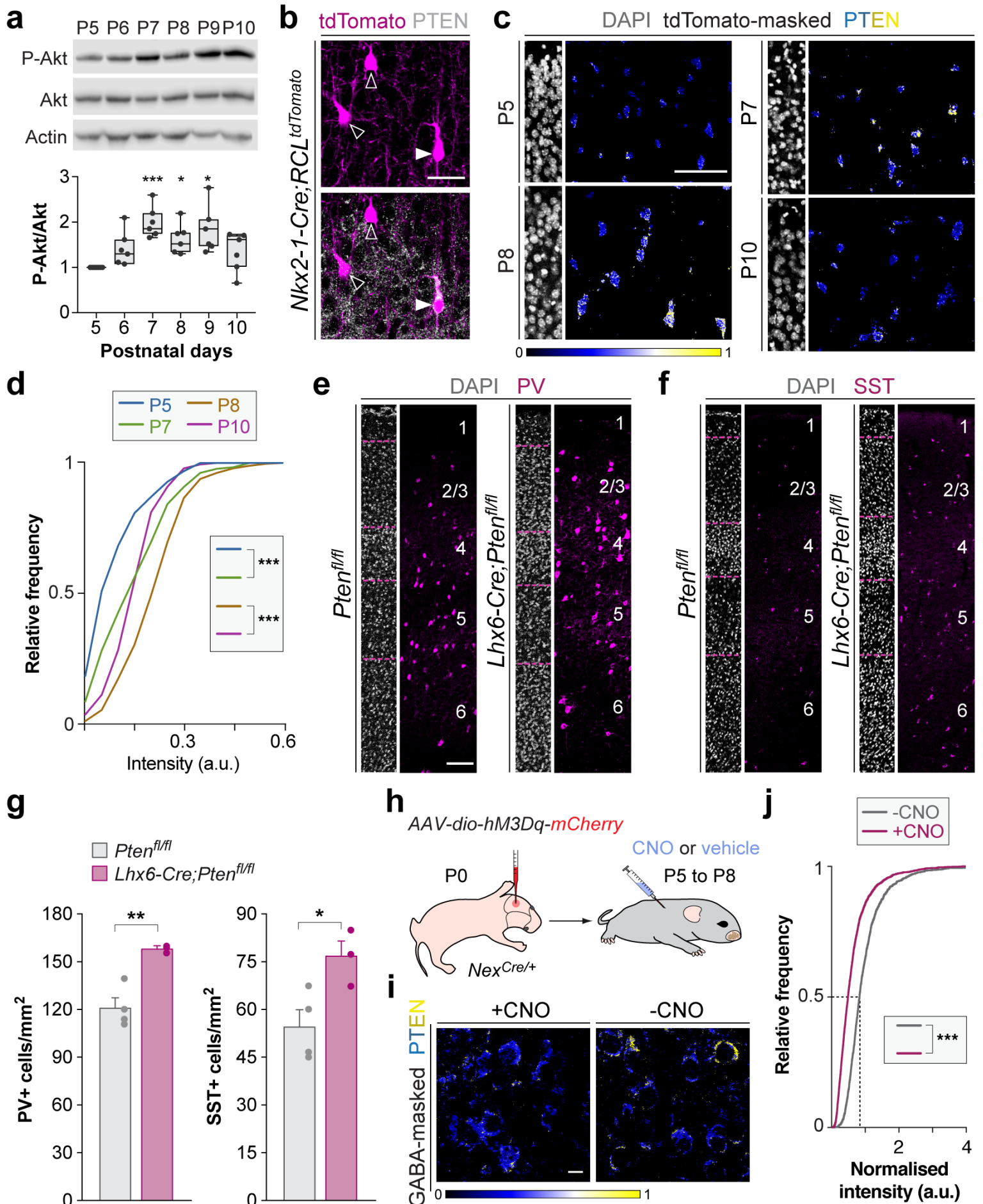
and immunostained for PV and SST and counterstained with DAPI. **e, h**, Quantification of the density of PV (left) and SST (right) in S1BF from P21 mice injected at P7-P8 (**e**) or P12-P13 (**h**) with vehicle (grey bars) or BpV(pic) (magenta bars) (P7-P8 groups: 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $*p = 0.04$  [PV],  $*p = 0.03$  [SST];  $n = 7$  animals for each group, P12-P13 groups: 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $p = 0.84$  [PV],  $p = 0.82$  [SST],  $n = 5$  animals for each group). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu$ m.













## EXTENDED DATA

### **Activity-dependent regulation of interneuron survival sculpts cortical networks**

Fong Kuan Wong, Kinga Bercsenyi, Varun Sreenivasan, Adrián Portalés, Marian Fernández & Oscar Marín

- Methods, including references
- Extended Data Figs. S1 to S9
- Table S1

## METHODS

**Animals.** All experiments were performed following the guidelines of King's College London Biological Service Unit and in accordance with the European Community Council Directive of November 24, 1986 (86/609/EEC). Animal work was carried out under licence from the UK Home Office in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. For stereology on pyramidal cells, *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice<sup>19</sup> (kindly provided by K.A. Nave) were crossed with *Fucci2* mice<sup>53</sup> (*RCL<sup>Fucci2aR/+</sup>*, kindly provided by R.L. Mort). For stereology on MGE/POA-derived interneurons, *Nkx2-1-Cre* mice<sup>20</sup> (JAX008661) were crossed with *RCL<sup>tdTomato/tdTomato</sup>* mice<sup>28</sup> (JAX 007909). For *in vivo* calcium imaging experiments, *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato/tdTomato</sup>* mice were crossed with *RCL<sup>GCaMP6s/+</sup>* mice<sup>29</sup> (JAX024106) to generate *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato/GCaMP6s</sup>* mice. All designer receptor exclusively activated by designer drugs (DREADDs) experiments were conducted in mice obtained from crossing *Nex<sup>Cre/Cre</sup>* with CD1 mice. To prevent pyramidal cells from undergoing programmed cell death, *Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>* mice<sup>33</sup> (JAX006329) were crossed with *Nex<sup>Cre/Cre</sup>* mice and the F1 inter-crossed to obtain *Bak<sup>+/+</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>* and *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>* mutants. For MGE interneurons, a similar breeding scheme used *Nkx2-1-Cre* mice instead. For the quantification of pyramidal cells in *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>*, these mutants were crossed with *Fucci2* mice to obtain *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>F/F1</sup>;RCL<sup>Fucci2aR/+</sup>* mutants. *Pten<sup>F/+</sup>* mice<sup>40</sup> (JAX006440) were crossed with *Lhx6-Cre* mice<sup>39</sup> (kindly provided by N. Kessar) to generate *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>F/+</sup>*, and F1 inter-crosses led to the production of *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>F/F1</sup>* mutant mice. Mice were obtained from Jackson's laboratories unless otherwise stated.

**Histology.** Mice were anaesthetised with an overdose of sodium pentobarbital and transcardially perfused with saline followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). Brains from pups younger than P6 were post-fixed for 4 h while brains from mice older than P6 were

post-fixed for 2 h at 4°C. Brains were sectioned either on the sliding microtome at 30 or 40  $\mu\text{m}$  as previously described<sup>54</sup> or on a vibratome at 40 or 60  $\mu\text{m}$ . All primary and secondary antibodies were diluted in PBS containing 0.25% Triton X-100 and 2% BSA. The following antibodies were used: goat anti-CTGF (1:200, Santa Cruz), rabbit anti cleaved-caspase-3 (1:200, Cell Signalling), rabbit anti-dsRed (1:500, Clontech), goat anti-mCherry (1:500, Antibodies-online), rabbit anti-GABA (1:2000, Millipore), mouse anti-GABA (1:500, Sigma), mouse anti-NeuN (1:500, Millipore) mouse anti-parvalbumin (1:1000, Swant), rabbit anti-parvalbumin (1:5000, Swant), rat anti-somatostatin (1:300, Millipore) and rabbit anti-PTEN (1:500, Abcam). We used Alexa Fluor-conjugated secondary antibodies (Invitrogen). For biotin amplification, sections were incubated with biotinylated secondary antibody (1:200, Vector), followed by Alexa Fluor-conjugated Streptavidin (1:200, Vector). Blood vessels were stained with Isolectin-B4-FITC or Isolectin-B4-Dylight 594 (1:500, Vectorlabs).

## **Stereology**

The total number of pyramidal neurons and MGE interneurons in the cerebral cortex were estimated using the optical dissector method<sup>55</sup>,

$$N = \frac{\sum Q^- \cdot t}{h \cdot asf \cdot ssf}$$

where  $\sum Q^-$  is the total number of cells counted,  $t$  the mean section thickness,  $h$  the height of the optical dissector (17  $\mu\text{m}$  for pyramidal neuron stereology, 18  $\mu\text{m}$  for MGE stereology), adjusting for the guard zones (1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) above and below the dissector,  $asf$  stands for the area sampling fraction and  $ssf$  stands for the section sampling fraction (frequency of sampling). An ApoTome (Zeiss) equipped with a motorised stage and colour camera was connected to a computer with the Stereo Investigator software (MBF Biosciences). The boundaries of the neocortex were first defined with a 2.5x objective (Zeiss).

For pyramidal neurons, sampling was performed with a 63x objective (Zeiss, numerical aperture (NA) 1.4). The counting frame was set at  $15 \times 15 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $400 \times 400 \mu\text{m}^2$ . The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.0014$ ,  $ssf = 0.25$  (P2); 0.125 (all other ages). For MGE interneurons, sampling was performed with a 40x objective (Zeiss, NA 1.3). For the entire cortex stereology analysis, the counting frame was set at  $125 \times 125 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $900 \times 900 \mu\text{m}^2$  (P2),  $1200 \times 1200 \mu\text{m}^2$  (all other ages). The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.019$  (P2); 0.011 (all other ages),  $ssf = 0.125$ . For the upper/lower cortical layer stereology analysis, the counting frame was set at  $125 \times 125 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $900 \times 900 \mu\text{m}^2$ . The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.019$ ,  $ssf = 0.125$ . For the stereological analysis of the barrel field, the counting frame was set at  $200 \times 200 \mu\text{m}^2$  and the grid size at  $350 \times 350 \mu\text{m}^2$ . The sampling parameters were as follows:  $asf = 0.3265$ ,  $ssf = 0.125$ .

**In vivo imaging.** P6 animals were anesthetized with 2% isoflurane and held in a nose-clamp. Isoflurane concentration during surgery was maintained between 1-2% and the body temperature was maintained at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  by a heating pad. The scalp was cleaned with Betadine and cut open to expose the skull covering the dorsal neocortex. The periosteal tissue, surrounding the skull, was gently scraped with a scalpel. The skull was cleaned with Betadine and Ringer's solution. A circular custom-made metal head-post (Luigs and Neumann) was attached over the left-hemisphere with cyanoacrylate glue (Henkel). A thin protective layer of glue was applied over the skull. The glue was allowed to dry for 10 minutes. Dental cement (Paladur) was used to reinforce the attachment of the head-post to the skull. The animal was injected with Buprenorphine ( $2 \mu\text{l/g}$  of a  $50 \mu\text{g/ml}$  solution) and returned to its home cage.

At P7, the animal was anesthetized and head-restrained in a custom-made head holder. A 3 mm craniotomy was opened over the posterior-lateral neocortex. This craniotomy encompassed the primary somatosensory cortex (S1). Care was taken not to damage the dura

mater. A circular coverslip (3 mm diameter, Harvard Apparatus) was placed over the craniotomy and its edges were sealed with cyano-acrylate glue and reinforced with dental cement. Following surgery, Dexamethasone (5  $\mu$ l/g of a 38  $\mu$ g/ml solution) was injected subcutaneously. The animal was allowed to recover for at least 2 hours in its home cage, following which we commenced imaging at P7.

Imaging sessions lasted for 40-60 min and we imaged the same field of view for consecutive days in 3 mice. TdTomato and GCaMP6s<sup>56</sup> were excited using a Ti-Sapphire laser (Coherent Chameleon) tuned to  $\lambda = 930$  nm. The emitted photons were collected by two GaAsP detectors through a 20x objective (Olympus, 1.0 NA). The field of view (FOV) measured 385 x 385  $\mu$ m (512 x 512 pixels). The scan speed was set to 30 Hz and image sequences were obtained in sweeps of 1 minute (1800 images/channel/minute). The average excitation power was between 40 and 50 mW, and this was kept constant over all imaging days.

To correct for motion artefacts, image registration was carried out using custom written spatial cross-correlation methods on the tdTomato channel. Briefly, on every 1 min sweep, a part of the tdTomato image sequence, where the animal was not moving, was chosen and 20 frames were averaged to give a non-moving reference image. Every frame of the tdTomato image sequence was spatially cross-correlated to this reference image and offset along the X- and Y-axes to match the cross-correlation peak. The offsets obtained for each tdTomato frame was applied to the corresponding GCaMP6s frame.

**Calcium imaging analysis.** Circular ROIs (diameter = 20 pixels) were manually drawn around tdTomato expressing cell bodies. The mean GCaMP6s fluorescence intensity in time was extracted. Changes in fluorescence signal were calculated as  $\Delta F/F_0$ , where the baseline fluorescence ( $F_0$ ) is the mode of a kernel density estimate of  $F$  (*ksdensity* function in Matlab).

Calcium events were detected by setting a threshold of 3% change in fluorescence from baseline.

**Receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves.** To identify whether the calcium event rate (events/min) at P7 could act as a binary classifier in distinguishing cells that will live and cells that die at P8, we plotted the ROC curve<sup>57</sup> by varying the discrimination threshold (which, in this case, is the P7 event rate) and calculated the area under the curve (AUC). To test for statistical significance, the cell labels were randomly shuffled 5000 times. On each shuffle, we calculated the ROC curve and the corresponding AUC. We then compared our observed AUC to the distribution of shuffled AUCs. The p-value is the fraction of shuffled AUCs  $\geq$  observed AUC.

**Intracranial injections.** *pAAV8-hSyn-DiO-hM3D(Gq)-mCherry* and *pAAV8-hSyn-DiO-hM4D(Gi)-mCherry* were gifts from Bryan Roth (Addgene plasmids #44361 and #44362)<sup>58</sup>. P0 mice were anesthetized with isoflurane and were mounted in a stereotaxic frame. Pups were injected with 600 nl of virus diluted in PBS and coloured with 0.5% Fast Green (Sigma). Injections were targeted for the somatosensory cortex with an injection rate of 10nl/s.

**Drugs.** For DREADDs experiments, Clozapine-N-Oxide (CNO, Tocris) was dissolved in 5% dimethyl sulfoxide (Sigma) and then diluted with 0.9% saline to either 1 mg/ml or 5 mg/ml. Pups were injected with vehicle (0.05% DMSO) or CNO (1g/10ml) subcutaneously for 4 days, twice daily. For the PTEN inhibitor experiments, dipotassium bisperoxovanadium(pic) dehydrate (bpV(pic), Sigma) was dissolved in 0.9% saline to 0.2 mg/ml. Pups were injected with vehicle (0.9% saline) or bpV(pic) (1g/10ml) intraperitoneally for 2 days, twice daily.

**Western blotting.** Mouse somatosensory cortex tissue was homogenised in RIPA lysis buffer containing 50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 0.5% sodium-deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 1% NP-40 and 1X protease inhibitor cocktail (*cOmplete*<sup>™</sup> Sigma).

Samples were denatured in Laemmli Sample Buffer<sup>59</sup> and run on 10% SDS-PAGE gels. Separated proteins were electrophoretically transferred onto PVDF membranes. Membranes were blocked with 5% BSA in TBST (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl and 0.1% Tween20) for 1 h and probed with rabbit anti-P-Akt (Ser473, Cell Signalling, 1:1000) overnight at 4°C, followed by an HRP-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit antibody (Thermo Fisher, 1:10,000). The blots were developed using ECL femto Western blotting detection reagents and following read-out, they were stripped (Thermo Fisher). After confirming stripping efficiency, an HRP-conjugated mouse anti-Akt antibody (Cell Signalling, 1:1000) was added overnight at 4°C. The blots were developed using ECL western blotting detection reagents the signals were registered and following stripping, an HRP-conjugated rabbit anti-Actin (Sigma, 1:20,000) was added for 1 h at room temperature. Pico ECL Western blotting reagent was used to detect Actin levels. Signals were read on a Li-COR Odyssey Imaging Band intensities were analysed using ImageStudioLite.

**Image acquisition.** Images used for analysis were obtained from an ApoTome (Zeiss), epifluorescence microscope (Leica), or SP8 confocal microscope (Leica). ApoTome images were taken using the ApoTome function on the Zen2 software. Images obtained with the confocal and epifluorescence microscope were taken using the LAS AF software.

**Cell counting.** Cortical layers were identified based on their distinct histological characteristics. Layer 1 was identified as a sparsely populated cell layer. The border between layers 2/3 and 4 was distinguished by the higher nuclei density of layer 4. Layer 5 was identified as the layer basal to layer 4 and above layer 6, which contains less densely packed nuclei. Cell density, within cortical layers, was quantified either manually or using custom routines written in Matlab (MathWorks). For manual quantification, cells were counted in a rectangular area, 551.5  $\mu\text{m}$  wide at the pia surface within the somatosensory cortex, auditory

cortex or motor cortex. Cells were counted without using pseudocolour in Fiji. Automatic quantification was carried out by image segmentation using morphological operations.

To identify PTEN staining intensity in tdTomato+ or GABA+ interneurons, self-designed Cell Profiler<sup>60</sup> pipelines were used. Briefly, tdTomato+ or GABA+ interneurons were identified as primary objects using the global Otsu thresholding method and any objects outside the pre-set diameter range (25-100 pixels) were excluded. PTEN intensity was measured under this cell mask.

**Blood vessel analysis.** The fraction of the total area covered by blood vessels and the average vessel diameter were quantified using “Vessel Analysis”, an ImageJ plugin ([http://imagej.net/Vessel\\_Analysis](http://imagej.net/Vessel_Analysis); Govindaraju and Elfarnawany).

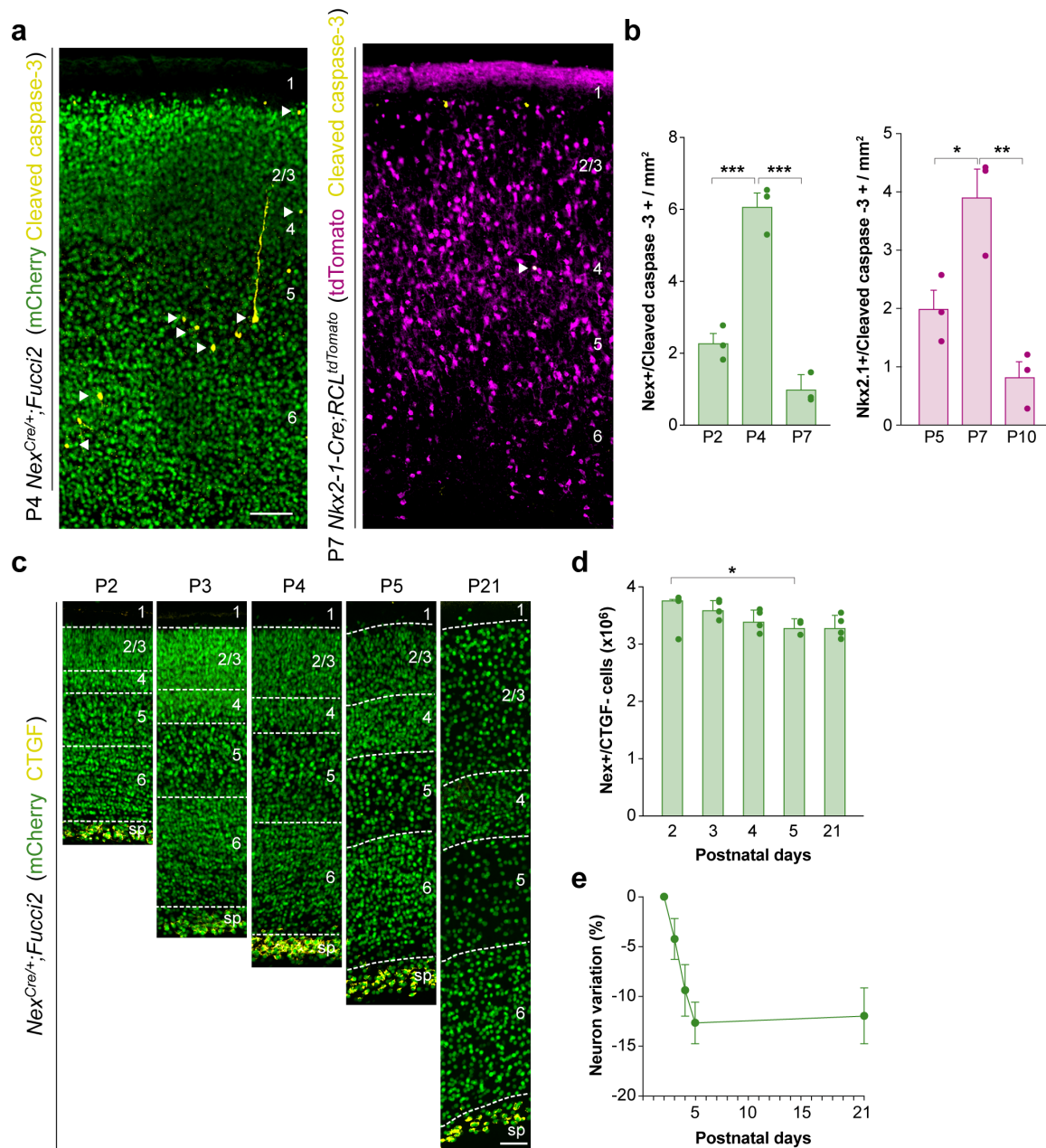
**Statistical analyses.** Unless specified, results were plotted and tested for statistical significance using Prism 7. The samples were tested for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk normality test. Unpaired comparisons were analysed using 2-tailed unpaired Student’s *t*-test (normally distributed) and Mann-Whitney test (not normally distributed). Multiple comparisons with single variable were analysed using one-way ANOVA with post hoc Tukey’s test (comparing the mean of each column with the mean of every other column) or Dunnett’s test (comparing the mean of each column with the mean of a control column) for normally distributed samples. For samples with nonparametric distribution, either Kruskal-Wallis (single measures) or Friedman’s test (repeated measures) was performed followed by the post hoc Dunn’s test. For multiple comparisons with more than one variable, a two-way ANOVA with post hoc Sidak’s test was used. The cumulative distributions of PTEN intensity levels were compared using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Analysis of calcium events rate was carried out in Matlab.



**Data availability.** Datasets generated and analysed during the current study are available in the online version of the paper.

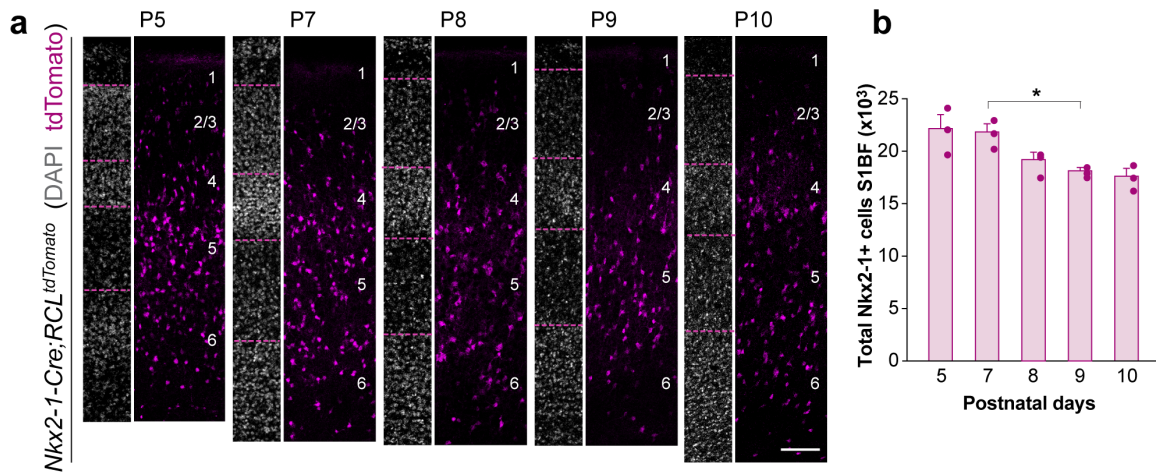
**Code availability.** For automatic quantification, the code was written in Matlab (Mathworks) and is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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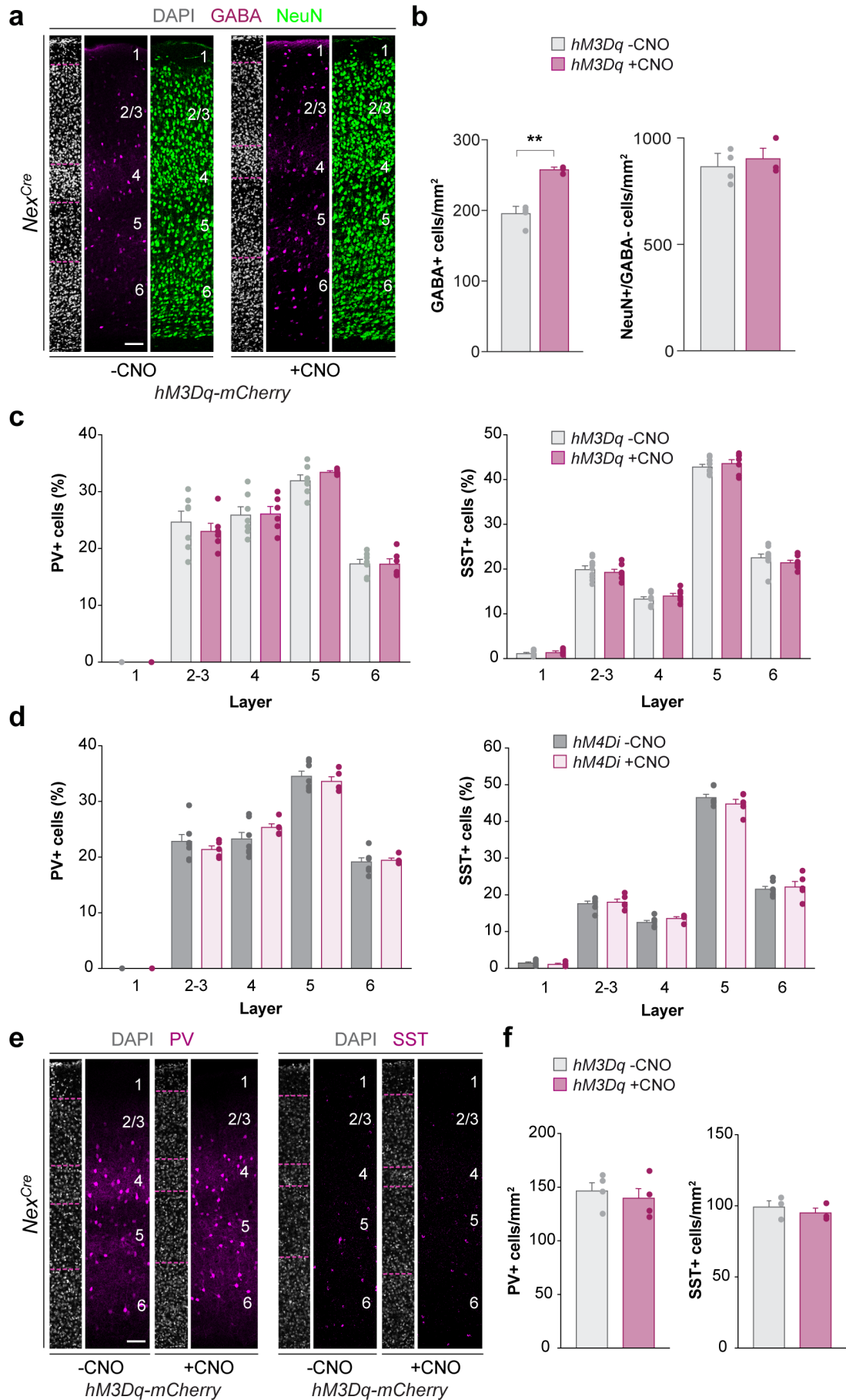


**Extended Data Figure 1 | Extensive cell death in layer 2-6 pyramidal cells.** **a**, Coronal sections through the S1 cortex of P4 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Fucci2* (left) and P7 *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* (right) mice immunostained for cleaved caspase-3 (yellow) and mCherry (green, left) or tdTomato (magenta, right). **b**, Quantification of density of cleaved caspase-3 cells in pyramidal neurons (left, green bars) and MGE interneurons (right, magenta bars) during postnatal development (for pyramidal neurons, ANOVA,  $F = 73.6$ ,  $***p = 0.003$  [P2 vs P4],

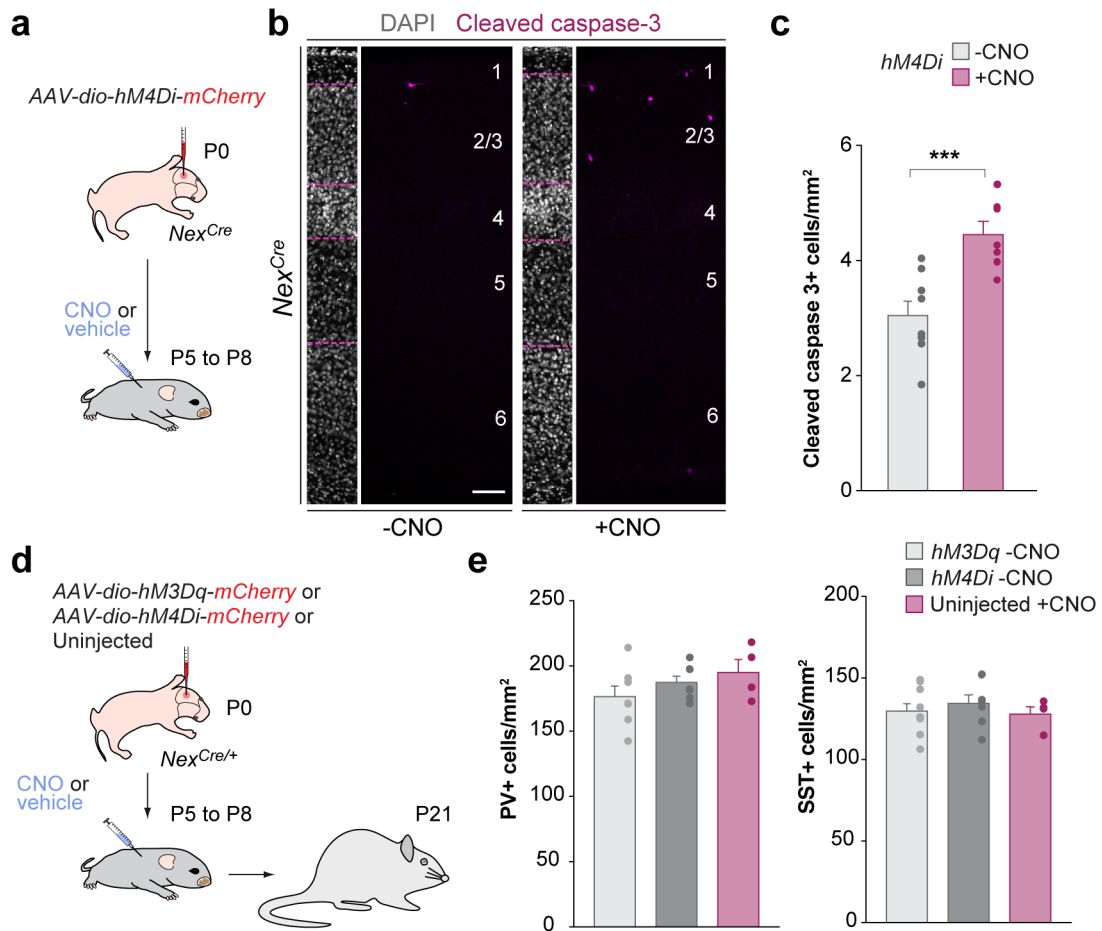
\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$  [P4 vs P7],  $n = 3$  animals for all ages; for MGE interneurons, ANOVA,  $F = 16.91$ ,  $*p = 0.027$  [P5 vs P7],  $**p = 0.0029$  [P7 vs P10],  $n = 3$  animals for all ages). **c**, Coronal sections through the barrel cortex of *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Fucci2* mice during postnatal development immunostained for mCherry (green) and CTGF (yellow). **d**, Total number of pyramidal cells excluding subplate cells in the neocortex of *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Fucci2* mice (ANOVA,  $F = 4.83$  and  $*p = 0.03$ ;  $n = 3$  animals for P2 and P5, and 4 animals for P3, P4 and P21). **e**, Temporal variation in the percentage of pyramidal cells excluding the subplate contribution during postnatal development. Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Extended Data Figure 2 | Interneuron cell loss in the barrel field during postnatal development.** **a**, Coronal sections through S1BF of *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice (magenta, MGE interneurons) during postnatal development counterstained with DAPI (grey). **b**, Total number of MGE-derived interneurons in S1BF of *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice during postnatal development (ANOVA,  $F = 6.40$  and  $*p = 0.03$ ;  $n = 4$  animals for all ages). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar,  $100 \mu\text{m}$ .



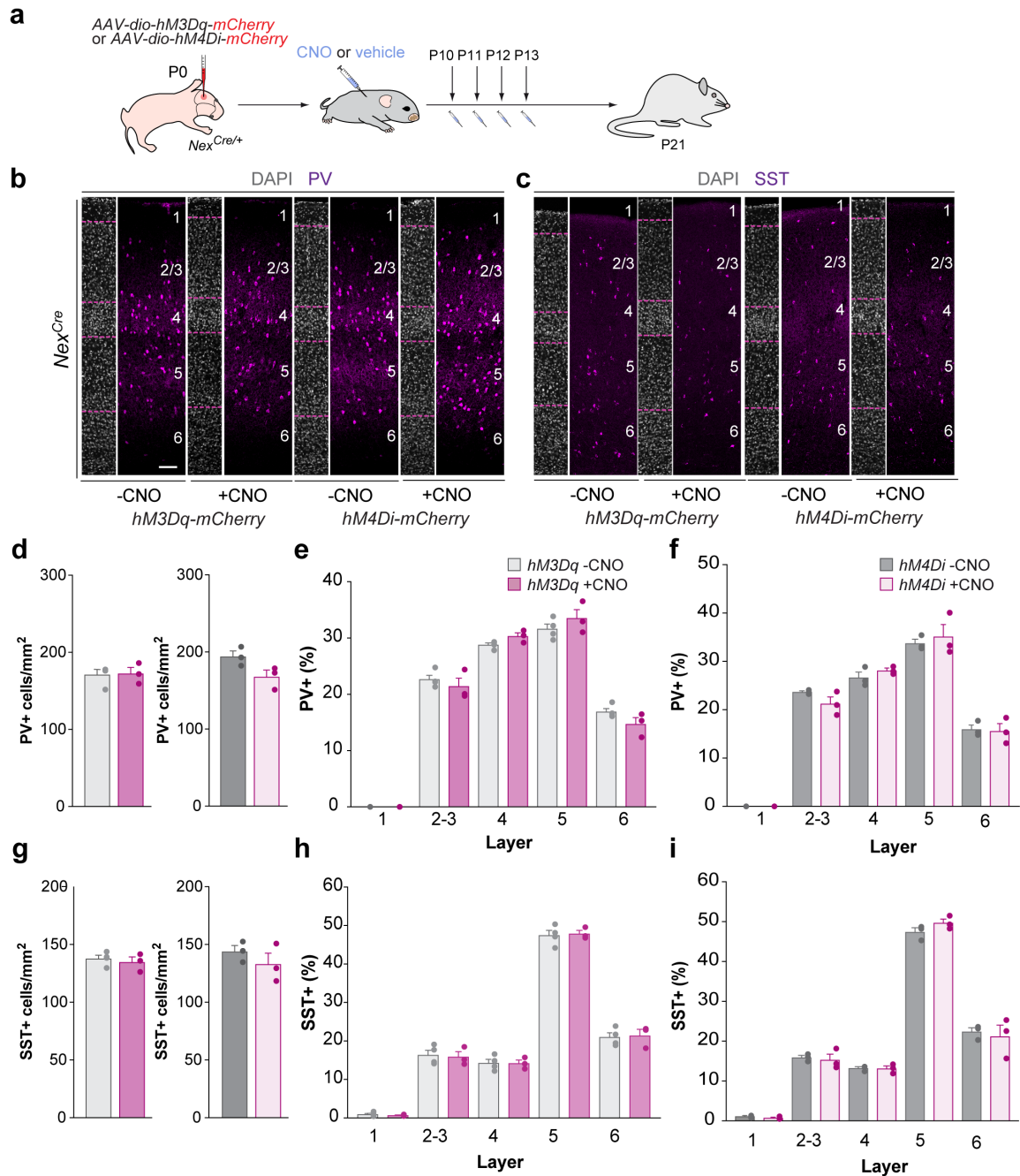
**Extended Data Figure 3 | Alteration of pyramidal cell activity affects interneuron density but not distribution. a,** Coronal sections through S1BF cortex immunostained for GABA (magenta) and NeuN (green) and counterstained with DAPI (grey) from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* virus followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **b,** Quantification of the density of GABA (left) and NeuN+ but GABA- (right) cells in P21 mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* followed by vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) treatment (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $**p = 0.005$  [GABA],  $p = 0.68$  [NeuN+/GABA-],  $n = 4$  animals for vehicle,  $n = 3$  animals for CNO conditions). **c, d** Quantification of the distribution of PV (left) and SST (right) in P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected at P0 with *hM3Dq-mCherry* (**c**) or *hM4Di-mCherry* (**d**) and treated with vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) during P5-P8 (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.48$ ,  $p = 0.50$  [hM3Dq PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = -0.04$ ,  $p = 0.99$  [hM3Dq SST],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.88$ ,  $p = 0.37$  [hM4DI PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.79$ ,  $p = 0.39$  [hM4DI SST]; for PV,  $n = 7$  animals for hM3Dq and hM4DI -CNO, 6 animals for hM3Dq +CNO, and 5 animals for hM4DI +CNO; for SST,  $n = 9$  animals for hM3Dq -CNO, 7 animals for hM3Dq +CNO and hM4Di -CNO, and 5 animals for hM4DI +CNO). **e,** Coronal sections through auditory cortex immunostained for parvalbumin (PV, magenta, left) or somatostatin (SST, magenta, right) and counterstained with DAPI (grey) from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* viruses followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **f,** Quantification of the density of PV (right) and SST (left) in auditory cortex in P21 mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* followed by vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) treatment (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $p = 0.574$  [PV],  $p = 0.419$  [SST],  $n = 4$  animals for both). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Extended Data Figure 4 | CNO control experiments.** **a**, Schematic of experimental design. **b**, Coronal sections through S1 of P8 *Nex<sup>Cre</sup>* mice injected with AAV8-dio-hM4Di-mCherry at P0 and treated with (+CNO) or without (-CNO) between P5 and P8, immunostained for cleaved caspase-3 (magenta) and counterstained with DAPI (grey). **c**, Quantification of the density of cleaved caspase-3 cells in P8 mice injected with hM4Di-mCherry and treated (magenta bar) or not treated (grey bar) with CNO between P5-P8 (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test, \*\*\* $p = 0.009$ ,  $n = 8$  animals for -CNO, and  $n = 7$  animals for +CNO). **d**, Schematic of experimental design for CNO control experiments. **e**, Quantification of the density of PV (left) and SST (right) cells in P21 mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* or *hM4Di-mCherry* and not treated with CNO (grey bars), or not injected with viruses and treated with CNO (magenta bars) between P5-P8 (ANOVA,  $p = 0.24$  [PV] and  $p = 0.65$  [SST] for PV,  $n = 7$

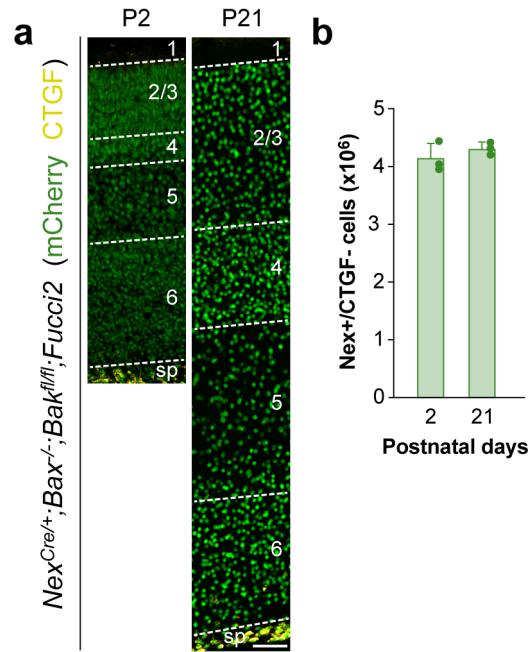
animals for hM3Dq and hM4DI -CNO, 4 animals for non-injected +CNO; for SST,  $n = 9$  animals for hM3Dq -CNO, 7 animals for hM4Di -CNO, and 4 animals for non-injected +CNO). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.



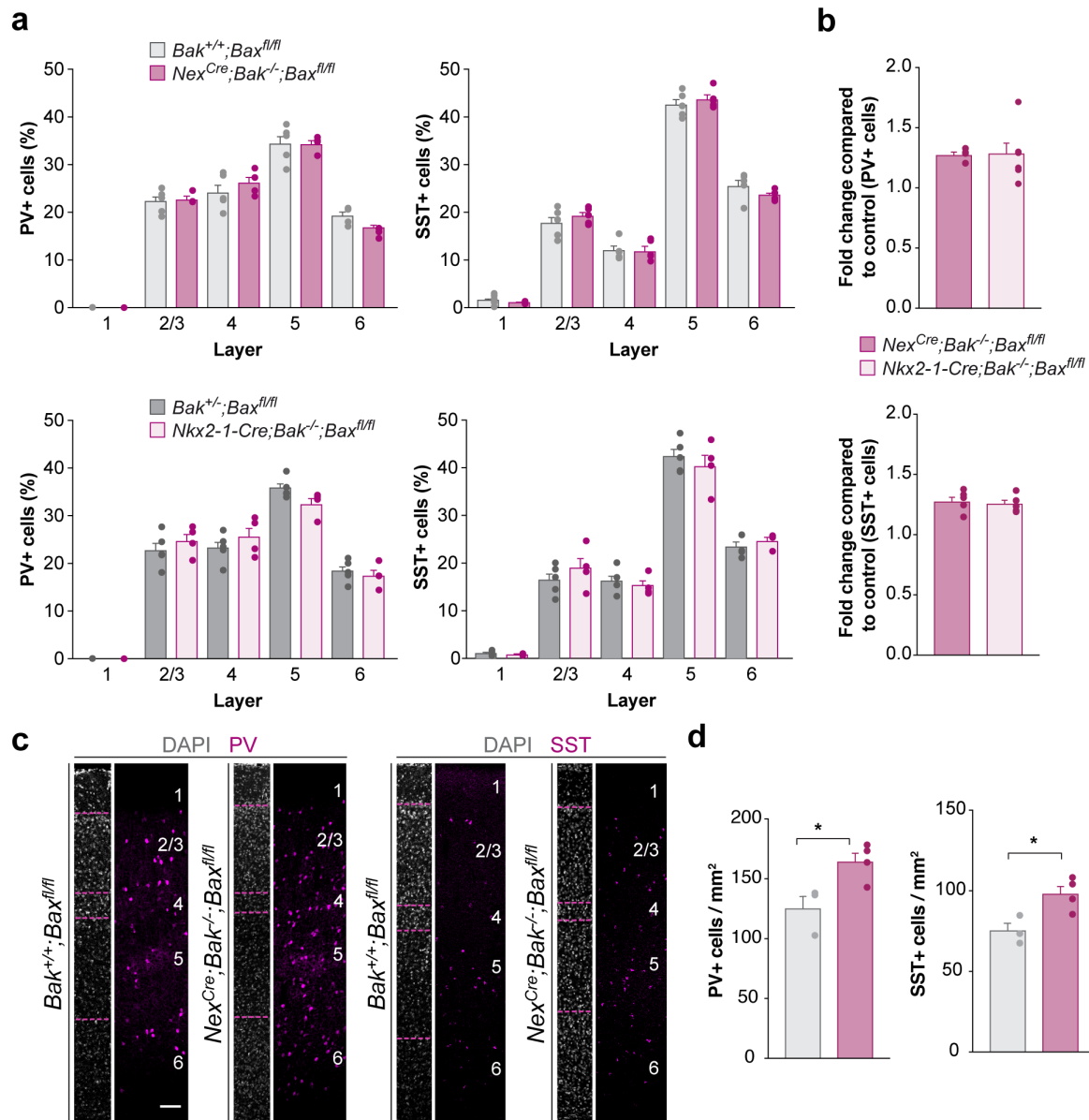


**Extended Data Figure 5 | Alteration of pyramidal cell activity beyond the normal period of interneuron cell death does not affect interneuron survival or distribution. a,** Schematic of experimental design. **b, c,** Coronal sections through S1BF immunostained for parvalbumin (PV, **b**) or somatostatin (SST, **c**) and counterstained with DAPI (grey) from P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* (left) and *hM4Di-mCherry* (right) viruses

followed by vehicle or CNO treatment. **d, g**, Quantification of the density of PV (**d**) and SST (**g**) cells in P21 *hM3Dq-mCherry* injected animals (left bars) and *hM4Di-mCherry* injected animals (right bars) followed by vehicle (grey bars) and CNO (magenta bars) treatment at P10-P13 (2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $p = 0.99$  and  $p = 0.087$  respectively; for SST, 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $p = 0.56$  and  $p = 0.37$  respectively;  $n = 4$  animals for hM3Dq –CNO and 3 animals for all other groups)). **e, f, h, i**, Quantification of the distribution of PV (**e, f**) and SST (**h, i**) in mice injected with *hM3Dq-mCherry* (**e, h**) and *hM4Di-mCherry* (**f, i**) followed by vehicle (grey bars) or CNO (magenta bars) treatment at P10-P13 (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.15$ ,  $p = 0.71$  [hM3Dq PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.60$ ,  $p = 0.48$  [hM3Dq SST],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 1.00$ ,  $p = 0.37$  [hM4DI PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 1.78$ ,  $p = 0.25$  [hM4DI SST];  $n = 4$  animals for hM3Dq –CNO and 3 animals for all other groups). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

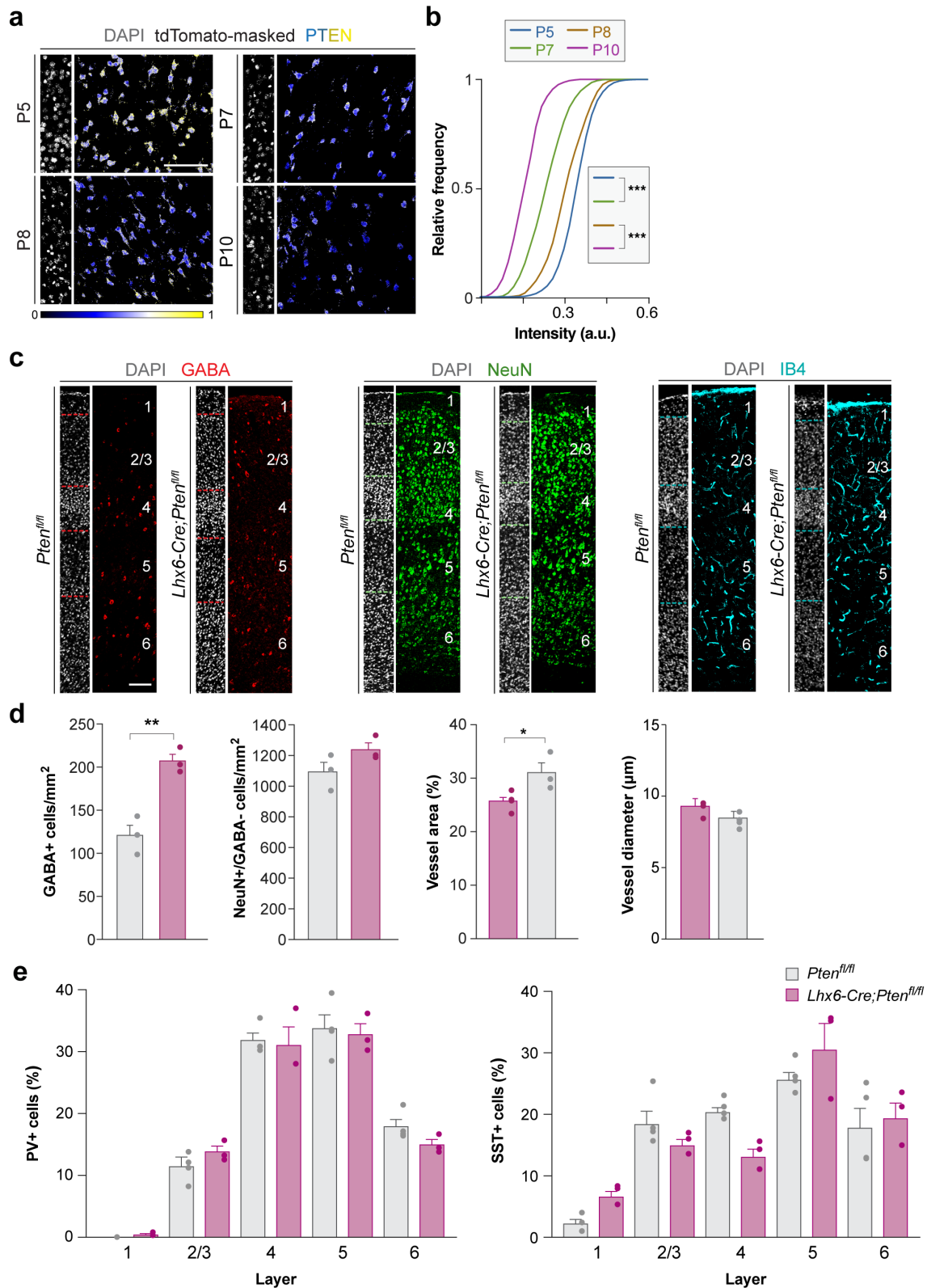


**Extended Data Figure 6 | Loss of Bak and Bax prevents programmed cell death in pyramidal cells.** **a**, Coronal sections through S1BF from P2 and P21 *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Fucci2* mice immunostained for mCherry (green) and CTGF (yellow). **b**, Total number of pyramidal cells (excluding subplate cells) in the neocortex of *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>;Fucci2* mice (2-tailed Student's unpaired *t*-test,  $p = 0.30$ ;  $n = 3$  animals for both ages). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.



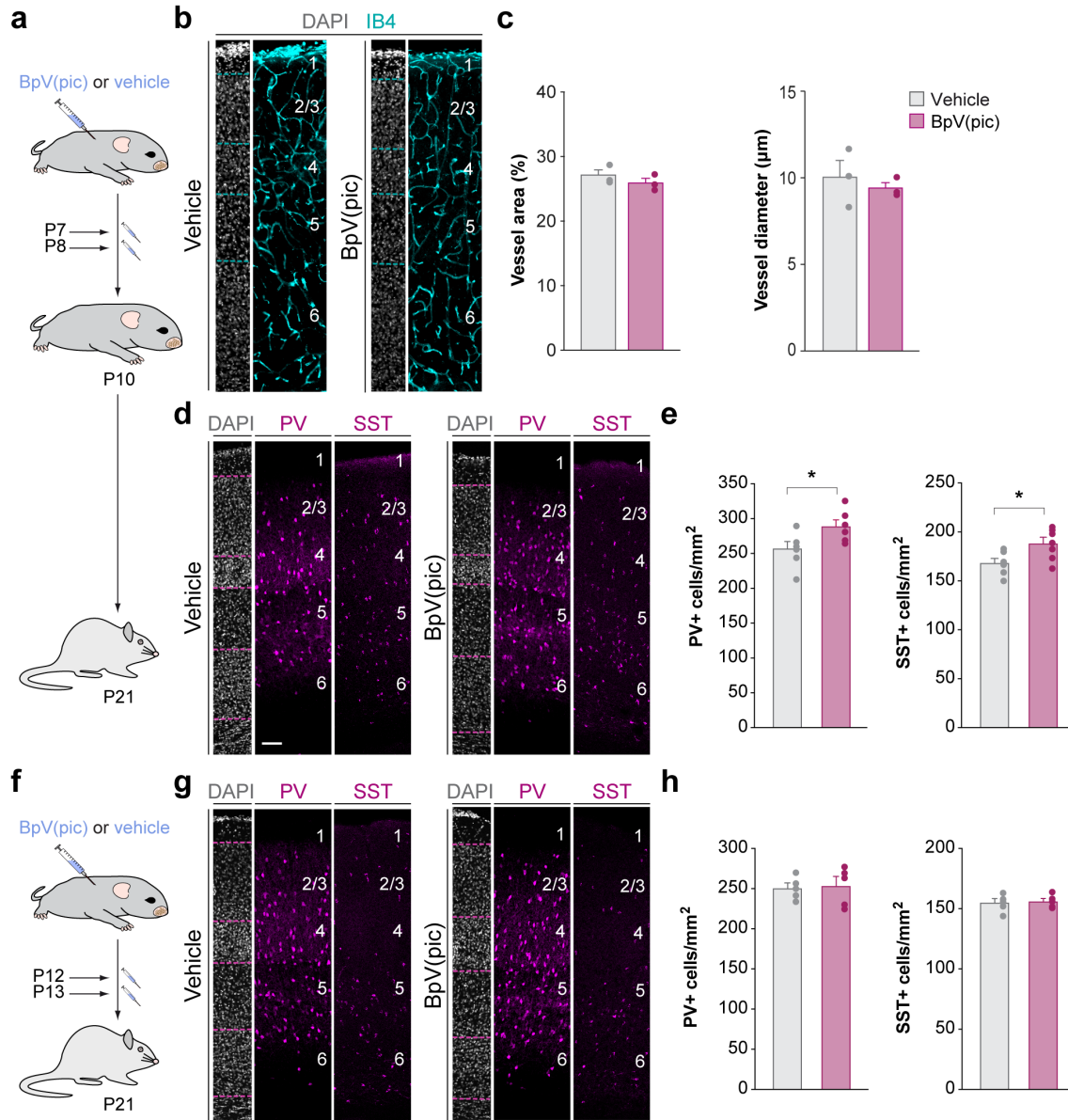
**Extended Data Figure 7 | Loss of Bak and Bax in pyramidal cells or MGE-derived interneurons affects densities but not lamination of MGE-derived interneurons. a,** Quantification of the distribution of PV (left) and SST (right) interneurons in P30 control (grey bars), *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (dark magenta bars) and *Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (light magenta bars) mice (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 3.56, p = 0.10$  [*Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.44, p = 0.53$  [*Nkx2-1-Cre* PV],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0, p = 0.99$  [*Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>* SST],  $F_{\text{treatment}} = 0.44, p = 0.54$  [*Nkx2-1-Cre* SST],  $n = 4$  animals for *Nex<sup>Cre/+</sup>;Bak<sup>-/-</sup>;Bax<sup>fl/fl</sup>* [PV] and 5 animals for all other groups).

**b**, Quantification of the fold change in the density of PV (top) and SST (bottom) interneurons in  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  (dark magenta bars) and  $Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  (light magenta bars) mice compared to their respective controls (2-tailed Student's unpaired  $t$ -test,  $p = 0.90$  [PV],  $p = 0.67$  [SST], for PV,  $n = 4$  animals for  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$ , 6 animals for  $Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$ , for SST,  $n = 5$  animals for both  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  and  $Nkx2-1-Cre;Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$ ). **c**, Coronal sections through the motor cortex of P30  $Bak^{+/+};Bax^{fl/fl}$  and  $Nex^{Cre/+};Bak^{-/-};Bax^{fl/fl}$  mice immunostained for parvalbumin (PV, left) and somatostatin (SST, right) and counterstained with DAPI (grey). **d**, Quantification of the density of PV (left) and SST (right) cells in the motor cortex control and pyramidal cell-specific Bax/Bak double mutant mice at P30 (2-tailed Student's unpaired  $t$ -test,  $*p = 0.02$  [PV],  $*p = 0.01$  [SST], for PV,  $n = 4$  animals for both and for SST,  $n = 3$  animals for both). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bar, 100  $\mu$ m.



**Extended Data Figure 8 | PTEN expression in deep layer cortical interneurons and effects of loss of *Pten* function on neurons and blood vessels. a, Coronal sections through**

layer 5 of S1BF from *Nkx2-1-Cre;RCL<sup>tdTomato</sup>* mice at P5, P7, P8 and P10, immunostained PTEN and counterstained with DAPI (grey). PTEN expression is shown as a custom LUT in tdTomato-masked cells. **b**, Cumulative distribution of mean PTEN intensity in layer 5 and 6 MGE-derived interneurons (Kruskal-Wallis test,  $***p < 0.0001$ ;  $n = 7270$  cells [P5], 4544 cells [P7], 6780 cells [P8] and 5043 cells [P10] from 3 different animals at each age). **c**, Coronal sections through S1BF from *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* mice at P16 immunostained for GABA (red, left), NeuN (green, middle) and isolectin B4 (IB4, cyan, right) and counterstained with DAPI (grey). **d**, Quantification of the density of GABA (far left), NeuN+ but GABA- (left) cells, and vessel area (right) and diameter (far right) in P16 *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (grey bars) and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (magenta bars) animals (2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $**p = 0.0035$  [GABA],  $*p = 0.0326$  [vessel area],  $p = 0.0810$  [vessel diameter]; Kolmogorov-Smirnov test,  $p = 0.1000$  [NeuN+/GABA- cells],  $n = 3$  animals for both genotypes). **e**, Quantification of the distribution of PV (left), SST (right) cells in P16 *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (grey bars) and *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* (magenta bars) mice (2-way ANOVA,  $F_{\text{genotype}} = 0.29$ ,  $p = 0.61$  [PV];  $F_{\text{genotype}} = 0.0004$ ,  $p = 0.98$  [SST];  $n = 4$  *Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* animals and 3 *Lhx6-Cre;Pten<sup>fl/fl</sup>* animals). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Extended Data Figure 9 | Pharmacological PTEN inhibition during the interneuron cell death period increases interneuron survival.** **a, f**, Schematics of experimental design. **b**, Coronal sections through S1BF from P10 mice injected at P7-P8 with vehicle (left) or BpV(pic) (right) stained for isolectin B4 (IB4, cyan) and DAPI (grey). **c**, Quantification of blood vessel area (left) and diameter (right) in P10 mice treated with vehicle (grey bars) or BpV(pic) (magenta bars) (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test [vessel area],  $p = 0.60$ ; 2-tailed unpaired Student's  $t$ -test [vessel diameter],  $p = 0.58$ ,  $n = 3$  animals for each group). **d, g**, Coronal



sections through S1BF from P21 mice injected at P7-P8 (**d**) or P12-P13 (**g**) with vehicle (left) or BpV(pic) (right) and immunostained for PV and SST and counterstained with DAPI. **e, h**, Quantification of the density of PV (left) and SST (right) in S1BF from P21 mice injected at P7-P8 (**e**) or P12-P13 (**h**) with vehicle (grey bars) or BpV(pic) (magenta bars) (P7-P8 groups: 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $*p = 0.04$  [PV],  $*p = 0.03$  [SST];  $n = 7$  animals for each group, P12-P13 groups: 2-tailed unpaired Student's *t*-test,  $p = 0.84$  [PV],  $p = 0.82$  [SST],  $n = 5$  animals for each group). Data is shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Scale bars, 100  $\mu$ m.

**Table S1.** Summary of data and statistical analyses, related to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9

| FIGURE 1         | Measurement  | Values   | N   | Statistical  | P value   |
|------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Fig 1b           | Pyramidal neurons in whole cortex (mean ± SEM)   | P2: 4158309.25 ± 133081.90; P5: 3558856.75 ± 153905.82; P7: 3652755.67 ± 9751.10; P10: 3693178.80 ± 92500.28; P21: 3585341 ± 11644.40  | [brains] P2, n = 4; P5, n = 4; P7, n = 3; P10, n = 5; P21, n = 5  | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | P2 vs P5, $p = 0.0215$ (*); P2 vs P21, $p = 0.0204$ (*)   |
| Fig 1d           | MGE interneurons in whole cortex (mean ± SEM)  | P2: 679604 ± 32053; P5: 684715 ± 17839 P7: 571140 ± 22834 P10: 488499 ± 14848 P21: 453205 ± 18326  | [brains] P2, n = 4; P5, n = 4; P7, n = 4; P10, n = 4; P21, n = 4  | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | P5 vs P7, $p = 0.0116$ (**); P5 vs P10, $p < 0.001$ (***); P5 vs P21, $p < 0.001$ (***)   |
| Fig 1e           | Percentage change of pyramidal neuron and MGE interneurons (mean ± SEM)                                  | <b>Pyramidal cells:</b> P2: 0 ± 3.20; P5: 14.42 ± 3.70; P7: 12.16 ± 0.23; P10: 11.19 ± 2.22; P21: 13.78 ± 2.8<br><b>MGE cells:</b> P2: 0 ± 4.72; P5: -0.75 ± 3.35; P7: 15.95 ± 3.35; P10: 28.12 ± 2.19; P21: 33.31 ± 2.70                  | <b>Pyramidal cell</b> [brains] P2, n = 4; P5, n = 4; P7, n = 3; P10, n = 5; P21, n = 5<br><b>MGE</b> [brains] P2, n = 4; P5, n = 4; P7, n = 4; P10, n = 4; P21, n = 4 |  |   |
| Fig 1f           | MGE interneurons in upper/lower cortical layers (mean ± SEM)   | <b>Lower layers:</b> P5: 460726 ± 8473 P7: 386796 ± 25084 P10: 292980 ± 25344 P21: 311903 ± 1491<br><b>Upper layers:</b> P5: 262326 ± 19553 P7: 253188 ± 14999 P10: 149582 ± 10093 P21: 154981 ± 13623                                     | [brains] P5, n = 3; P7, n = 3; P10, n = 3; P21, n = 3   | Two way ANOVA, (Age and Layer), Tukey's test                       | <b>Lower layers:</b> P5 vs P7, $p = 0.0300$ (*); P7 vs P10, $p = 0.0055$ (**);<br><b>Upper layers:</b> P7 vs P10, $p = 0.0024$ (**) |
| <b>FIGURE 2</b>  | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig2b            | MGE interneurons in LI/III S1BF (mean ± SEM)   | P5: 6.493 ± 0.659; P7: 5.758 ± 0.215; P8: 4.053 ± 0.197; P9: 4.124 ± 0.4422; P21: 3685 ± 0.0445  | [brains] n=3 for all ages   | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | P5 vs P8, $p = 0.0072$ (**); P5 vs P9, $p = 0.0088$ (**); P5 vs P10, $p = 0.0027$ (**); P7 vs P10, $p = 0.0204$ (*)                 |
| Fig2e            | Calcium events (events/min) at P7 in cells that die at P8 vs. cells that live past P9                    | Cells that dies at P8 (median = 0.43, inter-quartile range = 0.67, mean = 0.65); Cells that live past P8 (median = 0.96, inter-quartile range = 1.1, mean = 1.0)   | [cells] Cells that dies = 18; Cells that live= 153 cells, n = 3 pups  | Mann-Whitney test  | $p = 0.027$ (*)   |
| Fig2f            | ROC analysis of P7 event rate in discriminating between cells that die at P8 vs. cells that live past P9 | Area under curve = 0.65  | [cells] Cells that dies = 18; Cells that live= 153 cells, n = 3 pups  | Permutation test (Shuffled cell labels)                            | $p = 0.025$ (*)   |
| <b>FIGURE 3</b>  | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig 3d           | PV and SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm3DQ PV</b> -CNO: 176.79 ± 8.02; +CNO: 233.95 ± 5.81,  | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=7; hm3Dq+CNO, n=6   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0002$ (***)  |
|                  |  | <b>hm3DQ SST</b> hm3Dq-CNO: 129.91 ± 5.40; hm3Dq+CNO: 158.15 ± 9.62  | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=9; hm3Dq+CNO, n=7   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0034$ (**)   |
|                  |  | <b>hm4DI PV</b> hm4DI-CNO: 190.68 ± 3.65; hm4DI+CNO 147.61 ± 12.34   | [brains] hm4DI-CNO: n=7; hm4DI+ CNO: n=5  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0061$ (**)   |
|                  |  | <b>hm4DI SST</b> hm4DI-CNO: 134.67 ± 5.02; hm4DI+CNO 111.86 ± 5.34   | [brains] hm4DI-CNO: n=7; hm4DI+ CNO: n=5  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0044$ (**)   |
| <b>FIGURE 4</b>  | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig 4c           | PV and SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>NexCre PV</b> Control : 209.7 ± 9.48; NexCre Bak Bax: 269.09 ± 4.46;  | [brains] Control NexCre, n = 5; NexCre Bak Bax, n = 4;  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0013$ (**)   |
|                  |  | <b>NexCre SST</b> Control NexCre: 127.89 ± 3.72; NexCre Bak Bax: 163.47 ± 4.08;  | [brains] n=5  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0002$ (***)  |
|                  |  | <b>NkxCre PV</b> Control NkxCre: 168.83 ± 15.21; Nkx Cre Bak Bax: 222.20 ± 8.75  | [brains] n=5  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0453$ (*)  |
|                  |  | <b>NkxCre SST</b> Control NkxCre: 119.70 ± 2.28; NkxCre Bak Bax: 150.80 ± 3.11   | [brains] n=5  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p < 0.0001$ (***)  |
| <b>FIGURE 5</b>  | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig 5a           | Western blot for P-Akt/Akt levels were normalised to P5 in each experiment (mean ± SEM)                  | P5: 1 ± 0; P6: 1.379 ± 0.1405; P7: 1.986 ± 0.121; P8: 1.602 ± 0.122; P9: 1.835 ± 0.181; P10: 1.386 ± 0.159   | [brains] n = 6  | Friedman's test with Dunn's test                                   | $p = 0.0002$ (***)<br>P5 vs P7, $p < 0.0001$ (***); P5 vs P8 $p = 0.0214$ (*); P5 vs P9 $p = 0.003$ (**)                            |
| Fig 5d           | PTEN mean intensity under Tomato mask (mean ± SEM)   | P5: 0.1039 ± 0.0060; P7: 0.1646 ± 0.0083; P8: 0.2288 ± 0.0050; P10: 0.1674 ± 0.0037  | [cells] n = 223 for P5, n=184 for P7, n = 394 for P8, n = 395 for P10; [brains] n=3 for all ages  | Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's test                               | P5 vs P7, $p < 0.001$ (***); P8 vs P10 $p < 0.001$ (***)  |
| Fig 5g           | PV, SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)   | <b>PV</b> Control Lhx6+/+: 121.9 ± 6.228; Lhx6Cre/+ : 158.4 ± 1.1316<br><b>SST</b> Control Lhx6+/+: 154.58 ± 5.395; Lhx6Cre/+ : 76.32 ± 5.173  | [brains] Control Lhx6Cre, n=4; Lhx6Cre n=3  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | <b>PV:</b> $p = 0.0045$ (**);<br><b>SST:</b> $p = 0.0372$ (*)   |
| Fig 5j           | PTEN integrated intensity under GABA mask normalised to mean vehicle intensity (mean ± SEM)              | Vehicle: 1 ± 0.0284; CNO: 0.6537 ± 0.0145  | [cells] n=1191 for vehicle; n=3231 for CNO; n=4 vehicle treated and n=8 CNO treated animals, 2 independent experiments  | Kolmogorov Smirnov test  | $p < 0.001$ (***)   |
| <b>FIGURE S1</b> | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig S1b          | Cleaved caspase-3 and Nex+ cell density (mean ± SEM)   | P2: 2.272 ± 0.2758; P4: 6.067 ± 0.3868; P6 : 0.9863 ± 0.2422   | [brains] n = 3  | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | F=0.1078, $p = 0.8995$ .<br>P2 vs P4, $p = 0.0003$ (***); P2 vs P7, $p = 0.0577$ , P4 vs P7, $p < 0.0001$ (***)                     |
|                  | Cleaved caspase-3 and Nkx2.1+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | P5: 1.985 ± 0.3288; P7: 3.899 ± 0.4963; P10 : 0.8146 ± 0.2755  | [brains] n = 3  | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | F=16.91, $p = 0.0034$ .<br>P5 vs P7, $p = 0.0272$ (*); P7 vs P10, $p = 0.0029$ (**); P5 vs P10, $p = 0.1525$                        |
| Fig S1d          | Pyramidal neurons in whole cortex without subplate (mean ± SEM)  | P2: 3746227 ± 12820.448; P3: 3589390.5 ± 76796.7315; P4: 3394496 ± 98193.9361; P5: 3275600.23 ± 76762.6195; P21: 3296285.5 ± 107805.748  | [brains] P2, n = 3; P3, n = 4; P4, n = 4; P5, n = 3; P21, n = 4   | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | P2 vs P5, $p = 0.0291$ (*); P2 vs P21, $p = 0.0254$ (*)   |
| Fig S1e          | Percentage change of pyramidal neuron and MGE interneurons (mean ± SEM)                                  | P2: 0 ± 3.20; P3: 4.18 ± 2.05; P4: 9.39 ± 2.62; P5: 12.56 ± 2.05; P21: 12.01 ± 2.88  | [brains] P2, n = 3; P3, n = 4; P4, n = 4; P5, n = 3; P21, n = 4   |  |   |
| <b>FIGURE S2</b> | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig S2b          | MGE interneurons in S1BF (mean ± SEM)  | P5: 22213 ± 1301; P7: 21897 ± 788.2; P8: 19212 ± 755.6; P9: 18181 ± 279.8; P10: 17671 ± 707.3  | [brains] P5, n=3; P7, n=3; P8, n=3; P9, n=3; P10, n=3   | One-way ANOVA with Dunnett's test                                  | P7 vs P9, $p = 0.0323$ (*); P7 vs P10, $p = 0.0160$ (*)   |
| <b>FIGURE S3</b> | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig S3b          | GABA+, NeuN+/GABA- cell density (mean ± SEM)   | <b>GABA:</b> hm3Dq - CNO: 195.5 ± 10.48; hm3Dq +CNO: 257.6 ± 3.851<br><b>NeuN+/GABA-</b> hm3Dq - CNO: 864.7 ± 63.09; hm3Dq +CNO: 902.3 ± 49.64   | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=4; hm3Dq+CNO, n=3;  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | <b>GABA:</b> $p = 0.0047$ (**)<br><b>NeuN+/GABA-</b> $p = 0.6781$   |
|                  | PV+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm3Dq - CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 24.71% ± 1.8 [II/III]; 25.95% ± 1.39 [IV]; 31.98 ± 0.96 [V]; 17.35 ± 0.65 [VI];<br><b>hm3Dq +CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 23.07 ± 1.33 [II/III]; 26.15 ± 1.25 [IV]; 33.47 ± 0.19 [V]; 17.31 ± 0.88 [VI]                      | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=7; hm3Dq+CNO, n=6;  | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment) Layers with Sidak's test | F (1, 11) = 0.483, $p = 0.5015$   |
| Fig S3c          | SST+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)   | <b>hm3Dq - CNO:</b> 1.18 ± 0.20 [I]; 19.97% ± 0.77 [II/III]; 13.38% ± 0.45 [IV]; 42.87 ± 0.54 [V]; 22.60 ± 0.74 [VI];<br><b>hm3Dq +CNO:</b> 1.42 ± 0.21 [I]; 19.36 ± 0.61 [II/III]; 14.09 ± 0.48 [IV]; 43.66 ± 0.79 [V]; 21.48 ± 0.51 [VI] | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=9; hm3Dq+CNO, n=7;  | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment) Layers with Sidak's test | F (1, 14) = -0.04405, $p > 0.9999$  |
|                  | PV+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm4DI - CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 22.88% ± 1.16 [II/III]; 23.33% ± 1.09 [IV]; 33.67 ± 0.77 [V]; 19.5 ± 0.32 [VI];<br><b>hm4DI +CNO:</b> [I]; 21.45 ± 0.59 [II/III]; 25.404 ± 0.58 [IV]; 33.67 ± 0.78 [V]; 19.5 ± 0.32 [VI]                        | [brains] hm4DI-CNO: n=7; hm4DI+ CNO: n=5,   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment) Layers with Sidak's test | F (1, 10) = 0.8772, $p = 0.3710$  |
| Fig S3d          | SST+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)   | <b>hm4DI - CNO:</b> 1.51 ± 0.22 [I]; 17.71% ± 0.60 [II/III]; 12.57% ± 0.94 [IV]; 46.58 ± 0.80 [V]; 21.62 ± 0.68 [VI];<br><b>hm4DI +CNO:</b> 1.16 ± 0.21 [I]; 18.08 ± 0.78 [II/III]; 13.65 ± 0.39 [IV]; 44.84 ± 1.18 [V]; 22.26 ± 1.38 [VI] | [brains] hm4DI-CNO: n=7; hm4DI+ CNO: n=5;   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment) Layers with Sidak's test | F (1, 10) = 0.7948, $p = 0.3936$  |
|                  | PV+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | -CNO: 146.8 ± 7.233, + CNO: 140.8725 ± 8.725   | [brains] n = 4  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.5702$  |
| Fig S3f          | SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)   | -CNO: 99.39 ± 4.178, + CNO: 95.27 ± 3.097  | [brains] n = 3  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.4719$  |
| <b>FIGURE S4</b> | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig S4c          | Cleaved caspase-3 cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm3Dq-CNO:</b> 3.053 ± 0.2388; <b>hm3Dq+CNO:</b> 4.46 ± 0.2214  | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=8; hm3Dq +CNO: n=7  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0009$ (***)  |
| Fig S4e          | PV+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm3Dq-CNO:</b> 176.79 ± 8.02; <b>hm4DI-CNO:</b> 190.68 ± 3.65; <b>uninjected CNO:</b> 195.41 ± 9.42   | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=7; hm4DI-CNO: n=7; uninjected CNO: n=4,   | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | F=1.551, $p = 0.2441$   |
|                  | SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)   | <b>hm3Dq-CNO:</b> 129.91 ± 5.40; <b>hm4DI-CNO:</b> 134.67 ± 5.02; <b>uninjected:</b> 128.15 ± 4.22   | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=9; hm4DI-CNO: n=7; uninjected CNO: n=4,   | One-way ANOVA with Tukey's test                                    | F=0.4394, $p = 0.6515$  |
| <b>FIGURE S5</b> | <b>Measurement</b>   | <b>Values</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>Statistical</b>   | <b>P value</b>  |
| Fig S5d          | PV+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm3DQ PV</b> -CNO: 171.01 ± 6.65; +CNO: 172.33 ± 8.13,  | [brains] hm3Dq-CNO, n=4; hm3Dq+CNO, n=3   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.904$   |
|                  |  | <b>hm4DI PV</b> -CNO: 193.95 ± 7.56; +CNO 167.82 ± 8.87  | [brains] n = 3  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                 | $p = 0.0873$  |

|                  |   |  |  |   |   |
|------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Fig S5e          | PV+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)   | <b>hM3Dq - CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 22.67% ± 0.7 [I/III]; 28.8% ± 0.33 [IV]; 31.62 ± 0.86 [V]; 47.44 ± 0.55 [VI];<br><b>hM3Dq + CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 21.44 ± 1.43 [II/III]; 30.33 ± 0.60 [IV]; 33.51 ± 1.53 [V]; 14.71 ± 1.16 [VI]                               | [brains] hM3Dq-CNO, n=4; hM3Dq+CNO, n=3  | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 5) = 0.1499, p = 0.7146   |
| Fig S5f          | PV+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)   | <b>hM4DI - CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 23.67% ± 0.24 [II/III]; 26.65% ± 1.14 [IV]; 33.74 ± 0.85 [V]; 15.96 ± 0.90 [VI];<br><b>hM4DI + CNO:</b> 0 [I]; 21.22 ± 1.4 [II/III]; 28.09 ± 0.45 [IV]; 35.11 ± 2.5 [V]; 15.58 ± 1.53 [VI]                              | [brains] n = 3   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 4) = 0.9997, p = 0.3740   |
| Fig S5g          | SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hm3Dq SST -CNO:</b> 137.74 ± 2.94; +CNO: 134.56 ± 4.50<br><b>hM4DI SST -CNO:</b> 143.88 ± 5.16; +CNO 132.89 ± 9.51  | [brains] hM3Dq-CNO, n=4; hM3Dq+CNO, n=3<br>[brains] n = 3  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test<br>2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                  | p = 0.5627<br>p = 0.3672  |
| Fig S5h          | SST+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hM3Dq - CNO:</b> 0.96 ± 0.26 [I]; 16.37% ± 1.21 [II/III]; 14.26% ± 0.95 [IV]; 47.44 ± 1.28 [V]; 20.98 ± 1.13 [VI];<br><b>hM3Dq + CNO:</b> 0.67 ± 0.12 [I]; 15.88 ± 1.34 [II/III]; 14.18 ± 0.86 [IV]; 47.88 ± 0.85 [V]; 21.39 ± 1.64 [VI]        | [brains] hM3Dq-CNO, n=4; hM3Dq+CNO, n=3  | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 5) = 0.5955, p = 0.4752   |
| Fig S5i          | SST+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)  | <b>hM4DI - CNO:</b> 1.12 ± 0.17 [I]; 15.91% ± 0.53 [II/III]; 13.21% ± 0.39 [IV]; 47.4 ± 1.07 [V]; 22.36 ± 1.03 [VI];<br><b>hM4DI + CNO:</b> 0.73 ± 0.2 [I]; 15.3 ± 1.44 [II/III]; 13.11 ± 0.67 [IV]; 49.69 ± 0.96 [V]; 21.17 ± 2.86 [VI]           | [brains] n = 3   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 4) = 1.78, p = 0.2531   |
| <b>FIGURE S6</b> | Measurement   | Values   | N  | Statistical   | P value   |
| Fig S6b          | Pyramidal neurons in whole cortex (mean ± SEM)                                | P2: 4175154.67 ± 148961.82; P21: 4360600 ± 38905.64  | [brains] n = 3   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test  | p = 0.30  |
| <b>FIGURE S7</b> | Measurement   | Values   | N  | Statistical   | P value   |
| Fig S7a          | PV+ cell density (mean ± SEM)   | <b>Control NexCre</b> 0 [1] 22.17% ± 0.98 [II/III]; 24.19 ± 1.44 [IV]; 34.32 ± 1.51 [V]; 19.32 ± 0.67 [VI];<br><b>NexCre Bak Bax</b> : 0 [I]; 22.86 ± 0.51 [II/III]; 26.89 ± 1.17 [IV]; 34.23 ± 0.75 [V]; 16.82 ± 0.43 [VI]                        | [brains] Control NexCre, n = 5; NexCre Bak Bax, n = 4;   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 7) = 3.559, p = 0.1012  |
|                  | SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>Control NexCre</b> 1.73 ± 0.44 [1] 17.79% ± 1.21 [II/III]; 12.05 ± 0.82 [IV]; 42.73 ± 1.02 [V]; 25.71 ± 1.17 [VI];<br><b>NexCre Bak Bax</b> : 0.92 ± 0.14 [I]; 19.26% ± 0.71 [II/III]; 12.28 ± 0.78 [IV]; 43.19 ± 0.29 [V]; 24.36 ± 0.78 [VI]   | [brains] Control NexCre, n = 5; NexCre Bak Bax, n = 5;   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 8) = 0.4366, p = 0.5273   |
|                  | PV+ cell density (mean ± SEM)   | <b>Control NkxCre</b> 0 [1] 22.75% ± 1.39 [II/III]; 23.17 ± 1.20 [IV]; 35.77 ± 0.84 [V]; 18.30 ± 0.91 [VI];<br><b>NkxCre Bak Bax</b> : 0 [I]; 25.32 ± 1.24 [II/III]; 24.91 ± 1.51 [IV]; 32.32 ± 0.89 [V]; 17.45 ± 0.86 [VI]                        | [brains] n = 5   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 8) = 0, p > 0.9999  |
|                  | SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>Control NkxCre</b> 1.12 ± 0.19 [1] 16.48% ± 1.23 [II/III]; 16.17 ± 1.05 [IV]; 42.75 ± 1.45 [V]; 23.59 ± 0.88 [VI];<br><b>NkxCre Bak Bax</b> : 0.81 ± 0.07 [I]; 18.58% ± 1.423 [II/III]; 15.95 ± 1.10 [IV]; 40.24 ± 1.92 [V]; 24.45 ± 0.55 [VI]  | [brains] n = 5   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Treatment*Layers) with Sidak's test  | F (1, 8) = 0.4366, p = 0.5273   |
| Fig S7b          | Fold change compared to control (PV)<br>Fold change compared to control (SST) | <b>NexCre Bak Bax</b> : 1.276 ± 0.02116, <b>NkxCre Bak Bax</b> : 1.29 ± 0.08187<br><b>NexCre Bak Bax</b> : 1.278 ± 0.03192, <b>NkxCre Bak Bax</b> : 1.26 ± 0.02595   | [brains] NexCre Bak Bax, n = 4; NkxCre Bak Bax, n=6<br>[brains] n = 5  | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test<br>2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                  | p = 0.902<br>p = 0.665  |
| Fig S7d          | PV+ cell density (mean ± SEM)<br>SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)               | <b>Control NexCre</b> , 125.2 ± 10.12; <b>NexCre Bak Bax</b> , 164.1 ± 6.881<br><b>Control NexCre</b> , 75.36 ± 4.433; <b>NexCre Bak Bax</b> , 98.04 ± 3.367   | [brains] Control NexCre, n = 3; NexCre Bak Bax, n = 4;<br>[brains] Control NexCre, n = 3; NexCre Bak Bax, n = 4; | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test<br>2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                  | p = 0.0201 (*)<br>p = 0.0171 (*)  |
| <b>FIGURE S8</b> | Measurement   | Values   | N  | Statistical   | P value   |
| Fig S8b          | PTEN mean intensity under Tomato mask (mean ± SEM)                            | P5: 0.3535 ± 0.0072; P7: 0.2466 ± 0.0011; P8: 0.3157 ± 0.0009; P10: 0.168 ± 0.0008   | [cells] n = 7270 for P5, n=4544 for P7, n = 6780 for P8, n = 5043 for P10; [brains] n=3 for all ages             | Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's test  | P5 vs P7, p < 0.0001 (**); P8 vs P10 p < 0.0001 (**)                    |
| Fig S8d          | <b>GABA+, NeuN+/GABA-</b> cell density (mean ± SEM)                           | <b>GABA:</b> Pten/Fl: 121 ± 11.66; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl: 207.3 ± 7.632<br><b>NeuN+/GABA-</b> : Pten/Fl: 1094 ± 61.29; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl: 1239 ± 43.52   | [brains] n=3;  | <b>GABA+</b> : 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test<br><b>NeuN+/GABA-</b> : Kolmogorov-Smirnov test         | <b>GABA:</b> p = 0.0035 (**)<br><b>NeuN+/GABA-</b> : p = 0.1            |
|                  | <b>Vessel area</b> (% mean ± SEM)<br><b>Vessel diameter</b> (mean ± SEM)      | <b>Vessel area:</b> Pten/Fl: 25.24 ± 0.7984; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl: 30.47 ± 1.807<br><b>Vessel diameter:</b> Pten/Fl: 8.471 ± 0.2356; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl: 9.298 ± 0.3069  | [brains] Pten/Fl, n=4; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl n=3   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test  | <b>Vessel area:</b> p = 0.0326 (*)<br><b>Vessel diameter:</b> p = 0.081 |
| Fig S8e          | PV+ cell density % (mean ± SEM)   | <b>Pten/Fl</b> 0 [I]; 11.43% ± 1.55 [II/III]; 31.8% ± 1.21 [IV]; 33.7% ± 2.25 [V]; 17.89 ± 1.18 [VI];<br><b>Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl</b> : 0.37% ± 2.7 [I]; 13.8% ± 0.95 [II/III]; 31% ± 2.99 [IV]; 32.74% ± 1.78 [V]; 14.95% ± 0.882 [VI]                | [brains] Pten/Fl, n=4; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl n=3   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Genotype*Layers) with Sidak's test   | F (1,5) = 0.2942, p = 0.6108  |
|                  | SST+ cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>Pten/Fl</b> 2.193% ± 0.72 [I]; 18.35% ± 2.17 [II/III]; 20.28% ± 0.815 [IV]; 25.55% ± 1.28 [V]; 17.74 ± 3.23 [VI];<br><b>Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl</b> : 0.37% ± 2.7 [I]; 13.8% ± 0.95 [II/III]; 31% ± 2.99 [IV]; 32.74% ± 1.78 [V]; 14.95% ± 0.862 [VI] | [brains] Pten/Fl, n=4; Lhx6-Cre; Pten/Fl n=3   | Two-way ANOVA, (Cell density ~ Genotype*Layers) with Sidak's test   | F (1,5) = 0.0004, p = 0.9849  |
| <b>FIGURE S9</b> | Measurement   | Values   | N  | Statistical   | P value   |
| Fig S9c          | <b>Vessel area</b> (% mean ± SEM)<br><b>Vessel diameter</b> (mean ± SEM)      | <b>Vessel area:</b> Vehicle: 27.15 ± 0.7851; BpV(pic): 25.92 ± 0.7108<br><b>Vessel diameter:</b> Vehicle: 10.03 ± 0.9661; BpV (pic): 9.416 ± 0.3157  | [brains] n=3   | <b>Vessel area:</b> Kolmogorov-Smirnov test<br><b>Vessel diameter:</b> 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test | <b>Vessel area:</b> p = 0.6000<br><b>Vessel diameter:</b> p = 0.5756    |
| Fig S9e          | PV+ Cell density (mean ± SEM)<br>SST+ Cell density (mean ± SEM)               | <b>Vehicle</b> : 256.8 ± 10.1; <b>BpV(pic)</b> : 288.7 ± 9.007<br><b>Vehicle</b> : 168.1 ± 4.87; <b>BpV(pic)</b> : 187.9 ± 6.72  | [brains] n = 7<br>[brains] n = 7   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test<br>2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test                                  | p = 0.0365 (*)<br>p = 0.0339 (*)  |
| Fig S9h          | PV+ Cell density (mean ± SEM)   | <b>Vehicle</b> : 250.1 ± 7.049; <b>BpV(pic)</b> : 253 ± 12.12  | [brains] n = 5   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test  | p = 0.84  |
|                  | SST+ Cell density (mean ± SEM)  | <b>Vehicle</b> : 154.8 ± 3.64; <b>BpV(pic)</b> : 155.9 ± 2.7   | [brains] n = 5   | 2-tailed unpaired Student's t-test  | p = 0.82  |