Targeted Neuronal Activation of the Gastrointestinal Tract Shapes the Environment of the Gut in Mice

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SUMMARY

The enteric nervous system (ENS) integrates cues from the brain and from local signals in the gut to coordinate responses that shape the intestinal milieu. Tools to study, and knowledge of, the ENS lag behind brain research. Herein, we deploy novel recombinant adeno-associated viral (rAAV) vectors with enhanced tropism for the gut to map and activate enteric neurons with spatial and temporal resolution. rAAV-mediated fluorescent labelling coupled with whole-tissue clearing methods in the small intestine and colon of mice enables efficient and thorough characterization of the neuronal architecture of the ENS. We also delivered 'designer receptors exclusively activated by designer drugs' (DREADDs) to specifically activate gut neurons that express choline acetyltransferase (ChAT$^+$) and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH$^+$). Targeted activation of ChAT$^+$ or TH$^+$ neuronal populations associated with the gastrointestinal (GI) tract altered the intestinal transcriptome of mice, host and microbial proteome, metagenome, and fecal metabolome. We reveal previously unknown and broad roles for neurons in modulating intestinal physiology, mucosal immunity, and gut microbiome structure, and propose novel interactions for the ENS such as regulating fungal colonization and shaping of bile acid profiles. Experimental tools and rich datasets with multi-parameter characterization of the gut ecosystem may enable further study of the ENS.

INTRODUCTION

The gastrointestinal (GI) tract consists of diverse cells (e.g., immune, epithelial, endothelial, endocrine, muscle, neuronal, and even microbial) that coordinate physiology within the gut (Furness, 2006) and throughout the entire body (Rao and Gershon, 2016). The mammalian gut receives and transmits neuronal signals from over 100,000 extrinsic nerve fibers that originate from the sympathetic (SNS) and parasympathetic (PNS) nervous systems (Grundy and Brookes, 2011). The GI tract is also innervated by an expansive network of intrinsic neurons, collectively termed the enteric nervous system (ENS), that has over 100 million neurons organized into distinct compartments within the GI tract, namely the myenteric plexus and submucosal plexus (Furness et al., 2014). In recent years, extrinsic and intrinsic innervation of the GI tract has been implicated in various host responses, from digestion (Schneider et al., 2019), to immunity (Gabanyi et al., 2016; Muller et al., 2014), to complex behaviors (Bravo et al., 2011) in mice. Specific interactions between neurons of the GI tract and various other cell types emphasize the diverse and expansive roles of the ENS. For example, neural pathways in the gut regulate nutrient sensation through intestinal enteroendocrine cells (Kaelberer et al., 2018), affect the epithelial barrier and mucosal immunity (Jarret et al., 2020; Seillet et al., 2020; Talbot et al., 2020), and dynamically interface with the microbiome (Lai et al., 2019; Matheis et al., 2020). While neurons in the central nervous system (CNS) interact with multiple cell types, broad exposure of the ENS to a changing external environment (e.g., diet, microbiome, xenobiotics, *etc.*) create interactions distinct from those in the brain.

With the goal of demystifying complex interactions in the GI tract, we employed and optimized powerful experimental tools, originally developed for brain research, to explore the architecture of the ENS and the functional consequence of neuronal activation of the GI tract. Adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) have been characterized for their ability to efficiently deliver various genes to eukaryotic cells (Kotterman and Schaffer, 2014), and have been deployed in research, biotechnology, and medical settings (Samulski and Muzyczka, 2014). Using an engineered AAV capsid variant, AAV-PHP.S, that was selected for having enhanced tropism to the ENS of mice (Chan et al., 2017), we achieved broad expression of genetically encoded fluorescent reporters and neural activators in the gut. Further, we delivered a fluorescent calcium reporter (GCaMP6F) into enteric neurons to measure ENS activity in live animals. Adding to the wealth of immunohistochemical characterization of the ENS (Furness, 2012), we coupled advanced tissue clearing technologies with AAV-mediated labelling of cells to present methodological

improvements to traditional approaches that allowed broad surveyance of ENS architecture in intact GI tissue and the ability to directly measure *in vivo* neuronal activity in the gut.

Beyond characterization, we sought to investigate the effects of activating specific neuronal subsets on the gut environment. Choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) are the rate limiting enzymes in acetylcholine and catecholamine biosynthesis, respectively, are are key chemical mediators of neurotransmission in the brain and the periphery. However, the extent to which these neuronal populations impact complex GI physiologies beyond motility and secretory function remain less studied. Accordingly, we transduced GI neurons of mice with chemogenetic modulators (Wess et al., 2013) in discrete cell populations to achieve cell-specific control of ChAT and TH neurons. We discovered that stimulating neural activity in the GI tract alters the transcriptional and proteomic landscape of the intestines, with complementing alterations to the gut metagenome and the gut metabolome. We report diverse and expansive effects of directed neuronal activation on epithelial biology, mucosal immunity, angiogenesis, and muscle physiology, among other outcomes. We observe expansions and contractions of fungal and bacterial taxa. Of the many molecular changes, we highlight dramatic effects on the conversion of primary to secondary bile acids, products of mouse and bacterial co-metabolism that have been widely implicated in health and disease (de Aguiar Vallim et al., 2013; Fiorucci et al., 2018; Hofmann and Eckmann, 2006; Long et al., 2017; Sakai et al., 1980). The experimental tools and multi-parameter datasets introduced in this Resource may help advance technologies and understanding of neurogastroenterology and the complex environment of the gut.

RESULTS

Targeted Neuronal Labeling Enables Extensive, High-Resolution Imaging of the ENS in Mice

Various morphologic features of the ENS have been characterized (Furness, 2006). However, resolving the broad architectural features of neurons in the gut with current imaging methods, primarily using immunohistochemistry (IHC), are limited by several physical obstacles of the GI tract: large area (~40cm long in a mouse), gut motility / tissue pliability (i.e., with or without luminal contents, relaxed vs. contracted smooth muscle), and 3-dimensional biogeography (i.e., longitudinal and cross-sectional analysis). Furthermore, the ENS is localized within two distinct plexuses of the GI tract and studies have often characterized myenteric neurons by

microdissection of the longitudinal muscle / myenteric plexus tissue layer (Fried and Gulbransen, 2015), a manipulation of the tissue that disassociates axons from their destination in 3-dimensional space and overlooks the organization of submucosal neurons.

To overcome these limitations, we labelled all neurons of the ENS of living mice with recombinant adeno-associated viruses (rAAVs) expressing fluorescent proteins, and employed tissue clearing techniques to enhance visualization of intact GI tissue. The AAV capsid variant AAV-PHP.S was used since it has been optimized for systemic delivery in mice (Deverman et al., 2016) and characterized for its increased tropism to the peripheral nervous system, specifically the ENS (Chan et al., 2017). We first looked to compare the general infectivity of AAV-PHP.S to AAV9 which has been used in the past for viral delivery to the ENS (Benskey et al., 2015). Similar to the Chan et al. study, the cargo for both AAVs was the gene encoding a nuclear localized green fluorescent protein expressed under the strong, ubiquitous CAG promoter. Following a single intravenous (*i.v.*) systemic injection of the AAVs, AAV-PHP.S efficiently transduced cells throughout the GI tract and exhibited greater infectivity of cells throughout layers of the GI tract as seen by increased cellular expression of nuclear localized CAG-GFP (Figure 1A).Gene products driven by the human Synapsin 1 (hSYN1) promoter have previously been shown to restrict expression to neurons (Jackson et al., 2016; Kügler et al., 2003) and minimize expression in peripheral targets such as the dorsal root ganglia (Haenraets et al., 2017). We packaged fluorescent proteins genes under the hSYN1 promoter into AAV-PHP.S, delivered them systemically, and found that 90% (±1.5%) of cells in the ENS labelled with antibodies against _P_rotein _G_ene _P_roduct 9.5 (PGP9.5), a pan-neuronal protein, co-localized with virally labelled neurons in the small intestines and colon (Figure 1B). Tremendous efforts to characterize the circuitry and neurochemistry of the GI nervous system have been made to date (Furness, 2012). However, the physical length of the GI tract makes thorough characterization of the ENS by IHC both intractable and costly. With AAV-mediated labeling, a single systemic injection of AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-mNeonGreen at 10^{12} viral genomes (vg) was sufficient to label expansive regions of ENS as seen in the colon and small intestines (Figures 1C, S1A and S1B). This minimizes the technical variability inherent to IHC staining of numerous tissue sections, and enables uniform imaging of millimeters of tissue at micron resolution across many samples. Pan tissue labeling revealed spatial diversity of ENS such as architectural differences of ganglia proximal and distal to the mesentery (insets in Figure 1C), helping orient images relative to each other facilitating 3-dimensional tissue reconstruction. Indeed, coupling viral-labeling with tissue clearing methods, such as a sorbitol-based clearing

method (ScaleS) (Hama et al., 2015; Treweek et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2014), we were able to preserve the structure of intestinal tissue. Imaging intact tissue, rather than sectioned slides, engendered a global view of the ENS including extrinsic nerve processes to the ENS (Figures S1A and S1B), how ENS architecture changes in association with Peyer's patches (small intestinal lymphoid tissues) (Figures S1C and S1D), and revealed different patterns of ENS ganglionic morphology when tissue is fixed with or without luminal contents (Figures S1E-S1G).

When three separate viruses each encoding a distinct fluorescent protein (PHP.S:hSYN1-mTurquoise2, PHP.S:hSYN1-mNeonGreen, or PHP.S:hSYN1-mRuby2 [together AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-XFP]) are delivered together at a combined dose of 10^{12} vg, stochastic and combinatorial viral transduction of cells resulted in multi-color labelling of neurons. Labeling of neighboring cells with different colors demarcated cellular boundaries (Figure 1D) and morphologies (Figure 1E) much more clearly than IHC, and allowed unambiguous assignment of axons to specific cell bodies from which they emanate. This approach is also tunable by the design of genetic promoters for different cell types, for example labeling of enteric glial cell bodies with virally-expressed tdTomato driven by the glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) promoter (Figure 1F).

Lastly, passive clarity technique (PACT) (Hama et al., 2015; Treweek et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2014), a tissue clearing technique, also facilitated imaging of both myenteric and submucosal neurons within the same image stack captured by confocal microscopy (Figure 1G), an important feature of ENS phenotyping that is difficult to attain with current methods. Advances provided by this method allow direct imaging of the ENS in intact GI tissue via whole mount microscopy, eliminating the need to microdissect distinct layers of the GI tract and prepare thin sections that make spatial orientation and full reconstruction of different regions challenging. Obviating the need for microdissection also reduces mechanically-introduced artifacts to tissue. Together, this cell labelling approach provides an effective and economical method to label the ENS at high resolution, with cell specificity, with spatial positioning throughout the tissue, and is widely deployable without the need for genetically-engineered mouse strains. While we demonstrate the versatility of our method, the remainder of this study focuses on investigating neurons in the gut.

Characterizing and Quantifying ENS Architecture

The small intestine and colon display similar, divergent and synergistic functions, and the ENS is presumed to play critical roles in regulating various gut physiologies (Hansen, 2003). However, it remains poorly understood how the cellular architecture of the ENS contributes to GI function, and broad, simultaneous characterization of the myenteric and submucosal plexuses has remained elusive (Foong et al., 2014; Sang and Young, 1998; Steele et al., 1991). To expand on existing studies mapping the murine ENS, wild-type mice were transduced with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-XFP via a single *i.v.* injection to broadly label enteric neurons in the gut (Figure 2A). Viral infection uniform throughout the SI and colon (Figure S2A), outside of a small ~1.5cm section of the medial colon that, for unknown reasons, was consistently not well transduced and was therefore excluded from further study. Seven regions of the SI and two regions of the colon were sampled proximally to distally, and tissue cleared by ScaleS. Tissue regions were approximately 1cm in length and sampled every 2 to 3 cm. General ENS architecture was explored by quantifying the number of neurons and ganglia, as well as the size of ganglia (i.e., the number of neurons in each ganglion) in the myenteric and submucosal plexuses (Figures 2B-2G), normalized to the number of crypts to control for inherent variabilities within tissues. Importantly, no differences were found in crypt diameter along the GI tract (Figure S2B). We saw that in the SI, the number of neurons and ganglia generally increased toward the distal portions of the myenteric plexus compared to proximal regions, while the converse was true for neurons and ganglia in the submucosal plexus (i.e., lower numbers in distal relative to proximal regions) (Figures 2B and 2C). Additionally, the size of the ganglia (i.e., the number of neurons per ganglia) increased in the distal regions of the SI myenteric plexus, a feature not observed in the submucosal plexus (Figure 2D). While neuronal numbers were similar in the proximal and distal regions of the colonic neural plexuses (Figure 2E), the number of myenteric ganglia increased (Figure 2F) while the size of each ganglion decreased in the distal colon (Figure 2G). Interestingly, submucosal neurons in the proximal colon were localized to the natural folds the tissue (Figure 2A, dotted lines in lower right panel), and these ganglia appear smaller in the distal colon. We conclude that combining viral labelling with tissue clearing enables exceptionally broad analysis of both myenteric and submucosal neurons throughout the gut, uncovering biogeographic features of ENS architecture in mice. Applying these histological methodologies to characterize the ENS in the context of different diseases, microbial states, and genetic models will initiate further expand our understanding of neurogastroenterology and present new hypotheses of the role of the ENS in health.

Measuring Neuronal Activity in the ENS

We next developed a method to directly assess the activity of specific neurons in the ENS of live mice. Existing approaches to measure intracellular calcium flux, a surrogate for neuronal firing, in the ENS include *ex vivo* preparations of intestinal tissue (Hennig et al., 2015)or surgically implanting an abdominal window to obtain *in vivo* ENS calcium recordings (Rakhilin et al., 2016; 2019). These techniques carry significant limitations as they involve extensive manipulation of tissue to obtain access to the longitudinal muscle and myenteric plexus layer, require physical separation of the ENS from its extrinsic neural connectivity, are technically challenging, and involve intricate surgical procedures.

The expression of a genetically-encoded calcium indicator, GCaMP6F (Chen et al., 2013), driven by the CAG promoter was targeted to the ENS via systemic viral delivery with AAV-PHP.S. Mice were anesthetized, intestines removed from the peritoneum, and unstimulated calcium transients in the proximal colon were recorded in individual neurons by *in vivo* confocal microscopy (Figure 2H and Supplemental Video 1). Neurons in myenteric ganglia were determined by their size and those that displayed robust changes in fluorescence intensity were chosen at random for analysis. Enteric glial cells do not appear to show calcium fluxes in this model. Measuring neuronal calcium flux over time revealed an average spike rate of 29.1 spikes/minute with an interquartile range of 19.0 - 37.7 spikes/minute (min.=7.0 spikes/min., max.=63.0 spikes/min) (Figure 2I). Time between calcium spikes was calculated for each cell, and the average peak interval was 2.6 seconds with an interquartile range of 1.6 - 3.2 seconds (min.=1.0 seconds, max.=8.6 seconds) (Figure 2J). Heatmaps (Figure 2K) and traces (Figure 2L) constructed from GCaMP6F fluorescence intensities further display the heterogeneity of neuronal firing among and within cells (i.e., tonic vs. phasic, small vs. large fluorescence delta, duration of spike). These data highlight the heterogeneity of ENS activity and underscores the granularity and resolution of our method in achieving single cell measurements of neuronal activity. Moreover, AAV-mediated delivery of GCaMP6F to the ENS and the imaging techniques performed highlight the relative ease of data acquisition without the prerequisite of genetic mouse models. Such application can expand the accessibility of ENS research, having broad implications to future studies of neurogastroenterology in the context of health and disease.

Profiling Neuronal Subpopulations of the ENS in Mice

A deeper understanding of ENS biology requires knowledge of the location and function of specific populations of neurons. Neuronal subsets can be defined by the neurotransmitters they produce, and are often demarcated by the rate limiting enzymes required for individual neurotransmitter production. Choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) and tyrosine hydroxylase (TH)

are the rate limiting enzymes in acetylcholine and catecholamine biosynthesis, respectively. In the GI tract, acetylcholine is a major excitatory neurotransmitter mainly studied for its role in motility and secretomotor function whereas the role of intrinsically produced catecholamines is less studied (Furness, 2012; Mittal et al., 2017). Although ChAT[+] and TH[+] neurons are intrinsic to the GI tract, they have yet to be systematically characterized and interrogated for their role(s) in GI physiology. We employed ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre animals, where the Cre-recombinase (Cre) is expressed under the control of each respective gene promoter. Technically, genetic constructs can be engineered to have the payload transgene in a double-floxed inverse orientation (DIO), such that the transgene is flipped and expressed (and protein translated) in a Cre-dependent manner; in other words, AAV's can be delivered to specifically to have transgenes expressed in TH+ or ChAT+ neurons.

Accordingly, we transduced ChAT-Cre or TH-Cre mice with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-DIO-XFP and cleared tissues via ScaleS to visualize these specific neuronal subpopulations. Remarkably, the cells labelled in each mouse strain occupied spatially distinct layers of the GI tract, with ChAT[+] neurons localized to the myenteric plexus whereas TH[+] neurons were primarily found in the submucosal plexus (Figure 3A). Upon quantification, there are more ChAT[+] than TH[+] neurons in all assayed regions of the SI (Figure S2C), an increase largely due to higher cell numbers in the myenteric plexus (Figure 3B). However, there were more TH[+] submucosal neurons in the small intestines than ChAT[+] mice (Figure 3C), and this spatial disparity was accentuated when calculating the ratio of myenteric-to-submucosal neurons (Figure S2D). Furthermore, densities of myenteric neurons increased distally in the SI of TH-Cre mice (Figure 3B, SI-1 vs SI-10/13/15, $p < 0.01$; SI-4 vs SI-10/13/15 $p < 0.05$), though still lower than neuronal numbers in ChAT-Cre mice. In the colon, the ratio of myenteric and submucosal neurons did not differ between ChAT[+] and TH[+] cells (Figure S2D). Our findings validate results from previous IHC studies (Anlauf et al., 2003), but expand on the methods and throughput of quantification and normalization such that global characterization is made possible. For example, the large number of existing neuron-specific Cre-expressing mouse lines and disease models affords tremendous opportunities for future use of this versatile system. These data reveal that spatial localization of enteric neurons is determined by neuronal subpopulation, suggesting that these mouse models could be utilized to interrogate the functional differences between neuronal cell types.

Activation of ChAT[+] and TH[+] Neurons in the GI Tract Alters the Intestinal Transcriptome

The unique spatial organization of ChAT$^+$ and TH$^+$ neurons suggests potentially distinct functional properties, which can be investigated through cell-specific activation of each neuronal subpopulation. ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice were infected with Cre-dependent genetic constructs encoding activating '*D*esigner *R*eceptors *E*xclusively *A*ctivated by *D*esigner *D*rugs' or DREADDs (AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-DIO-hM3Dq-mRuby2). hM3Dq is a modified neurotransmitter receptor that is designed to induce neuronal activation when exposed to Compound 21 (C21), a "designer drug" that activates only this receptor (Thompson et al., 2018). Accordingly, C21 induces a long calcium transient in a Cre-expressing neuron, as shown by the gradual increase in GCaMP6F fluorescence in an intestinal explant (Figure 3D), validating the approach.

ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice were infected with activating DREADDs or a control virus expressing a reporter protein instead (AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-DIO-mRuby2). C21 was administered intraperitoneally (*i.p.*), once daily for 10 consecutive days to all mice (Figure 3E). One hour following the last C21 injection, 1cm of tissue from the distal SI and proximal colon was harvested, and gene expression profiled by QuantSeq, a quantitative 3' mRNA-sequencing technology. In neurons, the rapid and transient expression of immediate early genes (IEGs) is widely used as a measure of increased neural activity (Wu et al., 2017). Accordingly, the IEGs *Fos*, *Egr1*, *Jun*, *Klf2* (Figures 3F-3I) were among the most significantly upregulated transcripts in the SI and colon of both ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice harboring the activating DREADD (Figure 3J). Moreover, IEGs are known to be upregulated during growth and differentiation of highly active cell types such as immune cells (Bahrami and Drabløs, 2016; Ramirez-Carrozzi et al., 2009), smooth muscle cells (Miano et al., 1993), and intestinal epithelial cells (Flandez et al., 2008).

In the distal SI, DREADD activation produced similar numbers of differentially expressed genes (DEGs; $p_{adj.} < 0.05$) in ChAT-Cre mice (162 DEGs) (Figure 3F) and TH-Cre mice (165 DEGs) (Figure 3H). Interestingly however, ~73% of the DEGs were upregulated upon ChAT-Cre activation (118 up, 44 down) and only ~42% of the DEGs were upregulated upon TH-Cre activation (69 up, 96 down). This parallels the number of upregulated IEGs in the distal SI of ChAT-Cre mice (29 IEGs) compared to those in TH-Cre mice (2 IEGs) (Figure 3J), with a few IEGs (i.e., *Hbegf, Soca3, Mcl1*) actually being downregulated in TH-Cre mice (Figure 3H). As previously mentioned, acetylcholine is a major excitatory neurotransmitter released from cholinergic neurons, however their role in gene regulation has not been extensively characterized. Furthermore, prior studies have reported that TH+ neurons are sparsely

distributed in the small intestine (Li et al., 2011) which could contribute towards the observed decrease of upregulated genes, but as will described shortly, it appears there the gene ontologies of regulated transcripts are functionally distinct. Similar proportions of transcripts were upregulated in the proximal colon of both ChAT-Cre (253 DEGs- 169 up, 84 down) (Figure 3G) and TH-Cre mice (192 DEGs – 130 up, 62 down) (Figure 3I).

Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) was employed to identify differences in gene ontology (GO) annotations between treatment groups (Figures 3K-N and Table S1), providing insight into cellular function. Notably, the most highly enriched GO term in the distal SI of ChAT-Cre mice was "regulation of smooth muscle cell proliferation" (Figure 3K), whereas in TH-Cre mice it was the "response to bacteria" (Figure 3M). In the proximal colon, we observed more similarity in GO pathways between ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice following DREADD-mediated activation (Figures 3L and 3N). These gene expression profiles support the implication that spatial localization may drive distinct transcriptomic signatures depending on the neurons activated (see Figures 3A-3C), i.e., ChAT[+] neurons in the myenteric plexus of the SI are adjacent to muscle cells, while TH[+] neurons in the distal SI are enriched in the submucosal plexus that neighbor epithelial and immune cells which respond to bacteria. Both neuronal subsets are abundant in the myenteric plexus of the colon (see Figure 3B). Also, the pathways upregulated where neurons exist in both myenteric and submucosal plexuses, portray a wider breadth of changes than activation of TH[+] neurons, with ChAT[+] neuronal activation impacting diverse cellular functions that take place in the GI tract, involving endothelial, epithelial, immune, and adipose cells (Figure 3L and Table S1). While recent studies have employed single-cell RNAseq technologies to profile transcriptomes of ENS neurons (Drokhlyansky et al., 2020) the power to selectively activate specific enteric neurons will open new avenues to interrogate the dynamic interplay between cells of various lineages in the gut.

Neural Activation in the Gut Alters the Proteome of Mice and their Microbiota
Molecules from the mouse, gut microbes, and diet converge and interact in the GI tract (Albenberg and Wu, 2014). To determine how activation of specific neuronal subsets impacts the gut environment, we performed untargeted label-free proteomics on cell-free supernatants of cecal contents from ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice, with and without neuronal activation by DREADDs. Cecal contents were assayed because the molecular changes that occur in the upper GI tract will accrue in the cecum and will determine the environment that microbes in the colon are exposed to. Material from the cecum (a compartment at the juncture of the SI and

colon) were collected one hour following the final C21 treatment (see Figure 3E), and analyzed by liquid chromatography / tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Interestingly, the abundance of Niemann-Pick C1-Like 1 protein (NPCL1) is increased in the cecum of activated ChAT-Cre mice. NPCL1 is expressed on the apical surface of enterocytes (Jia et al., 2011) and is an integral protein involved in the absorption of free cholesterol from the lumen, the precursor of bile acids. Goblet-cell related proteins also trended upwards, specifically Mucin-19 (MUC19) and Zymogen granule 16 (ZG16) (Figure 4A), a protein localized to secretory granules (Rodríguez-Piñeiro et al., 2013). Conversely, one of the most highly downregulated proteins was an aldehyde dehydrogenase (Q3U367) encoded by the *Aldh9A1* gene, which is involved in the catalytic conversion of putrescine to gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) (Matsushima et al., 1986). Little is known about the role of GABA in the ENS and studies have alluded that they may have a excitatory role (Hyland and Cryan, 2010), contrary to its inhibitory role in the brain. It is intriguing to speculate that the induced cholinergic signaling in this activation model may lead to the downregulation of non-cholinergic excitatory signaling pathways in the GI tract.

Pancreatic digestive enzymes were the most significantly upregulated proteins in cecal contents of ChAT-activated mice (Figure 4A). These include chymopasin (CTRL), chymotrypsinogen 1 (CTRB1), and pancreatic lipase related protein 2 (PNLIPRP2). Accordingly, network analysis of upregulated proteins revealed that KEGG pathways associated with digestion represent the majority of the network (Figure 4B). This novel finding is consistent with evidence that cholinergic, viscerofugal neurons send signals from the GI tract to other organs of the digestive system, including the pancreas (Furness et al., 2014).

Activation of TH$^+$ neurons also altered the luminal proteome of the cecum. Interestingly, 88% (52/59) of the differentially abundant proteins ($p_{adj.}$<0.25, p_{nom}<0.021) are distinct from those identified in activated ChAT-Cre mice ($p_{adj.}$<0.25, p_{nom}<0.042). Also 90% of these proteins were upregulated (53/59), whereas only 18% of proteins in ChAT-Cre mice were upregulated (20/112), suggesting that activation of distinct neuronal subsets is associated with largely distinct changes in GI function. We observed signatures of increased protein-protein interactions in cecal contents of activated TH-Cre mice, evidenced by more network nodes and connections (Figures 4C and 4D). When TH$^+$ neurons are activated, Filamin B (FLNB) and spectrin beta chain, non-erythrocytic 1 (SPTB2) were two of the most significantly enriched proteins (Figure 4C), and both are associated with the intestinal brush border and membrane vesicles (Donowitz et al., 2007; McConnell et al., 2011). Accordingly, vesicle-mediated transport was a major

protein network we identified (Figure 4D) and relatedly, coatomer proteins also trended upward (COPA and COPB2) (Figure 4C). Other enriched protein interaction networks that emerged were associated with the immune system, metabolic pathways, and ribosomes (Figure 4D). For example, immune related proteins such as immunoglobulin A (IgA) (in ChAT-Cre) and IgG2b and complement component C3 (in TH-Cre) trended upward (Figure 4A and 4C), results that are in accord with the immune-related biological processes identified by gene expression after neuronal activation (see Figure 3).

Perhaps the most intriguing observation was the strong depletion of acidic mammalian chitinase (CHIA) upon activation of TH$^+$ neurons (Figure 4C). Chitin is a natural polysaccharide that comprises a major component of fungal cell walls (Latgé, 2007). Intestinal chitinases are poorly studied in mice and CHIA has not been investigated for its role in regulating fungal populations. Because our samples contain host and microbial proteins, this result prompted us to search our dataset against microbial protein databases. Remarkably, the decrease in CHIA abundance following TH$^+$ neuron activation was accompanied by a large bloom in the proportion of fungal-associated peptides in the microbiome (representing ~59% of peptides mapped to any microbe) (Figure 4E). In contrast, fungal peptides represented only ~0.4% of enriched peptides in the lumen of activated ChAT-Cre mice (Figure 4F). We propose that reduction of chitinase production by activated TH$^+$ cells is directly associated with the observed dramatic increase in fungal proteins, and if true, would represent a novel circuit by which mice regulate fungal loads in the gut.

Taken together, profiling the gut luminal proteome upon neuronal activation revealed intriguing molecular dynamics occurring at the interface of the GI tract and the environment, and provided initial glimpses into processes such as digestion and novel host-microbe interactions. Neuron-mediated responses in the gut are likely vast and complex, and continued research promises to uncover the breadth of changes that can result from activation of specific neuronal subpopulations in the ENS.

Activation of ENS Neurons Reshapes the Gut Microbiome

Given the observed changes in the gut proteome, including proteins of microbial origin, we reasoned that neuronal activation in the ENS may impact the composition and community structure of the gut microbiome. For example, digestive enzymes alter the luminal nutrient composition, altering metabolism for the host (Whitcomb and Lowe, 2007) and the gut

microbiome (Nishiyama et al., 2018). Also, changes to the intestinal immune response affect the localization, diversity and abundance of microbial species in the GI tract (Donaldson et al., 2018; 2015; Zhang et al., 2015). While future work will be required to determine how ENS activation impacts gut bacterial communities, we profiled the microbiome via shotgun metagenomics from a longitudinal collection of fecal samples prior to and following ChAT$^+$ or TH$^+$ neuron activation (pre-C21 samples, and at days 1, 5, and 9 after initial C21 dose) and cecal contents (10 days after initial dose) (see Figure 3E). In ChAT-Cre mice, Faith's phylogenetic diversity (i.e., alpha-diversity) decreased dramatically by day 9 in the feces and also in the terminal cecum sample (day 10) (Figure 5A), an outcome supported by the large number of microbial taxa that are less abundant in samples from ChAT$^+$ neuron activated mice (Figures S3 and S4). In contrast, TH-Cre mice displayed similar phylogenetic diversity after activation, though there is a trend toward decreased diversity from pre-C21 to day 5 that recovers by day 9 in the feces (Figure 5A). In concordance with signatures of increased protein digestion in ChAT-Cre mice (see Figure 4B), heightened fecal protease activity has been associated with reduced microbiome diversity (Carroll et al., 2013). The composition of microbial communities was determined using weighted UniFrac (i.e., beta-diversity): distances were calculated and principle coordinate analyses (PCoA) were performed. There is separation between control and activated animal groups in the feces and cecal contents of ChAT-Cre mice, a shift that was largely absent in samples from TH-Cre mice (Figure 5B-5G). Interestingly, over the experimental time course, Verrucomicrobia were significantly enriched in activated ChAT-Cre mice (Figure 5H). To discover differentially abundant bacterial taxa, we used linear discriminant analysis effect size (LEfSe) (Segata et al., 2011) and then visualized the data into cladograms depicting the phylogenetic relationship of differentially abundant taxa (Figure 5I and 5K). Family level changes to cecal bacterial communities are displayed in Figures 5J and 5L for ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice, respectively. The bacterial species *Akkermansia muciniphila* appears to drive the increase in Verrucomicrobia in activated ChAT-Cre mice (Figure 5M) but not in TH-Cre mice (Figure 5N). *A. muciniphila* metabolizes host-derived mucus as a nutrient source (Derrien et al., 2004; Van Herreweghen et al., 2017), consistent with the increase in luminal mucin proteins (MUC19) or digestive enzymes in activated ChAT-Cre mice (see Figure 4A). *A. muciniphila* is implicated in many diseases, such as obesity (Everard et al., 2013; Plovier et al., 2017), multiple sclerosis (Cekanaviciute et al., 2017; Jangi et al., 2016), and seizures (Olson et al., 2018). Various additional associations can be postulated for ENS – microbiome interactions from this dataset.

Beyond species assignment, metagenomic analysis reveals gene families and pathways that are differentially abundant in the microbiome. Only ChAT-Cre mice showed activation-mediated changes in beta-diversity of both gene families and pathways (Figures 5O-5R), and these shifts occurred in the cecum and feces collected 9 days after activation. The most distinguishing features were highly represented in the control groups and downregulated in activated ChAT-Cre mice. The families and pathways that distinguish the groups (Figures S4C and S4D) were mainly associated with bacterial activity, such as nucleotide biosynthesis and metabolism, and protein translation and transport. The downregulation of these gene families and pathways in activated ChAT-Cre mice supports the corresponding decreases in bacterial alpha-diversity (see Figure 5A). We conclude that neuronal activation actively reshapes the gut microbiome at community-, species-, and genetic-level resolutions, with considerable differences in effects between ChAT$^+$ or TH$^+$ subpopulations. Potential mechanisms that mediate influences by the ENS on gut bacterial composition include altered intestinal motility, regulation of immune response, control of mucus production, shifts in metabolism / nutrient availability, among others.

Metabolomic Changes in the Gut Upon Neural Stimulation

Having characterized outcomes of neuronal activation on DNA (microbial metagenome), RNA (host transcriptome), and protein (host and microbial proteome), we reasoned that a major impact of these changes may manifest in the profile of gut metabolites. Mouse and microbial co-metabolism represents an intimate and intertwined relationship with implications to health. Via untargeted metabolomics using LC-MS/MS, we assayed detailed molecular changes in cecal contents and feces following neuronal activation in the gut. In ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice, we observed a strong, activation-dependent clustering of metabolome profiles in cecal samples taken one hour following the last C21 injection (Figures 6A and 6B). In longitudinal fecal samples of ChAT-Cre mice, we observed separation of metabolomes between control and activated groups by day 5 of C21 injection, a state that persisted until day 9 (Figures 6C-6F). In TH-Cre fecal samples, data were plotted on axes that minimized experimental bias from an apparent batch effect (see Methods), revealing differences between metabolomes of control and TH$^+$ neuronal activation over time (Figures 6G-6J). Furthermore, there is clear separation in cecal metabolites in ChAT-Cre versus TH-Cre mice, upon activation (Figures S5A and S5B), and such separation occurs in the feces by Day 9 of the activation time course (Figures S5C-S5F). Thus, targeted activation of ChAT$^+$ and TH$^+$ neurons in the ENS strongly influences the global gut metabolome.

The Global Natural Products Social Molecular Networking (GNPS) (Wang et al., 2016) tool is an open-access mass spectroscopy repository and analysis pipeline that we employed to visualize and contextualize our data. Molecular networks were generated based on MS2 spectral similarities of small molecules and their analogs by querying both unannotated and annotated features (via spectral matches against all public reference spectral libraries and the purchased NIST17 CID library). In the cecal contents of ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice, metabolic networks consisting of both annotated and unannotated molecules were revealed (Figures 6K and 6L). Annotated, non-networked metabolites were chosen for their differential abundance in either control or activated samples. Specifically, in TH-Cre mice, there were strongly increased non-networked metabolites in activated mice whose closest spectral matches are linoelaidic acid (ID: 626), oleanolic acid methyl ester (ID: 378), and coproporphyrin I (ID: 739). Metabolites that spectrally resemble xanthine (ID: 259), genistein (ID: 846), and trans-Ferulic acid (ID: 707) were decreased upon activation (Figure 6K and Table S2).

In both ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice, the molecular networks largely consisted of level 3 annotations (based on the Metabolomics Standards Initiative (MSI) (Sumner et al., 2007)) of compounds belonging to the bile acid molecular family and their conjugates, as well as unannotated analogs. Primary bile acids are host (mouse) derived chemicals from cholesterol biosynthesis, which are subsequently metabolized by gut bacteria into secondary bile acids (Aries et al., 1969; Sakai et al., 1980). Interestingly, metabolites with their closest spectral match to the primary bile acid cholic acid (ID: 108, 114, 215, 219, 221, 224, 259) were significantly enriched in the cecum of activated ChAT-Cre mice (Figures 6L-6N and Table S2). Additional metabolites that closely resemble the spectra of tauro-conjugated primary bile acids trended upwards, such as taurocholic acid (ID: 234, 238) and taurohyocholic acid (ID: 235). Conversely, features with spectral matches to the family of secondary bile acids and bile acid metabolites such as ursodeoxycholic acid (ID: 13), deoxycholic acid (ID: 100), beta-hyodeoxycholic acid (ID: 1, 143) and 12-ketodeoxycholic acid (ID: 19, 138) were decreased in ChAT[+]-activated mice (Figures 6L-6N). These data suggest that activation of ChAT[+] neurons may modulate primary bile acids secretion, either directly or indirectly, and/or their metabolism to secondary bile acids via the observed decrease in microbial alpha-diversity observed in ChAT-Cre mice (see Figure 5A).

While additional examples of host-microbial co-metabolism were detected (Table S2), the intriguing pathway alterations in bile acids following activation of ChAT[+] neurons may have

critical influences on various host physiologies and health. For example, bile acids and their metabolites have historically been studied for their essential role in digesting dietary fats and regulating the absorption of lipids (de Aguiar Vallim et al., 2013) and thus have been a pharmacological target for nonalcoholic fatty liver diseases (e.g., NASH) (Gottlieb and Canbay, 2019). Bile acids regulate intestinal immune responses (Fiorucci et al., 2018; Ichikawa et al., 2012; Vavassori et al., 2009) and the production of neurotransmitters by gut enterochromaffin cells (Yano et al., 2015). Expression of bile salt hydrolases and hydratases increases the fitness of both commensal and pathogenic bacteria (Begley et al., 2005; Delpino et al., 2007; Hofmann and Eckmann, 2006; Jones et al., 2008; Sannasiddappa et al., 2017). Recently, taurocholate, a bile acid that induces expression of virulence genes in enteric pathogens, and its metabolism by the human microbiota has been linked to susceptibility and resistance to infection (Alavi et al., 2020). These extensive and important functions attributed to bile acids had not previously been known to be regulated by ChAT[+] neurons in the gut, a discovery herein that may have broad implications on nutrition, metabolism, immunity, neurotransmission, and infection.

DISCUSSION

Modern systems neuroscience is primarily and appropriately focused on studying structures and functions of cells within the brain, a complexity that is being interrogated through the advent of novel tools that go beyond characterization and are able to activate and inhibit specific neuronal functions with precision. Curiously, many disorders of the brain are associated with gastrointestinal symptoms (Bhavsar et al., 2013; Cersosimo et al., 2013; Del Giudice et al., 1999; Pfeiffer, 2003; Valicenti-McDermott et al., 2008). While mechanisms linking the gut and the brain, and their consequences to health, are an active area of study, the impact of neuronal activation within the ENS on organs and tissues throughout the body has largely been unexplored. Knowledge of many aspects of neuronal architecture and function within the gut remain rudimentary (Carabotti et al., 2015; Furness et al., 2014). Historically, and paradoxically, early pioneers of neuroscience in the 20th century used the ENS as a model for studying the nervous system, an approach that fell out of favor in lieu of brain research. Accordingly, our understanding of brain function, while still limited, has outpaced research into the neuronal systems of the gut. The current study embarked on adapting and optimizing recent tools developed for brain research to explore the gut environment. To date, broad histological characterization of the ENS has been restricted by the limitations of antibody-based labeling approaches (Walsh and Zemper, 2019). Viral-mediated expression allows for vast infectivity of

enteric neurons with a single systemic injection, without the use of transgenic animals, and facilitates histology of large, complex, and dynamic tissues such as the small intestine and colon of mice. The delivery of neuron-specific activation tools to the gut enables precise interrogation of ENS function with remarkable spatial and temporal resolution.

Using a viral delivery system with enhanced tropism for the ENS to achieve cell-specific expression of fluorescent proteins, merged with the power of tissue clearing approaches that allow 3D preservation of tissue, we report neuronal architectures of the myenteric plexus and submucosal plexus within the same tissue preparation. The ability to simultaneously image these neuronal compartments enabled thorough analysis of the ENS is a robust and reproducible manner. Furthermore, in assaying specific neuronal sub-populations, namely ChAT$^+$ and TH$^+$ neurons, longitudinally variances along the gut and within each plexus were identified. This finding suggests differences in functions between neurons of different classes. Further, delivery of a calcium-based activity marker allowed recording of ENS neuronal firings in live, anesthetized animals. These early discoveries highlight the tremendous complexity of the ENS, and equip researchers with tools and approaches to further dissect structure—function relationships within the gut nervous system. Future deployment of these technologies can enable efforts to map neuronal innervations into and out of the gut, providing insights into how the ENS networks with tissues throughout the body.

The AAV systems we used are versatile in terms of the cargo they can deliver to the ENS, a feature that was leveraged to express activating DREADDs in specific neuronal subpopulations. Although the activation paradigm used in this study is inherently an artificial system, it provides a versatile framework to study the cellular and molecular interactions in the GI tract that are mediated by the ENS and impact health and disease. We reveal that chronic activation of ChAT$^+$ or TH$^+$ neurons in the ENS of mice altered the intestinal transcriptome and impacted gene expression in pathways associated with gut motility, angiogenesis, absorption, epithelial cell function, mucosal immunity / anti-microbial responses, among others. Upon targeted activation of ChAT$^+$ or TH$^+$ neurons in the gut, we observed changes in genetic signatures reminiscent of numerous cell types, highlighting the integration of signals from neurons to a variety of other cells in the gut. Single-cell analysis may further refine connections between the ENS and the varied lineages of intestinal cells that collaborate to coordinate gut functions. Ostensibly, extensive exposure to the outside environment requires that the intestines are charged with myriad of responsibilities including digestion and absorption of dietary nutrients,

exclusion of xenobiotics, protection from enteric infection, and partnership with the gut microbiome. Indeed, we observed differences in the compositional profile of the gut microbiome between mice with activation of ChAT$^+$ versus TH$^+$ neurons, at the proteomic and metagenomic levels. Of note, others have shown that deletion of ChAT in enteric neurons leads to microbiome dysbiosis (Johnson et al., 2018). Our study does not resolve how ENS activation reshapes the gut microbial community structure, which may involve altered colonic motility, changes in mucus production, and / or modulation of mucosal immune responses. One interesting host-microbial interaction appears to emerge upon activation of TH$^+$ cells, which leads to a dramatic decrease in anti-fungal chitinase (CHIA) protein expression and a concomitant bloom in fungi, suggesting that neuronal circuits regulate fungal populations in the gut. Several other hypotheses can be proposed based on our dataset for potential mechanisms by which the ENS can affect the gut microbiome, largely through changes to the luminal molecular environment, and also the possible consequences of these interactions.

The human gut microbiome possesses the metabolic capacity of the liver, and thus changes to both mouse gut physiology and the microbiome predictably have major influences on the gut metabolome. In a striking example of mutualism, we report widespread changes to the pool of intestinal bile acids, molecules produced via host-microbial co-metabolism. Activation of ChAT$^+$ neurons impact expression of NPCL1 which is involved in cholesterol transport, and cholesterol is the substrate for production of primary bile acids by mammals, which are then metabolized exclusively by the gut microbiome into secondary bile acids. Bile acids play critical roles in fat absorption (de Aguiar Vallim et al., 2013), gut motility (Kirwan et al., 1975), hormonal signaling (Watanabe et al., 2006) and immune functions (Fiorucci et al., 2018), and changes in their profiles have been associated with various disorders including neurological conditions (McMillin and DeMorrow, 2016). While additional work is required to determine how the ENS affects levels and constitution of the bile acid pool, understanding the processes that regulate synthesis of secondary bile acids may conceivably have implications on a number of organ systems throughout the body.

In the brain, experiential stimuli motivate neural plasticity and learning, and this defines the network by which information is propagated from one neuron to another, resulting in physiological or behavioral outputs (Bruel-Jungerman et al., 2016). Similarly in the GI tract, the ENS adapts and responds to incredibly diverse molecular cues from the environment and must do so throughout the entire length and surface area of the intestines—the largest and most

expansive internal organ with a rich network of neurons termed the "second brain" (Gershon, 2015). Exposures to molecules from the diet or the microbiome may modulate ENS function, along with extrinsic signals from outside the gut, a topic not covered here but of great significance. As a companion to ongoing brain research, the novel experimental tools, empiric datasets, and conceptual advances provided by this Resource study may stimulate research into the enteric nervous system, an endeavor with broad consequences to human health.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

B.B.Y. and S.K.M. designed experiments. B.B.Y performed experiments. J.A.G., K.Y.C., C.C. (supervised by V.G.) helped in AAV-mediated ENS characterization. J.A.G. performed analysis of GCaMP6F fluorescence. P.T.B (supervised by D.W.W.), M.J.S., A.M. performed acquisition and analysis of proteomic data. V.C., G.H., G.S., Q.Z., J.S., and (supervised by R.K.) performed acquisition and analysis of metagenomic data. K.W. (supervised by P.C.D.) performed acquisition and analysis of metabolomic data. T.M.T. assisted in animal-related work. B.B.Y. and S.K.M wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

MAIN FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Advantages of Viral labeling in the ENS

(A) Viral-mediated expression of nuclear localized (NLS) GFP driven by the ubiquitous CAG promoter. Quantification of virally labelled cells in AAV9 vs. AAV-PHP.S in the longitudinal muscle, myenteric plexus, and circular muscle of the stomach. (N=4-5 mice, each data point represents the average from 3 representative fields).

(B) Representative images of SI and colon in mice infected with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-TdTomato and immunolabelled with the pan-neuronal antibody, PGP9.5. Inset: quantification of the ratio of TdTomato[+] cells / PGP9.5[+] cells (N=3 mice, each data point represents the average from 3 representative fields).

(C) Tiled, whole mount microscopy showing widespread labelling in the proximal colon (>1cm of tissue) from a single injection (10^{12} VGs-vector containing AAVs). Yellow inset highlights regions opposite from the mesenteric attachment; pink inset highlights a central region of the tissue.

(D) Left: Antibody-labelled myenteric plexus of the proximal colon. Right: Viral-mediated multicolor labelling of a comparable region. AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-(mTurq2/mNeonGreen/mRuby2) (AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-XFP, $3e^{11}$ VGs each).

(E) High resolution confocal microscopy showing cell morphology when labelled with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-(mTurq2/mNeonGreen/mRuby2) vs. traditional IHC with PGP9.5.

(F) Left: IHC with anti-PGP9.5 and anti-GFAP Right: Viral expression of AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-mNeonGreen and AAV-PHP.S-GFAP-TdTomato

(G) PaCT tissue clearing coupled with multicolor labelling of the intestine, showing structural and anatomical resolution in Z.

Figure 2. Quantifying ENS Architecture and Measuring ENS Activity with GCaMP6F

(A) Representative images from proximal and distal regions of the SI and colon from AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-XFP infected mice. Dotted lines demarcate the rugae (folds) in the proximal large intestines.

(B-G) Quantification of neurons in 7 regions from the SI, and 2 regions from the colon, sampled proximally to distally (N=3-4 mice per group, per intestinal region. Data points are averages from 2-3 images per mouse, per region; *: $p<0.05$, **: $p<0.01$, ***: $p<0.001$, ****: $p<0.001$, 2-way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparisons test)

(H) Experimental setup to capture GCaMP6F fluorescence in a live, anesthetized animal.

(I) Frequency distribution of calcium spike rate and (J) peak interval (Data was collected from N=68 cells from 3 mice).

(K) Heatmap of GCaMP6F fluorescence (ΔF/F) over time. Each row represents fluorescent time course of a single cell. Data was cutoff at 83.64 seconds.

(L) Representative GCaMP6F fluorescent traces.

Figure 3. Characterizing Enteric ChAT-Cre[+] and TH-Cre[+] Neurons and Assaying Activation-Mediated Transcriptomic Changes

(A) Representative images from cross-sections (x-section), myenteric, and submucosal plexuses in ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice infected with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-DIO-XFP.

(B) Density of neurons in the myenteric plexus and (C) submucosal plexus of ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice (N=3 mice, each data point represent the average from 3 representative fields, ChAT-Cre vs. TH-Cre mice were compared using two-way ANOVAs with Sidak's correction for multiple comparisons for the SI and LI independently; Comparison of different regions in the SI of ChAT-Cre or TH-Cre mice were analyzed using one-way ANOVAs with Tukey's correction for multiple comparisons)

(D) Fluorescence time course of GCaMP6F in an *ex vivo* preparation of ChAT-Cre SI following C21 administration.

(E) Experimental paradigm- 10 consecutive days of C21 injections, with feces sampled in between and tissue and cecal contents collected at the end.

(F-I) Volcano plots of differentially expressed genes in DREADD Activated vs Control, in (F) ChAT-Cre distal SI, (G) ChAT proximal colon, (H) TH-Cre distal SI, and (I) TH-Cre proximal colon. (Dotted vertical: Fold Change (FC)=+/- 1.5; Dotted horizontal: $p_{adj.}$<0.05. Annotated transcripts are IEGs and are highlighted in green. N=10 mice per group)

(J) Fold changes of upregulated IEGs ($p_{adj.}$<0.05) as defined by Wu et al. 2017 (J-M) Gene set enrichment analysis of gene ontology (GO) terms for (K) ChAT-Cre distal SI, (L) ChAT proximal colon, (M) TH-Cre distal SI, and (N) TH-Cre proximal colon.

Figure 4. ENS Activation Alters Host and Microbe-Derived Luminal Proteins

(A) Volcano plot of differentially expressed host proteins identified in the cecal contents of Activated ChAT (N=8) vs. Control ChAT mice (N=9 mice), 1 hour after C21 administration.

(B) STRING network analysis of host proteins that were more abundant in ChAT-activated mice ($p_{nom.}$<0.2).

(C) Proteomic volcano plots of TH-activated vs. TH-control mice (N=7 mice per group) after C21 administration (D) STRING network analysis of upregulated host proteins in TH-activated mice ($p_{nom.}$<0.2).

(E-F) Unipept metaproteomic analysis of upregulated microbial proteins ($p_{nom.}$<0.2) in activated (E) TH and (F) ChAT-Cre mice (N=7-9 mice per group).

Figure 5. ENS Activation Alters the Microbiome

(A) Faith's phylogenetic diversity of feces and cecal contents over 10 days of neural activation in ChAT- and TH-Cre mice. Pre (1 day before first injection), Post +1/5/9 (1, 5, 9 days after first injection), Post +10 (Cecal contents collected at experimental endpoint) (**p<0.01, ***p<0.001 determined by Kruskal-Wallis one-way ANOVA).

(B-G) Weighted UniFrac principle coordinate analysis (PCoA) of Activated vs. Control in ChAT- and TH-Cre mice with PERMANOVA p-values and pseudo-F statistics analyses were performed in QIIME2 as done previously (Bolyen et al., 2019).

(H) Stacked bar graph showing phylum-level changes in relative abundance, 5 and 9 days post-injection in feces and 10 days post-injection in cecal contents.

(I-L) Cecal Microbiome LDA Effect Size (LEfSe) Analysis: (I,K) Cladograms showing differential phylogenetic clusters and (J,L) LDA plots of family-level differences between Activated and Control mice (Cutoff: log_{10}(LDA Score)>2 or <-2) in (I,J) ChAT-Cre and (K,L) TH-Cre mice.

(M-N) Changes in relative abundance of *Akkermansia muciniphila* in feces and cecal contents of (M) ChAT-Cre and (N) TH-Cre mice. (n=11-14 mice per group, per time point; red=Control, green=hM3Dq-Activated, *p<0.05, **p<0.01, significance determined by multiple t-tests with Holm-Sidak correction for multiple comparisons)

(O-R) Beta-diversity of bacterial gene families and pathways in the (O-Q) cecum and (P-R) post-9 feces of control and activated mice. Beta-diversity was determined with Robust Aitchison Principle Component Anaylsis (PCA) and analyzed using the DEICODE toolbox. The direction of defining features is indicated with colored arrows. The colors of the arrows represent different gene families and pathways and their length and direction is indicative of the influence that each feature has on the separation of control and activated groups. These gene families and pathways are annotated by the color of the feature arrow (Figure S4C and S4D).

Figure 6. ENS Activation Alters the Host and Microbe-Derived Luminal Metabolites

(A) Canberra PoCA of the cell-free, luminal metabolome of control (red) and activated (green) cecal contents in ChAT-Cre and (B) TH-Cre mice. Statistical analyses were performed in QIIME2 as done previously (Bolyen et al., 2019) and axes for data visualization were chosen to minimize experimental biases (See Methods).

(C-J) Fecal metabolome assayed at different timepoints before and after C21 administration in (C-F) ChAT-Cre and (G-J) TH-Cre mice. Axes for data visualization were chosen to minimize experimental biases (See Methods).

(K) Metabolic networks constructed from identified cecal metabolites in TH-Cre and (L) ChAT-Cre mice. Each node is labelled with an ID number, corresponding to annotations, mass-to-charge ratios, retention times, fold changes, and significance values found in Table S2. Each node is colored by its upregulation (green) or downregulation (red) in activated groups. IDs in bold text have an annotation in GNPS and are colored by classes class of metabolite (primary bile acids, secondary bile acids, and other metabolites).

(M) Fold-changes of specific bile acids identified to be upregulated (green bars) and downregulated (red bars) in activated ChAT-Cre mice.

(N) Annotations of bile acids highlighted in (M). Metabolite IDs corresponding to annotated primary bile acids (blue type) and secondary bile acids (red type). Metabolite IDs are distinct by genotype (N=12-14 for each group analyzed, *: p<0.05, **: p<0.01, ***: p<0.001, ****: p<0.0001)

SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE LEGENDS

Supplemental Figure 1. Viral Labeling Enables a Holistic Understanding of the ENS (Related to Figure 1)

(A-D) Tiled images of the ENS in the mouse SI. Mice are infected with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-XFP (B) Inset of panel (A) showing extrinsic nerves and neurons connecting to intrinsic ganglia of the ENS (D) Inset of panel (C) showing alterations to ENS architecture surrounding intestinal lymphoid follicles such as Peyer's patches (E-F) Tiled image of the ENS in the colon with insets showing how the (F) absence or (G) presence of luminal contents changes the appearance of neuronal density in the ENS.

Supplemental Figure 2. Similar Viral Transduction Along the GI Tract (Related to Figure 2 and Figure 3B and 3C)

(A) Quantification (qPCR) of AAV transduction in different regions of the mouse SI and colon (B) Diameter (μm) of intestinal crypts in SI and colon (N=3-4 mice per group) (C) Quantification of total neurons normalized by the number of crypts (D) Quantification of myenteric : submucosal cell ratio in ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice. This data is an alternate representation of what is seen in Figure 3B and 3C (N=3 mice, each data point represents the average from 3 representative fields; ChAT-Cre vs. TH-Cre mice were compared using two-way ANOVAs with Sidak's correction for multiple comparisons for the SI and LI independently).

Supplemental Figure 3. Annotated changes to gut bacteria (Related to Figure 5)

(A,B) Species-levels differences in cecal bacteria corresponding to main text Figure 5I-5L. (A) ChAT-Cre and (B) TH-Cre ceca, day 10 after initial C21 injection.

Supplemental Figure 4. ENS Activation-Mediated Changes in Feces (Related to Figure 5)

LEfSe Cladograms for feces on (A) Day 9 of ChAT-Cre mice and (B) Day 5 of TH-Cre mice. Annotations are labelled in the tables below the cladogram (C and D) Microbial gene family and pathway annotations for the defining features labelled on the DEICODE PCoA plots in Figure 5O-5R. Colors in ID column refer to the color of feature arrows labelled in main figure.

Supplemental Figure 5. Class Differences in ChAT-Cre vs. TH-Cre Metabolites Upon Activation (Related to Figure 6)

Canberra PCoA analysis comparing activation-mediated changes to the (A-B) cecal and (C-F) fecal metabolome in ChAT-Cre versus TH-Cre mice (A) Cecal metabolome of control mice (B) Cecal metabolome of activated mice (C) Pre-C21 feces of control and (D) activated mice (E) Fecal metabolome during activation time course for control and (F) activated mice.

Supplemental Table 1. Gene Set Enrichement Analysis of Gene Ontology (GO) Terms (Related to Figure 3)

Gene set enrichment analysis of gene ontology (GO) terms that are upregulated in the distal SI and proximal colon of activated ChAT- and TH-Cre mice.

Supplemental Table 2. Extended GNPS annotations of Metabolite Network Nodes (Related to Figure 6)

Extended annotations for networked (bold), MS/MS spectra in cecal luminal contents-corresponds to Figure 6K and 6L in ChAT-Cre and TH-Cre mice, respectively.

METHODS

Mice

All mouse experiments were performed in accordance with the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals using protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the California Institute of Technology. TH-Cre (from Viviana Gradinaru at Caltech. Originally from Ted Ebendal B6.129X1-Thtm1(cre)Te/Kieg) (Lindeberg et al., 2004) and ChAT-Cre mice (Jackson Laboratories, Bar Harbor, ME- Stock# 028861) were obtained from Jackson Laboratories, and homozygous Cre-mice were bred to wild-type mice to yield male and female heterozygous Cre-mice used for our studies. Wildtype specific pathogen free (SPF), C57BL/6 (Jackson Laboratories, Bar Harbor, ME Stock #000664) males and females were used for breeding and experiments.

Virus Production

Virus was produced using methods described in Challis et. al. (Challis et al., 2019) Briefly, human embryonic kidney (HEK293T) cells were triple-transfected with pUCmini-iCAP-AAV-PHP.S, pHelper Plasmid, and one of the following pAAV genomes (CAG-NLS-GFP, hSYN1-tDTomato, GFAP-tDTomato, hSYN1-mRuby2, hSYN1-DiO-mRuby2, hSYN1-mNeonGreen, hSYN1-DiO-mNeonGreen, hSYN1-mTurquoise2, hSYN1-DiO-mTurquoise2, hSYN1-DiO-hM3Dq-mRuby2, CAG-GCaMP6F). Cells were grown in DMEM + Glutamax + Pyruvate (Gibco, Gaithersburg, MD- Stock# 10569-010) + 5% FBS + non-essential amino acids (Gibco, Gaithersburg, MD- Stock# 11140-050), penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco, Gaithersburg, MD- Stock# 15070-063). Virus is precipitated from cells and supernatant with an 8% PEG solution (wt/vol), and purified by ultracentrifugation using 15%, 25%, 40%, 60% stacked iodixanol gradients.

Systemic Delivery of AAV- Titers

Mice were anesthetized using 2% isoflurane. Virus was titered to 10^{12} VGs, resuspended to a volume of 100µl with sterile PBS, and injected retro-orbitally.

Quantitative PCR of Viral Abundance

AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-mNeonGreen was delivered systemically to WT mice at 6-8 weeks of age. 3-4 weeks following viral infection, 1cm of proximal, medial, and distal SI and colon were harvested and flash frozen in TRIzol (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA- Cat. No. 15596018) and RNA was extracted per manufacturer's instructions. Viral ssDNA is present in the RNA fraction. Contaminating RNA was eliminated with RNase treatment (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA- Cat. No. AM228) per manufacturer's instructions. Quantitative PCR was performed on viral DNA with primers against WPRE (Forward: 5'-GGCTGTTGGGCACTGACAAT-3'; Reverse: 5'-CCGAAGGGACGTAGCAGAAG-3') and values were normalized to ubiquitous mitochondrial gene, mtRNR2 (Forward: 5'-CCGCAAGGGAAAGATGAAAA-3'; Reverse: 5'-TCGTTTGGTTTCGGGGTTTC-3'). Plotted relative abundances are mean values across three regions sampled in either SI or colon.

Neural activation of the GI tract

TH-Cre and ChAT-Cre mice are used for these experiments. "Activated" mice are infected with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-DIO-hM3Dq-mRuby2 and "Control Mice" are infected with AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-DIO-mRuby2. This is to control for both AAV-PHP.S-mediated expression and the effects of Compound 21 dihydrochloride (C21) (HelloBio, Princeton, NJ- HB6124). C21 was injected intraperitoneally at a dose of 3mg/kg in both activated and control mice. Mice for time course experiments were single-housed in sterile cages with autoclaved water following first

C21 administration (C21 administered for 10 consecutive days). Injections of C21 were administered at the same time every day (10AM).

Tissue preparation, immunohistochemistry, Imaging, and Quantification
100mg/kg of pentobarbital (Euthasol - Virbac, Carros, France) was administered IP, and tissues were perfused with 30mL of phosphate buffer solution (PBS) and next with cold 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS. GI tract was post-fixed in 4% PFA overnight at 4^oC, and stored in PBS + 0.025% sodium azide. Tissues that underwent subsequent immunohistochemistry were made transparent by use of the passive CLARITY technique (PACT) (Treweek et al., 2015). Briefly, perfused and fixed tissues were embedded with polymerized 4% (wt/vol) acrylamide, and lipids were eliminated using 8% (wt/vol) SDS solution. Tissues were blocked in 3% donkey serum and permeabilized with PBS + 0.3% Triton (PBST). Primary antibodies were incubated in PBST for 48 hours and washed with PBST for 24 hours (replacing wash 3 times). Tissues were next incubated in secondary antibodies (and DAPI) for 24 hours and washed in PBS for 48 hours, intermittently replacing the wash solution with fresh PBS. Primary antibodies used were rabbit PGP9.5 (1:300; Millipore Sigma AB1761-I) and chicken GFAP (1:500, BioLegend Cat #829401). Secondary antibodies used were goat anti-chicken Alexa 647 (Life Technologies A-21450) and donkey anti-rabbit Alexa 568 (Life Technologies A10042). Tissues imaged just for virally expressed, endogenous fluorescence were made transparent using sorbitol-based optical clearing method, Sca*l*eS (Hama et al., 2015). Tissues were mounted in respective mounting mediums (RIMS and Scales S4), on a glass slide with a 0.5mm spacer (iSpacer, SunJin Lab Co.). Images were acquired on Zeiss LSM 780 or 880, and microscope, laser settings, contrast, and gamma remained constant across images that were directly compared. All confocal images were taken with the following objectives: Fluar 5× 0.25 M27 Plan-Apochromat 10× 0.45 M27 (work- ing distance 2.0 mm) and Plan-Apochromat 25× 0.8 Imm Corr DIC M27 multi- immersion. Neurons in each ganglion were counted by counting cells that are of a distinct color. Large intestinal ganglia were defined as distinct if separated by a width of 3 or fewer neurons.

Live, *in vivo*, imaging (GCaMP6F), Video Processing, and Analysis
AAV-PHP.S-CAG-GCaMP6F (10^{12} VGs) was delivered systemically to WT C57. 3-4 weeks after infection, mice were anesthetized with 2% isoflurane on a heating pad (Kent Scientific, Torrington, CT- DCT15) with plastic sleeve covers (Kent Scientific, Torrington, CT- DCT1520P). The abdominal cavity was surgically opened to expose the intestines. The proximal colon was identified, and this portion was placed on top of a stack of 4-6 glass microscopy slides (depending on size of animal) (VWR, Radnor PA- Cat. No. 48300-026). Tissue was secured onto glass slide with a biorthogonal silicon elastomer (Kwik-Sil) (World Precision Instruments, Sarasota, FL- KWIK-SIL), and a glass coverslip. Elastomer stiffens within 1 minute of application and coverslip must be held steadily to ensure a flat imaging surface. Anesthetized mouse is placed under an upright confocal microscope (Zeiss LSM 880). Using a 10X objective, GCaMP6F fluorescence was taken at 5Hz (1 image every 200ms). Periods of movement of tissue and luminal contents is normal during live imaging. Cell tracking was performed in 2D by using TrackMate ImageJ plugin (https://imagej.net/TrackMate) and fluorescence intensity was recorded from cells. Average background was determined by taking the fluorescence of a region of interest that did not contain a cell, over the duration of the video. Background was subtracted from cell fluorescence intensities.

Spike Detection
Data sets of fluorescent values recorded at a rate of 0.206 s from GCaMP6F-expressing unstimulated neurons in the myenteric plexus of the proximal large intestine and analyzed with the MLspike software for Matlab downloaded from GitHub (https://github.com/MLspike/spikes)

(Deneux et al., 2016). MLspike determines a new baseline to subtract from the raw fluorescence data to allow accurate modelling. The software uses a version of the Viterbi algorithm to obtain the most probable spike train. From the model, fluctuating baseline, model-estimated spike train, and most probable spike times were extracted. Polynomial coefficients (p_2) were changed from 0.5 to 0.55 and (p_3) from 0.01 to 0.03 for GCaMP6F fluorescence as recommended (Deneux et al., 2016). The minimum range for baseline (b_{min}) was changed from 0.7 to 0.5 as determined by observed fluorescence values.

GCaMP6F Fluorescence in Ex Vivo Intestinal Preparation

Small intestinal tissue was quickly harvested from ChAT-Cre mice, flushed and placed in oxygenated (95% O2, 5% CO2), ice cold Krebs-Henseleit solution for 1 hour followed by 15 min at room temperature. A segment was cut along the mesenteric attachment, and pinned flat (mucosa facing down) on a Sylgard-lined recording chamber (Warner Instruments, PH1) in oxygenated Krebs-Henseleit solution. C21 was added at 10nM and GCaMP6F fluorescence was detected on an upright microscope (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany- Examiner D1).

3' mRNA-sequencing

Tissue collection and RNA extraction

Mice were cervically dislocated and the GI tract was removed. 1cm of tissue above and below the cecum were dissected and cleaned to represent tissue from the distal SI and proximal colon, respectively. Tissue was homogenized in TRIzol (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham. MA- Cat. No. 15596018) solution using bead-based homogenizing methods, and total RNA was extracted using chloroform per manufacturer's instructions.

Library Preparation, Sequencing, and Analysis

The cDNA libraries were prepared using the QuantSeq 3'mRNA-Seq Library Prep Kit FWD for Illumina (Lexogen, Greenland, NH) supplemented with UMI (unique molecular index) as per the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, total RNA was reverse transcribed using oligo (dT) primers. The second cDNA strand was synthesized by random priming, in a manner that DNA polymerase is efficiently stopped when reaching the next hybridized random primer, so only the fragment closed to the 3' end gets captured for later indexed adapter ligation and PCR amplification. UMIs were incorporated to the first 6 bases of each read, followed by 4 bases of spacer sequences. UMIs are used to eliminate possible PCR duplicates in sequencing datasets and therefore facilitate unbiased gene expression profiling. The basic principle behind the UMI deduplication step is to collapse reads with identical mapping coordinates and UMI sequences. This step helps increase the accuracy of sequencing read counts for downstream analysis of gene expression levels. The processed libraries were assessed for its size distribution and concentration using Bioanalyzer High Sensitivity DNA Kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA- Cat. No. 5067-4626 and -4627). Pooled libraries were diluted to 2 nM in EB buffer (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany, Cat. No. 19086) and then denatured using the Illumina protocol. The libraries were pooled and diluted to 2 nM using 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5 and then denatured using the Illumina protocol. The denatured libraries were diluted to 10 pM by pre-chilled hybridization buffer and loaded onto an Illumina MiSeq v3 flow cell for 150 cycles using a single-read recipe according to the manufacturer's instructions. Single-end 75bp reads (max 4.5M reads) were obtained. De-multiplexed sequencing reads were generated using Illumina BaseSpace.

UMI specific workflows that were developed and distributed by Lexogen were used to extract reads that are free from PCR artifacts (i.e., deduplication). First, the umi2index tool was used to add the 6 nucleotide UMI sequence to the identifier of each read and trims the UMI from the start of each read. This generates a new FASTQ file, which is then processed through trimming and alignment. Second, after the quality and polyA trimming by BBDuk (Website- https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/bb-tools-user-guide/bbduk-guide/) and alignment by

HISAT2 (version 2.1.0) (Kim et al., 2015) , the mapped reads are collapsed according to the UMI sequence of each read. Reads are collapsed if they have the same mapping coordinates (CIGAR string) and identical UMI sequences. Collapsing reads in this manner removes PCR duplicates. Read counts were calculated using HTSeq (Anders et al., 2015) by supplementing Ensembl gene annotation (GRCm38.78). Raw read counts were run through ShinySeq to obtain differentially expressed genes and downstream gene ontology analyses (Sundararajan et al., 2019).

Proteome Preparation
Protein extraction
Mice were sacrificed 45 minutes after C21 administration and cecal contents were isolated and resuspended in 400μl of phosphate buffered solution, and centrifuged at x20,000g to spin down cells and lysate. Protein was isolated from resulting supernatant using Wessel-Flüegge's methanol/chloroform extraction method (Wessel and Flügge, 1984). Briefly, MeOH and chloroform was added to sample at a 4:1 and 1:1 ratio, respectively. Next, water dH2O was added at a 3:1 ratio, samples were vortexed and centrifuged at x20,000g. Resulting precipitated protein was collected and washed with methanol. Precipitated protein was centrifuged and was left to air dry, and stored in -20C until protein digestion.

In-solution Protein Digestion and Desalting
Precipitated protein sample was denatured in 40μl of 8M Urea (100mM Tris-HCl pH8.5). To reduce disulfide bonds, 1.25μl of 100mM Tris(2-carboxyethyl)Phosphine was added and incubated at room temperature (RT) for 20 minutes. Then 1.8μl of 250mM iodoactaminde was added and incubated at RT in the dark to alkylate cysteines. The first step of digestion was initiated by adding 1μl of 0.1μg/μl of Lysyl endopeptidase. After four-hour incubation. Urea concentration was adjusted to 2M by adding 120μl of 100mM Tris-HCl pH8.5. The second step of digestion was initiated by adding 2.5μl of 2μg/μl trypsin plus 1.6μl of 100mM CaCl2 for trypsin activity enhancement and incubating overnight in the dark. Formic acid was added to stop trypsing digestion. The digested peptides were desalted by HPLC using C8 peptide microtrap (Microm Bioresources). Peptides were lyophilized and diluted to 200 ng/μl in 0.2% formic acid prior to LC-MS/MS analysis.

LC-MS/MS
Samples were analyzed on a Q Exactive HF Orbitrap mass spectrometer coupled to an EASY nLC 1200 liquid chromatographic system (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). Approximately 200 ng of peptides were loaded on a 50 μm I.D. × 25 cm column with a 10 μm electrospray tip (PicoFrit from New Objective, Woburn, MA) in-house-packed with ReproSil-Pur C18-AQ 1.9 μm (Dr. Maisch, Ammerbuch, Germany). Solvent A consisted of 2% MeCN in 0.2% FA and solvent B consisted of 80% MeCN in 0.2% FA. A non-linear 60 minute gradient from 2% B to 40% B was used to separate the peptides for analysis. The mass spectrometer was operated in a data-dependent mode, with MS1 scans collected from 400-1650 m/z at 60,000 resolution and MS/MS scans collected from 200-2000 m/z at 30,000 resolution. Dynamic exclusion of 45 s was used. The top 12 most abundant peptides with charge states between 2 and 5 were selected for fragmentation with normalized collision energy of 28.

Peptide and Protein Identification
Thermo .raw files were converted to .ms1 and .ms2 files using RawConverter 1.1.0.18 (He et al., 2015) operating in data dependent mode and selecting for monoisotopic m/z. Tandem mass spectra (.ms2 files) were identified by database search method using the Integrated Proteomics Pipeline 6.5.4 (IP2, Integrated Proteomics Applications, Inc., http://www.integratedproteomics.com). Briefly, databases containing forward and reverse (decoy) (Elias and Gygi, 2007; Peng et al., 2003) peptide sequences were generated from in silico trypsin digestion of either the mouse proteome (UniProt; Oct. 2, 2019) or protein

sequences derived from large comprehensive public repositories (ComPIL 2.0) (Park et al., 2018). Tandem mass specta were matched to peptide sequences using the ProLuCID/SEQUEST (1.4) (Xu et al., 2015; 2006) software package. The validity of spectrum-peptide matches were assessed using the SEQUEST-defined parameters XCorr (cross-correlation score) and DeltaCN (normalized difference in cross-correlation scores) in the DTASelect2 (2.1.4) (Cociorva et al., 2007; Tabb et al., 2002) software package. Search settings were configured as follows: (1) 5ppm precursor ion mass tolerance, (2) 10ppm fragment ion mass tolerance, (3) 1% peptide false discovery rate, (4) 2 peptide per protein minimum, (5) 600-6000Da precursor mass window, (6) 2 differential modifications per peptide maximum (methionine oxidation: M+15.994915 Da), (7) unlimited static modications per peptide (cysteine carbamidomethylation: C+57.02146 Da), and (8) the search space included half- and fully tryptic (cleavage C-terminal to K and R residues) peptide candidates with unlimited (mouse database, custom metagenomic shotgun database) or 2 missed cleavage events (ComPIL 2.0).

Differential Analysis of Detected Proteins using Peptide-Spectrum Matches (Spectral Counts)

Detected proteins were grouped by sequence similarity into "clusters" using CD-HIT 4.8.1 (Fu et al., 2012; Li and Godzik, 2006; Li et al., 2001) at the following similarity cut-offs: 65%, 75%, 85%, and 95%. The following is an example command line input: "cd-hit -i fastafile.fasta -o outputfile -c 0.65 -g 1 -d 0". Tandem mass spectra identified as peptides (peptide spectrum matches, PSMs) were mapped to CD-HIT generated clusters. PSMs mapping to >1 cluster were discarded. Cluster-PSM tables were generated and differential analysis was performed in DESeq2 (1.25.13) (Love et al., 2014). Briefly, count data (PSMs) were modeled using the negative binomial distribution, and the mean-variance relationship was estimated. Variance was estimated using an information sharing approach whereby a single feature's (or cluster's) variance was estimated by taking into account variances of other clusters measured in the same experiment. Feature significance calling and ranking were performed using estimated effect sizes. Multiple testing correction was performed by Benjamini-Hochberg method within the DESeq2 package. Volcano plots were generated in Prism (GraphPad).

Differential Analysis of Detected Proteins using Ion Intensity (Precursor Intensity)

Detected proteins were grouped into "clusters" by sequence similarity using CD-HIT 4.8.1 (Fu et al., 2012; Li and Godzik, 2006; Li et al., 2001) at the following similarity cut-offs: 65%, 75%, 85%, and 95%. The following is an example command line input: "cd-hit -i fastafile.fasta -o outputfile -c 0.65 -g 1 -d 0". Using the Census software package (Park et al.; 2008) (Integrated Proteomics Pipeline 6.5.4), peptide ion intensities were calculated from .ms1 files. Peptide ion intensities were assigned to their parent peptide, then parent peptides were mapped to their appropriate CD-HIT generated clusters. Ion intensities belonging to parent peptides that map to >1 CD-HIT cluster were discarded. Cluster-ion intensity tables were generated.

Ion intensity data were analyzed using the DEP package (Zhang et al., 2018) operating in R. Intensity values were automatically Log2 transformed in DEP. The cluster list was subsequently filtered with the 'filter_proteins' function such that clusters with missing values above a 65% threshold were discarded. Remaining intensities were further transformed by the 'normalize_vsn' function (Huber et al., 2002). Missing data in remaining clusters were imputed using a mixed approach. Clusters where either the control or treatment group contained only null entries were classified as 'missing not at random' (MNAR) and imputed with 0 values. All other groups were treated as 'missing at random' (MAR) and imputed using the maximum likelihood method ('MLE') (Gatto and Lilley, 2012). Note that for a given cluster, missing values for treatment groups were imputed separately by treatment group. Differential expression analyses were performed on filled-in cluster-ion intensity tables using the 'test_diff' function (Ritchie et al., 2015) and multiple testing correction was performed using the 'add_rejections' function.

Network Analysis using STRING Database

Upregulated proteins with a nominal p-value<0.2 were searched against protein-protein interactions in the STRING database (http://www.string-db.org) where high confidence interactions were selected for. Briefly, the STRING database sources protein-protein interactions from primary databases consisting of genomic context predictions, high-throughput lab experiments, (conserved) co-expression, automated textmining, and pervious knowledge in databases (Szklarczyk et al., 2019).

Metaproteome Analysis using Unipept

Upregulated tryptic, microbial peptide sequences with nominal p-value cutoff of p<0.2 were input into Unipept (http://unipept.ugent.be) (Gurdeep Singh et al., 2019; Mesuere et al., 2015), equating leucine and isoleucine and filtering duplicate peptides. Briefly, Unipept indexes tryptic peptide sequences from the UniProtKB and details peptides with NCBI's taxonomic database. Lowest common ancestor is calculated for each tryptic peptide.

Metagenome Preparations
Fecal Collection

AAV-PHP.S:hSYN1-hM3Dq-mRuby2 (10^{12} VGs) was delivered systemically to TH-Cre and ChAT-Cre mice. 3-4 week after infection, C21 (3mg/kg) was administered daily for 10 consecutive days. Fecal pellets were collected in sterile containers one day before initial C21 dose, and between doses thereafter.

Fecal sample DNA extraction and Library Preparation

DNA was extracted with the Qiagen MagAttract PowerSoil DNA kit as previously described (Marotz et al 2017) . Our standard protocol is optimized for an input quantity of 1 ng DNA per reaction. Prior to library preparation, input DNA is transferred to a 384-well plate and quantified using a PicoGreen fluorescence assay (ThermoFisher, Inc). Input DNA is then normalized to 1 ng in a volume of 3.5 µL of molecular-grade water using an Echo 550 acoustic liquid-handling robot (Labcyte, Inc). Enzyme mixes for fragmentation, end repair and A-tailing, ligation, and PCR are prepared and added in approximately 1:8 scale volumes using a Mosquito HV micropipetting robot (TTP Labtech). Fragmentation is performed at 37 °C for 20 min, followed by end repair and A-tailing at 65 °C for 30 min.

Sequencing adapters and barcode indices are added in two steps, following the iTru adapter protocol (Glenn et al., 2019). Universal adapter "stub" adapter molecules and ligase mix are first added to the end-repaired DNA using the Mosquito HV robot and ligation performed at 20 °C for 1 h. Unligated adapters and adapter dimers are then removed using AMPure XP magnetic beads and a BlueCat purification robot (BlueCat Bio). 7.5 µL magnetic bead solution is added to the total adapter-ligated sample volume, washed twice with 70% EtOH, and then resuspended in 7 µL molecular-grade water.

Next, individual i7 and i5 are added to the adapter-ligated samples using the Echo 550 robot. Because this liquid handler individually addresses wells, and we use the full set of 384 unique error-correcting i7 and i5 indices, we are able to generate each plate of 384 libraries without repeating any barcodes, eliminating the problem of sequence misassignment due to barcode swapping (Costello et al., 2018; Sinha et al., 2017). To ensure that libraries generated on different plates can be pooled if necessary, and to safeguard against the possibility of contamination due to sample carryover between runs, we also iterate the assignment of i7 to i5 indices each run, such that each unique i7:i5 index combination is only repeated once every 147,456 libraries. 4.5 µL of eluted bead-washed ligated samples is added to 5.5 µL of PCR master mix and PCR-amplified for 15 cycles. The amplified and indexed libraries are then purified again using magnetic beads and the BlueCat robot, resuspended in 10 µL water, and 9 µL of final purified library transferred to a 384-well plate using the Mosquito HV liquid-

handling robot for library quantitation, sequencing, and storage. 384 samples are then normalized based on a PicoGreen fluorescence assay.

Shallow shotgun metagenome sequencing and diversity analysis

The Illumina data for each HiSeq lane was uploaded to Qiita, a tool with standardized pipelines for processing and analyzing metagenomic data (Gonzalez et al., 2018). Adapter sequences were removed from the reads using the Atropos v.1.1.15 (Didion et al., 2017) command (from the qp-shogun 0.1.5 pipeline) and the trimmed sequences were downloaded from Qiita. The reads for each sample were filtered of any potential mouse contamination using Bowtie2 v.2-2.2.3 (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). The filtered reads were then aligned to the Web of Life (WoL) reference phylogeny (Zhu et al., 2019) with Bowtie2 using an adapted SHOGUN pipeline (Hillmann et al., 2018). The WoL contains 10,575 bacterial and archaeal genomes with each genome representing an OTU. Sequencing reads that did not map to a single reference genome as well as reads that mapped to multiple genomes were not included in the analysis. If an OTU had a relative abundance less than 0.01% in a given sample, the OTU was not included for that sample. Additionally, OTUs with fewer than 5 assigned reads were not considered. The samples were rarefied to a depth of 12,750 reads and those with fewer than the rarefaction depth were excluded. The QIIME2 v.2019.7 (Bolyen et al., 2019) DEICODE plugin was used to calculate the Aitchison distances, a compositional beta diversity metric, and perform Robust Aitchison PCA to create biplots that visualize relationships between features and samples (Martino et al., 2019). The QIIME2 diversity plugin was used to calculate the other alpha- and beta-diversity metrics used in this study.

Metagenomic based functional profiling

The filtered reads were also analyzed using HUMAnN2 v2.8.1 (Franzosa et al., 2018) to establish functional profiles for the samples. HUMAnN2 is a pipeline that begins by using MetaPhlAn 2 to compile custom databases of reference genomes based on the species detected in a sample (Truong et al., 2015). HUMAnN2 then maps the filtered onto these custom databases and the reads that do not map to any of the references are then subjected to a translated search against UniProt Reference Clusters or UniRef (Suzek et al., 2007). Here, the UniRef90 database was used for the translated search and installed according to the HUMAnN2 documentation. The results from both the search performed using the custom reference genome database and the search against the UniRef90 database were combined and the gene families identified in each sample were reported in units of read per kilobase (RPKs) to account for gene length. HUMAnN2 also compared the gene families found in a sample with the MetaCyc pathways database (Caspi et al., 2018) and output a table reporting the pathway abundances found in each sample. After rarefying gene family tables to a depth of 166,000 RPKs and using a depth of 22,600 for pathway abundances, the QIIME2 diversity and DEICODE plugins were used to calculate alpha- and beta-diversity metrics.

Metabolomics Preparations

Sample Preparation

Frozen fecal and cecal samples were transported on dry ice for metabolomics analysis. The samples were weighed out and an extraction solvent (1:1 methanol to water with an internal standard of 1 μM sulfamethazine) was added at a 1:10 milligram to microliter ratio. The samples were then homogenized using a TissueLyser II (Qiagen) for 5 minutes at 25 hertz followed by a 15 minute centrifugation at 14,000 rpm. From the supernatant, 120 μL were transferred to a 96 deepwell plate (Eppendorf) and then these samples were lyophilized using a CentriVap Benchtop Vacuum Concentrator (Labconco) and stored at -80℃. Upon the time for data acquisition, the lyophilized plates were resuspended in a 1:1 methanol to water solvent spiked with 1 μM of sulfadimethoxine. The plates were vortexed for 2 minutes, centrifuged at 14,000

rpm for 15 minutes and 120 µL of the supernatant was transferred to a 96 well autosampler plate(Eppendorf). Plates were stored at 4 °C prior to LCMS analysis.

Data Acquisition

The untargeted metabolomics analysis was completed using an ultra-high performance liquid chromatography system (Thermo Dionex Ultimate 3000 UHPLC) coupled to ultra-high resolution quadrupole time of flight (qTOF) mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics MaXis HD). A Phenomenex Kinetex column (C18 1.7 µm, 2.1 mm x 50 mm) was used for chromatographic separation. An injection volume of 5 µL was used per sample and a flow-rate of 0.500 mL was used throughout the analysis. The mobile phase consisted of solvent A: 100% LC-MS grade water spiked with 0.1% formic acid and solvent B: 100% LC-MS grade acetonitrile spiked with 0.1% formic acid. The chromatographic gradient was as follows: 0.0–1.0 min, 5% B; 1.0– 9.0 min, 5–100% B; 9.0-11.0 min, 100% B; 11.0-11.5 min, 100-5% B; 11.5-12.5 min, 5% B. The data was collected using electrospray ionization in positive mode. Sample data was saved as .d file folders.

Data Processing

The raw .d data files were converted to mzXML format using Bruker Compass DataAnalysis 4.1 software. The resulting .mzXML file, the original .d file folders, and basic prep information sheet were stored on the UC San Diego MassIVE data repository under the accession number MSV000084550. For the MS1 level feature detection, the open-source software MZmine version 2.51 was used. The parameters used are as follows: 1) Mass Detection (Centroid, Noise Level MS1 1E3, MS2 1E2); 2) ADAP Chromatogram Builder (Min Group size in # of scans=3, Group Intensity Threshold= 3E3, Min Highest Intensity=1E3, m/z tolerance 0.01 m/z or 10.0 ppm); 3) Chromatogram Deconvolution (Local Minimum Search>Chromatographic Threshold 0.01%, Minimum in RT range 0.50 min, <Minimum Relative Height 0.01%, Minimum Absolute Height 3E3, Min Ratio of Peak Top/Edge 2, Peak Duration Range 0.05-0.50 min; m/z Calculation Auto, m/z range for MS2 pairing 0.01 Da, and RT Range for MS2 Pairing 0.1 min); Isotopic Peaks Grouper (m/z Tolerance 0.01 m/z or 10.0 ppm, Retention Time Tolerance 0.3 min, Maximum Charge 4, Representative Ion Most Intense); Join Aligner (m/z Tolerance 0.01 m/z or 10.0 ppm, Weight for m/z 75, Retention Time Tolerance 0.3 min, Weight for RT 25); Gap-Filling Peak Finder (Intensity Tolerance 20%, m/z Tolerance 0.005 m/z or 10.0 ppm, Retention Time Tolerance 0.2 min). The resulting feature table was saved as a .csv file and .mgf file for use in GNPS and MetaboAnalyst.

Molecular Networking and Statistical Analysis

Molecular networking was performing using the feature networking tool available on the Global Natural Products Social Molecular Networking portal (GNPS) accessed via the following link: https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/index.jsp?params=%7B%22workflow%22:%22FEATURE-BASED-MOLECULAR-NETWORKING%22,%22library_on_server%22:%22d.speclibs%22%7D.

The annotations obtained using this workflow fall under MSI level 2 or 3 and were used for feature analysis (Sumner et al., 2007). Briefly, level 2 compounds are putatively annotated meaning they are not identified using chemical reference standards but rather based on physical properties and/or spectral similarities to available spectral libraries (publicly available and purchased NIST17 CID). Level 3 compounds are putatively characterized classes of compounds identified similarly to level 2 compounds. The feature based molecular networking workflow on GNPS (Nothias et al., 2019) was utilized in order to analyze the spectra associated with the feature tables produced using the open source software Mzmine version 2.51 (Pluskal et al., 2010). The .mgf and .csv outputs from MZmine v2.51 were used to run the workflow. The GNPS workflow parameters used we as follows: Precursor Ion Mass 0.02 Da, Fragment Ion Mass Tolerance 0.02 Da, Min Pairs Cos 0.7, Minimum Matched Fragments 6, Maximum Shift Between Precursors 500 Da, Network TopK 10, Maximum Connected Component Size (Beta) 100, and the files were row sum normalized. Default parameters were used for the rest of the

settings. The visualizations and statistical analyses were performed using QIIME 2 v.2019.10 (Bolyen et al., 2019), MetaboAnalyst and Cytoscape v3.7.2. All PCoA axes in Figure 6 and S5 were individually plotted in QIIME 2 and due to a batch effect between subsequent plates run on the mass spectrometer- axes that minimized experimental biases were determined and chosen for graphical representation.

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Figure 1

A.
AAV9:CAG-NLS-GFP / DAPI — 5mm
AAV-PHP.S:CAG-NLS-GFP / DAPI — 5mm

GFP / DAPI
Longitudinal Muscle — Myenteric Plexus — Circular Muscle
AAV9 | PHP-S

B.
Small Intestine — Colon
hSyn1-tdT | α-PGP9.5
Merge with DAPI — 100 μm
TdTomato / α-PGP9.5

C. PHP.S-hSYN1-mNeonGreen — 5mm
100 μm | 100 μm

D. α-PGP9.5 / DAPI — 50 μm | hSYN1-XFP — 50 μm

E. α-PGP9.5 — 10 μm | hSYN1-XFP — 10 μm

F. α-PGP9.5 / α-GFAP — 10 μm | hSYN1-mNG / GFAP-tdT — 10 μm

G. Entire Z-Stack | Myenteric Plexus | Circular Muscle | Submucosal Plexus | Crypts Lamina Propria — 50 μm

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A.

p_adj < 0.05 | 0.05 < p_adj < 0.1
0.1 < p_adj < 0.25 | 0.25 < p_adj ; p_nom < 0.1

Q9ER05/Ctrl
Q9CR35/Ctrb1
Q76MZ3/Ppp2r1a
A0A075B5V5/Ighv1-39
Q3U367/Aldh9a1
P17892/Pnliprp2
Q6T3U4/Npc1l1
Q8VDD5/Myh9
Q6PZE0/Muc19
Q6P8U6/Pnlip
P07310/Ckm
Q8K0C5/Zg16
A9C496/Mup9
A0A0A6YXW6/Igha

B.

KEGG: Pancreatic secretion
KEGG: Protein digestion and absorption
KEGG: Fat digestion and absorption
GO: Fatty acid binding
GO: Serine-type endopeptidase inhibitor
Reactome: Neutrophil degranulation

C.

p_adj < 0.05 | 0.05 < p_adj < 0.1
0.1 < p_adj < 0.25 | 0.25 < p_adj ; p_nom < 0.1

Q91XA9/Chia
Q62261/*Sptbn1*
Q80X90/*Flnb*   Q9D312/*Krt20*
Q8K354/*Cbr3*
B1B1A8/*Mylk*
P37804/*Tagln*
Q6URW6/*Myh14*
Q99K30/*Eps8l2*
P08113/*Hsp90b1*
P09055-2/Itgb1   P11679/*Krt8*
P01027/*C3*
F8WHL2/*Copa*
Q3UW98/Clca4b   P30416/*Fkbp4*   Q6T3U4/*Npc1l1*
Q8K0C5/Zg16   O55029/*Copb2*
F6TQW2/Ighg2c

D.

GO: Translation
Reactome: Innate immune system
KEGG: Metabolic pathways
Reactome: Vesicle-mediated transport
GO: Intermediate filament cytoskeleton

E.

Proteobacteria
Thermotogae
Firmicutes
Bacteroidetes
Bacteria (30.51%)
Fungi
Eukaryota (69.49%)
TH-Cre Enriched

F.

Deferribacteres
Bacteroidetes
Bacteria (99.56%)
Firmicutes
Gemmatimonadetes
Fusobacteria
Proteobacteria
Verrucomicrobia
ChAT-Cre Enriched
Archaea (0.07%)
Eukaryota (0.37%)
- Ciliophora
- Metazoa
- Viridiplantae
- Fungi

Figure 5

A. ChAT-Cre | TH-Cre

Faith's PD (alpha diversity)

Pre Feces, Post + 1, Post + 5, Post + 9, Post + 10

Fecal | Cecal

B. Day 5 Feces | **C.** Day 9 Feces | **D.** Day 10 Cecum

ChAT-Cre

B. 24.6% / 3.5% / 63.0% / p = 0.053 / pseudo-F = 3.376
C. 25.6% / 3.3% / 65.7% / p = 0.004 / pseudo-F = 8.494
D. 3.3% / 2.7% / 89.1% / p = 0.001 / pseudo-F = 14.93

TH-cre

E. 21.4% / 17.3% / 49.3% / p = 0.444 / pseudo-F = 1.239
F. 35.6% / 4.0% / 49.8% / p = 0.461 / pseudo-F = 7.278
G. 12.8% / 4.2% / 77.7% / p = 0.078 / pseudo-F = 3.053

Control | Activated

H. ChAT-cre | TH-cre

Relative Abundance

Day 5, Day 9, Cecum

Bacteroidetes / Actinobacteria / Verrucomicrobia / Deferribacteres / Firmicutes / Proteobacteria

— Control + Activated

I. Firmicutes / Clostridia / Clostridiales / Erysipelotrichia / Erysipelotrichales / Actinobacteria / Bifidobacteriales / Verrucomicrobia / Verrucomicrobiae / Verrucomicrobiales

K. Firmicutes / Clostridia / Clostridiales / Bacteroidetes / Bacteroidia / Bacteroidales / Eggerthellales / Coriobacteriia / Actinobacteria

J.
- a Akkermansaceae
- b Marinilabiliaceae
- c Bifidobacteriaceae
- d Barnesiellaceae
- e Prevotellaceae
- f Erysipelotrichaceae
- g Clostridiaceae
- h Enterococcaceae
- i Clostridiales Family XIII Incertae Sedis
- j Rikenellaceae
- k Oscillospiraceae
- l Odoribacteraceae
- m Eubacteriaceae
- n Ruminococcaceae
- o Lachnospiraceae

LDA SCORE (log 10)

L.
- a Tannerellaceae
- b Bacteroidaceae
- c Prevotellaceae
- d Eggerthellaceae
- e Lachnospiraceae

LDA SCORE (log 10)

Enriched in: Control | Activated

M. ChAT-Cre
Akkermansia muciniphila

Relative Abundance

Pre 1, Post 1, Post 5, Post 9, Cecum

N. TH-Cre
Akkermansia muciniphila

Relative Abundance

Pre 1, Post 1, Post 5, Post 9, Cecum

Control | Activated

Gene Family | **Gene Pathway**

ChAT-Cre

Cecum

O. 17.0% / 82.9% / p = 0.005
Q. 15.8% / 84.0% / p = 0.047

Post-9

P. 14.8% / 84.8% / p = 0.002
R. 9.5% / 90.4% / p = 0.035

Figure 6

Cecal Contents | **Feces**

A. ChAT-Cre — Cecal Contents: 13.1%, p = 0.001, 9.3%–36.3%
C. Pre-1: 15.0%, p = 0.222, 9.8%–19.7%
D. Post-1: 12.7%, p = 0.191, 12.0%–24.5%
E. Post-5: 14.9%, p = 0.007, 10.8%–21.6%
F. Post-9: 18.2%, p = 0.013, 14.4%–21.9%

B. TH-Cre — Cecal Contents: 10.1%, p = 0.012, 5.8%–15.6%
G. 7.1%, p = 0.016, 5.0%–11.3%
H. 12.3%, p = 0.383, 7.5%–14.8%
I. 6.5%, p = 0.001, 5.0%–8.7%
J. 11.8%, p = 0.014, 5.8%–12.1%

Control / Activated

K. TH-Cre

Primary Bile Acid
Secondary Bile Acid
Other Metabolite

$\log_2$(Activated/Control) scale −3 to 3

L. ChAT-Cre

$\log_2$(Activated/Control) scale −5 to 5

M.

Log₂(Activated/Control)

Primary Bile Acid
Secondary Bile Acid

N.

ChAT-Cre Cecum					
Activated > Control			**Activated < Control**		
ID	GNPS Annotation	Adduct	ID	GNPS Annotation	Adduct
215	Cholic acid	2M+H	19	Spectral Match to 12-Ketodeoxycholic acid (NIST14)	M+H
219	Cholic acid	2M+Na	187	hyocholic acid	M-2H2O+H
218	7-Keto-3.alpha.,12-.alpha.-dihydroxycholanic acid	M+H-3H2O	138	Spectral Match to 12-Ketodeoxycholic acid (NIST14)	M+H
108	Cholic acid	M-3H2O+H	101	.beta.-Muricholic acid	M+H-3H2O
221	Cholic acid	3M+H	34	3.alpha.-Hydroxy-7-oxo-5.beta.-cholanic acid	M+H-H2O
114	Cholic acid	M+Na	20	.alpha.-Hyodeoxycholic acid methyl ester	M+H-CH6O2
259	Cholic Acid	[M+NH4]+	280	.gamma.-Muricholic acid/hyocholic acid	M+H-H2O
224	Cholic acid	3M+Na	100	Spectral Match to Deoxycholic acid (NIST14)	2M+H
235	taurohyocholic acid	M+H	13	Spectral Match to Ursodeoxycholic acid (NIST14)	M+H-H2O
234	Spectral Match to Taurocholic acid (NIST14)	M+H	143	.beta.-Hyodeoxycholic acid	M+H-H2O
248	Spectral Match to Taurocholic acid (NIST14)	M+Na	1	.beta.-Hyodeoxycholic acid	M+H-2H2O
245	taurohyocholic acid	M-2H2O+H			
272	Spectral Match to Cholic acid (NIST14)	M+H-2H2O			
102	.beta.-Muricholic acid	M+H-H2O			
99	hyocholic acid	M-2H2O+H			

Primary Bile Acid
Secondary Bile Acid