

# 1 **Loss of *slc39a14* causes simultaneous manganese deficiency and** 2 **hypersensitivity in zebrafish**

3 Karin Tuschl<sup>1,3</sup>, Richard J White<sup>4,5</sup>, Leonardo E Valdivia<sup>1,6</sup>, Stephanie Niklaus<sup>7</sup>, Isaac H  
4 Bianco<sup>8</sup>, Ian M Sealy<sup>4,5</sup>, Stephan CF Neuhauss<sup>7</sup>, Corinne Houart<sup>2</sup>, Stephen W Wilson<sup>1</sup>,  
5 Elisabeth M Busch-Nentwich<sup>4,5</sup>

6  
7 1 Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, University College London, Gower Street,  
8 WC1E 6BT, UK

9 2 Department of Developmental Neurobiology and MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental  
10 Disorders, IoPPN, Kings College London, New Hunt's House, Guy's Campus, London, SE1  
11 1UL, UK

12 3 UCL GOS Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London, WC1N 1EH, UK

13 4 Wellcome Sanger Institute, Wellcome Genome Campus, CB10 1SA, UK

14 5 Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology & Infectious Disease (CITIID), Jeffrey  
15 Cheah Biomedical Centre, University of Cambridge, Puddicombe Way, Cambridge, CB2 0AW

16 6 Center for Integrative Biology, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Mayor, Santiago, Chile

17 7 Institute of Molecular Life Sciences, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057,  
18 Zurich, Switzerland.

19 8 Department of Neuroscience, Physiology & Pharmacology, University College London,  
20 Gower Street, WC1E 6BT, UK

## 21 **Corresponding authors:**

22 [k.tuschl@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.tuschl@ucl.ac.uk), <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8599-8516>

23 [emb81@cam.ac.uk](mailto:emb81@cam.ac.uk), <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6450-744X>

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26 **Abbreviated title:** *slc39a14* deficiency causes Mn dyshomeostasis

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28 **Key words:** *slc39a14*, manganese, transcriptome, neurotoxicity, vision, calcium

## 29 **Abstract**

30  
31 Mutations in SLC39A14, a manganese uptake transporter, lead to a neurodegenerative  
32 disorder characterised by accumulation of manganese in the brain and rapidly progressive  
33 dystonia-parkinsonism (Hypermanganesemia with Dystonia 2, HMNDYT2). Similar to the  
34 human phenotype, zebrafish *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants show prominent brain manganese  
35 accumulation and abnormal locomotor behaviour. In order to identify novel potential targets of  
36 manganese neurotoxicity, we performed transcriptome analysis of individual homozygous  
37 mutant and sibling *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> zebrafish at five days post fertilisation unexposed and  
38 exposed to MnCl<sub>2</sub>. Anatomical gene enrichment analysis confirmed that differentially  
39 expressed genes map to the central nervous system and eye. Biological interpretation of  
40 differentially expressed genes suggests that calcium dyshomeostasis, activation of the  
41 unfolded protein response, oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, lysosomal disruption,  
42 apoptosis and autophagy, and interference with proteostasis are key events in manganese  
43 neurotoxicity. Differential expression of visual phototransduction genes also predicted visual  
44 dysfunction in mutant larvae which was confirmed by the absence of visual background

45 adaptation and a diminished optokinetic reflex. Surprisingly, we found a group of differentially  
46 expressed genes in mutant larvae that normalised upon  $MnCl_2$  treatment suggesting that, in  
47 addition to neurotoxicity, manganese deficiency is present either subcellularly or in specific  
48 cells or tissues. This may have important implications for treatment as manganese chelation  
49 may aggravate neurological symptoms. Our analyses show that *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutant  
50 zebrafish present a powerful model to study the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying  
51 disrupted manganese homeostasis.

52

## 53 **Significance statement**

54 Manganese neurotoxicity leading to progressive dystonia-parkinsonism is a characteristic  
55 feature of Hypermanganesemia with dystonia 2 (HMNDYT2) caused by mutations in  
56 SLC39A14, a manganese uptake transporter. Transcriptional profiling in *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> loss-of-  
57 function zebrafish suggests that, in addition to manganese neurotoxicity, subcellular or cell  
58 type specific manganese deficiency contributes to the disease phenotype. Both manganese  
59 overload and deficiency appear to be associated with  $Ca^{2+}$  dyshomeostasis. We further  
60 demonstrate that activation of the unfolded protein response, oxidative stress, mitochondrial  
61 dysfunction, apoptosis and autophagy, and disrupted proteostasis are likely downstream  
62 events in manganese neurotoxicity. Our study shows that the zebrafish *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> loss-of-  
63 function mutant is a powerful model to elucidate the mechanistic basis of diseases affected by  
64 manganese dyshomeostasis.

65

## 66 **Introduction**

67 SLC39A14 is a manganese (Mn) uptake transporter essential for the maintenance of Mn  
68 homeostasis (Thompson and Wessling-Resnick, 2019). Mutations in SLC39A14 impair  
69 cellular Mn uptake and result in systemic Mn overload characterised by significant  
70 hypermanganesemia and neurodegeneration (Tuschl et al., 2016; Juneja et al., 2018; Marti-  
71 Sanchez et al., 2018; Rodan et al., 2018; Zeglam et al., 2018). In patients, subsequent  
72 accumulation of Mn in the globus pallidus, a component of the basal ganglia involved in motor  
73 control, leads to rapidly progressive dystonia-parkinsonism with onset in early childhood, a  
74 condition known as Hypermanganesemia with Dystonia 2 (HMNDYT2, OMIM # 617013). In a  
75 small number of patients, treatment has been attempted with Mn chelation using intravenous  
76 disodium calcium edetate ( $Na_2CaEDTA$ ) similar to a protocol established for HMNDYT1  
77 (OMIM # 613280) caused by mutations in SLC30A10, a Mn exporter required for biliary  
78 excretion of Mn (Tuschl et al., 1993; Tuschl et al., 2012). MRI brain imaging of patients with  
79 either disorder are indistinguishable; hyperintensity of the basal ganglia, particularly the globus  
80 pallidus, and the white matter on T1-weighted imaging is a hallmark of both disorders (Tuschl  
81 et al., 2012; Tuschl et al., 2016). While patients with HMNDYT1 show significant improvement  
82 of neurological symptoms upon treatment initiation with stabilisation of the disease over many  
83 years (Tuschl et al., 2008; Tuschl et al., 2012), individuals with HMNDYT2 have variable  
84 treatment response, some even with worsening of their movement disorder (Tuschl et al.,  
85 2016; Marti-Sanchez et al., 2018). Consequently, the reasons for the difference in treatment  
86 response are poorly understood.

87 Although an essential trace metal, excess Mn has long been known to act as a neurotoxicant.  
88 Environmental Mn overexposure leads to preferential Mn accumulation in the globus pallidus  
89 similar to that observed in inherited Mn transporter defects, and causes manganism, a  
90 Parkinsonian movement disorder characterised by bradykinesia, akinetic rigidity, and  
91 dystonia, accompanied by psychiatric disturbances (Blanc, 2018; Chen et al., 2018). Despite  
92 its recognised role in neurodegenerative disease processes, we lack a deeper understanding  
93 of the mechanisms of Mn related neurotoxicity. The clinical similarities between manganism  
94 and Parkinson's disease (PD) suggest that dopaminergic signalling is impaired upon Mn  
95 toxicity. However, in manganism, dopaminergic neurons within the substantia nigra are intact

96 and response to L-DOPA is poor (Koller et al., 2004). Glutamatergic excitotoxicity as well as  
97 altered gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) signalling have also been proposed to underlie Mn  
98 associated neurodegeneration (Caito and Aschner, 2015). Indeed, Mn toxicity is likely  
99 mediated by a number of processes including oxidative stress, impaired mitochondrial  
100 function, protein misfolding and aggregation, and neuroinflammation (Martinez-Finley et al.,  
101 2013; Tjalkens et al., 2017).

102 We have recently established and characterised a zebrafish loss-of-function mutant  
103 *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> that closely resembles the human phenotype with systemic accumulation of Mn,  
104 particularly in the brain (Tuschl et al., 2016). Homozygous mutants develop increased  
105 susceptibility to Mn toxicity and impaired locomotor behaviour upon Mn exposure. Mn levels  
106 can be lowered through chelation with Na<sub>2</sub>CaEDTA similar to what is observed in human  
107 patients (Troche et al., 2016).

108 In this study, we used RNA sequencing on individual larvae from an in-cross of heterozygous  
109 *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> zebrafish to identify novel potential targets of Mn toxicity. Furthermore, we  
110 determined the transcriptional signature elicited in response to MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment in mutant and  
111 sibling fish. Our results provide evidence that, in addition to Mn neurotoxicity, partial Mn  
112 deficiency that corrects upon Mn treatment is a prominent feature of *slc39a14* loss-of-function.  
113 We also determined that Ca<sup>2+</sup> dyshomeostasis is a likely key event in both Mn deficiency and  
114 overload. Mn neurotoxicity appears to be further associated with activation of the unfolded  
115 protein response (UPR), oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, apoptosis and  
116 autophagy, and disruption of lysosomes and proteostasis.

117

## 118 **Materials and Methods**

### 119 **Zebrafish husbandry**

120 Zebrafish were reared on a 14/10 h light/dark cycle at 28.5°C. Embryos were obtained by  
121 natural spawning and staging was performed according to standard criteria (Kimmel et al.,  
122 1995). Previously generated *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> loss-of-function zebrafish and their siblings were  
123 used for all experiments (Tuschl et al., 2016). Ethical approval for zebrafish experiments was  
124 obtained from the Home Office UK under the Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986.

### 125 **Preparation of larvae for RNA and DNA extraction**

126 The progeny of a single in-cross of *slc39a14*<sup>U801+/-</sup> fish were raised under standard  
127 conditions. At 2 dpf, the larvae were split into two groups and one group was exposed to  
128 MnCl<sub>2</sub> added to the fishwater at a concentration of 50 µM. After 72 hours of exposure (at 5  
129 dpf) single larvae were collected in the wells of a 96 well plate, immediately frozen on dry ice  
130 and stored at -80°C. For sequencing, frozen embryos were lysed in 100 µl RLT buffer (Qiagen)  
131 containing 1 µl of 14.3M beta mercaptoethanol (Sigma). The lysate was allowed to bind to 1.8  
132 volumes of Agencourt RNAClean XP (Beckman Coulter) beads for 10 mins. The plate was  
133 then applied to a plate magnet (Invitrogen) until the solution cleared and the supernatant was  
134 removed without disturbing the beads. While still on the magnet the beads were washed three  
135 times with 70% ethanol and total nucleic acid was eluted from the beads as per the  
136 manufacturer's instructions. Nucleic acid samples were used for genotyping of individual  
137 larvae by KASP assay (LGC Genomics) according to the manufacturer's instructions and the  
138 following primers: wild-type allele 5' GGCACATAATAATCCTCCATGGG 3', mutant allele 5'  
139 GGGCACATAATAATCCTCCATGGT 3' and common primer 5'  
140 CCCTGTATGTAGGCCTTCGGGTT 3'. After DNase treatment, RNA was quantified using  
141 either Qubit RNA HS assay or Quant-iT RNA assay (Invitrogen).

## 142 **Transcript counting**

143 DeTCT libraries were generated as described previously (Collins et al., 2015). Briefly, 300 ng  
144 of RNA from each genotyped sample was fragmented and bound to streptavidin beads. The  
145 3' ends of the fragmented RNA were pulled down using a biotinylated polyT primer. An RNA  
146 oligo containing the partial Illumina adapter 2 was ligated to the 5' end of the bound fragment.  
147 The RNA fragment was eluted and reverse transcribed using an anchored oligo dT reverse  
148 transcriptase primer containing one of the 96 unique index sequences and part of the Illumina  
149 adapter 1. The Illumina adapters were completed during a library amplification step and the  
150 libraries were quantified using either the BioPhotometer (Eppendorf) or Pherastar (BMG  
151 Labtech). This was followed by size selection for an insert size of 70–270 bases. Equal  
152 quantities of libraries for each experiment were pooled, quantified by qPCR and sequenced  
153 on either HiSeq 2000 or HiSeq 2500.

154 Sequencing data were analysed as described previously (Collins et al., 2015). Briefly,  
155 sequencing reads were processed with the DeTCT `detag_fastq.pl`  
156 (<https://github.com/iansealy/DETCT>) script and aligned to the GRCz11 reference genome with  
157 BWA 0.5.10 (Li and Durbin, 2009). The resulting BAM files were processed using the DeTCT  
158 pipeline, which results in a list of regions (for simplicity referred to as genes in the Results)  
159 representing 3' ends, together with a count for each sample. These counts were used for  
160 differential expression analysis with DESeq2 (Love et al., 2014). Each region was associated  
161 with Ensembl 95 (Yates et al., 2020) gene annotation based on the nearest transcript in the  
162 appropriate orientation. False positive 3' ends, representing, for example, polyA-rich regions  
163 of the genome, were filtered using the DeTCT `filter_output.pl` script with the `—strict` option.  
164 Gene sets were analysed using the Cytoscape plugin ClueGO (Bindea et al., 2009) for gene  
165 ontology (GO) enrichment and Ontologizer (Bauer et al., 2008) for Zebrafish Anatomy  
166 Ontology (ZFA) enrichment.

## 167 **Quantitative real time PCR (qRT-PCR)**

168 RNA extraction from 30 zebrafish larvae from the same genotype (homozygous mutant or  
169 wild-type) was performed using the TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) according to the recommended  
170 protocol. DNA extraction was performed using the HotSHOT method (Truett et al., 2000). qRT-  
171 PCR was performed using GoTaq qPCR Master Mix (Promega) according to the  
172 recommended protocol. All samples were run in triplicates. qRT-PCR was carried out on a  
173 CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (BioRad). Only primer pairs with R2 values  
174 >0.99 and amplification efficiencies between 95% and 105% were used. Relative  
175 quantification of gene expression was determined using the  $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$  method, with elongation  
176 factor  $1\alpha$  (*ef1a*) as a reference gene (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001). The following primer  
177 sequences were used: *ef1a* forward 5'GTACTTCTCAGGCTGACTGTG3', reverse 5'  
178 ACGATCAGCTGTTTCACTCC3'; *bdnf* forward 5'AGATCGGCTGGCGGTTTATA3', reverse  
179 5'CATTGTGTACACTATCTGCCCC3'; *gnat2* forward 5'GCTGGCAGACGTCATCAAAA3',  
180 reverse 5'CTCGGTGGGAAGGTAGTCAG3'; *hspa5* forward  
181 5'GCTGGGCTGAATGTCATGAG3', reverse 5'CAGCAGAGACACGTCAAAGG3'; *opn1mw2*  
182 forward 5'GCTGTCATTTCTGCGTTCCT3', reverse 5'GACCATGCGTGTTACTTCCC3';  
183 *pde6h* forward 5'CTCGCACCTTCAAGAGCAAG3', reverse  
184 5'CATGTCTCCAAACGCTTCCC3'; *prph2b* forward 5'GCCCTGGTGTCTACTATGG3',  
185 reverse 5'CTCTCGGGATTCTCTGGGTC3'.

## 186 **Optokinetic response (OKR)**

187 The OKR was examined using a custom-built rig to track horizontal eye movements in  
188 response to whole-field motion stimuli. Larvae at 4 dpf were immobilised in 1.5% agarose in a  
189 35 mm petri dish and analysed at 5 dpf. The agarose surrounding the eyes was removed to  
190 allow normal eye movements. Sinusoidal gratings with spatial frequencies of 0.05, 0.1, 0.13  
191 and 0.16 cycles/degree were presented on a cylindrical diffusive screen 25 mm from the centre  
192 of the fish's head. Gratings had a constant velocity of 10 degrees/second and changed  
193 direction and/or spatial frequency every 20 seconds. Eye movements were tracked under

194 infrared illumination (720 nm) at 60 Hz using a Flea3 USB machine vision camera and custom-  
195 written software. A custom-designed Matlab code was used to determine the eye velocity  
196 (degrees per second).

## 197 **Retinal histology**

198 5dpf larvae were fixed in 4% PFA overnight at 4°C. Dehydration was achieved by a series of  
199 increasing ethanol concentrations in PBS (50%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% and 100% ethanol).  
200 After dehydration larvae were incubated in a 1:1 ethanol Technovit 7100 solution (1%  
201 Hardener 1 in Technovit 7100 basic solution) for 1 h followed by incubation in 100% Technovit  
202 solution overnight at room temperature (Heraeus Kulzer, Germany). Larvae were then  
203 embedded in plastic moulds in Technovit 7100 polymerization medium and dried at 37°C for  
204 1 h. Sections of 3 µm thickness were prepared with a microtome, mounted onto glass slides,  
205 and dried at 60°C. Sections were stained with Richardson (Romeis) solution (0.5% Borax,  
206 0.5% Azur II, 0.5% Methylene Blue) and slides were mounted with Entellan (Merck, Darmstadt,  
207 Germany). Images were taken in the brightfield mode of a BX61 microscope (Olympus).

## 208 **Experimental design and statistical analyses**

209 Animals were divided into four experimental groups: unexposed homozygous *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup>  
210 mutants and their siblings (wild-type and heterozygous genotypes), and MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed  
211 homozygous *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants and their siblings (wild-type and heterozygous  
212 genotypes). For the DeTCT data, an equal number of wild-type and heterozygous embryos  
213 were selected (see Fig. 1 for numbers of embryos for each experimental group). Embryos  
214 were all derived from a single cross to minimise the amount of biological variance not caused  
215 by the experimental conditions (i.e. genotype and Mn exposure). One wild-type Mn-exposed  
216 embryo was excluded from the data after visual inspection of the Principal Component  
217 Analysis as it did not group with any of the other samples. DESeq2 was used for differential  
218 expression analysis with the following model: ~ genotype + treatment + genotype:treatment.  
219 This models the observed counts as a function of the genotype (homozygous vs siblings) and  
220 the treatment (Mn exposed vs unexposed) and an interaction between the two and tests for  
221 significant parameters using the Wald test with a p value threshold of 0.05. For qRT-PCR and  
222 OKR analysis ANOVA with Tukey post-hoc testing was used to determine statistical  
223 significance, using the GraphPad Prism software (version 5). For GO term analysis, the  
224 settings for ClueGO were as follows: a right-sided hypergeometric test (enrichment only) was  
225 used with the Bonferroni step-down (Holm-Bonferroni) correction for multiple testing and terms  
226 with corrected p values >0.05 were discarded. For ZFA enrichment analysis, the Ontologizer  
227 Parent-Child-Union calculation method was used with Bonferroni correction.

## 228 **Transcription factor motif analysis**

229 Transcription factor motif enrichment was performed using HOMER's findMotifs.pl tool  
230 (v4.10.3) with default settings (Heinz et al., 2010). The GRCz11 promoter set used was  
231 created with HOMER's updatePromoters.pl tool based on RefSeq genes from -2000 bp to  
232 2000 bp relative to the TSS.

## 233 **Results**

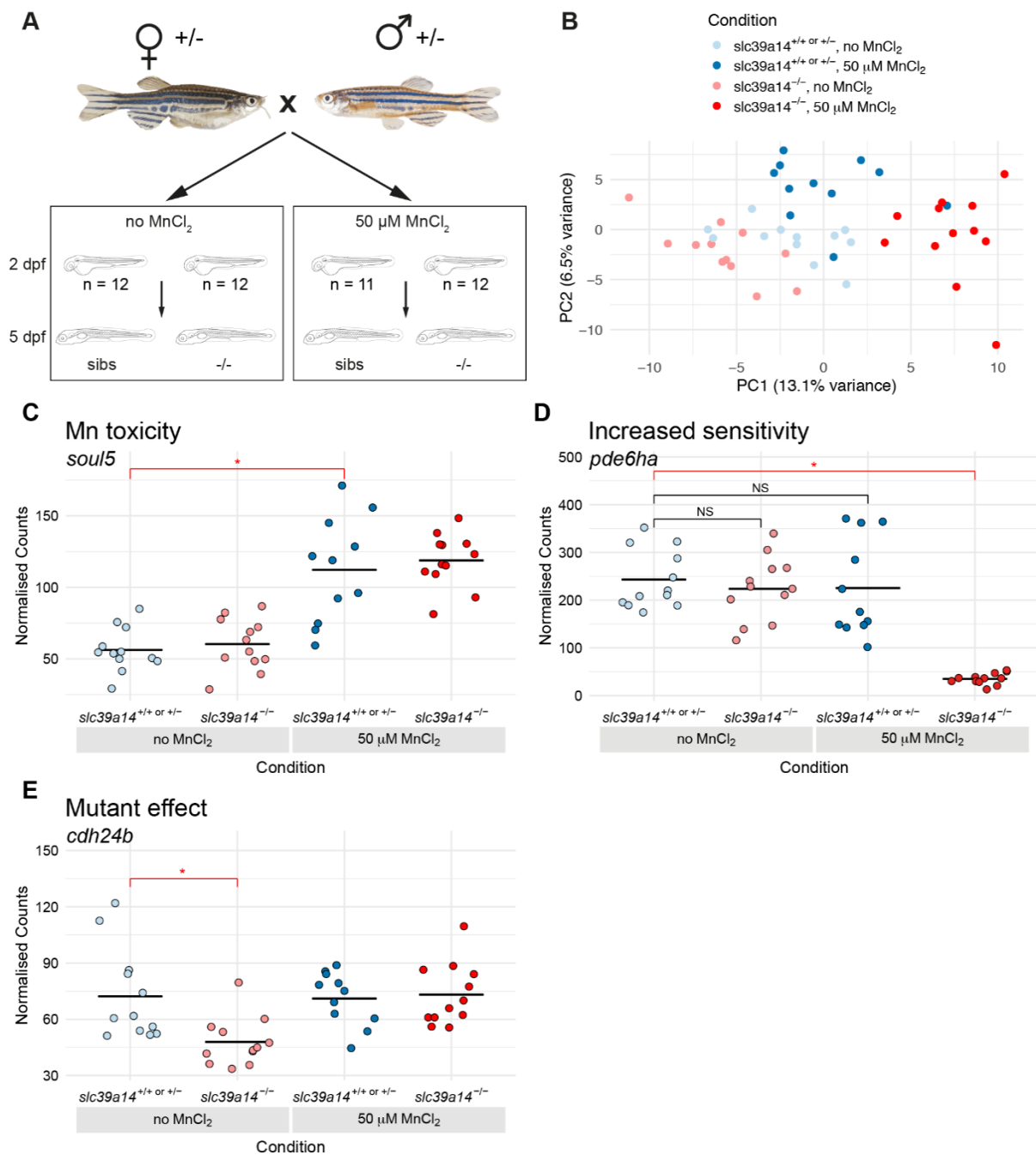
### 234 **Transcriptome analysis of *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> mutants identifies increased sensitivity to Mn** 235 **toxicity and highlights additional Mn deficiency effects in homozygous mutants**

236 To investigate the transcriptional profiles of *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants in the absence and  
237 presence of Mn treatment, embryos from a heterozygous in-cross were split into two groups  
238 and either raised under standard conditions (later referred to as unexposed), or treated with  
239 50 µM MnCl<sub>2</sub> from 2 until 5 days post fertilisation (dpf) (Fig. 1A). We have previously shown  
240 that this concentration elicits a locomotor phenotype in homozygous mutant larvae that is  
241 absent in siblings (Tuschl et al., 2016). We then carried out transcriptional profiling of individual  
242 5 dpf larvae using 3' tag sequencing (Collins et al., 2015). Principal Component Analysis  
243 (PCA) shows that the samples cluster according to genotype and treatment status (Fig. 1B).

244 Analysis of differentially expressed genes between the four conditions produced three large  
 245 sets of genes where each set had a characteristic expression profile. The first set are genes  
 246 that are differentially expressed in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed siblings compared with unexposed siblings  
 247 (Fig. 1C, Mn toxicity) and represent a response to an increased concentration of Mn in the  
 248 embryos. The second set contains genes that show increased sensitivity to Mn in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-</sup>  
 249 <sup>-/-</sup> mutants. These are defined as genes that are differentially expressed in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed  
 250 mutants compared with unexposed siblings, but not differentially expressed in unexposed  
 251 mutants compared to unexposed siblings or exposed siblings compared with unexposed  
 252 siblings (Fig. 1D, Increased sensitivity). The third set is composed of genes that are  
 253 differentially expressed in unexposed mutants compared with unexposed siblings (Fig. 1E,  
 254 Mutant effect). We will now consider these three groups of genes in turn (Table 1).

255

256



257

258 **Fig. 1. DeTCT analysis identifies three groups of differentially expressed genes.**  
259 (A) Diagram of the experiment. Embryos from a *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> heterozygous in-cross were either  
260 exposed to 50  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub> or left unexposed from 2 to 5 dpf.  
261 (B) Principal Component Analysis of the samples. Principal component (PC) 1 is plotted on the x-axis  
262 and PC2 on the y-axis. Samples belonging to the same condition group together. Unexposed sibling  
263 embryos are light blue and MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed ones are dark blue. Unexposed mutants are coloured light  
264 red and exposed mutants are dark red.  
265 (C) Group 1 (Mn toxicity) genes are defined as those with a significant difference between exposed and  
266 unexposed siblings (red bar with asterisk). Example plot of normalised counts for the *soul5* gene. The  
267 colour scheme for C–E is the same as in (B).  
268 (D) Group 2 (Increased sensitivity) genes are defined as those with a significant difference between  
269 exposed mutants and unexposed siblings (red bar with asterisk) without significant differences in either  
270 unexposed mutants or exposed siblings when compared to unexposed siblings (black bars labelled  
271 NS).  
272 (E) Group3 (Mutant effect) is defined as genes with a significant difference between unexposed mutants  
273 and unexposed siblings (red bar with asterisk).  
274

Mn toxicity independent of the genotype	Increased sensitivity of <i>slc39a14</i> <sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants to MnCl <sub>2</sub> treatment	Mutant effect changes in <i>slc39a14</i> <sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants
Neuronal differentiation/growth <i>bdnf</i>	Glutamate neurotransmission <i>slc1a2a, slc1a2b, slc1a8a, nsq2, prt1</i>	Rescued by MnCl <sub>2</sub> treatment (Mn deficiency)
GABA neurotransmission <i>pvalb2, pvalb8</i>	GABA neurotransmission <i>pvalb1, nptxb, gabra6a, gabrb3, slc6a11b</i>	Cell-cell adhesion - Ca <sup>2+</sup> <i>cdh24b, cttnb1, pcdh1a, pcdh2g17, pcdh7b, pcdh9, pcdh10a, pcdh17, pcdh19</i>
Glutamate neurotransmission <i>grm8a</i>	Dopaminergic neurotransmission <i>gnb5b, gpr3711b, faim2b</i>	Cytoskeleton <i>fhod3b, fnbp1a, fnbp4</i>
Presynaptic neurotransmitter release <i>rims2b, stxbp1a, sv2a, sypb, syt9a</i>	Presynaptic neurotransmitter release <i>rims2a, syngn1a, syt17</i>	Muscle <i>mef2aa, mef2cb, mtmr12, qkia, rbfox1, sgcd, tnnt3a, tnnt3b</i>
Signalling, axon guidance <i>efnb1, efnb2a</i>	Astrocytes <i>atf5a, atf5b, gfap</i>	Ca <sup>2+</sup> homeostasis <i>atp2a1, atp2b3b, cacnb4b, kcnma1a, kcnn1a, calm1b, calm3a, camta1b, strn4</i>
Ca <sup>2+</sup> homeostasis <i>atp2a1, kcnn1a</i>	Ca <sup>2+</sup> homeostasis <i>atp2a2b, atp2b1b, calr3, canx, camk1ga, camk2g1, camkva, capn7, dct, icn, ncaldb, pcdh7b, ppp3r1a, rgn, s100b, scpp1, tnni2a.4</i>	Presynaptic neurotransmitter Release <i>snap25a, sv2a, sypb, syt6a, syt9a</i>
Inhibition of α-synuclein aggregation <i>Sncb</i>	Unfolded protein response <i>atf3, atf4b, atf6, derl1, dnajb11, herpud1, hspa5, hspd1, hspe1, syvn1, xbp1</i>	Neurite growth <i>dock3, gas7a, kalrna, kalrnb, lrcc4c</i>
Connective tissue <i>col2a1b, col4a5, col9a1, col9a2, col11a2, fbn2b, matn1</i>	Autophagy <i>glipr2l, hmgn2, rubcn</i>	Potassium channels <i>kcnc1a, kcnc3a</i>
Lipid metabolism <i>apoa4a, apoa4b.2, apoea</i>	Apoptosis <i>bri3bp, ppp1r13ba, taok2b, tmem214</i>	Brain specific adhesion molecules <i>cadm3, nlgn2b, nrcama, nrxn3a</i>
Porphyrim metabolism <i>alas1, fech, soul5</i>	Ubiquitination / proteostasis <i>otud5a, rer1, ube2l3b, ubqln4, ubtd1a, usp9, usp10, usp21</i>	Ubiquitination / proteostasis <i>birc6, fbwx11b, smurf2, serf2, stk40, ube2b, ube2ql1, vcp</i>
Thyroid function <i>dio3b</i>	Oxidative stress <i>prdx1, txn, txnr3</i>	Not rescued by MnCl <sub>2</sub> treatment
Ribosomal function <i>rpl11, rpl14, rpl23, rpl23a, rpl30, rpl32, rpl34, rpl35, rpl35a, rpl36, rpl36a, rpl38, rpl4, rpl5b, rpl7, rpl8, rpl9, rplp1, rplp2, rplp2l, rps10, rps11, rps12, rps13, rps14, rps15a, rps17, rps18, rps19, rps21, rps24, rps26l, rps28, rps3a, rps5</i>	Ribosomal function & translation <i>rrp8, rrp12, rplp2, rps7, rps20, mrps30, eif1axb, eif4a1a, eif4bb, eif4e1c, eif4g1a, eif4h, eif5b, aars, cars, farsa, gars, kars, larsb, mars, nars, sars, yars</i>	Neuronal differentiation/growth <i>bdnf</i>
	Lysosomal function <i>ctsd, ctsk, ctsla, ctsll, lgmn</i>	Presynaptic neurotransmitter release <i>rims2b, sypa</i>
	Wnt/β-catenin signalling <i>amer2, dact1</i>	Ca <sup>2+</sup> homeostasis <i>atp2a1</i>
	Akt/PI3K/mTOR signalling <i>pik3c2b, pik3r1, pik3r3a, pik3r3b, rhebl1</i>	Porphyrim metabolism <i>alas1</i>
	Purine and pyrimidine metabolism <i>adssl1, dus4l, paics, pnp5a, prps1a</i>	Thyroid function <i>dio3b</i>
	Glycosylation <i>alg2, dpm1, gpaal, nus1, pgap2</i>	
	Gluconeogenesis <i>gapdh, gapdhs, pfkfb3, pkma</i>	
	Extracellular matrix <i>fn1b, lamb1b, vtnb</i>	
	Mitochondrial function <i>atp5l, ckmt2a, mrps30, nfu1, suclg1, tomm6</i>	

275 **Table 1. Differentially expressed genes grouped by function.** Full lists in Supplementary Table 1.  
276 Red, increased gene expression. Blue, reduced gene expression.



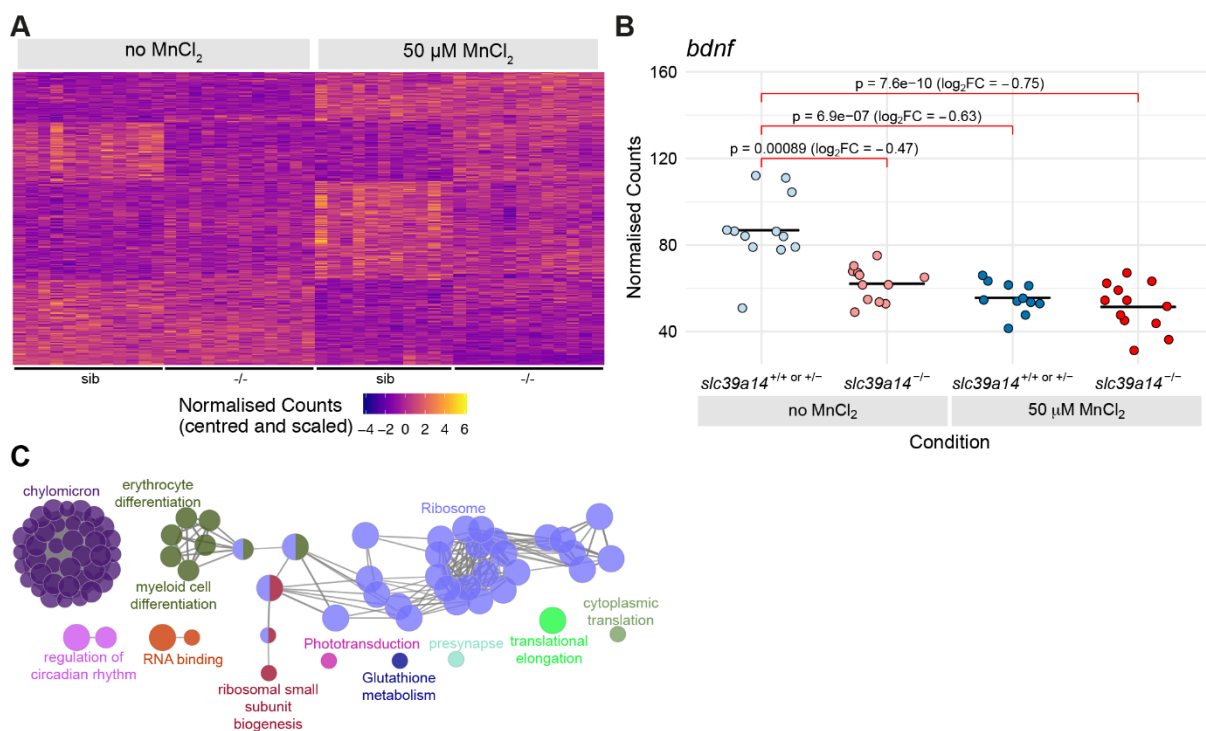
## 277 Mn toxicity causes differential gene expression independent from the genotype

278 MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment caused differential expression of 328 genes independent of the genotype  
279 (comparing MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed siblings and unexposed siblings) (Fig. 2A, Table 1 and  
280 Supplementary Table 1). Among them is brain-derived neurotrophic factor (*bdnf*) encoding a  
281 protein that is known to be altered upon Mn exposure (Zou et al., 2014). In addition, *bdnf*  
282 expression is also diminished in untreated mutants compared to siblings (Fig. 2B). Given that  
283 *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants show evidence of Mn toxicity already at 5 dpf (increased total Mn and  
284 reduced locomotor activity), this suggests that *bdnf* expression is a sensitive read-out for Mn  
285 toxicity. Mn associated suppression of BDNF signalling has been linked to diminished  
286 numbers of parvalbumin positive cells, mainly GABAergic interneurons (Fairless et al., 2019).  
287 Indeed, we find Parvalbumin encoding genes differentially expressed upon Mn exposure in  
288 mutants as well as siblings (*pvalb2*, *pvalb8*) and in treated mutants only (*pvalb1*). However,  
289 parvalbumin mRNA expression is upregulated in response to Mn in mutants and siblings,  
290 which is unexpected given the previously reported link to reduced numbers of Parvalbumin  
291 positive cells.

292 Among other brain-expressed genes affected by MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure in siblings are some involved  
293 in synaptic vesicle function (*rims2b*, *stxbp1a*, *sv2a*, *sypb*, *syt9a*), and genes encoding the  
294 metabotropic glutamate receptor (*grm8a*), β-synuclein (*sncb*) and ephrin-B membrane  
295 proteins (*efnb1*, *efnb2a*). Reduced ephrin-B levels have been linked to the pathophysiology of  
296 Alzheimer's disease (AD) (Mroczko et al., 2018).

297 Mn is important for connective tissue integrity and bone mineralisation as a constituent of  
298 metalloenzymes and an enzyme co-factor (Sirri et al., 2016; Zofkova et al., 2017). Accordingly,  
299 our transcriptome analysis confirms that Mn exposure in zebrafish leads to reduced  
300 expression of multiple connective tissue related genes (*col2a1b*, *col4a5*, *col9a1a*, *col9a2*,  
301 *col11a2*, *dcn*, *fbn2b*, *matn1*).

302 Analysis of annotations to Gene Ontology (GO) terms shows enrichments of terms related to  
303 lipid metabolism (*apoa4b.2*, *apoa4a*, *apoea*), blood cell development (*alas1*, *fech*, *soul5*; Fig.  
304 1C) and translation (35 ribosomal protein encoding genes) (Fig. 2C; Supplementary Table 2).  
305 Mn has previously been shown to interfere with heme-enzyme biogenesis and protein  
306 synthesis (Kaur et al., 2017; Chino et al., 2018; Hernandez et al., 2019).



307

308 **Fig. 2. Manganese overexposure causes neurotoxicity and metabolic defects in wild-type**  
309 **zebrafish.**

310 (A) Heatmap of the expression of all 328 genes with a significant difference between exposed and  
311 unexposed siblings (Group 1 - Mn toxicity, Supplementary Table 1). Each row represents a different  
312 gene and each column is a sample. Mutant embryos are displayed for completeness although the group  
313 of genes is defined by the response in siblings only. The normalised counts for each gene have been  
314 mean centred and scaled by dividing by the standard deviation.

315 (B) Plot of the normalised counts for each sample of a gene (*bdnf*) in Group 1. Unexposed sibling  
316 embryos are light blue and MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed ones are dark blue. Unexposed mutants are coloured light  
317 red and exposed mutants are dark red.

318 (C) Enrichment of Gene Ontology (GO) terms associated with the genes in (A). Diagram produced using  
319 the CytoScape ClueGO App. Nodes represent enriched GO terms and edges connect GO terms that  
320 have annotated genes in common. Different components of the network are coloured according to the  
321 categories labelled on the diagram.

322

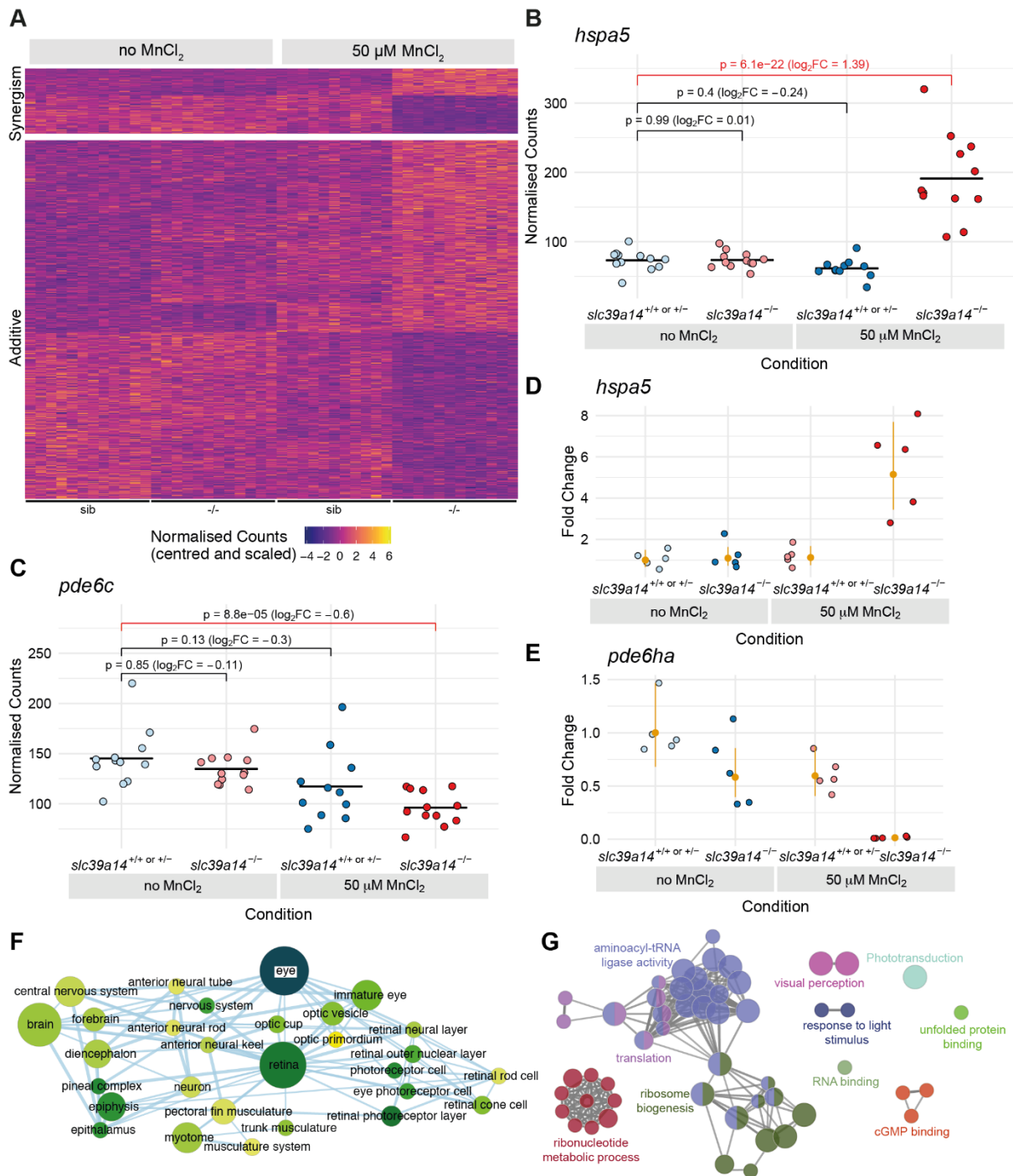
323

324 ***slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants show increased sensitivity to MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment compared to**  
325 **siblings**

326 Our analysis showed that 613 genes are differentially expressed in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed mutants  
327 compared with unexposed siblings, with no significant expression changes in either  
328 unexposed mutants or exposed siblings. Therefore, these are genes that show increased  
329 sensitivity to MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutant larvae (Fig. 3A). 15% (95/613) of these  
330 genes also have a significant genotype-treatment interaction effect meaning that there is a  
331 synergistic effect on expression of treating mutant embryos with MnCl<sub>2</sub> – i.e. the combined  
332 estimated effects of genotype and MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment alone are significantly less than the  
333 estimated log<sub>2</sub> fold change for MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed mutants when compared to unexposed siblings  
334 (Fig. 3B, Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1). The remaining genes (518/613) show  
335 expression changes consistent with additive effects of the sub-significance threshold  
336 responses to genotype and MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure alone (Fig. 3C). Results from the transcriptome  
337 analysis were validated by qRT-PCR for a subset of six genes (*bdnf*, *gnat2*, *hspa5*, *opn1mw2*,  
338 *pde6h*, *prph2b*) using RNA extracted from equivalent embryos in a different experiment (Fig.  
339 3D–E, Supplementary Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 3). Changes in gene expression  
340 observed by qRT-PCR for all six genes were consistent with the results obtained from  
341 transcript counting (compare, for instance, Fig. 1D with Fig. 3E and Fig. 3B with Fig. 3D).

342 Enrichment of zebrafish anatomy (ZFA) terms shows that genes differentially expressed upon  
343 MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants are disproportionately expressed in the eye and  
344 nervous system (Fig. 3F; Supplementary Table 4). This is confirmed by the enrichment of GO  
345 terms such as visual perception and phototransduction. Also enriched are terms related to the  
346 ribosome, translation and the unfolded protein response (UPR) suggesting effects on protein  
347 production and folding (Fig. 3G and Supplementary Table 2).

348



349

350

351 **Fig. 3. Effect of Mn treatment in *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants.**

352 (A) Heatmap of the expression of all genes (613) with a significant difference between exposed mutant  
353 and unexposed sibling embryos without significant treatment or genotype effects. The heatmaps are  
354 split into genes that show either synergistic or additive effects of the individual genotype and treatment  
355 effects. Each row represents a different gene and each column is a sample. The normalised counts for  
356 each gene have been mean centred and scaled by dividing by the standard deviation.

357 (B) Example of a gene (*hspa5*) with a synergistic effect of treatment and genotype. The difference  
358 between the exposed mutants and unexposed siblings cannot be explained by adding together the  
359 separate effects of Mn treatment and the *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> mutation. Unexposed sibling embryos are light  
360 blue and MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed ones are dark blue. Unexposed mutants are coloured light red and exposed  
361 mutants are dark red.

362 (C) Example of a gene (*pde6c*) that has an additive effect of treatment and genotype. The two sub-  
363 threshold effects of treatment and genotype produce the difference between exposed mutants and  
364 unexposed siblings when added together. Colour scheme as in (B).

365 (D–E) qRT-PCR shows comparable gene expression changes as for the single embryo sequencing  
366 dataset. The individual samples are displayed as fold change relative to the mean value for unexposed  
367 siblings and the mean and 95% confidence intervals for each condition are in orange. (D) *hspa5*.  
368 Compare with (B). (E) *pde6ha*. Compare with Fig. 1D.

369 (F) Enrichment Map network of the Zebrafish Anatomy Ontology (ZFA) enrichment results. Each node  
370 represents an enriched term and the edges join nodes that have overlapping genes annotated to them.  
371 The width of each edge is proportional to amount of overlap, nodes are coloured by  $-\log_{10}[\text{Adjusted } p$   
372  $\text{value}]$  and the size represents the number of significant genes annotated to the term.

373 (G) ClueGO network diagram of the enrichment of Gene Ontology (GO) terms. Nodes represent  
374 enriched GO terms and edges connect nodes that share annotations to the significant genes. Different  
375 components of the network are coloured according to the categories as labelled on the diagram.

376

377

### 378 **Increased sensitivity of *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants to MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment leads to Mn** 379 **neurotoxicity**

380 Enriched ZFA terms identified in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants that are not present  
381 in siblings confirm a high number of differentially expressed genes in the nervous system  
382 (Supplementary Table 4) consistent with the known role of Mn in neurotoxicity. Differentially  
383 expressed genes include several related to glutamatergic, GABAergic and dopaminergic  
384 signalling similar to previous studies that demonstrate impaired neurotransmitter signalling as  
385 a key event in Mn neurotoxicity (Marreilha Dos Santos et al., 2011). Genes with a link to  
386 glutamatergic circuitry include *slc1a2a* and *slc1a2b*, encoding the glutamate uptake  
387 transporter EAAT2, and *slc1a8a*, encoding a glutamate transporter present in teleosts only  
388 (Gesemann et al., 2010; Karki et al., 2015). Two genes required for the regulation of ionotropic  
389 AMPA type glutamate receptors (AMPA) (*nsg2*, *prrt1*) show diminished expression in MnCl<sub>2</sub>  
390 treated mutants (Chander et al., 2019; Troyano-Rodriguez et al., 2019).

391 Furthermore, we observe increased expression of *slc6a11b*, encoding a GABA uptake  
392 transporter, as well as the parvalbumin encoding gene (*pvalb1*) present in GABAergic  
393 interneurons. Expression of the GABA-A receptor encoding genes *gabra6a* and *gabrb3*, and  
394 *nptxrb*, encoding the neuronal pentraxin receptor expressed in parvalbumin positive  
395 interneurons (Kikuchihara et al., 2015), is reduced.

396 Differentially expressed genes associated with dopaminergic signalling include *gnb5b* and  
397 *gpr37l1b* that interact with neurotransmission via the D2 receptor, and *faim2b* for which loss-  
398 of-function increases susceptibility to dopaminergic neuron degeneration (Oteau et al., 2014;  
399 Komnig et al., 2016; Hertz et al., 2019). Furthermore, genes required for presynaptic  
400 neurotransmitter release (*rims2a*, *syng1a*, *syt17*) show reduced expression. A role for  
401 astrocyte mediated Mn neurotoxicity and neuroinflammation is suggested by increased  
402 expression of the astrocyte related genes *atf5a*, *atf5b* and *gfap*.

403

### 404 **Increased sensitivity of *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants to MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment is associated with** 405 **gene expression changes affecting calcium and protein homeostasis, and the unfolded** 406 **protein response**

407 Mn toxicity is known to cause protein misfolding and aggregation (Angeli et al., 2014;  
408 Harischandra et al., 2019b) and, as previously shown for Mn overexposure in *C. elegans*  
409 (Angeli et al., 2014), multiple genes involved in the UPR have increased expression in  
410 *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment while siblings appear unaffected (Table 1 and  
411 Supplementary table 1). Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis within the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) plays a  
412 major role during the UPR and vice versa. Potentially linked to the UPR, over dozen of Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
413 associated/dependent genes are differentially expressed (Table 1). In MnCl<sub>2</sub> treated

414 *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutants we observe differential expression of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPase encoding genes  
415 *atp2a2b* (SERCA2) and *atp2b1b* (PMCA1) as well as increased expression of genes encoding  
416 the Ca<sup>2+</sup> chaperones calreticulin 3 (*calr3*) and calnexin (*canx*). Activation of the UPR as well  
417 as Ca<sup>2+</sup> dyshomeostasis can promote apoptosis and autophagy. Concordantly, genes involved  
418 in autophagy and apoptosis are differentially expressed (Table 1). Degradation of misfolded  
419 and aggregated proteins occurs via the ubiquitin-proteasome system within the cytosol  
420 (Tamas et al., 2014) and MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutants show gene expression  
421 changes linked to ubiquitination (Table 1).

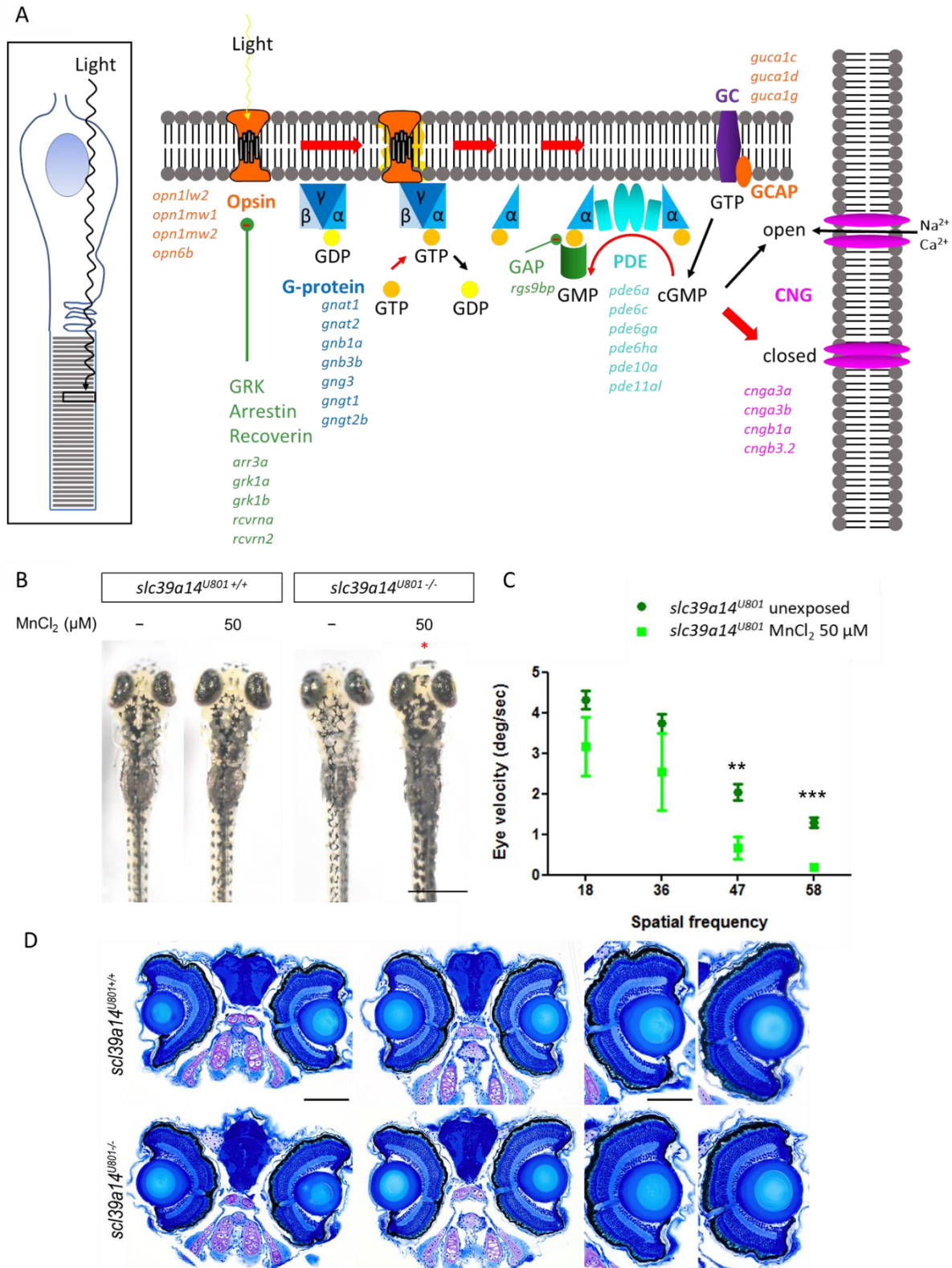
422 Oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction are prominent features of Mn toxicity (Smith et  
423 al., 2017; Harischandra et al., 2019a). Consistent with this observation, essential genes of the  
424 thioredoxin/peroxiredoxin system (*prdx1*, *txn*, *txnrd3*) are activated in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed  
425 *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutants. Likewise, genes related to mitochondrial function show differential  
426 expression in MnCl<sub>2</sub> treated mutants (Table 1).

427 As suggested by GO analysis, we observed pronounced expression changes of genes  
428 associated with ribosomal function and translation. MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment of *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutants  
429 led to differential expression of eleven genes encoding tRNA synthetases, seven genes  
430 encoding translation initiation factors and six genes encoding ribosomal proteins. As  
431 mentioned above, Mn toxicity independent of the genotype led to differential expression of  
432 additional 33 ribosomal protein encoding genes suggesting that protein synthesis is a  
433 prominent target of Mn toxicity.

434

#### 435 **Increased sensitivity of *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutants to MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment manifests as impaired** 436 **vision**

437 30 genes involved in phototransduction were differentially expressed in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed  
438 mutants but not in siblings (Fig. 4A, Supplementary Table 1). Hence, we further examined the  
439 vision of *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutants. Raising *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> mutant embryos/larvae on a 14 hour  
440 light, 10 hour dark cycle revealed absent visual background adaptation upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure  
441 while exposed wild-type larvae and unexposed mutants showed normal pigmentation (Fig.  
442 4B). Visual background adaptation requires normal vision and is therefore impaired in blind  
443 larvae (Le et al., 2012). To determine whether *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> larvae develop visual impairment,  
444 the optokinetic response (OKR) was analysed in homozygous *slc39a14*<sup>U801<sup>-/-</sup></sup> larvae at 5 dpf  
445 after MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure. Exposed mutant larvae demonstrated a significant reduction in slow  
446 phase eye velocity at high spatial frequencies (Fig. 4C). Therefore, as predicted from the  
447 observed gene expression changes, Mn exposure leads to visual impairment and subsequent  
448 diminished visual background adaptation. Retinal histology appeared normal suggesting  
449 functional rather than overt structural deficits (Fig. 4D).



450

451 **Fig. 4. *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> loss-of-function mutants develop a visual phenotype upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure.**

452 (A) Schematic showing the process of phototransduction (Kaupp and Seifert, 2002) with differentially  
 453 expressed genes observed in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801 -/-</sup> mutants in italics. cGMP, cyclic guanosine  
 454 monophosphate. CNG, cyclic nucleotide gated non-selective cation channels. GC, guanylyl cyclase.  
 455 GCAP, guanylate cyclase activating protein. PDE, phosphodiesterase. GRK, G-protein coupled  
 456 receptor kinase. GAP, GTPase activating protein.

457 (B) Dorsal views of wild-type siblings (*slc39a14*<sup>U801+/+</sup>, on the left) and *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> larvae (on the  
458 right) at 5 dpf unexposed and exposed to 50  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub>. \* indicates abnormal visual background  
459 adaptation. Scale bar 500  $\mu$ m.

460 (C) Graph showing the OKR (average of both eyes) of *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> larvae unexposed (dark green  
461 squares) and exposed to 50  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub> (light green circles). Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. from  
462 five independent experiments. (\*\*p<0.01; \*\*\* p<0.001).

463 (D) Histologic analysis of retinal sections stained with Richardson–Romeis of wild-type siblings  
464 (*slc39a14*<sup>U801+/+</sup>, top row) and *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> larvae (bottom row) at 5 dpf exposed to 50  $\mu$ M MnCl<sub>2</sub>.

465

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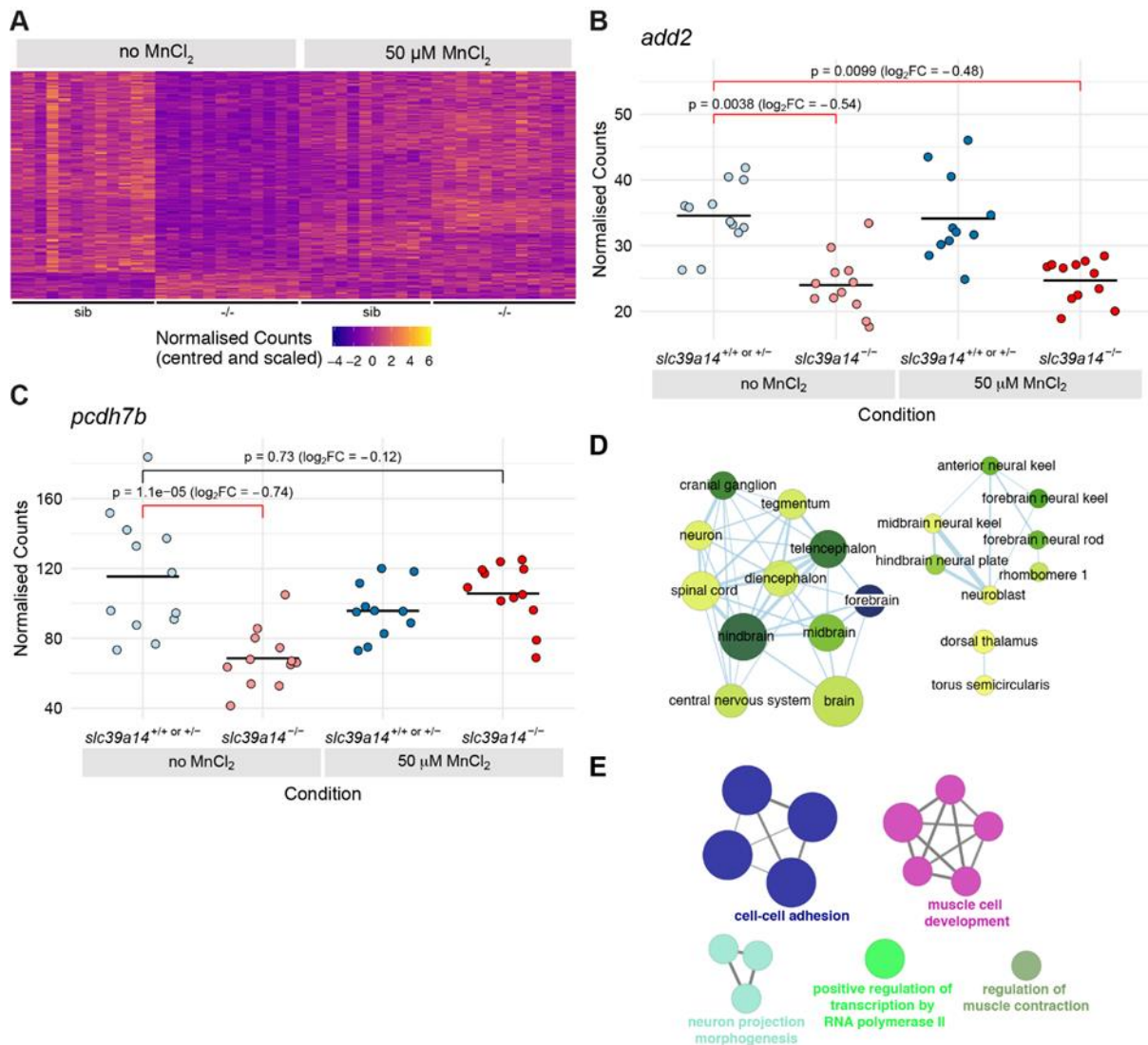
#### 467 **Most genes affected in unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants are rescued by Mn treatment** 468 **suggesting Mn deficiency**

469 When compared to unexposed siblings, 266 genes show significantly different expression due  
470 to the U801 mutation alone (unexposed mutants versus unexposed siblings) (Fig. 5A;  
471 Supplementary table 1). Expression of 12% of these genes (31/266) is also significantly  
472 different between MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed mutants and unexposed siblings (Fig. 5B). Seven of these  
473 genes overlap with those differentially expressed in siblings upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure suggesting  
474 that these genes are sensitive targets of Mn toxicity (*alas1*, *atp2a1*, *bdnf*, *crim1*, *dio3b*, *dip2ca*,  
475 *rims2b*). However, the majority (88%, 235/266) of differentially expressed genes in unexposed  
476 mutants are not significantly differentially expressed when comparing MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed mutants  
477 and unexposed siblings (Fig. 5C). This suggests that the U801 mutation creates Mn deficiency  
478 leading to gene expression changes that are rescued by MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment towards levels  
479 observed in unexposed siblings.

480 Zebrafish anatomy (ZFA) terms for the nervous system are enriched in this set of genes (Fig.  
481 5D; Supplementary Table 4) and there is an enrichment for the GO terms cell-cell morphology,  
482 adhesion and cell-cell interactions (*cadm3*, *cdh24b*, *ctnnb1*, *fhod3b*, *fnbp1a*, *fnbp4*, *nlgn2b*,  
483 *nrcama*, *nrxn3a*, *pcdh1a*, *pcdh2g17*, *pcdh7b*, *pcdh9*, *pcdh10a*, *pcdh17*) (Fig. 5E;  
484 Supplementary Table 2). Other brain expressed genes that change upon Mn deficiency  
485 include some essential for synaptic function and vesicle formation (*snap25a*, *sv2a*, *sy pb*,  
486 *syt6a*, *syt9a*), neurite and axonal growth (*dock3*, *gas7a*, *kalrna*, *kalrn b*, *lrrc4c*) and potassium  
487 channels (*kcnc1a*, *kcnc3a*).

488 In addition, a group of differentially expressed Ca<sup>2+</sup> associated genes are rescued by Mn  
489 treatment that is different to that observed upon Mn toxicity. These include genes encoding  
490 Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPases (*atp2a1*, *atp2b3b*), Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels (*cacnb4b*), Ca<sup>2+</sup> activated potassium  
491 channels (*kcnma1a*, *kcnn1a*), calmodulins (*calm1b*, *calm3a*) and calmodulin binding proteins  
492 (*camta1b*, *strn4*). Similarly, expression changes of genes involved in proteostasis and  
493 ubiquitination are observed in both Mn deficiency and toxicity, with a distinct affected gene set  
494 for each condition (Table 1).

495



496

497 **Fig. 5. Exogenous Mn restores normal expression of many genes differentially expressed in**  
 498 **unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants.**

499 (A) Heatmap of the expression of 266 genes with a significant difference between unexposed mutants  
 500 and unexposed siblings. Each row represents a different gene and each column is a sample. The  
 501 normalised counts for each gene have been mean centred and scaled by dividing by the standard  
 502 deviation.

503 (B) Plot of normalised counts for the *add2* gene. Expression is decreased in both unexposed and MnCl<sub>2</sub>  
 504 exposed mutant embryos. Unexposed sibling embryos are light blue and Mn-exposed ones are dark  
 505 blue. Unexposed mutants are coloured light red and exposed mutants are dark red.

506 (C) Plot of normalised counts for the *pcdh7b* gene. There are decreased counts in the unexposed  
 507 mutant embryos that are rescued back to wild-type levels upon 50 μM MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment. Colour scheme  
 508 as in (B).

509 (C) Enrichment Map diagram of the enrichment of Zebrafish Anatomy Ontology (ZFA) terms for the  
 510 genes differentially expressed in unexposed mutants that are rescued by Mn treatment. Nodes  
 511 represent enriched ZFA terms and edges connect nodes that share annotations to the significant genes.  
 512 The width of each edge is proportional to amount of overlap, nodes are coloured by  $-\log_{10}$ [Adjusted p  
 513 value] and the size represents the number of significant genes annotated to the term.

514 (D) ClueGO network diagram of the enrichment of Gene Ontology (GO) terms associated with the genes  
 515 that are rescued by Mn treatment. Nodes represent enriched GO terms and edges connect nodes that  
 516 share annotations to the significant genes. Different components of the network are coloured according  
 517 to the categories as labelled on the diagram.

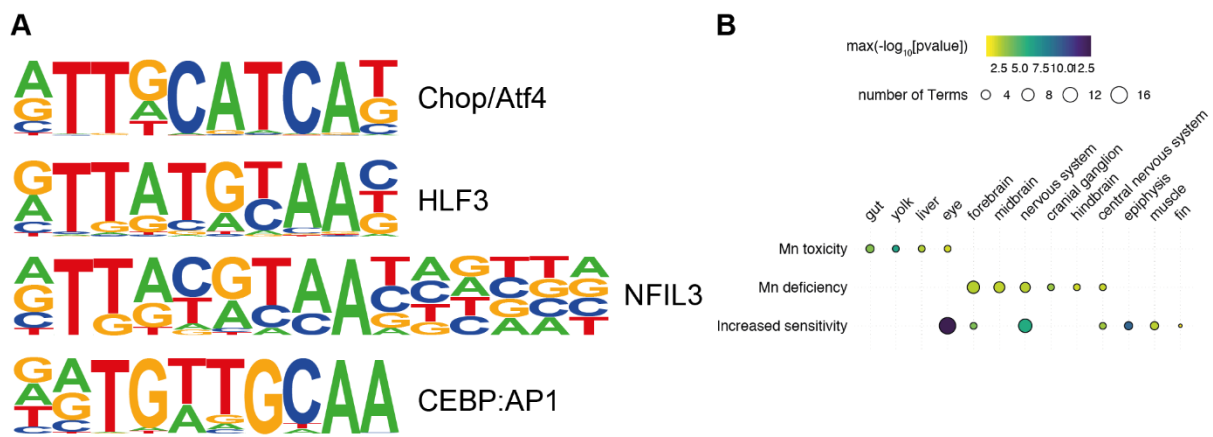
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519



520 **Both Mn toxicity and deficiency in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants target the central nervous**  
 521 **system**

522 We analysed the three different gene sets for transcription factor motif enrichment using  
 523 HOMER (Fig. 6A). The only enriched motifs we could identify were from the largest gene set  
 524 identified in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment that were unchanged in treated  
 525 siblings. The motifs included Chop/Atf4 which are part of the unfolded protein response  
 526 (UPR), as well as HLF, NFIL3 and CEBP:AP1 (Supplementary Table 5). We next examined  
 527 the enriched Zebrafish Anatomy Ontology (ZFA) terms for each gene set to identify tissue  
 528 specificity of the observed gene expression changes (Fig. 6B). Whereas differentially  
 529 expressed genes due to Mn toxicity effects independent of the genotype showed enrichment  
 530 of ZFA terms primarily associated with liver and gut, the genes with differential expression  
 531 due to Mn deficiency and increased sensitivity to Mn in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants showed  
 532 enrichment for the central nervous system (Supplementary Table 4).  
 533



534

535 **Fig. 6. Comparative analysis of gene sets.**

536 (A) Example consensus binding motifs found to be enriched in the promoters of genes that show  
 537 increased sensitivity to Mn treatment in *slc29a14*<sup>U801</sup> mutants (Group 1). The height of each base  
 538 represents its frequency at that position in the consensus motif.

539 (B) Bubble plot of the ZFA enrichment results across the three categories of response. Individual  
 540 enriched ZFA terms were aggregated to the tissue/organ level. For example, the terms optic cup, retina  
 541 and photoreceptor cell are all aggregated to the parent term eye. The size of each circle represents the  
 542 number of individual terms enriched for the particular organ or tissue and they are coloured by the  
 543 smallest of the p values (-log<sub>10</sub> scaled).

544

545

546 **Discussion**

547 Transcriptional profiling of *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> mutant zebrafish has identified distinct gene groups  
 548 that are differentially expressed in normal physiological conditions and upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure.  
 549 Consistent with the neurodegenerative phenotype observed in HMNDYT2 patients and the  
 550 previously described accumulation of Mn in the brain of *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants (Tuschl et al.,  
 551 2016), the majority of differentially expressed genes map to the CNS and the eye.  
 552 Transcriptome analysis showed that Mn treatment leads to gene expression changes in both  
 553 *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutant and sibling zebrafish. Mutant larvae show differential expression of a  
 554 much greater number of genes upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment that is not observed in treated siblings  
 555 confirming an increased sensitivity to Mn toxicity. In addition, numerous differentially  
 556 expressed genes in unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants normalised upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> treatment. This  
 557 suggests that Mn treatment in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants rescues some of the transcriptomic

558 changes observed in unexposed mutants. This implies that SLC39A14 loss leads to Mn  
559 deficiency in parallel to the observed Mn accumulation.

### 560 **Loss of *slc39a14* function in zebrafish causes Mn deficiency**

561 Perhaps the most intriguing observation from the transcriptional profiling was that most  
562 differentially expressed genes in unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants normalised upon MnCl<sub>2</sub>  
563 treatment. This indicates that whilst SLC39A14 deficiency leads to systemic Mn accumulation  
564 in some locations it also causes deficiency of Mn in some parts of the cell or specific types of  
565 cells due to its role as a Mn uptake transporter. One implication from this conclusion is that in  
566 patients, Mn chelation treatment would require careful monitoring in order to prevent over-  
567 chelation. Reducing Mn availability in parts of the cell may aggravate the neurological disease  
568 and lead to further decline. This partial Mn deficiency may explain why chelation therapy in  
569 patients with HMNDYT2 is less effective compared to those with HMNDYT1. There are only  
570 two individuals out of a dozen patients with HMNDYT2 reported in the literature who had a  
571 marked improvement upon Mn chelation (Tuschl et al., 2016; Rodan et al., 2018). Other  
572 treatment attempts have been less successful with some patients deteriorating upon Mn  
573 chelation (Tuschl et al., 2016; Marti-Sanchez et al., 2018).

574 The presence of Mn deficiency in *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants suggests that some features of  
575 HMNDYT2 may overlap with those observed in SLC39A8 deficiency, an inherited Mn  
576 transporter defect leading to systemic Mn deficiency (OMIM #616721). Affected individuals  
577 present with intellectual disability, developmental delay, hypotonia, epilepsy, strabismus,  
578 cerebellar atrophy and short stature (Boycott et al., 2015; Park et al., 2015). However,  
579 HMNDYT2 does not lead to any of these features aside from cerebellar atrophy described in  
580 some patients. SLC39A8 deficiency is also associated with dysglycosylation as Mn acts as a  
581 cofactor for the  $\beta$ -1,4-galactosyltransferase in the Golgi. However, transferrin glycosylation in  
582 HMNDYT2 is normal suggesting that Mn levels within the Golgi are not reduced (Tuschl et al.,  
583 2016).

584 The majority of differentially expressed genes in unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants that  
585 correct upon Mn treatment map to the CNS. As for Mn toxicity, several differentially expressed  
586 genes link to Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis and binding, however, these are different to those identified  
587 upon Mn overload. It is plausible that altered Mn levels, in both Mn deficiency and overload,  
588 result in Ca<sup>2+</sup> dyshomeostasis. Expression of multiple genes encoding Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent cell-  
589 cell adhesion and interaction proteins, particularly protocadherins and formin related genes,  
590 is reduced in unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants. Protocadherins are mainly expressed in the  
591 CNS where they are required for normal neural circuitry activity and regulate synaptic function  
592 (Kim et al., 2011). Loss of protocadherin function in mice has been previously associated with  
593 neurodegeneration (Hasegawa et al., 2016). Formins are required for stabilisation of E-  
594 cadherins (Rao and Zaidel-Bar, 2016) which may link the changes observed in (proto-  
595 )cadherin expression with that of formin-associated genes. In addition, a number of genes  
596 required for Ca<sup>2+</sup> triggered synaptic vesicle exocytosis was differentially expressed.  
597 Interestingly, synaptotagmin 1 can bind Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup> in the same manner (Ubach et al.,  
598 1998). Mn dyshomeostasis may therefore directly affect neurotransmitter release.

### 599 **Unexposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants as well as MnCl<sub>2</sub> treated mutants and siblings show 600 evidence of Mn neurotoxicity**

601 The mechanisms underlying Mn neurotoxicity are heterogenous suggesting an extensive role  
602 for Mn in brain pathobiology. Occupational manganism is associated with lower plasma BDNF  
603 levels (Zou et al., 2014), and Mn treatment in mice and rats reduces BDNF levels (Stansfield  
604 et al., 2014; Zhu et al., 2019). Indeed, *bdnf* expression is reduced in untreated *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup>  
605 mutants as well as MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed siblings confirming that *bdnf* expression is a sensitive  
606 readout of Mn neurotoxicity. BDNF promotes neuronal cell survival, neurite growth and cell  
607 migration, and as such is required for the postnatal growth of the striatum (Rauskolb et al.,  
608 2010).

609 In addition, Mn overexposure has previously been shown to disrupt neurotransmitter release  
610 via interaction with the SNARE complex which is mediated by increased intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
611 levels and subsequent activation of calpain, a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Mn}^{2+}$ -activated neutral protease (Wang et  
612 al., 2018). Our results provide evidence that Mn neurotoxicity in *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants affects  
613 expression of genes encoding parts of the presynaptic neurotransmitter release machinery  
614 such as *rims2a*, *rims2b*, *syngr1a* and *syt17* as well as calpain (*capn7*).

615 The neuronal subtypes affected by Mn neurotoxicity remain subject of debate. Consistent with  
616 previous reports we observe altered expression of genes involved in glutamatergic,  
617 GABAergic and dopaminergic neurotransmission in  $\text{MnCl}_2$  treated *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants  
618 (Marreilha Dos Santos et al., 2017). Mn overexposure has been linked to impaired reuptake  
619 of glutamate from the synaptic cleft resulting in glutamatergic excitotoxicity (Erikson et al.,  
620 2008; Avila et al., 2010). In keeping with this finding, genes encoding glutamate uptake  
621 transporters (*slc1a2a*, *slc1a2b*, *slc1a8a*) as well as some required for the regulation of AMPA-  
622 type glutamate receptors (*nsg2*, *prrt1*) (Chander et al., 2019; Troyano-Rodriguez et al., 2019)  
623 are differentially expressed in  $\text{MnCl}_2$  exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants. *SLC1A2* encodes the  
624 glutamate uptake transporter EAAT2 that is expressed on astrocytes and known to be  
625 downregulated upon  $\text{MnCl}_2$  exposure, subsequently leading to glutamate excitotoxicity (Karki  
626 et al., 2015).

627 In HMNDYT2 patients, Mn preferentially accumulates in the globus pallidus, a region that is  
628 particularly rich in GABAergic projections (Sidoryk-Wegrzynowicz and Aschner, 2013; Tuschl  
629 et al., 2016). In  $\text{MnCl}_2$  treated *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants expression of genes encoding the GABA-  
630 A receptor (*gabra6a*, *gabrb3*) and the GABA reuptake transporter (*slc6a11b*) is reduced. This  
631 is consistent with studies in rats where Mn exposure leads to diminished GABA-A receptor  
632 mRNA expression and interferes with GABA uptake in astrocytes (Fordahl and Erikson, 2014;  
633 Ou et al., 2017). Increased expression of genes encoding parvalbumin (*pvalb1*, *pvalb2* and  
634 *pvalb8*) in *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants and siblings upon  $\text{MnCl}_2$  treatment may be consistent with  
635 previous findings suggesting that GABAergic interneurons are a target of Mn neurotoxicity  
636 (Kikuchi-hara et al., 2015). Parvalbumin, a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding protein, can also bind  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  with high  
637 affinity (Nara et al., 1994). Mn may therefore interact with parvalbumin directly or via changes  
638 in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis. Mn exposure in mice leads to a reduction of parvalbumin positive cells  
639 likely due to suppression of BDNF signalling (Kikuchi-hara et al., 2015). Parvalbumin positive  
640 interneurons also express neuronal pentraxins and the neuronal pentraxin receptor.  
641 Pentraxins have previously been shown to play a role in neuroinflammation in PD and AD (Yin  
642 et al., 2009). Indeed, expression of *nptxrb* encoding the neuronal pentraxin receptor is reduced  
643 in *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants upon  $\text{MnCl}_2$  treatment.

644 Because manganese resembles Parkinson's disease to some extent (both cause an akinetic  
645 movement disorder, albeit, with distinct clinical features) it seemed plausible that  
646 dopaminergic neurons are affected by Mn neurotoxicity. Indeed, several studies have shown  
647 dopaminergic neurodegeneration upon Mn exposure (Ijomone et al., 2016). However,  
648 transcriptome analysis of *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants identified changes in only three genes linked  
649 to dopaminergic signalling. *gnb5b* and *gpr3711b* interact with neurotransmission via the D2  
650 receptor, and loss-of-function of *faim2b* leads to increased susceptibility to dopaminergic  
651 neuron degeneration (Oteau et al., 2014; Komnig et al., 2016; Hertz et al., 2019). Therefore,  
652 it appears likely that interference with genes encoding proteins involved in dopaminergic  
653 circuitries is not the primary pathogenesis in *slc39a14*<sup>U801/-</sup> mutants.

654 Neuroinflammation has been linked to Mn neurotoxicity supported by the observation that Mn  
655 predominantly accumulates in astrocytes rather than neurons (Tjalkens et al., 2017; Gorojod  
656 et al., 2018; Popichak et al., 2018). Indeed, Mn exposure in *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> loss-of-function  
657 mutants leads to differential expression of the astrocyte related genes *atf5a*, *atf5b* and *gfap*.

658

659 **Mn toxicity in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants is associated with calcium dyshomeostasis,**  
660 **activation of the unfolded protein response and oxidative stress**

661 Mn can replace Ca<sup>2+</sup> in its biologically active sites and thereby affect Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis  
662 (Kalbitzer et al., 1978; Song et al., 2017). Mn overexposure increases intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
663 concentrations due to disruption of Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis at the mitochondria and the ER  
664 (Quintanar et al., 2012) and has previously been linked to neuronal loss and  
665 neurodegeneration (Choudhary et al., 2018; Ijomone et al., 2019). Chronically elevated Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
666 levels leading to altered cellular signalling and mitochondrial damage is also a hallmark of  
667 neurodegeneration in PD (Ludtmann and Abramov, 2018). Indeed, Mn overload in  
668 *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants causes significant expression changes of Ca<sup>2+</sup> associated genes.  
669 Impaired Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis may directly affect *bdnf* expression that is modulated by  
670 Ca<sup>2+</sup>/CaMK signalling (Liu et al., 2017). Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis is maintained by the ER, the key  
671 organelle in regulating proteostasis (Wang et al., 2012). ER stress is clearly evident in MnCl<sub>2</sub>  
672 exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants as multiple UPR associated genes are upregulated. HOMER  
673 analysis also confirms enrichment of the Chop/Atf4 motif in MnCl<sub>2</sub> treated mutants. This is  
674 consistent with previous studies that show increased expression of ATF6 and HSPA5 as well  
675 as increased Xbp1 mRNA splicing in Mn exposed brain slices (Xu et al., 2013). ER stress  
676 increases the expression of calcium pumps and chaperones such as calreticulin which help to  
677 alleviate protein misfolding while dysfunctional Ca<sup>2+</sup> chaperones cause activation of the UPR  
678 (Carreras-Sureda et al., 2018). Calreticulin and calnexin act together as a quality control  
679 system that causes retention of misfolded proteins within the ER (McCaffrey and Braakman,  
680 2016). Expression of both genes is increased in MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants.

681 Generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) with subsequent oxidative stress and  
682 mitochondrial dysfunction is a hallmark of neurodegenerative disorders as well as metal  
683 toxicity and contributes to protein misfolding (Gomez and Germain, 2019; Harischandra et al.,  
684 2019a). The thioredoxin/peroxiredoxin system required for the reduction of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> protects cells  
685 from oxidative stress (Samet and Wages, 2018). Oxidative stress is highlighted by the  
686 upregulation of the thioredoxin/thioredoxin reductase and peroxiredoxin system in MnCl<sub>2</sub>  
687 exposed *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> loss-of-function mutants, similar to previous reports in rats (Taka et al.,  
688 2012). Increased ROS generation itself can cause Ca<sup>2+</sup> dyshomeostasis, lysosomal  
689 impairment, abnormal protein folding and mitochondrial dysfunction (Gorlach et al., 2015;  
690 Harischandra et al., 2019a). ROS leads to oxidation of the thiol group in cysteines of Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
691 channels and pumps thereby affecting intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels (Zhang et al., 2016).  
692 Furthermore, ROS cause apoptosis and autophagy via lysosomal membrane permeabilisation  
693 and cathepsin release (Gorojod et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2017; Porte Alcon et al., 2018; Zhi  
694 et al., 2019). Consistent with this observation, the key autophagy gene *rubcn*, encoding a  
695 beclin 1 interactor and responsible for autophagy initiation (Liu et al., 2019), is upregulated in  
696 *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants due to Mn overload. In addition, cathepsin gene expression is altered  
697 in MnCl<sub>2</sub> treated *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants linking manganese to dysregulation of lysosomal  
698 function and autophagy as previously suggested (Zhang et al., 2019).

699 **Mn toxicity interferes with protein synthesis and metabolism**

700 As suggested by GO term enrichment analysis, MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure led to differential expression  
701 of multiple genes encoding ribosomal proteins, tRNA synthetases and translation initiation  
702 factors in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants. Interference of Mn with protein synthesis has been identified  
703 in yeast where Mn overexposure leads to reduced total rRNA levels and diminished ribosome  
704 formation (Hernandez et al., 2019). In addition, MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> mutants is  
705 associated with gene expression changes linked to the Ubiquitination/Proteasome System  
706 (UPS). The UPS, essential for protein quality control, is susceptible to oxidative stress (Li et  
707 al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2016). Misregulation of the UPS has causally been linked to  
708 neurodegeneration in PD (Walden and Muqit, 2017). Heavy metals impair protein folding and  
709 promote protein aggregation suggesting that Mn can equally contribute to protein misfolding  
710 (Tamas et al., 2014).

711 **Mn toxicity in in *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> zebrafish causes a visual phenotype**

712 Interestingly, transcriptome analysis revealed an unsuspected Mn toxicity effect in  
713 *slc39a14*<sup>U801-/-</sup> zebrafish, a pronounced visual phenotype characterised by impaired visual  
714 background adaptation and impaired OKR upon MnCl<sub>2</sub> exposure. To date, retinal Mn toxicity  
715 has not been previously reported in affected patients or animal models. Neither environmental  
716 overexposure nor systemic Mn accumulation in HMNDYT1 and HMNDYT2 lead to impaired  
717 vision in humans. Inherited Mn transporter defects have only recently been reported and it is  
718 possible that visual function becomes affected only in later life. Indeed, both Mn uptake  
719 transporters, SLC39A8 and SLC39A14, are highly expressed in the retinal pigment epithelium  
720 (RPE) (Leung et al., 2008). It has previously been shown that other heavy metals such as  
721 cadmium and lead accumulate in ocular tissues, particularly in the RPE (Erie et al., 2005). Mn  
722 plays an essential role in retinal function where it is required for normal ultrastructure of the  
723 retina (Gong and Amemiya, 1996). Possible differences between the human and zebrafish  
724 phenotype may simply be caused by the direct contact of the zebrafish eye with Mn in the  
725 fishwater contributing to enhanced ocular Mn uptake and toxicity.

726 In conclusion, our results demonstrate that partial Mn deficiency is an additional key feature  
727 of *slc39a14* deficiency in zebrafish which should be considered in the treatment of affected  
728 individuals with SLC39A14 mutations. The *slc39a14*<sup>U801</sup> loss-of-function zebrafish mutant is  
729 proving an invaluable disease model to study the disease pathogenesis of HMNDYT2 as well  
730 as Mn neurotoxicity in general.

731

732 **Conflict of interest statement:**

733 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

734

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