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DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF *DNAJ-2* (CG10565)
AS A REGULATOR OF SYNAPSE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE *DROSOPHILA* LARVAL NEUROMUSCULAR JUNCTION

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ABSTRACT

The *Drosophila* larval neuromuscular junction (NMJ) is a powerful model system for the study of synaptic development generally and the assembly of post-synaptic membrane specialization specifically. Earlier work demonstrated that decreased expression of *Akt1* in muscle tissue causes specific mislocalization of one particular glutamate receptor Subunit, GluRIIA.¹ To search for additional signaling components affecting GluRIIA delivery and assembly into a functional glutamate receptor, an RNA interference (RNAi) genetic screen of ~500 genes was performed. The organization of the post-synaptic membranes of the test animals was assayed using fluorescence confocal microscopy and immune-detection of GluRIIA. From the screen, a previously uncharacterized gene, *DnaJ-2* (CG10565), was identified as a potential regulator of GluRIIA localization at the NMJ. This gene encodes a protein belonging to the J-protein chaperone family. In order to further study *DnaJ-2*, we have generated mutants via imprecise P-element excision. The putative mutants were screened by PCR genotyping. After the initial round of mutagenesis crosses, the genetic cross scheme and assaying methods were optimized in order to increase the frequency of the imprecise P-element excision detection. At present we have identified 4 excision mutants that disrupt the *DnaJ-2* sequence, ranging from a 67 bp deletion to a 1.8kb deletion. Additionally, constructs containing specific mutations of the *DnaJ-2* sequence were generated and placed into transgenic flies. These lines as well as the mutant will be useful for future study of *DnaJ-2*.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 *Drosophila melanogaster* as a Model Organism

Our understanding of physiology and biological mechanisms has greatly improved over the past century. However, the nervous system still remains largely a mystery. The complexity and importance of the nervous system makes it a relevant yet difficult subject for research. As with many complex systems, it is useful to study the nervous system in simpler, more easily manipulated model organisms, such as *Drosophila melanogaster*. *Drosophila* is an excellent model organism for genetic studies largely due to longstanding tradition of *Drosophila* research. T.H. Morgan was the first to study the genetics of *Drosophila* in the early 1900s and *Drosophila* has since been established as one of the most well-studied organisms on the planet. The popularity of *Drosophila* as a model organism is largely due to its short life cycle, simple maintenance requirements, and small number of chromosomes allowing for simple genetic manipulation². Additionally, scientists have developed many tools that increase the power of *Drosophila* as a model system. In 1918, H. J. Muller first described balancer chromosomes, chromosomes containing several inversions, that allowed for stable maintenance of lethal mutants as heterozygotes³. These chromosomes are now used extensively in *Drosophila* genetics to prevent undesirable homologous recombination. Decades of study have also yielded numerous mutant lines readily available to

researchers. In 1981, the first transgenic flies were generated using transposable element vectors and since then libraries of transgenic flies have been established⁴. In recent years, sophisticated biological technologies such as targeted gene expression, RNA interference (RNAi), and next generation sequencing have further expanded the repertoire of methods for *Drosophila* research.

1.2 UAS-GAL4 System for Targeted Gene Expression

The UAS-GAL4 system has been adopted from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in order to provide targeted expression of transgenes in *Drosophila*. GAL4 is a transcription factor present in yeast that recognizes the Upstream Activating Sequence (UAS) to direct the transcription of *GAL1* and *GAL10* genes upon exposure to galactose.⁵ In *Drosophila*, the UAS can be linked to the promoter region of a gene, allowing for GAL4-responsive transcription (Figure 1).⁶ Because the UAS-GAL4 system is not naturally present in *Drosophila*, GAL4 activated transcription is very specific to the target gene.

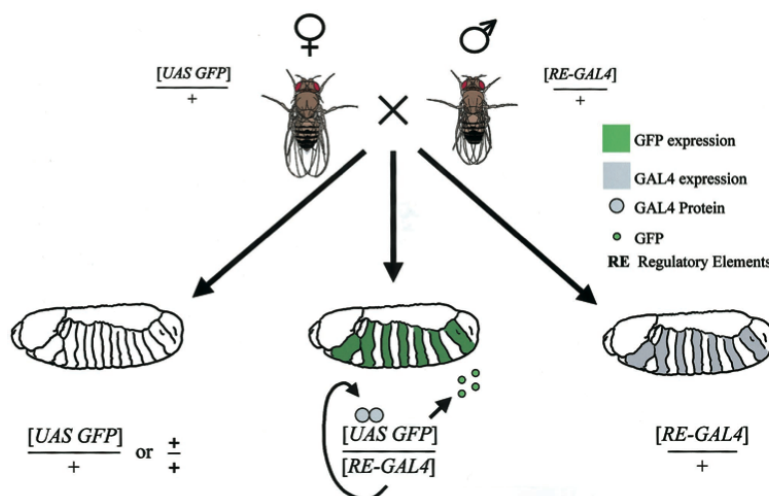


Figure 1. UAS-GAL4 System in *Drosophila*⁷

The UAS-GAL4 system is used to direct expression of GFP in specific segments designated by the regulatory elements (RE) that determine where GAL4 is expressed

Placing the *GAL4* gene under the control of tissue-specific regulatory sequences allows directed activation of the *UAS*-transgene construct. *GAL4* bearing constructs have also been inserted broadly throughout the genome using P-element-mediated transposition to “capture” neighboring regulatory sequences of hundreds of genes, conferring specific patterns of *GAL4* expression in specific cells and time windows during development.⁸

Another useful feature of the UAS-GAL4 system is the temperature dependent activity of GAL4. GAL4 has minimal activity around 16°C and has optimal activity around 29°C.⁷

This property of the GAL4 proteins allows researchers to control the level of expression of the target gene by adjusting the temperature at which the animals are bred. In the experiments presented below, muscle-specific Mef2-GAL4 was used to induce the expression of desired transgenes.

1.3 RNA interference (RNAi) as a genetic tool

RNAi has also been widely implemented in *Drosophila* as a research tool for targeted knockdown of gene expression. RNAi was first discovered in *Caenorhabditis elegans* as an adaptive immune response against pathogenic nucleic acids and as a gene regulatory mechanism.⁹ RNAi utilizes small RNA molecules called small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) to direct degradation of specific mRNA molecules. In the RNAi pathway, a double stranded RNA (dsRNA) is first expressed from the genetic material present in the organism. In some experimental methods, dsRNAs can be manually introduced into the organism rather than having it expressed by the organism. The

dsRNA molecule is then cleaved by an endonuclease called Dicer into siRNAs that are recognized and bound by Ago. Ago is a part of the RNA-induced Silencing Complex (RISC) which degrades mRNA molecules that contain sequences that are complementary to the siRNAs.¹⁰ The advent of next generation sequencing has led to the sequencing of the entire *Drosophila* genome. The availability of the full genome sequence allowed scientists to identify all of the genes in the *Drosophila* genome and then generate RNAi constructs for each gene.¹¹ Many researchers have taken advantage of the availability of RNAi lines to perform large-scale genetic screens. For the RNAi screen presented here, RNAi transgenes were placed under the control of a UAS promoter and then expressed in the muscle tissue using Mef-GAL4 to perform an RNAi-induced knockdown genetic screen.

1.4 The *Drosophila* Larval Neuromuscular Junction (NMJ) as a Model for Synapse Development

The *Drosophila* larval NMJ is one of the most well characterized and powerful models for synapse development available. Synapse function is evolutionarily highly conserved; thus the information gained from understanding the function of the NMJ is applicable to understanding synaptic mechanisms in other complex organisms, including humans. Conveniently, the NMJ can be easily manipulated for electrophysiology experiments and each individual cell of the synapse can be observed via light microscopy. The *Drosophila* larval body wall muscles are a segmental repeated and highly regular set of 30 muscles in each hemisegment (Figure 2).¹² For the experiments presented here, the synapse between muscles 6 and 7 was visualized.

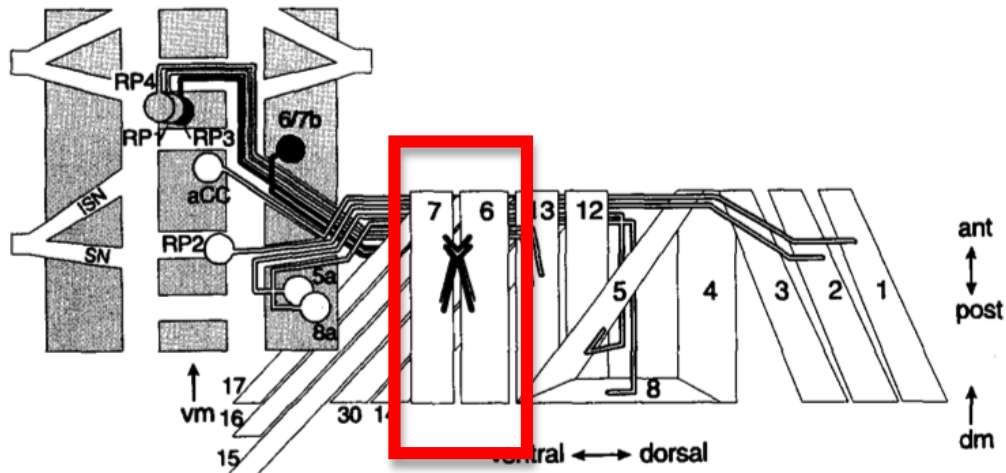


Figure 2. Diagram of *Drosophila* Larval NMJ¹²

One hemisegment of the larval muscle wall is shown above. The synapse between muscle 6 and 7 is boxed in red.

Glutamate is the excitatory neurotransmitter at the NMJ.¹³ Glutamate also mediates most excitatory transmission in humans and the ionotropic glutamate receptors found in the NMJ have been highly conserved throughout evolution.¹⁴ Ionotropic glutamate receptors are composed of four subunits. In *Drosophila*, there are five different subunits: GluRIIA, GluRIIB, GluRIID, GluRIIE, and GluRIII. GluRIIA and GluRIIB are redundant but GluRIID and GluRIIE are required for synaptic expression of the other subunits; therefore a functional receptor consists of GluRIID, GluRIIE, GluRII and either GluRIIA or GluRIIB.¹⁵ In this project, the localization of GluRIIA at the synapse was observed via fluorescence confocal microscopy.

1.5 The *Akt1* Result

This project began as a result of previous work in the Selleck lab that demonstrated that muscle specific RNAi-induced knockdown of *Akt1* causes mislocalization of GluRIIA.¹ Normally, GluRIIA is localized to the synaptic boutons that surround the axonal projections of the neuron; however, in the *Akt1*^{RNAi} animals, GluRIIA was expressed throughout the entire muscle in a banding pattern (Figure 3).

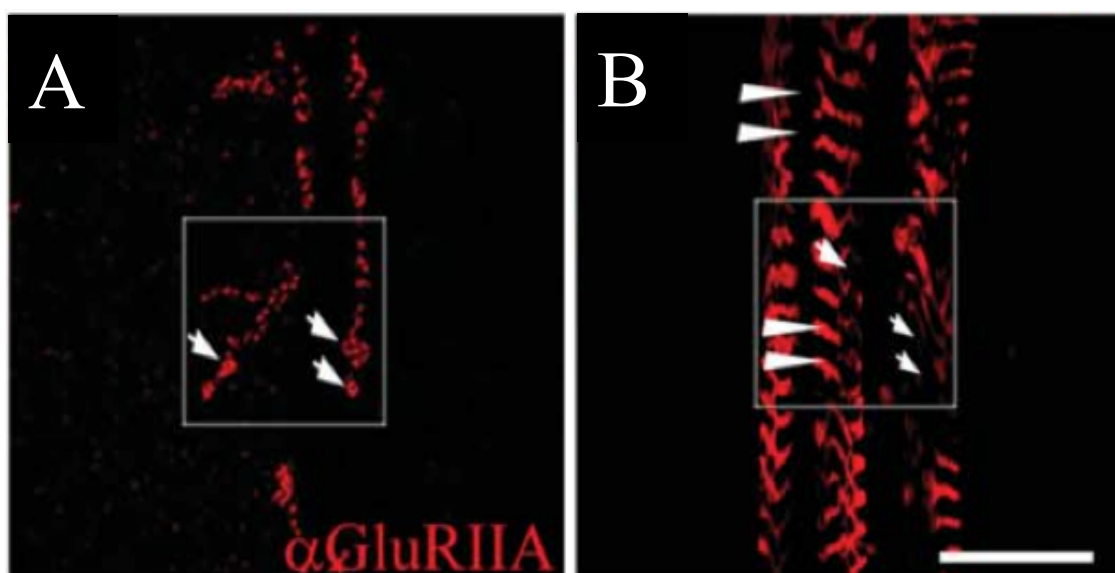


Figure 3. GluRIIA mislocalization phenotype of muscle-specific RNAi-induced *Akt1* knockdown¹

Panel A shows the control NMJ (UAS-Akt1^{RNAi/+}), GluRIIA is localized to the synaptic boutons. Panel B shows that muscle-specific knockdown of *Akt1* (24B-Gal4>UAS-Akt1^{RNAi}) causes GluRIIA to mislocalize in a characteristic, banding pattern.

Akt, also known as Protein Kinase B (PKB) is a serine/threonine kinase that is central to many growth signaling pathways and has been implicated in many diseases such as cancer and diabetes.¹⁶ The RNAi screen presented below was initiated in order to find genes that could potentially be linked to Akt in regulating the localization of glutamate

receptor subunits to the NMJ. The goal of this project was to identify new pathways related to Akt1 that regulate post-synaptic membrane development.

Chapter 2

Materials and Methods

2.1 RNAi Genetic Screen

Approximately 500 genes were selected for the genetic screen based on availability of RNAi transgenic flies and literature review. Transgenic flies with the RNAi constructs under control of a UAS promoter were acquired from the Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi Center for each of the selected genes. The Oregon-R wild type stock was used for control experiments. Males containing the RNAi transgenes were crossed with female virgins containing the muscle specific Mef2-Gal4 driver and a ubiquitous GFP-tagged, mouse-membrane protein mCD8. mCD8-GFP was included to allow visualization of membrane structures. The crosses were incubated at 30°C for 5-7 days until third instar larvae appeared for maximum efficiency of the GAL4 driver. Third instar larvae were dissected in ice-cold Ca^{2+} free HL-3 media and fixed for 5 minutes in Bouin's fixative solution. The larvae were then washed in PBST (0.5% triton X-100 in PBS) and blocked with 10% normal goat serum (NGS) in PBST before antibody application. The samples were then immunostained with a mouse primary antibody for GluRIIA (1:1000 dilution in 10% NGS blocking solution), followed by mouse, Alexa Fluor 546 secondary antibody (1:2000 dilution in 10% NGS blocking solution). The NMJs were imaged on an Olympus FluoView FV1000 laser scanning confocal

microscope. Knockdown lines that displayed a GluRIIA mislocalization phenotype similar to the *Akt1* knockdown phenotype were selected as candidates for further study.

This genetic screen was performed by myself at three other undergraduate researchers under the guidance of Hyun Gwan Lee (post-doc mentor) and Na Zhao (graduate student mentor).

2.2 *DnaJ-2* Imprecise P-element Excision Mutagenesis

Mutagenesis of *DnaJ-2* was performed using a stock line with an enhancer promoter (EP) P-element insertion in the 5' untranslated region (UTR) of the endogenous *DnaJ-2* sequence on the third chromosome. The full genotype of this line is *y[1] w[*];+; P{w[+mC]=EP}CG10565[G4964]/TM3, Sb[1];+* and will be referred to from this point on as *EP-DnaJ-2/Tm3Sb*. As indicated by the genetic scheme in Figure 4a, *EP-DnaJ-2/Tm3Sb* males were crossed to female virgins containing a transgene for $\Delta 2-3$ transposase in order to induce removal of the P-element. A mosaic-eye phenotype was used as an indicator of transposase activity because removal of the *w[+mC]* gene contained within the P-element by the transposase in some somatic cells causes mosaic pigmentation in the eyes. Thus mosaic-eye, flies from the F1 generation were selected for the next set of crosses with a balancer line. Single males with white eyes or mosaic eyes, indicating some loss of the P-element, were then selected as possible *DnaJ-2* mutants. These flies were then expanded by crossing with balancer lines and then assayed for imprecise excision of the P-element resulting in loss of endogenous *DnaJ-2* sequence.

After the initial mutagenesis attempt, the genetic scheme was modified to use males from the F1 generation instead of females in order to eliminate the possibility of rare recombination events and only white-eye single males were selected for screening in order to increase the rate of imprecise P-element excision detection. The modified scheme is shown in Figure 4b.

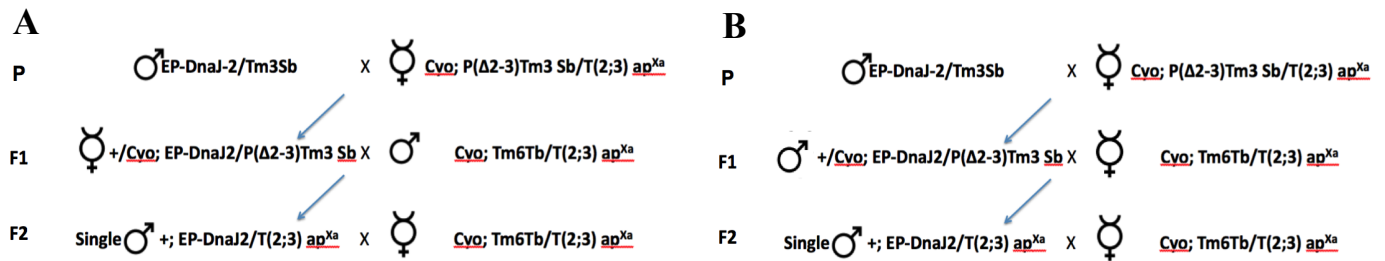


Figure 4. Mutagenesis Scheme

(A) Original mutagenesis genetic scheme (B) Modified mutagenesis scheme.

Potential mutants were screened by genotyping via PCR. Figure 5 shows the primer sets used to detect possible deletions in the endogenous *DnaJ-2* sequence. Candidates that were identified by the PCR primer sets 1 and 2 were then verified by sequencing the amplification product of primer set 3 for potential small mutations and primer set 5 for potential large mutations.

2.3 PCR Screening for Potential Mutants

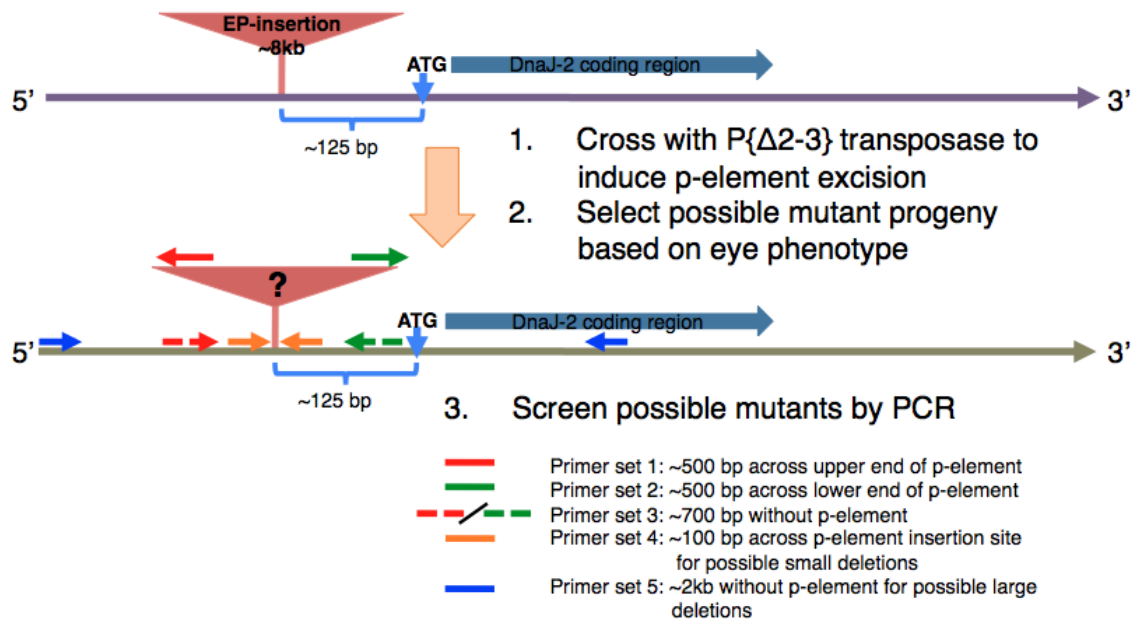


Figure 5. Primer design for genotyping PCR of potential mutants.

Primer set 1 and 2 provided the means of mapping the upstream and downstream ends of the P-element insertion. Primer set 3 examined the extent of the excision event if both set 1 and 2 amplification products were absent. Primer set 3 provided the tools to detect small insertion or deletion mutations near the P-element insertion site. Primer set 5 could detect large deletions including part of the upstream, endogenous DnaJ-2 coding sequence

Upon initial screening, it was discovered that all white-eye potential mutants were missing the p-element, eliminating the need to screen using primer sets 1-4. Therefore, further screening was performed using only primer set 5 to detect potential large deletions.

The initial round of mutagenesis was completed independently with guidance from Na Zhao. Primers were designed and provided by Na Zhao.

Chapter 3

Results

3.1 Identification of *DnaJ-2* RNAi Screen

The RNAi screen results revealed many genes that produced interesting phenotypes when their expression was decreased in muscle tissue. The phenotype of interest for the goals of the screen was the banding pattern of GluRIIA mislocalization seen in *Akt1*^{RNAi} animals and 24 of genes surveyed replicated this phenotype with varying degrees of penetrance. The full results of the RNAi screen are presented in Appendix A. From this screen, *DnaJ-2* was selected for further study because RNAi –induced, muscle-specific knockdown of *DnaJ-2* displayed the same pattern of GluRIIA mislocalization at the post-synaptic membrane as the *Akt1* knockdown animals (Figure 6).

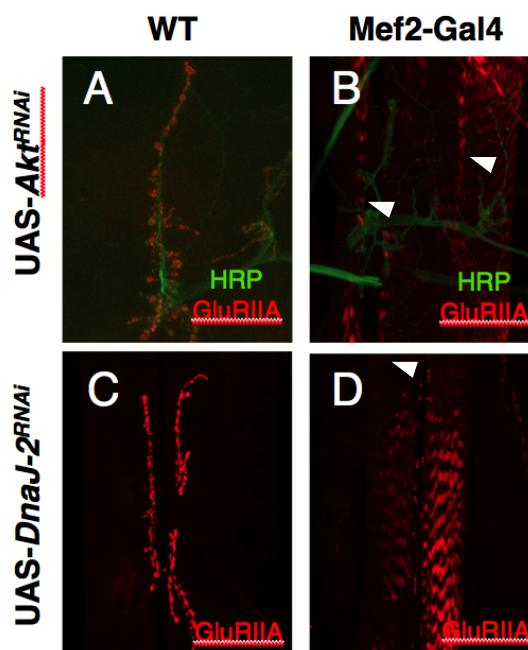


Figure 6. GluRIIA Mislocalization Phenotype

(A-C) Control NMJs between muscle 6 and 7. Anti-HRP antibodies recognize neuronal membrane and Anti-GluRIIA recognize GluRIIA at the post synaptic membrane. (B) Muscle specific RNAi knockdown of *Akt1*. (D) Muscle specific RNAi knockdown of *DnaJ-2*.

In control animals, GluRIIA is concentrated at the synaptic boutons as indicated by the colocalization of the HRP staining for neuronal membrane and the GluRIIA staining at the post-synaptic membrane in control panel A. Control panel C also shows the wildtype GluRIIA localization pattern at the NMJ. In contrast, both the *Akt* knockdown and *DnaJ-2* knockdown animals have the GluRIIA distributed across the entire muscle membrane in a banding pattern. This indicates that both *Akt1* and *DnaJ-2* are involved in regulating the localization of GluRIIA to the post-synaptic site of the NMJ. In follow-up experiments, the localization of GluRIIB in *DnaJ2*^{RNAi} animals appeared to be normal; therefore, the effect of *DnaJ2* knockdown is specific to GluRIIA localization. This result provides more evidence for the potential relationship between *Akt1* and *DnaJ-2* because the *Akt1*^{RNAi} phenotype was also specific to GluRIIA.

3.2 Generation of *DnaJ-2* Mutants by Imprecise P-element excision

In the initial mutagenesis attempt, approximately 200 animals were selected based on eye phenotype and screened by genotyping PCR. Of these, most appeared to have precise P-element excisions events or incomplete p-element excision. One potential mutant line, labeled as 28M, produced a ~500bp PCR product for primer set 5 for which the wildtype product is 2.2kb (Figure 7a). This result was verified by sequencing which showed a 1.8kb deletion including the start codon and part of the upstream coding sequence of *DnaJ-2* (Figure 7b). The full sequence of *DnaJ-2* annotated with the 28M deletion is provided in Appendix B. This result proved that the imprecise P-element

excision method was capable of producing large deletions in the endogenous *DnaJ-2* sequence.

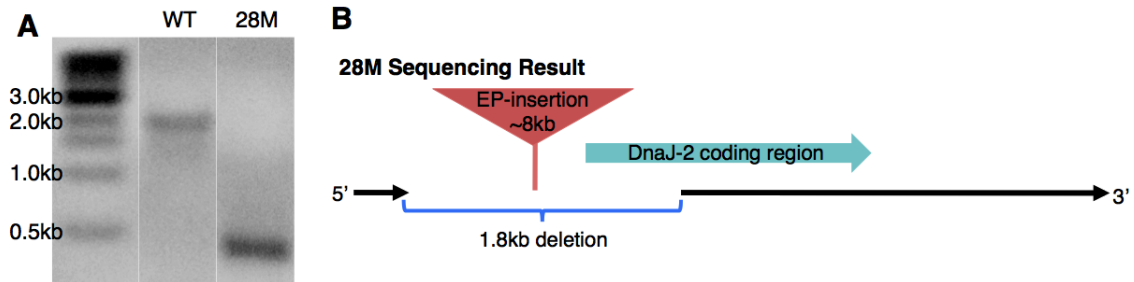


Figure 7. Identification of 28M Deletion

(A) Primer set 5 PCR of 28M sample. WT control shows expected ~2kb band and 28M shows >5kb band. (B) Sequencing of primer set 5 PCR product from 28M shows 1.8kb deletion that spans the 5' UTR to the upstream end of *DnaJ-2* coding sequence.

The rate of imprecise P-element excision was approximately 1 in 200 for the first round of mutagenesis. In order to optimize the mutagenesis and increase the rate of imprecise P-element excision the genetic schema and phenotypic selection methods were modified as previously mentioned. With these changes, the rate of imprecise p-element detection increased to approximately 1 in 40. The mutagenesis experiment is on-going in order to generate a variety of mutant alleles for *DnaJ-2*. Thus far, three additional mutants have been verified by sequencing results from the second round of mutagenesis. Figure 8 shows a schematic of these mutants and the precise locations of the deletions can be viewed in the sequences shown in Appendix B. These mutations are likely to have different effects on the expression of *DnaJ-2*. The availability of a range of hypomorphic and null alleles will be useful for future study.

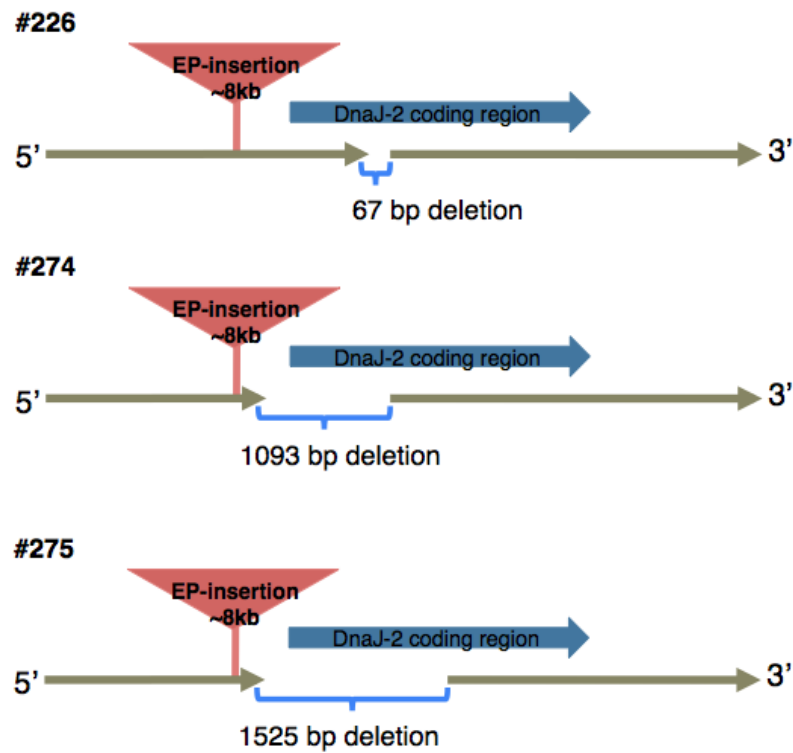


Figure 8. Additional Mutants from Second Round of Mutagenesis

The deletions in the three additional mutants (#226, #274, #275) are shown. All deletions are downstream of the EP insertion site. In #274 and #275, the start codon is lost in the deletion.

Chapter 3

Discussion

4.1 Potential Importance of *DnaJ-2*

DnaJ-2 has not been studied; therefore information about its function and structure was inferred from its publicly available sequence. Sequence analysis from FlyBase indicated that *DnaJ-2* is a member of the DnaJ or J-protein family. Members of the J-protein family contain a conserved 70 amino acid region called the J-domain; however, outside the J-domain, DnaJ-like proteins can be extremely structurally diverse.¹⁷ J-proteins have diverse functions but all act as molecular chaperones by interacting with Hsp70 via the J-domain region. Most J-proteins have the J-domain located near the N-terminus, as is the case for the protein of interest in this study.¹⁸ As shown in Figure 9 the J-domain consists of 4 α helices with a highly conserved HPD motif in the loop region.¹⁹ The HPD motif is necessary for the J-protein to regulate the ATPase activity of Hsp70.²⁰ ATP hydrolysis changes the conformational state of Hsp70 from an open to a closed state which then stabilizes the substrate binding to Hsp70.²¹ When associated with Hsp70, J-proteins work to refold misfolded proteins and also prevent aggregation of misfolded proteins.²²

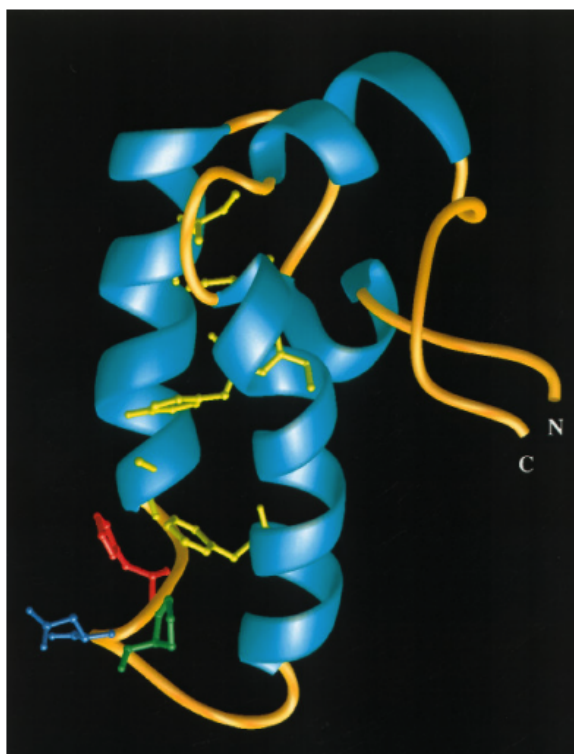


Figure 9. Structure of the J-domain¹⁹

The four main α helices are shown in cyan. The HPD motif is shown in red (H), green (P), and blue (D)

In addition to the primary protein chaperone activity, research has shown that members of the J-protein family play roles in regulating protein translocation. The yeast homolog of DnaJ, YDJ1, was shown to function in polypeptide translocation across mitochondrial membrane and endoplasmic reticulum

membrane.²³ Similarly, *DnaJ-2* has been implicated in endocytosis and exocytosis.

During endocytosis, J proteins have been shown to be necessary for the dissociation of clathrin from clathrin-coated vesicles by associating with Hsc70.²⁴ In other cases, J-proteins have been found on the cytoplasmic face of synaptic vesicles and were identified as mediators of synaptic vesicle fusion, suggesting that they may have a role in regulating exocytosis as well as endocytosis.²⁵

Due to the importance of DnaJ proteins in regulating protein folding and assembly, they have been implicated in many neurodegenerative diseases, which are often caused by neuronal death as a result of accumulation of misfolded proteins.²⁶ For example, a J-protein was shown to suppress polyglutamine toxicity in a *Drosophila* model for polyglutamine diseases such as Huntington's disease.²⁷

This connection to neurodegeneration and the many known functions of J-proteins make *DnaJ-2* an interesting candidate for study. The mislocalization of GluRIIA phenotype seen in *DnaJ-2* knockdown animals could be a result of misfolding of the receptor subunit, an error in exocytotic or endocytotic mechanisms that regulated post-synaptic membrane development, or some other unknown function of this particular J-protein. Also, sequence analysis of *DnaJ-2* showed that it contains a DNA binding domain near the C-terminus (Figure 10).



Figure 10. *DnaJ-2* sequence

The conserved J-domain that interacts with Hsp70 is located near the N-terminus and a DNA binding domain (DBD) is located near the C-terminus.

Based on this information, mutant constructs of *DnaJ-2* with the J-domain deleted, the HPD motif altered to QPD, and the DNA binding domain deleted were generated to investigate which functional regions are responsible for the mislocalization of GluRIIA. These constructs will be utilized in future experiments.

4.2 Alterations to the Mutagenesis Scheme and Continued Search for Mutant Alleles

The initial genetic scheme and PCR screening methods for the imprecise P-element mutagenesis were modified after the first mutagenesis attempt for several

reasons. First, the rate of imprecise excision was approximately 1 in every 200 identified excision events whereas the predicted rate of imprecise excision was $\sim 1\%$.²⁸ Second, the mosaic-eye phenotype, which should have been lost concurrently with the removal of the $\Delta 2-3$ transposase after F1 cross, persisted in subsequent generations when mosaic-eye F2 males were chosen for the further screening. This could have been due to rare recombination events in the F1 females or potential reinsertion of the $\Delta 2-3$ construct at a different locus.

During the first round of mutagenesis females from the F1 generation were used to cross to the balancer line because P-element excision occurs slightly more efficiently in females.²⁹ However, upon reexamining the literature it was found that mosaic eyed males from the F1 generation were most commonly used instead of females in order to prevent the possibility of rare recombination events that could occur in the germline of females.²⁸ Thus, the genetic scheme was adjusted to use F1 males.

Additionally, in the first round of mutagenesis both mosaic-eyed and white-eyed male progeny were selected as potential mutants. PCR screening showed that an excision event had occurred in all white-eyed males but only in some mosaic-eyed males. Also, when mosaic-eyed males were chosen for F2 single male crosses, the mosaic-eyed phenotype, which should have already been lost, persisted in future generations as mentioned before. Therefore, in order to eliminate the possibility of the presence of $\Delta 2-3$ transposase in later generations and to increase the frequency of imprecise excision detection, only white-eyed males from the F2 generation were selected for screening after the initial mutagenesis attempt. Following these changes, the frequency of imprecise excision detection has increased to 1 in 40 of all lines screened.

4.3 Future Experiments

With the information presented above, it is necessary to conduct further experiment to better understand the role of *DnaJ-2* in regulating development and localization of GluRIIA at the post-synaptic site of the *Drosophila* larval NMJ. The mutagenesis of *DnaJ-2* is ongoing in order to generate a variety of mutant alleles with a range of effects on the expression and function of *DnaJ-2*. These mutants need to be sequenced to determine the extent of the mutation and then characterized via quantitative methods such as qRT-PCR or Western blot. The antibody for the DnaJ-2 protein is not yet available but the Selleck Lab is working towards generating an antibody suitable for immunohistochemistry and Western blotting. When a null mutant is generated, the various constructs of *DnaJ-2* with specific mutations generated under UAS promoter control can be placed in the mutant background in order to identify the regions of the protein necessary for its function. Genetic interaction assays to analyze the possible relationship between *Akt1* and *DnaJ-2* are also underway. Previous work in the Selleck lab has determined that overexpression of the *Akt1* cannot rescue the GluRIIA mislocalization phenotype of RNAi induced knockdown of *DnaJ-2* in the muscle tissue; therefore, further experiments are being conducted to test whether or not overexpression of *DnaJ-2* can rescue the GluRIIA mislocalization phenotype of the *Akt1* knockdown animals. A rescue of the *Akt1* knockdown phenotype by overexpression of *DnaJ-2* would provide evidence to suggest that *DnaJ-2* is downstream of *Akt1* in the *Akt1* mediated pathway for regulating GluRIIA localization. In the absence of rescue, the more likely conclusion is that the two genes are in parallel pathways and do not closely interact with

each other. Continued study of *DnaJ-2* may lead to new understanding of how J-proteins are involved in synapse development and discovery of a new regulatory pathway for neurotransmitter localization to the post-synaptic membrane.

Chapter 4

Conclusion

Even with the advanced medical technology available today, neurological disorders are still a largely unsolved public health issue. Scientists have only just begun to understand the workings of the nervous system. For neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's, there are almost no available treatment options. The molecular basis for psychiatric disorders such as Schizophrenia, depression, and bipolar disorder is still not well understood.

Model organisms provide great opportunities to better understand the development and regulation of synaptic function. The *Drosophila* larval NMJ is a powerful model system to study glutamatergic synapses, which are also the principal excitatory synapses in the human brain. Additionally, activation of glutamate receptors have been implicated in cell death processes that lead to chronic neurodegenerative disorders.³⁰ Therefore, knowledge gained from studying the *Drosophila* model for glutamatergic synapses is highly relevant to understanding human neurological disorders.

DnaJ-2 is also interesting because it is a member of the J protein family of chaperones. Aggregation of misfolded proteins is the major cause of neuronal cell death in many neurodegenerative diseases; therefore chaperone proteins, such as J-proteins, are of great relevance to these diseases. Additionally, J-proteins, such as nerve-specific auxilin (DnaJC6), are involved in endocytotic processes that may regulate membrane structure at synapses.³¹ There are 40 identified J-proteins in humans and the homolog of

the *DnaJ-2* in humans is DNAJC2 (aka Zuo1, MPP11).³² DNAJC2 encodes an M-phase phosphoprotein (MPP) and, like *DnaJ-2*, contains a J-domain and a Myb DNA-binding domain. DNAJC2 is also known to associate with ribosomes to guide the proper folding of nascent polypeptide chains.³³ New knowledge gained from studying J-proteins in the *Drosophila* model could easily provide understanding of how they function in more complex systems. The phenotype of RNAi mediated *DnaJ-2* knockdown provides strong evidence that this gene is a regulator of post-synaptic development. Continued study of *DnaJ-2* has potential to provide new understanding of synapse development and the role of J-proteins in synaptic development.

Appendix A

RNAi Screen

Table 1. Results of RNAi Screen

All RNAi lines were expressed under muscle-specific Mef2Gal4-UAS control. mCD8-GFP selectively expressed in muscle tissue was used as a membrane marker to visualize post-synaptic membrane structure. α GluRIIA antibody was used to visualize the localization of GluRIIA at the post-synaptic site. *DnaJ-2* is serial# 67 and is highlighted in the table.

Serial #	RNAi line Transformant ID #	CG #	Post-synaptic membrane structure (mCD8-GFP membrane marker)	dGluRIIA localization
1	100011	CG10545	normal	normal
2	100033	CG10232	normal	normal
3	100081	CG10217	normal	normal
4	100143	CG10246	normal	normal
5	100180	CG10269	decreased signal	decreased signal
7	100212	CG10694	normal	patches
8	100225	CG10725	normal	decreased signal
9	100226	CG10203	normal	normal
10	100252	CG10345	normal	normal
11	100272	CG10038	normal	normal
13	100842	CG10702	normal	normal
14	101360	CG10723	normal	normal
15	101365	CG1086	patches	banding
16	101391	CG10652	decreased signal	decreased signal
17	101393	CG10214	decreased signal	decreased signal
18	101460	CG10375	normal	normal
19	101620	CG10683	normal	normal
20	101643	CG10175	decreased signal	decreased signal
21	101663	CG10712	patches	decreased signal or absent; slight banding
22	101764	CG10036	normal	normal
23	101774	CG1028	decreased signal	decreased signal
26	101818	CG10834	normal	normal
27	102405	CG10016	clumping	clumping
28	102407	CG10473	decreased signal	decreased signal
29	102478	CG1076	decreased signal	decreased signal
30	102572	CG10472	normal	decreased signal
32	102619	CG10303	normal	normal
33	102660	CG10140	normal	normal
34	102671	CG10247	normal	normal
35	102698	CG10134	normal	normal
36	102737	CG10527	normal	normal
37	102744	CG10508	normal	normal
38	102818	CG10129	normal	normal
39	102824	CG10014	normal	normal
41	103246	CG10045	normal	normal
42	103288	CG10598	normal	normal

43	103329	CG10528	normal	normal
44	103376	CG10657	normal	decreased signal; slight banding
45	103421	CG10286	normal	decreased signal; slight banding
46	103433	CG10863	underdeveloped	
47	103438	CG10031	normal	normal
48	103490	CG10477	normal	decreased signal or absent
50	103645	CG10743	normal	normal
51	103655	CG10447	normal	normal
52	103749	CG10082	normal	decreased signal
53	103985	CG10706	normal	normal
54	104016	CG10120	normal	normal
55	104038	CG10789	normal	normal
57	104421	CG10693	normal	decreased signal
58	104432	CG10225	normal	normal
59	104451	CG10474	normal	normal
61	104488	CG10184	normal	normal
62	104526	CG10407	normal	normal
63	104538	CG10176	normal	normal
64	105054	CG10719	normal	slight banding
65	105120	CG10566	normal	normal
67	105149	CG10565	patches	banding
68	105155	CG10626	normal	normal
69	105179	CG10654	decreased signal	decreased signal
71	105202	CG00000	normal	normal
72	105533	CG10307	underdeveloped	
73	105596	CG10746	normal	normal
73	105843	CG10838	normal	normal
74	105746	CG10699	normal	normal
75	105760	CG10751	normal	normal
76	105770	CG10338	normal	normal
77	105781	CG10243	normal	normal
79	105902	CG10616	normal	normal
80	105950	CG10084	normal	decreased signal
81	105952	CG10144	normal	normal
82	106002	CG10209	normal	normal
83	106017	CG10713	underdeveloped	
84	106051	CG10061	normal	normal
85	106064	CG10550	normal	normal
87	106141	CG10610	normal	normal
88	106150	CG1031	normal	normal
89	106185	CG10052	normal	normal
90	106212	CG10170	normal	normal
91	106226	CG10479	normal	normal
92	106590	CG10264	normal	normal
93	106599	CG10803	elongated boutons	decreased signal
96	106729	CG10207	normal	normal
97	106737	CG10553	normal	normal
98	106784	CG10366	normal	normal
99	107131	CG10465	normal	normal
100	107140	CG10576	normal	normal
101	107143	CG1024	increase	normal
102	107187	CG10572	normal	decreased signal
103	107329	CG10674	decreased signal	decreased signal
104	107394	CG10700	normal	normal
105	107784	CG10130	normal	increased
106	107842	CG10505	underdeveloped	
109	107903	CG10486	normal	normal

110	107908	CG10171	normal	normal
111	107922	CG10659	normal	normal
114	108196	CG10226	blurry	decreased signal
115	108216	CG10210	normal	normal
116	108219	CG10191	normal	normal
117	108255	CG10034	elongated boutons	banding
118	108259	CG10603	normal	decreased signal
119	108261	CG10763	normal	normal
121	108354	CG10420	normal	normal
122	108388	CG10237	patches	normal
123	108425	CG10814	underdeveloped	
124	108572	CG10581	normal	normal
125	108599	CG1064	normal	normal
126	108617	CG10367	underdeveloped	
127	108634	CG10850	normal	decreased signal; patches
128	108635	CG10069	normal	normal
129	108648	CG10001	normal	normal
130	108657	CG10254	normal	normal
131	108848	CG10133	normal	normal
132	108861	CG1066	normal	normal
133	108866	CG10050	normal	normal
134	108941	CG10582	underdeveloped	
135	108948	CG10078	patches	normal
136	109000	CG10233	normal	normal
137	109001	CG10277	patches	decreased signal
138	109012	CG10262	patches	decreased signal
139	109631	CG10844	underdeveloped	
140	109718	CG10623	normal	normal
141	109727	CG10151	normal	normal
142	109730	CG10112	normal	normal
143	109767	CG10732	normal	normal
146	109883	CG10495	decreased signal	decreased signal
147	109895	CG10671	normal	normal
148	110063	CG10041	normal	normal
149	110079	CG10252	normal	banding
150	110321	CG10480	normal	normal
151	110388	CG10341	normal	normal
152	110419	CG10215	normal	decreased signal
153	110429	CG10042	normal	decreased signal
156	110564	CG10153	normal	normal
157	110657	CG1009	normal	normal
158	110679	CG10590	normal	mislocalization
160	110717	CG10392	normal	normal
162	110731	CG10721	normal	decreased signal at NMJ; increased across muscle
163	102362	CG10861	normal	normal
164	107547	CG10855	underdeveloped	
165	110669	CG10080	underdeveloped	
166	110640	CG10268	decreased signal	normal
167	110571	CG10110	normal	decreased signal, patches
168	110232	CG10274	underdeveloped	
169	110225	CG10281	decreased signal	decreased signal
170	110223	CG10185	normal	normal
171	110196	CG10585	normal	normal
172	110190	CG10160	underdeveloped	
173	110172	CG10399	normal	normal
174	110164	CG1074	normal	normal

175	109881	CG10697	normal	normal
176	109507	CG10637	normal	normal
177	109472	CG10300	decreased signal	decrease signal
178	109469	CG10749	normal	normal
179	109465	CG10777	normal	normal
180	109422	CG10068	normal	normal
181	109407	CG10538	normal	normal
182	109402	CG10535	normal	normal
183	109311	CG10672	normal	normal
184	109284	CG10425	normal	normal
185	109279	CG10198	normal	normal
186	109043	CG10533	underdeveloped	
187	109027	CG10121	underdeveloped	
188	108982	CG10839	normal	normal
189	108937	CG10295	decreased signal	normal
190	108879	CG10118	increase in boutons	normal
191	108608	CG10023	normal	decreased signal
192	108582	CG10484	decreased signal	banding
193	108506	CG10698	underdeveloped	
194	108431	CG10104	normal	normal
195	108426	CG10311	normal	normal
196	108409	CG1072	underdeveloped	
197	108293	CG10033	normal	normal
198	108193	CG10360	underdeveloped	
199	108163	CG10086	underdeveloped	
200	108046	CG10764	normal	normal
201	107996	CG10443	normal	decreased signal
202	107988	CG10335	normal	normal
203	107744	CG10257	underdeveloped	
204	107721	CG10194	normal	normal
205	107720	CG10682	normal	normal
206	107674	CG10113	normal	normal
207	107595	CG10124	normal	normal
208	107561	CG10734	underdeveloped	
209	107452	CG10026	normal	normal
210	107417	CG10711	normal	normal
211	107335	CG10076	normal	normal
212	107008	CG10444	decreased signal	normal
213	106891	CG10374	normal	normal
214	106565	CG10852	normal	normal
215	106487	CG10229	normal	decreased signal, patches
216	106383	CG10737	underdeveloped	
217	106237	CG10583	normal	decreased signal
218	106172	CG10064	normal	normal
219	105940	CG10418	patches	patches; increased signal
220	105919	CG10621	normal	normal
221	105916	CG10317	normal	normal
222	105900	CG10051	normal	normal
223	105871	CG10501	normal	normal
224	105614	CG10260	normal	normal
225	105463	CG1058	normal	normal
226	105440	CG10628	underdeveloped	
227	105380	CG10354	normal	banding
228	105317	CG10822	normal	normal
229	105314	CG10382	normal	decreased signal
230	105266	CG10658	underdeveloped	
231	105263	CG10123	underdeveloped	

232	105093	CG10043	normal	normal
233	104941	CG10384	normal	normal
234	104910	CG10063	normal	normal
235	104790	CG10326	normal	normal
236	104774	CG10371	normal	normal
237	104764	CG18635	underdeveloped	
238	104759	CG1014	normal	normal
240	104658	CG10352	decreased signal	decreased signal
241	104618	CG10578	normal	normal
242	104431	CG10336	normal	normal
243	104414	CG10157	normal	normal
244	104401	CG10327	normal	normal
245	104188	CG10778	few patches	decreased signal
246	104160	CG1034	normal	normal
247	104138	CG10669	normal	normal
248	103837	CG10197	normal	normal
249	103798	CG10091	normal	normal
250	103781	CG10681	normal	normal
251	103780	CG10413	normal	normal
252	103744	CG10098	normal	normal
253	103714	CG10428	underdeveloped	
254	103585	CG10619	normal	normal
255	103524	CG10107	underdeveloped	
256	102914	CG10638	normal	decreased signal; patches
257	102670	CG10359	normal	normal
258	102518	CG10287	underdeveloped	
259	102435	CG10126	normal	decreased signal; patches
260	102318	CG10589	normal	normal
261	102105	CG1056	normal	normal
262	102047	CG1079	normal	normal
263	101903	CG10571	normal	normal
264	101609	CG10013	normal	normal
265	101599	CG10163	normal	normal
266	101569	CG10353	underdeveloped	
267	101555	CG10377	underdeveloped	
268	101554	CG10622	patches	decreased signal
269	101547	CG10574	normal	normal
270	101500	CG10847	normal	normal
271	101493	CG10009	patches	decreased signal
272	101488	CG1057	normal	normal
273	101358	CG1044	normal	normal
274	101259	CG10655	normal	normal
275	101178	CG10845	normal	normal
276	101174	CG10369	normal	increased
277	101168	CG10283	underdeveloped	
278	101159	CG10631	normal	normal
279	101139	CG10090	normal	normal
280	101133	CG10154	underdeveloped	
281	100990	CG1071	underdeveloped	
282	100982	CG10093	normal	normal
283	100959	CG10739	normal	normal
284	100895	CG10301	normal	normal
285	100830	CG10346	normal	normal
286	100805	CG10128	normal	normal
287	100789	CG10808	underdeveloped	
288	100773	CG10540	normal	normal
289	100704	CG10189	normal	normal

290	100623	CG10075	underdeveloped	
291	100617	CG10340	increased	increased
292	100587	CG1007	normal	normal
293	100583	CG10043	normal	normal
294	100446	CG10841	normal	normal
296	100400	CG10804	normal	normal
297	100397	CG10801	normal	normal
298	32929	CG1743	normal	normal
299	23483	CG9734	normal	decreased signal
300	29275	CG9779	normal	normal
301	100271	CG11324	normal	normal
302	100428	CG11008	normal	absent
303	100518	CG11251	increased	increased
304	100526	CG1089	normal	normal
305	100527	CG11570	normal	normal
306	100612	CG11785	decreased signal	decreased signal
307	100666	CG11635	normal	normal
308	100671	CG11218	increased quantity of boutons	decreased signal
309	100721	CG11326	normal	normal
310	100742	CG11328	normal	decreased signal
311	100763	CG11143	normal	normal
312	100776	CG11611	normal	decreased signal
313	100845	CG11291	normal	normal
314	100862	CG1132	normal	normal
315	100869	CG10973	normal	normal
316	100896	CG11786	underdeveloped	
317	100907	CG11254	normal	normal
318	100942	CG1108	normal	normal
319	100944	CG11064	underdeveloped	
320	101032	CG10956	normal	normal
321	101080	CG11069	normal	normal
322	101081	CG11415	normal	normal
323	101239	CG1113	normal	normal
324	101266	CG11313	normal	decreased signal
325	101282	CG11101	normal	normal
327	101397	CG11753	normal	normal
328	101491	CG11699	normal	normal
329	101601	CG11147	normal	normal
330	101666	CG11629	normal	normal
331	101668	CG10981	normal	normal
332	101758	CG1098	normal	normal
333	101895	CG11175	normal	decreased signal
335	101952	CG11750	decreased signal	decreased signal
336	101998	CG11138	normal	normal
337	102021	CG10930	decreased signal	decreased signal
338	102040	CG10946	elongation of boutons	mislocalization
339	102058	CG1128	normal	normal
340	102059	CG11398	patches	normal
334	101929	CG11671	normal	decreased signal
341	102061	CG11000	normal	normal
342	102062	CG11455	underdeveloped	
343	102112	CG11816	normal	decreased signal
344	102170	CG11406	decreased signal	absent or decreased signal
345	102191	CG10959	patches	normal
346	102252	CG11422	normal	increased
347	102282	CG11019	underdeveloped	
348	102331	CG11381	normal	normal

349	102353	CG11165	underdeveloped	
350	102359	CG11637	normal	normal
352	102363	CG1139	normal	normal
353	102365	CG11562		
354	102428	CG11742	normal	decreased signal
355	102485	CG11298	normal	normal
357	103012	CG10883	normal	decreased signal
358	103207	CG11529	normal	normal
359	103212	CG11581	increased	increased
360	103232	CG11085	normal	normal
361	103262	CG11598	normal	decreased signal
364	103457	CG11516	normal	absent
367	103736	CG11144	normal	normal
368	103931	CG11516	underdeveloped	
370	104169	CG11228	normal	normal
371	104245	CG11106	normal	normal
372	104286	CG11306	patches	decreased signal
373	104359	CG11586	underdeveloped	
374	104375	CG11268	underdeveloped	
375	104377	CG11077	normal	normal
376	104378	CG11208	normal	normal
377	104435	CG11777	normal	normal
378	104443	CG11722	underdeveloped	
379	104456	CG10919	normal	decreased signal
380	104761	CG10975	normal	normal
381	104878	CG1116	normal	normal
382	104926	CG11294	decreased signal	decreased signal
383	104938	CG10899	normal	patches
384	104997	CG11555	abnormal shape	banding
385	105036	CG11405	normal	normal
386	105063	CG1171	normal	patches
387	105073	CG11668	normal	normal
388	105079	CG11508	normal	normal
389	105392	CG11388	normal	normal
391	105416	CG11025	normal	decreased signal
392	105417	CG11814	decreased signal	decreased signal
393	105487	CG11594	normal	normal
394	105547	CG11456	normal	decreased signal
396	105586	CG1154	normal	normal
397	105588	CG11664	normal	normal
398	105683	CG11076	normal	decreased signal
399	105859	CG11411	decreased signal	decreased signal
400	105865	CG11158	normal	normal
401	105975	CG10997	normal	decreased signal and banding
402	105976	CG11622	normal	normal
403	105985	CG11148	normal	normal
405	106008	CG11213	decreased signal	decreased signal
406	106030	CG11650	normal	normal
407	106531	CG11760	normal	normal
408	106566	CG10910	normal	increased
409	106921	CG11210	normal	normal
411	106969	CG1093	normal	banding
412	106978	CG10971	normal	normal
413	107054	CG11372	normal	decreased signal
414	107110	CG11140	normal	normal
415	107113	CG11145	normal	normal
417	107148	CG11139	normal	decrease

419	107344	CG11579	normal	normal
420	107713	CG11661	normal	decreased signal
421	107724	CG11755	normal	normal
422	107754	CG11686	normal	normal
424	108017	CG1135	normal	decreased signal or absent
425	108034	CG1149	normal	decreased signal
426	108081	CG11678	patches	decreased signal
427	108188	CG11771	normal	normal
428	108277	CG11656	normal	normal
429	108307	CG11793	normal	normal
431	108337	CG11340	decreased signal	decreased signal
432	108456	CG11761	normal	normal
433	108467	CG11357	normal	decreased signal
434	108488	CG1165	normal	patches
435	108505	CG11516	normal	normal
437	108663	CG11062	normal	normal
438	108695	CG11798	underdeveloped	
440	108735	CG10914	normal	normal
441	108781	CG11719	normal	absent
442	108830	CG1109	normal	normal
443	108852	CG10923	normal	decreased signal
444	108869	CG11593	normal	normal
446	108919	CG11762	normal	normal
447	108938	CG11534	normal	normal
449	109010	CG11400	normal	normal
450	109111	CG11100	patches	banding
451	109295	CG11033	normal	normal
453	109331	CG11133	normal	normal
454	109336	CG11055	normal	normal
456	109445	CG11739	normal	normal
457	109610	CG10903	normal	banding
458	109672	CG11334	normal	normal
459	109733	CG11606	decreased signal	normal
460	110064	CG11698	normal	normal
461	110192	CG11301	normal	decreased signal; lots of noise
464	110656	CG10979	normal	normal
465	110651	CG11241	normal	normal
466	110587	CG11018	slightly blurry	normal
468	110476	CG11360	normal	normal
470	110392	CG10955	normal	banding
471	110357	CG10948	dispersion of bouton structure	normal
473	110342	CG10895	normal	normal
475	109898	CG11440	normal	decreased signal and banding
476	109866	CG1168	dispersion of bouton structure	normal
478	109781	CG10936	normal	decreased signal
479	109778	CG11369	normal	normal
480	108803	CG11037	normal	decreased signal
482	108618	CG11375	normal	normal
488	108372	CG11356	normal	normal
489	108361	CG1152	normal	normal
490	108194	CG11233	decreased signal	decreased signal
491	108158	CG11337	normal	normal
496	107883	CG11280	normal	normal
497	107858	CG10864	normal	normal
500	107547	CG10855	normal	normal
501	107546	CG10901	normal	normal
503	107529	CG11068	normal	normal

504	107518	CG10916	decreased signal	decreased signal
506	107435	CG11335	normal	normal
507	107404	CG11331	normal	normal
509	107368	CG11416	normal	normal
510	107351	CG11120	normal	normal
511	107331	CG11419	decreased signal	decreased signal
512	107327	CG11711	dispersion of bouton structure	normal
513	107251	CG10949	normal	normal
514	107205	CG11377	normal	normal
518	106779	CG11466	normal	banding
521	106714	CG11160	dispersion of bouton structure	decreased signal
523	106689	CG1099	normal	normal
524	106415	CG11286	normal	normal
526	106277	CG11170	dispersion of bouton structure	normal
529	106063	CG11494	normal	normal
530	105927	CG11261	normal	normal
531	105800	CG11756	normal	normal
534	105736	CG11577	normal	normal
539	105103	CG11115	dispersion of bouton structure	normal
540	104729	CG11597	normal	normal
541	104667	CG10988	normal	normal
543	104639	CG11052	normal	normal
546	104471	CG1101	dispersion of bouton structure	decreased signal
549	104151	CG11608	normal	normal
551	104059	CG11124	normal	banding
552	104037	CG10991	normal	normal
554	103943	CG11242	normal	normal
559	103608	CG11164	normal	normal
560	103589	CG11513	normal	banding
563	103546	CG11396	normal	normal
564	103529	CG1158	patches	normal
565	103495	CG11073	decreased signal	decreased signal
566	103409	CG11367	decreased signal	decreased signal; banding
567	103367	CG11093	normal	banding (2/6)
579	101697	CG11200	normal	normal
580	101480	CG11084	normal	banding
581	101458	CG11024	normal	normal
586	100338	CG11784	normal	normal
593	100087	CG11475	normal	banding
594	100055	CG11284	normal	decreased signal

Appendix B

DnaJ-2 Sequences

Legend:

XXX-mRNA

XXX-CDS

XXX- non-coding region

XXX start/stop codon

XXX-J-domain (HPD motif is underlined)

XXX – SANT DNA binding domain

.....- Deletion Site

The **EP-Insertion site for the transgenic line used in the mutagenesis scheme is also indicated in the sequence below.

Full *DnaJ-2* Sequence: Chomosome Region: 3L:21126350,21129453

5'-CTTCTTTTTTTAGTGGCCCATTAATAACAAAACTCGAATGTGGAATGTAT
TTAATAGTGTAGGATTTGTTATGTAATGAACGTGGATTAATAATTTGTTAAGA
CGGTAACTAAATATATAAATCATAAATAACCATTAGTTGAGATACGGTCAC
ACTTTGGCGCCAAACCAATACAACAGTTGCCATTCGATTTTAGCTATAGCAGC
TGGCAGCACTGCCAATAAGTGCCAGCGATACATGCTTGCTGTTATCGATCAA
ATATAGAGTAGGAAGCCAATCGATTTTACCAGCGCCATAATCGATGATGGCA
TCGATGTTTCACCACCAGTTCGAAACACATGCGGTGCTGCGGAAAA(**EP
Insertion Site**)GTGTGATTATTAATTGGATTTTCGACGTTTTGAAGGCAGCGGAT
CGCCAAATTTTGAGTAACGTGAATCCACAGGAGTGGCGGTGAATGCCCATTA
ACCAGCGGACCTGACCAGAG**ATGACGAGCGGTACGGTAGCAACGGCGGTGG
AGGTGCAGCTGCCGCTCAAGGTCGTTTCGCCGTAAAATCGAGCGCGTTGGCTT
CGCTTACTTTGCGCAACGGCGCCAATTTCTAGCTCCCGGCGGCGTGGAGCGC
AGCGAAAGCGATGAGAAATTGGAGGGCGTGGGCGAGGAGGTGGACATCAGC
TACCTAAAGTCGCTGGATCCTAAGGAGTGGAAGGACCAG**GATCATTACGCC
GTTCTTGGCTTGGGCAAGCTCCG**GTTAGTGCAGCGGCAGCACGTGGTGTCT
TCCCATGTGTTTCGTTTCTATCAATATTTAATGGGACTTCCCCAACTAATACTGTATTG
TCTGACTAAATCACCCTTT**AGATACGAGGCCAGCGAGGATGATGTTTCGACGG
GCTTACAGGCGCATGGTTCTGCTGCACCATCCCGATAAGCGGAAAGCCA
AGGGCGAGGAAGTCATCCAGGACGATGATTACTTCACATGCATAACCAA
AGCTTACGAGATACTGG**GTGGGTGTCAAGAAAATGTCCTTGCTGATCCTTGGGT
GTCCTTCGGACTTCGCATTGCCCATGCAAATCGACAGATAAGAATATTTTGATATTA
ATTTTCAGAGCATTTCGTTAAGCTATATAAAATTATGATACCATAACAATCCTGTTGAG
TATAATAATCAATTAAGATTTTAAATTATCTGAACTAATTTATACTCGATCTAATTCA
TTGGTGTGCTGTTGCCTTTGTCTAAGCGCGCAGAACTTGAAGCTTTATTTTGCATA
TCTAAAAATAGGACTAGTTGTTTGTCTCACATTCTTTTAAACAAAATGCCAAATTAT**

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 CTGCGCGACAAGGTCAAGGACTGCAAGTATTATGCCAAGAACGACAAGGATC
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 AGAGCTGCAAGCTCTAAATAAGGCAATGGAAAGCAAGGGCCGTGAGTCGTTT
 GTTGCTGCCCTTCAAACGGCCGAGCAGAAAGATAGCTGCCGAGTTGGAGGAGA
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 GCCTGCATACCGAATCGCAGTAAAAAGGACTGCTTACGTGCGGTCAAAG
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 AGCTGCTGTGTCCCATATAAATTTTATTTAAATAAAACATAAAAAGTTTTTGA
 ACGTTTAGCGAAAAGTT-3'

Amino Acid Sequence

MTSGLTVATAVEVQLPLKVVRRIKIERVGFAYFAQRRQFLAPGGVERSESDEKLEG
 VGEEVDISYLKSLDPKEWKDQDHYAVLGLGLRLYEASEDDVRRAYRRMVLLH
 HPDKRKAKGEEVIQDDDYFTCITKAYEILGTSKPRRSFDSVDPEFDDSLPSQNDID
 NDYFGVFNKFFTLNGRWSEKPHVPSFGQVDAKREEVERFYNFWDKSWREFS
 YLDEEDKEKGQDRDERRWIEKENRAARIKRKKEEMSRIRSLVDLAYNNDKRIQR
 FKQEEKDRKAAAKRAKMDAAQAQKAEADRAIREAALAKEKAKEAEQKRIEQIR
 IEREQQKLLKKERKTLRDKVKDCKYYAKNDKDQLKHMEGTEKICETFNLAEL

QALNKAMESKGRESFVAALQTAEQKIAAELEEINQTQAKKLASSAATPKGVKEV
 KKNELWSNENVQLLIKAVNLFAGTAQRWDVIATFINQHSPDNTVLVNARDVLN
 KAKALQNTDHSKSSLKTQANDAAFASFEKSKKDVQTCKDITLGEETAQASKENL
 KQNGVDHKANNQSTKQNGTAPAPANPTAAPAPVPATNGSTGGGAASKTWTKE
 EQALLEQAIKTYPTTTPDRWDCIAACIPNRSKKDCLRRVKELVELVNSKKEAQAA
 K

28M Mutant

5'-.....GATCCCGAGTTTGACGACTCGCTGCCCTCACAGAACGACATC
 GATAACGACTACTTTGGCGTATTTAACAAATTTTTACACTTAACGGGCGCTG
 GAGCGAAAAGCCGCATGTTCCCTCCTTCGGGCAGGTGGACGCCAAACGCGAA
 GAGGTGGAGCGCTTCTACAACCTTCTGGTACGATTTTAAGTCATGGCGGGAATT
 CAGCTACTTGGACGAAGAGGACAAGGAGAAGGGCCAGGACCGCGACGAACG
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 GCATTTCAGCGCTTCAAGCAGGAGGAAAAGGATCGCAAGGCTGCTGCCAAGC
 GAGCCAAGATGGACGCCGCCAGGCCCAGAAGGCAGAAGCTGATCGTGCCA
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 CCCTGCTCGAACAGGCCATTAAACCTATCCAACGACGACACCCGATCG
 CTGGGATTGCATCGCCGCCTGCATACCGAATCGCAGTAAAAAGGACTGC
 TTACGTGCGGTCAAAGAGCTGGTTCGAGCTGGTTAACTCCAAGAAGGAGGC
 ACAGGCGGCGGTCAAATGAGTGTGCGGCTCCTGCTCCACTTTACCTGCCTCTCGT
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#226 Mutant

5'-CTTCTTTTTTTTAGTGGCCCATTAATAACAAAACTCGAATGTGGAATGTATT
 TAATAGTGTAGGATTTGTTATGTAATGAACGTGGATTAATAATTTGTTAAGAC
 GGTTAACTAAATATATAAATCATAAATAACCATTAGTTGAGATACGGTCACA
 CTTTGGCGCCAAACCAATACAACAGTTGCCATTTCGATTTTAGCTATAGCAGCT
 GGCAGCACTGCCAATAAGTGCCAGCGATACATGCTTGCTGTTATCGATCAAA
 TATAGAGTAGGAAGCCAATCGATTTTACCAGCGCCATAATCGATGATGGCAT
 CGATGTTTCACCACCCTAGTCGAAACACATGCGGTGCTGCGGAAAA(EP
Insertion Site)GTGTGATTATTAATTGGATTTCGACGTTTTGAAGGCAGCGGAT
 CGCCAAATTTTGAGTAACGTGAATCCACAGGAGTGGCGGTGAATGCCCATTA
 ACCAGCGGACCTGACCAGAGATGACGAGCGGTACGGTAGCAACGGCGGTGG
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 AGCTGGTTCGAGCTGGTTAACTCCAAGAAGGAGGCACAGGCGGCGGTCAA
 TGA GTGCGGCTCCTGCTCCACTTTACCTGCCTCTCGTCCGCTCATCCACTTCT
 AGCTGCTGTGTCCCATATAAATTTTATTTAAATAAAACATAAAAAGTTTTGA
 ACGTTTAGCGAAAAGTT-3'

#274 Mutant

5'-CTTTCTTTTTTTAGTGGCCCATTAACAAAACTCGAATGTGGAATGTATT
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 TATAGAGTAGGAAGCCAATCGATTTTACCAGCGCCATAATCGATGATGGCAT
 CGATGTTTCACCACCACTAGTCGAAAACACATGCGGTGCTGCGGAAAA(EP
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 GCCTCCAAAACCTGGACCAAG**GAGGAGCAAGCCCTGCTCGAACAGGCCAT**
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TGCATACCGAATCGCAGTAAAAAGGACTGCTTACGTGCGGTCAAAGAGC
TGGTCGAGCTGGTTAACTCCAAGAAGGAGGCACAGGCGGCGGTCAAAT**TGA**
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 TTAGCGAAAAGTT-3'

#275 Mutant

5'-CTTTCTTTTTTTAGTGGCCCATTAACAAAACTCGAATGTGGAATGTAT
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 CGGTAACTAAATATATAAATCATAAATAACCATTAGTTGAGATACGGTCAC
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 TCGATGTTTCACCACCAGTTCGAAACACATGCGGTGCTGCGGAAAA**(EP**
InsertionSite)GTGTGATT.....**ATCCGTGAAGCGGCTTTGGCCAAGGAGAA**
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GCAGCAGAAAAAGCTGCTTAAGAAGGAGCGCAAAACGCTGCGCGACAAGGT
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GCAAGGAGAACTTGAAACAAAACGGTGTAGATCATAAGGCGAACAATCAGT
CAACCAAGCAGAATGGCACGGCTCCAGCTCCAGCAAACCCACGGCTGCACC
AGCCCCAGTTCCGGCCACAAATGGGTCTACGGGCGGCGGTGCTGCCTCCAAA
ACCTGGACCAAG**GAGGAGCAAGCCCTGCTCGAACAGGCCATTAAAACCT**
ATCCAACGACGACACCCGATCGCTGGGATTGCATCGCCGCCTGCATACC
GAATCGCAGTAAAAAGGACTGCTTACGTGCGGTCAAAGAGCTGGTCGAG
CTGGTTAACTCCAAGAAGGAGGCACAGGCGGCGGTCAAAT**TGA**GTGCGGCTC

CTGCTCCACTTTACCTGCCTCTCGTCCGCCTCATCCACTTCTAGCTGCTGTGTC
CCATATAAATTTTATTTAAATAAAAACATAAAAAGTTTTTGAACGTTTAGCGAA
AAGTT-3'

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ACADEMIC VITA

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EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with minor in Chemistry (2014)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Selleck Lab, BMB Department, Penn State-University Park, PA

Undergraduate Researcher (Fall 2011 – Present)

Identify and analyze potential regulators of post-synaptic membrane development at the *Drosophila* larval neuromuscular junction (NMJ) as a model system for development of the nervous system

Centyrex, Centocor R&D (Johnson&Johnson)-Radnor, PA

Laboratory Intern (Summer 2011)

Optimized the transition from laboratory-scale production to large-scale production of scaffold proteins for clinical trial.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dr. Bratoljub Milosavljevic, Chemistry Department, Penn State University-University Park, PA

Teaching Assistant (Fall 2013)

Teaching Assistant for Chem 450: Physical Chemistry I: Thermodynamics.

Summer Experience at Eberly College of Science (SEECoS)

Research Mentor (Summer 2012)

Designed and led a novel research project for a group of four high school students from underprivileged areas of Pennsylvania for 5 weeks

HONORS AND AWARDS

Honorable Mention-Goldwater
Scholarship
Summer Discovery Grant
Braddock Scholarship
Speaker at Discovery-U: Where Genius
Meets Imagination

Schreyer Honors Scholar
Penn State University's President's
Freshmen Award
Morrow Family Endowed Prize for
2011-2012