

# **Specific Hippocampal Interneurons Shape Consolidation of Recognition Memory**

Jose F. Oliveira da Cruz, Arnau Busquets-Garcia, Zhe Zhao, Marjorie Varilh, Gianluca Lavanco, Luigi Bellocchio, Laurie Robin, Astrid Cannich, Francisca Julio-Kalajzić, Thierry Lesté-Lasserre, et al.

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1 **Specific hippocampal interneurons shape consolidation of**  2 **recognition memory**   $3$  Jose F. Oliveira da Cruz<sup>1,2,6</sup>, Arnau Busquets-Garcia<sup>1,3,6</sup>, Zhe Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Marjorie 4 Varilh<sup>1</sup>, Gianluca Lavanco<sup>1,4</sup>, Luigi Bellocchio<sup>1</sup>, Laurie Robin<sup>1</sup>, Astrid Cannich<sup>1</sup>, 5 Francisca Julio-Kalajzić<sup>1</sup>, Thierry Lesté-Lasserre<sup>1</sup>, Marlène Maître<sup>1</sup>, Filippo 6 **Drago<sup>4</sup>, Giovanni Marsicano<sup>1,7,8\*</sup> and Edgar Soria-Gomez<sup>1,5,7\*</sup>** <sup>1</sup> 7 INSERM U1215, NeuroCentre Magendie, Bordeaux 33300, France; University 8 of Bordeaux, Bordeaux 33300, France 9 <sup>2</sup> New York University, Center for Neural Science, NY 10003, USA 10 <sup>3</sup> Integrative Pharmacology and System Neuroscience. IMIM-Hospital del Mar 11 Medical Research Institute, Barcelona 08003, Spain. 12 <sup>4</sup> Dept. of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences, Section of Pharmacology, 13 University of Catania, Catania 95124, Italy 14 <sup>5</sup> Ikerbasque-Basque Foundation for Science, Bilbao 48013, Spain; Dept. of 15 Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Nursing, University of the Basque 16 Country (UPV/EHU); Achucarro Basque Center for Neuroscience, Leioa 48940, 17 Spain 18 <sup>6</sup> These authors contributed equally 19 <sup>7</sup>. Senior Authors 20  $8$ , Lead Contact 21 \*Correspondence: 22 giovanni.marsicano@inserm.fr

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# 1 **SUMMARY**

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3 A complex array of inhibitory interneurons tightly controls hippocampal activity, 4 but how such diversity specifically impacts on memory processes is scantly 5 known. We find that a small subclass of type-1 cannabinoid receptor  $(CB_1R)$ -6 expressing hippocampal interneurons determines episodic-like memory 7 consolidation by linking dopamine  $D_1$  receptor ( $D_1R$ ) signaling to GABAergic 8 transmission.

9 Mice lacking CB<sub>1</sub>R in D<sub>1</sub>-positive cells (D<sub>1</sub>-CB<sub>1</sub>-KO) display impairment in long-10 term, but not short-term, novel object recognition memory (NOR). Re-11 expression of CB<sub>1</sub>R in hippocampal D<sub>1</sub>R-positive cells rescues this NOR deficit. 12 Learning induces an enhancement of *in vivo* hippocampal long-term 13 potentiation (LTP), which is absent in mutant mice. The  $CB_1R$ -mediated NOR 14 and associated LTP facilitation involve the local control of GABAergic inhibition 15 in a  $D_1$ -dependent manner.

16 This study reveals that hippocampal  $CB_1R-/D_1R$ -expressing interneurons 17 control NOR memory, thereby identifying a mechanism linking the diversity of 18 hippocampal interneurons to specific behavioral outcomes.

19 **KEYWORDS:** CB1 receptor, novel object recognition memory, 20 hippocampus, interneurons, dopamine, D<sub>1</sub> receptor, GABA.

# 1 **INTRODUCTION**

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3 The formation of episodic memory is a multistep brain process that 4 requires the activity of the medial temporal lobe (Squire et al., 2007). In 5 particular, the hippocampus participates in the long-term storage of recently 6 acquired events. Hippocampal circuits are regulated by a large variety of local 7 inhibitory interneurons that are controlled by neuromodulatory systems ensuring 8 their coordinated functions to shape behavioral responses (Klausberger and 9 Somogyi, 2008), whose identities and functions are unclear (Harris et al., 2018; 10 Pelkey et al., 2017; Parra et al., 1998).

11 The endocannabinoid system is a brain modulatory signaling hub mainly 12 formed by type-1 cannabinoid receptors (CB1R), their endogenous ligands 13 (endocannabinoids), and the enzymes for their synthesis and degradation. In 14 the hippocampus,  $CB_1R$  are present in principal neurons and astroglial cells 15 (Busquets-Garcia et al., 2015; Oliveira da Cruz et al., 2016). However, the 16 largest expression of CB<sub>1</sub>R resides in GABAergic interneurons (Marsicano and 17 Kuner, 2008; Katona and Freund, 2012), where they modulate local inhibition of 18 hippocampal circuits. Particularly, the largest amount of CB<sub>1</sub>R is expressed in 19 cholecystokinin (CCK)-positive interneurons, which are characterized by 20 asynchronous neurotransmitter release (Harris et al., 2018; Katona et al., 1999; 21 Marsicano and Lutz, 1999).

22 Hippocampal CB1R control episodic-like memory processes and synaptic 23 plasticity (Robin et al., 2018; Hebert-Chatelain et al., 2016; Puighermanal et al., 24 2009). However, the specific locations where these receptors participate in the 25 mechanisms underlying hippocampal-dependent memory are only partially 26 known.

27 Activity-dependent long-term changes in hippocampal synaptic 28 transmission are considered cellular correlates of memory consolidation (Nicoll, 29 2017; Whitlock et al., 2006), which involves local  $D_1R$  signaling (Lisman et al., 30 2011; Yamasaki and Takeuchi, 2017). The exposure to hippocampal-dependent 31 behavioral tasks induces changes in long-term potentiation (LTP) of synaptic

1 transmission that require the activation of  $D_1$ -like receptors (Frey et al., 1990; 2 Granado et al., 2008; Li et al., 2003; Lemon and Manahan-Vaughan, 2006). A 3 novel subpopulation of hippocampal CB1R/CCK-positive interneurons 4 containing D<sub>1</sub>R was recently described (Puighermanal et al., 2017; Gangarossa 5 et al., 2012). However, the potential interactions between  $D_1R$  and  $CB_1R$  in 6 regulating learning-induced plasticity, activity of hippocampal circuits, and 7 memory processes remain unexplored.

8 Here we assessed the role of  $D_1R/CB_1R$ -positive cells in the regulation of 9 episodic-like novel object recognition (NOR) memory. We found that, involving 10 GABAergic transmission, conditional deletion of the *CB1*R gene in hippocampal 11 D1R-positive cells impairs long- but not short-term NOR memory and learning-12 induced LTP enhancement. These intriguing results suggest that  $CB_1R$ 13 signaling provides a functional link between hippocampal dopaminergic and 14 GABAergic control of synaptic plasticity and memory consolidation.

# 1 **RESULTS**

## 2 **CB1R IN HIPPOCAMPAL D1R-POSITIVE NEURONS ARE NECESSARY FOR**  3 **THE CONSOLIDATION OF NOR MEMORY**

4 Mutant mice bearing a deletion of the *CB1*R gene in cells expressing D1R 5 (D1-*CB1*-KO mice; Monory et al., 2007) displayed no phenotype in the short-6 term version (3h post-training) of a NOR task (**Figure 1A,B**; Puighermanal et 7 al., 2009; Busquets-Garcia et al., 2011; Robin et al., 2018). Conversely, they 8 showed a strong impairment in long-term (24h) memory as compared to their 9 wild-type (WT) littermates (**Figure 1C**), with no changes in total exploration time 10 (**Figure S1A-S1D**).

11 The majority of  $CB_1R$  in D<sub>1</sub>R-positive neurons has been previously 12 characterized in striatonigral circuits (Monory et al., 2007). Considering the 13 involvement of these circuits in NOR memory (Darvas and Palmiter, 2009), we 14 tested the role of striatal  $CB_1R$ . We infused an adeno-associated virus carrying 15 a Cre-dependent expression of CB1R (pAAV-CAG-DIO-*CB1*) into the striatum of 16 D1-*CB1*-KO mice to obtain re-expression of CB1R in cells where Cre is present 17 (hereafter called D1R-positive) in this brain region (STR-*CB1*-RS mice, **Figure**  18 **1D and 1E**) as revealed by the immunodetection of a myc-tagged version of 19 CB1R (CB1R-myc, see Methods, **Figure 1E**). This re-expression was not 20 sufficient to rescue the phenotype of D1-*CB1*-KO mice in long-term NOR 21 (**Figure 1F, S1E and S1F**), suggesting that CB1R in striatal D1R-positive cells 22 do not participate to this type of memory. Anatomical data indicate that a subset 23 of hippocampal neurons contain D1R (Gangarossa et al., 2012), likely co-24 expressing CB1R protein (Puighermanal et al., 2017). Thus, we re-express the 25 *CB1*R gene in the hippocampus of D1-*CB1*-KO mice to obtain HPC-*CB1*-RS mice 26 (**Figure 1D and 1G**). This manipulation fully rescued the phenotype of the 27 mutant mice (**Figure 1F, S1E and S1F**), indicating that hippocampal CB1R 28 expressed in  $D_1R$ -positive cells are required for NOR memory.

 $29$  We recently reported that deletion of  $CB_1R$  in hippocampal glial acidic 30 fibrillary protein (GFAP)-positive cells (i.e. mainly astrocytes, GFAP-*CB1*-KO 31 mice) also impaired NOR memory (Robin et al., 2018). Indeed, GFAP-*CB1*-KO 32 mice were impaired in NOR (**Figure S1G-S1I**; Robin et al., 2018) but, in 1 contrast to D1-*CB1*-KO mice, this phenotype extended to short-term NOR 2 memory (Figure S1J-S1L). This difference suggests that CB<sub>1</sub>R expressed in 3 hippocampal astrocytes or  $D_1R$ -positive cells might control distinct phases of 4 NOR memory consolidation.

 $5$  The primary function of  $CB_1R$  activation in neurons is to decrease 6 neurotransmitter release (Castillo et al., 2012, Busquets-Garcia et al., 2017). 7 Accordingly, the deletion of  $CB_1R$  from neurons often results in excessive 8 neurotransmission. Thus, we reasoned that inhibition of hippocampal  $D_1R$ -9 positive neurons during NOR consolidation should be able to rescue the 10 memory impairment of D1-*CB1*-KO mice. Viral vectors carrying Cre-dependent 11 expression of an inhibitory Designer Receptor Exclusively Activated by 12 Designer Drugs (DIO-hM4DGi, DREADD-Gi; Robinson and Adelman, 2015) or 13 control mCherry protein were infused into the hippocampi of D1-*CB1*-KO mice 14 and WT littermates (**Figure 1H**). Post-training CNO injections did not affect the 15 NOR performance of D1-*CB1*-KO and WT mice injected with either DREADD-Gi 16 or mCherry, indicating that the drug or its metabolites had no effect *per se* 17 [(Gomez et al., 2017), **Figure 1I, S1M and S1N**]. Conversely, post-acquisition 18 CNO treatment fully rescued the NOR impairment of D1-*CB1*-KO mice 19 expressing DREADD-Gi (**Figure 1I, S1M and S1N**). This strongly suggests that 20 excessive activity of  $D_1R$ -positive neurons during the consolidation process is 21 responsible for the memory impairment observed in D1-*CB1*-KO mice.

## 22 **CB1R IN HIPPOCAMPAL D1R-POSITIVE NEURONS CONTROL LEARNING-**23 **INDUCED CHANGES OF LTP IN VIVO**

24 Cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying activity-dependent 25 changes in synaptic plasticity are proposed to underlie long-term memory 26 (Aggleton and Morris, 2018). Previous studies showed that conditional and 27 global deletion of  $CB_1R$  in neuronal and glial cell populations induces deficits in 28 learning and associated synaptic plasticity (Busquets-Garcia et al., 2017; Robin 29 et al., 2018). To address the role of  $CB_1R$  in hippocampal  $D_1R$ -positive neurons 30 in the modulation of synaptic plasticity, we recorded *in vivo* evoked field 31 excitatory postsynaptic potentials (fEPSPs) in the hippocampal CA3-CA1 32 pathway of anesthetized mice. High Frequency Stimulation (HFS) induced 33 similar long-lasting LTP of synaptic fEPSPs in both D1-*CB1*-KO and WT

1 littermates (**Figure 2A and 2B**), indicating that hippocampal D<sub>1</sub>R/CB<sub>1</sub>R-positive 2 neurons are dispensable for the expression of LTP in naïve animals.

3 Hippocampal-dependent memory-related processes such as LTP are 4 sensitive to pharmacological and genetic modulation of hippocampal  $D_1R$ , 5 particularly after learning (Li et al., 2003, Lemon and Manahan-Vaughan, 2006, 6 Takeuchi et al., 2016, Yamasaki and Takeuchi, 2017). Thus, we hypothesized 7 that  $CB_1R$  in  $D_1R$ -positive neurons may modulate learning-dependent 8 hippocampal synaptic plasticity. To explore whether acquisition of the NOR task 9 modulates *in vivo* LTP; we recorded fEPSP from C57Bl6/NRj mice after NOR 10 task (**Figure 2C**). The HFS induced stronger LTP in animals exposed to NOR 11 acquisition than in control mice (**Figure 2D and 2E**), showing that the training 12 modulates hippocampal synaptic plasticity. Strikingly, D1-*CB1*-KO mice lacked 13 this learning-induced enhancement of LTP (**Figure 2F and 2G**). Thus, 14 physiological activation of  $CB_1R$  in hippocampal  $D_1R$ -positive neurons is 15 required for learning-dependent facilitation of LTP.

### 16 **CB1R IN HIPPOCAMPAL D1R-POSITIVE NEURONS MODULATE NOR** 17 **MEMORY CONSOLIDATION THROUGH A GABAERGIC-DEPENDENT**

#### 18 **MECHANISM**

19 D1R are expressed in different hippocampal cells, including subsets of 20 GABAergic and glutamatergic neurons (Gangarossa et al., 2012). Considering 21 that CB1R signaling decreases the activity of both hippocampal neurons 22 (Busquets-Garcia et al., 2017, Castillo et al., 2012), we asked whether 23 excessive glutamatergic or GABAergic neurotransmission might underlie the 24 phenotype of D1-*CB1-*KO mice. Thus, we injected non-amnesic doses 25 (Puighermanal et al., 2009) of the NMDA receptor blocker MK-801, the 26 AMPA/kainate receptor antagonist NBQX (**Figure S2A**) or of the GABA<sup>A</sup> 27 receptor antagonist Bicuculline in D1-*CB1*-KO and WT littermates immediately 28 after the NOR training. MK-801 or NBQX did neither alter memory performance 29 in WT mice nor did it rescue the amnesic phenotype of D1-*CB1*-KO littermates 30 (**Figure 3A, S2B and S2C**). Conversely, Bicuculline completely reversed the 31 memory impairment of D1-*CB1*-KO mice when injected immediately after 32 training or 1h later, without affecting WT littermates' performance (**Figure 3A,**  33 **S2B and S2C**).

1 These data indicate that excessive GABAergic, but not glutamatergic, 2 ionotropic receptor activity is involved in the phenotype of D1-*CB1*-KO mice. A 3 large proportion of GABAergic hippocampal interneurons contain  $CB_1R$  mRNA, 4 which is expressed at different levels [high  $CB_1R$ - and low  $CB_1R$ -expressing 5 cells; (Marsicano and Lutz, 1999)]. Conversely, D1R mRNA is expressed at very 6 low levels in the hippocampus (**http://mouse.brain-**7 **map.org/experiment/show/35,** data not shown), which makes it difficult to 8 accurately quantify its expression above background. Therefore, in order to 9 pinpoint which  $CB_1R$ -positive interneurons in the hippocampus contain  $D_1R$ , we 10 combined fluorescence *in situ* hybridization for CB<sub>1</sub>R mRNA in D<sub>1</sub>-Cre and D<sub>1</sub>-11 *CB1*-KO mice carrying viral Cre-dependent expression of mCherry (see 12 methods and **Figure 3B**). As described (Marsicano and Lutz, 1999), detectable 13 levels of CB1R mRNA were present throughout the hippocampus both in 14 pyramidal neurons and in GABAergic interneurons (**Figure S2D)**. The 15 distribution of mCherry-tagged D1-positive neurons in the dorsal CA1 region of 16 D1-Cre mice was similar to previous findings (Puighermanal et al., 2017, 17 Gangarossa et al., 2012). Double staining revealed that virtually no high  $CB_1R$ -18 expressing interneurons in *strata oriens*, *pyramidale*, *radiatum* or *lacunosum* 19 *moleculare* contain D1R (**Figure 3C-3F and S2D**). Conversely, D1R is present 20 in a small subpopulation of low CB1R-expressing interneurons along the 21 different hippocampal layers (**Figure 3C and 3F**). Importantly, this co-22 expression was virtually abolished in hippocampi of D1-*CB1*-KO mice (**Figure**  23 **3C, 3D and 3F**).

24 Altogether, these data indicate that  $CB_1R$ -dependent modulation of a 25 small subpopulation of  $D_1R$ -positive GABAergic interneurons is required during 26 NOR memory consolidation.

## 27 **SYNAPTIC MECHANISMS UNDERLYING NOR MEMORY CONSOLIDATION**  28 **AND ASSOCIATED HIPPOCAMPAL PLASTICITY**

29 The data collected so far show that reduction of GABAergic signaling 30 prevents the deficits of D1-*CB1*-KO mice in NOR consolidation. Therefore, we 31 tested whether inhibition of GABAA receptors could rescue the lack of learning-32 induced LTP enhancement observed in D1-*CB1*-KO mice. Trained mice 33 received Bicuculline or vehicle before testing LTP induction in hippocampal 1 circuits. In vehicle-treated animals, D1-*CB1*-KO mice showed no training-2 induced LTP enhancement (**Figure 4A-4C**). Strikingly, whereas Bicuculline did 3 not affect LTP in WT animals, it rescued the training-induced LTP of D1-*CB1*-KO 4 mice (**Figure 4A-4C**).

 $5$  Recent data suggest that hippocampal  $D_1R$ -like receptors participate in 6 memory formation, but little is known concerning the cell types involved (Lisman 7 et al., 2011, Yamasaki and Takeuchi, 2017). Our data indicate that CB<sub>1</sub>R-8 dependent control of GABAergic transmission from a low number of 9 hippocampal interneurons expressing  $D_1R$  is required to quarantee late 10 consolidation of NOR memory. Therefore, it is possible that endocannabinoid 11 actions are secondary to an activation of  $D_1R$  in these cells. To address this 12 issue, we first reasoned that partial inhibition of  $D_1R$  should "replace" the lack of 13 CB1R-dependent control of neurotransmission in D1-*CB1*-KO mice. Thus, we 14 administered a sub-effective dose of the D1/5R antagonist SCH-23390 (**Figure**  15 **S3A-S3C**) to D1-*CB1*-KO mice and WT littermates after NOR acquisition and we 16 analyzed the training-induced enhancement of *in vivo* LTP. This treatment 17 slightly reduced the late phase of LTP in WT animals (**Figure 4A-4C**). However, 18 the antagonist abolished the differences between D1-*CB1*-KO mice and WT 19 littermates (**Figure 4A-4C**), indicating that reducing D1R activity counteracts the 20 absence of  $CB_1R$  in the mutants. If LTP is mechanistically linked to NOR 21 consolidation, the same treatment should rescue the memory impairment of  $D_{1}$ -22 *CB1*-KO mice. The administration of SCH-23390 did not alter the behavior of 23 WT mice (**Figure 4D, S3D and S3E**) but, strikingly, it fully rescued the memory 24 impairment of D1-*CB1*-KO littermates (**Figure 4D, S3D and S3E**).

25 Altogether, these results indicate that endocannabinoid-dependent 26 regulation of hippocampal  $D_1R$ -positive interneurons represents a necessary 27 step in the dopaminergic control of NOR memory consolidation and associated 28 synaptic plasticity.

### 1 **DISCUSSION**

2 The present study reveals that a specific subpopulation of hippocampal 3 D<sub>1</sub>R/CB<sub>1</sub>R-positive neurons controls late consolidation of NOR memory and 4 associated synaptic plasticity by moderating local inhibitory GABAergic activity 5 in the hippocampus. Specifically,  $CB_1R$  expressed in  $D_1R$ -positive interneurons 6 participate in learning-induced facilitation of *in vivo* LTP and are required for 7 consolidation of NOR memory. Moreover,  $CB_1R$  in  $D_1R$ -positive neurons are 8 necessary for physiological  $D_1R$ -dependent modulation of memory processes, 9 suggesting that cannabinoid signaling is part of a complex modulatory circuit 10 regulated by dopamine transmission in the hippocampus. By determining 11 cellular and behavioral functions of a specific  $CB_1R$ -expressing interneuron 12 subpopulation, these data uncover an unforeseen role of  $CB_1R$  in the  $D_1R$ -13 dependent control of long-term memory.

14 The endocannabinoid system regulates episodic-like recognition memory 15 processes *via* CB1R-dependent control of different cell types within the 16 hippocampus (Busquets-Garcia et al., 2017; Soria-Gomez et al., 2017; 17 Busquets-Garcia et al., 2016; Puighermanal et al., 2009; Robin et al., 2018). In 18 the present study we observed that the transition from short- to long-term 19 memory processes is controlled by a functional interaction between  $D_1R$  and 20 CB1R receptors in a specific subpopulation of hippocampal interneurons. In 21 contrast, CB<sub>1</sub>R receptor deletion from all body cells or in all forebrain 22 GABAergic neurons does not reproduce the phenotype of D1-*CB1*-KO mice 23 (Puighermanal et al., 2009; Hebert-Chatelain et al., 2016). These apparently 24 contrasting observations can be explained by different possibilities. Long-term 25 deletion of the *CB1*R gene starting from early developmental stages both in 26 *CB1*-KO and GABA-*CB1*-KO mice might induce compensatory mechanisms (El-27 Brolosy et al., 2019; El-Brolosy and Stainier, 2017) masking the functional role 28 of the  $CB_1R$  in NOR memory. An alternative or complementary explanation 29 might point to the presence of different subpopulations of brain cells expressing 30 CB1R and exerting opposite effects on memory processes. For instance, 31 endocannabinoid signaling might promote or inhibit memory formation when 32 acting at D1R-positive cells or at other neuronal subpopulations, respectively. 33 We have previously shown that astroglial  $CB_1R$  are necessary for consolidation

1 of NOR memory by allowing D-Serine availability at glutamatergic synapses 2 (Robin et al., 2018). We cannot fully exclude that deletion of  $CB_1R$  in  $D_1R$ -3 positive cells does not involve also astrocytes (Nagatomo et al., 2017). 4 However, no conclusive anatomical evidence so far has been presented for the 5 expression of D1R in hippocampal astrocytes [(Chai et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 6 2014), but see (Jennings et al., 2017) for D1/5R pharmacological experiments]. 7 Moreover, our current and past results suggest that endocannabinoid control of 8 astrocytes is likely involved in the initial phases of memory formation, whereas 9 the  $CB_1R$ -dependent inhibition of  $D_1R$ -positive hippocampal interneurons 10 determines later phases of NOR memory consolidation. The time-course effects 11 of pharmacological treatments indicate that D-serine can rescue memory 12 performance of GFAP-*CB1*-KO mice only when administered immediately after 13 learning (Robin et al., 2018). This idea is reinforced by the fact that these 14 mutants do not express *in vivo* LTP even in basal "home-cage" conditions 15 (Robin et al., 2018), whereas D1-*CB1*-KO mice only lack the specific facilitation 16 of LTP induced by learning. Altogether, these observations allow speculating 17 that at least two distinct temporal windows exist in the  $CB_1R$ -dependent control 18 of NOR. First, astroglial  $CB_1R$  are necessary for the plastic processes to initiate 19 the memory. Later, the endocannabinoid-dependent regulation of  $D_1R$ -positive 20 interneurons is required to maintain the memory trace for longer periods.

21 Hippocampal D1R were previously shown to be mainly on GABAergic 22 interneurons, but lower levels were also detected on glutamatergic neurons 23 (Gangarossa et al., 2012; Puighermanal et al., 2017; http://celltypes.brain-24 map.org/maseq/mouse ctx-hip smart-seq). Our data show that the  $D_1$ -Cre 25 mouse line used in the present study (Lemberger et al., 2007) induces 26 recombination in a small sub-fraction of hippocampal interneurons containing 27 low levels of CB<sub>1</sub>R mRNA, but also in pyramidal neurons and mossy cells. 28 Therefore, we cannot fully exclude that other cell types than hippocampal 29 interneurons might participate in the  $D_1R/CB_1R$ -dependent control of memory 30 consolidation. However, our data show that partial blockade of GABA<sup>A</sup> 31 receptors, but not of AMPA/Kainate or NMDA glutamatergic ones, reverse the 32 memory impairment of D1-*CB1*-KO mice. Therefore, our findings strongly 33 suggest that  $CB_1R$ -control of GABA release from  $D_1R$ -positive interneurons

1 regulates late consolidation of NOR memory. However, recent data using 2 emerging technologies suggest that hippocampal cells are more diverse and 3 functionally segregated than previously thought (Harris et al., 2018; Soltesz and 4 Losonczy, 2018). By identifying specific markers, future studies will extend our 5 genetic and pharmacological evidence that a specific subpopulation of 6 D1R/CB1R-positive hippocampal interneurons regulates consolidation of NOR 7 memory.

8 LTP at the CA3-CA1 pathway represents a potential molecular and 9 cellular mechanism underlying the behavioral expression of episodic-like 10 memory processes (Morris, 2013). Interestingly, whereas deletion of CB<sub>1</sub>R from 11 D1R-positive cells impairs NOR memory, the same manipulation does not 12 impair *in vivo* LTP of hippocampal synaptic transmission in naïve animals. In 13 agreement with previous evidence in other experimental conditions (Li et al., 14 2003; Lemon and Manahan-Vaughan, 2006), WT mice exposed to the NOR 15 learning task display a facilitation of *in vivo* LTP as compared to animals 16 exposed to the same environment without any learning. Importantly, this 17 facilitation is absent in D1-*CB1*-KO mice, suggesting that the endocannabinoid 18 control of D<sub>1</sub>R-positive hippocampal interneurons is recruited only after learning. 19 The facilitation might be due to a "real" stronger synaptic transmission after 20 learning or to a decrease of baseline synaptic activity (Lisman, 2017), which 21 might be occluded in D1-*CB1*-KO mice. The fact that partial blockade of GABA<sup>A</sup> 22 receptors in trained WT mice does not alter the LTP facilitation, suggests that 23 this phenomenon is due to a genuine increase of LTP. In addition, our data 24 indicate that reducing GABAergic transmission in  $D_1R$ -positive neurons is 25 required for this form of learning-induced synaptic plasticity. These results 26 reinforce the idea that, in order to reveal relevant mechanisms, investigations 27 on synaptic plasticity associated to memory processes should include not only 28 naïve animals, but also behaviorally challenged ones (Lisman et al., 2011).

 $29$  D<sub>1</sub>R activity in the hippocampus is necessary for long-term memory, 30 synaptic plasticity and network dynamics (Lisman et al., 2011, Yamasaki and 31 Takeuchi, 2017; Kaufman et al., 2020; Bethus et al., 2010). Consistently, our 32 results show that high-doses of the D1/5R antagonist SCH23390 impair memory 33 performance in the NOR task. In addition, our data suggest that  $D_1R/CB_1R$ -

1 positive hippocampal interneurons are one of the targets of the dopaminergic 2 control of learning and memory processes. Interestingly, it has been shown that 3 parvalbumin (PV)-expressing interneurons require  $D_1R$  activity for late phases 4 of memory consolidation through the coordinate control of the activity of 5 hippocampal pyramidal neurons (Karunakaran et al., 2016). Particularly, the 6 authors describe that this  $D_1R$  activity modulates hippocampal network 7 oscillations (i.e. sharp-wave ripples), which is a proposed correlate for synaptic 8 plasticity and memory consolidation (Buzsaki, 2015). In addition, previous 9 studies have shown that PV/CB<sub>1</sub>R-negative and CCK/CB<sub>1</sub>R-positive 10 interneurons have complementary roles in ensuring such high oscillatory ripple 11 events with consequent capacity to modulate synaptic plasticity (Klausberger et 12 al., 2005; Buzsaki, 2015). Therefore, we speculate that the subpopulation of 13 D1R/CB1R-positive interneurons described in our work could play a 14 complementary role in maintaining proper excitation/inhibition balance in the 15 hippocampal network activity required for memory consolidation.

16 While the complete elucidation of the complex microcircuitry requires 17 further characterization, our findings support the hypothesis that  $D_1R/CB_1R$ -18 positive hippocampal interneurons belong to a broader circuit participating in 19 the dopaminergic control of memory (Yamasaki and Takeuchi, 2017). Our data 20 are compatible with a scenario where  $D_1R$  activation during the 21 learning/consolidation process potentiates GABAergic transmission. However, 22 this  $D_1R$ -dependent increase of inhibition is kept within adequate limits by the 23 activation of  $CB_1R$ , thereby allowing a proper flow of information. In this sense, 24 in the absence of  $CB_1R$ -dependent control of  $D_1R/CB_1R$ -positive interneurons 25 (i.e.  $D_1$ - $CB_1$ -KO mice), a partial inhibition of either  $D_1$ -like or GABA<sub>A</sub> receptors 26 rescues the phenotype. In other words, whereas activation of  $D_1R$  in 27 interneurons seems to be necessary for the memory process, their abnormally 28 high activity (*e.g*. in the absence of CB1R) impairs such functions. In this 29 context, an interesting question relates to the functional link between the 30 endogenous activation of D1R and CB1R. Our results allow speculating about 31 two potential scenarios, based on autocrine or paracrine modes of action of 32 endocannabinoid signaling (Busquets-García et al., 2017): (i) General D1R-33 dependent dopaminergic signaling in the hippocampus might activate pyramidal

1 neurons (Roggenhofe et al., 2013; Shivarama-Shetty et al., 2018) targeted by 2 D<sub>1</sub>R/CB<sub>1</sub>R-positive interneurons. This depolarization of pyramidal neurons 3 would, in turn, induce the canonical endocannabinoid-dependent retrograde 4 inhibition of GABAergic release (Castillo et al., 2012), thereby moderating, 5 amongst others, the activation of  $D_1R/CB_1R$ -positive interneurons. (ii) Following 6 D1R activation and consequent interneuron depolarization (Anastasiades et al., 7 2019; Gorelova et al., 2002), endocannabinoids might be mobilized locally and 8 act in an autocrine manner to decrease the membrane potential and thereby 9 moderate the activity of the neuron (Bacci et al., 2004). These two possibilities 10 are not mutually exclusive and they might reflect the impact of the mechanisms 11 described on general network activity and/or on specific plastic cellular 12 processes, respectively. Future studies will investigate these intriguing 13 scenarios using adapted experimental approaches.

14 Altogether, these data reveal that functionally distinct cell types are present in 15 the general population of hippocampal GABAergic interneurons expressing  $16$  CB<sub>1</sub>R. In particular, D<sub>1</sub>R/CB<sub>1</sub>R-positive interneurons provide specific behavioral 17 and hippocampal synaptic mechanisms sustaining the fine-tuned regulation of 18 memory processes. The close interaction of  $CB_1R$  and  $D_1R$  in modulating 19 recognition memory might provide novel therapeutic frameworks for the 20 treatment of cognitive diseases characterized by alterations of both or either 21 endocannabinoid and dopaminergic systems.

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# 20 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

21 JFOdC, AB-G, GM and ES-G conceived and supervised the whole 22 project. JFOdC performed and analyzed *in vivo* electrophysiology and 23 behavioral experiments. AB-G and ES-G performed and analyzed behavioral 24 experiments. LB and AC contributed to experiments using viral vectors. LR and 25 GL contributed to behavioral experiments. MV, FJ-K, TLL and MM performed 26 cytochemical experiments. ZZ, MV helped with the analysis of the data. JFOdC, 27 AB-G, GM and ES-G wrote the manuscript. FD contributed to the writing. All 28 authors edited and approved the manuscript.

# **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

2 The authors declare no competing interests.



### 1 **FIGURE 1. HIPPOCAMPAL CB1R IN D1R-POSITIVE CELLS ARE**

#### 2 **NECESSARY FOR LATE, BUT NOT EARLY, CONSOLIDATION OF NOR**

- 3 (A) Schematic representation of NOR Memory task.
- 4 (B) Short-term (3 hours) NOR memory performance of  $D_1$ - $CB_1$ -WT mice (n =
- 5 10) and  $D_1$ - $CB_1$ -KO littermates (n = 7).
- 6 (C) Long-term NOR (24 hours) memory performance of  $D_1$ - $CB_1$ -WT mice (n = 9)
- 7 and  $D_1$ - $CB_1$ -KO littermates (n = 8).
- 8 (D) Schematic representation of the experiment using viral re-expression of the
- 9 *CB1*R gene in the striatum (STR) or the hippocampus (HPC) of D1-*CB1*-WT 10 mice and D1-*CB1*-KO littermates.
- 11 (E) Representative images of Cre-expressing D1-*CB1*-KO mice injected with
- 12  $CB_1R\text{-}myc$  in the STR using the same procedure as described in (D) (see
- 13 methods). Scale bar = 2mm.
- 14 (F) NOR memory performance of mice with re-expression of the *CB1*R gene in
- 15 striatum (STR) or hippocampus (HPC). Control [n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=17 and n(D1-
- 16 *CB1*-KO)=5], STR*-CB1*-RS [n(D1-*CB1*-KO)=6] or HPC-*CB1*-RS [n(D1-*CB1*-
- 17 KO)=9].

18 (G) Immunofluorescence of cells expressing CB1R-myc in the hippocampus.

- 19 Scale bar =  $500 \text{ µm}$ .
- 20 (H) Schematic representation of the experiment using viral expression of the Gi-
- 21 DREADDs or mCherry in the hippocampus of D1-*CB1*-WT mice and D1-*CB1*-KO
- 22 littermates. Clozapine N-oxide (CNO, 2mg/kg) injections take place after the 23 Training phase of the NOR task.
- 24 (I) NOR memory performance of D1-*CB1*-WT mice intra-hippocampally injected
- 25 with hM4D(Gi) virus or mCherry  $[n(VEH)=16$  and  $n(CNO)=21$ ],  $D_1-CB_1-KO$  mice
- 26 injected with mCherry [n(VEH)=6 and n(CNO)=7] and D1-*CB1*-KO mice intra-
- 27 hippocampally injected with  $h\text{M4D(Gi)}$  [n(VEH)=11 and n(CNO)=14].
- 28 Data, mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*p < 0.05, \*\*\*p < 0.001, \*\*\*\*p < 0.0001, ns=not significant. 29 See also **Figure S1** and **Table S1**.
- 30
- 31

### 1 **FIGURE 2. LEARNING-INDUCED FACILITATION OF IN VIVO HIPPOCAMPAL**

#### 2 **LTP REQUIRES CB1R AT D1R-POSITIVE NEURONS**

3 (A and B) HFS in the dorsal hippocampal CA3 Shaffer-Collateral pathway 4 induces an *in vivo* LTP in dorsal CA1 *stratum radiatum*. (A) Summary plots of 5 recorded evoked fEPSP in anesthetized D1-*CB1*-WT (n=8) and D1-*CB1*-KO 6 (n=8) mice. (B) Bar histograms of normalized fEPSP from (A) representing 30 7 and 60 minutes after HFS.

8 (C) Schematic representation of the experimental setup (see methods).

9 (D and E) Learning modulates *in vivo* LTP. (D) Summary plots of recorded 10 evoked fEPSP from mice expose to Control (n=8) and NOR Training (n=11) 11 conditions. (E) Bar histograms of normalized of evoked fEPSP from (D) 12 representing 30 and 60 minutes after HFS.

- 13 (F and G) Learning-induced modulation of *in vivo* LTP is impaired in D1-*CB1*-KO
- 14 mice. (F) Summary plots of recorded fEPSP in anesthetized D1-*CB1*-WT (n=10)

15 and D1-*CB1*-KO (n=10) mice. (G) Bar histograms of normalized of evoked

- 16 fEPSP from (F) representing 30 and 60 minutes after HFS.
- 17 Traces on the right side of the summary plots represent 150 superimposed 18 evoked fEPSP before HFS (1, grey), 30 minutes (2, brown) and 60 minutes (3,
- 19 black) after HFS.
- 20 Data, mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*p < 0.05, ns=not significant.
- 21 See also **Table S1**.
- 22

### 1 **FIGURE 3. HIPPOCAMPAL CB1R/D1R-POSITIVE INTERNEURONS**

#### 2 **MODULATE SYNAPTIC GABAERGIC TRANSMISSION.**

- 3 (A) NOR memory performance of mutant mice administered with: vehicle [n(D1-
- 4 *CB1*-WT)=14 and n(D1-*CB1*-KO)=14], MK-801 [0.1 mg/kg, IP; n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=7
- 5 and n(D1-*CB1*-KO)=7], NBQX [5 mg/kg, IP; n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=8 and n(D1-*CB1*-
- 6 KO)=5], or Bicuculline immediately after [n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=10 and n(D1-*CB1*-
- 7 KO)=10] or 1 hour after the training phase [n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=10 and n(D1-*CB1*-
- 8 KO)=8].
- 9 (B) Schematic representation of the experimental procedure to detect *CB1*R 10 mRNA in D<sub>1</sub>R-positive cells.
- 11 (C and D) Representative images of  $CB_1R$  mRNA (in green) and mCherry
- 12 protein (in red) labeling in the hippocampal CA1 region of  $D_1$ -Cre (C) and  $D_1$ -
- 13 *CB<sub>1</sub>*-KO (D) mice. White arrows indicate colocalization between CB<sub>1</sub>R-positive
- 14 and  $D_1R$ -positive cell bodies. Scale bar = 150  $\mu$ m.
- 15 (E and F) Floating bars indicating the layer specific distribution of the % of cell
- 16 bodies expressing high  $(E)$  and low amounts  $(F)$  of CB<sub>1</sub>R, which colocalize with
- 17 mCherry-positive (i.e. D1R-positive) in D1-Cre (n=3) and D1-*CB1*-KO (n=3).
- 18 Data, mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, ns=not significant.
- 19 See also **Figure S2** and **Table S1**.

1 **FIGURE 4. CELLULAR MECHANISMS LINKING D1R-SIGNALLING WITH** 

2 **GABAERGIC ACTIVITY DURING LEARNING-INDUCED FACILITATION OF IN** 

### 3 **VIVO LTP AND MEMORY CONSOLIDATION**

- 4 (A) Effects of the GABAA receptor antagonist Bicuculline, the D1/5R antagonist
- 5 SCH 23390 on learning-induced modulation of *in vivo* LTP in D1-*CB1*-WT and
- 6 D1-*CB1*-KO mice. Summary plots of recorded evoked fEPSP in Vehicle [n(D1-
- $7$  *CB<sub>1</sub>*-WT)=6 and  $n(D_1 CB_1 KO) = 8$ , Bicuculline [0.5 mg/kg; IP,  $n(D_1 CB_1 W) = 9$
- 8 and n(D1-*CB1*-KO)=11] and SCH 23390[0.3 mg/kg; IP, n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=6 and

$$
9 \qquad n(D_1 - CB_1 - KO) = 6].
$$

- 10 (B and C) Bar histograms of (A) representing normalized fEPSP from 30 (B)
- 11 and 60 (C) minutes after HFS.
- 12 (D) Memory performance D1-*CB1*-WT and D1-*CB1*-KO mice after being injected
- 13 with vehicle  $[n(D_1 CB_1 WT) = 6$  and  $n(D_1 CB_1 KO) = 10$  or SCH 23390 [0.3 mg/kg;
- 14 IP, n(D1-*CB1*-WT)=10 and n(D1-*CB1*-KO)=10]
- 15 Traces on the right side of the summary plot (A) represent 150 superimposed
- 16 evoked fEPSP before HFS (1, grey), 30 minutes (2, brown) and 60 minutes (3,
- 17 black) after HFS.
- 18 Data, mean  $\pm$  SEM. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.01, ns=not significant.
- 19 See also **Figure S3** and **Table S1**.
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# **STAR METHODS**

- **RESOURCE AVAILABILITY**
- 

# **LEAD CONTACT**

6 Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed 7 to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Giovanni Marsicano 8 (giovanni.marsicano@inserm.fr).

# **MATERIALS AVAILABILITY**

12 Mouse lines generated and used in the current study are available from the lead 13 contact upon request. We are glad to share the mouse lines with reasonable

14 compensation by requestor for its processing and shipping.

# **DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY**

18 The data supporting the current study have not been deposited in a public

19 repository but are available from the lead contact on request.

# 1 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

#### 2 **ANIMAL MODEL**

3 All experimental procedures were approved by the ethical committee of the 4 French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (authorization 5 APAFIS#18111). Maximal efforts were made to reduce the suffering of the 6 animals. Male mice were used in this study.

7 D1-*CB1*-KO mice were generated as previously described (Monory et al., 2007; 8 Terzian et al., 2011). Briefly,  $CB_1$  floxed mice (Marsicano et al., 2003) were 9 crossed with D1-Cre line (Lemberger et al., 2007), in which the Cre 10 recombinase was placed under the control of the  $D_1$  gene (Drd1a) regulatory 11 sequences using transgenesis with modified bacterial artificial chromosomes. 12 The pattern of Cre expression recapitulated the expression pattern of the 13 endogenous Drd1a (Lemberger et al., 2007). Breeding was performed by 14 mating male Cre-positive D1-*CB1*-KO mice with homozygous *CB1*-flox female 15 mice deriving from a separate colony. In order to detect possible germline or 16 ectopic recombination events, genotyping of tail samples from pups (PD10) was 17 performed by genomic PCR using primers suited to identify WT, "floxed" and 18 "recombined" bands. No germline or ectopic recombination was detected. Eight 19 to 14 weeks-old naïve male D1-*CB1*-KO and WT littermates were used. 8-14 20 weeks old male C57BL/6Rj mice purchased from Janvier (France). 8-12 weeks-21 old D1-Cre mice breed in the animal facilities of the U1215 we also used. 22 Animals were housed collectively under standard conditions of temperature and 23 humidity in a day/night cycle of 12/12 hours (light on at 7 am). Animals that 24 underwent surgery were kept in individual cages after the procedures to avoid 25 conflict with their littermates. Food and water were provided *ad libitum*. All the 26 experiments were performed during the light phase. Behavioral experiments 27 were performed from 9 am to 3 pm. Electrophysiology experiments were 28 performed from 8 am to 7 pm.

# 1 **METHOD DETAILS**

2

#### 3 **DRUG PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

4 Bicuculline, MK-801, NBQX and SCH23390 were purchased from Merck 5 (formerly Sigma-Aldrich, France) and were dissolved to their final concentration 6 in physiological saline (NaCl 0.9%). The exogenous DREADD ligand clozapine-7 N-oxide (CNO, 2 mg/kg) was purchased from Tocris Bioscience (Bristol, UK) 8 and dissolved in saline after gently mixing with a vortex. All drugs were injected 9 intraperitoneally in a volume of 10 ml/kg. Vehicle in all the conditions was 10 composed of physiological saline (NaCl 0.9%) injections.

#### 11 **NOVEL OBJECT RECOGNITION MEMORY**

12 We used the novel object recognition (NOR) memory task in an L-maze 13 (Busquets-Garcia et al., 2013; Busquets-Garcia et al., 2011; Hebert-Chatelain 14 et al., 2016; Puighermanal et al., 2013; Puighermanal et al., 2009; Robin et al., 15 2018).

16 The task took place in a L-shaped maze made of dark grey polyvinyl chloride 17 made by two identical perpendicular arms (35 cm and 30 cm long respectively 18 for external and internal L walls, 4.5cm wide and 15 cm high walls) placed on a 19 white background (Busquets-Garcia et al., 2011; Puighermanal et al., 2009). 20 The task occurred in a room adjacent to the animal house with a light intensity 21 fixed at 50 lux. The maze was overhung by a video camera allowing the 22 detection and offline scoring of animal's behavior. The task consisted in 3 23 sequential daily trials of 9 minutes each. During the habituation phase (day 1), 24 mice were placed in the center of the maze and allowed to freely explore the 25 arms in the absence of any objects. The training phase (day 2) consisted in 26 placing the mice again in the corner of the maze in the presence of two identical 27 objects positioned at the extremities of each arm and left to freely explore the 28 maze and the objects. The testing phase occurred 24 hours later (day 3): one of 29 the familiar objects was replaced by a novel object different in its shape, color 30 and texture and mice were left to explore both objects. The position of the novel 31 object and the associations of novel and familiar were randomized. All objects

1 were previously tested to avoid biased preference. Memory performance was 2 assessed by the discrimination index (DI). The DI was calculated as the 3 difference between the time spent exploring the novel (TN) and the familiar 4 object (TF) divided by the total exploration time (TN+TF): DI=[TN-TF]/[TN+TF]. 5 Memory was also evaluated by directly comparing the exploration time of novel 6 and familiar objects, respectively. Object exploration was defined as the 7 orientation of the nose to the object at less than 2 cm. Experienced 8 investigators evaluating the exploration were blind of treatment and/or genotype 9 of the animals. Pharmacological treatments were immediately administered 10 after the training phase.

#### 11 **IN VIVO ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY IN ANESTHETIZED MICE**

12 Experiments were performed as described in (Robin et al., 2018). Mice were 13 anesthetized in a box containing 5% Isoflurane (Virbac, France) before being 14 placed in a stereotaxic frame (Model 900, Kopf instruments, CA, USA) in which 15 1.0% to 1.5% of Isoflurane was continuously supplied via an anesthetic mask 16 during the whole duration of the experiment. The body temperature was 17 maintained at ±36.5ºC using a homoeothermic system (model 50-7087-F, 18 Harvard Apparatus, MA, USA) and the state of anesthesia was assessed by 19 mild tail pinch. Before surgery, 100 ml of the local anesthetic lurocaine 20 (vetoquinol, France) was injected in the scalp region. Surgical procedure started 21 with a longitudinal incision of 1.5 cm in length aimed to expose Bregma and 22 Lambda. After ensuring the correct alignment of the head, two holes were 23 drilled in the skull for electrode placement. Glass recording electrodes were 24 inserted in the CA1 stratum radiatum, and a concentric stimulating bipolar 25 electrode (Model CBARC50, FHC, ME, USA) placed in the CA3 region. 26 Coordinates were as follows: CA1 stratum radiatum: A/P 1.5, M/L 1.0, DV 1.20; 27 CA3: A/P 2.2, M/L 2.8, D/V 1.3 (20 insertion angle). The recording electrode (tip 28 diameter =  $1-2$  mm, 2-4 M $\Omega$ ) was filled with a 2% pontamine sky blue solution 29 in 0.5M sodium acetate. At first the recording electrode was placed by hand 30 until it reached the surface of the brain and then to the final depth using a 31 hydraulic micropositioner (Model 2650, KOPF instruments, CA, USA). The 32 stimulation electrode was placed in the correct area using a standard 33 manipulator. Both electrodes were adjusted to find the area with maximum

1 response. *In vivo* recordings of evoked field excitatory postsynaptic potentials 2 (fEPSPs) were amplified 1000 times and filtered (low-pass at 1Hz and high-3 pass 3000Hz) by a DAGAN 2400A amplifier (DAGAN Corporation, MN, USA). 4 fEPSPs were digitized and collected on-line using a laboratory interface and 5 software (CED 1401, SPIKE 2; Cambridge Electronic Design, Cambridge, UK). 6 Test pulses were generated through an Isolated Constant Current Stimulator 7 (DS3, Digitimer, Hertfordshire, UK) triggered by the SPIKE 2 output sequencer 8 via CED 1401 and collected every 2 s at a 10 kHz sampling frequency and then 9 averaged every 180 s. Test pulse intensities were typically between 40-250 µA 10 with a duration of 50 ms. Basal stimulation intensity was adjusted to 30%–50% 11 of the current intensity that evoked a maximum field response. All responses 12 were expressed as percent from the average responses recorded during the 15 13 min before high frequency stimulation (HFS). HFS was induced by applying 3 14 trains of 100 Hz (1 s each), separated by 20 s interval. fEPSP were then 15 recorded for a period of 60 min. C57BL6/NRj mice underwent this *in vivo*  16 electrophysiology procedure after the training phase of NOR task. Also, where 17 specified, D1-*CB1*-KO and D1-*CB1*-WT received an injection of Bicuculine (0.5 18 mg/kg, intraperitoneal) or SCH 23390 (0.3 mg/kg, intraperitoneal) or vehicle 19 immediately after undergoing training in NORT and before being subjected to 20 the *in vivo* electrophysiology procedure. At the end the experiment, the position 21 of the electrodes was marked (recording area: iontophoretic infusion of the 22 recording solution during 180 s at 20mA; stimulation area: continuous current 23 discharge over 20 s at +20mA) and histological verification was performed *ex*  24 *vivo*.

#### 1 **SURGERY AND VIRAL ADMINISTRATION**

2 Mice were anesthetized in a box containing 5% Isoflurane (Virbac, France) 3 before being placed in a stereotaxic frame (Model 900, Kopf instruments, CA, 4 USA) in which 1.0% to 1.5% of Isoflurane was continuously supplied via an 5 anesthetic mask during the whole duration of the experiment. For viral intra-6 HPC AAV delivery, mice were submitted to stereotaxic surgery (as above) and 7 AAV vectors were injected with the help of a microsyringe (0.25 ml Hamilton 8 syringe with a 30-gauge beveled needle) attached to a pump (UMP3-1, World 9 Precision Instruments, FL, USA). Where specified, D1-*CB1*-WT and D1-*CB1*-KO 10 mice were injected directly into the hippocampus (HPC) or striatum (STR) (0.5 11  $\mu$  per injection site at a rate of 0.5  $\mu$  per min), with the following coordinates: 12 HPC, AP -1.8; ML ±1; DV -2.0 and -1.5; Striatum: AP -1.34; ML ±2.8; DV -1.84. 13 Following virus delivery, the syringe was left in place for 1 minute before being 14 slowly withdrawn from the brain. CB<sup>1</sup> *floxed* mice were injected with rAAV-CAG-15 DIO (empty control vector), AAV-CAG-DIO-*CB1* or AAV-CAG-DIO-CB1-myc to 16 induce re-expression of the  $CB_1$  receptor gene in hippocampal or striatal  $D_1$ -17 positive cells. To generate the aforementioned rAAVs, mouse *CB1* receptor 18 coding sequence (either native or fused to myc-tag at the C term) was cloned in 19 rAAV-CAG-DIO vector using standard molecular cloning technology. The 20 coding sequence was cloned inverted in orientation to allow Cre-dependent 21 expression of  $CB_1$  receptors (Atasoy et al., 2008). In another experiment, and 22 using the same procedure as described as above, D1-*CB1*-WT and D1-*CB1*-KO 23 mice were injected intra hippocampally (AP -1.8; ML  $\pm$ 1; DV -2.0 and -1.5), with 24 pAAV-hSyn-DIO-hM4D(Gi)-mCherry or pAAV-hSyn-DIO-mCherry (addgene, 25 USA). For anatomical experiments and using the same procedure as above,  $D_{1}$ -26 Cre and D1-*CB1*-KO were injected intra hippocampally with pAAV-hSyn-DIO-27 mCherry. In this specific experiment, expression was allowed to take place for 2 28 weeks. For the remaining experiments, animals were used around 4-5 weeks 29 after local infusions. Mice were weighed daily and individuals that failed to 30 regain the pre-surgery body weight were excluded from the following 31 experiments.

#### 1 **IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY ON FREE-FLOATING SECTIONS.**

2 Mice were anesthetized with pentobarbital (Exagon, Axience SAS, 400 mg/kg 3 body weight), transcardially perfused with phosphate-buffered solution (PBS 4 0.1M, pH 7.4) before being fixed with 4% formaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich). The 5 The brains were extracted and incubated overnight at 4˚C in the same fixative, 6 then embedded with sucrose 30% for 3 days and finally frozen in 2- 7 methylbutane (Sigma-Aldrich) at -80˚C. Free-floating frozen coronal sections 8 (40 µm) were cut out with a cryostat (Microm HM 500M Microm Microtech), 9 collected collected in an antifreeze solution and conserved at -20°C. Sections 10 were permeabilized in a blocking solution (in PBS: 10% donkey serum, 0.3% 11 Triton X-100) for 1 hour at room temperature (RT). Then, sections were 12 incubated with a rabbit primary antibody against the C-myc epitope tag (1:1000, 13 BioLegend) overnight at 4˚C. After several washes with PBS, slices were 14 incubated for 2 hours with a secondary antibody goat anti-rabbit Alexa Fluor 15 488 (1:500, Fisher Scientific) and then washed in PBS at RT. Finally, sections 16 were incubated with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI 1:20000, Fisher 17 Scientific) diluted in PBS for 5 minutes to visualize cell nuclei and then were 18 washed, mounted and coverslipped. All the antibodies were diluted in blocking 19 solution. The sections were imagedimaged with a slides scanner Hamamatsu 20 Nanozoomer 2.0 HT.

# 21 **COMBINED FLUORESCENT IN SITU HYBRIDIZATION (FISH)/** 22 **IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY (IHC) ON FREE-FLOATING FROZEN SECTIONS**

23 Mice were anesthetized with pentobarbital (Exagon, Axience SAS, 400 mg/kg 24 body weight), transcardially perfused with PBS (0.1M, pH 7.4) before being 25 fixed with 4% formaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich). The brains were extracted and 26 incubated overnight at 4˚C in the same fixative, then embedded with sucrose 27 30% for 3 days and finally frozen in 2-methylbutane (Sigma-Aldrich) at -80˚C. 28 Free-floating frozen coronal sections were cut out with a cryostat (30 µm, 29 Microm HM 500M Microm Microtech) and collected in an antifreeze solution and 30 conserved at -20°C.

31 Section were washed several times with PBS with diethyl pyrocarbonate (PBS-32 DEPC) to wash out the antifreeze solution. The endogenous peroxidases were

1 inactivated by incubating the free-floating sections with  $3\%$  H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in PBS-DEPC 2 for 30 minutes. All endogenous biotin, biotin receptors, and avidin binding sites 3 present in the tissue were blocked by using the Avidin/Biotin Blocking Kit 4 (Vector Labs, USA). Then, the slices were incubated overnight at RT with a 5 rabbit polyclonal primary antibody against DsRed (1:1000, Takara Bio) diluted in 6 a blocking solution (0.3% Triton X-100 diluted in PBS-DEPC). The following 7 day, after several washes, the sections were incubated with a secondary 8 antibody goat anti-rabbit conjugated to a horseradish peroxidase (HRP) (1:500, 9 Cell Signaling Technology) during 2 hours at RT followed by TSA Biotin System 10 (Biotin TSA 1:100, PerkinElmer) for 10 minutes at RT. After several washes, the 11 slices were fixed with 4% of formaldehyde (Sigma Aldrich) for 10 minutes and 12 blocked with 0.2M HCl for 20 minutes at RT. Then, the section were acetylated 13 in 0.1 M Triethanolamine, 0.25% Acetic Anhydride for 10 minutes. This step 14 was performed to reduce non-specific probe binding. Sections were hybridized 15 overnight at 60°C with Digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled riboprobe against mouse CB<sub>1</sub> 16 receptor (1:1000, prepared as described in (Marsicano and Lutz, 1999). After 17 hybridization, the slices were washed with different stringency wash buffers at 18 65°C. Then, the sections were incubated with 3% of  $H_2O_2$  for 30 minutes at RT 19 and blocked 1 hour with NEN blocking buffer prepared according to the 20 manufacturer's protocol (PerkinElmer). Anti-DIG antibody conjugated to HRP 21 (1:2000, Roche) was applied for 2 hours at RT. The signal of  $CB_1$  receptor 22 hybridization was revealed by a TSA reaction using fluorescein isothiocyanate 23 (FITC)-labeled tyramide (1:80 for 12 minutes, Perkin Elmer). After several 24 washes, the free-floating slices were incubated overnight at 4°C with 25 Streptavidin-Texas Red (1:400, PerkinElmer). Finally, the slices were incubated 26 with DAPI (1:20000; Fisher Scientific) diluted in PBS, following by several 27 washes, to finally be mounted, cover slipped and imaged with an 28 epifluorescence Leica DM 6000 microscope (Leica, Germany).

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30

# 1 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

### 2 **DATA COLLECTION**

3 No statistical methods were used to pre-determine sample sizes, but they are 4 similar to those reported in previous publications. All data collection and/or 5 analysis were performed blind to the conditions of the experimenter except for 6 the *in vivo* electrophysiological experiments. All mice were assigned randomly 7 to the different experimental conditions.

### 8 **FLUORESCENCE QUANTIFICATIONS**

9 Cells expressing mRNAs were quantified in the different layers (*stratum oriens*, 10 *stratum pyramidale*, *stratum radiatum* and stratum *lacunosum moleculare*) of 11 the dorsal hippocampus.  $CB_1$  receptor positive cells were classified according to 12 the level of transcript visualized by the intensity of fluorescence (Marsicano and 13 Lutz, 1999; Terral et al., 2019). ''High-CB1'' cells were considered to be round-14 shaped and intense staining covering the entire nucleus whereas ''Low-CB1'' 15 cells were defined with discontinuous shape and lowest intensity of 16 fluorescence allowing the discrimination of grains of staining.

### 17 **STATISTICAL ANALYSES**

18 Data were expressed as mean ± SEM or single data points and were analyzed 19 with Prism 6.0 (Graphpad Software), using two-tails *t-*test (paired, unpaired) or 20 one-way ANOVA (Dunnett's), two-way ANOVA (sidak's). Sample sizes and p-21 values can be found in figure legends and Table S1.

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#### Figure 1



#### Figure 2





 $\mathbf C$  $D_1$ -Cre



D  $D_1$ -CB<sub>1</sub>-KO



E  $30$   $\Box$  D<sub>1</sub>-Cre dCA1  $D_1$ -CB<sub>1</sub>-KO % high  $CB_1 + / D_1 +$  $20 10 0 -$ 

S. Oriens

S. Pyramidale

S. Radiatum

S.Lac Mol



#### Figure 4



### **Hippocampal Circuits**





