

This is a repository copy of *Biotin tagging of MeCP2 in mice reveals contextual insights into the Rett syndrome transcriptome*.

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/122204/>

Version: Accepted Version

Article:

Johnson, Brian S., Zhao, Ying-Tao, Fasolino, Maria et al. (10 more authors) (2017) Biotin tagging of MeCP2 in mice reveals contextual insights into the Rett syndrome transcriptome. *Nature Medicine*. pp. 1203-1214. ISSN 1078-8956

<https://doi.org/10.1038/nm.4406>

Reuse

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.

14 **Abstract:**

15 Mutations in *MECP2* cause Rett syndrome (RTT), an X-linked neurological disorder
16 characterized by regressive loss of neurodevelopmental milestones and acquired psychomotor
17 deficits. However, the cellular heterogeneity of the brain impedes an understanding of how
18 *MECP2* mutations contribute to RTT. Here we developed a Cre-inducible method for cell type-
19 specific biotin tagging of MeCP2 in mice. Combining this approach with an allelic series of
20 knockin mice carrying frequent RTT mutations (T158M and R106W) enabled the selective
21 profiling of RTT-associated nuclear transcriptomes in excitatory and inhibitory cortical neurons.
22 We found that most gene expression changes are largely specific to each RTT mutation and cell
23 type. Lowly expressed cell type-enriched genes are preferentially disrupted by MeCP2
24 mutations, with upregulated and downregulated genes reflecting distinct functional categories.
25 Subcellular RNA analysis in MeCP2 mutant neurons further reveals reductions in the nascent
26 transcription of long genes and uncovers widespread post-transcriptional compensation at the
27 cellular level. Finally, we overcame X-linked cellular mosaicism in female RTT models and
28 identified distinct gene expression changes between neighboring wild-type and mutant neurons,
29 altogether providing contextual insights into RTT etiology that support personalized therapeutic
30 interventions.

31

32

33

34

35

36

37 **Introduction**

38 RTT is a progressive X-linked neurological disorder that represents one of the most common
39 causes of intellectual disability among young girls. Patients experience a characteristic loss of
40 acquired social and psychomotor skills and develop stereotyped hand movements, breathing
41 irregularities, and seizures after 6-18 months of normal development¹. Approximately 95% of
42 RTT cases are mapped to the X-linked gene encoding methyl-CpG binding protein 2 (MeCP2), a
43 ubiquitously expressed protein that is highly enriched in postmitotic neurons^{2,3}. The majority of
44 RTT-associated mutations cluster within two functionally distinct domains of MeCP2. The
45 Methyl-CpG Binding Domain (MBD) allows MeCP2 to bind to methylated cytosines⁴. The
46 Transcriptional Repression Domain (TRD) mediates protein-protein interactions with histone
47 deacetylase-containing co-repressors, such as the NCoR-SMRT and mSin3A complexes⁵⁻⁷.
48 These domains support MeCP2 as a chromatin factor that mediates transcriptional repression^{7,8},
49 although transcriptional activation by MeCP2 is also reported⁹⁻¹¹.

50 Different mutations in *MECP2*, together with random X-chromosome inactivation (XCI),
51 underlie a spectrum of clinical severity in RTT patients¹². Among the most frequent RTT
52 mutations, three are missense mutations in the MeCP2 MBD, including R106W (2.76% of RTT
53 patients), R133C (4.24%), and T158M (8.79%)¹³. Typical RTT patients bearing the R133C
54 mutation display milder clinical symptoms, whereas patients carrying the T158M or R106W
55 mutation exhibit moderate or severe symptoms, respectively¹². Although the clinical severity of
56 these mutations scales with their effects on MeCP2 binding affinity to methylated DNA¹⁴⁻¹⁷, this
57 relationship is not fully understood on a molecular level. Mouse models carrying RTT mutations
58 can recapitulate this phenotypic variability, but most studies are limited to hemizygous male
59 mice¹⁷⁻²¹. Despite that RTT predominantly affects heterozygous females, an experimental

60 strategy to selectively identify gene expression changes from *Mecp2* mutant-expressing cells in a
61 mosaic female brain has not yet been developed.

62 Given that MeCP2 is a chromatin-bound nuclear protein, the identification of MeCP2
63 transcriptional targets in the brain remains key towards illuminating RTT etiology²². However,
64 target identification is confounded by the cellular heterogeneity of the brain, which contains
65 multiple intermixed cell types that differ in morphology, function, electrophysiological
66 properties, and transcriptional programs^{23–25}. Analyses using heterogeneous brain tissues obscure
67 cell type-specific gene expression changes, impeding the assessment of MeCP2 function at the
68 transcriptional level²⁶. The identification of transcriptional targets is further complicated by the
69 widespread binding patterns of MeCP2 to methylated cytosines (mCpG and mCpA)^{8,27,28} or
70 unmethylated GC-rich regions²⁹ throughout the genome.

71 In this study, we addressed the confounding effects of cellular heterogeneity by
72 engineering genetically modified mice whereby MeCP2 is labeled with biotin using Cre-Lox
73 recombination. To understand the molecular impact of RTT mutations on cell type-specific gene
74 expression *in vivo*, we also developed an allelic series of knockin mice bearing one of two
75 frequent RTT missense mutations, T158M and R106W. When combined with Fluorescence-
76 Activated Cell Sorting (FACS), this strategy allows for the isolation of neuronal nuclei from
77 targeted cell types, effectively circumventing cellular heterogeneity in the mouse brain and X-
78 linked mosaicism in female mice. Our findings support a contextualized model by which cell
79 autonomous and non-autonomous transcriptional changes in different cell types contribute to the
80 molecular severity of neuronal deficits in RTT, providing new directions for therapeutic
81 development.

82

83

84 **Results**

85 **Engineering a System to Genetically Biotinylate MeCP2 *In Vivo*:** Biotin-mediated affinity
86 tagging has been widely utilized in cell and animal models for multiple experimental approaches
87 because of the strong ($K_d = 4 \times 10^{-14} \text{M}$) and specific interaction between biotin and avidin
88 protein³⁰. We exploited this approach to investigate MeCP2 function by using homologous
89 recombination to insert a short 23-amino acid affinity tag immediately upstream of the *Mecp2*
90 stop codon (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Fig. 1a). This tag comprises a TEV protease cleavage site
91 and a 15-amino acid biotinylation consensus motif (termed Tavi, TEV and Avidin-binding) that
92 can be post-translationally labeled with biotin by the *E. coli* biotin ligase, BirA. To biotinylate
93 the tag in cell types of interest, we also generated Cre-dependent BirA transgenic mice (herein
94 $R26^{cBirA}$; Supplementary Fig. 1b). Therefore, upon crossing these mice to a cell type-specific Cre
95 line, BirA is expressed and subsequently biotinylates MeCP2-Tavi (Fig. 1b). We used *Elfla-Cre*³¹
96 to ubiquitously express BirA ($R26^{BirA}$) and confirmed that MeCP2 is specifically biotinylated *in*
97 *vivo* only when BirA is expressed and the Tavi tag is present (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Fig.
98 1c).

99 To examine the possibility that tagging MeCP2 adversely affects its function, we
100 assessed MeCP2 expression levels, DNA binding, and protein-protein interactions in 20-week
101 old *Mecp2*^{Tavi/y} (herein TAVI) and littermate *Mecp2*^{+/y} (WT) mice. We found that total MeCP2
102 protein, but not RNA, is significantly reduced by ~40% in TAVI mice, and a similar trend
103 towards ~40% reduction is also observed among soluble and chromatin-bound protein fractions
104 (Supplementary Fig. 1d-f). However, Tavi-tagged and untagged MeCP2 both exhibit comparable
105 levels of chromatin binding at high and low affinity genomic sites, including highly methylated

106 major satellite repeats and IAP elements, and MeCP2-Tavi remains associated with the NCoR-
107 SMRT co-repressor (Supplementary Fig. 1g-h). Although a 50% reduction in MeCP2 expression
108 is sufficient to cause hypoactivity and subtle behavioral phenotypes in mice³², TAVI mice appear
109 similar to WT mice and do not display overt RTT-like features using phenotypic scoring³³ over
110 an observational period of 20 weeks (Fig. 1g-j, Supplementary Fig. 1i, and data not
111 shown/B.S.J).

112

113 **MeCP2 Missense Mutations Recapitulate RTT-like Phenotypes in Mice:** To examine the
114 molecular relationship between MeCP2 affinity for methylated DNA and phenotypic severity,
115 we generated independent *Mecp2*^{T158M-Tavi} (herein T158M) and *Mecp2*^{R106W-Tavi} (R106W) knock-
116 in mice in parallel with TAVI mice (Fig. 1a). Relative to TAVI controls, we found that T158M
117 and R106W mice both display a ~70-80% reduction in MeCP2 protein expression despite
118 equivalent levels of mRNA at 6 weeks of age (Fig. 1e, Supplementary Fig. 1j), similar to other
119 mouse models bearing MeCP2 MBD mutations^{17,18,21}. However, there is a trend towards
120 relatively higher MeCP2 protein levels in T158M than R106W mice across development
121 (Supplementary Fig. 2a). Immunofluorescent (IF) staining of hippocampal sections from T158M
122 and R106W mice revealed diffusely distributed MeCP2 throughout the nucleus that accompanied
123 a loss of localization to heterochromatic foci, supporting the impaired binding of mutant MeCP2
124 to mCpGs *in vivo* (Fig. 1d). Streptavidin IF, which is noticeably lower in *Mecp2* mutant mice,
125 also confirmed a loss of mutant MeCP2 localization to heterochromatic foci and further
126 illustrated a redistribution of mutant MeCP2 to the nucleolus (Fig. 1d and Supplementary Fig.
127 2b-c), a property reminiscent of GFP-tagged MeCP2 lacking its MBD³⁴.

128 Using sub-nuclear fractionation, we confirmed that a greater proportion of MeCP2
129 T158M or R106W protein occupies the soluble fraction when compared to WT or TAVI protein
130 (Supplementary Fig. 2d), consistent with the loss of chromatin binding in mutant mice (Fig. 1d).
131 By further extracting chromatin-bound MeCP2 with different salt concentrations, we found that
132 MeCP2 R106W is more readily released at lower salt concentrations (200mM NaCl) than
133 MeCP2 WT, TAVI, or T158M protein, suggesting that MeCP2 R106W has the lowest binding
134 affinity for chromatin (Fig. 1f and Supplementary Fig. 2e). Phenotypic comparisons revealed that
135 T158M and R106W mice both exhibit RTT-like features similar to that of *Mecp2*-null mice,
136 including decreased brain and body weight, and an age-dependent increase in phenotypic score
137 (Fig. 1g-i). Although lifespan is significantly reduced in all three *Mecp2* mutant mice, the
138 median survival of R106W mice more closely resembles that of *Mecp2*-null than T158M mice
139 (Fig. 1j). Both mutations demonstrated a significant difference in survival curves (T158M
140 median survival = 14 weeks; R106W median survival = 10 weeks; Mantel Cox $P = 0.012$).
141 Together, these data suggest that T158M and R106W mutations represent a partial and complete
142 loss-of-function, respectively.

143

144 **Genetic Biotinylation Permits Cell Type-specific Transcriptional Profiling:** We next devised
145 a biotinylation-based strategy for cell type-specific nuclei isolation and transcriptional profiling
146 (Fig. 2a-b). We used the *NeuroD6/NEX-Cre* line³⁵ to drive BirA expression and MeCP2-Tavi
147 biotinylation in forebrain excitatory neurons (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 3a-g).
148 Quantification of pan-neuronal (NeuN), pan-inhibitory (GAD67), and inhibitory-specific
149 (parvalbumin, somatostatin and calretinin) neuronal markers in the somatosensory cortex of
150 *Mecp2*^{Tavi/y}; *R26*^{cBirA/+}; *NEX*^{Cre/+} (herein NEX-Cre) mice demonstrated that biotinylation occurs in

151 ~80% of NeuN+ cortical neurons devoid of inhibitory markers (Supplementary Fig. 3h). FACS
152 using stained cortical nuclei from NEX-Cre mice identified three distinct nuclear populations
153 (Fig. 2c). RT-PCR for cell type-specific markers confirmed that NeuN+Biotin+ nuclei reflect
154 excitatory neurons, whereas NeuN+Biotin- nuclei represent a mixture of inhibitory interneuron
155 subtypes (Fig. 2c-d). Astrocytic, microglial and oligodendrocytic markers are restricted to the
156 third, non-neuronal population of NeuN-Biotin- nuclei (Fig. 2c-d). We also used the *Dlx5/6*-Cre
157 line³⁶ to drive BirA expression in forebrain GABAergic neurons and obtained results inverse to
158 that of NEX-Cre (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 3a-j), confirming that MeCP2-Tavi is reliably
159 biotinylated in Cre-defined cell types.

160 Because MeCP2 is known to modulate transcription²², nuclear RNA-seq would afford an
161 unique opportunity to study the primary effects of RTT mutations on gene expression. We thus
162 performed transcriptional profiling in 6-week old male mice near the onset of RTT-like
163 phenotypes. We employed the NEX-Cre driver and isolated cortical excitatory and inhibitory
164 nuclei from T158M, R106W and TAVI mice via FACS, followed by total RNA-seq
165 (Supplementary Table 1). Biological replicates were well-correlated (Fig. 2e), and ~74% of total
166 reads mapped to introns, serving as a proxy for chromatin-associated transcriptional activity^{37,38}.
167 Unsupervised hierarchical clustering shows that replicate transcriptomes from cortical excitatory
168 and inhibitory neurons in TAVI mice are highly correlated by cell type, and genic-mapped reads
169 illustrate selectively expressed genes in each cell type (Fig. 2e-f and Supplementary Fig. 4a). We
170 identified 9,379 differentially expressed genes (DEGs, FDR < 0.05) between excitatory and
171 inhibitory neurons, the majority (86.9%) of which comprise protein-coding genes (Table 1 and
172 Supplementary Fig. 4b). Among the protein-coding fraction of cell type-enriched DEGs, 3,958
173 genes (0.15 – 4.70 fold change) display Gene Ontology (GO) functions consistent with

174 glutamatergic pyramidal cell types (EXC-enriched; Supplementary Fig. 4c), whereas the
175 remaining 4,194 genes (0.17 – 7.77 fold change) exhibit GO functions consistent with
176 metabolically active GABAergic interneurons (INH-enriched; Supplementary Fig. 4d).

177
178 **Protein-Coding Genes are More Severely Affected in R106W Mice:** We next compared
179 nuclear gene expression profiles in excitatory and inhibitory neurons between mutant (T158M,
180 R106W) and control (TAVI) mice to identify and characterize DEGs associated with the
181 appearance of RTT-like phenotypes (Fig. 3a). We identified more DEGs in excitatory and
182 inhibitory neurons of R106W than T158M mice, indicating that the number of misregulated
183 genes positively scales with the severity of the *Mecp2* mutation (Fig. 3b and Table 1). More than
184 90% of MeCP2 DEGs are protein-coding genes (Supplementary Fig. 5a), significantly higher
185 than the percentage of protein-coding genes in the genome (60.4%), or among actively expressed
186 (77.7-78.3%) and cell type-enriched (86.2-87.7%) genes (Supplementary Fig. 4b). We therefore
187 excluded non-coding genes from further analyses. We note that the number and percentage of
188 protein-coding DEGs overlapping between T158M and R106W genotypes is greater in inhibitory
189 (107 genes) than excitatory neurons (69 genes). Moreover, overlapping DEGs tend to be
190 misregulated in the same direction (Fig. 3c).

191 The median fold change of T158M and R106W DEGs is small in mutant neurons
192 compared to overall differences in gene expression between excitatory and inhibitory neurons
193 (Supplementary Fig. 5b and Table 1). We further compared fold changes between T158M and
194 R106W DEGs, limiting our analysis to protein-coding genes that overlap between genotypes to
195 account for disproportionate numbers of DEGs. Within this subset, we found that the median
196 fold change among upregulated and downregulated DEGs is consistently higher in both cell

197 types of R106W mice than those of T158M mice (Fig. 3c), consistent with a more severe
198 phenotype in R106W mice.

199

200 **Transcriptional Features of T158M and R106W DEGs:** We next compared MeCP2 DEGs
201 across excitatory and inhibitory neurons and found limited overlap between the two cell types
202 (6.2% of T158M DEGs, 10.7% of R106W DEGs; Fig. 3d), indicating that most DEGs reflect cell
203 type-specific transcriptional changes. Indeed, EXC/INH-enriched genes are significantly
204 overrepresented among MeCP2 DEGs in each cell type, comprising ~70-80% of genes (Fig. 3e
205 and Table 1). Moreover, EXC- and INH-enriched genes are preferentially downregulated and
206 upregulated, respectively, in each cell type (Fig. 3e and Supplementary Fig. 5c).

207 We next performed a pre-ranked Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA, FDR < 0.1) to
208 determine whether upregulated and downregulated DEGs represent functionally distinct
209 categories. Upregulated DEGs in T158M and R106W mice are both primarily associated with
210 transcriptional regulation. These include DNA-binding transcriptional activators, repressors, and
211 chromatin remodelers, most of which tend to be INH-enriched genes (Fig. 3f and Supplementary
212 Fig. 5d). Significant functional categories associated with downregulated DEGs, however, are
213 specifically detected in R106W excitatory neurons and enriched for post-synaptic membrane
214 proteins, including various ion channels, synaptic scaffolding proteins, and ionotropic glutamate
215 receptors (Fig. 3f). Although significant gene functions were not identified among
216 downregulated DEGs in inhibitory neurons using our GSEA FDR cutoff, gene functions
217 associated with upregulated DEGs in R106W inhibitory neurons are related to cellular
218 metabolism and signal transducer activity (Supplementary Fig. 5e).

219 Upon examining the relative expression levels of MeCP2 DEGs using Fragments Per
220 Kilobase of transcript per Million mapped reads (FPKM), we noticed that T158M, R106W, and
221 overlapping DEGs display significantly lower FPKM values relative to total expressed genes in
222 each cell type (Fig. 3g). To exclude the possibility of gene filtering biases associated with RNA-
223 seq, we randomly selected 12 low-expressing DEGs that overlap between both mutations and
224 independently measured their primary and mature RNA transcripts in excitatory neuronal nuclei
225 using RT-PCR (Supplementary Table 2). We found that 10 out of 12 genes show significant gene
226 expression changes that resemble those using RNA-seq (83.3% positive validation rate;
227 Supplementary Fig. 6a-b), confirming that genes with low transcriptional activity are indeed
228 affected by MeCP2 mutations. To examine whether lowly expressed genes are selectively
229 enriched for MeCP2 DEGs, we binned actively expressed genes from each cell type into four
230 percentiles (Q1-Q4) according to expression level. EXC- and INH-enriched genes served as
231 reference distributions across percentiles for each cell type (Supplementary Fig. 6c). In
232 comparison, T158M and R106W DEGs are preferentially enriched in Q1, the bottom 25th
233 percentile of actively expressed genes, in both excitatory and inhibitory neurons (Fisher Exact
234 one-tailed *P*, T158M: EXC = 1.11e-07, INH = 2.03e-04; R106W: EXC = 4.04e-08, INH = 1.50e-
235 02; Supplementary Fig. 6c). Between the two mutations, T158M DEGs are more likely to be
236 lowly expressed than R106W DEGs (Fisher Exact Odds Ratio (OR) for Q1, T158M: EXC = 3.1,
237 INH = 3.2; R106W: EXC = 2.0, INH = 1.3; Supplementary Fig. 6c). Accordingly, R106W-
238 specific DEGs have significantly higher FPKM values than T158M DEGs in both cell types and
239 are predominantly downregulated in R106W neurons (Fig. 3g and Supplementary Fig. 6d). This
240 preferential downregulation of high-expressing genes appears consistent with the specific loss of
241 synaptic gene functions in R106W excitatory neurons (Fig. 3f-g and Supplementary Fig. 6d).

242

243 **Subcellular RNA Pools Reveal Global Transcriptional and Post-transcriptional Changes:**

244 Two recent reports implicate MeCP2 in the transcriptional repression of long genes, which are
245 preferentially upregulated in the neurons of multiple RTT models^{27,39}. We therefore examined
246 the possibility that genome-wide transcriptional changes may correlate with T158M and R106W
247 phenotypic and molecular severity. Similar to those studies, we sorted and binned expressed
248 protein-coding genes according to gene length and measured the mean fold change in *Mecp2*
249 mutant neurons. Notably, nuclear transcriptomes revealed a striking inversion of previously
250 reported gene expression changes whereby short ($\leq 100\text{kb}$ in gene length) and long ($> 100\text{kb}$ in
251 gene length) genes trend towards upregulation and downregulation, respectively, in a length-
252 dependent manner (Supplementary Fig. 7a).

253 Although most nuclear RNAs comprise intron-containing pre-mRNA transcripts on
254 chromatin, the presence of processed mRNA transcripts awaiting nuclear export may potentially
255 confound the assessment of transcriptional events⁴⁰. We therefore performed global nuclear run-
256 on with high-throughput sequencing (GRO-seq⁴¹) to directly assess *de novo* transcriptional
257 activity by RNA polymerase in cortical nuclei of TAVI and R106W mice. Similar to sorted
258 nuclear RNA, the nascent transcription of short and long genes in R106W neurons is
259 predominantly increased and decreased, respectively (Fig. 4a). LOESS local regression of DEGs
260 that were identified in R106W excitatory and inhibitory neurons also revealed a similar overall
261 trend towards the preferential downregulation of long genes (Fig. 4a). The genome-wide trend
262 we observe in sorted nuclear RNA thus represents a primary effect at the transcriptional level,
263 prompting us to further investigate if the length-dependent upregulation of long genes that was
264 previously reported may represent an indirect effect of MeCP2-dependent transcriptional

265 deregulation. To test this, we resected cortical tissue from TAVI and R106W mice, and subjected
266 each cortical half to whole cell or nuclear RNA isolation in parallel, followed by sequencing.
267 Cortical whole cell RNA from mutant mice displayed a length-dependent increase in the mean
268 expression of long genes (Fig. 4b), similar to what was previously described^{27,39}. In contrast,
269 cortical nuclear RNA isolated from the same TAVI and R106W mice exhibited a length-
270 dependent upregulation of short genes and downregulation of long genes (Fig. 4c), corroborating
271 the transcriptional changes we observed from nascent RNA (Fig. 4a) and nuclear RNA from
272 sorted nuclei (Supplementary Fig. 7a). Using the 10,390 expressed genes associated with *de novo*
273 transcription by GRO-seq (Fig. 4d), we observed that genes upregulated in nascent and nuclear
274 RNA pools are cumulatively shorter in length relative to those upregulated in whole cell RNA,
275 and the inverse was observed among downregulated genes (Fig. 4e). Thus, gene expression
276 changes in *Mecp2* mutant neurons appear to be substantially different between subcellular
277 compartments.

278 To directly compare individual genes across subcellular compartments, we next classified
279 all 10,390 expressed genes into eight subgroups that reflect the total number of arrangements by
280 which a gene can be misregulated across three given RNA pools ($2^3 = 8$). Groups B and D
281 comprise 38.4% of expressed genes which are involved in neuronal projection and cellular stress,
282 respectively, and represent expression changes that are misregulated in the same direction across
283 nascent, nuclear, and whole cell RNA pools (Fig. 4f and Supplementary Fig. 7b). Among these
284 groups of genes, \log_2 fold changes measured from the whole cell are significantly smaller than
285 that in the nuclear compartment, suggesting that gene expression changes in the nucleus are post-
286 transcriptionally minimized in the cell (Fig. 4f and Supplementary Fig. 7c). The majority of
287 genes (48%), however, exhibit expression changes in nascent RNAs that are reversed in the

288 whole cell compartment (Groups A,C,G,H; Fig. 4f). Groups A and C consist of relatively long,
289 EXC-enriched genes that are transcriptionally downregulated in nascent RNA but post-
290 transcriptionally upregulated in whole cell RNA (Fig. 4f and Supplementary Fig. 7d-e). DAVID
291 gene ontology revealed that Group A genes are associated with synaptic functions and
292 intracellular signaling (Fig. 4g). Groups G and H consist of considerably shorter, INH-enriched
293 genes that are transcriptionally upregulated in nascent RNA but post-transcriptionally
294 downregulated in whole cell RNA (Fig. 4f and Supplementary Fig. 7d-e), and Group G genes are
295 functionally associated with cellular energy and metabolism in mitochondria (Fig. 4g). RT-PCR
296 validation of primary and mature RNA transcripts for several genes from Groups A/C, B, and D
297 recapitulated these apparent expression differences between subcellular compartments,
298 particularly when genes were analyzed as a collective in their respective Group (Fig. 4h,
299 Supplementary Fig. 8 and Supplementary Table 2). Notably, upon analyzing *de novo*
300 transcriptional activity derived from GRO-seq for genes expressed in sorted excitatory or
301 inhibitory neurons (Supplementary Fig. 7f), we found a trend towards long genes being more
302 severely downregulated in both cell types bearing the R106W mutation than the T158M
303 mutation (Fig. 4i and Supplementary Fig. 7g), consistent with a more severe phenotype in
304 R106W mice.

305 To gain insight into the apparent switch in gene misregulation between subcellular
306 compartments, we next used publically available HITS-CLIP datasets from the mouse brain to
307 examine genes whose transcripts are typically bound and regulated by RNA-binding proteins
308 (RBPs), and tested for associations with distinct subcellular gene expression changes in *Mecp2*
309 mutant neurons. K-means clustering of 10,390 cortically expressed genes across HITS-CLIP data
310 for 12 RBPs (MBNL1-2, TDP43, FUS, TAF15, FMR1, HuR, APC, RBFOX1-3, and AGO2)

311 identified 5 major gene clusters (Supplementary Fig. 9a). We found one subset of genes whose
312 transcripts display significantly higher levels of HuR binding, but lower levels of AGO2 binding
313 (RBP Clusters 1 and 4), and another subset showing significantly higher levels of AGO2 binding
314 but lower levels of HuR binding (RBP Clusters 2, 3 and 5; Supplementary Fig. 9b-c). HuR binds
315 to the 3'UTR of mRNA transcripts (Supplementary Fig. 9d) and is known to increase mRNA
316 stability⁴². Conversely, AGO2 functions to promote mRNA degradation through AGO2-bound
317 miRNAs⁴³. Both HuR and AGO2 genes are also actively expressed in neurons at 6-weeks of age
318 (Supplementary Fig. 9e). By comparing gene Groups A-H, which summarize subcellular gene
319 expression changes in *Mecp2* mutant neurons (Fig. 4f), to functionally-distinct RBP clusters
320 (Supplementary Fig. 9a-c), we found that many downregulated nascent RNA transcripts from
321 Groups A, B, and C are significantly associated with RBP Clusters 1 and 4 and are post-
322 transcriptional targets of HuR (Supplementary Fig. 9f). By contrast, upregulated nascent RNA
323 transcripts in *Mecp2* mutant neurons, particularly from Groups G and H, show associations with
324 RBP Clusters 2, 3, and 5, and are targets of AGO2-bound miRNAs (Supplementary Fig. 9f). The
325 opposite functions of HuR and AGO2 in the post-transcriptional regulation of mRNA stability
326 likely alter the abundance of cellular RNAs in a group- or cluster-specific manner. Therefore,
327 gene expression differences between subcellular compartments in *Mecp2* mutant mice could be
328 post-transcriptionally mediated in part by RBPs (Supplementary Fig. 9g).

329

330 **Female RTT Mouse Models Reveal Cell and Non-Cell Autonomous DEGs:** RTT is an X-
331 linked disorder that primarily affects heterozygous females. However, the extent to which
332 intermixed *Mecp2* WT and mutant (MUT) neurons in cellular mosaic RTT females affect each
333 other at the level of gene expression remains unknown. The reduced expression level of T158M

334 and R106W mutant protein allowed us to use the same tagging and sorting strategy in male mice
335 to isolate and profile WT (denoted by subscript: T158M_{WT}, R106W_{WT}) and MUT (T158M_{MUT},
336 R106W_{MUT}) cells from mosaic female mice. These include TAVI
337 (*Mecp2*^{Tavi/+}; *R26*^{cBirA/+}; *NEX*^{Cre/+}), T158M (*Mecp2*^{Tavi/T158M-Tavi}; *R26*^{cBirA/+}; *NEX*^{Cre/+}), and R106W
338 (*Mecp2*^{Tavi/R106W-Tavi}; *R26*^{cBirA/+}; *NEX*^{Cre/+}) heterozygous females that each carry a Tavi-tagged WT
339 allele and a Tavi-tagged T158M, R106W, or untagged WT allele. Upon aging these mice to ~18
340 weeks, when T158M and R106W females both exhibit RTT-like phenotypes (Fig. 5a), cortical
341 excitatory nuclei were isolated for FACS (Fig. 5b-c and Supplementary Fig. 10a). From the
342 number of females sampled, we did not detect skewed XCI (> 75%) among excitatory neurons in
343 TAVI, T158M, or R106W mice (Fig. 5d).

344 By comparing the gene expression profiles of WT or MUT neurons from heterozygous
345 mutant mice to those from control mice (TAVI_{WT}), a total of 526 and 678 unique protein-coding
346 DEGs in T158M_{WT and MUT} and R106W_{WT and MUT} neurons were identified, respectively (Fig. 5e,
347 Supplementary Fig. 10b and Table 1). Most DEGs represent cell autonomous gene expression
348 changes that occur in mutant neurons alone (Fig. 5e). However, a larger proportion of R106W
349 DEGs are also found in R106W_{WT} neurons (43.4%; Fig. 5e), revealing a mutation-specific
350 susceptibility of WT neurons to non-cell autonomous gene expression changes in heterozygous
351 females. Using principal component analysis (PCA) to plot the first two major axes of
352 transcriptome variation, we found that PC2 separates neuronal populations by *Mecp2* allele
353 status (WT vs. MUT neurons) irrespective of the T158M or R106W mutation (Fig. 5f),
354 indicating that *Mecp2* mutations induce cell autonomous changes that are transcriptionally
355 distinct from neighboring wild-type neurons. However, PC1 accounts for nearly twice the
356 variation as PC2 and clusters R106W_{WT and MUT} populations away from other genotypes, likely

357 due to the extensive number of indirect DEGs associated with this mutation. In contrast, against
358 PC1 and PC2, T158M_{WT} neurons closely resemble TAVI_{WT} (Fig. 5f), indicating that the non-cell
359 autonomous DEGs observed in R106W_{WT} neurons specifically arise due to the increased severity
360 of R106W mutation in R106W_{MUT} neurons.

361 We further found 194 DEGs that overlap between T158M and R106W female mice, most
362 of which are misregulated in the same direction (Fig. 5g). Among these genes, cell autonomous
363 transcriptional changes (149 genes, 76.8%) are more likely to be shared across independent
364 *Mecp2* mutations than non-cell autonomous changes (9 genes, 4.6%; Fig. 5h). These overlapping
365 DEGs also show higher fold changes in R106W than T158M female mice, but this difference is
366 mainly driven by indirect DEGs in R106W neurons (Fig. 5i).

367 In R106W female mice, we found that non-cell autonomous DEGs are predominantly
368 upregulated (~60%) in contrast to cell autonomous DEGs (~48%; Supplementary Fig. 10b), and
369 display significantly higher fold changes than cell autonomous DEGs (Supplementary Fig. 10c).
370 Furthermore, cell autonomous DEGs are considerably longer in gene length, specifically among
371 upregulated genes (Supplementary Fig. 10d). To determine if cell and non-cell autonomous
372 DEGs represent distinct biological processes, we also performed pre-ranked GSEA (FDR < 0.1)
373 and found that non-cell autonomous gene expression changes primarily affect cell-to-cell
374 signaling and negative regulation of protein phosphorylation (Supplementary Fig. 10e). These
375 DEGs include several immediate early and late response genes that are induced by neuronal
376 activity and modulate signaling pathways associated with synaptic plasticity⁴⁴. In contrast, cell
377 autonomous DEGs are significantly associated with transcriptional regulation (Supplementary
378 Fig. 10f). These functional categories demonstrate a marked resemblance to those observed in
379 excitatory neurons of male T158M and R106W mice (Fig. 5j). The striking consistency with

380 which these functional annotations characterize *Mecp2* mutant neurons, despite apparent
381 differences in age and sex, supports the cell autonomous disruption of these functions as a key,
382 contributing factor to RTT pathogenesis.

383

384 **Discussion:** The complexity of MeCP2 molecular function, coupled with the cellular
385 heterogeneity of the brain, confounds the study of transcriptional changes in RTT. We thus
386 combined *in vivo* biotinylation with Cre-Lox technology to label both wild-type and mutant
387 MeCP2 from different neuronal populations and examined RTT-associated transcriptomes in
388 mice. Notably, the 23AA Tavi tag can be readily used to target any given protein using CRISPR-
389 Cas9 technology⁴⁵ for cell type-specific biochemical purifications, molecular profiling, and
390 imaging applications.

391 By using an allelic series of RTT mutations to perform a transcriptome analysis of
392 cortical neurons, we identified similarities and differences in gene expression features that
393 couple impairments in MeCP2's ability to bind DNA to RTT phenotypic severity. We found that
394 lowly-expressed, cell type-enriched genes are sensitive to the effects of both T158M and R106W
395 mutations, which likely contributes to the specificity of MeCP2-mediated gene expression
396 changes among different neuronal cell types. Both mutations also display conserved
397 transcriptional features among upregulated DEGs in male and female neurons, which include
398 genes encoding INH-enriched transcription factors and chromatin remodelers. The upregulation
399 of transcriptional regulators could contribute to the shared RTT etiology between T158M and
400 R106W mice, as well as the genome-wide trend towards increased transcription of shorter, INH-
401 enriched genes associated with cellular respiration and energy metabolism. This provides

402 transcriptional insight into clinical features among both mildly and severely affected RTT
403 patients that resemble mitochondrial and metabolic disorders⁴⁶.

404 However, the greater impairment in MeCP2 R106W binding to neuronal chromatin
405 associates with increased RTT phenotypic severity, and notably correlates with the larger
406 number and degree of misregulated genes that are more highly expressed and predominately
407 downregulated relative to the T158M mutation. These transcriptional differences extend to most
408 long genes throughout the genome, which are highly expressed in neurons⁴⁷. Our datasets are in
409 partial agreement with global reductions in Ser5-phosphorylated RNA polymerase in *Mecp2*-null
410 neuronal nuclei⁴⁸, supporting MeCP2 as a global modulator of gene transcription. Loss of
411 MeCP2 occupancy may either alter local chromatin organization, which could decrease the
412 efficiency of transcriptional elongation⁴⁹ and lead to the downregulation of long genes, or may
413 abrogate HDAC3-mediated recruitment of transcription factors required for long gene
414 transcriptional activation⁵⁰. Because downregulated genes associate with synaptic morphology
415 and function, and R106W mice have reduced lifespans compared to T158M mice, reductions in
416 long gene transcription may act as modifiers to worsen RTT-like phenotypes. RTT patients with
417 mutations that preserve MeCP2 binding do exhibit milder features than patients for whom
418 binding is disrupted¹². Transcriptional assessments with mutations preserving MeCP2 binding
419 are thus necessary to further refine these genotype-phenotype correlations.

420 Because MeCP2 is a DNA-binding nuclear protein²², nuclear and nascent RNA pools
421 provide additional insights into the primary effects of RTT mutations on transcriptional
422 activity^{37,38,51} that complement the reported whole cell upregulation of long genes in RTT^{27,39}.
423 Whole cell RNA is subject to post-transcriptional regulation^{40,52,53}, being notably enriched for
424 cytoplasmic mRNAs that are bound by various RBPs to modulate their steady-state abundance

425 and turnover. We found that many downregulated nascent RNA transcripts are targets of HuR,
426 which increases mRNA stability in the brain⁴² and may post-transcriptionally upregulate these
427 transcripts in whole cell RNA. Upregulated nascent RNA transcripts tend to associate with
428 miRNA-bound AGO2, which may post-transcriptionally mitigate their upregulation by
429 increasing rates of mRNA decay⁴³. These post-transcriptional mechanisms may abate cellular
430 consequences arising from global alterations in synaptic, mitochondrial, and metabolic gene
431 transcription. Whole cell gene expression changes in RTT may thus be compensatory and not
432 entirely representative of transcriptional activity, questioning the therapeutic benefit of
433 decreasing long gene transcription for treating RTT. Identifying RBPs that contribute to cellular
434 compensation may yield a novel class of interventional therapies administered prior to or during
435 the initial phases of RTT, minimizing its pathological impact.

436 Finally, our approach allows for the molecular profiling of mosaic neurons from female
437 mice that represent accurate preclinical RTT models, revealing non-cell autonomous changes in
438 WT neurons that depend on mutation severity. However, to better elucidate direct and indirect
439 contributions to RTT, further investigation requires examination of females with a wide range of
440 XCI ratios across multiple ages, cell types, and *Mecp2* mutations. Non-cell autonomous DEGs
441 include genes induced by neuronal activity to reduce synaptic responsiveness to excessive
442 neuronal stimuli⁴⁴. Nuclear RNA transcripts of two late-response genes in particular, *Bdnf* and
443 *Igf1*, were found to be transcriptionally upregulated in WT and MUT neuronal nuclei of 18-week
444 old R106W female mice. As *Bdnf* and *Igf1* encode neuroprotective peptides that ameliorate RTT
445 symptoms²⁰, the selective upregulation of non-cell autonomous DEGs in R106W mice may be a
446 protective response to increased neuronal activity or stress among severely affected mosaic
447 neurons. Currently, BDNF and IGF-1 peptides are being tested in clinical trials^{54,55}. Further study

448 of molecular pathways associated with non-cell autonomous DEGs may thus reveal additional
449 RTT therapeutic targets and avenues.

450

451 **Data availability:** All sequencing data reported in this study has been deposited in the NCBI
452 Gene Expression Omnibus (GSE83474). Mouse lines generated from this study have been
453 deposited at The Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME) under the following stock numbers:

454 *R26^{cBirA}* (Stock #030420), *Mecp2^{Tavi}* (Stock #030422), *Mecp2^{T158M-Tavi}* (Stock #029642), and
455 *Mecp2^{R106W-Tavi}* (Stock #029643).

456

457 **Acknowledgements:** We would like to thank the IDDRC Mouse Gene Manipulation Core at
458 Children's Hospital Boston (U54HD090255, M. Thompson), the Gene Targeting Core
459 (P01DK049210, K. Kaestner) and the Transgenic and Chimeric Mouse Facility (J. Richa) at
460 University of Pennsylvania for help in generating transgenic mice, the Flow Cytometry and Cell
461 Sorting Resource Laboratory (H. Pletcher, W. DeMuth), and the Next Generation Sequencing
462 Core (J. Schug) for technical assistance. B.S.J. is supported by a Cell and Molecular Biology
463 Training Grant (TG32GM072290) and the UNCF/Merck Graduate Research Dissertation
464 Fellowship. This work is supported by NIH grants K22AI112570 (G. V.), R21AI107067 and
465 R01CA140485 (T.H.K.), R01MH091850 and R01NS081054 (Z.Z.), and a basic research grant
466 from Rett syndrome.org (Z.Z.). Z.Z. is a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences.

467

468 **Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, B.S.J. and Z.Z.; Methodology, B.S.J., J.M.L., D.G.,
469 and Z.Z.; Investigation, B.S.J., Y.T.Z., M.F., J.M.L., K.H.W., Y.J.K., and D.B.; Formal
470 Analyses, B.S.J., Y.T.Z., G.G., and T.H.K.; Validation, B.S.J., M.F., J.M.L., and G.V.;

471 Resources, B.S.J., Y.T.Z. and Y.C.; Data Curation, Y.T.Z.; Writing – Original Draft, B.S.J.;
472 Writing – Review & Editing, B.S.J., Y.T.Z., M.F. and Z.Z.; Visualization, B.S.J.; Project
473 Administration and Funding Acquisition, Z.Z.

474

475 **Competing Financial Interest:** The authors declare no competing financial interests.

476

477 **References**

478 1. Chahrour, M. & Zoghbi, H. Y. The story of Rett syndrome: from clinic to neurobiology.

479 *Neuron* **56**, 422–37 (2007).

480 2. Amir, R. E. *et al.* Rett syndrome is caused by mutations in X-linked MECP2, encoding

481 methyl-CpG-binding protein 2. *Nat. Genet.* **23**, 185–188 (1999).

482 3. Shahbazian, M. D., Antalffy, B., Armstrong, D. L. & Zoghbi, H. Y. Insight into Rett

483 syndrome: MeCP2 levels display tissue- and cell-specific differences and correlate with

484 neuronal maturation. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **11**, 115–124 (2002).

485 4. Lewis, J. D. *et al.* Purification, sequence, and cellular localization of a novel chromosomal

486 protein that binds to Methylated DNA. *Cell* **69**, 905–914 (1992).

487 5. Jones, P. L. *et al.* Methylated DNA and MeCP2 recruit histone deacetylase to repress

488 transcription. *Nat. Genet.* **19**, 187–191 (1998).

489 6. Lyst, M. J. *et al.* Rett syndrome mutations abolish the interaction of MeCP2 with the

490 NCoR/SMRT co-repressor. *Nat. Neurosci.* **16**, 898–902 (2013).

491 7. Nan, X. *et al.* Transcriptional repression by the methyl-CpG-binding protein MeCP2

492 involves a histone deacetylase complex. *Nature* **393**, 386–9 (1998).

- 493 8. Skene, P. J. *et al.* Neuronal MeCP2 Is Expressed at Near Histone-Octamer Levels and
494 Globally Alters the Chromatin State. *Mol. Cell* **37**, 457–468 (2010).
- 495 9. Chahrour, M. *et al.* MeCP2, a Key Contributor to Neurological Disease, Activates and
496 Represses Transcription. *Science* **320**, 1224–1229 (2008).
- 497 10. Chen, L. *et al.* MeCP2 binds to non-CG methylated DNA as neurons mature, influencing
498 transcription and the timing of onset for Rett syndrome. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **112**,
499 5509–5514 (2015).
- 500 11. Li, Y. *et al.* Global Transcriptional and Translational Repression in Human-Embryonic-
501 Stem-Cell-Derived Rett Syndrome Neurons. *Cell Stem Cell* **13**, 446–458 (2013).
- 502 12. Cuddapah, V. A. *et al.* Methyl-CpG-binding protein 2 (MECP2) mutation type is
503 associated with disease severity in Rett syndrome. *J. Med. Genet.* **51**, 152–158 (2014).
- 504 13. RettBASE: Rett Syndrome Variation Database. Available at: <http://mecp2.chw.edu.au/>.
505 (Accessed: 8th April 2016)
- 506 14. Ghosh, R. P., Horowitz-Scherer, R. A., Nikitina, T., Gierasch, L. M. & Woodcock, C. L. Rett
507 syndrome-causing mutations in human MeCP2 result in diverse structural changes that
508 impact folding and DNA interactions. *J Biol Chem* **283**, 20523–34 (2008).
- 509 15. Ho, K. L. *et al.* MeCP2 Binding to DNA Depends upon Hydration at Methyl-CpG. *Mol. Cell*
510 **29**, 525–531 (2008).
- 511 16. Ballestar, E., Yusufzai, T. M. & Wolffe, A. P. Effects of Rett syndrome mutations of the
512 methyl-CpG binding domain of the transcriptional repressor MeCP2 on selectivity for
513 association with methylated DNA. *Biochemistry (Mosc.)* **39**, 7100–7106 (2000).

- 514 17. Brown, K. *et al.* The molecular basis of variable phenotypic severity among common
515 missense mutations causing Rett syndrome. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* ddv496 (2015).
516 doi:10.1093/hmg/ddv496
- 517 18. Goffin, D. *et al.* Rett syndrome mutation MeCP2 T158A disrupts DNA binding, protein
518 stability and ERP responses. *Nat Neurosci* **15**, 274–283 (2012).
- 519 19. Baker, S. A. *et al.* An AT-Hook Domain in MeCP2 Determines the Clinical Course of Rett
520 Syndrome and Related Disorders. *Cell* **152**, 984–996 (2013).
- 521 20. Katz, D. M. *et al.* Preclinical research in Rett syndrome: setting the foundation for
522 translational success. *Dis. Model. Mech.* **5**, 733–745 (2012).
- 523 21. Lamonica, J. M. *et al.* Elevating expression of MeCP2 T158M rescues DNA binding and
524 Rett syndrome–like phenotypes. *J. Clin. Invest.* **127**, (2017).
- 525 22. Lyst, M. J. & Bird, A. Rett syndrome: a complex disorder with simple roots. *Nat. Rev.*
526 *Genet.* **16**, 261–275 (2015).
- 527 23. Fishell, G. & Heintz, N. The Neuron Identity Problem: Form Meets Function. *Neuron* **80**,
528 602–612 (2013).
- 529 24. Molyneaux, B. J. *et al.* DeCoN: Genome-wide Analysis of In Vivo Transcriptional
530 Dynamics during Pyramidal Neuron Fate Selection in Neocortex. *Neuron* **85**, 275–288
531 (2015).
- 532 25. Mo, A. *et al.* Epigenomic Signatures of Neuronal Diversity in the Mammalian Brain.
533 *Neuron* **86**, 1369–1384 (2015).
- 534 26. Zhao, Y.-T., Goffin, D., Johnson, B. S. & Zhou, Z. Loss of MeCP2 function is associated with
535 distinct gene expression changes in the striatum. *Neurobiol. Dis.* **59**, 257–266 (2013).

- 536 27. Gabel, H. W. *et al.* Disruption of DNA-methylation-dependent long gene repression in
537 Rett syndrome. *Nature* **522**, 89–93 (2015).
- 538 28. Guo, J. U. *et al.* Distribution, recognition and regulation of non-CpG methylation in the
539 adult mammalian brain. *Nat. Neurosci.* **17**, 215–222 (2014).
- 540 29. Rube, H. T. *et al.* Sequence features accurately predict genome-wide MeCP2 binding in
541 vivo. *Nat. Commun.* **7**, 11025 (2016).
- 542 30. Malik, H. S. & Henikoff, S. A Simple Method for Gene Expression and Chromatin Profiling
543 of Individual Cell Types within a Tissue. *Cell* **18**, 1030–1040 (2010).
- 544 31. Lakso, M. *et al.* Efficient in vivo manipulation of mouse genomic sequences at the zygote
545 stage. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **93**, 5860–5865 (1996).
- 546 32. Samaco, R. C. *et al.* A partial loss of function allele of Methyl-CpG-binding protein 2
547 predicts a human neurodevelopmental syndrome. *Hum. Mol. Genet.* **17**, 1718–1727
548 (2008).
- 549 33. Guy, J., Gan, J., Selfridge, J., Cobb, S. & Bird, A. Reversal of neurological defects in a mouse
550 model of Rett syndrome. *Science* **315**, 1143–7 (2007).
- 551 34. Kumar, A. *et al.* Analysis of protein domains and Rett syndrome mutations indicate that
552 multiple regions influence chromatin-binding dynamics of the chromatin-associated
553 protein MECP2 in vivo. *J. Cell Sci.* **121**, 1128–1137 (2008).
- 554 35. Goebbels, S. *et al.* Genetic targeting of principal neurons in neocortex and hippocampus
555 of NEX-Cre mice. *Genes. N. Y. N 2000* **44**, 611–621 (2006).
- 556 36. Monory, K. *et al.* The Endocannabinoid System Controls Key Epileptogenic Circuits in
557 the Hippocampus. *Neuron* **51**, 455–466 (2006).

- 558 37. Bhatt, D. M. *et al.* Transcript Dynamics of Proinflammatory Genes Revealed by Sequence
559 Analysis of Subcellular RNA Fractions. *Cell* **150**, 279–290 (2012).
- 560 38. Ameer, A. *et al.* Total RNA sequencing reveals nascent transcription and widespread co-
561 transcriptional splicing in the human brain. *Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.* **18**, 1435–1440
562 (2011).
- 563 39. Sugino, K. *et al.* Cell-Type-Specific Repression by Methyl-CpG-Binding Protein 2 Is
564 Biased toward Long Genes. *J. Neurosci.* **34**, 12877–12883 (2014).
- 565 40. Maniatis, T. & Reed, R. An extensive network of coupling among gene expression
566 machines. *Nature* **416**, 499–506 (2002).
- 567 41. Core, L. J., Waterfall, J. J. & Lis, J. T. Nascent RNA Sequencing Reveals Widespread
568 Pausing and Divergent Initiation at Human Promoters. *Science* **322**, 1845–1848 (2008).
- 569 42. Brennan, C. M. & Steitz, J. A. HuR and mRNA stability. *Cell. Mol. Life Sci. CMLS* **58**, 266–
570 277 (2001).
- 571 43. Höck, J. & Meister, G. The Argonaute protein family. *Genome Biol.* **9**, 210 (2008).
- 572 44. Flavell, S. W. & Greenberg, M. E. Signaling Mechanisms Linking Neuronal Activity to
573 Gene Expression and Plasticity of the Nervous System. *Annu. Rev. Neurosci.* **31**, 563–590
574 (2008).
- 575 45. Yang, H. *et al.* One-Step Generation of Mice Carrying Reporter and Conditional Alleles by
576 CRISPR/Cas-Mediated Genome Engineering. *Cell* **154**, 1370–1379 (2013).
- 577 46. Müller, M. & Can, K. Aberrant redox homeostasis and mitochondrial dysfunction in
578 Rett syndrome. *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* **42**, 959–964 (2014).
- 579 47. Zylka, M. J., Simon, J. M. & Philpot, B. D. Gene Length Matters in Neurons. *Neuron* **86**,
580 353–355 (2015).

- 581 48. Linhoff, M. W., Garg, S. K. & Mandel, G. A High-Resolution Imaging Approach to
582 Investigate Chromatin Architecture in Complex Tissues. *Cell* **163**, 246–255 (2015).
- 583 49. King, I. F. *et al.* Topoisomerases facilitate transcription of long genes linked to autism.
584 *Nature* **501**, 58–62 (2013).
- 585 50. Nott, A. *et al.* Histone deacetylase 3 associates with MeCP2 to regulate FOXO and social
586 behavior. *Nat. Neurosci.* **advance online publication**, (2016).
- 587 51. Djebali, S. *et al.* Landscape of transcription in human cells. *Nature* **489**, 101–108
588 (2012).
- 589 52. Buxbaum, A. R., Yoon, Y. J., Singer, R. H. & Park, H. Y. Single-molecule insights into mRNA
590 dynamics in neurons. *Trends Cell Biol.* **25**, 468–475 (2015).
- 591 53. Mauger, O., Lemoine, F. & Scheiffele, P. Targeted Intron Retention and Excision for
592 Rapid Gene Regulation in Response to Neuronal Activity. *Neuron* **92**, 1266–1278
593 (2016).
- 594 54. Khwaja, O. S. *et al.* Safety, pharmacokinetics, and preliminary assessment of efficacy of
595 mecasemin (recombinant human IGF-1) for the treatment of Rett syndrome. *Proc. Natl.*
596 *Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **111**, 4596–4601 (2014).
- 597 55. Lombardi, L. M., Baker, S. A. & Zoghbi, H. Y. MECP2 disorders: from the clinic to mice
598 and back. *J. Clin. Invest.* **125**, 2914–2923 (2015).
- 599

600 **Figure 1.** Utilization and characterization of *Mecp2*^{Tavi} mice and associated RTT variants. **(a)**
601 Diagram of wild-type and tagged MeCP2 showing R106W or T158M missense mutations. MBD,
602 Methyl-CpG Binding Domain; TRD, Transcriptional Repression Domain. **(b)** Breeding strategy
603 to biotinylate the Tavi tag in a Cre-dependent manner. **(c)** Representative western blot showing
604 the conditions in which the Tavi tag is biotinylated using whole brain nuclear extracts. Blot is
605 probed with streptavidin for biotin detection and antibodies against MeCP2 N-terminus, Tavi tag,
606 and NeuN. **(d)** Representative images showing immunofluorescent detection of biotinylated
607 MeCP2 and mutant variants in hippocampal sections of untagged (WT) and tagged (TAVI,
608 T158M, R106W) male mice at 6 weeks of age. Tissue is probed with streptavidin for biotin
609 detection and antibody against the MeCP2 C-terminus. Scale bars represent 10 μ m. **(e)**
610 Quantification and representative western blot comparing MeCP2 protein expression levels
611 between TAVI and mutant (T158M, R106W) male mice at 6 weeks of age. Blot is probed with
612 antibodies against the MeCP2 C-terminus and TBP ($n_{\text{replicates}} = 3$, One-way ANOVA). **(f)**
613 Quantification of salt-extracted MeCP2 from chromatin using 200mM (*left*) and 400mM (*right*)
614 NaCl, normalized to extracts using 500mM NaCl (see Supplemental Fig. 2e; $n_{\text{replicates}} = 4-5$, One-
615 way ANOVA). **(g)** Box-and-whisker plot of brain weights from untagged (WT, KO (*Mecp2*-
616 null)) and tagged (TAVI, T158M, R106W) male mice at 6 weeks of age ($n_{\text{WT}} = 20$, $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 11$,
617 $n_{\text{KO}} = 6$, $n_{\text{T158M}} = 6$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 12$; One-way ANOVA). Box limits denote 25th and 75th percentiles,
618 center line denotes median, '+' denotes mean, and whiskers denote data max and min. Each
619 genotype is indicated with a different color. **(h)** Body weight over postnatal age in untagged
620 (WT, KO) and tagged (TAVI, T158M, R106W) male mice. Data points consist of at least 6
621 observations each. Total number of mice assessed: $n_{\text{WT}} = 31$, $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 23$, $n_{\text{KO}} = 15$, $n_{\text{T158M}} = 14$,
622 $n_{\text{R106W}} = 28$. **(i)** RTT-like phenotypic score across postnatal development in untagged (WT, KO)

623 and tagged (TAVI, T158M, R106W) male mice. Data points over time consist of at least 6
624 observations each. Total number of mice assessed: $n_{WT} = 31$, $n_{TAVI} = 23$, $n_{KO} = 15$, $n_{T158M} = 14$,
625 $n_{R106W} = 28$. (j) Kaplan-Meier survival curve for untagged (WT, KO) and tagged (TAVI,
626 T158M, R106W) male mice ($n_{WT} = 31$, $n_{TAVI} = 23$, $n_{KO} = 17$, $n_{T158M} = 39$, $n_{R106W} = 26$). $*P < 0.5$,
627 $**P < 0.01$, $***P < 0.001$, $****P < 0.0001$, n.s. = not significant; all pooled data depicts mean \pm
628 SEM unless otherwise stated. See also **Supplementary Figs. 1 and 2**.
629

630
631 **Figure 2.** Cell type-specific transcriptional profiling of neuronal nuclei. **(a)** Representative
632 images showing immunofluorescent detection of biotinylated MeCP2-Tavi protein in Cre-
633 specified neuronal populations of the mouse hippocampus. Probed using streptavidin for biotin
634 detection and antibody against the MeCP2 C-terminus. Scale bars represent 100 μ m. **(b)**
635 Schematic of cortical nuclei preparation and FACS isolation. **(c)** FACS analysis of labeled
636 cortical nuclei populations. Data shown is representative of nine independent experiments using
637 NEX-Cre mice. Percentages indicate the mean distribution of neurons that are NeuN+Biotin+
638 (excitatory; 85.2% \pm 0.35) or NeuN+Biotin- (inhibitory; 14.8% \pm 0.35). **(d)** RT-PCR validation
639 of FACS-isolated populations depicted in (c) ($n_{\text{replicates}} = 3$, Two-way ANOVA). **(e)** Pearson
640 correlation of biological replicate nuclear RNA-seq libraries within (intra-replicate) and across
641 (inter-replicate) FACS-isolated populations depicted in (c). Colors correspond to EXC-enriched
642 (blue) and INH-enriched (red) genes identified through differential expression analysis of
643 excitatory and inhibitory neurons. Note lower Pearson correlation and clear dispersal of cell
644 type-enriched genes across FACS populations. **(f)** IGV browser snapshot of *Dlgap1* genomic
645 locus in excitatory and inhibitory neurons of TAVI male mice at 6 weeks of age. RefSeq and
646 Ensembl gene annotations are both shown. * $P < 0.5$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$,
647 n.s. = not significant; all pooled data depicts mean \pm SEM. See also **Supplementary Figs. 3 and**
648 **4.**

649
650

651 **Figure 3.** Analysis of T158M and R106W differentially expressed genes. **(a)** FACS isolation of
652 cortical excitatory and inhibitory neuronal nuclei from TAVI, T158M, or R106W male mice at 6
653 weeks of age. **(b)** Total number of protein coding and non-coding differentially expressed genes
654 (DEGs) identified in excitatory or inhibitory neurons of *Mecp2* mutant mice. **(c)** Heatmaps
655 display \log_2 fold changes among protein-coding DEGs in excitatory and inhibitory neurons of
656 *Mecp2* mutant mice, compared across genotypes. Excitatory DEGs $n_{\text{shared}} = 69$ genes,
657 Hypergeometric $P = 3.15e^{-77}$. Inhibitory DEGs $n_{\text{shared}} = 107$ genes, Hypergeometric $P = 5.33e^{-134}$.
658 Boxplots compare \log_2 median fold changes among overlapping DEGs between T158M and
659 R106W neurons (One-tailed Wilcoxon Signed Rank). **(d)** Heatmap displaying \log_2 fold changes
660 among protein-coding DEGs in excitatory and inhibitory neurons of *Mecp2* mutant mice,
661 compared across cell types. **(e) Left graph,** Distribution of constitutive, EXC- or INH-enriched
662 genes among T158M and R106W protein-coding DEGs, compared against genomic distribution
663 (Chi-square Goodness-of-Fit). **Right graph,** Bar plot summarizing R106W DEGs in excitatory
664 neurons, partitioned by cell type-enriched or constitutive genes, and which are preferentially
665 upregulated or downregulated. Red indicates statistical significance (One-tailed Fisher's Exact
666 Test). **(f)** Enrichment map of pre-ranked Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) functional
667 network associations. Data represents DEGs from R106W (top) and T158M (bottom) excitatory
668 neurons ($P\text{-value} < 0.01$, $Q\text{-value} < 0.1$). Nodes denote functional categories, colored by
669 Normalized Enrichment Score (NES). Line weight denotes extent of gene overlap between
670 connected nodes. Red text highlights the similarity in functional annotations between both
671 genotypes. **(g)** Boxplots comparing the \log_2 FPKM distribution of actively expressed genes
672 against T158M, R106W, and shared DEGs for each cell type (Pairwise Wilcoxon Rank Sum P

673 displayed). * $P < 0.5$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$, n.s. = not significant. See also
674 **Supplementary Figs. 5 and 6.**

675

676 **Figure 4.** Genome-wide length-dependent transcriptional changes in RTT mutant mice. **(a)**

677 Genome-wide \log_2 fold changes in R106W mice ($n = 2$) compared to TAVI mice ($n = 2$) at 6

678 weeks of age using GRO-seq. *Top*, Lines represent mean fold change in expression for genes

679 binned according to gene length (200 gene bins, 40 gene step) as described in²⁷. Ribbon

680 represents SEM of genes in each bin. *Bottom*, Smoothed scatterplot depicting LOESS correlation

681 between gene length and \log_2 fold change for all individual protein-coding genes detected in

682 GROseq. Genes in red highlight R106W DEGs identified from sorted excitatory and inhibitory

683 neuronal nuclei. **(b,c)** Same as in (a), but using total RNA-seq analysis of whole cell (b) or

684 nuclear (c) RNA isolated from left or right cortex of the same mice at 6 weeks of age ($n=2$). **(d)**

685 *Top*, Diagram of RNA distribution across subcellular compartments. *Bottom*, Area proportional

686 Venn diagram comparing overlap in gene expression changes between nuclear RNA, whole cell

687 RNA, and nascent RNA. **(e)** Cumulative distribution function of gene lengths for all upregulated

688 and downregulated protein-coding genes among nascent, nuclear, and whole cell RNA pools ($n =$

689 10,390 genes, Kolmogorov-Smirnov). **(f)** *Top*, Boxplots depicting median \log_2 fold changes in

690 R106W mice between nascent, nuclear, and whole cell RNA pools, classified by the direction of

691 gene misregulation ($n = 10, 390$ genes, Pairwise Wilcoxon Rank Sum P displayed). Gene groups

692 are arranged by median gene length (black bar on top). Arrows highlight the percentage of

693 10,390 genes that display similar (38.4% of expressed genes), opposite (48%), or dynamic

694 changes (13.6%) across subcellular RNA pools. *Bottom*, Heatmap displaying statistical

695 enrichment of T158M and R106W DEGs in excitatory neurons among gene groups (One-tailed

696 Fisher's Exact Test). **(g)** DAVID Gene ontology terms (Benjamini $P < 0.01$, FDR < 0.05) for

697 Group A and Group G sets of genes defined in (f). **(h)** *Top*, Diagram of RT-PCR primer design

698 to measure mature and primary RNA transcripts. *Bottom*, Data shows overall trend in gene

699 expression mean fold changes using primers against primary and mature RNA transcripts (*left*)
700 or primary transcripts only (*right*)_across individual genes from Group A/C (n = 7 genes), Group
701 B (n = 5 genes), and Group D (n = 5 genes) in R106W compared to TAVI mice (Two-way
702 ANOVA). Data depicts mean \pm S.D. (i) Mean log₂ fold change in 6-week R106W (red; n = 4)
703 and T158M (orange, n = 4) sorted excitatory (*left*) and inhibitory neurons (*right*) using genes that
704 are also detected in GRO-seq. * $P < 0.5$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$, n.s. = not
705 significant. See also **Supplementary Figs. 7-9**.

706
707 **Figure 5.** T158M and R106W differentially expressed genes in mosaic female mice. **(a)** RTT-
708 like phenotypic score in TAVI (n = 12), T158M (n = 4), and R106W (n = 9) heterozygous
709 female mice (Two-way ANOVA). Data depicts mean \pm SEM. **(b)** FACS isolation of excitatory
710 neuronal nuclei from the cortex of heterozygous TAVI, T158M, or R106W female mice. **(c)**
711 Biotin signal intensity from FACS-isolated populations depicted in (b) ($n_{T158M} = 4$, $n_{R106W} = 9$,
712 Two-way ANOVA). Data depicts mean \pm SEM. **(d)** X-inactivation ratios among cortical
713 excitatory neurons in all sorted female mice, displayed as a percentage of the FACS-sorted WT
714 population ($n_{TAVI} = 12$, $n_{T158M} = 4$, $n_{R106W} = 9$, One-way ANOVA). Data points in red indicate
715 samples used for RNA-seq. Data depicts mean \pm SEM. **(e)** Bar graph showing the cell and non-
716 cell autonomous distribution of total protein-coding DEGs identified from T158M and R106W
717 female mice. **(f)** Principal component analysis of WT and MUT cell populations isolated from
718 TAVI, T158M, and R106W female mice. **(g)** Heatmap displaying \log_2 fold changes among the
719 total number of protein-coding DEGs detected in both WT and MUT populations from T158M
720 or R106W female mice. Note genes that overlap across genotype (n = 194). **(h)** Proportion of cell
721 autonomous (CA) and non-cell autonomous (NCA) genes that overlap between T158M and
722 R106W female excitatory neurons (One-tailed Fisher's Exact Test). **(i)** Boxplots comparing
723 absolute \log_2 fold change between cell autonomous and non-cell autonomous shared DEGs (n =
724 185) between T158M and R106W female mice (One-tailed Wilcoxon Signed Rank). **(j)**
725 Enrichment map of pre-ranked GSEA functional network associations (P -value < 0.01, Q -value
726 < 0.1). Data represents DEGs that overlap between T158M and R106W mice (n = 185). Nodes
727 denote functional categories, colored by Normalized Enrichment Score (NES). Line weight
728 denotes extent of gene overlap between connected nodes. * P < 0.5, ** P < 0.01, *** P < 0.001,
729 **** P < 0.0001, n.s. = not significant. See also **Supplementary Fig. 10.**

	Experiment	Cell Type	Genotype	Differentially Expressed Genes (DEGs)			Upregulated/ Downregulated (Protein-coding)	Log ₂ Fold Change (Protein-coding)	Gene Length (kb) (Protein-coding)	Proportion of Cell Type Enriched Genes (Protein-coding)		
				Total	Coding	Non-coding		Median [IQR]	Median [IQR]	Constitutive	Excitatory (EXC)	Inhibitory (INH)
6 WEEK Males	Actively Expressed Genes	Excitatory Neurons	TAVI (Control)	13877	10926	2951	-	-	24.9 [9.9 - 61.3]	46.5%	28.5%	24.9%
		Inhibitory Neurons	TAVI (Control)	10369	8319	2050	-	-	25.4 [10.3 - 61.5]	46.8%	24.3%	28.8%
	Cell Type-enriched Gene Expression	Excitatory Neurons	TAVI (Control)	4593	3958	635	-	0.75 [0.41 - 1.46]	50.6 [21.5 - 110.1]	-	100%	-
		Inhibitory Neurons	TAVI (Control)	4783	4194	589	-	0.73 [0.45 - 1.47]	21.2 [8.8 - 53.0]	-	-	100%
	MeCP2-dependent Gene Expression	Excitatory Neurons	T158M	197	177	20	63.8% DOWN	0.45 [0.33 - 0.62]	88.6 [33.5 - 173.1]	16.4%	49.2%	34.5%
			R106W	425	386	39	61.7% DOWN	0.44 [0.34 - 0.61]	82.5 [36.7 - 146.0]	17.6%	51.3%	31.1%
			Shared DEGs	75	69	6	65.2% DOWN	see Figure 3D	109.8 [49.9 - 184.1]	14.5%	52.2%	33.3%
		Inhibitory Neurons	T158M	146	143	3	62.9% UP	0.45 [0.29 - 0.55]	107.8 [41.4 - 188.7]	20.3%	44.8%	35.0%
			R106W	758	697	61	56.2% UP	0.41 [0.33 - 0.56]	40.5 [19.1 - 102.9]	29.4%	35.3%	35.3%
			Shared DEGs	109	107	2	64.5% UP	see Figure 3D	112.8 [42.9 - 202.8]	18.7%	46.7%	34.6%
18 WEEK Females	MeCP2-dependent Gene Expression	Excitatory Neurons	T158M _{WT}	42	28	14	64.3% DOWN	0.52 [0.49 - 0.79]	54.6 [27.2 - 112.6]	-	-	-
			R106W _{WT}	346	294	52	62.2% UP	0.64 [0.47 - 0.93]	51.4 [21.0 - 140.4]	-	-	-
			T158M _{MUT}	585	516	69	67.2% DOWN	0.49 [0.40 - 0.73]	51.2 [20.4 - 113.2]	-	-	-
			R106W _{MUT}	634	569	65	52.2% UP	0.54 [0.43 - 0.83]	65 [31.7 - 142.1]	-	-	-
			Shared _{MUT}	207	185	22	65.9% DOWN	see Figure 5I	77.5 [36.2 - 143.6]	-	-	-

730

731 **Table 1** Summary of Differentially Expressed Genes (DEGs) identified in the study

732 **Online Methods**

733 **Generation of Mouse Lines** The targeting construct used for homologous recombination at the
734 *Mecp2* locus in murine ES cells was cloned in two arms by PCR amplification of sv129 genomic
735 DNA. The 5' arm was PCR amplified with 5' -AGGAGGTAGGTGGCATCCTT-3' and 5'
736 -CGTTTGATCACCATGACCTG-3' primers, whereas the 3' arm was PCR amplified with 5'
737 ' -GAAATGGCTTCCCAAAAAGG-3' and 5' -AAAACGGCACCCAAAGTG-3' primers.
738 Restriction sites at the ends of each arm were created using nested primers for cloning into a
739 vector containing a *loxP*-flanked neomycin cassette (Neo) and a diphtheria toxin A negative-
740 selection cassette. QuikChange (Stratagene) insertional mutagenesis was used to generate the
741 *Mecp2*^{Tavi} targeting construct by inserting the Tavi tag immediately upstream of the *Mecp2* stop
742 codon within the 5' arm. The portion of the Tavi tag containing the biotinylation consensus
743 sequenced flanked by 5' NaeI and 3' BspHI restriction sites was inserted through two rounds of
744 mutagenesis:

745

746 Round 1 Forward: 5'-

747 GACCGAGAGAGTTAGCGCCGGCCTGAACGACATCTTCGAGTCATGACTTTACATAG

748 AGCG-3'

749 Round 1 Reverse: 5'-

750 CGCTCTATGTAAAGTCATGACTCGAAGATGTCGTTTCAGGCCGGCGCTAACTCTCTCG

751 GTC-3'

752

753 Round 2 Forward: 5'-
754 CTGAACGACATCTTCGAGGCTCAGAAAATCGAATGGCACGAATCATGACTTTACATA
755 GAG-3'

756 Round 2 Reverse: 5'-
757 CTCTATGTAAAGTCATGATTTCGTGCCATTCGATTTTCTGAGCCTCGAAGATGTCGTTTC
758 AG-3'

759

760 The portion of the tag containing the TEV protease cleavage site was inserted upstream of the
761 NaeI restriction site with a third round of mutagenesis:

762

763 Round 3 Forward: 5'-
764 GACCGAGAGAGTTAGCGAAAACCTGTATTTTCAGGGCGCCGGCCTGAACGACATC-3'
765 Round 3 Reverse: 5'-
766 GATGTCGTTTCAGGCCGGCGCCCTGAAAATACAGGTTTTCGCTAACTCTCTCGGTC-3'

767

768 To generate *Mecp2*^{Tavi} targeting constructs bearing independent RTT-associated point
769 mutations, QuikChange site-directed mutagenesis was used to mutate MeCP2 arginine 106 to
770 tryptophan and MeCP2 threonine 158 to methionine within the 3' arm and 5' arm, respectively. A
771 single nucleotide at codon T160 also underwent site-directed mutagenesis for a silent mutation to
772 introduce a BstEII restriction site to correctly identify targeted ES cells.

773 To generate conditional *R26*^{BirA} transgenic mice, PCR primers containing AscI
774 restriction sites and a Kozak consensus sequence were used to subclone the *BirA* coding
775 sequence and insert it downstream of both a CAG promoter and a floxed transcriptional

776 attenuator, *Neo-STOP*, within pROSA26-1, a transgenic targeting vector that has previously been
777 characterized⁵⁶.

778 After confirmation by Sanger sequencing and linearization with NotI (*Mecp2*^{Tavi} targeting
779 construct and its mutant variants) or SgfI (*cBirA* targeting construct), the constructs were
780 electroporated into sv129-derived murine ES cells. Correctly targeted ES cells were
781 independently injected into C57BL/6 blastocysts and subsequently implanted into
782 pseudopregnant females. Agouti offspring were screened by southern blot and PCR genotyping
783 to confirm germline transmission of the *Mecp2*^{Tavi}, *Mecp2*^{T158M-Tavi}, *Mecp2*^{R106W-Tavi}, and *R26*^{cBirA}
784 alleles. In the case of the *Mecp2*^{Tavi} allele and its mutant variants, the resulting offspring were
785 mated with C57BL/6 *EIIa-cre* mice to ensure germline deletion of the floxed Neo cassette
786 between *Mecp2* exons 3 and 4.

787

788 **Additional Mouse lines** *Dlx5/6-Cre* (Stock #008199) and *EIIa-Cre* (Stock #003724) mice were
789 obtained from The Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME)^{31,36}. *NeuroD6/NEX-Cre* mice were
790 obtained with permission from the Nave Laboratory³⁵.

791

792 **Animal Husbandry** Experiments were conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of
793 the US National Institutes of Health and with the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and
794 Use Committee of the University of Pennsylvania. All of the experiments described were
795 performed using mice on a congenic sv129:C57BL/6J background with the knock-in/transgenic
796 alleles backcrossed to C57BL/6J mice (The Jackson Laboratory) for at least five generations,
797 unless otherwise stated. Mice were housed in a standard 12h light/12h dark cycle with access to
798 ample amounts of food and water. Mice bearing the Tavi tag were genotyped using a bipartite

799 primer PCR-based strategy to detect the Tavi tag at the 3'-end of the endogenous *Mecp2* gene
800 (Forward: 5'-CACCCCGAAGCCACGAAACTC-3', Reverse: 5'-
801 TAAGACTCAGCCTATGGTCGCC-3') and give rise to a 318-bp product from the wild-type
802 allele and a 388-bp product from the tagged allele. Mice bearing the *BirA* transgene were
803 genotyped using a tripartite primer PCR-based strategy to detect the presence or absence of the
804 CAG promoter at the *Rosa26* locus (Forward:5'-TGCTGCCTCCTGGCTTCTGAG-3', Reverse
805 #1: 5'-GGCGTACTTGGCATATGATACAC-3', Reverse #2: 5'-
806 CACCTGTTCAATTCCCCTGCAG-3') and give rise to a 173-bp product from the wild-type
807 allele and a 477-bp product from the transgene-bearing allele. Mice bearing Cre-recombinase
808 (either *NeuroD6/NEX-Cre* or *Dlx5/6-Cre*) were genotyped using PCR-based strategies as
809 previously described^{35,36}.

810

811 **Phenotypic Assessment** For tagged *Mecp2* knock-in mice, phenotypic scoring was performed
812 on a weekly basis for the presence or absence of overt RTT-like symptoms as previously
813 described³³. Investigator was blinded to genotypes during phenotypic assessment of mice. For
814 BirA transgenic mice, no formal scoring was performed. However, *R26^{BirA}* heterozygous and
815 homozygous mice are viable, fertile, and devoid of any gross abnormalities, consistent with
816 previously engineered transgenic mice that express BirA either ubiquitously or within restricted
817 tissues using cell type-specific promoters^{57,58}.

818

819 **Immunofluorescence and Microscopy** Mice were anesthetized with 1.25% Avertin (wt/vol),
820 transcardially perfused with 4% paraformaldehyde (wt/vol) in 0.1M sodium-potassium
821 phosphate buffered saline and postfixed overnight at 4°C. Brains were coronally or sagittally

822 sectioned at 20 μ m using a Leica CM3050 S cryostat. Immunofluorescence on free-floating
823 sections was performed as previously described¹⁸, except sections were permeabilized with 0.5%
824 Triton without methanol for 20 minutes, and sections were blocked overnight with 10% Normal
825 Goat Serum and 1:100 unconjugated goat anti-mouse IgG (Sigma M5899). The following
826 primary antibodies were incubated at 4°C overnight: rabbit anti-MeCP2 C-terminus (1:1000, in
827 house), rabbit anti-nucleolin (1:1000, Abcam ab22758), mouse anti-parvalbumin (1:500,
828 Millipore MAB1572), rabbit anti-calretinin (1:1000, Swant 7699/3H), mouse anti-GAD67
829 (1:500, Millipore MAB5406), mouse anti-NeuN (1:500, Millipore MAB377). For rat anti-
830 somatostatin (1:250, Millipore MAB354MI), primary incubation was performed for 48 hours at
831 4°C. Fluorescence detection of primary antibodies was performed using Alexa 488-conjugated
832 goat anti-rabbit (1:1000, Invitrogen A11008), Alexa 488-conjugated goat anti-mouse (1:1000,
833 Invitrogen A11029), or Alexa 488 goat anti-rat (1:1000, Invitrogen A11006). Fluorescence
834 detection of biotin was performed simultaneously with Streptavidin Dylight 650 (1:1000, Fisher
835 84547) for fluorescence microscopy and Streptavidin Dylight 550 (1:1000, Fisher 84542) for
836 confocal microscopy. Sections were counterstained with DAPI (1:1000, Affymetrix 14564) to
837 visualize DNA before mounting with Fluoromount G (SouthernBiotech). Images were acquired
838 using a Leica DM5500B fluorescent microscope with a Leica DFC360 FX digital camera
839 (region-specific biotinylation, quantification of neuronal cell type-specific markers) or a Leica
840 TCS SP8 Multiphoton confocal microscope (representative images of neuronal cell type specific
841 markers, subcellular localization of MeCP2). Images were acquired using identical settings for
842 laser power, detector gain amplifier offset and pinhole diameter in each channel. Image
843 processing was performed using ImageJ and Adobe Photoshop, including identical adjustments

844 of brightness, contrast, and levels in individual color channels and merged images across
845 genotypes.

846

847 **Quantitative Western analysis** Quantitative Western blot was performed using Odyssey
848 Infrared Imaging System (Licor). Primary antibodies used in this study include rabbit anti-
849 MeCP2 C-terminus (1:4000, in house), mouse anti-MeCP2 N-terminus (1:4000, Sigma M7433),
850 mouse anti-NeuN (1:500, Millipore MAB377), rabbit anti-Avi tag (1:5000, Abcam ab106159,
851 listed as anti-Tavi in main text, detects the minimal peptide substrate of biotin ligase BirA
852 regardless of biotinylation status), rabbit anti-HDAC3 (1:1000, Santa Cruz sc-11417), rabbit
853 anti-TBLR1 (1:1000, Bethyl A300-408A), rabbit anti-Sin3A, (1:500, Thermo Scientific PA1-
854 870), rabbit anti-Histone H3 (1:1000, Abcam ab1791), and rabbit anti-TBP (1:1000, Cell
855 Signaling #8515). Secondary antibodies include anti-rabbit IRDye 680LT (1:10,000, Licor), anti-
856 mouse IRDye 800CW (Licor), Streptavidin Dylight 650 (1:10,000, Fisher 84547) and
857 Streptavidin Dylight 800 (1:10,000, Fisher 21851). Quantification of protein expression levels
858 was carried out following Odyssey Infrared Imaging System protocols. Scans of full-length
859 Western blot membranes are provided in Supplementary Figs. 11-13.

860

861 **Co-immunoprecipitation using nuclear extracts** Tissues were mined on ice and homogenized
862 in ice cold lysis buffer (10 mM HEPES pH 7.9, 1.5mM MgCl₂, 10mM KCl, 0.5% NP-40, 0.2mM
863 EDTA, protease inhibitors). Nuclei were pelleted, washed and resuspended in nuclear extract
864 (NE) buffer (20mM HEPES pH 7.9, 1.5mM MgCl₂, 500mM KCl, 0.2mM EDTA, 10% glycerol,
865 protease inhibitors). Nuclei were incubated in NE buffer at 4°C for two hours with rotation.
866 Samples were cleared by ultracentrifugation with a TLA 100.3 rotor (Beckman Optima TL) at

867 4°C for 30 minutes and the supernatant taken for nuclear extract. Protein concentration was
868 quantified using a modified Bradford assay (Bio-Rad). 1mg of nuclear extract was adjusted to
869 300µl total volume with NE buffer to perform IP in duplicate. Protein G Dynabeads or
870 Streptavidin M-280 Dynabeads (Life Technologies) were washed three times in PBS with 0.1%
871 Tween-20 and 0.1% BSA. Nuclear extracts were cleared for 30 minutes at 4°C with 25µl Protein
872 G Dynabeads. For streptavidin pulldown, 50µl of Streptavidin M-280 Dynabeads were added to
873 the nuclear extract and incubated at 4°C for two hours with rotation. To test if the Tavi tag was
874 required for streptavidin pulldown, nuclear extracts were split and incubated with or without
875 200U TEV protease (Invitrogen) in the absence of a reducing agent and without agitation at 4°C
876 for ≥ 4 hours prior to IP. For antibody immunoprecipitations, 5µg of antibody was added to the
877 nuclear extract and incubated overnight at 4°C with rotation. Protein G beads were blocked in
878 wash buffer overnight at 4°C with rotation. Blocked beads were then incubated with antibody-
879 bound nuclear extract for two hours at 4°C with rotation. Beads were washed four times in PBS
880 with 0.1% Tween-20 and split into two equal volumes. Each sample was resuspended in 25µl
881 loading buffer with 50mM DTT and boiled for 10 minutes at 95°C prior to loading on a 4-12%
882 Bis-Tris NuPage gel (Life Technologies).

883

884 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation** Forebrain tissues from male mice at 20 weeks of age were
885 homogenized in cross-linking buffer (1% formaldehyde (wt/vol), 10mM HEPES (pH 7.5),
886 100mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 1mM EGTA) and cross-linked for 5 minutes at RT. After quenching
887 with 125mM glycine, cross-linked tissue was washed with ice-cold PBS and dounced with 16
888 strokes in lysis buffer (50mM HEPES (pH 7.5), 140mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 1mM EGTA, 10%
889 glycerol (vol/vol), 0.5% NP-40 (vol/vol), and 0.25% Triton X-100 (vol/vol) with protease

890 inhibitors). Nuclei were pelleted, washed and resuspended in chromatin buffer (10mM Tris-HCl
891 (pH 8.0), 1mM EDTA, and 0.5mM EGTA with protease inhibitors). Chromatin was sonicated
892 using a Diagenode Bioruptor, and salt and detergent were added to adjust the chromatin buffer to
893 0.5% Triton X-100, 150mM NaCl, 10mM EDTA, and 0.1% sodium deoxycholate (DOC,
894 vol/vol), and precleared at 4°C with Protein A Dynabeads (Invitrogen). For
895 immunoprecipitation, 3µg of purified rabbit anti-MeCP2 IgG (in house) or non-specific rabbit
896 IgG control (Millipore NI01) was incubated with 45µg of chromatin for 4 hours, followed by an
897 overnight incubation with pre-blocked Protein A Dynabeads, at 4°C with rotation. Bead-bound
898 chromatin was washed with low salt buffer (50mM HEPES pH 7.5, 150mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA,
899 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% DOC), high salt buffer (50mM HEPES pH 7.5, 500mM NaCl, 1mM
900 EDTA, 1% Triton X-100, 0.1% DOC), LiCl buffer (50mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 150mM NaCl,
901 1mM EDTA, 0.5% NP-40, 0.5% DOC) and TE buffer (10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1mM EDTA).
902 Chromatin was eluted with elution buffer (50mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 10mM EDTA, and 1% SDS
903 (wt/vol)), digested with proteinase K (0.5mg ml⁻¹), and reversed crosslinked at 65°C overnight.
904 After RNase A treatment, DNA fragments were extracted with phenol/chloroform and ethanol-
905 precipitated.

906 Quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR) analysis was carried out using SYBR green detection
907 (Life Technologies) on an ABI Prism 7900HT Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems).
908 The percent input for each amplicon was determined by comparing the average threshold cycle
909 of the immunoprecipitated DNA to a standard curve generated using serial dilutions of the input
910 DNA and interpolating the “fraction of input” value for this sample.

911

912 **Sub-nuclear Fractionation** To prepare nucleoplasm-enriched proteins, cortices were dounce
913 homogenized in 5 ml NE10 buffer (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.1%
914 Triton X-100, and 15 mM β-mercaptoethanol) 30 times using a loose pestle. The resulting nuclei
915 were washed with NE10 buffer and rotated in NE300 buffer (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 300 mM
916 NaCl, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.1% Triton X-100, and 15 mM β-mercaptoethanol) for 1 hour
917 at 4°C. Samples were centrifuged at 500 g for 5 minutes, and the supernatant, which represents
918 the nucleosolic fraction, was collected and saved. The insoluble pellet, consisting of the
919 chromatin-bound fraction, was washed in NE150 buffer and incubated with 500 units of
920 benzonase (Sigma-Aldrich) for 5 minutes at room temperature. The pellet was then resuspended
921 in 50 μl NE150 buffer (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.1%
922 Triton X-100, and 15 mM β-mercaptoethanol) and rotated for 1 hour at 4°C. Samples were
923 centrifuged at 16,000 g, and the supernatant was collected as the chromatin-bound fraction.

924

925 **FACS Isolation of Neuronal Nuclei for RT-PCR and RNA-seq** Nuclei were isolated from
926 fresh cortical tissue for FACS under ice-cold and nuclease-free conditions. Mouse cortices were
927 rapidly resected on ice and subjected to dounce homogenization in homogenization buffer
928 (0.32M sucrose, 5mM CaCl₂, 3mM MgAc₂, 10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 0.1% Triton, 0.1mM
929 EDTA, Roche Complete Protease Inhibitor without EDTA). Homogenates were layered onto a
930 sucrose cushion (1.8M sucrose, 10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 3mM MgAc₂ Roche Complete Protease
931 Inhibitor without EDTA) and centrifuged in a Beckman Coulter L7 Ultracentrifuge at 25,000
932 rpm at 4°C for 2.5 hours using a Beckman Coulter SW28 swinging bucket rotor. Nuclei were
933 resuspended & washed once in blocking buffer (1x PBS, 0.5% BSA (Sigma A4503), RNasin
934 Plus RNase Inhibitor (Promega)) and pelleted using a tabletop centrifuge at 5000 RCF at 4°C for

935 10 minutes. Nuclei were resuspended in blocking buffer to a concentration of $\sim 6 \times 10^6$ nuclei/ml,
936 blocked for 20 minutes at 4°C with rotation, then incubated with Streptavidin Dylight 650
937 (1:1000, Fisher 84547) and Alexa 488-conjugated anti-NeuN antibody (1:1000, Millipore
938 MAB377X) for 30 minutes at 4°C with rotation. After a 5-minute incubation with 1:1000 DAPI
939 to enable singlet detection during FACS, labeled nuclei were washed for an additional 30
940 minutes at 4°C with blocking buffer, pelleted and resuspended in blocking buffer with 1% BSA.
941 A BD Biosciences Influx cell sorter at the University of Pennsylvania Flow Cytometry and Cell
942 Sorting Facility was used to identify cell type-specific populations of nuclei, and $1.2 - 2.5 \times 10^5$
943 singlet nuclei from specified populations were directly sorted into Qiagen Buffer RLT Plus for
944 immediate lysis and stabilization of RNA transcripts. Total nuclear RNA was processed using
945 the Qiagen AllPrep DNA/RNA mini kit according to manufacturer instructions, with exception
946 to the on-column DNaseI treatment. RNA was eluted from RNeasy mini spin columns and
947 treated with DNaseI (Qiagen 79254) for 25 minutes at room temperature, then precipitated with
948 glycogen/NaOAc and stored in ethanol at -80°C. Ethanol precipitation of nuclear RNA was
949 carried out to completion prior to initiating RT-PCR or RNA-seq library construction.

950 For RNA-seq, total RNA was prepared from FACS-isolated cortical nuclei of male mice
951 at 6 weeks (TAVI, T158M, R106W, 2-3 mice pooled per biological replicate, 4 independently-
952 sorted biological replicates total) and female mice at 18 weeks (TAVI, T158M, R106W, 1 single
953 mouse per biological replicate, 2 independently-sorted biological replicates total). No method of
954 randomization was used to determine how animals were allocated to experimental groups, which
955 was determined by genotype with matching age and sex. The numbers of biological replicates
956 used for differential gene expression analysis are in compliance with ENCODE consortium long
957 RNA-seq recommendations (≥ 2 replicates). Furthermore, the total amount of RNA isolated from

958 120,000-250,000 sorted nuclei was used as input for library construction; hence differential gene
959 expression comparisons between FACS-isolated *Mecp2* control and mutant neurons are
960 performed using RNA from equivalent numbers of neuronal nuclei. Total RNA was depleted of
961 ribosomal RNAs, subjected to 5 minutes of heat fragmentation, and converted to strand-specific
962 cDNA libraries using the TruSeq Total RNA library prep kit with RiboZero depletion (Illumina).
963 Multiplexed libraries were submitted for 100 paired-end sequencing on the Illumina HiSeq
964 2000/2500 platform at the University of Pennsylvania Next Generation Sequencing Core facility,
965 yielding approximately 30-40M total reads per library. 90-95% of total reads were uniquely
966 mapped to the mouse Ensembl GRCm38/mm10 mouse genomic assembly.

967

968 **Real-Time PCR (RT-PCR)** For RT-PCR of FACS-isolated cortical nuclei, total RNA was
969 prepared (as described in preceding section) from 120,000 sorted nuclei of TAVI or R106W
970 male mice at 6 weeks of age (2-3 mice pooled per biological replicate, 3 independently-sorted
971 biological replicates total). For remaining RT-PCR assays, total RNA was isolated from whole
972 tissue or unsorted cortical nuclei of WT, TAVI, T158M, or R106W mice as specified in figure
973 legends (1 mouse per biological replicate, 3 biological replicates total). Total RNA was
974 converted to cDNA with random hexamers using the SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis
975 System (Invitrogen). RT-PCR was performed on a ABI Prism 7900HT Real-Time PCR System
976 (Applied Biosystems). To validate cell type-specific cortical nuclei populations (Fig. 2d and
977 Supplementary Fig. 3i-j), exon-spanning Taqman gene expression assays to detect mRNA
978 transcripts for the following genes: *CRE* (Mr00635245_cn), *Mecp2* (Mm01193537_g1), *Rbfox3*
979 (Mm01248771_m1), *Gfap* (Mm01253033_m1), *Aif1* (Mm00479862_g1), *Mog*
980 (Mm00447824_m1), *Slc17a7* (Mm00812886_m1), *Tbr1* (Mm00493433_m1), *Gad1*

981 (Mm04207432_g1), *Slc35a1* (Mm00494138_m1), *Ht3ar* (Mm00442874_m1), *Pvalb*
982 (Mm00443100_m1), *Sst* (Mm00436671_m1), *Pgk1* (Mm00435617_m1), *Actb*
983 (Mm00607939_s1), *β 2m* (Mm00437762_m1). A geometric mean was calculated to normalize
984 mRNA expression levels to multiple housekeeping genes (*Actb*, *β 2m*, and *Pgk1*), and cell type-
985 enrichment for each sorted population was determined relative to the total mixed population of
986 DAPI+ nuclei. For RT-PCR validation of low expressing genes and subcellular gene expression
987 changes (Fig. 4h and Supplementary Figure 8), primers against primary transcripts and mRNAs
988 were used (listed in Supplementary Table 2), and geometric means were calculated to normalize
989 mRNA expression levels to multiple housekeeping genes (*Actb*, *β 2m*, and *Pgk1*).

990

991 **GRO-seq** Nuclei were isolated from fresh cortical tissue of TAVI or R106W male mice at 6
992 weeks of age (2 mice pooled per biological replicate, 2 biological replicates total) under ice-cold
993 and nuclease-free conditions as described in the preceding section. After ultracentrifugation,
994 nuclei were resuspended & washed once in PBS (1x PBS, RNasin Plus RNase Inhibitor
995 (Promega)) and pelleted using a tabletop centrifuge at 5000 RCF at 4°C for 10 minutes. Nuclei
996 were resuspended in PBS, pipetted through a 0.22 μ m filter and counted using a hemocytometer.
997 Nuclei were then pelleted, resuspended to a concentration of 5×10^6 - 10×10^6 nuclei/100 μ l in
998 glycerol storage buffer (50mM Tris pH 8.3, 40% glycerol, 5mM MgCl₂, 0.1 mM), and flash
999 frozen in liquid N₂ for storage until needed.

1000 For each nuclear run-on (NRO), 100 μ l of nuclei was mixed with 46.5 μ l NRO Reaction
1001 Buffer (10mM Tris pH 8.0, 5mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 300mM KCl), 3.5 μ l Nucleoside Mix
1002 (50 μ M ATP, 50 μ M GTP, 2 μ M CTP, 50 μ M Br-UTP, 0.4U/ μ l RNasin), and 50 μ l 2% Sarkosyl

1003 Nuclear Run On Stop Solution (20mM Tris pH 7.4, 10mM EDTA, 2% SDS). The NRO reaction
1004 was performed at 30°C for 5 minutes, then terminated by a 20 minute incubation with DNase I
1005 at 37°C, followed by a hour-long incubation with 225µl NRO Stop Buffer (20mM Tris, pH 7.4,
1006 10mM EDTA, 2% SDS) and Proteinase K at 55°C. Phenol-extracted RNA was fragmented with
1007 0.2N NaOH, and BrdU-RNA was isolated three consecutive times with BrdU-antibody beads,
1008 treated with enzymatic tobacco acid pyrophosphatase (TAP) and T4 polynucleotide kinase
1009 (PNK) to remove the cap and 3'-phosphate and to add a 5'-phosphate, as well as Illumina
1010 TruSeq small RNA sample prep kit adapter ligations between BrU-RNA isolation steps as
1011 described^{41,59}.

1012

1013 **RNA-seq Mapping, Read Counting, and Differential Expression Analysis** The mouse mm10
1014 genomic sequence (Mus_musculus.GRCm38.75.dna.primary_assembly.fa.gz) and gene
1015 information (Mus_musculus.GRCm38.75.gtf.gz) were downloaded from Ensembl release 75.
1016 The genome files used for mapping were built by STAR (version 2.3.0)⁶⁰ using the parameters
1017 '*STAR --runMode genomeGenerate --runThreadN 12*
1018 *--genomeDir ./ --genomeFastaFiles Mus_musculus.GRCm38.75.dna.primary_assembly.fa.gz --*
1019 *sjdbGTFfile Mus_musculus.GRCm38.75.gtf --sjdbOverhang 100*'. The FASTQ files were
1020 mapped to the mouse Ensembl GRCm38/mm10 genome assembly by STAR (version 2.3.0)
1021 using the parameters '*--genomeDir ENSEMBL_75_mm10 --runThreadN 10 --*
1022 *outFilterMultimapNmax 1 --outFilterMismatchNmax 3*'. Perl scripts generated in-house were
1023 used to count the number of read pairs that mapped to genic regions (exon + intron) for each
1024 gene. If one end of a read pair overlapped with the annotated genomic region of a given gene and
1025 the other did not, the read pair was included in the final count for that gene. The total number of

1026 read pairs that overlapped within a given gene represented the final read count for that gene. All
1027 intron and exon-mapped reads were used for differentially expressed gene comparisons, which
1028 were performed by using the R packages “edgeR” (v3.10.0)⁶¹ and “DESeq2” (v1.8.0)⁶². Genes
1029 exhibiting low expression due to a substantially low number of mapped reads and whose edgeR
1030 CPM values satisfied the condition $\text{rowSums}(\text{cpm}(\text{data_y})) < 2$ were filtered out from
1031 differential gene expression analyses. Conversely, genes with $\text{rowSums}(\text{cpm}(\text{data_y})) \geq 2$ were
1032 retained for differential gene expression analyses. A false discovery rate < 0.05 was set to
1033 identify differentially expressed genes, and no fold change cutoff was applied. For each
1034 comparison, the results of both edgeR and DESeq2 analyses were merged into a final non-
1035 redundant and FDR-controlled list of genes to avoid method-specific biases. The mean fold
1036 change and the mean FDR generated from both methods were used for generating plots and
1037 heatmaps.

1038

1039 **RNA Binding Protein (RBP) Data Pre-processing and Analysis** To determine the enrichment
1040 of neuronally expressed RNA-binding proteins on gene transcripts, raw HITS-CLIP reads
1041 derived from the mouse brain were obtained from publically available datasets in the GEO
1042 repository (listed below). The quality of raw reads were assessed with FastQC⁶³ and
1043 contaminants were removed using Trimalore⁶⁴ with parameters $\text{'-q 15 --length 20 --stringency}$
1044 $5'$. Remaining reads were aligned to a mouse reference genome derived from the Ensembl v75
1045 archived assembly using STAR (version 2.5)⁶⁰ with parameters $\text{'--outFilterMultimapNmax 1 --}$
1046 $\text{outFilterScoreMinOverLread 0 --outFilterMatchNminOverLread 0.5 --alignEndsType Local}'$.
1047 Replicates were merged and then subsampled to match the sample with the lowest library size.
1048 Genome annotation from Ensembl v75 and in-house developed scripts facilitated the calculation

1049 of RNA binding protein coverage in gene models. Genes not included in Groups A-H (Figure 4f)
 1050 were filtered out. For k-means clustering of RBPs, raw read counts were first normalized using
 1051 the variance stabilizing transformation function in “DESeq2”⁶², and the R packages “factoextra”,
 1052 “cluster”, and “NbClust” were used to perform a Silhouette coefficient analysis and cluster genes
 1053 based on the optimal k number of clusters. The Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by a post-hoc
 1054 Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test with Holm’s correction for multiple comparisons, was used to identify
 1055 statistically significant differences in RNA-binding protein enrichment within each gene cluster.
 1056 RBP gene clusters were then used to perform One-tailed Fisher’s Exact Test with genes from
 1057 Groups A-H to identify RBP enrichments that significantly associate with genes displaying
 1058 subcellular differences in gene expression changes in R106W mutant mice.

HITS-CLIP datasets used for RBP Analysis		
AGO2 (Rep 1-6/9-12)	GSE73058	PMID: 26602609
APC (Rep 1-4)	SRP042131	PMID: 25036633
MBNL1 (Rep 1-2)	GSE39911	PMID: 22901804
MBNL2 (Rep 1-3)	GSE38497	PMID: 22884328
ELAVL1 (Rep 1-2)	GSE45148	PMID: 21784246
FMR1 (Rep 1-2)	GSE45148	PMID: 21784246
FUS (Rep 1-3)	GSE40651	PMID: 23023293
TAF15 (Rep 1-2)	GSE43294	PMID: 23416048
TDP43	GSE40651	PMID: 23023293
RBFOX1	SRP030031	PMID: 24213538
RBFOX2	SRP030031	PMID: 24213538
RBFOX3 (Rep 1-5)	SRP039559	-

1059
 1060
 1061 **Functional Enrichment of Differentially Expressed Genes** For DAVID gene ontology, a list
 1062 of differentially expressed protein-coding genes was compared to a background list of actively
 1063 expressed protein-coding genes from their respective cell type. Statistically significant terms
 1064 (Benjamini $P < 0.01$, FDR < 0.05) were plotted for Figures S3C-D. For Gene Set Enrichment
 1065 Analysis (GSEA), we performed a seeded, pre-ranked GSEA from lists of differentially

1066 expressed protein-coding genes (ranked by fold change) using the September 2015 Mouse GO
1067 Gene Set Release (http://download.baderlab.org/EM_Genesets/September_24_2015/Mouse/).
1068 GSEA network associations (P -value < 0.1, Q -value < 0.1) were visualized using the Enrichment
1069 Map application (v2.0.1) in Cytoscape (v3.2.1)^{65,66}, and clustered using gene set overlap
1070 coefficients.

1071

1072 **Principal Components Analysis (PCA)** PCA analyses were performed with the top 500 genes
1073 exhibiting the highest row variance using the “plotPCA” function in the R package “DESeq2”.
1074 Principal components were plotted using Graphpad Prism version 6.0 for Mac (GraphPad
1075 Software, La Jolla California USA, www.graphpad.com).

1076

1077 **Determination of Actively Expressed Genes** Actively expressed genes for excitatory and
1078 inhibitory neurons were determined by calculating the normalized FPKM (zFPKM) and using
1079 $ZFPKM \geq 3$ for the active gene cutoff as previously described⁶⁷.

1080

1081 **Statistical Analyses** Statistical analyses were performed using Graphpad Prism version 6.0 for
1082 Mac (GraphPad Software, La Jolla California USA, www.graphpad.com) and R⁶⁸. No statistical
1083 method was used to estimate sample size, as pre-specified effect sizes were not assumed. No
1084 animals or samples were excluded from analyses. Individual statistical tests are fully stated in the
1085 main text or figure legends. Comparisons of normally distributed data consisting of two groups
1086 with equal variances (F-test equality of variance $P > 0.05$) were analyzed using Student’s T-test,
1087 and unequal variances (F-test equality of variance $P < 0.05$) using Students T-test with Welch’s
1088 correction for unequal variance. Comparisons of normally distributed data consisting of three or

1089 more groups were analyzed using One-way ANOVA with the appropriate *post-hoc* test.
1090 Comparison of two or more factors across multiple groups was analyzed using a Two-way
1091 ANOVA with Sidak's correction for multiple comparisons. Comparisons of non-normally
1092 distributed data were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney/Wilcoxon test (two groups) or the
1093 Kruskal-Wallis test (three or more groups) with the appropriate *post-hoc* test. For multiple
1094 comparisons, all p-values are adjusted using the Holm-Bonferroni correction unless otherwise
1095 indicated. Experimental design and analytical details are also listed in the Life Sciences
1096 Reporting Summary.

1097

1098 **Main Figure Statistical Analyses**

1099 **Figure 1** Utilization and characterization of *Mecp2*^{Tavi} mice and associated RTT variants

1100 (e) $n_{\text{replicates}} = 3$, One-way ANOVA [F = 25.55, $P = 0.0012$]; Tukey's multiple comparisons
1101 correction applied. (f) *Left*, $n_{\text{WT}} = 4$, $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 5$, $n_{\text{T158M}} = 4$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 4$; One-way ANOVA [F =
1102 12.4, $P = 0.0004$]; Sidak's multiple comparisons correction applied. *Right*, $n_{\text{WT}} = 4$, $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 5$,
1103 $n_{\text{T158M}} = 4$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 4$; One-way ANOVA [F = 0.2977, $P = 0.8264$]; Sidak's multiple
1104 comparisons correction applied. (g) $n_{\text{WT}} = 20$, $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 11$, $n_{\text{KO}} = 6$, $n_{\text{T158M}} = 6$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 12$; One-
1105 way ANOVA [F = 20.05, $P < 0.0001$]; Tukey's multiple comparison correction applied. (j) n_{WT}
1106 = 31, $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 23$, $n_{\text{KO}} = 17$, $n_{\text{T158M}} = 39$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 26$, Mantel-Cox [$\chi^2 = 109.3$, $\text{df} = 4$, $P <$
1107 0.0001].

1108

1109 **Figure 2** Cell type-specific transcriptional profiling of neuronal nuclei

1110 (d) $n_{\text{replicates}} = 3$, Two-way ANOVA, Control [Cell Type-Gene Interaction, F = 42.68, $P < 0.0001$];
1111 Cell Type, F = 222.0, $P < 0.0001$; Gene, F = 80.03, $P < 0.0001$], Non-Neuronal [Cell Type-Gene

1112 Interaction, $F = 12.47$, $P < 0.0001$; Cell Type, $F = 109.8$, $P < 0.0001$; Gene, $F = 7.655$, $P =$
1113 0.0027], EXC-specific [Cell Type-Gene Interaction, $F = 4.376$, $P = 0.0198$; Cell Type, $F = 1227$,
1114 $P < 0.0001$; Gene, $F = 0.3267$, $P = 0.5756$], INH-specific [Cell Type-Gene Interaction, $F =$
1115 3.047 , $P = 0.0040$; Cell Type, $F = 646.5$, $P < 0.001$; Gene, $F = 2.916$, $P = 0.033$]; Dunnett's
1116 multiple comparisons correction applied.

1117

1118 **Figure 3** T158M and R106W differentially expressed genes at 6 weeks of age

1119 (c) One-tailed Wilcoxon Signed Rank, Excitatory $P_{\text{Upregulated}} = 4.357\text{e-}3$, Excitatory $P_{\text{Downregulated}}$
1120 $= 7.345\text{e-}3$, Inhibitory $P_{\text{Upregulated}} = 4.575\text{e-}09$, Inhibitory $P_{\text{Downregulated}} = 1.684\text{e-}05$. (e) Chi-square
1121 Goodness-of-Fit, Excitatory $P_{\text{T158M}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 182.2$, $df = 2$], Excitatory $P_{\text{R106W}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$
1122 [$\chi^2 = 401.11$, $df = 2$], Inhibitory $P_{\text{T158M}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 119.94$, $df = 2$], Inhibitory $P_{\text{R106W}} < 2.2\text{e-}$
1123 16 [$\chi^2 = 346.86$, $df = 2$]. (f) Two-tailed Kruskal-Wallis Rank Sum, Excitatory $P < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 =$
1124 418.2 , $df = 3$], Inhibitory $P < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 1026.9$, $df = 3$]; Pairwise Wilcoxon Rank Sum P
1125 displayed.

1126

1127 **Figure 4** Genome-wide length-dependent transcriptional changes in RTT mutant mice

1128 (e) *Top*, $n = 10,390$ genes, Kolmogorov-Smirnov $P < 2.2\text{e-}16$ for each nascent or nuclear RNA
1129 versus whole cell RNA comparison, no correction for multiple comparisons. (f) $n = 10, 390$
1130 genes, Kruskal-Wallis $P_{\text{Group A}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 2664.8$, $df = 2$], $P_{\text{Group B}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 290.18$, df
1131 $= 2$], $P_{\text{Group C}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 2403.3$, $df = 2$], $P_{\text{Group D}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 319.36$, $df = 2$], $P_{\text{Group E}} <$
1132 $2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 1483.8$, $df = 2$], $P_{\text{Group F}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 1385.8$, $df = 2$], $P_{\text{Group G}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 =$
1133 2522.9 , $df = 2$], $P_{\text{Group H}} < 2.2\text{e-}16$ [$\chi^2 = 2442.7$, $df = 2$]; Pairwise Wilcoxon Rank Sum P
1134 displayed. (h) *Left*, Primary Transcripts + mRNA RT-PCR (Group Trend), $n_{\text{Group A/C}} = 7$ genes,

1135 $n_{\text{Group B}} = 5$ genes, $n_{\text{Group D}} = 5$ genes, Two-way ANOVA, [Subcellular Compartment-Gene Group
1136 Interaction, $F = 5.699$, $P = 0.0084$; Subcellular Compartment, $F = 1.419$, $P = 0.2436$; Gene
1137 Group, $F = 16.14$, $P < 0.0001$]; Sidak's multiple comparisons correction applied. *Right*, Primary
1138 Transcripts only RT-PCR (Group Trend), $n_{\text{Group A/c}} = 7$ genes, $n_{\text{Group B}} = 5$ genes, $n_{\text{Group D}} = 5$
1139 genes, Two-way ANOVA, [Subcellular Compartment-Gene Group Interaction, $F = 0.182$, $P =$
1140 0.8345 ; Subcellular Compartment, $F = 0.1334$, $P = 0.7176$; Gene Group, $F = 15.12$, $P < 0.0001$];
1141 Sidak's multiple comparisons correction applied.

1142

1143 **Figure 5** T158M and R106W differentially expressed genes in mosaic female mice

1144 **(a)** Two-way ANOVA [Genotype-Time Interaction, $F = 2.987$, $P = 0.0712$; Genotype, $F = 41.14$,
1145 $P < 0.0001$; Time, $F = 7.332$, $P = 0.0129$; Subjects (matching), $F = 1.873$, $P = 0.0744$]. **(b)**
1146 FACS isolation of cortical mosaic excitatory neuronal nuclei from heterozygous TAVI, T158M,
1147 or R106W female mice. **(c)** $n_{\text{T158M}} = 4$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 9$, Two-way ANOVA [Population-Genotype
1148 Interaction, $F = 0.3320$, $P = 0.5703$; Population, $F = 111.1$, $P < 0.0001$; Genotype, $F = 0.332$, $P =$
1149 0.5703]. **(d)** $n_{\text{TAVI}} = 12$, $n_{\text{T158M}} = 4$, $n_{\text{R106W}} = 9$, One-way ANOVA [$F = 0.9376$, $P = 0.4067$]. **(h)**
1150 One-tailed Fisher's Exact Test [Odds Ratio = 19.3, $P = 2.43\text{e-}05$]. **(i)** One-tailed Wilcoxon
1151 Signed Rank, $P_{\text{Total Overlap}} = 0.0331$, $P_{\text{Cell. Auto.}} = 0.5778$, $P_{\text{Non-Cell Auto.}} = 8.825\text{e-}06$.

1152

1153

1154 **Methods-Only References**

- 1155 56. Xiao, C. *et al.* MiR-150 Controls B Cell Differentiation by Targeting the Transcription
1156 Factor c-Myb. *Cell* **131**, 146–159 (2007).
- 1157 57. Boer, E. de *et al.* Efficient biotinylation and single-step purification of tagged
1158 transcription factors in mammalian cells and transgenic mice. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*
1159 **100**, 7480–5 (2003).
- 1160 58. Driegen, S. *et al.* A generic tool for biotinylation of tagged proteins in transgenic mice.
1161 *Transgenic Res* **14**, 477–82 (2005).
- 1162 59. Greer, C. B. *et al.* Histone Deacetylases Positively Regulate Transcription through the
1163 Elongation Machinery. *Cell Rep.* **13**, 1444–1455 (2015).
- 1164 60. Dobin, A. *et al.* STAR: ultrafast universal RNA-seq aligner. *Bioinformatics* bts635 (2012).
1165 doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/bts635
- 1166 61. Robinson, M. D., McCarthy, D. J. & Smyth, G. K. edgeR: a Bioconductor package for
1167 differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. *Bioinforma. Oxf. Engl.*
1168 **26**, 139–140 (2010).
- 1169 62. Love, M. I., Huber, W. & Anders, S. Moderated estimation of fold change and dispersion
1170 for RNA-seq data with DESeq2. *Genome Biol.* **15**, (2014).
- 1171 63. Andrews, S. Babraham Bioinformatics - FastQC A Quality Control tool for High
1172 Throughput Sequence Data. Available at:
1173 <https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>. (Accessed: 28th April
1174 2017)

- 1175 64. Krueger, F. Babraham Bioinformatics - Trim Galore! Available at:
1176 https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/. (Accessed: 28th
1177 April 2017)
- 1178 65. Merico, D., Isserlin, R., Stueker, O., Emili, A. & Bader, G. D. Enrichment Map: A Network-
1179 Based Method for Gene-Set Enrichment Visualization and Interpretation. *PLOS ONE* **5**,
1180 e13984 (2010).
- 1181 66. Smoot, M. E., Ono, K., Ruscheinski, J., Wang, P.-L. & Ideker, T. Cytoscape 2.8: new
1182 features for data integration and network visualization. *Bioinforma. Oxf. Engl.* **27**, 431–
1183 432 (2011).
- 1184 67. Hart, T., Komori, H. K., LaMere, S., Podshivalova, K. & Salomon, D. R. Finding the active
1185 genes in deep RNA-seq gene expression studies. *BMC Genomics* **14**, 778 (2013).
- 1186 68. R Core Team. *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. (R Foundation for
1187 Statistical Computing, 2014).
1188









