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1 **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: Neuroscience, cell biology**

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3 **MTSS1/Src family kinase Dysregulation Underlies Multiple Inherited Ataxias**

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25 **Abstract** (153/250 words)

26 The genetically heterogeneous Spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) are caused by
27 Purkinje neuron dysfunction and degeneration, but their underlying pathological
28 mechanisms remain elusive. The Src family of non-receptor tyrosine kinases (SFK) are
29 essential for nervous system homeostasis and are increasingly implicated in
30 degenerative disease. Here we reveal that the SFK suppressor Missing-in-Metastasis
31 (MTSS1) is an ataxia locus that links multiple SCAs. MTSS1 loss results in increased
32 SFK activity, reduced Purkinje neuron arborization, and low basal firing rates, followed
33 by cell death. Surprisingly, mouse models for SCA1, SCA2, and SCA5 show elevated
34 SFK activity, with SCA1 and SCA2 displaying dramatically reduced MTSS1 protein
35 levels through reduced gene expression and protein translation, respectively. Treatment
36 of each SCA model with a clinically-approved Src inhibitor corrects Purkinje basal firing,
37 and delays ataxia progression in MTSS1 mutants. Our results identify a common SCA
38 therapeutic target and demonstrate a key role for MTSS1/SFK in Purkinje neuron
39 survival and ataxia progression.

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58 **Keywords:** Neurodegeneration, Src Kinase, MTSS1, Bar Domain Proteins, Actin
59 Cytoskeleton, Spinocerebellar ataxia, SCA1, SCA2, Src kinase Inhibitor, RNA binding
60 protein, Translation

61 **Significance Statement (120/120)**

62 The Src family of non-receptor tyrosine kinases (SFK) are essential for nervous system
63 function, and may contribute to neurodegeneration. Spinocerebellar ataxias (SCAs) are
64 neurodegenerative diseases where Purkinje neurons fire irregularly and degenerate
65 leading to motor problems. We show that the SFK suppressor Missing-in-Metastasis
66 (MTSS1) is an ataxia gene that links multiple SCAs. MTSS1 loss results in increased
67 SFK activity, degenerating Purkinje neurons with low firing rates, and cell death.
68 Surprisingly, mouse models for three different SCAs show elevated SFK activity, with
69 SCA1 and SCA2 models displaying dramatically reduced MTSS1 protein levels.
70 Treatment of each SCA model with SFK inhibitor corrects Purkinje basal firing, and
71 delays ataxia progression in MTSS1 mutants. Our results identify a common link among
72 disparate neurodegenerative diseases.

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76 **Introduction**

77 Neurons are non-dividing cells that depend on homeostatic regulation of protein,
78 RNA, and metabolite turnover to permit dynamic synaptic connections that allow
79 adaptation to changing environments. Loss of such mechanisms result in one of several
80 hundred neurodegenerative disorders. Over 40 loci form the genetic basis for human
81 Spinocerebellar Ataxia (SCA), a progressive motor disorder characterized by cerebellar
82 atrophy and pervasive Purkinje neuron degeneration where patients experience poor
83 coordination and balance, hand-eye coordination, dysarthria, and abnormal saccades.

84 One common phenotype prominent in multiple SCA animal models is the altered
85 Purkinje neuron firing rates that precede motor impairment and cell death (1-3), with
86 restoration of the normal firing rates reducing Purkinje neuron death and improving
87 motor function (4, 5). Defects in many cell functions lead to SCA including effectors of
88 transcription (6), translation (7), proteostasis (8, 9), calcium flux (10, 11), and
89 cytoskeletal/membrane interactions (12, 13). An open question remains how the many
90 SCA genes interact to control firing rates and cell survival, with a common target
91 emerging as an ideal treatment for the genetically diverse etiologies.

92 One such therapeutic target is the class of Src family of non-receptor tyrosine kinases
93 (SFKs). Several SFKs are expressed in the nervous system and have partially
94 overlapping functions. While single mutants for *Src* or *Yes* kinase have no overt
95 neuronal phenotype (14, 15), *Fyn* loss of function leads to increased Src activity and
96 hippocampal learning and memory deficits (16, 17) Moreover, *Fyn;Src* double mutants
97 rarely survive past birth and have severely disorganized cortical and cerebellar layers
98 (15, 18). SFKs are post-translationally regulated through activating and inhibitory
99 phosphorylation marks deposited by inhibitory kinases and removed by receptor tyrosine
100 phosphatases in a context dependent manner (19, 20). SFK activation occurs rapidly in
101 response to extracellular signals and in response to a variety of cellular stresses ranging
102 from osmotic pressure (21) to tetanic stimulation (22). Additionally, SFKs are
103 inappropriately active in disease states including Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (23),
104 Alzheimer disease (24), and Duchenne muscular dystrophy (25).

105 Missing-in-Metastasis (MTSS1) is one of the defining members of the I-BAR
106 family of negative membrane curvature sensing proteins first identified as being deleted
107 in metastatic bladder cancer (26). Although MTSS1 biochemically interacts with
108 membranes and regulates the actin cytoskeleton (27), genetic studies reveal that
109 MTSS1 functions in an evolutionarily conserved signaling cassette to antagonize Src

110 kinase activity (28, 29). Disruption of the MTSS1/Src regulatory cassette results in
111 endocytosis and polarization abnormalities demonstrated by defects in primary cilia
112 dependent hedgehog signaling, and hair follicle epithelial migration (28). In tissues
113 requiring MTSS1 function, levels of active MTSS1 are critical, as loss (26) or gain (30) of
114 MTSS1 has been associated with metastasis and invasion. Regardless of the particular
115 phenotype, an evolutionarily conserved property of MTSS1 mutants is that loss of
116 MTSS1 function can be reversed through the removal or inhibition of Src kinases. This
117 property was first demonstrated through double mutant analysis in the fly ovary, and
118 subsequently in mammalian tissue culture using Src family kinase inhibitors (28, 29).
119 The availability of FDA-approved Src kinase inhibitors has led to the investigation of
120 clinically relevant MTSS1 phenotypes with the hope of using SFK inhibitors to ameliorate
121 them.

122 Although SFKs have been shown to regulate multiple classes of neurotransmitter
123 receptors (31) they also function to control basic cytoskeletal components. Src regulates
124 local actin polymerization (32) and endocytic receptor internalization (32-35).
125 The actin cytoskeleton plays a critical role in cell signaling, proliferation, motility, and
126 survival. Local, rather than global, actin dynamics control homeostatic synaptic
127 signaling, and abnormalities in actin regulation underlie a diversity of psychiatric and
128 neuronal diseases including Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (36), Schizophrenia, Autism
129 Spectrum Disorders (37), and motor dysfunction such as spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA)
130 (38). A major challenge remains to understand how actin cytoskeletal regulation
131 controls synaptic function and to develop improved therapeutics for these common and
132 poorly-treated diseases.

133 Here we reveal that actin regulator and SFK antagonist *Mtss1* is an ataxia locus
134 regulated by multiple SCA alleles that subsequently result in SFK hyper-activation. We
135 show that clinically-available Src inhibitors correct Purkinje neuron firing rates and delay
136 ataxia progression, demonstrating a novel and druggable role for the evolutionarily
137 conserved MTSS1/SFK network in Purkinje neuron survival and ataxia progression.

138

139 **Results**

140 **Mtss1 null mice display a progressive ataxia**

141 *Mtss1* functions in many tissues, and previous mutant alleles disrupting 5' exons
142 resulted in mild lymphagenesis (39), progressive kidney disease (40), mild
143 neurological phenotypes (41) and cerebellar dysfunction(42). However, *Mtss1* has

144 several possible internal promoters (43), and multiple splice variants with differing sub-
145 cellular localization (44), and existing mutant lines display MTSS1 proteins (40, 45). As
146 an alternative approach we generated a conditional mutant allele targeting the
147 endophilin/Src interacting domain located in the final exon (*MIM^{EX15}*, **Fig 1A**) (28, 29).
148 Germline deletion with HPRT-cre resulted in the loss of MTSS1 protein as detected by
149 an antibody specific to the N-terminal IMD domain (30) (**Fig 1B**).

150 To our surprise, homozygous *MIM^{EX15}* mutants appear normal for cilia dependent
151 processes with no observed instances of holoprosencephaly or polydactyly after multiple
152 generations. Additionally, *MIM^{EX15}* mutant males are fertile. Instead, *MIM^{EX15}* mutants
153 display a striking and progressive ataxia. To better understand the nature of *MIM^{EX15}*
154 ataxia, we characterized *MIM^{EX15}* mutants using an open field test to evaluate gross
155 motor control. *MIM^{EX15}* mutants had reduced velocity (**Fig 1C**) and rearing behavior (**Fig**
156 **1D**), consistent with overall movement defects. To uncouple possible motor and
157 behavioral abnormalities we evaluated *MIM^{EX15}* mutants with rotarod assay and
158 observed coordination abnormalities in as early as 4 weeks of age (**Fig 1E**). Many
159 spinocerebellar ataxias display progressive neurologic phenotypes. To determine
160 whether *MIM^{EX15}* animals showed progressive deterioration we employed a composite
161 test measuring gait, grip strength and balance (46). We found *MIM^{EX15}* animals
162 performed consistently worse than controls, with severity increasing with age (**Fig 1F**).
163 *MIM^{EX15}* heterozygous animals displayed 75% of normal protein levels (**SI Appendix, Fig**
164 **S1C**), giving no overt phenotype.

165 Reduced *Mtss1* levels are associated with a variety of cellular phenotypes
166 including reduced presentation of receptors on the cell membrane (47), and altered
167 Purkinje neuron morphology (41, 44). To determine the basis of the motor abnormalities
168 and to distinguish among these possibilities we performed histological analysis. At 4
169 weeks, *MIM^{EX15}* mice are ataxic, yet their cerebella appeared grossly normal with intact
170 granule, Purkinje neuron, and molecular layers. However, *MIM^{EX15}* mutants displayed a
171 progressive loss of Purkinje neurons in all cerebellar lobes readily seen by 8 weeks of
172 age (Fig S1A). Whereas wild type cerebella contain approximately 8 Purkinje neurons in
173 a 250 μm linear distance, 8-week old mice retained only 25% of wild type, and 36 week
174 *MIM^{EX15}* mutants contained only 5% of the total number of Purkinje neurons (**Fig 1G**).

175 While ataxia genes can act in many cell types to regulate Purkinje cell function,
176 MTSS1 is highly expressed in Purkinje cells, suggesting it is required in these cells for
177 normal Purkinje cell function and survival. To confirm the Purkinje neuron defects seen

178 in *MIM^{EX15}* animals are due to a cell autonomous requirement for *Mtss1*, we conditionally
179 inactivated *Mtss1* using the Purkinje neuron specific L7-Cre (*MIM^{cko}*) then compared
180 Purkinje neuron morphology and loss to the global *MIM^{EX15}* mutant. *MIM^{cko}* Purkinje
181 neurons were mosaic for MTSS1 expression likely due to inefficient LoxP recombination
182 as the MTSS1 antibody showed high specificity (**SI Appendix Fig S1B**). At 20 weeks
183 *MIM^{cko}* had a significant reduction in Purkinje neurons. In remaining Purkinje neurons,
184 those lacking MTSS1 protein displayed thickened dendritic branches and reduced arbor
185 volume, while neighboring Purkinje neurons with MTSS1 protein appeared normal (**Fig**
186 **1H**). We conclude that *Mtss1* acts cell autonomously in Purkinje neurons to maintain
187 dendritic structure, with loss of MTSS1 resulting in abnormalities and eventual cell death.
188

189 **Mtss1 mutant neurons display limited autophagic markers**

190 An emergent mechanism of cell loss during neurodegeneration is aberrant
191 macroautophagy. Autophagy is essential for Purkinje neuron survival, as loss of
192 autophagy (48, 49) results in cell death. Increased levels of early autophagy markers
193 have been described in multiple neurodegenerative diseases including Huntington's
194 disease (50), Alzheimer disease (51), and SCA3 (52). *MIM^{EX15}* mutants partially fit this
195 pattern of disease as we observed some signs of autophagy. As early as 4 weeks, we
196 observed increased Complex V/ATP synthase staining indicative of fused mitochondria
197 as well as dramatically reduced staining for the Golgi body marker Giantin (**Fig 2A**). We
198 also observed increased transcript abundance for the early autophagy effector *VMP1*
199 (53). By 8 weeks of age we could detect increased LC3-II species (**Fig 2B, SI Appendix**
200 **S2A**), and electron microscopy revealed several autophagy related morphologies
201 including swollen mitochondria, fragmented golgi bodies, lamellar bodies and double
202 membrane autophagic vacuoles (**Fig S2C**). Interestingly, we were unable to detect
203 increased *Sqstrm1* (p62) transcript or protein levels in *MIM^{EX15}*, an autophagocytic
204 adapter protein associated with protein aggregation neurodegenerative disease (54) (**Fig**
205 **S2B**). *MIM^{EX15}* animals displayed increased neuroinflammation shown by increased Aif1
206 transcript levels (**Fig 2D**), a readout of microglial infiltration. *MIM^{EX15}* animals also show
207 increased GFAP positive glial infiltration (**Fig 2E, 2F, SI Appendix S1A**) consistent with
208 reactive astroglyosis. Consistent with signs of autophagocytic cell death and
209 neuroinflammation, we failed to see increased DNA breaks in *MIM^{EX15}* Purkinje neurons
210 with TUNEL stain (**Fig 2G**).

211

212 **Mtss1 prevents SFK dependent Purkinje neuron firing defects and ataxia**

213 To characterize cellular changes associated with the ataxia present in 4-week old
214 *MIM^{EX15}* mice, we examined the dendritic tree of individual biocytin injected Purkinje
215 neurons (**Fig 3A**). Purkinje neuron dendritic arbor collapse has been observed in several
216 SCA models including SCA1 (2), SCA5 (3), while many other models have shown
217 thinned molecular layer including SCA2(1), SCA3 (55), that likely reflects reduced
218 Purkinje dendritic volume. Similarly, *MIM^{EX15}* mutants showed a 60% reduction in the
219 expansiveness of the dendritic tree (**Fig 3B**) and a significant decrease in the number of
220 dendritic spines (**Fig 3C**), although no significant difference was detected in spine length
221 (**Fig 3D**) or width (**Fig 3E**).

222 In dermal fibroblasts and *Drosophila* border cells MTSS1 functions to locally
223 prevent ectopic Src kinase activity and *Mtss1* mutant phenotypes can be rescued by
224 genetically removing Src kinase (28, 29). To determine if *Mtss1* acts similarly in Purkinje
225 neurons we evaluated SFK activity levels in cerebellar lysates from *MIM^{EX15}* mutants and
226 found elevated levels of SFK^{Y416} (**Fig 3F**) indicative of increased SFK activity. Previous
227 work has shown strong functional interactions between SFK and metabotropic glutamate
228 receptor type I (mGluR1) neurotransmission at parallel fiber synapse (56). To investigate
229 whether MTSS1/SFK modulation of mGluR1 signaling forms the basis of the ataxia, we
230 performed electrophysiological analysis of Purkinje neurons in cerebellar slices from
231 *MIM^{EX15}* mice. We evaluated Purkinje neuron response to parallel fiber stimulation using
232 calcium imaging. We found *MIM^{EX15}* mutant Purkinje neurons responded with a
233 comparable increase of calcium dependent fluorescence to controls, while adding the
234 mGluR1 antagonist CPCCOEt abolished these responses (**Fig 3G**). These data support
235 MTSS1 acting post-synaptically to control Purkinje cell function.

236 Purkinje neurons maintain a cell autonomous tonic firing rate that is essential for
237 their function (57, 58). Since *MIM^{EX15}* Purkinje neurons responded normally to parallel
238 fiber stimulation suggesting normal synaptic transmission, we assayed basal firing rate.
239 Purkinje neuron tonic firing rate is highly sensitive to temperature and may vary slightly
240 between investigators (59). In our assays, wild type cells had a mean firing rate of
241 43 ± 2 Hz (n=2 animals, 62 cells), while 4-week old *MIM^{EX15}* mutants exhibited a 12 ± 1 Hz
242 mean rate (n=2 animals, 55 cells) (**Figs 3H, 3I**). Previous studies of SCA mouse models
243 demonstrated reduced tonic firing is a basis for ataxia (1, 3, 5). Since basal firing is
244 reduced at an age when *MIM^{EX15}* mice possess a normal number of Purkinje neurons, our
245 results suggest neuron malfunction rather than loss underlies the initial ataxia phenotype.

246 MTSS1/Src double mutants rescue MTSS1 phenotypes in *Drosophila* and
247 vertebrate cell culture. To test the hypothesis that reducing SFK activity would
248 ameliorate the *MIM*^{EX15} ataxia phenotype, we added the FDA-approved SFK inhibitor
249 dasatinib to cerebellar slice preparations and measured basal firing rate, using a
250 concentration approximately 2-fold over *in vivo* IC50 (200nM, **Fig 3H, 3I**). Dasatinib
251 significantly increased the *MIM*^{EX15} basal firing rate from baseline to 29±1Hz (n=2
252 animals, 62 cells). We also observed that dasatinib slightly reduced the wild type basal
253 firing rate to 35±1Hz (n=2 animals, 79 cells). Time course experiments showed the
254 increase in basal firing rate occurred over 5 hours (**SI Appendix Fig S3**), consistent with
255 a low concentration, high affinity mechanism of action. Direct modulation of ion channel
256 or mGluR1 activity raises basal firing within minutes (4, 60), suggesting that dasatinib
257 works through a distinct mechanism. To determine whether SFK inhibition ameliorates
258 ataxia *in vivo* we administered dasatinib directly to the cerebellum via minipumps to
259 overcome poor CNS bioavailability (61). Over 4 weeks, dasatinib treated *MIM*^{EX15} mice
260 were protected from disease progression while untreated mice showed progressively
261 worsening rotarod performance (**Fig 3J**) (n=2 drug, 3 control). These results
262 demonstrate that Src family kinases act downstream of MTSS1 and that SFK inhibitors
263 rescue *Mtss1*-dependent basal firing rate defects to slow disease progression.

264

265 ***Mtss1* is a translation target of ATXN2**

266 The slow basal firing and ataxia preceding cell death seen in the *MIM*^{EX15}
267 mutants resembles that seen in other SCA models such as SCA1, SCA2, and SCA5,
268 prompting us to investigate whether MTSS1/SFK dysregulation occurs in other ataxias.
269 SCA2 is caused by an expansion in the polyglutamine (polyQ) tract of the RNA binding
270 protein ATAXIN-2 (ATXN2) to more than 34 repeats (62). The exact molecular defects
271 that drive SCA2 pathogenesis remain unclear, as loss of function mice do not
272 recapitulate the SCA2 phenotype (63), while intermediate expansion alleles are
273 associated with increased risk for frontotemporal dementia (64). *Atxn2* has an ancestral
274 role in translation control (7, 65), which may be altered with the SCA2 mutation, but the
275 exact targets have yet to be described.

276 MTSS1 protein abundance is heavily regulated by metastasis-associated miRs
277 which bind to the *Mtss1* 3' untranslated region and reduce steady-state MTSS1 protein
278 levels (66-70) To determine whether MTSS1 protein accumulation is sensitive to *Atxn2*
279 we examined the *ATXN2*^{Q127} mouse model of SCA2 (1). We found MTSS1 abundance

280 was progressively reduced by 90% at 24 weeks, a level far greater than the 50%
281 reduction in Purkinje neuron marker Calbindin (**Fig 4A upper band, SI Appendix Fig**
282 **S4**). Cerebellar SFK activity was increased nearly 8-fold in *ATXN2*^{Q127} animals compared
283 to wild type littermates (**Fig 4B**).

284 We sought to determine whether the age-dependent reduction in Purkinje neuron
285 basal firing frequency seen in *ATXN2*^{Q127} mice is due to elevated SFK activity.
286 Remarkably, addition of dasatinib to *ATXN2*^{Q127} cerebellar slices restored the basal firing
287 rate from an average of 14±1Hz (n=2 animals, 100 cells) to nearly normal levels of
288 32±2Hz (n=2 animals, 72 cells; **Fig 4C, 4D**). As in the *MIM*^{EX15} mutants, the firing rate
289 reached maximal effect at 5-6 hours of SFK inhibition (**SI Appendix Fig S3**), leading us
290 to conclude that inappropriate SFK activity underlies both the *ATXN2* and *MTSS1*-
291 mediated firing phenotype.

292 The convergence of *Mtss1* and *ATXN2* on SFK activity suggested they work in a
293 common or parallel molecular pathway. To distinguish between these possibilities, we
294 further interrogated *MTSS1* protein levels in *ATXN2*^{Q127} cerebella. While we found
295 reduction of *MTSS1* protein (Fig S4A) and RNA in *ATXN2*^{Q127} Purkinje neurons (Fig
296 S4B), we failed to see comparable changes in *ATXN2* levels in 4-week old *MIM*^{EX15}
297 mice (**Fig 4E**). Because *ATXN2* possesses RNA binding activity, and *Mtss1* contains a
298 long 3'UTR, we hypothesized that *ATXN2* controls *Mtss1* translation in Purkinje neurons.
299 RNA-IP followed by QPCR in cells expressing tagged versions of either WT (*ATXN2*^{Q22})
300 or SCA2 (*ATXN2*^{Q108}) demonstrated both proteins specifically bound *MTSS1* mRNA
301 compared to *GAPDH* control. (**Fig 4F**). Using a luciferase reporter fused to the *MTSS1*
302 3' UTR we were able to map the *ATXN2* interacting domain to a central 500bp region
303 that was sufficient for both RNA-protein interaction and translation control (**SI Appendix**
304 **Fig S4C,D**). Furthermore, polyribosome fractionation experiments revealed that
305 pathogenic *ATXN2*^{Q108} was sufficient to block the translation of reporter mRNA fused to
306 the *MTSS1* 3'UTR shifting the transcript from the polyribosome fractions to a detergent
307 resistant fraction consistent with stress granules (**Fig 4G**). These results suggest the
308 pathogenic *ATXN2* acts directly as a dominant negative RNA binding protein preventing
309 *MTSS1* translation. Notably, we observed *MTSS1* abundance is reduced in human SCA
310 patient cerebellum, bolstering the evolutionary conservation of the *ATXN2*/*MTSS1*
311 interaction (**Fig 4H**).

312

313 **SFK inhibition rescues Purkinje neuron firing across SCA**

314 Two other SCA mouse models have been shown to have slow basal firing rates,
315 SCA1 (2) and SCA5 (3). Much like SCA2, SCA1 is due to a polyQ expansion in the RNA
316 binding protein ATAXIN-1 (ATXN1)(71). One observed result of the SCA1 allele is
317 changed ATXN1 association with transcriptional regulatory complexes (72), leading to
318 vastly different Purkinje neuron mRNA profiles (73). However, the exact targets that
319 drive SCA1 pathogenesis are still being determined. Unlike SCA1 and SCA2, SCA5 is a
320 more pure cerebellar ataxia due to lesions in the structural protein β -III spectrin (13). β -III
321 spectrin directly binds to and controls the cell membrane localization of EAAT4
322 (excitatory amino acid transporter 4), a protein involved in the synaptic clearance of
323 glutamate (12, 74).

324 If SCA1 or SCA5 arises similarly to SCA2 by dysregulation of the MTSS1/SFK
325 cassette, we would expect decreased MTSS1 abundance. Indeed, in the *ATXN1^{Q82}*
326 mouse model of SCA1 (75) we observed a 95% decrease in MTSS1 protein abundance
327 (**Fig 5A**) with only a 50% reduction in calbindin, suggesting the loss of MTSS1 is not
328 solely due to loss of Purkinje neurons.

329 *Atxn1* pathogenicity is partially driven by phosphorylation at serine 776 (72),
330 which was unchanged in 4-week old *MIM^{EX15}* mice, suggesting MTSS1 is a target of the
331 SCA1 allele (**Fig 5B**). Additionally, *Mtss1* transcript abundance is reduced at multiple
332 ages in *ATXN1^{Q8}* mice (73) (**Fig 5C**). We found treating *ATXN1^{Q82}* slices with dasatinib
333 increased the basal firing rate from a baseline of 15±1Hz (n=3 animals, 21 cells) to
334 23±2Hz (n=3 animals, 21 cells), a level statistically indistinguishable from dasatinib-
335 treated controls (**Fig 5D**).

336 By contrast, the *Sptbn2* knockout model of SCA5 (β III^{-/-})(3), showed no change in
337 MTSS1 protein abundance at 3 weeks yet demonstrated a clear increase in SFK^{Y416}
338 phosphorylation (**Fig 5E**). We also observe increased basal firing from 25±1Hz (n=2
339 animals, 31 cells) to 30±2Hz (n=3 animals, 43 cells) over a 7-hour period of dasatinib
340 treatment (**Fig 5F**). We fail to see changes in β -III spectrin abundance in *MIM^{EX15}* mice,
341 and detect a 40% decrease in β -III spectrin levels in 24-week *ATXN2^{Q127}* mice that is
342 likely due to reduced Purkinje neuron dendritic arbor size, correlating with calbindin
343 levels (**Fig 5G, 5H**). Together these data suggest that β -III spectrin and MTSS1 may
344 work in parallel, through different mechanisms, to modulate SFK activity (**Fig 5I**).

345

346 Discussion

347 While SCA gene functions appear heterogeneous, our study establishes a
348 genetic framework to understand how several SCA loci regulate SFK activity to ensure

349 neuronal homeostasis and survival. We identify β -III spectrin and MTSS1, proteins that
350 link the cell membrane and actin cytoskeleton, as negative regulators of Src family
351 kinases. We show that MTSS1 is a target of the SCA genes *ATXN1* and *ATXN2* (**Fig 5I**),
352 and that increased SFK activity from lesions in *MTSS1*, *SPTNB2* (SCA5),
353 *ATXN1*(SCA1), and *ATXN2* (SCA2) reduces Purkinje neuron basal firing, an
354 endophenotype that underlies multiple ataxias, providing support for the clinical use of
355 SFK inhibitors in many SCA patients.

356 Our results reveal a central role for the MTSS1/SFK regulatory cassette in
357 controlling neuronal homeostasis and survival. MTSS1 regulation of SFKs has been
358 demonstrated in several migratory cell types including metastatic breast cancer and
359 *Drosophila* border cells. This is the first demonstration of the regulatory cassette
360 functioning in non-migratory post-mitotic cells. MTSS1 integrates the cell membrane and
361 cytoskeletal response to local signals by serving as a docking site for the kinases and
362 phosphatases that control actin polymerization (76), a process essential for dendritic
363 spine assembly, maintenance and function. In fly border cells, MTSS1-regulated SFK
364 activity polarizes the membrane to spatially detect guidance cues. Similarly, MTSS1
365 functions in neurons to promote dendritic arborization and spine formation, structures
366 that were shown to be essential for maintaining basal firing frequencies by electrically
367 isolating increasing areas of Purkinje neuron dendrites (59). Other members of the I-
368 BAR family of membrane/cytoskeletal signaling proteins have been implicated in human
369 neurological disorders such as microcephaly (77), but it remains to be determined how
370 they interact with MTSS1.

371 Disruption of post-transcriptional gene regulation leading to altered proteostasis
372 has recently emerged as a key contributor to neurodegeneration. In the cerebellum,
373 reducing the abundance of the RNA-binding protein Pumilio leads to SCA1-like
374 neurodegeneration through a specific increase in *ATXN1* protein levels (78, 79). Yet
375 Pumillio binds hundreds of transcripts to control protein levels (80, 81), suggesting that
376 changing protein abundance of a few key effector genes post-transcriptionally leads to
377 disease. Our data demonstrate that *MTSS1* is a key effector gene whose activity is
378 tightly regulated to prevent Purkinje neuron malfunction. Post-transcriptional control of
379 *MTSS1* is disrupted in many disease states such as cancer, where *MTSS1* levels are
380 reduced by locus deletion or miRNA overexpression and are associated with increased
381 metastasis and poorer prognosis (67, 82). In Purkinje neurons, the SCA1 *ATXN1*^{Q82}
382 allele reduces *MTSS1* transcript levels. *ATXN1* is thought to act as a transcriptional

383 regulator by associating with the transcriptional repressor *Capicua* (CIC) (72), though it
384 remains to be shown whether the ATXN1/CIC complex occupies the *MTSS1* promoter.
385 By contrast, the SCA2 allele ATXN2^{Q58} binds the *MTSS1* 3' UTR to prevent ribosome
386 binding and *MTSS1* translation, ultimately leading to increased SFK activity. ATXN2
387 (and the redundant gene ATXN2L) have recently been identified in a large complex of 3'
388 UTR binding proteins that regulate networks of genes controlling epithelial differentiation
389 and homeostasis (83). Our results suggest other ataxia disease genes that control
390 proteostasis may also regulate *MTSS1* abundance, and the strong role for miRNAs
391 controlling *MTSS1* abundance in cancer suggest they may also function as effectors of
392 as yet undescribed ataxia loci.

393 The identification of the *MTSS1*/SFK regulatory cassette in multiple ataxias
394 further reinforces the pathological consequences associated with inappropriate SFK
395 activation in response to a variety of cellular stresses. While the cytoskeletal regulator
396 *MTSS1* is an evolutionarily-conserved SFK inhibitor, SFK effects on Purkinje neuron
397 basal firing may derive from the fundamental roles SFKs play in cell homeostasis outside
398 cytoskeletal control. For example, SFK control of translation is implicated in Alzheimer
399 disease, as reducing SFK activity proves beneficial for Alzheimer disease progression
400 (24) due to SFK control of pathogenic A β translation (84). SFK impairment of
401 autophagy is seen in models of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Duchenne muscular
402 dystrophy (23, 85). Additionally, reduction of Src kinase expression was identified as a
403 suppressor of SCA1 toxicity in *Drosophila* ommatidia (86), supporting the need for
404 moderating SFK activity. The pleiotropic effects of inappropriate SFK activity suggest
405 that SFK inhibition may be a critical therapeutic node to slow the progression of multiple
406 neurodegenerative disorders including SCAs. Our work points out the need for future
407 development of neuro-active SFK inhibitor variants, as currently approved Src inhibitors
408 were designed for oncology targets and lack potent central nervous system activity.
409 Further, while we provide data for kinase inhibition to suppress *MTSS1* loss, we have
410 previously shown that SFK regulation by regulatory receptor tyrosine phosphatases, or
411 deletion of endocytic adapter proteins can also revert the effects of *MTSS1* loss. Given
412 the challenge of developing specific kinase inhibitors, our work opens additional
413 therapeutic classes to alleviate the progression of neurodegenerative diseases.

414 In summary, the identification of *Mtss1* as a novel recessive ataxia locus extends
415 the physiologic functions requiring the *MTSS1*/SFK signaling cassette, which include cell
416 polarity, migration, and cancer metastasis. Each of these disparate processes highlight

417 the common role MTSS1 plays integrating the cell membrane and cytoskeletal response
418 to local signals, as the dendritic spine defects seen in *MIM^{EX15}*-mutant Purkinje neurons
419 (**Fig 3A-E**) recalls the loss of directional cell extensions in migrating *Drosophila* border
420 cells (29). They also reinforce the critical need to suppress inappropriate SFK activity,
421 and provide a therapeutic opportunity for otherwise devastating and debilitating
422 diseases.

423

424

425 **Author Contributions**

426 AEO and SXA conceived the project. ASB, SXA, BA, JM performed and
427 interpreted most experiments. PM performed and interpreted all electrophysiology in
428 *Mtss1^{EX15}* and *ATXN2^{Q127}* mice. EP and MJ performed and interpreted all
429 electrophysiology and western blots in β III-spectrin^{-/-} mice. RC, HH and VS performed
430 and interpreted all electrophysiology and western blots in *ATXN1^{Q82}* mice. SP and DS
431 performed and interpreted MTSS1 western blot and QPCR in *ATXN2^{Q127}* mice and HEK-
432 293 cell RNAIP. SP performed and interpreted MTSS1 staining in human samples. ET
433 quantified biocytin-filled Purkinje data. TSO and SMP contributed ideas and interpreted
434 results. ASB and AEO wrote the manuscript with input from all authors.

435

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- 675
- 676

677 **Figure Legends**

678 **Figure 1. *MIM*^{EX15} mutants develop progressive spinocerebellar ataxia**

679 **A:** The structure of the *Mtss1* locus with alternative promoters and Src interacting
680 domain deleted in *MIM*^{EX15} mutants. **B:** Loss of MTSS1 protein in *MIM*^{EX15} cerebellum
681 lysate shown with MTSS1 antibody against N-terminal IMD domain. **C,D** *MIM*^{EX15} show
682 slower movement velocity and reduced rearing frequency in open field tests. **E:** Impaired
683 rotarod performance in *MIM*^{EX15} mutants shown as reduced duration (time to fall). **F:** A
684 composite test of gait, balance, and grip strength to measure spinocerebellar ataxia
685 symptoms. Increased score reflects reduced function with an age dependent increase in
686 severity in *MIM*^{EX15} mutants. **G:** Age dependent loss of Purkinje neurons in *MIM*^{EX15}
687 mutants occurs after the onset of ataxia. **H:** At 20 weeks *MIM*^{Loxp/Loxp};Pcp2-Cre and
688 *MIM*^{Loxp/Loxp};Pcp2-Cre mutants show dramatic reduction in Purkinje neurons that stain
689 with MTSS1. Many Purkinje neurons persist, as there is a less dramatic reduction in
690 calbindin positive Purkinje cell number. *p<0.05, **p<0.005, ***p<5E-5, one-way
691 ANOVA with Tukey post-hoc test. ns not significant. Error bars, s.e.m.

692

693 **Figure 2. *MIM*^{EX15} mutant Purkinje neurons undergo autophagy**

694 **A:** *MIM*^{EX15} mutants display fused mitochondria shown by increased Complex 5 ATP-
695 synthase immuno-staining and collapsed Golgi shown by reduced Giantin immune-
696 staining at 4 weeks. **B:** 8 week old *MIM*^{EX15} mutants show increased LC3-II abundance
697 (*P<0.005 student's t-test), **C:** *MIM*^{EX15} mutants show increased levels of mRNA for the
698 autophagocytic marker *VMP1* (*p<0.05 student's t-test). **D:** *MIM*^{EX15} mutants show
699 increased microglial infiltration shown by *Aif1* transcript. **E:** *MIM*^{EX15} mutants show
700 GFAP⁺ glial infiltration during disease progression. **F:** Western blots quantifying
701 increased cerebellar GFAP. **G:** *MIM*^{EX15} mutant cerebella do not have increased TUNEL
702 stain at 4, 8 or 16 weeks of age.

703

704 **Figure 3. *Mtss1* prevents SFK dependent firing defects and ataxia**

705 **A:** Confocal projection of an individual Purkinje cell filled with biocytin and with
706 fluorescent dye to visualize morphology (50µm, 5µm, 1µm scale bars). **B:** Measurement
707 of dye filled Purkinje neurons show *MIM*^{EX15} mutants have reduced arbor volume (n=3
708 each genotype), **C:** reduced dendritic spine density, but **D:** no change in dendritic spine
709 length and **E:** no change in dendritic spine width (*MIM*^{EX15/+} n=3, 1720 spines; *MIM*^{EX15}
710 n=3, 1454 spines, *p<0.05 student's t-test). Error bars, s.e.m **F:** Western blot for active
711 SFK-Y416 phosphorylation with actin loading control. Cerebellar lysate from *MIM*^{EX15} and
712 age matched controls collected at indicated times between post-natal day 15 (P15) and
MTSS1/SFK Ataxia

713 post-natal day 30 (P30). **G:** Slow excitatory post synaptic potential (EPSP) spikes in wild
714 type (WT) and *MIM^{EX15}* (top) elicited by stimulation of parallel fibers with 10 pulse trains
715 at 100 Hz in the presence AMPA, NMDA and GABA receptor antagonists (control
716 conditions). Corresponding intra-cellular Ca²⁺ signals ($\Delta F/F$) for responses for WT and
717 *MIM^{EX15}* mGluR EPSPs are illustrated. EPSPs and corresponding Ca²⁺ signals are
718 blocked by mGluR1 antagonist CPCCOEt (bottom). Summary data of intracellular Ca²⁺
719 signals ($\Delta F/F$) for responses for WT and *MTSS1^{EX15}* in control conditions and in
720 presence of CPCCOEt are shown (right). **H:** Percent histograms of Purkinje neuron
721 mean firing frequencies (left), examples of extracellular recording of 1 second duration of
722 a spontaneously spiking Purkinje neuron in respective condition (center), and histograms
723 of inter-spike intervals calculated for the 2 minute recording periods of the same neuron
724 (right) are shown for WT, *MIM^{EX15}*, WT+dasatinib, or *MIM^{EX15}*+dasatinib conditions. **I:**
725 Summary of data presented in H *p=6.1E-14 **p=1E-13, one-way ANOVA, Tukey post-
726 hoc **J:** Direct cerebellar administration of dasatinib maintains rotarod performance,
727 slowing the progressive ataxia in *MIM^{EX15}* mice. q=0.006, two-stage step-up Benjamini,
728 Krieger, Yekutieli method, Error bars, s.e.m.

729

730 **Figure 4. MTSS1 is an Atxn2 translation target**

731 **A:** Western blot of 24-week whole cerebellum lysate shows 90% reduction of upper
732 band (arrow) that corresponds MTSS1 in *ATXN2^{Q127}* mice, while calbindin was reduced
733 50%. Actin is included as a loading control *p<0.01, **p<0.001, Student's t-test. **B:**
734 Western blot for active SFK-Y416 phosphorylation and total Src, with tubulin loading
735 control using cerebellar lysate from 24 week *Atxn2^{Q127}* mice show 8-fold increase in
736 SFK-Y416 abundance. **C:** Percent histograms of Purkinje neuron mean firing frequ-
737 encies (left), examples of extracellular recording of 1 second duration of a spontaneously
738 spiking Purkinje neuron in respective condition (center), and histograms of inter-spike
739 intervals calculated for the 2 minute recording periods of the same neuron for *ATXN2^{Q127}*
740 and *ATXN2^{Q127}*+dasatinib **D:** Mean firing rates **p=3.77E-8, one-way ANOVA, Tukey
741 post-hoc **E:** Western blot for *Atxn2* with tubulin loading control. Cerebellar lysate from 4-
742 week old *MIM^{EX15}* cerebellum and age matched controls. **F:** RNA-IP in HEK-293 cells for
743 flag-*ATXN2^{Q22}* and flag-*ATXN2^{Q108}* show enrichment for *MTSS1* but not *GAPDH* mRNA,
744 error bars are SD. **G:** Polyribosome fractionation in 293T cells transfected with *MTSS1*-
745 UTR reporter and pCDNA, *ATXN2^{Q22}*, *ATXN2^{Q108}*, or *ATXN2^{Q22}*+*ATXN2^{Q108}*. Green line
746 indicates UV254nm absorbance (nucleic acids) with 40S, 60S, 80S, polyribosome peaks

747 labeled. **H:** Remaining Purkinje neurons in human SCA2 cerebellum (Atxn2^{Q22/Q41}) show
748 reduced MTSS1 staining compared to age matched control (Atxn2^{Q22/Q22}).

749

750 **Figure 5. SFK dysregulation occurs in multiple SCA**

751 **A:** Western blot of 15-week whole cerebellum lysate shows 95% reduction of upper
752 band that corresponds MTSS1 in *ATXN1*^{Q82} mice with only a 50% reduction in calbindin.
753 Tubulin is included as a loading control. **B:** Western blot of 4-week old *MIM*^{EX15}
754 cerebellum lysate shows no change in phospho-Serine776 ATXN1 levels. **C:** RNA-seq
755 from *ATXN1*^{Q82} cerebella show reduced FPKM for *Mtss1* mRNA in 12 and 28 week
756 samples, * q<0.005. **D:** Mean firing frequency values in Hz for WT and *ATXN1*^{Q82} mice,
757 with and without dasatinib treatment. Error bars, s.e.m. (*p=0.0094, one-way ANOVA
758 with Tukey post-hoc) **E:** Western blot of 3-week whole cerebellum lysate shows no
759 change MTSS1 in β III-spectrin^{-/-} mice, yet active SFK-Y416 phosphorylation is
760 increased. Calbindin and total Src are included as a loading controls. **F:** SPTNB2
761 abundance is not changed in 4-week old *MIM*^{EX15} mice. **G:** β III-spectrin levels are
762 reduced 40% in 24-week *ATXN2*^{Q127} mice. **H:** Mean firing frequency values in Hz for WT
763 and β III-spectrin^{-/-} mice, with and without dasatinib treatment. Error bars, s.e.m. (*p<0.05,
764 1-way ANOVA, Tukey posthoc) **I:** A model where pathogenic alleles of ATXN1
765 (*ATXN1*^{Q82}) and ATXN2 (*ATXN2*^{Q42}) prevent the accumulation of MTSS1 and SPTBN2
766 which restrain SFK activity to prevent abnormal firing patterns and neurodegeneration.

767

768 **Supplementary Figure Legends**

769 **Figure S1 associated with Figure 1. Sagittal sections of *MIM*^{EX15} mutants and**
770 **antibody validation** A: mosaic images of 16 week old WT and *MIM*^{EX15} demonstrate
771 widespread Purkinje neuron loss and increased GFAP staining intensity. B: MTSS1
772 antibody specificity is show by lack of signal on *MIM*^{EX15} tissue. C: Western blot of 4
773 week cerebella show *MIM*^{EX15/+} have 25% reduction in MTSS1 compared to WT
774 *p<0.05, **p<0.0001, 1-way ANOVA, Tukey post-hoc test.

775

776 **Figure S2, associated with Figure 2. Purkinje cell autophagy in *MIM*^{EX15} mutants**

777 A: Western blot shows no increase in LC3-ii levels in 4 week old *MIM*^{EX15} mutants.
778 **B:** *Sqstm1* (P62) transcript is not increased in *MIM*^{EX15} mutants and protein levels are
779 not elevated. **C:** Electron micrographs of 8 week old animals showing defects present in
780 3 *MIM*^{EX15} mutants but absent in WT animals: swollen mitochondria where the inner

781 matrix is poorly resolved and dissociated from the outer matrix, electron dense
782 autophagic bodies (AV), lamellar bodies in Purkinje neuron dendrites.

783

784 **Figure S3, associated with Figures 3 and 4. Acute Src inhibition restores tonic**
785 **firing rates**

786 Average firing frequency measured at the end of each incubation hour of Dasatinib in
787 MIM^{EX15} (A) and ATXN2^{Q127} (B) is plotted. A respective mean value with number of
788 Purkinje neurons (PN) at indicated incubations is given in the figure. Note that baseline
789 firing frequency of ATXN2^{Q127} (14±1 Hz, n=100 PNs) mice of this age is similar to the
790 MIM^{EX15} (12±1 Hz, n=55 PNs). Basal firing frequency of PNs from wild type mouse are
791 given.

792 **Figure S4, associated with Figure 4. ATXN2 regulates translation through the**
793 **MTSS1 3'UTR**

794 **A:** MTSS1 immuno-fluorescence in ATXN2^{Q127} and age matched control mice show
795 reduced Purkinje neuron signal at 4, 12 and 24 week time points. **B:** Quantitative RT-
796 PCR (QPCR) shows *Mtss1* transcript abundance is reduced in ATXN2^{Q127} compared to
797 age matched controls *p<0.05, **p< 0.01, student's t-test, SD error bars. **C:** RNA-IP
798 followed by QPCR shows ATXN2 binding to the MTSS1 3'UTR is mediated by a central
799 500bp region *p< 0.05 **p=0.015, one-way ANOVA with Tukey post-hoc test . **D:**
800 Luciferase reporter assay shows ATXN2 translation is strongly mediated by the 3'UTR,
801 and ATXN2^{Q108} allele is sufficient to block activation ns not significant, all other
802 interactions p<0.005. 2way ANOVA finds reporter constructs explain 56% of total
803 variance, differences in response to transfection (pcDNA, ATXN2^{Q22}, ATXN2^{Q22+Q108})
804 between reporter constructs explains 30% of variance, and different response to
805 transfection (pcDNA, ATXN2^{Q22}, ATXN2^{Q22+Q108}) within a reporter explain 14% of total
806 variance.

807

808 *Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and*
809 *will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Anthony Oro (oro@stanford.edu)*

810 **Generation of MIM^{EX15} allele:**

811 To generate the MIM^{EX15} conditional allele exon15 was cloned into the PGK-gb2 targeting
812 vector between the 5' LoxP site and the 3' LoxP/FRT flanking neomycin cassette. The
813 targeting vector contained a 5.97kb 5' homology arm that included exons 12, 13, 14 and
814 a 2.34kb 3' homology arm that included the 3'-UTR. The targeting vector was
815 electroporated into C57bl6xSV129 embryonic stem cells, and Neo-resistant colonies
816 were screened by PCR. Chimeric mice were generated by injecting ES cells into
817 blastocysts, and chimeras were mated to a FLP deleter strain(87). To generate MIM^{EX15}
818 null animals, mice with the MIM^{EX15} conditional allele were crossed to HPRT-Cre
819 mice(88). Mice were maintained on a mixed C57bl6 SV129 background and examined at
820 listed ages.

821 **Western blot:**

822 Isolated tissues were lysed in RIPA buffer supplemented with complete mini protease
823 inhibitor (Roche) and PhosStop (Roche). Protein concentrations were normalized by
824 using the BCA assay (Pierce). Proteins were electrophoresed on Novex 4-12%, 3-8%,
825 10-20% gradient gels or 16% gels. Rabbit anti-Src-Y416 (CST 2101S or CST 6943S),
826 mouse anti-beta actin (Sigma), rabbit anti-Sptbn2 (Thermo PA1-46007), rabbit anti-Atxn2
827 (Sigma HPA021146), mouse anti-Atxn1 (abcam ab63376), rabbit anti-LC3A/B (CST
828 4108), rabbit anti-P62 (CST 23214) rabbit anti-Src (CST 2123 or CST 2108), primary
829 antibodies were detected with LICOR secondary antibodies.

830

831 **Antibodies and Immunofluorescence:**

832 Isolated cerebella were immersion fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and embedded in
833 paraffin. 7µm sections were cut and deparaffinized using standard conditions before
834 staining. Sections were blocked with 20% horse serum 0.3% Triton X-100 in PBS. The
835 following antibodies were used at 1:1000 dilutions:

836 Rabbit anti-Mtss1(30), Rabbit anti-Calbindin (CST 13176), mouse anti-Calbindin-D-28K
837 monoclinal (Sigma), mouse anti-Complex V (Novex 459240), rabbit anti-Ubiquitin (CST
838 3933), rabbit anti-Giantin (Abcam ab 24586), Chicken anti-GFAP (Abcam ab4674).

839 Alexafluor conjugated secondary antibodies were purchased from Invitrogen. Images

840 were acquired either on a Leica SP2 AOBS laser scanning microscope or a Zeiss
841 axioplan widefield scope.

842

843 **Human samples:**

844 Paraffin-embedded brain slices from SCA2 patient were provided by Prof. Arnulf H.
845 Koeppen, M.D., Albany Medical College, New York, USA. Non-SCA2 control paraffin-
846 embedded brain slices were provided by Dr. Sonnen, Pathologist, University of Utah.
847 Human tissues were maintained and processed under standard conditions consistent
848 with National Institutes of Health guidelines and conformed to an approved University of
849 Utah IRB protocol. Sections were deparaffinized using standard conditions and
850 blocked/permeabilized with 5% donkey serum 0.3% Triton X-100 in PBS and processed
851 for immunostaining. The nuclei were stained with DAPI followed by mounting with
852 Fluoromount-G (Southern Biotech, Cat# 0100-01). Antibody dilutions for tissue
853 immunostainings were custom-designed MTSS1 antibody (1: 500) and fluorescent
854 secondary antibody: goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L) antibody, DyLight-488 [(1:1,000)
855 (ThermoFisher Scientific, Cat# 35552)]. Images were acquired using confocal
856 microscope (Nikon Eclipse Ti microscopy) in University of Utah cell imaging core lab,
857 and analyzed by NIS-Elements AR 4.5 software. As massive degeneration of cerebellum
858 is seen in SCA2 brain tissue, the lobe can't be verifiable.

859 **Electrophysiology:**

860 **Preparation of Cerebellar Slices (SCA2 and Mtss1)**

861 Acute parasagittal slices of 285 μ m thickness were prepared from the cerebella of 4- to 8-
862 week-old mutant and control littermates following published methods(1). In brief, brains
863 were removed quickly and immersed in an ice-cold artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF or
864 extracellular) solution consisting of: 119 mM NaCl, 26 mM NaHCO₃, 11 mM glucose, 2.5
865 mM KCl, 2.5 mM CaCl₂, 1.3 mM MgCl₂ and 1 mM NaH₂PO₄, pH 7.4 when gassed with
866 5% CO₂ / 95% O₂. Cerebella were dissected and sectioned using a vibratome (Leica VT-
867 1000). Slices were initially incubated at 35 °C for 35 min, and then at room temperature
868 before recording in the same ACSF. Dasatinib (200nM) was added during cerebellar
869 sectioning and remained on the slices for recording.

870

871 **Recordings (SCA2 and Mtss1)**

872 Non-invasive extracellular recordings were obtained from Purkinje neurons in voltage-
873 clamp mode at 34.5 \pm 1°C. The temperature was maintained using a dual channel

874 heater controller (Model TC-344B, Warner Instruments) and slices were constantly
875 perfused with carbogen-bubbled extracellular solution alone or with 200 nM dasatinib.
876 Cells were visualized with an upright Leica microscope using a water-immersion 40×
877 objective. Glass pipettes were pulled with Model P-1000 (Sutter instruments). Pipettes
878 had 1 to 3 MΩ resistance when filled with extracellular solution and were used to record
879 action potential-associated capacitive current transients near Purkinje neuron axon
880 hillock with the pipette potential held at 0 mV. Data was acquired at 20 kHz using a
881 Multiclamp 700B amplifier, Digidata 1440 with pClamp10 (Molecular Devices), filtered at
882 4 kHz. A total of 50 to 100 Purkinje neurons were measured from each genotype and
883 each recording was of 2 minutes in duration. The experimenter was blinded to the
884 mouse genotype and 2 to 4 mice were used per genotype. Simultaneous mGluR EPSPs
885 and calcium were measured in the presence of GABA_A receptor antagonist, picrotoxin
886 (PTX at 100 μM), AMPA receptor blockers (5 μM NBQX and 10 μM DNQX) using a two-
887 photon microscope and a standard electrophysiology set-up. The patch pipettes had 4 to
888 5 MΩ resistance when filled with internal solution (135 mM KMSO₄, NaCl, 10 mM
889 HEPES, 3 mM MgATP, 0.3 mM Na₂GTP) containing 200 μM Oregon Green Bapta1 and
890 20 μM Alexa 594. The stimulating electrode was filled with ACSF containing 20 μM
891 Alexa 594, placed in the dendritic region to minimally stimulate PF synaptic inputs. Slow
892 mGluR EPSPs in control littermate and mutant were elicited by stimulation of PFs with
893 100 Hz trains, and 10 pulses in the presence of receptor antagonists that block AMPA,
894 NMDA, GABA_A receptors. Corresponding intracellular Ca²⁺ signals (ΔF/F) for responses
895 for wild type and mutant mGluR EPSPs were blocked by the mGluR1 antagonist
896 CPCCOET.

897 Experiments were analyzed using both the Clampfit and Igor algorithms, and
898 were further analyzed using Microsoft Excel. Figures were made in Igor program.
899 Calcium signals were analyzed using Slidebook (Intelligent Imaging Innovations, Inc.).
900 Results are presented as mean ±SEM. All chemicals were purchased either from Sigma
901 Aldrich, Tocris and Invitrogen, USA.)

902

903 **Biocytin fills of Purkinje neurons or Intracellular labeling of Purkinje neurons with** 904 **Biocytin:**

905 Biocytin filling of Purkinje neurons was performed using recording pipettes filled with 1%
906 Biocytin (Tocris). Purkinje neurons were filled for 15 to 30 minutes and then the pipette
907 was removed slowly for enabling the cell membrane to reseal. Slices were then fixed in

908 4% Paraformaldehyde overnight and washed 3 times with phosphate-buffered saline
909 (PBS). Slices were then incubated with Alexa Fluor 488 streptavidin (1:500, Life S11223)
910 in PBS, 0.5% Triton X-100, and 10% normal goat serum for 90min. After another 3 PBS
911 washes, the slices were then mounted onto a slide with prolong gold. Individual biocytin-
912 filled Purkinje cells were visualized on a Leica SP2 AOBS laser scanning microscope at
913 a 0.5um step size. Dendritic arbor volume was measured by calculating the biocytin-
914 filled area in each confocal optical section using ImageJ, adding the areas in each z-
915 stack, and multiplying by the step size.

916

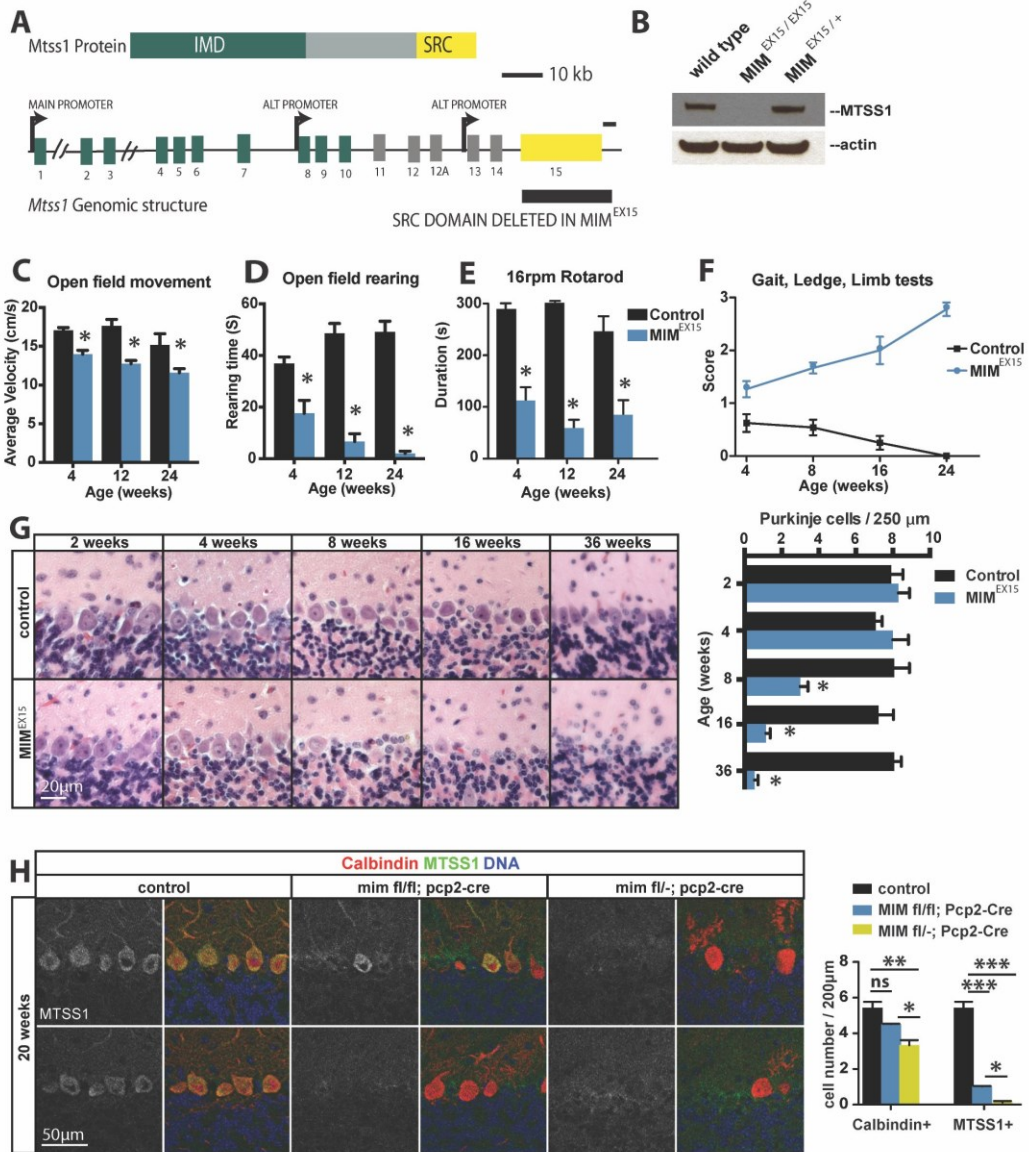
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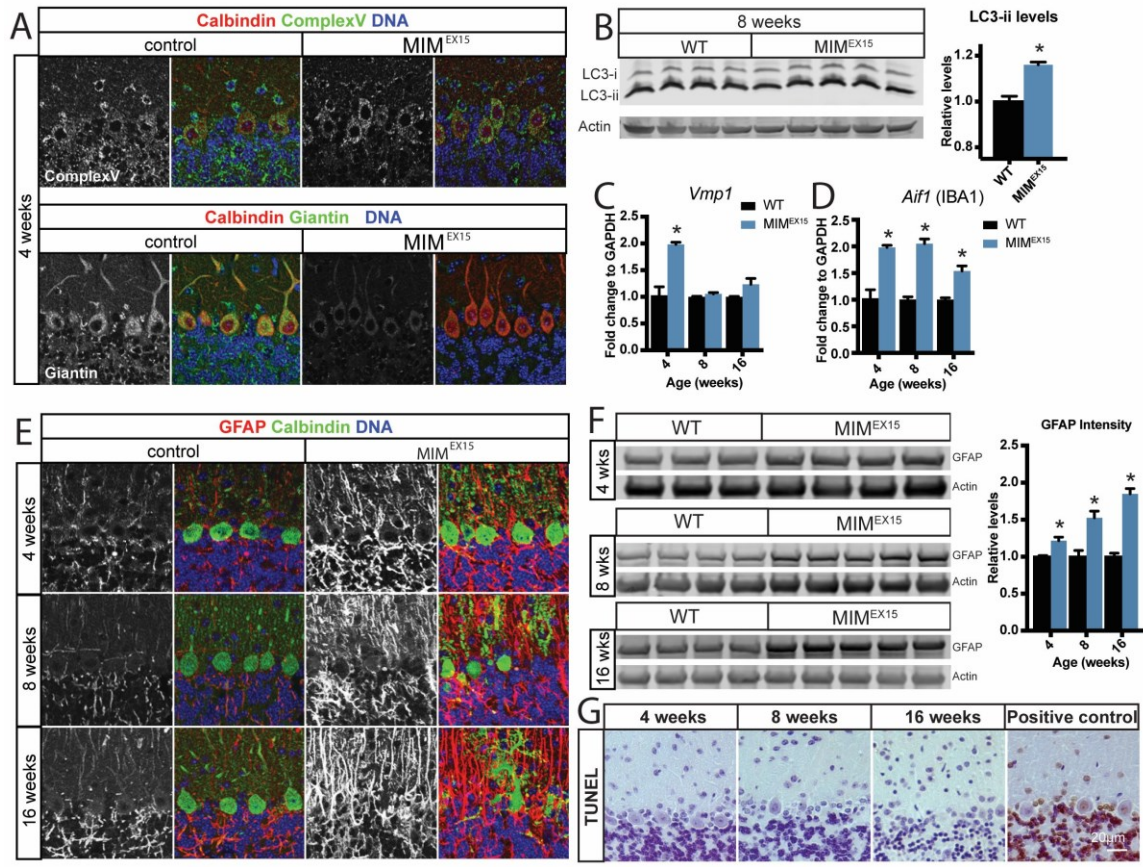
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Figure 1



921

Figure 2



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923

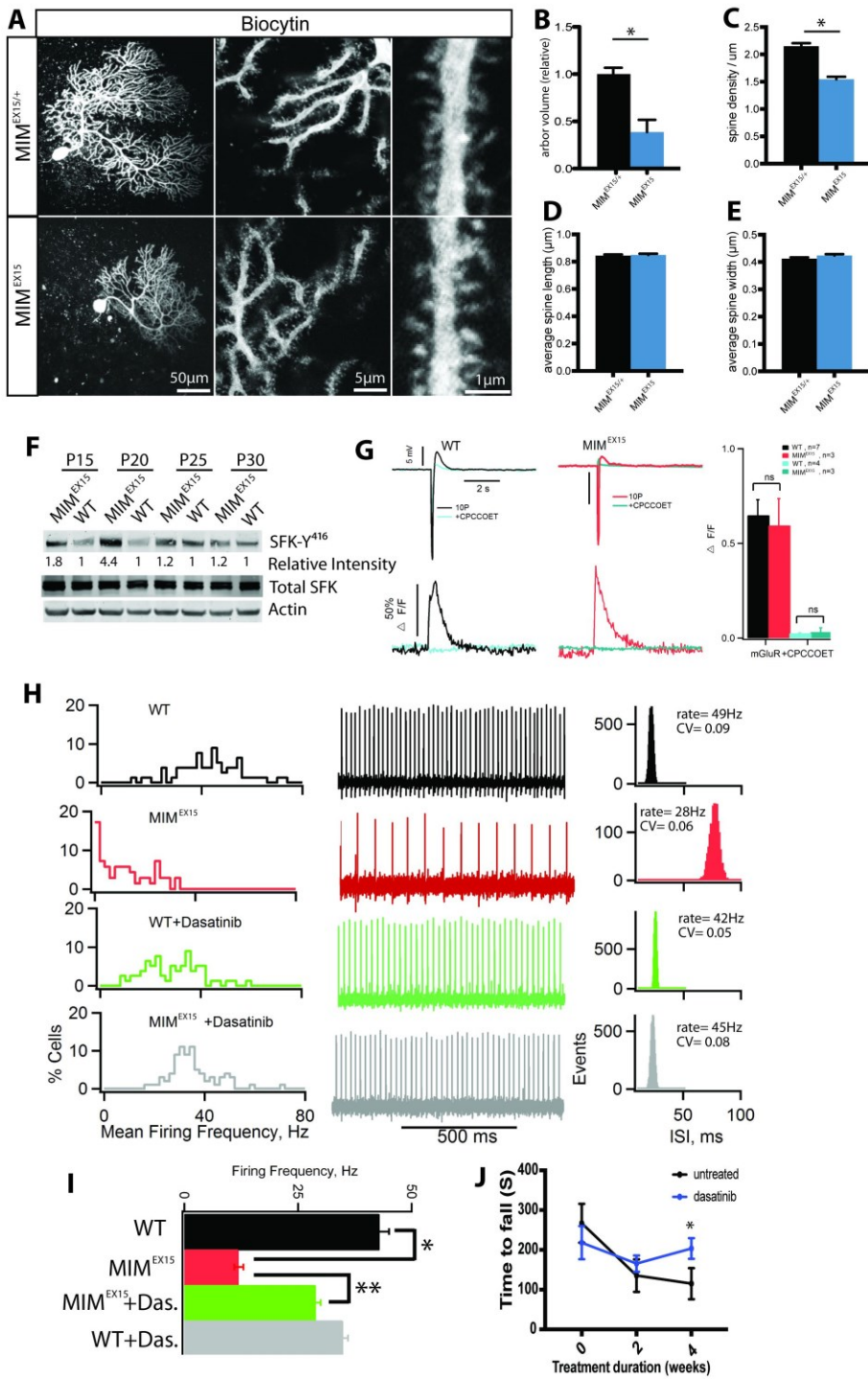
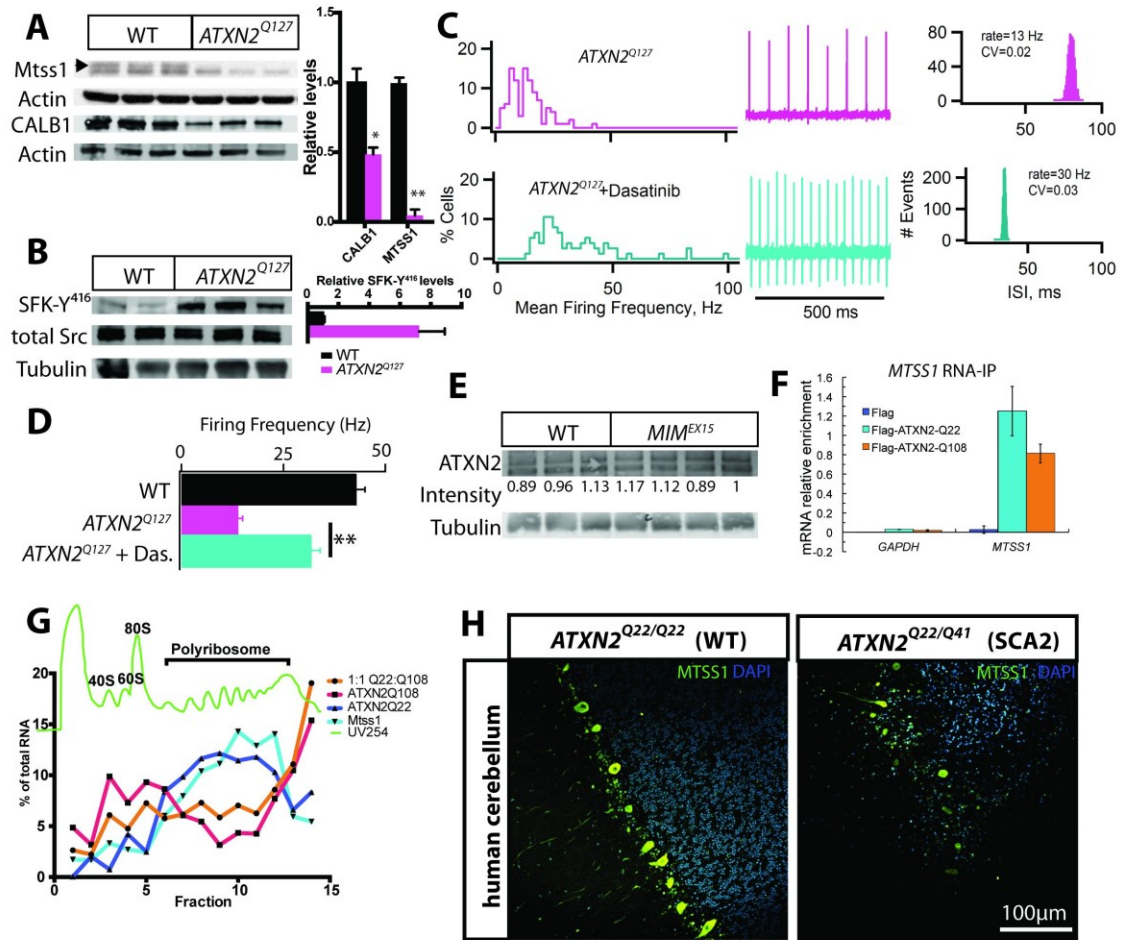
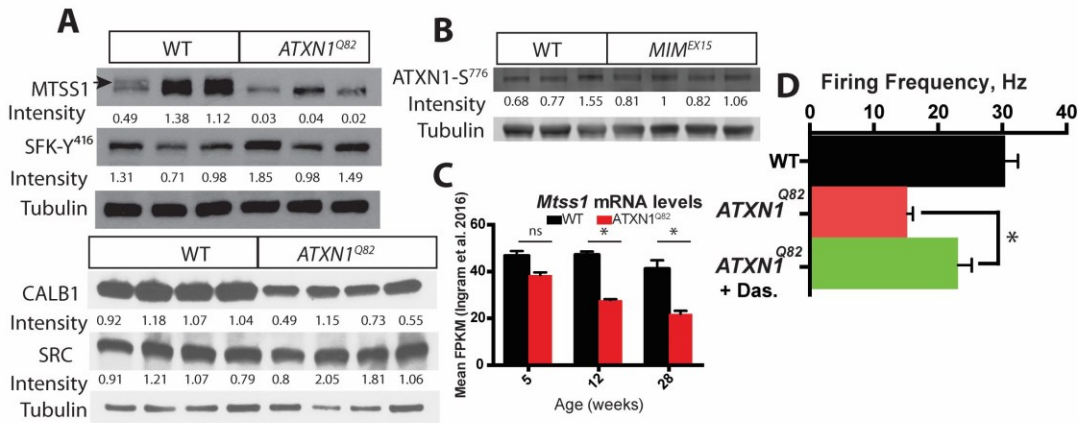


Figure 3

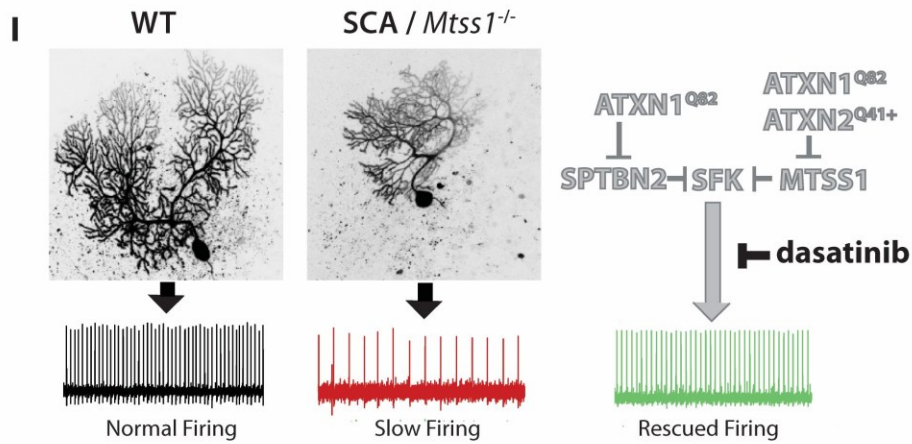
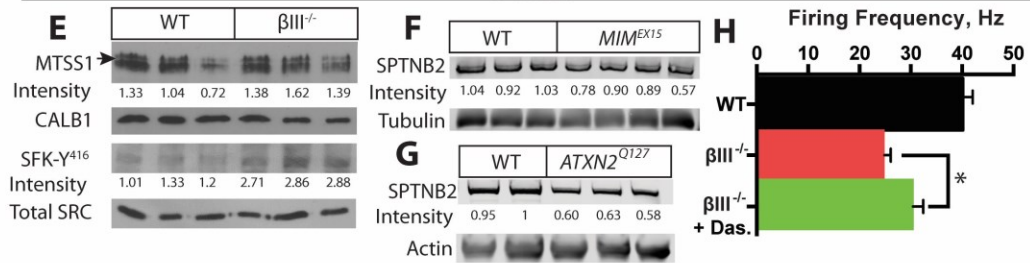
Figure 4



SCA1



SCA5



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