

1 **Characterizing the differential distribution and targets of Sumo paralogs in the**  
2 **mouse brain**

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17 **Author Contributions**

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19 analysis; M.W.C.R., M.T. and N.B., resources; M.W.C.R., M.T. and N.B.,  
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22 approved the manuscript.

## 23 **ABSTRACT**

24 SUMOylation is an evolutionarily conserved and essential mechanism whereby Small  
25 Ubiquitin Like Modifiers, or SUMO proteins (Sumo in mice), are covalently bound to  
26 protein substrates in a highly dynamic and reversible manner. SUMOylation is involved  
27 in a variety of basic neurological processes including learning and memory, and central  
28 nervous system development, but is also linked with neurological disorders. However,  
29 studying SUMOylation *in vivo* remains challenging due to limited tools to study Sumo  
30 proteins and their targets in their native context. More complexity arises from the fact that  
31 Sumo1 and Sumo2 are ~50% homologous, whereas Sumo2 and Sumo3 are nearly  
32 identical and indistinguishable with antibodies. While Sumo paralogues can compensate  
33 for one another's loss, Sumo2 is highest expressed and only paralog essential for  
34 embryonic development making it critical to uncover roles specific to Sumo2 *in vivo*. To  
35 further examine the roles of Sumo2, and to begin to tease apart the redundancy and  
36 similarity between key Sumo paralogs, we generated (His<sub>6</sub>-)HA epitope-tagged Sumo2  
37 knock-in mouse alleles, expanding the current Sumo knock-in mouse tool-kit comprising  
38 of the previously generated His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 knock-in model. Using these HA-Sumo  
39 mouse lines, we performed whole brain imaging and mapping to the Allen Brain Atlas to  
40 analyze the relative distribution of the Sumo1 and Sumo2 paralogues in the adult mouse  
41 brain. We observed differential staining patterns between Sumo1 and Sumo2, including  
42 a partial localization of Sumo2 in nerve cell synapses of the hippocampus. Combining  
43 immunoprecipitation with mass spectrometry, we identified native substrates targeted by  
44 Sumo1 or Sumo2 in the mouse brain. We validated select hits using proximity ligation  
45 assays, further providing insight into the subcellular distribution of neuronal Sumo2-  
46 conjugates. These mouse models thus serve as valuable tools to study the cellular and  
47 biochemical roles of SUMOylation in the central nervous system.

48

## 49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 Post translational modifications (PTMs) provide a dynamic mode of regulation over  
51 protein functions altering the secondary, tertiary, or quaternary structures of proteins.  
52 Although the most frequently characterized PTMs typically involve the covalent  
53 conjugation of small molecules, such as phosphate, glycosyl, or acetyl groups, protein

54 function can also be modulated by the covalent conjugation of large molecules such as  
55 the protein Ubiquitin. Indeed, several Ubiquitin-like proteins have been identified to  
56 function as PTMs in eukaryotes including NEDD8, Atg8, Atg12, and Small Ubiquitin-like  
57 Modifiers (SUMOs) (Ilic et al., 2022; Mahajan et al., 1997; Matunis et al., 1996).

58 The covalent addition of SUMOs through SUMOylation is a dynamic and essential  
59 process that is highly conserved throughout eukaryote evolution (Celen and Sahin, 2020;  
60 Ilic et al., 2022). First, immature SUMO proteins are matured through Sentrin Specific  
61 Protease (SENP) cleavage at a diglycine motif that is essential for covalent conjugation  
62 (Xu and Au, 2005). Next, SUMOs are activated in an ATP dependent manner and  
63 conjugated to the E1 ligase heterodimer complex consisting of SUMO Activating Enzyme  
64 1 (SAE1) and Ubiquitin-Like Modifier Activating Enzyme 2 (UBA2) (Gong et al., 1999).  
65 SUMOs are then transferred to the sole E2 ligase, SUMO conjugating enzyme UBC9  
66 (UBC9, encoded by *UBE2I*), which is essential for SUMOylation to occur (Desterro et al.,  
67 1997; Gong et al., 1997; Johnson and Blobel, 1997; Lee et al., 1998; Saitoh et al., 1998;  
68 Seufert et al., 1995). SUMOylation can then occur at a lysine residue of a target substrate,  
69 typically residing in a SUMO consensus motif ( $\Psi$ -K-x-D/E,  $\Psi$ =large hydrophobic amino  
70 acid), directly from UBC9 or upon facilitation by E3 ligases (Rodriguez et al., 2001;  
71 Sampson et al., 2001). Finally, SENPs can readily deSUMOylate the protein substrate,  
72 and SUMO is recycled for subsequent rounds of SUMOylation, allowing for highly  
73 dynamic regulation of substrate function (Nayak and Müller, 2014).

74 There are five known human SUMO paralogs (SUMO1 – SUMO5) with SUMO1 –  
75 SUMO3 being the most extensively studied as they are ubiquitously expressed and found  
76 in most vertebrates, whereas SUMO4 and SUMO5 are specific to humans and exhibit  
77 tissue-specific expression (Bouchard et al., 2021; Citro and Chiocca, 2013). SUMO1  
78 shares around 50% homology with SUMO2 and SUMO3, whereas mature SUMO2 and  
79 SUMO3 share 97% homology leading to these proteins to be often referred together as  
80 SUMO2/3 (Bohren et al., 2004). While SUMO paralogs often play redundant roles and  
81 can exhibit some level of compensation, each paralog can also play unique roles in cells,  
82 localizing to different subcellular regions and targeting different protein substrates (Citro  
83 and Chiocca, 2013; Ilic et al., 2022). Additionally, *Sumo2*, but not *Sumo1* nor *Sumo3*, is  
84 the only essential paralog whereby knock-out in mice results in major developmental

85 defects leading to embryonic lethality by E10.5 (Wang et al., 2014b). The essentiality of  
86 Sumo2 for proper development may be in part due to higher levels of Sumo2 in  
87 comparison to its paralogs, particularly Sumo3 (Wang et al., 2014b; Yu et al., 2020).  
88 Alternatively, it may also be the result of specific Sumo-conjugated proteomes between  
89 Sumo2 and its paralogs conferring different roles in cells. Thus, characterizing the specific  
90 roles of Sumo2 is crucial to not only help to uncover key mechanisms of cellular function  
91 and advance our understanding of SUMOylation in basic biology, but to also provide  
92 insight into disease processes.

93         Several challenges currently limit the study of protein SUMOylation: 1)  
94 Differentiating between the Sumo paralogs using antibodies is limiting or not possible due  
95 to the high degree of homology (Garvin et al., 2022); 2) The highly dynamic nature of  
96 SUMOylation makes biological context such as tissue, cell type, and cell state, critical for  
97 capturing and characterizing SUMOylation events; and 3) Tools to study SUMOylation  
98 are limited and often rely on overexpression models, potentially confounding studies of  
99 protein function. Consequently, protein SUMOylation is heavily studied in highly  
100 proliferating cells where it is now well established that SUMOylation plays a key role in  
101 regulating nuclear and DNA-related mechanisms, but the role of this PTM remains  
102 unclear, and even debated, in more complex system, including post-mitotic cells such as  
103 neurons (Daniel et al., 2018; Daniel et al., 2017).

104         To overcome these limitations, we expanded the current Sumo mouse knock-in  
105 toolkit and generated and characterized in parallel two novel knock-in (KI) mouse models.  
106 Specifically, sequences encoding affinity tags are knocked into the endogenous *Sumo2*  
107 locus whereby an HA-Sumo2 or His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 fusion protein is generated, allowing for  
108 the characterization of Sumo2 and its substrates *in vivo*. Analogous to our work with a  
109 corresponding His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 KI allele (Daniel et al., 2018; Daniel et al., 2017; Tirard et  
110 al., 2012), this approach allows us to directly compare the localization patterns between  
111 Sumo1 and Sumo2 throughout the mouse central nervous system (CNS). We used whole  
112 brain imaging to map the relative abundance of Sumo1 and Sumo2 throughout the adult  
113 mouse brain and observed that, while Sumo levels are broadly distributed, they exhibit  
114 regional differences throughout the CNS. We found that, unlike Sumo1 (Daniel et al.,  
115 2018; Daniel et al., 2017; Tirard et al., 2012), Sumo2 is present in both nuclear and extra-

116 nuclear compartments, including neuronal synapses. Based on this distinct subcellular  
117 distribution, we explored native Sumo1 and Sumo2 targets using immunoprecipitation  
118 and mass spectrometry. We identified genuine Sumo2-specific targets in the adult mouse  
119 brain, including a subset of non-nuclear proteins. Moreover, we observed dynamic  
120 changes between Sumo1- vs. Sumo2-selective substrates. Finally, we validated several  
121 hits using proximity ligations assays to detect protein-Sumo interactions within primary  
122 cortical neurons. This approach did not only provide an additional mode of validating  
123 native interactors of Sumo2 in wild-type neurons, but also yielded spatial information,  
124 demonstrating both nuclear and cytoplasmic interactions between Sumo2 and its  
125 substrates. Together, these new mouse lines and our data provide an important new  
126 resource that lays the foundation of a “Sumo-code” which provides a new layer of  
127 complexity to brain function.

128

## 129 **RESULTS**

### 130 ***Generation of (His<sub>6</sub>-)HA-Sumo2 mouse lines.***

131 The use of epitope tags provides a versatile way to streamline the study of proteins by  
132 taking advantage of the highly selective nature of antibodies raised against these tags. In  
133 parallel institutions, we generated two independent alleles to facilitate the study of Sumo2  
134 *in vivo*. We took advantage of a CRISPR/Cas9 approach to knock-in a 6xHis-  
135 hemagglutinin (*His<sub>6</sub>-HA*) tag into the amino-terminus of *Sumo2* (*His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2*) in  
136 C57BL/6J mice (Figure 1—figure supplement 1A) in one case, mirroring that of a  
137 previously generated mouse line to study Sumo1 *in vivo* (Tirard et al., 2012). Moreover,  
138 we also generated an HA-Sumo2 knock-in mouse that does not have the His<sub>6</sub> tag. We  
139 observed that knock-in of either *His<sub>6</sub>-HA* or *HA* to *Sumo2* resulted in hydrocephaly and  
140 premature death in heterozygous mice, indicating a likely hypomorphic effect of the  
141 epitope tag on a C57BL/6J background. Interestingly, backcrossing the mice to an FVB/N  
142 background alleviated these effects, resulting in no overt differences between mutant and  
143 wild-type FVB/N (WT) littermates in either line. Nevertheless, given the importance of  
144 Sumo2 for life, and the robustness of the HA tag for visualization and biochemistry, we  
145 performed the bulk of our analyses on heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 (and heterozygous  
146 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1; also crossed to an FVB/N background) knock-in mice.

147

148 ***His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 enables the comparison of endogenous Sumo2 levels in the CNS.***

149 To determine whether the addition of the HA epitope tag affects native Sumo levels, we  
150 assessed the levels of Sumo2/3 conjugates by Western blot, comparing total levels of  
151 unconjugated Sumo (“Free Sumo”) and Sumo-conjugated proteins from mouse brain  
152 lysates. We observed no change in the abundance of Sumo2/3 conjugates in the brains  
153 of adult His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice compared to His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 or WT mice (Figure 1—figure  
154 supplement 1B). As decreased levels of Sumo1 conjugates were previously observed in  
155 homozygotes His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 mouse brain (Daniel et al., 2017), we thus measured  
156 whether there were any changes in the abundance of native Sumo1 conjugates in  
157 heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 KI mice (Wang et al., 2014b). Again,  
158 no changes were observed between either Sumo KI line and their WT counterparts,  
159 indicating that the heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 or His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 allele does not alter  
160 overall levels of Sumo conjugates in mouse brain (Figure 1—figure supplement 1C).  
161 Additionally, we did not observe a significant effect on the expression of *Sumo1* and  
162 *Sumo2* transcript levels in either of the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo KI mice (Figure 1—figure  
163 supplement 1D). Thus, the novel His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 KI mice model enable the study of  
164 Sumo2 at endogenous levels *in vivo* without changes to the Sumo equilibrium.

165 The uniformity of the HA-tag epitope between the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-  
166 Sumo2 mice allows for a more direct comparison of endogenous Sumo1 and Sumo2  
167 levels *in vivo*. We assessed the relative levels of Sumo1 and Sumo2 in the central nervous  
168 system, specifically the cortex (CTX), cerebellum (CBM), olfactory bulbs (OB), spinal cord  
169 (SC) and remainder of the brain (termed “striatum-thalamus-brainstem for simplicity [S-  
170 Th-B]”) from adult mice (Figure 1). Western blot analysis from CNS regional lysates shows  
171 that levels of unconjugated and conjugated Sumo2 are significantly higher than Sumo1  
172 throughout the CNS (2-way ANOVA; Sumo effect:  $P = 0.0046$  and  $P = 0.0003$  for high  
173 molecular weight Sumo and free Sumo, respectively). The CTX, CBM, and OB are  
174 specifically enriched for Sumo2 whereas the S-Th-B and SC contains lower levels of  
175 Sumo2. Taken together, Sumo1 and Sumo2 are broadly distributed throughout the CNS,  
176 however regional differences in Sumo abundance and Sumo paralog predominance can  
177 be observed, indicating possible unique regional roles throughout the CNS.

178

### 179 ***Regional Analysis of Sumo1 and Sumo2 Throughout the Mouse Brain***

180 As differences in Sumo levels are detectable from regional crude brain lysates, we  
181 leveraged the specificity of the HA-tag and performed whole brain clearing and mapping  
182 of Sumo1 and Sumo2 signals in the adult mouse brain. His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-  
183 Sumo2 mouse brains were cleared and immunolabeled against the HA-tag and NeuN  
184 before imaging using light sheet microscopy (Figure 2A; Figure 2—figure supplement  
185 videos 1 & 2). Images were then analyzed and aligned to the Allen Brain Atlas to  
186 determine the relative levels of the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo signals in defined brain regions (Table  
187 1). It is worth noting that due to the different absolute abundance of Sumo1 (low) versus  
188 Sumo2 (high) in the brain, only qualitative Sumo1 vs Sumo2 comparisons were made. To  
189 generate relative maps of HA-Sumo distribution, the mean regional HA signal intensity  
190 was first normalized to the regional density of NeuN to account for changes in cell density  
191 before being averaged across hemibrains to account for tissue variability. Generally,  
192 Sumo1 and Sumo2 showed similar distributions throughout the mouse brain (Figure 2B-  
193 E) and we observed that both Sumo1 and Sumo2 were most abundant in cerebellar  
194 nuclei.

195 While Sumo levels were generally evenly distributed when characterizing gross  
196 anatomical regions, clear nuances in Sumo abundance were detectable at higher  
197 anatomical resolution. For example, in the hippocampus, Sumo levels were highest in the  
198 parasubiculum and presubiculum, and lowest in the *Fasciola cinerea* (Figure 2—figure  
199 supplement 1A & B). In the neocortex, we observed that Sumo levels were generally  
200 enriched in layers 2/3 (Figure 2B & D; Figure 2—figure supplement 1C), an area critical  
201 for integrative processing (Feldmeyer, 2012). Interestingly, while Sumo1 and Sumo2  
202 often share similar distributions, we observed that Sumo2 is enriched in the anterior  
203 hypothalamus (Figure 2—figure supplement 1D), particularly in regions involved in the  
204 circadian rhythm, including the suprachiasmatic nucleus and subparaventricular zone  
205 (Drunen and Eckel-Mahan, 2021).

206 We investigated whether the brain-wide imaging findings could be validated by an  
207 orthogonal immunofluorescence assay (Figure 2—figure supplement 2). Looking at  
208 multiple brain regions, we found that Sumo1 and Sumo2 are broadly distributed through

209 the somatosensory cortex. Interestingly, Sumo1 maintains a strictly nuclear localization,  
210 whereas Sumo2 is observed throughout the nucleus and in the cytoplasm and axons of  
211 cortical neurons. In the cerebellum, we found that Sumo2 is specifically enriched in  
212 granule cells, contrasting the strong Purkinje cell staining observed in His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1  
213 mice (Tirard *et al.* 2012). The hippocampus also displays characteristic nuclear staining  
214 for His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 in both the CA1 and CA3, whereas Sumo2 is seen throughout the  
215 nucleus and in the somata, and axons of hippocampal neurons. Thus, while Sumo1 and  
216 Sumo2 may share regional expression in the brain, the distinct localizations of Sumo1  
217 and Sumo2 *in vivo* indicate different targets of SUMOylation or different metabolism or  
218 conjugation dynamics of free Sumo likely play unique roles in neuronal regulation.

219

### 220 ***HA-Sumo2 localizes to synapses in vivo.***

221 Consistent with our previous work, we observed that Sumo1 strictly localizes to neuronal  
222 nuclei (Figure 2–figure supplement 2) (Tirard *et al.*, 2012). However, we noticed that  
223 Sumo2 signal can also be found outside the nuclear compartment (Figure 2–figure  
224 supplement 2). The role of Sumo in extra-nuclear compartments, specifically at synapses,  
225 remains a topic of debate, particularly in the context of Sumo1 (Daniel *et al.*, 2018; Daniel  
226 *et al.*, 2017). Thus, we further characterized extra-nuclear Sumo2 signals using  
227 homozygous HA-Sumo2 mice. As in the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 KI model, levels of Sumo2  
228 conjugates were unaltered in total brain lysates from homozygous HA-Sumo2 mice as  
229 compared to WT littermates, ruling out an effect of the HA tag on overall Sumo2  
230 expression and conjugation levels (Figure 3–figure supplement 1A) (Tirard *et al.*, 2012).  
231 Western blot analysis of brain subcellular fractions using an anti-HA antibody highlighted  
232 not only the difference in global levels of Sumo1 and Sumo2 conjugates, but also revealed  
233 that Sumo2 conjugates are abundant in non-nuclear fractions, including synaptic cytosol  
234 fractions S2 and S3 (Figure 3–figure supplement 1B-C). A weak but specific signal was  
235 also observed in crude synaptosomes and other synaptic membrane fractions (Figure 3–  
236 figure supplement 1B-D).

237 Next, we used homozygous HA-Sumo2 mice to further characterize extra-nuclear  
238 Sumo2 by performing anti-HA immunolabeling of the hippocampal CA3 area, a region  
239 enriched in synapses (Figure 2–figure supplement 2). Brain sections from WT and HA-



240 Sumo2 mice were immunolabeled for HA and neuronal markers for dendrites and  
241 synaptic compartments, and anti-HA immunosignals were quantified in HA-Sumo2 mice  
242 as compared to WTs (Figure 3). Using confocal microscopy, we confirmed the presence  
243 of Sumo2 in extra-nuclear compartments, specifically along dendrites and in synapses  
244 (Figure 3A). Quantification of HA-Sumo2 immunosignals in DAPI positive area confirmed  
245 the strong enrichment of Sumo2 conjugates in neuronal nuclei, in agreement with the  
246 well-known role of Sumos as nuclear regulators (Figure 3A and B) (Hendriks and  
247 Vertegaal 2016, Hendriks and Vertegaal 2015). In addition, HA-Sumo2 immunosignal  
248 was also observed in MAP2-positive regions and, strikingly, in synapses positives for  
249 Synapsin1, Shank2, Gephyrin, and/or vGlut1 (Figure 3C and D). Higher magnification  
250 images confirmed the presence of Sumo2 along MAP2 dendrites and at synapses (Figure  
251 4; Figure 4–figure supplement 1). Quantification of the 3D object-based co-localization  
252 between the anti-HA immunosignal with the various synaptic markers confirmed the  
253 presence of Sumo2 at synapses, with HA-Sumo2 signal being significantly co-localized  
254 with Shank2, Synapsin 1, vGlut1 and vGAT (Figure 4C and Figure 4–figure supplement  
255 1, which shows a typical 3D reconstruction generated in Imaris). Co-localization of Sumo2  
256 with Gephyrin was not obvious, most likely due to difficulties in immunolabeling inhibitory  
257 synapses with the method optimized for HA visualization. Altogether, our data  
258 demonstrate the presence of Sumo2 at synapses.

259

### 260 ***HA-Sumo mice reveal convergent and contrasting neuronal Sumo1 and Sumo2*** 261 ***substrates.***

262 The observation that there are regional and subcellular differences between Sumo1 and  
263 Sumo2 indicate divergent roles for the Sumo paralogs in the mouse brain. To uncover  
264 such molecular differences between Sumo paralogs, we performed HA-tag  
265 immunoprecipitation, under denaturing conditions to break apart standard protein-protein  
266 interactions, from whole brain lysate of WT, His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1, and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice,  
267 followed by mass spectrometric analysis to identify candidate targets of Sumo1 and  
268 Sumo2 *in vivo* (Figure 5A; Table 2). To rank proteins identified from the mass  
269 spectrometry dataset, we summated the total peptides from 4 replicates per genotype  
270 and then filtered proteins with >2-fold enrichment over proteins identified in the WT

271 condition. Next, to determine high-stringency candidates, proteins were further filtered  
272 based on peptide counts being identified in at least 2/4 replicates in the HA-Sumo  
273 conditions, and no more than 1/4 replicate in the respective WT condition. Using these  
274 criteria, we identified 131 proteins enriched in the HA-Sumo1 and 75 proteins enriched in  
275 the HA-Sumo2 immunoprecipitations (Table 2). Gene ontology and Reactome terms  
276 related to protein SUMOylation process (Figure 5B) were significantly enriched in both  
277 datasets (Figure 5C; Figure 5—figure supplement 1C; Table 3). Indeed, we identified  
278 critical components of the SUMOylation pathway including E1 SUMO ligases Sae1 and  
279 Uba2, the E2 SUMO ligase Ube2i, and E3 ligases Ranbp2(Pichler et al., 2002),  
280 Trim28(Liang et al., 2011), and Pml(Chu and Yang, 2011), validating the use of our mouse  
281 model to identify molecular substrates involved with SUMOylation.

282 To determine whether we could identify specific interactors of Sumo2, we  
283 compared the relative fold change of peptides identified in the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2  
284 immunoprecipitation to that of the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 immunoprecipitation and found that  
285 there are shared, specific, and preferential interactors of Sumo2 vs. Sumo1 (Figure 5D;  
286 Figure 5—figure supplement 1D; Table 2). We selected several hits from our mass  
287 spectrometry screen for validation via Western blot (Figure 5D). Ranbp2 and Rangap1  
288 are consistently identified amongst the most abundantly SUMOylated proteins (Gareau  
289 et al., 2012; Geiss-Friedlander and Melchior, 2007; Saitoh et al., 1998) and were indeed  
290 validated to be shared targets of Sumo1 and Sumo2 in the mouse brain. Additionally,  
291 both proteins displayed a preference for Sumo1 modification in the mouse brain as  
292 previously described (Gareau et al., 2012). Conversely, the E3 ligase and transcriptional  
293 repressor Trim28 displayed a preference for Sumo2 modification in the adult mouse brain.  
294 Interestingly, the transcription factor Prox1, involved in neurogenesis and a marker of  
295 granule cells in the dentate gyrus and cerebellum (Lavado et al., 2010), was one of the  
296 most abundantly SUMOylated proteins targeted specifically by Sumo2 in our screen. We  
297 further tested the sensitivity of the model to detect more modestly SUMOylated proteins  
298 targeted by Sumo2 in the mouse brain, as measured by relative abundance in our  
299 immunoprecipitation coupled with mass spectrometry experiment. We confirmed that  
300 both Histone Deacetylase 2 (Hdac2) and General Transcription Factor 2i (Gtf2i, also  
301 known as Tf2-i) were Sumo2-modified (Figure 5D). Because of the dynamic nature of

302 SUMOylation and the fact that Sumo only targets a fraction of the total pool of most  
303 substrates, biologically meaningful interactions may be buried under strong, constitutively  
304 SUMOylated targets in our screen. As a proof of concept, we picked a hit with low  
305 enrichment in the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 immunoprecipitation by expanding the filtering criteria  
306 to a >1.5 fold enrichment over wild-type: Matrin3 (Matr3). We found that Matr3 was  
307 selectively SUMOylated in the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 pulldown (Figure 5D), indicating that even  
308 at milder cut-off thresholds, SUMOylated substrates identified by mass spectrometry can  
309 be validated in an orthogonal assay. Taken together, these results show that the His<sub>6</sub>-  
310 HA-Sumo2 mouse model is effective to identify SUMOylated proteins, including proteins  
311 SUMOylated at relatively low levels *in vivo*, and can be used for targeted studies of protein  
312 substrates.

313

### 314 ***Subcellular Localization of Sumo Interaction in Neurons***

315 Sumo1 and Sumo2 predominantly reside in the nucleus, and unsurprisingly, many of the  
316 interactors identified here and in other studies of protein SUMOylation are nuclear  
317 proteins. However, previous studies hinted at roles for SUMOylation outside of the  
318 nucleus (Hasegawa et al., 2014; Ilic et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2014a; Watanabe et al.,  
319 2008; Yang and Paschen, 2015). During the validation of whole brain imaging, we  
320 observed that His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2, while extensively localized throughout the nucleus, could  
321 also be observed within the somata and synapses of neurons *in vivo*, contrasting the  
322 predominantly nuclear membrane staining of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 (Figure 2—figure  
323 supplement 2; Figure 3). The cytoplasmic localization of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 in neurons  
324 indicates unique extranuclear roles *in vivo*. Indeed, we identified several predominantly  
325 extranuclear proteins via mass spectrometry in the anti-HA affinity purification from the  
326 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 knock-in mice. To better visualize the subcellular localization of Sumo,  
327 we cultured primary cortical neurons from heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1, His<sub>6</sub>-HA-  
328 Sumo2, and WT animals and co-stained them for HA and Map2 as a cytoplasmic marker.  
329 As previously observed, Sumo2 is predominantly distributed uniformly throughout the  
330 nucleus except for heterochromatic foci, but is also observed at low levels in the  
331 cytoplasm (Figure 6—figure supplement 1A), contrasting with the anti-HA immunosignal  
332 observed for Sumo1, which predominantly localizes at the nuclear membrane. This

333 indicates that Sumo2 specifically may play a larger role in regulating proteins outside of  
334 the nucleus.

335 To better assess the subcellular localization of neuronal SUMOylated proteins  
336 targeted by Sumo2, and to provide an additional level of validation in an orthogonal  
337 system, we used proximity ligations assays (PLA) against endogenous Sumo2/3 and  
338 targets of Sumo2 identified from our mass spectrometry screen to visualize interactions  
339 within wild-type primary cortical neurons (Figure 6A) (Ristic et al., 2016; Sahin et al.,  
340 2016). In this assay, proteins colocalizing within 40 nm will produce a PLA signal  
341 suggesting a potential interaction. We selected proteins expected to interact with  
342 Sumo2/3 in the nucleus, Gtf2i and Matr3, as well as expected cytoplasmic interactors  
343 Rangap1, Cttd, Alix, and Kars1 for additional validation (Figure 6B & C). Gtf2i is  
344 distributed almost exclusively throughout the nucleus and interactions between Sumo2/3  
345 and Gtf2i, inferred by the presence of PLA foci, are seen throughout the nucleoplasm.  
346 Interestingly, PLA foci were often observed to cluster around constitutive heterochromatin  
347 (Figure 6C, inset), indicating a potential role for Sumo2 in regulating Gtf2i at the periphery  
348 of heterochromatin in neurons. Matr3 is also localized throughout the nucleus and to a  
349 lesser extent in the cytoplasm, consistent with its identification in cytoplasmic processing  
350 bodies (Rajgor et al., 2016). Interestingly, PLA signals for Matr3 and Sumo2/3 are robust,  
351 indicating extensive interactions between the two proteins. Immunofluorescence staining  
352 of Rangap1, Cttd, Alix, and Kars1 demonstrate these proteins predominantly reside  
353 outside of the nucleus (Figure 6C). PLA between these hits and Sumo2/3 display an  
354 increase in the proportion of cytoplasmic foci relative to nuclear foci (Figure 6B), in  
355 addition to a substantial decrease in total nuclear PLA foci compared to nuclear localized  
356 proteins Gtf2i and Matr3 (Figure 6—figure supplement 1B). Importantly, for all PLA  
357 assays conducted, negative controls did not elicit a PLA signal (Figure 6—figure  
358 supplement 1C). Taken together, our PLA analyses of wild-type neurons provide an  
359 additional layer of validation of Sumo2-substrate interactions. With the added benefit of  
360 providing spatial resolution to the interactions, PLA data support a role for neuronal  
361 Sumo2 outside the nucleus.

## 362 **DISCUSSION**

363 Protein SUMOylation plays a variety of essential and conserved roles (Ilic et al., 2022).  
364 Increasing evidence indicates that SUMOylation plays roles in the brain, e.g. in neuronal  
365 development or learning and memory (Ripamonti et al., 2020). Furthermore, SUMOylation  
366 has been linked with various brain disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorder,  
367 Epilepsy, Schizophrenia, and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease,  
368 Parkinson's disease, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Bernstock et al., 2018; Krumova  
369 and Weishaupt, 2013; Osmanovic et al., 2022; Rousseaux et al., 2016). However, despite  
370 a clear connection with neuronal function and dysfunction, SUMOylation has remained  
371 enigmatic due to technical challenges and limitations for studying this modification (Daniel  
372 et al., 2017). We generated His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 and HA-Sumo2 KI mouse alleles to  
373 overcome these technical limitations and to provide insight into the role of native  
374 SUMOylation *in vivo*. These mice complement the previously generated His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1  
375 mouse line (Tirard et al., 2012), which together enable direct comparisons of Sumo1 and  
376 Sumo2 *in vivo* to further understand the specific roles conferred by Sumo2 and native  
377 roles of SUMOylation.

378 Using whole brain imaging against the HA epitope in His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-  
379 HA-Sumo2 mice, we found that Sumo1 and Sumo2 are broadly distributed throughout the  
380 mouse brain. Deeper anatomical analysis revealed clear patterns of Sumo differences  
381 across brain structures as well as some divergence of Sumo1 and Sumo2 levels in the  
382 brain. Indeed, we observed that levels of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 was generally evenly distributed  
383 amongst cortical layers, whereas His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 levels were higher in layers 2/3 (Figure  
384 2—figure supplement 1D). In the hypothalamus, we found that Sumo levels vary across  
385 anatomical regions (Figure 2—figure supplement 1E). Interestingly, regions involved in  
386 circadian rhythm including the subparaventricular zone (SBPV) and suprachiasmatic  
387 nucleus (SCH) show high levels of Sumo2. These findings are consistent with previous  
388 reports that have linked both Sumo1 and Sumo2 differentially affecting circadian clock  
389 related proteins such as PER2 and CLOCK, ultimately supporting a role for SUMOylation  
390 in regulating circadian rhythm processes (Chen et al., 2021; Drunen and Eckel-Mahan,  
391 2021; Lee et al., 2015).

392 We observed differential subcellular distribution patterns between Sumo1 and  
393 Sumo2. Western blot analysis of brain subcellular fractions showed that Sumo2 is more  
394 abundantly expressed than Sumo1 (Figure 1), and that Sumo2 conjugates are present  
395 outside of the nuclear compartment, including synaptic fractions (Figure 3–figure  
396 supplement 1B & C). This is of importance, as the role of Sumo proteins at synapses has  
397 been debated, particularly in the context of Sumo1 (Daniel et al., 2018; Daniel et al., 2017).  
398 We previously showed that Sumo1 conjugates are not present in synaptic compartments,  
399 in contrast to several other reports. Here, we used anti-HA immunolabeling of brain  
400 material from HA-Sumo2 mouse brains, and used WT littermates as negative controls to  
401 assess non-specific anti-HA immunolabeling (Figures 3, 4 and Figure 4–figure  
402 Supplement 1). Strikingly, the quantification of anti-HA immunosignal intensity confirmed  
403 a co-localization of Sumo2 with pre- and post-synaptic markers, at both excitatory and  
404 inhibitory synapses (Figures 3A-B, 4A-C). This comparative and quantitative approach of  
405 investigating the HA-Sumo mouse models allows for the specific assessment of Sumo2  
406 immunosignals within various neuronal sub-compartments, and we provide here the first  
407 robust dataset identifying the presence of a Sumo paralog, Sumo2, at synapses in the  
408 mammalian brain. These data suggest that Sumo1 and Sumo2 do not only have divergent  
409 patterns of expression in mouse brain, but also show differential distributions in the  
410 various subcellular compartments, with only Sumo2 present in synapses.

411 Sumo2 is the only essential Sumo paralog, and has key roles in  
412 neurodevelopment, nerve cell function, and neurological diseases (Krumova and  
413 Weishaupt, 2013; Ripamonti et al., 2020; Stankova et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2014b). To  
414 uncover some of the unique clientele targeted by Sumo2, we performed HA tag  
415 immunoprecipitation paired with mass spectrometry. As SUMOylation results in the  
416 covalent interaction between Sumo and the target substrate, mouse brains were lysed  
417 under denaturing conditions to promote the dissociation of protein complexes prior to  
418 immunoprecipitation to help identify bona fide SUMOylation substrates. Using stringent  
419 criteria, 75 proteins were identified to potentially interact with Sumo2, ~1/2 of which were  
420 selective to Sumo2. Conversely, using the same criteria, we identified 131 proteins that  
421 interact with Sumo1, 98 of which were selective to Sumo1. Pathway analysis of the  
422 Sumo2 dataset revealed that gene ontology terms related to SUMOylation were

423 significantly enriched in the dataset, validating this method to identify potentially  
424 SUMOylated substrates. Moreover, pathway analysis of the Sumo1 dataset revealed  
425 enrichment of proteins involved in protein transport consistent with roles for Sumo1 in  
426 nucleocytoplasmic shuttling (Pichler et al., 2002; Salinas et al., 2004; Westman et al.,  
427 2010). Prox1 was validated via Western blot as one of the strongest interactors specific  
428 to Sumo2 in the mouse brain. Interestingly, previous studies demonstrated that  
429 SUMOylation of Prox1 by Sumo1 occurs *in vitro* and in cancer cell lines (Pan et al., 2009;  
430 Shan et al., 2008). During development, Prox1 was found to be SUMOylated by Sumo1,  
431 and this interaction is critical for neurogenesis in the neural tube development. However,  
432 the role of Prox1 in the mature brain remains unclear, although some data indicate an  
433 involvement in adult neurogenesis (Correa-Vázquez et al., 2021). Due to the extent of  
434 the Prox1 and Sumo2 interaction observed in this study, further analysis may uncover  
435 key roles of SUMOylated Prox1 in the adult mouse brain. We further found that the RNA  
436 binding protein Matr3 interacts with Sumo2 *in vivo*, indicating that even a mild enrichment  
437 over wild-type in our dataset may identify *bona fide* biological interactors. Interestingly,  
438 many of the enriched computationally-predicted SUMOylation sites in Matr3 (K588 and  
439 K843) reside within a structurally disordered region of the protein that also happens to be  
440 enriched for mutations causing Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) (Johnson et al.,  
441 2014). Structurally disordered regions are thought to be critically involved in the formation  
442 of protein aggregates in neurodegenerative diseases, and given the key role of SUMO in  
443 controlling protein solubility and the recent links between SUMOylation and ALS,  
444 SUMOylation of Matr3 may provide key insights into Matr3 biology related to this disease.

445 SUMOylation occurs in a context-specific manner and can regulate protein  
446 localization within cells. One of the best characterized examples concerns the regulation  
447 of nucleocytoplasmic shuttling across nuclear pore complexes (Pichler et al., 2002;  
448 Salinas et al., 2004; Westman et al., 2010). However, SUMOylation can also regulate  
449 sub-compartmental localizations, such as protein targeting to the nucleolus or to  
450 heterochromatin (Andreev et al., 2022; Mo et al., 2002; Rawat et al., 2021). As Sumo2  
451 was observed throughout the nucleus and outside the nucleus *in vivo* and in cultured  
452 neurons, we sought to determine the subcellular localization of Sumo2 interactions with  
453 hits identified via IP-MS using a PLA-based approach (Figure 6). Gtf2i was SUMOylated

454 almost exclusively in the nucleus but interestingly appeared to cluster around  
455 heterochromatin. Gtf2i can function as both a transcriptional activator and repressor in  
456 response to various signals. For example, the specific splice isoforms  $\beta$  and  $\Delta$  undergo  
457 changes in subcellular localization to differentially regulate the immediate early gene *c-*  
458 *Fos* in response to growth factor signaling (Hakre et al., 2006). However, roles for Gtf2i in  
459 regulating heterochromatin remain elusive. SUMOylation may provide a dynamic  
460 mechanism in response to neuronal activity to regulate both targeted expression at the  
461 gene level and global transcriptional changes (Niskanen et al., 2015). Finally, interactions  
462 between Matr3 and Sumo2/3 occurred broadly throughout the nucleus. However,  
463 interactions between Matr3 and Sumo2 in mouse brain occurred at relatively low levels  
464 based on immunoprecipitation assays. This discrepancy observed in the nucleus may be  
465 explained via non-covalent interactions with Sumo2 through larger protein complexes as  
466 Matr3 typically functions in complex with other DNA and RNA binding proteins (Banani et  
467 al., 2016; Keiten-Schmitz et al., 2021, Keiten-Schmitz et al., 2020). Extranuclear proteins  
468 Rangap1, Cttd, Alix, and Kars1, despite having a certain level of PLA signal within the  
469 nucleus, displayed an increase in the proportion of cytoplasmic PLA foci relative to  
470 nuclear PLA foci implying increased interactions with Sumo2/3 outside the nucleus.  
471 Indeed, Rangap1 plays roles in nuclear import, but can also be found to some extent  
472 within the nucleus (Cha et al., 2015). PLA foci between Rangap1 and Sumo2/3 were often  
473 found near the nuclear membrane, likely at nuclear pore complexes (Figure 6C, inset).  
474 Cttd is a lysosomal protease predominantly localizing to lysosomes, thus interactions  
475 between Sumo2/3 and Cttd may suggest that its SUMOylation may play a role in  
476 lysosomal metabolism (Nakanishi, 2003). Previous reports have linked Sumo with the  
477 apoptosis pathway (Basu-Shrivastava et al., 2022; Besnault-Mascard et al., 2005; Mojsa  
478 et al., 2015); here, we observe potential interactions between Sumo and the apoptotic  
479 protein Alix further inferring a role for Sumo in the apoptotic process. Finally extranuclear  
480 PLA foci could be observed for the lysyl-tRNA Synthetase Kars1, consistent with reports  
481 of Sumo interacting with tRNA-related proteins (Chymkowitch et al., 2017; Chymkowitch  
482 and Enserink, 2018; Rohira et al., 2013). Together these results suggest that Sumo2 may  
483 play a variety of roles outside the nucleus in various subcellular compartments. While  
484 PLA assays provide spatial information of putative protein interactions (i.e. interactions



485 occurring within 40 nm), this does not discount indirect interactions (e.g. protein  
486 complexes) (Ristic et al., 2016; Sahin et al., 2016). Thus, differentiating between covalent  
487 SUMOylation, interactions with SUMO interacting motifs (SIMs), and protein complexes  
488 containing Sumo are not possible using this approach. Extensive localization and  
489 biochemical analyses, including arginine to lysine mutagenesis to block covalent  
490 SUMOylation, should be performed to properly assess how Sumo confers regulation on  
491 a specific target throughout the cell.

492 In sum, the novel (His<sub>6</sub>-)HA-Sumo2 knock-in mouse lines described here represent  
493 powerful tools to facilitate the study of protein SUMOylation via Sumo2 *in vivo*. The HA  
494 epitope tag allows for specific yet versatile modes to detect and capture Sumo2 in its  
495 native context, without altering its function. Furthermore, these mouse models add to the  
496 previously generated His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 allele, and thus expand the Sumo knock-in mouse  
497 toolkit to begin exploring differential SUMOylation in parallel systems. The versatility of  
498 these models extends to all other tissue systems, as Sumo proteins are broadly  
499 distributed beyond the brain (Hendriks et al., 2018; Uhlén et al., 2015). Beyond basic  
500 biology, these alleles can be used to explore disease processes, e.g. by crossing these  
501 mouse lines into disease models, thus enabling the study of the Sumo-linked disease  
502 proteome (Stankova et al., 2018). Ultimately, these tools will advance our understanding  
503 of the essential biological processes and potential disease targets regulated by  
504 SUMOylation.

505

## 506 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 507 ***Mouse Husbandry***

508 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice, kept on an FVB/N background, were housed  
509 with up to 5 mice per cage on a 12 h light–dark cycle. Mice were fed *ad libitum* and all  
510 husbandry was performed by the uOttawa Animal Care and Veterinary Services staff. All  
511 animal work for the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mouse lines were done under  
512 the breeding (CMMb-3009 and CMMb-3904) protocols approved under the uOttawa  
513 Animal Care Committee.

514 All experiments regarding the HA-Sumo2 KI mice were performed in accordance with the  
515 guidelines for the welfare of experimental animals issued by the State Government of

516 Lower Saxony, Germany (LAVES). Animals were hosted in a pathogen free facility at the  
517 Max Planck Institute of experimental Medicine and were maintained in groups in  
518 accordance with European Union Directive 63/2010/EU and ETS 123 (individually  
519 ventilated cages, specific pathogen-free conditions,  $21 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ , 55% relative humidity, 12  
520 h/12 h light/dark cycle). Mice received food and tap water *ad libitum* and were provided  
521 with bedding and nesting material. Cages were changed once a week. Animal health was  
522 controlled daily by caretakers and by a veterinarian. Health monitoring (serological  
523 analyses; microbiological, parasitological, and pathological examinations) was done  
524 quarterly according to FELASA recommendations with either NMRI sentinel mice or  
525 animals from the colony. The mouse colony used for experiments did not show signs of  
526 pathogens. All experiments were performed during a light cycle.

527

### 528 **Mouse Genotyping**

529 Genomic DNA (gDNA) was isolated from small tail samples collected from mouse  
530 embryos (primary cortical neuron experiments), pups (pre-weaning), or adult mice  
531 (endpoint). His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice were genotyped using parallel reactions with primers  
532 targeting the *His<sub>6</sub>-HA* knock-in tag and corresponding genomic loci upstream (Forward:  
533 5'-AGGAAGAGAGCGAGAGAGGAA-3', Reverse: 5'-CACCACTACTACCCATACGA-3',  
534 224bp product) and downstream (Forward: 5'-TCGTATGGGTAGTGGTGGTG-3',  
535 Reverse: 5'-AGGAGGAGGGGTGGTTATGT-3', 276bp product) of the knock-in. 25μL  
536 reactions were prepared using <10ng gDNA, primers (400nM final), 1.25μL DMSO (5%  
537 final), and 2X GoTaq (Promega). Thermocycler parameters: 95°C for 2 min, (95°C for  
538 30 s, 57.6°C for 30 s, 72°C for 40 s) repeated for 35 cycles, final denature at 72°C for  
539 5 min. HA-Sumo2 mice were genotyped with primers flanking the *HA* knock-in tag  
540 (Forward: 5'-GCCCTCTGCCTCGTCCAC-3', Reverse: 5'-CCGCCGCGAGCTCACCTTG  
541 -3', WT Allele: 160bp product, KI Allele: 187bp product). 20μL reactions were prepared  
542 using 1μL clean gDNA, primers (4 pmol final), and 5X Biozym Hot-Start Taq DNA  
543 Polymerase plus extra Mg<sup>2+</sup> (Biozym 331620XL). Thermocycler parameters: 96°C for  
544 3 min, (94°C for 30 s, 62°C for 60 s, 72°C for 60 s) repeated for 32 cycles, final denature  
545 at 72°C for 7 min. His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 mice were genotyped as previously described (Tirard  
546 et al., 2012).

547

548 ***Biochemical Analysis of Adult Mouse Brain and Spinal Cord***

549 Mice were anesthetized using isoflurane inhalation and sacrificed via decapitation. Brains  
550 were quickly isolated, dissected for regional protein analysis, and flash frozen on dry ice.  
551 Analysis of total Sumo1 and Sumo2/3 levels were performed on whole brain lysates.  
552 Spinal cords were removed using hydraulic extrusion (Richner et al., 2017). Samples were  
553 thawed and immediately lysed using a dounce homogenizer in RIPA buffer (9.1 mM  
554 dibasic sodium phosphate, 1.7 mM monobasic sodium phosphate, 150 mM sodium  
555 chloride, 1 % NP-40, 0.5 % sodium deoxycholate, 0.1 % SDS) containing 50 mM freshly  
556 prepared N-Ethylmaleimide (Sigma), 0.25 %  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, and Xpert Protease  
557 (GenDEPOT) and Xpert Phosphatase (GenDEPOT) inhibitor cocktails. Whole brain  
558 lysates were lysed in 11 mL of RIPA buffer described above and centrifuged at 125,000  
559 x g for 2 hours at 4 °C. Regional lysates were centrifuged at 21,000 x g for 20 minutes at  
560 4 °C and the supernatant was removed and suspended in 4X laemmli buffer (BioRad)  
561 with 2-mercaptaethanol (BioRad) and boiled at 95 °C for 5 minutes. Samples were run on  
562 8 % polyacrylamide gels and transferred onto 0.45 $\mu$ m nitrocellulose membranes at 340  
563 mA for 90 minutes and stained with ponceau to normalize protein levels between lysates.  
564 Normalized lysates were run on a 4-15 % GTx Mini-PROTEAN gel (BioRad) and  
565 transferred onto a 0.45  $\mu$ m nitrocellulose membrane at 340 mA for 2 hours for western  
566 blot analysis. Densitometry was performed using BioRad Image Lab software and  
567 Fiji/ImageJ by normalizing the HA intensity to ponceau for High Molecular Weight (>70  
568 kDa) and free Sumo levels.

569

570 ***Real Time Quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) analysis***

571 RNA was extracted from mouse brain homogenate using Trizol-Chloroform extraction  
572 (Invitrogen™ User Guide: TRIzol Reagent version B.0). Briefly, mouse brains were  
573 homogenized in 3 ml of PEPI Buffer [5 mM EDTA, 1X protease inhibitor (GenDEPOT cat#  
574 P3100-020), in 1X PBS] using a dounce homogenizer. 3 % of homogenate was added to  
575 1 ml of TRIzol Reagent (Fisher Scientific cat# 15-596-026) and RNA was isolated as per  
576 the user guide referenced above. cDNA was synthesized using 5X All-in-One RT Master  
577 Mix (Bio Basic cat# HRT025-10) following manufacturer's instructions. RT-qPCR was

578 performed using Green-2-Go qPCR Master Mix (Bio Basic cat# QPCR004-S) with 25 ng  
579 cDNA per reaction and primers targeting mouse *Sumo1* (NM\_009460.2) (Forward: 5'-  
580 GCTGATAATCATACTCCGAAAGAAC-3', Reverse: 5'-CCCCGTTTGTTCCTGATAAA-  
581 3'), *Sumo2*(NM\_133354.2) (Forward: 5'-GGACAGGATGGTTCTGTGGTGC-3', Reverse:  
582 5'-CCCATCAAACCGGAATCTGATCTGC-3'), and *Hprt1*(NM\_013556.2) (Forward: 5'-  
583 TGATAGATCCATTCCTATGACTGTAGA-3', Reverse: 5'-  
584 AAGACATTCTTTCCAGTTAAAGTTGAG-3'). Reactions were run on BioRad CFX96  
585 thermocycler (protocol: 95°C for 5 min, 40 cycles of 95°C for 15 s and 60°C for 60 s, then  
586 melting curve). *Sumo1* and *Sumo2* Ct values were standardized to the Ct values of *Hprt1*.  
587

### 588 ***Brain preparation for whole brain clearing and HA immunolabeling.***

589 Mice were sedated via intraperitoneal injection of 16.25 mg sodium pentobarbital  
590 (Euthanyl, DIN 00141704). Once sedated, mice were perfused using 10 mL 1X PBS + 10  
591 U/mL heparin (Millipore Sigma, H3393-50KU) followed by 10 mL of freshly prepared 4 %  
592 paraformaldehyde. Brains were carefully isolated and stored in 13 mL of 4 %  
593 paraformaldehyde at 4 °C overnight with gentle shaking. Brains were rinsed with 1X PBS  
594 then shipped to LifeCanvas Technologies (MA) in 1X PBS + 0.02 % sodium azide.

595

### 596 ***Whole mouse brain processing, staining, and imaging***

597 Whole mouse brains were processed using the SHIELD protocol (LifeCanvas  
598 Technologies (Park et al., 2018)). Samples were cleared for 1 day at 42 °C then actively  
599 immunolabeled using SmartBatch+ (LifeCanvas Technologies) based on eFLASH  
600 technology integrating stochastic electrotransport (Kim et al., 2015) and SWITCH (Murray  
601 et al., 2015). Each sample was labeled with 60 µg anti-NeuN (Encor, MCA-1B7) and 36  
602 µg rabbit anti-HA-tag (Cell Signalling Technology #3724) followed by fluorescently  
603 conjugated secondary antibodies in a 3:2 primary:secondary molar ratio (Jackson  
604 ImmunoResearch). Samples were incubated in EasyIndex (LifeCanvas Technologies) for  
605 refractive index of RI = 1.52 and imaged at 3.6X using a SmartSPIM axially-swept light  
606 sheet microscope (LifeCanvas Technologies). Images were tile corrected, de-striped, and  
607 registered to the Allen Brain Atlas (Allen Institute: <https://portal.brain-map.org/>). NeuN  
608 channels for each brain were registered to 8-20 atlas-aligned reference samples using

609 successive rigid, affine, and b-spline warping (SimpleElastix:  
610 <https://simpleelastix.github.io/>). Average alignment to the atlas was generated across all  
611 intermediate reference sample alignments to serve as the final atlas alignment value per  
612 sample. Fluorescent measurements from the acquired images were projected onto the  
613 Allen Brain Atlas to quantify the total fluorescence intensity per region defined by the Allen  
614 Brain Atlas. These values were then divided by the volume of the corresponding regional  
615 volume to calculate the intensity per voxel measurements.

616

### 617 ***HA Immunoprecipitation from mouse brain lysates***

618 Immunoprecipitation was performed based on the previously established protocol (Tirard  
619 et al., 2012; Tirard and Brose, 2016). Briefly, mice aged 9-16 weeks old were anesthetized  
620 and sacrificed via decapitation and the brain was quickly removed and homogenized  
621 using a dounce homogenizer in RIPA buffer (9.1 mM dibasic sodium phosphate, 1.7 mM  
622 monobasic sodium phosphate, 150 mM sodium chloride, 1 % NP-40, 0.5 % sodium  
623 deoxycholate, 0.1 % SDS) containing 50 mM freshly prepared N-Ethylmaleimide (Sigma),  
624 0.25 %  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, and Xpert Protease (GenDEPOT) and Xpert Phosphatase  
625 (GenDEPOT) inhibitor cocktails. Samples were lysed on ice for 20 minutes with vigorous  
626 vortexing every 5 minutes before ultracentrifugation at an average of 100,000 x g for 30  
627 minutes at 4 °C. Supernatants were removed and spiked with 50 mM N-ethylmaleimide  
628 before being added to 50  $\mu$ L of magnetic protein G Dynabeads (Invitrogen) pre-  
629 conjugated with 10  $\mu$ g mouse HA antibody (in house) per sample. Samples were then  
630 placed on rotator at 4 °C for 1 hour. Beads were washed three times in 10 mL of RIPA  
631 buffer containing 20 mM N-Ethylmaleimide, protease, and phosphatase inhibitors. Wash  
632 buffer was thoroughly removed, and beads were eluted using 75  $\mu$ g synthetic HA peptide  
633 (Sino Biological Inc.).

634

635

636 **Sample Preparation for Mass Spectrometry**

637 Two thirds of eluted protein sample from HA Immunoprecipitation were run on a 4-15%  
638 Mini-PROTEAN (Bio-Rad) gel to separate proteins and remove synthetic HA peptide.  
639 Samples were stained using Silver Stain for Mass Spectrometry Kit (Thermo Scientific,  
640 24600). Lanes were cut into 6-7 gel slices per sample and stored in 1% acetic acid until  
641 analysis via LC-MS/MS.

642

643 **Protein Identification by LC-MS/MS**

644 Proteomics analysis was performed at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute Proteomics  
645 Core Facility (Ottawa, Canada). Proteins were digested in-gel using trypsin (Promega)  
646 according to the method of Shevchenko (Shevchenko et al., 2006), but without the use of  
647 iodoacetamide for cysteine alkylation due to the treatment of 50 mM N-ethylmaleimide  
648 (Sigma) during the sample immunoprecipitation. Peptide extracts were concentrated by  
649 Vacufuge (Eppendorf). LC-MS/MS was performed using a Dionex Ultimate 3000 RLSC  
650 nano HPLC (Thermo Scientific) and Orbitrap Fusion Lumos mass spectrometer (Thermo  
651 Scientific). MASCOT software version 2.7.0 (Matrix Science, UK) was used to infer  
652 peptide and protein identities from the mass spectra. The observed spectra were matched  
653 against *Mus musculus* sequences from SwissProt (version 2021-02) and against an in-  
654 house database of common contaminants. The results were exported to Scaffold  
655 (Proteome Software, USA) for further validation and viewing and will be uploaded to the  
656 ProteomXchange Consortium.

657

658 **Gene Ontology analysis**

659 Top His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 interactors were analyzed using gProfiler2 web  
660 tool (<https://biit.cs.ut.ee/gprofiler/gost>)(Peterson et al., 2020). Lists were arranged in  
661 descending order based on relative peptide abundance and analyzed as an ordered  
662 query for *Mus musculus* proteins using Benjamini-Hochberg FDR significance threshold  
663 with an alpha of 0.05.

664

665

## 666 ***Immunohistochemistry of Mouse Brain***

667 Mice were anesthetized with 30  $\mu$ l of 120 mg/kg Euthanyl (DIN00141704) and then  
668 perfused with 10 ml 1x phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and 10 ml 4 % paraformaldehyde  
669 (PFA). Brain and spinal cord tissue were collected and stored for 48 hours in 4 % PFA.  
670 Brain and spinal cord tissue were then dehydrated in 10 %, 20 % and 30 % sucrose  
671 solutions for 48 hours each before being flash frozen in -40 °C isopentane for 1 minute.  
672 Tissues were then sectioned at 20  $\mu$ m and -21 °C on the Thermo Scientific HM 525 NX  
673 cryostat at the Louise Pelletier Histology Core at the University of Ottawa and stored free  
674 floating in 1x PBS + 0.02 % NaN<sub>3</sub> at 4 °C until use in staining. Brains tissue were incubated  
675 for 24 hours in blocking buffer (1.5 % Triton X-100, 5 % cosmic calf serum in 1X PBS),  
676 24 hours in primary antibody (1:500 HA-Tag C29F4 rabbit monoclonal antibody (Cat:  
677 3724S, Cell Signaling Technology), and 1 hour in secondary antibody (1:500 Alexa Fluor  
678 568 donkey anti mouse antibody, Cat: A10037, Lot: 1917938)) with DAPI (1:1,000  
679 Millipore Sigma, D9542-1MG). Tissue was washed 5 times for 5 minutes each in 1x PBS  
680 between each treatment and mounted on Fisherbrand Superfrost Plus slides. Slides were  
681 left to dry for 24 hours and covered with DAKO mounting medium (Cat: S3023, Lot:  
682 11347938) and #1.5 coverslips.

683 For the analysis of the synaptic localization of Sumo2, HA-Sumo2 KI brains were  
684 used (Figure 1—figure supplement 1B). Mice were anaesthetized (250 mg/Kg Avertin i.p.)  
685 and transcardially perfused with PBS and then with 4 % (w/v) paraformaldehyde (PFA) in  
686 0.1 M phosphate buffer (PB), pH 7.4 at 4 °C for 10 min. Brains were removed and post-  
687 fixed for 1 h at 4 °C. The tissue was cryoprotected in 30 % (w/v) sucrose in phosphate-  
688 buffered saline (PBS). Brains were frozen in the cryostat and sagittal 35  $\mu$ m sections were  
689 prepared with a cryostat and collected free-floating in PBS. For immunohistochemistry,  
690 sections were pre-incubated for 24 h in PB containing 3 % horse serum (HS), 3 % fish  
691 skin gelatin (FSG), and 0.3 % Triton X-100, and were then incubated for 3 days at 4 °C  
692 in primary antibodies diluted in PBS containing 3 % HS, 3 % FSG and 0.3 % Triton X-  
693 100. After washing repeatedly in PBS and overnight, sections were incubated overnight  
694 in dye coupled secondary antibodies, repeatedly washed, and mounted on slides with  
695 Aquapolymount (Polysciences). The antibodies used are listed in Table 4.

696

697 ***Primary Cortical Neuron Cultures***

698 Pregnant mice were euthanized between at gestation E14.5-15.5 with 48 mg  
699 Pentobarbital Sodium (Bimeda-MTC, 8015E) delivered via intraperitoneal injection.  
700 Embryos were removed, washed in chilled PBS (Wisent Bioproducts, 311-010-CL), and  
701 cortices were isolated in chilled HBSS (Sigma Aldrich, H9394). Cortices were dissociated  
702 for 20 minutes with trypsin (Thermo Scientific, 90305) at 37 °C before adding trypsin  
703 inhibitor and DNase solution to quench reaction. Cells were pelleted at 2,500 x g for 5  
704 minutes at 4 °C and washed with trypsin inhibitor with DNase solution. Cortical neurons  
705 were pelleted at 2,500 x g for 5 minutes at 4 °C and resuspended in 1 mL Neurobasal  
706 outgrowth media (Thermo Scientific, 21103049), supplemented with B-27 (Thermo  
707 Scientific, 17504044), N-2 (Thermo Scientific, 21103049), 500 µM L-Glutamine (Wisent  
708 Bioproducts, 609-065-EL), and 0.5 % penicillin/streptomycin (GE Healthcare Life  
709 Sciences, SV30010) before plating. Cultures were maintained for 7 days in vitro with a  
710 half media change after 3-4 days.

711

712 ***Immunofluorescence in Primary Cortical Neurons***

713 Micro Coverglass #1.5 coverslips (Electron Microscopy Sciences) coverslips were pre-  
714 coated with poly-D-lysine (50 µg/ml) overnight at 37 °C, then washed with distilled water  
715 three times and air-dried at room temperature for at least two hours. Primary mouse  
716 cortical neurons were seeded at 75,000 cells per coverslip were seeded and cultured as  
717 described in Primary Cortical Neuron Cultures. On day 7, neurons were fixed using 10 %  
718 phosphate buffered formalin for (Fisher Chemical, SF100-4) for 10 minutes followed by 3  
719 x 5-minute washes in 1 mL of 1X PBS. Neurons were blocked in 500 µL of blocking buffer  
720 (1.5 % Triton X-100, 10 % cosmic calf serum in 1X PBS) for 1 hour, then incubated in 300  
721 µL of primary antibody diluted in blocking buffer overnight at 4 °C. The following day, the  
722 neurons were washed for 4 x 5-minute washes in 1 mL of 1X PBS then incubated in 300  
723 µL of secondary antibody diluted in blocking buffer for 2 hours at room temperature. Next,  
724 the neurons were washed for 4 x 5-minute washes in 1 mL of 1X PBS, dried, and then  
725 placed on slides with Vectashield Antifade Mounting Medium with DAPI (MJS Biolyntx  
726 Inc., H-1200). Z-Stack images were obtained on a Zeiss AxioObserverZ1 LSM800



727 Confocal Microscope at 63X magnification through a Z distance of 10  $\mu\text{m}$  per image using  
728 optimal 0.27  $\mu\text{m}$  spacing per slice. The dimensions were set to 1,024 x 1,024 pixels.

729

### 730 ***Proximity Ligation Assay in Primary Cortical Neurons***

731 Primary mouse cortical neurons were cultured and fixed as described for  
732 immunofluorescence experiments. Individual coverslips for Proximity Ligation Assay  
733 experiments (PLA) were transferred to 12-well plates and outlined with a hydrophobic  
734 pen. Neurons were blocked using 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of Duolink blocking buffer (Sigma Aldrich,  
735 DUO82007) at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 hour and were then washed for 3 x 5 minutes washes in 1 mL  
736 1X PBS. Next, the neurons were incubated in 300  $\mu\text{L}$  of primary antibody diluted in  
737 blocking buffer (1.5 % Triton X-100, 10 % cosmic calf serum in 1X PBS) overnight at 4  
738  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The following day, the neurons were washed for 3 x 5 minutes washes in 1 mL of  
739 Duolink Wash Buffer A (0.01 M Tris-Base, 0.15 M NaCl, 0.05 % Tween-20, pH 7.4)  
740 followed by incubation in 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of Duolink PLA MINUS (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82004) and  
741 PLUS probes (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82002) at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 1 hour. Duolink PLA probes were  
742 diluted in antibody diluent (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82008) at a 1:5 dilution. Neurons were  
743 washed for 3 x 5 minutes washes in Duolink Wash Buffer A and then incubated in 40  $\mu\text{L}$   
744 of ligase (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82027) at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 minutes. Ligase was diluted in 1X  
745 ligation buffer (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82009) at a 1:40 dilution. Neurons were washed for 3  
746 x 5-minute washes in Duolink Wash Buffer A and then incubated in 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of polymerase  
747 (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82028) at 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 90 minutes. Polymerase was diluted in 1X  
748 amplification buffer (Sigma Aldrich, DUO82011) at a 1:80 dilution. Then, neurons were  
749 washed 2 x 10 minutes in Duolink Wash Buffer B (0.2 M Tris-Base, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 7.5)  
750 and then again in 1 mL of Duolink Wash Buffer B diluted at 1:100 for 1 minute. Coverslips  
751 were briefly air dried and then mounted on slides using Vectashield Antifade Mounting  
752 Medium with DAPI. Z-Stack images were obtained on a Zeiss AxioObserverZ1 LSM800  
753 Confocal Microscope at 63X magnification with a 5X digital zoom through a Z distance of  
754 10  $\mu\text{m}$  per image using optimal 0.27  $\mu\text{m}$  spacing per slice with dimensions set to 512 x  
755 512 pixels. Images were analyzed and quantified using the Spots function on the Imaris  
756 (ver. 9.9.1 Bitplane, Switzerland) software. Localization of the foci (nuclear versus

757 cytoplasmic) was determined using the Orthogonal Views function for colocalization with  
758 DAPI signal.

759

### 760 ***Tissue Lysis***

761 Dissected mouse organs were lysed in 1X RIPA buffer (9.1 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 1.7 mM  
762 NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 150 mM NaCl, 1 % NP-40, 0.5 % sodium deoxycholate, 0.1 % SDS, 1X  
763 protease inhibitor (GenDEPOT, P3100), 1X phosphatase inhibitor (GenDEPOT, P3200)  
764 and 50 mM N-ethylmaleimide (Sigma-Aldrich, E3876-5G) using a Dounce homogenizer.  
765 Tissue lysates were centrifuged at ~21,000 x *g* for 15 minutes at 4°C and the resulting  
766 supernatant was transferred into a fresh microcentrifuge tube.

### 767 ***Subcellular fractionation***

768 Western blot analysis of brain subcellular fraction was performed as described  
769 previously (Jones and Matus, 1974; Tirard et al., 2012).

770

### 771 ***Western blot analysis***

772 SDS-PAGE was performed with standard discontinuous gels or with commercially  
773 available 4%-12% Bis-Tris gradient gels (Invitrogen). Western blots were probed using  
774 primary and secondary antibodies as indicated in Table 4. Blots were routinely developed  
775 using enhanced chemiluminescence (GE Healthcare) and imaged using an INTAS ECL  
776 Chemostar PLUS Imager HR 6.0. For quantitative Western blotting, transferred proteins  
777 were visualized using the total protein stain MemCode (Invitrogen). Western blot signals  
778 were visualized using an INTAS ECL Chemostar PLUS Imager HR 6.0 apparatus and  
779 quantified using ImageJ, and a ratio of the antibody signal relative to the total protein stain  
780 as revealed by the MemCode was performed.

### 781 ***Confocal Imaging and Image analysis***

782 MAP2, HA-Sumo2, DAPI and the respective synaptic marker fluorescence intensities  
783 were acquired from the hippocampal CA3 pyramidal layer and the *stratum radiatum*. In  
784 particular, multi-channel z-stacks of 354 x 354 μm-sized fields of view were acquired with  
785 a 40x oil immersion objective (1.4 NA) of a Nikon Ti, Yokogawa W1 spinning disk  
786 microscope with Andor iXon Ultra 888 EMCCD camera. A custom macro written within

787 the FIJI software package (Schindelin et al., 2012) automatically identified the z-plane of  
788 highest HA-Sumo2 intensity, out of which all channels were extracted. The DAPI, MAP2  
789 and synaptic marker channel of this z-plane were segmented with the Trainable WEKA  
790 Segmentation FIJI plugin (Arganda-Carreras et al., 2017), resulting in binary masks  
791 (Figure 3A, bottom row) that were subsequently used to extract the respective HA-Sumo2  
792 mean intensity.

793 To more closely investigate HA-Sumo2 colocalization with the respective synaptic  
794 markers, high-resolution, multi-channel fields of view (x, y: 30, 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ) of the respective  
795 stains within the Mossy fiber region were acquired using 63x oil-immersed objective  
796 (NA=1.4) on a Leica SP8 confocal laser scanning microscope. Oversampled (x, y, z: 30,  
797 30, 100 nm), 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$ -sized z-stacks within the mossy fiber region were acquired for each  
798 fluorescent channel. Signal to noise ratio and resolution were subsequently enhanced  
799 and sample geometry was corrected with the SVI Huygens deconvolution software  
800 package (ver. 22.04, Hilversum, Netherlands). To obtain object-based colocalization  
801 information, an Imaris (ver. 9.9.1 Bitplane, Switzerland) batch process was created to  
802 automatically process all three-dimensional fields-of-view identically. All HA-Sumo2 and  
803 the respective synaptic marker objects were created, yielding the total object number for  
804 the respective stain. Synaptic marker objects were designated as collocating with the HA-  
805 Sumo2 objects only if they overlapped with HA-Sumo2 objects and if they contained a  
806 minimum HA-Sumo2 average intensity. Data resulting from both analysis workflows was  
807 assembled and quantified with the KNIME software package (ver. 4.5.2, Zurich,  
808 Switzerland).

809

## 810 **Statistical Analysis**

811 Statistical tests were performed using PRISM 9.4. Test type was picked based on the  
812 number of comparisons made. Levels of statistical significance are indicated in figure  
813 legends.

814

815

## 816 **Figure Legends**

817 **Figure 1: HA-epitope knock-in enables direct comparisons of differential levels of Sumo1**  
818 **and Sumo2 and their conjugates in the murine central nervous system.**

819 Western blot analysis of various regions of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mouse  
820 central nervous system. Brain regions highlighted in the schematic (Top Left) were  
821 dissected for protein extraction and analyzed by Western blot using anti-HA antibody. HA  
822 signal corresponding to SUMOylated protein (bracket on the left side of the top left panel,  
823 HMW: High Molecular Weight) was normalized to ponceau (right top panel) and quantified  
824 via densitometry (bottom panels), N=3.

825

826 **Figure 1—figure supplement 1: Heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 mice**  
827 **exhibit normal Sumo levels.**

828 (A). Schematic of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 and HA-Sumo2 knock in mice. (B). Anti-Sumo2/3  
829 Western blot analysis of total brain homogenates from heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1,  
830 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice and WT controls. Anti-Sumo2/3 signal (bracket on the right side of  
831 the top left panel) was analyzed by densitometry. Signal from either heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-  
832 HA-Sumo1 or His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice was normalized to the Gapdh signal and is relative  
833 to WT controls (right panel), N=4. (C). Anti-Sumo1 Western blot analysis of total brain  
834 homogenates from heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1, His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice and WT  
835 controls. Anti-Sumo1 signal (bracket on the right side of the top left panel) was analyzed  
836 by densitometry. Signal from heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice  
837 was normalized to the Gapdh signal (bottom left panel) and is relative to WT controls  
838 (right panel), N=4. (D). RT-qPCR analysis of *Sumo1* and *Sumo2* transcript levels in whole  
839 brain from heterozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1, His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mice and WT controls. *Sumo1*  
840 and *Sumo2* transcript levels were normalized to *Hprt1* as a housekeeping control. All  
841 statistical tests were analyzed using an ordinary One Way ANOVA with Tukeys multiple  
842 comparisons tests.

843

844 **Figure 2: Whole brain imaging reveals the topographical distribution of Sumo paralogs.**

845 (A). Schematic of brain clearing and light sheet microscopy for whole brain imaging with  
846 a 3D Imaris render of a His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 brain. (B). Heatmaps of anti-HA immunosignal

847 intensity normalized to regional density quantified by NeuN staining and alignment to the  
848 Allen Brain Atlas across the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 KI depicted brain region, averaged between  
849 hemibrains and biological replicates (N=2, two hemispheres). (C). Bar plot depicting the  
850 relative levels of anti-HA immunosignal per voxel averaged across across His<sub>6</sub>-HA-  
851 Sumo2 brain regions defined by the Allen Brain Atlas. (D). Heatmaps of anti-HA  
852 immunosignal intensity normalized to regional density quantified by NeuN staining and  
853 alignment to the Allen Brain Atlas across the His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 KI depicted brain region,  
854 averaged between hemibrains and biological replicates (N=2, two hemispheres). (E). Bar  
855 plot depicting the relative levels of anti-HA immunosignal intensity normalized to regional  
856 density across His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 brain regions defined by the Allen Brain Atlas. Each  
857 datapoint in (C) and (D) is from the mean intensity from a single hemisphere (N=2, two  
858 hemispheres).

859

860 Figure 2—figure supplement 1: Detailed examination of regional anatomical Sumo  
861 paralog distribution.

862 (A). Bar plot depicting the relative levels of anti-HA immunosignal in the regions of His<sub>6</sub>-  
863 HA-Sumo2 hippocampus. Each datapoint is the mean intensity from a single hemisphere  
864 (N=2, two hemispheres). Middle and Left panels depict a representative image and zoom  
865 of the hippocampal formation overlaid with a mask depicting anatomical regions defined  
866 by the Allen Brain Atlas. Scale Bar: 1000  $\mu$ m. (B). Bar plot depicting the relative levels of  
867 anti-HA immunosignal across His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 brain regions. Middle and Left panels  
868 depict a representative image and zoom of the hippocampal formation overlaid with a  
869 mask depicting anatomical regions defined by the Allen Brain Atlas. Scale Bar: 1000  $\mu$ m.  
870 (C). Bar plot depicting relative anti-HA immunosignal levels in the primary somatosensory  
871 area–mouth (SSp-m) layers of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 (Top) and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 (Bottom) brain  
872 (D). Bar plot depicting relative anti-HA immunosignal levels in regions of the  
873 hypothalamus of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 (Top) and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 (Bottom). Each datapoint  
874 from the brain atlases depict the mean intensity from a single hemisphere (N=2, two  
875 hemispheres). For each abbreviated brain region, refer to Table 1 for legend.

876

877 Figure 2—figure supplement 2: Sumo1 and Sumo2 share similar and distinct anatomical  
878 locations and subcellular compartments.

879 Confocal microscopy analysis of anti-HA (red) and DAPI (blue) nuclear labeling of wild-  
880 type (untagged, top lane), His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 (middle lane) and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 KI (bottom  
881 lane) cortex layer 2/3, cerebellum, and hippocampal CA1 and CA3 regions. Z-projection  
882 images are representative of three independent replicates. Scale bar: 50 μm

883  
884 Figure 2—figure supplement video 1: Imaris 3D render of anti-HA immunosignal in whole  
885 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 brain. Scale bar: 3000 μm

886  
887 Figure 2—figure supplement video 2: Imaris 3D render of anti-HA immunosignal in whole  
888 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 brain. Scale bar: 3000 μm

889  
890 Figure 3: Extra-nuclear localization of Sumo2 in neurons of the hippocampal CA3 region.  
891 (A). Anti-HA (purple), DAPI (blue), MAP2 (red), and anti-Shank2 (green) immunostaining  
892 of wild-type (left) and HA-Sumo2 KI (right) hippocampal CA3 region. Scale bar: 50 μm.  
893 (B) Anti-HA signal in masked regions for each marker (exemplified for Shank2 in the  
894 bottom panel A) was quantified in both wild-type (WT) and HA-Sumo2 KI, and average  
895 intensity was calculated. N=3, \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.005, \*\*\*p<0,0005, \*\*\*\*p<0,0001.

896  
897 Figure 3—figure supplement 1: Differential levels and sub-cellular distribution of Sumo1  
898 and Sumo2 conjugates in whole mouse brain fractions.

899 (A). Total Protein stain (left panel) and anti-HA Western blot (right panel) analysis of whole  
900 brain lysates from homozygous HA-Sumo2 and corresponding WT littermates. The black  
901 bar on the right indicates Sumo2 signal used for the quantification shown by the dot plot  
902 (right panel).

903 (B and C). Total protein stain (right panel) and anti-HA (left panel) Western blot analysis  
904 of subcellular fractions from homozygous His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 (B) and HA-Sumo2 KI (C).  
905 Western blot analysis using anti-Synaptophysin and PSD95 (bottom panels) validates the  
906 subcellular fractionation procedure. The black line between the HA panel indicates that  
907 different exposure times are depicted, as the HA signal in the P1 fraction saturates faster

908 than in the other fractions. The black line on the right of the HA panels indicate the Sumo  
909 signal used for quantification in E. H, homogenate; P1, nuclear pellet S1; supernatant  
910 after P1 sedimentation; P2, crude synaptosomal pellet; S2, supernatant after P2  
911 sedimentation; P3, pellet after ultracentrifugation of the S2, cytosolic pellet; S3,  
912 supernatant after P3 sedimentation; LP1, lysed synaptosomal membranes; LS1,  
913 supernatant after LP1 sedimentation; LP2, pellet after sedimentation of the LS1; LS2,  
914 supernatant after LP2 sedimentation; SPM, synaptic plasma membranes. (D). Bar plot  
915 depicting the quantification of anti-HA signal as indicated by the black line on the right  
916 side of each anti-HA Western blot in C and D, relative to the total protein stain.

917

918 Figure 4: Sumo2 localizes at synapses *in vivo*.

919 (A). High magnification images of wild-type (left) and HA-Sumo2 KI (right) hippocampal  
920 CA3 region labelled with anti-HA (purple), DAPI (blue), MAP2 (red), and synaptic markers  
921 (green) Shank2, Gephyrin, Synapsin1, vGlut1 and vGAT1. Scale bar, 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . (B). High  
922 magnification images with equally scaled anti-HA intensity corresponding to the insets  
923 (white boxes) in A showing anti-HA (purple) immunostaining of wild-type (left) and HA-  
924 Sumo2 KI (right) hippocampal CA3 region immunolabelled with the synaptic markers  
925 (green) Shank2, Gephyrin, Synapsin1, vGLUT1 and vGAT1. Scale bar: 5  $\mu\text{m}$ . N=3. (C).  
926 The percentage of co-localization between each synaptic marker and the anti-HA signal  
927 was quantified in both wild-type (WT) and HA-Sumo2 KI. N=3, \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.005$ ,  
928 \*\*\*\* $p < 0,0001$ .

929

930 Figure 4–figure supplement 1: Imaris-based representation of the synaptic Sumo2 co-  
931 localization with Shank2 and Synapsin1.

932 Blended representation generated in Imaris using images from Figure 4B and depicting  
933 the colocalization between HA-Sumo2 and Shank2 (top panels) and Synapsin 1 (bottom  
934 panels). The right panels include the MAP2 (grey) immunolabeling. Scale bar: 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

935

936 Figure 5: Neuronal Sumo2 has shared and distinct substrates compared to Sumo1 *in*  
937 *vivo*.

938 (A). Schematic of approach to identify His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo interactors from the adult mouse  
939 brain via anti-HA affinity immunoprecipitation and mass spectrometry (N=4). (B). Heat  
940 map depicting the relative peptide abundance of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 interactors relative to  
941 levels in His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 immunoprecipitation. (C). gProfiler2 Gene Ontology analysis for  
942 His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 interactors. (D). Anti-HA affinity Immunoprecipitation followed by  
943 Western Blot analysis of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 interactors as listed on the  
944 left side (N=3-6). Black arrowheads indicate protein SUMOylation inferred by shift in  
945 molecular weight.

946

947 Figure 5—figure supplement 1: Neuronal Sumo1 has shared and distinct substrates  
948 compared to Sumo2 *in vivo*.

949 (A). Anti-HA Western blot analysis of eluates from anti-HA affinity immunoprecipitation  
950 (IP: HA) from WT, His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1, and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 mouse brain lysates  
951 demonstrating HA signal patterns of Sumo1 and Sumo2 and their corresponding  
952 conjugates (B). Heat map depicting the relative peptide abundance of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1  
953 interactors relative to levels in His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 immunoprecipitation. (C). gProfiler2 Gene  
954 Ontology analysis for His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 interactors. (D). Venn diagram depicting unique  
955 and common His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 interactors.

956

957 Figure 6: Established and newly identified Sumo2 substrates are present both in nuclear  
958 and extranuclear compartments in neurons.

959 (A). Schematic of the proximity ligation assay (PLA) strategy for native Sumo2/3 and  
960 target proteins in WT primary cortical neurons. (B). The relative proportion of PLA foci  
961 between the selected target proteins and Sumo2/3 was quantified and normalized within  
962 the nucleus (grey) versus outside of the nucleus (red) (N=3). (C) Representative Z-  
963 projected immunofluorescent images and PLA assays for selected target proteins  
964 identified from the mass spectrometry screen (N=3). White arrowheads indicate  
965 cytoplasmic PLA foci. Scale bar: 10 μm.

966

967 Figure 6—figure supplement 1: Localization of Sumo2 to extranuclear compartments and  
968 proof of PLA assay specificity.



969 (A). Confocal microscopy analysis of anti-Map2 (purple) and anti-HA (grey)  
970 immunolabeling of WT (top lanes), His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 (middle lanes), and His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2  
971 primary cortical neurons (bottom lanes). Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m. N=3 (B). Bar plot depicting the  
972 total number of nuclear (left plot) and cytoplasmic (right plot) PLA foci for the indicated  
973 antibody (N=3). Data are presented as a mean  $\pm$  S.E.M. (C). Representative Z-projected  
974 images of proximity ligation assays performed with only a single antibody (indicated on  
975 top, top lanes) merged with DAPI (bottom panels). Scale bar: 10  $\mu$ m.

976

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997

## 998 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

999 The authors have no competing interests to declare.

1000

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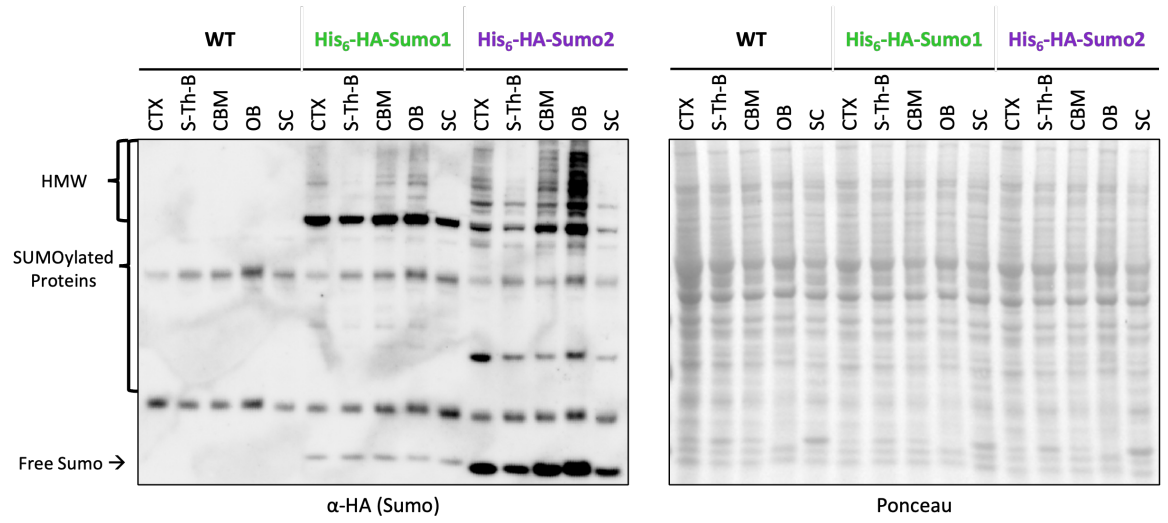
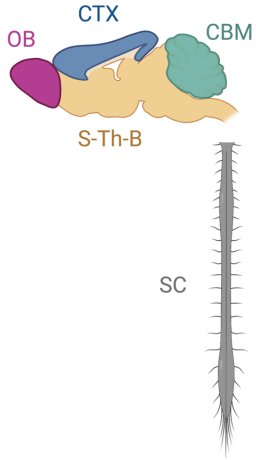
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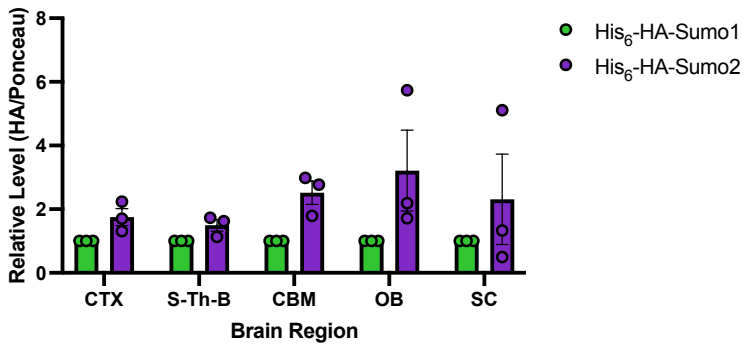


# Figure 1

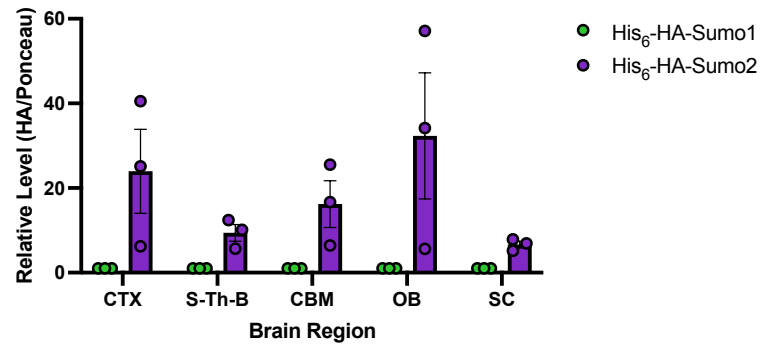
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Relative Level of High Molecular Weight Sumo Conjugates

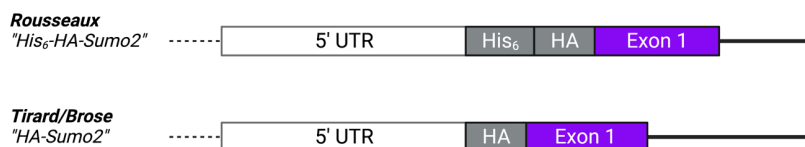


Relative Level of Free Sumo in the Adult Mouse Brain

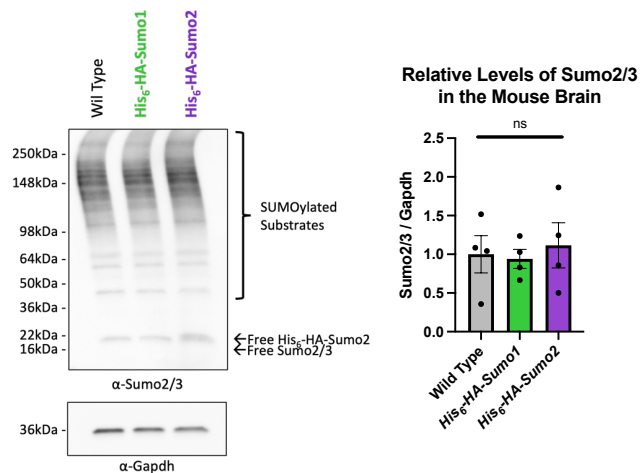


# Figure 1—figure supplement 1

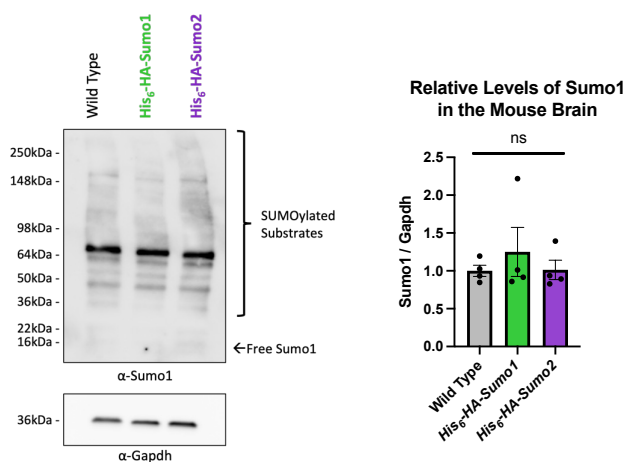
A



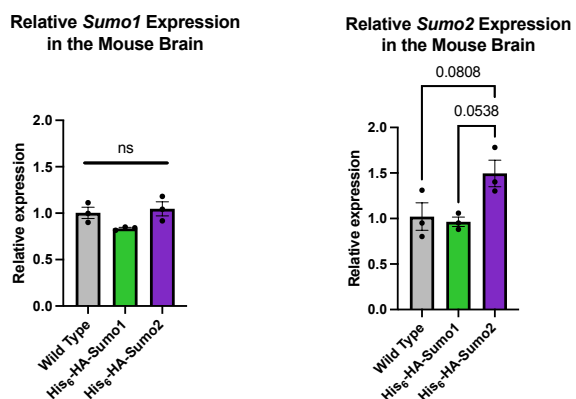
B



C

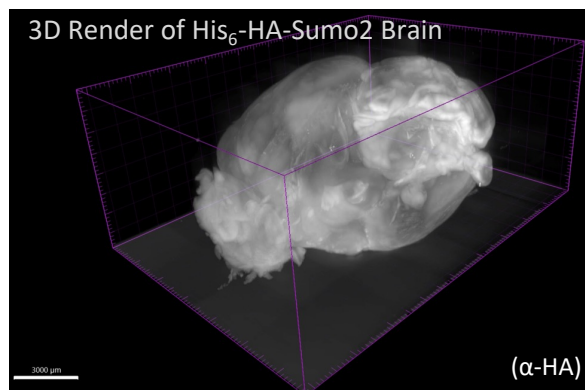
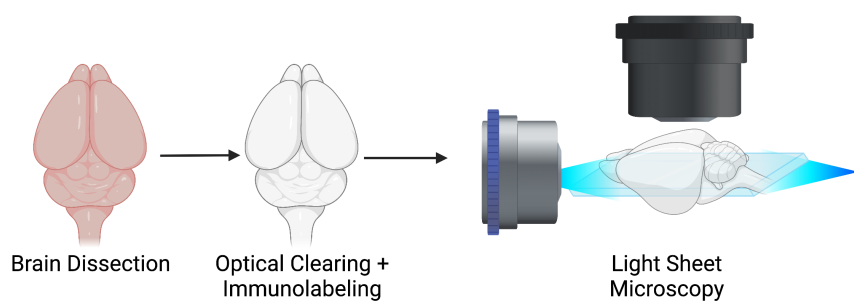


D



# Figure 2

A

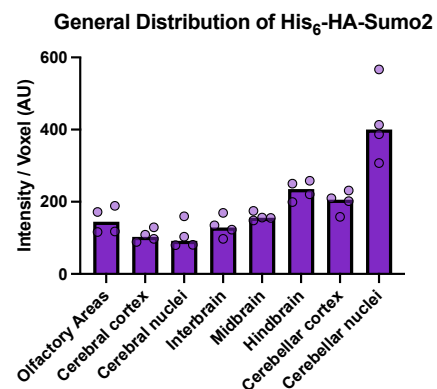


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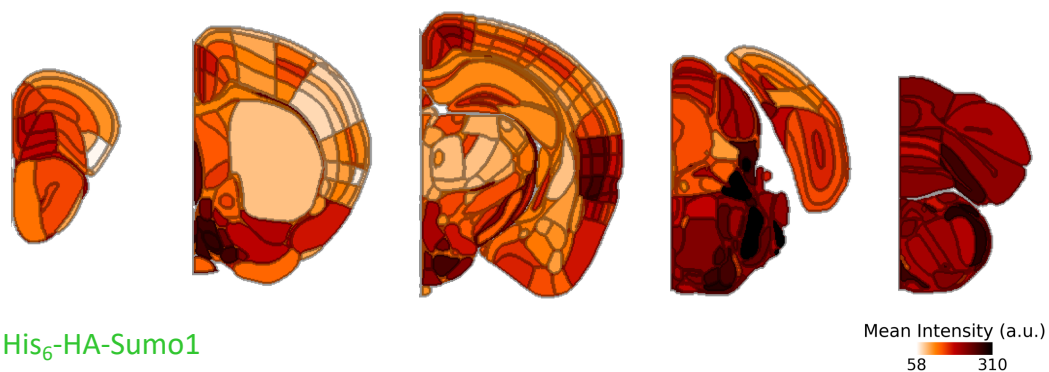


His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2

C

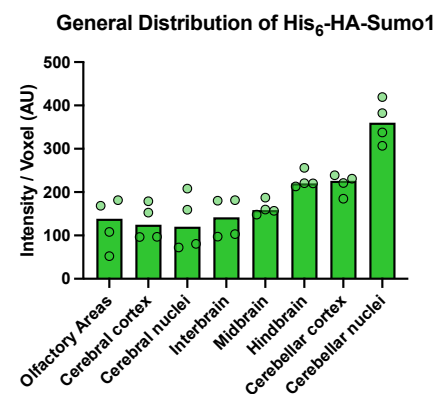


D



His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1

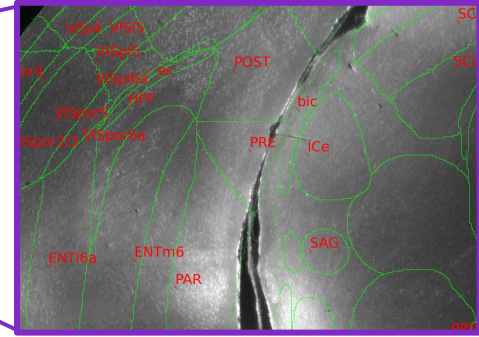
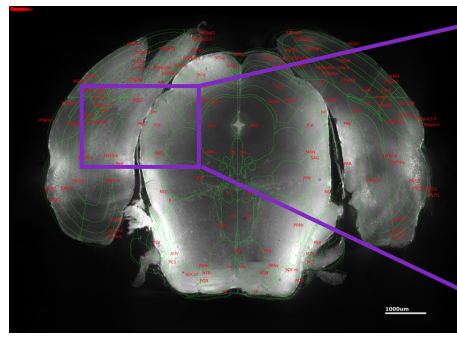
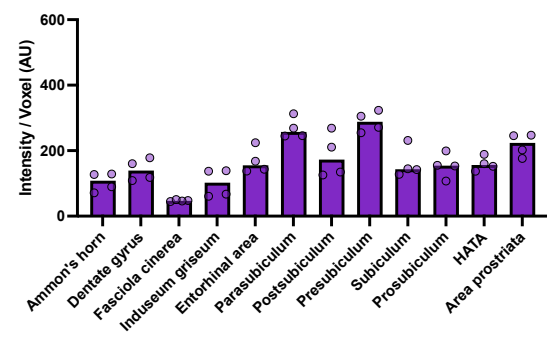
E



# Figure 2—figure supplement 1

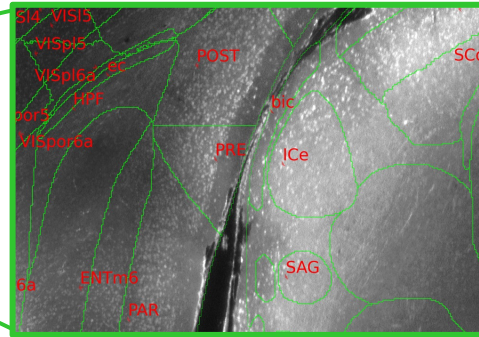
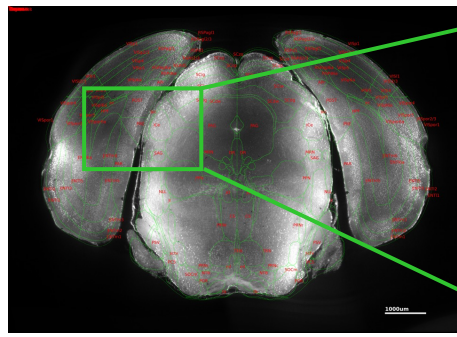
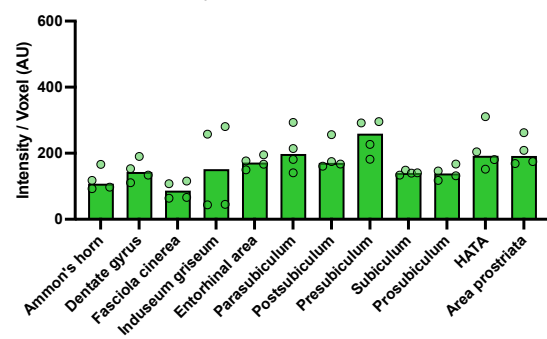
**A**

Distribution of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 in the Hippocampal Formation



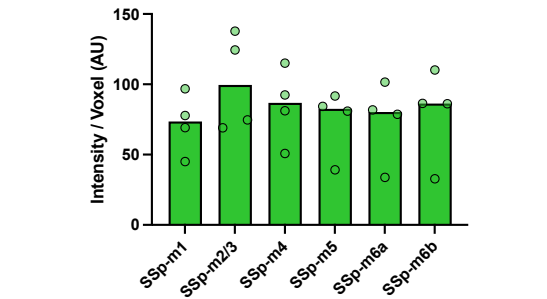
**B**

Distribution of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 in the Hippocampal Formation

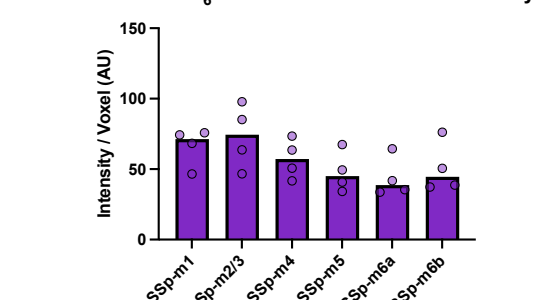


**C**

Distribution of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 in the Somatosensory Cortex

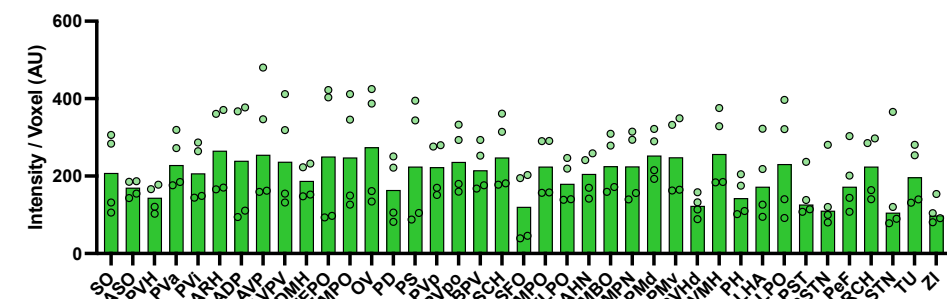


Distribution of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo2 in the Somatosensory Cortex



**D**

Distribution of His<sub>6</sub>-HA-Sumo1 in the Hypothalamus



## Figure 2—figure supplement 2

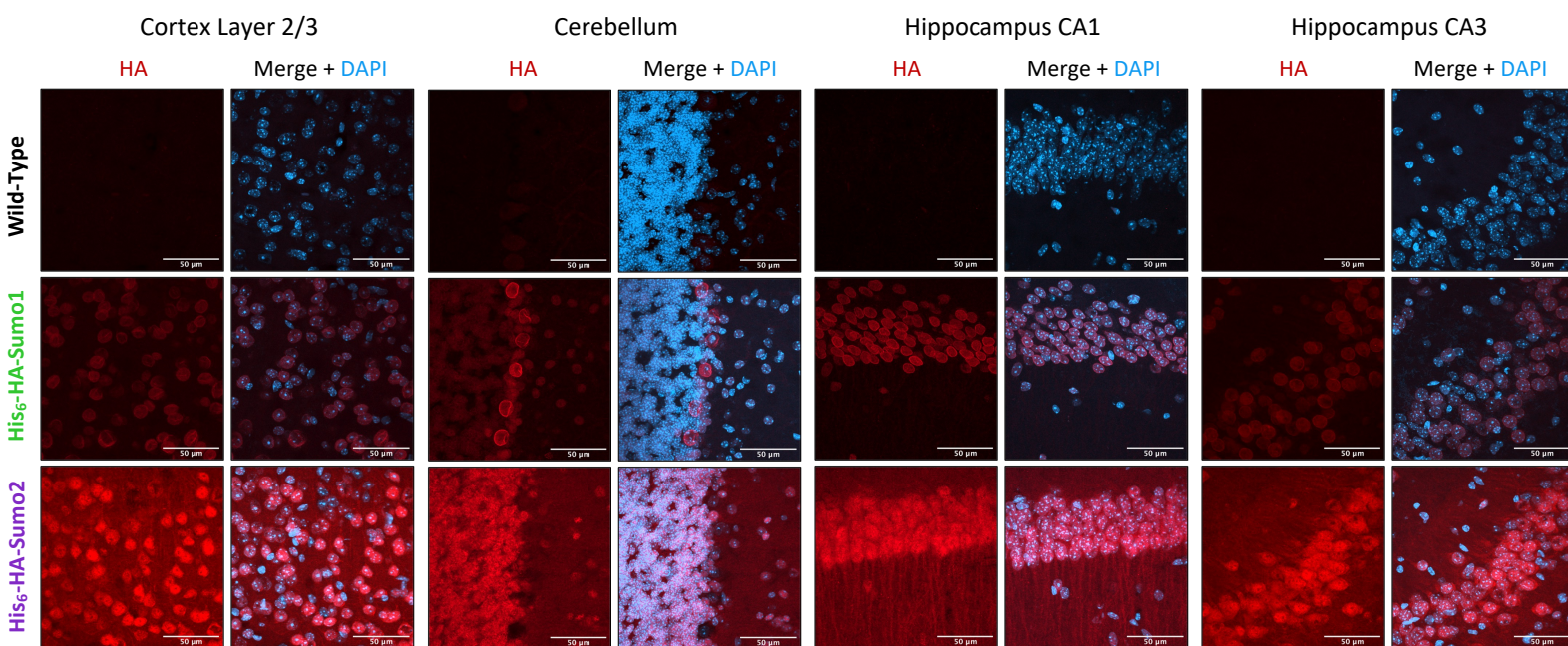
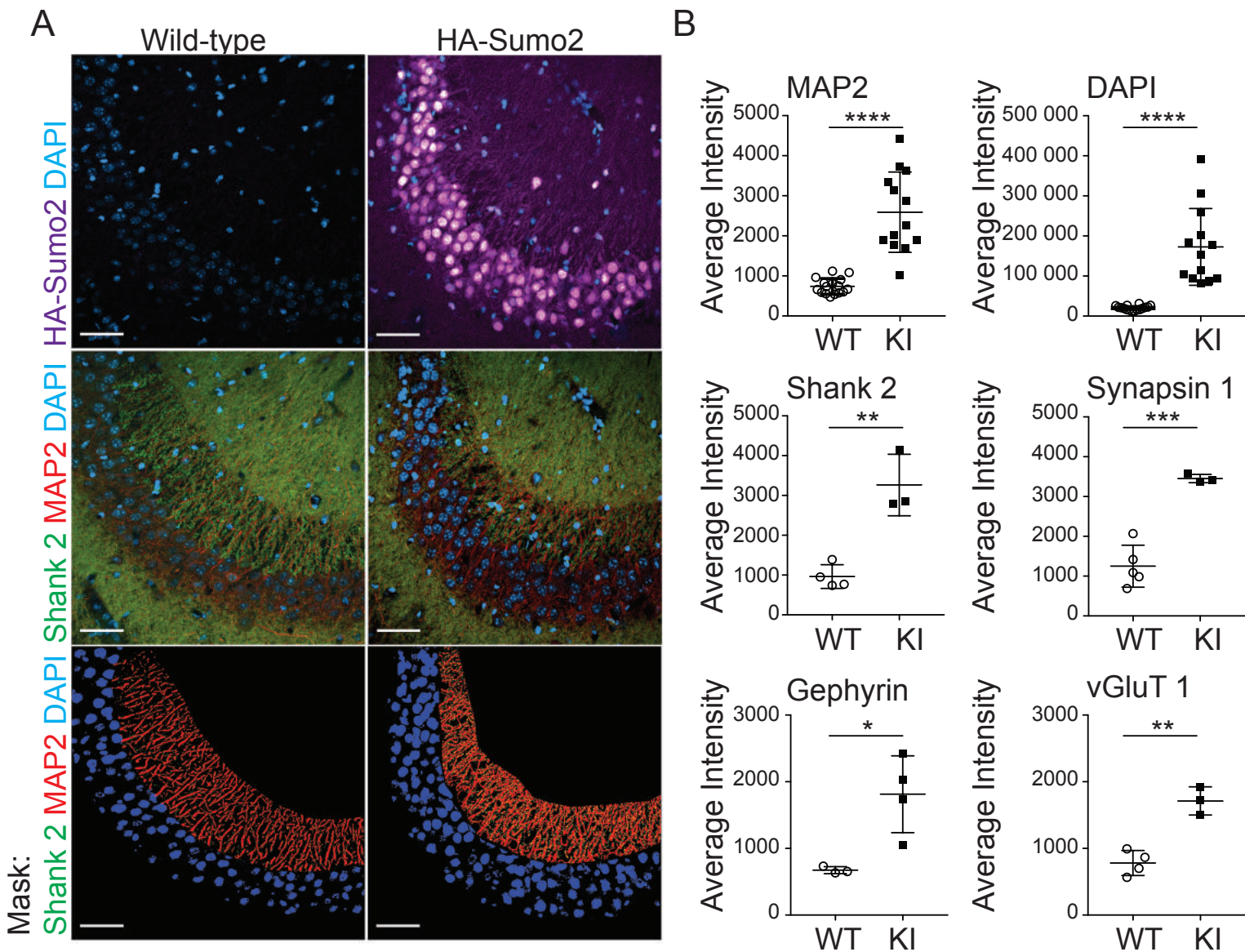


Figure 3



# Figure 3—Figure Supplement 1

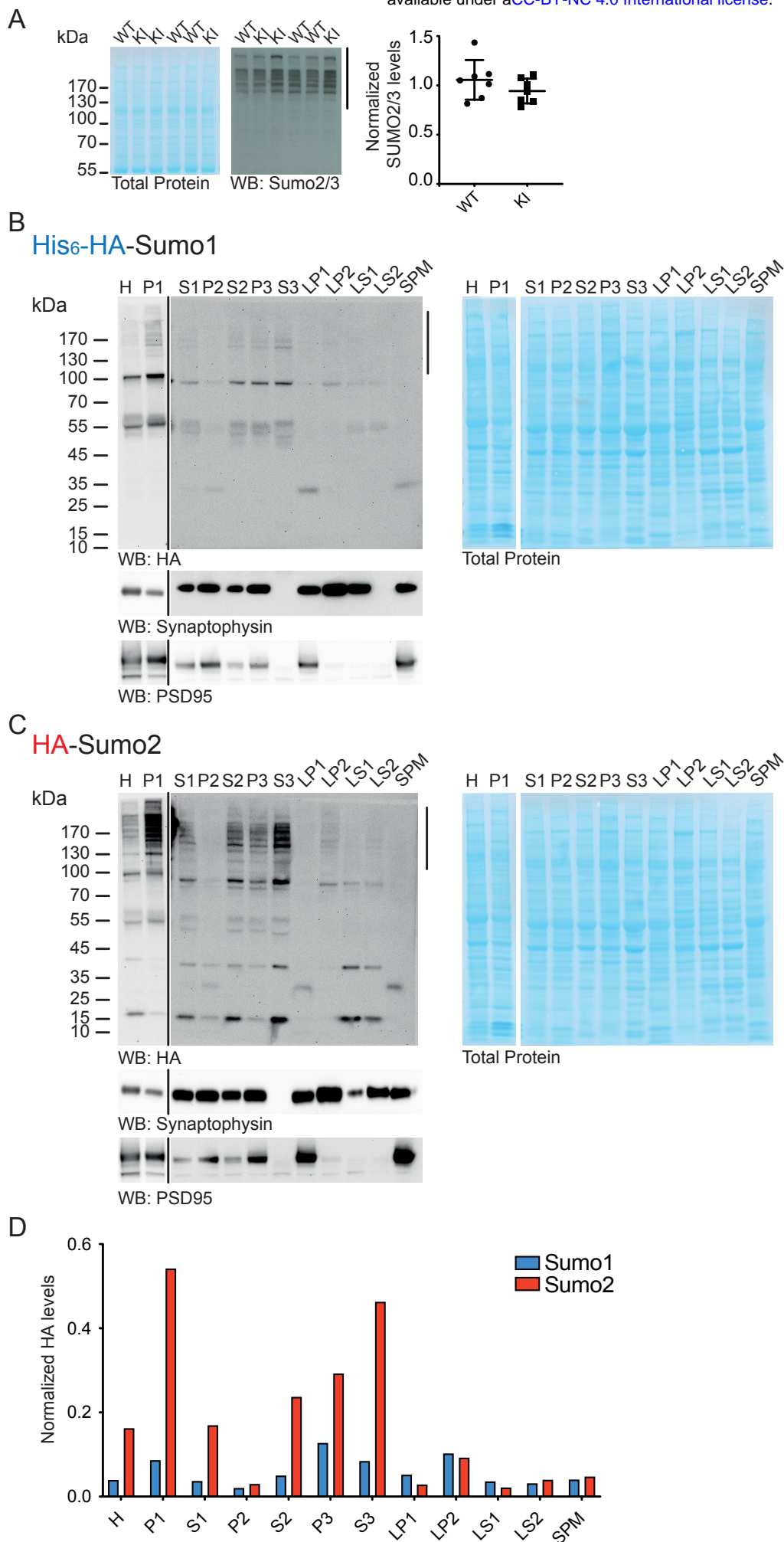


Figure 4

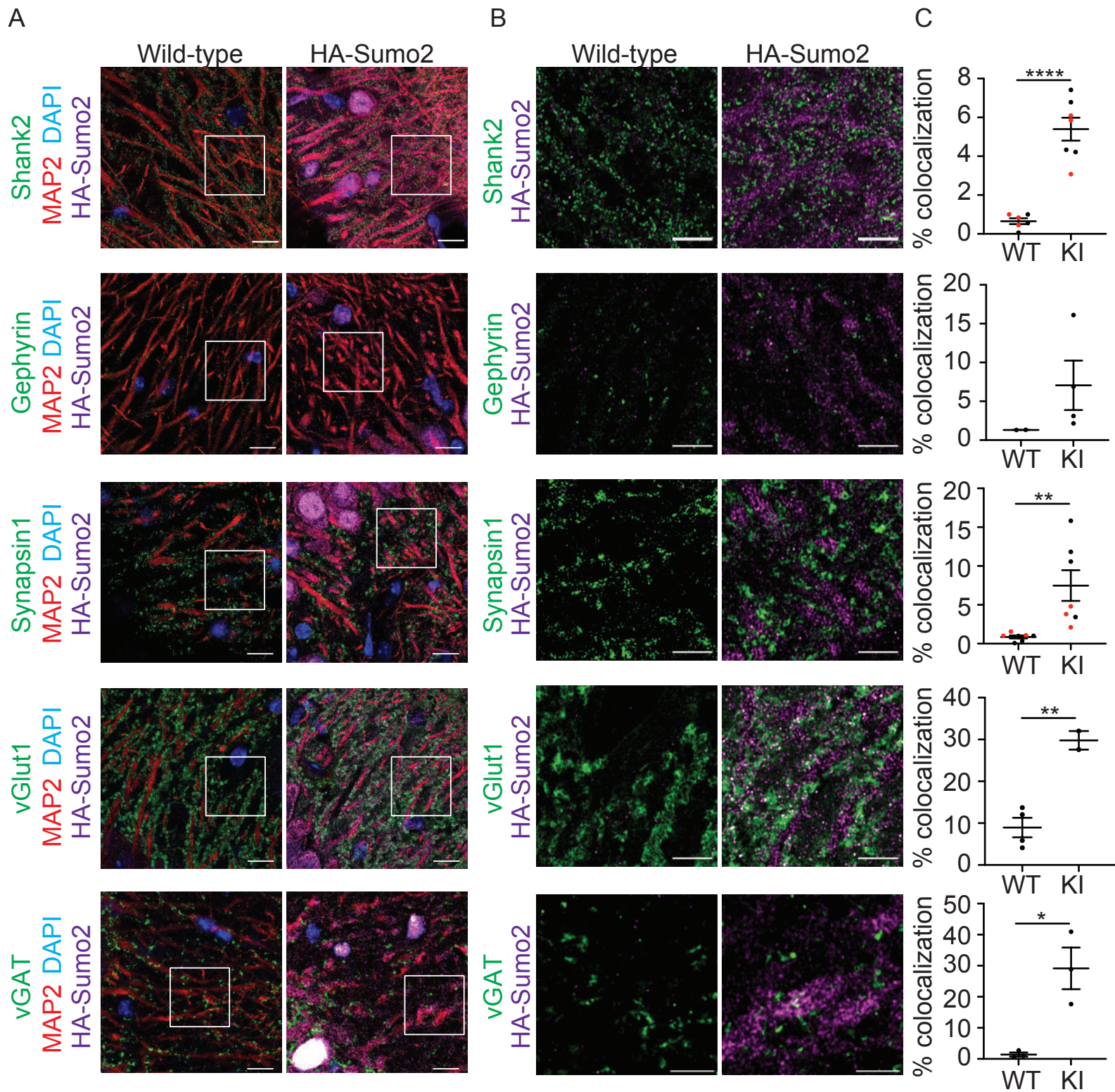
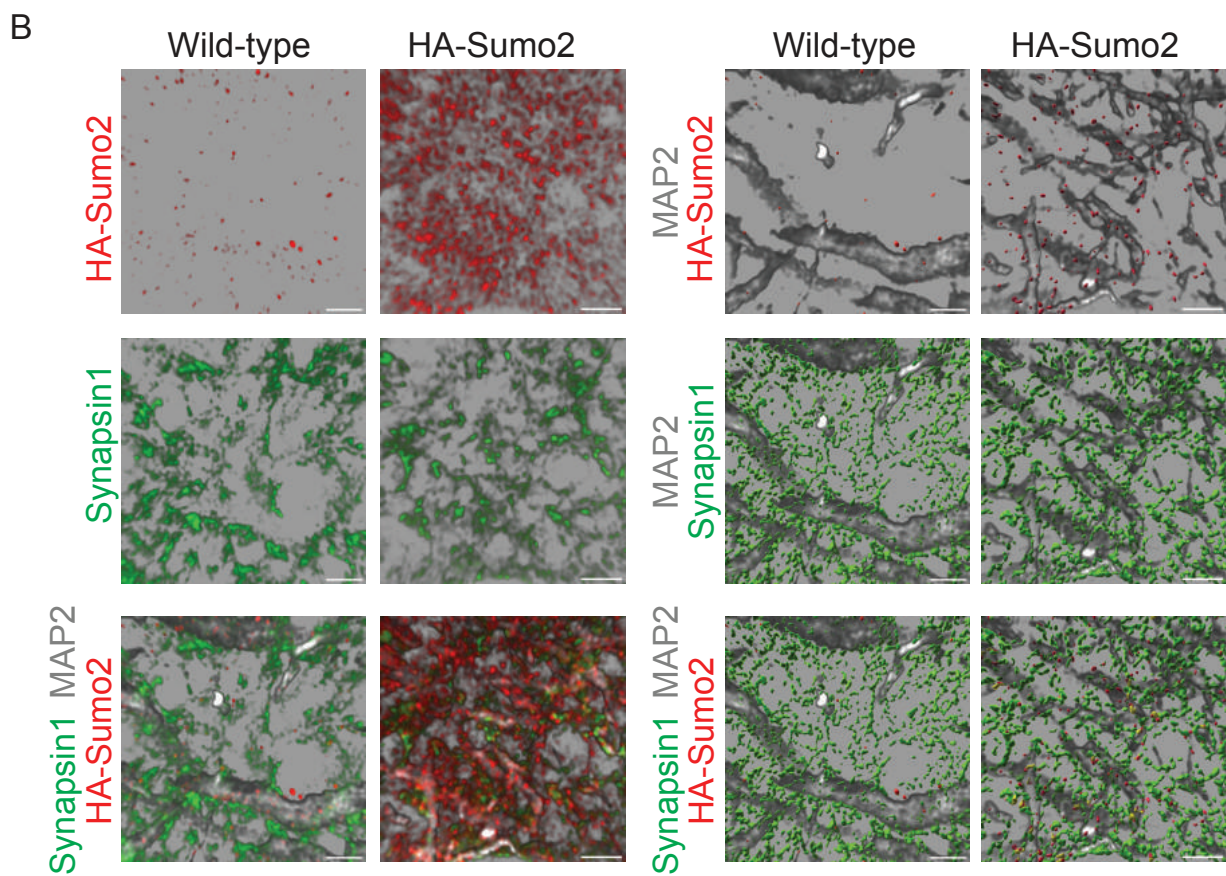
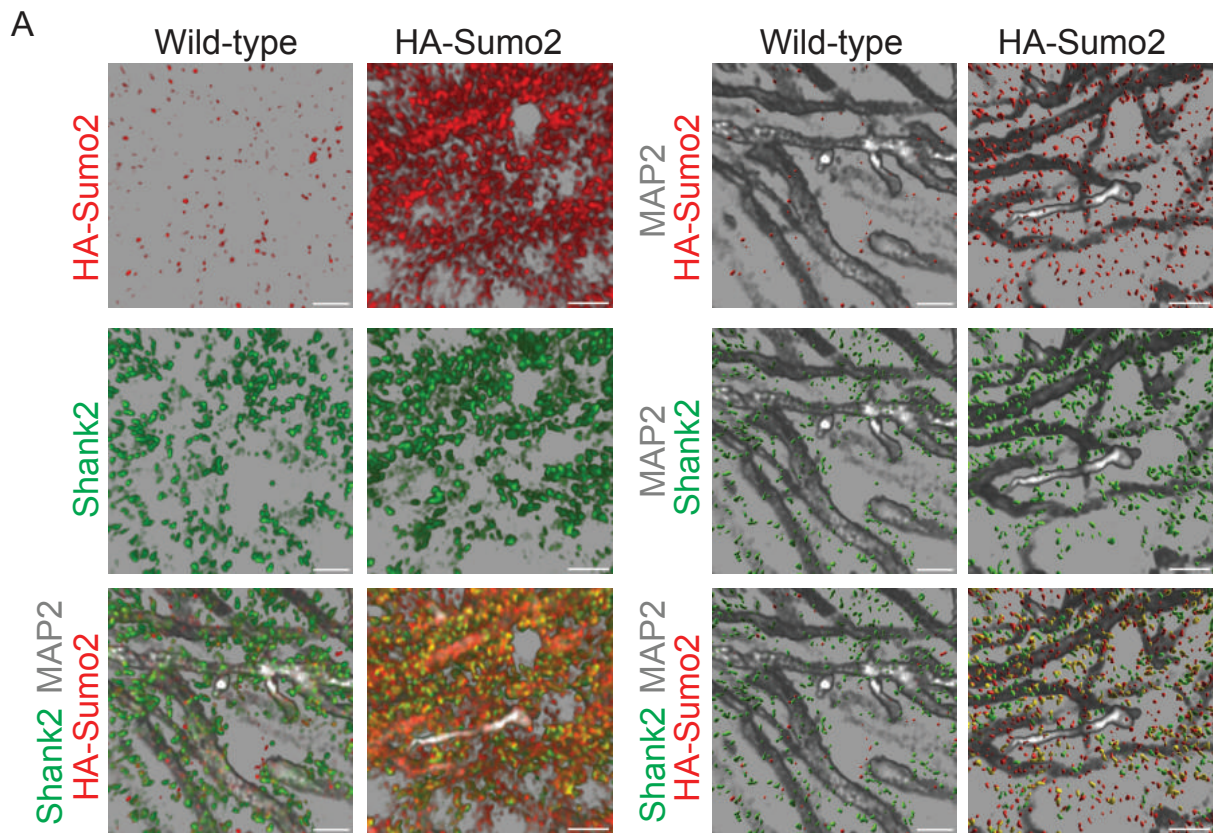


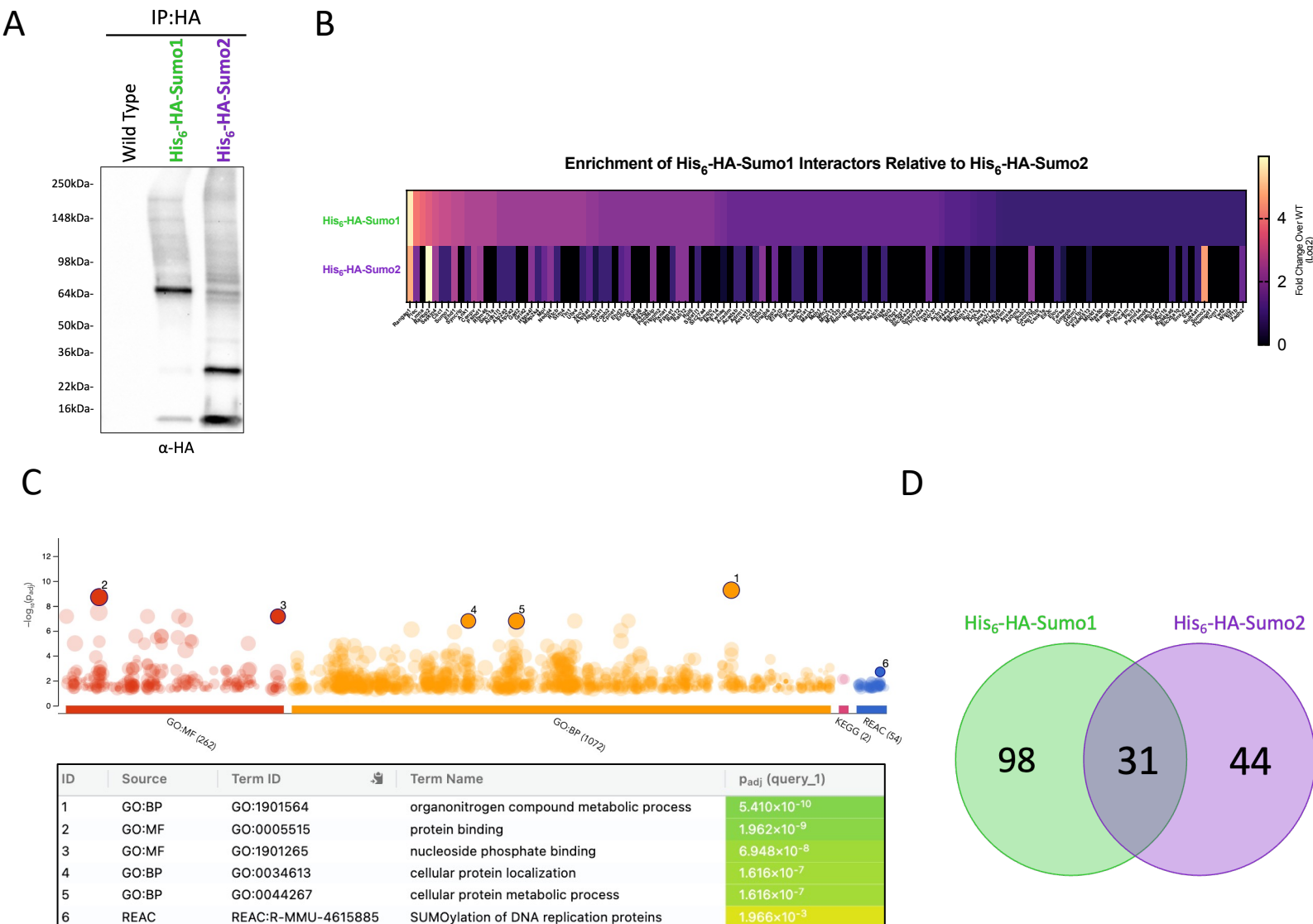


Figure 4—figure supplement 1

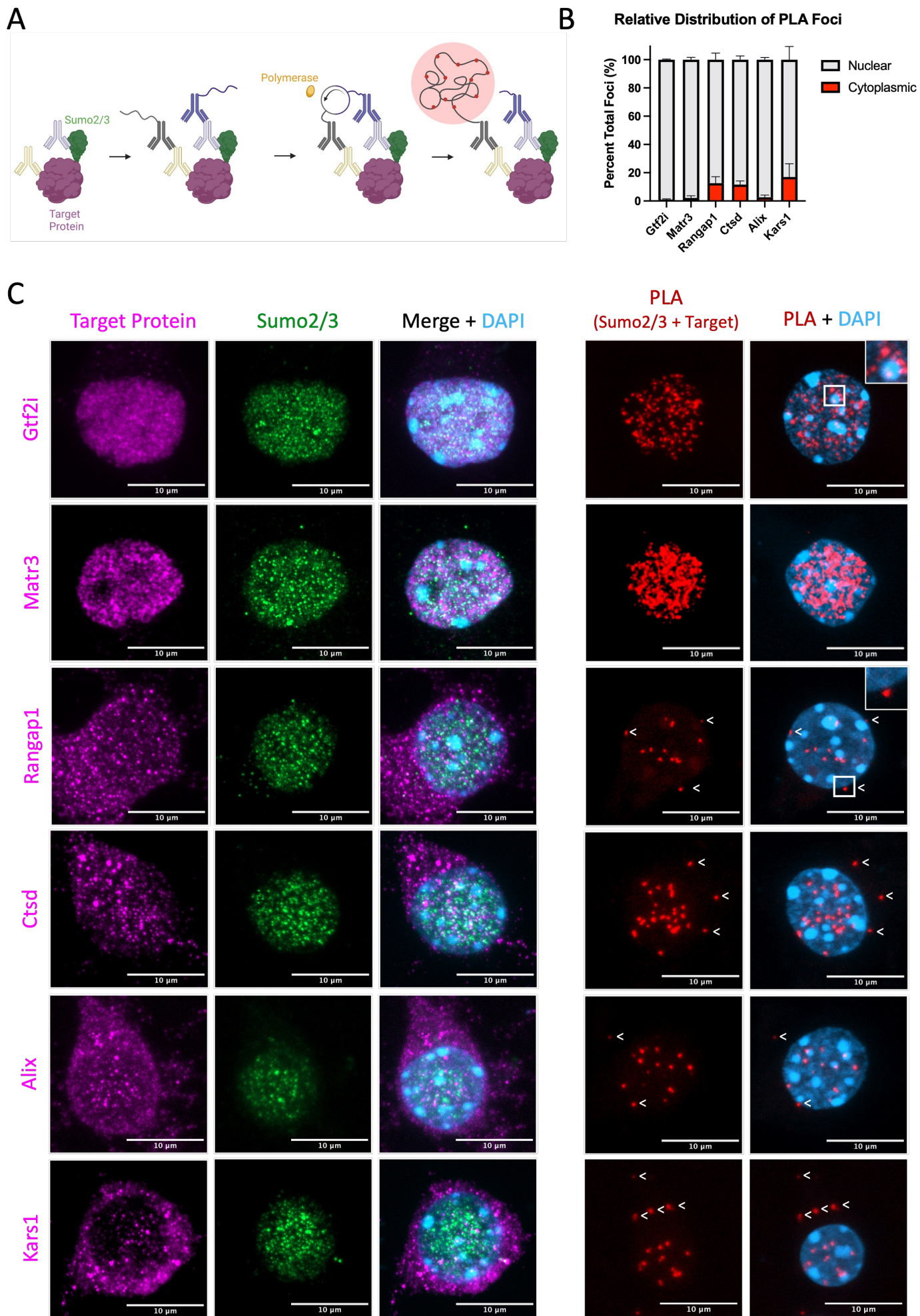




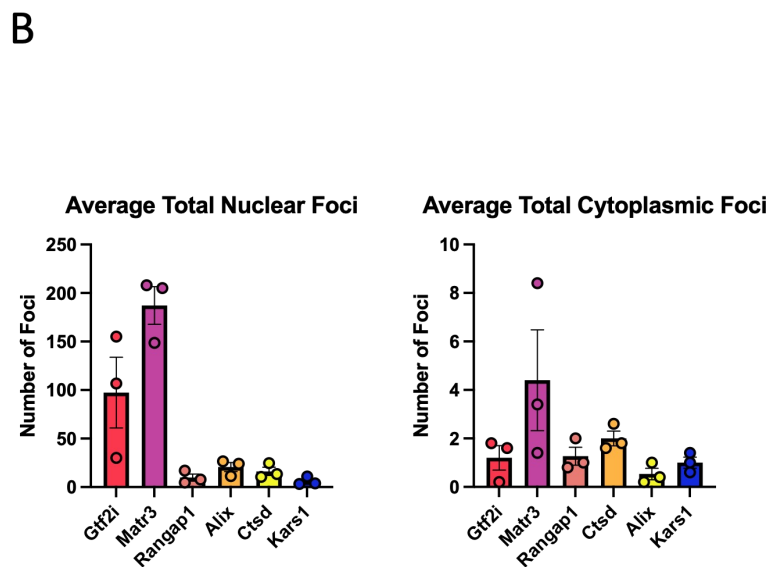
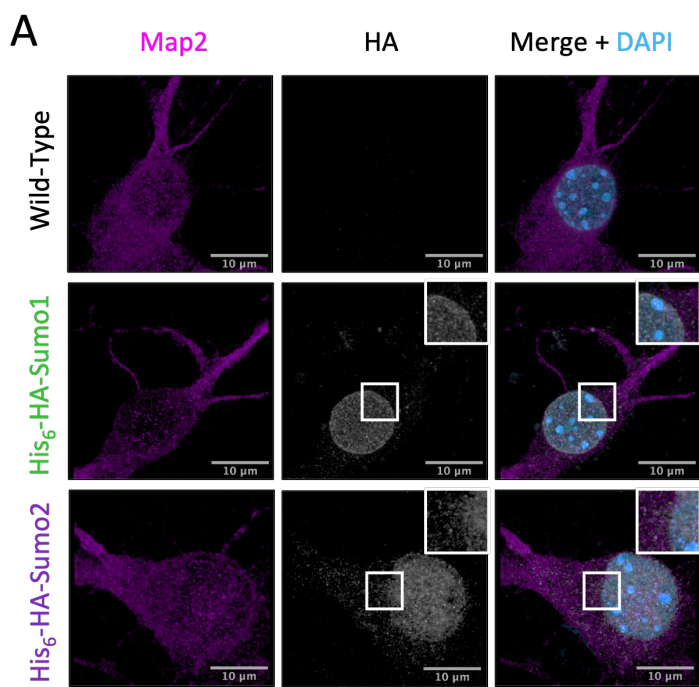
# Figure 5 - Figure Supplement 1



# Figure 6



# Figure 6 – figure supplement 1



**C** Single Antibody PLA Control Images

