Title of Dissertation: JAK/STAT AND HIPPO SIGNALING PATHWAYS INDEPENDENTLY REGULATE THE SAME TARGET GENES TO CONTROL CELL PROLIFERATION

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Drosophila mushroom bodies, centers of olfactory learning and memory, are generated by four neuroblasts in each brain hemisphere. Through a forward genetic screen, I found that mutations in the Janus Kinase (JAK) / Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription (STAT) pathway genes domeless (dome) and hopscotch (hop) cause precocious disappearance of mushroom body neuroblasts. Further evidence indicates that JAK/STAT signaling prevents neuroblast termination and promotes neuroblast division in Drosophila mushroom bodies.

Remarkably, ectopic expression of yorkie (yki), the downstream effector of the Hippo signaling pathway, efficiently rescues dome mutant phenotypes, and overexpression of Yki target-genes CycE or/and Diap1 partially rescues the γ-only phenotype that results from lack of JAK/STAT signaling. Further studies indicate that loss of yki function causes a similar but less severe phenotype in mushroom bodies, and
this phenotype could be rescued by dominant activation of JAK/STAT. I conclude that both JAK/STAT and Yki activities are required for mushroom body neurogenesis, and higher levels of one can compensate for lack of the other.

I also found that Stat92E directly controls CycE expression in mushroom body neuroblasts via a consensus STAT-binding site. Furthermore, mushroom body neuroblast clones with no CycE expression or an excess of CycE expression phenocopy mushroom bodies with decreased or increased JAK/STAT signaling activities, respectively. Together these results suggest that CycE is transcriptionally regulated by STAT92E and is required for mediating cell proliferation. Moreover, I showed that Stat92E and Yki regulate the transcription of CycE by interacting with two independent enhancers.

It is known that the transcription factor E2f1 is induced by Yki, and my transgenic analysis suggested that two STAT-binding sites are required for E2f1 expression in Drosophila brain and wing disc. Therefore, E2f1 is another shared target of Stat92E and Yki. Together with the findings of others that Diap1 is a direct target of STAT92E and Yki, I propose that JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways are integrated to control development of Drosophila by independently regulating the transcription of common target genes, such as CycE and E2f1 to control cell proliferation, and Diap1 to control cell survival.
JAK/STAT AND HIPPO SIGNALING PATHWAYS INDEPENDENTLY REGULATE THE SAME TARGET GENES TO CONTROL CELL PROLIFERATION

by

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Chapter 1: Introduction
JAK/STAT signaling pathway: one of the major growth controlling pathways

JAK/STAT signaling pathway in mammals and in Drosophila

The transduction of signals from outside a cell to produce a specific response is essential for development and homeostasis, and is usually mediated by a small number of signal transduction cascades (Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006). The JAK (Janus Kinase)-STAT (Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription) pathway is such a cascade that has been a focus of research in recent years. The JAK/STAT signaling pathway was originally identified in vertebrates (Fu et al., 1992; Schindler et al., 1992; Darnell et al., 1994). In mammals, this pathway can be activated by a great number of growth factors and cytokines (Decker, 1999; Levy, 1999; Mui, 1999; Yeh & Pellegrini, 1999; O'Shea et al., 2002). These signals are crucial to the proper growth and development of mammalian tissues by regulating various biological processes such as cell growth, proliferation, differentiation, migration, apoptosis, transformation, inflammation, and immune response. Increases or decreases in the activity of this signaling pathway lead to severe consequences. In particular, constitutive activation of JAKs or STATs is linked to many oncogenic transformations (Hou et al., 2002; Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006). Moreover, in recent years, increasing amounts of evidence have suggested the neuronal specific functions of JAK/STAT pathway in the central nervous system (CNS) (Nicolas et al., 2012). For example, the JAK/STAT pathway is involved in the control of food intake (Tups, 2009). And it has also been linked to Alzheimer’s disease and memory (Chiba et al., 2009). But the cellular and molecular mechanism by which the JAK/STAT pathway regulates neuronal function is largely unknown.
Early studies of transcriptional activation in response to interferon α (IFN-α) and interferon γ (IFN-γ) established the JAK/STAT pathway that connects events at the cell surface directly to gene activation (Darnell et al., 1994). STATs were initially identified as a class of interferon-stimulated transcription factors over 21 years ago (Fu et al., 1992; Schindler et al., 1992). Since then, extensive studies have led to the characterization of the core components of the JAK/STAT signaling pathway, including a variety of extracellular ligands and their transmembrane receptors, four JAKs and seven STATs (Kisseleva et al., 2002). The four mammalian JAKs are JAK1-3 and tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2). JAKs belong to a family of non-receptor protein tyrosine kinases that were discovered while searching for protein kinases in the early 1990s (Pellegrini & Dusanter-Fourt, 1997; Yeh & Pellegrini, 1999). Subsequently, their ability to complement mutant phenotypes of cells otherwise insensitive to interferons and their activation by a variety of cytokines demonstrated their central signaling function as essential intracellular effectors (Darnell et al., 1994). There are seven STAT proteins (STAT-1-4, 5A, 5B and 6) presently identified in mammals (Levy, 1999; Mui, 1999).

In Drosophila, the JAK/STAT signaling pathway was first identified by its function in embryonic segmentation. The first JAK/STAT gene identified was hopscotch (hop), which encodes a nonreceptor-tyrosine-kinase of the Janus Kinase family. It was found that the maternal product of hop is involved in the control of pair-rule gene transcription in a stripe-specific pattern (Binari & Perrimon, 1994). Later, additional studies contributed to identify the genes encoding the core components of the JAK/STAT pathway in Drosophila, including three cytokine-like ligands (unpaired/outstretched (upd), upd2 and upd3) (Harrison et al., 1998; Agaisse et al., 2003; Gilbert et al., 2005;
Hombria et al., 2005); one transmembrane receptor gene *domeless* (*dome*) (also called *master of marelle*), which is distantly related to the mammalian gp130 cytokine receptor gene (Brown et al., 2001; Chen et al., 2002); one JAK-like kinase gene known as *hopscotch* (*hop*), which is most similar to mammalian *Jak2* (Binari & Perrimon, 1994); and one gene encoding a transcription factor, *Stat92E*, homolog of the mammalian genes *Stat3* and *Stat5* (Hou et al., 1996; Yan et al., 1996). Recently, a second receptor *eye transformer* (*et*) also called *latran* (*lat*) (referred to as *et/lat*) was identified (Kallio et al., 2010; Makki et al., 2010). *Et/Lat* can form heterodimers with *Dome* and inhibit JAK/STAT signaling. So, in contrast with the high levels of redundancy of JAK/STAT homologs found in mammals, *Drosophila* contains a simpler pathway but sufficient to regulate many different processes (Hou et al., 2002). As a result, the reduced genetic redundancy of *Drosophila* JAK/STAT pathway components, together with the advanced genetic tools, and the ease of gain- and loss-of-function manipulations, make *Drosophila* an excellent model for studying the JAK/STAT pathway (Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006). Figure 1-1 illustrates the *Drosophila* JAK/STAT pathway.

The JAK/STAT pathway activation and regulation

The mechanism by which the JAK/STAT pathway is activated is conserved among insects and mammals (Luo & Dearolf, 2001; Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006). A model of JAK/STAT pathway activation was summarized and illustrated by Pellegrini and Dusant-Fourt in 1997: Upon the binding of an extracellular ligand to its specific homodimeric or heterodimeric transmembrane receptors, the receptor-associated JAKs are activated. These tyrosine kinases then transphosphorylate each other and phosphorylate their associated receptors on tyrosine residues, generating docking sites for
the Src homology 2 (SH2) domains of STATs. STATs are normally present in the cytoplasm as inactive monomers before being recruited to the receptor/JAK complex. It has also been shown that STAT proteins shuttle between nuclear and cytoplasmic compartments (Vinkemeier, 2004). Once bound to the receptor/JAK complex, STATs are tyrosine phosphorylated. Phosphorylated STATs form homodimers or heterodimers by reciprocal interactions of the SH2 domain of one STAT with the phosphor-Tyr of the other. In the nucleus, activated STAT dimers bind to specific DNA sequences in the regulatory regions of target genes to activate transcription. After transient activation, the signaling process is downregulated through negative regulation: de-phosphorylation by phosphotyrosine phosphatases (PTPs), and direct inhibition by families of negative regulatory proteins such as SOCS (Suppressors of Cytokine Signaling) and PIAS (Protein Inhibitors of Activated STAT) (Starr & Hilton, 1999). PIAS proteins negatively regulate the JAK/STAT signaling by binding to STAT and inhibiting its activity (Shuai, 2000), while SOCS proteins negatively regulate the JAK/STAT signaling by binding to and inhibiting the activity of the receptor or JAK (Starr & Hilton, 1999; Stec et al., 2013).

In addition to the core pathway components, additional components and regulators that modulate JAK/STAT pathway signaling activity have been identified in Drosophila. There are both positive regulators and negative regulators of JAK/STAT pathway. Positive regulators include: pathway ligands; the Drosophila homologue of BRWD3, a bromo-domain-containing protein disrupted in leukaemia (Muller et al., 2005); and other signaling pathways such as the Notch signaling pathway, DPP/BMP pathway and the Hedgehog signaling pathway (Bach et al., 2003; Chao et al., 2004; Moberg et al., 2005; Mukherjee et al., 2006). The known negative regulators include: SOCS proteins (Krebs &
Hilton, 2003; Rawlings et al., 2004); ZIMP/PIAS proteins (Betz et al., 2001); an alternatively spliced form of Stat92E that encodes an N-terminal truncated dominant negative protein lacking an N-terminal protein:protein interaction domain, ΔNSTAT92E (Henriksen et al., 2002); protein tyrosine phosphatases PTP61F (Muller et al., 2005); the transcriptional repressors Ken & Barbie (KEN) (Arbouzova et al., 2006); and a short receptor Eye transformer also called Latran (usually referred to as Et/Lat (Kallio et al., 2010; Makki et al., 2010). Some of these regulators were identified based on sequence homology to their mammalian counterparts, such as the Socs genes (Rawlings et al., 2004) and pias/zimp (Betz et al., 2001), while others were identified in genome wide screens, such as BRWD3 and ptp61f (Baeg et al., 2005; Muller et al., 2005).

Among JAK/STAT pathway regulators, SOCS proteins have been most widely studied. The mammals have eight SOCS proteins, SOCS1-7 and CIS. And each of them contains a centrally located SH2 domain and a SOCS box located in the C-terminus (Stec & Zeidler, 2011). The association of SH2 domains to phosphorylated tyrosine residues allows SOCS proteins to bind to phosphorylated JAKs or receptors to specifically inhibit JAK kinase activity, or physically block the recruitment of STATs to the receptor, thus negatively regulating the JAK/STAT activity. The SOCS form a negative feedback loop in the JAK/STAT pathway: activated STATs induce expression of the Socs genes and the resulting SOCS proteins inhibit phosphorylated JAKs or receptors to turn off the pathway activity (Rawlings et al., 2004). The Drosophila genome encodes three SOCS proteins, termed SOCS16D, SOCS36E, and SOCS44A based on their chromosomal location. Conserved SH2 and SOCS-box domains are revealed by sequence analysis (Stec & Zeidler, 2011). However, only SOCS36E and SOCS44A have been found to regulate
JAK/STAT pathway signaling. SOCS36E is a strong negative regulator and SOCS44A can suppress signaling to a weaker extent (Stec & Zeidler, 2011). The Socs36E cis-regulatory region contains 19 putative STAT92E consensus binding sites, and Socs36E has been suggested as a direct target gene of STAT92E. Therefore, the down-regulation of the pathway elicited by SOCS36E completes a negative feedback loop and is analogous to role of other SOCS-family proteins in vertebrates (Starr et al., 1997).

The consensus binding sites of STATs have been reported (Ivashkiv, 1995). STATs recognize a palindromic sequence, with 2- to 4- base spacing between dyad half sites 5’-TTC-3’ (Seidel et al., 1995). STAT1 and STAT5 complexes favor a 3-bp spacing (TTCNNNGAA), STAT3 favors a 2- or 3-bp spacing (TTCNNGAA or TTCNNNGAA), STAT4 favors a 3-bp spacing (TTCNNNGAA), and STAT6 favors a 3- or 4-bp spacing (TTCNNNGAA or TTCNNNGAA) (Yamamoto et al., 1997; Ehret et al., 2001). The cis-acting elements of many genes responsive to different STAT proteins have been analyzed. Among those target genes analyzed by Ehret et al., ~75% contain one STAT consensus binding site (Ehret et al., 2001). These include the human and mouse Bcl-x gene (Dumont et al., 1999), mouse Toll-like receptor 2 (mTLR2) (Musikacharoen et al., 2001), human Mcl-1 (Isomoto et al., 2005), and human IL-8 (Gharavi et al., 2007). Approximately 25% contain two STAT consensus binding sites (Ehret et al., 2001), examples include the Mig in mice (Wong et al., 1994), and the HLA-E in humans (Gustafson & Ginder, 1996).

The single Drosophila Stat prefers to bind to sites with 3n spacing (TTCNNNGAA) (Yan et al., 1996). In Drosophila, Stat92E binding of 3n-sites was confirmed for the even
skipped (eve) gene (Yan et al., 1996), Drosophila raf proto-oncogene (D-raf) (Kwon et al., 2000), Suppressor of cytokine signaling at 36E (Socs36E) (Baeg et al., 2005; Muller et al., 2005), and Death-associated inhibitor of apoptosis 1 (Diap1) (Betz et al., 2008). A recent study indicated that Drosophila Stat92E was able to activate transcription using consensus sequences referred to as “4n sites” (TTCNNNNGAA) (Rivas et al., 2008). Stat92E activates dome using two conserved 4n-sites, and another direct target of Stat92E crb is also regulated through two 4n-sites (Rivas et al., 2008). The results of Rivas et al (2008) indicated that Stat92E has higher binding affinity to 3n-sites than to 4n-sites. They also showed that two adjacent sites were able to bind Stat92E better than a single binding site (Rivas et al., 2008). But two binding sites were not always required, as the case for STAT-responsive genes in mammals. For example, D-raf is activated by Stat92E through one consensus STAT-binding site (Kwon et al., 2000).

**Non-canonical JAK/STAT pathway**

Besides the canonical JAK/STAT signaling pathway activation involving Upd/Dome/Hop/STAT92E, JAK/STAT signaling can involve non-canonical activation that has been shown to affect cellular epigenetic status by globally modulating heterochromatin stability (Shi et al., 2006; Shi et al., 2008). Non-canonical JAK/STAT signaling involves non-phosphorylated-STATs localized in the nucleus on heterochromatin in association with heterochromatin protein 1 (HP1), the major component and a determinant of heterochromatin. The heterochromatin-associated unphosphorylated STATs are essential for maintaining HP1 localization and heterochromatin stability. Activation of STATs by phosphorylation reduces the amount of non-phosphorylated STATs localized on heterochromatin, and, in turn, leads to HP1
displacement and heterochromatin destabilization. Phosphorylated-STATs bind to consensus sites in euchromatin to induce transcription of target genes. Genes originally localized in heterochromatin are now accessible to STATs or other transcription factors (Li, 2008). It is not known yet whether activation of STATs always cause heterochromatin destabilization under physiological conditions and it may depend on the intensity of activation signals.

More recently, the same non-canonical mode of STAT activity was identified in mammals. Non-phosphorylated human STAT5A binds to HP1α and stabilizes heterochromatin and functions as a tumor suppressor capable of repressing multiple oncogenes (Hu et al., 2013). Notably, the majority of genes found to be repressed by non-phosphorylated STAT5A and HP1α have been implicated in cancer development (Hu et al., 2013). As a transcription factor, activated phosphorylated STAT is found in many cancers. On the other hand, non-phosphorylated STAT5A was now shown to have a tumor suppressor effect via epigenetic gene regulation (Hu et al., 2013). This finding will definitely shed new light into the therapeutic options for treating human cancers (Hu et al., 2013).

Given the high levels of conservation in JAK/STAT signaling pathway, the newly identified regulators and developmental roles discovered in Drosophila will improve our understanding of JAK/STAT pathway in mammals and its roles in human diseases. Many studies have identified conserved mechanisms and functions of the JAK/STAT pathway among mammals and Drosophila. In particular, JAK/STAT signaling is involved in regulating cell proliferation and stem/germ cell development.
JAK/STAT signaling and the control of cellular proliferation

Conserved roles for JAK/STAT signaling in the regulation of cell proliferation have been found in vertebrates and Drosophila (Hou et al., 2002; Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006). The constitutive activation of the pathway has been observed in multiple human cancers, including blood malignancies and solid tumors (Calo et al., 2003). Similarly, gain-of-function mutations in Drosophila JAK/STAT pathway components, such as hop$^{T42}$ and Stat92E$^{ΔNΔC}$, also induce tissue overproliferation (Luo et al., 1997; Ekas et al., 2010). Conversely, a reduction in JAK/STAT pathway activity results in a striking decreases in tissue size (Perrimon & Mahowald, 1986; Mukherjee et al., 2005).

The activation of JAK/STAT signaling regulates cell proliferation in multiple tissues, however, the molecular mechanism by which this pathway controls cell division is not yet clear (Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006). Studies in vertebrates suggest that STAT proteins participate in tumorigenesis through up-regulating genes encoding apoptosis inhibitors such as Mcl-1 and Bcl-x, cell-cycle regulators such as Cyclin D1/D2 and c-Myc, and inducers of angiogenesis such as VEGF. These could contribute to the proliferative effect of JAK/STAT signaling in vertebrates by promoting cell cycle progression or preventing apoptosis (Bowman et al., 2000; Calo et al., 2003).

In Drosophila, fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) analysis of cells from eye and wing imaginal discs that have sustained JAK/STAT signaling showed faster G1/S and G2/M cell cycle progression compared to control cells (Bach et al., 2003). These results suggest that JAK/STAT signaling may control the expression or activation of factors involved in cell cycle progression. In fact, Cyclin D-Cdk4 as well as Cyclin E-Cdk2 have
been reported to function downstream of the HOP tyrosine kinase, bind and stabilize STAT92E protein and promote its transcription-activating activity (Chen et al., 2003). Chen et al (2003) demonstrated a role for Cyclin D-Cdk4 in regulating expression of pair-rule genes and pattern formation, independent of effects on cell cycle. JAK/STAT has also been found to induce up-regulation of CycD in eye imaginal discs (Tsai & Sun, 2004). However, Drosophila CycD-Cdk4 does not act as a direct regulator of the G1/S transition, but instead promotes cellular growth (accumulation of mass) (Datar et al., 2000). Other results indicated that the cell cycle progression could occur in the absence of Cdk4 (Meyer et al., 2000). Furthermore, mutations in genes encoding core cell-cycle regulatory proteins, such as CycD, do not reduce the eye overgrowth phenotype induced by ectopic activation of JAK/STAT pathway (Mukherjee et al., 2006). In fact, two independent genetic screens and three independent whole-genome RNAi screens failed to identify a connection between JAK/STAT pathway and genes known to regulate cell proliferation (Bach et al., 2003; Baeg et al., 2005; Muller et al., 2005; Mukherjee et al., 2006). Taken together, although certain links have been suggested, the exact mechanisms how the Drosophila JAK/STAT pathway controls cell cycle remain to be elucidated.

**JAK/STAT signaling and stem/germ cell maintenance or self-renewal**

The identification and the potential use of pluripotent stem cells are of great significance to human health. A thorough understanding of the micro-environment where stem cells are maintained in vivo (the so-called stem cell niche) is important for understanding stem cell biology. Several signaling pathways, such as the Wnt and BMP pathways, are found to be required for defining stem cell niches in mammals and Drosophila (Li & Xie,
2005). The JAK/STAT pathway is also one of the conserved pathways that regulate stem cell self-renewal in multiple tissues.

It has been reported that the self-renewal of pluripotent embryonic mouse stem cells was mediated by the activation of STAT3 (Niwa et al., 1998). Similarly, the Drosophila JAK/STAT pathway is also found to be essential for stem/germ cell maintenance. At early stages of embryogenesis, JAK/STAT signaling is required at multiple stages: in the early blastoderm, STAT92E activity is required for pole cell proliferation (Li et al., 2003); at 6-7 hours after egg laying, STAT92E activity is required for the migration of pole cells towards the embryonic gonads (Li et al., 2003); after 12 hours, the localized expression of JAK/STAT pathway ligands provides guidance for pole cells, which forms the embryonic gonads (Li et al., 2003).

In addition, a role for JAK/STAT signaling in embryonic male gonads has been reported. It has been shown that upd ligand expressed in somatic cells of the embryonic testis can induce the activation of STAT92E specifically in the male germ cells (Wawersik et al., 2005). JAK/STAT signaling also plays critical roles in the maintenance and proliferation of the stem cells within adult male and female gonads. In adult Drosophila male testis, a small group of somatic cells at the apical tip of testis called the hub expresses upd ligand, and self-renewing germline stem cells (GSCs) are arranged around the hub (Tulina & Matunis, 2001). The expression of upd in hub cells suggests the requirement of JAK/STAT signaling for maintaining the stem cell state in GSCs. In addition, the ovarian niche also requires JAK/STAT signaling (Decotto & Spradling, 2005). In female Drosophila ovary, JAK/STAT signaling is required for the maintenance of the escort
stem cells (ESCs), border cell migration and the development of the polar/stalk cells (Ghiglione et al., 2002; Decotto & Spradling, 2005; Montell et al., 2012).

Recently, JAK/STAT has been shown to control self-renewal of several other stem cell lineages in *Drosophila*, such as intestinal stem cells (ISCs) and renal and nephric stem cells (RNSCs) that are multipotent stem cells identified in Malpighian tubules. The paracrine Unpaired signal from the muscular niche can activate JAK/STAT signaling in *Drosophila* ISCs, thus to regulate ISC self-renewal (Lin et al., 2010). An autocrine JAK/STAT signaling has been reported to regulate self-renewal of RNSCs in *Drosophila* Malpighian tubules (Singh et al., 2007). Besides that, a recent study has shown that JAK/STAT activity is required for optic lobe neuroepithelial maintenance and proliferation (Wang et al., 2011).

Taken together, JAK/STAT signaling regulates self-renewal and maintenance of embryonic stem cells in mammals (Matsuda et al., 1999). This pathway also has intrinsic function to maintain stem cells in *Drosophila*, including GSCs and CySCs (cyst stem cells, also called somatic stem cells [SSCs]) in the testis, escort stem cells in the ovary, neuro-epithelial cells in the optic lobe of the brain, intestinal stem cells in the midgut, and renal and nephric stem cells in Malpighian tubules (Tulina & Matunis, 2001; Decotto & Spradling, 2005; Singh et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2011). Based on those facts, we may say that JAK/STAT signaling is a general stem cell signaling, which might also regulate stem cell self-renewal in other systems. However, in these stem cells whose maintenance depends on JAK/STAT signaling, the effector genes activated by Stat92E that regulate self-renewal are largely unknown, except *zfh1* and *chinmo*, which were
found to be two Stat92E-regulated genes required for CySC self-renewal (Leatherman & Dinardo, 2008; Flaherty et al., 2010). Therefore, identifying more JAK/STAT downstream effector genes that mediate stem cell self-renewal is important for stem cell research.
The Hippo signaling pathway: a key regulator for organ size control

Hippo signaling pathway in *Drosophila*

First discovered in *Drosophila*, the Hippo signaling pathway has been identified as a conserved regulatory pathway essential for the proper control of organ growth in *Drosophila* and vertebrates. The pathway is shown to promote cell death and suppress cell proliferation (Halder & Johnson, 2011). The first four components of the Hippo pathway were discovered from genetic screens for tumor suppressor genes in *Drosophila*. They are the protein kinase Warts (Wts) (Justice et al., 1995; Xu et al., 1995), the co-factor Salvador (Sav) (Tapon et al., 2002), the protein kinase Hippo (Hpo) (Wu et al., 2003), and the adaptor protein Mob-as-tumor-suppressor (Mats) (Lai et al., 2005). These four tumor suppressors form a kinase cascade, in which Hpo in complex with Sav phosphorylates Wts and its co-factor Mats, thereby activating Wts kinase activity (Wu et al., 2003). The prime target of this kinase cascade is transcription coactivator Yorkie (Yki), which was identified as a Hippo pathway component in a yeast two-hybrid screen for Wts-binding proteins (Huang et al., 2005). Yki has oncogenic activity, when not inhibited, it translocates to the nucleus, forms an active complex with transcription factors and induces the expression of target genes, such as the cell cycle regulator *CycE*, the apoptosis inhibitor *Diap1*, the growth and cell survival-promoting miRNA *bantam* and the growth promoter *Myc*, and by doing so increases cell proliferation and inhibits apoptosis. Phosphorylation of Yki by warts prevents Yki from entering the nucleus and therefore inhibits cell proliferation and promotes apoptosis (Dong et al., 2007). In addition to the core components of the Hippo pathway, several additional tumor suppressors whose activities converge on Hpo and/or Wts have been identified. These
include Merlin (Mer) and Expanded (Ex), which were identified as upstream regulators of Hpo (Hamaratoglu et al., 2006), Kibra, another tumor suppressor that regulates Hippo signaling in conjunction with Mer and Ex (Yu et al., 2010), the transmembrane protein Fat (Ft) (Bennett & Harvey, 2006), which functions by binding to an atypical cadherin called Dachsous (Ds) (Matakatsu & Blair, 2006), the kinase Discs overgrown (Dco), which phosphorylates the intracellular domain of Ft and is regulated by Ds (Sopko et al., 2009), and an apical transmembrane protein Crumbs (Crb), which regulates the Hippo signaling via binding to Ex (Robinson et al., 2010).

Although the upstream components seem complex, they converge on and signal through one downstream effector, the transcription coactivator Yki (Dong et al., 2007). Several DNA-binding partners for Yki have been reported, such as Scalloped (Sd) that regulates the expression of Diap1 (Wu et al., 2008), and Homothorax (Hth) that regulates the expression of the microRNA bantam (Peng et al., 2009). The expression of three classes of genes is regulated by loss of Hippo signaling or increase of Yki activity. The first class of genes are involved in cell proliferation or survival, such as Diap1 (Wu et al., 2008), the microRNA bantam (Thompson & Cohen, 2006), the cell cycle regulators CycE (Tapon et al., 2002) and E2f1 (Goulev et al., 2008), and involved in cell growth control, such as ribosome biogenesis and cell growth regulator dMyc (Pan, 2010). The second class corresponds to genes encoding upstream regulators of the Hippo pathway, such as Kibra, Ex, Crb, which suggests the existence of a negative feedback loop involving the regulation of the expression of upstream regulators of the pathway (Pan, 2010). The third class of genes play a role in crosstalk between the Hippo pathway and other cell signaling, such as Serrate (a Notch ligand) and Wingless (Cho et al., 2006), Vein (an
EGFR ligand) (Zhang et al., 2009), and Unpaired1/2/3 (Upd1/2/3, the JAK/STAT pathway ligands) (Ren et al., 2010; Staley & Irvine, 2010). Figure 1-2 illustrates the Hippo signaling pathway in *Drosophila*.

**Hippo signaling pathway in mammals**

Hippo signal transduction in mammals is analogous to that seen in *Drosophila*. The core kinase cascade includes the kinases MST1 and MST2 (homologs of Hpo) and their regulatory protein WW45 (also known as SAV1, Sav homolog), which interact to form an activated complex. Activated MST1/2 can directly phosphorylate LATS1 (*large tumor suppressor kinase 1*) and LATS2 (Wts homologs) (Chan et al., 2005; Dong et al., 2007). LATS1/2 are regulated by MOB1 (homologs of Mats), which are also phosphorylated by MST1/2 to enhance binding in the LATS1/2-MOB1 complex (Praskova et al., 2008). In response to high cell densities, activated LATS1/2 phosphorylates transcriptional coactivators YAP at Ser127 and TAZ at Ser89, promoting their 14-3-3 binding and inhibiting their translocation into the nucleus (Dong et al., 2007; Zhao et al., 2007; Lei et al., 2008). Uninhibited YAP/TAZ go to the nucleus, functioning as coactivators for the TEA-domain family member (TEAD) group of transcription factors (Zhang et al., 2009). Several direct target genes of YAP-/-TAZ-TEAD have been identified, such as *CTGF* and *Cyr61* (Zhao et al., 2008). Besides TEADs, YAP/TAZ may also associate with other transcription factors, such as Smad1 (Alarcon et al., 2009), Smad2/3 (Varelas et al., 2008), Smad7 (Ferrigno et al., 2002). Together, the YAP/TAZ-transcription factor complex mediates transcription of diverse genes and results in accelerated proliferation, resistance to apoptosis and massive organ overgrowth. Although the signal transduction within the core kinase cascade is well defined, the detailed mechanisms how various
upstream regulators are sensed by core kinase cascade are not as well understood (Ramos & Camargo, 2012). The known upstream components involved in the Hippo pathway include: cell polarity (apical-basal polarity, planar cell polarity), extracellular matrix and cytoskeleton to sense mechanical cues, and G-protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) signaling to sense diffusible signals. Actin cytoskeleton or cellular tension seems to be the key mediator that transmits upstream signaling to the core Hippo signaling cascade (Yu & Guan, 2013).

**Hippo signaling pathway and tissue regeneration, stem cell self-renewal and expansion**

Besides its roles in limiting organ size by inhibiting proliferation and promoting apoptosis, more evidence suggests roles of the Hippo pathway in stem cell and progenitor cell self-renewal and expansion. For example, YAP/TAZ controls embryonic stem cell self-renewal in response to TGFβ/BMP (transforming growth factor beta/bone morphogenetic protein) signaling (Varelas et al., 2010). In addition, YAP is activated in induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) and inactivated during mouse embryonic stem cell differentiation (Lian et al., 2010). In mouse embryonic stem cells, YAP knockdown causes loss of pluripotency, whereas ectopic expression of YAP prevents embryonic stem cell differentiation (Lian et al., 2010). The Hippo pathway is also shown to regulate tissue-specific progenitor cells. Normally YAP expression is only detected in the progenitor cells in mouse intestines. Ectopic YAP expression in mouse intestines leads to expansion of the progenitor cell compartment (Camargo et al., 2007). Similarly, YAP ectopic expression causes expansion of basal epidermal progenitors in mouse skin, while
knockout of YAP in mouse skin leads to decreased cell proliferation and failure of skin expansion (Schlegelmilch et al., 2011).

Additionally, the Hippo pathway was recently shown to regulate tissue regeneration. In the Drosophila midgut, Yki expression is mainly detected in intestinal stem cells (ISCs) (Karpowicz et al., 2010). Under resting conditions, inactive Yki is mostly localized to the cytoplasm. In response to injury, increased nuclear-localized Yki induces ISC proliferation cell-autonomously (Karpowicz et al., 2010). Furthermore, the Hippo pathway is inactivated in enterocytes (a differentiated cell type in the Drosophila midgut) in response to damage, resulting in Yki activation and subsequent expression of Upd1/2/3 (Ren et al., 2010; Staley & Irvine, 2010). This activates JAK/STAT signaling in ISCs, thereby promoting ISC proliferation in a non-cell-autonomous manner. Similarly mammalian YAP is also shown to regulate tissue regeneration. It is shown that YAP expression is required for the intestinal regeneration after dextran sodium sulfate-induced injury (Cai et al., 2010).

In conclusion, many studies have revealed the roles of the Hippo pathway in organ size control and tissue regeneration in Drosophila and mammals. Therefore, Hippo pathway can be a useful target in cancer therapy and regenerative medicine. Identification of the upstream regulators and downstream targets of this pathway and understanding of the mechanism of signaling regulation, are important for the therapeutic designs (Zhao et al., 2011).
**Cell cycle control**

**Cell cycle control system in eukaryotic cells**

Uncontrolled cell proliferation is a hallmark of tumorigenesis. Mechanisms controlling cell cycle progression are highly conserved due to the existence of conservatory molecules such as Cyclins, cyclin dependent kinases (Cdks), Cdk inhibitors (CKI) (Golias et al., 2004). These processes and mechanisms are deregulated in tumors. Understanding the molecular basis of the cell cycle regulation in normal and cancer cells provides insight into potential therapeutic strategies.

It has been 63 years since Howard and Pelc first described the cell cycle and its phases in 1951 (Howard & Pelc, 1951). Their studies concluded that the cell cycle of most eukaryotic cells could be divided into four main phases: G1, S, G2, and M. G1 is the preparatory phase during which cells prepare for the process of DNA replication. During G1 phase, cells integrate growth-inducing or growth-inhibitory signals and make the decision to proceed, pause, or exit the cell cycle. S phase is the period of DNA synthesis, which is separated from mitosis by an interval of several hours, called G2. G2 is the second gap phase during which cells prepare for the process of division. M phase includes two major events: nuclear division (Mitosis) in which the replicated chromosomes are segregated into separate nuclei, and cytoplasmic division (cytokinesis). Mitosis can be subdivided into: prophase, prometaphase, metaphase, anaphase, and telophase, each with clearly distinctive features. In addition to G1, S, G2, and M, the term G0 refers to quiescent cells that have exited the cell cycle (Rieder, 2011).
Elaborate cell cycle regulation is critical to ensure normal development of multicellular organisms. Failure to coordinate such processes often leads to birth defects and cancer. Accordingly, cell cycle is tightly controlled by many regulatory events that either permit or restrain its progression (Golias et al., 2004). The eukaryotic cell cycle is primarily regulated by the periodic synthesis and destruction of Cyclins that associate with and activate Cdks, thereby causing the sequential activation and inactivation of Cdks (Johnson & Walker, 1999). Cyclins are so-named because their concentrations vary in a cyclical fashion during the cell cycle. Nine Cdks (Cdk1-9) and at least 16 Cyclins (A, B1, B2, C, D1, D2, D3, E, F, G1, G2, H, I, K, T1, and T2) have been identified in mammalian cells (Johnson & Walker, 1999). All Cyclins have a common region known as the cyclin box, which is used to bind and activate Cdks. However, not all Cyclins and Cdks regulate the cell cycle. Other functions include regulation of transcription, DNA repair, differentiation, and apoptosis (Johnson & Walker, 1999).

The D-type Cyclins are the first ones to be induced by mitogens when G0 cells enter the cell cycle (Sherr, 1994). D-type Cyclins associate with and activate Cdk4 and Cdk6. The primary substrate for Cdk4 and Cdk6 is the retinoblastoma tumor suppressor protein (Rb) (Lukas et al., 1995). The Rb protein has a critical function in regulating G1 progression, it has been shown to bind and regulate the E2F family of transcription factors (Johnson & Schneider-Broussard, 1998). E2F transcription factors regulate the expression of many genes encoding proteins required for cell cycle progression and DNA synthesis, such as Cyclins E and A, Cdk1, B-myb, dihydrofolate reductase, thymidine kinase, and DNA polymerase α. Rb binding to E2F transcription factors inhibits their activity. Phosphorylation of Rb by D-type Cyclin kinases results in the release of Rb from E2F,
which therefore activates the expression of the E2F target genes (Johnson & Walker, 1999). Then through the activation of E2F, the next Cyclin to be induced during the cell cycle progression is Cyclin E (Ohtani et al., 1995; Geng et al., 1996). Cyclin E binds to Cdk2, and Cyclin E/Cdk2 kinase complex is essential for the G1-to-S phase transition (Ohtsubo et al., 1995). Also, Cyclin E/Cdk2 is involved in maintaining Rb in the hyperphosphorylated state, and thus helps to positively accumulate active E2F (Hinds et al., 1992). Another Cyclin that accumulates during G1/S transition and S phase is Cyclin A. Cyclin A first associates with Cdk2, and then associates with Cdk1 in late S phase. Cyclin A-associated kinase activity is required for both entry into and completion of S phase, as well as entry into M phase (Lehner & O'Farrell, 1989; Girard et al., 1991; Walker & Maller, 1991). However, whereas Cyclin E positively regulates E2F activity, Cyclin A-associated kinases can inhibit the E2F DNA-binding activity through phosphorylating the E2F heterodimerization partner DP1. Then, the G2 phase has a checkpoint that responds to DNA damage, which allows DNA repair before the cell divides. Mitosis phase is regulated by Cdk1/Cyclins A, B1, and B2, whose activities phosphorylate cytoskeleton proteins (Arellano & Moreno, 1997). Cyclins A and B must be degraded for cells to exit mitosis. Cells then again enter G1 phase after mitosis, and must decide whether to exit the cell cycle or proceed into another cell cycle.

There are two families of Cdk inhibitors (CKI) that regulate CDK activity: INK4 family, such as INK4A (p16), INK4B (p15), INK4C (p18) and INK4D (p19), and the Cip/Kip family, including p21, p27 and p57 (Malumbres & Barbacid, 2009). INK4 proteins specifically bind to Cdk4 and Cdk6 and prevent the association of Cdk4 and Cdk6 with D-type Cyclins. In contrast, p21, p27, and p57 can interact with a variety of Cyclin/Cdk
complexes (Johnson & Walker, 1999). The promoter of p21 contains a binding site for the p53 tumor suppressor protein, which allows p53 to transcriptionally activate the p21 (el-Deiry et al., 1993). Induction of p21 inhibits cell cycle progression by inhibiting a variety of Cyclin/Cdk complexes. In addition, p21 can inhibit DNA synthesis and allow DNA repair (Li et al., 1994). Therefore, p21 is a critical mediator of p53’s response to DNA damage through its ability to inhibit cell cycle progression but allow DNA repair.

The p53 tumor suppressor protein is an important cell cycle check-point regulator at both G1/S and G2/M check points. It is known that the p53 tumor-suppressor gene is the most frequently mutated gene in human cancer cells, suggesting its crucial role in normal cell cycle control. In addition, genes important for the progression of G0 cells through G1 and S phase, are often subject to genetic and epigenetic changes in many human cancers, such as Cyclin D1, Cyclin D2 and D3, several E2F genes, and Cyclin E (Johnson & Walker, 1999).

**Regulation of cell cycles in Drosophila**

A critical aspect of cell cycle regulation is how cell growth and cell division are coordinated with developmental signals to properly pattern organisms of the appropriate size. Using *Drosophila melanogaster* as model system, considerable progress has been made to identify new cell cycle regulators that respond to developmental signals, and to define the impact of extrinsic cues on homologs of mammalian oncogenes and tumor suppressors. Most mammalian oncogenes and tumor suppressors are highly conserved. And in *Drosophila* as in mammalian cells, G1/S and G2/M transitions are controlled by Cyclin/Cdk complexes. Here I highlight several major differences from mammalian systems.
In mammalian cells, Cyclin E and Cyclin D are crucial for the G1/S cell cycle transition. Cyclin D expression is induced by growth factors, and Cyclin D/Cdk4 or Cdk6 complexes promote G1/S progression by phosphorylating and inactivating Rb tumor suppressor. However, Drosophila Cyclin D mainly regulates growth but does not drive G1/S progression. Cyclin E is the key regulator of the G1/S transition in Drosophila (Datar et al., 2000; Meyer et al., 2000). The promoter of Cyclin E contains many regulatory elements responsive to developmental signals (Jones et al., 2000). Thus the transcriptional regulation of Cyclin E provides an important way to regulate cell proliferation in tissue- and stage-specific manner.

In mammalian cells, the E2F transcription factor is a key regulator of G1/S transition. E2F associates with DP, activates transcription of Cyclin E and other genes encoding replication proteins. Sequential phosphorylation of Rb by Cyclin D/Cdk4 or Cdk6 and then by Cyclin E/Cdk2 leads to Rb dissociation from E2F, thereby activate E2F. In contrast, E2F plays a minor role in G1/S transition in Drosophila (Lee & Orr-Weaver, 2003). There are two E2F transcription factors (E2F1 and E2F2), a single DP subunit, and two Rb family proteins (RBF1 and RBF2) in Drosophila. dE2F1 is a transcriptional activator, whereas dE2F2 acts as a repressor (Frolov et al., 2001). dE2F1 and dE2F2 both heterodimerize with dDP and bind to the promoters of target genes in vivo. dE2F1 activates transcription, and the loss of dE2f1 results in compromised cell proliferation. In contrast, dE2F2 represses gene transcription and loss of dE2f2 results in increased gene expression. The effect of E2F on cell proliferation is a result of the interplay between two types of E2F complexes with antagonistic activities (Frolov et al., 2001).
In addition to the insights into the regulation of known cell cycle regulators in response to various developmental cues, the recovery of new cell cycle mutants in *Drosophila* will help to identify additional regulatory factors with essential roles in human cell cycle progression.
Cell apoptosis pathway

The process of programmed cell death, or apoptosis, occurs normally during development and aging, and is a homeostatic mechanism to maintain proper cell populations in tissues. Apoptosis also occurs as a defense mechanism in immune responses or when cells encounter damage. A wide variety of physiological and pathological stimuli can trigger apoptosis in specific cells. Apoptosis is a coordinated process that involves the activation of a group of cysteine proteases called “caspases”, and a cascade of events from the initiating stimuli to cell death. Three apoptotic pathways have been characterized to date: the extrinsic or death-receptor pathway, the intrinsic or mitochondrial pathway, and perforin/granzyme pathway involving T-cell mediated cytotoxicity and perforin-granzyme-dependent killing of cells. The extrinsic, intrinsic, and perforin/granzyme pathways activate their own initiator caspase (8, 9, and 10, respectively) that in turn converge on and activate the executioner caspase-3. The execution pathway results in cell shrinkage, chromatin condensation, DNA fragmentation, degradation of cytoskeletal and nuclear proteins, extensive protein cross-linking, formation of apoptotic bodies, expression of ligands for phagocytic cell receptors and finally uptake by phagocytic cells (Elmore, 2007).

Many pathological conditions involve excessive apoptosis, such as neurodegenerative disease, AIDS, and ischemia. It is thus important to look into the ways to inhibit apoptosis. The inhibitors of apoptosis proteins (IAP) is a family of proteins with the most important inhibitors of apoptosis. They can regulate both the intrinsic and extrinsic pathways (Deveraux & Reed, 1999). IAPs are highly conserved throughout evolution and eight have been identified in humans. IAP proteins have one to three conserved protein
motifs named baculovirus IAP repeat (BIR), which are important for IAPs binding to IAP-binding motifs (IBM) in the active subunits of apoptotic protease caspases (Dubrez et al., 2013).

In *Drosophila*, the induction of apoptosis needs the activity of three closely linked genes, *reaper, hid* and *grim* (White et al., 1994; Grether et al., 1995; Chen et al., 1996). In response to diverse death-inducing signals, *reaper, hid* and *grim* are transcriptionally regulated. The proteins encoded by *reaper, hid* and *grim* activate cell death by forming a complex with the *Drosophila* IAP1 (DIAP1) protein, thereby inhibiting its anti-apoptotic activity (Goyal et al., 2000). The double inhibition suggests that *Diap1* is required to keep the caspases and apoptosis in check. In *Drosophila*, two IAP homologs, *Diap1* and *Diap2* have been found (Hay et al., 1995; Duckett et al., 1996; Uren et al., 1996). *Diap1* is encoded by the *thread* (*th*) locus, and *Diap1* loss-of-function mutations are lethal, enhancing the cell death induced by *reaper, hid* and *grim* (Hay et al., 1995). In contrast, ectopic expression of *Diap1* or *Diap2* suppresses apoptosis (Hay et al., 1995).
Drosophila mushroom body: an excellent model to study genes essential for neuronal morphogenesis

The early history of mushroom body research

Mushroom bodies were first described in bees and ants in 1850 by a French biologist Dujardin, who called them corps pedoncules due to their appearance being similar to the fruit bodies of lichens (Dujardin, 1850). They are a pair of prominent structures comprising thousands of densely packed parallel neurons [Kenyon cells, named after Kenyon in 1896] running on either side of the group of neuropils found along the midline of the brain of the insect called the central complex, and from back to front and downward through the protocerebrum (Heisenberg, 1998). Structures with such morphological characteristics were found in many marine annelids (such as scale worms, sabellid worms, and nereid worms) and almost all the arthropod brains, except crustaceans (Strausfeld et al., 1998). Much of what is known about mushroom bodies comes from studies of a few insect species: the honeybee, fly (Drosophila), cricket, grasshopper, locust, and cockroach (Periplaneta). The mushroom bodies of the insect brain consist of the cell bodies followed by a cup-shaped protrusion called the calyx, stalk, or peduncle and finally two lobes extending in roughly orthogonal directions (medial and vertical) (Heisenberg, 1998). The size and shape of mushroom bodies differ greatly among the insects. The number of Kenyon cells range from 2500 in Drosophila to 200,000 in Periplaneta (Heisenberg, 1998).

When Dujardin first described the mushroom bodies, he compared them to the vertebrate cerebral cortex and attributed to them a role in intelligent behavior. It took nearly 150 years to establish that mushroom bodies are indeed involved in insect learning and
memory. The comparative studies of social Hymenoptera indicate that workers and queens with relatively large mushroom bodies show the broader range of behaviors compared to drones with relatively small mushroom bodies (Strausfeld et al., 1998). Later, more studies suggested that mushroom bodies play crucial roles in learning and memory. Such studies include: lesion experiments involving the mushroom bodies of ants that perturbed their ability to negotiate a maze using olfactory cues; In *Drosophila* ablation of four mushroom body neuroblasts that generate all the postembryonic Kenyon cells by the cytostatic drug hydroxyurea (HU) resulted in flies able to perceive but not remember odors (de Belle & Heisenberg, 1994); and ablation of the pedunculus and medial lobes of *Periplaneta* affected their performance of place-memory tests, suggesting a role of mushroom bodies in spatial orientation. Studies on honeybees and *Drosophila* established that mushroom bodies harbor the cellular basis for associative memory. Studies on *Drosophila* involved mutagenesis to identify strains that are defective in odorant-driven behavior. Mutant lines with defective odorant-driven behavior were examined for neural morphology and molecular correlates and some were found to have morphologically altered mushroom bodies (Quinn et al., 1974). Another strategy involved screening for mutations resulting in structural defects of the brain, and subsequently testing them for behavioral defects. For example, *mushroom bodies deranged* and *mushroom bodies reduced* are two of the mutations in which structural defects of the mushroom bodies correlate with defects in olfactory conditioning (Heisenberg, 1980; Heisenberg et al., 1985). Actually, the intellectual momentum in learning and memory research on insects at the time of those studies has largely been from studies involving genetic and experimental induction of structural defects in
mushroom bodies, which were found to be correlated with learning and memory deficits (Strausfeld et al., 1998).

**The function of the mushroom bodies in insect behavior**

It has been suggested that mushroom bodies are most analogous to the vertebrate hippocampus, because both of them are involved in similar types of learning and memory, for example, place memory in mammals (Muller, 1996) and cockroaches. It has also been shown that both mammalian hippocampus and *Drosophila* mushroom bodies have elevated expression levels of various learning-related molecules (Kandel & Abel, 1995).

Remarkably, insects with malformed mushroom bodies or even without mushroom bodies, behave quite normally in many respects. They eat, defend themselves, walk, fly, court, copulate, reproduce, and learn in many situations (Wolf et al., 1998). However, loss or alteration of the mushroom bodies has been discovered to cause dramatic behavioral defects in several behavioral experimental paradigms such as olfactory discrimination (de Belle & Heisenberg, 1994), courtship conditioning (McBride et al., 1999), context generalization in visual learning (Liu et al., 1999), choice behavior (Tang & Guo, 2001), sleep regulation (Joiner et al., 2006; Pitman et al., 2006), and habit formation regulation (Brembs, 2009), as well as a non-learning function in the control of walking activity (Zars, 2000).

The olfactory systems of insects have a number of features that make them worthy models for the study of vertebrate olfaction. While the organizational logic remains similar, the olfactory system of insects is substantially reduced in scale compared to
vertebrate systems (Hildebrand & Shepherd, 1997). *Drosophila melanogaster* is particularly useful as a model because there are highly sophisticated molecular and genetic tools available. In the *Drosophila* olfactory system, olfactory information flows linearly from the site of transduction on the dendrites of the olfactory receptor neurons (ORNs) to the olfactory glomeruli of the antennal lobe (AL). There, local interneurons (LN)s mediate interactions between glomeruli, and then reformat this information pattern. The reformatted information is then transferred by projection neurons (PNs) to the dendritic region of the mushroom body (MB) and also to the lateral horn (LH) (Jefferis et al., 2002).

**The cellular organization and the development of the *Drosophila* mushroom bodies**

The *Drosophila* mushroom body is a paired neuropile structure in the brain. Each mushroom body is composed of about 2500 neurons called Kenyon cells. Mushroom bodies were shown to originate from four mushroom body neuroblasts per hemisphere in the embryonic brain, each giving rise to an identical set of mushroom body neurons and glia (Ito et al., 1997). Mushroom body neuroblasts exit the state of quiescence and start to divide during embryonic stage 9 (Noveen et al., 2000) and continue until the late pupal stages, giving rise to three distinct types of mushroom body neurons in succession: γ, α’/β’, and α/β neurons, respectively (Lee et al., 1999). Mushroom body neurons born in embryos and early larvae belong to the γ class, neurons born in late larvae belong to the α’/β’ class, and those born after puparium formation belong to the α/β class (Lee et al., 1999). The subtype switch from γ to α’/β’ neurons and from α’/β’ to α/β neurons, occur abruptly and completely. In addition to Kenyon cells, the four mushroom body
neuroblasts also give rise to a small population of glia in the Kenyon cell cortex (Ito et al., 1997).

*Drosophila* mushroom body neuroblasts and Kenyon cells arising from them lie on the dorsoposterior surface of the brain. Each mushroom body neuron projects a neurite extending ventroanteriorly into the dendritic calyx, where it receives input from the antennal lobes via the projection neurons (Crittenden et al., 1998). An axon from each neuron is also sent in a ventro-anterior direction, fasciculating with other mushroom body axons with younger axons lying interior to older ones; this collection of axons constitutes the peduncle. From the peduncle, axons of different types of mushroom body neurons enter their distinct axonal lobes at the anterior surface of the brain. All axons bifurcate into two branches with one dorsal and one medial branch, except those of the γ neurons in adults (Jefferis et al., 2002). During metamorphosis, the early born γ neurons prune their larval-specific projections and re-extend projections only towards the midline, forming the adult γ lobe. The α'/β' neurons born during the late third instar larval stage, as well as the α/β neurons born after puparium formation, maintain both of their dorsal and medial lobes in adults (Lee et al., 1999). The significance of this morphological arrangement is poorly understood.

The gross morphology of the mushroom bodies is plastic. Rudimentary mushroom bodies that are morphologically similar to adult mushroom bodies first become apparent between embryonic stages 14 and 17. Throughout the larval stages they continue to grow by adding newly born Kenyon cells. During metamorphosis, much of the larval brain is remodeled by a process of neural degeneration and regrowth. In the case of mushroom

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bodies, there are significant structural differences between the larval and adult neurons, resulting from the large-scale reorganization during metamorphosis. The γ lobe, which is projected from Kenyon cells of embryonic and larval origins, store information of relevance to both larval and adult developmental stages (Armstrong et al., 1998). And the α/β neurons that arise starting from puparium formation obviously play adult specific roles. It is interesting that α/β neurons comprise the largest volume of neurons (42%) and their axons are the most densely packed (Lee et al., 1999). The α'/β’ neurons that arise in late larval stages may play important roles in the transition between the larval and adult mushroom body with respect to axon guidance, and the maintenance of the established connections with input and output neurons (Lee et al., 1999). The function of α'/β’ neurons in axon guidance may be analogous to that of the subplate neurons in mammalian cerebral cortical neurons. But unlike the subplate neurons, the α'/β’ neurons themselves are not pioneer neurons. Their roles are more likely to transfer the routes established by the pioneering γ neurons to the later-born α/β neurons (Lee et al., 1999). A recent study suggests that neurotransmission from mushroom body α'/β’ neurons is required to acquire and stabilize aversive and appetitive odor memory. In contrast, neurotransmission from α/β neurons is exclusively required to retrieve memory (Krashes et al., 2007).

**Mushroom body neuroblasts**

The *Drosophila* mushroom body neuroblasts originate from a specific mitotic domain of procephalic neuroectoderm during embryogenesis. Subsequently, each mushroom body neuroblast occupies a distinct position and expresses a specific combination of transcription factors in the developing mushroom body cortex. Therefore they are
individually identifiable in the brain neuroblast map. During embryonic development, each mushroom body neuroblast produces an individual cell lineage comprising intrinsic \( \gamma \) neurons and other non-intrinsic neurons. This is different from the postembryonic mushroom body neuroblast development, during which four neuroblasts produce identical populations of intrinsic neurons (Kunz et al., 2012).

The *Drosophila* larval brain contains ~200 neural stem cells called neuroblasts. A neuroblast divides asymmetrically to form two distinct daughter cells that differ in size and fate. The larger cell maintains all features of a neuroblast and continues to proliferate, whereas smaller daughter cell is called the ganglion mother cell which divides either once to produce two post-mitotic neurons (type I neuroblasts) or several times to produce multiple post-mitotic neurons (type II neuroblasts) (Boone & Doe, 2008). All neurons in a mushroom body are generated from four equivalent type I neuroblasts. Most *Drosophila* neuroblasts disappear before late larval stages and generate only a few dozen neurons. However, a mushroom body neuroblast sequentially generates hundreds of neurons from the embryonic, larval, pupal, until early adult stages (Armstrong et al., 1998; Lee et al., 1999). Furthermore, the mushroom body neuroblasts are four of the five neuroblasts that are actively dividing at the time of larval hatching (Ito & Hotta, 1992). This characteristic led to the development of the chemical ablation technique for mushroom body cells by feeding the DNA-synthesis inhibitor hydroxyurea to newly hatched larvae. This technique is later widely used to examine the role of the mushroom body in various behavioral assays (de Belle & Heisenberg, 1994).

**MARCM technique facilitates mushroom body studies**
Mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker (MARCM) is a genetic technique that permits the efficient creation of genetically marked clones of cells by mitotic recombination and was first developed for mushroom body studies by combining the FLP/FRT induced mitotic mosaic technique with a GAL80/GAL4/UAS mediated gene expression system (Lee & Luo, 1999). Figure 1-3 illustrates how the MARCM system works. The system starts with cells heterozygous for a transgene encoding the yeast GAL80 repressor protein that inhibits the activity of the GAL4 transcription factor. Following FLP/FRT-induced mitotic recombination, the GAL80 repressor gene will be absent in one of two daughter cells, thus allowing activation of GAL4-driven reporter gene expression in this daughter cell and all its progeny. If there is a mutation located on the chromosome arm in trans to the GAL80-containing chromosome, the uniquely labeled GAL80-negative cells will be homozygous for this mutation. When applied to the CNS of Drosophila, one can generate clones of different sizes depending on when mitotic recombination occurs and which cell loses the repressor. If FLP induced mitotic recombination occurs prior to the neuroblast division, half of the chance the new daughter neuroblast will be devoid of the GAL80 repressor and positively labeled. Thus, all the subsequent progeny are labeled as long as the GAL4 protein is expressed continuously in all neurons to form a large clone of labeled neurons, called a neuroblast clone. If the GMC or postmitotic neuron is devoid of the repressor transgene, only one or two neurons will be positively labeled, named single-cell or 2-cell clones (Lee & Luo, 1999).

The MARCM clone of mushroom body neuroblast generated at early developmental stages allows us to follow one mitotic neuron stem cell from embryonic to late pupal stages, which provides a fantastic model to study many aspects of neuron development,
such as neuron morphogenesis, neuron remodeling, and neuron differentiation. Since its establishment, the MARCM system has allowed researchers to identify many genes necessary for *Drosophila* neuronal morphogenesis. Through MARCM-based genetic screens, a number of genes that are required for distinct aspects of mushroom body neuronal development has been isolated. Such examples include: *Dscam* is required for normal axonal bifurcation and segregation (Wang et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2004); *TGF-β* signaling controls γ neuron remodeling (Zheng et al., 2003); and *polyhomeotic* controls neuronal identity and cell proliferation (Feng et al., 2011; Feng et al., 2012). The same kind of genetic mosaic screen described above also allowed me to reveal that JAK/STAT pathway is required for the mushroom body neurogenesis, which will be thoroughly discussed in this dissertation.
Figure 1-1. The *Drosophila* JAK/STAT signaling pathway (Adapted from (Amoyel & Bach, 2012))

The *Drosophila* JAK/STAT pathway can be activated by three ligands Unpaired (Upd) (orange). Upd binding activates the receptor Domeless (Dome) (magenta) and the associated JAK kinase Hopscotch (Hop) (green). Activated JAK leads to tyrosine phosphorylation (brown circles) of Dome, which then recruits and phosphorylates Stat92E (blue). Active Stat92E dimer translocates into nucleus, binds to TTCNNGAA consensus site, and regulates target gene expression. The known target genes of JAK/STAT pathway include *Socs36E*, *zfh1*, and *chinmo*. *Socs36E* (pink) negatively regulates Dome or Hop activity. A second short receptor Eye Transformer also called Latran (Et/Lat) (red) inhibits JAK/STAT signaling by forming heterodimer with Dome.
Figure 1-1

- Et/Lat
- Upd
- Dome
- Hop
- Stat92E
- YO
- Socs36E
- Cytoplasm
- Nucleus
- TTCNNNGAA
- TTCNNNGAA
- target genes (e.g., Socs36E, zfh1, chinmo)
Figure 1-2. The *Drosophila* Hippo signaling pathway (Adapted from (Zhao et al., 2011))
Arrowed ends indicate activation, blunted ends indicate inhibition, and dashed lines indicate unknown mechanisms.
Figure 1-2
Figure 1-3. Schematic illustration of the GAL80/GAL4/UAS expression system and the MARCM system (Adapted from (Wu & Luo, 2006))

a, In cells with the GAL80 repressor protein, GAL4 dependent expression of \textit{UAS-GFP} is suppressed. In the absence of GAL80 repressor protein, GAL4 dependent expression of \textit{GFP} is activated, thus the cells are positively labeled.

b, Upon the FLP-induced mitotic recombination at \textit{FRT} sites (black arrowhead), one type of daughter cell will be homozygous mutant that is devoid of the GAL80 repressor protein, thus the GAL4 dependent expression of \textit{UAS-GFP} will positively label this cell and its progeny.
Figure 1-3
Chapter 2: A MARCM-based genetic screen for genes necessary for *Drosophila* mushroom body neuronal morphogenesis
Abstract

To identify genes important for different aspects of neuronal morphogenesis, I performed a genetic screen using the MARCM technique in the mushroom body neurons of the *Drosophila* brain. Mutations on the chromosome X or the right arm of chromosome 3 were made homozygous in the progeny of uniquely labeled mushroom body neuroblasts. ~250 independent lines were screened. 8 lines showed defects in mushroom body morphogenesis. The most frequently observed phenotypes involved the reduction or elimination of specific neuron types. Further investigation into these lines and the associated genes will surely provide insights into the functions of these genes in neurogenesis. I focused my dissertation research on a mutation line *dome*<sup>G0405</sup> that caused a severe γ-only phenotype.
A small-scale genetic screen for genes required for mushroom body development

The neuronal system is extremely complex and accurate. Generation of complicated neuronal circuit involves many biological processes, such as cell proliferation, cell differentiation, cell degeneration, neuron remodeling, axon guidance and axon bifurcation. Many genes essential for neuronal morphogenesis are likely also required for similar or different processes in other cells. In a multicellular organism that is homozygous mutant for an essential gene, defects in many cell types and developmental processes are likely to occur. Development may even be arrested in early embryonic stages. The mosaic system allows for the creation of a small fraction of cells homozygous for mutations of interest in specific cells, tissues and at times of interest to the investigator so that the phenotype of insects containing those clones can be assessed and the function of the essential genes inferred.

*Drosophila* mushroom bodies have been used as a powerful model to investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying different aspects of neuronal development and function. I did a small-scale genetic screen to isolate genes required for *Drosophila* mushroom body neuronal morphogenesis. The MARCM technique (Lee & Luo, 1999) was used, which allows positive labeling of homozygous mutant cells in a wild-type background. I used *GAL4-OK107*, which has the *GAL4* coding region under the regulatory control of an enhancer that results expression in all mushroom body neurons, to label the mushroom body neuroblast clones (Connolly et al., 1996). The MARCM clones of mushroom body neuroblast generated at early developmental stages and labeled with *GAL4-OK107>*UAS-mCD8::GFP* allow us to visualize the gross morphology of the mushroom body and to follow single neuroblasts through different developmental stages.
UAS-mCD8::GFP contains a GAL4-responsive promoter regulating the expression of the coding region of mouse CD8 fused with the green fluorescence protein (GFP).

A collection of lines with recessive lethal mutations and an appropriately located FRT site was obtained from the Kyoto Drosophila Genetic Resource Center (DGRC) stock center (Table 2-1). Each line has a P-element insertion resulting in recessive lethality and an FRT element on the X (FRT19A) or the 3R (FRT82B) chromosome arm. After examining clones homozygous for each of 250 independent P-element insertions arising from mitotic recombination in neuroblasts, I identified 8 mutations that cause defects in different aspects of mushroom body neuronal morphogenesis. In adult brains, the most frequently observed phenotypes were reduction or elimination of specific neuron lobes. We call them α/β-only (no early-born neuron lobes) or γ-only (only with early-born neurons) phenotypes. The reduction of mushroom body neurons could be due to defects in cell birth or could be caused by cell death. In order to examine whether the defects involve cell-death, rescue tests were performed by ectopically expressing UAS-p35 in the neuroblast clones. It is known that the baculovirus gene p35 can inhibit apoptosis in diverse animals including Drosophila and plays an important role in apoptotic pathway (Ohtsubo et al., 1996). Of the 8 mutant lines that cause absence of α/β neurons or γ neurons in the adult mushroom bodies, 3 could be rescued by ectopic expression of UAS-p35, while others failed to be rescued by ectopic expression of UAS-p35. These 8 mutant lines were grouped into 3 categories based on their mushroom body phenotypes and p35 rescue results (Table 2-2). 3 mutant lines belong to the category A showing the α/β only phenotype that were rescued by UAS-p35, which suggests that the first born γ neuron might have died during development. 3 mutant lines belong to the category B showing
the α/β only phenotype that were not rescued by UAS-p35, which suggests that the absence of γ neuron was not due to cell death. 2 mutant lines belong to the category C showing the γ only phenotype that were not rescued by UAS-p35, which suggests that cell death is not the major cause of the absence of α/β neurons. Further investigation into these lines and the associated genes will help to reveal the functions of these genes in neurogenesis.

I focused my dissertation research on a mutation line dome\textsuperscript{G0405} that caused a severe γ-only phenotype. The line dome\textsuperscript{G0405} contains a P-element insertion in domeless and this mutant allele was particularly interesting for two reasons. First, the γ neurons are the first-born neuron type, so a loss of later-born α/β neurons may suggest a defect in neurogenesis or proliferation. Second, domeless is known to encode a JAK/STAT signaling receptor, suggesting an essential role of JAK/STAT signaling in neurogenesis. The JAK/STAT signaling pathway is one of the critical regulators of cell proliferation and stem cell self-renewal. Over-activation of JAK/STAT signaling often leads to tumorgenesis. Highly conserved regulatory and cellular functions have been identified in mammals and Drosophila. Compared with the complexity of the JAK/STAT pathway in mammals, the streamlined regulation of JAK/STAT in Drosophila makes it a perfect model to study this signaling pathway and its involvement in the regulation of cell proliferation and stem cell self-renewal.
Table 2-1. The 250 lines obtained from the Kyoto DGRC that were used for screening
Each line has a P-element insertion resulting in recessive lethality and a FRT element on the X (FRT19A, 170 lines) or the 3R (FRT82B, 80 lines) chromosome arm. The DGRC number and Genotype are shown for each line.
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<th>Genotype</th>
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<td>y[d2] w[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N}2 P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{w+[mC]=lacW}Dph5[l3512]/TM6B, P{y+[t7.7]ry+[t7.2]=Car20y/TPN1, Tb[1]}</td>
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y[+t7.2] = Car20y; TPN1, Tb[1]

111-479


111-496


111-505


111-511


111-532


111-535


111-546


111-552


111-568


111-582


111-588


111-594

y[*] w[*]; P{ry[+t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}CG14713[KG05924]/TM6C, Tb[1], Sb[1]

111-595

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111-599


111-605


111-616


111-617

y[*] w[*]; P{ry[+t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}simaj[KG07607]/TM6C, Tb[1], Sb[1]

111-625


111-627

y[1] w[67c23]; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}


y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG06855]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG08575]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG06855]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG08575]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG06855]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG08575]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG06855]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG08575]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG06855]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]

y[1118] P{ry+[t7.2]=ey-FLP.N.2} P{GMR-lacZ.C(38.1)}TPN1; P{ry+[t7.2]=neoFRT}82B P{y+[mDint2]}

w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor- P{KG08575]/TM6B, P{ry+[t7.2]=Car20y}TPN1, Tb[1]
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0160 P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0166[G0166] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0173[G0173] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0181[G0181] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0182[G0182] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Dic2[GO190] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0213a[GO213] P{lacW}G0213b, l(1)G0213[GO213] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}dome[GO218] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0232[G0232] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}An2[GO247] sesB[GO247] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}dome[GO264] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0273[G0273] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}mys[GO281] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0334[GO334] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
P{w[+mC]=lacW}sgg[GO335] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Fas2[GO336] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}dlg1[GO342]a P{lacW}dlg1[GO342]b
dgl1[GO342] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}ras[GO351] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0353[GO353] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0354[GO354] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0356[GO356] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Smr[GO361] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Lag1[GO365] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}dome[GO367] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}ctp[GO371] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0377[GO377] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
P{w[+mC]=lacW}elav[GO378a] P{lacW}G0378b, l(1)G0378[GO378] w[*]
P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0287[GO287] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}G0199a P{lacW}dome[GO199b], l(1)G0199[GO199] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0289[GO289] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Trxr-1[GO379] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}ras[GO380b] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G084[GO381] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0382[GO382] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0392[GO392] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0400[GO400] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
P{w[+mC]=lacW}br[GO401] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Moe[GO404] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}dome[GO405] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0412[GO412] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0007[GO416] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0417a P{lacW}G0417b, l(1)G0417[GO417] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0419[GO419] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(1)G0007[GO416] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-901 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Act5C[G0420] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-902 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0424[G0424] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-903 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}mew[G0429] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-904 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0430[G0430] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-905 P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0431[G0431] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-906 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0437[G0437] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-907 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Chc[G0438] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-908 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}ras[G0002] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-910 P{w[+mC]=lacW}elav[G0031] arg[G0031] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-911 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0427[G0427] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-913 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0319[G0319] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-914 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0007[G0176] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-915 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}G0184a P{lacW}Rph[G0184b], l(l)G0184[G0184] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-916 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0185[G0185] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-917 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0279[G0279] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-918 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0003[G0297] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-919 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0007[G0308] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-920 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}elav[G0319] arg[G0319] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-921 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0376[G0376] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-922 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Ant2[G0386] sesB[G0386] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-923 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Nrg[G0413] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-924 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0425[G0425] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-925 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0442[G0442] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-926 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}mew[G0443] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-927 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0148[G0461] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-928 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0464[G0464] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-929 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0467[G0467] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-930 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0469[G0469] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-931 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Trxr-1[G0477] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-932 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}G0478a P{lacW}Cl[cG0478b], l(l)G0478[G0478] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-933 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}sd[G0483] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-934 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}baz[G0484] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-935 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Nrg[G0488b] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-936 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}lag[l(G0489) P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-937 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0495 P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-938 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}Rala[G0501] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-939 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}fw[00172] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-940 P{w[+mC]=lacW}G0280a P{lacW}G0280b, l(l)G0280[G0280] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-941 P{w[+mC]=lacW}Unc-76[G0333] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-942 P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0399[G0399] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-943 w[67c23] P{w[+mC]=lacW}rap[G0418] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-944 y[1] w[*] P{w[+mC]=lacW}l(l)G0435[G0435] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-945 P{w[+mC]=lacW}sta[G0448] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-946 w[1118] P{w[+mGT]=GT1}CG1789[BG02603] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
111-947 y[1] w[1118] P{w[+mGT]=GT1}mRpL33[BG01040] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}shi[KG03690] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}beta-Spec[KG02312] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}l(1)G0003[KG02485] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}CG32666[KG03058] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}GO01741 w[1118] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}GO0462[KG0462] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}GO06588 P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] P{y[+mDint2] w[BR.E.BR]=SUPor-P}PG08676 w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0255[EY00709] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G09650 w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0148[KG0148] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0209[KG0209] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0191[KG0191] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0257[EY05235] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0030[KG04873] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0091b P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[1118] PBac{w[mC]=RB}APCG1677[KG09650] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

w[67c23] P{w[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0003[KG0003] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0191[G0191] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0209[G0209] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0369[G0369] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0462[G0462] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0632[G0632] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0462[G0462] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5

y[1] w[*] P{yw[mC]=lacW}l(1)G0632[G0632] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5
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<td>114-556</td>
<td>w[1118] PBac[w+mC]=WH]CG12659[f07899] Crag[f07899] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
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<td>y[1] w[*] P{w+mC]=lacW]sdx[00309] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-607</td>
<td>w[67c23] P{w+mC]=lacW]l(1)G0076[G0076] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-608</td>
<td>P{w+mC]=lacW]l(1)G0144[G0144] w[*] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-609</td>
<td>w[67c23] P{w+mC]=lacW]l(1)G0059 P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-610</td>
<td>w[67c23] P{w+mC]=lacW]l(1)G0150[G0150] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-612</td>
<td>y[1] w[*] P{w+mC]=lacW]l(1)G0175[G0175] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-614</td>
<td>w[67c23] P{w+mC]=lacW]ras[G0391] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114-615</td>
<td>w[67c23] P{w+mC]=lacW]l(1)G0414[G0414] P{neoFRT}19A/FM7c; P{ey-FLP.D}5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2-1**
Table 2-2. A list of mutant lines causing abnormalities in mushroom body morphogenesis that were identified from the mosaic genetic screen
As shown here are 8 mutant lines that cause absence of α/β neurons or γ neurons in the adult mushroom bodies. These 8 lines are grouped into 3 categories based on their mushroom body phenotypes and p35 rescue results. The DGRC Number, associated gene(s), the allele name(s) are also shown for each line. Representative images for each category are also shown.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DGRC No.</th>
<th>associated gene(s)</th>
<th>allele name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category A: mutant showing the ( \alpha/\beta ) only phenotype that were rescued by ectopic expression of ( UAS-p35 )</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-853</td>
<td>( l(1)G0152 )</td>
<td>( l(1)G0152^{G0152} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-882</td>
<td>( elav, l(1)G0378 )</td>
<td>( elav^{G0378a}, l(1)G0378^{G0378} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-915</td>
<td>( Rph, l(1)G0184 )</td>
<td>( Rph^{G0184b}, l(1)G0184^{G0184} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category B: mutant showing the ( \alpha/\beta ) only phenotype that were not rescued by ectopic expression of ( UAS-p35 )</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-890</td>
<td>( e(y)3 )</td>
<td>( e(y)3^{G0381} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-897</td>
<td>( l(1)G0412 )</td>
<td>( l(1)G0412^{G0412} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-952</td>
<td>( gt )</td>
<td>( gt^{KG01741} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category C: mutant showing the ( \gamma ) only phenotype that were not rescued by ectopic expression of ( UAS-p35 )</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-840</td>
<td>( CG12991 )</td>
<td>( CG12991^{G0143a} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-896</td>
<td>( dome )</td>
<td>( dome^{G0405} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2-2
Chapter 3: JAK/STAT signaling prevents neuroblast termination and promotes neuroblast division in *Drosophila* mushroom bodies
Abstract

Through a MARCM-based genetic screen, I found that mutations in *Drosophila* receptor of the Janus Kinase (JAK) / Signal Transducer and Activator of Transcription (STAT) pathway *domeless* (*dome*) led to significantly reduced number of neurons that are all γ type. And loss of JAK/STAT downstream kinase *hopscotch* (*hop*) caused the similar phenotype in mushroom body. The mutant phenotype could be perfectly rescued by ectopic expression of *UAS-dome* or a dominant-active form of Stat92E (*Stat92E^{ΔNdC}* in the *dome* mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones. Therefore, I conclude that the mutant phenotype is caused by loss of JAK/STAT signaling. More evidence suggests that the loss of JAK/STAT pathway does not affect the morphogenesis and survival of post-mitotic γ neurons, nor the subtype differentiation of mushroom body neurons. Furthermore, by performing a time-course study and neuroblast-specific antibody staining, I found that loss of dome caused precocious disappearance of mushroom body neuroblasts, and ectopic expression of *Stat92E^{ΔNdC}* led to neuronal overgrowth. Based on these results, I confirmed that JAK/STAT signaling is required for the neuroblast maintenance and cell proliferation in mushroom bodies.
Loss of *dome* function leads to defects in mushroom body neurogenesis

When generated in newly hatched larvae (NHL) and examined in adult brains, each wild type mushroom body neuroblast generated all three subtypes of neurons: γ, α'/β’, and α/β (Fig. 3-1A). However, mushroom body neuroblast clones homozygous for the mutant JAK/STAT pathway receptor gene *domeless* (*dome*) exhibit significantly reduced number of neurons that are all γ type (Fig. 3-1B). This is a recessive lethal mutant named *dome* $^{G0405}$ in the flybase that is induced by P element insertion in the 5’ untranslated region of *dome* gene. It is a hypomorphic allele, the lethality occurs during the first and second larval instars. To confirm it is the mutation in *dome* gene responsible for this γ-only phenotype, another *dome* mutant allele named *dome* $^{468}$ was tested using MARCM analysis. *dome* $^{468}$ is a loss of function allele which is also induced by P element insertion in the 5’ untranslated region of *dome*. Mutant animals are lethal at the first instar larval stage (Brown et al., 2001). The similar mushroom body abnormalities were observed (Fig. 3-1C), although some wild-type clones were seen occasionally. So *dome* $^{G0405}$ causes more severe phenotype in mushroom bodies than *dome* $^{468}$. This is different from the case in posterior spiracles, with the latter showing stronger phenotypes than the former (Brown et al., 2001). Next, the rescue test was performed by specifically overexpressing *UAS-dome* in the *dome* mutant clones. I found that expression of *UAS-dome* in the *dome* mutant mushroom body clones fully rescues the γ-only phenotype (Fig. 3-1D). Altogether, these results suggest that the loss of *dome* function cause the γ-only phenotype in mushroom bodies.
**Figure 3-1. Loss of *dome* function causes γ-only phenotype in adult mushroom bodies**

A-D shown are composite confocal images of mushroom body neuroblast clones induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in adult brains. All mushroom body neurons are labeled due to *GAL4-OK107*-driven expression of *mCD8::GFP*. Midline of the brain is at the left side of the image in this and all subsequent images. In wild-type mushroom body neuroblast clone (A), all five axon lobes of three neuron subtypes, γ, α'/β', and α/β lobes were observed. In *dome*\(^{G0405}\) mushroom body neuroblast clone (B), only the first-born γ neurons were observed, and the number of neurons was greatly reduced. In *dome*\(^{468}\) mushroom body neuroblast clone (C), the phenotype is similar to that of *dome*\(^{G0405}\). In (D), the expression of *UAS-dome* in the *dome* mutant clone rescued the γ-only phenotype.

Genotype: (A) FRT19A, *UAS-mCD8::GFP/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (B) FRT19A, *dome*\(^{G0405}\)/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; *UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (C) FRT19A, *dome*\(^{468}\)/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; *UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (D) FRT19A, *dome*\(^{G0405}\)/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; *UAS-mCD8::GFP/UAS-dome; GAL4-OK107/+.
Figure 3-1
Lack of JAK/STAT signaling causes the γ-only phenotype in adult mushroom bodies

Dome is the receptor for *Drosophila* JAK/STAT signaling pathway. Loss of *dome* function causes γ-only phenotype in adult mushroom bodies. To test if this phenotype is caused by loss of JAK/STAT signaling, I examined the effect of loss of JAK kinase (*hop*) in adult mushroom body. *hop*^2^ is a loss of function allele, which was induced by X ray to delete about 300bp of genomic DNA (Binari & Perrimon, 1994). I performed MARCM analysis for *hop*^2^ in the mushroom body. The similar phenotype was observed as that in *dome* mutant clones, which is the significantly reduced number of neurons that are nearly all γ type (Fig. 3-2C).

Next, I examined the effect of the gain-of-function of the downstream transcriptional factor Stat92E. The expression of a dominant-active form of Stat92E in *dome* mutant clones was performed for MARCM analysis. The dominant-active form of Stat92E resulted from the removal of both the N- and C-terminal domains in Stat92E, named Stat92E^ΔNΔC^ (Ekas et al., 2010). It has been shown that neither the first 133 nor the last 36 amino acids are required for Stat92E function, and the removal of both of these domains resulted in a constitutively active form of Stat92E. It was also shown that the dominant-active abilities of Stat92E^ΔNΔC^ require phosphorylation of Tyr^711^ as well as the formation of the endogenous Stat92E: Stat92E^ΔNΔC^ dimers (Ekas et al., 2010). I found that the expression of UAS-Stat92E^ΔNΔC^ fully rescued the γ-only phenotype in *dome* mutant clones (Fig. 3-2D), suggesting the requirement of activation of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom body normal development. With all these results, I come to the conclusion
that loss of JAK/STAT signaling activity causes the $\gamma$-only phenotype in the mushroom bodies.
Figure 3-2. Lack of JAK/STAT signaling causes the γ-only phenotype in adult mushroom bodies
A-D shown are composite confocal images of mushroom body neuroblast clones induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in adult brains. All mushroom body neurons are labeled due to GAL4-OK107-driven expression of mCD8::GFP. In wild-type (A), full γ, α'/β', and α/β lobes were observed. In domeG0405 mutant clone (B), only the first-born γ neurons were observed, and the number of neurons was greatly reduced. In hop2 mutant clone (C), very similar phenotype was observed as that in dome mutant clones. Most of the neurons are early-born γ neurons, and the number of neurons was greatly reduced. In (D), the expression of UAS-Stat92EΔNΔC in the domeG0405 mutant clones rescued the γ-only phenotype. Genotype: (A) FRT19A, UAS-mCD8::GFP/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (B) FRT19A, domeG0405/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (C) FRT19A, hop2/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (D) FRT19A, domeG0405/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/UAS-Stat92EΔNΔC; GAL4-OK107/+.
Figure 3-2
JAK/STAT pathway activity is not required for the survival and cell fate specification of mushroom body neurons

Reduction in mushroom body neurons could be due to decreased neuron generation or increased post-mitotic neuron death. Moreover, the $\gamma$-only phenotype of dome or hop mushroom body could be the result of either cell fate specification failure or premature neuroblast termination. To clarify the cellular basis of dome or hop mushroom body phenotype, I first test whether the JAK/STAT signaling affects post-mitotic neuron survival and cell fate specification of mushroom body neurons.

When generated in newly hatched larvae and examined at different developmental stages, the number of neurons in the dome mushroom body neuroblast clones are comparable at newly emerged and 4-week-old adults (Fig. 3-3A, c and d), indicating that JAK/STAT is not required for the long-term survival of post-mitotic mushroom body neurons. Furthermore, neurons generated by dome mushroom body neuroblast clones were of normal $\gamma$ neuron morphology at the wandering larval stage (Fig. 3-3A, a) and underwent remodeling at the pupal stage (Fig. 3-3A, b), which resulted in WT-like adult $\gamma$ neurons (Fig. 3-3A, c and d). This indicates that loss of JAK/STAT does not affect morphology, remodeling and survival of mushroom body $\gamma$ neurons, and the reduced neuron number is not caused by the death of postmitotic neurons. Thus, JAK/STAT signaling is not required for the long-term survival of mushroom body neurons. Alternatively, it is needed to generate neurons.

I then generated dome mushroom body neuroblast clones at different developmental stages and examined them in adult brains. Whenever the clones were created, I invariably observed fewer neurons generated by dome mushroom body neuroblast clones (Fig. 3-
However, the $\gamma$ to $\alpha'/\beta'$ or $\alpha'/\beta'$ to $\alpha/\beta$ subtype switch of mushroom body neurons wasn’t affected. For example, when created in early 2nd instar larva (24 hrs ALH), *dome* mushroom body neuroblast clones produced $\gamma$ plus a few $\alpha'/\beta'$ neurons (Fig. 3-3B, e); when created in the early 3rd instar larva (48 hrs ALH), *dome* mushroom body neuroblast clones mainly produced $\alpha'/\beta'$ and a few $\gamma$ and $\alpha/\beta$ neurons (Fig. 3-3B, f); *dome* mushroom body neuroblast clones induced at the middle 3rd instar (72 hrs ALH) produced $\alpha'/\beta'$ and $\alpha/\beta$ neurons (Fig. 3-3B, g); and *dome* mushroom body neuroblast clones induced at early pupa (96 hrs ALH) produced only $\alpha/\beta$ neurons (Fig. 3-3B, h). I invariably observed a premature arrest of neuroblast proliferation when the *dome* mutant clones were induced at different larval stages, indicating that JAK/STAT signaling is required for neuroblast proliferation during these early developmental stages. Altogether these results indicate that the JAK/STAT pathway does not affect the morphogenesis and survival of post-mitotic $\gamma$ neurons or the subtype differentiation of mushroom body neurons.
**Figure 3-3. Loss of dome does not affect differentiation and survival of the post-mitotic neurons**

Confocal images of dome\textsuperscript{G0405} mushroom body neuroblast clones induced/examined at the indicated developmental stages. All clones were labeled by GAL4-OK107>UAS-mCD8::GFP.

Figure 3-3A: Confocal images of dome\textsuperscript{G0405} mushroom body neuroblast clones induced in the newly hatched larvae and examined at different developmental stages, showing normal morphology (a) and remodeling (b) of larval γ neurons and the survival of γ adult neurons till 4 weeks after eclosion (comparing d to c). Loss of dome does not affect morphology, remodeling and survival of mushroom body γ neurons.

Figure 3-3B: Confocal images of dome\textsuperscript{G0405} mushroom body neuroblast clones induced at different developmental stages and examined at one-week adult brains, showing that loss of dome does not affect γ to α’/β’ or α’/β’ to α/β subtype-switch of mushroom body neurons. e, dome clones induced in early 2\textsuperscript{nd} instar larva (24 hrs ALH), showing γ plus a few α’/β’ neurons were produced; f, dome clones induced in early 3\textsuperscript{rd} instar larva (48 hrs ALH), showing γ and α’/β’ plus a few α/β neurons were produced; g, dome clones induced at middle 3\textsuperscript{rd} instar (72 hrs ALH), showing α’/β’ and α/β neurons were produced; and h, dome clones induced at early pupa (96 hrs ALH), showing only α/β neurons were produced.

Genotype: FRT19A, dome\textsuperscript{G0405}/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; GAL4-OK107/+.
Figure 3-3A

Figure 3-3B
JAK/STAT signaling prevents premature neuroblast termination and promotes cell division of mushroom body neuroblasts

Neuroblast clones homozygous for *dome*, as well as for *hop*, exhibit significantly reduced cell number, with most or all neurons are early-born γ neurons, suggesting a defect in the continuous generation of new neurons from the neuroblasts. To clarify the cellular basis of the γ-only phenotype, I performed a time-course study to quantify the neurons generated by wild type, *dome* mutant, and *Stat92E* gain-of-function mushroom body neuroblasts at different developmental stages. Using the MARCM technique, I induced neuroblast clones in NHL. Brains are collected at 48h-, 72h-, 96h-ALH, 24h-, 60h-APF (after pupa formation), and 1-day-, 1-week-, 2-week-adults and processed for mCD8 (clone marker) antibody staining. Images were collected using confocal microscopy. Individual neuroblast lineage sizes were determined by counting the number of neurons in each clone.

Loss of *dome* results in significantly smaller mutant clones, in which the neuroblasts fail to generate new neurons starting from the wandering larval (WL) stages. On the other side, expression of dominant-active *Stat92E* (*Stat92E DA*) in the wild-type clones leads to neuronal overgrowth. In WL, wild-type clones had an average of 104±10.2 cells (n=12 clones), compared with 19.9±3.5 cells (n=9 clones) in *dome* mutant clones, and 193.9±20.1 cells (n=15) in *Stat92E DA* clones (*P<0.0001*) (Fig. 3-4, a). At 24h APF (Fig. 3-4, b), the average number of cells is 32.3±5.6 (n=27) in *dome* mutant clones, 264.4±10.7 (n=13) in *Stat92E DA* clones, compared with 190.2±20.1 (n=11) in wild-type clones (*P<0.0001*). At later pupa stage (60h APF) (Fig. 3-4, b), the average number of cells is 25.3±4.0 (n=12) in *dome* mutant clones, 296.1±30.8 (n=9) in *Stat92E DA* clones.
compared with 139.8±26.8 (n=12) in wild-type clones (P<0.0001). In 1-day adults (Fig. 3-4, c), the average number of cells is 23.1±1.4 (n=14) in dome mutant clones, 414.1±38.4 (n=20) in Stat92E DA clones, compared with 191.1±17.7 (n=13) in wild-type clones (P<0.0001). In 1-week adults (Fig. 3-4c), the average number of cells is 21.5±3.2 (n=14) in dome mutant clones, 509.1±49.2 (n=12) in Stat92E DA clones, compared with 228.9±38.5 (n=12) in wild-type clones (P<0.0001).

In summary, as shown in (Figure. 3-4, d), from 48 hours after larval hatching (ALH) to the early pupal stage, the number of neurons generated by a wild type mushroom body neuroblast continuously increased. It then moderately decreased during metamorphosis and increased again to over 200 neurons at the adult stage. However, the number of neurons generated by a dome mutant mushroom body neuroblast stopped increasing at the early 3rd larval stage and remained at ~20 hereafter. By contrast, when Stat92EΔNΔC, a dominant-active form of Stat92E (named Stat92E DA here), was expressed in a wild-type mushroom body neuroblast clone, the number of neurons generated overpassed that generated by wild type neuroblasts at all developmental stages and resulted in more than 500 neurons, a two-fold increase.

I further labeled mushroom body neuroblasts using a neuroblast-specific marker, Dpn antibody (Boone & Doe, 2008), at the early pupal stage. Mushroom body neuroblast clones are induced in NHL, and brains are collected and processed for Dpn antibody staining. Images are collected using confocal microscopy. The brain hemisphere with a wild-type clone has four mushroom body neuroblasts (Fig. 3-4, e, left panel). That with a dome mutant clone has only three mushroom body neuroblasts (Fig. 3-4, e, middle panel),
implying that the *dome* mutant neuroblasts prematurely disappeared. The neuroblast premature disappearance could be due to either death or defects in self-renewal, which is usually called neuroblast termination. However, the brain hemisphere with a *Stat92E* gain-of-function clone also has only four mushroom body neuroblasts (Fig. 3-4, e, right panel), indicating that the supernumerary neurons in *Stat92E* gain-of-function clones are a result of faster cell division from a single neuroblast.

All together, these results demonstrate that the JAK/STAT pathway plays two major roles in the mushroom body neurogenesis: preventing premature neuroblast termination and promoting neuroblast division.
Figure 3-4. JAK/STAT signaling promotes division and prevents premature termination of mushroom body neuroblasts

a-c, Quantification of neurons generated by wild-type, dome mutant, and Stat92E gain-of-function mushroom body neuroblasts. Mushroom body neuroblast clones were induced in newly hatched larvae and examined at different developmental stages. Individual clone sizes were quantified by counting cells within each clone, grouped by developmental stages: (a) for larval stages, (b) for pupa stages, and (c) for adults. Data represent average of 10-27 clones. Statistical significance was calculated using One way ANOVA. Error bars indicate standard error of the mean. Genotypes and P-values as indicated.

d, Line plot of average cells per neuroblast clone at different developmental stages based on data in a-c. Wild type represented in blue line, dome mutant represented in red line, and Stat92E gain-of-function represented in green line.

e, Confocal images of the mushroom body region of early pupa brains. Only cell bodies are presented to show MARCM neuroblast clones induced in the newly hatched larvae (green, GAL4-OK107>UAS-mCD8::GFP) and neuroblasts (red, Dpn antibody staining). Genotypes as indicated.
Figure 3-4
Chapter 4: Both JAK/STAT signaling activity and Hippo pathway effector Yki activity are required for mushroom body neurogenesis, and higher activation of one can compensate for lack of the other
Abstract

To identify JAK/STAT signaling downstream targets that are crucial for mediating mushroom body neurogenesis, I tested a group of genes that are well characterized to be involved in the control of cell proliferation or cell death. Overexpression of Hippo pathway effector yorkie (yki) fully and overexpression of CycE and/or Diap1, the downstream target genes of Yki, partially rescues the phenotype of dome mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones. In order to investigate whether Yki function is required for the normal development of mushroom bodies, loss-of-function phenotypes of yki were analyzed. In adult brains, MARCM neuroblast clones mutant for yki exhibit the similar mutant phenotype, although with a lower penetrance. I further examined whether over-activation of JAK/STAT can rescue yki mutant phenotypes. And I found that ectopic expression of UAS-Stat92E\textsuperscript{\textit{ANAC}}, UAS-CycE or/and UAS-Diap1 in the yki mutant neuroblast clones significantly rescued the mutant phenotype. Therefore, I conclude that loss of JAK/STAT signaling activity and loss of Hippo pathway downstream effector yki cause similar cell proliferation defects in mushroom body, which can be mutually rescued by higher level of each other and by overexpression of CycE or Diap1.
Yorkie (yki) overexpression rescues the phenotype resulting from the loss of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom bodies

JAK/STAT signaling might function through Death-associated inhibitor of apoptosis protein 1 (Diap1) to prevent neuroblast termination, because Diap1 is a direct target of Stat92E (Betz et al., 2008). In contrast, its downstream target(s) of promoting neuroblast division is unclear. JAK/STAT signaling was reported to facilitate cells progressing through G1/S and G2/M cell cycle checkpoints in the Drosophila eye and wing imaginal discs (Bach et al., 2003; Rodrigues et al., 2012). However, multiple independent genetic and RNAi screens failed to identify the target genes that are required for cell-cycle progression (Zoranovic et al., 2013). Because a Stat92E gain-of-function neuroblast generates more neurons than a wild-type one without producing excess neuroblasts (Fig. 3-4, d and e), I believe that JAK/STAT signaling does not regulate neuroblast asymmetrical division. Instead, it works through a general mechanism to control cell division and death.

To identify JAK/STAT signaling downstream targets that are crucial for mediating mushroom body neurogenesis, I set out to test a group of genes that are well characterized to be involved in the control of either cell proliferation or cell death. Taking advantage of a collection of UAS transgenic lines (see Table 4-1), including UAS-CycD, UAS-Cdk4, UAS-CycE, UAS-Myc, UAS-E2f1, UAS-Dp, UAS-yorkie (yki), UAS-shg, UAS-Pi3K92E, and UAS-Diap1, I overexpressed these genes in the dome mutant mushroom body clones, respectively, and tested whether they could rescue the γ-only phenotype of dome mutant mushroom body. Studies in vertebrates suggest Cyclin D (CycD) and c-Myc as JAK/STAT downstream target genes to promote cell-cycle progression (Bowman et al.,
Here, I found that overexpression of CycD or Myc failed to rescue the γ-only phenotype of dome mutant mushroom body (Fig. 4-1). Instead, of 11 genes examined, overexpression of Hippo pathway downstream effector yorkie (yki) fully rescued the γ-only phenotype of dome mushroom body neuroblast clones (Fig. 4-2, a) and overexpression of CycE or Diap1 partially but significantly rescues this phenotype (Fig. 4-2, b and c). Moreover, overexpression of CycE and Diap1 together resulted in more complete rescue than either of them separately (Fig. 4-2, d). Therefore, I propose that JAK/STAT signaling acts through Diap1 to prevent neuroblast termination and through CycE to promote neuroblast division.
Table 4-1. List of genes tested as potential downstream mediators for the JAK/STAT signaling pathway in mushroom body neurogenesis
As shown here is a collection of UAS-transgene lines of genes involved in the control of either cell proliferation or cell death. UAS-transgenes were expressed in dome<sup>G0405</sup> mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones that were induced in newly hatched larvae, and the rescue effects were examined in adult brains. The gene encoding protein name in Drosophila, the efficiency to rescue dome mutant phenotype in mushroom body, the known function of gene in Drosophila, and the orthologs in mammals are listed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>UAS-transgene</strong></th>
<th><strong>Encoding protein name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rescue Efficiency</strong></th>
<th><strong>Function in Drosophila</strong></th>
<th><strong>Orthologs in Mammals</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-Diap1</strong></td>
<td>Death-associated inhibitor of apoptosis 1, also known as Thread</td>
<td>significant rescue</td>
<td>cell apoptosis inhibitor</td>
<td>XIAP, MIHB, MIHC, NAIP, Survivin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-CycD</strong></td>
<td>Cyclin D</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>promote cellular growth in complex with Cdk4 (Datar et al., 2000)</td>
<td>Cyclin D1, D2, and D3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-Cdk4</strong></td>
<td>Cyclin-dependent kinase 4</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>promote cellular growth in complex with CycD (Datar et al., 2000)</td>
<td>Cdk4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-CycE</strong></td>
<td>Cyclin E</td>
<td>significant rescue</td>
<td>the G1 cyclin essential and rate limiting for progression into S phase (Jones et al., 2000)</td>
<td>CycE1 and E2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-Myc</strong></td>
<td>v-Myc myelocytomatosis viral oncogene homolog</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>transcription factor regulates cell growth, proliferation and apoptosis (Benassayag et al., 2005)</td>
<td>C-Myc, and L-Myc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-E2f1</strong></td>
<td>E2F1 transcription factor</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>promote transcription of a large set of cell cycle genes by interacting with DP (Du et al., 1996)</td>
<td>E2F-1, -2, -3, -4, and -5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-Dp</strong></td>
<td>DP transcription factor</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>promote transcription of a large set of cell cycle genes by interacting with E2F (Du et al., 1996)</td>
<td>DP-1 and DP-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-yki</strong></td>
<td>Yorkie</td>
<td>full rescue</td>
<td>transcriptional coactivator and major downstream effector of Hippo signaling pathway</td>
<td>YAP and TAZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-shg</strong></td>
<td>Shotgun, also known as DEcadherin</td>
<td>weak rescue</td>
<td>critical for cell adhesion (Dumstrei et al., 2002)</td>
<td>E-cadherin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UAS-Pi3K92E</strong></td>
<td>Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase at 92E</td>
<td>weak rescue</td>
<td>intracellular signal transducer enzyme involved in cell growth, proliferation, and differentiation</td>
<td>PI3K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4-1**
Figure 4-1. Excess CycD.Cdk4 or Myc in the *dome* mutant mushroom body neuroblasts failed to rescue the γ-only phenotype

a-d, Confocal images of *dome* mushroom body neuroblast clones induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in the adult brains. All mushroom body neurons are labeled due to GAL4-OK107-driven expression of mCD8::GFP. Overexpression of either UAS-CycD.Cdk4 (a) or UAS-Myc (b) failed to rescue *dome*<sup>G0405</sup> phenotypes. Genotype: (a) FRT19A, *dome*<sup>G0405</sup>/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; UAS-CycD.Cdk4/+. (b) FRT19A, *dome*<sup>G0405</sup>/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; UAS-Myc/+; GAL4-OK107.
Figure. 4-1

dome; UAS-CycD.Cdk4

dome; UAS-Myc
Figure 4-2. The cell proliferation defects of dome mushroom bodies are rescued by excess of yki, CycE, or Diap1

a-d, Confocal images of dome mushroom body neuroblast clones induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in adult brains, showing rescue efficiencies of yki, CycE, Diap1 and CycE plus Diap1 on dome mutant phenotypes. All mushroom body neurons are labeled due to GAL4-OK107-driven expression of mCD8::GFP. In (a), a full rescue was observed by ectopic expression of yki in dome mutant clones. In (b) and (c), only partial rescue was observed by ectopic expression of CycE or Diap1 in dome mutant clones. In (d), overexpression of CycE and Diap1 together in the dome mutant clones resulted in more complete rescue than either of them separately. Genotype: (a) FRT19A, dome$^{G0405}$/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; UAS-yki/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (b) FRT19A, dome$^{G0405}$/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; UAS-CycE/+; GAL4-OK107/+; (c) FRT19A, dome$^{G0405}$/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; UAS-Diap1/+; GAL4-OK107/+; and (d) FRT19A, dome$^{G0405}$/FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80; UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; UAS-CycE, UAS-Diap1/+; GAL4-OK107/+.
Figure 4-2
Loss of yki expression also causes a phenotype similar to that caused by the loss of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom bodies, and ectopic expression of Stat92EΔNAC rescues this phenotype

Interestingly, CycE and Diap1 are also the major target genes of Yki, the downstream effector of the Hippo signaling pathway, in regulating cell division and apoptosis (Tapon et al., 2002; Wu et al., 2003; Wu et al., 2008), which perfectly interprets why yki rescues dome mutant phenotypes (Fig. 4-2a). However, it is not necessary that Yki function is also required for normal mushroom body neurogenesis. To test this, I next analyzed loss-of-function phenotypes of yki. MARCM neuroblast clones homozygous for ykiB5, an yki null allele (Bennett & Harvey, 2006), were induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in adult brains. I found that ~43% yki mutant neuroblast clones showed cell proliferation defects to different extends, such as reduced α’/β’ or α/β lobes (Fig. 4-3, a and b), suggesting premature neuroblast termination, while other clones had WT-like morphology (Fig. 4-3, c). Thus, loss of yki in mushroom body neuroblasts caused phenotypes similar to but less severe than loss of the JAK/STAT pathway activity (Fig. 3-2).

As yki overexpression rescues JAK/STAT mutant phenotypes, next I tested whether higher JAK/STAT pathway activity could also rescue yki mutant phenotypes. When UAS-Stat92EΔNAC, UAS-Diap1, UAS-CycE, and UAS-Diap1 plus UAS-CycE, was expressed in the yki-null mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones, overexpression of UAS-Stat92EΔNAC fully rescued yki mutant phenotypes, whereas overexpression of Diap1 or/and CycE partially but significantly rescued yki mutant phenotypes (see Fig. 4-3d, bar graph). Therefore, loss of JAK/STAT pathway activity and loss of Hippo pathway downstream effector yki cause similar cell proliferation defects in mushroom body, which
can be mutually rescued by higher level of each other and by overexpression of CycE or Diap1.
Figure 4-3. Loss of *yki* also causes the cell proliferation defects similar to that caused by loss of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom bodies, and ectopic expression of Stat92E<sup>ΔNΔC</sup> can rescue this phenotype

a-c, Confocal images of *yki<sup>B5</sup>* neuroblast clones induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in adult brains. Mainly, the lobe region is presented to show *yki<sup>B5</sup>* phenotypes of different degrees. ~43% *yki* neuroblast clones showed cell proliferation defects to different extents, such as reduced α’ or α’ lobes. a, weak α’ lobes were shown in some clones, and b, weak α lobes were shown in some clones, suggesting premature neuroblast termination, while in c, WT-like phenotype was observed in ~57% of the *yki<sup>B5</sup>* clones. Thus, loss of *yki* in mushroom body neuroblasts caused phenotypes similar to but less severe than loss of the JAK/STAT pathway activity.

d, Penetrance of *yki<sup>B5</sup>* mushroom body neuroblast clones showing phenotypes of the reduced α or α’ lobes under overexpression of Stat92E<sup>ΔNΔC</sup>, CycE, Diap1, and CycE plus Diap1. The percentage is calculated based on 23–40 neuroblast clones for each genotype. Stat92E<sup>ΔNΔC</sup> fully rescued *yki* phenotypes, whereas CycE and/or Diap1 partially but significantly rescued *yki* mutant phenotypes. Therefore, loss of JAK/STAT pathway activity and loss of Hippo pathway downstream effector *yki* cause similar cell proliferation defects in mushroom body, which can be mutually rescued by higher level of each other and by overexpression of CycE or Diap1.

Genotype: (a-c) *hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; FRTG13, yki<sup>B5</sup>/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; GAL4-OK107/+*

(d, WT) *hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; FRTG13/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; GAL4-OK107/+*

(d, *yki<sup>B5</sup>*; UAS-CycE) *hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; FRTG13, yki<sup>B5</sup>/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; UAS-CycE/+; GAL4-OK107/+*
(d, yki^{B5}; UAS-Diap1) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; FRTG13, yki^{B5}/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; UAS-Diap1/+; GAL4-OK107/+;
(d, yki^{B5}; UAS-CycE+Diap1) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; FRTG13, yki^{B5}/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; UAS-CycE, UAS-Diap1/+; GAL4-OK107/+;
(d, yki^{B5}; UAS-Stat92E^{ΔNΔC}) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/+; FRTG13, yki^{B5}/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; UAS-Stat92E^{ΔNΔC}/+; GAL4-OK107/+;
Figure 4-3
Chapter 5: Stat92E directly activates $CycE$ expression in mushroom body neuroblasts, and Stat92E and Yki regulate the $CycE$ transcription by each interacting with an independent enhancer on $CycE$. 
Abstract

A consensus Stat92E-binding site is located in the regulatory region of CycE locus. To reveal whether JAK/STAT signaling directly regulates CycE expression, lacZ reporter transgenic studies were performed. I found that expression of CycE in the wing disc and mushroom body is activated by Stat92E via the consensus STAT-binding site. Furthermore, loss-of-function phenotypes of CycE in the mushroom body neuroblast clones mimic those of lacking of JAK/STAT pathway activities. And excess CycE leads to neuronal overgrowth to the same extend as Stat92E gain-of-function in mushroom body neuroblasts. Together these results suggest that CycE is transcriptionally regulated by STAT92E and required for mediating cell proliferation. Therefore, besides Diap1, CycE is another direct target of JAK/STAT signaling in Drosophila, which contribute to the proliferative activity of JAK/STAT. Moreover, by dividing the 16.4kb cis-regulatory region of CycE into seven fragments and generating seven lacZ reporter transgenic flies, I found that Stat92E and Yki regulate the transcription of CycE by interacting with two independent cis-regulatory elements on CycE.
The Stat92E DNA-binding sequence at the CycE locus is required for full CycE transcriptional activity in wing imaginal discs

My rescue results in mushroom bodies suggest potential interactions between JAK/STAT, Yki, CycE, and Diap1. Death-associated inhibitor of apoptosis protein 1 (Diap1), also known as Thread, is a key regulator of apoptosis (Hay et al., 1995). The Yki/Scalloped complex binds the Scalloped-binding motif (CATTCCA) in Diap1 to mediate its transcription (Wu et al., 2003; Wu et al., 2008). Moreover, Diap1 is also a direct target of the JAK/STAT pathway to protect against apoptosis. Two consensus Stat92E-binding sites (TTCCNNGAA) in the Diap1 locus are required for Stat92E-dependent Diap1 expression (Betz et al., 2008). Therefore, both the Hippo and JAK/STAT pathways directly regulate Diap1 transcription by binding to different enhancers in the Diap1 cis-regulatory region. It’s well known that Hippo signaling controls cell proliferation mainly through the regulation of Diap1 and CycE (Tapon et al., 2002; Wu et al., 2003). In this study, I found that overexpression of Diap1 sufficiently rescued the premature termination of dome mushroom body neuroblasts. As shown in Fig. 4-2c, though a dome, UAS-Diap1 mushroom body neuroblast clone still generated mush fewer neurons than the WT ones, I observed obvious α and β lobes. Therefore, JAK/STAT signaling might act through Diap1 to prevent mushroom body neuroblast termination. As overexpression of CycE substantially rescued the proliferation defects of dome neuroblasts (Fig. 4-2b), I was wondering whether JAK/STAT signaling also regulates CycE expression.

A consensus STAT-binding sequence, TTCNNNGAA, is found in the first intron of CycE gene. It is located at 2L: 15,744,093-15,744,102 (Fig. 5-1a shown in green), which perfectly matched one of 105 Stat92E-binding sites detected by ChIP-chip in the whole
genome, 2L: 15,743,596-15744,299 (Fig. 5-1a shown in red). The same Stat92E ChIP-chip assay has successfully detected known JAK/STAT target genes, such as Diap1 and Stat92E (modENCODE_616). Moreover, this potential Stat92E binding sequence TTCCAAGAA is perfectly conserved across the 12 Drosophilidae genomes. Together with my earlier results that dome mutant phenotypes can be rescued by overexpression of CycE, I propose that CycE is a direct target of Stat92E. To test whether the predicted Stat92E-binding site is functional in vivo, I produced a lacZ reporter transgenic fly line, CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ, using an ~ 1-kb genomic DNA fragment that contains this Stat92E-binding site (Fig. 5-1c). The 1-kb DNA fragment containing the predicted Stat92-binding site was subcloned into pH-Pelican, an insulated lacZ reporter vector designed specifically for enhancer analysis (Barolo et al., 2000). The transgenic fly line was generated by germline injection. CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression was detected in the wing disc hinge, margin and pouch regions (Fig. 5-1e), which closely resembles the expression pattern of STAT-GFP, a Stat92E activity reporter (Bach et al., 2007).

To test whether the Stat92E-binding site in this fragment is responsible for the lacZ expression in wing disc, I generated another lacZ reporter transgenic fly line, CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ, that carries a mutant Stat92E-binding site (TTCCAAGAA to TTCCAAGTT) (Rivas et al., 2008). CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ reporter was only weakly expressed in the hinge and margin regions (Fig. 5-1f). These results indicate that the Stat92E DNA-binding site is required for the full CycE expression in the wing imaginal discs. To further test the specificity of the Stat92E DNA-binding site, I compared the response of CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ to Stat92E overexpression in the posterior wing disc domain driven by an en-GAL4 (Neufeld et al.,
1998) (Fig. 5-1, g and h). CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression (Fig. 5-1g), but not CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ expression (Fig. 5-1h), was increased in response to en>Stat92E. Together these data indicate that signals from the lacZ reporter highly depend on Stat92E, and that the conserved Stat92E DNA-binding site in the CycE locus is required for full CycE transcriptional activity in vivo.
Figure 5-1. Stat92E directly regulate CycE transcription in the wing imaginal discs by binding to a consensus STAT DNA-binding site
a-c, CycE gene structure and CycE-lacZ reporter transgenic lines. a, The structure of CycE locus showing the consensus Stat92E-binding site (green; 2L: 15,744,093-15,744,102; TTCCAAGAA), which perfectly matches the Stat92E-binding site detected by CHIP-chip (red; 2L: 15,743,596-15,744,299). b, Diagram showing different lacZ reporter transgenic lines that were generated for the CycE cis-regulatory element analysis. From top to bottom, they are CycE-lacZ carrying a 16.4kb upstream cis-regulatory region of CycE gene (Jones et al., 2000); CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ; CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ; and CycE1-lacZ to CycE7-lacZ, seven lacZ transgenic lines generated by dividing the 16.4kb cis-regulatory DNA into seven fragments. c, Constructs for the lacZ reporter transgenic lines of CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ. A 1kb DNA segment that contains the predicted CycE Stat92E-binding site was isolated by PCR and cloned into pH-Pelican lacZ reporter vector to produce CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ construct. The predicted CycE Stat92E-binding site was mutated from TTCCAAGAA to TTCCAAGTT in CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ construct. The vector contains a basal hs promoter and insulator elements to prevent position effects. Transgenic lines were generated by germline injection.
e-f, Expression of CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ in wing discs assessed by β-galactosidase antibody staining, showing that CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ highly and CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ weakly expressed in the hinge and pouch of wing discs.
g-h, Confocal images of wing discs showing $CycE(Stat92E$-WT$)$-lacZ$ or $CycE(Stat92E$-MT$)$-lacZ$ expression (green, β-galactosidase antibody staining) in the en-Gal4, UAS-$Stat92E^{ΔNAC}$, UAS-RFP (red) genetic background, DAPI (blue) is used to label nuclei. It’s shown that $CycE(Stat92E$-WT$)$-lacZ activity requires the wild-type Stat92E DNA-binding sites. Overexpressed $Stat92E$ in the posterior wing disc activates $CycE(Stat92E$-WT$)$-lacZ (g) but not the $CycE(Stat92E$-MT$)$-lacZ reporter (h).
Figure 5-1
Stat92E regulates the expression of CycE in mushroom bodies

The earlier data has shown that overexpression of CycE partially rescues the γ-only phenotype of dome mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones (Fig. 4-2b). And more experiments confirmed that CycE is transcriptionally regulated by Stat92E in wing discs. Next I wondered if Stat92E regulate the CycE expression in mushroom bodies. I first examined CycE and CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression in the mushroom body region. Immunofluorescence staining with a CycE antibody revealed that CycE was broadly expressed in larval brains, and then restricted to the four mushroom body neuroblasts in each brain hemisphere during pupal stages (Fig. 5-2a). The CycE expression levels in mushroom bodies were high at early pupal stages and decreased at late pupal stages (Fig. 5-2a). This expression pattern correlates with the pattern of neuroblast proliferation during brain development- most neuroblasts generate neurons in the larval stages and terminate before pupa formation, but exceptionally, mushroom body neuroblasts continuously divide until the end of pupal stages (Sousa-Nunes et al., 2010).

CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ showed a similar expression pattern to that of endogenous CycE, but was expressed in a broader area surrounding mushroom body neuroblasts (Fig. 5-2b), which is, likely, because β-galactosidase is more stable than CycE protein. In contrast, expression of CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ was not detected in the mushroom body area of pupal brains (Fig. 5-2c), indicating that the predicted Stat92E-binding site is critical to CycE expression in the mushroom body neuroblasts.

To further test the dependence of CycE expression on Stat92E in mushroom body neuroblasts, I performed a loss-of-function analysis using a temperature-sensitive Stat92E allele, Stat92E\textsuperscript{F}/Stat92E\textsuperscript{66346} (Stat92E\textsuperscript{ts}) (Baksa et al., 2002). Shifting temperature-
sensitive Stat92Ets flies to 29°C can drastically reduce STAT function (Baksa et al., 2002). When shifted at early/mid larva stages, and kept at 29°C for different days, Stat92Ets brains were dissected at early pupa stages and being processed for CycE antibody staining. Compared to those consistently kept at permissive temperature (25°C) (Fig. 5-2d), the CycE expression levels in the mushroom body neuroblasts were apparently decreased in brains 2 days after temperature shift from the permissive (25°C) to the restrictive temperature (29°C) (Fig. 5-2d), and even further decreased in brains 4 days after temperature shift (Fig. 5-2d). From the loss-of-function results, it is more convincing that JAK/STAT signaling directly regulates CycE expression levels in mushroom body neuroblasts.

Therefore, JAK/STAT signaling directly regulates CycE expression in the mushroom body neuroblasts and wing discs. As both CycE and Diap1 are directly regulated by JAK/STAT and overexpression of two genes efficiently rescues loss of JAK/STAT phenotypes, we conclude that JAK/STAT signaling functions mainly through Diap1 and CycE to prevent premature termination and promote division of mushroom body neuroblasts.
Figure 5-2. JAK/STAT signaling directly regulates CycE expression in the mushroom body neuroblasts

a-b, Confocal images showing cell body region of mushroom bodies at pupal stages, CycE or CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression (red, CycE or β-galactosidase antibody staining) in the wild type mushroom bodies labeled by GAL4-OK107>UAS-mCD8::GFP (green). The CycE expression levels in mushroom bodies were high at early pupal stages and decreased at late pupal stages. CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ showed a similar expression pattern to that of endogenous CycE, but was expressed in a broader area surrounding mushroom body neuroblasts.

c, CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ expression (red, β-galactosidase antibody staining) in the wild type mushroom bodies labeled by GAL4-OK107>UAS-mCD8::GFP (green). In contrast with CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ, expression of CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ was not high enough to be detected in the mushroom body area.

d, CycE expression (red, CycE antibody staining) in the Stat92Ets mushroom bodies at early pupal stage. CycE levels in the mushroom body neuroblasts of first-day pupae decreased 2-4 days after the Stat92Ets larvae were shifted from the permissive (25°C) to the restrictive temperature (29°C). Temperature and days after switch are shown. The observations are based on at least 20 mushroom bodies for each time point.
C

CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ; Gal4-ok107>mCD8GFP

β-Galactosidase
β-Galactosidase + GFP

\[\text{d} \begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Stat92E}^F / \text{Stat92E}^{06346} \\
\hline
25 \, ^\circ \text{C} & 29 \, ^\circ \text{C} & 29 \, ^\circ \text{C} \\
2 \text{ days} & 2 \text{ days} & 2 \text{ days} \\
4 \text{ days} & 4 \text{ days} & 4 \text{ days}
\end{array}\]

Figure 5-2
Clones of mushroom body neuroblasts either lacking *CycE* expression or with elevated *CycE* expression phenocopy clones with decreased or increased JAK/STAT signaling activities, respectively.

Previous data has well established an important role of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom body neurogenesis. It is also convincing that Stat92E controls *CycE* expression in mushroom body neuroblasts, and excess *CycE* substantially rescued the proliferation defects in *dome* mutant mushroom body neuroblasts. Based on these results, I reasoned that JAK/STAT functions through *CycE* to promote division of mushroom body neuroblasts. In order to test whether *CycE* is required for the normal proliferation of mushroom body neuroblasts, I examined the loss-of-function phenotypes of *CycE* in mushroom body. MARCM neuroblast clones homozygous for *CycE*^{AR95}, a *CycE* loss of function allele induced by EMS (Flybase), were induced in newly hatched larvae and examined in adult brains. Exactly the same γ-only phenotype as *dome* or *hop* mushroom body neuroblast clones was observed in most cases, occasionally some clones showed the less severe phenotype with a few α neurons (Fig. 5-3, a). This result confirms that *CycE* is required for mushroom body neurogenesis. I next analyzed whether excess *Diap1* or *Stat92E*^{ΔNΔC} could rescue the *CycE* mutant phenotype. Overexpression of *UAS-Diap1* or *UAS-Stat92E*^{ΔNΔC} was driven by OK107-GAL4 in *CycE*^{AR95} mushroom body neuroblast clones. MARCM clones were induced in NHL, and examined in adult brains. Even with excess *Diap1* or *Stat92E*^{ΔNΔC}, most of the clones showed the γ-only phenotype, with a few exceptions showed less severe phenotype with α’ neurons (Fig. 5-3, b and c). This result indicates that excess *Diap1* couldn’t rescue the proliferation defects of *CycE* mushroom body neuroblasts. Also, excess *Stat92E*^{ΔNΔC} couldn’t compensate for the
proliferation defects caused by loss of CycE, indicating that CycE functions downstream of JAK/STAT signaling to promote mushroom body neuroblast proliferation.

I further tested the effect of CycE gain-of-function in mushroom body neurogenesis. Overexpression of UAS-CycE was driven by OK107-GAL4 in wild type mushroom body neuroblast clones. I counted the number of neurons generated by wild type, CycE mutant, and CycE gain-of-function mushroom body neuroblasts at one-week adults. Using the MARCM technique, I induced neuroblast clones in NHL. Brains are collected and processed for mCD8 (clone marker) antibody staining. Images were collected using confocal microscopy. Individual neuroblast lineage sizes were determined by counting the number of neurons in each clone. Loss of CycE results in significantly smaller mutant clones, with 24.5±2.6 cells (n=8 clones). On the other side, expression of excess CycE in the wild-type clones leads to neuronal overgrowth, with 503±21.6 cells (n=16 clones), compared with 354±24.3 cells (n=8) in wild type clones (Fig. 5-3, d). Note excess CycE leads to neuronal overgrowth to the same extend as excess Stat92E does (Fig. 3-4c and d).

Based on the CycE loss-of-function and gain-of-function results, I conclude that CycE is the major, if not the only, downstream target of JAK/STAT pathway in controlling mushroom body neuroblast cell proliferation.
Figure 5-3. CycE mushroom body neuroblast clone phenocopies loss of JAK/STAT pathway activity, and excess CycE leads to neuronal overgrowth to the same extent as excess Stat92E does

a-c, Confocal images of MARCM neuroblast clones induced in the newly hatched larvae and examined in the adult brains. Mushroom body neurons were labeled by OK107-GAL4>UAS-mCD8::GFP. In CycE^{AR95} mutant clones, γ-only phenotype was observed in most cases (a, left panel), occasionally some clones showed the less severe phenotype with a few α neurons (a, right panel). This result suggests that CycE caused the similar phenotype as loss of JAK/STAT in mushroom body neuroblasts. In CycE^{AR95} clones with overexpression of UAS-Diap1, most of the clones showed the γ-only phenotype (b, left panel), with a few exceptions showed less severe phenotype with α’ neurons (b, right panel). In CycE^{AR95} clones with overexpression of UAS-Stat92E^{ΔNAC}, most of the clones showed the γ-only phenotype (c, left panel), with a few exceptions showed less severe phenotype with α’ neurons (c, right panel).

d, Bar graph showing the number of neurons/mushroom body neuroblast clone in one-week adult brains. The number of neurons generated by wild type, CycE mutant, and CycE gain-of-function mushroom body neuroblasts was counted and compared. The MARCM neuroblast clones were induced in NHL. Brains are collected in one-week adults and processed for mCD8 (clone marker) antibody staining. Images were collected using confocal microscopy. Individual neuroblast lineage sizes were determined by counting the number of neurons in each clone. Loss of CycE results in significantly smaller mutant clones, with 24.5±2.6 cells (n=8 clones). On the other side, expression of excess CycE in the wild-type clones leads to neuronal overgrowth, with 503±21.6 cells (n=16 clones), compared with 354±24.3 cells (n=8) in wild type clones.
Genotype: (a) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP; FRT40A, CycE^{4R95}/FRTG40A, tubP-GAL80; GAL4-OK107/++; (b) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP; FRT40A, CycE^{4R95}/FRTG40A, tubP-GAL80; UAS-Diap1/+; GAL4-OK107/++; (c) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP; FRT40A, CycE^{4R95}/FRTG40A, tubP-GAL80; UAS-Stat92E^{ΔNΔC}/+; GAL4-OK107/++; (d, WT) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/++; FRTG13/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; GAL4-OK107/++; (d, UAS-CycE) hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP/++; FRTG13/FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; UAS-CycE/+; GAL4-OK107/+. 
Figure 5-3

Number of neurons/clone in 1-week adults
Stat92E and Yki regulate the transcription of CycE by interacting with two independent enhancers in the CycE cis-regulatory region

Previous data confirmed that CycE is a direct target of Stat92E, and the Stat92E DNA-binding site in the CycE locus is required for Stat92E-dependent CycE production. It’s well known that CycE is also transcriptionally activated by Yki (Huang et al., 2005), but it is not known if this transcriptional regulation is direct or indirect. Next I want to identify the cis-regulatory element in the CycE gene response for Yki stimulation.

Expression of a CycE-lacZ reporter, which contains 16.4kb of the 5’ regulatory sequence of CycE (Jones et al., 2000) including the consensus Stat92E-binding site described above, was reported increased in yki-overexpressing clones of eye imaginal discs (Huang et al., 2005). To determine where the Yki-responsive cis-regulatory element of CycE is localized, I divided this 16.4kb region into seven fragments and generated seven lacZ transgenic lines, named CycE1-lacZ to CycE7-lacZ (Fig. 5-1b). lacZ expression was examined with β-galactosidase antibody staining in the wing discs of either en-GAL4/UAS-Stat92EΔNΔC or en-GAL4/UAS-yki larvae. Consistent with CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ (Fig. 5-1g), only CycE2-lacZ, which carries the consensus Stat92E-binding site, showed increased expression in the posterior domain of en> Stat92EΔNΔC wing discs (Fig. 5-4a). On the other hand, only CycE3-lacZ showed increased expression in the posterior domain of en>yki wing discs (Fig. 5-4b).

Together these results indicate that the cis-regulatory element on CycE response for Yki stimulation is within the fragment 3, and Stat92E and Yki regulate CycE transcription through different cis-regulatory elements. Therefore, JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling
pathways coordinately regulate cell proliferation and survival by targeting the same set of downstream genes, such as \textit{CycE} and \textit{Diap1}.
Figure 5-4. Stat92E and Yki regulate the transcription of CycE by interacting with two independent enhancers

a-b, Confocal images of wing discs showing CycE2-lacZ or CycE3-lacZ expression (green, β-galactosidase antibody staining) in the en-Gal4, UAS-Stat92EΔNΔC, UAS-RFP (red) or en-GAL4, UAS-yki, UAS-RFP (red) genetic backgrounds. DAPI (blue) is used to label nuclei. CycE1-lacZ to CycE7-lacZ expression was examined with β-galactosidase antibody staining in the wing discs of either en-Gal4/UAS-Stat92EΔNΔC or en-Gal4/UAS-yki larvae. The observations are based on 3 independent transgenic lines for each construct.

a, Only CycE2-lacZ, which carries the consensus Stat92E-biding site, showed increased expression in the posterior wing disc domain in response to en>Stat92EΔNΔC.

b, Only CycE3-lacZ showed increased expression in the posterior wing disc domain in response to en>yki.
Figure 5-4
Chapter 6: Stat92E directly regulates the expression of the cell-cycle regulatory gene $E2f1$, another common target gene of Stat92E and Yki
Abstract

Two consensus STAT DNA-binding sequences TTCNNNGAA are found next to each other within the $E2f1$ gene loci. To reveal whether these are functional Stat92E-binding sites in vivo, lacZ reporter transgenic studies were performed. I found that expression of $E2f1$ in the wing disc and brain is dependent on Stat92E-binding sites. Therefore, besides $Diap1$ and $CycE$, $E2f1$ is another direct target of JAK/STAT signaling in Drosophila, which might also contribute to the proliferative activity of JAK/STAT. Together with previous report that Yki overexpression induced $E2f1$ expression in wing imaginal discs, $E2f1$ might be another common downstream target of Stat92E and Yki.
Conserved STAT DNA-binding sites in the E2f1 locus are required for E2f1 transcriptional activity in vivo

It is known that both Stat92E and Yki (Yki/Scalloped complex) directly regulate Diap1 transcription by interacting with two independent enhancers in the Diap1 cis-regulatory region, respectively (Betz et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2008). Here, my results showed that Stat92E and Yki also regulate the transcription of CycE, another major downstream target of Hippo pathway, by interacting with two independent enhancers in the CycE cis-regulatory region. In addition to CycE, another cell-cycle regulator E2f1 could be the third candidate for the common targets of the two signaling pathways. This is because, on the one hand, it has been reported Yki overexpression induces E2F1 expression in wing imaginal discs (Goulev et al., 2008). On the other hand, two consensus STAT DNA-binding sequences TTCNNNGAA are found next to each other within the E2F1 gene loci (TTCACGGAATTCCTGGAA), which perfectly match one of 105 Stat92E-binding sites detected by ChIP-chip in the whole genome, 3R: 17,466,843-17,468,306. The same Stat92E ChIP-chip assay has successfully detected other JAK/STAT target genes, such as Diap1 and CycE (modENCODE_616). These two predicted Stat92E-binding sequences are also highly conserved across 12 Drosophila genomes.

To test whether these are functional Stat92E-binding sites in vivo, I produced a lacZ reporter transgenic fly line, E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ, using an ~800bp genomic DNA fragment that contains these two STAT-binding sites (Fig. 6-1a). The 800bp DNA fragment containing the two predicted Stat92-binding sites was subcloned into pH-Pelican. The transgenic fly line was generated by germline injection. E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression was examined in various larval tissues. laZ expression was detected
mainly in the optic lobe region of the larval brain (Fig. 6-1b), and in some of the hinge
region of the wing imaginal disc (Fig. 6-1d).

To test whether the two Stat92E binding sites in this fragment are responsible for the lacZ
expression in brain and wing disc, I generated another lacZ reporter transgenic fly line,
E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ, that carries mutation in both Stat92E binding sites
(TTCACGGAATTCTGGAA to TTCACGTTTTCTGTTT). E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ
reporter failed to be detected in either brain (Fig. 6-1c) or wing imaginal disc (Fig. 6-1e).
These results indicate that these two STAT DNA-binding sites are required for the E2f1
expression in the brain and wing imaginal disc.

To further test the specificity of the STAT DNA-binding sites, I examined the response
of E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ to Stat92E overexpression in the posterior wing disc domain
driven by an en-GAL4 (Fig. 6-1f). E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression was increased
in the posterior domain in response to en>Stat92E. Together these data indicate that signals
from the lacZ reporter highly depended on Stat92E, and that the conserved STAT DNA-
binding sites in the E2f1 locus are required for E2f1 transcriptional activity in vivo.
Therefore, based on my results here and other’s finding that Yki regulates E2f1
expression in wing disc, E2f1 is another common downstream target gene of Stat92E and
Yki activity, which may contribute to the proliferative activity of JAK/STAT pathway
and the anti-proliferative activity of Hippo pathway.
Figure 6-1. Stat92E directly regulate E2f1 transcription by binding to two STAT DNA-binding sequences

a, Diagram showing the constructs for the lacZ reporter transgenic lines of E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ. A 800bp DNA segment that contains the two predicted E2f1 STAT DNA-binding sites was isolated by PCR and cloned into pH-Pelican lacZ reporter vector to produce E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ construct. Both of the two predicted E2f1 STAT DNA-binding sites were mutated in E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ construct (TTCACGGAATTCCTGGAA to TTCACCGGTTTTTCCTGGTT). The vector contains a basal hs promoter and insulator elements to prevent position effects. Transgenic lines were generated by germline injection. At least 3 independent transgenic fly lines were produced for each construct.

b-c, Expression of E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ in wondering larval brain assessed by β-galactosidase antibody staining, showing that E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ highly expressed in the optic lobe region, whereas no E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ expression detected. The observations are consistent among 3 independent transgenic lines for each construct.

d-e, Expression of E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ in wondering larval wing imaginal disc assessed by β-galactosidase antibody staining, showing that E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ highly expressed in some of the hinge region, whereas no E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ expression detected. The observations are consistent among 3 independent transgenic lines for each construct.

f, Confocal images of wing discs showing E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ expression (green, β-galactosidase antibody staining) in the en-Gal4, UAS-Stat92E ΔN, UAS-RFP (red) genetic background, DAPI (blue) is used to label nuclei. It’s shown that overexpressed
Stat92E in the posterior wing disc increases $E2f1(\text{Stat92E-WT})$-lacZ reporter expression specifically in the posterior half. The observations are based on 3 independent transgenic lines.
Figure 6-1
Chapter 7: Conclusions and Scientific impacts
The JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways are two major cell-proliferation-controlling signaling pathways in both vertebrates and invertebrates. Dysregulation of either JAK/STAT or Hippo signaling is linked to the development of various human diseases. Over-activation of JAK/STAT or down-regulation of Hippo signaling may lead to human cancers, including blood malignancies and solid tumors. Otherwise, loss of JAK/STAT or over-activation of Hippo signaling causes organ degeneration. In this project, I propose to investigate the relationship between the JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways and their roles in controlling mushroom body neurogenesis.

From a MARCM-based genetic screen, I found that loss of *Drosophila* JAK/STAT pathway receptor *domeless* (*dome*) function led to significantly reduced number of neurons that are all γ type. And loss of JAK/STAT downstream kinase *hopscotch* (*hop*) caused the similar phenotype in mushroom body. The mutant phenotype could be perfectly rescued by ectopic expression of UAS-*dome* or a dominant-active form of *Stat92E (Stat92EΔNΔC)* in the *dome* mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones. Therefore, I conclude that the mutant phenotype is caused by loss of JAK/STAT signaling. More evidence suggests that the loss of JAK/STAT pathway does not affect the morphogenesis and survival of post-mitotic γ neurons, nor the subtype differentiation of mushroom body neurons. Furthermore, by performing a time-course study and neuroblast-specific antibody staining, I found that loss of *dome* caused precocious disappearance of mushroom body neuroblasts, and ectopic expression of *Stat92EΔNΔC* led to neuronal overgrowth. Based on these results, I concluded that JAK/STAT signaling is required for the neuroblast maintenance and cell proliferation in mushroom bodies.
Then to identify JAK/STAT signaling downstream targets that are crucial for mediating mushroom body neurogenesis, I tested a group of genes that are well characterized to be involved in the control of cell proliferation or cell death. Overexpression of Hippo pathway effector yorkie (yki) fully and overexpression of CycE and/or Diap1, the downstream target genes of Yki, partially rescues the phenotype of dome mutant mushroom body neuroblast clones. Moreover, MARCM neuroblast clones mutant for yki exhibit the similar cell proliferation defect as loss of JAK/STAT, although with a lower penetrance. I further found that ectopic expression of UAS-Stat92EΔNΔC, UAS-CycE or/and UAS-Diap1 in the yki mutant neuroblast clones significantly rescued the mutant phenotype. Therefore, I conclude that loss of JAK/STAT signaling activity and loss of Hippo pathway downstream effector yki cause similar cell proliferation defects in mushroom body, which can be mutually rescued by higher activation of each other and by overexpression of CycE or Diap1.

A consensus Stat92E-binding site is located in the regulatory region of CycE locus. I found that expression of CycE in the wing disc and mushroom body is activated by Stat92E via the consensus Stat92E-binding site. Therefore, besides Diap1, CycE is another direct target of JAK/STAT signaling in Drosophila, which contributes to the proliferative activity of JAK/STAT. Furthermore, I found that Stat92E and Yki regulate the transcription of CycE by interacting with two independent cis-regulatory elements on CycE.

Two consensus STAT DNA-binding sequences TTCNNNGAA are found next to each other within the E2f1 gene loci. From the lacZ reporter transgenic analysis, I found that
expression of $E2f1$ in the wing disc and brain is dependent on Stat92E-binding sites. Therefore, besides $Diap1$ and $CycE$, $E2f1$ is another direct target of JAK/STAT signaling in $Drosophila$, which might also contribute to the proliferative activity of JAK/STAT. Together with previous report that $yki$ overexpression induced $E2f1$ expression in wing imaginal discs, $E2f1$ might be another common downstream target of Stat92E and Yki to control proliferation.

Together with others’ finding that $Diap1$ is a direct target of STAT92E as well as of Yki (Yki/Scalloped complex), my dissertation research firstly propose that JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways are integrated to control development in $Drosophila$ by independently regulating common transcriptional targets, such as $CycE$ and $E2f1$ to control cell proliferation, and $Diap1$ to control cell survival. The results collected in this study will not only provide new insight into the downstream targets of the JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways but also shed light onto the means by which distinct pathways converge to regulate the same biological process. This is especially important since both the JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways are key regulators of normal growth and proper development from insects to mammals. Each of the two pathways coordinately regulates cell proliferation and apoptosis. Thus, the coordination between these two pathways is extremely critical to ensure proper growth.

My dissertation research represents three novel findings:

**CycE as the direct target of the JAK/STAT signaling pathway and promotes cell-cycle progression**
Although its function in promoting cell-cycle progression is well documented, how JAK/STAT pathway interacts with cell cycle regulators to promote cell cycle progression
is poorly understood. Here in this dissertation project, I identify a solid connection between JAK/STAT signaling and CycE, an essential G1 cyclin rate-limiting for progression into S phase, by evidencing that JAK/STAT controls cell proliferation through the direct regulation of CycE transcription.

A previous study finds that Drosophila Cyclin B (CycB) is elevated in a cell autonomous manner in clones with increased JAK-STAT pathway activity (Mukherjee et al., 2005). But, it is not clear whether CycB is a target of JAK-STAT signaling. Here, I report that Stat92E mediates CycE expression to accelerate cell proliferation. Mushroom body neuroblasts lacking of JAK/STAT pathway activity produce much fewer neurons than WT ones. Conversely, those with excess JAK/STAT signaling activity generate double number of neurons without generating supernumerary neuroblasts. Importantly, I find that excess CycE significantly rescues dome mutant phenotypes and Stat92E directly stimulate CycE expression in both wing discs and mushroom body neuroblasts through binding a consensus STAT-binding site in the CycE cis-regulatory region. Finally, loss-of-function phenotypes of CycE in the mushroom body neuroblast clones mimic those of lacking of JAK/STAT pathway activities. And excess CycE leads to neuronal overgrowth to the same extend as Stat92E gain-of-function in mushroom body neuroblasts. Together these results suggest that CycE is transcriptionally regulated by STAT92E and required for mediating cell proliferation.

This finding is different from, but not contradicts to, the previous report that Cyclin D-Cdk4, as well as Cyclin E-Cdk2, binds and regulates Stat92E protein stability (Chen et al., 2003). In that study, the authors discovered that excess JAK/STAT signaling activity
specifically synergizes with CycD-Cdk4, not CycE-Cdk2, to promote the formation of an enlarged eye with extra ommatidia. Now, this phenomenon can be perfectly interpreted. CycD-Cdk4 promotes cellular growth through mitochondrial biogenesis and is dispensable for cell proliferation (Meyer et al., 2000) and JAK-STAT signaling promotes cell proliferation through CycE-Cdk2, so that cooperation of the two signals results in a dramatically outgrown tumor-like eye. This interpretation is further evidenced by the fact that loss of JAK/STAT signaling phenotype is rescued by excess CycE, but not CycD-Cdk4. Thus, my study has great significance in current understanding of JAK/STAT regulation of proliferation in *Drosophila*. Also, it will be worthwhile to investigate the possibility of an evolutionarily conserved STAT-CycE connection.

Interestingly, *CycE* is expressed broadly in larva brains, and then restricted to four mushroom body neuroblasts, with the expression levels from high to low from early to late pupa stages. No *CycE* expression could be detected in adulthood. This *CycE* expression pattern fits perfectly with neuroblast division rate in mushroom bodies. Four mushroom body neuroblasts continue dividing throughout the larval and pupal stages, with the division rate from high to low until the neuroblast termination at the late pupal stage. Here I provide evidence that JAK/STAT signaling regulates neuroblast proliferation at least partially by controlling *CycE* expression in mushroom bodies. Based on these results, our working model for roles of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom body development is that JAK/STAT pathway activity in the mushroom body neuroblasts is high during the early developmental stages, which promotes cell division and prevents cell death; it is reduced or eliminated during the late developmental stages, which induces neuroblast termination (Fig. 7-1).
**Novel function of JAK/STAT signaling pathway in neurogenesis**

The *Drosophila* central nervous system (CNS) develops from a bilateral neuroectoderm that contains a cluster of neuroepithelial (NE) cells. Selected NE cells differentiate into a few number of neuroblasts, which undergo asymmetric division producing a daughter neuroblast that self-renews, and a smaller ganglion mother cell (GMC) that gives rise to a variety of neuronal and glial cells. Previous studies in the optic lobe reveal that JAK/STAT pathway is required for NE cell maintenance and proliferation (Wang et al., 2011) and represses the transition of NE cells to neuroblasts (Yasugi et al., 2008; Ngo et al., 2010). Here, I report that JAK/STAT pathway also plays important roles in neuroblast to promote its cell-cycle progression and prevent its premature termination.

**The new mechanism of the interaction between JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways**

The JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways are two major cell-proliferation-controlling signaling pathways in both vertebrates and invertebrates (Arbouzova & Zeidler, 2006; Pan, 2010). My dissertation research reveals the similar functions of the two signaling pathways in the control of mushroom body development: promoting cell division and preventing cell death. In *Drosophila*, Stat92E and Yki are the prime effectors of JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways, respectively. They are directly involved in the transcriptional regulation of downstream target genes of the two pathways. It was reported that activation of Yki could induce expression of *upd* cytokines and then activate JAK/STAT signaling to regulate intestine stem cells (ISCs) proliferation (Ren et al., 2010). Here I find that gain-of-function of *Stat92E* and *yki* mutually rescue the mutant phenotypes of each other. This explains against the model that Yki activate JAK/STAT,
because overexpression of \textit{yki} also fully rescues \textit{dome-null} phenotypes, indicating that the rescuing effect of \textit{yki} to \textit{JAK/STAT} mutant phenotypes is \textit{JAK/STAT-independent}.

There are two models left to interpret the relationship between \textit{JAK/STAT} and \textit{Hippo} signaling pathways in mediating mushroom body development. One is that the two pathways regulate different sets of cell proliferation-related genes, but functions of the two gene sets are similar to each other. Another is that the two pathways work in parallel to regulate the same set of target genes (Fig. 7-2). Multiple lines of evidence support the model that Stat92E and Yki act combinatorially to regulate common transcriptional targets. First, both Stat92E and Yki (Yki/Scalloped complex) directly regulate \textit{Diap1} transcription by interacting with two independent enhancers in the \textit{Diap1 cis-regulatory} region, respectively (Betz et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2008). Second, I demonstrate here that Stat92E and Yki also regulate the transcription of \textit{CycE}, another major downstream target of \textit{Hippo} pathway, by interacting with two independent enhancers in the \textit{CycE cis-regulatory} region. Third, in addition to \textit{CycE}, another cell-cycle regulator \textit{E2f1} is the third common target gene of the two signaling pathways. This is because, on the one hand, it has been reported \textit{yki} overexpression induces \textit{E2f1} expression in wing imaginal discs (Goulev et al., 2008). On the other hand, my transgenic analysis indicates that the two consensus STAT DNA-binding sequences within the \textit{E2f1} gene loci are required for \textit{E2f1} expression in brain and wing imaginal disc. Taken together, I propose that \textit{JAK/STAT} and \textit{Hippo} signaling pathways coordinately control cell proliferation and cell death by independently regulating the same set of downstream genes.
This notion is further supported by the fact that excess \textit{yki} or the combination of \textit{CycE} and \textit{Diap1} has higher rescue efficiency than \textit{CycE} alone. This finding not only provides novel insights regarding the molecules that are downstream of the JAK/STAT signaling pathway in cell proliferation, but also sheds light on the means by which distinct pathways converge to regulate the same biological process. Why do organisms need two signaling pathways to control the same biological process through regulating the same cluster of genes? With respect to JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways in the control of cell proliferation, our explanations range from function diversity to tissue specificity. Functionally, the activity of the JAK/STAT pathway promotes cell division and suppresses apoptosis, whereas the activity of Hippo pathway restrains cell division and induces apoptosis. Another reasonable explanation for the existence of these parallel pathways is that JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways differentially regulate downstream genes in different tissues, providing another level of regulation to cell proliferation and tissue homeostasis. As an example, my study here shows that JAK/STAT pathway is more important than Hippo pathway in controlling mushroom body development.

**Future directions and implications**

The development of multicellular organisms requires the coordination of cell proliferation and growth with developmental signals to produce properly patterned organisms of the appropriate size. The regulators that intrinsically control cell cycle progression have been well studied in eukaryotic system. Also, considerable progress has been made in defining the impact of extrinsic signals on cell proliferation and growth. The links between developmental signals and the cell cycle control are being elucidated.
The JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways are two major cell proliferation-controlling pathways. Here in this dissertation research, I propose that JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways converge on common downstream targets, such as Diap1 to control cell death, CycE and E2f1 to control cell cycle progression. It is interesting to identify whether there are other common targets of JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways, besides Diap1, CycE, and E2f1. Moreover, it is worthwhile to study the cis-regulatory elements of these essential cell death and cell cycle genes such as Diap1, CycE and E2f1, which will facilitate the identification of other signaling pathways that might also be involved in the regulation of their expression. These will help to build up the network linking various developmental signals and intrinsic cell cycle regulators. Furthermore, it is important to investigate how different signaling pathways collaborate and divide work to maintain the proper growth and homeostasis of various tissues in multicellular organisms.
Figure 7-1. Working model for roles of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom body development
The $\textit{CycE}$ expression pattern revealed in this study fits perfectly with neuroblast division rate in mushroom bodies. Four mushroom body neuroblasts continue dividing throughout the larval and pupal stages, with the division rate from high to low until the neuroblast termination at the late pupal stage. In this thesis I provide evidence that JAK/STAT signaling regulates neuroblast proliferation at least partially by controlling $\textit{CycE}$ expression in mushroom bodies. Based on these results, our working model for roles of JAK/STAT signaling in mushroom body development is that JAK/STAT pathway activity in the mushroom body neuroblasts is high during the early developmental stages, which promotes cell division and prevents cell death; it is reduced or eliminated during the late developmental stages, which induces neuroblast termination.
Figure 7-1
Figure 7-2. Working model for the relationship between JAK/STAT and Hippo pathways in controlling cell proliferation and cell survival

Stat92E and Yki are the prime downstream effectors of JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways, respectively. Upon the activation of JAK/STAT pathway, Stat92E dimers translocate into nucleus and activate target gene expression. However, the activation of Hippo signaling phosphorylates and restrains Yki in cytoplasm. Only unphosphorylated Yki can go into nucleus and associate with different transcription factors to activate target gene expression. “X” represents the transcription factor associates with Yki. In my thesis study, I find that Stat92E and Yki/X independently regulate CycE transcription by interacting with different enhancers. According to others’ studies about Diap1, it is convincing that Stat92E and Yki/X regulate Diap1 expression by binding to different cis-regulatory elements. In addition, based on my and other’s results, E2f1 is another common downstream target of Stat92E and Yki/X. My working model suggests that JAK/STAT and Hippo signaling pathways coordinately regulate common downstream genes, such as CycE, E2f1, and Diap1 to control cell proliferation and cell death.
Figure 7-2

Target Genes: *CycE*, *Diap1*, *E2f1*, etc
Chapter 8: Materials and methods
Materials

Fly strains. UAS-dome was a gift from Steven Hou. UAS-Stat92E<sup>ΔNAC</sup> was a gift from Erika Bach. CycE<sup>ΔR95</sup>, UAS-CycE, UAS-Diap1, and UAS-yorkie were gifts from Jianhua Huang. yki<sup>R5</sup> was a gift from Duojia Pan. CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ, CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ, CycE(1-7)-lacZ and E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ, E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ transgenic reporter lines were produced by germline injection. Other fly strains were collected from the Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center. All flies were maintained on standard cornmeal medium at 25°C.

Antibodies. The following primary antibodies were used: rat anti-Dpn antibody was a gift from Chris Doe) (used at 1: 10); rabbit anti-β-Galactosidase antibody (catalog number A-11132) (used at 1: 50) was purchased from Life technologies; and rabbit anti-CycE antibody (catalog number sc-481) (used at 1:50) was purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. Rat anti-mCD8 (catalog number RM2200) was purchased from Caltag Laboratories. FITC and Cy3 conjugated secondary antibodies were purchased from Jackson ImmunoResearch.

Reagents. Geneticin (catalog number 11811-031) was purchased from GIBCO. 16% paraformaldehyde was purchased from Electron Microscopy Laboratories (catalog number 15710), and mounting medium with DAPI was purchased from Vector Laboratories (catalog number H-1200).

Commercial Kits. The following commercially available kits were used: QIAquick PCR Purification Kit (250) (catalog number 28106), QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (250)
(catalog number 28706), QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit (250) (catalog number 27106), and QIAfilter Plasmid Midi Kit (25) (catalog number 12243) were purchased from QIAGEN.
Methods

**Mushroom body MARCM screening.** Cross 20-30 MARCM-ready virgin females (GAL4-201Y, hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP; FRT82B, tubP-GAL80) to 5-10 males carrying FRT82B and a P-element induced recessive lethal mutation on Chromosome 3R (FRT82B, */TM3, Sb^1); or cross 20-30 virgin females carrying FRT19A and a P-element induced recessive lethal mutation on Chromosome X (FRT19A, */FM7c) to 5-10 MARCM-ready males (FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80/Y; UAS-mCD8::GFP; GAL4-OK107). MARCM was performed as described (Lee and Luo, 1999). Neuroblast clones of 250 independent lines were checked in adult mushroom bodies, phenotypes were recorded and the lines showing abnormalities in mushroom body morphogenesis were kept for further analysis.

**MARCM in mushroom body neuroblasts.** MARCM was performed as described (Lee and Luo, 1999). To induce loss of JAK/STAT MARCM clones of mushroom body neuroblasts, FRT19A, dome^G0405^ virgin flies with or without specific UAS-transgene on the third chromosome, FRT19A, dome^668^, or FRT19A, hop^2^ virgin flies were crossed to FRT19A, hs-FLP, tubP-GAL80/Y; UAS-mCD8::GFP; GAL4-OK107 male flies. To induce yki loss of function MARCM clones, FRTG13 was recombined to yki^B5^ line using conventional genetic techniques. 300mg/L of geneticin in fly food was used to select for larvae with FRTG13. FRTG13, yki^B5^ virgin or male flies with or without specific UAS-transgene on the third chromosome were crossed to hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP; FRTG13, tubP-GAL80; GAL4-OK107 male or virgin flies. To induce CycE loss of function neuroblast clones, FRTG40A, CycE^4R95^ virgin or male flies with or without specific UAS-transgene on the third chromosome were crossed to hs-FLP, UAS-mCD8::GFP; FRT40A,
tubP-GAL80; GAL4-OK107 male or virgin flies. In all these crosses, F1 newly hatched larvae were heat-shocked at 38°C for 1h. GAL4-OK107 was used as the source of GAL4, and UAS-mCD8-GFP, a cell membrane localized GFP was used to label the clones. After heat shocking at newly hatched larvae, brains from adult flies with the right genotype were collected for dissection. The images of MARCM clones were taken using confocal microscopy. For each MARCM analysis, at least 15 clones were observed, and the phenotype is consistent unless otherwise stated.

**Generation of mutant lines with UAS-transgenes for the rescue tests.** FRT19A, dome^{G0405}/FM7c virgin flies were crossed to FM7c/Y; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} males. FRT19A, dome^{G0405}/FM7c; TM3,Sb^{1}/+ virgins were collected from F1 generation, and were then crossed to FM7c/Y; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} males. FRT19A, dome^{G0405}/FM7c; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} virgins and FM7c/Y; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} male flies were collected from F2 generation to make a stable stock line. As the same way, FRTG13, yki^{B5}/Cyo; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} and FRT40A, CycE^{AR95}/Cyo; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} lines were generated.

To produce dome mutant lines with different UAS-transgenes, FRT19A, dome^{G0405}/FM7c; TM3,Sb^{1}/TM6b,Tb^{1} virgins were crossed to FM7c/Y; UAS-*/TM3,Sb^{1} males. FRT19A, dome^{G0405}/FM7c; UAS-*/TM3,Sb^{1} virgins and FM7c/Y; UAS-*/TM3,Sb^{1} males were collected from F1 generation to make a stable stock line. * indicates the transgene to be introduced and then to be overexpressed by GAL4/UAS system. As the same way, FRTG13, yki^{B5}/Cyo; UAS-*/TM3,Sb^{1} and FRT40A, CycE^{AR95}/Cyo; UAS-*/TM3,Sb^{1} lines were generated.
Reverse genetic screen to identify JAK/STAT downstream targets. *dome*<sup>G0405</sup>

neuroblast MARCM clones with overexpression of different *UAS*-transgenes were induced at the newly hatched larvae using *GAL4-OK107*. Adult brains with the right genotype were collected for dissection. The images of MARCM clones were taken using confocal microscopy.

**Time-course analysis.** Wild type, *dome-*/-, or wild type with the overexpression of *Stat92E<sup>ΔNΔC</sup>* mushroom body neuroblast clones were induced at newly hatched larvae. Brains were collected at 48h-, 72h-, 96h-ALH (after larvae hatching), 24h-, 60h-APF (after pupa formation), and 1d-, 1w-adults. Images of cell bodies were collected using confocal microscopy in 1µm section. Individual neuroblast lineage sizes were determined by counting the number of cells in each clone. 10-27 clones were counted for each time point. Statistical significance was calculated using One way ANOVA.

**Generation of lacZ reporter transgenes.** To make *CycE(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ* construct, primers designed against the *CycE* locus were used to PCR-amplify ~1kb fragment flanking the predicted STAT-binding site from genomic DNA. The fragment was subcloned into pBluescript and then subcloned into the P-element transformation vector, pH-Pelican. To make *CycE(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ* construct, site-directed mutagenesis using PfU DNA polymerase was performed with complementary oligonucleotides and *DpnI* digestion of the parental template. Products were transformed in DNA adenine methylation-free bacteria, tested for the successful generation of the TTCCAAGAA to TTCCAAGTT mutation by sequencing before subcloning into the pH-Pelican. Primers for amplifying target sequence from genomic DNA are as follows: Forward primer:
5’GCATCTAGAGAATCCACACATATCAACTGGC3’, Reverse primer:
5’ATAGGATCCACCACCTCTTGGCAATTAGTTGG3’. Primers for site-specific mutagenesis are as follows:
5’GCTACTTCAAGGCCATCGAAACTTGGGAACCG3’, and
5’GCGTCTCAGTTCCAAGTTTGCAATTAGTTGG3’. Primers for site-specific mutagenesis are as follows:
5’GCTACTTCAAGGCCATCGAAACTTGGGAACCG3’, and
5’GCGTCTCAGTTCCAAGTTTGCAATTAGTTGG3’.

In the similar way, E2f1(Stat92E-WT)-lacZ and E2f1(Stat92E-MT)-lacZ constructs were generated. Primers for amplifying target sequence from genomic DNA are as follows:
Forward primer: 5’GCTCTAGAGCAAAGAAAAGCGAACCAGGT3’, Reverse primer:
5’GGGGTGACCTTCGCGCAAGTGTAACAGTA3’. Primers for site-specific mutagenesis are as follows:
5’GATCGGCAAATAACCAGGAAAACCCTGAATGGGAAAAC3’, and
5’GTTTTTCCCATTCACTGTTATTTGATTTGCCGATC3’. Primers used were as follows: Primer F1: 5’CATCTAGAGCGATCATTGTGTTACTTTTGG3’, Primer R1:
5’CGGAATTCATAAGCTGACTAAGCCTCATCCTC3’. Primer F2:
5’GCCTAGTTTTCTTAATGCGTAACGGGAGT3’, Primer R2:
5’GCATCTACTGAAACGAGGAGAAGAAG3’. Primer F3:
5’GCTCTAGATTTCTGTTTCGTTTGAGTA3’, Primer R3:
5’CGGAATTCAGTCACGGAATGGTCATCTTTT3’. Primer F4:
5’GCTCTAGAATCAATCGAGACTCGTG
GAAAT
3’, Primer R4:
5’GCGAATTCCACACTGACTTTAAAGCAATTCG3’.
Primer F5:
5’TCCCGCGGTTTTTCTCTCGTTTCTCCTGCAC3’, Primer R5:
5’CGGGATCTTACTCAACAAAGTTCGCGCTGA3’. Primer F6:
5’GCTCTAGATCAGGCGAACTTTGTTGAGTAA3’, Primer R6:
5’CGGGATCCGTCAGGCGAAGTTATGGAATCACAA3’. Primer F7:
5’GCTCTAGATTGTGATTCCATAACG
CTTGAC3’, Primer R7:
5’GTCCGCGGCGCATGGAGGTAAGACAATAGC3’.

Stat92E loss of function analysis by using Stat92E temperature sensitive allele.
Stat92E flies were crossed to Stat92E6346/TM3, GFP flies, temperature sensitive
Stat92E6346/Stat92E6346 (Stat92Ets) early larvae were collected from F1 progeny by the
absence of GFP under a fluorescence microscope. The vial#1 of collected larvae was
always kept at permissive temperature 25°C. The vial#2 of collected larvae was moved to
restrictive temperature 29°C at early larvae stage, and kept at 29°C for 4 days until the
early pupa stage. The vial#3 of collected larvae was moved to restrictive temperature
29°C at mid larvae stage, and kept at 29°C for 2 days until the early pupa stage. Brains
from 3 vials were collected for dissection at early pupa stages and being processed for
CycE antibody staining. Exactly the same antibody staining treatments were conducted to
ensure comparability. The CycE expression levels were examined based on the confocal
images of at least 20 mushroom bodies for each time point. Confocal imaging was
performed using exactly the same parameters.
Immunohistochemistry of brains and imaginal discs. Antibody staining was performed essentially as the following. Brains or imaginal discs at proper stages were dissected, and fixed with 4% formaldehyde in PBS for 30 minutes at room temperature. The samples were then washed in PBT (PBS containing 1% Triton X-100) for 3 times, with 30 minutes each time, followed by a blocking step with 5% normal goat serum in PBT at room temperature for 30 minutes. The samples were then incubated with the primary antibody at 4°C overnight. After washing with PBT for 3 times with 20 minutes each at room temperature, the samples were incubated with the secondary antibody at room temperature for 2-4 hours or at 4°C overnight. Samples were then washed 3 times with PBT at room temperature, with 30 minutes each, before mounting.

All images of immunofluorescent staining were collected using a Zeiss LSM710 confocal microscope and processed with Adobe Photoshop.
References


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