

26 Paf1 complexes, findings potentially explaining the gene expression defects
27 observed in *Setd5* haploinsufficient mice. Our results emphasize the decisive role of
28 *Setd5* in a biological pathway found to be disrupted in intellectual disability and
29 autism spectrum disorder patients.

30

31 **Main**

32 Intellectual disability (ID), characterized by substantial limitation of cognitive
33 functions and adaptive behaviours, affects 1.5-2 % of the Western population¹. ID
34 often co-exists with core symptoms of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), such as
35 impairment in social interaction, communication and presence of repetitive
36 behaviours¹. ID and ASD have a strong genetic component and several ID- and
37 ASD-genes have been identified^{2,3}.

38 The *SET-domain containing 5 (SETD5)* gene belongs to the SET-domain
39 containing gene family, encoding histone-modifying proteins⁴. *De novo* mutations in
40 the *SETD5* gene have been recently identified as a cause of ID and ASD with up to
41 0.7% of patients with idiopathic ID carrying heterozygous mutations in the *SETD5*
42 gene^{5,6}. While the number of reported cases increases, allowing the delineation of a
43 "*SETD5* syndrome"^{7,8}, *SETD5*'s molecular function and role in cognition remain
44 elusive.

45 Here, we show that *Setd5* haploinsufficiency in mice leads to embryonic
46 development defects and behavioural abnormalities. Developmental and behavioural
47 issues correlate with abnormal control of gene expression in embryonic and adult
48 mutant animals. Particularly, we found that disruption of *Setd5* impairs the proper
49 expression of a number of post-synaptic density proteins implicated in synaptic
50 plasticity and learning. At the molecular level *Setd5* interacts with the histone

51 deacetylase 3 (Hdac3) and polymerase-associated factor 1 (Paf1) complexes to
52 regulate gene transcription. Intriguingly, several components of the HDAC3 and
53 PAF1 complexes have been previously involved in ID and ASD.

54

55 **Results**

56 ***Setd5* haploinsufficiency leads to early developmental defects.**

57 *Setd5* is expressed in several tissues, including the brain, during development
58 and in adulthood^{6,9}. To examine the effect of *Setd5* haploinsufficiency *in vivo*, we
59 studied *Setd5*^{+/-} mice (Supplementary Fig. 1). While full deletion of *Setd5* leads to
60 lethality at early embryonic stages⁹, *Setd5*^{+/-} mice are viable but born at a non-
61 Mendelian rate (Supplementary Fig. 2a) and have lower survival probability
62 (Supplementary Fig. 2b). Interestingly, newborn and adult mutant mice present with
63 increased brain to body weight ratio (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Fig. 2c) suggesting
64 developmental defects. Many *Setd5*^{+/-} mice also display tooth displacement, eye
65 problems, white spotting of the belly and craniofacial abnormalities (Fig. 1b-c and
66 Supplementary Fig. 2d-e), issues linked to aberrant head and trunk neural crest
67 proliferation and cell fate determination^{10,11}. These features, in part also observed in
68 patients with *SETD5* mutations⁵⁻⁷, suggest that *Setd5* haploinsufficiency may impact
69 developmental processes at very early stages.

70 Following these observations, we performed RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) of
71 9.5 day-old (E9.5) control and *Setd5* mutant embryos. We detected 487 differentially
72 expressed genes (DEGs) between *Setd5*^{+/+} and *Setd5*^{+/-} mice (Fig. 1d and
73 Supplementary Table 2), revealing an approximately equal number of up and down
74 regulated genes. Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis, however, highlighted that
75 genes upregulated in *Setd5*^{+/-} embryos are associated with head and brain

76 development, while downregulated genes are involved in the formation of other
77 embryonic parts including the neural crest, heart, limbs and skeleton (Fig. 1e,
78 Supplementary Table 3).

79 Among pathways disrupted by *Setd5* haploinsufficiency there is the Wnt
80 signalling cascade (adjusted (adj.) p-value 2e-2, Supplementary Table 3).
81 Accordingly, downregulated genes are enriched for β -catenin and transcription factor
82 3 (TCF3) targets (adj. p-value: 1e-5 and 2e-10, respectively). Furthermore, DEGs
83 are enriched for genes previously associated with dysmorphic features observed in
84 *Setd5* mutant mice and patients⁶ (Fig. 1b-c; Supplementary Fig. 2d-e), for example
85 genes linked to eye developmental defects such as microphthalmia (e.g. *Otx2*,
86 *Aldh1a3*, *Stra6* and *Sox2*, adj. p-value 4e-5).

87 To substantiate our analysis and study how *Setd5* haploinsufficiency affects
88 gene expression in homogenous cell populations, we generated *Setd5*^{+/-} mouse
89 embryonic stem cells (ESCs) (Supplementary Fig. 3a) and differentiated them to
90 embryoid bodies (EBs) and neural progenitor cells (NPCs) (Supplementary Fig. 3b).
91 RNA-seq followed by differential expression analysis from *Setd5*^{+/+} and *Setd5*^{+/-}
92 (Supplementary Fig. 3c) ESCs, EBs and NPCs (Supplementary Table 2) indicated a
93 significant overlap with the DEGs of the E9.5 embryos (67 genes; p-value: 6e-15,
94 Supplementary Fig. 3d). GO-term analysis revealed that *Setd5*^{+/-} ESCs and EBs
95 display upregulation of genes related to epithelial and neuronal differentiation
96 (Supplementary Fig. 3e, Supplementary Table 3) and downregulation of endoderm
97 and mesoderm-related genes, indicating premature and excessive expression of
98 neuroectodermal genes and suppression of genes associated with other germ
99 layers. Similar to our findings in E9.5 embryos, downregulated DEGs in mutant EBs
100 and NPCs are enriched for Wnt signalling (adj. p-value: 3e-5 and 6e-4, respectively)

101 and TCF3 targets (adj. p-value: 1.8e-7 and 8e-20, respectively). These results
102 indicate that at early developmental stages *Setd5* haploinsufficiency favours the
103 expression of neuronal-related genes at the expense of other cell lineages, thus
104 reflecting the abnormalities apparent in *Setd5*^{+/-} mice.

105 ***Setd5*^{+/-} mice exhibit overall normal brain morphology.**

106 In the central nervous system *Setd5* is found throughout development and
107 adulthood (Supplementary Fig. 4a-c), in multiple brain regions (Supplementary Fig.
108 4c) and cell types, including inhibitory and excitatory neurons (Supplementary Fig.
109 4d-e). Thus, we investigated whether haploinsufficiency of *Setd5* affects brain
110 morphology. Initially, we assessed NPC proliferation by 2-hour bromodeoxyuridine
111 (BrdU) incorporation at embryonic day 12.5 (E12.5). In *Setd5*^{+/-} embryos the number
112 of BrdU labelled cells appears normal, indicating that NPC proliferation is not
113 affected by *Setd5* mutations (Supplementary Fig. 5a,d). Furthermore, *Setd5*^{+/-}
114 embryos present no alterations in cell survival, as indicated by the very low number
115 of cleaved Caspase 3 positive cells (Supplementary Fig. 5b,e) and normal numbers
116 of Pax6 and Tuj1 positive cells at E12.5 (Supplementary Fig. 5c,f). This data is in
117 agreement with the observation that while the brain/body weight ratio is increased in
118 *Setd5*^{+/-} mice compared to *Setd5*^{+/+}, the absolute brain size does not vary between
119 the two genotypes. We also found no anomalies in brain morphology of *Setd5*^{+/-}
120 adult animals when assessed by Nissl staining (Supplementary Fig. 5g). Normal
121 cortical lamination of *Setd5*^{+/-} adult brain was confirmed in stainings for Cux1 and
122 Ctip2 neurons. The whole cortex, individual layers, and the white matter in coronal
123 brain sections displayed expected thicknesses (Supplementary Fig. 5h-i). In
124 conclusion, *Setd5*^{+/-} gross brain morphology is normal.

125 ***Setd5*^{+/-} mice show behavioural abnormalities, cognitive defects and enhanced**
126 **long-term potentiation.**

127 Next, we investigated whether *Setd5* haploinsufficiency affects mouse
128 behaviour employing tests relevant for ASD- and ID-related mouse phenotypes¹².
129 Locomotion is not affected in *Setd5*^{+/-} mice (Supplementary Fig 6a). Mutant mice
130 also perform similarly to controls in tasks evaluating social interaction and social
131 novelty, repetitive behaviours (i.e. marble burying and rotations in the open field) and
132 anxiety (Supplementary Fig 6b-d), although *Setd5*^{+/-} females show a slight reduction
133 of anxiety-like behaviour in the elevated plus maze (Supplementary Fig 6d).

134 *Setd5*^{+/-} females, but not males, fail to build proper nests (Fig. 2a and
135 Supplementary Fig. 6e), indicating deficient reproductive¹³ or maternal care
136 abilities¹⁴. In addition, a delayed ontogenetic profile of ultrasonic vocalisation is
137 apparent in *Setd5*^{+/-} mouse pups, as they reach peak ultrasonic vocalisations
138 approximately four days after their age- and sex-matched control littermates (Fig. 2b
139 and Supplementary Fig. 6f), a delay comparable to deficits observed in ASD mouse
140 models¹⁵. Because *SETD5* patients display ID, we next assessed *Setd5*^{+/-} mice with
141 learning tasks. First, we examined behaviour of group-caged mice in the Intellicage,
142 where animals get access to water by nose poking to doors located in front of bottles
143 placed at the four corners of the cage. During learning trials, each mouse is
144 randomly assigned to an “incorrect” corner, where nose poking would trigger an
145 aversive air puff instead of access to water (Fig. 2c). On average, *Setd5*^{+/-} mice
146 perform more nose pokes per corner visit (Fig. 2c), even when they are not seeking
147 for water (no licks) (Supplementary Fig.7a). As opposed to marble burying, in which
148 digging¹⁶, but not stereotypic behaviour¹⁷ may play a role, nose poke repetitions
149 represent a cleaner, higher order repetitive behaviour, previously reported in other

150 ASD mouse models^{18,19}. Moreover, mutants perform fewer visits with nose pokes but
151 without licks (Supplementary Fig. 7a), a behaviour previously linked to the
152 hippocampus²⁰. During the place avoidance trial, both *Setd5*^{+/+} and *Setd5*^{+/-} animals
153 visit the incorrect corner less frequently than any correct corner (Fig. 2c). After
154 roughly 24h, *Setd5*^{+/+} animals learn the task, as they significantly reduce the number
155 of nose pokes per visit in the incorrect corner. In contrast, *Setd5*^{+/-} mice
156 underperform, in that they continue to nose poke similarly frequent in both correct
157 and incorrect corners (Fig. 2c-d), suggesting deficits in adaptive behaviour.

158 Next, we assessed context fear memory acquisition and consolidation. Mutant
159 and control mice are indistinguishable during acquisition of contextual fear, indicating
160 similar sensory acuity (Supplementary Fig. 7b). However, one day after acquisition,
161 when exposed to the context, female *Setd5*^{+/-} mice freeze significantly more than
162 their wild type littermates, denoting enhanced fear memory retention (Fig. 2e). This
163 difference was not observed in males trained with the same strong protocol
164 (Supplementary Fig. 7c) but it became obvious upon a slightly weaker training
165 (Supplementary Fig. 7d). In all circumstances, both female and male *Setd5*^{+/-}
166 animals further fail to extinguish the repellent context-shock association and form a
167 new, neutral memory, since they do not significantly diminish freezing when the
168 context becomes safe (Fig. 2e and Supplementary Fig. 7c-d). Thus, the contextual
169 fear conditioning (CFC) tests suggest that *Setd5* haploinsufficiency is associated
170 with a better memory retention but a worse capacity to extinguish memories, a
171 feature already observed in mouse mutants for intellectual disability genes²¹.

172 Although, *Setd5*^{+/-} mice do not show increased anxiety-like behaviour, we
173 substantiated our CFC analysis by performing the novel object location memory test,
174 a hippocampus-dependent, aversive stimulus-independent, long-term memory test.

175 Mutant mice, when tested 24 h after receiving a subthreshold (3 minutes) training,
176 show a significantly increased ability to discriminate between the old and new
177 location (Fig. 2f, Supplementary Fig. 7e). However, this type of training typically
178 produces no memory trace (defined as discrimination index > 30) in wild-type
179 animals²², as is the case with our control littermates.

180 To better understand the basis of the observed cognitive abnormalities, we
181 tested long-term potentiation (LTP) of the synaptic transmission at the CA3-CA1
182 synapses in hippocampal slices from *Setd5*^{+/-} and *Setd5*^{+/+} littermates. In agreement
183 with the observed increased memory retention, both early (Fig. 3a) and late (Fig. 3b
184 and Supplementary Fig. 7f-g) LTP of local field potentials are enhanced in *Setd5*^{+/-}.
185 This phenotype, already observed in an ASD and ID mouse model²³, suggests
186 detrimental cellular and/or molecular synaptic plasticity mechanisms associated with
187 abnormal learning and memory.

188 **Cognitive defects in *Setd5*^{+/-} mice are accompanied by abnormal dynamics of**
189 **postsynaptic gene expression.**

190 Because *Setd5* is part of a histone modifier gene family we hypothesized that
191 *Setd5* loss of function mutations may prompt faulty regulation of gene expression
192 during learning. Thus, we performed RNA-seq followed by differential expression
193 analysis from hippocampal samples of naïve (homecage) and context fear
194 conditioned mice (Supplementary Table 4).

195 Compared to homecage, control samples obtained one hour after conditioning
196 display a marked regulation of gene expression (280 DEGs FDR < 0.05, Fig. 4a,
197 left). Among these genes we observed a significant upregulation of activity-
198 dependent immediate early genes, such as *Fos* and *Egr2*²⁴ (Fig. 4a, left), and
199 enrichment for cAMP responsive element binding protein (CREB)-dependent genes

200 (adj. p-value 5.2e-5, Supplementary Fig. 8a, top). Three hours post-conditioning,
201 however, in agreement with previous studies²⁵, gene expression levels were mostly
202 back to baseline and showed a pattern similar to homecage samples (63 DEGs,
203 FDR < 0.05, Fig. 4a, left).

204 *Setd5*^{+/-} samples, while showing the expected upregulation of CREB-
205 dependent and activity-dependent immediate early genes one hour post-
206 conditioning (Fig. 4a, right and Supplementary Fig. 8a, bottom), differ markedly in
207 their gene expression compared to samples obtained from control mice one hour
208 and three hours post conditioning (180 and 212 DEGs respectively, FDR < 0.05). In
209 contrast, *Setd5*^{+/-} and control samples obtained from naïve homecage mice are
210 virtually indistinguishable (4 DEGs, FDR < 0.05) indicating a dramatically different
211 transcriptional response to training.

212 Next, we clustered genes based on their transcriptional response at the
213 different time points and compared their trajectories in mutant and control samples.
214 While a number of genes, including early response genes, follow identical
215 trajectories (Supplementary Fig. 8b, Supplementary Table 5) in the two genotypes,
216 we identified 11 gene clusters displaying significantly different expression profiles
217 between control and mutant animals (Fig. 4b, Supplementary Table 5). Thereafter,
218 we performed *in-silico* analysis to identify biological pathways, cellular components
219 and cell types potentially enriched in these clusters (Supplementary Table 6). Of
220 note, the most significantly enriched set of genes belongs to the postsynaptic density
221 (PSD) GO-term in cluster 6, consisting of genes displaying abnormally sustained
222 expression three hours post-conditioning in *Setd5*^{+/-} (Fig. 4b and Supplementary
223 Table 6). Among the PSD protein encoding-genes belonging to this cluster, several,
224 i.e. Shank1, CamKIIN1, CPEB1, FXR2P and Synaptopodin (Fig. 4c), have been

225 associated with memory retention, synaptic plasticity and ID²⁶⁻³⁰. Similarly, cluster 4
226 is significantly enriched for genes encoding for proteins regulating synapse structure
227 and activity, including SynGAP1, LRRC4 and p140Cap, which are also
228 predominantly expressed in the PSD³¹⁻³⁶ (Fig 4c). Finally, clusters 2, 5 and 7 (Fig.
229 4b), comprising genes significantly affected in *Setd5*^{+/-}, are enriched for histone H3
230 acetylation, lysine-acetylated histone binding proteins and histone H4-R3
231 methylation encoding genes, respectively (Supplementary Table 6), suggesting that
232 the epigenetic response to CFC is partially affected in the mutants. Interestingly, the
233 fine-tuning of histone H3 acetylation status has been previously associated with CFC
234 dynamics and LTP of the CA3-CA1 hippocampus synapses²².

235 **SETD5 lacks methyltransferase activity and interacts with Hdac3 and Paf1**
236 **complexes.**

237 Next, we investigated the molecular function of the SETD5 protein. Most SET
238 domain-containing proteins are histone methyltransferases. Thus, we tested whether
239 SETD5 exerts this enzymatic activity (Fig. 5a). Neither the SET domain (Fig. 5b) nor
240 full-length SETD5 (Fig. 5c) showed methyltransferase activity *in vitro*. Likewise,
241 histone H3 methylation status is comparable in control and *Setd5*^{+/-} hippocampal
242 samples (Supplementary Fig. 9a). Furthermore, neither in *Setd5*^{+/-} ESCs nor in
243 *Setd5* null (*Setd5*^{-/-}) ESCs (Supplementary Fig. 9b) are the histone methylation
244 levels changed. These results are consistent with the fact that SETD5, like MLL5
245 (KMT2E), does not have a canonical substrate-binding domain, which is conserved
246 in the other active SET family proteins (Supplementary Fig. 9c). Thus, in agreement
247 with previous reports^{9,37}, we concluded that the SET domain of SETD5, similar to
248 MLL5 (KMT2E)³⁸ and the *Drosophila* SET protein UpSET³⁹, lacks histone modifying
249 enzymatic activity.

250 SETD5 might exert a function via interactions with other proteins. To address
251 this point in a tractable system, and due to a lack of reliable *Setd5* antibodies, we
252 generated mouse ESCs expressing an endogenously tagged *Setd5* (*Setd5*-HA-
253 FLAG) (Supplementary Fig. 9d-f). Immunoprecipitation coupled with quantitative
254 mass spectrometry in ESCs and ESC-derived NPCs revealed that endogenous
255 *Setd5* is bound to two distinct protein complexes, Hdac3 and Paf1 (Fig. 5d,e,
256 Supplementary Table 7 Supplementary Fig. 9g). The Hdac3 complex, containing
257 *Ncor1/2*, *Tbl1x/1xr1* and Hdac3 (Fig. 5e), regulates gene expression by modulating
258 histone acetylation^{40,41}, while the Paf1 complex, containing Paf1, Leo1, Cdc73,
259 Wdr61 and Ctr9 (Fig. 5e), is associated with controlling RNA Polymerase II
260 dependent transcription⁴².

261 These results suggest that *Setd5* acts with at least two different protein
262 complexes in regulating chromatin environment and gene expression. Intriguingly,
263 *Tbl1x* and *Tblxr1* have been previously linked to the regulation of Wnt signalling⁴³ a
264 pathway appearing disrupted in *Setd5* mutants. Furthermore, all the components of
265 the HDAC3 complex (<https://gene.sfari.org/database/human-gene/>) and a part of the
266 PAF1 complex (e.g., LEO1)⁴⁴ (Supplementary Fig. 9h) have reported mutations
267 associated with autism, suggesting a tight link between *Setd5*-associated protein
268 complexes and neurodevelopment or brain function.

269 ***SETD5* patient mutations disrupt SETD5-HDAC3/PAF1 interaction.**

270 Several different *SETD5* mutations have been reported in intellectually
271 disabled individuals. If the interaction between SETD5 and its complexes plays a
272 critical role in the brain, *SETD5* mutations identified in patients (Supplementary Fig.
273 10a) would lead to disruption of the interactions. To test this hypothesis, we first
274 investigated the effect of six human *SETD5* truncating mutations^{5,45-47} (Fig. 6a) on

275 SETD5 protein expression and cellular localization. Ectopic expression of the six
276 human mutant proteins in HEK cells revealed that one mutant (R308*) lost protein
277 expression and another (K399*) failed at nuclear localization, but four others (T552*,
278 E720*, R1001* and S1258*) expressed nuclear proteins (Fig. 6b). We then selected
279 two mutants (E720* and S1258*) displaying nuclear protein expression and tested
280 whether they interact with the Hdac3 and Paf1 complex. To avoid a skewed result
281 due to overexpression, we expressed the same dosage of the full length WT and
282 each of the two truncating mutants (E720* and S1258*) (Fig. 6a) from the Rosa26
283 locus in *Setd5*^{-/-} ESCs (Supplementary Fig. 10b-d) and performed
284 immunoprecipitation experiments. We found that only full-length wild type SETD5,
285 but not the two truncated mutants, co-immunoprecipitated with Hdac3 and Tbl1x
286 (Fig. 6c). These results imply that SETD5 is bound to the HDAC3 complex through
287 its C-terminus (last 185 amino acids from 1258 to 1443) and that other mutations
288 affecting these residues (e.g. T552* and R1001*) should result in loss of SETD5-
289 HDAC3 interaction. Similarly, mutations truncating the C-terminal domain of SETD5
290 affect its interaction with Leo1, an ASD associated component of the Paf1 complex,
291 although this interaction is only partially reduced (Fig. 6c). Altogether, these results
292 highlight a potential role of SETD5 interacting chromatin proteins in the aetiology of
293 the SETD5-associated disease.

294 ***Setd5* haploinsufficiency increases histone acetylation without affecting Hdac3**
295 **activity.**

296 Considering the interaction between *Setd5* and Hdac3, we studied whether
297 *Setd5* affects histone acetylation levels. Immunoblot analysis of control and *Setd5*^{-/-}
298 ESCs (Supplementary Fig. 11a,b) shows that deletion of *Setd5* results in increased
299 histone H4 acetylation (Supplementary Fig. 11c). Likewise, the lysine 8 of histone 4

300 (H4K8) is more acetylated in hippocampal samples obtained from *Setd5*^{+/-} mice than
301 in controls (Supplementary Fig. 11d). Interestingly, H4K8 acetylation is also elevated
302 three hours after CFC (Supplementary Fig. 11e) but is equivalent to control sample
303 levels one hour post-conditioning (Supplementary Fig. 11f). Thus, H4K8 acetylation
304 dynamics, observed after CFC training in wild type animals⁴⁸, are altered upon
305 heterozygous loss of *Setd5* (Supplementary Fig. 11g). Despite the observed
306 hyperacetylation, Hdac3 activity is not affected in *Setd5*^{+/-} brain and ESC samples
307 (Supplementary Fig. 11h,i), suggesting that the histone acetylation changes are
308 independent of Hdac3 activity. They may thus be a consequence of other alterations
309 in the chromatin environment for instance due to a defective interaction between
310 *Setd5* and the Paf1 complex.

311 ***Setd5* occupies transcription start sites (TSS) with Hdac3 and Pol II.**

312 To elucidate the role of *Setd5* in chromatin regulation, we examined the
313 genomic distribution of *Setd5* and its associated chromatin proteins (i.e., Hdac3 and
314 Paf1 acting RNA polymerase II) in ESC using chromatin immunoprecipitation
315 followed by DNA sequencing (ChIP-seq). Read counts for tagged *Setd5* at annotated
316 genes revealed that *Setd5* is significantly enriched at TSS (defined as a 2.5 kb
317 proximal region centred on the gene start sites) and predicted ESC-specific
318 enhancers, but no other regions, such as transcription end sites (TES) and inactive
319 enhancers (Fig. 7a). Hdac3 signals were also enriched in TSS and ESC enhancers
320 (Supplementary Fig. 12a), and correlated with *Setd5* signals (Fig. 7b). RNA
321 polymerase II (Pol II) ChIP-seq signals, detected with an antibody recognizing both
322 Pol II recruited into the preinitiation complex (non-phosphorylated) and initiated Pol II
323 (phosphorylated at serine 5), showed significant enrichment at TSS (Supplementary
324 Fig. 12 b). Notably, the most pronounced signals of *Setd5* were observed at TSS

325 occupied by both Hdac3 and Pol II (Fig. 7b), implying that our immunoprecipitation
326 coupled with mass spectrometry result captured the Setd5-associated complexes at
327 TSS.

328 **Setd5 regulates Pol II occupancy at transcriptional start sites of**
329 **neurodevelopmental genes.**

330 To clarify SETD5's role at the TSS, we investigated whether Setd5 is required
331 for Hdac3 or Pol II (via Paf1) recruitment. We analysed the genome-wide localization
332 of Hdac3 and Pol II in control and *Setd5* mutant (i.e. *Setd5*^{+/-} and *Setd5*^{-/-}) ESCs (Fig.
333 7c). We also examined the genomic distribution of acetylated histone H4 (pan-
334 acetylated H4) and H3 (acetylated H3K27) as a potential outcome of Hdac3 activity.
335 Global analysis revealed that Hdac3 occupies numerous promoters and enhancers
336 across control and *Setd5* mutant ESCs (Supplementary Fig. 12a), with minimal
337 changes between genotypes (21 differential peaks in *Setd5*^{+/+} vs. *Setd5*^{+/-}, 34
338 differential peaks in *Setd5*^{+/+} vs. *Setd5*^{-/-}, FDR < 0.05, Supplementary Fig. 12d). Our
339 results suggest that Setd5 is not involved in Hdac3 recruitment to the chromatin, as
340 opposed to previous hypotheses⁹.

341 Interestingly, Pol II ChIP-seq profiles showed a broad redistribution in *Setd5*^{+/-}
342 and *Setd5*^{-/-} cells. The ratio of promoter proximal to gene body Pol II density (i.e.
343 pausing index) is decreased in 44% of genes (n=4144) and increased in 26% of
344 genes (n=2487) containing Pol II at the TSS, in both *Setd5*^{+/-} and *Setd5*^{-/-} versus
345 *Setd5*^{+/+} ESCs (Fig. 7d). Moreover, when comparing *Setd5*^{+/-} cells to controls, we
346 observed significantly increased Pol II occupancy at 559 TSS (Fig. 7c,e and
347 Supplementary Fig. 12e) and decreased occupancy at 182 TSS (Supplementary Fig.
348 12e,g, Supplementary Table 8). *Setd5*^{-/-} cells also showed similar Pol II changes at
349 those TSS (593 differential peaks in wild type vs. *Setd5*^{-/-}, FDR < 0.05,

350 Supplementary Fig. 12e). The TSS with increased Pol II are enriched for Hdac3 and
351 depleted for both H3K27ac and H4ac signals over the inputs (Fig. 7e) implying a
352 poised transcriptional state of these genes. Global distribution of H3K27 acetylation
353 was unchanged in *Setd5*^{-/-} ESCs at TSS as well as enhancers (Supplementary Fig.
354 12c,f), consistent with minimal changes in Hdac3. In agreement with the
355 immunoblots (Supplementary Fig. 11c), average ChIP-seq profiles of acetylated H4
356 (pan-acetylated H4) revealed significantly increased acetylation at gene bodies in
357 *Setd5* mutant cells (Supplementary Fig. 12h), which might be linked to changes of
358 Pol II rather than Hdac3 activity. All together, these results suggest that *Setd5*,
359 through its interaction with chromatin-associated proteins (e.g. Paf1) functions to
360 maintain proper levels of Pol II at TSS and gene bodies.

361 Next, we investigated whether chromatin alterations driven by *Setd5*
362 haploinsufficiency are associated with changes in gene expression. We found that
363 DEGs in *Setd5*^{+/-} cells are enriched for genes showing both Hdac3 and Pol II signals,
364 but no H3K27ac, at the TSS (adj. p-value: E9.5: 8.3e-22; ESCs: 4e-2; EBs: 1.6e-13;
365 NPCs: 1.9e-14). This result suggests that TSS of DEGs show a poised chromatin
366 state in ESC, implying that poised genes may be more susceptible to *Setd5*
367 haploinsufficiency. Thus, we extended our analysis to the 559 genes featuring
368 increased Pol II at the TSS in *Setd5*^{+/-} ESCs and poised chromatin state (enriched for
369 Hdac3 and depleted for both H3K27ac and H4ac signals), thereby also capturing
370 genes possibly not expressed in control ESCs. GO term analysis of these genes
371 revealed neuronal development and neuronal signalling pathways (Fig. 7f,
372 Supplementary Table 8). Furthermore, genes showing a *Setd5* dosage dependent
373 Pol II increase at the TSS (i.e. higher fold change in Pol II occupancy in *Setd5*^{-/-}
374 compared to *Setd5*^{+/-} mutant cells) are significantly enriched for Wnt signalling-

375 related genes (adj. p-value: 8e-3), consistent with our differential expression
376 analysis. In contrast, genes with decreased Pol II at the TSS were not enriched for
377 any specific GO-term.

378 Finally, we examined the expression level of the 559 genes showing
379 increased Pol II at the TSS. Average read counts were low in these genes,
380 consistent with the low levels of H3K27ac and H4ac (Fig. 7e), indicating that in
381 control conditions these genes are mostly not expressed in ESCs. Nevertheless, a
382 subset (~20%, 124 genes) of the genes show increased expression in *Setd5*^{+/-} ESCs
383 (Fig. 7g,h, Supplementary Table 8), suggesting that these genes are more prone to
384 transcription in *Setd5* haploinsufficiency in response to increased Pol II at TSS.

385 Collectively, these results indicate that *Setd5* maintains proper Pol II levels at
386 numerous TSS, most likely via its interaction with the Paf1 complex. When *Setd5*
387 expression is reduced in ESCs, Pol II is globally redistributed and simultaneously
388 increasingly positioned at the TSS of multiple neuronal-specific genes, possibly
389 priming them for transcription. While *Setd5* is not involved in global Hdac3
390 recruitment, our data suggests that *Setd5* exerts its regulatory function preferentially
391 at Hdac3 occupied TSS through Paf1-mediated Pol II recruitment and pausing.

392

393 **Discussion**

394 Mutations in *SETD5* are emerging as a relative frequent cause of ID and ASD,
395 however the pathophysiological underpinnings remain uncovered.

396 We employed *in vivo* and *in vitro* mouse models to study how *Setd5*
397 haploinsufficiency affects development and cognition. Our data suggest that during
398 early development *Setd5* is critical in preventing expression of neuronal genes and
399 maintaining correct levels of non-neuronal gene transcripts and cell types. Thus, the

400 variability of the clinical features of patients carrying different *SETD5* mutations and
401 the phenotypic variability of *Setd5*^{+/-} mice may reflect dosage-dependent effects on
402 regulation of gene expression and/or stochastic variations in cell-fate determination
403 early in development. Dosage dependent effects and changes in cell-fate
404 determination were already suggested by previous studies, which analysed some
405 effects of homozygous and transient reduction of *Setd5* in non-neuronal tissues^{9,37}.
406 Thus, our study, while focusing on the disease-relevant haploinsufficient model,
407 supports some of the previous conclusions.

408 Most importantly, while *Setd5*^{+/-} mice do not have obvious brain architecture
409 abnormalities, our data show for the first time that *Setd5* haploinsufficiency leads to
410 behavioural abnormalities and impairs the optimized transcription program
411 associated with learning and memory. Interestingly, *Setd5* haploinsufficiency is
412 associated with abnormal response of PSD gene expression. Thus, future studies
413 analysing synaptic plasticity in *Setd5* mutants are warranted.

414 Our findings implicate *Setd5* in the regulation of gene transcription through its
415 interaction with the Hdac3 and Paf1 complexes. While we extend the observation of
416 this interaction to neural precursors, this complex was ascertained in mouse ESC
417 and HEK 293 cells⁹, implying that SETD5-HDAC3-PAF1 interaction is conserved
418 across different species and cell types. Interestingly, Hdac3 has been shown to act
419 as a negative regulator of hippocampal long-term memory²² and HDAC3 inhibitors
420 described as memory enhancers. Similar to the *Setd5*^{+/-} phenotype revealed here,
421 focal deletion of *Hdac3* in the mouse dorsal hippocampus augmented novel object
422 location memory²², fear memory retention, and long-term potentiation⁴⁹. However,
423 the extinction of fear memory, which is substantially affected in the *Setd5*^{+/-} animals,
424 has not been examined in relation to *Hdac3* deficiency. This behavioural inflexibility

425 of *Setd5* mutants points to the possibility that chronic abnormal regulation of the
426 HDAC3 complex may lead to impairment of cognition rather than its enhancement. In
427 agreement, conditional homozygous *Hdac3* knockout in forebrain excitatory neurons
428 was associated with impaired spatial learning⁵⁰, and our *Setd5* mutants present with
429 learning inefficiency and/or impaired adaptive learning. Furthermore, *Setd5* interacts
430 with the Paf1 complex, which is also associated with ASD.

431 In summary, our results are consistent with a model in which *Setd5* regulates
432 Pol II occupancy at TSS of neuronal-related genes via its interaction with the *Hdac3*
433 and Paf1 complexes. Whether *Setd5* interacts with *Hdac3* and Pol II simultaneously
434 remains to be determined and warrants a structural study of *Setd5* within its protein
435 complexes. In addition, while providing evidences that *Setd5* regulates gene
436 transcription through its interaction with *Hdac3* and Paf1 complexes, it remains
437 unclear whether anomalies in these interactions underlie all of the mutants'
438 phenotypes. In fact, although our data dismiss methyltransferase activity of *SETD5*,
439 there remains the possibility that *Setd5*, potentially through interaction with other
440 proteins, contributes to brain development and function also in other ways.

441 Our study, comprehensively combining molecular, circuit and behavioral
442 analyses, is the first to analyse the consequences of *Setd5* haploinsufficiency in
443 neural cells, brain and behaviour, advancing the understanding of the function of
444 epigenetic factors for development, learning and cognition. Furthermore, our data
445 indicate that *SETD5* mutations affect a biological pathway that is dysfunctional in
446 other ID and ASD cases, implying that this work is relevant for a number of related
447 disorders.

448

449 **Accession codes**

450 Mouse RNA-seq data are deposited at GEO with accession number GSE119498.
451 RNA-seq and CHIP-seq data from in vitro samples is deposited at ENA under the
452 following accession numbers: PRJEB28477, PRJEB28476, PRJEB28475,
453 PRJEB28474, PRJEB28473 and PRJEB28472.

454

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466

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468 experiments, analysed data and prepared figures. X.C. and E-L.K. performed
469 experiments and data analysis. C.G. supervised data analysis. A.K., K.K. and I.C.
470 performed experiments under the supervision of E.D. and/or J.M.. G.N. and K-M.N.
471 conceived and supervised the study. G.N. wrote the paper together with K-M.N,
472 E.D., N.A., J.M. and C.D. All authors read and approved the final version of the
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475

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646
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650 **Figure Legends**

651 **Fig. 1. Early developmental defects and altered gene expression at E9.5 in**
652 ***Setd5*^{+/-} mice. a**, Representative images of brain and body from >P30 *Setd5*^{+/+} and
653 *Setd5*^{+/-} females indicating similar brain size, but abnormally small body in the
654 mutant (left). Quantitative comparison of the normalised brain/body weight and
655 kidney/body weight ratios in P1 pups (*n*=15) and adult females (*n*=12, bar graphs on
656 the right) (values normalised to *Setd5*^{+/+}), **P*<0.05 (two-tailed Mann Whitney U test),
657 ****P*<0.001 (one-way ANOVA/two-tailed t test), n.s. not significant; data presented as
658 means and SEM, as well as scatter plot (exact *P* values and detailed statistics
659 provided in Supplementary Table 1; also refer to **Supplementary Fig. 2c**). **b**,
660 Representative picture of the white belly spot observed in 31% of *Setd5*^{+/-} animals as
661 compared to only 2% in *Setd5*^{+/+} animals (total *n* is 222 *Setd5*^{+/+} and 157 *Setd5*^{+/-},
662 both females and males were included). **c**, Characteristic photographs of *Setd5*^{+/-}
663 eye abnormalities found in 15% of *Setd5*^{+/-} animals (bottom picture: from our own
664 cohort; top picture: taken with permission from the International Mouse Phenotyping
665 Consortium <http://www.mousephenotype.org/data/genes/MGI:1920145>); doughnut
666 charts show observations made in our own cohorts (total *n* is 222 *Setd5*^{+/+} and 157
667 *Setd5*^{+/-}); eye abnormalities in *Setd5*^{+/-} mice include corectopia, mydriasis and
668 microphthalmia; **d**, Volcano plot for differential expression analysis of genes in
669 embryonic day (E) 9.5 *Setd5*^{+/-} mouse embryo samples (*n*=3 embryos per genotype).
670 Y-axis: negative decimal logarithm of adj. *P* value; X-axis: binary logarithm of fold
671 change; colour code: genes significantly (sign.) (FDR<0.05, EdgeR, likelihood ratio
672 test) down- (blue) and upregulated (red) in *Setd5*^{+/-} embryos; not significant
673 expression changes (grey); **e**, Selected biological processes (GO) enriched in
674 differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in E9.5 animals; Inner circle: score for
675 enrichment of either upregulated (red) or downregulated DEGs (blue). Numbers
676 show maximum enrichment scores and gridlines indicate maximum and half
677 maximum values. Colour intensity scales with *p*-value. Outer circle: log₂(fold
678 change) (*y*-axis) for up- and downregulated DEGs per term. Scale is indicated at the
679 top of the plot, gridlines divide plot into four equal parts, grey line represents zero.

680

681 **Fig. 2. Behavioural abnormalities and cognitive defects as consequence of**
682 ***Setd5* haploinsufficiency in mice. a**, Representative images of the nests built by
683 controls and mutants (left) and nest scores (right) showing impaired nesting abilities

684 in *Setd5*^{+/-} females ($n=10$ animals per genotype, $*P<0.05$, two-tailed Mann-Whitney U
685 test). **b**, Isolation-induced ultrasonic vocalization profiles of *Setd5*^{+/+} (grey) and
686 *Setd5*^{+/-} (red) female mouse pups displaying delayed peaking in the mutants ($n=21$
687 P2, 19 P4, 19 P6, 18 P8, 18 P10, 17 P12 female mouse pups per genotype,
688 $*P>0.05$, $**P>0.01$, one-way ANOVA/two-tailed t test or Mann-Whitney U test –
689 detailed statistics presented in Supplementary Table 1). **c-d**, Place avoidance task
690 in the Intellicage: cartoon showing that nose poking in the correct corner allows
691 access to water (green), while incorrect nose pokes (red corner) trigger an aversive
692 air puff (black) (**c**, left); the two genotypes ($n=14$ females per genotype in both **c** and
693 **d**) visit incorrect and correct corners similarly during the 48h long trial (**c**, middle), but
694 *Setd5*^{+/-} make more nose pokes per visit (**c**, right), at both correct and incorrect
695 corners; the bar graph (**c**, right) and the kinetics of nose pokes/visit ratio (**d**) indicate
696 that *Setd5*^{+/+} females learn the task after 24h and nose poke significantly less at the
697 incorrect corner during the second peak of activity, while the *Setd5*^{+/-} females
698 continue to nose poke similarly often (**d**); peaks of the fitted curves in **d** have
699 amplitudes (mean and SEM) of 7.25 ± 0.62 nose pokes per incorrect corner (control,
700 grey) and 8.72 ± 0.83 (mutant, red), during the first 24h (learning phase), and of 4.63
701 ± 0.39 (control) and 8.75 ± 0.7 (mutant) during the last 24h (test phase). **e**,
702 Contextual fear-conditioned memory retention and extinction scored as percent
703 freezing during a 3-min exposure to the context, $n=18$ female mice per genotype; **f**,
704 Subthreshold training (3 min) in novel object location memory test induces abnormal
705 memory retention in mutants ($n=13$ females per genotype). $***P<0.001$, $**P<0.01$,
706 $*P<0.05$, n.s., not significant; data presented either as means and SEM, or as
707 medians, as well as scatter plot. For detailed statistics, please refer to
708 Supplementary Table 1.

709

710 **Fig. 3. Increased LTP in *Setd5*^{+/-} mice.** **a**, Comparison of the post-tetanic
711 potentiation and early-LTP (end of first hour after induction) of the CA3-CA1
712 synapses in the stratum radiatum of acute dorsal hippocampal slices obtained from
713 $n=10$ male mice (P21-P24) of either genotype; one slice per mouse; stimuli were
714 applied every 30s and results are means \pm SEM for all mice; a stable baseline was
715 recorded for 30-60 min (shown here – 10 min) and LTP was induced at time 0
716 (arrow) by high frequency stimulation (HFS, 4 x 100 stimuli of 0.2 ms at 100 Hz,
717 every 5s). Right panel shows representative traces of fEPSPs obtained at baseline

718 (top), 1h after HFS (middle, early-LTP) and 5h after HFS (bottom, late-LTP) from
719 either genotype (also refer to **Supplementary Fig. 7f** containing the means \pm SEM
720 for entire recordings). **b**, Quantifications of the percent potentiation at various
721 moments after LTP induction, in dorsal hippocampal slices from control and mutant
722 animals, showing elevated early LTP (1h, $n=10$) and late LTP (3h $n=10$, 4h $n=8$, 5h
723 $n=6$) in *Setd5*^{+/-} mice; * $P<0.05$. Boxplots indicate medians (middle line), 25%-75%
724 interquartile range (box) and minimum and maximum data point (whiskers). For
725 detailed statistics, please refer to Supplementary Table 1.

726

727 **Fig. 4. Gene expression dynamics are altered in the *Setd5*^{+/-} hippocampus after**
728 **CFC training. a**, Volcano plots displaying gene expression changes 1h or 3h after
729 conditioning in wild type ($n=4$ animals) and mutant ($n=5$ animals): 280, 229, 169 and
730 273 significant DEGs, respectively (FDR ≤ 0.05 , EdgeR, likelihood ratio test). The y-
731 axis shows the negative decimal logarithm of the adjusted P value and the binary
732 logarithm of the fold change is shown on the x-axis; blue/red, genes down- and
733 upregulated at the later time point, respectively; green, differentially expressed
734 immediate-early genes (see reference 22); grey, not significant. **b**, Genes with
735 significantly different responses ($n=286$) to the CFC clustered by their expression
736 trajectories. Top row (left to right): 15, 43, 18 and 23 genes, middle row: 44, 24, 33
737 and 21 genes, bottom row: 37, 16 and 12 genes, respectively. Thick lines, average
738 of all genes per cluster; thin lines, single genes; grey, *Setd5*^{+/+}; red, *Setd5*^{+/-};
739 homecage (HC), $n=5$; 1h, $n=4$; 3h, $n=5$ animals per genotype; **c**, Schematic
740 illustration of a synapse highlighting post-synaptic genes exhibiting different
741 responses in *Setd5*^{+/-} animals upon CFC. Colouring indicates association of genes to
742 clusters in **b**.

743

744 **Fig. 5. SETD5 lacks methyltransferase activity and interacts with PAF1 and**
745 **HDAC3 protein complexes. a**, Schematic representation of the SET domain
746 methylation assay. The GST-tagged SET domain of SETD5 is incubated with a ³H-
747 labeled S-Adenosyl methionine (SAM) substrate and mono- or oligonucleosomes
748 purified from HeLa cells, followed by SDS-PAGE. The methylation activity signal is
749 detected by autoradiography. **b**, Methylation assay results for the GST-tagged SET
750 domain. Left: radioactive films for the SET domain; Right: PRC2 complex used as a
751 positive control for the assay. Arrowheads indicate background levels of histone H3

752 methylation caused by contaminants bound to nucleosomes (Nuc.). The experiment
753 was repeated three times with similar results. **c**, Methylation assay results for full
754 length FLAG-tagged SETD5 overexpressed in HEK293T cells. Left: radioactive film
755 results; Right: coomassie staining of SDS-PAGE; Bottom-right: Western blot of
756 immunoprecipitated FLAG-tagged SETD5. Arrowheads indicate FLAG-beads
757 immunoglobulins (Ig); b, FLAG-beads; the experiment was performed once. Refer to
758 **Supplementary Fig. 14** for full scans of films, blots and gel in **b-c**; **d**, Correlation
759 plot of the Setd5 interacting proteins in ESCs (x-axis) and NPCs (y-axis) identified by
760 quantitative TMT mass spectrometry. Immunoprecipitation samples of the
761 endogenously tagged Setd5-HA are compared with non-tagged wild type samples.
762 Colour code: proteins significantly enriched in both ESCs and NPCs (red); significant
763 only in ESCs (yellow) or in NPCs (purple); not significant (grey). Adjusted P value <
764 0.05 and \log_2 (Fold Change) > 0, limma statistical analysis; $n=2$ biologically
765 independent samples. **e**, Interaction network of proteins found to significantly interact
766 with Setd5 both in ESCs and NPCs from both TMT and label free mass
767 spectrometry. Black edge thickness indicates interaction confidence from data
768 generated in this study. Thin edge colour indicates String interaction score (blue,
769 low; red, high). Orange, Setd5 bait; blue, Hdac3-Ncor-Tbl1x complex; green, Paf1
770 complex; grey, other proteins significantly interacting with Setd5.

771

772 **Fig. 6. SETD5 patient mutations disrupt SETD5-HDAC3/PAF1 interactions. a**,
773 Schematics of SETD5 rescue constructs representing selected human patient
774 mutations. Open reading frame carrying the disease-associated truncating mutations
775 or the endogenous stop codon is fused in frame with a P2A sequence and a GFP
776 reporter. All constructs carry a N-terminal FLAG-HA tag. **b**, Western blot of wild type
777 (WT) and truncated mutant SETD5 proteins overexpressed in HEK cells. Replicate
778 lanes come from two independent cell transfections; samples were separated into
779 cytoplasmic and nuclear fractions. Neg., empty vector; black arrows indicate
780 expected bands for each construct. The experiment was repeated twice with similar
781 results. **c**, Western blots of FLAG immunoprecipitation of SETD5 WT, SETD5 1258*,
782 and SETD5 E720* in *Setd5*^{-/-} ESC rescue lines. The nuclear protein Oct4 served as
783 negative control. IN, input: nuclear extract before immunoprecipitation. FT, flow
784 through, unbound to beads; IP, immunoprecipitation eluate with triple-FLAG peptide;
785 1% of IN and FT and 50% of IP eluate were loaded. The experiment was repeated

786 three times with similar results. All immunoblots shown are cropped; see
787 **Supplementary Fig. 14** for full-length blots in **b-c**.

788

789 **Fig. 7. *Setd5* haploinsufficiency in ESCs results in increased Pol II occupancy**
790 **at the TSS of a subset of neurodevelopmental genes.** **a**, Boxplots of ChIP-seq
791 signal for 5 different genomic features: transcription start sites (TSS) bound (Pol II
792 TSS, $n=16342$) or not bound (Inactive TSS, $n=17817$) by RNA-Pol II, transcription
793 end sites (TES, $n=34159$), intergenic ESCs specific enhancers ($n=4099$), and other
794 tissue intergenic enhancers ($n=43657$). *Setd5* ChIP-seq was performed using
795 endogenously tagged (*Setd5*-HA) compared to non-tagged (*Setd5*^{+/+}) ESCs for
796 antibody background. One-sided Mann–Whitney U test; p-values are in the figure. **b**,
797 Boxplots of *Setd5* ChIP-seq signal at 4 genomic regions: TSS with either or both
798 Hdac3 and Pol II (+Hdac3 +Pol II, $n=13314$; +Hdac3 –Pol II, $n=701$; –Hdac3 +Pol II,
799 $n=2890$), and intergenic ESCs specific enhancers with Hdac3 peaks (+Hdac3 ESCs
800 Enhancer, $n=688$); one-sided Mann–Whitney U test. **c**, Representative ChIP-seq
801 tracks of *Setd5*-HA and Pol II in *Setd5*^{+/HA} and *Setd5* mutant ESCs at the *Meis2* gene
802 locus. Signals are input-subtracted, merged replicates Reads per Genomic Content
803 (RPGC); Refer also to **Supplementary Fig. 14** for complete tracks; experiments
804 performed with two independent clonal lines with similar results. **d**, Density plot of
805 genes with reduced (upper panel, $n=4144$) or increase (lower panel, $n=2487$) Pol II
806 pausing index in both *Setd5*^{+/–} and *Setd5*^{–/–}; X-axis is in log10 scale; one-sided
807 Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, as compared to *Setd5*^{+/+}. **e**, Boxplots showing *Setd5*-HA,
808 Pol II, Hdac3, H3K27ac and H4 pan acetylation ChIP-seq signals in *Setd5*^{+/HA} and
809 *Setd5* mutants with significantly increased Pol II occupancy at TSS in *Setd5*^{+/–} (FDR
810 < 0.05, EdgeR statistical analysis, **Supplementary Fig. 12e**), $n=559$ genes. **f**, Gene
811 ontology enrichment analysis for genes presented in (**e**); GOstats statistical analysis.
812 **g**, Boxplot showing RNA-seq counts for a subset of genes with increased Pol II at
813 the TSS. Genes in (**e**) were clustered (k-means) and a cluster ($n=124$ genes) with
814 more reads in *Setd5*^{+/–} ESCs was presented. *Setd5*^{+/+} and CRISPR/Cas9 clonal
815 control lines (*Setd5*^{+/+; tr.}) were merged. One-sided Mann–Whitney U test; Y-axis in
816 log10 scale. **h**, Heatmap of 35 representative genes used in (**g**). Boxplots in **a**, **b** and
817 **e** represent means of 2 biological replicates from two independent clonal lines,
818 normalized by input RPKM values (dashed horizontal line represents input baseline).
819 Data points, less than 5 or more than 95 percentile of mean RPKM, were removed in

820 **a, b, and e.** All data points are presented in **g**. The upper, centre, and lower line of
821 the boxplot indicates 75%, 50%, and 25% quantile, respectively. Whiskers extend to
822 the most extreme datapoint within 1.5-times the interquartile range. Outliers are not
823 shown.

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METHODS

Ethical approval

All animal protocols complied with directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and Council, the 3R (reduce, replace, refine) principle (Russel and Burch) and were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use and Ethical Committee at IST Austria.

Mice

Setd5^{tm1a(EUCOMM)Wtsi} (International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium) were mated with homozygous Flip mice (Jackson Laboratories) to remove the NeoStop cassette. The resultant heterozygous *Setd5*^{+/*fl*} females (Supplementary Fig. 1a) were crossed with CMVCre (B6.C-Tg(CMV-cre)1Cgn/J) males to obtain *Setd5*^{+/-} mice (Supplementary Fig. 1a). *Setd5*^{+/-} mice were backcrossed to the N10 generation in C57BL/6J mice and used for our experiments. The *Setd5*^{GFP} mouse has been described elsewhere⁵¹ and was kindly provided by Prof M.A. Magnuson. Animals were housed in groups of 3-4 animals per cage and kept on a 12 h light/dark cycle (lights on at 7:00 am), with food and water available *ad libitum*, unless otherwise specified.

Generation of *Setd5* knock in and knock out cell lines

The *Setd5* knock in cell line was created by adapting a published method⁵². A donor plasmid was generated from the pFETCh_Donor plasmid (addgene ID #63934). We exchanged the Neomycin/Kanamycin resistance with Emerald GFP, introduced an HA tag upstream of the triple FLAG tag, and cloned 1Kb of *Setd5* homology arms upstream and downstream of the construct. ESCs were electroporated with a CRISPR/Cas9 plasmid targeting the unique transcription end site of *Setd5* together with the modified pFETCh_Donor plasmid. To increase homologous-directed recombination efficacy, cells were treated with 10 μ M of SCR7 (Xcessbio Biosciences) for 24h before the electroporation. Successfully electroporated cells were selected by single cell fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) for GFP positive events. Correct insertion was confirmed by genotyping PCR and protein expression was tested using western blot (WB).

Setd5 knock out cell lines were generated using CRISPR/Cas9. For the generation of heterozygous *Setd5* line 1kb homology arms matching intron 2 and intron 15 of the *Setd5* locus were cloned inside the HR110PA-1 plasmid (System Biosciences) carrying a red fluorescent protein (RFP) and puromycin resistance cassette (PuroR). ESCs were electroporated with two CRISPR/Cas9 plasmids (pSpCas9(BB)-2A-GFP (PX458), addgene ID #48138) targeting intron 2 and intron 15 of *Setd5* and the HR100PA-1 donor plasmid carrying the RFP/PuroR cassette. Positive clones were selected by 1 μ g/ml puromycin treatment for 1 week. Validation of the positive cassette insertion in the *Setd5* locus was carried out by genotyping PCR. Biological replicates come from different clones.

The generation of Δ SET *Setd5* heterozygous or homozygous cell lines was performed by transfecting ESCs with two CRISPR/Cas9 plasmids with guides targeting intronic regions 20-to-70bp upstream of exon 7 or downstream of exon 8. Single cells were FACS sorted and the resulting clones were genotyped by PCR. Biological replicates are different clonal lines carrying the same mutation. CRISPR control lines are single cell-derived clones that were not edited in the targeted site or

917 in the top 10 potential off target sites. CRISPR/Cas9 guides were designed using
918 Optimized CRISPR Design tool (<http://crispr.mit.edu/>). We choose guides with
919 predicted off target sites in intergenic regions. For each guide we selected the top 10
920 off target sites and designed PCR primers spanning 300bp upstream and
921 downstream from the predicted sites. PCR bands were resolved on 1% agarose gel.
922 None of the guides showed a band shift in the clonal lines compared to wild type
923 (WT) controls (data not shown). To check for small DNA indels the bands were cut
924 out from the gel and sent for Sanger sequencing. Sequences were aligned against
925 the reference mouse genome and no guide showed signs of off target activity in the
926 predicted site.

927

928 **Methylation assay**

929 The human GST-tagged SET domain of SETD5 (E200-E566) was purified from
930 BL21(DE3) E.Coli. For each reaction 2 μ g of recombinant SET or 2 μ g of
931 recombinant PRC2 complex (Active Motif #31387) were incubated with 10 μ g of
932 HeLa cells purified mononucleosomes or 2 μ g of di/tri- or oligonucleosomes together
933 with 5 μ Ci of 3 H-S-Adenosylmethionine. The final reaction volume was brought to 30
934 μ L with methylation assay buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 10% Glycerol, 5 mM Mg_2Cl ,
935 60 mM KCl, and 2 mM DTT). Samples were incubated for 2h at 30°C. The reaction
936 was blocked by adding SDS-loading buffer and boiling the samples at 95°C for 10
937 minutes. The remaining 3 H-S-Adenosylmethionine was separated from the rest of
938 the proteins by SDS-PAGE. Coomassie stained gels were incubated with Amersham
939 Amplify Fluorographic Reagent (GE NAMP100V) for 30 minutes followed by gel
940 dehydration for 2h at 60°C. Radioactive signal was detected by exposing the gel to
941 autoradiography film from 4h up to 1 month at -80°C.

942

943 **Messenger RNA-sequencing (mRNA-seq)**

944 ESC, EB and NPC mRNA extraction was performed as described in the
945 Supplementary note. RNA extracts that passed quality control were used for library
946 preparation. Libraries were prepared using the oligo-dT capture kit (NEB) and
947 sequenced on Illumina HiSeq 2000 at EMBL, Heidelberg Genomics Core facility.
948 Fastq files that passed quality control were aligned to the mm10 reference genome
949 using bowtie2 v0.3⁵³, the generated bam files were used for counting reads using the
950 HTseq tool v0.6.1⁵⁴. Coherence between samples, time points and replicates was
951 verified by principal component analysis (PCA). Differential expression analysis was
952 performed using the R package DESeq2 v1.16⁵⁵. Gene Ontology enrichment
953 analysis was done using the Bioconductor package GOstats version 2.46.0⁵⁶.

954 Mouse tissues for mRNAseq were rapidly dissected on ice and snap frozen in liquid
955 nitrogen. For embryonic day (E) 9.5 embryos genotyping was carried out on
956 placental tissues. Whole embryos or the left hippocampal CA region were used for
957 RNA extraction and library preparation.

958 Sequenced libraries raw reads were trimmed before alignment to mm10 reference
959 genome using STAR version 2.5.4⁵⁷. Read counts per gene were derived using
960 STAR (Option -quantMode GeneCounts). Coherence of biological replicates was
961 assessed using PCA, and sample distance clustering; one sample (WT, 1h) was
962 excluded due to its clustering away from all other samples. Differential expression
963 analysis of CA and mouse embryos was performed employing RUVSeq as
964 described⁵⁸ and EdgeR v3.22.2⁵⁹ including the RUV variables in the design. Genes
965 with FDR \leq 0.05 were deemed significantly differentially expressed. Averaged log
966 transformed CPM values were normalized by calculating gene-wise z-scores. K-

967 means clustering was performed using Pearson correlation as distance measure and
968 selecting a suitable cluster number (k=11) with minimal Davies Bouldin index and a
969 minimum cluster size above 10 genes. To identify clusters with similar trajectories
970 between genotypes, genes differentially expressed in at least one comparison were
971 clustered in the same way (k=22). Gene Ontology enrichment analysis was done
972 using GOstats v2.46.0⁵⁶ with a P value cut off of 0.001 and conditional testing
973 enabled. For the E9.5 data random sampling was used to exclude terms enriched in
974 random gene sets to control for enrichment in overall expressed genes. E9.5 mouse
975 embryos GO enrichment results were visualized using a custom script and the
976 GOplot package (1.0.2)⁶⁰. Overlap between E9.5 data and *in vitro* datasets was
977 visualized using a customized script based on the circlize package (0.4.4)⁶¹.
978 Enrichment for cell type specific expression was performed using the EWCE tool
979 (0.99.2)⁶² using the scRNA-seq data from Zeisel et al⁶³. Enrichment analysis for
980 disease genes (OMIM), transcription factor targets as well as pathway related genes
981 was done via the Enrichr web tool^{64,65}. Other enrichment analyses were all done
982 using a one-sided Fisher test in R. Hdac3 target genes for comparison with CA data
983 were derived from published ChIP-seq data from mouse hippocampus⁶⁶, E9.5 data
984 was compared to ChIP-seq data generated in this study. Refer to the Supplementary
985 note for more details.

986

987 **Setd5 immunoprecipitation (IP) followed by liquid chromatography-mass** 988 **spectrometry (LC-MS)**

989 For the IP of endogenously tagged Setd5 we used ESCs and NPCs. Briefly, 200
990 million cells were harvested and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen. Cells were lysed as
991 described⁶⁷. Nuclear enriched pellets were resuspended in a 420 mM salt buffer,
992 incubated 15 min at 4°C and spun down to remove insoluble material. The soluble
993 fraction was diluted to 150 mM salt concentration. Nuclear enriched samples were
994 incubated with 15 µL of anti-FLAG M2 beads (Sigma Aldrich) overnight at 4°C. After
995 the incubation, beads were washed 3 times with a 300 mM wash buffer, followed by
996 a two-times 1h elution with 40 µL of FLAG elution buffer containing 0.25 mg/mL triple
997 FLAG peptide at 4°C. The resulting immunoprecipitated material was analyzed by
998 WB to verify a successful IP and submitted for sample preparation at the EMBL,
999 Heidelberg Proteomics facility. Samples were prepared with the SP3 protocol⁶⁸ and
1000 digested peptides analyzed by liquid chromatography followed by label free or
1001 tandem mass tag (TMT) labeled mass spectrometry. *Setd5* knock in samples were
1002 compared against a matching background WT negative control lacking the
1003 endogenous Setd5 FLAG-HA. Each sample at each time point was processed in
1004 duplicates. For data analysis, label free peptides were identified and mapped using
1005 Isobarquant software⁶⁹, while the TMT labeled peptides were mapped and quantified
1006 by MaxQuant software⁷⁰ v1.5.6.5. For both datasets the raw peptide counts data
1007 were analyzed by applying a variance stabilization normalization method with the R
1008 package vsn (v 3.44)⁷¹. Possible batch effects were removed by fitting a linear model
1009 to the data that explains the variance between the replicates, using R package limma
1010 v3.32⁷². Coherence between samples, time points and replicates was verified by
1011 PCA. Differential protein IP analysis was performed using R package limma; proteins
1012 with an adjusted P value < 0.05 and log₂(Fold Change) > 0 were considered to have
1013 a significantly different binding between the endogenous tagged Setd5 and the
1014 matching WT control. The correlation plot between the ESC stage and the NPC
1015 stage was obtained by comparing the log₂ fold change of the 2 time points. Protein-
1016 protein interaction network analysis was performed with Cytoscape⁷³ using STRING

1017 database v10⁷⁴ information channels and the data generated in this study. Protein-
1018 protein Interactions from STRING database with a combined score lower than 300
1019 were discarded . Both label free and TMT labeled significant proteins were used to
1020 generate the network. To quantify the protein-protein interaction between Setd5 and
1021 the other proteins (black edge thickness) the \log_2 (Fold Change) and the -
1022 \log_{10} (adjusted P value) of significantly enriched proteins from both label free and
1023 TMT mass spectrometry experiments were scaled from 0 to 1 and then summed
1024 together to generate a unified score value. Proteins with scaled fold change lower
1025 than 0.048 and scaled adjusted P value lower than 0.04 were discard from the pool
1026 of proteins used to build the networks. The \log_2 (Fold Change) and the -
1027 \log_{10} (adjusted P value) of proteins identified both in ESCs and NPCs were summed
1028 together to present a unique interaction value during neurodevelopment.
1029

1030 **Chromatin IP coupled with sequencing (ChIP-seq)**

1031 For Hdac3, Pol II and Setd5 ChIP each replicate of 100 million ESCs were harvested
1032 and cross linked in 1.5 mM EGS in PBS for 1h followed by 10 min cross linking in
1033 1.5% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS at RT. For H3K27ac and H4 pan acetylation
1034 each replicate of 20 million ESCs were harvested and cross linked in 1% PFA.
1035 Cross-linking solution was quenched with 125 mM Glycine for 5 min. Fixed cells
1036 were spun down at 3000 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C and washed twice with ice cold
1037 PBS freshly supplemented with complete protease inhibitor cocktail. Samples
1038 were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C. Briefly, chromatin was
1039 prepared by re-suspending cross linked cells in hypotonic buffer on ice for 10 min,
1040 followed by 35 strokes of douncing with a tissue homogenizer. The cytoplasmic
1041 fraction was removed by gentle centrifugation and nuclear pellets were re-
1042 suspended in MNase digestion buffer. Nuclei were digested with MNase
1043 (Worthington) at a ratio 15 μ L per 50 million cells (MNase conc: 25U/ μ L) for 5 min at
1044 37 °C. MNase enzymatic activity was quenched by adding EDTA/EGTA based
1045 quenching buffer. Digested chromatin was sonicated with 3 cycles of Bioruptor Pico
1046 sonicator (Diagenode). To separate insoluble chromatin, samples were spun down at
1047 15,000g for 10 min at 4 °C. Soluble fragmented chromatin was used as ChIP input.
1048 Both soluble input and precipitated pellet were resolved on agarose DNA gel to
1049 check the digestion pattern across replicates and 5% of each chromatin input were
1050 set aside before the IP. Each sample input was incubated with 70 μ L of Invitrogen M-
1051 280 beads (Invitrogen) pre-coupled for 6h at 4°C with the specific antibody (see Life
1052 Sciences Reporting Summary for details). Samples were incubated overnight at 4°C
1053 and the following day beads were washed four times with LB3-100 buffer (10 mM
1054 TRIS, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA, 0.1% Na-Deoxycholate,
1055 0.5% Sarcosine) followed by one wash with LB3-500 buffer (500 mM NaCl), followed
1056 by four washes with RIPA-250 buffer (10 mM Hepes, 250 mM LiCl, 1
1057 mM EDTA, 0.7% Na-Deoxycholate, 1% Igepal-630), finally beads were quickly
1058 rinsed with 10 mM Tris/1 mM EDTA buffer. Elution of the IP chromatin from the
1059 beads was performed in elution buffer (1% SDS, 50 mM Tris, 10 mM EDTA) for
1060 30 min at 65 °C. Eluted chromatin and ChIP inputs were reverse cross linked and
1061 proteins were digested with proteinase K overnight at 65 °C. DNA was purified using
1062 a PCR purification kit (QIAGEN). Libraries were prepared with NEBNext Ultra II kit.
1063 For each ChIP two biological replicates per condition (WT or Δ SET *Setd5*
1064 heterozygous or homozygous) and one input per *Setd5* genotype, or *Setd5* WT and
1065 *Setd5*-HA in the case of *Setd5* ChIP, were pooled together and sequenced on an
1066 Illumina HiSeq 2000 at EMBL, Heidelberg Gene Core facility.

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ChIP-seq data analysis

Analysis was performed in a local installation of Galaxy⁷⁵ maintained by the EMBL Genome Biology Computational Support using mouse genome version MM10 and in R version 3.5.0 (Bioconductor version 3.7). Data visualisations were performed using custom-made scripts in R. The 50bp single-end reads were aligned to the mouse genome with Bowtie version 2⁵³ using standard options (Galaxy Tool version 0.2, sensitive preset). Reads failing to be mapped or mapping at several locations (as identified by the XS tag set by bowtie2) were removed. Read duplicates were identified and removed using Picard's Mark Duplicates (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard>). Sequencing data quality was assessed using FastQC (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>) and the Deeptools2 package⁷⁶. Peak calling was performed using MACS version 2⁷⁷. See Life Sciences Reporting Summary for peak calling details. For all experiments MACS2 defined peaks from all conditions (WT and two mutants) were merged into a unique non-overlapping set of 25234 peaks for Hdac3 (filtered for Qvalue < 0.001) 129203 peaks for Pol II (filtered for Qvalue < 0.001), 45842 peaks for H3K27ac (filtered for Q-value < 0.00025) and 53778 for H4 pan acetylation (filtered for Qvalue < 0.1) using bedtools⁷⁸. Enhancers from Shen et al⁷⁹ were adjusted to 2Kb (centered on their middle point as defined in downloaded files) and lifted from mm9 to mm10 using the UCSC liftover tool. For ChIP-seq analysis at transcription start sites, TSSs were defined using ENSEMBL version 91 considering gene start position for genes longer than 1250bp (total number of genes 34159). Peaks falling within 2.5Kb regions centered on TSS were considered for differential binding analysis. Peak intersection with defined TSS resulted in 14015 peaks for Hdac3, 16152 peaks for Pol II, and 8804 for H3K27ac. Differential analysis between mutant and WT samples was performed using the DiffBind⁸⁰ and edgeR⁵⁹ packages. Differentially bound peaks with corrected P values lower than 0.05 were selected for further analysis. RPKM signal were calculate using the Deeptool2 "multiBamSummary" tool from duplicates removed bam files, the count tables were than normalized to genomic region length and sample library size, replicates were averaged and all samples were background normalized by dividing them by the merged input RPKM. Signal files (bigwig format) were generated using the Deeptools2 "bam-Coverage" tool using the "Normalize coverage to 1x" option (to correct for library size). Replicates were averaged and input subtracted (IP minus input) using the Deeptools2 "bigwig-Compare" tool. Pol II pausing index definition was adapted from⁸¹. For each Setd5 merged replicate, input subtracted bigwig sample the average signal at TSS (-100 /+300bp) was divided by the gene body signal downstream of the TSS (+301 to +3301bp). Genes shorter than 3.5Kb were not included in the analysis, genes with signal lower than 1 at TSS and at the 3Kb gene body were removed from the analysis, in total 9490 were included in the pausing index calculation. The correlation between biological replicates was verified (Pearson's $r \sim 0.98$ Pol II at TSS and Gene body; $r \sim 0.89$ Hdac3 at TSS) and samples were merged for data visualisation.

Rescue experiment

SETD5 point mutations identified in patients were obtained from the Sfari Gene database and were selected to be equally spaced across the entire protein sequence. We chose six mutations at R308⁸², K399⁸³, T552⁸⁴, E720⁸⁵, R1001 and S1258^{82,83} all resulting in the gain of a stop codon. The WT and truncating mutations rescue constructs were designed to have an N-terminal FLAG tagged SETD5

1117 followed by a P2A cleavage site and EmGFP marker. The WT human SETD5 open
1118 reading frame and the truncated versions were cloned from the pFN21A - SETD5-
1119 HaloTag construct (Promega). All six constructs, including WT, were cloned inside
1120 the pDonor MCS Rosa26 (addgene ID #37200) plasmid carrying 800bp homology
1121 arms of the Rosa26 gene locus. These donor plasmids were used to generate
1122 rescue clonal lines from Δ SET homozygous *Setd5* cells. Cells were transfected with
1123 CRISPR/Cas9 and a single guide RNA targeting the first intron of the Rosa26 gene
1124 and the WT or truncated SETD5 rescue construct. Positive cells were FACS sorted
1125 selecting for GFP positive events. Correct insertion of the rescue gene was
1126 confirmed by genotyping PCRs and WBs. Different clonal cell lines carrying the
1127 same rescue construct were considered biological replicates and were derived from
1128 the same CRISPR/Cas9 transfection.

1129

1130 **Behavioural studies**

1131 Behavioural studies were carried out during the light period. Two to 3.5 month old
1132 age- and sex-matched littermate mice were habituated to the test room for at least 1
1133 h before each test. At least 1-week-long rest periods were given between tests.
1134 Behavior apparatuses were cleaned between trials with 70% ethanol. All behavioural
1135 tests were performed starting with the least aversive task first and ending with the
1136 most aversive, and either scored automatically or by an experimenter blind to the
1137 genotype. Both females and males were tested unless stated otherwise. When no
1138 inter-genotypic differences were observed the data for both sexes was pooled to
1139 avoid redundant graphs. However, in case of inter-genotypic differences, although
1140 both male and females show essentially the same phenotype, the data for the two
1141 sexes is reported separately. Extensive description of the behavioural studies can be
1142 found in the Supplementary note.

1143

1144 **Histone acetylation**

1145 Histone extraction of the right CA hippocampal region from animals that underwent
1146 CFC was performed employing the EpiQuik Total Histone Extraction Kit (Epigentek,
1147 Cat. Nr. OP-0006-100), according to the manufacturer's indications. Detailed
1148 description of the protocol used here can be found in the Supplementary note.

1149 **Hdac3-IP and HDAC3 activity assay from adult mouse forebrain**

1150 Hdac3-IP and activity assays were performed according to a modified protocol,
1151 previously described⁸⁶. Female 2 to 4 month old *Setd5*^{+/-} and their WT littermates
1152 were sacrificed by cervical dislocation and the hippocampus and cortex (forebrain) of
1153 both hemispheres were rapidly dissected on ice. After washes in ice-cold 1x PBS,
1154 tissues were homogenized in a tissue grinder in ice-cold IP-RIPA-buffer (50 mM Tris
1155 pH 8.0, 120 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP-40 and 1 mM EDTA) with protease inhibitors
1156 (Roche, Ref. 04 693 159 0019). Tissue lysis was allowed for 30 min on ice, followed
1157 by 30 min centrifugation at 4°C at 13000 rpm. Supernatant was collected and protein
1158 concentration was determined using the Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo
1159 Fisher, Cat. no. 23225). Lysates (IP-input) were directly used for the HDAC3-IP
1160 followed by the HDAC3 activity assay (Sigma, EPI004).

1161 2 mg of total protein lysate was brought to 400 μ l with IP-RIPA and cleared under
1162 agitation for 1h on Protein A magnetic beads (Abcam, ab214286). Cleared lysates
1163 were collected and split into two 200 μ l (1 mg total protein) aliquots. Both samples
1164 were incubated overnight (12-16h), at 4°C rotating, either with anti-HDAC3
1165 conjugated protein A magnetic beads (IP+ samples, beads conjugated for 2h with
1166 3.35 μ g rabbit anti-HDAC3 primary antibody, Abcam, ab32369- for antibody details

1167 refer to Life Sciences Reporting Summary) or with empty beads (IP- samples). The
1168 flow through was collected (FT samples), immune complexes washed and directly
1169 dissolved in HDAC3 assay buffer (provided with EPI004) and equilibrated for 1h on
1170 ice. The assay was performed according to the manufacturer's guidelines and the
1171 supernatant was used for flourometric measurement in polystyrene plates (Corning)
1172 at Em/Ex=380/500 using a Synergy H1 Hybrid Reader (Biotek). HDAC3 activity was
1173 normalized to total HDAC3 protein levels as determined by western blotting, see
1174 above, using mouse anti-HDAC3 (Santa Cruz, sc-376957, 1:200 in 5% milk, 1x
1175 TBST).

1176

1177 **Hdac3-IP and HDAC activity assay from ESCs**

1178 For Hdac3-IP, 100 million *Setd5*^{+/+} and *Setd5*^{-/-} ESCs were prepared with the same
1179 protocol as for *Setd5*-IP. Nuclear extract were incubated over night with Dynabeads
1180 Protein G (Thermo Fischer, #1004D) pre-coupled with 20 µg of Hdac3 antibody
1181 (ab7030) per IP. Beads were washed 4 times with 300mM salt wash buffer. HDAC
1182 activity was tested using HDAC-GLO1/II assay kit (Promega, G6420, lot no
1183 0000279650). Washed beads were resuspended in 100 µL Hdac assay buffer and
1184 15 µL of resuspended beads were used for each reaction. All conditions were tested
1185 in triplicates. Trichostatin A (TSA) was used as enzymatic inhibitor at 50nM final
1186 concentration. Luminescence (400-750nm) was recorded on a 96-well plate reader
1187 (Tecan, infinite M1000 pro) every 2 min for 40 cycles at 25°C. Reported data is from
1188 45 minutes after reaction start.

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1190 **Immunostaining, Nissl and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) of adult 1191 and embryonic brains and BrdU pulse-labeling**

1192 For fluorescent immunostainings and Nissl stainings in adult mice *Setd5*^{+/+} and
1193 *Setd5*^{-/-} animals were transcardially perfused, brains dissected, postfixed in 4% PFA,
1194 dehydrated and sliced at 40 µm. For bromodeoxyuridine (BrdU) pulse labeling
1195 pregnant females were injected with BrdU and sacrificed 2h later. Embryo heads
1196 were dissected, fixed overnight, dehydrated and sliced at 16 µm. For *FISH*
1197 experiments on adult wildtypes, brains of C57BL/6J animals were dissected,
1198 immediately frozen in O.C.T, sectioned at 20 µm and stored at -80°C. For detailed
1199 experimental protocols of imaging and quantifications refer to the Supplementary
1200 note, for details about primary antibodies used refer to the Life Sciences Reporting
1201 Summary.

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1203 **Hippocampal slice preparation and electrophysiology**

1204 Transverse dorsal hippocampal slices (300 µm) were prepared from P21-P24 male
1205 littermates. Slices were recovered for 1h at 33 °C, and then at RT (21-23 °C) in
1206 carbogenated artificial cerebrospinal fluid (aCSF) containing (in mM): 130 NaCl,
1207 2.75 KCl, 1.1 NaH₂PO₄, 28.82 NaHCO₃, 11 glucose, 1.43 MgSO₄, 2.5 CaCl₂, 5 Na
1208 ascorbate and 3 Na pyruvate (~320 mOsm, 7.2–7.4 pH). Field potential in the CA1
1209 stratum radiatum were generated and recorded using aCSF-filled electrodes. Signals
1210 were amplified by a Multiclamp 700B amplifier (Axon Instruments/Molecular
1211 Devices), and then digitized using Digidata 1550A (Molecular Devices). Extended
1212 protocol is described in the supplementary note.

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1214 **Data analysis**

1215 All data analysis was performed blind to the genotype. Data exclusion criteria have
1216 always been pre-established and respected throughout data acquisition and

1217 analysis. Examples of exclusion criteria: death of an animal during data acquisition
1218 lead to the exclusion of its littermate sibling; no LTP observable in the control mouse
1219 (experimental problems assumed) - both the control and the sibling mutant removed
1220 from data sets; one control-mutant pair was removed from the LTP data set after
1221 noticing that in the case of the mutant, the recording had been performed in a slice
1222 from the intermediate hippocampus, and not dorsal, like all other. We discarded all
1223 data resulting from experiments for protocol optimisation, because the working
1224 protocol was not respected. No outlier was removed from any data set with the
1225 exception of one sample in the RNA-sequencing analysis (1h, WT) that clustered
1226 clearly away from all other samples (clustering by euclidean sample distance and
1227 PCA) during the preliminary quality assessment.

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Statistics

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Statistical analyses were performed using R, Origin Software (Origin Inc) and GraphPad Prism. Shapiro–Wilk test was used to evaluate normal distribution and Levene’s test for equal variance of all data sets. Parametric data were analyzed for significance using one-way or two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-hoc test, using * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, and presented as scatter plots and mean \pm standard error of the mean (SEM), unless otherwise specified. Data sets with non-normal distributions and/or unequal variance were analyzed using the 2-tailed Mann-Whitney U test or Kruskal-Wallis test and presented as boxplots and individual data points. Adjustment for multiple comparisons were made using post-hoc tests Bonferroni (parametric data) or Dunn (non-parametric data). The data met the assumptions of the statistical test used and were generally evaluated in terms of distribution and variances, as seen in Supplementary Table 1. Although we report to have used two-way ANOVA with repeated measures and Kruskal-Wallis tests using corrections for multiple comparisons, our data sets were also evaluated in a generalized linear model in R with similar outcomes. Experiments were replicated at least three times (including behavioural experiments, which were performed on at least three different cohorts).

Sample size calculation: The sample size was predetermined using the tool provided here: <http://biomath.info/power/ttest.htm>. In addition, calculated sample size was compared against sizes known from previous experience to yield high power to detect specific effects for each experiment. Accordingly, in some of the tests we decided to use less animals (<30), since the generated numbers were ethically unacceptably high.

Randomization: For in vivo experiments, mice were chosen based on genotypes. Sex-matched animal pairs of control-mutant siblings from the same litters were compared to decrease variance due to age, environment and genetic background⁸⁷. At least 5 litters were used in each behavioral test.

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Life Sciences Reporting Summary: Further information on experimental design is available in the Life Sciences Reporting Summary.

Data availability: The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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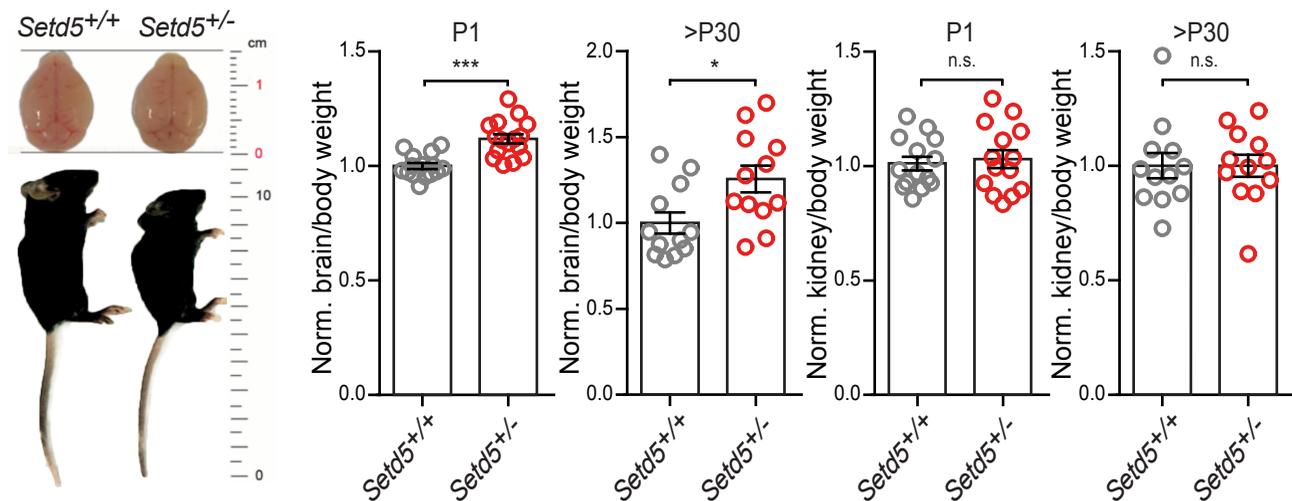
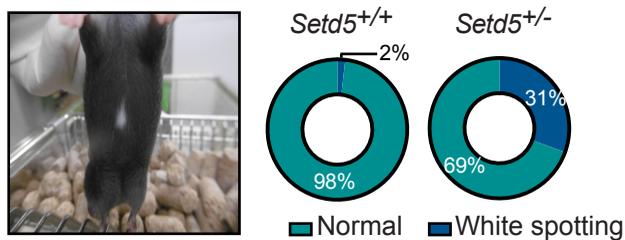
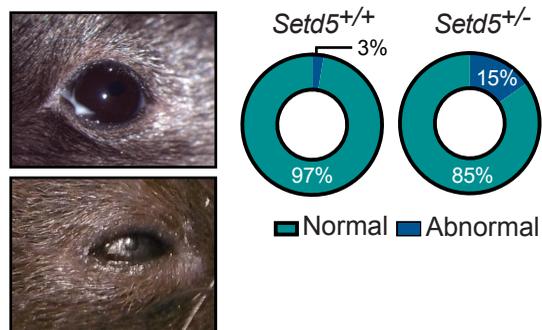
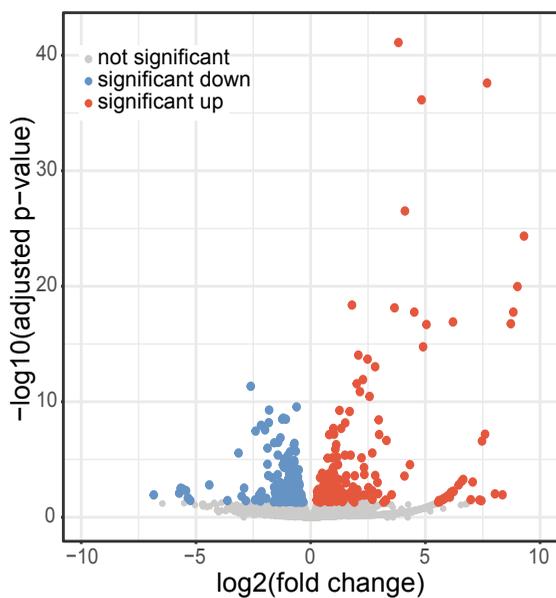
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