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2 **Downregulation of ribosome biogenesis during**
3
4 **early forebrain development**
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34 **ABSTRACT**

35 Forebrain precursor cells are dynamic during early brain development, yet the underlying
36 molecular changes remain elusive. We observed major differences in transcriptional signatures
37 of precursor cells from mouse forebrain at embryonic days E8.5 vs. E10.5 (before vs. after neural
38 tube closure). Genes encoding protein biosynthetic machinery were strongly downregulated at
39 E10.5. This was matched by decreases in ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis, together
40 with age-related changes in proteomic content of the adjacent fluids. Notably, c-MYC expression
41 and mTOR pathway signaling were also decreased at E10.5, providing a potential driver for the
42 effects on ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis. Interference with c-MYC at E8.5
43 prematurely decreased ribosome biogenesis, while persistent c-MYC expression in cortical
44 progenitors increased transcription of protein biosynthetic machinery and enhanced ribosome
45 biogenesis, as well as enhanced progenitor proliferation leading to subsequent macrocephaly.
46 These findings indicate large, coordinated changes in molecular machinery of forebrain
47 precursors during early brain development.

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57 INTRODUCTION

58 Neural tube closure (neurulation) is a fundamental milestone of early brain development,
59 yet relatively little is known about the cellular and molecular transitions occurring in neural
60 precursor cells before and after this process due to experimental challenges inherent to
61 investigating this nascent organ (Greene and Copp, 2014; Massarwa and Niswander, 2013;
62 Wallingford et al., 2013; Wilde et al., 2014). Prior to neural tube closure, the neural plate is
63 home to multipotent neural stem cells, including forebrain neurectodermal precursor cells. After
64 neural tube closure, these neurectodermal precursors become progressively lineage restricted as
65 neuroepithelial cells, and then radial glial cells, ultimately giving rise to all neurons and glia in
66 the adult forebrain (Bjornsson et al., 2015). As these progenitors proliferate, their spatial
67 patterning serves as a blueprint for the maturing brain (Rallu et al., 2002; Sur and Rubenstein,
68 2005). While genes involved in driving the more mature stages of forebrain development are
69 becoming better understood, remarkably little is known about the key genes orchestrating the
70 function of earlier neurectodermal precursors.

71 While transcriptional regulation is essential for the specification and maturation of the
72 early forebrain, less is known about the dynamics of protein biosynthesis at this early stage.
73 Recent studies have begun to explore how regulated protein synthesis is critical for the
74 successful construction and function of healthy cells and organs (Fujii et al., 2017; Kondrashov
75 et al., 2011; Pilaz et al., 2016; Rasin and Silver, 2016; Shi and Barna, 2015). In turn, the
76 regulation of protein biosynthetic machinery has emerged as a tunable program that can instruct
77 cellular transitions between stem cell dormancy, proliferation, and differentiation (DeBoer et al.,
78 2013; Fujii et al., 2017; Khajuria et al., 2018; Kraushar et al., 2016; Sanchez et al., 2016;
79 Scognamiglio et al., 2016). Mutations in genes encoding ribosomal proteins are associated with

80 neural tube closure defects (NTD; Greene and Copp, 2014; Wilde et al., 2014), suggesting that
81 regulation of protein biosynthesis is critical during the earliest stages of forebrain development
82 as well. Proteomic analyses have also revealed that ribosomal and translational proteins are
83 elevated in amniotic fluid (AF) prior to neurulation, and are substantially decreased in nascent
84 cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) following neurulation (Chau et al., 2015). However, the mechanisms
85 leading to these changes in the AF and CSF proteomes remain incompletely understood, as this
86 developmental stage precedes choroid plexus development and its secretion of factors into the
87 CSF (Hunter and Dymecki, 2007; Lehtinen et al., 2011; Lun et al., 2015).

88 Here, we used RNA sequencing to reveal the transcriptomic signature of presumptive
89 forebrain precursor cells before and after neurulation. High expression of the protein biosynthetic
90 machinery together with elevated protein synthesis emerged as a signature of early neural
91 precursors. These transcriptional and cell biological changes closely mirrored proteomic changes
92 in the adjacent AF and CSF. Many genes that were downregulated after neurulation are known,
93 direct targets of the transcription factor c-MYC (hereafter MYC) in other cell types (Ben-Porath
94 et al., 2008; Zeller et al., 2003). Accordingly, MYC modulated ribosome biogenesis in forebrain
95 precursors. Its forced, persistent expression in neural progenitors by mouse genetics approaches
96 increased transcription of protein biosynthetic machinery and was accompanied by increased
97 proliferation of radial glial progenitors leading to macrocephaly by birth. Taken together, our
98 data identify regulation of protein biosynthetic machinery as an important signature of early
99 forebrain development.

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103 RESULTS

104 Transcriptome signature of early forebrain neuroepithelium

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106 To define the identity and biology of developing forebrain neuroepithelial cells, we
107 microdissected the neuroepithelium away from the adjacent mesenchyme and surface ectoderm
108 in E8.5 and E10.5 embryos (**Figure 1A**, Chau et al., 2015), and performed next-generation RNA
109 sequencing (RNAseq) analysis (**Figure 1**). Gene expression analysis identified 3,898 genes
110 ($q < 0.05$) with significantly different expression patterns between the two ages, with 2,375 genes
111 enriched in E8.5 neuroepithelium, and 1,523 genes enriched in E10.5 neuroepithelium (**Figure**
112 **1B**, **Figure 1-figure supplement 1A**).

113 Among the differentially expressed genes, many were secreted factors and receptors
114 involved in signaling pathways with cardinal roles in brain development including WNT and
115 BMP/TGF β (**Figure 1C, D**, **Supplementary File 1**; Monuki, 2007; Sur and Rubenstein, 2005;
116 Wilde et al., 2014). Some secreted factors (e.g. BMP1 and SHH) were enriched in both E10.5
117 progenitors and CSF, suggesting their secretion into the adjacent fluid (**Supplementary File 1**;
118 Chau et al., 2015), while factors known to be involved in organismal development and neural
119 tube closure including *Wnt5a* and *Pax3* were enriched in E8.5 (**Supplementary File 1**).
120 Differential gene expression was further validated by quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) on 81
121 genes including transcription factors, cell surface receptors, and secreted factors, many of which
122 showed an overall positive correlation (**Figure 1-figure supplement 1B**). Expression of *Glast*
123 and *Blbp* were enriched in E10.5 progenitors, indicating the transition from neuroepithelial cells
124 to radial glial cells (**Figure 1-figure supplement 1C**).

125 We next determined the biological functions of the most differentially expressed genes at
126 each age. Consistent with the progressive lineage restriction of progenitors, initiation of

127 neurogenesis, and patterning of the brain, the most enriched gene category at E10.5 related to
128 neuronal differentiation (e.g. *Ngn1*, *Blbp*, *Glast*, *Tbr2*, *Bmp4*; **Figure 1F, Supplementary File**
129 **1**). However, unexpectedly, the three most enriched gene categories in E8.5 neuroepithelium
130 were related to protein biosynthetic machinery (**Figure 1E, Supplementary File 1**) and included
131 genes encoding ribosomal proteins (e.g. *Rpl24*), genes involved in ribosome biogenesis (e.g. *Fbl*,
132 *Dkc1*), and translation factors (e.g. *Eif4e*). Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA; Subramanian et
133 al., 2005) further confirmed that genes involved in ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis
134 were significantly enriched in E8.5 progenitors (**Figure 1G-I**). MA plots (expression ratio [M]
135 vs. average intensity [A], log transformed) provided an overview of the expression changes of
136 individual genes, revealing that the majority of genes encoding ribosomal proteins (**Figure 2A**),
137 ribosome biogenesis (**Figure 2B**), and translation factors (**Figure 3A**), were enriched in E8.5
138 neuroepithelium. Expression of ribosomal protein or translation factor genes at E10.5 vs. E8.5
139 showed a positive correlation ($R=0.91$ and 0.98 respectively; **Figures 1J, K**), indicating that
140 despite downregulation of most ribosomal and translation factor genes, their stoichiometry
141 remained similar at the two ages. Expression levels of differentially expressed genes at E10.5 vs.
142 E8.5 also showed a positive correlation ($R=0.82$, **Figure 1L**). There was no correlation between
143 the average expression levels of genes and their fold changes between the two ages ($R=-0.1696$).
144 Collectively, our data provide transcriptomic signatures of developing forebrain precursors and
145 uncover an overall downregulation of genes encoding protein biosynthetic machinery during the
146 inception of the mammalian forebrain.

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148 **Decreased ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis in E10.5 neuroepithelium**

149 The higher expression of genes associated with ribosomes, ribosome biogenesis, and
150 protein translation in early E8.5 precursors compared to more committed forebrain progenitors at
151 E10.5 suggested that the protein biosynthetic machinery may be differentially regulated during
152 early forebrain development. Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) transcription and initial assembly of pre-
153 ribosomes occurs in nucleoli. As increased ribosome biogenesis is associated with larger nucleoli
154 (Silvera et al., 2010), nucleolar volume provides a proxy for ribosome biogenesis (Baker, 2013;
155 Sanchez et al., 2016). We visualized nucleoli with Fibrillarin (**Figure 2C**), acquired z-stack
156 images of the developing neural tissue, and performed 3D-reconstructions of individual nucleoli
157 in neural precursors (**Figure 2D**). Quantification of nucleolar volume revealed that E8.5
158 forebrain precursors had larger nucleoli compared to more mature forebrain progenitors at E10.5
159 (**Figure 2E**). No further reduction in nucleolar volume was observed between E10.5
160 neuroepithelial cells and E14.5 radial glial progenitors of the cerebral cortex (**Figures 2E**),
161 suggesting that the E8.5 to E10.5 transition represents an important regulatory stage for ribosome
162 biogenesis in the early forebrain.

163 Focusing on E8.5 and E10.5 neuroepithelia, we observed higher 5.8S pre-rRNA levels in
164 E8.5 vs. E10.5 progenitors by fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH; **Figure 2F**), and a
165 modest decrease in 5.8S total rRNA at E10.5 (**Figure 2G**) that was supported by Y10b
166 immunostaining (**Figure 2H**). Quantification of 5.8S pre-rRNA signal showed larger nucleolar
167 area in E8.5 progenitors (**Figures 2I, J**), consistent with the fibrillarin quantification (**Figure 2E**).
168 In agreement with these findings, ribosomal proteins including RPL11 and RPS12, which have
169 important roles in the assembly of ribosomal subunits, were more highly expressed at E8.5 vs.
170 E10.5 (**Figures 2K, L**; also Chau et al., 2015). On the other hand, expression of RPL10A protein
171 was similar between the two ages (**Figure 2M**) despite higher *Rpl10a* RNA expression at E8.5

172 (FPKM: E8.5 = 1962.03; E10.5 = 1242.73), suggesting the involvement of post-transcriptional
173 mechanisms. Transmission electron microscopic (TEM) analyses revealed that E8.5 precursors
174 had more ribosomes than E10.5 progenitors per field of view (**Figure 2N, O**). While ribosome
175 density within the free cytoplasmic space was not different between these two ages (**Figure 2P**),
176 more E10.5 cytoplasm than E8.5 cytoplasm was occupied by other organelles including
177 endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, and Golgi (**Figure 2Q**), indicating an overall shift in
178 organelle landscape at this age.

179 Gene expression analyses demonstrated the parallel downregulation of translational
180 machinery from E8.5 to E10.5 progenitors (**Figure 3A**), including decreased expression of
181 eukaryotic initiation factors (eIFs) such as EIF3 η (**Figure 3B**). Activation of the growth
182 promoting mTOR signaling pathway is linked to increased ribosome biogenesis and protein
183 translation, a function mediated by the mTORC1 complex (Laplante and Sabatini, 2012). While
184 mTOR expression was not changed from E8.5 to E10.5 (*Mtor* FPKM: E8.5 = 21.15; E10.5 =
185 25.91), components of the mTOR signaling pathway were differentially expressed and/or
186 activated at these two ages (**Supplementary File 1**). For example, 4EBP1, a direct target of
187 mTOR, showed increases in both expression and phosphorylation in the E8.5 neuroepithelium
188 (**Figures 3C, D**). S6K1, a direct mTORC1 target that was similarly expressed at the two ages
189 was also more highly phosphorylated at E8.5 compared to E10.5 (**Figure 3E**). Finally, S6
190 ribosomal protein, a substrate of S6K1, was more highly phosphorylated at E8.5 (**Figures 3F, G**).
191 Taken together, these data demonstrate differential mTOR pathway activation in E8.5 compared
192 to E10.5 neuroepithelium.

193 E8.5 neural progenitors showed higher ³⁵S-methionine incorporation *in vitro* compared to
194 E10.5 progenitors (counts per million cells, shown as E8.5 fold change normalized to E10.5

195 progenitors: *Expt. 1 = 2.0-fold; Expt. 2 = 1.4-fold; Expt. 3 = 1.1-fold*), indicative of a higher
196 protein synthesis rate in the younger forebrain progenitor cells. We next visualized actively
197 elongating nascent polypeptides *in vivo* at the single-cell level using O-propargyl-puromycin
198 (OPP; Liu et al., 2012) delivered maternally by intraperitoneal injection (**Figure 3H**). OPP
199 incorporation was higher in E8.5 compared to E10.5 neuroepithelial cell bodies (**Figures 3I, J**),
200 consistent with their larger nucleolar volumes and higher ³⁵S-methionine incorporation.
201 Collectively, these data demonstrate that presumptive forebrain progenitors have higher levels of
202 ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis compared to more mature progenitor cells of the
203 developing forebrain.

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205 **Downregulation of protein biosynthetic machinery matches AF and CSF proteomes**

206 The early developing forebrain is bathed first by amniotic fluid (AF) and following
207 neural tube closure, by cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). As neural progenitors can release signaling
208 factors and membrane particles directly into the CSF (Arbeille et al., 2015; Marzesco et al.,
209 2005), we tested the extent to which the changes observed in the forebrain transcriptome (**Figure**
210 **1**) reflected concurrent changes in the AF and CSF proteomes (Chau et al., 2015). We identified
211 691 proteins present in the AF and CSF that were also expressed by the developing forebrain
212 neuroepithelium. Within this group of 691 proteins, the availability of 493 proteins matched gene
213 expression patterns observed in the forebrain tissue: 395 proteins were enriched in E8.5 AF and
214 more highly expressed by E8.5 neuroepithelium, **Figure 4A**, lower left quadrant; 98 proteins
215 were enriched in E10.5 CSF and more highly expressed by E10.5 neuroepithelium, **Figure 4A**,
216 upper right quadrant. Gene ontology analysis showed that, among proteins and genes enriched in
217 E8.5 AF and neuroepithelium, the most highly represented functional category was

218 ribosomes/translation (**Figure 4B**). Further analysis revealed that nearly all ribosomal proteins
219 and translation factors were enriched in both E8.5 AF and E8.5 neuroepithelium (**Figures 4C, D**),
220 supporting the model that these fluid proteins can originate in the forebrain tissue. Not only were
221 ribosomal proteins less abundant in E10.5 CSF, but many were no longer detected therein
222 (**Figures 4E**; Chau et al., 2015). Together, these data demonstrate that the changes in the AF and
223 CSF proteomes during early forebrain development match the down-regulation of protein
224 biosynthetic machinery in the adjacent neuroepithelium, thereby providing a developmental
225 biomarker signature of concurrent cell biological changes in the developing forebrain.

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227 **MYC modulates ribosome biogenesis in developing forebrain**

228 In other cell types, the transcription factor c-MYC regulates genes encoding ribosomal
229 proteins, proteins involved in ribosome biogenesis, and translation initiation and elongation
230 factors (van Riggelen et al., 2010). Analyses of differentially expressed transcription factors
231 between E8.5 and E10.5 neuroepithelium revealed that *Myc* expression was approximately ten-
232 fold higher in E8.5 neuroepithelium (**Figure 5A**; *Myc* FPKM: E8.5 = 28.73, E10.5 = 2.76),
233 suggesting MYC as a candidate regulator of ribosome biogenesis in the developing forebrain.
234 There was no reciprocal compensatory suppression of *Mycn* or *Mycl* (*Mycn* FPKM: E8.5 =
235 28.03, E10.5 = 20.91; *Mycl* FPKM: E8.5 = 6.58, E10.5 = 10.34). We confirmed the high level of
236 MYC expression in E8.5 neuroepithelium and its decreased expression in E10.5 neuroepithelium
237 (**Figure 5B, Figure 5-figure supplements 1A-C**; see also Shannon et al., 2018). Once
238 downregulated in E10.5 neural progenitors, MYC expression remained low throughout cerebral
239 cortical development (**Figure 5B**).

240 GSEA demonstrated that many known MYC target genes were enriched in E8.5
241 compared to E10.5 neuroepithelium (**Figures 5C, D**; Ben-Porath et al., 2008; Zeller et al., 2003),
242 and some of these target genes were associated with ribosome biogenesis and translation (e.g.
243 *Ncl*, *Rps13*, and *Eif4e*). To test if interfering with MYC activity regulates ribosome biogenesis,
244 we exposed wild type embryos to the MYC inhibitor, KJ-Pyr-9 (Hart et al., 2014) *in utero*, and
245 observed smaller nucleoli compared to vehicle-injected controls (**Figure 5E**). In agreement with
246 previous studies (Davis et al., 1993; Zinin et al., 2014), we confirmed that *Myc*-deficient
247 embryos showed a triad of developmental defects including smaller size, neural tube closure
248 defects, and developmental delay (**Figure 5-figure supplement 1D**). Nucleolar volume was also
249 decreased in *Myc*-deficient embryos compared to developmentally stage-matched controls
250 (**Figure 5F**).

251 MYC has important roles in cell cycle regulation (Dang, 2013). Therefore, its rapid
252 downregulation by E10.5 was unexpected given that E10.5 represents a stage of continued
253 progenitor proliferation and the start of forebrain neurogenesis. To determine the consequences
254 of persistent MYC expression on cerebral cortical development, we genetically forced *MYC*
255 expression by crossing StopFLMYC mice (Calado et al., 2012) with *Foxg1-Cre* (Hébert and
256 McConnell, 2000) or *Nestin-Cre* (Tronche et al., 1999) mice (**Figure 5G, Figure 5-figure**
257 **supplements 1E-G**). We purified Pax6-positive cortical progenitors at E13.5 (from *Nestin-Cre*
258 cross, **Figure 5-figure supplement 1H**), and analyzed gene expression by RNA-seq. We
259 identified 135 differentially expressed genes between WT and MYC-overexpressing (MYC-OE)
260 embryos ($q < 0.1$), with 105 genes activated and 30 genes repressed in the MYC-OE progenitors
261 (**Figure 5-figure supplement 1I, Supplementary File 2**). A cross-comparison between the 105
262 MYC activated genes with our early E8.5-E10.5 RNA-seq dataset (**Figure 1**) revealed 53 genes

263 that were enriched in E8.5 progenitors when MYC expression is naturally high (**Supplementary**
264 **File 2**). Functional annotation clustering using DAVID revealed ribosomes as the most enriched
265 gene category among the MYC-upregulated genes (**Figure 5H, Supplementary File 2**). GSEA
266 further revealed that genes encoding ribosome components (**Figure 5I**), genes involved in
267 ribosome biogenesis (**Figure 5J**), along with other known MYC target genes (**Figure 5-figure**
268 **supplement 1J**; Zeller et al., 2003) were upregulated in the MYC-OE. Among the selective
269 subset of ribosomal proteins that were significantly changed in MYC-OE mice ($q < 0.1$), all were
270 upregulated (**Figure 5K, L, Supplementary File 2**), even those subjected to less-stringent
271 statistical significance ($q < 0.3$, **Figure 5K**). These gene expression changes were accompanied by
272 a modest increase in ribosome biogenesis in both *Foxg1-Cre* and *Nestin-Cre* MYC-OE mice
273 (**Figure 5 M, N**). Despite this upregulation of ribosome biogenesis and the expression of genes
274 encoding translational machinery (**Figure 5-figure supplement 1K**), changes in protein
275 synthesis at progenitor cell bodies were not consistently observed in either *Myc*-deficient or
276 MYC-OE studies (data not shown). Taken together, these findings demonstrate that *Myc*
277 expression modulates ribosome biogenesis in the developing forebrain, and that additional, as yet
278 unidentified mechanisms participate in the regulation of protein biosynthesis at this
279 developmental stage.

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281 **Persistent MYC expression increases progenitor proliferation, leading to macrocephaly**

282 Genes with known functions in regulating cerebral cortical neurogenesis were also
283 upregulated in MYC-OE progenitors including *Insulin-like growth factor 2 (Igf2, Figure 6-*
284 **figure supplement 1A, Supplementary File 2)**, which is typically not highly expressed by
285 apical progenitors and is instead delivered by the CSF to regulate proliferation of progenitors

286 (Lehtinen et al., 2011), and *Insulinoma-Associated 1* (*Insm1*, **Supplementary File 2**), which
287 accelerates cortical development by promoting delamination of apical progenitor cells (Farkas et
288 al., 2008; Tavano et al., 2018). The coordinated effects of MYC activation of several of these
289 pathways resulted in a large brain phenotype that emerged by E14.5 in both *Foxg1-MYC* and
290 *Nestin-MYC* mice (**Figure 6A-C, Figure 6-figure supplements 1B-D**), and was well defined by
291 birth in *Nestin-MYC* mice (**Figure 6D-G**). No viable pups were recovered from the *Foxg1-Cre*
292 cross (8 litters examined), indicating embryonic lethality between E14.5 and birth. This outcome
293 may be due to the combinatorial effects of MYC overexpression and *Foxg1* heterozygosity
294 (Hébert and McConnell, 2000), perhaps in tissues outside the brain. No differences in body
295 weight were observed at P0 in *Nestin-MYC* mice (body weight [g] \pm SEM: WT = 1.35 ± 0.03 ,
296 n=16; MYC-OE = 1.33 ± 0.02 , n=15; unpaired t-test, p=0.57). By P8, MYC-OE and control
297 brains were similar in size (brain weight [g] \pm SEM: WT = 0.38 ± 0.01 , n=9; MYC-OE = $0.39 \pm$
298 0.02 , n=6; p=0.72, unpaired t-test). However the MYC-OE mice had much smaller body size
299 (body weight [g] \pm SEM: WT = 4.86 ± 0.09 , n=13; MYC-OE = 3.20 ± 0.22 , n=9; p<0.0001,
300 Welch's t-test), leading to a sustained difference in their brain-body ratio (brain weight/body
301 weight: WT: 0.081 ± 0.001 , n=9; MYC-OE: 0.127 ± 0.006 , n=6; p=0.0003, Welch's t-test).

302 While no tumors were observed at the ages examined in this study, histological analyses
303 suggested that MYC-OE by the *Nestin* promoter increased the size of the entire brain. A two-
304 hour BrdU pulse delivered at E15.5 showed a larger proportion of Pax6-positive apical
305 progenitors in S-phase in MYC-OE mice (**Figure 6H**), contributing to increased cortical
306 thickness in MYC-OE mice by birth (**Figure 6I, J**). MYC-OE cortices had increased Cux1-
307 positive staining cells destined for the upper layers of the cerebral cortex (**Figure 6K, L**), which
308 contributed to the increased overall number of cells in the cerebral cortex (cell number \pm SEM:

309 WT: $2,348 \pm 199.3$; MYC-OE: $2,518 \pm 174.3$, $n=4$, $p=0.07$, paired t-test). On the other hand, no
310 difference was observed in the number of Ctip2-positive lower layer neurons (cell number \pm
311 SEM: WT: 651.5 ± 35.4 ; MYC-OE: 639 ± 34.9 , $n=4$, $p=0.82$, paired t-test). Together, our
312 findings support the model that MYC overexpression in the *Nestin* lineage affects multiple
313 pathways and that their convergence influences the development of the brain and the entire
314 organism.

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332 **DISCUSSION**

333 Our study reveals major changes in expression of the protein biosynthetic pathway during
334 early specification of the mammalian forebrain. This work (1) demonstrates that enhanced
335 biogenesis of ribosomes and protein synthetic machinery serve as transcriptional and cell
336 biological signatures defining early forebrain precursor cells; (2) reveals that the changing
337 proteomes of AF and CSF provide a biomarker signature that matches the concurrent, normal
338 development of the adjacent forebrain; (3) identifies MYC as a contributor to the regulation of
339 ribosome biogenesis in the developing forebrain; and (4) shows that persistent MYC expression
340 leads to increased ribosome biogenesis, enhanced cortical progenitor proliferation, and
341 macrocephaly. We conclude that, as in other stem cells, neural progenitor cells dynamically
342 regulate protein biosynthetic machinery to meet their changing needs, and that this process is
343 regulated in part by MYC.

344 The DNA transcriptome is an essential starting point for our understanding of tissue
345 regionalization, patterning, and individual cell identities in the mammalian central nervous
346 system. Nevertheless, not all mRNAs are selected for protein translation, and our discovery of
347 temporal regulation of the protein biosynthetic machinery during early specification of the
348 forebrain uncovers a new layer of regulation fundamental to the early construction of the brain.
349 Regulation of the protein biosynthetic machinery provides a tunable molecular program
350 harnessed by cells to guide transitions between stem cell states (DeBoer et al., 2013; Fujii et al.,
351 2017; Khajuria et al., 2018; Kraushar et al., 2016; Sanchez et al., 2016; Scognamiglio et al.,
352 2016). Cell cycle in the forebrain lengthens over the course of development (Caviness and
353 Takahashi, 1995). As such, the higher rates of ribosome biogenesis and protein synthesis
354 observed in neurectodermal precursors relative to post-neurulation progenitors are consistent

355 with a model in which rapidly dividing cells synthesize more proteins to support their
356 proliferation (Buszczak et al., 2014). Genes such as *Pelo* and *Abce1* are downregulated in E10.5
357 progenitors (**Supplementary File 1**), suggesting that additional levels of translational control
358 including ribosome recycling may be engaged during this developmental time window (Dever
359 and Green, 2012).

360 Disruptions in ribosome structure and function are linked to a number of genetically
361 inherited ribosomopathies such as Diamond-Blackfan anemia (Boria et al., 2010; Choismel et
362 al., 2007; Ebert and Lipton, 2011). Nucleolar size, ribosome biogenesis, and protein translation
363 have been implicated in aging and longevity (Buchwalter and Hetzer, 2017; Tiku et al., 2016). In
364 the central nervous system, disruptions in mRNA processing and translation can eventually
365 impair the form and function of delicate neural circuitry. Changes in mRNA binding proteins are
366 linked to neurodevelopmental disorders including autism spectrum disorder (Kraushar et al.,
367 2014; Popovitchenko et al., 2016), and stem cell-derived neural progenitors from schizophrenia
368 patients have altered levels of protein synthesis (Topol et al., 2015). During later stages of
369 neurogenesis in the cerebral cortex, subcellular transport of mRNA by binding proteins including
370 FMRP (Fragile-X mental retardation protein) ferry mRNA to sites of local translation in more
371 polarized cells (Kwan et al., 2012; Pilaz et al., 2016; Pilaz and Silver, 2017). It is tempting to
372 speculate that in the developing forebrain, the assembly of specialized ribosomes could enable
373 unique or localized translation in developing precursor cells, fine-tuning cellular identities and
374 tailoring individualized developmental programs as in other tissues (Bortoluzzi et al., 2001; Fujii
375 et al., 2017; Shi et al., 2017; Simsek et al., 2017).

376 While ribosomal protein expression and ribosome biogenesis decrease as the embryo
377 develops, we did not observed any difference in cytoplasmic ribosome density from EM analysis

378 **(Figure 2)**. This might be due to the long half-life of ribosomes (Hirsch & Hiatt, 1966; Nikolov
379 et. al., 1983), and thus ribosomes generated earlier at E8.5 would likely still be present at E10.5.
380 Using OPP and methionine incorporation, we provided evidence that protein synthesis is also
381 downregulated as the embryo develops. However, we do not know whether differential protein
382 synthesis is driven by changes in ribosome biogenesis or by overall changes in transcription
383 dynamics. Furthermore, OPP was administered intraperitoneally into the pregnant dams, and it is
384 possible that availability of OPP to the embryonic progenitors might be different between E8.5
385 and E10.5. Indeed, increased ribosomal protein expression does not always result in increased
386 translation because not all ribosomal proteins are associated with polysomes (Kraushar et al.,
387 2015). It is possible that some ribosomal proteins perform extraribosomal functions independent
388 of translation (Warner & McIntosh, 2009; Zhou et al., 2015). For instance, RPL11 is recruited to
389 the promoter regions of p53 target genes during nucleolar stress to promote p53 transcriptional
390 activity (Mahata et al., 2012). Therefore, additional evidence is needed to confirm that changes
391 in ribosome biogenesis directly cause differential protein synthesis in the early neural
392 progenitors.

393 Neural progenitors depend on their adjacent fluid environment for appropriate fluid
394 pressure and instructive signals (Lun et al., 2015). Developing neural tissue also releases
395 membrane bound vesicles into the adjacent fluid environment (Cossetti et al., 2014; Marzesco et
396 al., 2005). We found that the protein biosynthetic changes occurring in the forebrain
397 neuroepithelium were reflected in the proteomic content of the adjacent AF and CSF **(Figure 4)**.
398 The CSF is commonly sampled for biomarkers of neurologic diseases. Our data demonstrate that
399 during early forebrain development, the proteomic signature of the early brain fluids provides a
400 biomarker signature of the normal, healthy forebrain, opening a new “window” into this stage of

401 early brain development. Whether the ribosomal and translational machinery found in the AF
402 and CSF are equipped to actively synthesize proteins within the fluid environment remains to be
403 elucidated. Alternatively, the fluids might serve as a channel for intercellular transfer of
404 ribosomes and other proteins (Cossetti et al., 2014; Court et al., 2008). Future studies will also
405 reveal whether maturation-associated, release of protein biosynthetic machinery into the
406 developing brain fluids is an active or passive process, and whether this process shares features
407 with membrane shedding that occurs in other cell types, such as at the maturing red blood-cell
408 surface (Gautier et al., 2016).

409 The swift downregulation of MYC following neurulation could be due to chromatin
410 modifications, epigenetic mechanisms, and/or inhibition of RNA polymerase II elongation. *Myc*-
411 deficiency (Kerosuo and Bronner, 2016) as well as ground-level changes in DNA methylation,
412 histone modifications, and nucleosome positioning are associated with NTD (reviewed in Greene
413 and Copp, 2014; Wilde et al., 2014). Cross-referencing our data (**Figure 1**) with NTD Wiki, a
414 repository of genes required for neurulation (www.ntdwiki.wikispaces.com), revealed that a
415 number of MYC targets are associated with NTD (data not shown). Complex gene-environment
416 interactions have long been appreciated to underlie NTD. Despite modern successes in reducing
417 the incidence of NTD by dietary fortification (e.g. folate) and increased awareness of adverse
418 consequences of maternal exposures (e.g. alcohol and drug use) on the developing fetus, NTD
419 continue to represent one of the most common birth defects worldwide (Wallingford et al., 2013).
420 Neurulation varies along the anterior-posterior axis, and specific cell types (e.g. hinge points,
421 neural fold cells) have distinct roles in this process (Massarwa et al., 2014). Thus, while our
422 study investigated anterior forebrain development, variation in expression of the protein
423 biosynthetic machinery along the anterior-posterior and dorsal-ventral/medial-lateral axes could

424 differentially affect neurulation along the entire body axis. Overall, the identification of
425 molecular pathways regulating protein biosynthetic machinery during neurulation may provide
426 new opportunities to seek answers to these complex conditions.

427 Aberrant regulation of the signaling pathways examined in this study in cortical
428 progenitors are associated with cortical overgrowth syndromes such as hemimegalencephaly, a
429 brain malformation characterized by unilateral enlargement of one hemisphere (D'Gama et al.,
430 2017; Poduri et al., 2012). Increased *MYC* expression has been reported in hemimegalencephaly
431 (Yu et al., 2005), though to our knowledge, mutations in *MYC* itself have not been shown to
432 drive the pathogenesis of this malformation.

433 While perhaps best known for its role as an oncogene, we did not observe any cortical
434 tumors in *Nestin:MYC* brains. Context-dependent effects of *MYC* have been reported, with age-
435 and tissue-dependent effects on cellular phenotypes including proliferation and cell growth
436 (Gabay et al., 2014; Zinin et al., 2014). The tumorigenic consequences of persistent *MYC*
437 expression of this model emerged later in adult mice as choroid plexus carcinoma and ciliary
438 body medulloepithelioma (Shannon et al., 2018), exposing the select vulnerability of certain
439 subtypes of epithelial cells in the *Nestin* lineage to tumorigenesis. Such selectivity of *MYC*-
440 associated pathologies may be determined by the epigenetic landscape of differentiated cells in
441 adult tissues. *MYC* may act as a universal amplifier of expressed genes, promoting proliferation
442 in already dividing cells (Lin et al., 2012; Nie et al., 2012). However, in more differentiated
443 cells, genes may be confined to heterochromatin and inaccessible to *MYC* (Kress et al., 2015).
444 Certain cell types may also require a genetic double-hit such as concomitant *p53*-deficiency in
445 the cortex (Momota et al., 2008), or particular gene-environment triggers, for transformation.

446 Overall, cellular identity and health reflect the net equation between a cell's
447 transcriptional and translational output (Buszczak et al., 2014; Fujii et al., 2017; Holmberg and
448 Perlmann, 2012; Khajuria et al., 2018; Sanchez et al., 2016). These processes require multiple
449 regulatory steps that are vulnerable to disruptions accumulating from cell-intrinsic genetic
450 programs, and/or cell-extrinsic environmental cues. In the developing brain, environmental
451 signals can entail disturbances of local gradients diffusing through tissues (e.g. Toyoda et al.,
452 2010) or altered delivery of growth-promoting factors by the adjacent AF or CSF (Chau et al.,
453 2015; Lehtinen et al., 2011). All of these signaling activities are susceptible to exogenous
454 maternal exposures including illness, substance abuse, and environmental toxins. Thus, our
455 findings provide a new paradigm for understanding brain development through investigation of
456 molecular pathways regulating the biosynthetic machinery in forebrain progenitors.

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469 MATERIALS AND METHODS

470 Key Resources Table

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
strain, strain background (<i>Mus Musculus</i>)	Gt(ROSA)26Sor ^{tm13(CAG-MYC, CD2*)Rsky} (referred as StopFLMYC)	The Jackson Laboratory	MGI:5444670	Maintained on a C57Bl/6 background
strain, strain background (<i>Mus Musculus</i>)	Tg(Nes-cre)1Kln (referred as Nestin-cre)	The Jackson Laboratory	MGI:2176173	Maintained on a C57Bl/6 background
strain, strain background (<i>Mus Musculus</i>)	Foxg1 ^{tm1(cre)SkM} (referred as Foxg1-cre)	The Jackson Laboratory	MGI:1932522	Maintained on a C57Bl/6 background
strain, strain background (<i>Mus Musculus</i>)	Myc-deficient mice (c-myc ^{-/-})	Provided by Troy Baudino	Baudino et al., Genes Dev., 2002	Maintained on a C57Bl/6 background
strain, strain background (<i>Mus Musculus</i>)	CD-1 IGS Mouse (referred as CD-1)	Charles River	Strain code: 022	Wildtype timed pregnant mice
antibody	Rabbit anti-4E-BP1	Cell Signaling	9644	1:1000
antibody	Mouse anti-5.8S ribosomal RNA [Y10B]	Abcam	ab171119	1:50; antigen retrieval with steaming in citric acid
antibody	Mouse anti-ACTB	Cell Signaling	12262	1:2000
antibody	Rat anti-BrdU	Biorad	MCA2060	1:200; antigen retrieval with steaming in citric acid
antibody	Rabbit anti-MYC	Abcam	ab32072	1:100 for IHC, antigen retrieval with steaming in citric acid; 1:2000 for WB
antibody	Rat anti-CTIP2	Abcam	ab18465	1:200
antibody	Rabbit anti-CUX1	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc13024	1:200
antibody	Mouse anti-EIF3η	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc137214	1:100; antigen retrieval with steaming in citric acid
antibody	Mouse anti-Fibrillarin	Abcam	ab4566	1:250; antigen retrieval with steaming in citric acid
antibody	Mouse anti-GAPDH	Cell Signaling	97166	1:1000
antibody	Rabbit anti-p4E-BP1	Cell Signaling	2855	1:200 for IHC; 1:1000 for WB
antibody	Rabbit anti-PAX6	Biolegend	901301	1:100; antigen retrieval with steaming in citric acid; 1:1000 for FACS
antibody	Rabbit anti-pS6	Cell Signaling	5364	1:200 for IHC; 1:1000 for WB
antibody	Rabbit anti-pS6K	Cell Signaling	9234	1:1000
antibody	Mouse anti-pVimentin	Enzo Bioscience	ADI-KAM-CC249-E	1:400
antibody	Mouse anti-RPL10A	Novusbio	H00004736-M01	1:500
antibody	Rabbit anti-RPL11	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	sc50363	1:50
antibody	Rabbit anti-RPS12	Proteintech	16490-1-AP	1:50
antibody	Rabbit anti-S6	Cell Signaling	2217	1:1000
antibody	Rabbit anti-S6K	Cell Signaling	9202	1:1000
antibody	Mouse anti-TUJ1	Biolegend	801202	1:100 for IHC; 1:1000 for FACS
antibody	Rabbit anti-Vinculin	Cell Signaling	13901	1:1000
Recombinant DNA reagent	Quaser 570 coupled 5.8S pre-rRNA FISH probe	Provided by Debra Silver		1:200
Recombinant DNA reagent	Quaser 670 coupled 5.8S total rRNA FISH probe	Provided by Debra Silver		1:200

commercial assay or kit	RecoverAll Total Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit for FFPE	Ambion	AM1975	Manufacturer's protocol
commercial assay or kit	Ovation RNA-Seq System V2	Nugen	7102	Manufacturer's protocol
commercial assay or kit	Ovation Ultralow System V2 1-16	Nugen	0344	Manufacturer's protocol
commercial assay or kit	TruSeq RNA Library Prep Kit v2	Illumina	RS-122	Manufacturer's protocol
commercial assay or kit	Rneasy Micro Kit	Qiagen	74004	Manufacturer's protocol
commercial assay or kit	Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay Kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	23227	
commercial assay or kit	Click-iT plus OPP protein synthesis assay kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	C10456	
chemical compound, drug	O-propargyl-puromycin (OPP)	Life Technologies	C10459	IP injection, dosage: 50mg/kg
chemical compound, drug	KJ-Pyr-9	Tocris	5306	IP injection, dosage: 10mg/kg
chemical compound, drug	³⁵ S-Methionine	Perkin Elmer	NEG709A	51μCi
chemical compound, drug	5-Bromo-2'-deoxyuridine (BrdU)	Sigma	B5002	IP injection, 50mg/kg
software, algorithm	TopHat	https://ccb.jhu.edu/software/tophat/index.shtml	v2	RNAseq analysis
software, algorithm	Cufflinks	http://cole-trapnell-lab.github.io/cufflinks/	v2	RNAseq analysis
software, algorithm	DAVID	https://david.ncifcrf.gov/	v6.7, 6.8	RNAseq analysis
software, algorithm	GSEA	http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/index.jsp	v2	RNAseq analysis
software, algorithm	R Studio	Rstudio, Inc.	v0.99	RNAseq analysis
software, algorithm	Prism	GraphPad	v7	Statistical analysis
software, algorithm	FIJI (Image J)	https://fiji.sc/#	v1	Image analysis
software, algorithm	Imaris	Bitplane		Image analysis

471

472 Mice

473

474 Timed pregnant CD1 dams were obtained from Charles River Laboratories. *Myc*-deficient mice

475 (Baudino et al., 2002) were maintained in a C57BL/6J genetic background. StopFLMYC mice

476 (JAX: 020458) were maintained in a C57BL/6J genetic background and crossed with *Nestin-cre*

477 line (JAX: 003771) or *Foxg1-cre* line (JAX: 004337) to generate MYC-OE mice, in which

478 human *MYC* transgene is selectively expressed in neural progenitor cells. All analyses were

479 carried out using male and female mice. All animal experimentation was carried out under

480 protocols approved by the IACUC of Boston Children's Hospital.

481

482 E8.5 and E10.5 forebrain epithelium RNAseq

483
484 Forebrain epithelium at E8.5 and E10.5 was dissected as described (Chau et al., 2015). Each
485 sequenced sample comprised forebrain epithelial tissues pooled across one litter. Total RNA was
486 isolated using the RNeasy Micro Kit (Qiagen), converted to cDNA, and preamplified using the
487 Ovation RNA-seq System V2 (NuGEN) following the manufacturer's instructions. cDNA was
488 converted to Illumina paired-end sequencing libraries following the standard protocol (TruSeq
489 v2) and sequenced on a Illumina HiSeq 2000 instrument to a depth of ~20–60 million pass-filter
490 reads per library, after standard quality control filters. The 50 base pair paired-end reads were
491 mapped to the UCSC mm9 mouse reference genome using TopHat v2, and fragments per
492 kilobase per million reads (FPKM) values were estimated using cufflinks v2, and differentially
493 expressed genes (DEG) were identified using cuffdiff v2 with q value < 0.05 (Trapnell et al.,
494 2012).

495

496 FACS of neural progenitors

497 E13.5 dorsal telencephalon was microdissected, avoiding the lateral ganglionic eminence and
498 structures ventral to it. The cortex was separated from the meninges, and cortices from samples
499 of the same genotype were pooled and sliced into small, uniformly sized pieces. Tissues were
500 digested with 2.5% Trypsin (Invitrogen), then dissociated into single cells by repeated pipetting.
501 Cells were fixed in 4% PFA, incubated with primary antibodies, and then secondary antibodies.
502 Each step was carried out in 4°C for 30 mins, with rotation. RNAsin (NEB) was added to buffers
503 to prevent RNA degradation (Hrvatin et al., 2014). Cells were sorted using FACS Aria IIU (BD).
504 Antibodies: Rabbit anti-PAX6 (Biolegend 901301, 1:1000), Mouse anti-TUJ1 (Biolegend
505 801202, 1:1000)

506

507 E13.5 neural progenitor RNAseq

508 RNA was extracted from sorted neural progenitors using RecoverAll Total Nucleic Acid
509 Isolation Kit (Ambion), then reverse transcribed into cDNA and pre-amplified using Ovation
510 RNA-Seq System V2 (Nugen 7102). Libraries were prepared using Ovation Ultralow System V2
511 1-16 (Nugen 0344), and sequenced (Illumina HiSeq 2500) to a depth of ~25-40 million reads
512 per library. The 50 base pair single-end reads were mapped to the UCSC mm10 mouse reference
513 genome using TopHat v2, FPKM values were estimated using cufflinks v2, and DEG were
514 identified using cuffdiff v2 with q value < 0.1 (Trapnell et al., 2012).

515

516 RNAseq data analysis

517 All analyses were performed using genes with FPKM > 1, which we considered as the threshold
518 of expression. Hierarchical clustering and heatmaps of differentially expressed genes were
519 generated in R using the heatmap.2 command in 'gplots' package, FPKM values were log2
520 transformed, and centered and scaled by rows for display purposes. Distance was calculated
521 using the 'Maximum' method whereas clustering was performed using the 'Complete' method.
522 Functional annotation clustering was performed using DAVID v6.7 and v6.8
523 (<https://david.ncifcrf.gov/home.jsp>; Huang et al., 2009). Gene set enrichment analysis was
524 performed using GSEA v2 (Subramanian et al., 2005), gene sets were obtained from the Broad
525 Institute Molecular Signatures Database (<http://software.broadinstitute.org/gsea/msigdb>). MA
526 plots were created in R using the ma.plot command in the 'affy' package, and MS vs RNAseq
527 plots were created using the plot command.

528

529 Tissue processing

530 Samples were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). For cryosectioning, samples were incubated
531 in the following series of solutions: 10% sucrose, 20% sucrose, 30% sucrose, 1:1 mixture of 30%
532 sucrose and OCT (overnight), and OCT (1 hour). Samples were frozen in OCT. For microtome
533 sectioning, samples were paraffin embedded in the histology core at Beth Israel Deaconess
534 Medical Center.

535

536 Immunohistochemistry

537 Cryosections were blocked and permeabilized (0.3% Triton-X-100 in PBS; 5% serum),
538 incubated in primary antibodies overnight and secondary antibodies for 2 hours. Sections were
539 counterstained with Hoechst 33342 and mounted using Fluoromount-G (SouthernBiotech). The
540 following primary antibodies were used: anti-5.8S rRNA (Y10b; Abcam, ab171119, 1:50), anti-
541 BrdU (Biorad, MCA2060, 1:200), anti-cMYC (Abcam, ab32072, 1:100), anti-CTIP2 (Abcam,
542 ab18465, 1:200), anti-Cux1 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc13024, 1:200), anti-EIF3 η (Santa Cruz
543 Biotechnology, sc-137214, 1:100), anti-Fibrillarin (Abcam, ab4566, 1:250), anti-p4E-BP1 (Cell
544 Signaling, 2855, 1:200), anti-Pax6 (Biolegend, 901301, 1:100), anti-pS6 (Cell Signaling, 5364,
545 1:200), anti-pVimentin (Enzo Bioscience, ADI-KAM-CC249-E, 1:400), anti-Rpl11 (Santa Cruz
546 Biotechnology, sc50363 1:50), anti-Rps12 (Proteintech, 16490-1-AP, 1:50), anti-Tuj1
547 (Biolegend, 801202, 1:100). Secondary antibodies were selected from the Alexa series
548 (Invitrogen, 1:500). For BrdU, Fibrillarin, Pax6, cMyc, 5.8S rRNA, and EIF3 η staining, antigen
549 retrieval/denaturation was performed before the blocking step: A food steamer (Oster 5712) was
550 filled with water and preheated until the chamber was approximately 100°C, sections were
551 immersed in boiling citric acid buffer (10mM sodium citrate; 0.05% Tween 20; pH=6) and

552 placed in steamer for 20 minutes. Sections were cooled to room temperature. H&E staining was
553 carried out according to standard procedures (Shannon et al., 2018).

554

555 Immunoblotting

556 Tissues were homogenized in RIPA buffer supplemented with protease and phosphatase
557 inhibitors. Protein concentration was determined by BCA assay (Thermo Scientific 23227).
558 Samples were denatured in 2% SDS by heating at 95°C for 5 minutes. Equal amounts of proteins
559 were loaded and separated by electrophoresis in a 4-15% gradient polyacrylamide gel,
560 transferred to nitrocellulose blot (250mA, 1.5 hours), blocked in 5% BSA or milk, incubated
561 with primary antibodies overnight at 4°C followed by HRP conjugated secondary antibodies
562 (1:5000) for 1 hour, and visualized with ECL substrate. For phosphorylation analysis, the
563 phospho-proteins were probed first, and then blots were stripped (Thermo Scientific 21059) and
564 reprobed for total proteins. The following primary antibodies were used: anti-4E-BP1 (Cell
565 Signaling, 9644, 1:1000), anti-ACTB (Cell Signaling, 12262, 1:2000), anti-cMYC (Abcam,
566 ab32072, 1:2000), anti-GAPDH (Cell Signaling, 97166, 1:1000), anti-p4E-BP1 (Cell Signaling,
567 9459, 1:1000), anti-pS6 (Cell Signaling, 5364, 1:1000), anti-pS6K (Cell Signaling, 9234, 1:1000),
568 anti-RPL10A (Novusbio, H00004736-M01, 1:500), anti-S6 (Cell Signaling, 2217, 1:1000), anti-
569 S6K (Cell Signaling, 9202, 1:1000), anti-Vinculin (Cell Signaling, 13901, 1:1000).

570

571 Fluorescent in situ hybridization

572 Cryosections were permeabilized in 0.5% Triton-X-100 for 20 minutes, incubated with probes
573 (Pilaz et al., 2016) overnight at 37°C, counterstained with Hoechst, and mounted using

574 Fluoromount-G (SouthernBiotech). Probes: Quaser 570 coupled 5.8S pre-rRNA, Quaser 670
575 coupled 5.8S total rRNA.

576

577 ³⁵S-Methionine labeling

578 E8.5 and E10.5 forebrain neuroepithelium was dissected as described (Chau et al., 2015) and
579 trypsinized. Cells were serum starved in methionine-free DMEM for 1 hour at 37°C, then
580 incubated with 51μCi ³⁵S-Methionine (Perkin Elmer NEG709A) at 37°C for an additional hour.
581 Cycloheximide (50μg/ml) was added to stop translation. ³⁵S-Methionine incorporation was
582 measured using scintillation counter.

583

584 Nucleolar volume quantification

585 Nucleolar volume was quantified according to published methods using Imaris (Bitplane; Baker,
586 2013; Sanchez et al., 2016; Shannon et al., 2018; Silvera et al., 2010). To ensure fair
587 representation, randomly selected nucleoli were selected for quantification across the image
588 field. When quantifying nucleolar volume embryonically, we specifically quantified cells close
589 to the ventricular surface. Therefore, at E14.5 the quantified cells should represent radial glia in
590 the ventricular zone. For relative nucleolar volume, each volume value was normalized to the
591 average nucleolar volume of the controls in the corresponding litter. 5.8S rRNA signal area
592 (nucleolar area) was quantified using FIJI (Image J).

593

594 Neuroepithelium OPP quantification

595 OPP quantification was performed as described by Liu et al. (2012). Pregnant dams received
596 intraperitoneal OPP injections (50 mg/kg OPP; Life Technologies). One hour later, developing

597 tissues were obtained and sectioned to a thickness of 7 μm using a cryostat. OPP signals were
598 detected using the Click-iT plus OPP protein synthesis assay kits (Life Technologies) according
599 the manufacturer's suggested procedures. Images were taken at 20X (Zeiss Axio Observer D1
600 inverted microscope) and fluorescence intensity was quantified using FIJI (ImageJ). For each
601 sample, OPP intensity from 6 independent regions of interest ($185 \mu\text{m}^2$) along the ventricular
602 surface was measured and averaged.

603

604 MYC inhibitor injection

605 KJ-Pyr-9 (Hart et al., 2014) was dissolved in Tween 80:DMSO:5% dextrose (1:1:8) and injected
606 at a dosage of 10mg/kg into pregnant dams at E7.5. Samples were collected 24 hours later for
607 analysis.

608

609 BrdU cell proliferation assay

610 BrdU (50mg/kg) was injected intraperitoneally into pregnant dams 2 hours prior to tissue
611 collection. Brains were cryosectioned (7 μm thickness) and stained with BrdU and Pax6
612 antibodies. Images were acquired at 20X (Zeiss LSM 700 laser scanning confocal microscope).
613 Cells were counted in a 100 μm wide column in the dorsal-lateral cortex. For each sample, 4 – 6
614 sections along the anterior/posterior axis of the forebrain were counted and averaged. The
615 proliferation index was defined as the percentage of Pax6-positive cells that were also BrdU-
616 positive.

617

618 P0 cortical neuron counting

619 14 μm thick cryosections were stained with antibodies, and images were acquired at 20X (Zeiss
620 Axio Observer D1 inverted microscope). Counting was performed using FIJI (Image J) on 100
621 μm wide columns in the dorsal-lateral cortex in the region just anterior to the hippocampus.

622

623 P0 cortical thickness measurement

624 Measurements were performed on H&E-stained coronal sections. Thickness was defined as the
625 length extending from the ventricular zone up to the pial surface in the dorsal-lateral cortex.

626

627 Quantitative RT-PCR

628 RNA was isolated using Trizol extraction protocol or RecoverAll Total Nucleic Acid Isolation
629 Kit (Ambion), and reverse-transcribed into cDNA. Gene expression was measured by Taqman
630 qPCR (Life Technologies), using *Tbp* as an internal control.

631

632 Transmission Electron Microscopy

633 All tissue processing, sectioning, and imaging was carried out at the Conventional Electron
634 Microscopy Facility at Harvard Medical School. E8.5 and E10.5 tissues were fixed in 2.5%
635 Glutaraldehyde/2% Paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer (pH 7.4). They were
636 then washed in 0.1M cacodylate buffer and postfixed with 1% Osmiumtetroxide (OsO_4)/1.5%
637 Potassiumferrocyanide (KFeCN_6) for one hour, washed in water three times and incubated in 1%
638 aqueous uranyl acetate for one hour. This was followed by two washes in water and subsequent
639 dehydration in grades of alcohol (10 minutes each; 50%, 70%, 90%, 2x10min 100%). Samples
640 were then incubated in propyleneoxide for one hour and infiltrated overnight in a 1:1 mixture of
641 propyleneoxide and TAAB Epon (Marivac Canada Inc. St. Laurent, Canada). The following day,

642 the samples were embedded in TAAB Epon and polymerized at 60 degrees C for 48 hours.
643 Ultrathin sections (about 80nm) were cut on a Reichert Ultracut-S microtome, and picked up
644 onto copper grids stained with lead citrate. Sections were examined in a JEOL 1200EX
645 Transmission electron microscope or a TecnaiG² Spirit BioTWIN. Images were recorded with an
646 AMT 2k CCD camera.

647 Ribosomal quantification was performed using Imaris (Bitplane). For 20 images per
648 individual (N=3 at each age), ribosomal density was calculated within a 280.5nm x 280.5nm box
649 in an inverted color image that contained only cytoplasm and ribosomes (no membrane bound
650 organelles). Ribosomes were counted by the Imaris software using the “spots” tool, with
651 estimated diameter of 250px and with automatic background subtraction “on”, and quality above
652 the automatic threshold. The number of ribosomes per field of view (FOV) was calculated by
653 multiplying the above calculate density by the cytoplasmic area. The cytoplasmic area was
654 calculated by creating a hand-drawn surface in Imaris around the free cytoplasmic space in the
655 standard FOV (2692nm x 1762.6 nm). The % FOV occupied by organelles was calculated by
656 subtracting the free cytoplasmic area from the total area to arrive at the organelle-occupied area.

657

658 Statistical Analysis

659 Biological replicates (N) were defined as samples from distinct individuals analyzed either in the
660 same experiment or within multiple experiments. Samples were pooled across multiple litters so
661 as to reduce inter-litter variability. Statistical analyses were performed using Prism 7 or R.
662 Outliers were excluded using ROUT method (Q = 1%). Appropriate statistical tests were selected
663 based on the distribution of data, homogeneity of variances, and sample size. F tests or Bartlett’s
664 tests were used to assess homogeneity of variances between data sets. Parametric tests (T test,

665 ANOVA) were used only if data were normally distributed and variances were approximately
666 equal. Otherwise, nonparametric alternatives were chosen. Data are presented as means \pm
667 standard errors of the mean (SEMs). Please refer to figure legends for statistical tests used and
668 sample size. P values < 0.05 were considered significant (* $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P \leq 0.001$,
669 **** $P \leq 0.0001$)

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707

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716

717 COMPETING INTERESTS

718 The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

719

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958 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

959

960 **Figure 1. Transcriptome analysis of microdissected forebrain epithelium reveals**
961 **downregulation of genes encoding protein biosynthetic machinery. (A)** Schematic of E8.5
962 embryo with open forebrain neural tube (left) and E10.5 embryo (right). Shaded regions
963 encircled by dotted line denote developing forebrain epithelium microdissected for RNAseq. **(B)**
964 Heatmap and hierarchical clustering of ~3,900 differentially expressed genes ($q < 0.05$): 2,375
965 genes were enriched in E8.5 and 1,523 genes were enriched in E10.5. Each biological replicate
966 contained tissue pooled from one litter of embryos. Red and green indicate relatively higher and
967 lower expression, with gene FPKM values \log_2 transformed, centered and scaled by rows for
968 display purposes. **(C, D)** MA plot displaying genes encoding secreted factors (C), and receptors
969 (D). Each dot represents a single gene. Red dots denote differentially expressed genes as
970 identified by Cuffdiff. Genes below blue line ($y=0$) are enriched in E8.5. **(E)** Functional
971 annotation clustering of E8.5 neuroepithelium enriched genes revealed overrepresentation of
972 genes encoding ribosomal proteins, ribosome biogenesis and translation factors. The top five
973 enriched functional clusters are shown. **(F)** Functional annotation clustering of E10.5
974 neuroepithelium enriched genes shows overrepresentation of genes needed for neuron
975 differentiation. The top five enriched functional clusters are shown. **(G-I)** GSEA of E8.5 versus
976 E10.5 neuroepithelium for gene sets involved in ribosome biogenesis and translation. Broad
977 Institute Molecular Signatures Database Identifiers: KEGG_RIBOSOME (G),
978 GO_RIBOSOME_BIOGENESIS (H), and TRANSLATION (I). Each line represents a single
979 gene in the gene set. Genes on the right side are enriched in E8.5. **(J-L)** Correlation plots of
980 average expression (\log_2 transformed FPKM) at E8.5 and E10.5 for ribosomal proteins (J),
981 translation factors (K), and all differentially expressed genes (L). In all cases correlation was

982 significant; ribosomal proteins (J), Spearman $R=0.91$, $p<0.0001$; translation factors (K)
 983 Spearman $R=0.98$, $p<0.0001$; and DEG (L), Spearman $R=0.82$, $p<0.0001$.

984

985 **Figure 1-figure supplement 1. Differential gene expression between E8.5 and E10.5**
 986 **neuroepithelium.** (A) MA plot displaying all expressed genes (FPKM > 1) in E8.5 and E10.5
 987 neuroepithelium. Red dots denote differentially expressed genes identified by Cuffdiff. Genes
 988 below blue line ($y=0$) are enriched in E8.5. (B) Quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) validation of
 989 75 genes showed positive correlation ($R^2=0.58$) with RNAseq data. (C) RNAseq showed
 990 upregulation of glial markers, *Glast* (left) and *Blbp* (right), in E10.5 neuroepithelium; y-axis
 991 shows FPKM values.

992

993 **Figure 2. Ribosome biogenesis decreases from E8.5 to E10.5.** (A, B) MA plot displaying
 994 genes encoding ribosomal proteins (A), ribosome biogenesis factors (B). Each dot represents a
 995 single gene. Red dots denote differentially expressed genes as identified by Cuffdiff. Genes
 996 below blue line ($y=0$) are enriched in E8.5. (C) Immunohistochemistry of the nucleolar protein
 997 Fibrillarin (green) in E8.5, E10.5 and E14.5 neuroepithelium. Scale bar = 20 μm . (D) Example of
 998 z-stack image of Fibrillarin staining (left) and 3D reconstruction of nucleoli using Imaris (right).
 999 (E) Quantification of nucleolar volume using Imaris. Each data point represents one nucleolus.
 1000 * $p\leq 0.05$, ** $p\leq 0.01$, Welch's ANOVA with Games-Howell post-hoc test. Sample size, E8.5:
 1001 $n=135$ from 3 embryos; E10.5: $n=139$ from 3 embryos; E14.5: $n=146$ from 3 embryos. (F, G)
 1002 Representative images of fluorescent in situ hybridization of 5.8S pre-rRNA (red, F) and 5.8S
 1003 total rRNA (green, G). (H) Y10b immunostaining shows higher levels of 5.8S rRNA in E8.5
 1004 than E10.5 neuroepithelium. Scale bar = 20 μm . (I) Quantification of 5.8S pre-rRNA signal

1005 shows larger nucleolar area in E8.5 compared to E10.5 neuroepithelium. Each data point
 1006 represents one nucleolus. **** $p \leq 0.0001$, Welch's t-test. Sample size, E8.5: n= 150 from 3
 1007 embryos; E10.5: n = 202 from 3 embryos. **(J)** Average nucleolar area in E8.5 vs. E10.5 embryo.
 1008 ** $p \leq 0.01$, unpaired t-test, n = 3 embryos. **(K, L)** RPL11 (K, red) and RPS12 (L, red) were more
 1009 highly expressed along the apical surface of E8.5 than E10.5 neuroepithelium. Phospho-
 1010 Vimentin (P-Vim, green) labels dividing progenitors. Scale bar = 20 μm . **(M)** Immunoblotting
 1011 shows similar expression of RPL10A between E8.5 and E10.5. **(N)** Representative images of
 1012 TEM in neuroepithelial cells at E8.5 and R10.5. **(O-Q)** Quantification of TEM ribosomal number
 1013 per standardized field of view, 78,736 nm^2 , (O), ribosomal density in cytoplasm (P), and percent
 1014 of the standard field of view occupied by membrane-bound organelles (Q). * $p \leq 0.05$, ** $p \leq 0.01$,
 1015 Unpaired t-test.

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1017

1018 **Figure 3. Down-regulation of mTOR signaling pathway and decreased protein synthesis in**
 1019 **E10.5 forebrain progenitors. (A)** MA plot displaying genes encoding translation factors. Each
 1020 dot represents a single gene. Red dots denote differentially expressed genes as identified by
 1021 Cuffdiff. Genes below blue line ($y=0$) are enriched in E8.5. **(B)** Immunostaining of developing
 1022 forebrain progenitors shows higher expression of the translation initiation factor EIF3 η (green) in
 1023 E8.5 versus E10.5 neuroepithelium. Scale bar = 20 μm . **(C)** Immunostaining of developing
 1024 forebrain neuroepithelium shows decreased phosphorylation of 4E-BP1 (red) in E10.5
 1025 neuroepithelium. Scale bar 20 μm . **(D)** Immunoblotting shows decreased expression and
 1026 phosphorylation of 4E-BP1 at E10.5. **(E)** Immunoblotting shows decreased phosphorylation of
 1027 S6K at E10.5. **(F)** Immunostaining of developing forebrain neuroepithelium shows decreased

1028 phosphorylation of ribosomal protein S6 (red) in E10.5 neuroepithelium. Scale bar 20 μ m. (G)
1029 Immunoblotting shows decreased phosphorylation of ribosomal protein S6 at E10.5. (H)
1030 Schematic of OPP injection into pregnant dams and incorporation into translating polypeptides in
1031 the embryos. (I) OPP incorporation assay in E8.5 and E10.5 developing forebrain
1032 neuroepithelium. (J) Quantification of OPP fluorescence intensity using Image J shows
1033 decreased rate of protein synthesis at E10.5. $**p \leq 0.01$ Welch's t-test. For each age, n=9 embryos
1034 from 3 litters.

1035

1036 **Figure 4. Downregulation of protein biosynthetic machinery during early forebrain**
1037 **development matches the AF and CSF proteomes.** (A) Plot showing all proteins/genes that are
1038 detected in both AF/CSF and the neighboring neuroepithelium. Each dot represents a single
1039 protein/gene. Red dots denote differentially expressed genes between E8.5 and E10.5 epithelium.
1040 Genes left of $x=0$ were enriched in E8.5 epithelium whereas proteins below $y=0$ were enriched in
1041 E8.5 AF. Therefore, genes/proteins in lower left quadrant (shaded) were enriched in both E8.5
1042 epithelium and AF. MS = mass spectrometry. (B) Functional annotation clustering of
1043 genes/proteins enriched in both E8.5 epithelium and AF (genes/proteins in shaded quadrant in
1044 (A)) shows that ribosomes/translation is the most overrepresented category. (C, D) Comparison
1045 of AF/CSF proteomes with neuroepithelium transcriptome showed that most ribosomal proteins
1046 and translation factors enriched in E8.5 AF were enriched in age-matched epithelium (shaded
1047 quadrants). (E) Schematics depicting the specific ribosomal protein subunits that were detected
1048 in E8.5 AF (left) and E10.5 CSF (right). Subunits with blue and orange were detected in both
1049 fluid and tissue, whereas those in orange were only detected in tissue.

1050

1051 **Figure 5. MYC modulates ribosome biogenesis in the developing forebrain. (A)** MA plot
1052 displaying genes encoding transcription factors in E8.5 and E10.5 neuroepithelium. Each dot
1053 represents a single gene. Red dots denote differentially expressed genes identified by Cuffdiff.
1054 Genes below blue line ($y=0$) enriched in E8.5. *Myc* (arrow) expression is ~10 fold higher in E8.5
1055 epithelium (FPKM: E8.5 = 28.73, E10.5 = 2.76). **(B)** MYC expression was enriched in E8.5
1056 neuroepithelium. Once downregulated at E10.5, MYC expression remained low throughout
1057 cortical development. Scale bar = 20 μ m. **(C, D)** GSEA of E8.5 versus E10.5 neuroepithelium
1058 for gene sets containing genes up-regulated by MYC and whose promoters are bound by MYC
1059 **(C)**, and E-box containing MYC target genes **(D)**. Broad Institute Molecular Signatures Database
1060 Identifiers: DANG_MYC_TARGETS_UP **(C)**, BENPORATH_MYC_TARGETS_WITH
1061 _EBOX **(D)**. Each line represents a single gene in the gene set; genes on the right side enriched
1062 in E8.5. **(E)** Quantification of nucleolar volume of E8.5 embryos treated with vehicle control or
1063 KJ-Pyr-9 for 24 hours. Each data point represents one nucleolus. *** $p \leq 0.001$, Welch's t-test.
1064 Sample size, vehicle: $n=140$ from 3 embryos; KJ-Pyr-9: $n=140$ from 3 embryos. **(F)**
1065 Quantification of nucleolar volume of *Myc*^{-/-} compared to controls (wild type and heterozygous
1066 littermates) in E8.5 neuroepithelium. * $p \leq 0.05$ Unpaired t-test. Sample size, controls: $n=238$ from
1067 5 embryos; *Myc*^{-/-}: $n=97$ from 2 embryos. **(G)** Immunostaining shows overexpression of MYC
1068 (red) in the developing cortex of E12.5 MYC-OE (right) embryos from the *Nestin-cre* x
1069 StopFLMYC cross. TUJ1 (green) staining labels neurons. **(H)** Functional annotation clustering
1070 of the 105 MYC-OE enriched genes shows overrepresentation of genes encoding ribosome
1071 constituents. The top five enriched functional clusters are shown. **(I, J)** GSEA of WT versus
1072 MYC-OE apical progenitors for gene sets involved in ribosome biogenesis. Broad Institute
1073 Molecular Signatures Database Identifiers: KEGG_RIBOSOME **(I)**, and GO_RIBOSOME_

1074 BIOGENESIS (J). Each line represents a single gene in the gene set, genes on the right side are
 1075 enriched in MYC-OE. (K) Heatmap of the 43 ribosomal protein genes that are differentially
 1076 expressed between MYC-OE and WT apical progenitors (* $q < 0.3$, ** $q < 0.1$). All ribosomal
 1077 proteins are more highly expressed in MYC-OE. Red and green indicate relatively higher and
 1078 lower expression, with gene FPKM values \log_2 transformed. (L) MA plot displaying genes
 1079 encoding ribosomal proteins in E13.5 apical progenitors. Each dot represents a single gene. Red
 1080 dots denote differentially expressed genes as identified by Cuffdiff. Genes above blue line ($y=0$)
 1081 are enriched in MYC-OE. (M) Quantification of nucleolar volume of WT and MYC-OE (*Foxg1-*
 1082 *cre* driven) forebrain progenitors at E11.5. Each data point represents one nucleolus.
 1083 **** $p \leq 0.0001$, Welch's t-test. Sample size, WT: $n=194$ from 4 embryos; MYC-OE: $n=144$ from
 1084 3 embryos. (N) Quantification of nucleolar volume of WT and MYC-OE (*Nestin-cre* driven)
 1085 apical progenitors at E13.5. Each data point represents one nucleolus. *** $p \leq 0.001$, Welch's t-
 1086 test. Sample size, WT: $n=234$ from 5 embryos; MYC-OE: $n=248$ from 5 embryos.

1087

1088 **Figure 5-figure supplement 1. MYC expression and mouse models.** (A) Quantitative RT-PCR
 1089 validated higher expression of *Myc* in the developing neuroepithelium of E8.5. * $P < 0.05$, Welch's
 1090 t-test. Each data point represents multiple embryos from the same litter. (B) Immunoblotting
 1091 shows higher expression of MYC in E8.5 developing forebrain. See also (Shannon et al., 2018).
 1092 (C) Immunostaining confirmed specificity of MYC antibody. (D) Representative E9.5 wildtype
 1093 embryo (left) and *Myc*-deficient littermates (*Myc*^{-/-}, right panels), which show range of
 1094 phenotypes (Davis et al., 1993) including small size (*Myc*^{+/+}: 0%, 0/17; *Myc*^{+/-}: 20%, 5/25; *Myc*^{-/-}:
 1095 67%, 6/9), incomplete neural tube closure (*Myc*^{+/+}: 0%, 0/17; *Myc*^{+/-}: 0%, 0/25; *Myc*^{-/-}: 11%,
 1096 1/9), and delayed development (*Myc*^{+/+}: 12%, 2/17; *Myc*^{+/-}: 4%, 1/25; *Myc*^{-/-}: 22%, 2/9).

1097 Morphologically the representative *Myc*^{-/-} embryos are similar to a normal E8.25 before turning,
1098 and have open neural tubes. Scale bar = 0.5mm. **(E)** Quantitative RT-PCR confirms higher
1099 expression of *Myc* in E12.5 neuroepithelium of MYC-OE embryos than in wildtype littermates
1100 from the *Nestin-cre* x StopFLMYC cross. ** ≤ 0.01 , Welch's t-test, n=5 (WT) or 6 (MYC-OE)
1101 embryos from 2 litters. **(F)** Immunoblotting confirms overexpression of MYC (top) in the
1102 developing forebrain of E12.5 MYC-OE from the *Nestin-cre* x StopFLMYC cross. Bottom panel
1103 shows ACTB loading control. **(G)** Immunostaining shows overexpression of MYC (red) in the
1104 developing cortex of E10.5 MYC-OE (right) embryos from the *Foxg1-cre* x StopFLMYC cross.
1105 Scale bar = 20 μ m. **(H)** Representative FACS profile used for isolating apical progenitors from
1106 E13.5 cortex. Apical progenitors (PAX6-high, TUJ1-low) are selected using the lower right gate.
1107 Upper left gate represents neurons (PAX6-low, TUJ1-high). **(I)** Heatmap and hierarchical
1108 clustering of the 135 genes that are differentially expressed between MYC-OE and WT apical
1109 progenitors ($q < 0.1$). 105 genes are enriched in MYC-OE (*Nestin-cre* driven), whereas 30 genes
1110 are repressed. Each biological replicate contains cells from 2 – 4 embryos. Red and green
1111 indicate relatively higher and lower expression, with gene FPKM values log₂ transformed, and
1112 centered and scaled by rows for display purposes. **(J, K)** GSEA of WT versus MYC-OE apical
1113 progenitors for gene sets containing genes upregulated by MYC and whose promoters are bound
1114 by MYC. Broad Institute Molecular Signatures Database Identifiers:
1115 DANG_MYC_TARGETS_UP (J) and TRANSLATION (K).

1116

1117 **Figure 6. Persistent MYC expression in cortical progenitors leads to macrocephaly.** **(A)**
1118 Representative images of E14.5 brains from WT and MYC-OE from the *Nestin-cre* x
1119 StopFLMYC cross. Scale bar = 2mm. **(B)** Quantification of E14.5 cortical length (olfactory bulb

1120 excluded). * $p \leq 0.05$, unpaired t-test, WT: n=6 from 2 litters, MYC-OE: n=10 embryos from 2
1121 litters. (C) Quantification of E14.5 cortical area. Cortical area of one hemisphere was measured
1122 (olfactory bulb excluded). $p > 0.05$, unpaired t-test, WT: n=6 from 2 litters, MYC-OE: n=10
1123 embryos from 2 litters. (D) Representative images of P0 brains from WT and MYC-OE from the
1124 *Nestin-cre* x StopFLMYC cross. Scale bar = 2mm. (E) Quantification of P0 brain weight.
1125 Olfactory bulb, medulla and pons were excluded from measurements. **** $p \leq 0.0001$, unpaired t-
1126 test, No outliers, WT: n=10 pups from 3 litters, MYC-OE: n=12 pups from 3 litters. (F)
1127 Quantification of P0 cortical length as in (B). **** $p \leq 0.0001$, unpaired t-test, outlier excluded by
1128 ROUT method, WT: n=10 pups from 3 litters, MYC-OE: n=11 pups from 3 litters. (G)
1129 Quantification of P0 cortical area as in (C). **** $p \leq 0.0001$, Welch's t-test, outlier excluded by
1130 ROUT method, WT: n=10 pups from 3 litters, MYC-OE: n=11 pups from 3 litters. (H) Percent
1131 PAX6-positive progenitors that were also BrdU-positive after a 2 hour BrdU pulse at E15.5.
1132 * $p \leq 0.05$, Welch's t-test, n=5 embryos from 3 litters. (I) Representative H&E staining of WT and
1133 MYC-OE forebrain at P0. (J) Quantification of cortical thickness of P0 cortex. Thickness is
1134 measured from the ventricular surface to the pial surface in the dorsal-lateral cortex. $p > 0.05$,
1135 unpaired t-test, n=6 pups from 5 litters. (K) MYC-OE had increased number of CUX1-positive
1136 upper layer neurons at P0. ** $p \leq 0.01$; paired t-test, n=4 litters, 1-2 pairs of embryos per litter
1137 were quantified. (L) Examples of 100 μ m wide cortical columns at P0 used for cell counting.
1138 CUX1: upper layer neurons (red), CTIP2: lower layer neurons (green).

1139

1140 **Figure 6-figure supplement 1. MYC overexpression in neural progenitors driven by *Foxg1-***
1141 ***cre* leads to slightly longer cortex at E14.5. (A)** Quantitative RT-PCR validated higher
1142 expression of *Igf2* in the developing cortex of MYC-OE embryos. * $P < 0.05$, unpaired t-test. n=6

1143 embryos from 2 litters. **(B)** Representative images showing wildtype (left) and MYC-OE (right)
1144 brains at E14.5. Scale bar = 2 mm. **(C)** Quantification of E14.5 cortical length. The olfactory
1145 bulb was excluded from measurements. $**p \leq 0.01$, Welch's t-test, WT: 15 embryos from 6
1146 litters; MYC-OE: 12 embryos from 6 litters. **(D)** Quantification of E14.5 cortical area. Cortical
1147 area of one hemisphere was measured (olfactory bulb excluded). $P > 0.05$, unpaired t-test, WT: 15
1148 embryos from 6 litters; MYC-OE: 12 embryos from 6 litters. ns = not significant.

1149

1150 **Supplementary File 1. E8.5 vs E10.5 neuroepithelium RNA sequencing data:** All genes
1151 (sheet 1), differentially expressed genes (DEG, sheet 2), DAVID functional annotation clustering
1152 (FAC, sheet 3 and 4), gene lists used for MA plot (sheet 5 – 10).

1153

1154 **Supplementary File 2. WT vs MYC-OE apical progenitors RNA sequencing data:** All genes
1155 (sheet 1), DEG (sheet 2), FAC of MYC-OE enriched genes (sheet 3), ribosomal protein genes
1156 used for MA plot in Figure 5L.

1157

1158

Figure 1

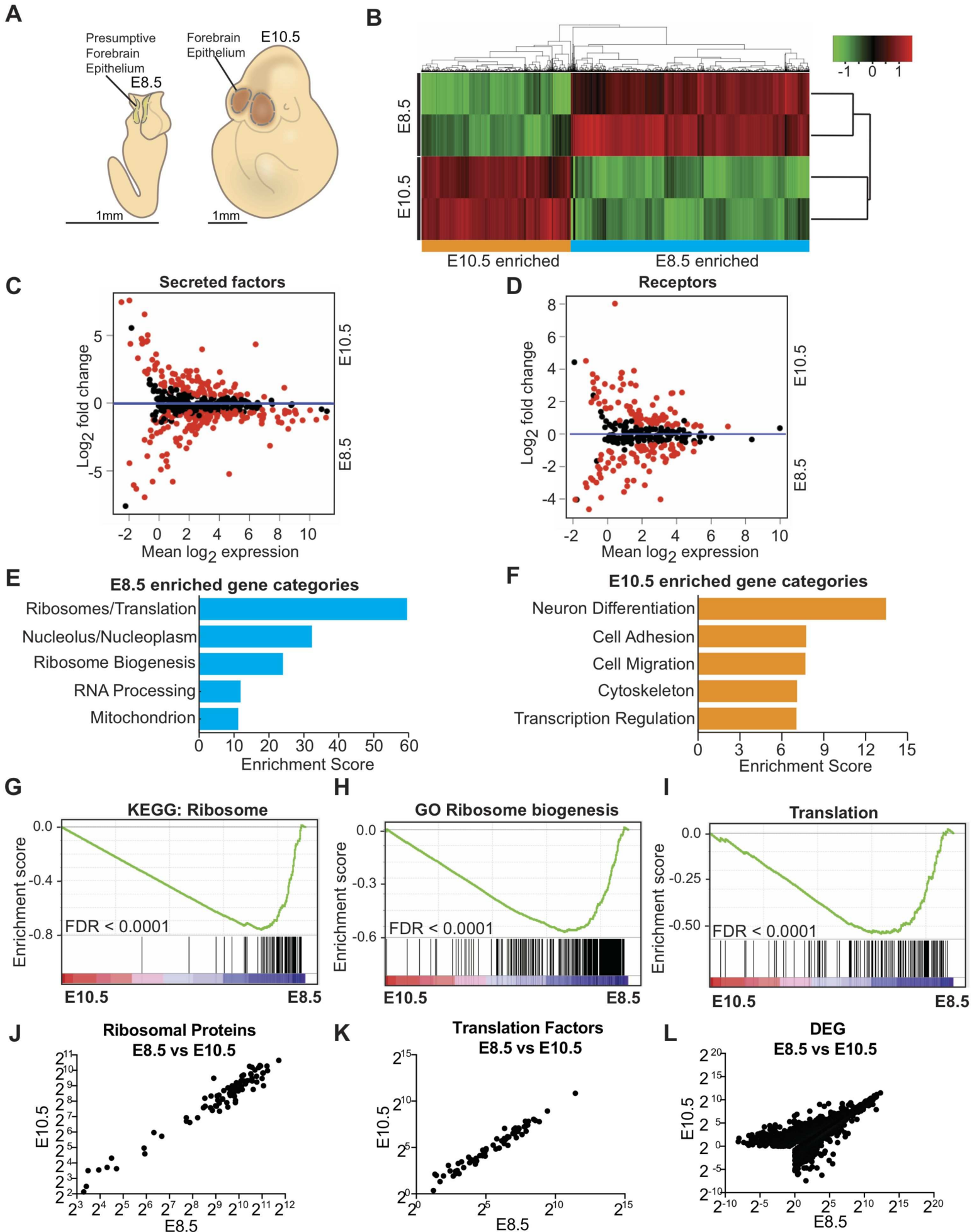


Figure 2

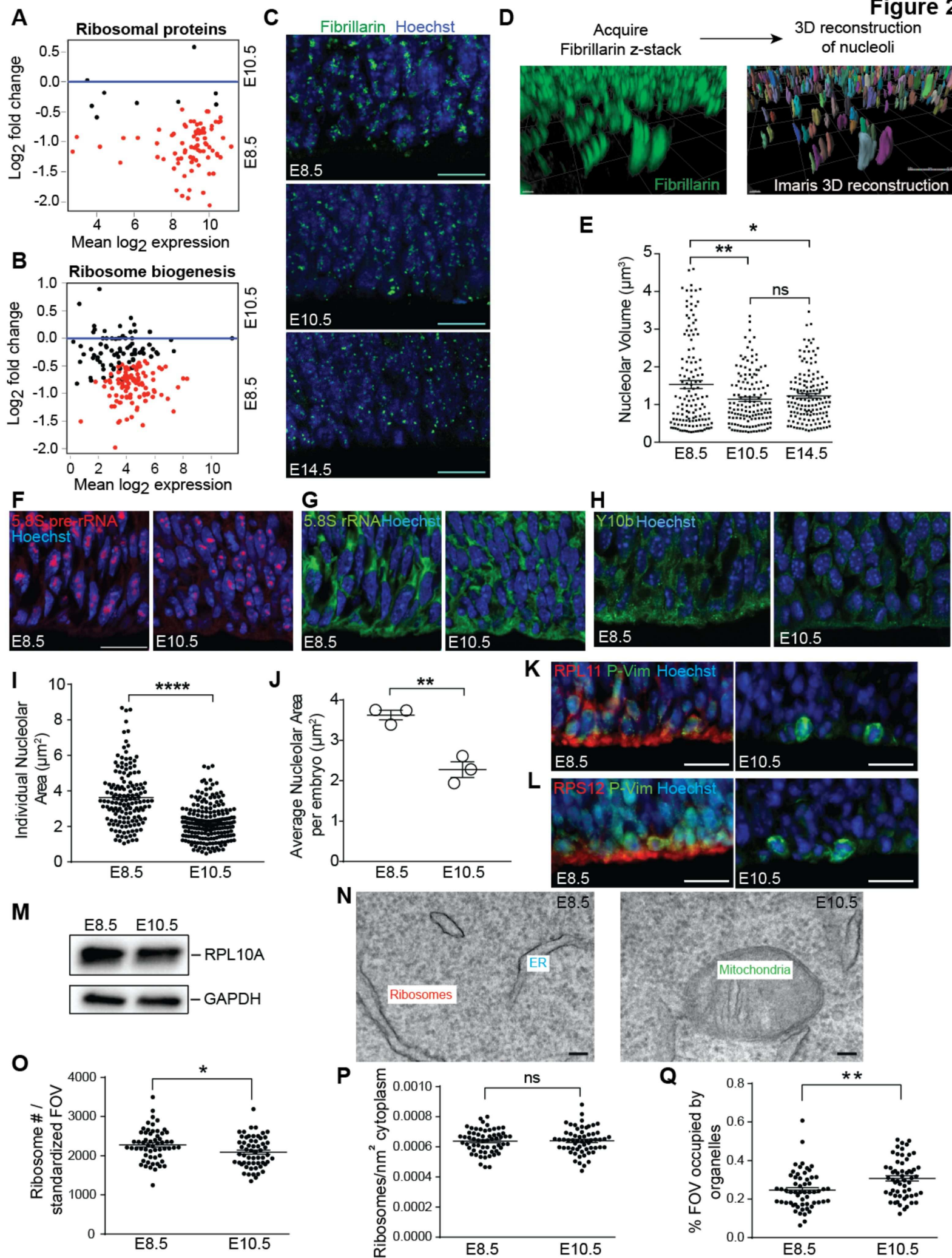
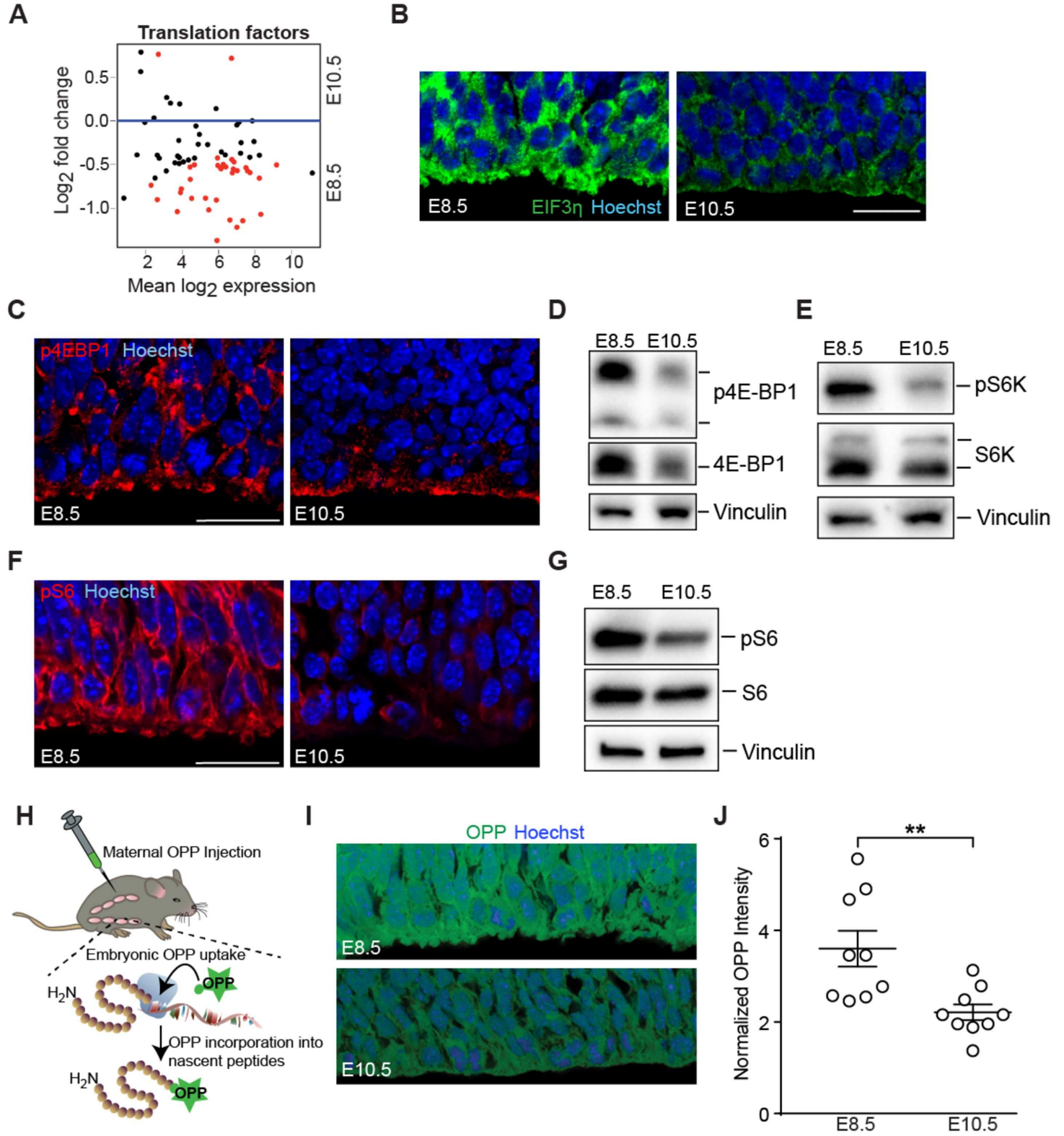


Figure 3



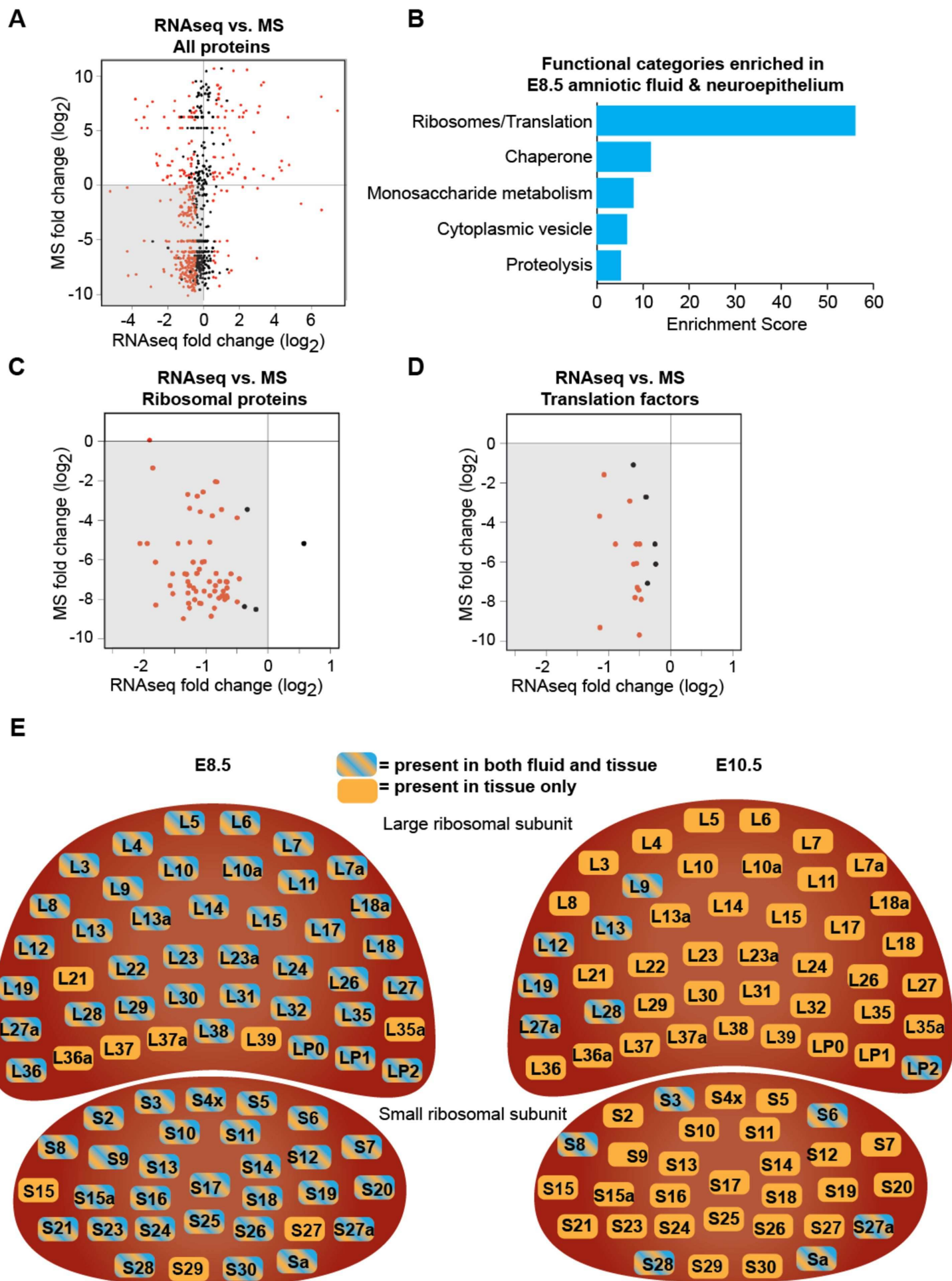
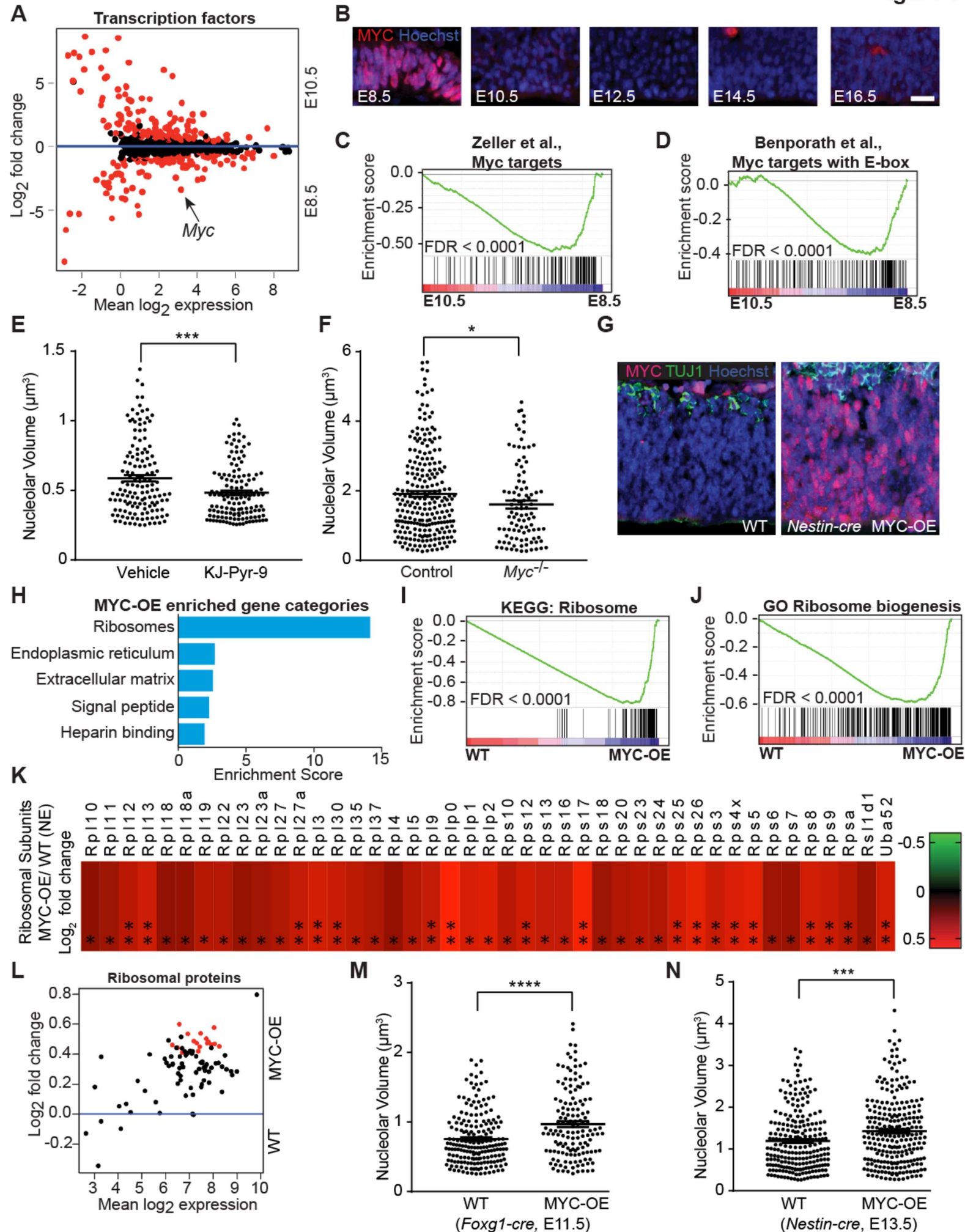
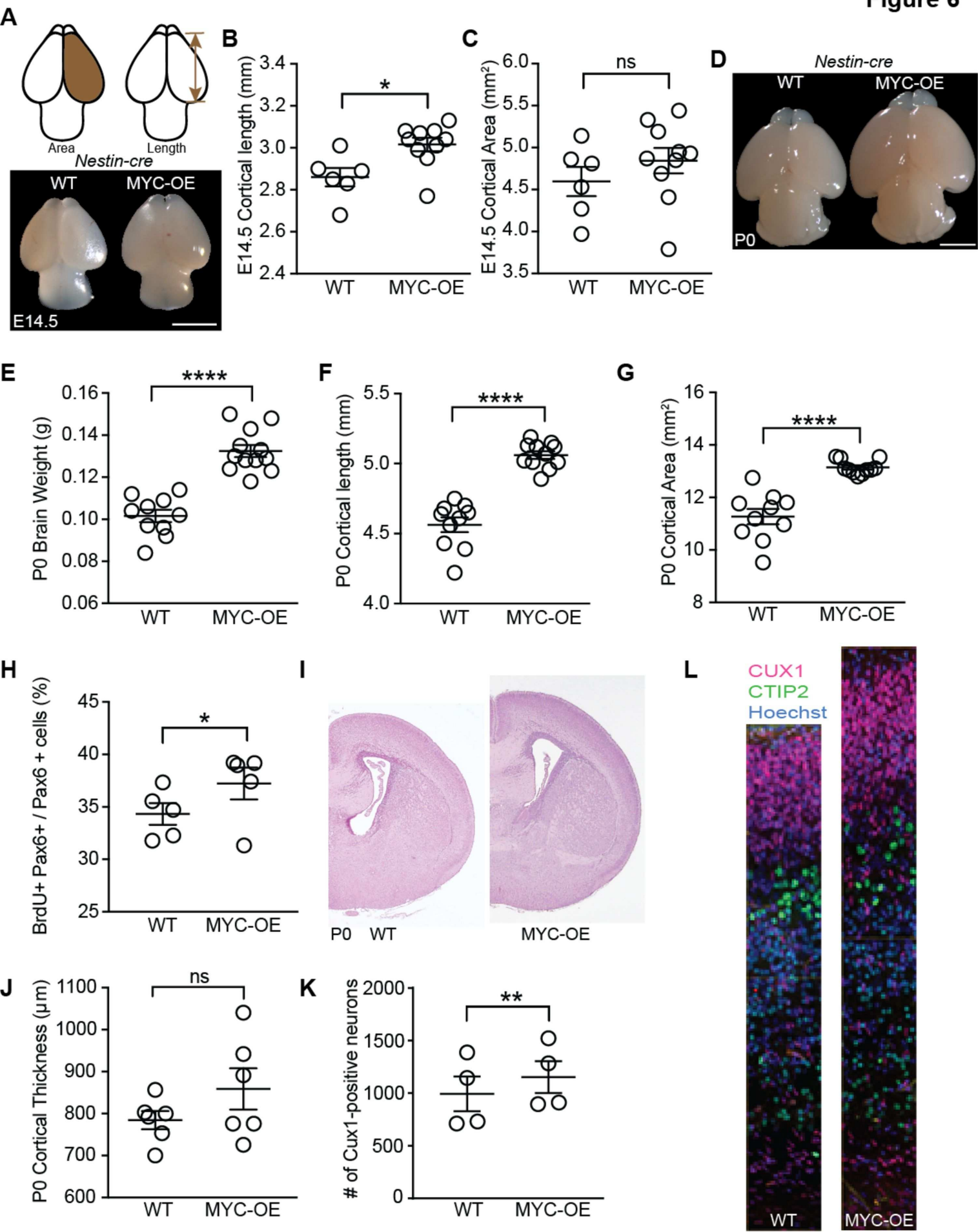
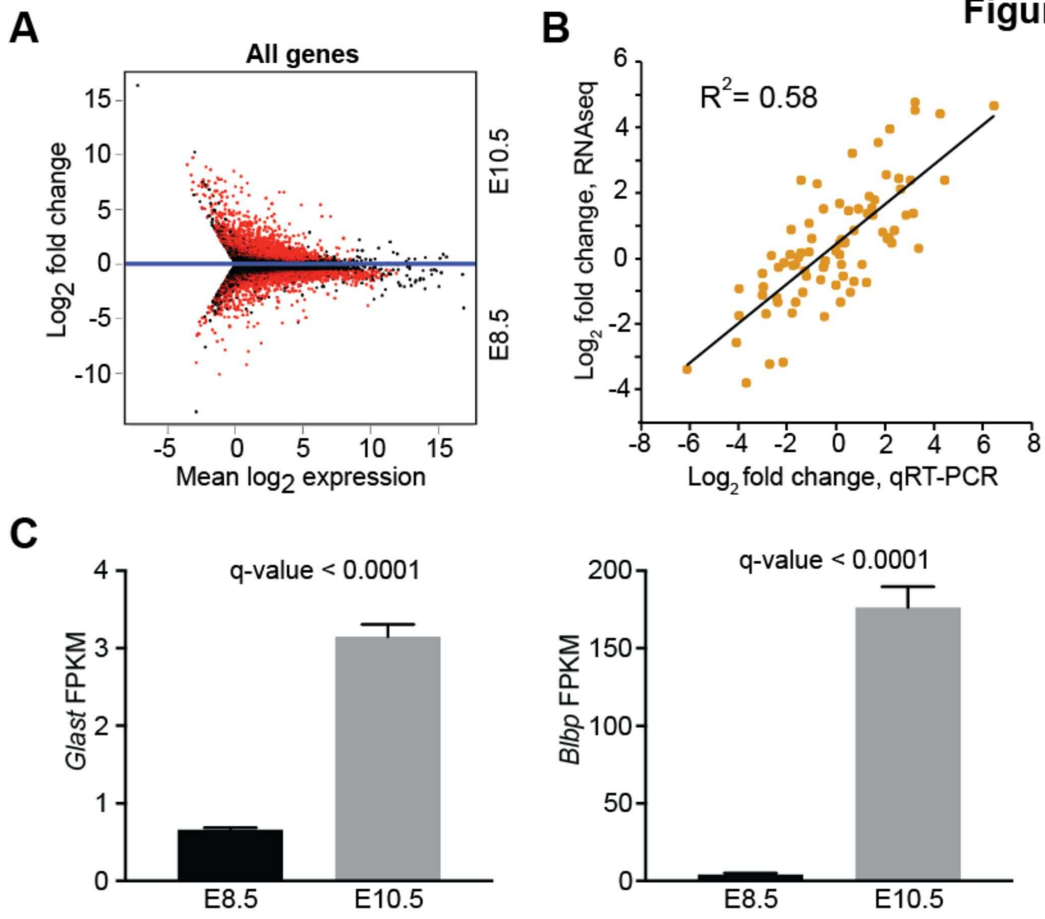


Figure 5







**Figure 5-
figure supplement 1**

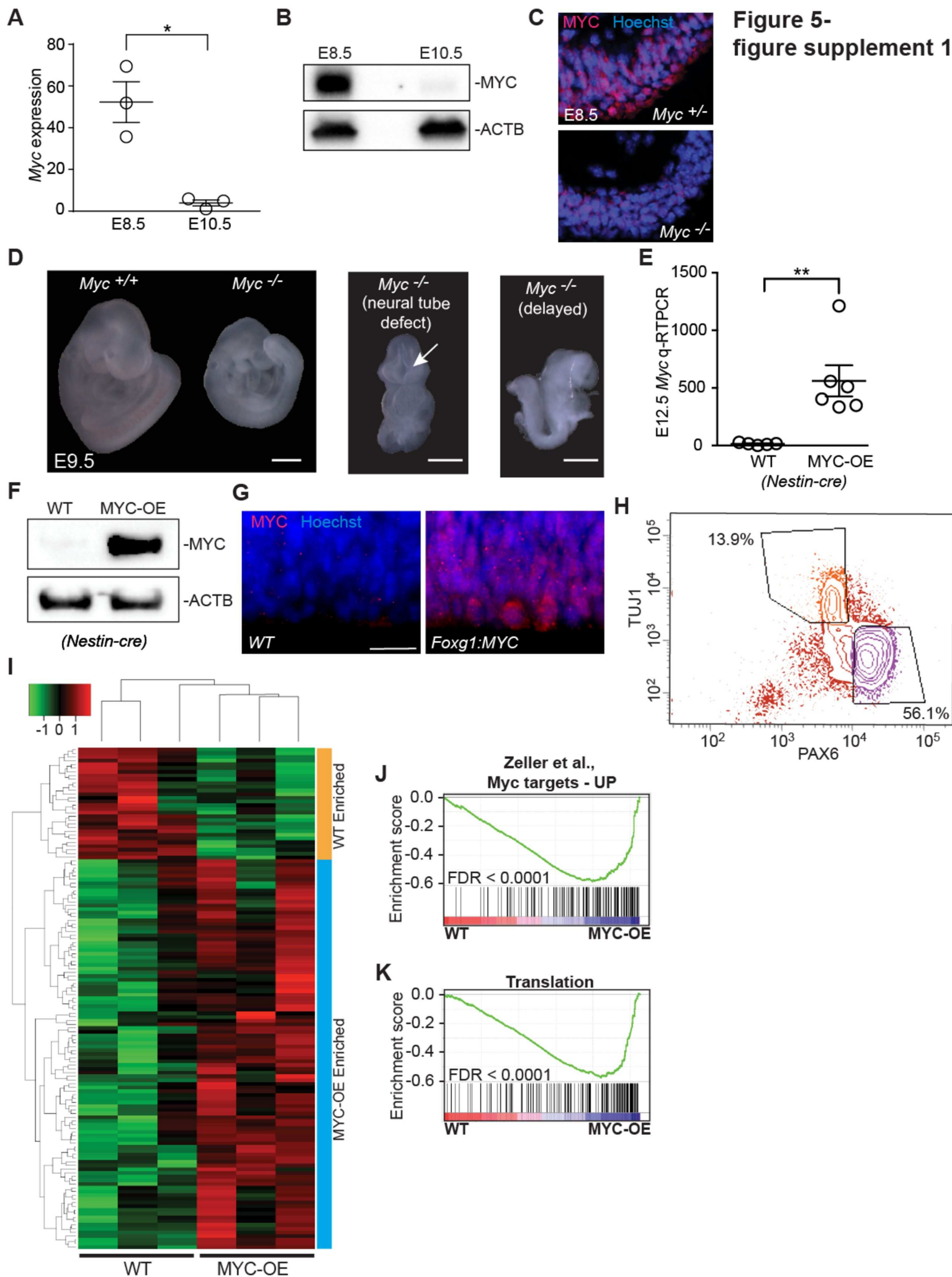


Figure 6-figure supplement 1

