

RESEARCH ARTICLE

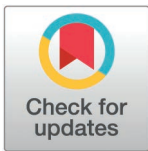
Members of the DIP and Dpr adhesion protein families use *cis* inhibition to shape neural development in *Drosophila*

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OPEN ACCESS

Citation: Morano NC, Lopez DH, Meltzer H, Sergeeva AP, Katsamba PS, Rostam KD, et al. (2025) Members of the DIP and Dpr adhesion protein families use *cis* inhibition to shape neural development in *Drosophila*. PLoS Biol 23(3): e3003030. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030>

Academic Editor: Bing Ye, University of Michigan, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Received: October 2, 2024

Accepted: January 22, 2025

Published: March 3, 2025

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Data availability statement: All relevant data are within the paper and its [Supporting information](#) files. Flow data can be found in the flow repository with the following accession numbers: FR-FCM-Z8G5 FR-FCM-Z8G9 FR-FCM-Z8MT FR-FCM-Z8M2 FR-FCM-Z8G7 FR-FCM-Z8ND FR-FCM-Z8NE FR-FCM-Z8NF FR-FCM-Z8NC FR-FCM-Z8N7 FR-FCM-Z8N8 FR-FCM-Z8MV FR-FCM-Z8N9 FR-FCM-Z8N6

Abstract

In *Drosophila*, two interacting adhesion protein families, Defective proboscis responses (Dprs) and Dpr interacting proteins (DIPs), coordinate the assembly of neural networks. While intercellular DIP::Dpr interactions have been well characterized, DIPs and Dprs are often co-expressed within the same cells, raising the question as to whether they also interact in *cis*. We show, in cultured cells and *in vivo*, that DIP- α and DIP- δ can interact in *cis* with their ligands, Dpr6/10 and Dpr12, respectively. When co-expressed in *cis* with their cognate partners, these Dprs regulate the extent of *trans* binding, presumably through competitive *cis* interactions. We demonstrate the neurodevelopmental effects of *cis* inhibition in fly motor neurons and in the mushroom body. We further show that a long disordered region of DIP- α at the C-terminus is required for *cis* but not *trans* interactions, likely because it alleviates geometric constraints on *cis* binding. Thus, the balance between *cis* and *trans* interactions plays a role in controlling neural development.

Introduction

The assembly of complex neural networks requires precise wiring of many types of neurons to ensure the formation of functional circuits. In the developing nervous systems of both vertebrates and invertebrates, neurons express a wide diversity of cell adhesion molecules (CAMs), which coordinate neural network development by mediating cell–cell recognition [1,2]. In *Drosophila*, two interacting adhesion protein families, the 21-member Defective proboscis response (Dpr) proteins and the 11-member Dpr interacting proteins (DIPs) [3] are required

FR-FCM-Z8NG FR-FCM-Z8NH FR-FCM-Z8NW
 FR-FCM-Z8MU FR-FCM-Z8G8 FR-FCM-Z8MR
 FR-FCM-Z8N4 FR-FCM-Z8MS FR-FCM-Z8NZ
 FR-FCM-Z8NB FR-FCM-Z8N3 FR-FCM-Z8NY
 FR-FCM-Z8N2 FR-FCM-Z8NA FR-FCM-Z8N5
 FR-FCM-Z8NJ

Funding: This work was supported by National Science Foundation (NSF): IOS-2321481 (to BH and LS); HHS National Institutes of Health (NIH): R01NS070644 (tp RSM); NSF-BSF 2023611 (to OS); and by EC European Research Council (ERC): 101054886 (to OS). The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Abbreviations: aa, amino acids; CAMs, cell adhesion molecules; DANs, dopaminergic neurons; DIPs, Dpr interacting proteins; Dpr, Defective proboscis response; GPI, glycosylphosphatidylinositol; IgSF, immunoglobulin superfamily; IRES, Internal Ribosome Entry Site; KCs, Kenyon cells; MB, mushroom body; MSAs, multiple sequence alignments; PFA, paraformaldehyde; RT, room temperature; Sdks, sidekicks; SPR, surface plasmon resonance; WT, wild-type.

for the development of several neural networks [4–7]. Both DIPs and Dprs are immunoglobulin superfamily (IgSF) proteins, containing 3 and 2 Ig domains, respectively. DIP::Dpr interactions were initially identified in a high-throughput screen [8], and have since been extensively characterized using structural and biophysical approaches [5–11]. Moreover, multiple studies have demonstrated that specific subsets of DIPs and Dprs are expressed in different neurons throughout the developing *Drosophila* nervous system. *Trans* (cell-to-cell) interactions between specific cognate pairs of DIP and Dpr family members specify neuronal and neuromuscular connectivity in the developing *Drosophila* nervous system [3,4,7,9,12]. For example, in the medulla of the fly's visual system, DIPs are expressed in a layer-specific manner and interaction with their cognate Dprs is required for incoming axons to form layer-specific synapses [13]. More recently, we identified a specific *trans*-interaction between two types of neurons in the developing fly mushroom body (MB) as essential for target specificity [14].

While the DIPs tend to have specific expression patterns, Dprs are often widely expressed throughout the nervous system, resulting in the co-expression of interacting family members in the same cells [6,12,14,15]. Although the importance of *trans* DIP::Dpr interactions is well-characterized [4], the functional role of cognate partners that are co-expressed within the same cell remains elusive.

While *cis* interactions are prevalent among CAMs, they often employ separate interfaces to facilitate *cis* and *trans* interactions [16–18]. For example, for the clustered protocadherins, which regulate neuronal self-avoidance, heterophilic *cis* interactions and homophilic *trans* interactions are mediated through separate interfaces. The classical cadherins such as N-Cadherin and E-Cadherin also have distinct *cis* and *trans* interfaces with weak *cis* interactions enabling the formation of two-dimensional molecular lattices [19,20]. Conversely, the sidekicks (Sdks), which like the DIPs and Dprs are members of the IgSF, interact both in *cis* and in *trans* through the same interface [21]. We show below that this is the case for DIPs and Dprs as well. Although *cis* interactions between CAMs are widespread, the mechanisms of *cis* binding and biological functions of *cis* interactions are less well understood.

Here, we test the idea that *cis* interactions between cognate DIP::Dpr pairs play a role in neural connectivity by focusing on two sets of interacting DIP::Dpr proteins: DIP- α with Dprs 6 and 10, and DIP- δ with Dpr12. We use flow cytometry-based and cell aggregation assays in combination with *in vivo* experiments using the neuromuscular junction and the MB to demonstrate that interactions between these proteins in *cis* play key roles during neural development. Using structural predictions followed by experimental analyses, we propose a model for DIP::Dpr *cis* inhibition in which the length of the linker between the C-terminal Ig domain and the glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) cell membrane anchor of the DIP is an important determinant of *cis* binding. Taken together, these observations suggest that the correct balance between *cis* and *trans* interactions is critical for the correct assembly of neural circuits.

Results

Quantification of cell surface DIPs and Dprs using flow cytometry

We developed a flow cytometry-based platform to detect cell surface protein interactions of DIPs and Dprs, which had previously been used to investigate members of the human IgSF [22,23]. Typically, an interacting receptor::ligand pair is tagged with different-colored fluorescent proteins (GFP and mCherry), expressed in HEK293 cells, and incubated together. The interaction of protein pairs can then be detected using flow cytometry by analyzing the number of events positive for both GFP and mCherry (Fig 1A). Because the cell surface attachment of DIPs and Dprs requires GPI anchors, we avoided adding tags that could disrupt membrane attachment. Instead, all DIPs and Dprs were subcloned into a mammalian expression vector containing an Internal Ribosome Entry Site (IRES) with either mCherry (DIPs) or GFP (Dprs)

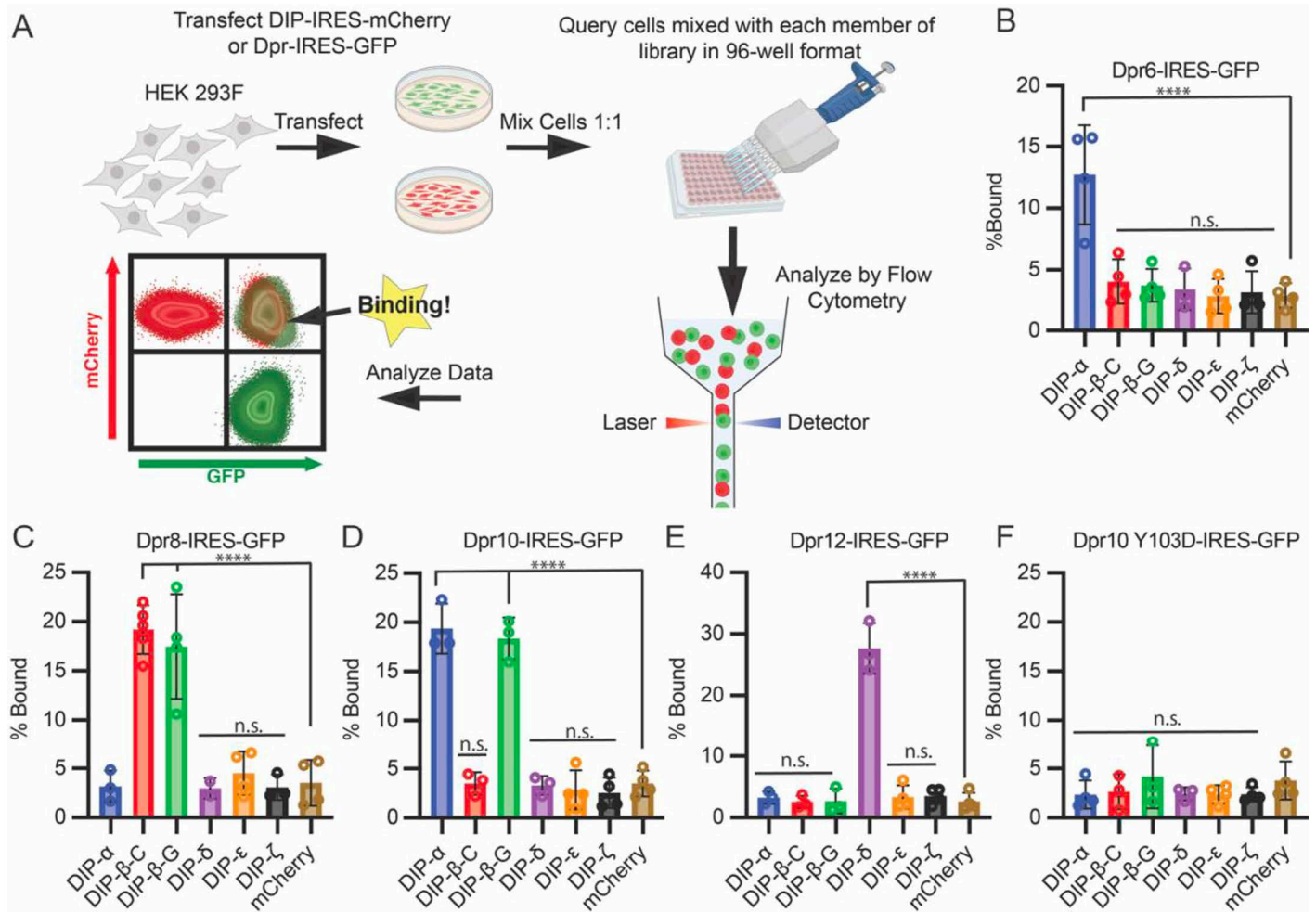


Fig 1. Flow cytometry-based cell adhesion assay detects DIP::Dpr Interactions. (A) Overview schematic of flow-based cell adhesion platform. Created with BioRender.com. (B–F) Proof of concept experiment demonstrating that full-length DIPs and Dprs can be expressed in HEK293 Freestyle cells, and that adhesion can be measured by flow cytometry. An initial set of Dpr6 (B), Dpr8 (C), Dpr10 (D), and Dpr12 (E) were expressed with an IRES GFP tag and queried against a set of DIP-IRES mCherry constructs. Adhesion was detected only between DIP/Dpr pairs with measurable K_D s. A negative control, Dpr10 with Y103D mutation introduced, did not interact with DIP- α (F) as expected. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S1 Data](#).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030.g001>

at the second ribosomal entry site. DIP/Dpr constructs were individually transfected into HEK293 cells and all showed expression of GFP and mCherry ([S1 Fig](#)). Cells transfected with DIPs were then incubated in 96-well plates with cells transfected with Dprs, and the aggregation of DIP::Dpr pairs was assessed using flow cytometry ([Fig 1B–1F](#)).

We generated a collection of expression vectors encompassing a broad range of interaction affinities composed of DIP- α , β , δ , ϵ , and ζ , and Dprs 6, 8, 10, and 12. We also included the DIP- β -G isoform, which has an 11 amino acid deletion in the first Ig domain relative to DIP- β -C as well as two isoforms of Dpr10, denoted here as Dpr10-A and Dpr10-D, with isoform A binding somewhat stronger to DIP- β -G than isoform C ([S2 Fig](#)). Unless otherwise specified DIP- β will refer to DIP- β -C and Dpr10 will refer to Dpr10-A. We also report experiments on the Y103D mutation of Dpr10 which ablates DIP::Dpr interactions [9].

[S1 Table](#) reports equilibrium binding constants (K_D s) determined using surface plasmon resonance (SPR for DIP::Dpr pairs used in this study.) Most of these data have been published previously [3,9], although measurements on DIP- β -G are new ([S2 Fig](#)). All interactions with

SPR-determined K_D s $< 10 \mu\text{M}$ listed in S1 Data were detected by flow cytometry, while interactions with higher K_D s were not (Fig 1B–1F). In particular, Dpr6 bound to DIP- α but not other DIPs (Fig 1B), while Dpr8 specifically bound to DIP- β isoforms C and G (Fig 1C), Dpr10 bound to DIP- α and also DIP- β -G (but not DIP- β -C, Fig 1D) and finally, Dpr12 specifically bound to DIP- δ (Fig 1E). Dpr10 Y103D, which ablates its ability to interact with DIP- α and DIP- β , also failed to show binding using this assay (Fig 1F). Taken together, these results confirm the cell-based expression of these DIPs and Dprs, and validate a flow cytometry platform for quantitatively examining the binding properties of DIPs and Dprs.

Co-expression of DIP- α and DIP- δ , but not DIP- β , with their cognate Dprs inhibits interactions with ligands

To perform cell-protein binding experiments, Dpr10-Fc was purified as an Fc fusion protein, which dimerizes due to the Fc domain. This artificial dimer (Fig 2A) binds robustly to cells expressing DIP- α (S4A Fig). In order to test whether co-expressed DIPs and Dprs can interfere with this binding, Dpr10-Fc was titrated from 1 to 600 nM onto cells expressing DIP- α , co-expressing DIP- α and Dpr10, or control cells (transfected with mCherry). We obtained robust binding curves for both A and D isoforms of Dpr10 (see S2 and S3 Figs for related SPR data) with DIP- α expressing cells. No binding was detected to cells co-transfected with DIP- α and Dpr10 or control cells, demonstrating that expression of DIP- α and Dpr10 in *cis* inhibited binding of DIP- α to recombinant Dpr10-Fc (Figs 2B and S4A and S4B). Dpr10-Fc was also titrated against cells co-transfected with DIP- α and Dpr6 (Fig 2C). Binding was detected to cells expressing DIP- α , but not to cells co-expressing DIP- α and Dpr6. These data suggest that co-expression (in *cis*) of DIP- α with either Dpr6 or Dpr10 inhibits *trans*-binding of DIP- α with Dpr10. Likewise, Dpr12-Fc binds to cells expressing DIP- δ , but not to cells co-expressing DIP- δ and Dpr12, which also indicates *cis* inhibition (Figs 2D and S4C and S4D).

Cis inhibition was not observed for all pairs of DIPs and Dprs. For example, binding of Dpr8-Fc was detected in cells expressing DIP- β -C or co-expressing DIP- β -C and Dpr8 (Fig 2E). Similarly, Dpr8-Fc was able to bind to cells expressing DIP- β -G or cells co-expressing DIP- β -G and Dpr10-A (Fig 2F). The lack of *cis* inhibition in these cases is notable because both DIP- β -G::Dpr10 and DIP- β ::Dpr8 are $< 10 \mu\text{M}$ interactions. We show below that the ability to inhibit in *cis* depends at least in part on the length of the linker that separates the most proximal Ig domain from the cell membrane.

Cell-cell flow cytometry experiments also show *cis* inhibition of *trans* binding

In light of the above results, we next tested whether *cis* inhibition can be detected in our flow cytometry assay (as shown in Fig 1, schematized in Fig 2G). These experiments were performed by mixing cells that express Dpr10-IRES-GFP with cells transfected with either DIP- α -IRES-mCherry, Dpr10-IRES-mCherry, or both. Additionally, B7-1 and p75^{NTR}, which are known to form a complex, were included as positive and negative controls for cell aggregation. While we detected cell aggregation between cells expressing Dpr10 and cells expressing DIP- α , co-expression of both DIP- α and Dpr10 ablated aggregation with Dpr10 expressing cells (Fig 2H–2K). In contrast, p75 expressing cells aggregated with cells expressing its cognate ligand B7-1 and also cells expressing both p75 and B7-1 (Fig 2I and 2J). Consistent with our results for cell-protein binding, these studies suggest that DIP- α interactions with Dpr10 in *cis* can inhibit *trans* interactions between DIP- α and Dpr10, and that not all adhesion molecules exhibit *cis* inhibition.

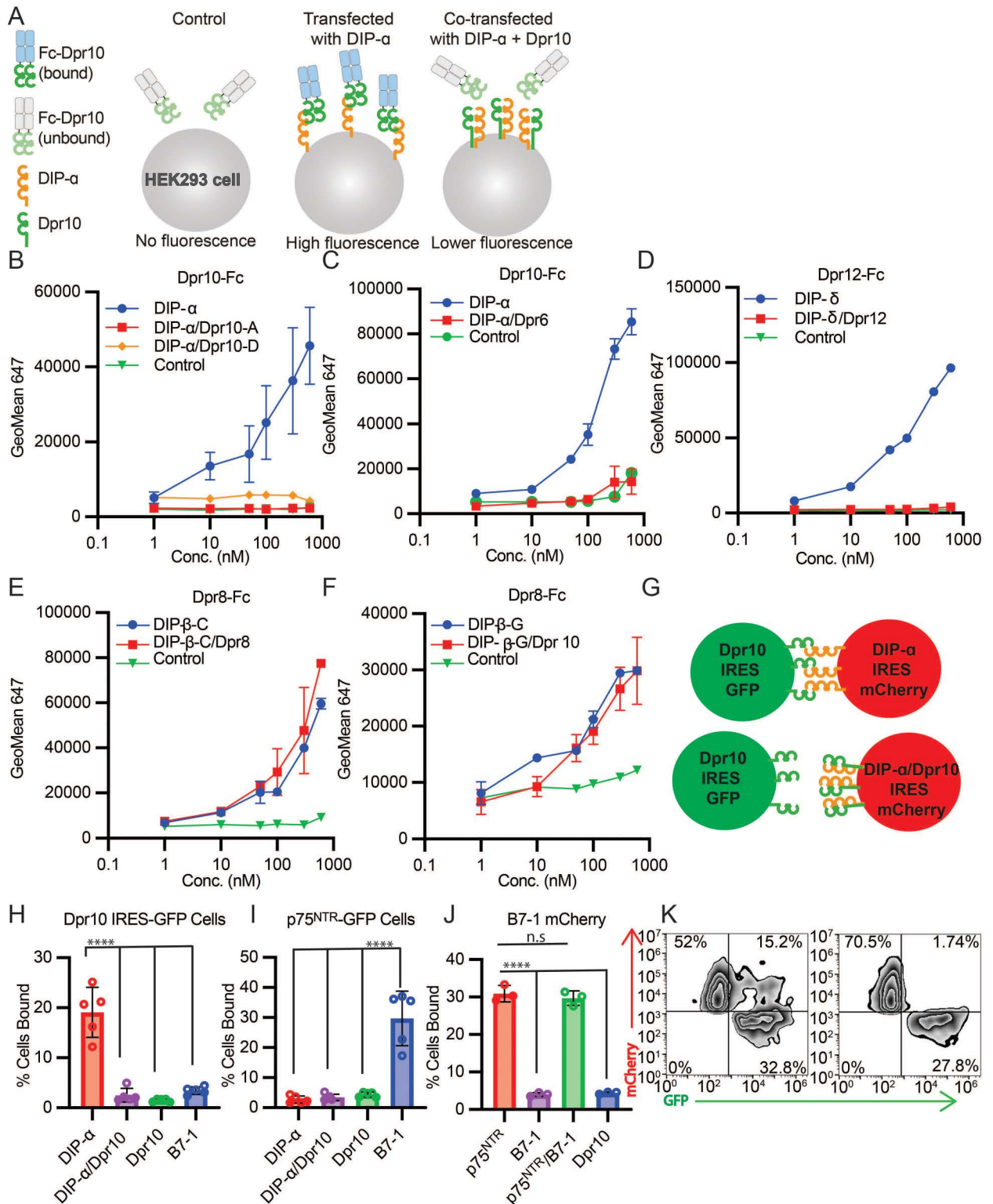


Fig 2. DIP- α interacts *incis* with Dpr10 and Dpr6. (A) Experimental scheme for *cis* inhibition with Fc fusion proteins. Cells are incubated with protein as indicated, and then binding is detected with an anti-Fc Alexa 647 labeled antibody using flow cytometry. Data is analyzed by plotting geometric mean of 647 signal of cells positive for both GFP and mCherry. Created with BioRender.com. (B) Titration of Dpr10-Fc from 1 to 600 nM onto HEK293F cells expressing DIP- α IRES mCherry, co-expressing DIP- α IRES mCherry and Dpr10-A, co-expressing DIP- α IRES mCherry and Dpr10-D, or control cells (transfected with GFP). (C) Same as (B), but with Dpr6 co-transfected. (D) Dpr12-Fc was titrated from

1 to 600 nM onto HEK293F cells expressing DIP- δ IRES mCherry, co-expressing DIP- δ IRES mCherry and Dpr12, or control (transfected with GFP) cells. (E) Dpr8-Fc was titrated from 1 to 600 nM onto HEK293F cells expressing DIP- β -C IRES mCherry, co-expressing DIP- β -C IRES mCherry and Dpr8, or control cells transfected with GFP. (F) Same as (E), but with DIP- β -G IRES mCherry co-transfected with Dpr10-A. (G) Experimental scheme for *cis* inhibition using cell aggregation. Cells expressing interacting/noninteracting pairs and different FPs were incubated together and aggregation were assessed by flow cytometry. Data is presented as % of FP positive cells that are positive for both GFP and mCherry. (H) Cells expressing Dpr10 IRES GFP or (I) p75^{NTR}-GFP were queried against cells expressing DIP- α , Dpr10, both DIP- α and Dpr10, or B7-1, all tagged with mCherry. (J) B7-1-mCherry was queried against cells expressing p75^{NTR}-GFP, p75^{NTR}-GFP and B7-1-GFP, or Dpr10 IRES GFP. Unlike in the DIP- α ::Dpr10 system, no difference in binding was observed to cells expressing both p75^{NTR}-GFP and B7-1-GFP. (K) Representative Zebra-plot demonstrating binding differences of DIP- α IRES mCherry cells with (left) Dpr10 IRES GFP expressing cells and (right) DIP- α /Dpr10 IRES mCherry cells. All data was analyzed using one way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, $n = 5$, **** $p < .0001$. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S2 Data](#).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030.g002>

Cis inhibition exploits the *trans* interface

To determine whether DIP- α ::Dpr10 *cis* interactions occur via the same interface used by *trans* interactions (Fig 3A), we examined whether a Dpr10 protein harboring the Y103D mutation, previously shown to disrupt the *trans* interface, can inhibit when expressed in *cis*. We titrated Dpr10-Fc onto cells co-expressing DIP- α and Dpr10-Y103D, as well as cells co-expressing DIP- α and Dpr12 (to control for possible changes in DIP- α expression). Dpr10-Fc binding was detected to cells expressing both co-transfected pairs, but not to cells co-expressing of DIP- α and WT Dpr10 (Fig 3B), suggesting that *cis* inhibition requires the same interface used for *trans* binding between these proteins.

Cis inhibition occurs on the cell surface

The above results do not differentiate if *cis* inhibition is a consequence of binding at the cell surface, or if binding occurs during trafficking in the ER/Golgi, possibly preventing cell surface localization. Ideally, addressing this question would require direct labeling of DIP- α . However, there are no readily available reagents that bind to DIP- α , and inserting a tag into the protein could alter its biophysical properties. Fortunately, the C-terminal region of DIP- α contains the amino acid sequence HHHHHHHH N-terminal to the predicted GPI anchor site (see below), which makes it possible to detect cell surface DIP- α with a fluorescently labeled anti-6xHis antibody. Using this approach, we observed the presence of cell surface DIP- α on live cells expressing DIP- α , or co-expressing DIP- α and Dpr10, DIP- α and Dpr6, or DIP- α and Dpr10-Y103D. DIP- β was included as a negative control. While DIP- β displayed no antibody binding (as expected due to the lack of an HHHHHHHH sequence), there were no differences in cell surface levels of DIP- α under any of the other conditions (Fig 3C). These results suggest that co-expression of Dpr10 does not prevent the trafficking and cell surface localization of DIP- α , and suggests that *cis* inhibition occurs on the cell surface.

Long linker lengths are needed for *cis* binding between cognate DIPs and Dprs

A striking feature of some DIPs is the presence of long extracellular stretches of amino acids C-terminal to the Ig domains. Notably, secondary structure prediction methods suggest that these regions are largely disordered. Recent experimental evidence showed that many *Drosophila* DIPs and Dprs are GPI-anchored to the cell membrane [24]. As a consequence, the effective linker length connecting structured domains to the membrane corresponds to the number of residues between the C-terminus of the membrane proximal Ig domain, Ig3 for DIPs and Ig2 for Dprs, and the ω -site.

Prior to testing if linker length is relevant to *cis* inhibition, we first identified the most plausible location of the GPI site that anchors these proteins to the cell membrane. Despite

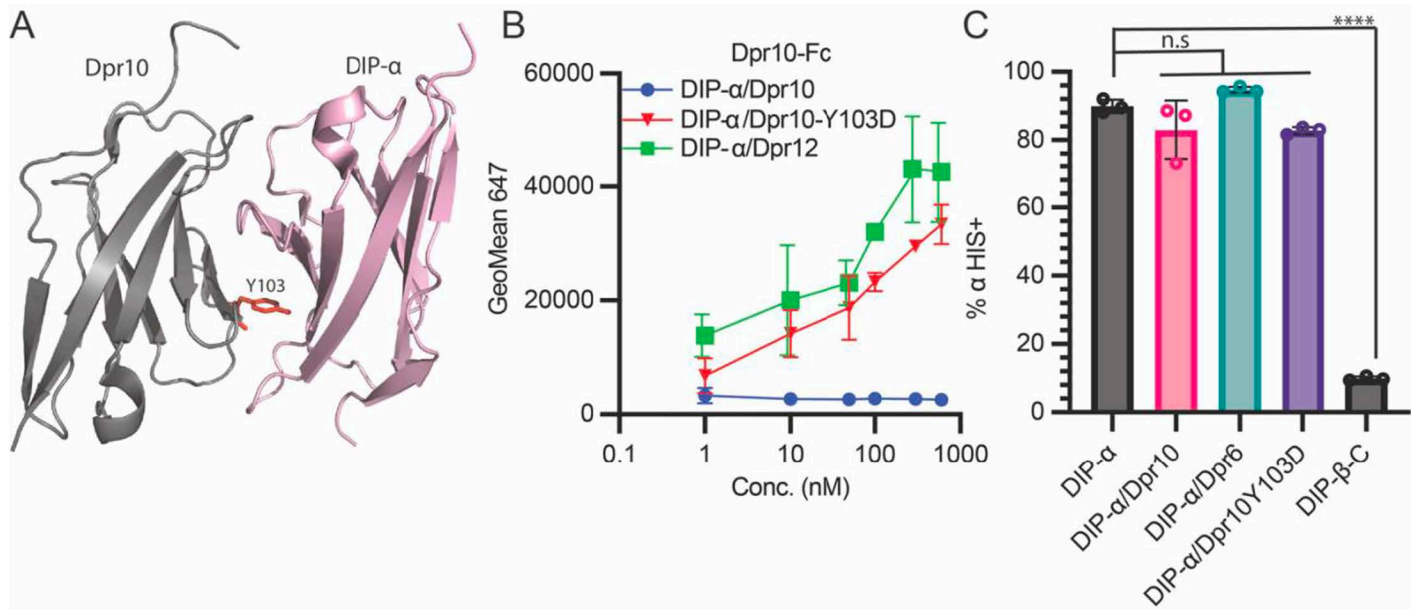


Fig 3. DIP- α induces *cis* inhibition with Dpr10 and Dpr6 through the *trans* interface. (A) Ribbon representation of DIP- α bound to Dpr10 (PDBID: 6NRQ). Mutation of Dpr10 Y103 residue (shown in red sticks) into aspartate disrupts the *trans* interface. (B) Dpr10-Fc was titrated from 1 to 600 nM onto HEK293F cells co-expressing DIP- α IRES mCherry and Dpr10, co-expressing DIP- α IRES mCherry and Dpr12, or co-expressing DIP- α IRES mCherry and Dpr10-Y103D. (C) Surface staining of DIP- α transfected alone, or co-transfected with Dpr10, Dpr6, or Dpr10-Y103D could be visualized with an anti HIS antibody (which interacts with poly HIS region of linker domain). DIP- β is included as a negative control. (All data was analyzed using one way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, $n = 5$, **** $p < .0001$). The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S3 Data](#).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030.g003>

experimental evidence to the contrary, GPI site prediction algorithms, NetGPI1.1 [25] and PredGPI [26], failed to identify GPI sites in some DIPs and Dprs [24]. Since these programs assume that the sites are located close to the C-terminus, we developed a computational protocol in which residues were deleted from the C-terminus, one by one, until the algorithms identified a ω -site (see Methods; [S5](#) and [S6 Figs](#) and [S2 Table](#)). The predicted ω -sites, along with the protein linker lengths to the membrane, are detailed in [Fig 4A](#) (based on data presented in [S6 Fig](#)). In *Drosophila melanogaster*, DIP- α is predicted to be GPI-anchored at S501, which results in a linker length of 161 amino acids between its Ig3 domain and the membrane. Conversely, DIP- β 's GPI anchor prediction is located at S458 with a notably shorter linker of 52 amino acids. DIP- δ possesses a predicted linker length of 112 amino acids, intermediate relative to DIP- α and DIP- β . In contrast, Dprs 6, 8, 10, and 12 are predicted to have relatively short linker regions ([Fig 4A](#)). Multiple sequence alignments (MSAs) of C-terminal regions of DIPs and Dprs for multiple *Drosophila* species (see Methods for details) reveal that the ω -sites and linker lengths we identified are well-conserved ([Figs 4A](#) and [S6B](#)).

To confirm the identification of ω sites, we generated two mutations for both DIP- α and DIP- β . The first (del-GPI) truncates both proteins from the start of the predicted GPI anchor ω site to the C-terminus. The second set of mutants disrupts the hydrophobic region of the GPI anchor signal motif for both proteins by mutating Leu-Leu to Glu-Glu ([Fig 5A](#) and [5B](#)). Both constructs were transfected into HEK293 cells and expressed mCherry via the IRES signal. 600 nM of Dpr10-Fc or Dpr8-Fc was incubated with either wild-type (WT) or mutated DIP- α and DIP- β , and binding was assessed via a 647-labeled antibody and detected via flow cytometry ([Fig 5A](#) and [5B](#)). While binding was detected to the WT proteins, neither mutant bound to their cognate Dpr for DIP- α and DIP- β . This suggests that these mutations perturb cell surface localization, and eliminate their predicted cell surface linkage. We note that

A

Protein	Linker length (different <i>Drosophila</i>), # amino acids	Linker length (<i>Drosophila Melanogaster</i>), # amino acids (ω -site residue, UNIPROT ID)
Dpr8 ^a	11	11 (N256, Q9VY33)
Dpr12	13	13 (S296, A1Z6H9)
Dpr6 ^a	11-17	17 (S290, X2J8X8)
Dpr10 ^b	22-27	22-27 (W320-G325, Q9VT83)
DIP- β ^a	51-52	52 (S458, B7Z153)
DIP- δ	110-118	112 (S447, A8JNC7)
DIP- α	128-174	161 (S501, Q9W4R3)

^aThe GPI signal is predicted only in truncated versions of the protein (using protocol in Figure S5).
^bPredGPI predicts the GPI signal in truncated protein versions, NetGPI does not. Multiple residues in range are predicted as ω -sites depending on the truncation choice.

B

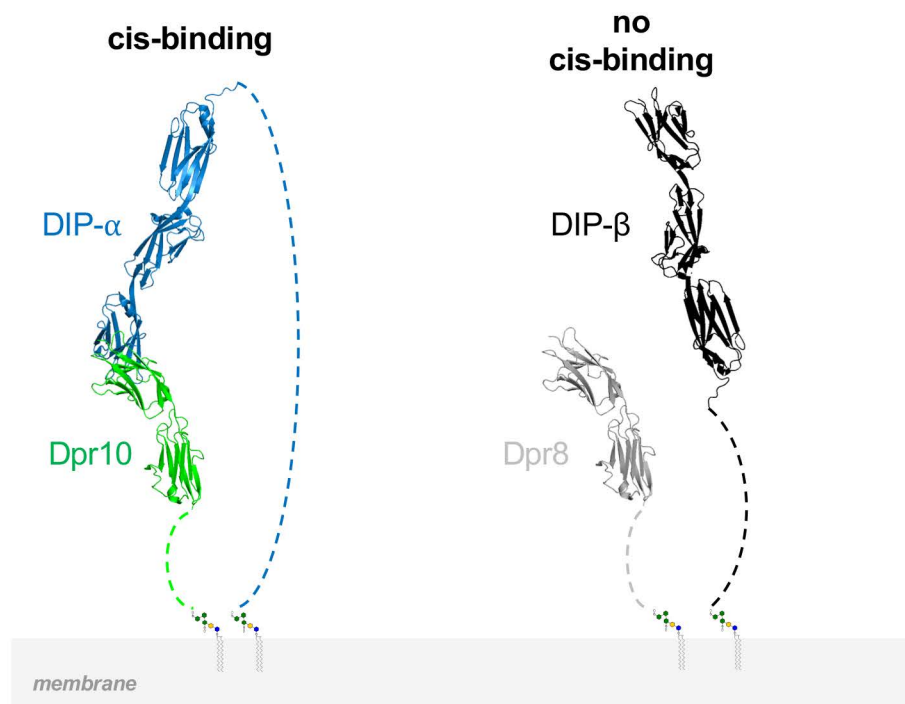


Fig 4. Linker length conservation and requirements in *Drosophila*. (A) Results of sequence analysis showing that linker lengths are conserved within different *Drosophila* species. (B) The left panel indicates that the linker length in DIP- α is long enough to span the five Ig domains of DIP- α ::Dpr10 complex. The right panel shows why the short linker in DIP- β is not able to accommodate *cis* binding. Extracellular domains of DIPs and Dprs are shown in ribbon representation. C-terminal tails connecting membrane proximal domains to the GPI anchor as dashed lines.

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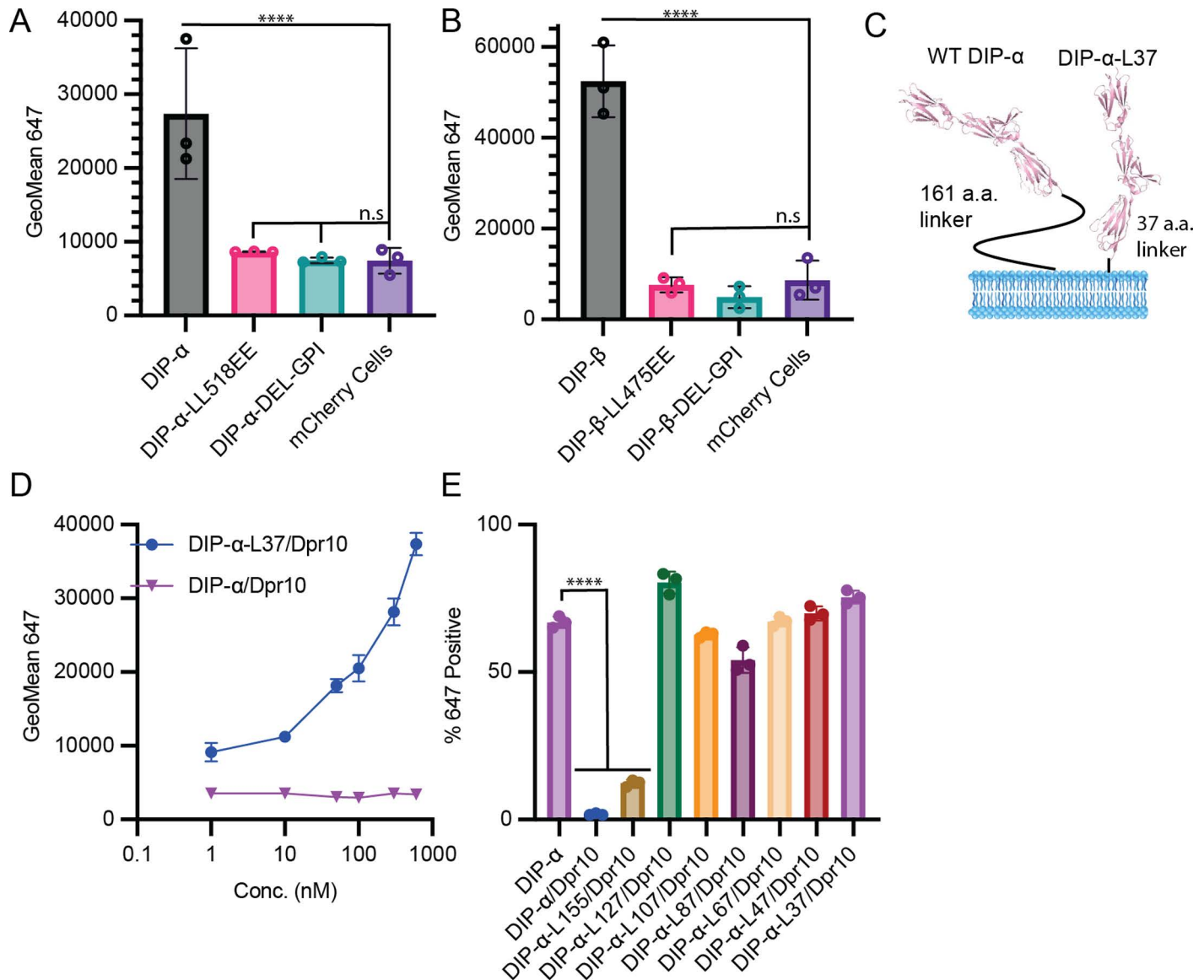


Fig 5. Long DIP- α Linker length is required for *cis* binding. (A) Dpr10-Fc binding to WT DIP- α and DIP- α hydrophobic GPI (+) region mutant (LL518EE), and truncation of GPI site mutant (DelGPI). Binding, assessed as described in Fig 2, was not detected to either mutant. (B) Dpr8-Fc binding to WT DIP- β and DIP- β hydrophobic GPI tail mutant (LL475EE), and truncation of GPI site mutant (DelGPI). Binding was not detected to either mutant. (C) Cartoon of a DIP- α linker mutant that has its linker region truncated to 34 amino acids, compared to wild type. Created with BioRender.com. (D) Titration of Dpr10-Fc onto cells expressing either WT DIP- α -L37/Dpr10 or DIP- α /Dpr10. Binding was not detected to DIP- α /Dpr10, but was detected to DIP- α -L37/Dpr10, conducted as in Fig 2. (E) A series of truncations of the DIP- α linker region (resulting in linker lengths between 37 and 155 amino acids) were made and assessed for *cis* inhibition by incubating with 300 nM Dpr10-Fc. Dpr10-Fc binding was observed with all co-transfections, except WT-DIP- α /Dpr10 and DIP- α -L155/Dpr10 (All data was analyzed using one way ANOVA with multiple comparisons, $n = 3$, **** $p < .0001$). The raw data underlying these figures can be found in S4 Data.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030.g005>

these mutants could in principle disrupt a transmembrane helix, for example in DIP- β , but given the experimental and computational evidence for a GPI site this possibility appears remote. Moreover, even if such a helix was present the linker length would remain essentially unchanged.

How might linker length affect binding in *cis*? We hypothesize that since *cis* and *trans* binding use the same interface, a long linker may be required to enable *cis* binding in a *trans*-like

orientation. The difference in linker length could explain differences between DIP- α/δ and DIP- β in their ability to inhibit in *cis*. As illustrated in Fig 4B, the linker would have to be long enough to span 5 Ig domains which, in the crystal structure (PDBID: 6EG0) [9], corresponds to about 165 Å. While the ensemble of conformations that are adopted by these linker regions is unknown, it is possible that longer linkers facilitate the formation of *cis* interactions. To test this hypothesis, a series of truncations were designed in which portions of the C-terminal linker of DIP- α were replaced by the three amino acids G-G-S, resulting in linkers of lengths 155, 127, 107, 87, 67, 47, or 37 amino acids (termed DIP- α -L155, DIP- α -L127, etc.). All truncations removed regions between Ig3 and the GPI anchor, to ensure that GPI anchorage and Ig domains remained intact. When co-transfected with Dpr10, all mutants maintained strong binding to Dpr10-Fc except for the 160 and 152-length linkers, indicating that shortened linkers prevent *cis* inhibition (Fig 5C–5E). Of note, DIP- α -L127, with a 127 amino acid long linker, cannot inhibit binding to Dpr10-Fc while WT DIP- δ , with a 112 amino acids (aa) linker, inhibits binding to Dpr12 (Fig 2D), suggesting that linker length may not be the only parameter that impacts *cis* inhibition.

Cis inhibition in the developing mushroom body

As an initial test to determine if *cis* inhibition between DIPs and Dprs can occur *in vivo*, we first turned to the *Drosophila* MB, where we recently established a role for Dpr12::DIP- δ *trans*-neuronal interactions during development [14].

The MB is comprised of three types of sequentially born intrinsic neurons— γ , α'/β' , and α/β , collectively known as Kenyon cells (KCs). The first-born γ -KCs undergo stereotypic remodeling during metamorphosis, which includes pruning of the larval axonal lobes, followed by regrowth of an adult-specific lobe [14]. Extrinsic neurons of the MB circuit, including MB output neurons and modulatory dopaminergic neurons (DANs) of two main clusters, innervate KC axons at discrete locations, thus defining distinct sub-axonal zones along the MB lobes. In the adult γ -lobe they define 5 zones termed γ 1– γ 5 [27,28] (Fig 6A). We previously discovered that formation of the adult γ 4/5 zones is mediated by *trans*-neuronal interactions between Dpr12 in γ -KCs and DIP- δ in DANs of the PAM cluster (PAM-DANs). Loss of either member of the cognate pair results in termination of γ -axon regrowth at the γ 3– γ 4 border, and thus failure to form the γ 4/5 zones [14] (see model in Fig 6A and representative images in Fig 6B and -6C).

To test whether *cis* inhibition can occur in this system, we mis-expressed DIP- δ in γ -KCs (which endogenously express Dpr12 but not DIP- δ). This manipulation indeed induced an axon extension defect resulting in malformation of the γ 4/5 zones, which, although milder, mimics the phenotype of *dpr12* mutants (Fig 6B–6D, quantified in Fig 6F). A plausible explanation for this effect is that the mis-expressed DIP- δ binds Dpr12 in *cis* within the γ -axon membranes, thereby "sequestering" Dpr12 and reducing its availability to *trans*-interact with DIP- δ in PAM-DANs. Once *trans*-neuronal interactions between γ -KCs and PAM-DANs are compromised, the γ 4/5 zones cannot properly form. Notably, this effect seems to be specific to DIP- δ , since, for example, overexpressing Dpr12 in γ -KCs did not affect zone formation and results in WT-like morphology (Fig 6B versus 6E, quantified in Fig 6F).

Dpr6 and Dpr10 interact with DIP- α in *cis* to regulate leg motor neuron terminal branch morphology in *Drosophila*

To further test for a potential role of *cis* inhibition *in vivo*, we focused on three adult leg MNs, α Ti-ltm, α Ti-tadm and α Fe-ltm, referred to here as the α MNs. We showed previously that all three α MNs express DIP- α while leg muscles express its cognate ligand, Dpr10 [12] (Fig

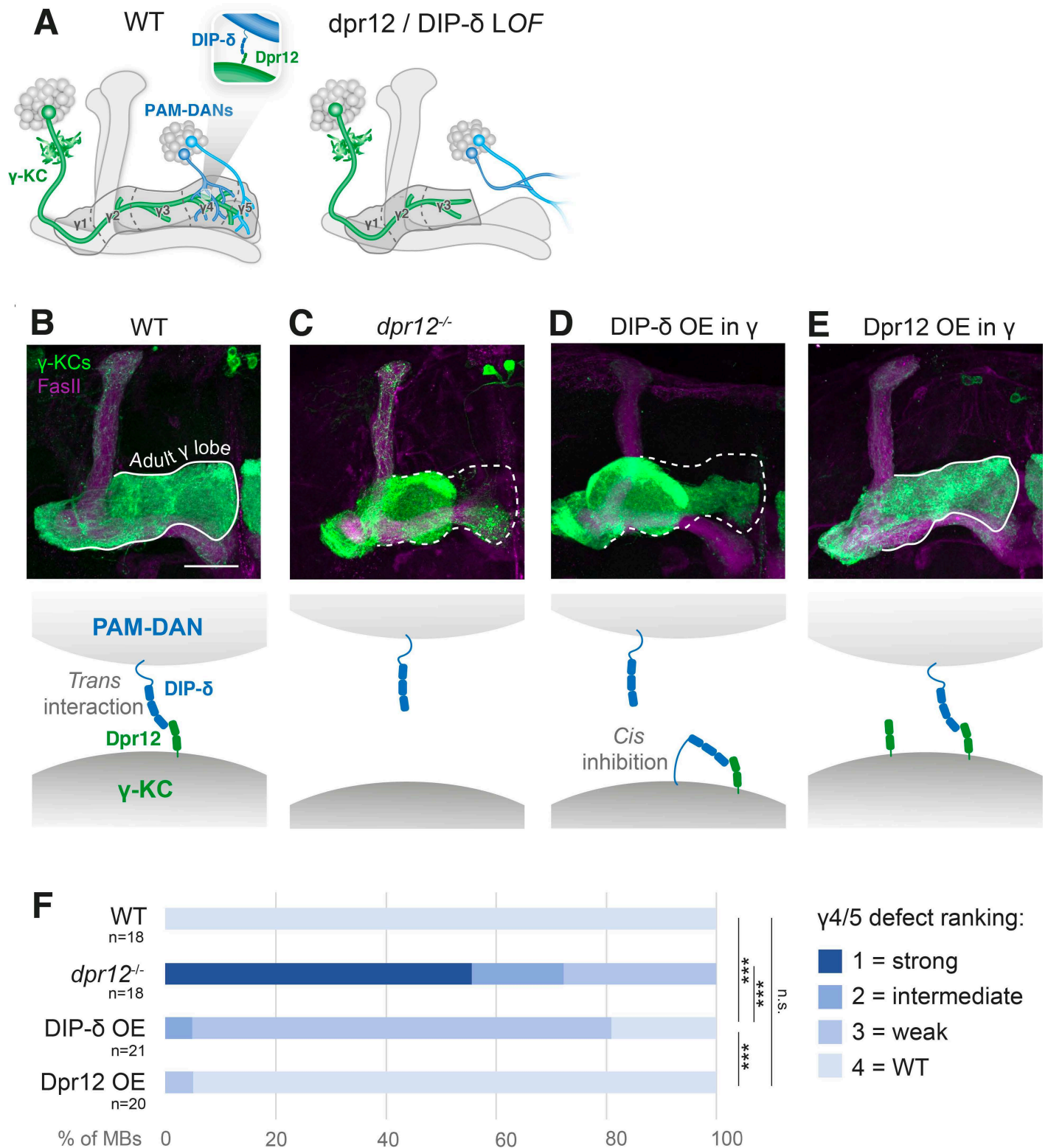


Fig 6. DIP- δ mis-expression in mushroom body γ -KCs mimics Dpr12 loss-of-function defective zone formation. (A) Schematic illustration of the adult mushroom body circuit in WT flies vs. Dpr12/DIP- δ mutants. γ -KCs, γ -Kenyon cells (green); PAM-DANs, dopaminergic neurons of the PAM-cluster (blue). Adapted from Bornstein and colleagues (2021). (B–E) Confocal z-projections of adult MBs in which the γ -specific R71G10-Gal4 drives expression of membrane-bound GFP (green), in WT flies. (B) *dpr12* homozygous mutants (C) or upon R71G10-Gal4-driven overexpression (OE) of either DIP- δ (D) or Dpr12 (E). The adult γ -lobe

is outlined by a solid white line when regrowth is normal (B, E). A dashed line indicates the putative adult γ -lobe in cases in which regrowth is (at least partially) arrested at the γ 3- γ 4 border (C, D). Magenta is FasII staining, which strongly labels α/β -KCs and weakly labels γ -KCs. Scale bar is 30 μ m. The schemes below illustrate the hypothesized model in each scenario. (F) Quantification of the γ 4/5 defect phenotypes in B–E, ranging from strong defect (dark blue) to WT-like morphology (light blue). *** is $p < 0.001$. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S5 Data](#).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030.g006>

7B–7C'). Mutants for either *DIP- α* or *dpr10* disrupt the terminal axon branches of the α MNs, suggesting that an interaction between *DIP- α* and *Dpr10* is essential for the stabilization of these branches [12]. Using MiMIC Gal4 insertions in these genes, we also find that *dpr6* and *dpr10* are expressed broadly in many leg MNs, including the α MNs (Fig 7D and 7E). Thus, the co-expression of *DIP- α* , *Dpr10*, and *Dpr6* in the α MNs raises the possibility that *cis* inhibition may be playing a functional role in these neurons during normal development.

If *cis* inhibition is occurring in these MNs, we reasoned that altering the ratio of *Dpr10*:*DIP- α* and *Dpr6*:*DIP- α* in α MNs might affect the ability of their terminal branches to form stable *trans* interactions with *Dpr10* on muscles. A Gal4 insertion into *DIP- α* that is expressed from 20h APF onwards in α MNs was used to overexpress either *dpr6* or *dpr10*, and the morphology of two of the three α MNs, α Ti-*ltm*, and α Ti-*tadm*, was examined (Fig 7G–7H'). Overexpressing either *dpr6* or *dpr10* in α MNs inhibited the formation of almost all α Ti-*ltm* terminal branches (Fig 7I–7L). This phenotype resembles the *DIP- α* and *dpr10* null phenotypes [12], where α Ti-*ltm* axons still reach their targets, but fail to form terminal branches. The effect on α Ti-*tadm*'s terminal branches is weaker, and it is only observed with *dpr10* but not *dpr6* overexpression. The different effects on these two MNs parallel the differences in the terminal branches of *DIP- α* and *dpr10* null mutants, where both α Ti-*ltm* and α Ti-*tadm* have different sensitivities to loss of *DIP- α* [12]. We also note that differences in the affinities between *Dpr6* and *Dpr10* to *DIP- α* (1.67 and 2.06 μ M, respectively) [9] and/or in the timing or cell surface distribution of *DIP- α* could also contribute to the different phenotypes. Notably, overexpression of *Dpr10*^{Y103D} in α MNs, which renders it unable to bind *DIP- α* , did not cause branching defects, confirming that the binding interface is required for *cis* inhibition and that *cis* inhibition is not simply due to overexpressing *Dpr10* (Fig 7K and 7L). Further, overexpression of *Dpr10* in muscles had no effect on the morphology of these MNs (S7A and S7B Fig), consistent with the idea that it is the relative abundance of *DIP- α* :*Dpr10* in MNs that regulates binding in *trans*.

Although the above results demonstrate that the ratio of a DIP and its cognate partner within a neuron can affect interactions in *trans*, they do not address whether this mechanism plays a role during normal development. To answer this question, we performed single and double knockdown experiments of *dpr6* and *dpr10* in α MNs (Figs 7M–7O and S7C–S7D). We hypothesized that a reduction of *dpr6* and *dpr10* in MNs might promote *DIP- α* :*Dpr10* *trans* interactions and potentially stabilize the interaction between α MNs and muscles. For these experiments, instead of the Gal4 insertion into the endogenous *DIP- α* locus (which is a hypomorphic allele) we used a previously described enhancer fragment from *DIP- α* 's regulatory region called A8, which is specifically expressed in the three α MNs to drive Gal4 [12]. Interestingly, although branch number is not affected, the double knockdown of *dpr6* and *dpr10* resulted in longer terminal branches in all three α MNs (Fig 7O). This knockdown phenotype also confirms that *dpr6* and *dpr10* are expressed in the α MNs. This phenotype was less severe for single knockdowns, suggesting that both *Dpr6* and *Dpr10* play a role in *cis* inhibition (S7C and S7D Fig). Along the same lines, we would expect that increasing the concentration of *DIP- α* in α MNs would also change the balance of *DIP- α* to favor *trans* over *cis* binding and should have a similar phenotype to the *dpr6* and *dpr10* double knockdown. Consistent with this expectation, overexpression of *DIP- α* in α MNs resulted in an increase in terminal branch length compared to controls for the α Ti-*ltm* and α Fe-*ltm* MNs (S8B Fig).

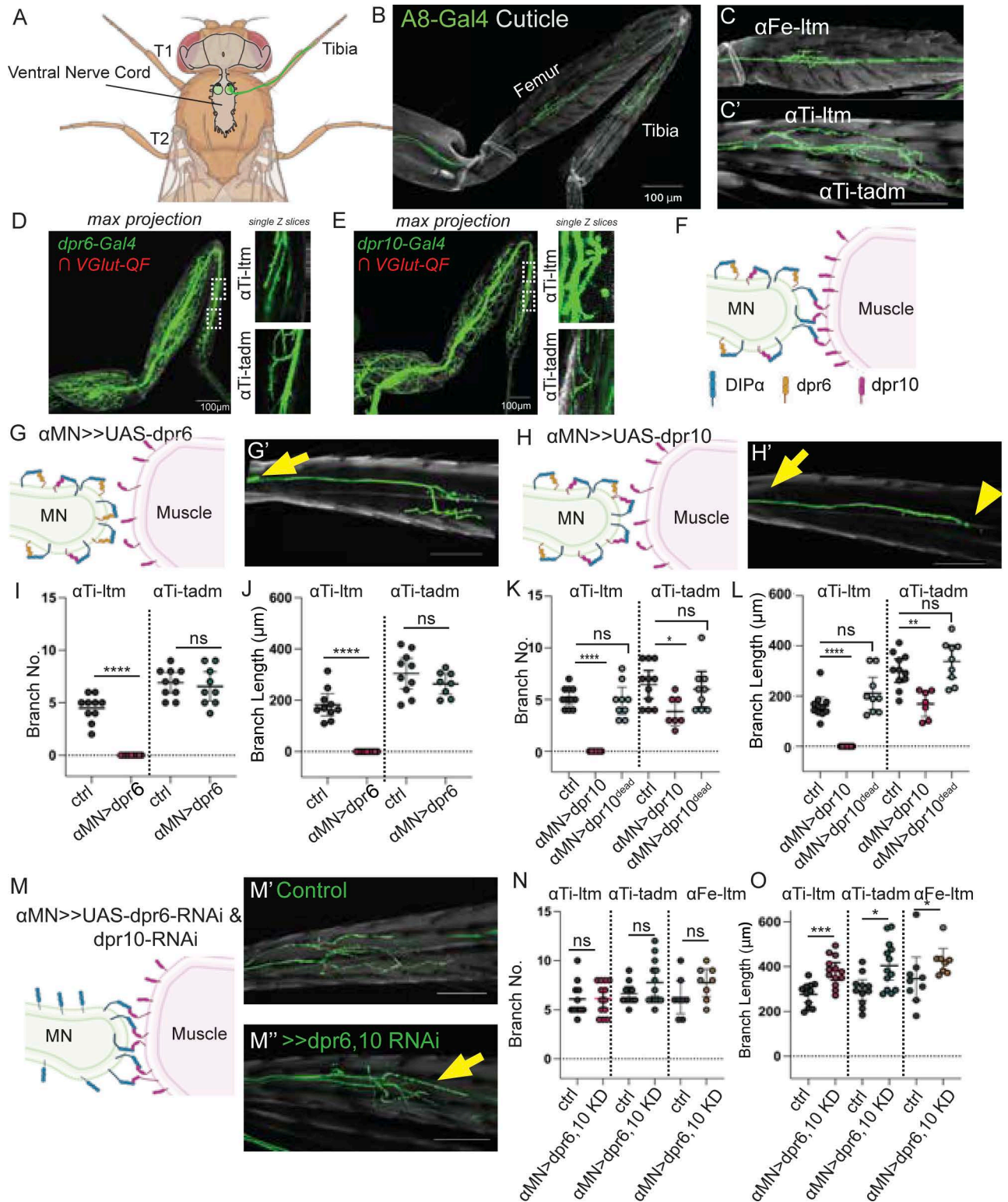


Fig 7. Coexpression of Dpr6, Dpr10, and DIP- α in MNs inhibits Dip- α -Dpr10 interactions in *trans* to regulate leg motor neuron morphology. (A) Schematic illustration of *Drosophila melanogaster* central nervous system and leg MNs. Created with BioRender.com. (B) A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP expressed in DIP- α expressing neurons (aMNs). (C) aMNs in Femur, α Fe-ltm. (scale bar = 100 μ m). (C') aMNs in Tibia, α Ti-ltm, and α Ti-tadm. (scale bar = 100 μ m). (D) *dpr6-T2A-Gal4* and (E) *dpr10-T2A-Gal4* are broadly expressed in leg MNs including the aMNs, using a genetic intersectional approach to eliminate expression in muscles. The images in D, E are reproduced from panel A of Fig

2—figure supplement 1 of reference [12]. (F) Model of *cis* regulation of *dpr6* and *dpr10* and *DIP-α*. (G) *cis* inhibition of *dpr6* and *DIP-α*. (G') Representative image of *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr6* tibia. (Scale bar = 100 μm). Yellow arrow shows absence of αTi-ltm terminal branches. (H) *cis* inhibition of *dpr10* and *DIP-α*. (H') Representative image of *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr10* tibia. Yellow arrow shows absence of αTi-ltm terminal branches. Yellow arrowhead absence of αTi-tadm terminal branches. (Scale bar = 100 μm). (I) Quantification of the number of αTi-ltm and αTi-tadm terminal branches. Ctrl, *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. αTi-ltm n = 10. αTi-tadm n = 10. *αMN>dpr6, DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr6*. αTi-ltm n = 9. αTi-tadm n = 9. (J) Quantification of the sum of αTi-ltm and αTi-tadm branch length. Ctrl, *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. αTi-ltm n = 10. αTi-tadm n = 10. *αMN>dpr6, DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr6*. αTi-ltm n = 9. αTi-tadm n = 9. (K) Quantification of the number of αTi-ltm and αTi-tadm terminal branches. Ctrl, *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. αTi-ltm n = 11. αTi-tadm n = 11. *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr10*. αTi-ltm n = 7. αTi-tadm n = 7. *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr10Y103DaTi-ltm* n = 9. αTi-tadm n = 9. (L) Quantification of the sum of αTi-ltm and αTi-tadm branch length. Ctrl, *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. αTi-ltm n = 11. αTi-tadm n = 11. *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr10*. αTi-ltm n = 7. αTi-tadm n = 7. *DIP-α-T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr10Y103DaTi-ltm* n = 9. αTi-tadm n = 9. (M) Double knockdown (KD) of *dpr6* and *dpr10* in MNs (in *cis*). (M') *A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP* control animals. (scale bar = 100 μm). (M'') *A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr6-RNAi, UAS-dpr10-RNAi*. (scale bar = 100 μm). Yellow arrow indicates elongated branches. (N) Quantification of the number of αFe-ltm, αTi-ltm, αTi-tadm terminal branches. Ctrl, *A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. αTi-ltm n = 11. αTi-tadm n = 11. αFe-ltm n = 9. *αMN>dpr6, 10KD, A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr6-RNAi, UAS-dpr10-RNAi*. αTi-ltm n = 13. αTi-tadm n = 13. αFe-ltm n = 10. (O) Quantification of the sum of αFe-ltm, αTi-ltm and αTi-tadm branch length. Ctrl, *A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. αTi-ltm n = 11. αTi-tadm n = 11. αFe-ltm n = 8. *αMN>dpr6, 10KD A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-dpr6-RNAi, UAS-dpr10-RNAi* αTi-ltm n = 13. αTi-tadm n = 13. αFe-ltm n = 8. For all graphs, statistical significance was determined using an unpaired nonparametric two-tailed Mann-Whitney test. Error bars represent mean with 95% confidence intervals. ns = no statistical difference. **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01, ****p* < 0.001, *****p* < 0.0001. T1, Prothoracic segment; T2, mesothoracic segment; T2, metathoracic segment; L3, Late 3rd instar; H, Hours after pupal formation; Ad, Adult Ctrl-Control; MN, motor neuron; KD, knockdown. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S6 Data](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3003030.g007).

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Finally, we also tested the role of linker length in *DIP-α*'s ability to be inhibited in *cis*. Based on the experiments carried out in cells (Fig 5), the prediction is that if *DIP-α*'s linker is truncated, *cis* inhibition would be compromised, leading to more *DIP-α* available for *trans* interactions. To test this, we used CRISPR/Cas9 to generate the same 124 amino acid deletion as in *DIP-α-L37* in the endogenous *DIP-α* locus, creating the *DIP-α^{short}* allele. This allele is functional because, unlike null alleles, the terminal branches for all three αMNs were intact in *DIP-α^{short}* homozygote animals (Fig 8C). However, the terminal branch lengths of the αTi-ltm were longer compared to controls (Fig 8C and 8D), a phenotype that is shared by other manipulations that reduce *cis* inhibition, such as the double knockdown of *dpr6* and *dpr10*. The increase in branch length was not observed for the αFe-ltm and αTi-tadm, suggesting that *cis* inhibition may not be fully abolished by the *DIP-α^{short}* allele.

In summary, when *cis* inhibition is enhanced, for example by increasing the levels of *Dpr10* in αMNs, fewer and/or shorter terminal branches are observed. In contrast, whenever *cis* inhibition is compromised, either by truncating *DIP-α*'s linker or by increasing the ratio of *DIP-α*:*Dpr10* in MNs, longer terminal branches are observed. Taken together, these consistent changes in αMN terminal branch morphology suggest that *cis* inhibition fine tunes the development of these MNs.

Discussion

Here, we combine *in vitro* cell assays and *in vivo* genetic manipulations to demonstrate that DIPs and Dprs can interact in *cis* to inhibit *trans* interactions. In agreement with our findings, Dombrowski and colleagues (2024) have recently reported *cis*-inhibition involving *DIP-ε* and five *Dpr* paralogs that bind *DIP-ε* [29]. *Cis* inhibition appears to be a widespread phenomenon among CAMs as it has been observed in several other systems including Notch/Delta [30,31], ephrins/Ephs [32], semaphorins/plexins [33], neuroligins/neurexins [34], Sdks [21], and IgLONs [35–37], which are the closest vertebrate homologs to the DIPs and Dprs. *Cis* inhibition has also been shown to be important for several developmental processes such as neurogenesis, axon guidance and neural tissue patterning [38,39]. Interestingly, and in contrast to many other examples, *DIP::Dpr cis* and *trans* interactions occur via the same interface, as evident from experiments in which disrupting the well-characterized *trans* interface ablates *cis* inhibition.

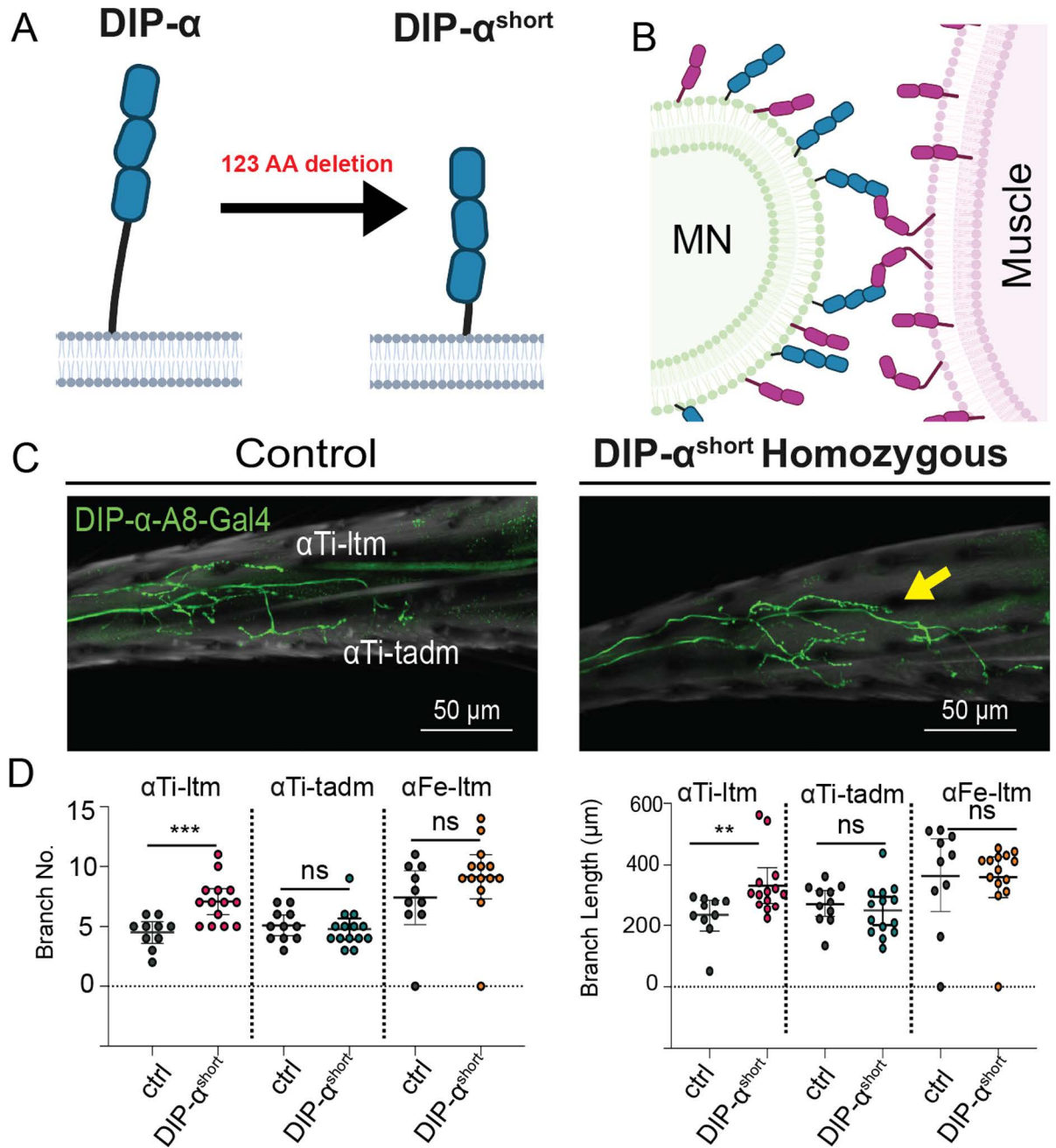


Fig 8. Compromised cis inhibition of the *DIP- α^{short}* allele in MNs. (A) Schematic illustration of the truncated DIP- α protein, *DIP- α^{short}* . Created with BioRender.com. (B) Model of how *DIP- α^{short}* allele can only interact in trans. (C) Representative Images of *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*, controls, and *DIP- α^{short}* homozygous animals, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. Yellow arrow indicates longer α Ti-ltm axon. Scale bar = 50 μ m. (D) Quantification of the number of α Ti-ltm, α Ti-tadm, and α Fe-ltm terminal branches. Ctrl, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4 20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 11. α Ti-tadm n = 11. α Fe-ltm n = 11. *DIP- α^{short}* homozygous animals, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 14. α Ti-tadm n = 14. α Fe-ltm n = 14. Quantification of the sum of α Ti-ltm, α Ti-tadm, and α Fe-ltm, branch length. Ctrl, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4 20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 11. α Ti-tadm n = 11. α Fe-ltm n = 11. *DIP- α^{short}* homozygous animals, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 14. α Ti-tadm n = 14. α Fe-ltm n = 14. For all graphs statistical significance was determined using an unpaired nonparametric two-tailed Mann-Whitney test. Error bars represent mean with 95% confidence intervals. ns = no statistical difference. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Ctrl, Control; MN, motor neuron. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S7 Data](#).

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We demonstrate *cis* inhibition for two pairs of DIP::Dpr interactions: Dpr6/10 can inhibit DIP- α , and Dpr12 can inhibit DIP- δ (Fig 2). Isoform G of DIP- β interacts with Dpr10 with a K_D of 5.76 μ M (S2 Fig), but does not exhibit *cis* inhibition when expressed on the same cell as DIP- β -G (Fig 2F). This implies that some determinants of *cis* inhibition are not localized to the binding interface. Our experiments with truncated linker regions offer a possible mechanism that *cis* inhibition depends on the length of the linker between the C-terminus of the Ig3 domain and the site of the GPI anchor on DIP- α . This linker region is predicted to be largely unstructured and is sufficiently long and flexible to allow for interactions between DIP- α and Dpr10 molecules localized on the same membrane using the same interface as when interacting in *trans*. Notably, there are other examples (including Notch/Delta, Sdks and IgLONs), that are thought to interact both in *cis* and in *trans* via the same interface. In these cases, either multiple EGF domain repeats (for Notch/Delta) or FN3 repeats (for Sdks) appear to provide the necessary flexibility. The mammalian IgLONs, which are closely related to DIPs and Dprs [40], have short linker regions so the mechanism proposed here would not be applicable. However, because all IgLONs have three Ig domains, their orientation on membrane surfaces may permit the formation of a *cis* interaction without the need for a flexible linker [36,37]. Future experiments such as those described here will be required to test this possibility.

While we hypothesize that DIP::Dpr *cis* interactions occur at the cell surface, and that linker length is a key molecular determinant for these interactions, additional mechanisms may also contribute to *cis* inhibition. For example, it is possible that co-expression affects cell surface expression levels, possibly via altering the rate of endocytosis of these receptors. Though our IRES vector based expression strategy has the advantage of expressing full-length, native proteins without tags, it has the caveat of not allowing for direct measurement of cell surface localization. Nevertheless, we show that DIP- α is still trafficked to the cell surface when co-expressed with Dpr10 (Fig 3C), strongly arguing that *cis* inhibition occurs at the cell membrane. The observation that not all DIP::Dpr pairs lead to *cis* inhibition (i.e., DIP- β ::Dpr8 and DIP- β ::Dpr10), provides further evidence that cell surface levels are not affected by co-expression of interacting pairs. While we point out the difference in linker length between DIP- α , DIP- β , and DIP- δ , *cis* inhibition will need to be tested in all DIP::Dpr pairs to determine the extent of its role in the full DIP/Dpr interactome.

An additional question posed by these experiments is why *cis* interactions appear to almost completely outcompete *trans* interactions despite using the same interface (and thus having the same solution affinity). We suggest that because *cis* interactions occur on the same cell surface, their effective affinity in *cis* is much higher than in *trans* due to a local boost in concentration, thus increasing avidity. We also note that the experiments presented here only investigate end point phenotypes, and do not evaluate the dynamic regulation of *cis* interacting DIPs and Dprs in real time. Such studies using techniques such as single molecule localization microscopy (SMLM) [41], fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET), or proximity ligation assays (PLAs) would potentially be valuable but challenging follow-up studies that could directly reveal the dynamic behavior of these receptors in real time.

In addition to mechanistic insights, we also demonstrated that *cis* inhibition impacts fly neurodevelopment. Consistent with our biochemical experiments showing *cis* inhibition of Dpr12 by DIP- δ , we used the well-characterized MB system to show that this inhibition could also be observed *in vivo* (Fig 6). Notably, *dpr12* null mutants show a significantly more severe phenotype than that of DIP- δ overexpression. This is consistent with the idea that the *cis* "sequestering" effected by DIP- δ is probably not absolute, and some Dpr12 remains available for *trans* interactions. DIP- δ and Dpr12 are not endogenously co-expressed in MB neurons, and our overexpression experiments do not indicate a role for

DIP- δ /Dpr12 *cis* inhibition in normal MB development. Interestingly, other neuronal systems, such as subsets of fruitless (*fruP1*)-expressing neurons [14], do co-express DIP- δ and Dpr12, implying a potential functional role for *cis* inhibition in these cases.

In the adult fly leg, we showed that the relative levels of DIP- α and Dpr6/10 within MNs regulate the morphology of their terminal branches, further supporting the idea that DIP- α and Dpr10/6 interact in *cis in vivo*. We interpret the longer branch lengths observed when *cis* inhibition was compromised, such as when Dpr6 and Dpr10 levels were reduced in MNs, as a consequence of increasing the amount of DIP- α available to bind Dpr10 in muscles, thereby stabilizing the interaction between MN filopodia and muscles. Similarly, replacing the endogenous *DIP- α* allele with one that has a truncated linker, or over-expressing DIP- α in MNs, also resulted in longer terminal branches. Conversely, expressing higher than normal levels of Dpr6/10 in MNs resulted in a decrease in the number of terminal branches. Taken together, these data strongly support the idea that *cis*-expressed Dpr10/6 fine tunes the morphology of MNs that express their cognate partner, DIP- α .

Methods

Generation of DIP/Dpr mCherry and GFP Constructs

Full length constructs of the DIP/Dpr transcript variants (DIP- α isoform A, DIP- β isoforms C and G, DIP- δ isoform E, DIP- ϵ , and DIP- ζ , Dpr6, Dpr8 isoform B, Dpr9, Dpr10 isoforms A and D, and Dpr12 isoform C) were synthesized by Genscript and Subcloned into psDNA3.1(+) in between the restriction sites *NheI* and *BamHI*. All biochemistry experiments were conducted using Dpr10 isoform A unless otherwise noted. The full length genes were then subcloned into the vectors psDNA3.1(+) IRES GFP (*NheI* and *BamHI*) (<https://www.addgene.org/51406/>) and pCI-Neo - IRES mCherry (*EcoRI* and *XbaI*) (<https://www.addgene.org/52119/>).

Tissue culture and transient transfection

HEK293 Freestyle suspension cells were cultured in HEK Freestyle Media (Invitrogen, 12338018) grown at 37 °C in a humidified shaking platform incubator with 10% CO₂. For transfection, cells were pelleted at 500 × g and resuspended in fresh media. For small-scale (1 mL cells at 1 × 10⁶/mL) transient transfections performed in 24-well non-treated tissue culture plates, 10 μL of 293Fectin (ThermoFisher Cat# 12347019) was added 330 μL of Opti-MEM (ThermoFisher Cat# 31985062), and incubated for 5 min at room temperature (RT). Ten μL of transfection mixture was then added to 1,000 ng of DNA, and incubated at RT for 30 min, after which it was added to HEK293 Freestyle cells in 24-well plates to 0.5 μg diluted plasmid DNA in a final volume of 100 μL. For co-transfections of DIPs and Dprs, 500 ng of each plasmid was used.

Site directed mutagenesis to generate Dpr10-Y103D, DIP- α -DEL-GPI, and DIP- β -LL475EE was performed using high fidelity KOD Hot State polymerase, 2 mM dNTPs and 4 mM MgCl₂ (EMD Millipore, 71086-3). The template used for the mutagenesis included the coding sequence for each DIP/Dpr in the appropriate vector generated above.

Cell-cell binding experiments

For cell-cell binding experiments, libraries and query ligands were transfected in small scale as described above. One to two days post-transfection, cells were diluted to 1 × 10⁶ cells/mL in PBS 0.2% BSA, pH 7.4. Binding reactions were setup in 96-well V-bottom plates by mixing equal volumes of challenger (Dpr-IRES GFP expressing cells) and DIP mCherry or DIP/Dpr mCherry expressing cells. After binding, cell-cell conjugates were analyzed by flow cytometry using Novocyte Quanteon (Agilent) or SH800S Cell Sorter (SONY). The percent bound was

calculated as the number of double-positive events (GFP and mCherry) divided by the total number of transfected cells. Analysis of flow data was done in FlowJo (FlowJo LLC).

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) binding experiments

SPR binding assays were performed using a Biacore T100 biosensor equipped with a Series S CM4 sensor chip. DIP- α , DIP- β (both isoforms), and DIP- λ were immobilized over independent flow cells using amine-coupling chemistry in HBS pH 7.4 (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl) buffer at 25 °C using a flow rate of 20 μ L/min. Dextran surfaces were activated for 7 min using equal volumes of 0.1 M NHS(N-Hydroxysuccinimide) and 0.4 M EDC(1-Ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide). Each protein of interest was immobilized at ~30 μ g/mL in 10 mM sodium acetate, pH 5.5 until the desired immobilization level was achieved. The immobilized surface was blocked using a 4-min injection of 1.0 M ethanol-amine, pH 8.5. Typical immobilization levels ranged between 700 and 900 RU. To minimize nonspecific binding the reference flow cell was blocked by immobilizing BSA in 10 mM sodium acetate, pH 4.25 for 3 min using a similar amine-coupling protocol as described above.

Binding analysis was performed at 25 °C in a running buffer of 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.2, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mg/mL BSA, and 0.01% (v/v) Tween-20. Analytes were prepared in running buffer and using a 3-fold dilution series. Dprs 8 and 21 were tested at seven concentrations ranging from 0.012 to 9 μ M. Interactions of Dpr9 with DIP- β isoforms and Dpr10-A with DIP- β -G, DIP- α , and DIP- λ were tested using concentrations ranging from 0.012 to 27 μ M. A more extended concentration range of 0.012–81 μ M was used for the remaining interactions to account for their higher K_D s. Samples were tested in duplicate in order of increasing concentration. A binding cycle consisted of a 30 s association phase followed by a 120 s dissociation phase, each performed at 50 μ L/min, and a buffer wash step of 60 s at 100 μ L/min. Dpr analytes were replaced by buffer every three binding cycles to double-reference the binding signals by removing systematic noise and instrument drift. The responses between 25 and 29 s, at which point the binding reactions achieve equilibrium as observed by the flat binding responses, were plotted against the concentration of analyte. The data was fit to 1:1 interaction model and the K_D was calculated as the analyte concentration that would yield 0.5 R_{\max} [42]. The data was processed using Scrubber 2.0 (BioLogic Software). For all SPR experiments, monomeric protein was used. This is in contrast to cell based assays, in which dimeric protein was used. Dpr10-D is not included here as it was previously published [9].

Purification of recombinant Fc-fusion protein

To clone Dpr-Fc-fusion protein, the first two Ig domains (Dpr10: residues 35–236, Dpr8: residues 40–244, Dpr12: residues 71–285) DNA encoding full length WT proteins were sub-cloned into a vector containing a C-terminal hexa his-tagged Fc domain (rat IgG1-His6). For Dpr10, the expression constructs as well as mIgG2a and hIgG1 isotype control constructs were transiently expressed in 50 mL of ExpiHEK 293 suspension cells and transfected according to manufacturer guidelines. Seven days post-transfection, the media was harvested, 50 mM MES was added to adjust to pH 6.5 and 100 mM Arg-Cl (pH 6.5) was added to enhance solubility. Fc-fusions were subsequently purified by Ni^{2+} His60 chromatography (GE) using a batch binding method (3 mL resin bed volume) followed by gravity flow over a column. The Ni^{2+} His60 resin was washed with three column volumes of wash buffer (50 mM MES pH 6.5, 100 mM Arg-Cl, 5 mM imidazole, 150 mM NaCl, 10% Glycerol) and the bound protein eluted with 5 mL the same buffer containing 500 mM imidazole. Nickel column elutes were concentrated and further purified by gel filtration on an S200 Sephadex column (MilliporeSigma,

GE29321905) equilibrated with 50 mM MES pH 6.5, 100 mM Arg-Cl, 150 mM NaCl, 10% Glycerol. All recombinant proteins were used within 1 week of purification or were frozen at -80°C and only thawed one time. Frozen aliquots of protein were utilized, but routinely checked for potential aggregation by analytical size chromatography). Protein for SPR experiments was produced as previously described [9].

For DIP- β -G, the sequence below was used: “FEPDFVIPLNVTIAQGRDATFTCVVNNLGGHRVAWIKADAKAILAIHEHVITNNDRLSVQHNDYNTWTLNIRGVKMEDAGKYMCQVNTDPMKMQTATLEVVIPPDIINEETSGDMMVPEGGSACLVCRRARGHPKPKIT-WRREDGREIARNGSHQKTKAQSVEGEMTLTKITRSEMGA YMCIASNGVPPVSKRMKLQVHFHPLVQVPNQLVGAPVLTDTVTLICNVEASPKAINYWQRENGEMIIAGDRYAL-TEKENNMYAIEMLHIKRLQSSDFGGYKCSKNSIGDTEGTIRLYEMEHHHHHH”.

For Dpr10-A, the sequence below was used: “WNEPYFDLTMPRNITSLVGKSAYLG-CRVKHLGNKTVAWIRHRDLHILTVGTYTYTTDQRFQTSYHRDIDEWTLQIKWAQQRDAGVYECQISTQPVRYSVNLNIVDLIDAETS DIMQQYYNDDAFYIAENRVYQSSN-DEFAGMFGPIQTVAVPTATILGGPDLYVDKGSTINLT CIIKFSPEPPTHIFWYHQDKVL-SEETSGGRLKFKTIKSEETKSILLIYDADLLHSGKYSCYPSNTEIASIRVHVLQGEHHHHHHH”.

All other proteins were previously expressed in the above reference.

Fc-fusion protein Cell titration experiments

Flow cytometry titration assays were performed with Dpr10, Dpr8, and Dpr12 Fc fusion proteins purified as described above. Cells were transfected with constructs expressing DIP-IRES mCherry or co-expressed with a Dpr-IRES mCherry construct. One to two days post-transfection cells were counted and diluted to 1×10^6 cells/mL in $1 \times$ PBS 0.2% BSA, pH 7.4. Forty-five μL of cells were then added to 96-well plates (Thermo Scientific 262162), and 5 μL of Dpr-Fc protein diluted in $1 \times$ PBS 0.2% BSA at 10 times the desired concentration was added. Ninety-six-well plates were then incubated on an Alexa E5 Platform Shaker (New Brunswick Scientific) for 45 min at RT. Cells were then washed three times by centrifuging and removing supernatant, and then incubated with an anti-rat secondary antibody (ThermoFisher, A-21247) diluted 1:300 in $1 \times$ PBS 0.2% BSA, and again incubated for 30 min shaking, washed three times, and then analyzed by flow cytometry on a Novocyte Quanteon (Agilent) or SH800S Cell Sorter (SONY). Gated live cells were sub-gated for mCherry or mCherry/GFO, and GFP-positive cells were sub-gated for Alexa-647. Analysis of flow data was done in FlowJo (FlowJo LLC). For anti HIS tag binding experiments with DIP- α , the above procedure was adapted using the antibody ab76949 (Abcam). The antibody was diluted 1:200 in PBS BSA.

Computational protocol for GPI-anchor site prediction

Theoretical predictions regarding the mode of membrane attachment in this neuronal protein family have been inconclusive [24]. Notably, only a handful of family members, including Dpr12, DIP- δ , and DIP- α were predicted to possess a GPI-anchor site (ω -site) when using the default settings of prediction programs such as NetGPII.1 [43] and PredGPI [44] that assume that the site is proximal to the C-terminus. Dpr12, DIP- δ , and DIP- α were predicted to contain such sites but despite experimental evidence to the contrary many DIP/Dpr family members, including Dpr6, Dpr8, Dpr10, and DIP- β , were not computationally predicted to have GPI sites.

The ω -site, which designates the location where the protein is cleaved and subsequently connects with the GPI anchor, is generally believed to be located near the C-terminus [43]. The ω -site is defined by a distinct amino acid sequence (highlighted in red in S6A Fig) that is identified by the transamidase complex. Following the ω -site, GPI-anchored proteins typically

exhibit a short hydrophilic region (illustrated in blue) succeeded by 10–20 hydrophobic amino acids (depicted in orange). This sequence acts as the GPI attachment motif and is removed during the GPI attachment process.

In order to extend GPI anchor site prediction, we developed an approach premised on the idea that the GPI motif might not always be positioned proximal to the C-terminus. Our step-by-step procedure for ω -site prediction, illustrated using DIP- β as an example, is depicted in S5 Fig. First, we generate truncated versions of the protein. This involves systematically removing one residue at a time from the C-terminal tail (see S5A Fig). All the truncated sequence versions are then batch submitted to the prediction webserver at NetGPI-1.1 [25]. Next, we examine the batch submission's tabulated results to pinpoint the ω -site's position. Using DIP- β as a case in point: the full-length WT protein, comprising 555 aa, is not predicted as GPI-anchored. However, its truncated versions, ranging from 477 to 499 aa in length, are. These truncated forms consistently identify the ω -site at Ser458 (refer to S5B Fig). In the WT DIP- β sequence, the NetGPI probability for the ω -site reveals a faint signal at S458. Yet, this signal isn't strong enough for the algorithm to register a positive prediction (see S5C Fig). In contrast, the truncated versions exhibit a significantly amplified NetGPI probability signal (as highlighted in S5D Fig).

Our initial protocol did not yield successful identification of GPI-anchor sites in Dpr10. Therefore, we adopted a different algorithm, PredGPI [26,44], to analyze the truncated versions of the Dpr10 protein (see S2 Data). Instead of a consensus prediction, the ω -site was identified within a sequence range from W320 to G325.

It's noteworthy that similar patterns of multiple potential sites were observed across various *Drosophila* species. In various fruit flies, the GPI motifs of selected DIPs and Dprs are annotated in the MSAs presented in S6B Fig. MSAs were performed on orthologous sequences of DIPs and Dprs using Clustal Omega [45] and visualized with Jalview [46]. While multiple isoforms exist for each DIP/Dpr protein, only the longest isoforms were incorporated into the MSAs. *Drosophila* species with only intermediate sequencing coverage [47]—insufficient to consistently discern all protein isoforms or determine their full length—were omitted from our analysis. Ω -sites, detected with the computational method described above, are underlined in red while the putative hydrophobic region characteristic of GPI sites is highlighted with an orange underline (see S6B Fig). The presence of both regions in the MSAs further supports our identification of GPI sites.

***Drosophila melanogaster* rearing and strains**

All fly strains were reared under standard laboratory conditions at 25 °C on molasses or cornmeal containing food. Males and females were chosen at random. The relevant developmental stage is adult, which refers to 3–5 days post-eclosion. UAS-DIP- δ , UAS-Dpr12, and the dpr12 mutant allele $\Delta 50$ –81 were all previously generated by the Schuldiner lab [14]. R71G10-GAL4 on the 2nd chromosome was also generated by the Schuldiner lab [48]. UAS-Dpr10, DIP- α -Gal4, and UAS-Dpr10 RNAi and Dpr6 RNAi were previously described [6,9,12–14,49]. All genetic experiments were conducted using Dpr10 isoform D. The RNAi transgenes used to knockdown Dpr6 and Dpr10 are predicted to target all isoforms. Strain information can be found in S3 Table.

Dissection, immunostaining, and microscopy

For adult leg dissection, flies were first immersed in 70% Ethanol for ~1 min and rinsed in 0.3% Triton-X in PBS 3 \times . Abdomen and heads were then removed and legs attached to thorax were fixed overnight at 4 °C in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in

0.3% Triton-X in PBS. The next day, legs and thorax were washed five times in 0.3% Triton-X in PBS then stored in 80% VECTASHIELD (in PBS) overnight at 4 °C. Legs were then removed from the thorax and placed onto a glass slide in a drop of VECTASHIELD mounting medium (Vector Labs). 18 × 18 mm coverslips were then placed on top with dental wax on the corners to prevent the coverslip from crushing the legs. 0.5 μm-thick sections in the Z-axis were imaged using a Zeiss LSM 800 Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope.

For MB imaging, the brains of adult flies were dissected in cold ringier solution, fixed using 4% PFA for 20 min at RT, and then washed in Phosphate Buffer with 0.3% Triton-X (PBT; 3 × immediate washes followed by 3 × 20-min washes). Non-specific staining was blocked using 5% heat inactivated goat serum in PBT, and brains were then subjected to primary antibody staining overnight at 4 °C. Primary antibodies included chicken anti-GFP 1:500 (AVES) and mouse anti-FasII 1:25 (1D4; DSHB). Brains were then washed with PBT (3 × immediate washes followed by 3 × 20-min washes), stained with secondary antibodies for 2 h at RT, and washed again. Secondary antibodies included FITC Goat anti-chicken and Alexa fluor 647 goat anti-mouse, both used at 1:300 (Invitrogen). The brains were mounted on Slowfade (Invitrogen) and imaged with Zeiss LSM 980 confocal microscope. Images were processed with ImageJ (NIH).

Motor Neuron and MB quantification and statistical analysis

To quantify leg motor neurons, only one T1 leg from each animal was imaged and their neurons traced using the Simple Neuron Tracer from ImageJ. For each neuron, with the exception of the αTi-tadm, the tracing began at the first bifurcation point. For the αTi-tadm, only the most distal branch was traced due to presence of collateral branches which would have potential misrepresented the terminal branch number and branch length. Both total terminal branch number and the sum of cable length values were separately plotted and analyzed using the GraphPad Prism 9.0 software. For all graphs, statistical significance was determined using an unpaired nonparametric two-tailed Mann–Whitney test. Error bars represent mean with 95% confidence intervals. ns = no statistical difference. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$.

To quantify MB phenotypes (Fig 6F), blind ranking of γ4/5 defect severity was performed by an independent investigator, on a scale of 1 (strong defect) to 4 (WT-like morphology), as demonstrated in Bornstein and colleagues (2021) [14]. The four groups were compared by Kruskal–Wallis test, followed by pairwise Mann–Whitney U test corrected for multiple comparisons using FDR.

Generation of *DIP-α^{short}* allele using CRISPR

We chose two protospacer sequences that were ~375 bp away from each other, in the exon region coding for the DIP-α membrane linker, to create a large 124 amino acid deletion. The deletion was replaced with a sequence coding for Glycine-Glycine-Serine (GGS), consistent with cloning in cell culture experiments. High score protospacer sequences were chosen on <http://crispr.dfci.harvard.edu/SSC/>. We cloned both protospacers into a pCF-D5_w plasmid (Addgene 112645) and co-injected the plasmid and single-stranded repair template (Integrated DNA Technologies) into CAS0001 flies (Rainbow Transgenic Flies). Injected embryos were crossed with balancer lines, and screened in F1 for individual flies carrying the mutation. A mutant stock was established from this single F1. sgRNA and ssODN sequences are listed below. Detailed protocols are available upon request.

DIP- α^{short} deleted sequence: AACGGCGGCGGAAAAGGAGGTGGAGCGGGCGGAAG-CCTGGATGCGGATGCCAATGACATTTTGAAGCAGAAACAACAAGTCAAAGTCACT-TATCAGCCGAGGACGAGGAGCTGCAGTACGGATCCGTCGAGGATTTTCGAGGCGG AAGGCGGCGAGGGCGGGGCCTGACGCCGTTATCGCCGCACGTTTACTACACCAG-CGGCAATAAACCGGCCACACATAAGCCGGGCAACTCCGGCGGCAATCAGCATCTA-CATCAGCAGCACCACCATCATCACCACCACAACAACAACAACAACCAGCAA CACAGTGGTGGGCCAGGTGGTGGCCCAACTGGCGGTGATGCGGGTTCACTTGGTG-GCGAA

Insertion replacing deleted sequence: GGTGGAAGC

sgRNA 1: CGTAATAAAAATCCGCTGAA

sgRNA 2: TCACTTGGTGGCGAAATGGG

ssODN (Repair Template):

CCCGCTGCCCTACAGAAATCCCCGGACCGAATCGTAATAAAAATCCGCTGGGTG-GAAGCATGGGAGGCATCACCCGCAAGCCACCGCCATATTATGGTGGCAATACG-GAAGTGGGAGGC

Statistical information

All data were analyzed with GraphPad Prism 5.0 software (San Diego, California, USA).

Supporting information

S1 Fig. Related to Fig 1: mCherry and GFP expression of full length DIP/Dpr construct. (A) Percent positive of mCherry (DIPs) and GFP (Dprs) expressed as full-length proteins with an IRES tag in mammalian cells. (B) Representative flow plots showing typical binding and signal to noise for Dpr10::DIP- α cell-cell adhesion. (PDF)

S2 Fig. Related to Fig 1: Differential K_D s of DIP- β C and G isoforms for Dpr10. (A) Sensorgrams of Dpr analytes binding over DIP- β -G immobilized surface and (B) Sensorgrams of Dpr analytes binding over DIP- β -G immobilized surface. (C) The fit of the binding data to 1:1 binding isotherms to calculate K_D . Numbers in parentheses indicate error. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S8 Data](#). (PDF)

S3 Fig. Related to Fig 2: K_D of Dpr10-A for DIP- α . (A) Sensorgrams of Dpr10-A analytes binding over DIP- α immobilized surface. (B) Sensorgrams of Dpr10-A analytes binding over DIP- λ immobilized surface. (C) The fit of the binding data to 1:1 binding isotherms to calculate K_D . Numbers in parentheses indicate error. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S8 Data](#). (PDF)

S4 Fig. Related to Fig 2: Cis inhibition occurs between certain DIP::Dpr pairs Flow Plot. (A) Flow plots showing the gating strategy for analyzing co-transfected cells and representative plot of efficiency of co-transfecting cognate DIPs (mCherry- X axis) and (Dprs- GFP- Y-axis). (B) Representative flow plots showing binding differences of 300 nM Dpr10-Fc to DIP- α expressing cells or (C) DIP- α /Dpr10 co-expressing cells. (D) Representative flow plots showing binding differences of 300 nM Dpr12-Fc to DIP- δ expressing cells or (E) DIP- δ /Dpr12 co-expressing cells. (PDF)

S5 Fig. Related to Fig 4: Protocol of GPI ω -site prediction on an example of DIP- β . (A) Schematic demonstrating single amino acid deletion method of searching for GPI anchor. (B) Representative output for GPI anchor search. (C, D) Net GPI outputs for different DIP- β inputs. (PDF)

S6 Fig. Related to Fig 4: GPI sequence signatures. (A) Anticipated amino acid characteristics of the GPI-anchored protein. (B) Multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of canonical isoforms of selected DIP and Dpr C-terminal regions across various *Drosophila* species; ω -sites highlighted in red and the potential hydrophobic region in orange. Alignment executed via Clustal Omega and visualization achieved with Jalview. The coloring in the MSA reflects sequence identity, with deeper shades of blue indicating higher levels of sequence conservation. (PDF)

S7 Fig. Related to Fig 6: Additional quantification of branch number and branch length of α MNs after genetic manipulation. (A) Quantification of the number of α Ti-ltm and α Ti-tadm terminal branches. Ctrl, *DIP- α -T2A-QF>>10XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 6. α Ti-tadm n = 6 *Muscle>dpr10*, *DIP- α -T2A-QF>>10XUAS6XGFP*, *Mef2-Gal4 > UAS-dpr10*. α Ti-ltm n = 6. α Ti-tadm n = 6. (B) Quantification of the sum of α Ti-ltm and α Ti-tadm terminal branch length. Ctrl, *DIP- α -T2A-QF>>10XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 6. α Ti-tadm n = 6 *Muscle>dpr10*, *DIP- α -T2A-QF>>10XUAS6XGFP*, *Mef2-Gal4 > UAS-dpr10*. α Ti-ltm n = 6. α Ti-tadm n = 6. (C) Quantification of the number of α Ti-ltm and α Ti-tadm terminal branches. Ctrl, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 10. α Ti-tadm n = 10 *α MN>dpr6-RNAi*, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP,UAS-dpr6-RNAi*. α Ti-ltm n = 10. α Ti-tadm n = 10 Ctrl, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 8. α Ti-tadm n = 8 *α MN>dpr10-RNAi*, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP,UAS-dpr10-RNAi*. α Ti-ltm n = 8. α Ti-tadm n = 8. (D) Quantification of the sum of α Ti-ltm and α Ti-tadm terminal branch length. Ctrl, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 10. α Ti-tadm n = 10 *α MN>dpr6-RNAi*, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP,UAS-dpr6-RNAi*. α Ti-ltm n = 10. α Ti-tadm n = 10 Ctrl, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 8. α Ti-tadm n = 8 *α MN>dpr10-RNAi*, *DIP- α -T2A-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP,UAS-dpr10-RNAi*. α Ti-ltm n = 8. α Ti-tadm n = 8. For all graphs, statistical significance was determined using an unpaired nonparametric two-tailed Mann–Whitney test. Error bars represent mean with 95% confidence intervals. ns = no statistical difference. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$, **** $p < 0.0001$. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S9 Data](#). (PDF)

S8 Fig. Overexpressing DIP- α in MNs causes α MN axons to increase in length. (A) Representative images of *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP* controls, and *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-DIP- α* . Yellow arrow indicates longer α Ti-ltm axons. Yellow arrowhead indicates longer α Fe-ltm axons. Scale bar = 50 μ m. (B) Quantification of the number of α Ti-ltm, α Ti-tadm and α Fe-ltm terminal branches. Ctrl, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4 20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 8. α Ti-tadm n = 9 α Fe-ltm n = 8. *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-DIP- α* . α Ti-ltm n = 11. α Ti-tadm n = 11 α Fe-ltm n = 11. Quantification of the sum of α Ti-ltm, α Ti-tadm, and α Fe-ltm, branch length. Ctrl, *DIP- α -A8-Gal4 20XUAS6XGFP*. α Ti-ltm n = 8. α Ti-tadm n = 9 α Fe-ltm n = 8. *DIP- α -A8-Gal4>>20XUAS6XGFP, UAS-DIP- α* . α Ti-ltm n = 11. α Ti-tadm n = 11 α Fe-ltm n = 11. For all graphs, statistical significance was determined using an unpaired nonparametric two-tailed Mann–Whitney test. Error bars represent mean with 95% confidence intervals. ns = no statistical difference. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. Ctrl-Control, MN-motor neuron. The raw data underlying these figures can be found in [S10 Data](#). (PDF)

S1 Table. Table of SPR values for interactions relevant to this study.
(DOCX)

S2 Table. PredGPI analysis of Dpr10 predicts multiple closely spaced potential ω -sites for GPI anchoring.
(DOCX)

S3 Table. Table of drosophila strains used in this study.
(DOCX)

S1 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S2 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S3 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S4 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S5 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S6 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S7 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S8 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(ZIP)

S9 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

S10 Data. The raw data underlying the figures.
(XLSX)

Acknowledgments

O.S. is an incumbent of the Prof. Erwin Netter Professorial Chair of Cell Biology. We also thank L. Venkatasubramanian and J. Enriquez for help and advice in the early stages of this project. [Figs 1A](#), [2A](#), [5C](#), [6A](#), [6B](#), [7A](#), and [8A](#) were in part created with [BioRender.com](https://www.biorender.com).

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