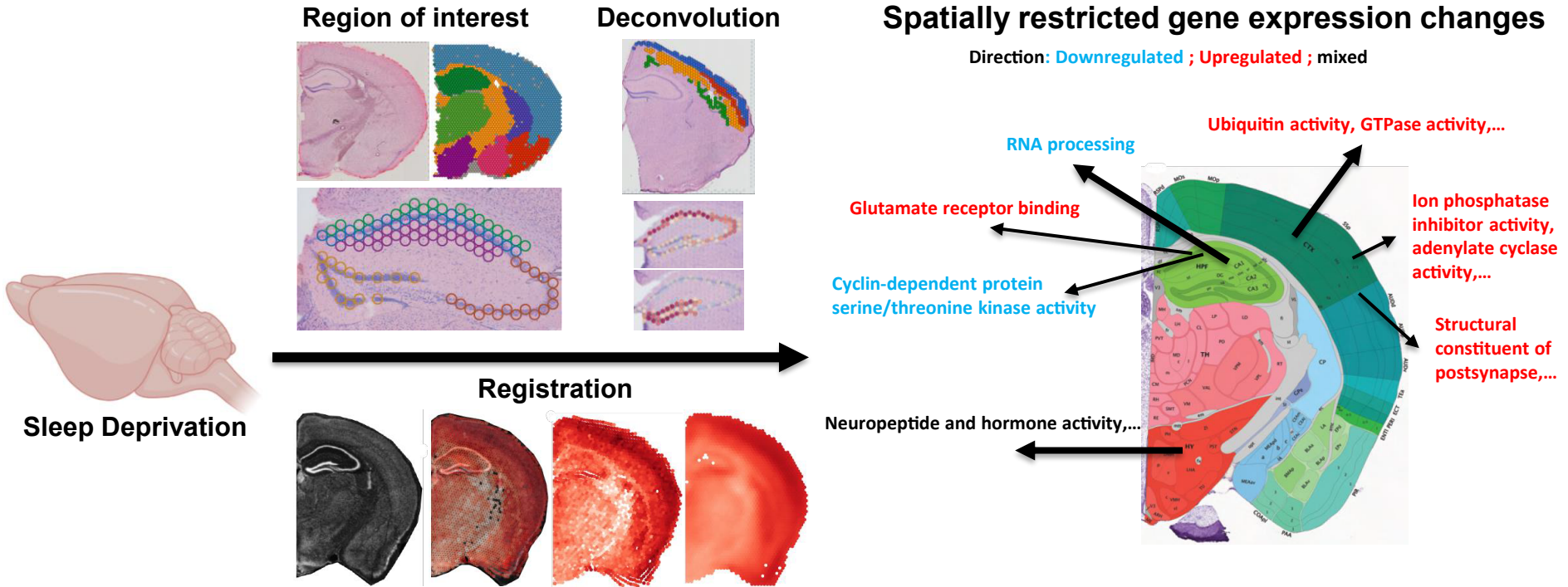


Spatial transcriptomics reveals unique gene expression changes in different brain regions after sleep deprivation

Yann Vanrobaeys, Zeru J. Peterson, Emily N. Walsh, Snehajyoti Chatterjee, Li-Chun Lin, Lisa C. Lyons, Thomas Nickl-Jockschat, Ted Abel



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2 **brain regions after sleep deprivation**

3 Yann Vanrobaeys^{1,2,3}, Zeru J. Peterson^{2,5}, Emily. N. Walsh^{2,3,4}, Snehajyoti Chatterjee^{2,3}, Li-Chun
4 Lin^{2,3,7}, Lisa C. Lyons⁶, Thomas Nickl-Jockschat^{2,3,5*}, Ted Abel^{2,3*}

5 ¹Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Genetics, University of Iowa, 357 Medical Research
6 Center Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

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7 ²Iowa Neuroscience Institute, Carver College of Medicine, 169 Newton Road, 2312 Pappajohn
8 Biomedical Discovery Building, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

9 ³Department of Neuroscience and Pharmacology, Carver College of Medicine, 51 Newton Road,
10 2-417B Bowen Science Building, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

11 ⁴Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Neuroscience, University of Iowa, 356 Medical Research
12 Center, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

13 ⁵Department of Psychiatry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA

14 ⁶Program in Neuroscience, Department of Biological Science, Florida State University,
15 Tallahassee, FL, USA

16 ⁷Department of Neurology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA

17 * correspondence to ted-abel@uiowa.edu or thomas-nickl-jockschat@uiowa.edu

18

19

20 **Highlights**

- 21 • Spatial transcriptomics using the Visium platform reveals the transcriptional signature
22 across the brain, recapitulating the anatomy of the mouse brain
- 23 • Sleep deprivation induces transcriptomic changes unique to each brain region
- 24 • The hippocampus is the brain region impacted the most by acute sleep deprivation, with
25 most differentially regulated genes significantly downregulated
- 26 • The neocortex exhibits layer-specific changes in gene expression, with most differentially
27 regulated genes significantly upregulated
- 28 • Registration of spatial transcriptomic data to a common anatomical reference space
29 (Allen Common Coordinate Framework) allows statistical analysis of gene expression
30 across regions of the brain and for multi-sample analysis

32 **Abstract**

33 Sleep deprivation has far-reaching consequences on the brain and behavior, impacting memory,
34 attention, and metabolism. Previous research has focused on gene expression changes in
35 individual brain regions, such as the hippocampus or cortex. Therefore, it is unclear how
36 uniformly or heterogeneously sleep loss affects the brain. Here, we use spatial transcriptomics to
37 define the impact of a brief period of sleep deprivation across the brain. We find that sleep
38 deprivation induced pronounced differences in gene expression across the brain, with the greatest
39 changes in the hippocampus, neocortex, hypothalamus, and thalamus. Both the differentially
40 expressed genes and the direction of regulation differed markedly across regions. Importantly,
41 we developed bioinformatic tools to register tissue sections and gene expression data into a

42 common anatomical space, allowing a brain-wide comparison of gene expression patterns
43 between samples. Our results suggest that distinct molecular mechanisms acting in discrete brain
44 regions underlie the biological effects of sleep deprivation.

45 **Introduction**

46 Sleep deprivation is a growing problem that effects more than one-third of adults in the U.S. and
47 more than 70% of teenagers and adolescents¹. Loss of sleep affects impacts cognition, attention

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49 and metabolism. These processes are mediated by distinct neural circuits in specific brain
50 regions—the hippocampus, the cortex, and hypothalamus, respectively. Sleep and circadian
51 rhythm disorders have also been linked to the increased incidence and accelerated progression of
52 neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s disease^{6–10}. Given the serious consequences
53 of sleep loss for individuals and the interaction of sleep deprivation with many diseases, it is
54 important to understand the cellular and molecular consequences of sleep deprivation. To this
55 end, we have used non-biased spatial transcriptomics to define whether sleep loss has distinct
56 molecular impacts on specific brain regions.

56 Sleep deprivation impacts protein synthesis and gene regulation through many mechanisms
57 including alterations to epigenetic regulation, transcription, and mRNA processing^{11–19}.
58 Estimates suggest that up to 10% of cortical transcripts are regulated with sleep/wake cycles,
59 particularly by the length of time awake^{20–22}. In the hippocampus, prolonged wakefulness causes
60 changes in the expression of genes associated with RNA splicing, cell adhesion, dendritic
61 localization, the synapse, and the postsynaptic membrane^{11,13,23,24}. However, the brain is a highly
62 heterogeneous organ and subserves many different functions; as brain regions and circuits differ

63 in their roles, they may differ dramatically in their response to sleep loss, and observations from
64 one brain region may not be generalized to the whole brain.

65 New technological advances in genome-wide spatial transcriptomics offer enormous potential for
66 providing detailed molecular maps that overcome limitations associated with single cell or single
67 nuclear RNA sequencing (sc/snRNA-seq) and microscopy-based spatial transcriptomics
68 methods²⁵. This approach has been successfully used to generate detailed datasets and cell-type

69 specific gene expression signatures^{26–29}, but it has not yet been used to profile changes in gene
70 expression across multiple brain regions after experience. A further challenge is that a

71 significant hurdle remains in terms of finding a strategy to align the brain regions across slices

72 from multiple subjects or from independent experiments for data integration in multi-sample

73 analyses. To investigate gene expression changes within the adult mouse brain after sleep

74 deprivation, we used the 10x Genomics Visium platform, a barcoding-based, transcriptome-wide

75 approach that generates spatial maps of gene expression. We collected gene expression data from

76 each major brain region across a coronal brain slice, enabling us to profile multiple brain regions

77 simultaneously. Using this technique, we were also able to get detailed, subregion and layer

78 specific gene expression changes within the hippocampus and cortex. Finally, we present an

79 alternative to a region-of-interest type of analysis by registering multiple slices into a common

80 space using the Common Coordinate Framework (CCF) from the Allen Brain Atlas³⁰, thus

81 adjusting for differences in the alignment of brain tissue sections and allowing for a comparison

82 between samples. These data and analytical approaches provide a scientific resource for the

83 neuroscientific community, and they demonstrate the diverse impact of sleep loss on gene

84 expression across the brain.

85

86 Results

87 Using Visium spatial transcriptomics, we profiled spatial gene expression in coronal brain slices
88 from sleep-deprived (SD) or control (non-sleep deprived (NSD)) adult male mice. Each coronal
89 section covered between 1736 and 3103 spots on the Visium slides. We sequenced each sample
90 to a median depth of 2.26E+08 (interquartile range 2.10E+08-2.37E+08), which corresponded to
91 a mean of 93245 reads and a mean of 5978 genes per spot. We note that these rates are analogous
92 to snRNA-seq and scRNA-seq data using the 10x Genomics Chromium platform, where a ‘cell’
93 barcode on the Chromium platform corresponds to a ‘spatial’ barcode on the Visium platform.
94 However, unlike snRNA-seq data which contains high numbers of intronic reads that map to
95 immature transcripts, we found strong enrichment of mature messenger RNAs with high mean
96 rates of exonic alignments (mean: 88.3%; IQR: 87.7-89.4%).

97 We first generated region-enriched expression profiles for the samples from each condition (**Fig.**
98 **1A-C**). As expected, this approach predicted brain regions with high reliability (**Fig. 1B**) and
99 recapitulated the brain regions from the reference coronal mouse Allen brain atlas (**Fig. 1C**).
100 Each brain region was characterized by specific transcriptional signatures and unsupervised
101 clustering of these region expression profiles revealed distinct clusters (**Fig. 1D**) and top
102 biomarkers (**Fig. 1E**). Together, these results highlight the ability of the Visium platform to
103 achieve high-resolution spatial expression profiling across the mouse brain.

104

105 Sleep deprivation exerts differential effects on transcriptional activity in each brain region

106 Sleep deprivation affects different brain functions ranging from cognition and affective
107 processing that each rely upon distinct neuronal circuits^{17,22–24,31–34}. However, little is known

108 about how sleep deprivation alters transcriptomic activity in individual brain regions, as bulk
109 sequencing approaches inevitably average out regionalized effects. To address this problem, we
110 performed differential gene expression analysis in each of the brain regions identified in the
111 coronal sections (**Fig. 1**). After filtering the number of differentially expressed genes (DEGs;
112 $FDR < 0.001$, $\log_2\text{fold-change} > |0.2|$), we found that the hippocampal region had the greatest
113 number of significant DEGs affected by sleep loss (592 DEGs), followed by the neocortex (401
114 DEGs), the hypothalamus (266 DEGs), and the thalamus (113 DEGs) (**Fig. 2A**). Some of these
115 DEGs, such as *Rbm3*, *Hspa5* and *Srsf5*, have been previously shown to be affected after sleep
116 deprivation in our previous studies of the hippocampus^{11,35,36} and in studies of other brain
117 regions^{13–15,17,21,33,37,38}.

118 The molecular functions of the DEGs showed region-specific differences (**Fig. 2B-E**). For the
119 hippocampal region, many molecular functions related to RNA processing were enriched (**Fig.**
120 **2B**). For the neocortex, molecular functions related to protein kinase activity, GTPase activity,
121 ubiquitin ligase activity, and DNA-binding transcription factor binding were enriched (**Fig. 2C**).
122 The DEGs in the hypothalamus were enriched for molecular functions related to neuropeptide
123 and hormone activity, as well as glutathione transferase and peroxidase activity (**Fig. 2D**).
124 Finally, the DEGs in the thalamus were enriched for the Myogenic Regulatory Factor (MRF)
125 binding molecular function (**Fig. 2E**). Surprisingly, ~98% of the DEGs in the hippocampal
126 region were significantly downregulated whereas ~96% of the DEGs in the neocortex were
127 significantly upregulated (**Fig. 2B-C**).

128 We next investigated how many of those total DEGs are uniquely affected in each brain region
129 by analyzing the degree of overlap between the DEGs in the brain regions that had at least 50
130 DEGs affected by sleep deprivation (**Fig. 2F**). Although there were many connections between

131 different brain regions, the majority (50-83%) of the DEGs were specifically affected in their
132 respective brain region. Of the 592 DEGs found in the hippocampal region, 489 were
133 exclusively affected in the hippocampal region (489/592 DEGs), 306/401 in the neocortex,
134 199/266 in the hypothalamus, 56/113 in the thalamus, and 33/66 in the striatum-like amygdalar
135 nuclei.

136

137 **Hippocampal subregions are differentially impacted by sleep deprivation.** bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.02.28.582441>; this version posted January 2, 2025. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under a [CC-BY-NC 4.0 International license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

138 As our results here and previous studies have demonstrated, the hippocampus is highly
139 susceptible to the effects of acute sleep deprivation^{11,13,24,35,36}. This brain region is comprised of
140 several substructures—CA1, CA2, CA3, and the dentate gyrus (DG)—each with different
141 functions in learning and memory^{39–44}. We performed a deconvolution of the CA1 pyramidal
142 layer and the dentate gyrus (DG) granule cell layer using a reference scRNA-seq whole
143 hippocampus mouse dataset from the Allen Brain Atlas⁴⁵ (**Fig. 3A**) and were able to distinguish
144 the areas CA2 and CA3 pyramidal layers based on spatial topography. Similarly, because the
145 dendritic layers of CA1 are known to undergo structural changes following sleep deprivation^{46–}
146 ⁴⁸, we also used spatial topography to define and include the stratum radiatum and oriens layers
147 of CA1 in our analysis (**Fig. 3B**). Differential gene expression analysis in each hippocampal
148 subregion revealed unique gene expression changes and molecular functions enriched that were
149 specific to a subregion (**Fig. 3C**). Of the DEGs identified in each region, 51/62 DEGs were
150 uniquely affected in CA1, 34/41 in DG, 53/61 in stratum radiatum, and 4/4 in stratum oriens. The
151 CA1 pyramidal layer and stratum radiatum were most impacted by sleep deprivation, with the
152 most DEGs and unique DEGs of the areas examined. Stratum radiatum had 53 unique DEGs
153 enough to enrich the cyclin-dependent protein serine/threonine kinase activity, as well as the

154 pyramidal CA1 cells with their 51 unique DEGs that enriched the glutamate receptor binding.
 155 Interestingly, there were no genes significantly affected in the combined CA2 and CA3
 156 pyramidal layers after sleep deprivation. This finding supports other observations that CA1 and
 157 the DG are impacted by sleep deprivation while area CA3 is less affected^{36,48}.

158

159 **Sleep deprivation causes layer-specific transcriptional changes in the cortex**

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161 comprises of different layers that each are involved in various functions of receiving, integrating,
 162 and outputting information⁴⁹. To understand how sleep deprivation differently impacts the layers
 163 of the cortex, we examined the gene expression profiles within each cortical layer. We performed
 164 a deconvolution of the spatial datasets by integrating them with a reference scRNA-seq dataset of
 165 ~14,000 adult mouse cortical cell taxonomy from the Allen Institute⁵⁰. This allowed us to
 166 identify the layers of the neocortex based on the prediction score in each spot (**Fig. 4A**) and
 167 perform differential gene expression analyses in each layer. Layers 2/3 and 5 are the most
 168 transcriptionally affected after sleep deprivation with 222 and 225 significant DEGs,
 169 respectively. Differential gene expression analysis in each cortical layer revealed distinct gene
 170 expression changes and molecular functions that were uniquely enriched in certain layers (**Fig.**
 171 **4B**), which may relate to the differential function of these layers in intracortical processing and
 172 cortical output. Layer 5, which contains neurons that are the main output of the cortex, had 174
 173 unique DEGs that included molecular functions related to sterol binding, cyclic adenosine
 174 monophosphate (cAMP) binding, structural constituent of postsynapse, and ion channel regulator
 175 activity. Layer 2/3, which functions largely in information processing within the cortex, had 149
 176 unique DEGs that included molecular functions related to phosphatase inhibitor activity,

177 adenylylase inhibiting G protein-coupled glutamate receptor activity, and ionotropic
 178 glutamate receptor binding.

179

180 **Registration of Visium slices to a common anatomical reference space via the Spatial**

181 **Transcriptomics Analysis Tool (STANly) allows the unrestricted analysis of transcriptomic**

182 **data across entire brain slices**

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184 brain regions based on their transcriptomic activity. Although this is a powerful tool to analyze
 185 spatial gene expression changes, it inevitably comes at the price of a loss of spatial resolution, as
 186 this approach necessarily pools over larger brain regions, and requires a prior biological
 187 knowledge of cell type-specific gene expression profiles. To address this loss of spatial
 188 resolution, we established a new analysis tool (Spatial Transcriptomics ANaLYsis (STANLY))
 189 that aligns dots from multiple samples from different animals into one common anatomical
 190 reference space, the Common Coordinate Framework (CCF) of the Allen Mouse Brain Atlas,
 191 thus allowing a dot-by-dot comparison of the transcriptome in an unrestricted inference space
 192 (**Fig. 5A**). To account for different numbers of Visium spots across slices, we generated ‘digital
 193 spots’ in this same coordinate system to allow a statistical comparison across. Using this method,
 194 we detected at least 18,893 genes in all sample slices for changes in expression between NSD
 195 and SD. Of these, 428 genes were significantly differentially expressed, with 150 genes showing
 196 an upregulation in all significant spots, 22 showing downregulation in all significant spots, and
 197 256 showing a combination of up and down regulation across the sample space. These DEGs
 198 include previously described upregulated genes like *Per1* (**Fig. 5B**), *Nr4a1* (**Fig. 5C**), *Homer1*
 199 (**Fig. 5D**), and *Arc* (**Fig. 5E**), which showed localized increases in the neocortex, as well as

200 downregulated genes like *Rbm3* (**Fig. 5F**) and *Cirbp* (**Fig. 5G**), which showed hippocampal
201 specific changes, similar to those seen in our deconvolution approach. Using ToppGene⁵¹, we
202 found the top five enriched mouse phenotypes were related to abnormal synaptic transmission
203 (83 DEGs), abnormal synaptic physiology (83 DEGs), abnormal learning/memory/conditioning
204 (84 DEGs), abnormal cognition (84 DEGs), and abnormal CNS synaptic transmission (75 DEGs)
205 across the whole coronal slice. GO-molecular function (GO:MF) enrichment analysis showed
206 similar functions enriched in previously identified brain region such as RNA binding (found in
207 the hippocampus), Ubiquitin-like protein ligase activity, GTP binding, kinase activity (found in
208 the neocortex), and neuropeptide and hormone activity (found in the hypothalamus) (**Fig. 3**).

209

210 Discussion

211 The identification of cell-type specific transcriptomic signatures has been invaluable in
212 distinguishing subclasses of cell types in the brain⁵² and has provided novel insights into brain
213 disorders such as epilepsy, autism, Alzheimer's disease⁵³⁻⁵⁵. However, the lack of spatial
214 information associated with single cell transcriptomics represents a significant obstacle^{56,57}
215 especially in an organ as complex as the brain. Spatial transcriptomics, using the Visium
216 platform, combines a spatial barcode of RNA transcripts with near single cell sequencing
217 resolution providing a major advance for understanding gene regulation across brain regions.
218 However, the recent development of this technology means that it is largely untested for the
219 analysis of differential gene expression. Here, we used this technique to examine the important
220 problem of how acute sleep deprivation affects gene expression across brain regions. The effects
221 of sleep deprivation on public health, and as a risk factor increasing the susceptibility and

222 incidence of numerous diseases, necessitate that we utilize and develop techniques that will
223 provide more detailed understanding of the consequences of sleep loss.

224 The Visium spatial transcriptomic platform provided sequencing depth comparable to single cell
225 and single nuclear transcriptomic studies in terms of gene number per spot, with the advantage of
226 enriching mature RNA transcripts. Potentially, the clustering of a small number of cells in the
227 spots of the Visium platform allows for a greater sequencing of mature cytoplasmic RNA

228 molecules, compared to the nuclear mRNA that contains immature RNAs still being processed.

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229 This technique allowed us to anatomically distinguish individual brain regions by aligning brain
230 regions with the reference mouse Allen brain atlas, where we found that individual brain regions
231 showed distinct transcriptional profiles after acute sleep deprivation. Individual cell types
232 clustered within a brain region similar to single cell transcriptomic studies (**Fig. 1**). Thus, these
233 results demonstrate the comparability of spatial transcriptomics to the resolution of single-cell
234 approaches with the added power of simultaneous brain-wide investigation and additional spatial
235 information.

236 Given the recent development of the spatial transcriptomics platform, we employed both a
237 relatively large number of samples for a transcriptomics study and a highly conservative
238 statistical analysis using an FDR of 0.001 to determine differential gene expression in individual
239 brain regions following acute sleep deprivation. Importantly, all samples were collected at the
240 same time of day as the circadian clock has independent effects on transcription^{58,59}. We found
241 that acute sleep deprivation had the greatest impact on gene regulation in the hippocampus,
242 neocortex, hypothalamus and thalamus (**Fig. 2A**). Interestingly, this conservative approach
243 strongly illustrated heterogeneity of brain regions in response to sleep deprivation, as we found
244 little overlap in the differentially expressed genes across brain regions (**Fig. 2F**). Moreover, our

245 results conclusively demonstrate that directional changes in gene expression following acute
246 sleep deprivation vary widely across brain regions; approximately 98% of the differentially
247 expressed genes downregulated in the hippocampus, while the opposite was true in the
248 neocortex, which had approximately 96% of the differentially expressed genes upregulated (**Fig.**
249 **2B, C**). Thus, analysis of gene expression changes after acute sleep deprivation in older studies,
250 in which the entire forebrain was collected, may have masked the nuanced effects of sleep
251 deprivation on gene regulation. The dramatic differences in gene expression across brain regions
252 in response to sleep deprivation also suggests that a single theory to explain the impact of
253 wakefulness on the brain or the function of sleep is unlikely to be satisfactory.

254

255 The work presented here establishes the robustness and fidelity of spatial transcriptomics for the
256 determination and analysis of differential gene expression within brain subregions as well as for
257 comparisons of gene expression across the brain. For example, in the hippocampus, we found
258 that acute sleep deprivation significantly reduced gene expression involved in RNA processing
259 similar to what was found in previous research¹¹. In the neocortex, upregulation was observed
260 for genes involved in DNA binding and transcription factor activity, protein kinase regulation,
261 GTPase regulation and ubiquitin like protein ligase activity. This upregulation of genes involved
262 in DNA binding and transcription factor activity, such as the transcription factor *Nr4a1*, may
263 explain the greater percentage of upregulated genes found in the neocortex as increased
264 expression of NR4A1 would lead to increased expression of its target genes. Although a smaller
265 number of genes were identified in the hypothalamus and thalamus, they nonetheless indicate
266 significant changes in molecular function¹⁷. For instance, we found that the most significant
267 alterations in the hypothalamus were for genes associated with neuropeptide and hormone

268 signaling. The differences in the functions and molecular pathways affected in each region may
269 provide key insights into how each structure is related to some of the broader and longer lasting
270 effects of acute sleep deprivation. Importantly, the differentially expressed gene functions we
271 identified in each brain region are consistent with the behavioral effects that have been observed
272 following sleep deprivation and attributed to changes in neuronal function, such as changes in
273 circadian behavior or impairments in long-term memory.

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275 The high density of individually coded spots on the Visium slide grid enabled sub-regional
276 analysis of gene expression between slices from sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived mice
277 when combined with a deconvolution approach using single cell reference data sets from the
278 Allen Brain Atlas for the hippocampus (**Fig. 3A**) and the cortex (**Fig. 4A**). Subregional analysis
279 of the hippocampus was done for the CA1, CA2/3 pyramidal cell layers, dentate gyrus granule
280 cell layer, and the stratum oriens and the stratum radiatum which contain diverse populations of
281 interneurons. Although both the stratum oriens and the stratum radiatum contain interneurons,
282 the functions of these two layers are distinct, and receive different anatomical inputs. Given the
283 disparate functions and circuitry of the hippocampal subregions, we predicted that sleep
284 deprivation would result in distinct transcriptional profiles in these subregions. We found that
285 sleep deprivation induced the largest number of changes in gene expression in the CA1 and
286 stratum radiatum. Surprisingly, there were only four genes affected by sleep deprivation in the
287 stratum oriens, although interneurons within this region have been shown to be plastic and
288 provide input to CA1 pyramidal cells⁶⁰. These results suggest that sleep deprivation has the
289 broadest impact on gene regulation in the excitatory neurons of the hippocampus. This result is
290 consistent with previous research in which manipulations of protein synthesis within

291 hippocampal excitatory neurons ameliorated the impacts of sleep deprivation on hippocampus
292 dependent long-term spatial memory⁶¹. However, it should be noted that the power of
293 subregional analysis for differential gene expression within the hippocampus may be limited by
294 the number of spots in each subregion. In comparison to the individual layered analysis of the
295 neocortex, there were fewer differentially expressed genes detected in the subregions of the
296 hippocampus (**Fig. 3C vs 4B**). However, future research in which single-cell RNA-seq is
297 combined with spatial transcriptomics could resolve these issues.

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298
299 We found that within the neocortex, sleep deprivation differentially affected individual cortical
300 layers (**Fig. 4B**), and that Layers 2/3 and 5 were the most affected by sleep deprivation.
301 Interestingly, changes in gene expression following sleep deprivation were unique for individual
302 layers: more than 65% of the genes were unique in Layer 5 and 75% of the genes in Layer 2/3
303 were unique. Although the number of genes affected was smaller for Layer 4 and Layer 6, the
304 number of layer specific gene changes for these layers was still approximately 50%. From this
305 we can observe that there are distinct impacts of sleep deprivation on individual cortical layers.
306 Indeed, Layer 2/3 function as corticocortical projections to layer 5 and form a prominent
307 interlaminar pathway to amplify, integrate, distribute and temporarily store information within
308 subsets of neurons⁶². From the Layer 5, pyramidal tract neurons project to multiple targets
309 including ipsilateral striatum, thalamus, subthalamic nucleus and many brainstem and spinal cord
310 regions⁶³. The elevated level of response from these two layers highlight how the cortex is
311 adapting in response to sleep deprivation, and these connections may better illustrate why
312 cortical functions and properties are so altered by sleep loss⁶⁴.

313

314 Spatial transcriptomics provides a potentially powerful approach for large scale comparisons of
315 gene expression across multiple conditions or disease states. For the full capability of spatial
316 transcriptomics to be realized, it is necessary to develop the analysis tools for the alignment of
317 spatial transcriptomic data sets into a common anatomical reference space to allow an
318 unrestricted comparison of gene expression between samples. To further this goal, we pioneered
319 the adaption of bioinformatic tools to facilitate the transformation and registration of spatial
320 transcriptomic data sets with the anatomical reference space of the Allen Mouse Brain Atlas
321 bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.18.524406>; this version posted January 19, 2023. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under a [CC-BY-NC 4.0 International license](#). (Fig. 5). By computationally aligning the spatial transcriptomic data through a digital spot
322 workflow with the Common Coordinate Framework, we can observe gene expression changes
323 between the sleep deprived and non-sleep deprived conditions for individual genes of interest.
324 This coordinate approach allows significant changes in gene expression to be visualized and
325 analyzed for individual spots across the brain (Fig. 5) in greater detail and with much higher
326 sensitivity for localized changes within larger anatomical structures than the region of interest
327 approach above. We used this approach at its most basic level to examine single gene expression
328 across the brain, finding 428 genes that significantly changed after sleep deprivation. However,
329 our data shows that even genes with robust changes after sleep deprivation display regional
330 differences in expression, which emphasizes that sleep deprivation has localized impacts on gene
331 regulation. With the formidable technological advances that have been made over the past
332 decade, specifically those enabling detailed analysis of gene regulation at multiple levels, one of
333 the greatest challenges facing neuroscientists is the integration and management of complex
334 multimodal data sets. There is a critical need to integrate large data sets for spatial and specific
335 cell type characterization of the mouse brain, as the majority of preclinical research is done using
336 the mouse model. The bioinformatic approach for spatial gene expression analysis across brain

337 regions that we developed for this study helps to meet the challenge of integrating complex data
338 sets for mouse spatial transcriptomic data sets and reveals critical regional selectivity in the
339 impact of brief periods of sleep loss across the brain.

340 **Material and Methods**

341 **Animals:** Male C57BL/6J mice (Jackson Laboratory #000664), age 2.5-3.5 months were used for
342 all the experiments. Mice were group housed (up to 5 per cage) in cages containing soft bedding

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344 12hr :12hr light-dark schedule. The start of the lights-on period is defined as Zeitgeber time zero
345 (ZT 0). Experiments were conducted according to National Institutes of Health guidelines for
346 animal care and use and were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
347 (IACUC) at the University of Iowa.

348 **Sleep deprivation:** All mice were single housed seven days prior to the experiment with corncob
349 bedding (Envigo, Teklad ¼” corncob, #7907) and soft bedding for nesting. Mice had *ad libitum*
350 access to food and water during sleep deprivation. All mice were habituated for 5 days prior to
351 the experiment by the researcher conducting the experiments. Habituation, performed in the
352 behavior room for experiments, was done by holding each mouse in the palm for 2 min and then
353 after returning to the home cage, tapping of the cage for 2. Sleep deprivation was performed for
354 5 hours from ZT 0 – ZT 5 using the gentle handling method^{31,32}. Briefly, the experimenter tapped
355 the side of the cage, as needed, to keep each mouse awake. When taps were no longer sufficient
356 the mice received a light “cage shake” to rouse the animal. NSD mice remained in the colony
357 housing room throughout the 5-hour period.

358 ***Tissue processing and Visium data generation:*** Each mouse was rapidly euthanized by cervical
359 dislocation at ZT 5 with the whole brain rapidly extracted and flash frozen by $\geq -70^{\circ}\text{C}$ isopentane
360 (n=8 SD and n=8 NSD). Frozen brains were stored at -80°C . Prior to sectioning, a small tissue
361 sample from the cerebellum of each frozen brain was removed, RNA extracted and quality
362 assessed using RNA Integrity Number (RIN). Brains with a RIN above 7 were embedded in
363 optimal cutting temperature medium (OCT) and cryosectioned at -20°C ($10\mu\text{m}$ sections) with
364 the Leica CM3050 S Cryostat in the Iowa Neuroscience Institute (INI) NeuroBank Core. One
365 coronal section per mouse, corresponding approximately to section 45 of the Paxinos Mouse
366 Brain atlas, was mounted on Visium Spatial Gene Expression Slides (catalog no. 2000233, 10x
367 Genomics). Sections were immediately processed with the 10x Genomics Visium Gene
368 Expression Slide kit. Full details on the methods used are found in the manufacturer's
369 instructions (CG000239 Rev A User Guide Visium Spatial Gene Expression Reagent Kits). First,
370 the slides were fixed in chilled methanol at -20°C then stained with hematoxylin and eosin
371 (H&E) to visualize the slices. Brightfield images of the H&E-stained sections were acquired
372 (20X) using an Olympus BX61 Upright Microscope. Raw images were stitched together with the
373 CellSens software (Version 3.2; Olympus) and exported as tiff files. Tissue was then
374 permeabilized with Permeabilization Enzyme (provided by 10X Genomics in the Visium Gene
375 Expression Slide & Reagent Kit, PN-1000184) for 18 min as determined based on tissue
376 optimization time-course experiments. Permeabilization resulted in the release of polyA mRNA
377 from the tissue enabling capture by poly(dT) primers precoated on the Visium Gene Expression
378 slides. Slides also contained barcoded probes with unique molecular identifiers (UMI) so that the
379 spatial gene distribution was mapped. After reverse transcription and second strand synthesis, the
380 amplified cDNA samples from the Visium slides were transferred, purified, and quantified for

381 library preparation. Sequencing libraries were prepared by the Iowa Institute of Human Genetics
382 (IIHG) Genomics Division, according to the Visium Spatial Gene Expression User Guide.
383 Libraries were pooled for sequencing to achieve sequencing depth balance across the samples
384 based on the relative area of coverage of each tissue on the slide. The fragmented cDNA pools
385 were sequenced using an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 SP or S1 flowcell running 100 cycle SBS
386 chemistry v1.5 and aimed for 200 million total read pairs. Read 1 was 48 nucleotide length (10 nt
387 i5 index + 10 nt i7 index + 28 nt Spatial Barcode, UMI) and read 2 was 90 nucleotides length

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389 **Visium data processing:** Raw FASTQ files and histology images were processed with the Space
390 Ranger software v.1.3.1, which uses STAR v.2.7.10a for genome alignment against the Cell
391 Ranger mm10 reference genome reldata-gex-mm10-2020-A, available at:
392 <https://cf.10xgenomics.com/supp/spatial-exp/refdata-gex-mm10-2020-A.tar.gz>. Quantification
393 and statistical analysis were done with Partek Flow package (Build version 10.0.21.0621) in the
394 Iowa Institute of Human Genetics (IIHG) Genomics Division. Briefly, to avoid raw gene
395 expression counts of 0, a value of 0.001 was added to all counts prior to running SCTransform
396 for normalization and scaling steps. Interpretation of spatial transcriptomic data requires
397 effective preprocessing and normalization to remove spot-to-spot technical variability such as the
398 number of molecules detected in each spot, which can confound biological heterogeneity with
399 technical effects. Recently, a new modeling framework for normalization and variance
400 stabilization of molecular count data was made available for spatial datasets which improves
401 downstream analytical tasks including gene selection, dimensional reduction, and differential
402 expression⁶⁵ from spatial datasets. After applying this modeling framework, the dimensionality
403 of each sample was reduced using 100 principal components from the variance of the features.

404 Then, an unbiased graph-based clustering was performed to identify the transcriptional
405 signatures of each spot using the Louvain clustering algorithm that includes 30 nearest neighbors
406 and 20 principal components. This threshold of 20 principal components was chosen based the
407 elbow plot of each sample where most of the transcriptional variation was captured within the
408 first 20 principal components. Since SCTransform is not suitable for differential gene expression
409 analyses, output data from Space Ranger were renormalized with a more classical approach
410 including Counts Per Million (each gene's raw read count in a sample divided by the total
411 number of counts per million in a sample), with a value of 1 added to avoid 0 counts and errors
412 in differential analysis, and finally a log base 2 transformation applied to all values to model and
413 measure proportional fold changes. This normalization revealed similar counts variation across
414 samples. The cluster and brain region labels previously computed by the SCTransform algorithm
415 were then transferred to this log-transformed data. Differential gene expression analysis was
416 performed using the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis rank sum test because the distribution of the
417 counts does not conform to a normal or binomial distribution. Rank-sum tests have been the most
418 widely used approach in the field of single-cell transcriptomics⁶⁶ because it is assumed that every
419 cell (or spot for spatial transcriptomics) is an identical replicate that defines the sample size of
420 the statistics and this approach generates fewer false positives. In this study, the Kruskal-Wallis
421 test was able to assign a median count of 1 (or 0 in log2), for both conditions, for a gene that is
422 not expressed in a given brain region resulting in a fold change of 1 (or 0 in log2). Therefore, a
423 gene was considered significantly differentially expressed (DE) if it has a false discovery rate
424 (FDR) step-up (p-value adjusted) below 0.001 and a log2fold-change $\geq |0.2|$.

425 ***Deconvolution: integration with single-cell data:*** At 55 μ m, spots from the Visium assay
426 encompass the expression profiles of 10-20 cells and represent averaged expression of the

427 heterogeneous mixture of cells at the spot level. For this reason, computational techniques called
 428 deconvolution have been developed that use scRNA-seq data to infer cell proportions in bulk
 429 transcriptomic samples⁶⁷. Consequently, deconvolution of each of the spatial voxels was
 430 performed to predict the underlying composition of cell types. We used a reference scRNA-seq
 431 dataset of ~14,000 adult mouse cortical cell taxonomy from the Allen Institute⁵⁰. We applied the
 432 anchor-based integration that enables the probabilistic transfer of annotations from a reference to
 433 a query set, here it is our SCTransformed gene expression matrix output from Partek Flow®. We
 434 then took advantage of the SCTransform normalization to label transfer the cell-type
 435 identification of scRNA-seq clusters into the transcriptional signatures of the spatial voxels. The
 436 voxels with the highest prediction score were labeled and transferred to the log-transformed data
 437 for downstream differential gene expression analysis.

438 ***GO molecular function enrichment analyses of differentially expressed genes (DEGs):*** The
 439 ClueGO⁶⁸ and CluePedia⁶⁹ plug-ins of the Cytoscape 3.9.0 software⁷⁰ were used in “Functional
 440 analysis” mode for analyzing the Gene Ontology Molecular Function (4691 terms) database in
 441 networks for DEGs. The names of significant DEGs were pasted into the “Load Marker List” of
 442 ClueGO, and the organism “Mus Musculus [10090]” was selected. Only pathways with a p-value
 443 < 0.05 were displayed on the figures. The GO Term Fusion was used allowing for the fusion of
 444 GO parent-child terms based on similar associated genes. The GO Term Connectivity had a
 445 kappa score of 0.4. The enrichment was performed using a two-sided hypergeometric test. The p-
 446 values were corrected with a Bonferroni step down approach.

447 ***Data and spot preprocessing for STANLY:*** We inspected all 16 samples visually, excluding any
 448 with serious tissue damage or a large amount of tissue folding after adhesion to the slide limiting
 449 our analysis to 13 samples. Samples were collected from the left or right hemisphere, but to

450 maximize spatial similarity, we mirrored the right hemisphere samples (2) to the left hemisphere,
451 so that all samples could be aligned in the left hemisphere space. After importing the image data
452 of the Visium slice along with the filtered feature matrix we reduced the list of spots per slice
453 down to only those listed as “in tissue” by Space Ranger and masked the filtered feature matrix
454 for each sample to first remove empty non-tissue spots. We further removed from the analysis
455 any in tissue spots that had fewer than 5,000 total gene counts, which might indicate an error
456 with the spot itself. Any genes that expressed 0 total reads across an entire sample were removed
457 due to low statistical viability. For these 13 samples the average number of in tissue spots per
458 slide was 2548. Given the localized nature of gene expression to certain tissues or regions of a
459 sample, raw gene counts in each spot are likely to be correlated to their neighbors, but not
460 necessarily across an entire sample. This leads to a high likelihood of a right tail distribution of
461 data when genes are regionally expressed, with potentially high counts in some spots and counts
462 of zero in others. In order to account for this distribution of data we performed log base 2
463 normalization on the raw gene counts being fed into the analysis. Log base2 normalization is
464 specifically useful in the case of biological data such as gene counts as this normalizes the data
465 to look for proportional rather than additive changes in expression.

466

467 **Image preprocessing:** Our data was collected as coronal slices of the mouse brain, chosen to be
468 similar to slice 45 in the Paxinos Mouse Atlas, which is similar to Allen Brain Atlas slice 70, so
469 as a template we chose slice 70 from the Allen Common Coordinate Framework³⁰. The code
470 base for image preprocessing steps were performed using SimpleITK⁷¹ (v.5.3.0) and scikit-
471 image⁷² (v.0.19.3) as well as SciPy⁷³ (v.1.7.3) and NumPy⁷⁴ (v.1.21.5) for processing the filtered
472 feature matrices from Space Ranger and performing analysis on the registered spots.

473

474 For our current pipeline, most coronal tissue adhered to the slide in such a way that a simple
475 rotation of [0°, 90°, 180, or 270°] is sufficient to bring the tissue images into the same general
476 orientation as the template image. For those images from right hemisphere, we additionally
477 performed a symmetrical flip on the images and their corresponding spots to match the
478 hemisphere of the template image. This hemisphere combination allows us to maximize the
479 usability of tissue slices in the analysis. Any rotation or mirroring transformation to the tissue
480 image is applied also to the spot coordinates so that these maintain the same space throughout
481 processing. One common problem when trying to register different image modalities is how to
482 handle differences in voxel resolution. In the case of Visium, we know the size of each spot
483 (55µm) as well as their distance on center from each other (100µm). Using the image spot
484 scaling information provided by Space Ranger we are able to accurately calculate the size of
485 each spot in the original high-resolution image and calculate the voxel to real world resolution
486 and bring the image into the same resolution as the template. In order to perform the
487 registration, the tissue image is converted to gray scale. The template image is also min-max
488 normalized in order to bring it into range of a normal gray scale image rather than the original
489 multi-channel image. In order to mask the background noise from the sample images we ran a
490 20µm Gaussian blur on each image, from which we generated a binary tissue mask using the
491 Otsu method, which allows us to mask out all voxels except for those that contain tissue from the
492 registration process.

493 **Image Registration:** After the initial rotation, we selected a single image from our sample set to
494 act as our “best fit.” For the best fit we chose a sample that had good shape and image quality.
495 This selection of a best fit image is done to minimize the need of registering each sample

496 individually to the template image, which has a higher potential for error, and instead register
497 them all to the best fit image that shares more of the image characteristics of H&E stains. To run
498 the registration of the best fit sample (**Fig. 5A₁**) and its spots (**Fig. 5A₂**) to the CCF template
499 image (**Fig. 5A₃**) we used the symmetric image normalization method (SyN) nonlinear
500 registration tools from Advanced Normalization Tools (ANTs)⁷⁵ (v.2.3.2), specifically the
501 SyNAggro transformation using a mattes SyN metric with parameters of: SyN sampling=32,
502 flow sigma=3, gradient step=0.1, and registration iterations=[120, 100,80,60,40,20,0]. The result
503 of this registration can be seen applied to the tissue image (**Fig. 5A₄**) and to the tissue spots (**Fig.**
504 **5A₅**). After the best fit image was registered to the CCF template image we used the same
505 registration parameters to register the remaining samples to the unregistered best fit image, and
506 then finally applied “best fit to template” transformation generated above to each sample and its
507 spots, bringing them into common space (**Fig. 5A₆**).

508 **Digital Spots:** With all sample images and their spot coordinates in the CCF reference space, we
509 developed a method to create “digital spots” to make running analysis on multiple samples
510 simpler and more closely representative of spacing of the spots in relation to each other. Visium
511 spots are organized in a honeycomb arrangement, where each 55 μ m spot has 6 equidistant
512 nearest neighbors spaced 100 μ m away on center. Knowing this, we created digital spots that
513 replicate the characteristics of the Visium spots in the digital space. Using the 10 μ m resolution
514 of the CCF template, we wrote a function that generated a honeycomb spaced grid of digital
515 spots in CCF space and within the bounds of our template mask by defining the desired spacing
516 between digital spots. Due to inevitable spatial uncertainty during registration, we set the spot
517 spacing of our digital sampling to 150 μ m in order to “smooth” the data, a method already
518 common in neuroimaging. We then measured Euclidean distance between each digital spot and

519 template registered tissue coordinates from all samples in the experiment. We sorted these
 520 distances and selected at each digital spot from each sample the 7 nearest neighbor spots up to
 521 450 μ m, or approximately 3 digital spots away from the center of the digital spot. We chose 7
 522 because of the hexagonal properties of the spot spacing, with every 1 spot having 6 nearest
 523 neighbors. Each digital spot is therefore a vector of multiple spots from each of the registered
 524 samples, e.g. for our 13 samples, this sampling would include up to 7 x 13 sample spots at each
 525 digital spot. For our data, this method generated 2,052 spots for the CCF template image (**Fig.**
 526 **SA7**), of which we removed 100 spots from analysis for not having sufficient nearest neighbors
 527 across samples, leaving 1,892 spots. Examples of this sampling can be seen in **Fig. 5B-G**, with
 528 the first image in each plot showing the mean of the digital spots of log base 2 normalized gene
 529 counts for NSD samples (**Fig. 5B₁-G₁**), the second image showing the mean of normalized gene
 530 counts for SD (**Fig. 5B₂-G₂**).

531

532 **Statistical analysis of digital spots:** We performed a two-tailed t-test on each digital spot with a
 533 Šidák p-value correction (Šidák, 1967) for the number of digital spots as follows:

$$\alpha_s = 1 - (1 - \alpha)^{(1/m)}$$

534

535 Where α_s is the Šidák corrected p-value, α is the original p-value (e.g. 0.05 or 0.01) and m is the
 536 number of digital spots used in the analysis. The number of digital spots is determined by the
 537 distance between spots and the actual size of the slice used to create the digital spots. In our case,
 538 with a digital smoothed spot distance of 150 μ m the number of digital spots came to 2,052, as
 539 compared to the mean of 2,538.46 spots across our sample slices with a spot distance of

540 100 μ m. Based on these numbers, any genes that differed between NSD and SD with a p-value <
541 2.50e-05 for at least 3 of the 1,892 digital spots present in all samples was considered
542 significantly differentially expressed. The results of the two-tailed t-test for 6 example DEGs can
543 be found in figure 5 (**Fig. 5B3-G3**).

544 **Functional enrichment analysis of DEGs using ToppGene:** ToppFun, the functional
545 enrichment analysis tool from ToppGene suite⁵¹ was run by pasting the list of 428 DEGs
546 generated by STANLY into the ToppFun enrichment gene set and searching for an enrichment of
547 GO: Molecular Functions, GO: Biological Processes, and Mouse Phenotypes.

548

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724
 725 **Data availability**

726 Data analysis and processing was performed using commercial code from Partek Flow package
 727 at <https://www.partek.com/partek-flow/>.

728

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739
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743

744 **Author contributions**

745 T.A. designed the study. E.N.W performed the sleep deprivation and tissue collection. LC. Lin
746 performed the tissue preparation for 10x Genomics Visium Gene Expression. Y.V. and Z.P.
747 performed the transcriptomic and statistical analysis with the advice and guidance of the senior
748 authors. Y.V., Z.P., Lisa C.L., and E.N.W. wrote the manuscript with input from all the authors.

749

750 **Competing interests**

751 The authors declare no competing interests.

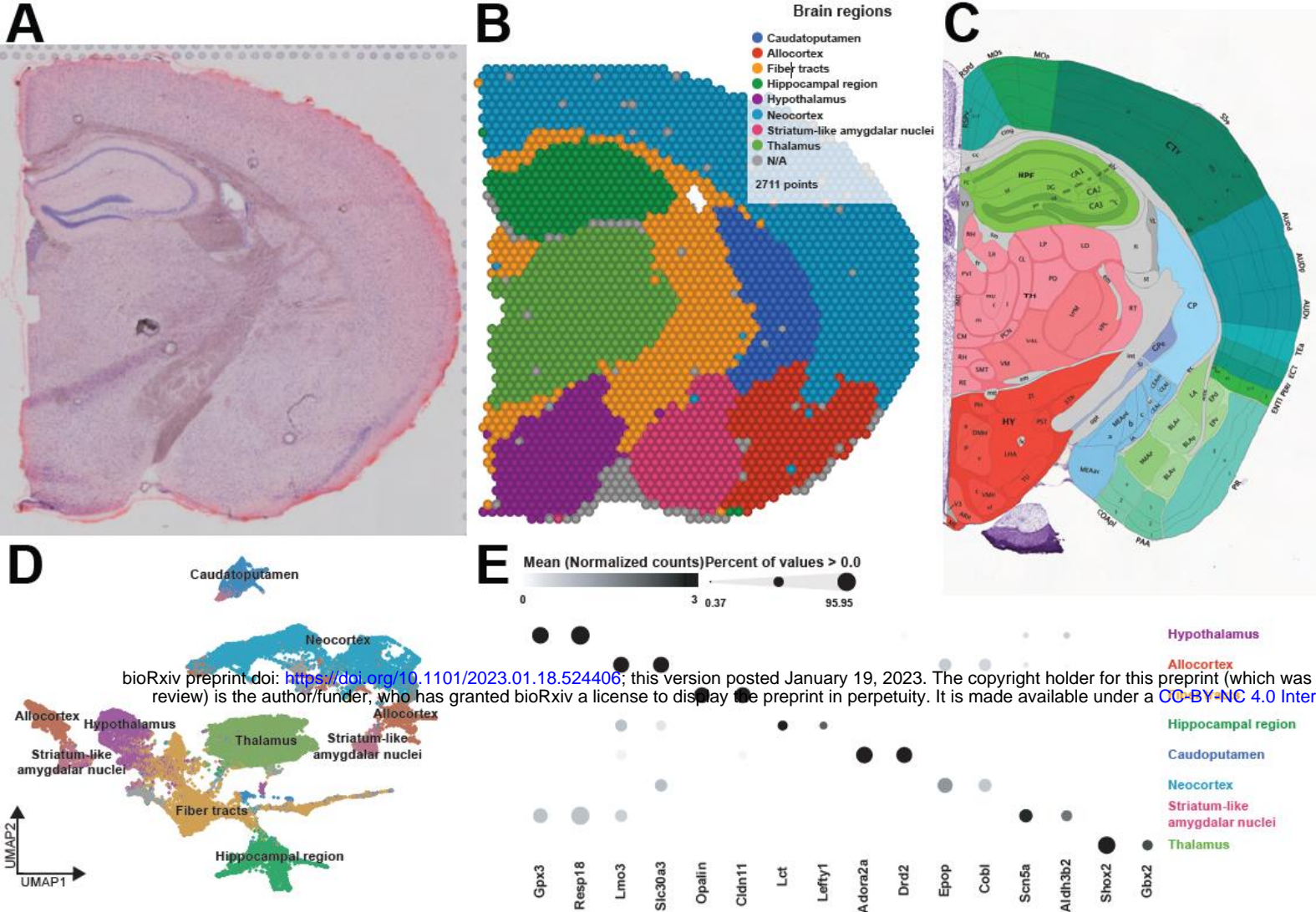


Figure 1. Spatial patterns of gene expression define anatomically distinct brain regions. **A.** Coronal tissue section H&E histology staining from sample 4. **B.** Graph-based cluster identification from spot-level (2,711 spots) of sample 4. Each spot is colored based on the transcriptional signature computed from 20 principal components using Louvain clustering algorithm. The brain regions are labeled in the colored legend. **C.** Screenshot of the reference mouse Allen brain atlas (coronal section image 72 of 132, position 285, <http://atlas.brain-map.org/>). **D.** UMAP plot based on the transcriptional signature of each spot. **E.** Bubble plot of the most significant computed biomarkers for each brain region. The bubble chart shows the expression level of biomarkers in each brain region. Bubble diameters are proportional to the percentage of spots that show expression of the biomarker. For each brain region, two significant biomarkers are displayed.

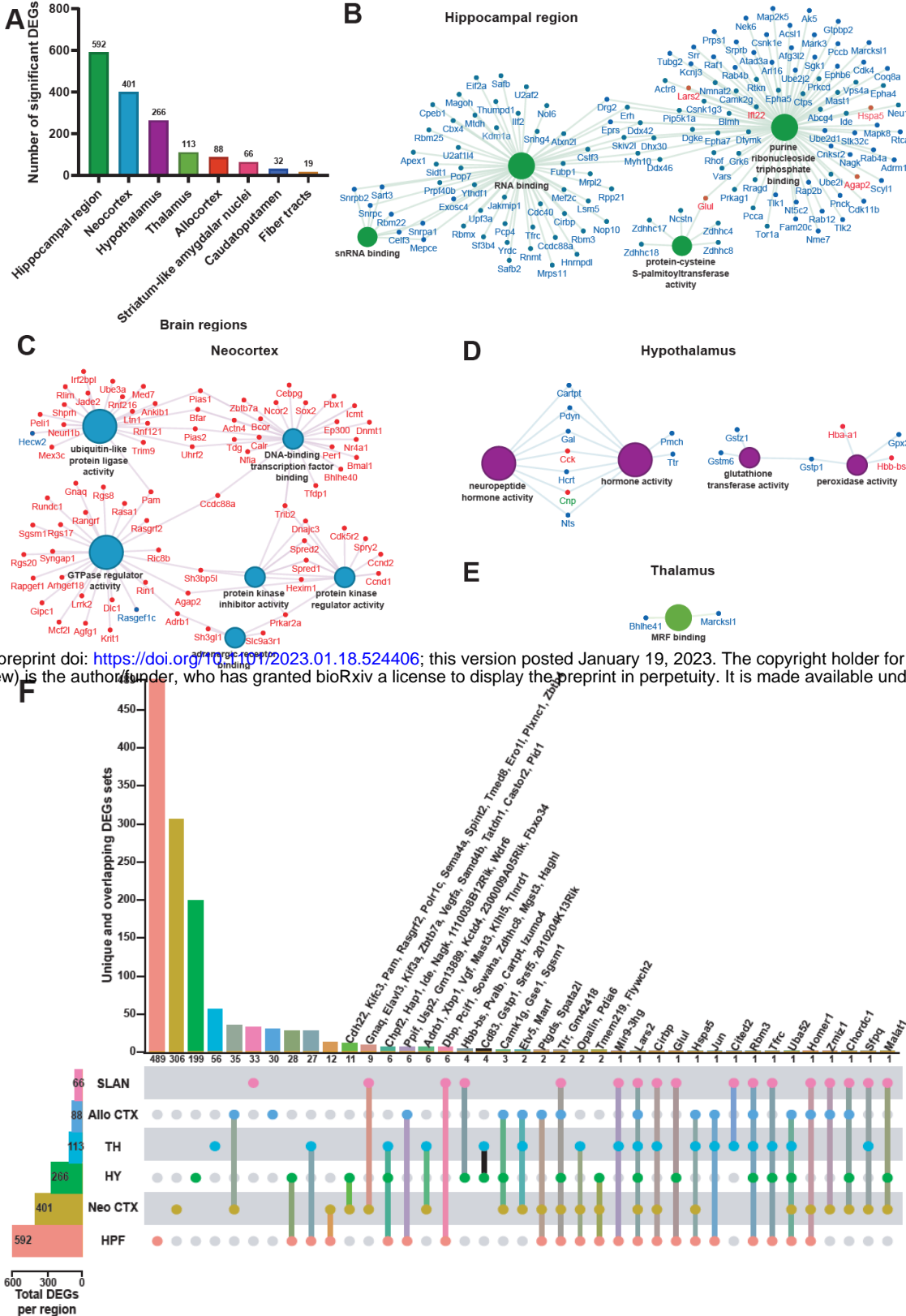


Figure 2. The hippocampal region is the brain region the most transcriptionally affected after sleep deprivation.

A. Histogram representing the number of significant differentially expressed genes (DEGs) across each brain region previously identified. **B-E.** Molecular functions enriched from the significant DEGs in the hippocampal region (**B**), neocortex (**C**), hypothalamus (**D**), thalamus (**E**). A gene is significant if its FDR step-up < 0.001 and its \log_2 fold-change $\geq |0.2|$. The size of the circle for each enriched molecular function is proportional to the significance. Only molecular functions with a corrected p-value < 0.05 are displayed (two-sided hypergeometric test, Bonferroni step down). The DEGs within these molecular functions are color coded to show whether they are downregulated (blue) or upregulated (red). **F.** UpSet plot of interactions between each brain region that have more than 50 significant DEGs (fiber tracts and caudatoputamen excluded). The number of DEGs submitted for each brain region is represented by the histogram on the left (0-600 range). Dots alone indicate no overlap with any other lists. Dots with connecting lines indicate one or more overlap of DEGs between brain regions. The number of DEGs in a specific list that overlap is represented by the histogram on the top. For spatial expression patterns with smaller numbers of DEGs, we were able to list the gene names above their respective histogram. Genes are labeled for the smallest lists. HPF = Hippocampal Formation ; Neo CTX = Neocortex ; HY = Hypothalamus ; TH = Thalamus ; Allo CTX = Allocortex ; SLAN = Striatum-like amygdalar nuclei.

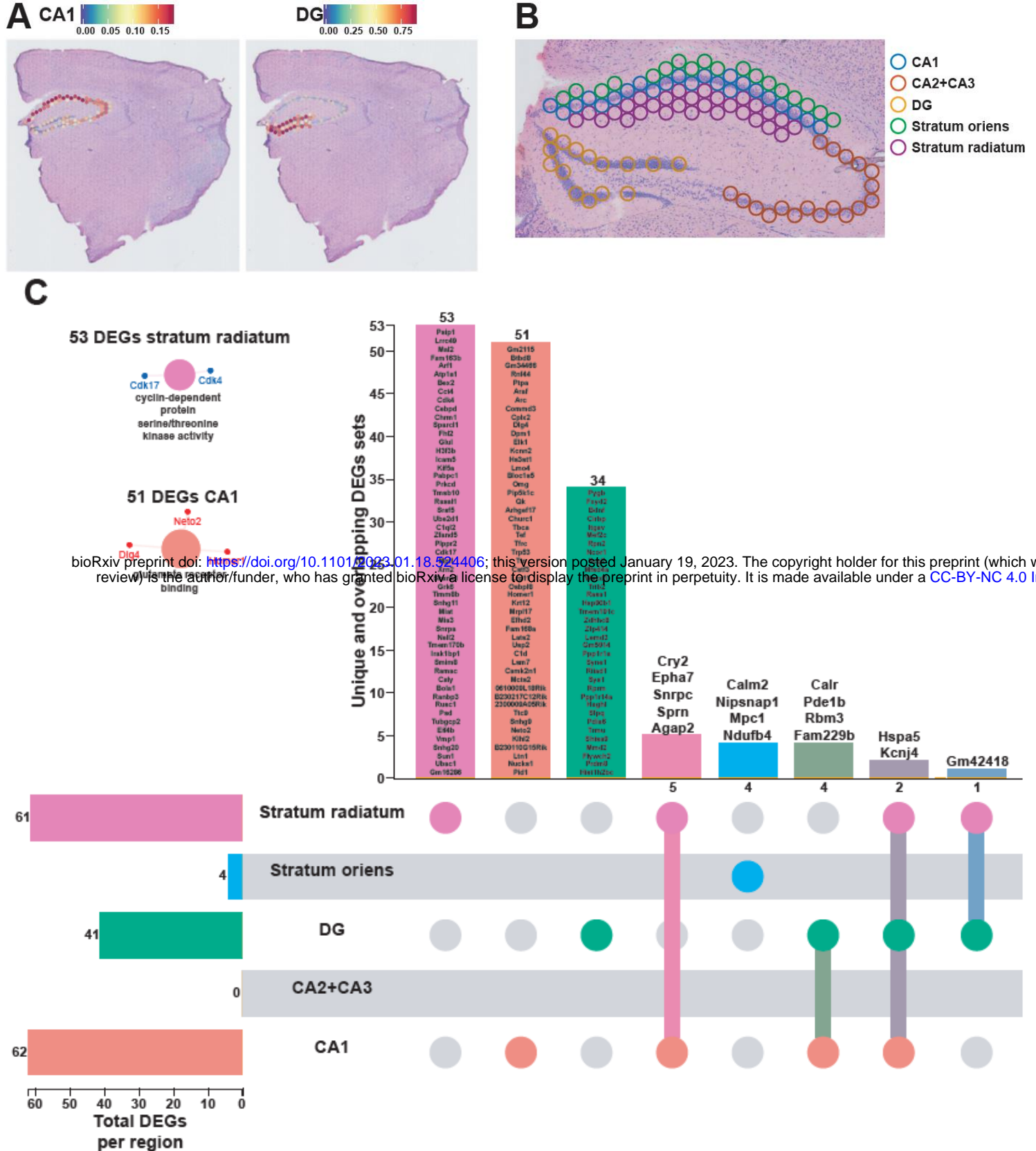
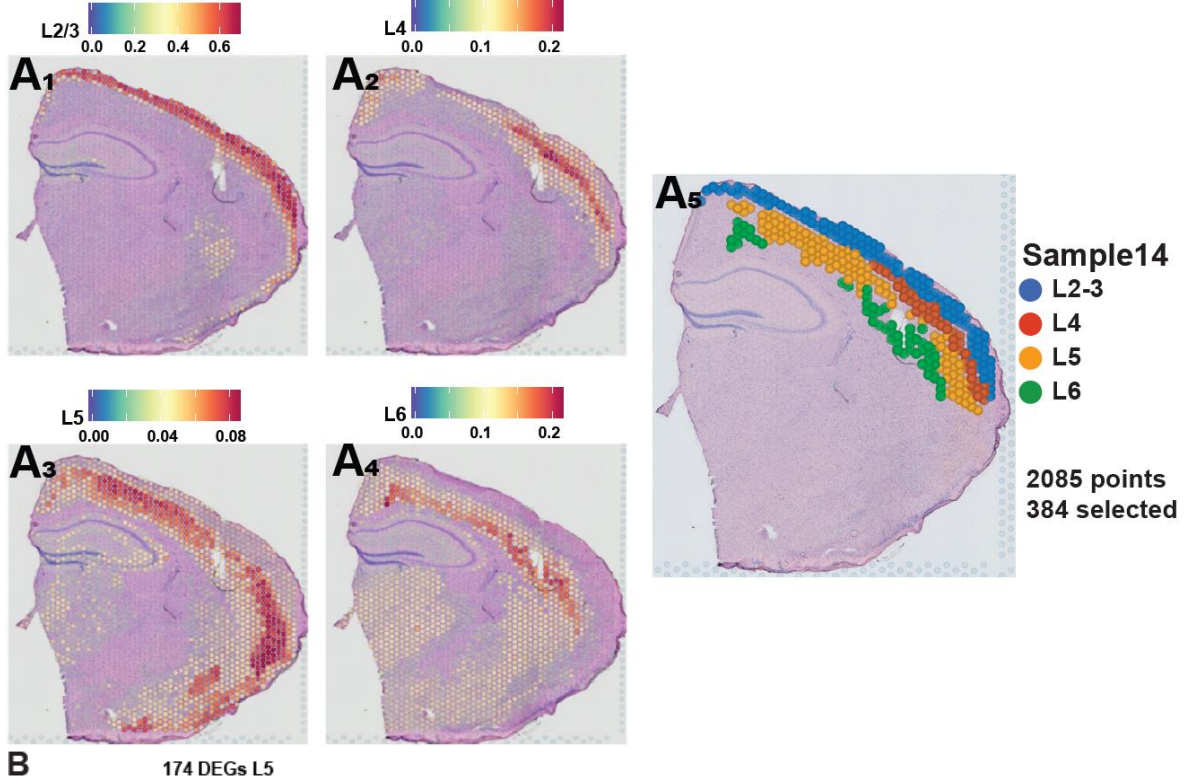


Figure 3. Each hippocampal subregions displays a unique transcriptional impact of sleep deprivation. A. Prediction score of the deconvolution step for each of the 2085 spots of a representative example slice for CA1 pyramidal layer and dentate gyrus granule cells are represented with the color legend from blue to red. The rest of the subregions were selected based on biological knowledge using anatomical structures apparent on the H&E staining images. **B.** Example of identified hippocampal subregions on the sample. **C.** UpSet plot of interactions between each hippocampal subregion. The number of DEGs submitted for each subregion is represented by the histogram on the left (0-62 range). A gene is significant if its FDR step-up < 0.1 and its \log_2 fold-change $\geq |0.2|$. Dots alone indicate no overlap with any other lists. Dots with connecting lines indicate one or more overlap of DEGs between hippocampal subregion. The number of DEGs in a specific list of overlap is represented by the histogram on the top. Genes are labeled for the smallest lists. The unique lists of 53 DEGs and 51 DEGs for stratum radiatum and CA1 pyramidal cells respectively enriched specific molecular functions displayed on the left. The size of the circle for each enriched molecular function is proportional to the significance. Only molecular functions with a corrected p-value < 0.05 are displayed (two-sided hypergeometric test, Bonferroni step down). A gene is considered significant if $FDR < 0.001$ and \log_2 fold change $> |0.2|$.



B 174 DEGs L5

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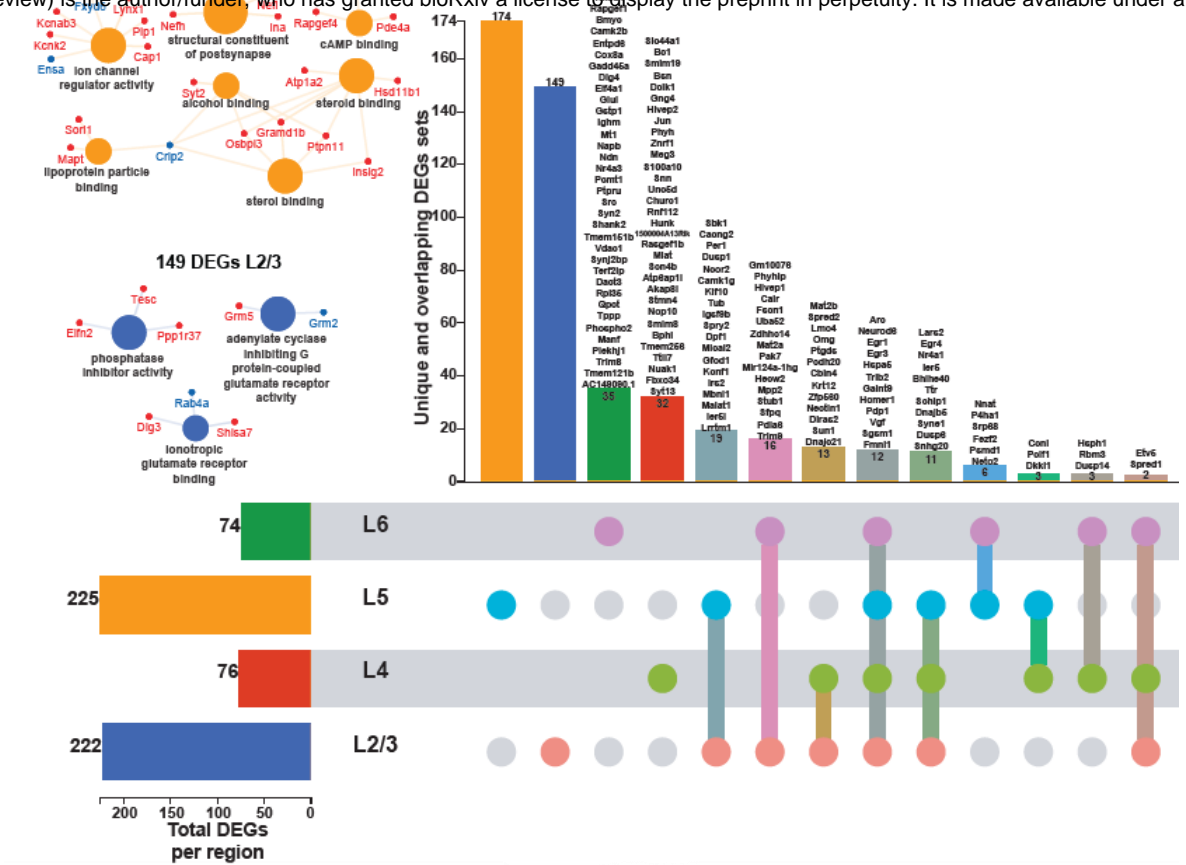


Figure 4. Each cortical layer of the neocortex displays a unique transcriptional impact of sleep deprivation. A. Prediction score of the deconvolution step for each of the 2085 spots of a representative example slice for each cortical layer are represented with the color legend from blue to red: layer 2-3 (**A₁**), layer 4 (**A₂**), layer 5 (**A₃**), layer 6 (**A₄**). We can distinguish between distinct sequential laminar excitatory neurons layers on the aggregated profile (**A₅**). **B.** UpSet plot of interactions between each deconvoluted cortical layers of the neocortex. The number of DEGs submitted for each layer is represented by the histogram on the left (0-225 range). A gene is significant if its FDR step-up < 0.001 and its log₂fold-change ≥ |0.2|. Dots alone indicate no overlap with any other lists. Dots with connecting lines indicate one or more overlap of DEGs between cortical layers. The number of DEGs in a specific list of overlap is represented by the histogram on the top. Genes are labeled for the smallest lists. L2/3 = Layer 2 and 3 ; L4 = Layer 4 ; L5 = Layer 5 ; L6 = Layer 6. The unique lists of 174 DEGs for layer 5 and 149 DEGs for layer 2/3 that enrich specific molecular functions are listed on the left. The size of the circle for each enriched molecular function is proportional to the significance. Only molecular functions with a corrected p-value < 0.05 are displayed (two-sided hypergeometric test, Bonferroni step down). A gene is considered significant if FDR < 0.001 and log₂fold change > |0.2|.

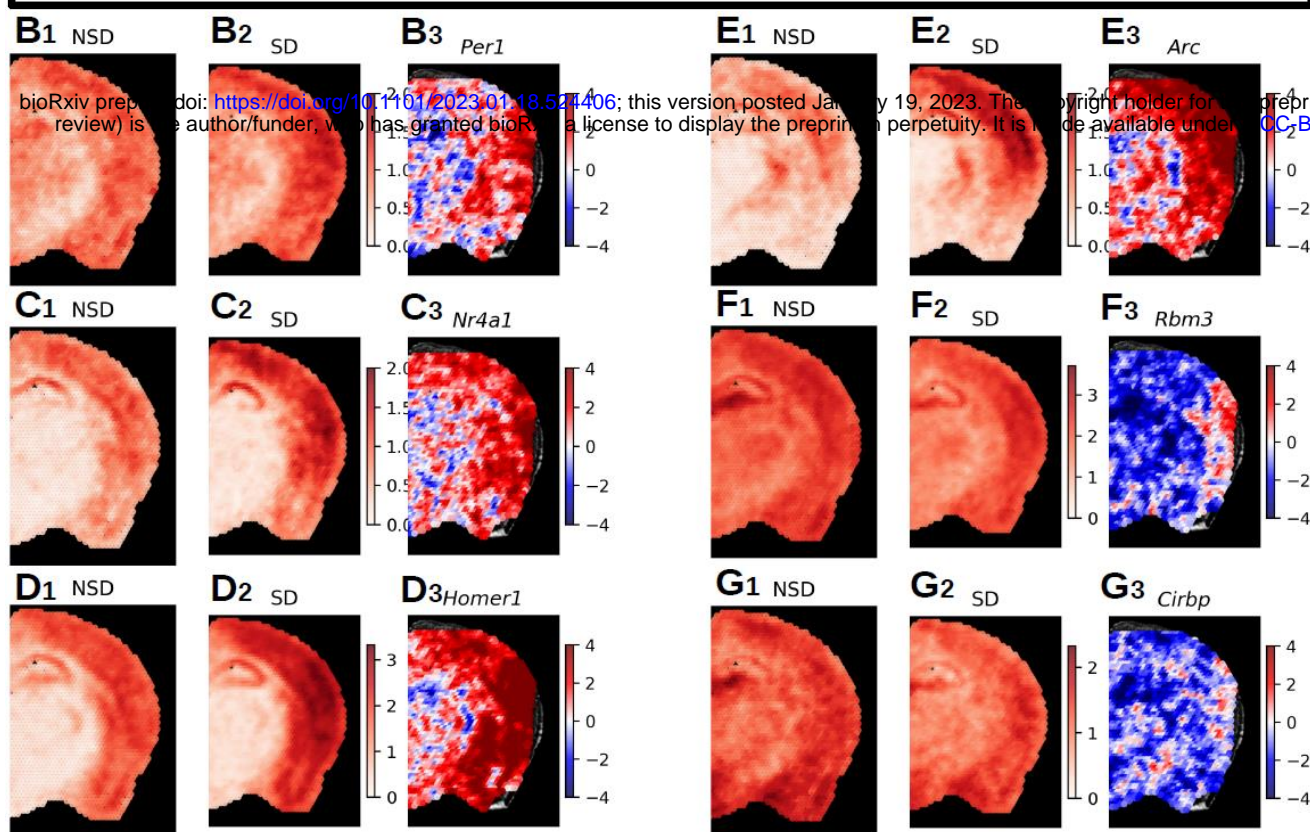
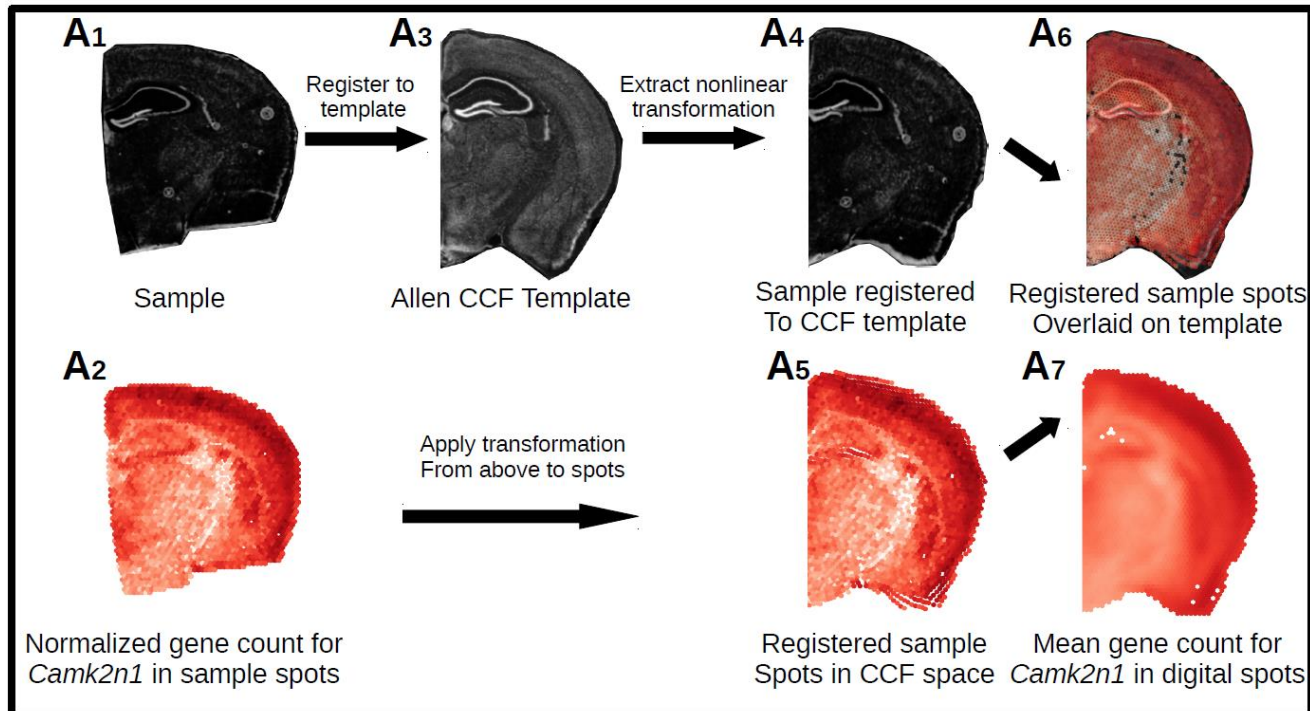


Figure 5. Registration of Visium data to Allen Common Coordinate Framework and statistical analysis of aligned transcriptomic spots. A. Nonlinear registration of the tissue image from a single Visium sample (**A₁**) and its transcriptomic spot coordinates (**A₂**) – shown as example: the gene *Camk2n1* – to the template image (**A₃**), slice 70 from the Allen P56 Mouse Common Coordinate Framework (CCF). Due to the nonlinear nature of the registration, we were able to precisely align the sample image (**A₄**) to landmarks in the template image and apply that transformation to the spot coordinates (**A₅**). To account for different numbers of spots in individual samples, digital spots spaced at 150 μ m in a honeycomb were created for the template slice. Each digital spot is populated with the log base 2 normalized transcriptomic counts from the 7 nearest spots from each sample in a group (**A₇**). This approach allows the comparison of gene expression across entire brain slices in an unrestricted inference space. **B-G.** Samples were split into non-sleep deprived (NSD, n=6, 42 sample spots per digital spot) and sleep deprived (SD, n=7, 49 sample spots per digital spot). The range of the color bar for the mean calculations is set from 0 to the maximum normalized gene count for that gene for all samples, while the t-statistic color bar is bounded to [-4,4], which is approximately the equivalent to the Šidák corrected p-value of $< 2.50e-05$. We show a selected group of 6 genes from the 428 DEGs (Sup. Table X) (**B-G**). Panel 1 shows for each gene (**B1-G1**) the mean normalized gene count in NSD, panel 2 depicts the mean normalized gene count in SD (**B2-G2**) and panel 3 shows the t-statistics (**B3-G3**). The following DEGs are depicted: **B.** *Per1*, 4 significant spots. **C.** *Nr4a1*, 29 significant spots. **D.** *Homer1*, 306 significant spots. **E.** *Arc*, 168 significant spots. **F.** *Rbm3*, 31 significant spots. **G.** *Cirbp*, 9 significant spots.