

### **Sensorimotor integration by dorsal striatal circuits.**

The basal ganglia (BG) are involved in a wide range of functions, such as planning, motor learning or selection of movements. Malfunctions of the BG can lead to severe motor problems, as Parkinson's and Huntington's disease or Tourette syndrome. The striatum is the input layer of the BG and receives cortical projections from sensory, motor and associative areas and thalamus. 95% of the striatal neurons are GABAergic projection neurons called MSNs. They are divided into two subpopulations according to their axonal projections and their different dopamine receptor expression, defining the direct and indirect pathways. In addition, the striatum is massively innervated by dopaminergic axons from the substantia nigra pars compacta. Dopamine is known to play a role in processes leading to corticostriatal synapses, modulating and inducing changes in synaptic transmission and plasticity. Axons from cortical sensory areas target MSNs and interneurons, some of these projections overlap along the dorsal striatum, when transmitting tactile, auditory and visual information. Therefore, in order to understand the circuits involved, we first study the axonal innervation and the functional properties of the dorsal striatum. To assess our objectives, we combined *in vivo* optopatch-clamp recordings in identified MSNs along the dorsal striatum with simultaneous local field potential recordings in several cortical areas in anesthetized mice. We found that the dorsal striatum is composed of two non-overlapping functional circuits, with particular corticostriatal connectivity and local synaptic attributes of each region (Alegre-Cortés et al, 2020). We established that only MSNs located in the dorsomedial striatum are able to integrate information of different sensory modalities, such as visual and tactile. Then, we also investigated the impact of dopamine on modulating multisensory integration in MSNs of the dorsomedial striatum. Our data shows that dopamine release modifies the integration of visual and tactile inputs and selectively synchronizes multisensory information in a specific subpopulation of MSNs.