Supporting Materials and Methods

Molecular Biology. The five 2A peptides selected for investigation in this study were the D2A peptide of *Drosophila C* virus, E2A of *Equine rhinitis A* virus, F2A of foot-and-mouth disease, P2A of *Porcine teschovirus*1 and T2A of *Thata asigna* virus (Donnelly *et al.* 2001). The amino acid sequences of these five 2A peptides are shown in Table S1. Five DNA sequences that encoded the mCD8 transmembrane protein (Lee and Luo 1999) fused to a 2A peptide in a single open reading frame, and incorporating a KpnI restriction between the mCD8 and 2A sequences were synthesized (Epoch Biolabs, Inc. Sugar Land, TX). Following digestion with XbaI and SacI, these constructs were subcloned into the pPacPL vector (a kind gift of Dr. Bruce Paterson; digested with SpeI and SacI) to create the pPacPL-mCD8-2A constructs. The EGFP coding sequence from pEGFP-N2 (BD Biosciences) was subcloned into the pPacPL-mCD8-2A plasmids using the Apal and NotI restriction sites to generate the five pPacPL-mCD8-2A-EGFP constructs. The pPacPL-mCD8-EGFP control construct was made by digesting both pPacPL-mCD8-2A and pEGFP-N3 (BD Biosciences) with KpnI and NotI and ligating the EGFP fragment into the resulting pPacPL-mCD8-EGFP plasmid.

To generate pPacPL-mCD8-2A-Gal4 constructs, the coding sequence of Gal4 was amplified by PCR using primers that added Apal (or KpnI) and NotI restriction sites at the 5’ and 3’ ends. The Gal4 fragment was subcloned into pPacPL-mCD8-2A digested with Apal or KpnI and NotI, to make the pPacPL-mCD8-2A-Gal4 or pPacPL-mCD8-Gal4 constructs, respectively.

To generate the Bursa-mCD8-EGFP-Gal4 and Bursa-mCD8-EGFP-T2A-Gal4 constructs, a synthetic construct (i.e. Bursa-mCD8-EGFP-T2A-Gal4-Hsp70 pA) including, sequentially, the 252 bp promoter of the bursicon α-subunit gene (Peabody *et al.* 2008), the mCD8-EGFP-T2A-Gal4 coding sequence, and the Hsp70 polyadenylation signal was generated in pBlueScript with KpnI and SpeI restriction sites at 5’ and 3’ ends, respectively (Epoch Biolabs, Inc. Sugar Land, TX). Using the KpnI and SpeI restriction sites, the bursa-mCD8-EGFP-T2A-Gal4-Hsp70 construct was subcloned into the pC-attB vector (the kind gift of Dr. Chi-Hon Lee) to obtain pC-attB-Bursa-mCD8-EGFP-T2A-Gal4. The pC-attB-bursa-mCD8-EGFP-Gal4 was obtained by digesting pC-attB-bursa-mCD8-EGFP-T2A-Gal4 with Apal to excise the T2A sequence.

To generate the UAS-rk<sup>RA</sup> construct, the coding sequence of the rk-RA cDNA (Eriksen *et al.* 2000) was amplified by PCR using primers that introduced an EcoRI restriction site and an optimized translation initiation motif with sequence CAAA immediately before the ATG start codon and a NotI restriction site just after the stop codon. The amplified fragment was then subcloned into the pUAST plasmid for P-element transformation, after EcoRI and NotI restriction digestion.

P[acman] clone CH322-119A8 (Venken *et al.* 2009; Venken *et al.* 2006) (from BAC/PAC Resources Center of Children’s Hospital Oakland Research Institute, Oakland, CA) was used to generate the constructs for rk-Gal4 by recombineering using Gal4K selection (Warming *et al.* 2005). The following synthetic primers (IDT, Coralville, Iowa) were used to amplify the Gal4 targeting
cassette. Sequences representing homologous arms in the \( \text{rk} \) gene are underlined; T2A-Gal4 sequence introduced for higher efficiency recombineering is in bold face:

For \( \text{rk}^{\text{pan}} \)-GalK, \( \text{rk}^{\text{pan}} \)-GalK F:

\[
\text{ACTTCGAGGAGCACGATGAGTGGTCTTGCCACGGGATACGGCTTTTG}
\text{TGAAGGCGCGCCAGCCTGACCTGGCCGGGATGTGGAGG}
\]

\[
\text{CTTGTGACATAATATCGGCA}
\]

and \( \text{rk}^{\text{pan}} \)-GalK R:

\[
\text{ACCGAACCAGGGTTGAAAGTCCTCTGTGGACATAACAGAGTAATAGTCAGTTCTATTACCTCTTCTTG}
\text{GGGGGTTGAGGCGGATCTCGCCTATCACGACTGTCTGCTC}
\]

For \( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \)-GalK, \( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \)-GalK F:

\[
\text{TGGTCCTCGAAGCCGGCAACGCCCTCTCGCGATCCCAACGGATGCACCACTATCGACTGTCTGCTC}
\]

and \( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \)-GalK R: \( \text{GTCTCCTGTTGGCCCACCATTCTCGCCACGGGAGTGATACGGCTTTTG}
\text{TGAAGGCGCGGCGCAGCCTGCT}

After obtaining GalK-positive P[acman] clones, the GalK sequence was substituted by the \textit{Drosophila} codon-optimized T2A-Gal4 sequence. T2A-Gal4 fragments were amplified by PCR with the following primers:

For \( \text{rk}^{\text{pan}} \)-Gal4, \( \text{rk}^{\text{pan}} \)-Gal4 F: \( \text{TACTTCGAGGAGCACGATGAGTGGTCTTGCCACGGGATACGGCTTTTG}
\text{TGAAGGCGCGCCAGCCTGACCTGGCCGGGATGTGGAGG}

and \( \text{rk}^{\text{pan}} \)-Gal4 R: \( \text{ACCGAACCAGGGTTGAAAGTCCTCTGTGGACATAACAGAGTAATAGTCAGTTCTATTACCTCTTCTTG}
\text{GGGGGTTGAGGCGGATCTCGCCTATCACGACTGTCTGCTC}

For \( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \)-Gal4, \( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \)-Gal4 F:

\[
\text{TGGTCCTCGAAGCCGGCAACGCCCTCTCGCGATCCCAACGGATGCACCACTATCGACTGTCTGCTC}
\]

and \( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \)-Gal4 R: \( \text{GTCTCCTGTTGGCCCACCATTCTCGCCACGGGAGTGATACGGCTTTTG}
\text{TGAAGGCGCGGCGCAGCCTGCT}

Plasmid DNAs for all constructs were isolated for fly transformation by S.N.A.P. MidiPrep Kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA).

**Fly Genetics.** Transgenic flies were generated using standard injection protocols by either Duke University Model System Genomics Group (Durham, NC) or Rainbow Transgenic Flies, Inc. (Camarillo, CA). UAS-\( \text{rk}^{\text{RA}} \) was generated by P-element transformation. All other constructs were generated by \( \Phi \text{C31}-\text{mediated transgenesis into the attP2 site on the 3rd}
\)

chromosome (Groth et al. 2004). All flies were grown on corn meal-molasses medium and maintained at 25°C in a constant 12 h light–dark cycle. UAS-EGFP, UAS-EGFP.nls, UAS-RedStinger and \textit{rickets}\(^*\) (\( \text{rk}^{*} \)) mutants were from the Bloomington Stock Center (Indiana University). UAS-dnc flies were the kind gift of Dr. Randall Hewes.

**SL2 Cell Culture.** SL2 cells were grown in serum-free HyQ-CCM3 medium (Hyclone, Logan, UT) to a density of \( 10^{6} \) cells ml\(^{-1} \) in 6-well plates (\( 10^{6} \) cells per well). Cells in each well were transfected with 1.0 \( \mu \text{g} \) of each DNA construct purified with S.N.A.P.
MidiPrep kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) using the Roche FuGENE6 Transfection Reagent (Roche Diagnostics, Indianapolis, IN). pPacPL-mCD8-2A-Gal4 (or PacPL-mCD8-Gal4) and pUAST-EGFP plasmid DNAs were co-transfected in experiments in which Gal4 activity was monitored by UAS-EGFP expression. Cells were analyzed by confocal microscopy after 2 d incubation at 25 °C.

**Immunostaining and Image Acquisition.** Excised nervous system whole mounts from wandering third-instar larvae or pharate adults were dissected in PBS, and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 20–30 min, followed by post fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde/PBS plus 0.5% Triton X-100 for 15 min. Primary antibodies were used at the following concentrations: rabbit anti-bursicon α-subunit (Peabody et al. 2008), 1:5000 dilution; mouse anti-mCD8, 1:100 dilution (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA); rabbit anti-Gal4, 1:100 dilution (Santa Cruz Biotech, Inc., Santa Cruz, CA). Secondary antibodies used were: AlexaFluor 488 goat anti-mouse, AlexaFluor 568 goat anti-rabbit, and AlexaFluor 680 goat anti-rabbit (all from Invitrogen) were used at 1:500 dilution. Immunolabeled samples were mounted in Vectashield (Vector Laboratories) prior to confocal imaging on a Nikon C-1 confocal microscope. Z-series were acquired in 1 μm increments using a 20x objective and 488 nm, and 543 nm, and 633nm laser emission lines for fluorophore excitation. The images shown are maximal projections of volume rendered z-stacks of confocal sections collected by incrementally stepping through the entire nervous system.

**References**


