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Supplementary Fig. 1. TrkB preformed dimer and its activation by BDNF. Rat 5 hippocampal neurons (10 days in culture) were treated with or without BDNF (1.0 nM) for 6 15 min. and processed for Western blotting. (A) and (B) Cultures were harvested and 7 8 proteins were separated in native gels (in the absence of SDS, without β -ME), and probed 9 anti-TrkB antibodies MM12 (A) or 80E3 (B). The same experiment as Fig. 1A, middle, 10 right 2 lanes, Note that TrkB existed primarily as a preformed dimer before BDNF stimulation. (C) and (D) The experiments were carried out in SDS with (C) or without (D) 11 β -ME, and the Western blot was probed with the anti-pTrkB (Y515) or the TrkB80E3 12 13 antibody. The results are the same as Fig. 1B, middle, showing activated TrkB monomer and dimer. (E) The experiment was carried out in SDS with (left 2 lanes) or without (right 2 14 lanes) β-ME, and the Western blot was probed with anti-pTrkB (Y515) (upper) as well as 15 16 TrkB80E3 (lower). The experiment was essentially the same as Fig. 1B, middle and upper, showing activated TrkB monomer and dimer. 17



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Supplementary Fig. 2. BDNF increases dimer formation for ECD430 but not for ECD365.

- 20 The same experiment as Fig. 2B, showing the effect of BDNF TrkB dimer formation. The
- 21 experiment was carried out in the absence of SDS and β -ME, and the Western blot was
- 22 probed with TrkB80E3 and anti-His antibodies.
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26 Supplementary Fig. 3. Activation of preformed TrkB dimer by stimulating TrkB EJM. (A): Lysates (2 µg/lane) derived from TrkBdelECD365-expressing cells were subject to 27 native gel (-SDS -β-ME), and the Western blots were probed with anti- pTrkB(Y515) (left), 28 29 a pan Trk (middle), and MM12 (right) antibodies. The results are essentially the same as Fig. 3B. (B) and (C): The same as A, except the experiments were carried out in the 30 presence of SDS, with or without β -ME as indicated, and the Western blot was probed with 31 MM12 antibody (B) and anti-pTrkB(Y515) antibody (C). The results are essentially the 32 33 same as Fig. 3C, carried out in the presence of SDS and β -ME, showing MM12, but not 34 BDNF, could activate TrkBdelECD365.





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Supplementary Fig. 4. Deletion of TrkB-ECD does not affect TrkB activation. The 38 experiments were carried essentially the same way as that in Fig. 4. Stable CHO cells 39 expressing TrkB (CHO-hTrkB) or TrkB lacking ECD (CHO-hTrkBdelECD365), as well as 40 PC12 cells stably expressing TrkBdelECD365, were used. Cells were harvested after 41 treatment with BDNF or MM12 for 30 min, followed by Western blots. (A) The blot was 42 43 probed pTrkB, pAkt, Akt antibodies. Note that for both CHO and PC12 lines expressing 44 TrkB lacking ECD, treatment with the TrkB agonist antibody MM12 but not BDNF led to the activation of this truncated TrkB and its downstream pAkt. (B) An independent 45 46 experiment identical to that of (A). The results in this figure are essentially the same as Fig. 47 4. 48



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51 **Supplementary Fig. 5.** MM12 selectively activates human TrkB (hTrkB) homodimer and

52 homodimer of rat TrkB (rTrkB) with human EJM (rTrkBhEJM), but not hTrkB-rTrkB

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- 53 hetero-dimer or rTrkB- rTrkBhEJM hetero-dimer. The experiment was exactly the same as
- that in Fig. 5B (top). The blot was probed with pTrkB ($\dot{Y515}$).