

# Behavioral and Sensory Deficits Associated with Dysfunction of GABAergic System in a novel *shank2*-Deficient Zebrafish Model

Yi Wang <sup>1</sup>, Chunxue Liu <sup>1</sup>, Jingxin Deng <sup>1</sup>, Qiong Xu <sup>1</sup>, Jia Lin <sup>2</sup>, Huiping Li <sup>1</sup>, Meixin Hu <sup>1</sup>,  
Chunchun Hu <sup>1</sup>, Qiang Li <sup>2</sup> and Xiu Xu <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Division of Child Health Care, Children's Hospital of Fudan University, National Children's Medical Center, 399 Wanyuan Road, Shanghai 201102, China

<sup>2</sup> Center for Translational Medicine, Institute of Pediatrics, Shanghai key Laboratory of Birth Defect, Children's Hospital of Fudan University, National Children's Medical Center, 399 Wanyuan Road, Shanghai 201102, China

\* Correspondence: Xiu Xu: [xuxiu@shmu.edu.cn](mailto:xuxiu@shmu.edu.cn)

Supplementary Table S1: gRNA gene-target sequences, primers for PCR genotyping and RT-qPCR used in this study.

Supplementary Table S2: Protein homology analysis of zebrafish *shank2a*, *shank2b* and human SHANK2.

Supplementary Table S3: Domains homology analysis of zebrafish *shank2a* and human SHANK2.

Supplementary Table S4: Domains homology analysis of zebrafish *shank2b* and human SHANK2.

Supplementary Table S5: Homology comparison between zebrafish *shank2a* and *shank2b*

Supplementary Table S6: Phenotypic characteristics of zebrafish embryos at 24 hpf.

Supplementary Table S7: Phenotypic characteristics of zebrafish embryos at 3 dpf.

Supplementary Figure S1: *shank2* orthologues are conserved in zebrafish and CRISPR-Cas9 induced *shank2b* target-mutation

Supplementary Figure S2: Morphological analysis of *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> zebrafish

Supplementary Figure S3: *shank2b* mutants exhibited normal VMR response to darkness stimuli

Supplementary Figure S4: Dose-response paired plots showing the change in activity during light to dark transition per fish of wild-type or *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> fish at 9dpf exposed to water or increasing concentrations of Pentylenetetrazol (PTZ) for 1 h

Supplementary Figure S5: Different isoforms of zebrafish *shank2a*

Supplementary Figure S6: Different isoforms of zebrafish *shank2b*

**Supplementary Table S1. gRNA gene-target sequences, primers for PCR genotyping and RT-qPCR used in this study**

| Primer                                   | Sequence (5'-3')                | Gene ID                  |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>shank2b</i> -gRNA target site-E10     | GGATCGGAGCAGCACTCGCG            | NC_07136.7               |
| <i>shank2b</i> -genotyping PCR-Intron9-F | TGTATGCAGAAATGAAGCTGAAGT<br>GTG | NC_07136.7               |
| <i>shank2b</i> -genotyping PCR-E10/I10-R | AATGTGGGAAGATCACTGACCTGC        |                          |
| <i>shank2b</i> -qPCR-E10-F               | GCCCCGCGAGTGCTGCTC              | NM_00112834              |
| <i>shank2b</i> -qPCR-E10-R               | CCATGGTTTTACCGTGCCA             | 7.1                      |
| <i>shank2a</i> -qPCR-E2/3-F              | ATCGGATCAAGAGAATGGATGGCT        | ENSDART000<br>00159950.2 |
| <i>shank2a</i> -qPCR-E3-R                | TGAAACACTGCTCTGCGTTCCC          |                          |
| <i>gabra1</i> -qPCR-F                    | GGAGAGCGTGTAACCGAAGTCAA<br>G    | NM_00107732<br>6.1       |
| <i>gabra1</i> -qPCR-R                    | TTGTTGAGACGGAGCACGGC            |                          |
| <i>gabara2a</i> -qPCR-F                  | TTCTCACGGATTCTAATCCACCTG        | XM_009307207<br>.3       |
| <i>gabara2a</i> -qPCR-R                  | TCTGTCACTCGATCTCCAAGACCA        |                          |
| <i>gabara3</i> -qPCR-F                   | TGAAGTTCGGGAGCTATGCCTACA        | XM_021469255<br>.1       |
| <i>gabara3</i> -qPCR-R                   | TGGTCTCTTTGCCGATGACGTG          |                          |
| <i>gabara4</i> -qPCR-F                   | TGTCTTTGGAATCACCACCGTCC         | NM_00101782<br>2.1       |
| <i>gabara4</i> -qPCR-R                   | GCGTTGGTAAAGTAGTTGACGGCC        |                          |
| <i>gabara5</i> -qPCR-F                   | TTTGACCTGCCATCTGAGCCTCT         | XM_005166083<br>.4       |
| <i>gabara5</i> -qPCR-R                   | TGGTCCAAAGCTGGTAACAAAGA<br>TG   |                          |
| <i>gabara6a</i> -qPCR-F                  | TTGGAAGCTATGCTTACACGAATC<br>G   | NM_200731.1              |
| <i>gabara6a</i> -qPCR-R                  | TGGACGACCTGGACAGAATACAG<br>TC   |                          |
| <i>gabara6b</i> -qPCR-F                  | TGACCACTCCCAACAAGCTGTTC         | XM_002667357<br>.6       |
| <i>gabara6b</i> -qPCR-R                  | TCACCTGTGTTGACTTCAACCTTT<br>C   |                          |
| <i>gabrb1</i> -qPCR-F                    | CTCAGGATAACGACTACCGCTGCA        | XM_021480764<br>.1       |
| <i>gabrb1</i> -qPCR-R                    | CGGCAGCTCGATGTTGTCCA            |                          |
| <i>gabrb2a</i> -qPCR-F                   | ATTAAGGATCACCACCACCGCTG         | NM_00102438<br>7.2       |
| <i>gabrb2a</i> -qPCR-R                   | GCAGTTCGATTCTCTCCACCCC          |                          |
| <i>gabrb3</i> -qPCR-F                    | TGACACAAGCGCCAATGAACC           | XM_021471811<br>.1       |
| <i>gabrb3</i> -qPCR-R                    | ACCTCAGACACCATGTCTATGCTC<br>G   |                          |
| <i>gabrb4</i> -qPCR-F                    | ACTTTGGAGGTCCTCCAGTCATCG        | XM_017353011<br>.2       |
| <i>gabrb4</i> -qPCR-R                    | GCCACACGGTTGTCCAAAGTCA          |                          |
| <i>gabrg1</i> -qPCR-F                    | TCATTAGGCATCACAACCTGTGCTC<br>A  | XM_009307208<br>.3       |
| <i>gabrg1</i> -qPCR-R                    | GCTTGTGAAATAATGCAGAGTTCC        |                          |

|                            |                               |                        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
|                            | G                             |                        |
| <i>gabrg2</i> -qPCR-F      | CACTTTAAGGTTGACCATTGACGC<br>A | NM_00125625<br>0.1     |
| <i>gabrg2</i> -qPCR-R      | CGGATATCTCCAACCTCCACAGAG<br>C |                        |
| <i>gabbrd</i> -qPCR-F      | TCAGAAGCCAACATGGAATACAC<br>CA | XM_695007.8            |
| <i>gabbrd</i> -qPCR-R      | TTCTCCACCGTCACGTCATGAAA       |                        |
| <i>RPL13A(60s)</i> -qPCR-F | TCTGGAGGACTGTAAGAGGTATGC      | ENSDART000<br>00023156 |
| <i>RPL13A(60s)</i> -qPCR-R | AGACGCACAATCTTGAGAGCAG        |                        |

**Supplementary Table S2. Protein homology analysis of zebrafish shank2a, shank2b and human SHANK2**

| Gene           | NCBI reference<br>mRNA number | NCBI reference<br>protein number | Amino acid | vs. human SHANK2 protein<br>(NP_036441.2) |              |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---|--------------|
|                |                               |                                  |            | Query cover (%)                           | Identity (%) |
| <i>shank2a</i> | XM_021467943.1                | XP_021323618.1                   | 1707       | 100%                                      | 46.63%       |
| <i>shank2b</i> | NM_001128347.1                | NP_001121819.1                   | 1800       | 100%                                      | 60.58%       |

**Supplementary Table S3. Domains homology analysis of zebrafish shank2a and human SHANK2**

| shank2a<br>domains | NCBI reference<br>protein number | vs. human SHANK2 protein domains (NP_036441.2) |              |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
|                    |                                  | Query cover (%)                                | Identity (%) |
| ANK                | XP_021323618.1                   | 94%  | 74.23%       |
| PDZ                |                                  | 100%   | 82.80%       |
| SAM                |                                  | 100%   | 75.38%       |

**Supplementary Table S4. Domains homology analysis of zebrafish shank2b and human SHANK2**

| shank2b<br>domains | NCBI reference<br>protein number | vs. human SHANK2 protein domains (NP_036441.2) |              |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
|                    |                                  | Query cover (%)                                | Identity (%) |
| ANK                | NP_001121819.1                   | 100%   | 80.50%       |
| SH3                |                                  | 100%   | 76.92%       |
| PDZ                |                                  | 100%   | 92.55%       |
| SAM                |                                  | 100%   | 88.06%       |

**Supplementary Table S5 Homology comparison between zebrafish shank2a and shank2b**

|         | NCBI reference<br>protein number | shank2a vs shank2b |              |
|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|         |                                  | Query cover (%)    | Identity (%) |
| shank2a | NP_001121819.1                   | 100%               | 49%          |
| shank2b | XP_021323618.1                   | -                  | -            |
| ANK     |                                  | 85%                | 71%          |
| SH3     |                                  | -                  | -            |
| PDZ     |                                  | 100%               | 83%          |

**Supplementary Table S6. Phenotypic characteristics of zebrafish embryos at 24 hpf**

| Genotype                           | Developmental delay | Death      | Normal      | Total      |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>shank2b</i> <sup>+/+</sup> (WT) | 1 (1.4%)            | 19 (26.8%) | 51 (71.8%)  | 71 (100%)  |
| <i>shank2b</i> <sup>+/-</sup>      | 0 (0%)              | 8 (12.5%)  | 56 (87.5%)  | 64 (100%)  |
| <i>shank2b</i> <sup>-/-</sup>      | 0 (0%)              | 22 (28.9%) | 54 (71.1%)  | 76 (100%)  |
| Total                              | 1 (0.5%)            | 49 (23.2%) | 161 (76.3%) | 211 (100%) |

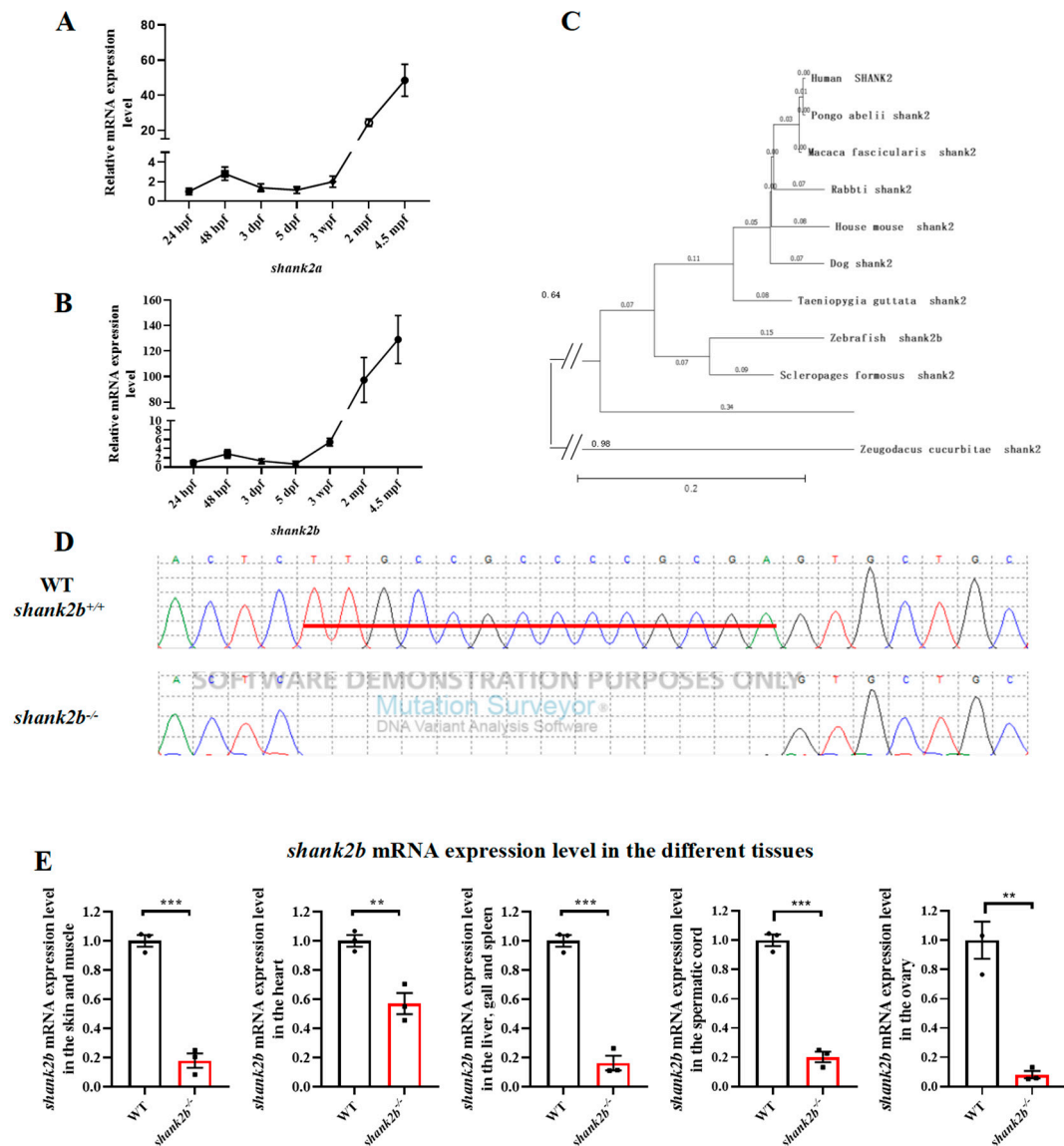
Supplementary Table S5: Person Chi-squared Test, P = 0.088.

**Supplementary Table S7. Phenotypic characteristics of zebrafish embryos at 3 dpf**

| Genotype                           | Developmental delay | Death      | Normal      | Total      |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>shank2b</i> <sup>+/+</sup> (WT) | 1 (1.4%)            | 19 (26.8%) | 51 (71.8%)  | 71 (100%)  |
| <i>shank2b</i> <sup>+/-</sup>      | 0 (0%)              | 8 (12.5%)  | 56 (87.5%)  | 64 (100%)  |
| <i>shank2b</i> <sup>-/-</sup>      | 0 (0%)              | 22 (28.9%) | 54 (71.1%)  | 76 (100%)  |
| Total                              | 1 (0.5%)            | 49 (23.2%) | 161 (76.3%) | 211 (100%) |

Supplementary Table S6: Person Chi-squared Test, P = 0.088.

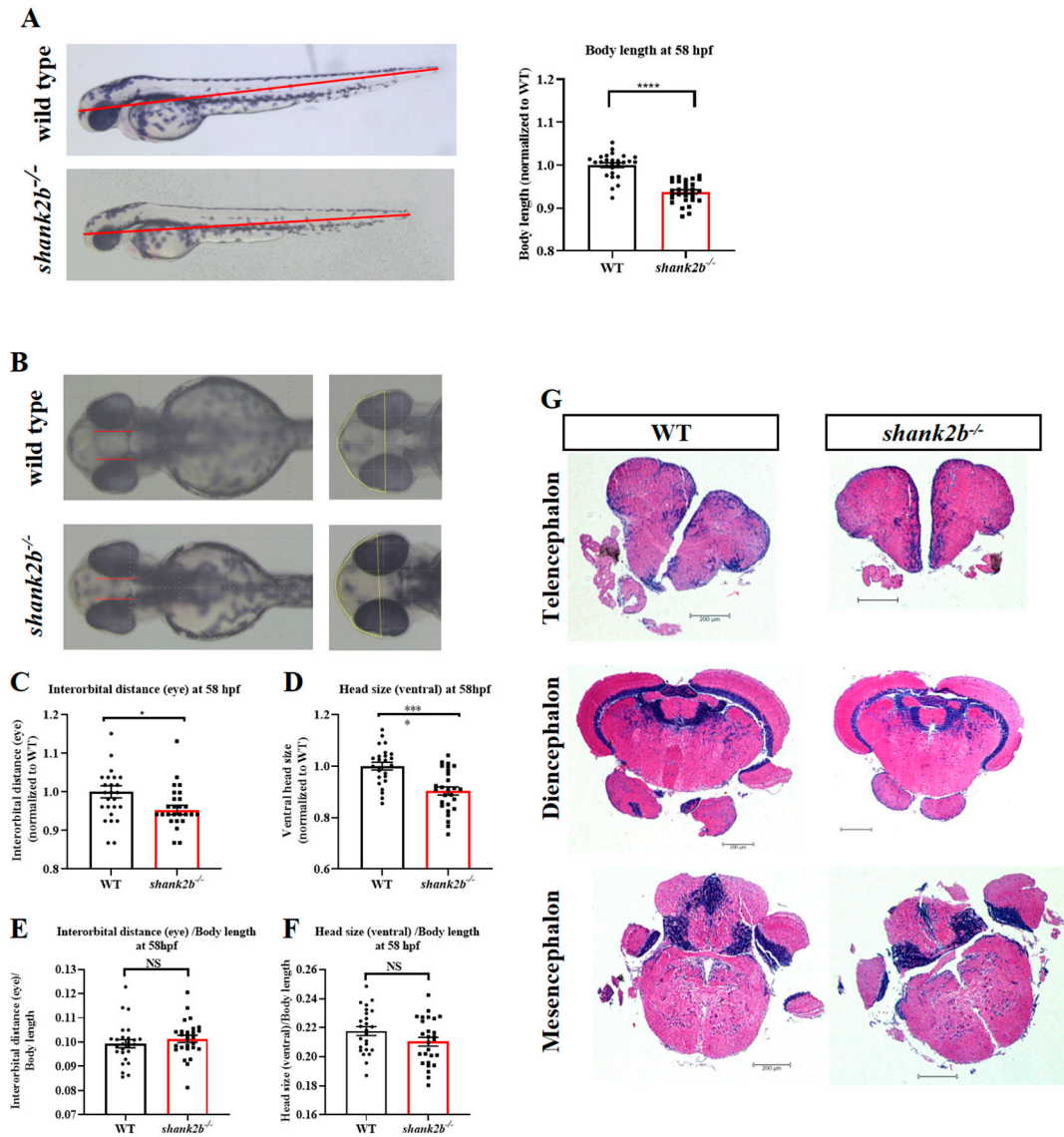
## Supplementary Figure S1



**Supplementary Figure S1 *shank2* orthologues are conserved in zebrafish and CRISPR-Cas9 induced *shank2b* target mutation.** **A-B** Temporal mRNA expression profiling of zebrafish *shank2a* and *shank2b* at seven stages: 24 hpf, 48 hpf, 3 dpf, 5 dpf, 3 wpf, 2 mpf and 4.5 mpf. Data are shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM,  $n = 3-4$ . **C** Phylogenetic analysis of SHANK2 in 10 species. The phylogenetic tree was constructed using the neighbor-joining methods as implemented in the MEGA 6 package. All of the sequences are available from the NCBI protein database. *Human*, NP\_036441.21, *Pongo abelii*, XP\_024111518, *Macaca fascicularis*, XP\_015290734.1, *Rabbit*, XP\_002723176, *House mouse*, NP\_001074839.3, *Dog*, XP\_022260831, *Taeniopygia guttata*, XP\_030129375, *Scleropages formosus*, XP\_029112011.1, *Zeugodacus cucurbitae*, XP\_028896935.1, *Danio rerio shank2a*, XP\_021323618.1, *Danio rerio shank2b*, NP\_001121819.1. The obtained numbers represented evolutionary relationships, with larger numbers indicating greater genetic differences. In vertebrate animals, the genetic distance was not greater than "0.35". In invertebrates (such as *Zeugodacus cucurbitae*), the distance was as high as "0.98". **D** Sanger sequence confirmation of 14-nucleotide deletion mutations highlighted in red. **E** Reduced

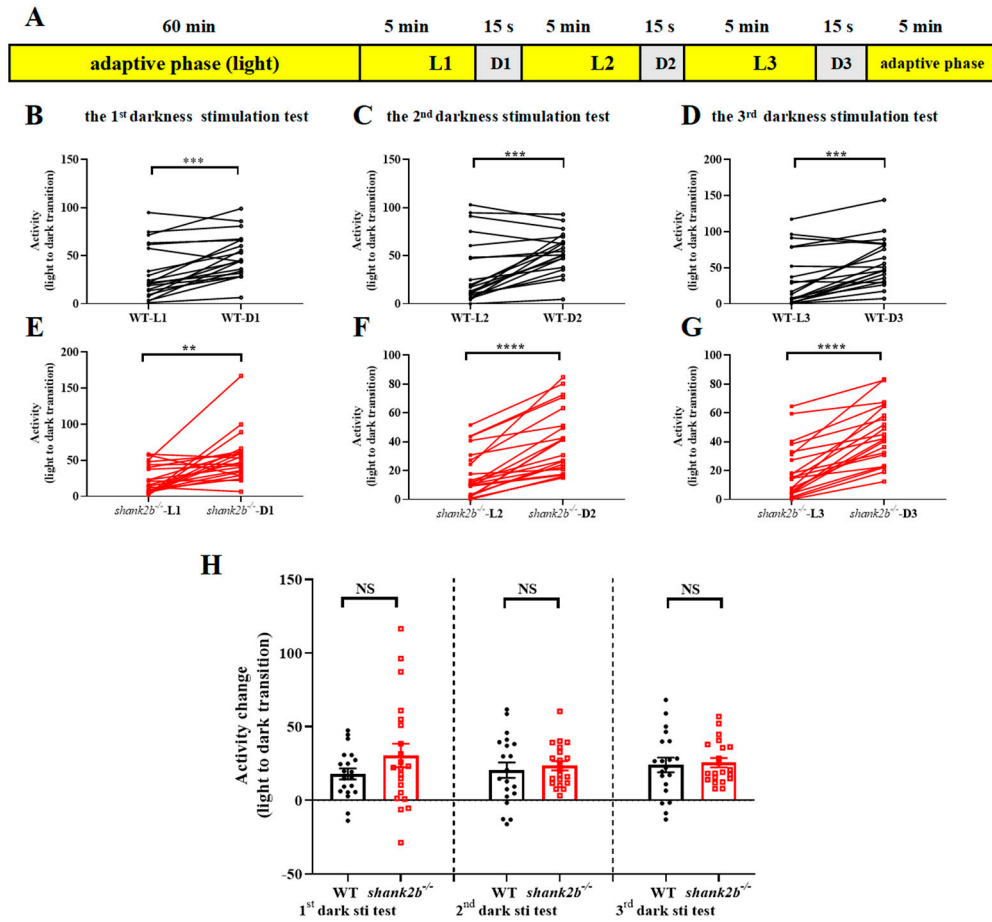
expression of *shank2b* mRNA in the other tissues of 4.5 mpf male *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> mutants (Skin and muscle, \*\*\**p* = 0.0002; Heart, \*\**p* = 0.0065; Liver, Gall and Spleen, \*\*\**p* = 0.0002). Reduced expression of *shank2b* mRNA in the ovary of female *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> (\*\**p* = 0.0021) and spermatic cord of male mutants at 4.5 mpf (\*\*\**p* = 0.0001). Each group *n* = 3. Student's *t* test. Data are shown as mean ± SEM.

## Supplementary Figure S2



**Supplementary Figure S2 Morphological analysis of *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> zebrafish.** **A** The body length of *shank2b* mutants at 58 hpf were shorter in body length than WT larvae (WT n = 27, *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 30, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , Student's t test). Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. **B-F** Head size in wild-type and *shank2b* mutant were measured from dorsal and ventral images using Image J. Representative tracings, the distance between the convex tips of the eyes, done in Image J are shown in red, as well as the boundaries of forebrain-midbrain in yellow. The head size appears to be smaller in mutants (**B, C, D**) larvae at 58 hpf eye interorbital distance, WT n = 26, *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 27, \*  $p = 0.0222$ , Student's t test; ventral head size, WT n = 25, *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 27, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ , Student's t test). (**E, F**) The ratio of Interorbital distance (eye)/ body length (WT n = 26, *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 27, ns,  $p = 0.3688$ ) and Head size (ventral)/ body length (WT n = 25, *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 27, ns,  $p = 0.0947$ , Student's t test) at 58 hpf between WT and mutants showed no significant difference. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. **G** Examination of brain tissues in WT (left images) and *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> (right images) by H&E staining at 4.5 mpf. Zebrafish brains were sectioned at telencephalic, diencephalic and mesencephalic levels. Scale bar = 200  $\mu$ m.

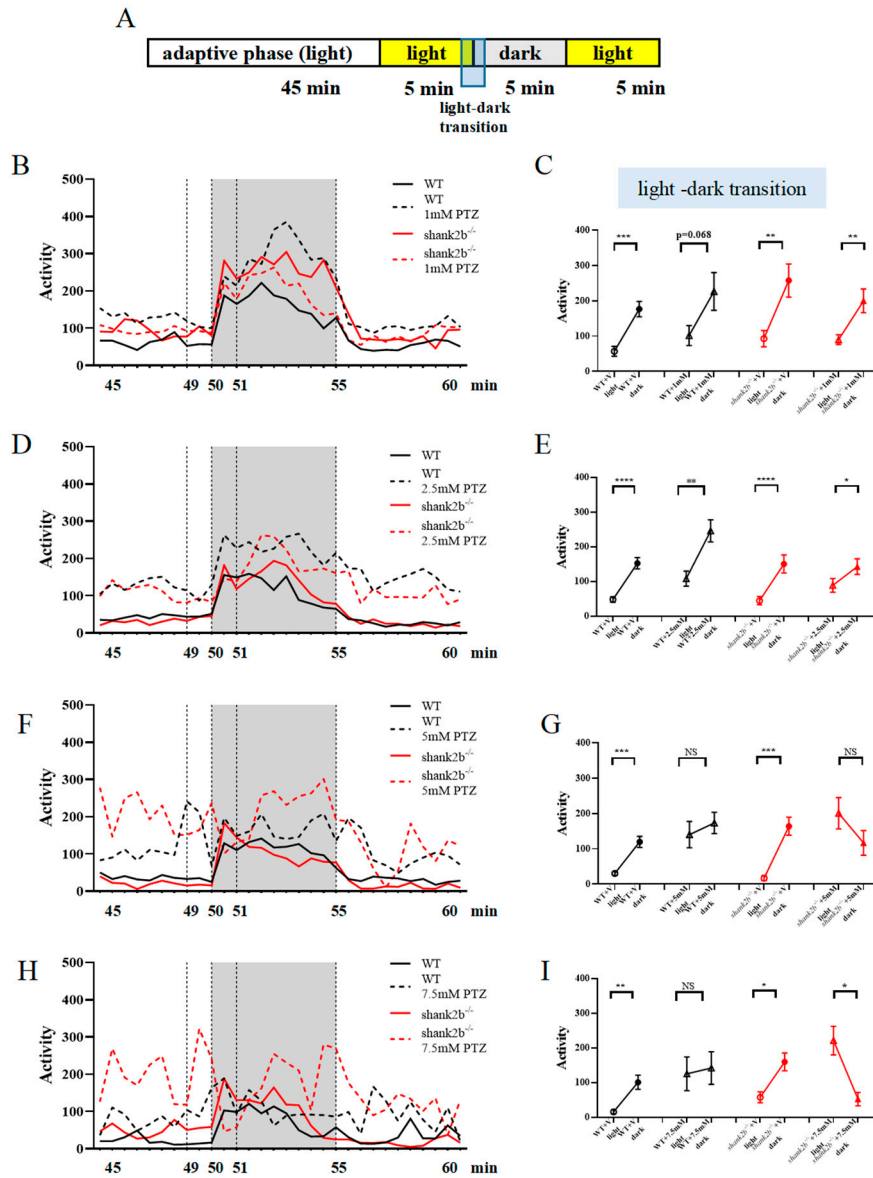
## Supplementary Figure S3



**Supplementary Figure S3 *shank2b* mutants exhibited normal VMR response to darkness stimuli.** **A** Scheme and behavioral setup applied for locomotor activity tracking in VMR response to darkness stimulation of zebrafish larvae at 13 dpf. The experiment consisted of one 60-min adaptation period under continuous illumination and one 20-min 45-s testing period consisting of three VMR tests. One VMR experiment consisted of 5 min of conditioning to illumination and 15 s of stimulation by a sudden darkness stimuli. **B-G** (**E-G**) *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> models exhibited normal response (first dark stimuli, \*\*  $p = 0.001$ ; second dark stimuli, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ ; third dark stimuli, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .  $n = 21$ , Paired t test), characterized by dramatic increases in movement in response to three sudden transitions from light to darkness, similar to WT larvae (**B-D**) (first dark stimuli, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ ; second dark stimuli, \*\*\*  $p = 0.0009$ ; third dark stimuli, \*\*\*  $p = 0.001$ ;  $n = 20$ , Paired t test). (**H**) Column plots compare activity detected during the 1 min before and the 15 s after each darkness stimulation exposure between WT and *shank2b* mutants. Both WT and *shank2b* larva were sensitive to dark stimuli, manifested as no significant difference in activity change three times from light to dark (first dark stimuli, ns  $p = 0.1667$ ; second dark stimuli, ns  $p = 0.6332$ ; third dark stimuli, ns  $p = 0.7971$ ; WT  $n = 20$ , *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup>  $n = 21$ , Student's t test). Data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM.



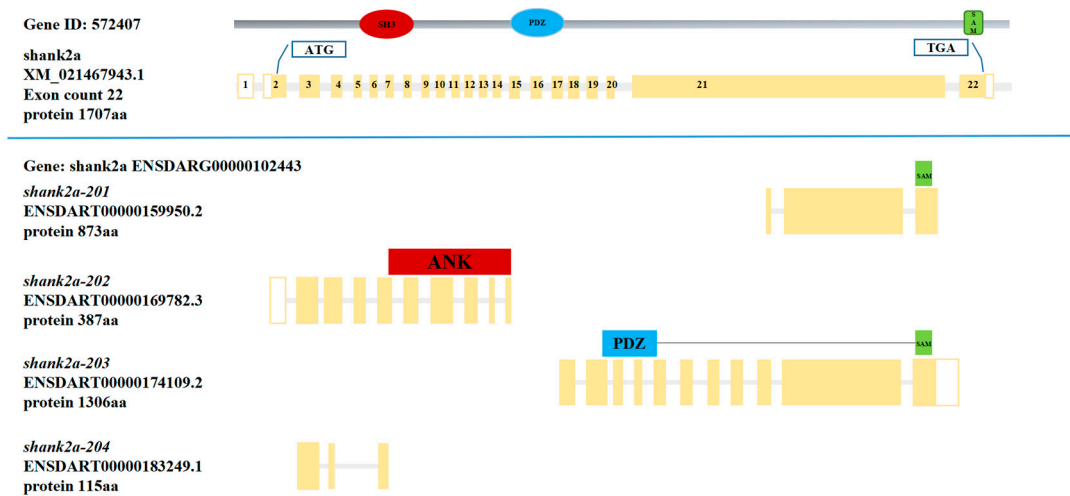
## Supplementary Figure S4



**Supplementary Figure S4 Dose-response paired plots showing the change in activity during light to dark transition per fish of wild-type or *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> fish at 9dpf exposed to water or increasing concentrations of pentylenetetrazol (PTZ) for 1 h. A** PTZ dose-response behavioral experimental procedure. The experiment consisted of a 45-min adaptation period of light condition and a 15-min testing period consisting of one light-dark cycle, consisted of 5 min of conditioning to light and 5 min of darkness stimulation. **B-I** Experiments were performed at 9 dpf. (**B, D, F, H**) The horizontal axis denotes the experimental progression of the testing period. The vertical axis denotes the activity detected by larvae in each 30-seconds time bin. PTZ concentration information is marked on the top right corner of each panel. Data are presented as the mean. (**C, E, G, I**) Effects of PTZ treatment on locomotor activity during light-dark transitions. Paired dot plots compared average swimming distances per larva of the light conversions in the one min before and after the light-to-dark conversions. Data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM. (**C**) PTZ concentrations of 1 mM of WT and *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> fish exhibited an

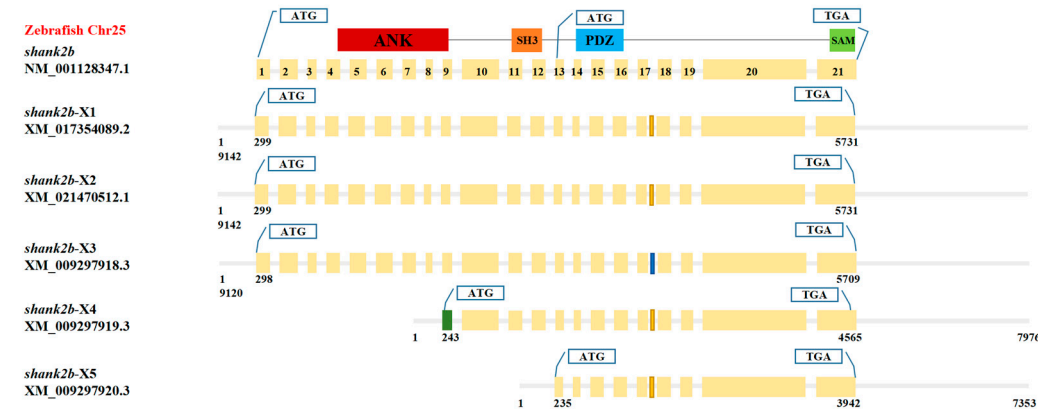
dynamic increase of activity during light-dark transitions, which means that no change had been induced compared with untreated larvae at 9 dpf (WT n = 12, \*\*\*  $p = 0.0002$ ; WT + 1 mM n = 11, ns,  $p = 0.0668$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 10, \*\*  $p = 0.0052$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> + 1 mM n=12, \*\*  $p = 0.0062$ ; Paired t test). **(E)** PTZ concentrations of 2.5 mM of WT and *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> fish didn't elicit a decline in activity (WT n = 18, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ ; WT + 2.5 mM n = 18, \*\*  $p = 0.0022$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 18, \*\*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> + 2.5 mM n=18, \*  $p = 0.0459$ ; Paired t test). **(G)** The activity of PTZ-treated WT larvae also increased at concentrations of 5 mM, whereas 5 mM PTZ-treated *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> slightly decreased. Although these results did not achieve statistical significance (WT n = 16, \*\*\*  $p = 0.0001$ ; WT + 5 mM n = 15, ns,  $p = 0.4365$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 12, \*\*\*  $p = 0.0001$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> + 5 mM n=12, ns,  $p = 0.1393$ ; Paired t test). **(I)** 7.5 mM PTZ-treated *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> significantly decreased during the light-dark transition, whereas 7.5 mM PTZ-treated WT larvae also increased without statistical significance (WT n = 6, \*\*  $p = 0.0039$ ; WT + 7.5 mM n = 6, ns,  $p = 0.7292$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> n = 6, \*  $p = 0.0136$ ; *shank2b*<sup>-/-</sup> + 7.5 mM n=6, \*  $p = 0.0292$ ; Paired t test).

Supplementary Figure S5



Supplementary Figure S5 Different isoforms of zebrafish *shank2a*. Sequence data from NCBI and Ensembl

Supplementary Figure S6



Supplementary Figure S6 Different isoforms of zebrafish *shank2b*. Sequence data from NCBI