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CLASP2 Links Reelin to the Cytoskeleton during Neocortical Development

Highlights

- CLASP2 is a key cytoskeletal effector in the Reelin signaling pathway
- CLASP2 controls neurite extension and positioning of the centrosome/Golgi complex
- CLASP2 is necessary for proper cortical lamination
- GSK3 β phosphorylation of CLASP2 controls Dab1 binding and neurite extension

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In Brief

Dillon et al. show the plus-end binding protein CLASP2 is an essential cytoskeleton effector of the Reelin pathway regulating fundamental features of neuron migration, morphogenesis, and cortical lamination. Also, they found that GSK3 β -mediated phosphorylation of CLASP2 controls neuron morphology and outgrowth.



CLASP2 Links Reelin to the Cytoskeleton during Neocortical Development

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SUMMARY

The Reelin signaling pathway plays a crucial role in regulating neocortical development. However, little is known about how Reelin controls the cytoskeleton during neuronal migration. Here, we identify CLASP2 as a key cytoskeletal effector in the Reelin signaling pathway. We demonstrate that CLASP2 has distinct roles during neocortical development regulating neuron production and controlling neuron migration, polarity, and morphogenesis. We found downregulation of CLASP2 in migrating neurons leads to mislocalized cells in deeper cortical layers, abnormal positioning of the centrosome-Golgi complex, and aberrant length/orientation of the leading process. We discovered that Reelin regulates several phosphorylation sites within the positively charged serine/arginine-rich region that constitute consensus GSK3 β phosphorylation motifs of CLASP2. Furthermore, phosphorylation of CLASP2 regulates its interaction with the Reelin adaptor Dab1 and this association is required for CLASP2 effects on neurite extension and motility. Together, our data reveal that CLASP2 is an essential Reelin effector orchestrating cytoskeleton dynamics during brain development.

INTRODUCTION

The complex architecture of the brain requires precise control over the timing of neurogenesis, neuron migration, and differentiation. These three developmental processes are exquisitely controlled during the expansion of the mammalian neocortex. The six morphologically distinct layers of the neocortex form in an “inside-out” pattern with early-born neurons forming deeper layers and later-born neurons migrating past them to form superficial layers of the cortical plate (Rakic, 1974). The Reelin signaling pathway plays a crucial role in cortical lamination. Reelin is a secreted glycoprotein that exerts its function by binding to the lipoprotein receptors ApoER2 and VLDLR

and inducing tyrosine phosphorylation of the intracellular adaptor protein Disabled (Dab1) (Howell et al., 2000; Bock and Herz, 2003). Phosphorylated Dab1 then recruits downstream signaling molecules to promote cytoskeletal changes necessary for neuronal migration, final positioning, and morphology (D’Arcangelo, 2005). Mutations of Reelin, the dual ApoER2/VLDLR receptor, or Dab1 lead to an inversion of the normal inside-out pattern of cortex development (D’Arcangelo et al., 1995; Howell et al., 1997; Trommsdorff et al., 1999). In addition, a number of mutations in cytoskeletal-encoded genes produce deficits in neuron migration and cortical lamination phenotypically similar to Reelin mutants, firmly establishing a mechanistic and developmentally critical connection between Reelin and the cytoskeleton. For example, human mutations in lissencephaly-1, doublecortin, and tubulin, integral components of the microtubule cytoskeleton, cause severe cortical lamination defects with later-born neurons failing to migrate past previously born neurons (Reiner et al., 1993; Gleeson et al., 1998; Romaniello et al., 2015). The culmination of these genetic studies indicates that several signaling pathways, including the Reelin pathway, converge on downstream cytoskeletal proteins to affect proper neuronal migration and brain development. However, the molecular effectors of these pathways have not been fully characterized.

CLASPs (cytoplasmic linker associated proteins) belong to a heterogeneous family of plus-end tracking proteins (+TIPs) that specifically accumulate at the growth cone. This localization strategically places them in a position to control neurite growth, directionality, and the crosstalk between microtubules and the actin cytoskeleton (Akhmanova and Hoogenraad, 2005; Basu and Chang, 2007; Akhmanova and Steinmetz, 2008). Previous evidence showed that CLASPs accumulate asymmetrically toward the leading edge of migrating fibroblasts, indicating a role for CLASPs in cell polarity and movement (Akhmanova et al., 2001; Wittmann and Waterman-Storer, 2005). We found that CLASP2 protein levels steadily increase throughout neuronal development and are specifically enriched at the growth cones of extending neurites. In particular, short-hairpin RNA (shRNA)-mediated knockdown of CLASP2 in primary mouse neurons decreases neurite length, whereas overexpression of human CLASP2 causes the formation of multiple axons, enhanced dendritic branching, and Golgi condensation (Beffert et al., 2012). These results implicate a role for CLASP2 in neuronal

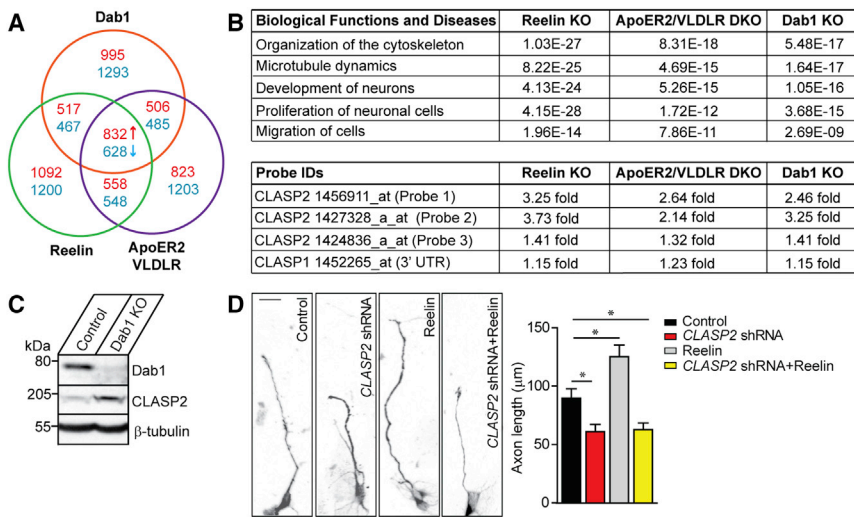


Figure 1. CLASP2 Is a Key Cytoskeletal Effector in the Reelin Signaling Pathway

(A) Chart representing expression of mRNA transcripts between brain cortices from mice deficient in Reelin (green), the double ApoER2/VLDLR receptor mutant (purple), or Dab1 (red) compared Affymetrix gene expression profiles against age-matched wild-type mice by microarray. The screen identified 832 upregulated (red) and 628 downregulated (blue) genes that were common to all three mouse models above a threshold of 1.5-fold.

(B) Ingenuity Pathway Analysis identified several gene networks impaired across Reelin, double ApoER2/VLDLR receptor, and Dab1 knockout (KO) mouse models. CLASP2 but not CLASP1 mRNA expression was increased in all three Reelin mutants (data presented are in p values).

(C) Consistent with the microarray data, CLASP2 protein levels were 2.8-fold higher in Dab1 knockout mice.

(D) Representative images of primary dissociated

mouse wild-type neuron cultures co-infected with scrambled control, CLASP2 shRNA, Reelin treatment, or CLASP2 shRNA with Reelin and immunostained against tau axonal marker at 2 days in vitro. CLASP2 shRNA caused a decrease in axon length when compared to control. Reelin increased axon length; however, Reelin treatment with CLASP2 shRNA was unable to rescue the axonal effects of CLASP2 knockdown (control, $n = 35$; CLASP2 shRNA, $n = 39$; Reelin alone, $n = 41$; CLASP2 shRNA plus Reelin, $n = 39$ cells). Data are means \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed using one-way ANOVA ($p < 0.05$).

morphogenesis and polarization; however, the function of CLASP2 during brain development is unknown.

Here we demonstrate that CLASP2 is a modifier of the Reelin signaling pathway during cortical development. In vivo knockdown experiments demonstrate that CLASP2 plays significant roles in neural precursor proliferation, neuronal migration, and morphogenesis. In addition, we show that GSK3 β -mediated phosphorylation of CLASP2 controls its binding to the Reelin adaptor protein Dab1, a required molecular step governing CLASP2's regulatory effects on neuron morphology and movement.

RESULTS

CLASP2 Expression Is Functionally Associated with the Reelin Signaling Pathway

To identify novel genes downstream of Reelin signaling, we examined the expression of mRNA transcripts by microarray between adult brain cortices from mice deficient in either Reelin, the double ApoER2/VLDLR receptor mutant, or Dab1 and compared Affymetrix gene expression profiles against age-matched, wild-type mice. Importantly, each of these mutant mouse models present a similar phenotype that includes severe neuronal migration defects (D'Arcangelo et al., 1995; Howell et al., 1997; Trommsdorff et al., 1999). We defined a large network of genes perturbed above a threshold of 1.5-fold in response to deficient Reelin signaling, identifying 832 upregulated and 628 downregulated genes that were common to all three mouse models (Figure 1A). Ingenuity Pathway Analysis revealed a network of genes that is functionally related to cytoskeleton organization, microtubule dynamics, neurogenesis, and migration of cells (Figure 1B). Of the few cytoskeletal candidate genes identified, CLASP2 was the only microtubule +TIP. Specifically, CLASP2 mRNA expression

was increased in all three Reelin mutant phenotypes, while CLASP1 mRNA expression remained unchanged (Figure 1B). Consistent with the microarray data, CLASP2 protein levels were \sim 2.8-fold higher in Dab1 knockout mice (Figure 1C). These findings suggest that Reelin signaling controls CLASP2 expression and establishes the first molecular link between a plus-end, microtubule binding protein downstream of extracellular Reelin signaling.

To directly test whether CLASP2 functions downstream of Reelin signaling, we evaluated axon length following Reelin treatment with or without CLASP2 in primary hippocampal neurons (Figure 1D). Treatment of neurons with CLASP2 shRNA reduced axon length by 32%. Reelin treatment alone caused a 39% increase in axon length. Interestingly, Reelin treatment had no effect in neurons following CLASP2 knockdown, indicating that CLASP2 lies downstream of Reelin signaling and is necessary for the effects of Reelin on axon extension.

CLASP2 Expression Is Developmentally Regulated

Having established a functional link between CLASP2 and Reelin signaling, we examined CLASP2 expression in the developing neocortex. CLASP2 is predominantly expressed in the nervous system in two distinct isoforms, CLASP2 α and CLASP2 γ (Akhmanova et al., 2001). These isoforms differ only at the N terminus where the longer CLASP2 α contains a unique dis1/TOG1 domain previously shown to regulate mitotic spindle assembly, actin binding, and tubulin polymerization (Figure 2A) (Tsvetkov et al., 2007; Patel et al., 2012; Al-Bassam et al., 2010). To determine whether both CLASP2 isoforms are altered in Reelin pathway knockouts, we examine the expression of CLASP2 α and CLASP2 γ isoforms in wild-type and Reelin knockout brains by quantitative PCR. We found CLASP2 α and CLASP2 γ isoforms are differentially regulated in Reelin knockout brains. CLASP2 α mRNA levels were

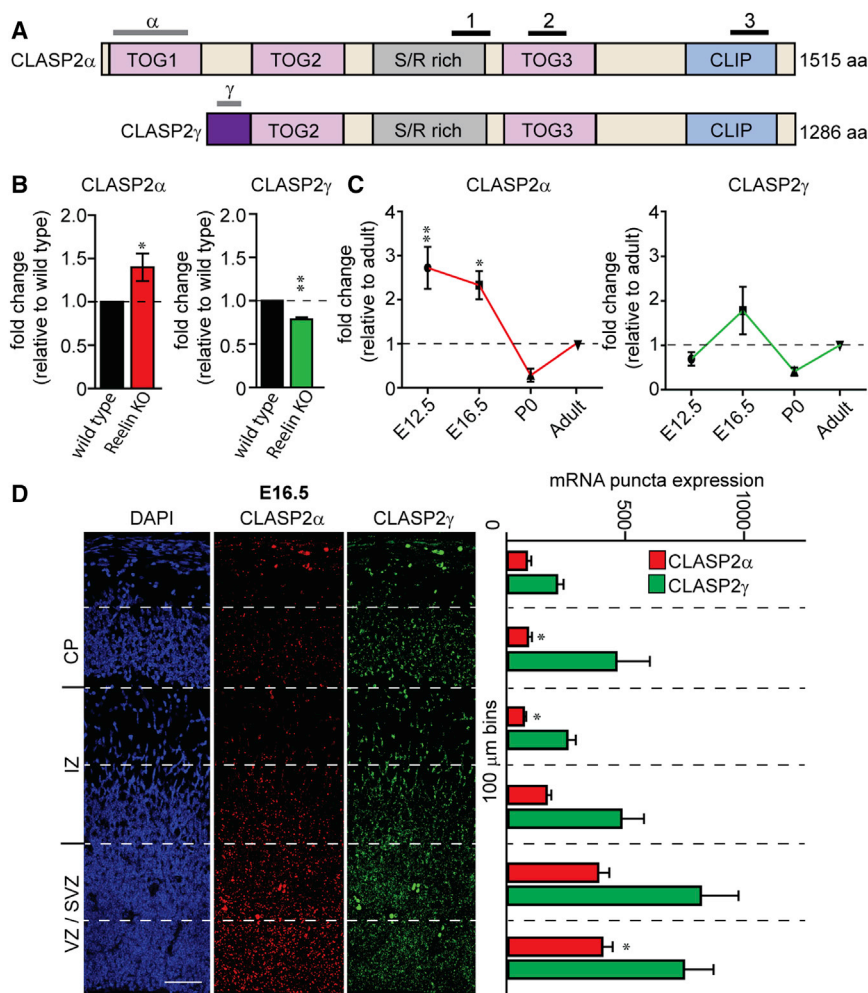


Figure 2. CLASP2α and γ Isoforms Are Differentially Regulated during Brain Development

(A) Human CLASP2α and CLASP2γ domain organization (TOG, N-terminal tumor overexpressed gene; S/R rich, repetitive region rich in serine and arginine residues; CLIP, CLIP-170). Lines above indicate the location of probes used for qPCR, in situ hybridization (gray), and the three probe IDs for microarray (black).

(B) Fold change of CLASP2α and CLASP2γ mRNA expression relative to wild-type measured by qPCR from cortical lysates collected from wild-type and Reelin knockout adult mice (n = 3 brains for each group).

(C) Fold change of CLASP2α and CLASP2γ mRNA expression relative to adult measured by qPCR from dissociated wild-type cortical lysates collected at E12.5, E16.5, P0, and adult (n = 5 brains for each time point).

(D) Representative images showed in situ hybridization of cortical sections for CLASP2α and CLASP2γ at E16.5. mRNA fluorescence was measured using ImageJ by counting the number of puncta in 100 μm bins from the ventricle to the pial surface (VZ, ventricular zone; SVZ, subventricular zone; IZ, intermediate zone; CP, cortical plate). CLASP2α expression was the highest in the first 200 μm, represents the proliferative VZ/SVZ zones (n = 6 brain sections for each group). Scale bar represents 50 μm. For additional data, see Figure S1.

Data are means ± SEM and statistical significance was assessed using unpaired t test (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.001 for B) and one-way ANOVA (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.001 for C and D).

elevated, while CLASP2γ mRNA levels were decreased in Reelin knockout brains (Figure 2B). We next examined the developmental expression profile of CLASP2α and CLASP2γ on mouse cortical brain lysates across a range of developmental time points. We found elevated CLASP2α mRNA at embryonic stages as early as embryonic day 12.5 (E12.5), while CLASP2γ mRNA remained relatively stable throughout brain development (Figure 2C). In addition, in situ hybridization analysis using antisense probes specific to individual CLASP2 isoforms revealed that CLASP2α was preferentially expressed in the ventricular and subventricular zone (VZ/SVZ) at E16.5 and postnatal day 0 (P0), which are enriched with proliferative, neural precursors (the first 200 μm from the ventricular surface, Figures 2D and S1). An antisense probe specific to CLASP2γ mRNA revealed that CLASP2γ was also highly expressed in the VZ/SVZ at E16.5; however, by P0, CLASP2γ mRNA expression was evenly distributed across the cortical wall (Figures 2D and S1). The early expression pattern of CLASP2α and CLASP2γ isoforms during brain development suggests that CLASP2 may play a role in progenitor proliferation and/or neuronal migration.

CLASP2 Regulates Cell-Cycle Exit in Neuronal Progenitors

Because we found elevated CLASP2α mRNA levels in the developing mouse brain during periods of active neurogenesis (Figure 2C), we examined whether CLASP2 expression affected the numbers and/or cell-cycle dynamics of neuronal stem and progenitor cells. To test this, we previously identified two CLASP2 shRNA constructs capable of knocking down expression of endogenous CLASP2 in mouse primary neurons (Beffert et al., 2012). Individual and combined CLASP2 shRNA knockdowns efficiently downregulated endogenous CLASP2 but not CLASP1 protein expression in mouse primary neurons (Figure S2). We electroporated scrambled control or combined CLASP2 shRNA constructs, which also contained CAG-GFP reporter cassettes, into E14.5 mouse embryos and labeled cells in the mitotic phase of the cell cycle with an antibody against phospho-Histone H3 (PH3) at E16.5. We found CLASP2 knockdown resulted in a greater percentage of GFP-expressing electroporated cells positive for PH3, consistent with an increase in the percentage of actively dividing cells (Figure 3A).

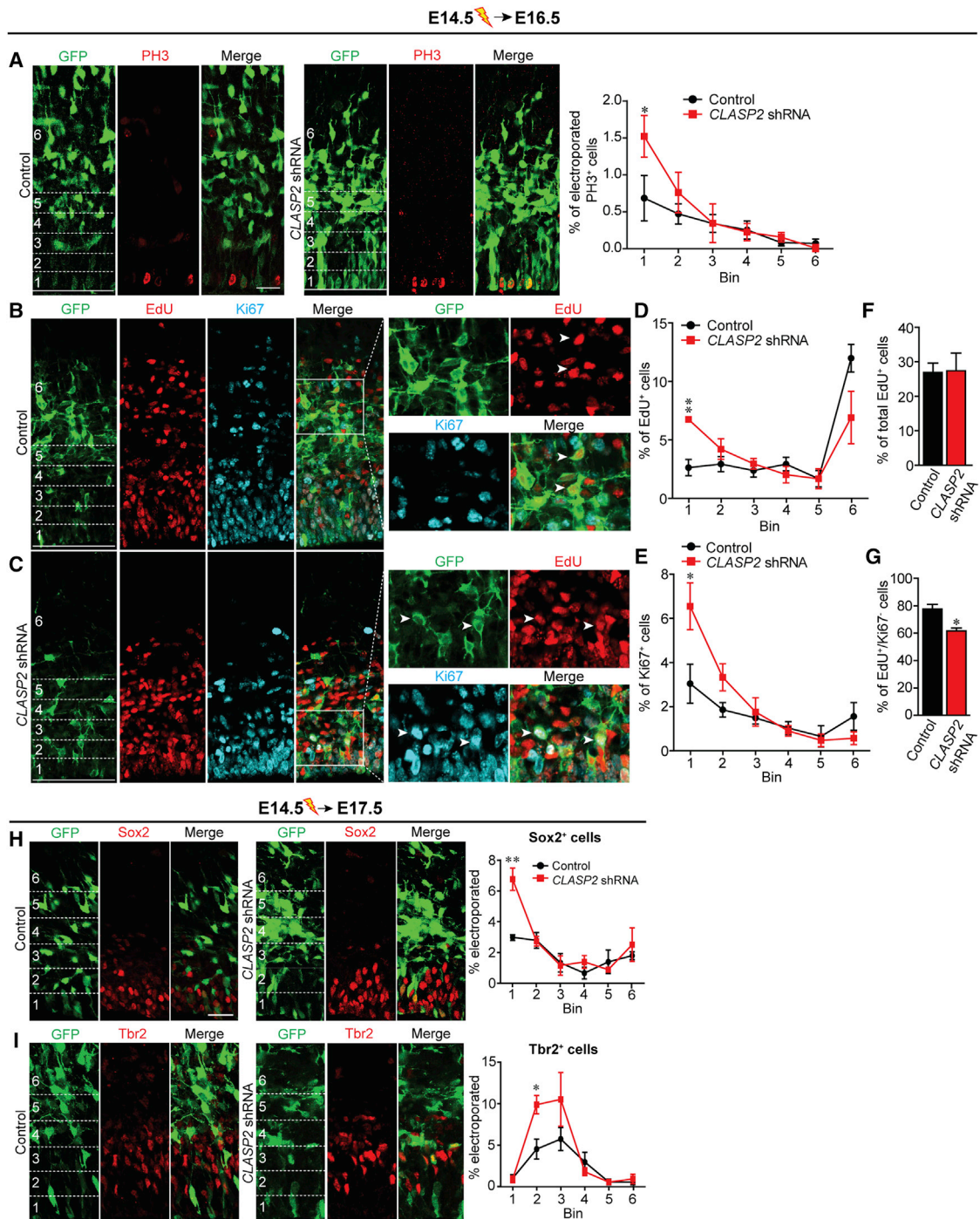


Figure 3. CLASP2 Is Required for Neural Progenitor Differentiation and Controls Terminal Division of Neural Progenitor Cells

(A) Mouse embryos were electroporated in utero with GFP-tagged scrambled control or *CLASP2* shRNA plasmids at E14.5 and analyzed at E16.5. Immunostaining for mitotic marker PH3 (red) shows more dividing cells at the ventricular zone in *CLASP2* knockdown cells within the first 20 μ m bin (control, $n = 4$ brains; *CLASP2* shRNA, $n = 4$ brains). For additional data, see Figure S2.

(B–G) Mouse embryos were electroporated in utero with GFP-tagged scrambled control (B) or *CLASP2* shRNAs (C) at E14.5. The pregnant dams were injected intraperitoneally with EdU 24 hr following electroporation and embryos were analyzed at E16.5. Coronal brain sections immunostained for EdU (red) and Ki67 (blue) showed an increased in the percentage of electroporated cells that were positive for EdU (D) and Ki67 (E) located in the VZ (bin area 1, within the first 20 μ m) in *CLASP2* knockdown cells. There was no effect of *CLASP2* shRNA on the total number of EdU-positive cells (F); however, there was a significant decrease in the number of EdU-positive/Ki67-negative cells exiting the cell cycle (G). Arrowheads for (B) represents GFP-positive cells, which is EdU-positive/Ki67-negative in

(legend continued on next page)

To determine whether the effects of CLASP2 on cell division were due to changes in cell-cycle dynamics or cell fate, we performed IUE at E14.5, pulse labeled with an injection of EdU at E15.5, and then analyzed embryonic brains at E16.5 by double staining with EdU and Ki67 antibodies (Figures 3B and 3C). Since Ki67 is expressed throughout the cell cycle, EdU/Ki67 double-positive cells remain active in the cell cycle, whereas EdU-positive/Ki67-negative cells are postmitotic neurons. CLASP2 knockdown caused an increase in the percentage of electroporated cells positive for either EdU (Figure 3D) or Ki67 (Figure 3E) located within the VZ (bin 1, specifically within the first 20 μ m). In addition, while we did not observe any changes in total EdU-positive cells (Figure 3F), we found that the fraction of EdU-positive and Ki67-negative cells was significantly lower following CLASP2 knockout (Figure 3G), demonstrating that CLASP2 knockdown is decreasing neuronal output.

During mid-neurogenesis, excitatory neurons are being generated by a heterogeneous pool of cycling cells. Namely, radial glial cells (RGCs), the primordial stem cell of the neocortex, give rise to neurons directly via asymmetric cell division or to two populations of intermediate progenitor cells, apical intermediate progenitor cells (aIPCs) and basal intermediate progenitor cells (bIPCs) (Malatesta et al., 2003; Anthony et al., 2004; Gal et al., 2006; Stancik et al., 2010; Tyler and Haydar, 2013). These progenitor cell types can be distinguished by the expression of Sox2 (in RGCs and aIPCs) and Tbr2 (in bIPCs) (Haubensak et al., 2004; Miyata et al., 2001; Noctor et al., 2004). Therefore, we performed IUE at E14.5 to determine whether CLASP2 regulates the neuronal output globally or specifically affects RGCs or bIPCs. At E17.5, 72 hr post IUE, the number and position of GFP-positive cells expressing Sox2 or Tbr2 were quantified. We found a higher percentage of CLASP2 knockdown cells positive for Sox2 (Figure 3H) and Tbr2 (Figure 3I) compared to control indicating a general increase in the progenitor cell population retained in the VZ/SVZ. Together, these data indicate that CLASP2 regulates neural stem cell division and neuronal output.

CLASP2 Is Necessary for Proper Cortical Positioning

To determine whether CLASP2 plays a role in neuronal migration, we electroporated mouse embryos at E14.5 and analyzed the distribution of GFP-positive cells within the cortical wall at E16.5 and P0. At E16.5, GFP-positive cells in control brains were found equally distributed between the VZ/SVZ and intermediate zone (IZ) (Figure 4A). However, there were obvious differences in spatial distribution in CLASP2 knockdown cells with more GFP-positive cells in the VZ/SVZ and fewer in the IZ (Figure 4A). At P0, while most of the control GFP-positive neurons migrated into the cortical layers (CL); CLASP2 knockdown neurons remained in the IZ with fewer neurons in the upper cortical layers (upCL) (Figure 4B). Interestingly, when we electro-

porated E14.5 embryonic brains with CLASP2 shRNAs and analyzed the brains at P14, many CLASP2 knockdown neurons were found at deeper positions within the lower cortical wall (loCL), suggesting that CLASP2 knockdown caused permanent defects in cortical lamination (Figure 4C). To distinguish whether this defect was due to altered cell-cycle dynamics and neuronal output from progenitors or to a direct effect on neuronal migration, we sought to specifically knockdown CLASP2 expression in postmitotic neurons. To accomplish this, we co-electroporated conditional Cre-dependent CLASP2 shRNA plasmids with murine DCX-Cre-IRES-mCherry as previously described (Franco et al., 2011). We found knockdown of CLASP2 restricted to postmitotic neurons also resulted in a significant number of neurons mispositioned in deeper layers at P0 (Figure S3).

We next analyzed the molecular and morphological profiles of electroporated neurons at P14, a stage at which migration is complete. As expected, we found the majority of control GFP-positive neurons electroporated at E14.5 were located in layers II and III and expressed the characteristic layer II/III marker CCAAT Displacement Protein (CDP; data not shown). Interestingly, we found that mislocalized neurons electroporated with CLASP2 shRNA also expressed the CDP marker even though they were permanently arrested at deeper cortical layers (Figure 4D). This data demonstrates that although CLASP2 knockdown permanently alters the location of some neurons in the neocortex, it does not change their intrinsic transcriptional identity.

We next wanted to determine the effect of CLASP2 on the postmigratory differentiation of cortical neurons in vivo. In cortical layers II and III, pyramidal neurons primarily exhibit a polarized morphology with a single long axon crossing the corpus callosum with connectivity to the contralateral cortex, a thick apical dendrite, and smaller basal dendrites. We found that CLASP2 knockdown neurons had more primary processes originating from the cell soma when compared to layer-matched controls at P14 (Figures 4E and 4F). In addition, CLASP2 knockdown caused the loss of a clear apical dendrite suggesting that these neurons may have lost their ability to correctly polarize or respond to extracellular cues. The effects of CLASP2 knockdown on the number of primary processes was independent of final cortical layer, indicating that the effects of CLASP2 on neuron polarization and morphology were cell autonomous and not the result of mislocalization within the cortical plate.

Having determined that CLASP2 knockdown leads to developmental defects, we tested the effects of CLASP2 overexpression on neuronal lamination. Recent human genetic evidence listed CLASP2 as a top neuronal gene with the greatest intolerance to dosage changes from copy number variants (Ruderfer et al., 2016). Intolerance to genetic variation, such as copy number, implies higher functional importance of a gene (Lek et al.,

control brains. Arrowheads for (C) represents GFP-positive cells that are EdU/Ki67-positive in CLASP2 shRNA brains. Control, n = 5 brains and CLASP2 shRNA, n = 4 brains analyzed.

(H and I) Mouse embryos were electroporated in utero with GFP-tagged scrambled control or CLASP2 shRNAs at E14.5 and analyzed at E17.5. Apical and basal progenitors were immunolabeled with antibodies against the transcriptional factors Sox2 (H) and Tbr2 (I). The percentage of transfected cells positive for Sox2 or Tbr2 was calculated every 20 μ m bins from the ventricle (control, n = 4 brains; CLASP2 shRNAs, n = 4 brains).

Data are means \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed using one-way ANOVA (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.001 for A, D, E, H, and I) and unpaired t test (*p < 0.05 for F and G). Scale bar represents 20 μ m.

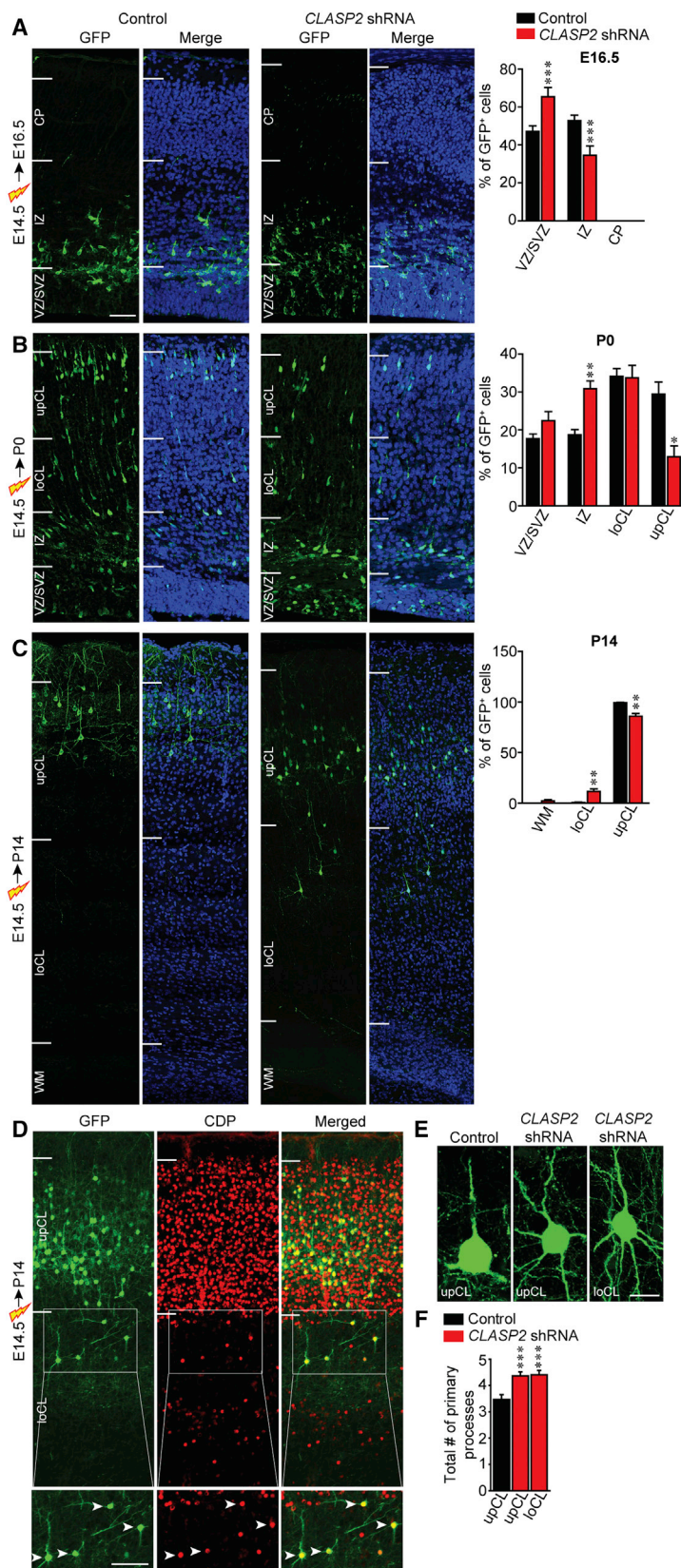


Figure 4. CLASP2 Is Necessary for Radial Migration of Cortical Projection Neurons in the Mammalian Brain

(A–C) Mouse embryos were electroporated in utero with GFP-tagged *CLASP2* shRNAs or scrambled control at E14.5 and analyzed at E16.5 (A, control, $n = 6$ brains; *CLASP2* shRNA, $n = 6$ brains), P0 (B, control, $n = 3$ brains; *CLASP2* shRNA, $n = 6$ brains), and P14 (C, control, $n = 4$ brains; *CLASP2* shRNA, $n = 6$ brains). Coronal sections of the cortex were visualized for transfected GFP-positive neurons (green) and cell nuclei (Hoechst 33342, blue). White lines indicate the demarcations for different cortical regions (VZ, ventricular zone; SVZ, subventricular zone; IZ, intermediate zone; CP, cortical plate; loCL, lower cortical layer; upCL, upper cortical layer; WM, white matter). For additional data, see Figure S3.

(D) Coronal brain sections from E14.5 *CLASP2* shRNA electroporation and analyzed at P14 were immunostained with layers II/III marker CDP (red).

(E and F) Representative images of morphological defects of *CLASP2* shRNA neurons in the upCL and loCL. *CLASP2* knockdown caused an increase in the number of primary neurites independent of cortical layer (control, $n = 53$ cells; *CLASP2* shRNA upCL, $n = 60$ cells; *CLASP2* shRNA loCL, $n = 39$ cells were analyzed). For additional data, see Figure S4.

Data are means \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed using one-way ANOVA (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.001$, *** $p < 0.0001$). Scale bar represents 50 μ m (A–D) and 10 μ m (E).

2016). Therefore, we performed IUE at E14.5 with control GFP, GFP-CLASP2 α , or GFP-CLASP2 γ full-length expression vectors and analyzed the distribution of GFP-positive cells at P0. Overexpression of CLASP2 α or CLASP2 γ caused a robust increase in the number of GFP-positive neurons in the IZ and fewer neurons in the upCL compared to control (Figure S4), a phenotype similar to that seen following CLASP2 knockdown. We therefore conclude that CLASP2 expression must be tightly regulated during cortical development to enable proper cortical lamination.

CLASP2 Is Required for the Extension and Orientation of the Leading Process of Migrating Neurons

Migrating neurons are highly polarized in the direction of their movement, which is achieved through the correct orientation and remodeling of a leading process that acts to generate traction forces and guide cell movement. Therefore, we asked whether the lamination defects observed in response to CLASP2 knockdown were due to a direct effect on the polarization of migrating neurons. We reasoned that this may be the case since CLASP2 has been shown to regulate neurite length and dendritic arborization in mouse primary neurons (Beffert et al., 2012) in a Reelin-responsive manner (Figure 1D). To test this, we performed IUE at E14.5 and measured the length and orientation of the leading process in GFP-positive neurons of control and CLASP2 knockdown neurons as they migrated through the lower cortical layers at P0. Our results demonstrate that CLASP2 knockdown caused a 48% decrease in the length of the leading process when compared to controls (Figure 5A). In addition, we examined the orientation of the thickest leading process in GFP-positive neurons to determine the likely migratory path of each cell and calculated this as an angle in relation to the pia surface. CLASP2 knockdown resulted in an increase in the angle of the leading process (Figure 5B). In particular, 85% of migrating GFP-positive control neurons had a leading process oriented between 0° and 10° to the pia (Figure 5C); however, only 13% of CLASP2 knockdown neurons kept this normal, apical orientation. Instead, we found nearly 65% of CLASP2 knockdown neurons had a leading process oriented between 11° and 90° and that 22% had their leading process inverted between 91° and 180°. The morphological alterations of the leading process in CLASP2 knockdown neurons were not due to disruptions in the morphology of radial glial fibers (Figure 5D), suggesting that CLASP2 plays an intrinsic role in regulating both the length and orientation of the leading process in migrating cortical projection neurons, regardless of the orientation of the glial guides.

CLASP2 Controls the Spatial Positioning of the Centrosome and Golgi Complex

The positioning of the centrosome and Golgi apparatus is a key step in selecting migratory direction, and their translocation into the leading neurite precedes cell movement during neuronal migration (Yanagida et al., 2012; Sakakibara et al., 2013). Because CLASP2 is enriched at both the Golgi and centrosome, two organelles that control cell polarity (Miller et al., 2009; Beffert et al., 2012), we examined whether CLASP2 expression influenced the position and shape of the centrosome/Golgi complex during neuronal migration. We performed IUE at E14.5 with GFP-CLASP2 shRNAs and scrambled GFP-control plasmids. At P0,

brains were dissected and stained separately for the centrosome (pericentrin) and Golgi complex (GM130). Previous studies demonstrate that nucleus-centrosome coupling is an important mechanism controlling neuron polarization during radial migration (Xie et al., 2003; Solecki et al., 2004). We therefore measured the distance between the nucleus and centrosome in migrating neurons within the cortical wall. At P0, our results show that CLASP2 knockdown caused a reduction in the distance between the nucleus and centrosome when compared to controls (Figure 6A). Similar to previous reports, we found co-localization of Golgi and centrosome markers in both control and CLASP2 shRNA electroporated cells (Yanagida et al., 2012). The Golgi and centrosome complex was localized to the leading process in ~80% of GFP-positive control cells; however, following CLASP2 knockdown, there was a mislocalization of this complex with a higher percentage of cells with Golgi and centrosome staining adjacent to the nucleus (Figures 6B and 6C).

The shape of the Golgi has previously been shown to be critical for directed cargo delivery to the leading edge of motile cells (Miller et al., 2009) and nucleation of microtubules at the Golgi is dependent on CLASP2 (Efimov et al., 2007; Miller et al., 2009). Therefore, we qualitatively assessed the shape of the Golgi in GFP-positive neurons following electroporation with control or CLASP2 shRNA plasmids. Our results indicate that CLASP2 knockdown caused a decrease in the frequency of Golgi ribbons within migrating neurons (Figure 6D). Therefore, CLASP2 expression controls Golgi/centrosome dynamics in the leading process that are necessary for nucleokinesis and directed cell movement during neuron migration. In addition, these data support the conclusion that CLASP2 performs a distinct function in migrating neurons apart from its role in proliferating neural progenitors.

We next questioned whether the delayed migration of CLASP2 knockdown neurons was due to leading process defects and/or to reduced speed of migration caused by alterations in centrosome-nucleus coupling. To address this, we performed IUE at E14.5 with GFP-CLASP2 shRNAs and scrambled GFP-control plasmids and then measured the migration rate of GFP-positive neurons in cortical slices prepared on E17.5 using multiphoton time-lapse imaging. We found that CLASP2 knockdown did not reduce the speed of migration (Figure S5; Movies S1 and S2), suggesting that the delayed migration of CLASP2 knockdown neurons is likely due to alterations in the morphology and polarity of migrating neurons during the final phase of migration.

GSK3 β Phosphorylation of CLASP2 Regulates Binding to Dab1

To investigate the molecular mechanism by which Reelin regulates CLASP2 expression and function, we examined the intersection between CLASP2 and known components of the Reelin signaling pathway. Dab1, the intracellular adaptor protein that mediates the Reelin signal in cells, interacts with target proteins through a phosphotyrosine-binding domain that preferentially binds to NPXY motifs (Trommsdorff et al., 1998; Howell et al., 1999). Since CLASP2 contains several putative NPXY motifs (see red asterisks; Figure 7A), we hypothesized that CLASP2-mediated effects on neuronal development may be dependent

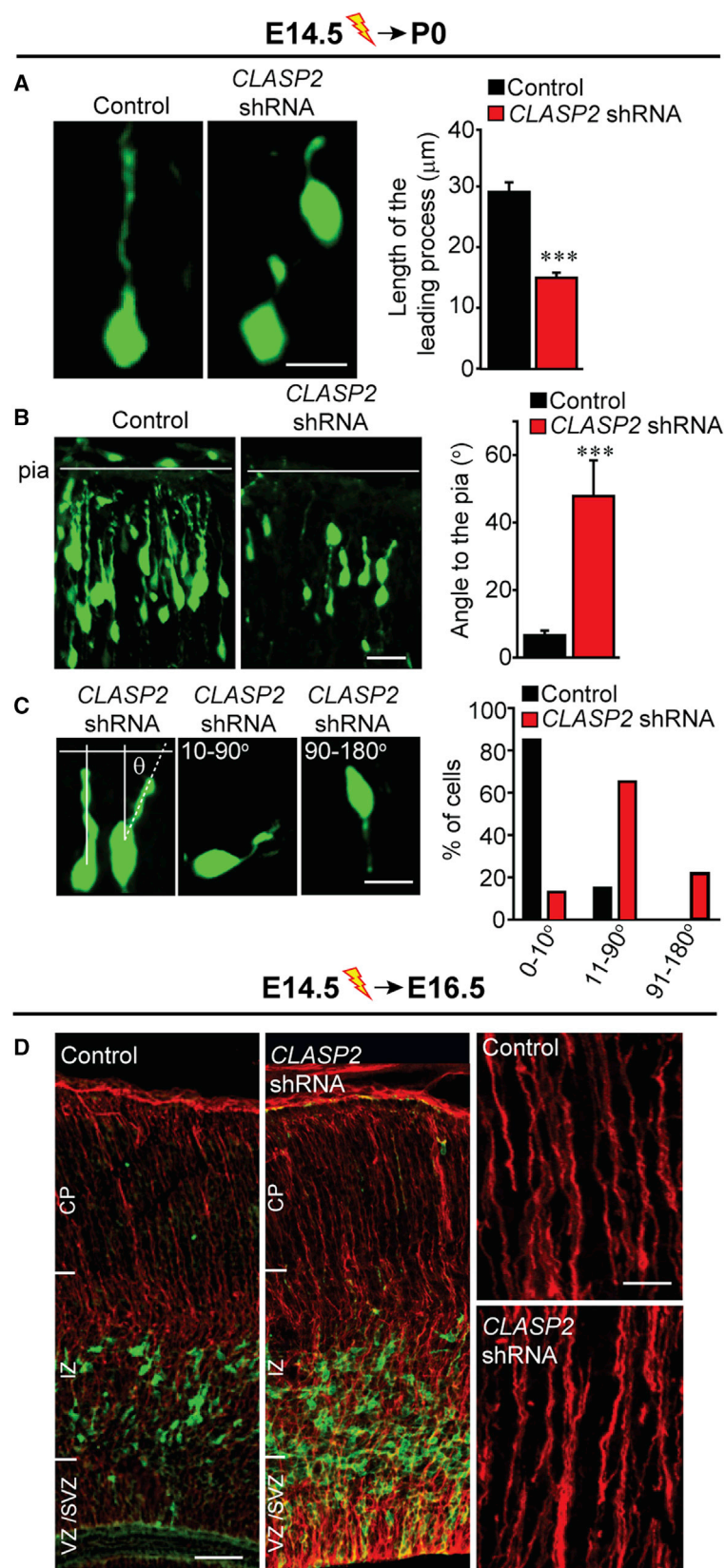


Figure 5. CLASP2 Is Required for Neuronal Polarity

Mouse embryos were electroporated in utero with GFP-tagged *CLASP2* shRNAs or scrambled control at E14.5 and analyzed at P0.

(A) Morphological and quantitative analysis of migrating GFP-positive neurons showing the length of the leading process (control, $n = 44$ cells; *CLASP2* shRNA, $n = 34$ cells).

(B and C) Representative images of the angle of the leading process in relation to the pial surface. The angle was measured by using the closest connecting line from the cell soma to the pia (control, $n = 20$ cells; *CLASP2* shRNA, $n = 23$ cells). The percentage of cells with a leading process oriented between 0° – 10° , 11° – 90° , and 91° – 180° to the pia were quantitated.

(D) Immunohistochemical analysis of ascending radial glial fibers immunostained against Nestin (red) showed normal stereotypical radial fibers spanning the entire cortical wall in control and *CLASP2* shRNA cortex, oriented from the VZ toward the pial surface (VZ, ventricular zone; SVZ, subventricular zone; IZ, intermediate zone; CP, cortical plate).

Data are means \pm SEM (A–C) and statistical significance was assessed using unpaired t test (*** $p < 0.0001$). Scale bar represents $10\ \mu\text{m}$ (A and C), $20\ \mu\text{m}$ (B), and 25 and $50\ \mu\text{m}$ for (D).

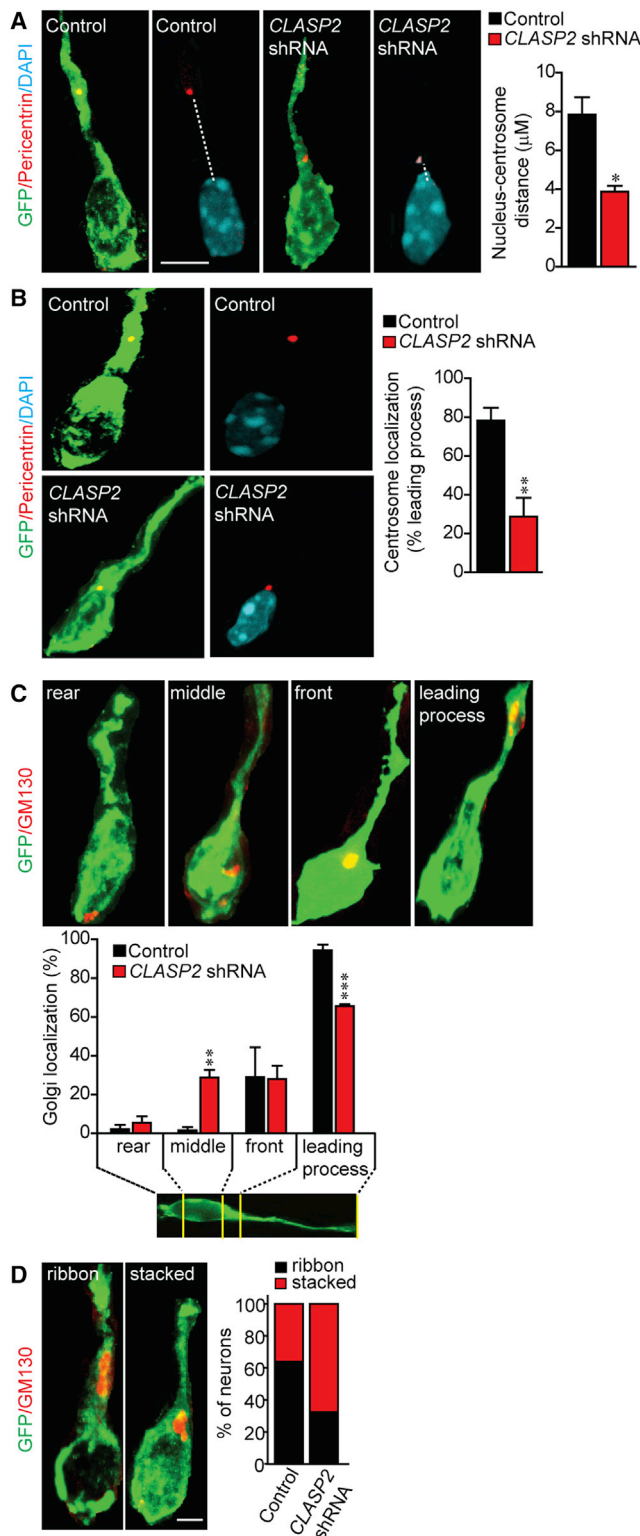


Figure 6. CLASP2 Is Necessary for Centrosome-Golgi Localization (A and B) Immunostaining for Pericentrin (red) shows centrosome localization and demonstrates a shorter distance between the nucleus and centrosome in CLASP2 knockdown neurons (control, $n = 43$ cells; CLASP2 shRNA, $n = 53$ cells). Nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue).

on an interaction between Dab1 and CLASP2 and/or activated through Dab1-dependent phosphorylation signaling pathways. To examine these possibilities, we co-transfected Dab1 with GFP-CLASP1 or GFP-CLASP2 α in HEK293T cells and performed immunoprecipitation assays (Figure 7B). Both CLASP1 (lane 3) and CLASP2 (lane 2 and 4) co-immunoprecipitated with Dab1. In particular, the N-terminal portion of CLASP2 (1–820 amino acids—lane 5) selectively associated with Dab1. In addition, we generated five GFP-CLASP2 fragments that consisted of the first TOG1 domain (1–270 amino acids), TOG2 domain (271–573 amino acids), positively charged serine/arginine-rich region (S/R rich, 574–820 amino acids), TOG3 domain (821–1,200 amino acids), or the C-terminal CLIP domain (1,200–1,515 amino acids) and used them to map the domain responsible for the CLASP2/Dab1 interaction (Figure 7A). We found the S/R-rich domain (574–820 amino acids) of CLASP2 specifically co-immunoprecipitated with Dab1 (lane 4 in Figure 7C).

Interestingly, the S/R-rich region contains nine serine residues that constitute consensus motifs for GSK3 β phosphorylation, which disrupt the electrostatic bonds formed between CLASP2 and microtubules thus preventing plus-end tracking (Kumar et al., 2009; Watanabe et al., 2009; Kumar and Wittmann, 2012). To determine whether GSK3 β -mediated phosphorylation of CLASP2 affects Dab1 binding, we examined GFP-CLASP2 phospho mutants which mimic a constitutively active phosphorylated state in which eight serine residues in the S/R domain of CLASP2 were replaced with aspartate (GFP-CLASP2-8S/D) or a phospho-resistant CLASP2 mutant (GFP-CLASP2-9S/A) where each of the nine serine residues were replaced with alanine (see Figure S6 for a list of mutated sites). When HEK293T cells were co-transfected with Dab1 and GFP-CLASP2 phospho mutants, we found both wild-type (lane 2 in Figure 7D) and phospho-resistant GFP-CLASP2-9S/A (lane 4) co-immunoprecipitated with Dab1. In contrast, phospho-mimetic GFP-CLASP2-8S/D (lane 6 in Figure 7D) exhibited greatly reduced binding to Dab1, indicating that mimicking the phosphorylation of CLASP2 decreases Dab1 binding affinity. Next, we co-transfected HEK293T cells with plasmids encoding GFP-CLASP2, Dab1, and constitutively active GSK3 β to determine whether GSK3 β is the kinase responsible for modulating the CLASP2-Dab1 interaction. GSK3 β overexpression completely abolished the CLASP2-Dab1 interaction (lane 3 in Figure 7E).

Reelin exerts its function by binding to the lipoprotein receptors ApoER2 and VLDLR and inducing tyrosine phosphorylation of the intracellular adaptor protein Dab1 by Src family kinases (Howell et al., 2000; Bock and Herz, 2003); therefore, we set out to determine whether Src-mediated phosphorylation of Dab1 affects the interaction with CLASP2. Surprisingly, the addition of active Src kinase had no effect on CLASP2-Dab1 binding,

(C and D) Immunostaining for GM130 shows Golgi localization and percentage of neurons exhibiting a ribbon or stacked Golgi phenotype (control, $n = 51$ cells; CLASP2 shRNA, $n = 36$ cells). For additional data, see Figure S5. Data are means \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed using unpaired t test and one-way ANOVA (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.001$, *** $p < 0.0001$). Scale bar represents 5 μm .

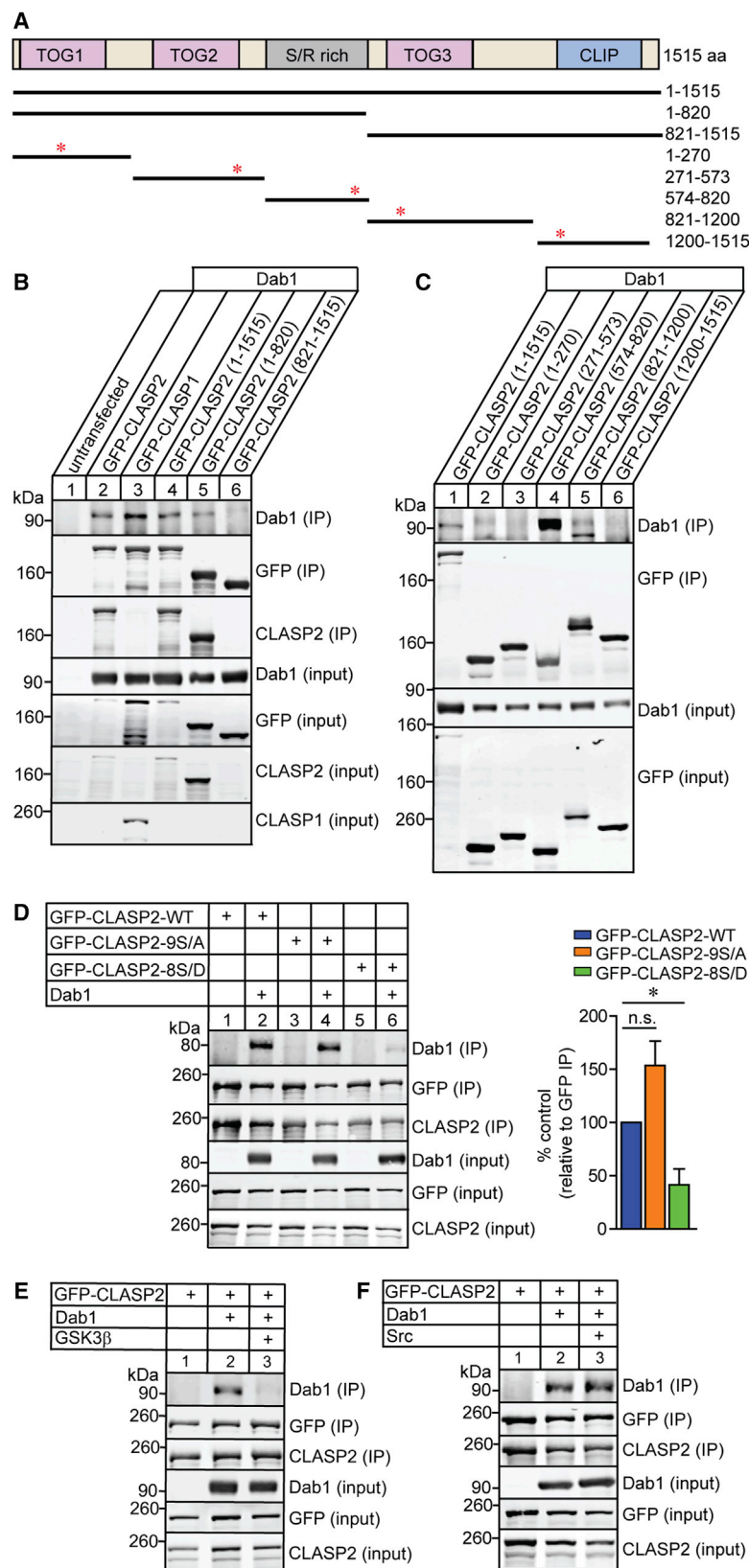


Figure 7. GSK3β-Mediated Phosphorylation of CLASP2 Affects Dab1 Binding

(A) Schematic of human CLASP2 α domain organization and GFP-tagged CLASP2 constructs used for immunoprecipitation with corresponding amino acid (aa) residues on the right. Red asterisks indicate the position of the putative NPXY motifs in CLASP2.

(B and C) HEK293T cells were co-transfected with Dab1 and GFP-CLASP2 plasmids. Cell lysates were collected 48 hr post-transfection and immunoprecipitated with GFP antibody and immunoblotted for Dab1, GFP, and CLASP2. Both CLASP1 (lane 3) and CLASP2 (lane 2 and 4) bind to Dab1 and the binding region for Dab1 is within the first 820 amino acids (lane 5) of CLASP2 (B). CLASP2 specifically binds to Dab1 at the S/R domain (lane 4) between 574 and 820 amino acids (C). (D) HEK293T cells were co-transfected with Dab1 and GFP-CLASP2 wild-type (WT) or GFP-CLASP2-9S/A or -8S/D phospho mutants. Cell lysates were collected 48 hr post-transfection and immunoprecipitated with GFP antibody and immunoblotted for Dab1, GFP, and CLASP2. The phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D mutant (lane 6) showed less Dab1 binding compared to CLASP2-WT (lane 2) or the phospho-resistant CLASP2-9S/A (lane 4) mutant. These results were quantified as relative to the immunoprecipitated level of GFP ($n = 3$ independent experiments).

(E) The addition of constitutively active GSK3 β (lane 3) abolished CLASP2 binding to Dab1 ($n = 2$ independent experiments).

(F) Phosphorylation of Dab1 with constitutively active Src (lane 3) did not affect CLASP2 binding to Dab1 ($n = 3$ independent experiments).

Data are means \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed using one-way ANOVA (* $p < 0.05$). n.s. represents not significant.

indicating that the phosphorylation state of Dab1 does not control CLASP2 binding (lane 3 in [Figure 7F](#)). Altogether, we conclude that GSK3 β -mediated phosphorylation of CLASP2 regulates its interaction with Dab1.

GSK3 β Phosphorylation of CLASP2 Controls Cell Motility and Neurite Extension

To determine whether Reelin regulates phosphorylation of CLASP2, we used tandem mass tagging spectrometry to identify and quantitate specific phosphorylation sites on CLASP2 in mouse primary cortical neurons in response to Reelin stimulation. Our analysis identified several phosphorylation sites within the positively-charged S/R-rich region that were specifically altered in response to Reelin, including three of the same sites known to be directly regulated by GSK3 β ([Figure S6](#)). These findings indicate that Reelin signaling alters the status of specific phosphorylation sites on CLASP2 that likely leads to functional changes ([Figures 8A and S7](#)).

We next evaluated whether GSK3 β phosphorylation of CLASP2 affects neurite extension. We compared mouse primary hippocampal neurons infected with control shRNA, *CLASP2* shRNAs, *CLASP2* shRNAs rescued with human CLASP2 α wild-type, phospho-resistant CLASP2-9S/A, or phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D lentivirus by immunofluorescence. At 2 days in vitro, quantitative analysis showed CLASP2 knockdown resulted in a 27% decrease in axon length ([Figures 8B and 8C](#)). Both CLASP2 α wild-type and phospho-resistant CLASP2-9S/A rescued the *CLASP2* shRNA phenotype, whereas phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D was unable to rescue the axonal deficits following CLASP2 knockdown. These results showed GSK3 β phosphorylation regulates the effects of CLASP2 on neurite extension.

To determine whether GSK3 β phosphorylation is associated with CLASP2's effects on cell motility, we used an in vitro neuronal migration assay to compare the effects of control shRNA, *CLASP2* shRNAs, *CLASP2* shRNAs rescued with human CLASP2 wild-type, phospho-resistant CLASP2-9S/A, or phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D mutants. Cortical neurons isolated from newborn pups were dissociated and allowed to form aggregates by incubating in a polypropylene tube before plating on matrigel-coated coverglass. Cell migration was assessed by measuring the area of migration away from the initial aggregates at day of plating using live imaging over a 48 hr period ([Figure 8D](#)). The shRNA-mediated knockdown of CLASP2 decreased cell migration compared to control ([Figures 8E and 8G](#)). Both CLASP2 wild-type and phospho-resistant CLASP2-9S/A rescued the *CLASP2* shRNA phenotype, whereas the phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D was unable to rescue the inhibitory effects of CLASP2 knockdown on cell migration. These results indicate that GSK3 β -mediated CLASP2 phosphorylation alters cell motility ([Figures 8F and 8G](#)). These results provide strong evidence in neurons that phosphorylation of CLASP2 by GSK3 β can control neurite extension and subsequent migration.

DISCUSSION

Here, we investigated how microtubule dynamics and organization are coupled to extracellular signaling during brain develop-

ment. We used a systems analysis approach to identify genes perturbed in the Reelin signaling pathway and identified the microtubule plus-end binding protein CLASP2 as a key cytoskeletal effector of Reelin mutant phenotypes. We show downregulation of CLASP2 in migrating neurons within the developing cortex leads to the mis-localization of neurons to deeper cortical layers, in part due to abnormal positioning of the centrosome-Golgi complex, and aberrant length/orientation of the leading process during migration. Mechanistically, we demonstrate that GSK3 β -mediated phosphorylation of CLASP2 controls binding to the intracellular adaptor protein Dab1 and is essential for regulating CLASP2's effects on neurite extension and cell motility. Together, these results represent the first demonstration of CLASP2 function in the developing mammalian brain and firmly establish that CLASP2 is a downstream cytoskeletal effector of Reelin signaling pathway in reshaping the cytoskeleton necessary for neurite growth and motility.

Reelin Controls CLASP2 Function

Our initial genome-wide screen discovered CLASP2 as the most highly regulated gene common to three independent mouse models with deficits in Reelin signaling and provides a strong in vivo functional connection between CLASP2 and the Reelin pathway ([Figure 1](#)). In addition, our data demonstrate that Reelin signaling leads to specific post-translational modifications on CLASP2, which affect its function. The unbiased experiment using quantitative mass spectrometry on CLASP2 demonstrates the ability of Reelin to regulate CLASP2 by altering the number of functionally important phosphorylation sites, most of which are GSK3 β substrates in primary mouse neurons ([Figure 8](#)). Moreover, we demonstrate that specific mutations of CLASP2-GSK3 β phosphorylation sites regulate the interaction between CLASP2 and Dab1, a finding consistent with a recent *Drosophila* screen that showed the fly homolog of Dab interacts with CLASP ([Long et al., 2013](#)). We further show that GSK3 β -mediated phosphorylation of CLASP2 is crucial for its function in regulating neurite extension and cell motility. Indeed, earlier supporting studies have demonstrated the importance of the multi-site phosphorylation by GSK3 β , where it was found to disrupt the electrostatic bonds formed between CLASP2 and the acidic C-terminal tail of tubulin, preventing the association of CLASP2 with microtubules ([Watanabe et al., 2009](#); [Kumar and Wittmann, 2012](#)).

There is significant experimental evidence to support a direct role of GSK3 β in both regulating downstream effects of Reelin signaling as well as that of CLASP2. First, we identified a number of strongly regulated CLASP2 phosphorylation sites following Reelin treatment, most of which were GSK3 β substrate sites. In addition, others have confirmed a role for GSK3 β in mediating the downstream effects of Reelin ([Beffert et al., 2002](#)). Second, a role for GSK3 β directly regulating CLASP2 function including growth cone regulation in development strongly support a functional role for phospho-specific regulation of CLASP2 in neuronal development ([Hur et al., 2011](#)). Third, activated GSK3 β has been shown to cause cortical migration defects, abnormal centrosome positioning, and destabilization of microtubules at the leading process ([Asada and Sanada, 2010](#); [Morgan-Smith et al., 2014](#)), phenotypes that are similar to those resulting from

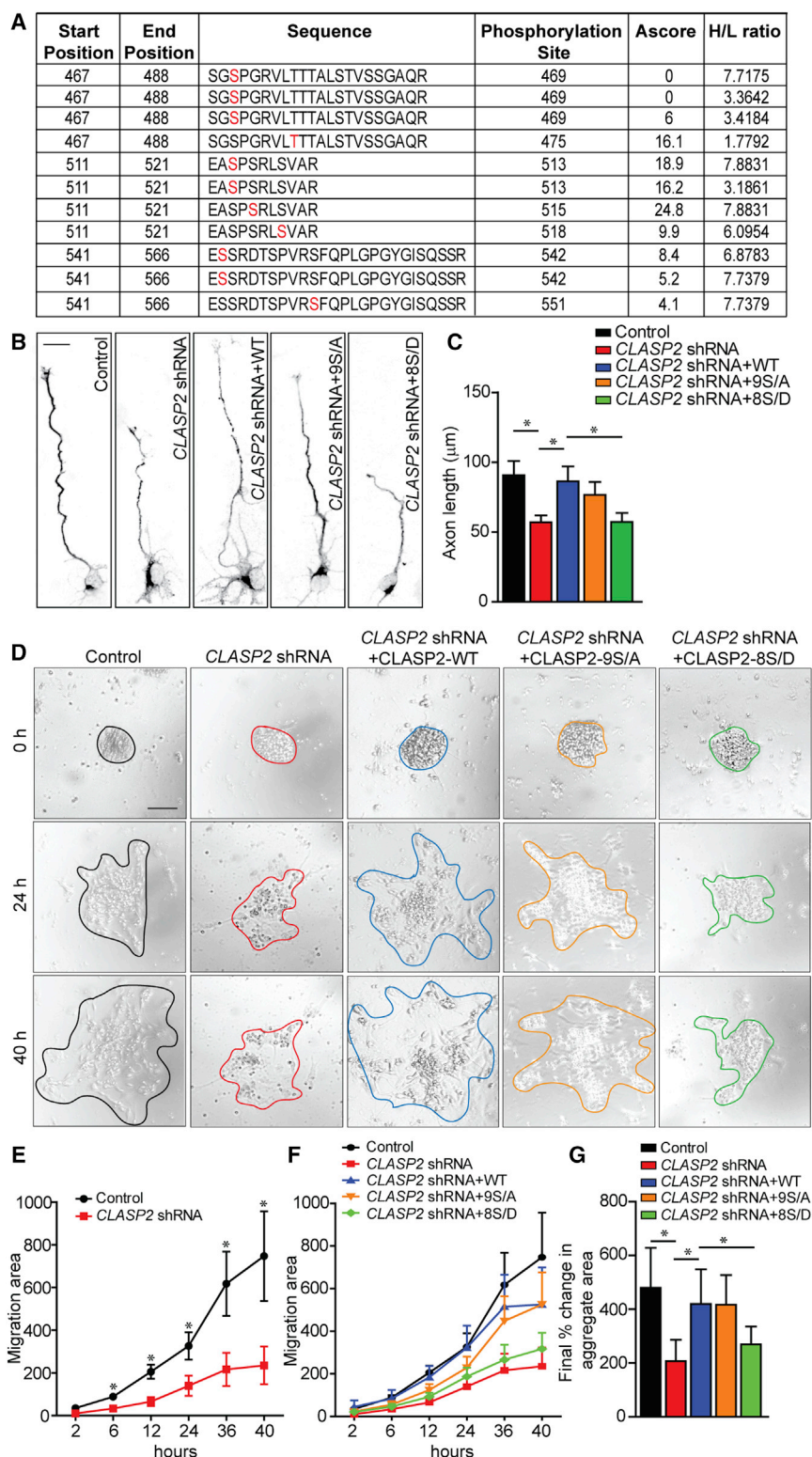


Figure 8. GSK3 β Phosphorylation of CLASP2 Regulates Cell Motility and Neurite Extension

(A) Table lists several CLASP2 phosphopeptides identified by tandem mass spectrometry showing changes following Reelin treatment of mouse primary neurons. The first two columns indicate the start and end position of the peptides within the mouse CLASP2 γ sequence. The amino acid sequence is indicated with the putative phosphorylation site (marked in red) followed by the position of the residue within CLASP2 γ . Ascore represents the probability of correct phosphorylation site localization based on the presence and intensity of site-determining ions from the MS/MS spectra. H/L represents the ratio of signal of the specific phosphopeptide in Reelin (H) or control (L) treated neurons. For additional data, see Figures S6 and S7.

(B) Representative images of primary dissociated mouse wild-type neuron cultures co-infected with scrambled control, CLASP2 shRNAs or CLASP2 shRNAs with CLASP2-wild-type (WT), CLASP2-9S/A, or -8S/D phospho mutants and immunostained against tau axonal marker at 2 days in vitro. (C) CLASP2 shRNA caused a decrease in axon length when compared to control. Both CLASP2-WT and phospho-resistant CLASP2-9S/A rescued the CLASP2 shRNA phenotype, whereas phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D was unable to rescue the axonal effects of CLASP2 knockdown (control, $n = 19$; CLASP2 shRNA, $n = 28$; CLASP2-WT, $n = 21$; CLASP2-9S/A, $n = 17$; CLASP2-8S/D, $n = 33$ cells).

(D) Primary mouse wild-type neuron cultures were co-infected with scrambled control, CLASP2 shRNAs or CLASP2 shRNAs with CLASP2-wild-type (WT), CLASP2-9S/A, or -8S/D phospho mutants and cell migration was assessed by measuring the area of migration away from the initial aggregates over a 48 hr period.

(E) CLASP2 shRNA caused a decrease in migration area compared to control (control, $n = 8$; CLASP2 shRNA, $n = 8$ aggregates).

(F and G) Phospho-mimetic CLASP2-8S/D was unable to rescue the deleterious effects of CLASP2 shRNA on cell motility compared to CLASP2 WT and CLASP2-9S/A phosphomutant (control, $n = 8$; CLASP2 shRNA, $n = 8$; CLASP2-WT, $n = 5$; CLASP2-9S/A, $n = 9$; CLASP2-8S/D, $n = 13$ aggregates).

Data are means \pm SEM and statistical significance was assessed using one-way ANOVA ($p < 0.05$). Scale bar represents 10 μ m (B) and 50 μ m (D).

mutations in Reelin signaling and those presented in the current study following CLASP2 knockdown. Therefore, we propose a model whereby the localization of CLASP2 during radial migra-

tion is regulated by GSK3 β through Reelin signaling and CLASP2 enrichment at the leading edge is necessary to stabilize the leading process for directed movement.

Mechanisms By Which CLASP2 Regulates Progenitor Proliferation and Differentiation

CLASPs have been shown to affect microtubule turnover during both interphase and mitosis (Galjart, 2005). In mitotic cells, CLASPs localize to kinetochores, where they promote the turnover of attached microtubules in order to ensure spindle bipolarity and chromosome alignment/segregation (Maiato et al., 2003, 2005; Pereira et al., 2006; Maffini et al., 2009; Logarinho et al., 2012; Maia et al., 2012; Samora et al., 2011). In addition, CLASP knockdown causes depolymerization of astral microtubules, mispositioning of the mitotic spindle, and mitotic delays (Maia et al., 2012; Samora et al., 2011); however, the role of CLASPs during neurogenesis is unknown. Here, we found that CLASP2 affects terminal cell division of neural progenitors in the developing mouse cortex. Multiple lines of evidence support this: first, we found differential expression of CLASP2 isoforms during cortical development. CLASP2 α isoform peaks during neurogenesis at E12.5–E16.5 in the mouse developing brain, where we found a specific increase in CLASP2 α mRNA in the proliferative VZ/SVZ. Second, CLASP2 knockdown increased the percentage of both apical Sox2 and basal Tbr2 neural progenitor cell population. Third, there was a greater percentage of CLASP2 knockdown cells co-localized with the cell-cycle marker PH3 indicating CLASP2 knockdown could be prolonging the cell cycle or preventing terminal differentiation by maintaining progenitors in a proliferative state. Lastly, we found a decrease in the percentage of CLASP2 knockdown cells that exited from the cell cycle over a 24 hr period following EdU injection. Taken together, these results suggest that CLASP2 regulates the timing of neuronal output from progenitor cells in the VZ/SVZ. However, these results are likely independent of Reelin-Dab1 signaling since *reeler* mice display no obvious problems with proliferative mechanisms (Caviness et al., 2008).

Regulation of Neuronal Migration by CLASP2

Our data suggest that Reelin-induced changes in CLASP2 function are essential for regulating neuronal migration during cortical development and that the pleiotropic functions of CLASP2 in the cortex indicate that its activity must be tightly controlled. We show that misregulation of CLASP2 expression clearly leads to alterations in the cortical lamination pattern of affected neurons, as evidenced by knockdown and overexpression of CLASP2 in vivo. This is further supported by recent human genetic findings which identified both CLASP2 and Reelin as neuronal developmental genes demonstrating the greatest intolerance to dosage changes from copy number variants (Ruderfer et al., 2016).

Previous studies have shown that both Reelin and CLASP2 play direct roles in modulating neuronal polarization through the regulation of both Golgi shape and deployment into the leading process (Matsuki et al., 2010; O'Dell et al., 2012; Beffert et al., 2012). In addition, CLASP-dependent nucleation of microtubules at the Golgi is required for directional cargo trafficking (Miller et al., 2009; Efimov et al., 2007). Our results indicate that CLASP2 knockdown causes the mislocalization of the Golgi away from the leading process and a decrease in the percentage of cells demonstrating Golgi ribbon morphology. Therefore, the disruption of Golgi shape and position following CLASP2 knockdown would prevent directed cargo trafficking to the leading

process and cause a loss of neuron polarization. To support this, we show that CLASP2 knockdown led to an overall increase in the number of primary processes, defect in leading process orientation, and the loss of a clear apical dendrite in differentiated neurons indicating intrinsic defects in neuron polarization independent of final cortical position.

Altogether, our data indicate that CLASP2 plays distinct roles in controlling neuronal production and positioning during early brain development. In particular, while CLASP2 knockdown decreases neuronal output from the germinal zones, the cells that are eventually produced express appropriate laminar identity markers and many of these cells eventually reside in the appropriate layer. However, it is clear that a proportion of the generated neurons migrate abnormally and are located in ectopic (deep) locations regardless of whether CLASP2 is knockdown starting at the precursor stage or after the neurons have been generated. Indeed, the conditional expression of CLASP2 shRNA in neurons demonstrates clearly that this ectopia is due to CLASP2-mediated effects at the postmitotic migrating neuron stage.

In the cerebral cortex, defects in neuronal precursor proliferation, morphogenesis, cell migration, and synaptogenesis can lead to mental retardation, autism spectrum disorders, and epilepsy. Therefore, elucidating the pathways that integrate extracellular cues with cytoskeleton reorganization are essential to understanding cortical architecture and connectivity.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

- KEY RESOURCES TABLE
- CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING
- EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS
 - Mice
 - Primary Neuronal Cultures and Lentiviral Infection
 - Migration Assay of Primary Mouse Neuronal Cultures
 - Organotypic Slice Culture and Multiphoton Time Lapse Imaging
- METHOD DETAILS
 - Molecular Cloning
 - Microarray and IPA System Analysis
 - Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction
 - In situ Hybridization
 - In utero electroporation
 - Immunohistochemistry
 - Immunoprecipitation
 - CLASP2 Immunoprecipitation for Mass Spectrometry
 - Tandem Mass Spectrometry
- QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
- DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes seven figures and two movies and can be found with this article online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2017.02.039>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, G.M.D., W.A.T., T.F.H., U.B., and A.H.; Methodology, G.M.D. and W.A.T.; Investigation, G.M.D., W.A.T., K.C.O., J.K., C.T., and S.H.; Writing-Original Draft, G.M.D., U.B., and A.H.; Writing-Review and Editing, G.M.D., W.A.T., T.F.H., U.B., and A.H.; Funding Acquisition, T.F.H., U.B., and A.H.; Supervision, T.F.H., U.B., and A.H.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Rabbit polyclonal anti-CDP M-222	Santa Cruz	Cat# SC-13024, RRID: AB_2261231
Rat polyclonal anti-CLASP1	Abnova	Cat# MAB9736, RRID: AB_10754999
Rat polyclonal anti-CLASP2	Abnova	Cat# MAB9738, RRID: AB_10757498
Rabbit polyclonal anti-Dab1	Dr. J. Herz from UT Southwestern	N/A
Mouse monoclonal anti-GFP	Neuromab	Cat# 75-131, RRID: AB_10671445
Rabbit polyclonal anti-GFP	Synaptic Systems	Cat# 132 002, RRID: AB_887725
Mouse monoclonal anti-GM130	BD Biosciences	Cat# 610822, RRID: AB_398141
Mouse monoclonal anti-Ki67	Cell Signaling	Cat# 12202, RRID: AB_2620142
Mouse monoclonal anti-Nestin	BD Biosciences	Cat# 611658, RRID: AB_399176
Mouse monoclonal anti-Pericentrin	BD Biosciences	Cat# 611814, RRID: AB_399294
Rabbit polyclonal anti-PH3	Cell Signaling	Cat# 9701, RRID: AB_331534
Goat polyclonal anti-Sox2	Santa Cruz	Cat# SC-17320, RRID: AB_2286684
Mouse monoclonal anti-Tau1	Millipore	Cat# MAB3420, RRID: AB_94855
Rabbit polyclonal anti-Tbr2	Abcam	Cat# AB23345, RRID: AB_778267
Biological Samples		
Adult brain tissue from C57BL/6, <i>Reeler</i> mice, ApoER2/VLDR double knockout and Dab1 knockout mice	Dr. J. Herz from UT Southwestern	N/A
Critical Commercial Assays		
RNeasy Mini Kit	QIAGEN	Cat# 74104
Click-iT EdU Alexa Fluor 488 Flow Cytometry Assay Kit	ThermoFisher Scientific	Cat# C10425
Deposited Data		
Gene expression data from 3 different Reeler mouse models and controls	GEO	GEO: GSE94896
Experimental Models: Cell Lines		
Human: Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK) 293T cells	ATCC	Cat# CRL-11268, RRID: CVCL_1926
Human: HEK293 stable cell line producing Reelin	Beffert et al., 2002	
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Mouse: C57BL/6J6	The Jackson Laboratory	Stock No: 000664, RRID: IMSR_JAX:000664
Mouse: CD-1 IGS	Charles River Laboratories	Cat# CRL:022, RRID: IMSR_CRL:022
Recombinant DNA		
pLKO.1	Addgene	10879
pSico	Addgene	11578
pEGFP-C1	Clontech	Cat# 632470
pEGFP-C3	Clontech	Cat# 632482
pCGLH	Gal et al., 2006	N/A
pCAG	Gal et al., 2006	N/A
pFUW	Ho et al., 2006	N/A
RSV/REV	Ho et al., 2006	N/A
MDlg/RRE	Ho et al., 2006	N/A
VSVG	Ho et al., 2006	N/A
pENTR/D-TOPA EGFP-CLASP2 α WT	Kumar et al., 2009	N/A

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Continued

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
pENTR/D-TOPA EGFP-CLASP2 α 9SxA	Kumar et al., 2009	N/A
pENTR/D-TOPA EGFP-CLASP2 α 8SxD	Kumar et al., 2009	N/A
DCX-Cre-IRES-mCherry	Franco et al., 2011	N/A
Human CLASP2 α	IMAGE clone 9021646	BC140778
Mouse CLASP γ	This paper	N/A
pLKO.1-CLASP2 shRNA-A	This paper	N/A
pLKO.1-CLASP2 shRNA-B	This paper	N/A
pLKO.1-control scrambled	This paper	N/A
pSico-CLASP2 shRNA-A	This paper	N/A
pSico-CLASP2 shRNA-B	This paper	N/A
pCGLH-CLASP2 shRNA-A	This paper	N/A
pCGLH-CLASP2 shRNA-B	This paper	N/A
pCGLH-control scrambled	This paper	N/A
pCAG-CLASP2 α	This paper	N/A
pCAG-CLASP2 γ	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 γ	This paper	N/A
pFUW-GFP-CLASP2 α WT	This paper	N/A
pFUW-GFP-CLASP2 α 9SxA	This paper	N/A
pFUW-GFP-CLASP2 α 8SxD	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 1-820	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 821-1515	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 1-270	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 271-573	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 574-820	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 821-1200	This paper	N/A
pEGFP-CLASP2 α 1200-1515	This paper	N/A
Sequence-Based Reagents		
GeneChip Mouse Genome 430 2.0 Array	Affymetrix	N/A
shRNA targeting sequences for mouse CLASP2	Beffert et al., 2012	N/A
shRNA-A GCATCAGTCCTTTCAACAAGT		
shRNA-B GAACCTGAAGAGACGTTAAAT		
shRNA control scrambled CCGCAGGTATGCACGCGT	Beffert et al., 2012	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
ImageJ software	NIH	http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/ ; RRID: SCR_003070
Image Studio 5.2.5	LI-COR Biosciences	https://www.licor.com/bio/products/software/image_studio/ ; RRID: SCR_013430
Ingenuity Pathway Analysis	Ingenuity	https://www.qiagenbioinformatics.com/products/ingenuity-pathway-analysis/
Prism 6	GraphPad	https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/ ; RRID: SCR_002798
Volocity software	Improvion	http://www.perkinelmer.com/lab-solutions/resources/docs/BRO_VolocityBrochure_PerkinElmer.pdf ; RRID: SCR_002668
ZEN software	Zeiss Microscope	https://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/int/products/microscope-software/zen.html ; RRID: SCR_013672

CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Angela Ho (aho1@bu.edu).

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Mice

Mouse protocols were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Boston University and Boston University School of Medicine. Wild-type C57BL/6J mice were purchased from The Jackson Laboratory. Timed pregnant CD-1 dams were purchased from Charles River Laboratories. For all mice studies, mice of either sex were used.

Primary Neuronal Cultures and Lentiviral Infection

Primary neuronal cultures were prepared from newborn C57BL/6J mice of either sex and infected with lentiviruses on the day of plating as previously described (Ho et al., 2006). Briefly, neurons were dissociated with trypsin, triturated, and plated onto coverslips coated with Matrigel. Recombinant lentiviruses were produced by transfecting HEK293T cells using FuGENE6 (Roche) with plasmids encoding viral enzymes and envelope proteins essential for packing of viral particles (RSV/REV, MDLg/RRE, and VSVG) with the addition of a shuttle vector encoding the gene of interest. To determine axon length, hippocampal neurons were infected with control scrambled or *CLASP2* shRNA plasmids at the day of plating and fixed 72 hr later. Neurons were treated each day (a total of 3 times) with 20 nM of reelin or media control. Axons were stained with Tau antibody and the longest neurite was traced using NIH ImageJ software.

Migration Assay of Primary Mouse Neuronal Cultures

Primary neurons were harvested from the cortex of newborn C57BL/6J mice of either sex and dissociated to form a single cell suspension. Cell suspensions were allowed to stand overnight in polypropylene tubes causing them to re-aggregate before being plated into 24-well dishes coated with Matrigel. Four hours after plating, cell aggregates were adherent to the substrate and initial pictures were taken using a Carl Zeiss MZ6 fluorescence microscope. Cell aggregates were photographed at 8–10 hr intervals using 10x phase-contrast optics. Quantification of the migration area was calculated using ImageJ software. Lines were drawn in freehand connecting the outermost cells recognizable to the initial aggregate. All observations were recorded blind to the treatment group and migration area was calculated as a percentage with respect to the size of the initial aggregate.

Organotypic Slice Culture and Multiphoton Time Lapse Imaging

Seventy two hours post-electroporation, embryos were harvested and freshly dissected in complete HBSS which consisted of 1X Hanks Balanced Salt Solution with 2 mM HEPES, 2 mM D-Glucose, 0.2 mM CaCl₂, 0.2 mM MgSO₄, and 2 mM NaHCO₃. Brains were screened for positive expression of GFP using an Olympus MVX10 stereomicroscope equipped with epifluorescence illumination. The brains were embedded in DMEM/3% low melting point agarose and 350–400 micron organotypic sections were prepared using a VT1000S vibrating blade microtome. Slices were embedded in a collagen matrix on inverted transwell inserts and placed in 35 mm dishes in Neuroimaging medium (NIM) for a 30 min recovery period prior to imaging. NIM consisted of neurobasal medium supplemented with B27, N2 supplement, 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% penicillin-streptomycin, and glutamax.

For imaging, the organotypic slices were imaged using a custom perfusion chamber (BioPTechs) attached to the stage of the Zeiss LSM 710 microscope coupled to a Chameleon Vision-S Ti:Sapphire laser (Coherent). GFP was excited at 920 nm and emitted light was collected with 2 LSM binary GaAsP module photodetectors. Z stack images (100–200 μ m, 2 μ m intervals) were collected at 10 min intervals with a 20X with 1.0 numerical aperture water dipping objective for the duration of the experiment, which typically ran overnight for greater than 8–12 hr. Individual dividing cells were analyzed further by post-processing using the ZEN software package (Carl Zeiss).

METHOD DETAILS

Molecular Cloning

The shRNA constructs for mouse *CLASP2* (shRNA-A GCATCAGTCCTTTCAACAAGT and shRNA-B GAACTTGAAGAGACGTAAAT) and control scrambled shRNA (CCGCAGGTATGCACGCGT) were subcloned into the pLKO.1 (Addgene plasmid 10879), pSico (Addgene plasmid 11578) and pCGLH vectors for lentivirus and in utero electroporation studies, respectively. Full-length human *CLASP2 α* (National Center for Biotechnology Information reference sequence NM_015097.2) was PCR amplified from a full-length cDNA clone (IMAGE clone 9021646; BC140778) and subcloned into pCAG and pEGFP-C1 (Clontech). In addition, we obtained human full-length cDNA for *CLASP2 α* , *CLASP2-9S/A* and *CLASP2-8S/D* (kind gift from Dr. Torsten Wittman, University of California San Francisco) and these were subcloned into the lentiviral vector pFUW and sequence verified. To generate truncated GFP-*CLASP2* variants, we used full-length human *CLASP2 α* as template and designed PCR primers at the regions of lowest complexity in order to optimally preserve domain structure, specifically 1–820, 821–1515, 1–270, 271–573, 574–820, 821–1200 and 1200–1515 amino acids were amplified by PCR and subcloned into pEGFP-C3 (Invitrogen).

Microarray and IPA System Analysis

Total RNA from control C57BL/6, *Reeler* mice, ApoER2/VLDR double knockout, Dab1 knockout mice was prepared by TRIzol isolation (Invitrogen). A total of three cortex samples were taken at 21 days of age and pooled per condition. Samples were hybridized to

the GeneChip Mouse Genome 430 2.0 Array (3'IVT, Affymetrix) and Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (Ingenuity Systems) was used to determine downstream effects most likely associated with knockout of the Reelin signaling pathway. Core analysis was run for each mouse model with a cut-off of 1.5 fold change compared to age-matched controls. A comparison analysis was run between mouse models and relevant disease profiles were pulled out based on *p*-value rank.

Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction

Embryonic and newborn cortex was homogenized with a pestle (Thomas) and total RNA was purified using the RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Total RNA from the adult cortex samples were processed with Trizol (Invitrogen). At least five independent cortex samples were isolated for each developmental time point. cDNA was synthesized using Superscript III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). Reverse transcription quantitative PCR was performed on a 7900HT Fast Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) using the Power SYBR Green PCR Mastermix (Applied Biosystems) with a two-step cycling protocol and an annealing/extension temperature of 60°C. The experiment was performed in duplicate with at least two biological replicates and three technical replicates each. The relative amount for each target was normalized using GAPDH as a reference gene and the fold change in gene expression was calculated using the ddCt method with the adult cortex samples as control.

In situ Hybridization

In situ hybridization (ISH) was outsourced to Reveal BioSciences, San Diego. Brain samples were harvested from CD1 mice and fixed in 10% Neutral Buffered Formalin (NBF). Fixed samples were processed into paraffin wax, embedded, and sectioned at 4 µm onto positively charged slides. Prior to staining, paraffin was removed by heating slides to 90–95°C for 10 min in aqueous buffered solution before protease digestion. Slides were then fixed in 10% NBF for 5 min before target probe set hybridization at 40°C for 2 hr. Probes were labeled with an alkaline phosphatase-conjugated oligonucleotide for 15 min before addition of fast blue or fast red substrates for fluorescent imaging.

In utero electroporation

In utero electroporation (IUE) was performed on timed pregnant CD-1 dams (Charles River Laboratories) at E14.5 as described previously (Gal et al., 2006). Dams were anesthetized via intraperitoneal injection of a ketamine/xylazine mixture and the uterine horns were exposed by midline laparotomy. One to two microliters of plasmid DNA (final concentration of 3 µg/µl) mixed with 0.1% fast green dye (Sigma Aldrich) was injected intercerebrally using a pulled glass micropipette. For the shRNA experiments, both shRNA-A and shRNA-B were transfected together. For conditional shRNA experiments, both shRNA-A and shRNA-B were subcloned into the pSico plasmid and transfected together with *Dcx-Cre-mCherry* plasmid. For electroporation, the anode of a Tweezertrode (Harvard Apparatus) was placed over the dorsal telencephalon above the uterine muscle and four 35 V pulses (50 ms duration separated by a 950 ms interval) were applied with a BTX ECM830 pulse generator (Harvard Apparatus). Following electroporation, the uterine horns were returned to the abdomen and the cavity filled with warm 0.9% saline solution. Incisions were closed with silk sutures and dams were returned to a clean cage and monitored closely during recovery. The procedures were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the Boston University School of Medicine. For the EdU experiment, IUE was performed on timed pregnant CD-1 dams at E14.5 and pulse labeled by EdU injection into pregnant dams at E15.5 by intraperitoneal injections of 5-ethynyl-2'-deoxyuridine (50 µg of EdU per gram of mouse body weight). Twenty-four hours following EdU injections, pregnant dams were sacrificed and embryos were harvested for immunohistochemical staining with EdU and Ki67 antibodies.

Immunohistochemistry

Electroporated pregnant dams and mice underwent transcardial perfusion with 4% paraformaldehyde in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Brains were removed, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde overnight, and cryoprotected in 30% sucrose in PBS. Brains were frozen in tissue molds with OCT compound and coronal 10 µm sections were cut using a LEICA CM1850 cryostat (LEICA Biosystems). Sections were immediately mounted on SuperFrost microscope slides (Fisher Scientific) and kept at –80°C for storage. Prior to immunostaining, sections were rinsed with PBS and treated with 0.3% methanol peroxidase for 10 min to quench endogenous peroxidase activity. Antigen retrieval was performed by microwaving brain sections in 10 mM sodium citrate buffer pH 6 at 800 W for 1 min followed by 80 W for 10 min. Sections were then blocked in 5% goat serum, 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS for 1 hr followed by incubation with primary antibodies overnight at 4°C. Sections were then washed with PBS and incubated with the appropriate Alexa-conjugated secondary antibodies before being mounted with ProLong-Gold mounting medium containing DAPI (Invitrogen).

Immunoprecipitation

Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK) 293T cells were lysed 48 hr following transfection in immunoprecipitation buffer containing: 20 mM Tris HCL, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA pH 8.0, and 1% NP-40, supplemented with protease/phosphatase inhibitors (Biotool). Protein extracts were incubated for 2 hr with rotation at 4°C with the precipitating antibody (rabbit anti-GFP 1:500) followed by overnight incubation with 25 µl of protein A Ultralink resin (Thermo Scientific). The resin were washed several times with immunoprecipitation buffer and precipitated proteins were eluted by boiling for 5 min in reducing SDS sample buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE.

CLASP2 Immunoprecipitation for Mass Spectrometry

Primary neuronal cultures were infected with GFP control or GFP-CLASP γ lentivirus at 2 days in vitro (DIV). On 7 DIV, neurons were treated with 284 μ M of reelin or media control for 20 min. Neurons were briefly rinsed in PBS and lysed in IP buffer containing 20 mM Tris-HCl, 1% NP40, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA with protease and phosphatase inhibitors. Neuronal lysates were centrifuged at 13,000 \times g for 5 min and the supernatant were incubated with GFP antibody at 1:250 for 2 hr at 4°C followed by the addition of A/G resin beads. The beads were incubated overnight and washed with IP buffer 4-5 times and samples were examined by SDS/PAGE followed by Coomassie staining using a Thermo Scientific Pierce Power Station and Power Stain Solution following the manufacturer's protocol to identify appropriate bands. Excised gel bands were cut and samples were reduced with 1 mM DTT for 30 min at 60°C and alkylated with 5 mM iodoacetamide for 15 min in the dark at room temperature. Gel pieces were then subjected to a modified in-gel trypsin digestion procedure (Shevchenko et al., 1996). Gel pieces were washed and dehydrated with acetonitrile for 10 min followed by removal of acetonitrile and dried in a speed-vac. Rehydration of the gel pieces was with 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate solution containing 12.5 ng/ μ l modified sequencing-grade trypsin (Promega, Madison, WI) at 4°C. Samples were placed in a 37°C room overnight and peptides were extracted by removing the ammonium bicarbonate solution, followed by one wash with a solution containing 50% acetonitrile and 1% formic acid. The extracts were then dried in a speed-vac.

Tandem Mass Spectrometry

Tandem mass spectrometry was completed at Harvard Medical School, Boston MA. Samples were re-suspended in 20 μ L of 200 mM HEPES buffer along with 6 μ L of acetonitrile. 2 μ L of TMT0 or TMT131 were added as light and heavy labels to each set of samples. After 1 hr, 2 μ L of a 5% hydroxylamine was added for 15 min followed by the addition of 10 μ L of 20% formic acid. Desalting of the samples was performed with an in-house de-salting tube using reverse phase C18 Empore SPE Disks (3M). On the day of analysis the samples were reconstituted in 10 μ L of HPLC solvent A (2.5% acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid). A nano-scale reverse-phase HPLC capillary column was created by packing 2.6 μ m C18 spherical silica beads into a fused silica capillary (100 μ m inner diameter \times ~30 cm length) with a flame-drawn tip (Peng and Gygi, 2001). After equilibrating the column, each sample was loaded via a Famos auto sampler (LC Packings) onto the column. A gradient was formed and peptides were eluted with increasing concentrations of solvent B (97.5% acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid). As each peptide was eluted they were subjected to electrospray ionization and then they entered into an LTQ Orbitrap Velos Pro ion-trap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Eluting peptides were detected, isolated, and fragmented to produce a tandem mass spectrum of specific fragment ions for each peptide. Peptide sequences (and hence protein identity) were determined by matching protein or translated nucleotide databases with the acquired fragmentation pattern by the software program, Sequest (ThermoFinnigan) (Eng et al., 1994). The static modifications of 224.1525 mass units were set for lysine and the N-terminal of peptides (light label), along with 57.0215 mass units on cysteine (iodoacetamide). Differential modifications of 5.0104 mass units were set for lysine and the N-terminal of peptides (heavy label) along with 79.9663 mass units to serine, threonine, and tyrosine was included in the database searches to determine phosphopeptides. Phosphorylation assignments were determined by the Ascore algorithm. All databases include a reversed version of all the sequences and the data was filtered to between a one and two percent peptide false discovery rate.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Experimenters are blind to condition during data acquisition and analysis. For imaging experiments, images were captured using a Zeiss LSM 700 scanning confocal microscope. Cortical layers were identified based on cell density using DAPI staining and GFP-positive cells were measured using the Volocity software (Improvision). Sample sizes (n) indicated in the figure legends 2, 3, 4A-D correspond to the number of brains analyzed. To quantify the length of the leading process and angle to the pial surface, images were taken from 2-3 representative slices of each brain. Length of the leading process was calculated as the distance from the middle of the cell body to the end of the longest neurite. To assess Golgi and centrosome position, GFP-positive cells were identified and Z stack images (6-8 μ m) were taken at 300 \times magnification. For both control and CLASP2 shRNA conditions, an average of 20 cells were analyzed per brain across multiple sections. Sample sizes (n) indicated in the figure legends 1, 4E-F, 5, 6, 8 correspond to the number of cells analyzed.

All statistical parameters are presented as means \pm SEM. To assess for statistical significance between groups, we used an unpaired t test to analyze all pairwise datasets and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) for parametric analysis of multiple comparisons which were conducted using Prism 6 software (GraphPad Software). Number of experiments and statistical information are reported on the corresponding figure legends. In figures, asterisks denote statistical significance marked by *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.001$; ***, $p < 0.0001$.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

The accession number for the expression profiling data reported in this paper is GEO: GSE94896.