

Research Article

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The Murine Major Facilitator Superfamily Domain Containing 14A (*Mfsd14a*) Gene Does Not Encode a Glucose Transporter

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Abstract

Despite that fact that the mfsd14a knock-out mouse shows a phenotype resembling human globozoospermia, the literature record on the mouse mfsd14a gene and its encoded products is extremely limited. This report therefore aims to establish the baseline on the mouse genomic locus.

Utilizing visual supervised bioinformatics of the *mfsd14a* genomics locus and its encoded products are annotated. Our analysis revealed a single protein isoform with all the hallmarks of a functional membrane bound solute carrier. The gene's sole transcript is almost ubiquitously expressed with highest expression in reproductive tissues followed by nervous tissues. Despite previous suggestions, the murine mfsd14a protein does not mediate transmembrane glucose transport when expressed in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes.

Introduction

The public literature record on the mouse *mfsd14a* gene, its encoded protein products and function(s) is virtually non existent. Only six credible publications can be identified in PubMed or in Scopus referring to murine *mfsd14a*, none of them identifying the encoded product and its function (Doran et al., 2016; Lekholm et al., 2017; Luco et al., 2012; Matsuo et al., 1997; S. Sreedharan et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2017).

Two publications provide very limited information about the gene's transcript in murine species. Specifically, Matsu et al. (1997) cloned and sequenced the gene transcript (cDNA) from neonatal mouse hippocampus and named it "*hiat1* (*hippocampus abundant transcript 1*)". The authors predicted that the encoded product is a transmembrane protein. Based on sequence similarities of the predicted protein and the presence of "signature motifs" (**supplemental information Figure 1**), the authors further extrapolated that the mouse *mfsd14a* might encode for a novel sugar transporter (Matsuo et al., 1997), however, no functional data were provided.

Matsu et al. (1997) showed gene expression of the murine *mfsd14a* in almost all mouse tissues they investigated, which was mirrored by Sreedharan et al. (2011) for tissues examined in rat (Smitha Sreedharan et al., 2011). However, both studies did not provide details on standardized expression levels and only examined a limited spectrum of tissues.

Altered spermatogenesis and male infertility is observed in $mfsd14a^{-/-}$ mice (Doran et al., 2016), where homozygous mutant mice were viable and healthy, but males were sterile due to a 100-fold reduction in the number of spermatozoa in the vas deferens. The few spermatozoa that were formed showed rounded head defects like those found in humans with globozoospermia. The expression of mfsd14a in Sertoli cells ("nurse cells") led Doran and coworkers to suggest that mfsd14a may transport a nutrient or metabolite from the bloodstream into the cells that is required for spermatogenesis.

Lekholm and coworkers described *mfsd14a* gene expression in the mouse central nervous system, and the location of the protein in the Golgi system and endoplasmatic reticulum (Lekholm et al., 2017). Based on the differential regulation data, the authors also predicted an organic substrate with a possible involvement in energy homeostasis, such as glucose. This was deduced because an upregulation was reported after 3 hours of amino acid starvation in mouse embryonic primary cultures. By contrast, in mice subjected to 24 hours of starvation a downregulation of *mfsd14a* was shown in the hypothalamus and the brainstem. Moreover, a high fat diet caused upregulation in the striatum (Lekholm et al., 2017).

The emerging disease associations precipitate the need for a detailed annotation of the mouse *mfsd14a* locus and a characterization of its predicted function as a putative glucose transporter. Based on visually supervised analysis of available data we annotate mouse *mfsd14a* and its encoded products. Its functions as a solute carrier for glucose is interrogated in the heterologous *Xenopus laevis* oocytes expression system.

Material and Methods

Bioinformatics genomics analysis

The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database was used to obtain the genomic sequence (Chromosome 3 – NC_000069.7), reference, nonreference full length RNA, and the expressed sequence tags (ESTs) sequences for mouse *mfsd14a*. The DNA sequence analysis software Sequencher 4.8 (GeneCodes Corporation; Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA) was used to create alignments between the reference RNA sequence and the genomic sequence to determine the structures of exons and introns. The alignment parameter used were large gaps, 20 minimum overlap, and minimum match of 80%. These alignments were visually curated to determine exons and introns and to create the scaled illustrations.

Protein analysis

Protein Homology/analogY Recognition Engine V 2.0 (Phyre2, (Kelley et al., 2015)) and the AlphaFold Model using 3D ligand site (Jumper et al., 2021; Wass et al., 2010) were used to analyse the function and structure of the mfsd14a protein. During the analysis, parameters from the standard/normal modes were applied.

Expression patterns analysis

Experimental RNA-Seq data were interrogated at the following resources: Gene Expression Database (GXD), Mouse Genome Informatics Web Site. World Wide Web (URL: http://www.informatics.jax.org/expression.shtml) (January 23, 2022); European Molecular Biology Laboratory's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) Baseline Expression Atlas (URL: https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gxa/home) (Moreno et al., 2022) and The Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) (URL: https://www.encodeproject.org, (Consortium, 2012)).

Plasmid preparation

Mouse fd14a. Initially, the complete open reading frame (ORF; 1701 bp) for the mouse mfsd14a (GenBank accession no. NM 008246.2) was amplified from mouse brain cDNA with Phusion high fidelity DNA polymerase (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, Massachusetts, USA) and subcloned into the p426 expression vector for amplification in yeast applying sticky-end ligation with T4 ligase (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, Massachusetts, USA) using the restriction enzymes SpeI and SmaI (please see Table 1 in supplemental information for sequence details) Subsequently, the ORF was sent for sequencing at the DNA Sequencing Facility of the Robarts Research Institute (London, Ontario, Canada) using T7/SP6 primers. For functional expression in Xenopus laevis oocytes, the verified mfsd14a ORF was then subcloned from the p426 vector into the pGEM®-HE plasmid, a modified pGEM®-3Z vector for the cloning site to be flanked by Xenopus beta globin 5'- and 3'- UTR sequence, using T4 ligase as described above. Both primers for this subcloning contained a restriction site for SmaI (forward primer including T7/SmaI-restriction site/ATG and reverse primer containing SmaI-restriction site). The insertion and the correct orientation of the ORF was verified by PCR (T7 plus mfsd14a internal reverse primer) and subsequent sequencing with T7/SP6 primers (supplied by the Centre for Applied Genoics (TCAG) sequencing facility, Toronto, Canada).

Human GLUT3. Plasmid containing the full open reading frames (ORF) human GLUT3 (positive control for glucosetransport study) was purchased from Harvard PlasmID (clone ID: HsCD00021270) and transformed into DH5 α competent cells (New England Biolabs, Ipswich, Massachusetts, USA) following the manufactures guidance for

propagation, followed by column purification (QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The ORFs were then amplified with Q5 High Fidelity DNA Polymerase (New England Biolabs) and was tagged with T7 RNA polymerase promoter sequence. The GLUT3 amplicon containing GLUT3 ORF and T7 promoter sequence was used directly for cRNA synthesis as described previously. cRNA products were column purified (RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit, Qiagen) prior to the spectrophotometric quantification (Nanodrop, ND-1000, Thermofisher, Waltham, MA, USA) and the integrity assessments (MOPS agarose gel containing formaldehyde).

Functional expression of mfsd14a in Xenopus laevis oocytes

Chemicals and reagents. [³H] 2-deoxyglucose (25.5 Ci/mmol in water) was purchased from PerkinElmer (Waltham, MA, USA). All chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MI, USA) unless otherwise noted. The standard oocyte ringer (OR2) contained (in mmol L⁻¹) 82.5 NaCl, 2.5 KCl, 1 CaCl₂, 1 MgCl₂, 1 Na₂HPO₄, 5 HEPES, pH 7.4 and sterilized by vacuum bottle-top filters (EMD MilliporeTM SteritopTM sterile vacuum bottle-top filters, ThermoFisher, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA). After sterilization, OR2 was then supplemented with sodium pyruvate (2.5 mmol L⁻¹), penicillin-streptomycin (1 mg mL⁻¹) (Gibco, Long Island, NY, USA), and gentamicin (50 µg mL⁻¹) for long term storage of sorted oocytes.

Plasmid preparation. The pGEM[®]-HE plasmid containing the ORF for *mfsd14a* as described above, was transferred into DH5-alpha cells for amplification, column purified (Plasmid miniprep kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and linearized with SphI (New England Biolabs (NEB), Ipswich, Massachusetts, United States). The HiScribeTM T7 ARCA mRNA Kit (with tailing) (NEB) was used for the *in-vitro* transcription of the capped mRNA (cRNA) following the manufacturer's suggestion, column purified (RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) and eluted in nuclease free water.

Oocyte preparation. Stage VI-V oocytes were collected from mature female Xenopus laevis (VWR International, Randor, PA, USA) as previously described (Soreq, 1992). Briefly, the frogs were anesthetized with MS-222 (2 g L^{-1}) followed with decapitation prior to the collection of the ovary. The ovary was placed in Ca²⁺-free OR2 solution containing collagenase type VI (1 mg mL-1) (Gibco, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) while gently agitated for 90 minutes at room temperature. The activity of collagenase was terminated by rinsing the oocytes three times with standard OR2. Oocytes were then sorted manually, rinsed three additional times with standard OR2 and allowed to recover in sterile OR2 overnight at 16 °C. All procedures used were approved by the University of Manitoba Animal Research Ethics Board and are in accordance with the Guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

Microinjections of oocytes. After recovering overnight, 18.4 ng (36.8 nL with 0.5 ng nL⁻¹) of *mfsd14a* cRNA, human

glucose transporter 3 (GLUT3) cRNA (as positive control), or nuclease-free water (as negative control, sham) was delivered into the oocytes using the Nanoject II auto-nanoliter injector (Drummond Scientific, Broomall, Pennsylvania, USA). The glucose uptake experiments were done at room temperature two days after the injections, where oocytes were randomly divided into groups containing 20 oocytes each either injected with water (sham) or cRNA (mfsd14a or GLUT3). Oocytes were incubated in 200 µL standard OR2 with 125 pmol [3H] 2deoxyglucose for 30 minutes. Excess ice-cold standard OR2 was used terminate the transport, add was used to rinse oocytes four times to remove the external radioactivity. Oocytes were then lysed individually in 200 µL of 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) after which 5 ml Ultima Gold scintillation cocktail (PerkinElmer) was added. Internal quantified by liquid radioactivity was scintillation spectrometry (Tri-Carb 2900 TR; PerkinElmer) as counts per minute (CPM)/oocyte.

The washing efficiency was ensured by assessing 50 μ L of the radioactivity of the buffer collected from the fourth washing post radioactive exposure compared to fresh, radioactivity-free standard OR2 at the same volume. If excessive amount of radioactivity was found, the oocytes were discarded.

Statistical analysis

Data was tested for normal distribution and homogeneity of variances with the Bartlett's test and one way ANOVA test with Tukey's post hoc analysis were used to compare multiple means in the glucose uptake studies. All results with P < 0.05were considered significant. Error bars indicate standard error of the mean (SEM) and different letters indicates p values less or equal to 0.05. Graphs were generated using the software GraphPad/Prism 9 for Mac OS, GraphPad Software, San Diego, California USA, www.graphpad.com).

Results

The mouse *mfsd14a* gene locus

The mouse *mfsd14a* gene is listed in NCBI as gene ID 15247 and resides on the mouse chromosome 3qG1, reverse strand. It is immediately flanked by the *Spindle assembly abnormal protein 6 homolog (sass6)* and the *mir3473h* and *solute carrier family 35 member a3 (slc35a3)* genes (**Figure 1**).

The visually supervised alignment of transcripts shows that the mouse *mfsd14a* gene spans 31,496 bases from its transcription initiation to the termination site. The transcript starts 11 nucleotides upstream of the site currently identified for the NCBI Reference Transcript NM_008246 (**supplemental information Figure 2**). In the terminal 3' exon, two potential transcriptional termination sites are visualized (**supplemental information Figure 3**).



Figure1: The mouse *mfsd14a* genomic locus. The transcripts' location on Chromosome 3 is indicated by the black arrow in the top panel. The exon-intron structure of the sole transcript is depicted on the bottom panel.

The mouse mfsd14a protein

The mouse mfsd14a protein consists of 490 amino acids, as represented by NCBI reference protein NP_032272.2 (supplemental information Sequence 1). The protein is predicted to be a solute membrane carrier with twelve transmembrane domains (Figure 2A & B and Supplemental information Figure 4).

The mfsd14a protein clusters to the conserved protein domain family MFS, subfamily MFSD14, which contains only one additional member, the orthologous mfsd14b (**Supplemental information Figure 5**). A unique putative chemical substrate binding pocket is predicted. As putative organic substrates, glucose, xylose, maltose, alanine, chloramphenicol, and 3ALPHA,5BETA,12ALPHA)-3,12-DIHYDROXYCHOLAN-24-OIC ACID are predicted to bind in a pore-like intramolecular binding pocket (**Figure 2C**). This corroborates the speculations that glucose might be a main substrate.



Figure 2: The predicted secondary (panel A) and tertiary (panel B) structures for the mouse mfsd14a protein (Image colored by rainbow N→C terminus; Model dimensions (Å): X:58.386 Y:50.944 Z:54.127). Models created using the Protein

Homology/Analogy Recognition Engine V 2.0 (Phyre2) webserver (Kelley et al., 2015). Panel C depicts the putative ligand binding pocked aligned in a "pore-like" structure created as an AlphaFold Model using the 3D ligand site (Wass et al., 2010). The ligands are coloured in blue and the binding residues are coloured in red; the remaining protein structure is coloured in grey.

Tissues expression of the mouse mfsd14a transcript

mfsd14a tissue expression is almost ubiquitous, with highest expression in the testis, oocyte, corpus callosum, spermatid, thymus, mesenteric adipose tissue, brainstem, ovary (Figure 3 and Supplemental information Figures 6 and 7). Depending on the project analysed, almost all interrogated tissues showed some degree of expression (Figure 3 and Supplemental information Figures 6 and 7). Lowest expression was observed in muscle tissues.

High expression in the mouse central nervous system was reported. A more detailed interrogation shows a very distinct mfsd14a's spatial distribution, located to single cell structures in the Main Olfactory Bulb inner plexiform layer, the pyramidal cell layer of the Hippocampal Formation, and the cerebellum ganglionic layer or Purkinje cell layer (**Supplemental information Figure 8**).



Figure 3: Mouse *mfsd14a* expression data (displayed as Reads Per Kilobase Million, RPKM) from the ENCODE project. Data were obtained via NCBI gene page, Gene ID: 15247.

Mouse mfsd14a does not mediate glucose uptake into *Xenopus laevis* oocytes.

mfsd14a expressing *Xenopus laevis* oocytes did not mediate the uptake of radiolabeled 2-deoxyglucose (Figure 4).

Prior predictions that murine mfsd14a could mediate sugar transport (Matsuo et al., 1997), and speculation based on the expression sites that it could be a glucose transporter on the plasmalemma membrane are not supported by these experiments in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes.



Figure 4: The uptake of radiolabeled 2-deoxyglucose into *Xenopus laevis* oocytes expressing a known glucose carrier, human GLUT3 (clone ID: HsCD00021270) and mouse *mfsd14a*. N=15-20 oocytes per group.

Discussion

The orphan *mfsd14a* gene is currently underreported, specifically with respect to the *mfsd14a*-/- mouse phenotype resembling human globozoospermia. This report establishes the baseline annotation for the mouse gene and encoded products. Significantly, we identified one sole transcript to encode for one protein isoform, which is predicted to be a novel glucose membrane transporter both in the literature and with current bioinformatics tools.

However the mouse mfsd14a did not mediate uptake of glucose, the canonical substrate of many members of the slc2a (glut) and slc5a (sglt) family of transporters (Deng & Yan, 2016; Holman, 2020). The lack of glucose transport does not necessarily rule out transport of alternative saccharoses, but should emphasise the need to look beyond sugars as substrates. Supporting the potential for alternative substrates is the fact that a decrease in mRNA abundance of the *mfsd14a* paralogue in the gills of the European green crabs, *Carcinus maenas*, had been observed in response to elevated environmental pCO_2 (Fehsenfeld et al., 2011). This observation might provide an avenue to explore further substrate candidates involved in acid-base homeostasis and regulation.

About 95% of human multi-exonic genes are alternatively spliced and there are in access of 100,000 alternative splicing events in major human tissues (Pan et al., 2008). Changes in splicing are known to affect the function and regulation of genes (Mazin et al., 2018), but splicing aberrations negatively

correlate with fitness costs (Saudemont et al., 2017). Therefore, with no identified splice variants, the mouse *mfsd14a* gene can be considered to be under significant selective pressure resulting in high conservation in regard to splicing, but also in regard to nucleotide and amino acid conservation (Luo et al., 2015). The high conservation further corroborates that mfsd14a might have an essential nutrient/metabolite as a substrate, or to be a key protein in detoxifications or acid-base balance.

Mfsd14a's widespread tissue expression also indicates a role in pathways critical for cell viability. However, the only deleterious phenotype reported for the $mfsd14a^{-/-}$ mouse is male infertility. This might be owed to the fact that the *mfsd14a*^{-/-} mouse had not been fully phenotyped and had not been subjected to metabolic challenges reported to result in differential regulation in the brain (Lekholm et al. (2017). Further exploration of the $mfsd14a^{-/-}$ mouse model might reveal phenotypes related to brain functioning, since expression levels in brain tissues is comparable to testis. However, considering *mfsd14a's* distinct spatial expression (Supplemental information Figure 8), existing reports on differential regulation in mouse brain under nutrient deprivation and in high fat diets, could be viewed with caution, since tissue isolation might have contributed to the observed differential regulation. Those experimental problems could be resolved utilizing single cell RNA sequencing technology in future experiments.

Conclusion

The mouse *mfsd14a*⁻ gene is annotated to express a single transcript encoding one protein and is almost ubiquitously expressed. It does not mediate glucose uptake into *Xenopus laevis* oocytes. The genomic and functional baseline to explore disease phenotypes is established.

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Supplement Information:

Supplemental information Table 1: Sequences of primers used in the cloning process of mouse mfsd14a. Lower case letters indicate restriction enzyme recognition sites.

Name	Sequence $5' \rightarrow 3'$
mmfsd14a SpeI forward	ATAactagtATGACCCAGGGGAAGAAA
mmfsd14a SmaI reverse	ATAcccgggAGTGGCAAGAGAGTGGTGCT
mmfsd14a SmaI T7 forward	TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGcccgggATGAAGAACAGAGTTGCAGG
mmfsd14a SmaI reverse 2	AATcccgggAGTGGCAAGAGAGTGGTGCT.
mmfsd14a T7 verification forward	AGGGTGTTGTTCAAGGGAT
mmfsd14a internal reverse	AGTGGCAAGAGAGTGGTGCT
GLUT3 ORF forward	ATGGGGACACAGAAGGTCACCCCAG
GLUT3 ORF reverse	TTAGACATTGGTGGTGGTCTCCTTA
GLUT3 T7 forward	AAAATAATACGACTCACTATAGACCATGGGGACACAGAAGGTCAC

А		тм2 тм3
HiAT1	75	GLIQGVKGLLSFLSAP LIGALSDVWGRKSFLLLT
Tet C	46	GVLLALYALMQFLCAPVL GALSBRFGRRPVLLAS
Tet-like	90	GLIGSAFSVLQFLCAP LTGATSUCLOKKPVMLLC
GLUT2	97	SLSVSSFAVGGMVASF FGGWLGDKLGRIKAMLAA
GLUT4	84	ALSVAIFSVGGMISSF LIGIISQWLGRKRAMLAN
в		ТМб
HiAT1	207	VAVPESLPEKMR
Tet C	179	FLMQESHKGERR
Tet-like	220	CFLPETLPLEKR
GLUT2	236	L F C P E S P R Y L Y I
GLUT4	223	PFCPESPRYLYI

Supplemental information Figure 1: signature motifs in the mouse mfsd14a (hiat1) protein aligning with known monosaccharide transporters, as depicted in Matsuo et al. (1997, Figure 3). The D-R/K-X-G-R-R/K motif shown in panel A and the P-E-S-P-R motif shown in panel B of mouse mfsd14a (formally known as HiAT1, or hippocampus abundant gene transcript 1), tetracycline efflux major facilitator superfamily transporter C (Tet C), the human tetracycline transporter-like protein (Tet-like), mouse glucose transporter type 2 (GLUT2) and mouse glucose transporter type 4. Homologous regions are shaded, and the putative transmembrane domains (TM) are boxed. Numbers on the left indicates amino acid numbers.

1 E C	in hat exon that									
12	mHiat exon 12a									
溷	gi 372099107 ref NC_000069.6 :c116667420-116626434aa	CCGCACTGCGG	GGGCGTGGCT	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	GCCGATCGCA	CGATGTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
10	NM_008246 mouse gb refseq a		GIGGCI	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	GCCGATCGCA	CGATGTGACO	ceccecce	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S8894406	GACTGCGG	GGGCGTGGCT	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	GCCGATCGCA	CGATGTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10282162		GGTGGCT	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	AGCCGATCGCA	ACGATGTGACO	CCCCCCCC	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S26697213		GGTGGCT	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	AGCCGATCGCA	ACGATGTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S8040588		GIGGCI	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	GCCGATCGCA	ACGATGTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S9166892							TGTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S27350640							GTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S9223408							GTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10780640								GG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10044567								GG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10050424								GG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10038271								GG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10707518								GG	AGGCAGGCCG
硘	gnl UG Mm#S10748902								GG	AGGCAGGCCG
而	Displaying 1st frame protein translation.	4730	4740	4750	4760	4770	4780	4790	4800	4810
		CCGSACTGCGG	GGG <mark>S</mark> GTGG <mark>C</mark> T	GCGTCACGG	GGGCGTGGC	GAGCGACTCA	GCCGATCGCA	CGATGTGACO	CGCCGCCCG	AGGCAGGCCG
		•	•						•	
			(
		Pro CysG1	yGlyValAla	AlaSerArg	GlyArgGly(GluArgLeuS	SerArgSerHi	lsAspValThı	ArgArgPro	ArgGlnAlaG
		11								

Supplemental information Figure 2: Alignment of the 5' transcripts (EST and refence sequence evidence form NCBI) in the mouse mfsd14a locus. EST Mm#S8894406 (marked with a black line) shows eleven additional 5' nucleotides currently not included in the reference sequence NM_008246.



Supplemental information Figure 3: An overview of the alignments of the 3' transcripts (EST and refence sequence evidence form NCBI) in the mouse *mfsd14a* locus. Green arrows represent EST sequences sequenced from the 5' to 3' direction and the red arrows represent EST sequences sequences sequenced from the 3' to 5' direction. After all the available EST sequences were downloaded, they were aligned and visually curated to ensure the quality and accuracy of the alignment. Two transcription termination sites (also called poly a-tails, marked as arrow AA1 and AA2) are visualised. The most 5' site does not impact on the protein coding region.

Supplemental information Sequence 1: Amino acid sequence of the full mouse Mfsd14a protein (formally known as <u>hippocampus</u> <u>abundant transcript 1</u>, Hiat1)

>NP_032272.2, Mfsd14a, formerly know as hippocampus abundant transcript 1 protein [Mus musculus]

MTQGKKKKRAANRSIMLAKKIIIKDGGTPQGIGSPSVYHAVIVIFLEFFAWGLLTAPTLVVLHETFPKHTFLMNGLIQGVKGL LSFLSAPLIGALSDVWGRKSFLLLTVFFTCAPIPLMKISPWWYFAVISVSGVFAVTFSVVFAYVADITQEHERSMAYGLVSATF AASLVTSPAIGAYLGRVYGDSLVVVLATAIALLDICFILVAVPESLPEKMRPASWGAPISWEQADPFASLKKVGQDSIVLLICI TVFLSYLPEAGQYSSFFLYLRQIMKFSPESVAAFIAVLGILSIIAQTIVLSLLMRSIGNKNTILLGLGFQILQLAWYGFGSEPWM MWAAGAVAAMSSITFPAVSALVSRTADADQQGVVQGMITGIRGLCNGLGPALYGFIFYIFHVELKELPITGTDLGTNTSPQH HFEQNSIIPGPPFLFGACSVLLALLVALFIPEHTNLSLRSSSWRKHCGSHSHPHSTQAPGEAKEPLLQDTNV



Supplemental information Figure 4: Predictions of membrane topology for the mouse mfsd14a protein. Obtained from the Constrained Consensus TOPology prediction server (<u>http://cctop.enzim.ttk.mta.hu</u>), where 10 sources/algorithms are combined to create a model. HMMTOP: Hidden Markov Model for Topology & Prediction; Memsat: MemSatSVM, Membrane helix prediction with support vector machines; Octopus: obtainer of correct topologies for uncharacterized sequences, a novel topology predictor (Viklund & Elofsson, 2008); Philius: a combined transmembrane topology and signal peptide predictor that extends Phobius by exploiting the power of dynamic Bayesian networks (DBN) (Reynolds et al., 2008); Phobius: A combined transmembrane topology and signal peptide predictor (Kall et al., 2004); Pro: Prodiv: profile-based hidden Markov model (Viklund & Elofsson, 2004); Scampi & ScampiMSA: first-principle-based topology predictors (Peters et al., 2016); TMHMM: Transmembrane Helices; Hidden Markov Model (protein topology), a tool used to predict the presence of transmembrane helices in proteins (Krogh et al., 2001).



Supplemental information Figure 5: NCBI protein report for Reference Sequence: NP_032272.2. Obtained on January 20th 2022, from https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/NP_032272.2?report=graph



Supplemental information Figure 6: Top ten tissues for *mfsd14a* expression (displayed in Transcripts Per Million, TPM) in the adult mouse. Data Source: MGI mouse tissue expression database.



Supplemental information Figure 7: *mfsd14a* expression (displayed in Transcripts Per Million, TPM) in adult mouse tissues. The ten tissues of lowest expression. Data Source: MGI mouse tissue expression database.



Supplemental information Figure 8: *mfsd14a* expression in adult mouse brain from the Allen Mouse Brain Atlas (Allen Mouse Brain Atlas, http://mouse.brain-map.org/experiment/show/69734989)