

1 **Title: Ultrasonic Neuromodulation Causes Widespread Cortical Activation via an Indirect**
2 **Auditory Mechanism**

3

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16 **SUMMARY**

17 Ultrasound has received widespread attention as an emerging technology for targeted, non-invasive
18 neuromodulation based on its ability to evoke electrophysiological and motor responses in animals.
19 However, little is known about the spatiotemporal pattern of ultrasound-induced brain activity that could
20 drive these responses. Here, we address this question by combining focused ultrasound with wide-field
21 optical imaging of calcium signals in transgenic mice. Surprisingly, we find cortical activity patterns
22 consistent with indirect activation of auditory pathways rather than direct neuromodulation at the ultrasound
23 focus. Ultrasound-induced activity is similar to that evoked by audible sound. Furthermore, both ultrasound
24 and audible sound elicit motor responses consistent with a startle reflex, with both responses reduced by
25 chemical deafening. These findings reveal an indirect auditory mechanism for ultrasound-induced cortical
26 activity and movement requiring careful consideration in future development of ultrasonic neuromodulation
27 as a tool in neuroscience research.

28

29 **KEYWORDS**

30 1. Ultrasound, 2. Neuromodulation, 3. Auditory cortex, 4. Cortical calcium imaging, 5. Cross modal sensory
31 interactions

32 **INTRODUCTION**

33 The use of ultrasound to elicit targeted changes in neural activity has been the focus of intense interest in
34 the neuroscience community due to its potential as a noninvasive technique with the ability to target deep-
35 brain regions with millimeter precision (Landhuis, 2017). Multiple studies in rodents and other organisms
36 have documented the ability of ultrasonic neuromodulation (UNM), applied transcranially in wild-type
37 animals, to elicit motor responses (Han et al., 2018; Kamimura et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2014; King et al.,
38 2013; King et al., 2014; Mehic et al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010; Ye et al., 2016; Yoo et al., 2011; Younan et
39 al., 2013) or sensory effects (Lee et al., 2016a; Lee et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2016b; Legon et al., 2014).
40 However, the neural signaling pathways and mechanisms underlying these responses are currently
41 unknown, confounding the interpretation of UNM experiments in basic neuroscience research and the
42 translation of this technique towards clinical applications. In particular, no study has analyzed cortex-wide
43 responses to UNM to examine the neural circuits activated or inhibited by this technique, and how these
44 circuits connect to motor behavior.

45 Here we address this question by imaging UNM-evoked cortical responses in mice using wide-
46 field fluorescence microscopy. Although it is limited to monitoring the cortex, fluorescence imaging has
47 several advantages as a readout for UNM effects compared to electrical, hemodynamic or metabolic
48 methods. Intracranial electrical recordings are limited in the number of regions that can be sampled at the
49 same time and the potential for artifacts due to the mechanical mismatch between electrodes and tissue,
50 while most extracranial EEG methods have limited ability to spatially localize the sources of recorded
51 events. At the same time, hemodynamic and metabolic techniques, such as fMRI and PET, may be
52 confounded by ultrasonic effects on the vasculature or metabolism in addition to neural activity (Bonow et
53 al., 2016; Morishita et al., 2014; Nonogaki et al., 2013; Nonogaki et al., 2016). By contrast, wide-field
54 calcium imaging provides a direct readout of neuronal activation across multiple regions of the brain with
55 relatively high spatiotemporal resolution, facilitating quantitative assessment of neuromodulation-evoked
56 activity patterns.

57 Using this technique we find, surprisingly, that applying ultrasound to the visual cortex elicits
58 cortical responses with spatial and temporal dynamics very similar to external audible sound. Moreover,
59 both UNM and audible sound elicit motor responses consistent with a startle reflex, which are reduced with
60 chemical deafening. These results suggest that, in addition to potentially direct neuromodulation, focused
61 ultrasound produces secondary mechanical effects that activate auditory pathways, leading to motor
62 responses. Together with the companion study by Guo et al. demonstrating auditory effects of UNM in
63 guinea pigs using electrical recordings and surgical deafening, this work suggests that previous UNM

64 studies may require re-interpretation, and that further technical developments are needed to advance UNM
65 as a spatially precise modality for noninvasive modulation of neural circuits.

66

67 **RESULTS**

68 **Focused ultrasound produces broad cortical activation, starting with auditory cortex**

69 To visualize cortical responses to ultrasound, we performed simultaneous UNM and wide-field cortical
70 imaging in transgenic Thy1-GCaMP6s mice (Dana et al., 2014) expressing the fluorescent calcium indicator
71 GCaMP6s (Chen et al., 2013). The mice were prepared with thinned skulls for optical access, and positioned
72 using a surgically-implanted head-restraint bar so as to enable the imaging of the dorsal cortex while
73 applying ultrasound (Figure 1A). Anatomical landmarks such as the Bregma and Lambda sutures, as well
74 as large blood vessels, can be seen in the raw fluorescence image (Figure 1B). Our ultrasound parameters
75 were similar to those used in previous UNM studies in mice (Han et al., 2018; King et al., 2013; Mehic et
76 al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010), with an ultrasound frequency of 500 kHz, a pulse repetition frequency of
77 1,500 Hz, pulse duration of 200 μ s, and a total of 120 pulses per stimulation (lasting 80 ms) at intensities
78 ranging from 0.034 W/cm² to 4.2 W/cm² ISPTA. The ultrasound was focused on the posterior portion of the
79 visual cortex, a focus identified in multiple previous UNM studies as resulting in robust movement effects
80 (Han et al., 2018; Kamimura et al., 2016; Mehic et al., 2014; Ye et al., 2016; Younan et al., 2013). In
81 addition, the visual cortex provides a well-known anatomical location, simple verification using light flash
82 stimuli, and distinction from motor and auditory cortical regions. At this location, the ultrasound focus,
83 with a half-maximal intensity diameter of 4.4 mm (Figure S1), lies within a single hemisphere, removed
84 from the lateral edges of the skull, and has little overlap with other sensory cortical areas (Figure 1C).

85 The application of ultrasound to the visual cortex resulted in distinct and reproducible spatio-
86 temporal patterns of cortical activation (Figure 1D and 1E). Surprisingly, the earliest regions to show a
87 response were auditory cortices. At lower intensities of ultrasound, only the auditory cortices seemed to
88 show an excitatory response reliably (top rows in Figure 1D and 1E), while other regions often showed a
89 modest inhibitory signal or significantly delayed weak excitatory signal a few hundred milliseconds after
90 ultrasound offset. At higher intensities, the auditory cortices showed excitatory signals early on (20–200
91 ms), during and immediately after the 80 ms ultrasound pulse, while other regions, including the visual
92 cortex, became activated later, after around 400 ms (bottom rows in Figure 1D and 1E).

93 When we quantified the time course and strength of the calcium signals in the auditory cortex and
94 the targeted visual cortex as a function of ultrasound intensity, we found that auditory regions were reliably
95 activated earlier, and with lower powers of ultrasound, than the targeted visual cortical area (Figure 2A and
96 2B). Furthermore, the visual cortex targeted with ultrasound showed similar response kinetics and

97 dependence on ultrasound intensity as the contralateral visual cortex, which was not targeted with
98 ultrasound (Figure 2C and 2D). On both sides, the visual cortex showed an early fluorescence decrease,
99 suggestive of cross-modal sensory inhibition (Iurilli et al., 2012).

100 The observation of strong and early signals in the auditory cortex led us to hypothesize that
101 ultrasound was indirectly activating auditory pathways. To determine whether this activation was due to
102 stimulation of inner ear structures or direct action on neurons in the auditory cortex, we compared auditory
103 cortex activation ipsilateral and contralateral to the ultrasound focus. If the effects are mediated by the inner
104 ear, one would expect the ear closest to the ultrasound focus to receive more of the stimulus, resulting in
105 stronger activation of the contralateral auditory cortex due to auditory pathway decussation in the brainstem
106 (Figure 2E). Mice stimulated in separate trials at both right and left visual-cortical targets showed a clear
107 contralateral bias, present in all animals tested (Figure 2F), supporting the hypothesis that auditory cortex
108 activation results primarily from effects on the ear closest to the ultrasound focus.

109

110 **Cortical response to ultrasound is similar to response to audible sound**

111 To further elucidate the relative contributions of direct activation of the targeted region and indirect auditory
112 effects on the spatiotemporal pattern of cortical activity elicited by UNM, we compared cortical responses
113 to ultrasound, visible light flashes to the contralateral eye, and audible sound from a speaker driven at the
114 same frequency as the ultrasound pulse repetition frequency of 1,500 Hz (Figure 3A). Light flashes evoked
115 a reproducible excitation of the visual cortex contralateral to the stimulated eye, typically followed by
116 activation of the broader cortex (Figure 3B-D, top rows). In contrast, audible sound (108 dB) and ultrasound
117 (I_{SPTA} 4.2 W/cm²) both induced strong activation of the contralateral auditory cortex, followed by a
118 spreading change in activity to other cortical regions (Figure 3B-D, middle and bottom rows). Although
119 some variability in the response pattern was observed across animals, responses to sound and ultrasound
120 were always very similar within a specific animal.

121 On average, the visual cortex responded most robustly to flashes of light to the contralateral eye,
122 while showing a mixture of weaker inhibitory and excitatory responses to both sound and ultrasound, with
123 similar time courses (Figure 4A). By contrast, the contralateral auditory cortex displayed an immediate and
124 robust signal to both sound and ultrasound (Figure 4B), while showing a delayed and smaller positive signal
125 in response to light flashes. To further quantify the similarity of brain activation patterns in time across the
126 brain, we calculated a normalized similarity index between any two stimuli at a given time point (Figure
127 4C) (see Methods for details). As expected, the two highest intensities of ultrasound (I_{SPTA} 4.2 and 1.4
128 W/cm²) had near-maximal similarity for the duration of imaging. More surprisingly, when the most intense
129 ultrasound was compared to the most intense sound (108 dB), the spatiotemporal patterns were also highly

130 similar at all time points. Meanwhile, light flashes induced a spatiotemporal signal pattern that was not only
131 less similar, but had periods of negative similarity, indicating anticorrelated effects.

132 Expanding this analysis, we computed similarities among 4 intensities of sound, 5 intensities of
133 ultrasound, and light flashes, over the first 2 s after stimulus onset, averaged across 10 animals (Figure 4D).
134 The spatiotemporal activity pattern induced by light flashes was dissimilar from all the other stimuli, while
135 those induced by ultrasound and sound were similar to each other across several intensities. An analysis of
136 the individual similarity indices in each of the 10 animals revealed significantly stronger correspondence
137 between ultrasound and audible sound than between ultrasound and light flashes (Figure 4E).

138

139 **Ultrasound and audible sound elicit movements consistent with startle reflex**

140 Since most previous studies of UNM have used motor behavioral readouts, we asked whether limb
141 movement elicited by ultrasound could be due to the secondary auditory effects identified in our imaging
142 experiments. In particular, it is well known that unexpected sensory stimuli such as sound and air puffs can
143 cause startle reflexes in animals, manifesting as movement (Galvani, 1970; Pilz, 2004; Vogel, 2005), and
144 that strong stimuli can induce temporary arousal from anesthesia (March and Muir, 2005; Otto and Mally,
145 2003; Venes et al., 1971). To assess this possibility for ultrasound, we recorded electromyographic (EMG)
146 signals from the left hindlimb as we applied UNM to the right visual cortex. This target area, located in the
147 posterior region of the brain, has been shown by previous studies to be close to optimal for eliciting motor
148 effects with ultrasound (Kamimura et al., 2016; Mehic et al., 2014; Ye et al., 2016; Younan et al., 2013).
149 In addition to audible sound and ultrasound, air puffs to the face were used as a positive control for startle-
150 eliciting stimuli, and light flashes were used to test whether strong visual activation could evoke movement.
151 Strikingly, air puffs, audible sound and ultrasound all elicited EMG responses (Figure 5A), suggesting their
152 involvement in startle or arousal from anesthesia. In contrast, no motor responses were observed for light
153 flashes, making it unlikely that ultrasound causes a startle reflex by generating a phosphene. This result is
154 in line with the lack of observed direct activation of the visual cortex by ultrasound.

155

156 **Chemical deafening reduces motor responses to ultrasound and audible sound**

157 The fact that sound and ultrasound both elicited similar EMG signals suggested that the motor effects of
158 UNM may, at least partially, be due to auditory-mediated startle rather than direct effects of ultrasound on
159 the motor cortex. To further evaluate this possibility, we chemically deafened a subset of animals using a
160 cocktail of kanamycin and furosemide (30 min later) (Figure 5B) (Oesterle et al., 2008; Taylor et al., 2008).
161 This cocktail is expected to produce partial deafening within 30 minutes after furosemide administration
162 (Li et al., 2011; Xia et al., 2014). Strikingly, chemical deafening greatly reduced the motor responses to
163 both sound and ultrasound, while leaving air puff response rates unaltered (Figure 5C).

164 In an additional experiment, we tested uncoupling the ultrasound transducer from the head by not
165 using ultrasound gel. This resulted in a near complete abolishment of motor responses to ultrasound in
166 animals that still responded to sound. This suggests that the auditory activation from ultrasound requires
167 contact, and is not caused by airborne transmission of sound waves from the transducer to the ears.

168 As expected for the chemical deafening protocol, animals had variable hearing loss (Hirose et al.,
169 2014; Li et al., 2011; Poirrier et al., 2010), and saline-injected sham animals also showed some variability
170 in their response to auditory stimuli, possibly due to differences in sensitivity to anesthetics or tendency for
171 startle. This allowed us to examine the correlation between each animal's responsiveness to sound and to
172 ultrasound (Figure 5D). The strong correlation between responses to these two stimuli ($R^2 = 0.84$) is further
173 evidence of the involvement of auditory pathways in ultrasound-induced motor responses.

174 In addition to the EMG results above, we attempted to observe the impact of chemical deafening
175 on cortical calcium signals. However, chemical deafening in the older transgenic animals we used for
176 imaging resulted in high mortality. We suspect that this is due to the age of the mice, as chemical deafening
177 has not been tested in older animals. Unfortunately, the surgery to implant a head plate and thin the skull
178 necessitates older animals (20+ weeks) for good post-surgical recovery.

179

180 DISCUSSION

181 Our study reveals that focused ultrasound applied to a non-auditory brain region in mice produces strong
182 activation of auditory cortex and additional brain regions with spatiotemporal dynamics closely resembling
183 those elicited by audible sound. This activation is sufficient to produce motor behavior consistent with an
184 auditory startle reflex, occurring via pathways involving the inner ear, as documented by the inhibitory
185 effects of chemical deafening. Compared to the robust activation of the visual cortex with light flash stimuli,
186 no direct activation of this cortical region with ultrasound was observed.

187 The precise mechanisms by which ultrasound at 500 kHz, a frequency normally inaudible to
188 animals such as mice and humans, activates auditory pathways, is an important topic for future study. The
189 mechanisms by which air-coupled ultrasound (Averkiou et al., 1993; Westervelt, 1963; Yoneyama et al.,
190 1983) and soft-tissue conducted sound (Dobrev et al., 2017; Goodhill and Holcomb, 1955; Mauldin and
191 Jerger, 1979; Wever and Bray, 1937) activate the auditory system are relatively well understood. It is also
192 known that ultrasound can elicit auditory sensations in humans when coupled through bone (Corso, 1963;
193 Deatherage et al., 1954; Pumphrey, 1950, 1951). However, there is still no consensus on how soft-tissue
194 coupled ultrasound activates the auditory system (Deatherage et al., 1954; Dieroff and Ertel, 1975; Dobie
195 and Wiederhold, 1992; Foster and Wiederhold, 1978; Gavrilov, 1984; Haeff and Knox, 1963; Hosoi et al.,
196 1998; Lenhardt et al., 1991; Magee and Davies, 1993; Nishimura et al., 2003). Potential mechanisms

197 include mode conversion between primary compressive ultrasound waves and shear waves within bone and
198 the brain's soft tissue (Clement et al., 2004; Gennisson et al., 2013; Vignon et al., 2010; White et al., 2006),
199 leading to mechanical activation of ear structures. The ultrasound pressure waves themselves may contain
200 power at frequencies in the audible range, including broadband power due to the onset and offset of each
201 pulse, as well as at harmonics of the pulse repetition frequency, which get propagated to the cochlea
202 (Supplementary Figure S2 and S3). The companion study by Guo et al. suggests that the auditory coupling
203 involves cochlear fluids for both pulsed and pure tone ultrasound. The precise acoustic mechanisms of such
204 coupling will be subject of future research.

205 The use of mice as a model allowed us to take advantage of the availability of transgenic animals
206 expressing a cortex-wide fluorescent reporter of calcium. However, it is possible that the small size of the
207 mouse head makes these animals particularly susceptible to the auditory side-effects of ultrasound, and that
208 skull reflections at this scale could generate standing waves leading to more complex pressure patterns and
209 mechanical forces (O'Reilly et al., 2010; Younan et al., 2013). These concerns are mitigated by the
210 corroborating findings of Guo et al. in the accompanying study, which used guinea pigs with brain volumes
211 8 times larger than in mice. The ability of ultrasound to elicit audible sensations in humans has also been
212 reported in studies dating back to 1950 (Pumphrey, 1950). Nevertheless, further experiments in animals
213 with larger head sizes are needed to assess the extent of ultrasound-induced auditory effects across species.

214 Motor responses to ultrasound, as well as those caused by audible sound and air puffs, may depend
215 on the depth of anesthesia. In previous UNM studies, isoflurane has been used at levels between 0.02 and
216 0.6% (King et al., 2013; King et al., 2014; Ye et al., 2016), while deeper anesthesia made it difficult to
217 obtain motor responses (King et al., 2013). For studies utilizing isoflurane, a key factor implicated in UNM
218 efficacy was light-anesthetic conditions where the animal exhibited spontaneous movement as assessed by
219 EMG signals (King et al., 2013; King et al., 2014; Ye et al., 2016). Depending on the body temperature of
220 the mouse, anesthesia at 0.5 to 1.5% is the range in which animals begin to lose reflexes, including those
221 to noxious stimuli such as tail pinches (Werner et al., 2011). The ketamine-xylazine cocktail, also used in
222 UNM studies (Kim et al., 2014; Mehic et al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010; Yoo et al., 2011; Younan et al.,
223 2013), results in variable anesthetic depth due to its short half-life, and it is unclear what level of anesthesia
224 animals experienced when motor responses were measured (Kim et al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010; Yoo et
225 al., 2011). Some papers specifically state that animals retained the tail-pinch reflex during their
226 experiments, suggesting light anesthesia levels (Mehic et al., 2014).

227 Using ultrasound parameters consistent with previous UNM studies (Han et al., 2018; King et al.,
228 2013; Mehic et al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010), we were unable to obtain evidence of direct neuromodulation
229 at the targeted cortical region. Although this region exhibited reproducible inhibition and activation, this
230 was part of a larger activity pattern encompassing multiple brain regions, with an almost identical response

231 in the symmetric contralateral cortex. This activation pattern did not resemble the activity evoked by the
232 cognate light flash sensory stimulation, while air-coupled sound created nearly identical spatiotemporal
233 activity patterns as ultrasound. These patterns were consistent with previous literature on cross-modal
234 sensory connectivity (Iurilli et al., 2012) (Figure 6). Overall, our results are consistent with the possibility
235 that some of the responses attributed in previous studies to direct neuromodulation may be re-interpreted
236 as indirect neuromodulation via auditory pathways.

237 However, we caution that our results do not conclusively demonstrate that ultrasound is unable to
238 produce direct neuromodulatory effects. For example, if ultrasound activates subcortical regions, we would
239 not have been able to observe this with wide-field fluorescence. Likewise, modulation of finer aspects of
240 neuronal excitability, such as synaptic vesicle release, action potential time course, or magnitude and
241 duration of evoked potentials, could have been difficult to detect in our experiments. It is possible that
242 alternative ultrasound parameters not tested in this study, including longer stimulation durations, higher
243 stimulus intensities, or a combination of both (Fry et al. 1958, Legon et al. 2014, Dallapiazza et al., 2017,
244 Legon et al., 2018), could produce direct neuromodulation. Furthermore, our findings of off-target auditory
245 effects do not, in our view, disqualify UNM from serving a useful function in neuroscience and clinical
246 applications. Other widely used technologies such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) are also
247 known to produce sensory side-effects, which can be accounted for with appropriate sham controls.

248 Finally, stand-alone UNM via endogenous mechanisms is only one of several methods through
249 which transcranial ultrasound can be used to affect brain function. For example, neural activity can be
250 modified through focal ablation (Arvanitis et al., 2016; Chang et al., 2015; Elias et al., 2016; Fry, 1977; Fry
251 and Goss, 1980; Huang and Hynynen, 2011; Lipsman et al., 2013). Ultrasound can also be used to locally
252 open the blood-brain barrier (Hynynen et al., 2003), leading to direct effects on neural activity (Chu et al.,
253 2015; Downs et al., 2017), or enabling the delivery of neurotransmitters to targeted regions of the brain for
254 more specific modulation (McDannold et al., 2015). Blood-brain barrier opening can also be used to deliver
255 other classes of molecules (Chen et al., 2014; Choi et al., 2011; Choi et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2015),
256 including viral vectors encoding chemogenetic receptors for subsequent pharmacological activation or
257 inhibition of neurons (Szabolowski et al., 2018). In addition, ultrasound can be used for targeted intravascular
258 release of neuromodulators (Airan et al., 2017), or combined with mechanoreceptors in emerging
259 sonogenetic approaches (Heureaux et al., 2014; Ibsen et al., 2015). These methods can all leverage the
260 technological developments facilitating noninvasive focal ultrasound delivery to the brain (Fan and
261 Hynynen, 1994; Hynynen and Jolesz, 1998; Pernot et al., 2003; Sun and Hynynen, 1998; Tanter et al., 1998,
262 2000), theoretically requiring only an intravenous injection as the most invasive step. Notwithstanding these
263 important caveats, it is clear that further investigation of both direct and indirect effects of ultrasound, and
264 the development of proper sham controls for UNM, will be critical for the future of this field.

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271

272 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

273 T.S., M.G.S. and D.Y.T. conceived the study. T.S. designed and performed all experiments and analyzed
274 the data. T.S., M.G.S. and D.Y.T. interpreted the results and wrote the manuscript.

275

276 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

277 The authors declare no competing interests.

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497

498 **FIGURE TITLES AND LEGENDS**

499

500 ***Figure 1. Cortical responses to focused ultrasound***

501 (A) Transgenic mice, with the genetically-encoded calcium sensor GCaMP6s expressed in the cortex,
502 undergo a surgery where a metal head-restraint bar is implanted, and their skull is thinned to obtain clear
503 optical access to the brain. Ultrasound is delivered by a transducer that is held in a 3D-printed holder
504 filled with ultrasound gel. To obtain both optical and ultrasonic access to the brain, a mound of clear
505 ultrasound gel is used. The top surface is flattened with a glass plate to give clear optical images.

506 (B) Raw fluorescence image of a thinned-skull animal. The edge of the dorsal surface of the skull is
507 covered by dental cement, along the black line at the edges. Anatomical landmarks such as the Bregma
508 and Lambda sutures can be seen as well.

509 (C) A sample normalized change in fluorescence (dF/F) image, expressed in % change from baseline. The
510 target region as well as outlines of the different sensory areas are shown.

511 (D-E) Responses of two representative animals to increasing intensities of ultrasound at different time
512 points. The ultrasound target zone is shown as a dashed black circle. The contralateral auditory cortex is
513 indicated with a black arrow. The approximate skull edge / dental cement outline is shown in the top left
514 image. dF/F scale as in (C).

515 See also Figure S1

516

517 ***Figure 2. Regional responses to ultrasound***

518 (A) Response time course to ultrasound at the targeted region of visual cortex and the contralateral
519 auditory cortex.

520 (B) Maximum dF/F signal at the targeted region of visual cortex and the contralateral auditory cortex in
521 the first 2 sec after onset of ultrasound at different intensities.

522 (C) Response time course to ultrasound at the targeted region of visual cortex and the contralateral visual
523 cortex.

524 (D) Maximum dF/F signal at the targeted region of visual cortex and the contralateral visual cortex in the
525 first 2 sec after onset of ultrasound at different intensities. Mean traces in solid, SEM as shaded region
526 ($n=10$ mice).

527 (E) Illustration of ipsilateral and contralateral connections between the ultrasound site and auditory
528 cortex.

529 (F) Contralateral bias index for auditory activation with ultrasound in $n=7$ mice that were stimulated on
530 both sides of the head.

531

532 ***Figure 3. Cortical responses to ultrasound, light flashes, and sound***

533 (A) Diagram of experimental conditions and relevant cortical regions.

534 **(B-D)** Three representative cortical activation maps at different time points in response to light flashes to
535 the contralateral eye, ultrasound (I_{SPTA} 4.2 W/cm²), and sound (108 dB). Relevant cortical regions are
536 outlined to guide the eye. Ultrasound target indicated with thicker dashed circle. dF/F scales as shown in
537 (A).

538

539 ***Figure 4. Similarity of cortical responses to ultrasound, sound and light flashes***

540 **(A)** Response time course of the ultrasound-targeted visual cortex to light, ultrasound and sound.

541 **(B)** Response of the contralateral auditory cortex to light, ultrasound and sound.

542 **(C)** Spatial similarity index computed across time points for the indicated pairings of stimuli. Ultrasound
543 at 4.2 W/cm² was compared against ultrasound at 1.4 W/cm², audible sound at 108 dB and light flashes.

544 **(D)** Average spatiotemporal similarity index computed over the first 2 sec after stimulus onset and across
545 10 animals, as a matrix between all pairs of stimuli (10 in total). The 10 stimuli were: contralateral light
546 flashes, four intensities of sound (decreasing from left to right or top to bottom), and five intensities of
547 ultrasound (decreasing from left to right or top to bottom) as described in the Methods section.

548 **(E)** Statistical comparison of the spatiotemporal similarity (of each animal, n=10) between the ultrasound,
549 light and sound conditions shown in (C).

550

551 ***Figure 5. Motor responses to ultrasound, sound, light and air puffs***

552 **(A)** Representative EMG recordings from mice in response to the four indicated stimuli. Ultrasound and
553 sound were at 4.2 W/cm² and 108 dB, respectively.

554 **(B)** Protocol for mouse deafening.

555 **(C)** Stimulus responses of chemically-deafened animals (n=8), saline injected animals (n=7), and “no gel”
556 animals (n=5).

557 **(D)** Correlation in response rates to ultrasound and sound across individual animals included in the sham
558 and deafened groups.

559

560 ***Figure 6. Illustration of indirect auditory effects of ultrasonic neuromodulation***

561 (1) Ultrasound application leads to mechanical waves stimulating the inner ear structures of the cochlea.
562 (2) The activation of the cochlea leads to excitation of auditory pathways, including the contralateral
563 auditory cortex. (3) Cross-modal projections from these auditory regions lead to modulation of neural
564 activity across the cortex, including the neurons that are within the focal zone of ultrasound. The timing
565 and sign of this modulation is nearly identical to that caused by air-coupled sound. (4) The auditory
566 percept can also lead to startle-like motor responses.

567 See also Figure S2 and S3

568

569 **STAR METHODS**

570 **CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING**

571 Further information and requests for reagents and resources may be directed to DYT
572 (dortsao@caltech.edu) or MGS (mikhail@caltech.edu).

573 **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

574 For this study, mice were used in accordance with animal procedures approved by the Institutional Animal
575 Care and Use Committee at the California Institute of Technology. For imaging studies, transgenic male
576 mice, C57BL/6J-Tg(Thy1-GCaMP6s)GP4.12Dkim/J (The Jackson Laboratory, Stock No. 025776), over
577 20 weeks of age and weighing over 35g were used. Due to the very large surgery area to expose the bilateral
578 auditory regions, only these large animals could undergo surgery and remain healthy. For motor response
579 experiments, male C57BL/6J mice (The Jackson Laboratory, Stock No. 000664), 8-12 weeks of age, weight
580 of 25-30 g, were used. This age group and size more closely matches previous studies of motor responses
581 to ultrasound and have better health outcomes in response to chemical deafening procedures.

582 **METHOD DETAILS**

583 *Animal surgery*

584 Anesthesia was induced by placing mice in a clean induction chamber and delivering 5% isoflurane
585 (IsoThesia, SKU 029405, Henry Schein, Inc., Dublin, OH). The animals were then placed in a stereotax
586 and the head was held steady using ear bars and a nose cone. Anesthesia was maintained via delivery of
587 isoflurane (1.5~2% through the nose cone. Body temperature was maintained using a heating pad. Extra
588 care was made to ensure the eyes remained protected using ophthalmic ointment (Puralube, Dechra
589 Veterinary Products LLC, Overland Park, KS). Briefly, fur was removed using hair removal cream and the
590 exposed scalp sterilized using chlorhexidine. The skull was then exposed via an incision along the midline
591 and laterally above the cerebellum. For mice used in imaging, a skull-thinning procedure was performed
592 (Grutzendler et al., 2002; Yang et al., 2010). A 0.7 mm micro-burr bit (19007-07, Fine Science Tools, Inc.,
593 Foster City, CA) was used to gently thin the skull while cooled saline was used to prevent any thermal
594 buildup from the procedure. After going through the outer compact bone, a stone abrading tip (Item#:
595 501851, World Precision Instruments, Inc., Sarasota, FL) was used to polish the surface for improved
596 optical clarity. The thin-skull procedure was chosen for a number of reasons. First, thin-skull surgeries (as
597 opposed to craniotomies) do not lead to significant changes in the brain due to the surgeries, such as spine
598 turnover and glial buildup (Xu et al., 2007). Second, craniotomies are typically sealed with glass coverslips,
599 which will create an acoustically-mismatched surface. Mouse skulls have been shown to be transparent to

600 500 kHz ultrasound (King et al., 2013) and in particular, skull-thinning to optical clarity reduces skull
601 thickness to ~ 50 microns, further lessening any aberration effects on the ultrasound field. Finally,
602 craniotomies to expose the area of cortex that was imaged in this study carry higher risks both during
603 surgery and recovery. Mice used for EMG did not undergo the skull-thinning procedure as optical access
604 to their brain was not needed, and previous studies have demonstrated that these skulls are acoustically
605 transparent to 500 kHz ultrasound (King et al., 2013). All animals were then implanted with a stainless steel
606 head-restraint plate using dental acrylic (C&B METABOND, Parkell, Inc., Edgewood, NY). The exposed
607 skull was covered using quick-acting silicone (Kwik-Sil, World Precision Instruments, Inc., Sarasota, FL)
608 to form an easily removable silicone plug. Animals were then placed in a heated clean cage and allowed to
609 recover. For the cochlear pressure recordings, a 1.4 mm micro-burr bit (19007-14, Fine Science Tools, Inc.,
610 Foster City, CA) was used to drill 1 mm into a freshly euthanized mouse with a headplate; the small cavity
611 was flushed with saline to remove blood and then filled with ultrasound gel.

612 ***Experimental preparation***

613 Each experiment day, anesthesia was induced by placing mice in a clean induction chamber and delivering
614 5% isoflurane. As soon as voluntary movement ceased, mice were quickly moved to the head-restraint setup
615 and maintained at 2% isoflurane for preparation. The silicone plug was removed. A 3D printed well was
616 attached to the dental acrylic well on the skull and to the head-restraining bars. The ultrasound transducer,
617 angled at 60 degrees from parallel, was brought to the approximate region using a 3D-printed piece that
618 clipped onto the transducer holder and allowed targeting. This piece was then removed to allow optical
619 access to the focus. A fiber-optic hydrophone (PFS and TFS, Precision Acoustics Ltd., Dorchester, UK)
620 was then brought to the target location. The well was then filled with ultrasound gel. For imaging, a glass
621 plate was brought down to flatten the top surface so that imaging could be performed through the gel. Air
622 bubbles were removed using a syringe. To keep the anesthesia protocol as similar as possible to other
623 studies utilizing isoflurane (Ye et al., 2016), anesthesia was maintained at 2% for a total of 34 min.
624 Anesthesia was then reduced to 0.5% for 5~10 min, as needed for tail-pinch reflexes to return, and then
625 increased to 0.6%. The ultrasound transducer was then adjusted using a manual 4-axis micrometer (XYZ +
626 axial) to maximize the pressure at the hydrophone using 50 μ s pulses. Experiments were then started.

627 ***Experimental design for imaging***

628 All imaging animals except for those used in Figure 2E and F underwent 200 blocks of experiments. In
629 each block, a trial of each stimulus (light flash to the eye contralateral to the ultrasound target, 5 intensities
630 of ultrasound, 4 intensities of sound) was presented once in random order. Data for Figure 2E and F were
631 obtained using 2 blocks of experiments, one where ultrasound was targeted to the left target coordinate, and

another targeting the right coordinate, both using only ultrasound with I_{SPTA} of 4.2 W/cm². All ultrasound stimuli were of 500 kHz acoustic frequency, 100 cycles/pulse, 1.5 kHz pulse repetition frequency, and 120 pulses. This yields a duty cycle of 30% and stimulus duration of approximately 80 ms. The highest intensity of ultrasound had an I_{SPTA} of 4.2 W/cm². This value was chosen to correspond to the value determined by King et al (King et al., 2013) to be the range at which UNM becomes reliable. Further studies in mice corroborate that this I_{SPTA} is at or higher than levels needed for neuromodulation (Mehic et al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010). The timing parameters were also chosen to mimic those tested by these studies of motor responses in mice (King et al., 2013; Mehic et al., 2014; Tufail et al., 2010). Indeed, the highest intensity ultrasound reliably elicited motor responses in test mice as well, confirming the suitability of this intensity value. The lower intensities of ultrasound were generated by reducing the voltage sent to the RF amplified such that each subsequent ultrasound waveform had 30% intensity of the previous intensity, namely I_{SPTA} s of 1.3, 0.38, 0.11, and 0.034 W/cm². The sound intensity for the loudest stimulus was adjusted by changing the driving voltage such that the auditory response in the contralateral cortex was similar to that evoked by ultrasound. The waveform for the loudest sound were created using 120 +5 V pulses of 200 μs duration at 1.5 kHz (30% duty cycle). The subsequent intensities were created by reducing the duty cycle by 30%, thus reducing electrical power input by 30%, but holding driving voltage constant. Thus, 9%, 2.7%, and 0.81% duty cycle waveforms were used. The intensity of the light flash (19 ms in duration) was chosen so that the maximal cortical activation in the first 500 ms was of similar magnitude as that elicited by the strongest sound and ultrasound intensities.

651 *Experimental design for electromyography*

652 To chemically deafen animals, at the start of the preparation period, an injection of kanamycin (1g/kg SC,
653 K0254, Millipore Sigma, Inc., St. Louis, MO) was given. 30 minutes later, Furosemide (200mg/kg IP,
654 FuroJect 50 mg/mL SKU 002463, Henry Schein, Inc., Dublin, OH) and saline (1.5 mL SC) were given.
655 For saline control animals, the 3 injections were all done using 0.9% saline solution using the same timing
656 and anesthetic doses. For the gel-uncoupled controls, no ultrasound gel was used between the transducer
657 and the skull; all 3 injections again were with 0.9% saline solution and identical anesthetic regimen. Thirty
658 minutes after the final injection, 25 blocks of one trial each of sound, ultrasound, air puff, and light flashes
659 were obtained with an ITI of 10 sec. At 150 minutes after the final injection, another 25 trials were obtained
660 using the same stimuli and ITI. This last block was used for analysis. All four stimuli were randomly ordered
661 within a block.

662 *Experimental control*

663 Experiments were controlled by custom software, written in LabVIEW (National Instruments Corp.,
664 Austin, TX). A PXIE chassis (PXIE-1073), housing a data acquisition board (DAQ) (PXIE-6363) and a
665 function generator (FxnGen) (PXI-5421), all from National Instruments (National Instruments Corp.,
666 Austin, TX), was used to interface with other hardware and circuits (detailed below). The frame exposure
667 signal from the camera was used to trigger the onset of stimuli; timing of all stimuli was controlled by the
668 onboard clocks of the PXIE system.

669 ***Ultrasound generation, calibration, and delivery***

670 A 500 khz ultrasound transducer (AT24020, Blatek, Inc., State College, PA), with focal distance 25 mm
671 and focal diameter 4.4 mm was used in all experiments. A timing counter on the DAQ board was used to
672 generate a set number of trigger pulses at the PRF that was sent to the FxnGen to generate a set number of
673 cycles of since waves at the acoustic frequency. This signal was amplified using an RF amplifier (240L,
674 Electronics & Innovation, Ltd., Rochester, NY), and the amplified output signal was used to drive the
675 ultrasound transducer. The transducer was housed in a 3D printed holder for experiments. Calibration was
676 done with a fiber-optic hydrophone system (FOH, Precision Acoustics, Ltd., Dorchester, UK) using
677 hydrophones (PFS and TFS, Precision Acoustics, Ltd., Dorchester, UK) calibrated at the National Physical
678 Laboratory (London, UK).

679 ***Non-ultrasonic stimuli generation and delivery:*** Three non-ultrasonic stimuli: light flashes, air-coupled
680 sound, and air puffs were used as well. The timing signal for non-ultrasonic stimuli was generated using
681 two timing/counter channels on the DAQ board. This signal was passed through an optoisolator
682 (HCPL2630M, ON Semiconductor, Inc., Phoenix, AZ). Using AND gates (CD74AC08E, Texas
683 Instruments, Inc., Dallas, TX) and three digital logic output channels on the DAQ (one for each modality),
684 this timing signal was routed to three independent NMOS circuits to power an LED, speaker, or solenoid
685 valve at their appropriate driving voltages. Sound was generated by delivering a timed +5V pulse that
686 drove a speaker (SP-1813-2, Soberton, Inc, Minneapolis, MN) placed near the mouse's ear. The waveform
687 for the loudest sound were generated by a train of 200 μ s-long +5V pulses at a repetition frequency of 1500
688 Hz for a total of 120 repeats, resulting in a 30% duty cycle waveform that was approximately 80 ms in
689 duration. Lower intensity sounds were generated by using reduced duty cycles by 30% successively, but
690 with the same frequency and number of pulses. The speaker volumes were measured to be 108 dB, 98.8
691 dB, 85.3 dB, and 69 dB for the powers used. Light flashes were generated by delivering timed +4V pulses
692 to an LED (SP-01-B6, Quadica Developments, Inc., Alberta, CA) coupled to a flexible plastic optical fiber
693 (02-551, Edmund Optics, Inc., Barrington, NJ) that was brought to the animal's eye. For light flashes, the
694 stimulus duration was kept at 19 ms in order to keep imaging artifacts (due to the increased light) limited
695 to a single imaging frame. Solenoid valves (RSC-2-12V, Electric Solenoid Valves, Islandia, NY) for air

696 puff stimulation were driven by a 80 ms-long +12V pulse. Electrical power for each was supplied by
697 independent benchtop power supplies (1621A, B&K Precision Corp., Yorba Linda, CA).

698 ***Imaging data acquisition***

699 Imaging was performed using a home-built optical scope with 1.42x minification. The objective had focal
700 length 60 mm, AC254-060-A, Thorlabs, Inc. Newton, NJ. The tube lens had focal length 40mm, AC254-
701 040-A, Thorlabs, Inc. Newton, NJ. The lenses were adjusted so that the field of view at the focus was 16
702 mm x 10 mm. Images were collected at 50 Hz using a camera (GS3-U3-23S6M-C, FLIR Systems, Inc., La
703 Mirada, CA) by allowing the camera to run in free exposure mode on its own clock. A specified number of
704 pre-stimulus frames were collected, after which the subsequent frame exposure signal from the camera was
705 used to trigger stimuli. Fluorescence excitation light was generated by a 470 nm LED light source (SP-08-
706 B6, Quadica Developments, Inc., Alberta, CA) powered by a benchtop power supply (1621A, B&K
707 Precision Corp., Yorba Linda, CA). A fluorescence filter set suitable for GCaMP imaging was used
708 (excitation/dichroic/emission filter set GFP-4050B-000, Semrock, Inc., Rochester, NY).

709 ***Electromyography data acquisition***

710 EMG signals were acquired using subdermal needles (RLSND110-1.0, Rhythmlink LLC, Columbia, SC)
711 inserted into the left hindlimb. Reference and ground leads were placed in the scruff of the skin on the
712 back. EMG signals were amplified using an extracellular amplifier (Model 1800, A-M Systems Inc.,
713 Sequim, WA) using a 100 Hz high-pass filter, a 5000 Hz low-pass filter, and 60 Hz notch filter and
714 recorded by the analog input channels on the DAQ.

715 ***Ultrasound field and waveform characterization***

716 We used a fiber optic hydrophone system (FOH, Precision Acoustics, Ltd., Dorchester, UK) and
717 hydrophones (PFS and TFS, Precision Acoustics, Ltd., Dorchester, UK) for all measurements. For
718 characterizing the spatial field of the ultrasound transducer, we affixed the transducer while mounting the
719 hydrophone onto a 3-axis stage (three orthogonal LTS300, Thorlabs, Inc., Newton, NJ) in a large water
720 tank. To perform recordings from the cochlea, we passed the hydrophone through a tapered plastic syringe
721 tip to align it to the cavity and enter at a fixed depth. Pressure waveforms were digitized and saved using
722 an oscilloscope (DSO-X 2004A, Keysight Technologies, Inc., Santa Rosa, CA). Due to oscilloscope
723 memory limitations and to account for any potential drift in recordings, 20 ms long recordings were made
724 with 10 ms of noise and a 10ms segment containing 15 pulses of ultrasound at 1.5 kHz PRF. We recorded
725 34560 of these interspersed trials.

726 **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

727 All data were analyzed and plotted using custom code written in MATLAB (Mathworks, Inc., Natick, MA).

728 ***Imaging data analysis***

729 Each image frame was spatially filtered with a 500 μm square filter to reduce noise. Temporal averaging
730 was only used for creating maps of normalized changes in fluorescence (dF/F), and was avoided otherwise
731 to maintain temporal fidelity of neural responses. In images of light flash trials, the first post-stimulus frame
732 contained optical contamination from the LED flash, and thus the dF/F for this frame was set to 0 in plots
733 of time courses. This was not done for images in response to other stimulus modalities. The first frame was
734 excluded from analyses of spatiotemporal similarity for all stimuli and in generating the dF/F maps where
735 noted in figures. Negative dF/F was interpreted as inhibitory signal (Akerboom et al., 2012; Kim et al.,
736 2016; Mazo et al., 2016; Tecuapetla et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2017). The ROI for the target was chosen as
737 shown in Figure 1B. The contralateral control was chosen as the mirror-symmetric region (2.5 mm lateral
738 and 0.5 mm anterior of Lambda) on the other side of midline. Sensory cortices were identified based on a
739 stereotactic atlas (Franklin and Paxinos, 2013) with further refinement from functional imaging studies
740 (Garrett et al., 2014; Guo et al., 2012; Issa et al., 2014; Juavinett et al., 2017; Tsukano et al., 2016). The
741 locations of the visual and auditory cortices were further confirmed by their activation to visual and auditory
742 stimuli, respectively. The ROI coordinates for the auditory cortex were chosen to be the location with
743 maximal activation to sound.

744 ***Electromyography data analysis***

745 First, the DC offset of the EMG signal was subtracted out by using the mean of the pre-stimulus period.
746 This signal was then rectified. This rectified signal was then smoothed using a bilaterally truncated
747 Gaussian filter with width of 40 ms and full-width half-max of 10 ms. We then calculated the ratio
748 between the average of this signal in the 150 ms time period between 80 (just after stimulus offset) and
749 230 ms after stimulus onset and the 150 ms preceding stimulus onset. A cutoff ratio of 1.25 was used to
750 determine if a motor response had occurred. The time period was chosen to increase sensitivity to both
751 shorter and longer contractions by taking into consideration the latencies to motor responses and
752 contraction durations. In addition, by sampling the time period after offset of the electrical currents to
753 drive stimuli, it avoids any potential contamination of EMG signals by electrical interference, a possibility
754 which was noted in one study (Younan et al., 2013) .

755 ***Contralateral bias index***

756 In order to assess the amount of contralateral auditory cortex activation in contrast to the ipsilateral auditory
757 cortex, we defined a contralateral bias index that analyzed the simultaneous bilateral auditory cortex

758 responses when ultrasound was applied first to the left target site and then the right target site, or vice versa.
759 This index was designed to account for potential signal imbalances between the two cortices, hearing
760 differences in ears, or animal responsivity during the two blocks of stimulation (left and right targets). We
761 defined the contralateral bias index as follows.

$$762 \frac{\text{Contralateral (Left AC)}_{US \text{ at Right}}}{\text{Ipsilateral (Right AC)}_{US \text{ at Right}}} \times \frac{\text{Contralateral (Right AC)}_{US \text{ at Left}}}{\text{Ipsilateral (Left AC)}_{US \text{ at Left}}}$$

763 ***Similarity index***

764 To analyze the spatiotemporal similarity of cortical responses to two stimuli, we defined a similarity index
765 between two stimuli at any given time point. To do this, at each time point, for pixels corresponding to
766 visible portions of the cortex, we took the sum of the pixel-by-pixel product of dF/F for the two stimuli and
767 divided it by the square root of the sum of $(dF/F)^2$ for each stimulus.

$$768 \text{Similarity}_{\text{Stim1 and Stim 2}}(t) = \frac{\sum_{\text{Pixels}} \frac{dF_{\text{Stim1}}}{F_{\text{Stim1}}}(t) \times \frac{dF_{\text{Stim2}}}{F_{\text{Stim2}}}(t)}{\sqrt{\left\{ \sum_{\text{Pixels}} \left(\frac{dF_{\text{Stim1}}}{F_{\text{Stim1}}}(t) \right)^2 \right\} \times \left\{ \sum_{\text{Pixels}} \left(\frac{dF_{\text{Stim2}}}{F_{\text{Stim2}}}(t) \right)^2 \right\}}}$$

769 Thus, any spatiotemporal map that was identical but different in magnitude would have a similarity of 1.
770 This index can be thought of as a non-mean-subtracted correlation of pixels in time. Standard metrics of
771 correlation subtract by a population mean; however, our values were already baseline subtracted for
772 fluorescence and further subtraction can alter the polarity (excitatory vs inhibitory) of the dF/F signal. As
773 mentioned before, the similarity index analysis starts at the second frame after stimulus onset to avoid
774 optical contamination in the light flash case.

775 ***Spectral analysis on pressure waveforms***

776 20 ms long recordings were made with 10 ms of noise and a 10 ms segment containing 15 pulses of
777 ultrasound at 1.5 kHz PRF, and 34560 of these interspersed trials were recorded. To analyze single pulses,
778 we create an average pulse in each condition (water tank and cochlea) using all 34560 trials and each of the
779 15 pulses or corresponding noise periods to create 667 μ s long clips. The average noise waveform was
780 similarly calculated. For analysis of ultrasound pulse trains, the first and latter half of 8 consecutive trials
781 were stitched to create traces of 80 ms of noise or ultrasound waveforms with 120 pulses, and then averaged
782 over the $34560/8 = 4320$ stitched trials. For all spectral analysis, a Hanning window was used.

783 **DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY**

784 All data are available upon reasonable request to DYT (dortsao@caltech.edu) or MGS
785 (mikhail@caltech.edu).

786

787 **SUPPLEMENTAL DATA TITLE AND LEGENDS**

788

789 ***Figure S1. Related to Figure 1. Acoustic intensity field of ultrasound transducer used in this study.***

790 **(A)** 3-dimensional hydrophone scan of the ultrasound field of the transducer in water, normalized to
791 maximum intensity. The transducer face is at $z = 0$ mm.

792 **(B)** Normalized intensity profile along central axis.

793 **(C)** Intensity profile in the plane orthogonal to axis and at axial distance of maximum intensity,
794 normalized to maximum.

795 **(D)** Normalized intensity profile at axial distance of maximum intensity and $y = 0$ mm. Blue dashed line
796 indicates the 50% intensity mark.

797

798 ***Figure S2. Related to Figure 6. Measurement of pressure waveforms at the cochlea in comparison to***
799 ***water tank recordings***

800 **(A)** Schematic for pressure recordings at the cochlea using an implanted fiber hydrophone.

801 **(B)** Hydrophone recordings of pressure waveforms in a water tank and at the cochlea for a single pulse of
802 100 cycles at 500 kHz.

803 **(C)** A vertical zoom-in of the pressure waveform as recorded at the cochlea.

804

805 ***Figure S3. Related to Figure 6. Spectral analysis of pressure waveforms***

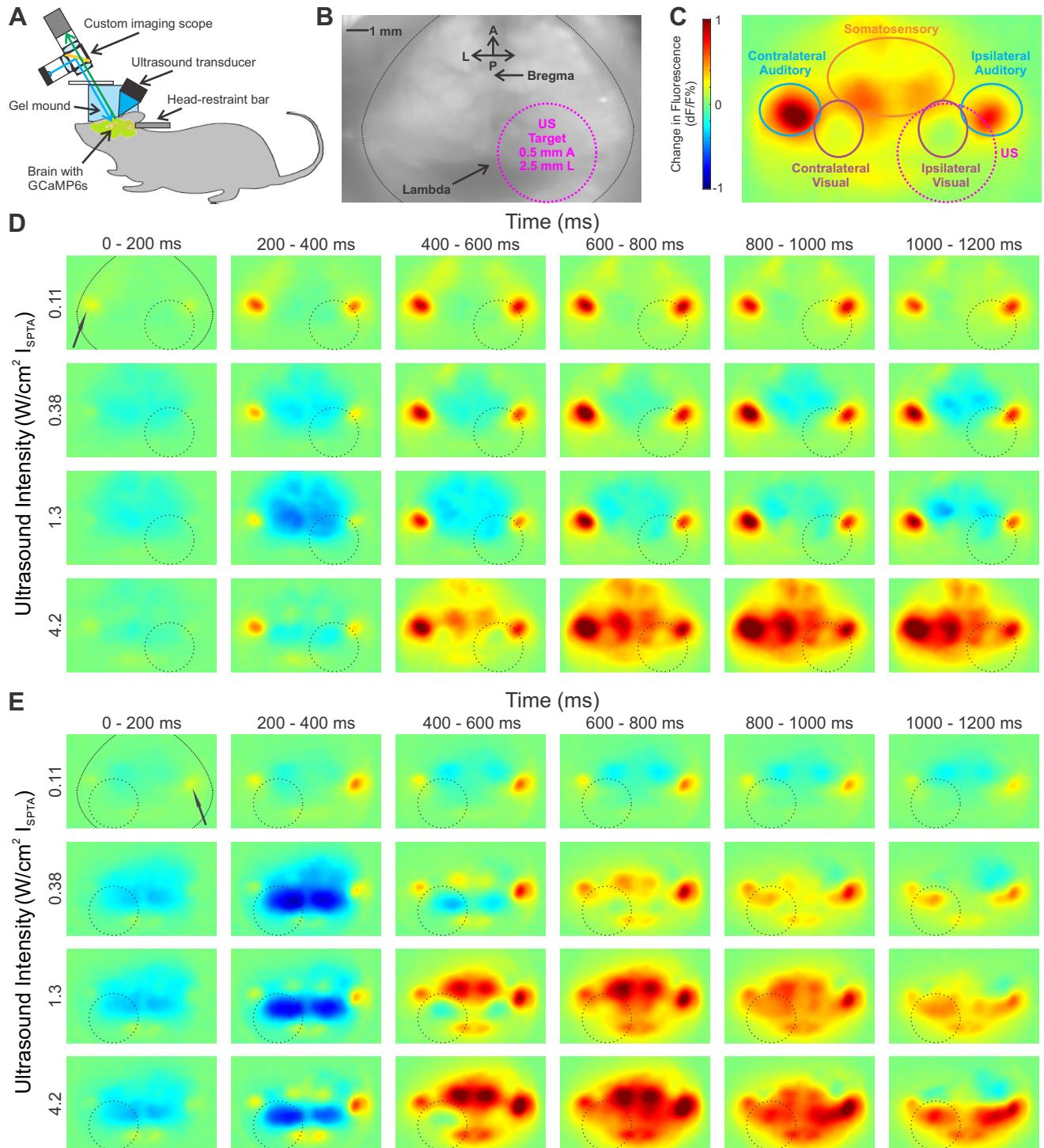
806 **(A)** Spectral analysis of a single pulse of ultrasound (blue - free water at maximum; orange - at cochlea;
807 gray - noise level of hydrophone in the cochlea in the absence of ultrasound; each pulse contained 100
808 cycles of 500 kHz ultrasound in a 667 μ s time window.) Note that in both cases there is significantly more
809 broadband power than noise, down to the lower end of the usable frequency range for the hydrophone
810 (250 kHz; <https://www.acoustics.co.uk/product/fibre-optic-hydrophones/>).

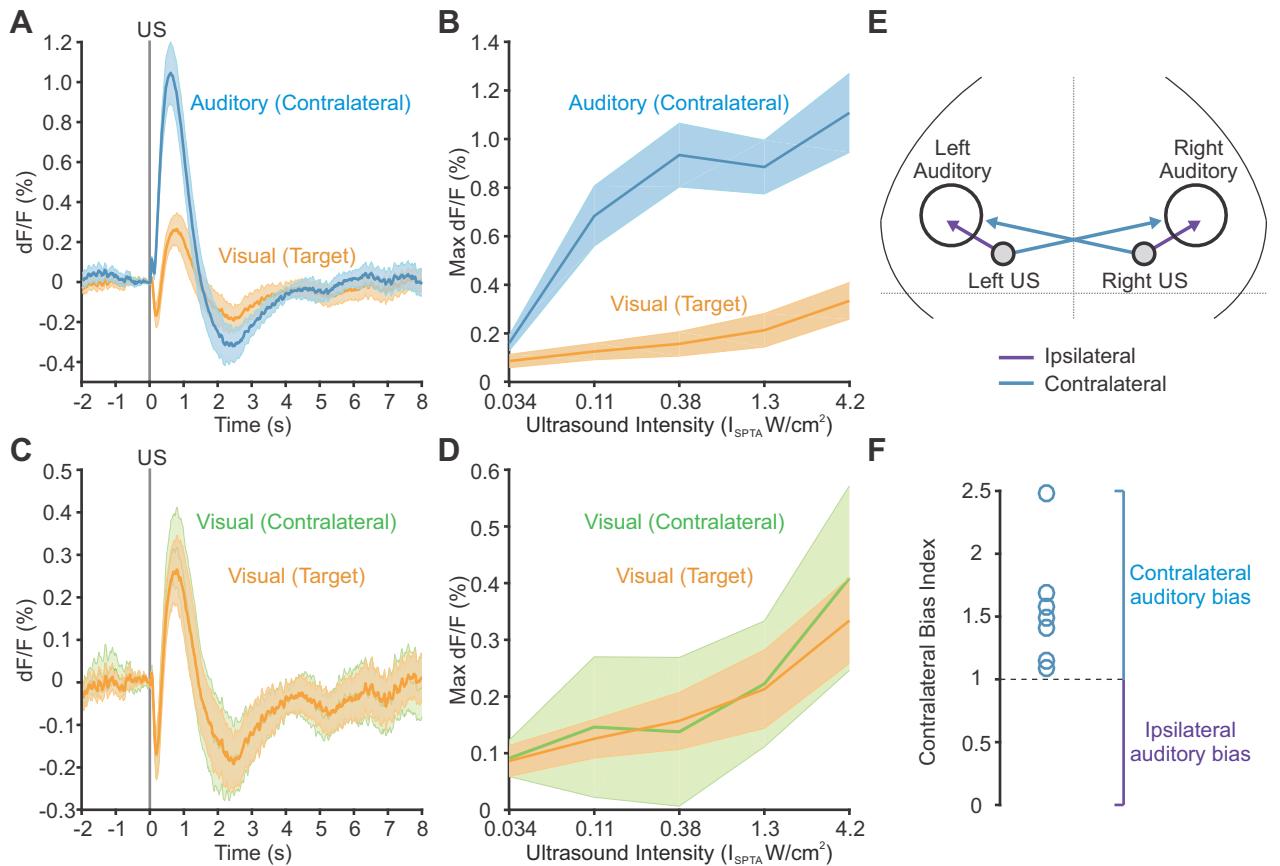
811 **(B)** Comparison of the simulated spectral amplitude of a single synthetic pulse of 100-cycles of
812 ultrasound (blue) compared to continuous ultrasound (red) within a 667 μ s time window. The single pulse
813 of ultrasound has significantly higher broadband amplitude in the spectrum. This suggests that simply
814 starting and ending a pulse of ultrasound results in some broadband signal.

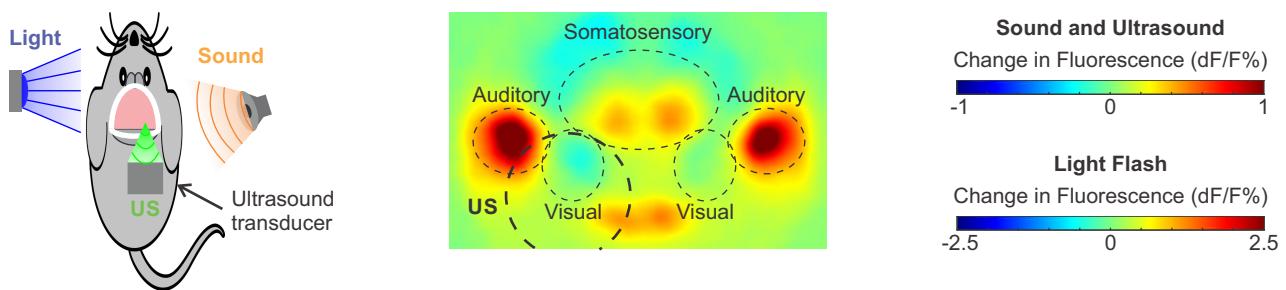
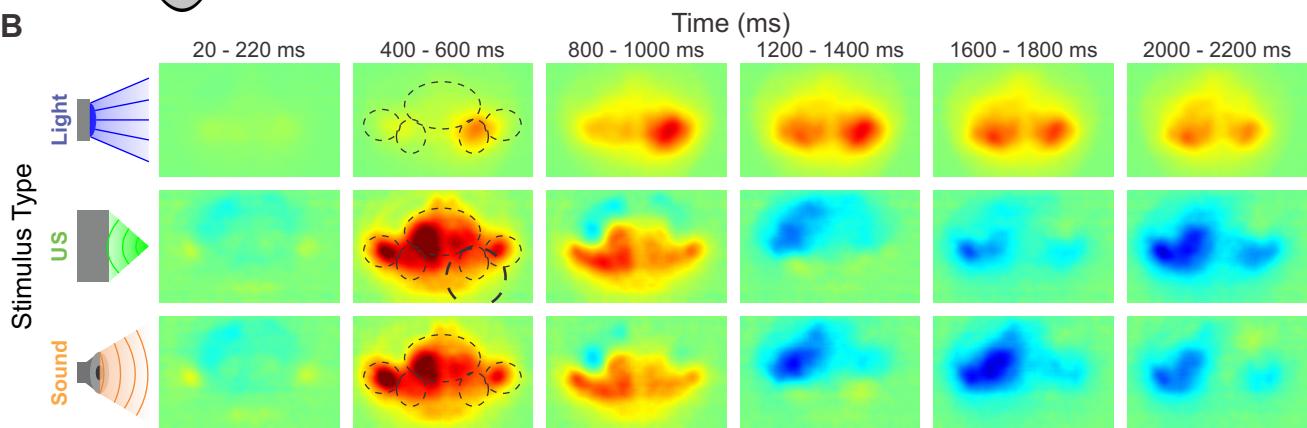
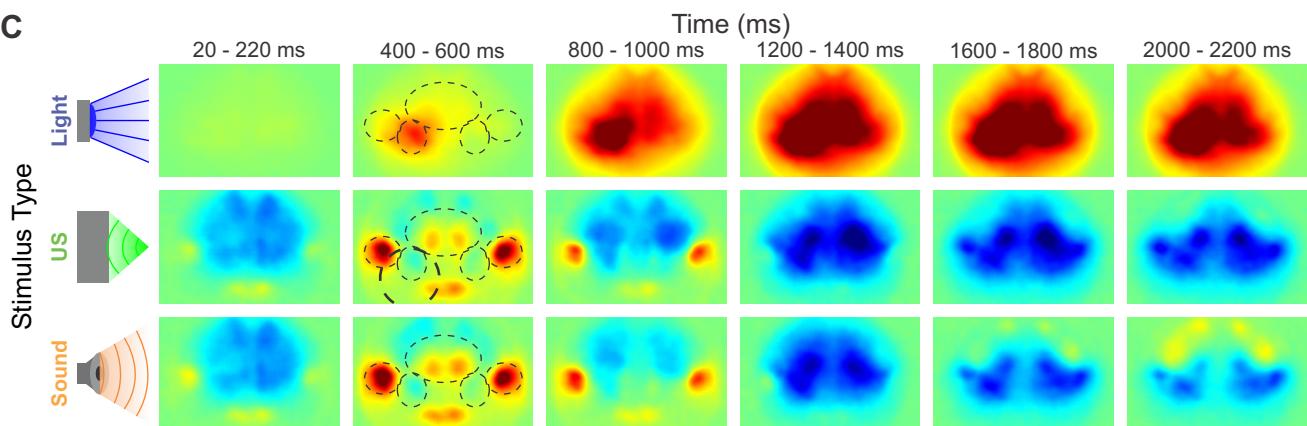
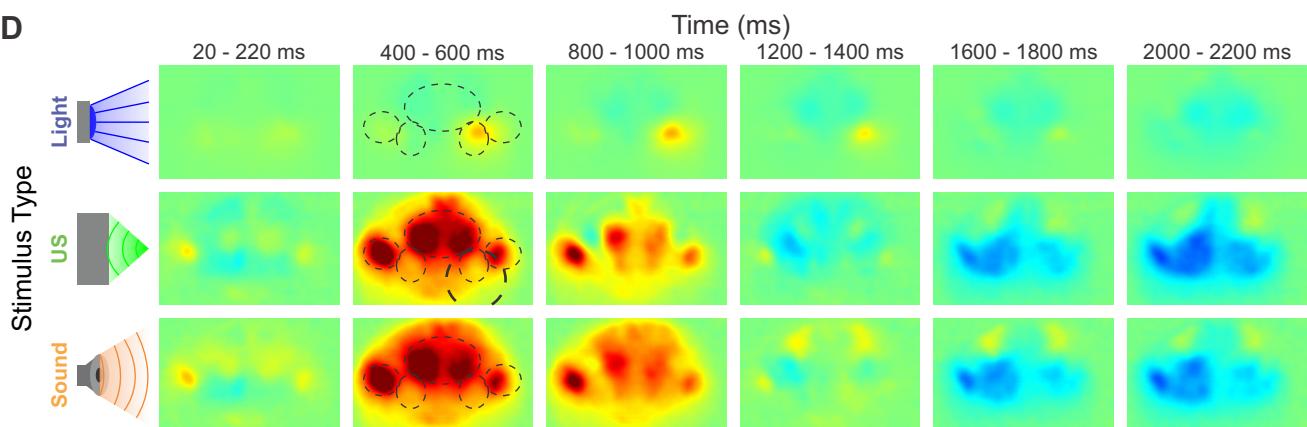
815 **(C)** Spectrum measured from a train of 120 pulses at 1.5 kHz PRF. Note the addition (relative to (A)) of
816 multiple, evenly-spaced peaks that can be seen down to around 250 kHz.

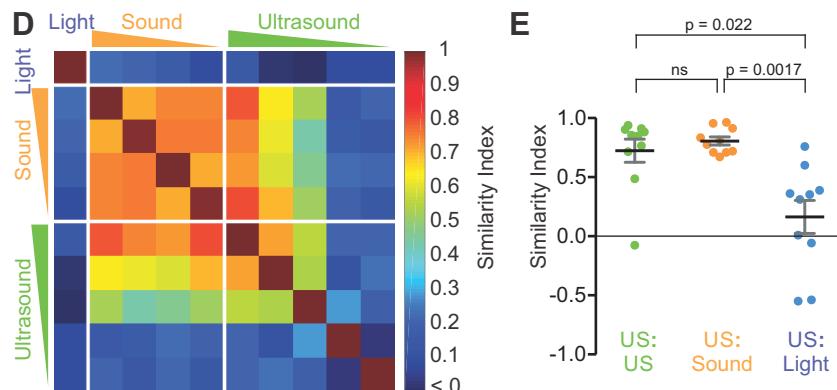
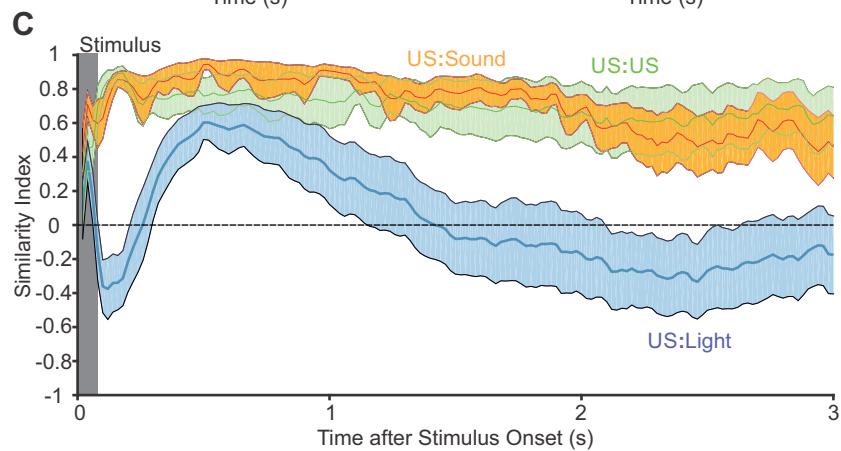
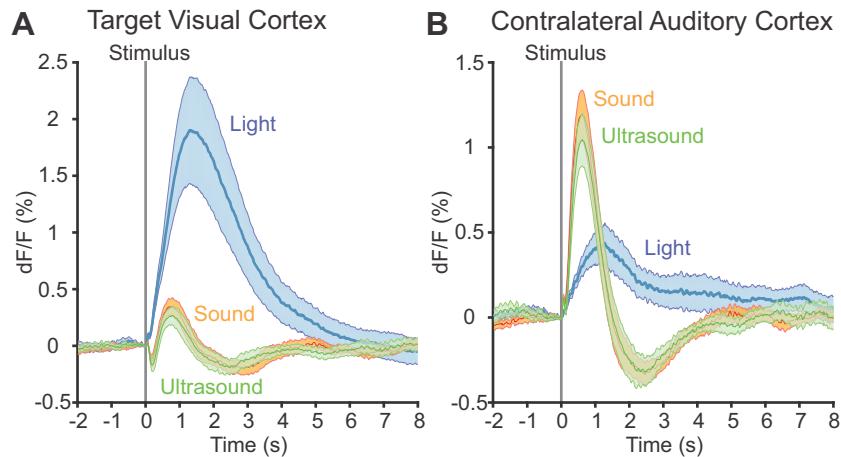
817 **(D)** A zoom in of (C) in the lower frequency ranges shows that despite the sensitivity limitations of the
818 hydrophone at low frequency, there is a small peak at the PRF of 1.5 kHz.

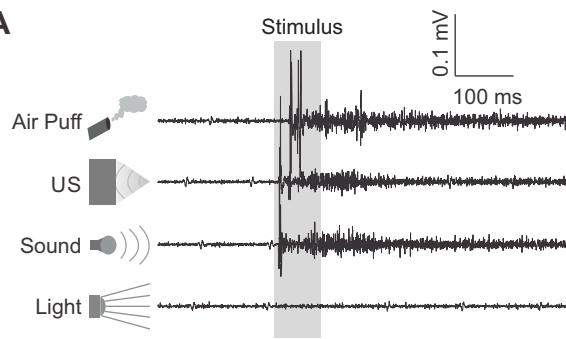
819 **(E)** A zoom in of (C) around 500 kHz shows that the additional peaks seen in (C) are harmonics of the 1.5
820 kHz PRF on top of the main signal.



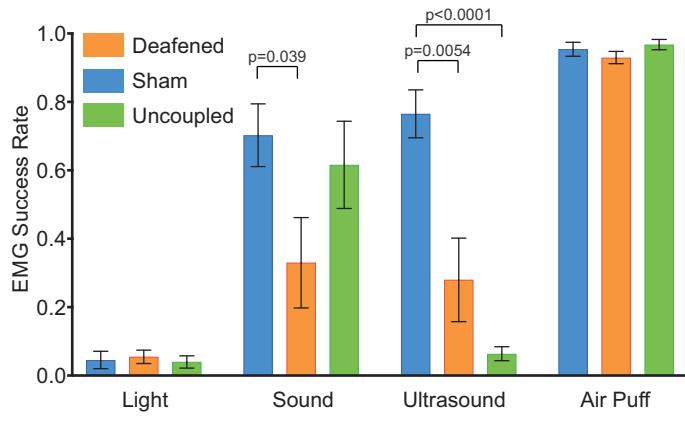
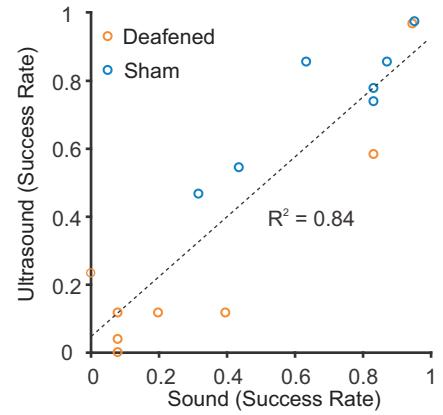


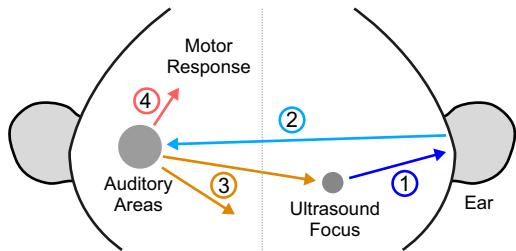
A**B****C****D**



A**B**

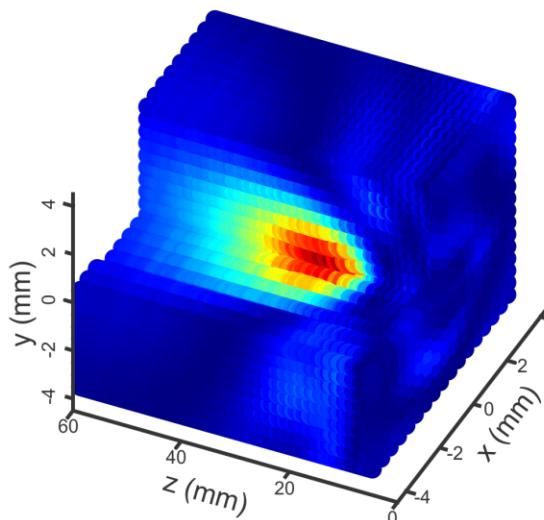
	Injection 1	Injection 2	EMG Recording
Deafened	Kanamycin	Furosemide	25 x [L,S,U,A]
Sham	Saline	Saline	25 x [L,S,U,A]
Time (min)	0	30	180
Isoflurane (%)	5%	0.6%	5%
			0.6%

C**D**

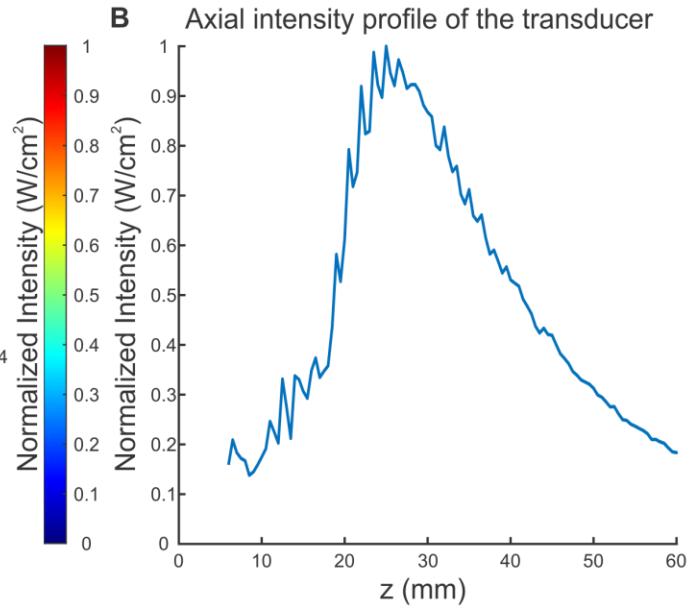


- ① Mechanical side-effects of ultrasound stimulate cochlea
- ② Cochlear stimulation activates contralateral auditory cortex
- ③ Auditory cortex excitation modulates other cortical regions
- ④ Auditory percepts lead to startle-like motor responses

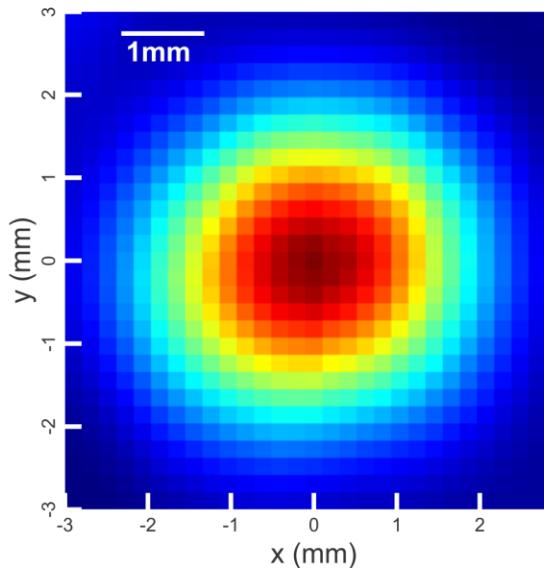
A Spatial characterization of the transducer



B Axial intensity profile of the transducer



C Ultrasound field at the focus



D Intensity profile at the focus

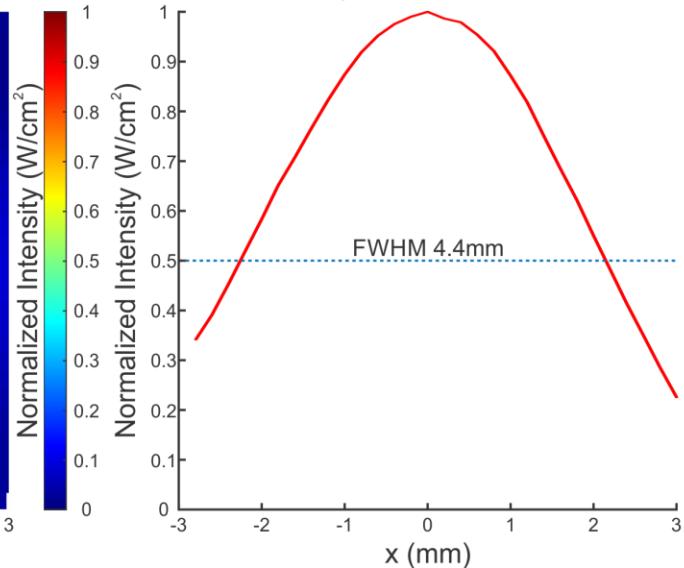


Figure S1. Related to Figure 1. Acoustic intensity field of ultrasound transducer used in this study.

(A) 3-dimensional hydrophone scan of the ultrasound field of the transducer in water, normalized to maximum intensity. The transducer face is at $z = 0$ mm.

(B) Normalized intensity profile along central axis.

(C) Intensity profile in the plane orthogonal to axis and at axial distance of maximum intensity, normalized to maximum.

(D) Normalized intensity profile at axial distance of maximum intensity and $y = 0$ mm. Blue dashed line indicates the 50% intensity mark.

A Pressure recordings from the cochlea

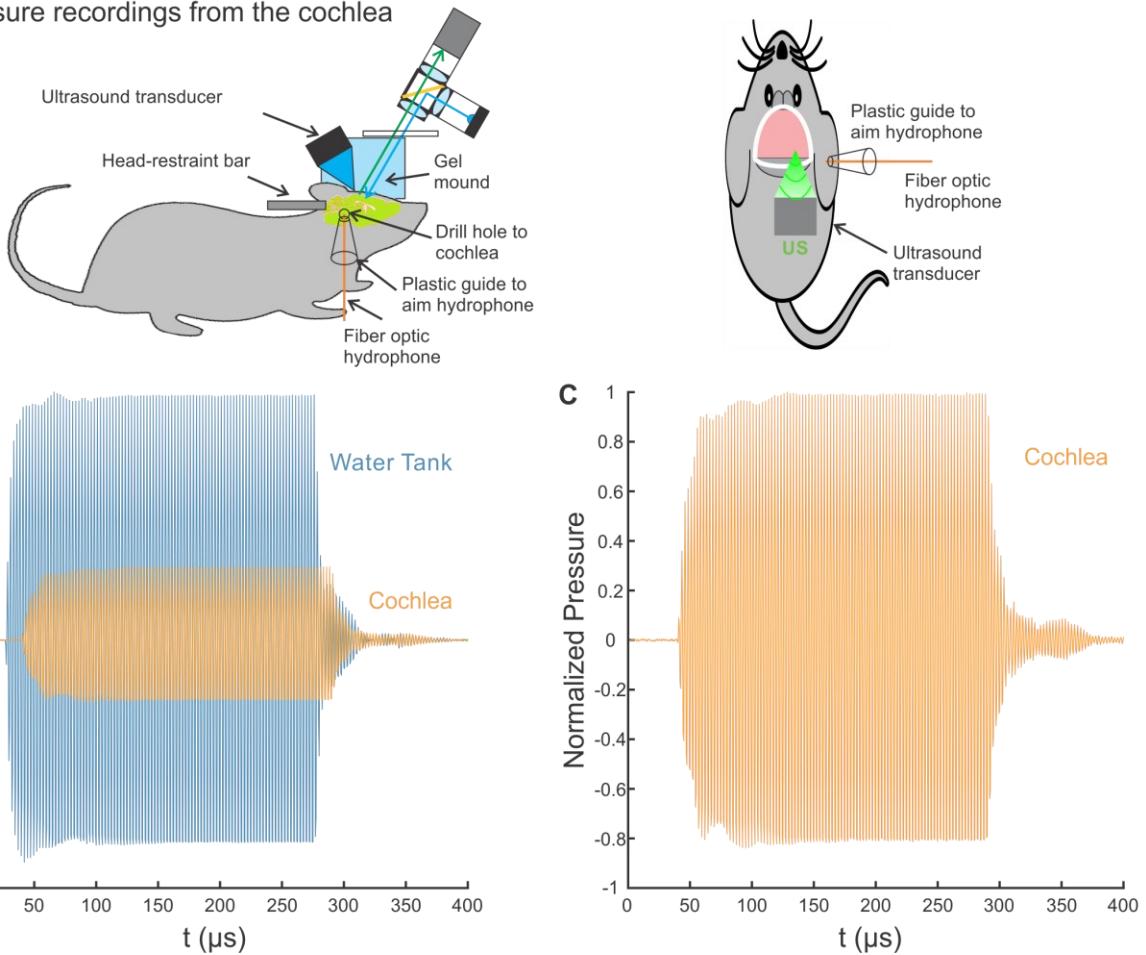


Figure S2. Related to Figure 6. Measurement of pressure waveforms at the cochlea in comparison to water tank recordings

(A) Schematic for pressure recordings at the cochlea using an implanted fiber hydrophone.

(B) Hydrophone recordings of pressure waveforms in a water tank and at the cochlea for a single pulse of 100 cycles at 500 kHz.

(C) A vertical zoom-in of the pressure waveform as recorded at the cochlea.

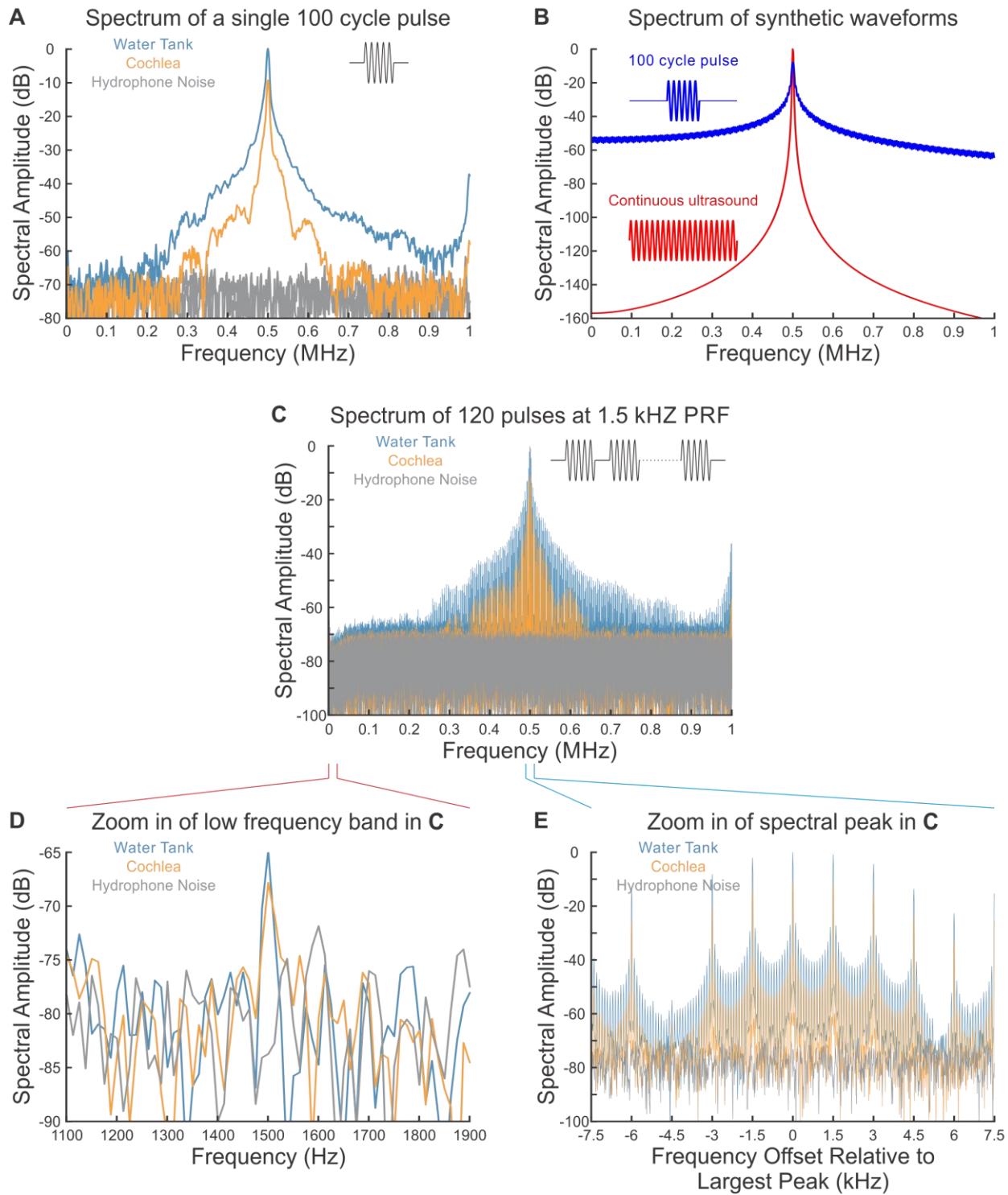


Figure S3. Related to Figure 6. Spectral analysis of pressure waveforms

(A) Spectral analysis of a single pulse of ultrasound (blue - free water at maximum; orange - at cochlea; gray - noise level of hydrophone in the cochlea in the absence of ultrasound; each pulse contained 100 cycles of 500 kHz ultrasound in a 667 μ s time window.) Note that in both cases there is significantly more

broadband power than noise, down to the lower end of the usable frequency range for the hydrophone (250 kHz; <https://www.acoustics.co.uk/product/fibre-optic-hydrophones/>).

(B) Comparison of the simulated spectral amplitude of a single synthetic pulse of 100-cycles of ultrasound (blue) compared to continuous ultrasound (red) within a 667 μ s time window. The single pulse of ultrasound has significantly higher broadband amplitude in the spectrum. This suggests that simply starting and ending a pulse of ultrasound results in some broadband signal.

(C) Spectrum measured from a train of 120 pulses at 1.5 kHz PRF. Note the addition (relative to (A)) of multiple, evenly-spaced peaks that can be seen down to around 250 kHz.

(D) A zoom in of (C) in the lower frequency ranges shows that despite the sensitivity limitations of the hydrophone at low frequency, there is a small peak at the PRF of 1.5 kHz.

(E) A zoom in of (C) around 500 kHz shows that the additional peaks seen in (C) are harmonics of the 1.5 kHz PRF on top of the main signal.

1 KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Isoflurane	Henry Schein, Inc.	IsoThesia, SKU 029405
Ophthalmic Ointment	Dechra Veterinary Products LLC	Puralube
Kanamycin	Millipore Sigma, Inc.	K0254
Furosemide	Henry Schein, Inc.	FuroJect SKU 002463
Dental acrylic	Parkell, Inc.	C&B Metabond
Quick-acting silicone	World Precision Instruments, Inc.	Kwik-Sil
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Mice: Tg(Thy1-GCaMP6s) GP4.12Dkim, male, over 20 weeks old, and over 35 g	The Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR JAX:025776
Mice: C57BL/6J, male, 8-12 weeks old, between 25 and 30 g	The Jackson Laboratory	RRID: IMSR JAX:000664
Software and Algorithms		
MATLAB 2017a	MathWorks, Inc.	RRID: SCR_001622
Labview 2015	National Instruments Corp.	RRID: SCR_014325
Other		
Micro-burr bit 0.7mm	Fine Science Tools, Inc.	19007-07
Micro-burr bit 1.4mm	Fine Science Tools, Inc.	19007-14
Stone abrading tip	World Precision Instruments, Inc.	501851
Subdermal electrodes	Rhythmlink, LLC.	RLSND110-1.0
Ultrasound transducer	Blatek, Inc.	AT24020
RF amplifier	Electronics & Innovation, Ltd.	240L
PXIe chassis	National Instruments Corp.	PXIe-1073
Data acquisition board	National Instruments Corp.	PXIe-6363
Function generator	National Instruments Corp.	PXI-5421
Oscilloscope	Keysight Technologies, Inc.	DSO-X 2004A
Fiber optic hydrophone system	Precision Acoustics, Ltd.	FOH
Fiber optic hydrophone	Precision Acoustics, Ltd.	PFS and TFS
AC electrophysiology amplifier	A-M Systems, Inc.	Model 1800
3-axis motorized stage	Thorlabs, Inc.	3 of LTS300
Benchtop power supply	B&K Precision Corporation	1621A
Camera	FLIR Systems, Inc.	GS3-U3-23S6M-C
Fluorescence filter set	Semrock, Inc.	GFP-4050B-000
Objective lens	Thorlabs, Inc.	AC254-060-A
Tube lens	Thorlabs, Inc.	AC254-040-A
LEDs	Quadica Developments, Inc	SP-01-B6
Plastic fiber optic	Edmund Optics, Inc	02-551
Speaker	Sobertron, Inc	SP-1813-2
Solenoid valves	Electric Solenoid Valves	RSC-2-12V