

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	iii
Abstract .....	vi
Table of Contents .....	viii
List of Figures .....	xii
Chapter 1: Introduction .....	1
1.1 Embryonic origin of the cranial sensory ganglia in vertebrates .....	1
1.2 Neural crest and placode interactions .....	4
1.3 How peripheral ganglia form .....	6
1.4 Slits and Robos: structure and function .....	9
1.5 Cadherins: structure and function .....	12
1.6 Overview.....	14
Chapter 2: Neural crest–placode interactions mediate trigeminal ganglion formation and require Slit1–Robo2 signaling.....	17
2.1 Abstract.....	17
2.2 Introduction.....	18
2.3 Materials and methods.....	20
2.4 Results.....	23
2.4.1 Cell–cell interactions during ganglion assembly	
2.4.2 Expression of Robo2 on placodes and Slit1 on neural crest	
2.4.3 Placode and neural crest cells interact reciprocally	
2.4.4 Robo2 function is required for proper gangliogenesis	
2.4.5 Perturbation of Robo2 disrupts placodal ingression	
2.4.6 Effect of Robo2 perturbation on neural crest assembly	
2.4.7 RNAi knockdowns of Robo2 and Slit1 cause ganglion defects	
2.5 Discussions .....	31
2.5.1 Tissue ablations uncover reciprocal neural crest–placode interactions	

2.5.2 Mechanism of Slit1–Robo2 on organizing trigeminal placodal cells and its indirect effect on neural crest	
2.5.3 Implications on the differences between OpV and MmV placodes	
2.5.4 Possible downstream mechanism of Slit1–Robo2 in gangliogenesis	
2.5.5 Conclusions	
2.6 Acknowledgements .....	37
Chapter 3: N-cadherin mediates aggregation of placodal neurons and may be regulated by Slit1–Robo2 signaling during formation of the cranial ganglia.....	56
3.1 Abstract.....	56
3.2 Introduction.....	57
3.3 Materials and methods.....	59
3.4 Results.....	61
3.4.1 N-cadherin is expressed by trigeminal and epibranchial placodal neurons but not cranial neural crest during gangliogenesis	
3.4.2 Loss of N-cadherin phenocopies Robo2 loss-of-function	
3.4.3 N-cadherin is essential for ganglion condensation, but not placodal ingressions	
3.4.4 Perturbation of Slit1–Robo2 signaling can alter N-cadherin expression	
3.4.5 Overexpression of N-cadherin partially rescues Robo2 perturbation	
3.4.6 Robo2–Slit1 and N-cad expression and function are common to trigeminal and epibranchial regions	
3.5 Discussions .....	70
3.5.1 Cross-talk between Slit–Robo and cadherins	
3.5.2 Role of N-cadherin in cellular condensation and its link with Slit1–Robo2	
3.5.3 Possible mechanisms on how Slit1–Robo2 regulate N-cadherin	
3.5.4 General mechanism involving Slit1–Robo2 and N-cadherin in cranial sensory gangliogenesis in chick	
3.5.5 Expression of N-cadherin may not be placode-specific but rather neuronal cell type-specific in the forming ganglia	

3.5.6 Conclusions	
3.6 Acknowledgements .....	75
Chapter 4: Role of Cadherin-7 in cranial neural crest development and its potential heterotypic interaction with N-cadherin in trigeminal ganglion formation .....	91
4.1 Abstract.....	91
4.2 Introduction.....	92
4.3 Materials and methods.....	94
4.4 Results and discussions .....	97
4.4.1 Cadherin-7 mRNA is expressed in migrating cranial neural crest cells and later restricted to dorsal regions of cranial ganglia	
4.4.2 Cadherin-7 protein is similar but broader than the mRNA and complementary to N-cadherin expression in the trigeminal ganglion	
4.4.3 In vivo perturbation of Cadherin-7 function in the cranial neural crest affects cell-cell interactions and cellular protrusions	
4.4.4 Subcellular localization and expression pattern of exogenous full-length Cadherin-7 on migrating neural crest cells suggest dynamic regulation of the Cadherin-7 protein	
4.4.5 Perturbation of Cadherin-7 in precursors causes malformed cranial ganglia	
4.4.6 Misexpression of Cadherin-7 in the trigeminal ectoderm disrupts placodal morphogenesis and augments the neuronal population in the ectoderm	
4.5 Conclusion and future work .....	107
4.6 Acknowledgements .....	109
Chapter 5: Conclusions .....	119
5.1 Summary.....	119
5.2 Future perspectives .....	122
Appendix A: Cell surface heparan sulfate proteoglycan Glypican-1 and placodal ganglion formation .....	130
A.1 Abstract.....	130
A.2 Introduction.....	131
A.3 Materials and methods.....	134

A.4 Results and discussions.....	136
A.4.1 Expression of Glypican-1 mRNA in the precursors of cranial sensory ganglia suggests its potential role in ganglion formation	
A.4.2 Expression of Glypican-1 mRNA in other tissues, including the neural tube, otic vesicle, limb, and somite	
A.4.3 Overexpression of Glypican-1 causes early disorganization of trigeminal placodal neurons and later severely reduced ganglion	
A.5 Conclusion and future work .....	140
Appendix B: Supplementary materials and methods.....	147
Appendix C: Literature Cited .....	151

## LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Chapter 2</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 1 Successive stages of trigeminal ganglion development.....	38
Figure 2 Neural crest and placode interactions in vivo .....	40
Figure 3 Cell and molecular markers show cell–cell contacts.....	42
Figure 4 Expression of Robo2 and Slit1 mRNA .....	44
Figure 5 Placode and neural crest ablations during gangliogenesis.....	45
Figure 6 Inhibition of Robo2 disrupts trigeminal ganglion formation ....	47
Figure 7 Inhibition of Robo2 disrupts placodal ingression .....	49
Figure 8 Inhibition of Robo2 indirectly disrupts neural crest assembly... Figure 9 Robo2 and Slit1 RNAi constructs deplete target transcripts .....	51 53
Figure 10 RNAi-mediated knockdowns of Robo2 and Slit1 .....	54
<i>Chapter 3</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 1 Expression of N-cad in placodal but not neural crest cells .....	76
Figure 2 N-cad loss-of-function phenocopies Robo2 loss-of-function ...	78
Figure 3 Ncad morpholino depletes N-cad protein in tissues .....	80
Figure 4 Mosaic expression of exogenous dn-Ncad protein .....	81
Figure 5 N-cad is required for placodal condensation .....	82
Figure 6 Blocking Robo2 downregulates N-cad expression.....	84
Figure 7 Slit1 overexpression upregulates N-cad expression .....	86
Figure 8 Full-length N-cad partially rescues Robo2 loss-of-function .....	88
Figure 9 Expression and function in the epibranchial regions.....	89
<i>Chapter 4</i>	<i>Page</i>
Figure 1 Cad-7 mRNA expression in cranial neural crest .....	110
Figure 2 Cad-7 protein expression complements N-cad expression.....	111
Figure 3 Perturbation of Cad-7 during neural crest migration.....	112

Figure 4 Cad-7 overexpression affects neural crest cell morphology.....	114
Figure 5 Perturbation of Cad-7 affects cranial ganglia formation .....	116
Figure 6 Misexpression of Cad-7 leads to severe placodal defects .....	117

*Chapter 5*

*Page*

Figure 1 Multiple possible roles for Robo2 in gangliogenesis.....	128
Figure 2 Two possible models for cadherin-based coalescence .....	129

*Appendix A*

*Page*

Figure 1 GPC1 mRNA expression during early chick development.....	143
Figure 2 GPC1 overexpression disrupts ganglion formation.....	145