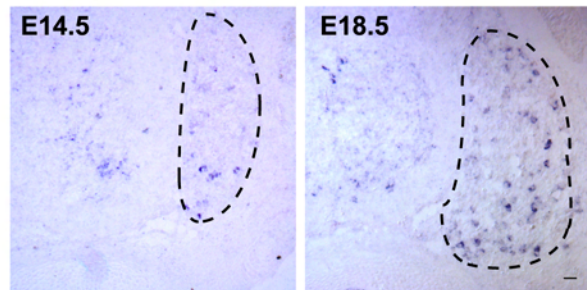
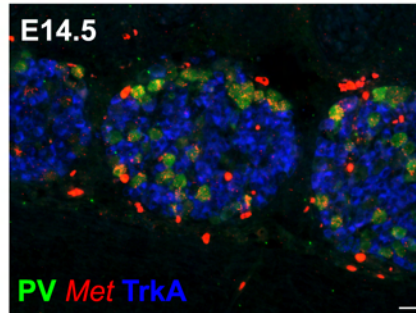
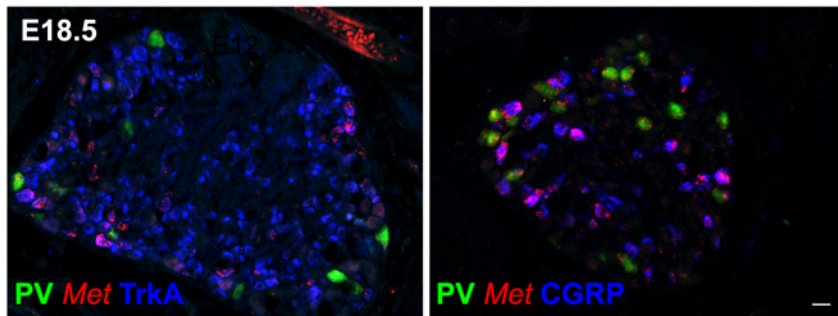
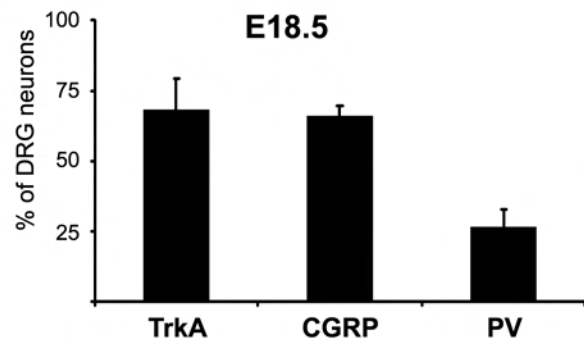
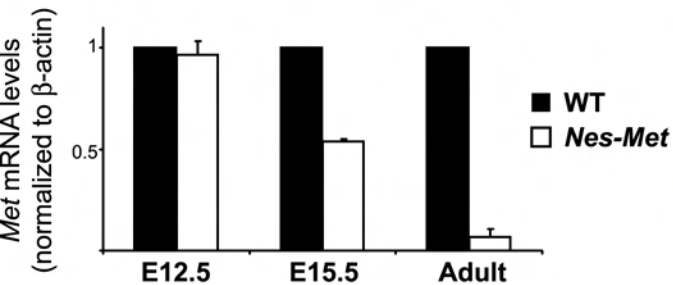
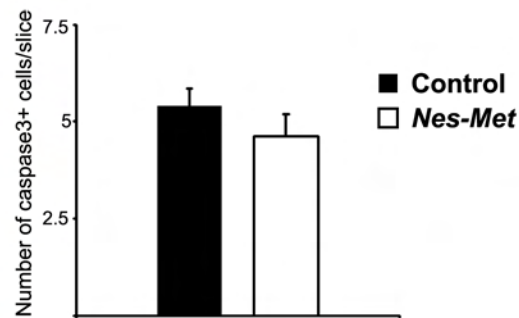
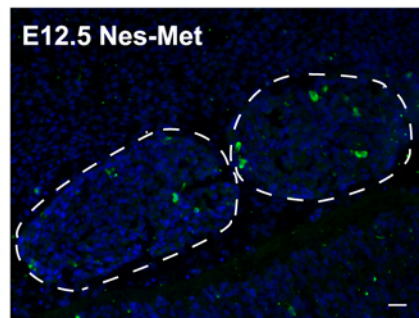
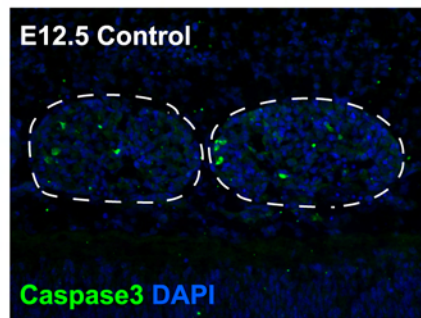


Supplementary Table 1. List of primers used in this study

<i>Gene</i>	Forward primer	Reverse primer
Rat <i>Met</i>	5'-aggtcgcttcacgcaggt-3'	5'-tccggagacacaggatgg-3'
Rat <i>Runx1</i>	5'-cctccttgaaccactccact-3'	5'-ctggatctgcctggcatc-3'
Rat <i>Actin</i>	5'-ctaaggccaaccgtgaaaag-3'	5'-tacatggctgggggtgttga-3'
Mouse <i>Actin</i>	5'-gtgggccgccttaggcaccag-3'	5'-ttggccttaggggtcagggggg-3'
Mouse <i>Met</i>	5'-gctggaggcaccttactcac-3'	5'-ctcaggcagattccaagag-3'
Mouse <i>Runx1</i>	5'-cctccttgaaccactccact-3'	5'-ctggatctgcctggcatc -3'
Human <i>Runx1</i>	5'-ctgctccgtgctgcctac -3'	5'-agccatcacagtgaccagagt -3'

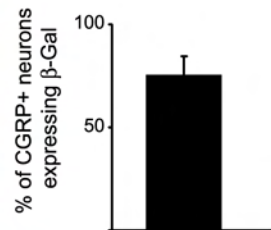
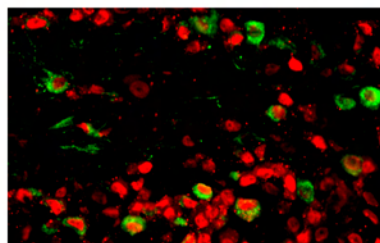
a**b****c****d**

Suppl Figure 1

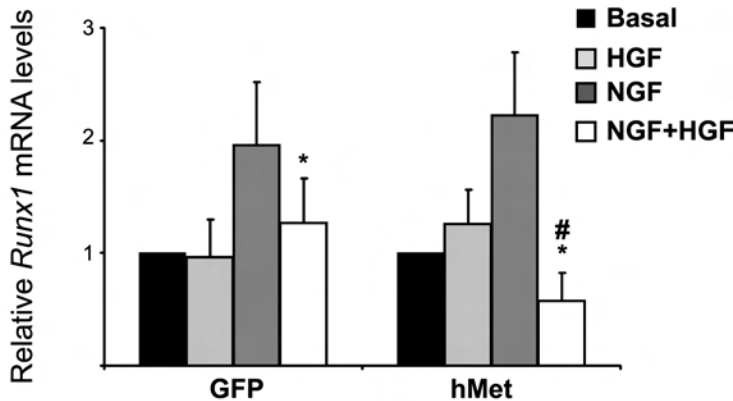
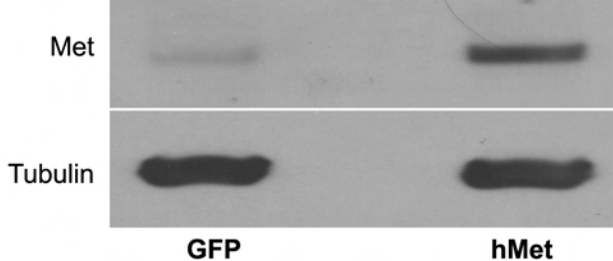
a**b****c**

P7 *Rosa26^{LacZ} : Nes-Cre*

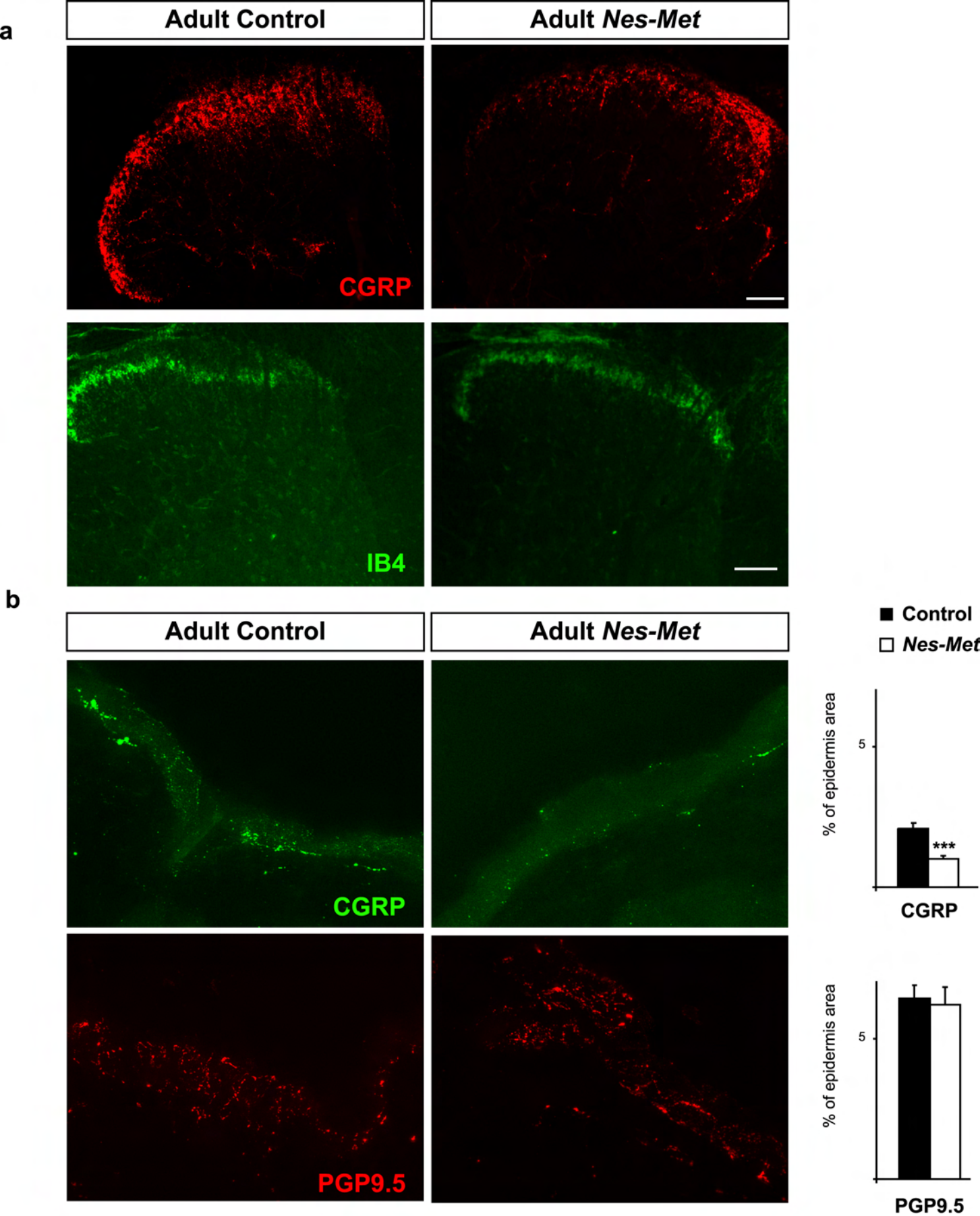
CGRP β -Gal



Suppl Figure 2

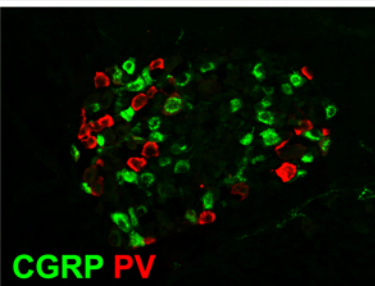


Suppl Figure 3

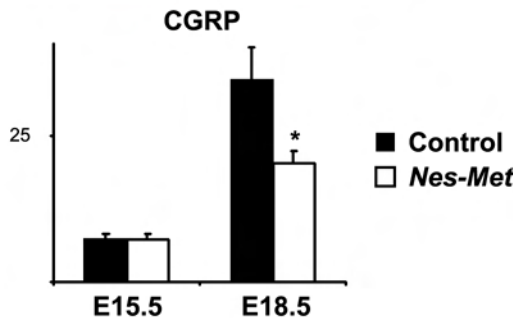
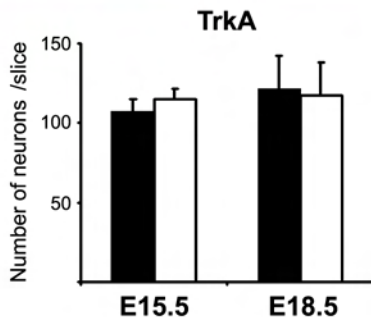
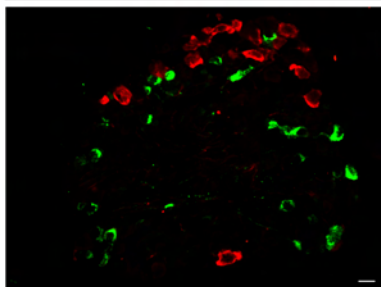


Suppl Figure 4

E18.5 Control



E18.5 *Nes-Met*



Suppl Figure 5

Supplementary Figure Legends

Supplementary Figure 1

- Developmental expression of *Met*. Pictures illustrating different embryonic developmental stages demonstrate that *Met* appears by E14.5 in the DRG. Note earlier expression in the spinal cord.
- Met* expression is initially restricted to PV⁺ neurons (E14.5). Immunofluorescence for PV. *In situ* hybridization for *Met*.
- Met* is expressed in TrkA⁺/CGRP⁺ and PV⁺ neurons at later developmental stages (E18.5). Immunofluorescence for PV. *In situ* hybridization for *Met*.
- Quantification of different cell populations of DRG neurons also positive for *Met* at E18.5.

Scale bars, 30 μ m in B and 20 μ m in C and D.

Supplementary Figure 2

- DRG levels of *Met* transcripts at different developmental stages were assessed by quantitative RT-PCR.
- Pictures showing activated caspase 3 immunoreactivity in control and Nes-*Met* DRG at E12.5. No significant differences were found between wild type (n=2) and Nes-*Met* (n=3).
- Picture showing CGRP and β -Gal double immunolabeling in P7 DRGs of a Rosa26^{Flx-Stop-Flx-LacZ}:Nes-Cre mouse. As illustrated in the picture and displayed in the graph, Nes-Cre mediates effective excision of the stop cassette in most CGRP⁺ neurons.

Scale bars, 20 μ m.

Supplementary Figure 3

Upper panel. Transfection of a plasmid driving expression of human *Met* in HEK cells leads to effective *Met* overexpression. Western blot revealed a clear band in HEK transfected with h*Met* plasmid but not in cells transfected with a control plasmid (GFP).

Lower panel. Activation of *Met* signaling in DRG cultures leads to Runx1 downregulation. DRG cultures were transfected with a control (GFP) plasmid or h*Met* plasmid. Then, they were treated with no growth factors (black bars), HGF alone (light gray bars), NGF alone (dark gray bars) or a combination of NGF and HGF (white bars) and the levels of Runx1 assessed by quantitative RT-PCR. As shown in the graph, simultaneous activation of HGF and NGF signaling cascades resulted in a decrease of Runx1 transcripts (n=3 independent experiments).

Supplementary Figure 4

- a. Central projections of nociceptive neurons in *Nes-Met* mice were examined using CGRP (upper panels) and IB4 (lower panels) staining. As illustrated in the pictures, a significant reduction of CGRP terminals was observed in the dorsal horn of adult *Nes-Met* mice compared to control animals. IB4 showed no obvious difference between both mice.
- b. Peripheral projections of DRG neurons in *Nes-Met* mice were examined using CGRP (upper panels) and PGP9.5 (lower panels) immunofluorescence. As depicted in the pictures, a significant reduction of CGRP immunoreactivity was observed in the epidermis (trunk skin) of adult *Nes-Met* mice compared to control animals. In contrast, staining with the panneuronal marker PGP9.5 was similar in *Nes-Met* and WT animals arguing against an axonal defect of mutant animals. Quantification revealed a significant difference in the area innervated by CGRP⁺ projections (upper graph) but no reduction in the area covered by the PGP9.5⁺ projections (lower graph).

Scale bars, 50 μ m.

Supplementary Figure 5

Developmental reduction of CGRP⁺ nociceptive neurons in *Nes-Met* animals. Representative pictures of CGRP and PV immunofluorescence in wild type and *Nes-Met* mice at E18.5 nicely illustrate the reduction of CGRP⁺ neurons (upper panels). Neuronal counts of TrkA and CGRP revealed that CGRP⁺ neurons were not affected at E15.5 but its reduction is clear at later embryonic stages (E18.5) (Control, n=4; *Nes-Met*, n=5).

Scale bars, 20 μ m.