

## **Functional neuroimaging identifies a cross-species biomarker for treatment monitoring in Angelman syndrome**

### **Supplementary Methods**

#### **fNIRS Data Processing-Method 2**

Channel quality assessment was performed using QT-NIRS metrics implemented in MNE-NIRS<sup>1–3</sup>. After raw light-intensity signals were converted to optical density, the Scalp Coupling Index (SCI) was computed from cardiac-band correlations between wavelengths, and channels with SCI < 0.5 were excluded. A Peak Spectral Power metric was additionally computed in the 0.7–1.5 Hz band using 10-s windows, 0.3 Hz transition bandwidths, and a threshold of 0.05; windows falling below threshold were marked as low quality, and overlapping epochs were discarded. Motion correction was implemented using Homer3 functions, which were custom-adapted for compatibility with our Python processing pipeline<sup>4</sup>. Motion artifacts were detected using `int_motion = 1.0 s`, `t_mask = 1.0 s`, `stdev_thresh = 13.0`, and `amp_thresh = 0.4`. Identified segments were corrected using spline interpolation ( $p = 0.99$ ), followed by wavelet filtering (Daubechies-2, IQR threshold = 0.8). Optical-density data were converted to concentration changes in HbO and HbR using the modified Beer–Lambert law with a partial pathlength factor (PPF) of 6.0. Signals were then band-pass filtered between 0.01 and 0.20 Hz (transition bandwidth = 0.01 Hz). Correlation-based signal improvement (CBSI) was subsequently applied to enhance the expected HbO–HbR anticorrelation<sup>5</sup>. Following within-participant trial averaging, a top-k channel selection procedure was used as a functional channel selection step to enhance selectivity<sup>6</sup>. Channels were ranked based on the mean HbO response over the 0–20 s post-stimulus interval, and the top 11 channels (50% of the 22-channel montage) were retained. Selected HbO channels were mapped onto the corresponding HbR channels, and total hemoglobin was computed as  $HbT = HbO + HbR$ . Retained channels were then averaged within each participant to obtain a single subject-level trace per chromophore and condition.

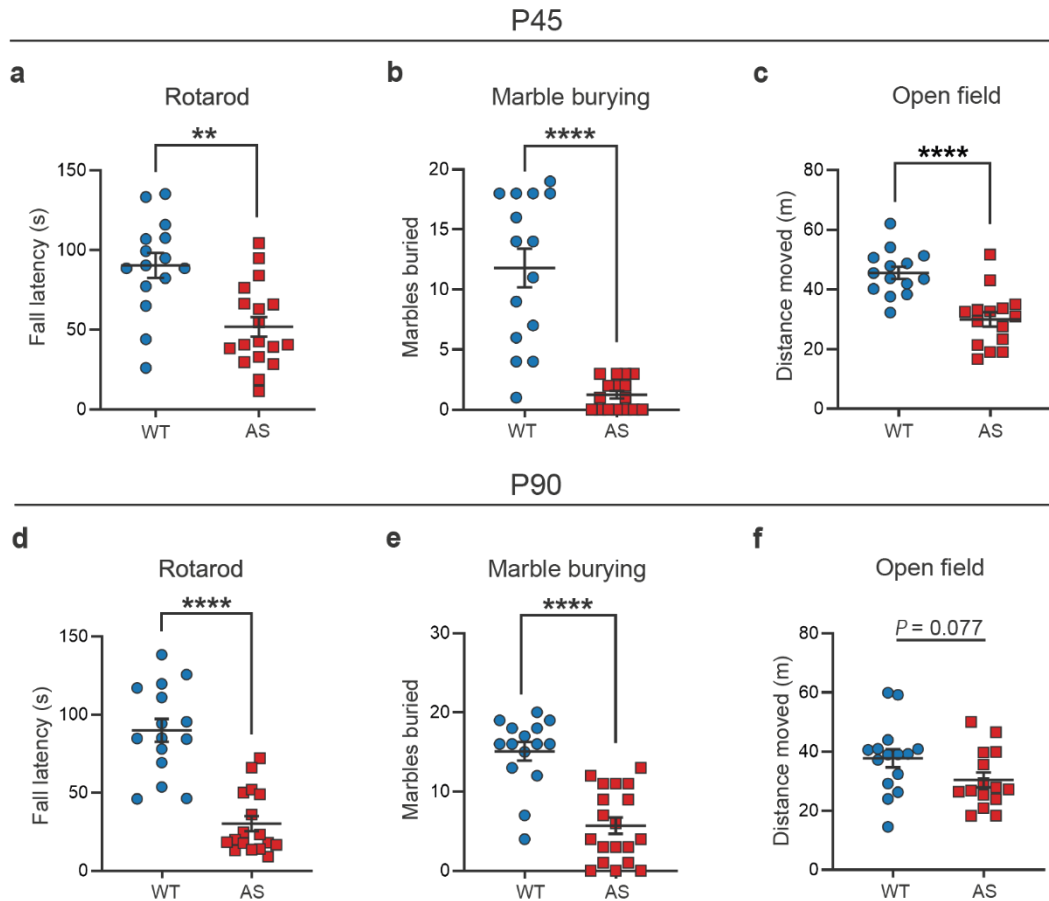
#### **Response Shape and Age-Related Analyses**

To quantify the conformity of the hemodynamic response to a canonical profile, HbO stimulation responses from AS participants were compared, for each preprocessing strategy, to a model response obtained by convolving a 5 s boxcar stimulus with a gamma hemodynamic response function. A 3 s delay was applied to account for neurovascular coupling latency, and the resulting waveform was normalized to unit peak. Subject-level responses were baseline-corrected and rescaled to the [0–1] range prior to comparison. Similarity was quantified using root-mean-square error (RMSE), with lower values indicating closer agreement with the canonical response. As both preprocessing strategies were evaluated within the same participants, differences in RMSE were assessed using a one-sided paired t-test.

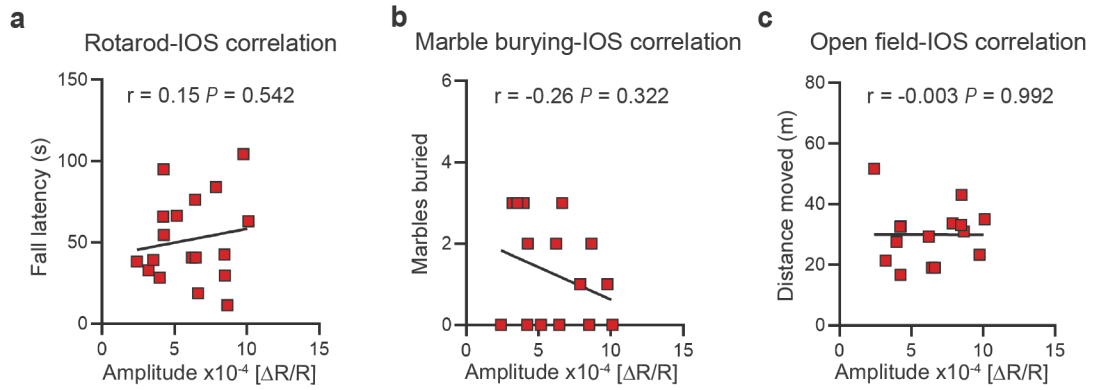
Age-related analyses were restricted to stimulation-derived AUC and peak-amplitude measures and were performed separately within control and Angelman groups using Spearman rank correlation. To estimate the disease-related component of the response while accounting for normative age effects, a smoothing spline was fitted to control data to derive an age-dependent reference curve. Each Angelman participant was then projected onto this model to obtain the age-expected response, and the difference between observed and expected values was defined as the age-normalized excess response. Associations between excess response and age were assessed using linear regression, with one-sided tests evaluating directional hypotheses (slope < 0 and slope > 0). In addition, excess-response values were tested against zero using a one-sample one-sided t-test (mean > 0) to determine whether a positive residual

response persisted after age normalization. When multiple metrics were analyzed, p-values were adjusted using the Benjamini–Hochberg procedure.

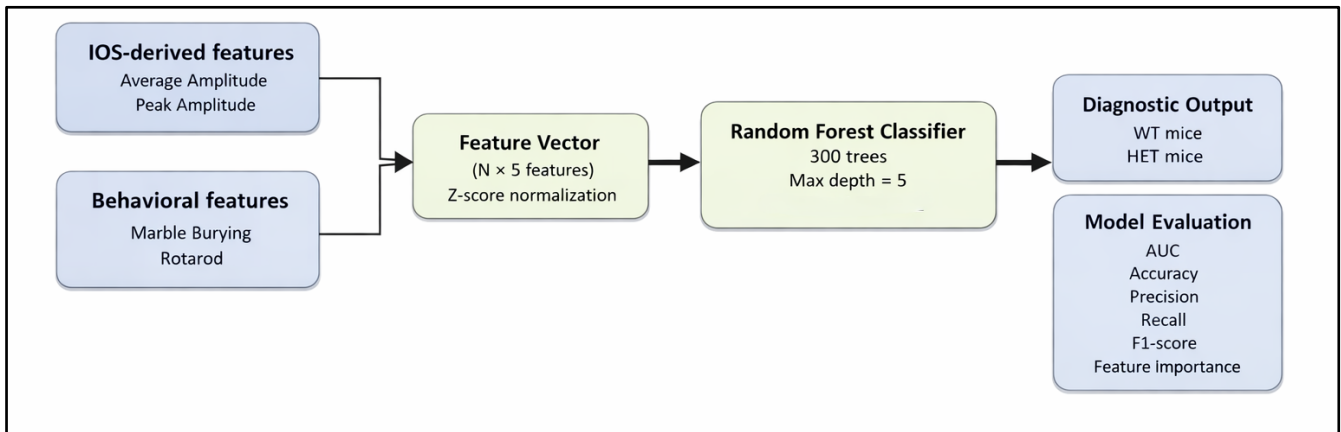
## Supplementary Figures



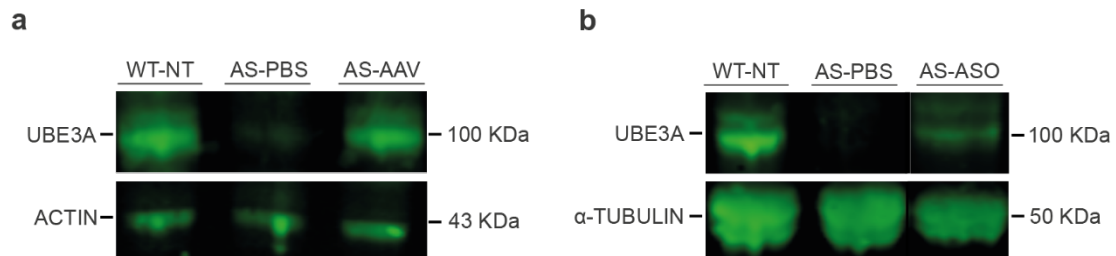
**Supplementary Figure 1. Behavioral assessment in juvenile and adult mice.** Behavioral assessment of WT and AS juvenile (a-c) and adult mice (d-f) in the rotarod (a, d), marble burying (b, e), and open field (c, f). WT animals are shown as blue circles, while AS mice are shown as red squares. Statistical details are reported in Supplementary Table 1. \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*\* $p < 0.0001$



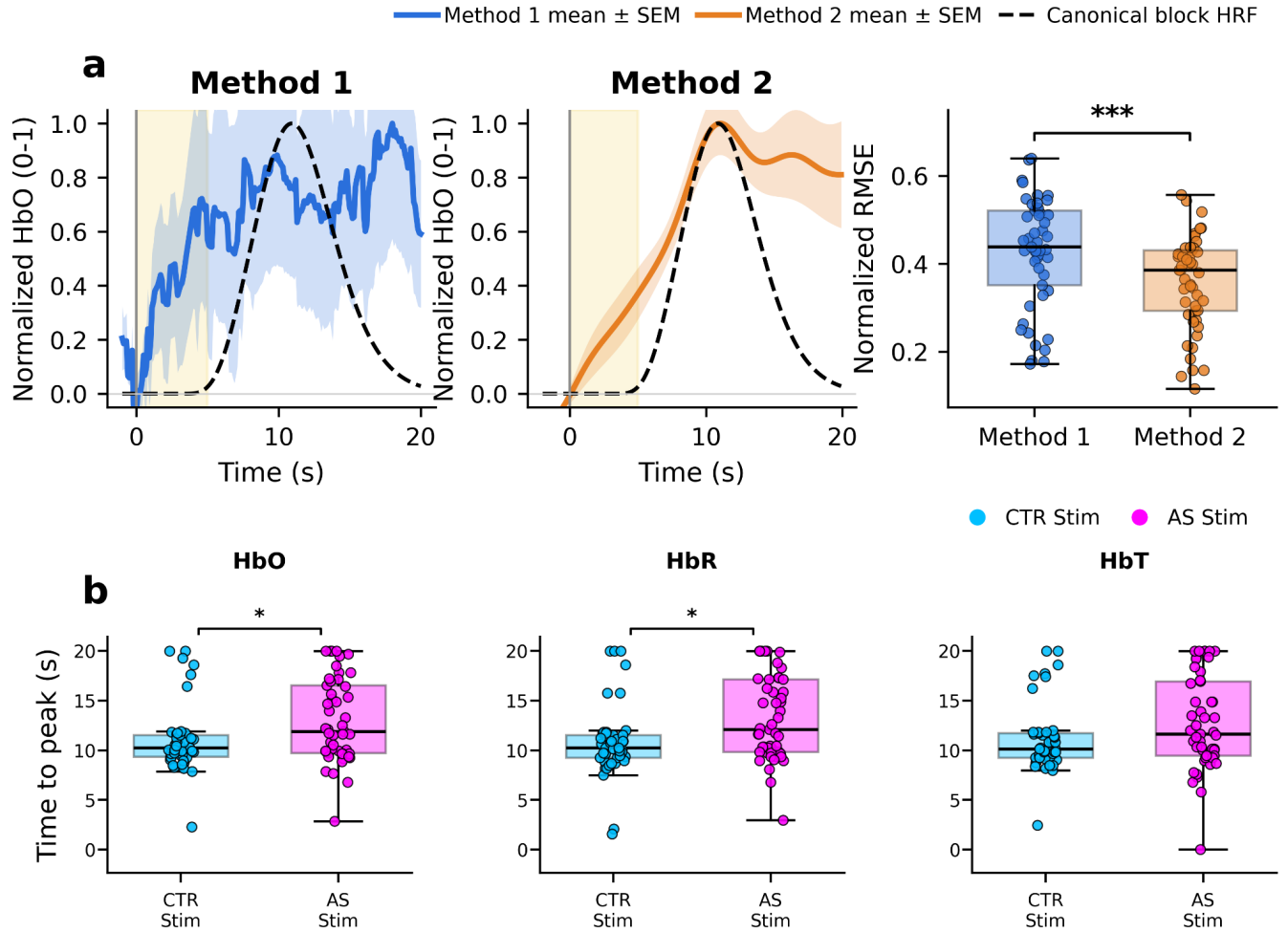
**Supplementary Figure 2. Correlation between IOS responses and behavioral performance in juvenile AS mice.** Relationship between IOS responses and behavioral performance in the rotarod (a), marble burying (b), and open field (c) in AS juvenile mice. Statistical details are reported in Supplementary Table 1.



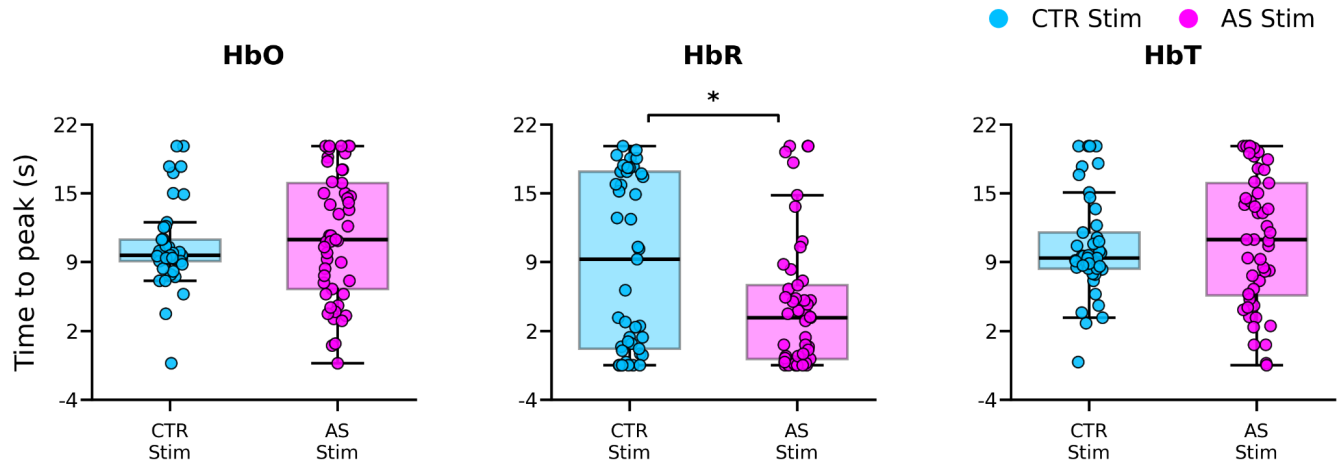
**Supplementary Figure 3. Random Forest classification pipeline for WT and AS mice based on IOS and behavioral features.** Schematic overview of the machine learning framework illustrating feature extraction from IOS imaging and behavioral assays, followed by feature normalization, random forest classification, and evaluation of model performance used to distinguish WT from AS mice.



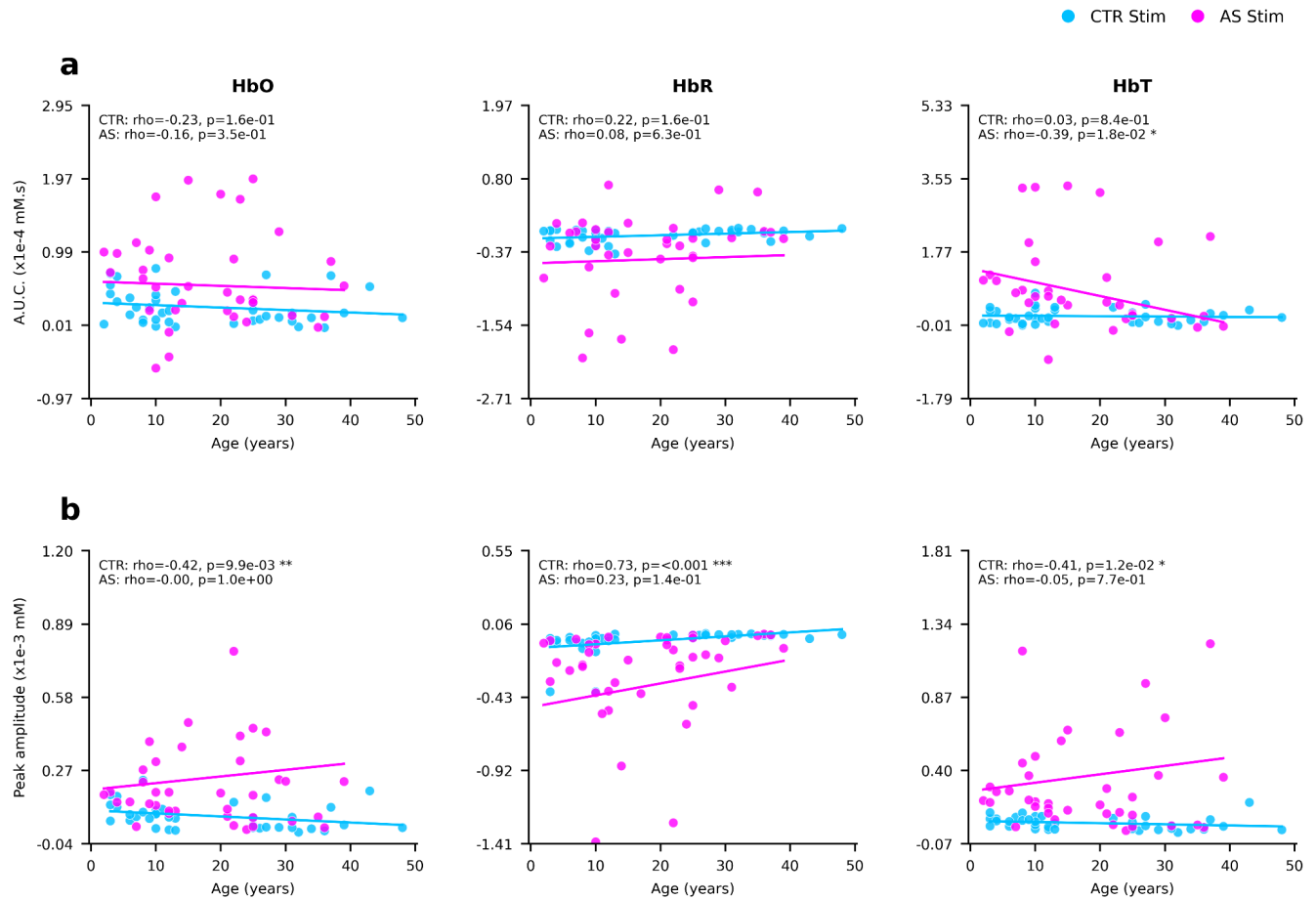
**Supplementary Figure 4. Representative Western blot analysis of UBE3A expression in the cerebral cortex following therapeutic interventions.** (a) Representative blot showing UBE3A protein levels in the cerebral cortex of WT non-injected mice and AS mice treated with PBS or AAV. Actin was used as a loading control. (b) Representative blot showing UBE3A expression in the cerebral cortex of WT non-injected mice and AS mice treated with PBS or ASO. α-tubulin was used as a loading control.



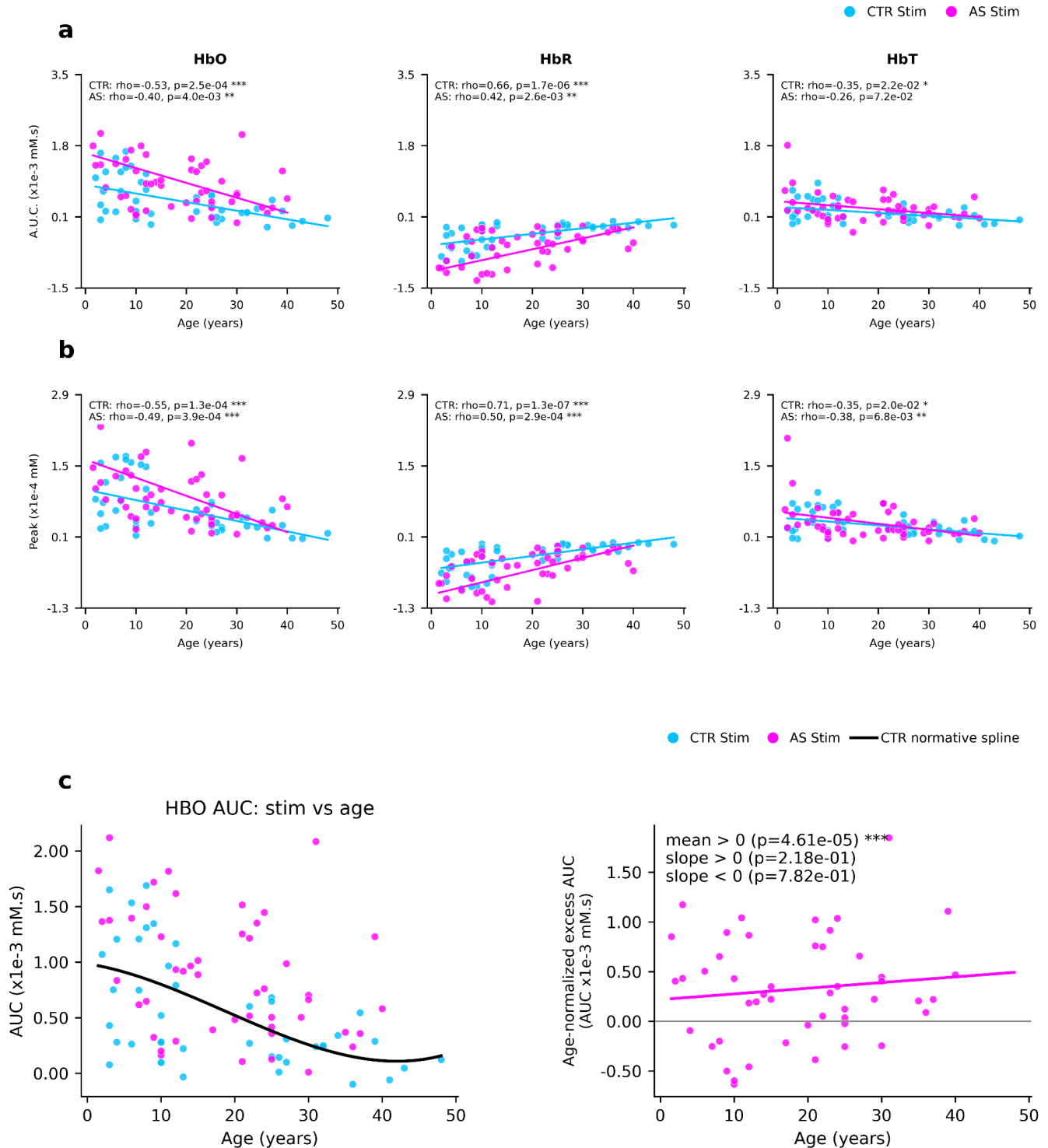
**Supplementary Figure 5. Response shape conformity and temporal dynamics of the hemodynamic response to stimulation (method 2).** (a) Comparison of HbO stimulation responses in AS obtained with method 1 and method 2 relative to a canonical block hemodynamic response function (HRF). The left and middle panels show normalized grand-average HbO traces for method 1 and method 2, respectively, overlaid with the canonical HRF; the right panel shows participant-level normalized root-mean-square error (RMSE), where lower values indicate closer agreement with the expected response shape. Method 2 yielded significantly lower RMSE compared to method 1 ( $p < 0.001$ ). (b) Time to peak (TTP, seconds) during stimulation for HbO, HbR, and HbT in CTR and AS participants. Boxplots show median, interquartile range (IQR), and range; dots represent individual participants. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .



**Supplementary Figure 6. Temporal dynamics of the hemodynamic response to stimulation (method 1).** Boxplots show the time to peak (seconds) for HbO, HbR, and HbT during stimulation, comparing control participants (CTR, blue) and individuals with Angelman syndrome (AS, magenta). Each point represents an individual subject; horizontal lines indicate the median, and boxes represent the interquartile range (IQR). \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .



**Supplementary Figure 7. Age-related changes in hemodynamic response metrics (method 1).** Scatterplots illustrate the relationship between participant age and hemodynamic response metrics. (a) Correlations with area under the curve (AUC), and (b) with peak amplitude. Columns correspond to hemoglobin species (HbO, HbR, HbT) and groups (CTR in blue, AS in magenta). Each point represents an individual participant, and solid lines indicate linear trends for visualization. For each panel, the sample size (n), Spearman's correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ), and p-value are reported. Statistically significant correlations are indicated by asterisks: \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .



**Supplementary Figure 8. Age dependence and age-normalized excess response under the stricter preprocessing pipeline (method 2).** (a-b) Age-related correlations for stimulation-derived area under the curve (AUC, a) and peak amplitude (b) across HbO, HbR, and HbT in CTR and AS participants. Each panel shows individual values with least-squares regression lines; statistical associations were assessed using Spearman rank correlation. (c) Age-normalized excess response analysis for HbO AUC. The left panel shows stimulation-derived HbO AUC as a function of age in CTR and AS, together with the control-derived normative

spline. The right panel shows the age-normalized excess response in AS relative to age-expected control values, with the fitted regression line. The excess response remained significantly greater than zero ( $p < 0.001$ ), while no significant age-dependent trend was detected, indicating persistence of the pathological response without systematic increase or decline across the sampled age range. \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .

## Supplementary tables

| Figure                                         | n                                                                     | Stat_test            | Factor                         | Statistic                           | p-value                  |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Juvenile (P45) mice</b>                     |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Visual IOS recordings                          |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Fig. 1c                                        | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 18                                                | Unpaired t-test      |                                | t = 3.37                            | 0.002                    |
| Fig. 1b                                        | WT male n = 6<br>WT female n = 9<br>AS male n = 6<br>AS female n = 12 | Two-way ANOVA        | Genotype<br>Sex<br>Interaction | F = 10.06<br>F = 0.06<br>F = 0.0045 | 0.0036<br>0.816<br>0.947 |
| Behavioral assessment                          |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Supp. Fig. 1a                                  | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 18                                                | Unpaired t-test      |                                | t = 3.97                            | 0.0004                   |
| Supp. Fig. 1b                                  | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 16                                                | Mann-Whitney test    |                                | U = 8                               | <0.0001                  |
| Supp. Fig. 1c                                  | WT n = 14<br>AS n = 15                                                | Unpaired t-test      |                                | t = 4.88                            | <0.0001                  |
| IOS – Behavior correlation in AS mice          |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Supp. Fig. 2a                                  | AS n = 18                                                             | Pearson correlation  |                                | r = - 0.15                          | 0.542                    |
| Supp. Fig. 2b                                  | AS n = 16                                                             | Spearman correlation |                                | r = -0.26                           | 0.322                    |
| Supp. Fig. 2c                                  | AS n = 15                                                             | Pearson correlation  |                                | r = -0.003                          | 0.992                    |
| <b>Adult (P90) mice</b>                        |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Visual IOS recordings                          |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Fig.1d                                         | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 19                                                | Unpaired t-test      |                                | t = 4.09                            | 0.0003                   |
| Fig. 1e                                        | WT male n = 7<br>WT female n = 8<br>AS male n = 11<br>AS female n = 8 | Two-way ANOVA        | Genotype<br>Sex<br>Interaction | F = 15.68<br>F = 0.16<br>F = 0.52   | 0.0004<br>0.688<br>0.477 |
| Behavioral assessment                          |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Fig. 2a                                        | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 17                                                | Mann-Whitney test    |                                | U = 13                              | <0.0001                  |
| Fig. 2b                                        | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 19                                                | Mann-Whitney test    |                                | U = 19.5                            | <0.0001                  |
| Fig. 2c                                        | WT n = 15<br>AS n = 15                                                | Unpaired t-test      |                                | t = 1.84                            | 0.077                    |
| IOS – Behavior correlation in AS mice          |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Fig. 2d                                        | AS n = 17                                                             | Spearman correlation |                                | r = - 0.6                           | 0.012                    |
| Fig. 2e                                        | AS n = 19                                                             | Spearman correlation |                                | r = -0.23                           | 0.35                     |
| Fig. 2f                                        | AS n = 15                                                             | Pearson correlation  |                                | r = -0.04                           | 0.887                    |
| <b>IOS response to treatment interventions</b> |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Gene Therapy                                   |                                                                       |                      |                                |                                     |                          |
| Fig. 3b                                        | WT-NT n = 10<br>AS-NT n = 11<br>AS-PBS n = 9<br>AS-AAV n = 11         | One-Way ANOVA        |                                | F = 8.89                            | 0.0001                   |
| Fig. 3c                                        | WT-NT n = 9                                                           | One-Way ANOVA        |                                | F = 7.96                            | 0.0005                   |

|             |                                                               |                     |           |         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------|
|             | AS-NT n = 9<br>AS-PBS n = 8<br>AS-AAV n = 8                   |                     |           |         |
| Fig. 3d     | WT-NT n = 13<br>AS-NT n = 13<br>AS-PBS n = 8<br>AS-AAV n = 12 | One-Way ANOVA       | F = 16.33 | <0.0001 |
| Fig. 3e     | AS-AAV n = 8                                                  | Pearson correlation | r = -0.87 | 0.006   |
| Fig. 3f     | WT-NT n = 8<br>AS-PBS n = 4<br>AS-AAV n = 12                  | One-Way ANOVA       | F = 14.53 | 0.0001  |
| Fig. 3g     | AS-AAV n = 8                                                  | Pearson correlation | r = -0.81 | 0.015   |
| ASO therapy |                                                               |                     |           |         |
| Fig. 3i     | WT-NT n = 8<br>AS-NT n = 11<br>AS-PBS n = 8<br>AS-ASO n = 10  | One-Way ANOVA       | F = 9.87  | <0.0001 |
| Fig. 3l     | WT-NT n = 7<br>AS-PBS n = 6<br>AS-ASO n = 8                   | One-Way ANOVA       | F = 43.57 | <0.0001 |
| Fig. 3m     | AS-ASO n = 8                                                  | Pearson correlation | r = -0.64 | 0.085   |

**Supplementary Table 1. Statistical analysis for the validation of visual IOS recordings as biomarker in the AS mouse model.** Analyses were conducted in both juvenile (P45) and adult (P90) cohorts to compare IOS responses between WT and AS groups, using unpaired t-tests for pooled comparisons, and two-way ANOVA to evaluate the effects of genotype and sex. Additional analyses assessed the effects of therapeutic interventions in AS mice, including gene therapy and antisense oligonucleotide treatment, using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc tests for group comparisons. Associations between IOS responses, behavioral performance, and UBE3A-related measures were evaluated using correlation analyses. The table reports, for each comparison, sample size, the statistical test used, factors, test statistics, and p-values.

| <i>Category</i>                                  | <i>Parameter</i>            | <i>Value</i>                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Model information</b>                         | Classifier                  | Random Forest                             |
|                                                  | Input features              | 2 IOS variables + 2 behavioural variables |
|                                                  | Sample size                 | 67 mice                                   |
| <b>Overall performance</b>                       | Mean accuracy               | ~0.88                                     |
|                                                  | Accuracy (10-fold CV range) | 0.84–0.90                                 |
|                                                  | Full-dataset accuracy       | >0.95                                     |
|                                                  | AUC (ROC)                   | 0.97                                      |
|                                                  | False positive rate         | 0.11                                      |
|                                                  | False negative rate         | 0.12                                      |
| <b>Cross-validation metrics<br/>(10-fold CV)</b> | Accuracy                    | 0.85 ± 0.12                               |
|                                                  | Precision                   | 0.89 ± 0.17                               |
|                                                  | Recall (Sensitivity)        | 0.83 ± 0.17                               |
|                                                  | F1-score                    | 0.84 ± 0.11                               |
| <b>Feature importance</b>                        | Marble (behavioural)        | 0.352                                     |
|                                                  | Rotarod (behavioural)       | 0.289                                     |
|                                                  | Peak Amplitude (IOS)        | 0.192                                     |
|                                                  | Average Amplitude (IOS)     | 0.167                                     |

**Supplementary Table 2. Random Forest classification performance and feature importance for discrimination between WT and AS mice.** Summary of the Random Forest model, including overall performance, cross-validation metrics, and feature importance. The model was trained on a dataset of 67 mice and evaluated using 10-fold cross-validation. Performance is reported as accuracy range across folds, area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC–ROC), and false negative rate. Cross-validation metrics are presented as mean ± standard deviation for precision and F1-score. Feature importance values indicate the relative contribution of each variable to the model, highlighting behavioral measures (rotarod performance) and intrinsic optical signal (IOS) metrics, particularly average amplitude, among the most informative predictors.

| <b>Subject ID</b> | <b>Group</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>Gender</b> | <b>Genetic Mutation</b> | <b>Movie</b>                   |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AS01              | AS           | 36         | M             | Deletion                | Personal video                 |
| AS02              | AS           | 21         | F             | Deletion                | Horses                         |
| AS03              | AS           | 22         | F             | Deletion                | Pippi Longstocking             |
| AS04              | AS           | 10         | M             | Uniparental Disomy      | Toy story                      |
| AS05              | AS           | 3          | M             | Deletion                | Curious George                 |
| AS06              | AS           | 2          | M             | Deletion                | Bing                           |
| AS07              | AS           | 8          | M             | Mutation                | Personal video                 |
| AS08              | AS           | 27         | F             | Deletion                | Harry Potter                   |
| AS09              | AS           | 10         | F             | Deletion                | Cinderella                     |
| AS10              | AS           | 23         | M             | Deletion                | Peppa Pig                      |
| AS11              | AS           | 20         | F             | Mutation                | Toy story 3                    |
| AS12              | AS           | 4          | F             | Deletion                | Masha and the Bear             |
| AS13              | AS           | 9          | M             | Deletion                | Personal video                 |
| AS14              | AS           | 7          | M             | Deletion                | Curious George                 |
| AS15              | AS           | 31         | F             | Deletion                | The Hundred and One Dalmatians |
| AS16              | AS           | 25         | M             | Uniparental Disomy      | Moondance                      |
| AS17              | AS           | 12         | M             | Deletion                | Minions                        |
| AS18              | AS           | 15         | M             | Deletion                | Fantozzi clips*                |
| AS19              | AS           | 9          | M             | Deletion                | Masha and the Bear             |
| AS20              | AS           | 6          | F             | Mutation                | Mickey Mouse                   |
| AS21              | AS           | 13         | F             | Deletion                | Children playing games         |

|      |    |    |   |                    |                                |
|------|----|----|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| AS22 | AS | 24 | F | Deletion           | Checco Zalone clips*           |
| AS23 | AS | 12 | M | Deletion           | Personal video                 |
| AS24 | AS | 37 | F | Mutation           | Alvin 2                        |
| AS25 | AS | 29 | F | Mutation           | Alvin 2                        |
| AS26 | AS | 10 | F | Uniparental Disomy | Bluey                          |
| AS27 | AS | 12 | M | Deletion           | Toy story                      |
| AS28 | AS | 39 | M | Uniparental Disomy | The Christmas Chronicles 2     |
| AS29 | AS | 25 | F | Deletion           | Harry Potter                   |
| AS30 | AS | 35 | M | Deletion           | "Ricordare" the movie**        |
| AS31 | AS | 14 | F | Deletion           | Curious George                 |
| AS32 | AS | 23 | M | Deletion           | Pulcinella                     |
| AS33 | AS | 25 | M | Deletion           | Autobus                        |
| AS34 | AS | 8  | M | Uniparental Disomy | "Noemi" the movie**            |
| AS35 | AS | 21 | F | Deletion           | Personal video                 |
| AS36 | AS | 15 | M | Deletion           | Masha and the Bear             |
| AS37 | AS | 22 | F | Deletion           | Harry Potter                   |
| AS38 | AS | 25 | F | Deletion           | Personal video                 |
| AS39 | AS | 30 | M | Uniparental Disomy | Pope's Angelus                 |
| AS40 | AS | 3  | M | Deletion           | Bing                           |
| AS41 | AS | 17 | F | Micro-deletion     | Ben & Holly                    |
| AS42 | AS | 21 | M | Mutation           | <i>La stanza inclinata</i> *** |

|       |     |    |   |                |                                     |
|-------|-----|----|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| AS43  | AS  | 11 | M | Deletion       | Mickey Mouse                        |
| AS44  | AS  | 40 | F | Mutation       | <i>Stasera tutto è possibile***</i> |
| AS45  | AS  | 24 | F | Deletion       | Pippi Longstocking                  |
| AS46  | AS  | 30 | F | Deletion       | Personal video                      |
| AS47  | AS  | 30 | M | Micro-deletion | Spirit                              |
| AS48  | AS  | 2  | F | Deletion       | Masha and the Bear                  |
| AS49  | AS  | 2  | F | Deletion       | Bing                                |
| CTR01 | CTR | 31 | F | -              | Futurama                            |
| CTR02 | CTR | 29 | M | -              | The Aristocats                      |
| CTR03 | CTR | 39 | M | -              | Cars                                |
| CTR04 | CTR | 32 | F | -              | Peanuts                             |
| CTR05 | CTR | 25 | F | -              | Pollon                              |
| CTR06 | CTR | 34 | F | -              | Minions                             |
| CTR07 | CTR | 25 | M | -              | The Incredibles                     |
| CTR08 | CTR | 26 | M | -              | Wall-e                              |
| CTR09 | CTR | 27 | M | -              | Finding Nemo                        |
| CTR10 | CTR | 31 | M | -              | The Simpson                         |
| CTR11 | CTR | 36 | M | -              | Peppa Pig                           |
| CTR12 | CTR | 4  | M | -              | Finding Nemo                        |
| CTR13 | CTR | 10 | F | -              | Frozen                              |
| CTR14 | CTR | 10 | M | -              | The Simpson                         |
| CTR15 | CTR | 3  | M | -              | Tom and Jerry                       |
| CTR16 | CTR | 13 | F | -              | Friends                             |

|       |     |    |   |   |                               |
|-------|-----|----|---|---|-------------------------------|
| CTR17 | CTR | 10 | M | - | Pollon                        |
| CTR18 | CTR | 12 | M | - | Big Hero 2                    |
| CTR19 | CTR | 4  | F | - | Frozen                        |
| CTR20 | CTR | 11 | M | - | The Christmas Chronicles 2    |
| CTR21 | CTR | 27 | F | - | Frozen                        |
| CTR22 | CTR | 3  | F | - | Frozen                        |
| CTR23 | CTR | 3  | M | - | Bing                          |
| CTR24 | CTR | 6  | M | - | Gumball                       |
| CTR25 | CTR | 12 | M | - | Harry Potter                  |
| CTR26 | CTR | 7  | M | - | Paw Patrol                    |
| CTR27 | CTR | 8  | M | - | Captain Tsubasa               |
| CTR28 | CTR | 22 | M | - | Finding Nemo                  |
| CTR29 | CTR | 37 | F | - | <i>La stanza inclinata***</i> |
| CTR30 | CTR | 43 | M | - | Harry Potter                  |
| CTR31 | CTR | 13 | F | - | Horses                        |
| CTR32 | CTR | 10 | F | - | Lilo & Stitch                 |
| CTR33 | CTR | 8  | M | - | Inside Out                    |
| CTR34 | CTR | 6  | M | - | Gumball                       |
| CTR35 | CTR | 25 | F | - | Spirit                        |
| CTR36 | CTR | 9  | M | - | Gaming clips                  |
| CTR37 | CTR | 48 | M | - | Peanuts                       |
| CTR38 | CTR | 10 | M | - | Gaming clips                  |
| CTR39 | CTR | 2  | F | - | Frozen 2                      |

|              |     |    |   |   |                      |
|--------------|-----|----|---|---|----------------------|
| <i>CTR40</i> | CTR | 32 | F | - | Harry Potter         |
| <i>CTR41</i> | CTR | 7  | F | - | Gumball              |
| <i>CTR42</i> | CTR | 3  | M | - | Cars                 |
| <i>CTR43</i> | CTR | 22 | F | - | Checco Zalone clips* |
| <i>CTR44</i> | CTR | 26 | M | - | Checco Zalone clips* |
| <i>CTR45</i> | CTR | 41 | M | - | Inside Out           |

**Supplementary Table 3. Participant demographics and experimental stimuli in AS and control groups.** Summary of demographic and clinical characteristics of participants included in the study, grouped into Angelman syndrome (AS) and control (CTR) cohorts. For each subject, age (years) and sex (M, male; F, female) are reported. For AS participants, the type of genetic alteration is specified (deletion, uniparental disomy, mutation, or microdeletion). The “Movie” column indicates the visual stimulus presented during the experimental session, including standard cartoons, films, or individualized videos. \*denotes a selection of films by the same director; \*\* indicates Italian films for which no official English translation is available; \*\*\* refers to Italian television shows. All subject identifiers are anonymized.

| Metric   | Unit | Hb Type | Effect          | N_Subjects | N_CTR | N_AS | F        | df1 | df2 | p_unc | $\eta^2$ |
|----------|------|---------|-----------------|------------|-------|------|----------|-----|-----|-------|----------|
| Method 1 |      |         |                 |            |       |      |          |     |     |       |          |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbO     | Condition       | 77         | 39    | 38   | 18.438   | 1   | 75  | 0.000 | 0.197    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbO     | Group           | 77         | 39    | 38   | 4.877    | 1   | 75  | 0.030 | 0.061    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbO     | Group×Condition | 77         | 39    | 38   | 0.378    | 1   | 75  | 0.541 | 0.005    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbR     | Condition       | 79         | 40    | 39   | 18.608   | 1   | 77  | 0.000 | 0.195    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbR     | Group           | 79         | 40    | 39   | 0.904    | 1   | 77  | 0.345 | 0.012    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbR     | Group×Condition | 79         | 40    | 39   | 8.678    | 1   | 77  | 0.004 | 0.101    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbT     | Condition       | 75         | 39    | 36   | 8.557    | 1   | 73  | 0.005 | 0.105    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbT     | Group           | 75         | 39    | 36   | 9.837    | 1   | 73  | 0.002 | 0.119    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbT     | Group×Condition | 75         | 39    | 36   | 0.996    | 1   | 73  | 0.321 | 0.013    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbO     | Condition       | 76         | 37    | 39   | 8.369    | 1   | 74  | 0.005 | 0.102    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbO     | Group           | 76         | 37    | 39   | 26.488   | 1   | 74  | 0.000 | 0.264    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbO     | Group×Condition | 76         | 37    | 39   | 0.006    | 1   | 74  | 0.939 | 0.000    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbR     | Condition       | 81         | 38    | 43   | 18.853   | 1   | 79  | 0.000 | 0.193    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbR     | Group           | 81         | 38    | 43   | 37.602   | 1   | 79  | 0.000 | 0.322    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbR     | Group×Condition | 81         | 38    | 43   | 13.414   | 1   | 79  | 0.000 | 0.145    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbT     | Condition       | 77         | 37    | 40   | 4.089    | 1   | 75  | 0.047 | 0.052    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbT     | Group           | 77         | 37    | 40   | 33.667   | 1   | 75  | 0.000 | 0.310    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbT     | Group×Condition | 77         | 37    | 40   | 0.295    | 1   | 75  | 0.588 | 0.004    |
| Method 2 |      |         |                 |            |       |      |          |     |     |       |          |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbO     | Condition       | 94         | 45    | 49   | 142.0735 | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.607    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbO     | Group           | 94         | 45    | 49   | 3.979    | 1   | 92  | 0.049 | 0.041    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbO     | Group×Condition | 94         | 45    | 49   | 8.262    | 1   | 92  | 0.005 | 0.082    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbR     | Condition       | 94         | 45    | 49   | 113.235  | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.552    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbR     | Group           | 94         | 45    | 49   | 3.200    | 1   | 92  | 0.077 | 0.034    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbR     | Group×Condition | 94         | 45    | 49   | 14.767   | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.138    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbT     | Condition       | 94         | 45    | 49   | 124.908  | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.576    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbT     | Group           | 94         | 45    | 49   | 4.461    | 1   | 92  | 0.037 | 0.046    |
| AUC      | mM.s | HbT     | Group×Condition | 94         | 45    | 49   | 0.307    | 1   | 92  | 0.581 | 0.003    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbO     | Condition       | 94         | 45    | 49   | 109.548  | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.544    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbO     | Group           | 94         | 45    | 49   | 3.014    | 1   | 92  | 0.086 | 0.032    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbO     | Group×Condition | 94         | 45    | 49   | 4.948    | 1   | 92  | 0.029 | 0.051    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbR     | Condition       | 94         | 45    | 49   | 91.129   | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.498    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbR     | Group           | 94         | 45    | 49   | 6.283    | 1   | 92  | 0.014 | 0.064    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbR     | Group×Condition | 94         | 45    | 49   | 9.746    | 1   | 92  | 0.002 | 0.096    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbT     | Condition       | 94         | 45    | 49   | 114.764  | 1   | 92  | 0.000 | 0.555    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbT     | Group           | 94         | 45    | 49   | 0.395    | 1   | 92  | 0.531 | 0.004    |
| Peak     | mM   | HbT     | Group×Condition | 94         | 45    | 49   | 0.312    | 1   | 92  | 0.578 | 0.003    |

**Supplementary Table 4. ANOVA results for hemodynamic responses (AUC and peak) across hemoglobin species and experimental factors.** Results of two-way ANOVA testing the effects of Condition, Group, and their interaction (Group × Condition) on hemodynamic response metrics for both method 1 and method 2. Analyses were performed separately for area under the curve (AUC) and peak amplitude across hemoglobin species: oxygenated (HbO), deoxygenated (HbR), and total hemoglobin (HbT). Columns report the number of subjects per group (N\_Subjects, N\_CTR, N\_AS), F-statistics, degrees of freedom (df1, df2), uncorrected p-values (p\_unc), partial eta squared ( $\eta^2$ ) as effect size. Statistical significance was defined at  $p < 0.05$  after correction. Notably, Method 1 showed a higher number of outliers, likely due to residual motion artifacts, whereas no outliers were detected using Method 2.

| Metric          | Unit | Hb Type | Stats_test      | Comparison           | N_Ctr | N_AS | T      | dof    | p_unc | Cohen_d | p_bh  |
|-----------------|------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| <b>Method 1</b> |      |         |                 |                      |       |      |        |        |       |         |       |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbO     | pairwise t-test | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 38    | 38   | -2.507 | 37.000 | 0.017 | 0.626   | 0.021 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbR     | pairwise t-test | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 39    | 39   | 3.628  | 38.000 | 0.001 | 0.988   | 0.002 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbT     | pairwise t-test | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 36    | 36   | -1.920 | 35.000 | 0.063 | 0.539   | 0.063 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbO     | pairwise t-test | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 39    | 39   | -7.421 | 38.000 | 0.000 | 2.064   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbR     | pairwise t-test | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 40    | 40   | 5.955  | 39.000 | 0.000 | 1.559   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbT     | pairwise t-test | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 39    | 39   | -7.470 | 38.000 | 0.000 | 2.122   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbO     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 39    | 38   | -2.303 | 43.913 | 0.026 | 0.531   | 0.029 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbR     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 40    | 39   | 2.624  | 39.001 | 0.012 | 0.598   | 0.020 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbT     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 39    | 36   | -2.607 | 36.211 | 0.013 | 0.627   | 0.020 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbO     | pairwise t-test | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 39    | 39   | -1.473 | 38.000 | 0.149 | 0.261   | 0.168 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbR     | pairwise t-test | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 43    | 43   | 4.145  | 42.000 | 0.000 | 0.707   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbT     | pairwise t-test | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 40    | 40   | -1.327 | 39.000 | 0.192 | 0.239   | 0.192 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbO     | pairwise t-test | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 37    | 37   | -7.689 | 36.000 | 0.000 | 1.578   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbR     | pairwise t-test | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 38    | 38   | 3.216  | 37.000 | 0.003 | 0.651   | 0.003 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbT     | pairwise t-test | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 37    | 37   | -8.382 | 36.000 | 0.000 | 1.556   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbO     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 37    | 39   | -4.361 | 42.528 | 0.000 | 0.977   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbR     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 38    | 43   | -5.181 | 42.650 | 0.000 | 1.085   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbT     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 37    | 40   | -5.070 | 40.023 | 0.000 | 1.113   | 0.000 |
| TTP             | s    | HbO     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -0.957 | 82.983 | 0.342 | 0.194   | 0.512 |
| TTP             | s    | HbR     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | 2.601  | 83.561 | 0.011 | 0.543   | 0.033 |
| TTP             | s    | HbT     | pairwise t-test | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -0.423 | 88.458 | 0.673 | 0.086   | 0.673 |
| <b>Method 2</b> |      |         |                 |                      |       |      |        |        |       |         |       |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbO     | paired t-test   | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 49    | 49   | -9.627 | 48.000 | 0.000 | 1.920   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbO     | paired t-test   | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 45    | 45   | -7.035 | 44.000 | 0.000 | 1.944   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbR     | paired t-test   | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 49    | 49   | 8.603  | 48.000 | 0.000 | 1.805   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbR     | paired t-test   | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 45    | 45   | 6.397  | 44.000 | 0.000 | 1.782   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbT     | paired t-test   | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 49    | 49   | -8.661 | 48.000 | 0.000 | 1.719   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbT     | paired t-test   | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 45    | 45   | -7.149 | 44.000 | 0.000 | 1.968   | 0.000 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbO     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -3.059 | 72.032 | 0.003 | 0.616   | 0.004 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbR     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | 3.501  | 63.245 | 0.001 | 0.700   | 0.001 |
| AUC             | mM.s | HbT     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -1.670 | 87.189 | 0.099 | 0.340   | 0.099 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbO     | paired t-test   | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 49    | 49   | -7.805 | 48.000 | 0.000 | 1.226   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbO     | paired t-test   | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 45    | 45   | -7.219 | 44.000 | 0.000 | 1.434   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbR     | paired t-test   | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 49    | 49   | 7.404  | 48.000 | 0.000 | 1.148   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbR     | paired t-test   | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 45    | 45   | 6.412  | 44.000 | 0.000 | 1.338   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbT     | paired t-test   | AS Mock vs AS Stim   | 49    | 49   | -7.913 | 48.000 | 0.000 | 1.183   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbT     | paired t-test   | CTR Mock vs CTR Stim | 45    | 45   | -7.222 | 44.000 | 0.000 | 1.391   | 0.000 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbO     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -2.074 | 73.405 | 0.042 | 0.418   | 0.047 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbR     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | 2.932  | 65.442 | 0.005 | 0.587   | 0.006 |
| Peak            | mM   | HbT     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -0.662 | 87.158 | 0.510 | 0.135   | 0.510 |
| TTP             | s    | HbO     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -2.456 | 90.874 | 0.016 | 0.503   | 0.024 |
| TTP             | s    | HbR     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -2.879 | 91.822 | 0.005 | 0.591   | 0.015 |
| TTP             | s    | HbT     | Welch t-test    | CTR Stim vs AS Stim  | 45    | 49   | -1.882 | 88.077 | 0.063 | 0.384   | 0.063 |

**Supplementary Table 5. Paired t-test results comparing hemodynamic responses between experimental conditions (methods 1 and 2).** Results of paired t-tests comparing hemodynamic responses between mock and stimulation conditions. Analyses were performed separately for area under the curve (AUC) and peak amplitude across hemoglobin species: oxygenated (HbO), deoxygenated (HbR), and total hemoglobin (HbT). The table reports the number of subjects (N), t-statistics (t), degrees of freedom (dof), uncorrected p-values (p\_unc), effect sizes (e.g., Cohen's d), and Benjamini–Hochberg corrected p-values (p\_bh) for multiple comparisons. Statistical significance was defined at  $p < 0.05$  after correction. Notably, a higher number of outliers was observed in method 1, likely reflecting residual motion artifacts, whereas no outliers were detected using method 2.

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