



**Figure 3.** Effects of VIP activation on auditory cortical activity. VIP activation increased both spontaneous and evoked firing rates, with no net effect on modulation by sound.

**A.** Spontaneous firing rate of recorded neurons ( $N = 372$ ) during laser-off and laser-on trials. Green: narrow-spiking neurons, grey: regular-spiking neurons. Red filled circle: population mean, red unfilled circle: median.

**B.** Onset response firing rate of recorded neurons ( $N = 372$ ) to a white noise stimulus (0 -100 ms post stimulus onset) during laser-on and laser-off trials.

**C.** Mean response of an example neuron to a white noise stimulus during laser-off (grey) and laser-on (cyan) trials, while the mouse was sitting. White noise is depicted in magenta (vertical dashed line shows onset), laser is depicted in cyan (vertical dashed line shows onset).

**D.** Distributions of sound modulation indices while the mouse was sitting with (cyan) and without (grey) VIP activation. VIP activation had no net effect on sound modulation index (sound MI laser-off =  $0.53 \pm 0.01$ , laser-on  $0.47 \pm 0.02$ , rank-sum  $p = 0.12$ ,  $N = 372$  cells).

**E.** Comparison of sound modulation index in sitting laser-off versus laser-on conditions for each cell ( $N = 372$ ).