# **Supporting Information**

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Fig. S1. Comparison of RNA-seq and RT-qPCR and Nanostring nCounter methods. (A) Basal gene expression levels in S2-DRSC, Kc, and S2R+ cell lines determined using Nanostring nCounter and modENCODE RNA-seq data available from FlyBase (version 6.03). The graph represents normalized Nanostring counts (log<sub>10</sub>, y axis) as a function of RNA-seq reads per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads (RPKM) (log<sub>10</sub>, x axis). The linear trends observed for each cell line plot indicate the strong correlation between Nanostring and modENCODE data. (B) Pearson correlation coefficiency scores of the average Nanostring counts versus RNA-seq.

#### Fig. S1

Fig. S2. Fold induction versus basal expression level. The plot represents basal gene expression level ( $\log_2$  average normalized counts under control conditions, x axis) as a function of  $\log_2$  fold change between stimulated and control conditions (y axis). A Pearson correlation score (-0.015) was calculated between all basal expression levels and fold inductions measured across all pathway assays and demonstrates the absence of correlation.

#### Fig. S2

Fig. S3. Enlarged volcano plots for each single and combinatorial assay. Data are represented for single and multicombinatorial assays (Figs. 1D and 2B). Red circles indicate high-confidence hits, purple circles represent medium-confidence hits, and blue circles represent low-confidence hits. Black dots represent nonscoring genes.

#### Fig. S3

#### Dataset S1. Basal expression level of ligand and receptor genes in Drosophila cell lines

#### Dataset S1

Summary of RNA-seq data of *Drosophila* ligand gene expression levels in S2R+, S2-DRSC, and Kc cell lines. RNA-seq data are from Fly Cell Line Expression Level (www.flyrnai.org/cellexpress) of the *Drosophila* RNAi Screening Center (DRSC) (fgr.hms.harvard.edu). The majority of ligands are either not expressed or expressed at a low level in the cell lines.

#### Dataset S2. Customized Nanostring nCounter code sets

#### Dataset S2

Tab 1 lists the Nanostring code set: version and summary of gene number and type (ligand, receptor, reporter, housekeeping gene, and others). Tabs 2 and 3 list details of the two code set versions: gene name, FlyBase identification (ID), code set probe ID, probe sequences, and lengths. Tab 4 shows the match between Nanostring code set probes and relative target gene transcript(s). Alignment was validated using version 6.03 *Drosophila* genome annotation from FlyBase.

#### Dataset S3. Nanostring gene expression dataset for single and combinatorial assays

#### Dataset S3

Expression data and statistics (counts, ratios, t test type and P values, hit selection criteria) for all genes included in the Nanostring code set (reporters, ligands, receptors, and housekeeping genes) following single- and dual-pathway assays with three biological replicates at two time points (30 min and 1 h). Hits are colored in red, blue, and purple according to confidence levels (high, medium, and low, respectively). The cell line used for each treatment is shown in the first column.

### Dataset S4. Genes regulated by single- and combinatorial pathway stimulations

#### Dataset S4

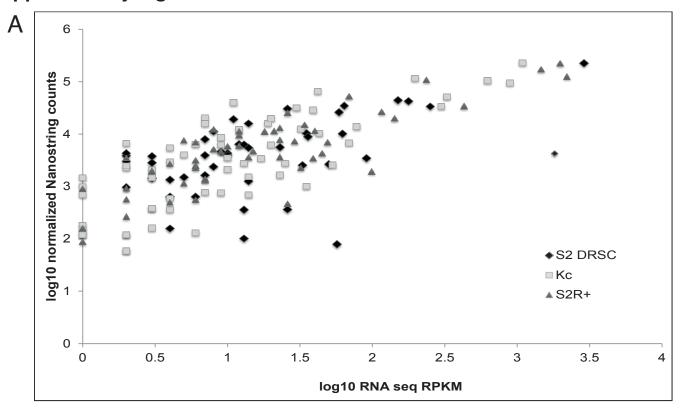
Summary of genes regulated by either single- or combinatorial pathway stimulations.

## Dataset S5. Reference genes selected per cell line to normalize the Nanostring nCounter data

## Dataset S5

An unbiased method was used to select reference genes across both code sets and for each cell line to normalize Nanostring nCounter data. Ten genes ranging from low to high expression and showing the lowest coefficient of variation per cell line across all assays were selected as references. The reference sets also included two housekeeping genes commonly used for *Drosophila* gene expression analysis (alphaTub84B and gapdh1).

## **Supplementary Figure 1**



Comparison of Nanostring versus RPKM RNA seq data

Cell line Pearson correlation score

Kc 0.89

SPR+ 0.90

SP DRSC 0.81

# Supplementary Figure 2

