

# New technologies for the identification and functional study of neuronal networks

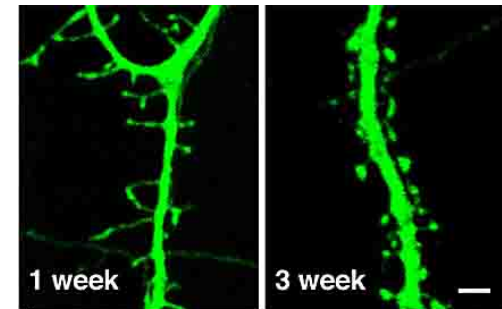
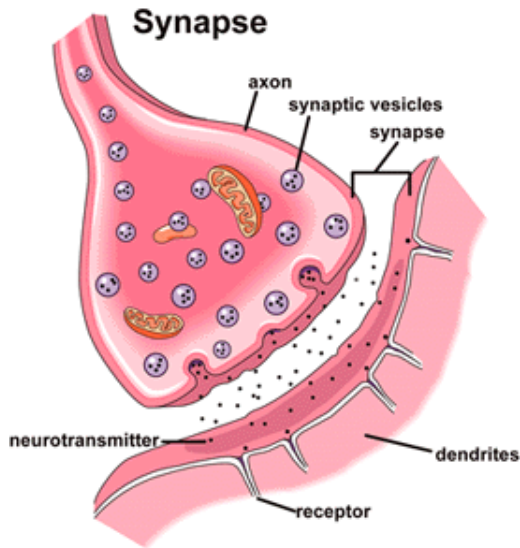
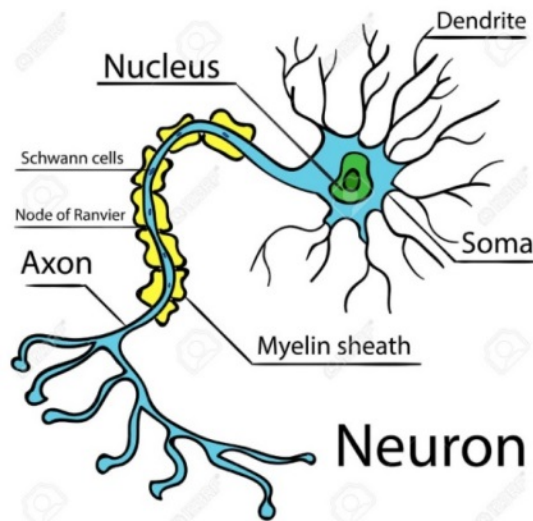
Yingjun Liu (Aguzzi lab)

11.10.2016

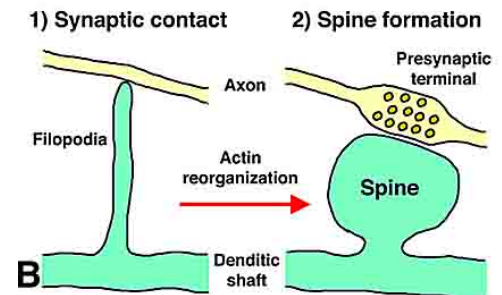
# Contents

- History of the functional study of the brain
- Whole-brain mapping of neuronal networks responsible for specific brain functions
- Methods for functional study of neural networks

# Neural circuit is the basis for brain functions



A

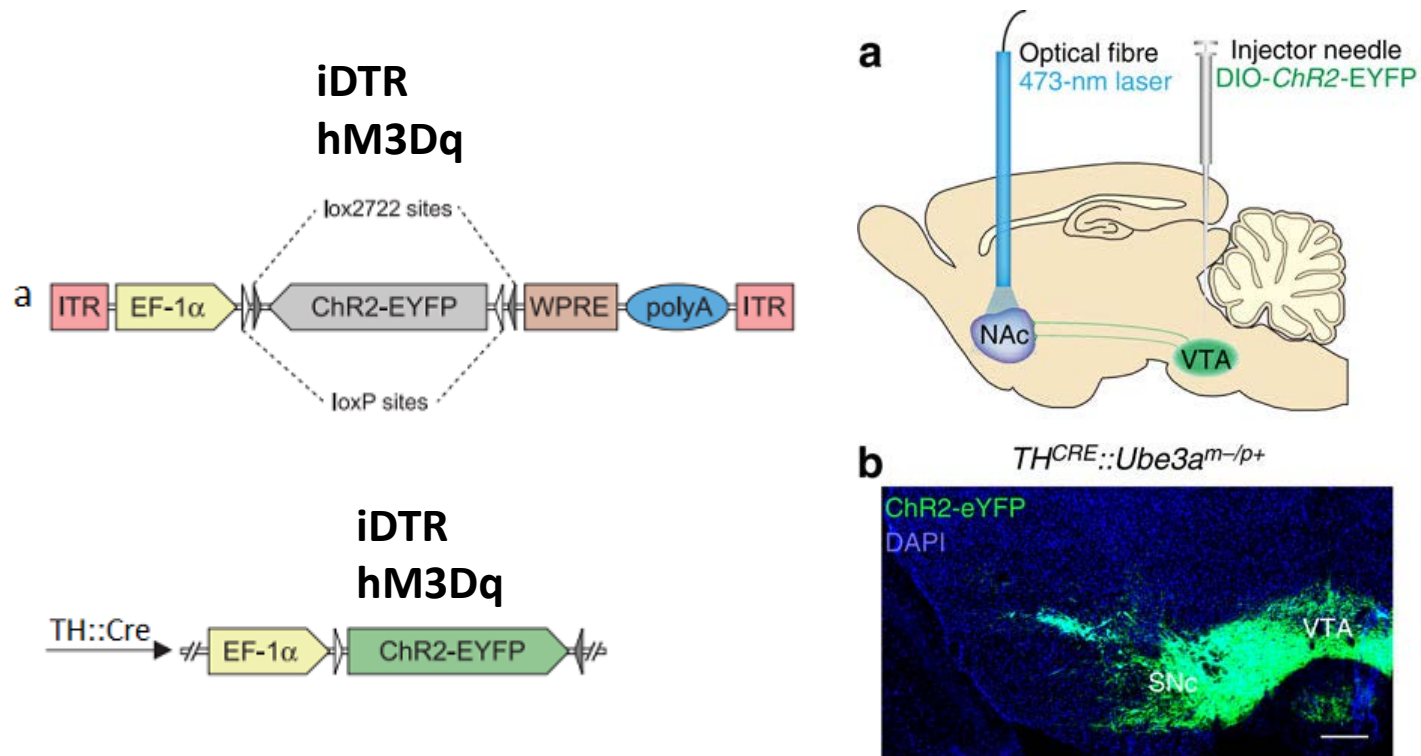


B

# Early functional studies of the brain

- (1) Selective surgical ablation of parts of the brain of animals;
- (2) Faradic and galvanic (i.e., steady or pulsed electrical) stimulation of the brain of animals and humans;

# Cell-type specific ablation and functional manipulations

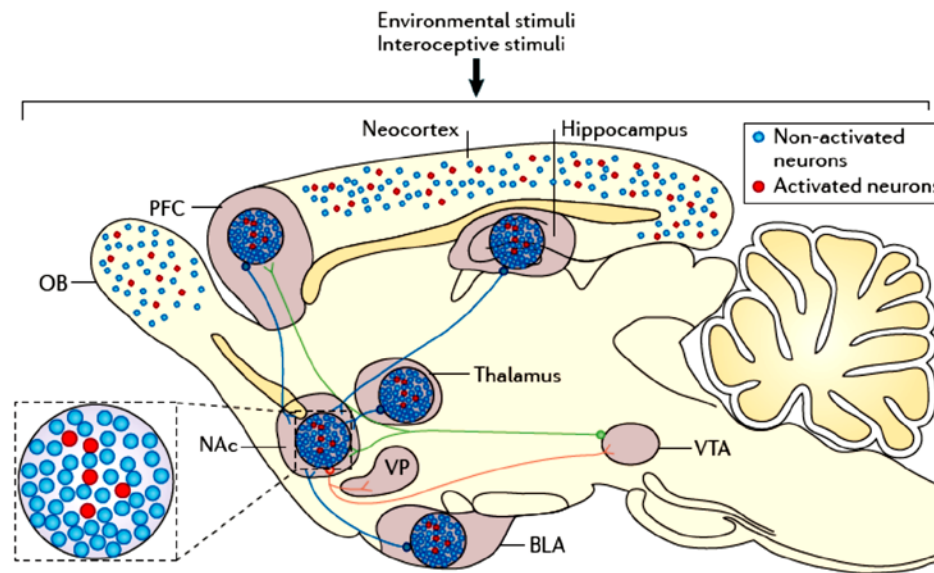


Modified from

Tsai HC and Deisseroth K et al., 2009, Science

Janet Berrios, Garret D. Stuber & Benjamin D. Philpot et al., 2015, Nature Communications

# Neuronal ensembles in brain activities



Mesocorticolimbic dopamine reward system

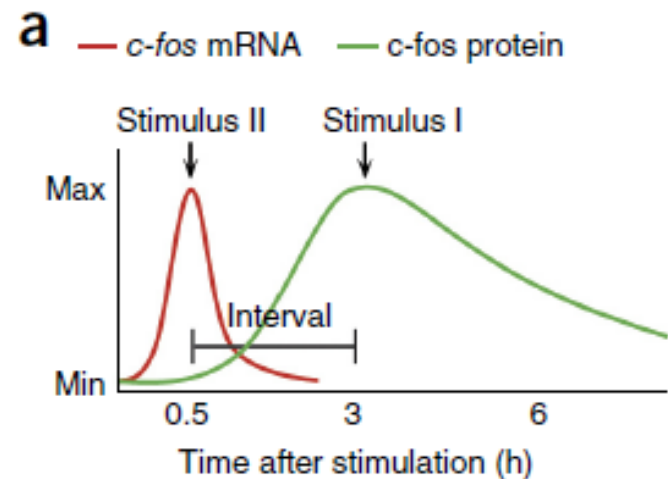
## Neuronal Ensembles

A group of neurons that show spatiotemporal co-activation.

# Immediate early genes (IEGs) as faithful surrogates of neuronal activation

**Table 1**  
Summary of activity-regulated, neuronal immediate-early genes.

Category	Gene
Transcription factors	<i>c-fos</i>
	<i>fos B</i>
	<i>c-jun</i>
	<i>junB</i>
	<i>zif268/egr1/krox24/NGFI-A</i>
	<i>egr2/krox20</i>
	<i>egr3/pilot</i> <i>nur-77/NGFI-B</i>
Postsynaptic proteins	<i>Arc/arg3.1</i> <i>homer1a/ves1s</i>
Intracellular signaling	Rheb
	RSG2
Secretory factors	SNK/Plk2
	Cox-2
	BDNF
	Activin $\beta$ A
	Narp
Membrane proteins	Tissue-plasminogen activator (tPA)
	Arcadin
	CPG15/neuritin





# Mapping of Brain Activity by Automated Volume Analysis of Immediate Early Genes

Nicolas Renier,<sup>1,7</sup> Eliza L. Adams,<sup>1,7</sup> Christoph Kirst,<sup>2,7</sup> Zhu hao Wu,<sup>1,7</sup> Ricardo Azevedo,<sup>1</sup> Johannes Kohl,<sup>3</sup> Anita E. Autry,<sup>3</sup> Lolahon Kadiri,<sup>5</sup> Kannan Umadevi Venkataraju,<sup>4,5</sup> Yu Zhou,<sup>6</sup> Victoria X. Wang,<sup>6</sup> Cheuk Y. Tang,<sup>6</sup> Olav Olsen,<sup>1</sup> Catherine Dulac,<sup>3</sup> Pavel Osten,<sup>4</sup> and Marc Tessier-Lavigne<sup>1,\*</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Center for Brain Science, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

<sup>4</sup>Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724, USA

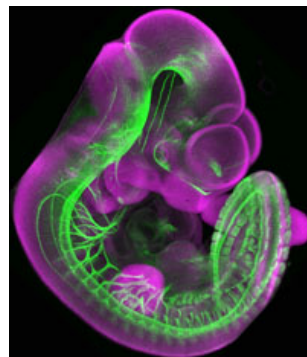
<sup>5</sup>Certerra, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724, USA

<sup>6</sup>Department of Radiology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY 10029, USA

<sup>7</sup>Co-first author

\*Correspondence: [marctl@rockefeller.edu](mailto:marctl@rockefeller.edu)

Whole-mount tissue staining



Whole-mount tissue clearing

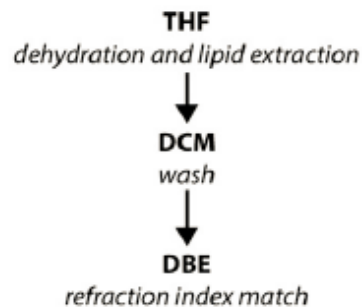
Method <sup>1</sup>	Year
ScaleA2	2011
ClearT2	2012
3DISCO	2012
CLARITY	2013
SeeDB	2013
CUBIC	2014



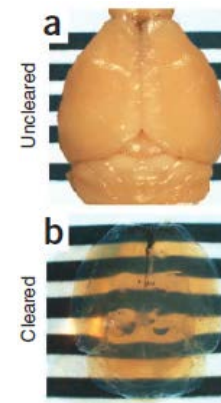
Method <sup>1</sup>	Year	Main clearing & refractive index matching agents	Cost <sup>2</sup>	Clearing capability	Ease of implementation	Time to clear	Compatibility with immunostaining
ScaleA2	2011	Urea	Inexpensive	Good	Very easy	<i>Months</i>	<i>May be limited<sup>3</sup></i>
ClearT2	2012	Formamide	Inexpensive	<i>Moderate</i>	Very easy	1 day	Compatible
3DISCO	2012	Benzyl Ether	Inexpensive	Very good	Very easy	1 day	Compatible
CLARITY	2013	SDS & Focusclear	<i>More expensive<sup>4</sup></i>	Good	<i>More difficult<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>Weeks<sup>4</sup></i>	<i>May be limited<sup>3</sup></i>
SeeDB	2013	Fructose	Inexpensive	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Moderate<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Several days</i>	Compatible
CUBIC	2014	Multiple Compounds	Inexpensive	Not fully tested	<i>Moderate<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>Weeks</i>	Not fully tested

**B**

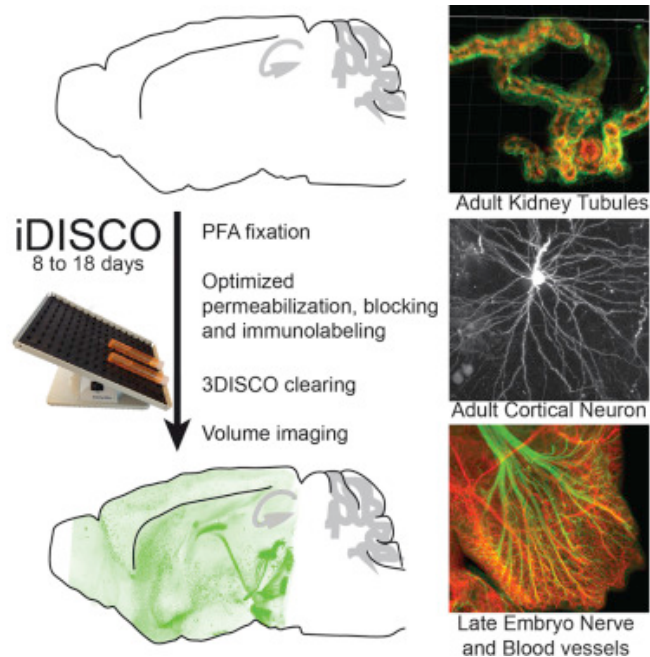
iDISCO / 3DISCO



THF: tetrahydrofuran  
DCM: Dichloromethane  
DBE: DiBenzyl Ether

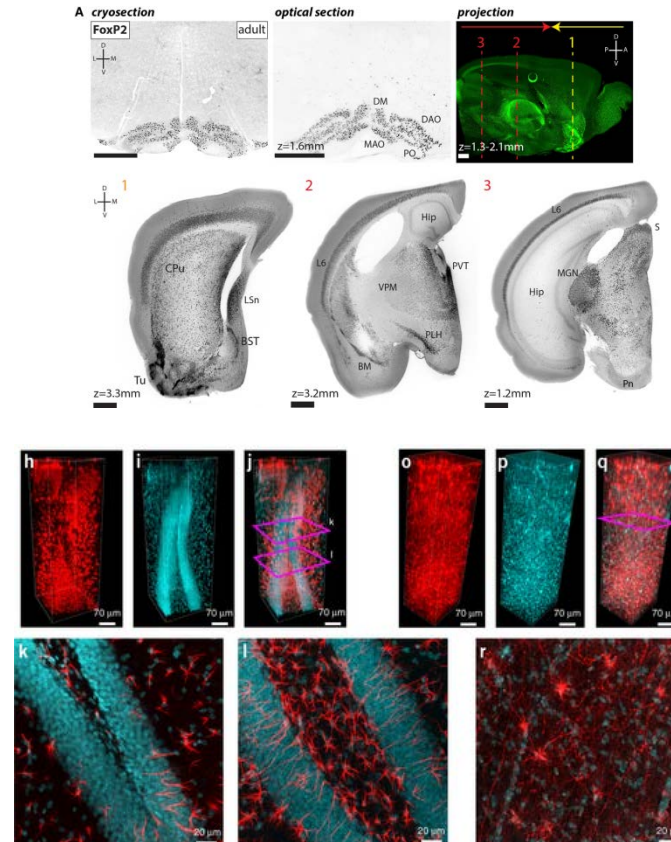
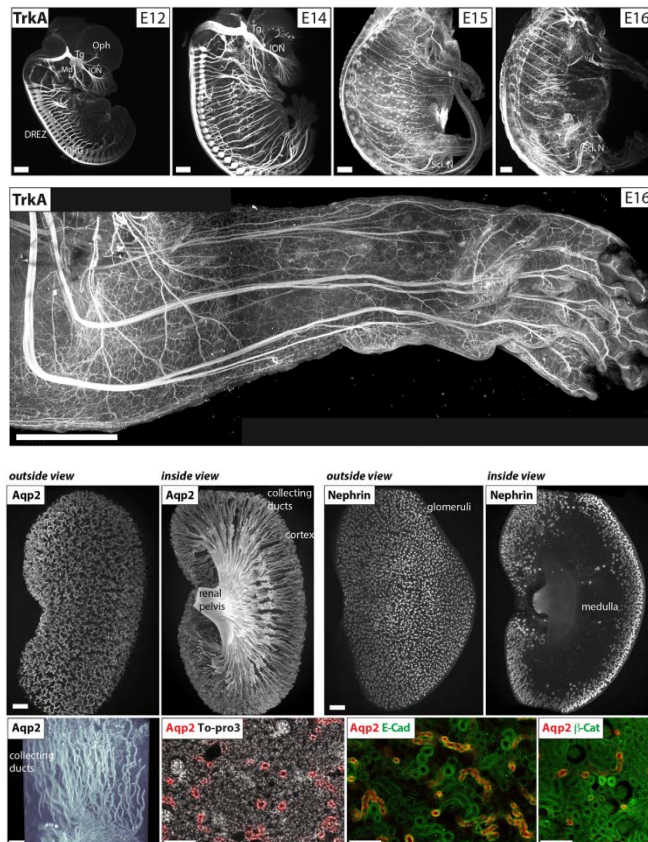


# iDISCO: A Simple, Rapid Method to Immunolabel Large Tissue Samples for Volume Imaging



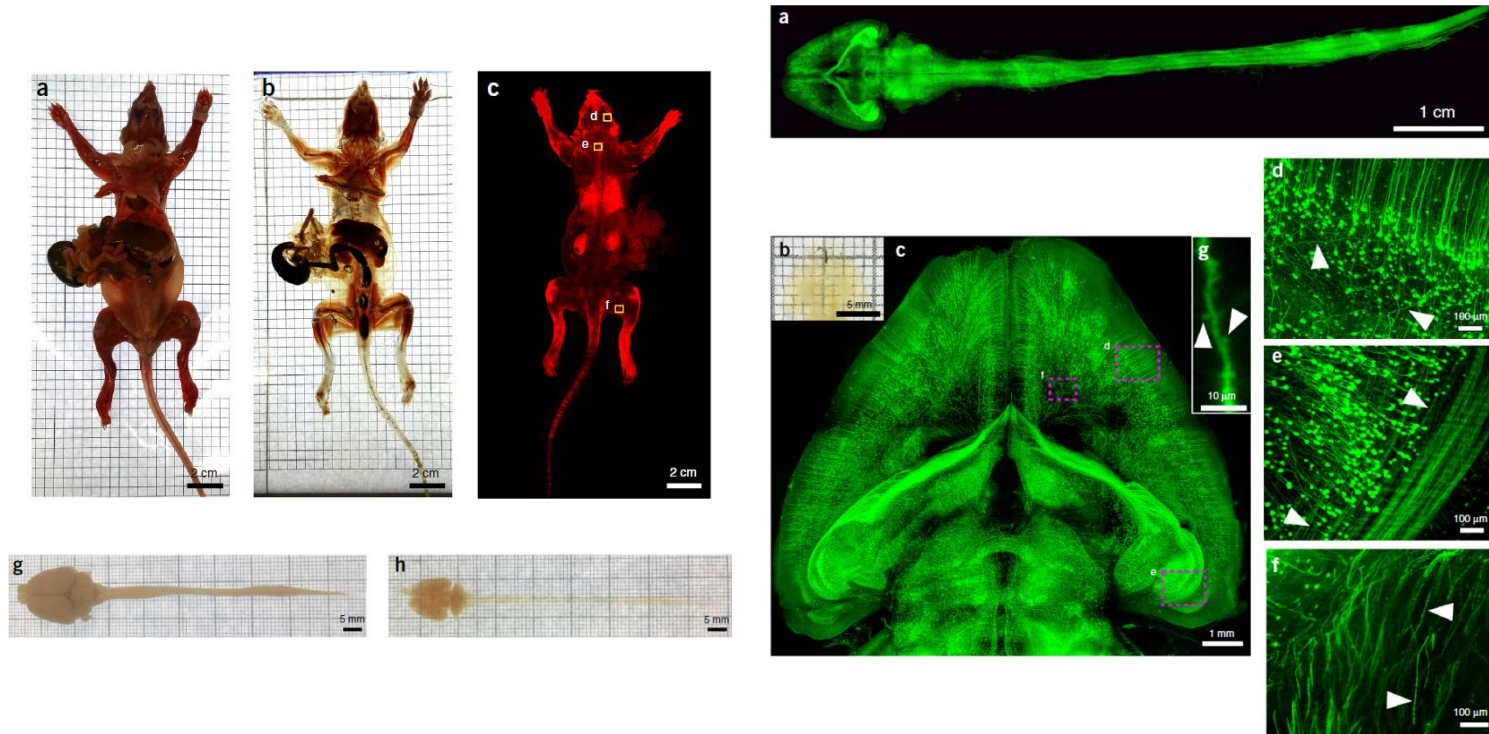
## Highlights

- iDISCO is a method for immunolabeling and volume imaging of large biological samples
- Could be used in large mouse embryos and adult organs
- Easy to implement, inexpensive, fast, and reliable



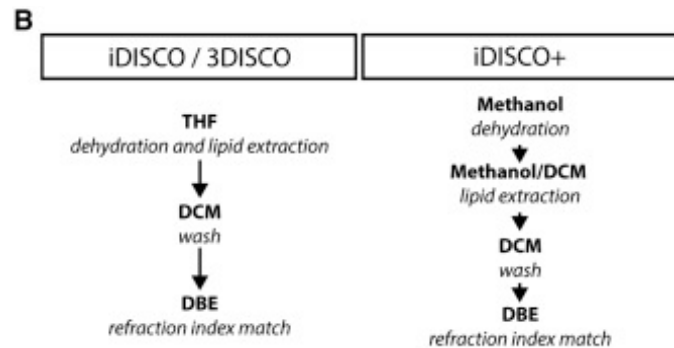
Nicolas Renier, Zhu hao Wu and Marc Tessier-Lavigne et al., 2014, Cell  
 Chenchen Pan, Ruiyao Cai, Francesca Paola Quacquarelli & Ali Ertürk  
 et al., 2016, Nature Methods

# Shrinkage-mediated imaging of entire organs and organisms using uDISCO



Chenchen Pan, Ruiyao Cai, Francesca Paola Quacquarelli & Ali Ertürk et al., 2016, Nature Methods

# iDISCO+ and ClearMap: A Pipeline for Cell Detection, Registration, and Mapping in Intact Samples Using Light Sheet Microscopy



THF: tetrahydrofuran  
DCM: Dichloromethane  
DBE: DiBenzyl Ether

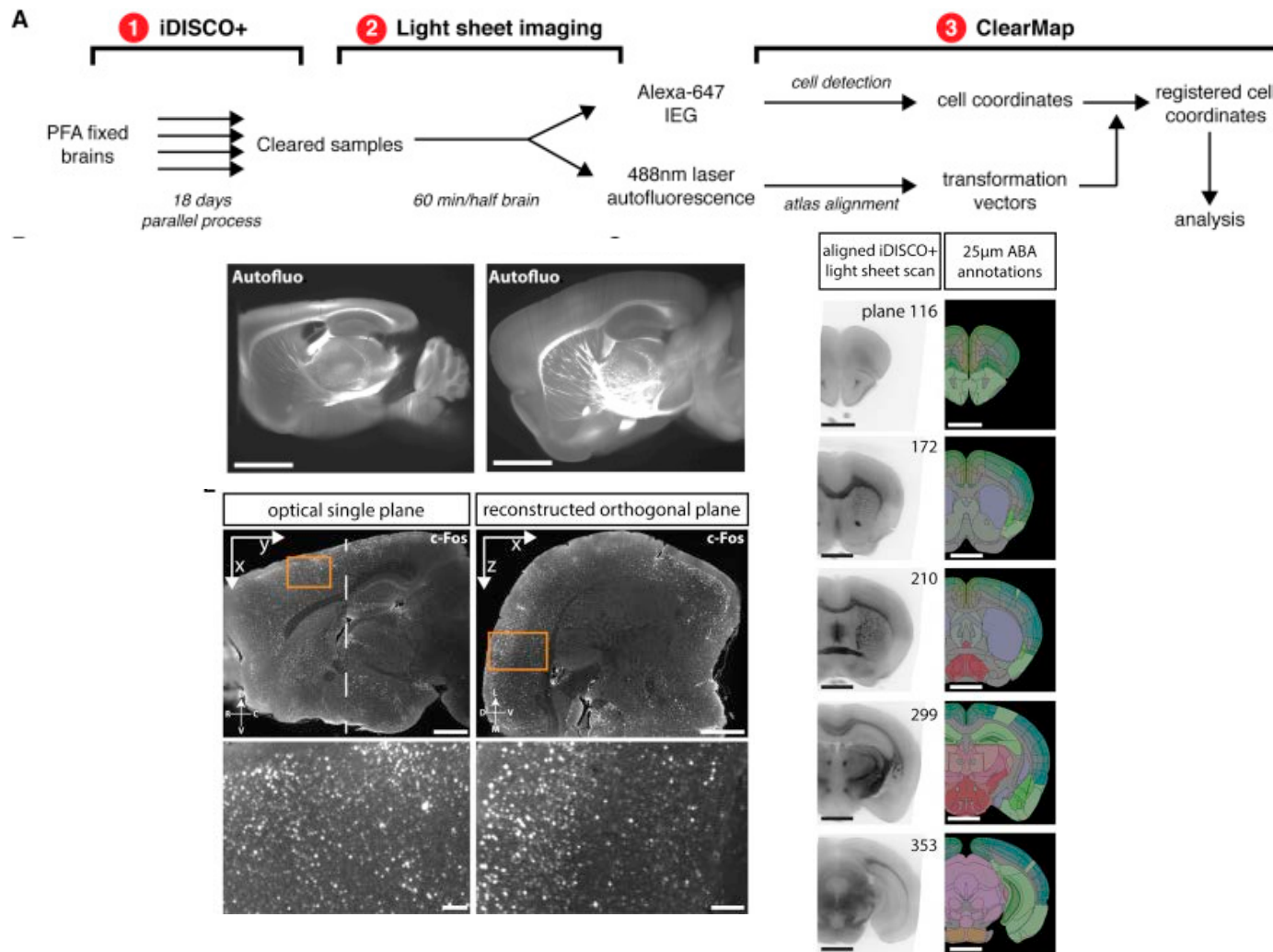
- **iDISCO+**

Improved version of the iDISCO protocol to reduce sample shrinkage and better preserve brain morphology, thereby enabling automated registration of the LSMF-imaged sample onto a reference brain atlas for automated comparisons

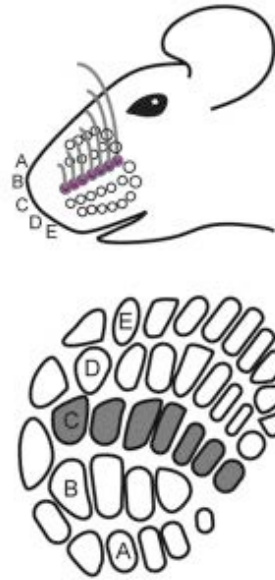
- **ClearMap**

A computer program based solely on open-source components and compatible with a desktop workstation that is applied to the imaging data to count cells in 3D, registers them onto a reference atlas, and generates distribution maps and statistical analysis of intact mouse brains in <1 hr per sample.

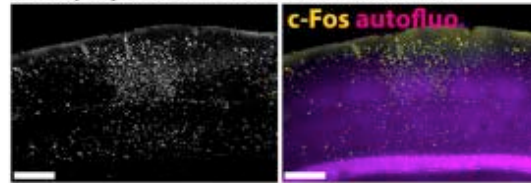




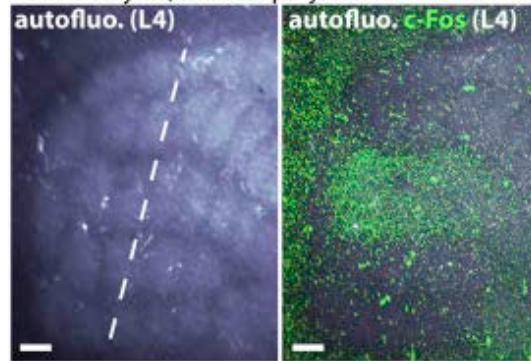
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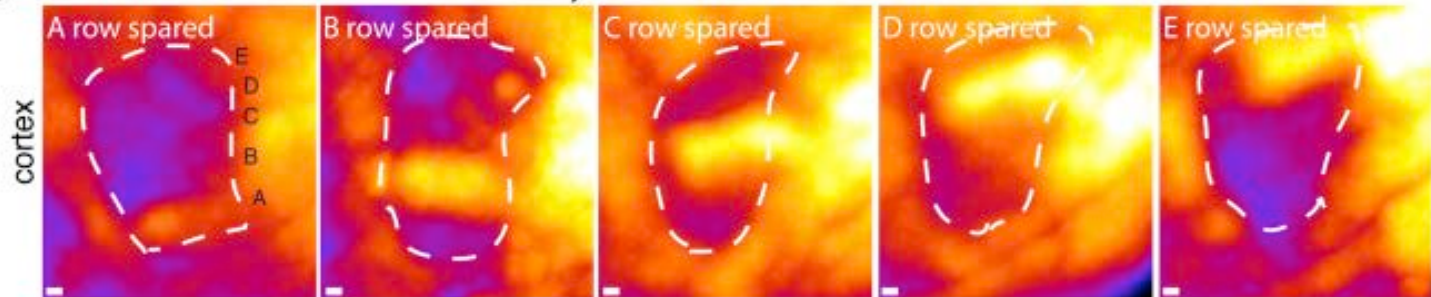
B arc 2 projection, manual 3D annotation



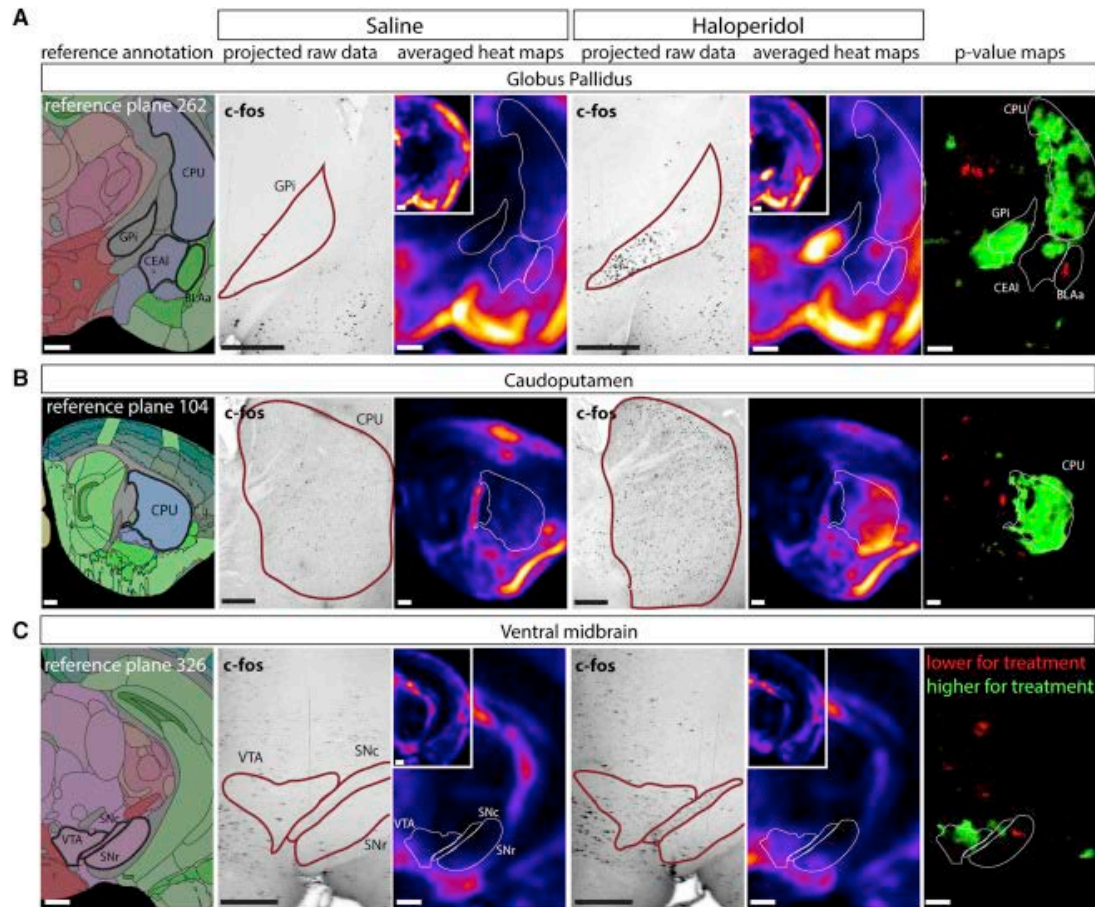
C cortical layers, manual projections



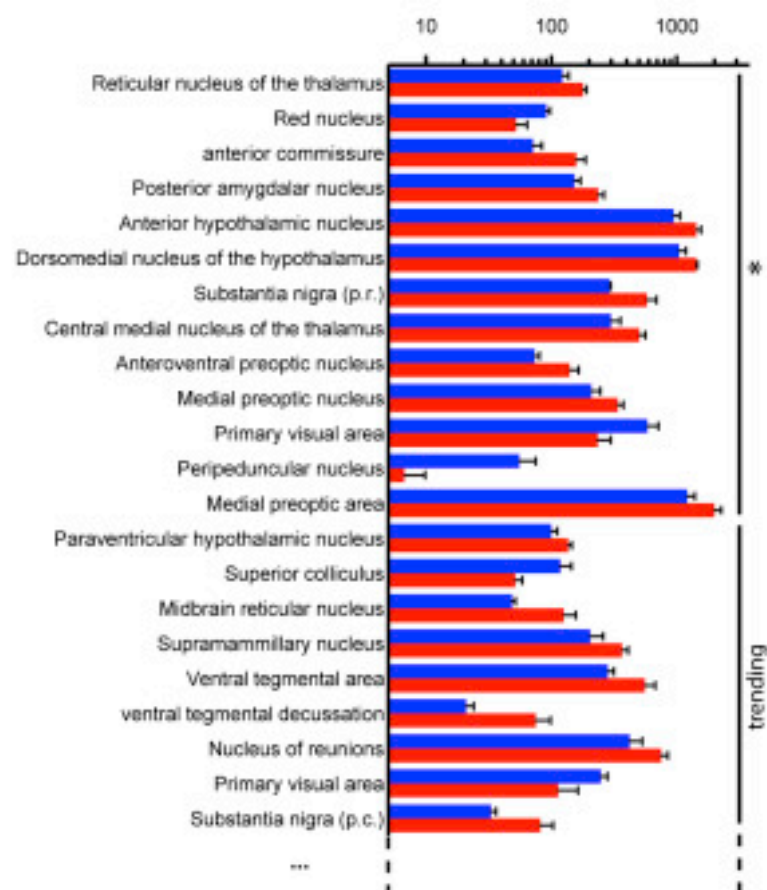
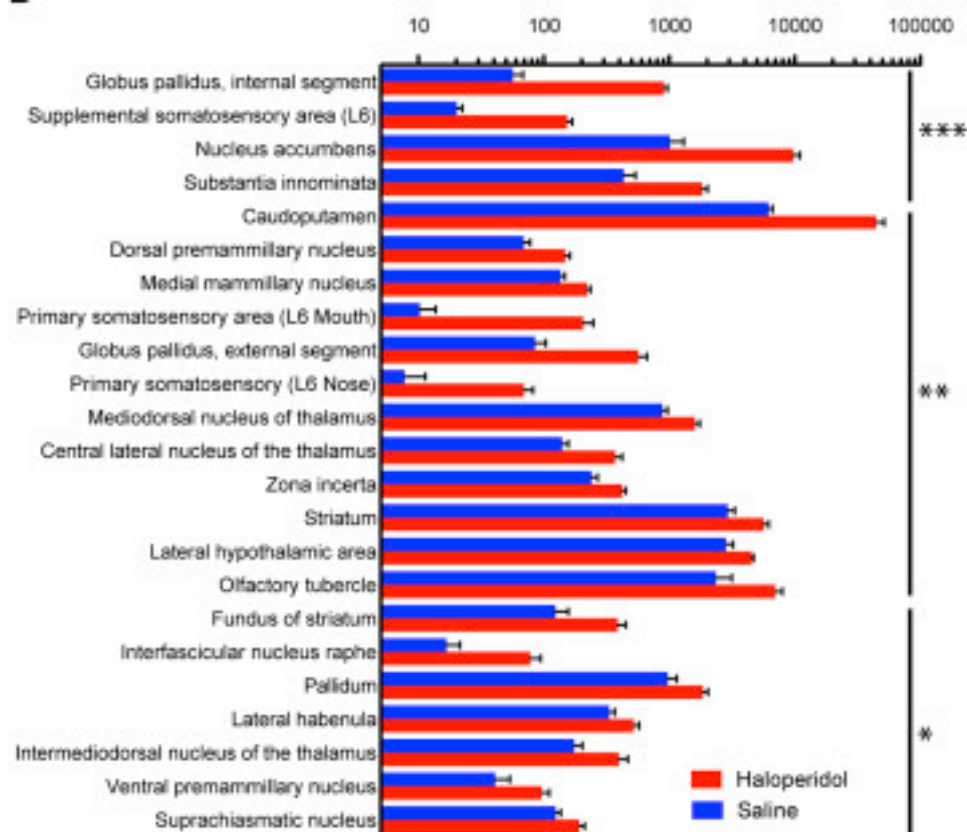
D automated isolation of the somatosensory cortex S1



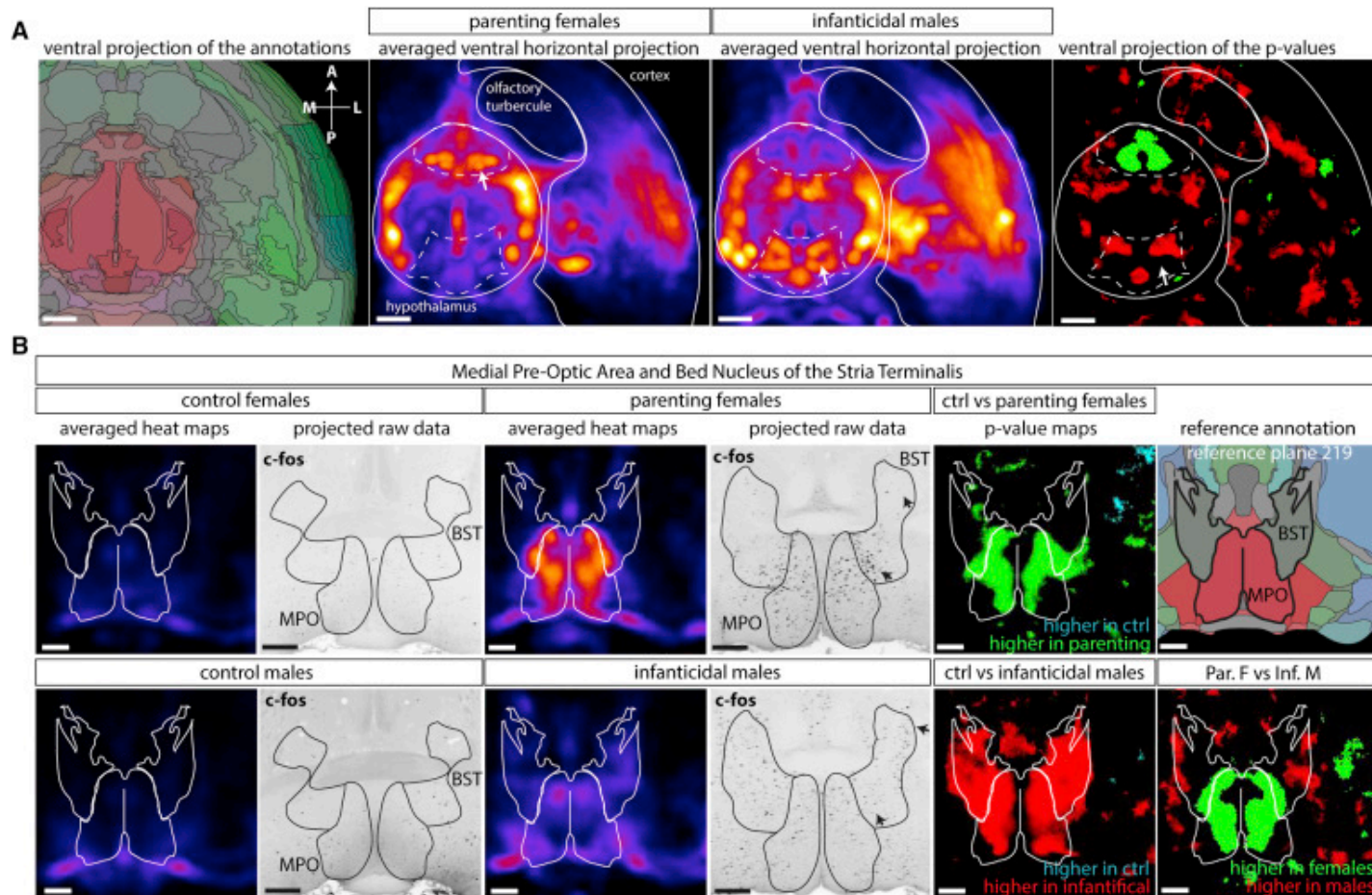
# Whole-brain map of activated neuronal populations after Haloperidol treatment







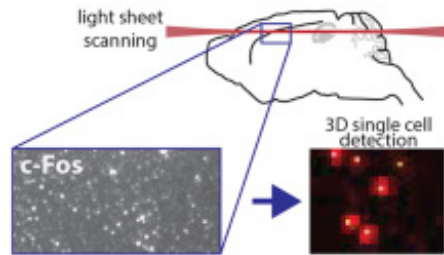
# Volume Survey of Brain Activity Applied to Parental Behavior in the Mouse



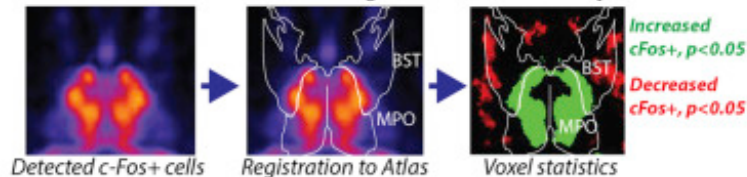
1. Behavioral or experimental induction of brain activity



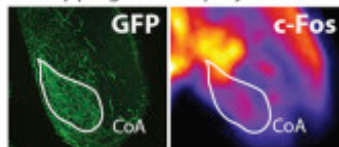
2. Intact brain IEG immunolabeling, clearing and imaging with iDISCO+



3. Automated cell detection and registration with ClearMap



4. Mapping of axon projections



**A pipeline for automated analysis of neuronal activity in intact brains.**

## Highlights

1. ClearMap, a pipeline for automated activity mapping in intact samples
2. iDISCO+ preserves morphology and size of cleared samples for automated registration
3. ClearMap to study brain regions involved in various behaviors

## Limitations

1. IEG expression in the brain is not limited to neurons.
2. The ability to assess real-time neural activity

## Potential applications

How medications that are administered acutely or chronically alter brain activity. Another use will be to study changes in brain activity as a result of such processes as exercise, sleep, aging, or neurodegeneration.

# Three-Dimensional Study of Alzheimer's Disease Hallmarks Using the iDISCO Clearing Method

Thomas Liebmann,<sup>1</sup> Nicolas Renier,<sup>2</sup> Karima Bettayeb,<sup>1</sup> Paul Greengard,<sup>1</sup> Marc Tessier-Lavigne,<sup>2</sup> and Marc Flajolet<sup>1,\*</sup>

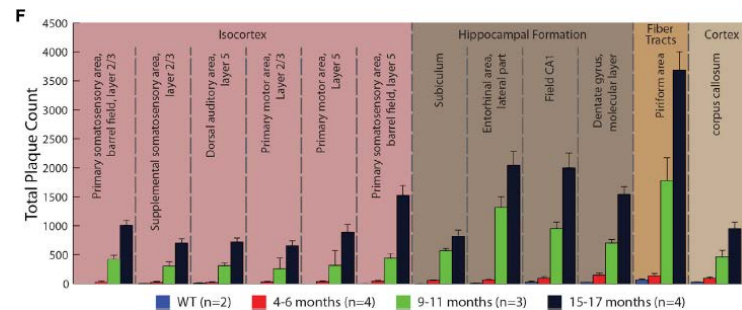
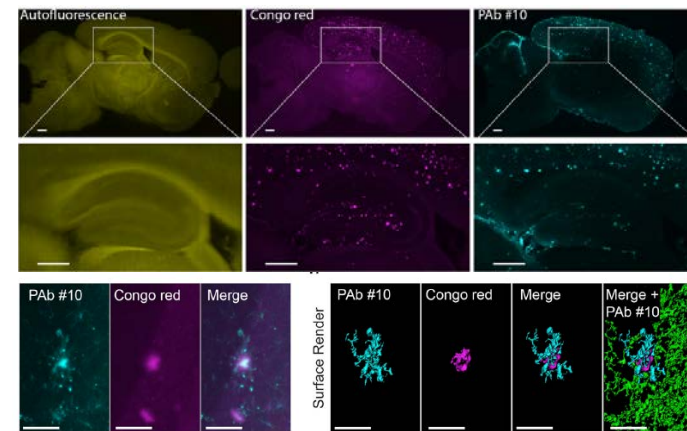
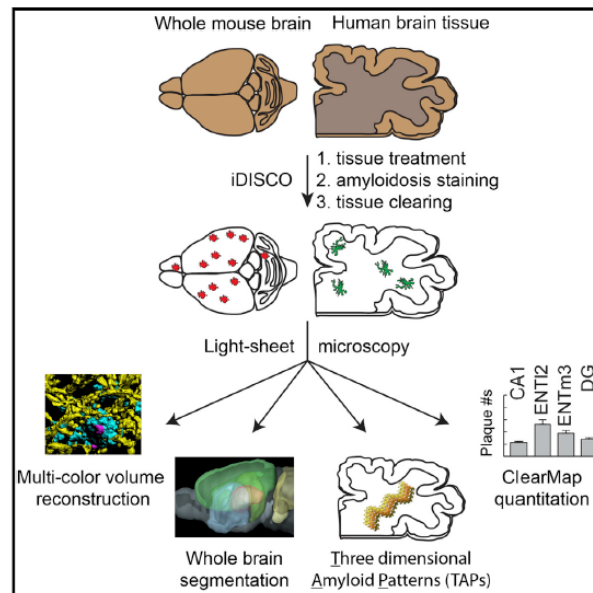
<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Brain Development and Repair

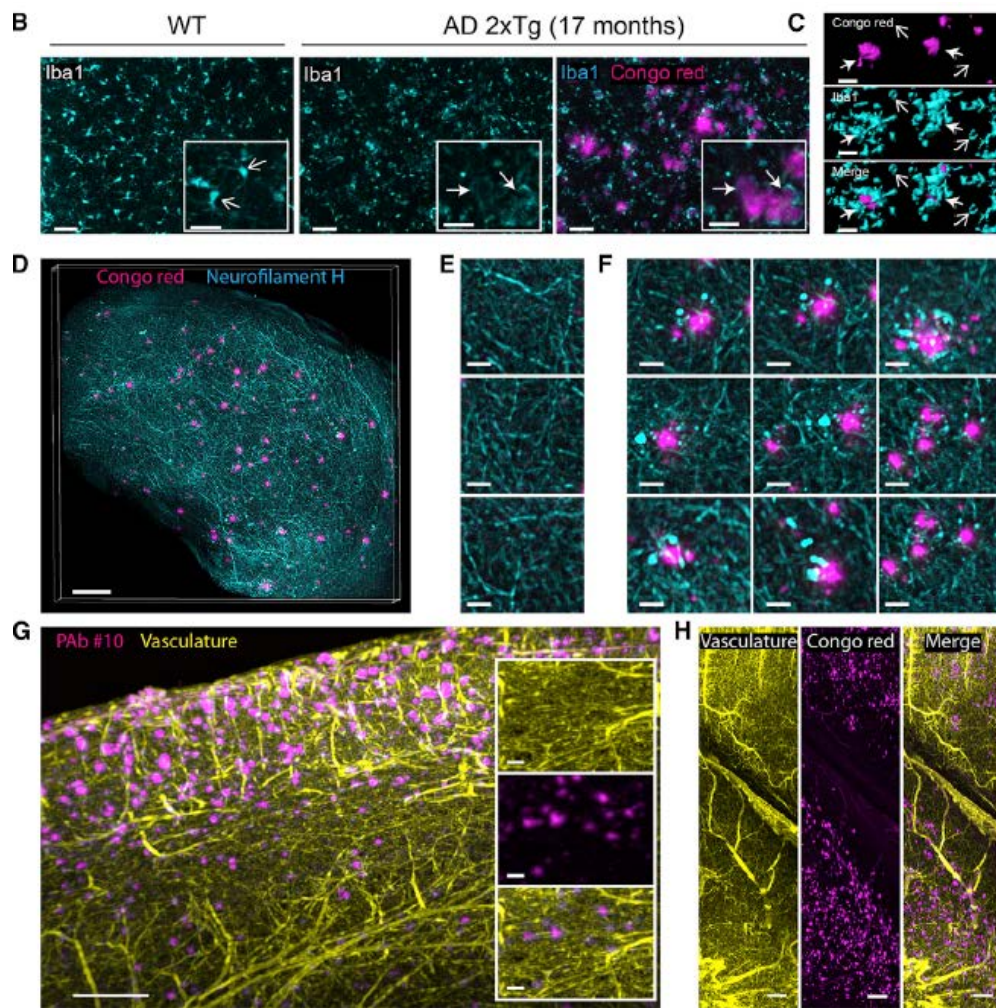
The Rockefeller University, New York, NY 10065, USA

\*Correspondence: [marc.flajolet@rockefeller.edu](mailto:marc.flajolet@rockefeller.edu)

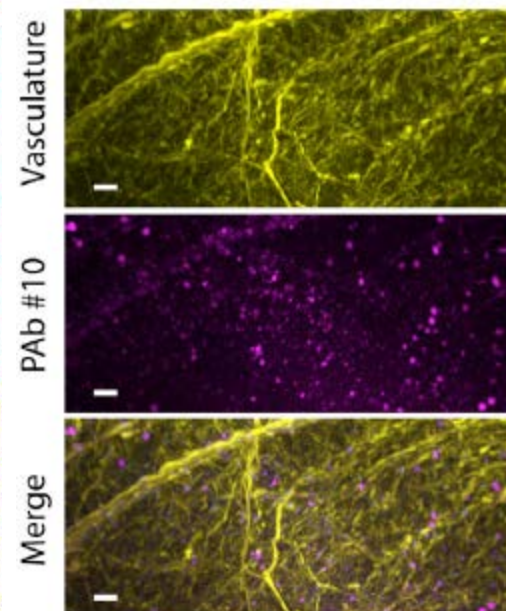
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2016.06.060>



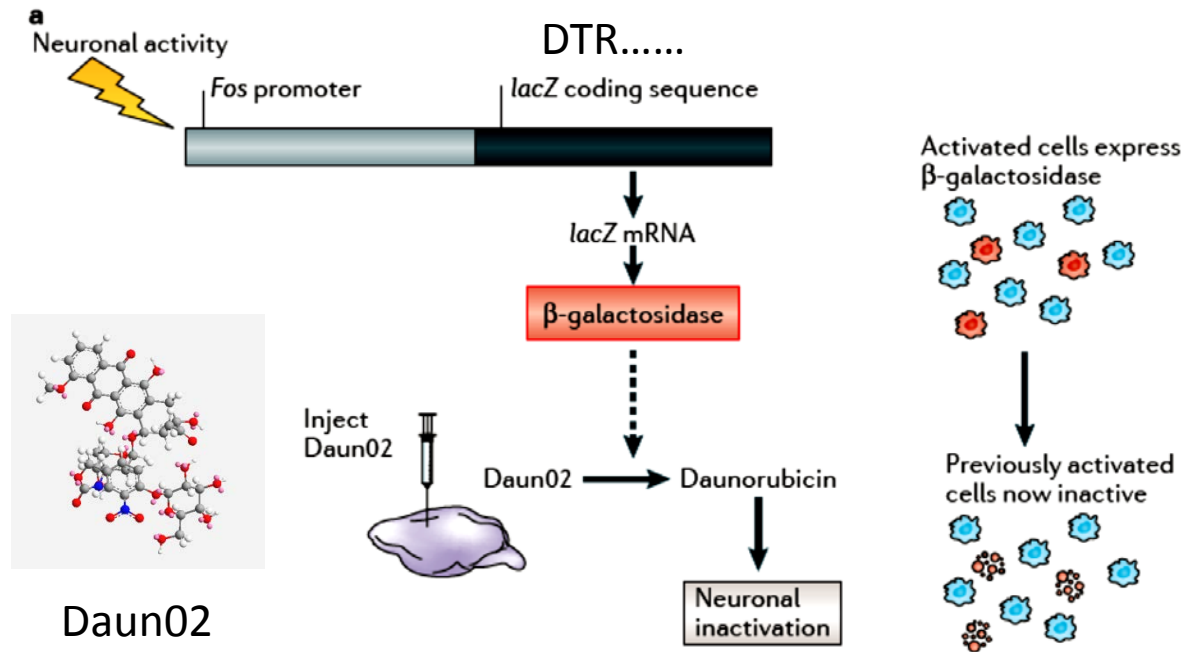




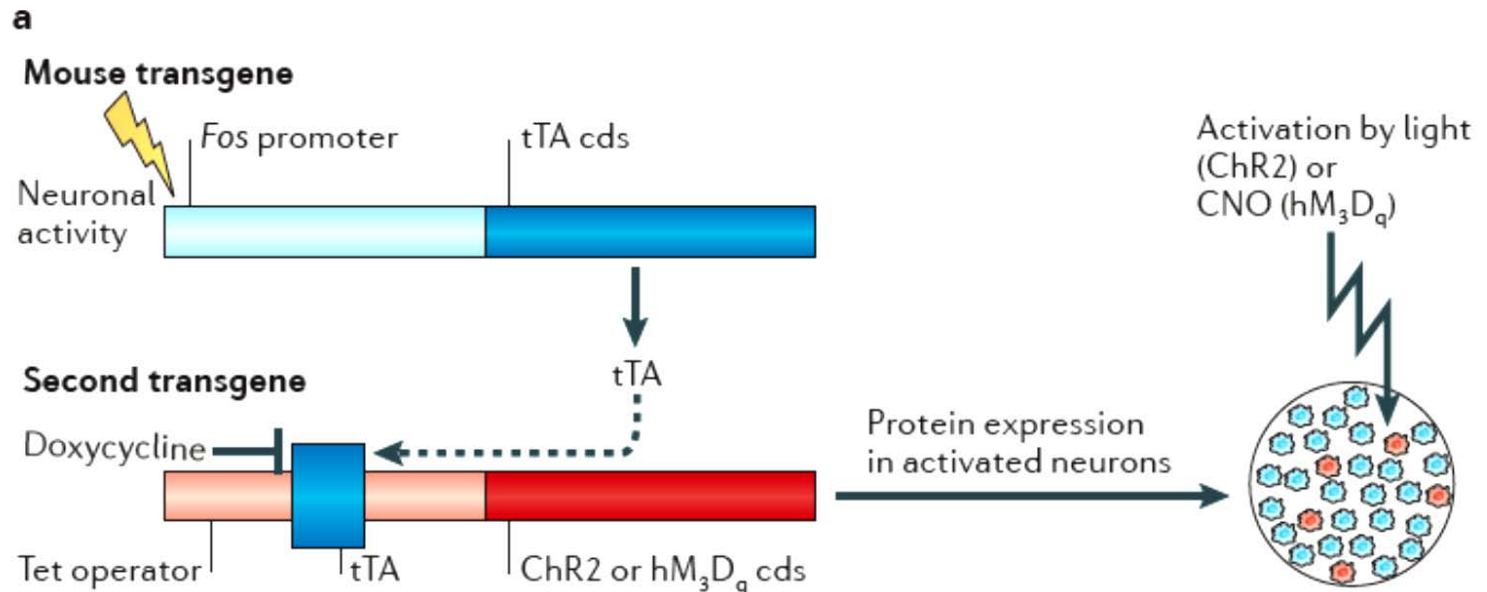
Human brain



# Daun02 system for the selective ablation of activated neuronal assemblies in vivo

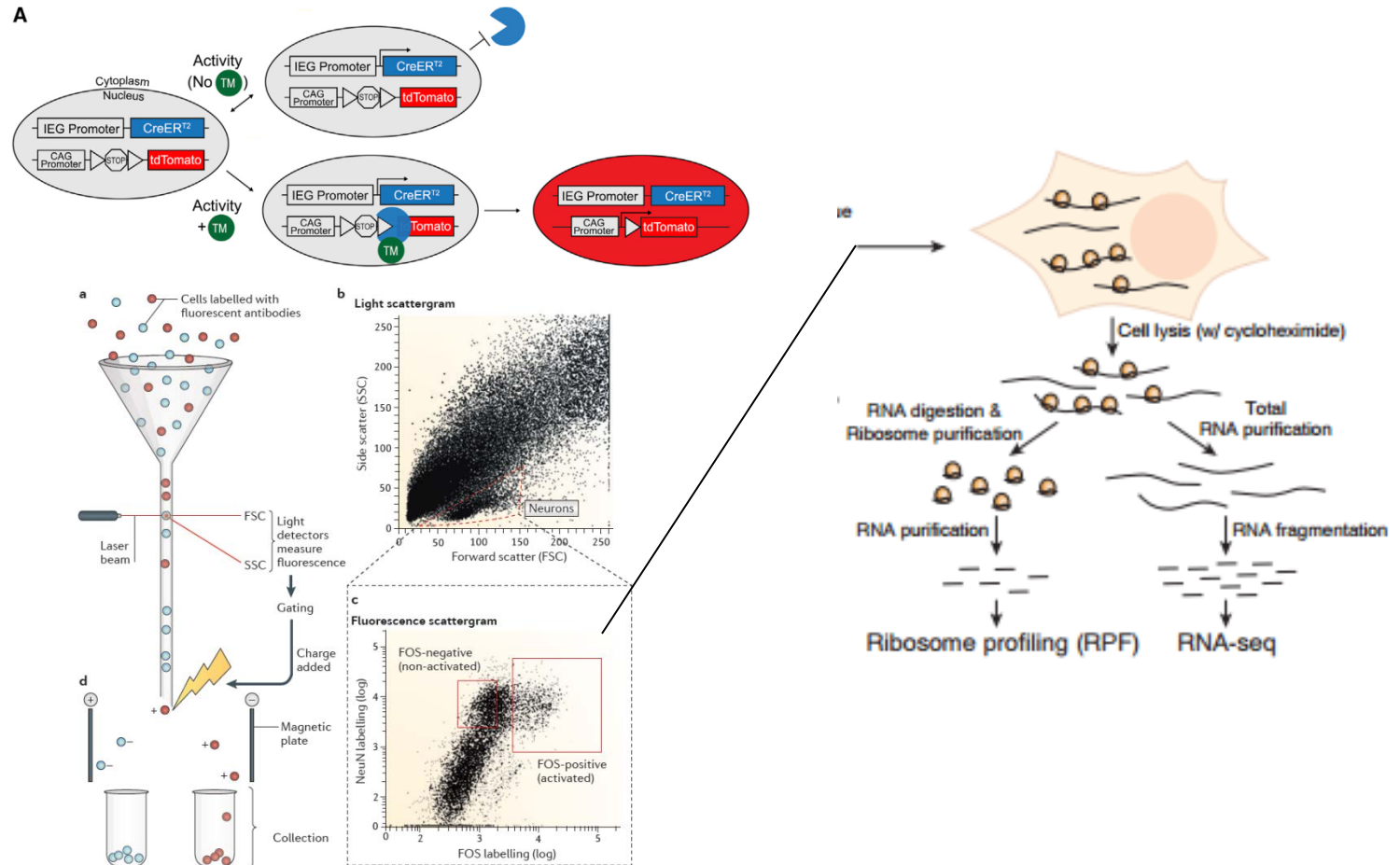


# Strategies for selective manipulation of activated neuronal assemblies in vivo



Fabio C. Cruz and Bruce T. Hope et al., 2013, Nature Reviews Neuroscience

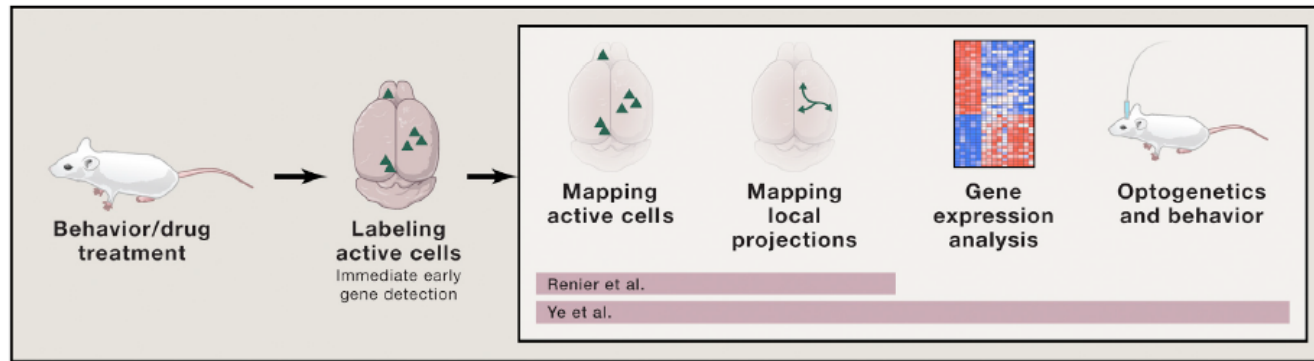
# FACS sorting of activated neurons for further analysis



Casey J. Guenthner and Liqun Luo et al., 2013, Neuron

Fabio C. Cruz and Bruce T. Hope et al., 2013, Nature Reviews Neuroscience





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for your  
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