

# Ways of exploring:

Key and new techniques that have advanced the research in neural circuits of *Drosophila* and other model animals

Sun MS, Zhao H, Chen J

February 22<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**season 1**

Part I. Animal models in neurobiology research and genetic & molecular techniques in neural circuits research.

Part II. The way of Recording neuronal activity.

Part III. Manipulating neuronal activity and behavioral analyses.

# Part I. Animal models in neurobiology research and genetic & molecular techniques in neural circuits research

Sun Mengshi

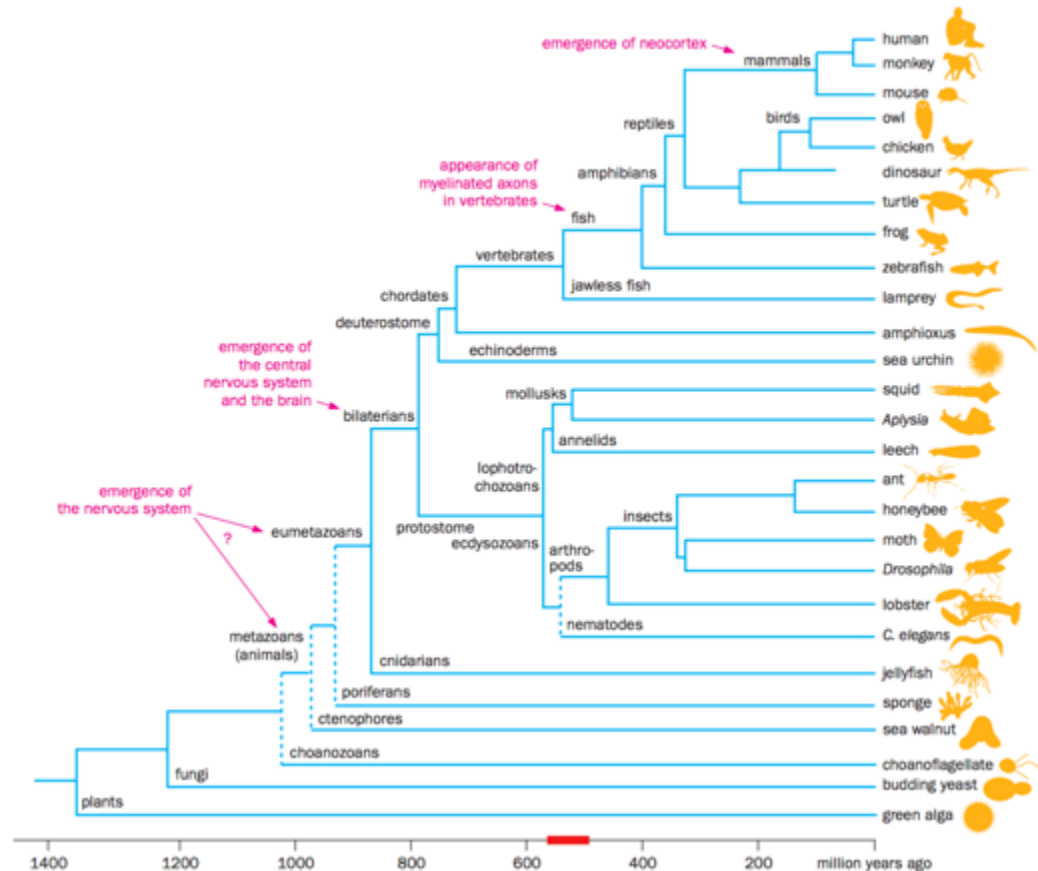
# I. Animal models in neurobiology research

‘ideal’ animal models:

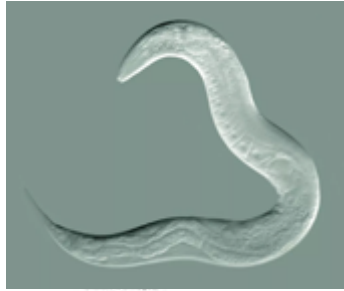
A simple genome and short generation time;

Complex brain functions and behaviors to extrapolate findings more easily to humans;

Large and easily identifiable neurons.



- *Drosophila* and *C. elegans* allow sophisticated genetic manipulations

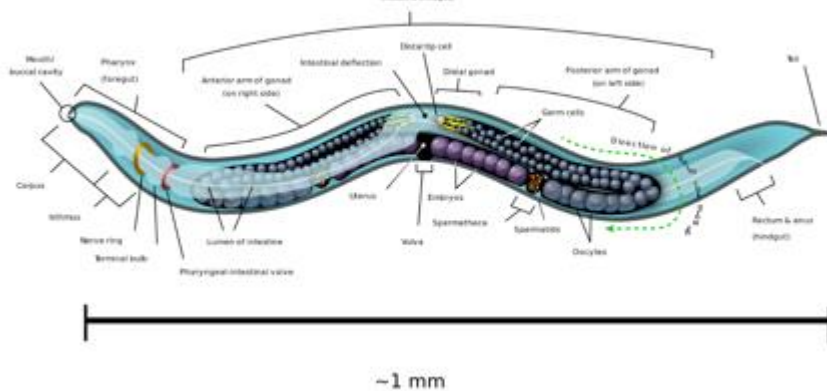


In 1963, **Sydney Brenner** proposed research into *C. elegans*. It is one of the simplest organisms with a nervous system. In the wild: lives in the soil and eats bacteria.

In 2002, the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was awarded to **Sydney Brenner**, **H. Robert Horvitz**, and **John Sulston** for their work on the **genetics of organ development** and **programmed cell death** in *C. elegans*.

The 2006 **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** was awarded to **Andrew Fire** and **Craig C. Mello** for their discovery of **RNA interference** in *C. elegans*.

In 2008, **Martin Chalfie** shared a **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** for his work on **green fluorescent protein**



<https://wormbase.org>

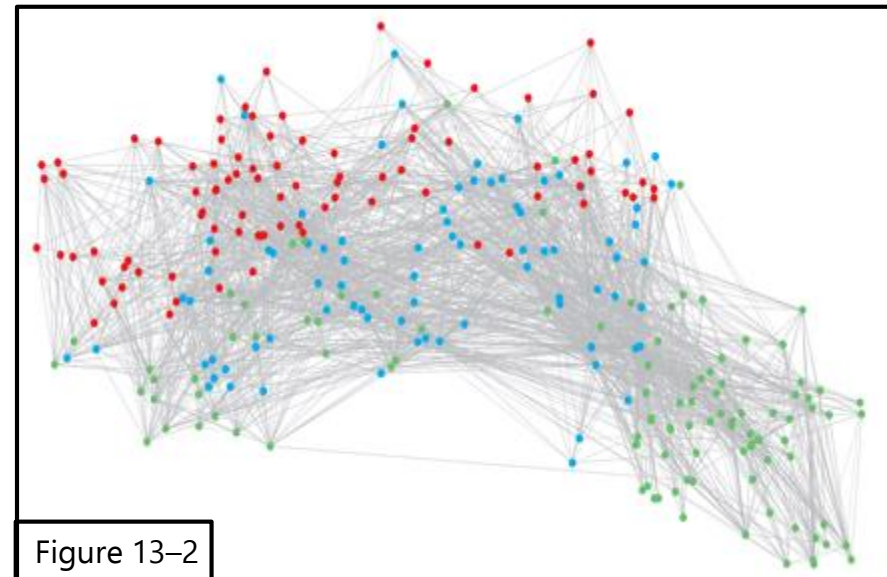


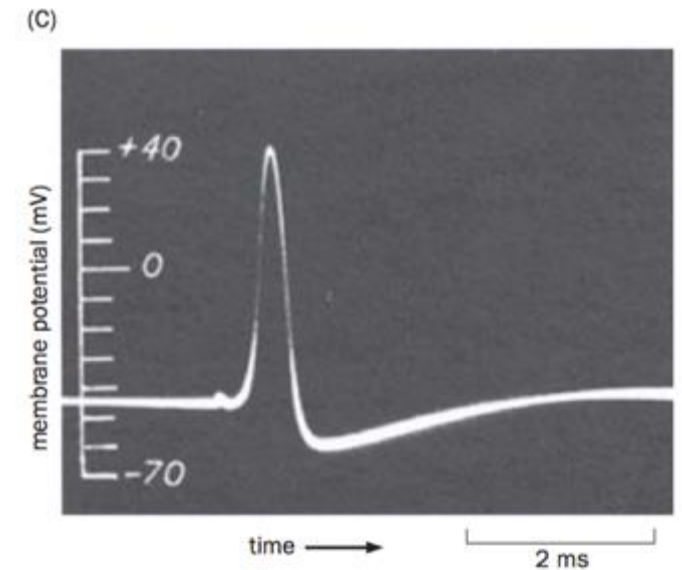
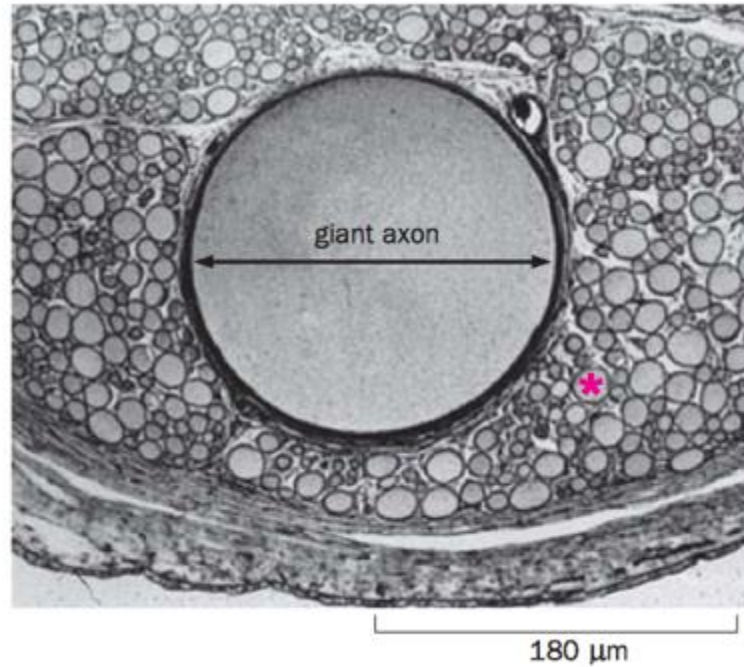
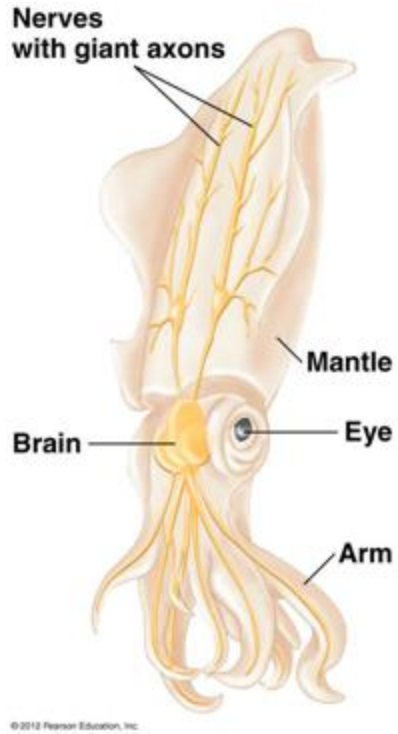
Figure 13-2

Red:  
sensory neurons;

blue:  
interneurons;

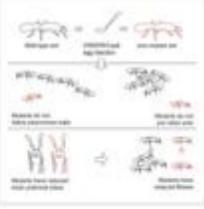
green:  
motor neurons.

- Some invertebrates provide large, identifiable neurons for electrophysiological investigations



- squid *Loligo* giant axon.

- New tools, new insights — probing social behavior in ants

☐  ***orco* Mutagenesis Causes Loss of Antennal Lobe Glomeruli and Impaired Social Behavior in Ants**

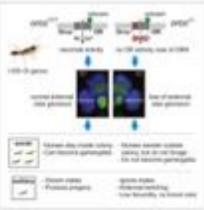
Waring Tribble, Leonora Olivos-Cisneros, Sean K. McKenzie, Jonathan Saragosti, Ni-Chen Chang, Benjamin J. Matthews, Peter R. Oxley, Daniel J.C. Kronauer

Cell, Vol. 170, Issue 4, p727–735.e10

Published in issue: August 10, 2017

[Open Archive](#)

[In Brief](#) | [Full-Text HTML](#) | [PDF](#)

☐  **An Engineered *orco* Mutation Produces Aberrant Social Behavior and Defective Neural Development in Ants**

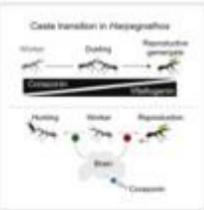
Hua Yan, Comzit Opachaloemphan, Giacomo Mancini, Huan Yang, Matthew Gallitto, Jakub Mlejnek, Alexandra Leibholz, Kevin Haight, and others

Cell, Vol. 170, Issue 4, p736–747.e9

Published in issue: August 10, 2017

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[In Brief](#) | [Full-Text HTML](#) | [PDF](#)

☐  **The Neuropeptide Corazonin Controls Social Behavior and Caste Identity in Ants**

Janko Gospocic, Emily J. Shields, Karl M. Glastad, Yanping Lin, Clint A. Penick, Hua Yan, Alexander S. Mikheyev, Timothy A. Linksvayer, and others

Cell, Vol. 170, Issue 4, p748–759.e12

Published in issue: August 10, 2017

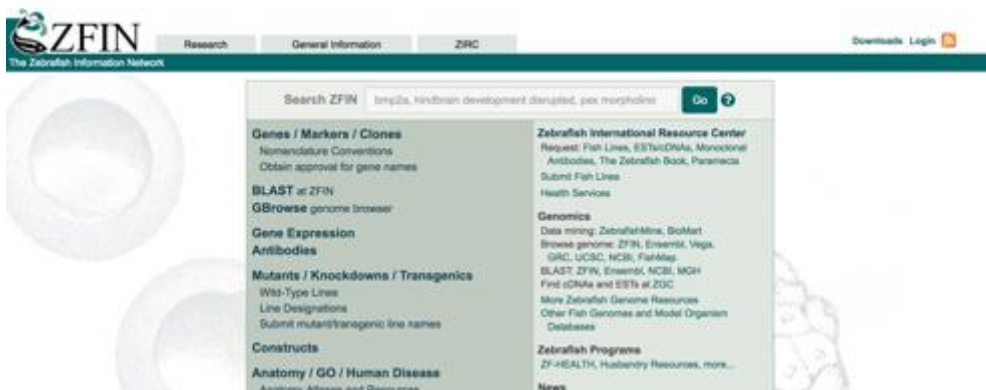
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the ant *Harpegnathos saltator*

- Diverse vertebrate animals offer technical ease or special faculties



<https://zfin.org/>



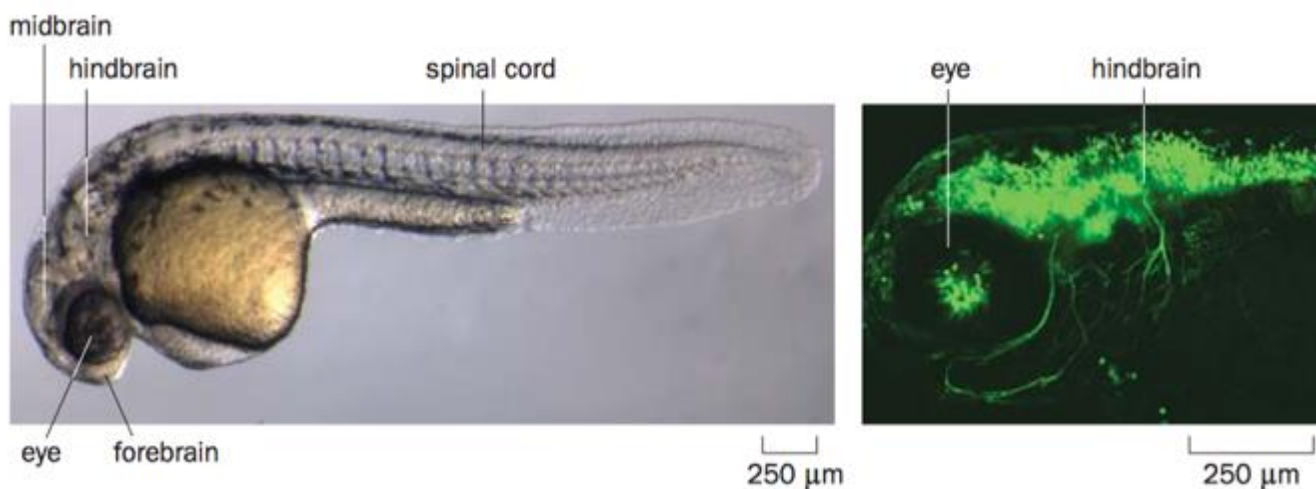
<http://www.zfish.cn/>

The use of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) as a model organism began in the 1960s.

Its embryonic development is very rapid, and its embryos are nearly transparent;

As a vertebrate, the zebrafish has the same major organs and tissues as humans.

Zebrafish have the ability to regenerate their heart, hair cells, photoreceptor cells and retinal neurons.



zebrafish larvae



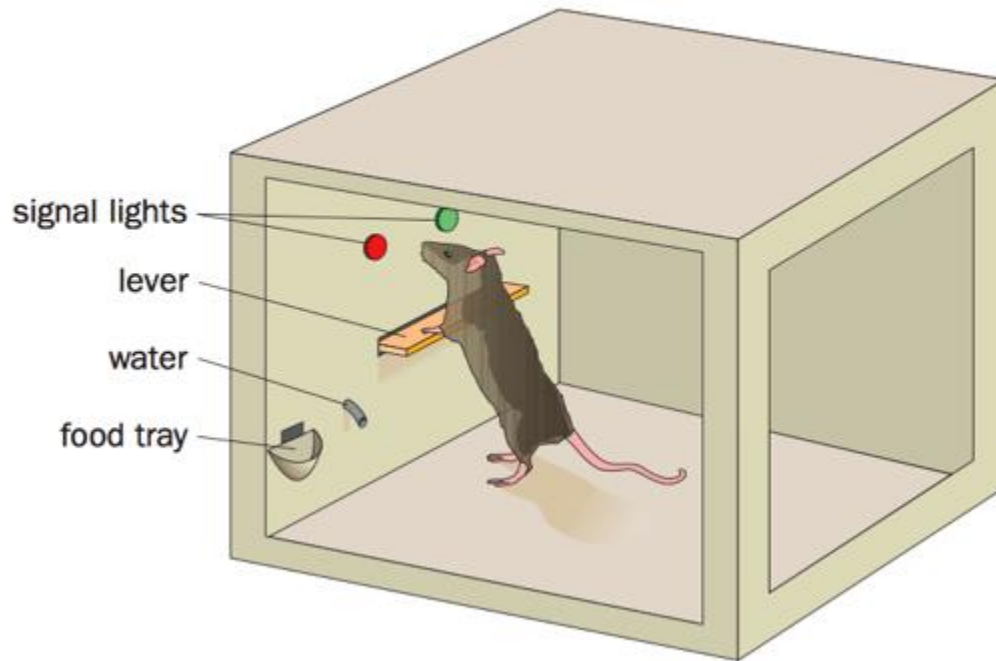
Songbirds: communication neuroscience, to study vocalization and learning

Barn owls: to study audition because of their superb ability to locate sounds



**Figure 1-5** Barn owls use their auditory system to locate prey in complete darkness. The image was constructed by superimposing a series of photographs taken with an infrared camera. (Courtesy of Masakazu Konishi.)

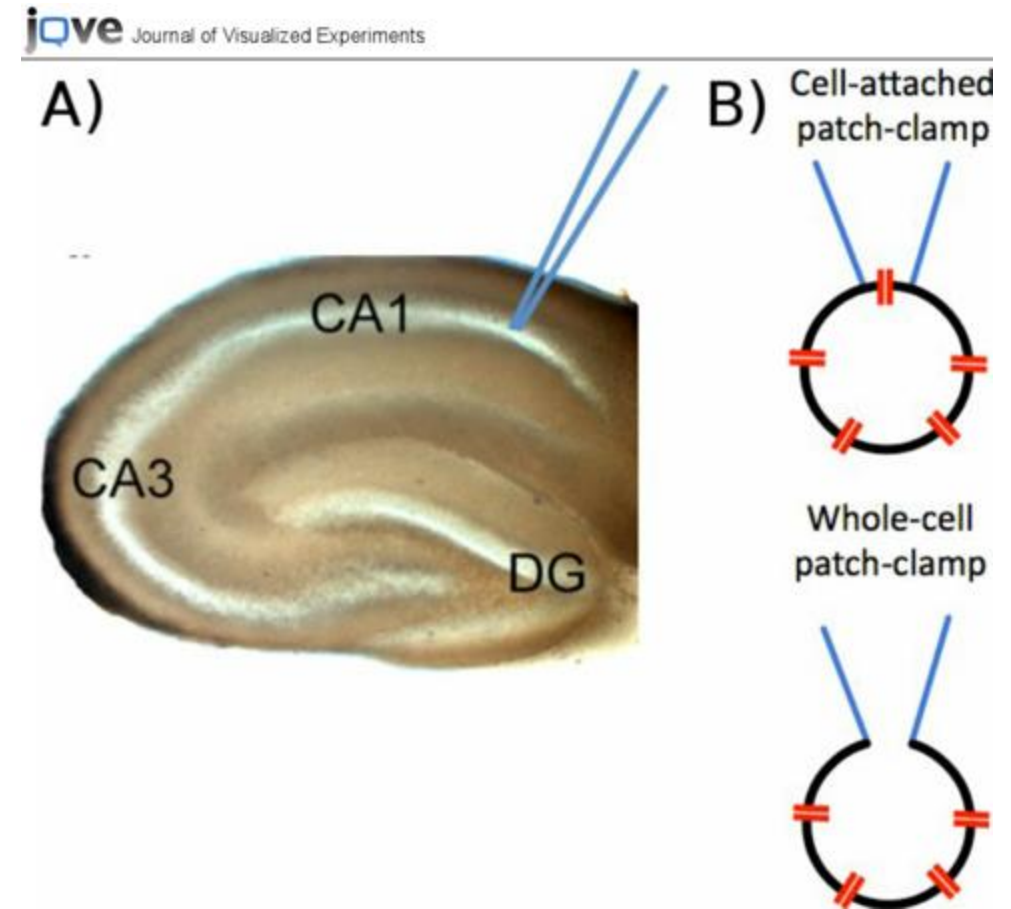
- Mice, rats, and nonhuman primates are important models for mammalian neurobiology research



operant conditioning (also called instrumental conditioning)

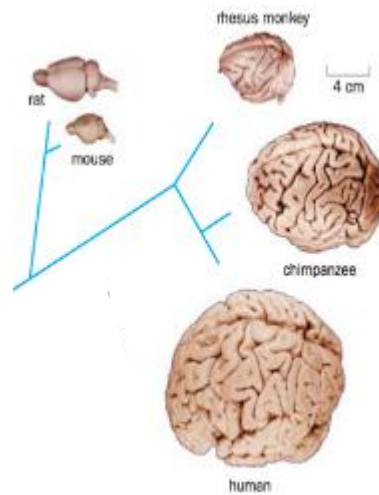
Figure 10–22

See Skinner BF [1938] The Behavior of Organisms. B.F. Skinner Foundation

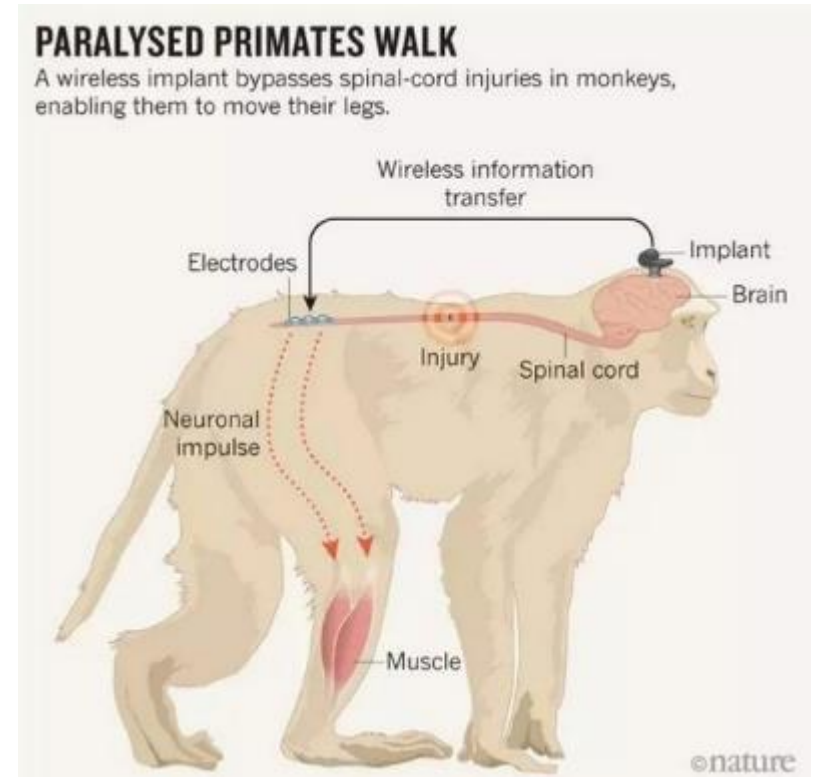


Rat hippocampal brain slice

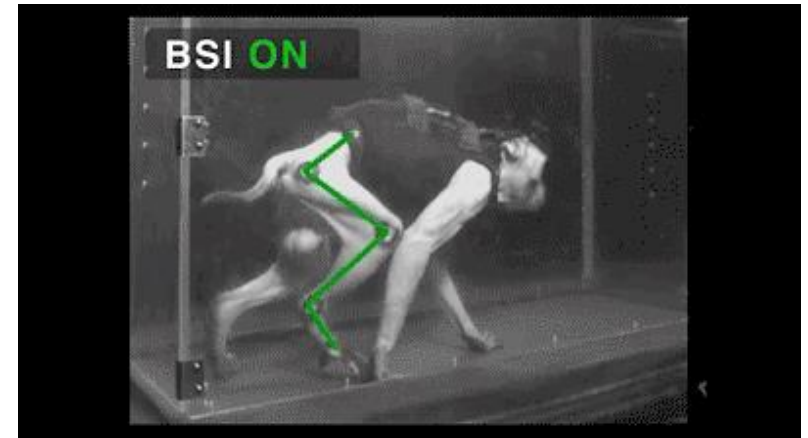
- Mice, rats, and nonhuman primates are important models for mammalian neurobiology research



<http://www.brainmuseum.org/>



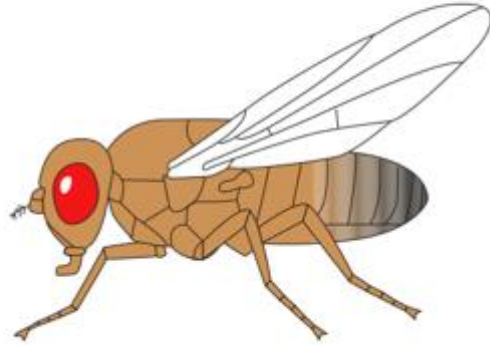
These cloned macaque monkeys are almost genetically identical, and share a mutation that disrupts their sleep cycle.



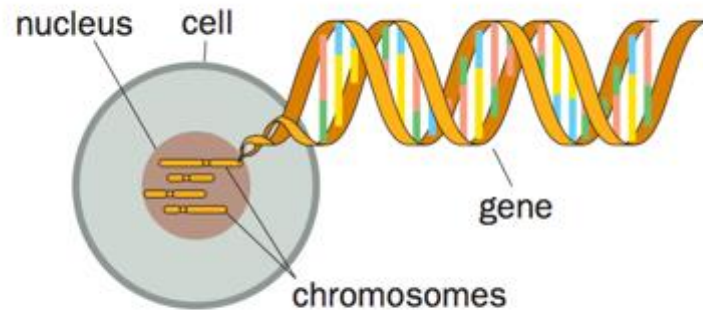
## II. genetic & molecular techniques

To disrupt the function of an individual gene—**loss-of-function mutation**

### FORWARD GENETICS

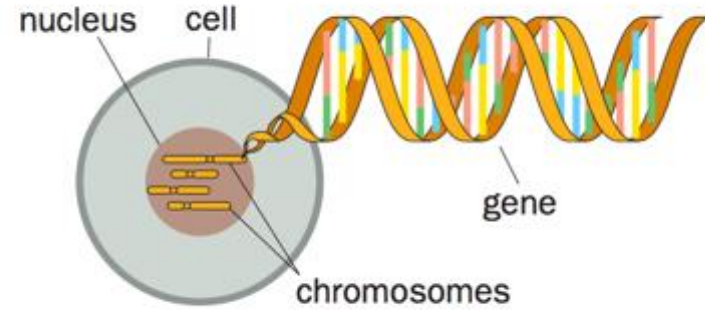


screen for altered traits after mutagenesis

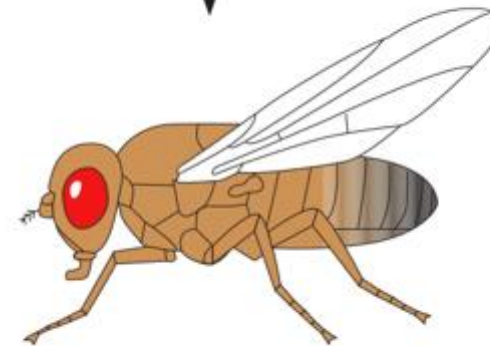


identify the causal gene

### REVERSE GENETICS

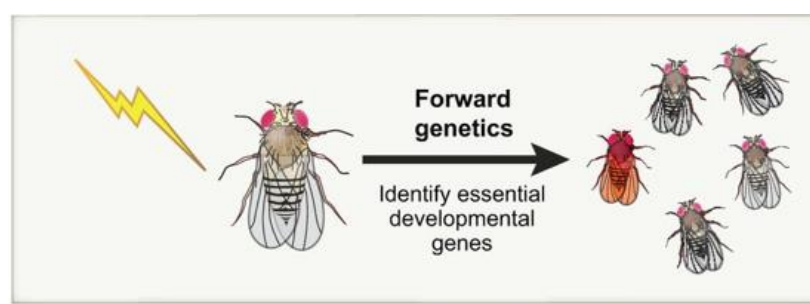


disrupt known DNA sequence



identify alterations in traits

- Forward genetics



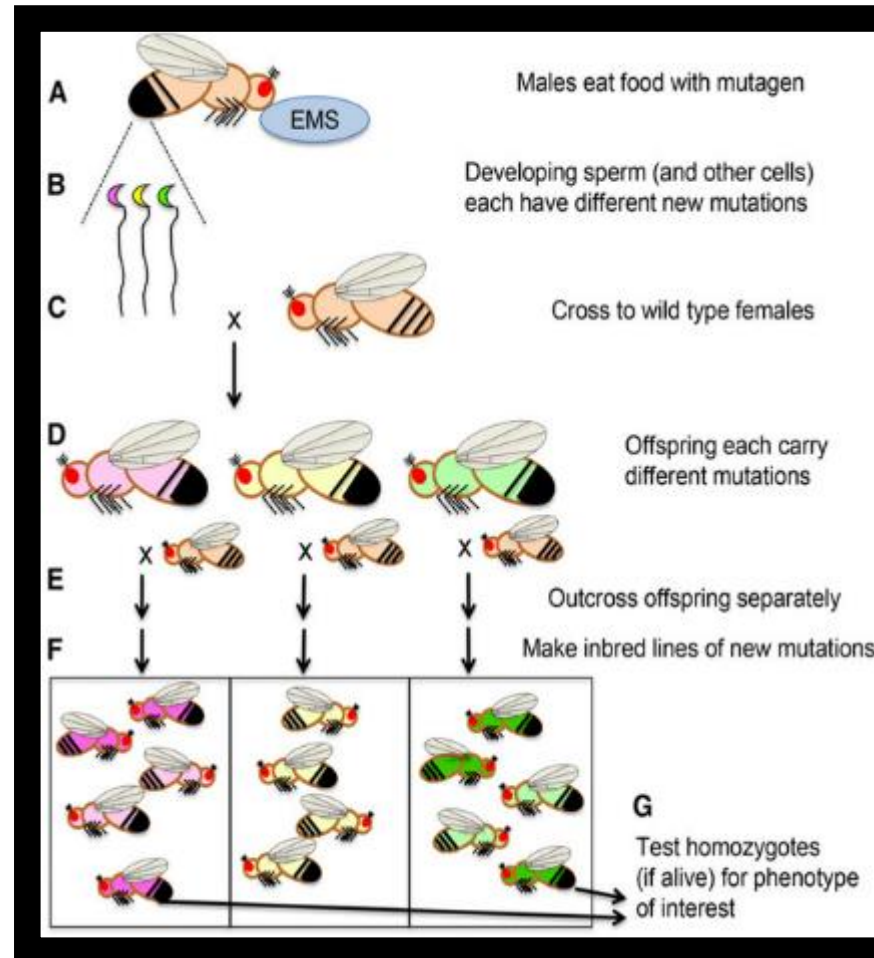
ex. *Drosophila fruitless* gene (derived from X-ray mutagenesis),  
*Drosophila Period* gene and mouse *Clock* gene

random mutagenesis:

chemical mutagens: EMS

radiation: X rays

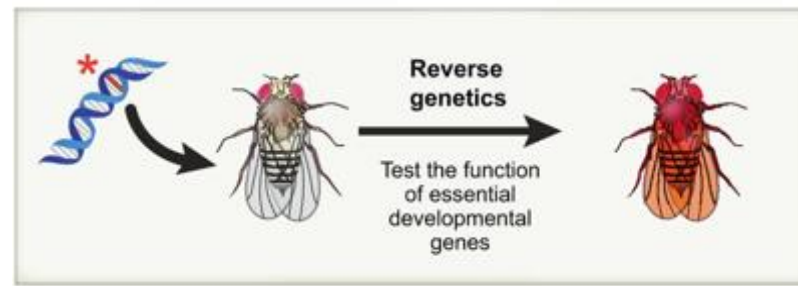
transposon insertion: P-element



screen for dominant phenotypes;  
screen males for X-linked recessive phenotypes

screen for recessive phenotypes

- Reverse genetics



The reverse approach became much more common only after the *D. melanogaster* genome was sequenced.

### Knock-out

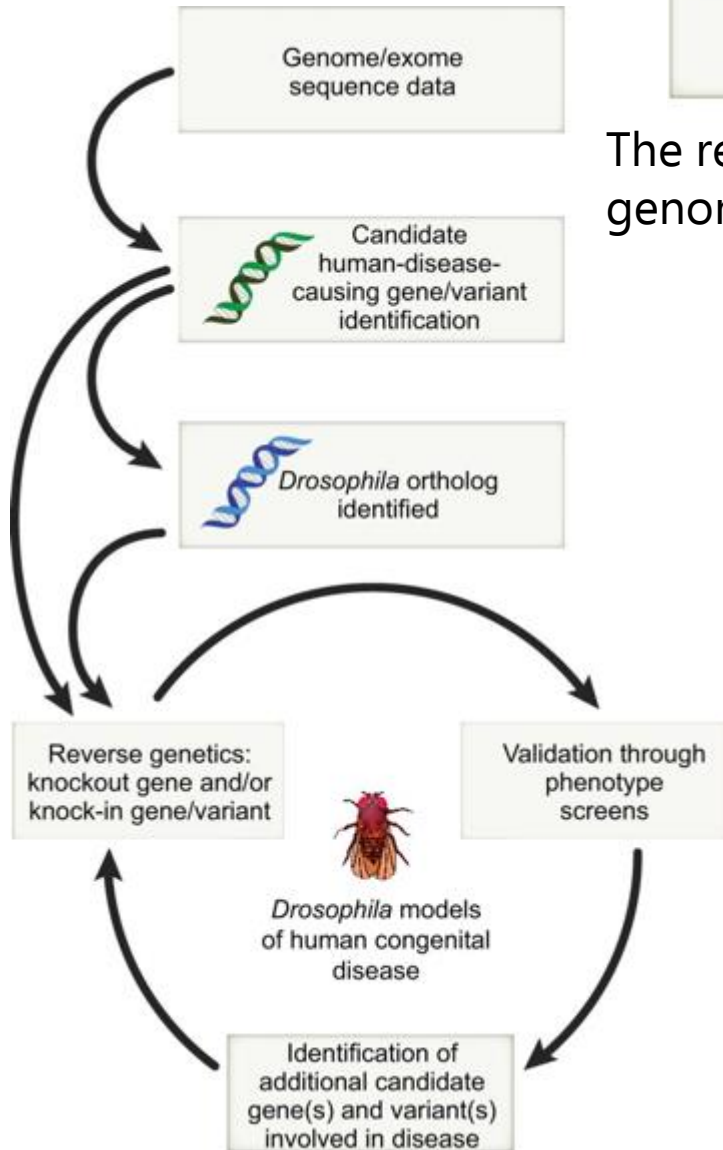
homologous recombination (Rong,2000)

zinc-finger nuclease (ZFN) and the transcription activator-like effector nuclease (TALEN)

CRISPR/Cas9

### Knock-down

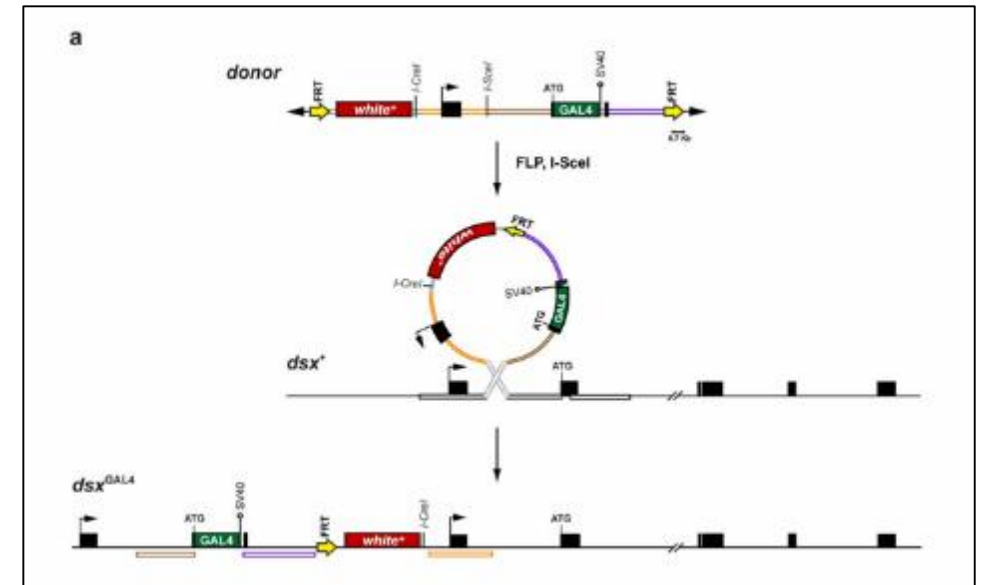
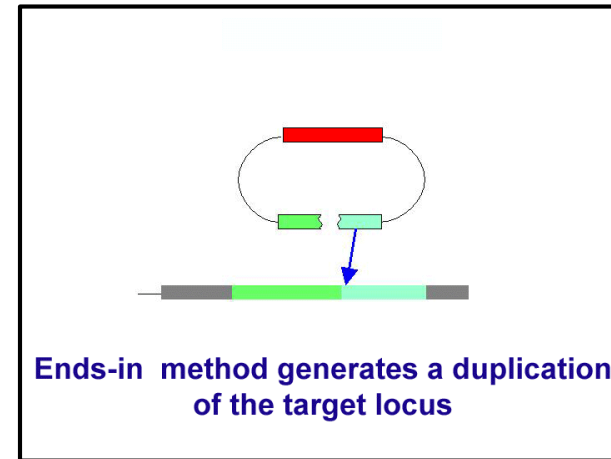
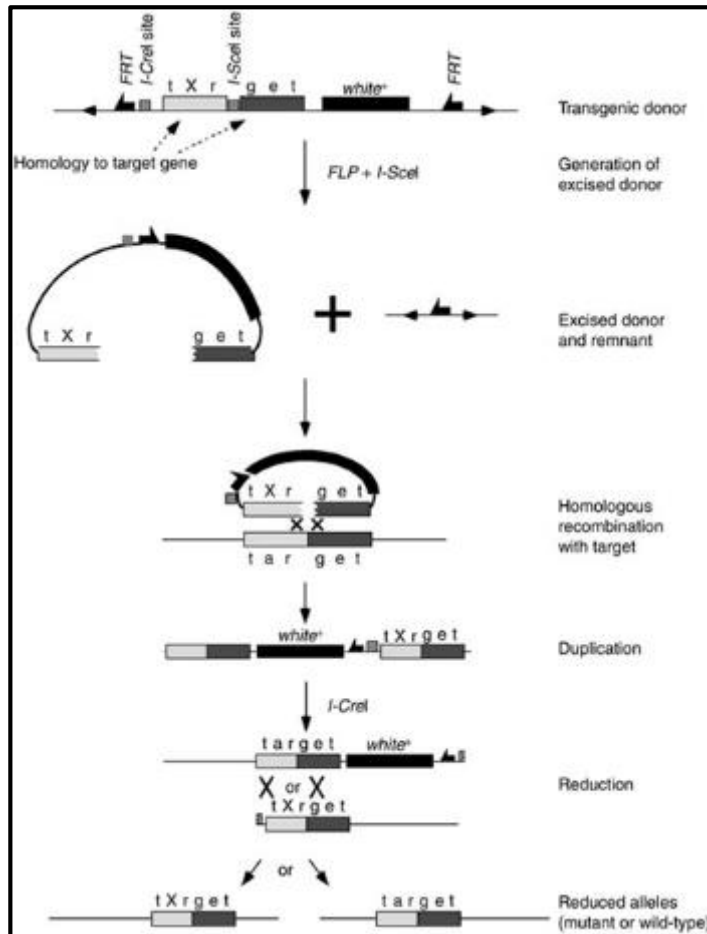
RNA interference



Matthew J. et al.2016.

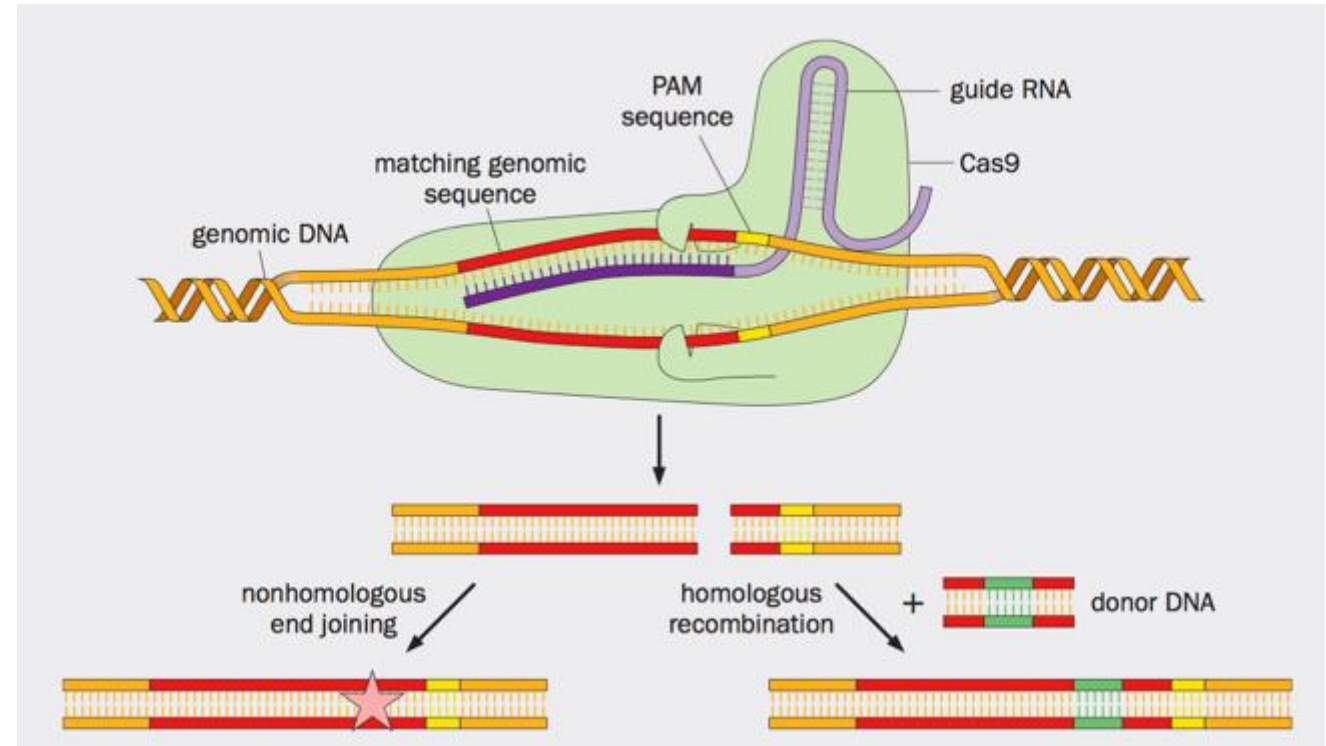
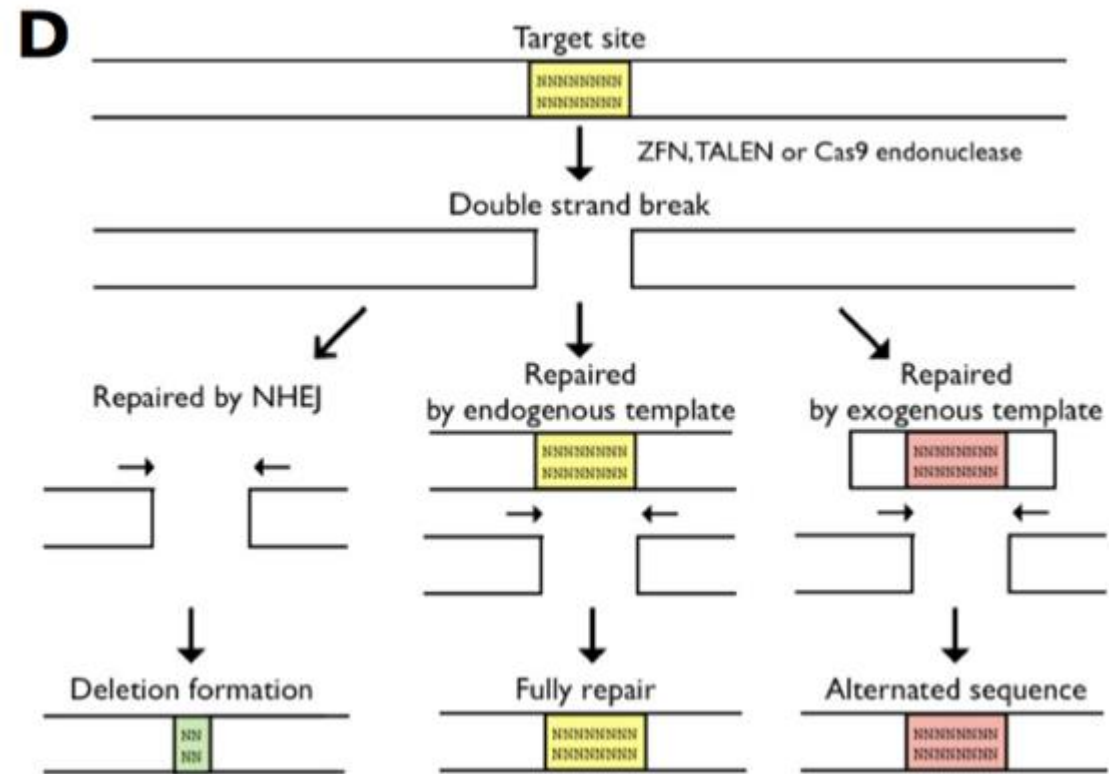
Hales, K. et al. 2015.

# homologous recombination



Maggert, K. et al. 2008

- zinc-finger nuclease (ZFN) and the transcription activator-like effector nuclease (TALEN), CRISPR/Cas9



**A**

Target: X-GAL4 ( $W^+$ )

Donor: QF2<sup>G4-HACK</sup> ( $RFP^+$ )

Conversion: X-QF2<sup>G4-HACK</sup> ( $RFP^+W^+$ )

**B**

P

X-GAL4 (Target) × Actin5c-Cas9; QF2<sup>G4-HACK</sup> (Donor)

F1

Actin5c-Cas9;  $\frac{X-GAL4}{QF2^{G4-HACK}}$  ×  $\frac{*}{Balancer}$

F2

$\frac{X-GAL4}{Balancer}$  (Target) or  $\frac{QF2^{G4-HACK}}{Balancer}$  (Donor) or  $\frac{X-QF2^{G4-HACK}}{Balancer}$  (Conversion) (1-61%)

To misexpress the gene of interest at different levels or with different spatiotemporal patterns—**gain-of-function**



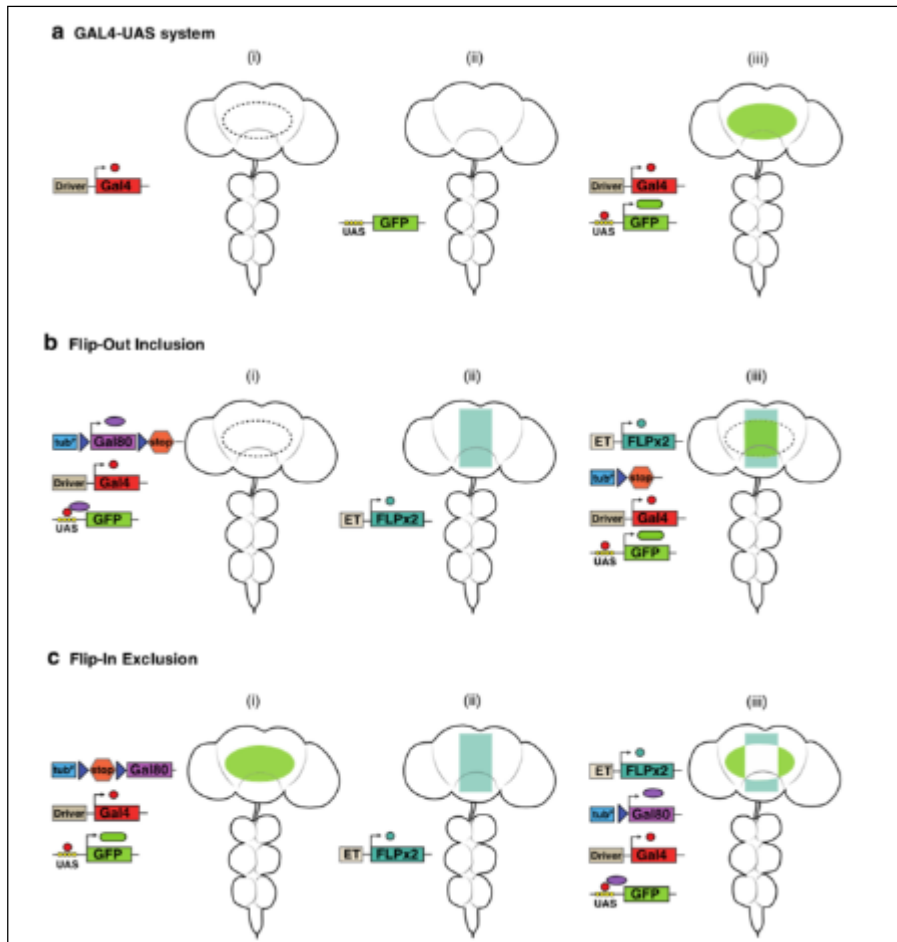
misexpress  $\text{fru}^M$  in female

Binary expression systems: GAL4/UAS, LexA/LexAop and QF/QUAS systems.

Ternary expression systems: GAL80, QS, split GAL4 and split LexA.

Flp-out: flipase (Flp) and its recognition target sequence (FRT)

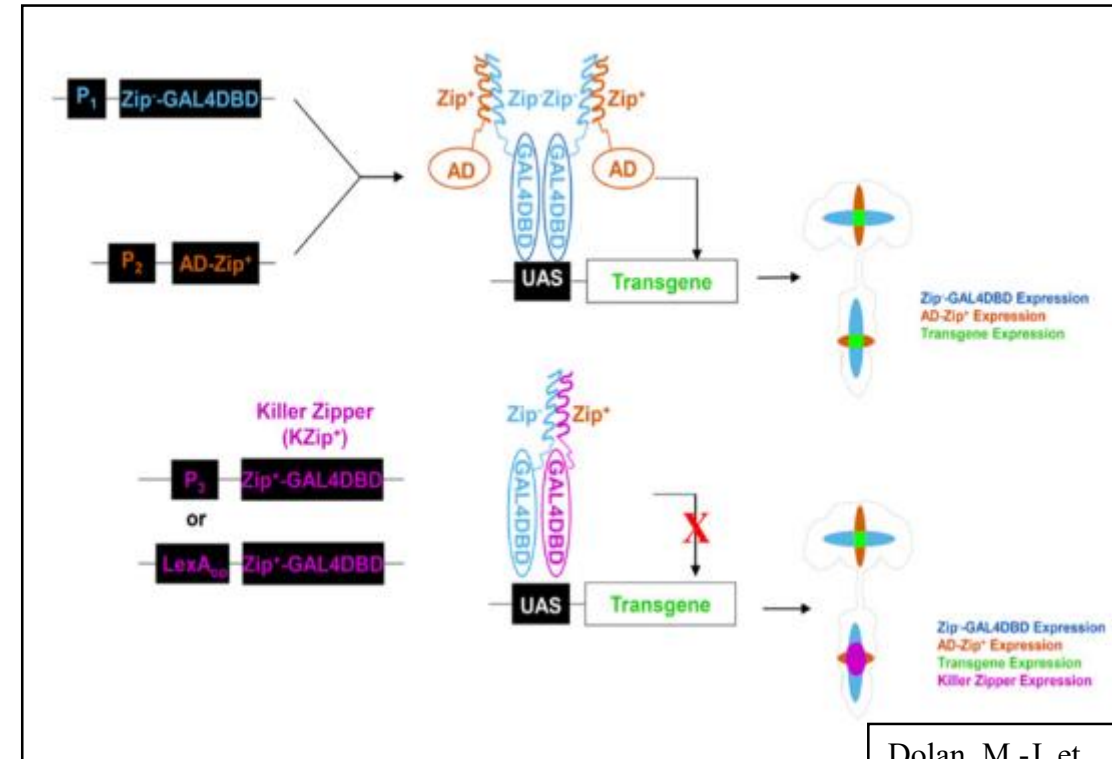
Quaternary expression system: Killer Zipper (KZip+), a suppressor of split Gal4



$\text{o}td\text{-}Flpl; \text{Tub}^P > \text{Gal80} > \text{stop}$

$\text{o}td\text{-}Flpl; \text{Tub}^P > \text{stop} > \text{Gal80}$

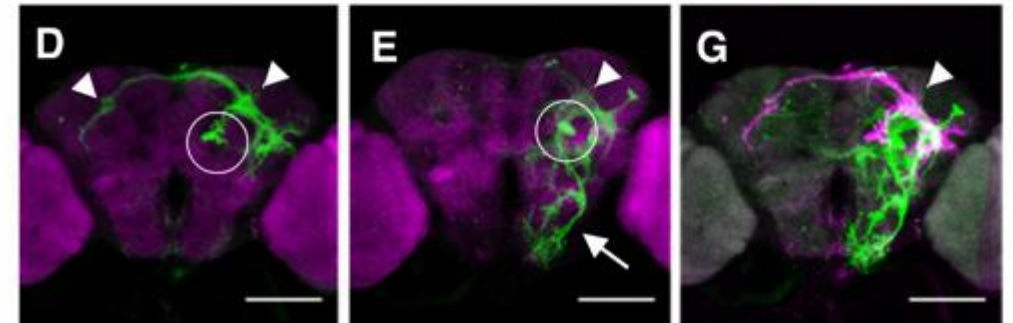
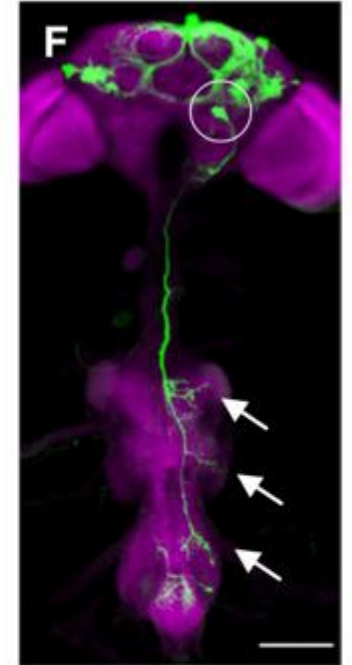
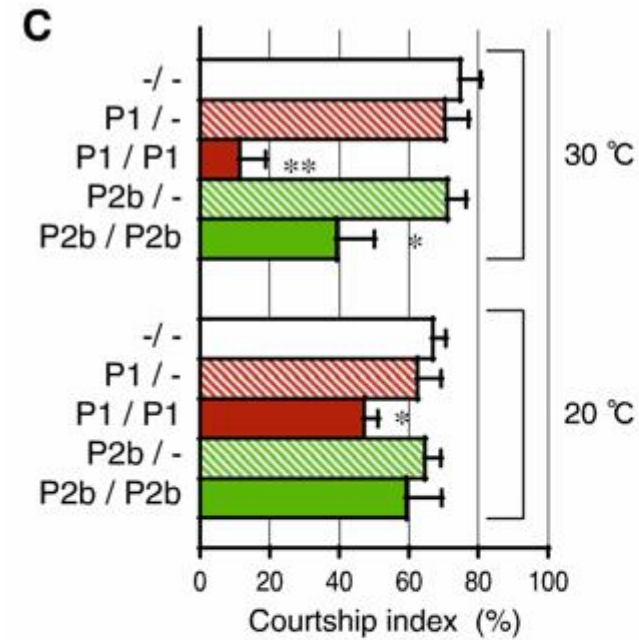
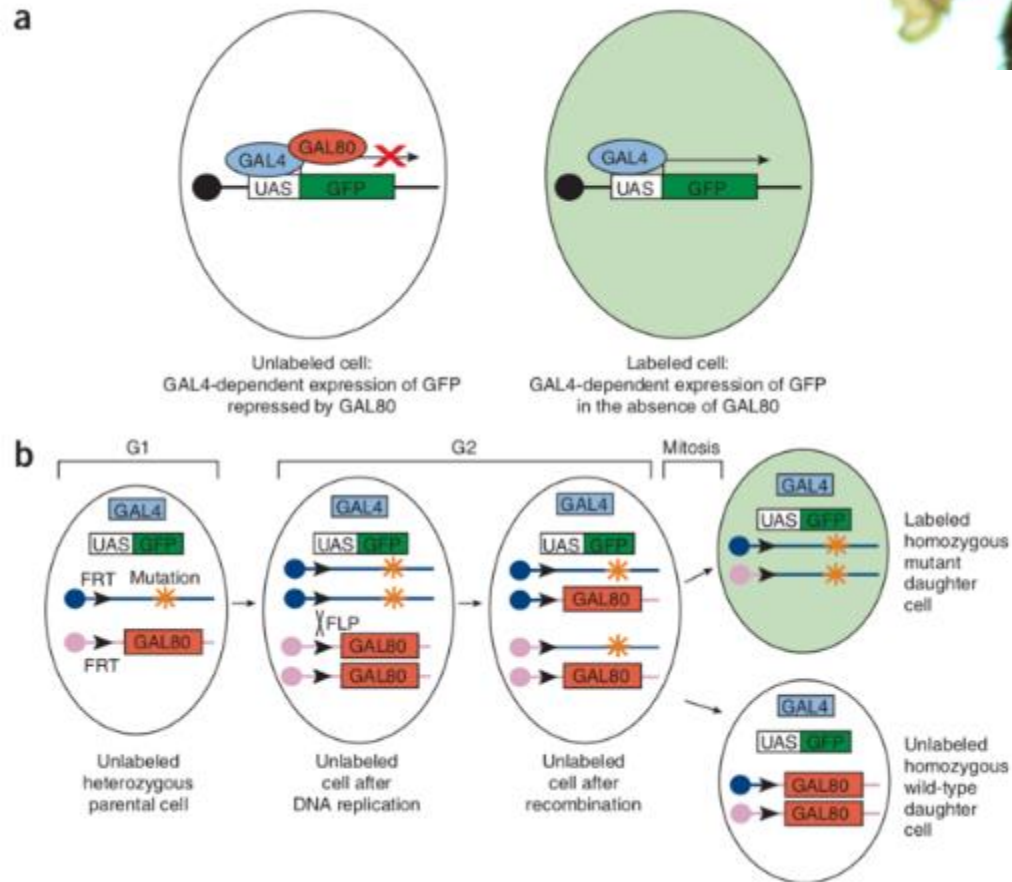
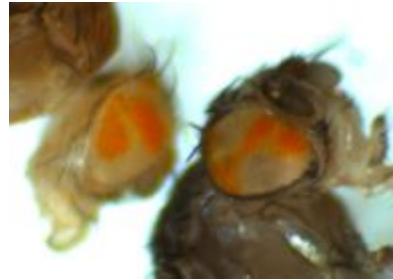
## Killer Zipper



Dolan, M.-J. et al. 2017.

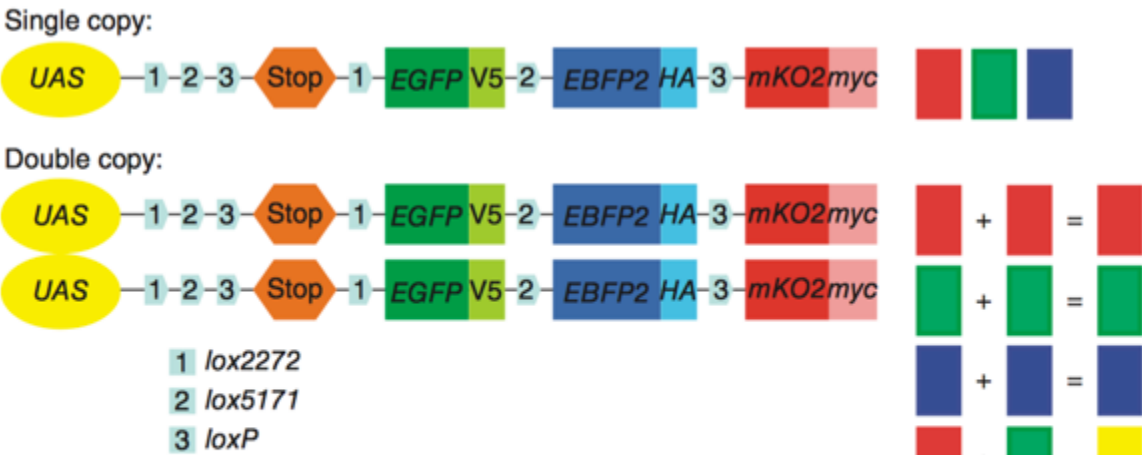
# The mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker (MARCM) technique

Genetic mosaics are individuals composed of cells with at least two different genotypes.

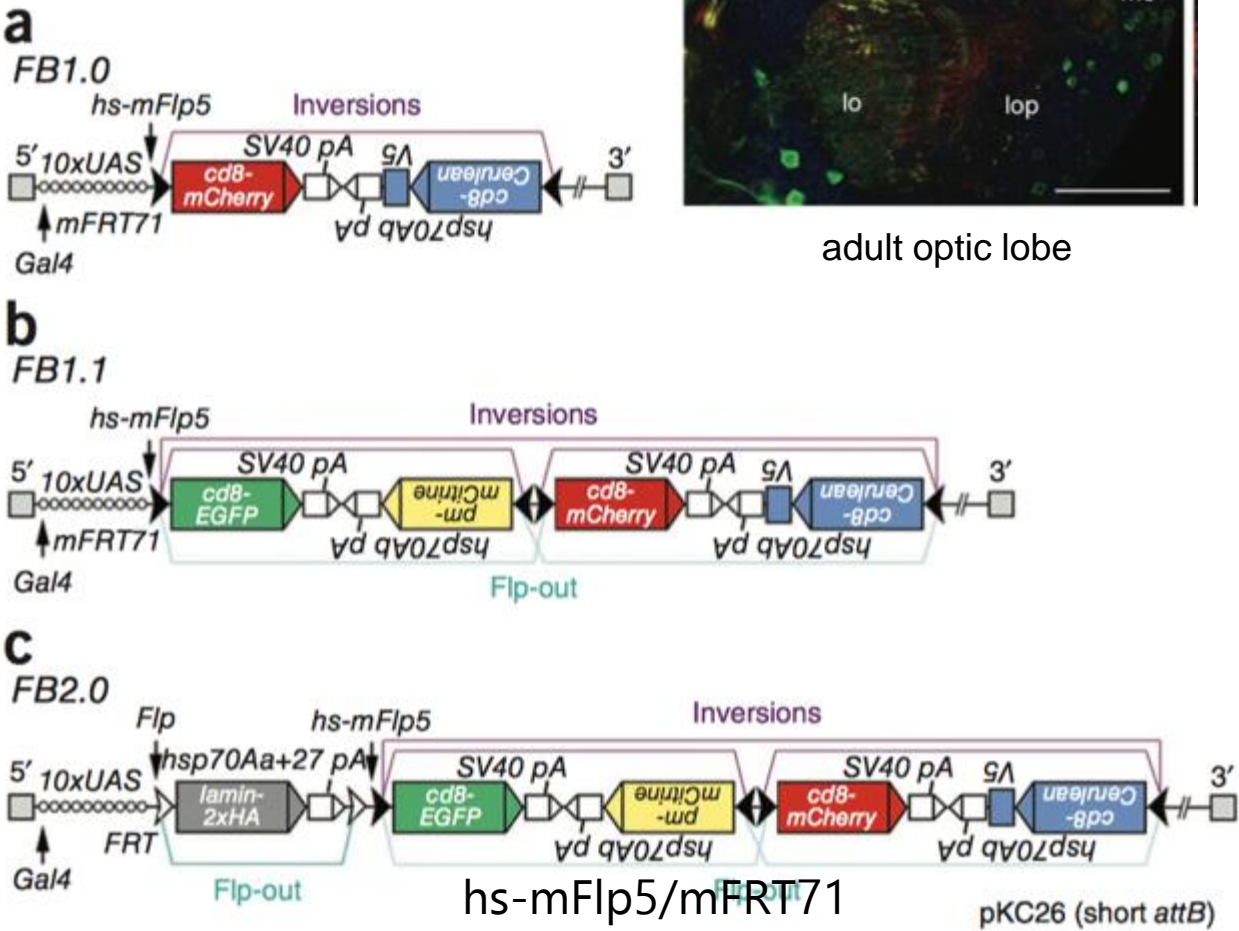
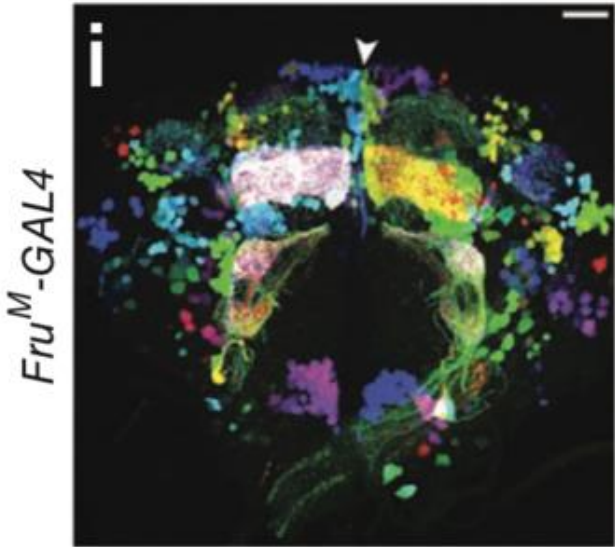


$$\frac{hs-flp}{+} ; \frac{FRTG13 tub-Gal80}{FRTG13 UAS-mCD8::GFP} ; \frac{fru^{NP21}}{UAS-shi^{ts}}$$

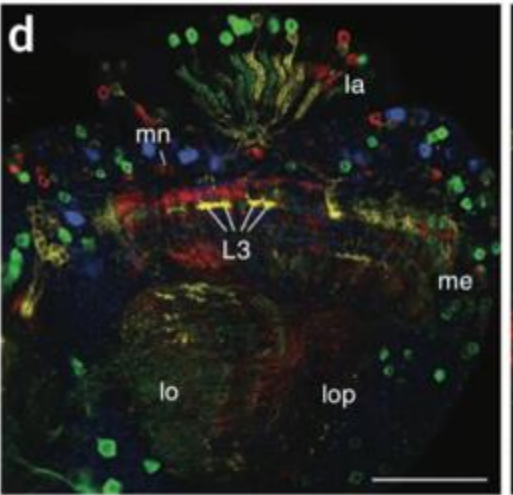
# Multicolor system: Drosophila Brainbow , Flybow



Brainbow



Flybow



adult optic lobe

## Ways to determine gene expression patterns

proteins:

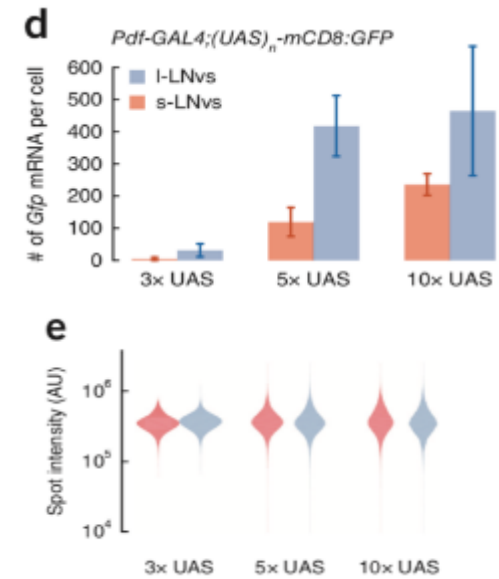
- immunostaining
- western blot

mRNA:

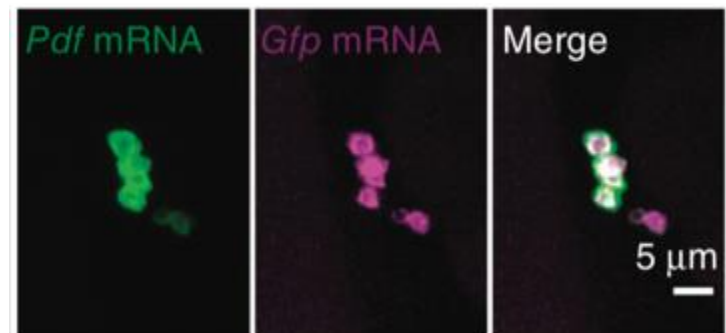
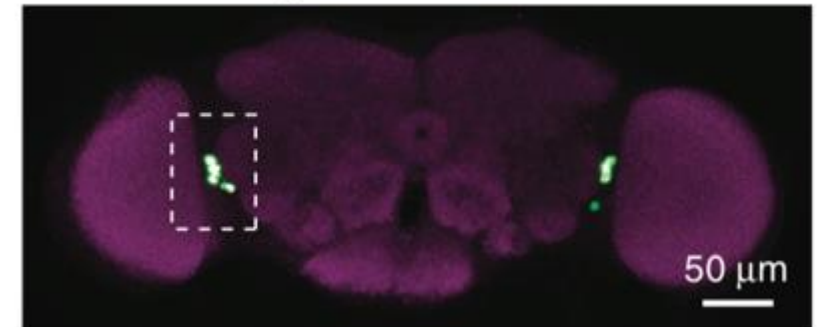
- in situ hybridization
- northern blot

# Quantitative mRNA imaging throughout the entire *Drosophila* brain

Xi Long , Jennifer Colonell, Allan M Wong, Robert H Singer & Timothée Lionnet 



Pdf-Gal4;(UAS)<sub>5</sub>-IVS-mCD8::GFP

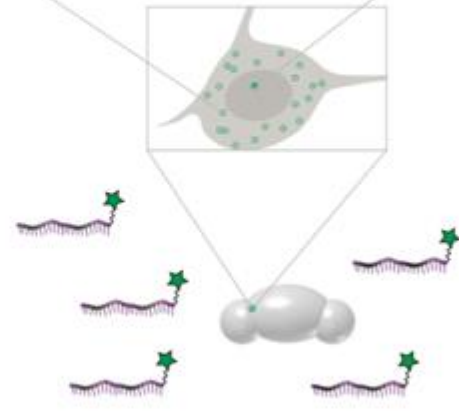
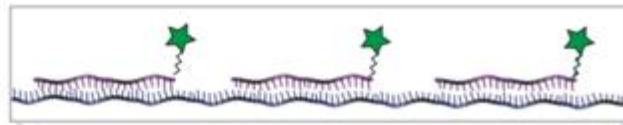


Adult *Drosophila*

Dissection  
fixation

Whole-mount brain tissue

5% CH<sub>3</sub>COOH permeation  
1% NaBH<sub>4</sub> fluorescence quenching  
Prehybridization



Hybridization

Imaging

Mounting

Xylene tissue  
clearing

Washing

- Reference

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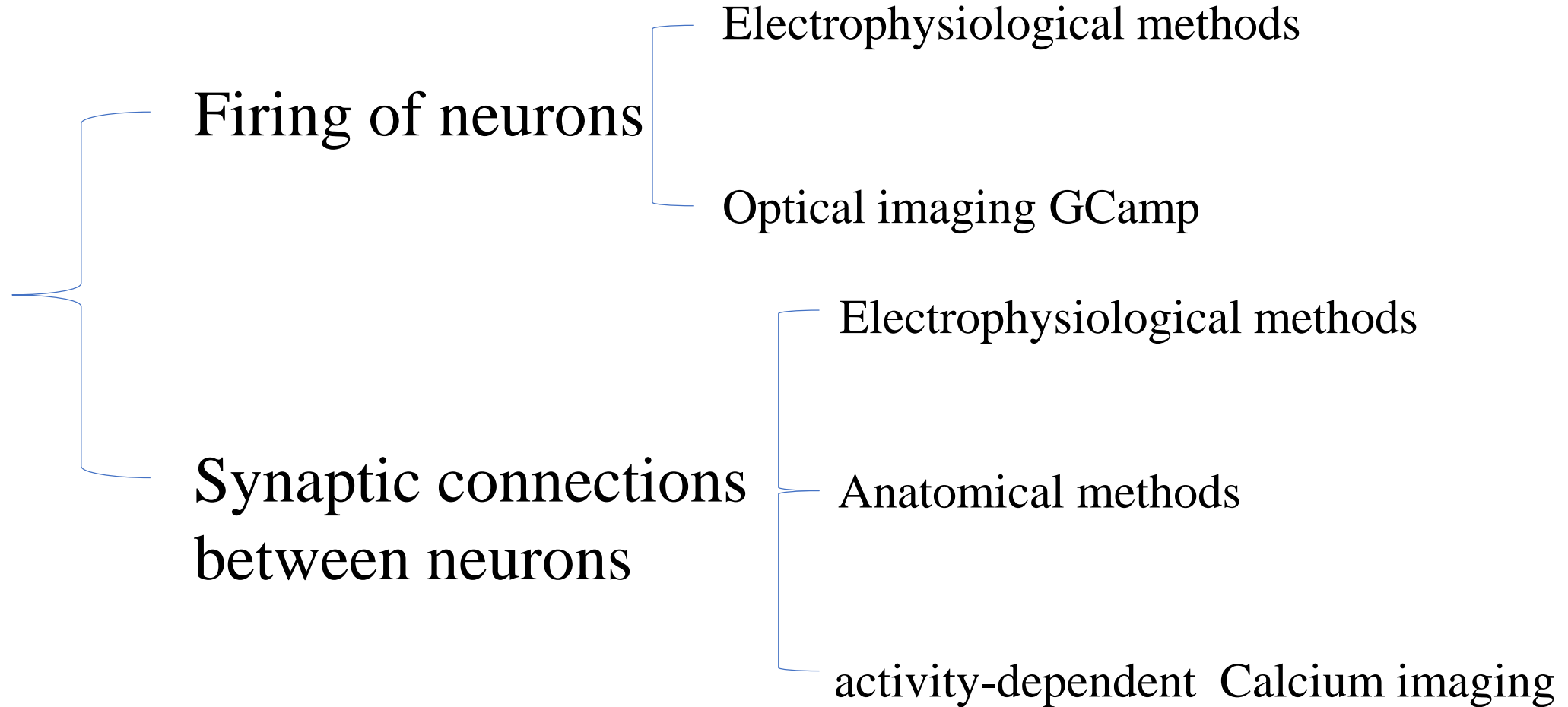
- Reference

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- [13] Yan, H. et al. 2017. An Engineered orco Mutation Produces Aberrant Social Behavior and Defective Neural Development in Ants. *Cell*. 170, 4 (2017), 736–747.e9.
- [14] Tribble, W. et al. 2017. orco Mutagenesis Causes Loss of Antennal Lobe Glomeruli and Impaired Social Behavior in Ants. *Cell*. 170, 4 (2017), 727–735.e10.
- [15] Kohatsu, S., Koganezawa, M. and Yamamoto, D. 2011. Female Contact Activates Male-Specific Interneurons that Trigger Stereotypic Courtship Behavior in *Drosophila*. *Neuron*. 69, 3 (2011), 498–508.
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# Part II. The way of Recording neuronal activity.

Zhao Huan

- Neuronal activity:



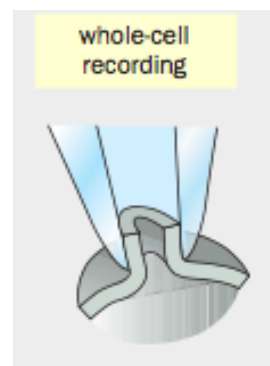
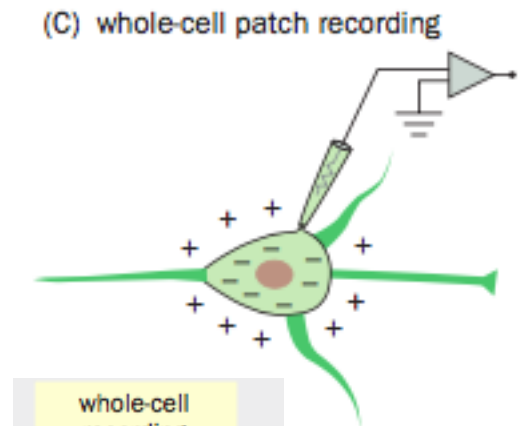
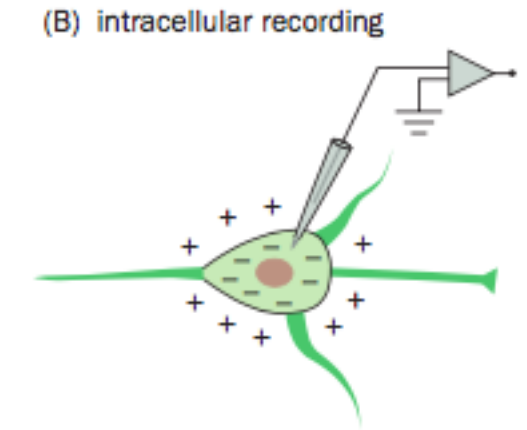
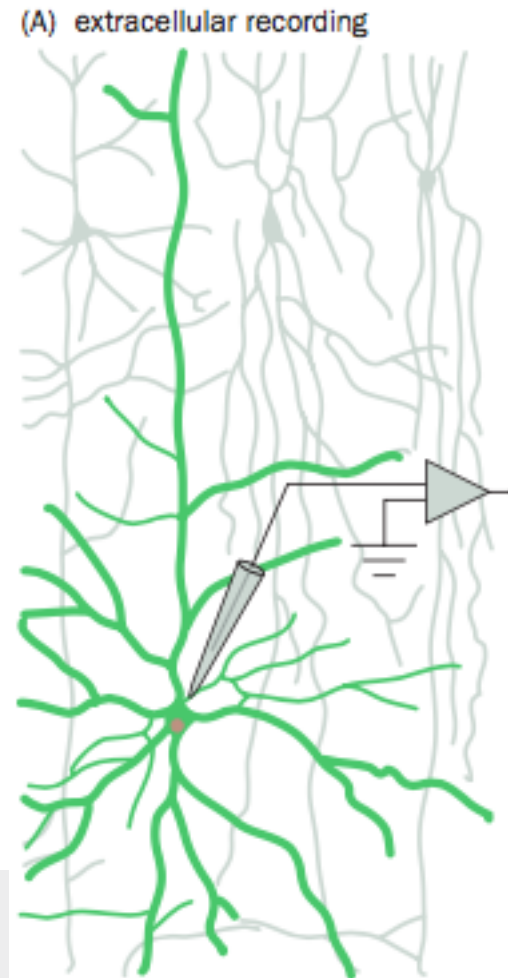
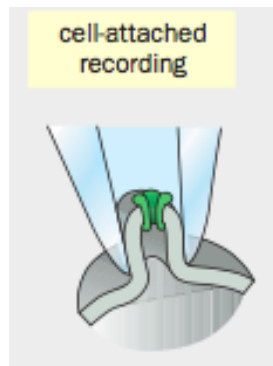
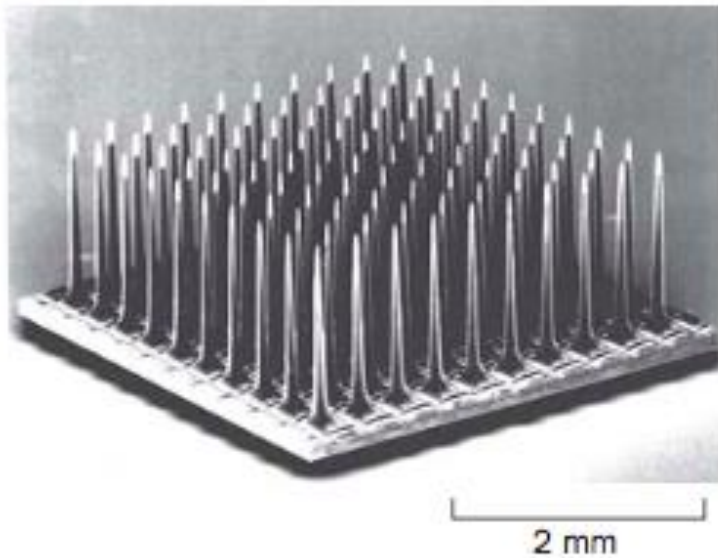
# Firing of neurons

- individual neuron

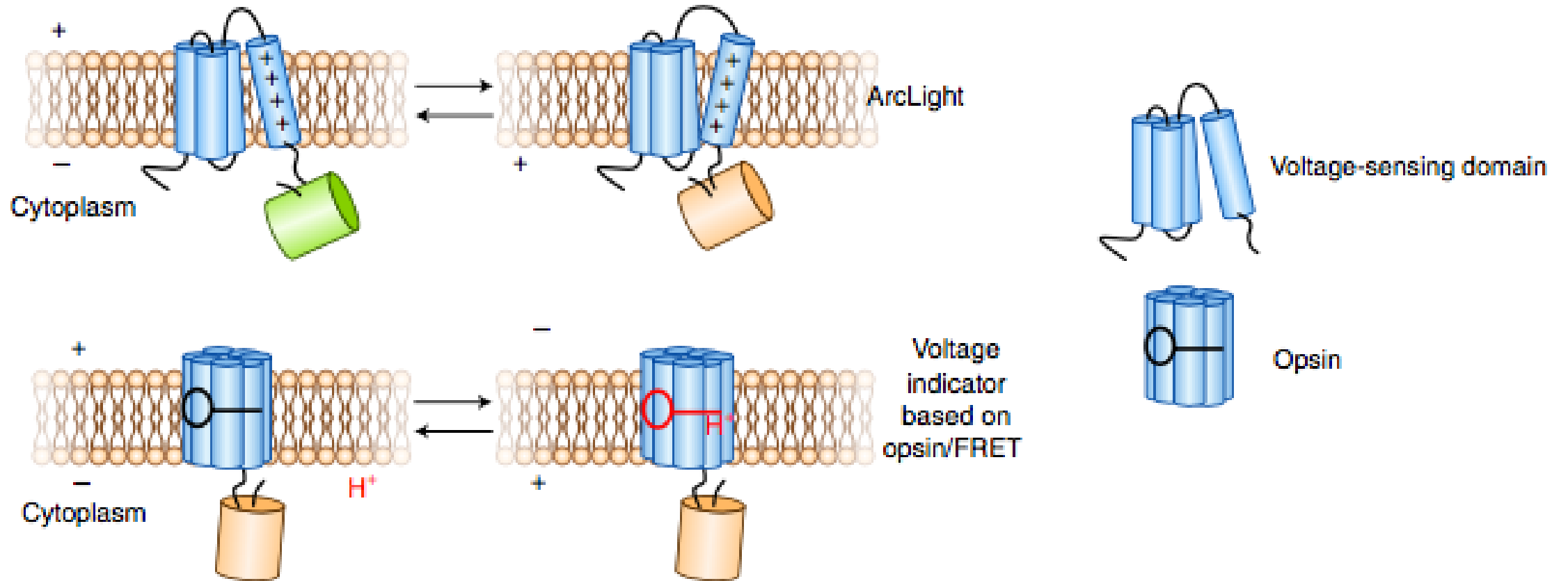
Extracellular recording

- synaptic input and firing patterns

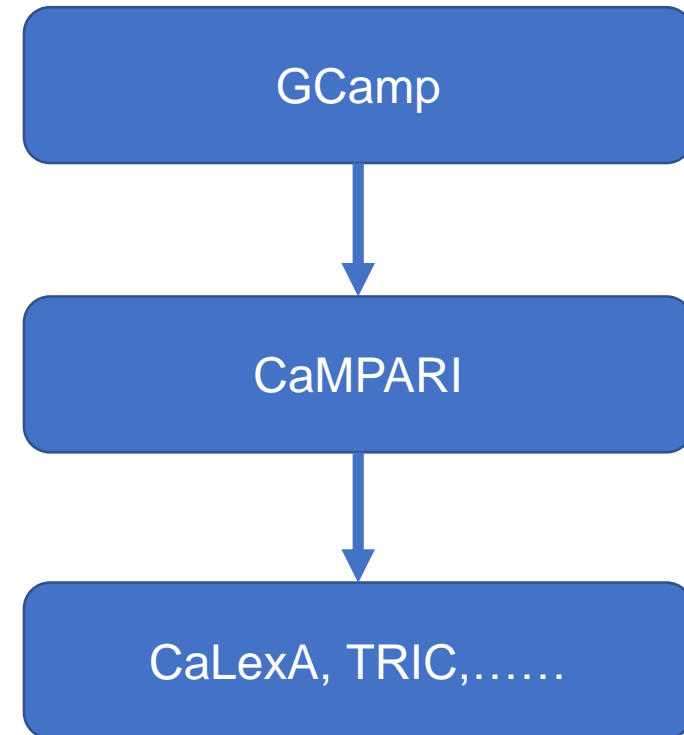
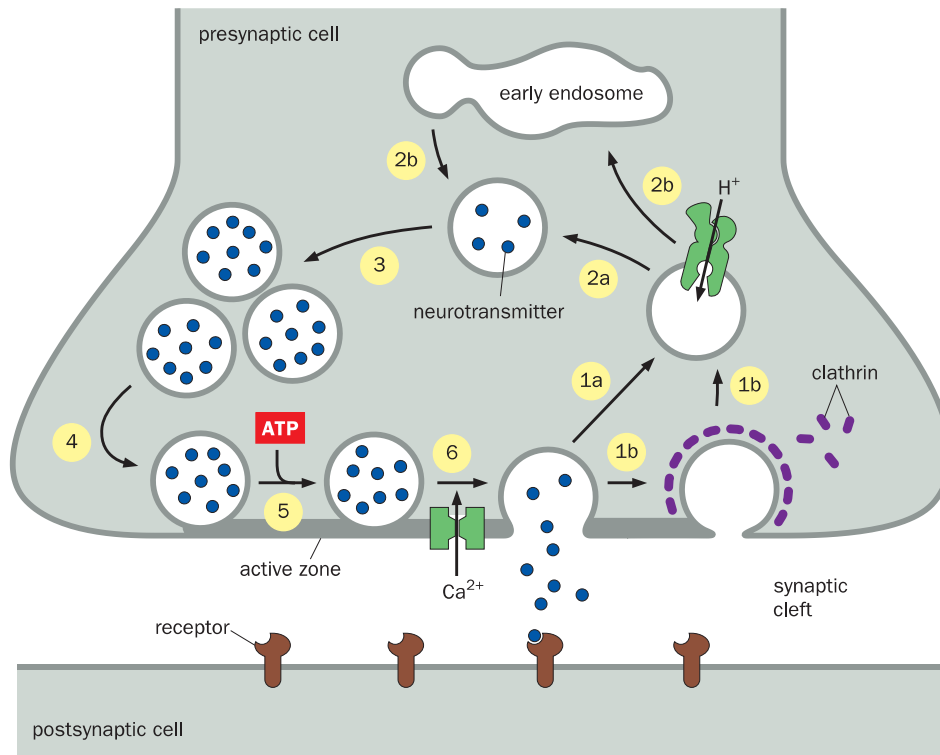
Intracellular and whole-cell patch recording



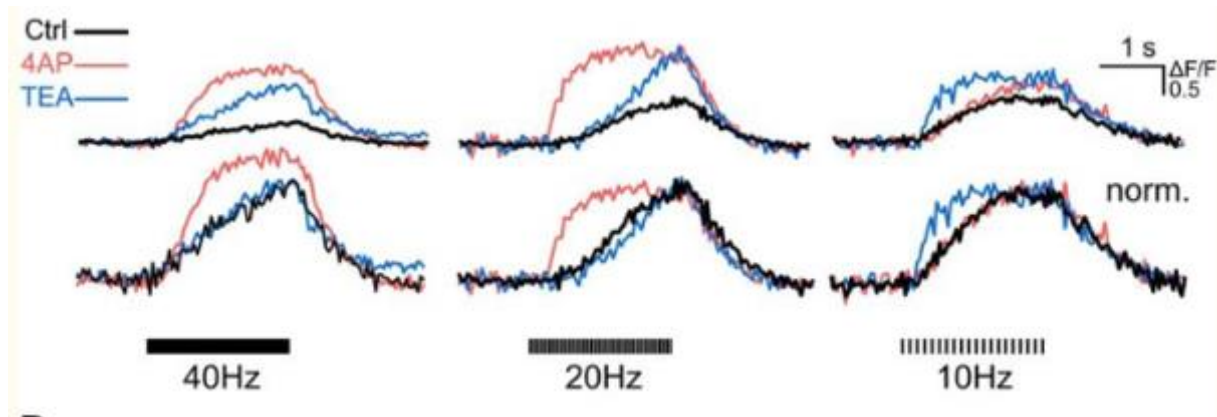
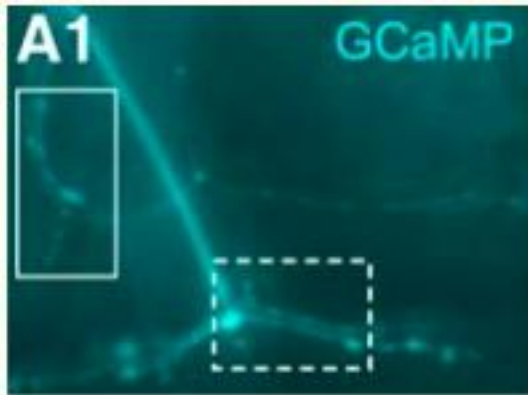
# Genetically encoded voltage indicator (GEVI)



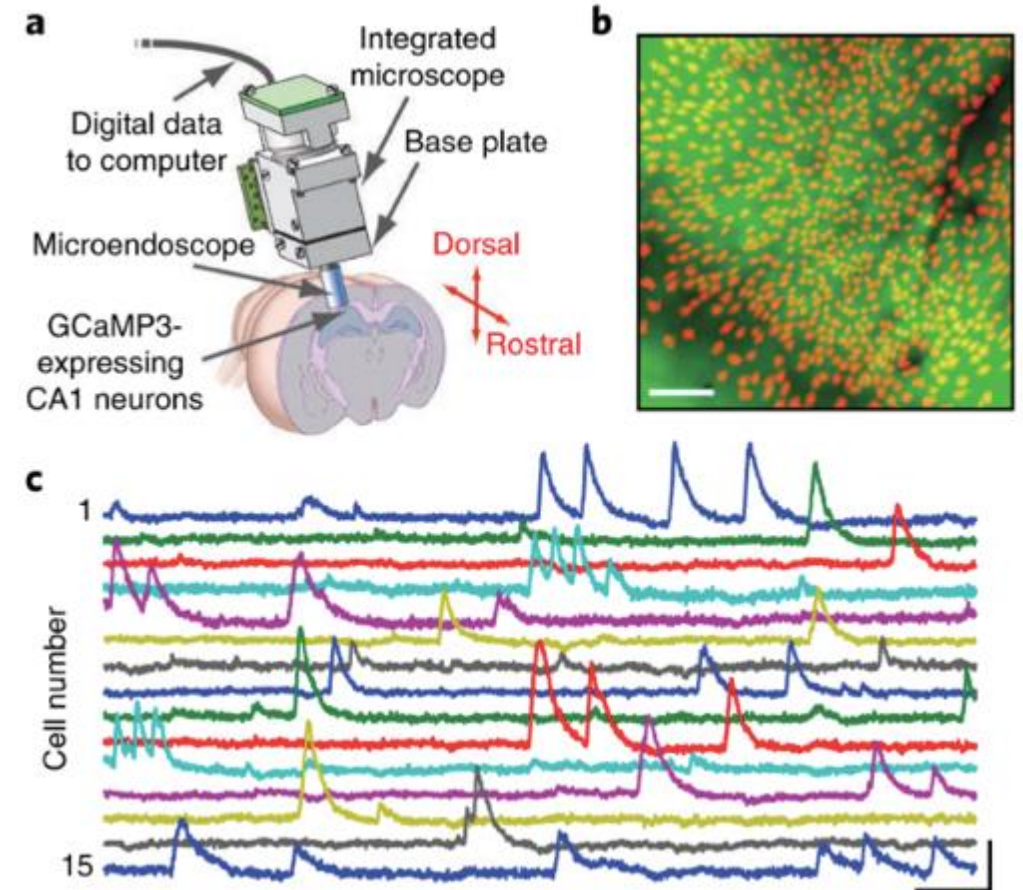
- Activity-Dependent Methods



# Activity of many neurons simultaneously-- Optical imaging GCaMP



Xiaomin Xing et al. eNeuro.2018

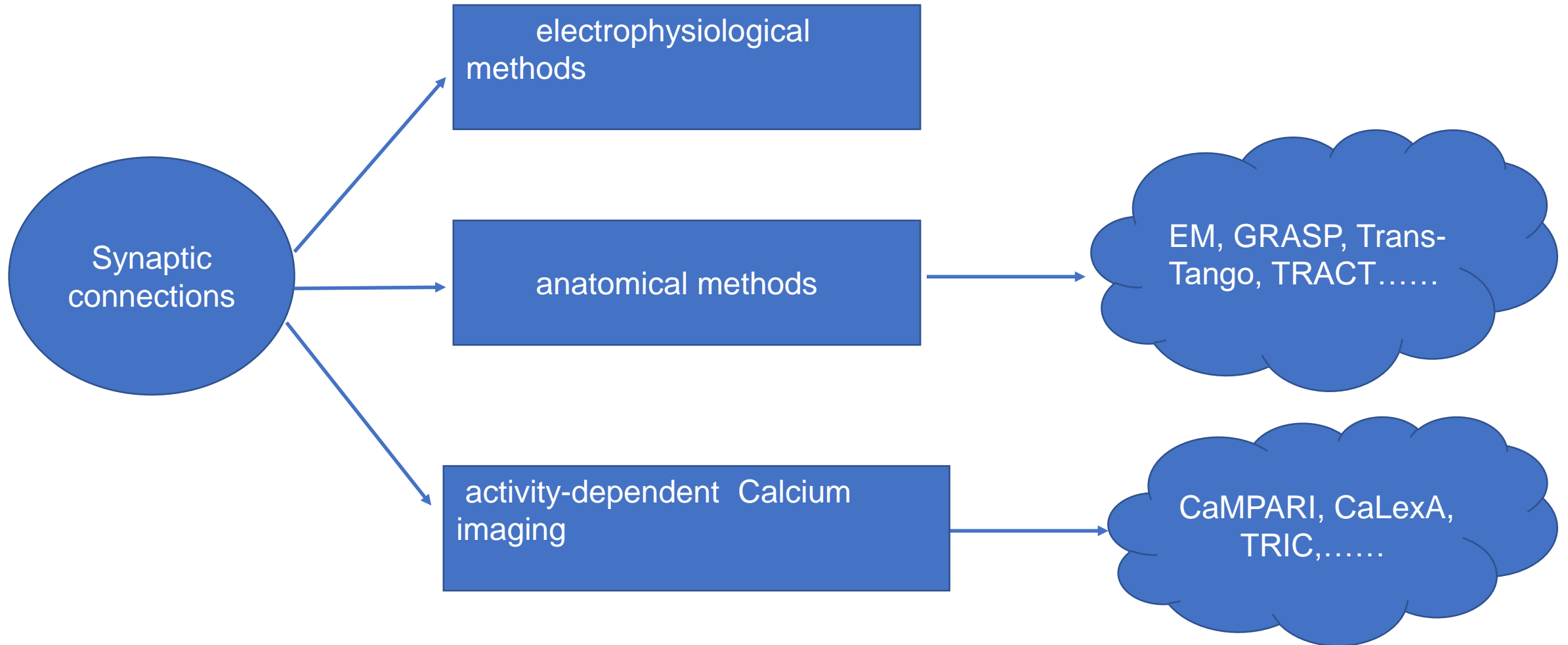


Wenjing Wang et al. Nature Chemical Biology.2015

# Comparison of electrophysiological and optical imaging methods for recording neuronal activity

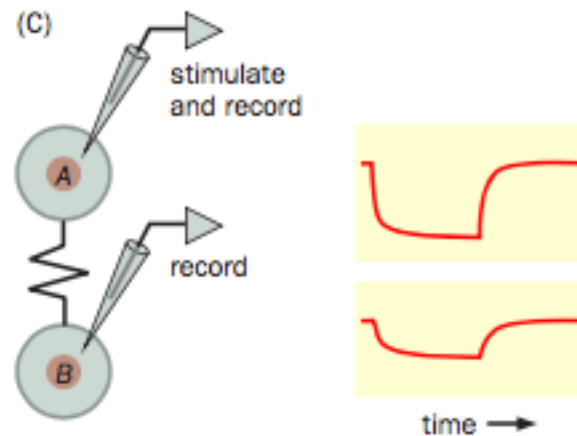
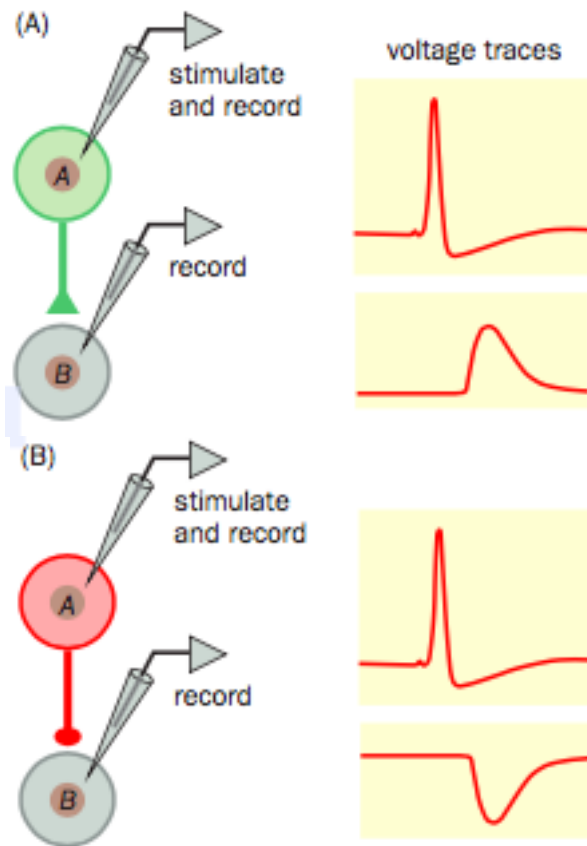
| Property                                  | Electrophysiology                   |                                      | Optical imaging with Ca <sup>2+</sup> indicators <sup>1</sup>  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
|   | Extracellular recording             | Intracellular recording              |  |
| Sensitivity to electrical signal          | spikes                              | spikes and sub-threshold activity    | generally less sensitive <sup>2</sup>                          |
| Spatial resolution                        | cellular to network                 | cellular to subcellular <sup>3</sup> | cellular and subcellular                                       |
| Temporal resolution                       | <1 millisecond                      | <1 millisecond                       | 10s to 100s of milliseconds for a single imaging plane         |
| Number of neurons recorded simultaneously | up to hundreds                      | at most a few                        | thousands or more  |
| Stability during movement                 | good                                | poor                                 | poor   |
| Depth of recording                        | any depth                           | easier superficially                 | limited <sup>4</sup>   |
| Duration of recording                     | days to weeks                       | 10s of minutes                       | hours with chemical indicators; months with protein indicators |
| Cell-type-specific recording              | poor                                | good                                 | excellent with protein indicators                              |
| Biases                                    | active neurons; dominant cell types | large cells                          | cells that take up or express the indicators well              |

# Synaptic connections between neurons

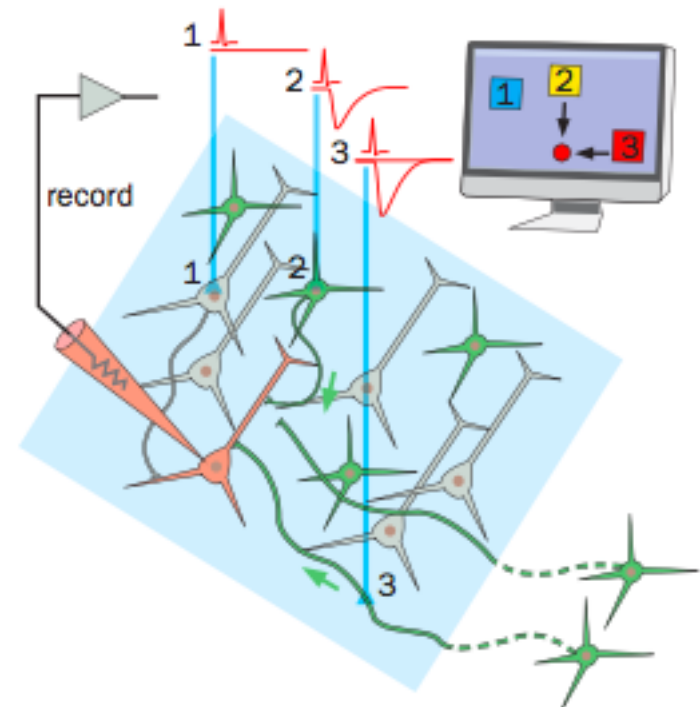


# Synaptic connections between neurons

- physiological methods



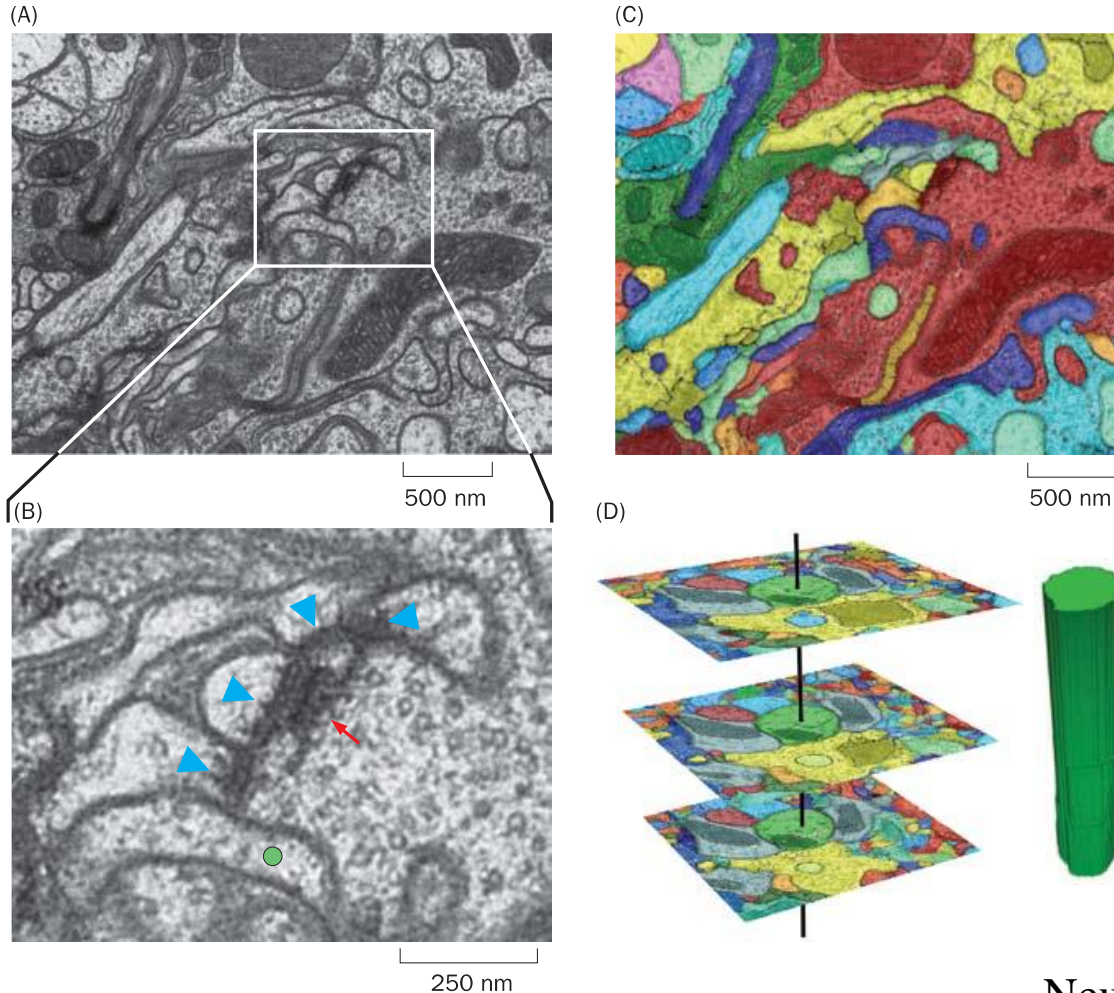
- A widely used method for CRACM (ChR2-assisted circuit mapping)



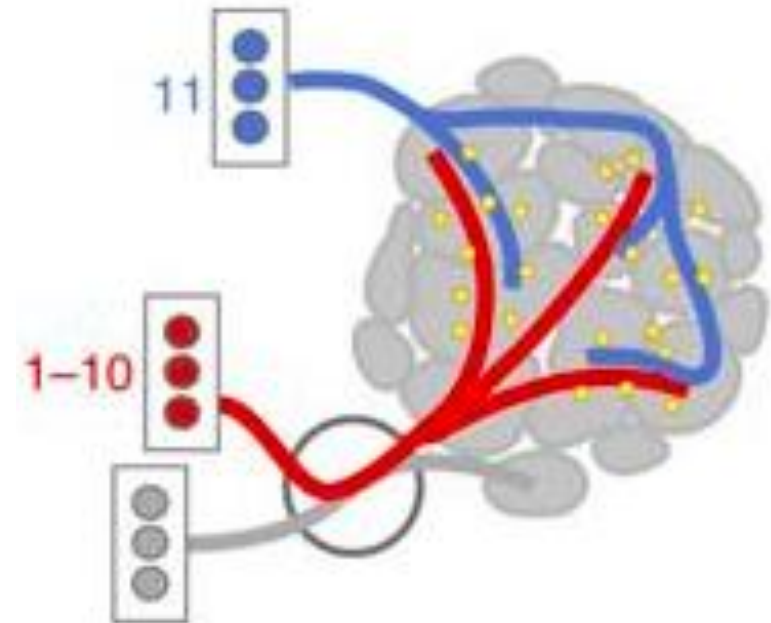
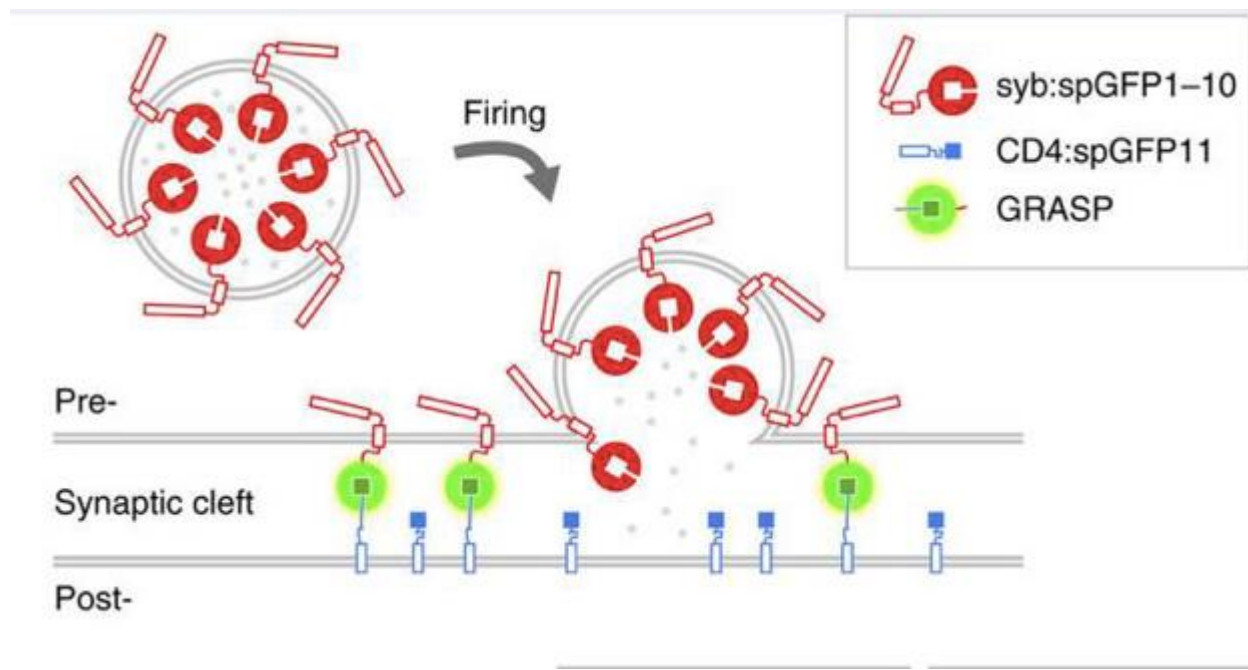
# Synaptic connections between neurons

- anatomical method

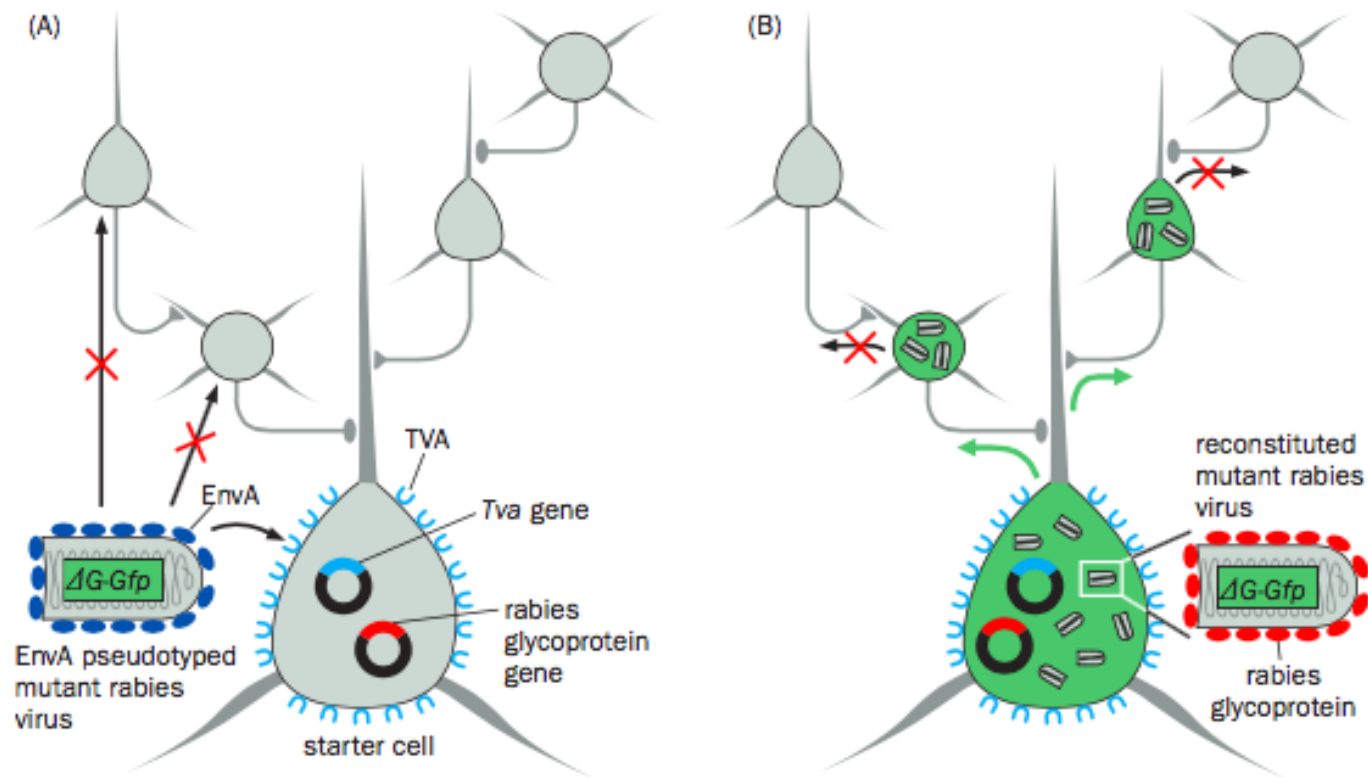
The most reliable anatomical method to determine whether or not two neurons form synaptic connections is EM (electron microscopy).



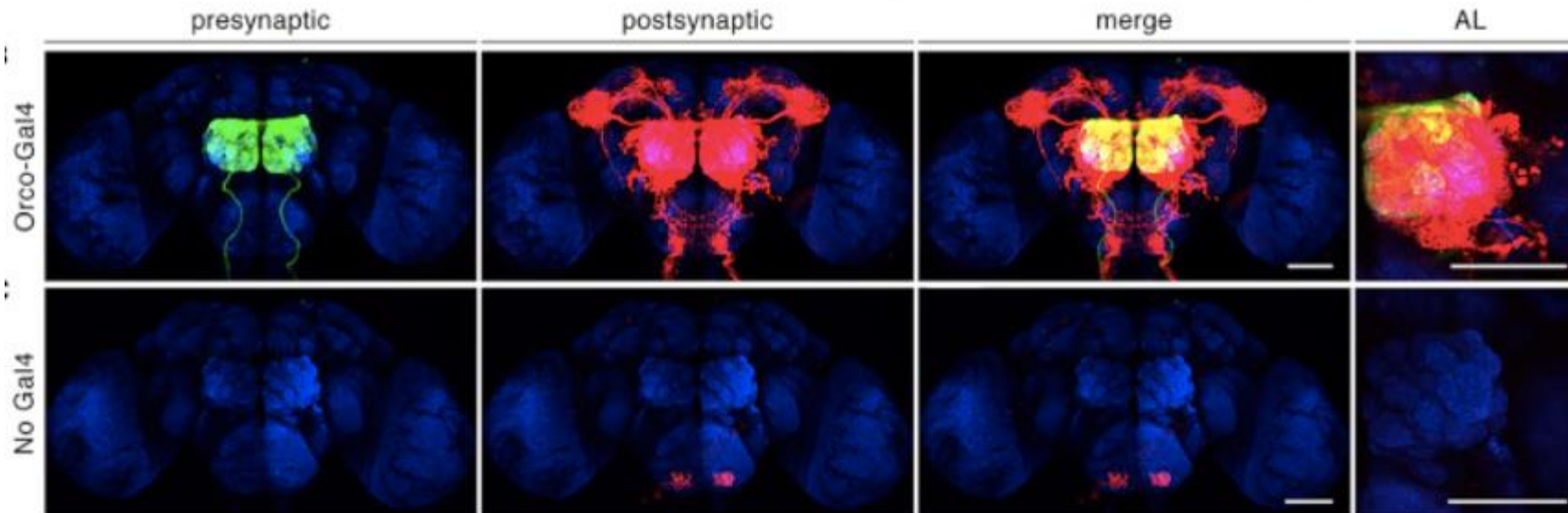
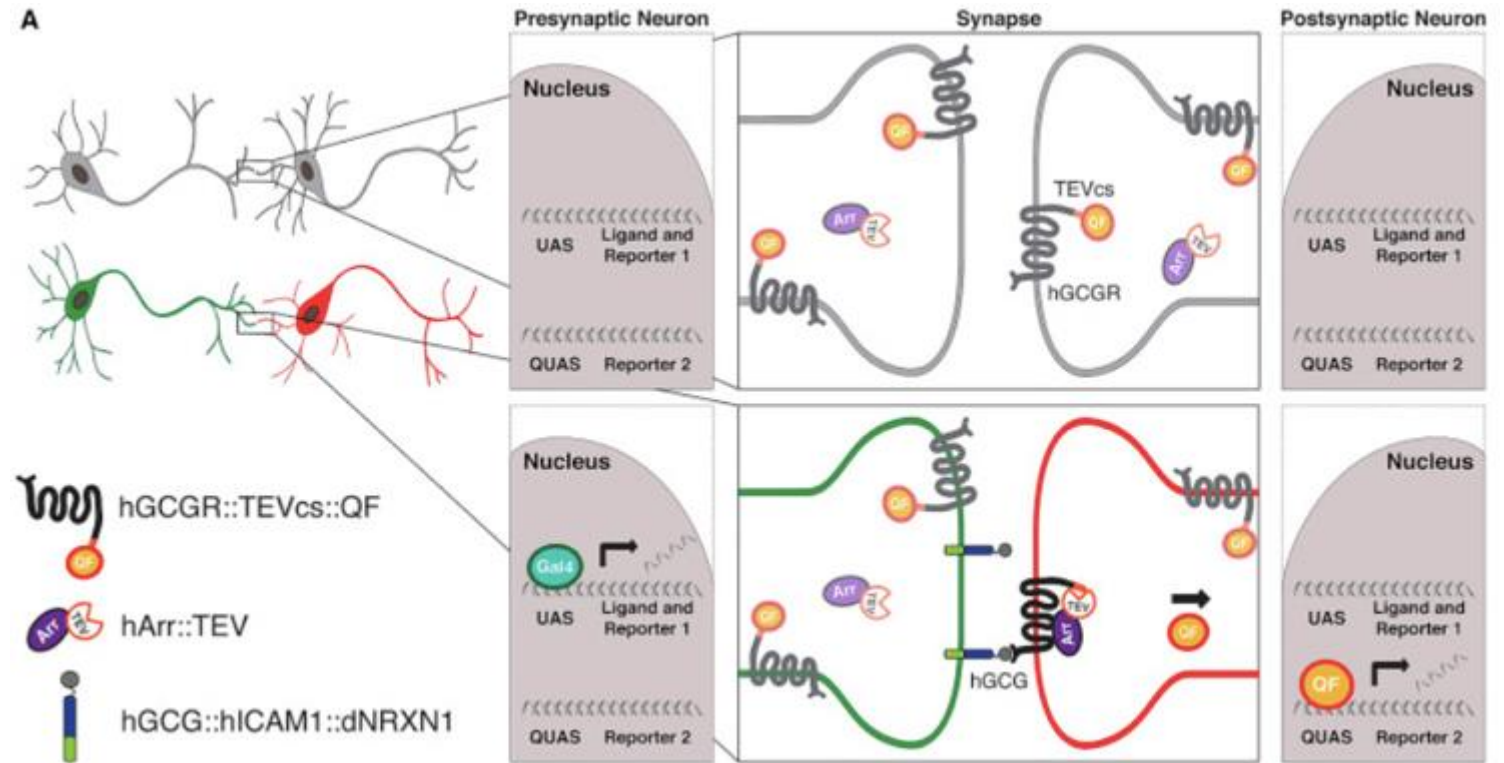
- GRASP uses complementary split-GFP fragments (sp-GFP1–10 and sp-GFP11) expressed on the extracellular membranes of different neurons to reconstitute a functional fluorescent GFP reporter at the points of contact.



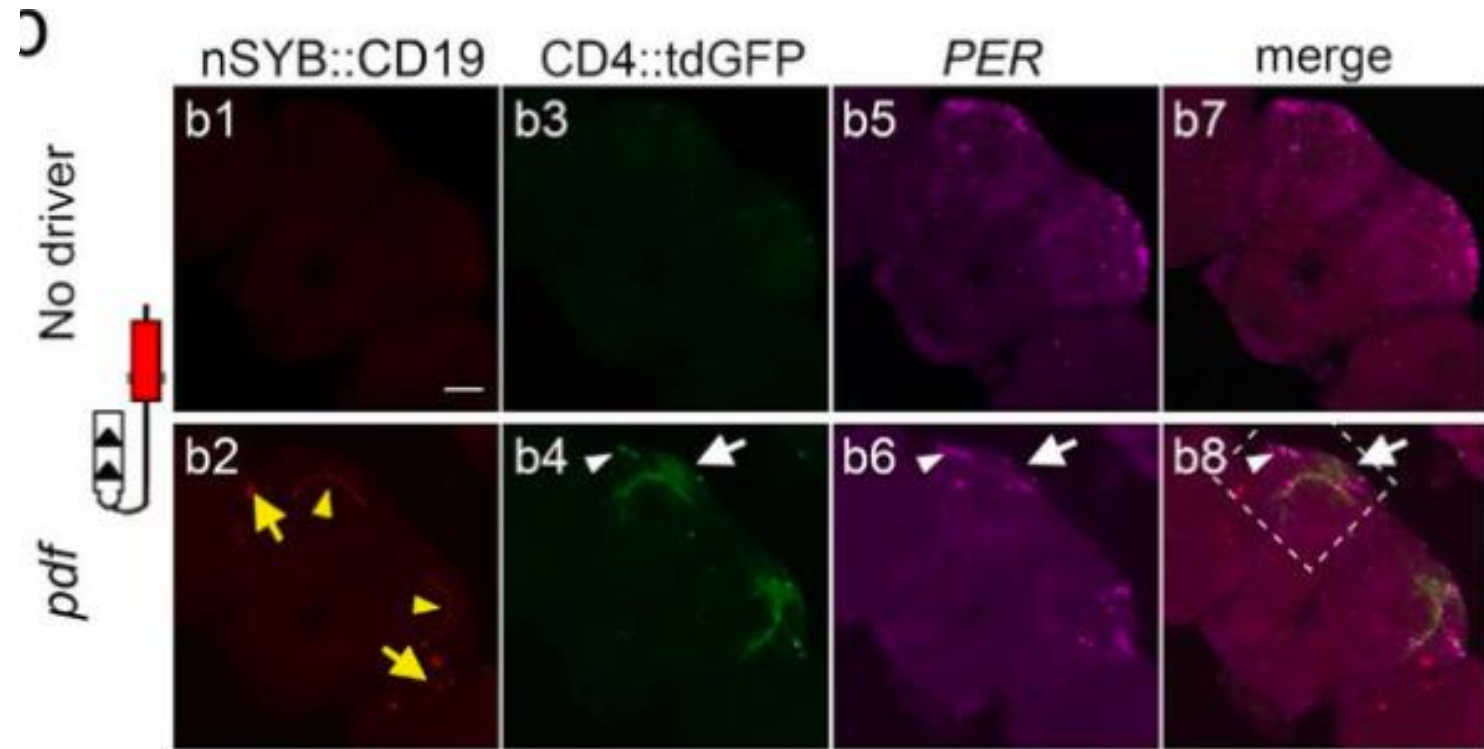
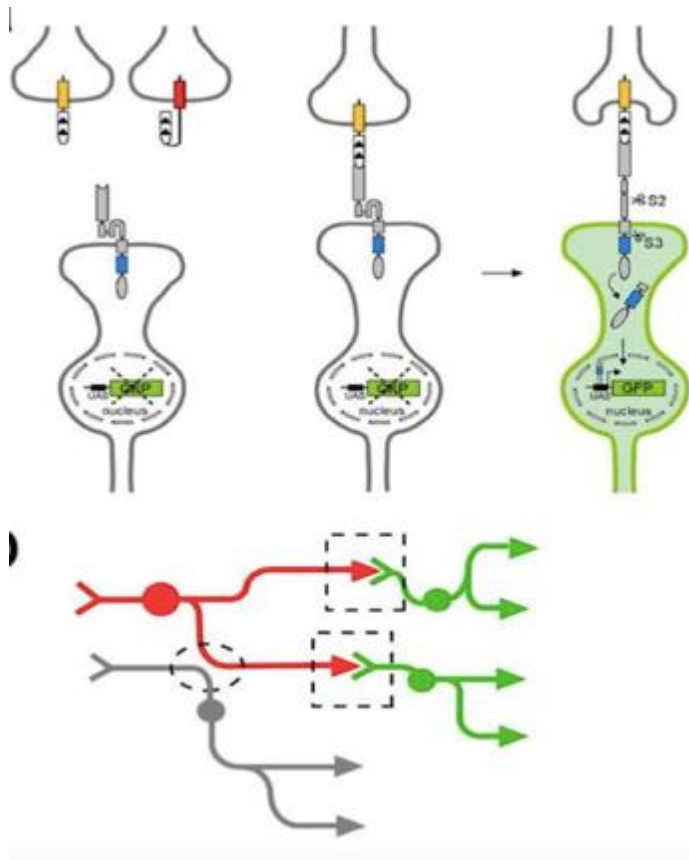
- trans-synaptic tracing: rabies virus and herpes simplex virus spread within the nervous systems of their hosts naturally by crossing synapses.



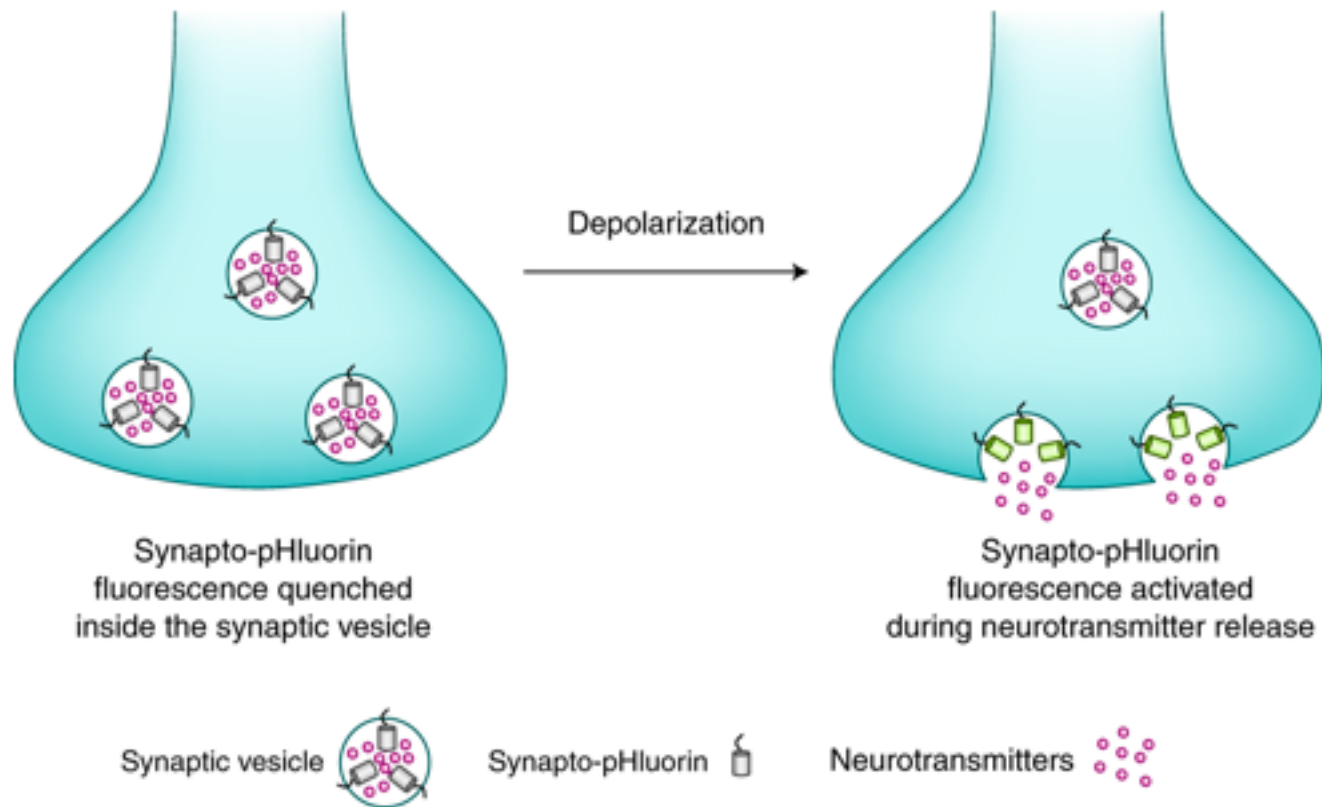
- Trans-Tango: a technique for anterograde transsynaptic circuit tracing and manipulation



- TRACT: ligand-induced intramembrane proteolysis to reveal monosynaptic connections arising from genetically labeled neurons of interest

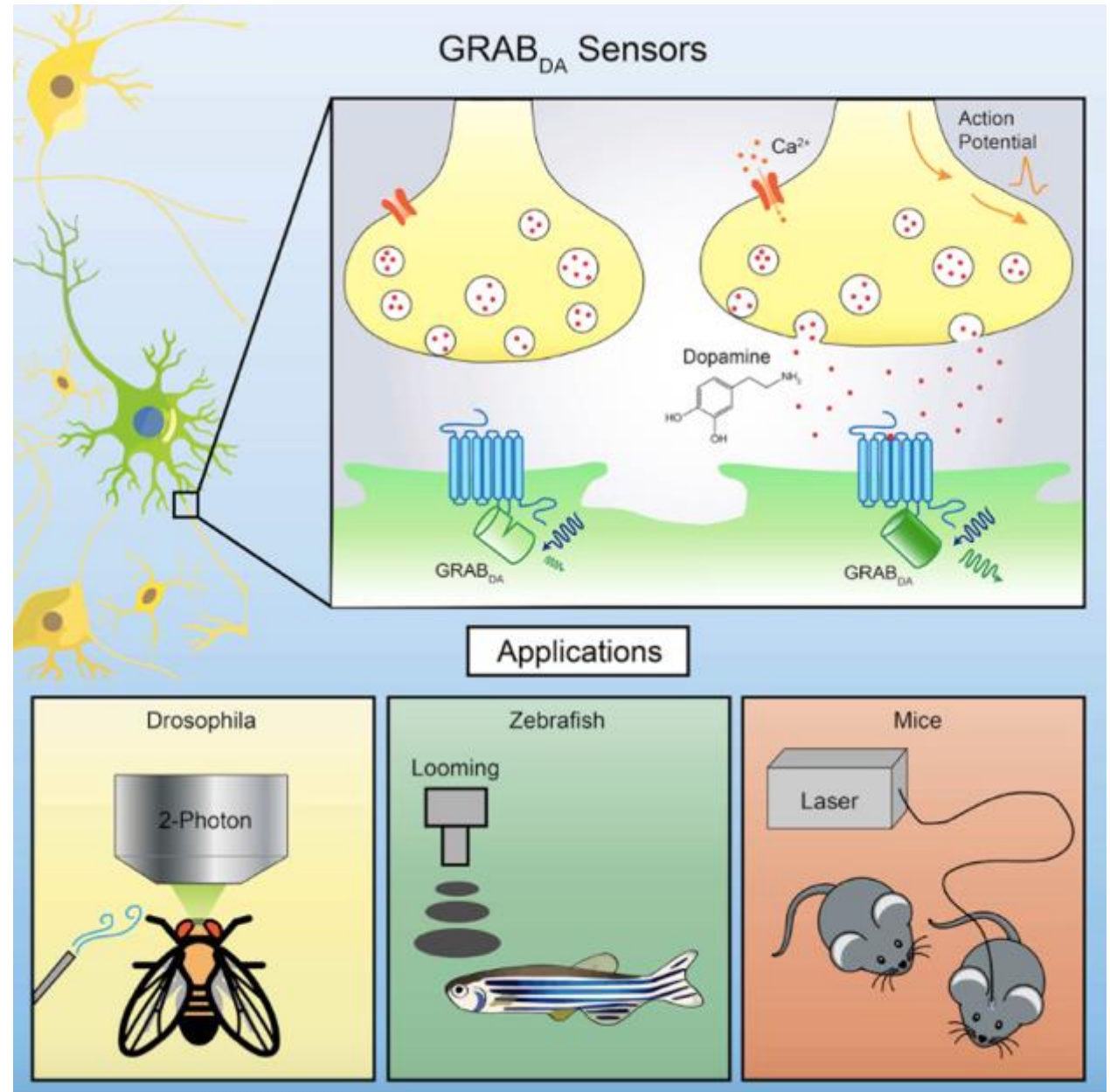


- pH sensors and neurotransmitter sensors

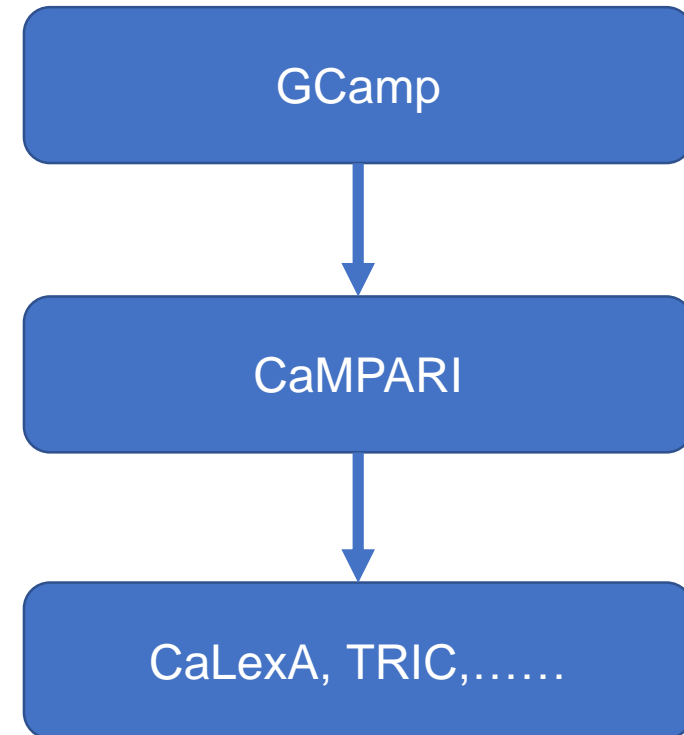
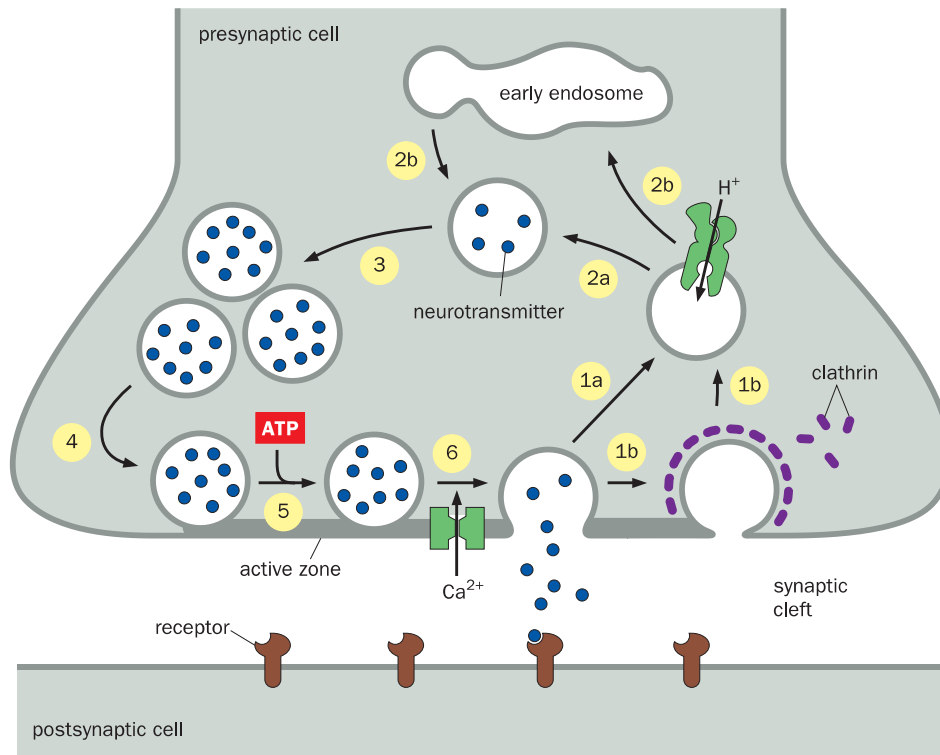


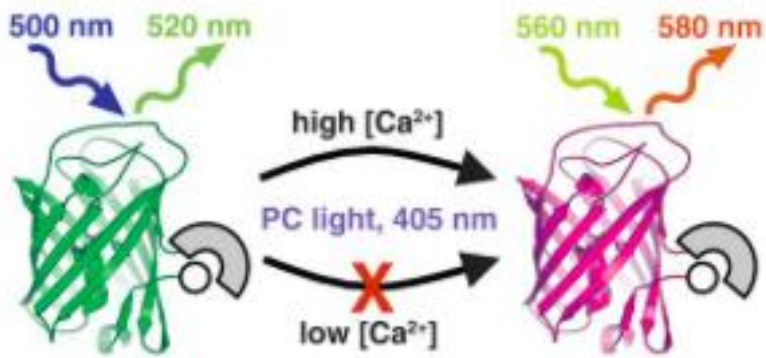
Wenjing Wang et al. Nature Chemical Biology.2015

- GPCR-activation-based-DA (GRAB<sub>DA</sub>) sensors are genetically encoded dopamine (DA) sensors based on GPCR



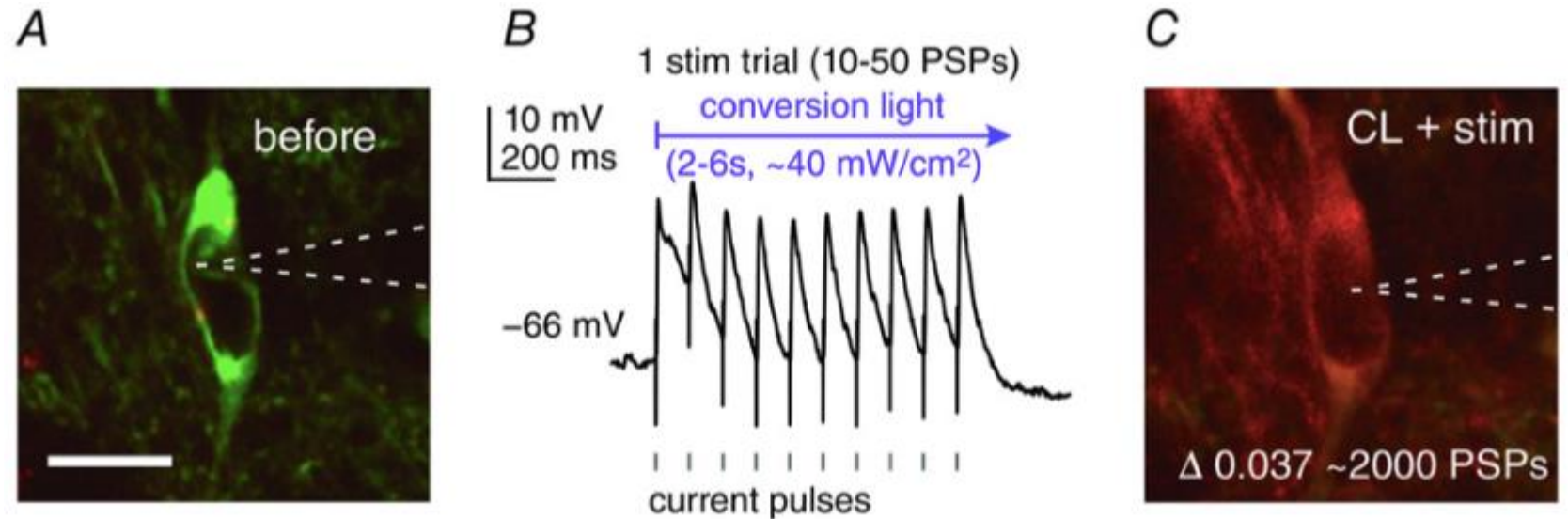
- Activity-Dependent Methods





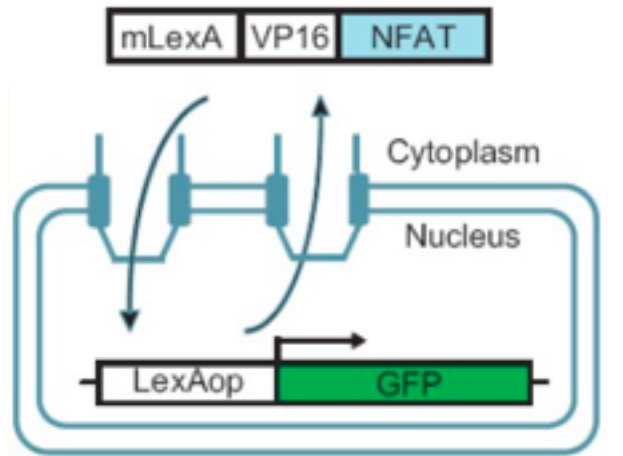
CaMPARI: The genetically encoded  
fluorescent calcium integrator  
calcium-modulated photoactivatable  
ratiometric integrator

Benjamin F. et al. Science.2015

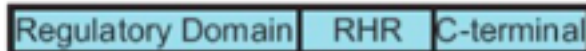


Timothy A.Zolnik et al. The Journal Of Physiology.2016

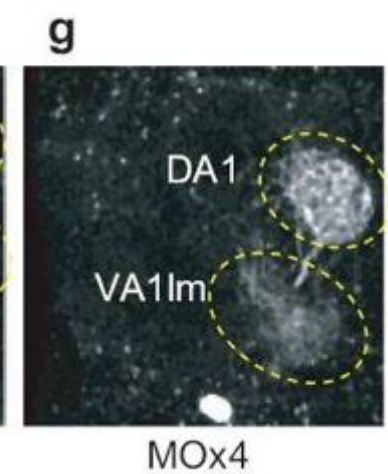
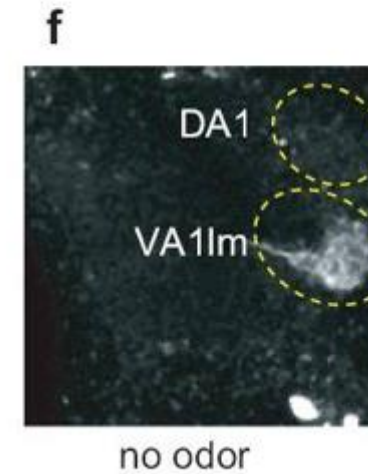
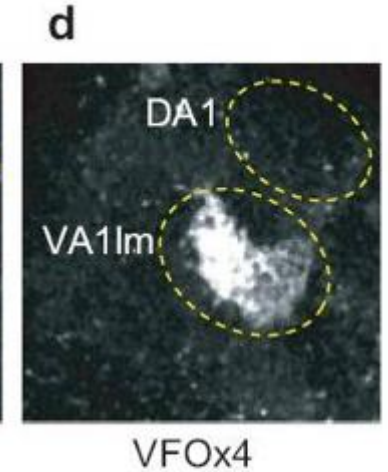
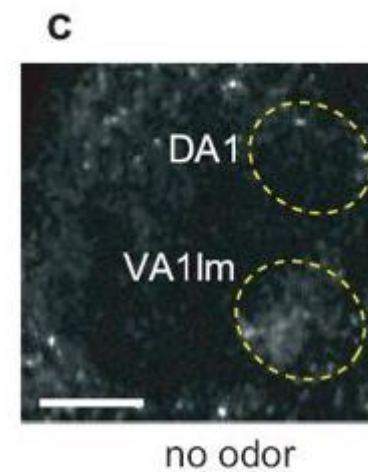
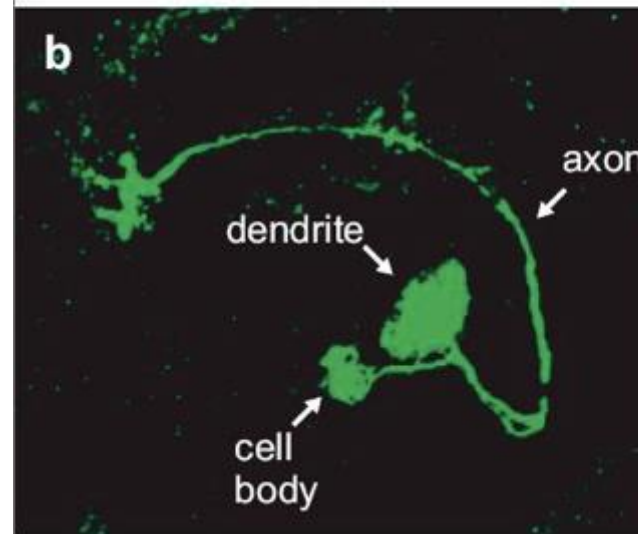
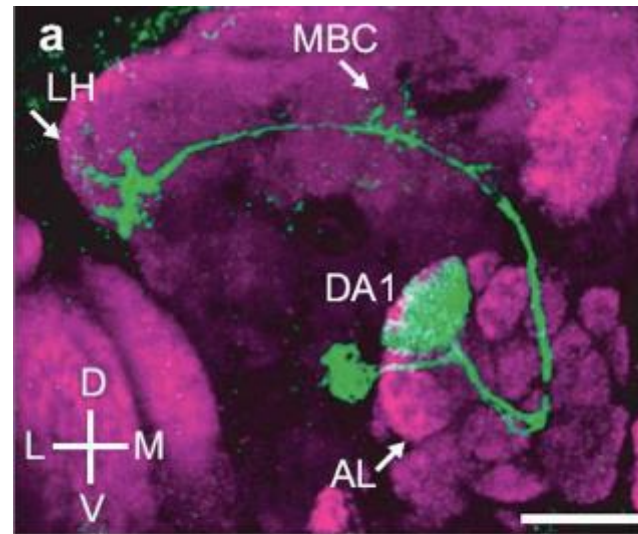
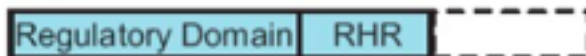
# CaLexA



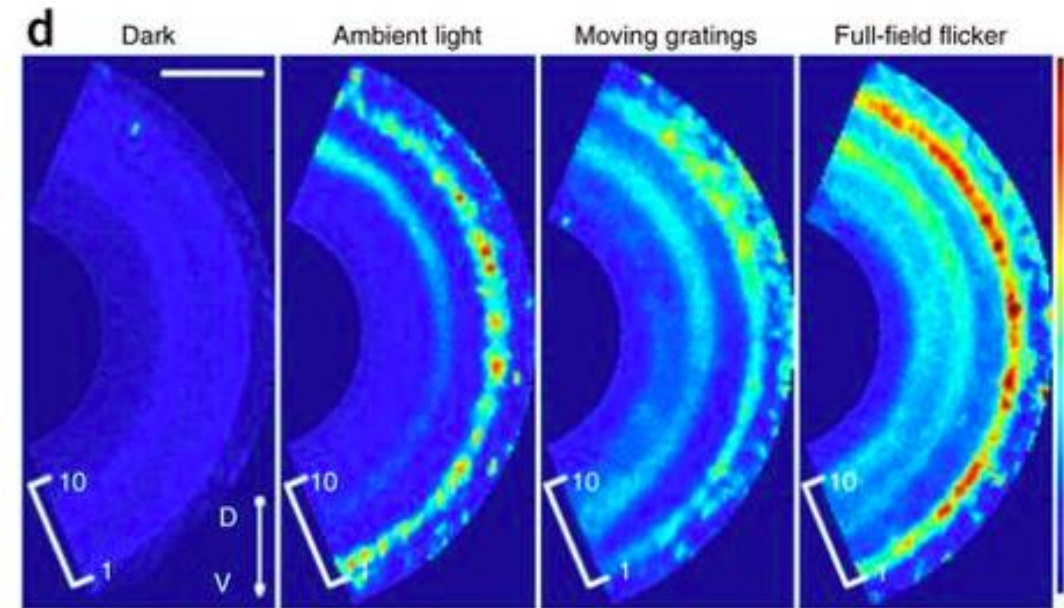
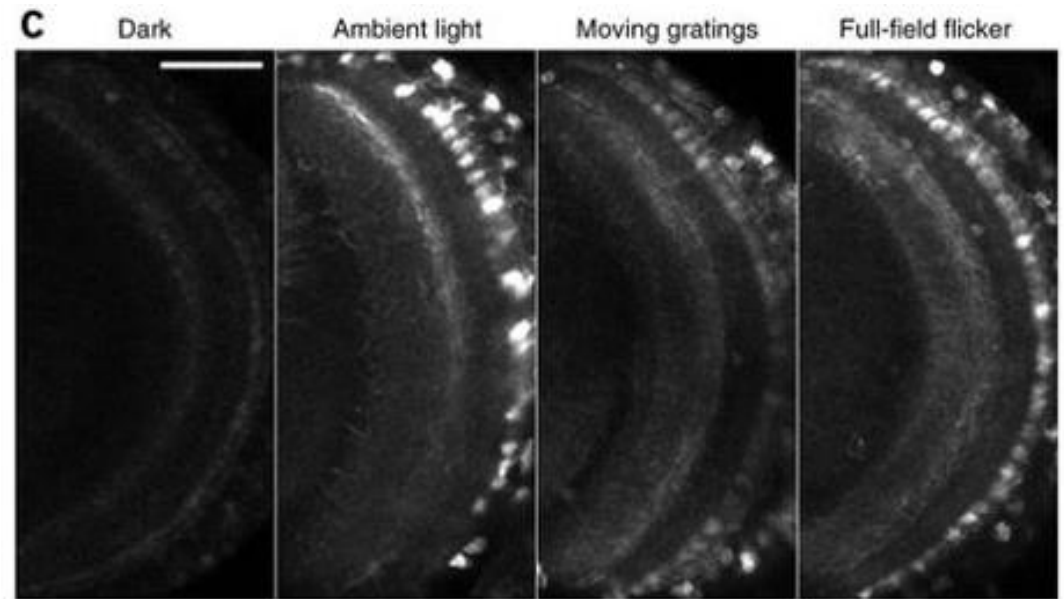
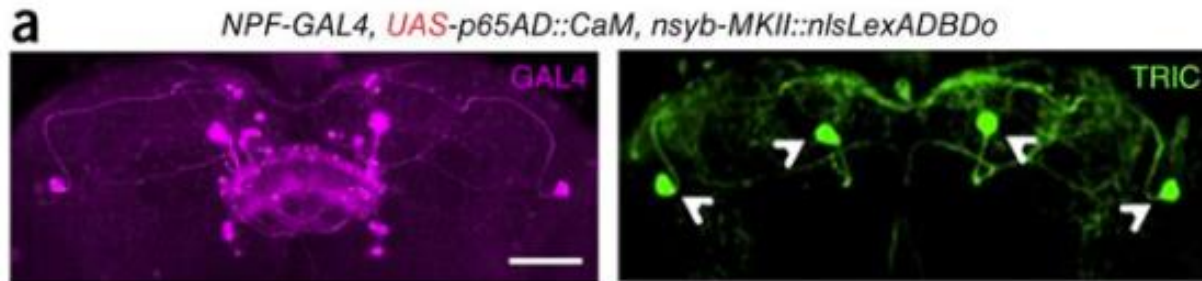
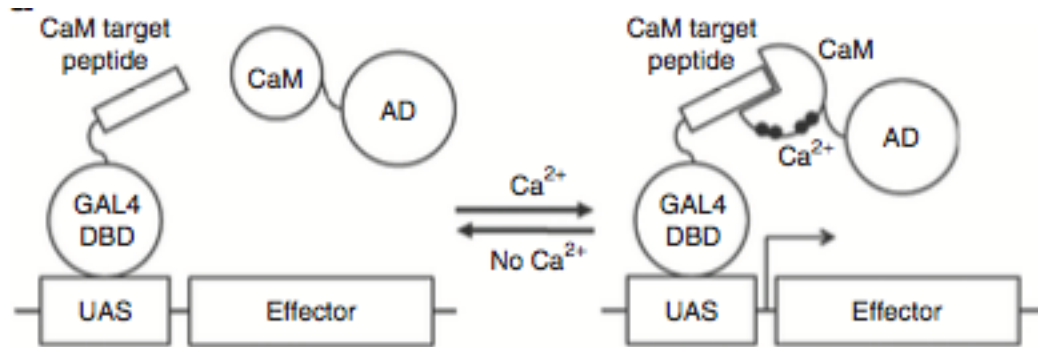
NFAT



$\Delta C$



# TRIC



# Part III. Manipulating neuronal activity and behavioral analyses

Chen Jie

# Manipulating neuronal activity

## Inactivation of neurons

### ➤ Lesion

Ablate using a high-intensity laser

### ➤ Genetic approaches

Tetanus toxin

Kir2.1

Shibire protein(inactivate target neurons transiently)

### ➤ Chemogenetic approaches

DREADD

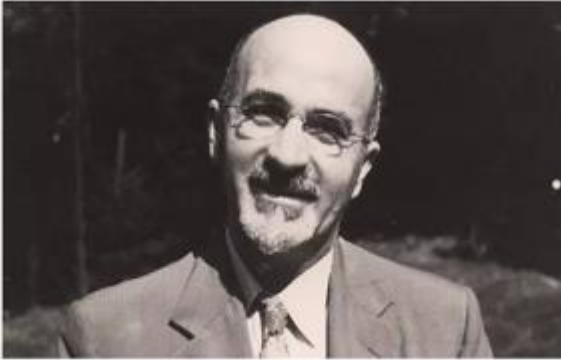
PSEM

# Inactivation of neurons

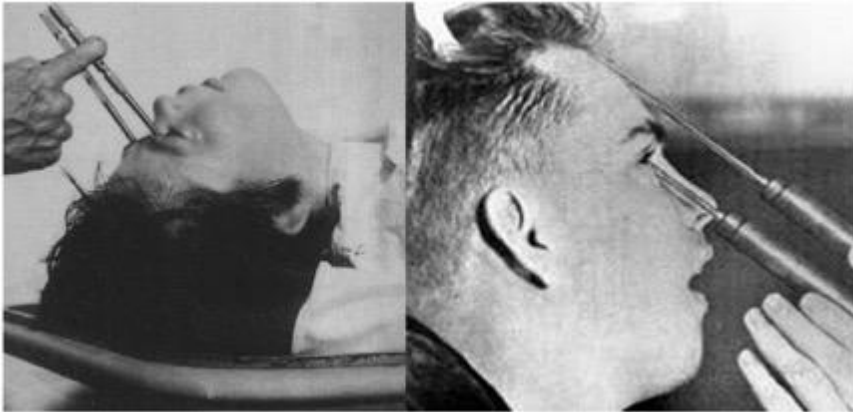
## ➤ Lesion



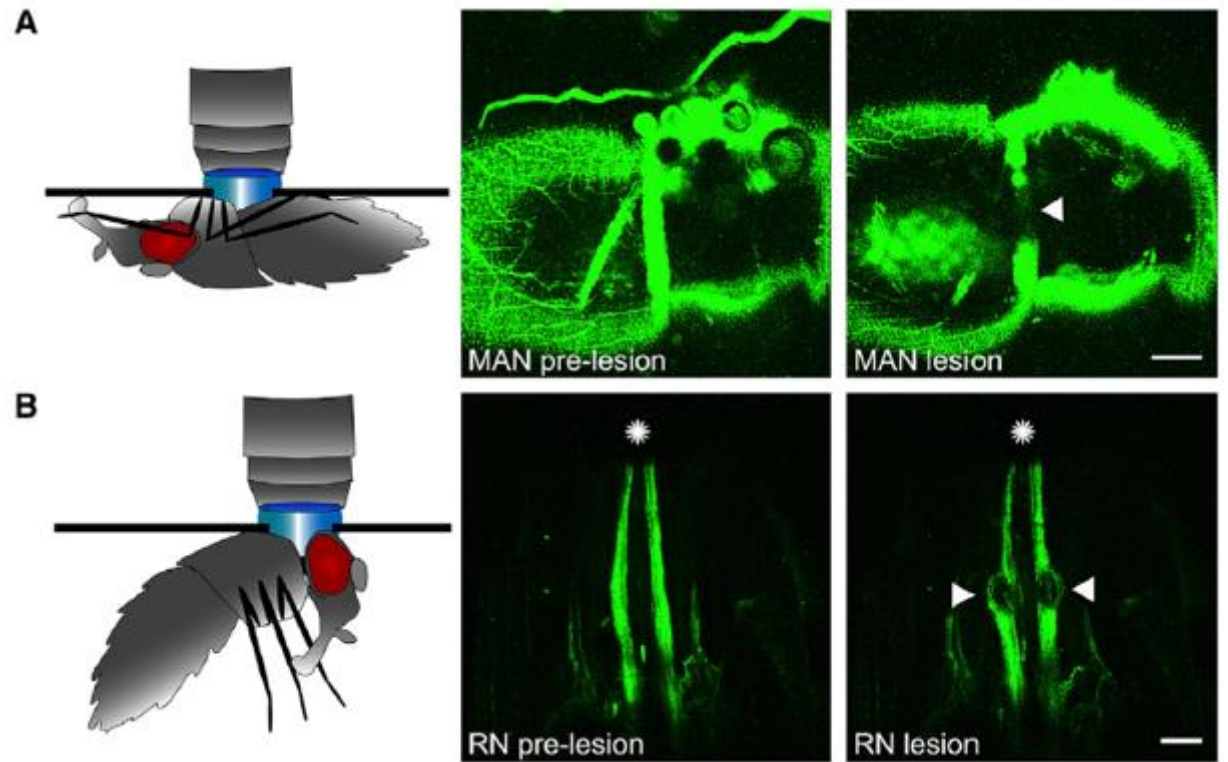
António Egas Moniz



Walter Jackson Freeman II



Ablate using a high-intensity laser



Allan-Hermann Pool et al. Neuron.2014

# Inactivation of neurons

## ➤ Genetic approaches

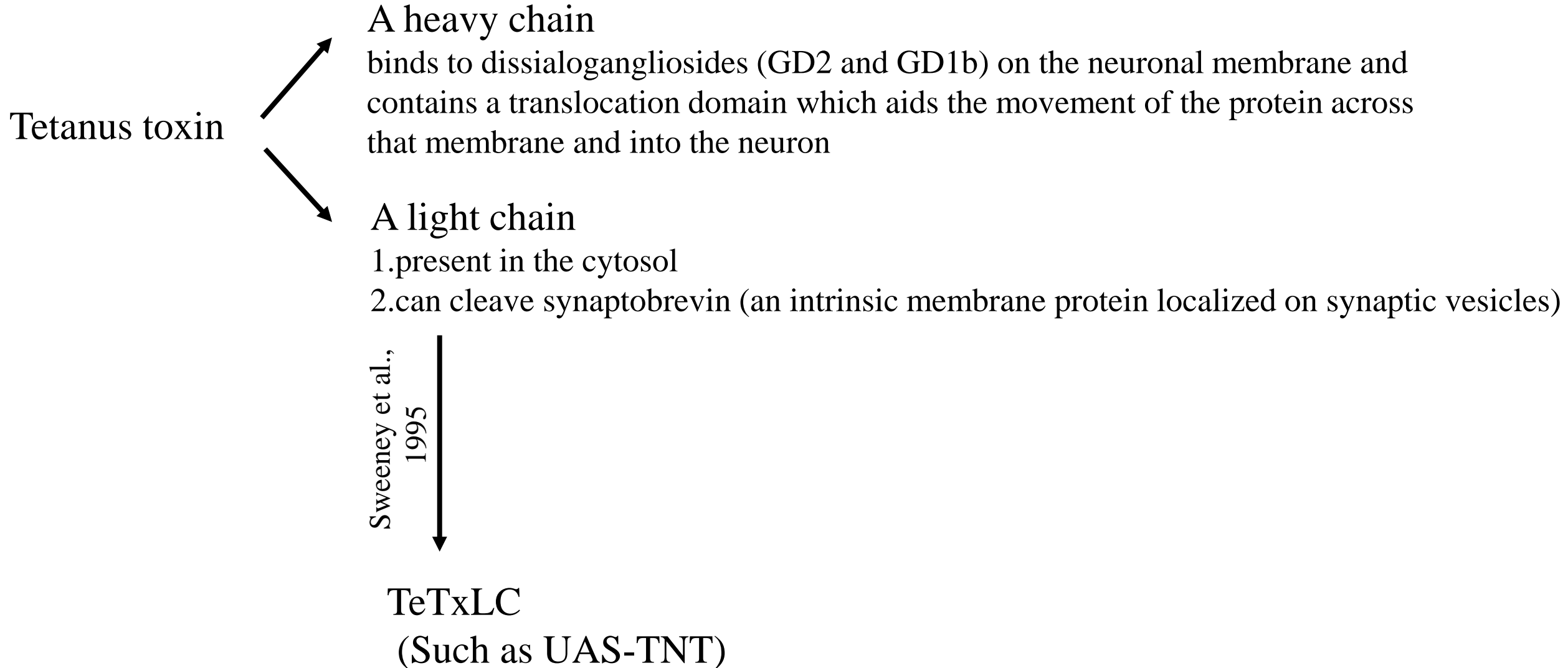
Tetanus toxin

Shibire protein(inactivate target neurons transiently)

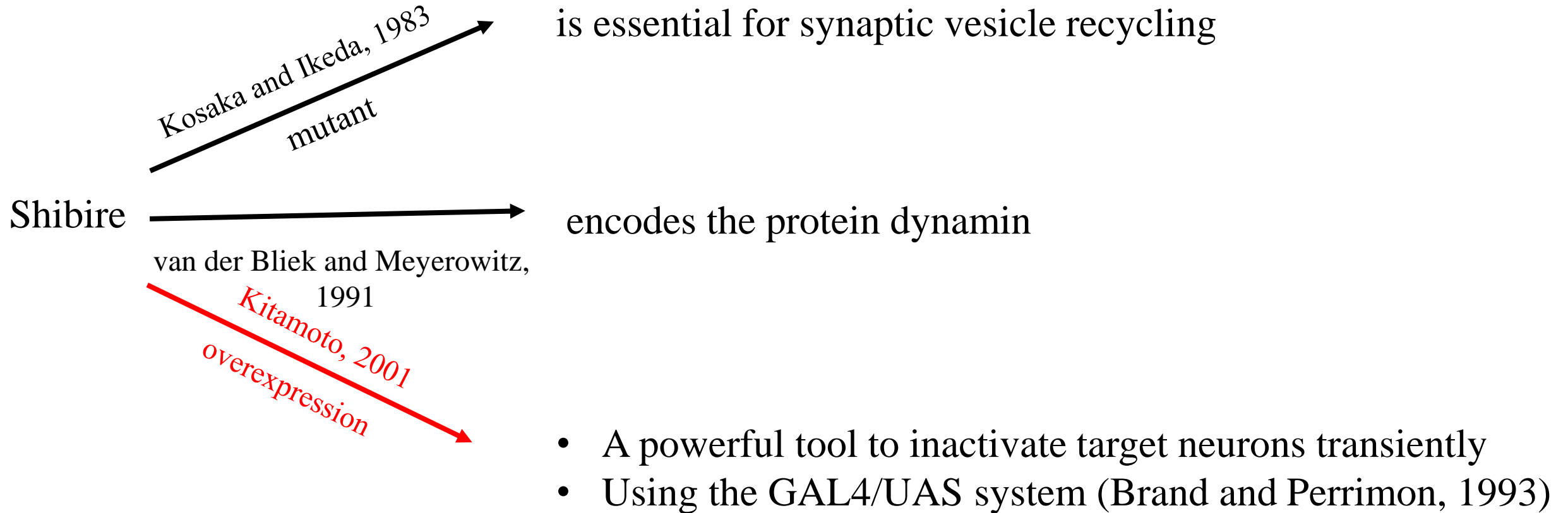
Kir2.1

Reaper

# Tetanus toxin



# Shibire protein (inactivate target neurons transiently)



(Such as UAS-Shits)

# Kir2.1

Synaptic activity was blocked TeTxLC or shibire protein.

But how about the electrical phenotype of these neurons?

They are abnormal

Kir2.1 <sup>Baines et al., 2001</sup> →

1. is potassium channel
2. hyperpolarizes neurons, thereby efficiently blocking action potential generation
3. is electrical silencing
4. can block neuronal activity regardless of the synapse type

(UAS-Kir2.1)

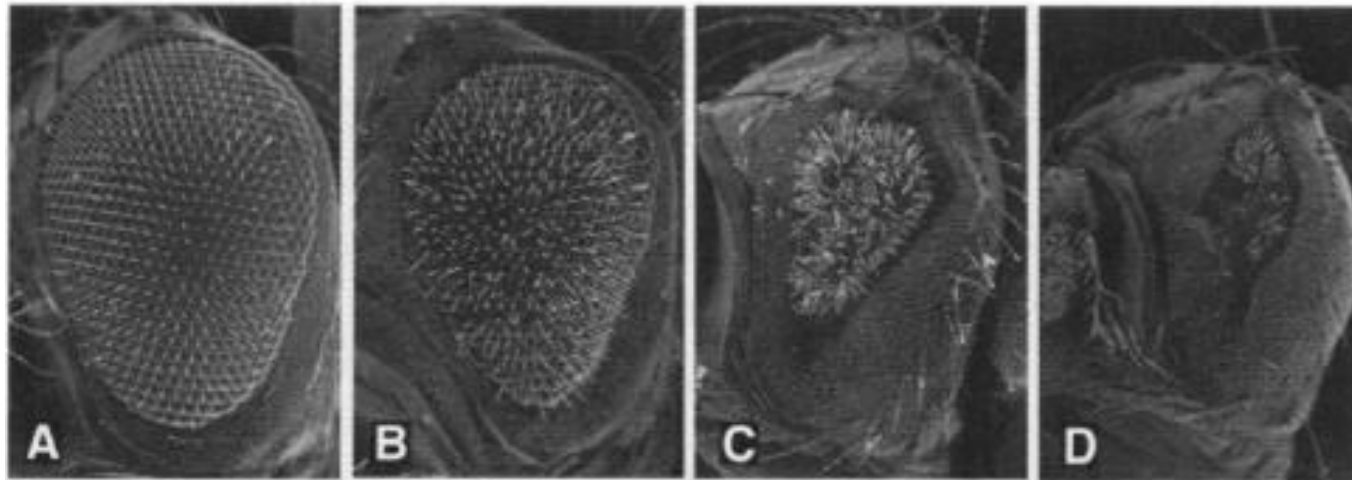
# Reaper



## Cell Killing by the *Drosophila* Gene *reaper*

Kristin White, Elvan Tahaoglu, Hermann Steller

The *reaper* gene (*rpr*) is important for the activation of apoptosis in *Drosophila*



( Such as UAS-*rpr* )

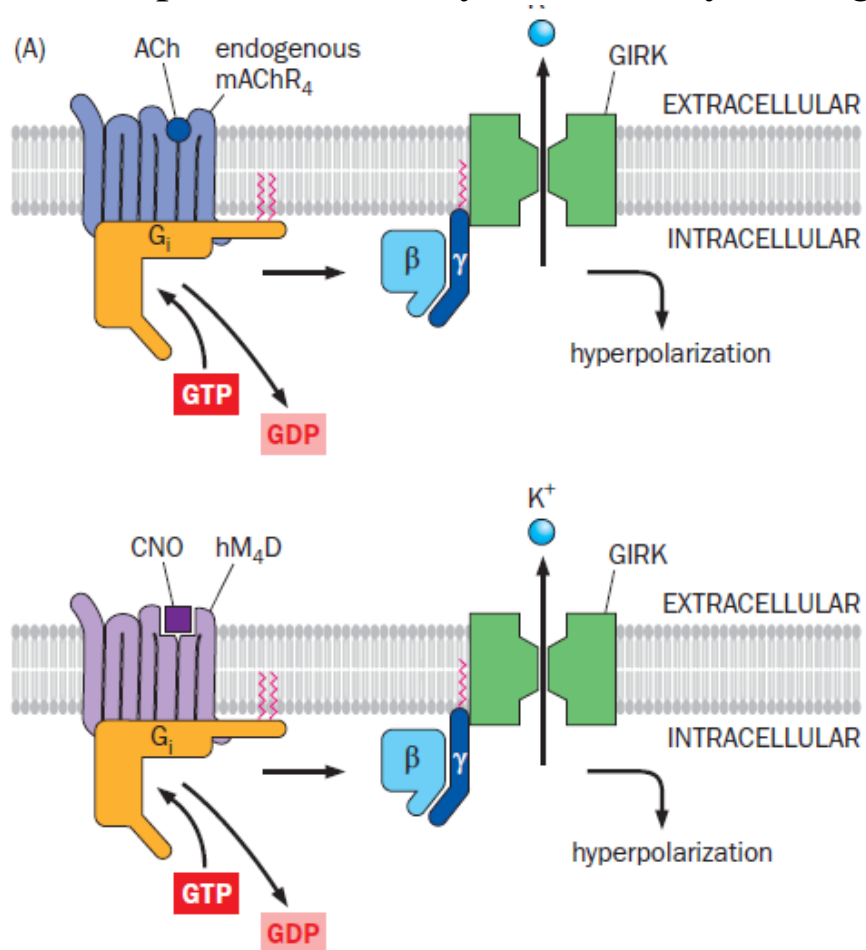
White et al. Science.1996

# Inactivation of neurons

## ➤ Chemogenetic approaches

### DREADD

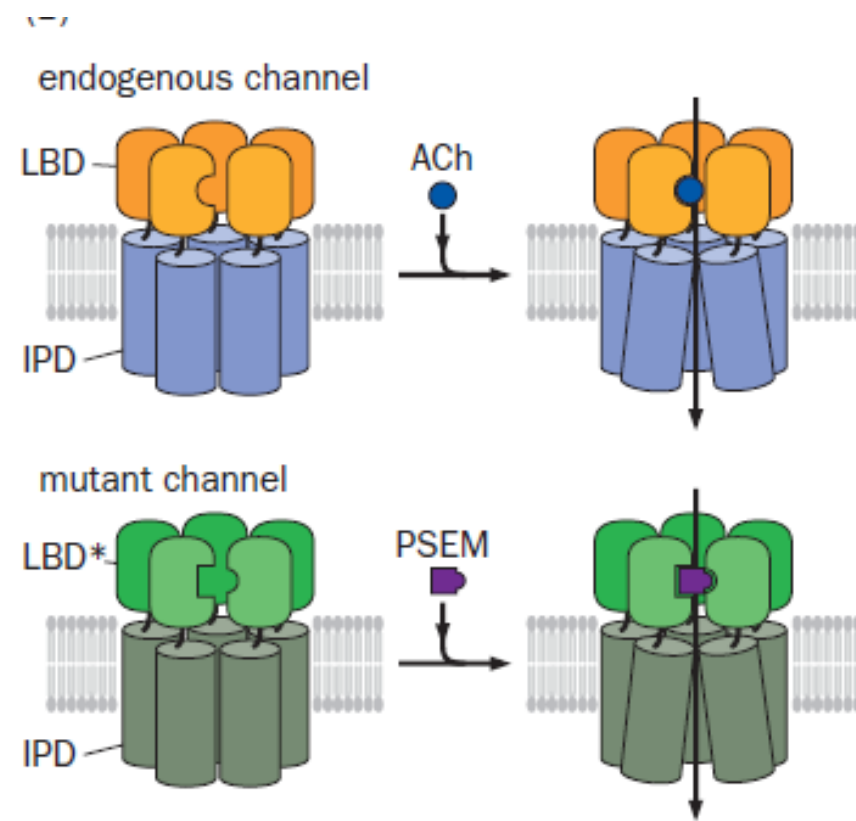
(for designer receptors exclusively activated by a designer drug)



CNO 氯氮平

### PSEM

(pharmacologically selective effector molecule)



# Manipulating neuronal activity

## Activation of neurons

Electrical stimulation

A temperature-gated TrpA1 channel

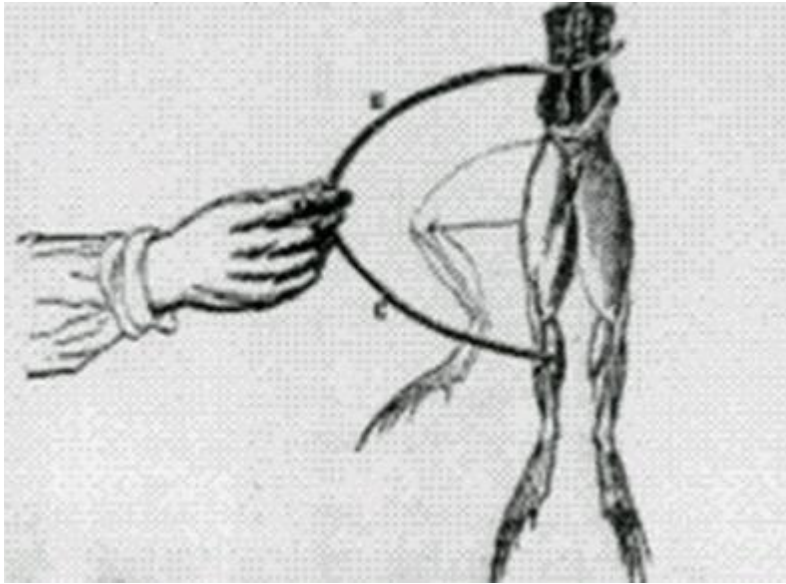
A mammalian ATP-gated P2X2 channel

Optogenetics

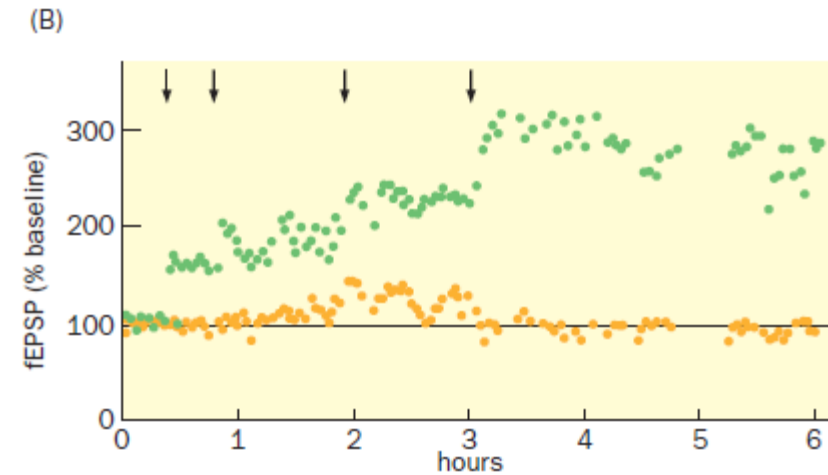
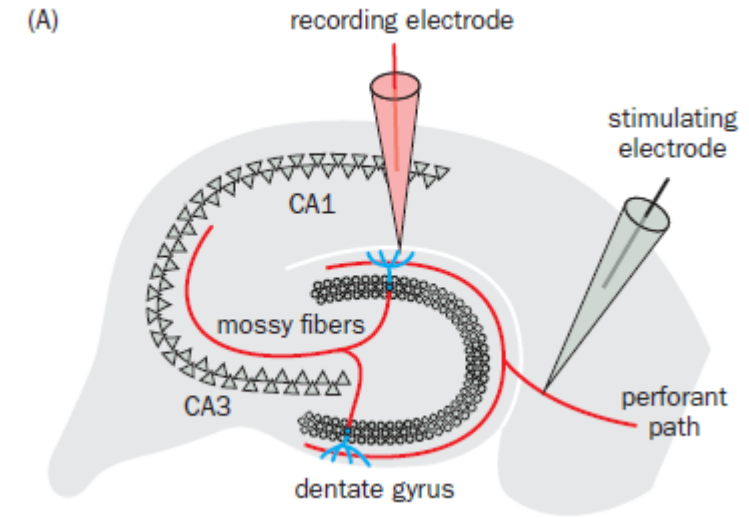
Chemogenetic approaches

# Activation of neurons

## Electrical stimulation



Luigi Galvani



# Activation of neurons

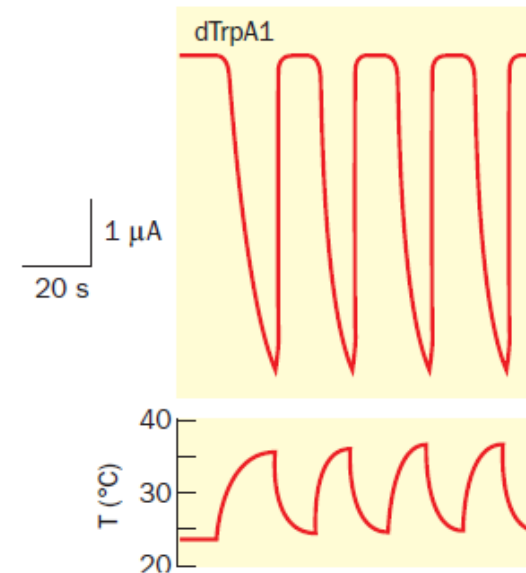
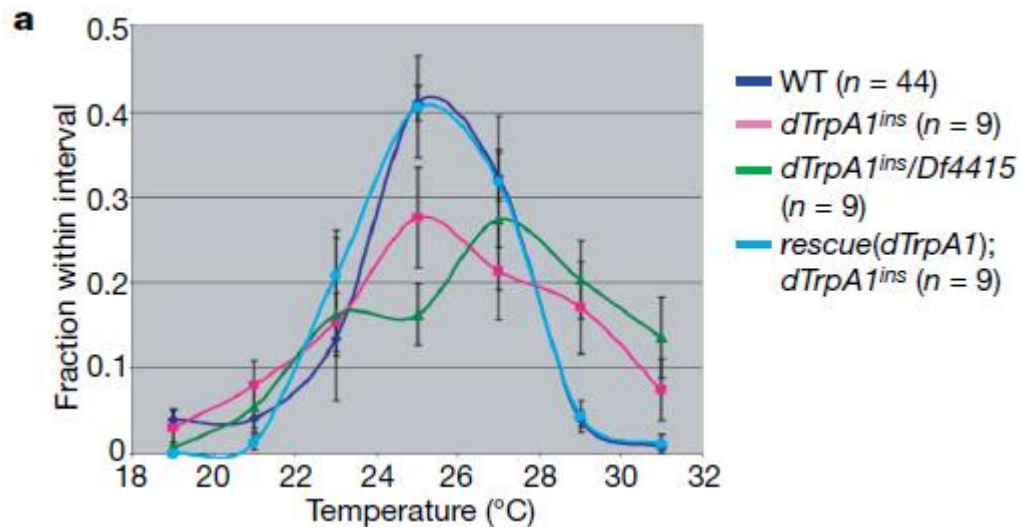
## A temperature-gated TrpA1 channel

Trp: Transient receptor potential (TRP) family (thermos TRPs)

Vol 454 | 10 July 2008 | doi:10.1038/nature07001

nature

## An internal thermal sensor controlling temperature preference in *Drosophila*

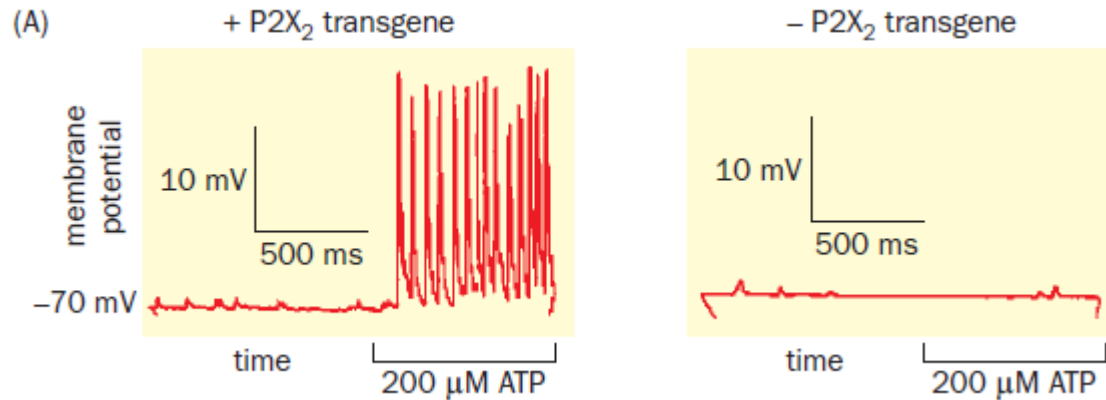


( Such as UAS-TrpA1 )

Turning heat into depolarization

# Activation of neurons

## A mammalian ATP-gated P2X<sub>2</sub> channel

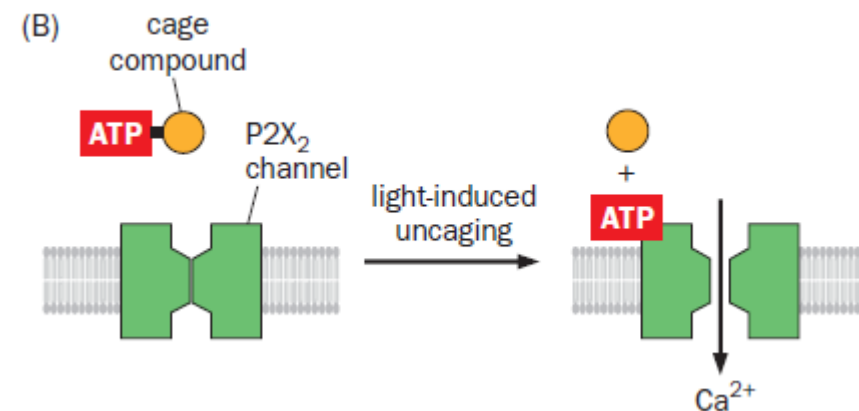


( Such as UAS-P2X2 )

Cell, Vol. 121, 141–152, April 8, 2005, Copyright ©2005 by Elsevier Inc. DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2005.03.011

## Remote Control of Behavior through Genetically Targeted Photostimulation of Neurons

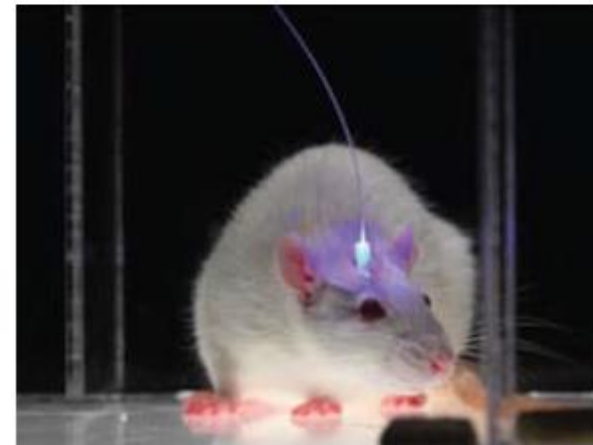
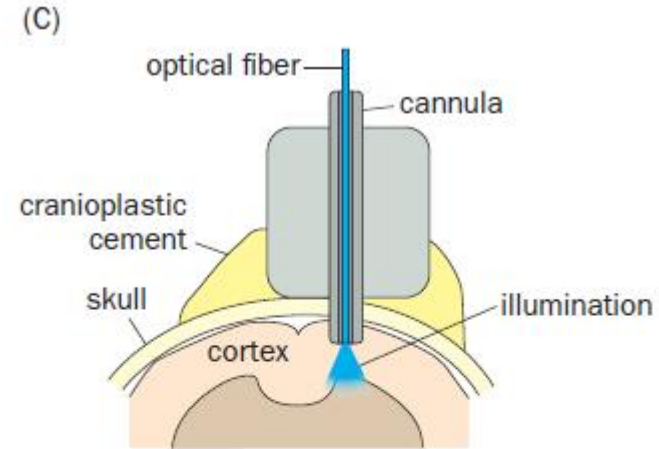
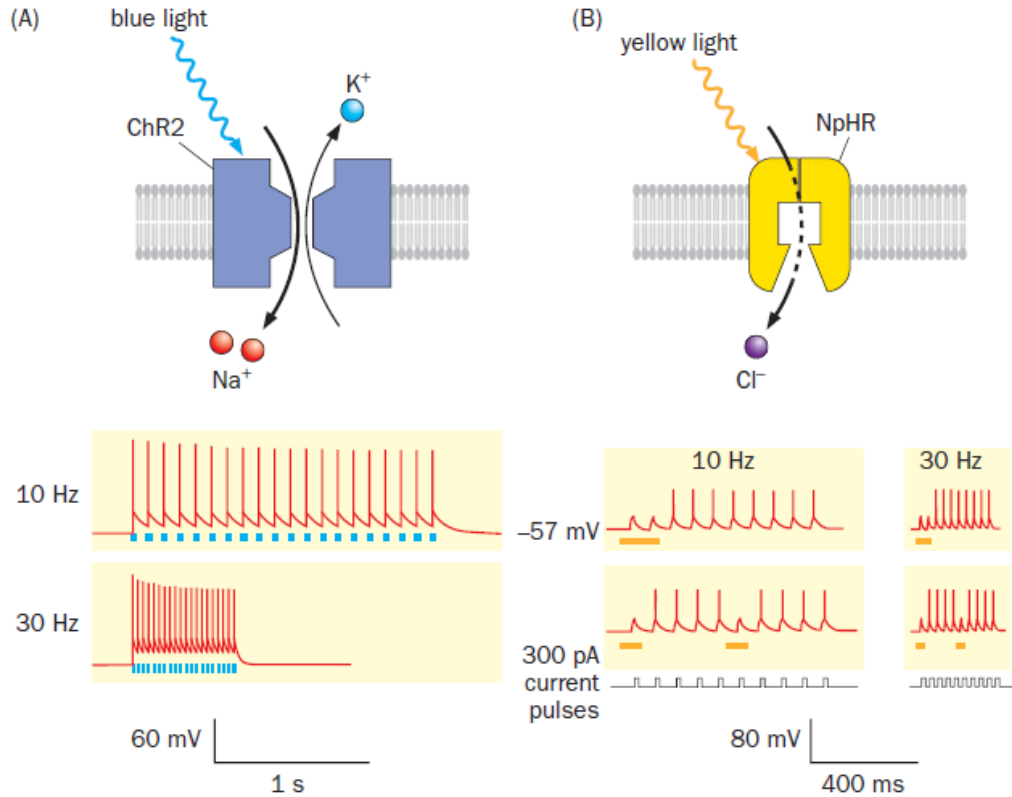
Susana Q. Lima and Gero Miesenböck\*



Neuroscience. 3rd edition

# Activation of neurons

## Optogenetics






ChR2: *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* Channelrhodopsin-2  
NpHR: *Natronomonas pharaonis* halorhodopsin

( Such as UAS-Chrimson )

# Behavioral analyses

## Three purposes

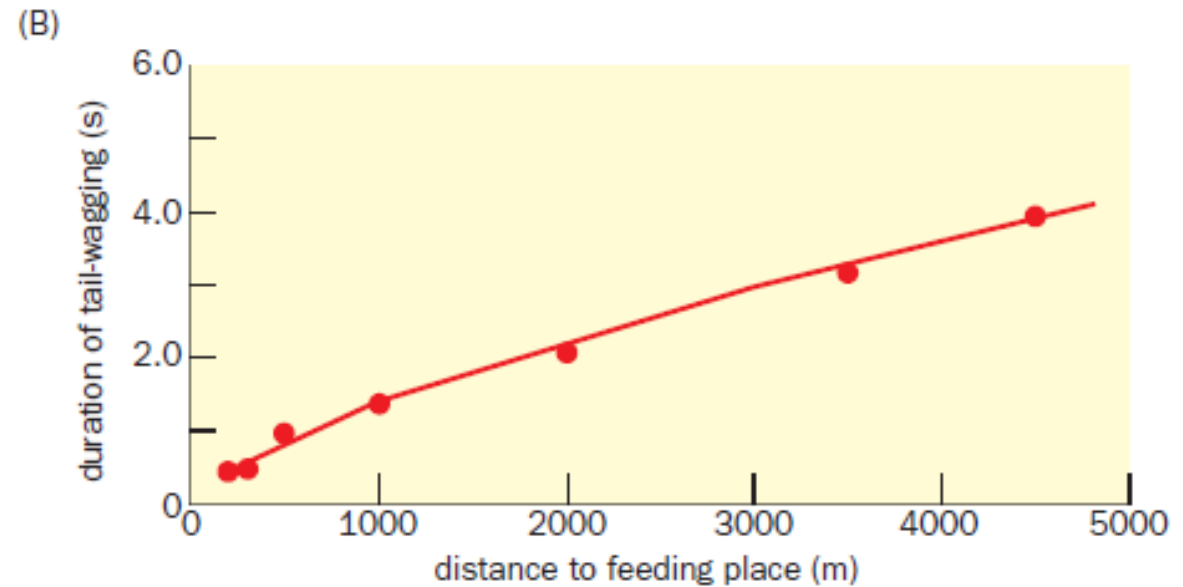
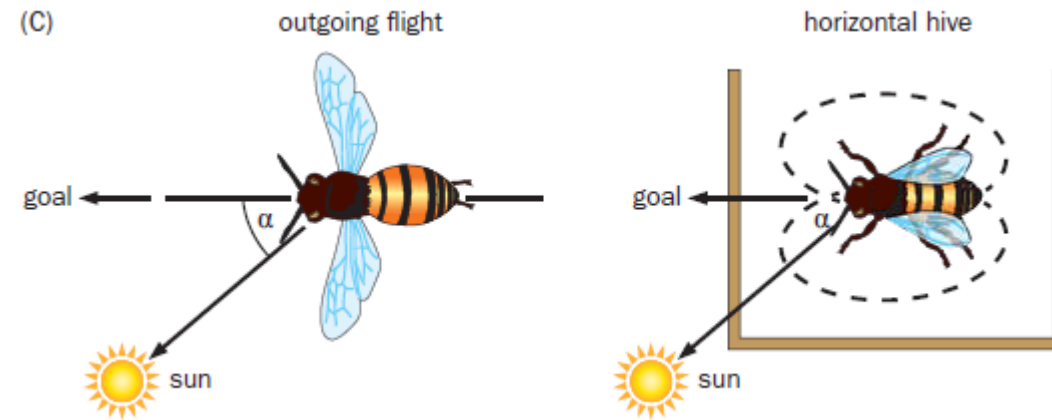
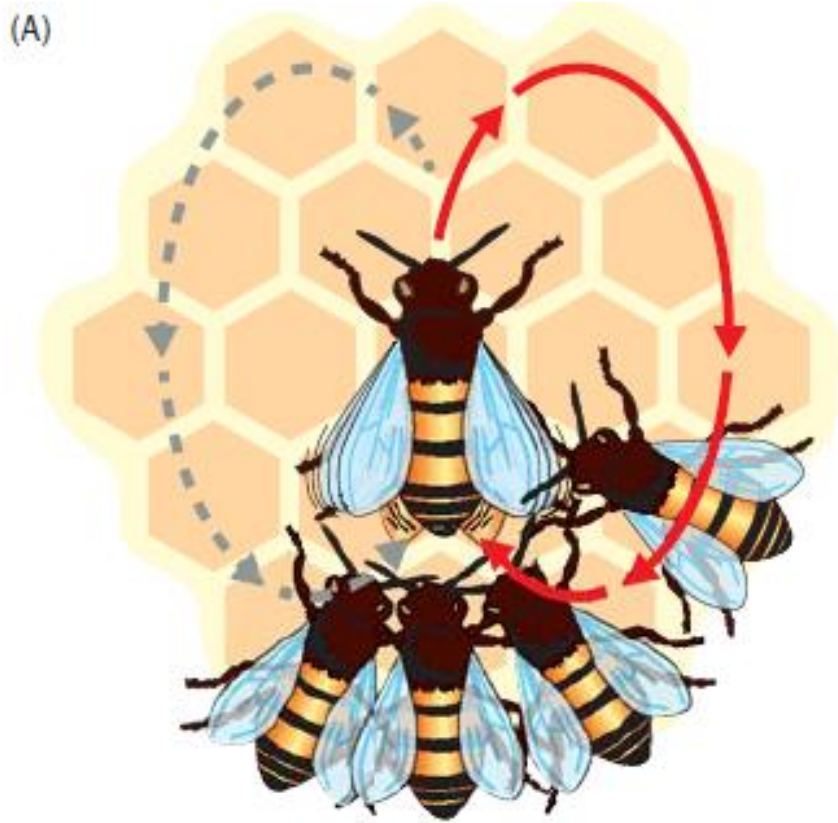
- Behavioral analyses aim to explain the behavior itself  in natural environments
- Behavioral analyses are used as quantitative assays for the functions of brain regions, circuits, and neurons in specific neurobiological processes being investigated (such as sensory perception or learning and memory) 
- Behavioral analyses are used to test the effects of manipulating specific genes or to assess animal models of human brain disorders 

in natural environments

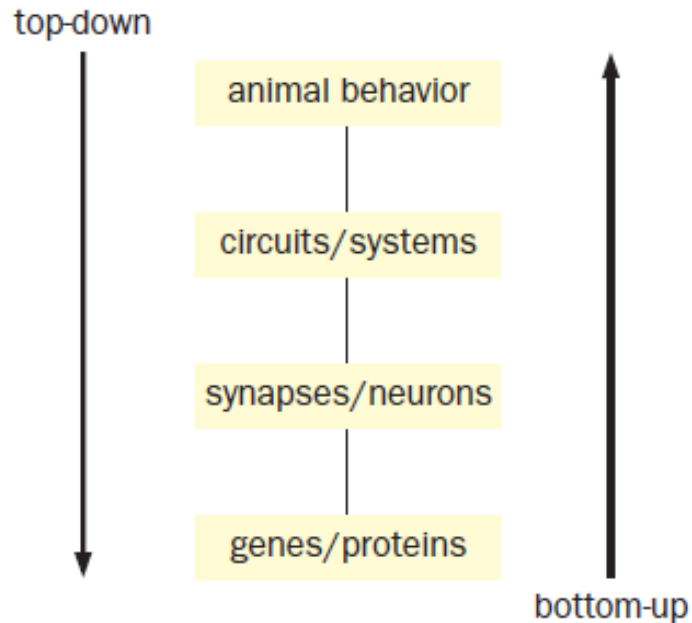
in controlled conditions

- Behavioral analyses aim to explain the behavior itself

## Honeybee foraging behavior



- Behavioral analyses are used as quantitative assays for the functions of brain regions, circuits, and neurons
- Behavioral analyses are used to test the effects of manipulating specific genes or to assess animal models of human brain disorders



Some new ways of behavioral analyses

Individual and social behaviors

# High-throughput ethomics in large groups of *Drosophila*

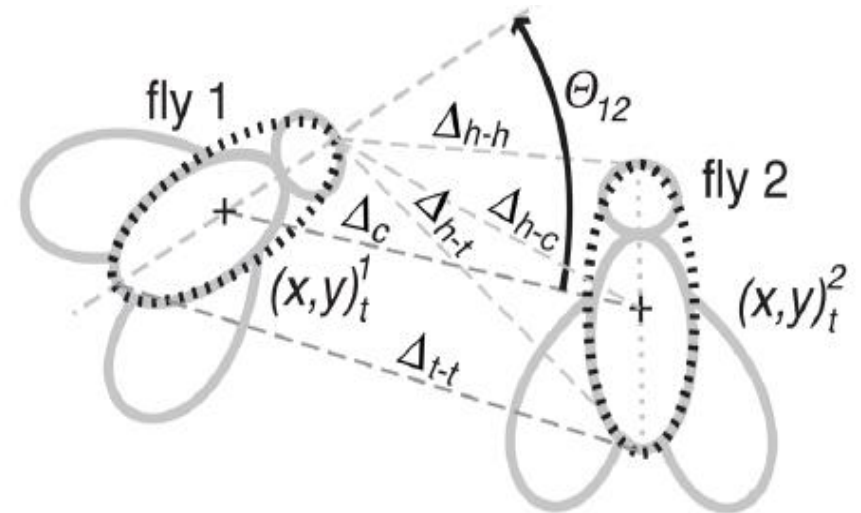
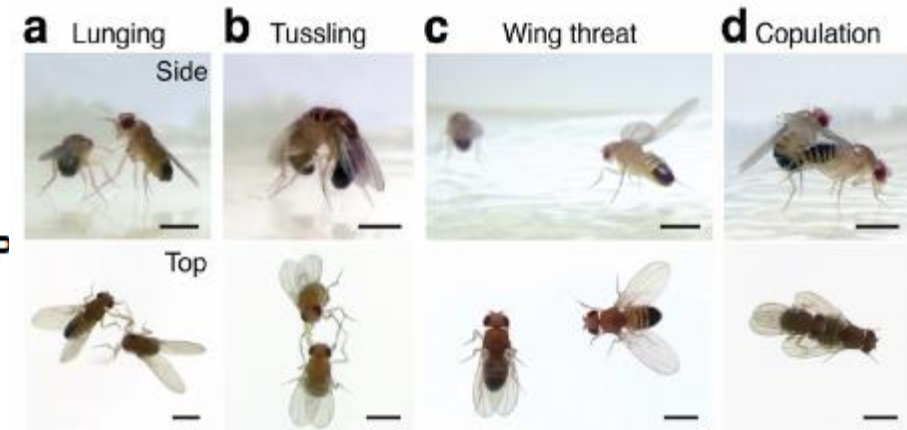
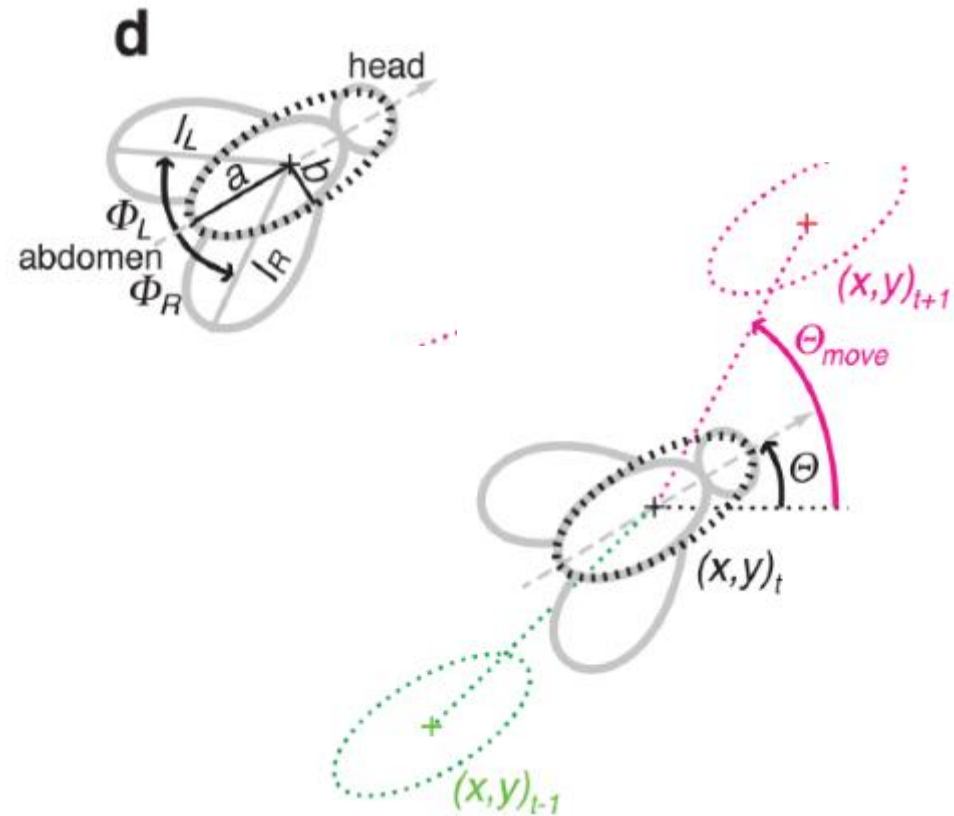
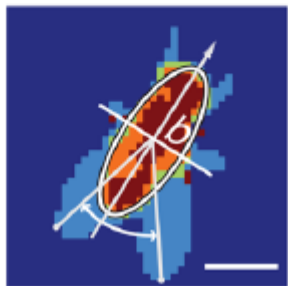
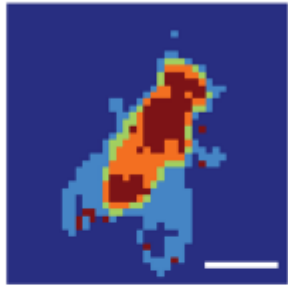
Kristin Branson<sup>1</sup>, Alice A Robie<sup>1</sup>, John Bender<sup>2</sup>, Pietro Perona<sup>1</sup> & Michael H Dickinson<sup>1</sup>



# Automated Monitoring and Analysis of Social Behavior in *Drosophila*

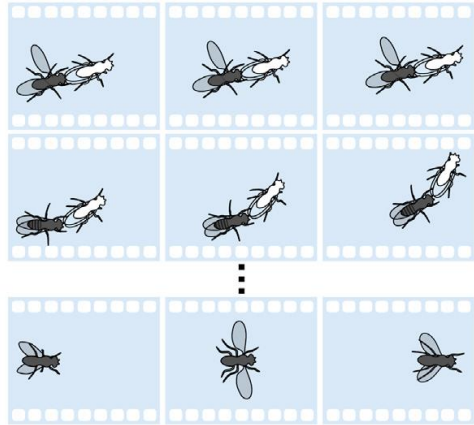
Heiko Dankert<sup>1,2</sup>, Liming Wang<sup>2</sup>, Eric D. Hoopfer<sup>2</sup>, David J. Anderson<sup>2</sup>, and Pietro P

**C** Full fly detection  
(Optimal Thresholds)



# Mapping the Neural Substrates of Behavior

Videos of behavioral effects of neural activation

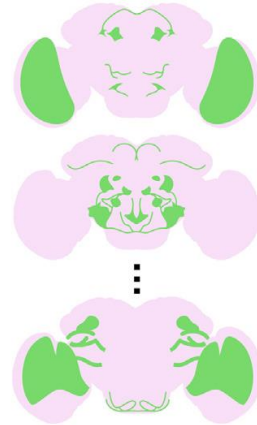


TrpA

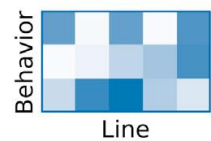
2,204 GAL4 driver lines

GFP

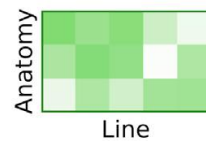
Microscopy images of expression patterns



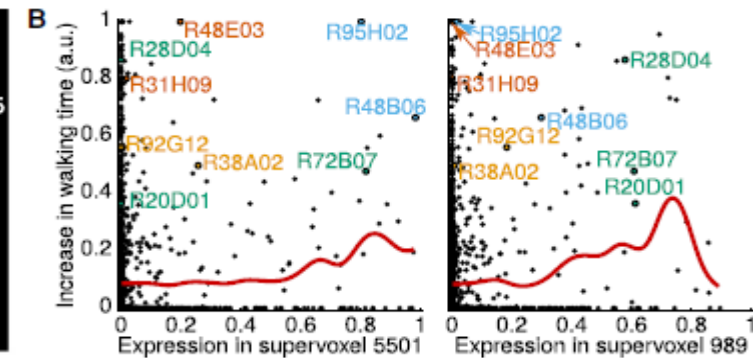
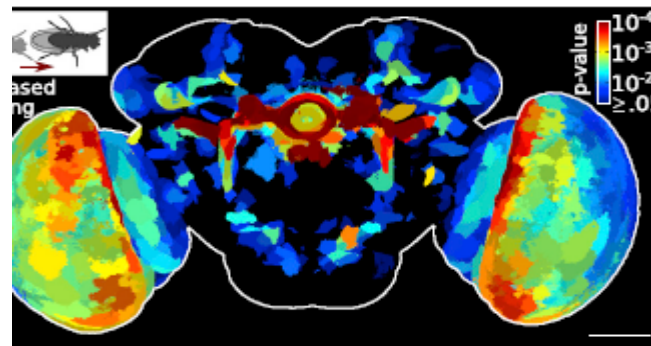
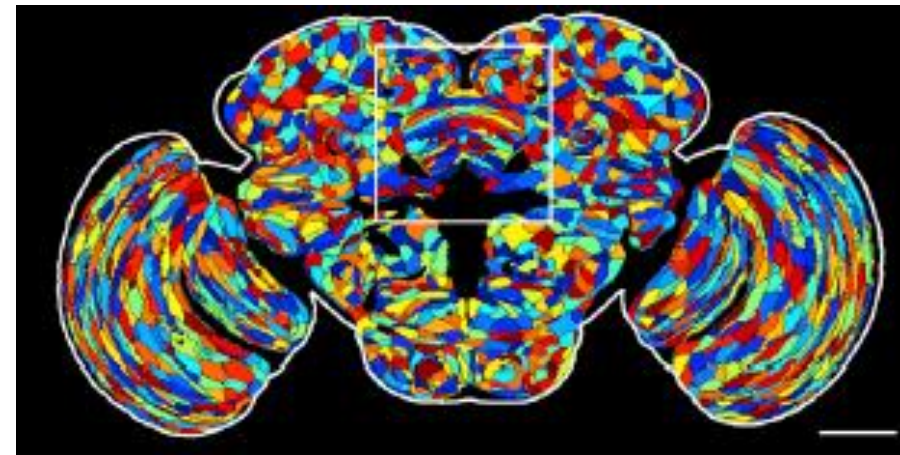
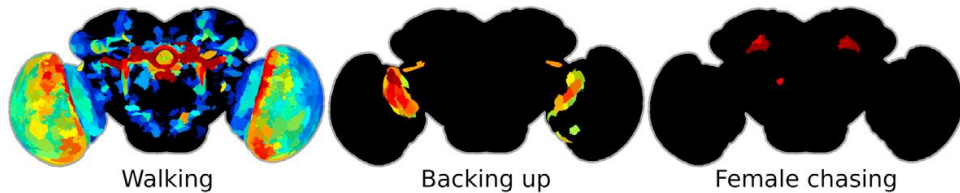
Computer-vision-based quantification



Correlational analyses

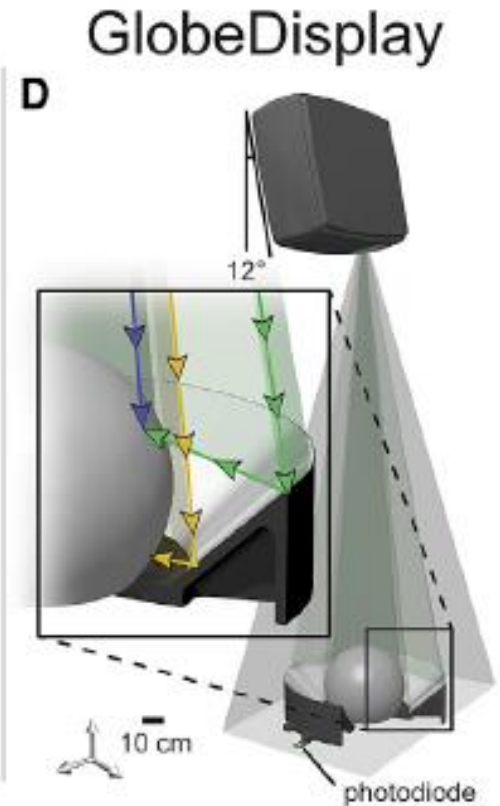
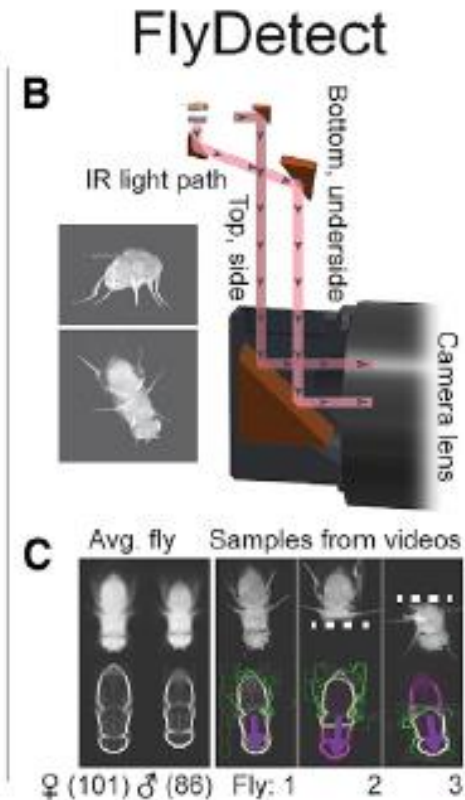
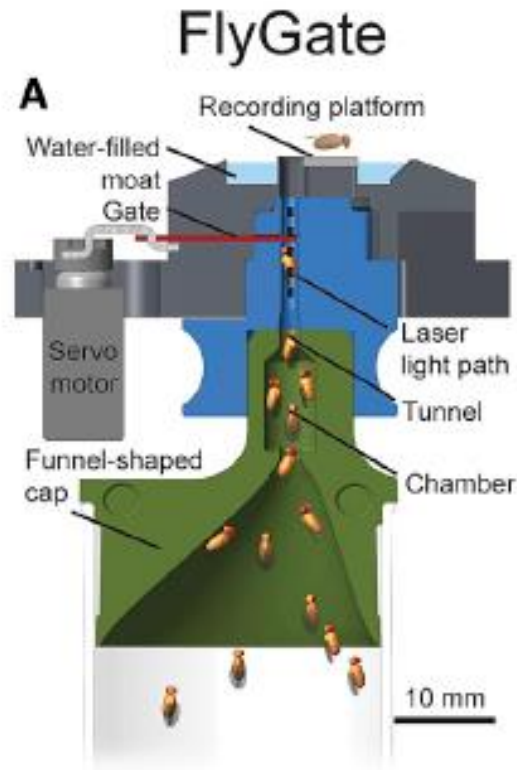
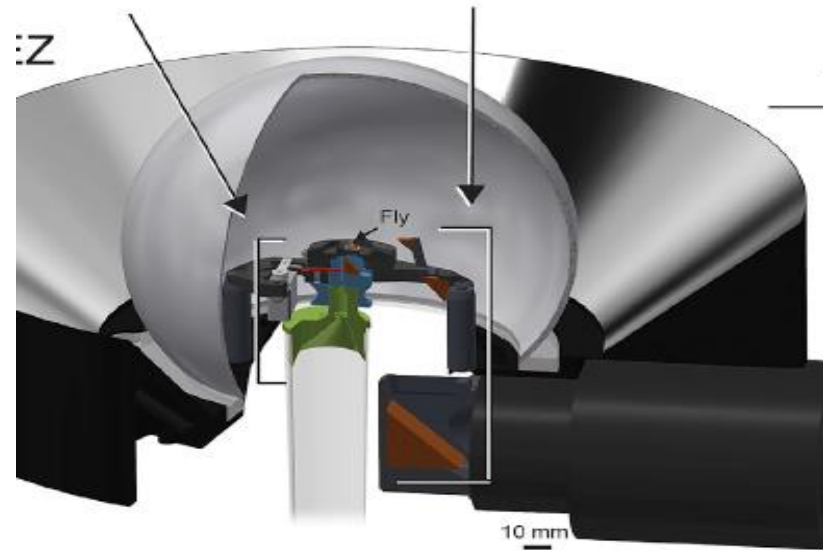


Behavior-anatomy maps



# Cell Reports

## Tools for Rapid High-Resolution Behavioral Phenotyping of Automatically Isolated *Drosophila*



# References

1. Aso Y, Siwanowicz I, Bracker L, Ito K, Kitamoto T, Tanimoto H. Specific dopaminergic neurons for the formation of labile aversive memory. *Current biology : CB*. 2010;20(16):1445-51.
2. Chang HY, Grygoruk A, Brooks ES, Ackerson LC, Maidment NT, Bainton RJ, et al. Overexpression of the *Drosophila* vesicular monoamine transporter increases motor activity and courtship but decreases the behavioral response to cocaine. *Molecular psychiatry*. 2006;11(1):99-113.
3. Claridge-Chang A, Roorda RD, Vrontou E, Sjulson L, Li H, Hirsh J, et al. Writing memories with light-addressable reinforcement circuitry. *Cell*. 2009;139(2):405-15.
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