



WHAT IS A FLAGSHIP OF ENTERPRISE AND TECHNOLOGY?

Future and Emerging Technology Flagships (FET)

Are ambitious large-scale, informatics-driven, research Initiatives that aim to achieve a visionary goal.

The scientific advance should provide a strong and broad Basis for future **technological innovation** and economic Exploitation in a variety of areas, as well as **novel benefits for society**.

The research is collaborative, internally non-competitive, inter- and trans-disciplinary, driven by a commonly agreed road-map

BLUE BRAIN PROJECT + NEUROIMAGING COMMUNITY





THE IMPACT OF INFORMATION & COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY

VON NEUMANN MACHINES

MOORE'S LAW

ENERGY LIMITATIONS

INTERNET

DATABASE MANAGEMENT

CLOUD ENVIRONMENT

DATABASE QUERYING & ADDRESSING

REAL-TIME VISUALISATION

SUPERCOMPUTING

BEYOND EXASCALE

BANDWIDTH & ROUTING [**HTML5, Cisco**]

DISTRIBUTED [**Oracle**]

SECURITY [**Amazon, Dropbox, iCloud**]

LOCAL [**Google**] vs REMOTE [**EPFL**]

FOR SUPERCOMPUTING [**IBM, CRAY**]

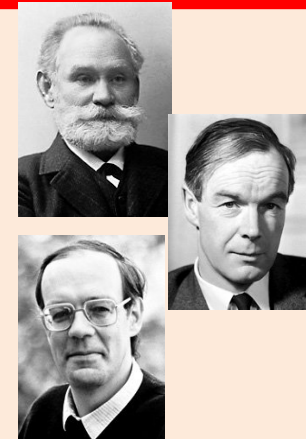
NEUROMORPHIC COMPUTING

EUROPEAN NOBEL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEUROSCIENCE



NEUROANATOMY NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Golgi & Ramon y Cajal
Pavlov
Barany
Sherrington & Adrian
Von Bekesy
Eccles, Hodgkin & Huxley, Weisel
Neher & Sakmann



NEUROPHARMACOLOGY

Dale & Loewi
Katz & von Euler
Black



NEUROIMAGING

Carlsson
Josephson
Hounsfield
Mansfield



NEUROSURGERY

Moniz

SOCIAL & COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Von Frisch, Lorenz & Tinbergen
Kahneman

GENETICS

Crick & Wilkins

Sanger

Sulston

Jerne, Milstein & Kohler

Levi-Montalcini

Evans

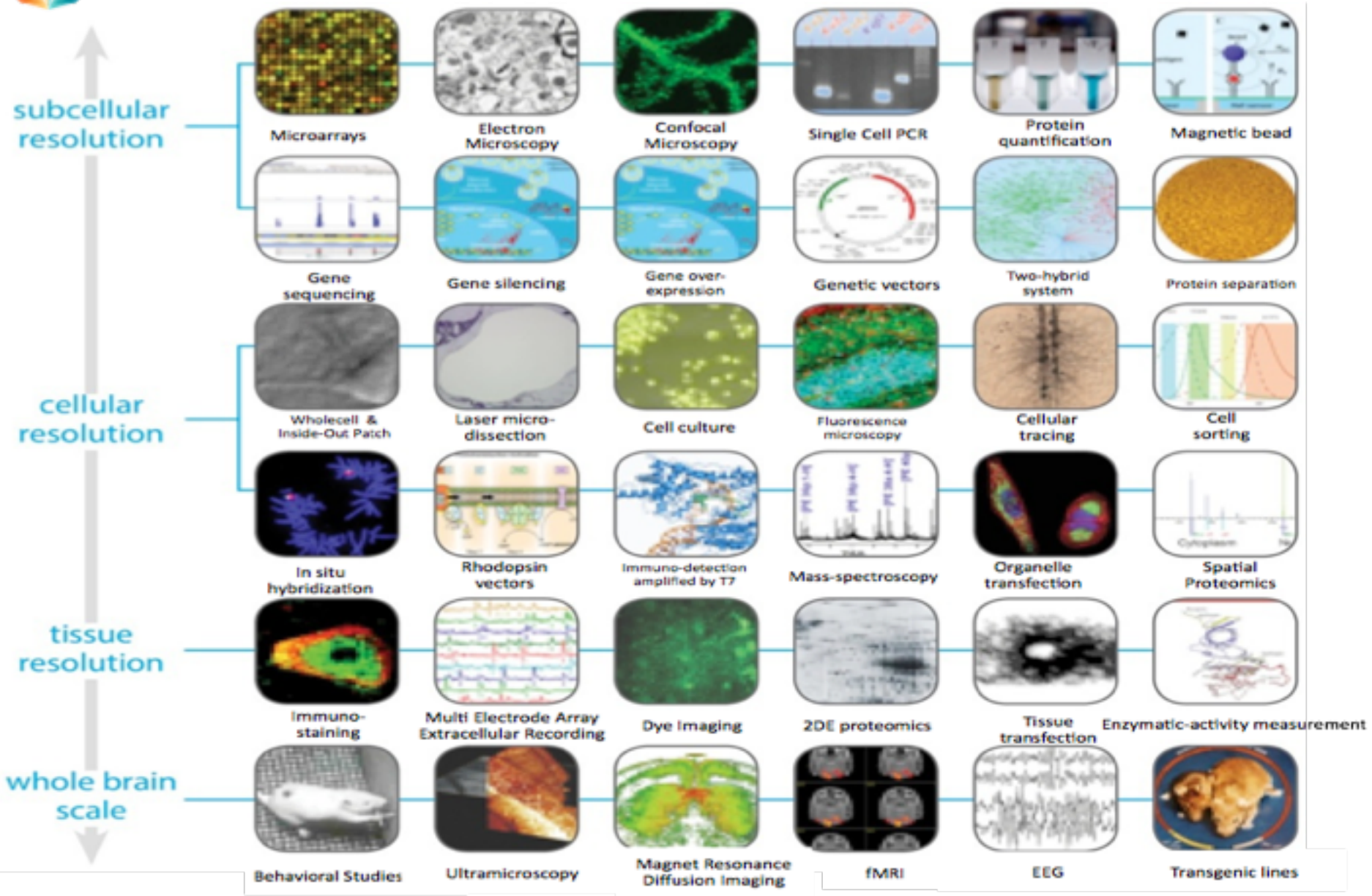


IMMUNOLOGY

CELL BIOLOGY



NEUROSCIENCE METHODS





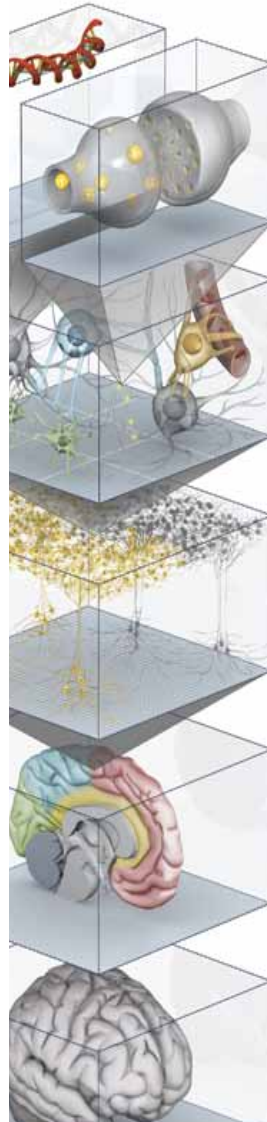
MOTIVATION 1 – DATA DELUGE - FEDERATION & INTEGRATION

The facts:

1. Data and knowledge is **growing** exponentially
2. Data and knowledge are increasingly **fragmented**
3. Benefits for society seem to be **decreasing**
4. Economic burden increasing to **unsustainable** levels

The causes:

1. No integration plan
2. No data curation plan
3. No plan to link across levels
4. No plan to transfer knowledge from animal model to human
5. No plan to go beyond traditional classification of diseases



Molecular

A century of research with the first insight under a microscope into a digital facet: component molecules assemble a cell that is the essential property: the transmission of chemical signals.

Cellular

A brain-in-a-box has to capture neurons and non-neurons, including the shapes of their dendrites that receive and send signals.

Circuits

A model of the brain between different regions among neighboring cells furnish clues to the complex brain disorders of autism and schizophrenia.

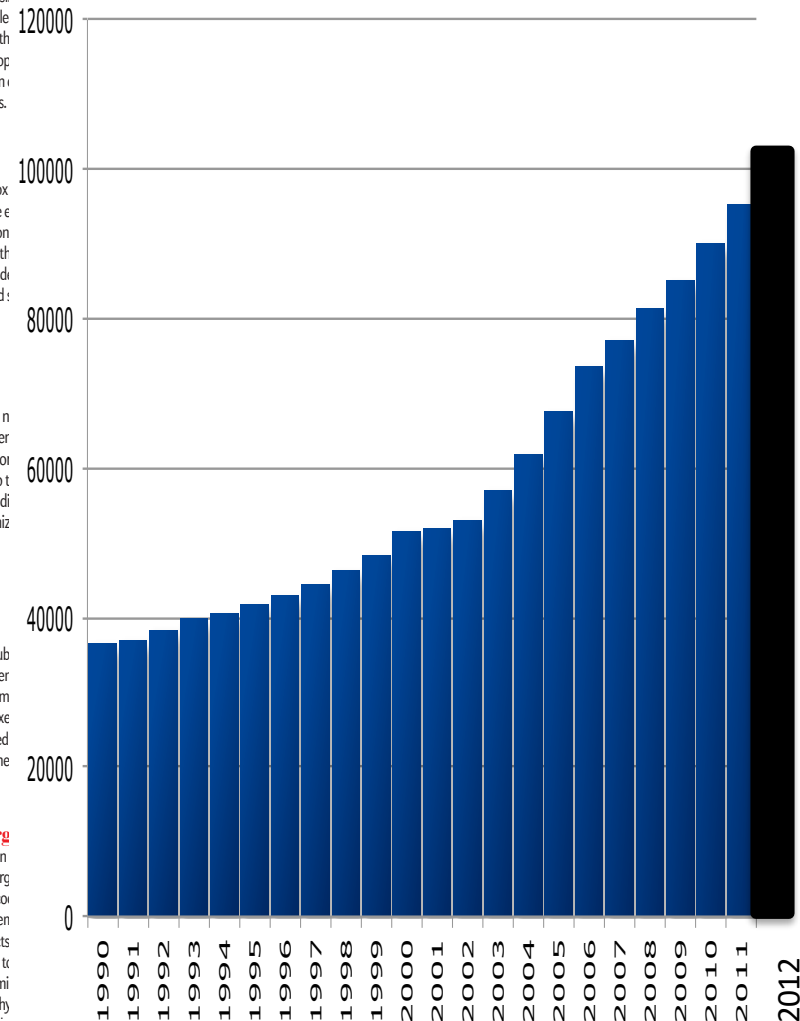
Regions

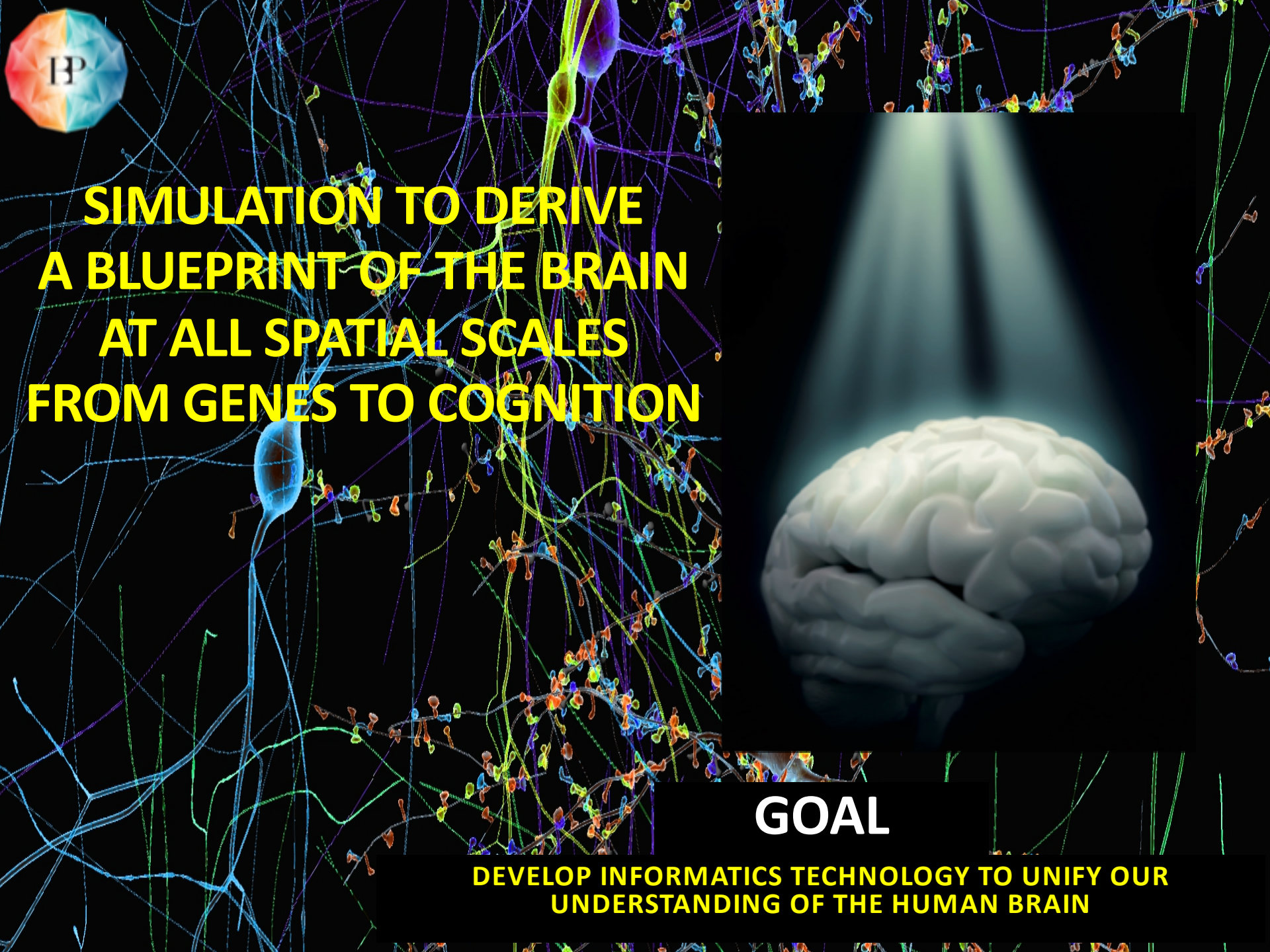
Major neural subregions: the amygdala (near the hippocampus) in the frontal lobes (executive functions) can be inspected and interact with one another.

Whole Org

An in silico brain for the actual organ: the computer system mimics the effects of the virtual system as scientists do to "turn out" a gene in mice to avoid the lengthy and costly process of genetic engineering.

Number of Peer Reviewed Publications on the brain /yr





**SIMULATION TO DERIVE
A BLUEPRINT OF THE BRAIN
AT ALL SPATIAL SCALES
FROM GENES TO COGNITION**

GOAL

**DEVELOP INFORMATICS TECHNOLOGY TO UNIFY OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN BRAIN**



CONFRONTING PARADIGMS

CARTESIAN MODEL (TOP DOWN)

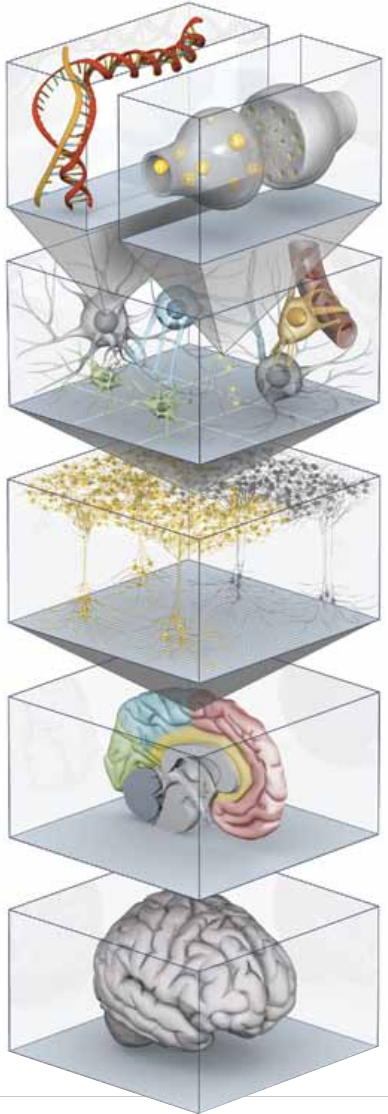
Mentally generated hypothesis
Mathematically expressed in a model
Confrontation with “relevant” data
Parameterisation and optimisation of model
Correlations (non-causal)

SIMULATION MODEL (BOTTOM UP)

Multimodal and multivariate data
Exhaustive mining to demonstrate coherent models
Exploration of these mathematical models as generated hypotheses
Investigation of hypotheses – clinical, mechanistic, prognostic, therapeutic
Knowledge (& causes)

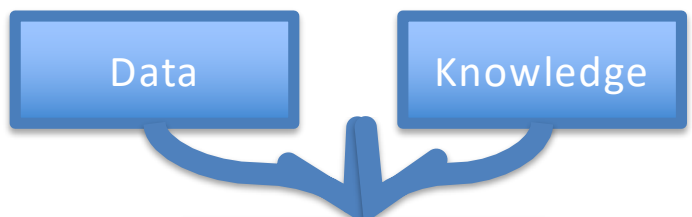
BRAIN SIMULATION

PROVIDE A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK FOR HUMAN BRAIN ORGANISATION AND FUNCTION

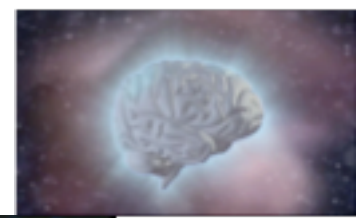


1. Increase the value of all past and future experiments
2. Gather and organize all fragments of data and knowledge on the brain
3. Provide open accessible brain atlases
4. Fill knowledge gaps using novel ICT tools
5. Generate strategically selected missing data that will not be generated otherwise
6. Prioritize, optimize and accelerate biological experiments

Simulation-Based Brain Research

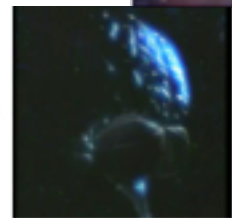


Cognition

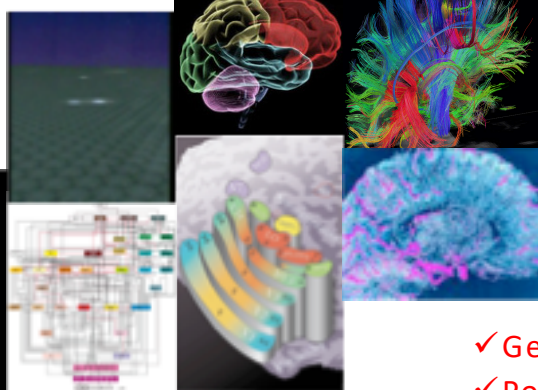


Whole brain

macrocircuits



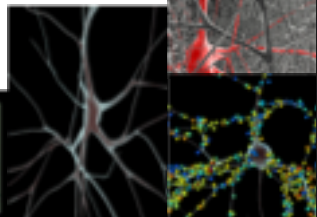
mesocircuits



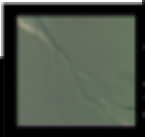
microcircuits



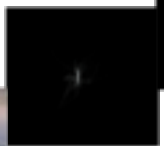
synapses



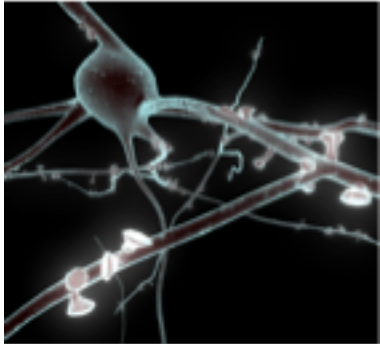
neurons



molecules



- ✓ Genomics
- ✓ Post-Genomics...
- ✓ Systems Biology...
- ✓ Integrative Biology...
- ✓ Informatics...
- ✓ Neuroscience...
- ✓ Mathematical Modeling...
- ✓ Supercomputer Simulation ...
- ✓ Visualization...
- ✓ Analysis...

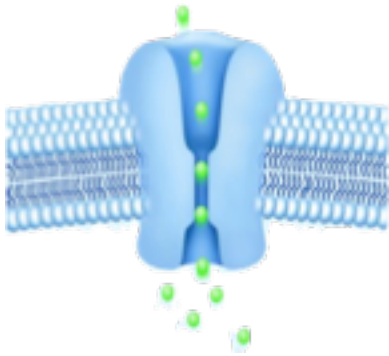


NEURONS

10,000 neurons

~ 4,000,000

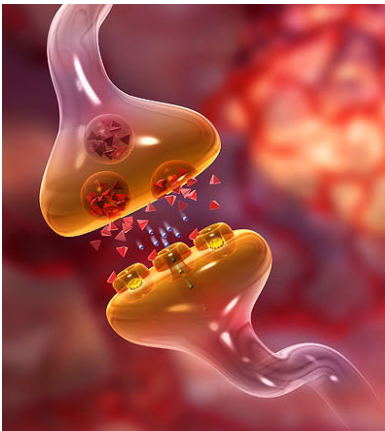
Electrical compartments
(Rall Equations)



ION CHANNELS

80,000,000 Ion Channels

(Hodgkin-Huxley Equations)



SYNAPSES

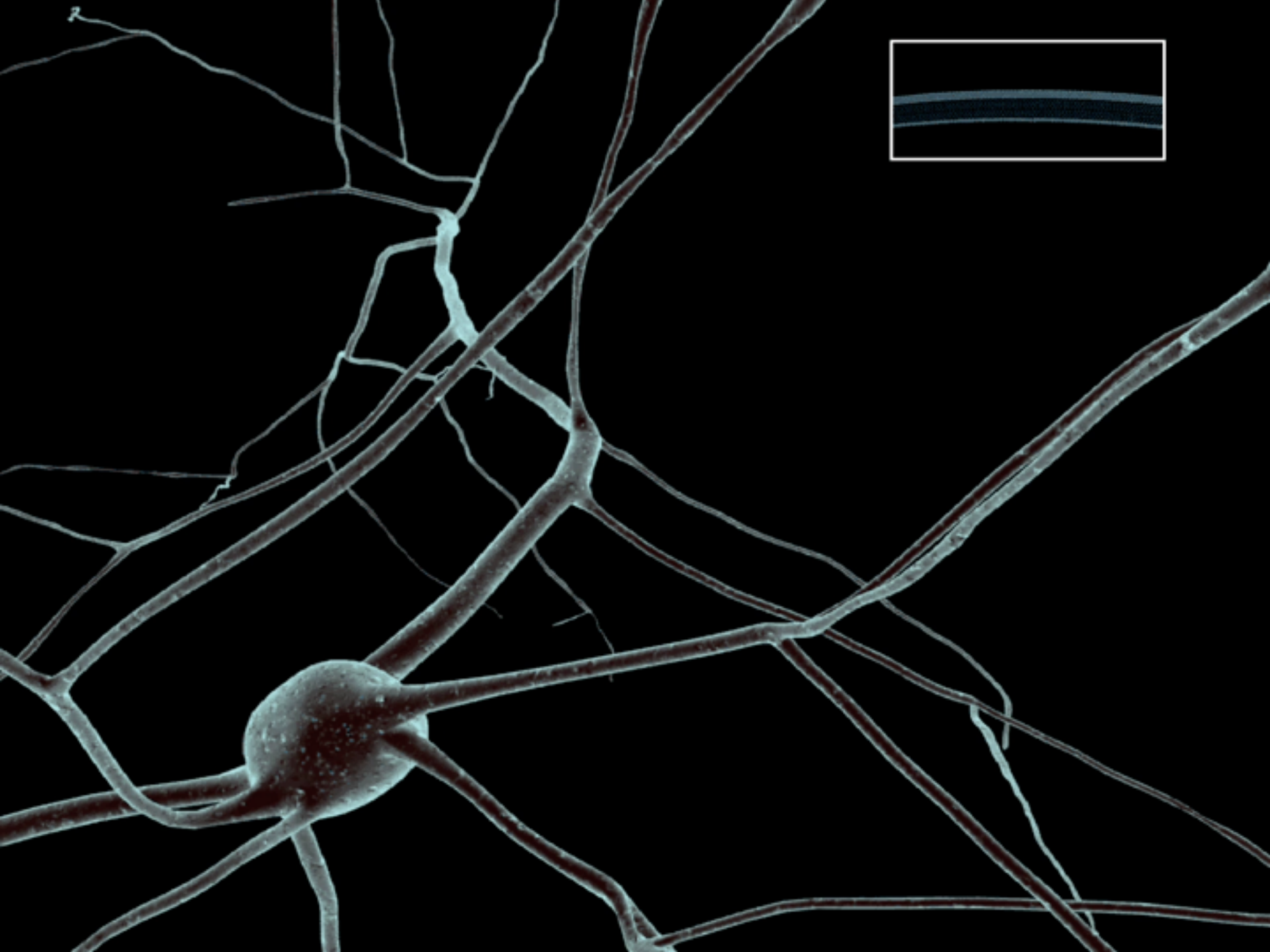
10,000,000 Synapses

(Tsodyks-Markram Equations)

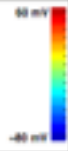
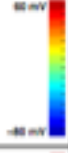
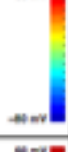
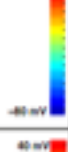



Combination of ion channels determines the electrical phenotype


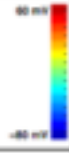






370 Ion Channel genes Expressed in the brain

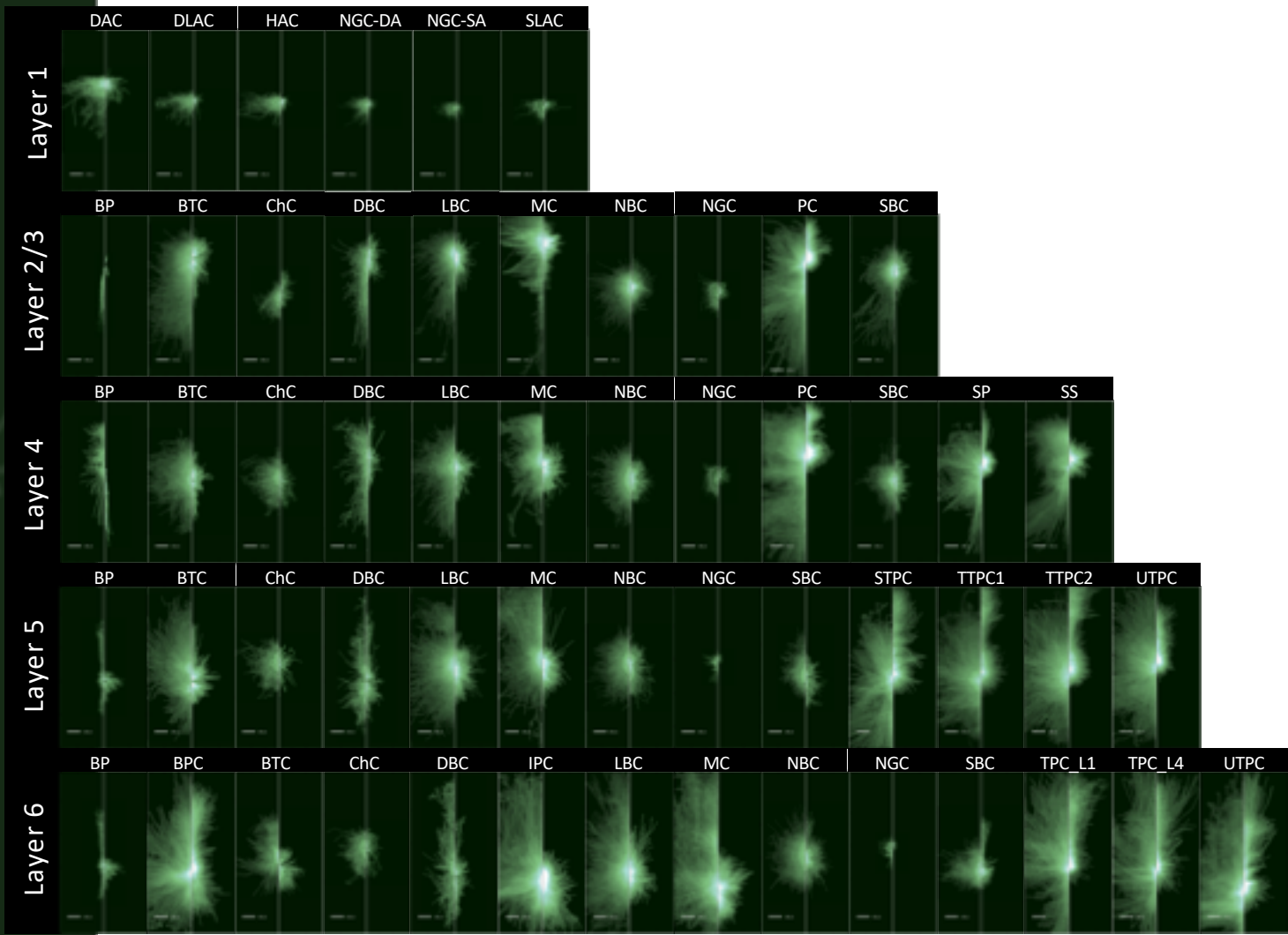
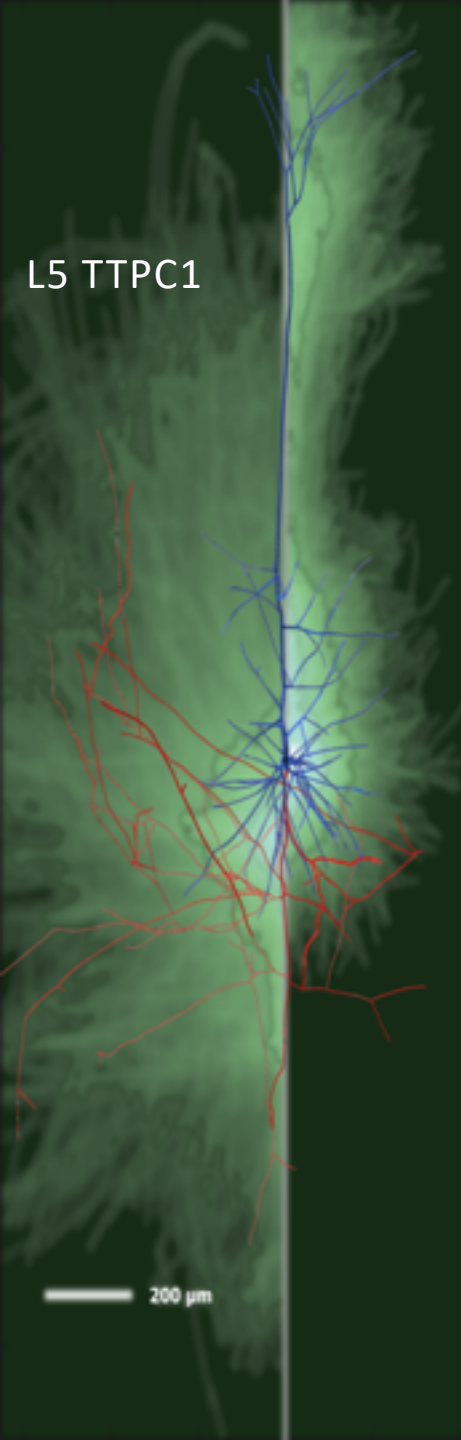


HH Ion Channel Models

Ion channels	Kinetics	Parameters
Slow potassium (Kp) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = 1/(1 + \exp(-(v+1)/12))$ $m_{\infty} = 0$ if $v < -50$: $(1.25 + 175.03 * \exp(-v * -0.026)) / \text{qt}$ else : $(11.25 + 13 * \exp(-v * 0.026)) / \text{qt}$ $h_{\infty} = 1/(1 + \exp((v+54)/11))$ $h_{\infty} = (360 + (1010 + 24 * (v + 55)) * \exp(-(v+75)/480)^2) / \text{qt}$
Fast potassium (Kf) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = 1/(1 + \exp(-(v+0)/19))$ $m_{\infty} = 0.34 + 0.92 * \exp(-(v+71)/590^2) / \text{qt}$ $h_{\infty} = 1/(1 + \exp(-(v+66)/10))$ $h_{\infty} = (8 + 49 * \exp(-(v+73)/23)^2) / \text{qt}$
Kv3.1 potassium (Kv3.1) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m $m_{\infty} = 1/(1 + \exp((v - 18.700)/1 - 9.700))$ $m_{\infty} = 0.2 * 20.00 / (1 + \exp((v - 44.560)/1 - 44.140))$
Delayed potassium (Kd) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = 1 - 1/(1 + \exp((v - 43)/8))$ $m_{\infty} = 0.6$ $h_{\infty} = 1/(1 + \exp((v - 67)/7.3))$ $h_{\infty} = 1500$
m current (Im) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m $m_{\infty} = m_p / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 3.3e-3 * \exp(2.5 * 0.04 * (v - 35))$ $m_p = 3.3e-3 * \exp(-2.5 * 0.04 * (v - 35))$
Small conductance (Sk) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (1.0 + (0.00043 / ca) * 4.6)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0$
Hyperpolarization activated (h) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m $m_{\infty} = m_p / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 0.001 * 6.43 * (v + 154.9) / (\exp((v + 154.9) / 11.9) - 1)$ $m_p = 0.001 * 193 * \exp(v / 53.1)$

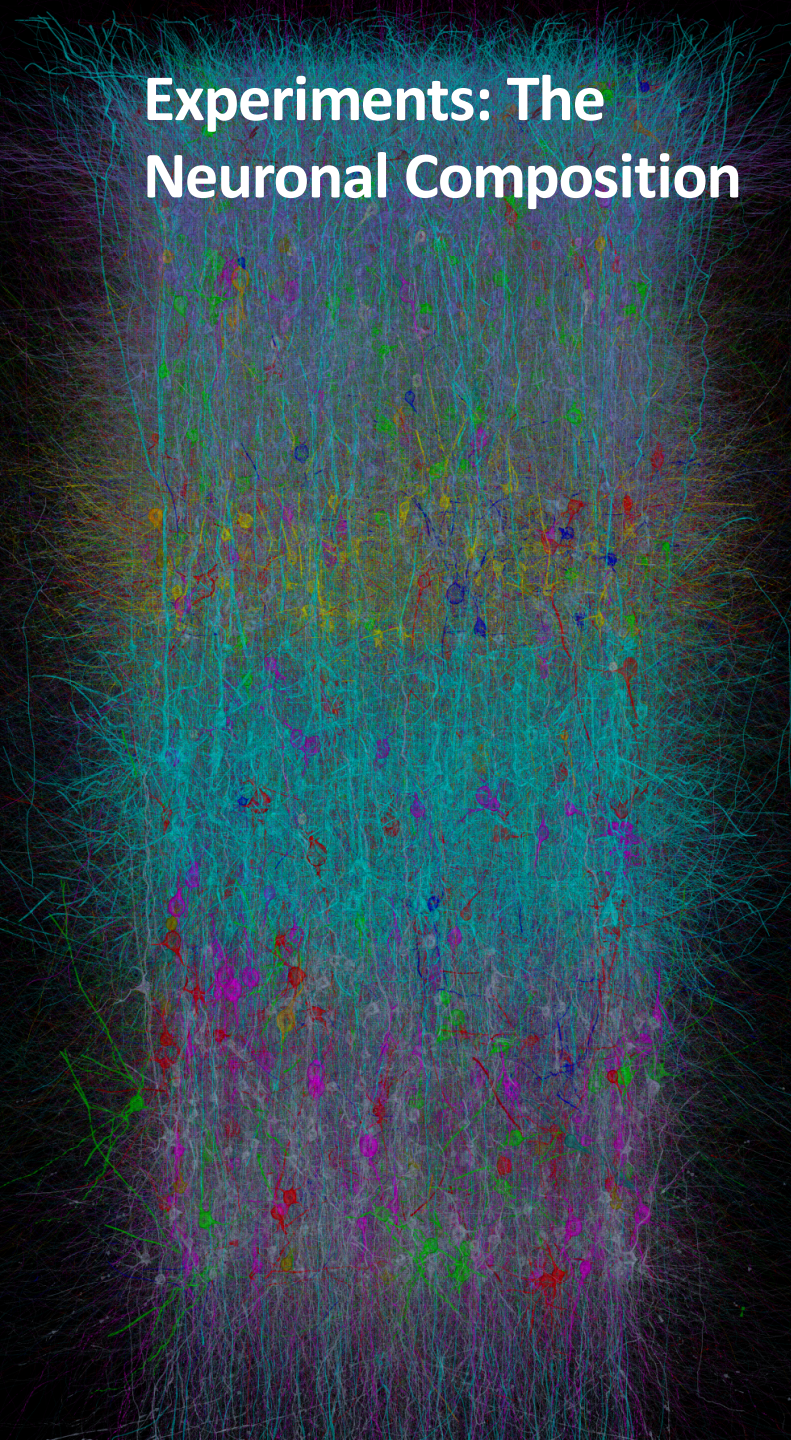
Ion channels	Kinetics	Parameters
Fast sodium (NaFa) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = m_p / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $h_{\infty} = h_p / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 0.182 * (v - 38) / (1 - \exp(-(v - 38) / 6))$ $m_p = 0.124 * (v - 38) / (1 - \exp(-(v - 38) / 6))$ $h_{\infty} = (-0.015 * (v - 66)) / (1 - \exp((v - 66) / 6))$ $h_p = (-0.015 * (v - 66)) / (1 - \exp((v - 66) / 6))$
Fast sodium (NaFa) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = m_p / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $h_{\infty} = h_p / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 0.182 * (v - 32) / (1 - \exp(-(v - 32) / 6))$ $m_p = 0.124 * (v - 32) / (1 - \exp(-(v - 32) / 6))$ $h_{\infty} = (-0.015 * (v - 60)) / (1 - \exp((v - 60) / 6))$ $h_p = (-0.015 * (v - 60)) / (1 - \exp((v - 60) / 6))$
Persistent sodium (Napi) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (1 + \exp((v - 52.6) / 4.6))$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (1 + \exp((v - 48.8) / 10))$ $m_{\infty} = 6.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $m_p = 0.182 * (v - 38) / (1 - \exp(-(v - 38) / 6))$ $m_p = 0.124 * (v - 38) / (1 - \exp(-(v - 38) / 6))$ $h_p = 0.0043 * \exp(-13 * v / 50)$ $h_p = 0.0065 * \exp(-v / 50)$
Generic Calcium (Ca) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = m_p / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $h_{\infty} = h_p / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 0.055 * (27 - v) / (\exp((27 - v) / 3.8) - 1)$ $m_p = 0.094 * \exp(-75 * v / 17)$ $h_{\infty} = (0.00043 * \exp(-13 * v / 50))$ $h_p = 0.0065 * \exp(-v / 50)$
High voltage activated (CaHVA) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = m_p / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (m_{\infty} + m_p)$ $h_{\infty} = h_p / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (h_{\infty} + h_p)$ $m_{\infty} = 0.055 * (27 - v) / (\exp((27 - v) / 3.8) - 1)$ $m_p = 0.094 * \exp(-75 * v / 17)$ $h_{\infty} = (0.00043 * \exp(-13 * v / 50))$ $h_p = 0.0065 * \exp(-v / 50)$
Low voltage activated (CaLVA) Ref: Details:		Ion = K ⁺ Rev = -85mV g = m/h $m_{\infty} = 1.0 / (1 + \exp((v - 30.0) / 6))$ $m_{\infty} = (5.0 + 20.0 / (1 + \exp((v - 25.0) / 5))) / \text{qt}$ $h_{\infty} = 1.0 / (1 + \exp((v - 40.0) / 6.4))$ $h_{\infty} = (20.0 + 50.0 / (1 + \exp((v - 40.0) / 7))) / \text{qt}$
Stochastic potassium (K) Ref: Details:		

L5 TTPC1

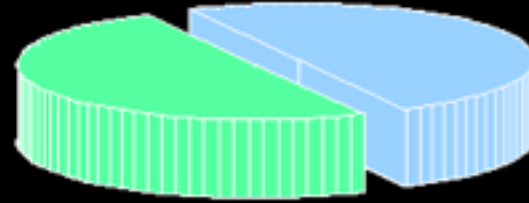


200 μm

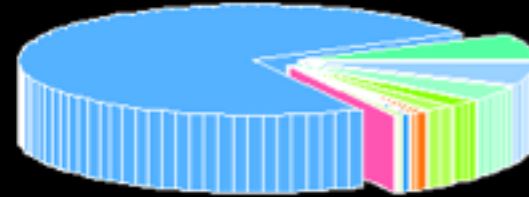
Experiments: The Neuronal Composition



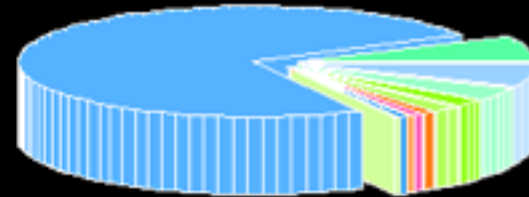
Layer 1



Layer 2



Layer 3



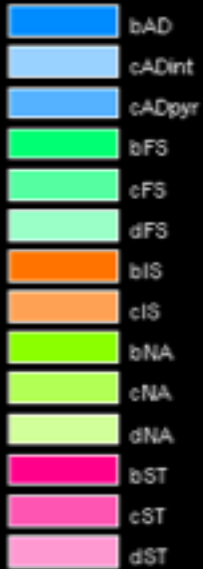
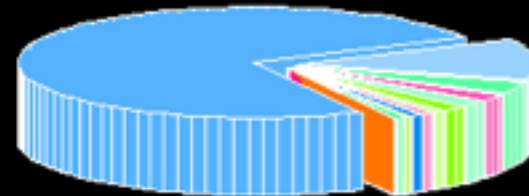
Layer 4



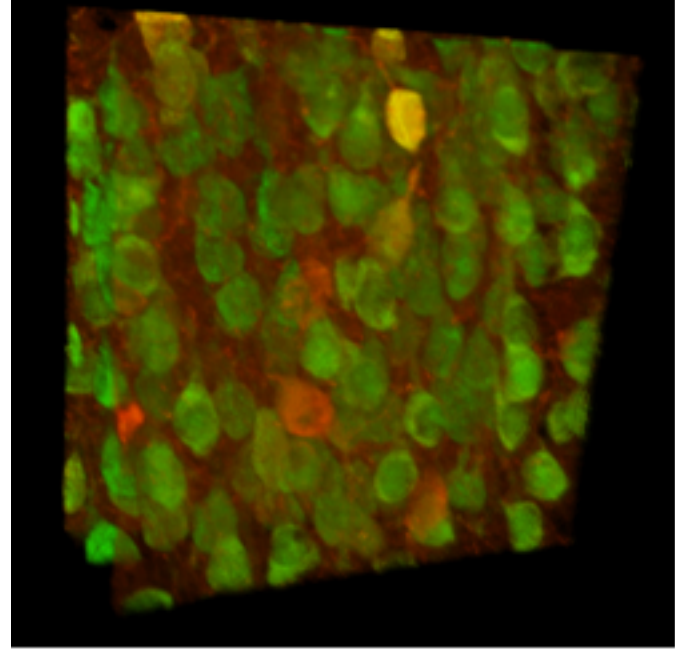
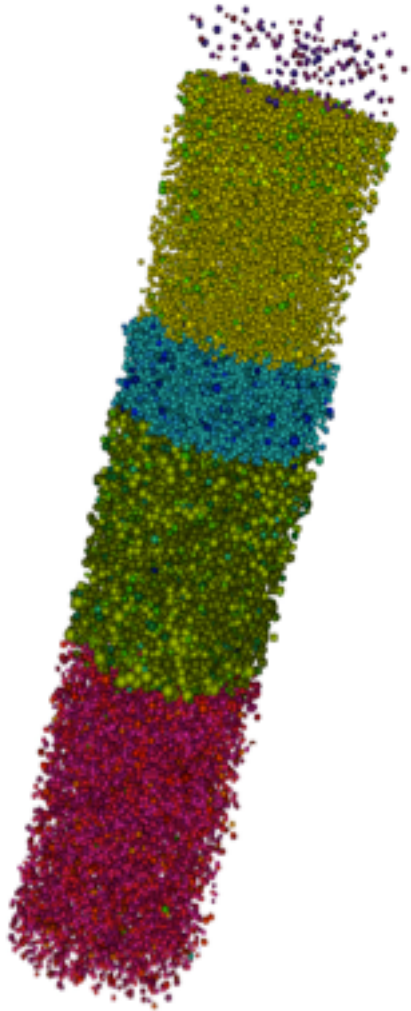
Layer 5



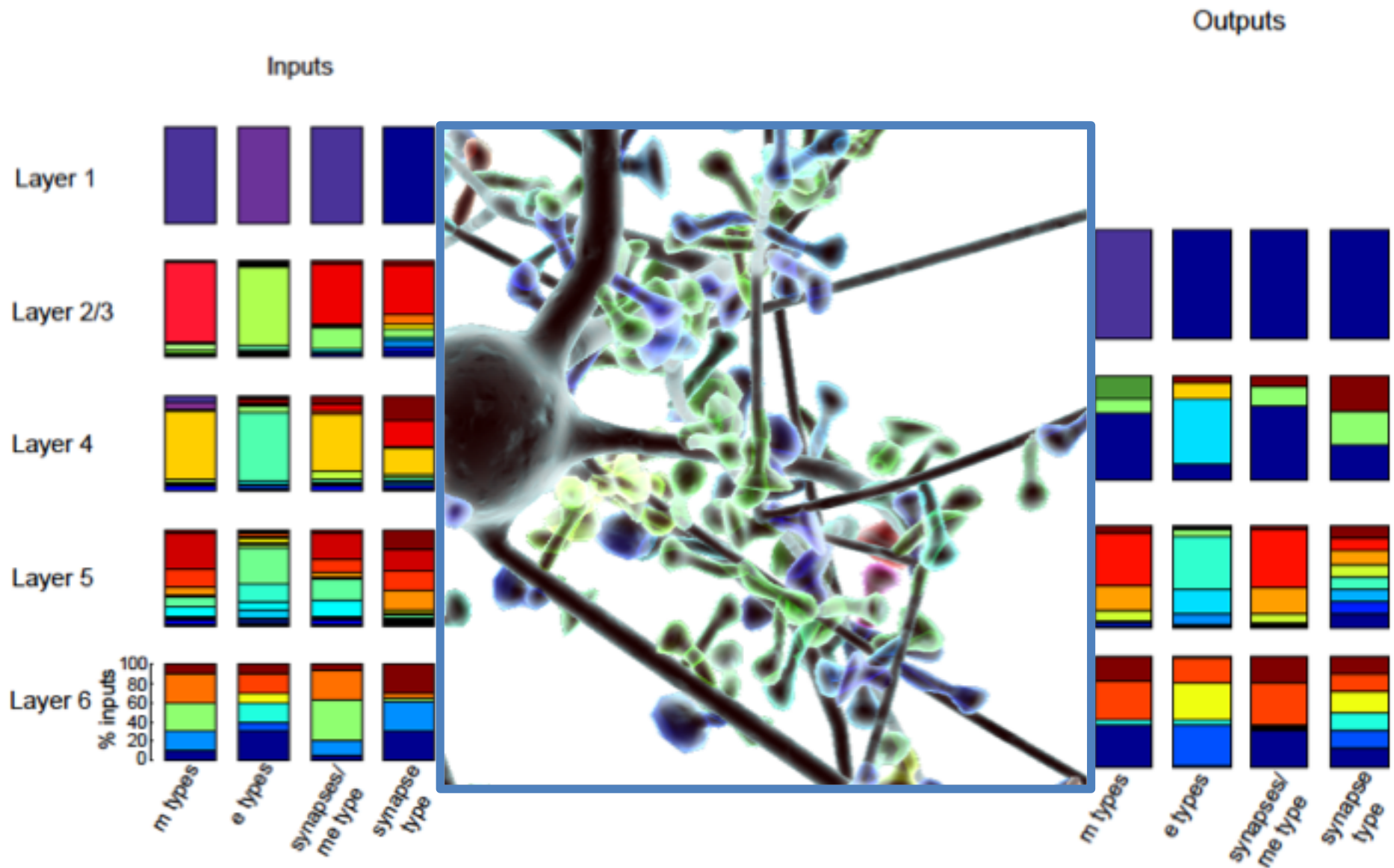
Layer 6



Neuronal Densities and E:I Proportions

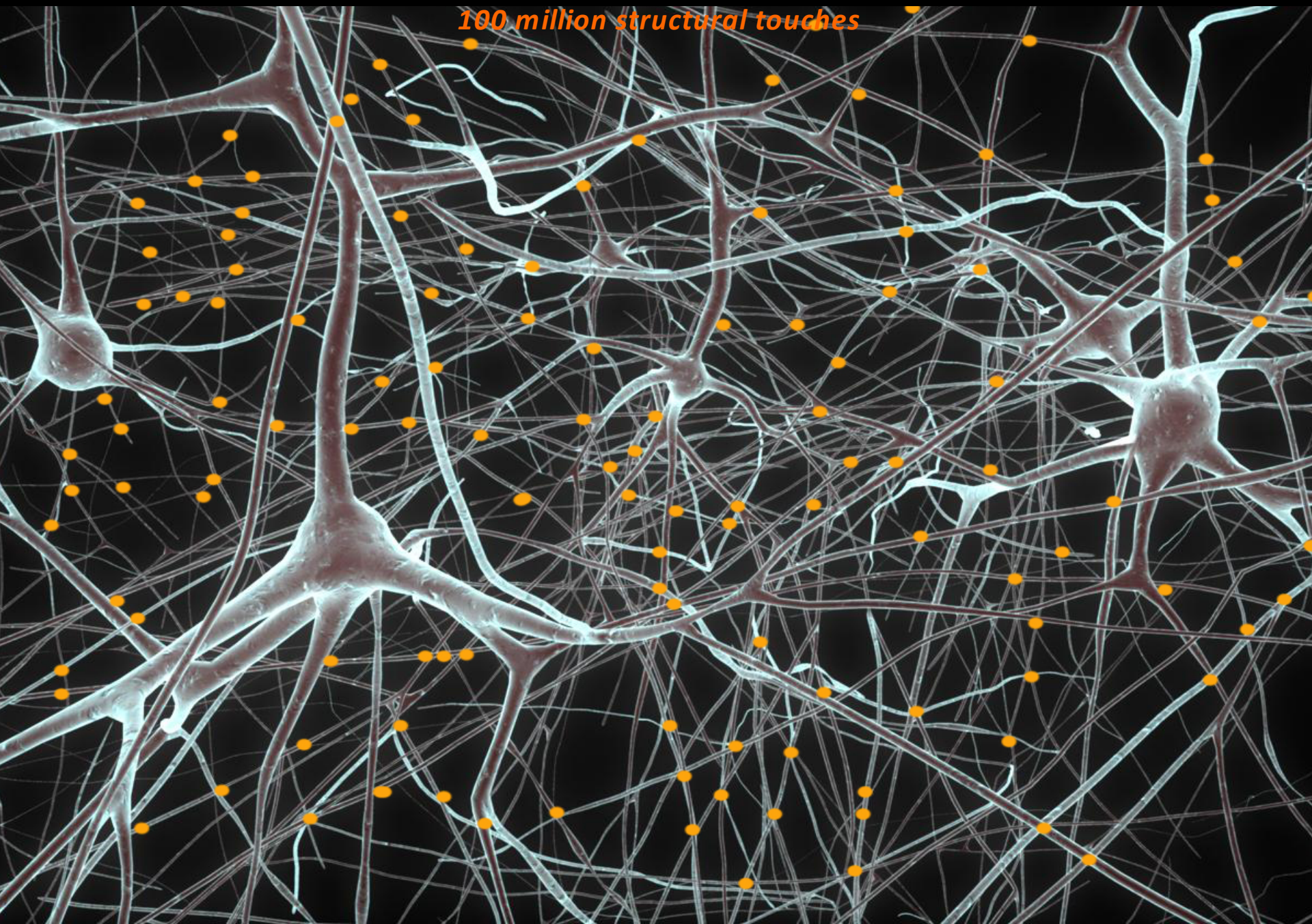


Predicting extrinsic connectivity



Building: the structural connectome

100 million structural touches



Building: the functional connectome

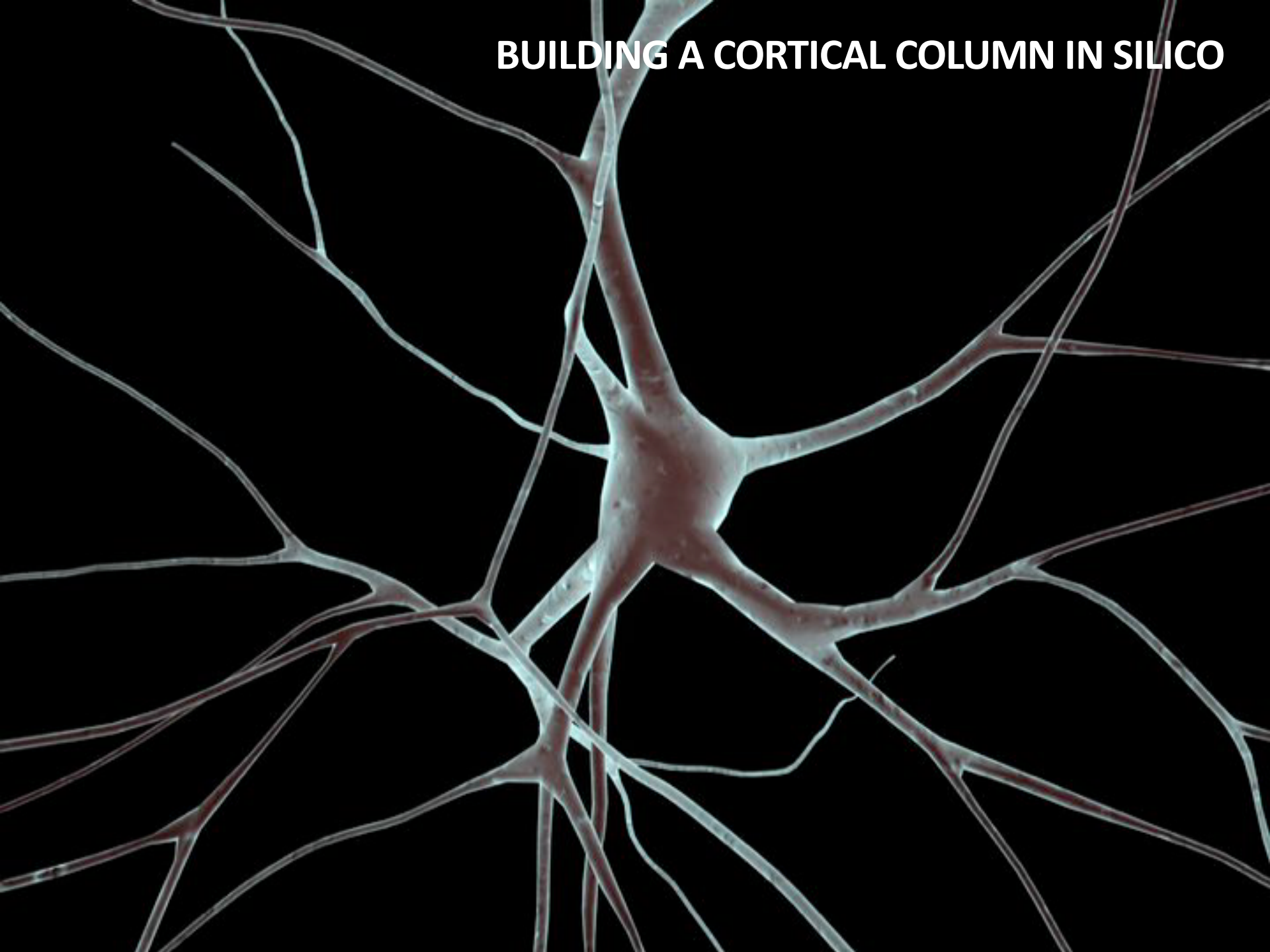
Apply the Neuron-Neuron Connection Probability Matrix



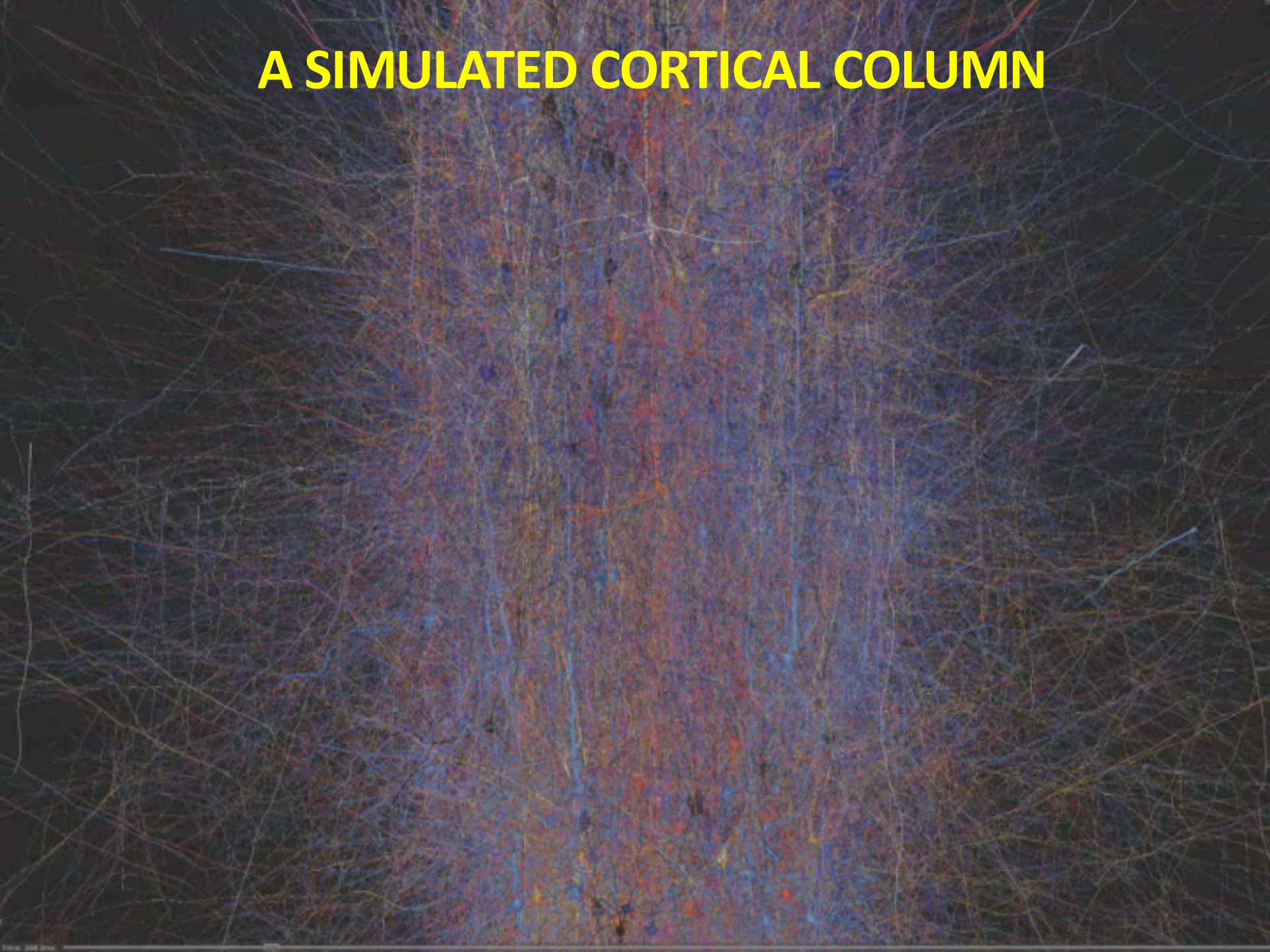
$P_{connect}$

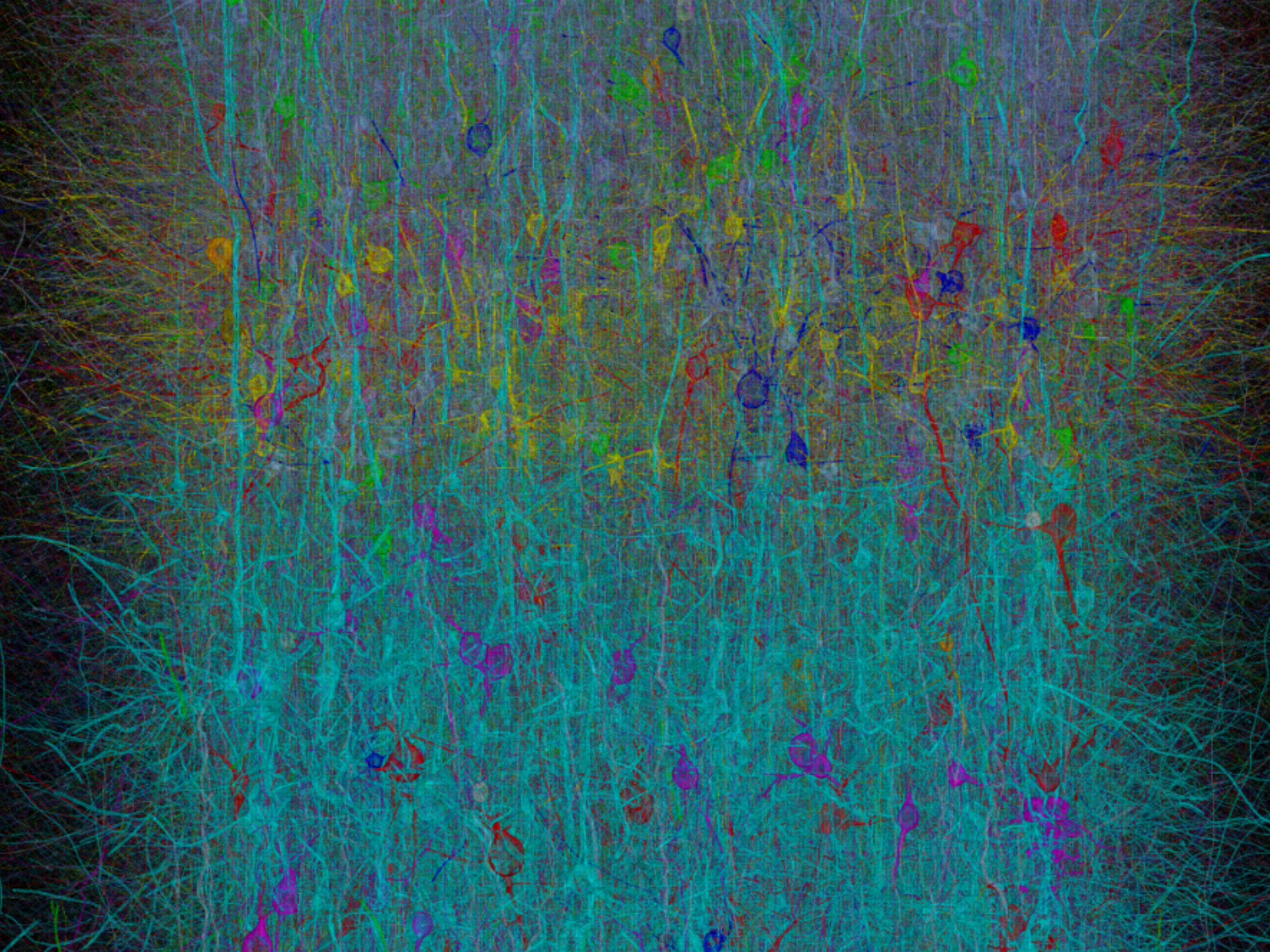
10 million synapses

BUILDING A CORTICAL COLUMN IN SILICO

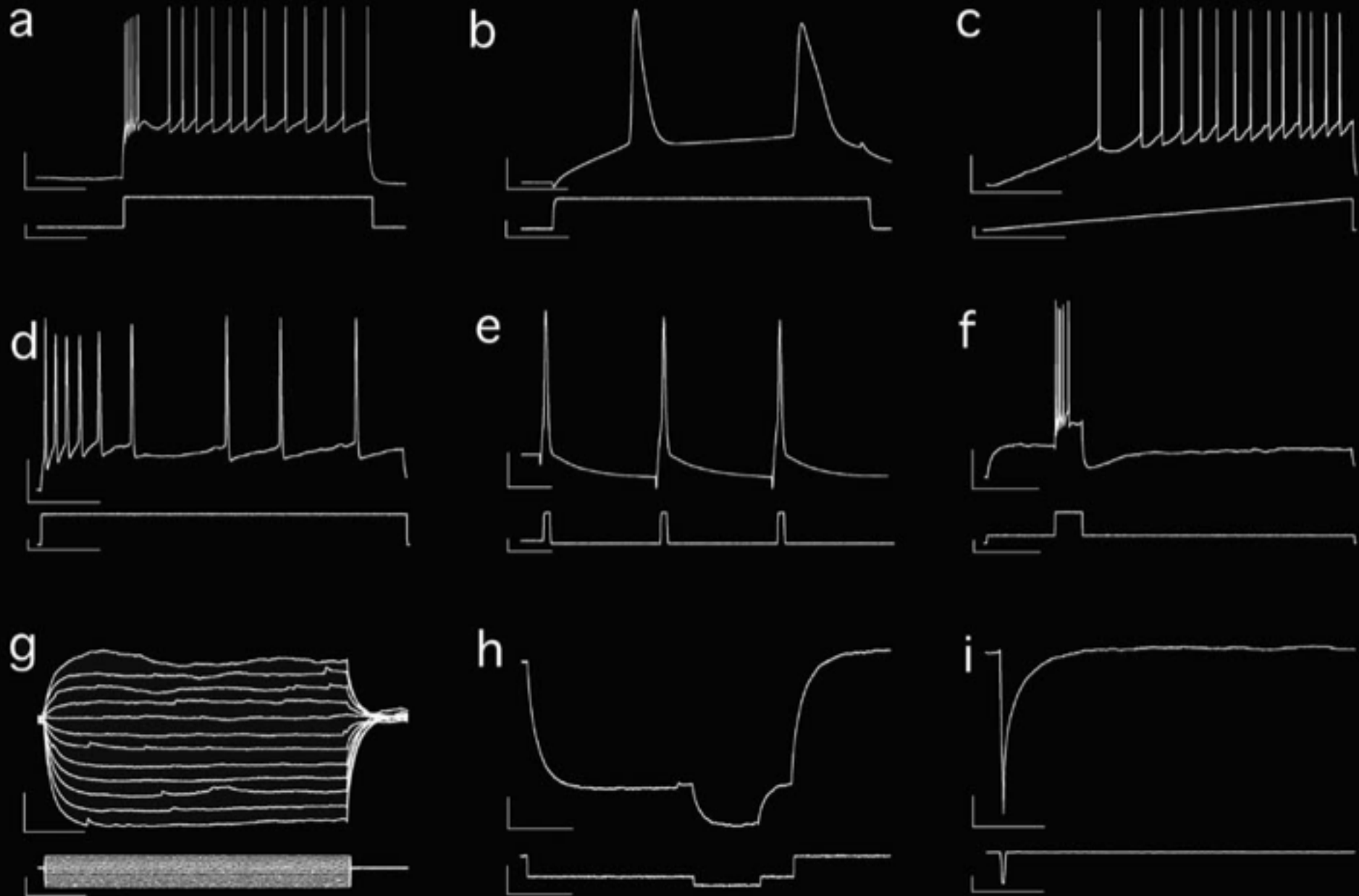


A SIMULATED CORTICAL COLUMN

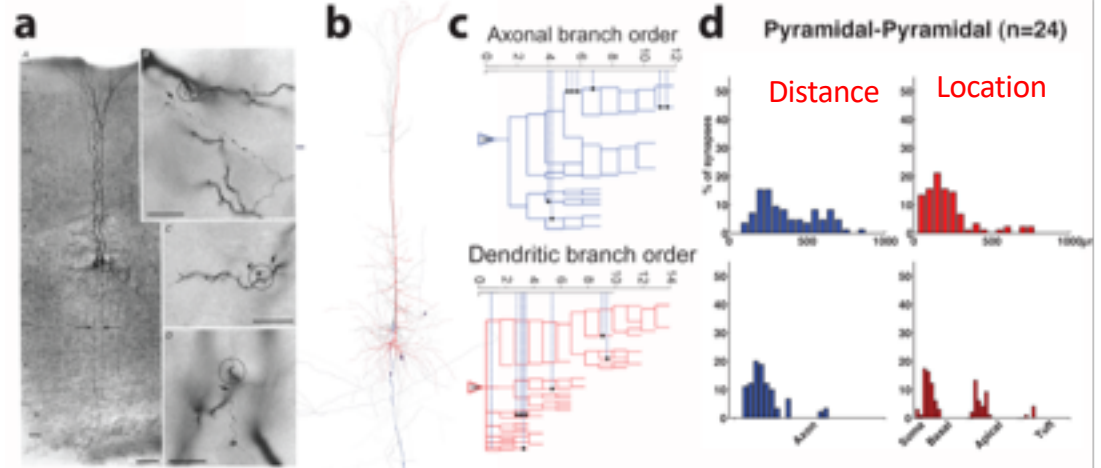
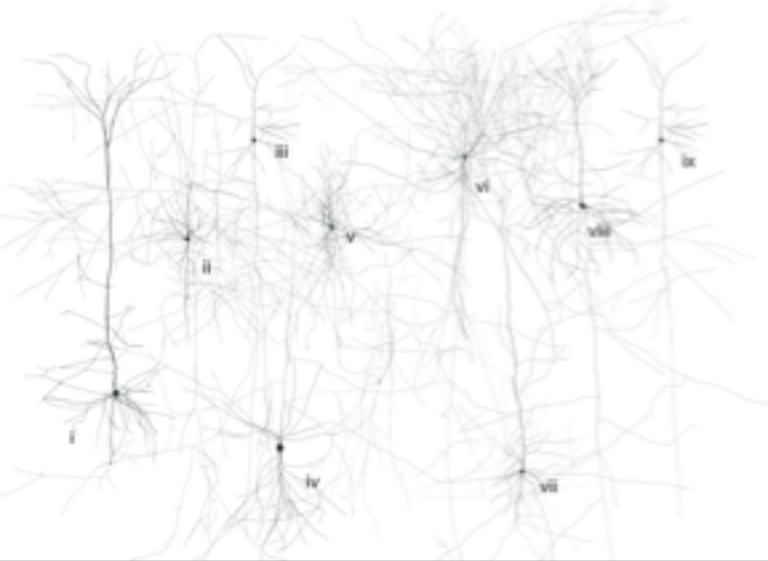




The Neurons: probing the eTypes

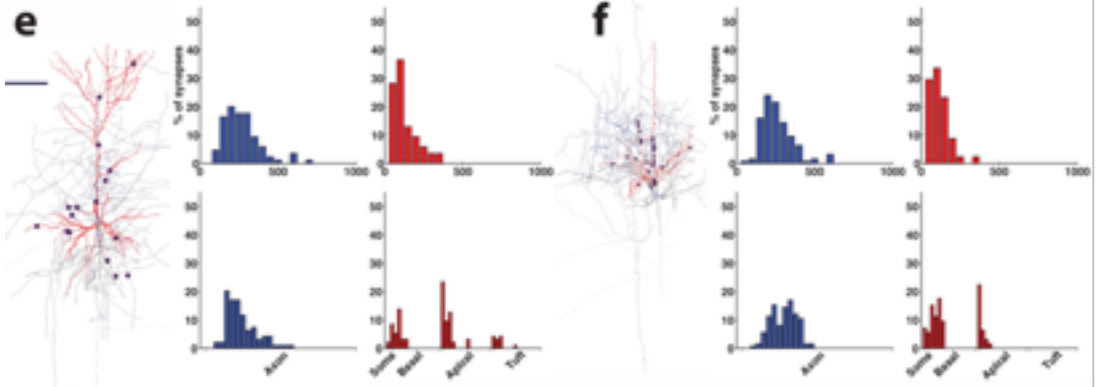


Synaptic Numbers & Locations - *Experiments*



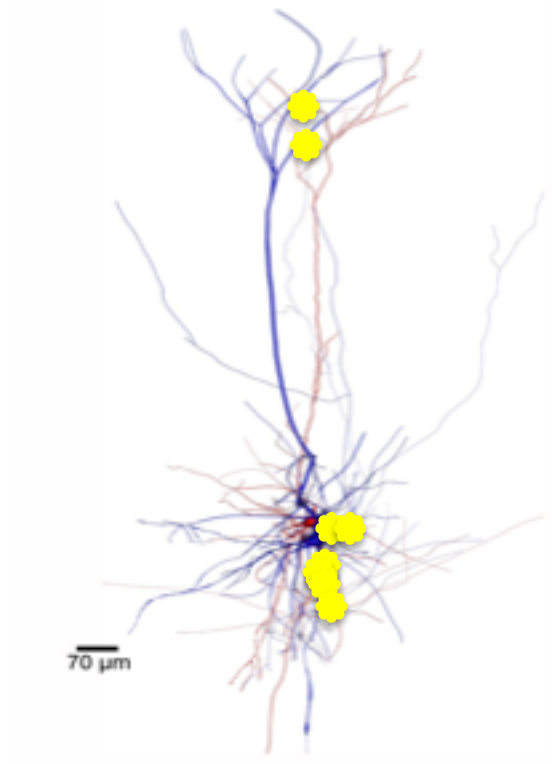
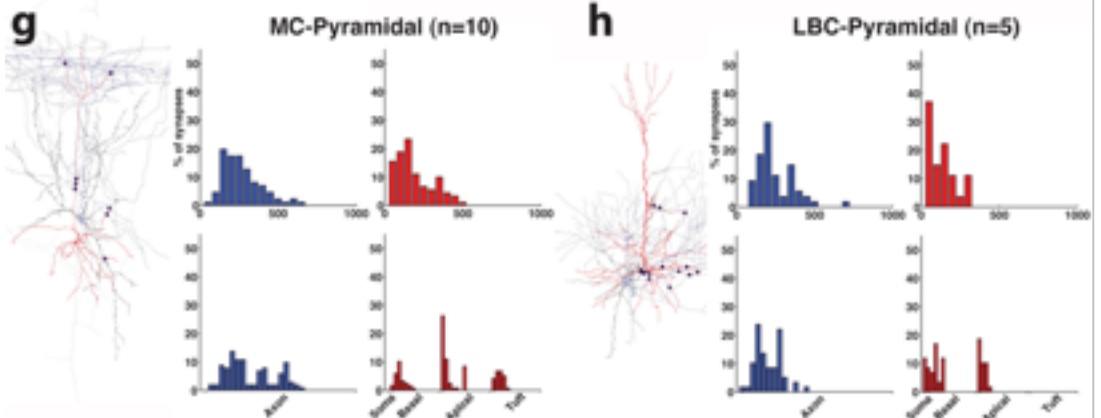
BTC-Pyramidal (n=6)

SBC-Pyramidal (n=6)

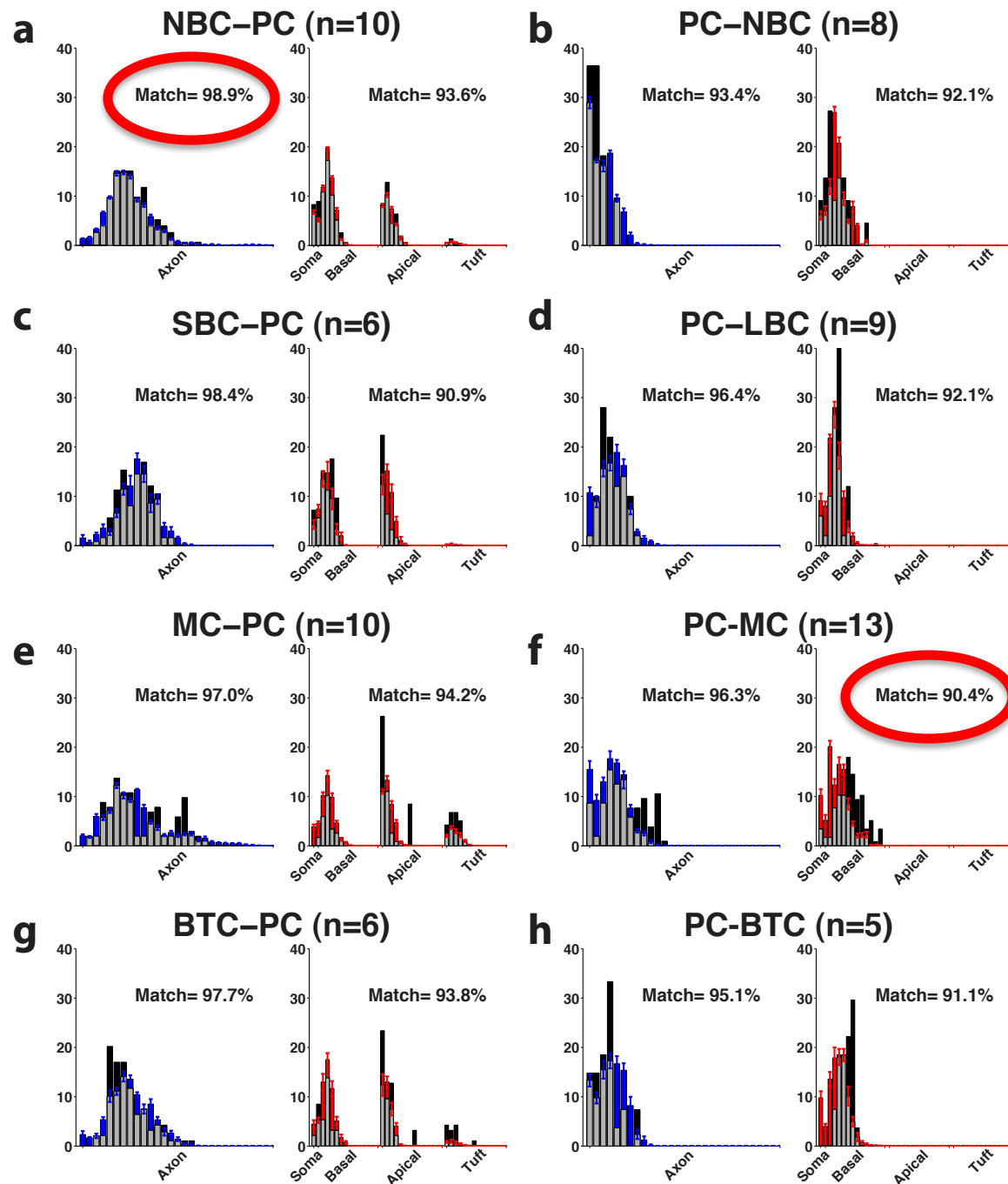


MC-Pyramidal (n=10)

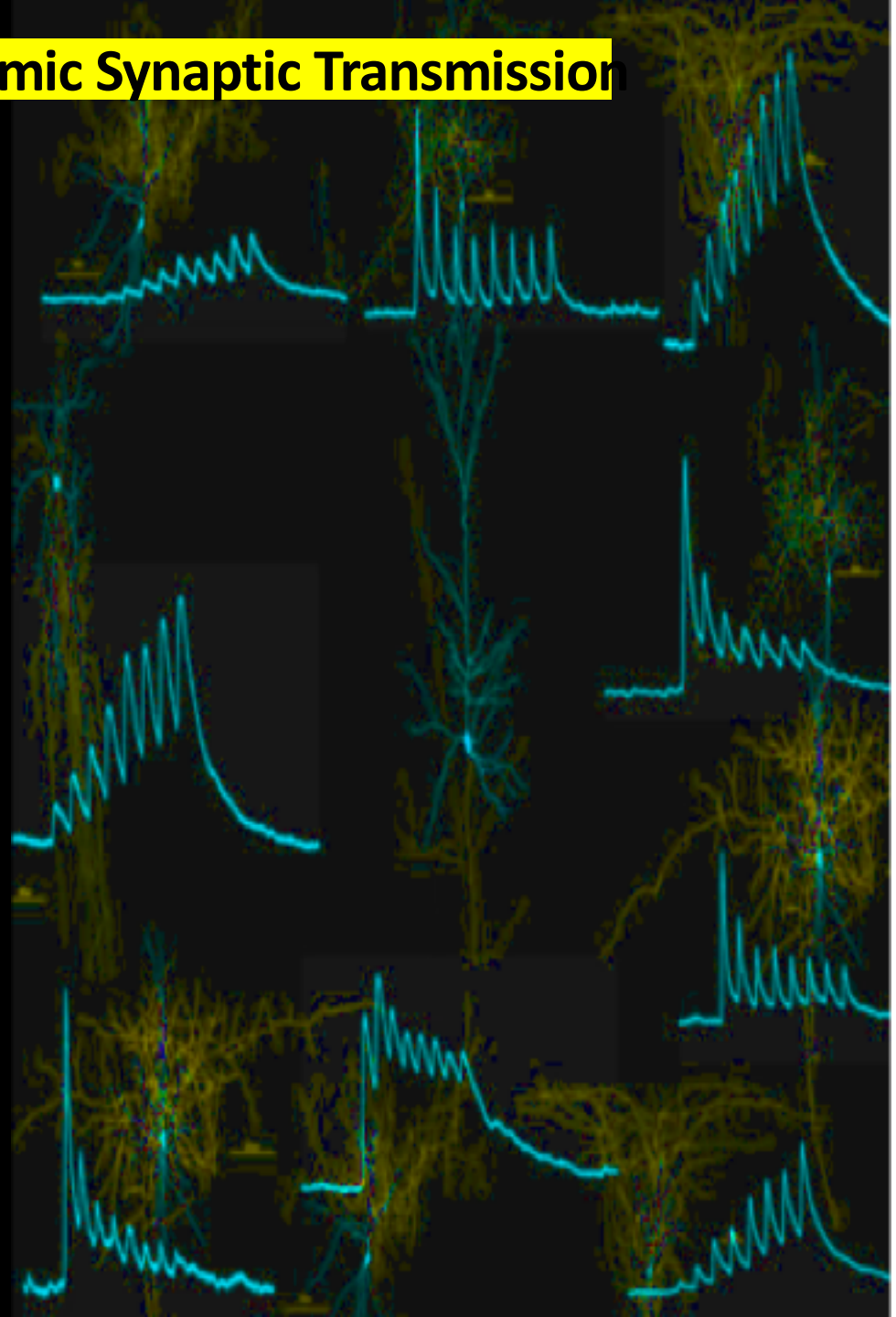
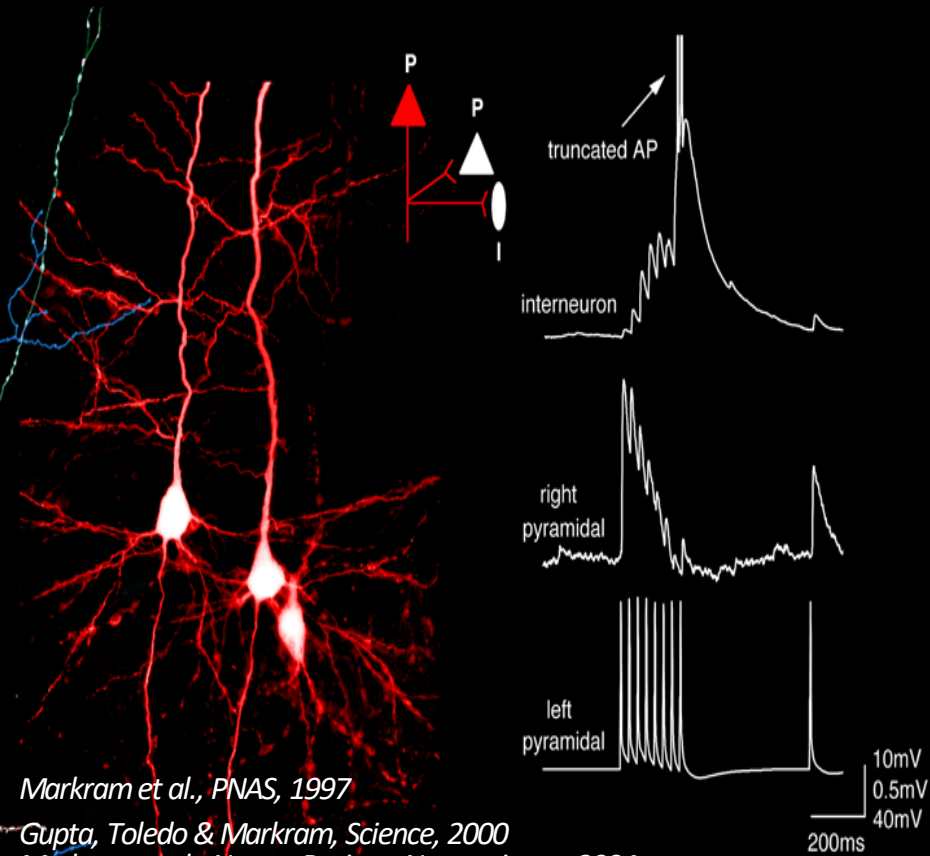
LBC-Pyramidal (n=5)



Discovery: Synaptic Positions in the Model MATCH those in Experiments



Experiments: Dynamic Synaptic Transmission



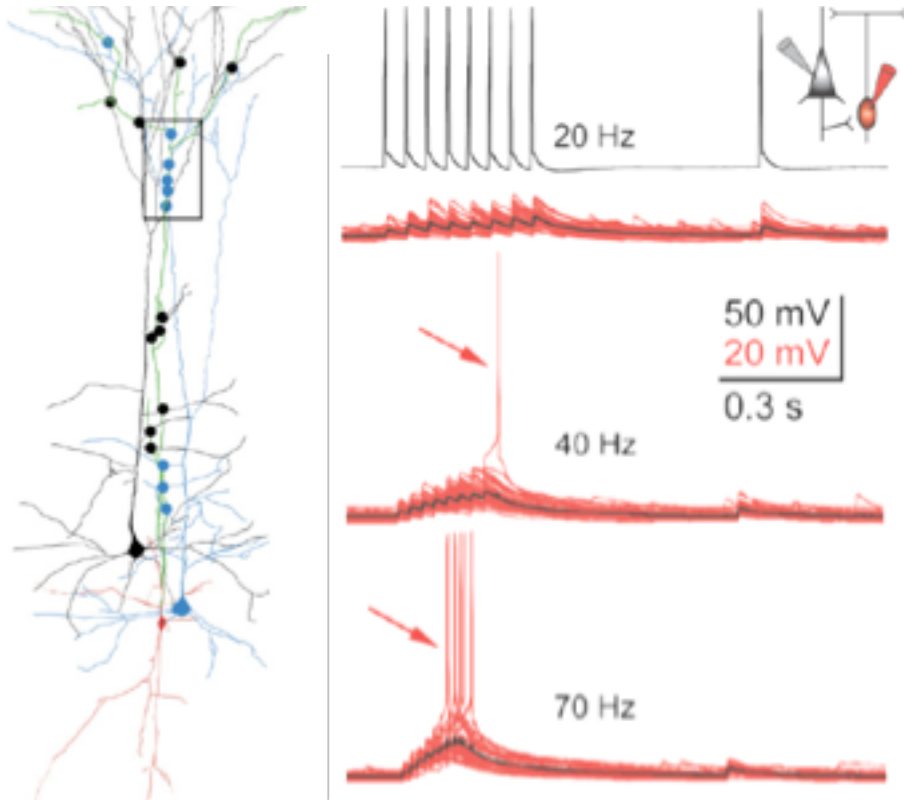
Markram et al., PNAS, 1997

Gupta, Toledo & Markram, Science, 2000

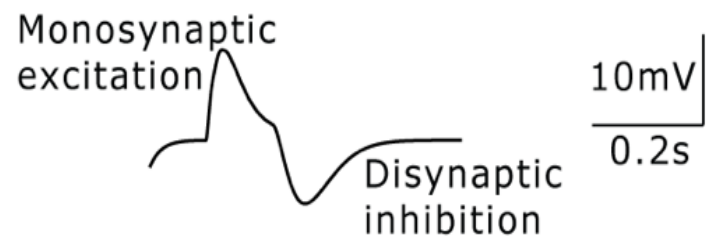
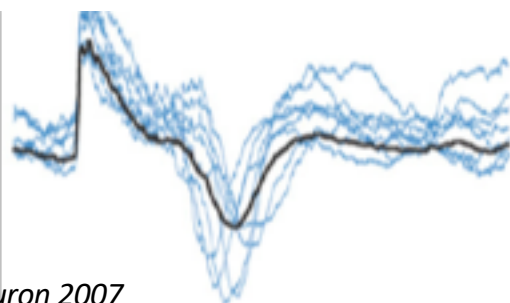
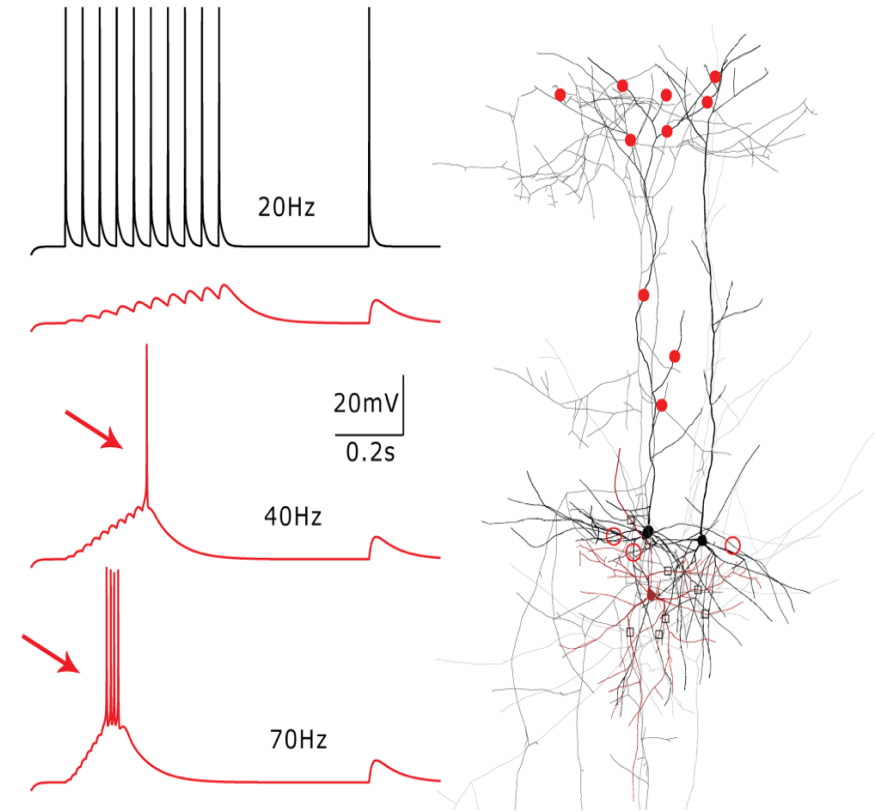
Markram et al., Nature Reviews Neuroscience, 2004

In silico synaptic recordings match in vitro synaptic recordings

In vitro

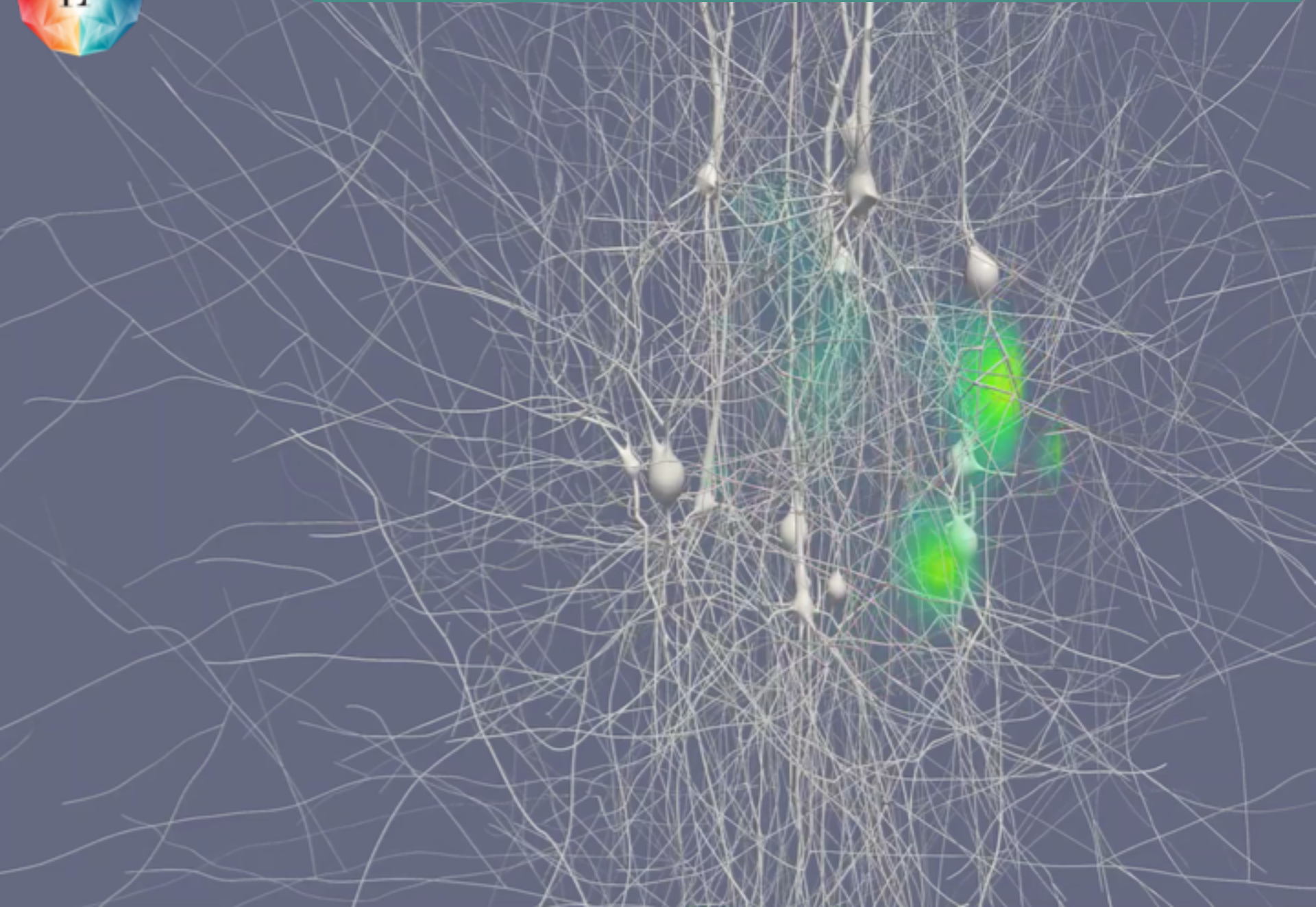


In silico

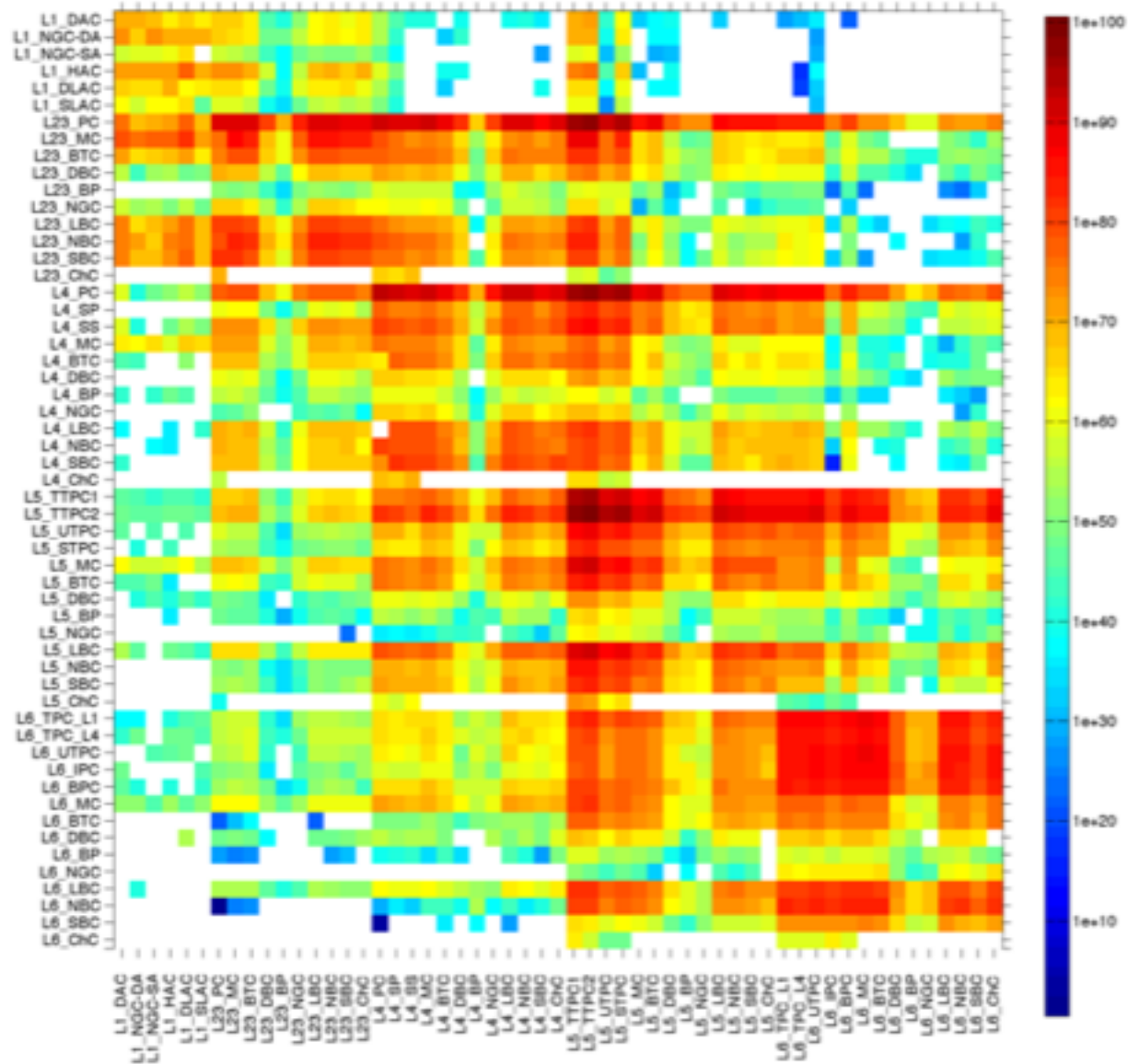


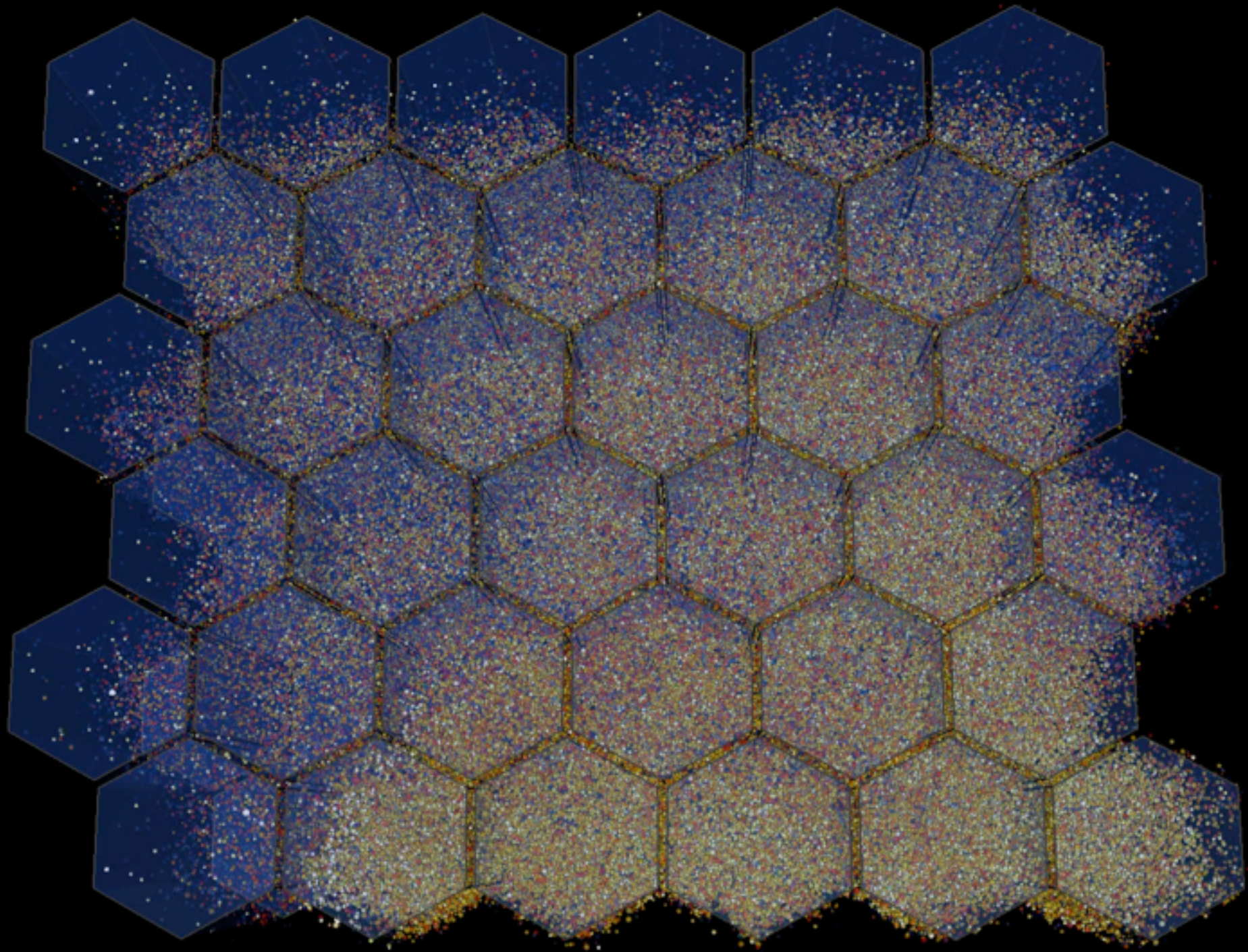


MODELLED LFPs IN A CORTICAL COLUMN



Normalized by number of neurons per mType





NEURONS

$$C_m \frac{dV_m}{dt} = \frac{E_m - V_m}{R_m} + I_{channels} + I_{synapses}$$

$$+ \frac{2(V_{m_{i+1}} - V_m)}{R_{m_{i+1}} + R_m} + \frac{2(V_{m_{i-1}} - V_m)}{R_{m_{i-1}} + R_m}$$

10,000 neurons

~ 4,000,000

Electrical compartments
(Rall Equations)

ION CHANNELS

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = \alpha_m(V_m)(1 - m) - \beta_m(V_m)m$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \alpha_h(V_m)(1 - h) - \beta_h(V_m)h$$

$$I_{channel} = m^4 h g_{channel}(V_m - E_{channel})$$

80,000,000 Ion Channels

(Hodgkin-Huxley Equations)

SYNAPSES

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{x}{\tau_{free}} - ux d(t - t_{sp})$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{y}{\tau_1} - ux d(t - t_{sp})$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{y}{\tau_2} - \frac{z}{\tau_{free}}$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = \frac{u}{\tau_{build}} + U(1 - u)d(t - t)$$

$$I_{synapse}(t) = \sum_j A_{ij} y_j(t)$$

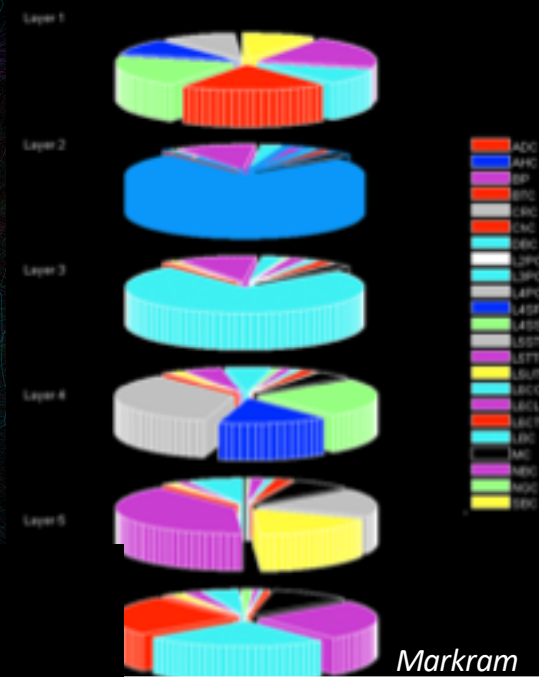
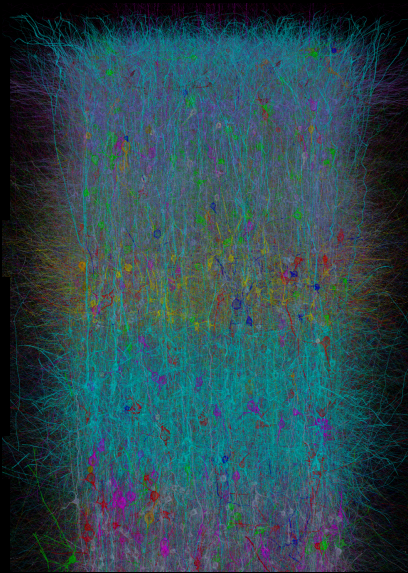
10,000,000 Synapses

(Tendulkar-Markram Equations)

MODELS ARE DATA DRIVEN

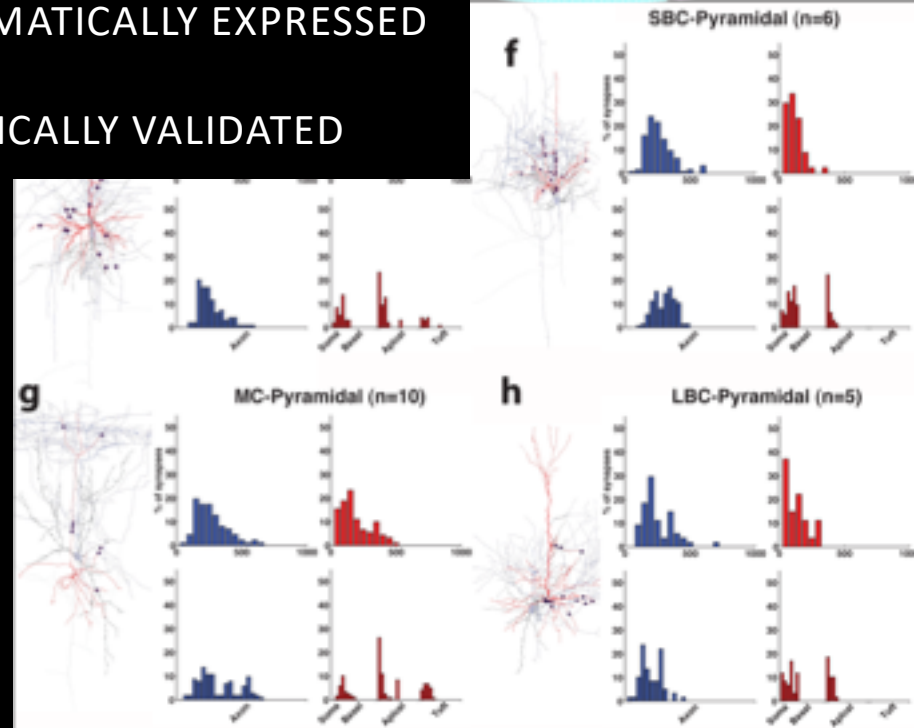
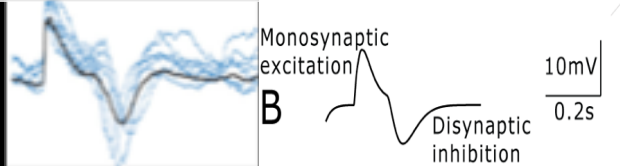
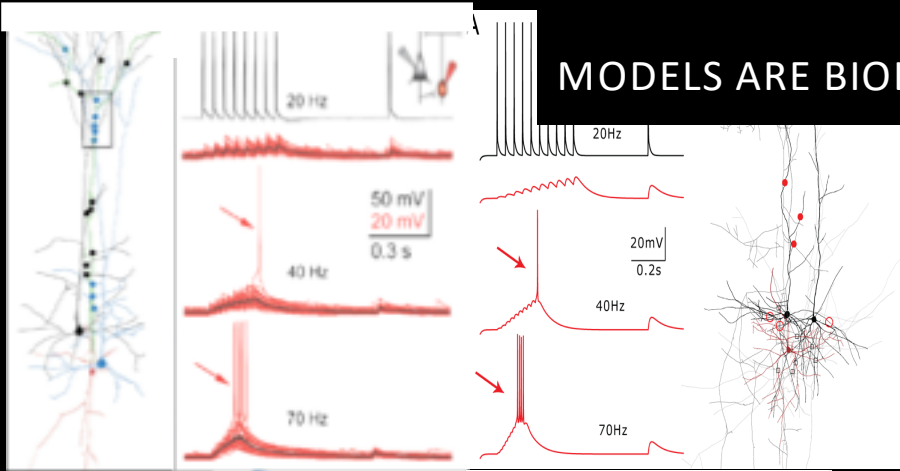
MODELS ARE MATHEMATICALLY EXPRESSED

MODELS ARE BIOLOGICALLY VALIDATED



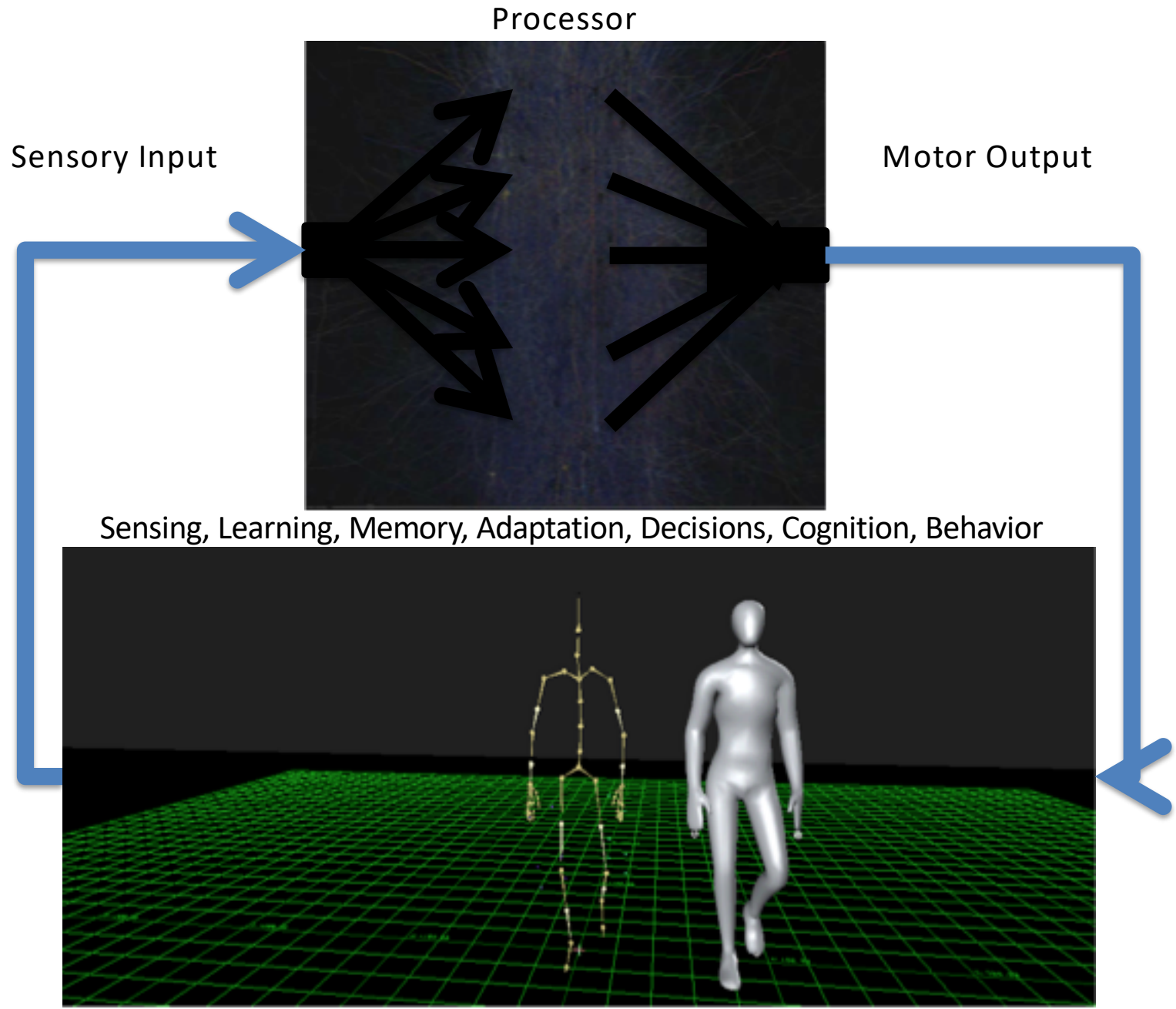
Markram

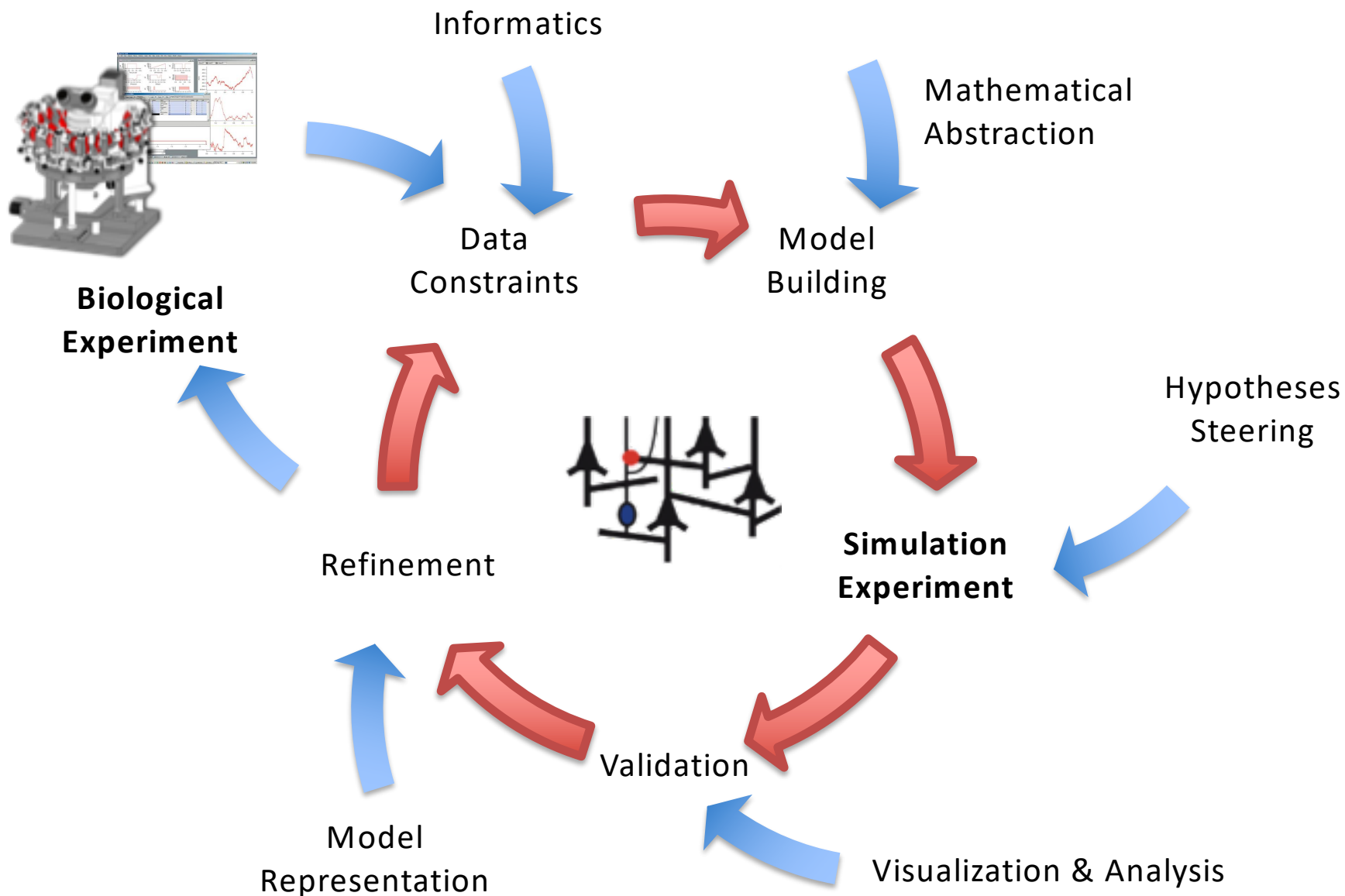
In vitro

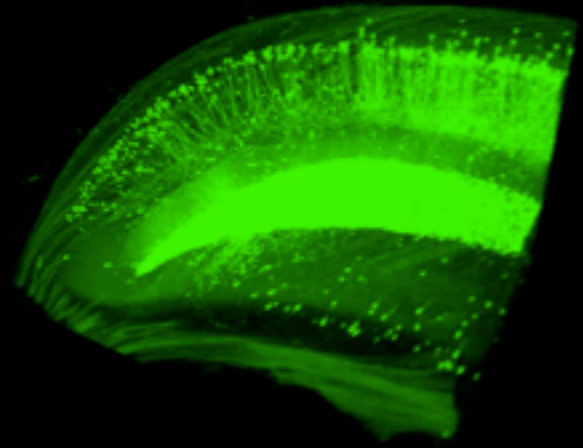
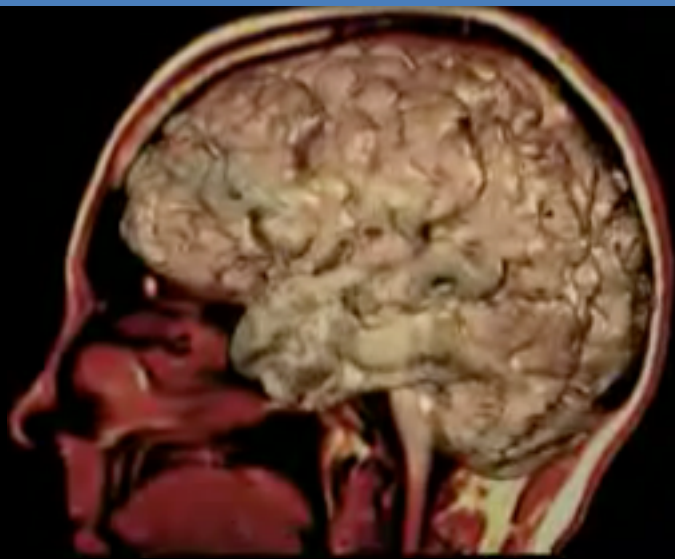




NEURAL COMPUTATION : CHAIN OF EVENTS LEADING TO COGNITION





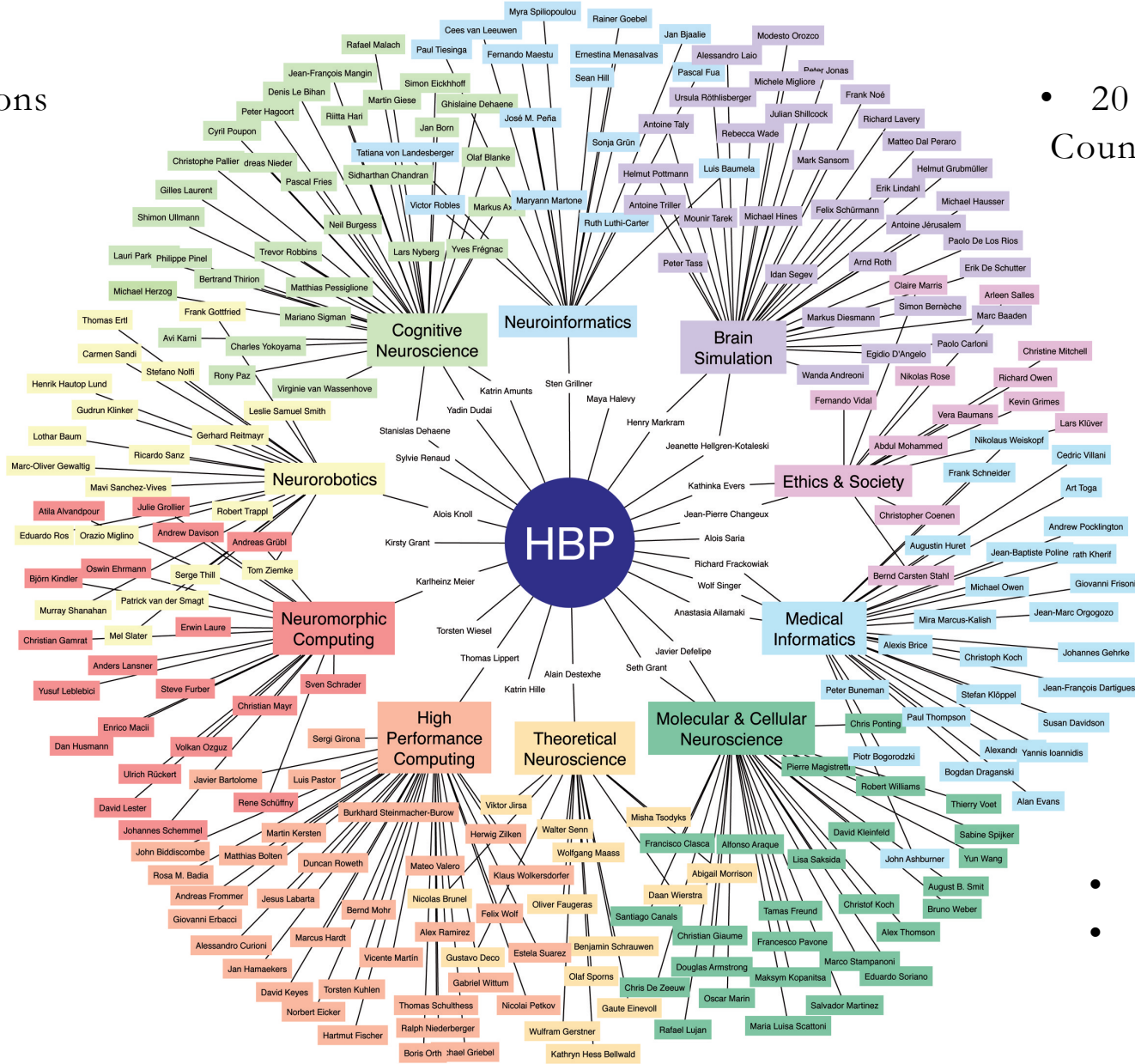




THE CONSORTIUM

- 80 Institutions
- 150 PIs
- 2000 PhDs

- 20 European Countries



- USA
- Israel
- Japan
- China
- Canada

- 50% Core
- 50% Grants