



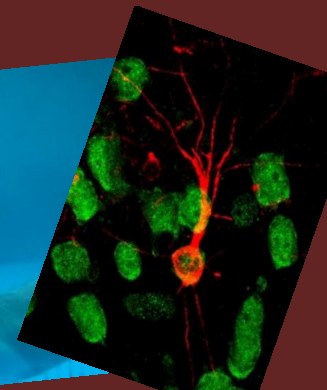
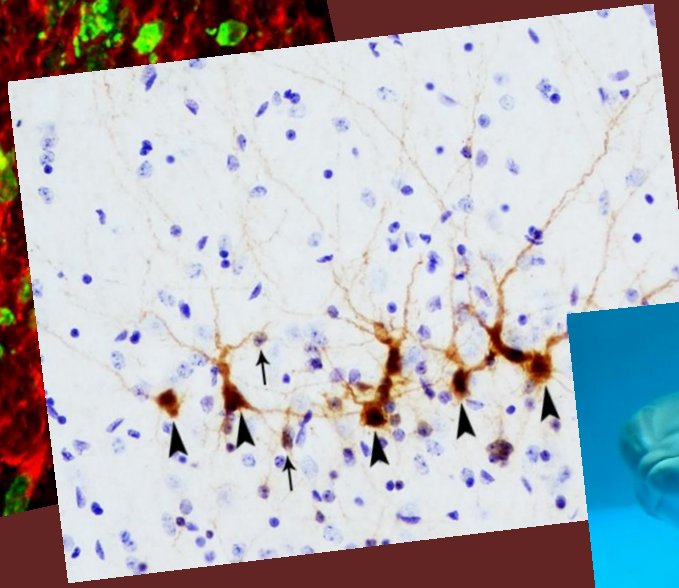
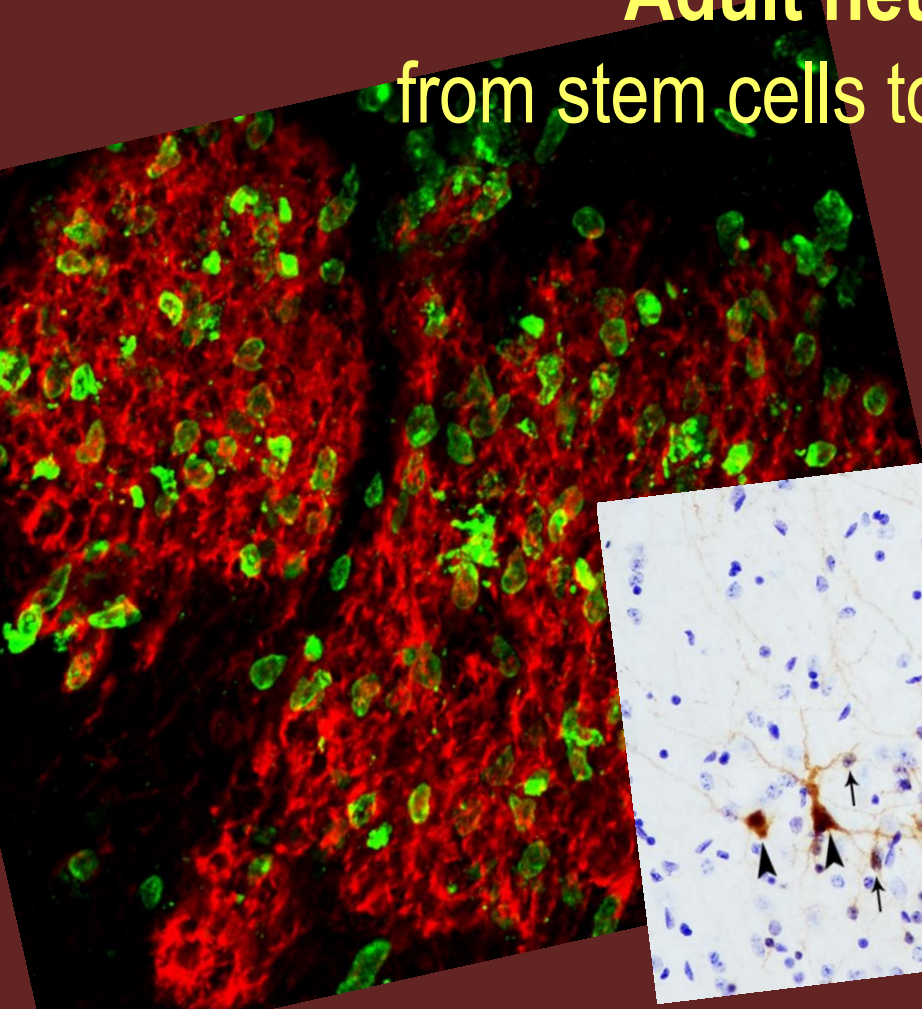
Dept of Veterinary Sciences

Luca Bonfanti  
University of Turin



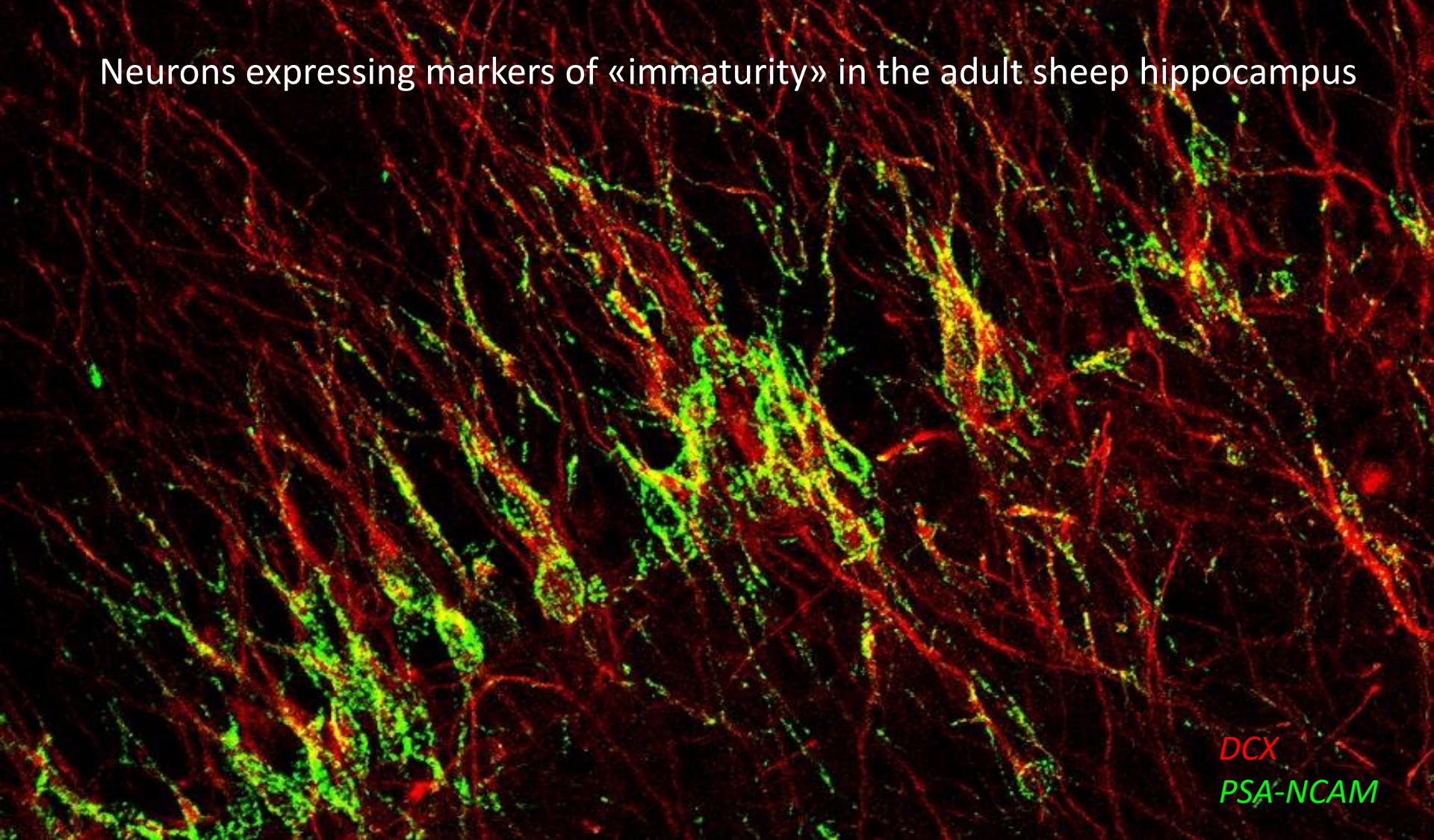
Neuroscience Institute Cavalieri Ottolenghi

# Adult neurogenesis: from stem cells to immature neurons





# Neurons expressing markers of «immaturity» in the adult sheep hippocampus



*DCX*  
*PSA-NCAM*

Foto: Ottavia Palazzo

Published 3 days ago

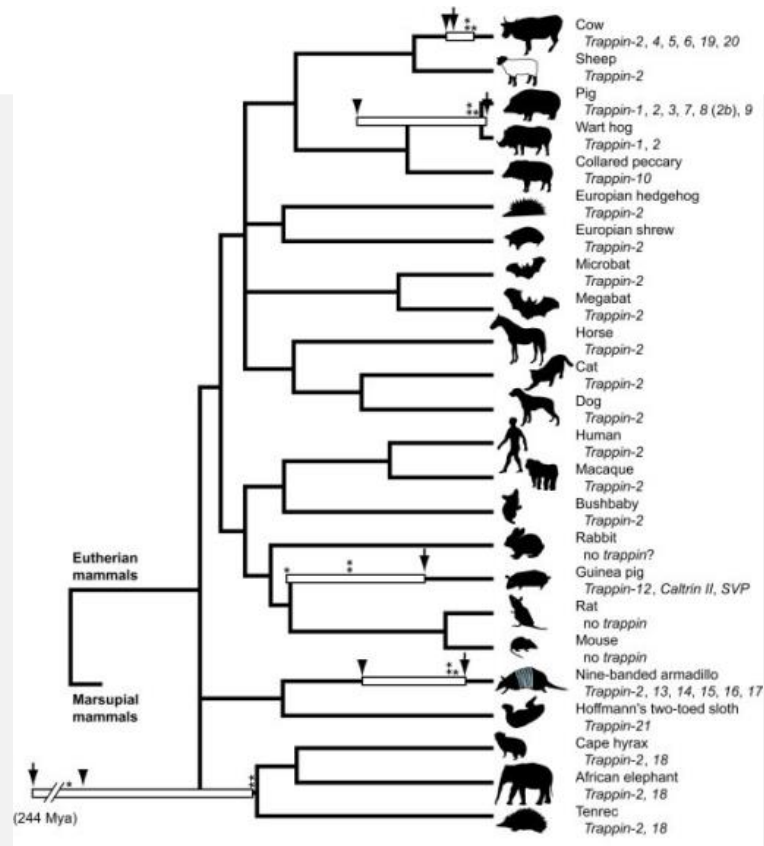


NEUROSCIENCE

# Adult neurogenesis in mammals

Neurogenesis in adulthood has implications for sense of self, memory, and disease

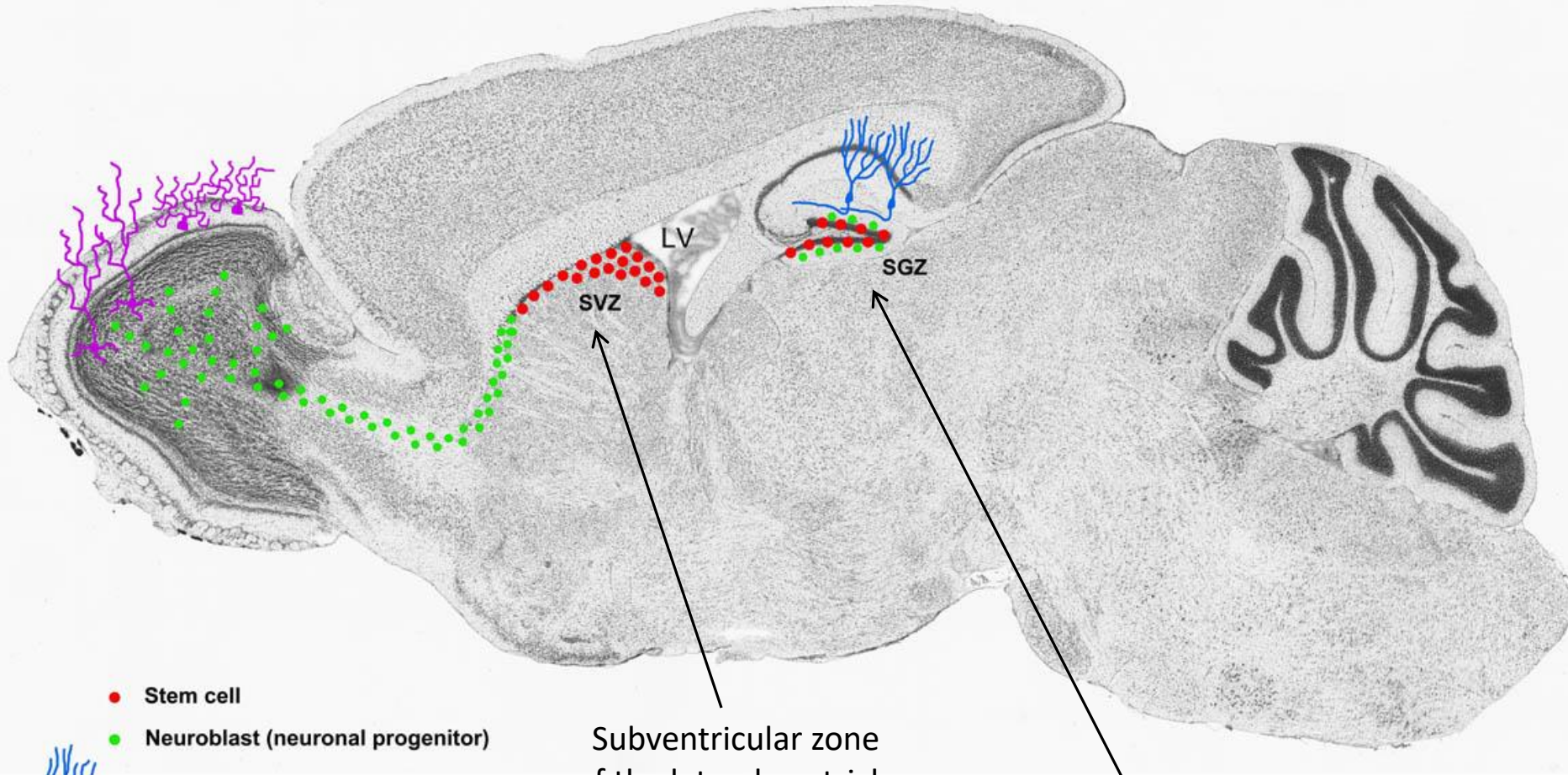
By Fred H. Gage



genesis, including proliferation, maturation, migration, differentiation, survival, and inte-



# Neurogenic zones and their outcome



- Stem cell
- Neuroblast (neuronal progenitor)
- Hippocampal granule cell
- Olfactory bulb periglomerular cell
- Olfactory bulb granule cell

Subventricular zone of the lateral ventricle

Dentate gyrus of the hippocampus

A fluorescence microscopy image of neural tissue. The image shows a dense population of cells. Many cells are stained green, likely representing nuclei or specific cell markers. A network of red staining is visible, possibly representing cytoskeletal elements or another cell marker. The overall appearance is that of a complex, interconnected neural network.

**Two main problems in adult neurogenesis field:**

**1) scarce capacity for REPAIR**

**2) substantial REDUCTION in humans**



**NO REPAIR** in mammals

**Strong reduction** in mammals

Adult neurogenesis, structural plasticity, repair

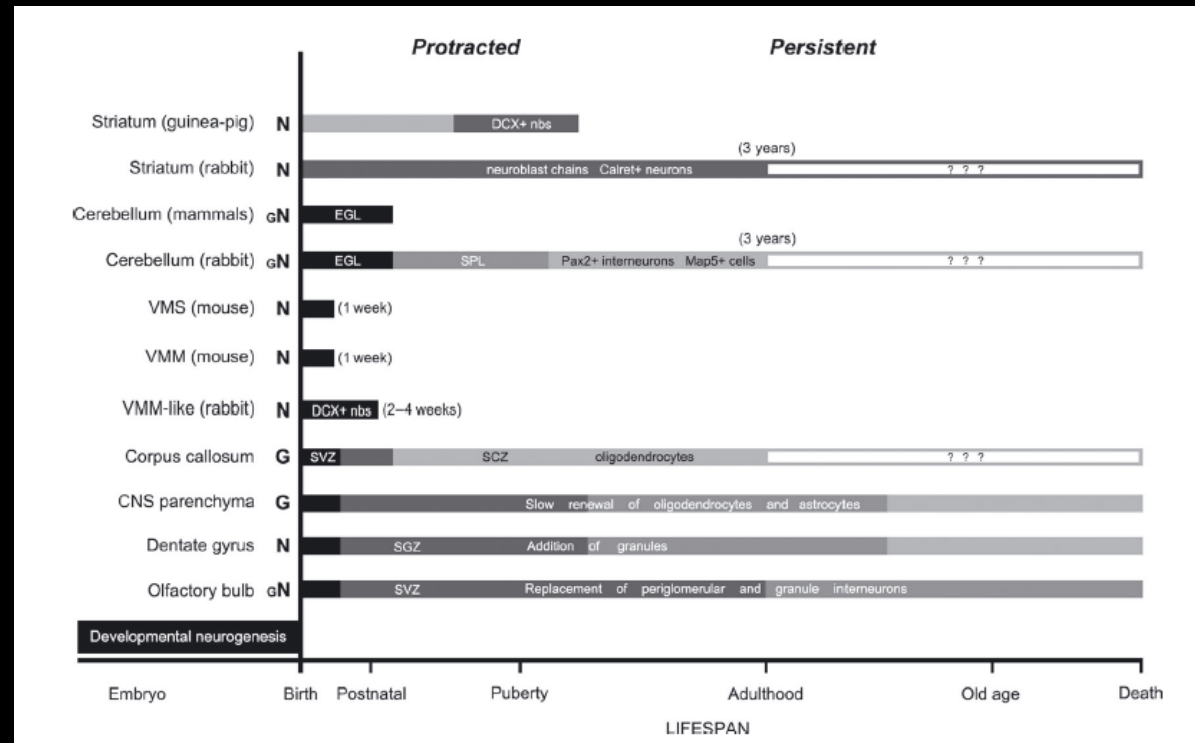
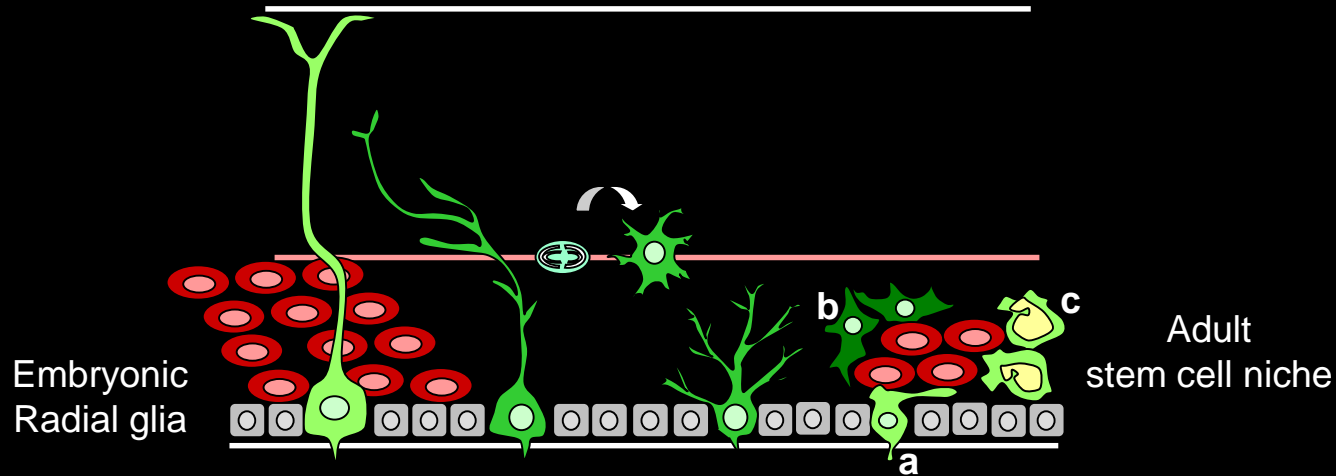
Plasticity + **repair**



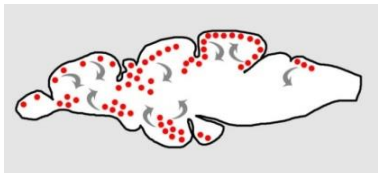
Plasticity



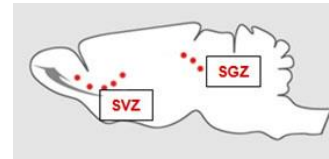
# Adult neurogenesis is a **protracted DEVELOPMENTAL** process



Bonfanti & Peretto 2011 Eur J Neurosci



**Non mammalian  
vertebrates**

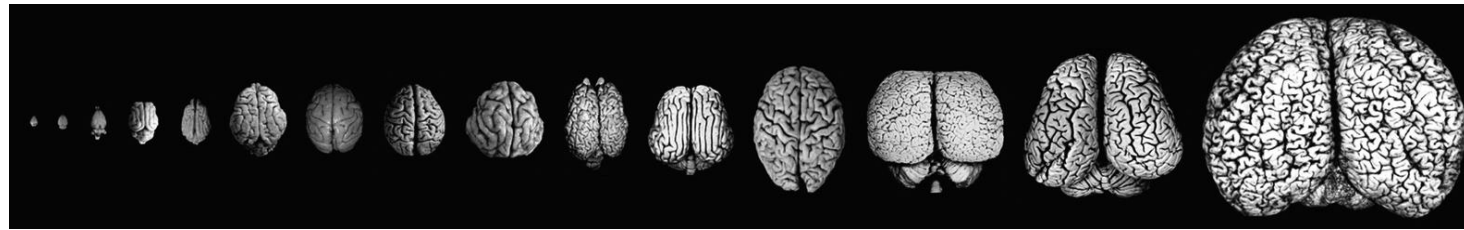


**Mammals**



**Reduction among mammals**

**Repair (plasticity?)**



**Brains in mammals are DIFFERENT**



Adult neurogenesis: **only physiological** function in mammals?

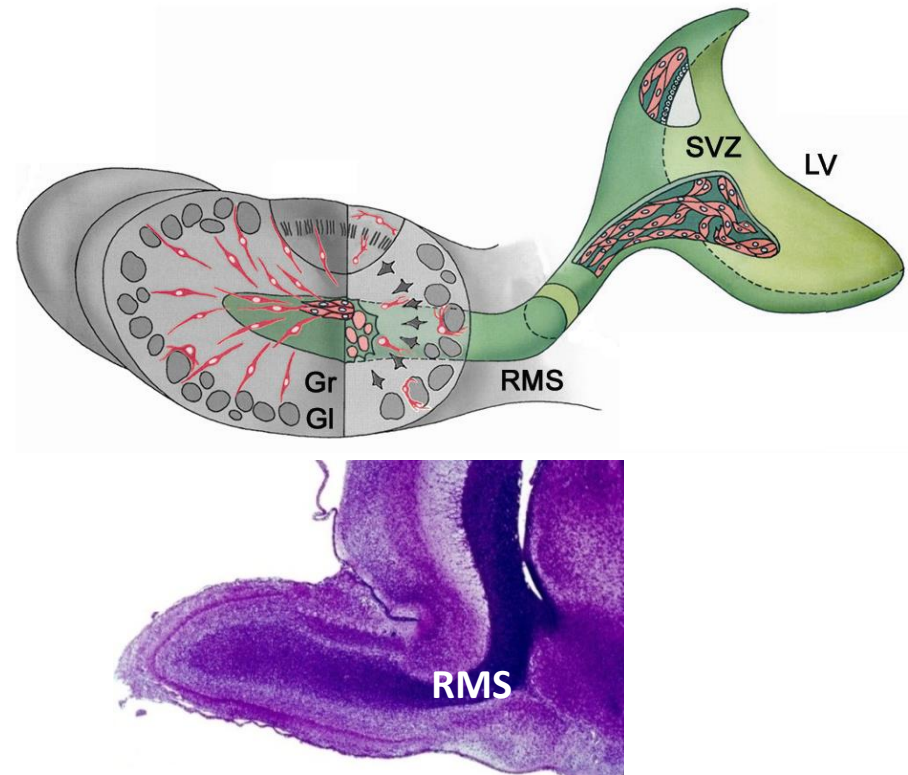
# frontiers

## RESEARCH TOPICS

ADULT NEUROGENESIS TWENTY  
YEARS LATER: PHYSIOLOGICAL  
FUNCTION VERSUS BRAIN  
REPAIR

Topic Editors  
Paolo Peretto and Luca Bonfanti

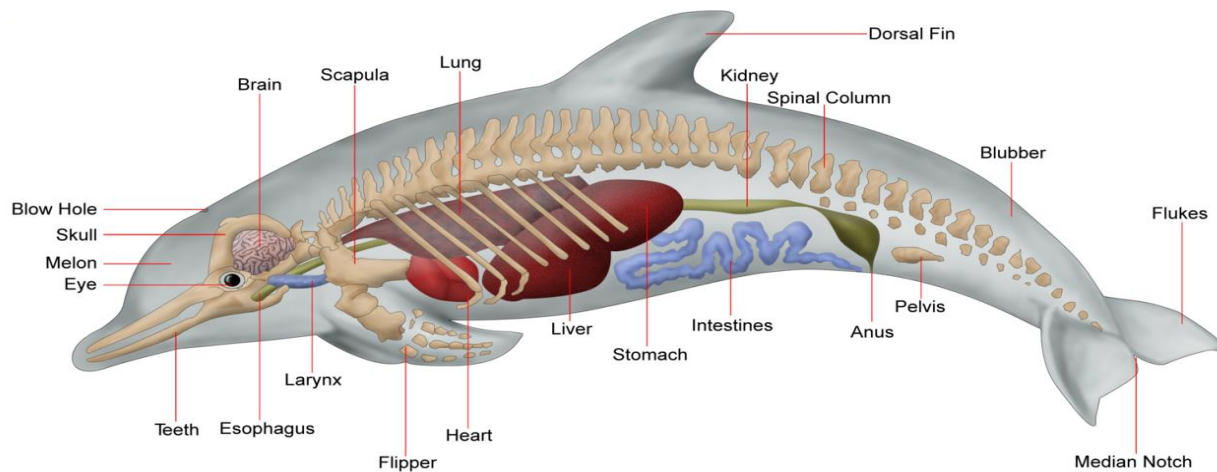
frontiers in  
NEUROSCIENCE



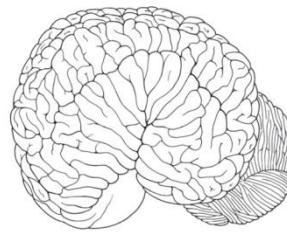
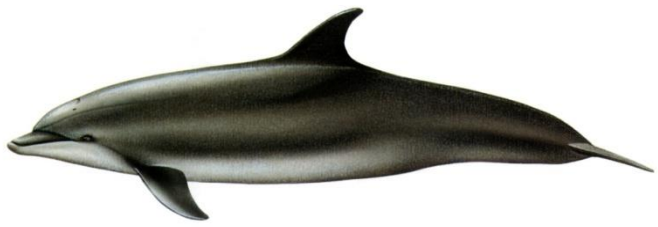
We need a mammal devoid of olfaction

# Dolphins

Aquatic mammals  
(cetacea)



**LARGE-BRAINED**  
**CORTEX EXPANDED**  
**HIGHLY**  
**GYRENCEPHALIC**  
**LONG LIFESPAN**  
**ECOLOCALIZATION**



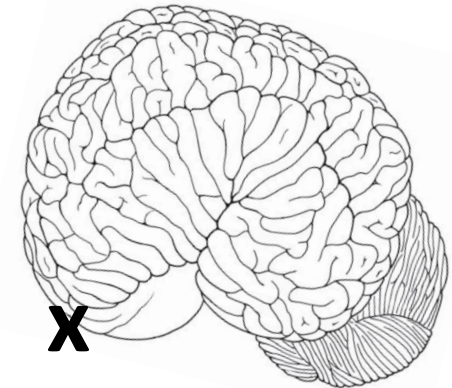
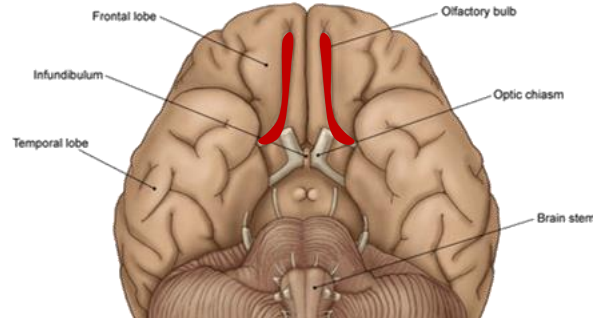
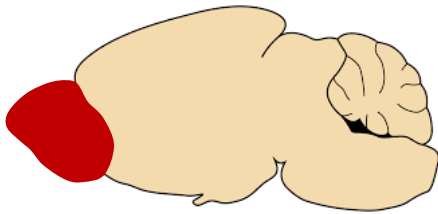
**No olfaction. No olfactory bulb**

**Mouse**

*(not in scale)*

**Human**

**Dolphin**



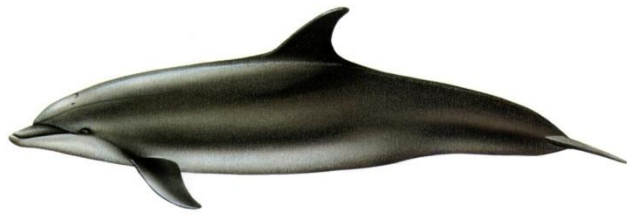
**LARGE**

**SMALL**

**ABSENT**

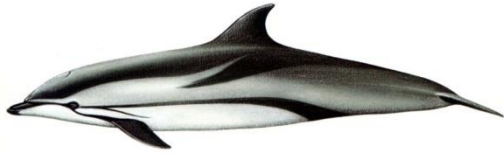






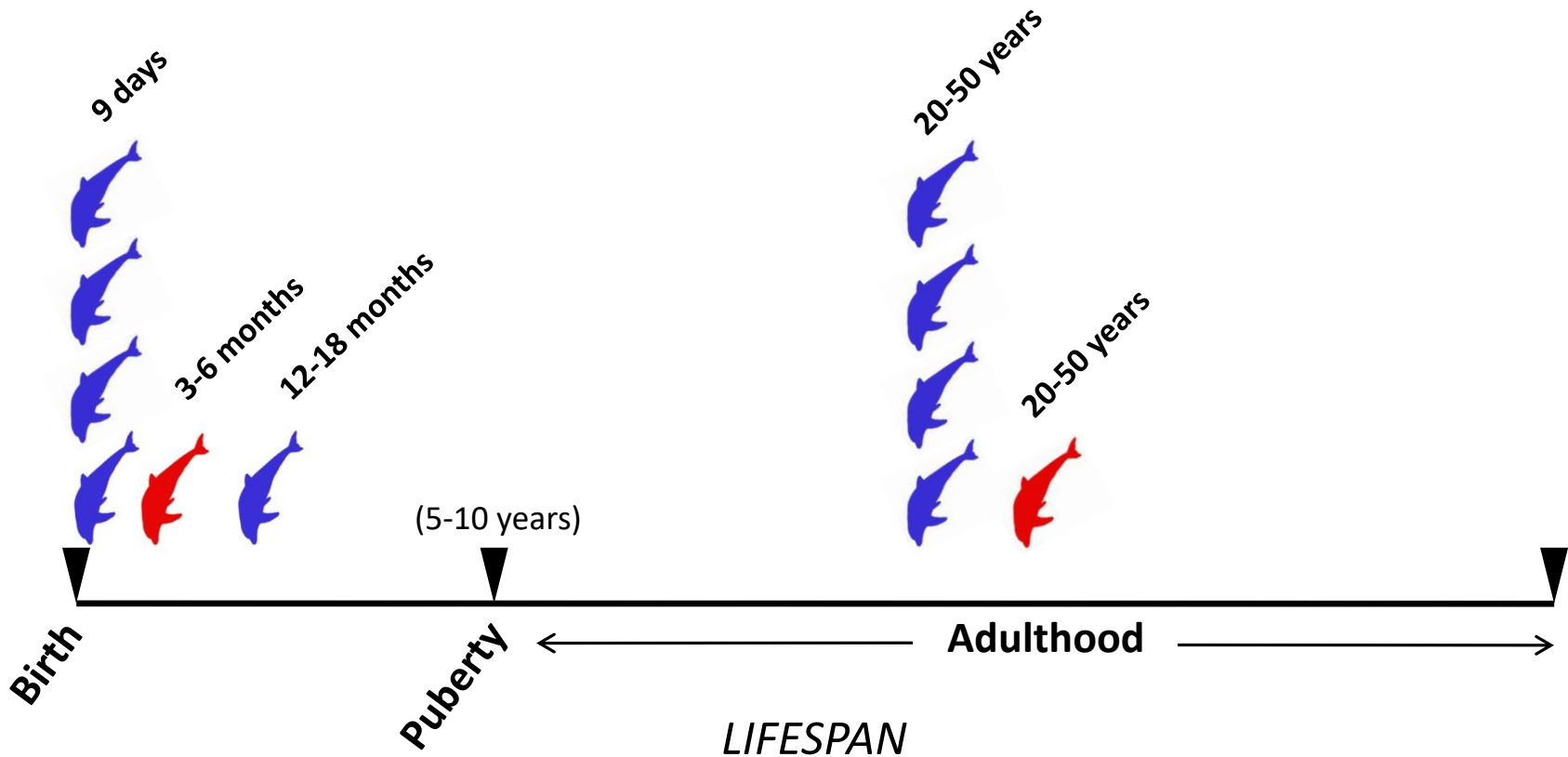
*Tursiops truncatus*

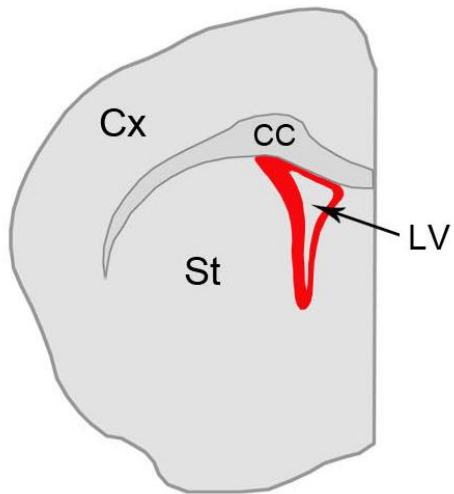
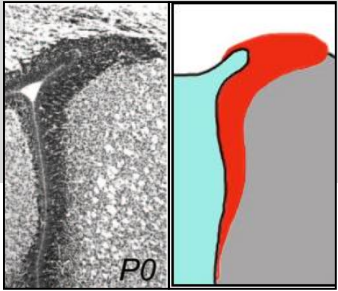
**NEONATAL** (9 days)  
**POSTNATAL** (12-18 months)  
**ADULT** (20-50 years)



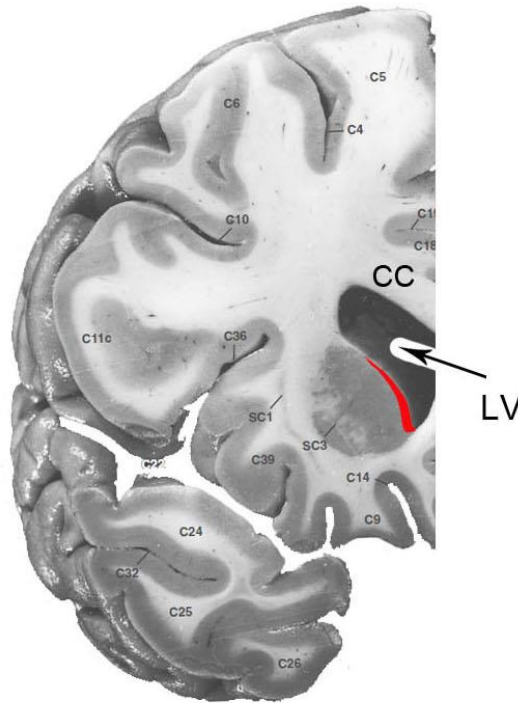
*Stenella coeruleoalba*

**EARLY POSTNATAL** (3-6 months)  
**ADULT** (20-50 years)

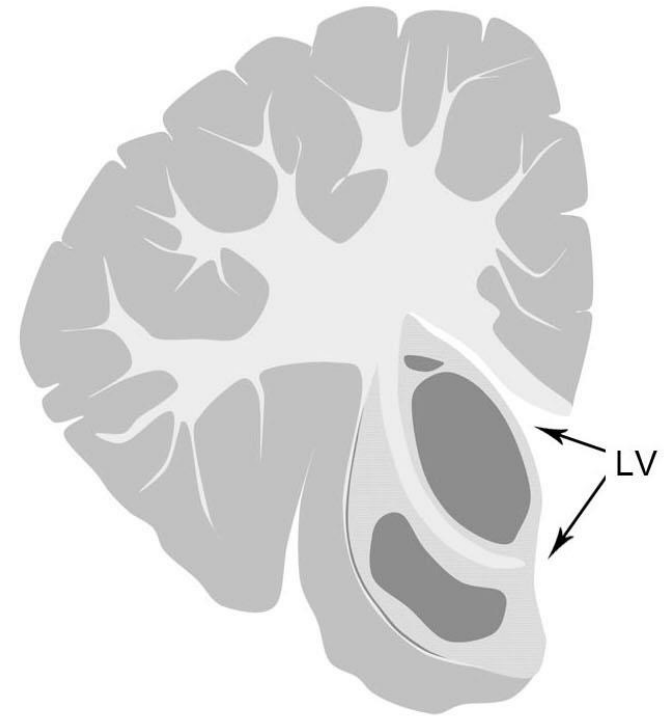




Neonatal mouse



Neonatal human

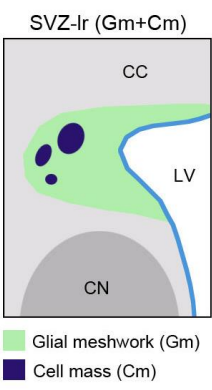
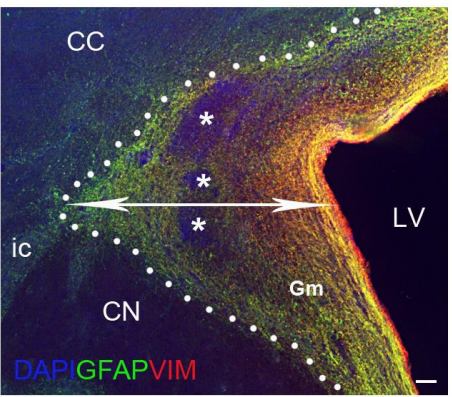
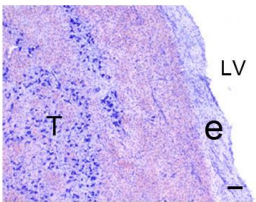
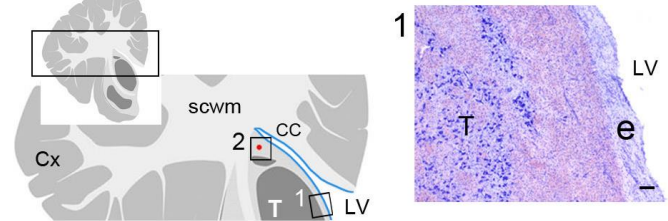


Neonatal dolphin

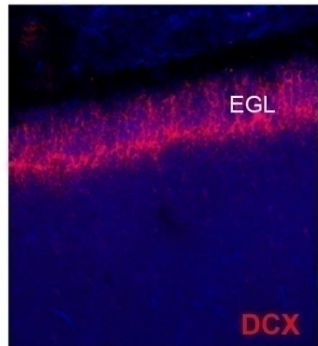
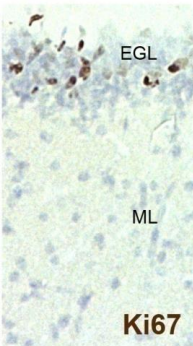
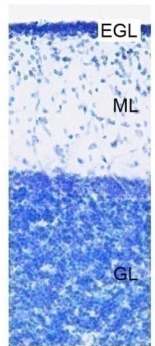
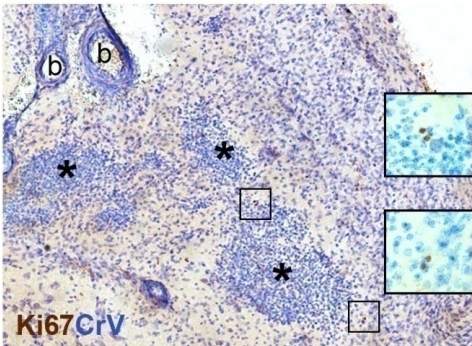
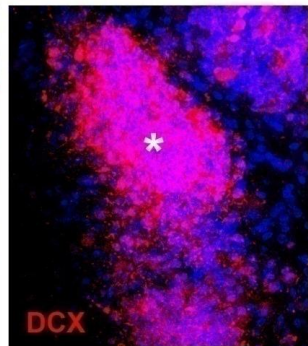
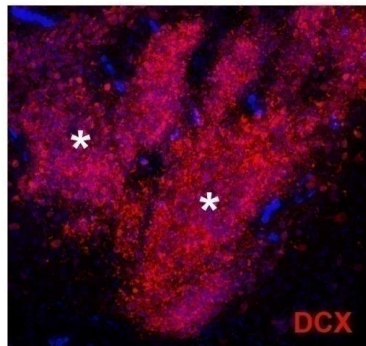
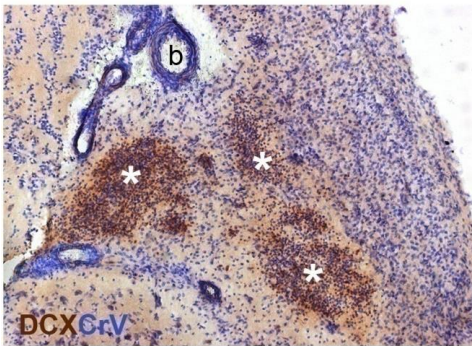
**Absence of periventricular germinal layer at birth**

*T. Truncatus* - **neonatal**

**Already at birth, the SVZ is vestigial and does not work**



**SVZ-like region**



**Cerebellum (internal control)**

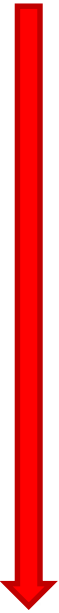
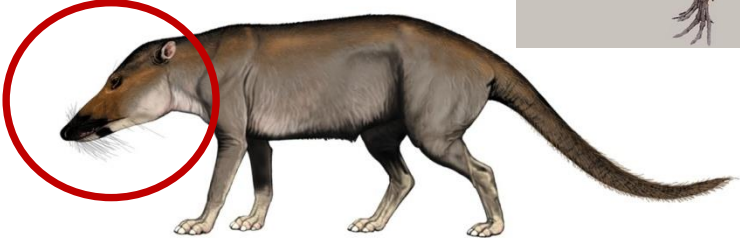


... many years ago

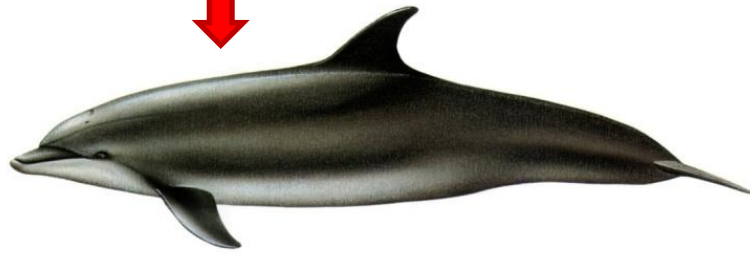


Kishida et al, 2015 *Zool Lett*

Olfaction



38 million years



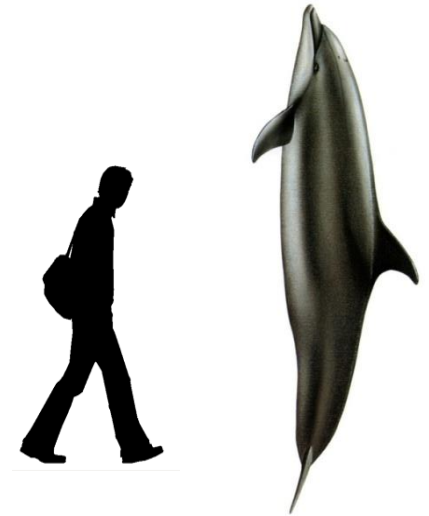
No olfaction

Olfaction  
Anatomical region  
Neurogenesis



Parolisi, Cozzi, Bonfanti, 2017 *Brain Struct Funct*

# The trend seems confirmed



Vestigial SVZ?

Mammals

Vertebrates

Adult neurogenesis, structural plasticity, repair

# What about Humans?

Sanai et al., 2011 *Nature*



Spalding et al., 2013 *Cell*



Sorrells et al., 2018 *Nature*



Cipriani et al., 2018 *Cereb Cortex*

Boldrini et al., 2013 *Cell Stem Cell*

Tobin et al., 2019 *Cell Stem Cell*

Moreno-Jiménez et al., 2019 *Nature Med*

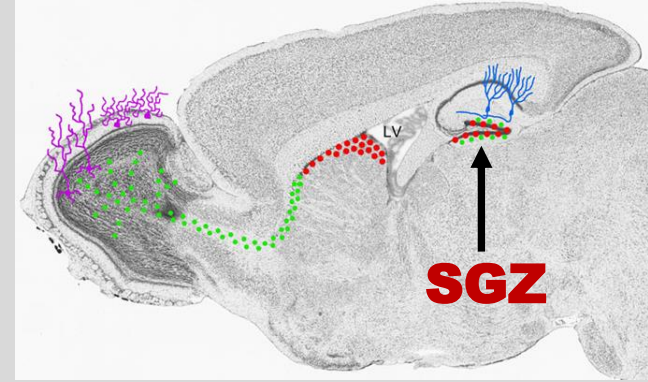




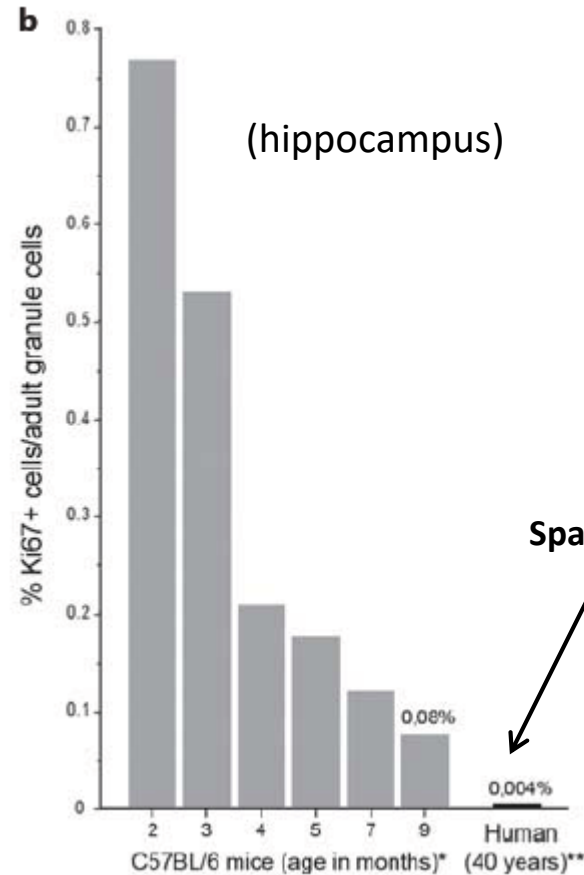


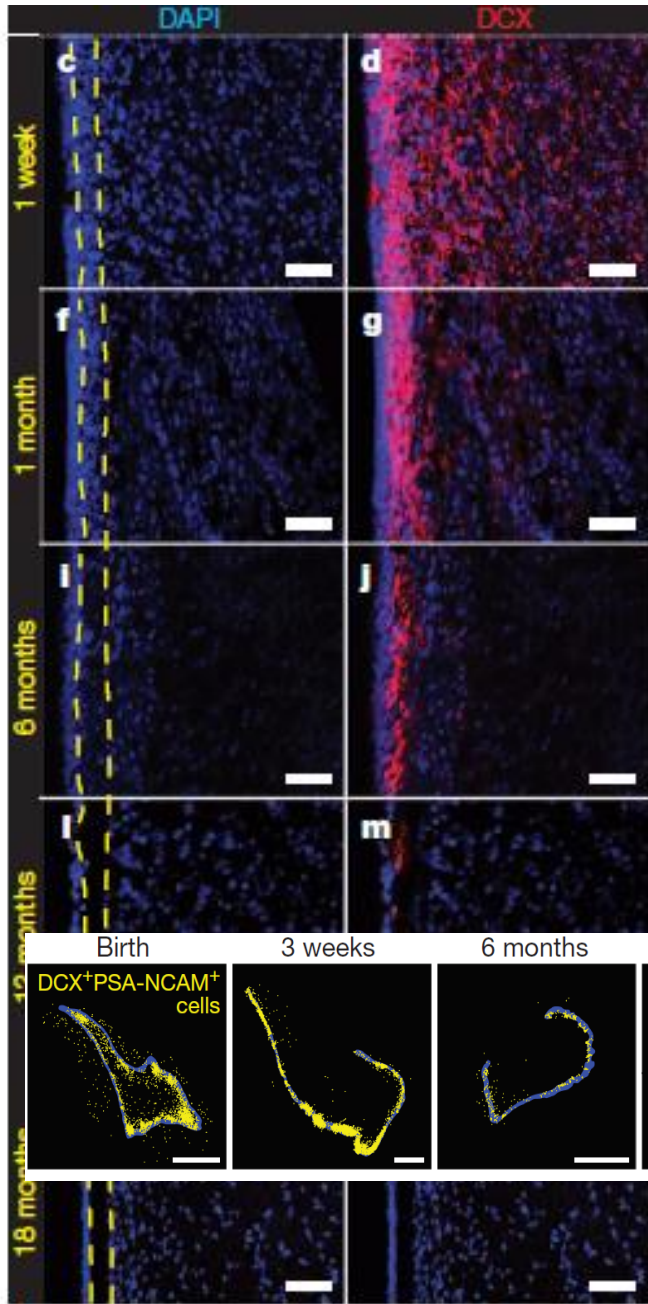
## Adult Neurogenesis in Mammals: Variations and Confusions

Hans-Peter Lipp<sup>a-c</sup> Luca Bonfanti<sup>d,e</sup>



**Comparative** studies  
reveal that  
adult neurogenesis  
is quite different  
in humans and mice

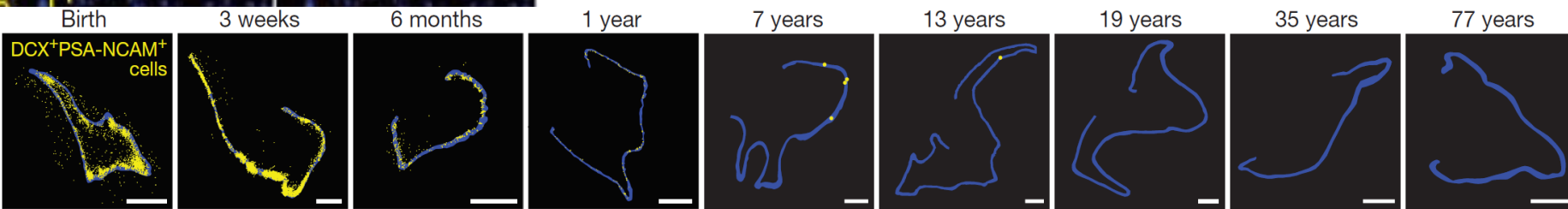




Sanai et al, *Nature* 2011

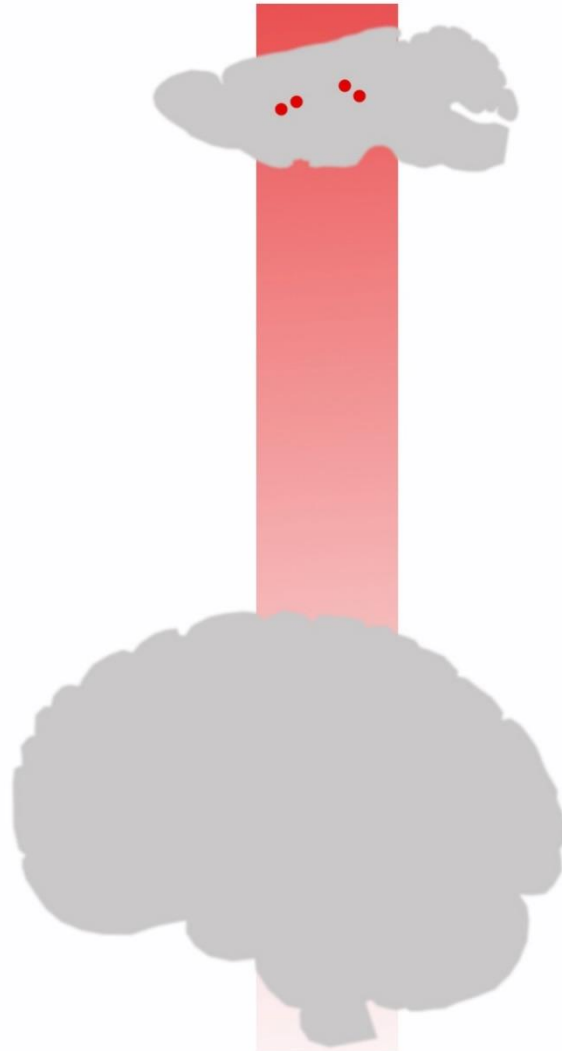
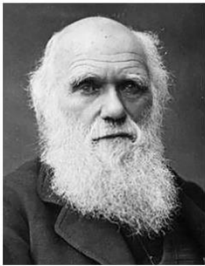
L'apporto di nuovi neuroni verso il BULBO OLFATTIVO nell'uomo scompare a **18 mesi**

Nell'ippocampo accade tra 7 e 13 anni



Sorrells et al., *Nature* 2018

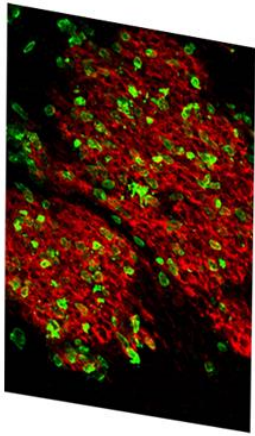
**ADULT NEUROGENESIS**  
Active stem cell niches  
Continuous neuronal cell renewal



**Dal topo all'uomo  
la neurogenesi adulta  
si riduce di molto**



# Alternatives?

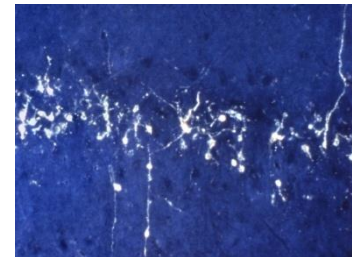
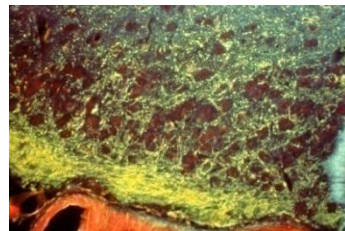
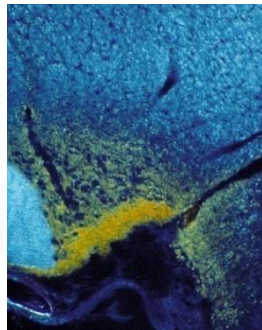
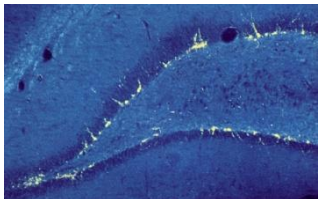
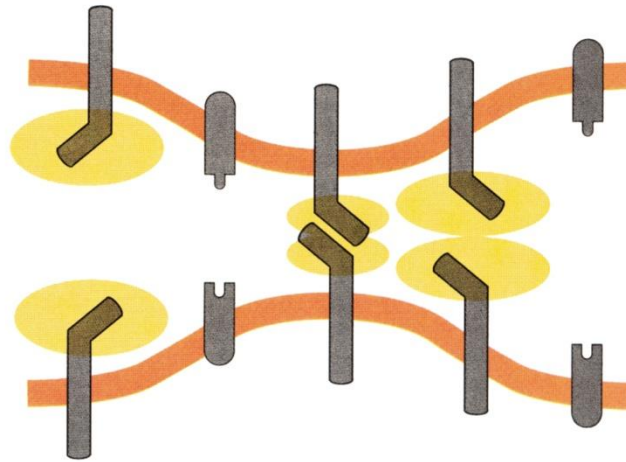
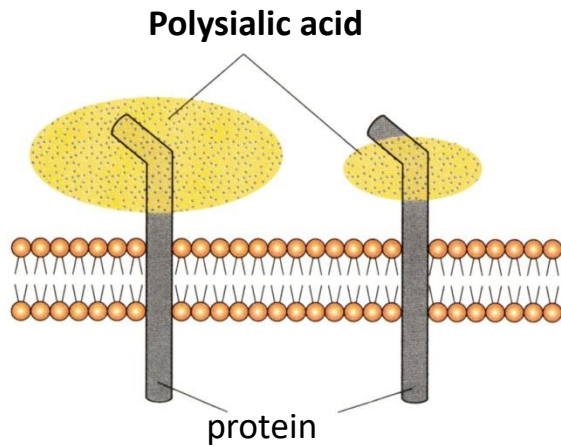


?

**Bordeaux, 1991**



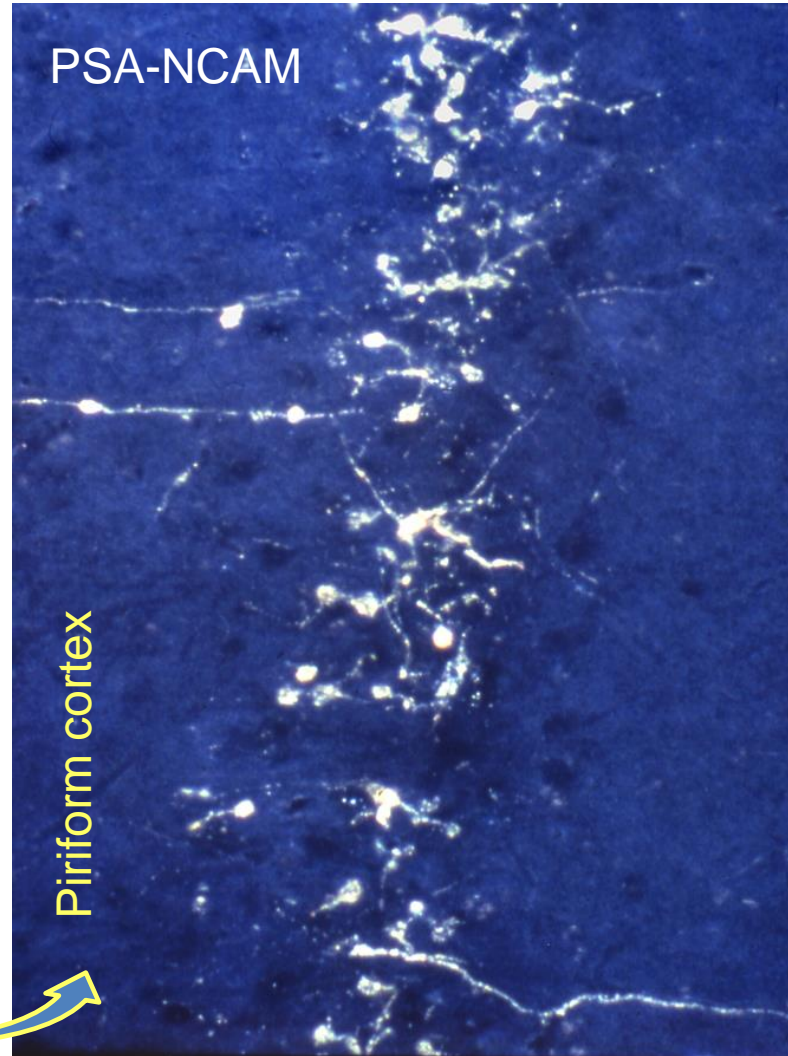
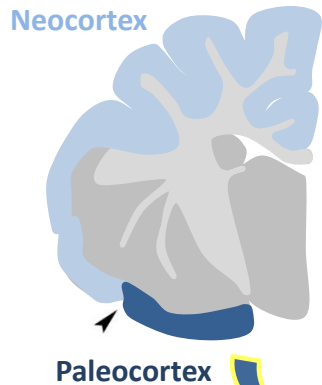
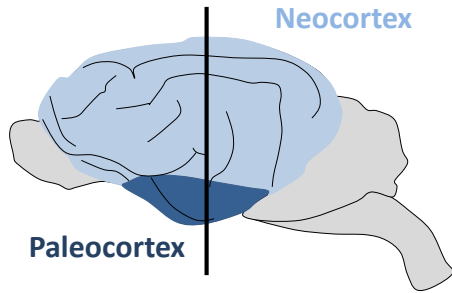
## PSA-NCAM (low adhesive form of NCAM)



**Brain regions showing PSA-NCAM staining**

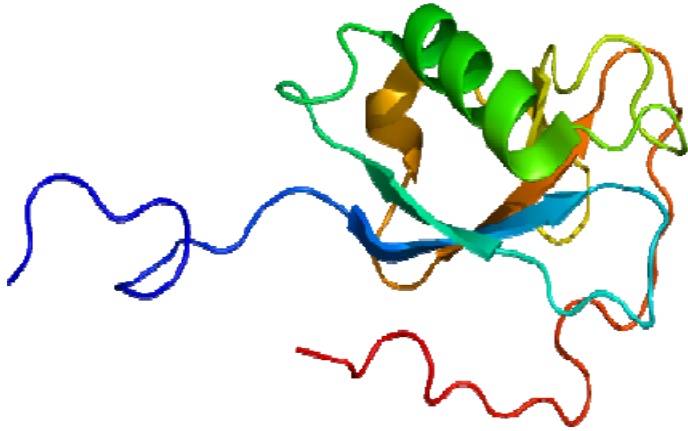
# PSA-NCAM+ neurons in the adult rat **paleocortex**

(Seki & Arai, Anat Embryol, 1991) (Bonfanti et al., *Neuroscience*, 1992)





# Doublecortin (DCX) as marker of structural plasticity

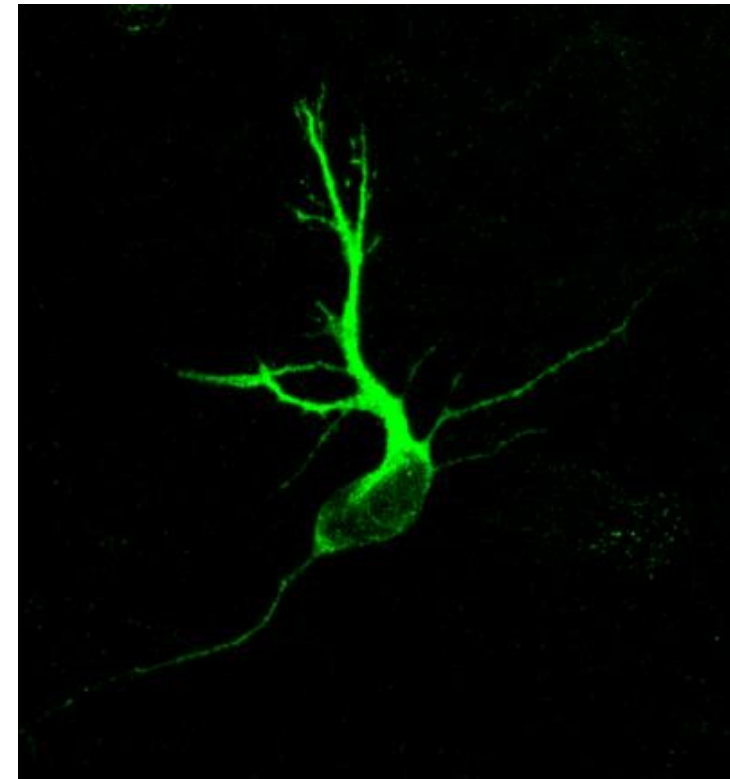


Microtubule-associated protein

Cytoskeletal protein **indicator** of structural plasticity

Involved in:

- Neuronal migration
- Growth-cone dynamics
- Gyrencephaly



# Neurogenic and non-neurogenic plasticity **share** some markers

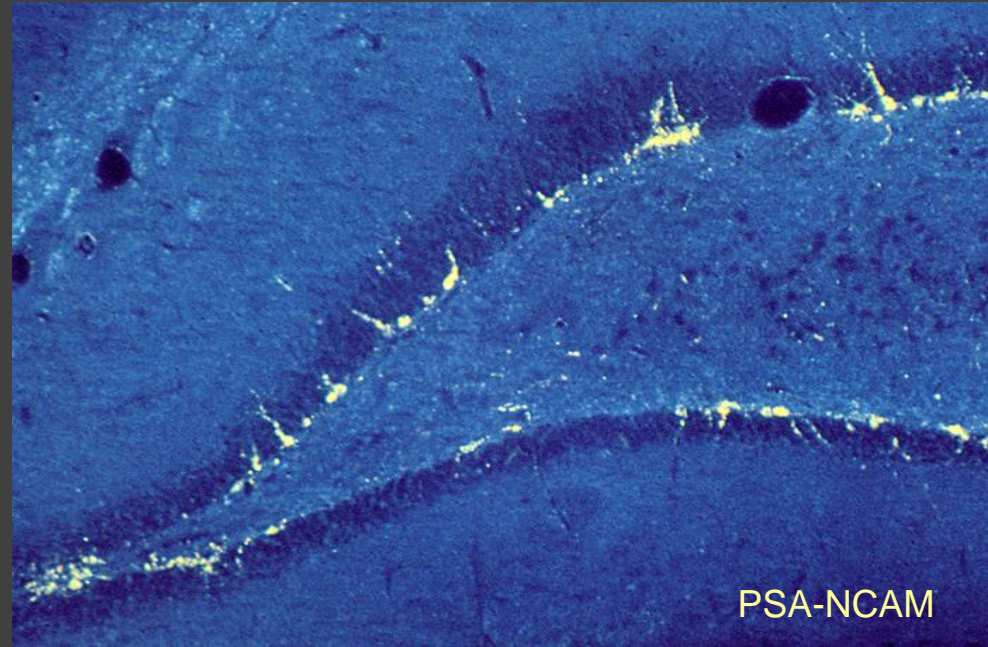
Structural plasticity  
*with* neurogenesis



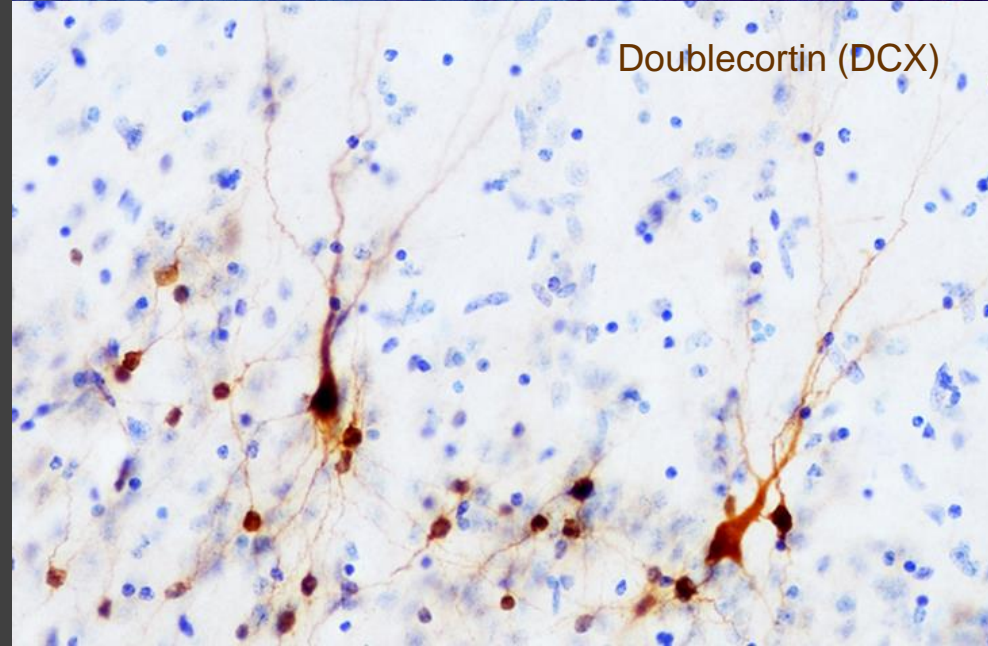
PSA-NCAM  
DCX



Structural plasticity  
*without* neurogenesis



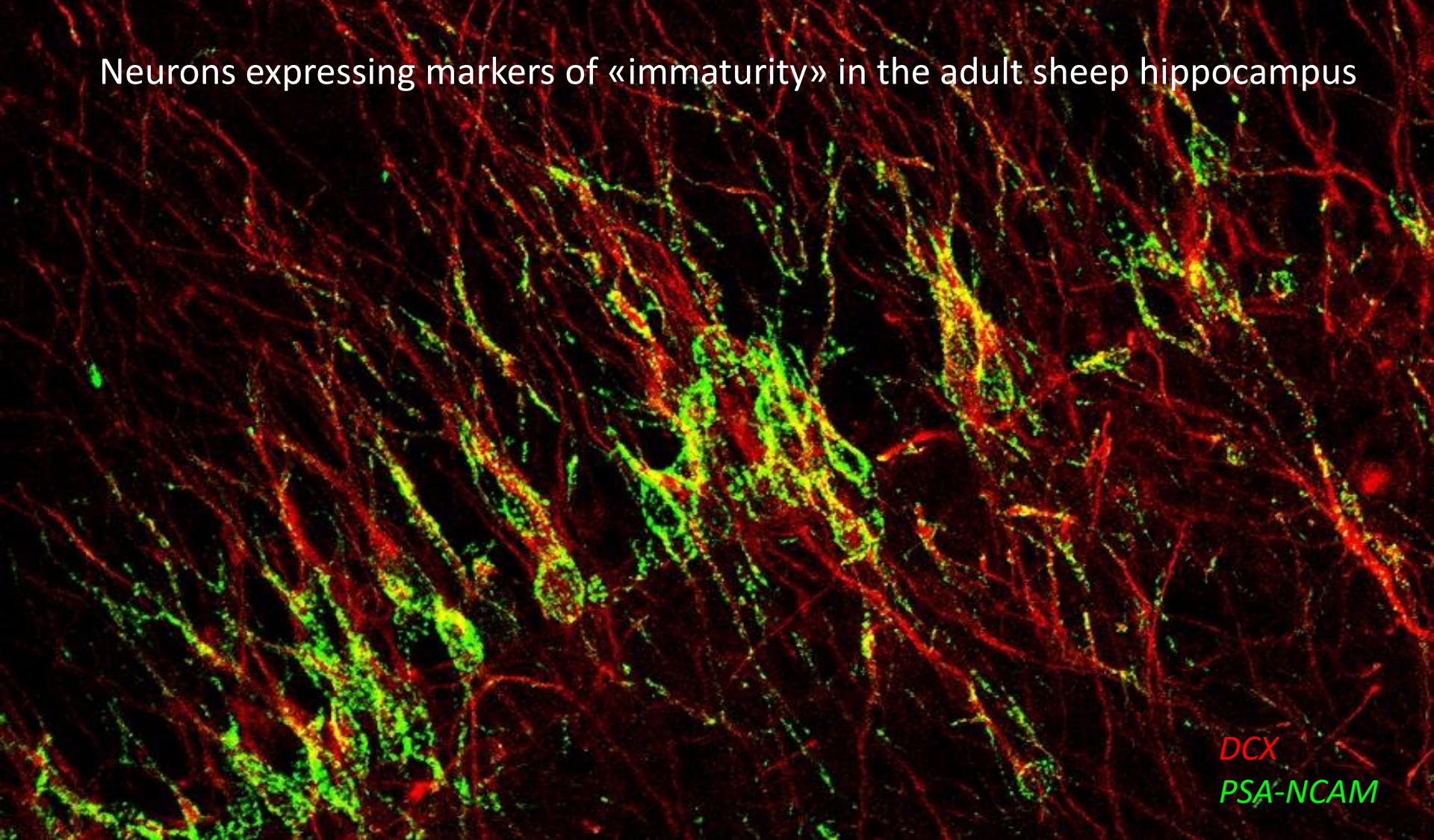
PSA-NCAM



Doublecortin (DCX)



# Neurons expressing markers of «immaturity» in the adult sheep hippocampus



*DCX*  
*PSA-NCAM*

Foto: Ottavia Palazzo

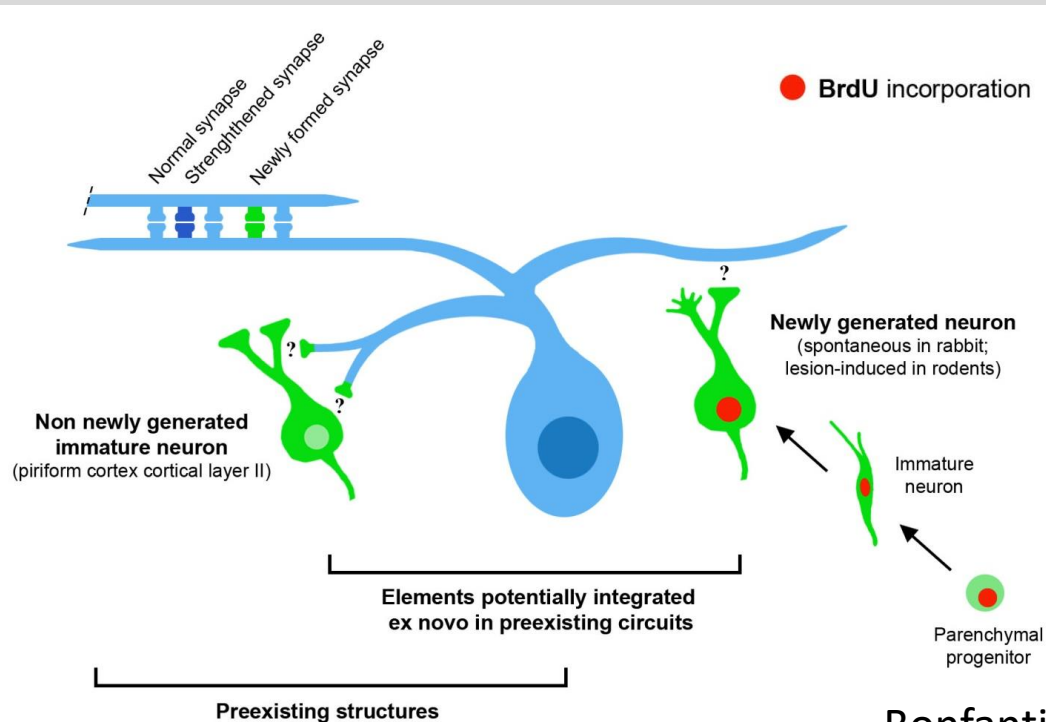
## FEATURE ARTICLE

# A Population of Prenatally Generated Cells in the Rat Paleocortex Maintains an Immature Neuronal Phenotype into Adulthood

María Ángeles Gómez-Climent, Esther Castillo-Gómez, Emilio Varea, Ramón Guirado, José Miguel Blasco-Ibáñez, Carlos Crespo, Francisco José Martínez-Guijarro and Juan Nacher

Neurobiology Unit and Program in Basic and Applied Neurosciences, Cell Biology Dpt., Universitat de València, Spain

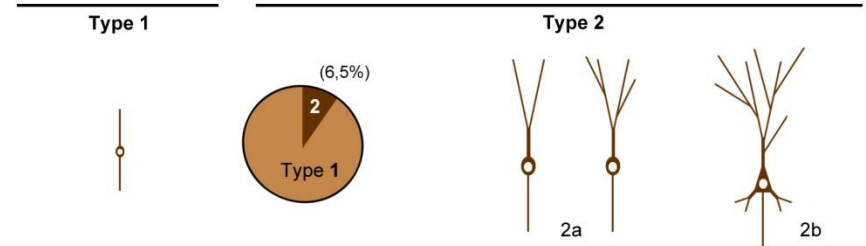
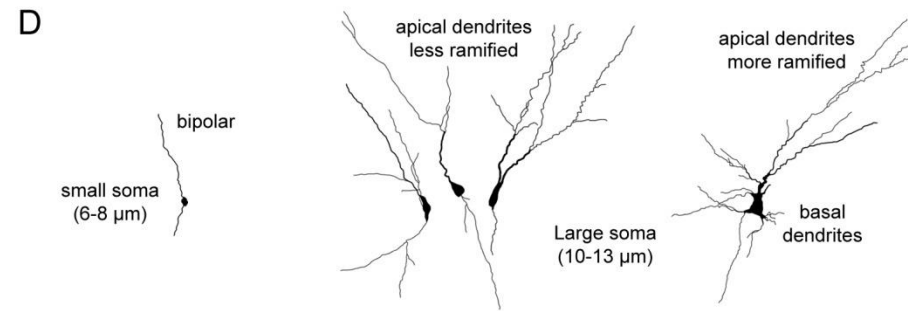
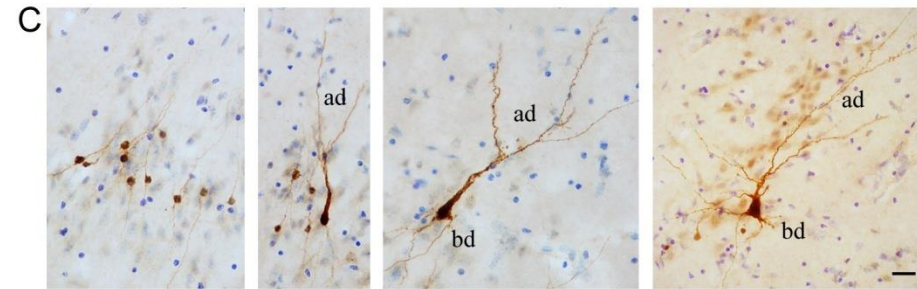
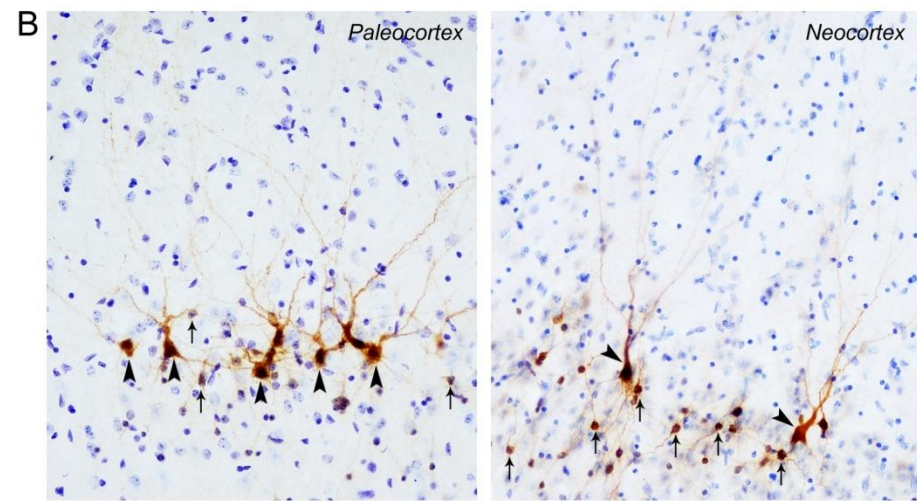
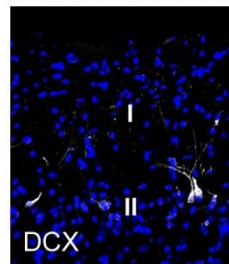
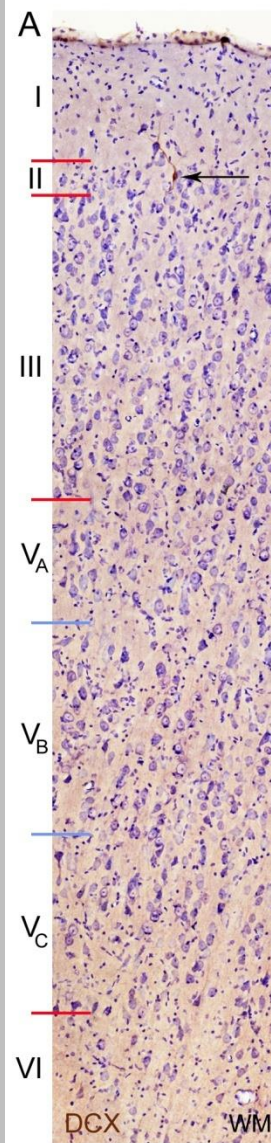
They express **immature markers**  
They have **no synapses**  
They are **covered by glial lamellae**





# Immature neurons in the cortical layer II

(Sheep)



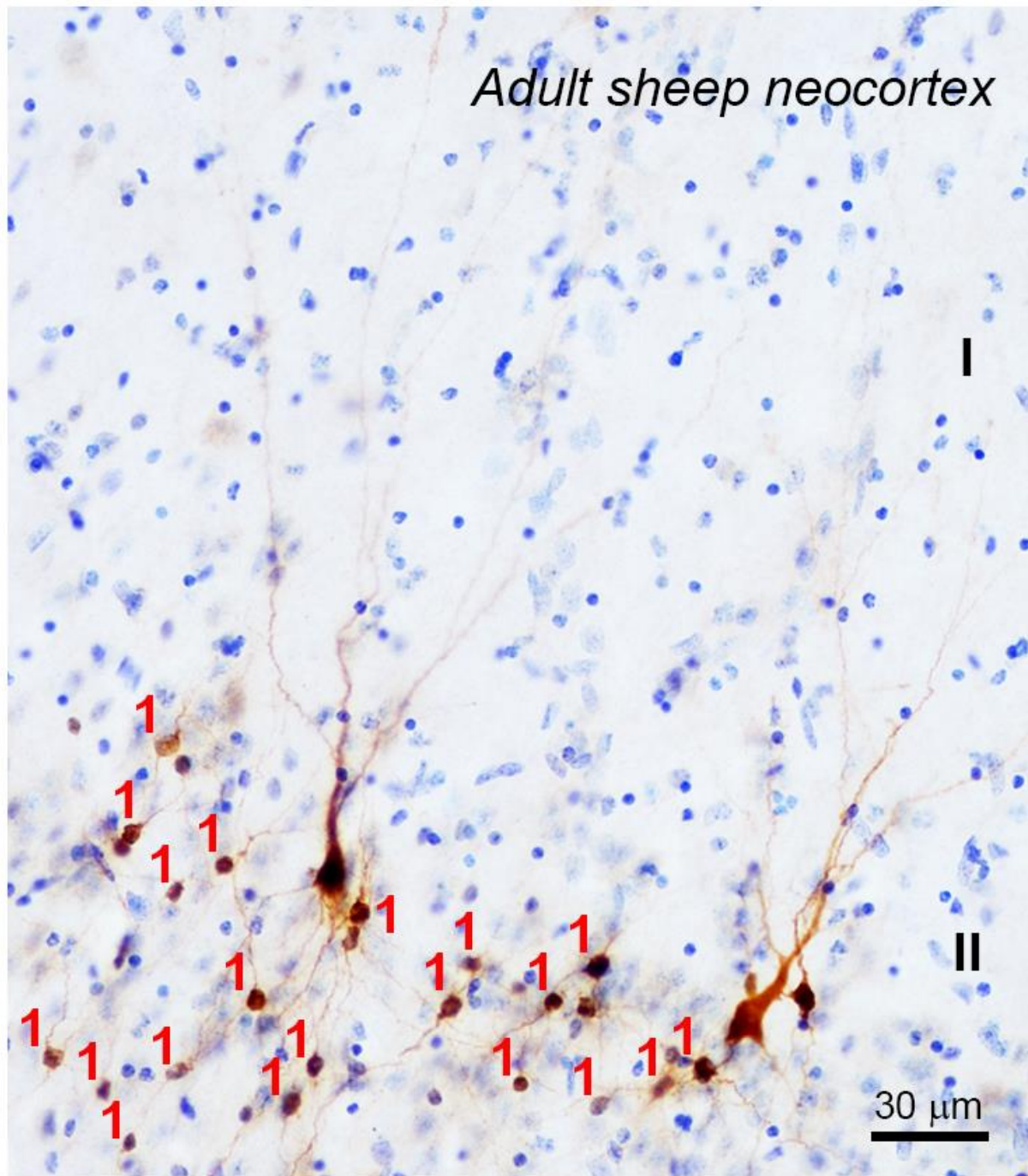
*Adult sheep neocortex*

Layer I

Type 1 cells

Layer II

30  $\mu$ m





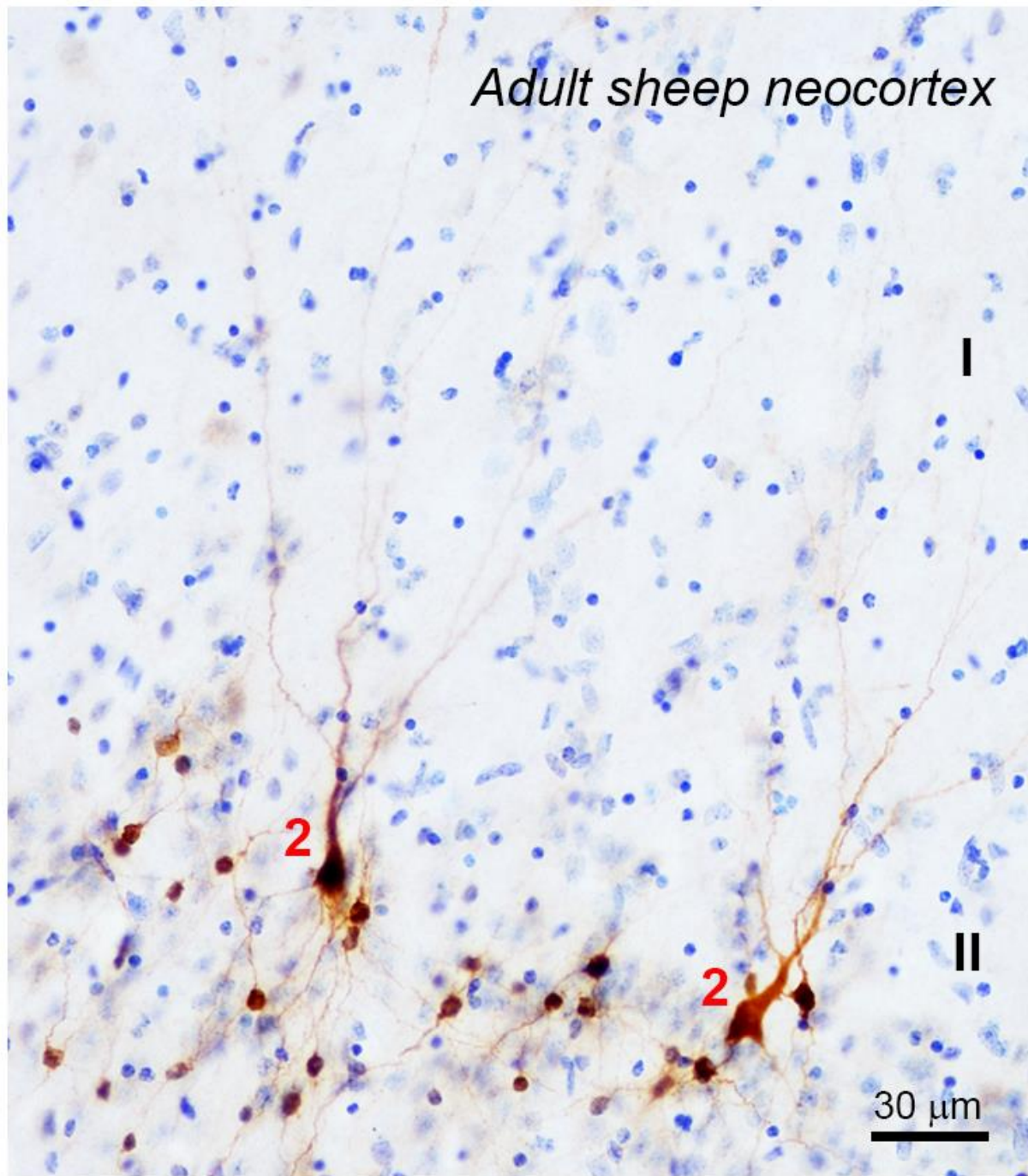
*Adult sheep neocortex*

I  
Layer I

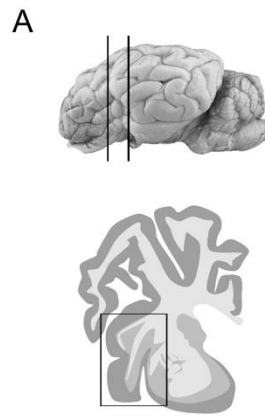
Type 2 cells

II  
Layer II

30  $\mu$ m

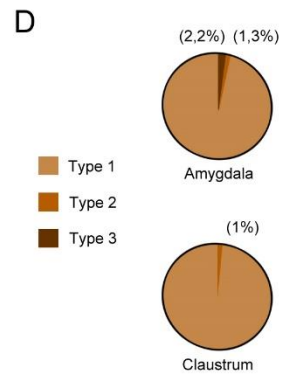
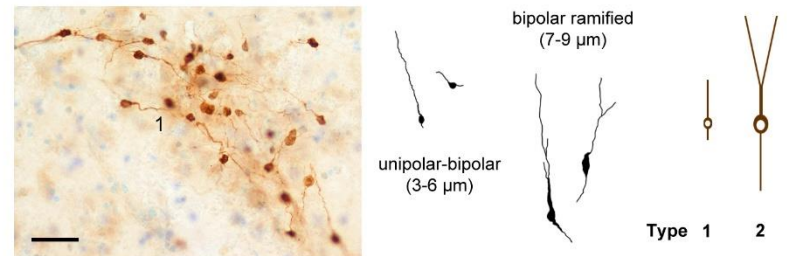
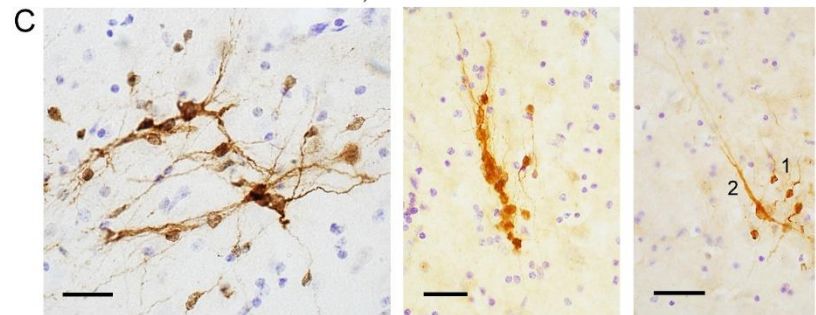
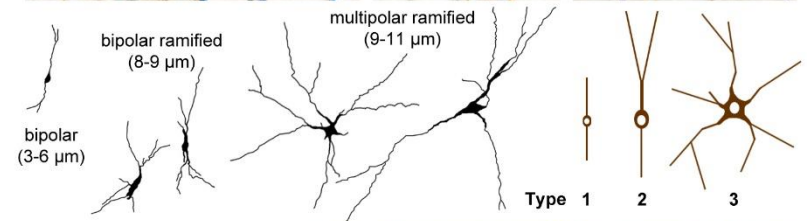
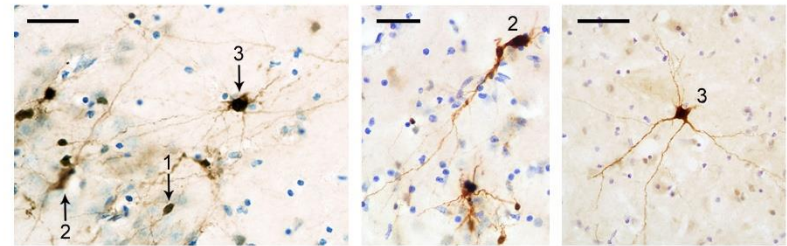
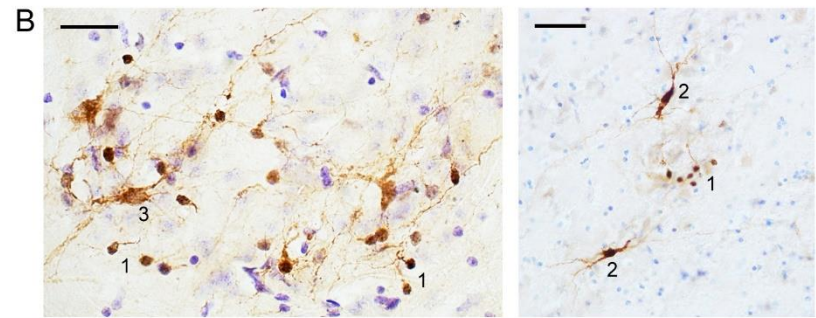
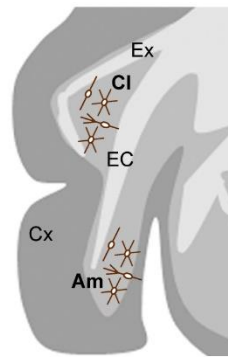


**Adult sheep brain**

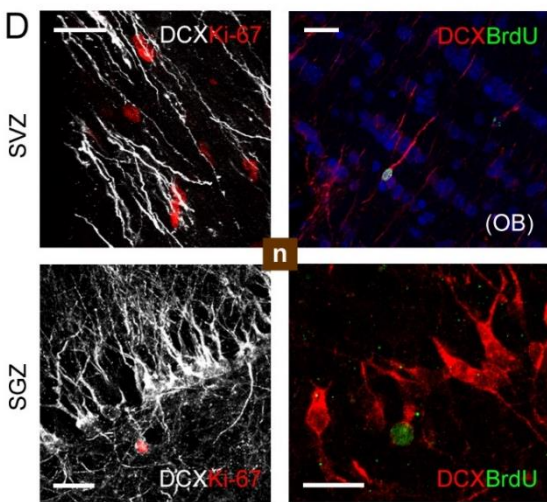


**Clastrum**

**Amygdala**



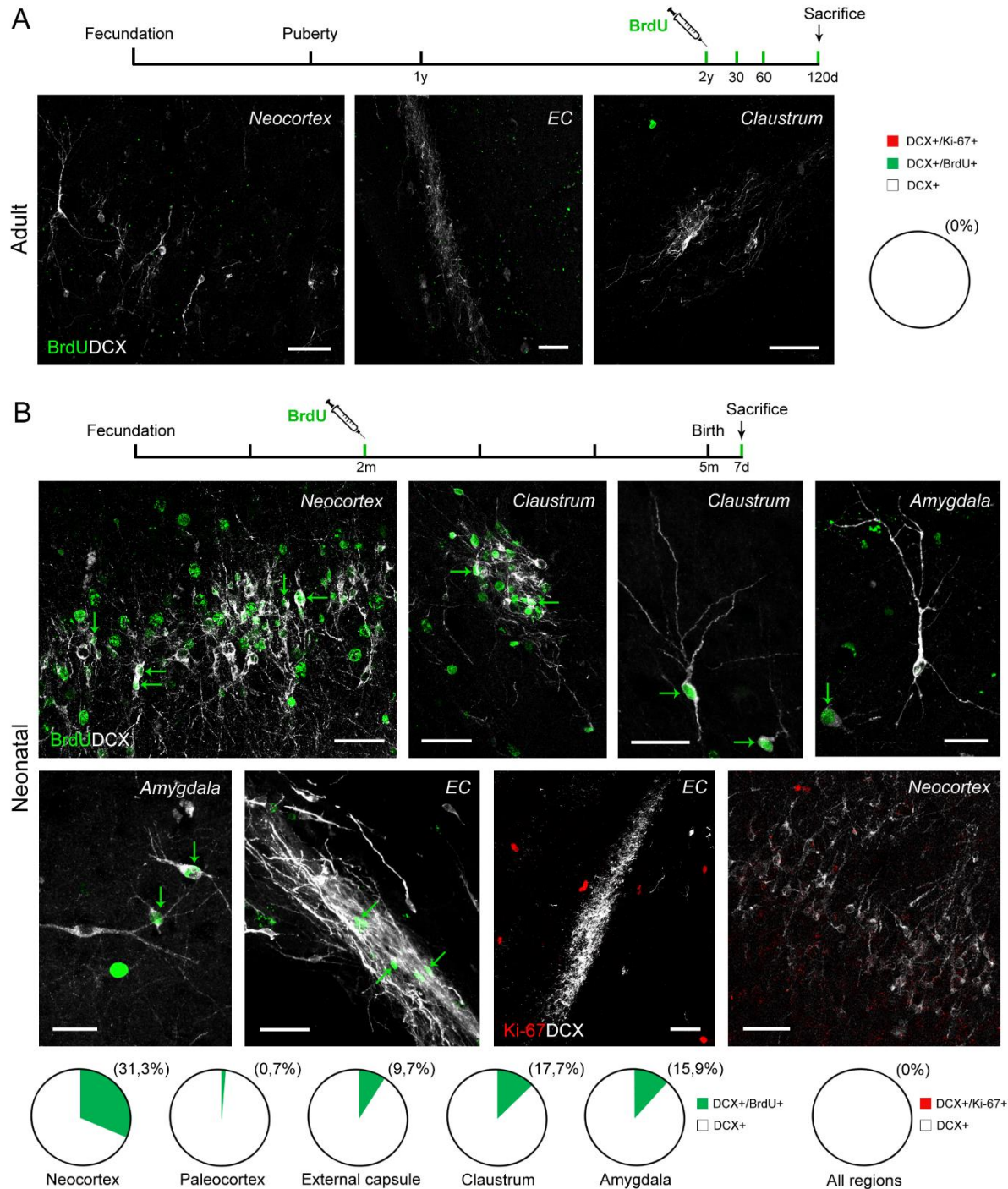




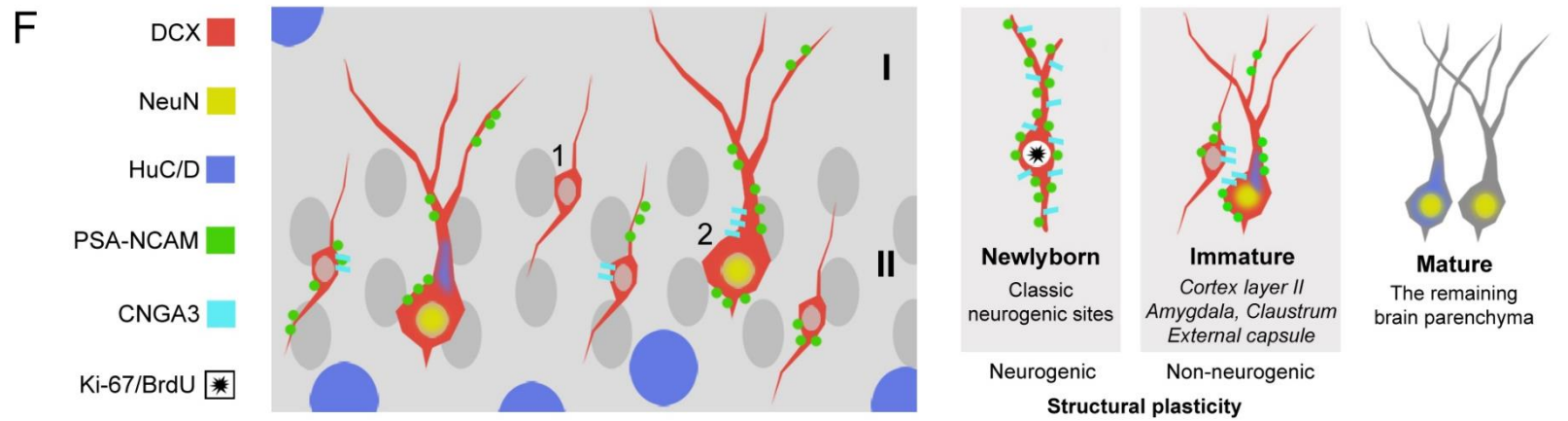
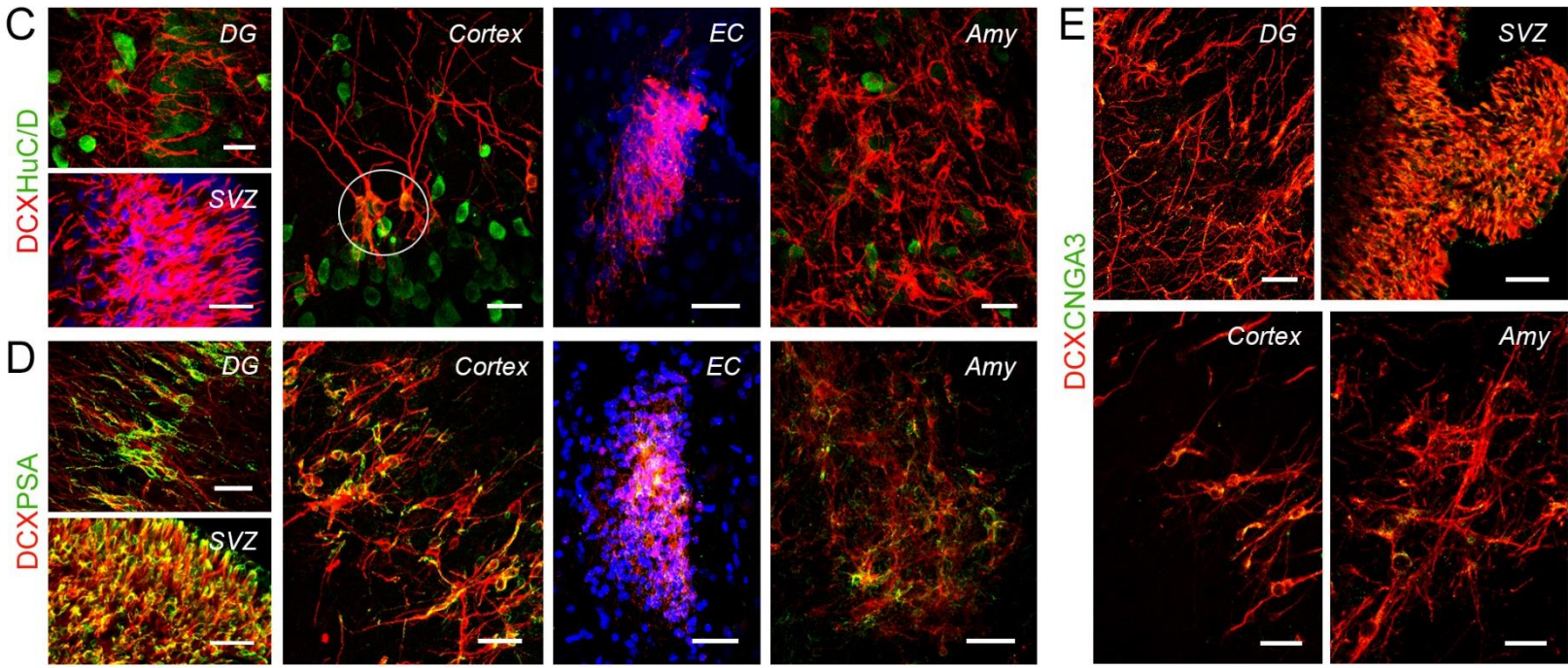
Internal controls  
in neurogenic zones

*The DCX+ cells in cortex,  
amygdala, claustrum,  
external capsule  
are NOT newly generated  
but they are born prenatally*

Piumatti et al 2017 *J Neurosci*



# Markers of maturity/immaturity

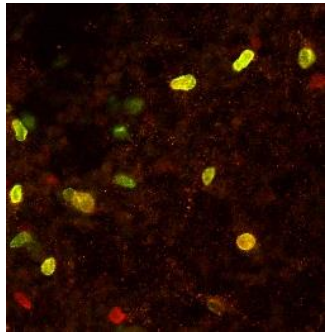
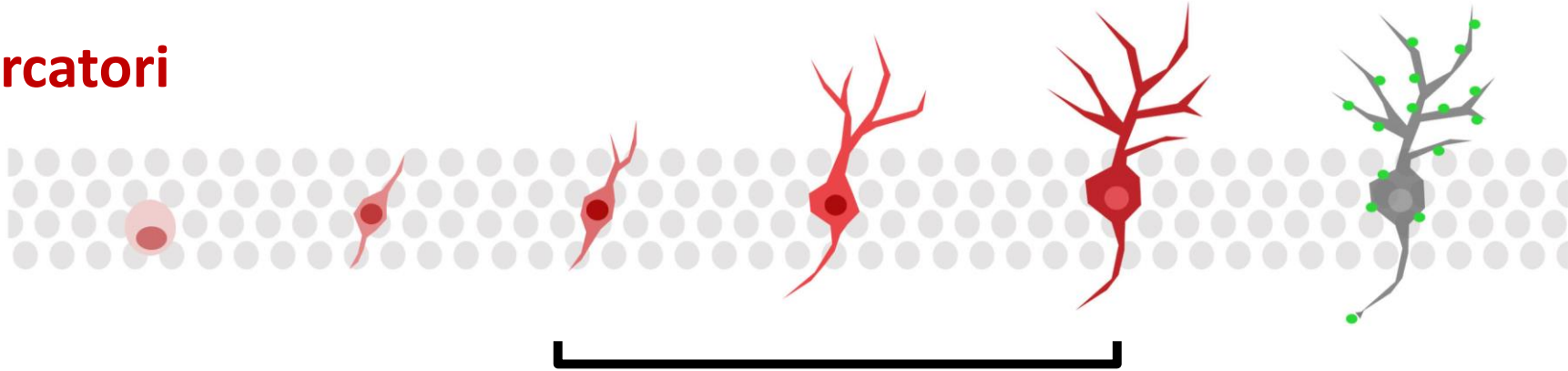


The DCX+ cells are in an **intermediate state of immaturity**



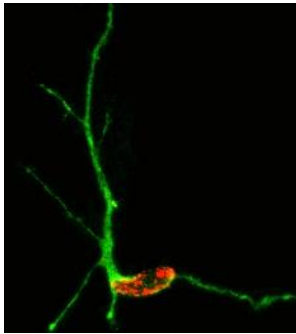
Time

## Markers



### Ki-67 antigen

Nuclear protein  
Cell proliferation

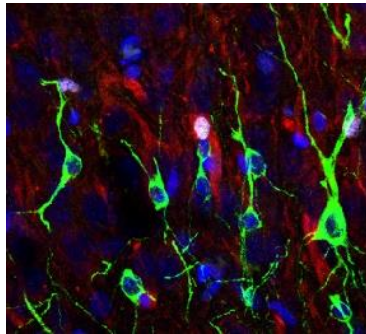


### BrdU

(Bromodeoxyuridine)

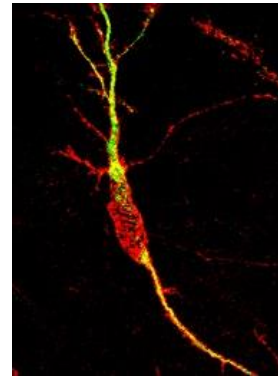
Thymidine analog  
Cell proliferation

(possibility to track progeny through time)



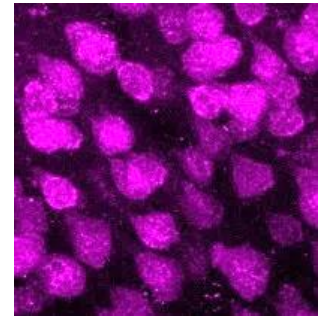
### DCX (doublecortin)

Cytoskeletal protein  
Migration/Cell shape



### PSA-NCAM

Membrane carbohydrate  
Anti-adhesive/Migration

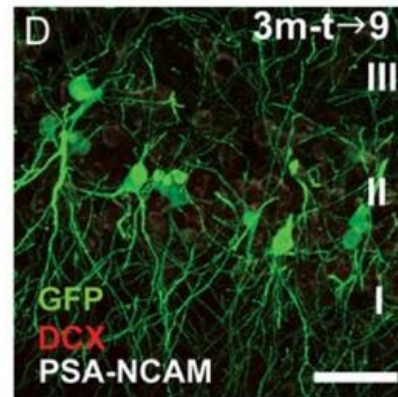
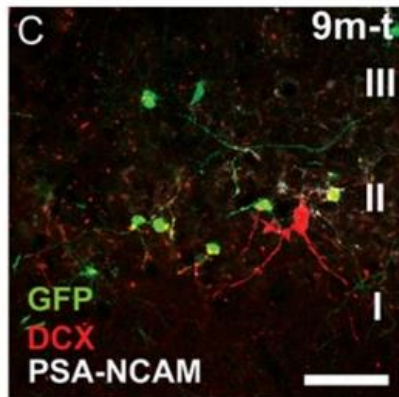
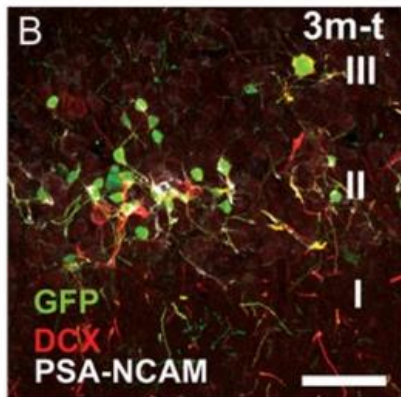
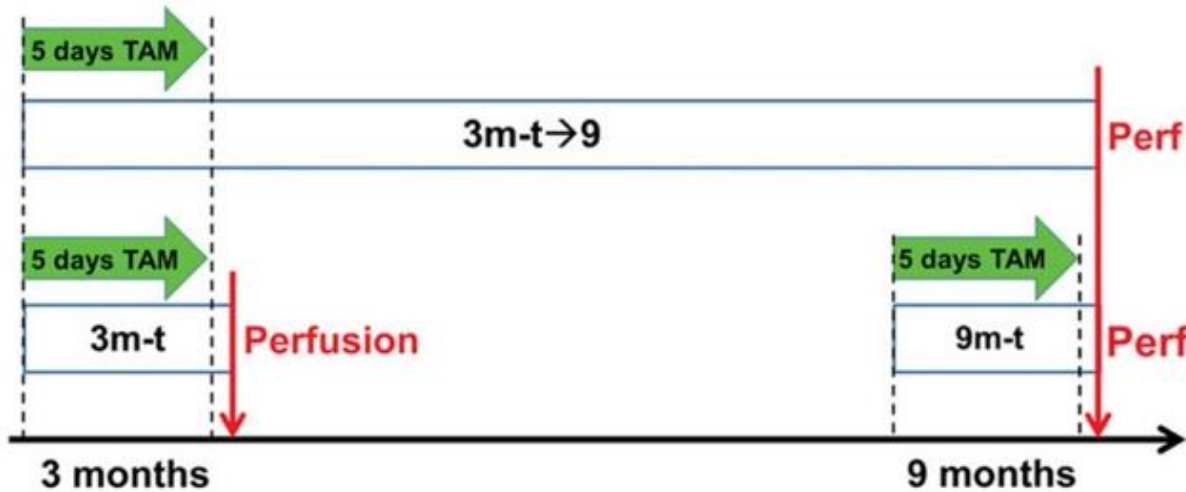


### NeuN

(Neuronal nuclear protein)  
Neuronal differentiation

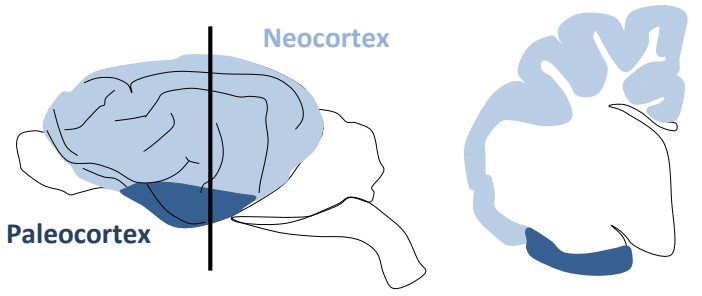
# Immature neurons can mature through age

(Rotheneichner et al., 2018)

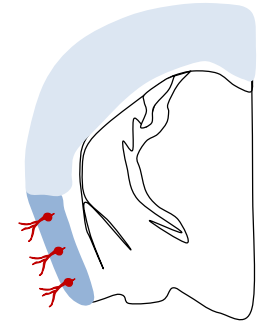




# Forse i neuroni immaturi non sono limitati alla paleocortex

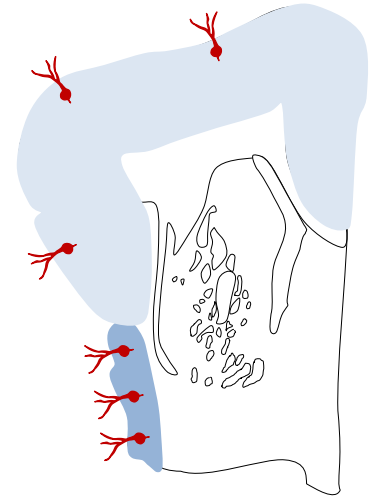


Topo



 **Immature neurons**

Coniglio



?

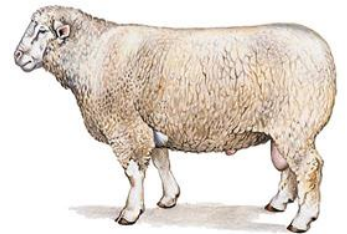
Xiong et al., 2008, Exp Neurol  
Cai et al., 2009, Exp Neurol  
Luzzati et al., 2009, Cereb Cortex  
Zhang et al., 2009, Front Neuroanat

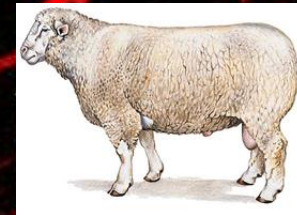
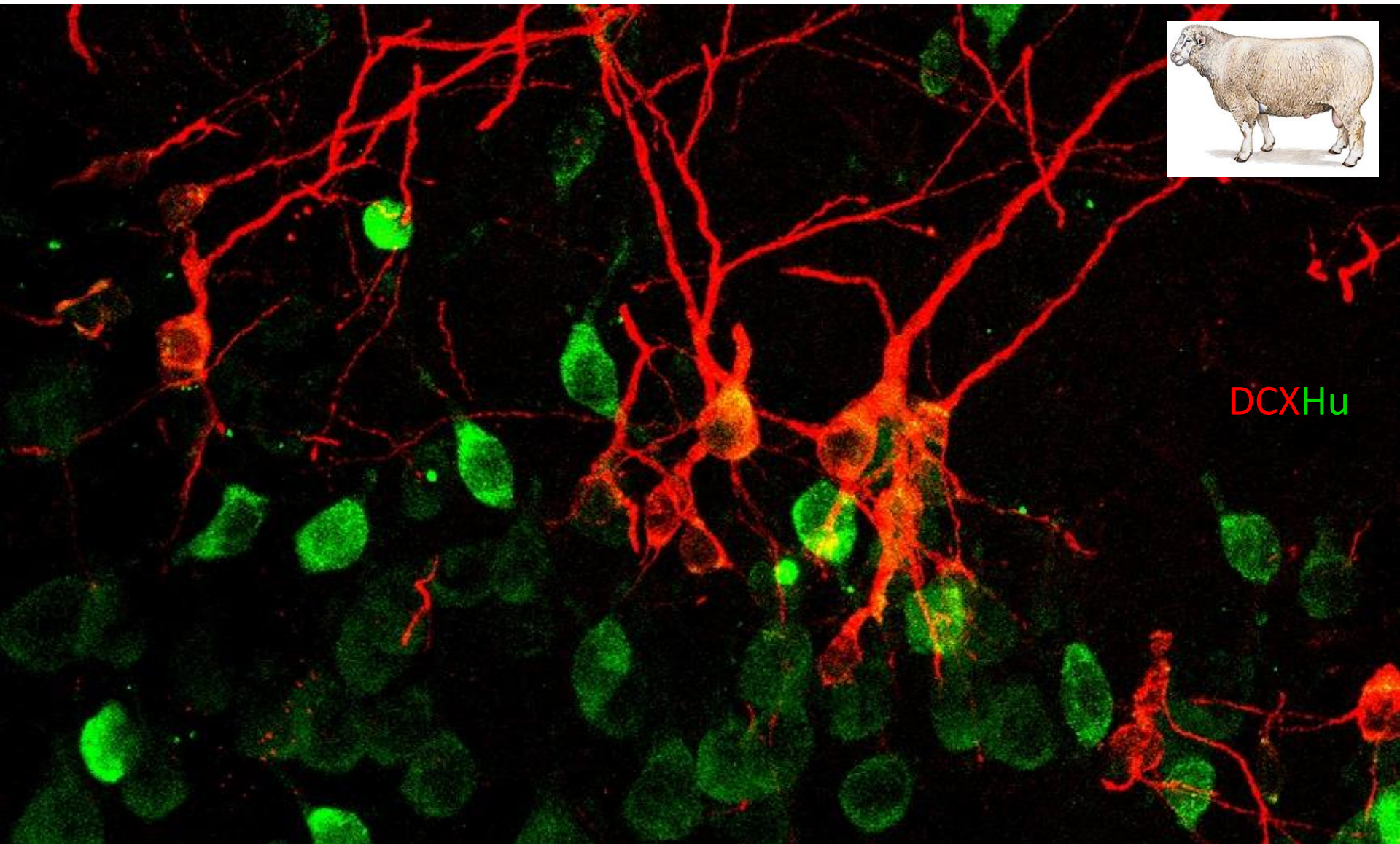


**Aspettativa di vita:**  
15-25 anni

**Cervello grande**

**Girencefalia**

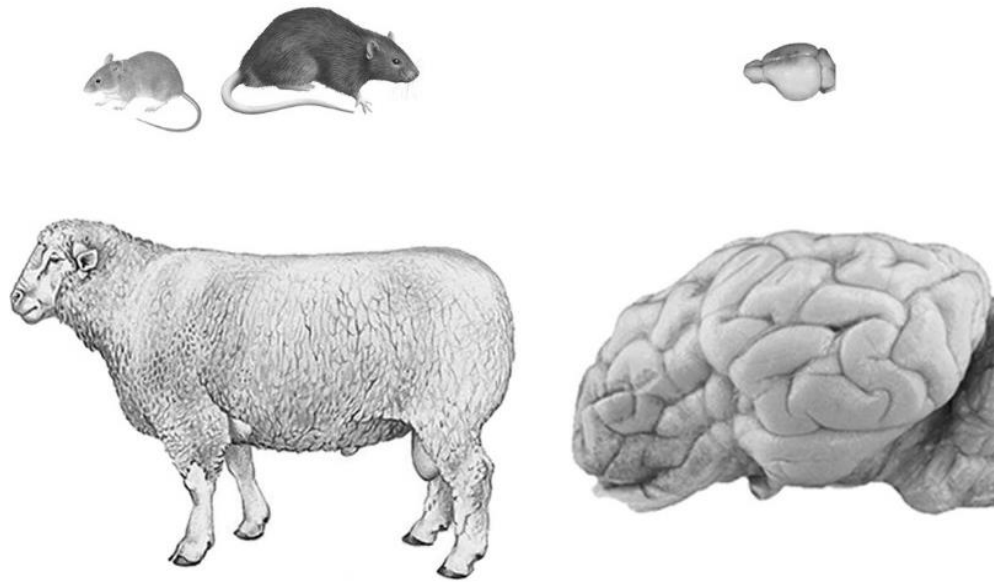




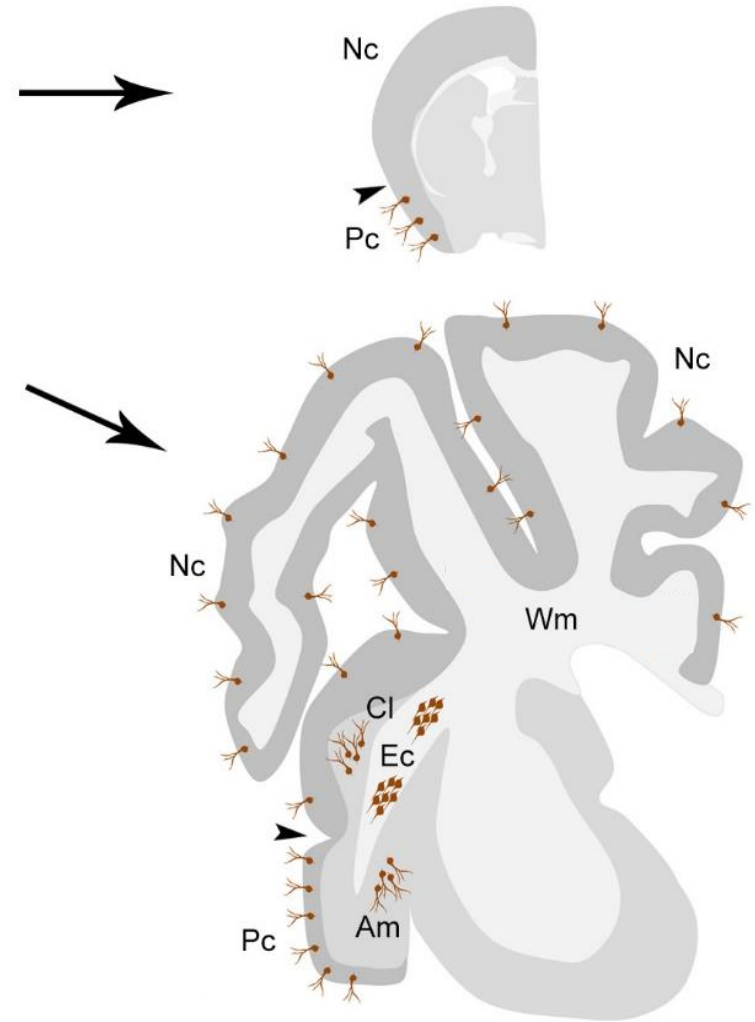
DCXHu

Piumatti, Palazzo, La Rosa, Bonfanti et al, 2018, **J Neurosci**



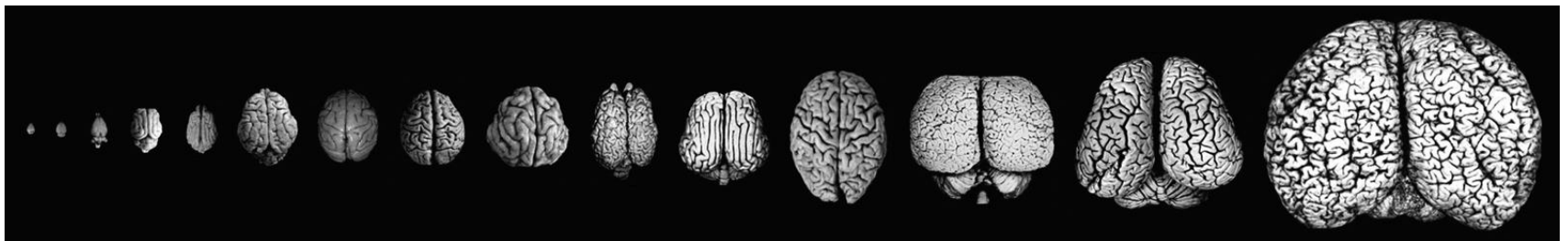


**La differenza è enorme**

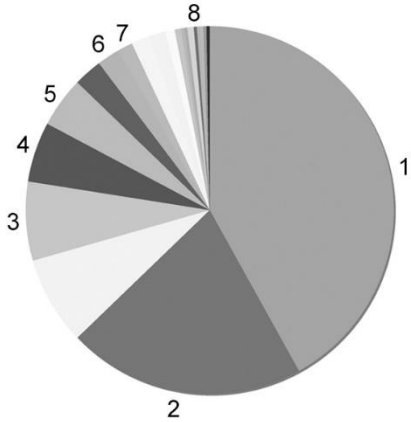




**Is there a trend in the occurrence/type/distribution/amount of immature neurons among mammals?**

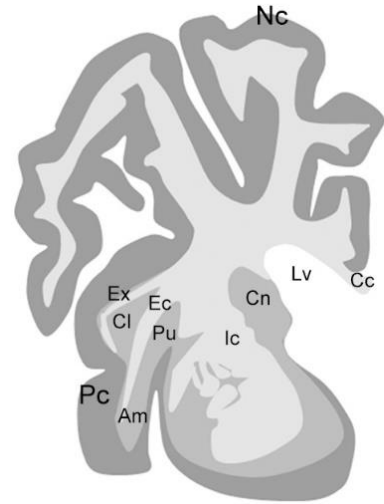
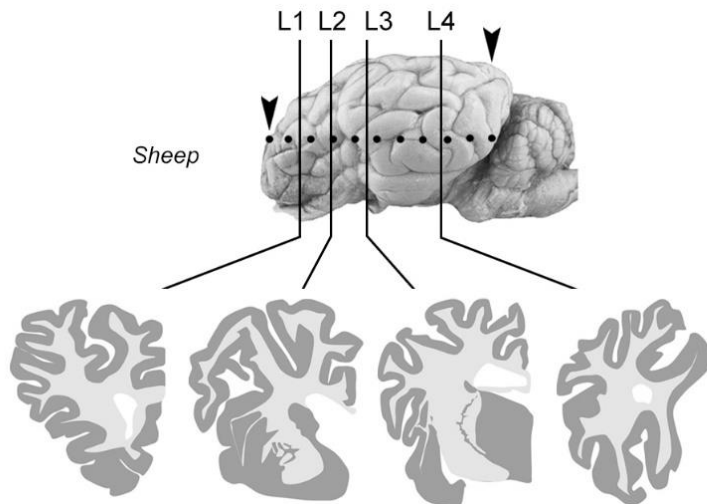


# Study in 12 mammalian species



- 1 - Rodentia *Mus musculus* (Mouse), *Heterocephalus glaber* (Naked mole rat)
- 2 - Chiroptera *Eidolon helvum* (SC bat), *Epomophorus wahlbergi* (WE bat)
- 3 - Primates *Callithrix jacchus* (Marmoset), *Pan troglodytes* (Chimp)
- 4 - Carnivora *Vulpes vulpes* (Fox), *Felis catus domestica* (Cat)
- 5 - Artiodactyla *Ovis aries* (Sheep)
- 6 - Lagomorpha *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (Rabbit)
- 7 - Macroscelidea *Elephantulus myurus* (Sengi)
- 8 - Perissodactyla *Equus caballus* (Horse)

## Establishment of 4 comparable brain levels



- White matter
  - Cortical
  - Subcortical
- Grey matter
- Pc Paleocortex
  - Nc Neocortex
  - Ex Capsula extrema
  - Ec External capsule
  - Cl Claustrum
  - Pu Putamen
  - Am Amygdala
  - Ic Internal capsule
  - Cn Caudate nucleus
  - Cc Corpus callosum
  - Lv Lateral ventricle

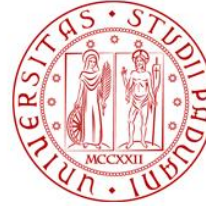
## In collaboration with:



**University of Zurich**  
UZH

**Irmgard Amrein**

Brain tissues, data analyses



**Chris Faulkes**

Brain tissues



Chiara La Rosa

**Cozzi**

issues



**Frederic Levy**

Brain tissues  
BrdU treatments



**Juan Nacher**

Immature neurons expertise



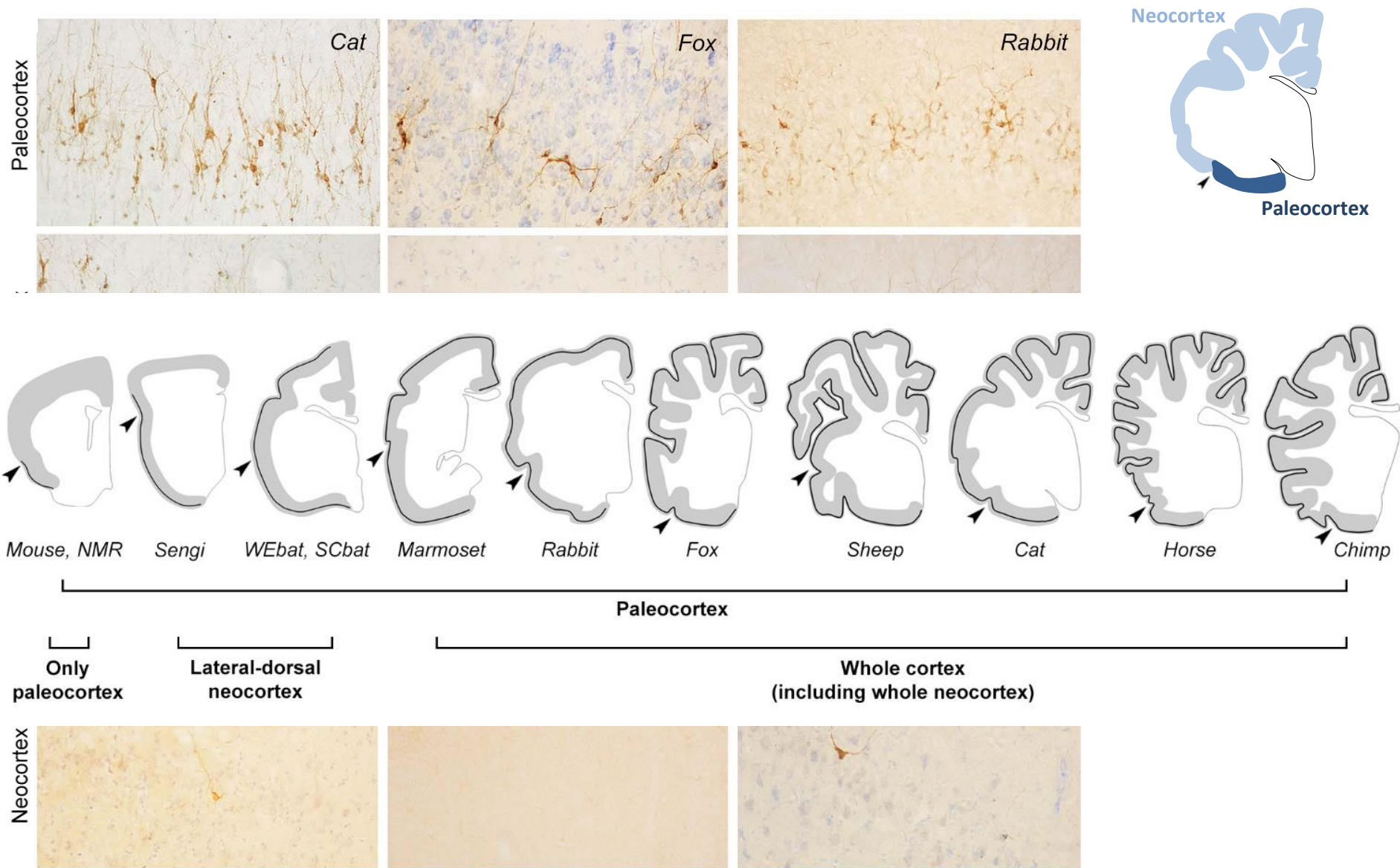
**THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

**Chet Sherwood**

Brain tissues

**85 brains**

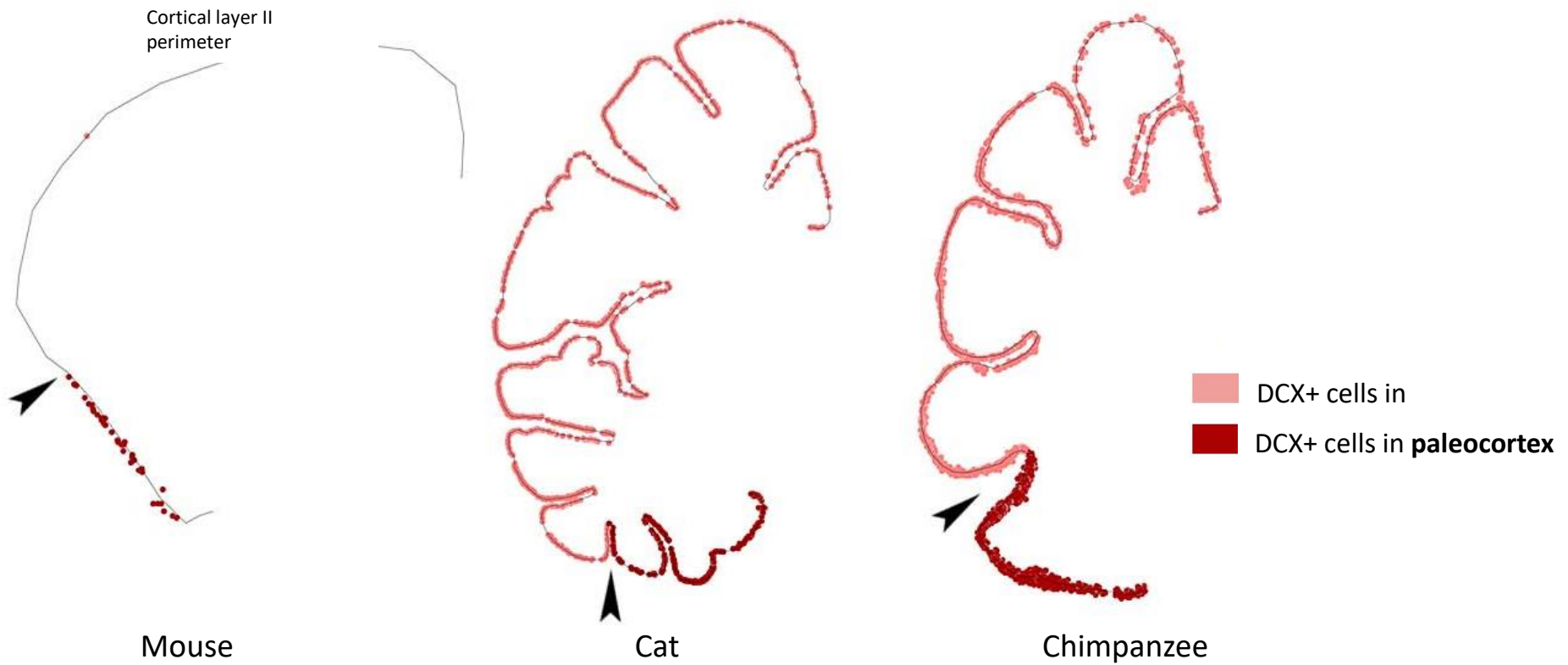




Densità lineare



n° di cellule/mm di perimetro corticale (strato II)



# Densità lineare (quantità di neuroni immaturi) ed estensione della neocorteccia

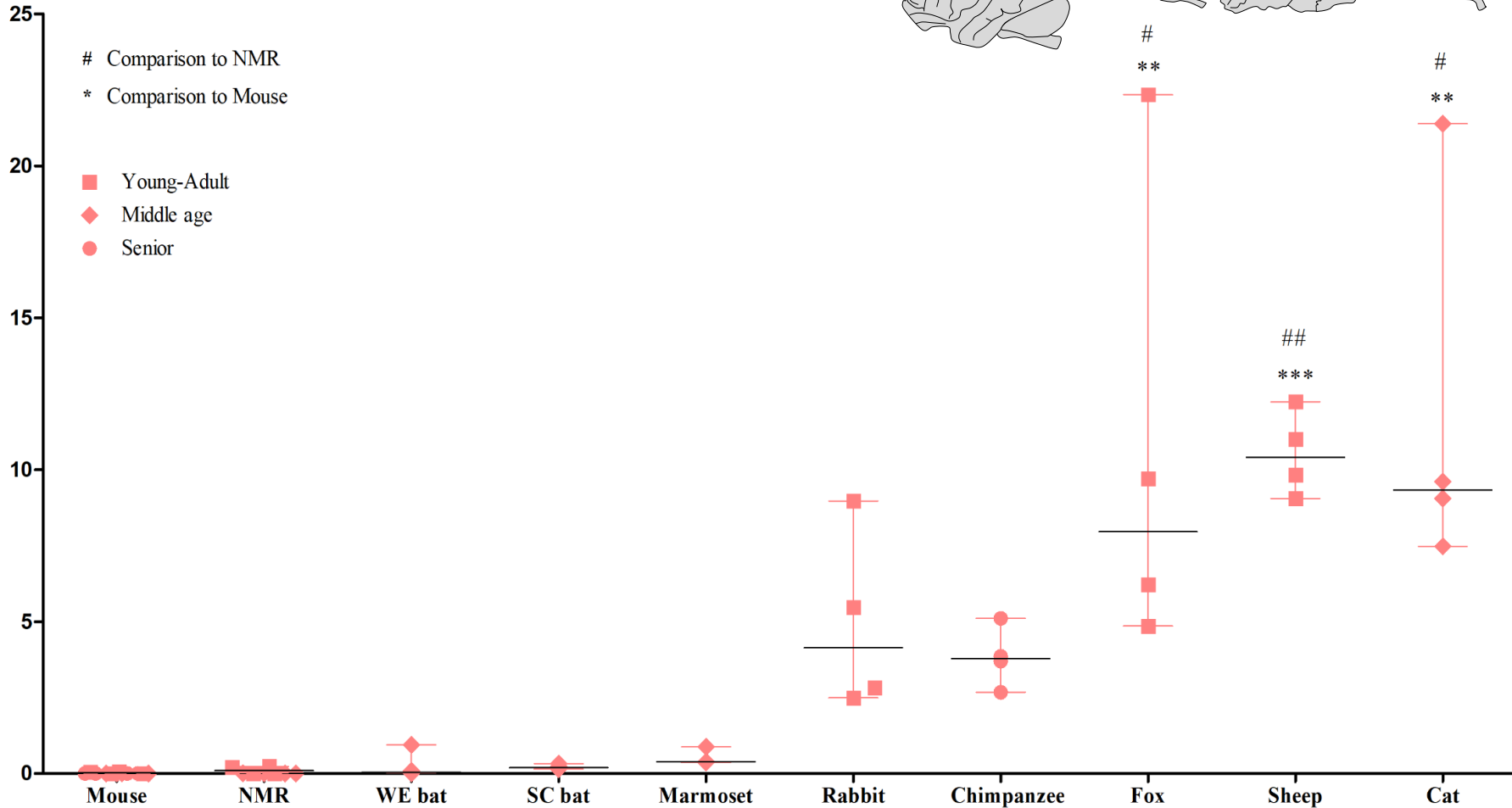
Neocortex extension

Brain size

Cells/mm

# Comparison to NMR  
\* Comparison to Mouse

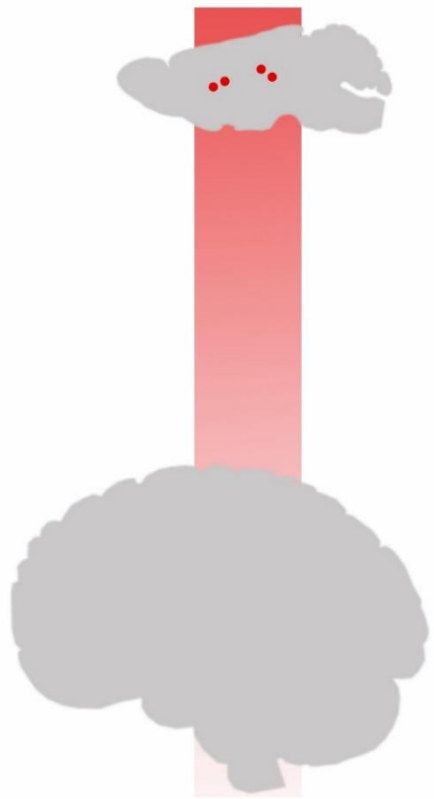
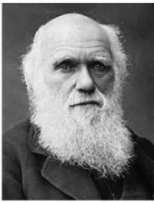
■ Young-Adult  
◆ Middle age  
● Senior







**ADULT NEUROGENESIS**  
Active stem cell niches  
Continuous neuronal cell renewal



**IMMATURE NEURONS**



## **Ipotesi**

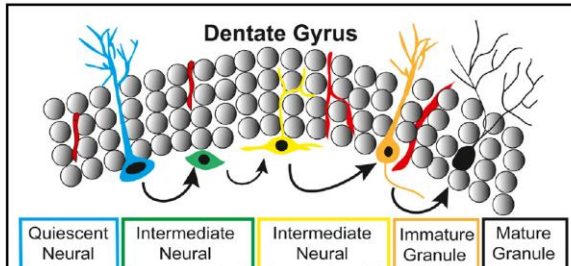
**I neuroni immaturi potrebbero «compensare» la perdita di neurogenesi nei cervelli con grande espansione della neocorteccia**

# The claim for adult neurogenesis in humans

## Cell Stem Cell

### Human Hippocampal Neurogenesis Persists throughout Aging

Graphical Abstract



Short Article

#### Authors

Maura Boldrini, Camille A. Fulmore, Alexandria N. Tartt, ..., Andrew J. Dwork, René Hen, J. John Mann

#### Correspondence

mb928@cumc.columbia.edu

#### In Brief

Boldrini et al. find persistent adult

MENU ▾

nature  
medicine

Letter | Published: 25 March 2019

Adult hippocampal neurogenesis is abundant in neurologically healthy subjects and drops sharply in patients with Alzheimer's disease

Elena P. Moreno-Jiménez, Miguel Flor-García, Julia Terreros-Roncal, Alberto Rábano, Fabio Cafini, Noemí Pallas-Bazarrá, Jesús Ávila & María Llorens-Martín ✉

## My vision:

None of these papers show substantial cell proliferation.

All these papers speak about «immature neurons» instead of «newly generated neurons»

The TITLE of these papers is wrong: they do not show «adult neurogenesis»

### Human Hippocampal Neurogenesis Persists in Aged Adults and Alzheimer's Disease Patients

Matthew K. Tobin • Kianna Musaraca • Ahmed Disouky • ... David A. Bennett • Konstantinos Arfanakis •

Orly Lazarov • Show all authors • Show footnotes

Published: May 23, 2019 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stem.2019.05.003>



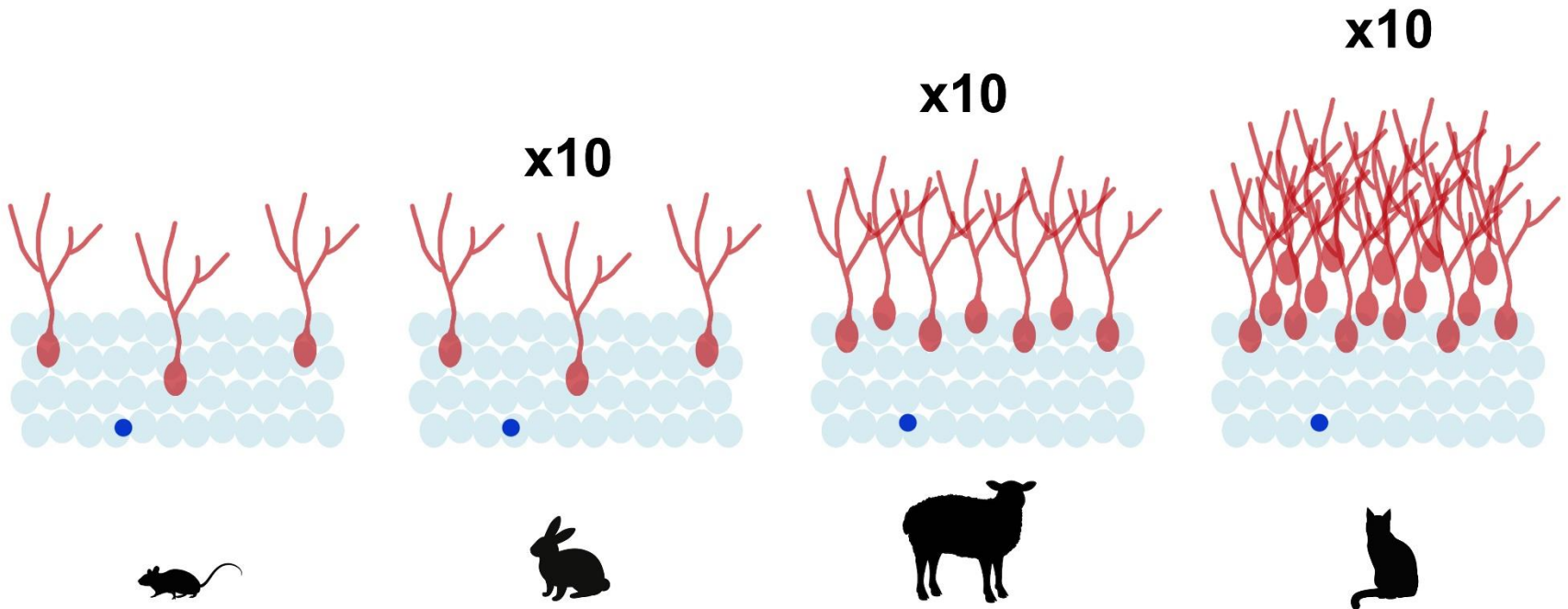
# Hippocampal neurogenesis: a «flame» in a very hot topic

Dentate gyrus →



# Preliminary results:

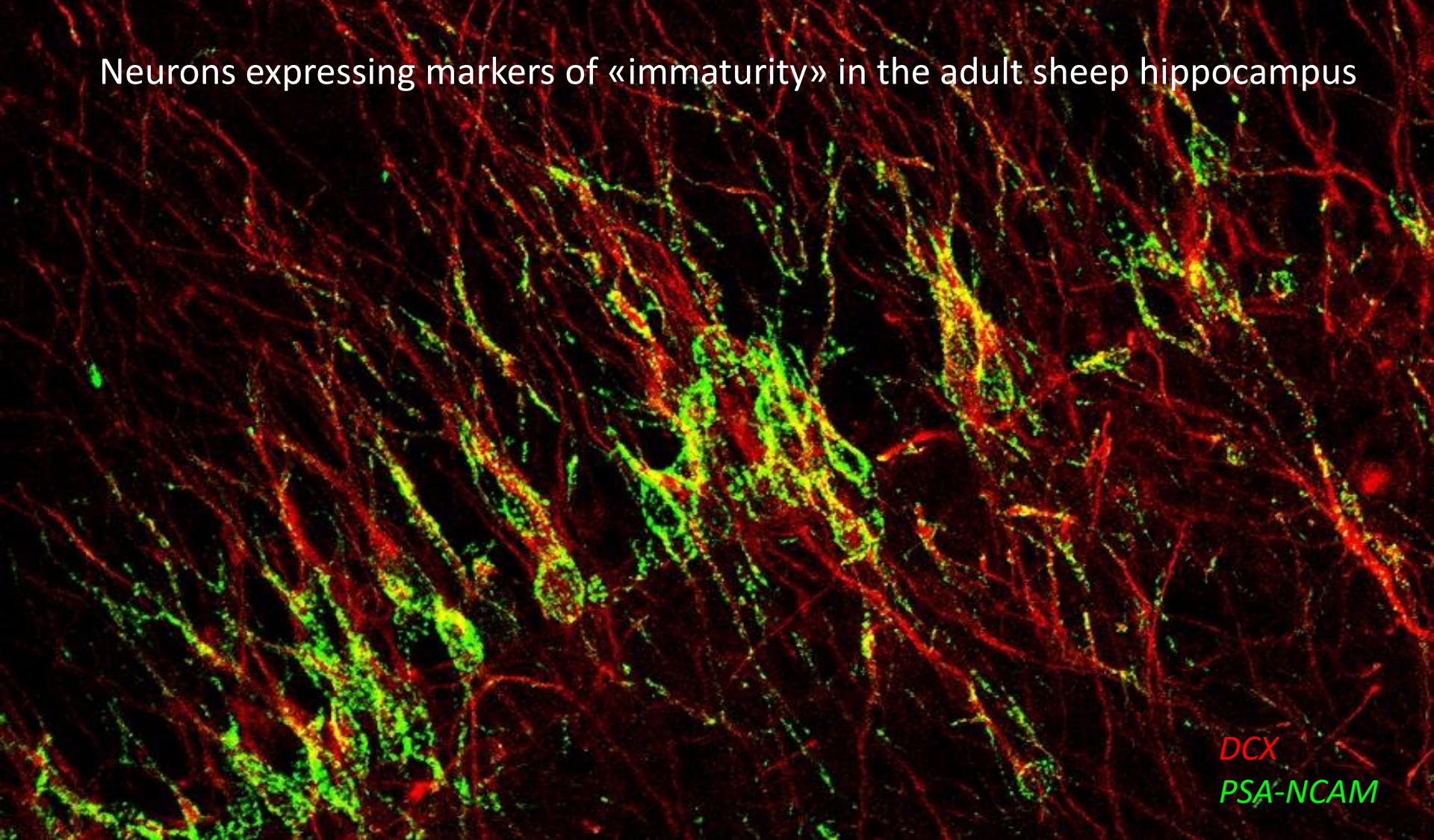
La Rosa, Olmeo, Ghibaudi, Amrein, Bonfanti



(Ref)



# Neurons expressing markers of «immaturity» in the adult sheep hippocampus



*DCX*  
*PSA-NCAM*

## **Neuronal maturation:**

Mouse: 3-4 weeks

Sheep: 3 months

Monkey: 6 months

Humans: ???

Foto: Ottavia Palazzo



Published 3 days ago



NEUROSCIENCE

# *Adult neurogenesis in mammals*

Neurogenesis in adulthood has implications for sense of self, memory, and disease

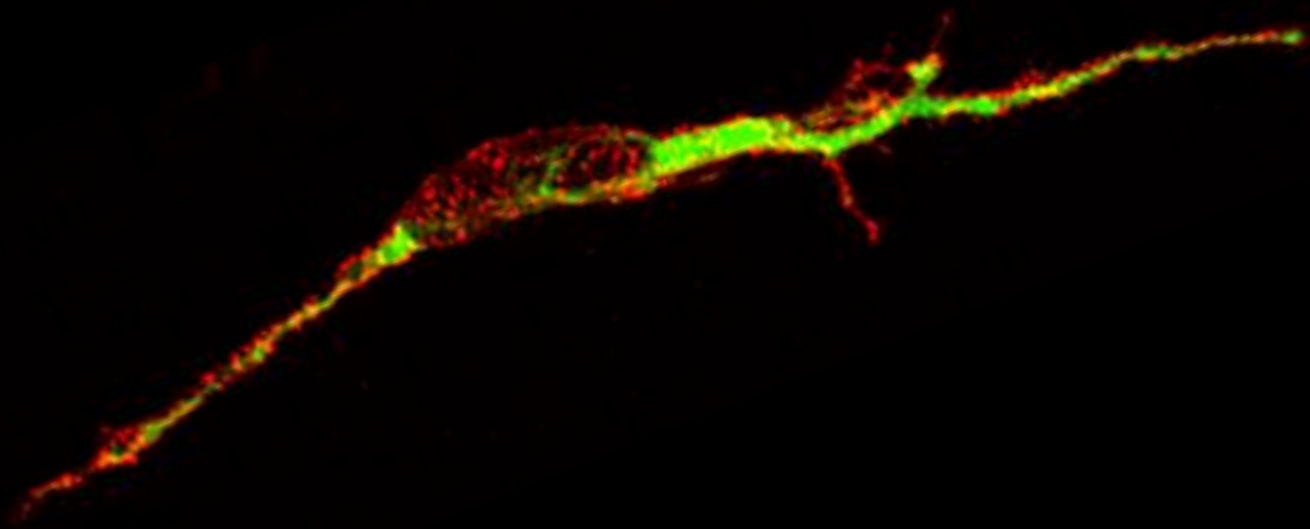
By **Fred H. Gage**

genetic markers (4). Moreover, adult neurogenesis was shown to occur in limited areas

genesis, including proliferation, maturation, migration, differentiation, survival, and inte-



*Mammals?...*



Now play with your neurons!