

# **Two-photon microscopy for in vivo functional imaging**

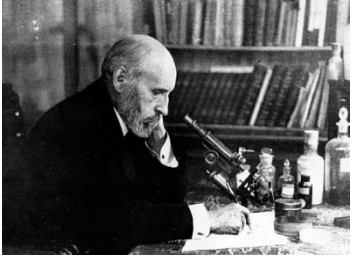
**Serena Bovetti**



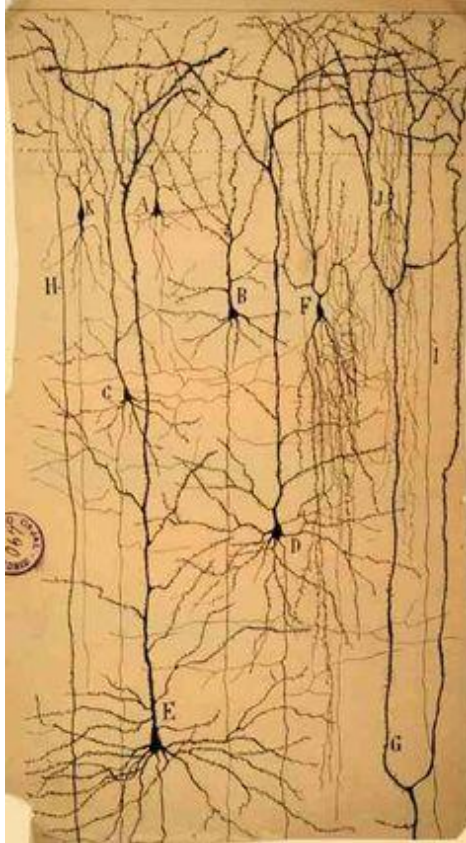
**Department of Neuroscience and  
Brain Technologies  
Italian Institute of Technology  
Genova, Italy**

# Analyzing structure and function

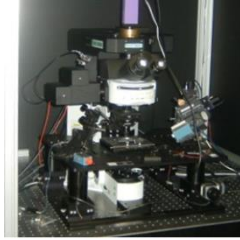
1900



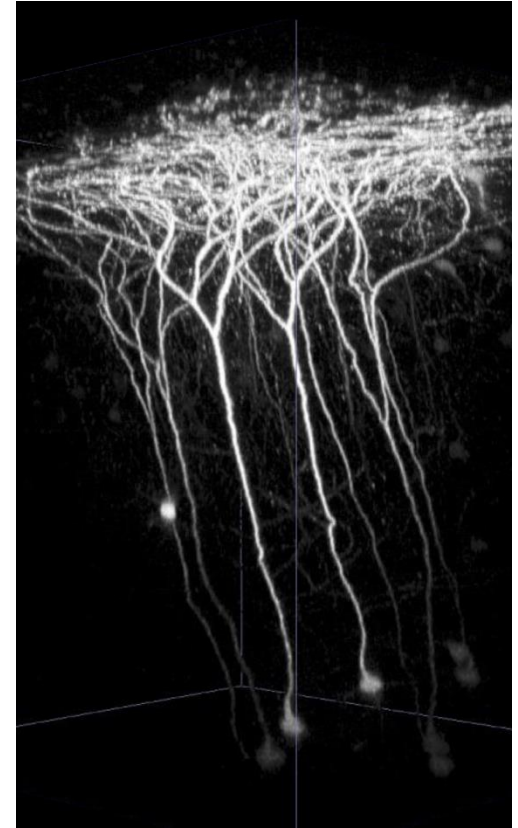
Ramon y Cajal  
(1852-1934)



2016



2P microscopy  
(1990-present)



# Analyzing structure and function

*Living cells*

*Small elements*

*High number*

14 millions glutamatergic cells just into the mouse neocortex

*3D*

and the overall complexity of NS

*Light scattering tissue*

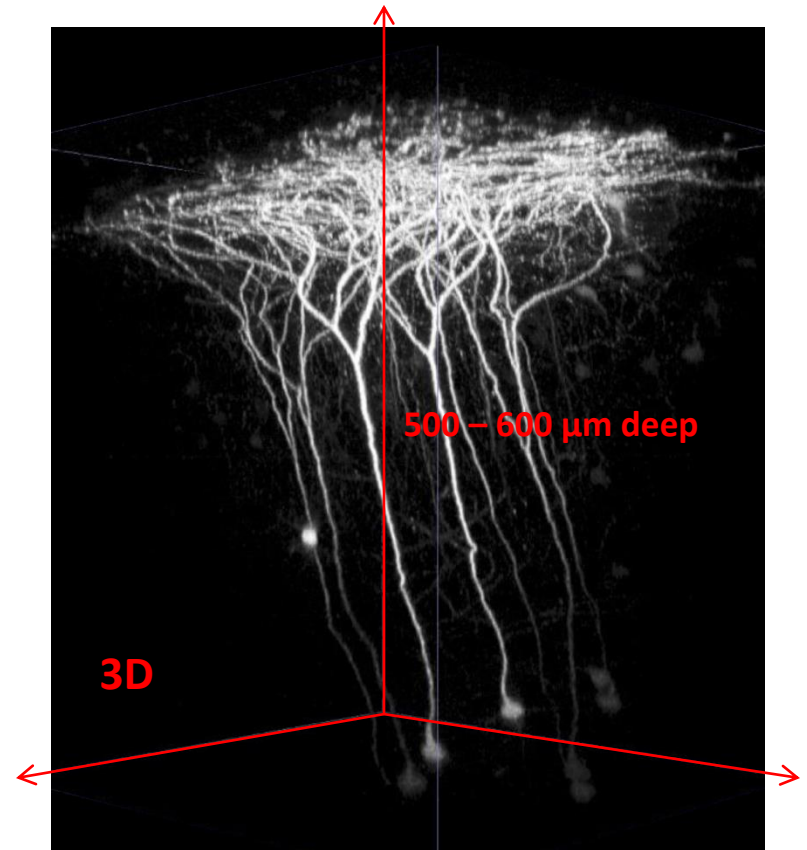
deflection of a light «ray» from its original direction and depend on refractive index of the structures that interact with the ray

*Fast signalling*

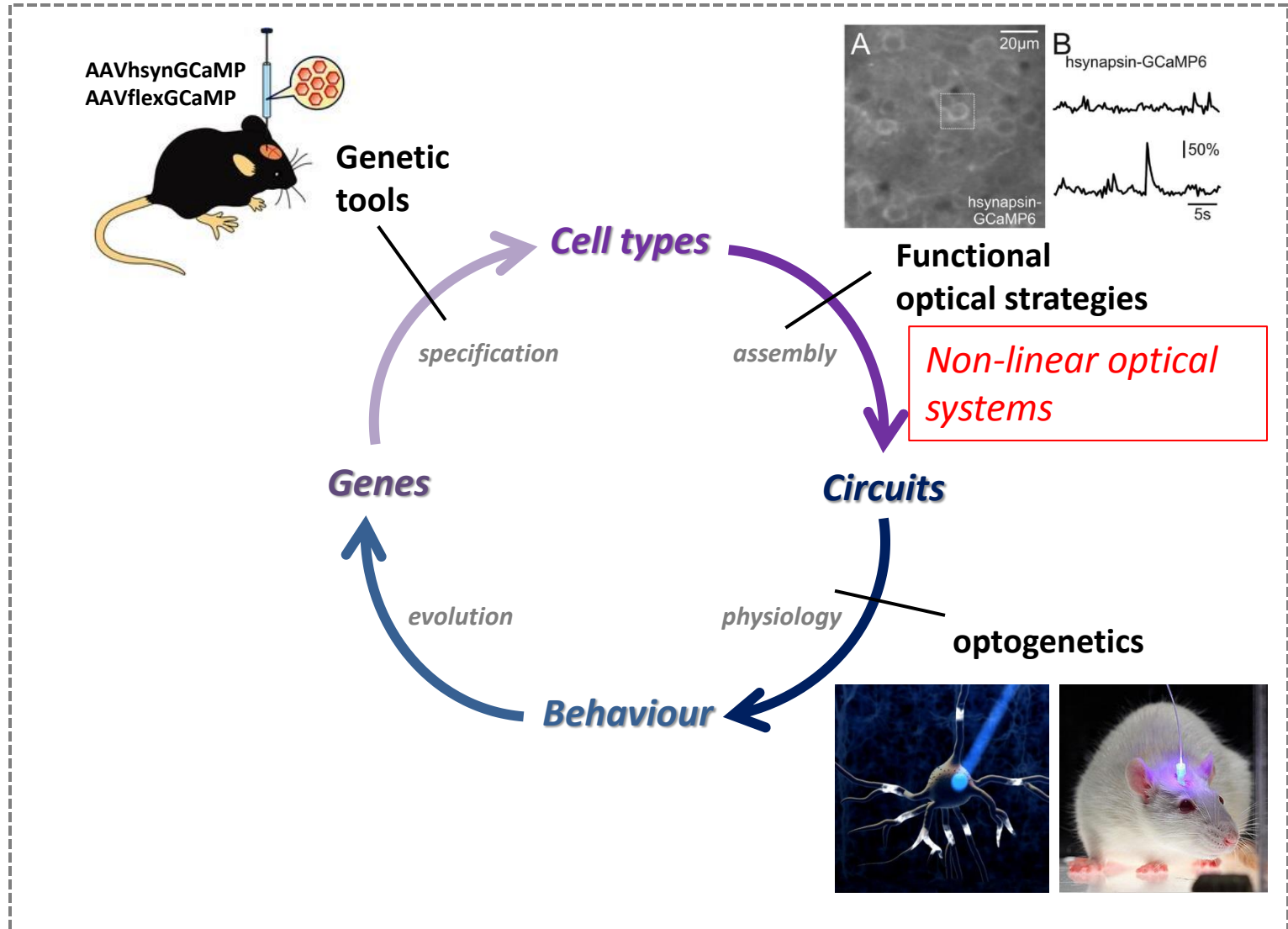
ms

*Non-stationary*

2016



# Analyzing structure and function

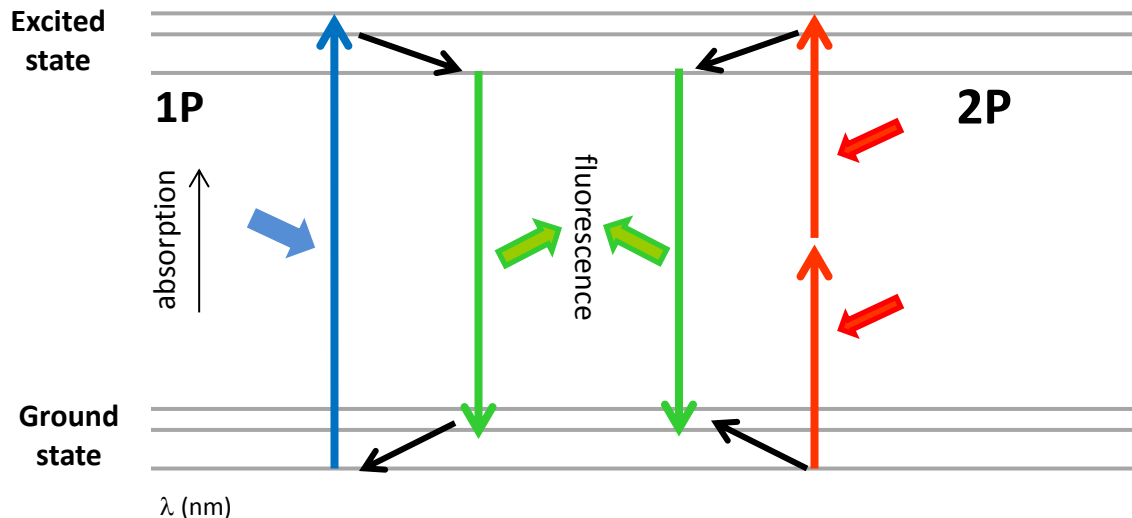


# A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy

Multiphoton microscopy is a powerful technique based on *non-linear* interactions between photons and matter. The most commonly used multiphoton imaging procedure is the *two-photon* excitation microscopy.

**Linear microscopy:** one photon is adsorbed by a fluorescence molecule and one single fluorescent photon is emitted

**Non-Linear microscopy:** uses «higher order» light-matter interactions involving multiple photons



**2P:** rare event in which 2 photons interact with the same molecule at the same time (interval less than  $10^{-18}$  s)



Maria Goppert-Mayer  
(1906-1972)  
Nobel prize 1963

$$E = hc/\lambda$$

$h$  = Planck constant

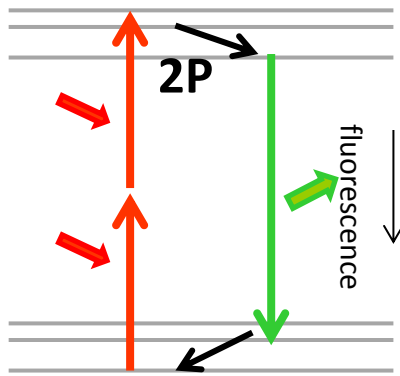
$c$  = speed of light =  $3 \times 10^8$  m/sec

$\lambda$  = wavelength

# A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy



**Multiphoton absorption:** rare event...how do we get around this problem?



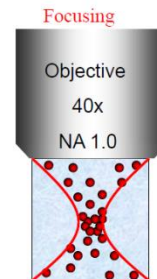
The efficiency of multiphoton absorption depends on:

- 1) The physical properties of the molecule (so called **«cross-section»**: the likelihood that an absorption event will occur )
- 2) The **temporal** and **spatial** distribution of the excitation light: an high number of photons ( $10^{20}$  -  $10^{30}$  photons/ (cm<sup>2</sup>s) have to be concentrated in time (0.5 fs) and space.

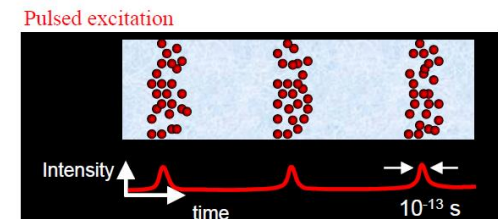


Winfried Denk  
1990

**concentration in *space***  
**(focusing):** high NA obj that concentrates the light in a diffraction limited focal volume

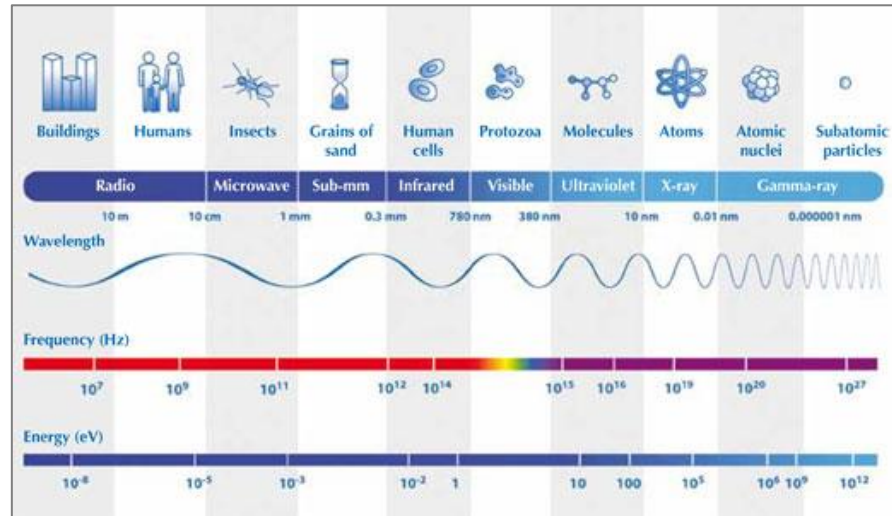
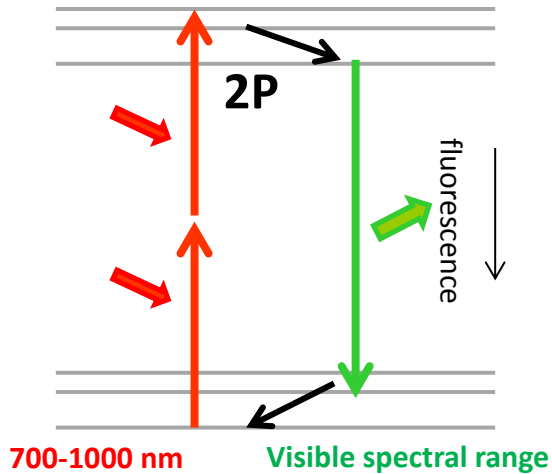


**concentration in *time***  
**(pulsed excitation):** ultrashort light pulses ( ~ 100 fs) with a repetition rate of ~ 100MHz (every 10 ns)



# A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy

Why non-linear in more than linear?



Longer wavelengths = less energy  
Longer wavelengths = less subjected to scattering  
Longer wavelengths = deeper penetration

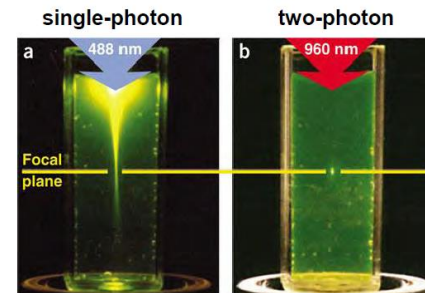
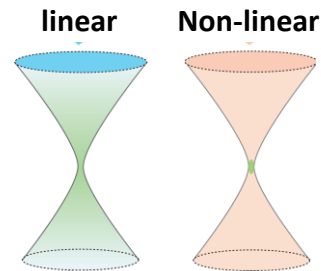
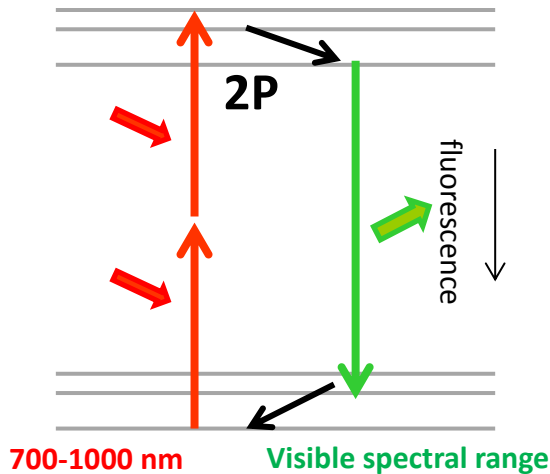
*Near-infrared light penetrates deeper into scattering tissue and is generally less phototoxic*

# A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy

## Why non-linear is more than linear?

Because a 2P excitation event requires two photons to interact on the same molecule at the same time, the probability of an absorption event has a supralinear dependency on the density of photons and is proportional to the square of the instantaneous laser intensity:

$$P \propto I^2$$



Zipfel et al. 2003



- *Absence of multiphoton absorption in out-of-focus planes*
- *Since excitation is confined there is no need of a pinhole in detection*



# A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy

## Light scattering in biological tissue

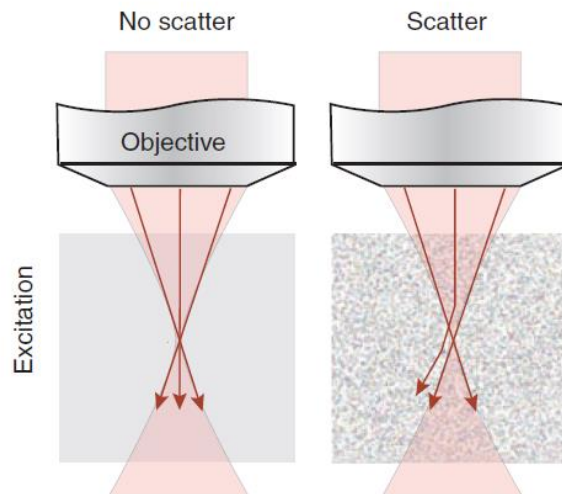
**Scattering:** deflection of a light «ray» from its original direction; it depends on refractive indexes of the structures that interact with the ray . Both excitation and emitted light is scattered BUT:

### Excitation (infrared light)

*Infrared light is less susceptible to scattering:*

*The density of scattered excitation photons is generally too low to generate a significant out-of-focus background signal.*

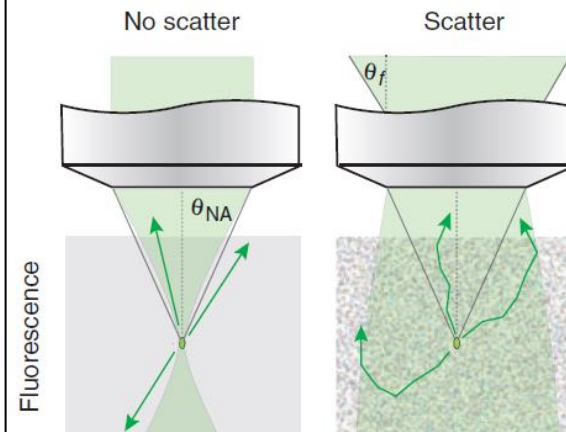
*DIFFERENT from 1P excitation light that is highly scattered also in excitation*



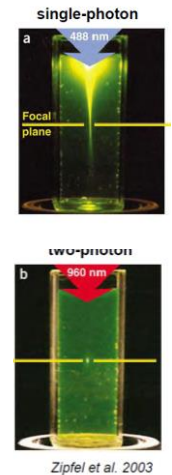
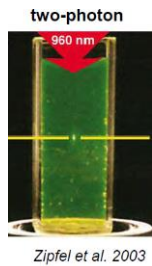
### Detection (visible light)

*Fluorescent emitted photons are in the visible range (shorter  $\lambda$  and higher energy) and are susceptible to scattering. BUT we know where the fluorescence light is coming from.*

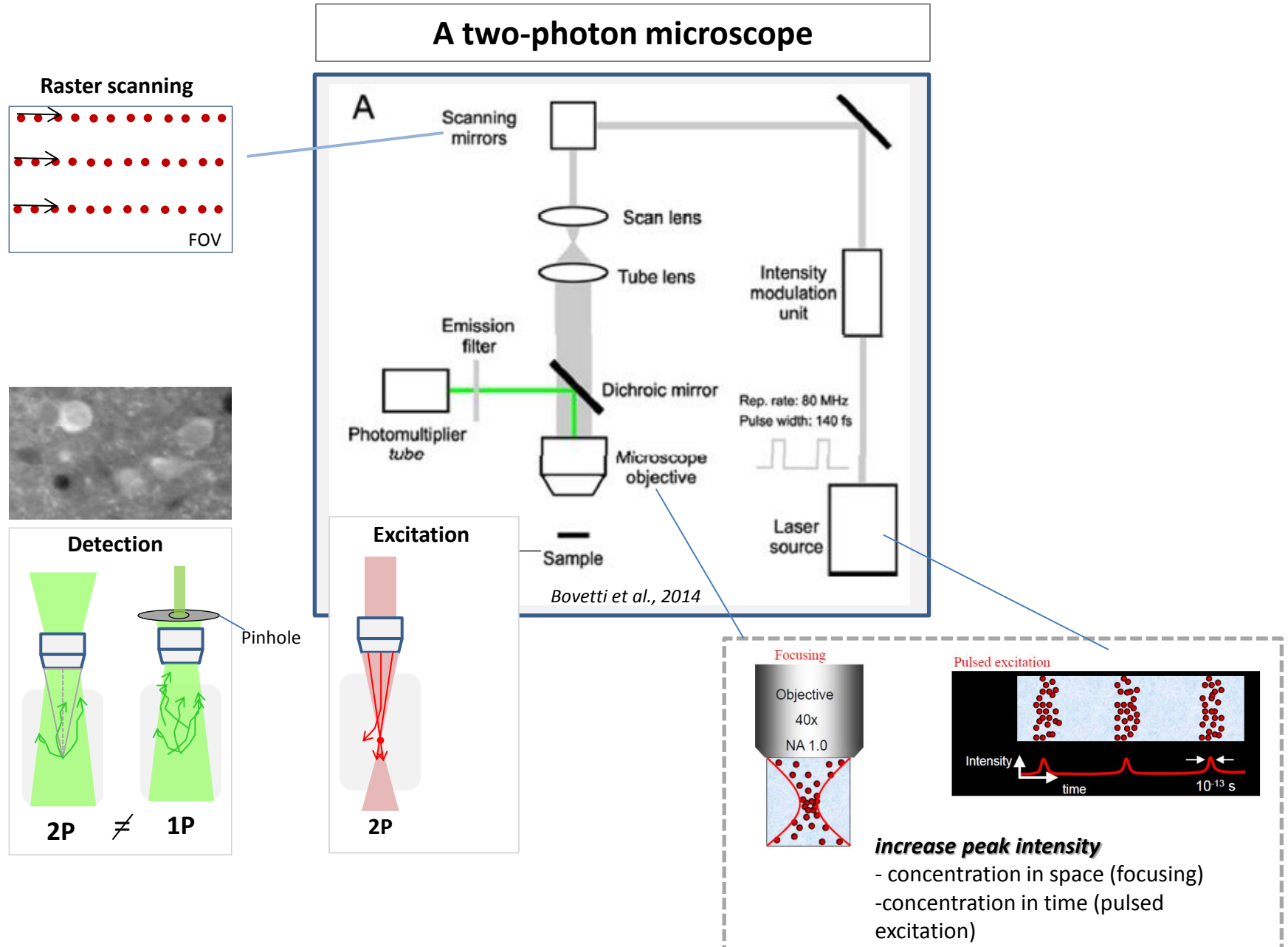
*DIFFERENT from 1P emitted light that you don't know where is coming from*



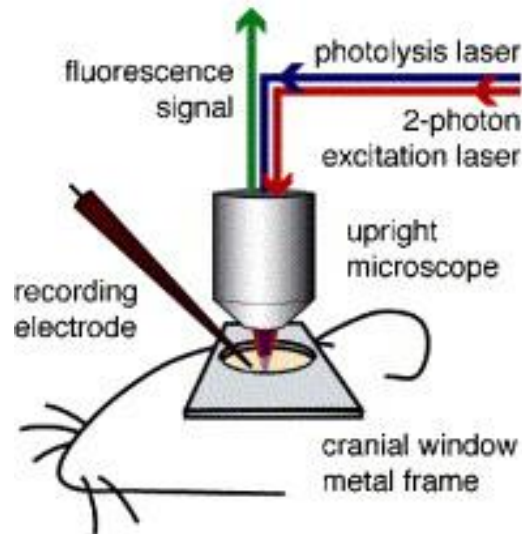
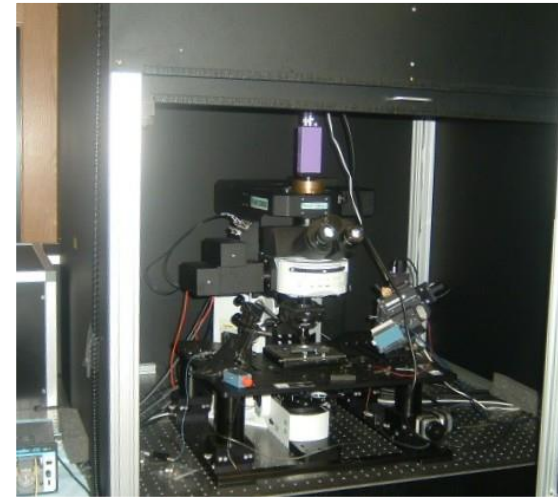
*collect as much as you can!*



# A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy

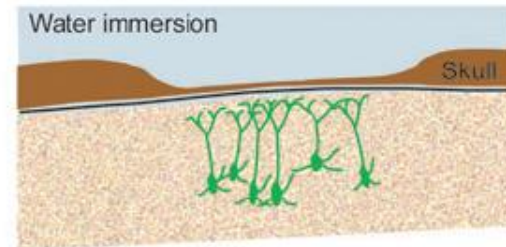


# Two-photon fluorescence microscopy

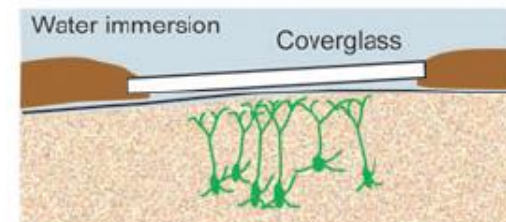


Wang et al. 2006

Thinned skull



Chronic window



# In vivo functional two-photon imaging

A first necessary step toward elucidating the basic principles underlying brain function is to *precisely map the activity* of individual cellular elements in space and time *in vivo*



Electrophysiology has long been the preferred method for studying the central nervous system, however the final goal is to record from large networks at cellular resolution



In the last 20 years, the development of *nonlinear microscopy* in combination with *fluorescent activity reporters* has provided a valuable tool to reach this goal

Voltage indicators  
Calcium indicators

Detect supra- and sub- threshold activity

Fast kinetics

**BUT**

Dim

Small signal-to-noise ratio:  $\Delta F / \text{stdev of baseline noise}$

Detect supra-threshold activity

Slower kinetics

**BUT**

Higher brightness

Higher SNR

# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

Both neurons and glia display increase calcium concentration in response to neuronal activity

[Ca<sup>2+</sup>] at rest  
**30-200 nM**

VGCC, calcium-permeable  
receptor-operated channels

[Ca<sup>2+</sup>] x 10 – x 100



One way to measure free cytosolic calcium variations optically is using molecules that change their fluorescence or absorbance properties upon calcium binding



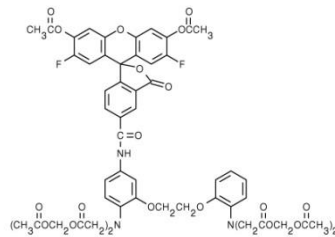
## *Synthetic dyes:*

OGB

Fluo-2

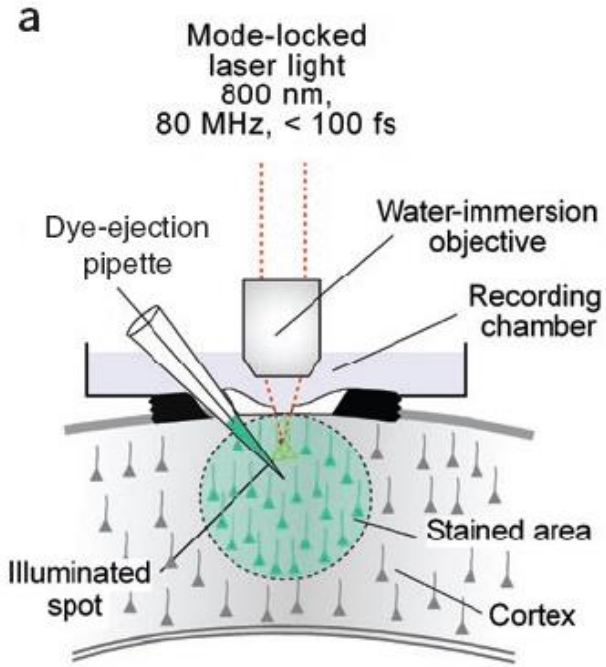
Fluo-4

...

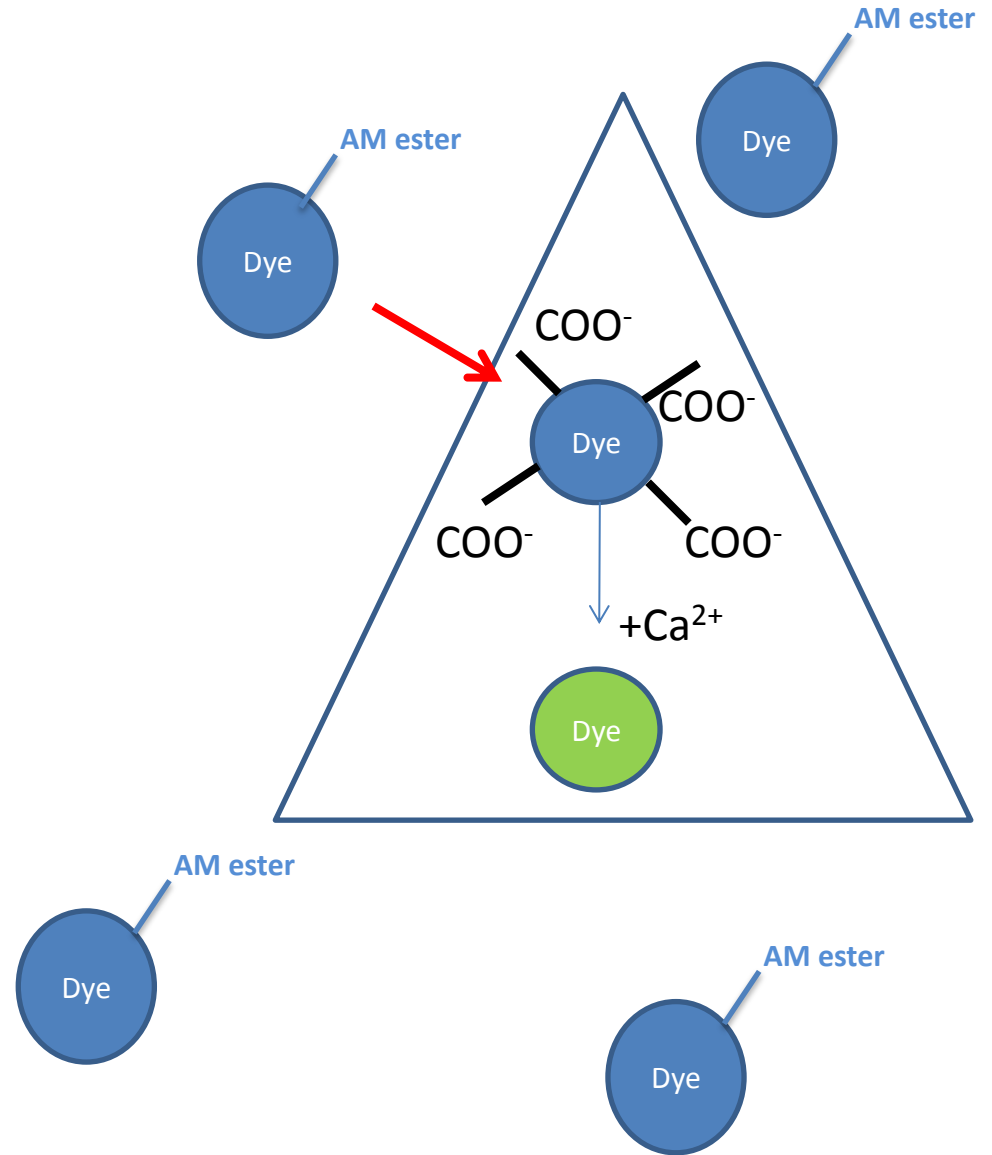


No labelling of specific cell population  
Acute loading  
Short life time

# Bulk loading



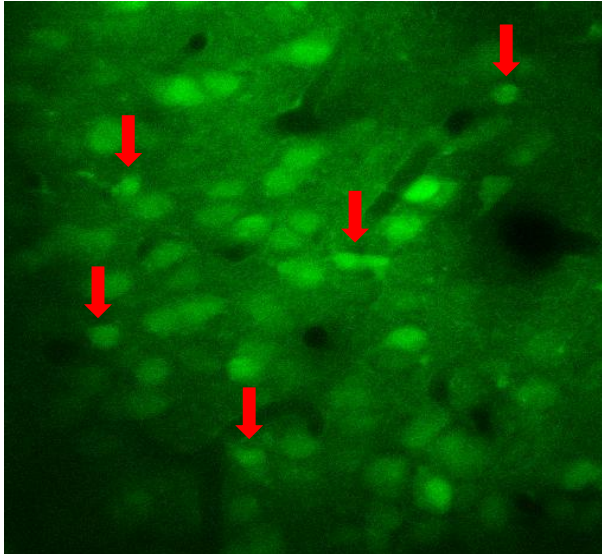
Garaschuk et al. 2006



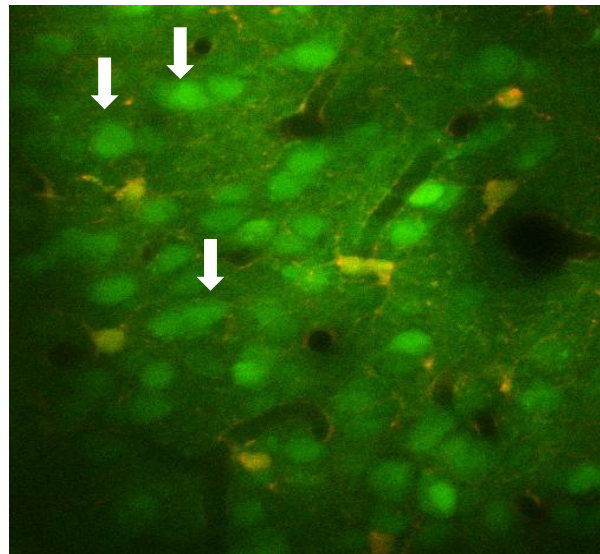
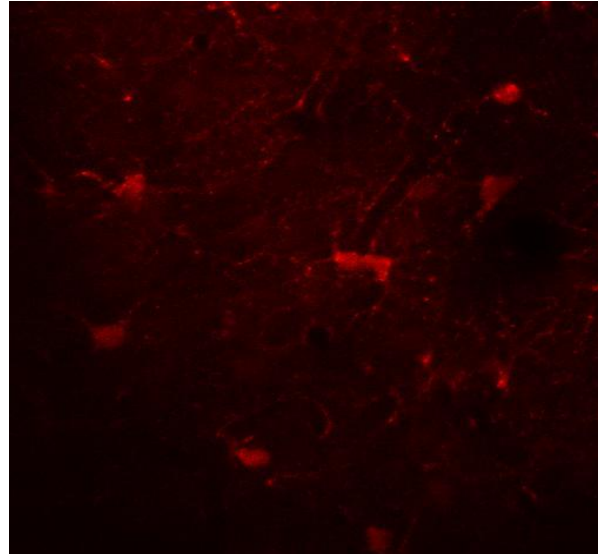
AM ester: Acetoxymethyl (AM) esters

# Bulk loading

Oregon Green BAPTA



Sulforhodamine 101



# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

Both neurons and glia display increase calcium concentration in response to neuronal activity



One way to measure free cytosolic calcium variations optically is using molecules that change their fluorescence or absorbance properties upon calcium binding

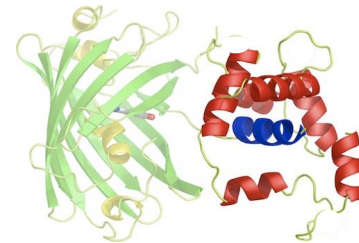


## *Genetically encoded indicators:*

Camgoroo

Pericams

GCaMPs

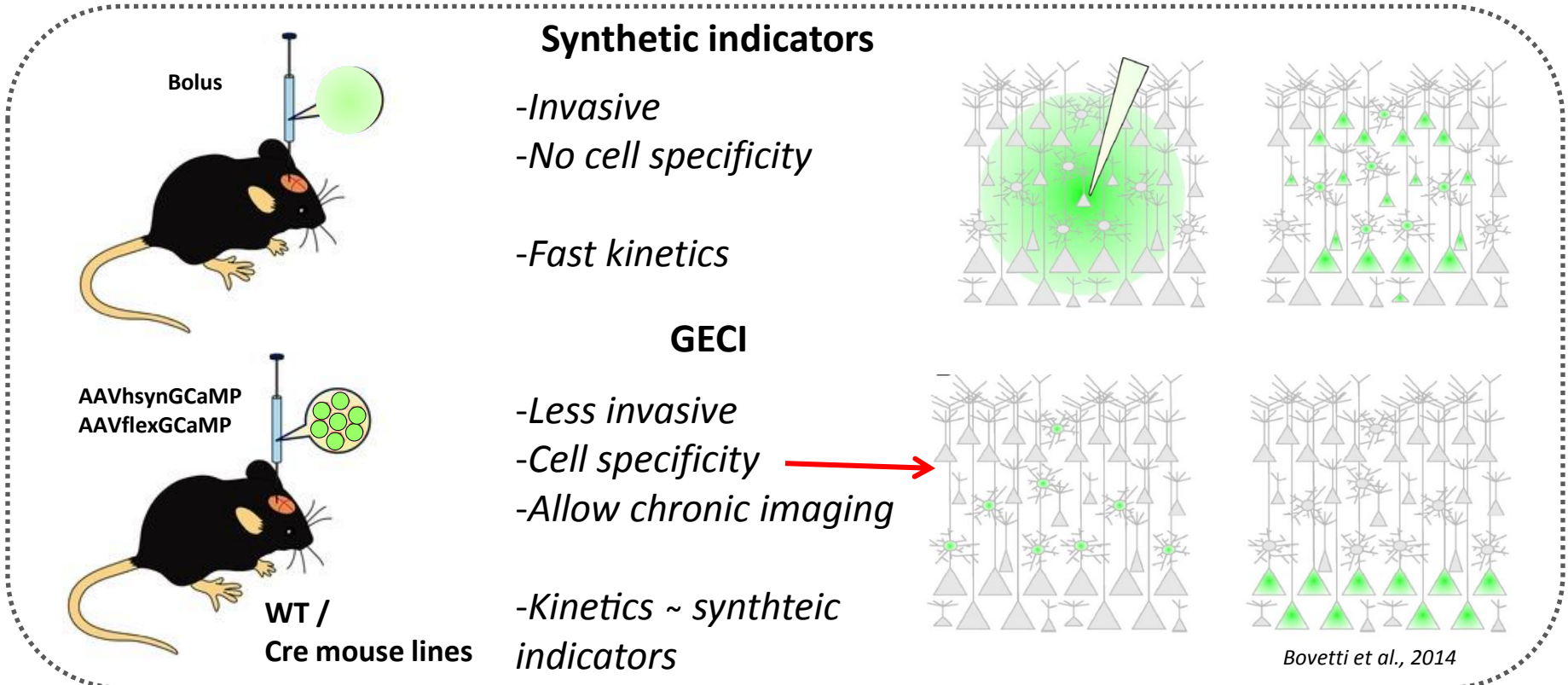
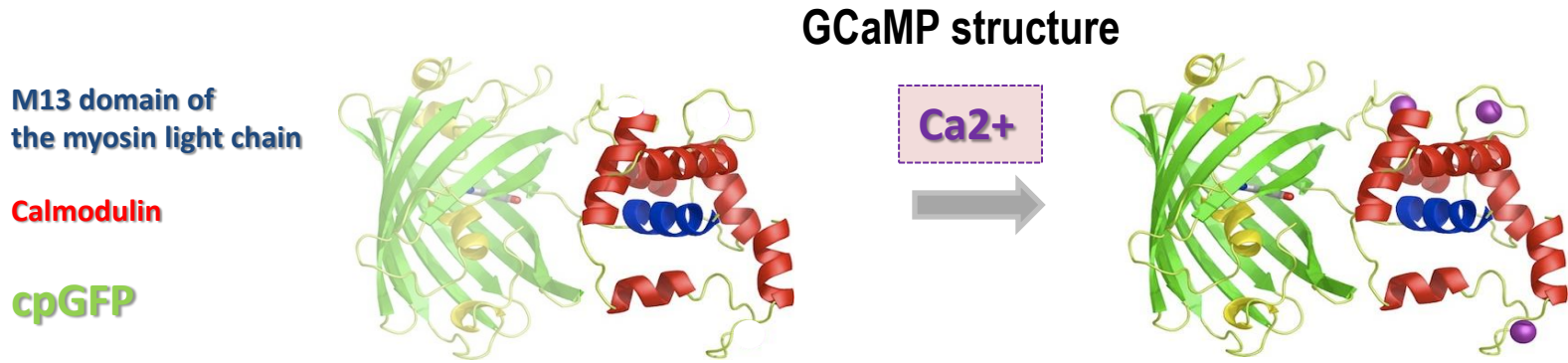


Expressed in cell type specific manner

Allow chronic imaging



# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

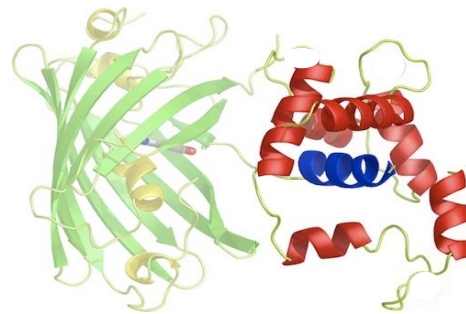


# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

M13 domain of  
the myosin light chain

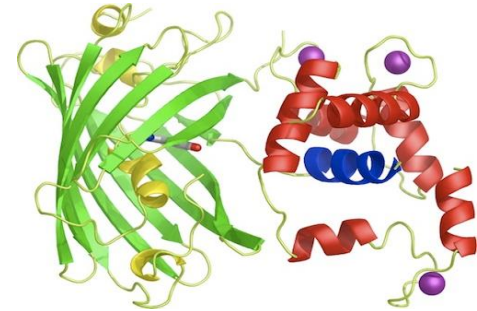
Calmodulin

cpGFP



GCaMP structure

Ca<sup>2+</sup>



## Transgenic mouse lines

### Promoter specific expression

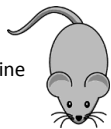
Thy1-GCaMP6  
CAMKII-GCaMP6



### Cre-dependent expression (cre-lox technology)

Promoter-lox-STOP-lox-GCaMP6  
(i.e. CAG)

Cre-mouse line  
(i.e. PV-cre)



X



Flex-  
GCaMP6



## Viral vector delivery

Each virus has characteristic **tropism** (targeting of cells) and **spread** from injection sites, in some cases via **retrograde or anterograde** transport of viral particles, which are important to consider when designing experiments.

### Adeno-associated virus (AAVs)

Small (25 nm), Single-stranded DNA

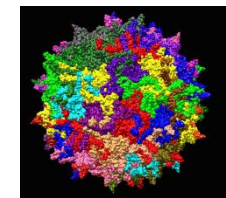
Different serotypes that influence virus tropism

Now mix serotypes are available

Small capacity for effective packaging (4.7 kb)

Both anterograde and retrograde (depending on serotypes) transport

Do not integrate into the host genome, remain as an episome (extragenomic circular DNA)

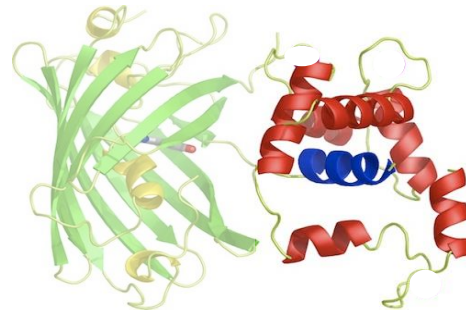


# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

M13 domain of  
the myosin light chain

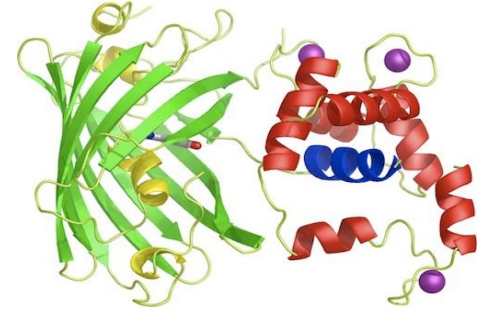
Calmodulin

cpGFP



GCaMP structure

Ca<sup>2+</sup>



## Transgenic mouse lines

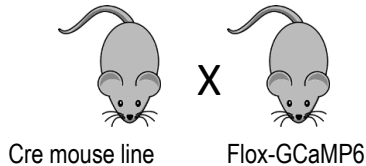
### Promoter specific expression

Thy1-GCaMP6  
CAMKII-GCaMP6



### Cre-dependent expression (cre-lox technology)

Promoter-lox-STOP-lox-GCaMP6  
(i.e. CAG)



## Viral vector delivery

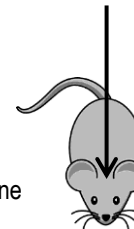
### Promoter specific expression

AAV1.Syn.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40  
serotype promoter indicator

### Cre-dependent expression (cre-lox technology)

AAV1.Syn.flex.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40

WT or  
Cre mouse line



~10<sup>13</sup> GC/ml (tirate!!!)

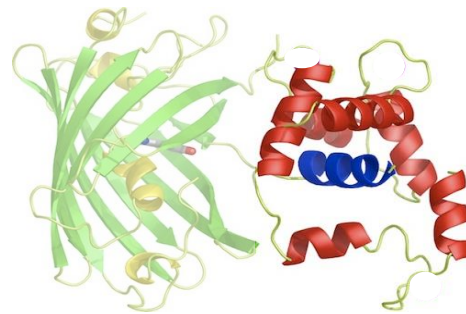
very low inj rate (20-50 nl/min)

# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

M13 domain of  
the myosin light chain

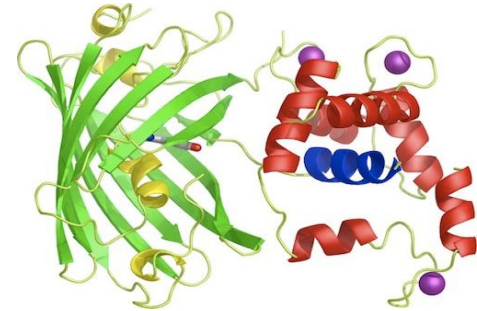
Calmodulin

cpGFP



GCaMP structure

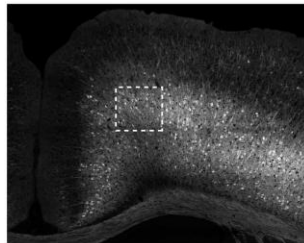
Ca<sup>2+</sup>



Transgenic mouse lines

Advantages:

More homogeneous expression  
across brain regions



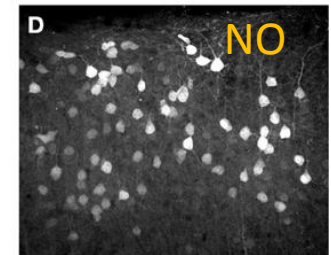
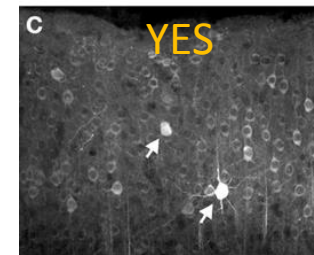
Disadvantages:

Low expression

Viral vector delivery

Advantages:

Higher expression



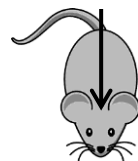
Disadvantages:

Less homogeneous expression across brain regions

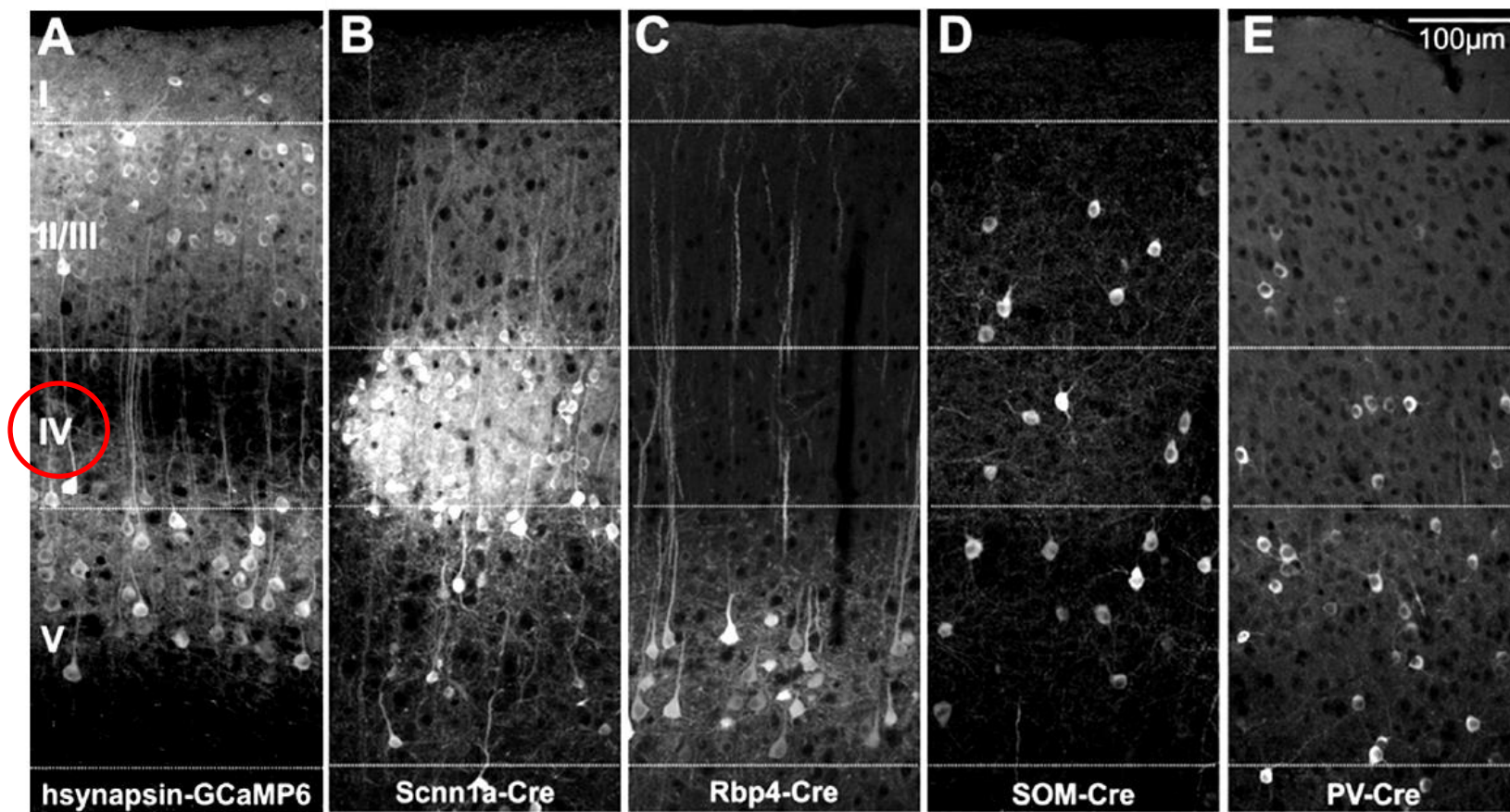
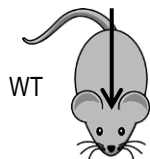
# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

AAV1.Syn.GCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40

AAV1.Syn.flexGCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40



Cre-expressing mouse lines

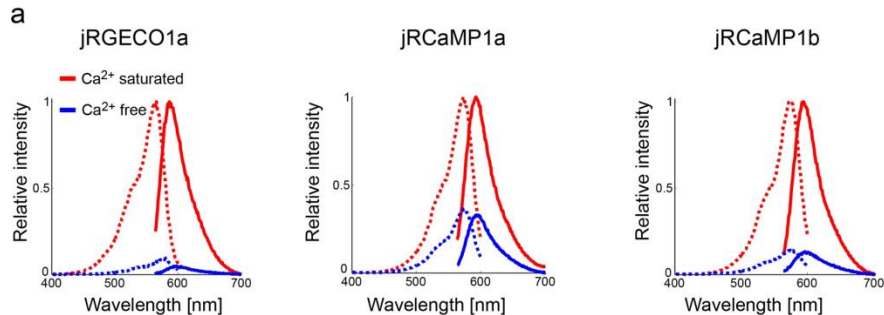


# How to choose a calcium indicator

## Fluorescence properties

**Spectral properties** (i.e. absorption and emission wavelengths):

1P Absorption and emission spectra



Dana et al., 2016

**Quantum yield:** Number of fluorescence photons emitted per excitation photon absorbed.

**Photobleaching:** Destruction of the excited fluorophore. Not reversible

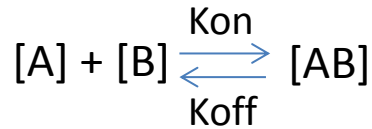
**OTHERS: Quenching:** Loss of fluorescence signal due to short-range interactions between the fluorophore and the local molecular environment, including other fluorophores. Reversible

**Lifetime:** The excited state exists for a finite time (typically 1–10 nanoseconds).

# In vivo functional two-photon imaging

## Biophysical properties

### Affinity



at equilibrium (when [] do not change)

$$[A] \times [B] \times \text{Kon} = [AB] \times \text{Koff}$$

$$K_d = \frac{\text{Koff}}{\text{Kon}} = \frac{[A] \times [B]}{[AB]}$$

**Kd**: concentration of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  at which half the indicator molecules are bound with  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  at equilibrium

High affinity indicators:

- $K_d < 1 \mu\text{M}$
- Saturate easier
- ex. fura-2, OGB-1, GCaMP

Low affinity indicators:

- $K_d > 1 \mu\text{M}$
- linear range
- ex. Mag-fura,

### Dynamic range

$$R = \frac{F_{\max}}{F_{\min}}$$

Relative fluorescence change

$$\Delta F/F = (F_t - F_0)/F_0$$

Signal-to-noise ratio

$$\Delta F/SD_{\text{baseline noise}}$$

**Kinetics**: strongly depend on indicator affinity

Koff: influence the shape of the calcium transient

Kon: scaling factor for indicator response

**Selectivity**:  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}] = \text{nM}$

$[\text{Mg}^{2+}] = \mu\text{M} - \text{mM}$



Competition on calcium binding sites

# The Calcium Ion as an Indirect Reporter of Neuronal Activity

Comparison of biophysical properties between different calcium indicators

	$\lambda$ for 2P excitation (nm)	$\lambda_{em}$ (nm)	Rise time (ms)	Decay time (ms)	Dynamic range	Kd (nM)
OGB-1	810–850 <sup>a,b</sup>	520 <sup>a,b</sup>	8 <sup>b</sup>	$\tau_1 = 56^b; \tau_1 = 777^b$		
GCaMP3	920 <sup>c</sup>	510–520 <sup>c</sup>	83 <sup>c</sup>	610 <sup>c</sup>		
GCaMP6s	940 <sup>d</sup>	510–520 <sup>d</sup>	179 <sup>d</sup>	550 <sup>d</sup>	GCaMP6s 63	144
GCaMP6m	940 <sup>d</sup>	510–520 <sup>d</sup>	80 <sup>d</sup>	270 <sup>d</sup>		
GCaMP6f	940 <sup>d</sup>	510–520 <sup>d</sup>	45 <sup>d</sup>	142 <sup>d</sup>	GCaMP6f 52	375

<sup>a</sup>Yasuda et al. (2004).

<sup>b</sup>Grewe et al. (2010).

<sup>c</sup>Tian et al. (2009).

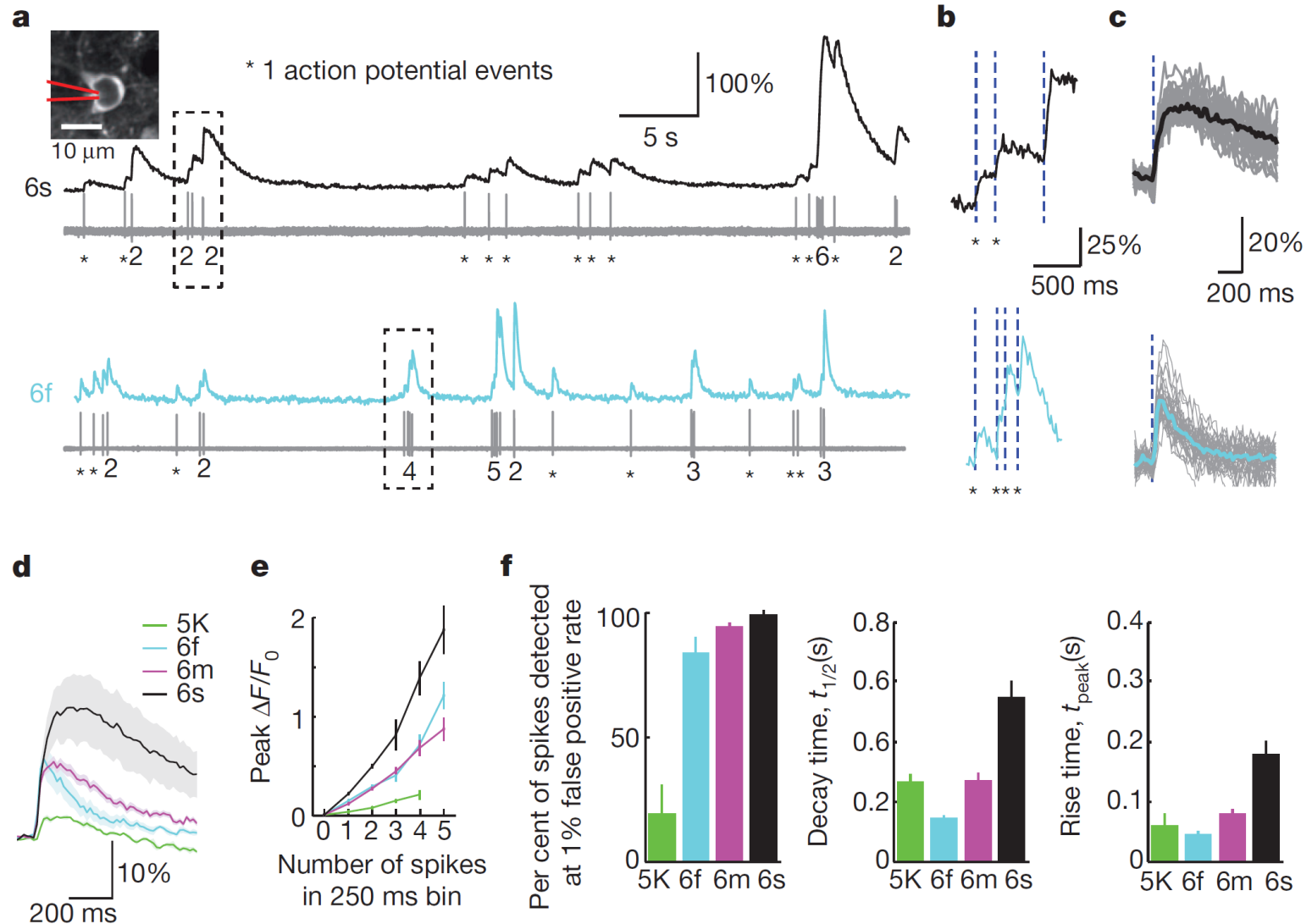
<sup>d</sup>Chen et al. (2013).

← Lower affinity, faster kinetics

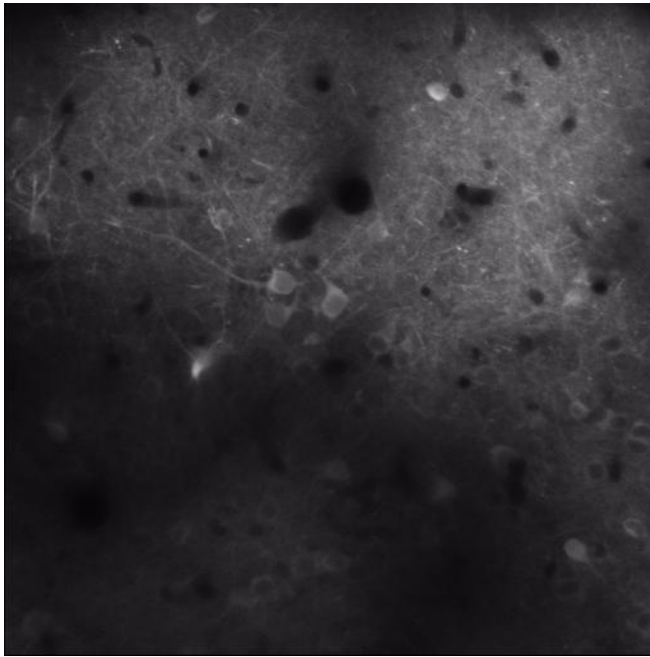
Bovetti et al., 2013



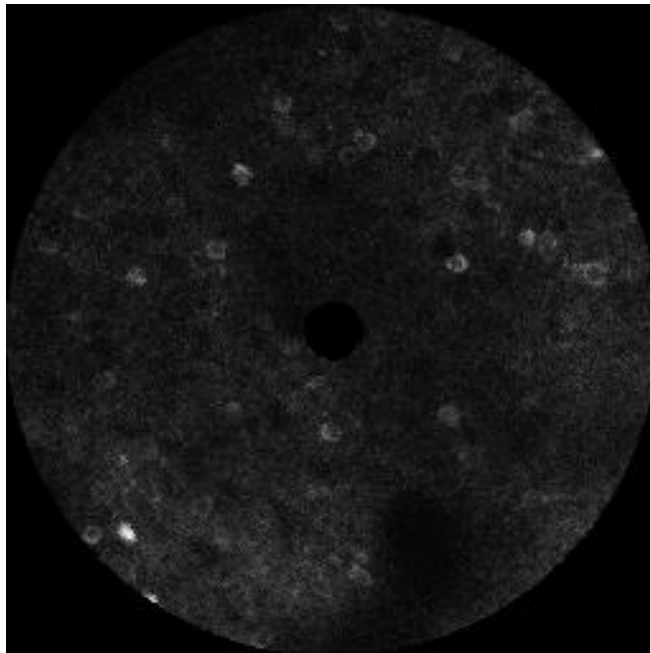
# Detecting single cell action potential from calcium recording *in vivo*



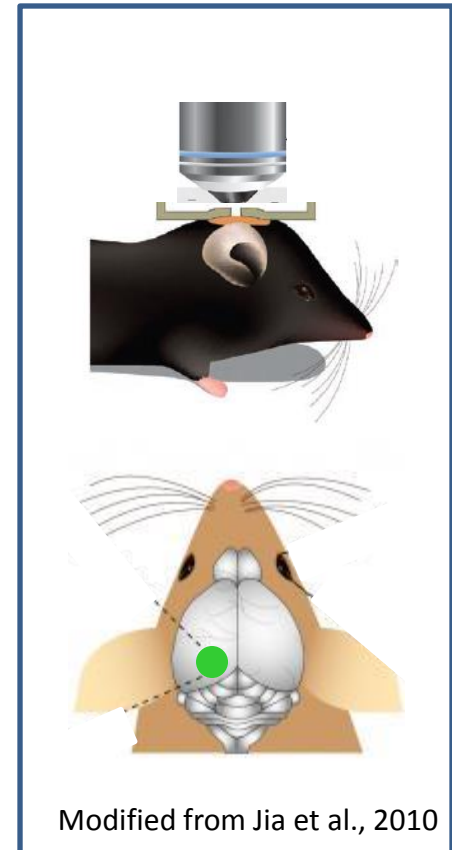
# *In vivo* two-photon calcium imaging



Layer 2/3 cortical neurons expressing GCaMP6s  
(somatosensory cortex)



Layer 4 cortical neurons expressing  
GCaMP6s.  
Selective expression has been  
obtained injecting the AAV carrying  
the flex GCaMP construct in the  
Scnn1a-cre mouse line  
(somatosensory cortex)



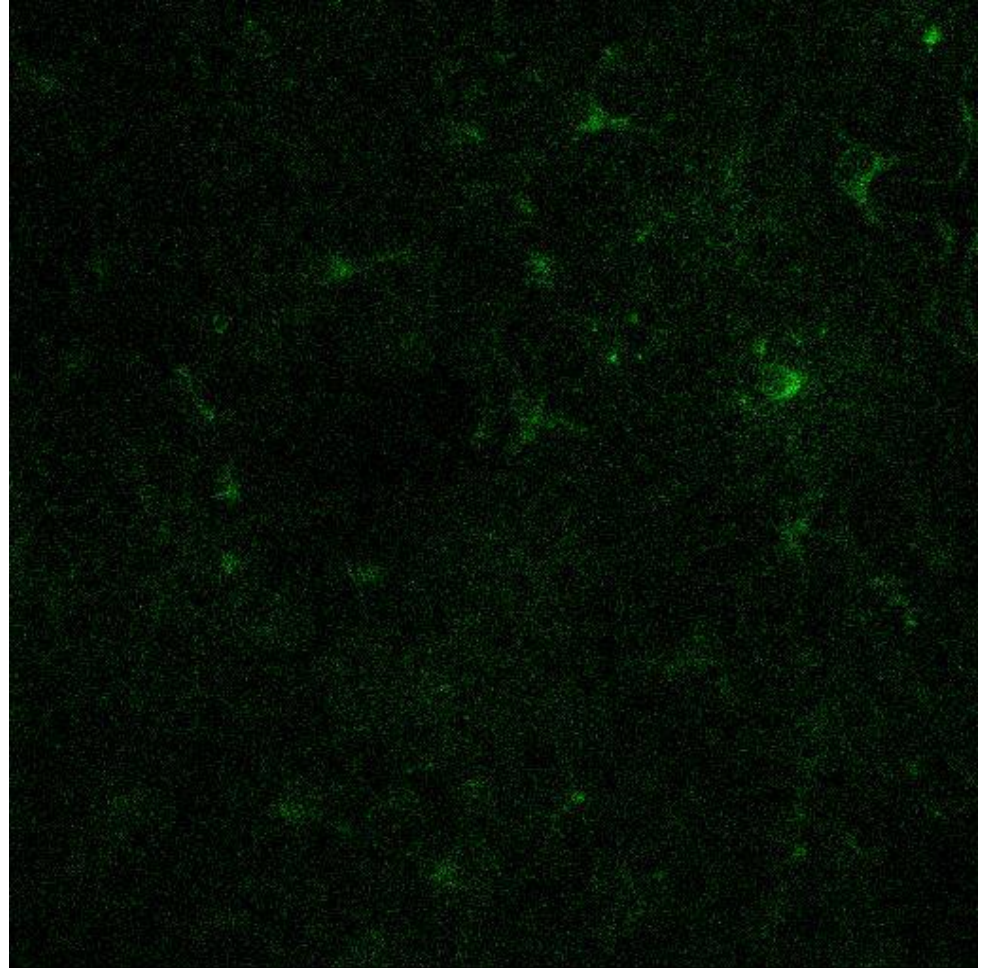
Modified from Jia et al., 2010

# Astrocytes show calcium dynamics in vivo

AAV1.CAG.flexGCaMP6f.WPRE.SV40

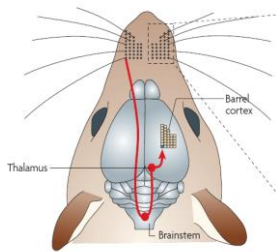


GLAST-CreER  
mouse line



# From functional imaging to 2P-circuit manipulation

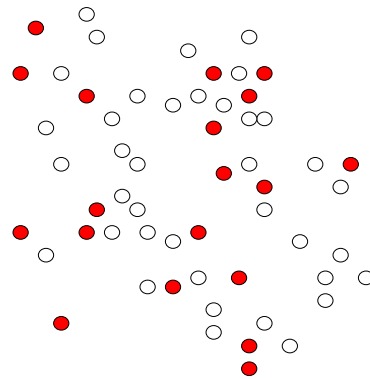
- ✓ In vivo two-photon functional imaging allows to study the complex spatial and temporal structure of neuronal activation that is fundamental for information processing within neuronal networks



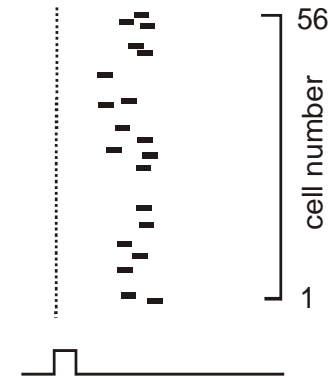
Diamond et al *Nat Rev Neurosc* 2008



## SPATIAL



## TEMPORAL



Modified from Grewe et al *Nat Methods* 2010

To causally test the role of specific circuitry we need a method that allows us to artificially manipulate cellular activity

**Optogenetics!!!!**

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

***Francis Crick, 1979***

“The major challenge facing neuroscience is the need to control one type of cell in the brain while leaving others unaltered [...] **light** might have these properties” *in Scientific American, 1979*

**2005 Optogenetics: combination of genetic and optical methods to cause or inhibit well defined events in specific cells or living tissue and behaving animals**

*Deisseroth, 2015*

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

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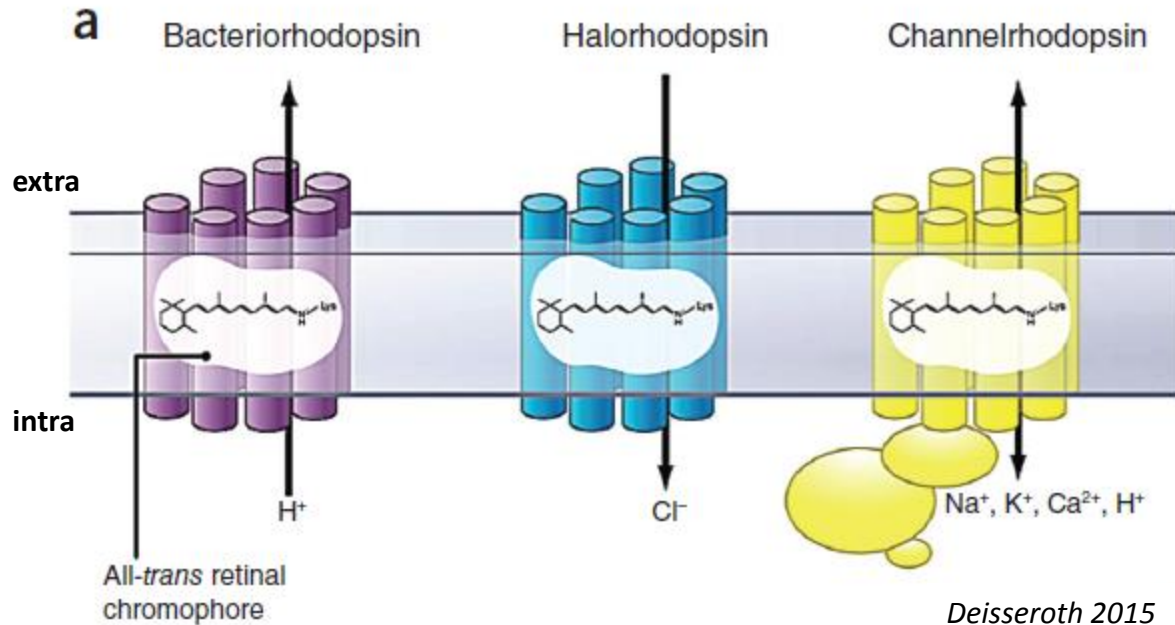
## Optogenetics needs:

- 1) *Microbial opsins*: proteins that directly elicits electrical current across cellular membranes in response to light
- 2) *Methods for targeting* sufficiently strong and specific opsin gene expression to well-defined cellular elements in the brain
- 3) *Methods for guiding* sufficiently strong and precisely timed *light* to specific brain regions, cells or parts of cells

**3 technologically distinct branches that are still evolving independently and that must be combined for optogenetics experiments**

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

*Microbial opsins (type I): transduce photons into electrical current*



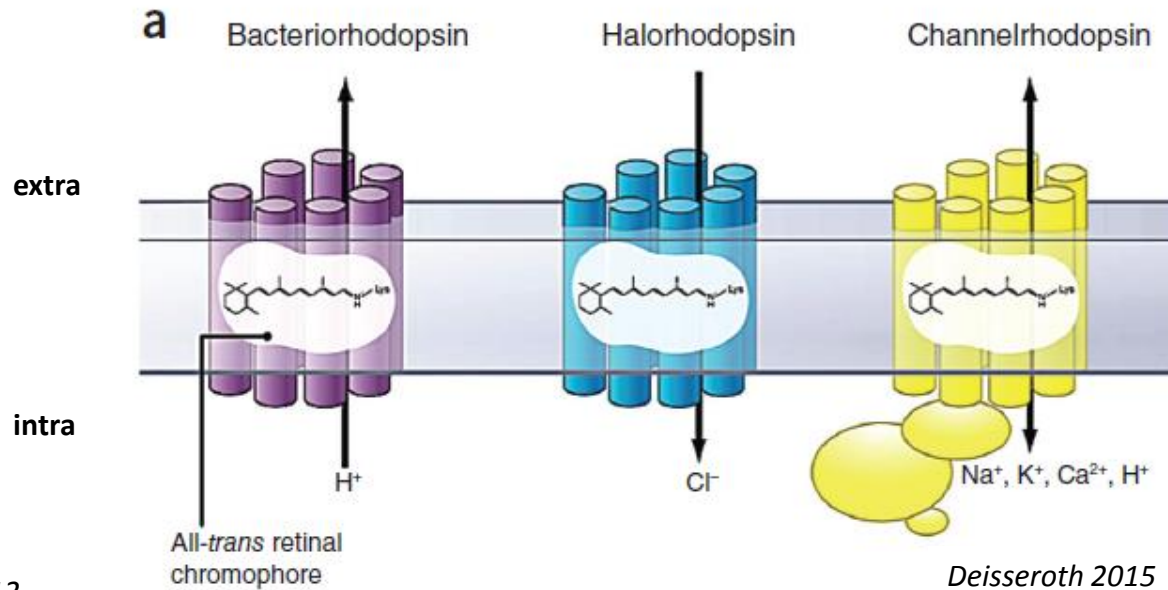
Each opsin protein requires the incorporation of a *retinal* to enable light sensitivity  
opsin + retinal : rhodopsin

light

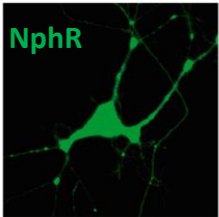
All-trans → 13-cis configuration: translocation of proton/cl-/cations

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

*Microbial opsins (type I): transduce photons into electrical current*



*Chow et al. 2012*



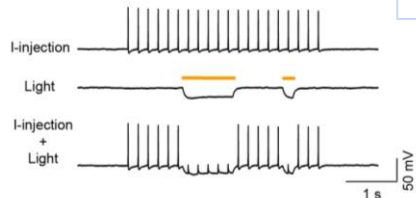
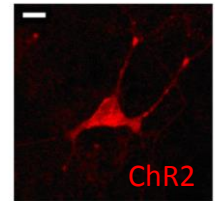
**Hyperpolarizing current**

**Arch, eArch,  
eArch3.0, ArchT**

**NphR,  
NphR3.0**

**Depolarizing current**

**ChR2, ChETA, C1V1**





# A simple introduction to optogenetics

*Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, maintenance of membrane potential etc.*

## Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?

1) *Biophysical properties* that influences the performance of opsins at the single-molecule level:

- **Efficiency of light absorption** (cross-section) defined in term of *extinction coefficient* ( $\epsilon_{\max}$  : how strongly a substance absorbs light at a given wavelength) and *quantum efficiency* ( $\Phi$ : the fraction of absorbed photons that are efficacious in driving the relevant conformational change)

- **Kinetics** defined in term of turnover time of the photocycle.  
For inhibitory pumps 10-20 ms but it depends on membrane voltage  
For ChR2 current is coupled to occupancy of the conducting state that depends on many factors

**Conductance and photocurrent**

*See Yiazar et al, 2011*

Mutation at different residues change the biophysical properties of opsins

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

*Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, maintenance of membrane potential etc.*

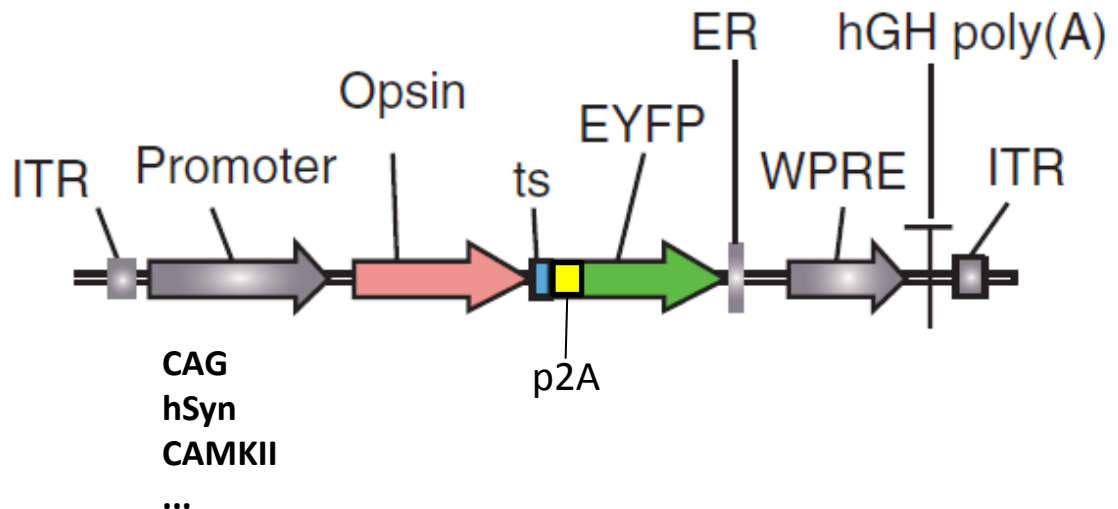
## Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?

2) *Cell biological properties* (effective transcription, translation, folding, membrane trafficking, targeting) and *opsin construct characteristics*

*Methods for targeting* sufficiently strong and specific opsin gene expression to well-defined cellular elements in the brain

### Vector:

AAV: different serotypes  
Lentivirus  
Transgenic mouse lines

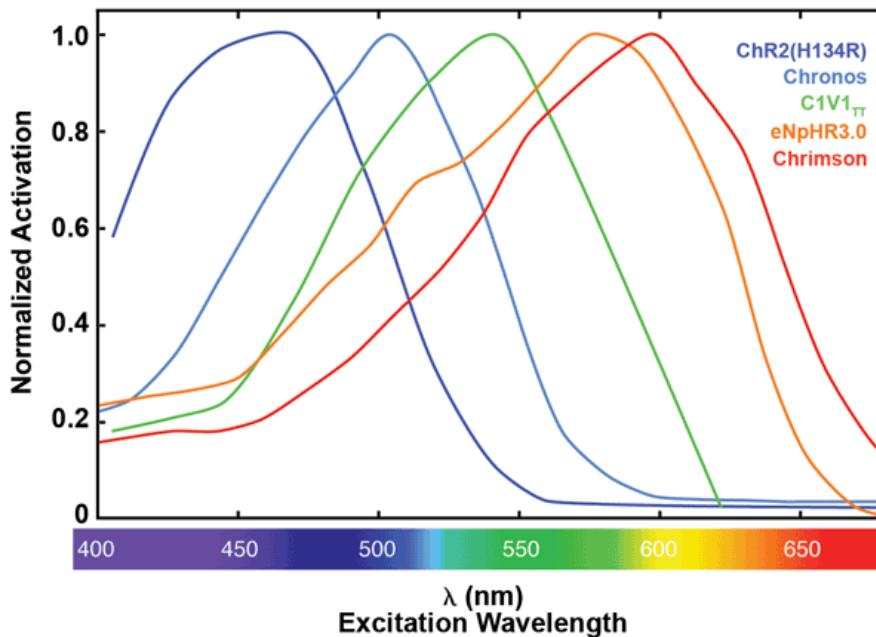


# A simple introduction to optogenetics

*Microbial opsins (type I): are known since decades because their role in energy generation, flagellar beating and rotation, phototaxis, maintenance of membrane potential etc.*

**Why it took so long to apply these molecules in neuroscience?**

3) *Methods for guiding* sufficiently strong and precisely timed *light* to specific brain regions, cells or parts of cells



**To consider for light delivery:**

- Wavelength  
(most common 473, 532, 561, 594, 638 nm)
- sufficient, adjustable and stable output power  
(1 to 10 mW/mm<sup>2</sup> is need at the target)
- No photodamage
- rise/fall times and modulation of the light pulse

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

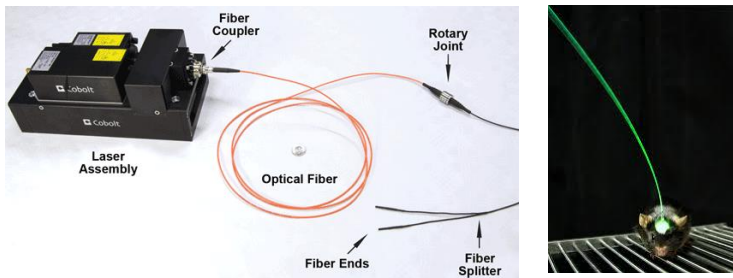
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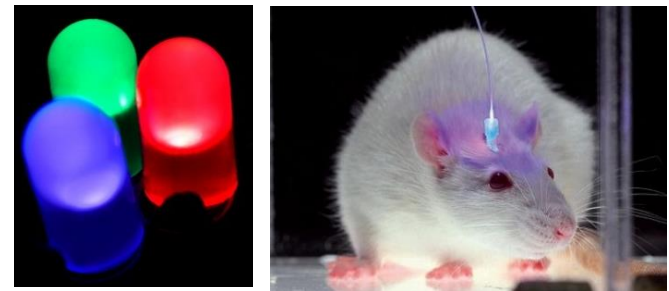
## 1P light delivery

*Fiber from laser source*



Expensive but stable, higher power, spatially precise, can collect emitted fluorescence

*LEDs*



Cheap but warm up the tissue, often not enough power is delivered, less precise in space, no back collection

# A simple introduction to optogenetics

## *In vivo application of 1P optogenetics*

Too many application to be listed:  
See Deisseroth, 2015

### **Optogenetics: 10 years of microbial opsins in neuroscience**

Karl Deisseroth

Stimulation of the right anterior motor cortex in a Thy1::ChR2-EYFP transgenic mouse with 20-Hz blue light flashes elicits contralateral circling.

[torinodic15\mn.4091-sv1.mov](#)

### **Cortex commands the performance of skilled movement**

Jian-Zhong Guo, Adam W Hantman  
Elife 2015

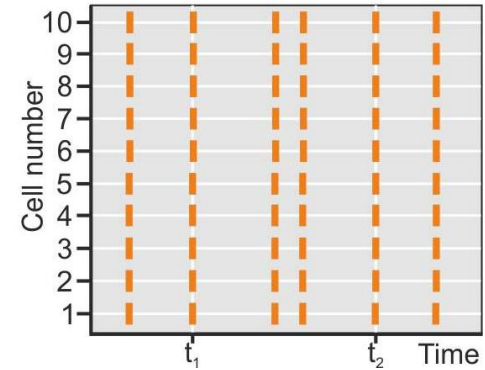
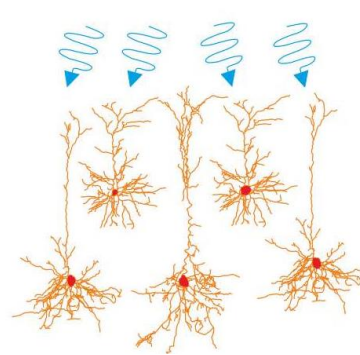
What is the role of cortex in skilled voluntary movements?  
Testes by optogenetics inhibiting cortical activity trough the expression of ChR2 in all inhibitory interneurons

[torinodic15\elife\\_poa\\_e10774\\_Video\\_1.mov](#)

[torinodic15\elife\\_poa\\_e10774\\_Video\\_9.mov](#)

# In vivo 2P-optogenetics

Wide – field 1P optogenetic manipulation



**In vivo 2P-optogenetics can be used to selectively activate specific cells with high temporal and spatial resolution**

# In vivo 2P-optogenetics

*Why is it difficult to perform 2P optogenetics in vivo?*

## 1-Op sin biophysical properties :

**ChR2** (920 nm)    **C1V1** (1040 nm)

*2P cross-section*            ++                            ++

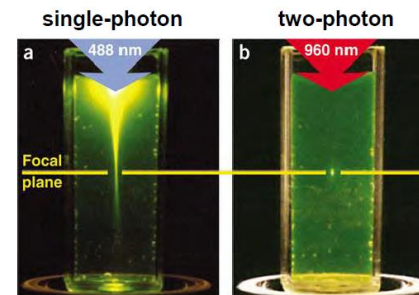
*Conductance*                    +                                    ++

Many ops ins (thus a large portion of the cell)  
must be activated near simultaneously to induce a cell to fire

*Kinetics*                                    +                                    ++

Longer deactivation time is better

The 2P cross section of many ops ins has been evaluated and many new ops ins have been developed to make them more suitable for near infrared  $\lambda$  excitation



2P allows to be very precise in the stimulation volume, however this restricts the number of molecules that we are activating

*Zipfel et al. 2003*

## 2- Op sin molecular properties

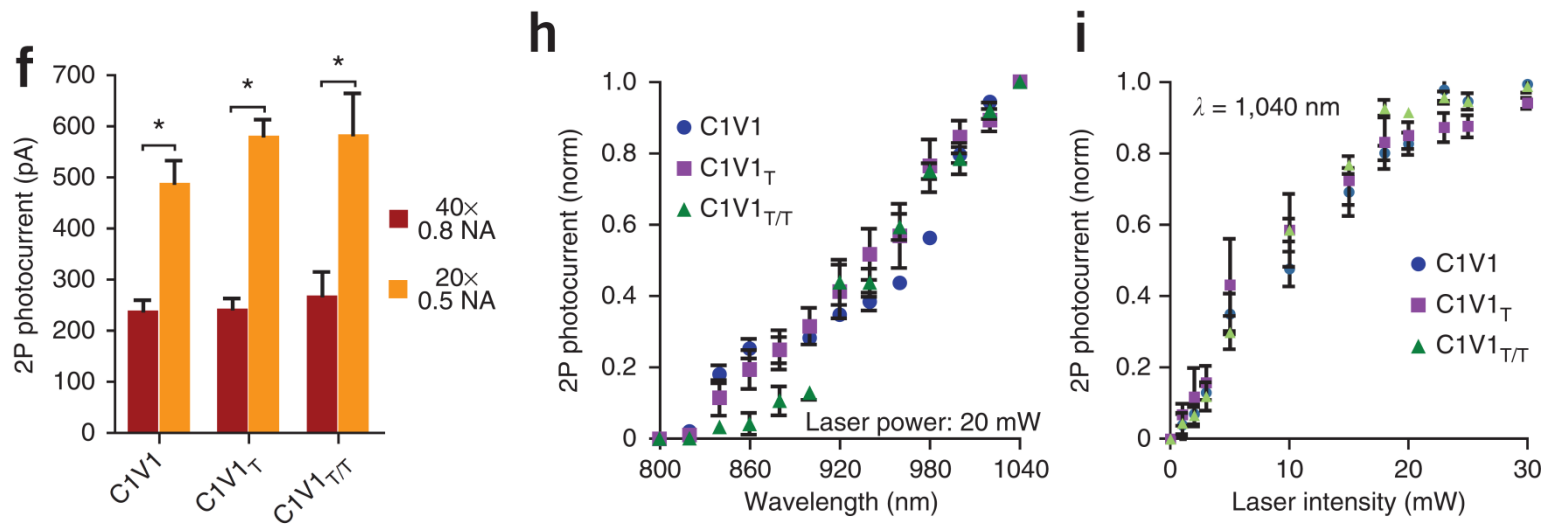
expression level, membrane trafficking...

## 3- Optical tool and light delivery:

Selectively activate a group of cells with high spatial precision (and, eventually, simultaneously record the activity of the same/other cells)

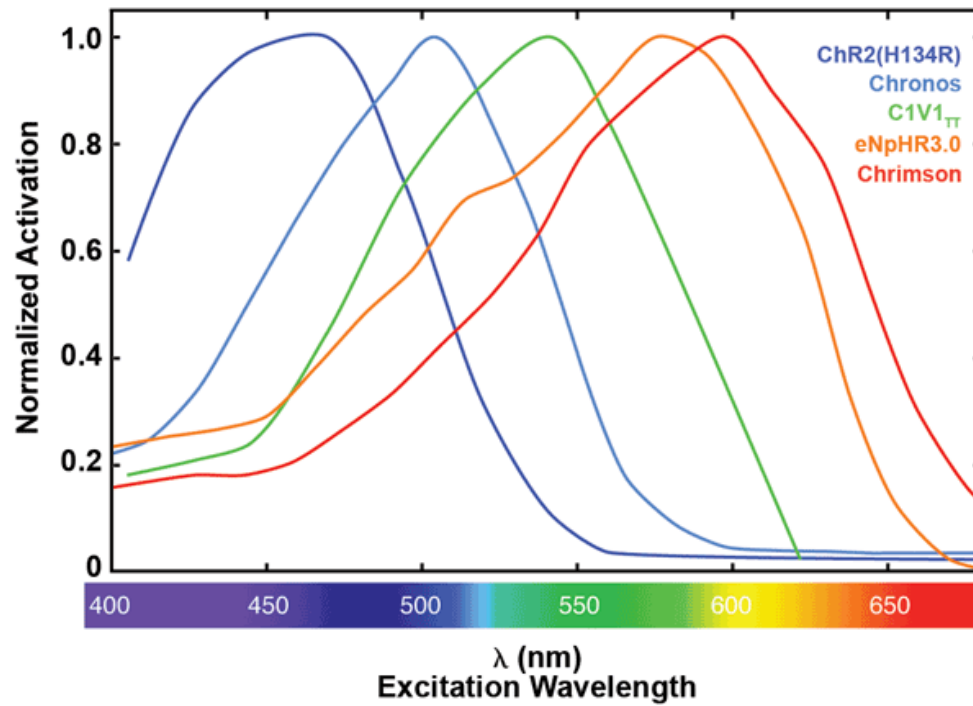
## Two-photon optogenetic toolbox for fast inhibition, excitation and bistable modulation

Rohit Prakash<sup>1</sup>, Ofer Yizhar<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Grewe<sup>2,3</sup>, Charu Ramakrishnan<sup>1</sup>, Nancy Wang<sup>1</sup>, Inbal Goshen<sup>1</sup>, Adam M Packer<sup>4</sup>, Darcy S Peterka<sup>4</sup>, Rafael Yuste<sup>4</sup>, Mark J Schnitzer<sup>2,3,5,6</sup> & Karl Deisseroth<sup>1,5-7</sup>





# In vivo 2P-optogenetics



# Two-photon optogenetic manipulation



## Two-photon excitation of channelrhodopsin-2 at saturation

John Peter Rickgauer<sup>a,b,c</sup> and David W. Tank<sup>a,b,c,d,1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; <sup>b</sup>The Lewis-Sigler Institute for Integrative Genomics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; <sup>c</sup>Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Carl Icahn Laboratory, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544; and <sup>d</sup>Department of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544

2P optogenetics

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

nature  
neuroscience

Simultaneous cellular-resolution optical per and imaging of place cell firing fields

John Peter Rickgauer<sup>1-4</sup>, Karl Deisseroth<sup>5-8</sup> & David W Tank<sup>1-4</sup>

BRAIN MICROCIRCUITS

## Imprinting and recalling cortical ensembles

Luis Carrillo-Reid,\* Weijian Yang, Yuki Bando, Darcy S. Peterka, Rafael Yuste

In vivo 2P optogenetics and 2P imaging

## Simultaneous all-optical neural circuit activity with cellular resolution *in vivo*

Adam M Packer<sup>1,2</sup>, Lloyd E Russell<sup>1,2</sup>, Henry W P Dalglish<sup>1,2</sup> & Michael Häusser<sup>1,2</sup>

# Two-photon optogenetic manipulation

BRAIN MICROCIRCUITS

## Imprinting and recalling cortical ensembles

2016

Luis Carrillo-Reid,\* Weijian Yang, Yuki Bando, Darcy S. Peterka, Rafael Yuste

**C1V1**

Activate  
this neuron  
at 1050 nm

Focusing optics

**GCaMP6**

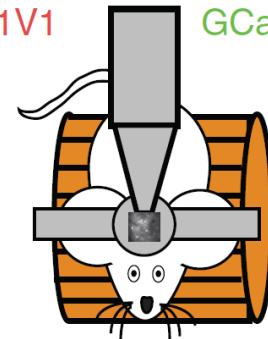
Detect signal  
in this neuron  
at 940 nm



**A** *in vivo* two-photon

photostim  
1,064 nm  
C1V1

imaging  
940 nm  
GCaMP6s



head fixed  
free movement

# Two-photon optogenetic manipulation

BRAIN MICROCIRCUITS

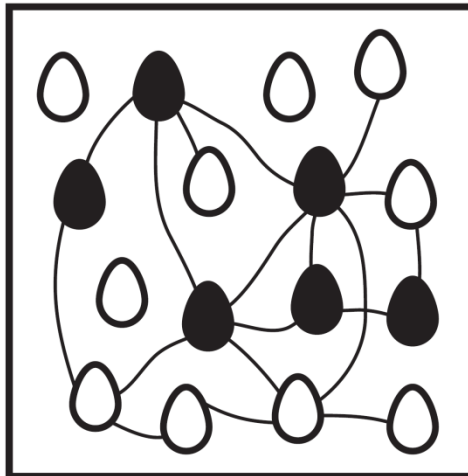
## Imprinting and recalling cortical ensembles

Luis Carrillo-Reid,\* Weijian Yang, Yuki Bando, Darcy S. Peterka, Rafael Yuste

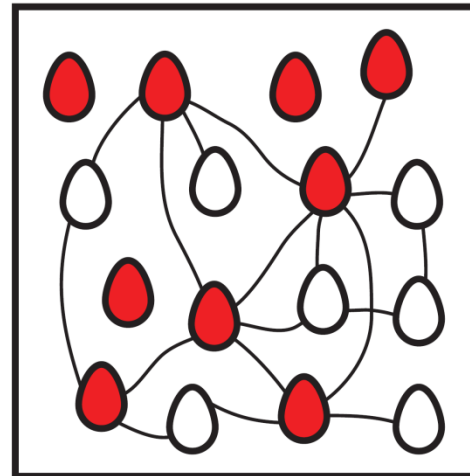
More than 60 years ago, Hebb proposed that repeated coactivation of a group of neurons might create a memory trace through enhancement of synaptic connections (12). Because of technical limitations, this hypothesis has been difficult to test with single-cell resolution in awake animals. By combining novel imaging and photostimulation techniques (14, 15) and analytical tools (19), our work can be interpreted as a confirmation of the Hebbian postulate and as a demonstration that cortical microcircuits can perform pattern completion.

F

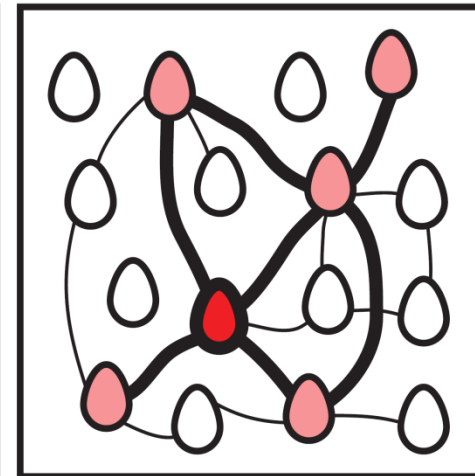
natural  
ensemble



photostim  
training



imprinted  
ensemble

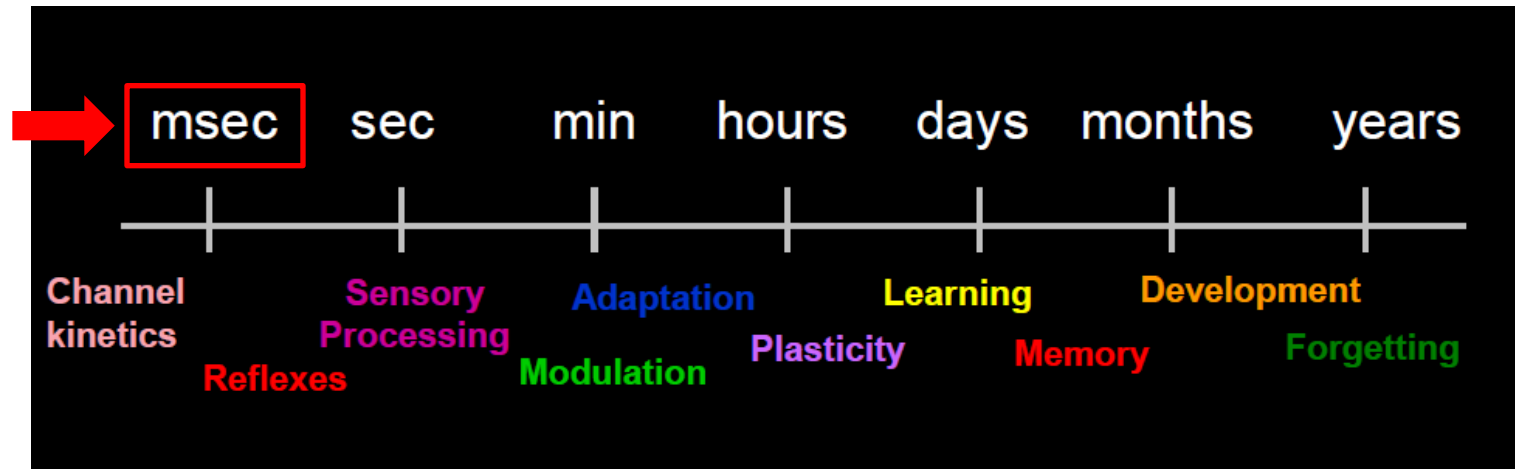
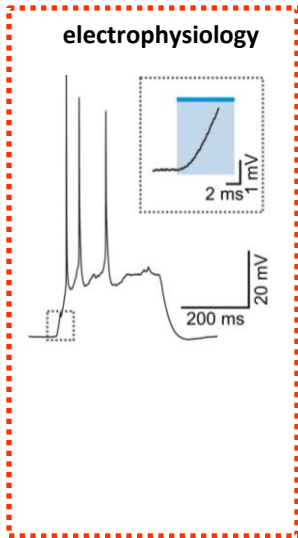


# References

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- Helmchen and Denk. 2005. Deep tissue two-photon microscopy
- Ustione and Pston 2011. A simple introduction to multiphoton microscopy
- Bovetti et al., 2014. Mapping brain circuit function in vivo using two-photon fluorescence imaging
- Zhang et al., 2011. The microbial opsin family of optogenetic tools
- Deisseroth 2015. Optogenetics: 10 years of microbial opsins in neuroscience
- Yizhar et al., 2011. Microbial opsins. A family of single-component tools for optical control of neural activity
- Guo et al., 2015 Cortex commands the performance of skilled movement
- Bovetti and Fellin 2015. Optical dissection of brain circuits with patterned illumination through the phase modulation of light
- Gradinaru et al., 2010. Molecular and Cellular Approaches for Diversifying and Extending Optogenetics

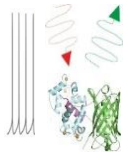
# Temporal scale of neuronal network dynamics



# Spatial and temporal complexity of neuronal network dynamics

## *Laser scanning two-photon microscopy*

- imaging large field of view
- attaining high spatial resolution
- discriminating between different cell types

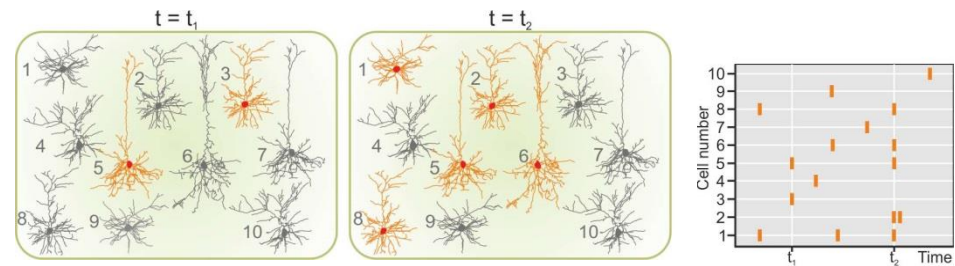


Genetically-encoded calcium indicators

- **Limited temporal resolution**

*Laser scanning imaging of GCaMP6-expressing layer 2/3 neurons in the somatosensory cortex in vivo*

## *Sensory information is encoded in spatiotemporal patterns of neuronal activation*

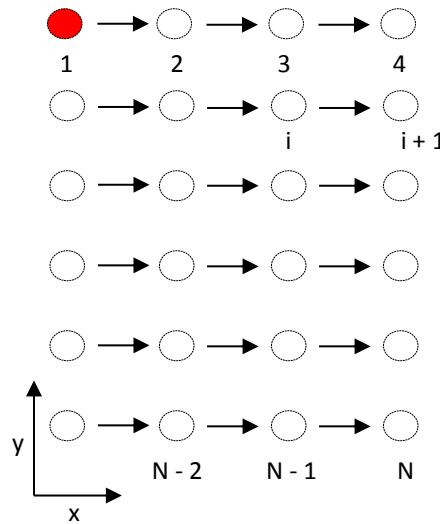
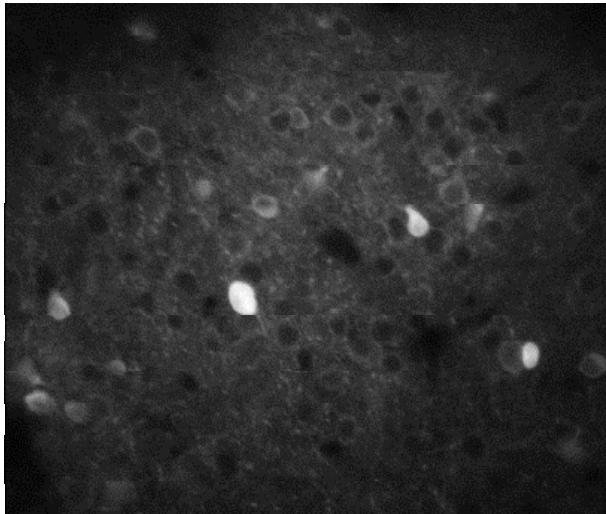


*Which code does the mammalian brain use to drive perception?*

Mapping and manipulating the activity of neuronal networks in space and time *in vivo* is crucial for understanding the role of spatiotemporal codes in brain functions

# How to improve to improve the acquisition speed

## Raster scanning



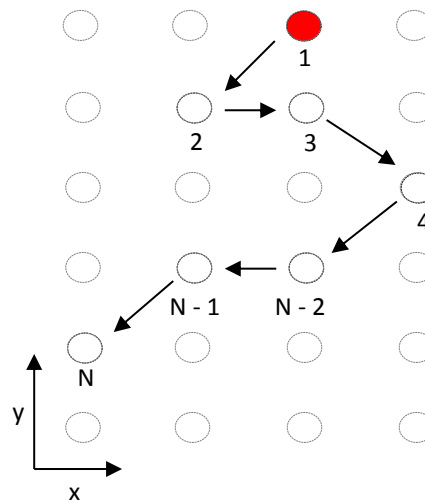
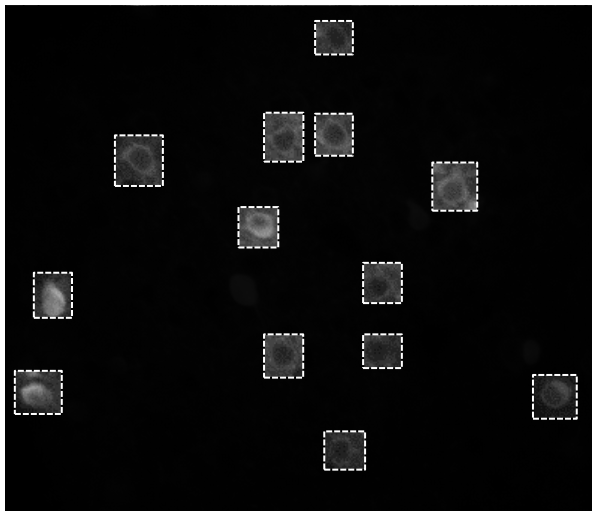
$$\text{Max acquisition frequency} = \frac{1}{(t_d * N + t_m * (N-1))}$$

$t_d$ : dwell time

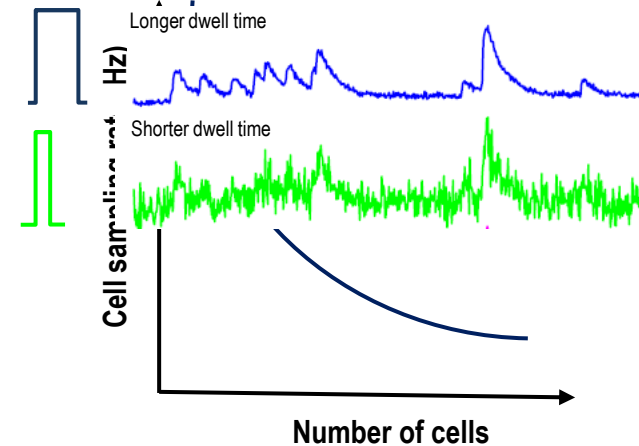
$t_m$ : time to move from point  $i$  to  $i+1$

$N$ : total number of points

## Random access scanning

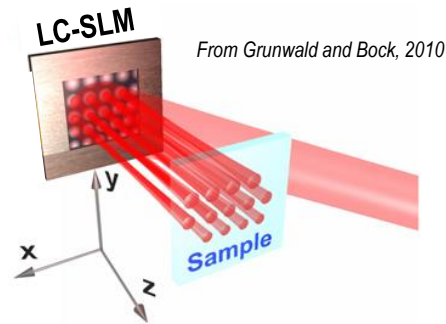


Sequential

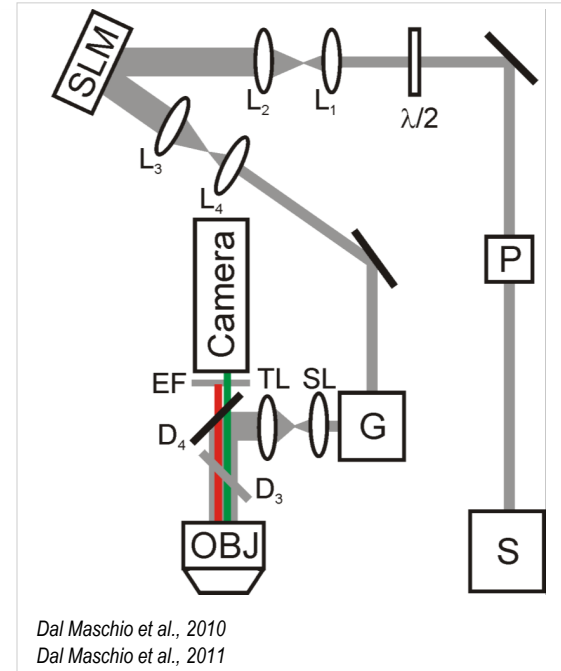
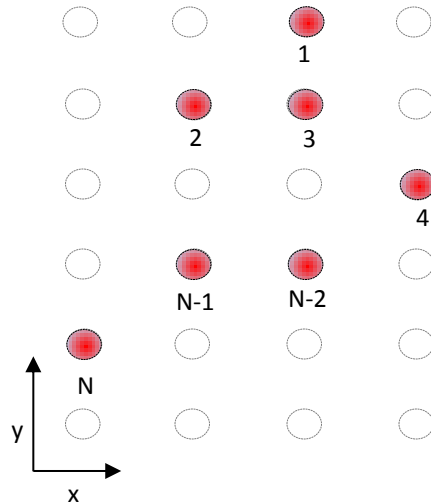
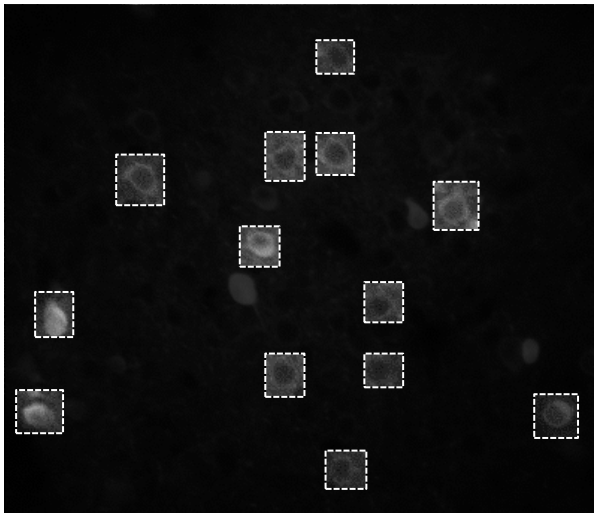




# Development of a structured light microscope for fast imaging *in vivo*



Scanless or parallel illumination

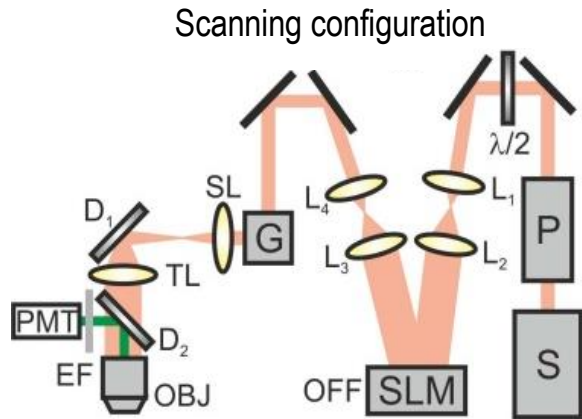


Dwell time = Exposure time

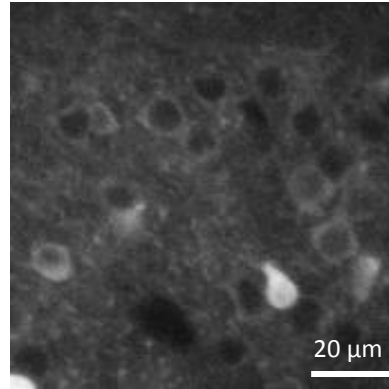
Max. acquisition frequency =  
Camera max. frame rate



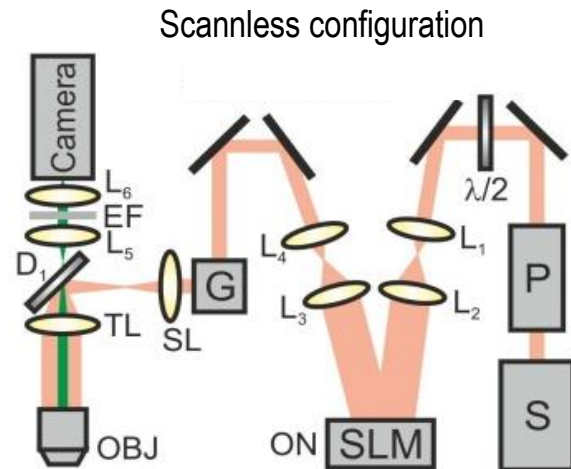
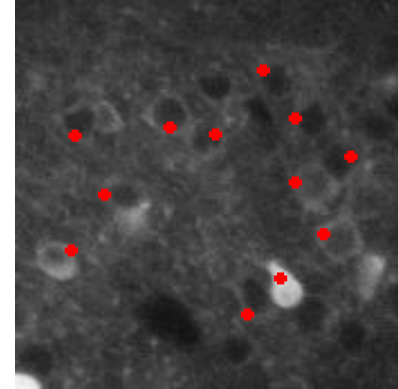
# Scanless imaging of neuronal networks with structured light



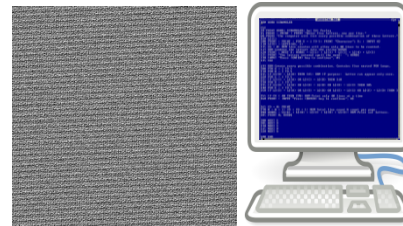
1- Acquire image



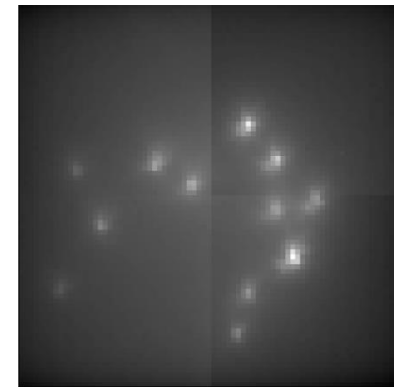
2- Target pattern



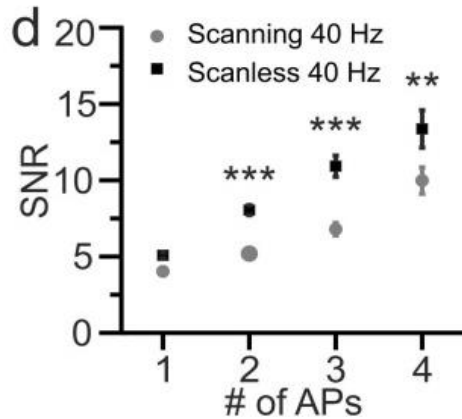
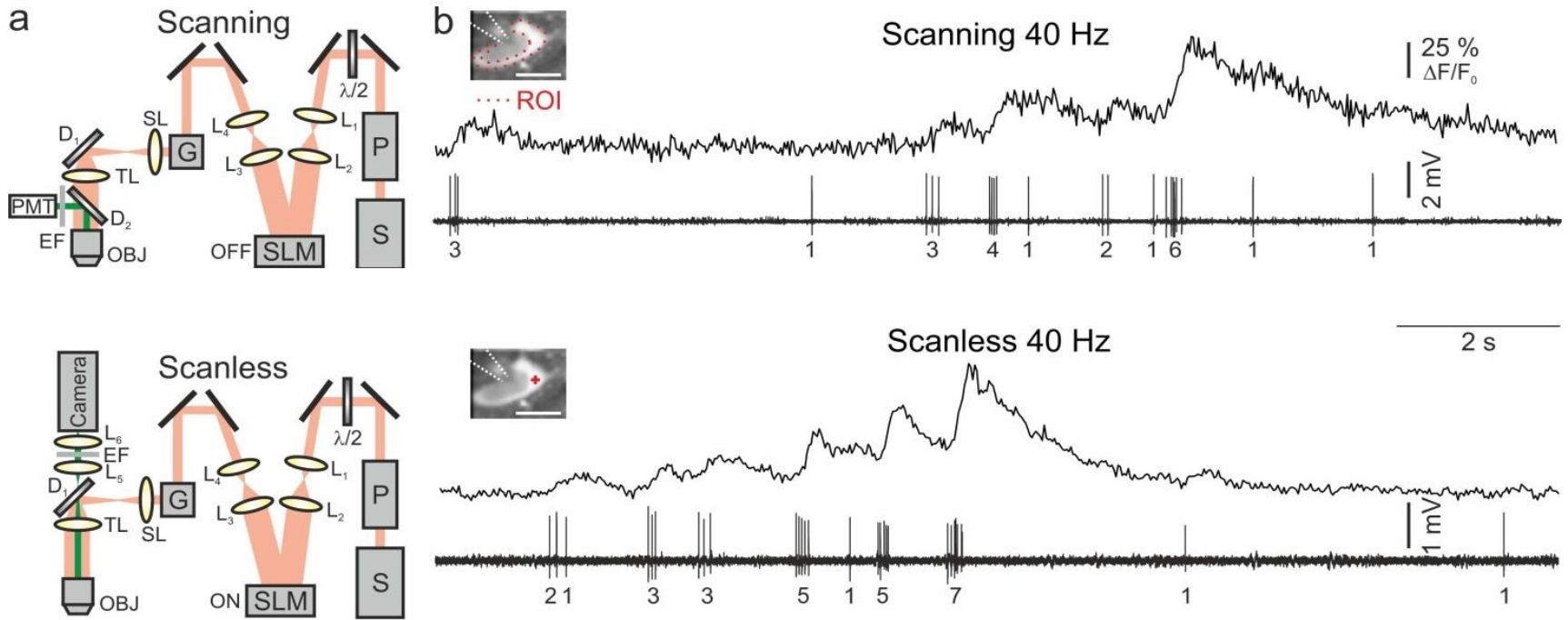
3- Phase mask



4- Illumination



# Higher SNR of GCaMP signals in scanless than scanning imaging

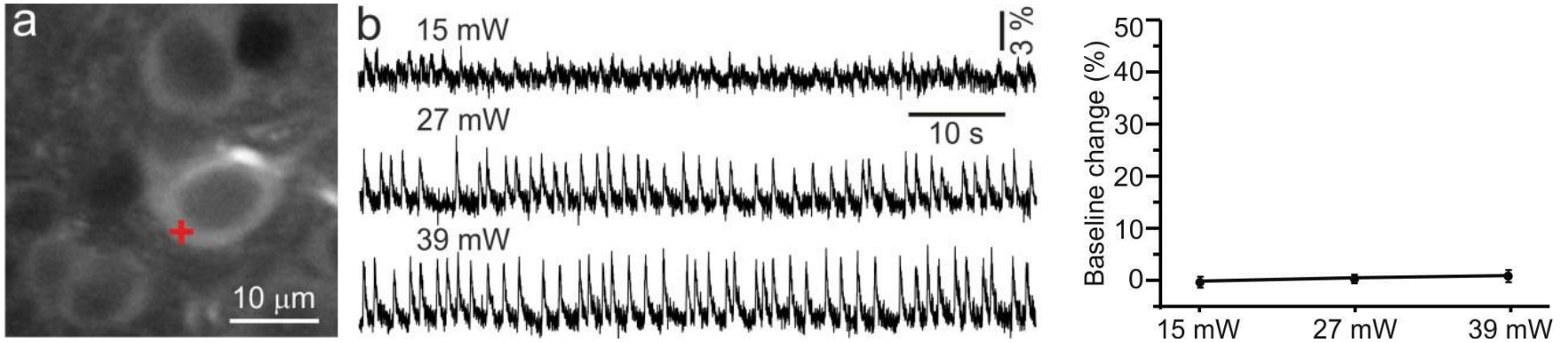


## Validation of the structured light microscope

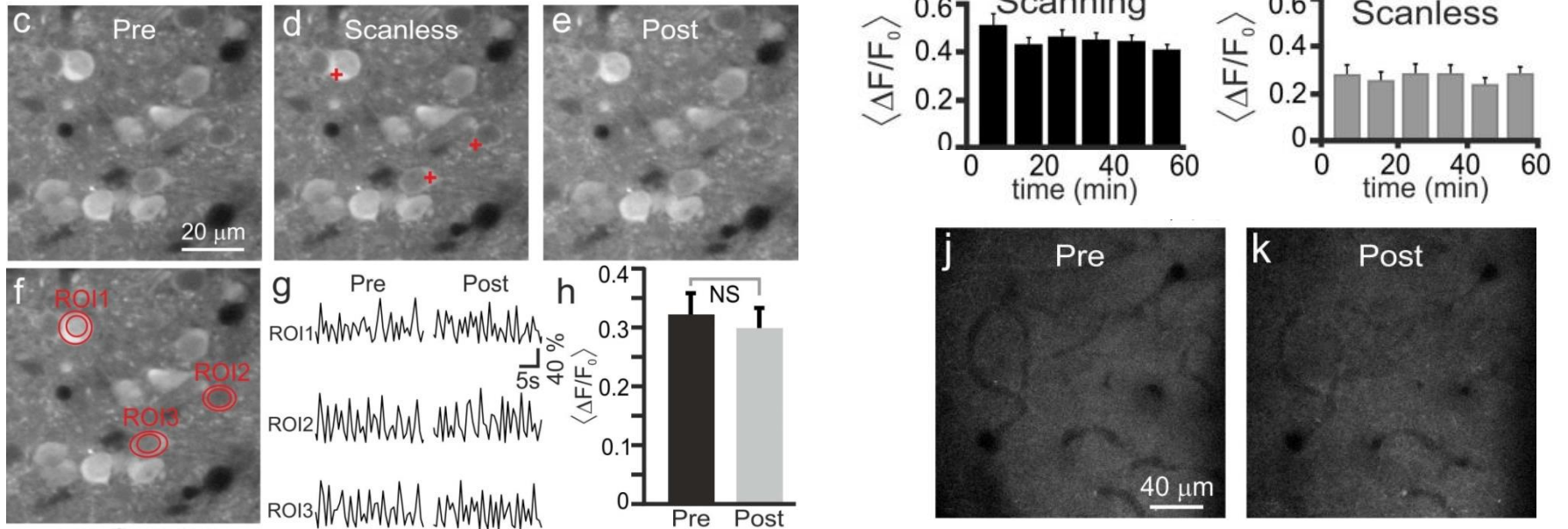
- Photobleaching
- Photodamage
- Spatial resolution
- Temporal resolution

# No significant photobleaching and photodamage in scanless imaging

## Photobleaching

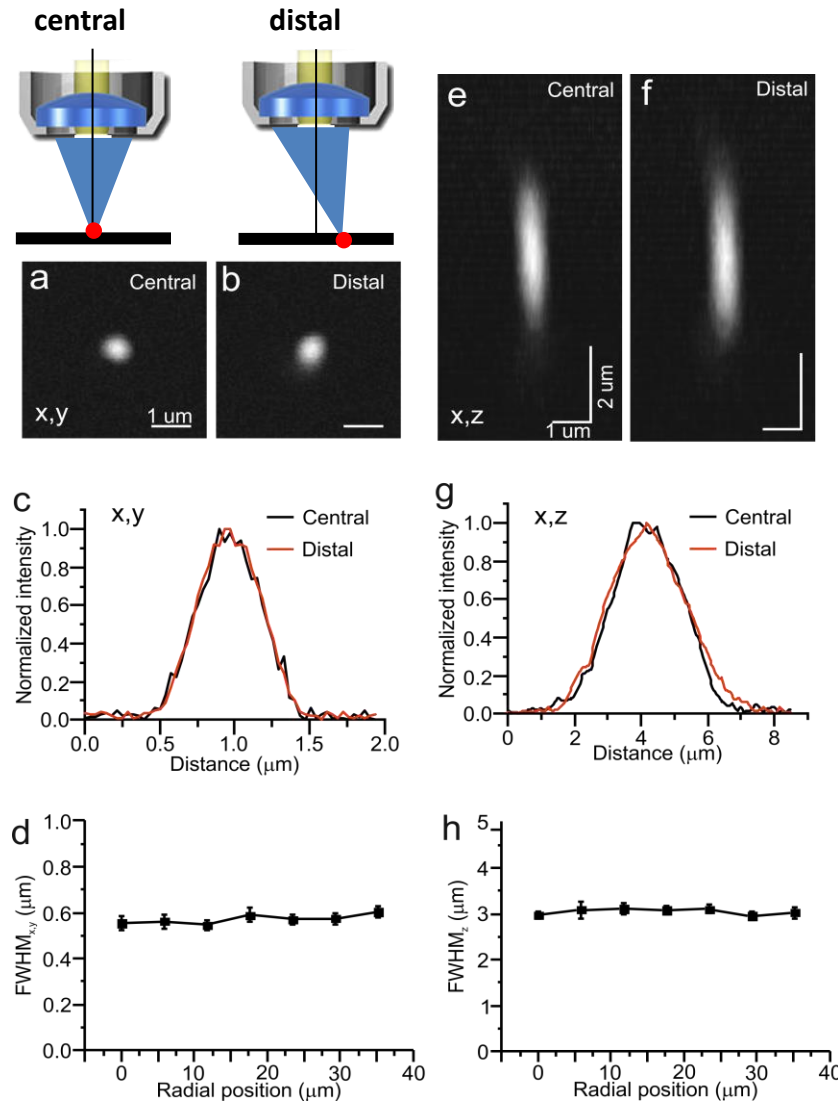


## Photodamage



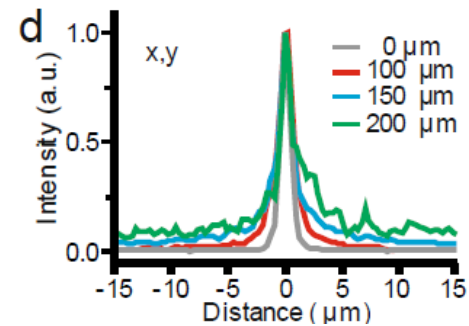
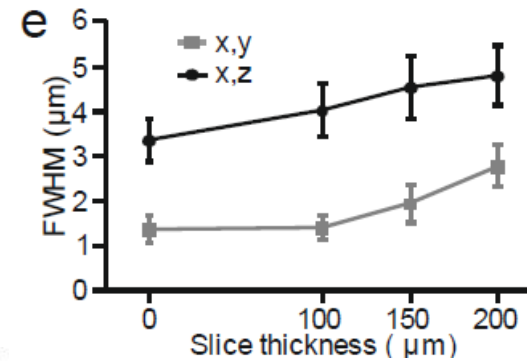
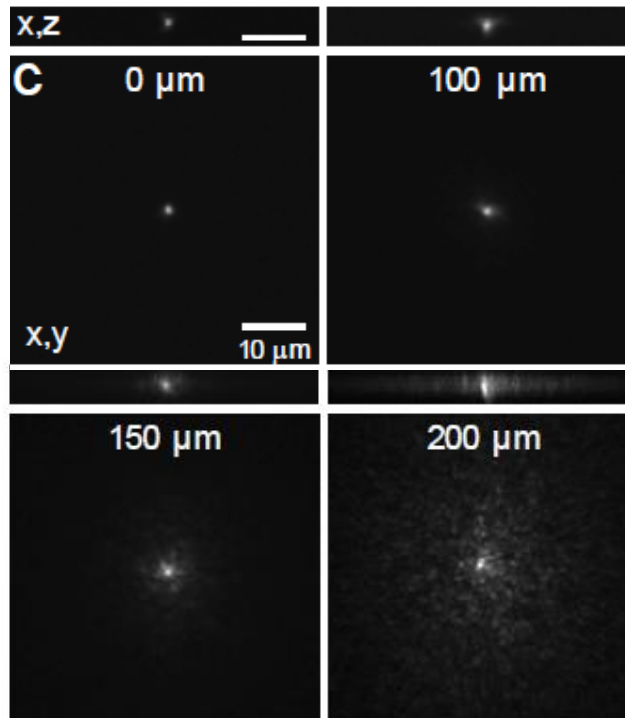
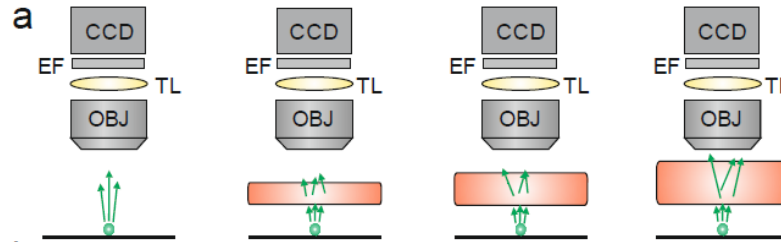
# Spatial resolution

## Excitation Point-spread-function

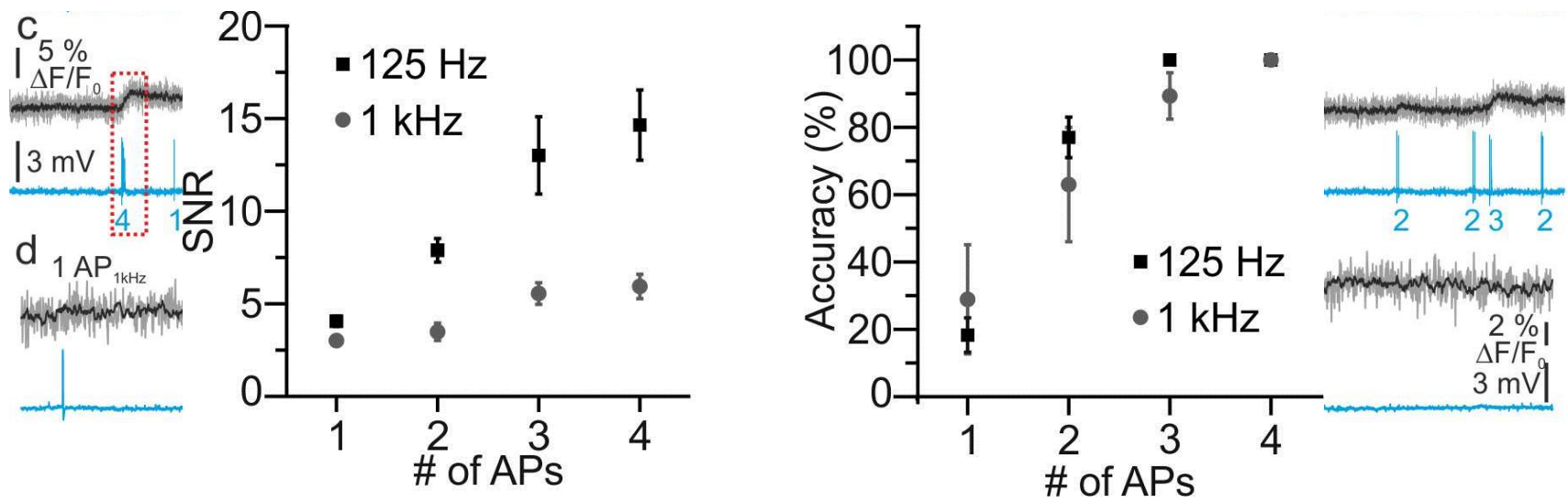
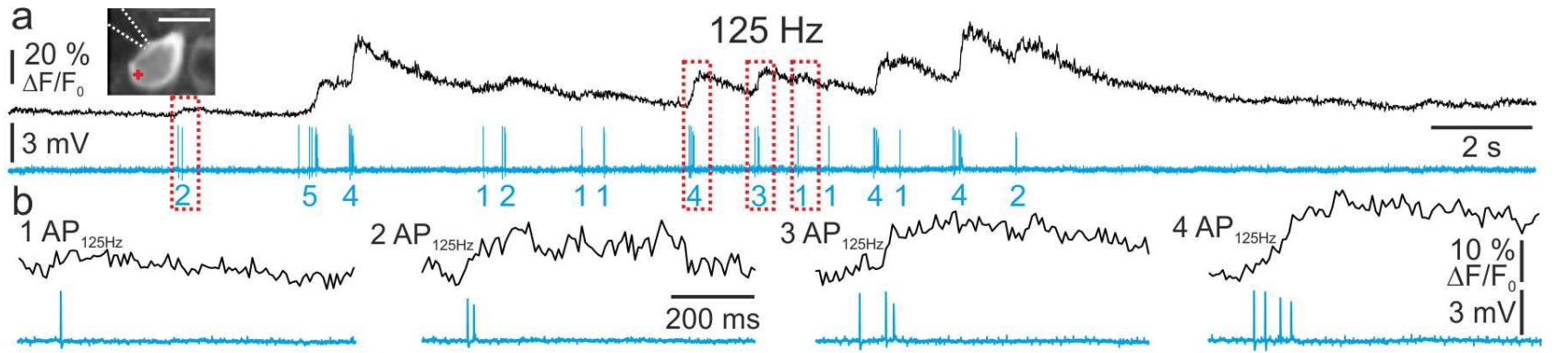


# Spatial resolution

Effect of scattering on detection



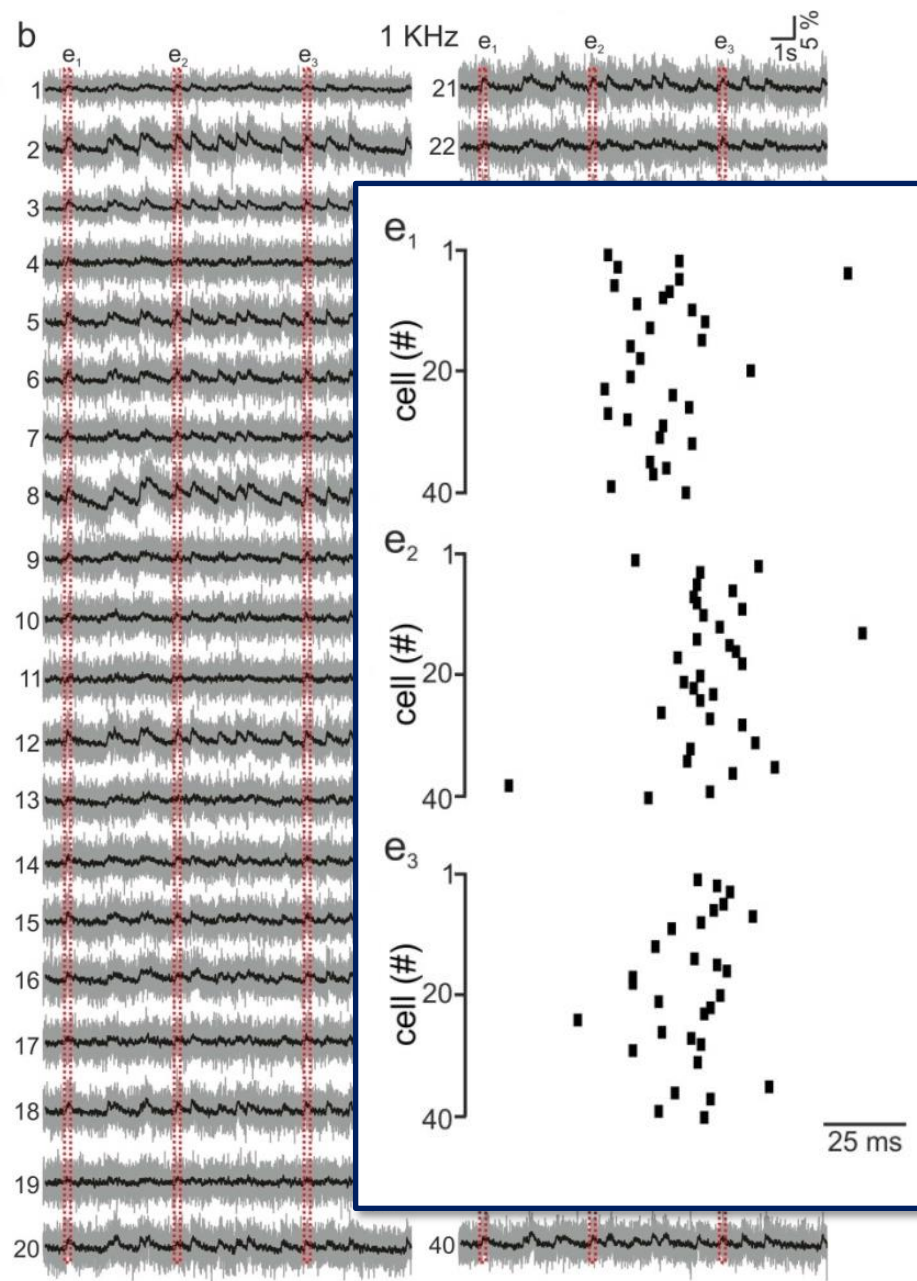
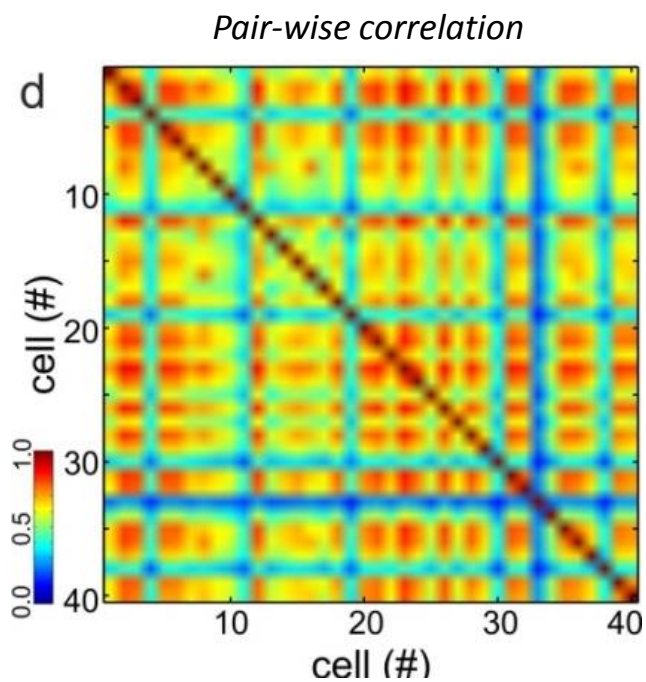
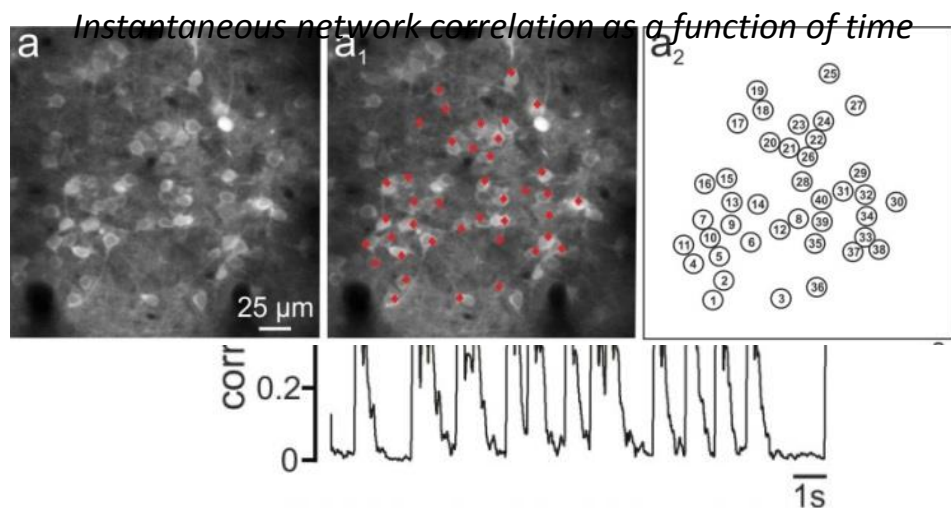
# Temporal resolution and sensitivity



Estimate of first action potential:  $8.4 \pm 5.3$  ms



# Fast functional mapping of synchronous cortical dynamics *in vivo*



# Acknowledgements



ISTITUTO ITALIANO  
DI TECNOLOGIA



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*Angelo Forli*

*Stefano Zucca*

*Dania Vecchia*

*Francesca Succol*

*Angela De Stasi*

*Marco Brondi*

*Noemi Binini*

*Stefano Varani*

*Marco Dal Maschio*

*Pasqualina Farisello*

*Giulia D'Urso*



*Paolo Bonifazi*

*Thanks for your attention*