

# *Anatomical and Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Small Animal Models*

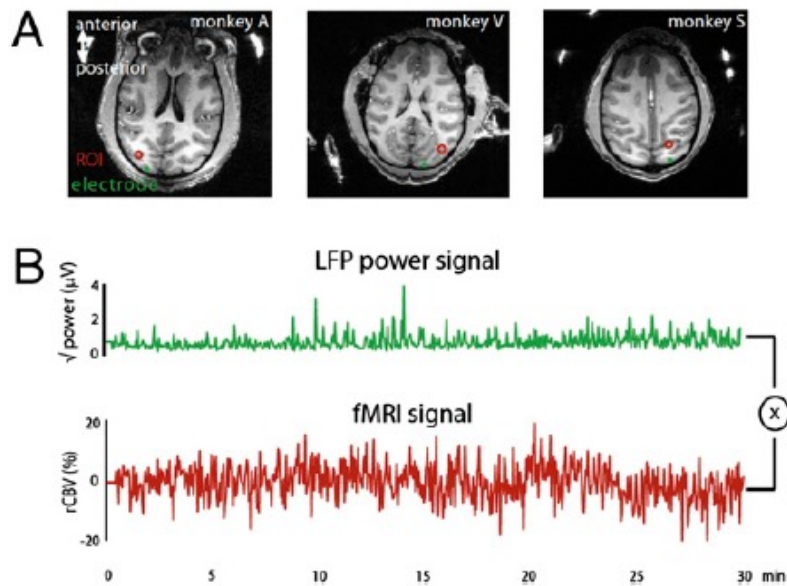
Afonso C. Silva, Ph.D.

Cerebral Microcirculation Section  
Laboratory of Functional and Molecular Imaging  
NINDS - NIH

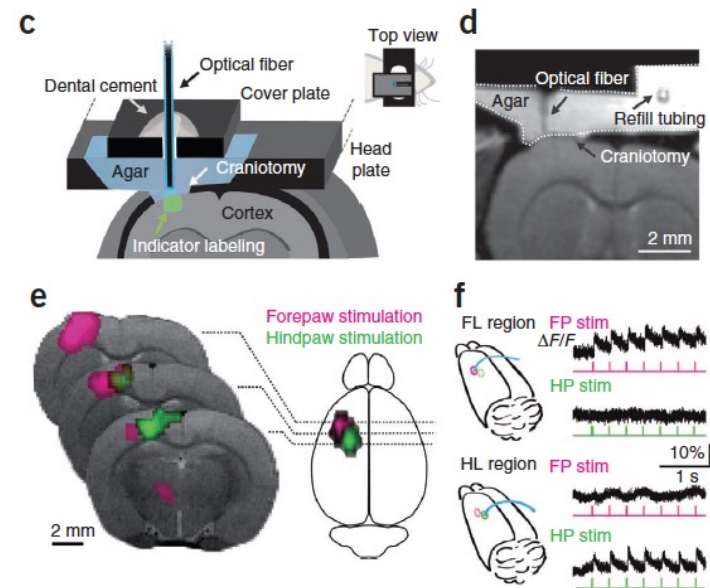


# Advantages of Animal Models

- Comprehensive, multi-modal investigations
  - fMRI + Electrophysiology
  - fMRI + Optical Imaging
  - Pharmacological Manipulations
  - Genetics, etc.

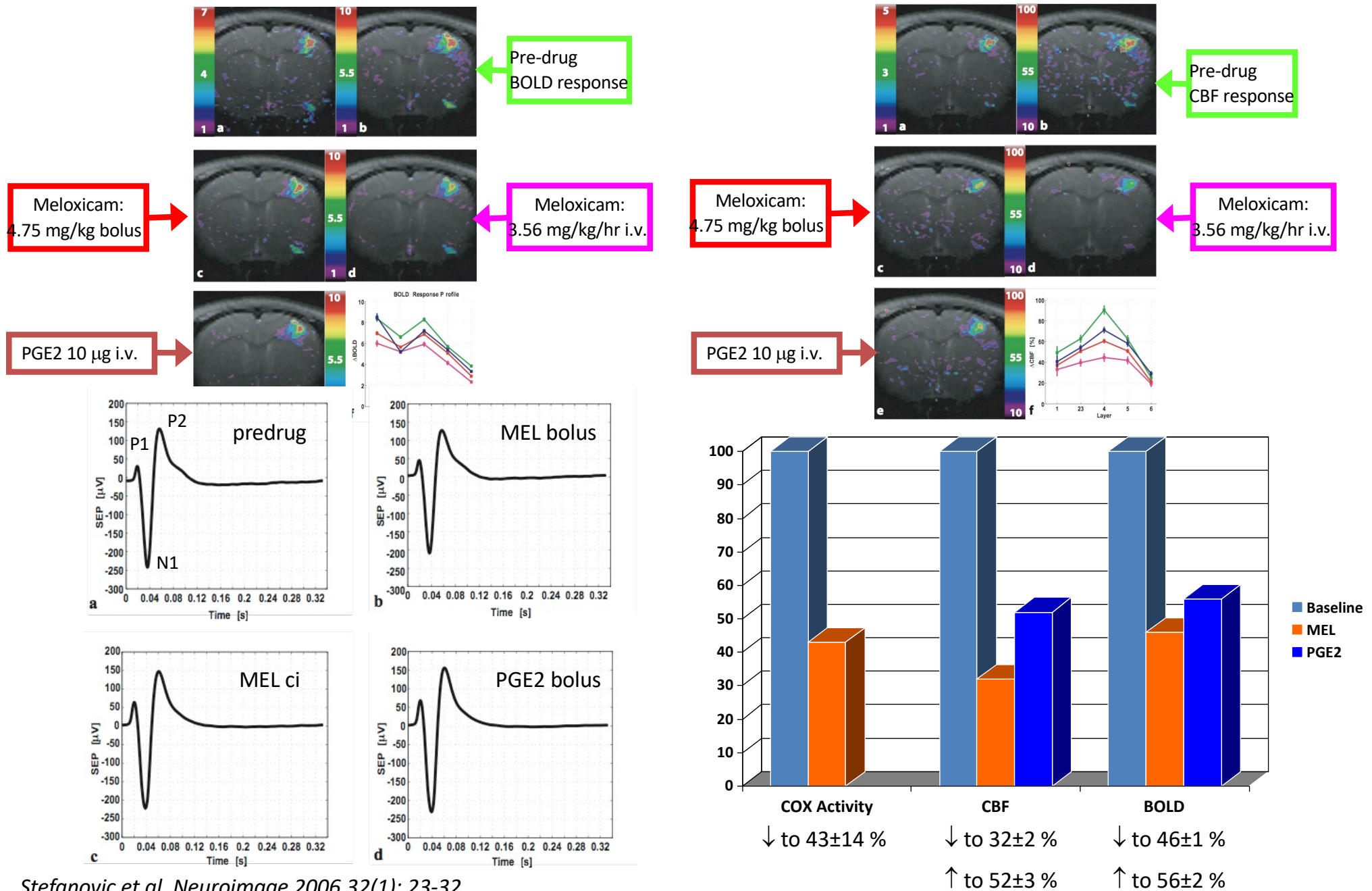


Schölvinck et al. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 2010;107(22):10238-43

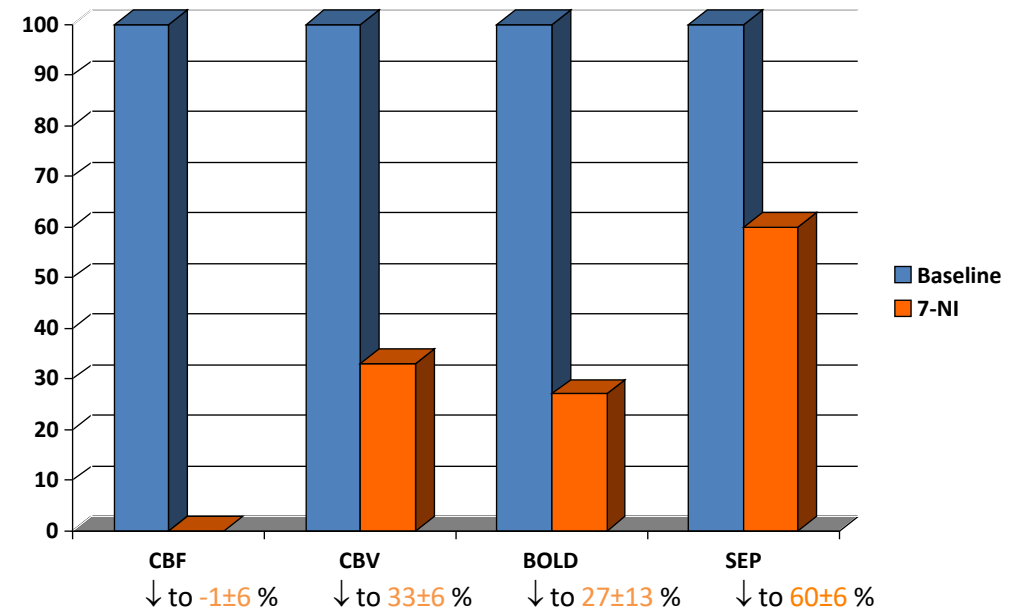
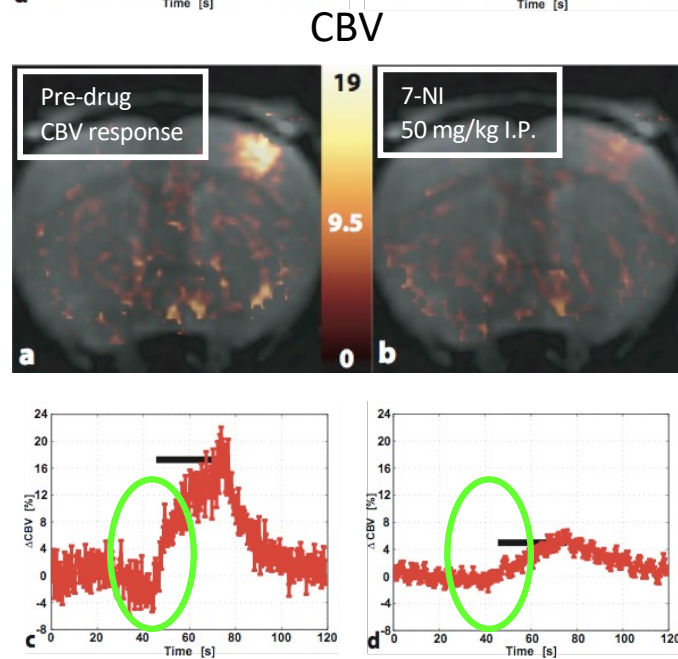
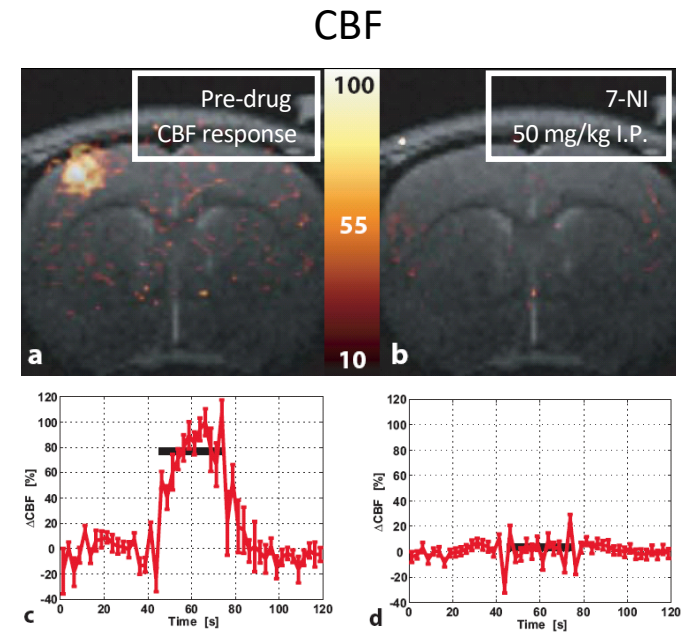
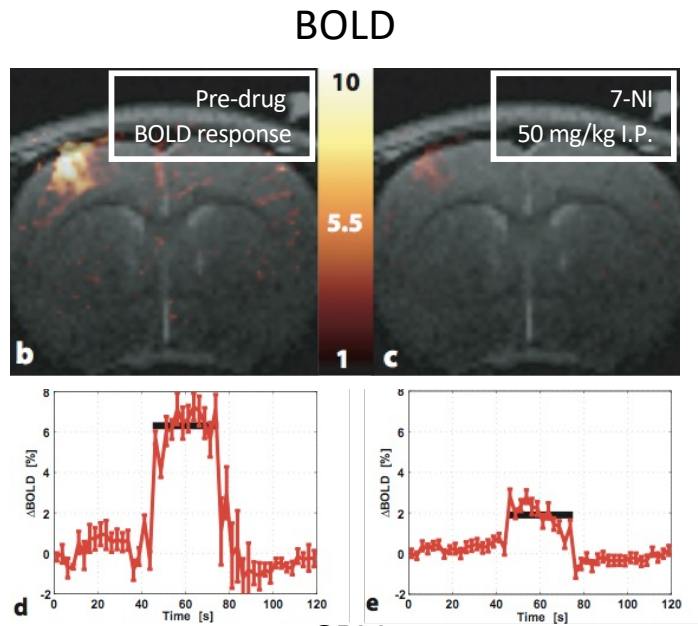


Schultz et al. *Nat Methods*. 2012;9(6):597-602

# Pharmacological Inhibition of COX-2 Uncouples Hemodynamics from Neural Activity

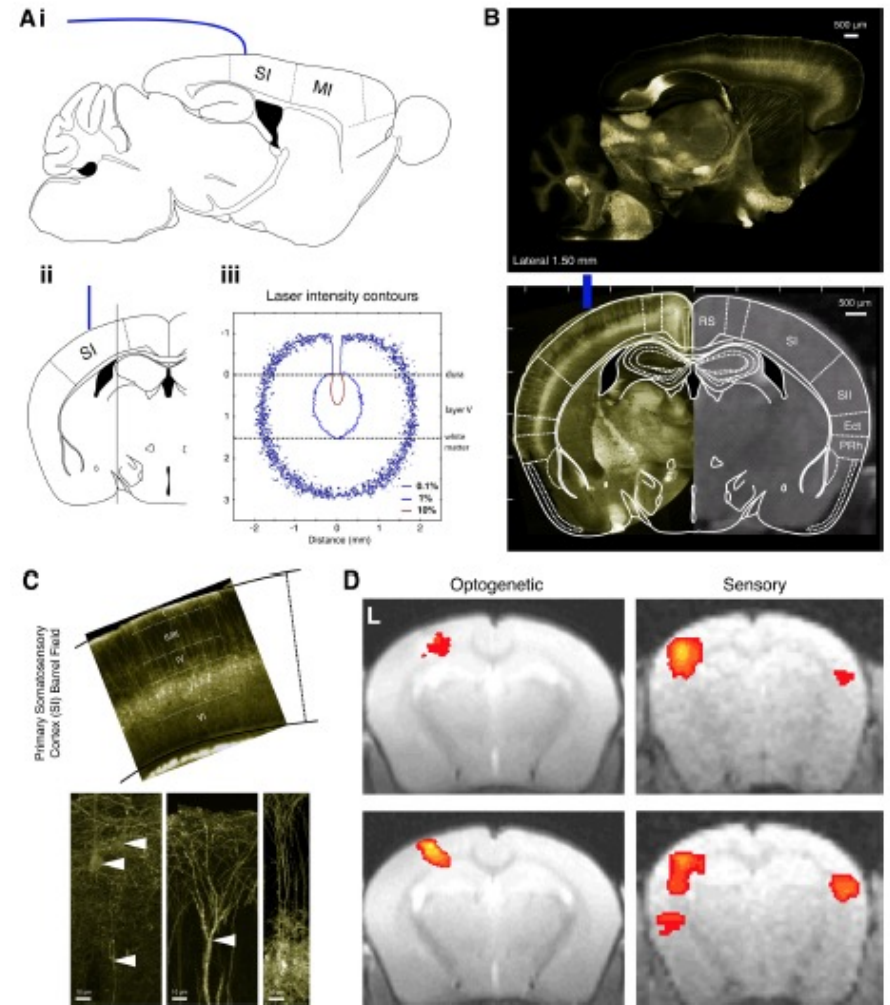
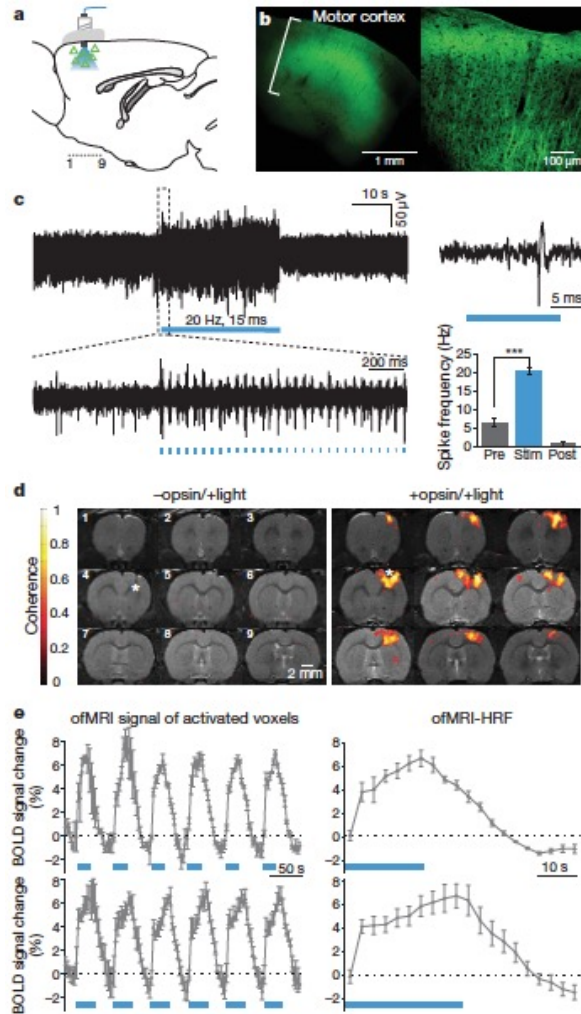


# Pharmacological Inhibition of Nitric Oxide Uncouples BOLD from CBF





# Genetic Manipulations: Optogenetics

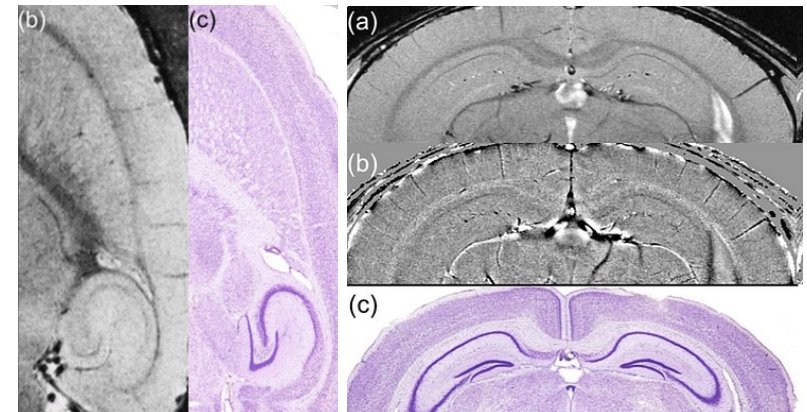


Lee et al. *Nature*. 2010 Jun 10;465(7299):788-92

Kahn et al., *J Neurosci*. 2011 Oct 19;31(42)

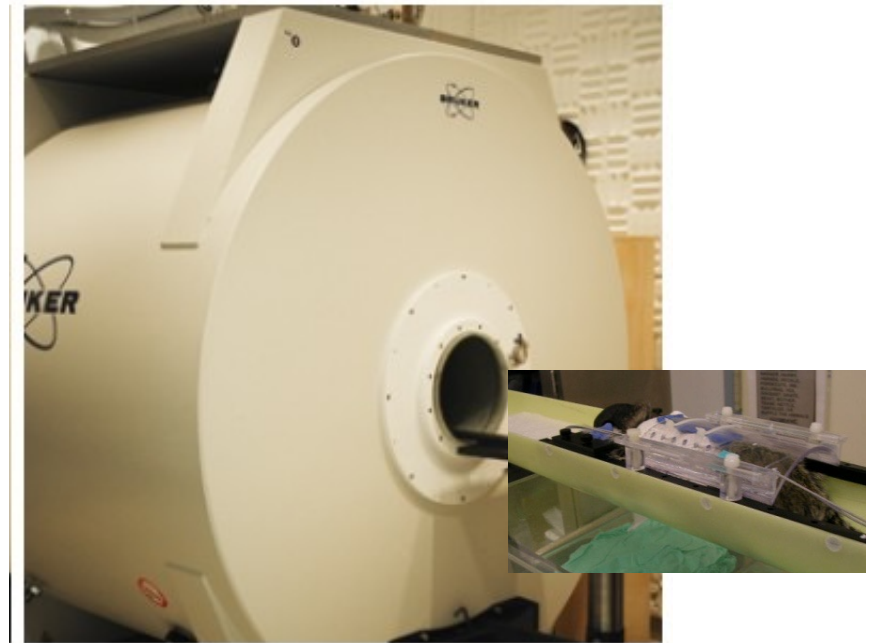
# Advantages of Animal Models

- Technical
  - Ultra-High Field Magnets
    - up to 21T vertical
    - up to 17.6T horizontal
  - Stronger Gradients
    - Up to 1000 mT/m in 12 cm ID
  - Small FOV due to smaller brain size
    - Improved spatial resolution
    - Improved SNR with specialized RF coils



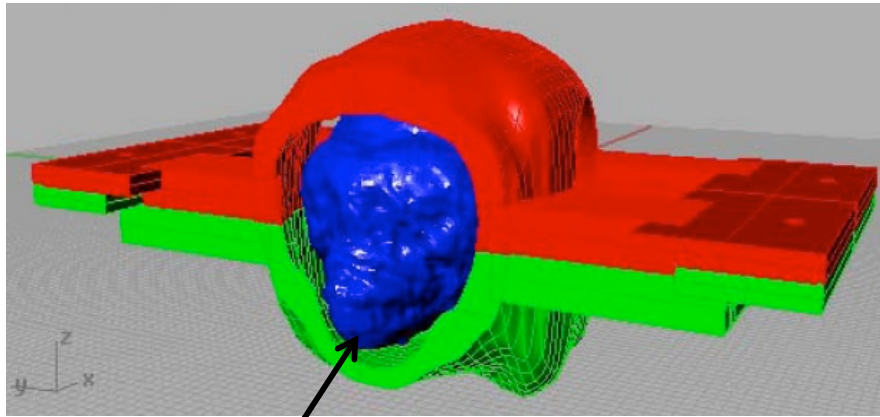
# How to Do MRI/fMRI in Small Animals

- Two types of setup
  - Anesthetized Animals
    - Isoflurane (anatomic studies)
    - Chloralose (functional studies)
    - Propofol + Fentanyl (functional studies)
  - Awake
    - Anatomical or functional Studies
- Extensive Physiological Monitoring
  - Temperature
  - Blood Pressure and Heart Rate
  - Pulse oximetry
  - ETCO<sub>2</sub>

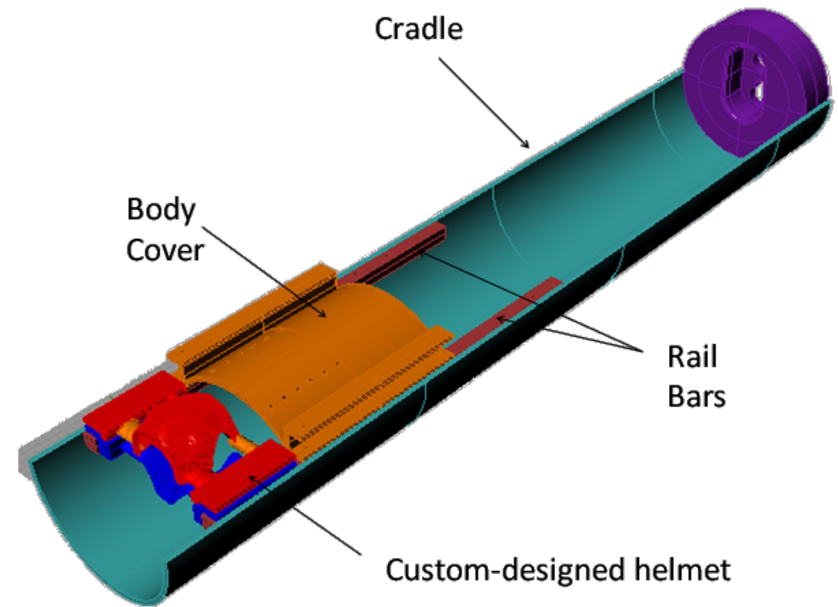




# Anatomical and Functional MRI in Conscious, Awake Marmosets



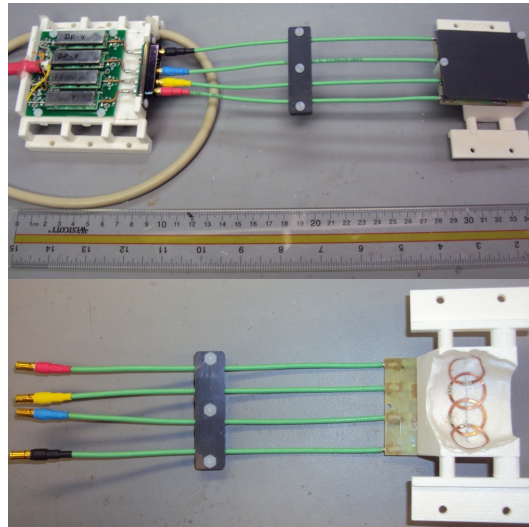
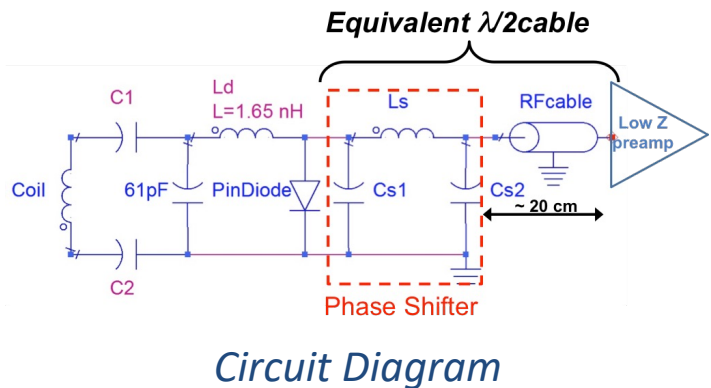
Individual  
Helmet



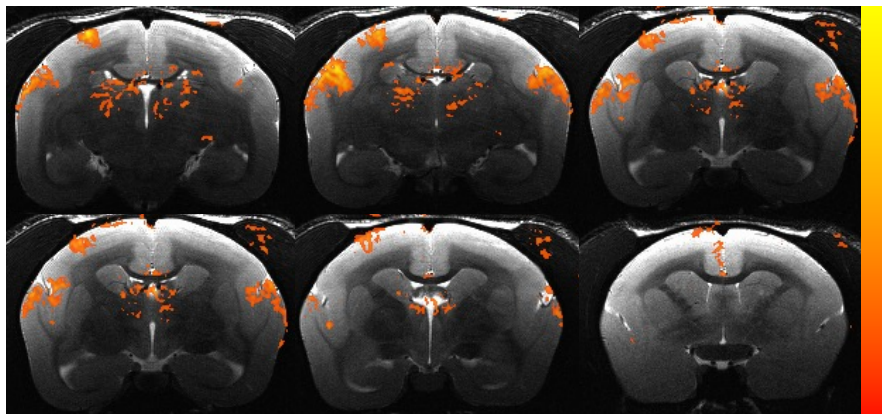
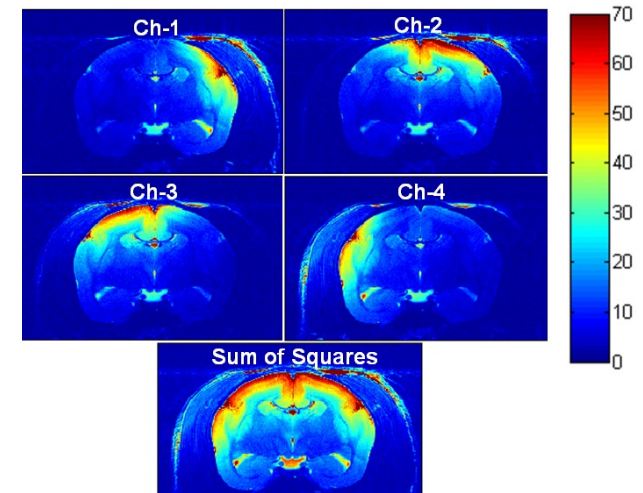


# State-of-the-Art Neuroimaging Techniques

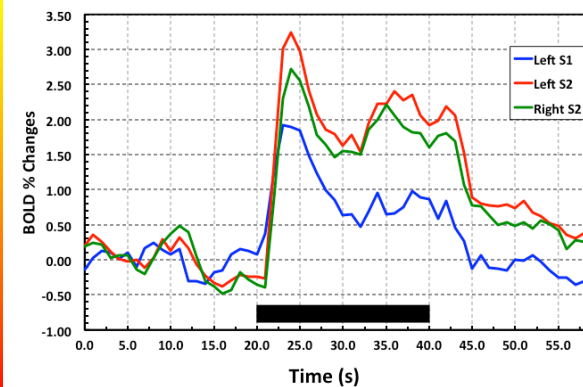
- Embedded RF receiver arrays



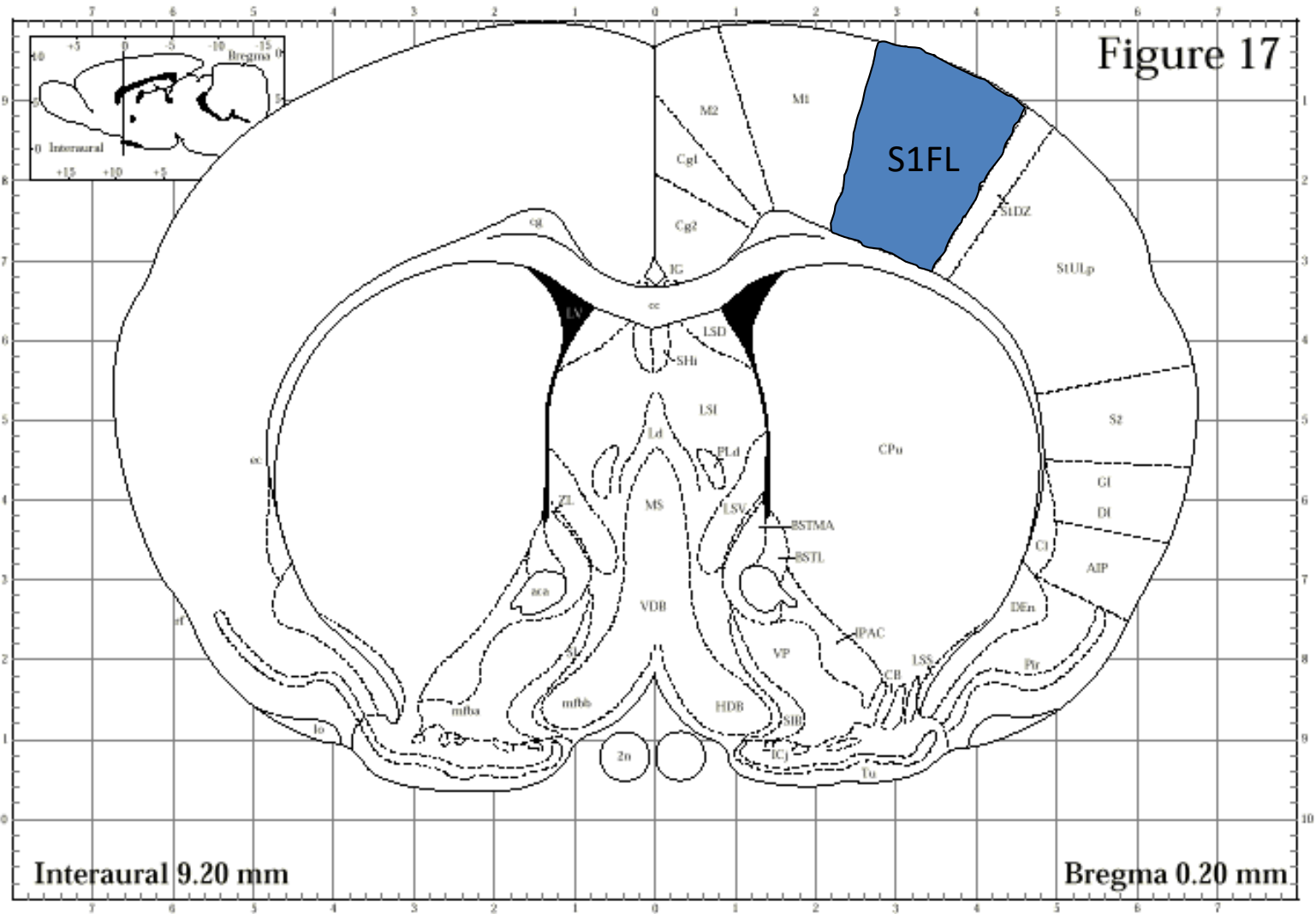
*Embedded helmet array and preamps*



*fMRI in Conscious, Awake Marmosets  
250 x 250 x 1000  $\mu\text{m}^3$*



# How to Stimulate Animals: Somatosensory Stimulation in Rat

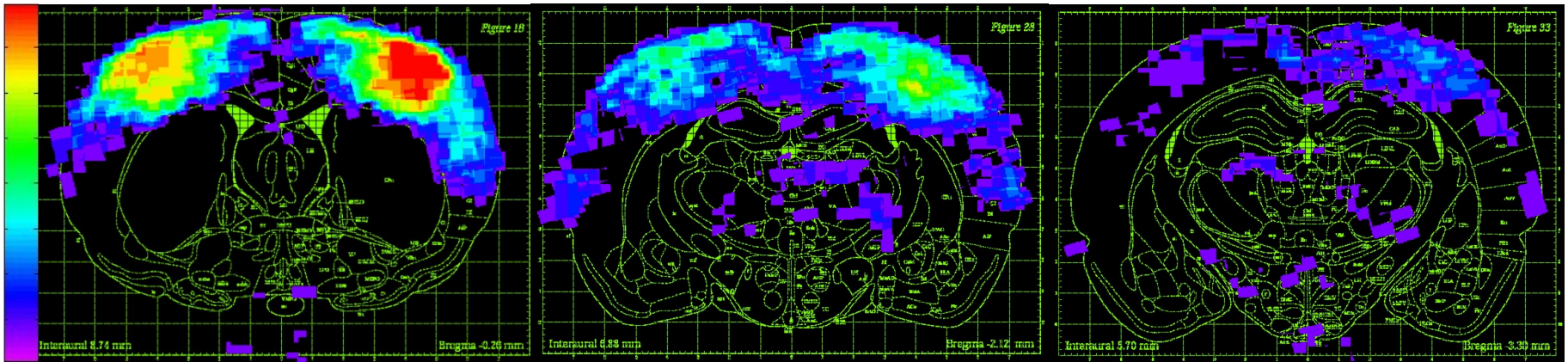


Atlas: "The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates", Paxinos & Watson, 1998



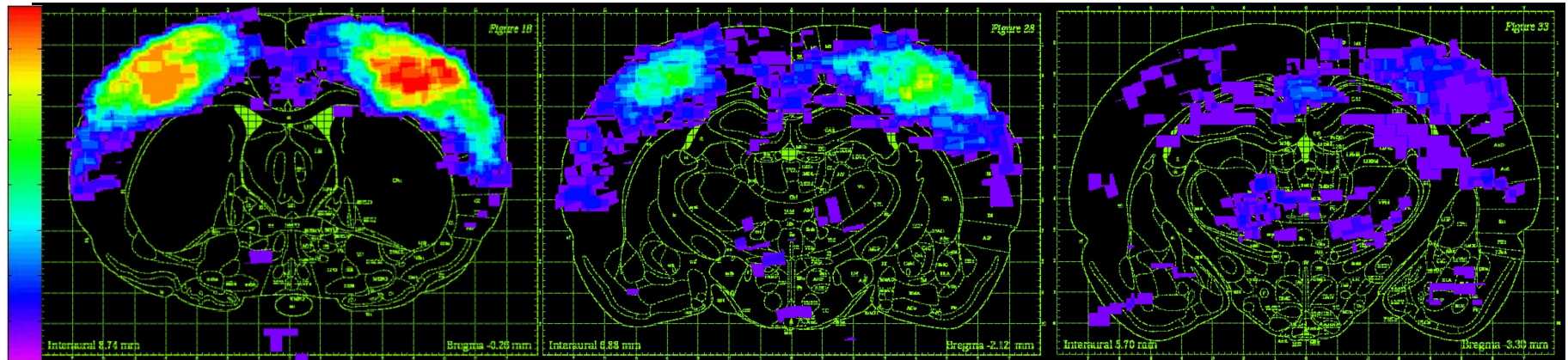
# Reproducibility: BOLD and CBV Incidence Maps at 11.7T

17



BOLD

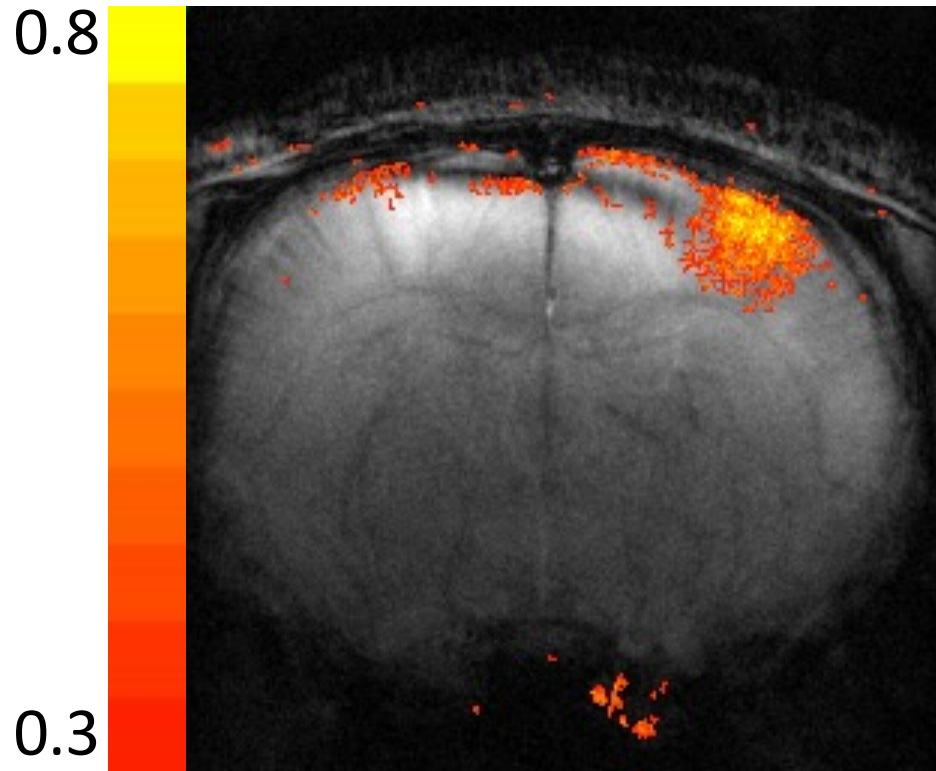
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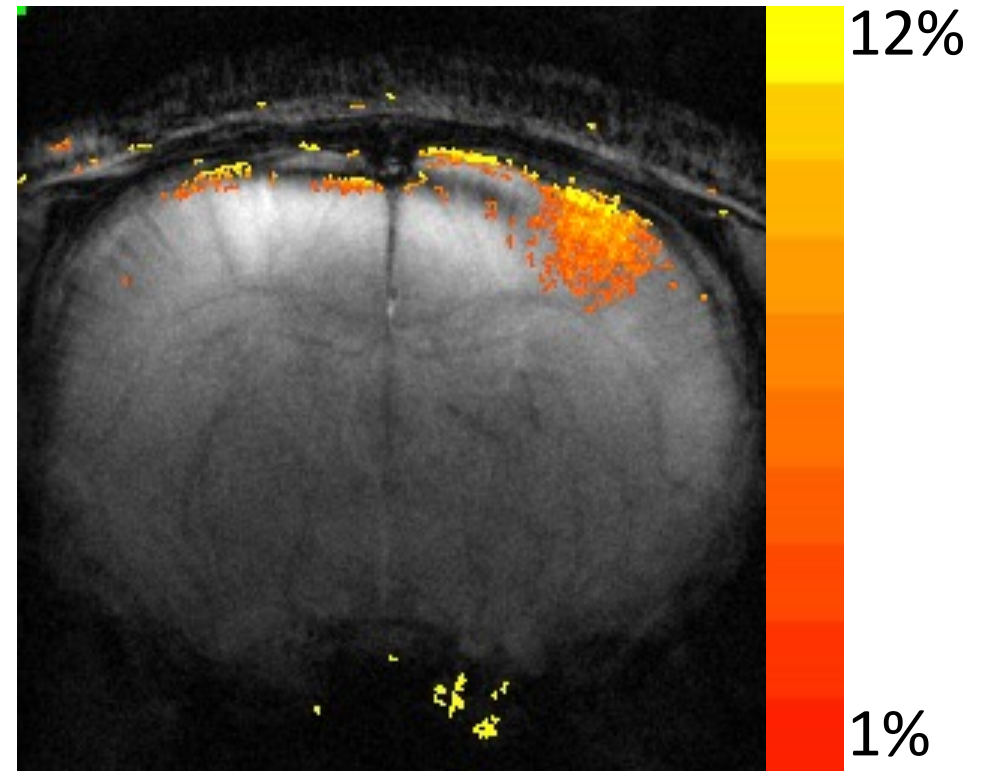
CBV

# *Spatial Resolution: BOLD Functional Maps*

Cross-Correlation



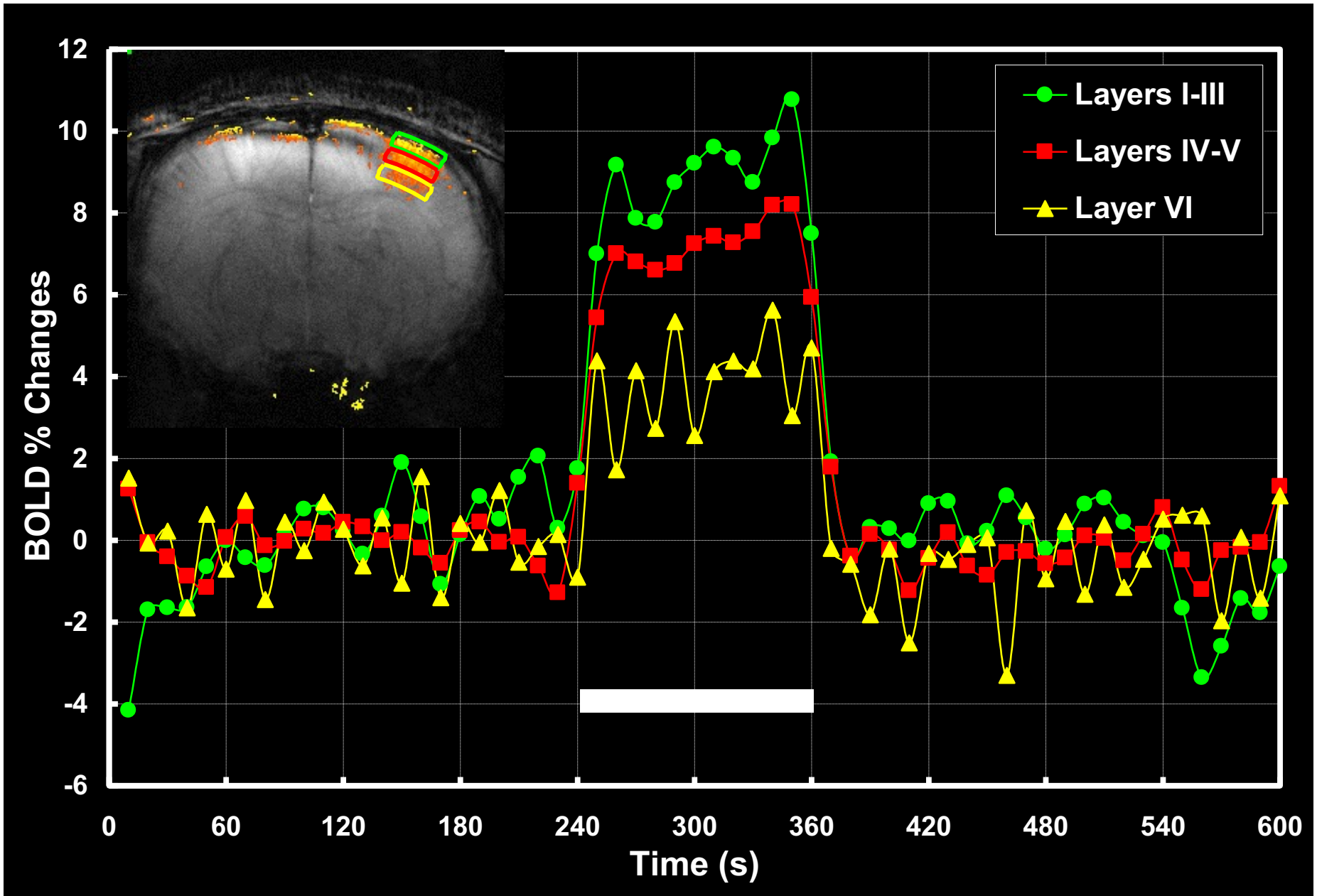
Percent Signal Changes



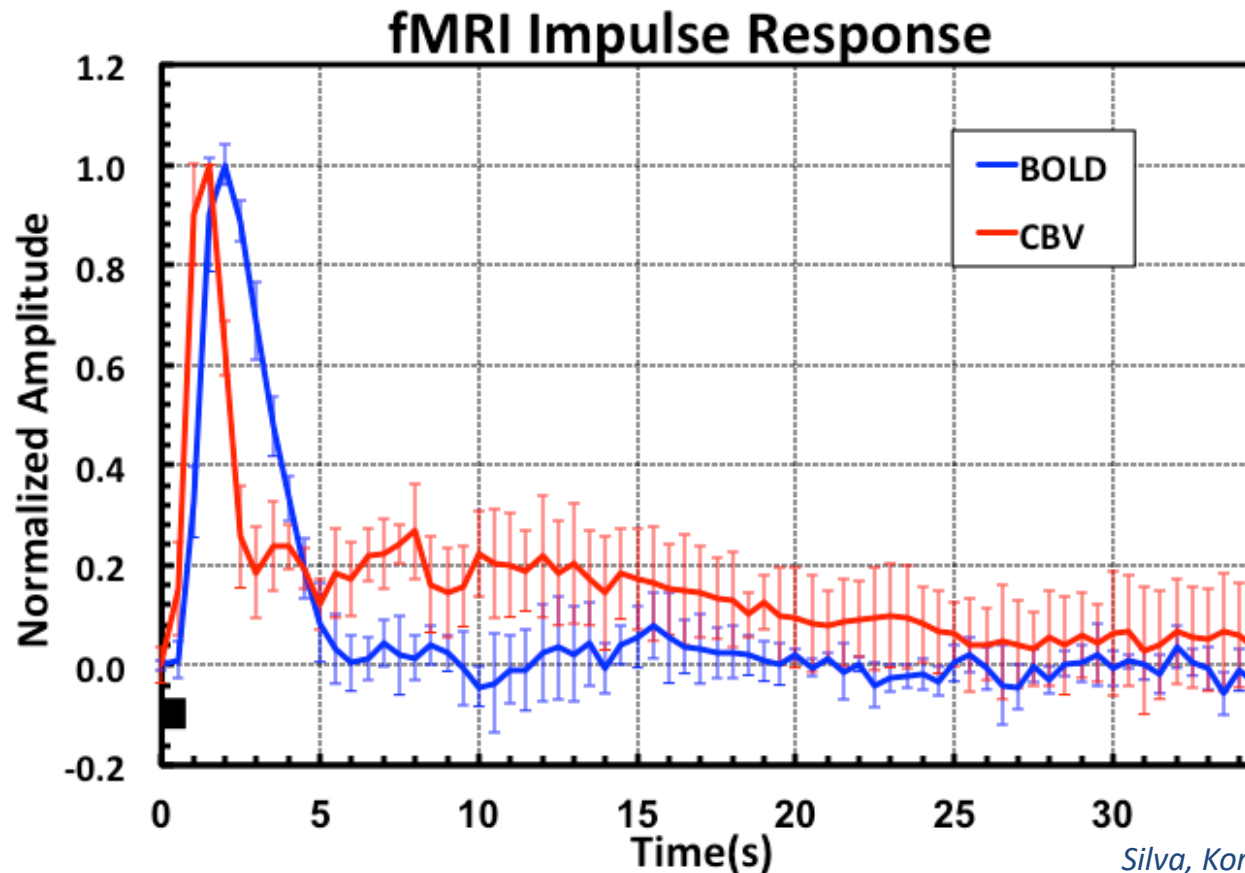
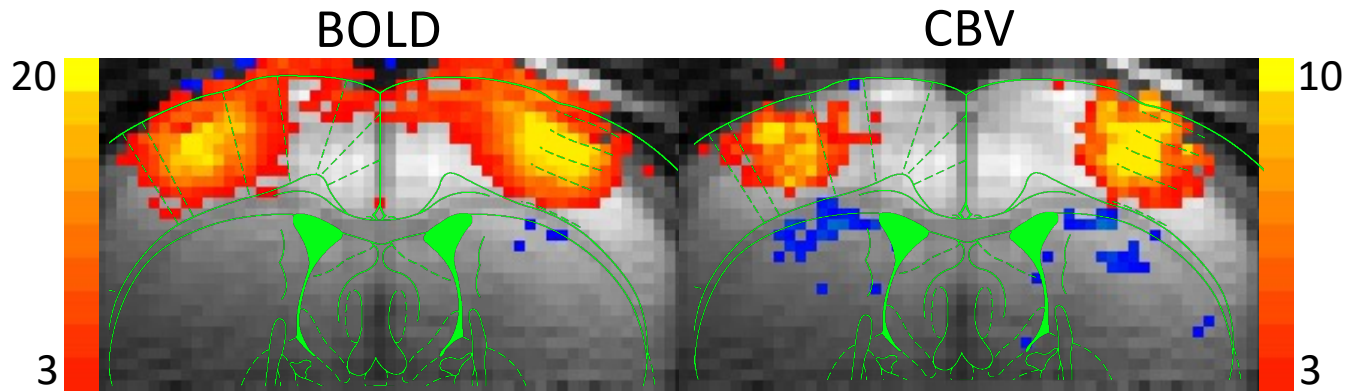
11.7T Gradient-Echo,  $50 \times 50 \times 2000 \mu\text{m}^3$



# Laminar Specificity of BOLD Signal Changes

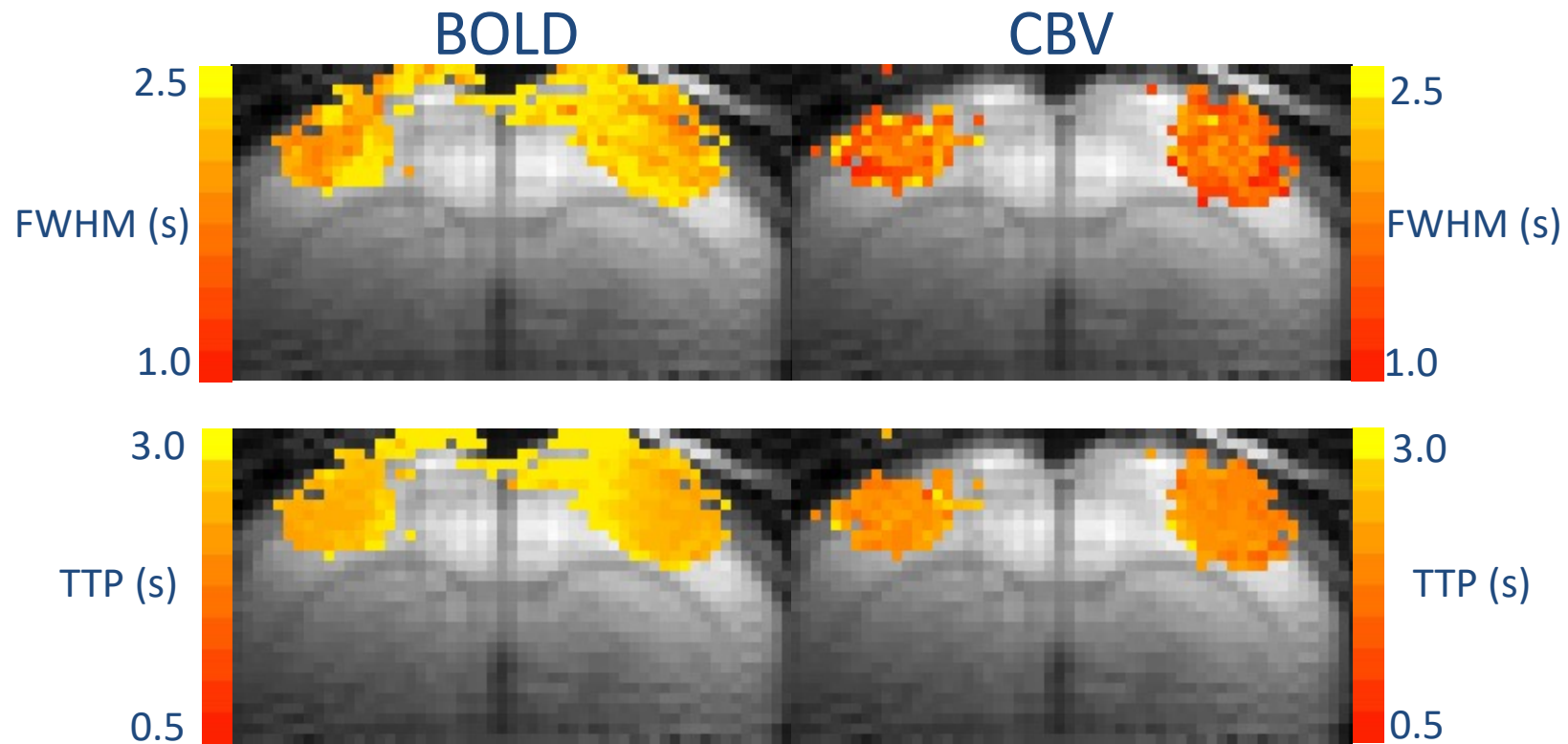


# BOLD and CBV Impulse Responses



- $\alpha$ -chloralose anesthetized rat
- Electrical stimulation of the forepaw
- Stimulation parameters optimized by laser-Doppler flowmetry:
  - 2.0 mA; 3 Hz; 0.3 ms

# Parametric Maps: Time-to-Peak (TTP) & Full-Width at Half-Maximum (FWHM)

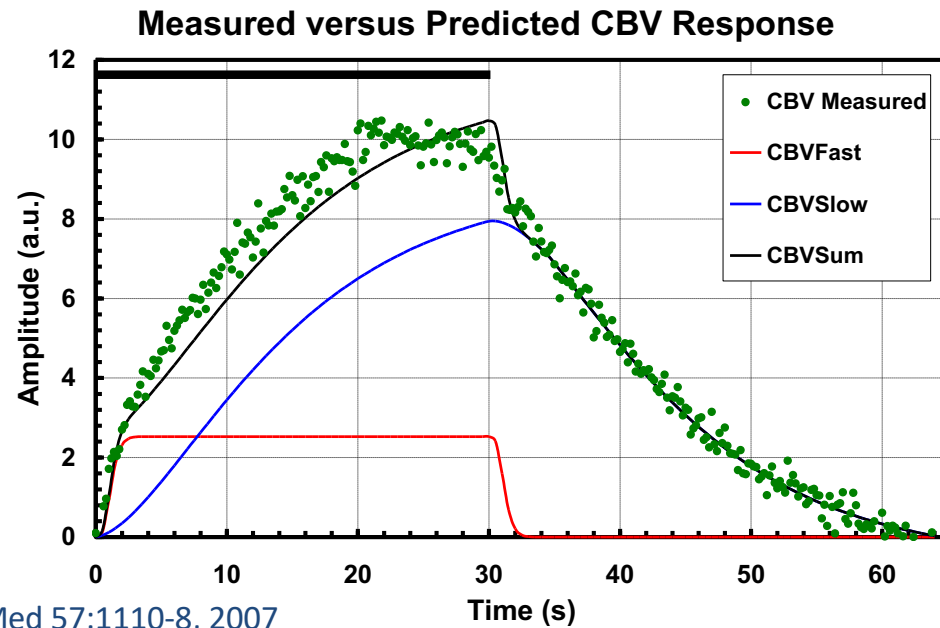
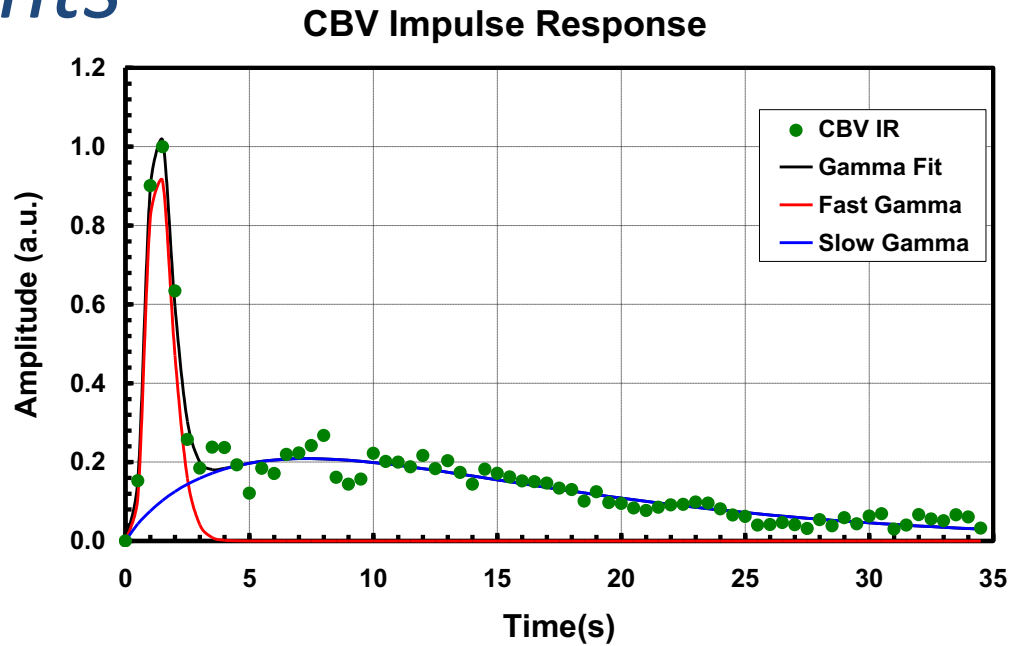


BOLD		CBV		$\Delta$ Onset (s)
TTP (s)	FWHM (s)	TTP (s)	FWHM (s)	
$2.18 \pm 0.14$	$1.92 \pm 0.22$	$1.65 \pm 0.15$	$1.37 \pm 0.11$	$0.44 \pm 0.24$

Compare to  $TTP = 4.51 \pm 0.52$  s and  $FWHM = 4.04 \pm 0.42$  s

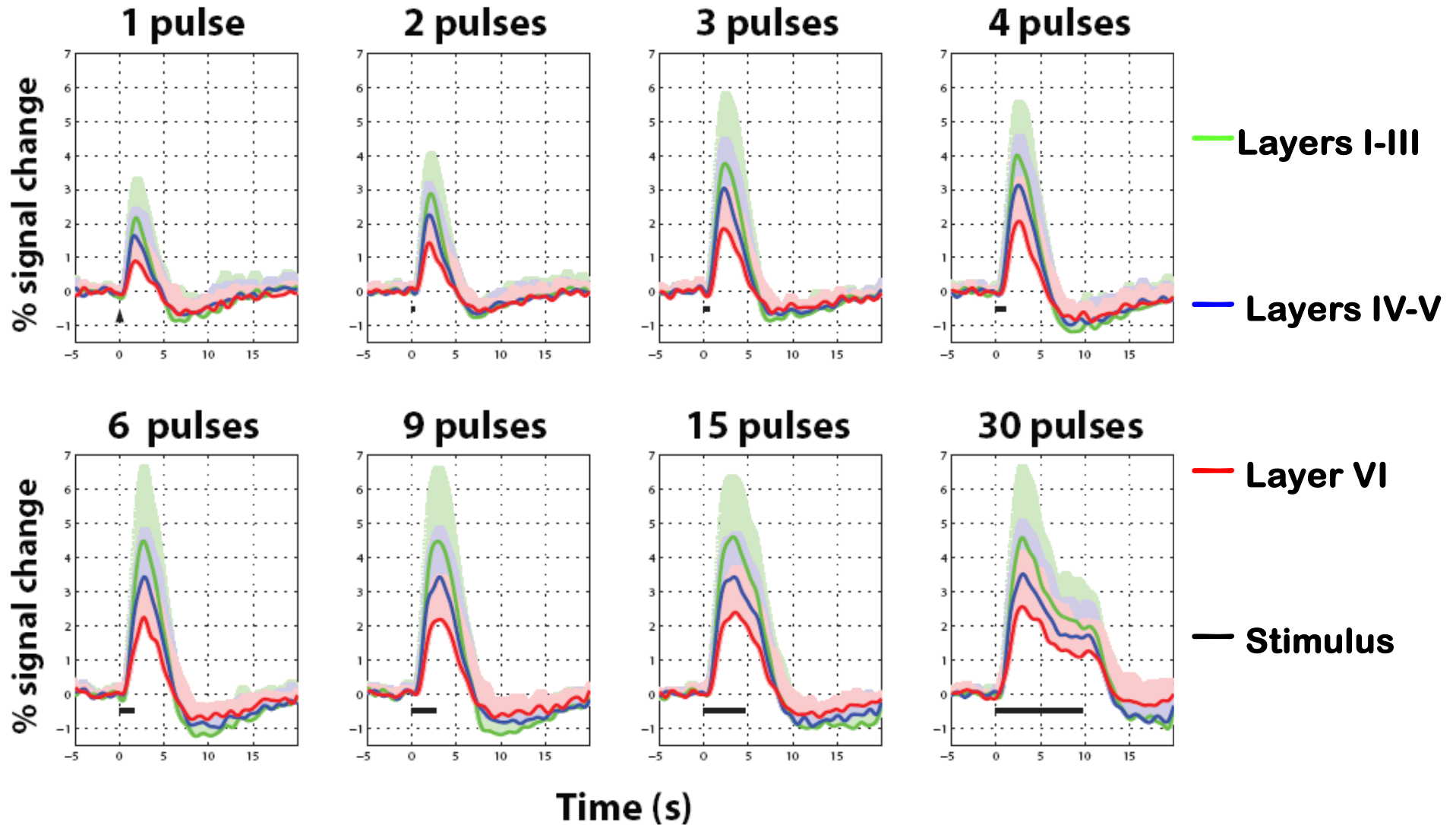
in humans (*de Zwart et al, Neuroimage 24:667-677 (2005)*)

# CBV Impulse Response Has Fast and Slow Components

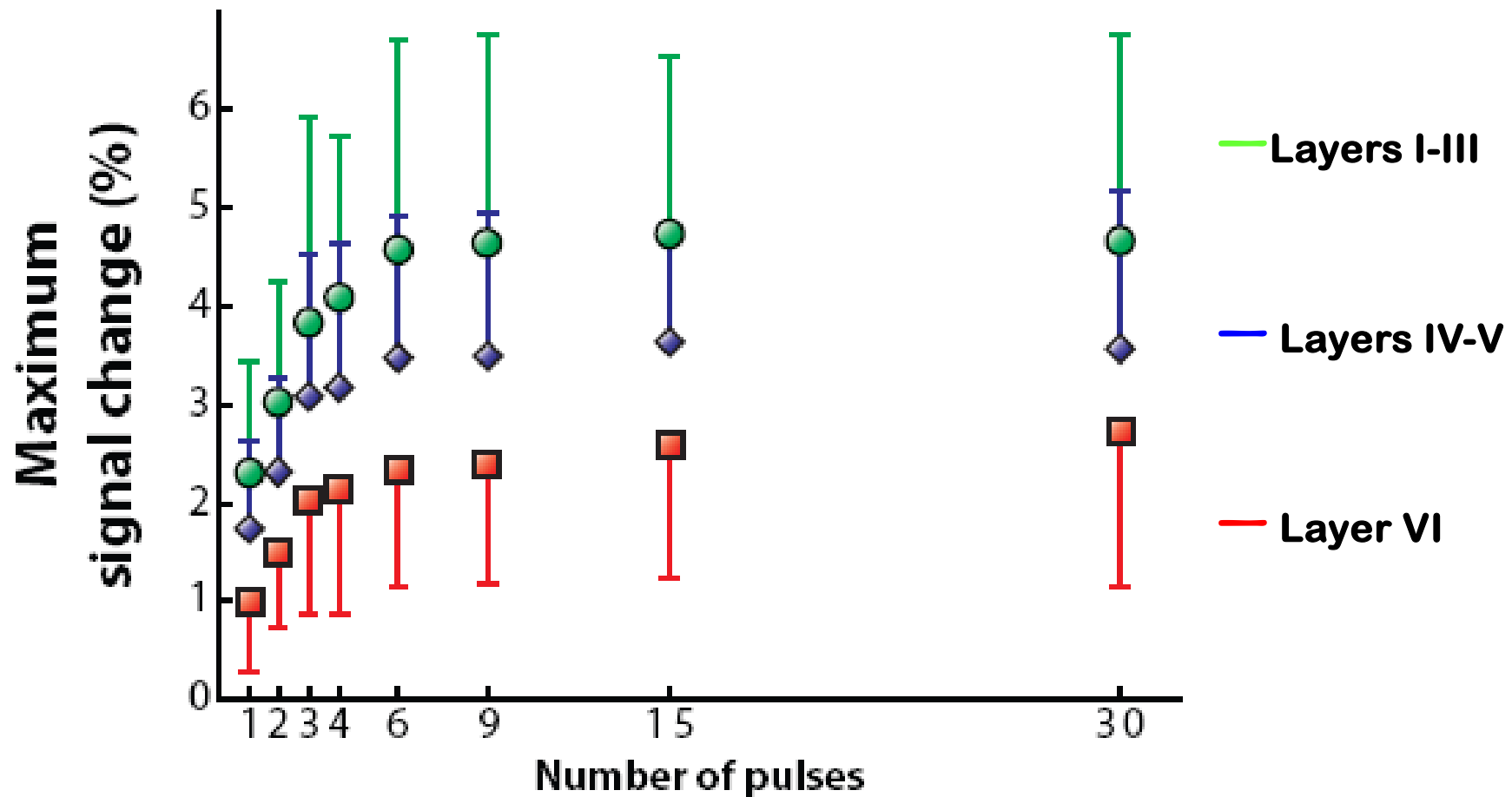




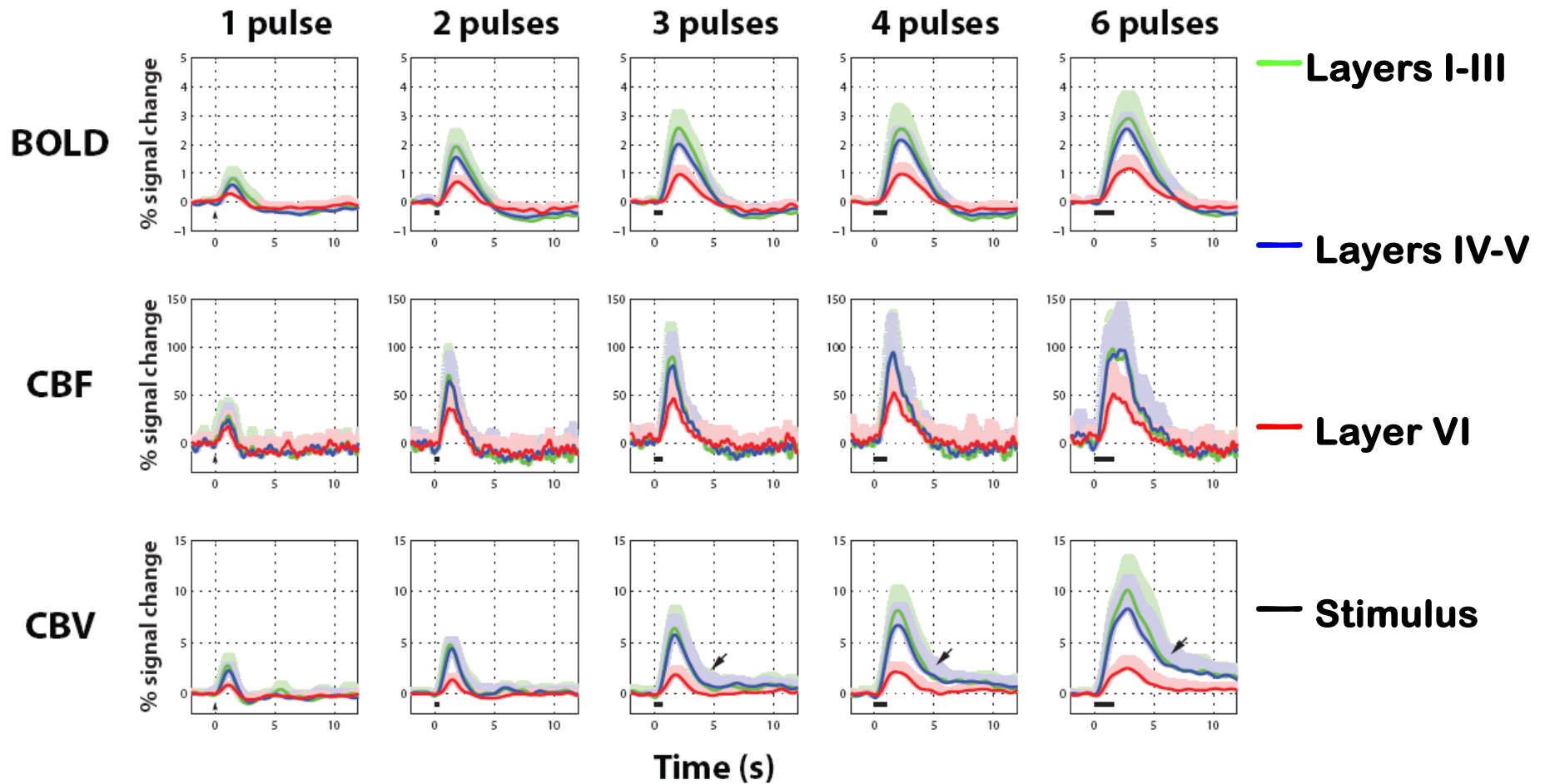
# Variation of HDR with Stimulus Duration



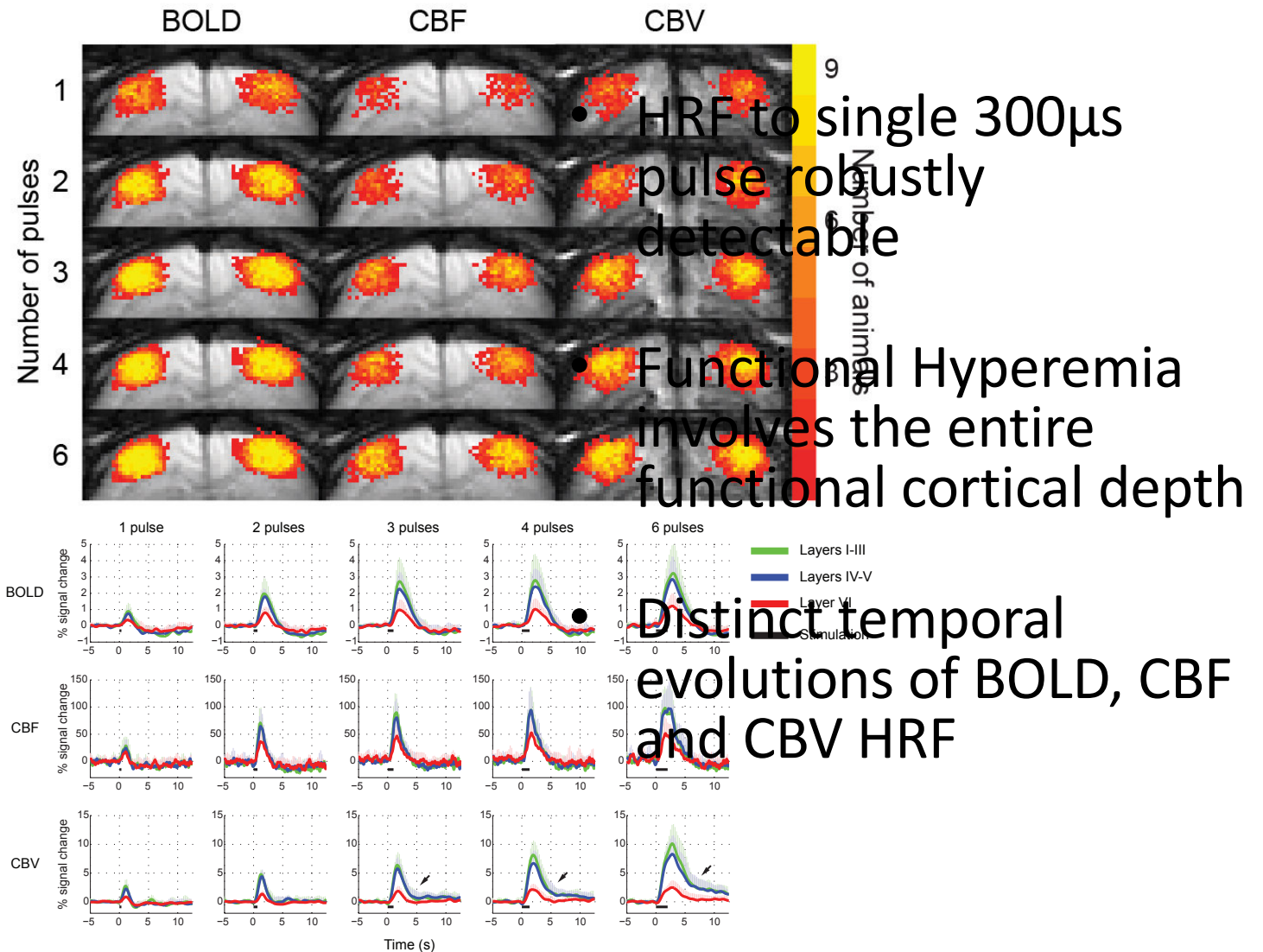
# Variation of the Peak Intensity with Stimulus Duration



# BOLD, CBF and CBV Have Distinct Temporal Characteristics

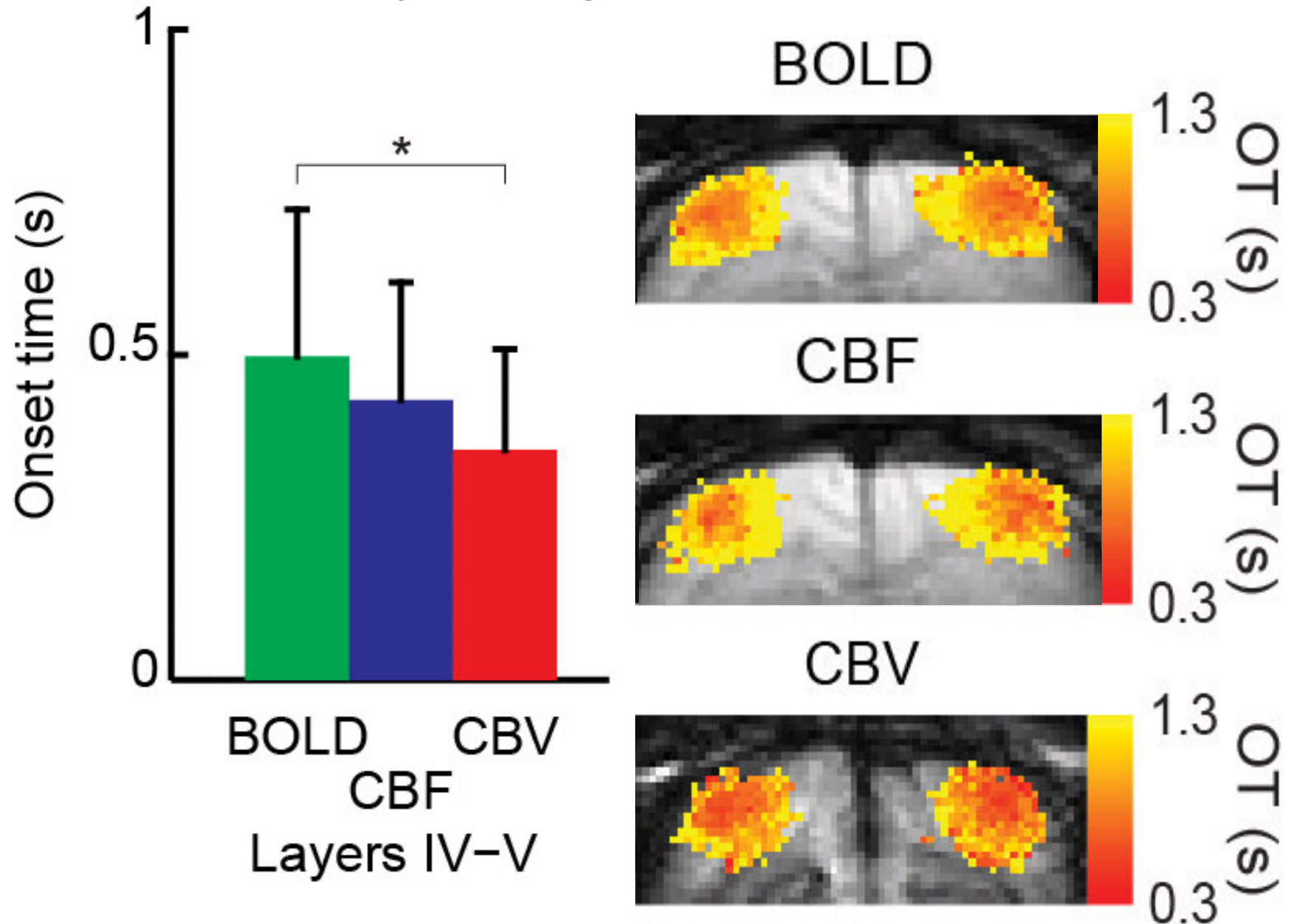


# Robust fMRI Responses to Ultrashort Stimuli

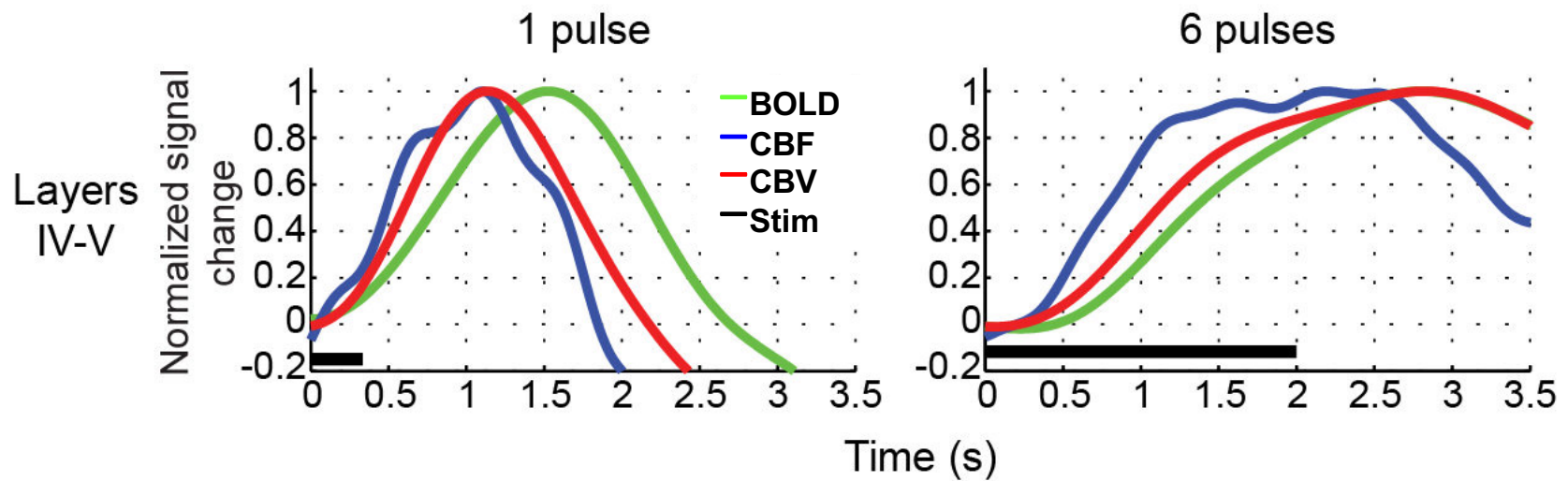




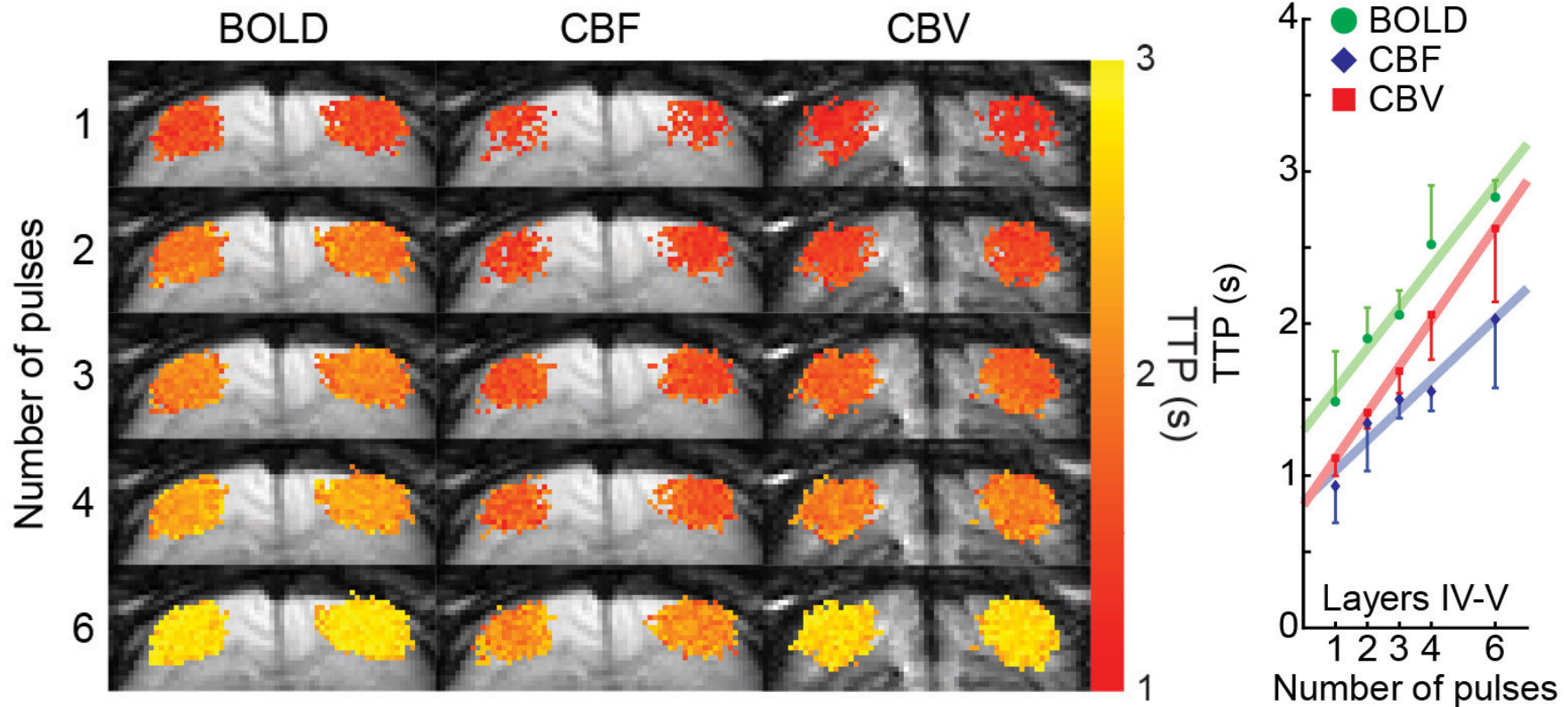
# Remarkably Fast fMRI Onset Times



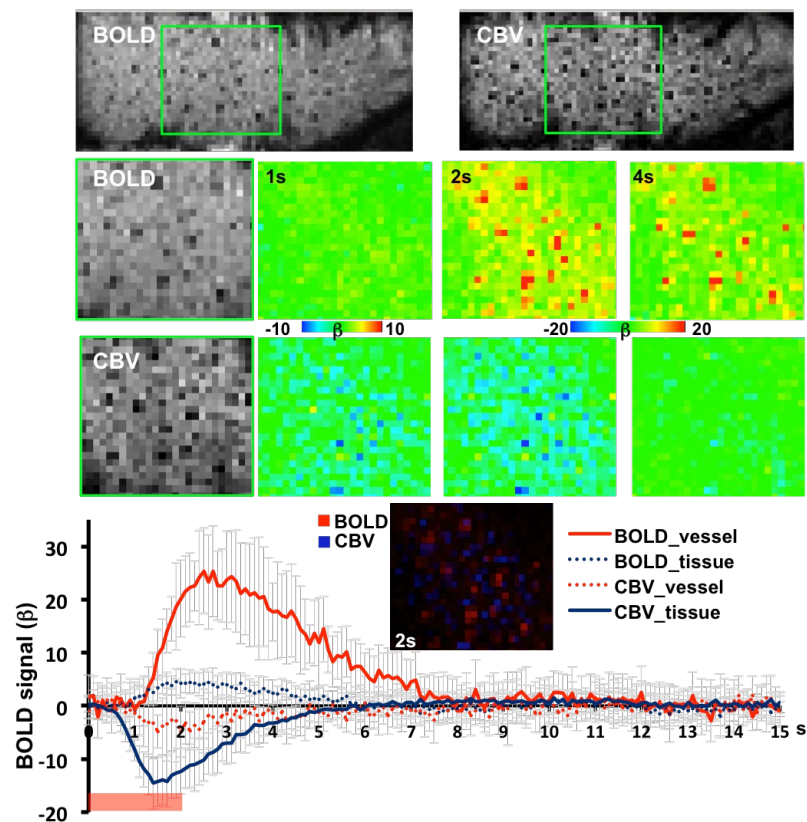
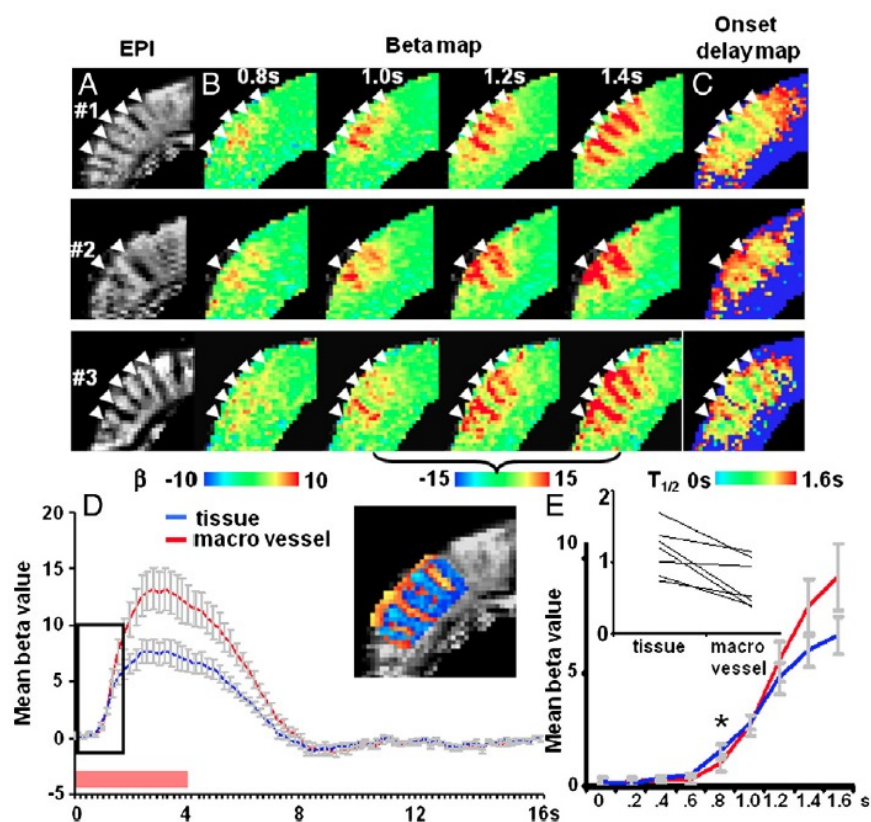
# Distinct Temporal Evolution of CBV HRF



# Distinct Temporal Evolution of CBV HRF



# High Resolution fMRI Shows Early Activation of Capillary Network





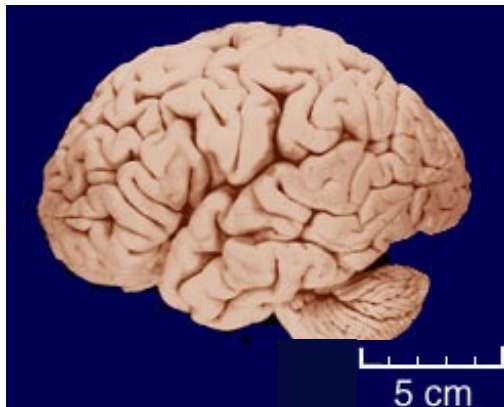
# Marmoset (*Callithrix Jacchus*)

- Adult weight: 300-500 grams
- Life span: 12+ years
- Age at maturity: 18 months
- Age at 1st reproduction: 17-20 months
- Gestation: 144 days
- Number of offspring: 2+; every 6 months

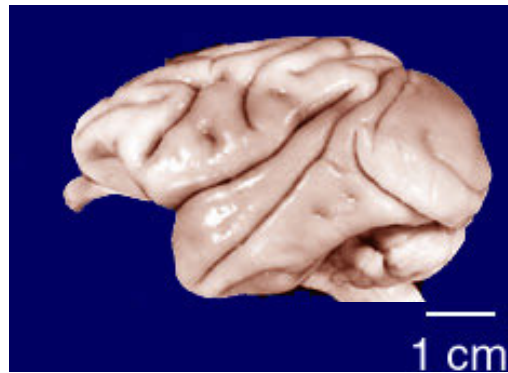


# *Marmosets Retain the Primate Anatomical and Functional Brain Organization*

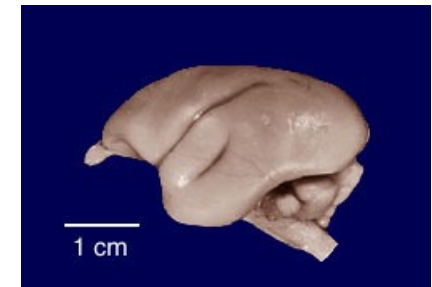
Human



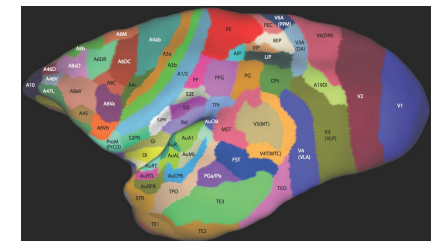
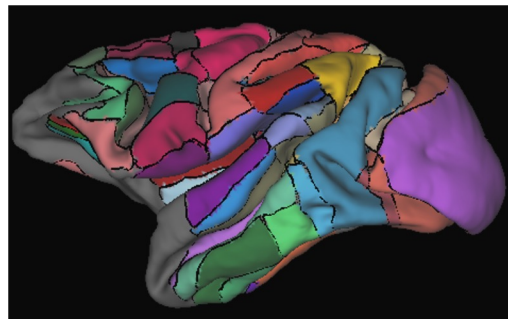
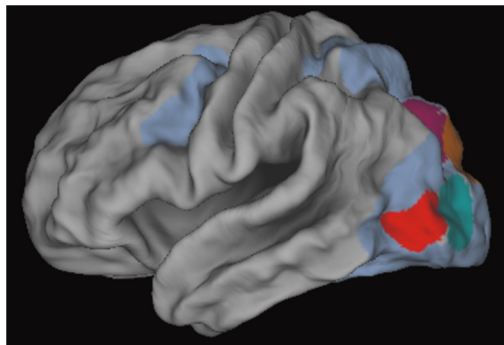
Macaque



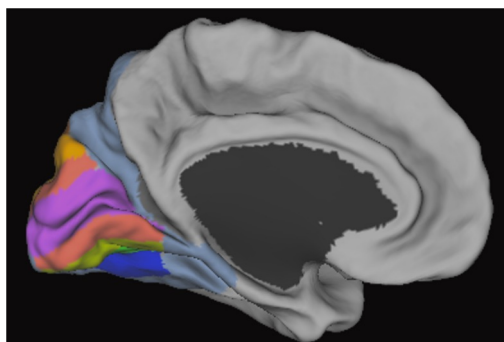
Marmoset



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



*G. Paxinos et al. The Marmoset Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates, 2011*

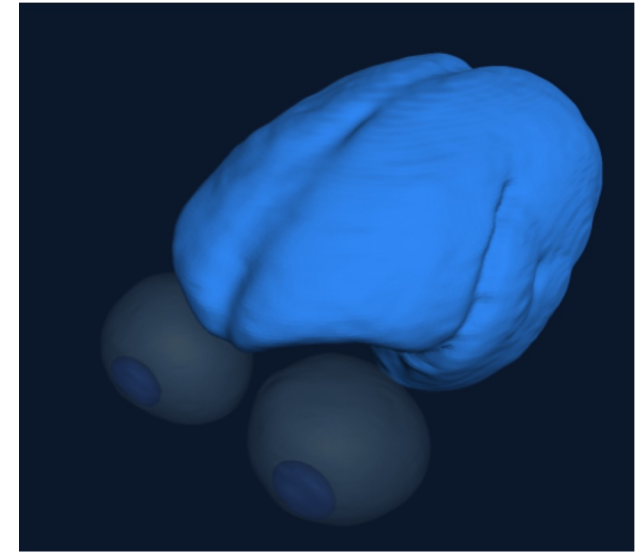
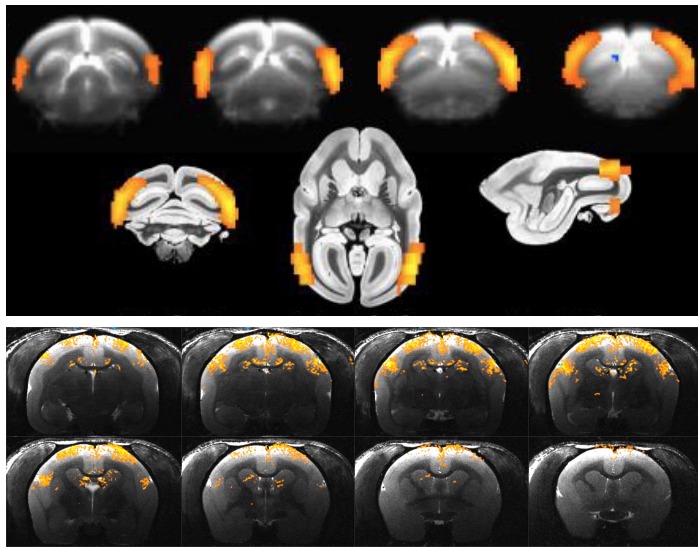


*Web caret, Washington University St. Louis, MO, USA*

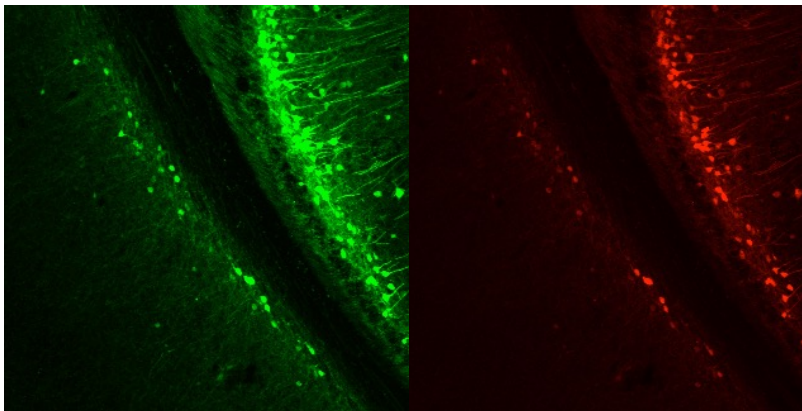


# Marmosets are Lissencephalic

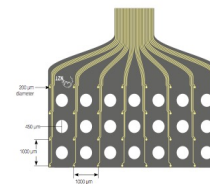
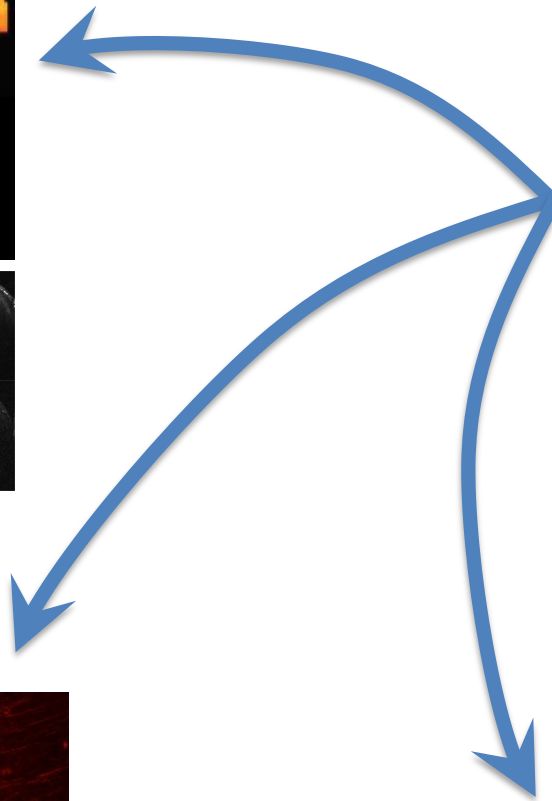
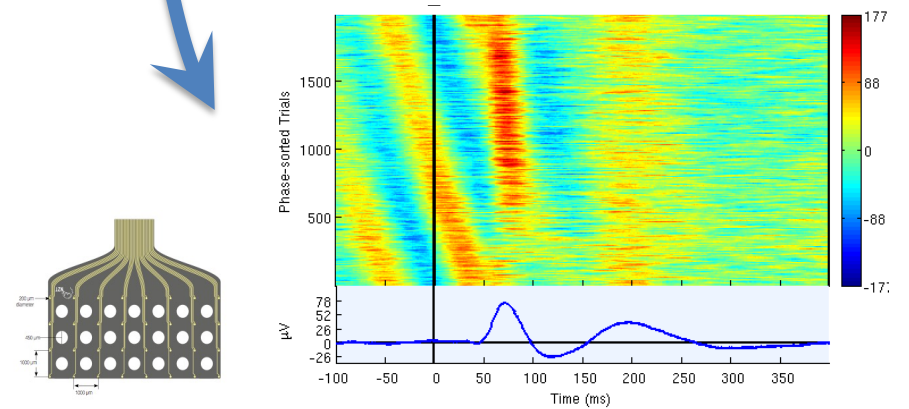
fMRI



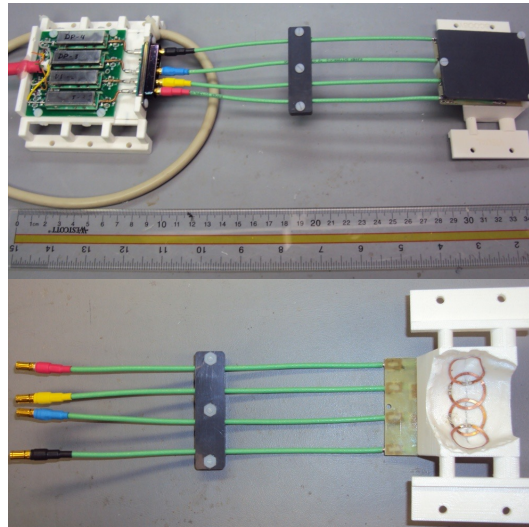
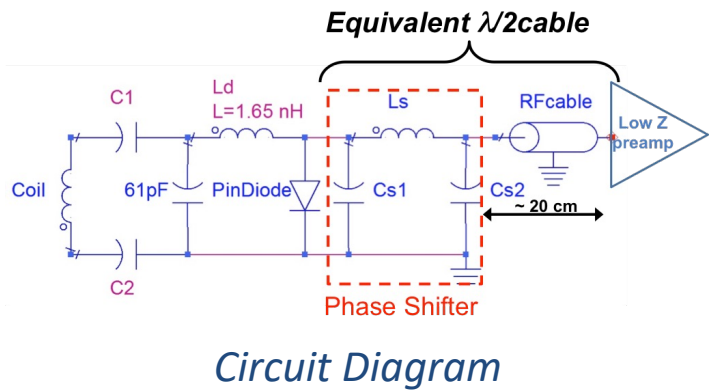
Optical Imaging



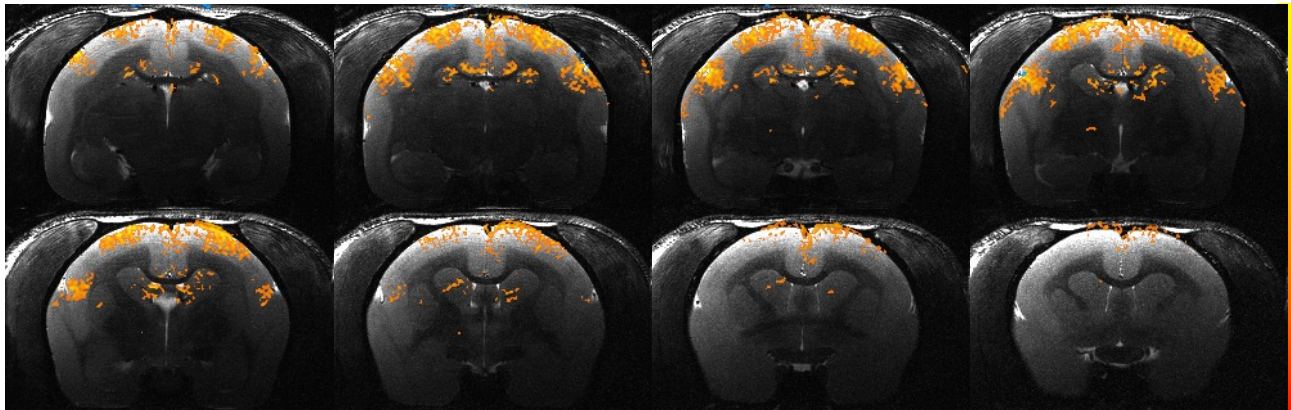
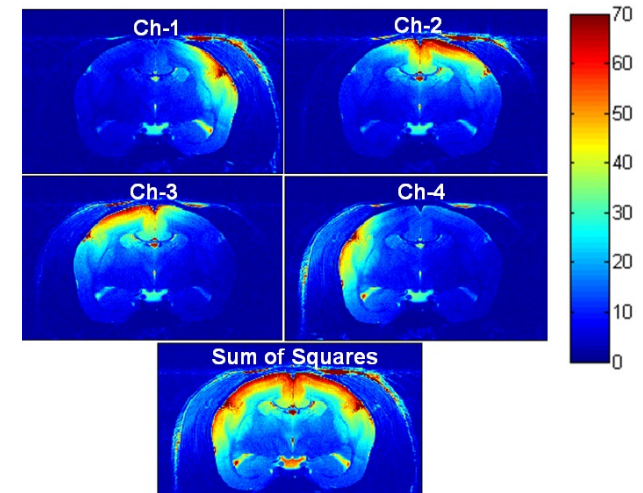
Electrophysiology



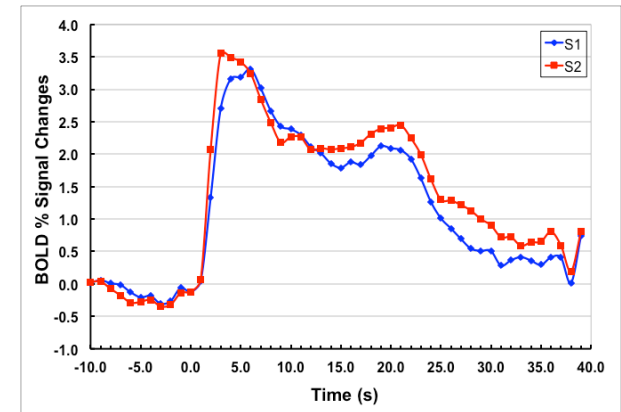
# In-Helmet Embedded RF Coil Arrays



Embedded helmet array and preamps

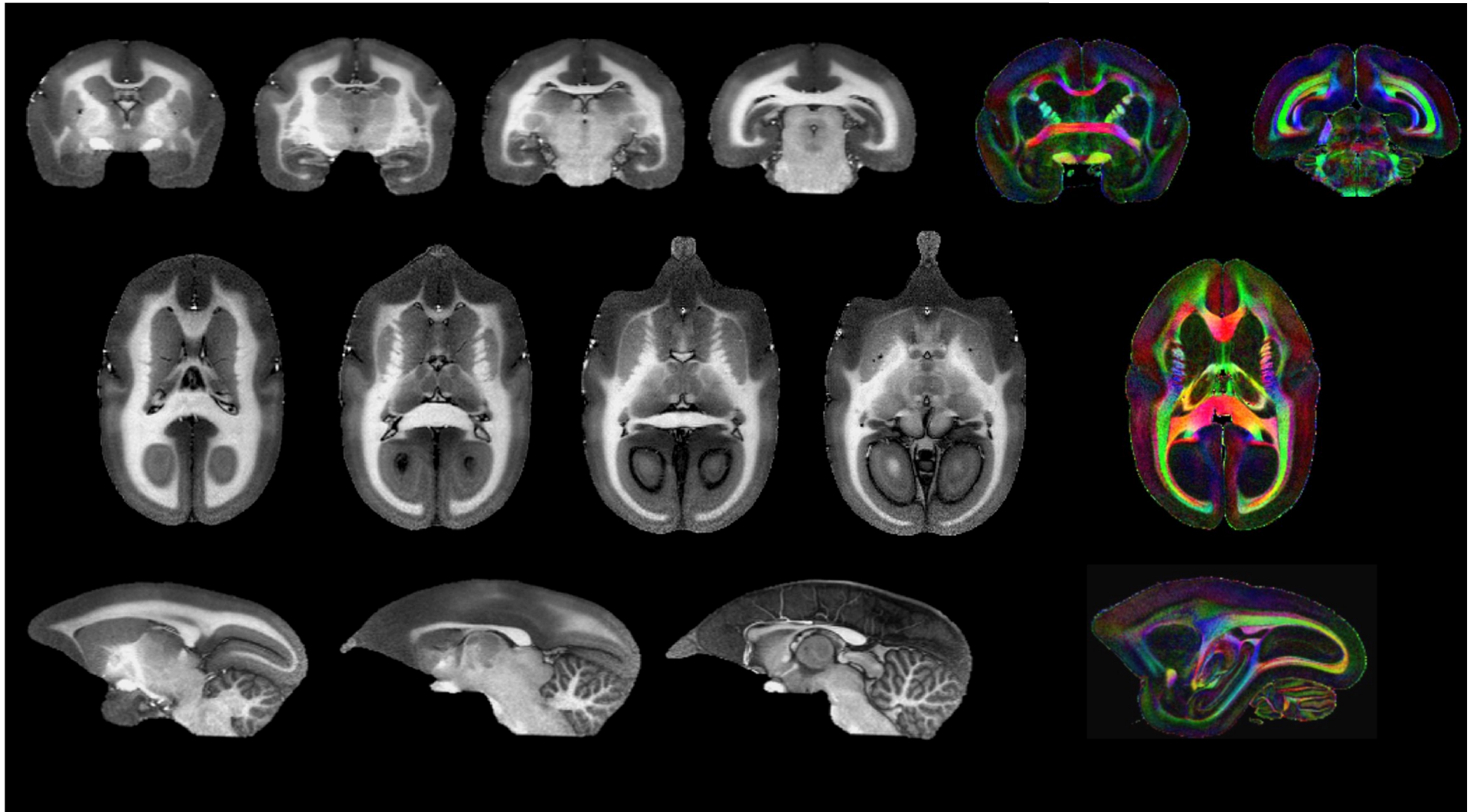


fMRI in Conscious, Awake Marmosets  
250 x 250 x 1000  $\mu\text{m}^3$





# Anatomical MRI of the Marmoset Brain

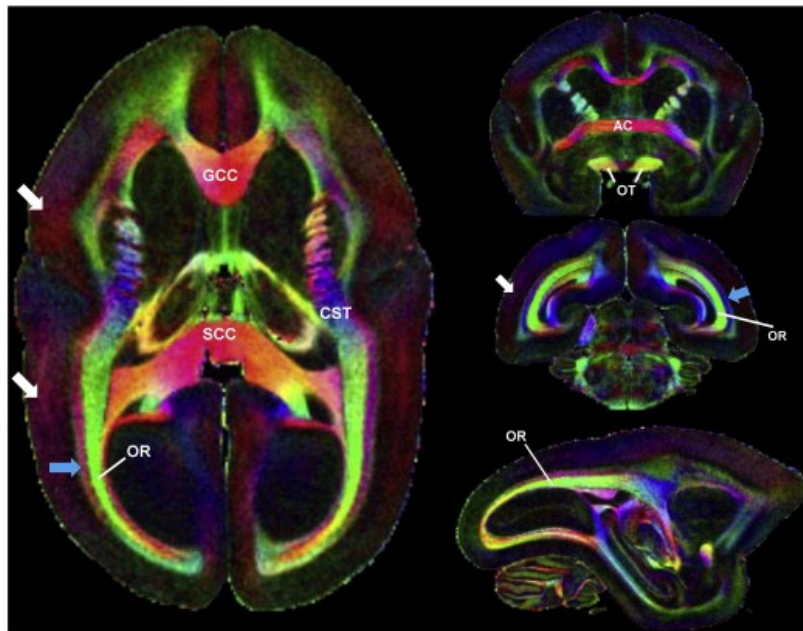
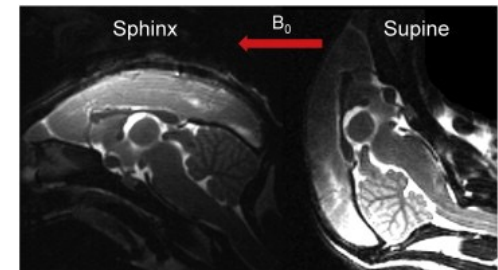


*in vivo* T1w-MPRAGE 150  $\mu\text{m}^3$

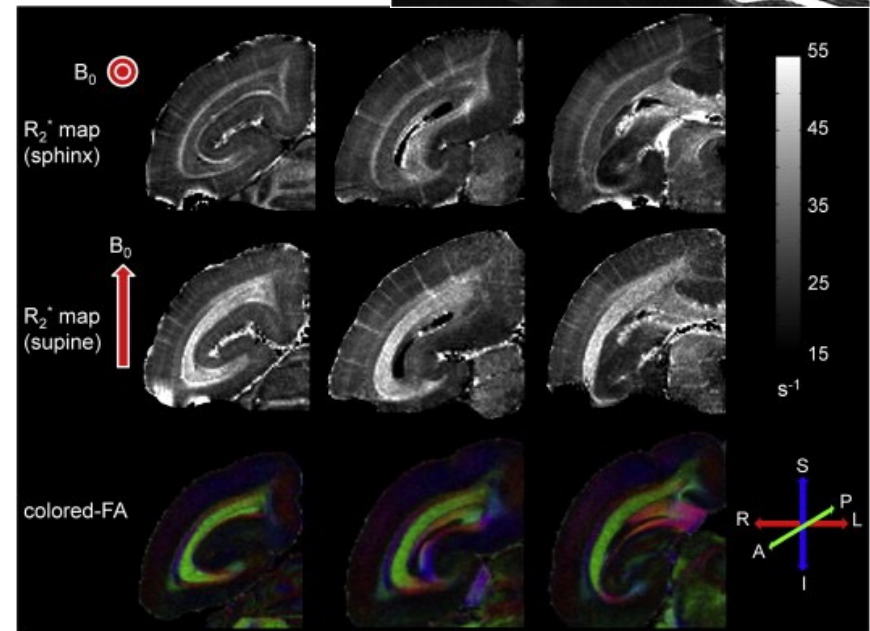
*ex vivo* DTI 150  $\mu\text{m}^3$

# State-of-the-Art Neuroimaging Techniques

- High Resolution Anatomical MRI

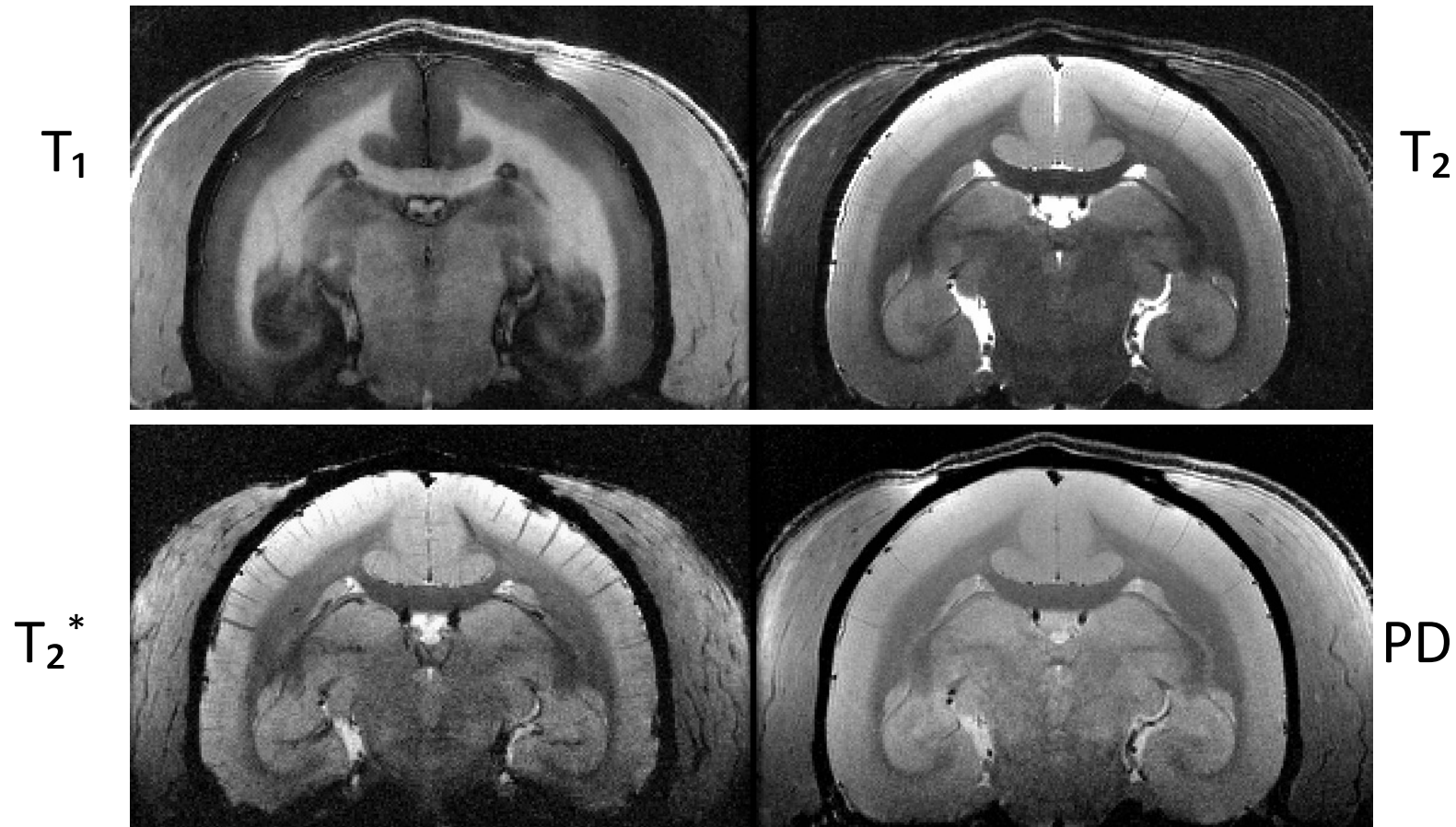


Architecture of white matter fibers  
 $150 \times 150 \times 150 \mu\text{m}^3$



In vivo quantification of  $T_2^*$  anisotropy  
 $150 \times 150 \times 600 \mu\text{m}^3$

# Anatomical “Clinical” MRI Protocol for Scanning Marmoset Brain



- Voxel size= 125  $\mu\text{m}$   $\times$  125  $\mu\text{m}$   $\times$  600  $\mu\text{m}$
- Whole brain coverage (54 coronal slices)
- Total acquisition time  $\approx$ 1h 20min

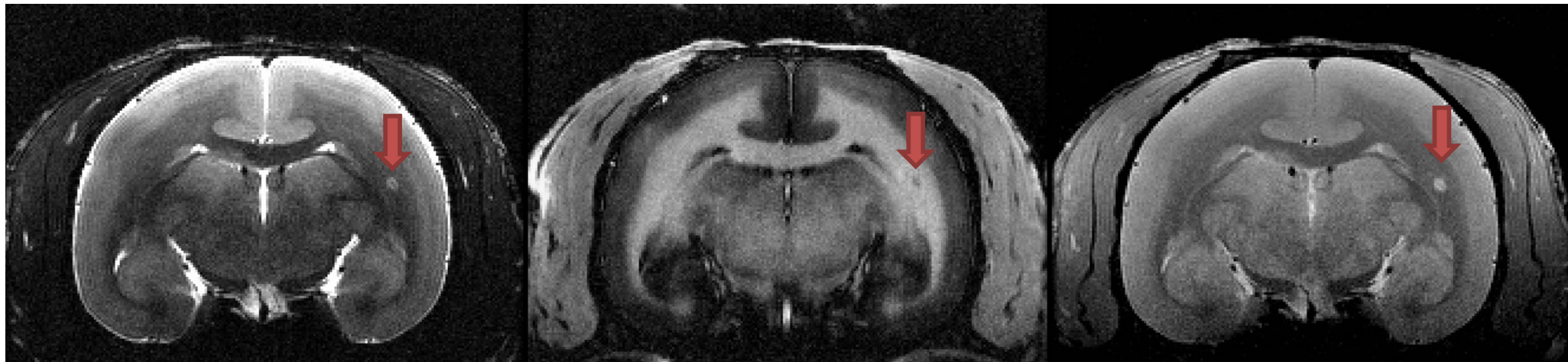


# *Speeded-Up, Three Contrast for Detecting Brain Lesions in Marmoset Model of Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE)*

T<sub>2</sub>

T<sub>1</sub>

PD



- Voxel size= 150  $\mu$ m  $\times$  150  $\mu$ m  $\times$  600  $\mu$ m
- Whole brain coverage (54 coronal slices)
- Total acquisition time  $\approx$  35 min



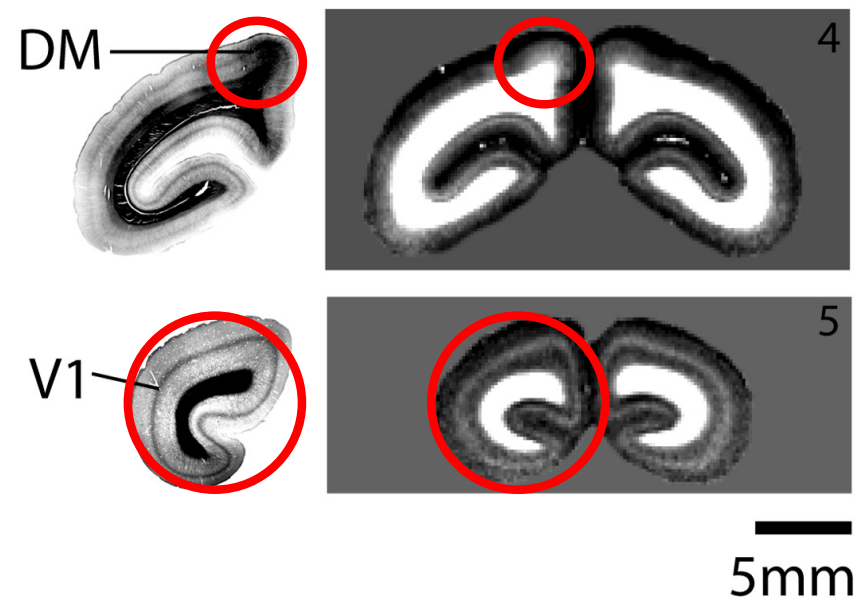
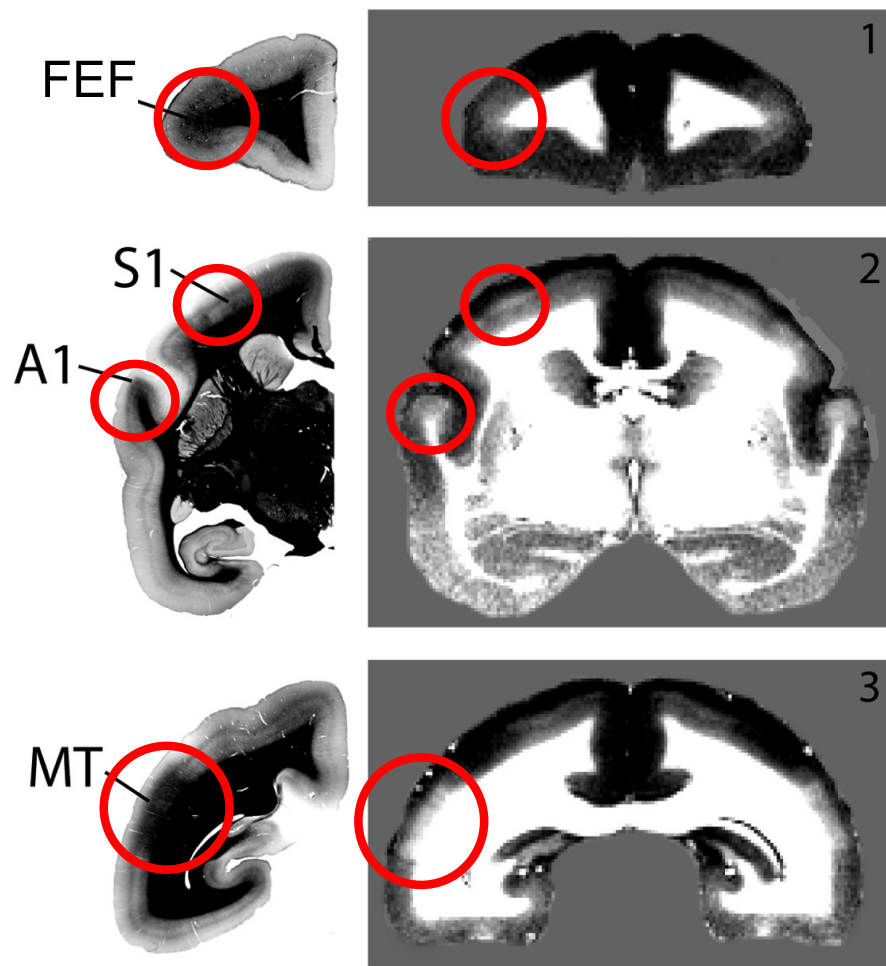
# $T_1$ -Weighted MRI Reveals Cortical Myeloarchitecture

Myelin Stain

MRI

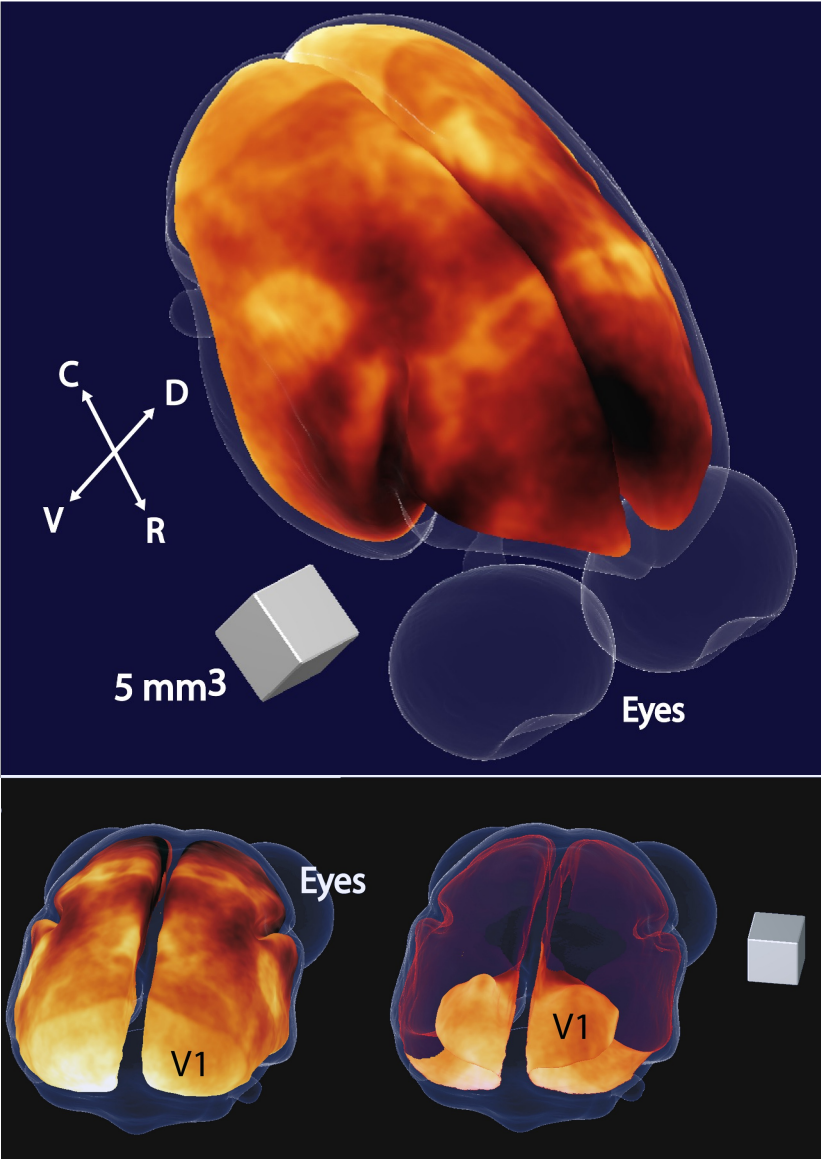
Myelin Stain

MRI

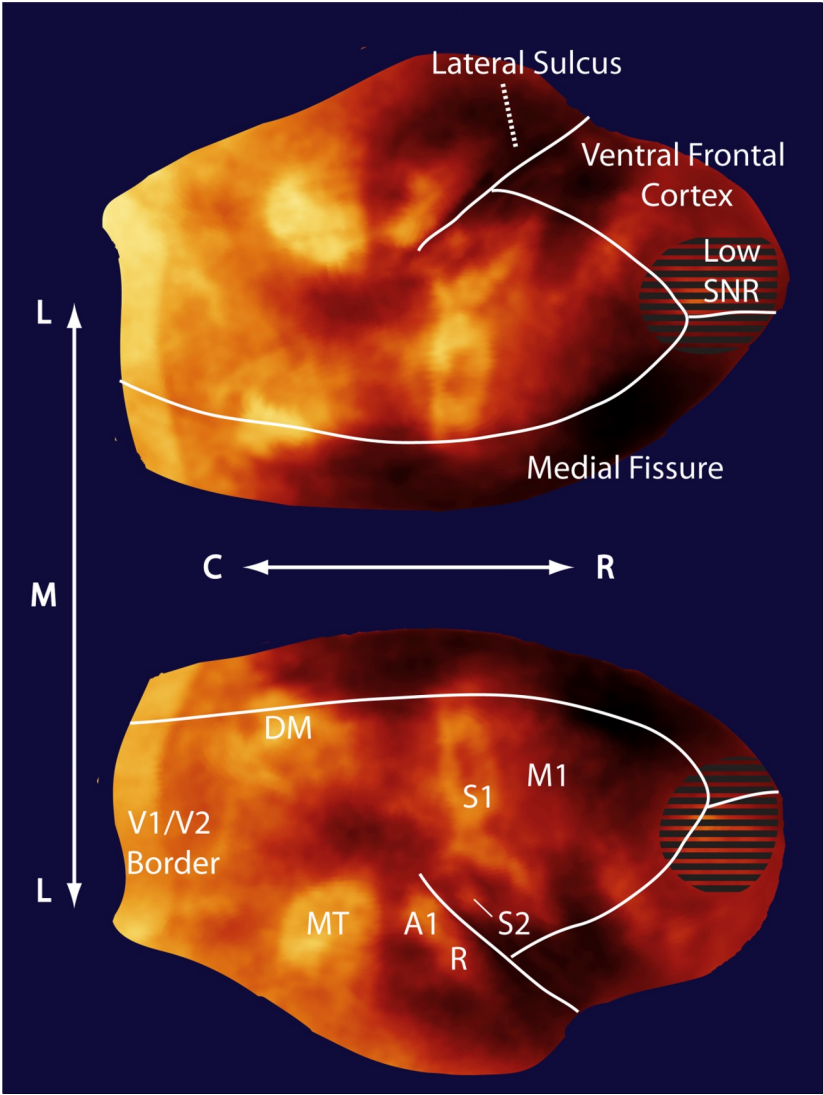


# Cortical Myeloarchitecture Map

## Flattened View

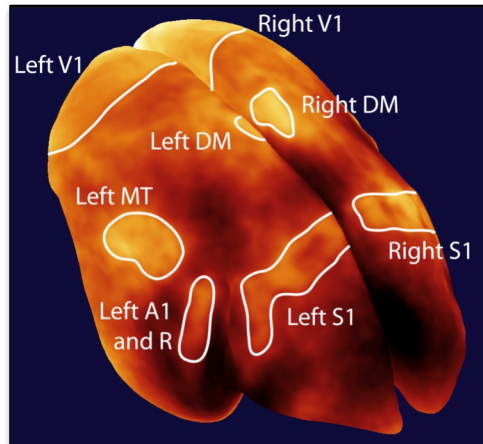


Voxel size 150 μm<sup>3</sup>



Bock et al., *J Neurosci Methods*. 2009 185(1):15-22

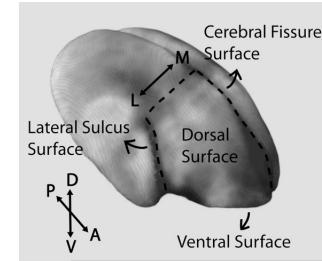
# Reproducible and Quantitative Myeloarchitecture



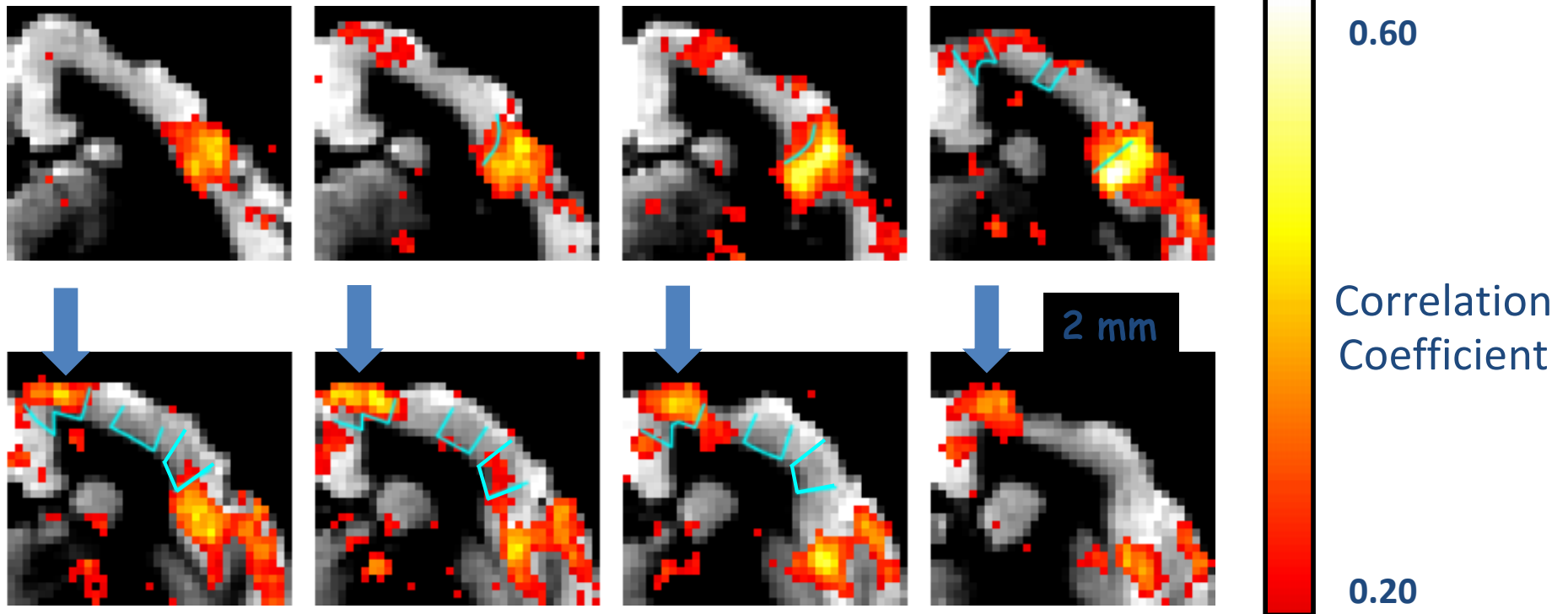
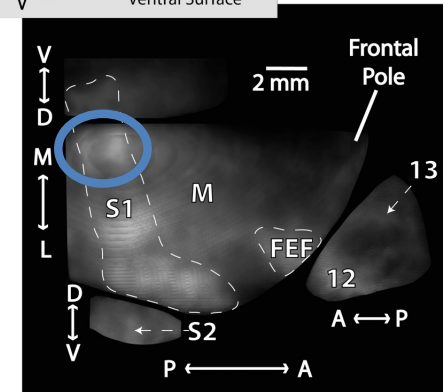
Region	Surface Area (mm <sup>2</sup> )		Surface Area (%)
	Left	Right	
Cortex	1005 ± 21	1007 ± 34	100
V1	219 ± 12	222 ± 3	22
S1	28 ± 4	30 ± 4	3
MT	17 ± 3	19 ± 2	2
A1 and R	11 ± 3	11 ± 3	1
DM	8 ± 1	7 ± 1	1

- Agrees well with histological measures of areas:
  - V1: 200-205 mm<sup>2</sup>: *Fritsches and Rosa 1996 JCN 372:264-82; Missler, Wolff 1993 JCN 333:53-67*
  - MT: 14 mm<sup>2</sup>: *Pessoa et al. 1992 Exp. Brain Res. 2: 459–462.*
  - DM: *no well defined borders.*
- More than ¼ of the marmoset cortex dedicated to processing of visual information

# fMRI Activation Regions Map Well onto Myeloarchitectonic Maps

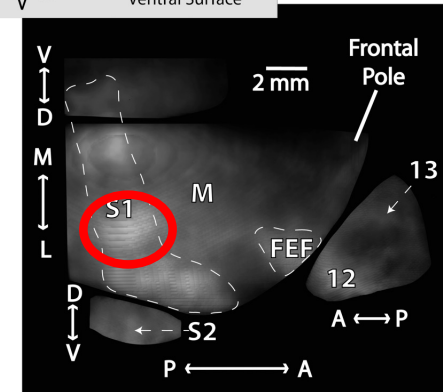
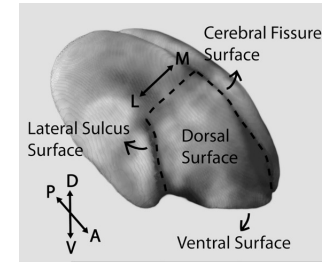


Leg Stimulation: 1.5 mA, 0.3ms, 50 Hz

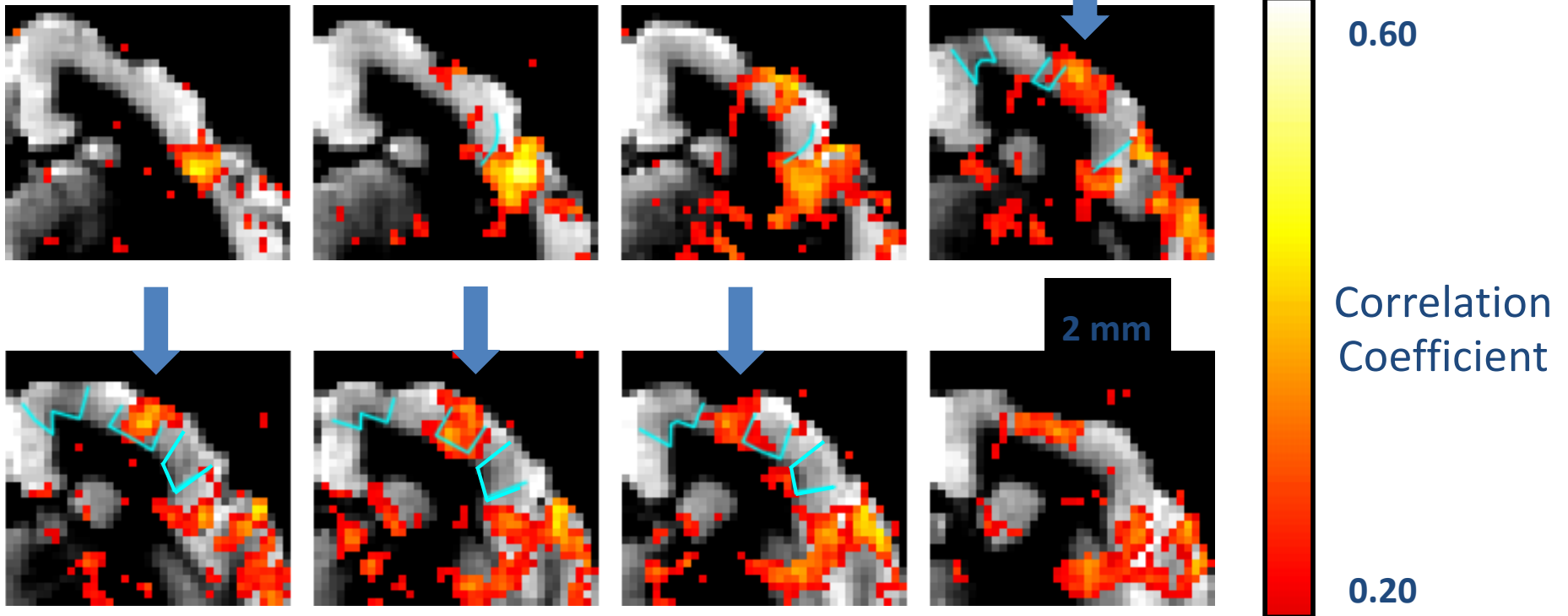




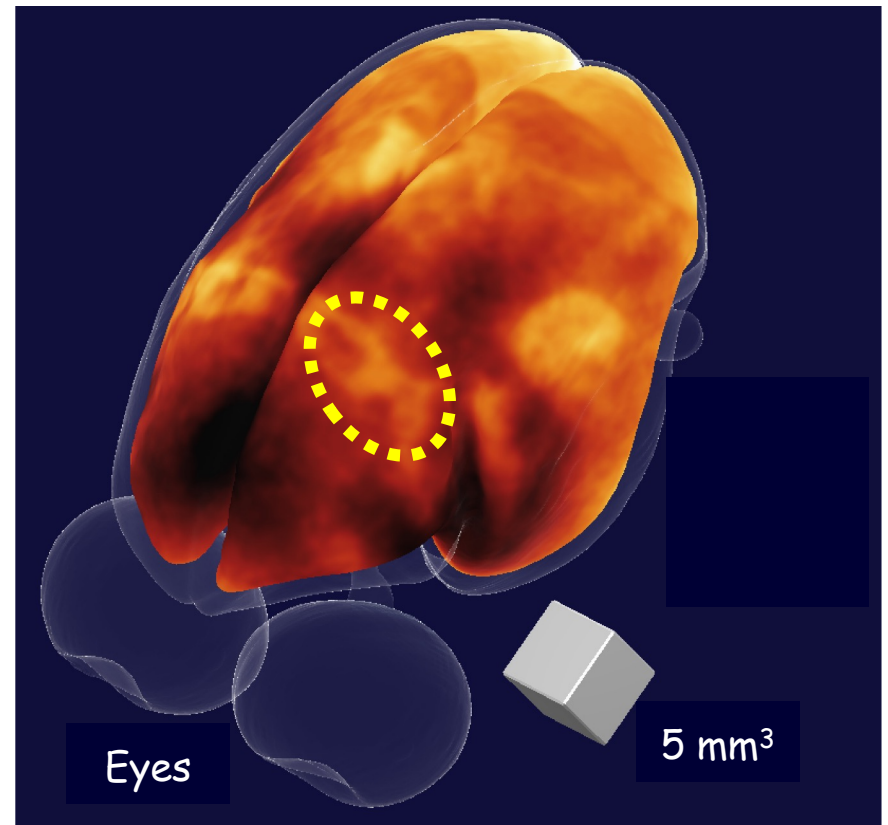
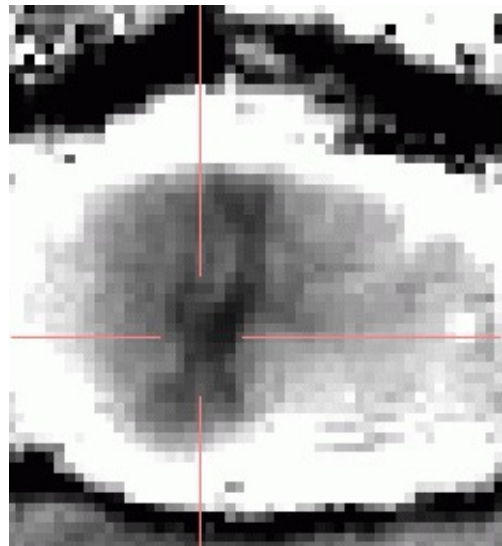
# fMRI Activation Regions Map Well onto Myeloarchitectonic Maps



Forearm/Wrist Stimulation: 1.5 mA, 0.3ms, 50 Hz

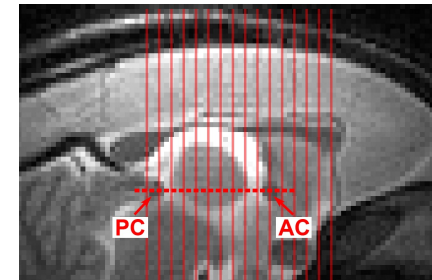


# *fMRI Response Overlaid on Myeloarchitecture*

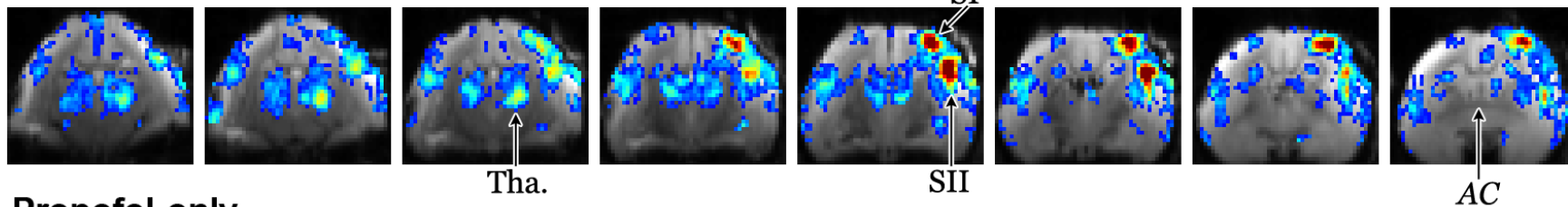


# More Widespread Spatial Extent of Functional Regions in Awake Marmosets

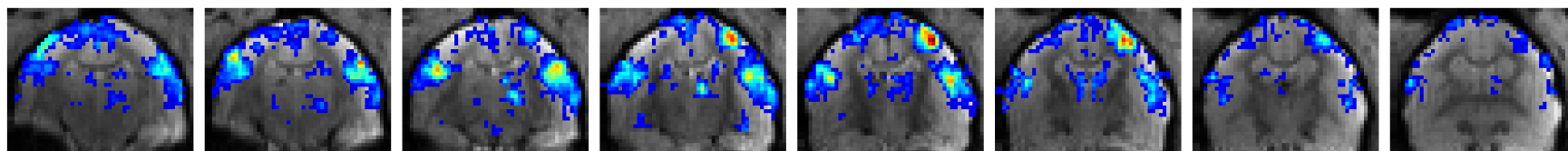
Responses throughout the somatosensory pathway significantly enhanced when compared to anesthetized subjects



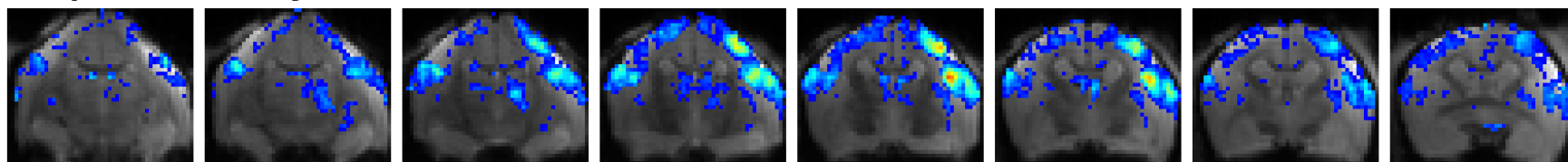
## A. Awake



## B. Propofol-only



## C. Propofol+Fentanyl

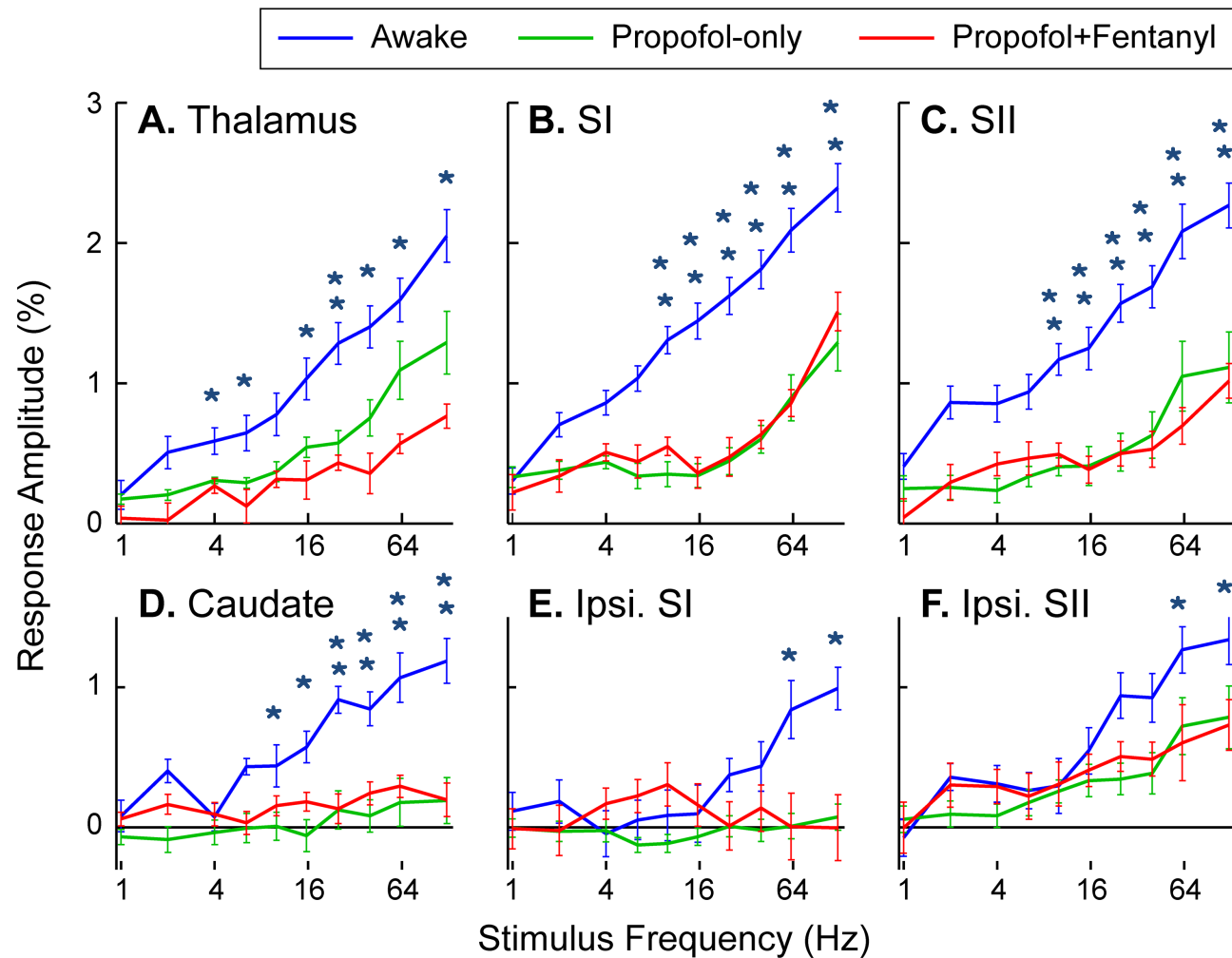


← posterior

anterior →

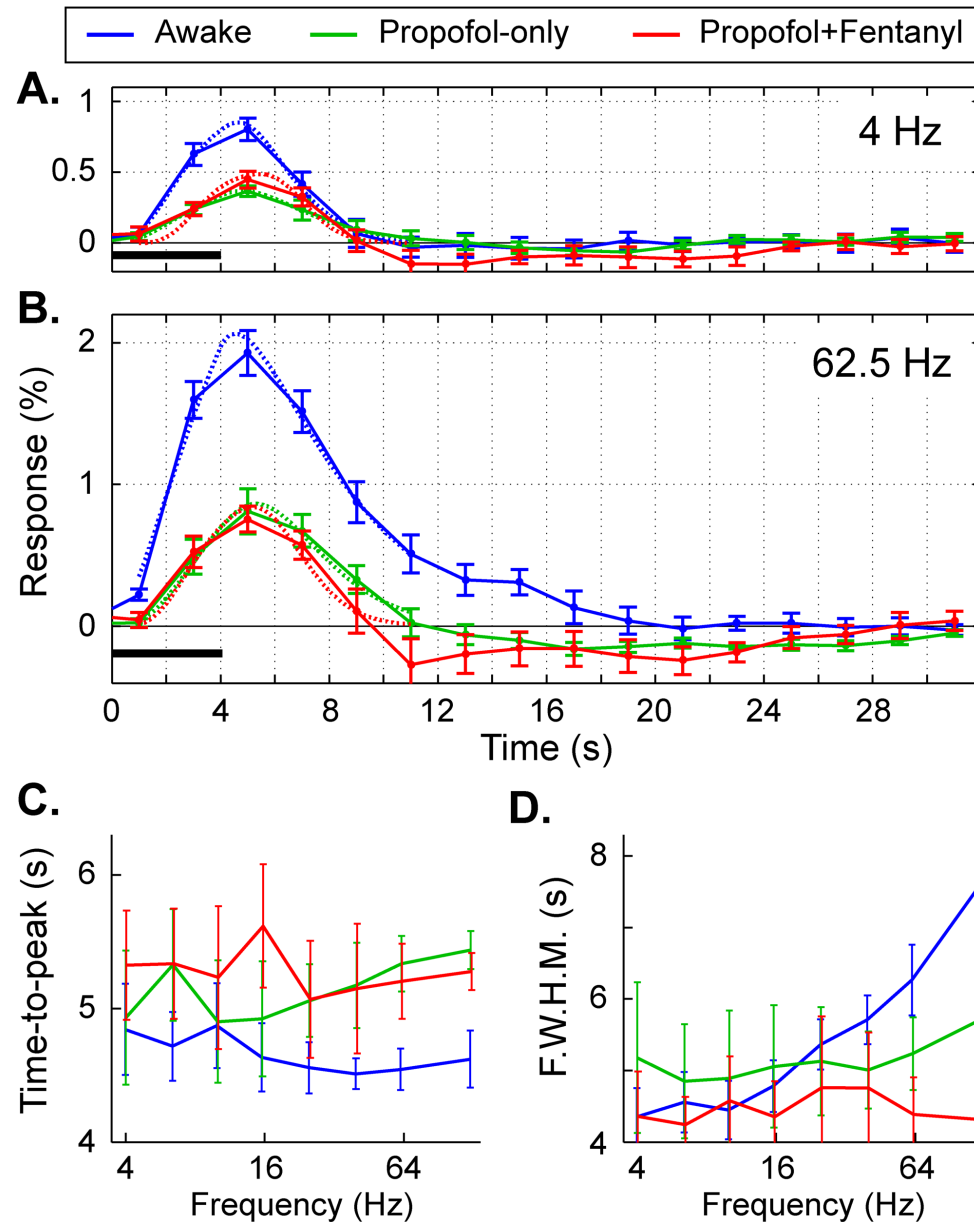
5 mm

# Amplitude of BOLD HRF Significantly Enhanced at High Stimulus Frequencies in Awake Monkeys



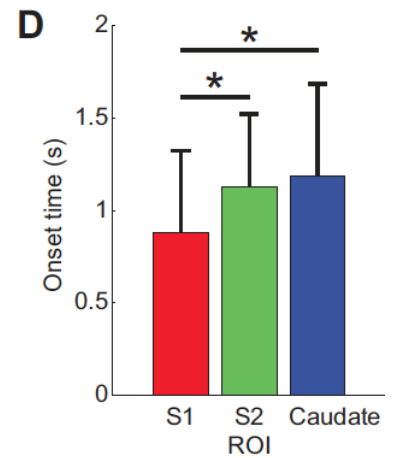
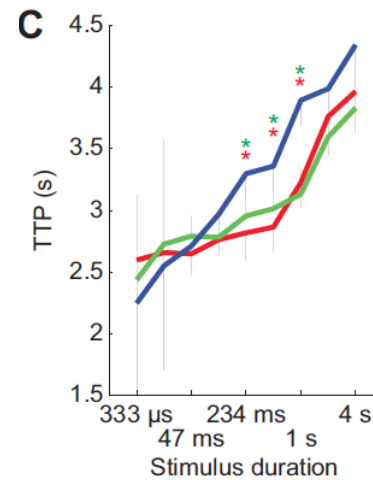
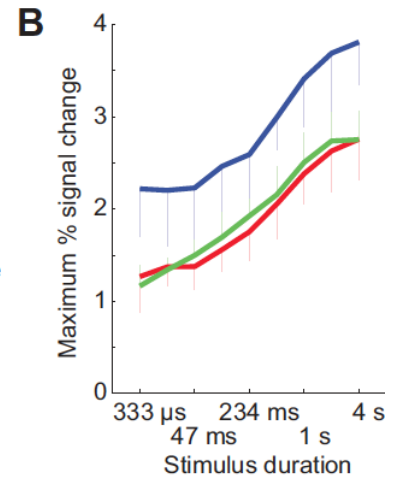
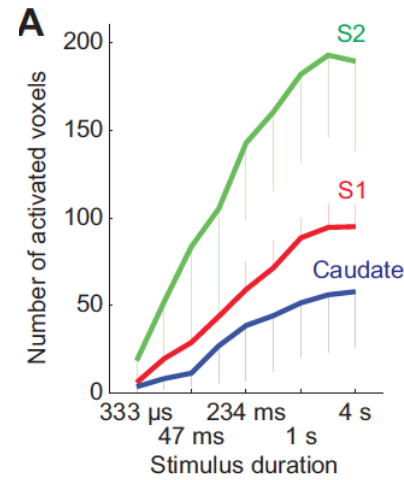
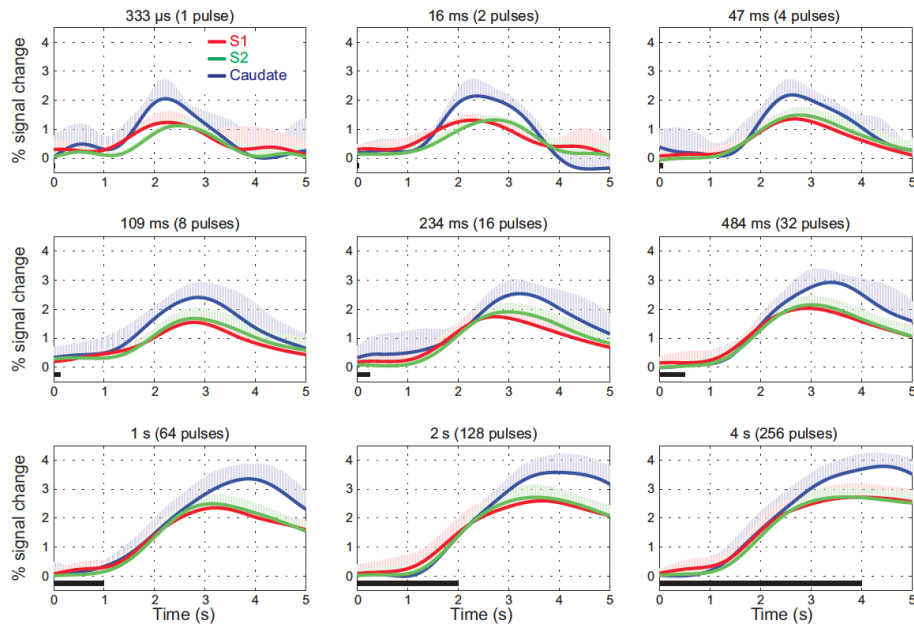
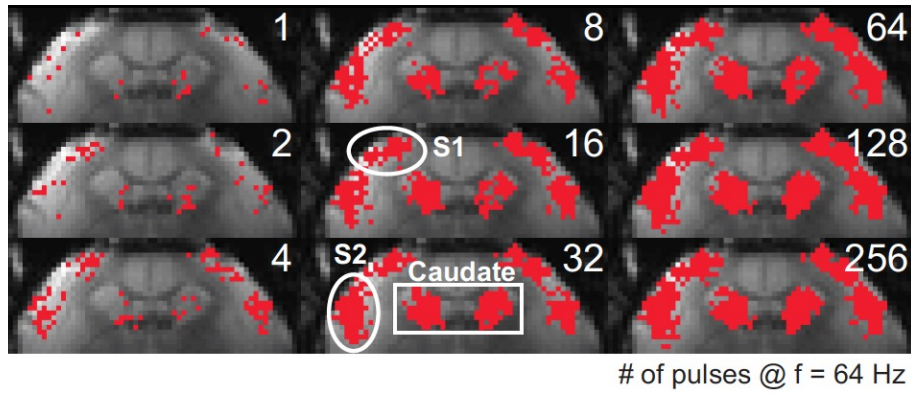


# BOLD HRF in Awake Marmosets Has Faster Times-to-Peak

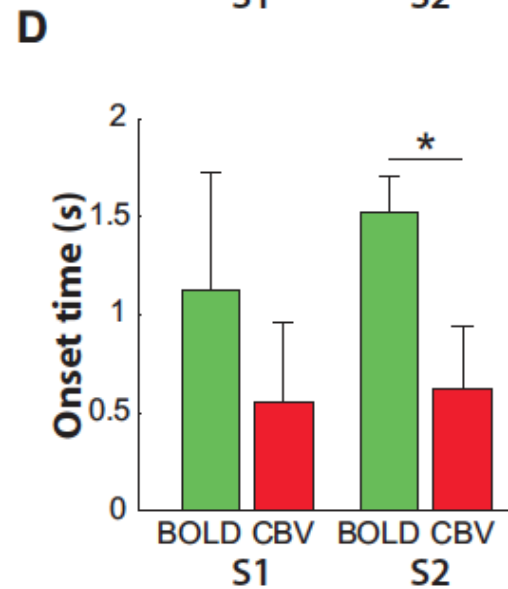
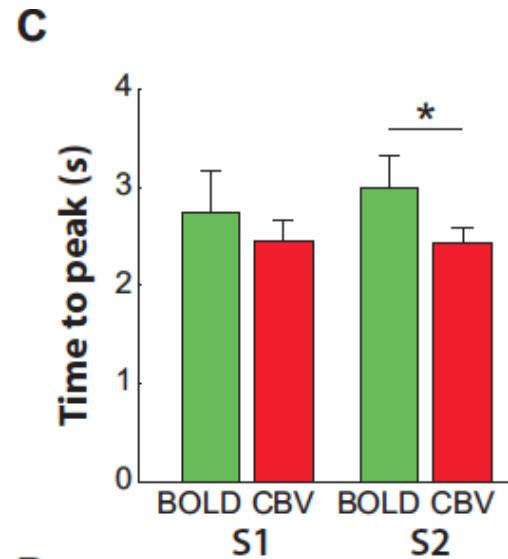
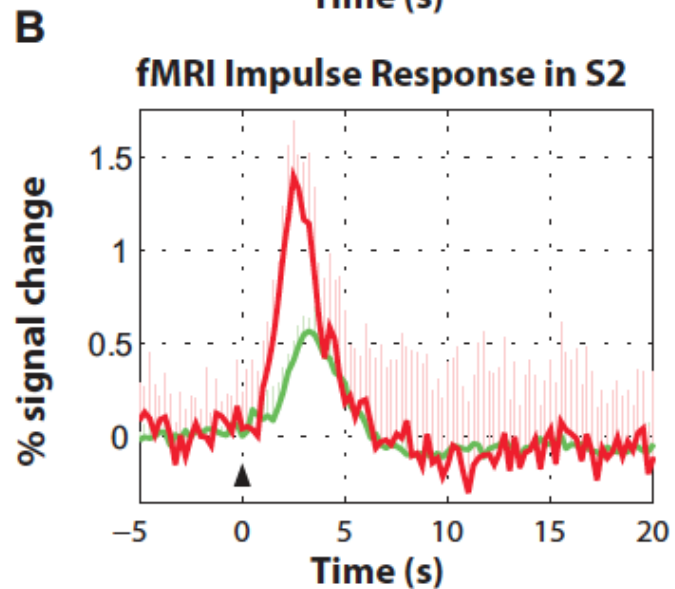
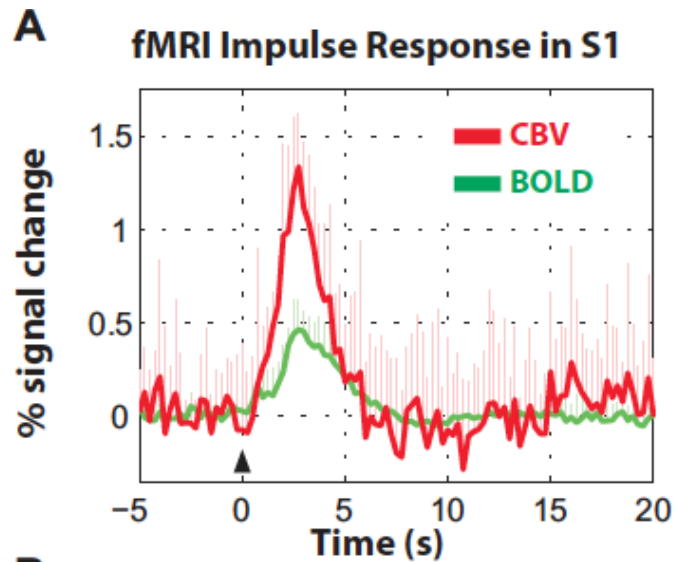


TTP shorter by ~0.5 s

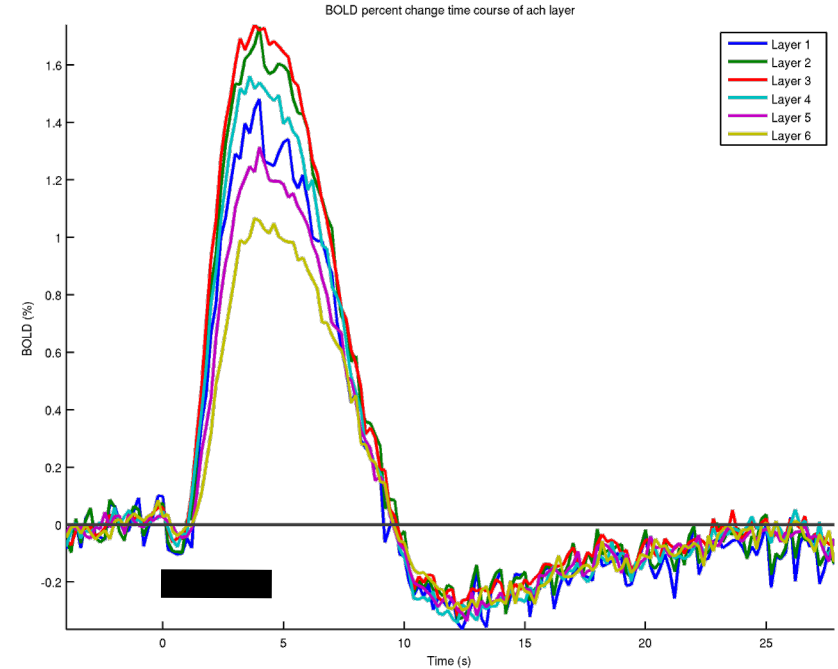
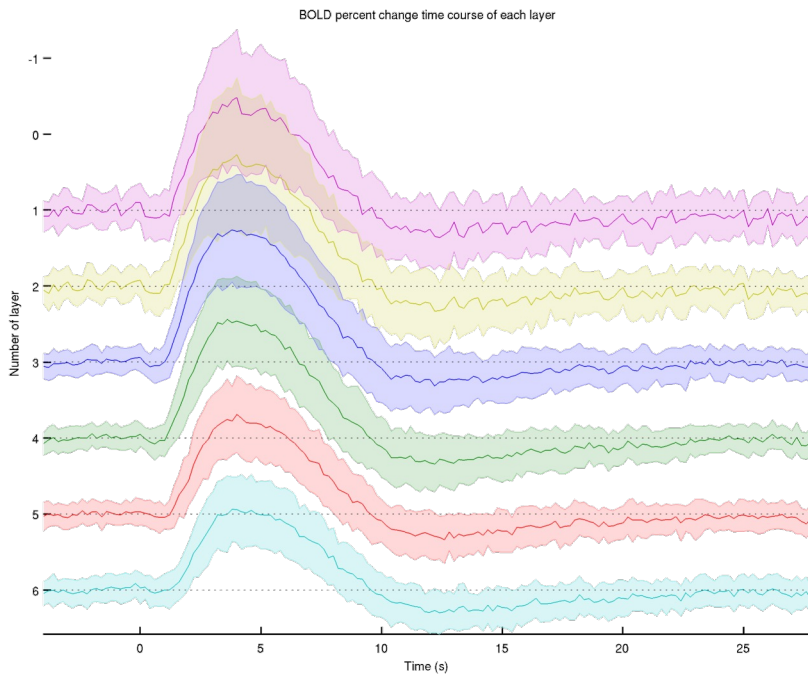
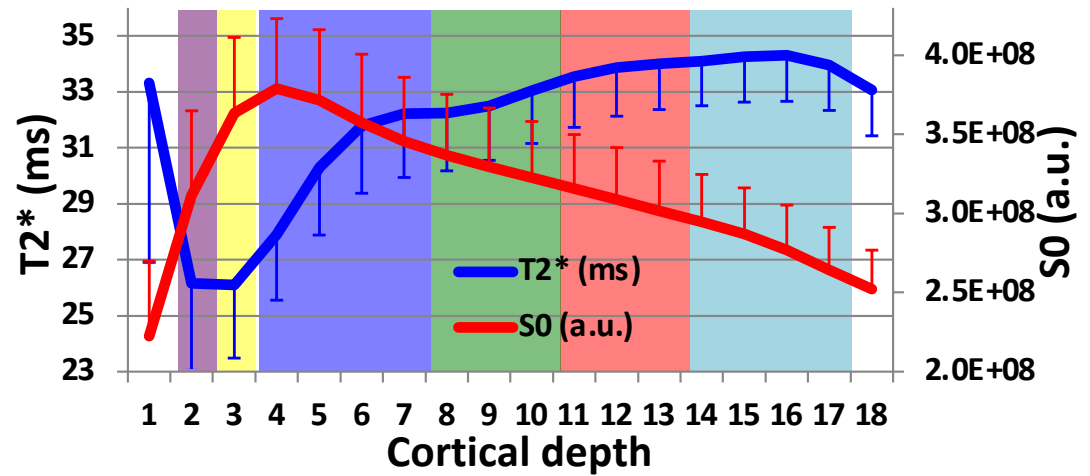
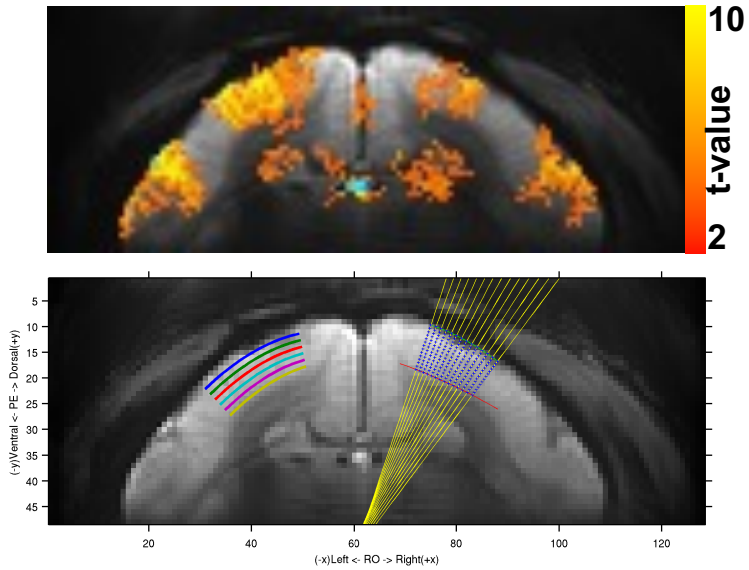
# Robust Activation of S1, S2 and Caudate



# CBV Response Has Shorter Onset Times

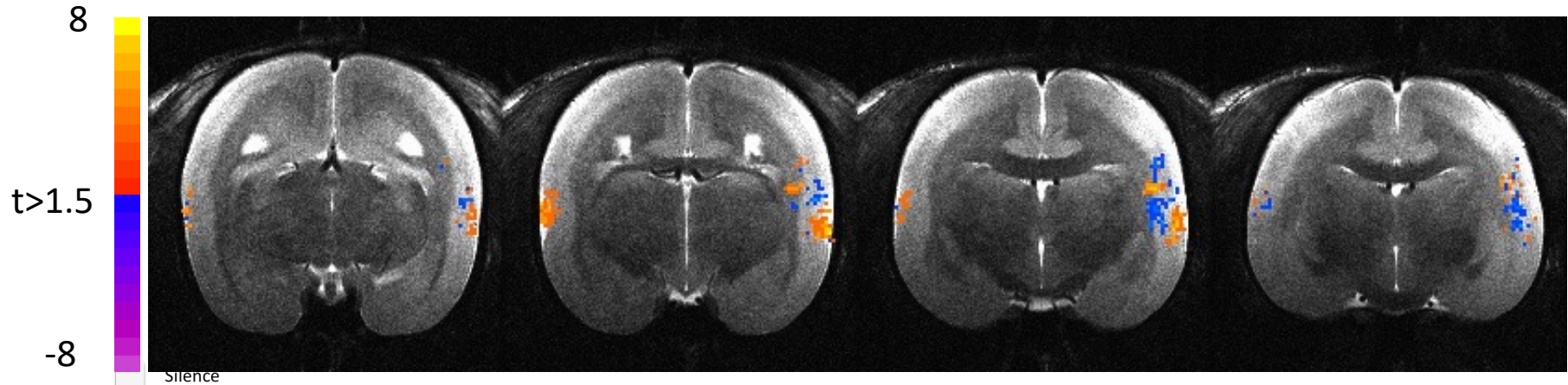
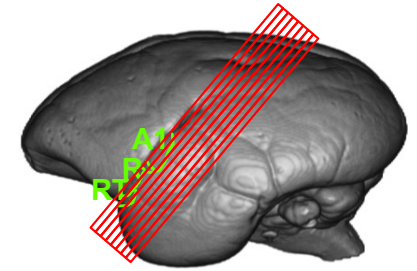


# Hand Representation in Somatosensory Cortex

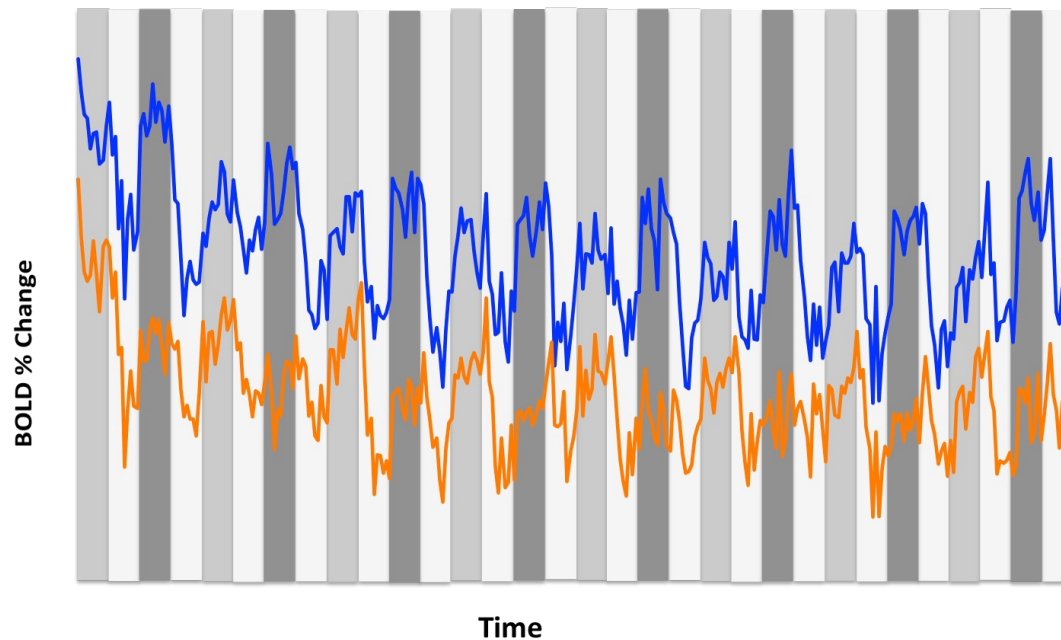




# Tonotopic Mapping in Marmoset Auditory Cortex



Low High voxels  
High Low voxels

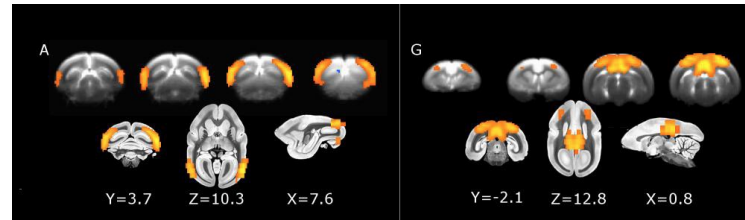


*In collaboration with  
Cory Miller (UCSD) and  
David Leopold (NIMH)*

*Toarmino, Yen et al in preparation*

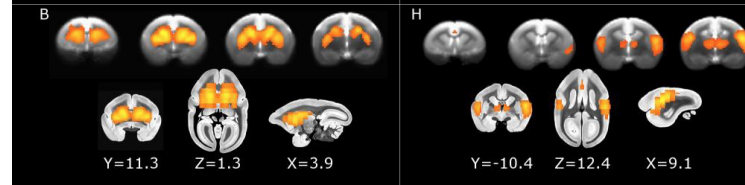
# Resting State Networks In Conscious Marmosets

High Order Visual Cortex  
V3, V4, A19, A19DI



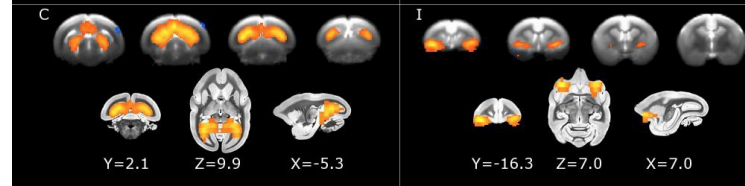
Default Mode Network

Basal Ganglia



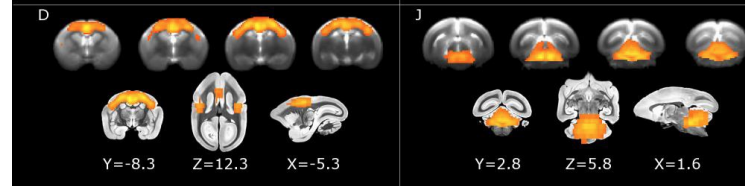
Salience

Primary Visual Cortex



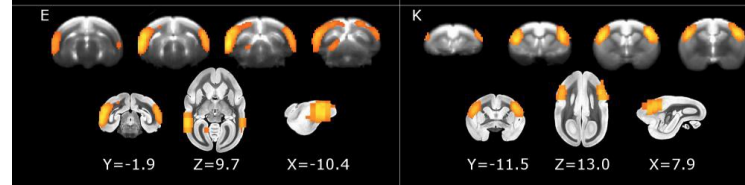
Orbitofrontal Cortex

Dorsomedial  
Somatomotor



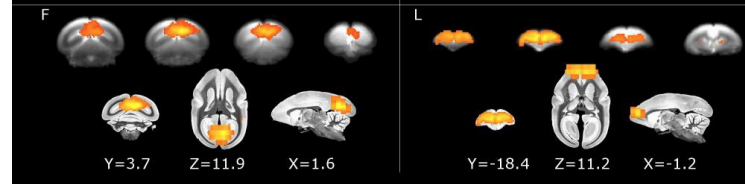
Cerebellum

High Order Visual Cortex  
V4, V5, V6, FST, TE3



Ventrolateral  
Somatomotor

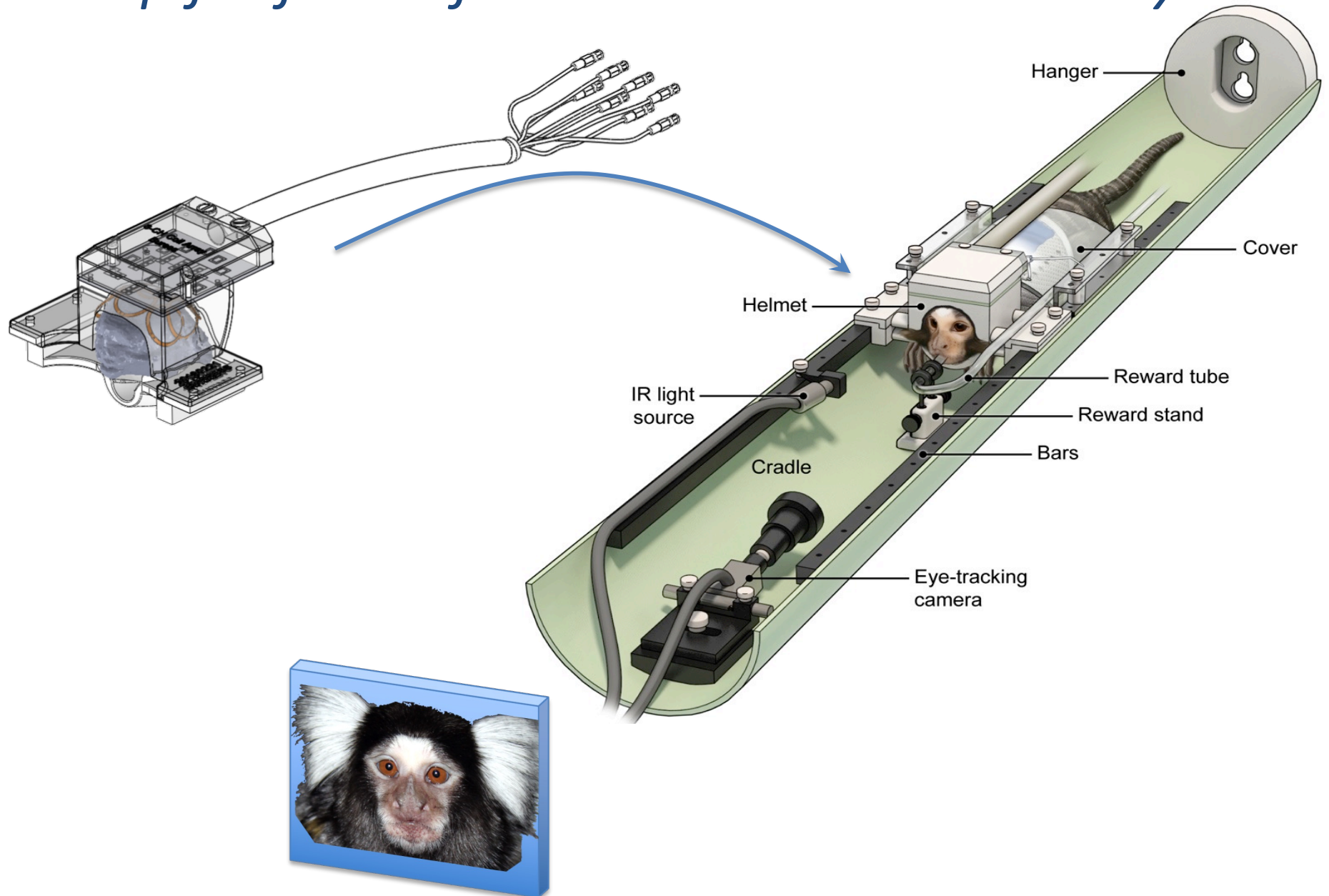
High Order Visual Cortex  
V2, A19M, V6(DM)



Frontal Pole



# Setup for fMRI of Marmoset Visual Pathway

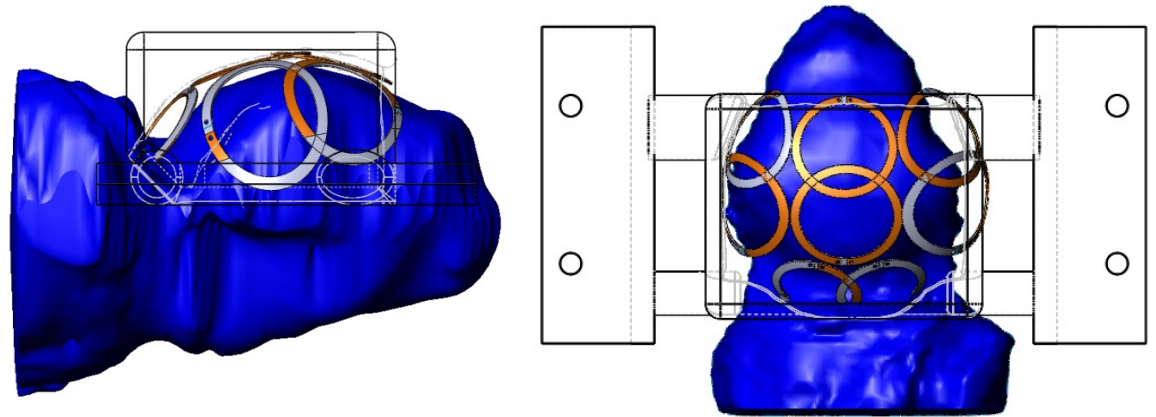
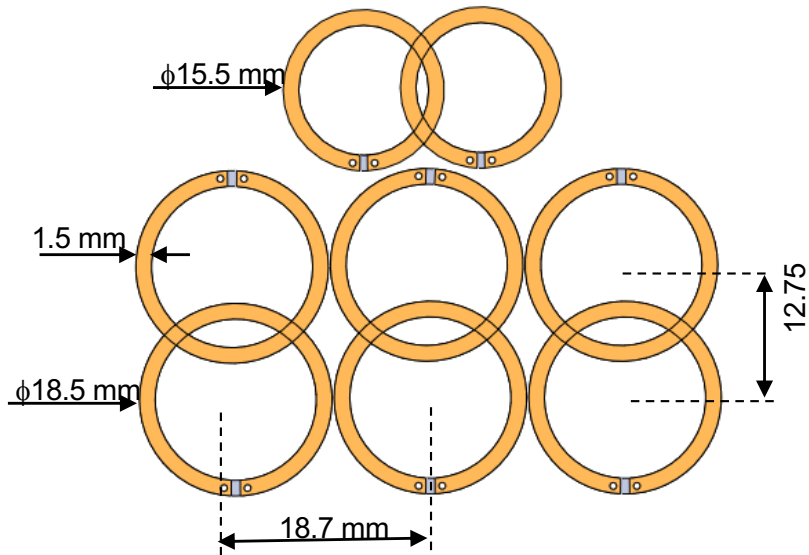


*In collaboration with David Leopold (NIMH)*

*Hung, Yen et al in preparation*

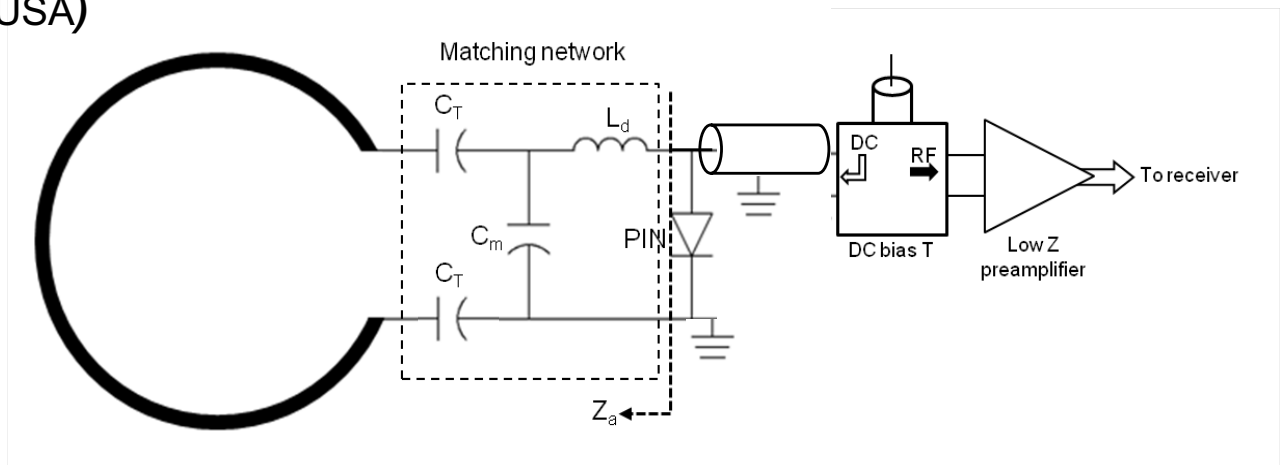
# 8 – Channel embedded array for visual fMRI

## Coil layout



**CuFlon** (Polyflon Inc., Norwalk, CT, USA)

- $2 \text{ oz/ft}^2$  of copper deposited
- $0.25 \text{ mm}$  thick PTFE dielectric

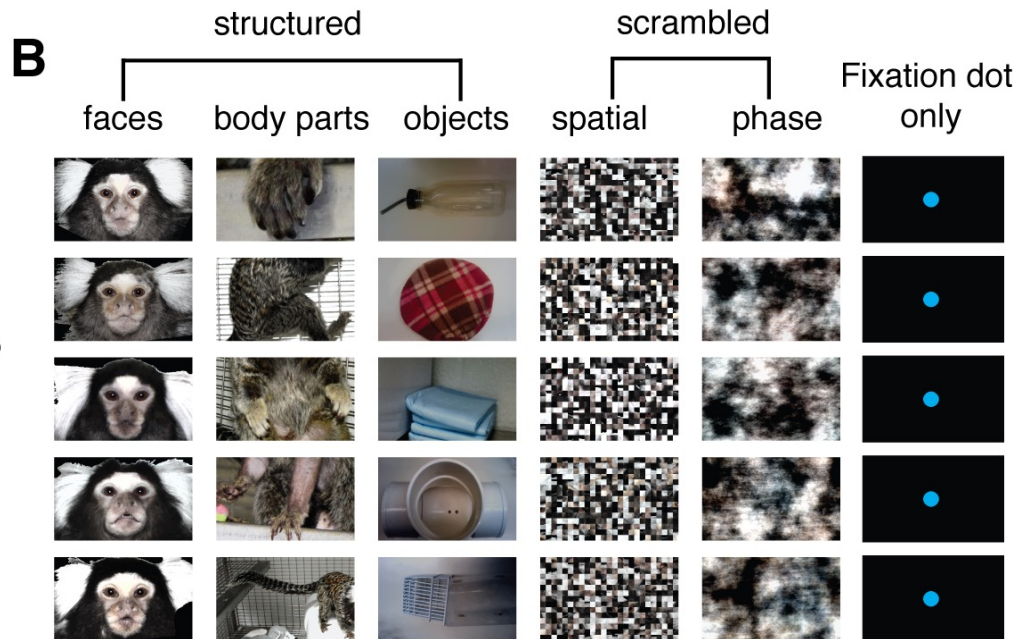
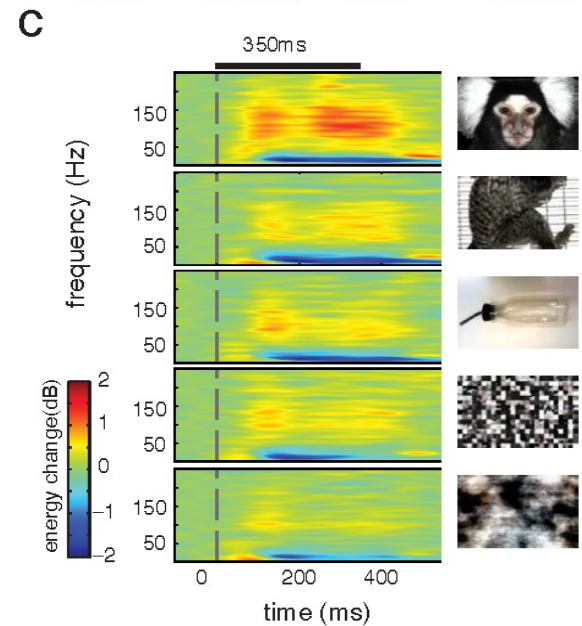
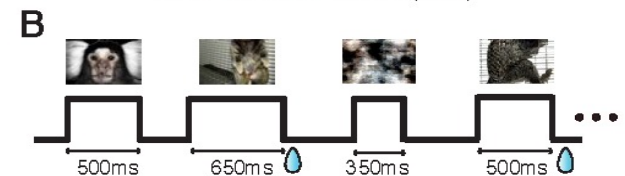
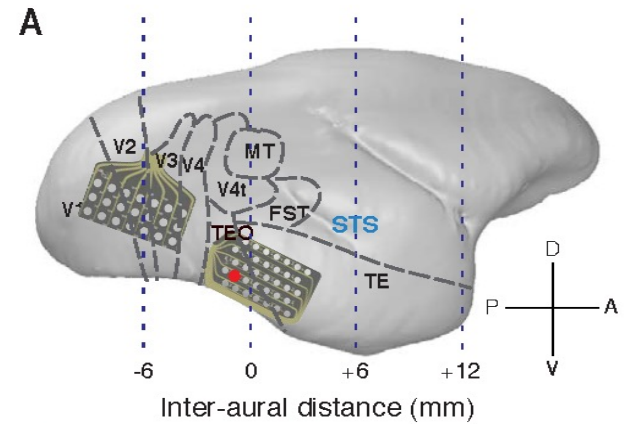
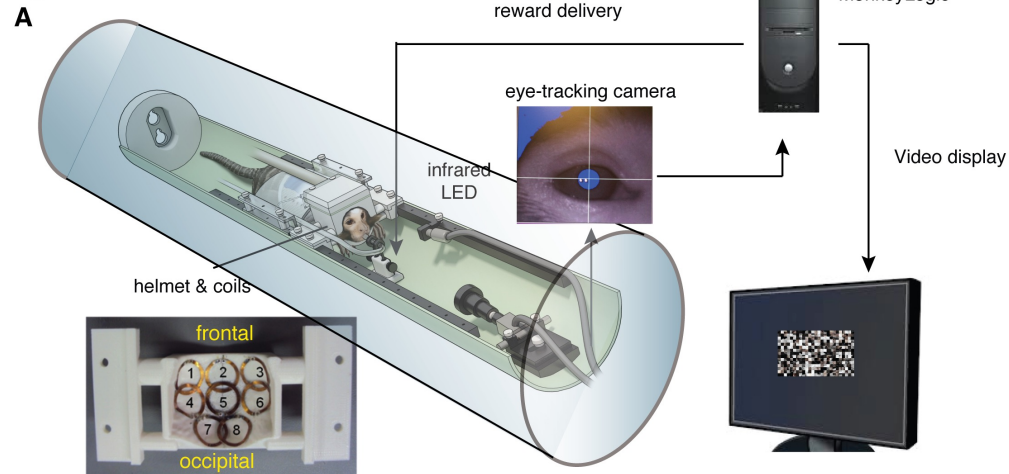


*Single element electric scheme*

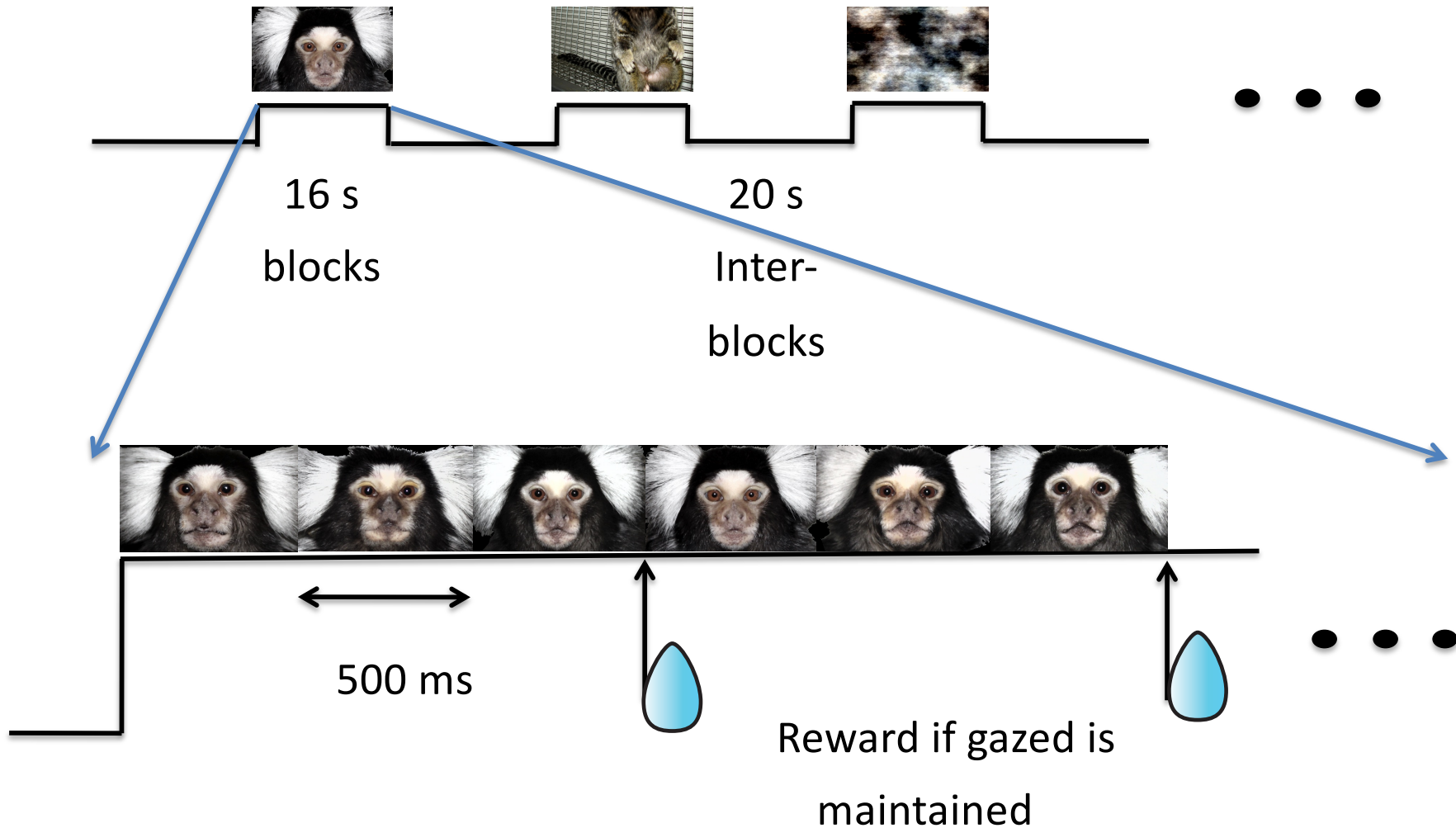


# fMRI/ECoG during visual stimulation

figure 1



# Experimental paradigm for fMRI of Visual System

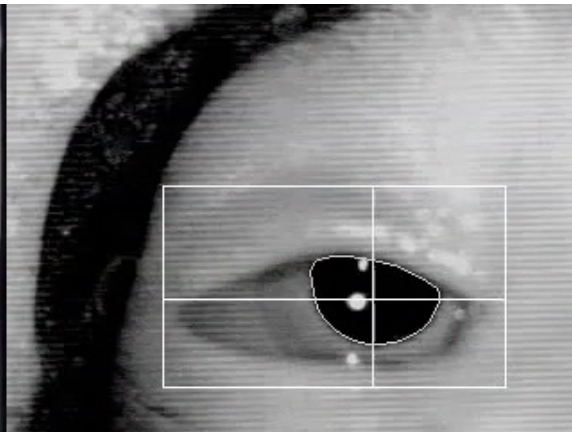


# *Typical behavior of awake marmoset to a stimulus block*

Positive reinforcement



Infra-red eye-tracking



Visual Stimulus



# Visual responses in cortical and sub-cortical areas

figure 3

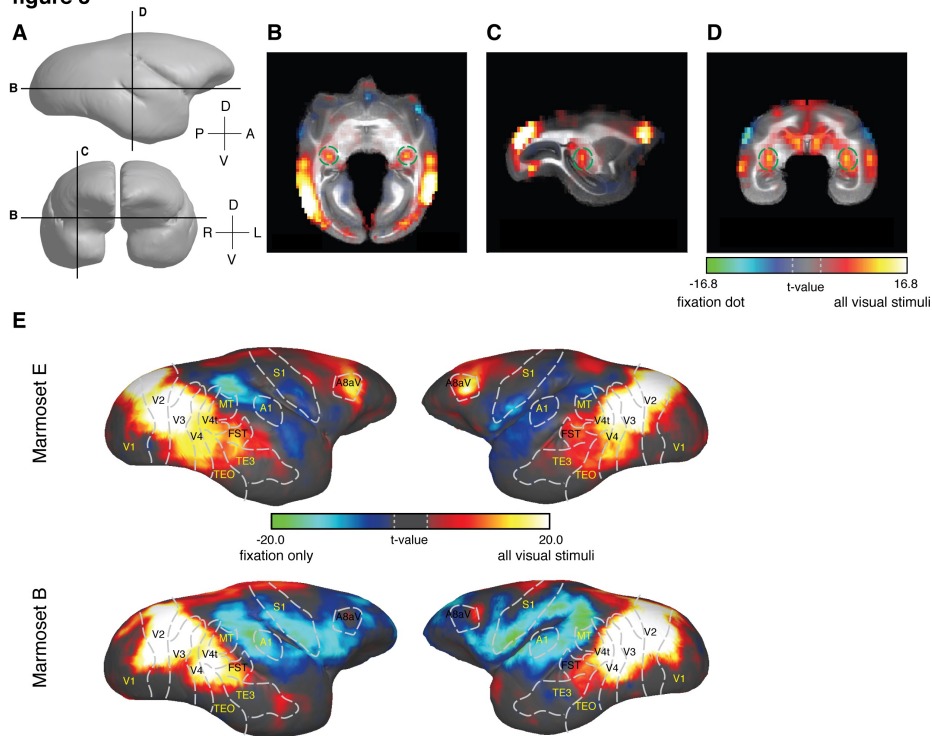
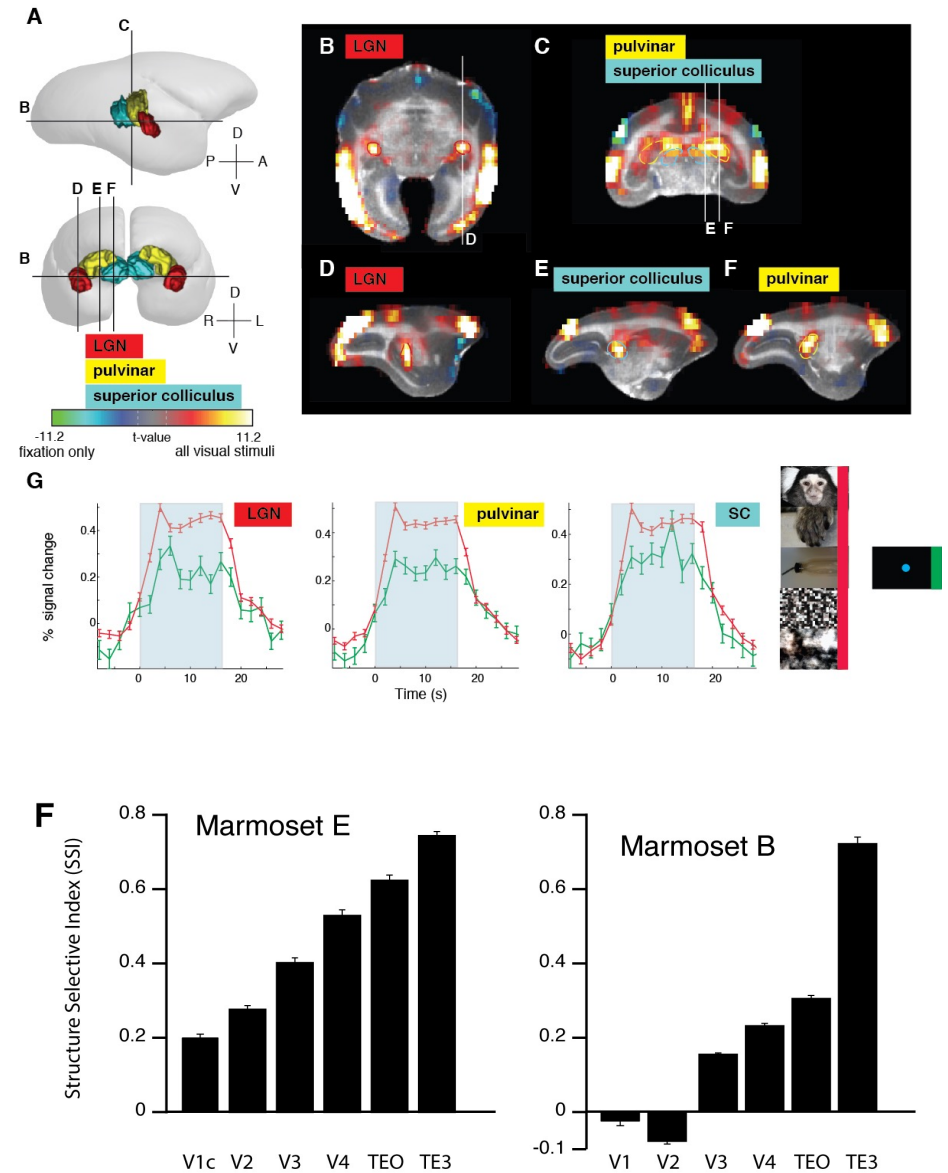
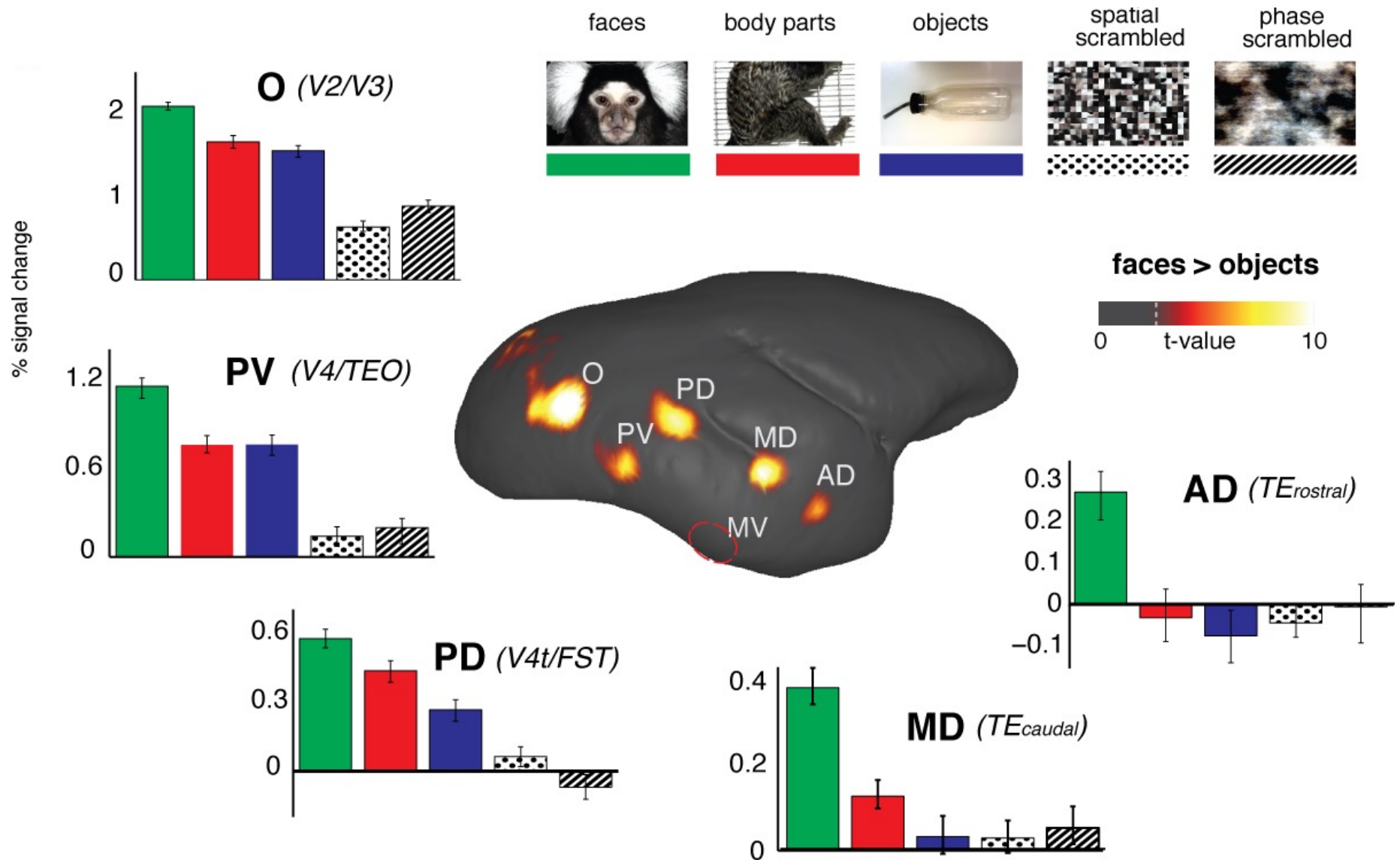


figure 4



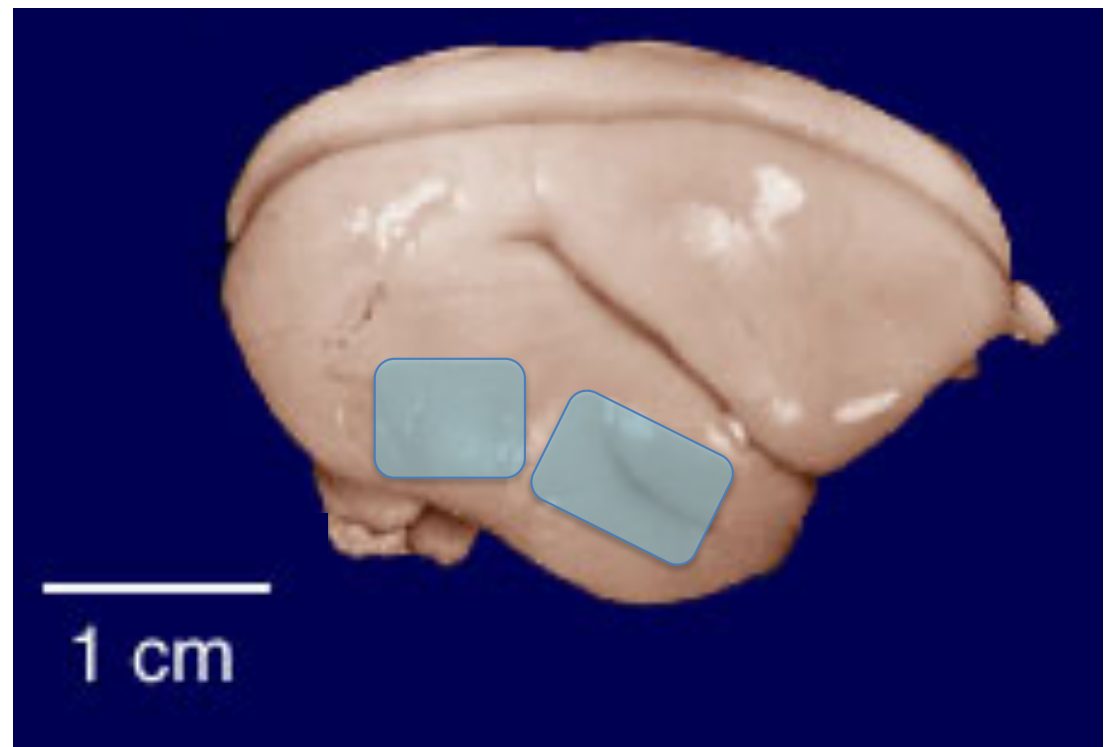
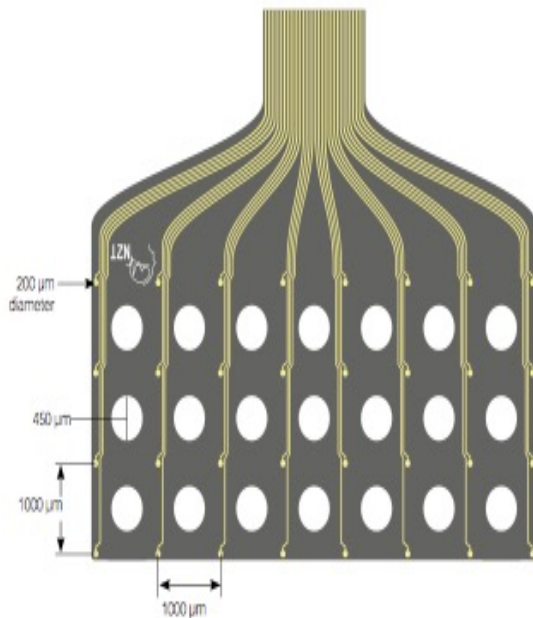


# Face-selective patches along ventral visual pathway

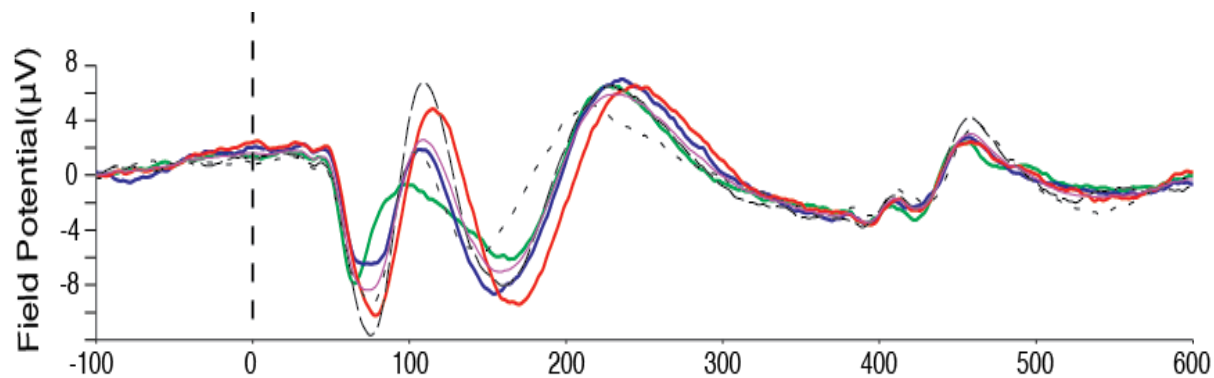
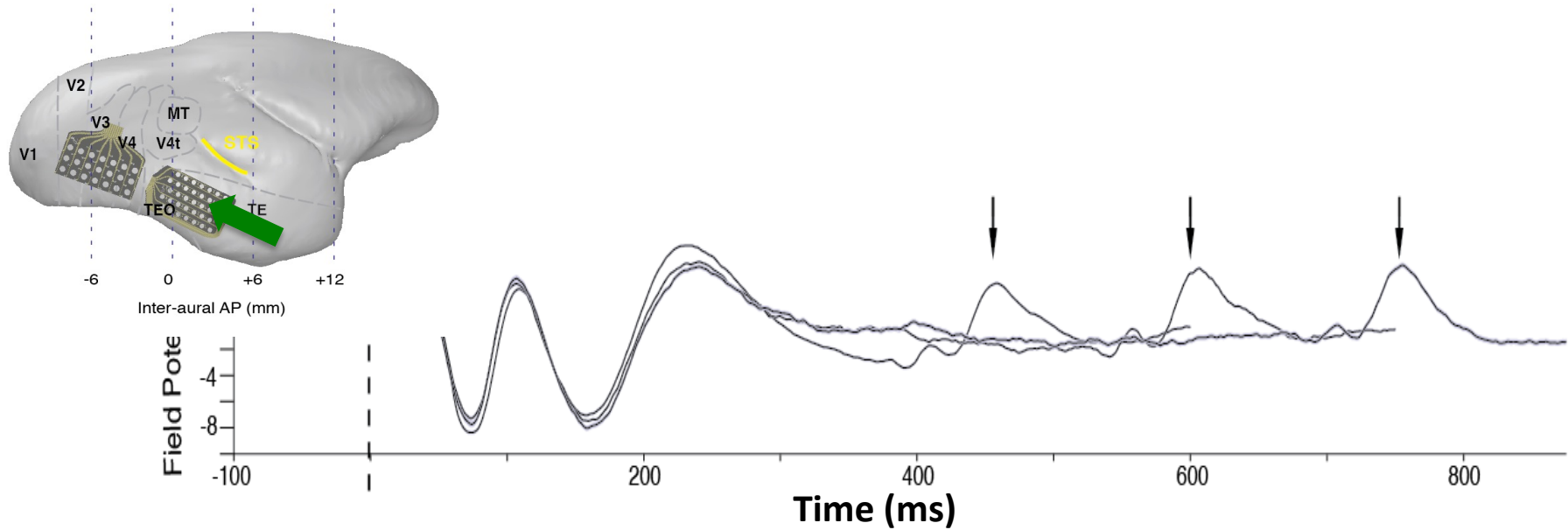


# Electrocorticography (ECoG)

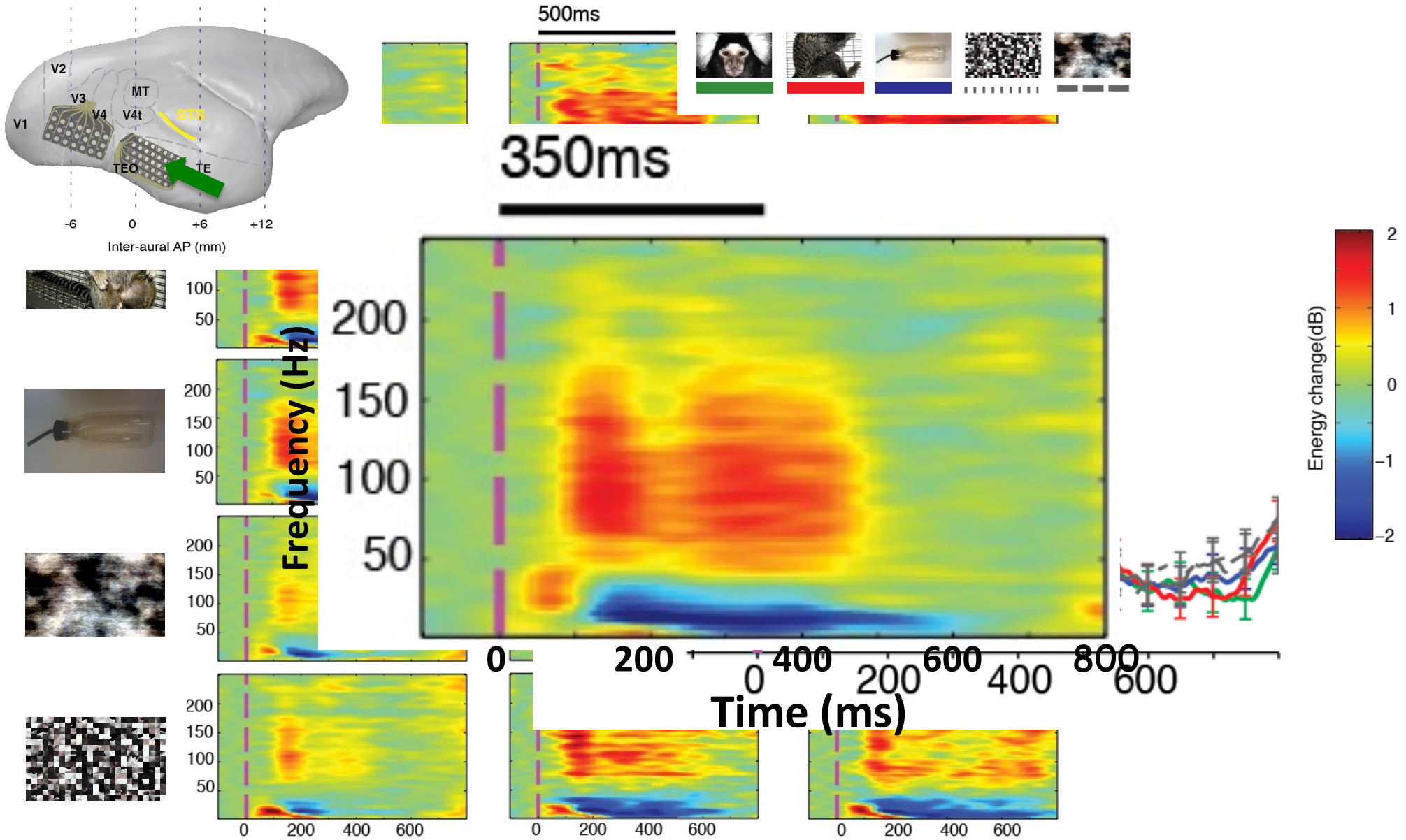
- High density, multi-channel electrode arrays
- Implanted on surface of brain underneath dura
- Record LFPs, good spatial resolution
  - on the order of electrode separation. e.g. 1 mm)



# ECoG measures event-related potentials

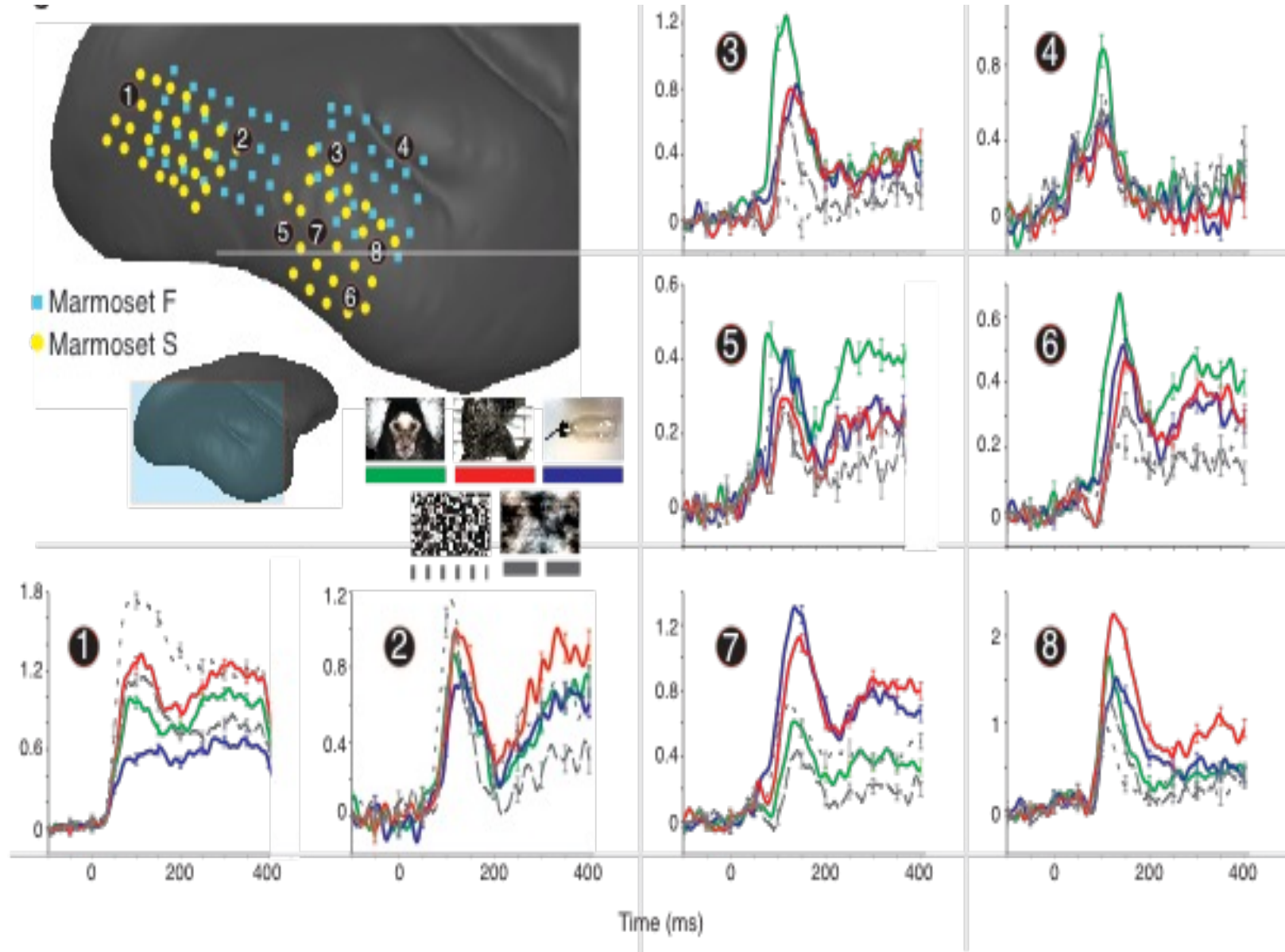


# Time-frequency Analysis (An example site)



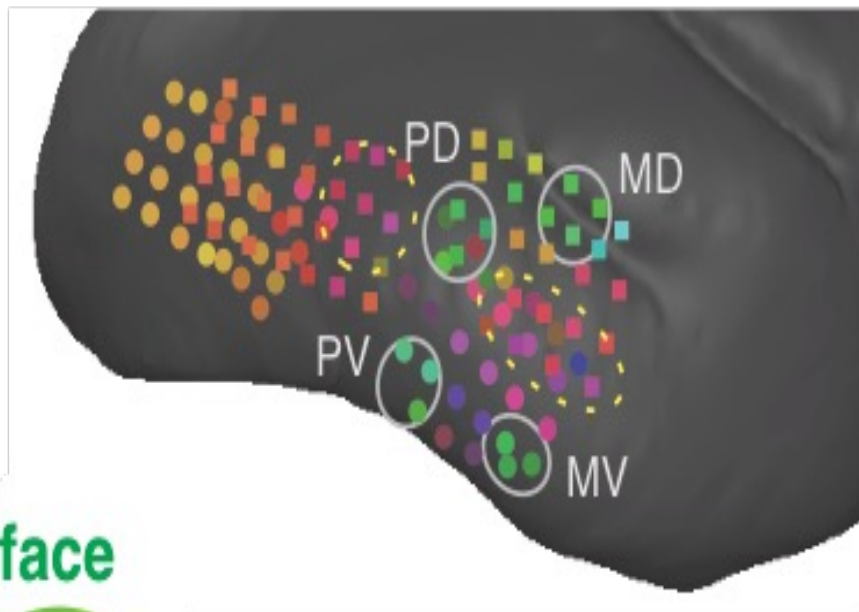


# Spatial layout of the high-gamma responses

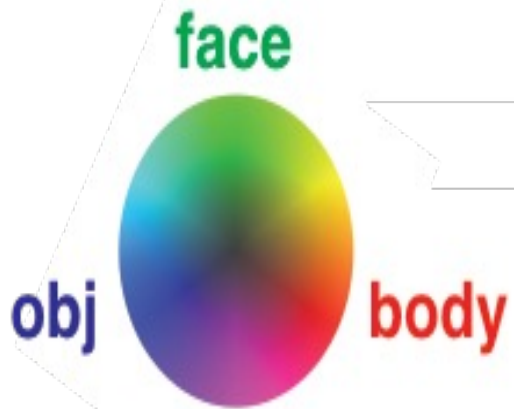
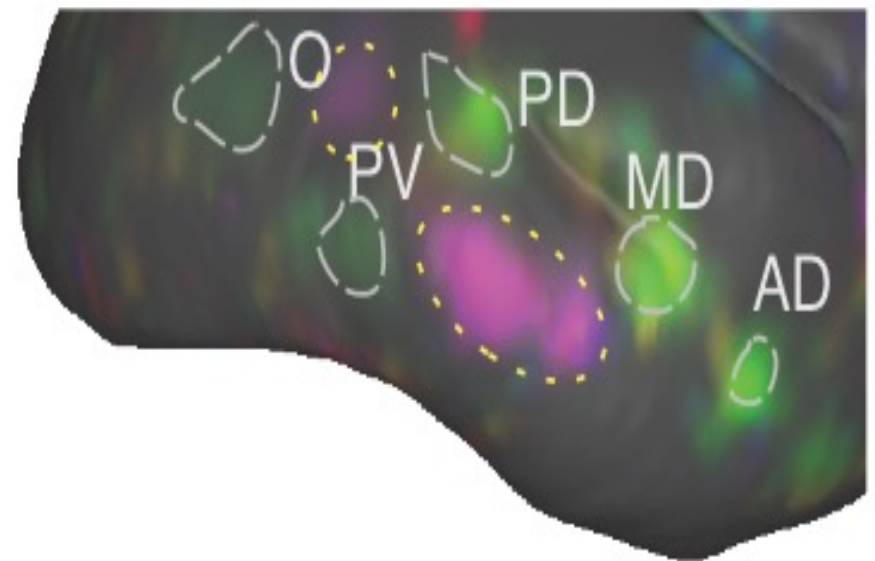


# Good spatial correspondence between fMRI and ECoG in marmoset extrastriate visual pathway

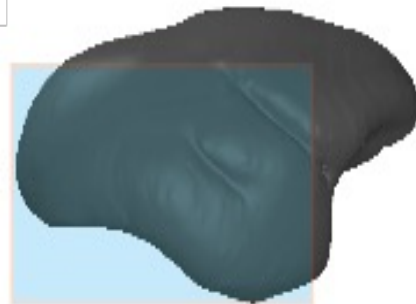
**A ECoG**



**B fMRI**



**B**



# Conclusions

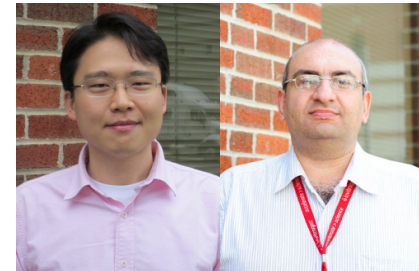
- Advantages of Animal Models
  - Allow comprehensive, multi-modal investigations
  - Can be Performed in State of the Art MRI Systems
  - High SNR, Spatial and Temporal Resolution
- Challenges
  - Use of *anesthesia* is a major confound for fMRI studies
  - Training of animals to perform specialized tasks can be quite challenging

# Cerebral Microcirculation Unit

[main.html](#)

- Research Fellow:
  - *Sang-Ho Choi*
- Lab Technicians
  - *Lisa Zhang*
- Post-bac Fellows
  - *Jennifer Ciuchta*
  - *Calvin Kersbergen*
- Past Associates:
  - *Byeong-Teck Kang*  
currently @ Gachon University of Medicine and Science, Korea
  - *Yoshiyuki Hirano*  
currently @ Chiba university, Chiba, Japan
  - *Junjie V. Liu*  
currently @ Dartmouth University, Hanover, USA
  - *Bojana Stefanovic*  
currently @ University of Toronto, Canada
  - *Nicholas Bock*  
currently @ McMaster University, Canada
  - *George Nascimento*  
currently @ UFRN, Natal, Brazil
  - *Fernando F. Paiva*  
currently @ IFSC, USP, Sao Carlos, Brazil
  - *Renata F. Leoni*  
currently @ FFCLRP, USP, Ribeirao Preto, Brazil

- Postdoctoral Fellows
  - *Alden Hung*
  - *Daniel Papoti*
  - *Jungeun Park*
  - *Puifai Santisakultarm*
  - *Cecil Yen*





*Thank You!*

