

# Neuroimaging models of human disease for better health: Neuronal connectomic fMRI approaches

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# Research & updates - sometimes surprises

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## Presentation



## ORCID

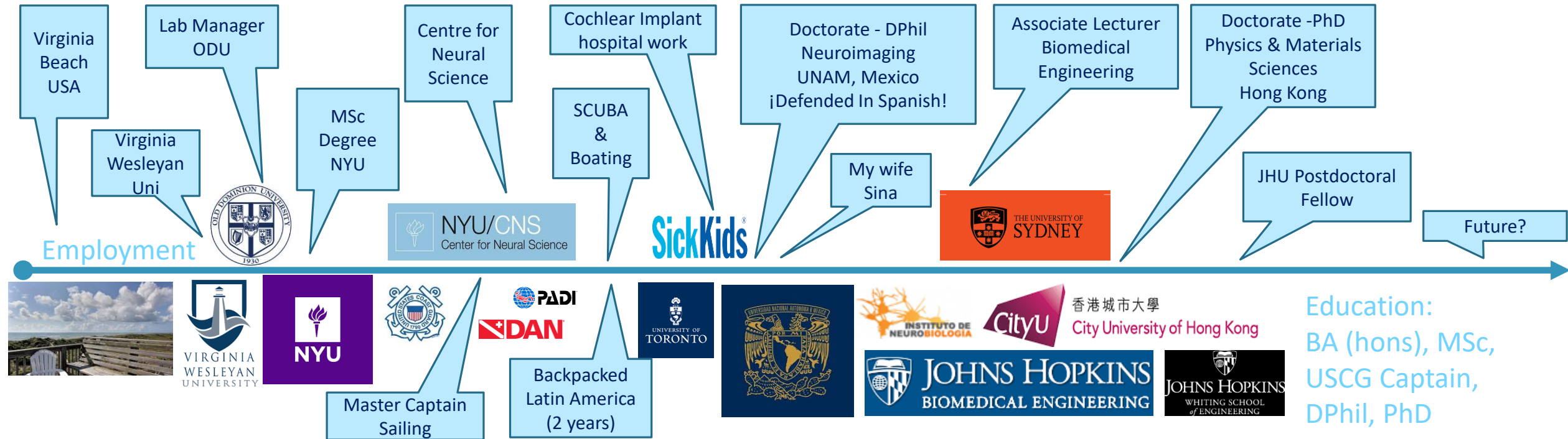


Entire presentation link:

<https://fmanno.com/research.pdf>

<https://francismanno.github.io/fmanno/research.pdf>

# My academic life (curriculum vitae visualized)



From | to ...

## Why does Rice play Texas? (nod to JFK)

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- Moonshot speech: "We choose to go to the Moon"
- We do these things... "not because they are easy, but because they are hard"
- Hot topic discussed was the football rivalry

# Overview – emphasized projects

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- Alzheimer's
- Hearing Loss
- Environmental Enrichment

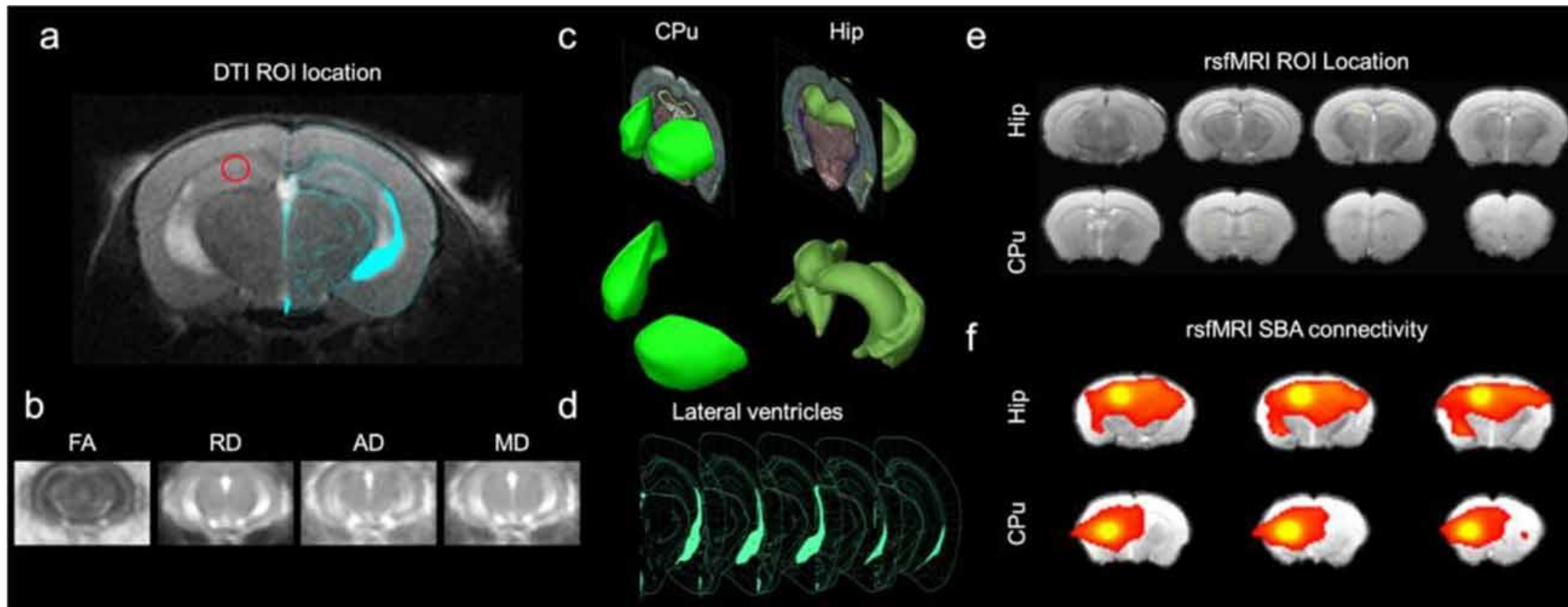
# Introduction: What is Alzheimer's Disease?

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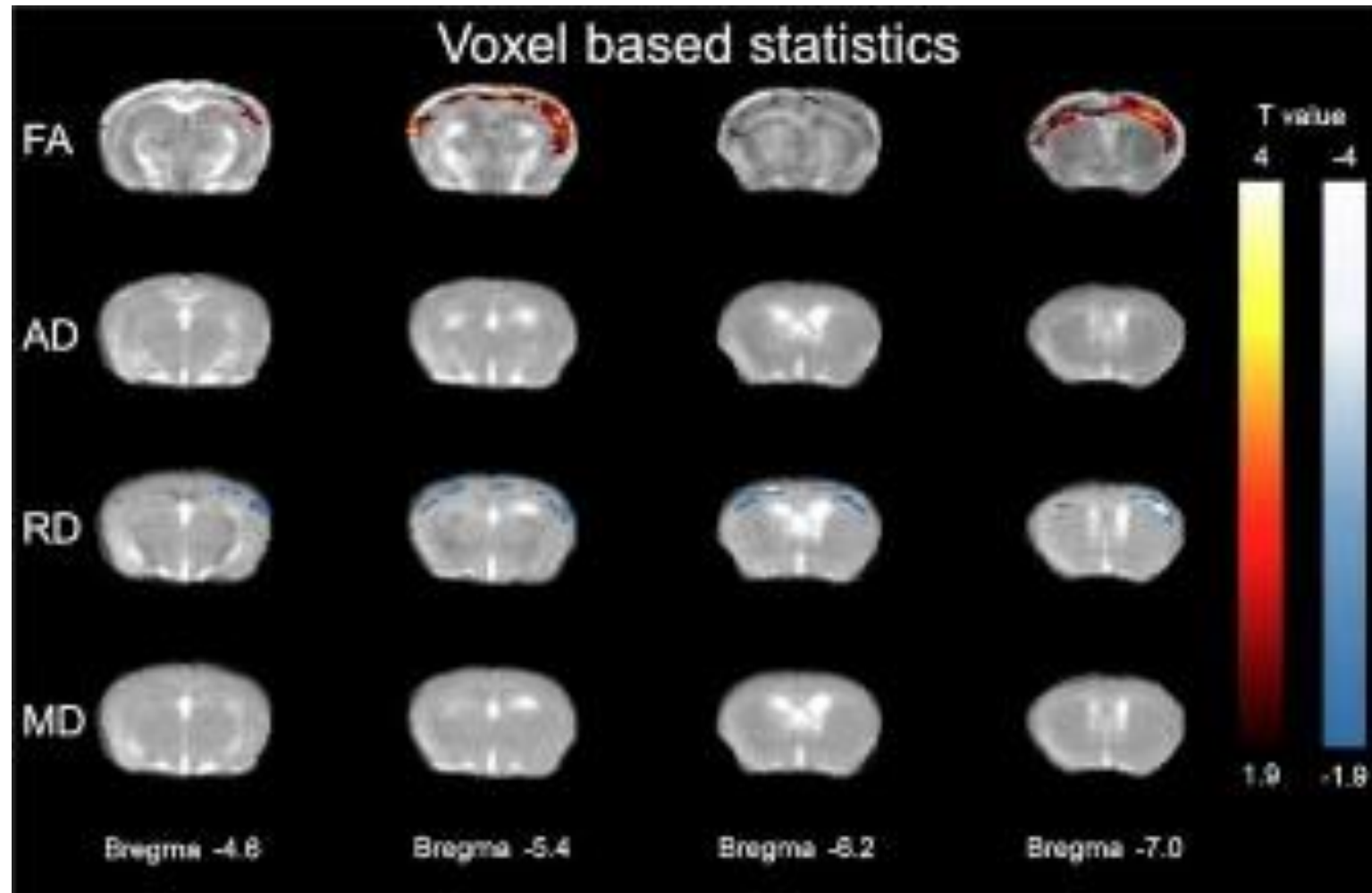
- Alzheimer's disease is characterized by neurofibrillary tangles and amyloid plaques
  - -These proteins are normal in the human brain
  - -How these proteins become detrimental is currently unknown, but is thought to do with aggregation.
- Research questions: Does tissue state alter amyloidogenesis & tauopathy in human and mouse models of Alzheimer's Disease? Can we disrupt tissue-protein interactions to facilitate clearance?
- Manno FAM, et al., Front Aging Neurosci. 2019 Mar 22;11:39.



# Neuroimaging the 3xTg AD mouse

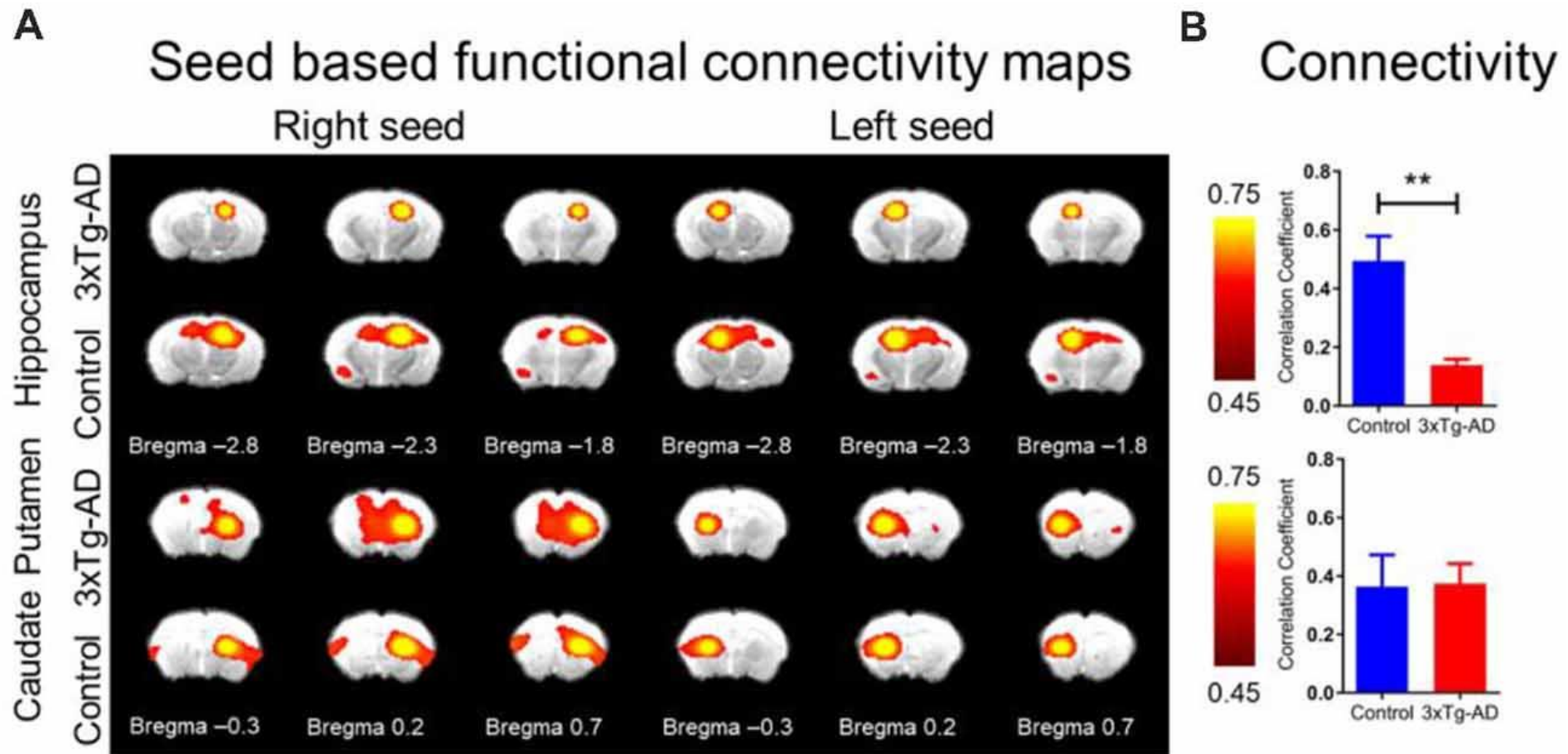


# DTI metrics in Alzheimers Disease



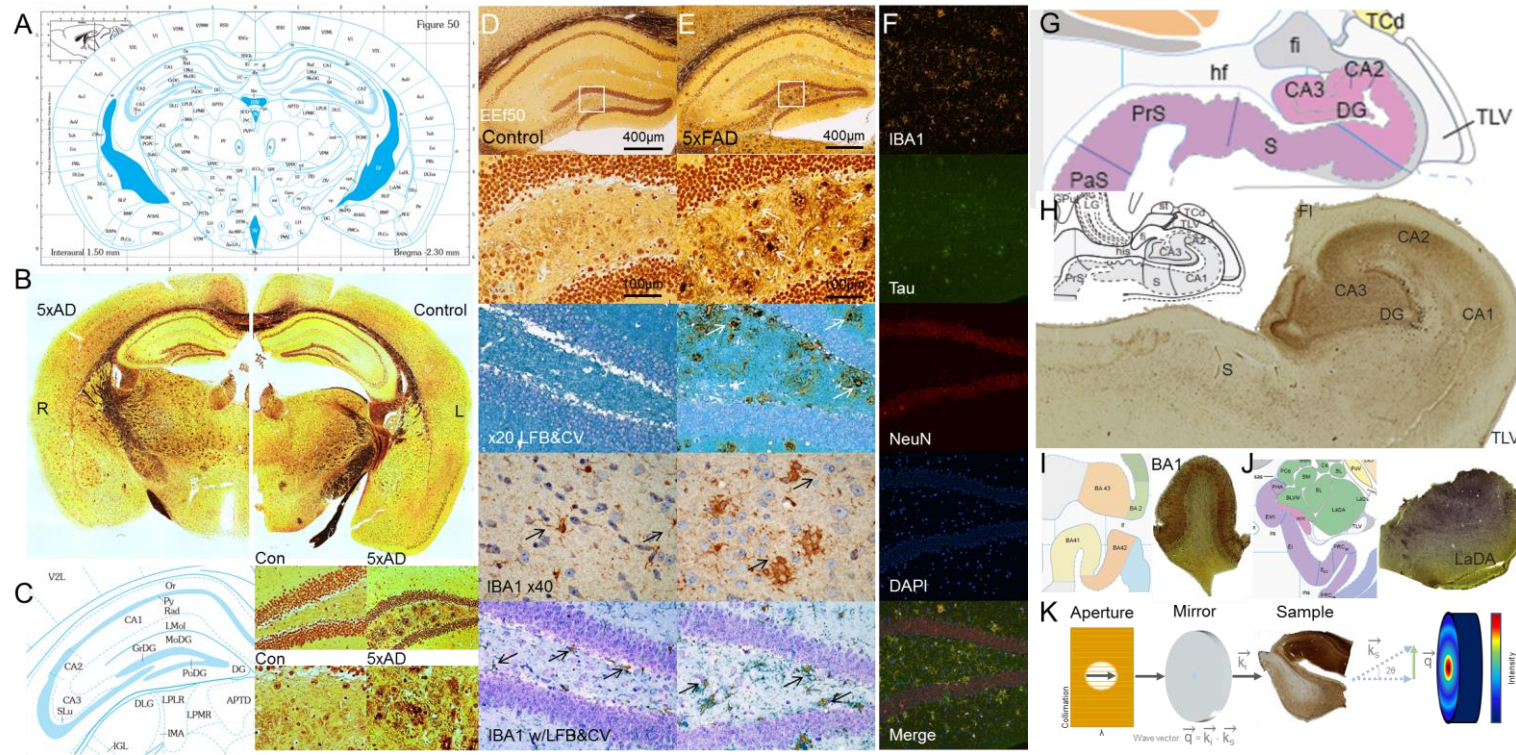


# Decreased hippocampal functional connectivity



## Future work

- Spectroscopic analysis of protein-tissue interactions in mouse model of Alzheimer's and in Human Alzheimer's Disease!



# Overview

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- Alzheimer's
- Hearing Loss
- Environmental Enrichment

# Introduction: Hearing loss

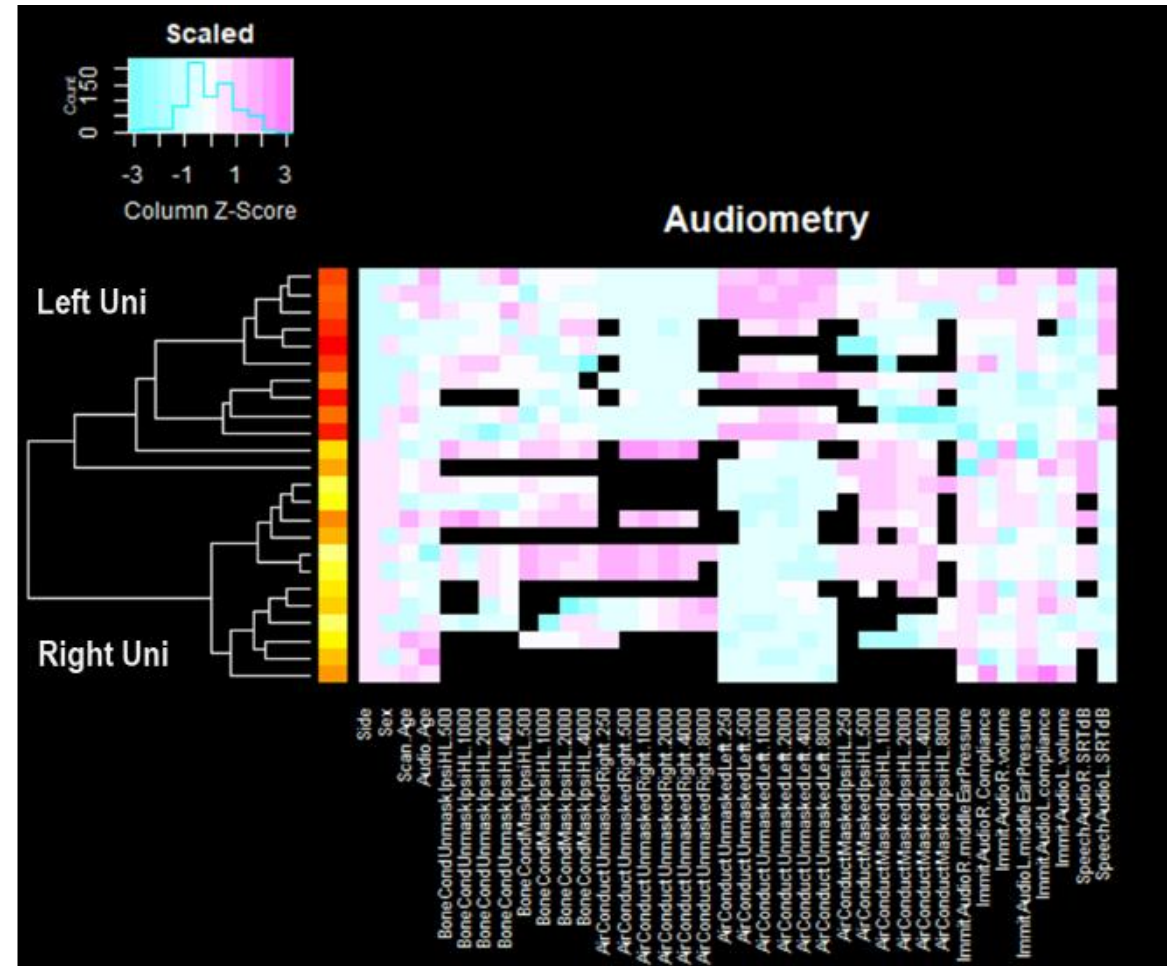
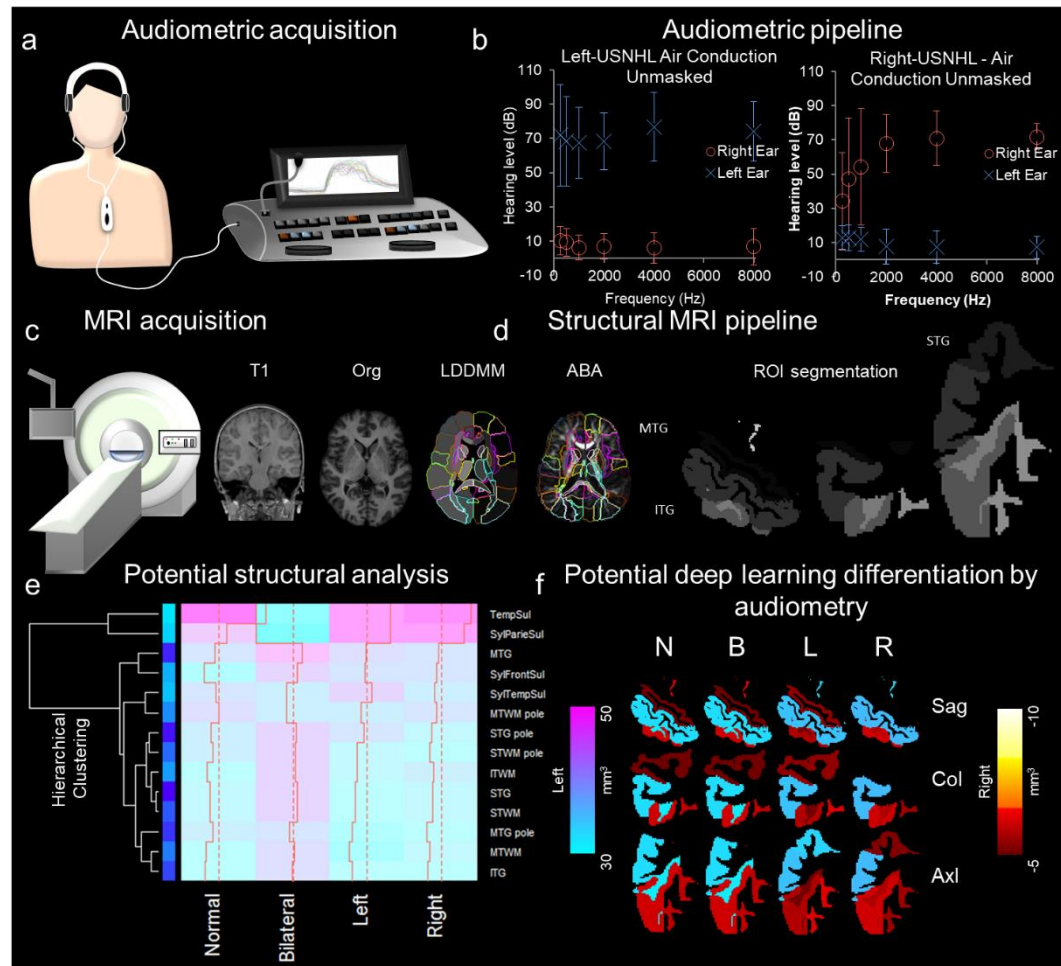
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- Hearing Loss affects 1.5 Billion people worldwide (WHO)
- Research Questions: How does hearing loss across the lifespan affect the brain? How do gray matter and white matter change across the lifetime in hearing loss? Can we prevent changes?
- Manno FAM, et al. NeuroImage. 4 February 2021, 117826.



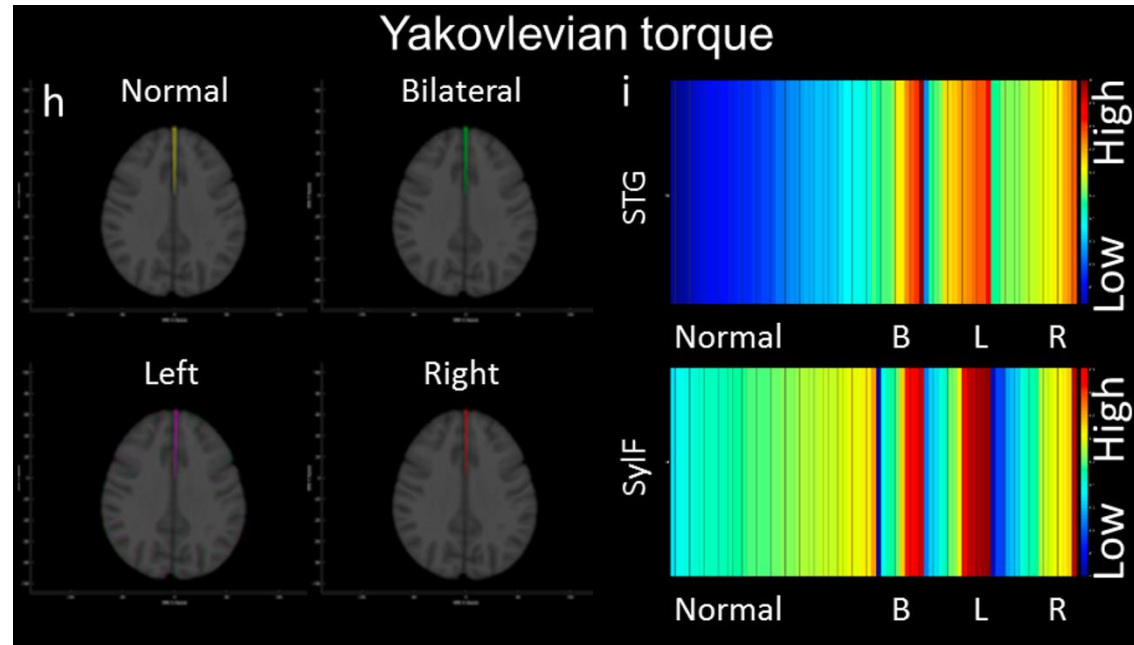
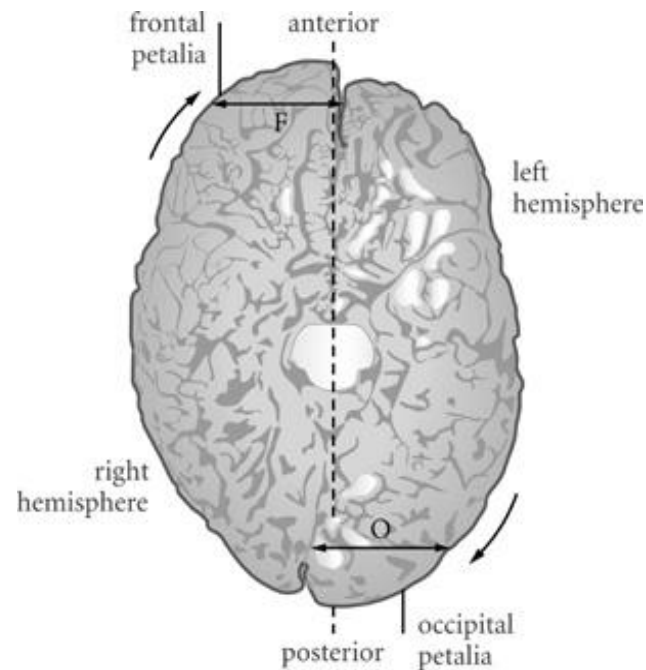


# Experimental design of an MRI study



# What do MRI studies Measure

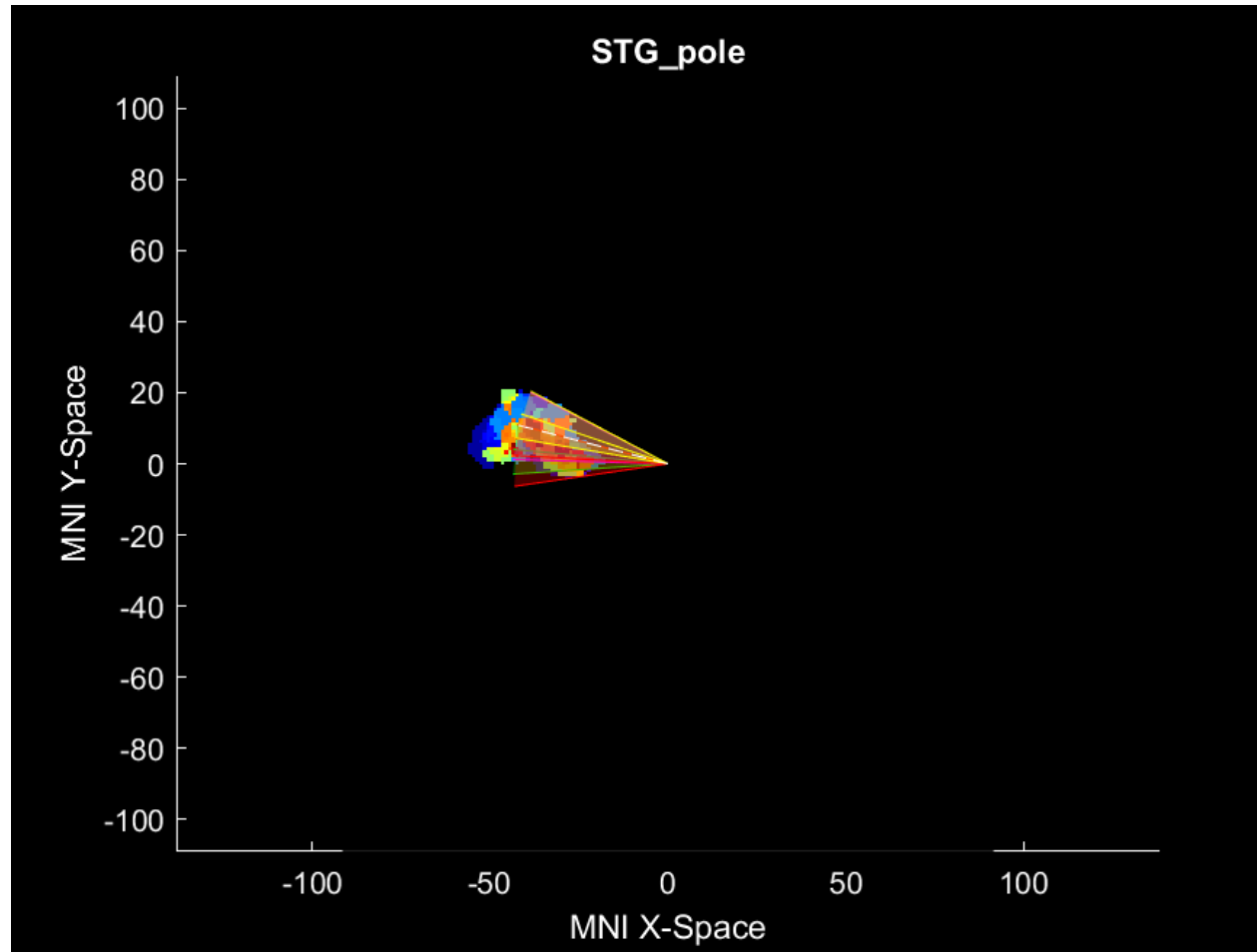
- GM, WM Volume and DTI metrics
- Fancy aspects like twist



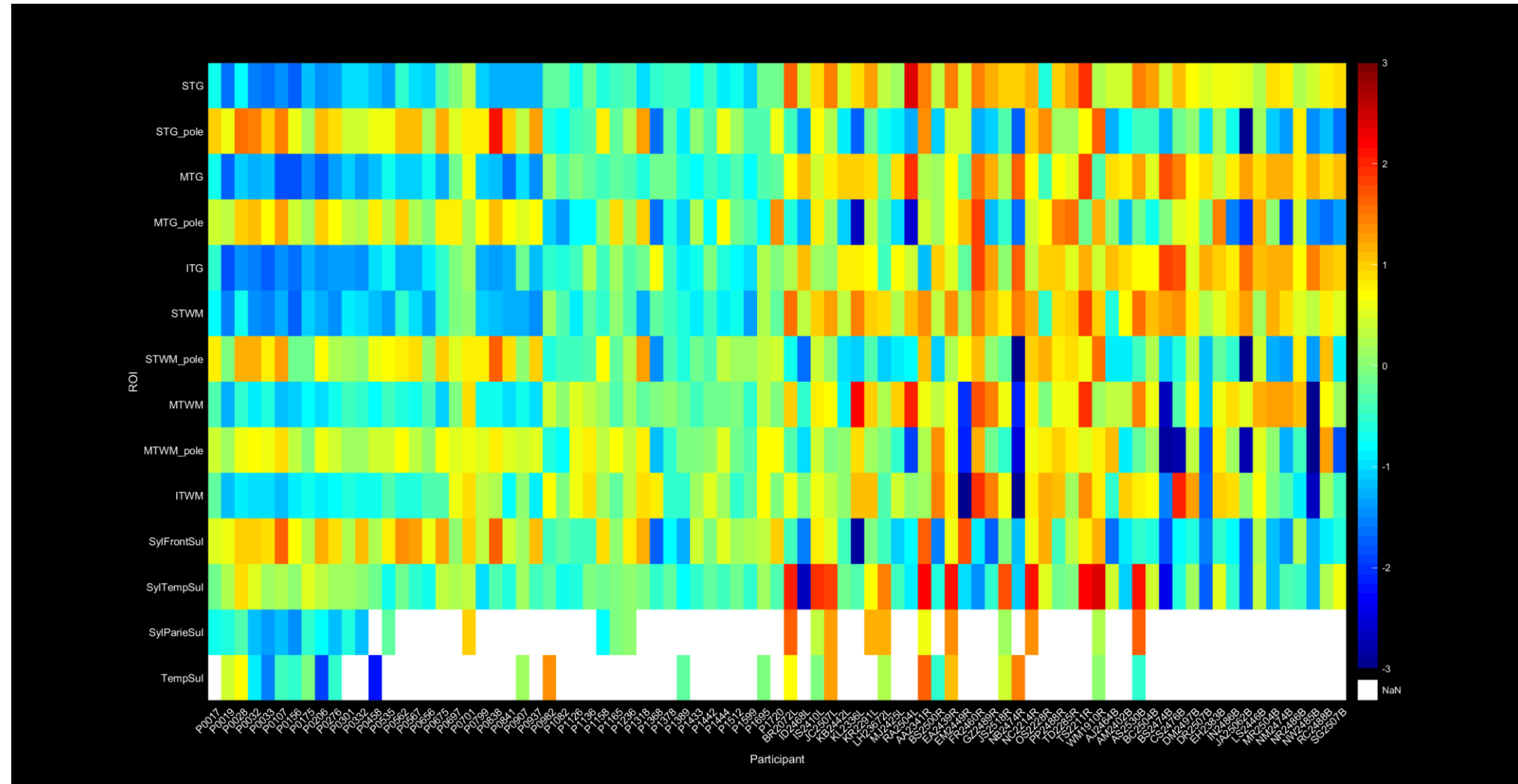
- Figure left – Toga and Thompson (2003)
- My figure is to the right

# Brain shifts

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# Auditory Structural Brain shifts

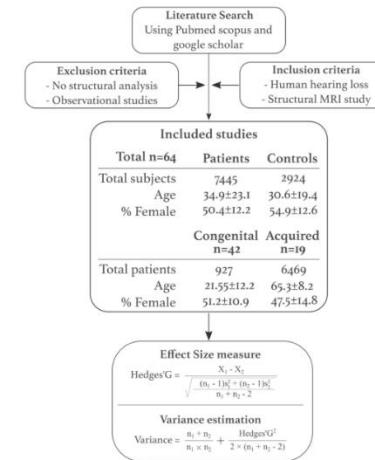




# Experimental Design

- We extract these variables from  $m = 80$  studies
- Outcome measure
- Volume, DTI metrics
- VBM and thickness
- Congenital & acquired cases
  - $n = 7445$
  - Control  $n = 2924$
- >68000 datapoint metrics

## A | Flow chart



## B | Meta-regression

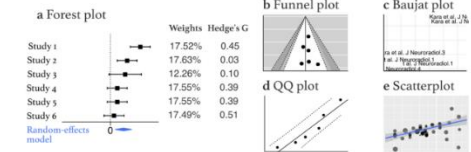
### I. All subjects

- Gray matter volume
- White matter FA
- White matter volume

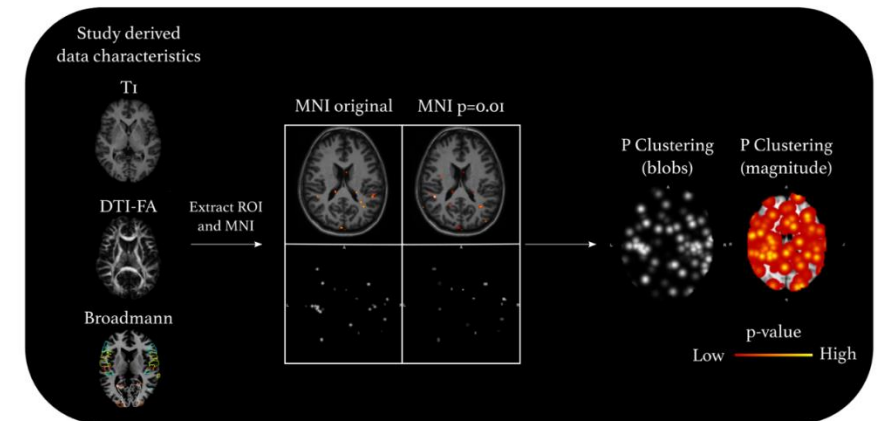
### II. Congenital and acquired

- Gray matter volume
  - White matter FA
  - White matter volume
- Main brain areas  
→ Common regions of interest

### III. Heterogeneity plots



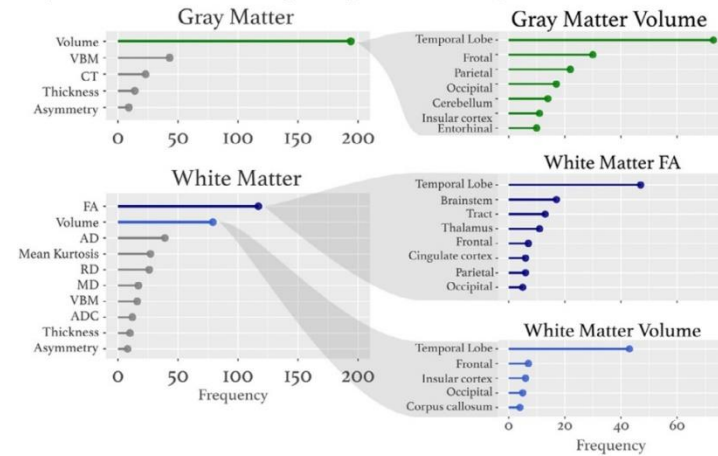
## C | MNI ROI coordinate mapping and regression (ALE, mKDA and SDM)



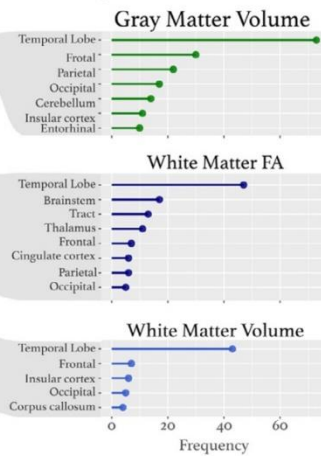
# Study Characteristics

## Studies characteristics

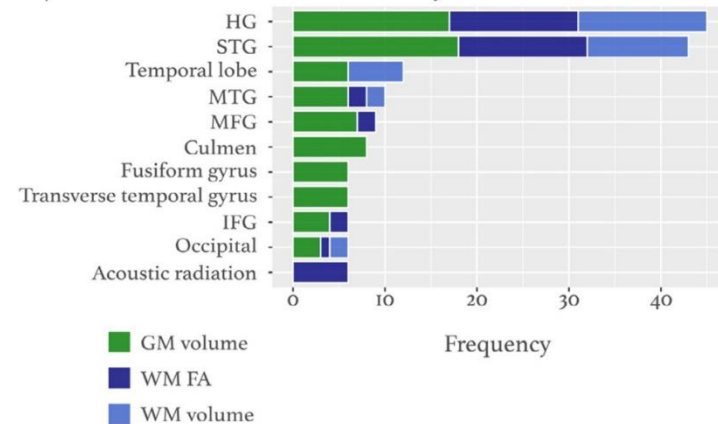
A | MRI Measures frequency



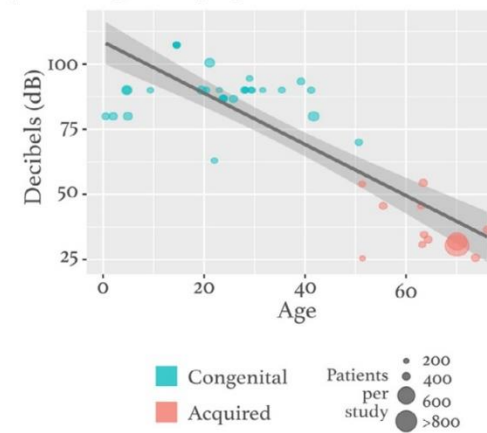
B | Main Brain Areas



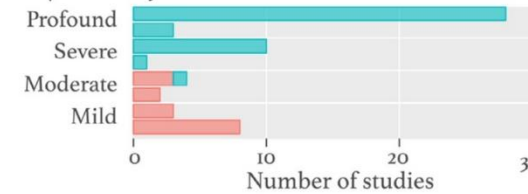
C | Most common MRI measures by ROI



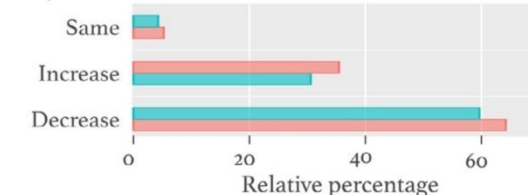
D | Hearing loss by age



E | Severity



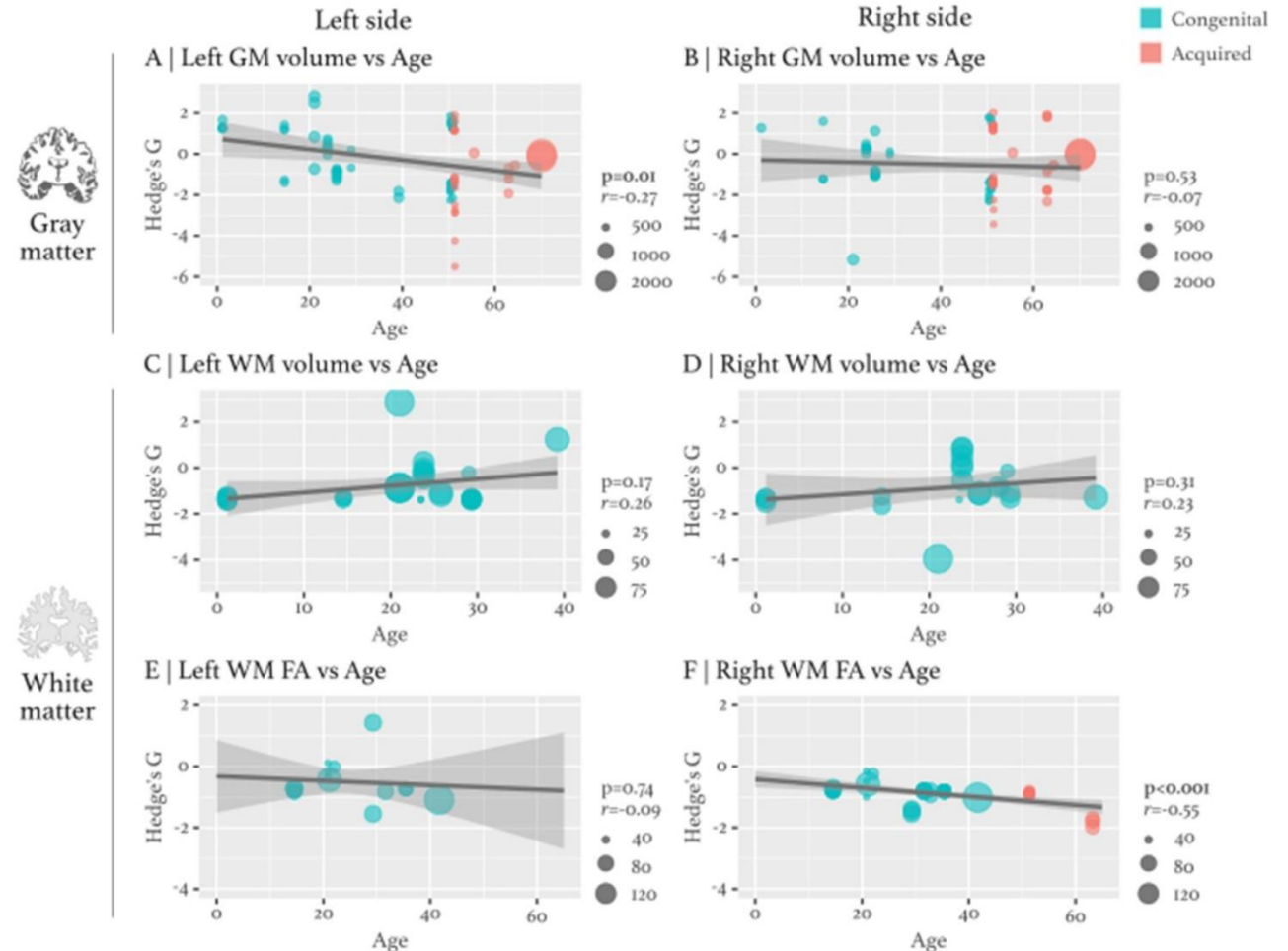
F | Effect size direction



# Meta-regression of hearing loss

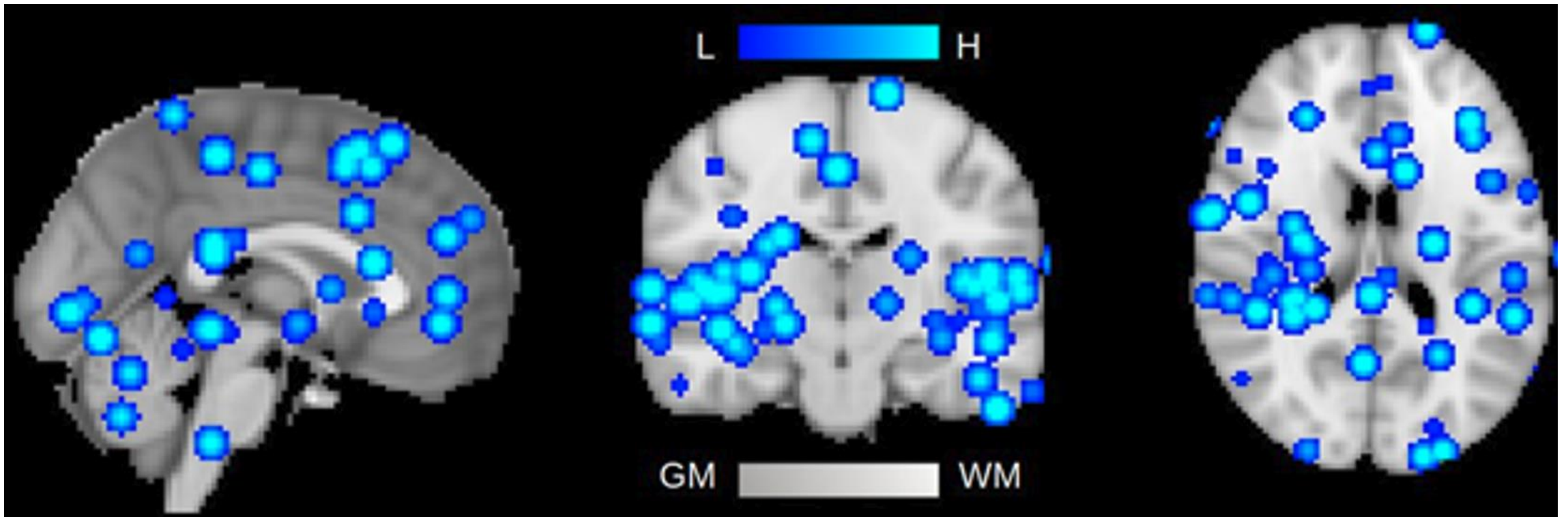
- Left and right hemisphere Grey matter (GM) and White Matter (WM) compared to controls
- Significant regressions were left GM volume by age and right WM FA by age.

Structural changes by age



# Coordinate mapping to determine loci of hearing loss

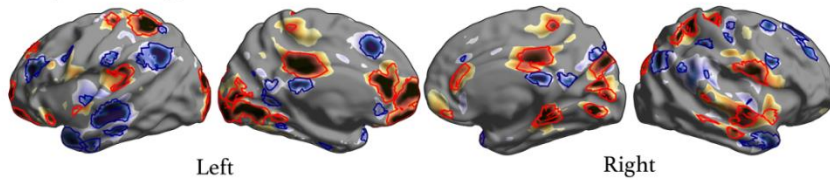
- Blue dots are region of interest (ROI) found in hearing loss studies
- Our meta-analytical review indicates hearing loss is widespread



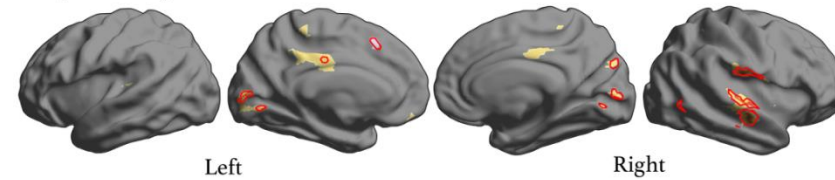
# Signed (positive or negative) impact

Signed differential mapping (SDM) analysis

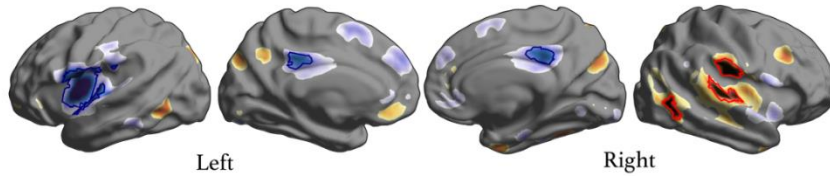
A | Congenital



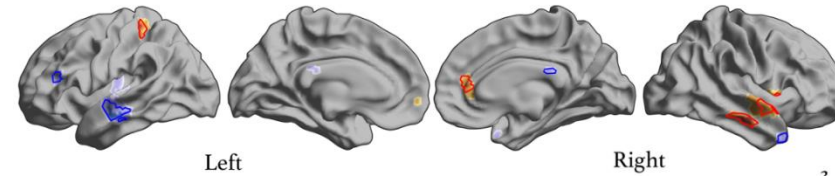
C | Gray matter



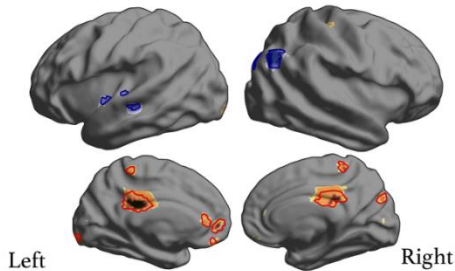
B | Acquired



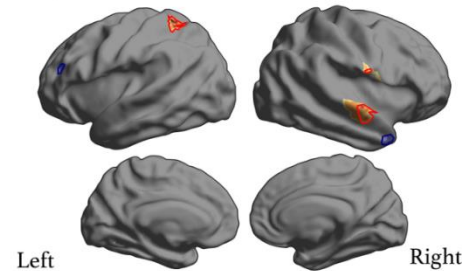
D | White matter



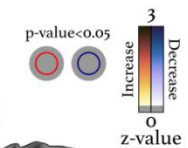
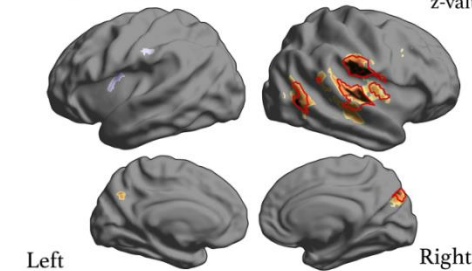
E | Pediatric



F | Adult



G | Aged adult

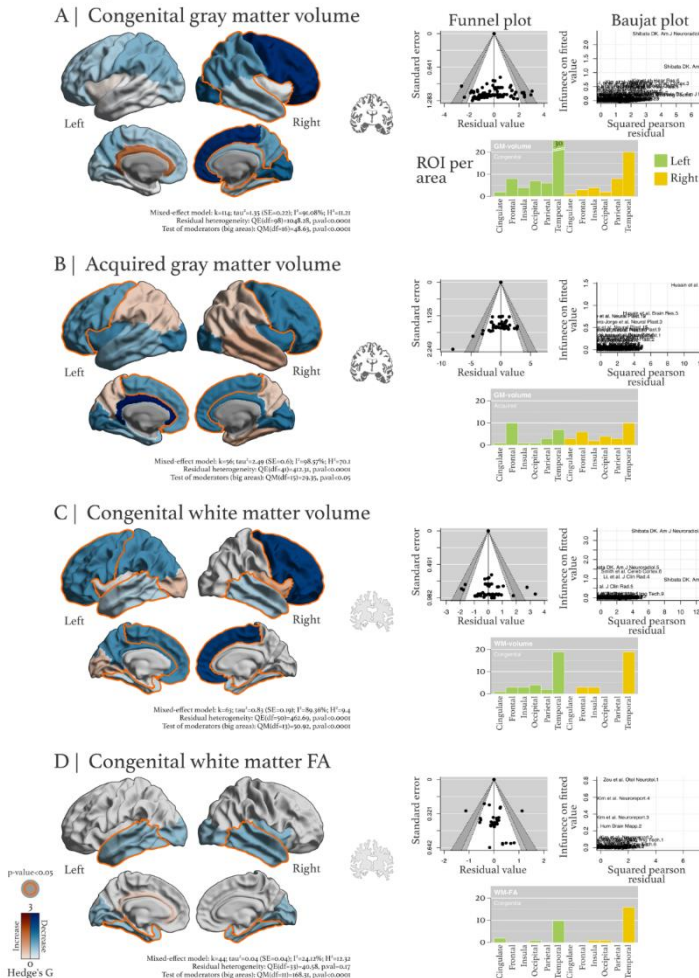




# Endophenotype of Hearing Loss

- We take all data to make a composite
- Congenital gray matter
- Acquired gray matter
- Congenital white matter
  - Volume
  - Fractional Anisotropy

Meta-regression estimates



# Overview of human hearing loss

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- In congenital hearing loss, GM decreased most in the frontal lobe.
- Acquired hearing loss similarly had a decrease in frontal lobe GM, albeit the insula was most decreased.
- Congenital white matter underlying the frontal lobe GM was most decreased.
- The temporal lobe had different GM alterations in congenital and acquired.
- The WM alterations most frequently underlined GM alterations in congenital hearing loss, while acquired hearing loss studies did not assess the WM metric frequently.

# Future Work

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- T32 to K99/R00 (kangaroo grant in preparation)
  - If accepted: 250K/Year transferable!
  - Collaboration with Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland, College Park
  - -UK BioBank (213,424 Screens | 17,649 HL)
  - -NIH all of US (18,040 MRIs | 14,460 Screens)
  - -CHOP (4,000 MRIs)
- MRI-transcriptomic analysis using Machine Learning



# Overview – emphasized projects

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- Alzheimer's
- Hearing Loss
- Environmental Enrichment

# Introduction: Environmental Enrichment

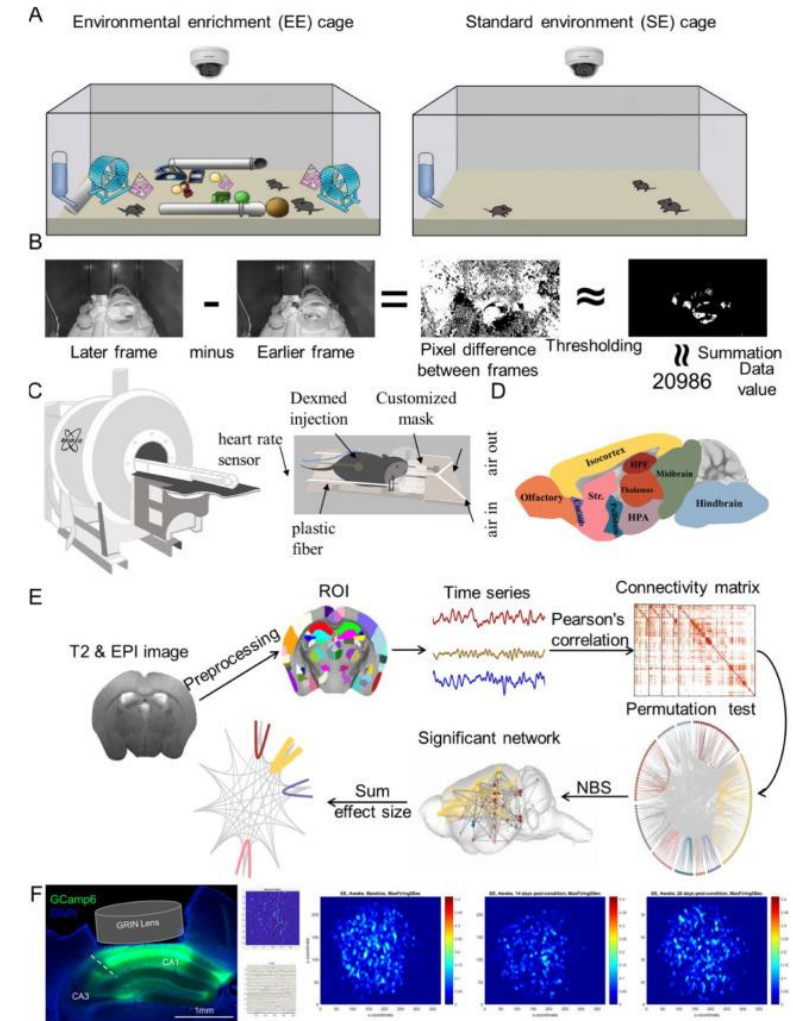
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- Environmental enrichment induces widespread neuronal changes, but the initiation of the cascade is unknown.
- Research questions: What in the environment initiates the divergence between environmental enriched (EE) and standard environment (SE) mice. What is the critical period and what do the neuronal changes look like?
- Manno FAM, et al., Neuroimage. 2022 Feb 18;252:119016.



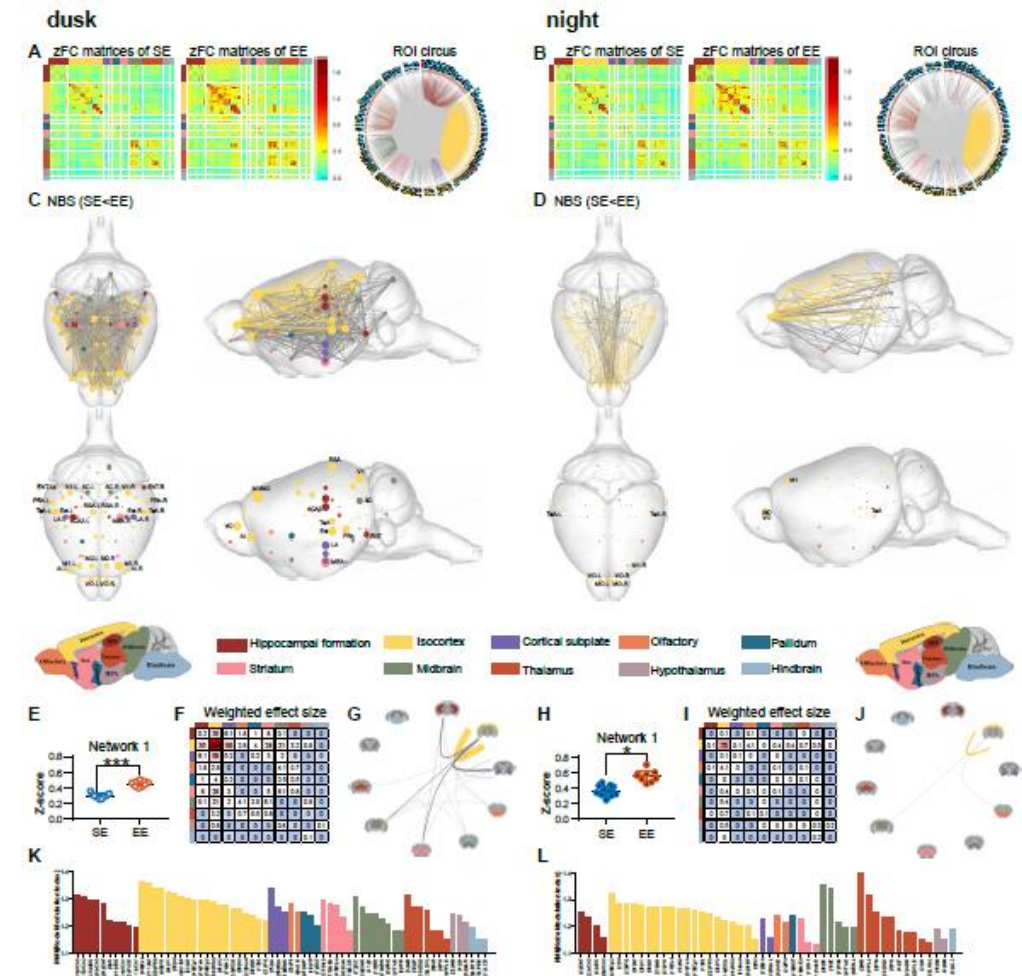
# Experimental design

- fMRI and Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging based on circadian features
- Connectome analysis using network based stats
- The timepoints of interest were the baseline prior to the experiment, 14-day after EE and 1-month after EE compared to SE control during awake recordings.



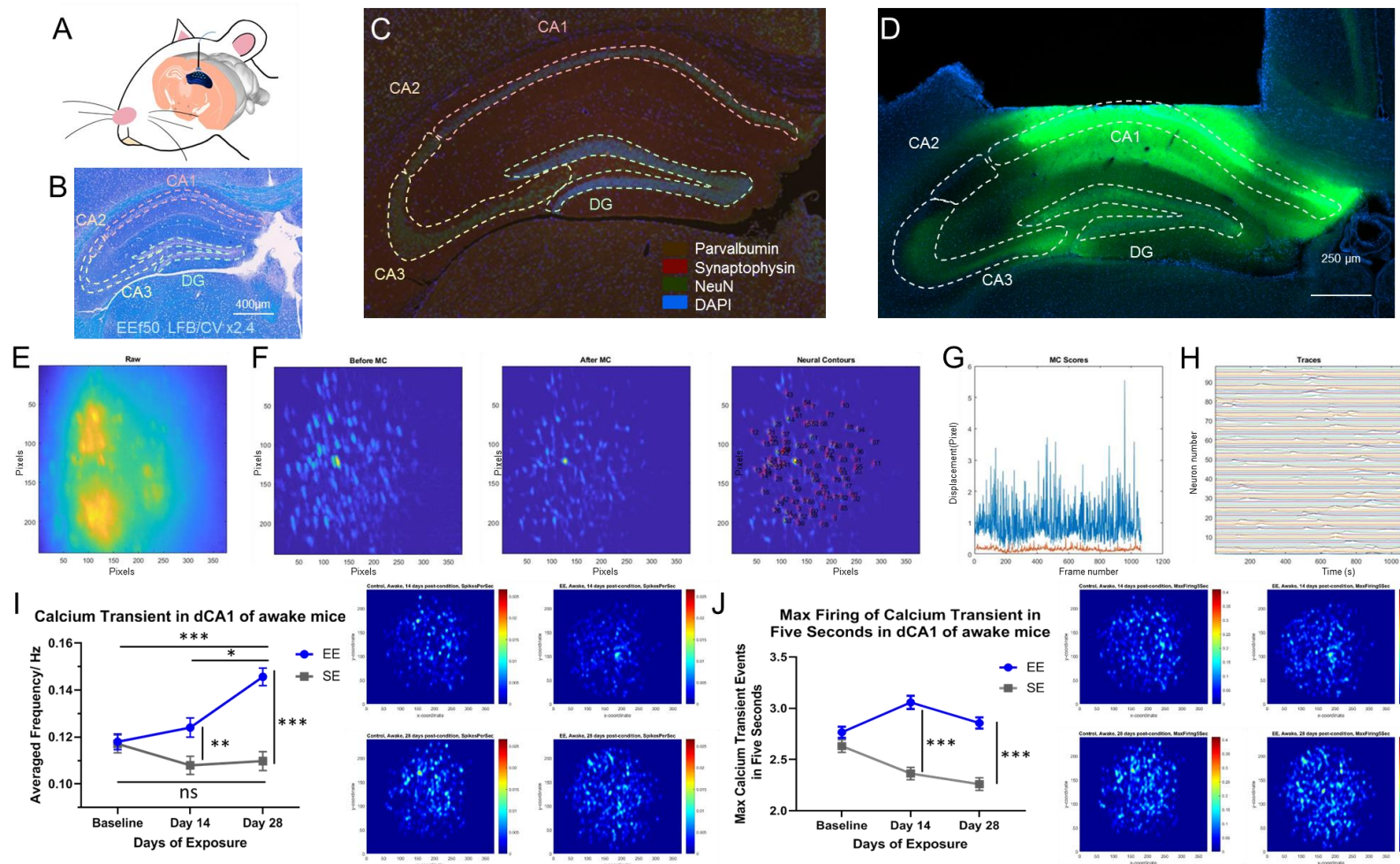
# Functional connectome enhancement during dusk and night

- A and B) Mean functional connectivity matrices
- C and D) Anatomical visualization of a network calculated by NBS
  - size of the node represents the degree of the node
- E and H) Barplots displaying the defined networks
- F and I) The weighted effect size from the defined networks and G and J) The schematic illustration
- K and L) The node modulation index (NMI)



# Increased calcium spiking of dCA1 during dusk session

- A) Schematic representation of calcium imaging of hippocampus and B) histology and C) immunohistology demonstrating our region of interest for D) calcium imaging
- E) pipeline for calcium imaging, F) taking neural traces and correcting for motion and feature F) and denoising H)
- J) Max firing





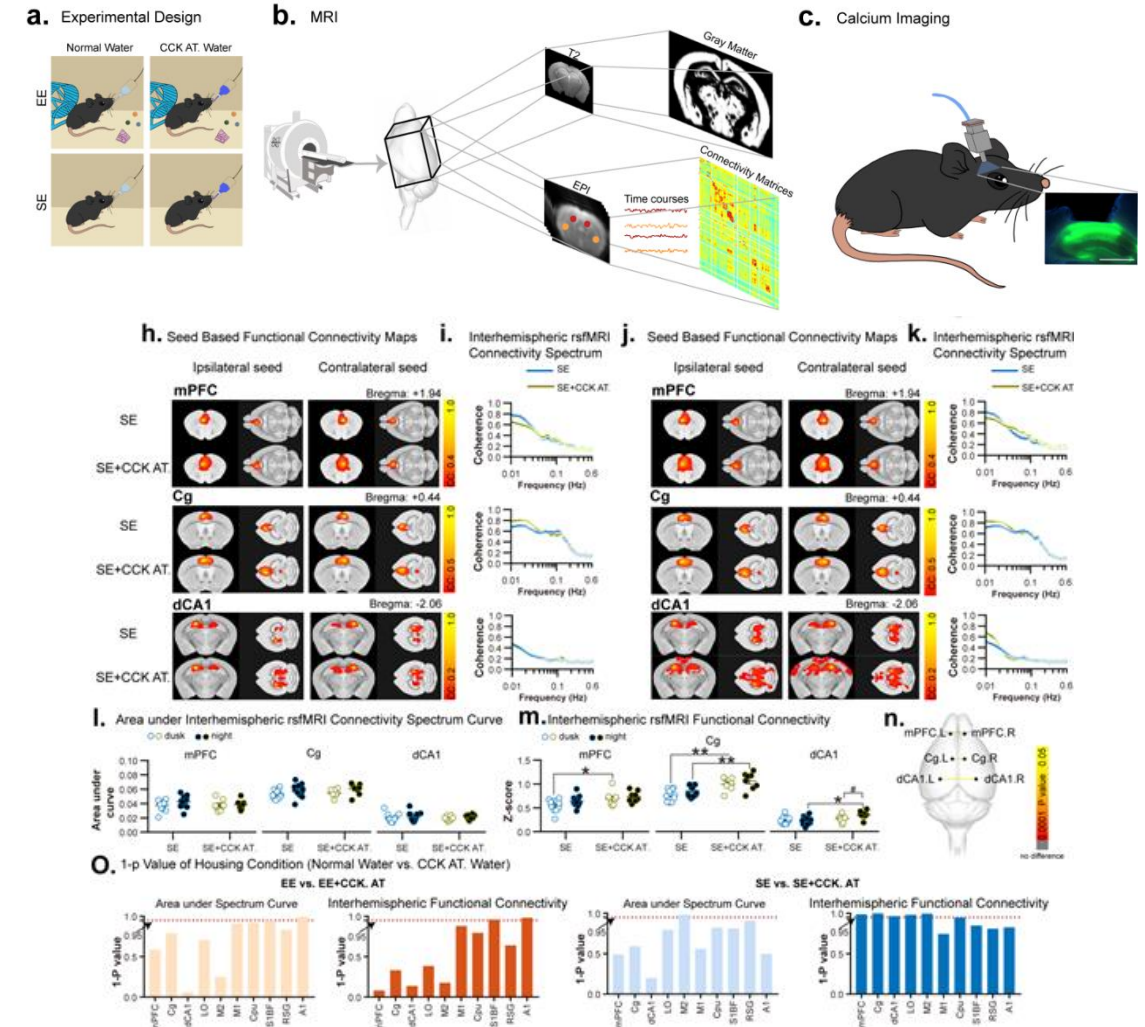
# Overview of environmental enrichment

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- Seed-based analysis: Increased functional connectivity in the visual cortex, motor cortex, retrosplenial granular cortex, and cingulate cortex
- Network based statistics: modulated functional connectome in EE concentrated in two hubs: the hippocampal formation and isocortical network.
  - Hubs experienced a higher node degree and significant enhanced edge connectivity.
- Calcium imaging revealed increased spikes per second and maximum firing rate in the dorsal CA1 pyramidal layer, in addition to location (anterior-posterior and medial-lateral) effect size differences between EE and SE.

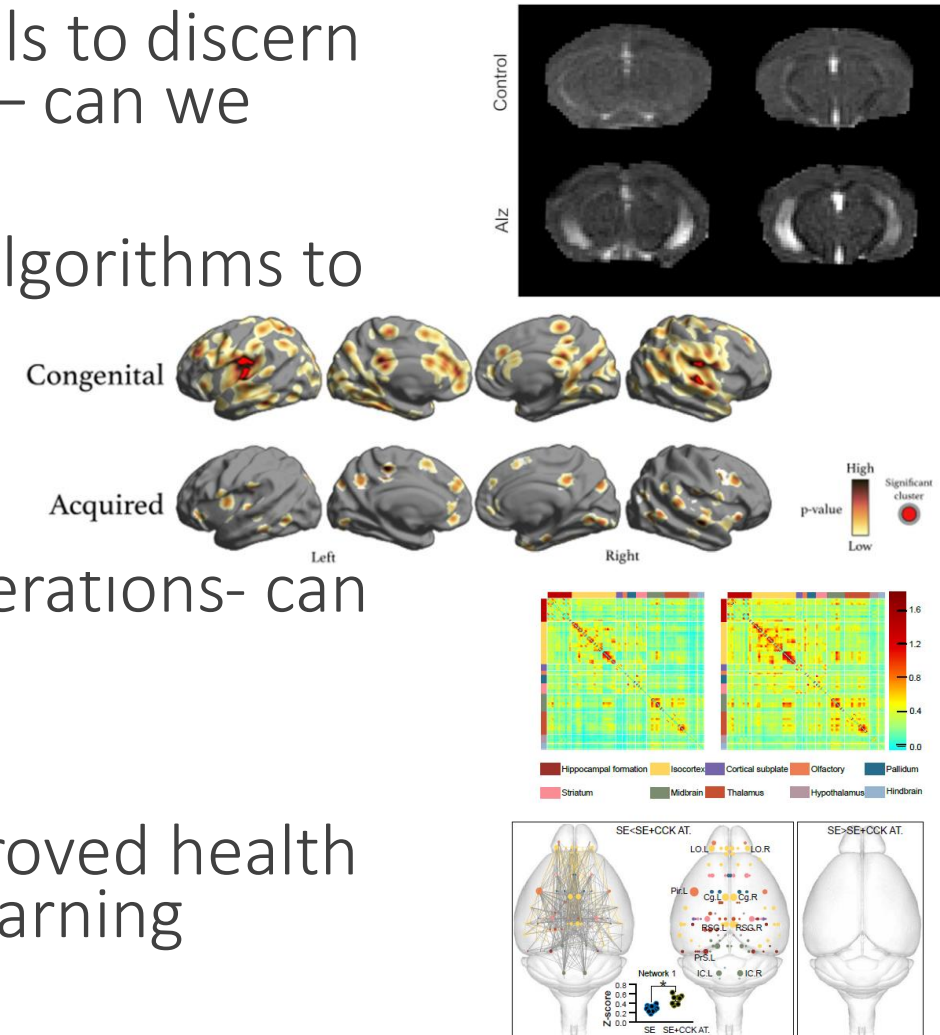
# Future Work

- We have another...NeuroImage (Revisions)
- Cholecystokinin receptor antagonist challenge elicits brain-wide functional connectome modulation with micro-network increased hippocampal neuronal calcium transients and firing rate: CCKergic environmental enrichment resistance to remodulation
- CCK is a gut peptide hormone



# Main Summary

- Alzheimer's: Human tissue and mouse models to discern spectroscopically protein tissue interactions – can we disrupt bad protein formations?
- Hearing Loss: Implement machine learning algorithms to discern template patterns of hearing loss
- Environmental Enrichment: Why do certain environments elicit detrimental neuronal alterations- can we inhibit these changes?
- Models of human disease to determine improved health outcomes – future work employs machine learning algorithms to model pattern





# Thank you

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# Collaborators

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Alzheimer's: Yubin KE, Xuelian WU, Muhammad S. KHAN, Vincent MOTTO-ROS, Xun-Li WANG, Condon LAU

Hearing Loss Mouse: Ziqi AN, Vardhan BASNET, Rachit KUMAR, Junfeng SU, Martin PIENKOWSKI, Shuk Han CHENG, Ed X. WU, Jufang HE, Yanqiu FENG, Condon LAU

Hearing Loss Human: Rachit KUMAR, Raul Rodríguez-CRUCES, J. Tilak RATNANATHER, Condon LAU

Environmental enrichment: Ziqi AN, Rachit KUMAR, Junfeng SU, Ed X. WU, Jufang HE, Yanqiu FENG, Condon LAU

# Universities

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**Perelman**  
School of Medicine  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
WHITING SCHOOL  
of ENGINEERING



**Faculty of Engineering**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



**Department of Physics**

香港城市大學  
City University of Hong Kong



**neuro**

Institut-Hôpital  
neurologique de Montréal  
Montreal Neurological  
Institute-Hospital



**Boston Children's**  
F.M. Kirby  
Neurobiology  
Center



# Main Funding - Thank you!

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≈1.5 million through 2025



National Institute on  
Deafness and Other  
Communication Disorders



National Institutes  
of Health



大學教育資助委員會  
University Grants Committee



国家自然科学基金委员会

National Natural Science  
Foundation of China

# Equipment – segue

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- Electrophysiology and calcium imaging equipment.
- Everything I have described to complete the experiments, except the MRI scanner!
  - Experiments I have not described: hearing loss transcriptomics and optogenetics fMRI



# Thank you for your time

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Presentation



ORCID

