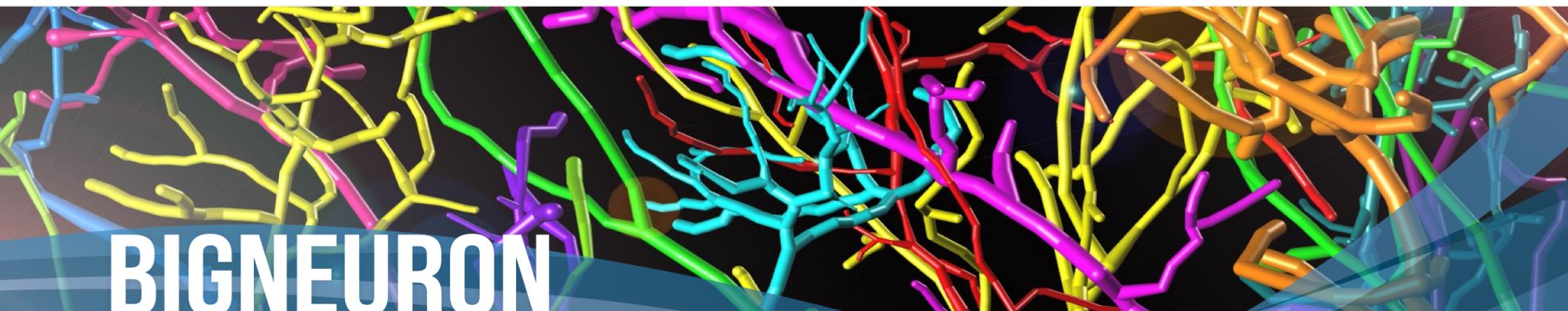


# BigNeuron

<https://alleninstitute.org/bigneuron>

BigNeuron is a community effort to define and advance state-of-the-art of single neuron reconstruction: an essential unsolved challenge in brain science. The project will both standardize the methods to generate high quality and consistent data, and mobilize the reconstruction community to generate interest in solving these complex and interesting algorithmic problems.



ABOUT

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SUPERCOMPUTING

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

FAQ

TERMS & CONDITIONS

CONTACT

GET INVOLVED >

## OVERVIEW

### WHY DO WE NEED BIGNEURON?

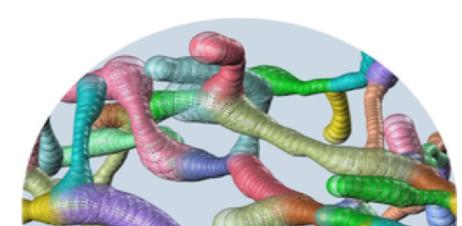
The three-dimensional shape of a neuron plays a major role in determining its connectivity, integration of synaptic inputs and cellular firing properties, and also changes dynamically with its activity and the state of the organism. Analyzing the three-dimensional shape of neurons in an unbiased way is critical to understanding how neurons function and developing applications to model neural circuitry.

### THE PROBLEM

Advances in brain cellular imaging have now yielded thousands of detailed images of neurons from dozens of different organisms stored in personal collections across the globe, comprising many petabytes of data. Dozens of different imaging paradigms and algorithms have now been generated for visualizing the 3D structure of neurons from labs around the world. In order for large data sets to be cross-compared, however, the neuroscience field needs standards – for collecting the data, for determining the acceptable levels of resolution that are most suitable for analysis, and for deciding which analysis approach is the most effective for the most important questions driving the field.

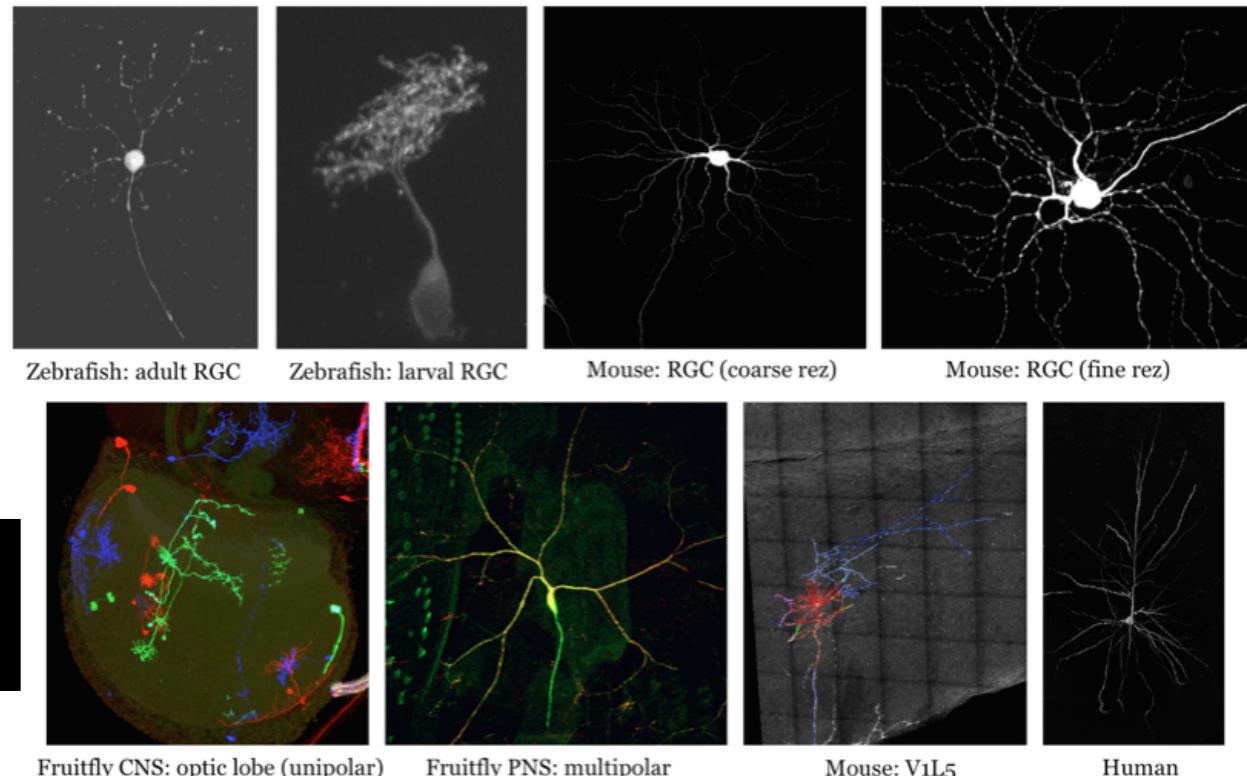
### THE SOLUTION

BigNeuron is a community effort to define and advance the state-of-the-art of single neuron reconstruction and analysis, and to create a common platform for analyzing 3D neuronal structures. The major goal of BigNeuron is to bench-test on a common open platform as many open-source, automated neuron reconstruction algorithms as possible with very large scale, publicly available single 3D neuron image data sets acquired by several light



# BigNeuron Initiative

- A community effort to find out what is exactly the state-of-the-art of single neuron reconstruction, standardize the protocols, and establish a Big Data resource for neuroscience.
- Phase 1 will be 1~1.5 year establishing the technical platforms (3 week-long algorithm-porting hackathons @Asia/Europe/USA, 1 week-long ground truth annotation workshop @ USA, bench-test on 3 fastest supercomputers in US and Europe based on 20k+ single neuron datasets, Open release and analysis of reconstructions).
- 29+ algorithms ported, 30,000+ neurons collected, 166 gold standard neuron reconstructions produced (6~7 annotators per neuron), ~140 silver standard annotations
- Sample images (see right)



Agency for  
Science, Technology  
and Research



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY



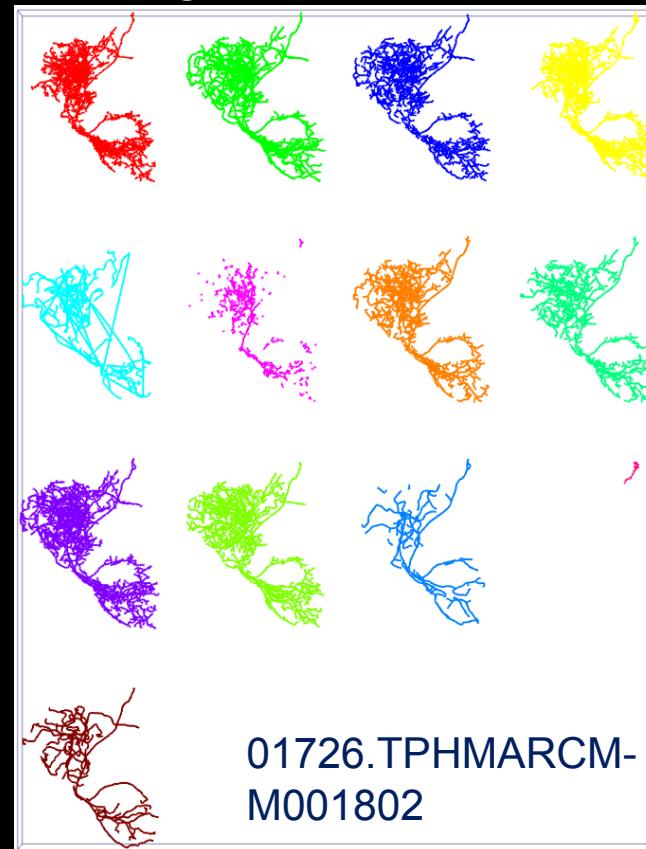
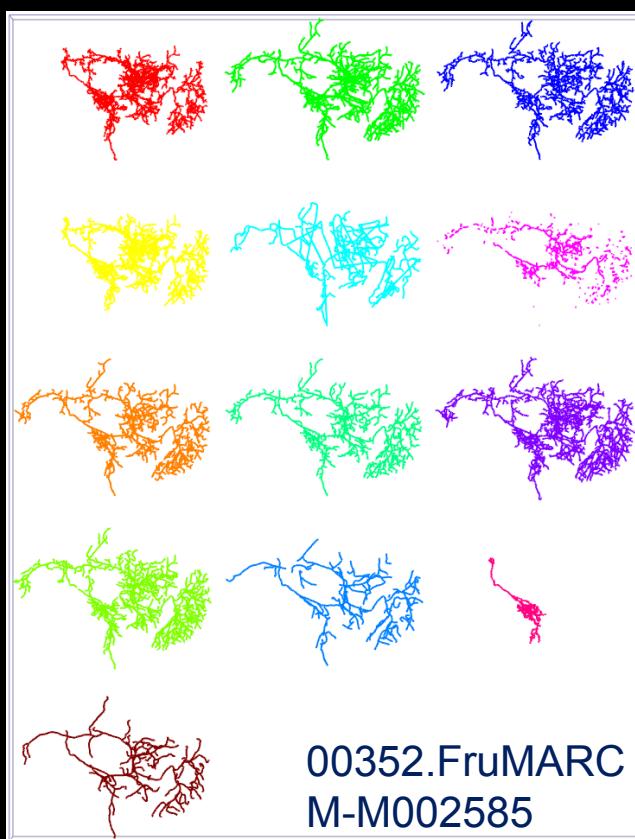
Korea Institute of  
Science and Technology



# ~50 Ported Neuron Tracing Algorithms and Implementations

- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eU0QYomvs4SQVfFbnnnldAYh0g-u\\_2ozqG6rFzW3isQ/edit#gid=1009169397](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eU0QYomvs4SQVfFbnnnldAYh0g-u_2ozqG6rFzW3isQ/edit#gid=1009169397)
- Algorithms developed from different perspectives
- Other neuron preprocessing, utility, search, post-processing, visualization methods also ported

Snapshot of bench testing results



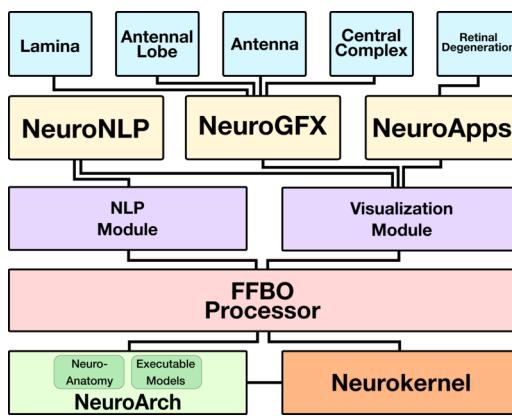
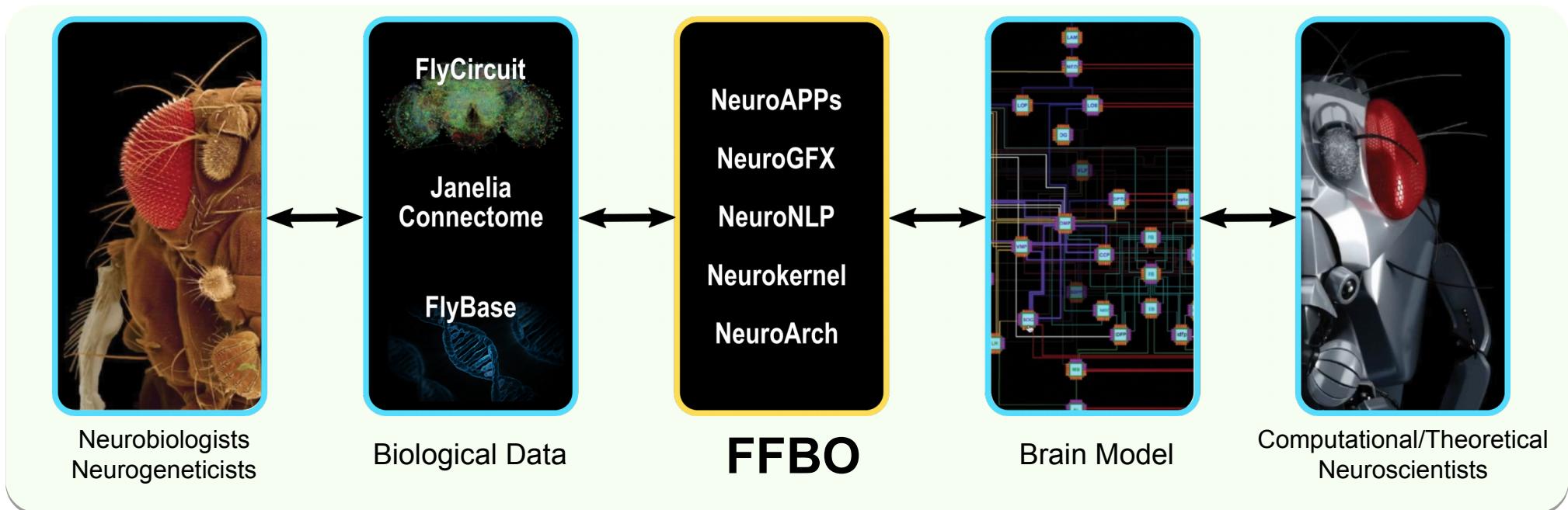
# Fruit Fly Brain Observatory

<http://fruitflybrain.org>

<https://github.com/fruitflybrain>

An open-source collaborative research platform that integrates biological data with computational models, and serves as a meeting ground for researchers to study fruit fly brain function in health and disease.

The **Fruit Fly Brain Observatory (FFBO)** aims to provide a meeting ground for researchers, including neurogeneticists/neurobiologists and theoretical/computational neuroscientists.



The FFBO presents two key applications to address, respectively, the following challenges:

- NeuroNLP: seamlessly integrate structural and genetic data from multiple sources that can be intuitively queried, effectively visualized and extensively manipulated.
- NeuroGFX: devise executable brain circuit models anchored in structural data for understanding and developing novel hypotheses about brain function.

## Architecture of FFBO

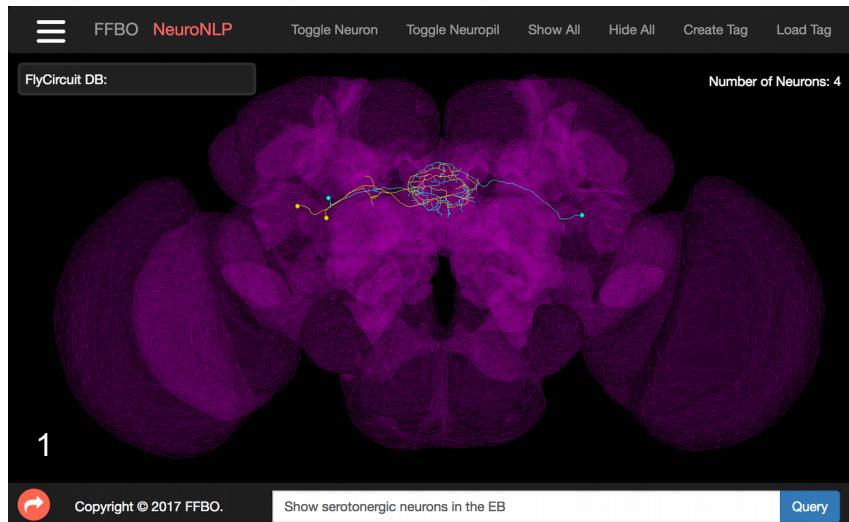


Try NeuroNLP on your smartphone!

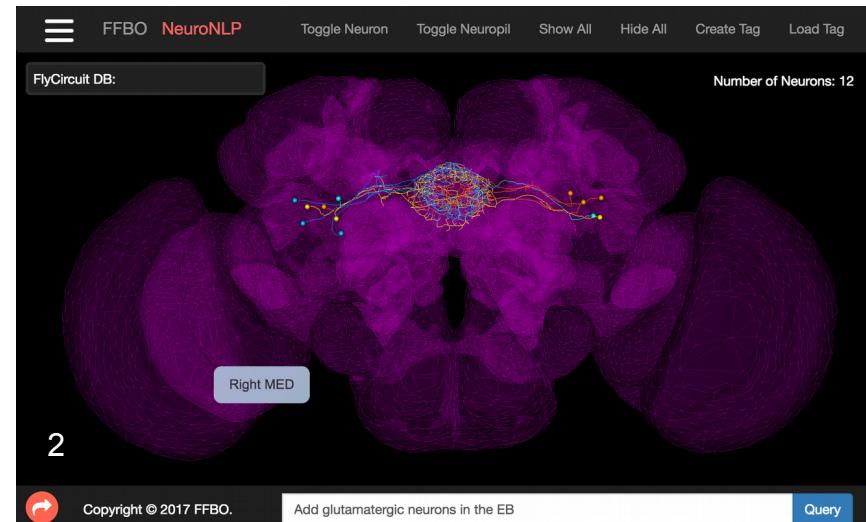
# NeuroNLP: A Portal for Aggregated Fly Brain Data

<https://neuronlp.fruitflybrain.org>

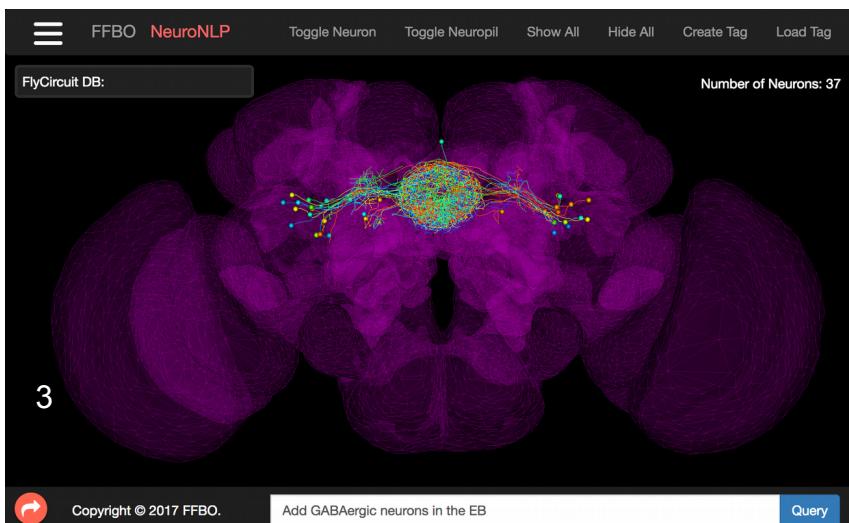
A modern web-based portal for navigating fruit fly brain circuit data using **natural language queries**



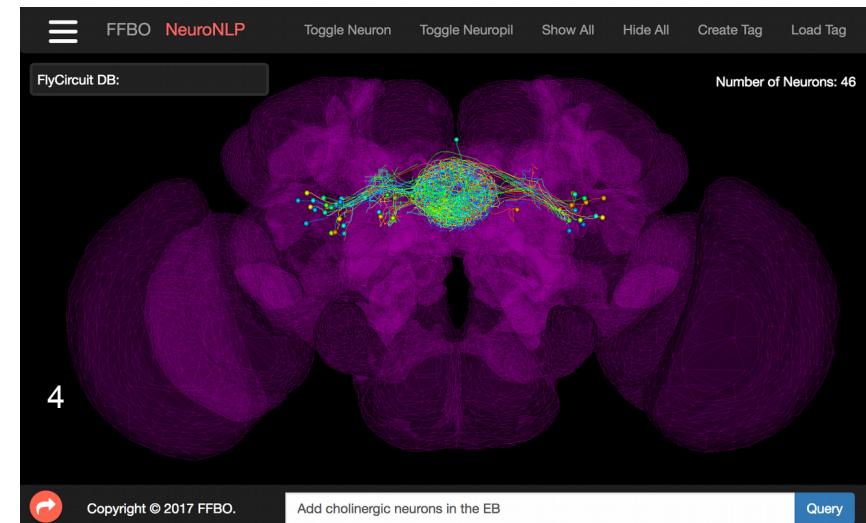
Show serotonergic neurons in the EB



Add glutamatergic neurons in the EB



Add GABAergic neurons in the EB



Add cholinergic neurons in the EB

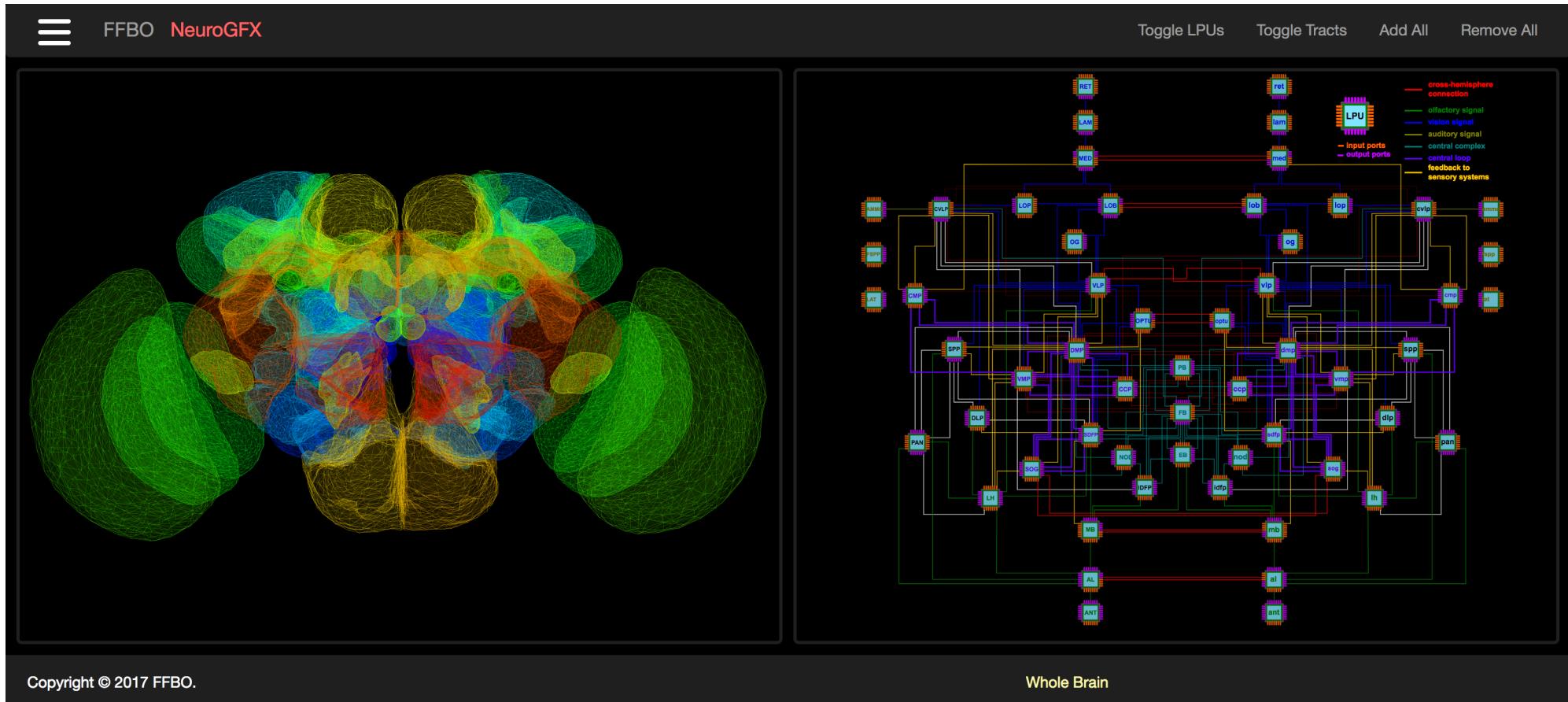
The final result can be tagged with a unique name (e.g. "EBdemo\_step4"):  
[https://neuronlp.fruitflybrain.org/index.html?tag=EBdemo\\_step4](https://neuronlp.fruitflybrain.org/index.html?tag=EBdemo_step4)

Additional Demos are available in the Exercises  
and on the NeuroNLP webpage under  
[NeuroNLP >>> Demos](#).

# NeuroGFX: A Graphical Function Explorer for Fly Circuits

<https://neurogfx.fruitflybrain.org>

A set of highly intuitive tools to execute and explore the function of neural circuit models



## Neural Circuit Function at Whole Brain Level

The fruit fly brain is decomposed into some 50 neuropils, and they are shown on the left. The circuit diagram of the network of Local Processing Units, i.e., model abstractions of neuropils, is shown on the right.

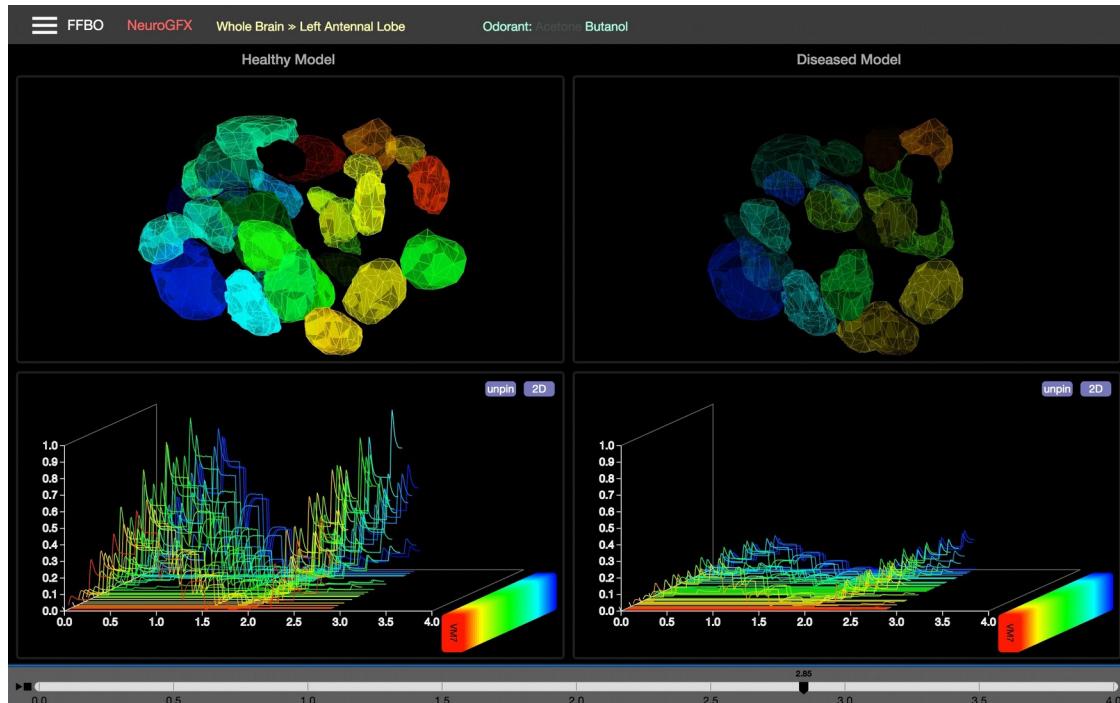
### Additional Links:

- [Neural Circuit Function at Neuropil Level: Antennal Lobe](#)
- [Neural Circuit Function at Local Circuit Level: A cartridge in the Lamina](#)

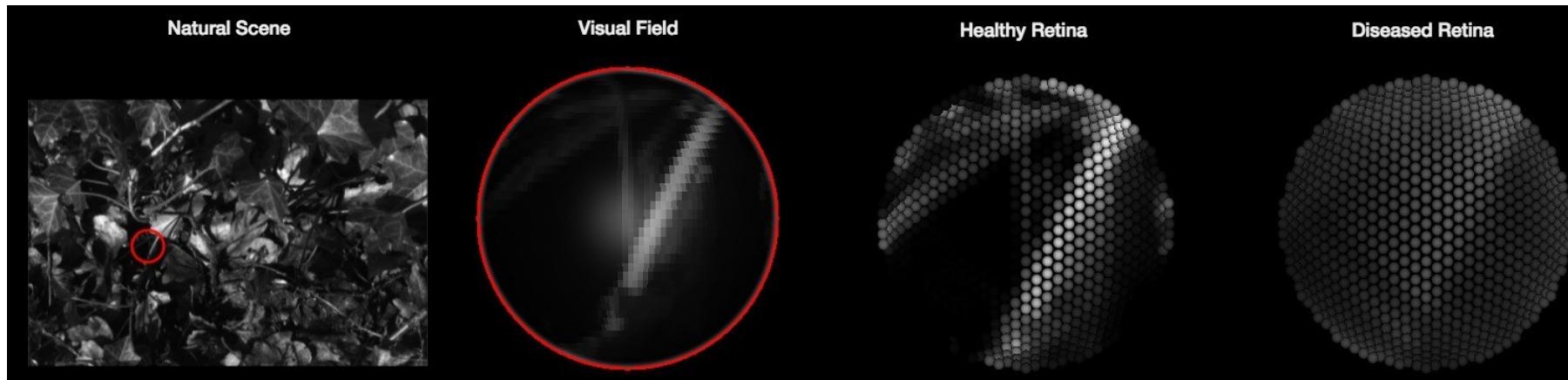
# NeuroAPPs: Fly Brain Applications

## Early Olfactory System Response in a Parkinson's Disease Model

The prototype extends healthy antennal lobe implementation to the emulation of pathological states of the olfactory system due to an excess release of GABA.



## Early Visual System Response in a Parkinson's Disease Model



A model of the retina with a novel adaptive photoreceptor capable of accurately reproducing visual responses under a wide range of stimuli.

# Under The Hood

Representation and manipulation  
of neural circuits



NeuroArch

Massively parallel execution of neural  
circuits on GPUs



Neurokernel

**An integrative Graph dB for Representation and Querying of Fruit Fly Brain Circuits**

NeuroArch (proposed in Neurokernel RFC #5) is a graph-based database that

- supports integration of biological and modeling data,
- facilitates the generation of executable models that are compatible with Neurokernel.

Its interface is designed to allow users to perform sophisticated queries without having to explicitly specify complex query strings

**An Open Source Platform for Emulating the Fruit Fly Brain**  
<https://neurokernel.github.io>

Neurokernel is a platform for the emulation of the fruit fly brain enabling the execution of arbitrarily defined circuit models on GPU clusters.

- Execution of arbitrarily defined circuit models on GPU clusters.
- Neurokernel API allows users to easily integrate models of different parts of the fly brain.
- Neurokernel Request for Comments (RFCs) are publicly accessible design proposals for major new component, accompanied with code.  
<https://neurokernel.github.io/docs.html>