

ABSTRACTS PRESENTED  
AT THE 5<sup>TH</sup> BRAINN CONGRESS  
BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE  
AND NEUROTECHNOLOGY (BRAINN-UNICAMP)

APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> TO 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 - CAMPINAS, SP, BRAZIL

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ANALYSIS OF THE GENOMIC DNA'S METHYLATION PATTERN IN MESIAL TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY ASSOCIATED WITH HIPPOCAMPAL SCLEROSIS...	39
J. C. Geraldis, D. B. Dogini, A.M. Canto, S.H. Avansini, M. Alvim, F. Rogerio, C.L. Yasuda, B. S. Carvalho, F. Cendes, I. Lopes-Cendes	
MULTIPLEXED PROTEOMICS OF LASER-MICRODISSECTED BRAIN TISSUE FROM PATIENTS WITH MTLE .....	39
A. M. Canto, B. A. Bertelli, A. S. Vieira, S.H. Avansini, E. Ghizoni, H. Tedeschi, M. Alvim, M.E. Morita, C.L. Yasuda, F. Rogerio, F. Cendes, I. Lopes-Cendes	
DETECTION OF METHYLATED CIRCULATING DNA AS A NON-INVASIVE BIOMARKER FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY AND STROKE.....	39
D.C.F. Bruno, M. Martin, A. Donatti, W. Souza, S.H. Avansini, D.B. Dogini, M. Alvim, C.L. Yasuda, B.S. Carvalho, F. Cendes, I. Lopes-Cendes	
DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL ANCESTRY AND EVIDENCE OF POSITIVE SELECTION IN BRAZILIAN INDIVIDUALS .....	40
R. Secolin, A. Mas, L.R. Araújo, F.R. Torres, T.K. Araujo, M.L. Santos, C.S. Rocha, B.S. Carvalho, F. Cendes, I. Lopes-Cendes, D. Comas	
INVESTIGATING THE GENETIC COMPONENT OF DRUG RESISTANCE IN MESIAL TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY: AN INTERNATIONAL MULTICENTER STUDY.....	40
M. C. Molck, R. Secolin, F. Rossi, M. Alvim, C. L. Yasuda, B. S. Carvalho, F. Cendes, I. Lopes-Cendes	
SURGICAL TREATMENT OF LONG-TERM EPILEPSY-ASSOCIATED GLIONEURAL TUMORS - EPIDEMIOLOGY, SURGICAL RESULTS AND PATHOLOGY .....	40
Giglio MV, Ghizoni E, Joaquim AF, Tedeschi H, Cendes F.	
MILES FORWARD, BUT ONE STEP BACK: THE IMPACT OF METHODOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES IN WHOLE EXOME SEQUENCING CENTERS ON THE DEPTH OF COVERAGE OF CODING VARIANTS WITH KNOWN CLINICAL IMPACT .....	41
Murilo G Borges, Vera N Solferini3, Benilton S Carvalho and Iscia Lopes-Cendes	
REPRODUCIBLE WORKFLOWS FOR GENOMICS DATA ANALYSES .....	41
W. Souza, B. Carvalho, I. Lopes-Cendes	
EFFECT OF KINESIO TAPING IN THE FUNCTIONAL BRAIN OF CEREBRAL PALSY PATIENTS .....	42
F. B. Basilio, S. L. Novi, A. Quiroga, R. C. Mesquita, A. C. Coan	
EXPERIMENTATION WITH NATURALISTIC STIMULI: INVESTIGATING THE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN FNIRS SIGNALS AND BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES .....	42
C.S.F. Barreto, P.M. Vanzella, J.R. Sato	
THE BRAINN EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHY GENETIC VARIANT DATABASE.....	42
C. S. Rocha*, M. C. Gonsales, B. S. Carvalho*, I. Lopes-Cendes*, * for the BIPMed Collaborative Group	
SEARCHING FOR BLOOD BIOMARKERS TO IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSIS AND THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY .....	43
M. Martin, S. H. Avansini, A.S. Vieira, R. Secolin, M.L. Santos, F. R. Torres, F. Rogério, A. C. Coan, M.K.M. Alvim, M. E. Morita, C. L. Yasuda, R. Barbosa, F. Cendes I. Lopes-Cendes	
CHARACTERIZATION OF GUT MICROBIOME IN PATIENTS WITH DIFFERENT FORMS OF EPILEPSY AND AUTOIMMUNE ENCEPHALITIS THROUGH METAGENOMIC ANALYSIS.....	43
D. Mejía-Granados D, B.S. Carvalho, I. Lopes-Cendes	
INVESTIGATION OF HUMAN PLASMA DEPLETOME FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS .....	43
L. C. Silva-Costa, S. Garcia-Rosa, P. Baldasso, J. Steiner, D. Martins-de-Souza	
ASSESSING THE PRESENCE OF DRAVET SYNDROME-RELATED SCN1A MISSENSE MUTATIONS IN DATABASES OF INDIVIDUALS FROM DIVERSE POPULATIONS.....	44
M. C. Gonsales, M. A. Montenegro, P. Preto, M. M. Guerreiro, I. Lopes-Cendes	
ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS DISRUPT RESTING STATE CONNECTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH GENERALIZED EPILEPSIES.....	44
D.S. Garcia, M.K.M. Alvim, M. Polydoro, A. Ishikawa, T. Zanão, M.H. Nogueira, J.C.V. Moreira, B.M. Campos, M.E. Morita, L.E. Betting, D. Gross, F. Cendes, C.L. Yasuda	
EFFECT OF THE NON-PERIODIC ELECTRICAL STIMULATION OF THE BASOLATERAL AMYGDALA ON PATHOLOGICAL ANXIETY .....	45
L. A. Réboli, J. C. Oliveira, R. M. Maciel C. Q. Tilelli, L. C. M. Damázio, V. R. Cota	
COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS WITH ATRIAL FIBRILLATION .....	45
B. G. Caseli, L. F. L. Pegoraro, D. S. Silva, A. C. Coan	
USING WGCNA AND NER1 ALGORITHMS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF BIOLOGICAL PATHWAYS ASSOCIATED TO SCHIZOPHRENIA .....	45
A.S. Feltrin, A.C. Táhira, S.N. Simões, H. Brentani, D.C. Martins-Jr	
KINDLING EFFECTS DURING ZEBRAFISH BRAIN DEVELOPMENT .....	46
T.G. Parolari, V.C. Fais, N. Peixoto C.V. Maurer-Morelli	
TRANSCRIPTOMIC ANALYSIS OF SUBICULUM REGION IN ANIMAL MODEL OF MESIAL TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY (MTLE) INDUCED BY PILOCARPINE .....	46
B. B. Aoyama, A. M. Canto, A. H. B. Matos, B. S. Carvalho, I. Lopes-Cendes, A. S. Vieira	
INVESTIGATION OF NEURAL DESYNCHRONIZATION AS A MECHANISM OF SEIZURE SUPPRESSION BY NONPERIODIC ELECTRICAL STIMULATION.....	47
J.C. Oliveira, S.M.A.F. Rodrigues, R.M. Maciel, L.A. Réboli, L.C.M. Damázio, V.R. Cota	

TRANSCRIPTOME INVESTIGATION ON THE MECHANISMS INVOLVED IN HIPPOCAMPAL SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATED WITH MESIAL TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY .....	47
G.G; Zanetti, E. V. Dias , I. Lopes-Cendes, A. Vieira	
INVESTIGATION OF BRAIN CHANGES DUE TO MOTOR REHABILITATION BASED ON VIRTUAL REALITY GAMES IN STROKE PATIENTS.....	47
J. A. Feitosa, A. Camargo, R. F. Casseb, B. R. Ballester, P. Omedas, P. Verschure, L. L. Min, G. Castellano	
ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF ALLELES OF THE HUMAN LEUKOCYTE ANTIGEN (HLA) SYSTEM IN BRAZILIAN POPULATION.....	48
D. C. Rosa , T. K. de Araujo , F. Cendes , N. Watanabe , F. R. Torres , I. Lopes-Cendes	
STUDY OF THE TECHNIQUE OF MAGNETIC RESONANCE SPECTROSCOPIC IMAGING (MRSI) AND APPLICATION TO EVALUATION OF BRAIN METABOLITES OF SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS.....	48
J. Horvath, D. R. Pereira, J. Fontolan, L. Rittner, S. Appenzeller, G. Castellano	
USING WHOLE EXOME SEQUENCING TO IDENTIFY THE GENETIC DEFECT IN PATIENTS WITH GENETIC EPILEPSY WITH FEBRILE SEIZURES PLUS (GEFS+) .....	48
E. Almendares-Bonilla, H. T. Moraes, M. C. Gonsales, C. Soler, H. Urquía-Osorio, I. Lopes-Cendes	
MICRORNA EXPRESSION IN PATIENTS WITH SYMPTOMATIC AND ASYMPTOMATIC CAROTID ARTERY STENOSIS .....	49
F. S. Oliveira, D. B. Dogini, A. Donatti, M. Santos, A. T. Guillaumon, W. M. Avelar, I. Lopes-Cendes	
IMPACT OF DIFFERENT DTI PIPELINES TO EVALUATE THE CORTICOSPINAL TRACT IN PATIENTS WITH STROKE.....	49
R. Luccas, A.B. Conforto	
ASSOCIATION OF VIDEO IMAGE AND NON-INVASIVE ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICAL RECORDING IN ZEBRAFISH LARVAE BRAIN DURING SEIZURES .....	49
J. A. Fernández, T. G. Parolari, M. C. S. Nunes, VC., Fais, N. Peixoto, C.V. Maurer-Morelli	
GENETIC FACTORS INFLUENCE ON CONNECTOME FINGERPRINTS AND FUNCTIONAL NETWORKS .....	50
F. L. Ribeiro, W. H. L. Pinaya, C. E. Biazoli Jr	
EFFECTS OF VIRTUAL REALITY AS A THERAPEUTIC APPROACH FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF COGNITION IN HEALTHY ELDERLY .....	50
Radl, A.L.M., Rodrigues, TO.	
FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION PROCESSING IN TASK-BASED FMRI: A GRAPH THEORY APPROACH.....	51
P. H. R. da Silva, R. F. Leoni	
NETWORK AND PATHWAY ANALYSES IN ZEBRAFISH IMMATURE BRAIN AFTER SEIZURES.....	51
M. C. S. Nunes, J. F. de Vasconcellos, V. H. S. Zago, A. S. Vieira, A. H. B. Matos, C. S. Rocha, B. S. Carvalho, I. Lopes-Cendes, C. V. Maurer-Morelli	
A GENERIC CLASSIFIER FOR BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACES BASED ON STEADY STATE VISUALLY EVOKED POTENTIALS.....	51
R. C. Ferreira, H. M. A. Leite, T. B. S. Costa, G. F. G. Yared, R. Attux, S. N. Carvalho	
BIOMETRICS SYSTEM USING EEG SIGNALS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS.....	52
P. T. Barbosa, H. M. A. Leite, G. F. G. Yared, T. B. S. Costa, R. Attux, S. N. Carvalho	
BCI-SSVEP: PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FEATURE EXTRACTORS AND CLASSIFIERS.....	52
V. M. Barbosa, H. M. A. Leite, G. F. G. Yared, T. B. S. Costa, R. Attux, S. N. Carvalho	
INVESTIGATION OF EEG SIGNALS GENERATED BY MOTOR IMAGERY FOR APPLICATION IN BCIS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS.....	53
C. M. Mendes, A. C. Buzzi, G. Castellano	
ASSESSMENT OF PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH CAROTID ATHEROSCLEROSIS DISEASE BY NIRS METHODS .....	53
A. Quiroga, S. Novi, A.A.V. Oliveira e Sousa, W.M. Avelar, T.N.S. Goncalves, A. T. Guillaumon, R. C. Mesquita	
INTER AND INTRA-RATER ANALYSIS OF HEMIPARETIC SHOULDER THROUGH THE PHYSIOPLAY: A RANGE OF MOTION ASSESSMENT SOFTWARE.....	54
Ferreira, DM <sup>1</sup> , Oliveira, VA, Lima, CR <sup>2</sup> , Bassi, ML <sup>3</sup> , Carvalho, LC, Reis, LM	
MACHINE LEARNING METHODS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASE OUTCOMES BASED ON MOLECULAR SIGNATURES IN CASE-CONTROL STUDIES .....	54
M. R. Rodrigues, B. Henning, I. Lopes-Cendes, B. S. Carvalho	
ANALYSIS OF CIRCULATING MICRORNAs IN PATIENTS IN THE ACUTE PHASE OF ISCHEMIC STROKE: PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERIZATION OF THE COHORT RECRUITED .....	54
A. Donatti, R. Secolin, ES. Oliveira, M. Martin, A. Sousa, W.M. Avelar, I. Lopes-Cendes	
STUDY OF THE EPR (ELECTRON PARAMAGNETIC RESONANCE) SPECTRA OF IRON IONS IN CEREBRAL TISSUE .....	55
F. S. Otsuka, J. H. O. Barbosa, R. S. Lima, E. A. Junior, M. C. G. Otaduy, C. E. G. Salmon	
PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERIZATION AND PRELIMINARY GENETIC STUDIES OF A LARGE COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH CHILDHOOD EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHY (CEE).....	55
HT Moraes <sup>1</sup> , MC Gonsales, L. Sauma, CV Soler, PAO Ribeiro, ML Santos, MM Guerreiro, MA Montenegro, AC Coan, BS Carvalho, I Lopes-Cendes <sup>1</sup>	
SEARCHING FOR SOMATIC MUTATIONS IN FOCAL CORTICAL DYSPLASIA USING NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING.....	56
V.S. de Almeida, S.H. Avansini, M. Borges, ER. Torres, F. Rogerio, B.S. Carvalho, F. Cendes, I. Lopes-Cendes	
IMPLEMENTATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE GENETIC LANDSCAPE OF CHILDHOOD EPILEPTIC ENCEPHALOPATHIES: REPORT OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS .....	56
H. Urquía-Osorio <sup>1</sup> , E. Almendares-Bonilla <sup>1</sup> , M. T. Medina <sup>1</sup> , R. Caraballo <sup>1</sup> , F. Cendes <sup>1</sup> , I. Lopes-Cendes	
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DENTATE GYRUS FROM NAIVE WISTAR RATS AND HUMAN HIPPOCAMPUS USING MOLECULAR TOOLS.....	56
A. B. Godoi, A. M. Canto, A. H. B. Matos, A. S. Vieira , I. Lopes-Cendes	
WHY NEUROSCIENCES NEED NEUROETHICS? A FIRST APPROACH IN THE BRAZILIAN CONTEXT .....	57
Barbosa, S.Emerson; Bertolucci, P. Henrique; Nogueira, Maria Inês I; Russo, Marisa	
KINEMATIC ASSESSMENTS IN PATIENTS SUBMITTED TO ROBOTIC THERAPY AND TDCS .....	57
S.B.Reis, H.L.Krebs, A.B.Conforto	
SIMULTANEOUS ASSESSMENT OF CBF AND BRAIN FUNCTION THROUGH DUAL-ECHO ARTERIAL SPIN LABELING .....	57
A. M. Paschoal, F. E. Paiva, R. F. Leoni	



DECREASED SHORT-INTERVAL INTRACORTICAL INHIBITION CORRELATES WITH BETTER PINCH STRENGTH IN PATIENTS WITH STROKE AND GOOD MOTOR RECOVERY .....	58
K.N.F. Andrade, A.B. Conforto	
ATTITUDES OF TEACHERS TOWARDS EPILEPSY AND THEIR RELATION WITH KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS .....	58
T. P. Ferro, I. Assumpção, L. M. Li	
A FRIENDLY INTERFACE FOR FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY ANALYSIS FOR EEG SIGNALS .....	59
D. M. Alves, G. S. Ueti, P. G. Rodrigues, A. K. Takahata, D. C. Soriano	
QUANTIFICATION OF BOLD-FMRI HEMODYNAMIC PARAMETERS IN PATIENTS WITH ASYMPTOMATIC CAROTID STENOSIS IN HYPERCAPNIA .....	59
K. F. Secchinato, P. H. R. Silva, A. P. A. Camargo, O. M. Pontes-Neto, R. F. Leoni	
HIGH-FAT DIET-INDUCED OBESITY INCREASES CHRONIC PAIN SUSCEPTIBILITY: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE MESOCORTICOLIMBIC SYSTEM ROLE IN MICE .....	60
A. F. Brandao, I. J. M. Bonet, M. O. F. Pagliusi Junior, S. F. Magalhaes, C. R. Sartori	
INVESTIGATION ON THE USE OF MULTISCALE ENTROPY ANALYSIS OF TMS MOTOR EVOKED POTENTIALS TO UNDERSTAND THE INFLUENCE OF TDCS .....	60
J. R. Camatti, A. P. A. G. Q. Carneiro, J. Z. Cavalcanti, I. O. Gomes, J. G. V. Miranda, A. F. Baptista	
DEVELOPMENT OF AN LED STIMULATION DEVICE FOR BCI-SSVEP .....	61
B. A. Navarro, M. M. Tiago, S. N. Carvalho	
DEEP-LEARNING NETWORKS APPLIED TO INTEGRATIVE ANALYSIS OF MOLECULAR DATA OBTAINED FROM PATIENTS WITH NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS .....	62
B. Henning, M. P. Viana, I. Lopes-Cendes, B. S. Carvalho	
CORTICAL ATROPHY IN FIRST-DEGREE ASYMPTOMATIC RELATIVES OF TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY PATIENTS .....	62
M. Katsurayama, V. Ferraz, T. Zanão, M. Nogueira, J. C. V. Moreira, M. K. Alvim, R. Barbosa, I. Lopes-Cendes, F. Cendes, C. L. Yasuda	
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN NEUROCYSTICERCOSIS AND HYPOCAMP SCLEROSIS .....	62
J.M.C. Jama-Antônio, F. Cendes, C. Yasuda	
VISUAL EVALUATION OF CURVILINEAR REFORMATTING FOR PEELING OFF THE SKULLCAP IN MRI-T1 VOLUMES .....	63
A.V.S. Lima, W.S. Loos, Enrico Ghizoni, D. Oliveira, C. L. Yasuda, F. Cendes, S.T. Wu,	
ASSESSMENT OF NEURAL SYNCHRONISM USING SPIKE MORPHOLOGY AND ICTAL COINCIDENCE IN ANIMAL MODELS OF EPILEPSY SUBMITTED TO NON-PERIODIC ELECTRICAL STIMULATION .....	63
S.M.A.F. Rodrigues, J.C. de Oliveira, L.C.M. Damázio, V.R. Cota	
PARTICIPATION OF THE CANNABINOID RECEPTOR CB1 IN THE ANALGESIA INDUCED BY LASER THERAPY IN THE PERIAQUEDUCTAL GRAY SUBSTANCE IN MICE TREATED BY LASER THERAPY AFTER CHRONIC CONSTRICTION OF THE SCIATIC NERVE: A RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL .....	64
G. X. Santos <sup>1</sup> , S. S. Lima, H. U. de Oliveira, R.S. dos Santos, C. Kosour, L. M. dos Reis.	
METABOLITE CHANGES IN THE BRAIN DURING VISUAL STIMULATION USING FUNCTIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE SPECTROSCOPY WITH P .....	64
E. Abelama Neto, T. B. S. Costa, R. C. G. Landim, E. L. Silva, G. Castellano	
CONTROL OF A ROBOTIC ARM BY BCI-SSVEP: A CASE STUDY .....	64
G. V. Vargas, R. Y. Takeda, H. M. A. Leite, T. B. S. Costa, R. Attux, S. N. Carvalho	
INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF ELECTRIC STIMULATION OF THE PERFORANT PATHWAY OVER OBJECT DISPLACEMENT RECOGNITION FUNCTION IN RATS .....	65
Pedroni, Breno, Dias, V. Elayne, Vieira S. André	
FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY BASED DECODING PERFORMANCE ON SSVEP BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACES .....	65
P. G. Rodrigues, J. I. Silva Júnior, T. B. Costa, R. Attux, G. Castellano, D. C. Soriano	
MULTIPLE RESONANCE PEAKS GENERATED BY ACTIVE IONIC CURRENTS IN NEURONS .....	66
R.E.O. Pena, V. Lima, C.C. Ceballos, A.C. Roque	
BIOPHYSICAL MODEL OF ACETYLCHOLINE MODULATION IN VISUAL CORTEX .....	66
Vinícius Lima <sup>1</sup> , Parviz Ghaderi <sup>2</sup> , Sareh Rostami <sup>2</sup> , Rodrigo Pena <sup>1</sup> , Renan Shimoura <sup>1</sup> , and Antonio C. Roque <sup>1</sup>	
REHABILITATION ADD-ON EFFECT USING VIRTUAL REALITY IN PATIENTS AFTER ISCHEMIC STROKE .....	67
A. F. B. Camargo, S. R. M. Almeida, A. F. Brandão, P. E. J. Campos, C. Ribeiro, L. C. Palhares, G. Castellano, L. M. Li	
NEUROSCIENCES APPLIED TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION (NEUROEDU) MEETING: WHAT IS THERE FIVE YEARS LATER .....	67
S. Adestro, C. Toneloto, L. M. Li	
MR-BASED MACHINE LEARNING TOOL TO AID ATHEROSCLEROTIC PATIENT DIAGNOSIS .....	67
M. Bento, M. Saluzzi, L. Rittner, R. Frayne	
SEIZURE OUTCOME AND BRAIN ATROPHY IN TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY PATIENTS .....	68
L.L. Montanher, L.F. Ribeiro, J.C.V. Moreira, G. Artoni, F. Cendes, C.L. Yasuda	
EEG INITIAL ANALYSES OF ATTENTION NEUROFEEDBACK TRAINING IN HEALTHY SUBJECTS REVEAL VIRTUALLY NO ALTERATIONS IN THEIR RESTING STATE FREQUENCY BANDS' POWER .....	69
C. A. Stefano Filho, L. T. Menezes, J. O. F. Pigatto <sup>3</sup> , G. Castellano	
IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF VIRTUAL REALITY FOR THE PARETIC UPPER LIMB ON ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIC ACTIVITY IN INDIVIDUALS AFTER STROKE .....	69
Miqueline Pivoto Faria Dias, Viviane Aparecida de Oliveira, Daianea Marques Ferreira, Ruanito Calixto Júnior, Sarah Cristina dos Santos, Adriana Teresa Silva Santos, Andréia Maria Silva	
AUTOMATIC DETECTION OF THE LESION IN CHILDREN WITH PHARMACORESISTENT EPILEPSY SECONDARY TO FOCAL CORTICAL DYSPLASIA .....	70
S. V. Gouvêa, C. M. Cavalcante, B. M. Campos, F. Cendes, M. A. Montenegro, M. M. Guerreiro, A. C. Coan	
BRIDGING NEUROSCIENCE AND MUSIC TO CREATE SOUND PROCESSES TO PROBE HUMAN EMOTIONS .....	70
G. S. Spagnol, J. Manzolli, L.M. Li	

STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL NEUROIMAGING EVALUATION OF BENIGN EPILEPSIES IN CHILDHOOD WITH TYPICAL AND ATYPICAL OUTCOMES .....	70
Cavalcante, C. M.; COAN, A. C.	
FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY CHANGES AFTER TEMPORAL LOBE SURGERY .....	71
Silva, B. F., Ishikawa, A., Amaral, I., Morita, M. E., Alvim, M.K, Ghizoni, E., Tedeschi, H., Cendes, F., Yasuda, C. L	
EFFECTS OF NUMBER OF DIFFUSION GRADIENT DIRECTIONS AND B-VALUES ON THE DTI INDEXES: A CLINICAL PROTOCOL STUDY .....	71
E. M. Souza, E. T. Costa, G. Castellano	
BRAIN GREY MATTER EVALUATION IN STROKE-FREE PATIENTS WITH ATRIAL FIBRILLATION.....	71
D.S. Silva, W.M. Avelar, M.E.B. Roma, A. Fattori, M.J.O. Figueiredo, F. Cendes, A.C. Coan	
1H-MRS NEURONAL-GLIAL AND INFLAMMATORY MARKERS IN PHARMACORESISTANT MESIAL TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY .....	72
L. R. Pimentel-Silva, R. Barbosa, R. F. Casseb, M. M. Cordeiro, M. K. M. Alvim, B. A. G. Campos, C. L. Yasuda, F. Cendes	
UNDER PRESSURE: A CASE SERIES OF UNUSUAL STROKE MIMICS.....	72
F. F. Graça, T. S. Prado, L. G. Matias, W. M. Avelar, P. C. Azevedo	
DATA AUGMENTATION ON MEDICAL IMAGES TO DEEP LEARNING USAGE.....	73
I. Fantini, L. Rittner, C. Yasuda, R. A. Lotufo	
DYNAMIC PROCESSES AFTER EPILEPSY SURGERY SUGGEST PARTIAL RECOVERY OF WHITE MATTER INTEGRITY .....	73
Amaral, I., Cendes, F., Yasuda, C., Silva, B. F., Ishikawa, A., Morita, M. E., Alvim, M.K, Ghizoni, E., Tedeschi, H.	
NEUROIMAGING LABORATORY, FCM, UNICAMP	
REFRACTORY SEIZURES DISRUPT BRAIN CONNECTIVITY IN TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY .....	74
Ribeiro, L. F.; Montanher, L.; Cendes, F.; Yasuda, C.L	
A CASE REPORT OF CEREBELLAR COGNITIVE AFFECTIVE SYNDROME DIAGNOSED BY ACCIDENT IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT .....	75
L. A. Y. Suemitsu <sup>1</sup> , F. F. Graça <sup>1</sup> , L.G. Piovesana <sup>1</sup> , P. C. Azevedo <sup>1</sup>	
CELLULAR DAMAGE AND NEUROGENESIS IN ZEBRAFISH LARVAE BRAIN AFTER PROLONGED SEIZURES .....	75
De Moura, T.C., C. V. Maurer-Morelli	
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFLAMMATORY MEDIATORS AND WHITE MATTER INTEGRITY IN ALZHEIMER DISEASE AND MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT .....	75
Mariana de Abreu;Thamires N. C. Magalhães; Christian L. B. Gerbelli; Luciana R. P. Silva; Camila V. L. Teixeira; Thiago J. R. de Rezende; Fernando Cendes; Marcio L. F. Balthazar.	
CLASSIFICATION OF ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS AND COGNITIVE DEFICIT THROUGH MRI.....	76
M. Pereira, W. G. Herrera, R. Lotufo, L. Rittner	
COMPARISON OF VOLUME OF ACTIVATION FINDINGS FOLLOWING TRAUMATIC SPINAL CORD INJURY WITH FUNCTIONAL MRI .....	76
M. C. Melo, D. R. Macedo, E. B. Carvalho, E. C. Muniz, A. B. Soares	
HIPPOCAMPAL-PREFRONTAL COORDINATION DURING SLEEP IN PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS .....	77
L. R. Zacharias, L.B. Peres, C. Lopes-Aguiar, J. P. Leite	
TRANSCRIPTOME PROFILE OF THE DG AND CA3 IN THE PILOCARPINE MODEL OF TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY .....	77
Matos AHB, Vieira AS, Godoi, AB <sup>1</sup> , Canto AM, Rocha SC, Carvalho B, Pascoal VDB, Lopes-Cendes I	
CHANGING MINDS AND BRAINS FOR COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT: PRELIMINARY RESULTS.....	77
F. Bressan	
A COGNITIVE ARCHITECTURE FOR INSTRUMENTAL LEARNING IN SMART AGENTS.....	78
Wandemberg Gibaut, Ricardo R. Gudwin	
CINGULUM ABNORMALITIES AS PREDICTOR OF CONVERSION FROM AMCI TO ALZHEIMER'S DEMENTIA: A PRELIMINARY PROSPECTIVE STUDY.....	78
Thamires N. C. Magalhães; Luciana R. P. Silva; Camila V. L. Teixeira; Thiago J. R. de Rezende; Fernando Cendes; Marcio L. F. Balthazar	
COMPARISON OF CORTICAL ATROPHY AMONG PATIENTS WITH RIGHT, LEFT, BILATERAL AND WITHOUT HIPPOCAMPAL ATROPHY TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY THROUGH VOXEL-BASED MORPHOMETRY.....	79
Artori G; Moreira JCV; Alvim MKM; Scárdua, FL; Yasuda. CL	
DEVELOPMENT OF SMARTPHONE APPLICATION TO SUPPORT ADOLESCENTS WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS.....	79
Queiroz G., Fernandes G., Appenzeller, S., Rittner L.	
DYNAMIC CAUSAL MODELING REVEALS ALTERED EFFECTIVE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN CONTRALATERAL HIPPOCAMPUS AND DEFAULT MODE NETWORK IN TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY .....	80
Vallim, M D; Ishikawa, A; Moreira, J C V; Zanão, T; Cendes, F; Pinheiro, A; Yasuda, C	
CEREBELLAR ATROPHY IN NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA SPECTRUM DISEASE (NMOSD) PATIENTS.....	80
Souza, R. F. S.; Von Glehn, F. Santos, LMB ; Cendes, F.; Yasuda, C L	
INTERPRETABLE MODELS FOR MEDICAL DATASETS BY MEANS OF BICLUSTERING AND ASSOCIATION RULES.....	81
Rosana Veroneze, Fernando J. Von Zuben	
APPLICATION OF MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUES TO MRSI DATA FROM MEDIAL TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY PATIENTS.....	81
A. J. Peterlevitz, L. R. Pimentel-Silva, F. Cendes, G. Castellano	
CSF BIOMARKERS AND COGNITION ARE RELATED TO WHITE MATTER INTEGRITY IN AMNESTIC AMCI AND MILD AD.....	82
C. L. B. Gerbelli, T. N. C. Magalhães, M. Abreu, L. R. Pimentel-Silva, C. V. L. Teixeira, T. J. R. Rezende, F. Cendes, M. L. F. Balthazar	
TISSUE REACTION TO THE RECORDING PROBES IMPLANTED INTO THE BRAIN.....	82
E. V. Dias, A. S. Vieira, R. Panepucci, R. Covolan, I. T. Lopes-Cendes, F. Cendes	
SEIZURE PREDICTION USING ELECTROGRAPHIC DESCRIPTORS OF NEURAL SYNCHRONISM AND ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORKS.....	82
L. F. F. Souza, M. F. S. Barroso, E. B. Pereira, V. R. Cota	
IMPACT OF THE ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT ON BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES IN ZEBRAFISH (DANIO RERIO).....	83
I.C. Areias, V.C. Fais, J.A.A. Fernandez, C.V. Maurer-Morelli	

SLEEP WAKE-CYCLE DISRUPTIONS IN AN ANIMAL MODEL OF TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY .....	83
R. M. Maciel, J. C. D. Oliveira, L. C. M. Damázio, C. Q. Tilelli, V. R. Cota	
EVALUATION OF ICTAL ACTIVITY ACROSS THE SLEEP-WAKE CYCLE OF WISTAR RATS UNDER PENTYLENETETRAZOLE-INDUCED ACUTE SEIZURES ....	84
R. M. Maciel, J. C. Oliveira, L. A. Réboli, S. M. A. F. Rodrigues, L. C. M. Damázio, C. Q. Tilelli, V. R. Cota	
SENSORY GATING EVALUATED THROUGH NEURAL ACTIVITY: ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPH PREPULSE INHIBITION TEST .....	84
San Martín, R., Zimiani, M.I., Noya, C.V., Avila, M.A., Shurama, R., Del-Ben, C.M., Menezes, P.R., Fraga, F.J., Salum, C.	
FIBER TRACTOGRAPHY AS PARTICLE TRACING FOR NEUROSURGERY PLANNING .....	84
R.Voltoline, E. Ghizoni, S.T. Wu	
TO TELL OR NOT TO TELL? PERCEPTIONS ABOUT STIGMA OF PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS .....	85
C. Y. Tagami, G. S. Spagnol, I. S. M. A. Assumpção, L. M. Li	
COGNITIVE EVALUATION IN THE LEARNING PROCESS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE .....	85
Yanina Leon Uscapi, André Frazão Helene, Matheus Silva D'Alencar, Maria Elisa Pimentel Piemonte	
DOES THE SIDE OF ONSET AFFECT MOTOR AND NON-MOTOR SYMPTOMS IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE? .....	86
J. Silva, R. Guimaraes, A. Coan, A. D'Abreu	
NETWORK DATA INTEGRATION IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER .....	86
L. A. Castro, D.C. Martins Júnior, A.C. Tahina	
VISUALIZATION METHOD AND A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS FOR ADDRESSING GOOD SPECTRA IN MRSI .....	86
J. A. Fontolan, L. Rittner	
AUTONOMIC DYSFUNCTION IN HEREDITARY SPASTIC PARAPLEGIA SPG4 .....	87
Carelis del V. González-Salazar, Karen AG. Takazaki, Alberto RM. Martinez, Marcondes C. França Jr	
GRAPH ANALYSIS OF NOISY EEG SIGNALS EXTRACTED DURING SLACKLINE WALK: PRELIMINARY RESULTS.....	87
L. T. Menezes, M. F. Barros, R. Radel, G. Castellano	
ACCURATE PLACEMENT OF NIRS PROBES FOR OXYGENATION MONITORING .....	88
J.A.I. Rubianes Silva, S.T. Wu, A. Quiroga, M. Katsurayama, R. C. Mesquita	
DETECTION OF REGIONS OF INTEREST FOR MR IMAGE ANALYSIS OF THE BRAIN .....	88
Samuel B. Martins, Bárbara C. Benato, Bruna F. Silva, Clarissa L. Yasuda, Alexandre X. Falcão	
STUDY OF CEREBRAL HEMODYNAMIC RESPONSE FUNCTION IN PATIENTS WITH FOCAL EPILEPSY USING EEG/FMRI DATA .....	88
M. M. Isikawa, C.E. G. Salmon	
PRE-OPERATIVE ANALYSIS OF FRACTIONAL ANISOTROPY IN TLE PATIENTS.....	89
Divino, N.P. Yasuda, C.L., Cendes, F. Rezende, T.J.	
IMPULSIVE-COMPULSIVE-ADDICTIVE DISORDERS TREATMENT ASSISTED BY NEUROMODULATORY TECHNIQUES AND VIRTUAL REALITY .....	89
W. D. Casagrande, A. Ferreira, A. Frizera-Neto, M. L. de Souza, E. M. Nakamura-Palacios	
USE OF FMRI TO ASSESS THE EFFICACY OF THE EEG-NEUROFEEDBACK TRAINING TECHNIQUE.....	90
L. T. Menezes, C. A. Stefano Filho, G. Castellano	
GLUTATHIONE DEPLETION OVERCOMES CHEMOTHERAPY RESISTANCE IN AGGRESSIVE MEDULLOBLASTOMA STEM-LIKE CELLS.....	90
B. D. Barbieri, M. Marçola <sup>1</sup> , C. R. R. Rocha, O. K. Okamoto <sup>1</sup>	
BIOMECHANICS SENSOR NODE – BSN: A WEARABLE DEVICE CONTROLLER OF VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS FROM GESTURAL INTERACTION FOR FUNCTIONAL NEUROREHABILITATION THERAPY IMPROVEMENT .....	90
A. Brandao, R. Leoni, L. Ruzene, A. Pacifico, T. Beltrame <sup>3,4</sup> , D. Dias <sup>5</sup> , G. Castellano	



ed which makes the study of each one of them essential for the knowledge of the Hippocampal formation [HF] and its physiology. Among the components of the HF, the Dentate Gyrus [DG] is the structure responsible for preprocess the information coming from the entorhinal cortex, so that the stimuli originated in the cortex can reach the hippocampus CA3 [2]. Therefore, the use of some molecular tools such as proteomics and transcriptomics will allow us to generate data about the regulation of the gene expression in the DG of human tissues and rats. **Objective:** We propose to analyze the DG from naïve Wistar rats and human tissue coming from autopsy using proteomics and transcriptomics techniques to identify changes in molecular mechanisms between the two species, and with these data the Rat is a suitable animal model for Humans. **Methods:** Five brains from Wistar rats and five human hippocampus from autopsy will be used in this project. Therefore, the cellular populations of interest, dentate gyrus, will be isolated using laser-capture microdissection. The rat DG will also be divided into Dorsal and Ventral portions. After this processes, the tissues will be analyzed using proteomics (MS/MS – label-free) and transcriptomic (New generation sequencing) analyses. The proteomics starts with the extraction of the proteins using Urea 8M followed by trypsinization and desalting with C18 columns. The proteins will be analyzed using a LTQ-Orbitrap from CeTICS/Butantan and the bioinformatics analysis with MaxQuant e Perseus software. The transcriptomic analysis will be performed by sequencing the RNA using an Illumina HiSeq® platform. Sequences will be aligned and quantified with the TopHat/DESeq2 pipeline for total RNA. **Relevance:** This study is relevant because it will generate a multi-OMICs and multi-species database which has never been generated before. It will allow us to compare and validate the Rat as a good animal model to Humans in the neurobiological approach. Furthermore, the study of that structure itself, the Dentate Gyrus, might contribute to the comprehension of classic Neuroscience events, such as long-term memory and the special localization. Such data will give parameters for new researches aimed to understand diseases affecting the dentate gyrus, such as Epilepsy, Alzheimer's Disease, among others.

**References:** [1] doi: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195100273.003.0003; [2] doi: 10.3389/fncir.2013.00015.

#### WHY NEUROSCIENCES NEED NEUROETHICS? A FIRST APPROACH IN THE BRAZILIAN CONTEXT

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**Introduction and Hypothesis:** The neuroscience's field is within the context of the so-called emerging technologies, which are characterized by the use of sophisticated technology. Neurotechnology revolutionized the way we understand the brain, our feelings, cognitive abilities, decision-making and moral choices. These achievements have strongly impacted not only the clinical and experimental field related to the knowledge of the brain, but also have affected the various sectors of society, such as economic, education and law. Due to this strong social impact of neurosciences many institutions and scientific Brain consortiums have created discussion groups to reflect on neuroethics issues. Undergraduate neuroethic training has been proved to be fundamental to help the students to deal with ethical questions that are not necessarily raised by the traditional bioethics. Neuroethic training would also increase the students' perceptions of a responsible science *vis-a-vis* of society. Some recent studies in other countries have shown that neuroethic training has a positive impact on neurosciences students. **Objective:** In Brazil the undergraduate neuroethics training is quite recent along with poorly understanding of various topics by students and teachers. The objective of this research is to depict this gap and reveal some recent data performed by the NEURO-I-SELF Group (CNPq). **Methods:** A preliminary survey has been carrying out to map the neuroethics courses at the main public Universities in Brazil. We will also identify the researchers teams dedicated to the neuroethics studies and training in Brazil. This will be done by analyzing the date of the main funding agencies in Brazil (such as CNPq, FAPESP and Capes). Our first step for the analyses is to determine the impact of neuroethics training course among the neurosciences students of UNIFESP and USP. In a second step, a questionnaire will be used to measure the changes in the student's perception between the neuroscience and society. **Relevance:** In spite of the relevance of the subject for science and society, there are few studies in Brazil

approaching the teaching of neuroethic and their impact among neurosciences students. This study can help to improve neuroethics training courses in Brazil.

**References:** [1] Abu-Odeh D., J. JUNE, 13(2) :A110-A119, 2015; [2] Forlini, C. et al, *Frontiers in Psy*, 6,1-5, 2016; [3] Gini, A. et al, *Neuroscience Neuroeconomy*, 4, 1-10, 2015; [4] Greehy, H. et al., *Neuron*, 92,2,2016; [5] Sahakian, B.J. et al., *Phil.Trans. R.Soc.B* 370, 20140214, 2015; [6] Sahakian, B.J.; Morein-Zammit, S., *Science*, 325, 147,2009; [7] Walther G, *Neuroethics*, 6,343-351, 2013; [8] Walther, G. *Neuroethics*, 6, 343-351,2013.

#### KINEMATIC ASSESSMENTS IN PATIENTS SUBMITTED TO ROBOTIC THERAPY AND tDCS

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**Introduction:** Previous studies indicate that quantification of kinetics and kinematics contributes to understanding of the motor learning process [1]. The goal of this preliminary study is to perform kinematic assessments in patients submitted to robotic therapy (RT) and transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) at an early stage after stroke. **Materials and Methods:** Six patients, between 3 to 9 weeks post stroke with upper limb paresis (scores 7-56, Fugl-Meyer Motor Assessment, upper limb) were randomly assigned to RT and either active or sham cathodal tDCS (ctDCS). Patients received 18 sessions (one session per day, 3 days per week) of 20 min of ctDCS of the motor cortex of the unaffected hemisphere followed by 40 minutes of RT (InMotion Arm – 2 degrees of freedom), Adaptive Protocol. The movement smoothness (average of 16 trials) was assessed at the beginning of each session and after each of 1 to 3 blocks of training (320 movements per block). We performed an exploratory analysis with paired t-tests to compare the improvement in smoothness between the first and the last session of treatment in each group. We compared changes in smoothness between the two groups with the Mann-Whitney test. **Results:** There was a statistically significant improvement in smoothness in the active group ( $p=0.01$ ) but not in the sham group ( $p=0.23$ ). However, the difference in change in smoothness was not statistically significant between the groups ( $p=0.32$ ). **Discussion:** These preliminary results suggest that RT preceded by ctDCS of the unaffected motor cortex may improve smoothness of movements in patients in the subacute stage after stroke, broadening results of a previous study that assessed smoothness of wrist movements after administration of anodal tDCS plus RT in patients in the chronic phase after stroke [2]. The lack of significant between-group differences may be due to the small sample size. **Conclusion:** These results should encourage further studies with a greater number of patients to confirm positive effects of ctDCS combined to RT, on kinematics of the upper limb in the subacute stage after stroke.

**References:** [1] Veerbeek JM et al., *Neurorehabil Neural Repair* 31(2):107-121, 2017; [2] Giacobbie V et al., *NeuroRehabilitation* 33: 49–56, 2013.

#### SIMULTANEOUS ASSESSMENT OF CBF AND BRAIN FUNCTION THROUGH DUAL-ECHO ARTERIAL SPIN LABELING

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**Introduction:** Both Cerebral Blood Flow (CBF) and information about brain functions are important parameters for the evaluation of cerebrovascular diseases, such as vascular dementia. Arterial Spin Labeling (ASL) is an MRI perfusion-weighted method essentially developed to measure CBF non-invasively [1]. However, due to its intrinsic low SNR, it is necessary to acquire multiple volumes over the time to estimate CBF. Recently, the ASL time series has been used to infer functional information. The present study aims to assess CBF and brain function parameters in a single acquisition through a dual-echo readout approach of ASL (DE-ASL) [2] during a motor task condition. **Materials and Methods:** 20 participants were scanned on a 3T MRI scanner equipped with a 32-channel receive head coil. DE-ASL data were acquired using a 2D EPI readout and a pseudo-continuous (pCASL) labeling scheme with the following parameters: TR = 4000ms; TE1/TE2 = 9/28 ms; labeling duration/post-label delay = 1450/1550 ms, 20 slices, slice thickness = 5 mm, spatial resolution = 3.75 x 3.75 mm<sup>2</sup>, FOV = 240 x 240 mm<sup>2</sup>, flip angle = 90°. The experimental protocol was a block-designed paradigm alternating rest, and right hand finger tapping. Each block had duration of 32 seconds, totalizing four blocks of rest and four blocks of motor task. **Results:** In figure 1, we show the CBF map for the group for TE1.



For the functional analysis, we obtained a total of 5 networks for each TE through ICA. Specifically to motor network, we found that CBF time-series was better correlated to experimental design for TE<sub>1</sub>, and that CBF network seemed to be more spatially specific than concomitant BOLD (cc-BOLD) network (figure 2). **Discussion:** For CBF quantification, short TE is recommended since for long TE values there is an increase in BOLD contributions to the signal. Our results for short TE were consistent with the literature regarding the CBF values. For network identification using ICA, our results for long TE showed a high activation T-score, confirming the effects of BOLD contribution. The better correlation

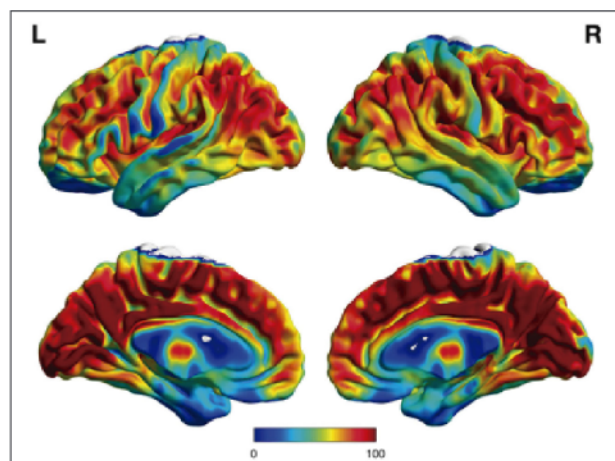


Figure 1. CBF maps.

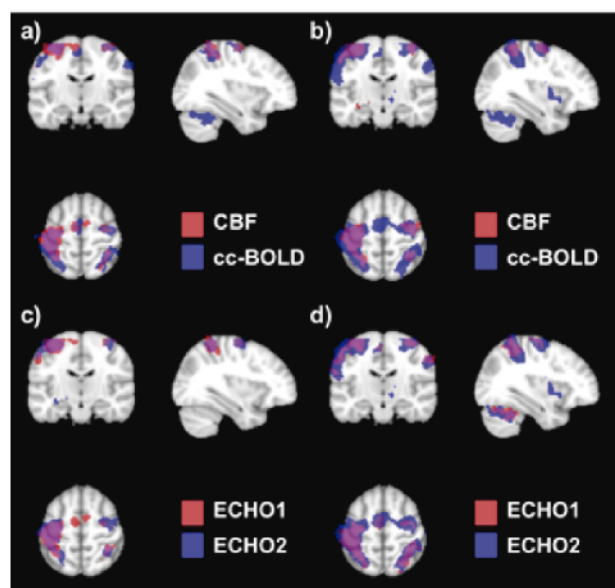


Figure 2. Motor network comparison between a) CBF and cc-BOLD for TE<sub>1</sub>, b) CBF and cc-BOLD for TE<sub>2</sub>, c) TE<sub>1</sub> and TE<sub>2</sub> for CBF networks and d) TE<sub>1</sub> and TE<sub>2</sub> for cc-BOLD networks.

between CBF time-series and experimental design for TE<sub>1</sub> is due to the reduced contribution of T2\* effects on images acquired with shorter TE values, and consequently higher SNR when compared to images acquired using long TE values. Finally, the higher spatial specificity of CBF networks reflects effects that are measured directly in the activation site, while BOLD effect comes from an indirect measurement. **Conclusion:** Our study analyzed how CBF and functional fluctuations can be measured simultaneously through DE-ASL. We concluded that CBF maps should be extracted from short-TE images. For functional analysis, long TE values are recommended to identify general networks, while CBF networks acquired using short TE are better to find accurate spatial activation site.

**References:** [1] Detre JA et al., Magn Reson Med 23(1): 37-45, 1992; [2] Tak S et al., Neuroimage 84: 672-680, 2014.

## DECREASED SHORT-INTERVAL INTRACORTICAL INHIBITION CORRELATES WITH BETTER PINCH STRENGTH IN PATIENTS WITH STROKE AND GOOD MOTOR RECOVERY

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**Introduction:** Short-interval intracortical inhibition (SICI) evaluated through transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) reflects activation of inhibitory, GABA<sub>A</sub>ergic cortical neurons in the primary motor cortex [1]. A meta-analysis concluded that SICI is decreased in the primary motor cortex of the affected hemisphere (M1<sub>AH</sub>) early, but not in the chronic phase after stroke [2]. In this phase, in patients with moderate to severe upper limb impairments, deeper SICI correlates with better motor performance [3,4]. **Materials and Methods:** Twenty-two subjects were included in the study. SICI was measured with a paired-pulse paradigm. Thumb lateral pinch force was measured according to a standardized protocol [5]. Between-group comparisons were made with unpaired t tests or Mann-Whitney tests according to distribution of the data. The correlations between behavioral and TMS measures were evaluated with Spearman's rho. P-values ≤ 0.05 were considered statistically significant. **Results:** There was a significant correlation (rho = 0.69, p = 0.014) between SICI and pinch strength in patients, but not in controls. SICI was significantly deeper in patients with greater hand weakness. **Discussion:** For the first time, we report a significant correlation between SICI in M1<sub>AH</sub> and pinch force in subjects with excellent motor recovery in the chronic phase after stroke. In line with results of a meta-analysis [2], here were no significant differences in SICI between patients with stroke and controls. In controls, the absence of a significant correlation between pinch strength and SICI may be explained by a ceiling effect. In patients, SICI in M1<sub>AH</sub> was deeper in subjects with stroke and lower levels of pinch strength. This result contrasts with those reported in subjects with moderate to severe hand motor impairment in the chronic phase [3,4]. **Conclusion:** These preliminary findings suggest that decreased GABA<sub>A</sub> activity in M1<sub>AH</sub> correlates with better hand motor performance in well-recovered subjects with stroke in the chronic phase. It is possible that effects of up- or down-regulation of GABA<sub>A</sub> activity may lead to different outcomes, according to severity of motor impairments.

**References:** [1] Talelli P et al., Clin Neurophysiol 59: 1641-59, 2006; [2] McDonnell MN et al., Brain Stimulation 10:721-734, 2017; [3] Marconi B et al., Neurorehabil Neural Repair 25:48-60, 2011; [4] Horaguchi K et al., Clin Neurophysiology 124:364-70, 2013; [5] Mathiowetz V et al., Arch Phys Med Rehabil 66:69-74, 1985.

## ATTITUDES OF TEACHERS TOWARDS EPILEPSY AND THEIR RELATION WITH KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEFS

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**Introduction:** This study aims to evaluate the adequate knowledge and beliefs about epilepsy and association with different models of attitudes described by teachers towards students with epilepsy. Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disease that affects 1% of the population and about 50% of the cases are diagnosed in children. This condition is marked by stigma that affect the psychological, physical, social and schooling areas, revealing difficulties from childhood to adulthood. Identifying the influences and patterns of teachers' behavior in the face of epileptic seizures can help us design actions to reduce stigma. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among public school teachers from 10 different schools in São Paulo State between May 2017 and November 2017. A self-report questionnaire with multiple choice and dissertations answers was given anonymously to each teacher and answered in the researcher presence. The questionnaire was focused on asking for information regarding the following areas: teachers' demographic information, knowledge about epilepsy, attitudes towards epilepsy and perceptions regarding this condition. The questionnaires were home designed after a deep review literature and developed following a standard process for elaboration and validation. The Qui-Square test was used to assess association between attitude and knowledge/belief and the p. value less than