

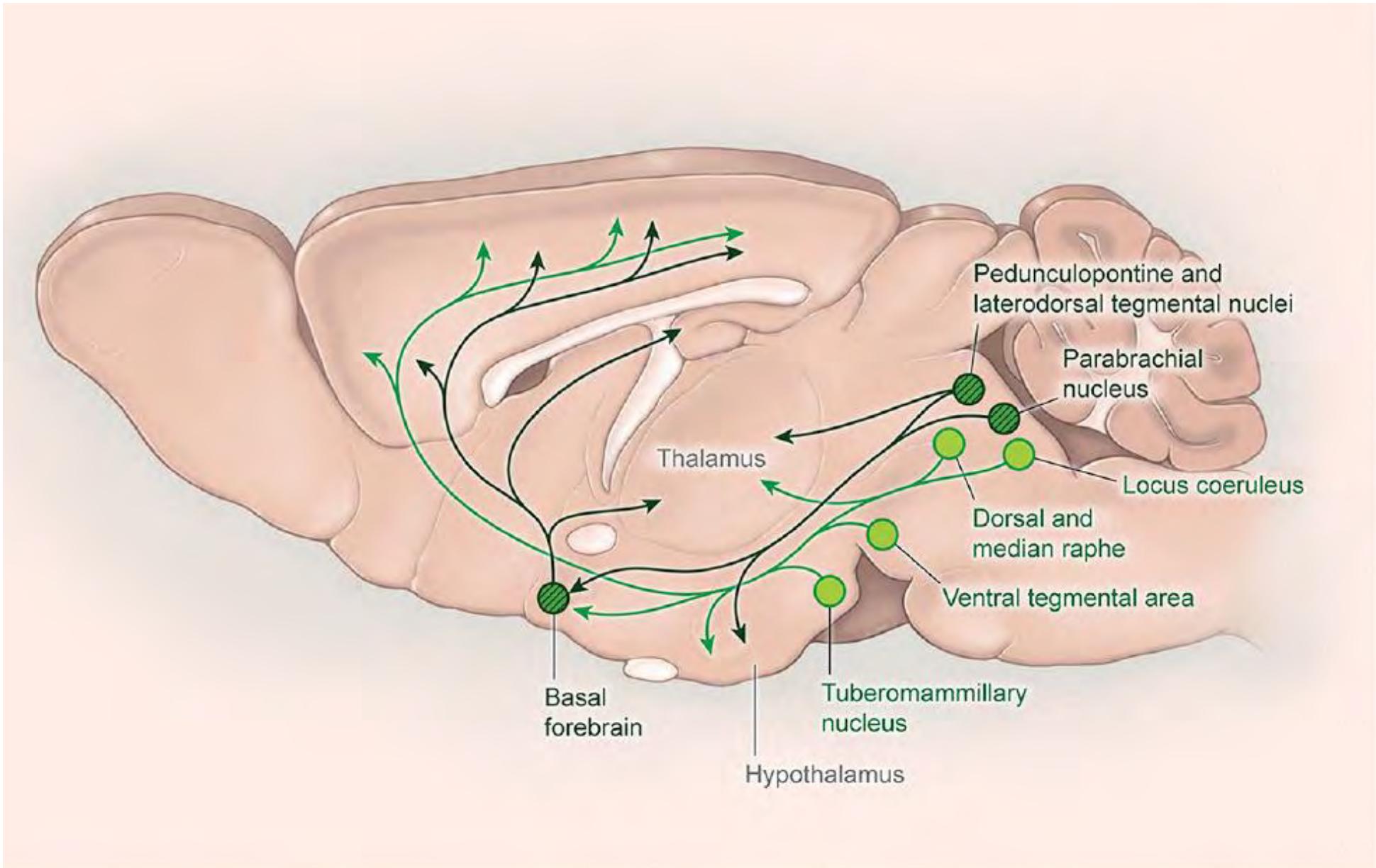
# **Sleep as a Network State (Part II)**

Robert Joseph Thomas, M.D.

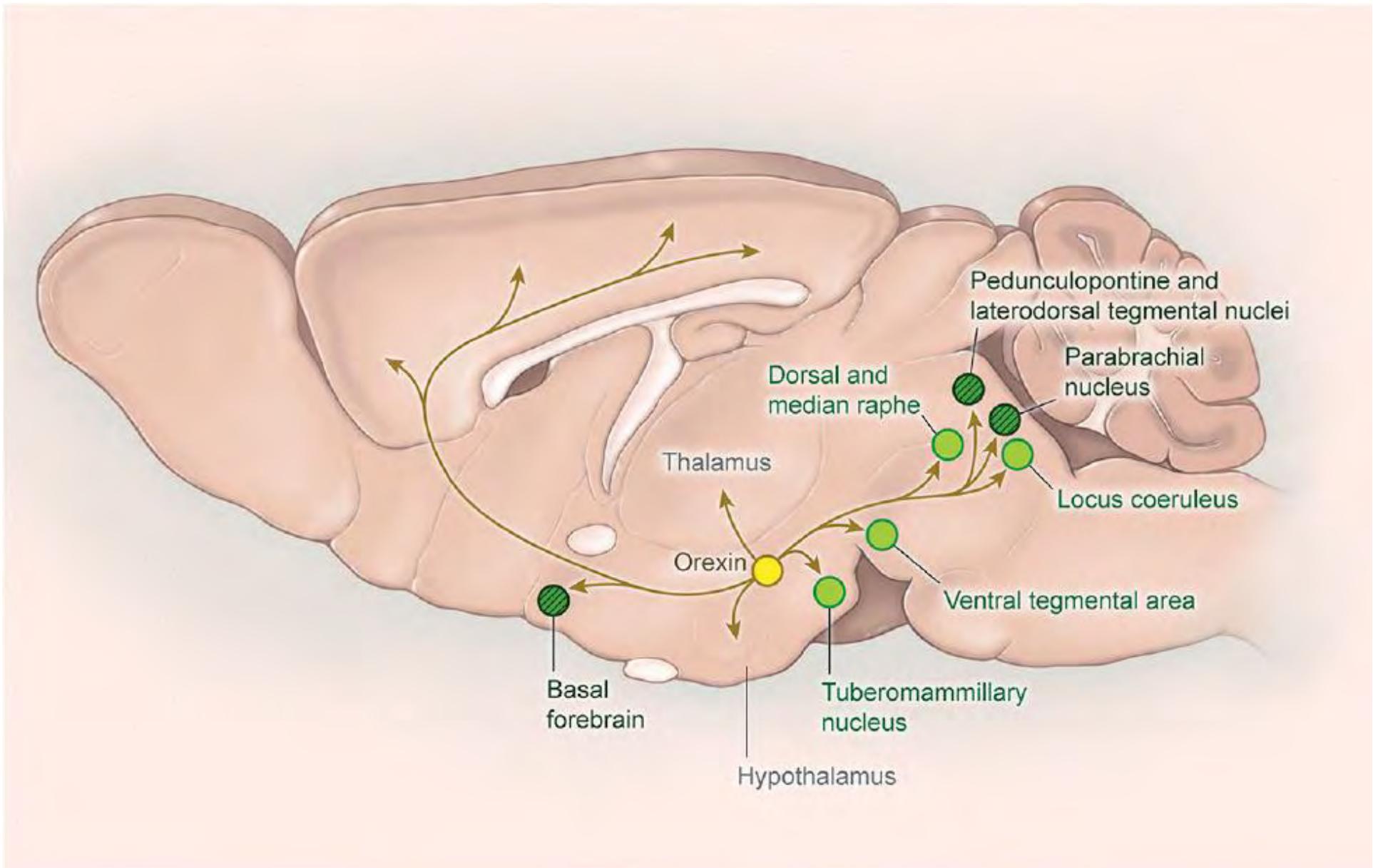
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston,  
MA, USA

# Wake

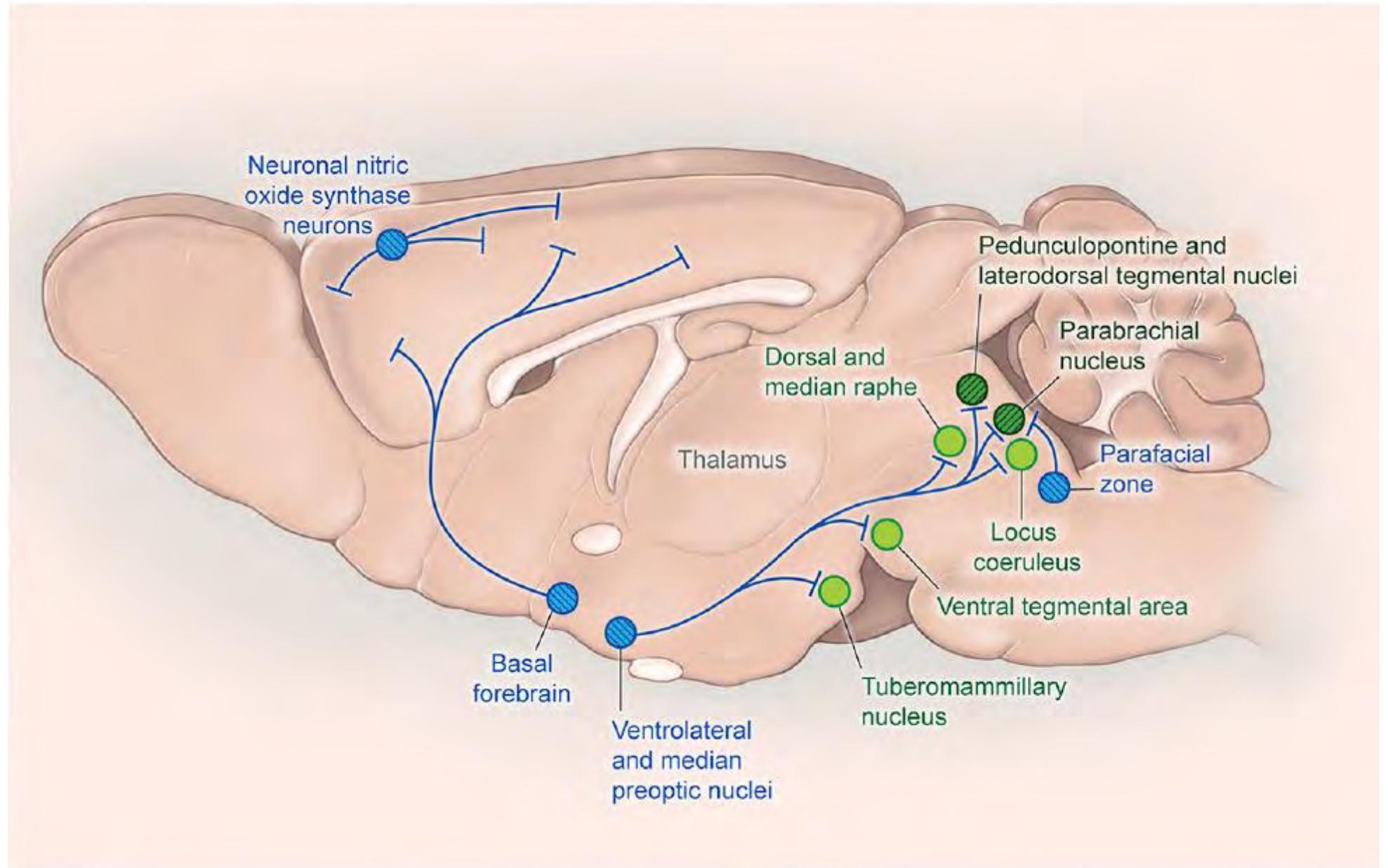
Neuron  
2017;22;93:  
747-765.



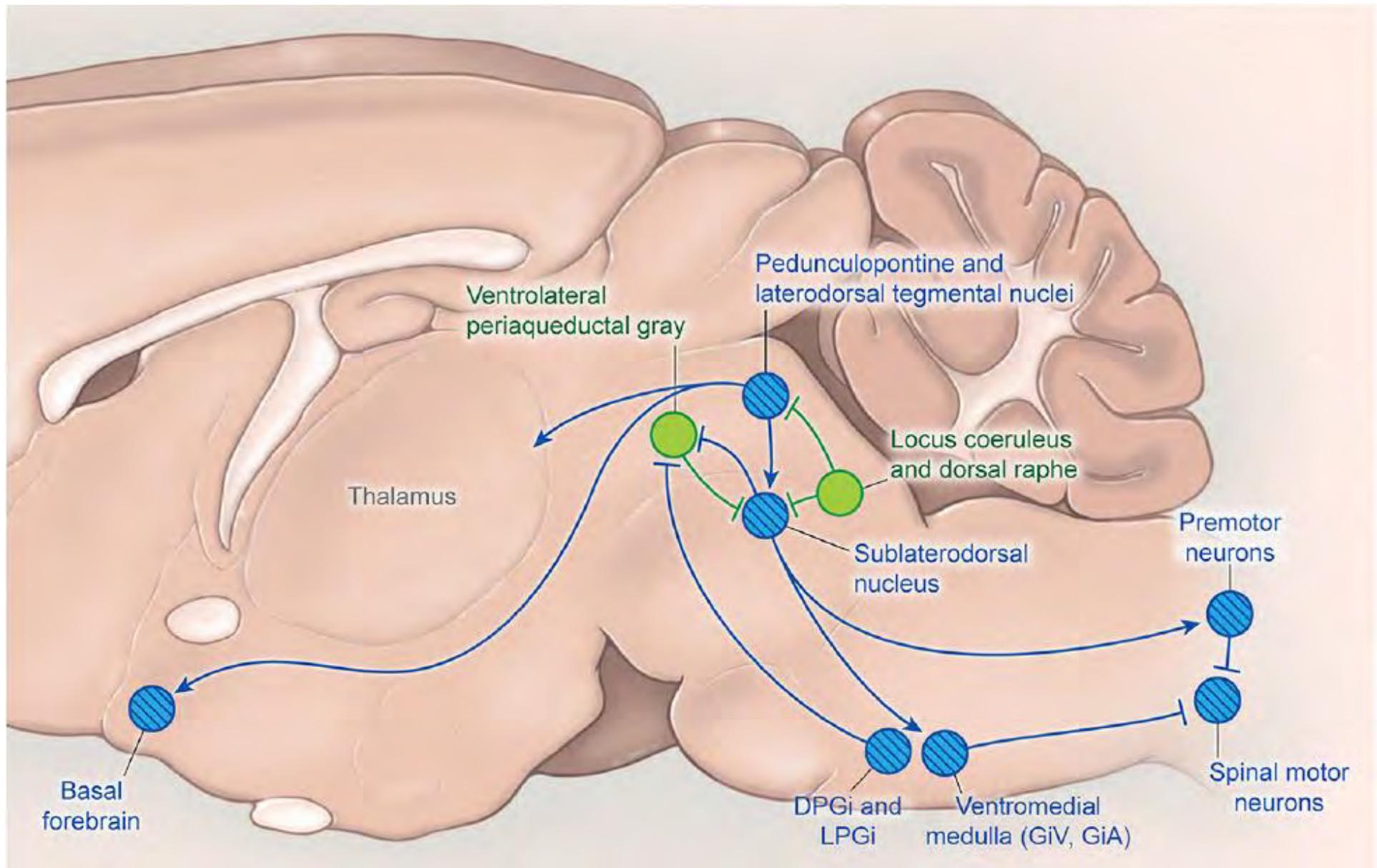
# Orexin



# NREM



# REM



# Continuation...why bother? Targets

- Epilepsy – brain health, prognostic and therapeutic markers
- Dementia – progression, regression through cortical network
- Stroke recovery – brain-autonomic-cardiac-respiratory network
- Atrial fibrillation – recurrence risk through autonomic network
- Neuromuscular disorders – brain-muscle networks, targeted therapy
- Parkinson's disease brain-autonomic-motor network
- Dyspnea - cardiorespiratory-cortical network
- Sleep disorders
  - Sleep apnea impact on heart failure, atrial fibrillation
  - Periodic limb movements
  - Insomnia
  - Hypersomnia, narcolepsy

# What can Network Physiology do for sleep science and sleep medicine

- What is this sleep glue that hold disparate oscillators in synchrony? We have a “binding problem” in sleep. How does this inform consciousness?
- What is the minimum unit of sleep to perform function? That is, is there a universal law of tolerance to sleep fragmentation/arousals?
- Why are certain individuals with incredibly fragmented sleep asymptomatic, and vice versa?
- Can the “disruption grade” of pathology be quantified?
- Is a “network map” of sleep useful in clinical practice?

# **Large scale network influences and breakdowns**

- Binding mechanisms
  - Slow oscillation
  - Cyclic alternating pattern
  - PGO waves
- Breakdown etiologies
  - Congestive heart failure
  - Atrial fibrillation
  - Severe traumatic brain injury
  - Treatment-resistant depression
  - Mania
  - Neurodegeneration

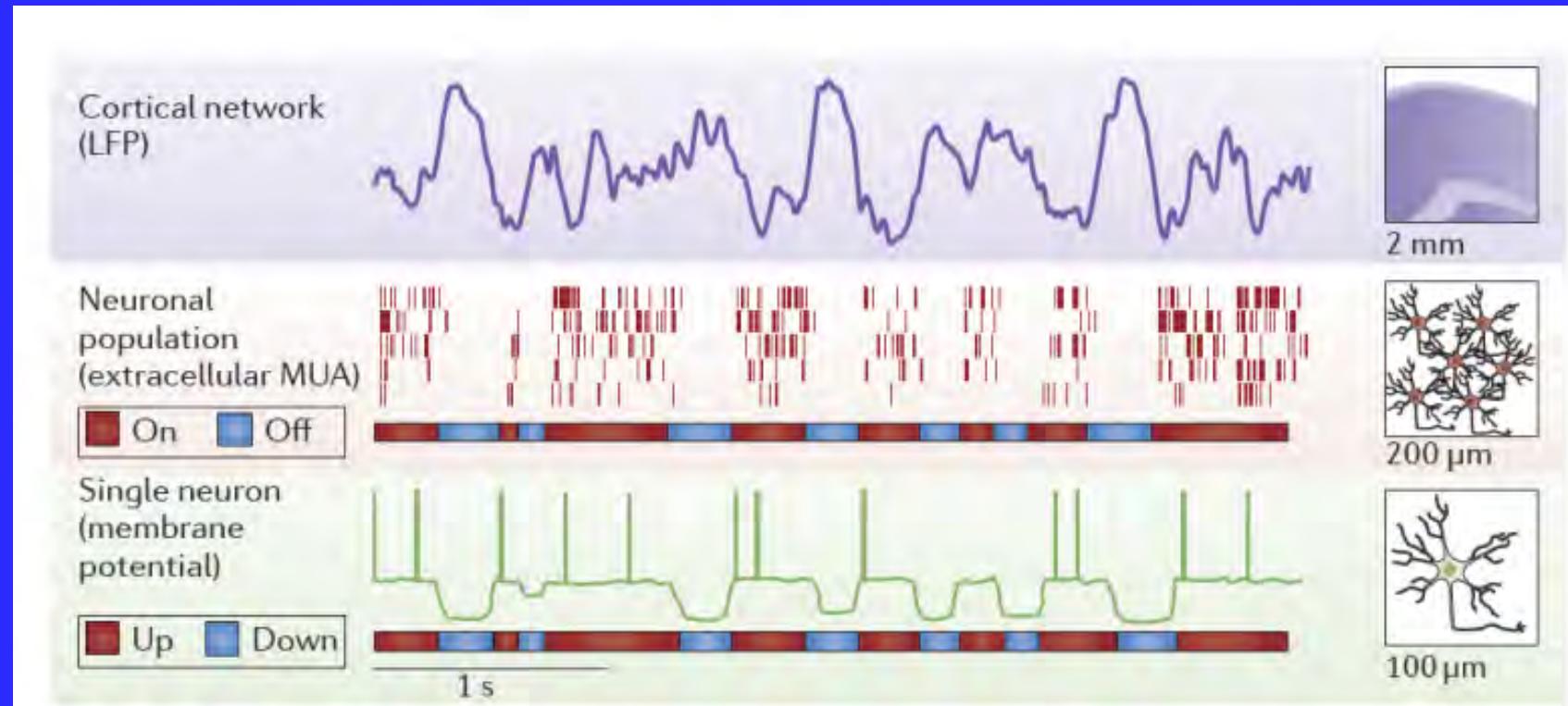
# Network breakdown

- **Cortical**
  - Normally highly resilient and redundant (e.g. stroke)
  - Traumatic brain injury
  - Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease
  - Epilepsy
- **Thalamocortical network**
  - Prion disease
  - Tumor
  - Stroke (including paramedian)
- **Sleep-wake transition network**
  - Insomnia (various driver mechanisms, including circadian)
  - Amygdala-based syndromes: anxiety, fear, PTSD
  - Pain, stress

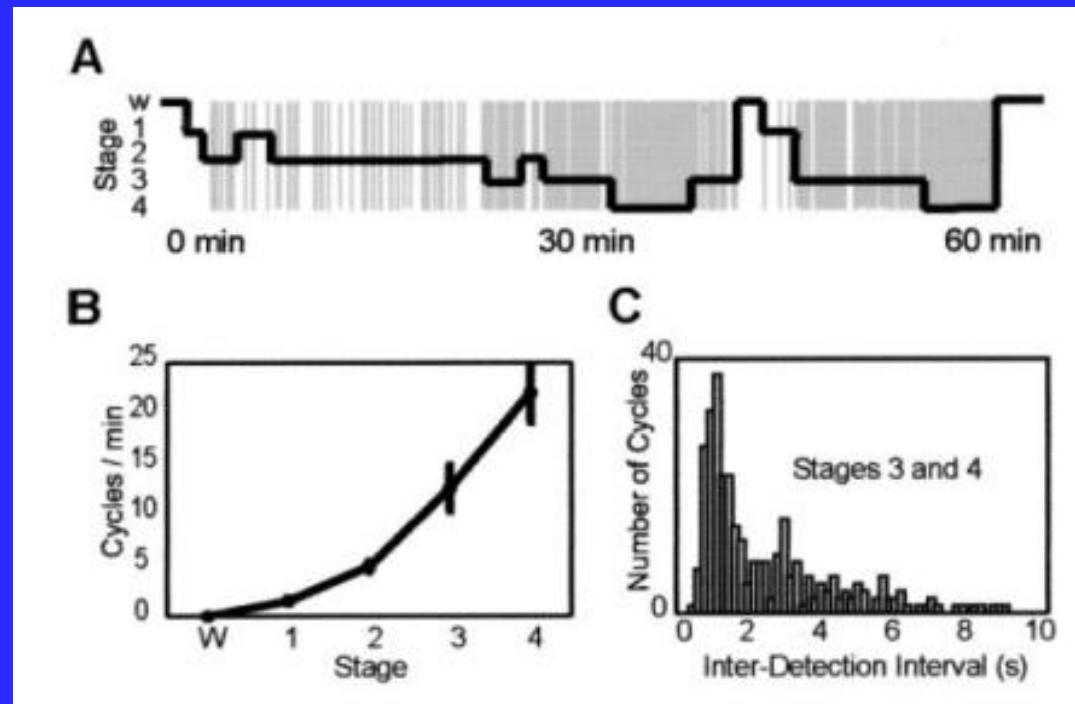
# Network breakdown

- REM sleep network
  - RBD, PTSD, nightmares
- NREM sleep network
  - Sleepwalking, insomnia, depression
- Arousal network
  - Unstable
    - Bipolar, Kleine-Levin syndrome
  - Hypoactive
    - Coma, Persistent vegetative state, minimally conscious state
    - Anesthesia (all anesthetic agents are not equal, e.g., ketamine-xylazine results in greater glymphatic flow than isoflurane)
  - Hyperactive
    - Extrinsic: pain, abnormal respiration
    - Intrinsic: PTSD, stress

# The “up” and “down” (on/off) states of the cerebral cortex. It permeates the whole brain.



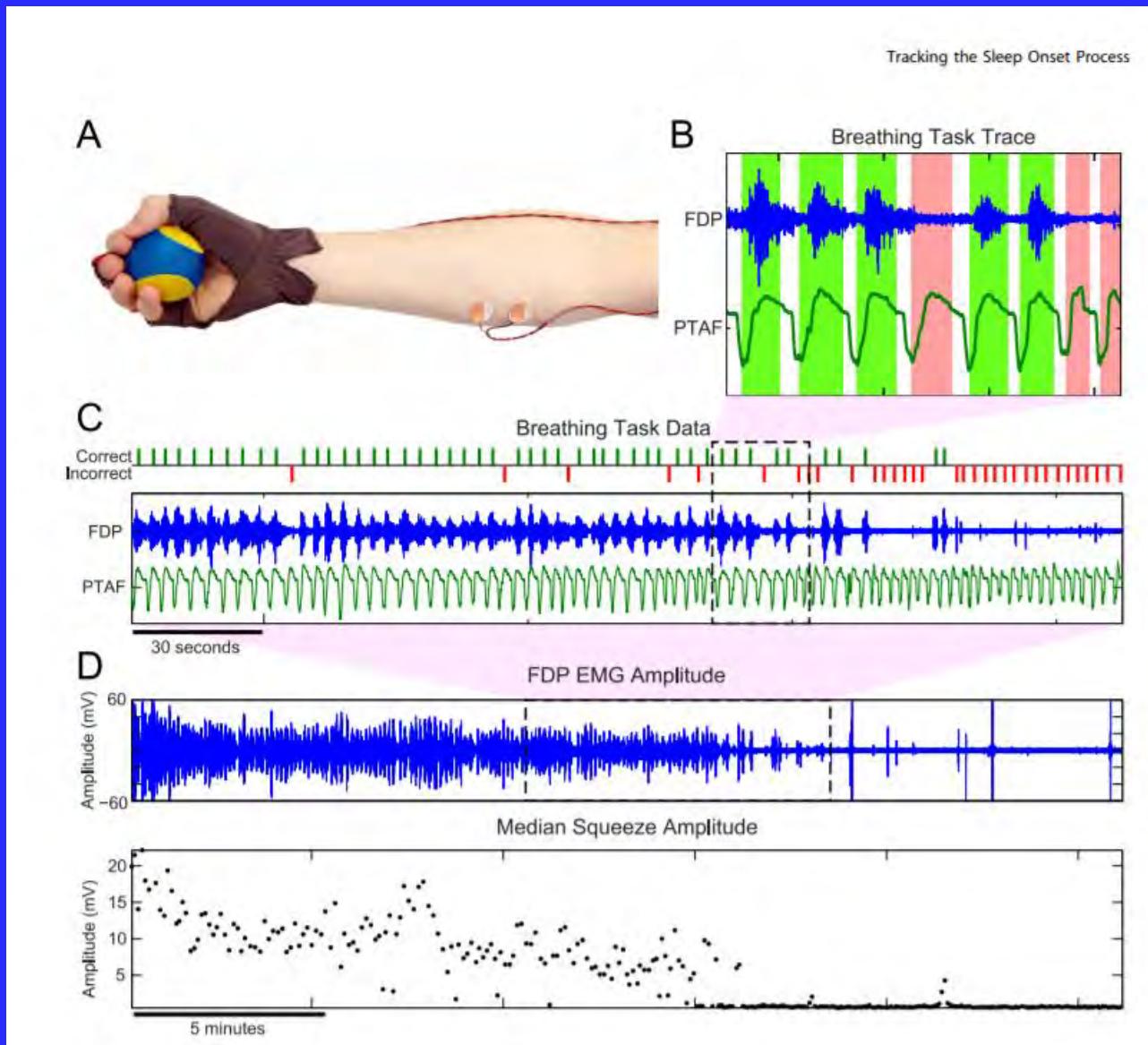
The Slow Oscillation (SO) builds in frequency and spatial extent as sleep starts and deepens. Below-high within individual stability.



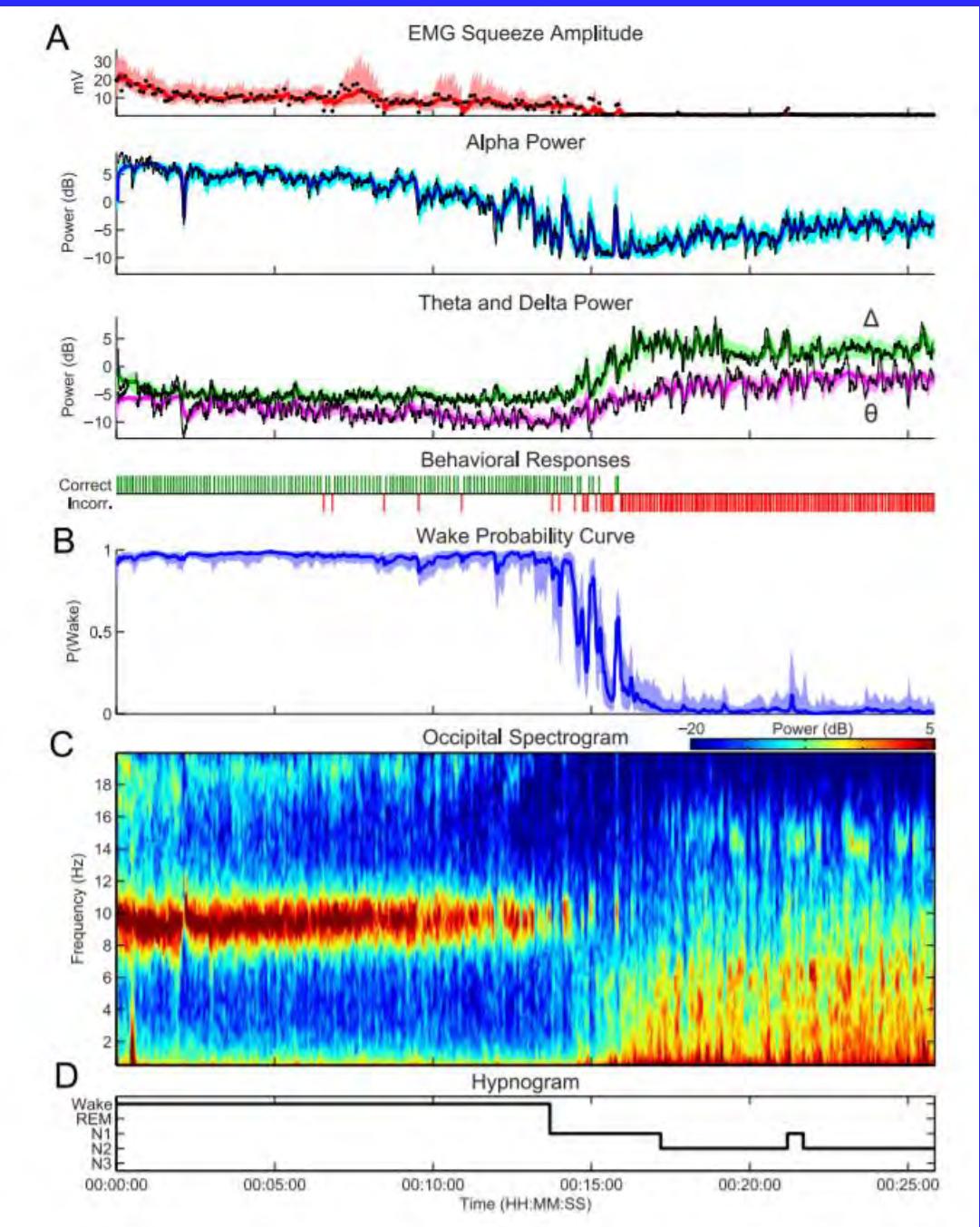
# Consequences of the time of night distribution of the SO glue

- First half of the night is less vulnerable to sleep disruption
- Arousalability of sleep increases as the night progresses
- Successful insomnia treatment likely improves effective SO glue
- Critical points of weakness occur regularly across the night
- SO breaks down with poor cortical health, or excessive subcortical drivers, or perhaps inadequate subcortical NREM driving
- Genetic factors associated with sleep resilience likely impact SO
- Insomnia pharmacotherapy is from one view illogical
  - Greatest help needed when SO is weakest (second half of night)

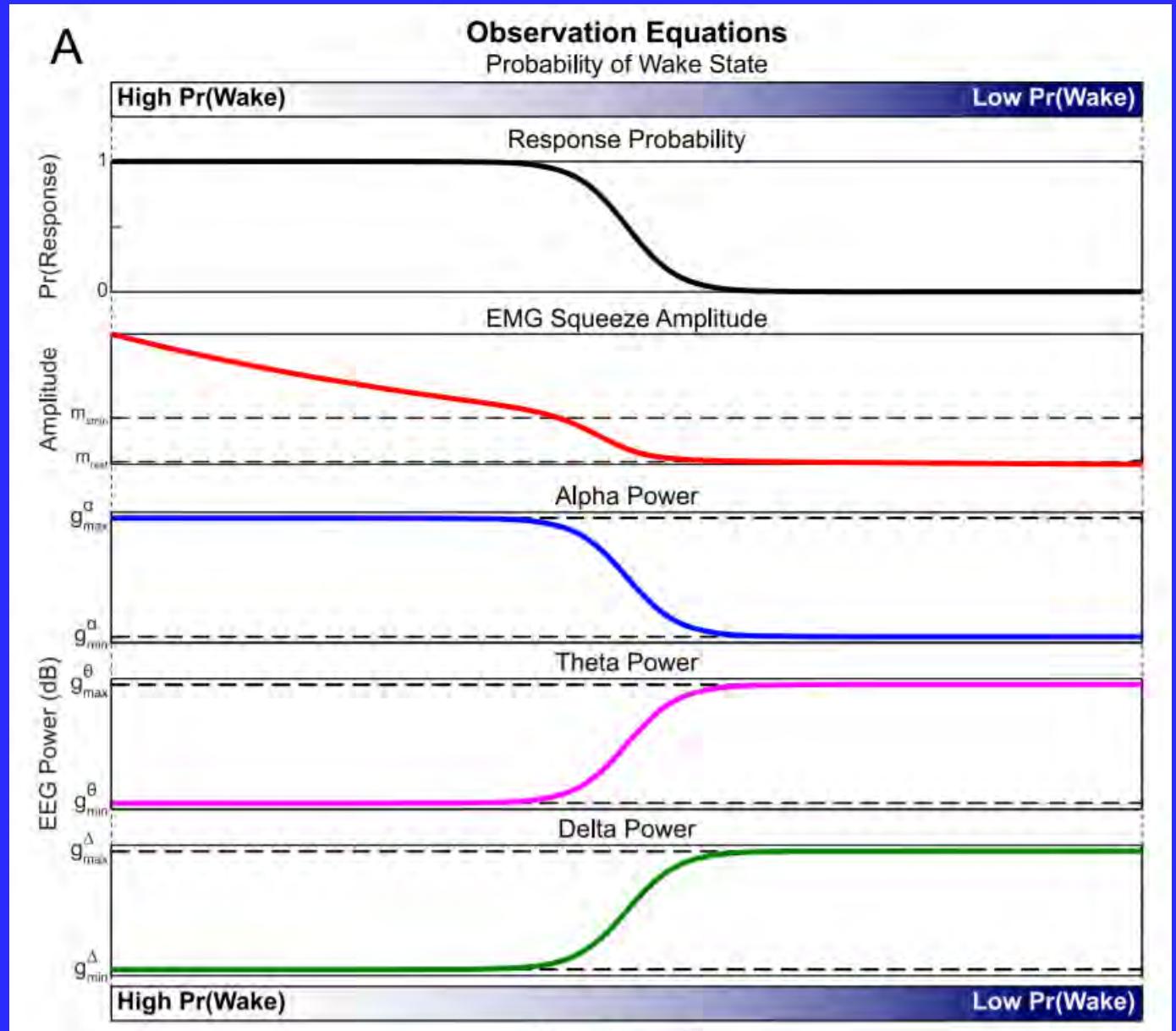
# Sleep Onset



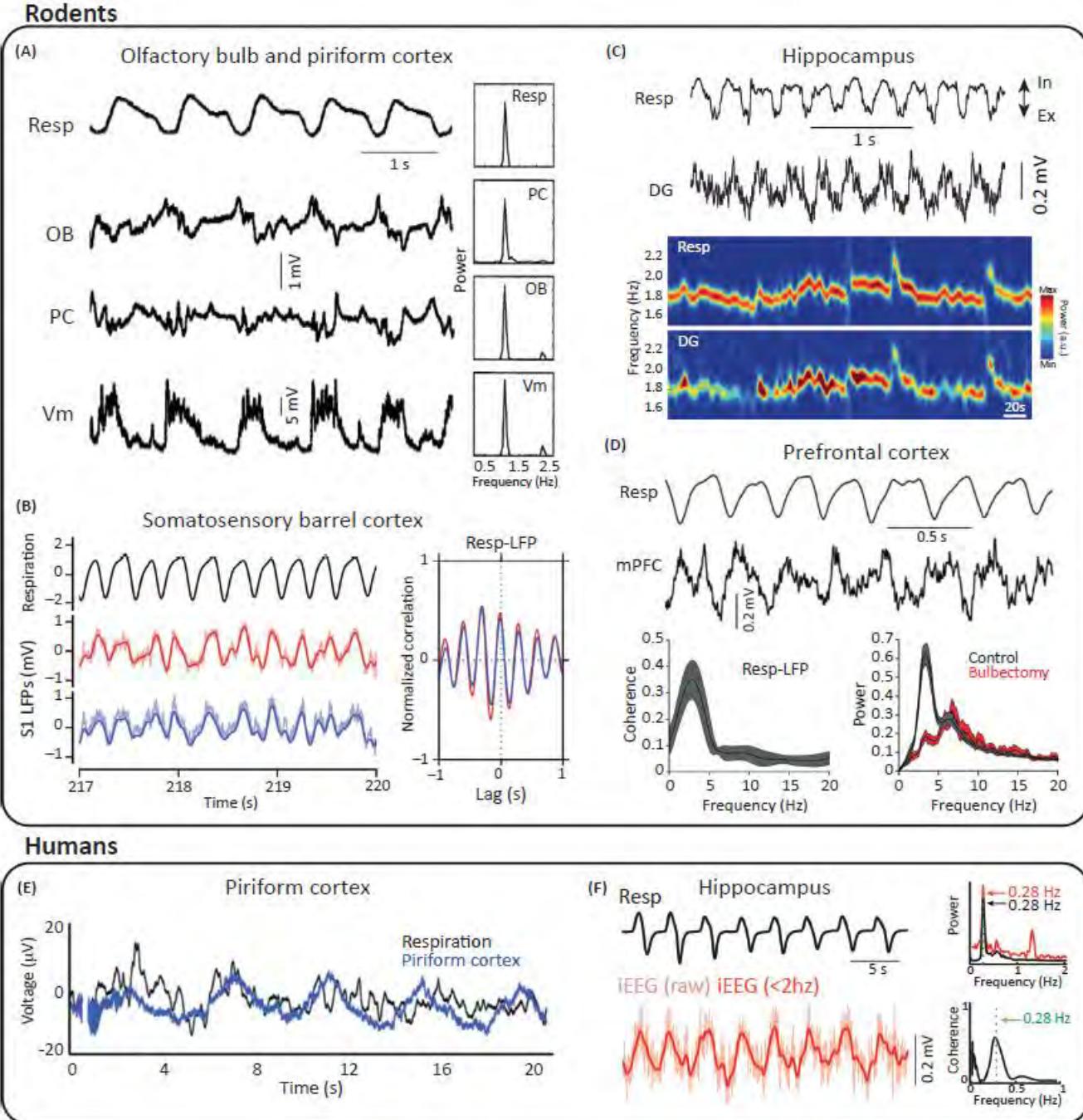
# Sleep Onset



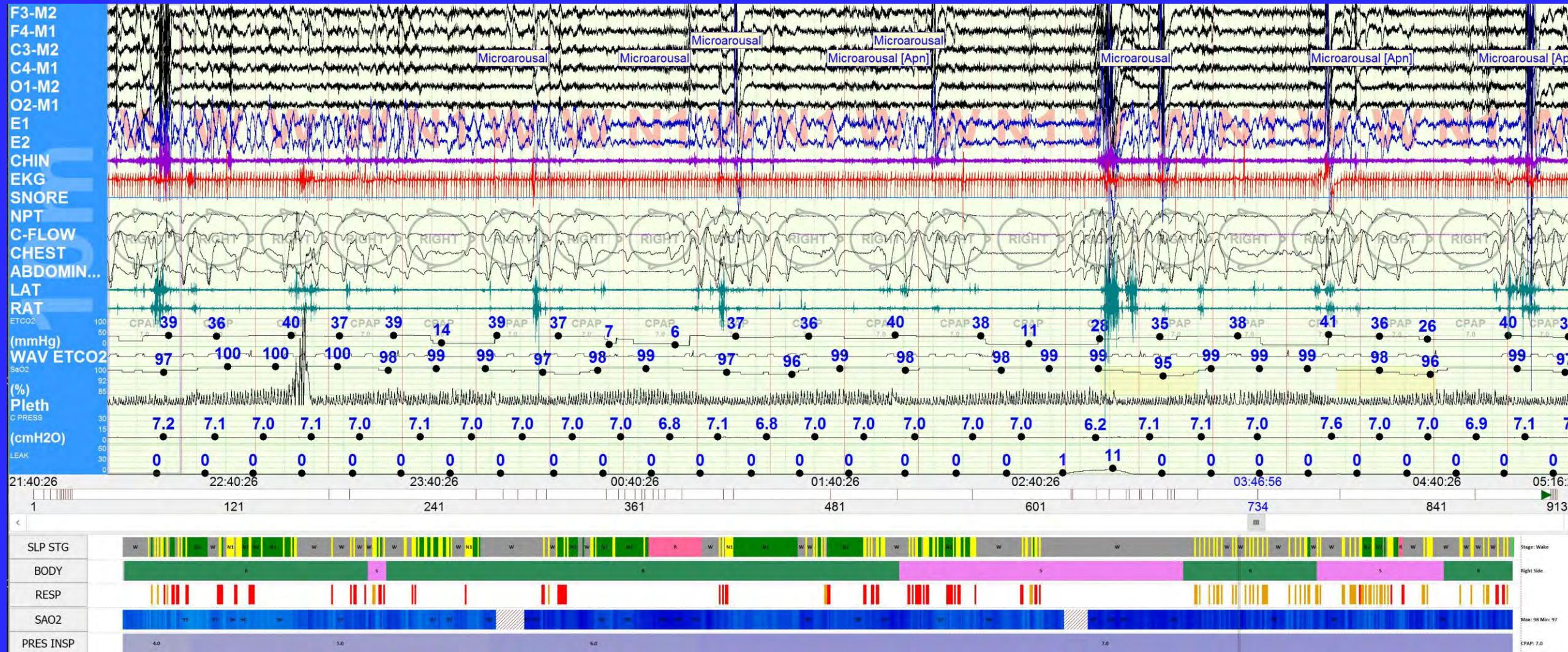
# Sleep Onset



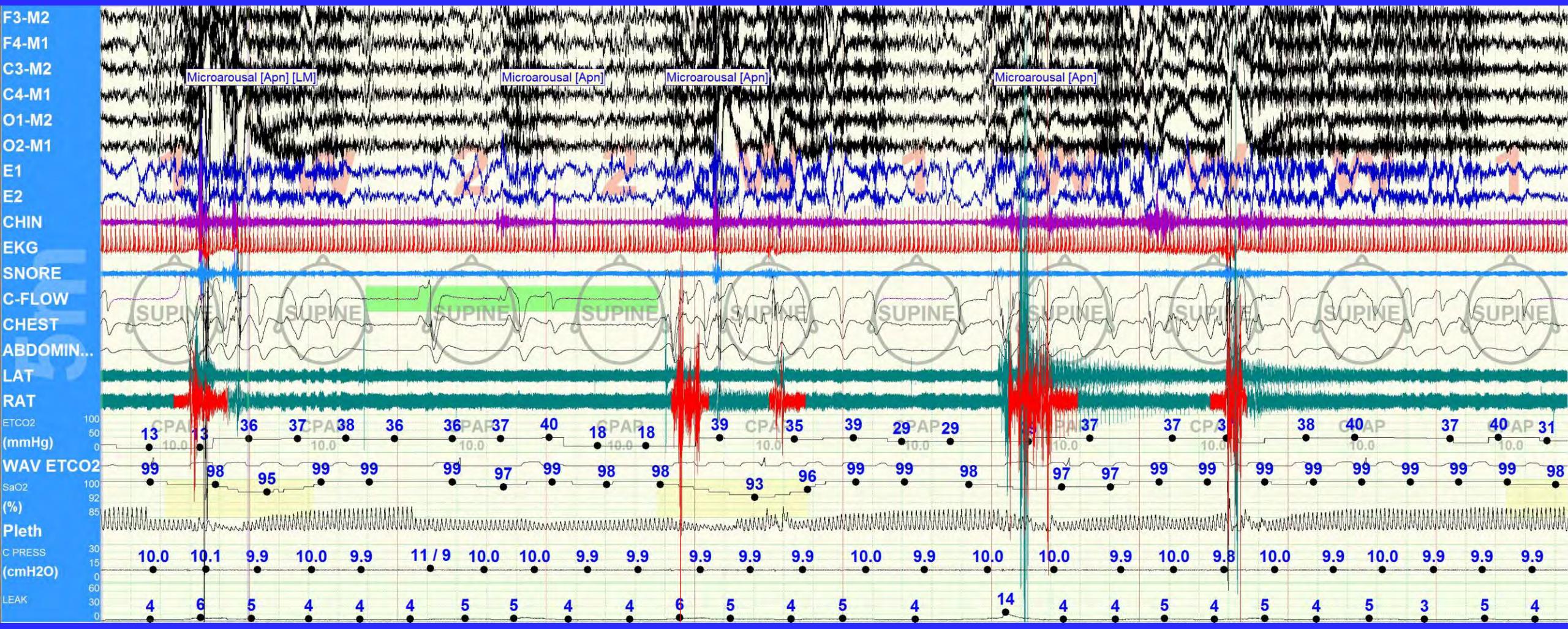
**Respiration-Entrained Brain Rhythms Are Global but Often Overlooked.**  
**Trend Neurosci 2018;41:186-197.**



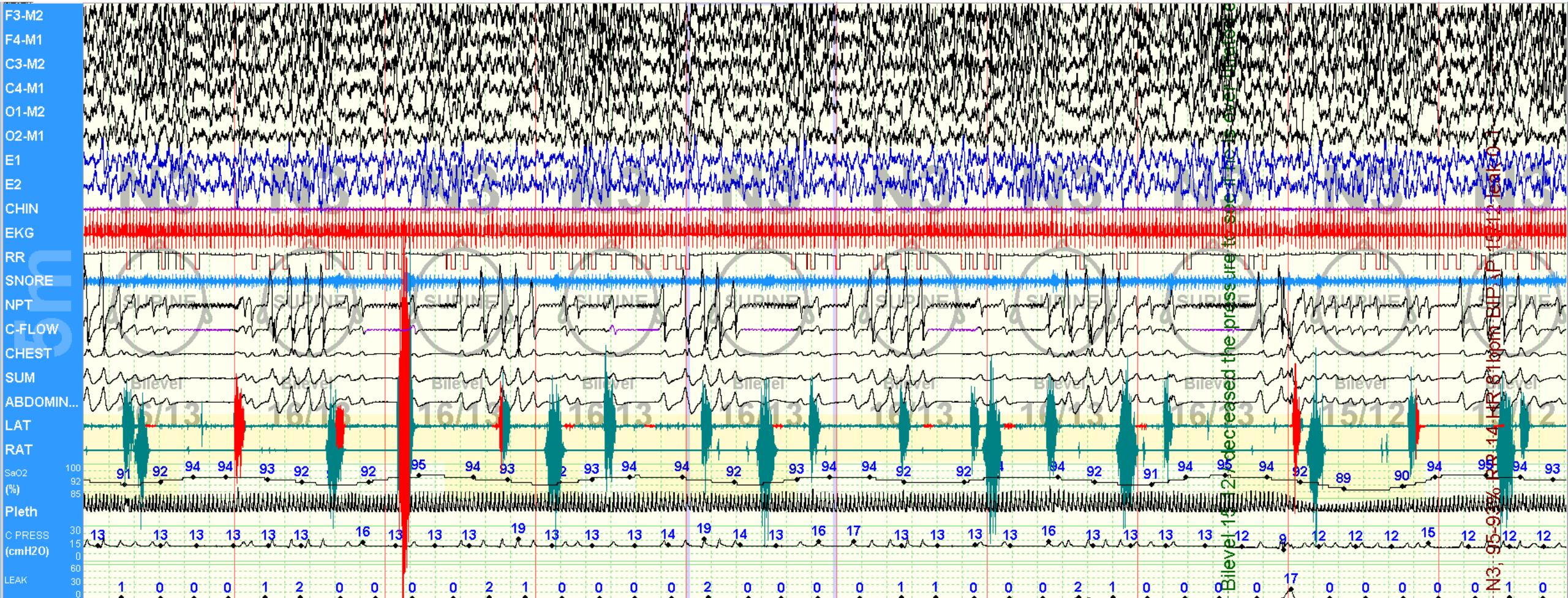
# Amplified wake-sleep transitional instability (AWSTI)

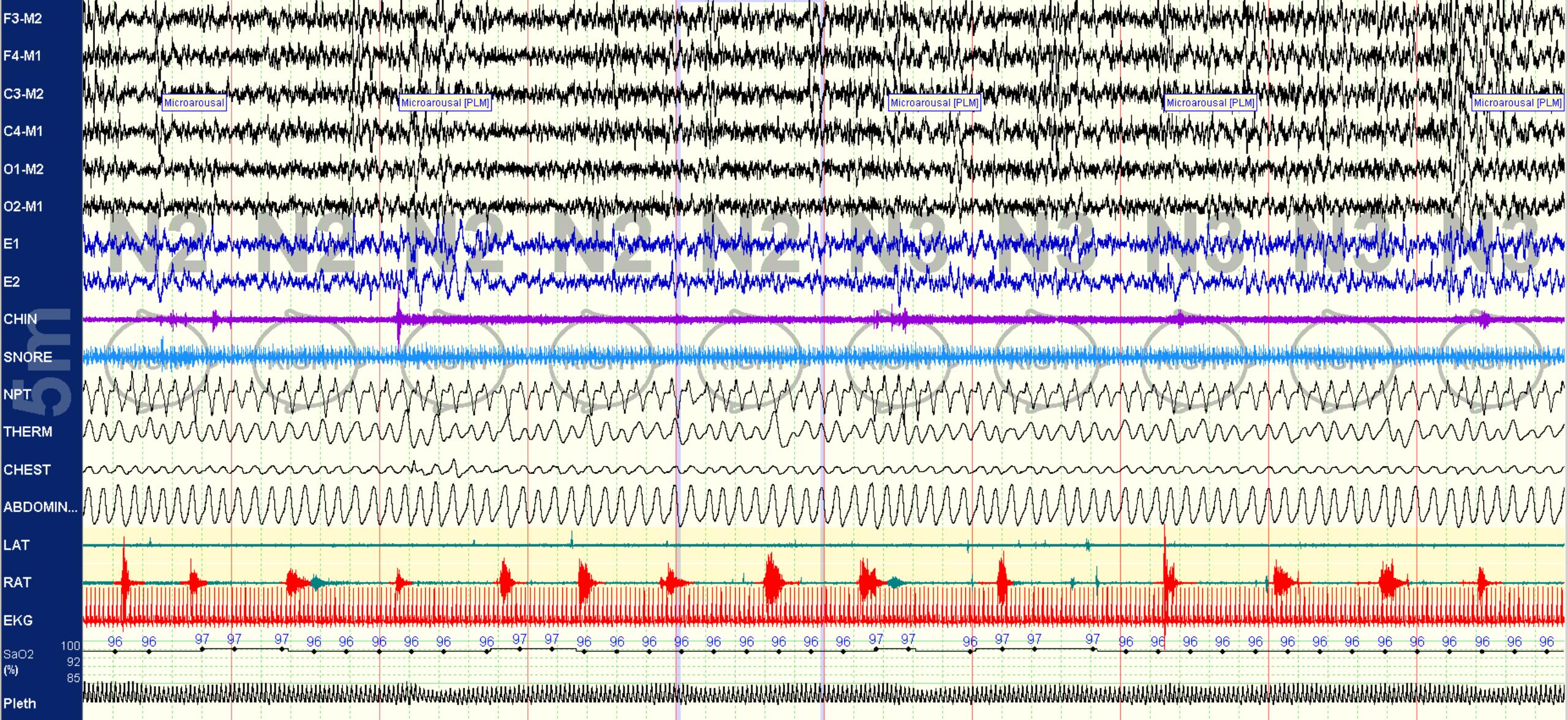


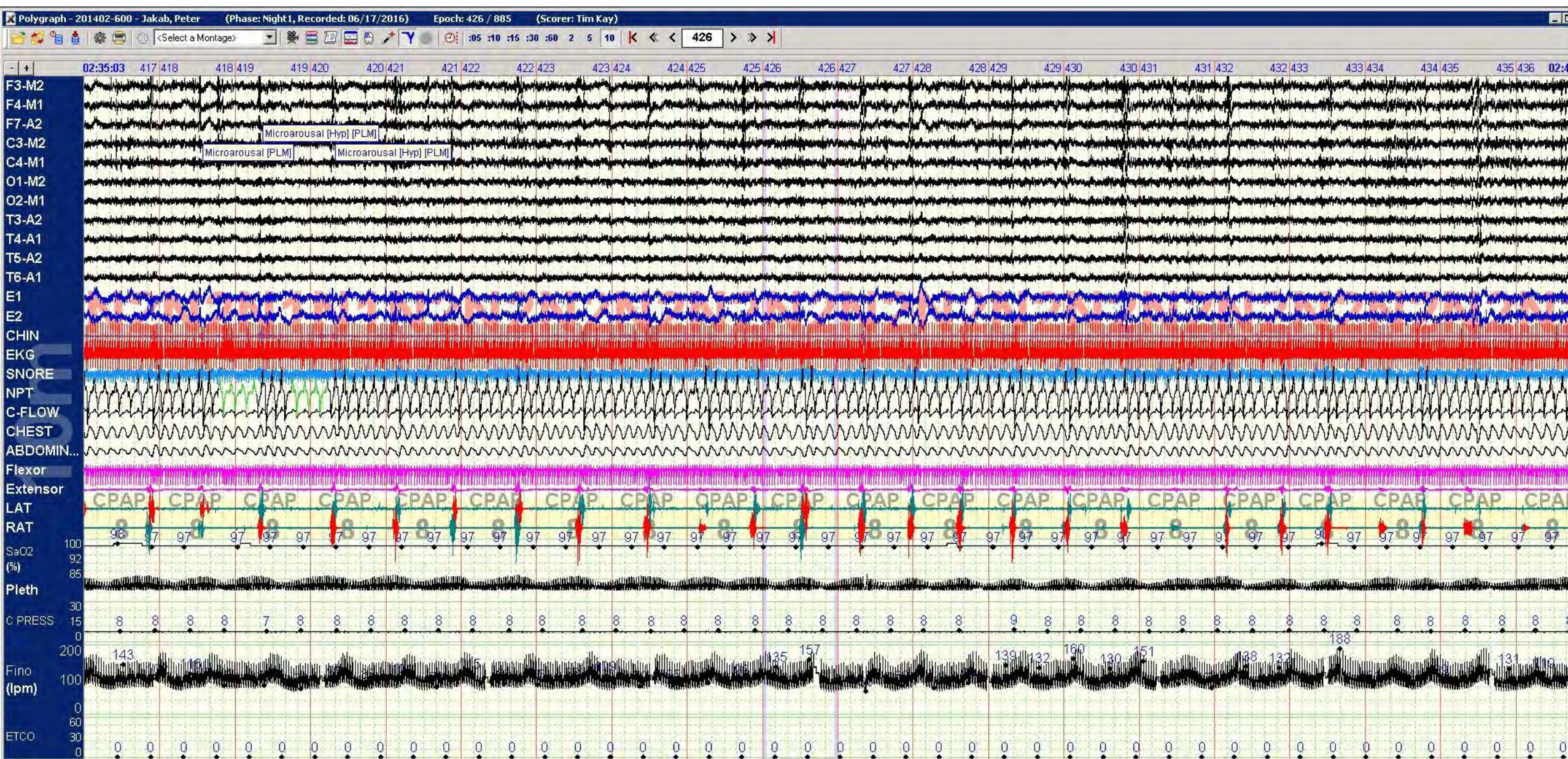
# AWSTI



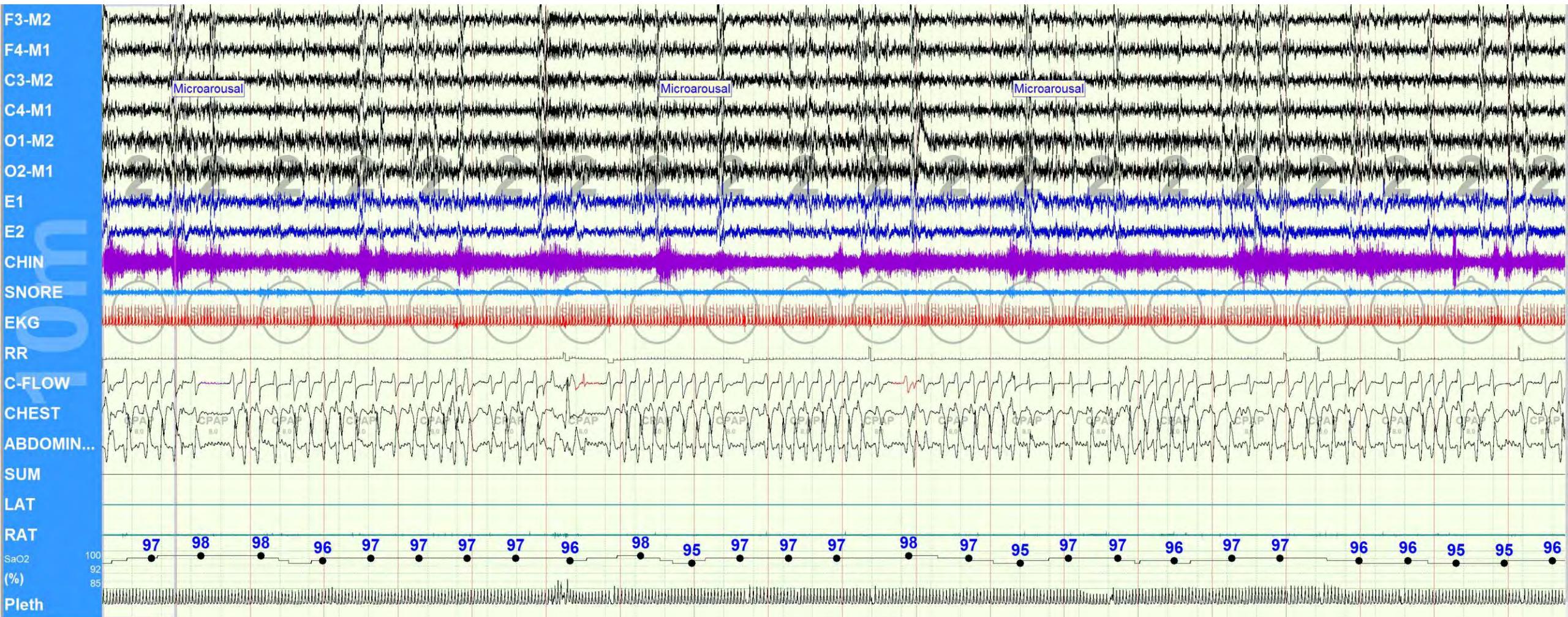
# Alternating PLMS +variable network coupling



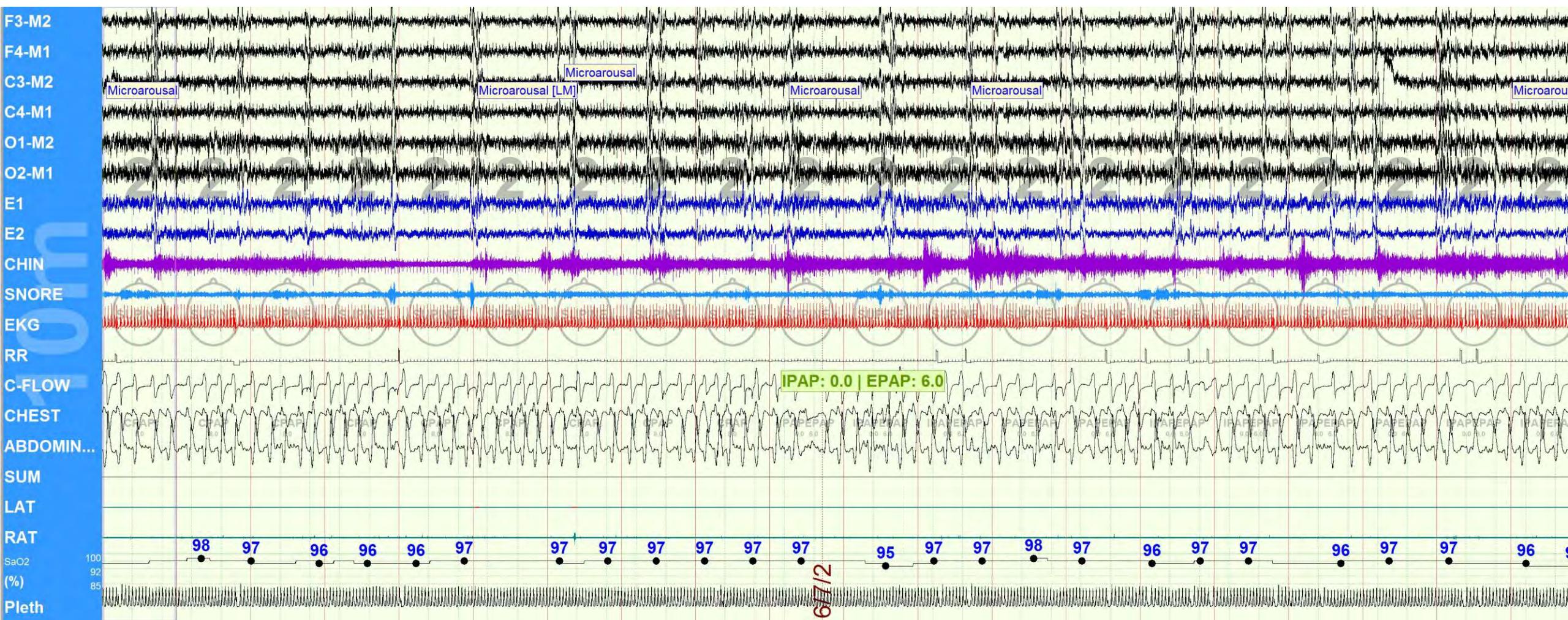




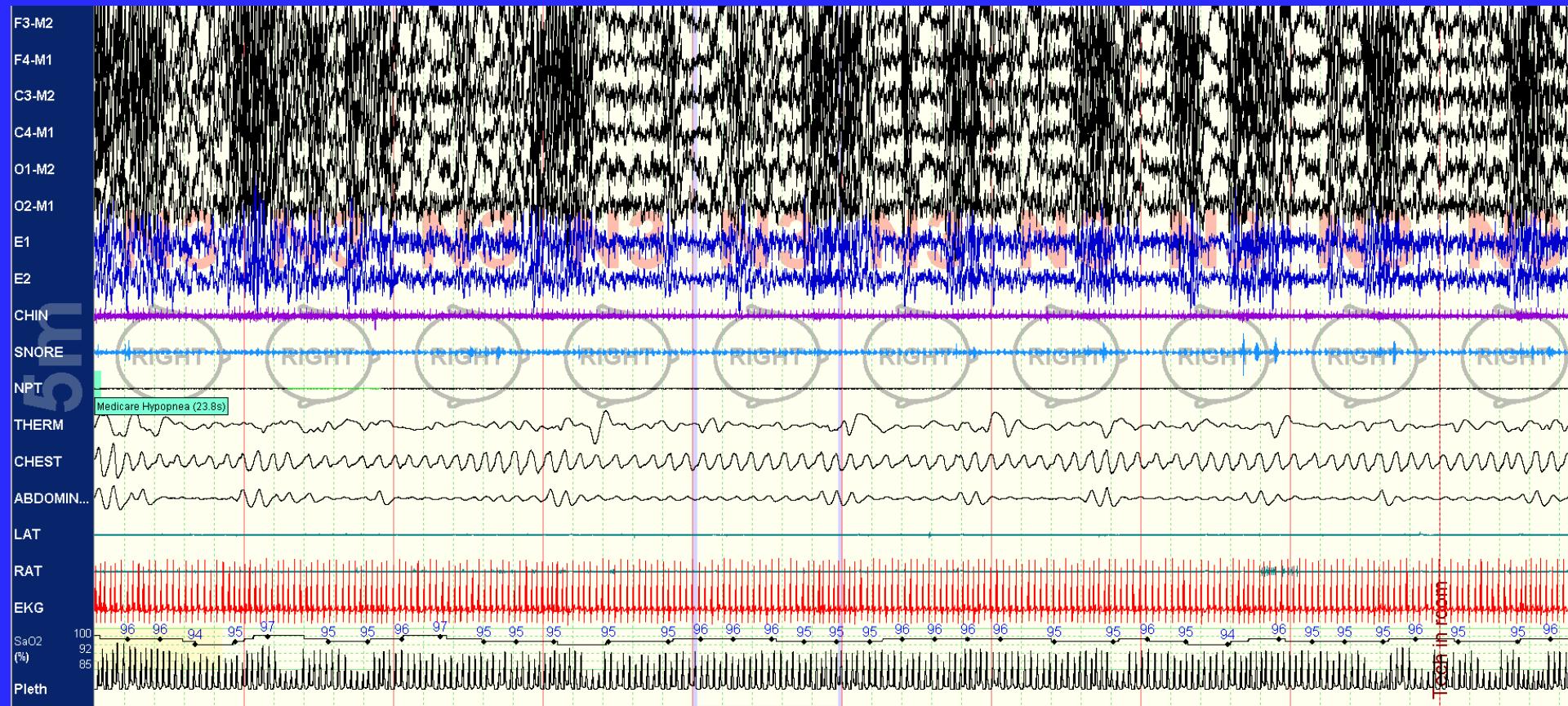
# Cortico-motor network

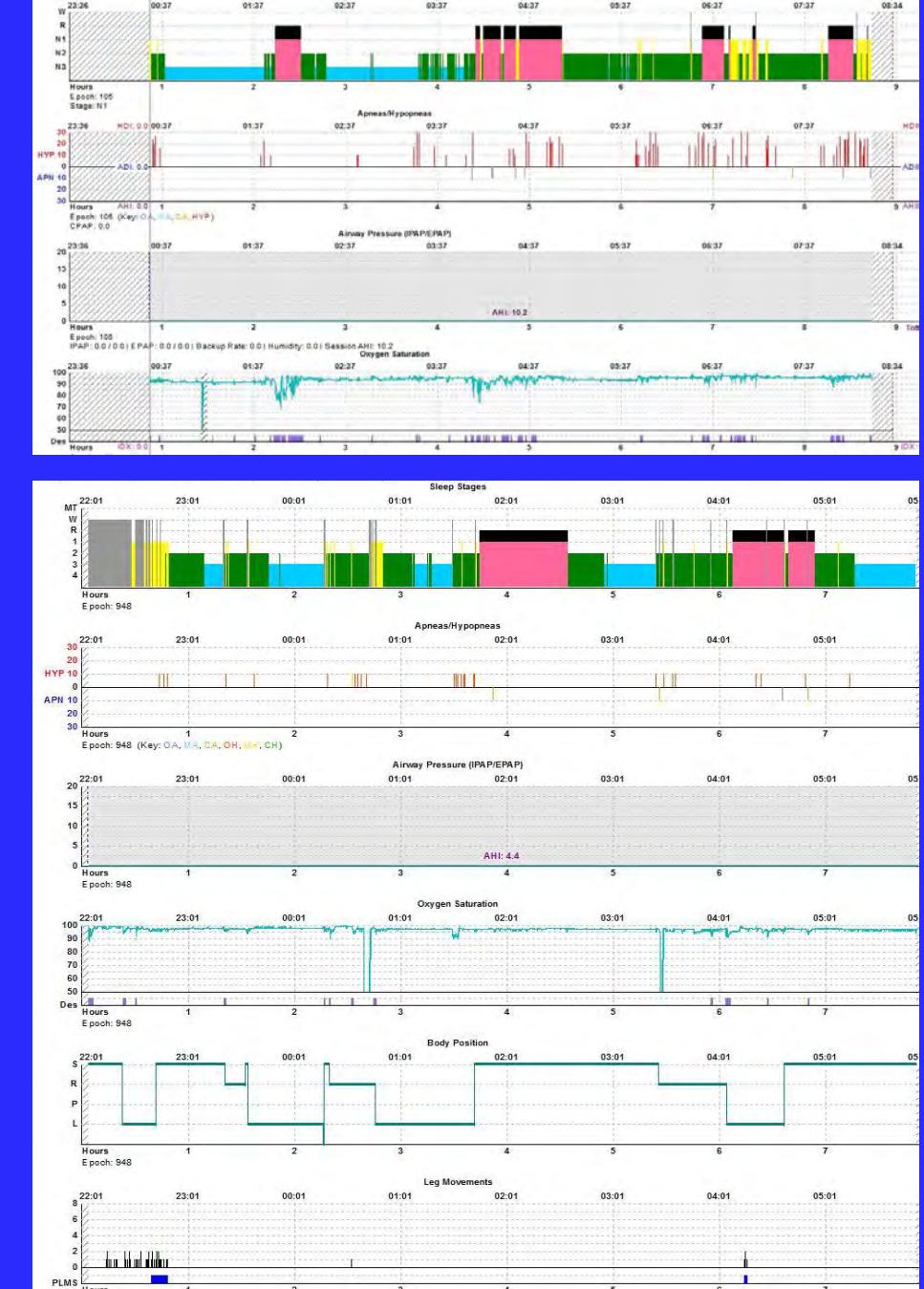


# Cortico-motor network

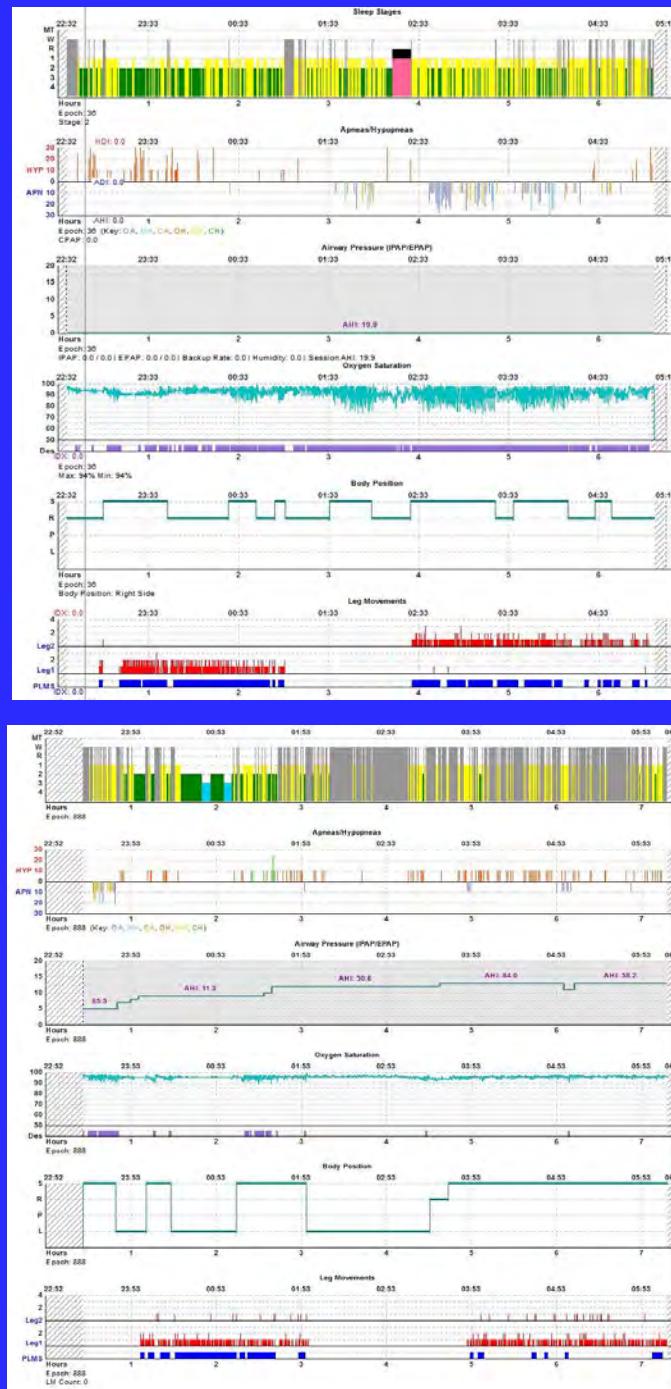


# N3 CAP (5-minute)

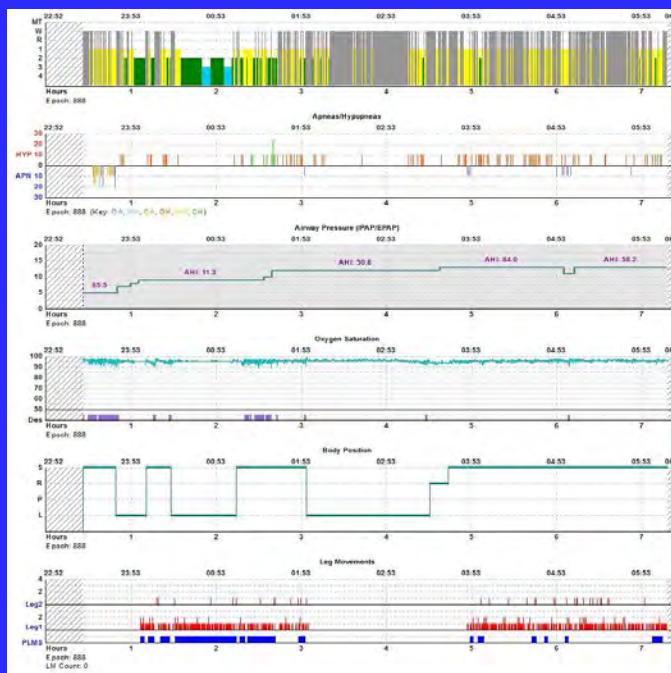




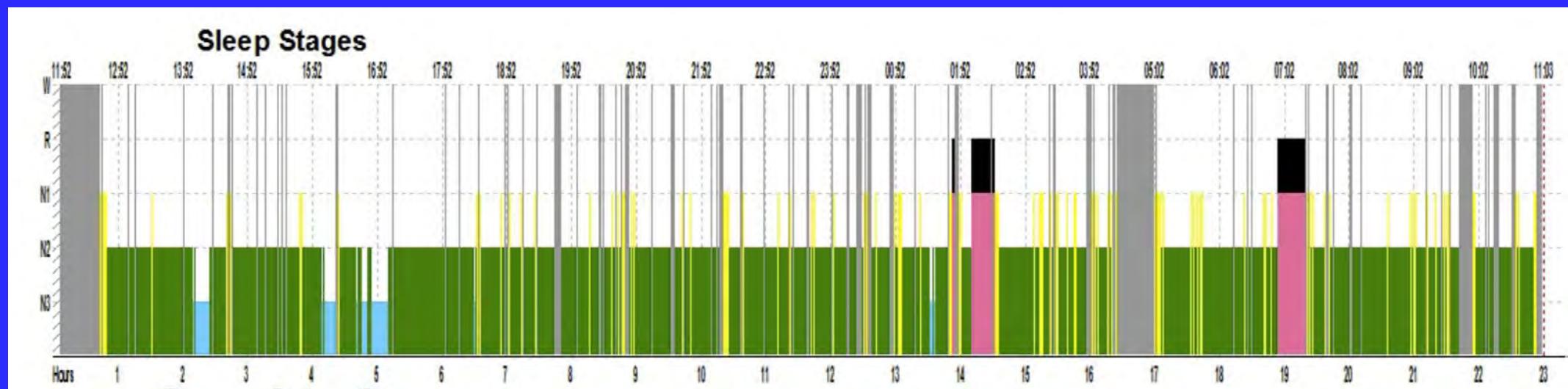
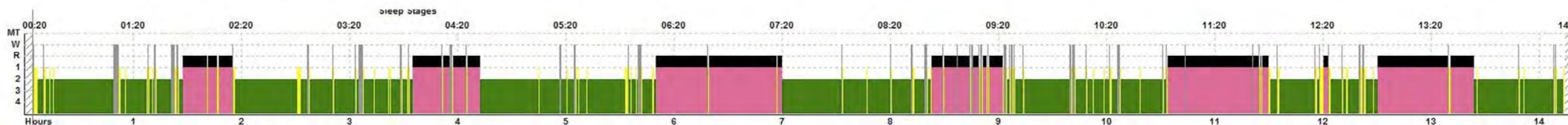
# Network success



# Network failure!

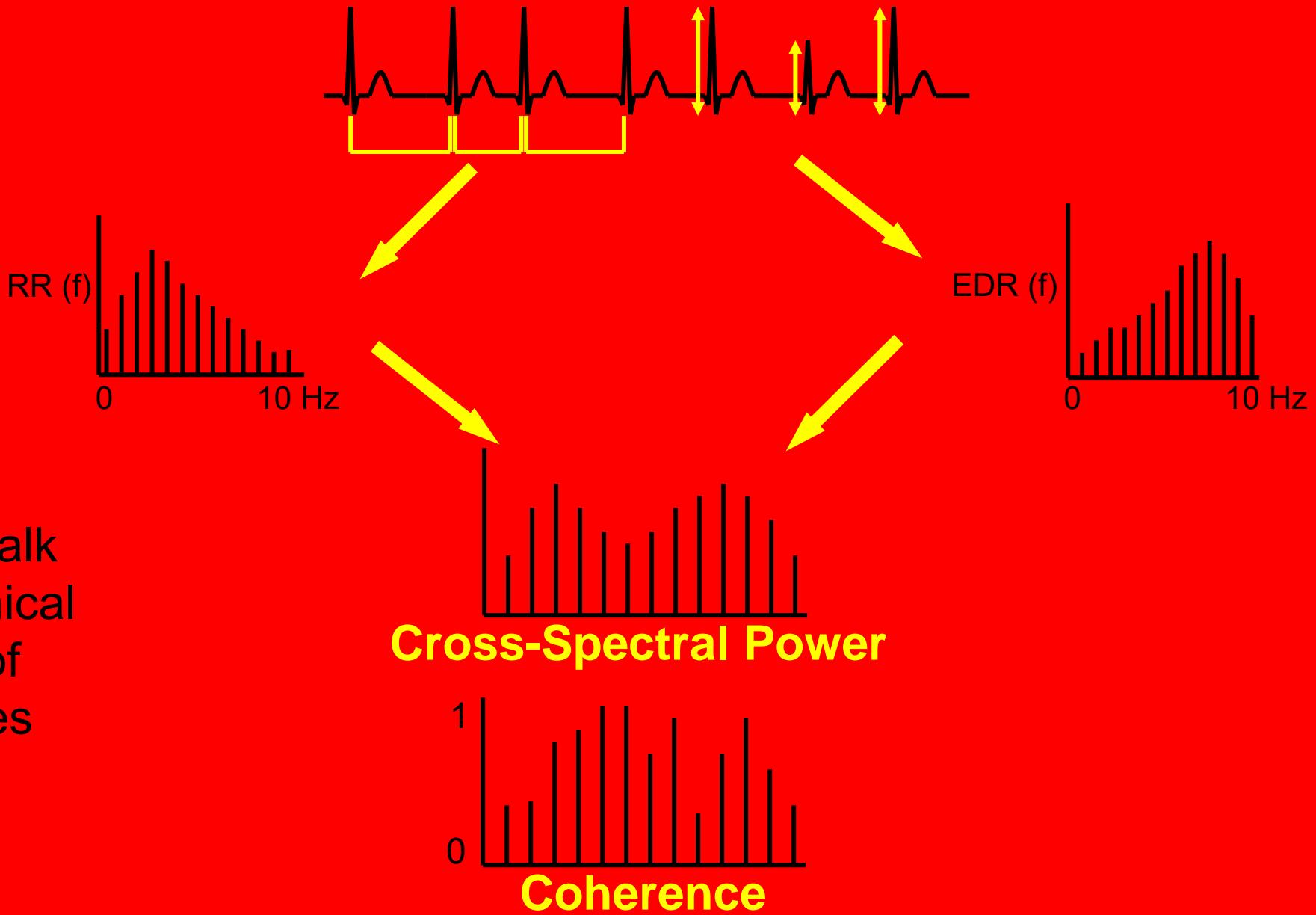


# Idiopathic hypersomnia: network-off failure



# A speculative word on idiopathic hypersomnia

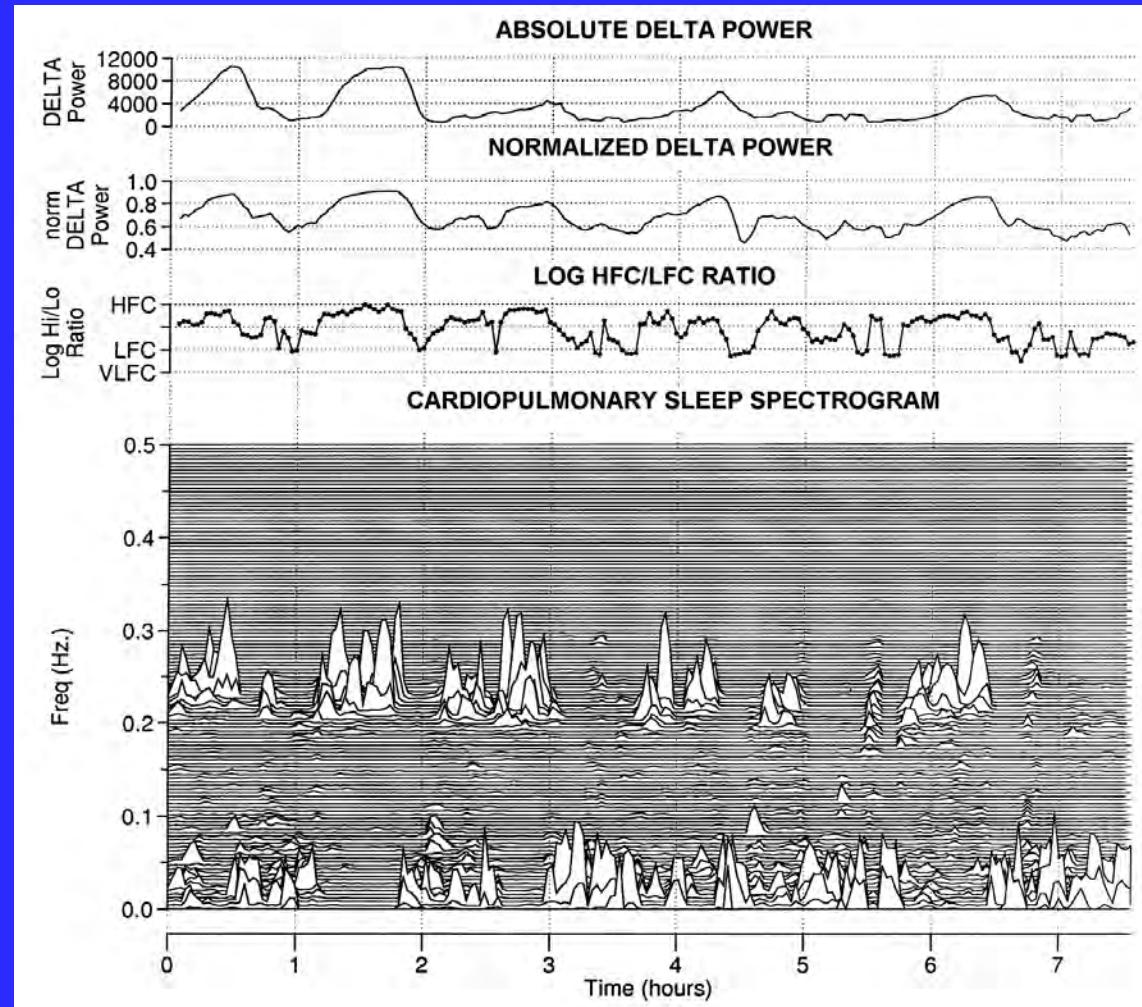
- Relevant to all hypersomnias with substantial sleep inertia
- A network transition disorder
- Pathological persistence of sleep network = long sleep
- Pathological inability to switch off for wake network = sleep inertia
- Mixed sleep-wake network persistence = fog
- Stimulants do not work well due to persistent activation of components of the NREM sleep network



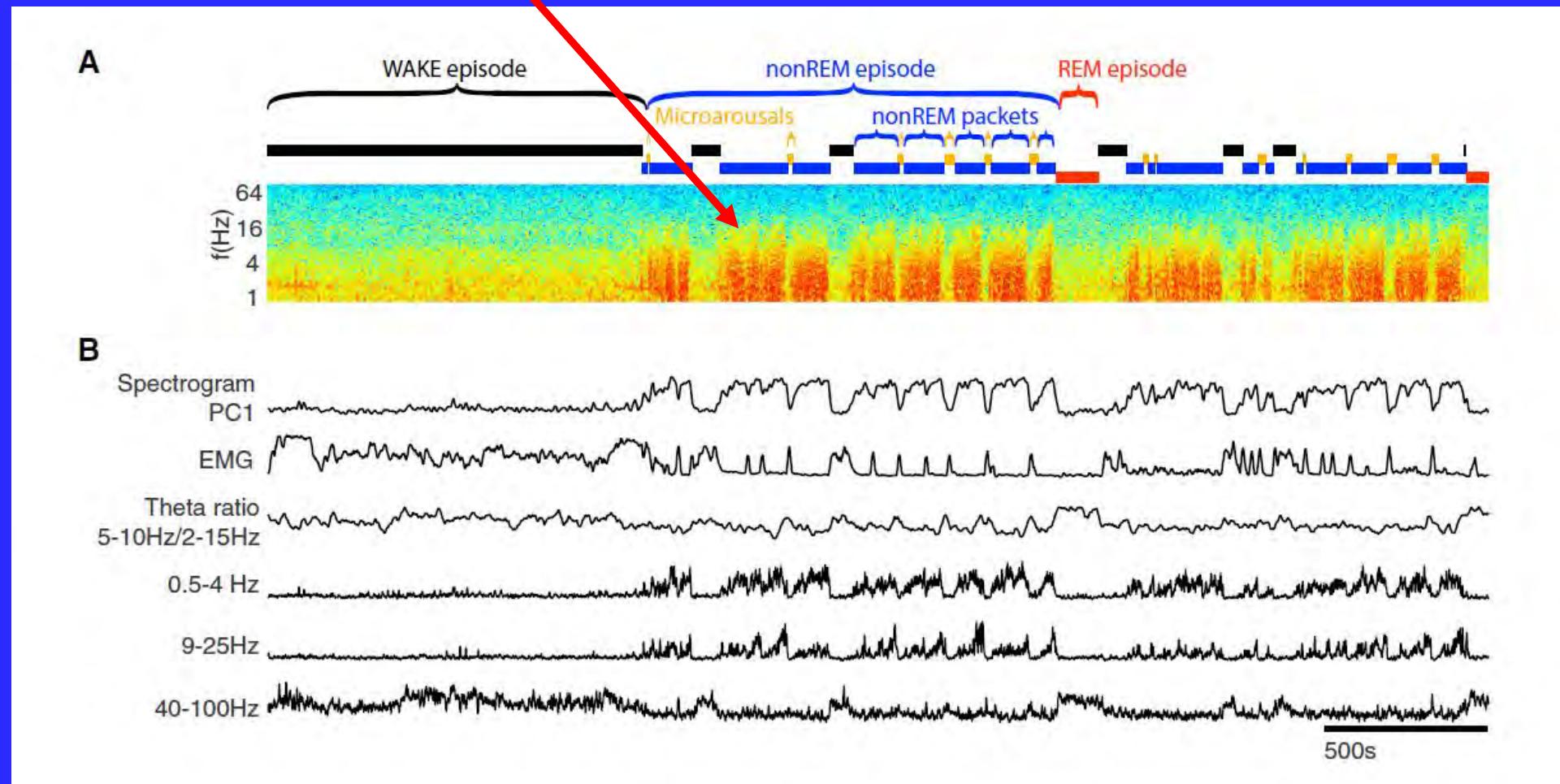
Now we talk  
about clinical  
tracking of  
instabilities

Cardiopulmonary Coupling =  
 $[ \text{Cross-Spectral Power} ]^2 \times [ \text{Coherence} ]$

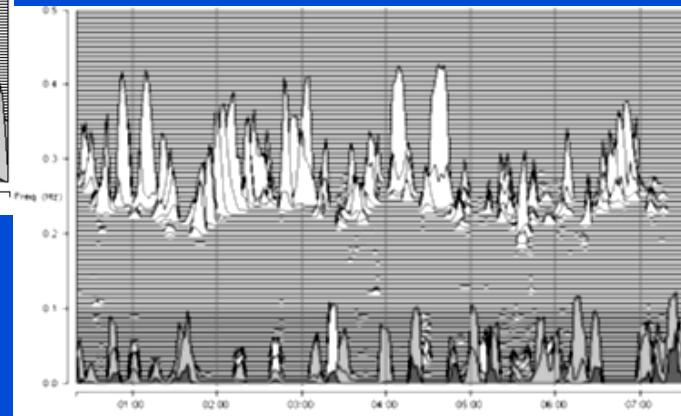
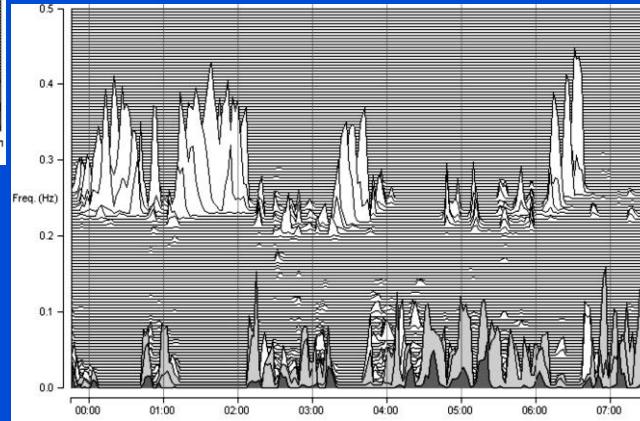
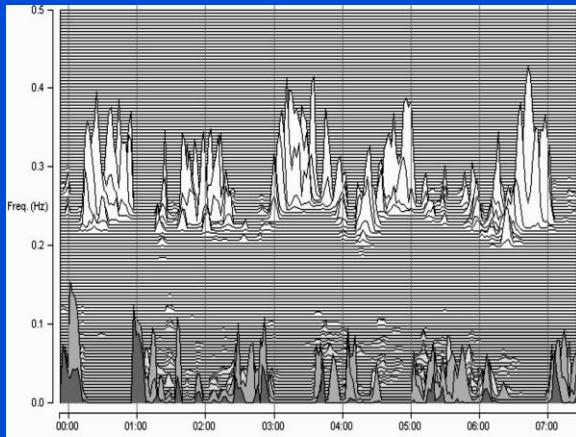
# Slow wave power and ECG-spectrogram

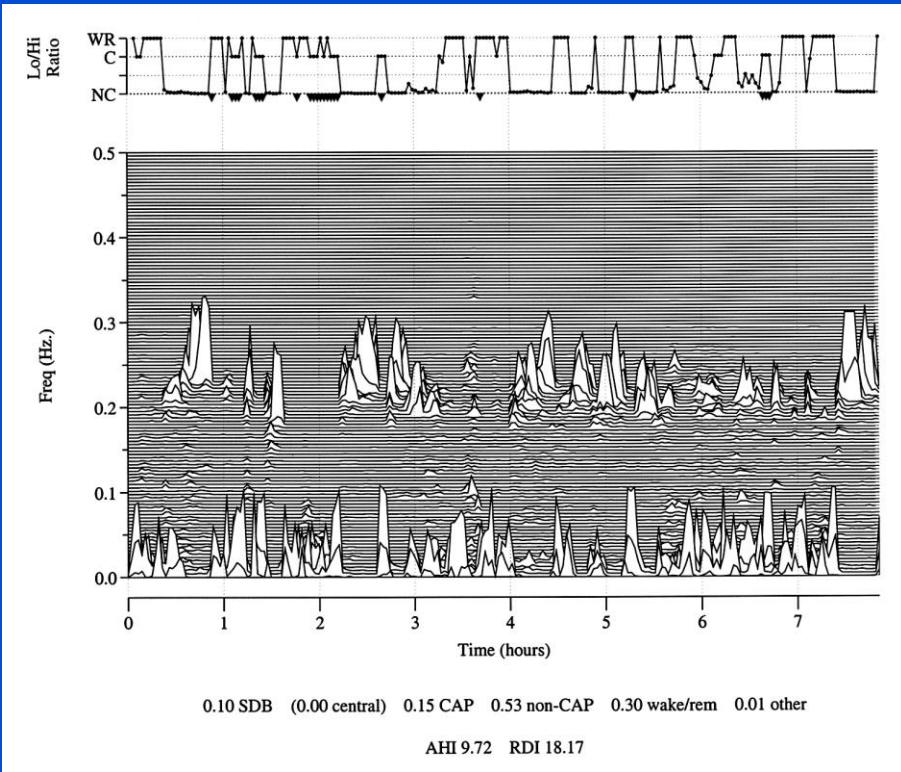


# Direct recording from the cortex of rodents show that NREM occurs in “packets”



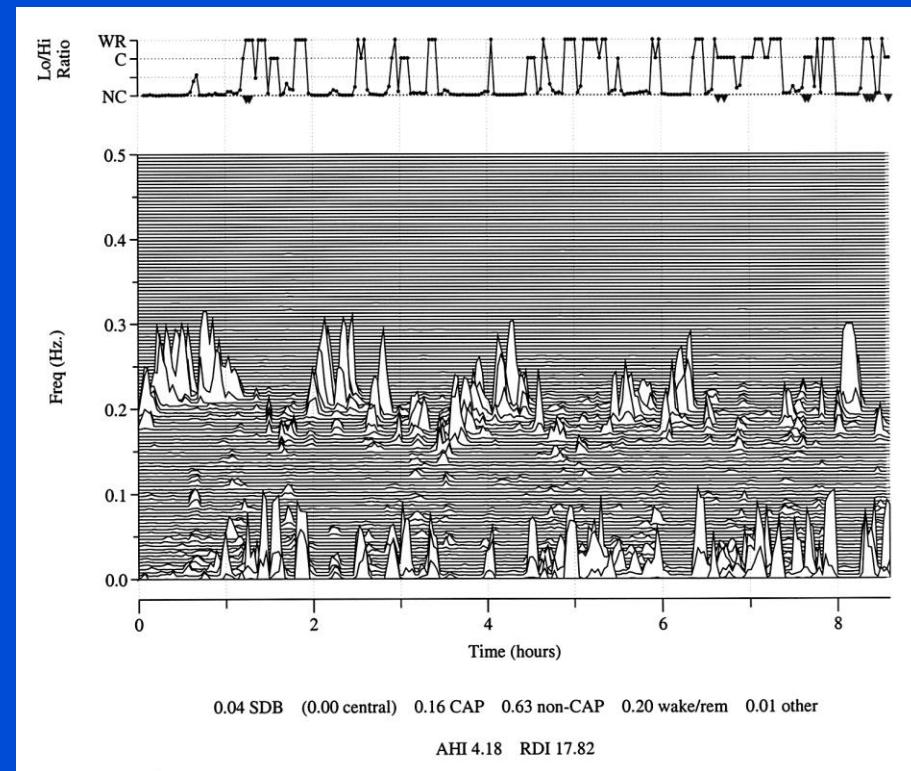
# Night-to-night stability



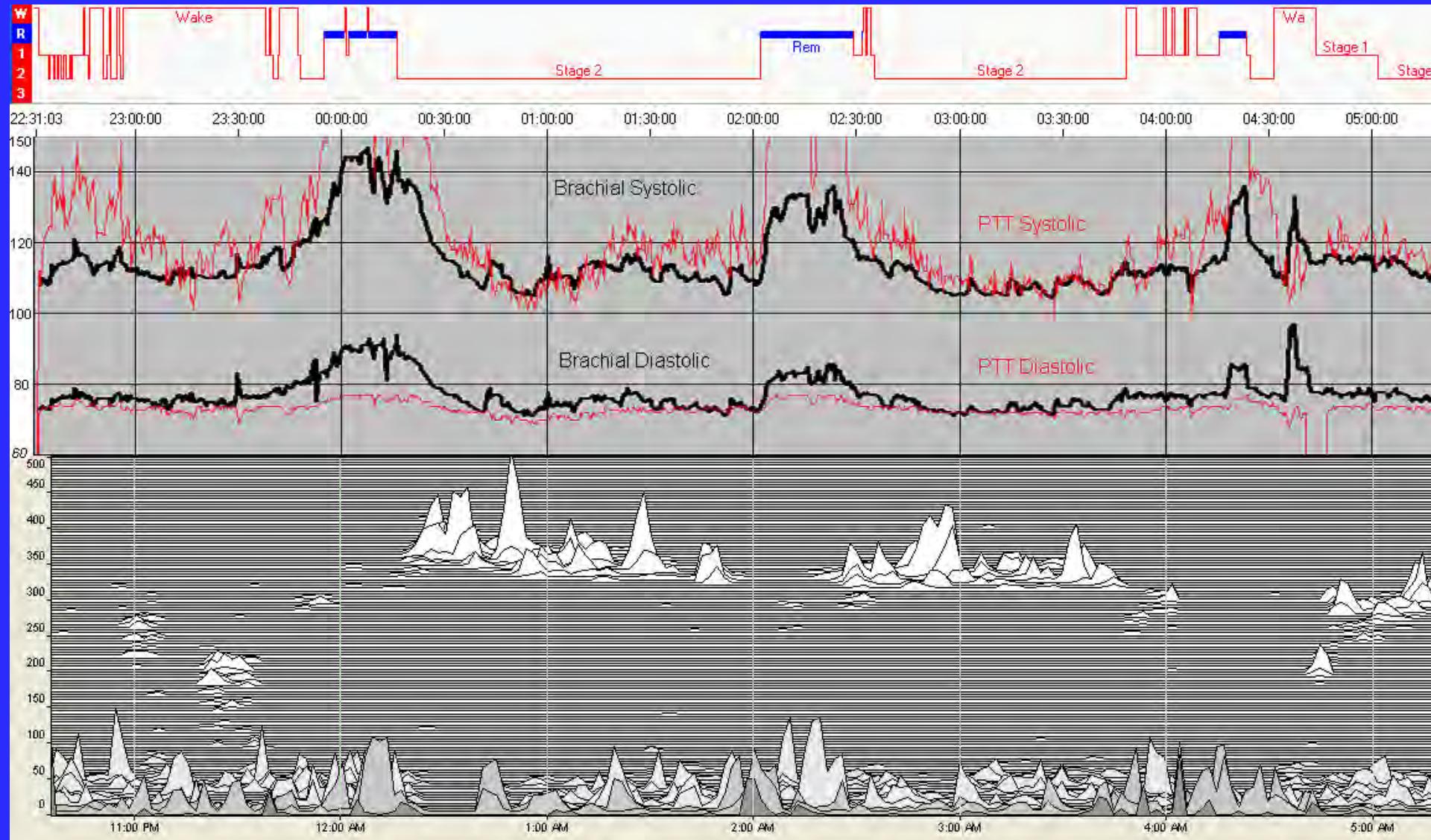


Rested -  
human

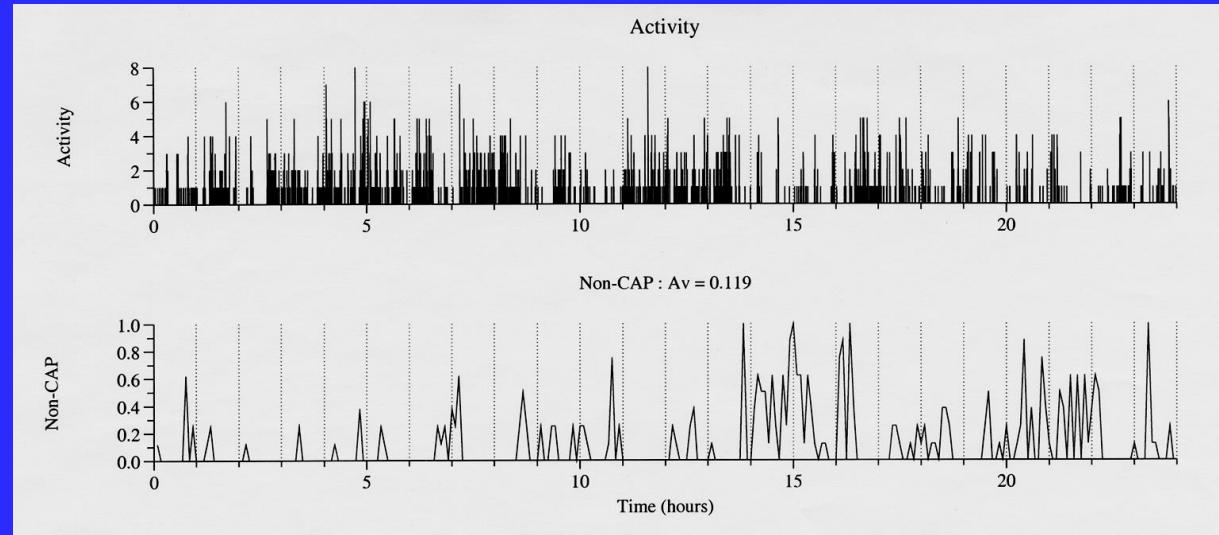
Sleep deprivation recovery  
– increased HFC all across  
the night



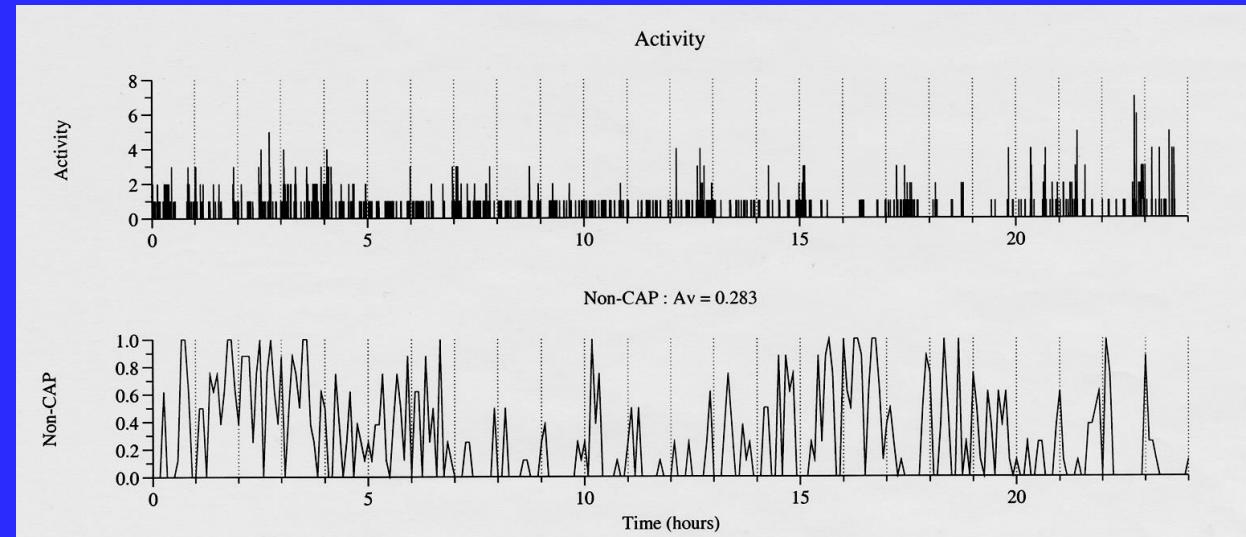
Blood pressure “dips” only during the periods of high frequency coupling



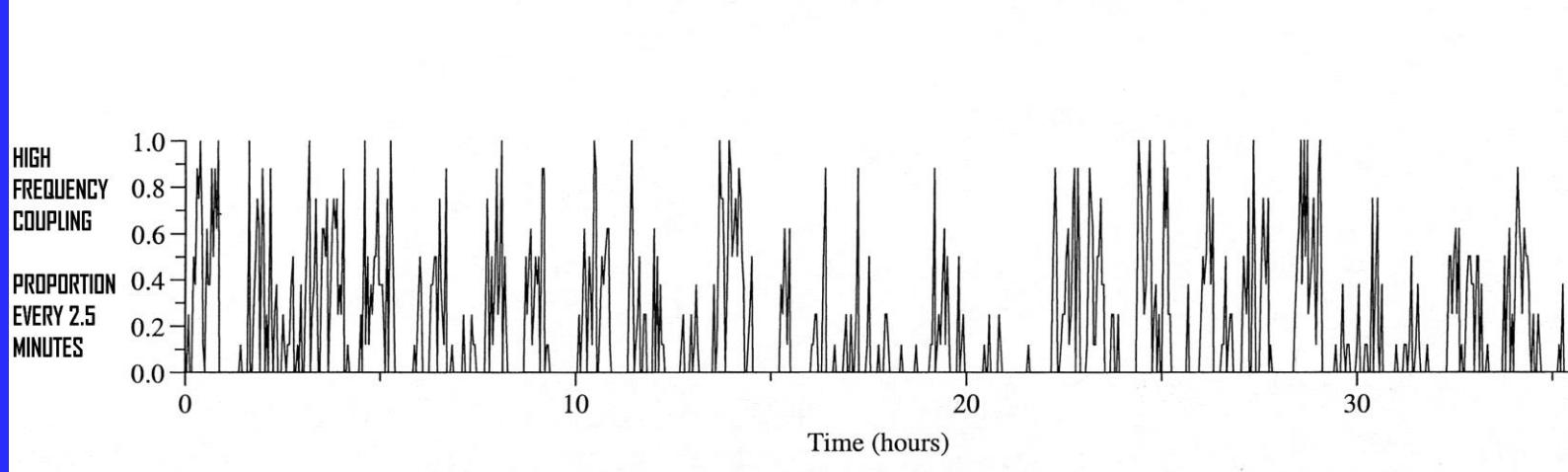
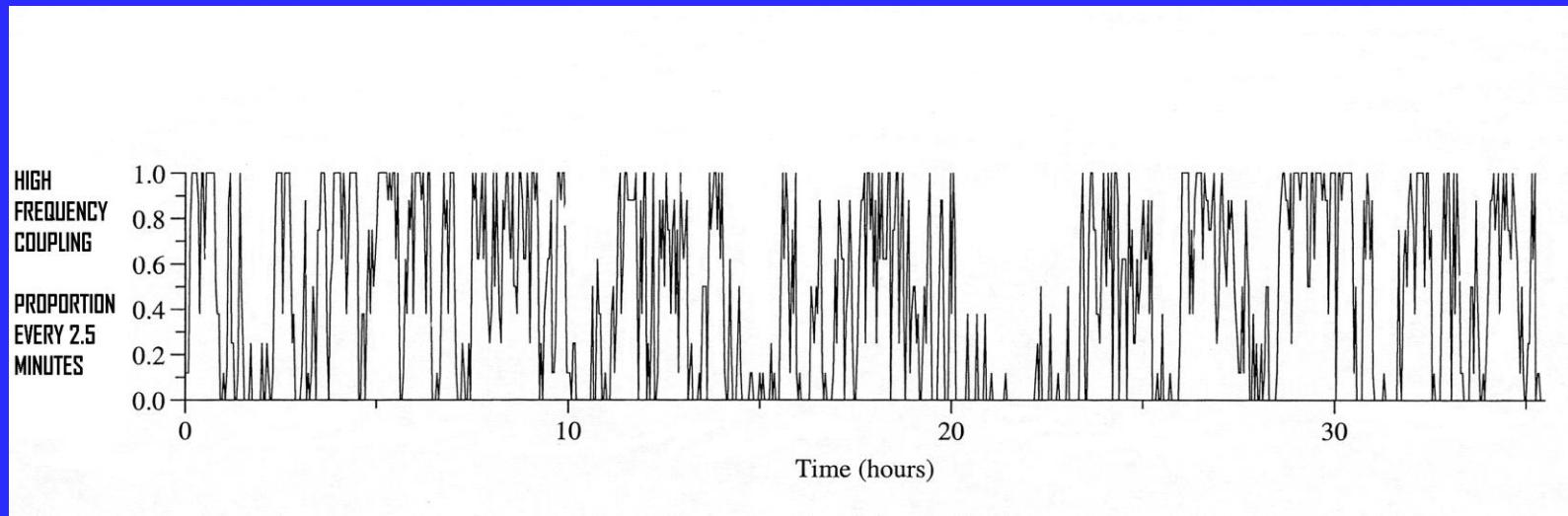
# Benzodiazepines decrease slow wave but increases integrated stability (rat data)



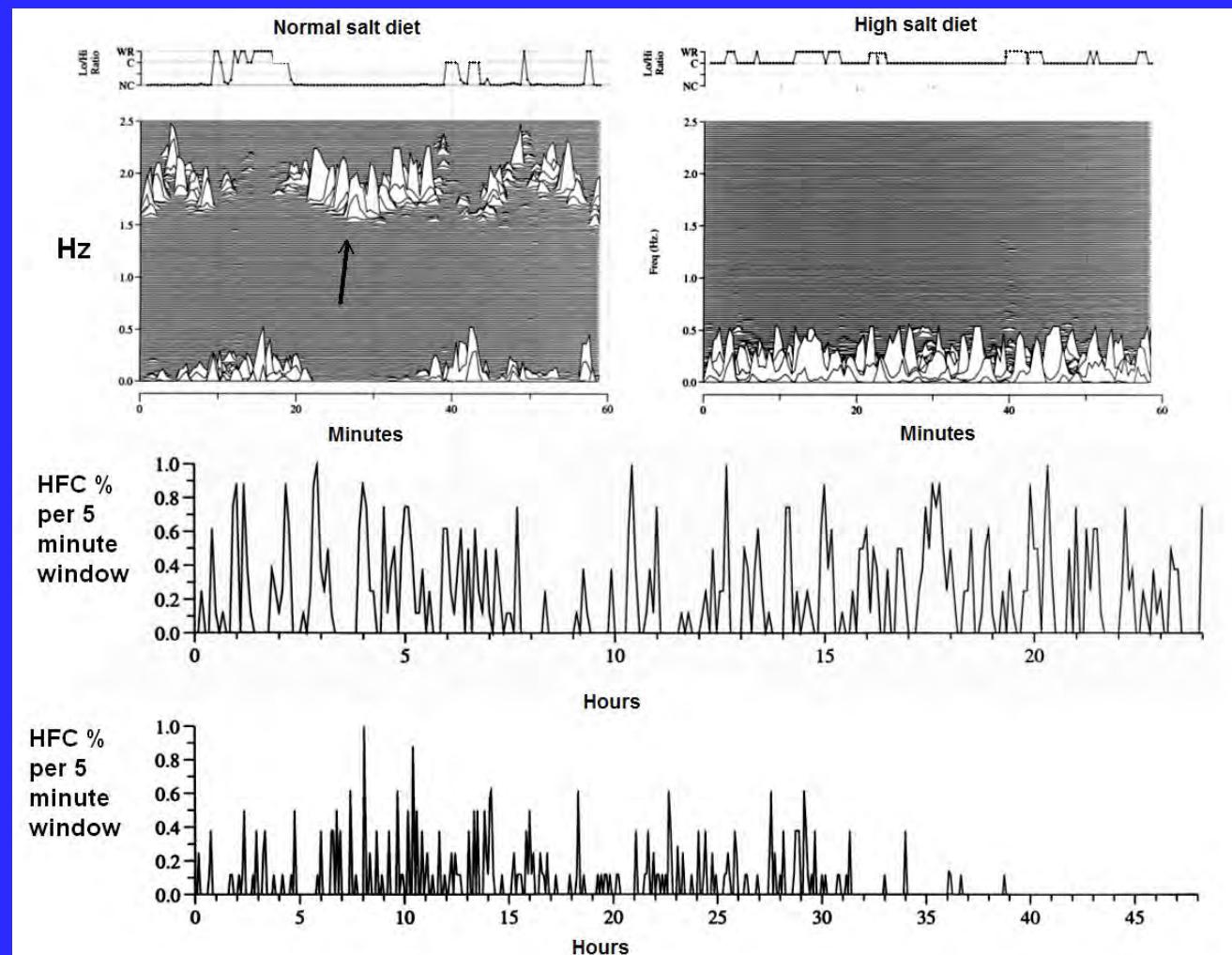
Lorazepam 0.9  
mg/Kg/day



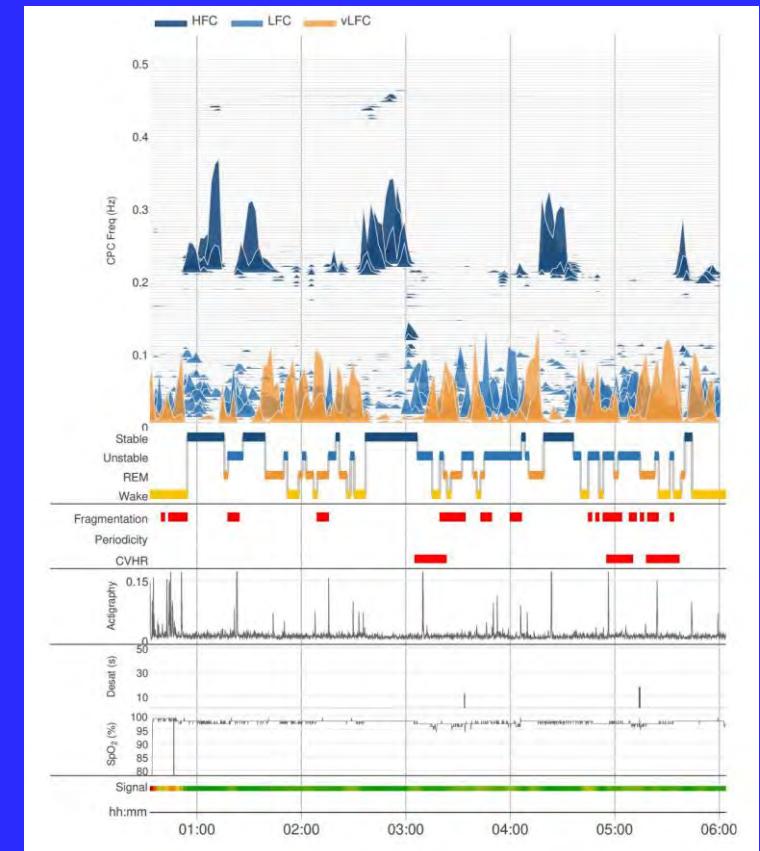
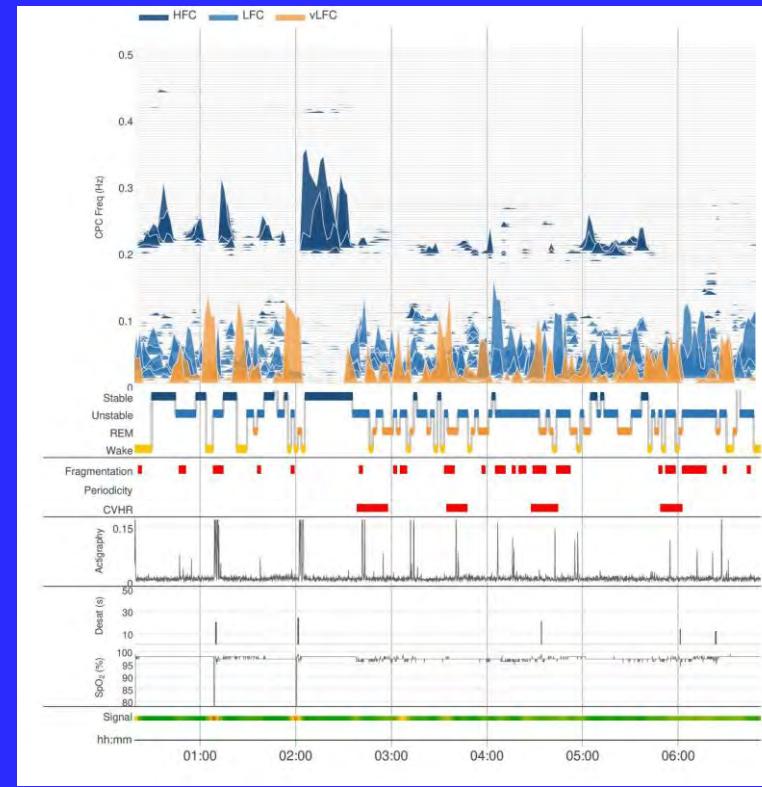
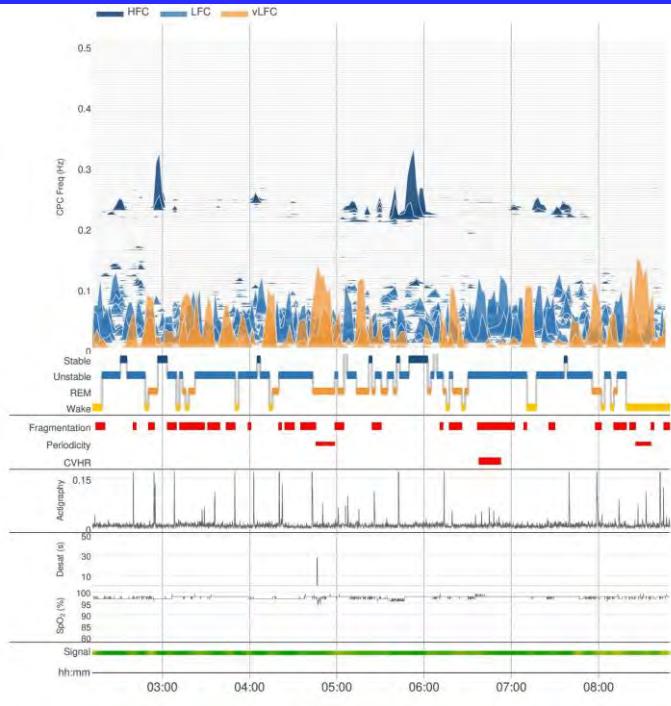
# Sleep network fragmentation in Alzheimer's disease (transgenic mouse)

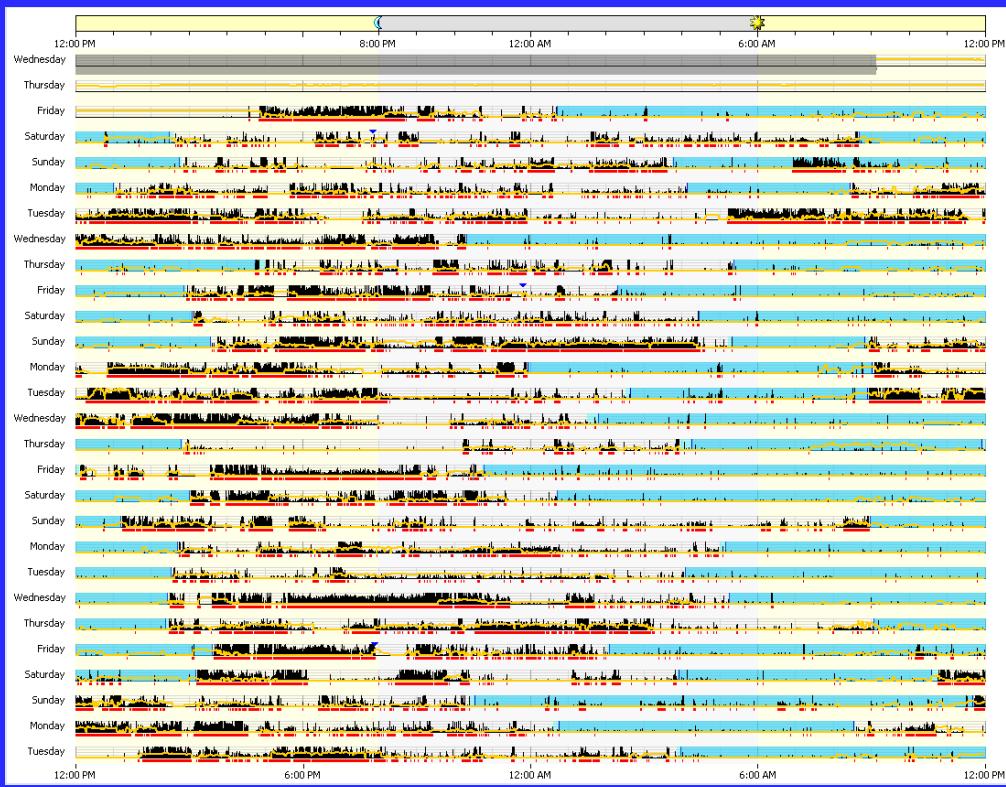


# Sleep network fragmentation in heart failure

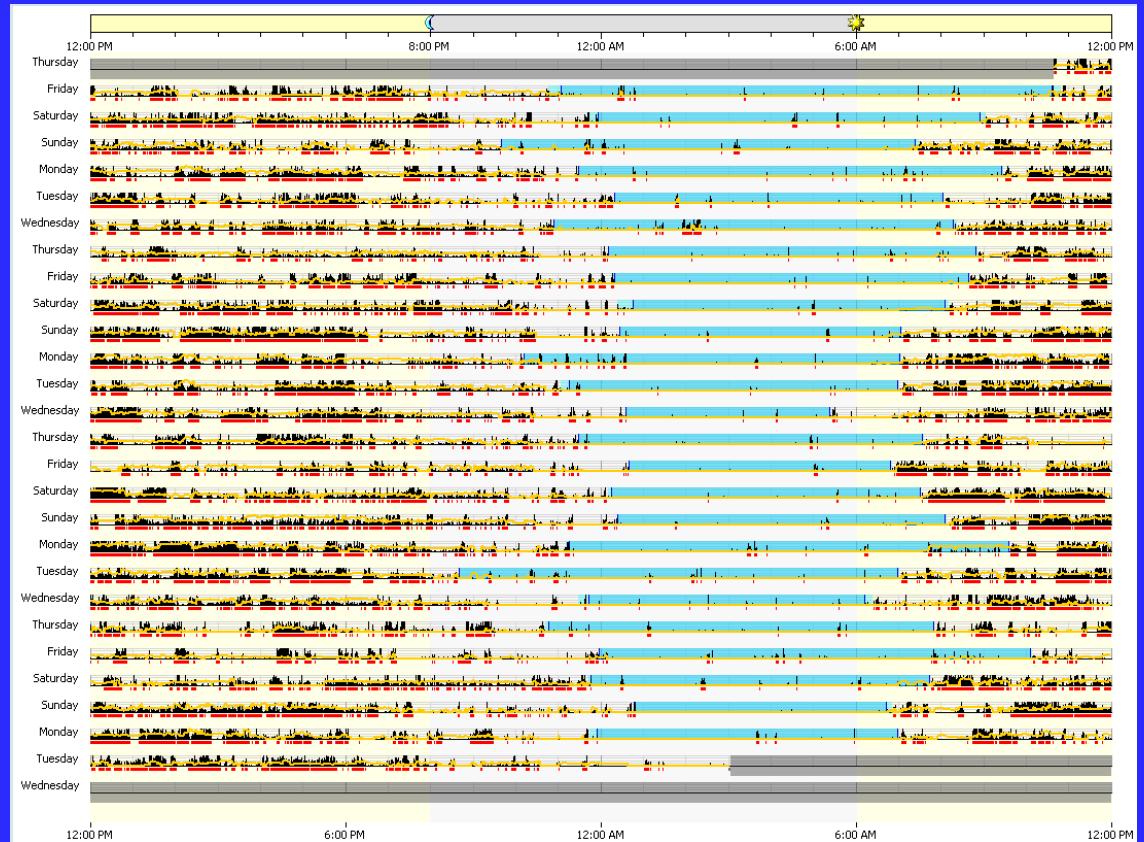


# Sleep quality instability





# Sleep timing instability – pre/post lithium



# **Stabilizing networks to target sleep disorders**

- Sleep restriction - redistribution of homeostatic sleep drive, improved network continuity, interactions, connectivity, increased TDS
- Sodium oxybate – improve network cohesion and sharpen state boundaries
- Acetazolamide – stabilize respiratory control network
- Benzodiazepines – stabilize integrated sleep network
- Stimulants – stabilize wake network and sleep-wake boundaries
- RBD circuit – REM behavior disorder
- Closed loop stimulation approach to enhance slow waves in NREM sleep

# In summary

- Sleep is a unique networked state
- Multi-physiology
- Four dimensions
- Dynamic, morphing
- Phase transitions
- Predictable changes in disease
- Predictable effects of therapy
- Network analysis is severely underused in sleep research and non-existent in sleep practice