

6.3 Imaging the brain in action

Cellular Mechanisms of Brain Function

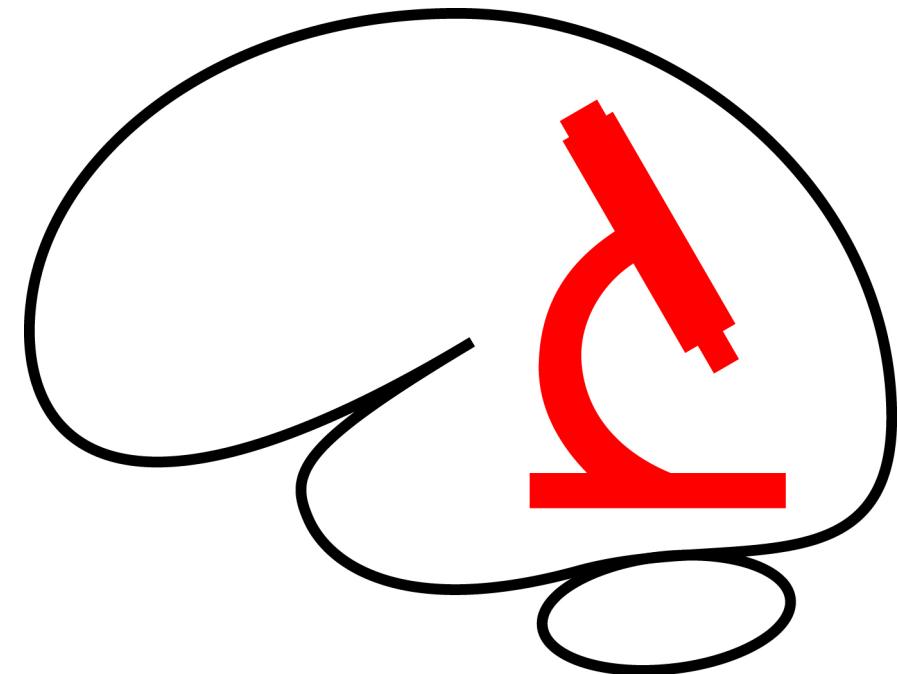
Prof. Carl Petersen

Imaging the brain in action



Cellular Mechanisms of Brain Function

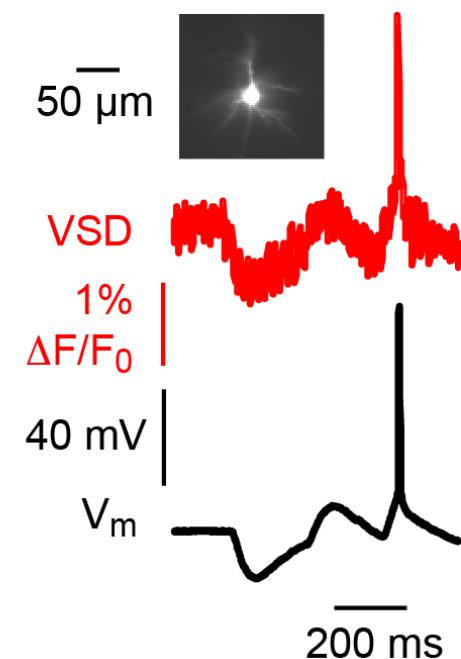
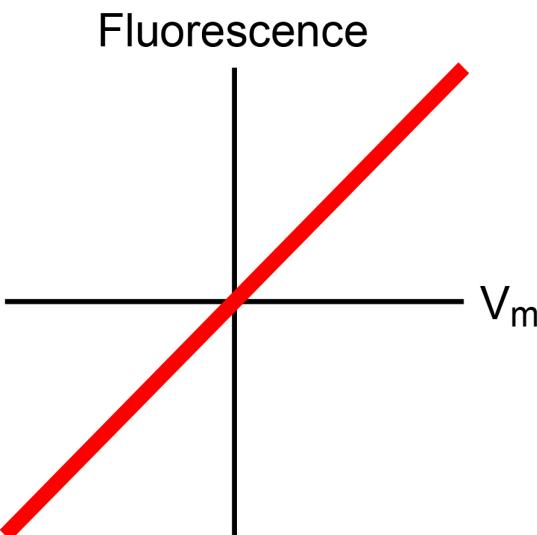
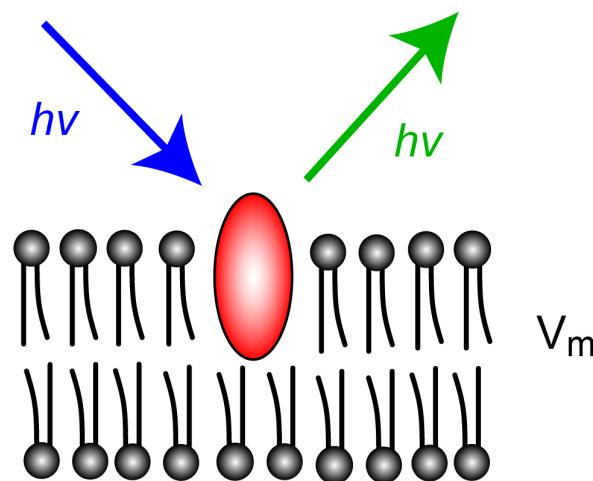
Real-time optical imaging of brain function



Cellular Mechanisms of Brain Function

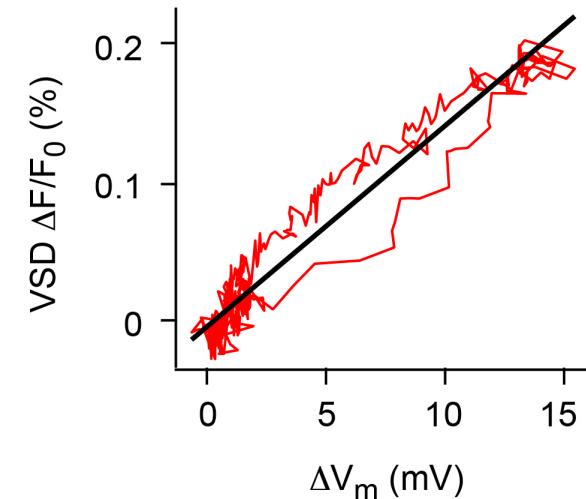
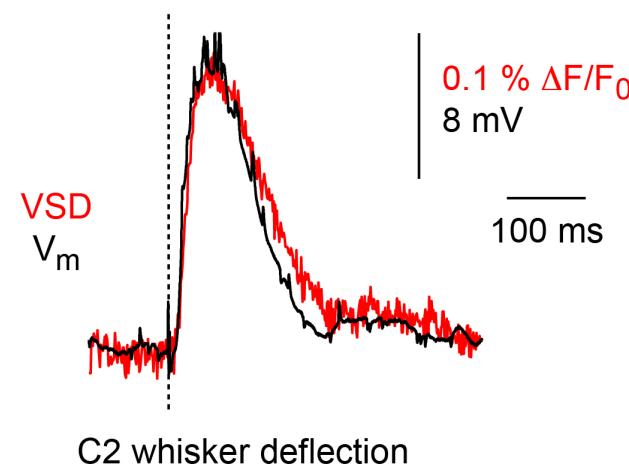
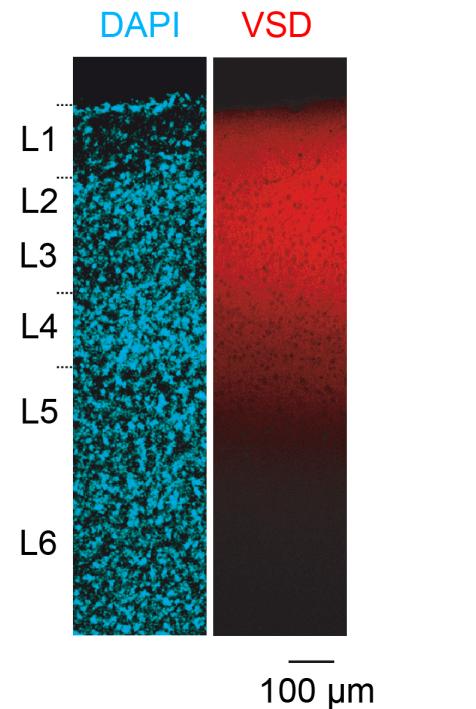
Imaging membrane potential

Voltage-sensitive fluorescent dye (VSD)



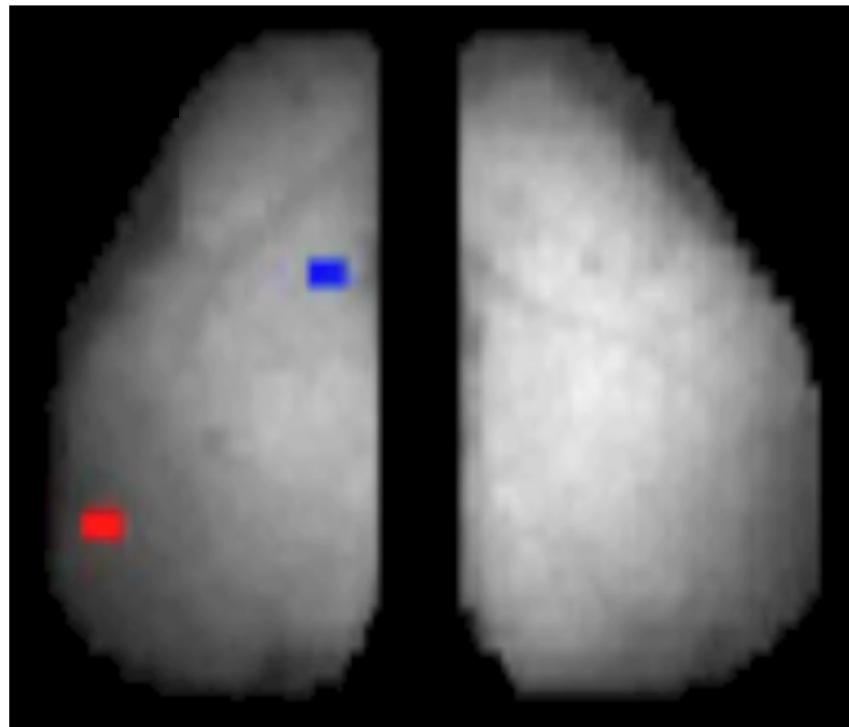
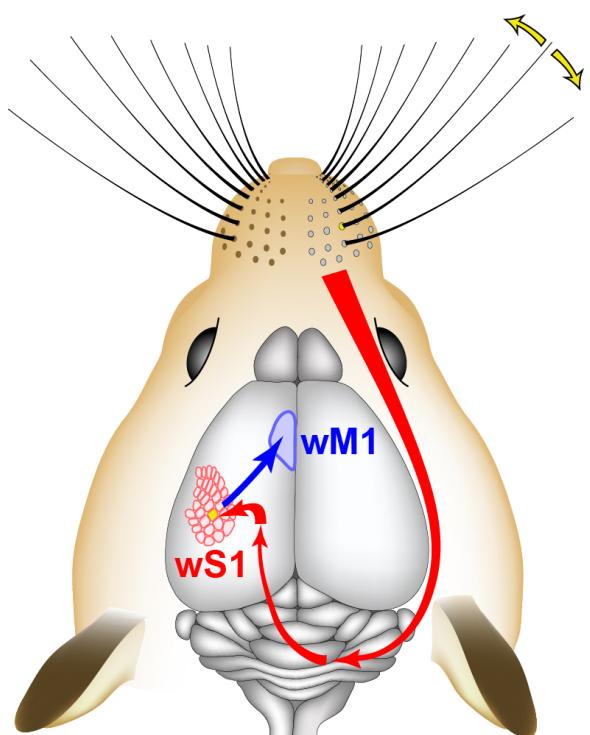
Berger, Borgdorff, Crochet, Neubauer, Lefort, Fauvet, Ferezou, Carleton, Luscher & Petersen, 2007

Imaging membrane potential *in vivo*



Berger, Borgdorff, Crochet, Neubauer, Lefort, Fauvet, Ferezou, Carleton, Luscher and Petersen, 2007
Ferezou, Haiss, Gentet, Aronoff, Weber and Petersen, 2007

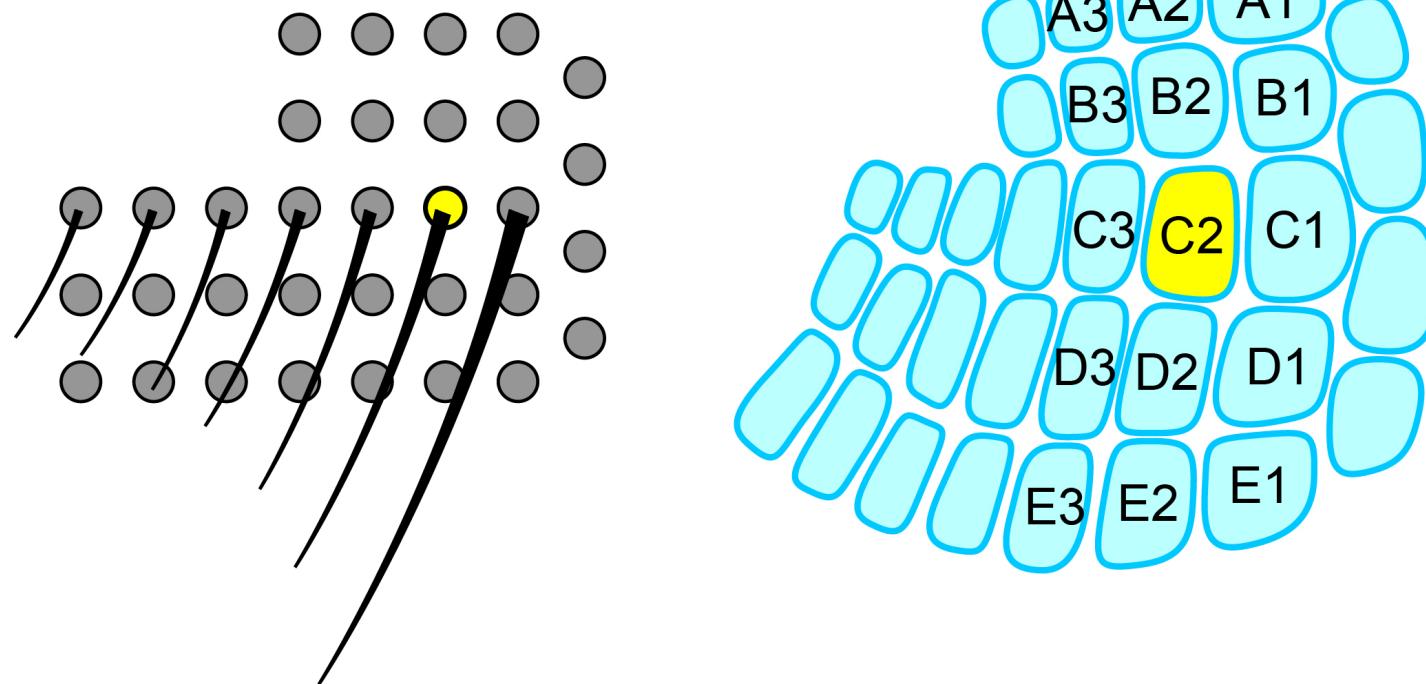
Spatiotemporal dynamics of cortical function



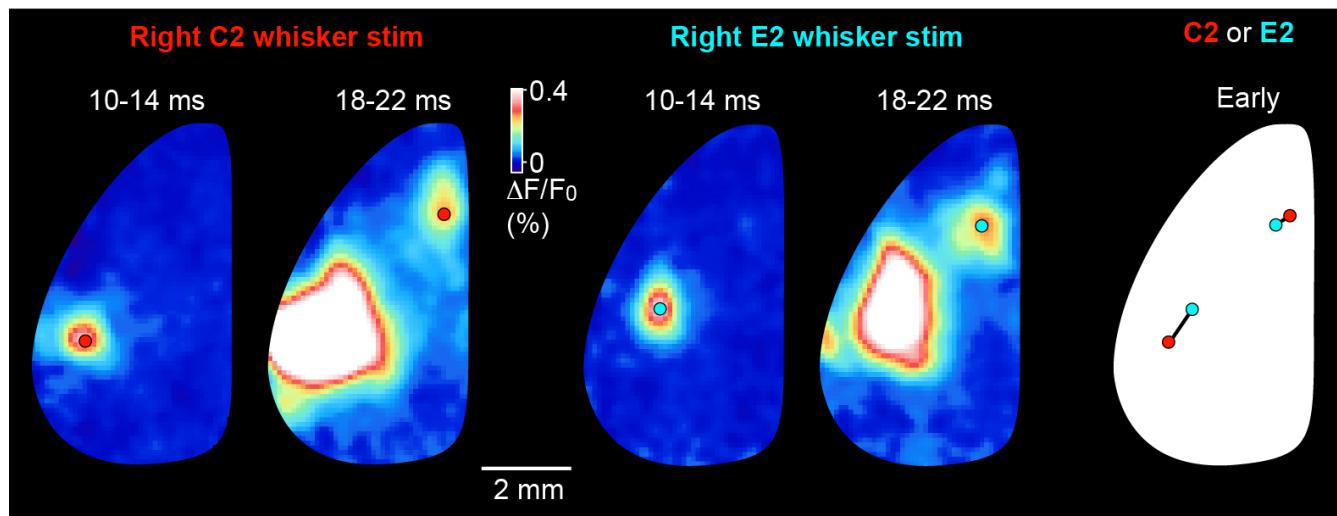
Ferezou, Haiss, Gentet, Aronoff, Weber and Petersen, 2007

Cellular Mechanisms of Brain Function

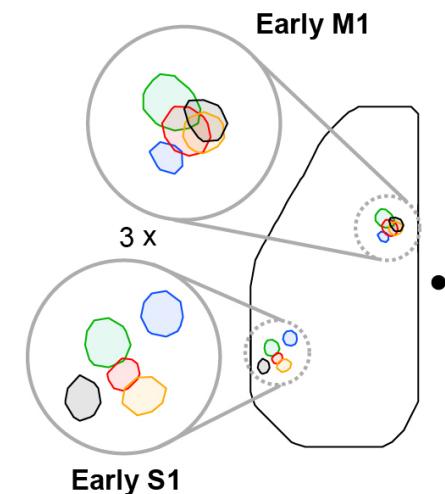
Somatotopic whisker map



Mapping mouse sensorimotor cortex

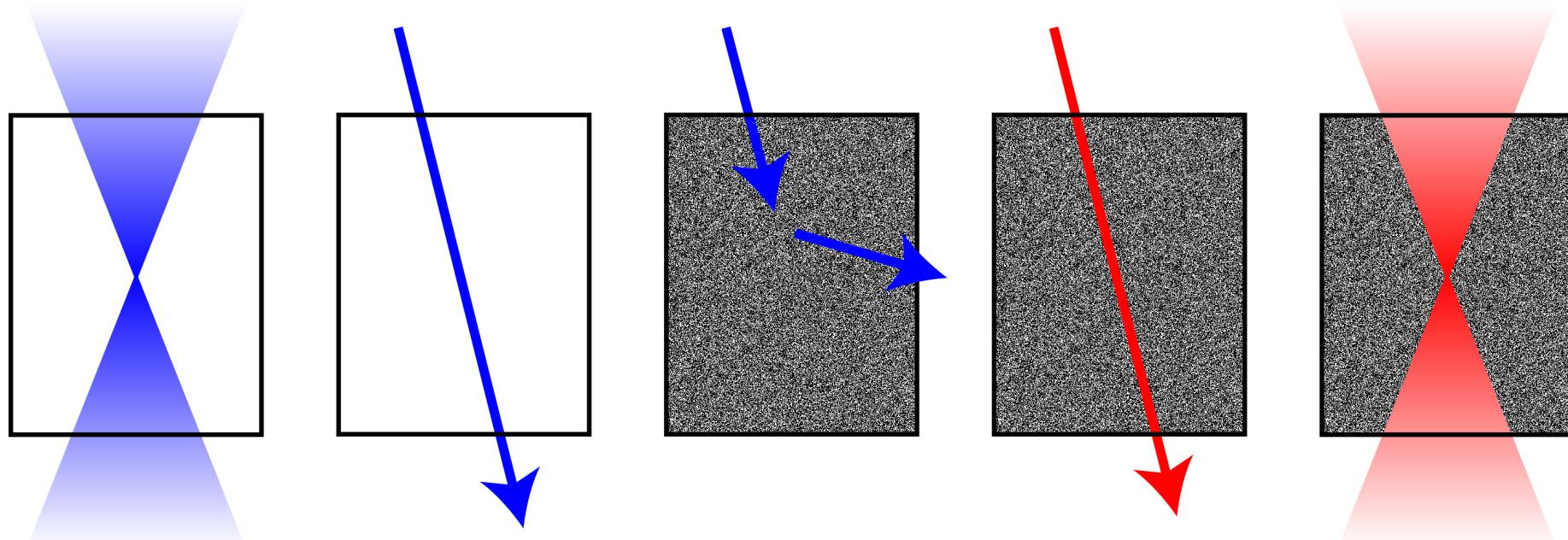


Ferezou, Haiss, Gentet, Aronoff, Weber and Petersen, 2007



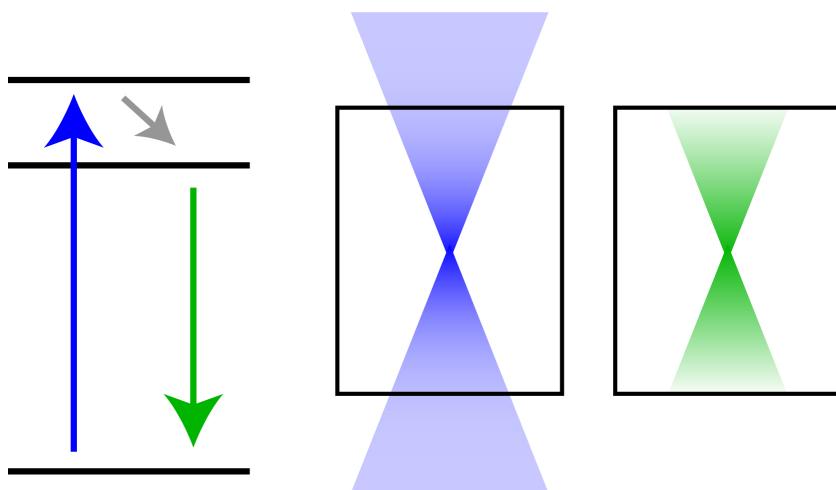
High resolution optical imaging

The brain scatters light strongly, with less scattering at long wavelengths.

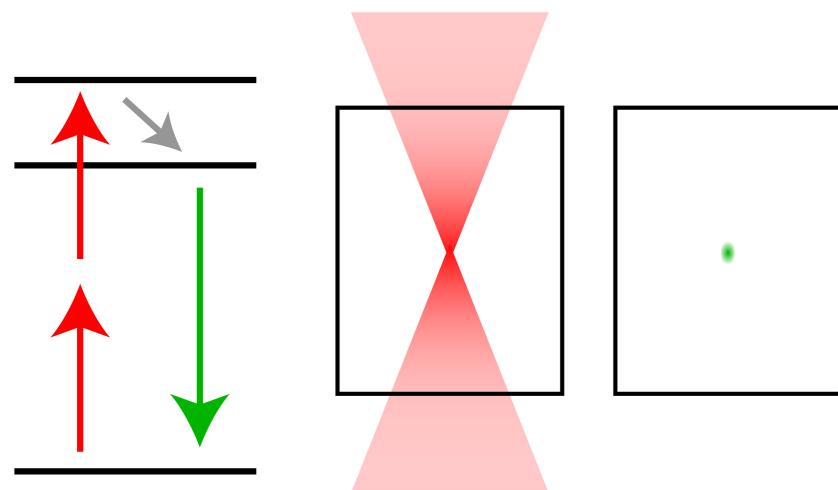


Single-photon vs two-photon excitation

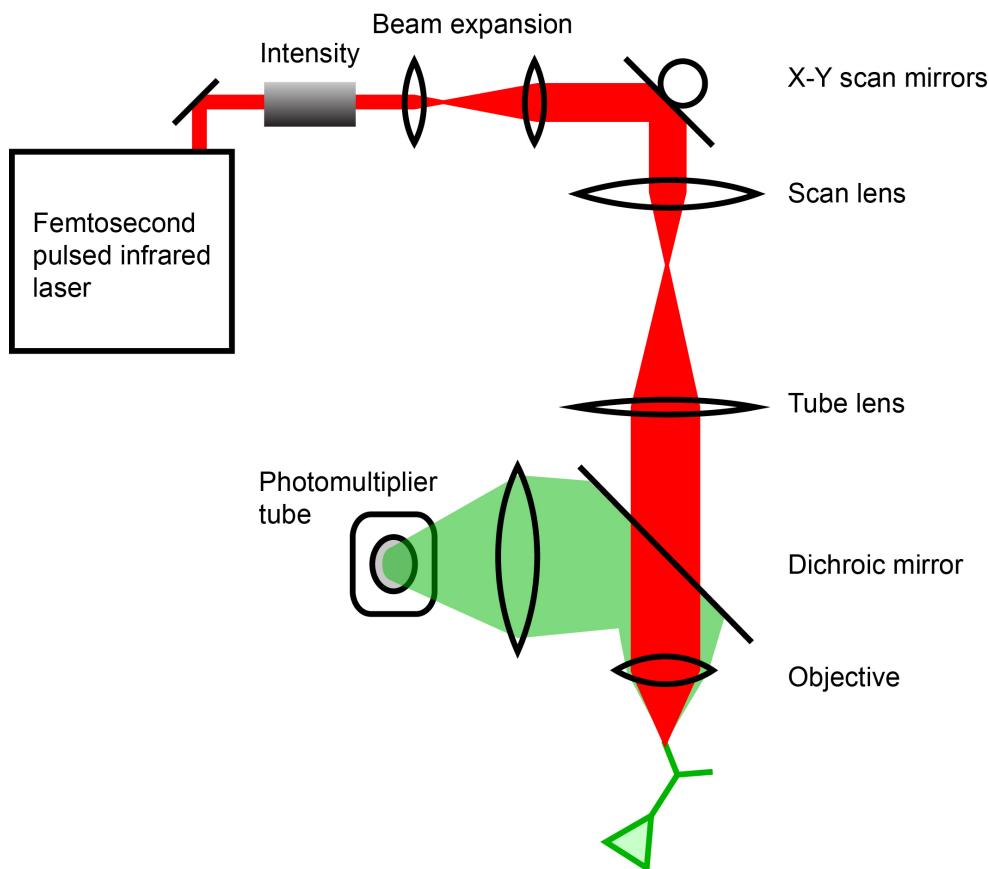
Single-photon excitation



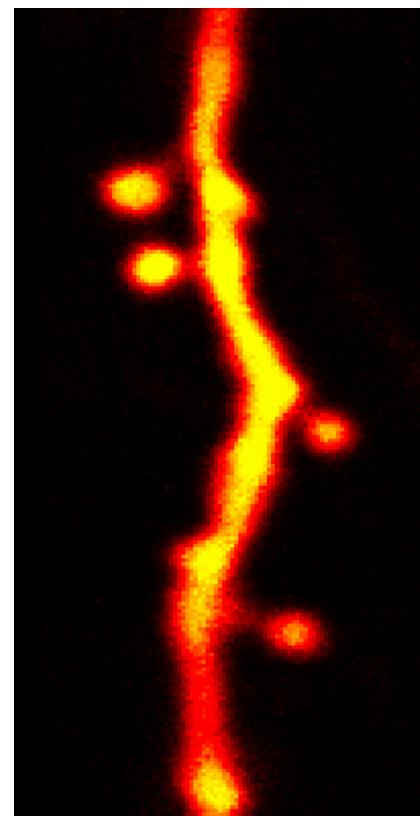
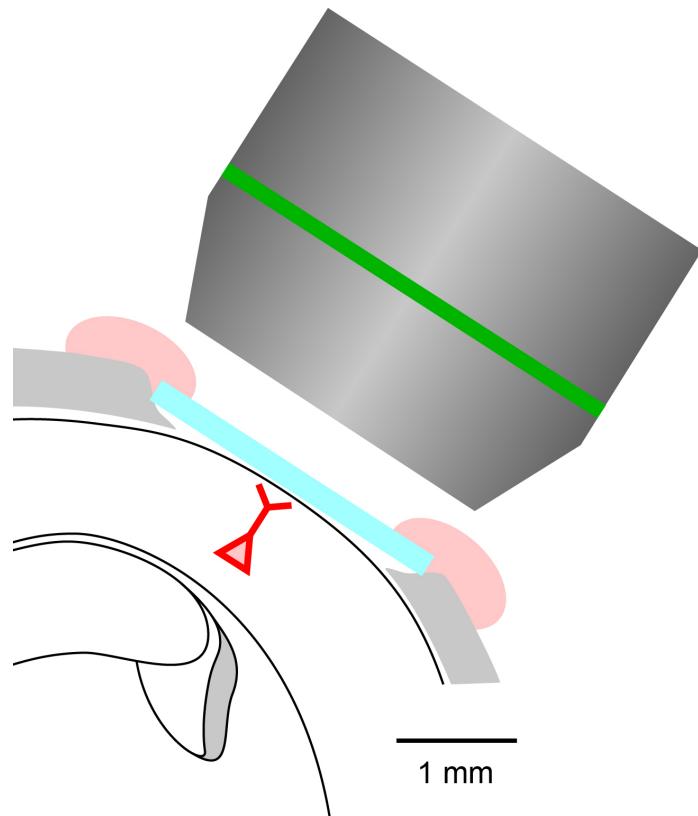
Two-photon excitation



Two-photon imaging



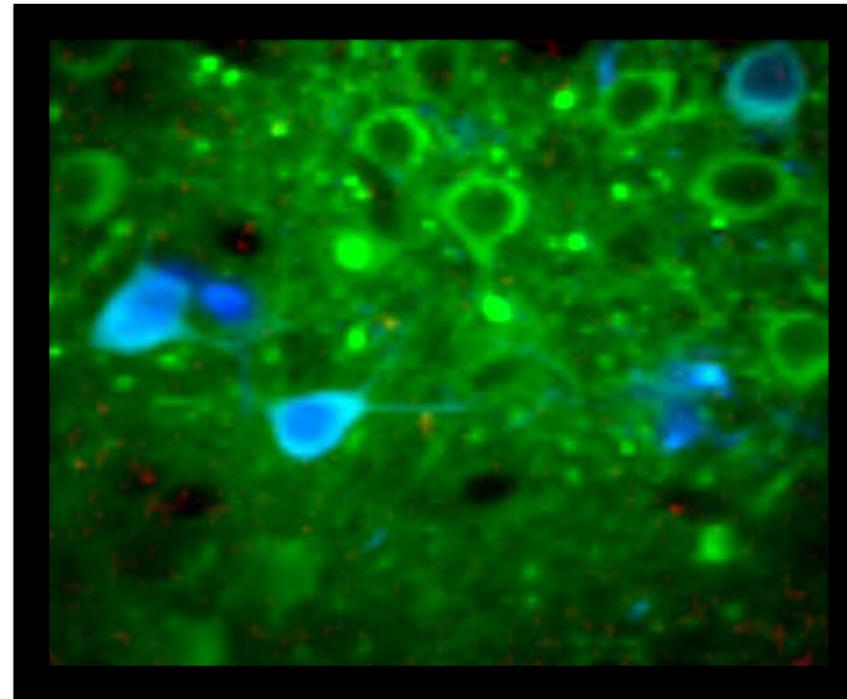
In vivo two-photon microscopy



Spine plasticity

Cellular Mechanisms of Brain Function

In vivo two-photon calcium imaging



Kremer and Petersen

Cellular Mechanisms of Brain Function

Fluorescence imaging of brain function



Fluorescent probes (both chemical and genetic) are being engineered to monitor many different cellular activities, including:

voltage, Ca²⁺, second messengers, protein-protein interactions, synaptic vesicle release, neurotransmitter receptors, ...

Different neuronal compartments can be imaged:

cell bodies, axons, presynaptic boutons, dendrites and spines

New techniques are being developed for improving optical imaging at many different levels, e.g. *super-resolution microscopy*

Real-time imaging of the brain in action



- Epifluorescence imaging of voltage-sensitive dyes, ~100 µm.
- Two-photon excitation imaging of fluorescence provides ~1 µm resolution in the living brain.
- Two-photon calcium imaging provides information about neuronal activity with cellular and subcellular resolution.