

Neuron - Glia Interactions

Module: Anatomy of the CNS
WS 2017-18

Tuesday 24.10.2017, 16:00 – 18:00

Ismini E Papageorgiou, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D.

Radiology resident
Institute of Radiology
Suedharz Hospital Nordhausen, Germany



curriculum vitae *and acknowledgements*

- **Medicine** in Greece, Medical School University of Patras (1998-2004)
 - ✓ Lab assistant, Tight Junctions
- Rural Medical Service (2005-2007)
- **Master of Science** in Medical Neurosciences (2007-2009) and
- **Ph.D.** in Medical Neurosciences, Charite Universitätsmedizin zu Berlin (2009-2013)
 - ✓ Glia alterations in electrophysiological diseases (a.k.a. epilepsy)
 - ✓ Glia - Neuron interactions and synaptic plasticity
 - ✓ Electrophysiology, Morphology / Neuroanatomy, Live cell imaging, Molecular biology, Neural Data Analysis (MatLab) ...
- **Post-Doc** in Neurophysiology, University of Heidelberg (2011-2014)
 - ✓ Microglial modulation of synaptic function, toxicity and neurodegeneration
- Since 2014: **Residency in Radiology**
 - ✓ Universitätsmedizin Göttingen
 - ✓ Südharz Klinikum Nordhausen



Prof. Dr. med. Uwe Heinemann



Prof. Dr. med. Uwe-Karsten Hanisch



Prof. Dr. med. Helmut Kettenmann

Timetable

- **16:00 – 17:00**

- Part I: Historical annotation

- Part II: Glia, an evolutionary outlook

- Part III: The tripartite synapse

- Part IV: Metabolic interactions: the lactate shuttle

- Summary, questions and take home message

- **17:15 – 18:00**

- Part V: Microglia. Mesodermal niches and lifelong turnover

- Part VI: Synaptoimmunology

- Part VI: Synaptic tagging, stripping, pruning

- Summary, questions and take home message

Part I
Historical annotation
The glial scientific heritage

Glia turns 171 this year

- Rudolf Virchow (1821 - 1902)
 - ✓ Über das granuliertes Aussehen der Wandung der Hirnventrikel, *Virchow 1846*
 - ✓ "... the connective substance forms a sort of cement ... in which the nervous elements are embedded ..."
- Otto Deiters (1834 – 1863¹)
- Santiago Ramon y Cajal (1852 – 1934)
 - ✓ The Deiter's cell

ASTROCYTE was born

The brain



The one who died young

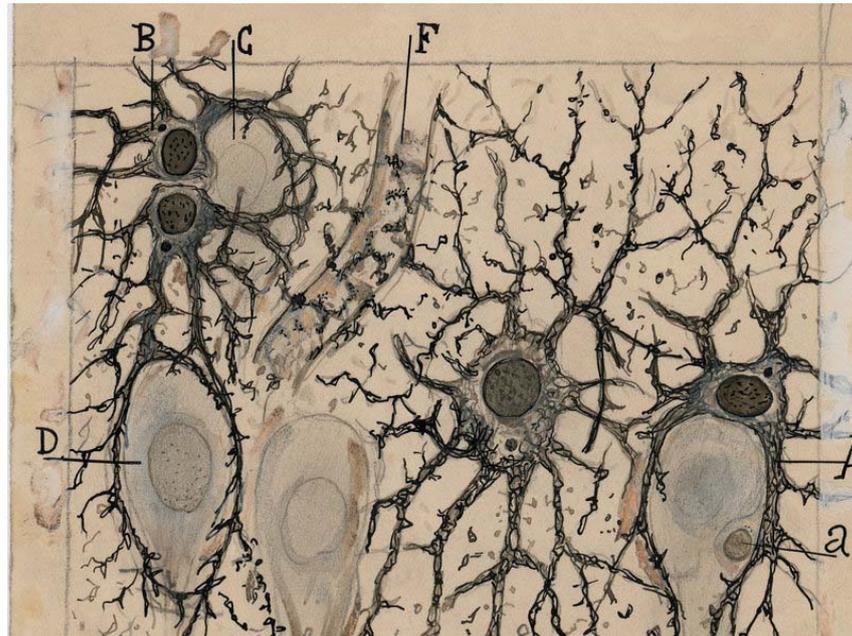


And the artist



Footnotes

1. Deiters died in 1863 from typhoid fever at the age of 29



The Deiter's cell of Ramon y Cajal

- Shiny nucleus
- No nucleolus
- Fibers ...
- That project all directions
- In white and gray matter

Glia turns 171 this year

- Camillo Golgi (1843 - 1926)
 - ✓ "la reazione nera"
 - ✓ Golgi staining
- Mihály Lenhossék (1863 – 1937)
 - ✓ ... coined the term "astrocyte"
Lenhossek, 1893
- Albert von Kölliker (1817 – 1905)
 - ✓ Langstrahler == fibrous astros
 - ✓ Kurzstrahler == protoplasmic astros

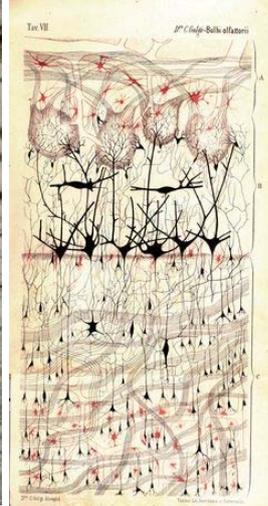
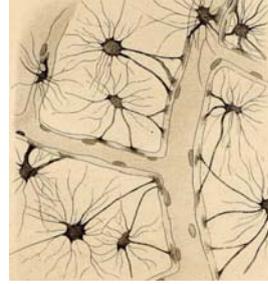




Camillo Golgi

The Golgi staining

CAVE: Unspecific !!!



Albert von Kölliker (1817 – 1905)

„Physikalisch-Medizinische Gesellschaft“

1849 gründete er in Würzburg die „Physikalisch-Medizinische Gesellschaft“. Diese Institution erlebte ihre Sternstunde am 23.

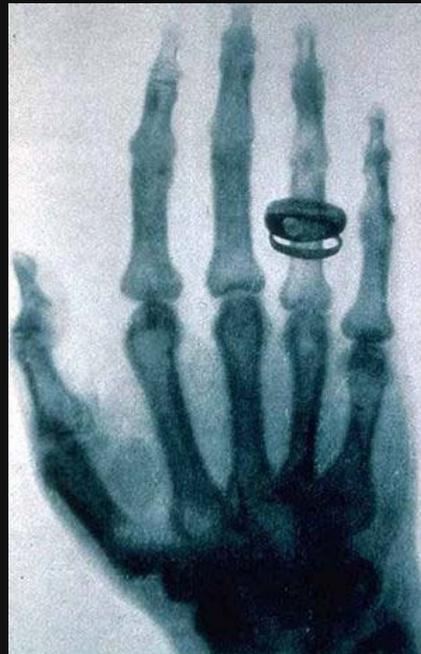
Januar 1896,
als der Würzburger Physikprofessor

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen

über die von ihm entdeckten „X-Strahlen“
berichtete und

eine Aufnahme von Koellikers Hand anfertigte.

Auf Albert von Koellikers Vorschlag hin heißen
sie heute Röntgenstrahlen.



Function of astrocytes: more than "glue"

- Virchow (1821-1902)
 - " ... substance that lies between the nervous parts, holds them together and gives the whole its form ..." *Virchow, 1858*
 - ✓ The "filling" theory
 - ✓ The "isolation" theory
- Aloysius (Alois) Alzheimer (1864-1915)
 - described "... glia reaction in brain plaques..." in one of the first attempts inferring to **glial function** *Alzheimer, 1910*



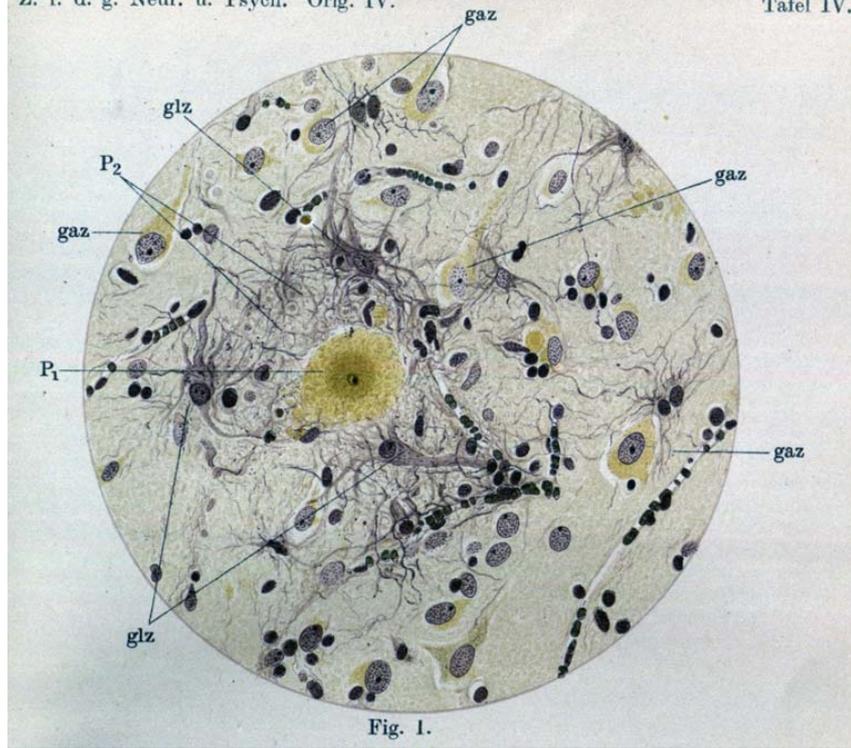


Fig. 1.

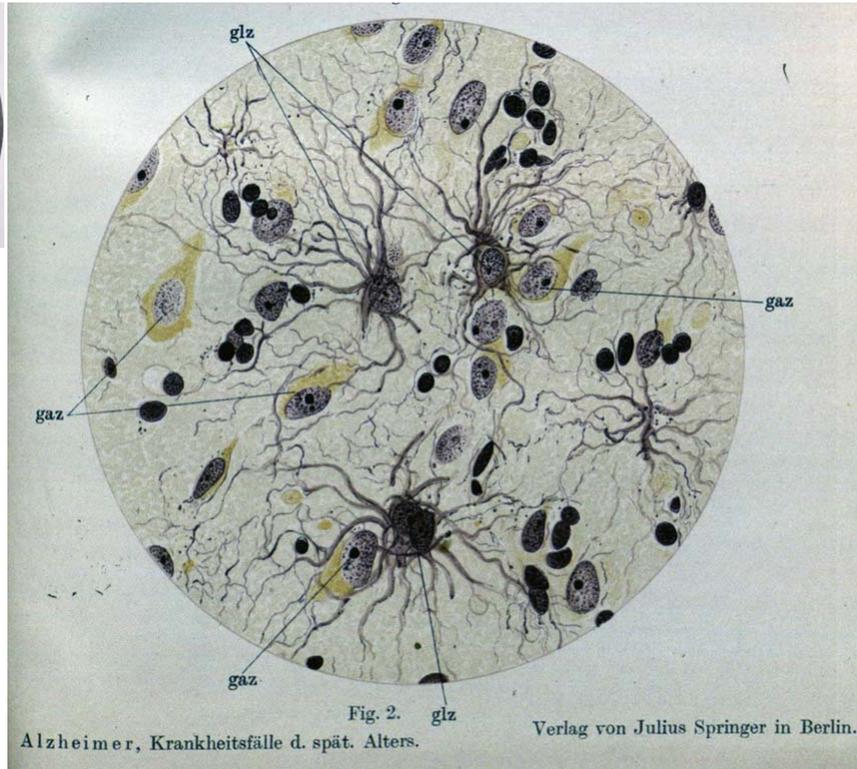
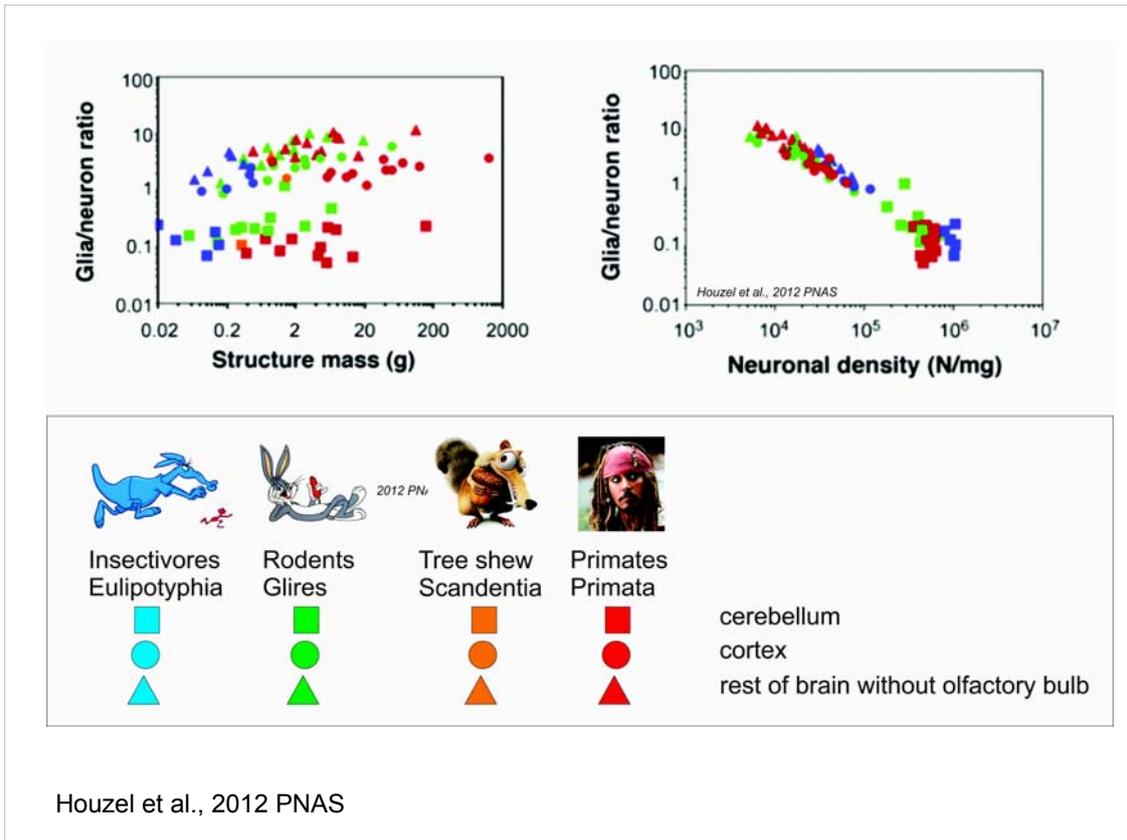


Fig. 2. Alzheimer, Krankheitsfälle d. spät. Alters. Verlag von Julius Springer in Berlin.



Part II
Glial evolution



Shared nonneuronal scaling rules and structure- and order-specific neuronal scaling rules for mammalian brains. Each point represents the average values for one species (insectivores, blue; rodents, green; primates, red; Scandentia, orange). Arrows point to human data points, circles represent the cerebral cortex, squares represent the cerebellum, and triangles represent the rest of the brain (excluding the olfactory bulb).

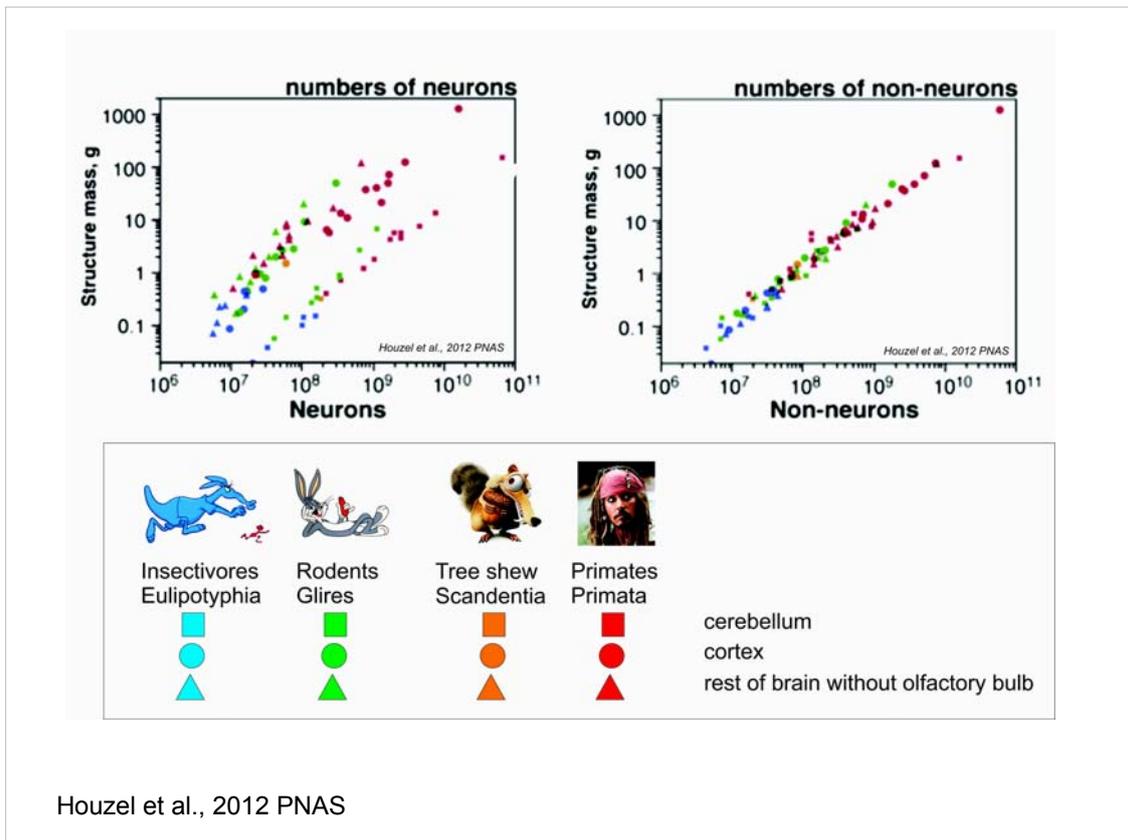


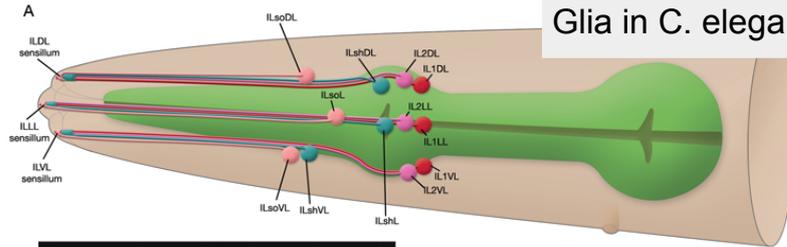
Fig. 5. G/N ratio scales differently across structures and orders with structure mass, but scales homogeneously with neuronal density. Each point represents the average other cell/neuron ratio (which approximates the G/N ratio) and structure mass (A) or neuronal density (B) in the cerebral cortex (circles), cerebellum (squares), or rest of brain (triangles) of a species. Notice that in contrast to the scattered distribution across species and structures in A, data points are aligned across species and structures in the lower plot, suggesting that it is smaller neuronal densities (i.e., larger average neuronal cell size), rather than larger structure mass, that is accompanied by a larger G/N ratio. Data are from studies by Herculano-Houzel and her colleagues (22–27).

QUIZ

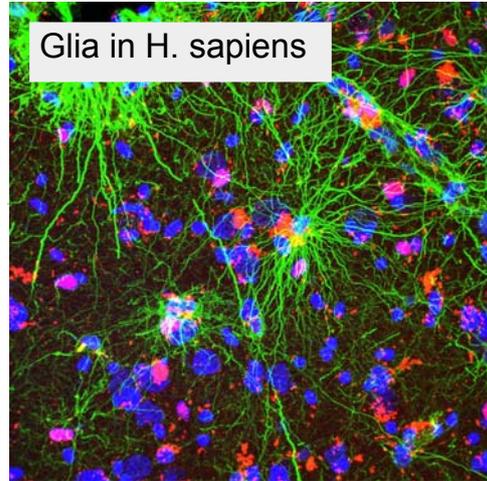
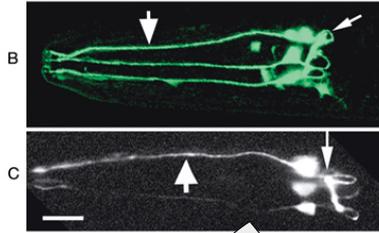
- What is your observation based on the study of Houzel et al., 2012 ?

-
-
-
-
-

Glia in *C. elegans* (tapeworm)



©WormAtlas



Glia in *H. sapiens*

Scholey et al., 2007

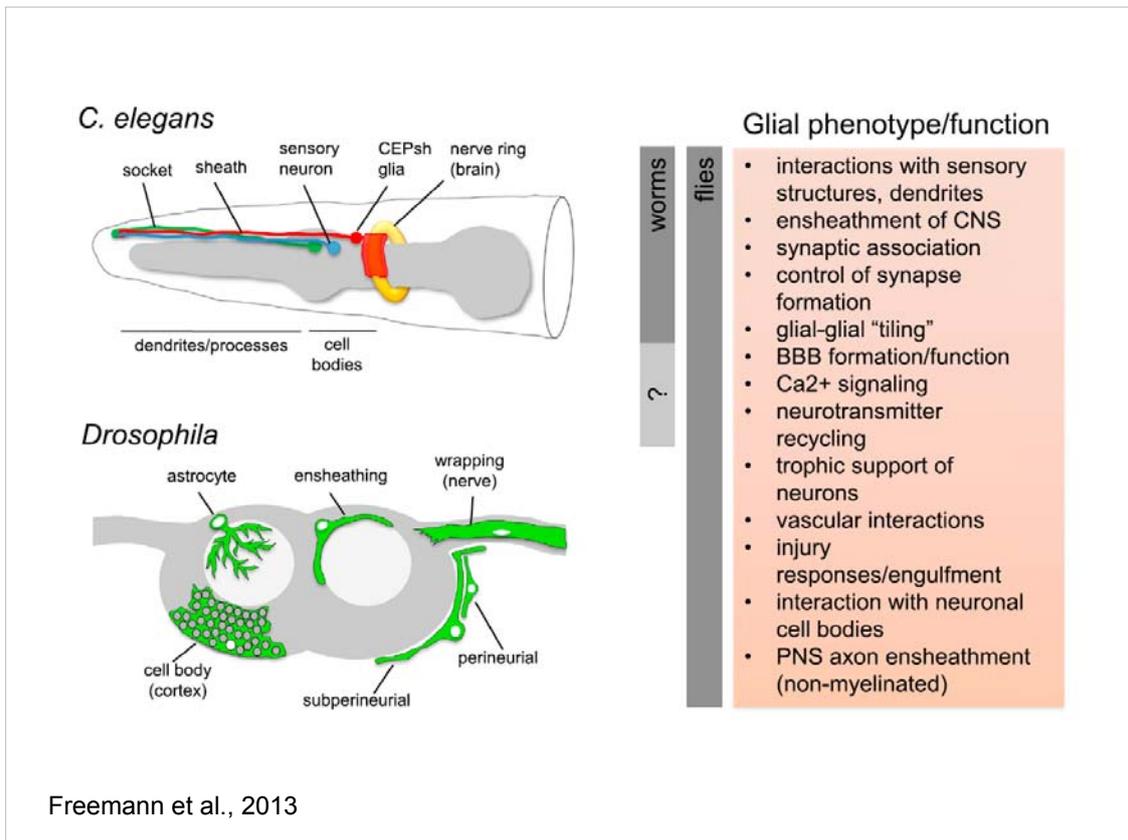
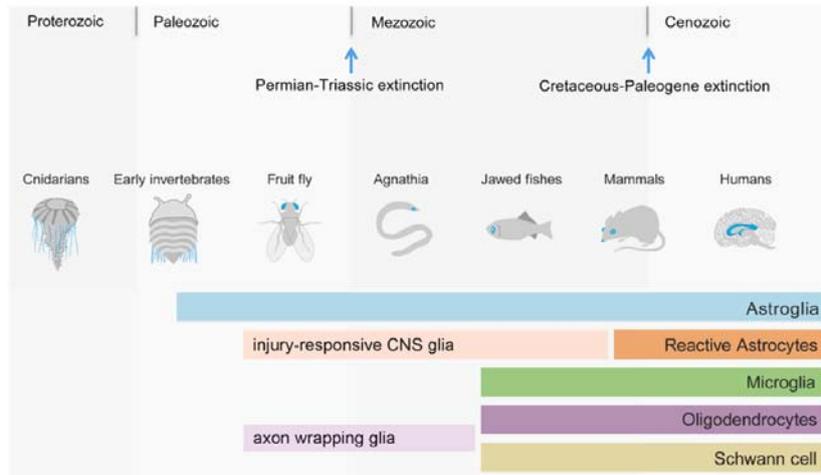


Figure 1. Complex Glia in Even Simple Organisms

Glial cells in *C. elegans* and *Drosophila*. All *C. elegans* glia are associated with sensory structures, though the CEPsh glia also infiltrate the worm CNS. *Drosophila* have similar SOP-derived glial subtypes in the periphery (data not shown) and more elaborate and functionally distinct subclasses of glia in the CNS. A list of well-defined glial molecular or morphological phenotypes and functions that are conserved in worms and flies (indicated for each animal by gray bars to left) are listed.

Evolutionary glial epochs



Freemann et al., 2013



Summary I-II.

- Glia was first observed by Rudolf Virchow, 1846
- Glia first appeared in the NS of early invertebrates
- One of the primitive glia functions was control of synaptic formation !!
- Glia:neuron ratio STABLE across evolution for cerebrum and cerebellum
- Differences between cerebrum and cerebellum are LARGER than differences between the cerebrum of different species.

Part III
Glial function
Astrocytes and the tripartite synapse
Gliotransmission

The tripartite synapse

Glia envelop synapses, abutting the synaptic cleft

Two-way affair communication (Araque et al., 1999)

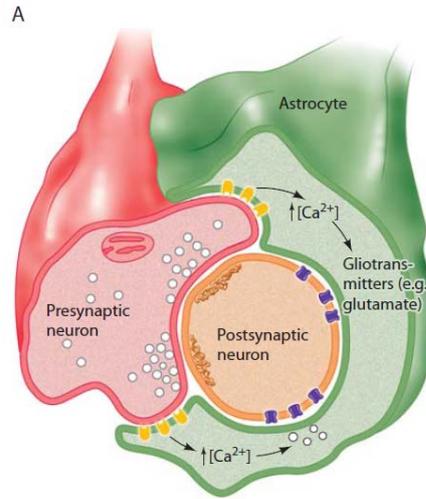
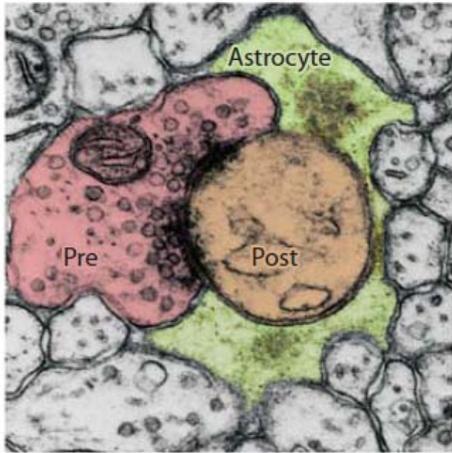
- ✓ Part 1: presynaptic terminus
- ✓ Part 2: Astrocytic process(es)
- ✓ Part 3: postsynaptic terminus

Multi-partite

- Quad-partite synapse + microglia (Kettenmann et al., 2013)
- Cinq-partite synapse + extracellular matrix (Dityatev et al., 2012)

... but then it's getting too far

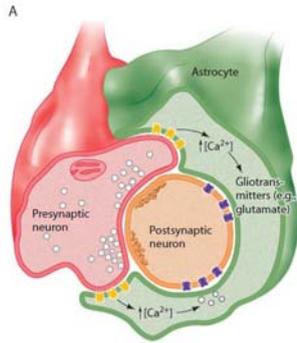
The tripartite synapse



Fellin et al., 2006

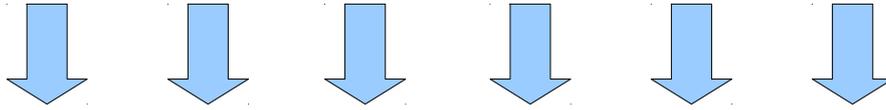
Neuronal – astrocytic signaling

- Astrocytes sense neurotransmission with **receptors**
 - ✓ AMPA (Glutamate)
 - ✓ NMDA (Glutamate)
 - ✓ mGluR (Glutamate)
 - ✓ GABA A/B (GABA)
 - ✓ A1, P2X, P2Y (purines)
 - ✓ HT (Serotonin)
 - ✓ Muscarinic (Acetylcholine)
 - ✓ Adrenergic (Norepinephrine)
 - ✓ Peptide (e.g. NPY) receptor



Gliotransmission

- Astrocytes **respond to** neurotransmitters with intracellular **calcium** elevation **[Ca²⁺]**



SO WHAT ??????

Halassa et al., 2007; Halassa et al 2009

Other ways of neuron – astro communication:

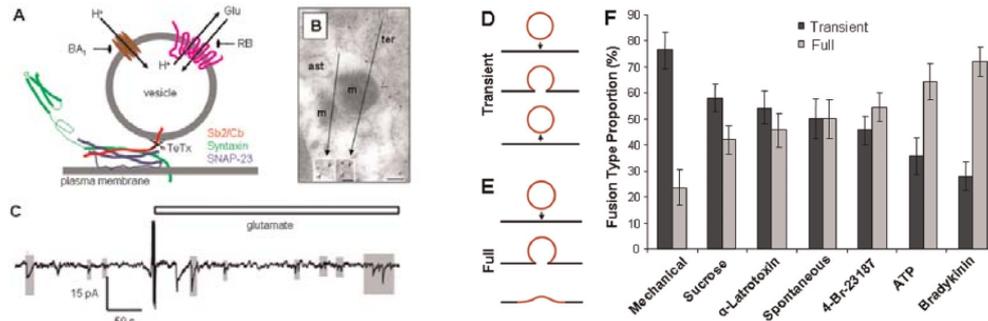
- electrical synapses onto NG2 cells; Bergles et al., 2000
- neuroglial gap junction electrical coupling; Alvarez-Maubecin et al., 2000

Astroglial excitability and gliotransmission: an appraisal of Ca^{2+} as a signalling route

Robert Zorec^{1,2,11}, Alfonso Araque³, Giorgio Carmignoto⁴, Philip G Haydon⁵, Alexei Verkhratsky^{6,7,8,9} and Vladimir Pappas^{10,11,12}

¹Laboratory of Neuroendocrinology-Molecular Cell Physiology, Institute of Pathophysiology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
²Celica, Biomedical Center, Tehnološki park 24, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
³Instituto Cajal, CSIC, Madrid 28002, Spain
⁴Institute of Neuroscience, National Research Council and University of Padua, 35129 Padua, Italy
⁵Department of Neuroscience, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA 02111, U.S.A.
⁶Faculty of Life Sciences, The University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, U.K.
⁷KERBASQUE, Basque Foundation for Science, 48011, Bilbao, Spain
⁸Department of Neurobiology, Center for Glial Biology in Medicine, Civitan International, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL 35242, U.S.A.
⁹Nanotechnology Laboratories, and Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL 35242, U.S.A.
¹⁰School of Medicine, University of Split, 21000 Split, Croatia

excitability displayed by astrocytes. An increase in cytosolic Ca^{2+} levels in astrocytes can lead to the release of signalling molecules, a process termed gliotransmission, via the process of regulated exocytosis. Dynamic components of astrocytic

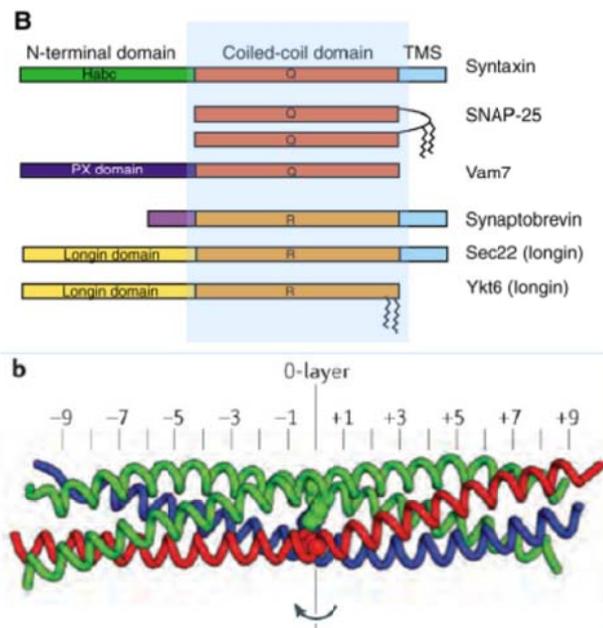


C: spontaneous inward currents corresponding to quantal ATP release

Zorec et al., 2012

SNARE

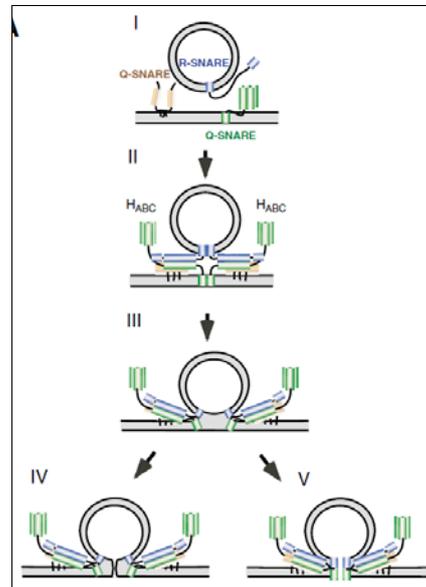
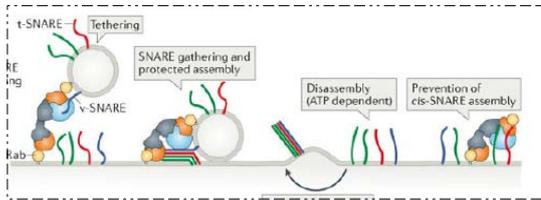
- **S**oluble
- **N**-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor
- **A**ttachment
- **R**Eceptors



Ungermann et al., 2005; Baker et al., 2016

SNARE Vesicle trafficking

- Docking/Tethering
- Hemifusion ("kiss and run") and/or
- Complete Fusion



Ungermann et al., 2005; Baker et al. 2016

Gliotransmission

- Astrocytes **express**

- ✓ **SNARE** complex
- ✓ Glutamate (and Ach?) vesicles
- ✓ ATP stored in lysosomes

- Astrocytes can **release**

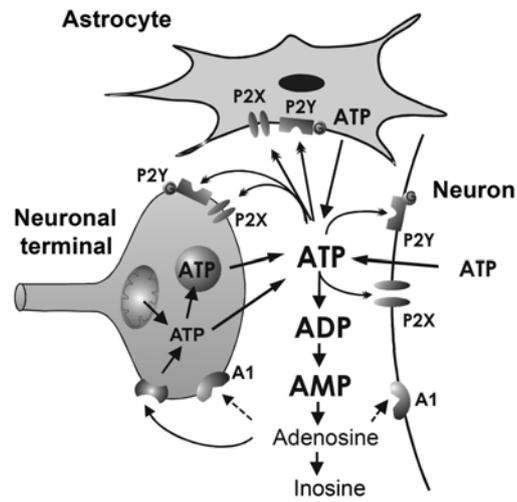
- ✓ Glutamate,
- ✓ D-serine (NMDA agonist)
- ✓ ATP
- ✓ (and acetylcholine??)

- Presynaptic (and postsynaptic) **inhibition** via ...

- ✓ Purinergic A1, P2Y, P2X receptors
- ✓ mGLUT receptors
- ✓ Muscarinic receptors ...

Zhang et al., 2004, 2007; Montana et al., 2004

Gliotransmission purines, ATP, adenosine



Illes et al., 2017

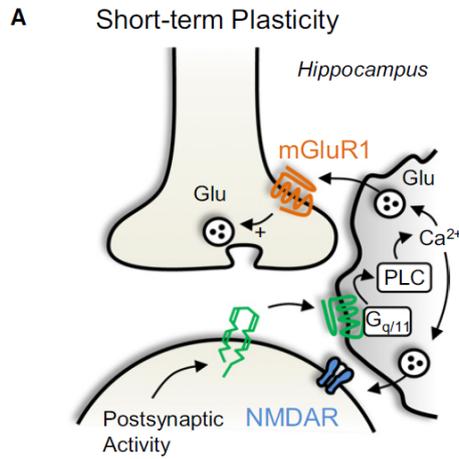
Endocannabinoid Signaling and Synaptic Function

Pablo E. Castillo,^{1,*} Thomas J. Younts,¹ Andrés E. Chávez,¹ and Yuki Hashimoto¹

¹Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY 10461, USA

*Correspondence: pablo.castillo@einstein.yu.edu

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2012.09.020>



Cannabinoid mediated
Gliotransmission
Modifies the STP in the
Hippocampus
Via presynaptic
mGluR

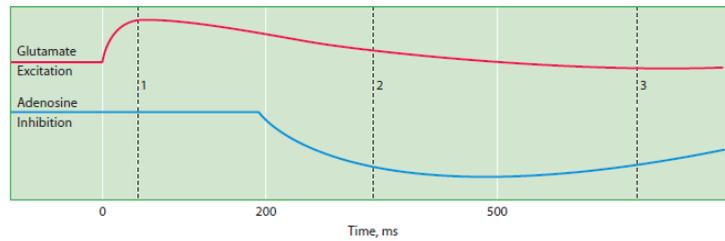
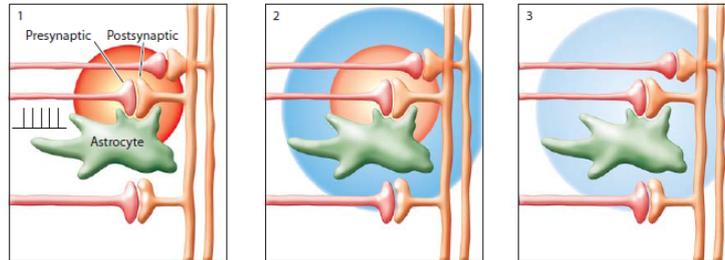
Castillo et al., 2012

Gliotransmission **local** regulation

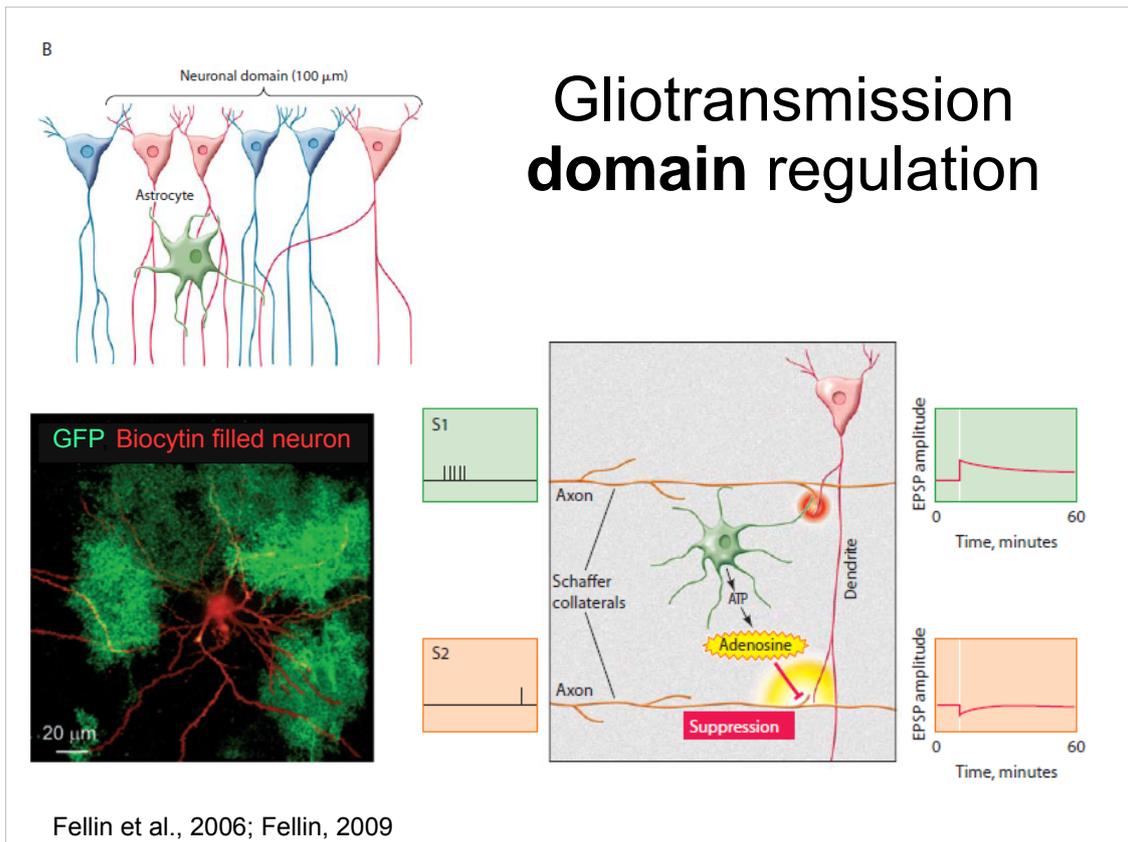
Spill-over effect

gradient transmitter
spreading

Affecting neighboring
synapses



Fellin et al., 2006



Proximal astrocytic activation might provoke distal synaptic downregulation thus enhancing the proximal input in a form of **Feedback inhibition**



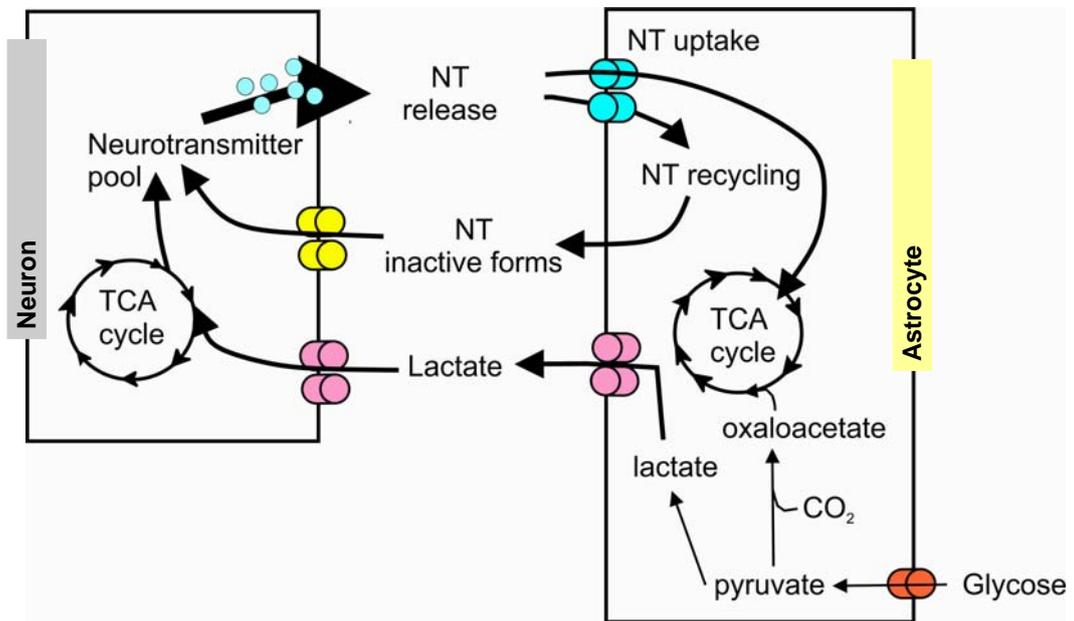
Summary III.

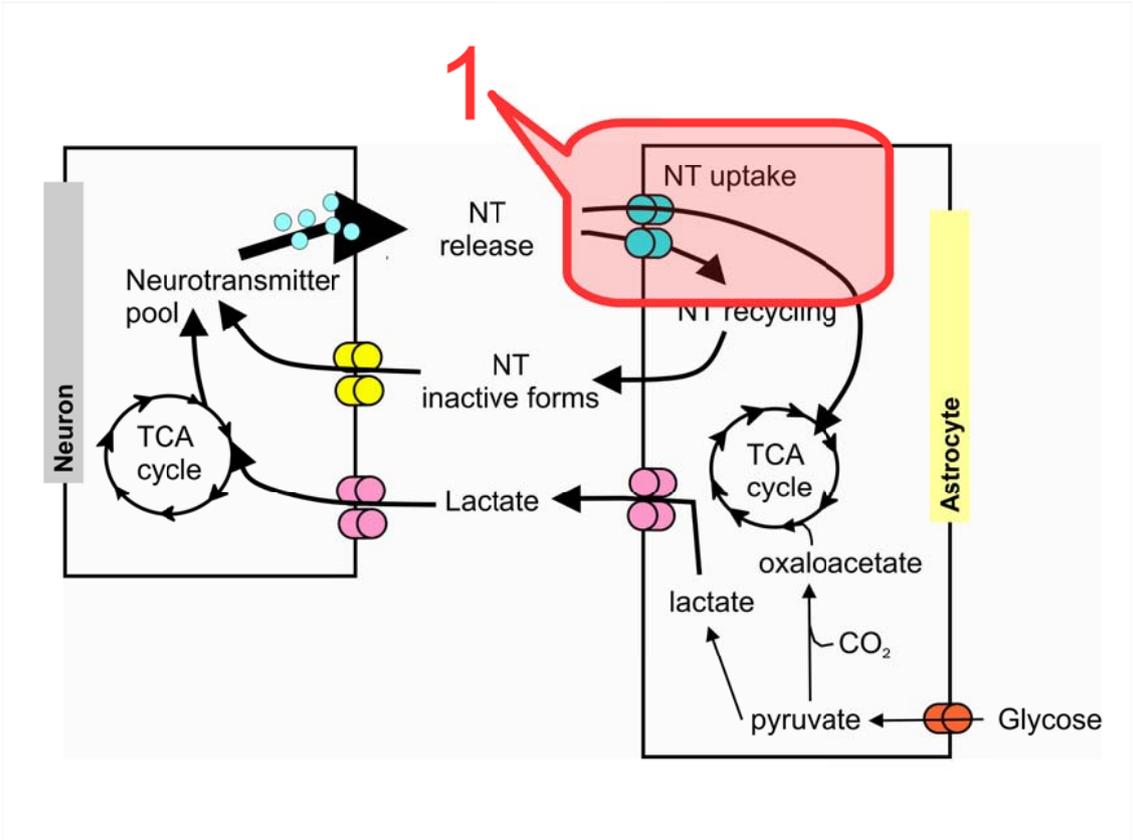
- The tripartite synapse concept
- Astrocytes sense synaptic activity
- Gliotransmission
- Local and domain regulations

Part IV
Metabolic crosstalk between neurons and
astrocytes

Neurotransmitter recycling
Energy supply

*“... serve alla distribuzione del materiale nutrizio ...
Golgi, 1886*





Neurotransmitter uptake

Astrocytes express (many!!!) neurotransmitter **transporters**

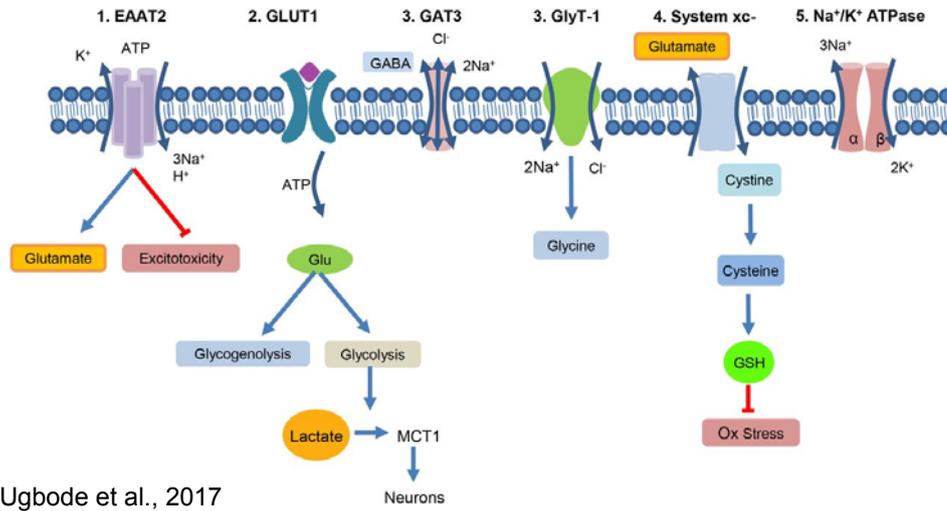


TABLE 27.1 Cloned Neurotransmitter Transporters Expressed By Astrocytes and Neurons

Neurotransmitter	Transporter Subtypes expressed By Astrocytes	Transporter Subtypes Expressed by Neurons
Glutamate	EAAT1 (GLAST) EAAT2 (GLT-1), (GLT-1b)	EAAT3 (EAAC1), EAAT4* EAAT5,† (GLT-1b)
GABA	GAT-3 > GAT-1, GAT-2, BGT-1‡	GAT-1 > GAT-2, GAT-3
Glycine	GlyT1	GlyT2 > GlyT1
Histamine	Not determined	Not determined
Noepinephrine	NET, OCT3	NET
Dopamine	DAT, OCT3	DAT
Serotonin	SERT	SERT
Adenosine	ENT1, ENT2	ENT1, ENT2, CNT2

Note. Transporter expression for neurotransmitters other than glutamate, GABA, and glycine have been assessed only in cell cultures. For the glutamate

*Primarily expressed by cerebellum

†Primarily expressed by retinal neurons

‡May function as an osmoregulator

DAT: dopamine transporter; EAAT

2; ENT1, 2: equilibrative nucleoside

glutamate/aspartate transporter; GAT

cation transporter 3; SERT: seroto

GLT-1: glutamate transporter-1

BGT-1: betaine and GABA trans

CNT-1: concentrative nucleoside

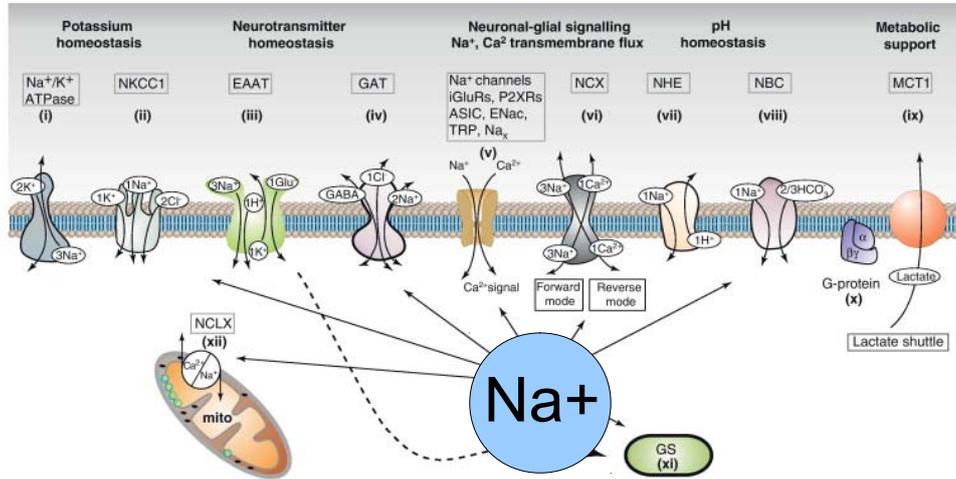
Transportation is an ACTIVE process

REQUIRES ENERGY

What fuels transportation ????

ter-1, -
GLAST:
organic

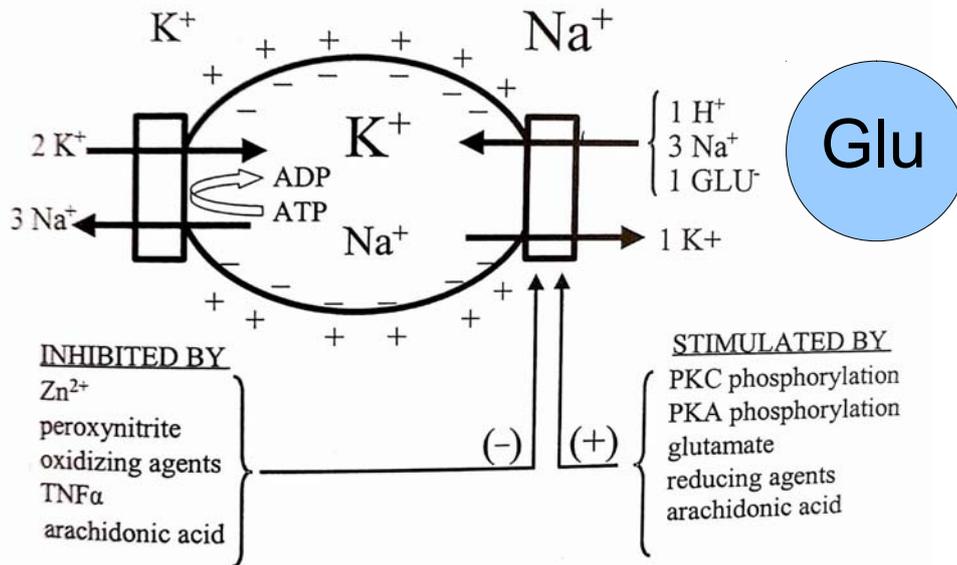
Sodium gradient fuels neurotransmitter transporters



TRENDS in Neurosciences

Kirischuk et al., TINS 2012

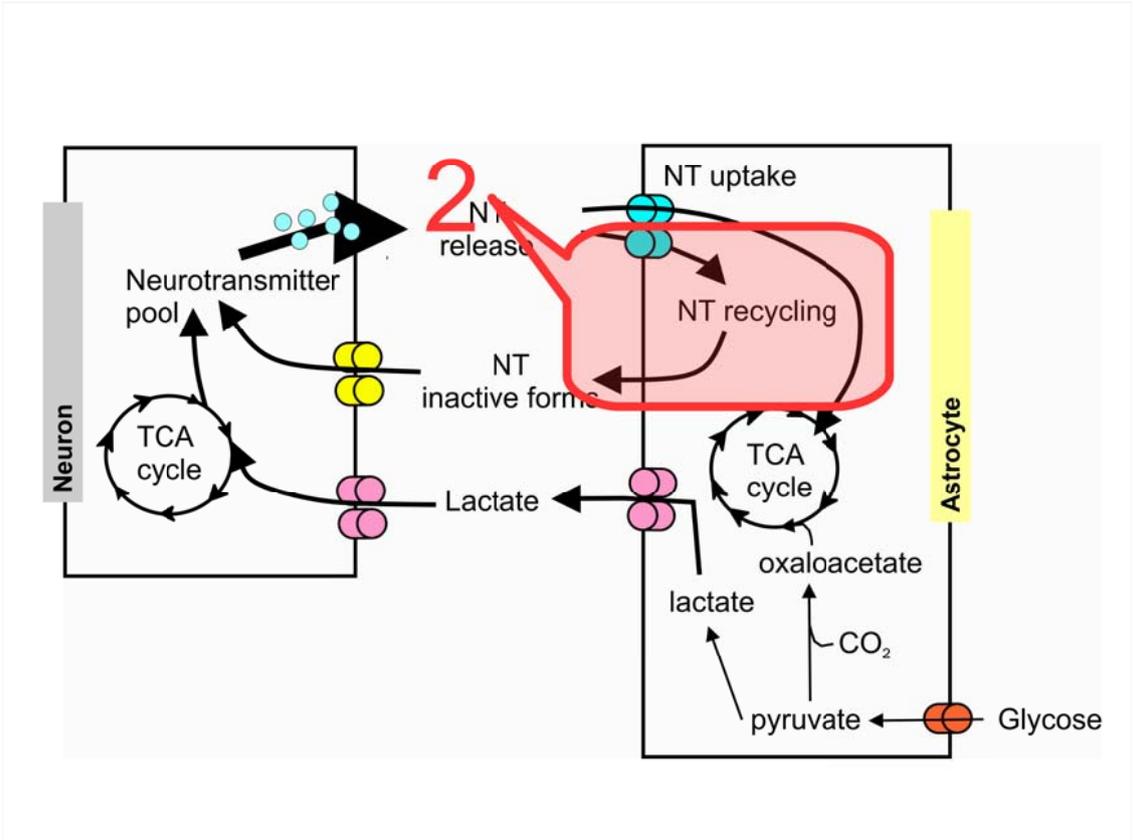
Sodium gradient fuels neurotransmitter transporters



Neuroglia, 2nd edition, Ranson and Kettenmann

Some neuroenergetics:

Manipulation	Effect on Glu Uptake
Mitochondrial blockade, O ₂ depletion	No effect immediately. Astrocytic ATP is dominantly anaerobe
ATP depletion	Crushes Glu uptake immediately, due to Na ⁺ +K ⁺ +ATPase crush
Hyponatremia	No effect. Hyponatremia is well compensated by astrocytes by lowering of intracellular Na ⁺ to keep gradient stable
Hyperkaliemia	Nothing survives hyperkaliemia. Nor Glu uptake does.

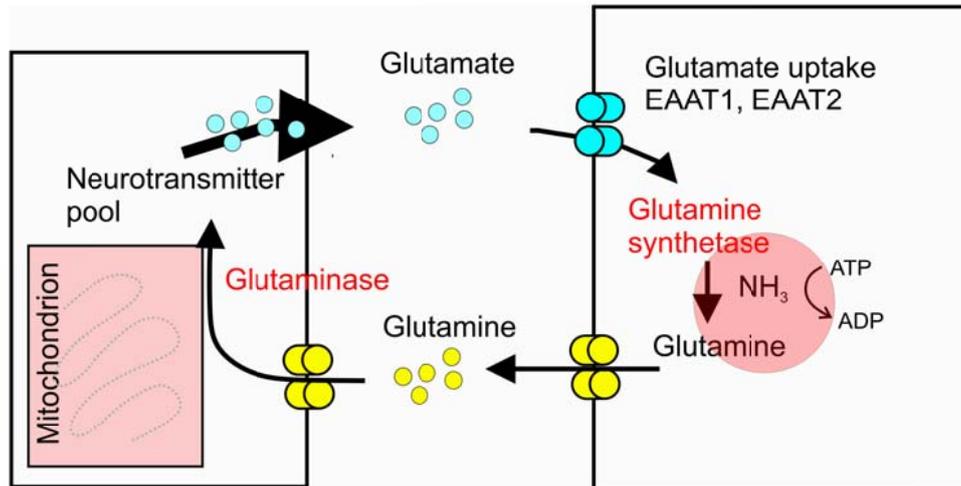


In the astrocyte: Fates of glutamate

- Theory 1 (Peng et al., 2001)
 - ✓ Glutamate enters TCA cycle at the stage of 2-ketoglutarate → Used as energy substrate
- Theory 2 (Pellerin and Magistretti, 1994)
 - ✓ Glutamate is recycled to neurons as glutamine

- Theory 1 (Peng et al., 2001)
 - Glutamate enters TCA cycle at the stage of 2-ketoglutarate → Used as energy substrate
 - Glutamate Dehydroxylase (GDH) or
 - Transaminase
 - Both enzymes catalyse Two-Way reactions
- Theory 2 (Pellerin and Magistretti, 1994)
 - Glutamate is recycled to neurons as glutamine
 - Glutamine synthetase
 - ATP, One-Way reaction
 - Neurons take up glutamine and transform it to glutamate (glutaminase)

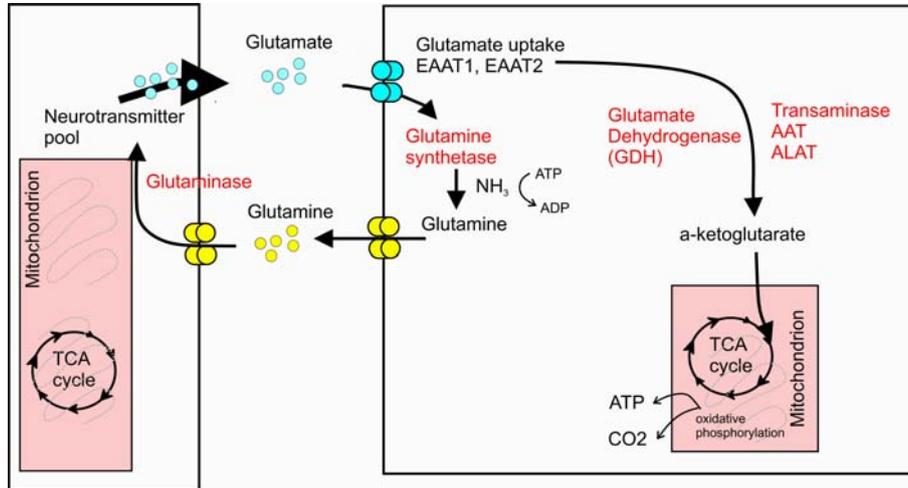
Theory 2: The glutamate-glutamine cycle



Pellerin & Magestretti, 1994; Chaudhry et al., 2002; Daikhin and Yudkoff, 2000 ...

Glutamate synthetase has multiple functions.
One of them is ammonia detoxification in the brain,
in the ASCENCE of the UREA CYCLE.

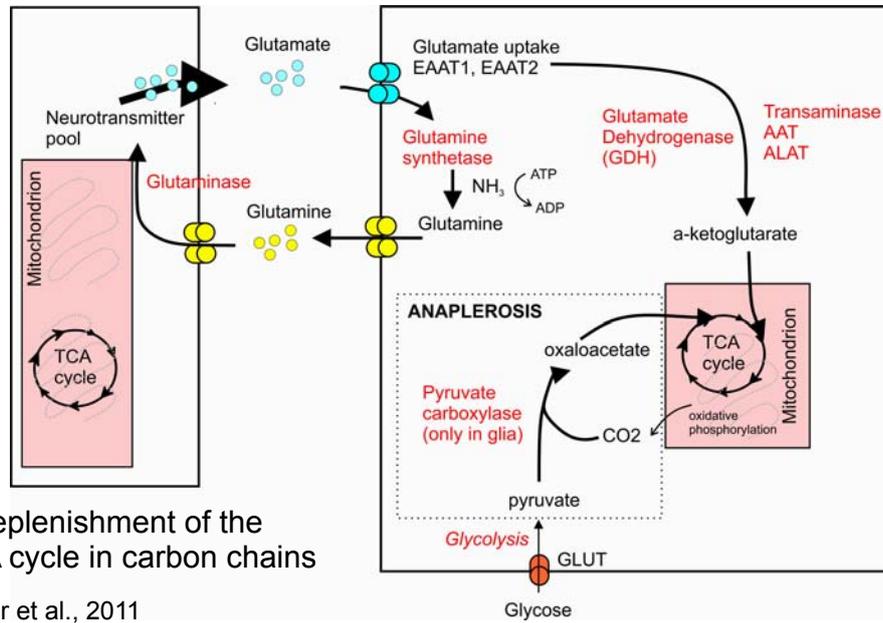
Theory 1: Glu "sinks" into the TCA cycle



Loss of carbon chains into the TCA cycle !!!!
This system is not balanced

Belanger et al., 2011

Anaplerosis and metabolic compartmentalization





Summary IV.

- Neurotranmitter uptake by astrocytes
- SODIUM GRADIENT
- Glutamate fates:
 - ✓ Glutamine cycle
 - ✓ TCA cycle
- Anaplerosis and
- Lactate shuttle



Coffee break

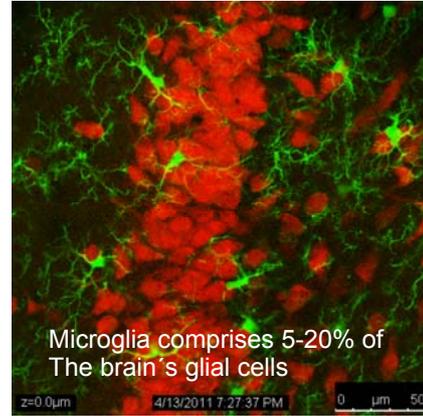
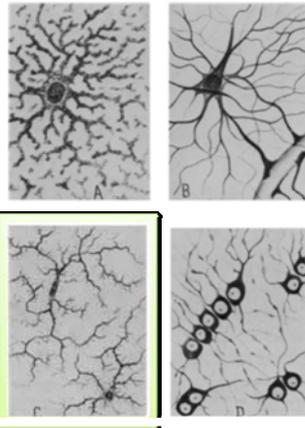
Part V
Microglia in the CNS' network

Who is microglia?

- Microglia is CNS' macrophages



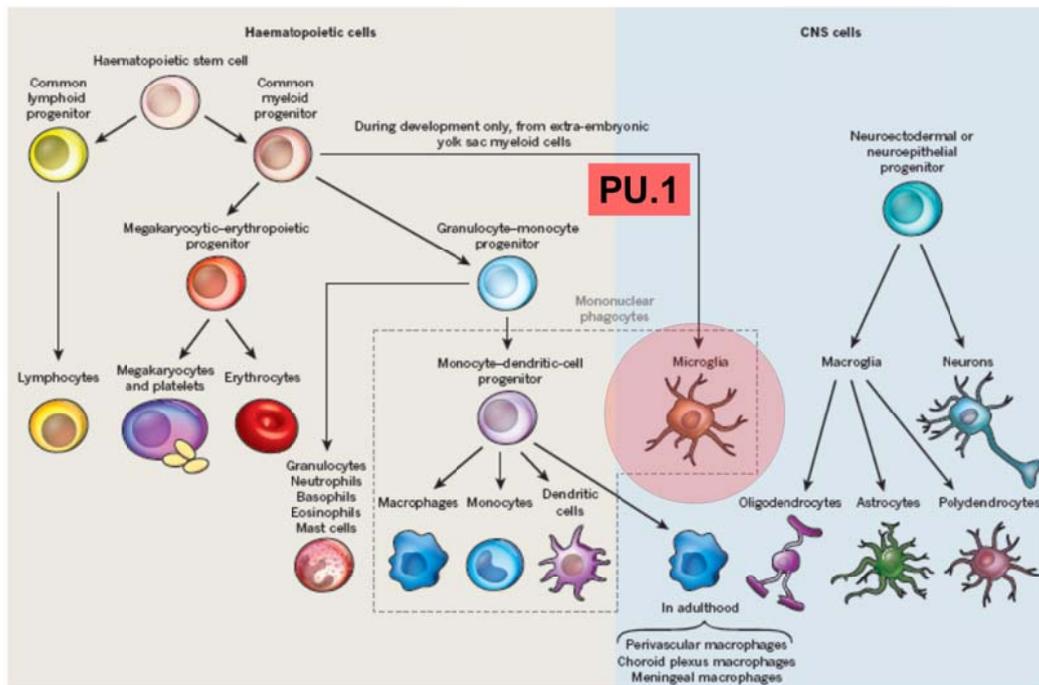
del Rio Hortega 1932



NeuN (neurons), Iba1 (microglia)

Santiago Ramón y Cajal (1913): The "third element"

Pio del Rio-Hortega (1919, 1932): oligodendroglia, **microglia**



Ransohoff & Cardona, 2010; McKercher et al., 1996, 1999; Beers et al., 2006

Microglia Niches

Microglia do not share the neuron-glia lineage

Microglia derive from the Hematopoietic stem cell progenitor in the yolk sac

McKercher et al., 1996 and 1999

PU.1 KO mice

PU.1 transcription factor for macrophage and B-cell maturation (and not for myeloid commitment).

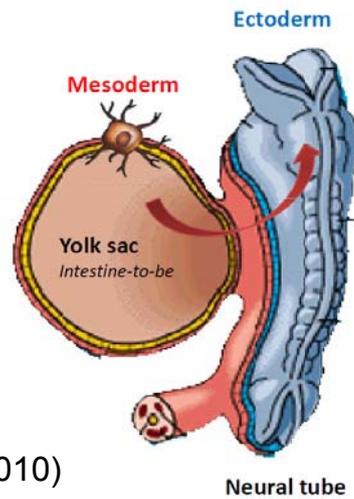
Beers et al., 2006

Rescued the phenotype of ALS-PU.1 KO mice with wild type microglia

The intruders of the CNS

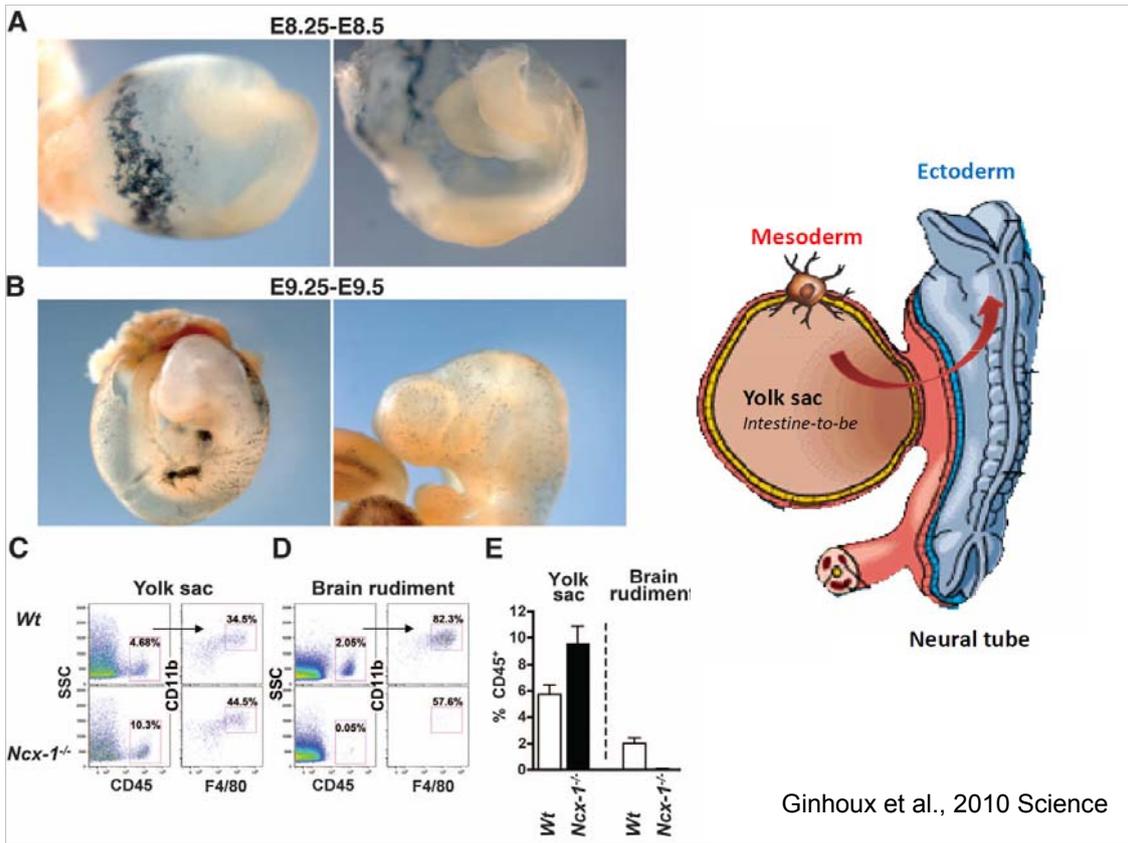
Migration from yolk sac in vertebrates

Carnegie stage 18-20

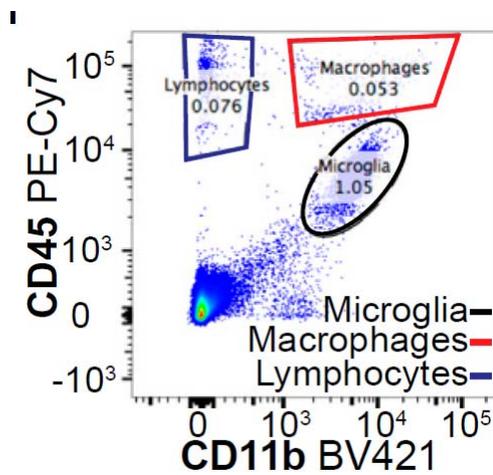


- E 7-9 in mouse, rat (Ginhoux et al., 2010)

- GW 4.5 or 6.5–8 in human (Monier et al, 2007)



Microglia or macrophages?



Bennett et al., 2016

FACS them!

- MG CD11b⁺CD45^{low}
- Mφ CD11b⁺CD45^{high}

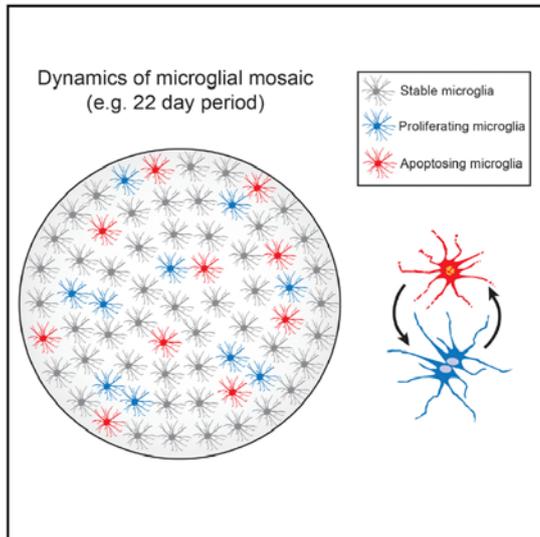
In situ its hard to differentiate

- **Tmem119** as promising new marker

LARGE overlap microglia (MG)-macrophages (Mφ)!!!

Lifelong turnover

Coupled proliferation and apoptosis



Self-renewable population

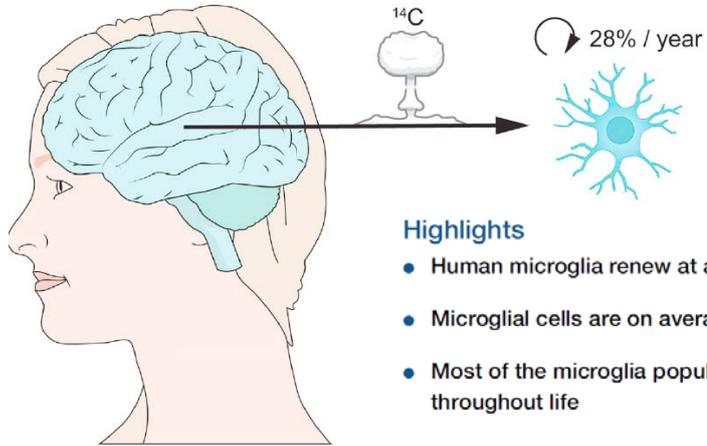
Ajami et al., 2007

Postnatal hematopoietic progenitors are NOT involved in microglial population maintenance

Ginhoux et al., 2010
Goldmann et al., 2016

Askew et al., 2017 CELL REPORTS

Lifelong turnover



Highlights

- Human microglia renew at a median rate of 28% per year
- Microglial cells are on average 4.2 years old
- Most of the microglia population (>96%) is renewed throughout life

Reu et al., 2017 CELL REPORTS

Part VI
Microglia in the tripartite synapse

Synaptoimmunology
Tagging Stripping Pruning



Surveying microglia sense synaptic activity

Ionotropic

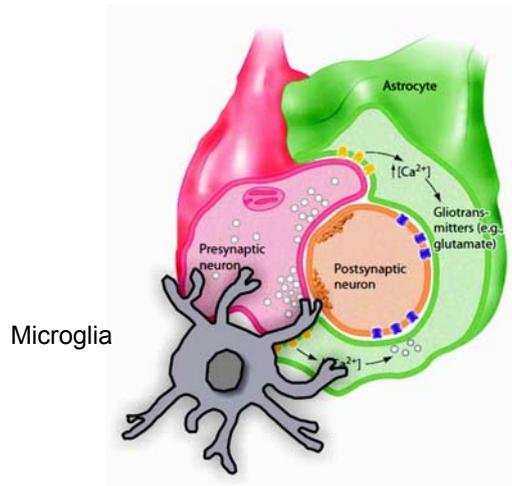
- ✓ AMPA, kainate, NMDA (Glutamate)
- ✓ P2x (purines)

Metabotropic neurotransmitter receptors

- ✓ mGluR (Glutamate)
- ✓ GABA B (GABA)
- ✓ P2y (purines)
- ✓ Adrenergic α and β
- ✓ D1 & D2 (dopamine)
- ✓ CB1 and CB2 (Cannabinoids)

Mainly activate Nf κ B and JAK-STAT pathways

The tripartite synapse *revisited*



Nistico et al., 2017

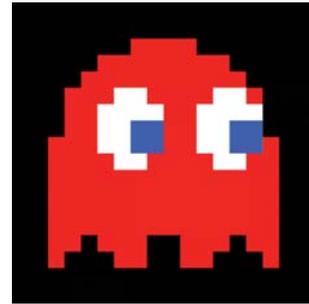
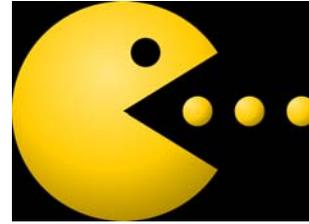
Synaptoimmunology

- Synaptic tagging, stripping and pruning
- Cytokines modulate synaptic activity

*CAVE: We will **not** go into mechanisms of classical neuroinflammation / neurodegeneration (EAE, MS, Alzheimer, Lewy bodies a.s.o.)*

"Eat-me" and "Eat-me-not"

- Microglia are professional eaters
- In the CNS they are kept in surveillance, patrolling neuronal activity
- Upon activation, microglia EAT (phagocytose) elements tagged with "eat-me" signals
- "Eat-me-not" tags prevent phagocytosis



"Eat-me" tags



"Eat-me" tag	Microglial receptor
Uridine diphosphate (UDP)	P2Y6
PAMPS DAMPS	TLR
DAMPS	TREM2
PS after oxidative stress	VNR MERTK
C1q, calreticulin C3	LRP CD37

Arcuri et al., 2017

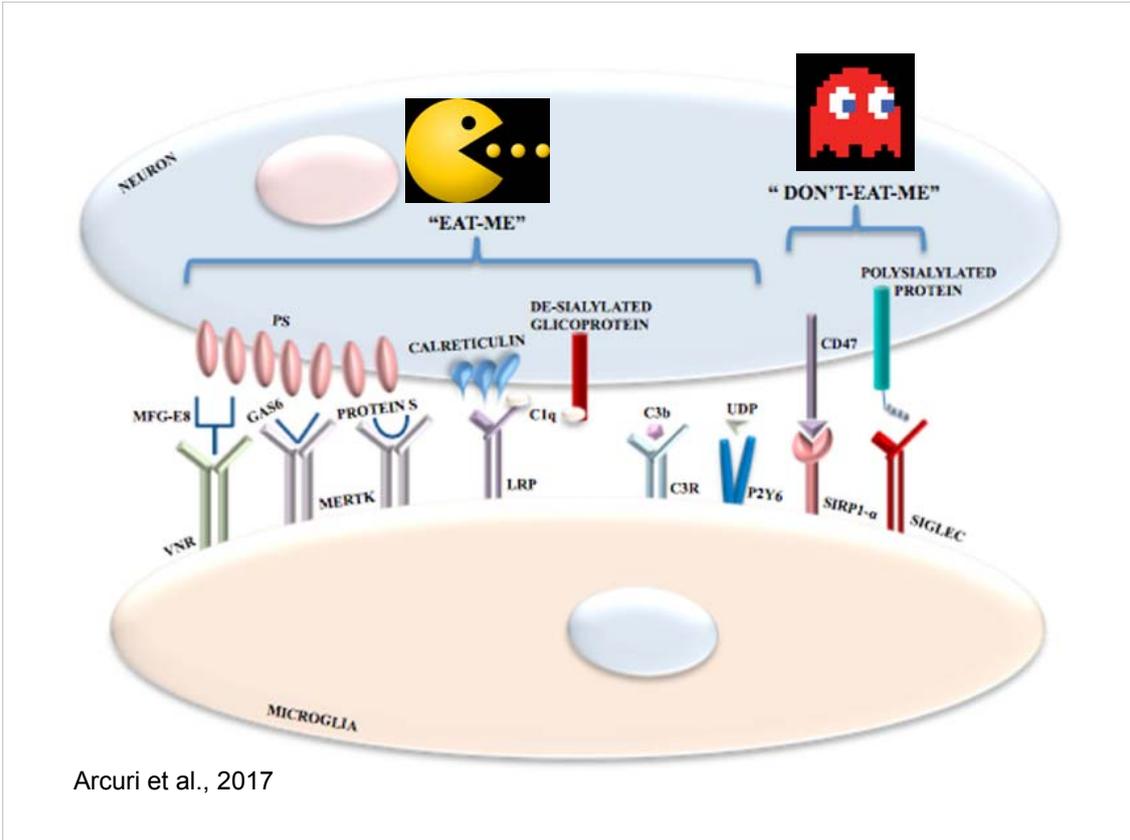
Abbreviations:

"Eat-me-not" tags

Surveillance and how to maintain it

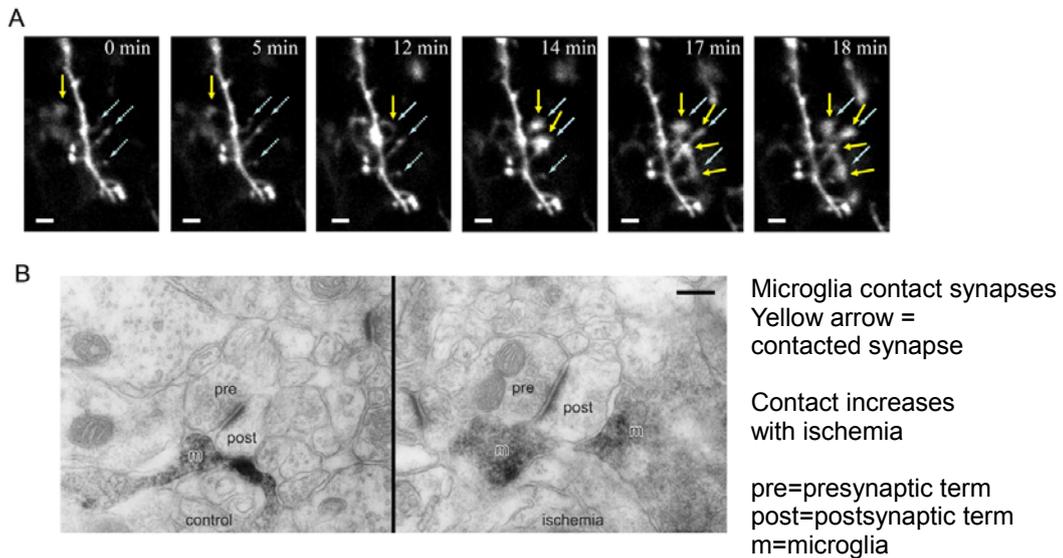


"Eat-me-not" tag	Microglial receptor
CD200	CD200R
CD22	CD45
CX3CL1 (fractalkine, also soluble !!!)	CX3CR1
CD47	SIRP-a



Arcuri et al., 2017

Resting Microglia Directly Monitor the Functional State of Synapses *In Vivo* and Determine the Fate of Ischemic Terminals



Wake et al., 2009

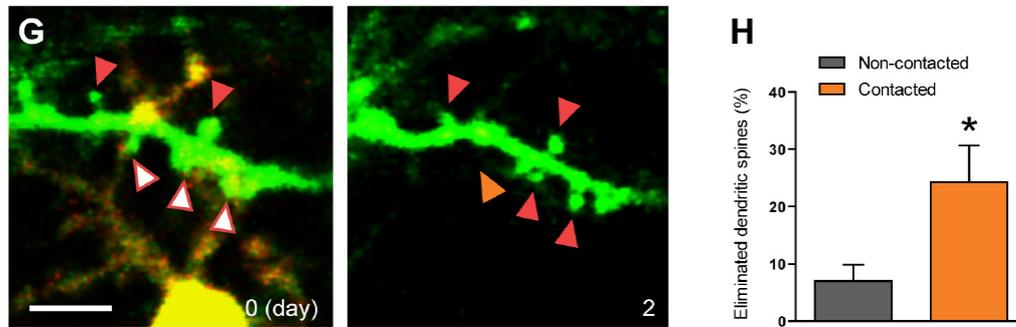
Wake et al., 2009

Contact of MF processes with synapses and contact prolongation upon ischemia.
2-photon microscopy time lapses

Microglial Interactions with Synapses Are Modulated by Visual Experience

Marie-Ève Tremblay*, Rebecca L. Lowery, Ania K. Majewska*

Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy and Center for Visual Science, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, United States of America



Sensory experience, contacted synapses = empty arrows, eliminated synapses after sensory experience = orange arrows

Tremblay et Majewska, 2010

The classical complement cascade mediates CNS synapse elimination (Stevens et al., 2007)

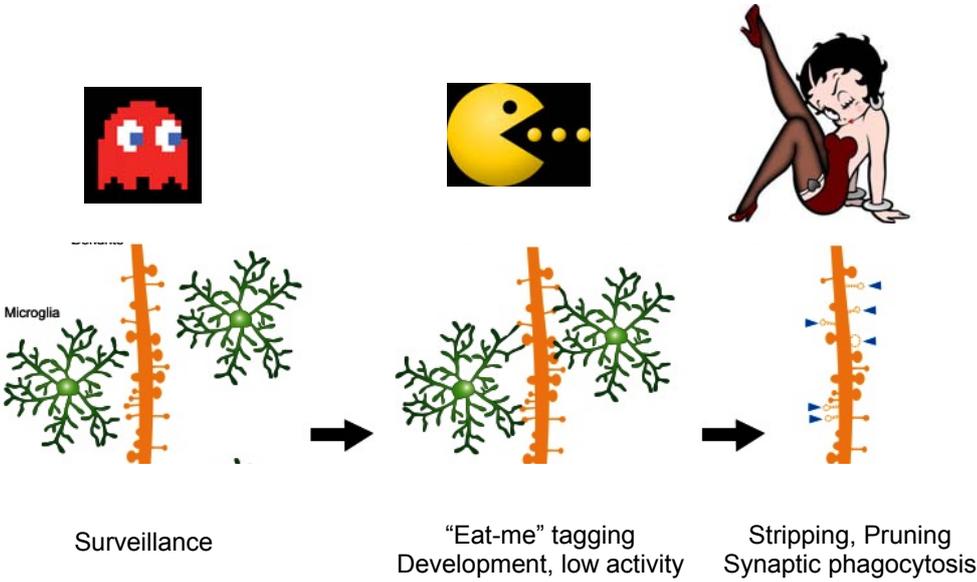
- Synapse elimination during development and disease: immune molecules take centre stage. (Schafer and Stevens, 2010)
- Enhanced synaptic connectivity and epilepsy in C1q knockout mice. (Chu et al., 2010)
- Microglia sculpt postnatal neural circuits in an activity and complement-dependent manner. (Schafer et al., 2012)
- The complement system: an unexpected role in synaptic pruning during development and disease. (Stephan et al., 2012)
- TGF- β signaling regulates neuronal C1q expression and developmental synaptic refinement. (Bialas & Stevens, 2013)
- Complement C3-Deficient Mice Fail to Display Age-Related Hippocampal Decline. (Shi et al., 2015)
- Complement and microglia mediate early synapse loss in Alzheimer mouse models. (Hong et al., 2016)
- A complement-microglial axis drives synapse loss during virus-induced memory impairment. (Vasek et al., 2016)
- Complement C3 deficiency protects against neurodegeneration in aged plaque-rich APP/PS1 mice. (Shi et al., 2017)



Beth Stevens, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Neurology

Children's Hospital Boston
300 Longwood Avenue
Center for Life Sciences 12th
Floor
Boston, MA 02115

C1q and C3 for synaptic elimination

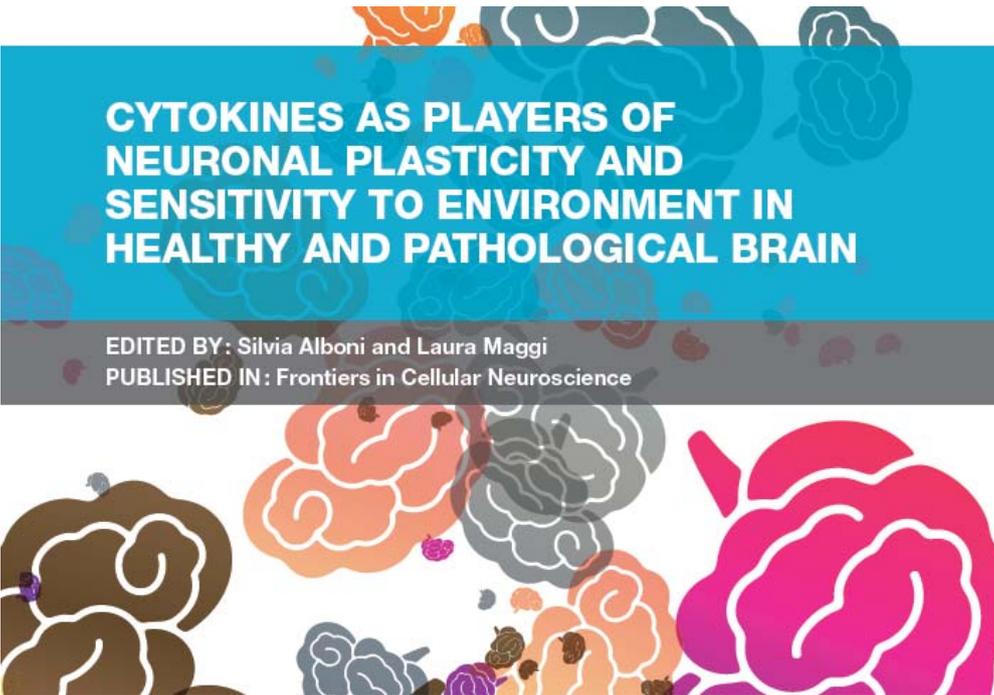


Miyamoto et al., 2013; Stevens et al., 2007

Part VI
Microglia in the tripartite synapse

Synaptoimmunology

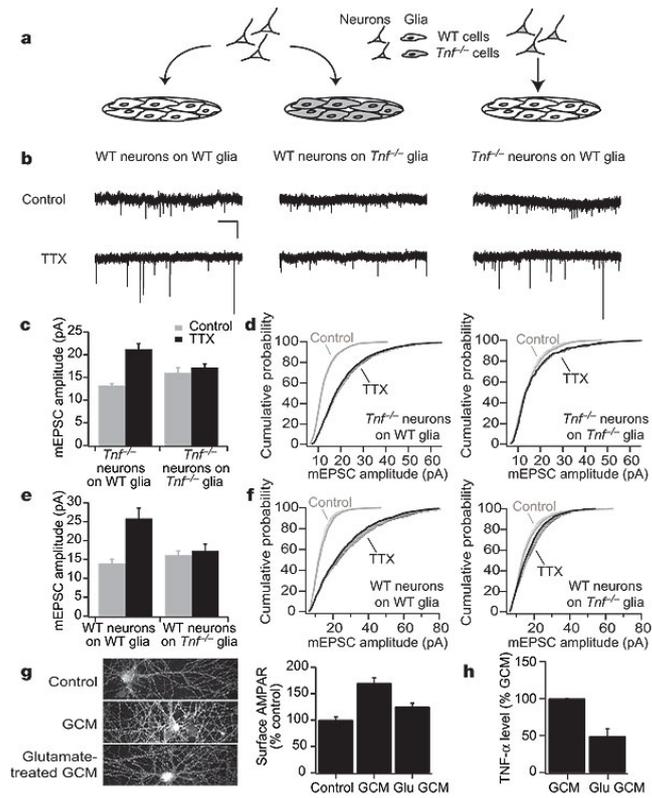
Cytokines regulate homeostatic plasticity
Synaptic scaling



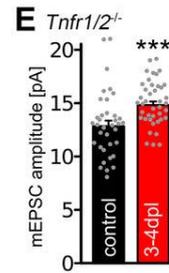
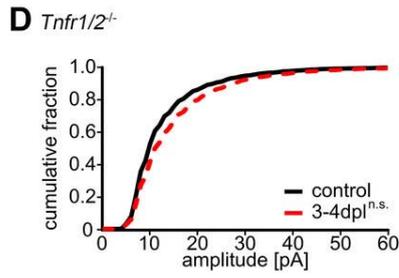
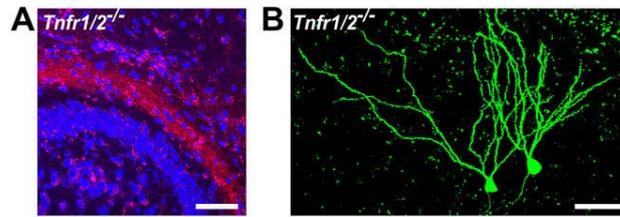
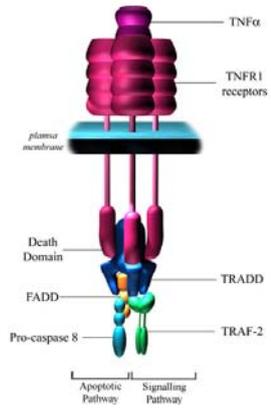
CYTOKINES AS PLAYERS OF NEURONAL PLASTICITY AND SENSITIVITY TO ENVIRONMENT IN HEALTHY AND PATHOLOGICAL BRAIN

EDITED BY: Silvia Alboni and Laura Maggi
PUBLISHED IN: *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*

TNF α Synaptic scaling

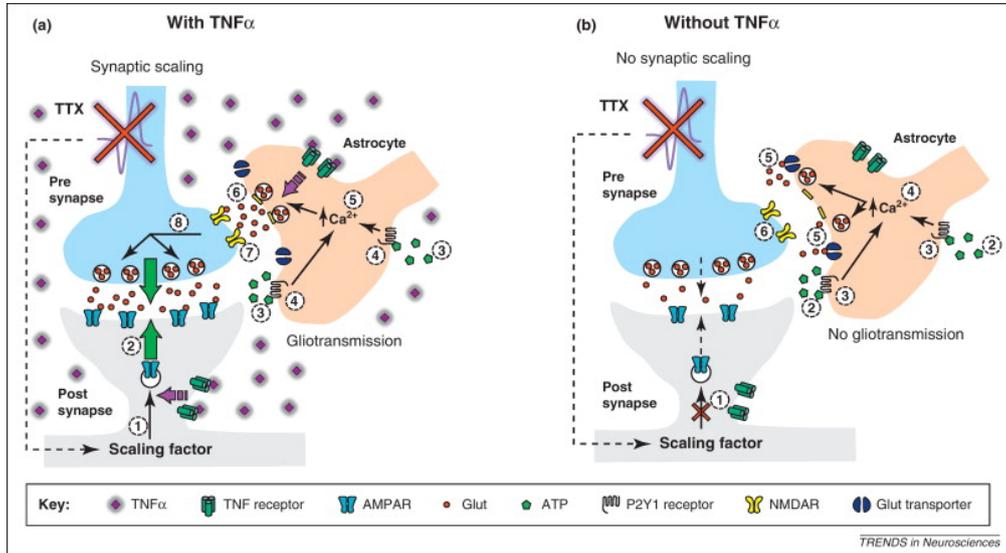


TNF α receptor (Tnfr1/2) Synaptic scaling



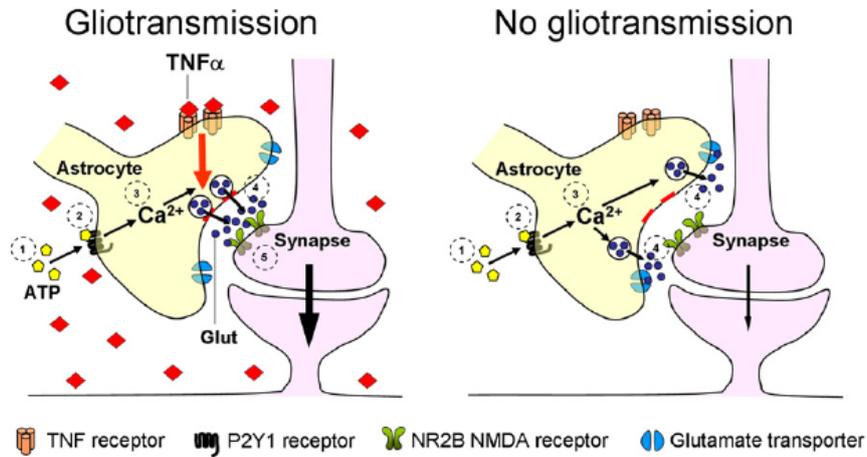
Becker et al., 2015

TNF α Synaptic scaling



Stellwagen et al., 2006; Santello et al., 2011, 2012

TNF α in synaptic function



Stellwagen et al., 2006; Santello et al., 2011, 2012

TNF α promotes DOCKING of glutamate vesicles
 Fusion is not possible without Calcium signaling
 Calcium signaling is induced by (between others) ATP signaling
 ATP might derive from (the same or other) astrocytes

Figure 7. Schematic Summary of the TNF α Control on Gliotransmission at PP-GC Synapses in the Hippocampal Dentate Gyrus

Left: in the presence of constitutive TNF α (red diamonds), astrocyte vesicles containing glutamate (Glut., blue dots) are functionally docked at putative active zones on the plasma membrane of a perisynaptic astrocytic process. When ATP (yellow pentangles) is released (1) from GC synapses or the astrocytes (Jourdain et al., 2007), it activates P2Y1 receptors (2) and causes Ca²⁺ release from the internal stores in the astrocyte microcompartment (3). This in turn triggers fusion of the astrocytic vesicles in proximity of presynaptic NR2B containing NMDARs (4), eventually causing an increase in excitatory synaptic activity (5).

Right: in the absence of TNF α , astrocytic glutamatergic vesicles are not correctly docked and ready to fuse. Therefore, when ATP triggers the usual signal-transduction in astrocytes, glutamate release occurs slowly and asynchronously and is scavenged by glutamate transporters before reaching pre-NMDA receptors to induce synaptic modulation.



Summary V-VII.

- Microglia are brain macrophages
- Sense synaptic activity with NT-receptors
- Eat-me and Eat-me-not
- Activity dependent synaptic shaping: tagging and stripping
- Cytokines (TNF α) and synaptic scaling



***Thanks for your
attention***