



Human Performance and Biosystems

March 2014

Spring Review

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Program Officer
AFOSR/RTE

Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Integrity ★ Service ★ Excellence



Human Performance and Biosystems Program



- Investigates scientific challenges of Bioenergy from cells
- Develops a mechanistic understanding of microbes, nanowires and their energy transfer processes
- Studies electrical transfer capabilities between biotic and abiotic surfaces

Air Force Relevance

Sensors: mapping of Brain/neural activity for cognitive enhancement

:Early detection of cell product and pathway processes



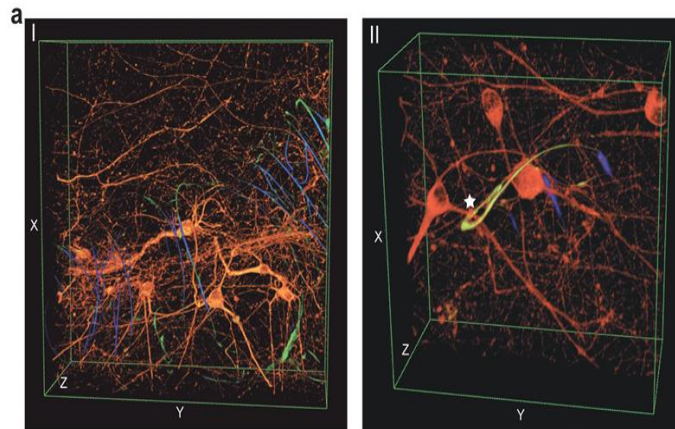
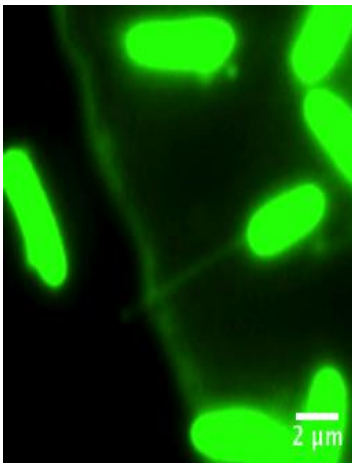
Areas of Emphasis



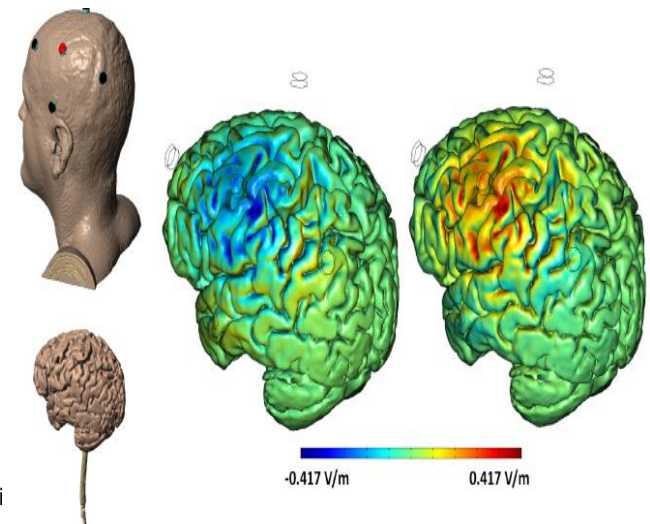
Biofilms/Nanowires – microbe communication, extracellular electron transfer, cyborg cell

Trans cranial direct current stimulation – neuronal pathways, biochemical/electrophysiological changes

Biomarkers – breath based, sweat based, odor based



Distribution A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimi





Program Trends



- Enzymatic/Microbial Fuel Cells
- Artificial Photosynthesis
- Algal oil generation
- Biofilm, Nanowires, Cyborg Cell
- tDCS
- Biomarkers



Program Interactions



tDCS/Cyborg cell



Microbes/nanowires

Biomarkers



BRI magnetic navigation

Synthetic Biology

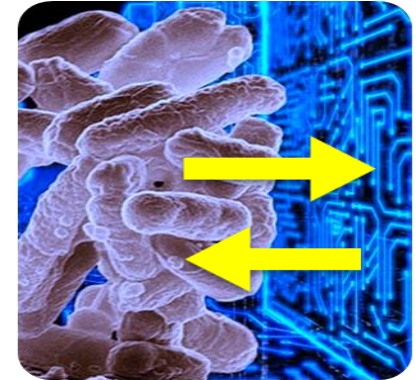




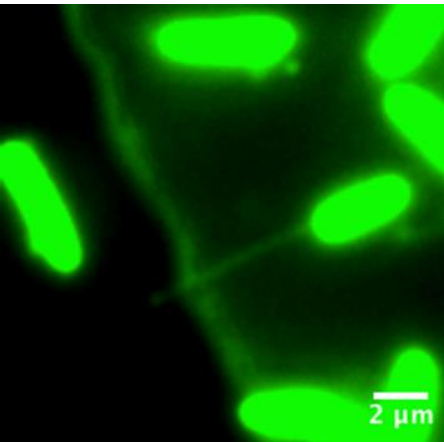
Biofilms and Nanowires Challenges



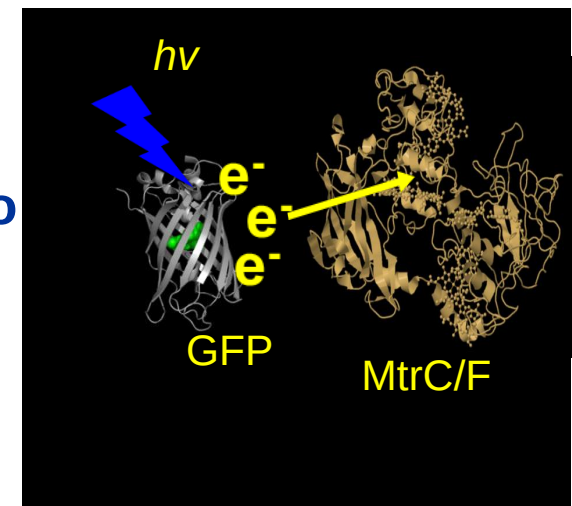
Channel electronic signals between synthetic devices and the electron transport chains of live cells



Develop solid-state and molecular (electrode-free) interfaces to bacterial nanowires, for control of cellular bioenergetics



Channel photo-excited states into donating electrons to multiheme cytochromes instead of fluorescence



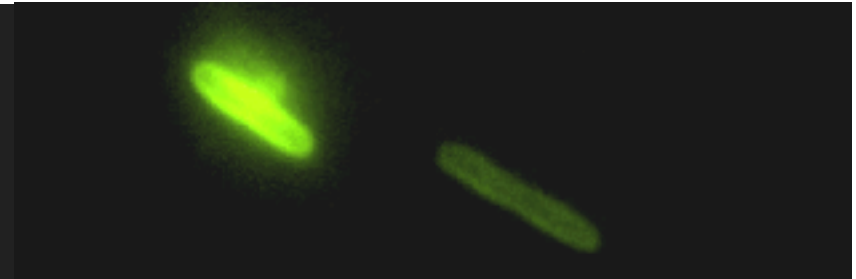


Control of Electron Exchange via Bacterial Nanowires at Hybrid Living-Synthetic Interfaces

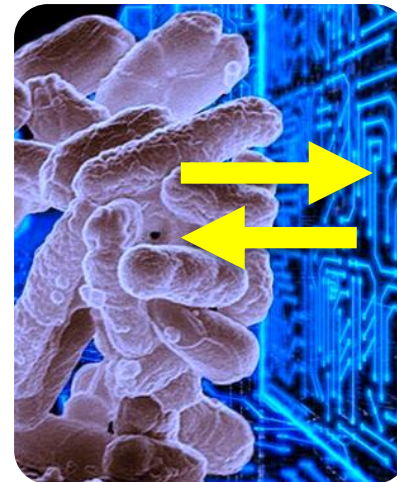
El-Naggar (USC)



Physiological switch: Developed methodology to physiologically induce bacterial nanowires in microfluidic devices as shown here by switching to extracellular respiration conditions.



Next-generation sequencing



Synthetic interface to device via cell metabolic activity

Can we achieve a genetic switch?

Long-term goal: Synthetic biology approach for transferring the extracellular electron transport function naturally existing in microbes to other cell types.

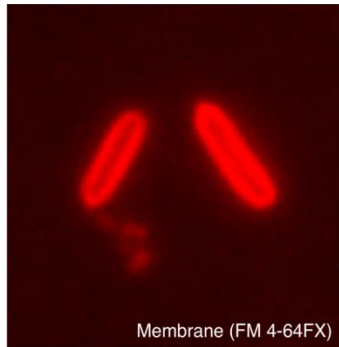
Can we “plug” cells directly to synthetic devices using this same methodology?

Long-term goal: Connecting and powering a synthetic device using cellular metabolic activity

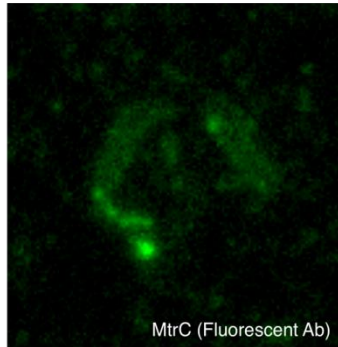


Extracellular Electron Transport: Bacterial Nanowires

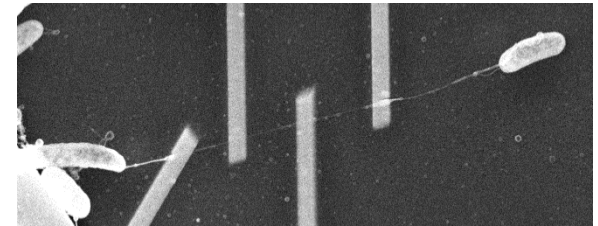
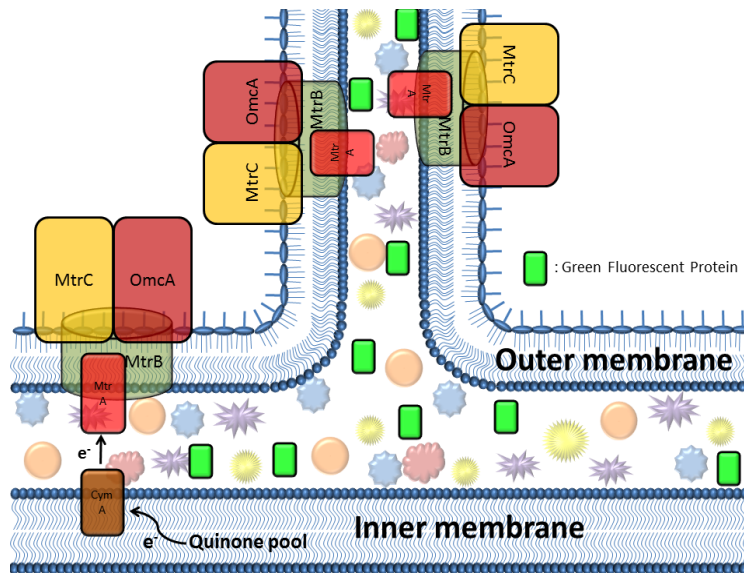
Discover the **nanoscale** spatial organization of electron transport proteins in bacterial nanowires



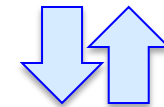
Membrane (FM 4-64FX)



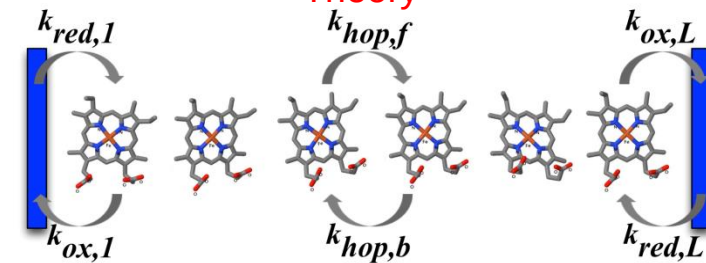
MtrC (Fluorescent Ab)



Experiment



Theory



Goal - channel electronic signals between synthetic devices and the electron transport chains of live cells.



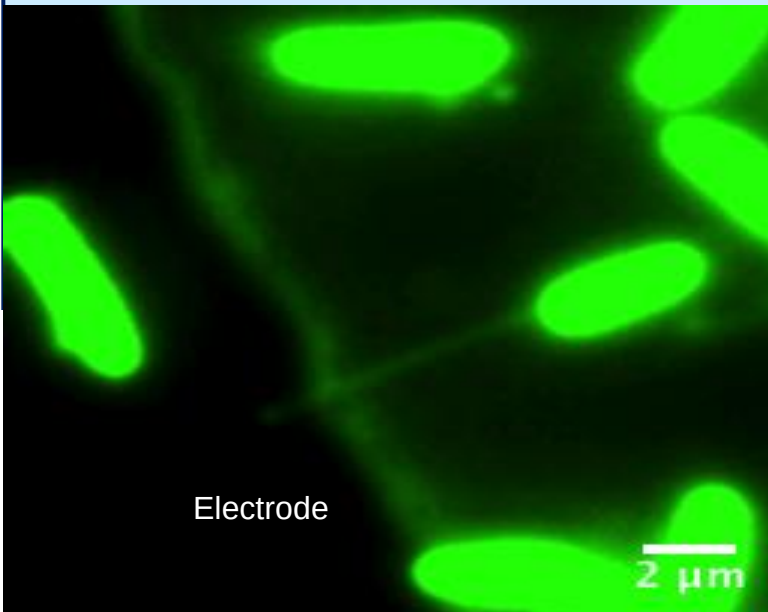
Interfacing to the Electron Transport Chain of Living Cells



Develop both **solid-state and molecular (electrode-free) interfaces to bacterial nanowires**, to control cell bioenergetics

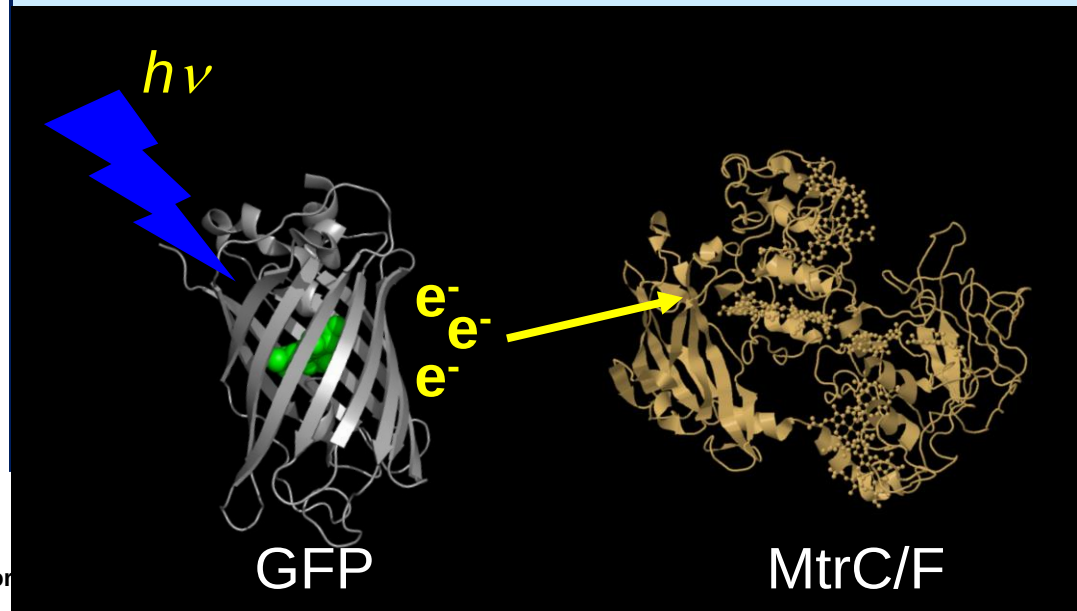
Solid-state interfaces:

Nanowires membrane = lipid-based. Does a phospholipid-coated metaloxide electrode increase connectivity?



Molecular “Stealth” interfaces:

Basic idea: channel photo-excited states into donating electrons to multiheme cytochromes instead of fluorescence.

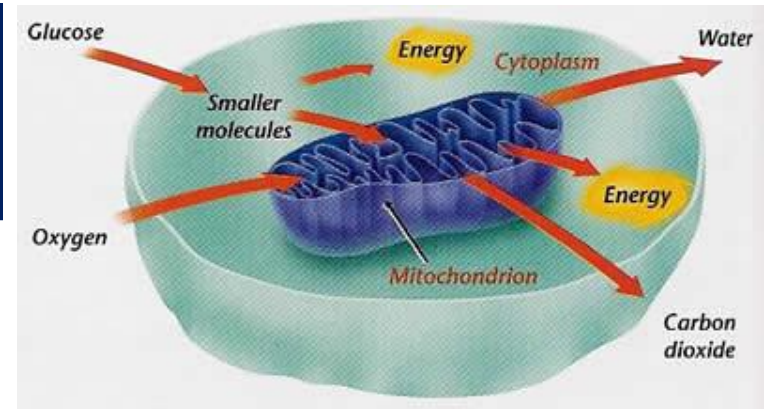




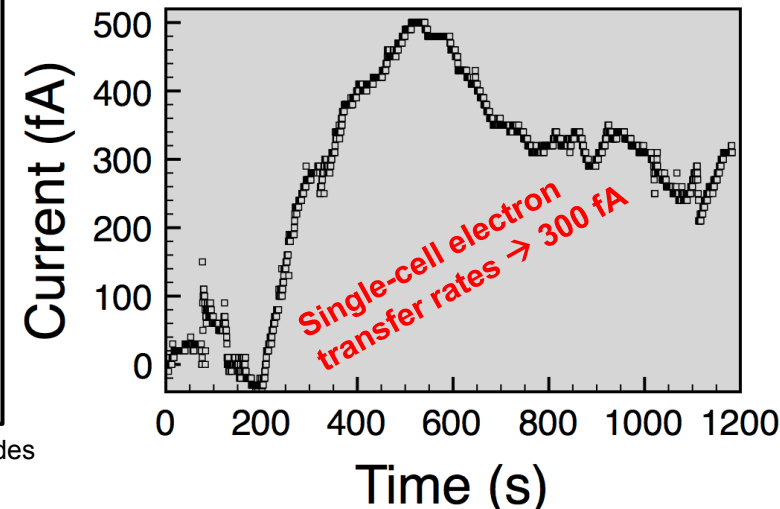
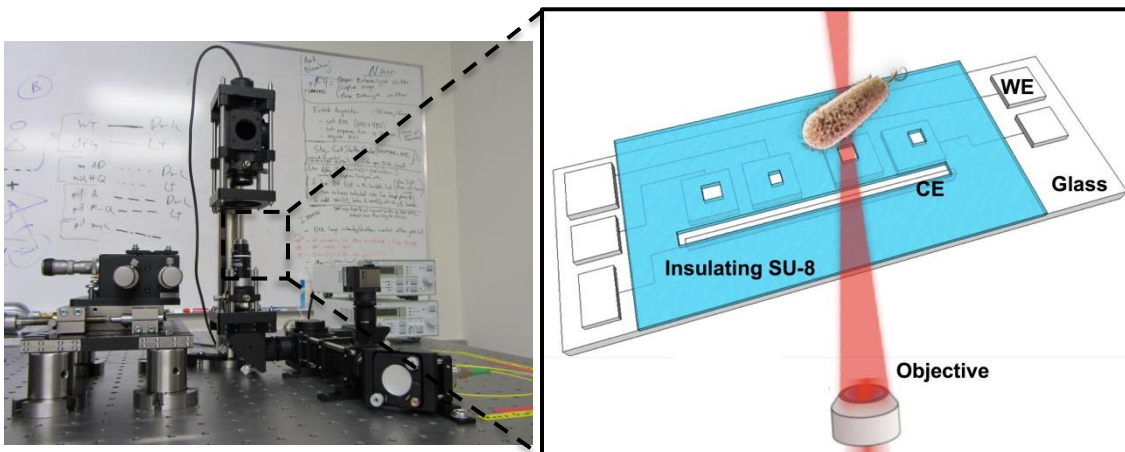
Transfer our Knowledge to Eukaryotic Cells: Mitochondrial Electron Transport



Can bacterial extracellular electron transport and bacterial nanowire functionality be relevant to mitochondria?



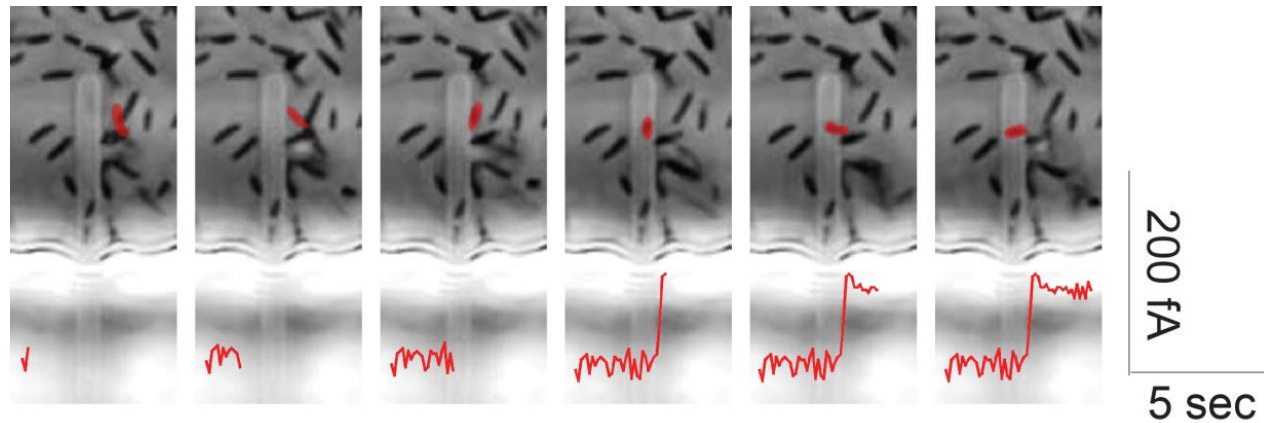
Adapt a technology developed for bacterial electron transport, while studying the feasibility of expressing bacterial ET components in mitochondria (high risk):



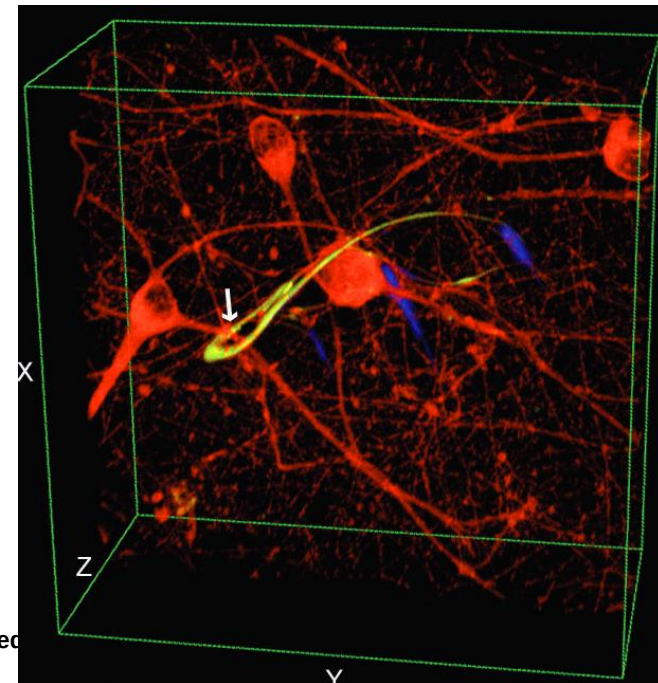
Manipulation and ET measurements of individual microbes on microscale "landing pad" electrodes



Nanoelectronic Structures for Single Cell to Cell- Network Interfaces – Cyborg Cell

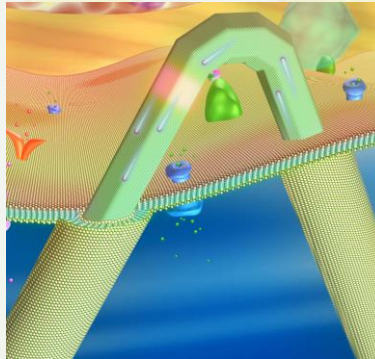
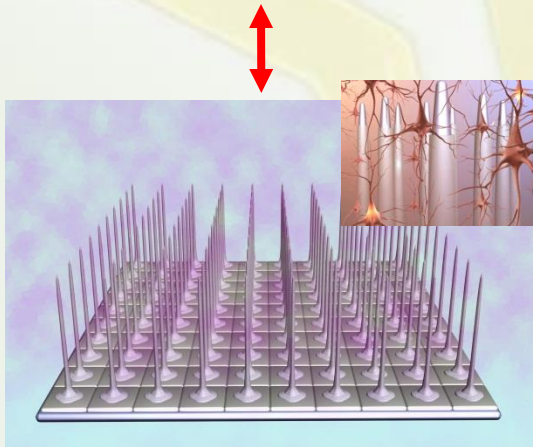
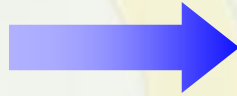
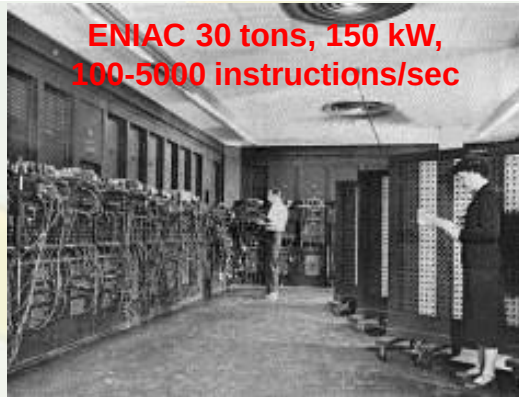


Charles M. Lieber
Harvard University

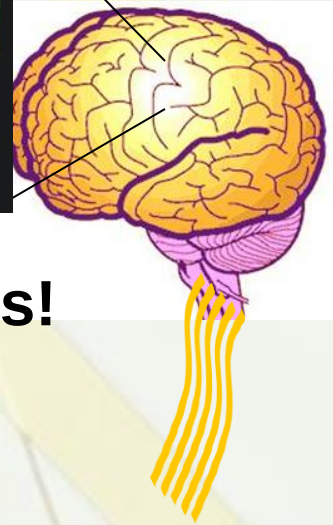
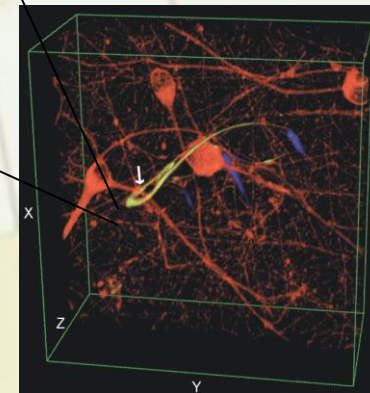




Future: Interfaces to Cells, Tissue & Organs



Novel Tools!



New Materials!

***“Blur the distinction between
electronic devices, circuits,
living cells & tissue!”***



Nanoelectronic Structures for Single Cell to Cell- Network Interfaces to “tissues” - Cyborg Cell

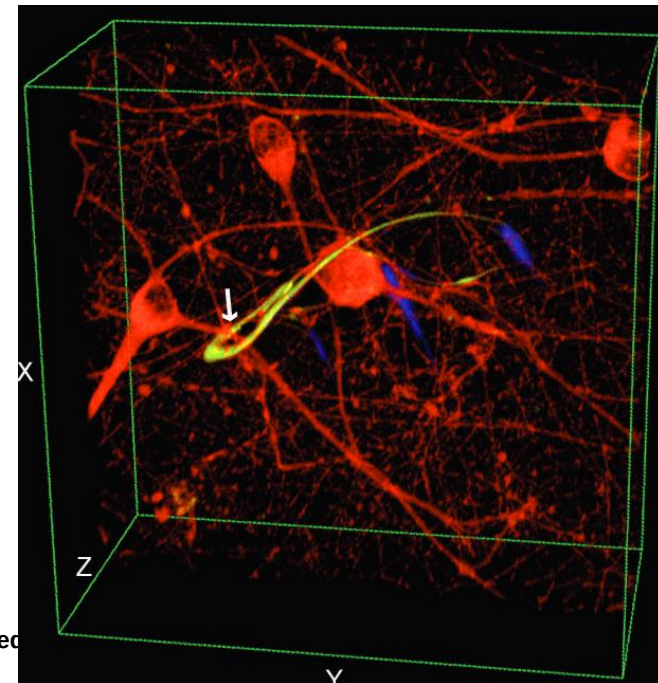


Challenges:

- Finding external energy source
- Determining how to manipulate and measure organelle changes
- How to deliver this to the system

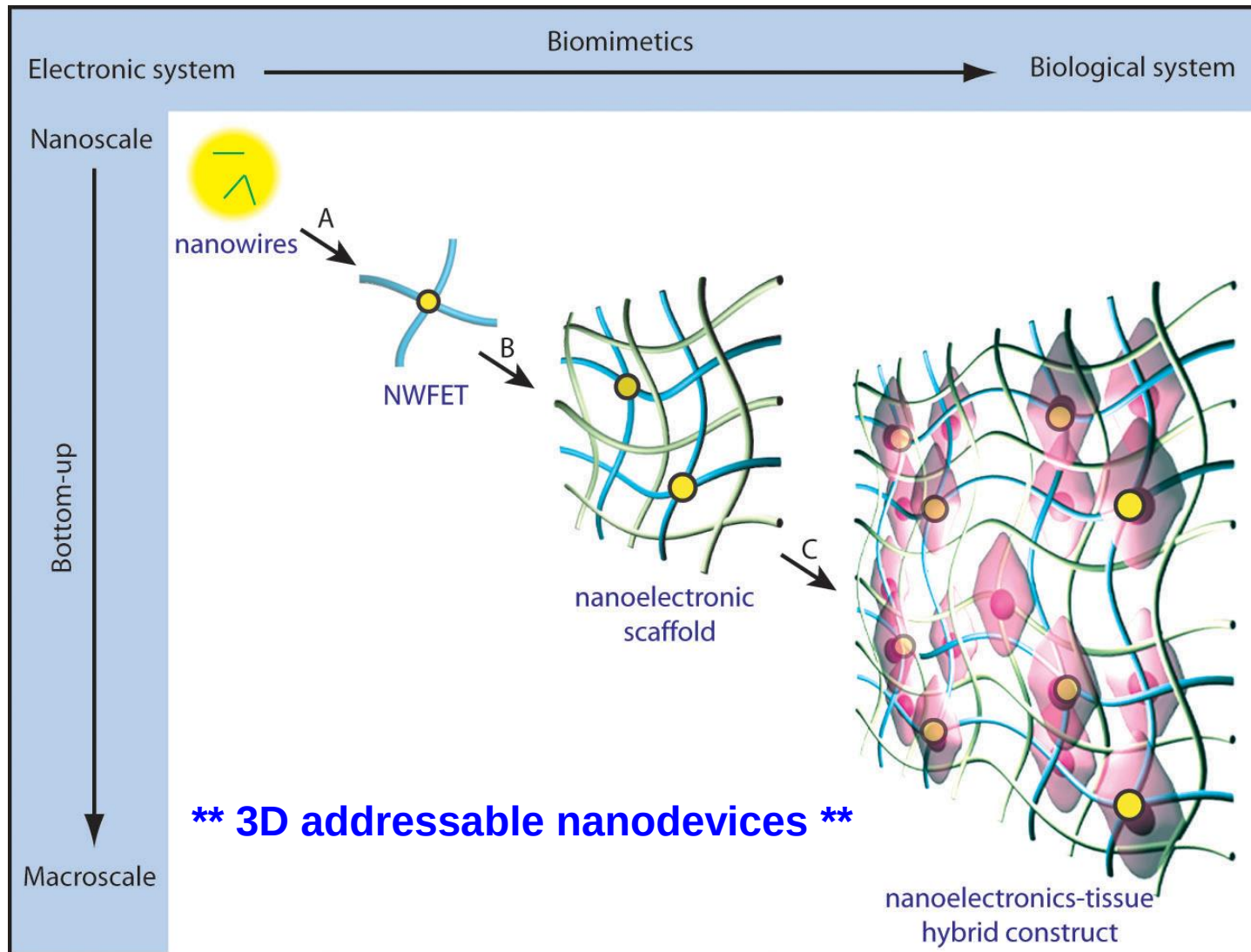
Charles M. Lieber

Harvard University



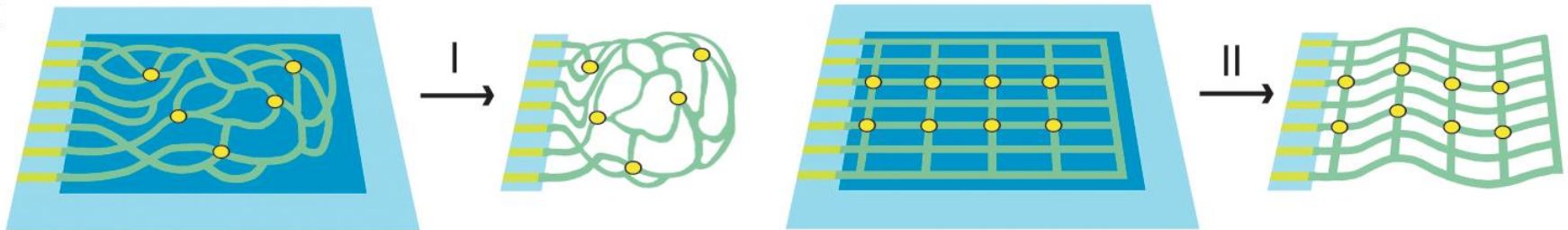


Macroporous 3D Nanoelectronics: Cyborg Tissue

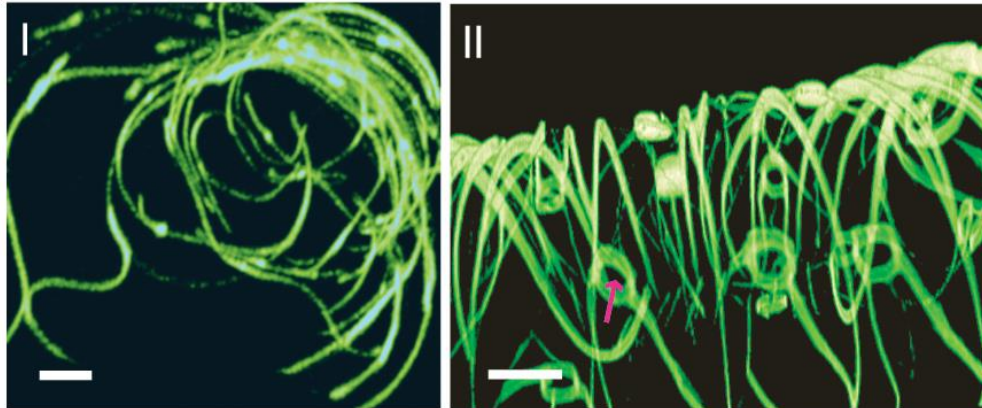




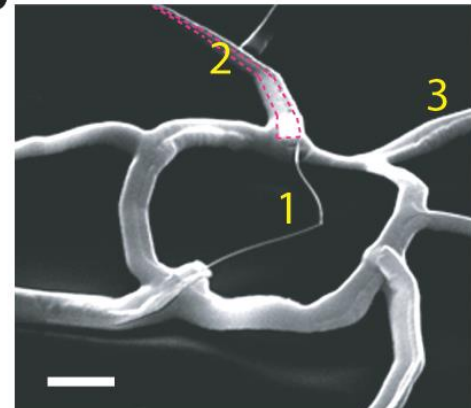
3D Macroporous Nanoelectronic Scaffolds



b



c

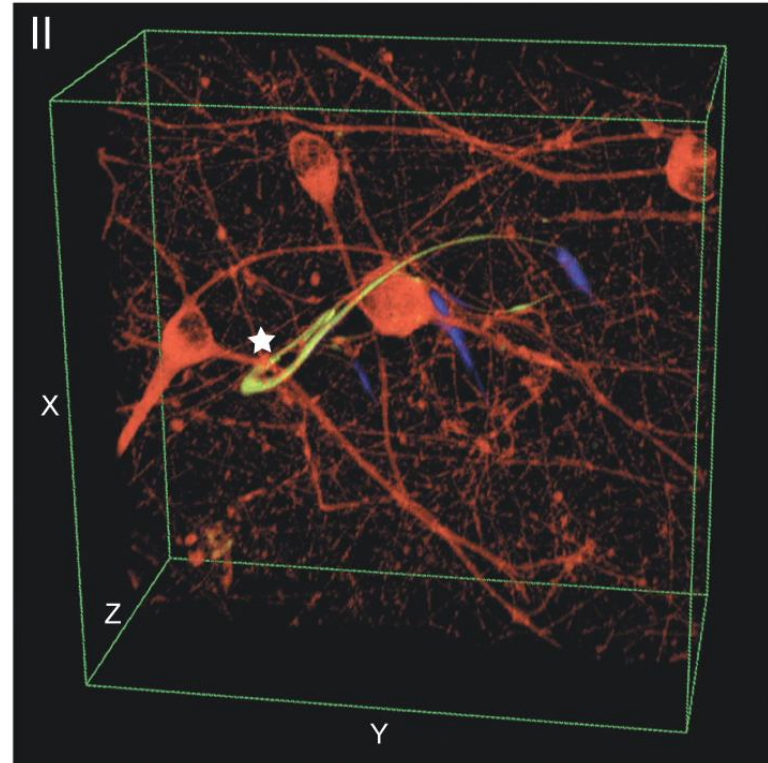
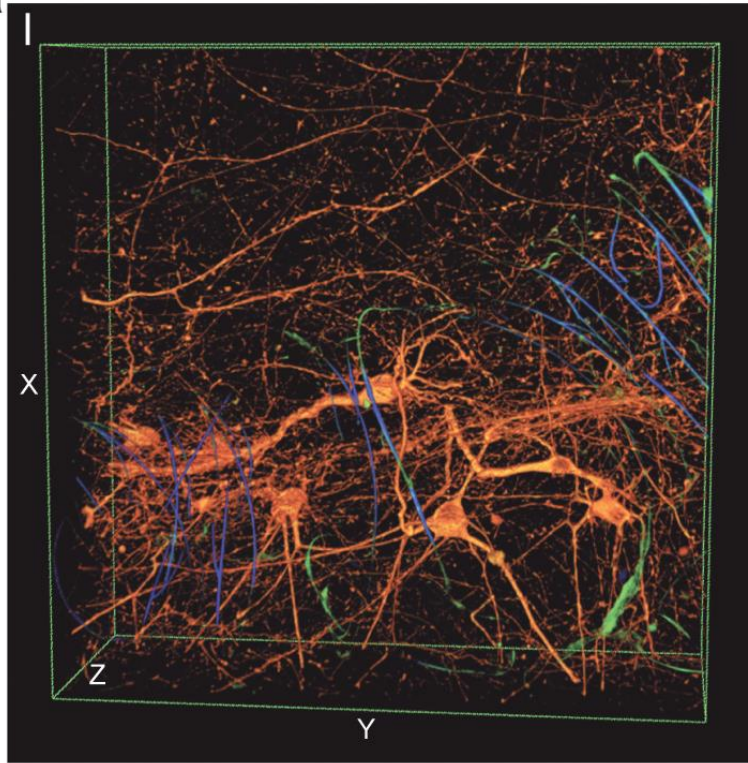


- 3D nanoelectronic scaffolds matrix prepared from 2D structures that are fully released from substrate.
- 3D scaffolds can exceed thickness $\gg 1\text{mm}$ and maintain all key feature on micron-to-nanometer scale similar to natural biological scaffolds



'Cyborg' Neural Tissue

a



3D neural tissue 'innervated' with 3D nanoelectronic circuitry – future is only limited by our imagination!



Applied Neuroscience AFRL/RHCP



Neurobiological effects of direct current stimulation



Goal: provide protection and enhanced performance to the warfighter



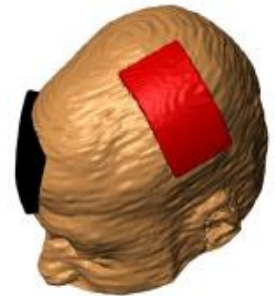
Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation tDCS



- Non-invasive, portable, well-tolerated neuromodulation.
- Low-intensity (1-2mA) current passed between scalp electrodes.
- Clinically used for: Depression, pain, migraine, epilepsy, PTSD, schizophrenia, tinnitus, rehabilitation, TBI, attention deficit, autism
- In laboratory setting used for: accelerated learning (reading, motor skills, threat detection), memory...etc.

QUESTION - Does a “simple” directed current modulate brain function? If so, how does it work, what does it change, what are associated with the changes, are they repeatable, why do changes take place....

“Cellular Mechanisms of Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation”, PI - Marom Bikson, CUNY





Transcranial DirectCurrent Stimulation

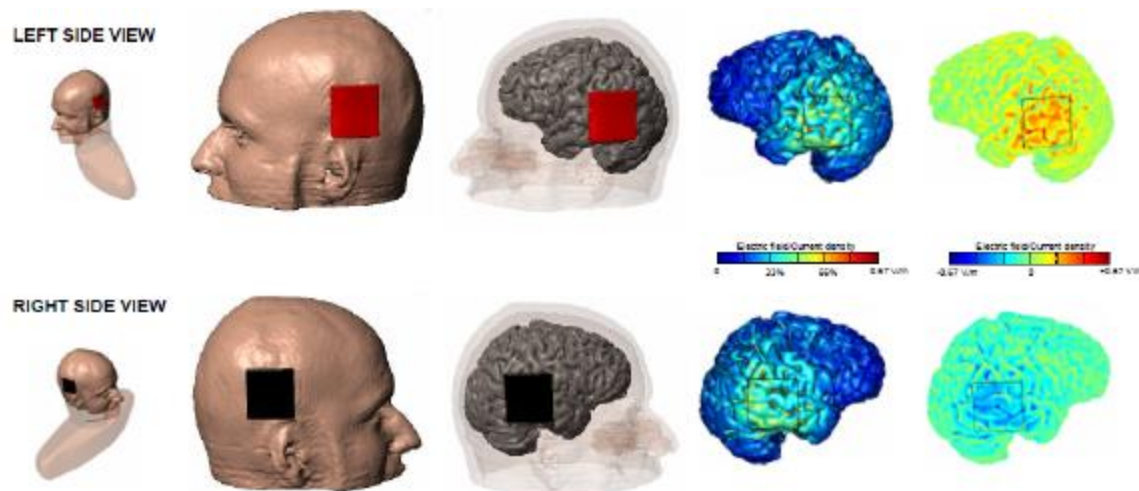


Two pad electrodes placed on head and connected to DC current stimulator.

Current passed between ANODE(+) and CATHODE(-)

DC CURRENT FLOW across cortex.

Current is INWARD under ANODE and OUTWARD under CATHODE



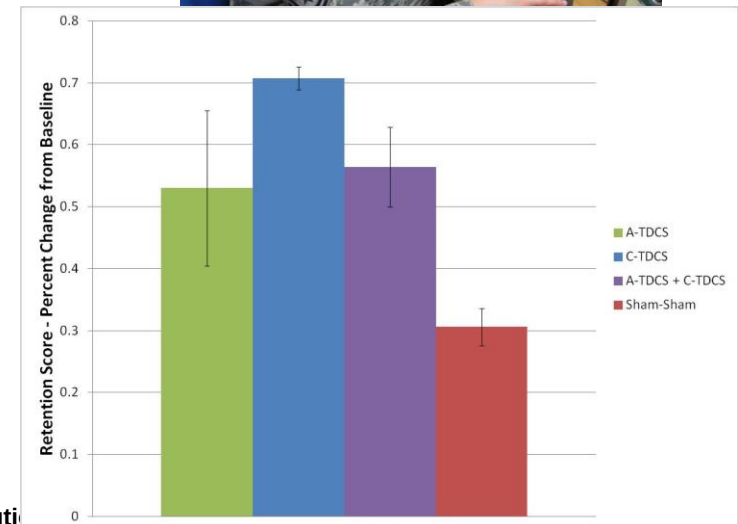
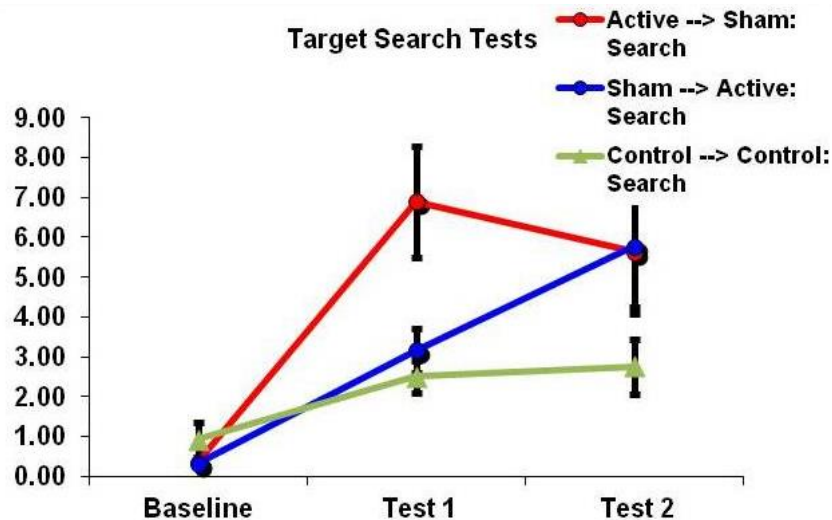
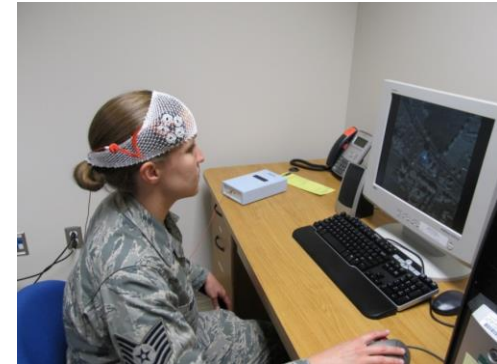


Introduction

tDCS



- Intervention/Treatment for neurological Disorders: Parkinson's, Psychiatric Disease & Stroke
- Cognitive improvements reported in both Disease and Control Populations
- Increased Cerebral Oxygen Saturation
- Improved Target Detection



Andy McKinley, PhD - AFRL

Distribution A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited



Hypothesis



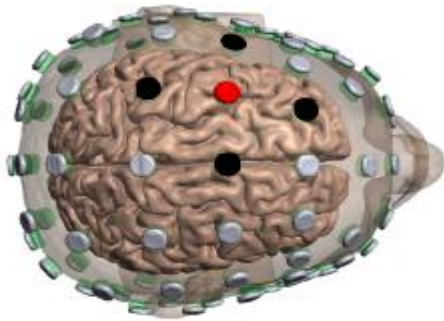
Purpose of study: Identify biological pathways thought responsible for enhanced cognitive performance after tDCS

- **Objective 1: Identify pathways recruited by single bout of tDCS.**
- **Objective 2: Determine effects of repeated tDCS when coupled with training.**

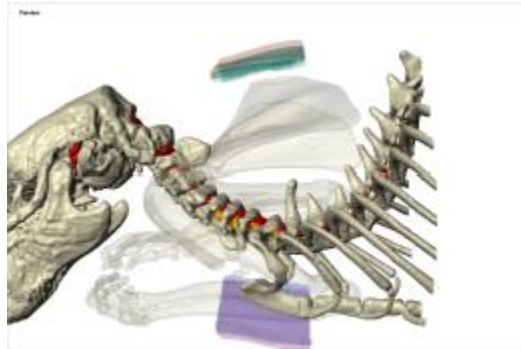


tDCS Research at CUNY

Computational Models



Animal DCS

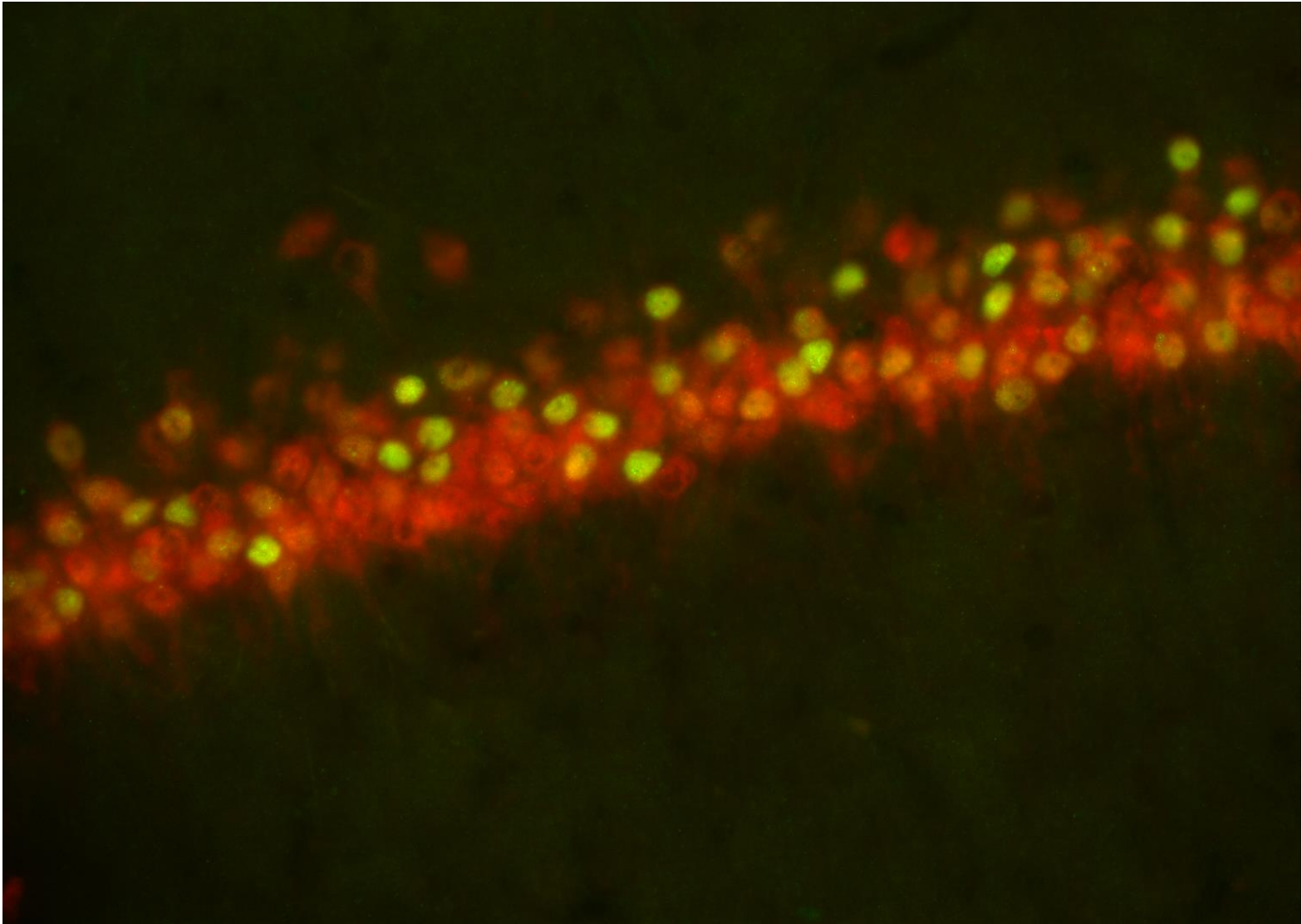


Tissue/Brain Slice tDCS



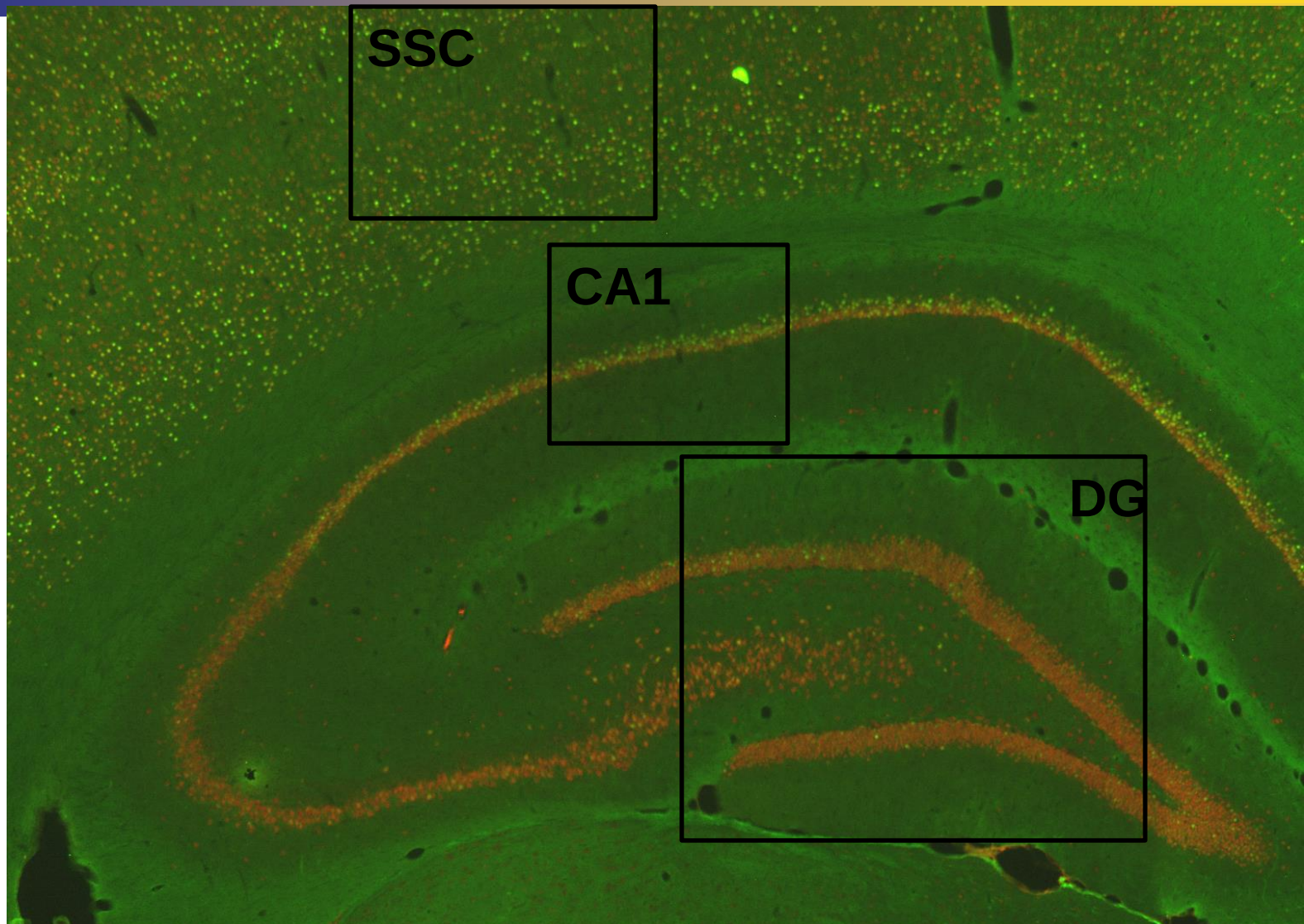


Immunohistochemistry





Immunohistochemistry





tDCS Summary



- Molecular, anatomical and genetic approach to studying changes associated with tDCS.
- Anecdotal evidence prevalent not much hard science to support claims
- 2 studies on going in Air Force Research Laboratory, one currently underway in academic setting looking at mechanisms.
- Potential benefit if positive results – decrease neurological fatigue, increased awareness, shortened learning time to task, focused attention



Biomarkers



- Interested in discovering new biomarkers from sweat, breath and odor associated with sweat and breath
- F22 grounding may have been prevented if O2 system was monitored and sensor development was available
 - Current new study looking at breath biomarker to determine early stage of hypoxia.
- Additional study for FY14 funding looking at the analytical identification of stress odors from human breath
- Potential benefit – if we can find a problem before it happens we can avoid costly mistakes



Summary



- Molecular, anatomical and genetic approach to studying microbe physiology and electron transfer.
- Microbial mechanisms led to communication capabilities and cyborg cell development idea
- Cyborg cell and 3D nanoelectric scaffold enables cellular communication from outside cell and ability to “program” individual cell as well as “correct”, change, direct cell to target.
- Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation studies are underway to determine the efficacy of this modality.