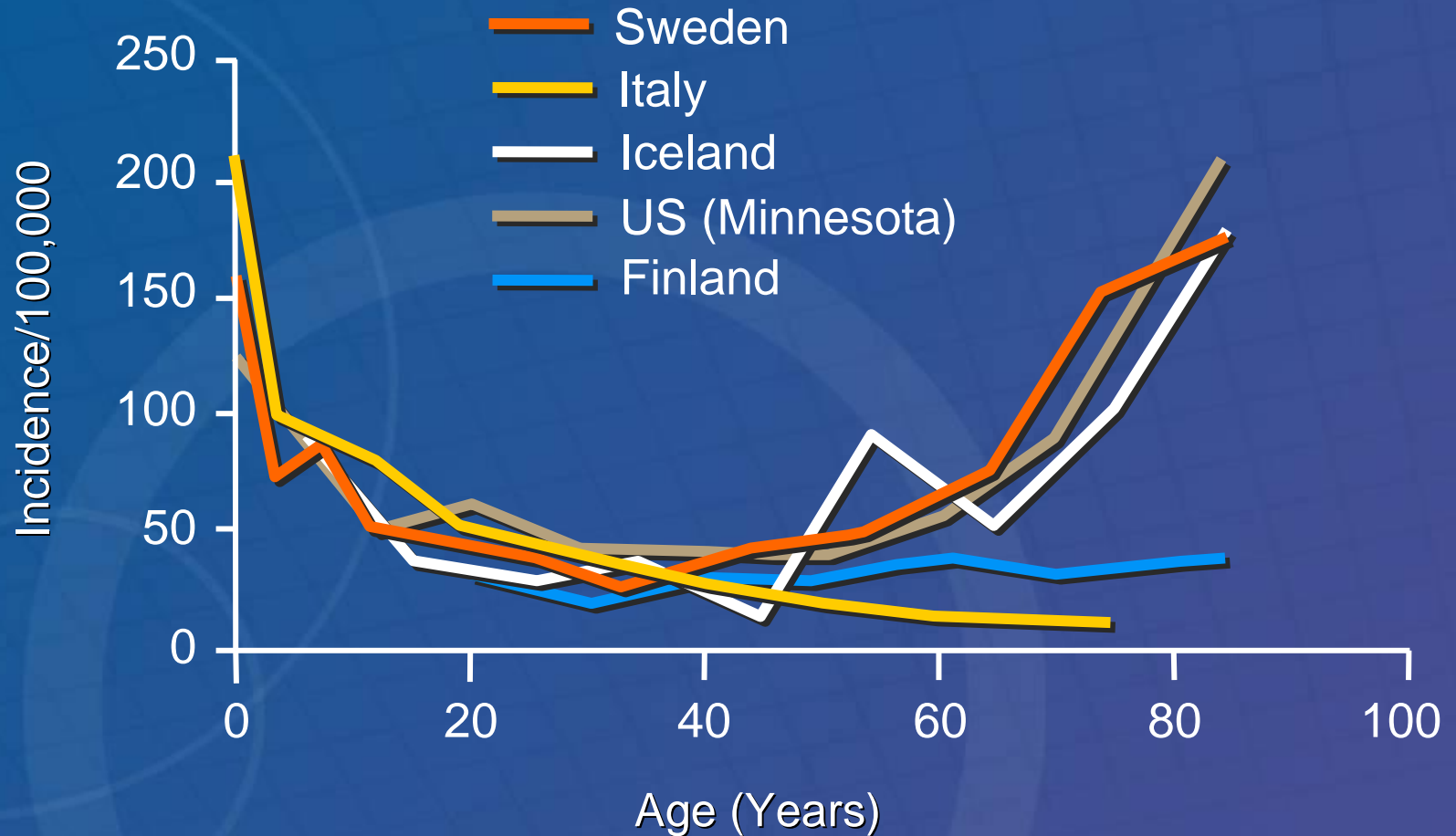


Therapeutics of the Developing Nervous System: Epilepsy as a Model



Gregory L. Holmes, MD
Department of Neurology
Dartmouth Medical School
Hanover, New Hampshire

Higher Incidence of Epilepsy in the Young and Elderly



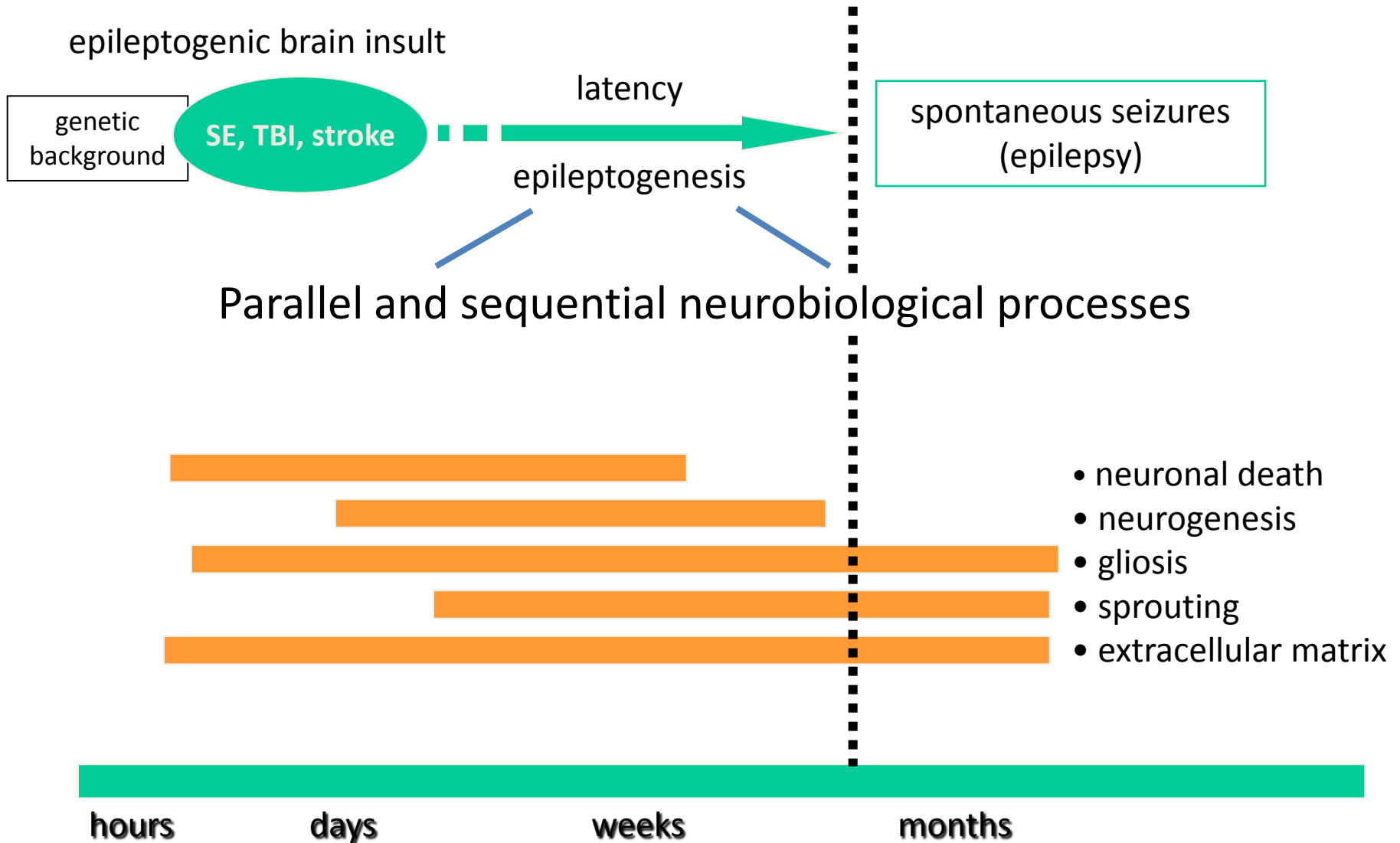
Adapted from Hauser. In: *Epilepsy: A Comprehensive Textbook*. 1997.



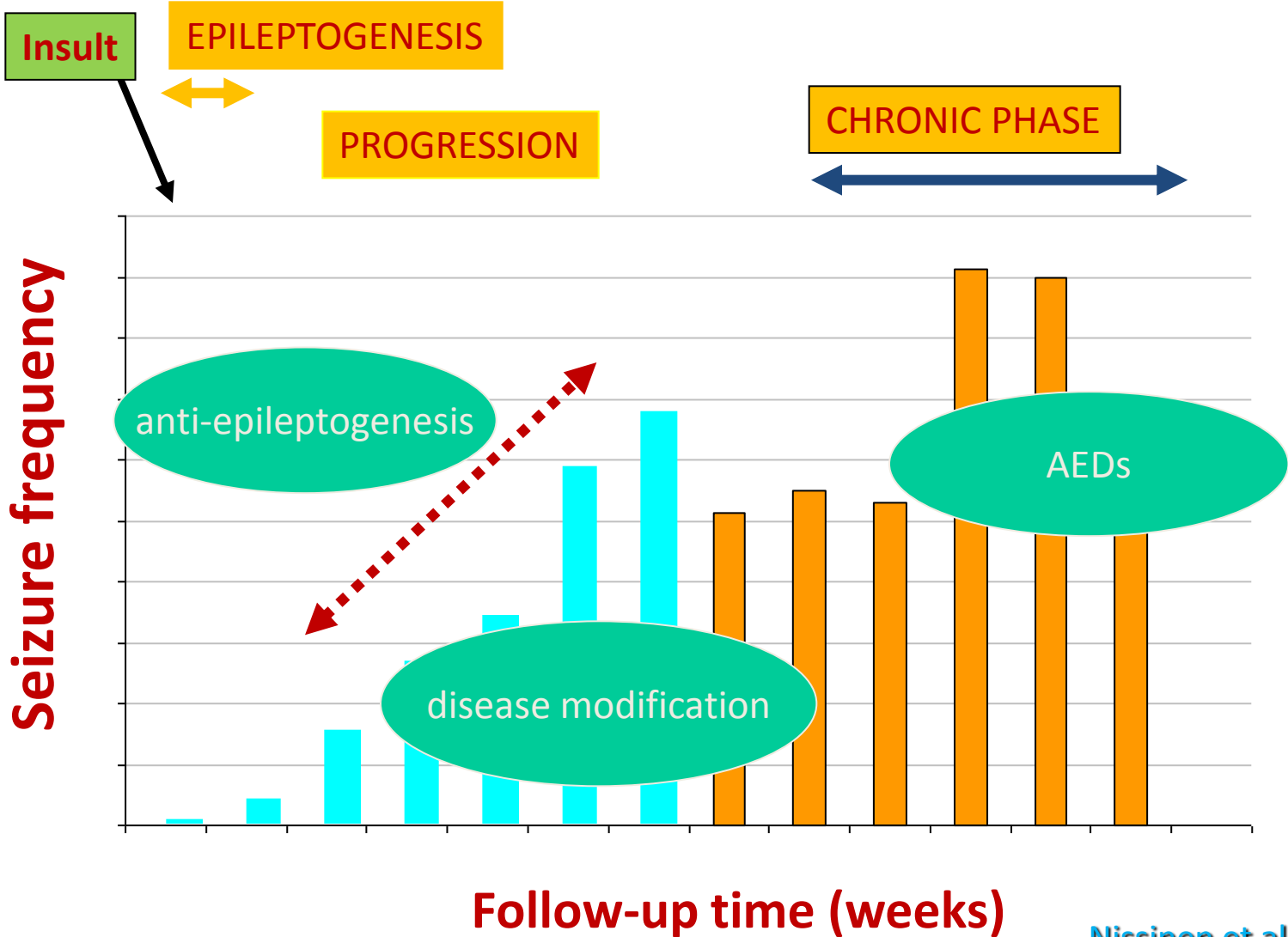
Targeting Epilepsy

- Prevention of epileptogenesis
- Treating seizures
 - Status epilepticus
 - Spontaneous recurrent seizures
- Treating consequences of seizures

Acquired Epileptogenesis



Progression of Epileptic Process in Rat



Animal Models of Seizures - Acquired

- Electrical
 - Maximum electrical shock
 - Self-sustaining status epilepticus
 - Kindling
- Chemoconvulsant
 - Pentylentetrazol
 - Bicuculline
 - Picrotoxin
 - Kainic acid
 - Pilocarpine
 - Flurothyl
- Chemo-non-convulsive
 - γ -hydroxybutyrate
 - THIP
 - Penicillin
- Hyperthermia
- Chemical Kindling
 - Pentylentetrazol
 - Picrotoxin
 - Bicuculline
 - Beta carboline
- Hypoxia
- Focally injected convulsants
 - Alumina gel
 - Tetanus toxin
 - Cephalosporins
 - Iron
 - Penicillin
- Trauma
- Stroke
- Radiation

Animal Models of Seizures - Genetic

- Spontaneous single-locus mouse mutants
 - Spike-wave
 - Tottering
 - Lethargic
 - Ducky
 - Stargazer
 - Convulsive
 - Jimpy
 - Jittery
 - Quaking
 - Staggerer
 - Torpid
 - Convulsions evoked by sensory stimuli
 - Frings
 - Lurcher
- Spontaneous seizures and developmental disruptions
 - Flathead rat
 - Tish rat
- Models of Absence
 - WAG/Rij
 - Strasbourg
- Transgenic and targeted gene knockout models
 - $AKv_{1.1a}-K^+$
 - Gabb1
 - Gabb3
 - Kcna1
 - Lcnq2
 - Scn1b
 - Scn2a



Proliferation



9 MONTHS

ADULT



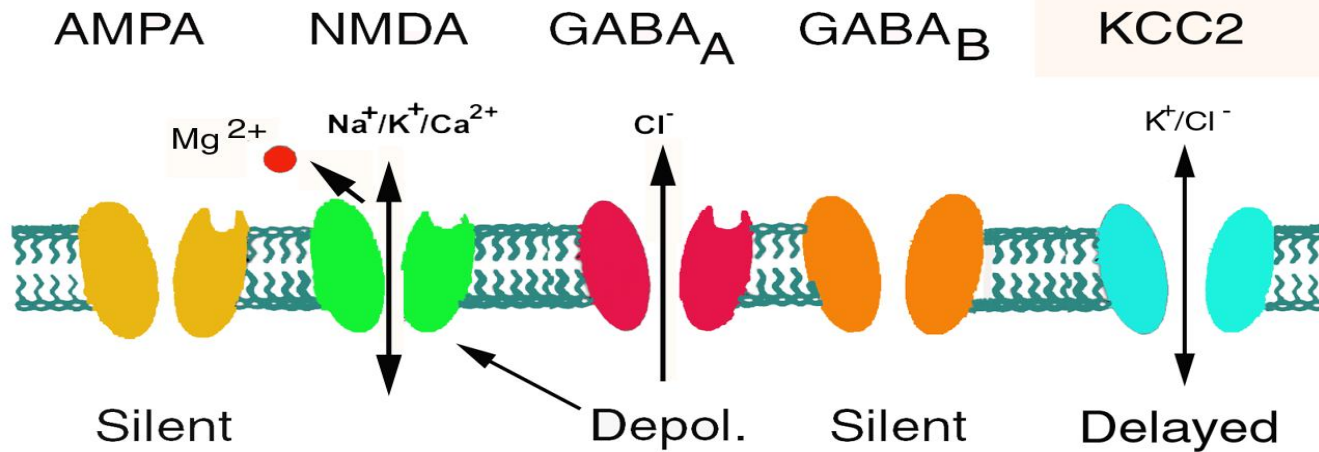
Conception

Gestation

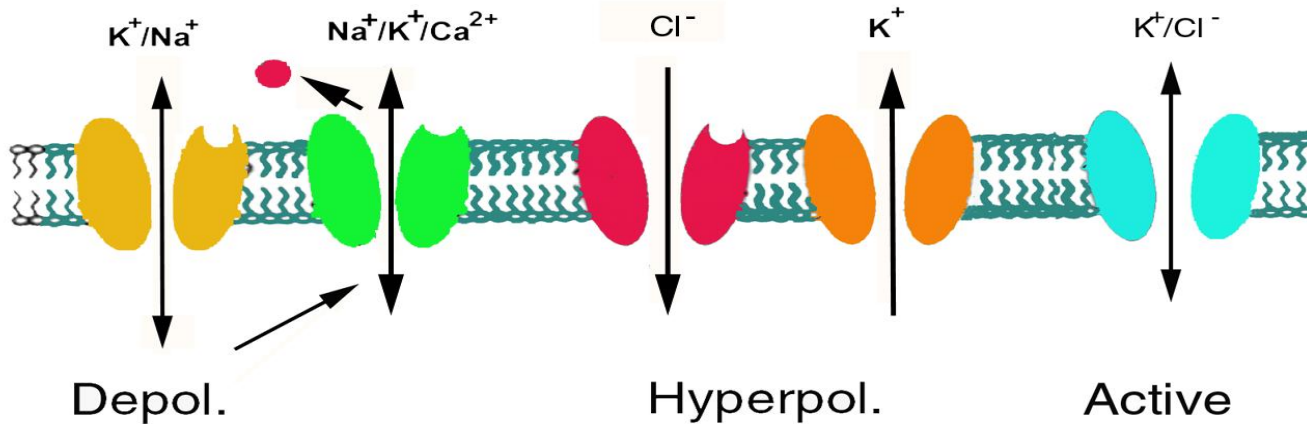
270 Days

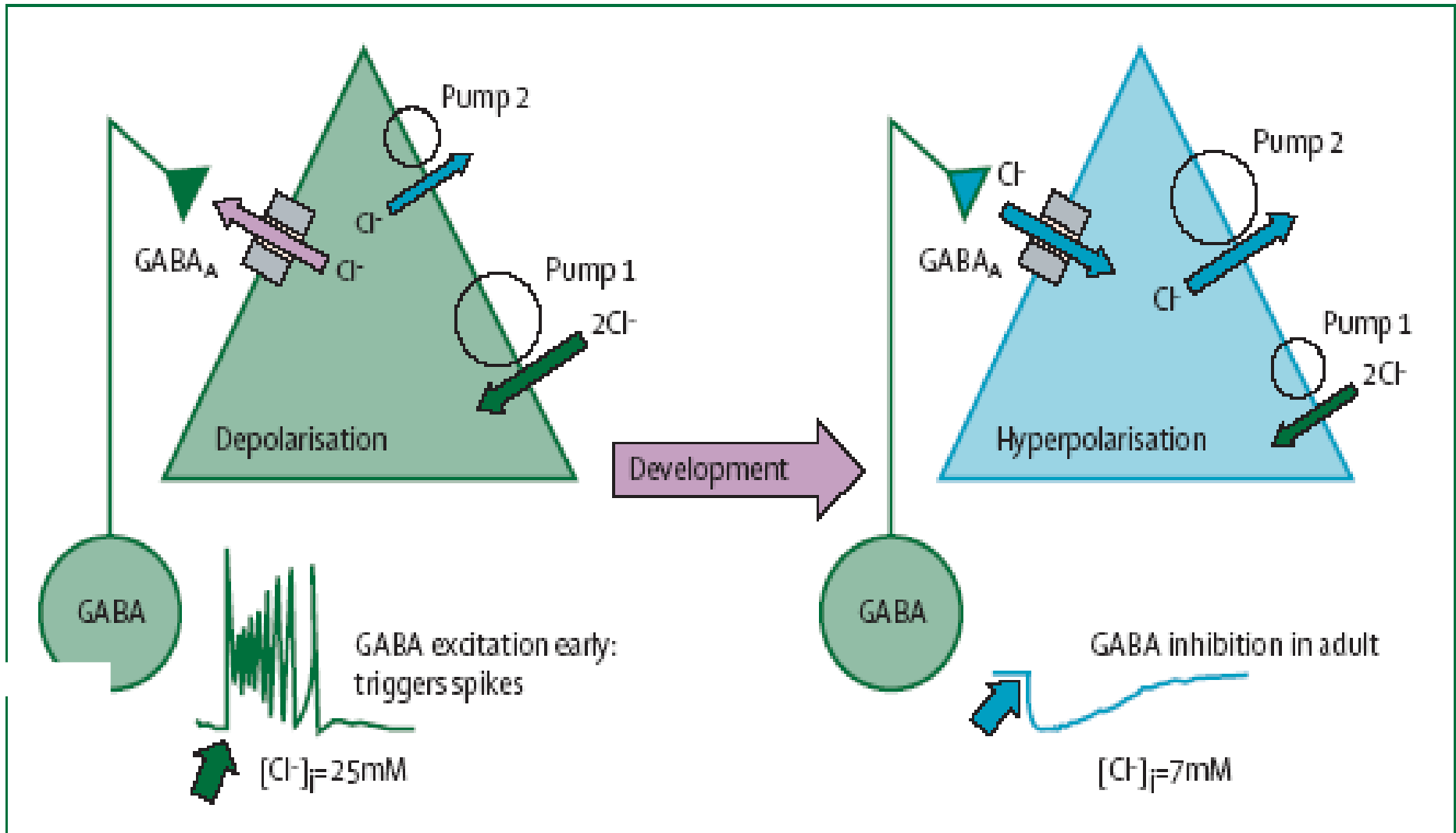
Developmental Aspects of Receptor Development

Newborn



Adult



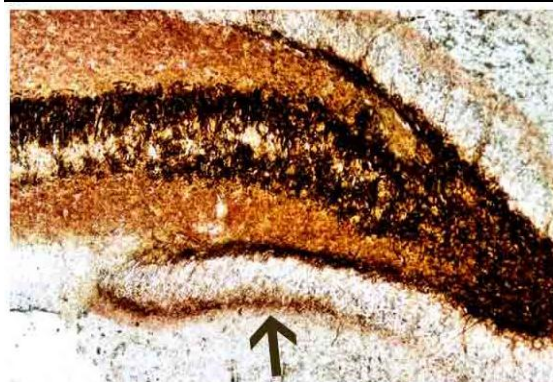
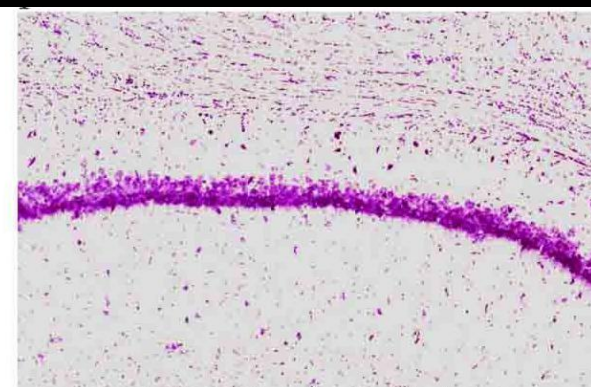
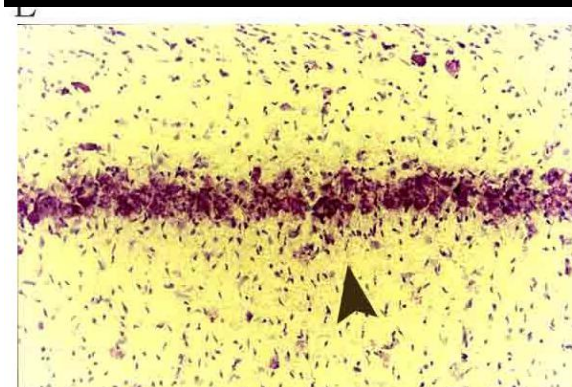
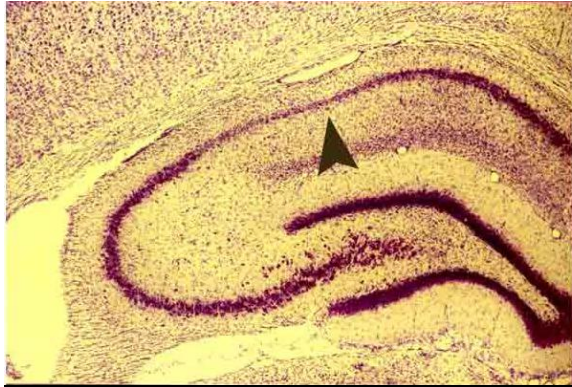


Flurothyl Model of Neonatal Seizures

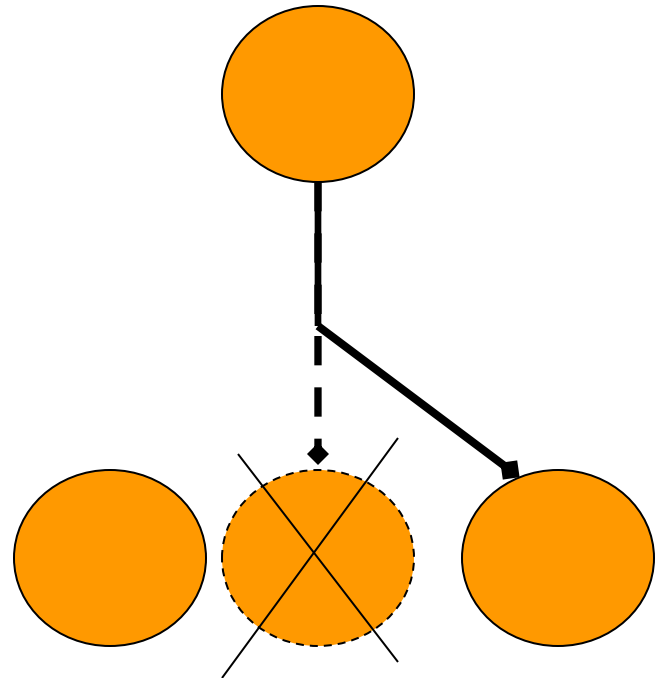
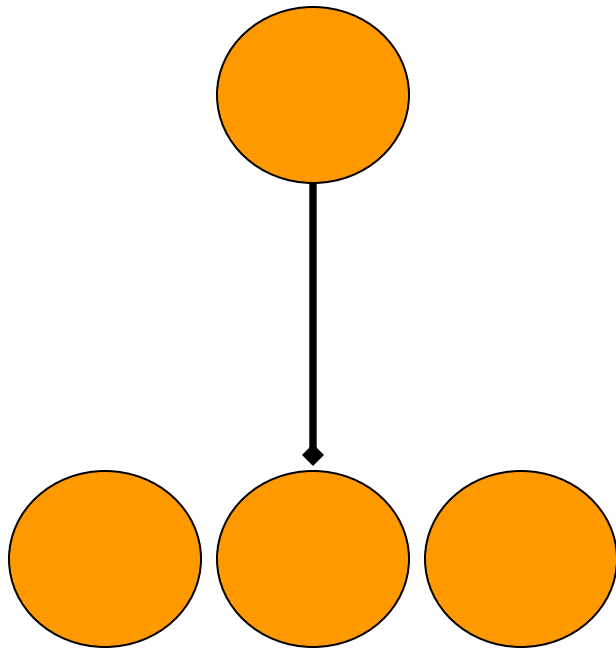


Adult Sz

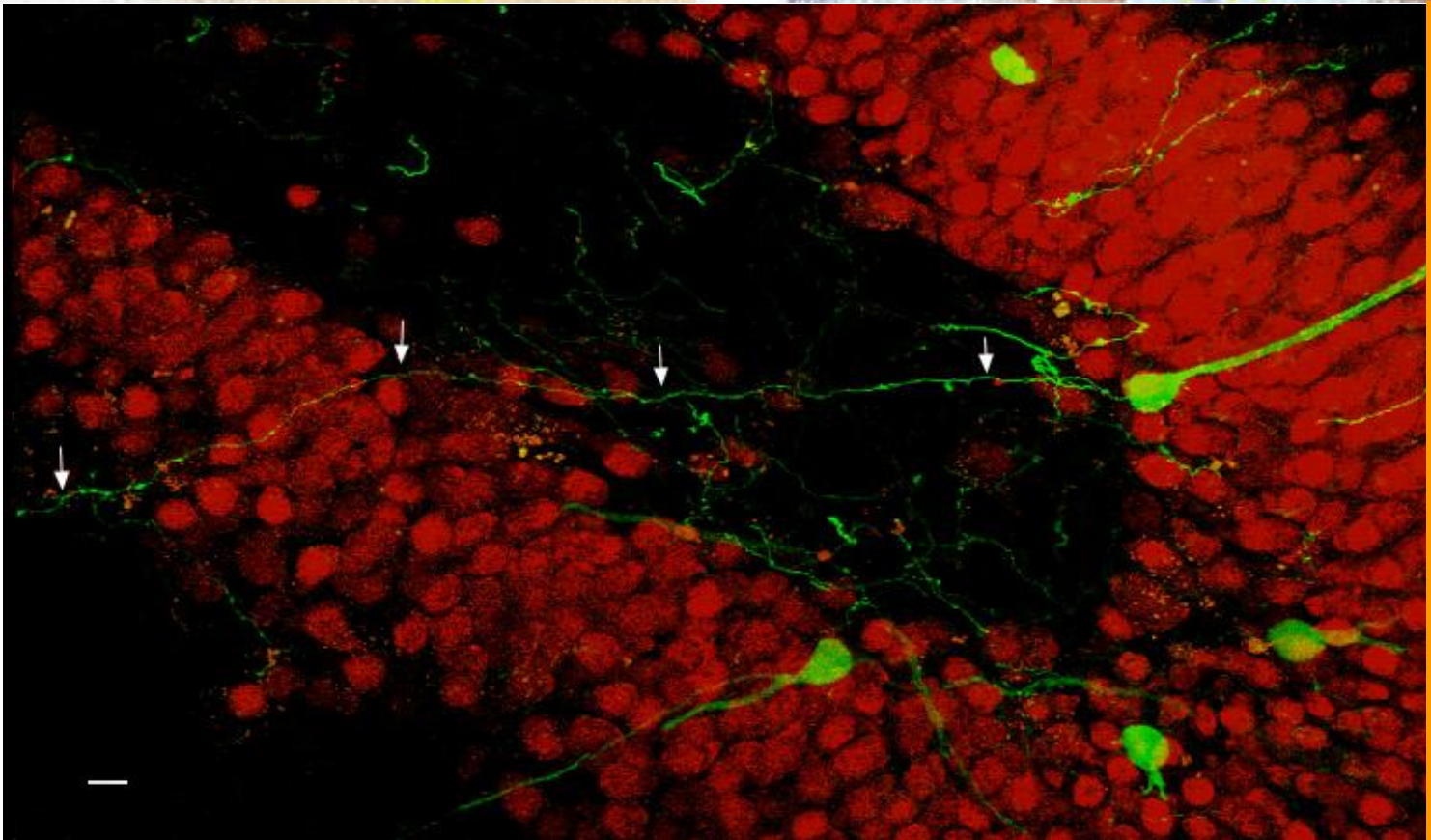
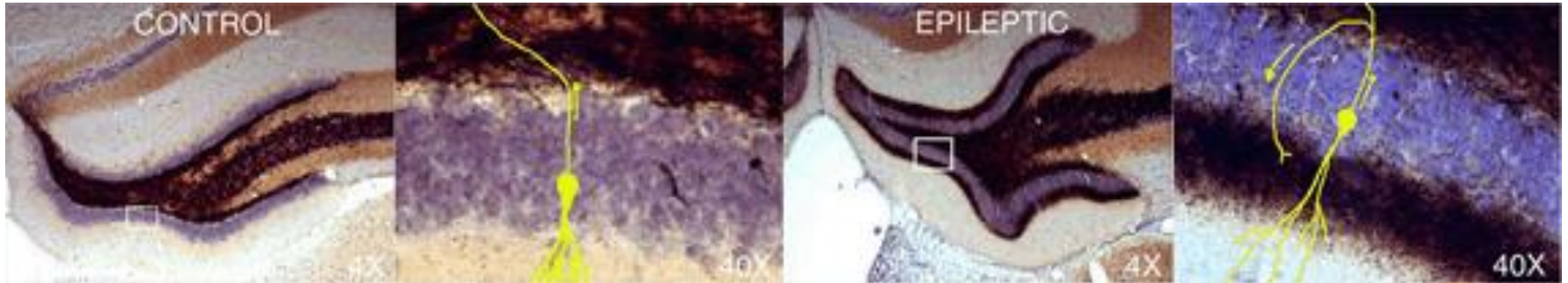
Early Life Sz



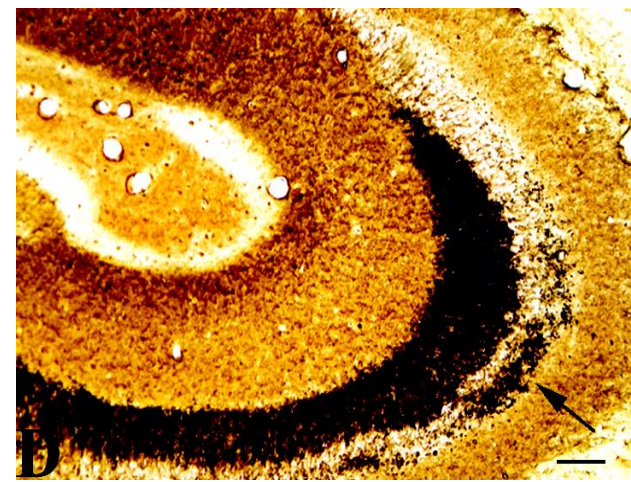
Sprouting



Aberrant Sprouting

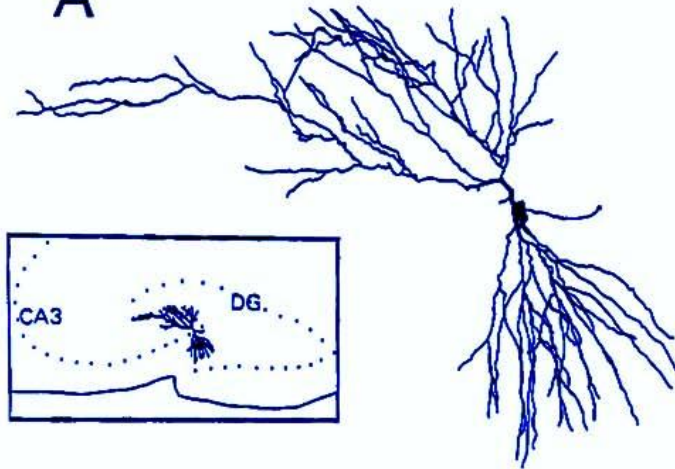


Mossy Fiber Sprouting Following Neonatal Seizures



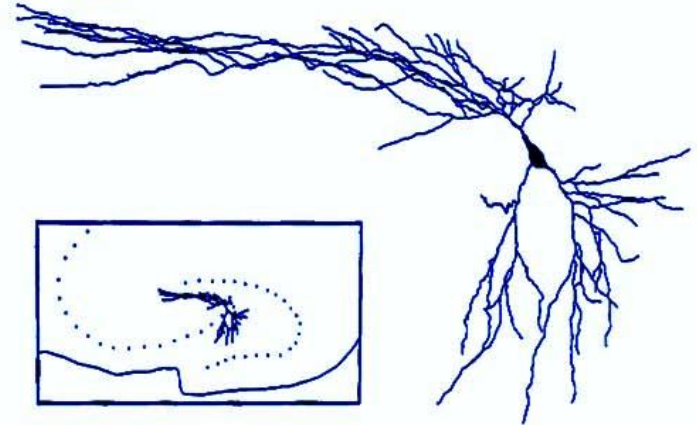
Controls

A

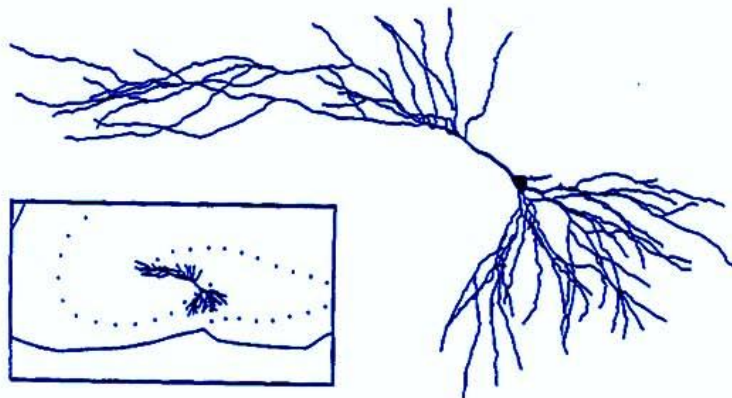


Early-life seizures

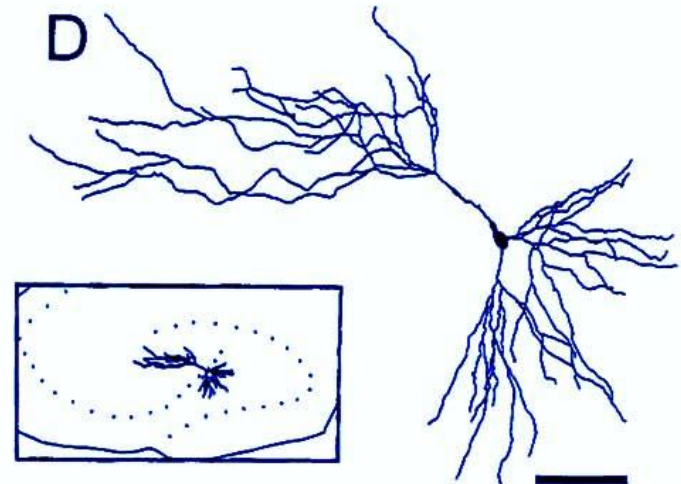
B

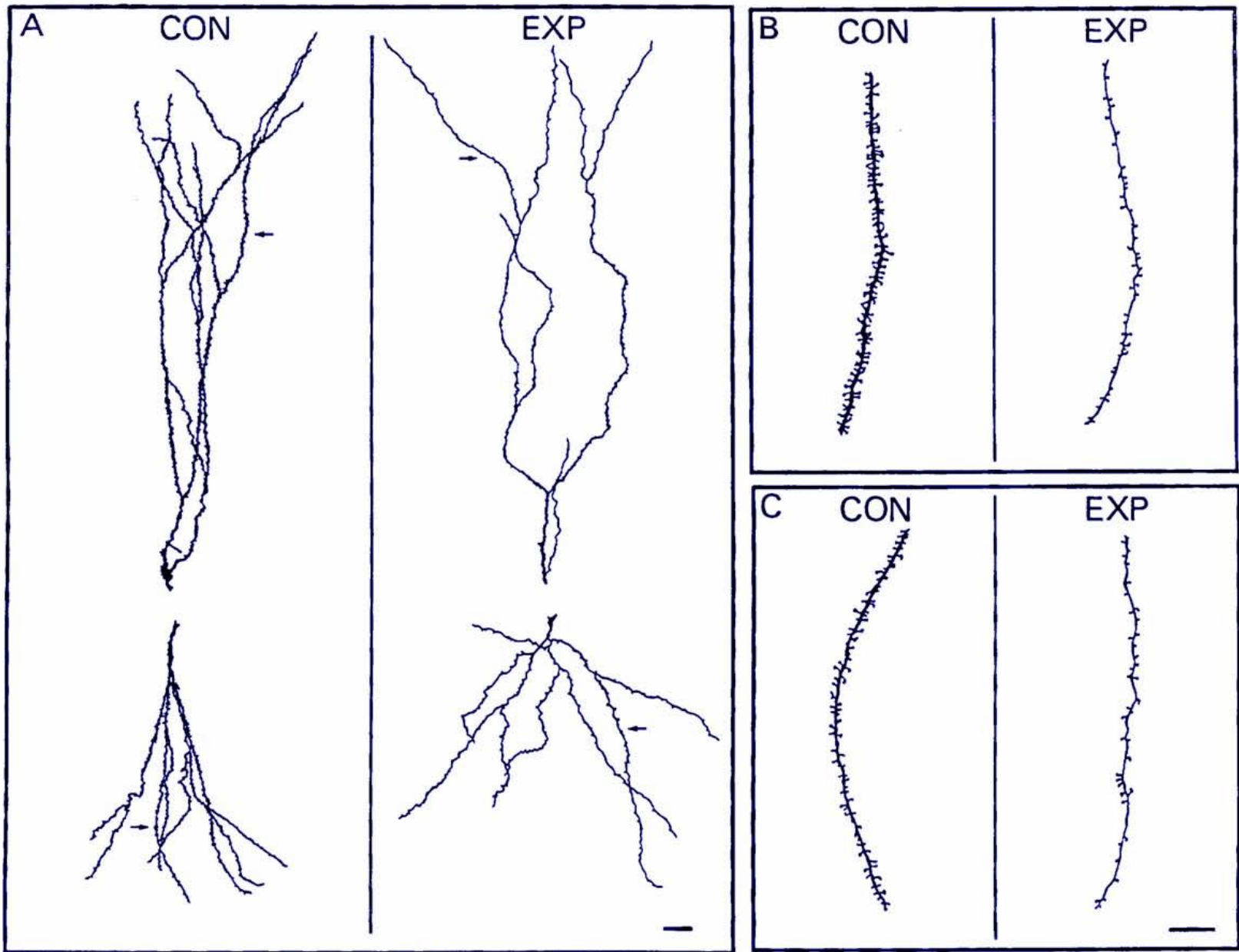


C

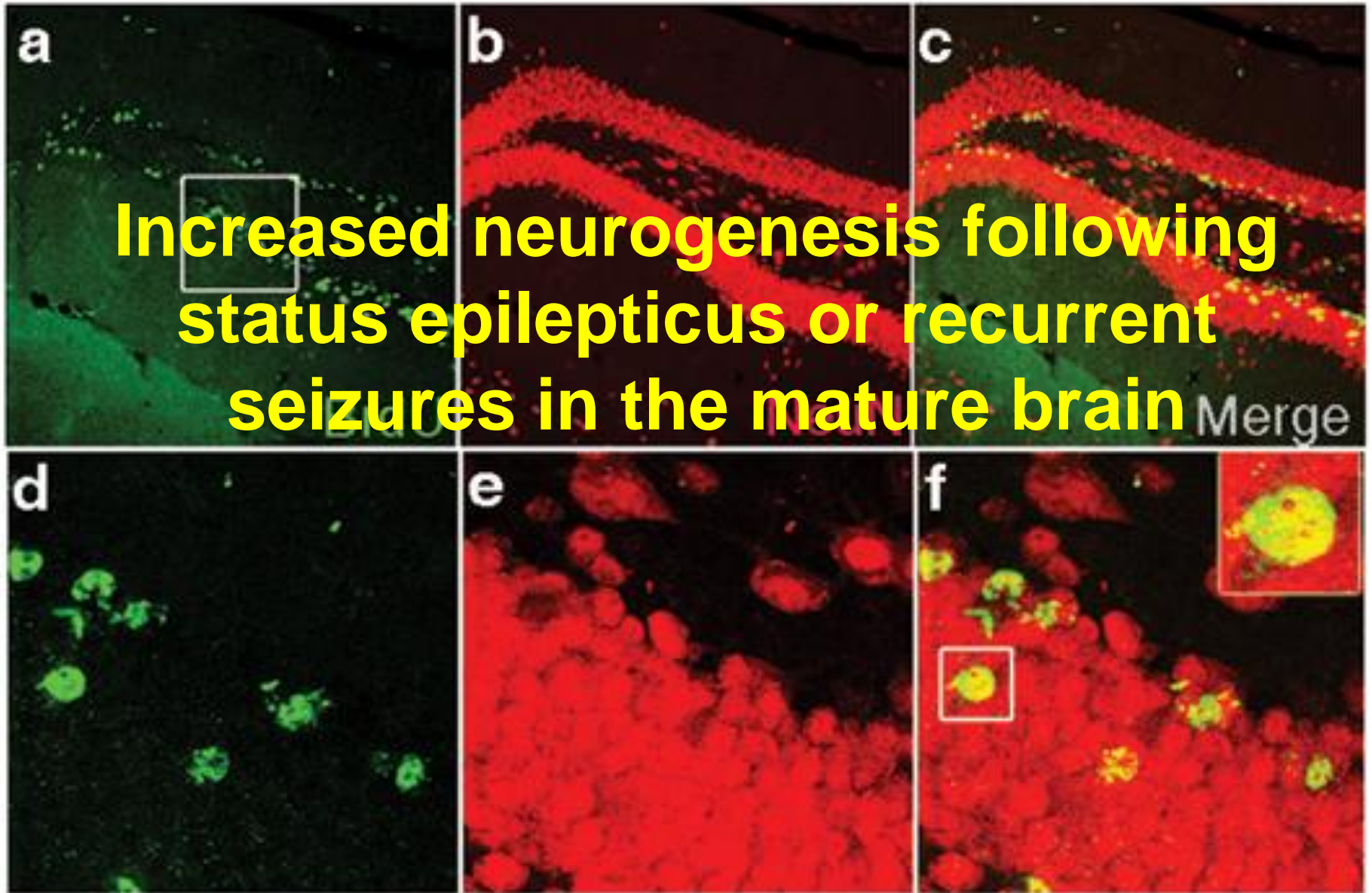


D

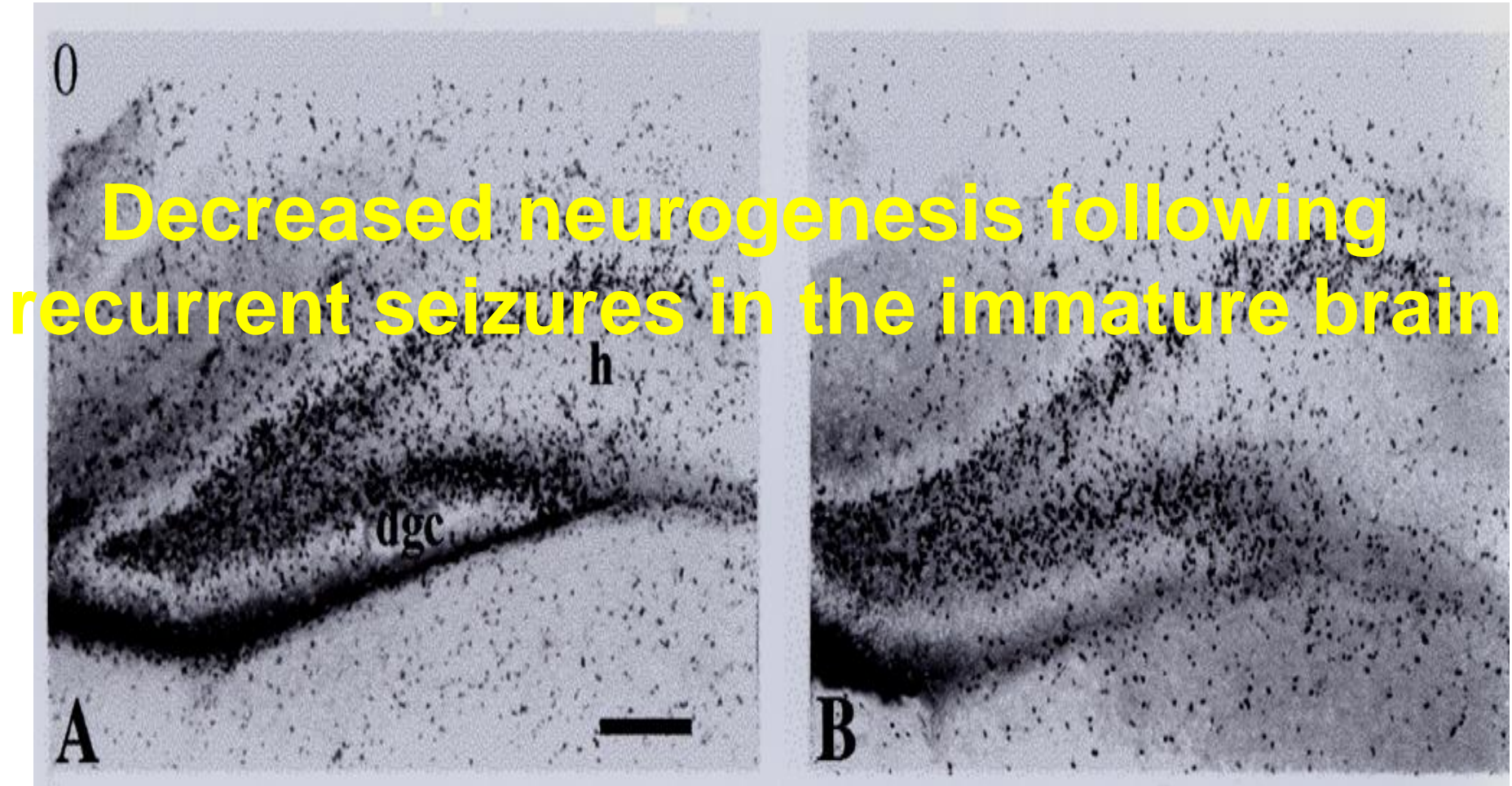




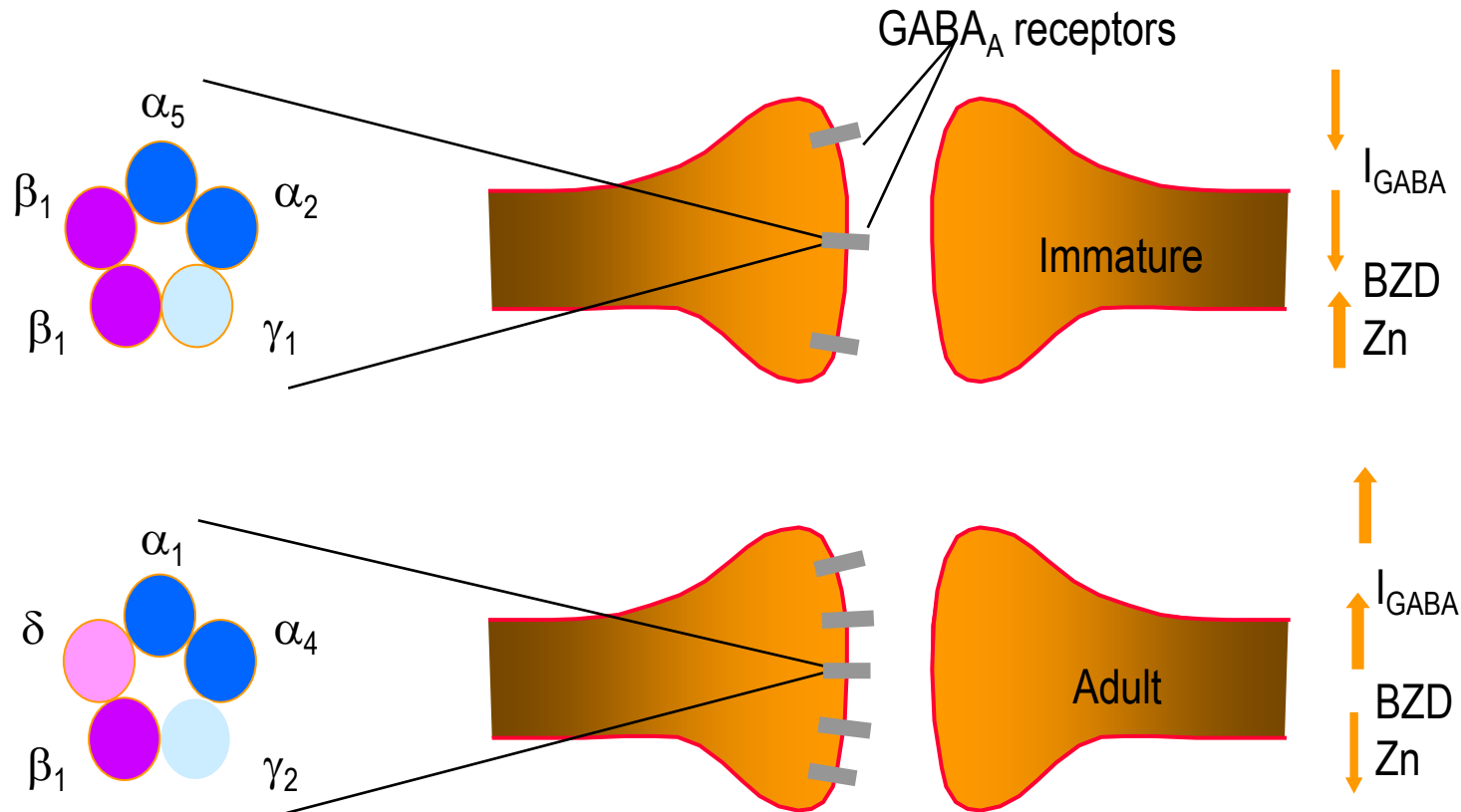
Neurogenesis



Neurogenesis Following Neonatal Seizures



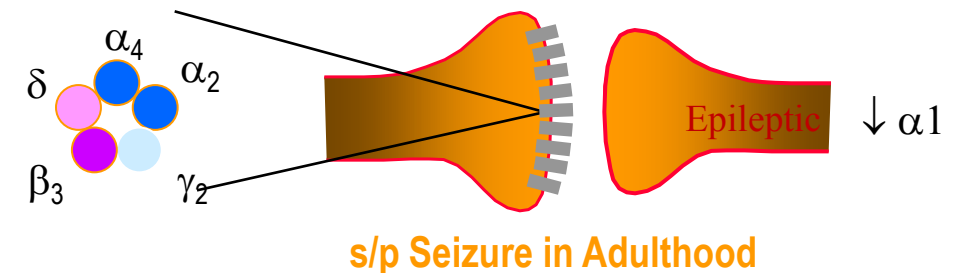
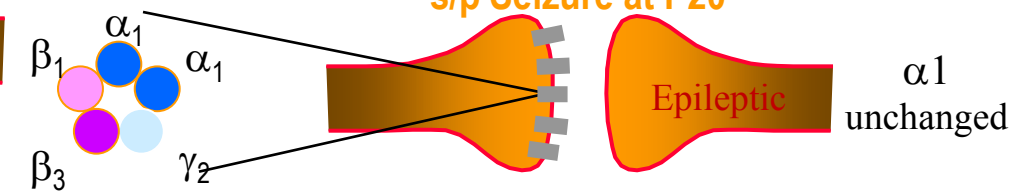
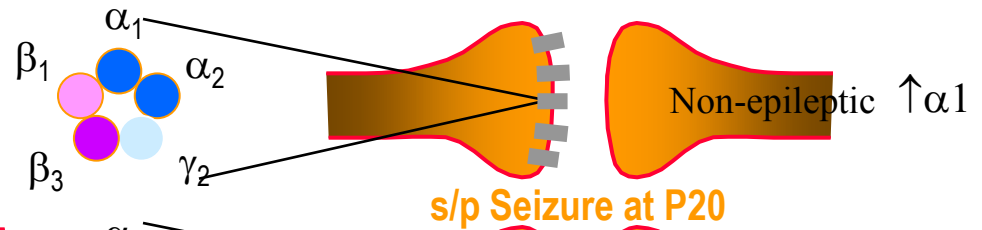
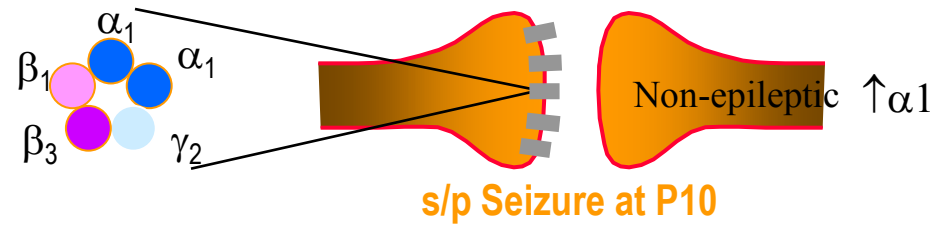
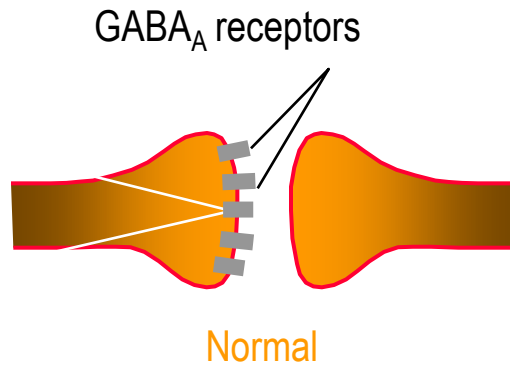
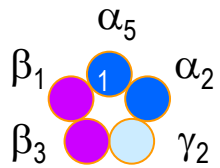
Developmental Changes in GABA_A Receptor Expression and Function



1. Killisch et al., 1991; Laurie et al., 1992; Wisden et al., 1992; Fritschy et al., 1994.
2. Brooks-Kayal et al., 2000.
3. Gibbs et al., 1996; Hollrigel & Soltesz, 1997; Dunning et al., 1999; Kapur & Macdonald, 1999

Seizures at Different Ages Cause Distinct Patterns of Inhibitory Changes

Example of GABA_A receptor subunit composition



Brooks-Kayal et al., *Nature Med* 1998

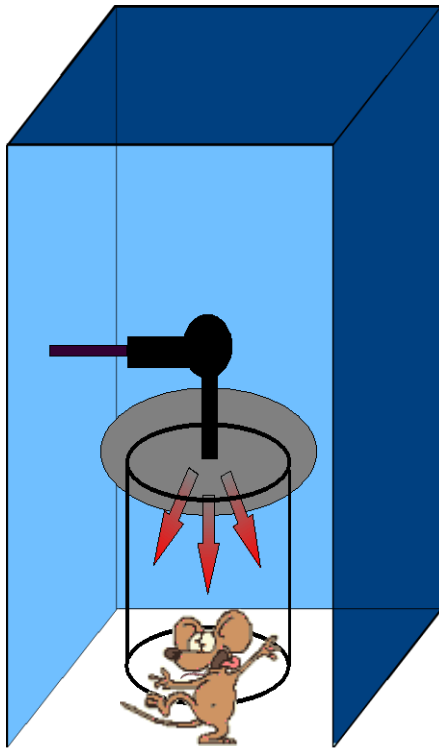
Zhang et al., *Neuroscience* 2004

Epileptic Encephalopathies

- Concept is that the **seizures, EEG abnormalities**, or both, contribute to the **encephalopathy** in **children**.
- Conditions
 - Landau-Kleffner
 - Continuous spike-wave of sleep (ESES)
 - Infantile spasms
 - Lennox-Gastaut syndrome



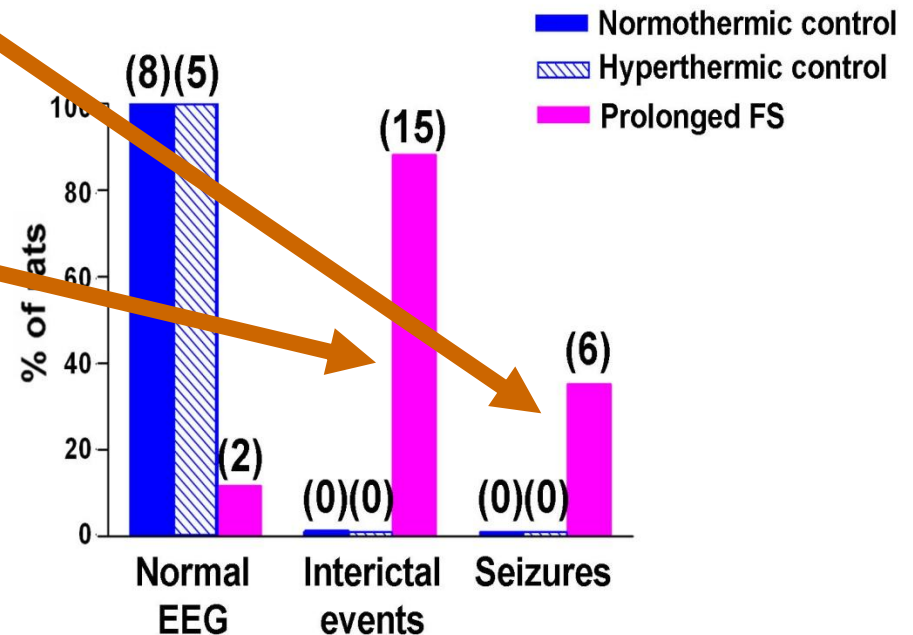
Immature Rat Model of Prolonged Febrile Seizure



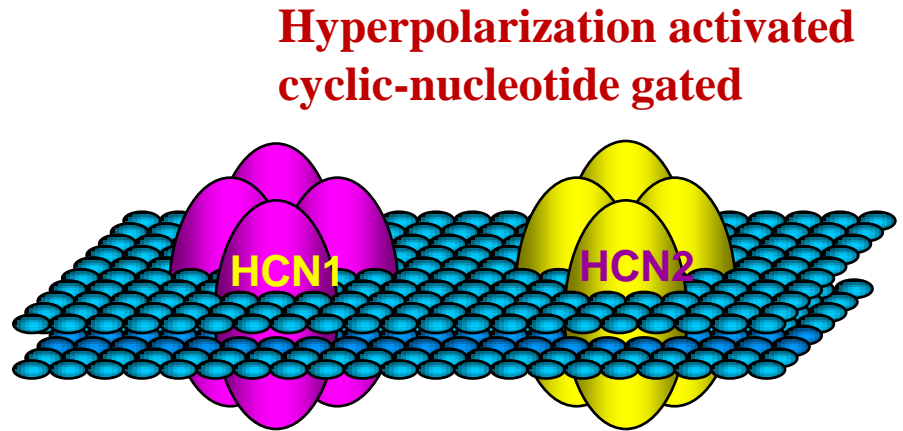
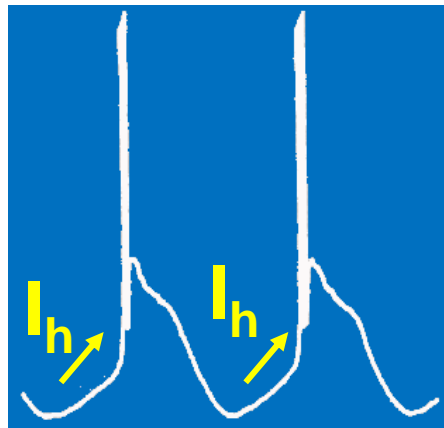
- Age appropriate
- Physiological temps
- >98% seizure induction
- EEG validated
- Controlled seizure duration
- Fever mediators involved
- No mortality

Prolonged Febrile Seizures May Be Epileptogenic

- Epilepsy in 35%
- EEG abnormalities in many
- High sensitivity to convulsants
- Hyper-excitible hippocampus



Molecular Basis for Febrile Seizure-Induced Changes



Channel consists of 4 (homomeric) subunits

HCN1

Hippocampus
Brainstem

Fast kinetics
Modest cAMP gating

HCN2

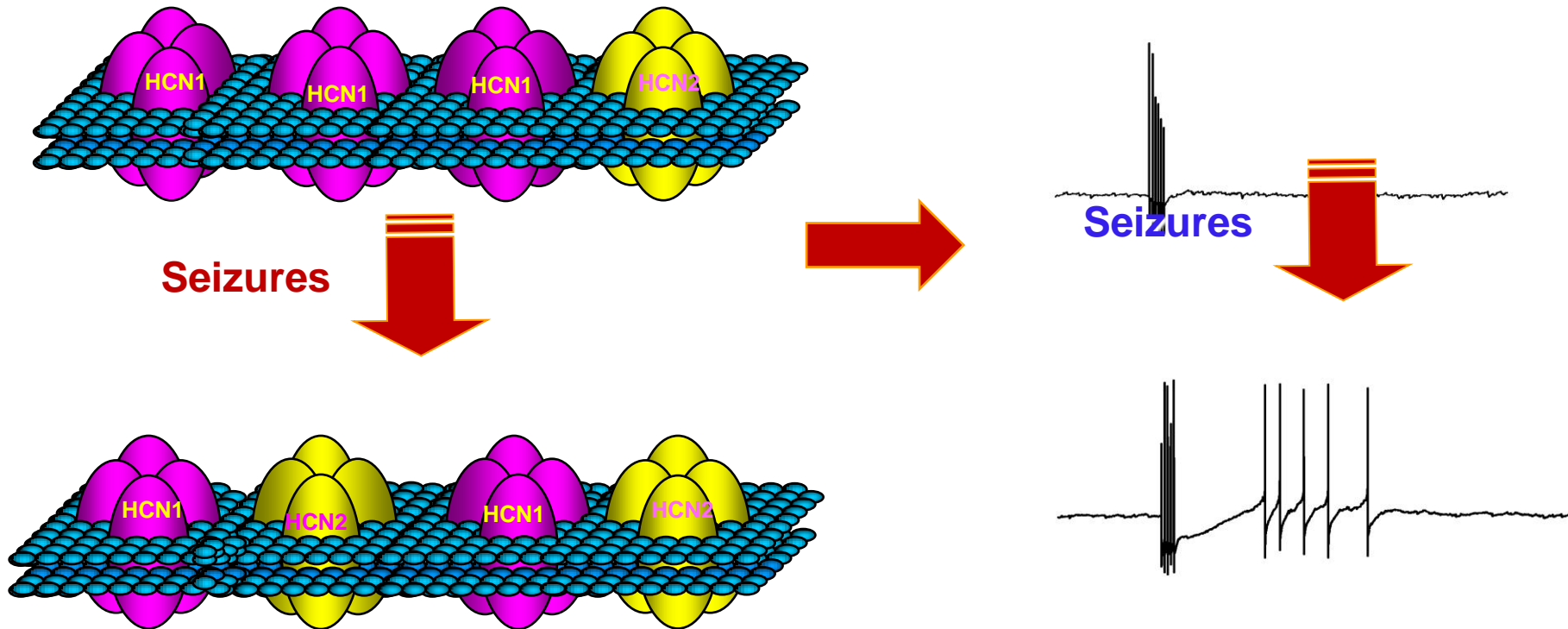
Thalamus
Hippocampus

Slow kinetics

Major Location

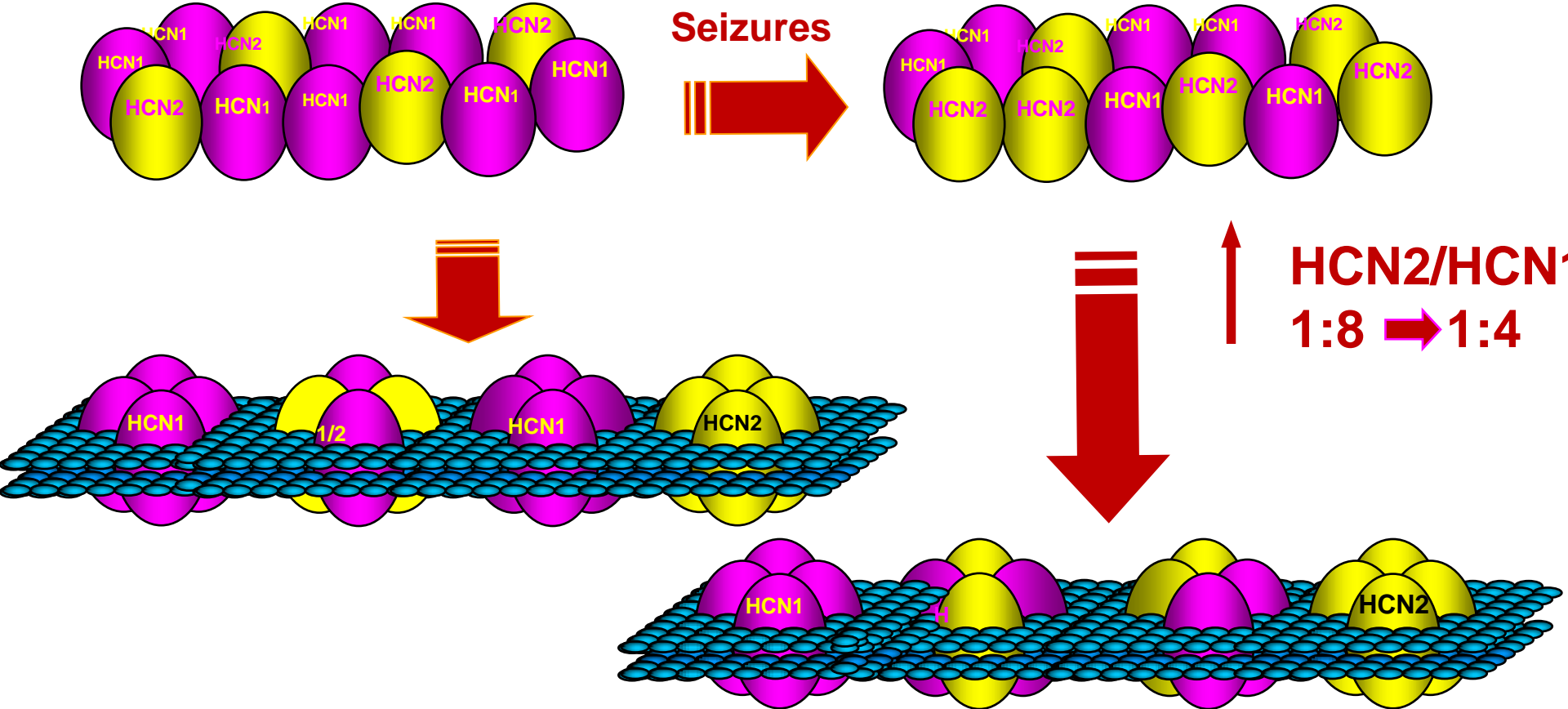
Location

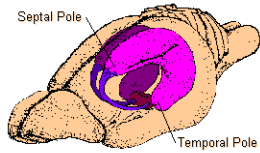
Seizures Reduce HCN1 Resulting in Increased Excitability



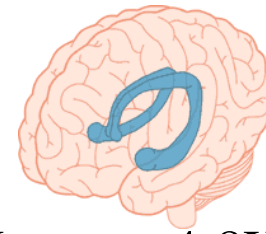
Chen et al., 2001; Brewster et al., 2002; Santoro & Baram 2003

Seizure-Evoked Rearrangements of HCN Channels



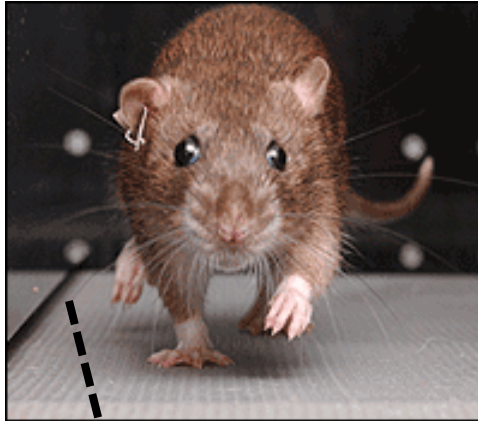


Theta Rhythm

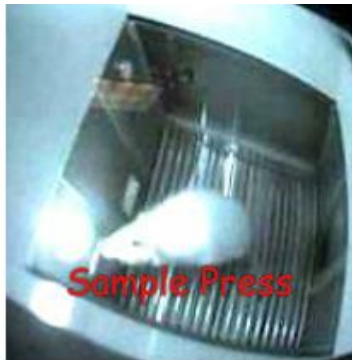
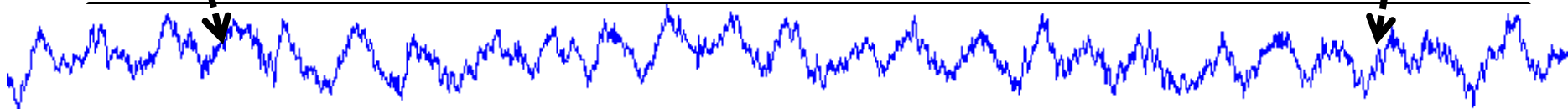


Rats: 4-12Hz

Humans: 4-8Hz



1 second

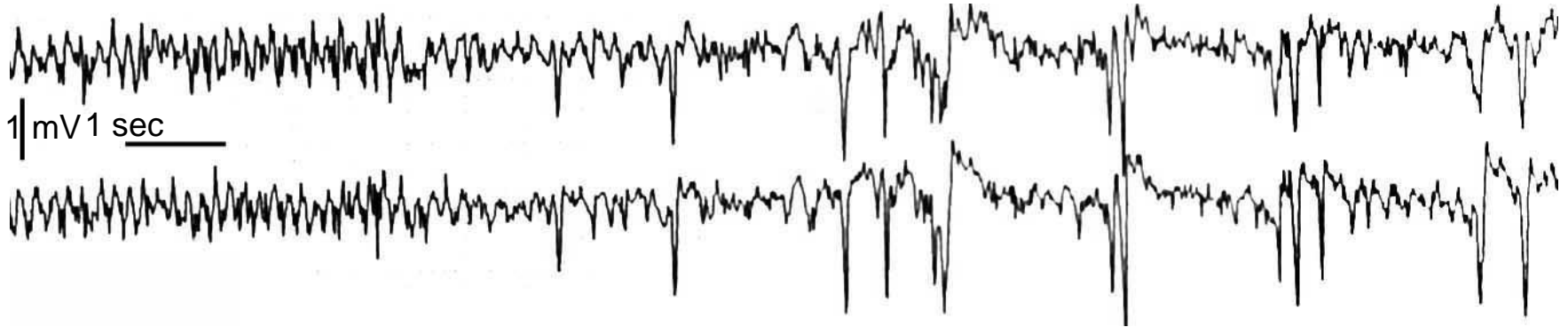


Time-locked to lever pressing behavior (Sample & Match presses)

Hippocampal Theta Oscillations

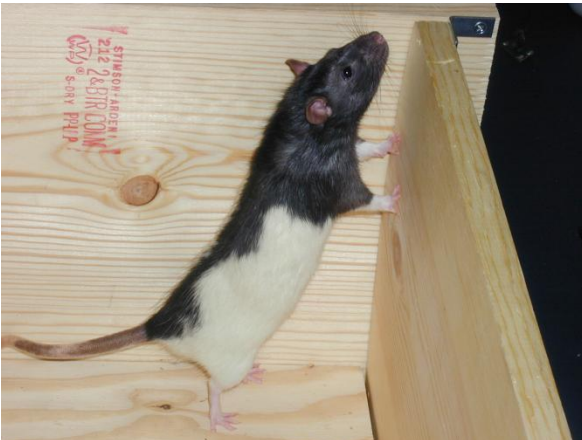
Walk

Immobile



Theta

LIA



exploration

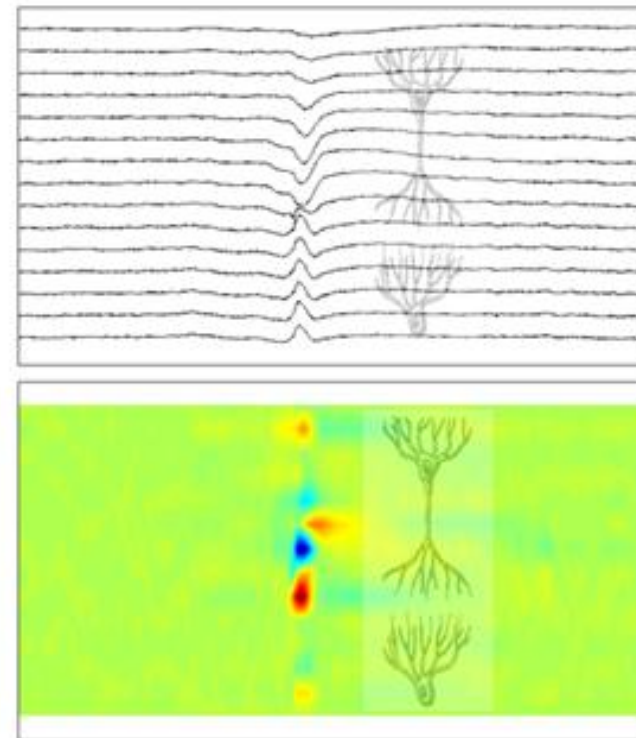
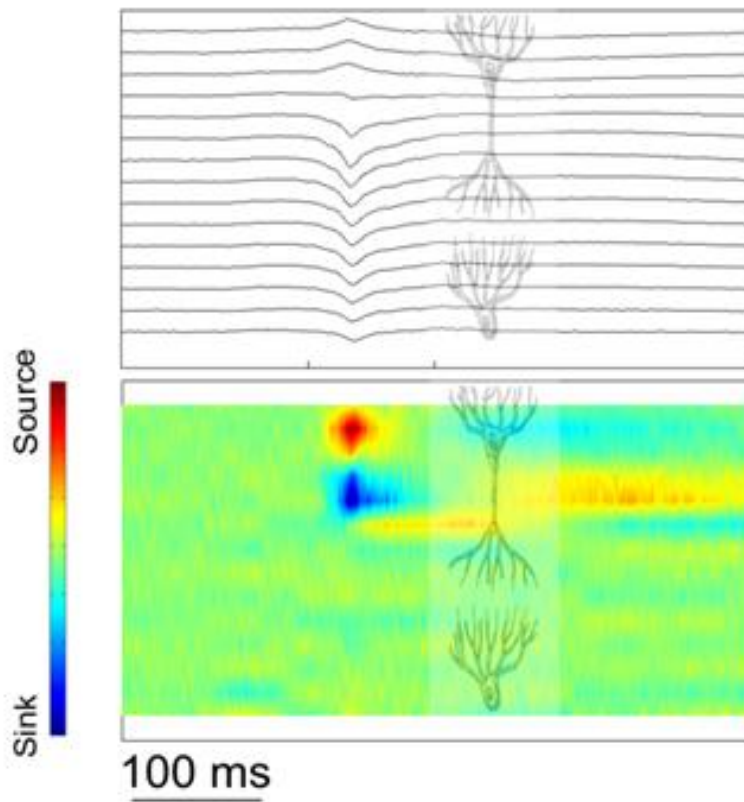
consummatory
behaviors,
immobility,
grooming



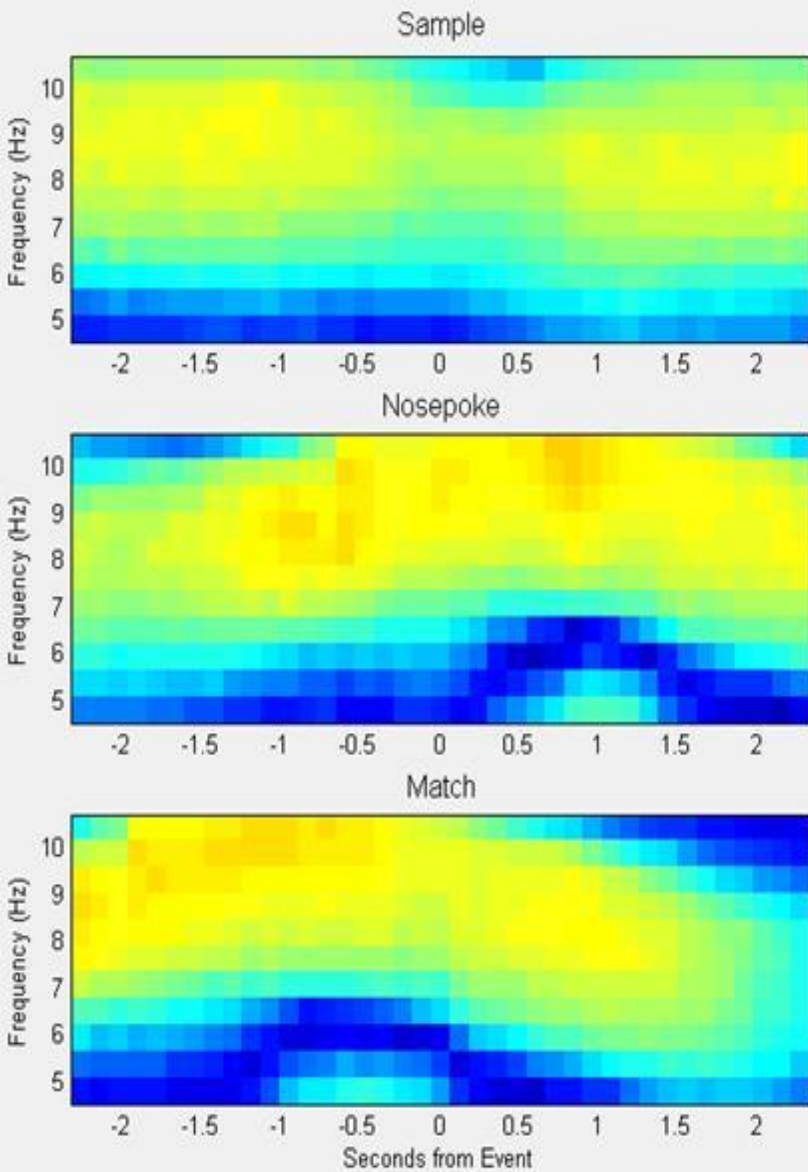
Changes in Source and Sink with Early Life Seizures

CTR

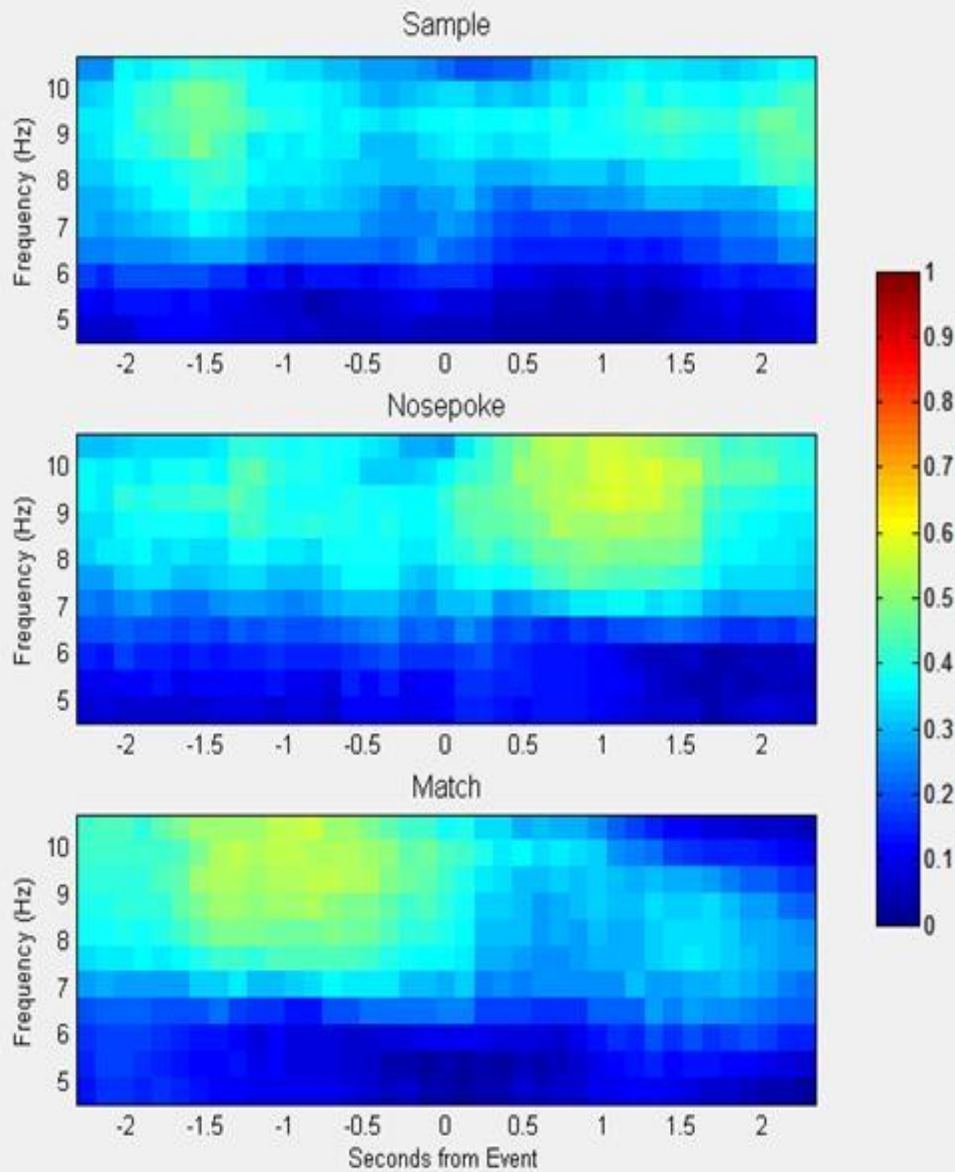
ELS



Control Rat

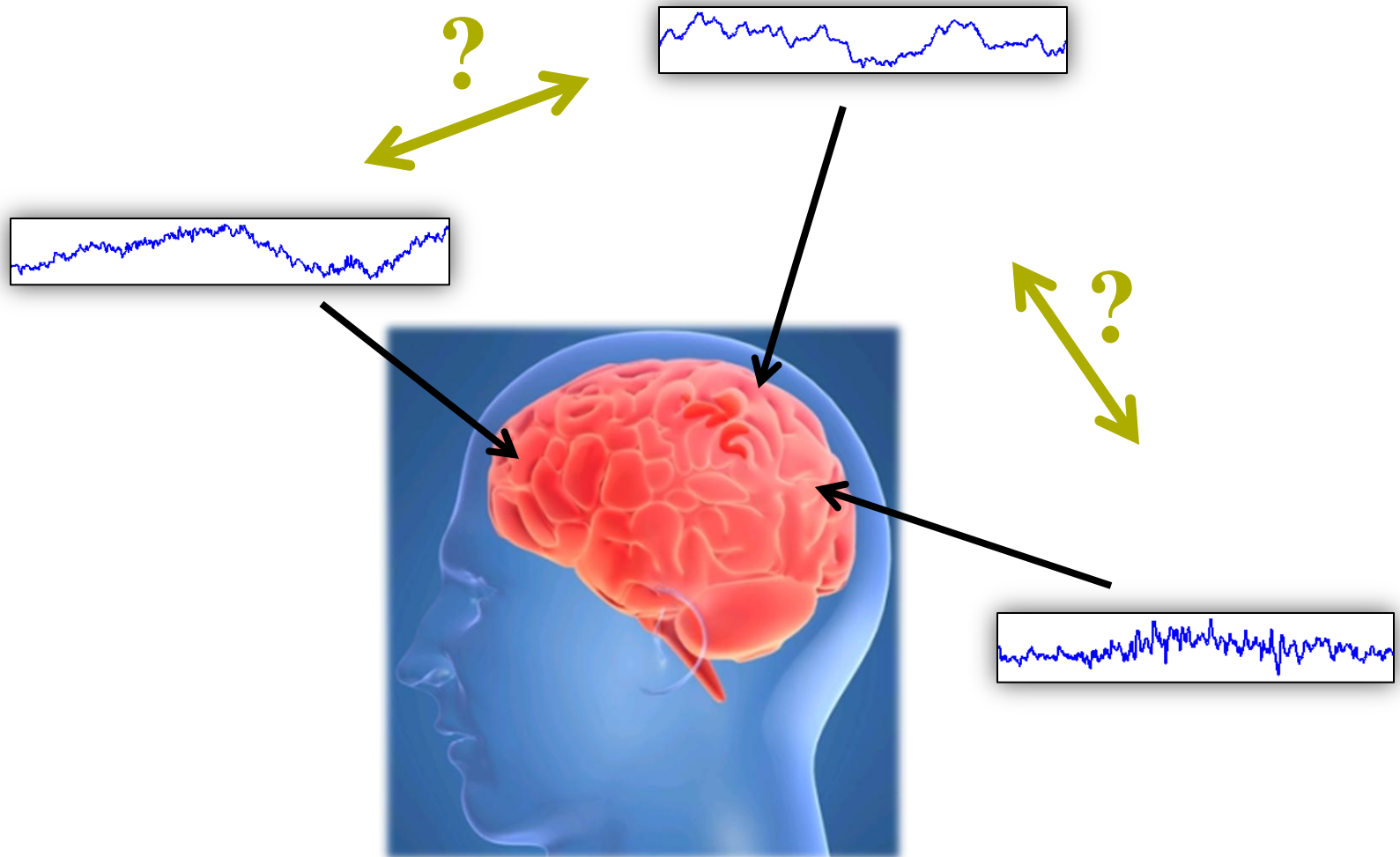


Seizure Rat

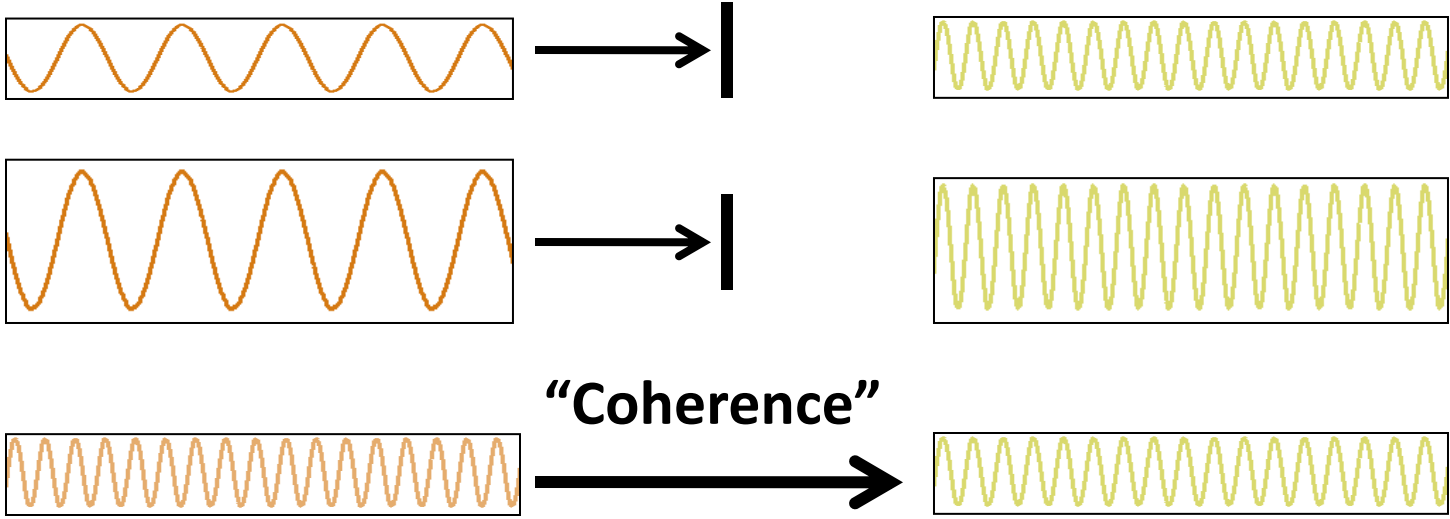


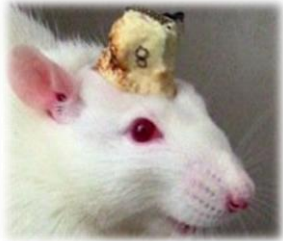
Different areas = different signals

How do they communicate?

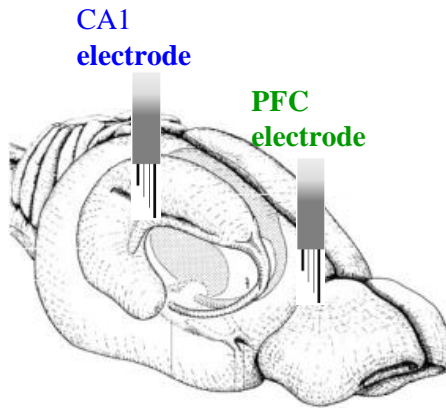


What is Coherence?

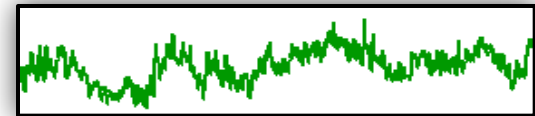
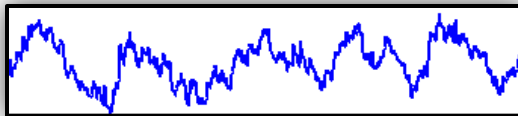
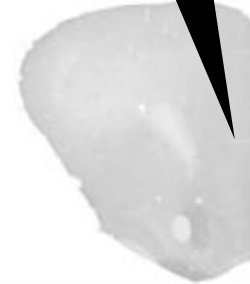
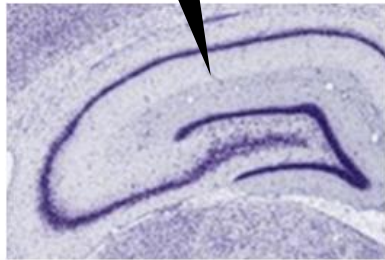




CA1
electrode

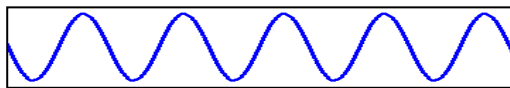


PFC
electrode

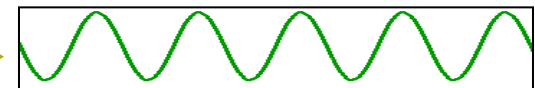


Fourier ↓ analysis

Fourier ↓ analysis

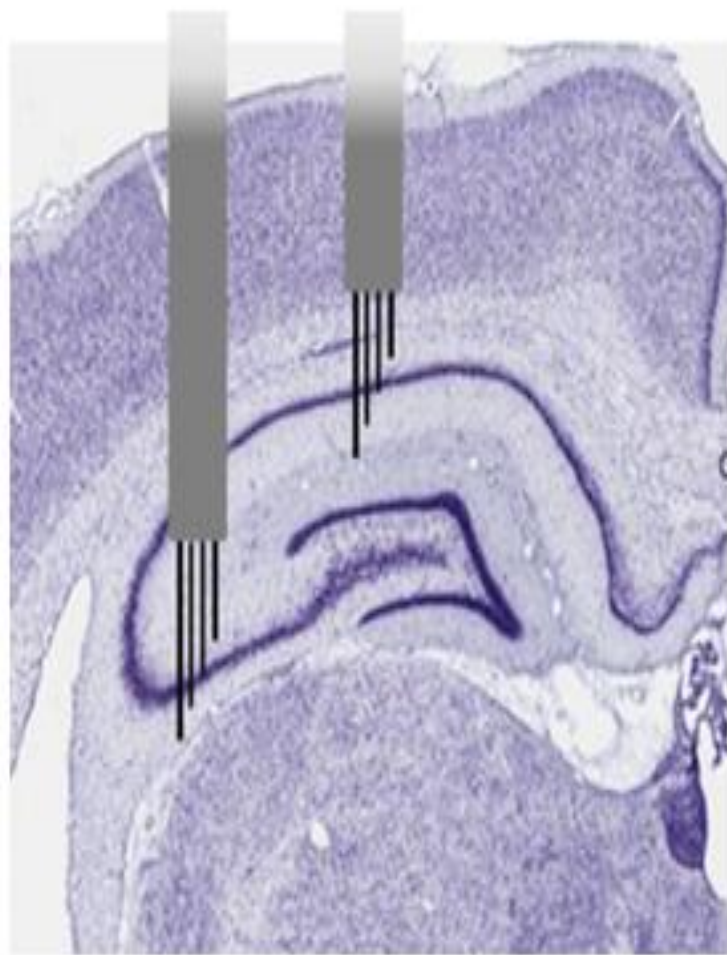


*Memory
function* →



Hippocampal

CA1 CA3



PFC

(Prelimbic)



Experiment: Influence of ELS on adult cognition

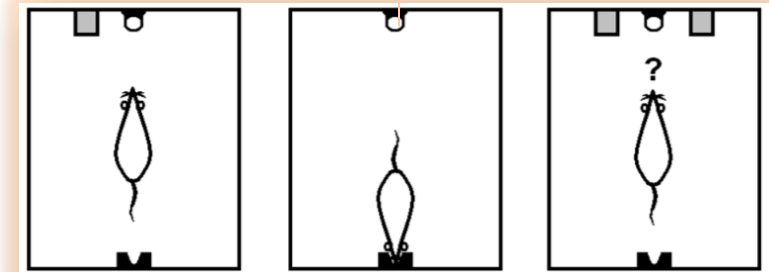
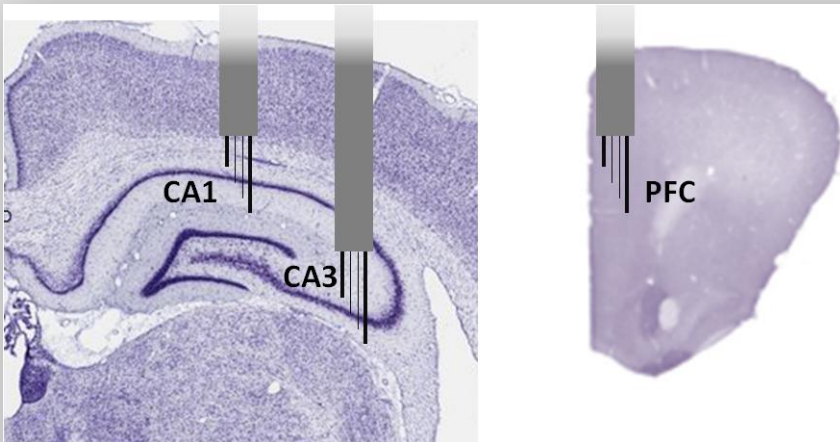
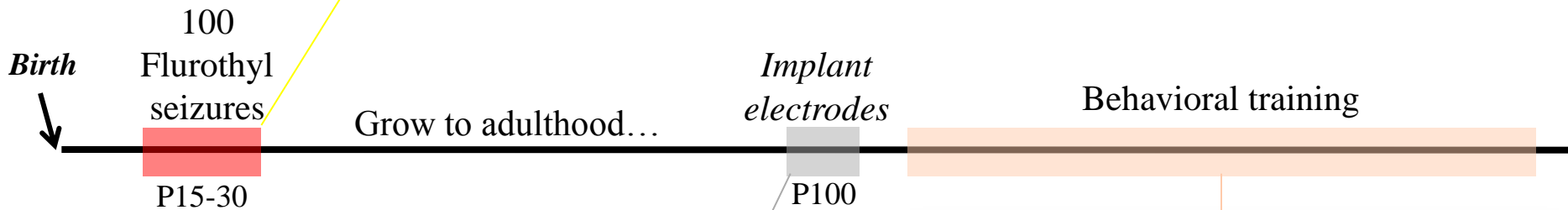


Flurothyl-induced seizures

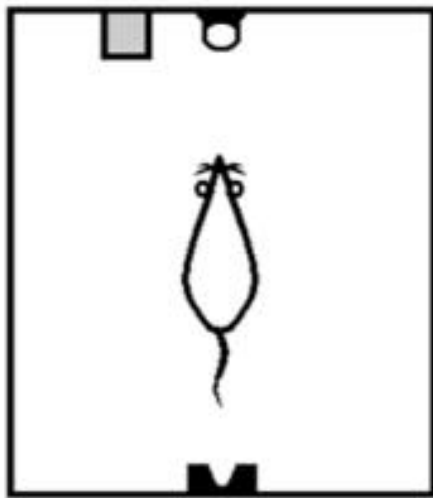
Inhaled chemoconvulsant

- Produces 1-2 minute seizures

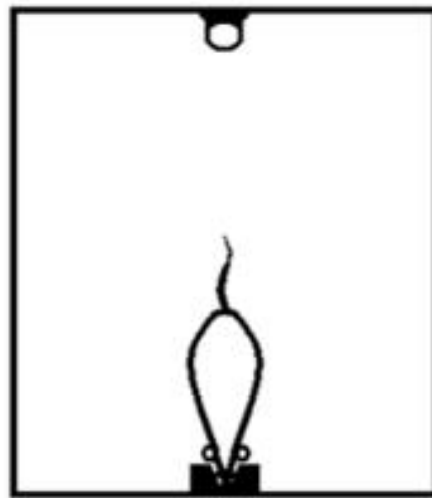
Model of early-life seizures



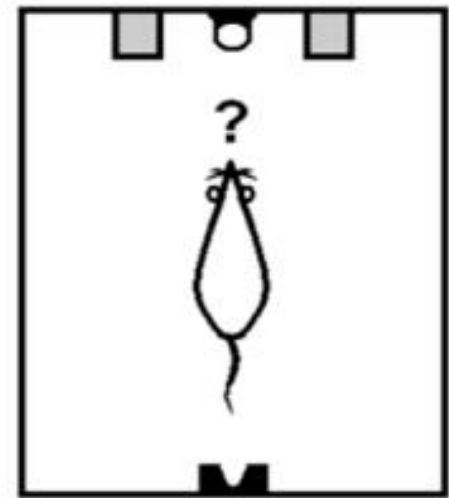
Delayed-Non Match-to-Sample task (DNMS)



**Step 1:
Sample**



**Step 2:
Delay**



**Step 3:
Retrieval**



Encoding

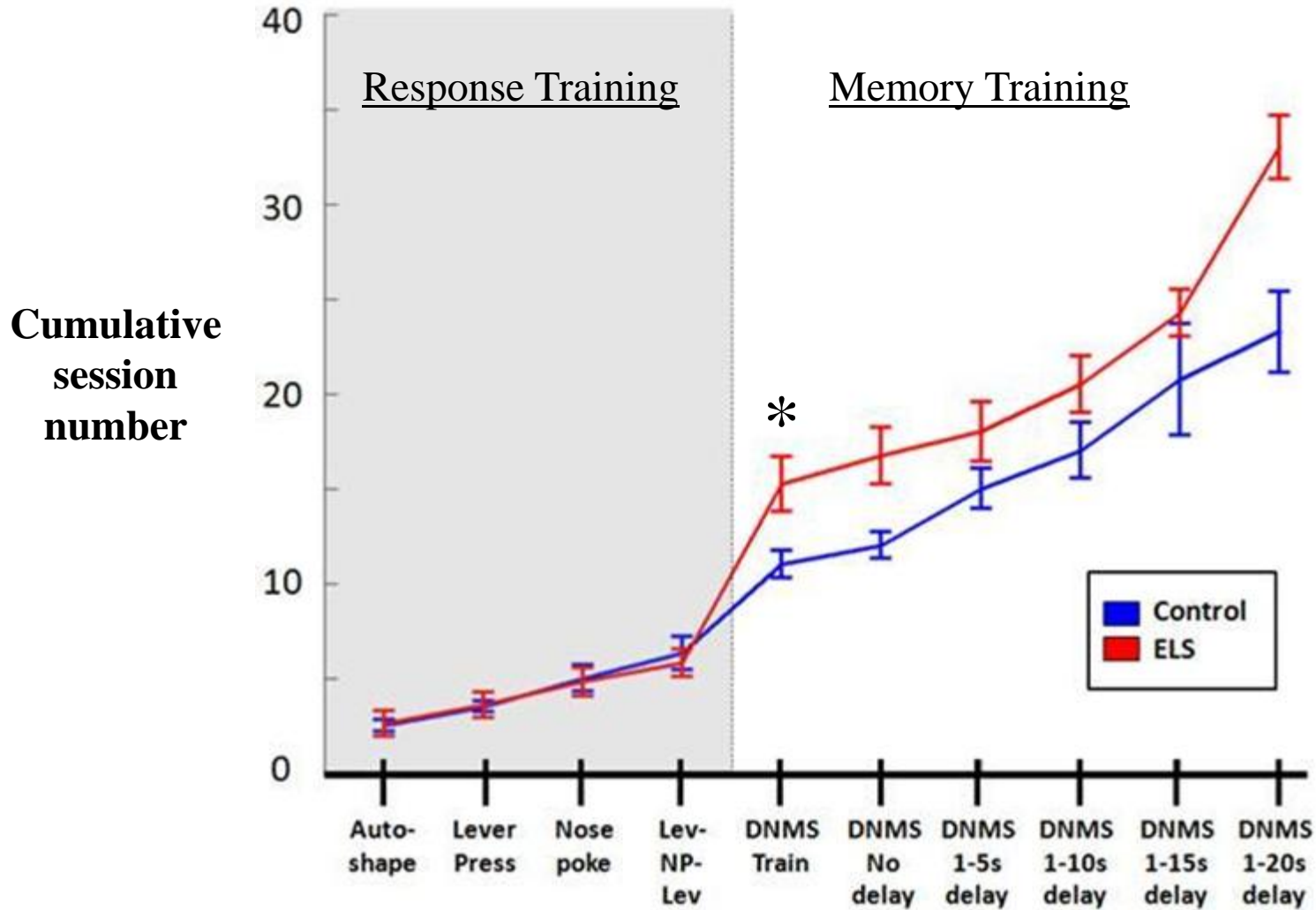


Maintenance



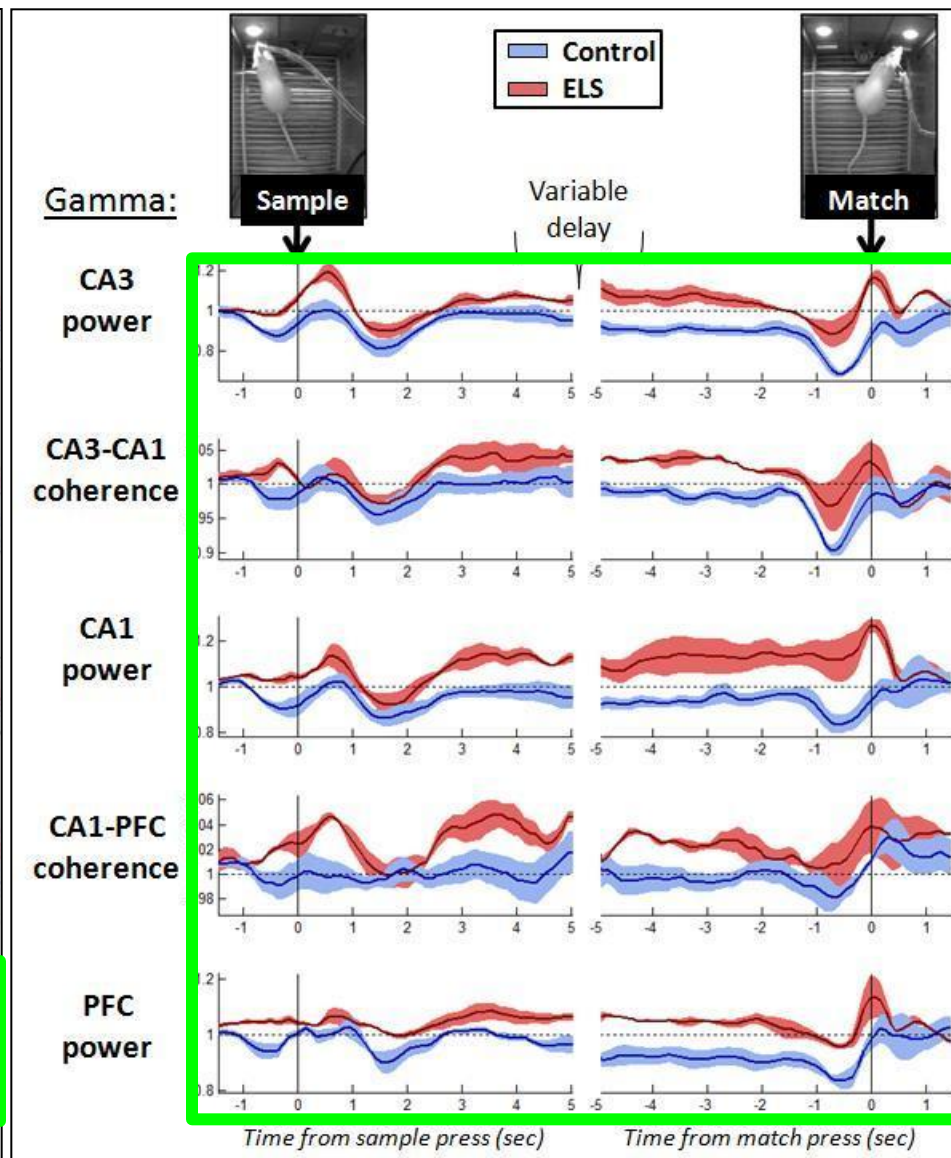
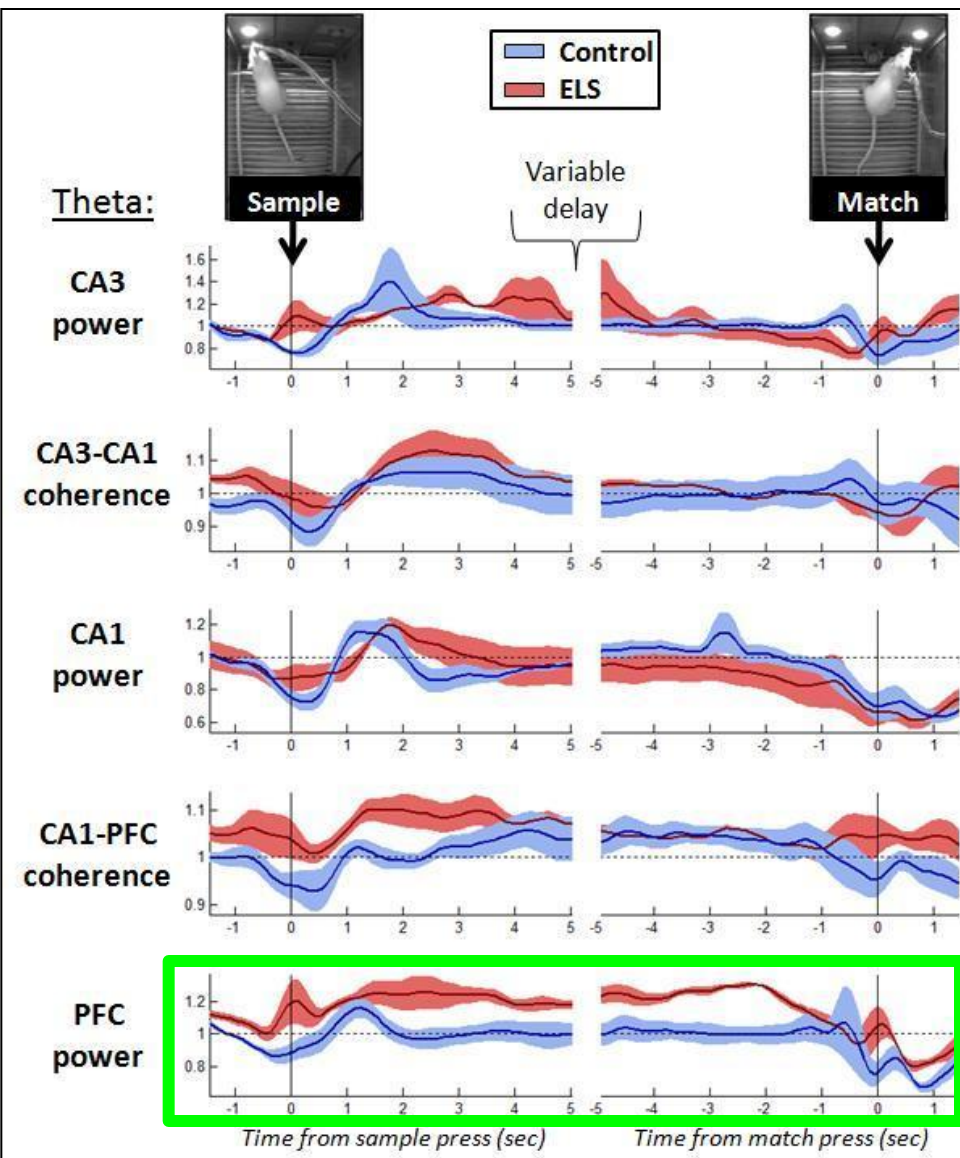
Retrieval

Learning Impairment in DNMS



Theta oscillations

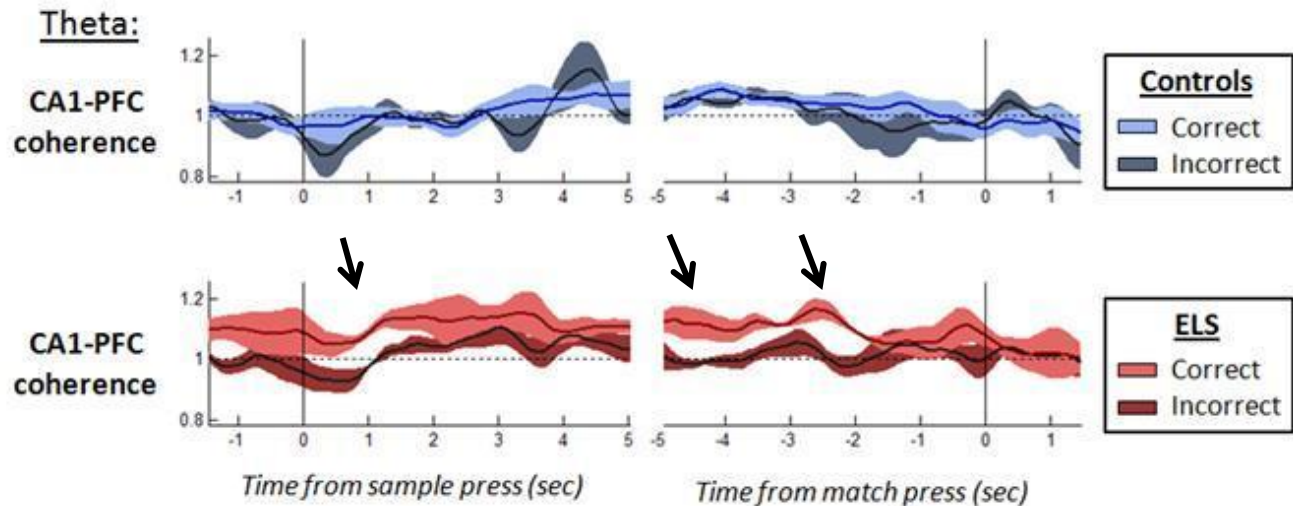
Gamma oscillations



Alternate Theta and Gamma Activity Patterns in the DNMS Task Following ELS



Relation to performance





A photograph of a white, multi-story church with a prominent steeple, set in a winter landscape. The church has a clock face on its tower and a golden weather vane on top. The scene is covered in snow, with snow-laden trees in the foreground and background under a clear blue sky. The text "Thank You!" is overlaid in a large, orange, serif font across the center of the image.

Thank You!