

# Brain-Machine Interfaces

**LEVERAGING PLASTICITY, MACHINE LEARNING & NEUROTECHNOLOGY  
FOR BRAIN DYSFUNCTION AND AUGMENTATION**



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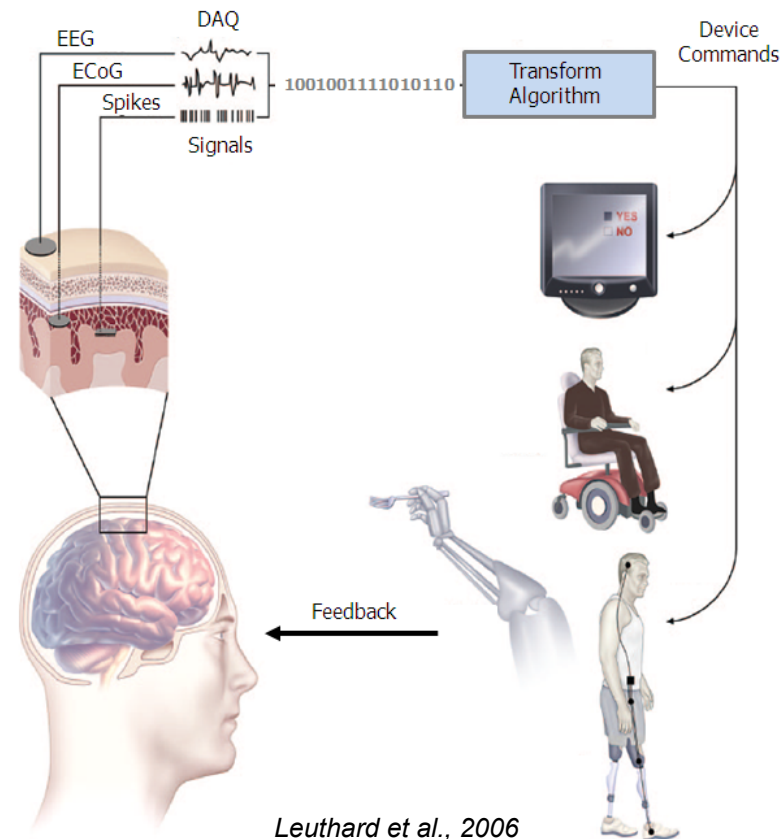


# Target: Restoring motor function (spinal cord injury, stroke, ALS...)



## Approach:

Brain-Machine Interfaces  
*Translating thought into action*



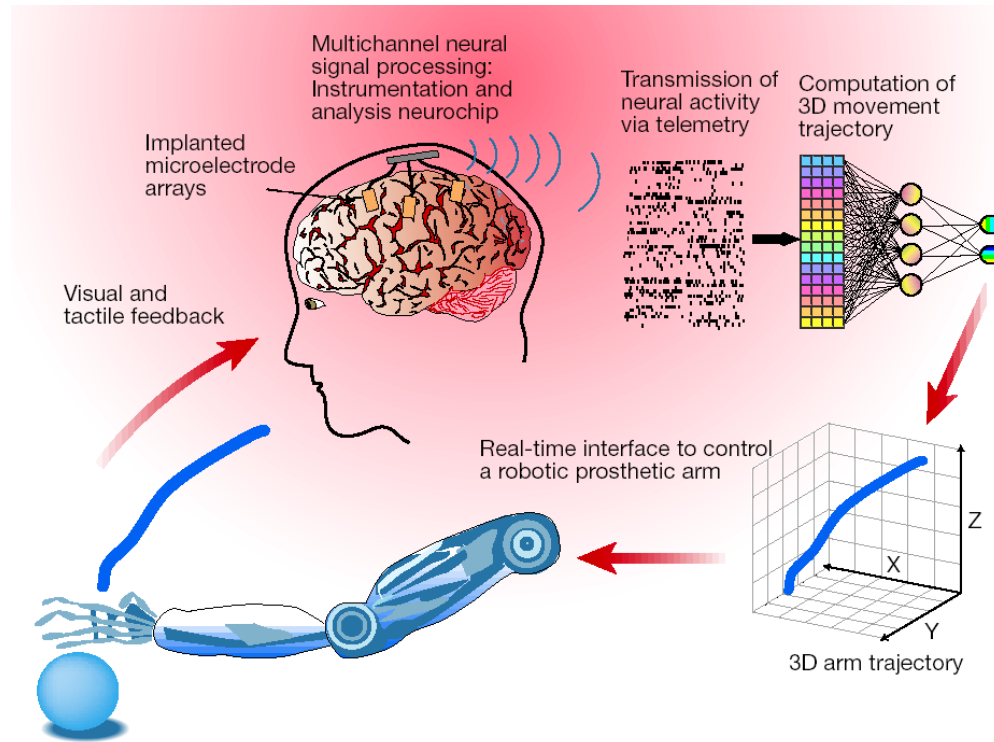
## Impact:

- Patient population: Millions
- e.g. 1.3M SCI patients in the US alone

[Source: Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation]

Leuthard et al., 2006

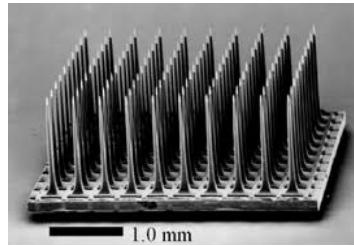
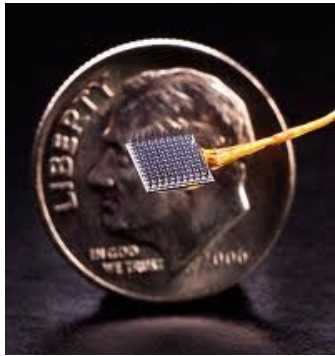
# Significant progress in the past 15+ years...



**Some closed-loop BMI studies in rodents and (human/non-human) primates:** Chapin et al, 1999; Serruya et al, 2002; Taylor et al, 2002; Carmena et al, 2003; Musallam et al, 2004; Wahnoun et al, 2006; Santhanam et al, 2006; Hochberg et al, 2006; Velliste et al., 2008; Mulliken et al., 2008; Truccolo et al, 2008; Kim et al, 2008; Jarosiewicz et al, 2008; Moritz et al, 2008; Ganguly & Carmena, 2009; Suminski et al, 2010; Ganguly et al, 2011; Mahmoudi and Sanchez, 2011; O'Doherty et al, 2011; Gilja et al, 2012; Koralek et al, 2012; Ethier et al, 2012; Hochberg et al, 2012; Collinger et al, 2013; Wander et al, 2013; Engelhard et al, 2013; Hwang et al., 2013; Shanechi et al., 2014; Sadtler et al, 2014; Orsborn et al, 2014; Gulati et al, 2014; Aflalo et al., 2015; Bouton et al., 2016; Shanechi et al., 2017...

# What are the challenges?

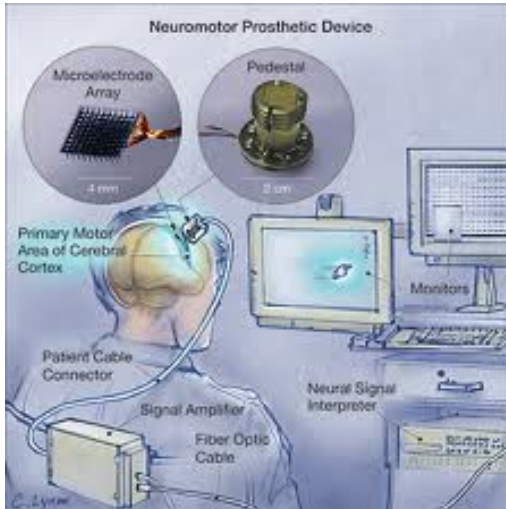
- Bulky, tethered, wired implants (**challenge 1**)



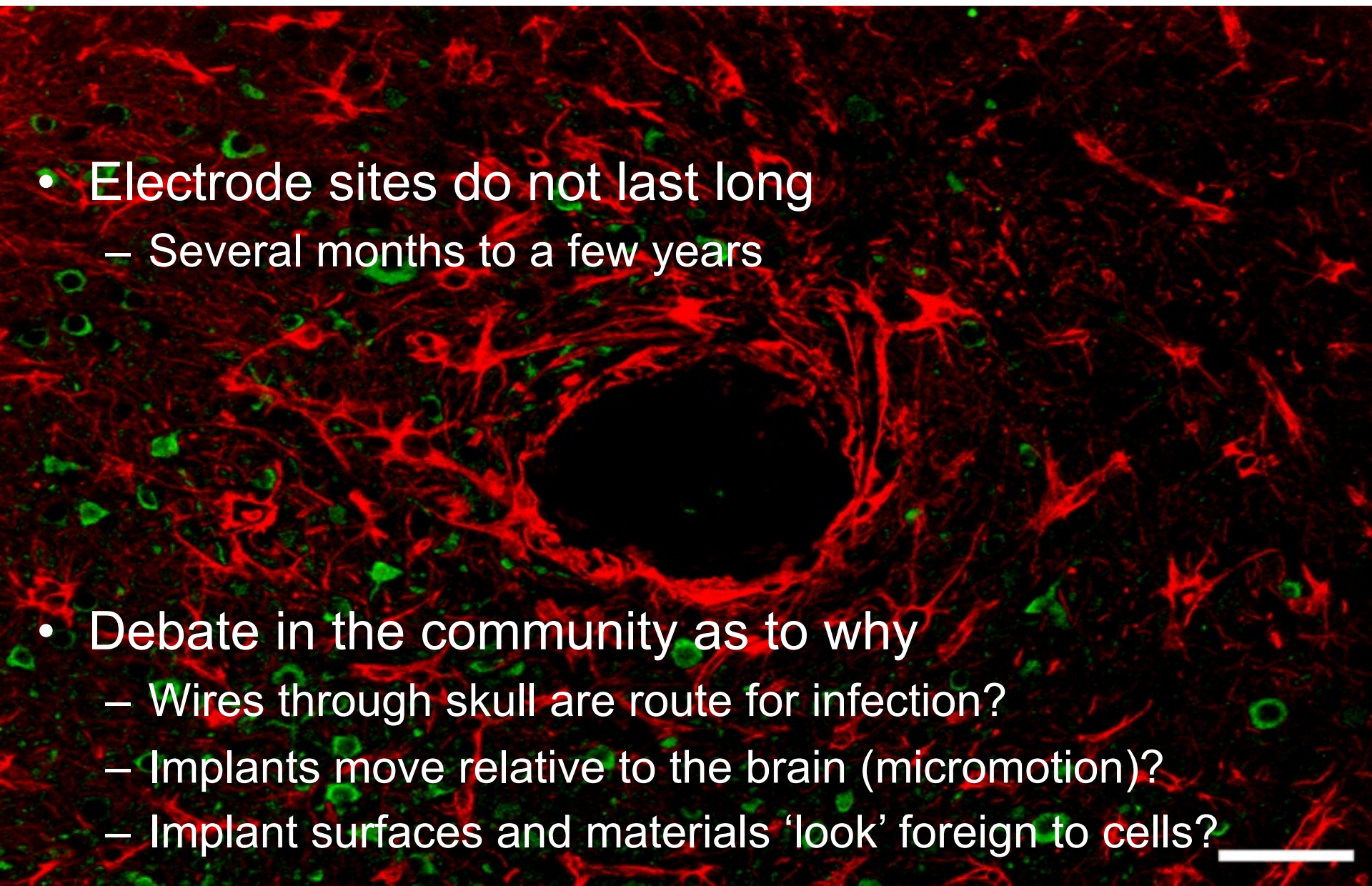
**Goal:** to dramatically extend the lifetime of clinically viable neural interfaces

**Wish list:** Ultra-small, high-density, compliant, tetherless wireless implants... **but**

- It's all about size & energy
- Scaling limited due to shank size

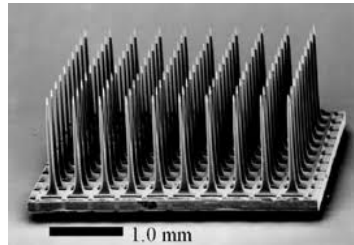
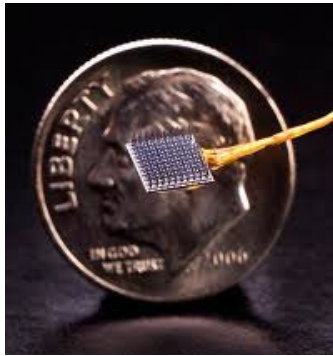


# Problems at the biophysical interface

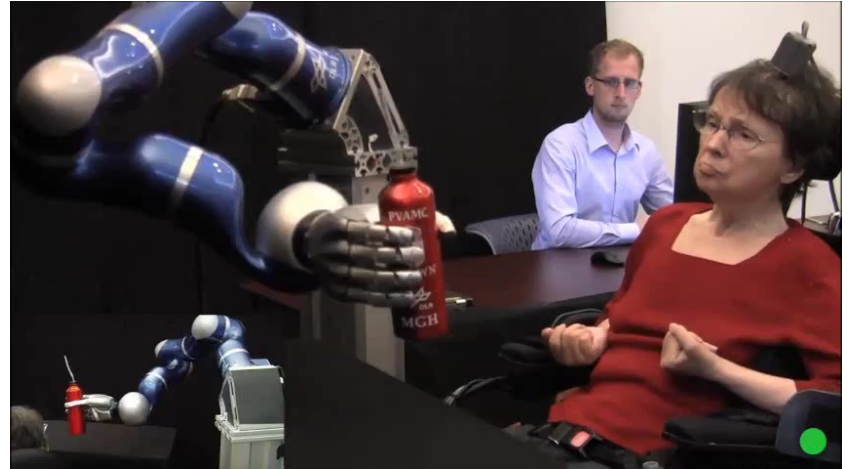
- Electrode sites do not last long
    - Several months to a few years
  - Debate in the community as to why
    - Wires through skull are route for infection?
    - Implants move relative to the brain (micromotion)?
    - Implant surfaces and materials 'look' foreign to cells?
- 
- A fluorescence microscopy image of neural tissue. The image shows a dense network of red-stained fibers and green-stained cells. In the center, there is a large, dark, circular region, possibly representing a hole or a specific area of interest in the tissue. The overall background is dark, with the red and green signals providing contrast.

# What are the challenges?

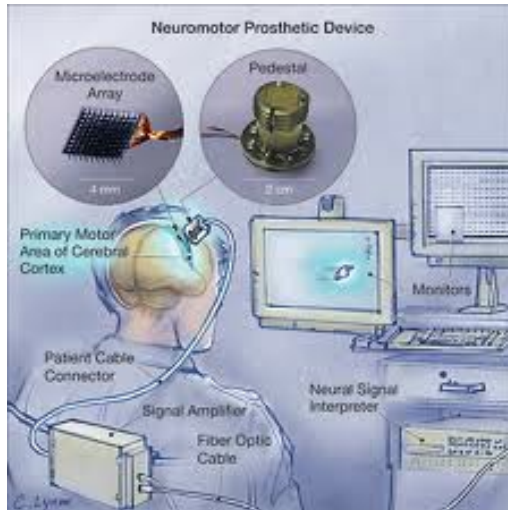
- Bulky, tethered, wired implants (challenge 1)



- Scaling up in performance/ tasks of daily living (challenge 2)



[Hochberg et al, 2012]



Matt Nagle



[Collinger et al, 2013]

# Existing robotic solutions exceed the ability of BMIs to control them



DEKA's 18-DOF arm

DARPA's  
22-DOF  
prosthetic arm

*“We should focus on the brain, not on the robot” (N. Hogan)*

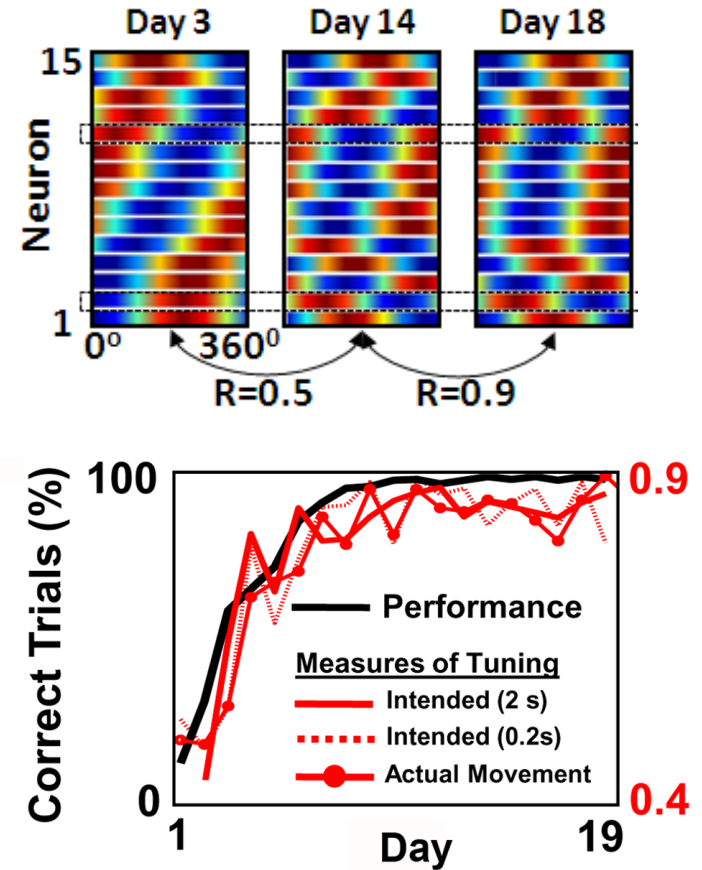
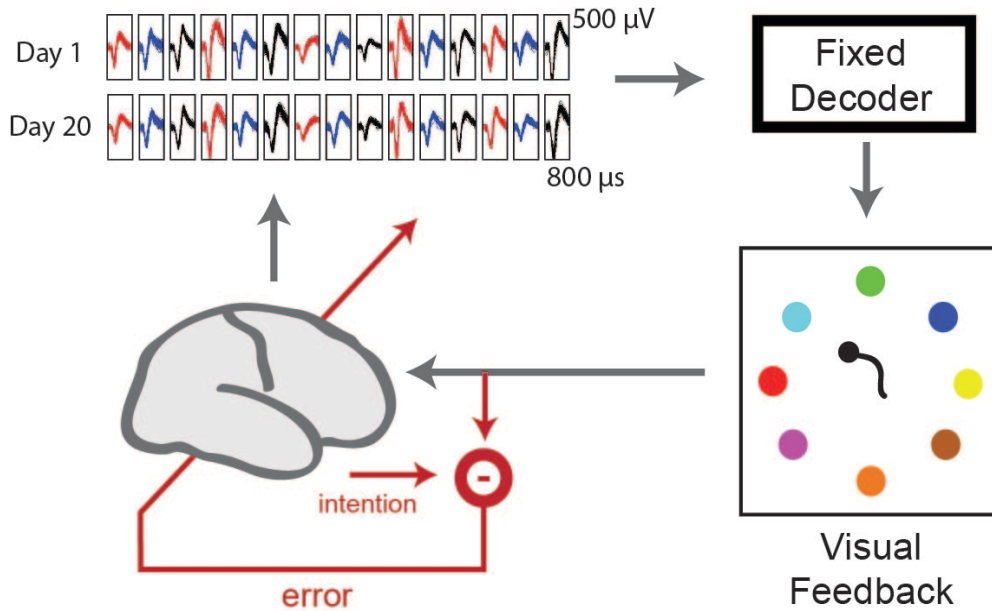
# Outline

- **Neuroprosthetic control** in a closed-loop, 2-learner system
- **Modulation of emotional state** in mesolimbic and mesocortico networks
- Wireless recordings in the PNS with **ultrasonic neural dust**



# Neural basis of neuroprosthetic skill learning

Stable Recorded Neural Activity

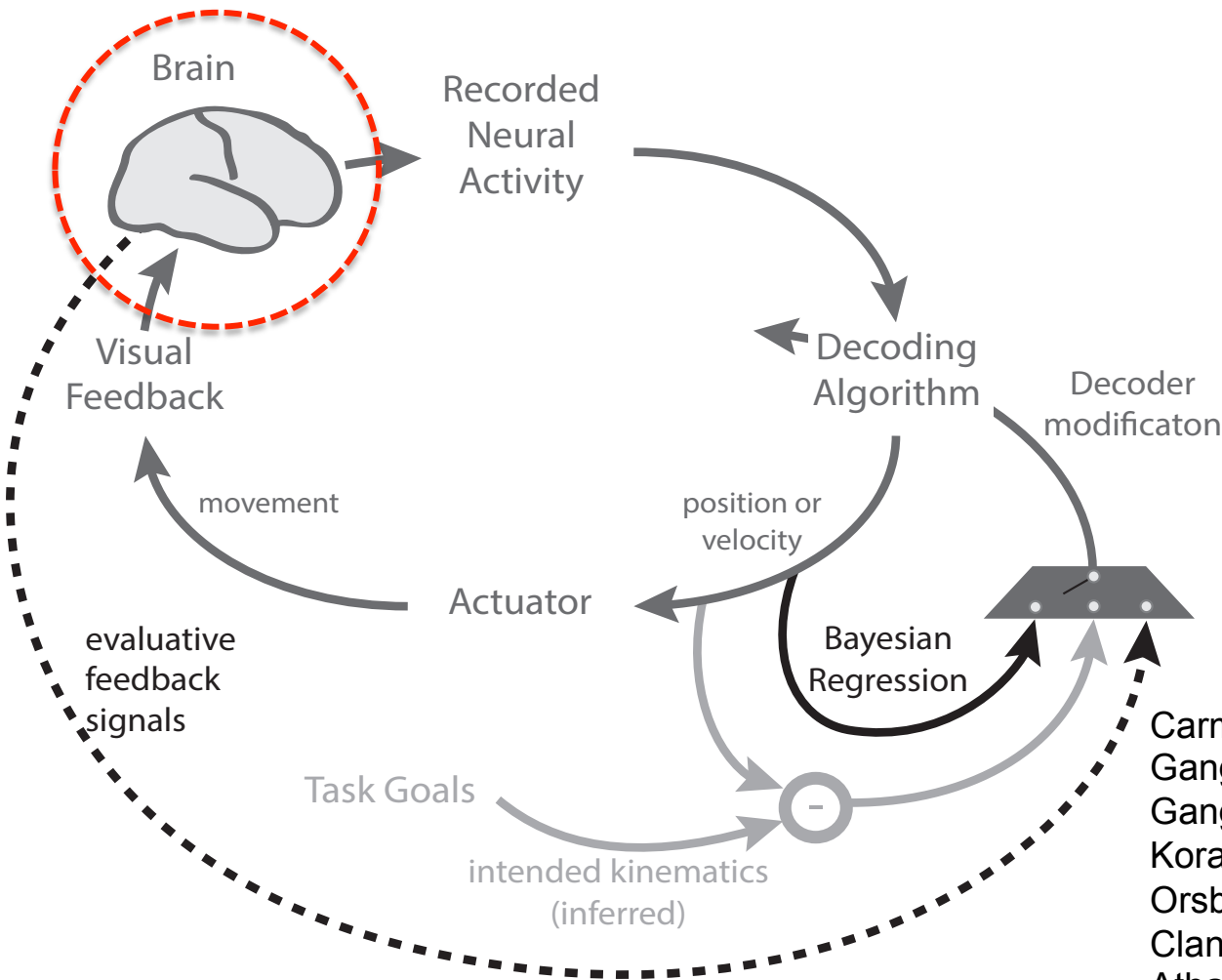


The brain can consolidate *neuroprosthetic* motor skill as in natural motor learning

➔ **Motor memory:** readily recalled, stable across time, and resistant to interference

# BMI is a **2-learner** system

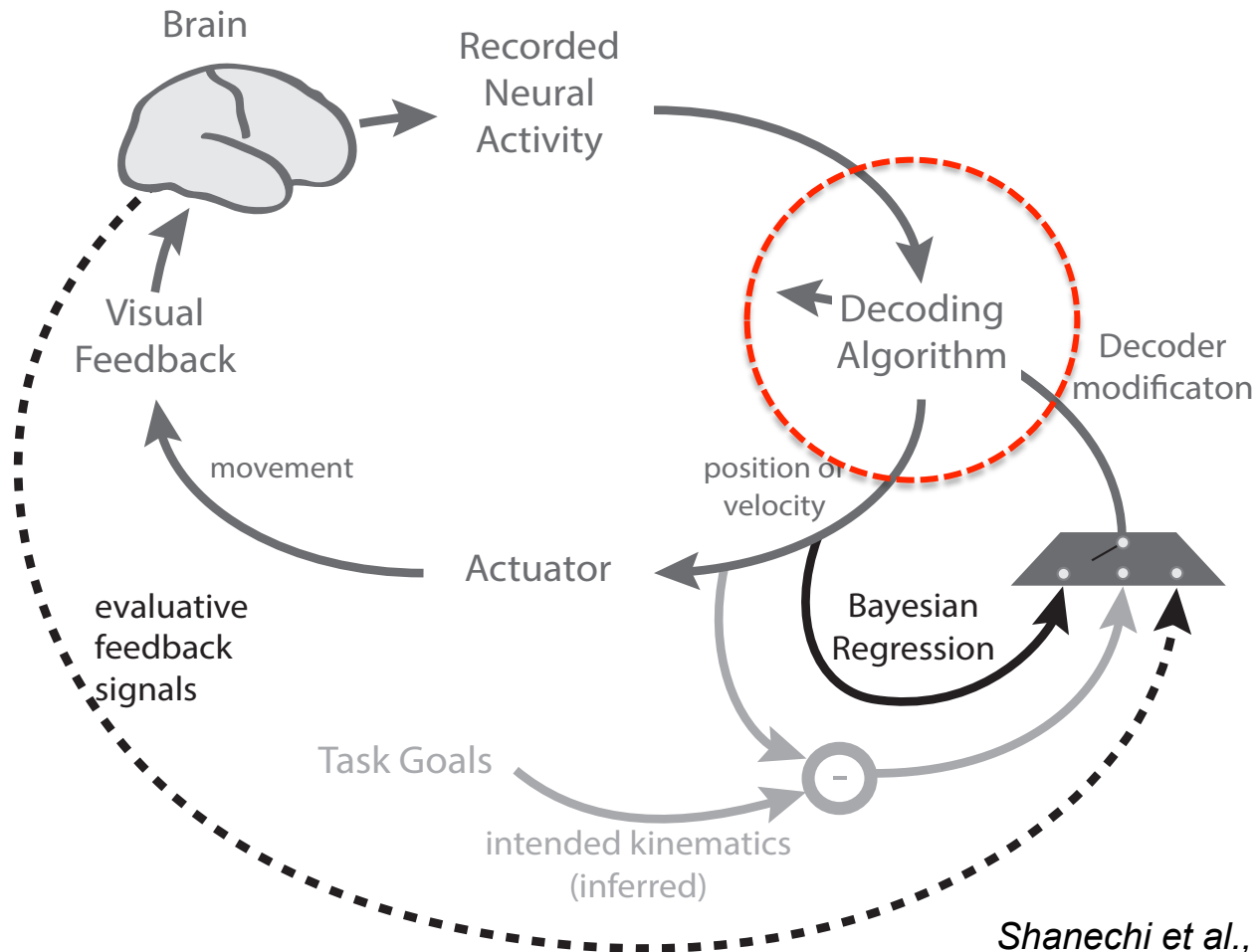
- The brain learns to control the BMI



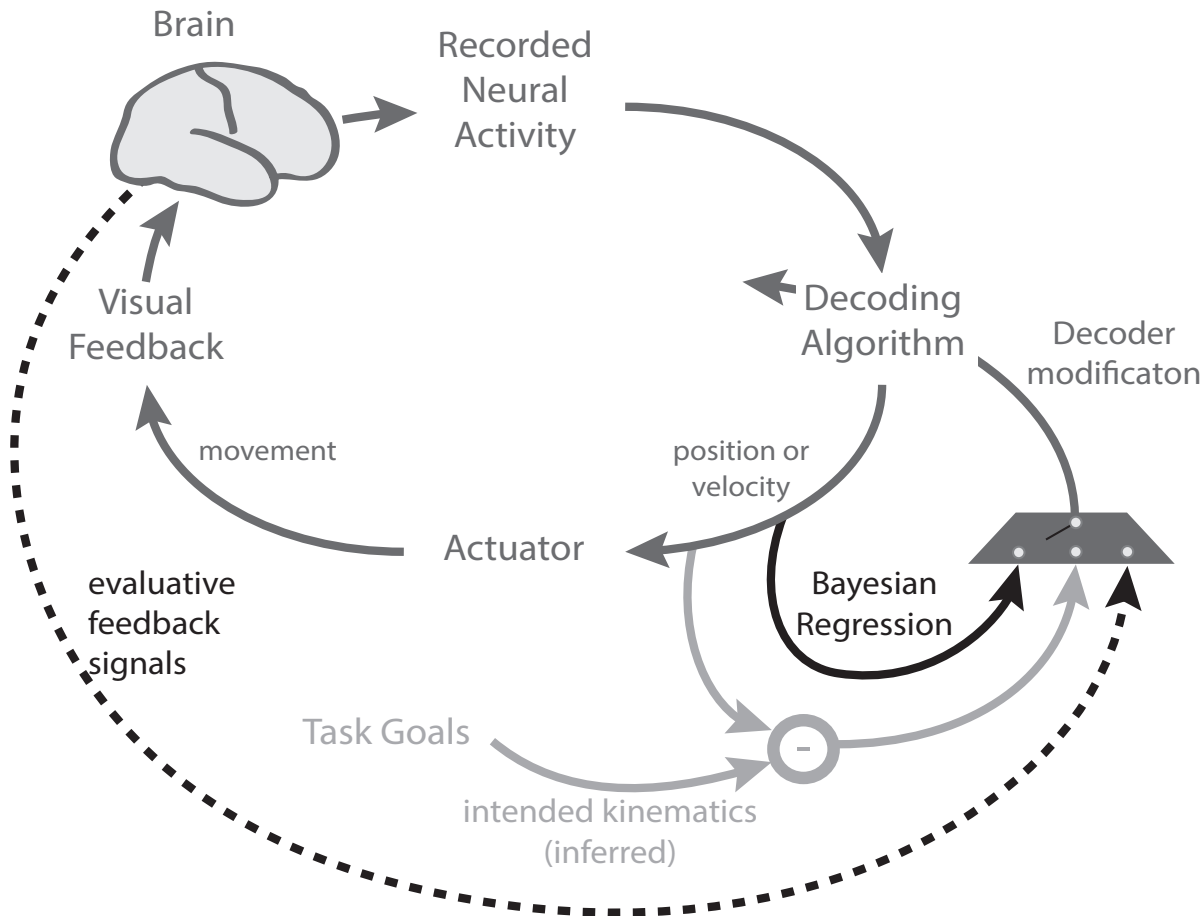
Carmena et al., *PLoS Biology*, 2003  
Ganguly & Carmena, *PLoS Biology*, 2009  
Ganguly et al., *Nature Neurosc*, 2011  
Koralek et al., *Nature*, 2012  
Orsborn et al., *Neuron*, 2014  
Clancy et al., *Nature Neurosc*, 2014  
Athalye et al., *Neuron*, 2017  
Neely et al., *Neuron*, 2018

# BMI is a **2-learner** system

- The brain learns to control the BMI
- What about learning in the machine?



# Closed-Loop Decoder Adaptation (CLDA)



- Updating the decoder during closed-loop operation to **accelerate learning** and **boost and maintain performance**.
- **When, which** and **how** to update the parameters matters

*Taylor et al., 2002*

*Schpigelman et al., 2008*

*DiGiovanna et al., 2009*

*Gilja et al., 2010; 2012*

*Li et al., 2011*

*Mahmoudi et al., 2011*

*Gurel and Mehring, 2012*

*Orsborn et al., 2012*

*Merel et al., 2013*

...

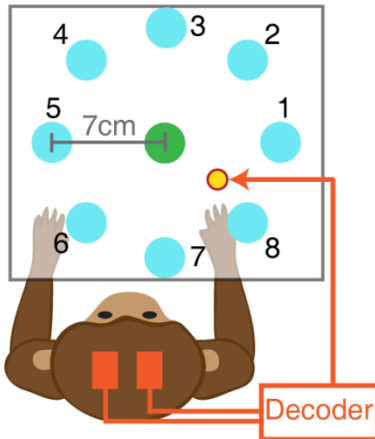
*Dangi\*, Orsborn\*, et al., Neural Computation, 2013*

*Dangi et al., Neural Computation, 2014*

*Shanechi et al., PLoS Comp Bio, 2017*

# Closed-Loop Decoder adaptation (using smoothBatch algorithm)

Closed-loop BMI  
Operation



Collect Observation  
(1-2min batches)

Spikes ( $\mathbf{Y}$ )

Intended  
kinematics ( $\mathbf{X}_{in}$ )

Inferred from task  
using ReFIT algorithm (Gilja et al., 2012)

Update Decoder

**ML Update**

$$\hat{C} = YX_{in}^T (X_{in}X_{in}^T)^{-1}$$

$$\hat{Q} = \frac{1}{N} (Y - \hat{C}X_{in})(Y - \hat{C}X_{in})^T$$

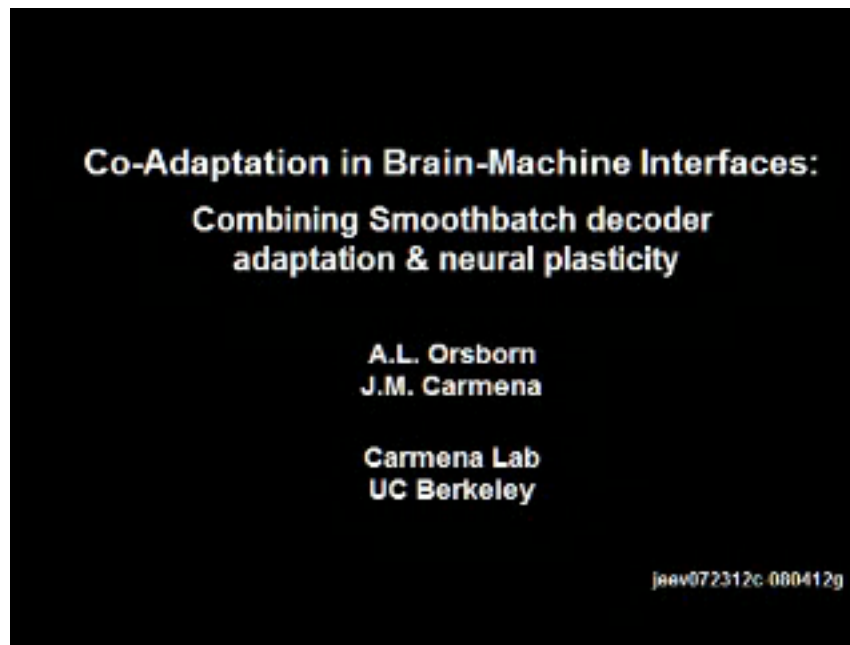
**Sliding average**

$$C^{(i+1)} = \beta C^{(i)} + (1 - \beta) \hat{C}$$

$$Q^{(i+1)} = \alpha Q^{(i)} + (1 - \alpha) \hat{Q}$$

Repeat as needed (until adequate performance)

# Combining Neural and Decoder Adaptation



**Decoder initialization**  
(independent of movement)



**Decoder  
adaptation**  
(CLDA)



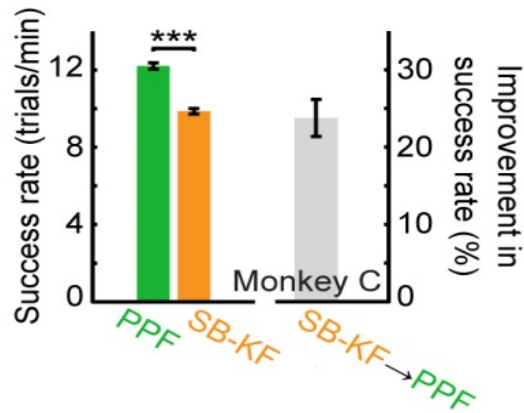
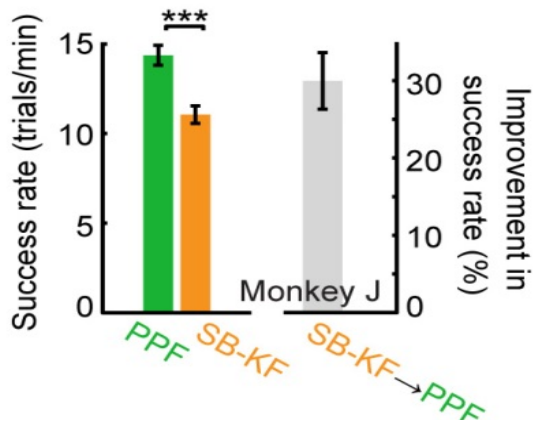
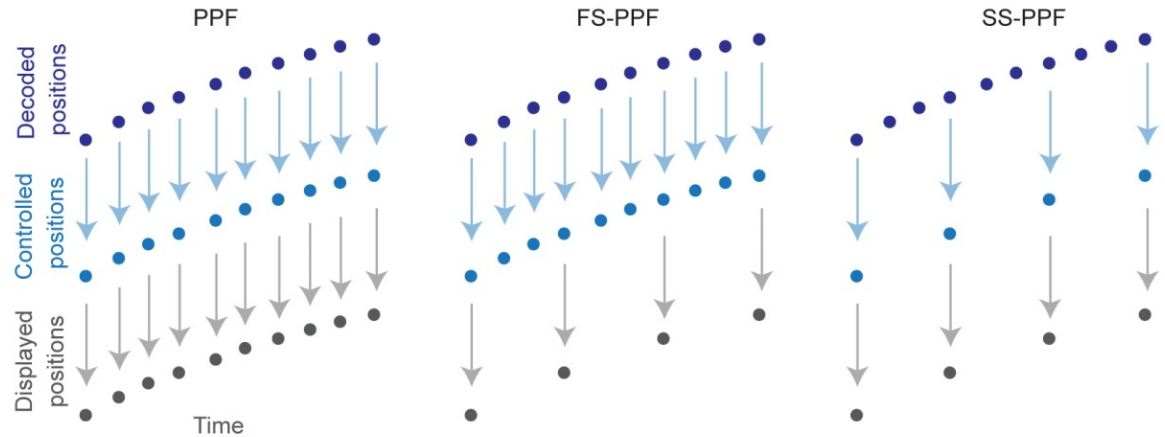
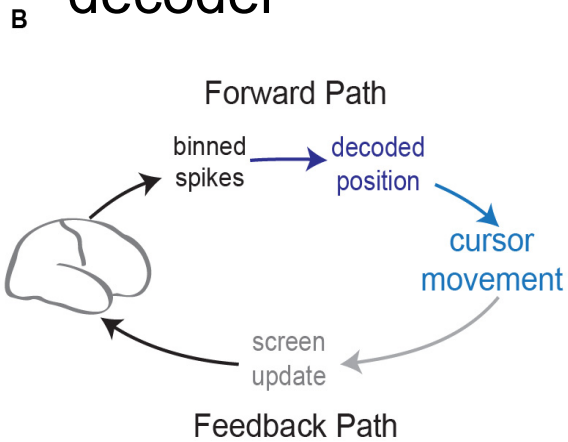
**Fixed decoder &  
ensemble**



**Decoder adaptation as needed**  
(e.g. shift in recordings)

# Rapid control and feedback rates in the sensorimotor pathway enhance neuroprosthetic control

- Using an adaptive optimal feedback-controlled point process decoder



30% improvement of BMI Performance over state of the art Kalman filter



# Outline

- **Neuroprosthetic control** in a closed-loop, 2-learner system
- **Modulation of emotional state** in mesolimbic and mesocortico networks



**Samantha Santacruz, PhD**



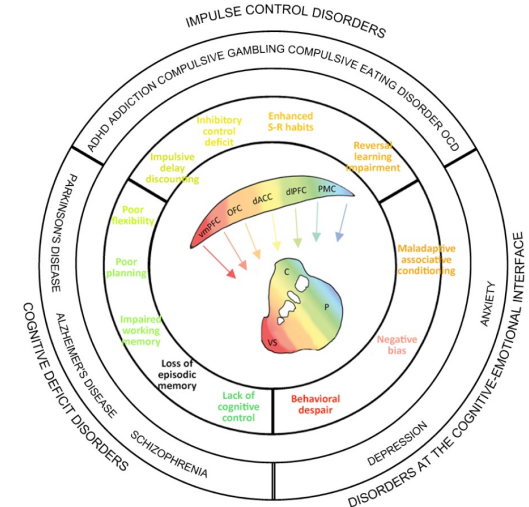
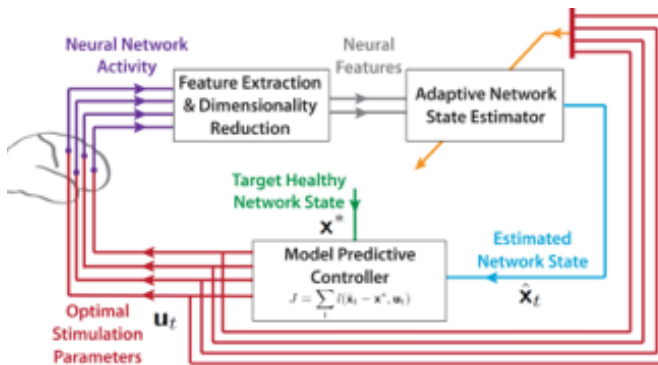
# Mental Health: the Uncharted Territory

- Current pharmacological model is not good enough
  - Need targeted, personalized treatment



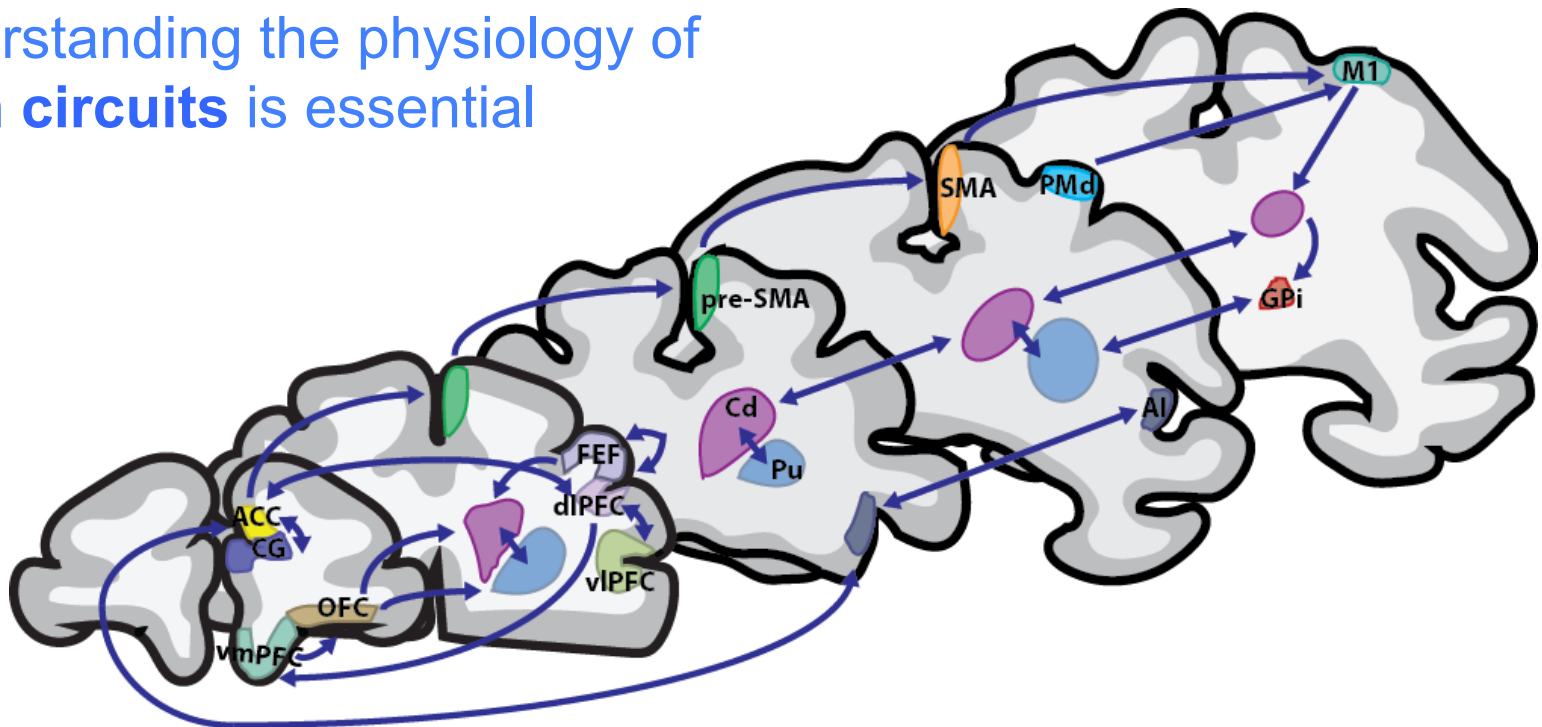
# Mental Health: the Uncharted Territory

- **Goal:** to develop systems-based closed-loop therapy for **neuropsychiatric disorders**
  - Depression, anxiety, PTSD, TBI...
- Measuring how disorders are manifested in brain **systems**
- Modulating precise interventions based on neurophysiological **feedback**.

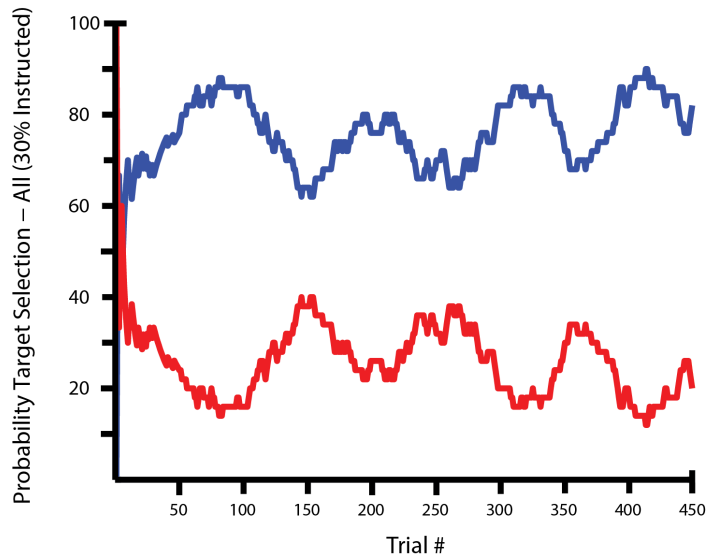
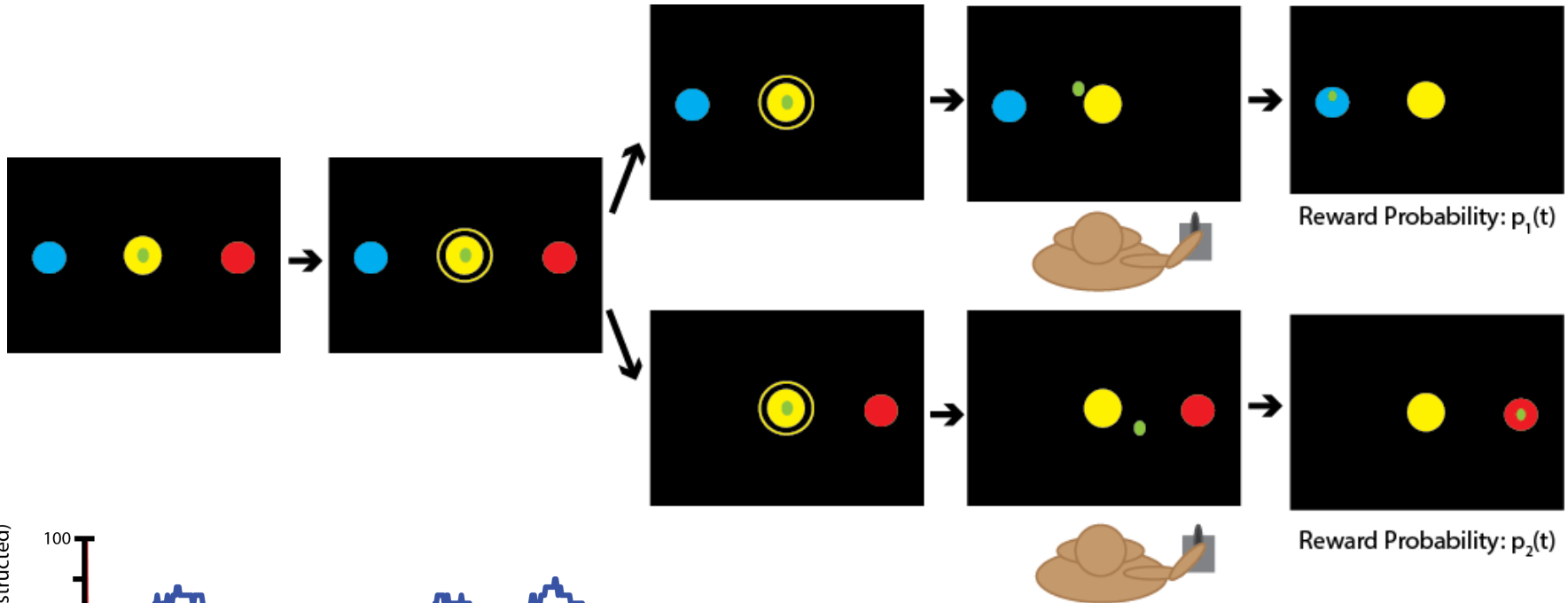


# Mental Health: the Uncharted Territory

- Current pharmacological model is not good enough
  - Need targeted, personalized treatment
- Understanding the physiology of **brain circuits** is essential



# Free-choice probabilistic reward task

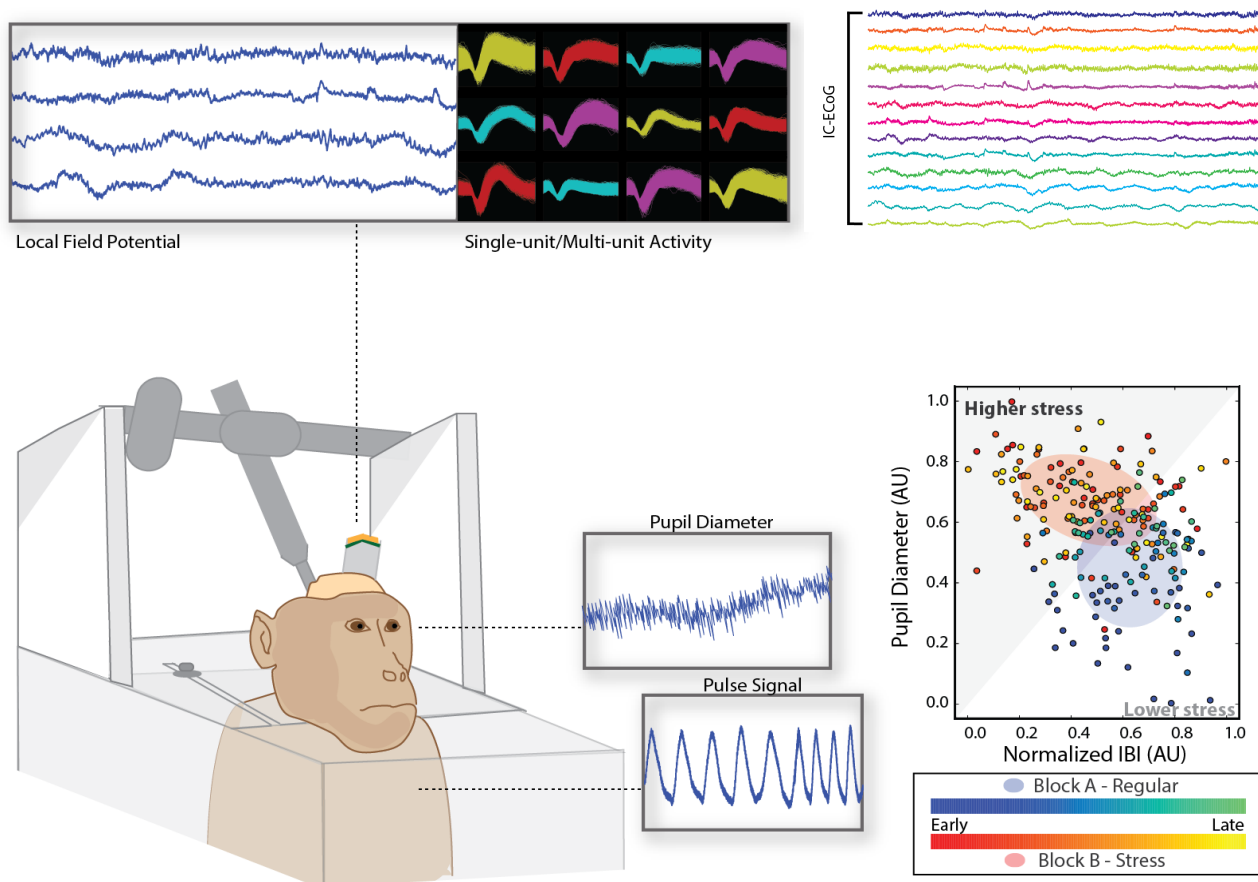


- Reward probabilities drift over time
- Subject's target selection policy reflects local variations in reward probability.

# NHP stress/anxiety animal model

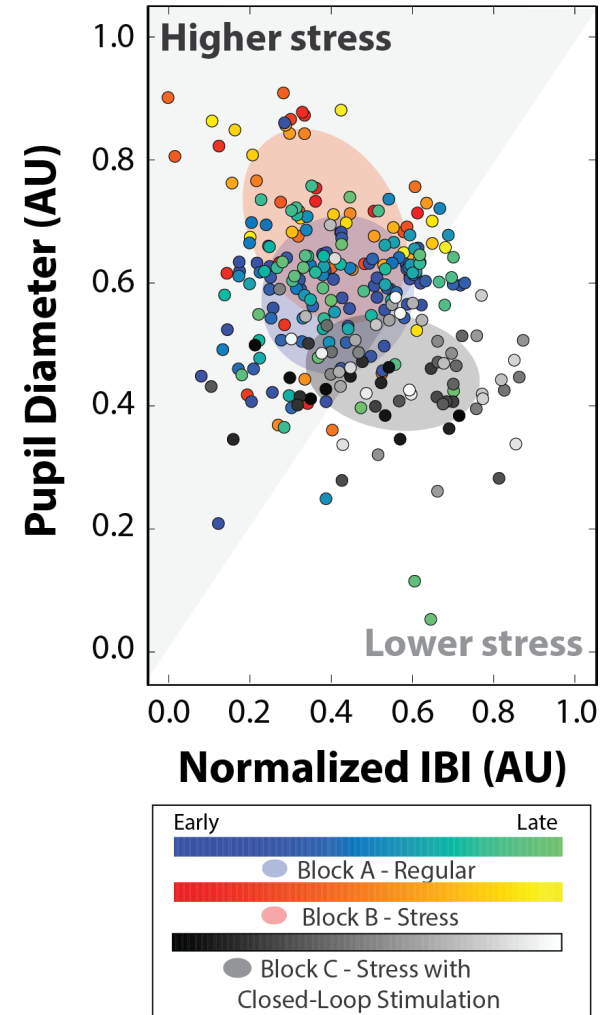
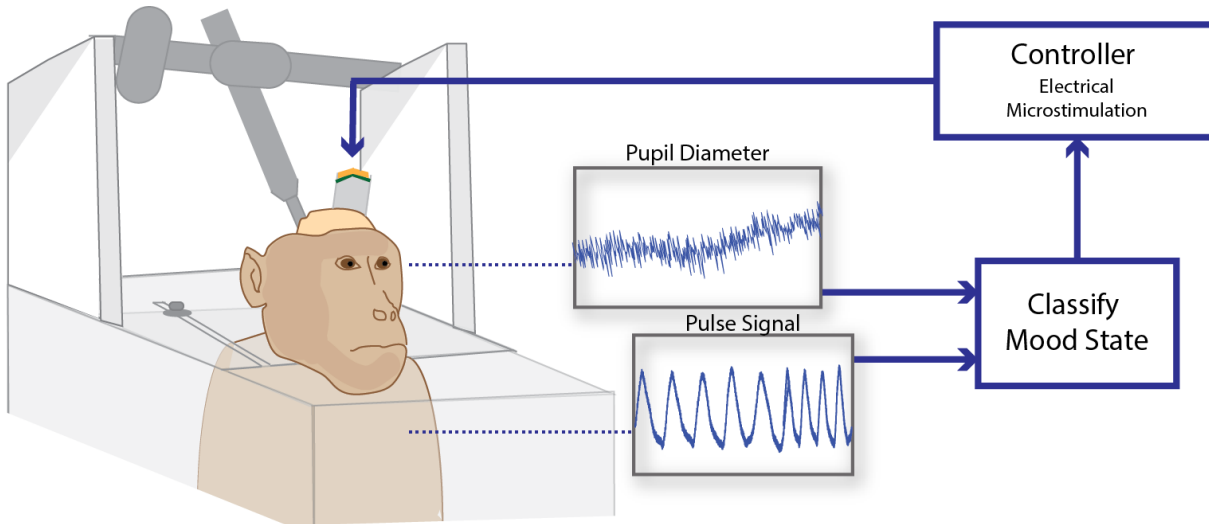
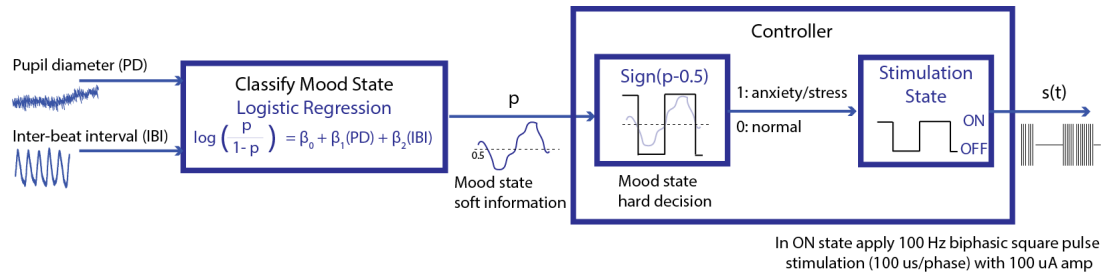
Physiological markers are good predictors of stress state

- Heart inter-beat interval (IBI) decreases and pupil diameter increases in stress trials compared to regular trials.



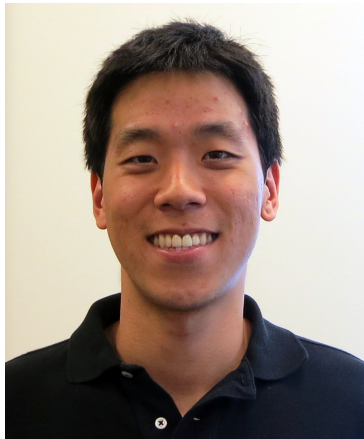
# Identifying emotional state shifts with **closed-loop** stimulation

High-frequency stimulation in OFC/vmPFC during stress trials reduces stress response



# Outline

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- **Wireless recordings in the PNS with ultrasonic neural dust**



**DJ Seo**



**Ryan Neely**

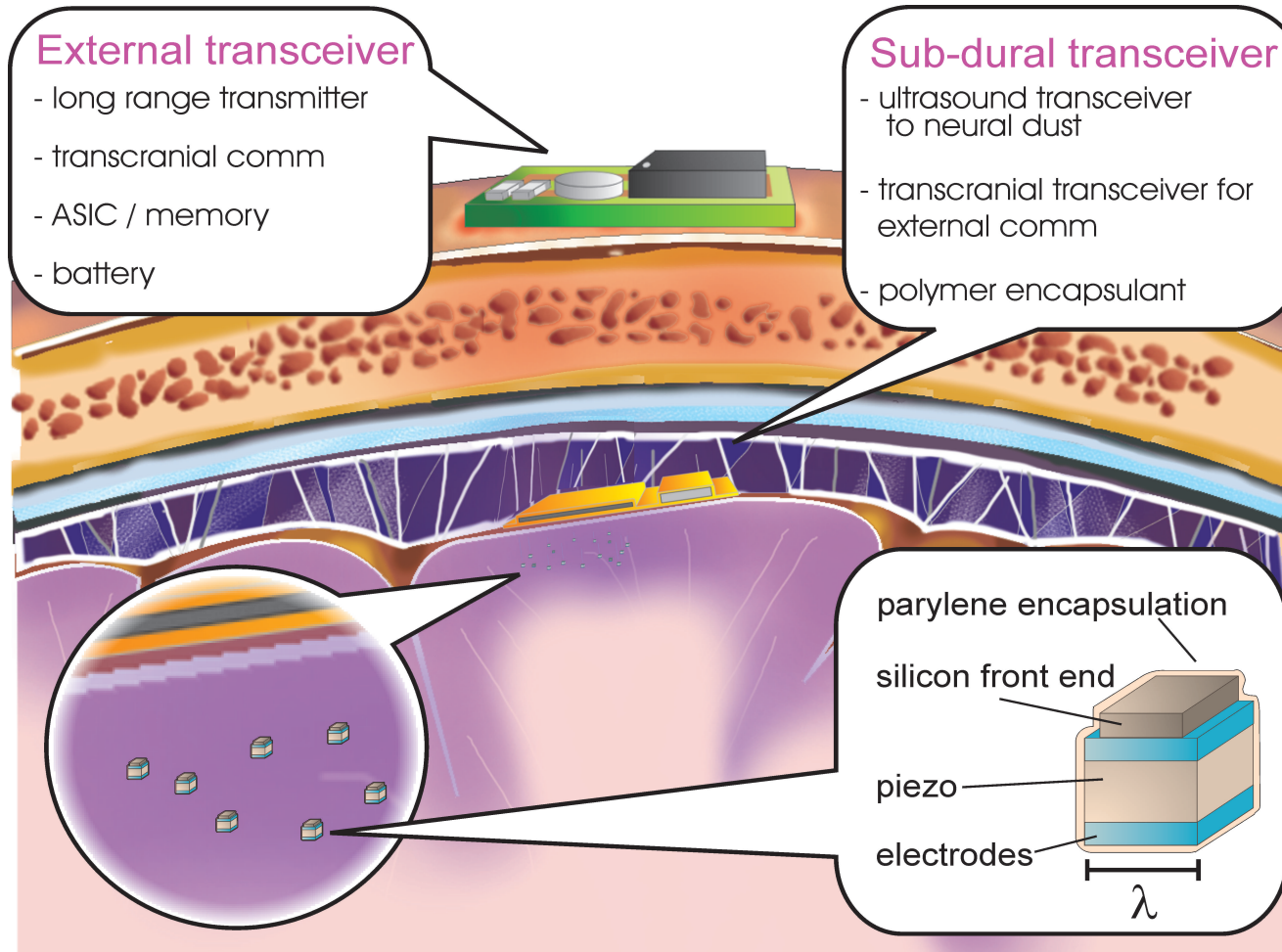


**Michel Maharbiz**

w/ Jan Rabaey and  
Elad Alon (UC  
Berkeley)

# Neural Dust

## An Ultrasonic, Low Power Solution for Chronic BMIs



D.J. Seo  
R. Neely  
J. Carmena  
J. Rabaey  
E. Alon  
M. Maharbiz



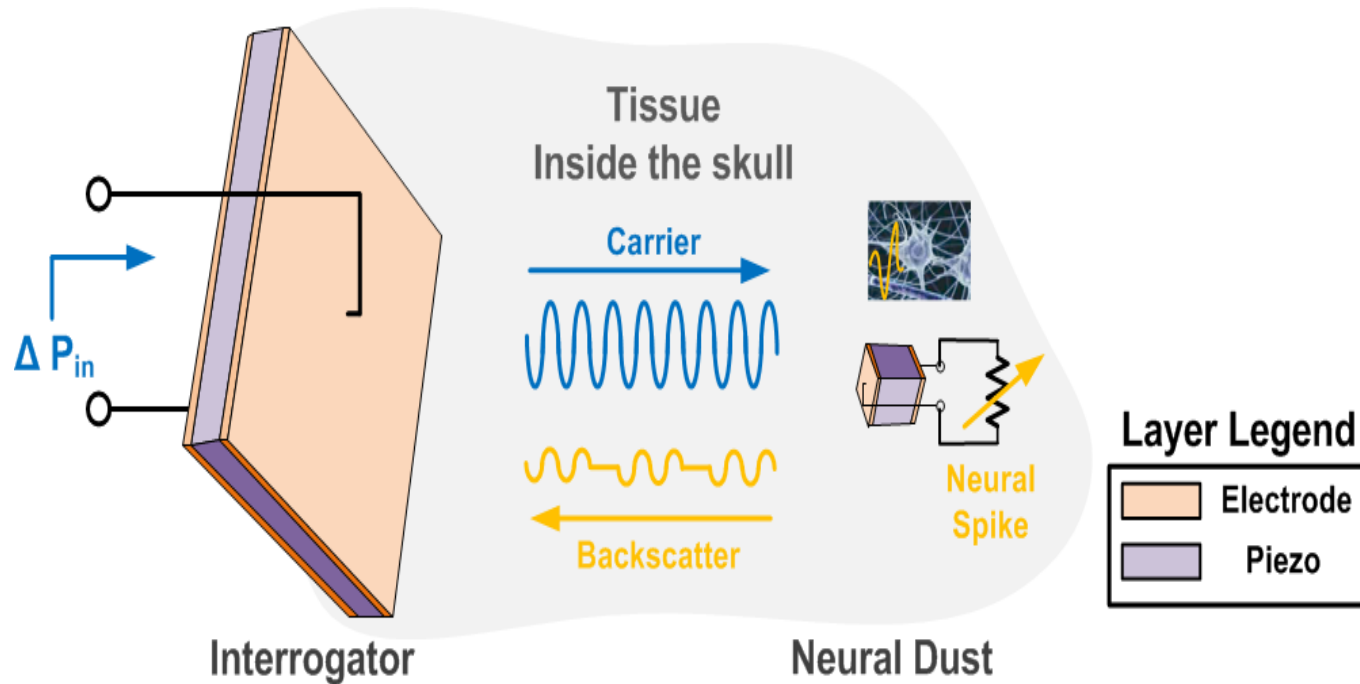
**Towards 1000+ unanchored, free-floating neural dust motes**

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1307.2196>

Seo et al., *Neuron*, 2016

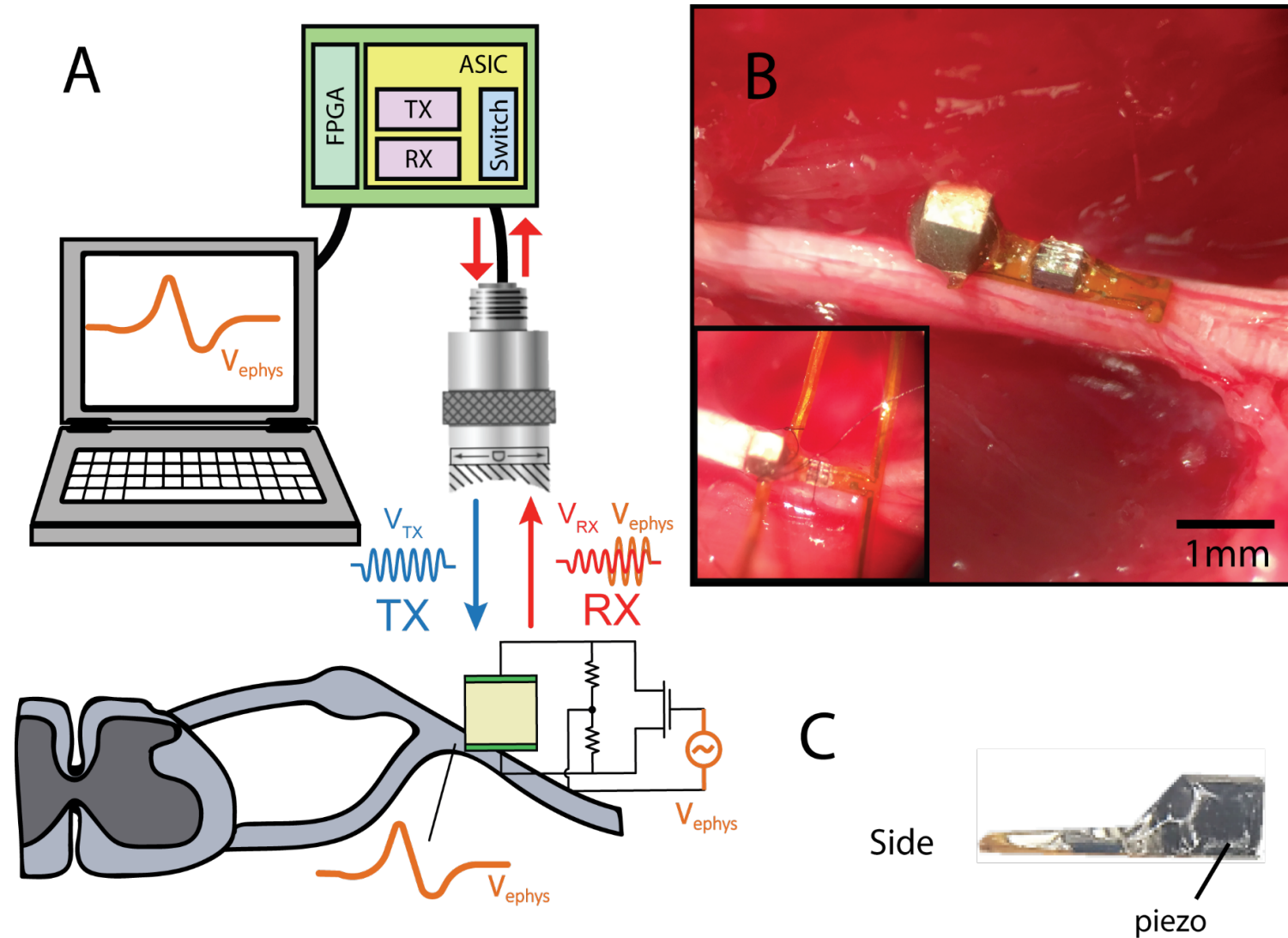


# Basic Neural Dust Operation

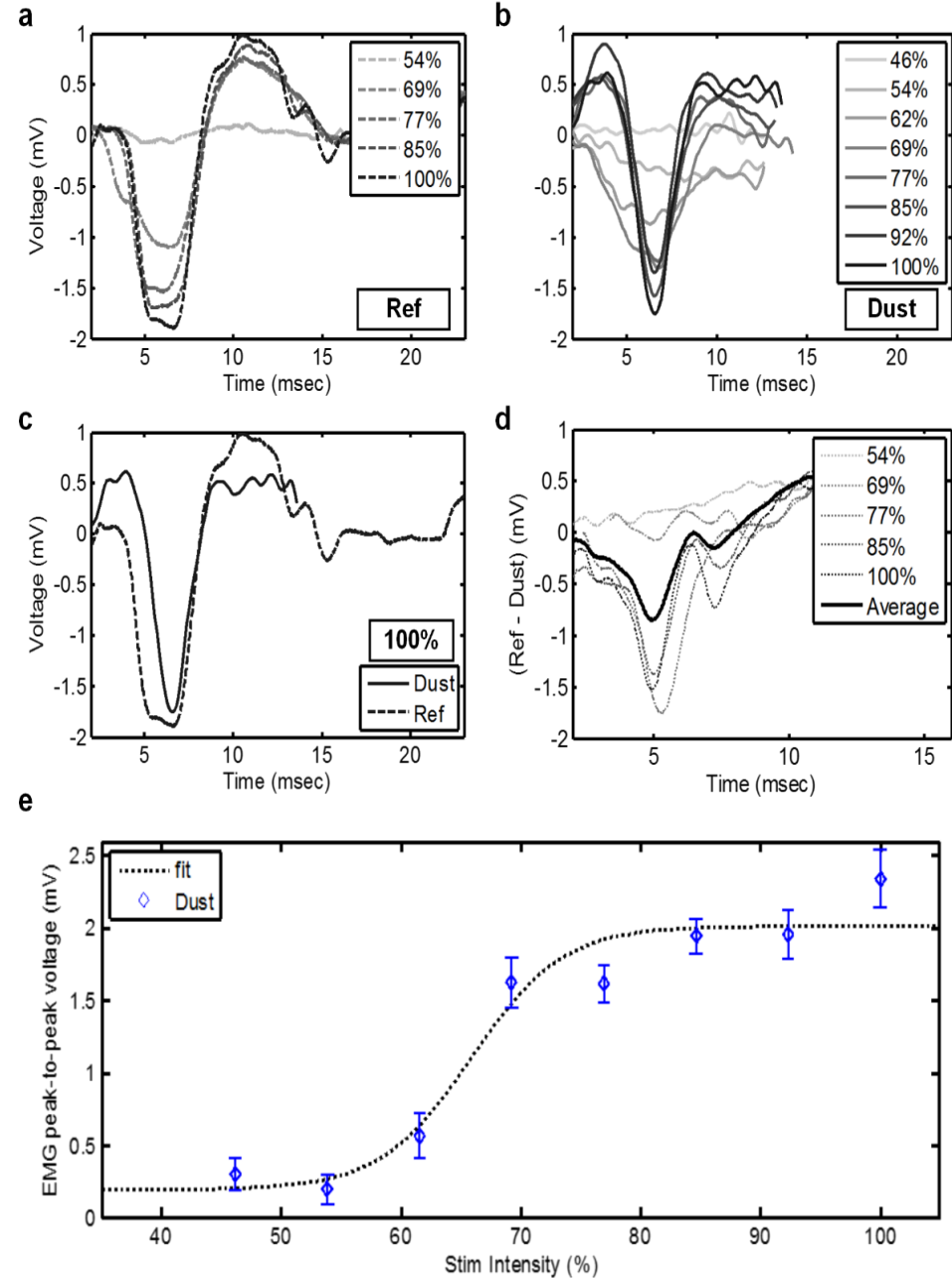
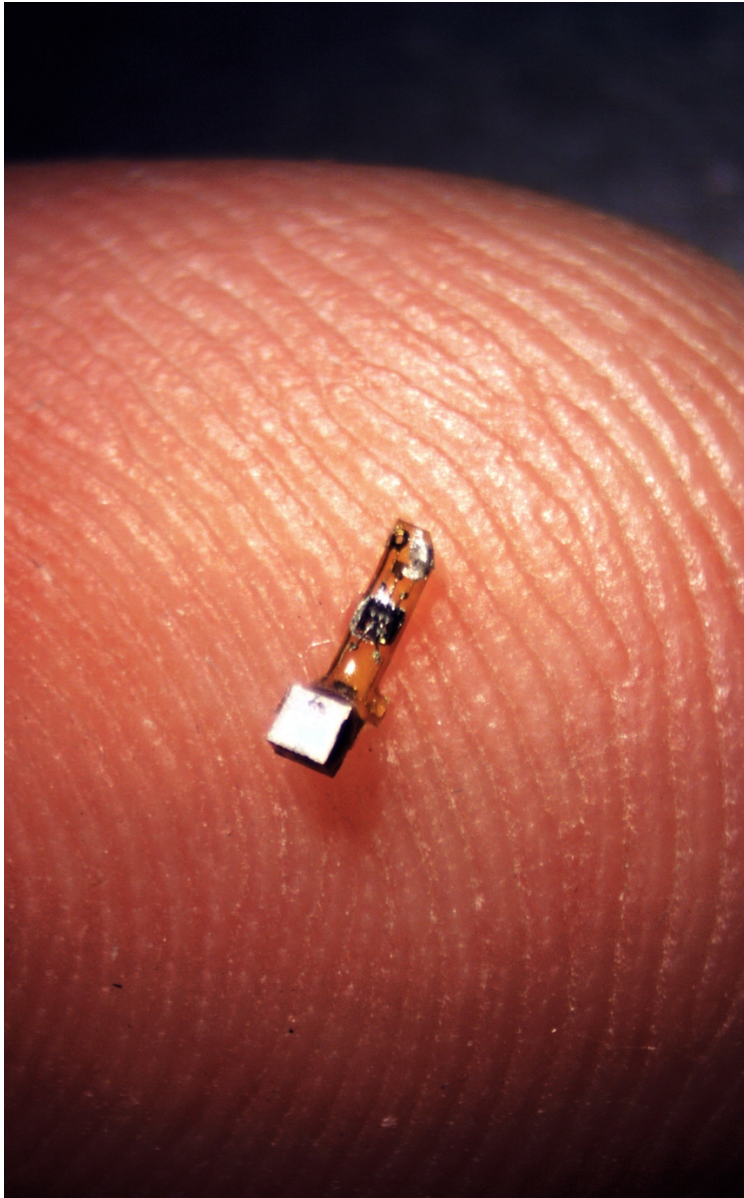


- the **interrogator** couples ultrasound energy to the **motes** with sufficient bandwidth/resolution to interrogate each mote
- each mote consists of a **piezoelectric transducer**, surface electrodes for signal acquisition, and electronics for signal amplification/conversion.
- motes **backscatter** the modulated amplitude, frequency, and/or phase of the impinging ultrasound wave.

# Neural Dust system overview



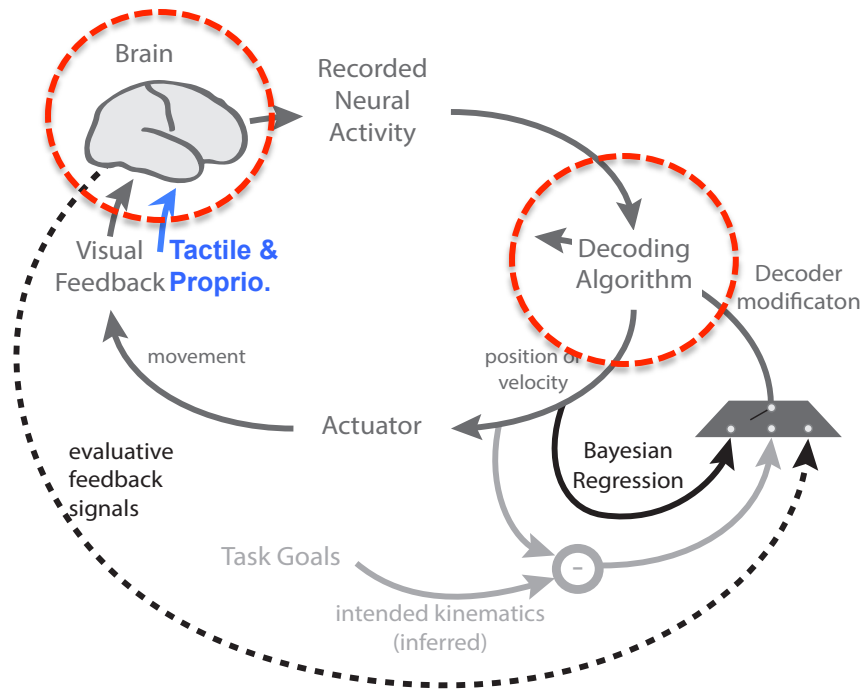
# Neural Dust EMG recordings



# The Road Ahead...

## Towards Skillful, Natural BMI Control

BMIs are **2-learner** systems



- Exploiting **neuroplasticity** & **machine learning** to boost and consolidate performance
- “Write-in” **tactile** and **proprioceptive** feedback from the BMI

# The Road Ahead...

## Mental Health Prosthetics



**The future of neural dust:  
chronic, scalable, and low-power  
brain-machine interfaces**

*MIMO ultrasonic wireless communication*  
– beamforming strategies for ultrasonic communication between subdural trceivers and multiple neural dust motes

*Encapsulation for long-term viability*

– biocompatible, inert encapsulation layer for longevity on the order of a human life

*Neuronal ensemble recordings*

– microfabrication techniques to minimize dust footprint to achieve small effective contact sizes  
– increased signal sensitivity

*Cortical and subcortical motes*

– superficial and deep neural dust motes free-floating, microscale motes minimize immunoresponse

*Stimulation motes*

– induce neurplasticity  
– therapeutic deep brain stimulation treatments

### ➤ Towards closed-loop deep brain stimulation therapies

- From coarse electrical stimulation to precise chemical sensing and stimulation
- Minimally invasive solutions

# Thank you!

## Carmena Lab

- Samantha Santacruz, PhD
- Nuria Vendrell-Llopis, PhD
- Will Liberti, PhD
- Bing Liu, PhD
- Preeya Khanna, PhD
- Tanner Dixon, BS
- Albert You, BS
- David Piech, BS
- Vivek Athalye, PhD
- Ryan Neely, PhD
- Suraj Gowda, PhD
- Helene Moorman, PhD
- Siddharth Dangi, PhD
- Kelvin So, PhD
- Aaron Koralek, PhD
- Maryam Shanechi, PhD
- Amy Orsborn, PhD
- Simon A. Overduin, PhD
- Ryan Canolty, PhD
- Karunesh Ganguly, MD, PhD
- John Long, PhD
- Rodolphe Heliot, PhD
- Subramaniam Venkatraman, PhD

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- Robert Knight (UC Berkeley)
- Joni Wallis (UC Berkeley)
- Reza Shadmehr (JHU)
- Dan Feldman (UC Berkeley)

