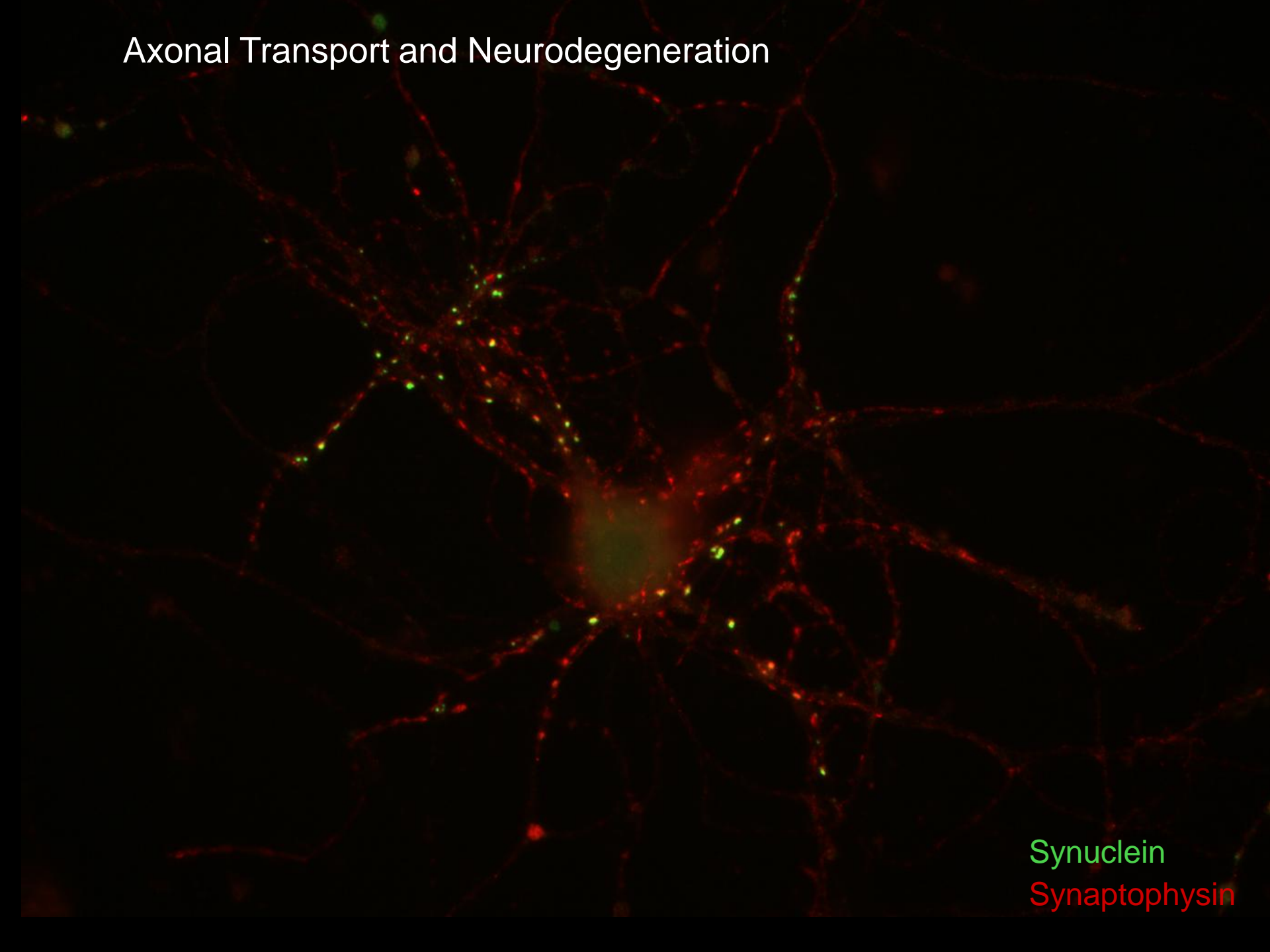
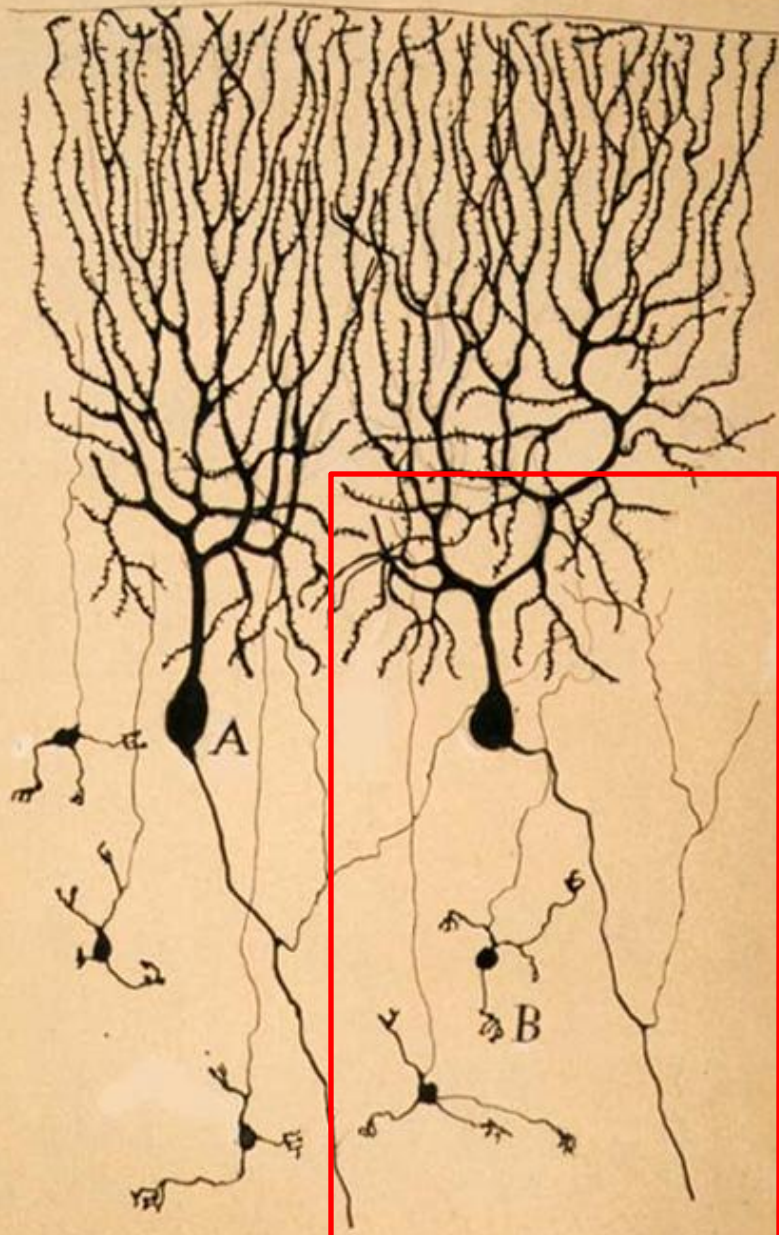


# Axonal Transport and Neurodegeneration

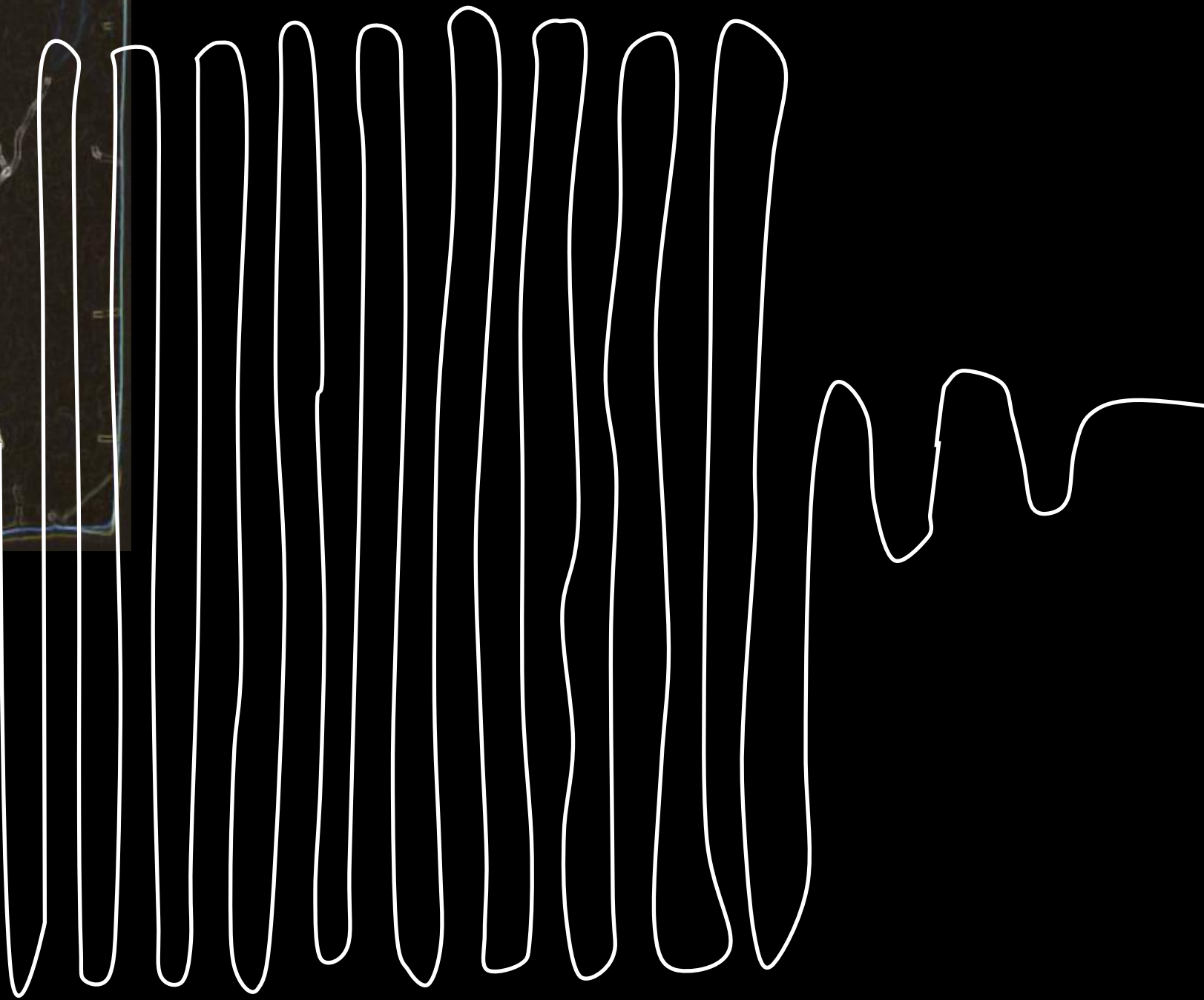
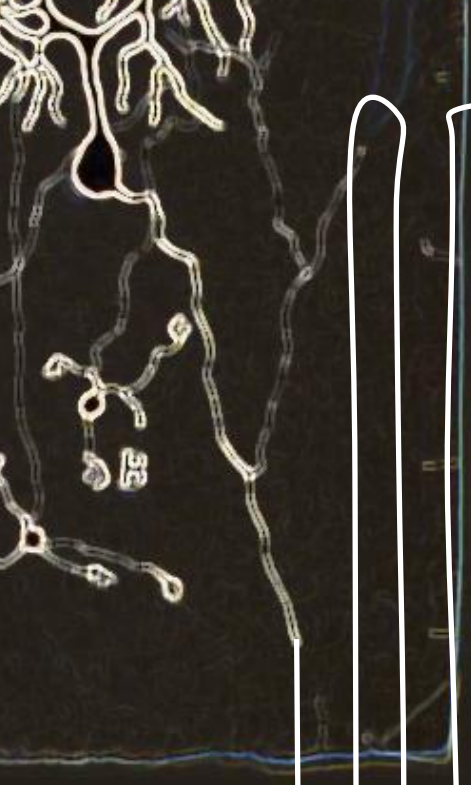


Synuclein  
Synaptophysin



MUSEO CAJAL  
1952  
MADRID

gustave  
un ferio  
i'ena



# Simple scaling experiment

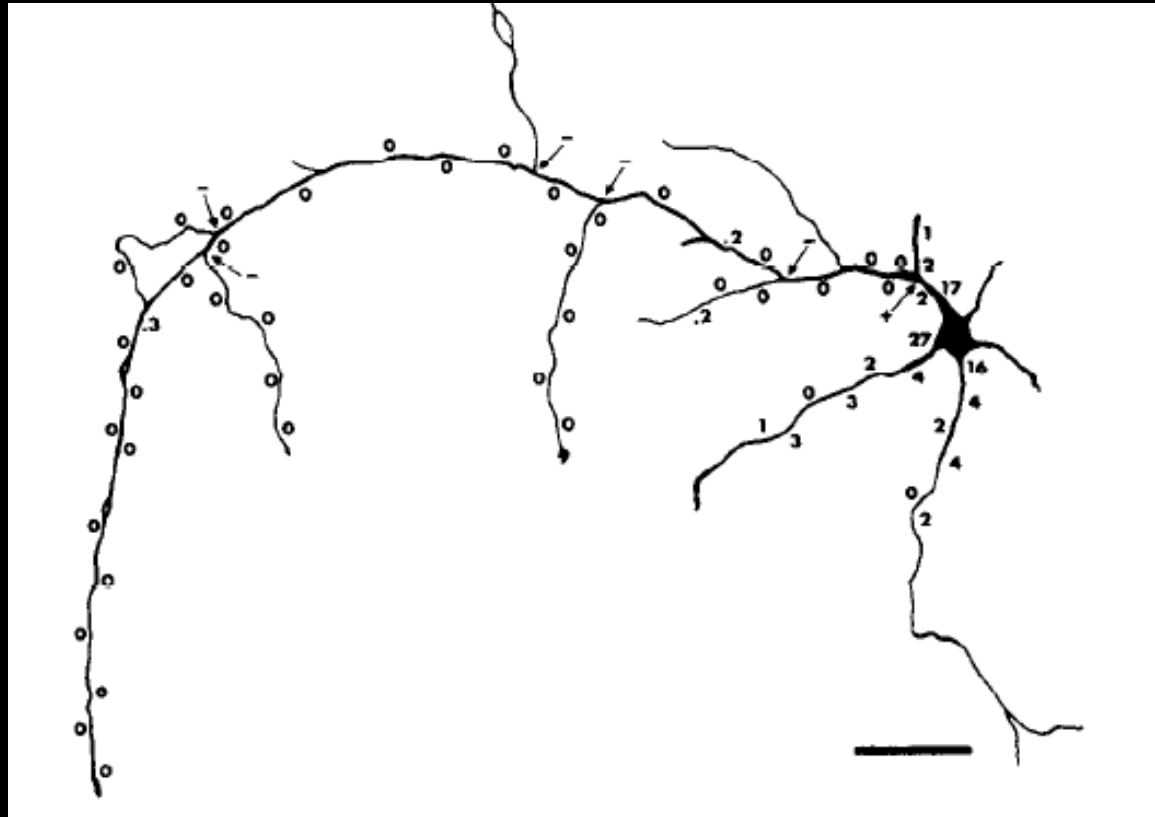
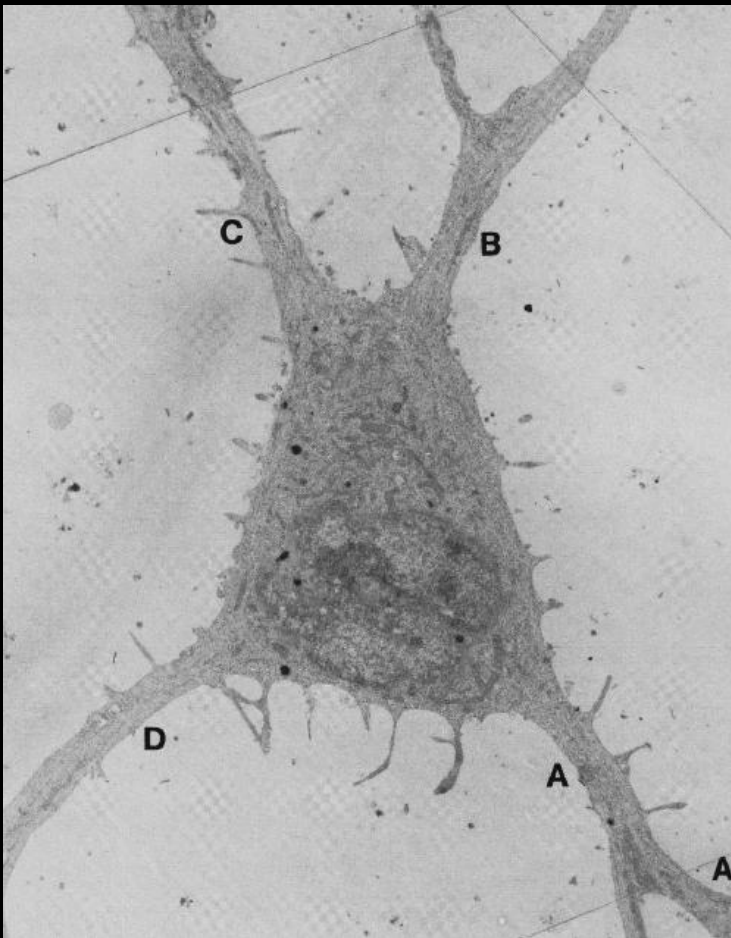
- Cell body=10  $\mu\text{m}$ ---- Axon=100,000  $\mu\text{m}$  (1m)
- Cell body=50 m----- Axon=500,000 m
- Cell body=Conference room ----Axon=300+miles  
ends in Phoenix

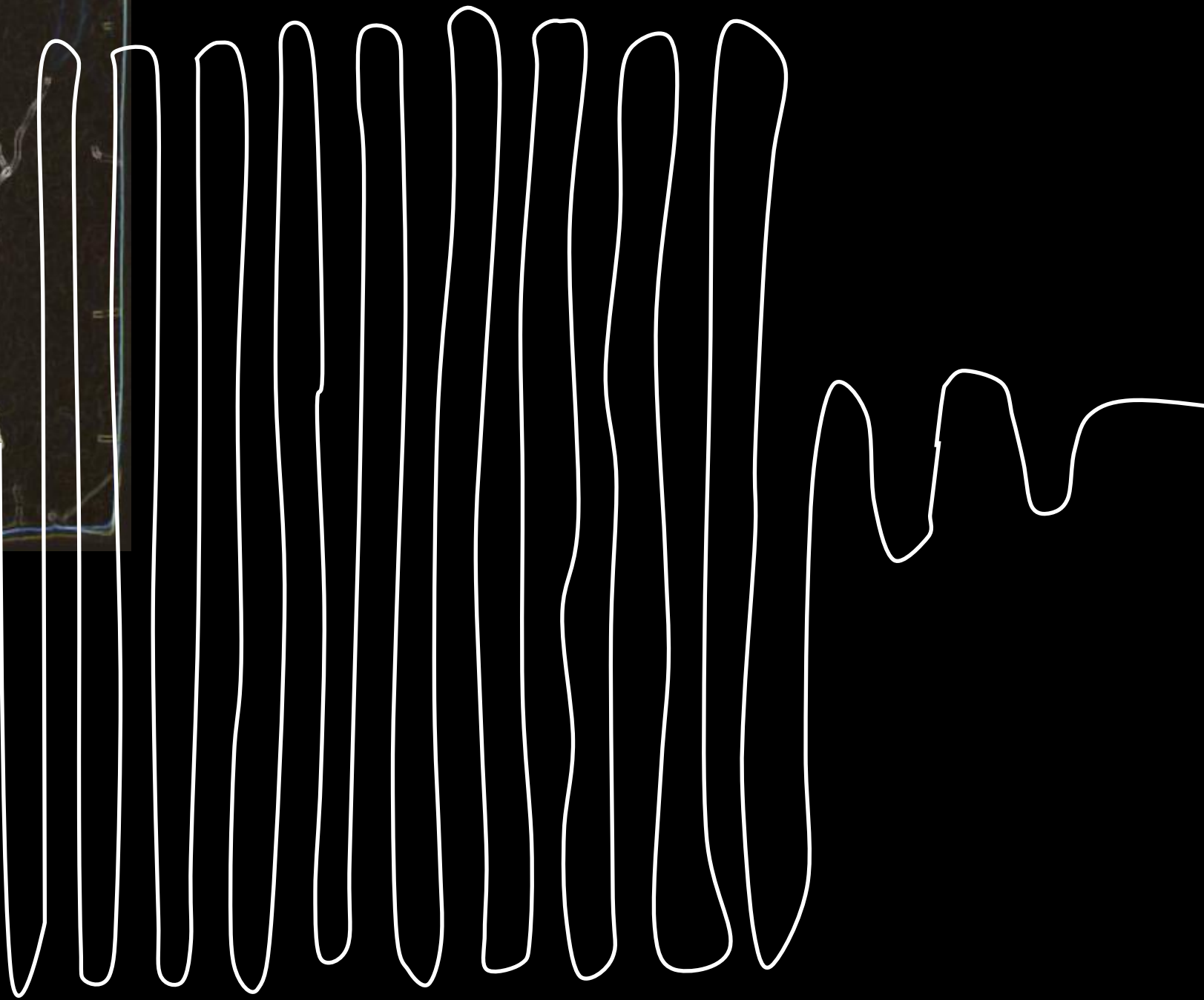
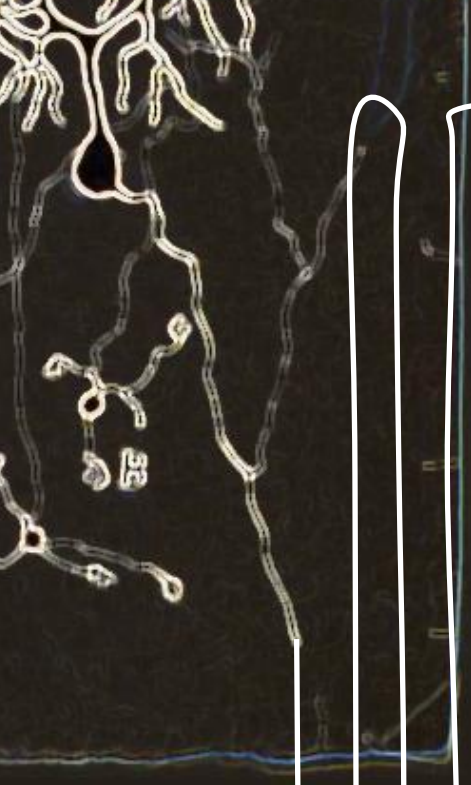
# AN ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AXONS AND DENDRITES BY HIPPOCAMPAL NEURONS IN CULTURE

## I. Cells Which Develop Without Intercellular Contacts<sup>1</sup>

WILLIAM P. BARTLETT<sup>2</sup> AND GARY A. BANKER<sup>3</sup>

*Department of Anatomy, Albany Medical College, Albany, New York 12208*





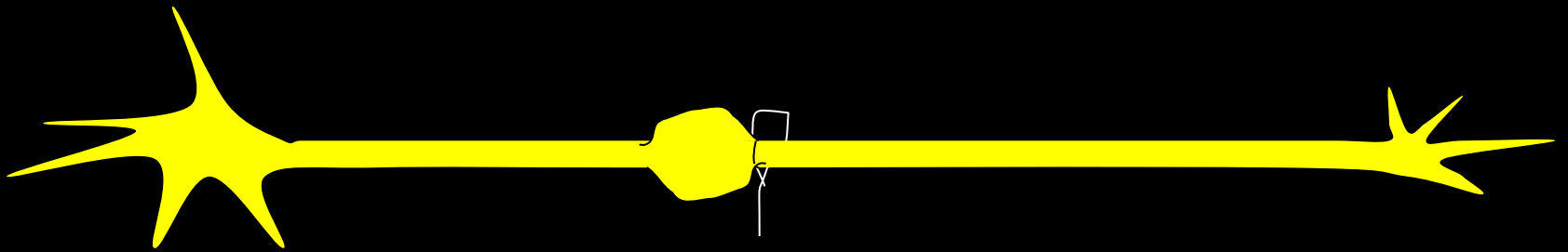
# Why study axonal transport?

- Fundamental mechanism responsible for axonal and pre-synaptic homeostasis
- Axonal and presynaptic neuropathology in neurodegenerative diseases, mutations in motor proteins

- Axonal transport – a brief historical perspective
- An potential example of axonal transport impairment in Alzheimer's disease



Paul Alfred Weiss H. Hiscoe. Experiments on  
the mechanism of cell outgrowth.  
*J. Exp. Zool.* 107: 315-395. 1948



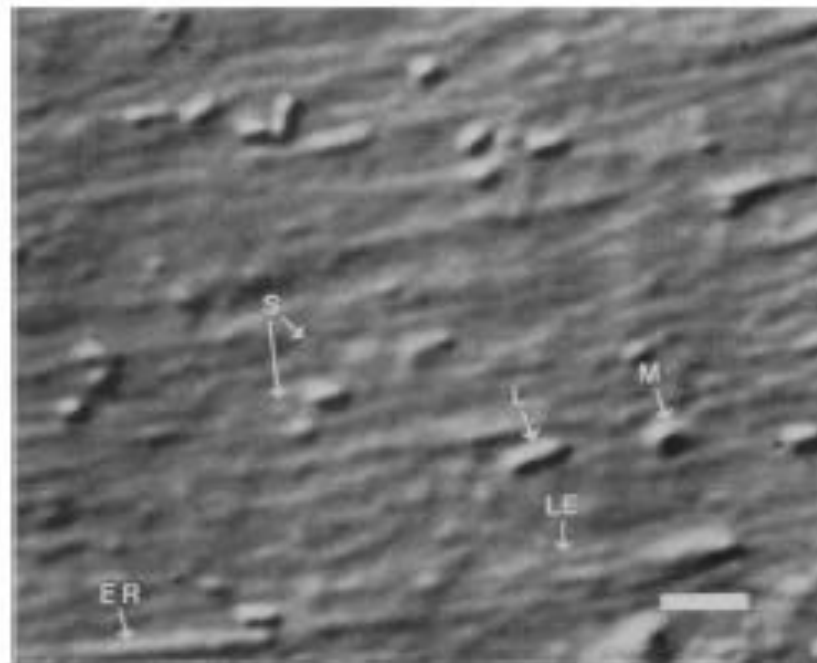
## Fast Axonal Transport in Squid Giant Axon

**Abstract.** *Video-enhanced contrast-differential interference contrast microscopy has revealed new features of axonal transport in the giant axon of the squid, where no movement had been detected previously by conventional microscopy. The newly discovered dominant feature is vast numbers of "submicroscopic" particles, probably 30- to 50-nanometer vesicles and other tubulovesicular elements, moving parallel*

ROBERT DAY ALLEN

*Department of Biological Sciences,  
Dartmouth College,  
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755*

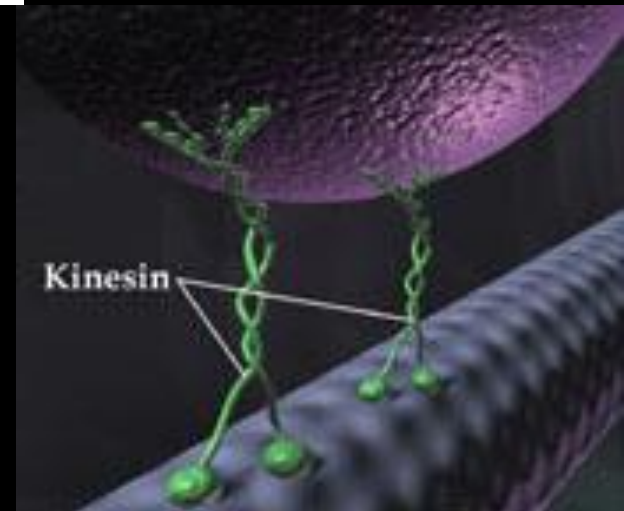
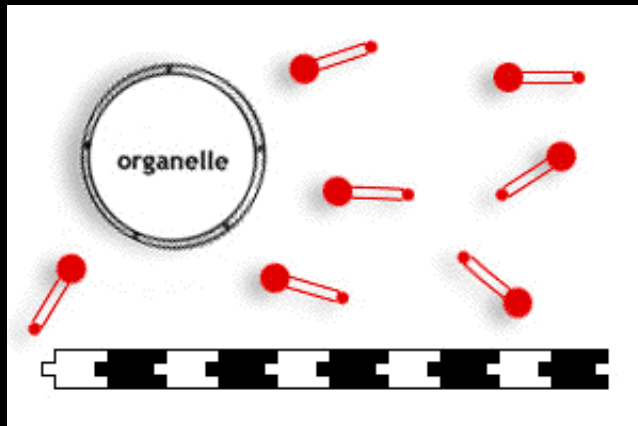
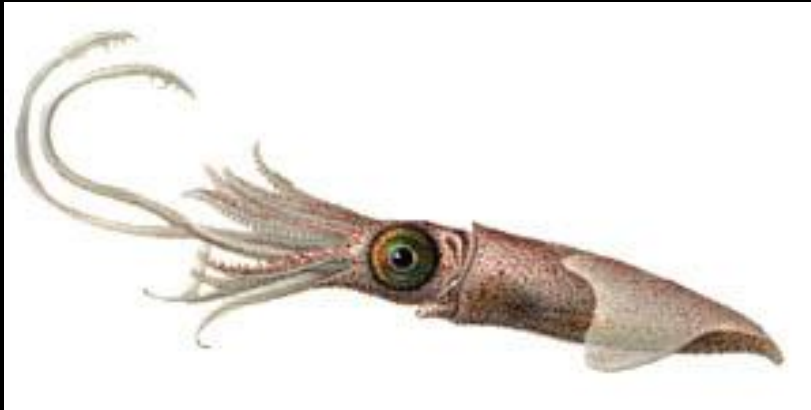
SCIENCE, VOL. 218, 10 DECEMBER 1982



**Fig. 1.** A video micrograph of an optical section about 200 nm thick and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  deep in the axoplasm of a squid giant axon showing examples of large (*L*), medium (*M*), and small (*S*) particles and linear elements (*LE*). Studies with the stain Fast Green suggest that structures such as that labeled *ER* may represent a segment of the smooth endoplasmic reticulum of the axon (15). In video records, many of these particles are moving (as described in text). Scale bar, 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

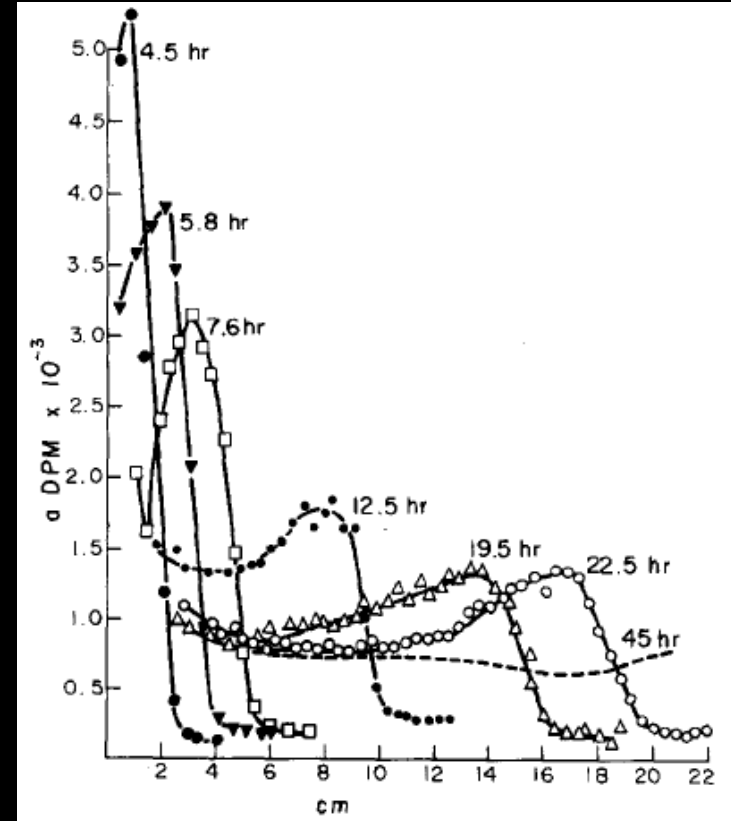
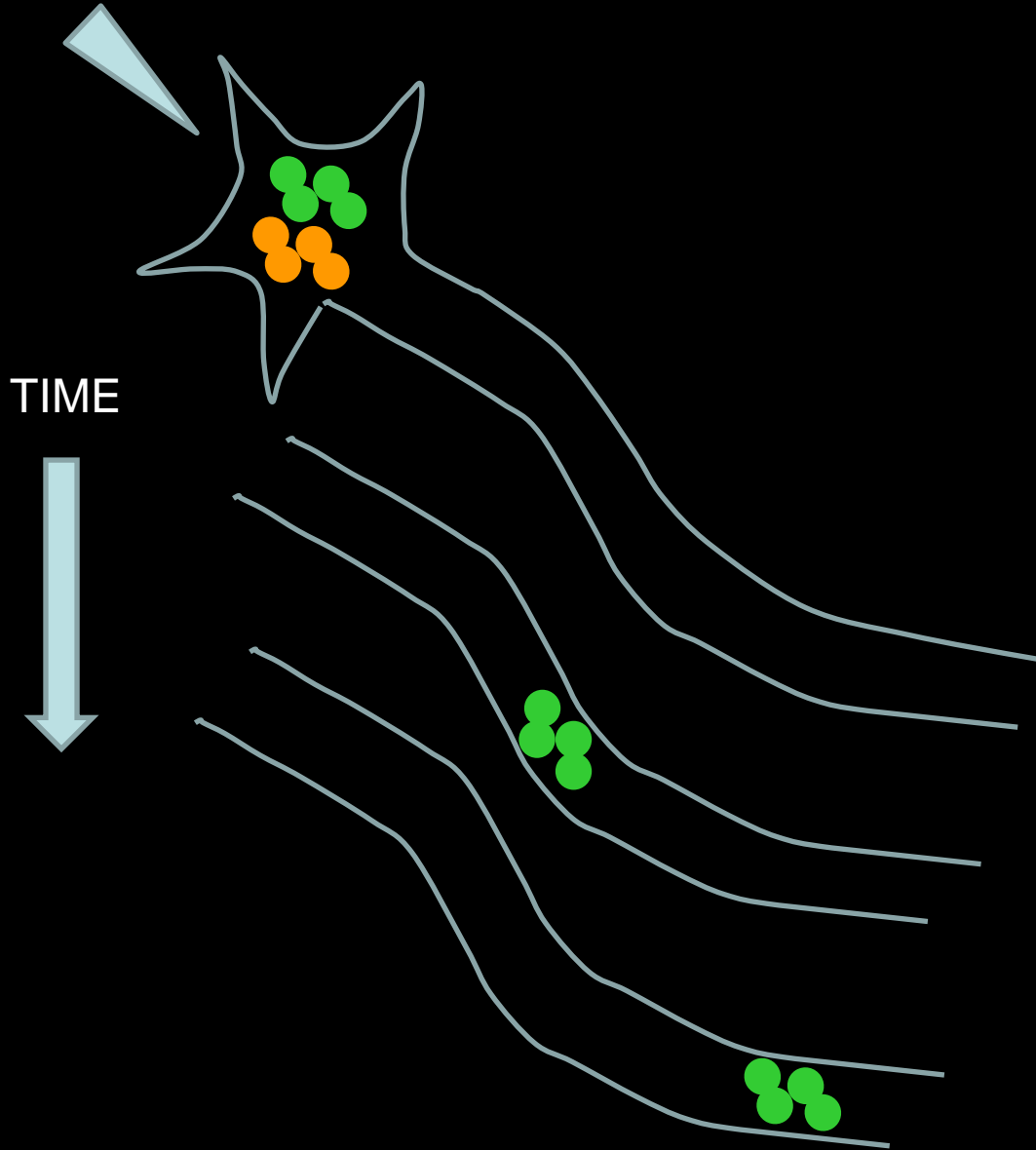


# Discovery of motor proteins (kinesins and dyneins)

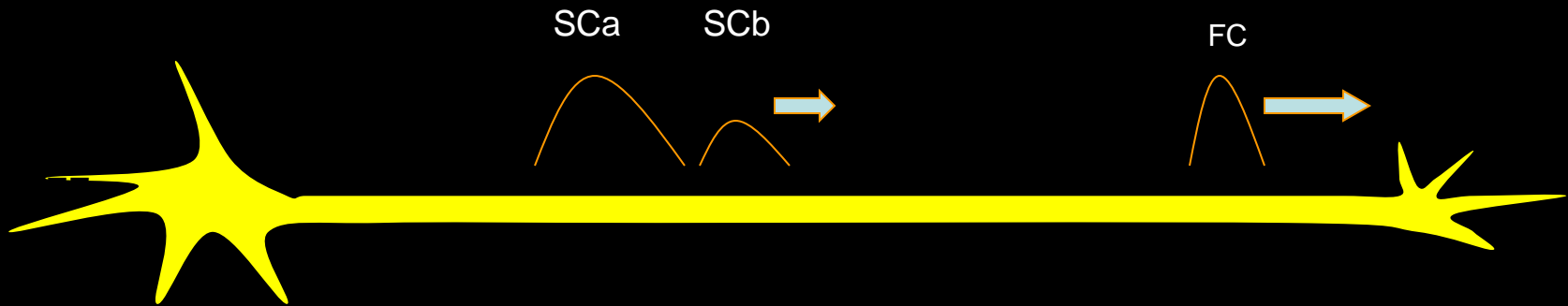


# Classical paradigm demonstrating axonal transport

Inject  
radiolabeled  
amino acids



# Fast and slow axonal transport



- Classical “pulse-chase” radiolabeling revealed two major populations:

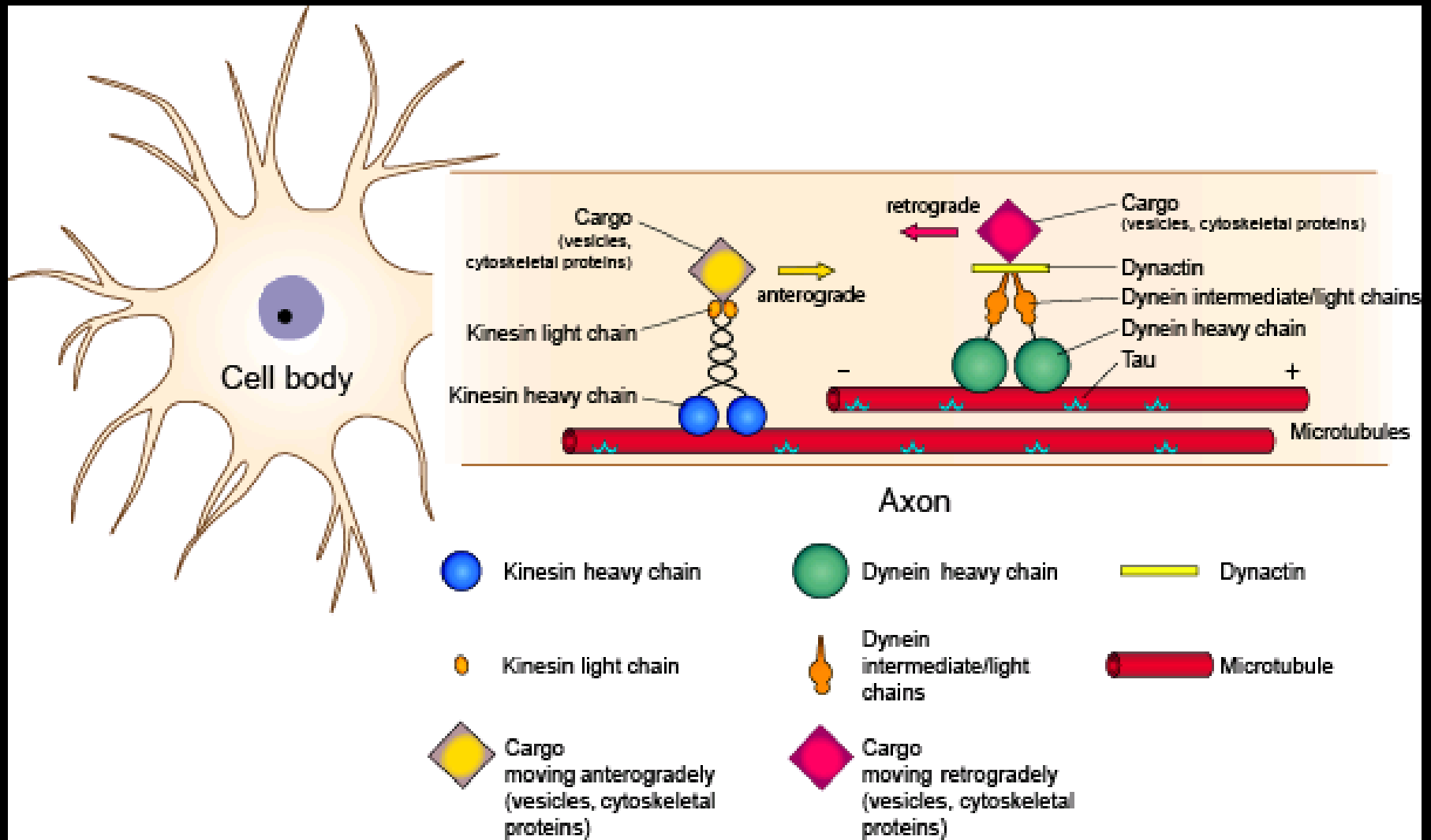
- **Fast axonal transport**  
(vesicles, mitochondria)-  
100-400mm/day (1-5 $\mu$ /s)

- **Slow axonal transport**

- \*\***SCa**- neurofilaments and microtubules

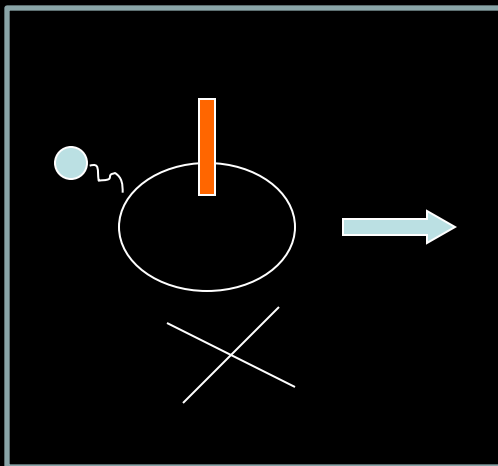
- \*\***SCb**- ~200 “soluble” or “cytosolic” proteins

# General principles of axonal transport

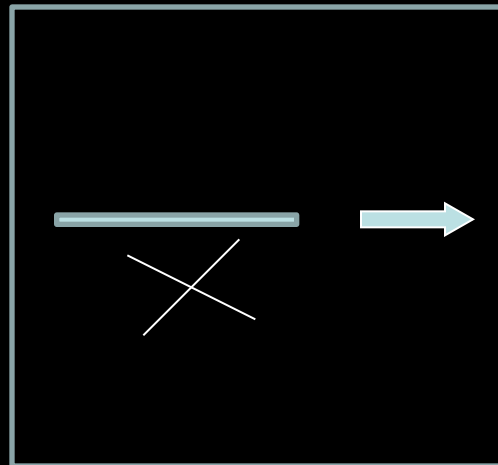


# Take home message: Neurons adopt diverse strategies for moving cargoes

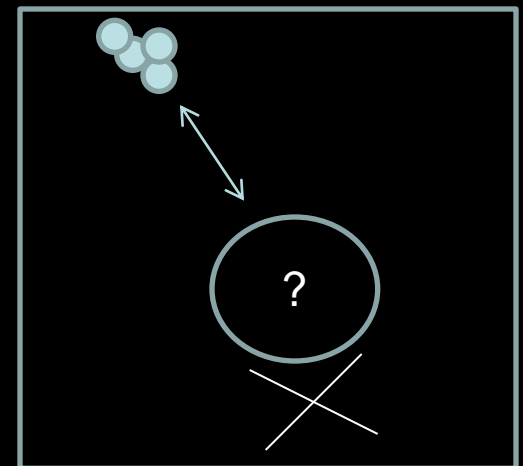
VESICLE



NEUROFILAMENT



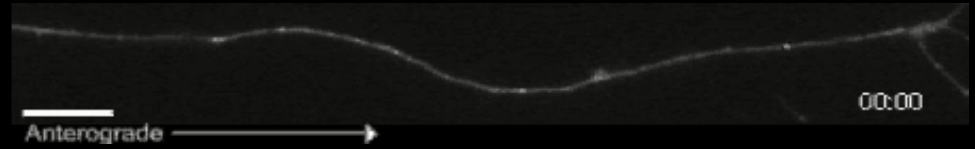
“SOLUBLE”  
CARGO



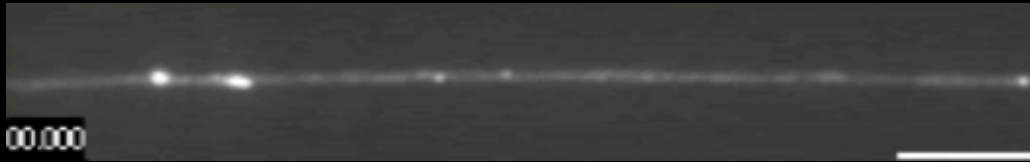
Synaptophysin



Amyloid precursor protein



Bassoon – marker of dense-core vesicles



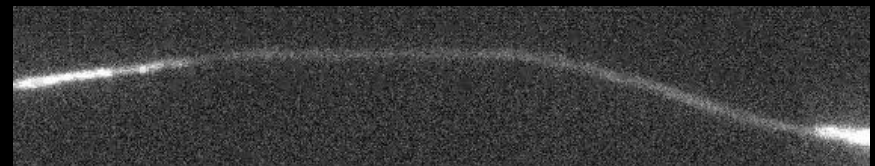
Mitochondria



Synapsin – “soluble” protein



Neurofilament

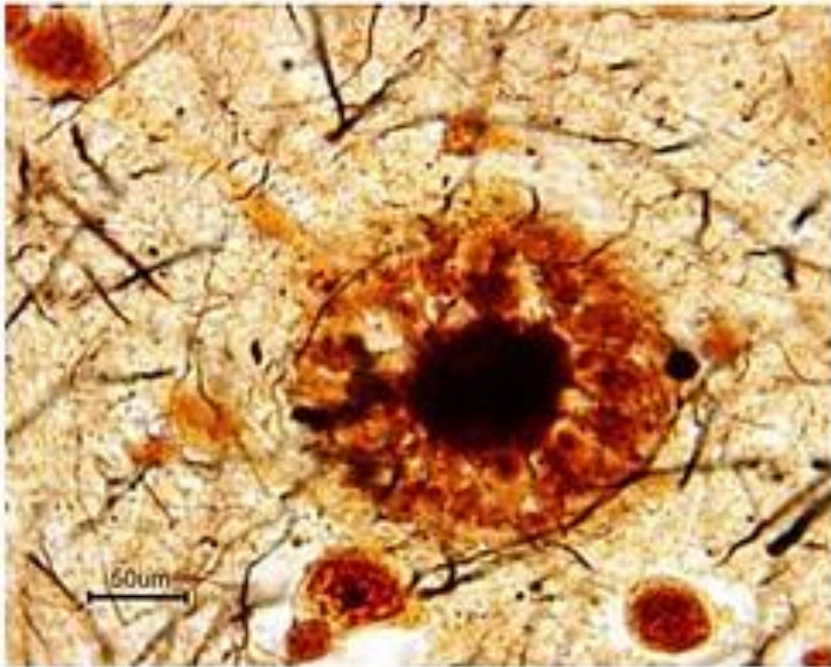




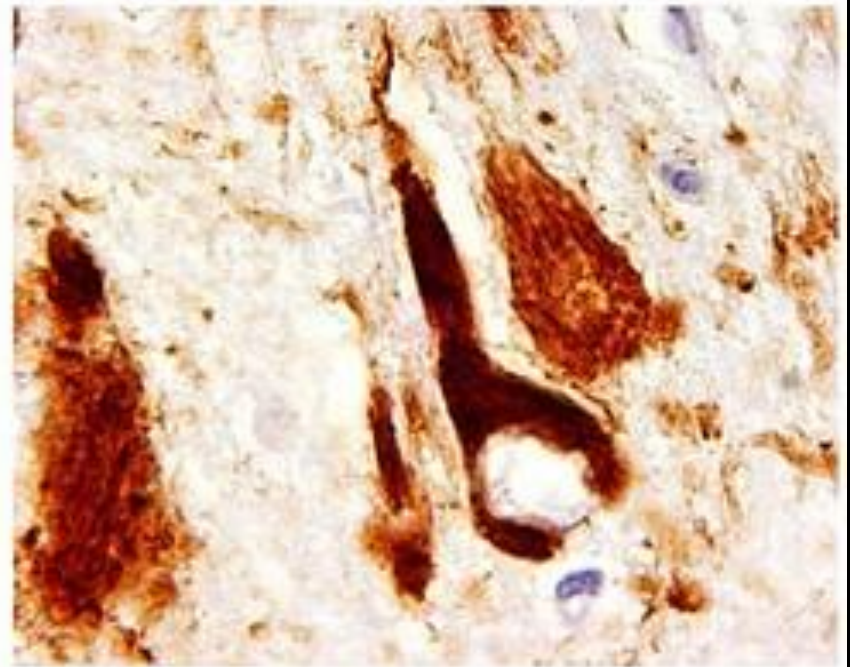


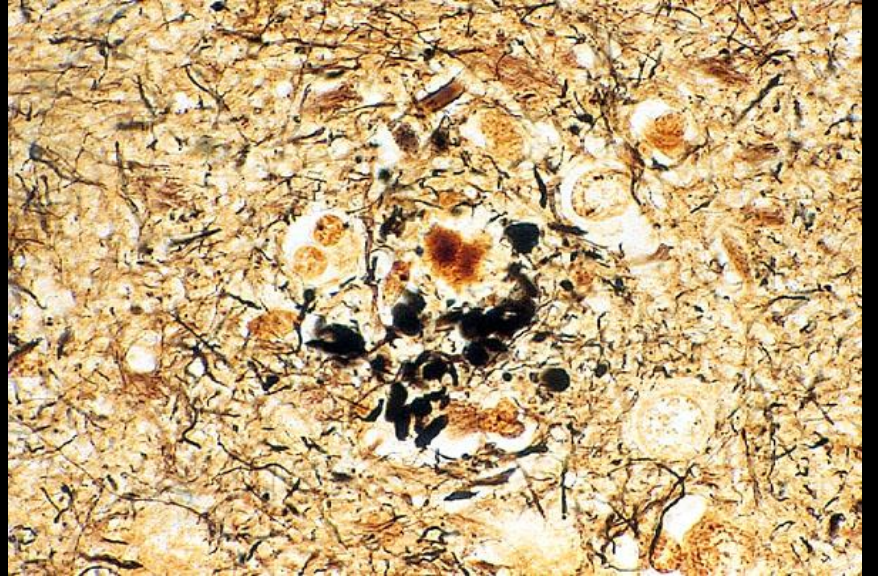
# Axonal transport and Alzheimer's Disease

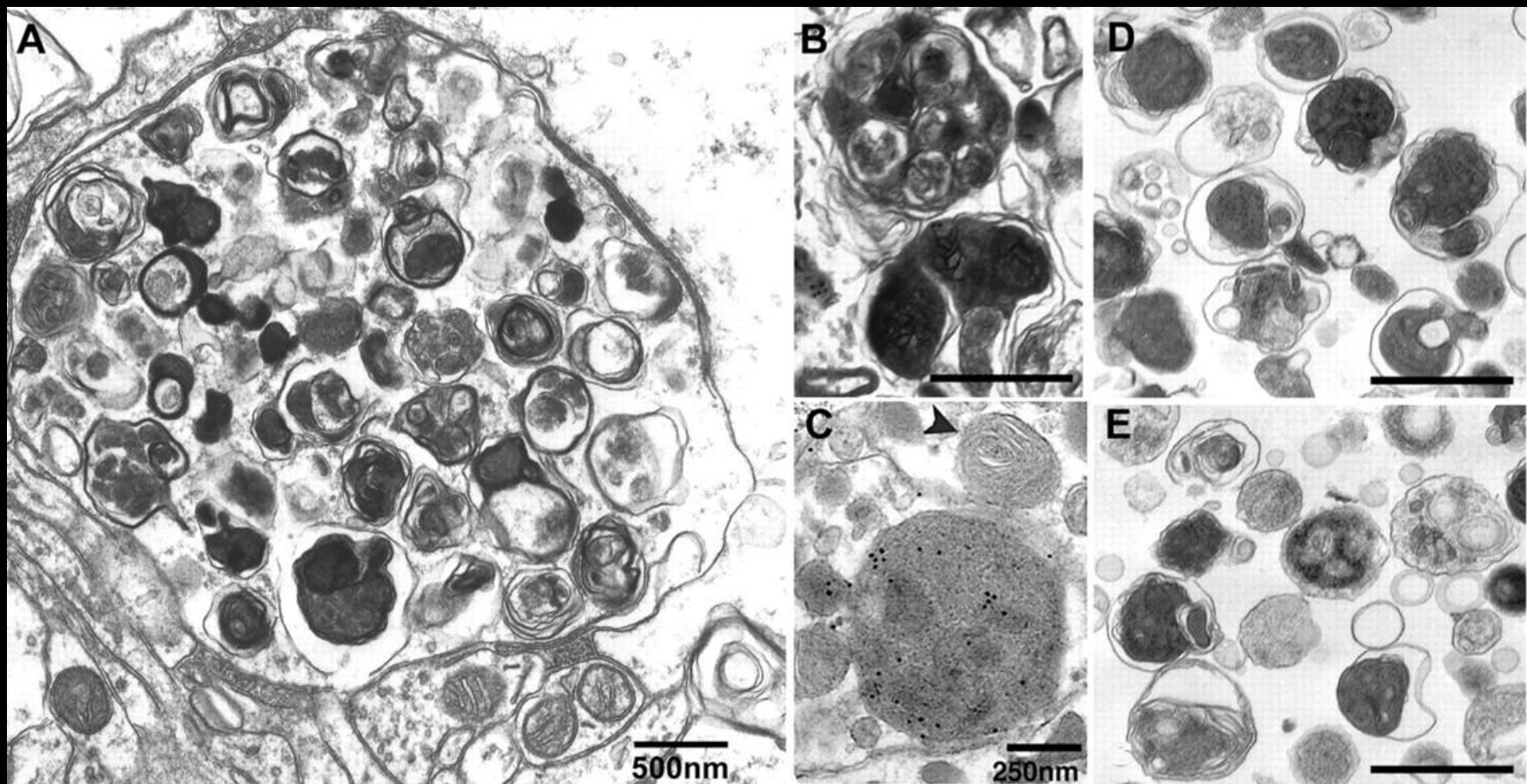
Plaques



Neurofibrillary Tangles







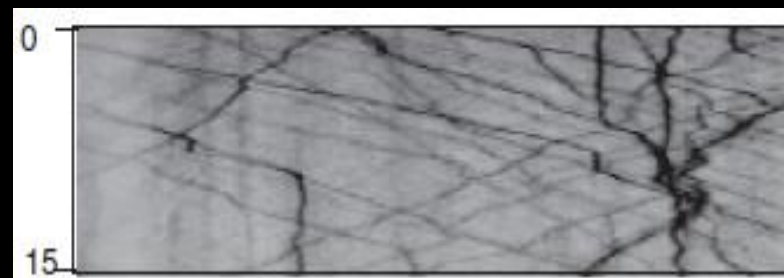
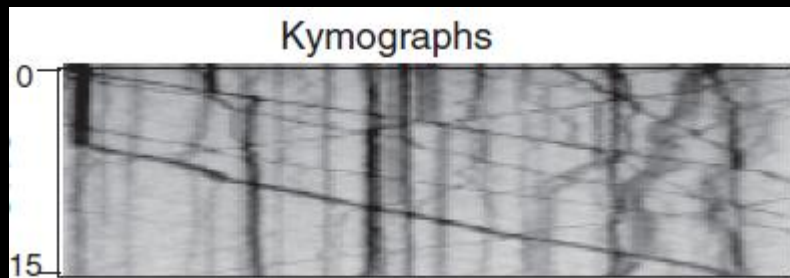
Synaptophysin:mRFP



Bassoon:GFP



Kymographs

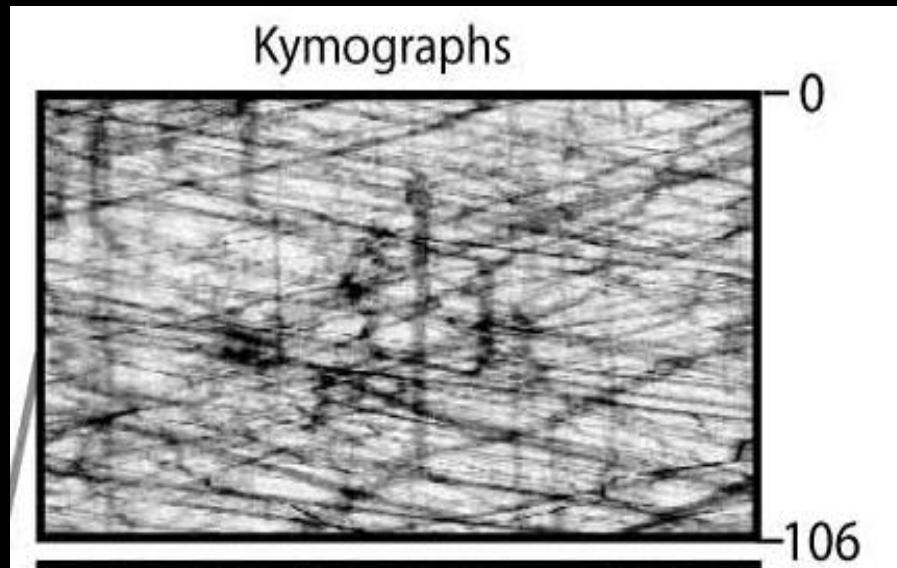


# Kymographs



Distance →

Time ↓



**A**

Vehicle

A $\beta$ O

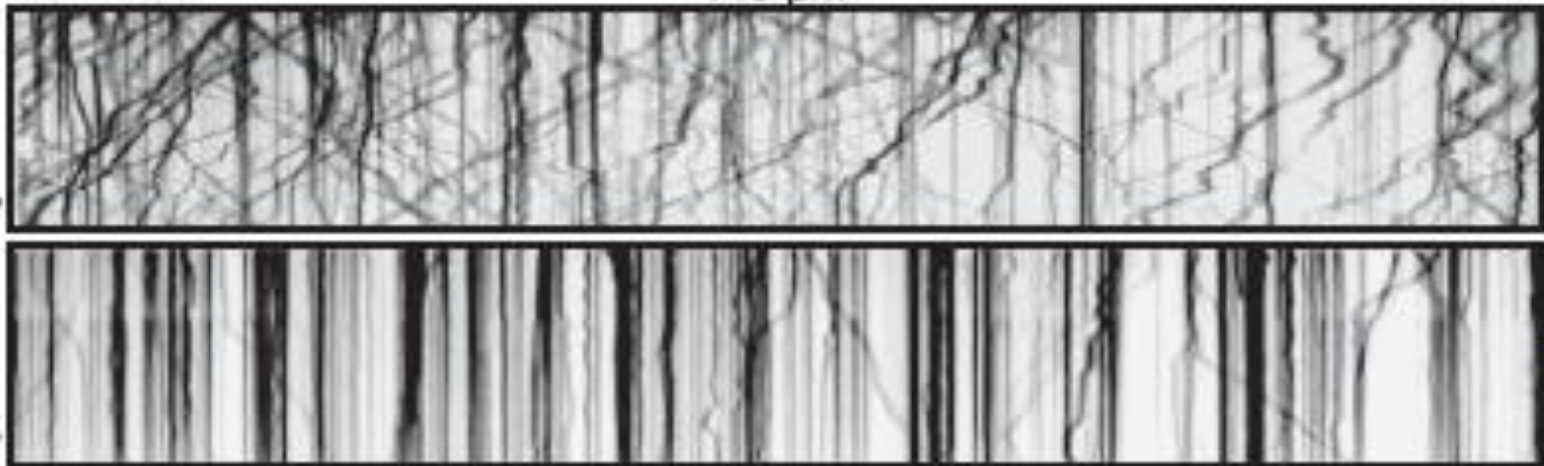
Distal

145  $\mu$ m

Proximal

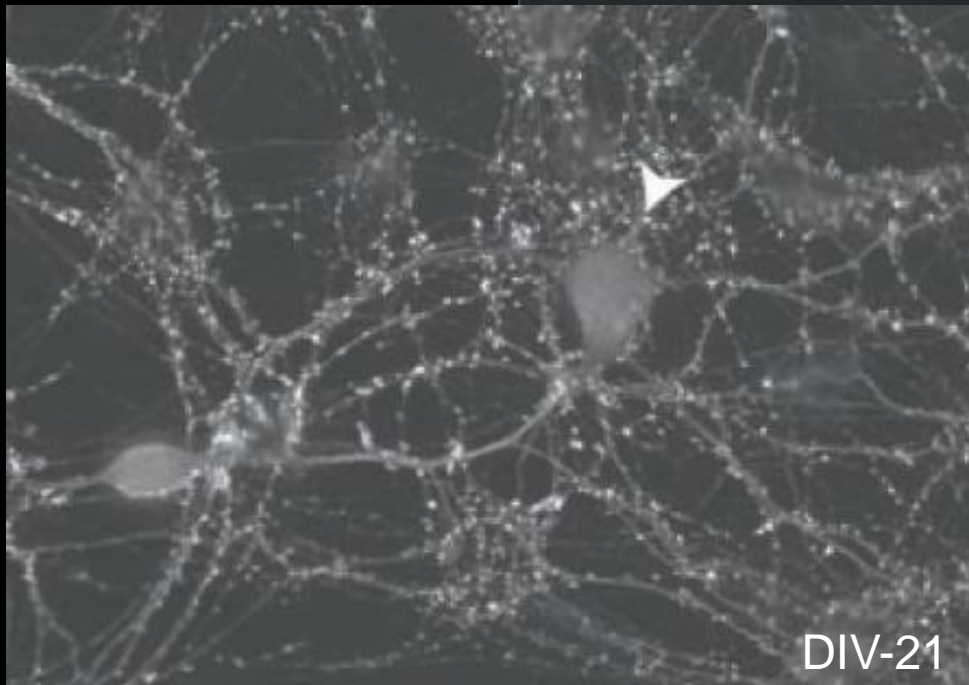
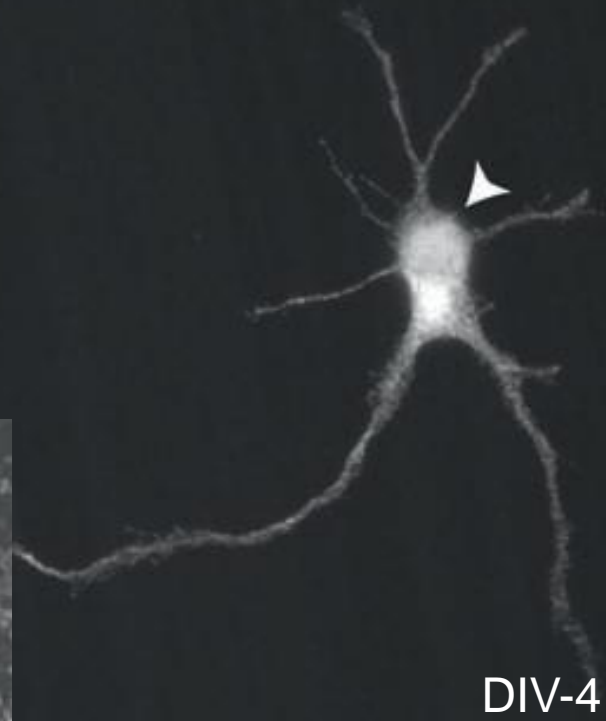
30 sec.

30 sec.



# Experiments in cultured hippocampal neurons

**Alpha-synuclein**





## A Experimental strategy

Culture hippocampal neurons from P0-P2 pups

14d ↓

Transfect desired fluorescent-tagged construct

17h ↓

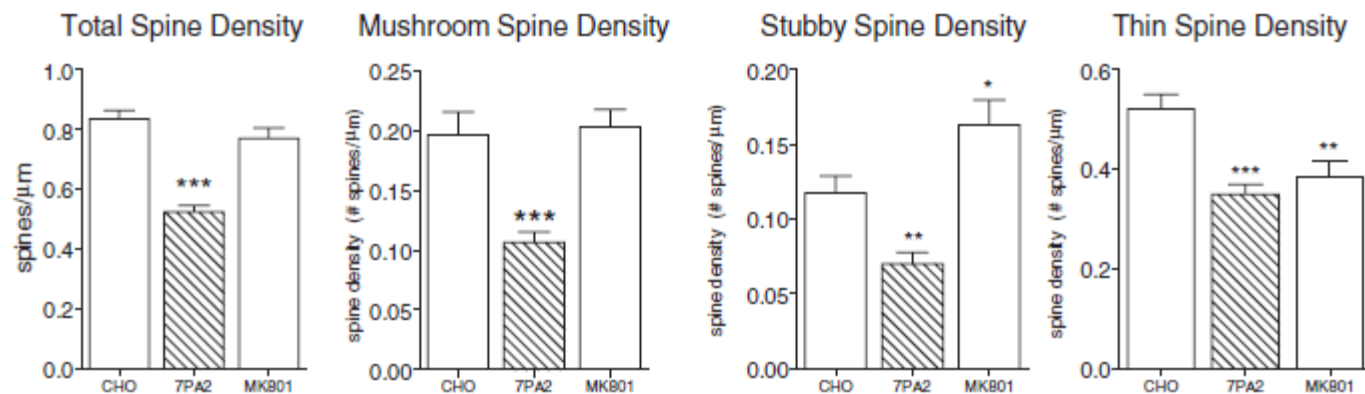
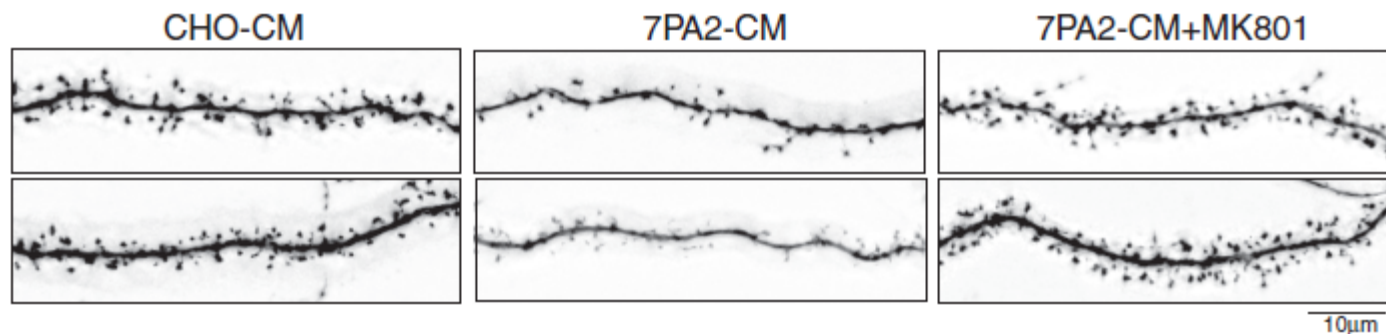
Add conditioned media from CHO (control) or 7PA2 cells (containing 200 pM A $\beta$ 42 oligomers)

2 (or 24) h  $\pm$  MK801/DAP-5  
 $\pm$  GSK-3 $\beta$  i

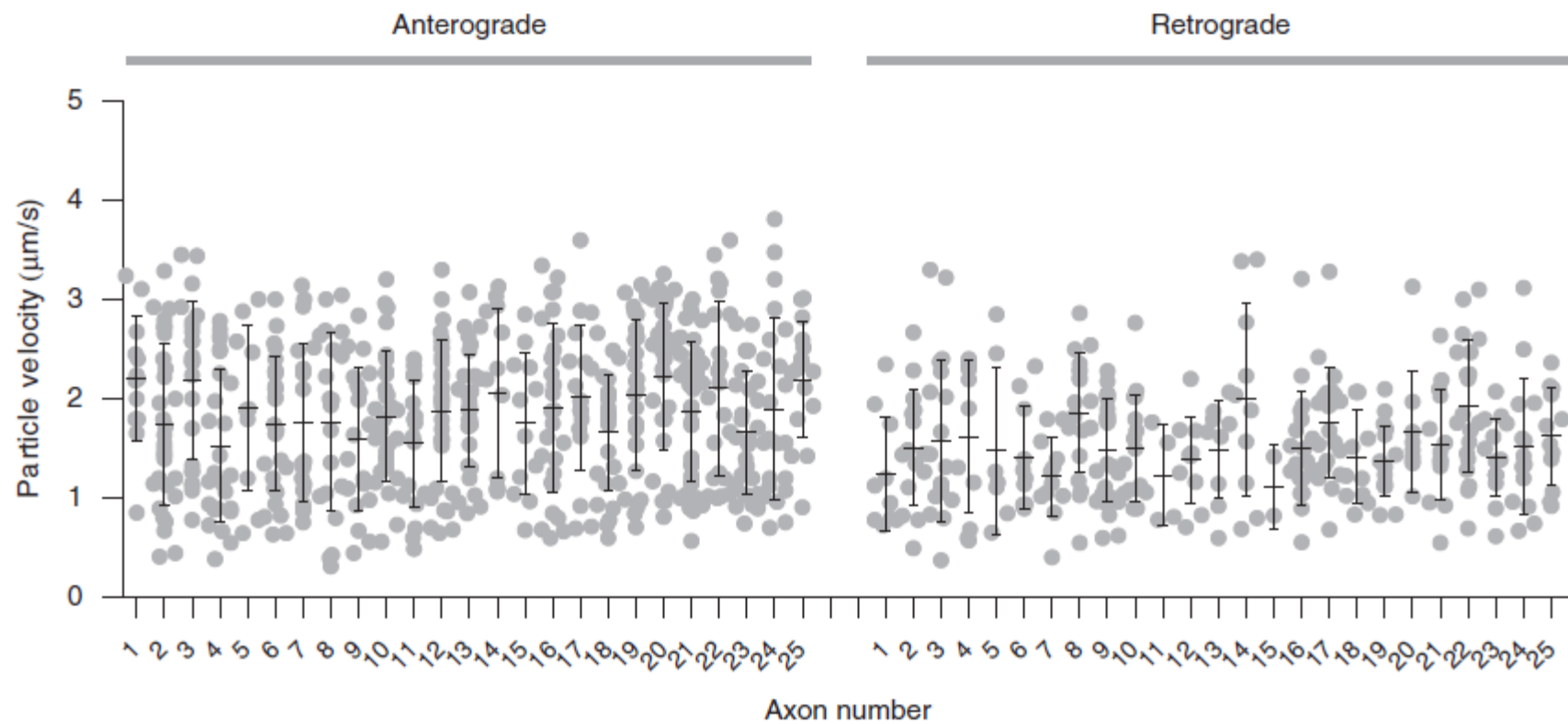
Evaluate axonal transport with high-resolution live imaging

Blinded analyses of axonal transport

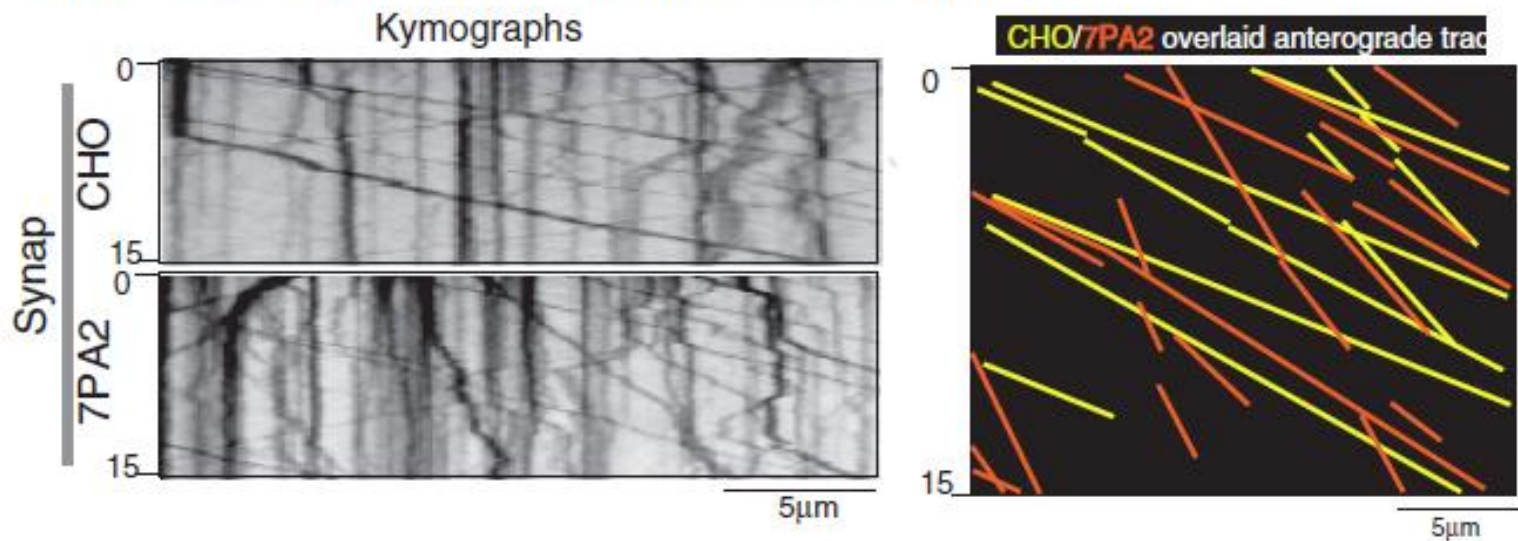
## B Effects of cell-derived A $\beta$ oligomers on dendritic spines



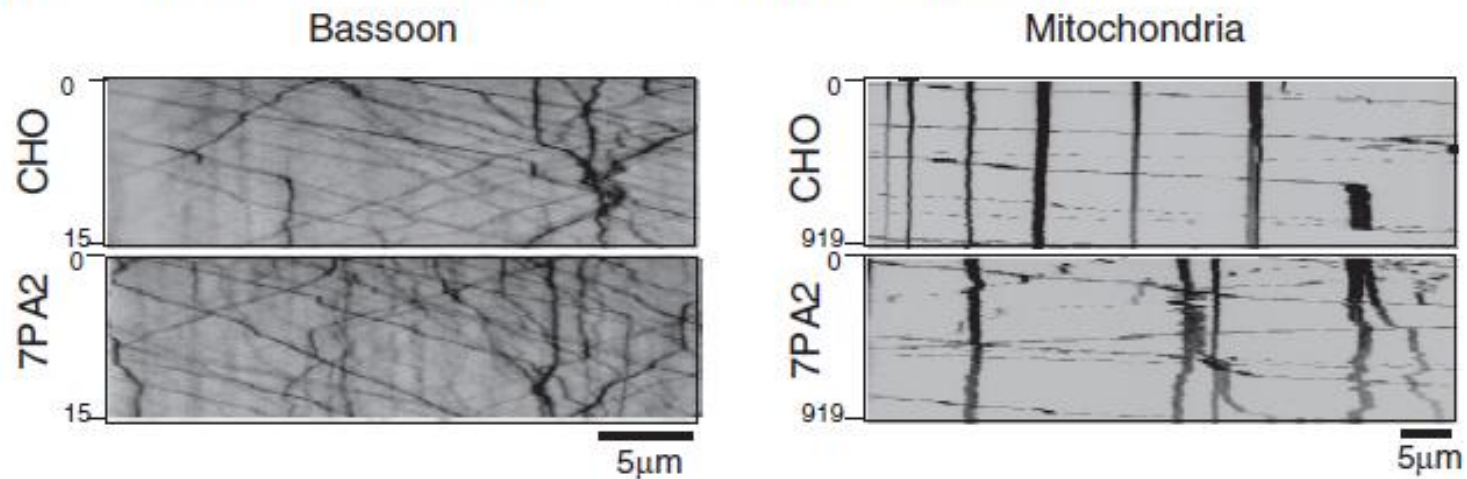
C Raw data-sets from high resolution transport imaging



## A Representative kymographs of synaptophysin transport

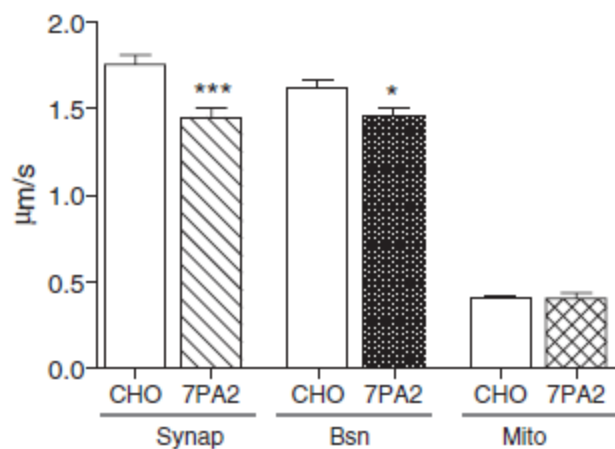


## B Representative kymographs of bassoon and mitochondria transport

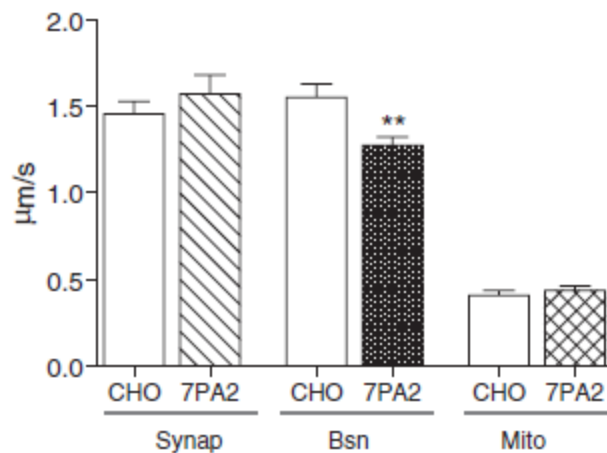


### C Quantitative analyses

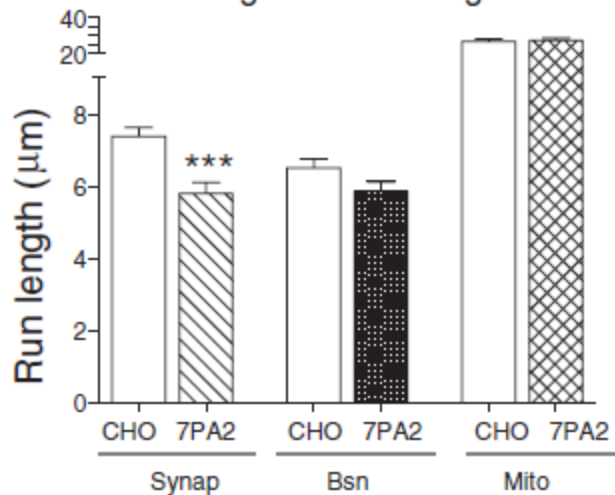
#### Anterograde Velocities



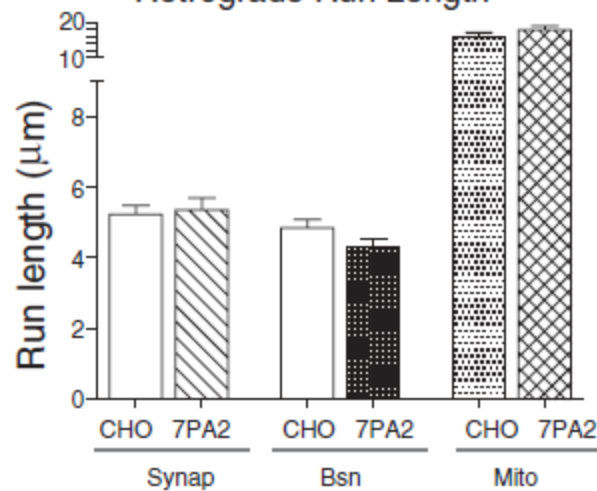
#### Retrograde Velocities



#### Anterograde Run Length

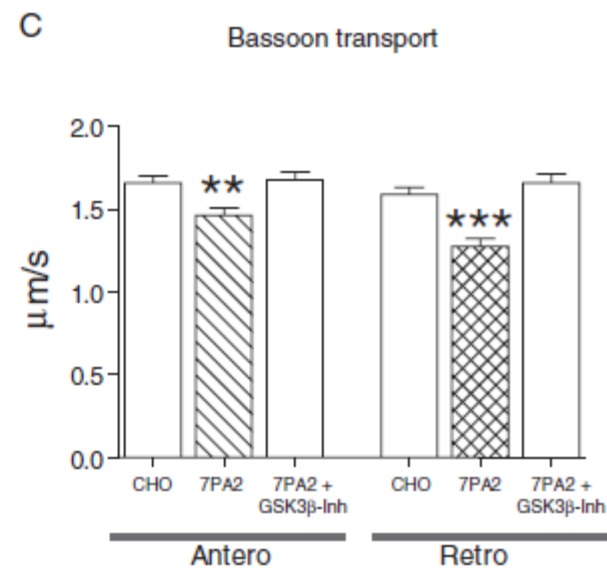
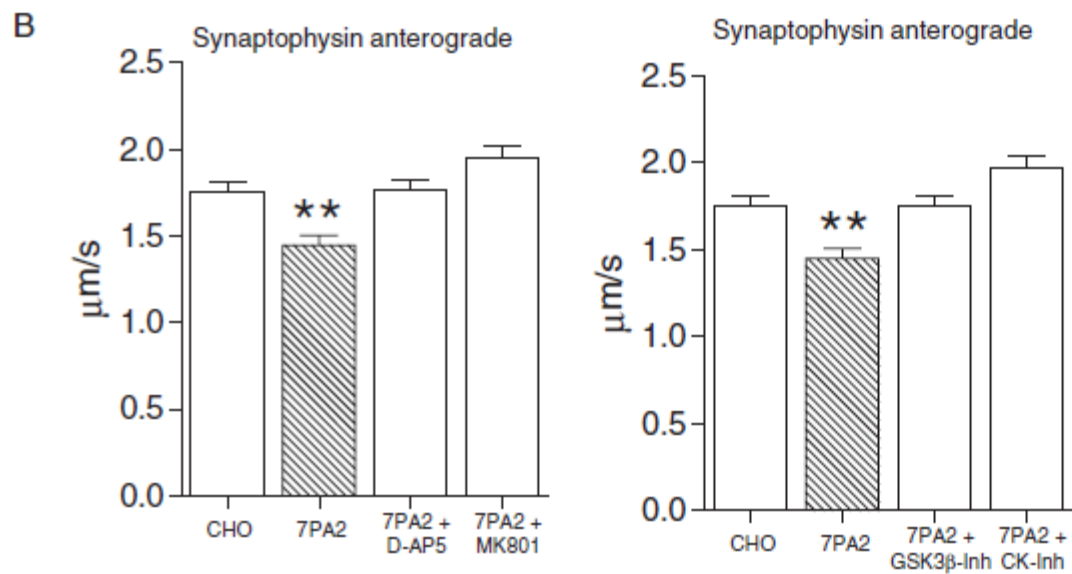
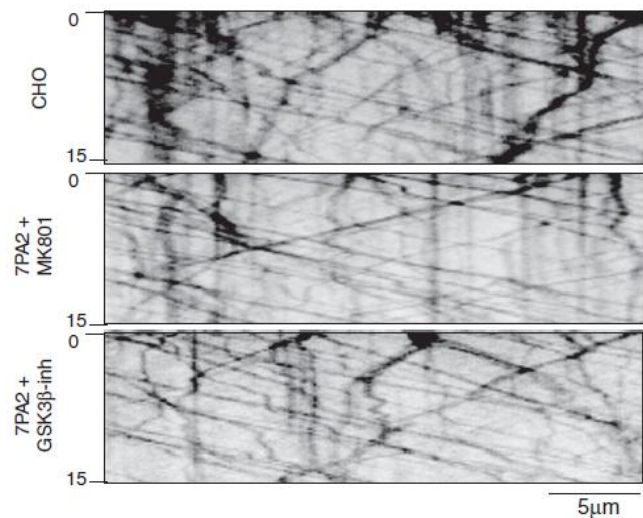


#### Retrograde Run Length

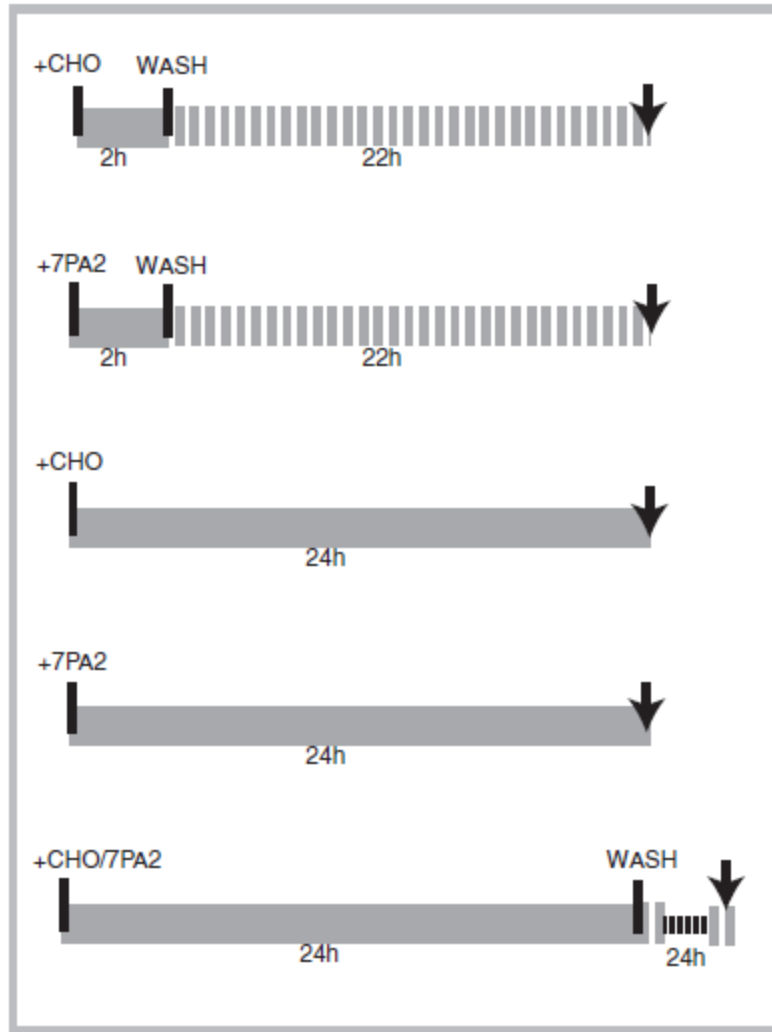


A Transport deficits rescued by NMDA-R/GSK3b inhibitors

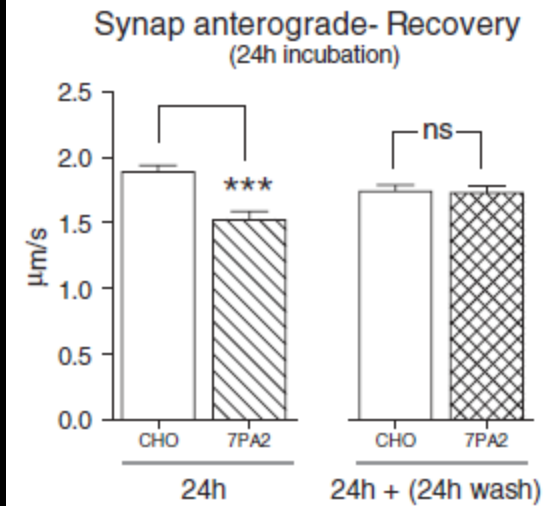
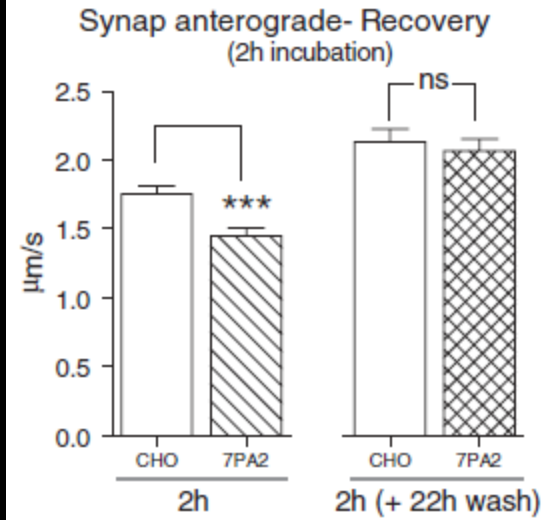
Synaptophysin Kymographs



## A Design of recovery experiments

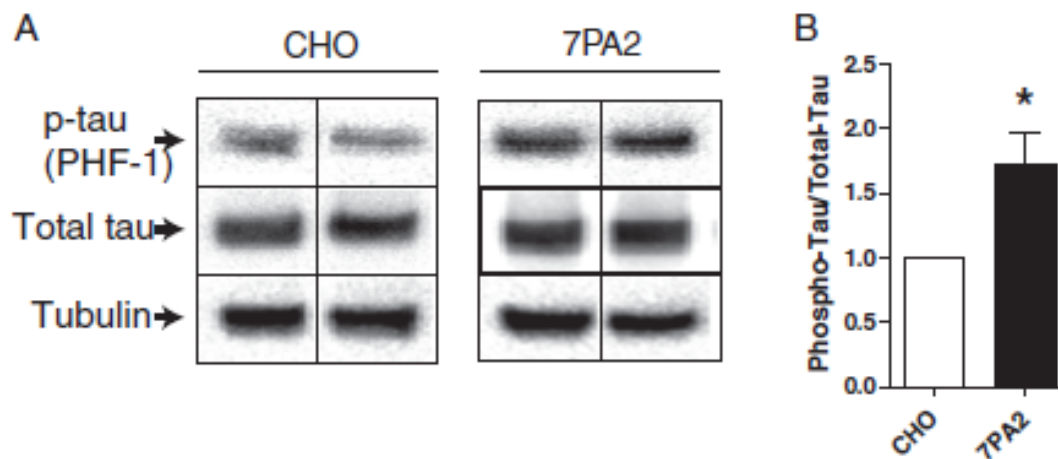
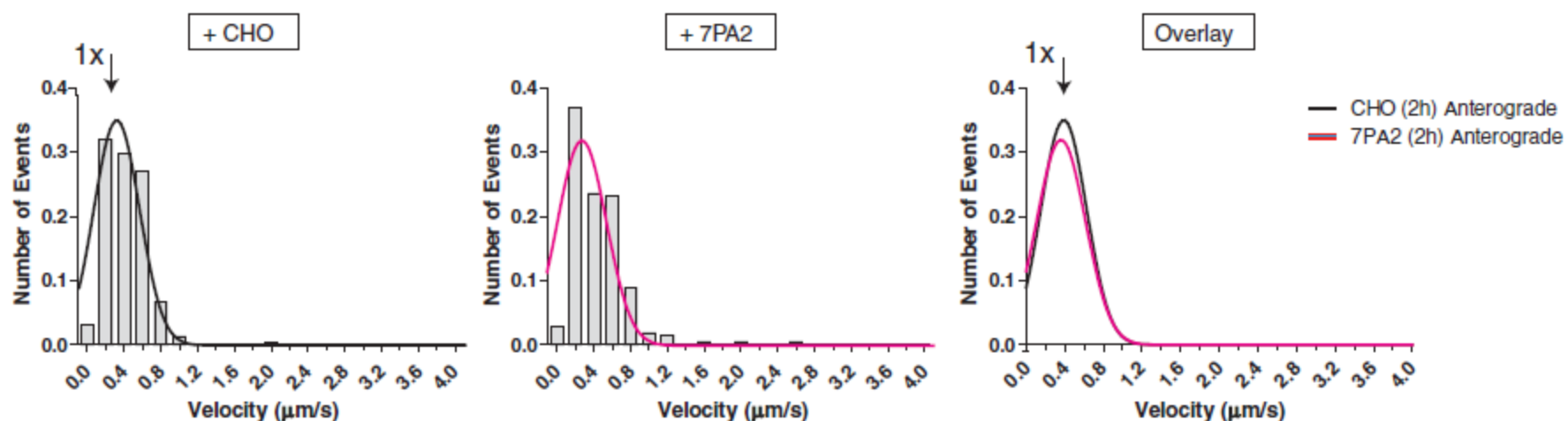


## B Quantitative analyses





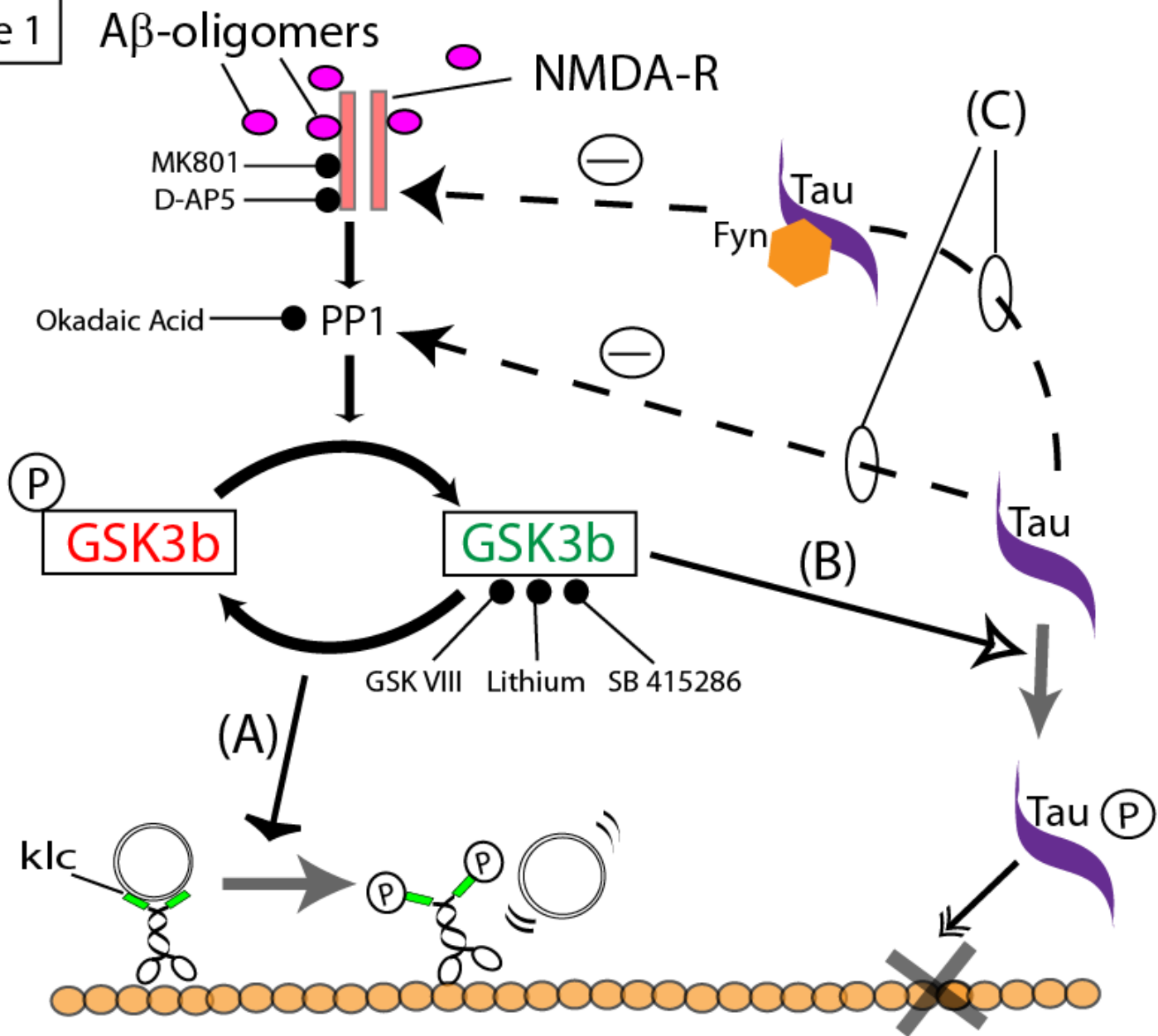
## B Velocity histograms of mitochondrial transport



**Figure 7: Biochemical analyses.** Cultured neurons (DIV 14) were incubated with CHO or 7PA2 (1 nM A $\beta$ -42) media for 24 h, and levels of total tau and phospho-tau were detected by western blotting. Significant increases were seen in phospho-tau



Figure 1



$\alpha$ -synuclein.....



**THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY**

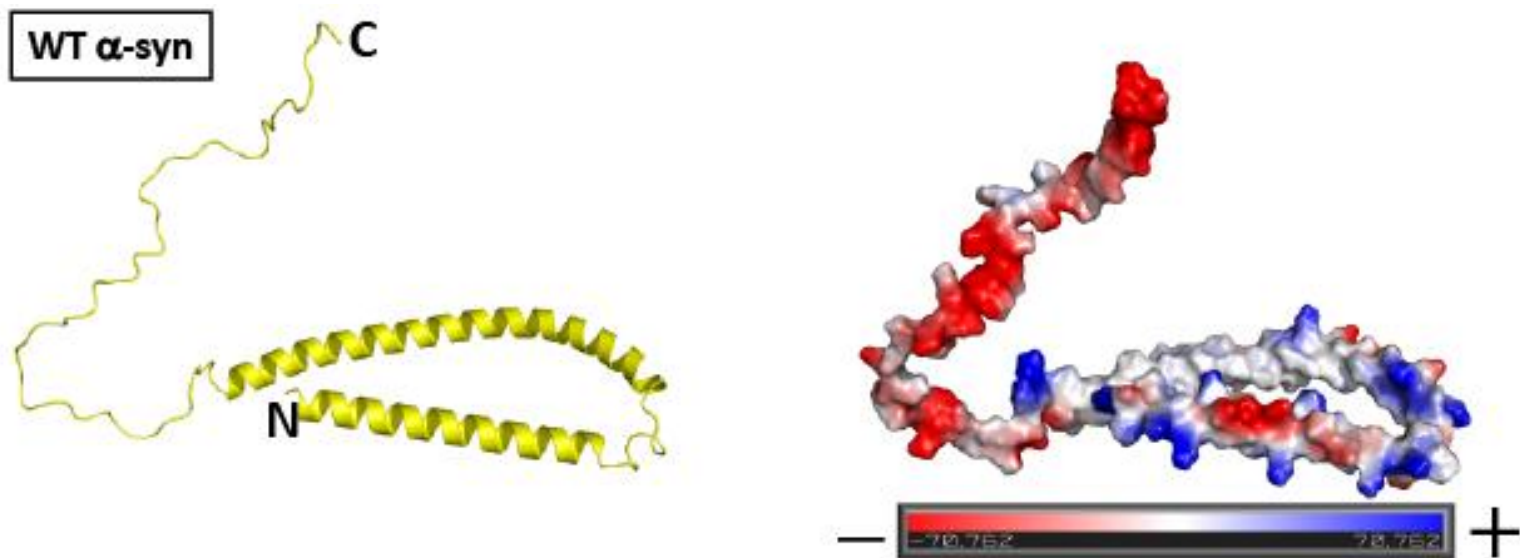
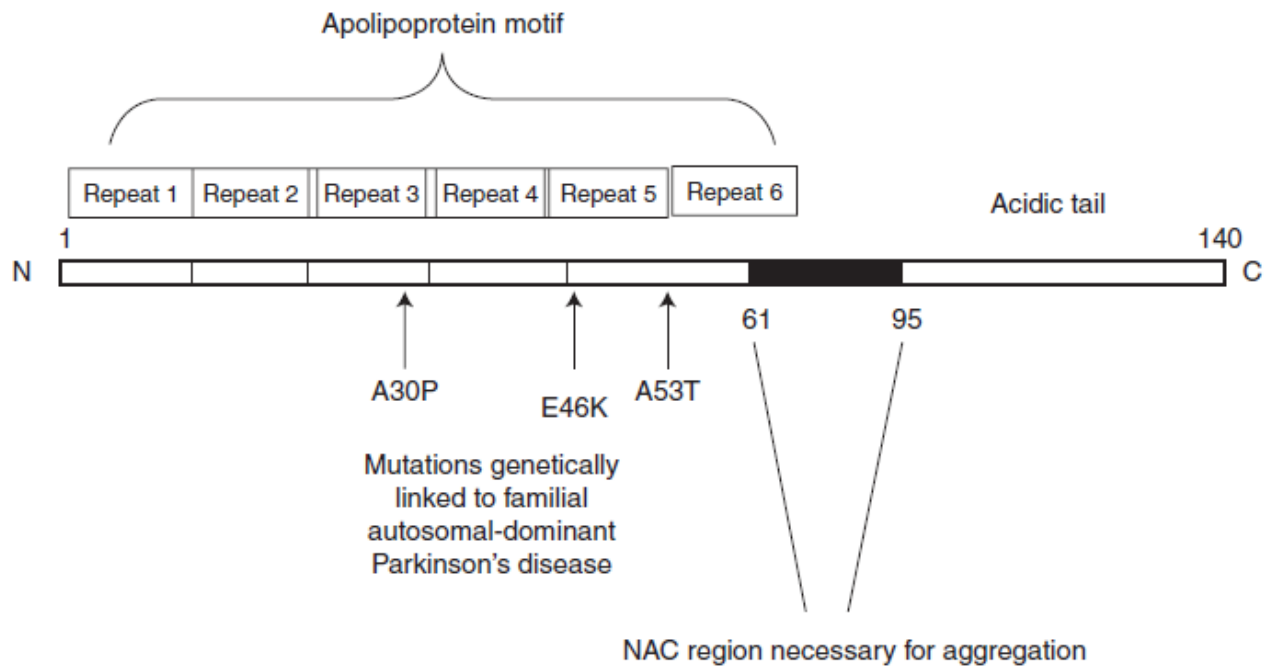
Chair: Subhojit Roy, MD, PhD (UCSD)

Co-chair: Sreeganga Chandra, PhD (Yale)

ALPHA

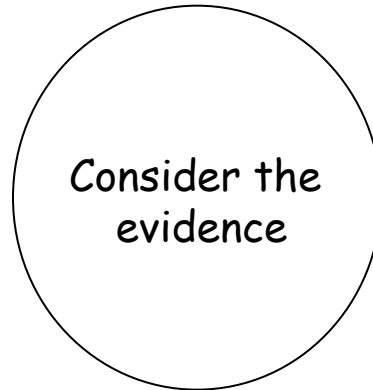
SYNUC

LEIN



Intracellular  
aggregates of  $\alpha$ -syn in  
LB diseases

SNCA variation is  
the most important  
genetic risk factor  
in four independent  
GWAS studies



Autosomal-dominant  
mutations of  $\alpha$ -syn  
in familial LB  
diseases

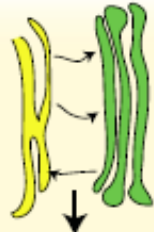
Neuronal loss in mouse,  
yeast, fly and worm  $\alpha$ -  
syn models

Gene-multiplications of  $\alpha$ -  
syn in familial LB diseases

# Subtle increases in WT $\alpha$ -synuclein levels can manifest phenotypes

- Multiplication patients show that excessive protein *can* cause disease
- Increased  $\alpha$ -syn mRNA in sporadic disease
- A sporadic polymorphism (Rep1) increases  $\alpha$ -syn expression (Chiba-Falek/Nussbaum and colleagues)
- GWAS studies in sporadic cases
- MPTP/LPS models show attenuated pathology in the absence of endogenous  $\alpha$ -syn (Dauer et. al. PNAS, 2002/Gao et al., J Neurosci 2008)

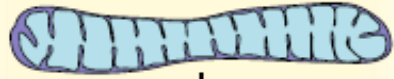
toxicity



Blocked ER-golgi transport  
ER stress and golgi fragmentation



Decreased Synaptic vesicle release

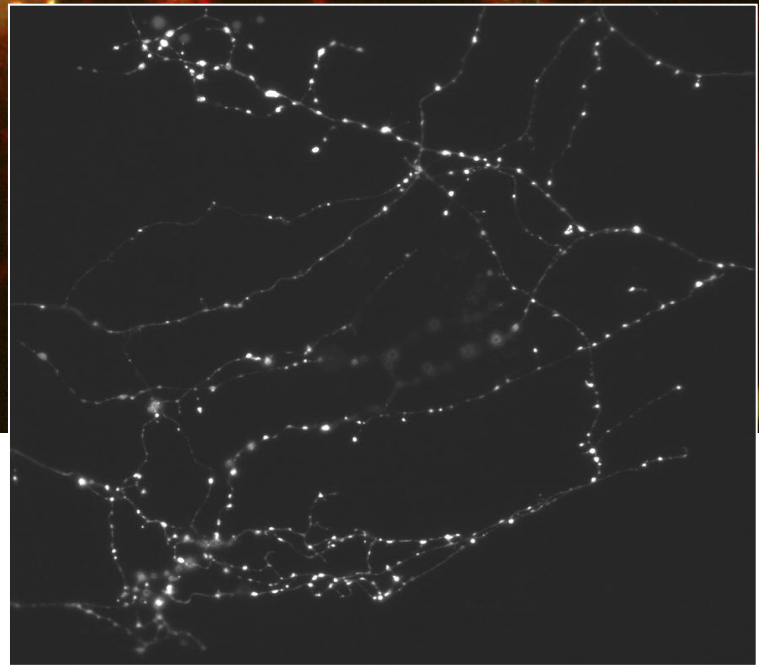
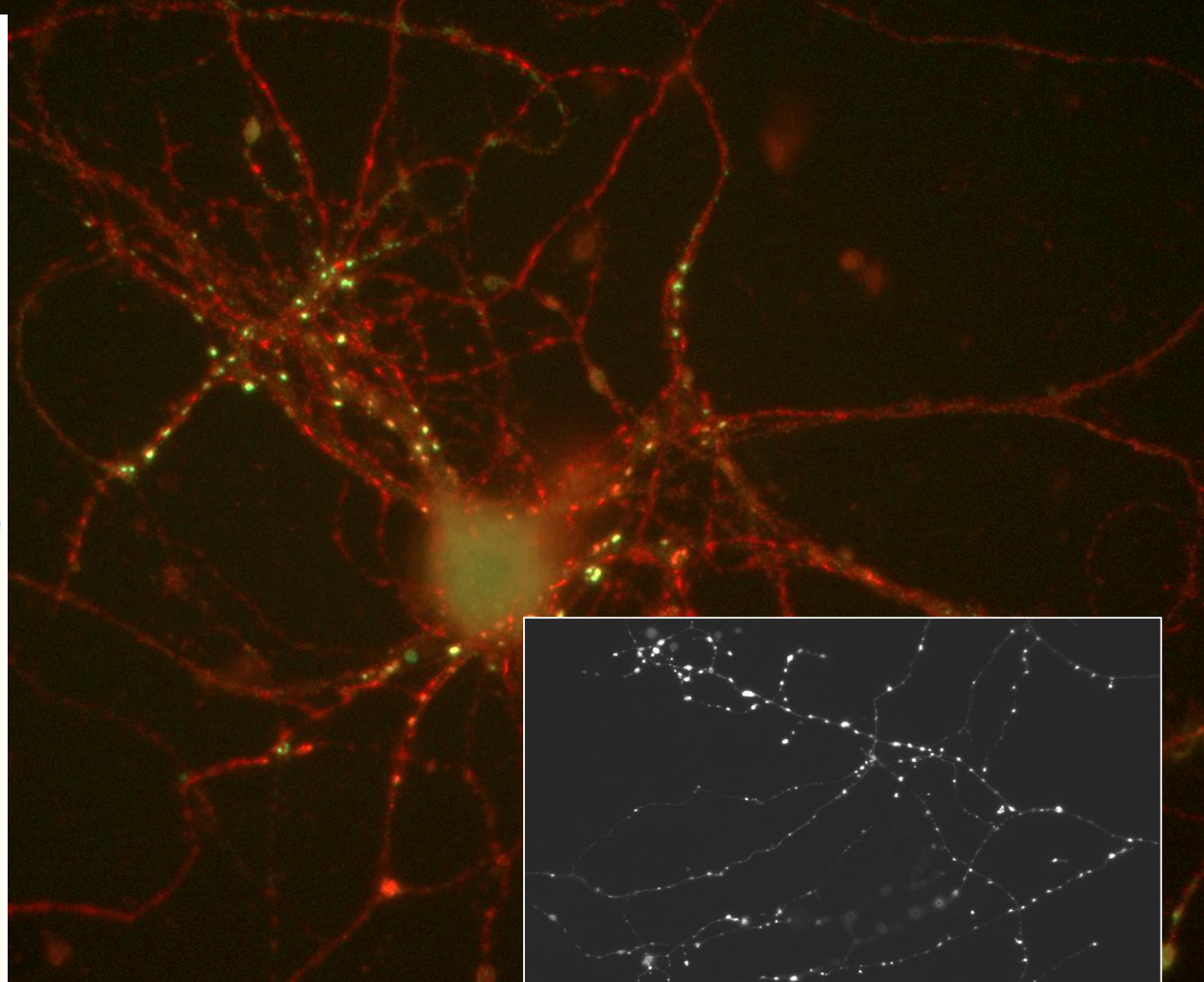


Impaired energy production  
Apoptosis induction

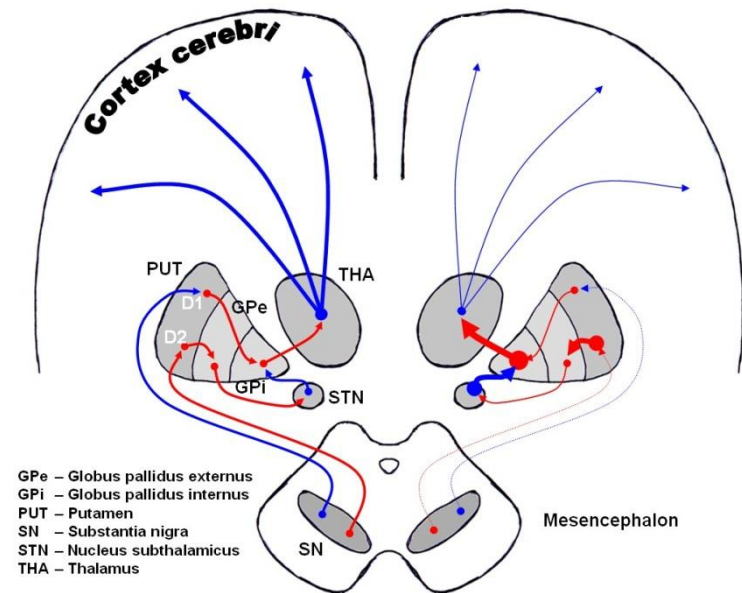
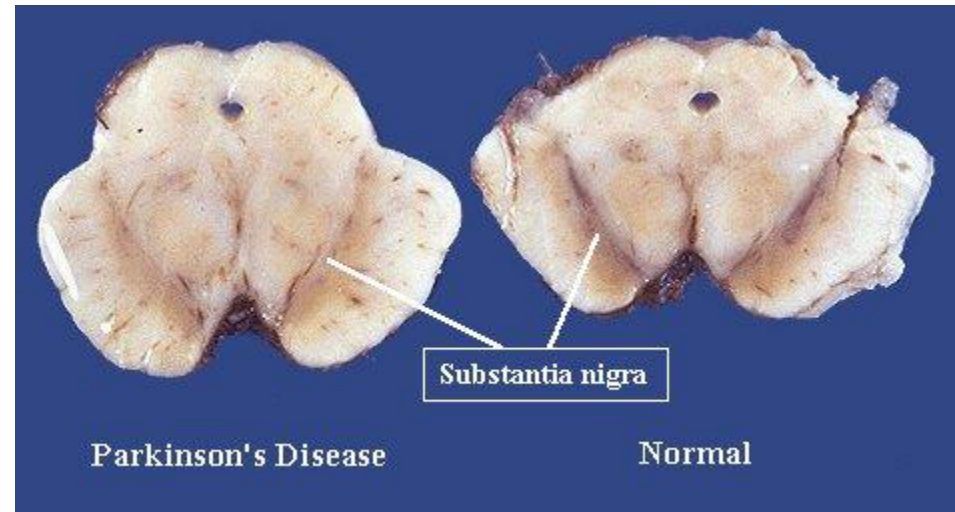


Accumulation of CMA substrates  
?Proteasome impairment

toxic species?



# Parkinson's disease



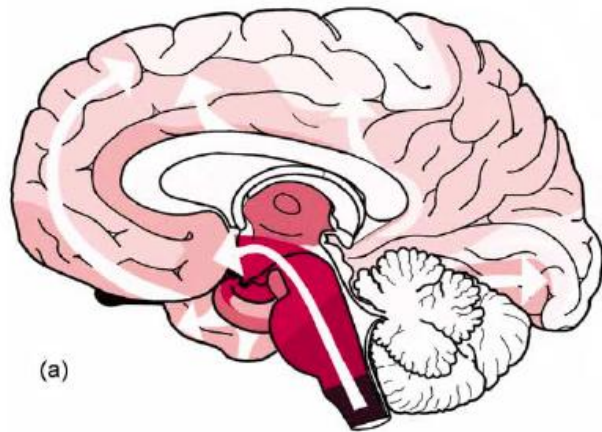


## Staging of brain pathology related to sporadic Parkinson's disease

Heiko Braak<sup>a,\*</sup>, Kelly Del Tredici<sup>a</sup>, Udo Rüb<sup>a</sup>, Rob A.I. de Vos<sup>b</sup>,  
Ernst N.H. Jansen Steur<sup>b</sup>, Eva Braak<sup>a,†</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Clinical Neuroanatomy, J.W. Goethe University, Theodor Stern Kai 7, D-60590 Frankfurt/Main, Germany

<sup>b</sup> Department of Neurology, MCT Hospital Groot and Laboratorium Pathologie Groot Nederland, Rijn, Ede, The Netherlands



1 (mild)

2 (moderate)

3 (severe)

4 (very severe)

## “Braak staging” for PD

### Stages in the evolution of PD-related pathology

#### Stage 1

*N* = 21; medulla oblongata

Lesions in the dorsal IX

#### Stage 2

*N* = 13; medulla oblongata and  
pontine tegmentum

Pathology of stage 1 plus  
coeruleus–subcoeruleus

#### Stage 3

*N* = 24; midbrain

Pathology of stage 2 plus

#### Stage 4

*N* = 24; basal prosencephalon  
and mesocortex

Pathology of stage 3 plus  
(transentorhinal region) and

#### Stage 5

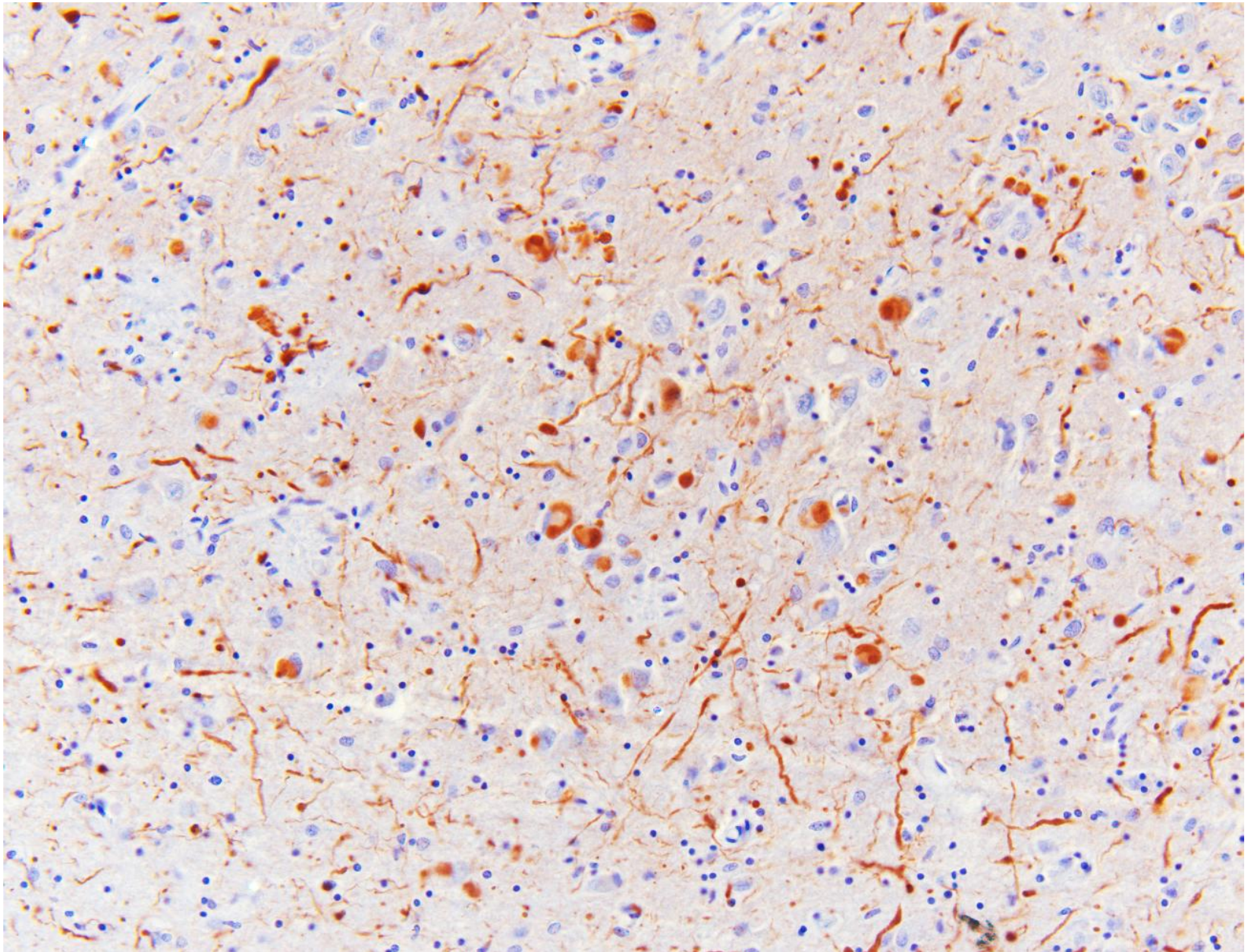
*N* = 17; neocortex

Pathology of stage 4 plus

#### Stage 6

*N* = 11; neocortex

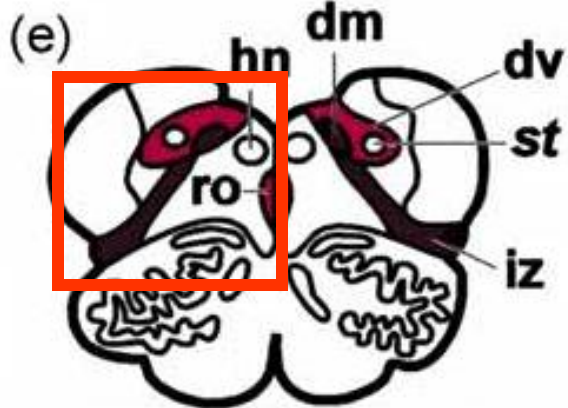
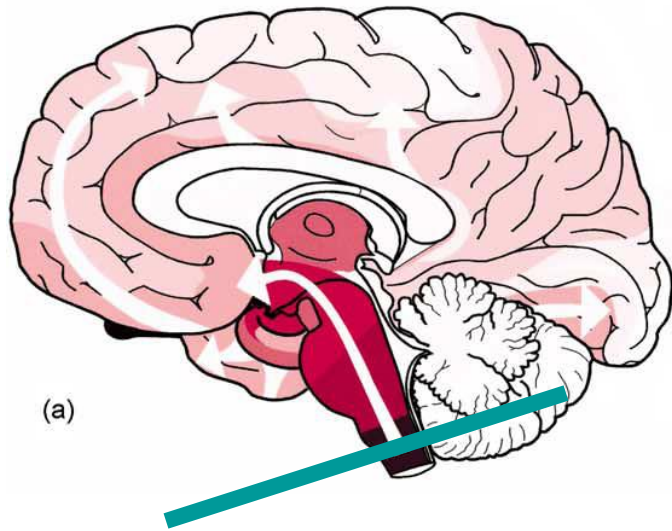
Pathology of stage 5 plus  
occasionally mild changes



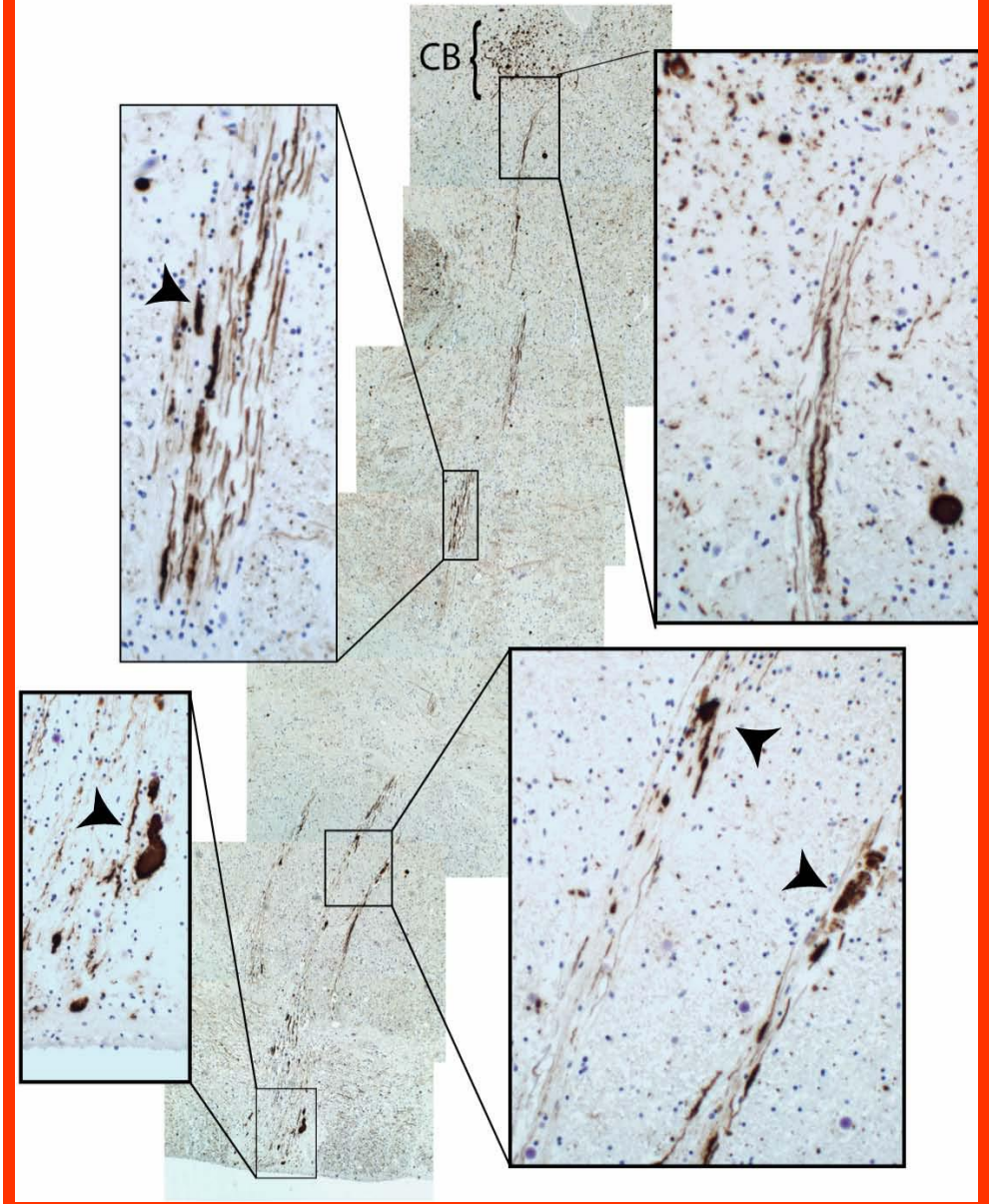
Alpha-synuclein staining of a DLB case

# Axonal aggregates of $\alpha$ -synuclein in PD brains

Progression of LB pathology



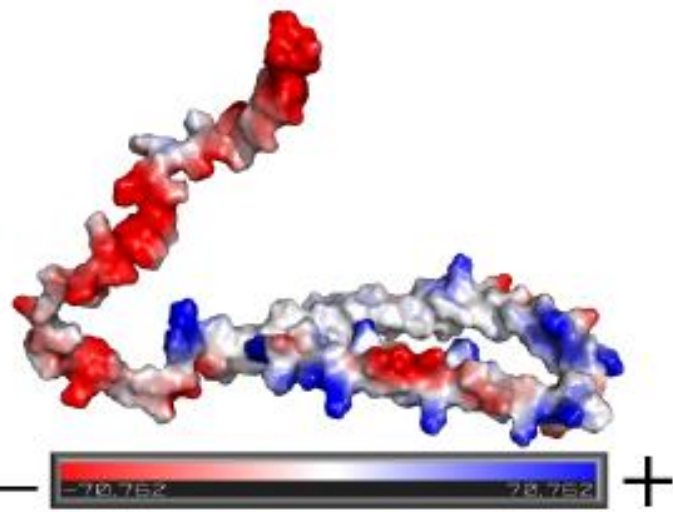
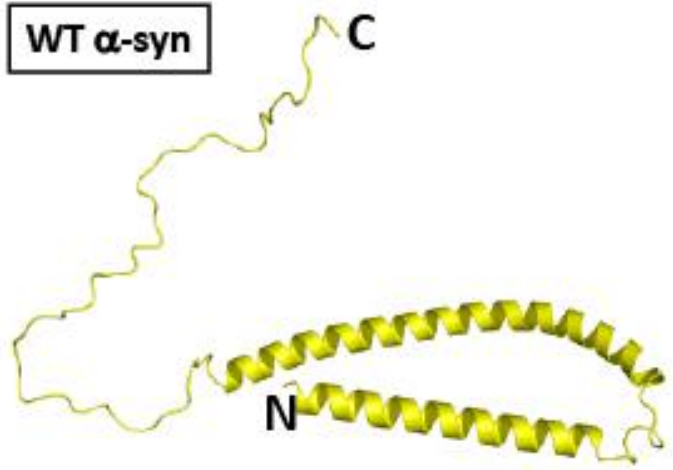
Axonal  $\alpha$ -synuclein pathology in autopsy synucleinopathy brains



Unpublished observations



WT  $\alpha$ -syn



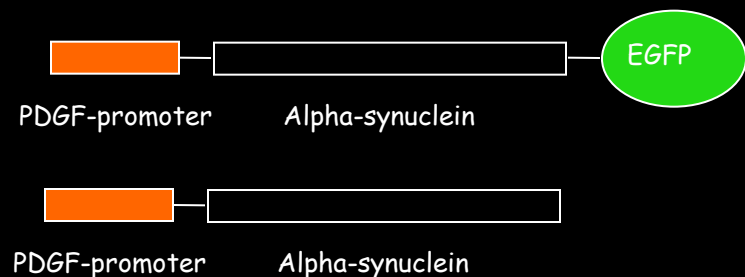
# What are the cell-biologic events following $\alpha$ -synuclein elevation?

- Modestly elevated  $\alpha$ -synuclein in a neuron



- Synaptic physiology/function

# Quantitative model system using cultured hippocampal neurons from $\alpha$ -synuclein transgenic mice

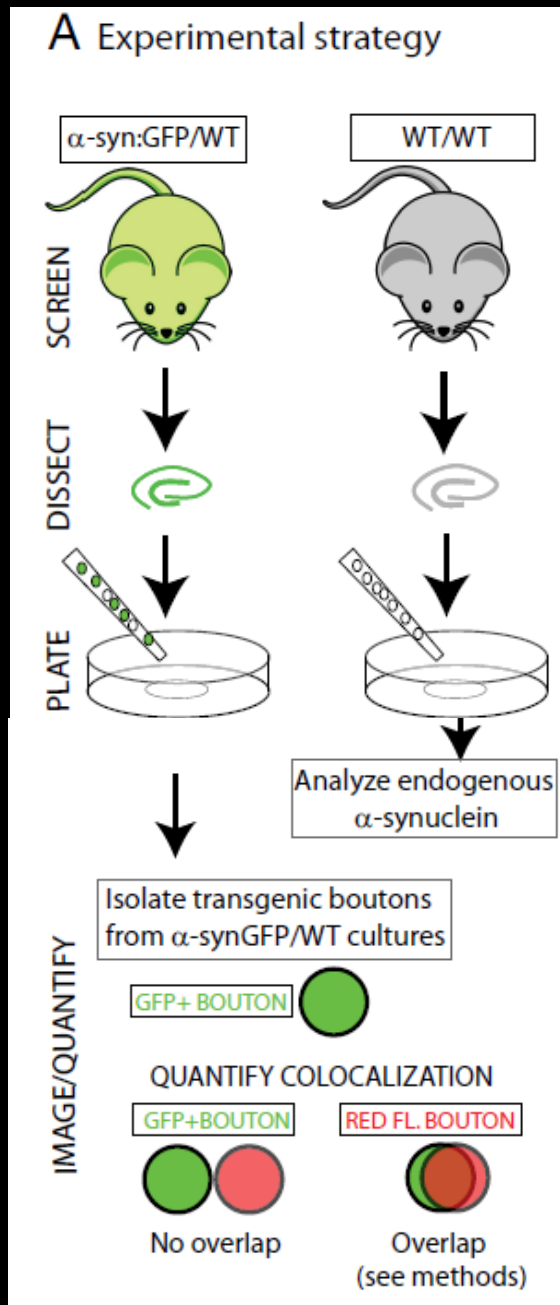


## Advantages of PDGF promoter:

- Neuron-specific expression
- Modest over-expression

## Advantages of EGFP tag:

- Precise identification of over-expressing neurons
- Alpha-synuclein expression can be followed over time



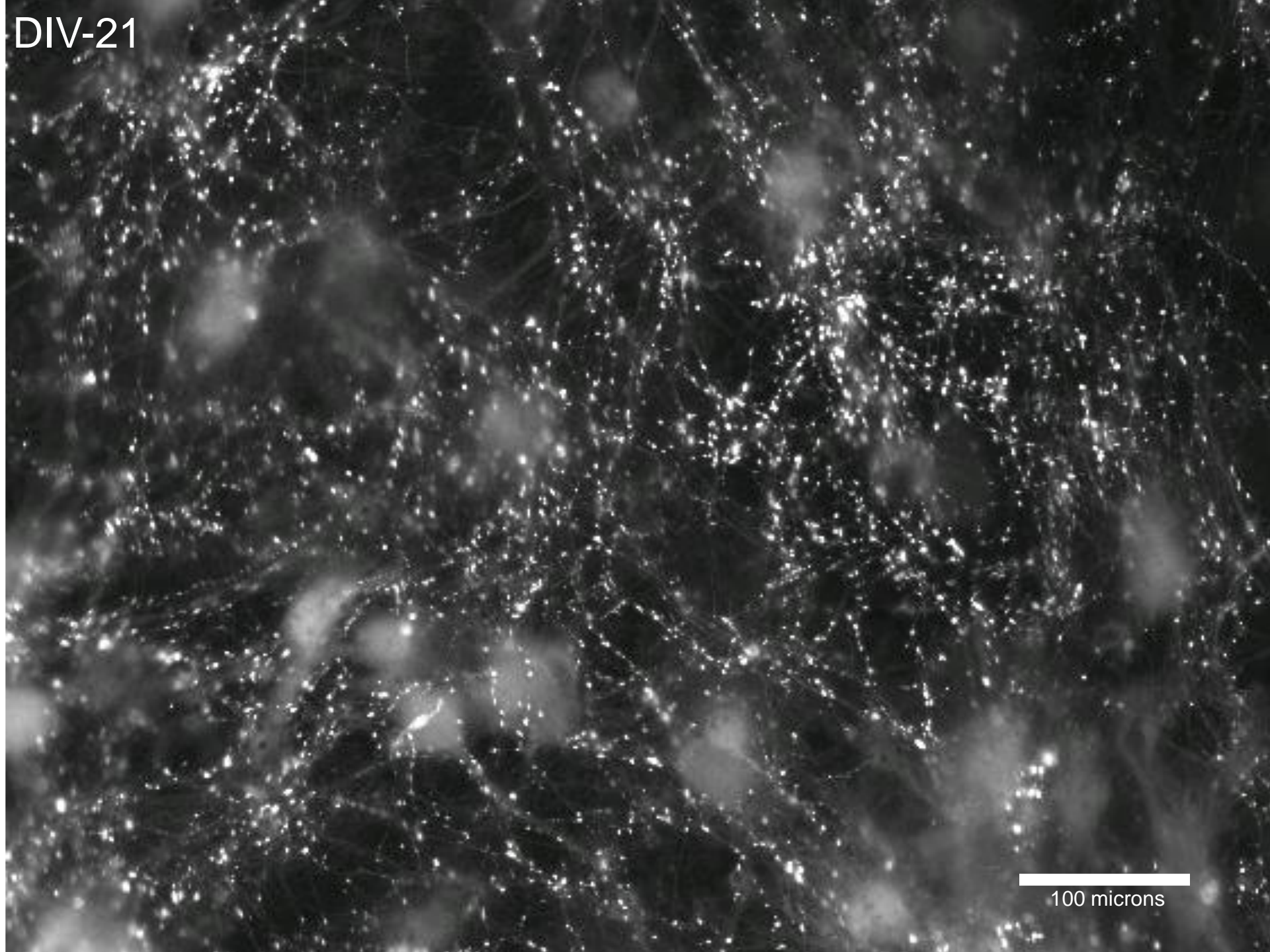
## Lysosomal Pathology Associated With $\alpha$ -Synuclein Accumulation in Transgenic Models Using an eGFP Fusion Protein

Edward Rockenstein,<sup>1</sup> Gert Schwach,<sup>3</sup> Elisabeth Ingolic,<sup>5</sup> Anthony Adame,<sup>1</sup> Leslie Crews,<sup>1</sup> Michael Mante,<sup>1</sup> Roswitha Pfragner,<sup>4</sup> Edith Schreiner,<sup>3</sup> Manfred Windisch,<sup>3</sup> and Eliezer Masliah,<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurosciences, University of California San Diego, School of Medicine,

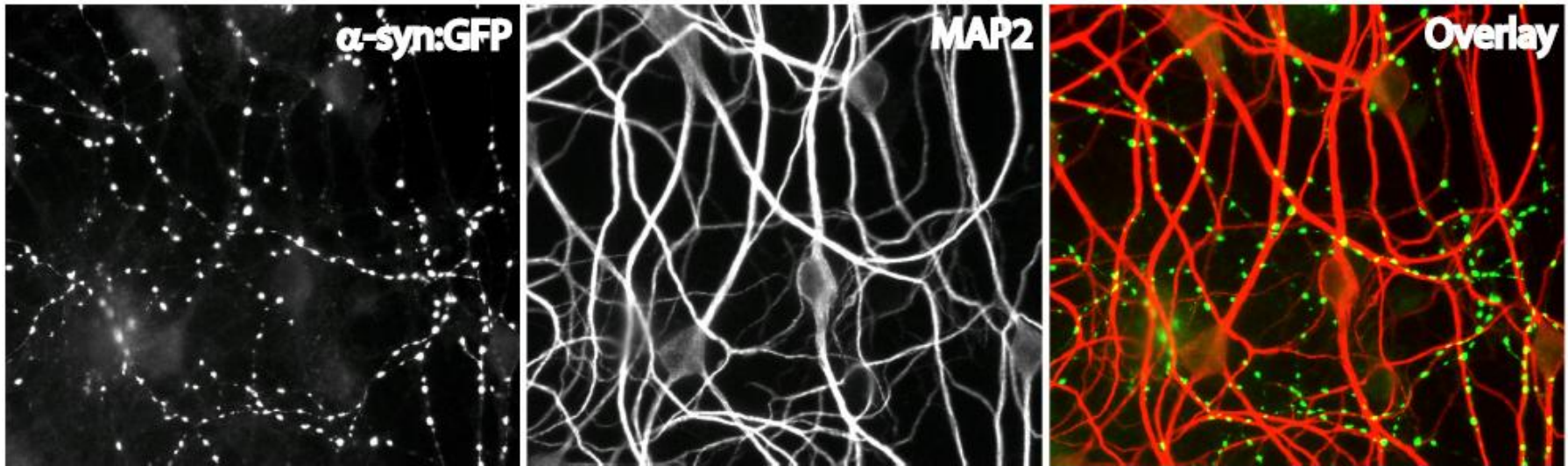
Journal of Neuroscience Research 80:247-259 (2005)

DIV-21

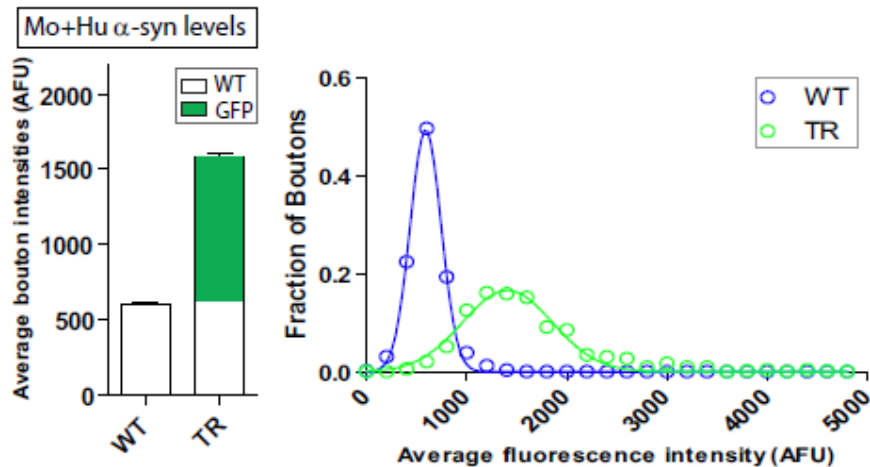


100 microns

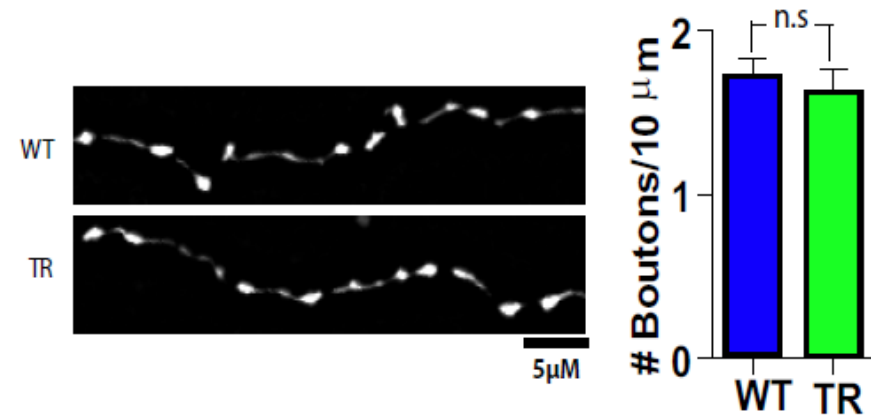
## A Presynaptic targeting of $\alpha$ -synuclein:GFP fusion protein



## B Over-expression levels in cultured transgenic neurons

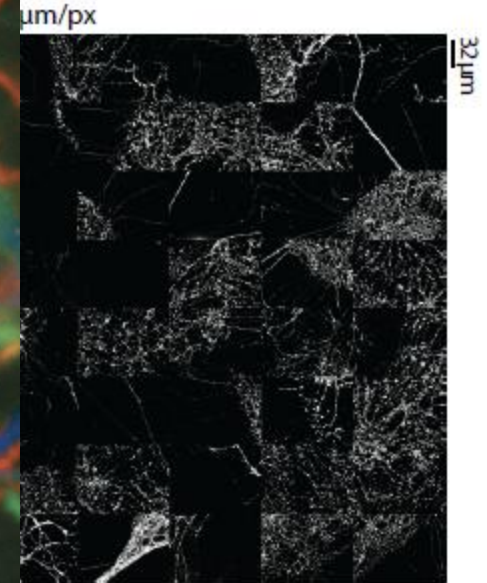
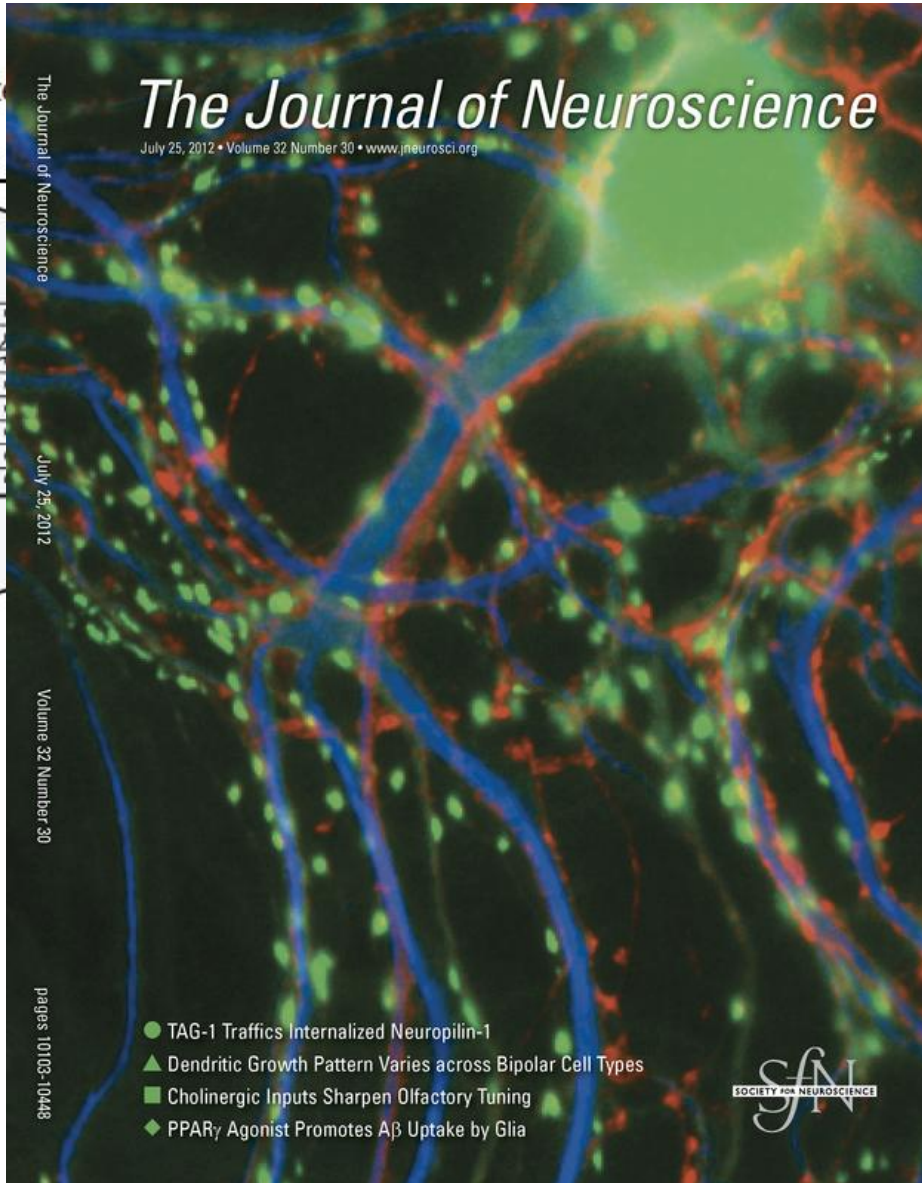
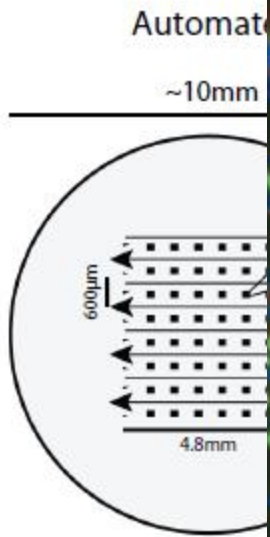


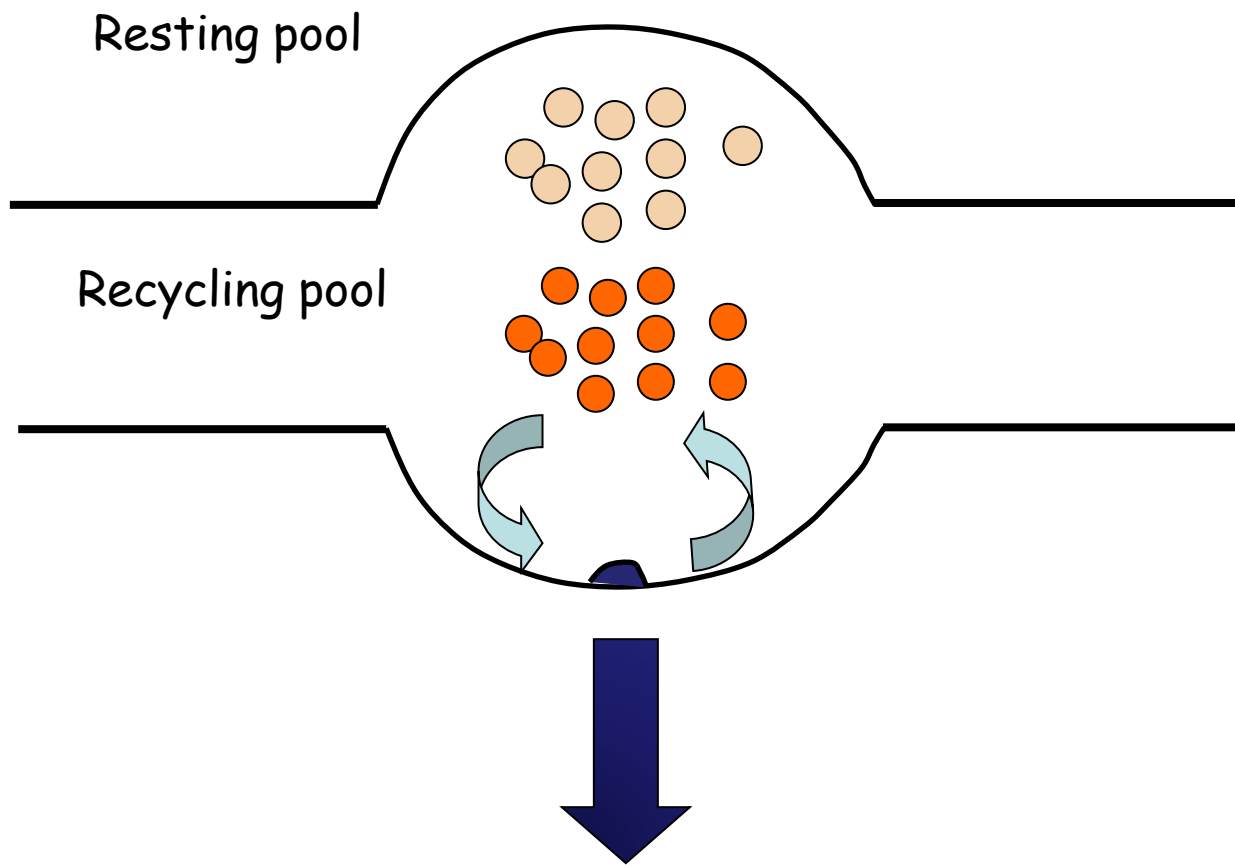
## C Synaptic density of WT and transgenic boutons





A



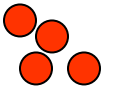
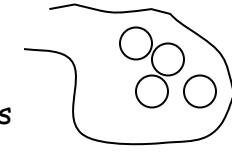


# Exo and endocytic deficits in $\alpha$ -synuclein over-expressing neurons

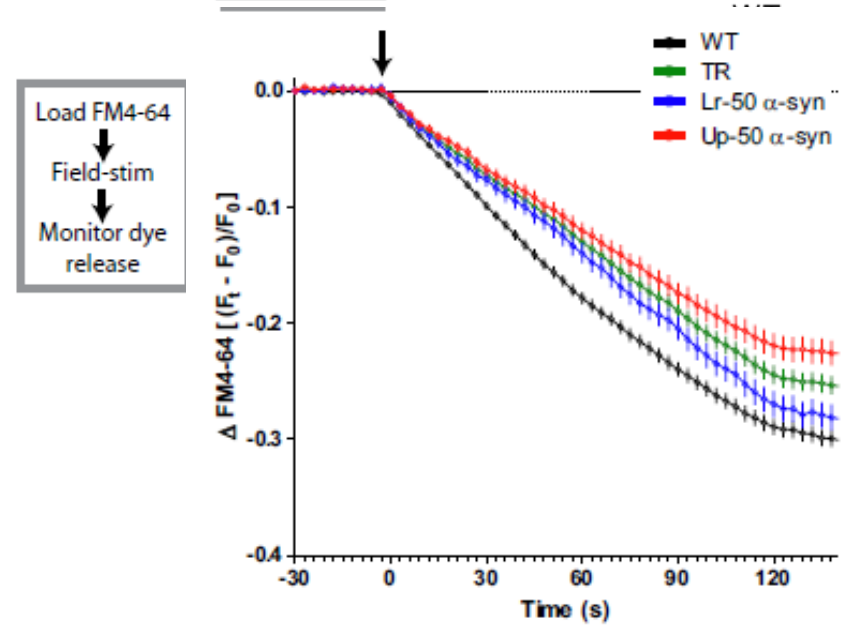
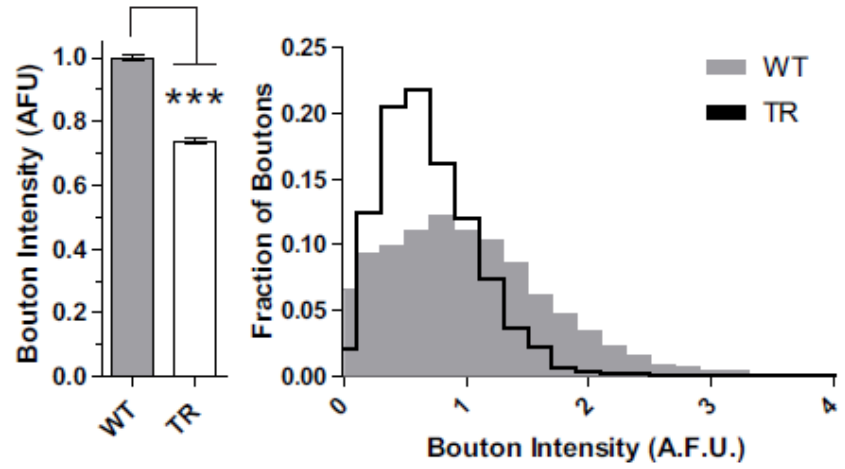
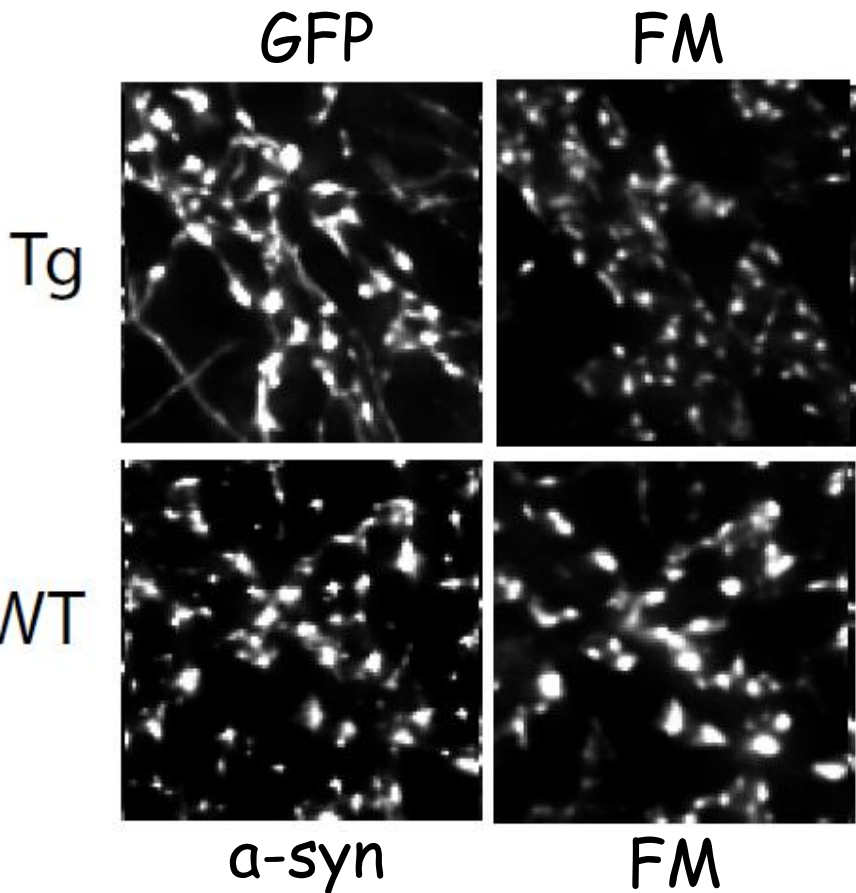
Experiment: Load WT or Tg boutons with FM4-64

K<sup>+</sup> or field stimulation

FM dye

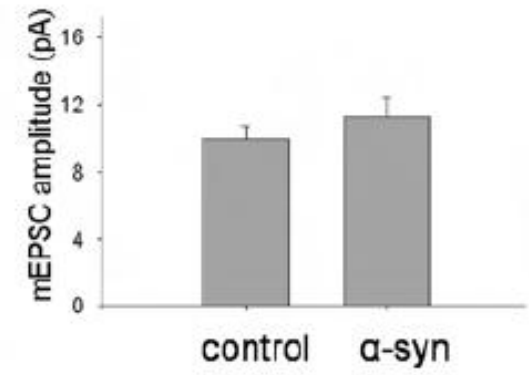
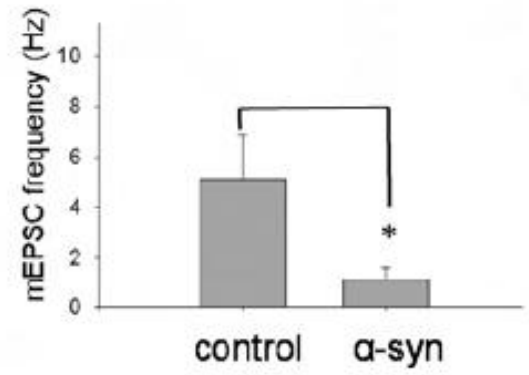
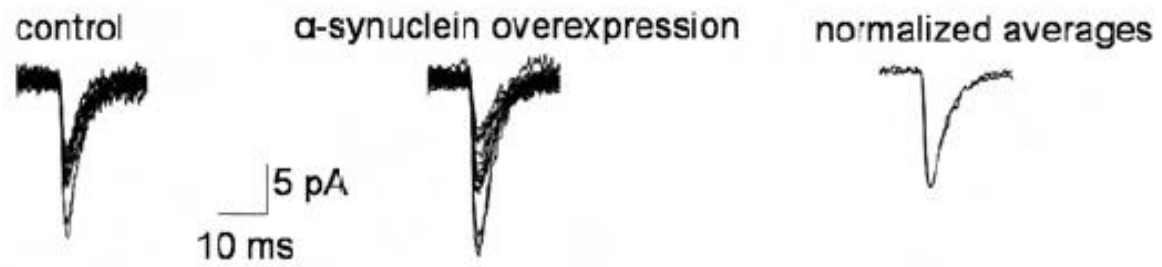
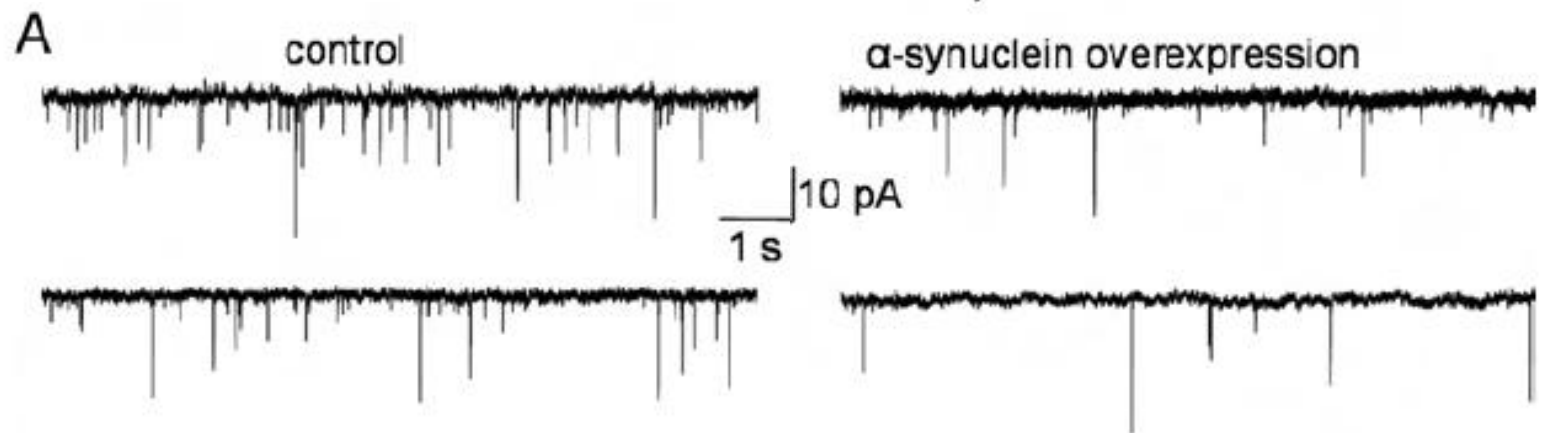


Data from ~ 4000-6000 boutons

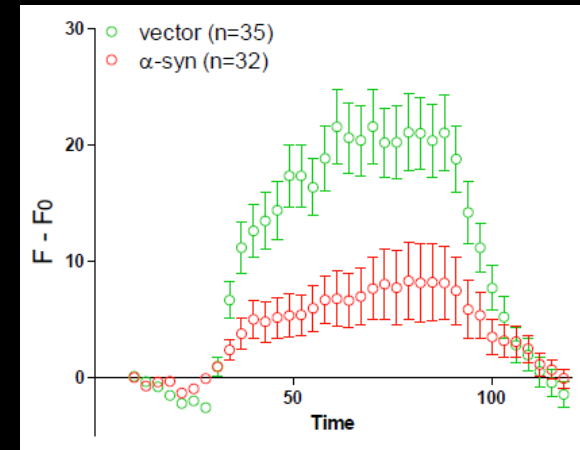
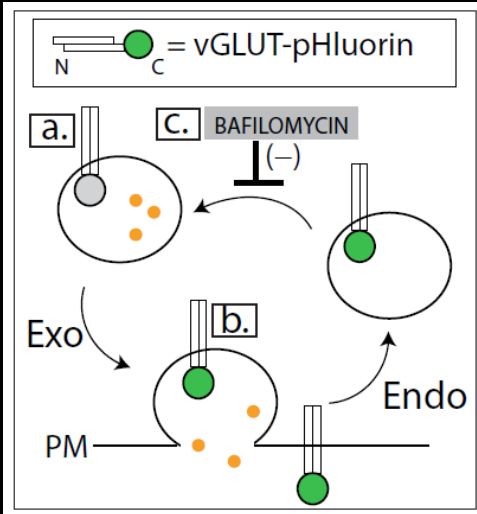


# DIMINISHED SYNAPTIC RESPONSES IN $\alpha$ -SYN OVEREXPRESSING NEURONS

Diminished spontaneous synaptic responses in  $\alpha$ -syn:GFP boutons

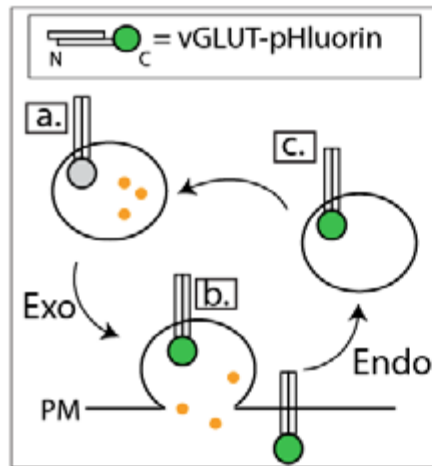


# pHluorin assays

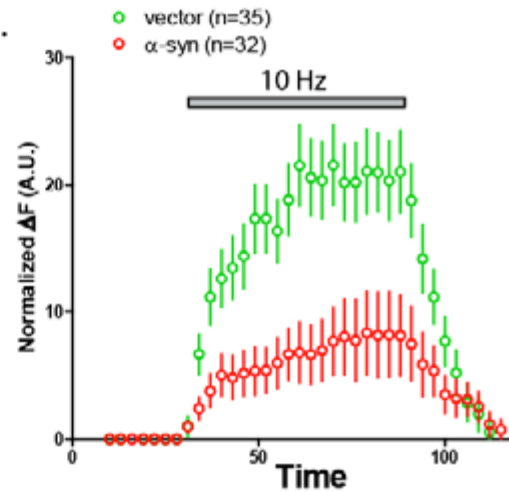


# Diminished neurotransmitter release demonstrated using pHluorins

A. FIGURE 5

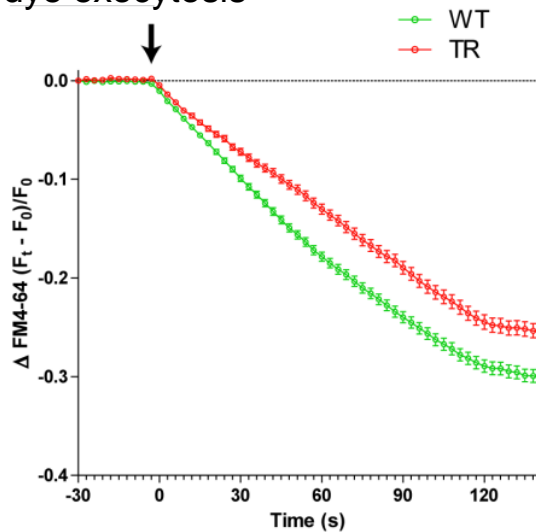


B.



# Effects of modestly elevated $\alpha$ -synuclein on neurotransmission

FM-dye exocytosis

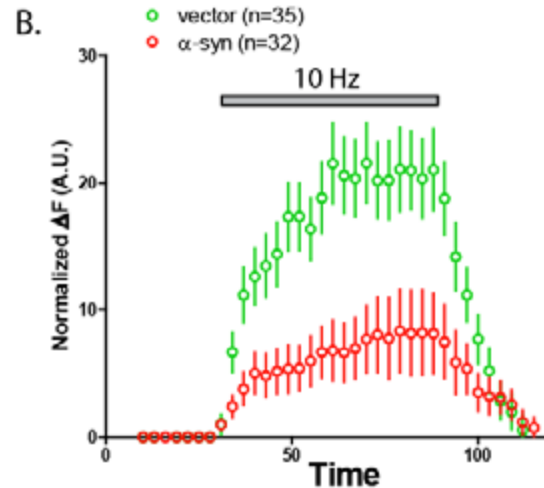


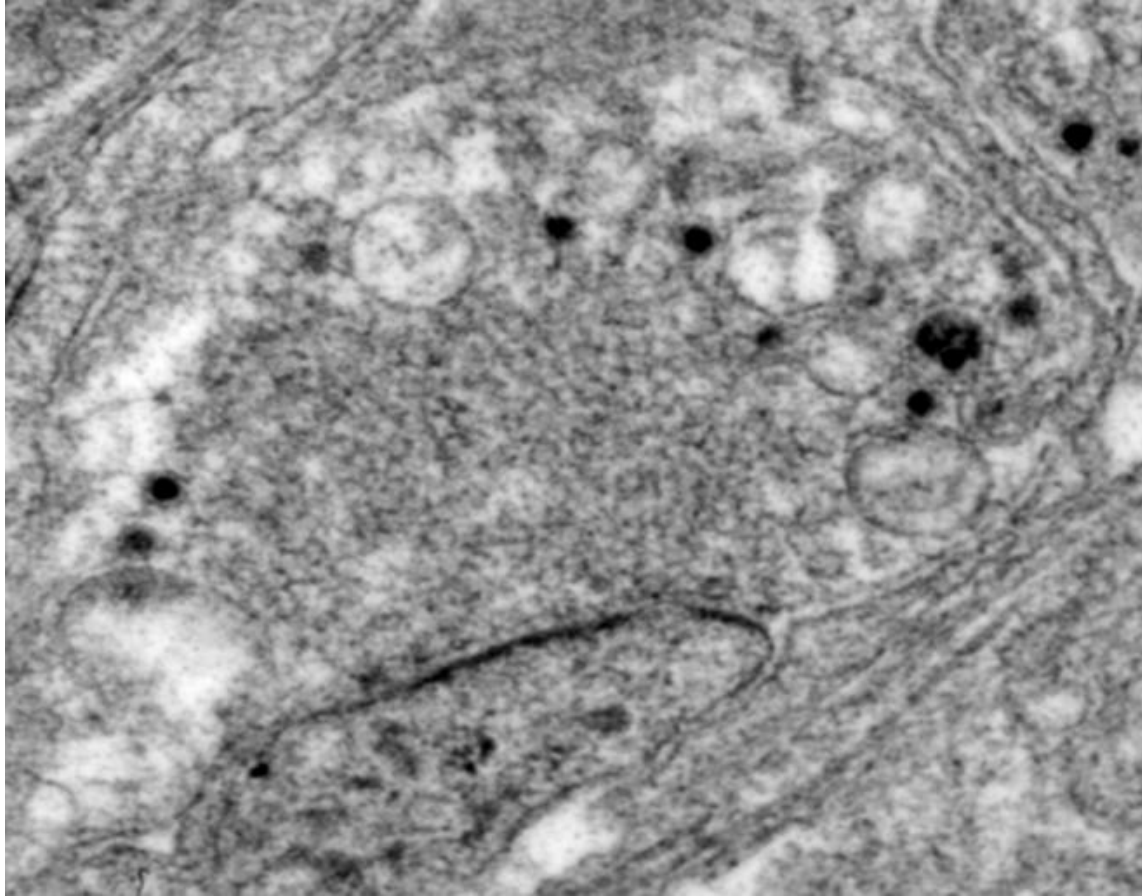
EPhys

$\alpha$ -synuclein overexpression

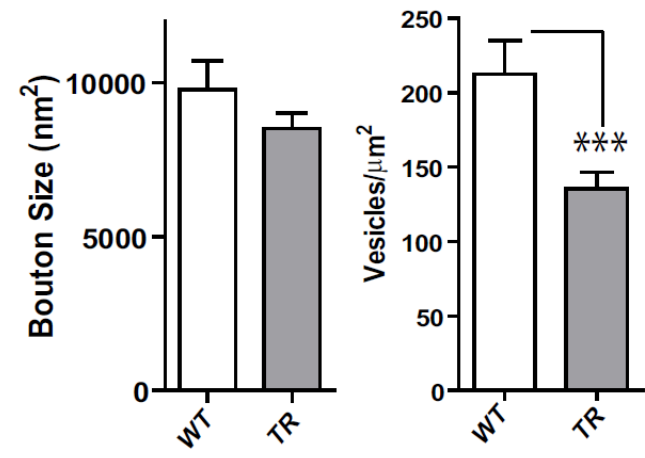


Vglut:pHluorin assay





Overall size of boutons      Overall vesicle density

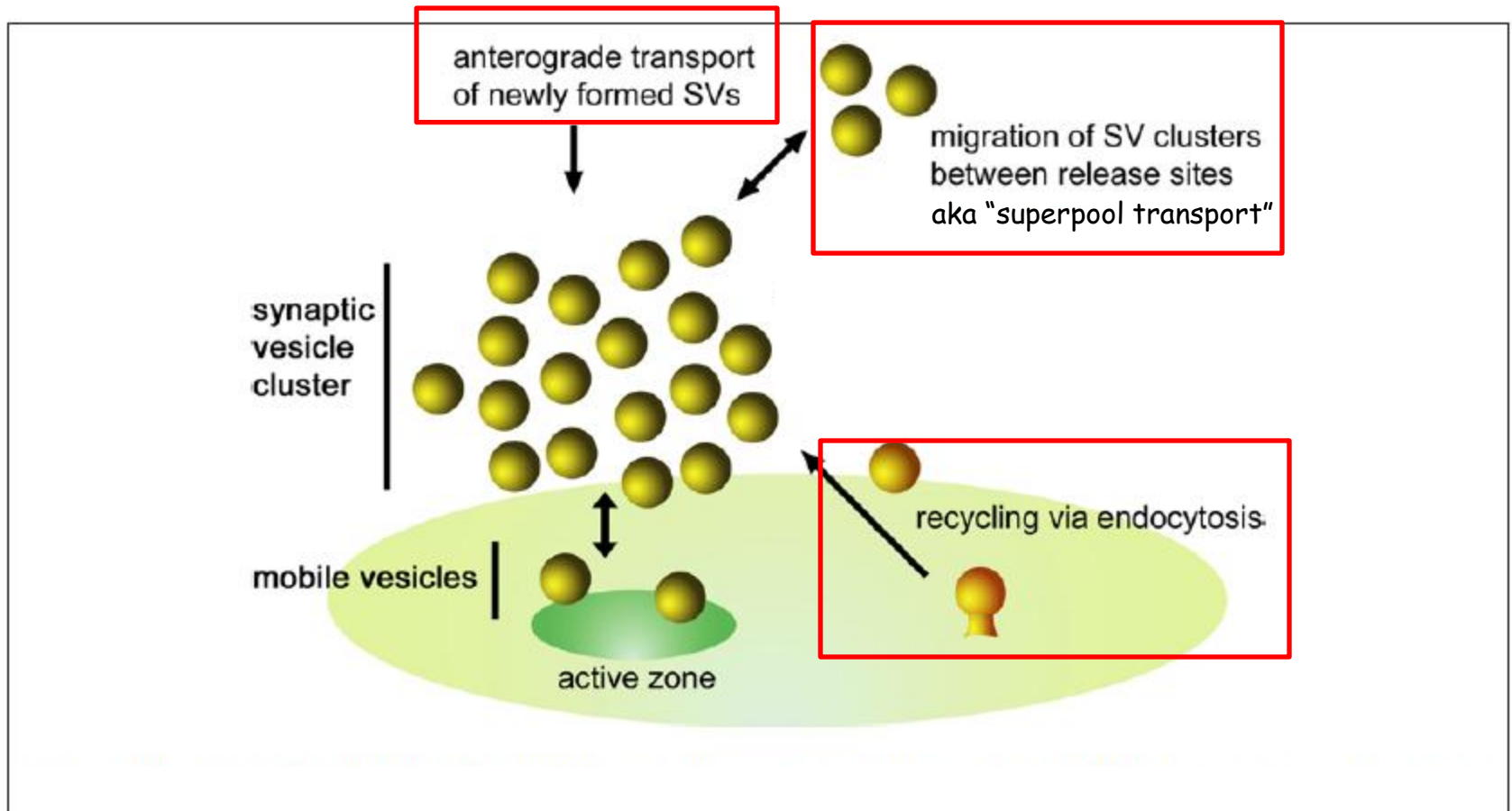




## Outcomes of *modestly elevated* alpha-synuclein

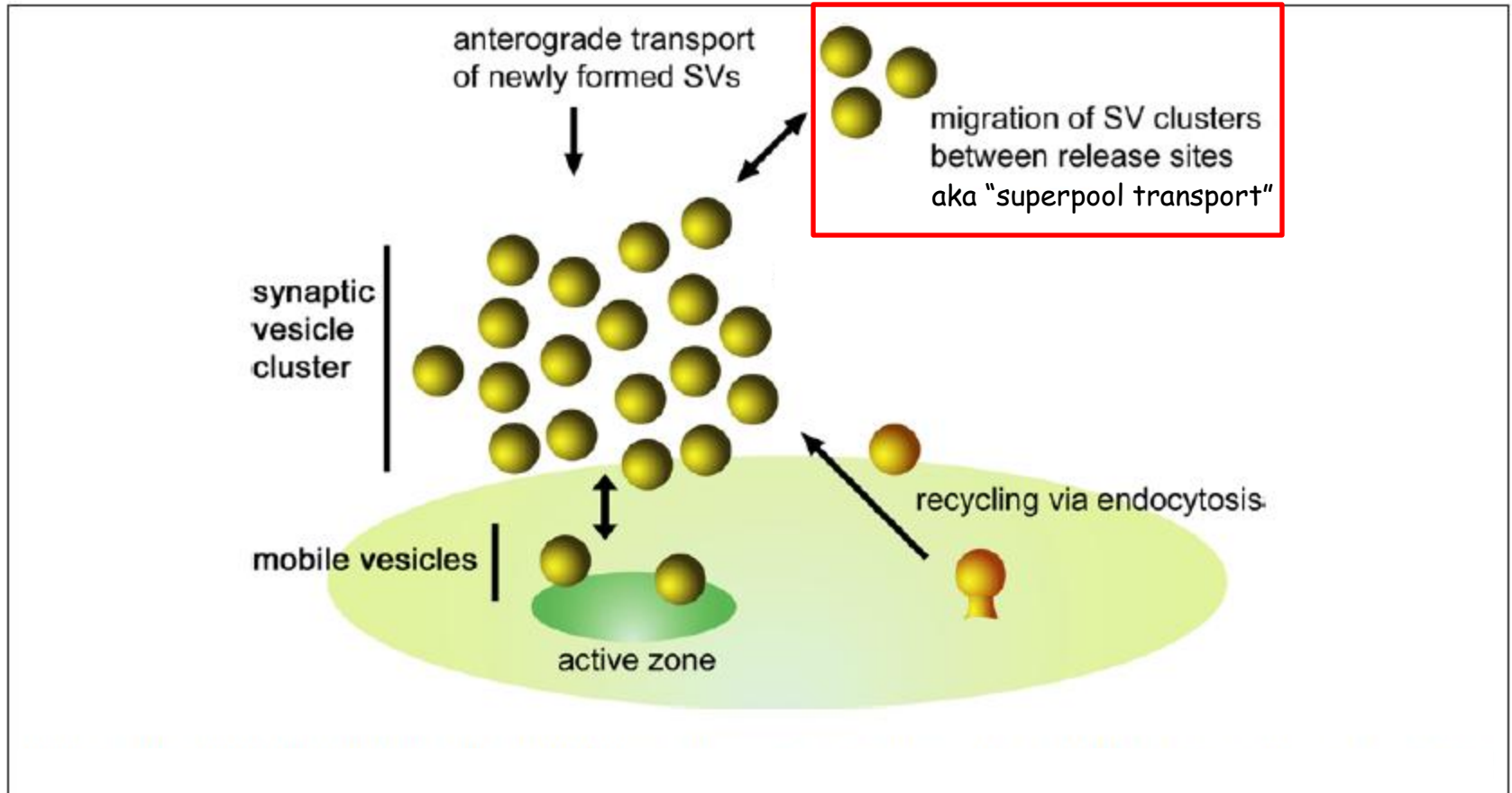
- Reduced synaptic RECYCLING POOLS
- Reduced neurotransmitter release

# Replenishment of synaptic recycling pools

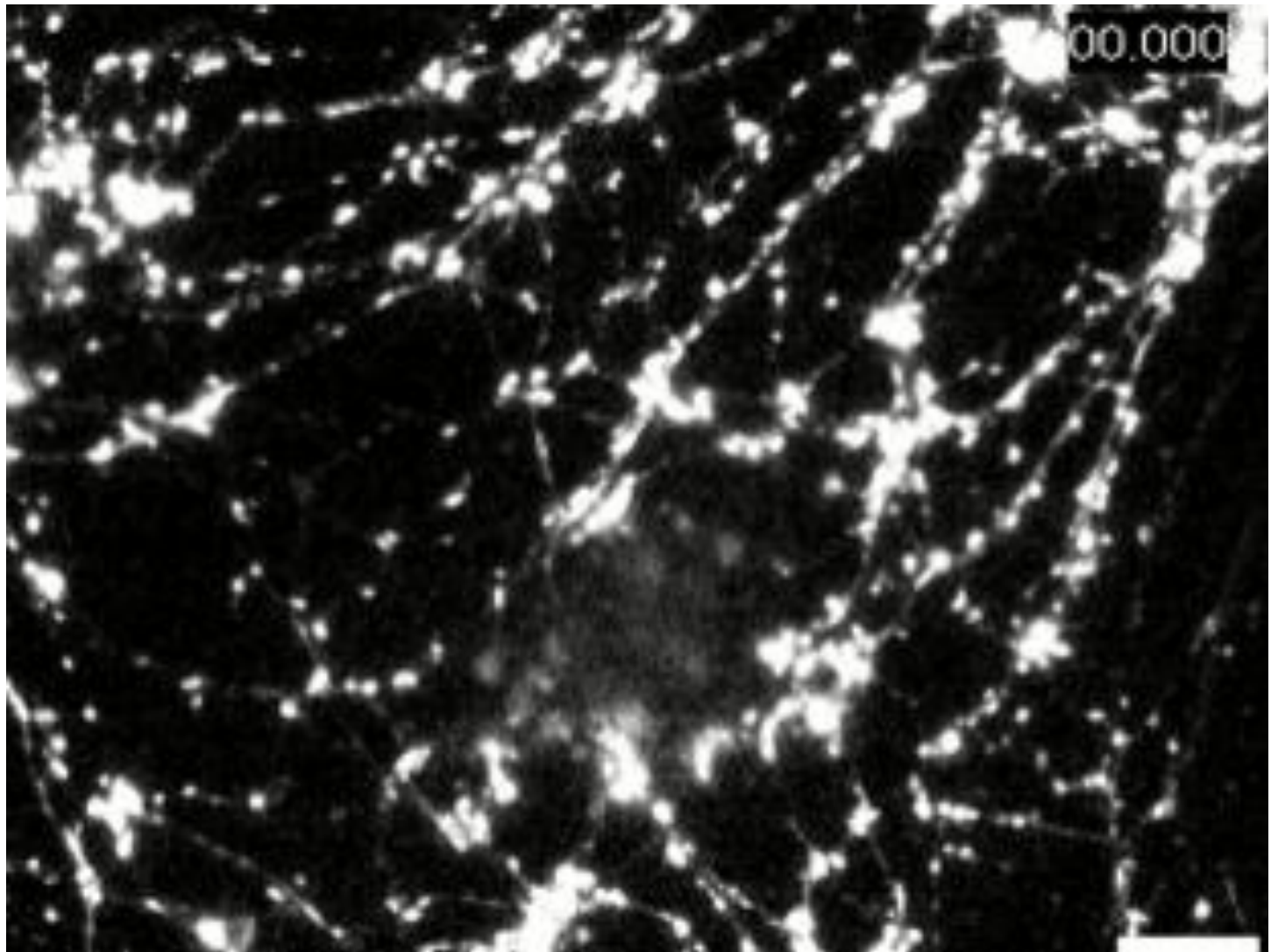


Adapted from Pechstein and Shupliakov, *frontiers in synaptic neuroscience*

# Replenishment of synaptic recycling pools



Adapted from Pechstein and Shupliakov, *frontiers in synaptic neuroscience*



# $\alpha$ -Synuclein Blocks ER-Golgi Traffic and Rab1 Rescues Neuron Loss in Parkinson's Models

Antony A. Cooper,<sup>1\*†</sup> Aaron D. Gitler,<sup>2\*</sup> Anil Cashikar,<sup>2‡</sup> Cole M. Haynes,<sup>1§</sup> Kathryn J. Hill,<sup>1†</sup> Bhupinder Bhullar,<sup>2,3</sup> Kangning Liu,<sup>4,5</sup> Kexiang Xu,<sup>4</sup> Katherine E. Strathearn,<sup>6</sup> Fang Liu,<sup>6</sup> Songsong Cao,<sup>7</sup> Kim A. Caldwell,<sup>7</sup> Guy A. Caldwell,<sup>7</sup> Gerald Marsischky,<sup>3</sup> Richard D. Kolodner,<sup>8</sup> Joshua LaBaer,<sup>3</sup> Jean-Christophe Rochet,<sup>6</sup> Nancy M. Bonini,<sup>4,5</sup> Susan Lindquist<sup>2,9||</sup>

Alpha-synuclein ( $\alpha$ Syn) misfolding is associated with several devastating neurodegenerative disorders, including Parkinson's disease (PD). In yeast cells and in neurons  $\alpha$ Syn accumulation is cytotoxic, but little is known about its normal function or pathobiology. The earliest defect following  $\alpha$ Syn expression in yeast was a block in endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-to-Golgi vesicular trafficking. In a genome-wide screen, the largest class of toxicity modifiers were proteins functioning

synchronous galactose-induction, and ability by 8 measured by response,  $\alpha$ Syn type  $\alpha$ Syn ( $\alpha$ Syn in ER stress (Fig. 1C).

$\alpha$ Syn accumulation results in the selective degradation of proteins with retrotransplasm for de



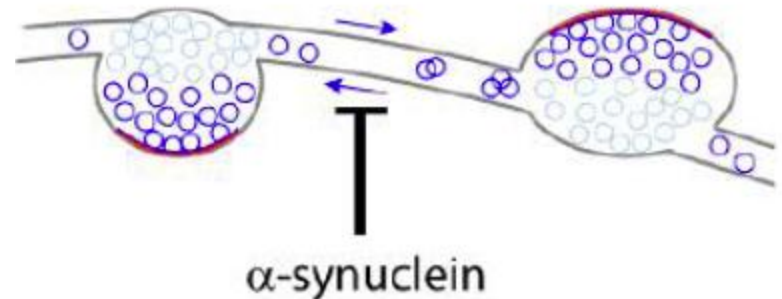
## The Parkinson's disease protein $\alpha$ -synuclein disrupts cellular Rab homeostasis

Aaron D. Gitler<sup>\*,†</sup>, Brooke J. Boeve<sup>\*</sup>, James Shorter<sup>\*,†</sup>, Katherine E. Strathearn<sup>§</sup>, Shusai Hamamichi<sup>||</sup>, Linhui Julio Su<sup>\*</sup>, Kim A. Caldwell<sup>||</sup>, Guy A. Caldwell<sup>||</sup>, Jean-Christophe Rochet<sup>§</sup>, J. Michael McCaffery<sup>||</sup>, Charles Barlowe<sup>\*,†</sup>, and Susan Lindquist<sup>\*,†,||</sup>

\*Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Cambridge, MA 02142; †Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907; ‡Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487; §Integrated Imaging Center and Department of Biology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218; ||Department of Biochemistry, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH 03755; and Departments of †Cell and Developmental Biology and ‡Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Contributed by Susan Lindquist, November 15, 2007 (sent for review August 20, 2007)

$\alpha$ -Synuclein ( $\alpha$ -syn), a protein of unknown function, is the most abundant protein in Lewy bodies, the histological hallmark of evoked neurotransmitter release owing to an increase in the pool of docked, but not yet fused, secretory vesicles (14, 15). Other



Molecular Biology of the Cell  
Vol. 19, 1093–1103, March 2008

## $\alpha$ -Synuclein-induced Aggregation of Cytoplasmic Vesicles in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

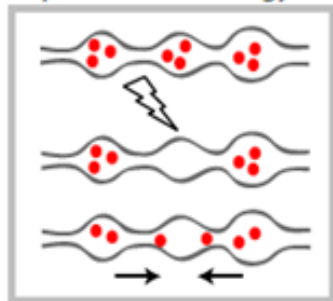
James H. Soper,<sup>\*,†</sup> Subhojit Roy,<sup>\*,†</sup> Anna Stieber,<sup>\*,†</sup> Eliza Lee,<sup>\*,†</sup> Robert B. Wilson,<sup>†</sup> John Q. Trojanowski,<sup>\*,†</sup> Christopher G. Burd,<sup>‡</sup> and Virginia M.-Y. Lee<sup>\*,†</sup>

\*Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research and Departments of †Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and ‡Cell and Developmental Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104

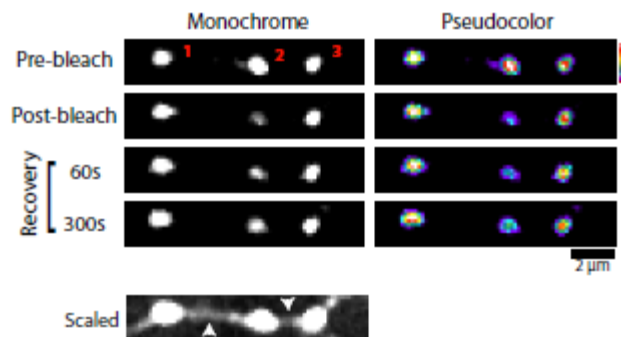
Submitted August 20, 2007; revised December 17, 2007; accepted December 20, 2007

# Assay for analyzing intra-synaptic exchange of recycling vesicles

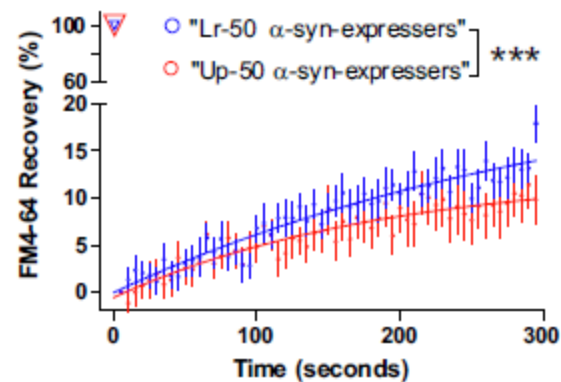
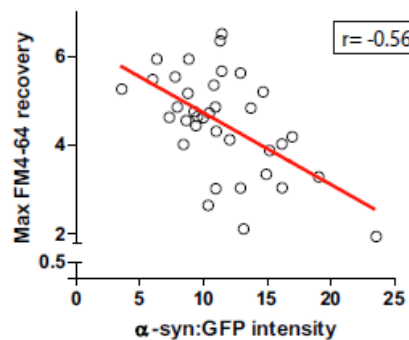
Experimental strategy



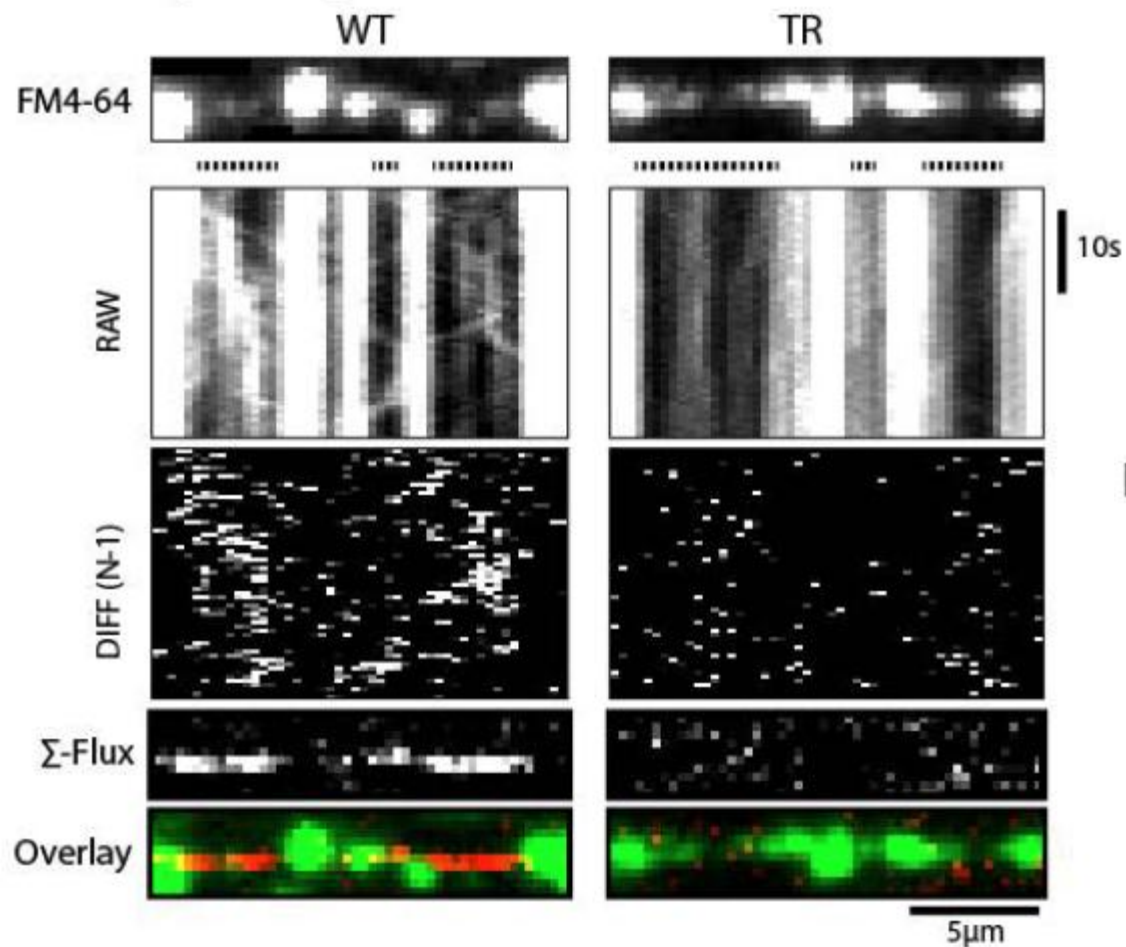
**A** FM4-64-FRAP-assay for superpool trafficking



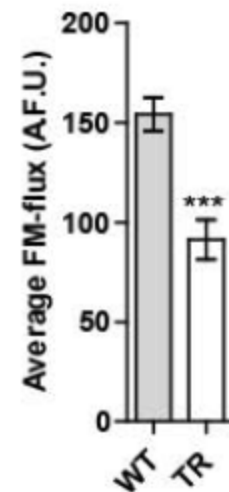
**B** Diminished FM4-64-FRAP in high expressors



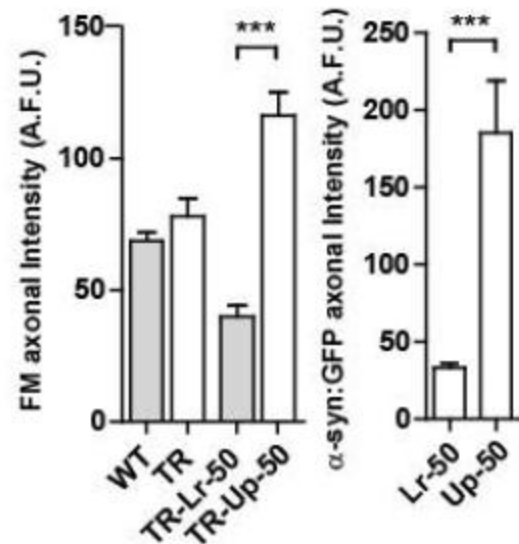
### C. Diminished FM-trafficking in $\alpha$ -synuclein overexpressing boutons



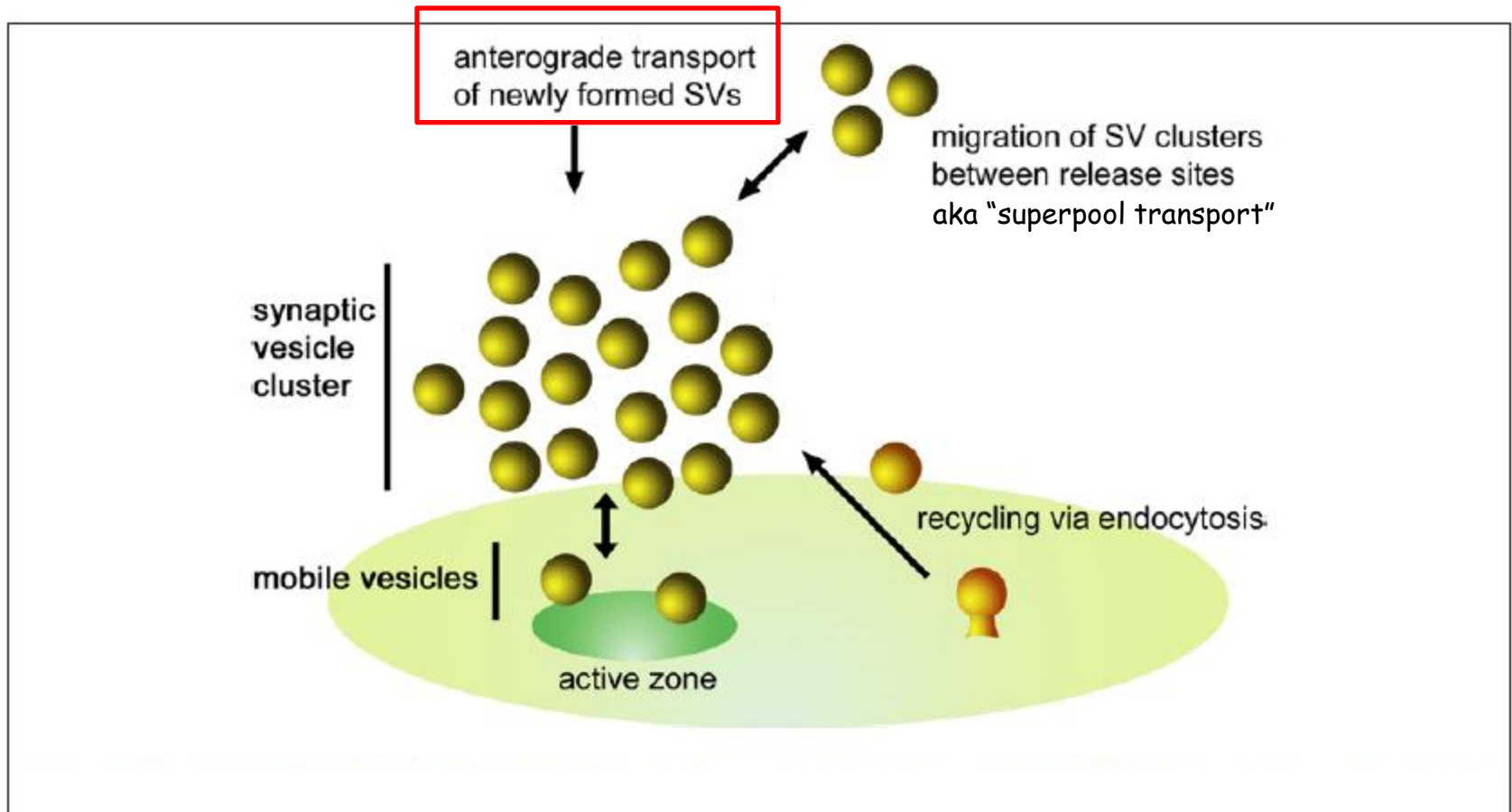
D.



E.



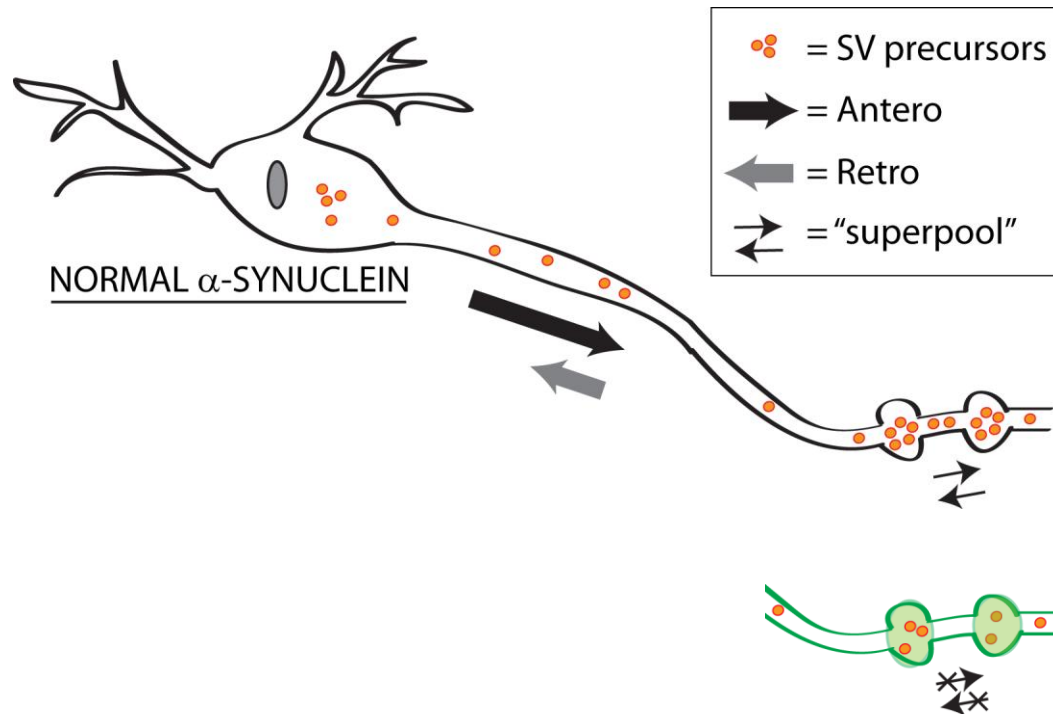
# Replenishment of synaptic recycling pools



Adapted from Pechstein and Shupliakov, *frontiers in synaptic neuroscience*



# Axonal transport of synaptic vesicle (SV) precursors



## ALPHA-SYNUCLEIN IS DELIVERED TO SYNAPSES BY SLOW AXONAL TRANSPORT

The slow axonal transport of alpha-synuclein – mechanistic commonalities amongst diverse cytosolic cargoes.  
Tang Y, Das U, Scott D and Roy S\*. **Cytoskeleton** (special issue), 2012 PMID: 22309053

Mechanistic logic underlying the axonal transport of cytosolic proteins.  
Scott D, Das U, Tang Y and Roy S\*. **Neuron** May 2011 PMID: 21555071

A simple photoactivation and image-analysis module for visualizing and analyzing axonal transport with high temporal resolution. Roy S\*, Yang Ge, Tang Y and Scott D. **Nature Protocols**, 2011 Dec PMID: 22179592

# Axonal transport of synaptic vesicle precursors (SVPs) in neurons transiently transfected with $\alpha$ -synuclein

A. Synaptophysin:mRFP transport

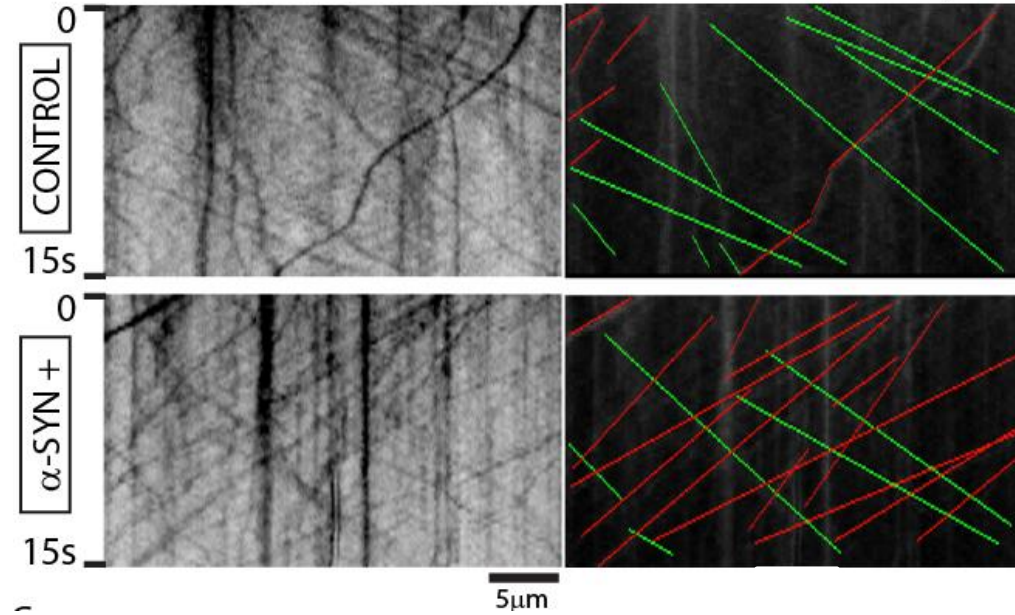
Co-transfect  
GFP: $\alpha$ -syn + Synap:mRFP  
in DIV 10 neurons

↓

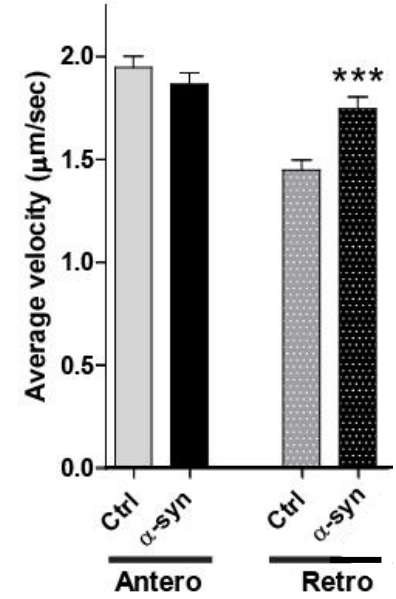
Wait 24h

↓

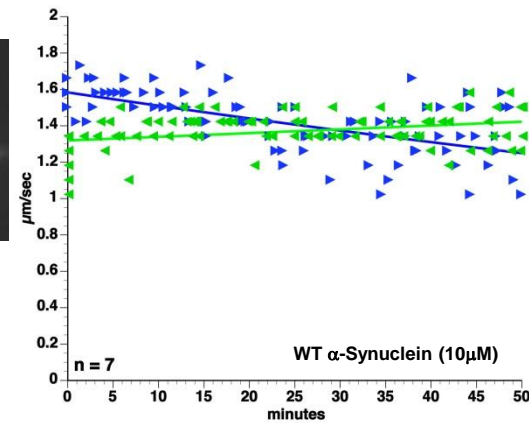
Visualize Synap:mRFP  
using optimized  
protocols



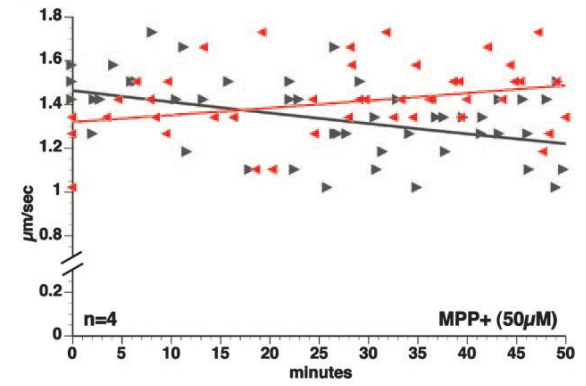
B.



Method: Tang et al., Traffic, 2012, PMID: 22309053

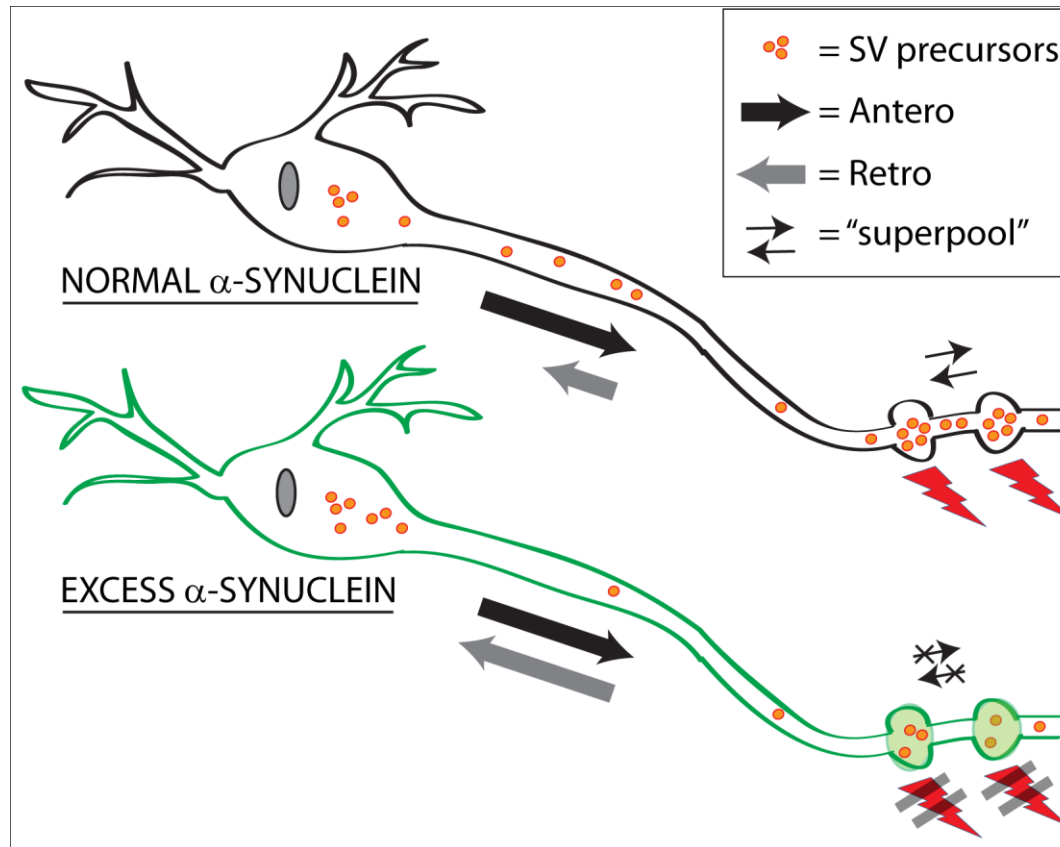


Morfini and Brady, unpublished



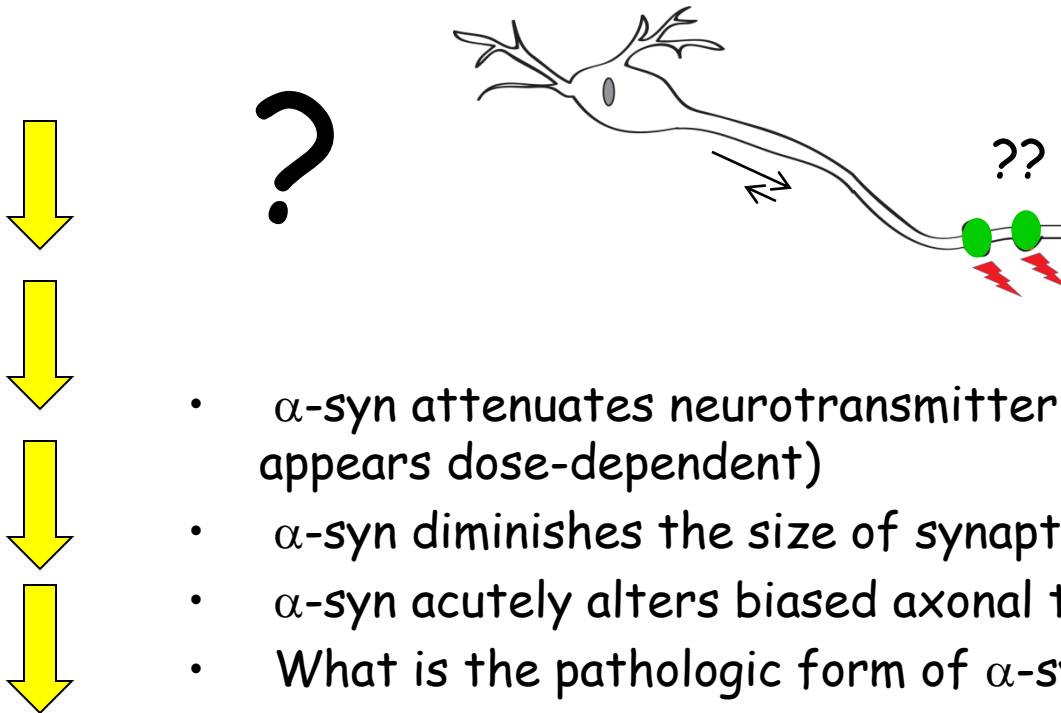
Morfini et al., PNAS 2006 PMID: PMID: 17287338

# An 'extra-synaptic' mechanism to explain a 'synaptic' deficit: a possible scenario...



# What are the cell-biologic events following $\alpha$ -synuclein elevation? *A hypothesis*

- Modestly elevated  $\alpha$ -synuclein in a neuron

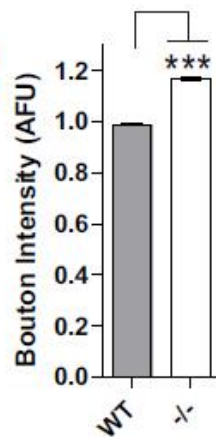
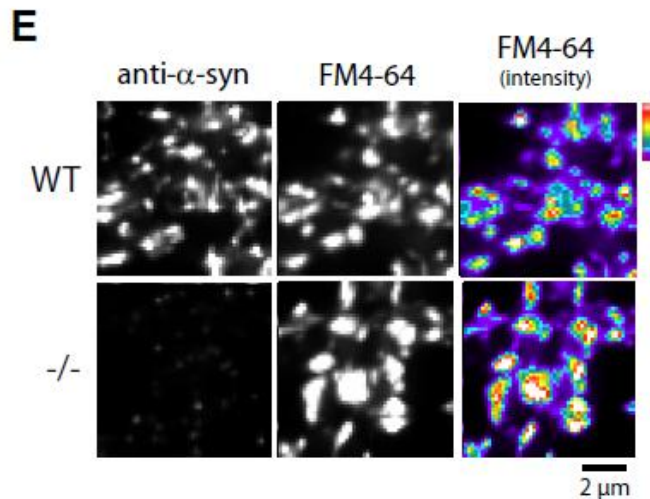
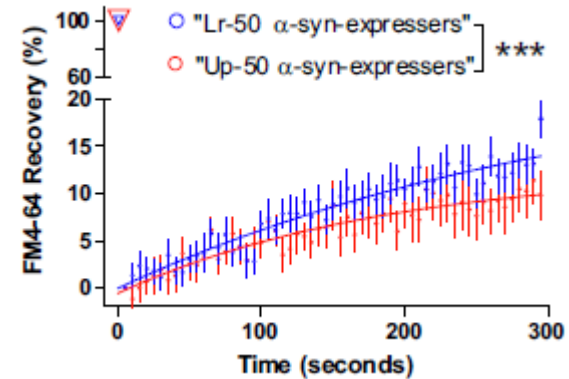
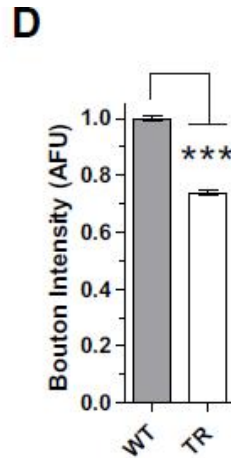
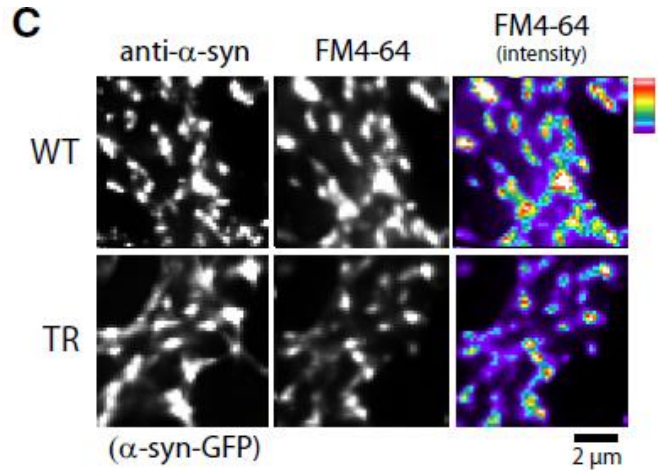


- $\alpha$ -syn attenuates neurotransmitter release (the effect appears dose-dependent)
- $\alpha$ -syn diminishes the size of synaptic recycling pools
- $\alpha$ -syn acutely alters biased axonal transport of SVPs
- What is the pathologic form of  $\alpha$ -syn?

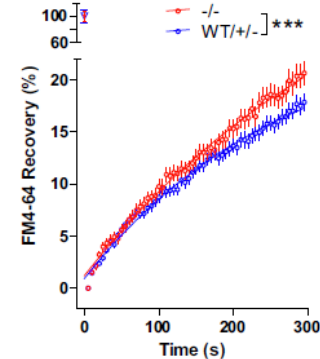
- Synaptic physiology/function

Could the  $\alpha$ -syn induced synaptic phenotypes - decreased recycling pools/diminished superpool trafficking - reflect the normal role for  $\alpha$ -syn ?

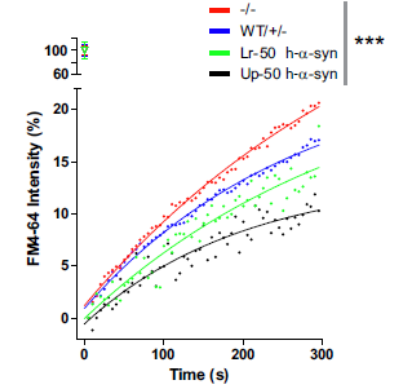
# Physiologic effects of $\alpha$ -syn on recycling pools



FM4-64-FRAP in  $\alpha$ -syn  $-/-$  neurons



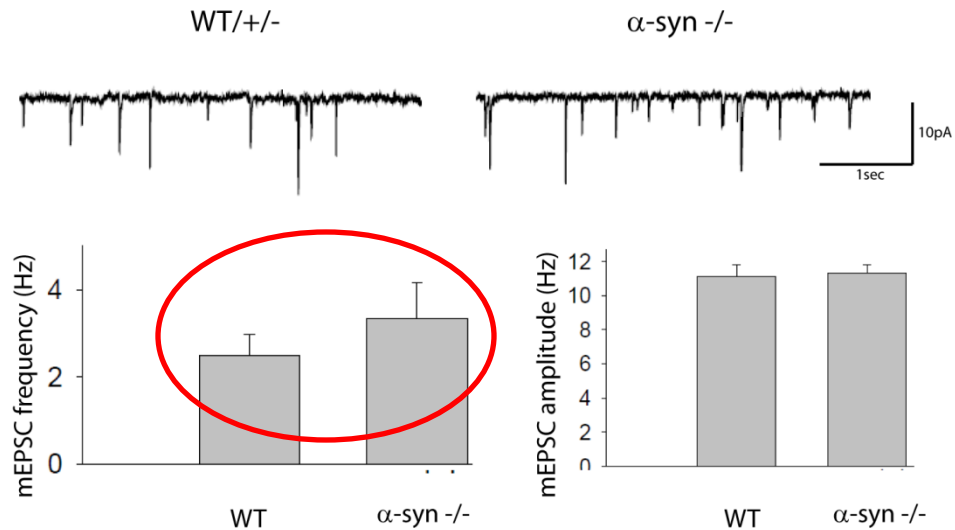
Pooled FM4-64-FRAP data from all experiments



N ~ 25,000 – 50,000 boutons/condition

# Physiologic effects of $\alpha$ -syn on recycling pools

Spontaneous synaptic responses in  $\alpha$ -syn  $-/-$  neurons



$\alpha$ -syn may have a normal role in regulating inter-synaptic trafficking and maintaining recycling pool levels



$\alpha$ -synuclein.....



**THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE UGLY**

David Scott  
Utpal Das  
Yong Tang  
Subhojit Roy

Early and selective impairments in axonal transport kinetics of synaptic cargoes induced by soluble amyloid-beta protein oligomers. Tang Y, Scott D, Das U, Edland S, Radomski K, Koo E and Roy S. *Traffic*, May 2012;13(5):681-93..

A pathologic cascade leading to synaptic dysfunction in  $\alpha$ -synuclein-induced neurodegeneration (2010). Scott D, Tabarean I, Tang Y, Cartier A, Masliah E, Roy S. *Journal of Neuroscience* Jun 2010 16;30(24):8083-95.

Alpha-synuclein inhibits inter-synaptic vesicle trafficking and regulates recycling-pool homeostasis. Scott D and Roy S. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 2012 July 25; 32(30):10129-35.

Eliezer Masliah, UCSD  
Justin Tabarean, Scripps

