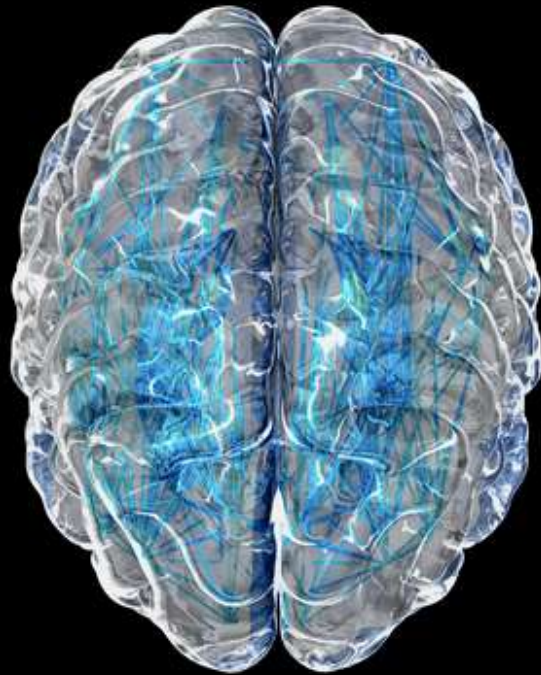


# The Human Connectome: Linking Brain Network Features to Healthy and Pathological Information Processing



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Newcastle University  
United Kingdom

<http://www.dynamic-connectome.org>

<http://neuroinformatics.ncl.ac.uk/>



[@ConnectomeLab](https://twitter.com/ConnectomeLab)

# Clinical Neuroinformatics in the UK



UK Biobank (Imaging project with 100k subjects aged 40-65)

1 3 3 0 9



Dementias Platform UK



Imaging platforms: FSL and SPM



National Mental Health Informatics network

# UK Special Interest Groups in Neuroinformatics



**SIG Neuroinformatics**

<https://www.bna.org.uk/members/sigs/neuroinformatics/>

**Experimental and Computational Researchers**



**SIG Human Neuroinformatics**

<http://neuroinformatics.org.uk/>

**Developers**

computer models to inform  
diagnosis and treatment  
of brain disorders

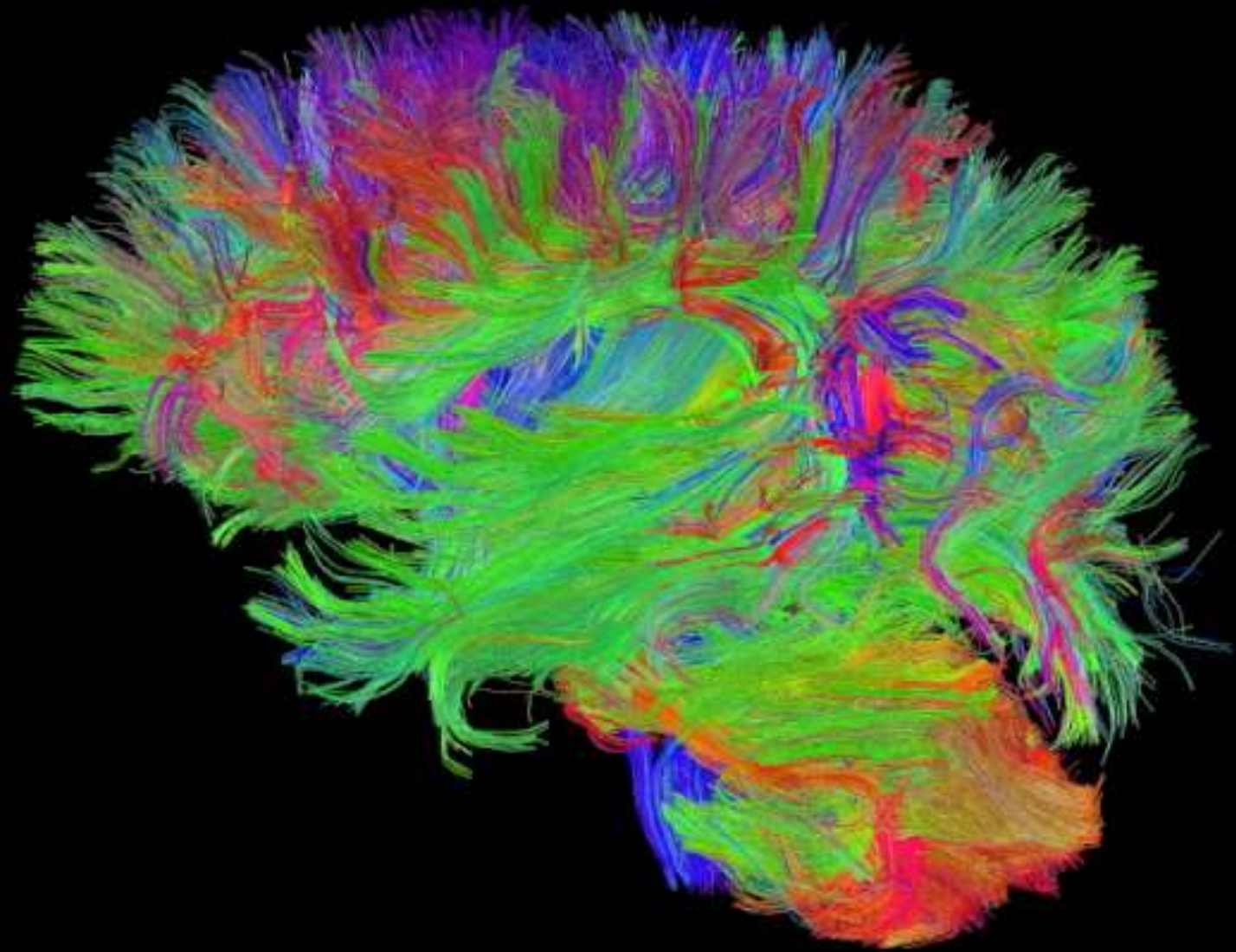


**CHAIN Technology**

**SIG Computational Neurology**

<http://www.chain-network.org.uk/>

**Clinicians**



# Common connectome features

*Brain connectivity in Drosophila melanogaster*

A



*Drosophila melanogaster*



*Mus musculus*



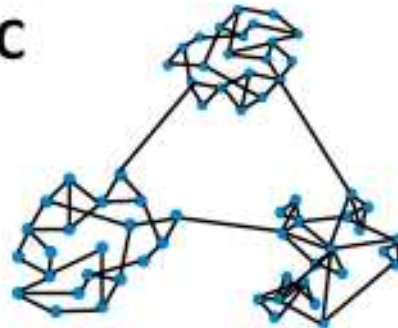
*Macaca mulatta*



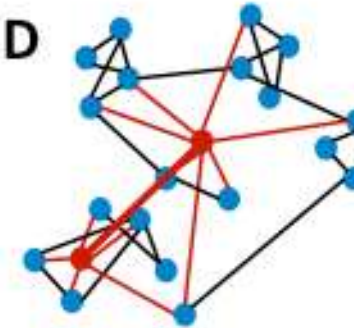
B



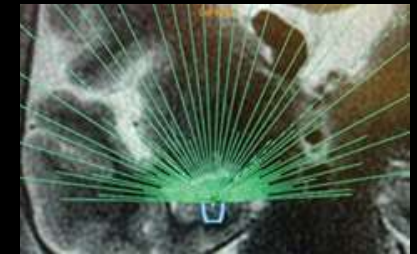
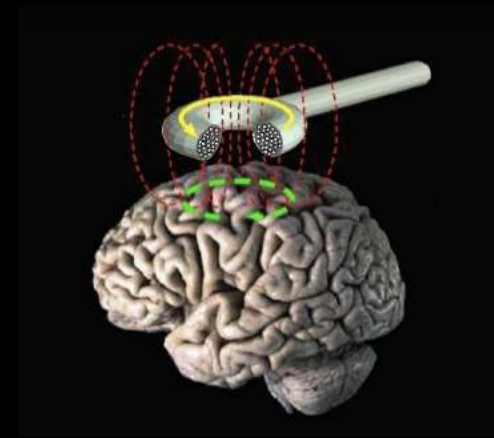
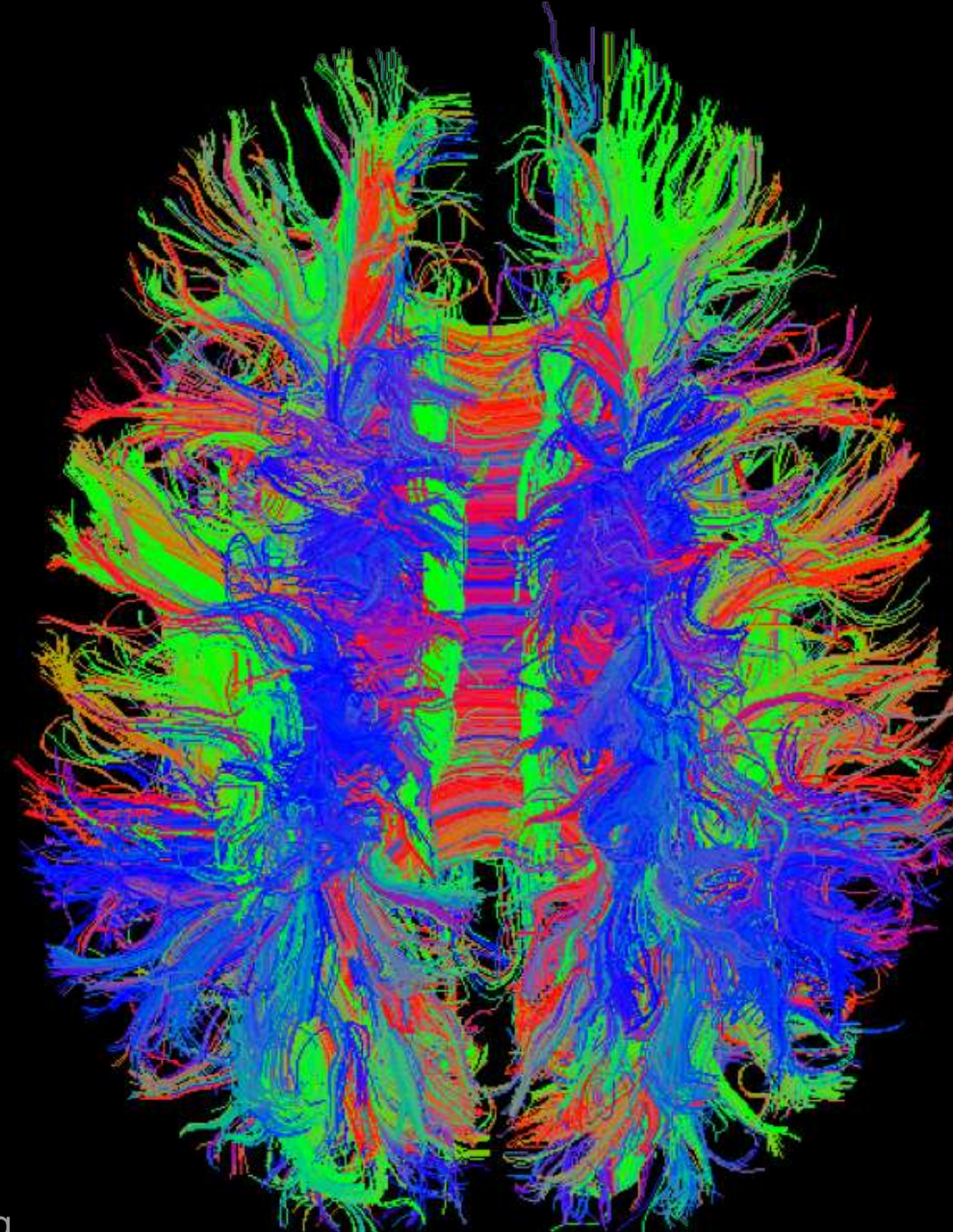
C



D



# Develop computational tools to inform diagnosis and treatment of network disorders



# Components

- Diagnosis for individual patients including aetiology (developmental origin) and disease subtype
- Identification of potential treatment targets
- Model for effects and side effects of treatment

## Finite element headmodels

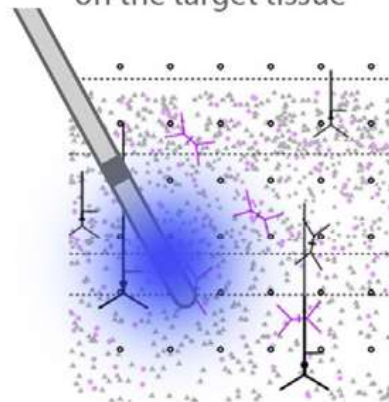
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)



- Position of the brain structures
- Morphology of the folded cortex
- White matter connectivity

## Stimulation modality model

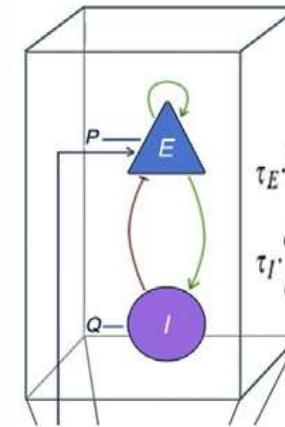
Simulating the effect of the stimulus on the target tissue



- Molecular mechanisms
- Electromagnetic field effects

## Mechanistic model

Simulating brain dynamics



$$\tau_E \frac{dE}{dt} = -E + \text{Sigm}(C_E - P)$$
$$\tau_I \frac{dI}{dt} = -I + \text{Sigm}(C_I - Q)$$

- Neuronal models
- Neural population models

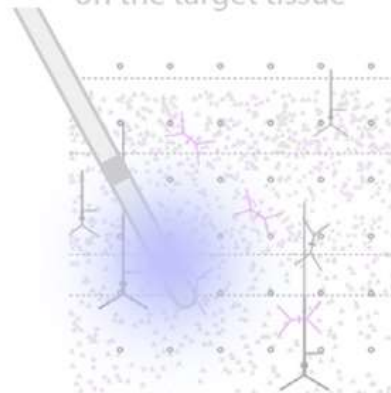
Wang, Hutchings, Kaiser, Prog. Brain Res., 2015

# Diagnosis including disease causes

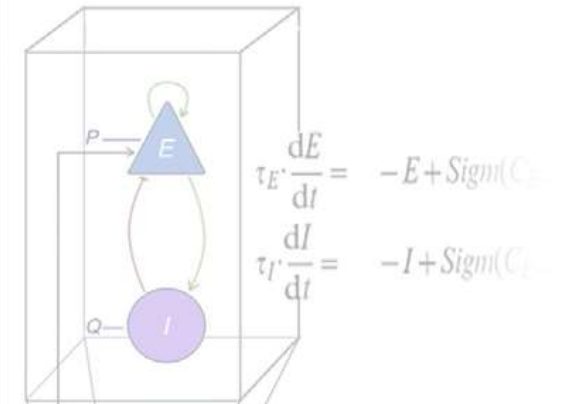
Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)



Simulating the effect of the stimulus on the target tissue



Simulating brain dynamics

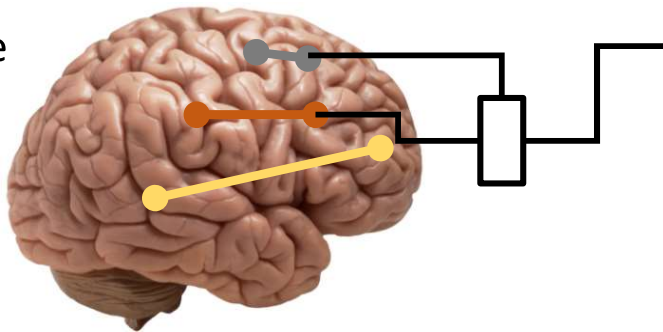




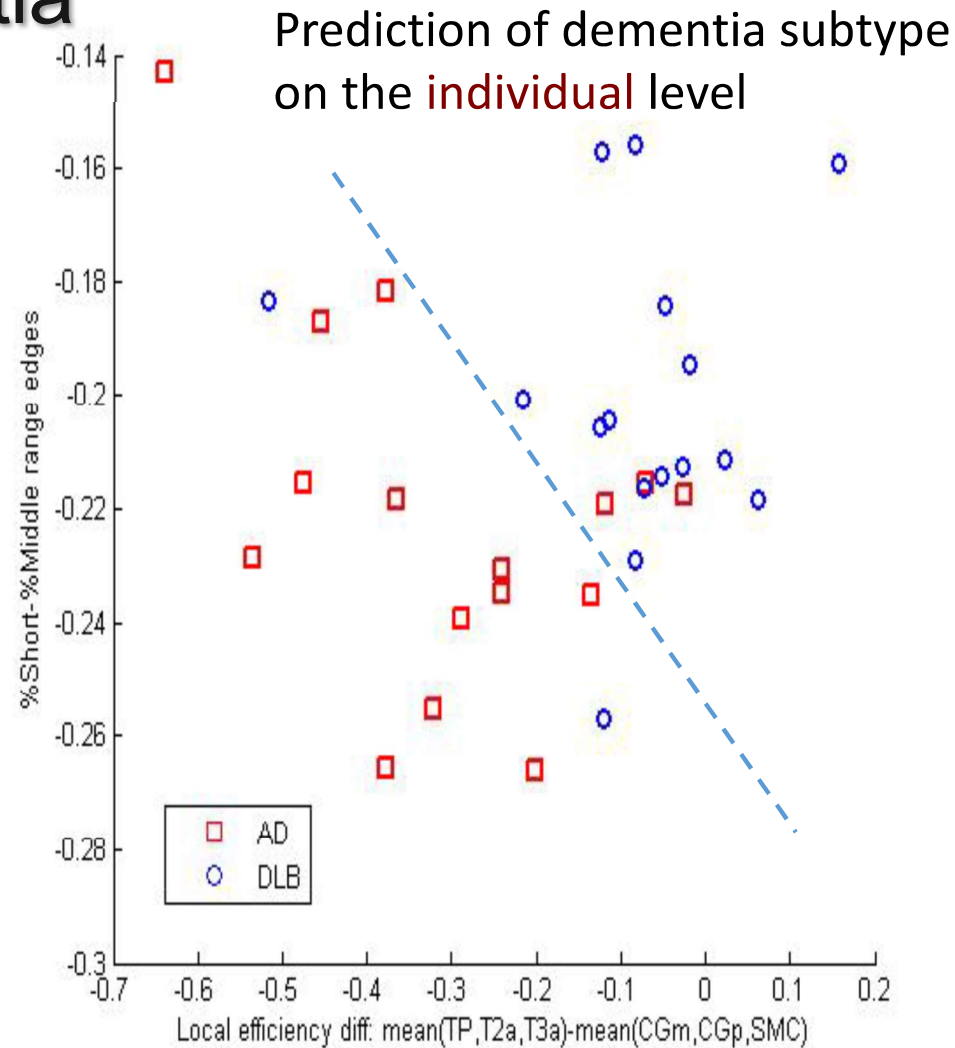
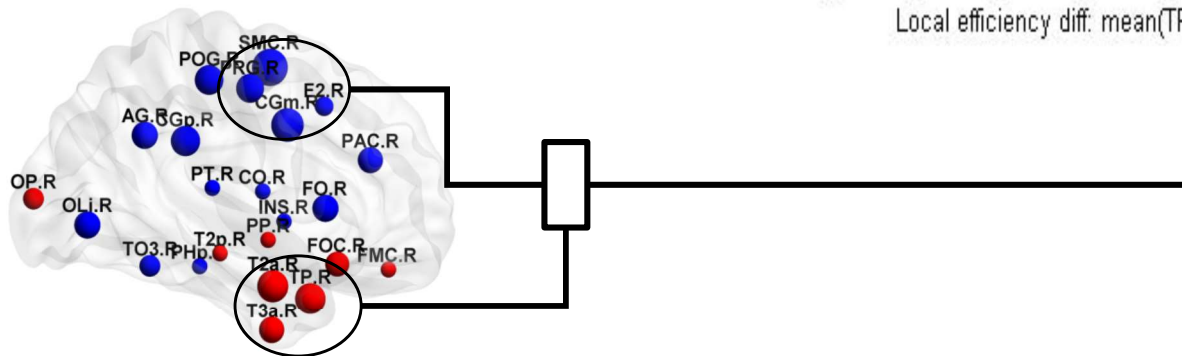
# Predicting subtypes of dementia

Correlation with clinical measures  
and **group** differentiation

Short-Middle range  
connections



Local Efficiency



81% Sensitivity  
87% Specificity  
0.88 AUC

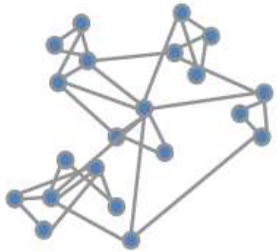
*In preparation*



# Connectome topology not always sufficient as biomarker

Brains are non-linear systems: small system changes can have large effects on system behaviour

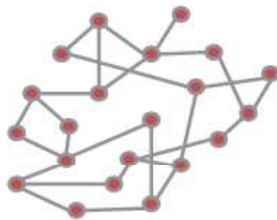
Connectome



Consequence Classification

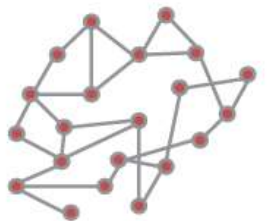
Seizure

Epilepsy



Hallucinations

Schizophrenia



Seizure

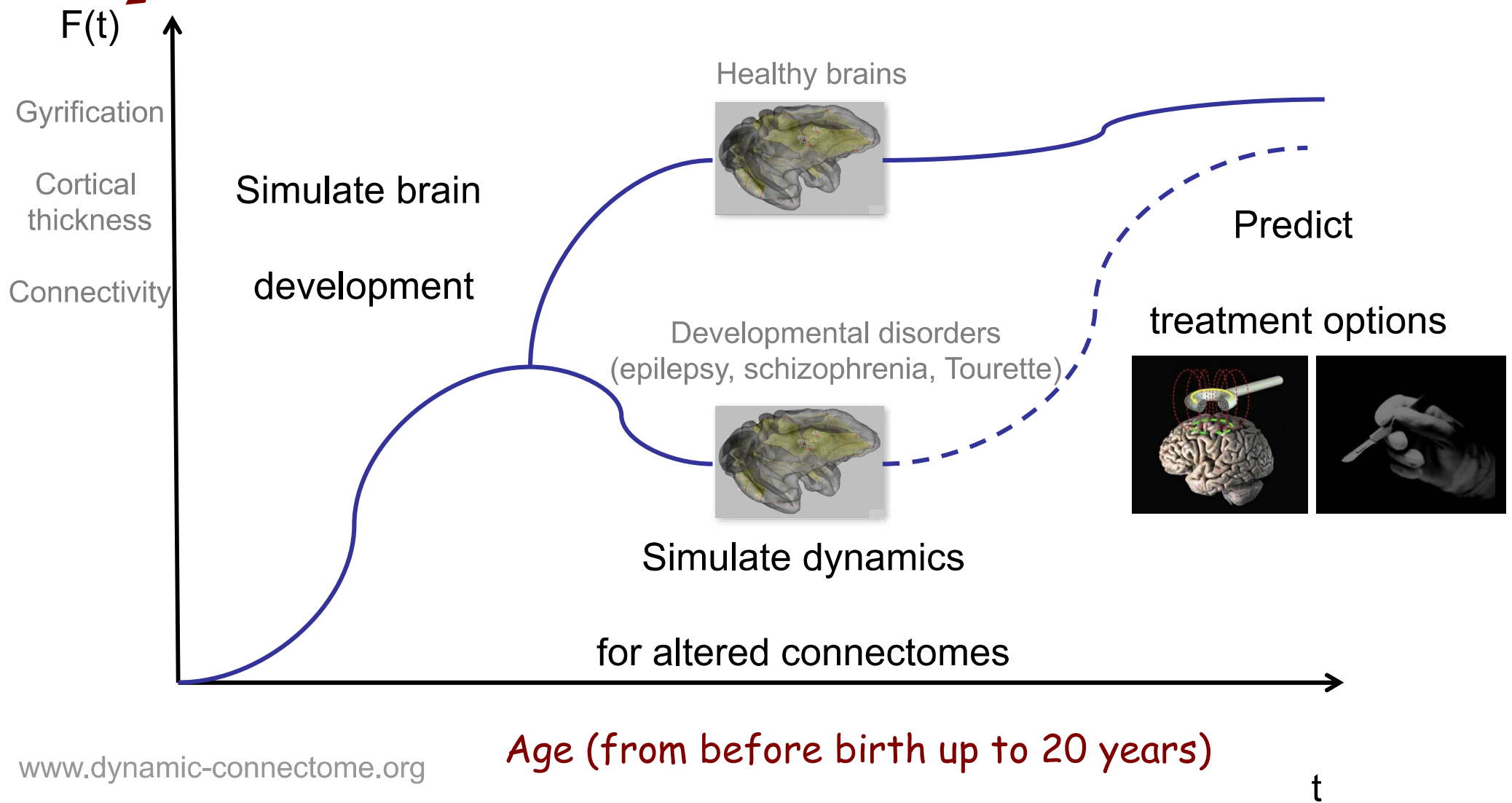
Epilepsy

→ **need for simulations of dynamics and development**

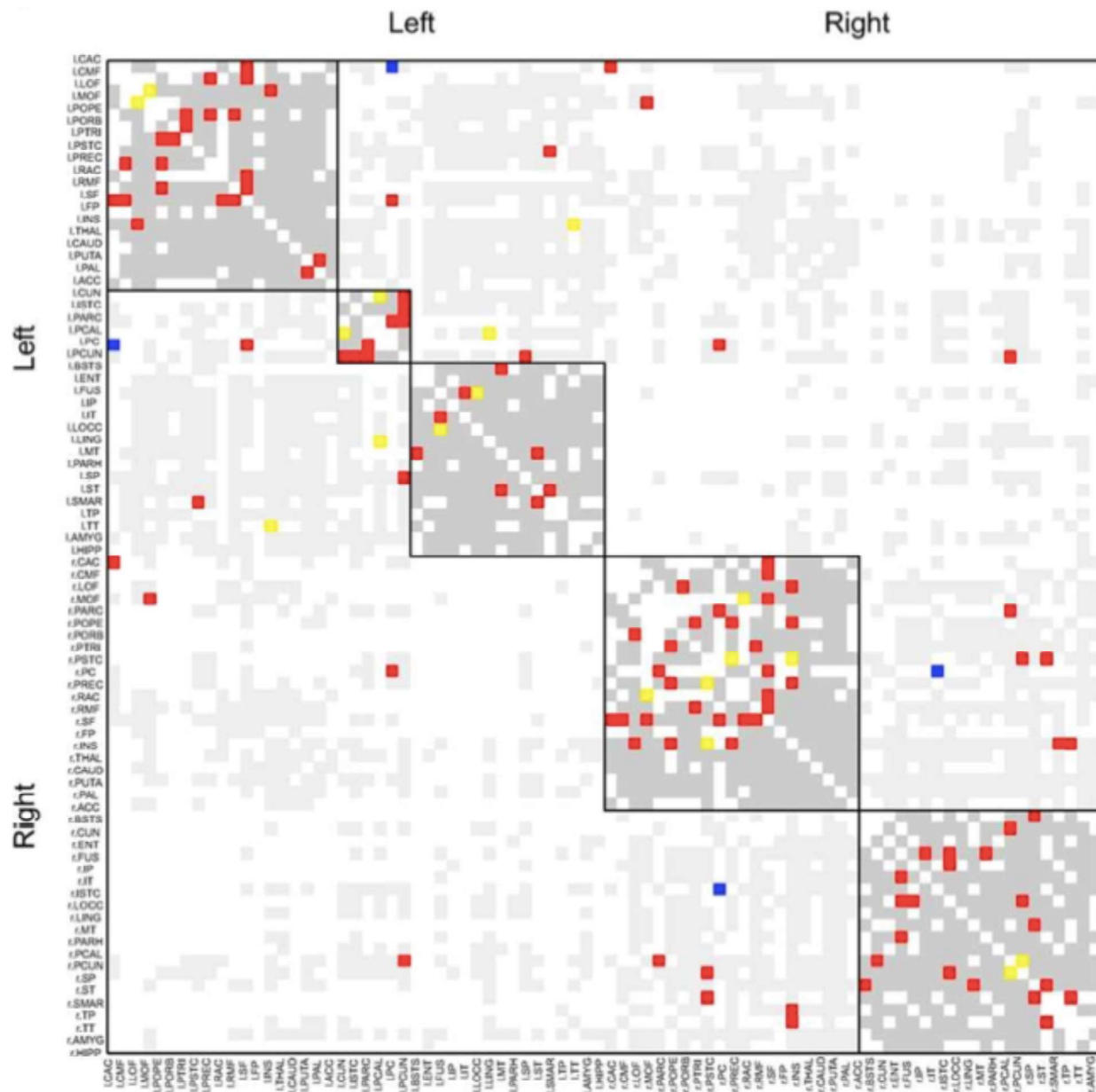
Kaiser, Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, 2013

# Understanding the factors that lead to neurodevelopmental diseases

Features that can be observed in humans and in computer models



# Reduction of streamlines over time



DTI

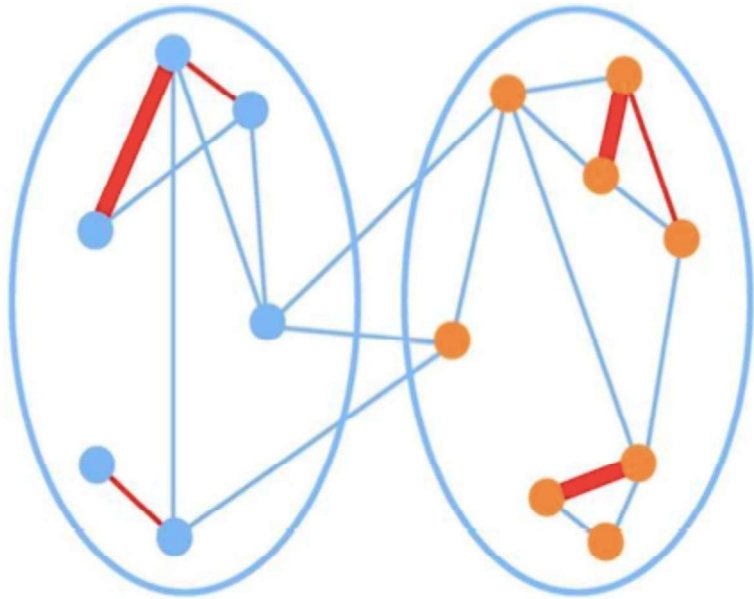
121 healthy subjects  
age 4-40 years

82 regions:  
68 cortical  
14 subcortical

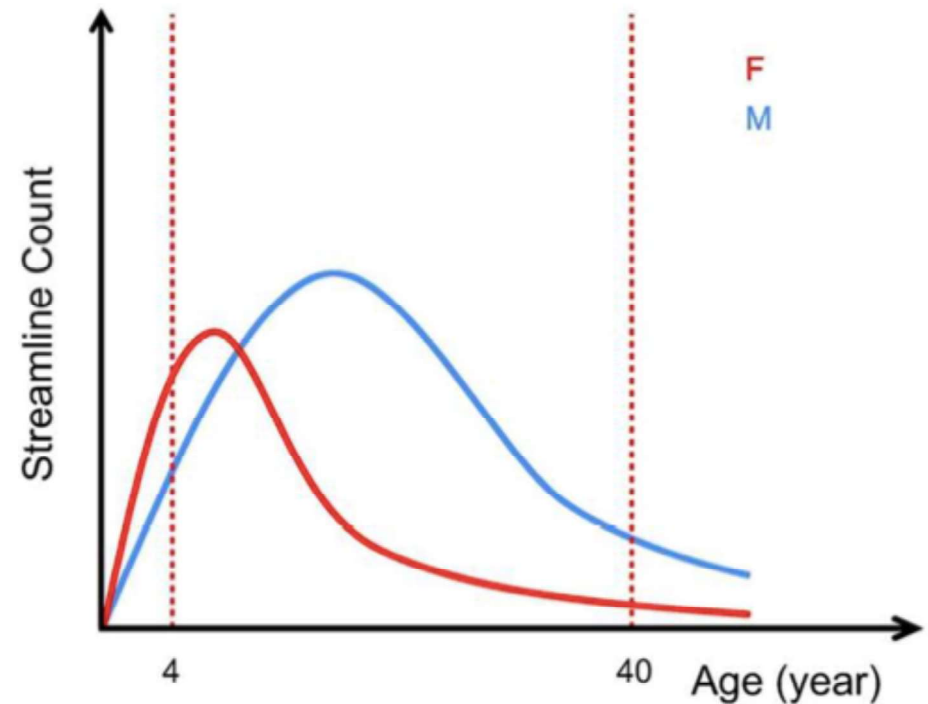
- Decreased
- Increased
- Sex-Specific

Lim et al., *Cerebral Cortex*, 2015

# Preferential detachment and gender differences



Preferential loss of streamlines within thick, short-distance, intra-module, and intra-hemisphere fibre tracts



Delayed removal of streamlines in males

Reason why some psychiatric diseases are more common in men?

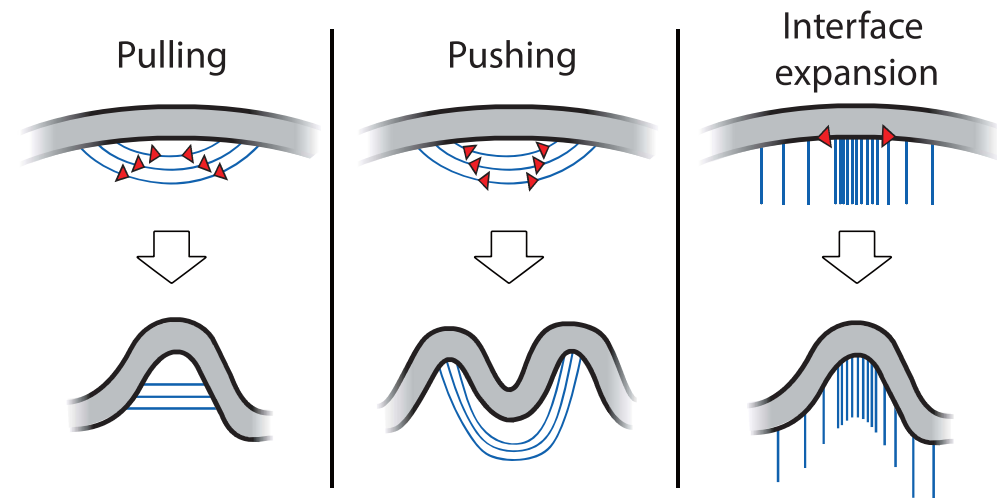
Lim et al., *Cerebral Cortex*, 2015

# Simulating development: From micro- to macro-connectome

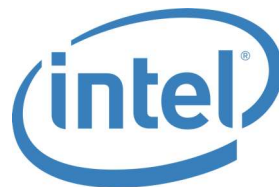


Cortical layer formation

→ formation of gyri/sulci and fibre tracts



Wang et al. *PNAS* 2016



<https://biodynamo.web.cern.ch/>

# Identifying treatment targets

## Not necessarily the ones that show changed connectivity

changes might be a consequence of a disease rather than its cause and could even be involved in compensating for disease effects

