

# Hybrid Systems

Combining Wetware and Hardware

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Georgia Institute of Technology and

Emory University School of Medicine



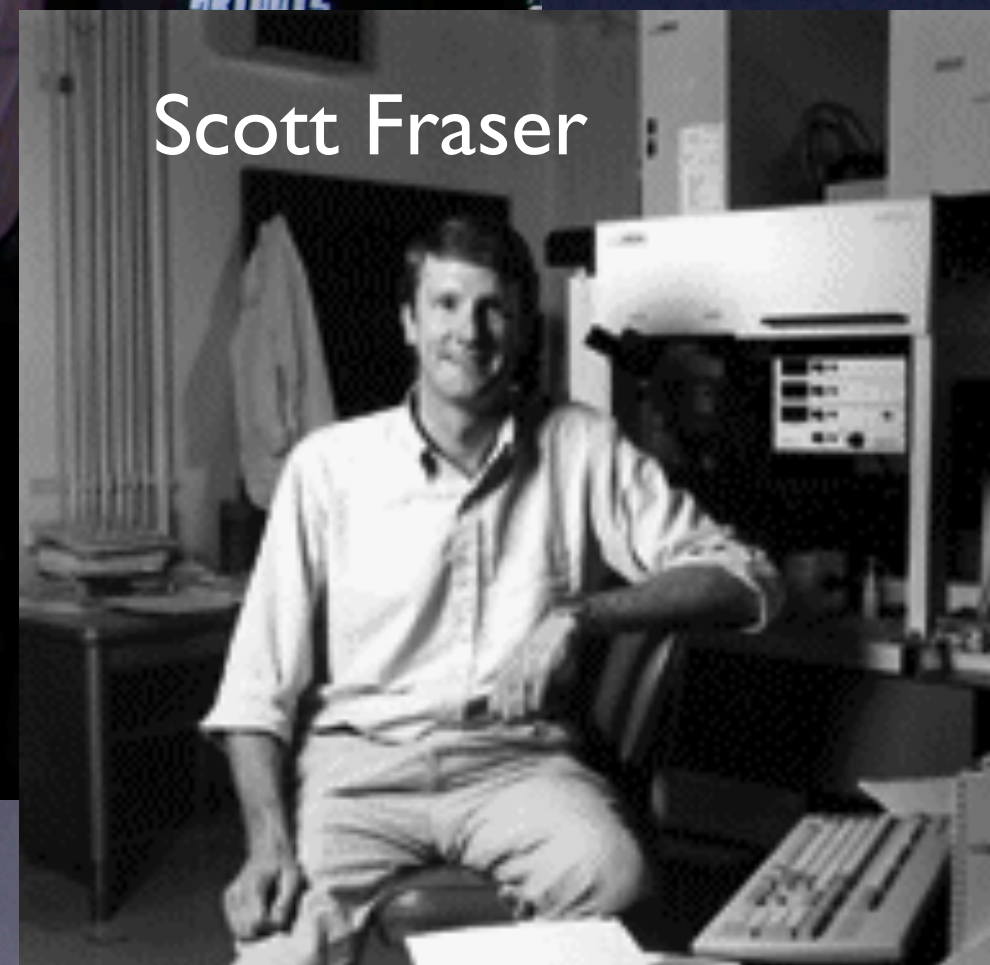
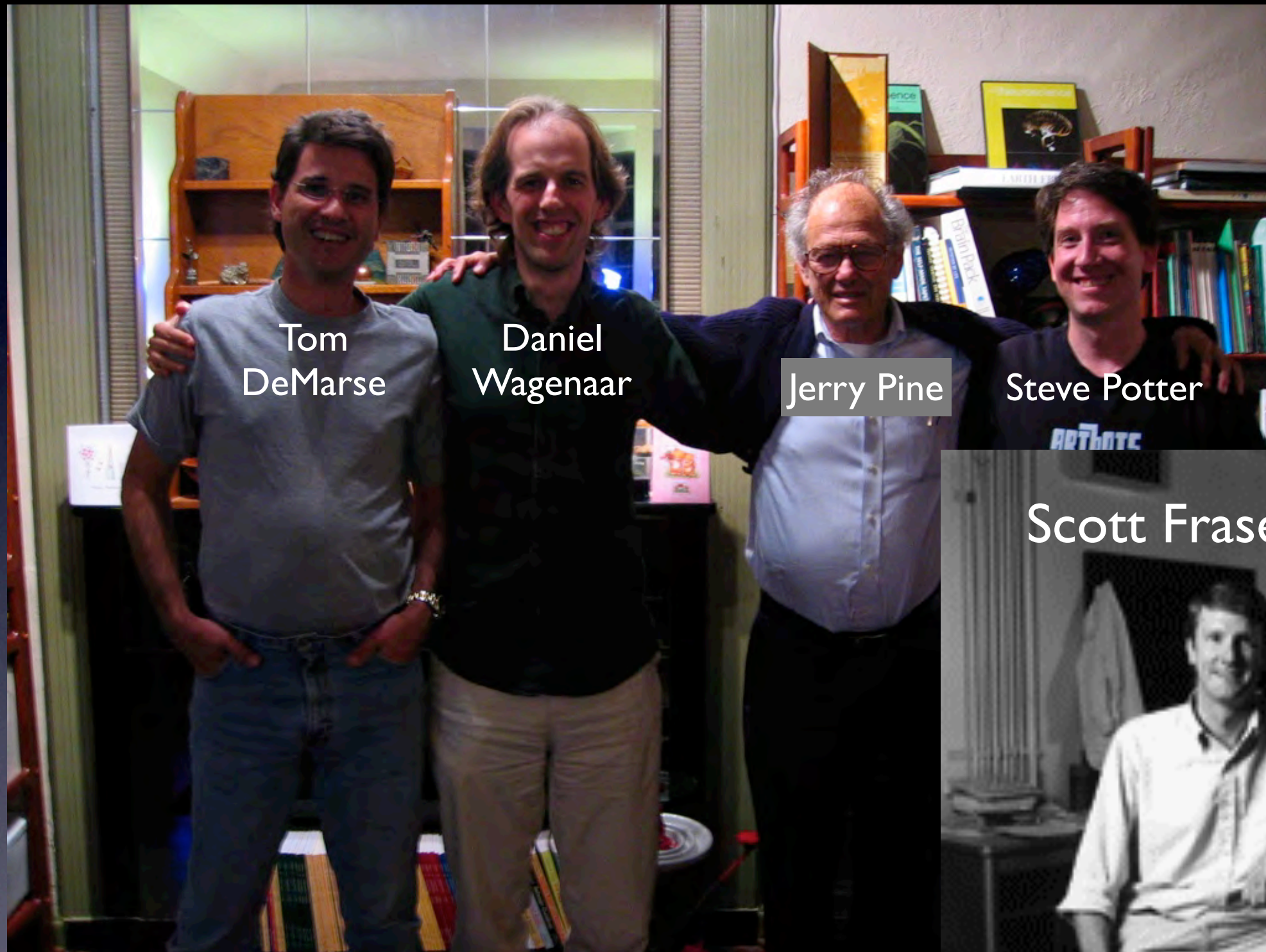
# About me...

- BA in biochemistry from UC San Diego
- PhD in neurobiology from UC Irvine
- 8 years as research faculty at Caltech
- 13 years as professor at Georgia Tech
- I moved to Ireland in 2016 to become a freelance AI consultant and writer.
- All our papers are available at <http://potterlab.gatech.edu>



# At Caltech

as Senior Research Faculty (1994-2002)



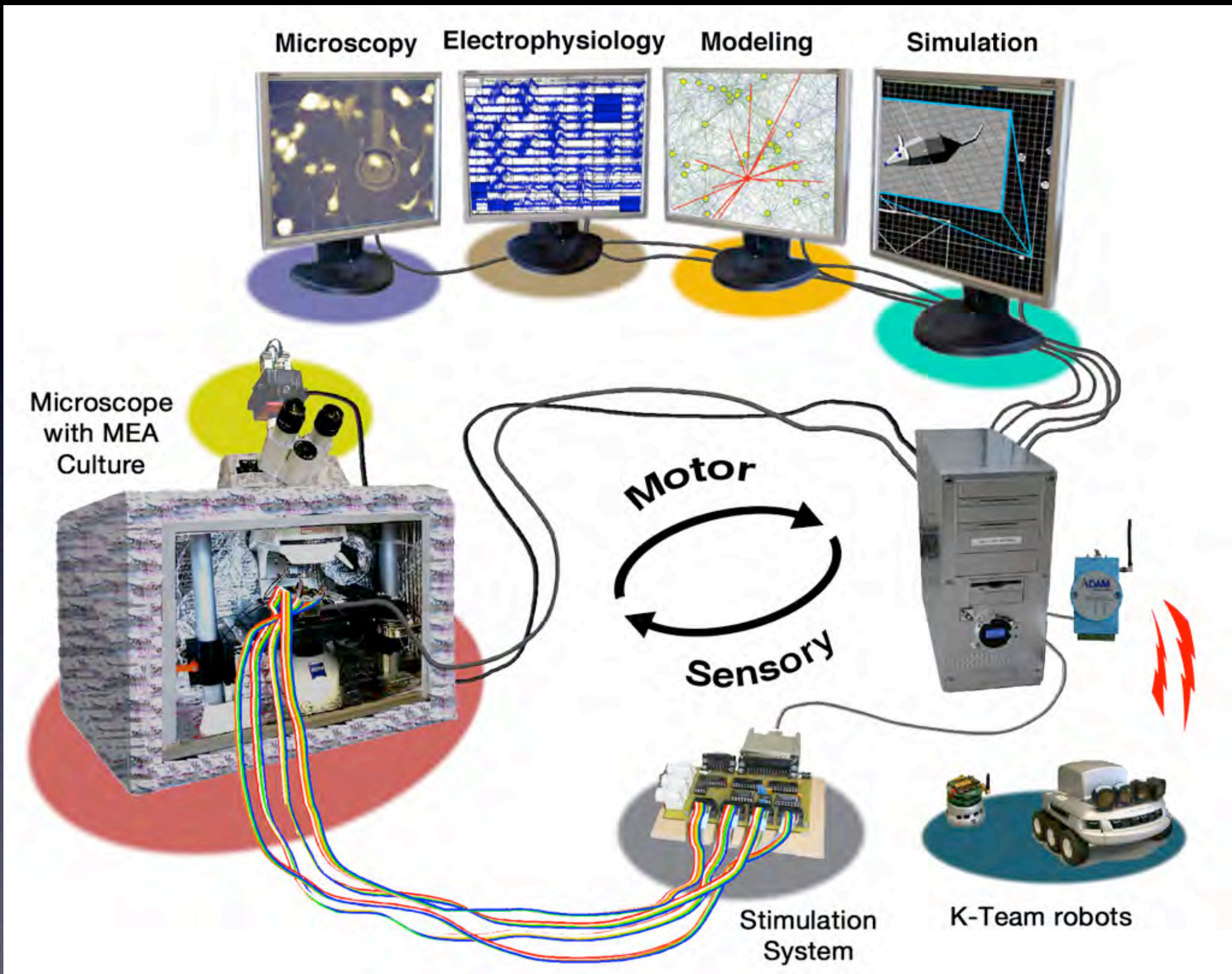


# Caltech (1994-2002)

- Invented high-speed camera for neural activity imaging (with Jerry Pine, US patent #6,633,331)
- Built one of the first 2-photon microscopes for imaging living neural tissue. (with Scott Fraser)
- First to image GFP in living animals.
- Invented systems for keeping neural cultures alive over 2 years. (US patent #6,521,451)
- Built first many-electrode stimulators and closed-loop neurophysiology systems. (with DeMarse, Wagenaar)
- Developed first embodied cultured networks.



# Embodied Cultured Networks





# At the Georgia Institute of Technology

as tenured Professor (2002-2015)



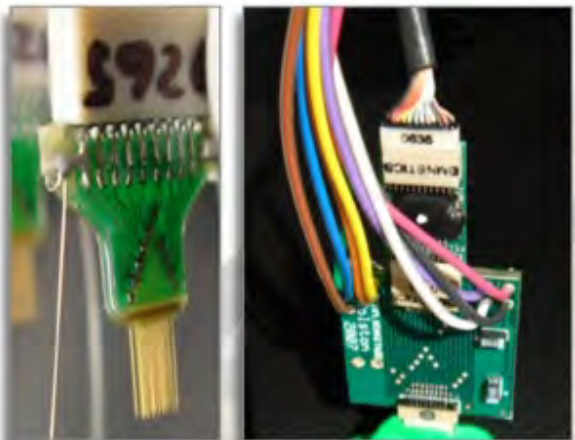


# At Georgia Tech

- Developed closed-loop neuromodulation systems
- Used embodied cultured networks to study learning in vitro
- Developed seizure control using multi-electrode stimulation
- Developed optogenetic neuromodulation system
- Use OptoClamp to study homeostatic plasticity



Open-Source

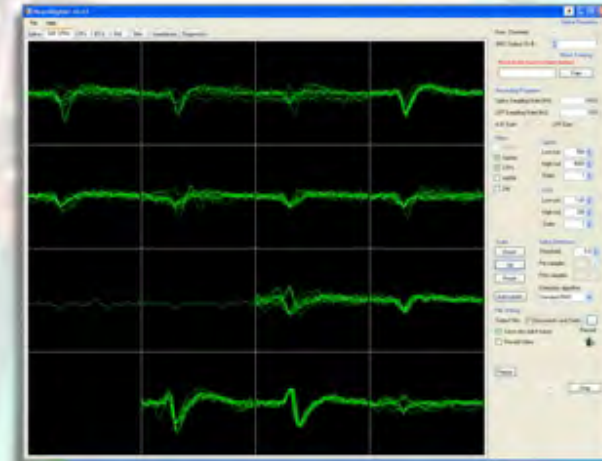


16-wire MEA for chronic implantation and headstage preamp with stimulation multiplexor



*in vivo*

*Recorded LFPs & action potentials*  
(motor output, neural state)

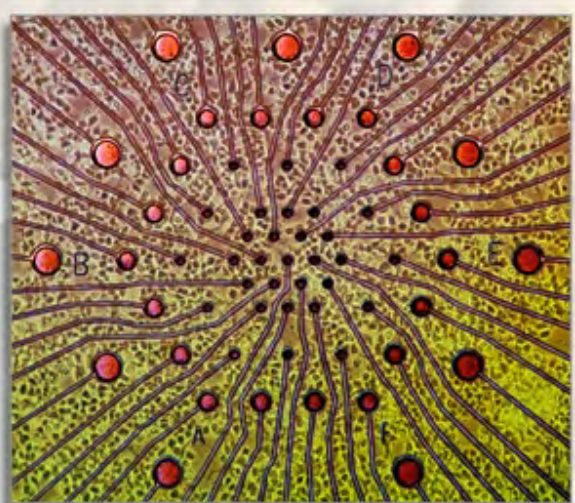


NeuroRighter GUI



# Closed-Loop Hybrid System

For brain research



*in vitro*

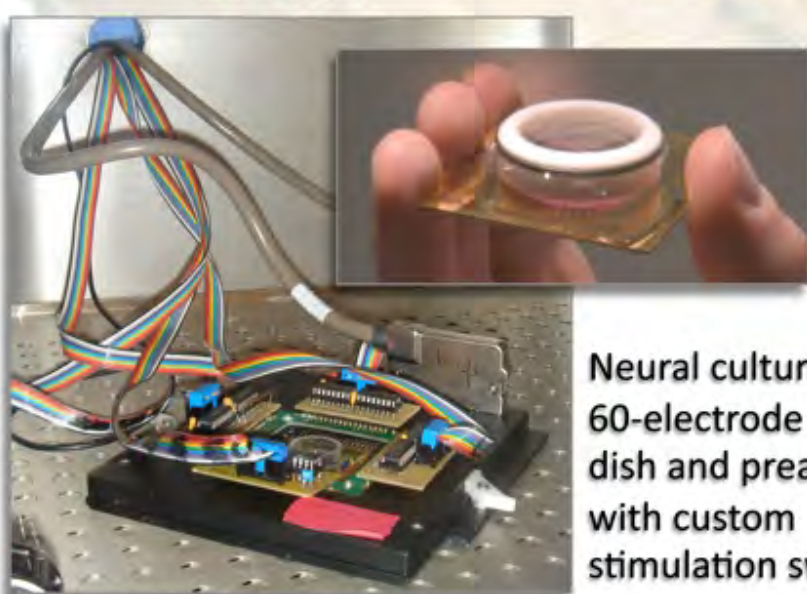
*Electrical stimuli*  
(sensory input, modulation, training)



Workstation and interface boards



ADC, DAC and digital interface card



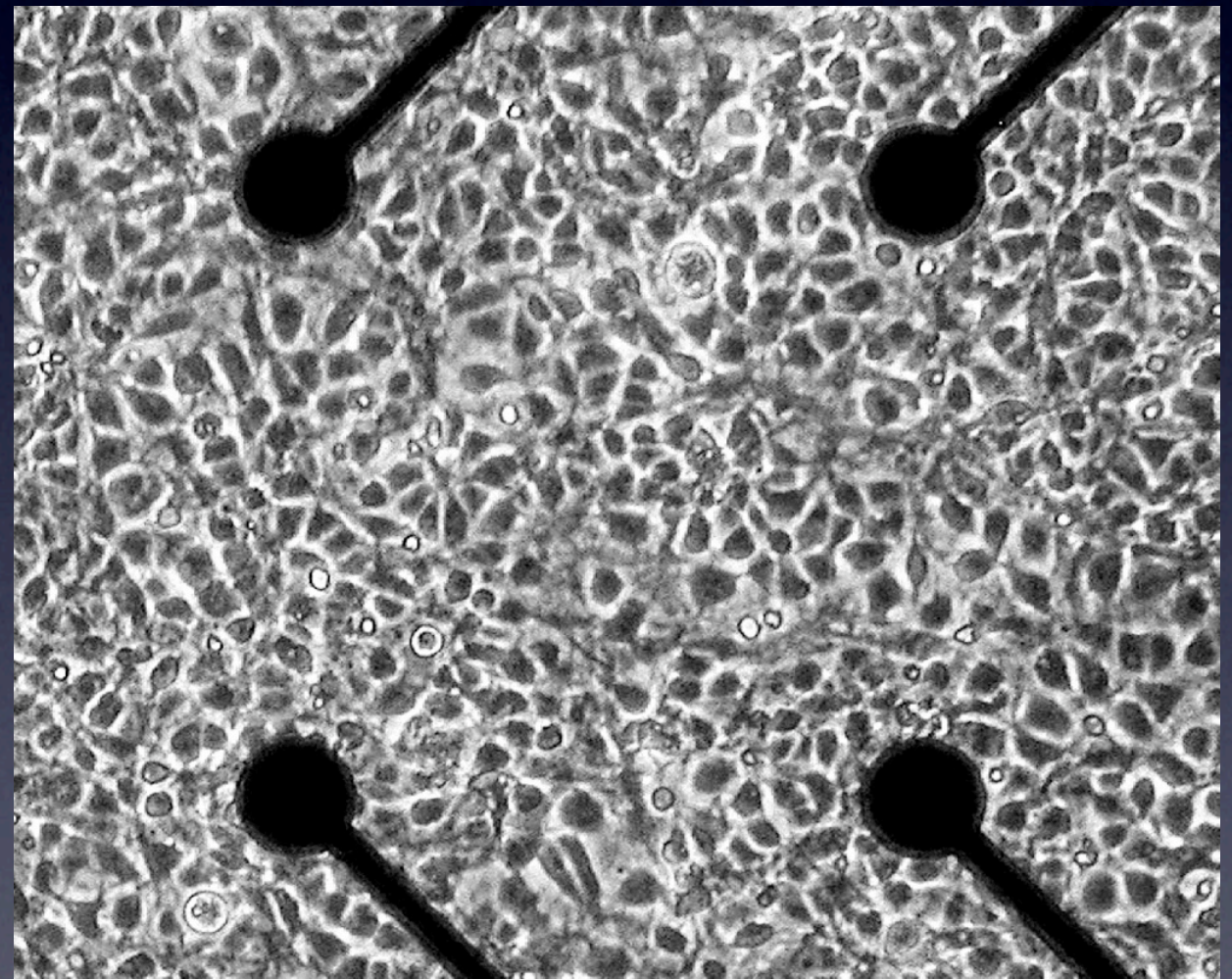
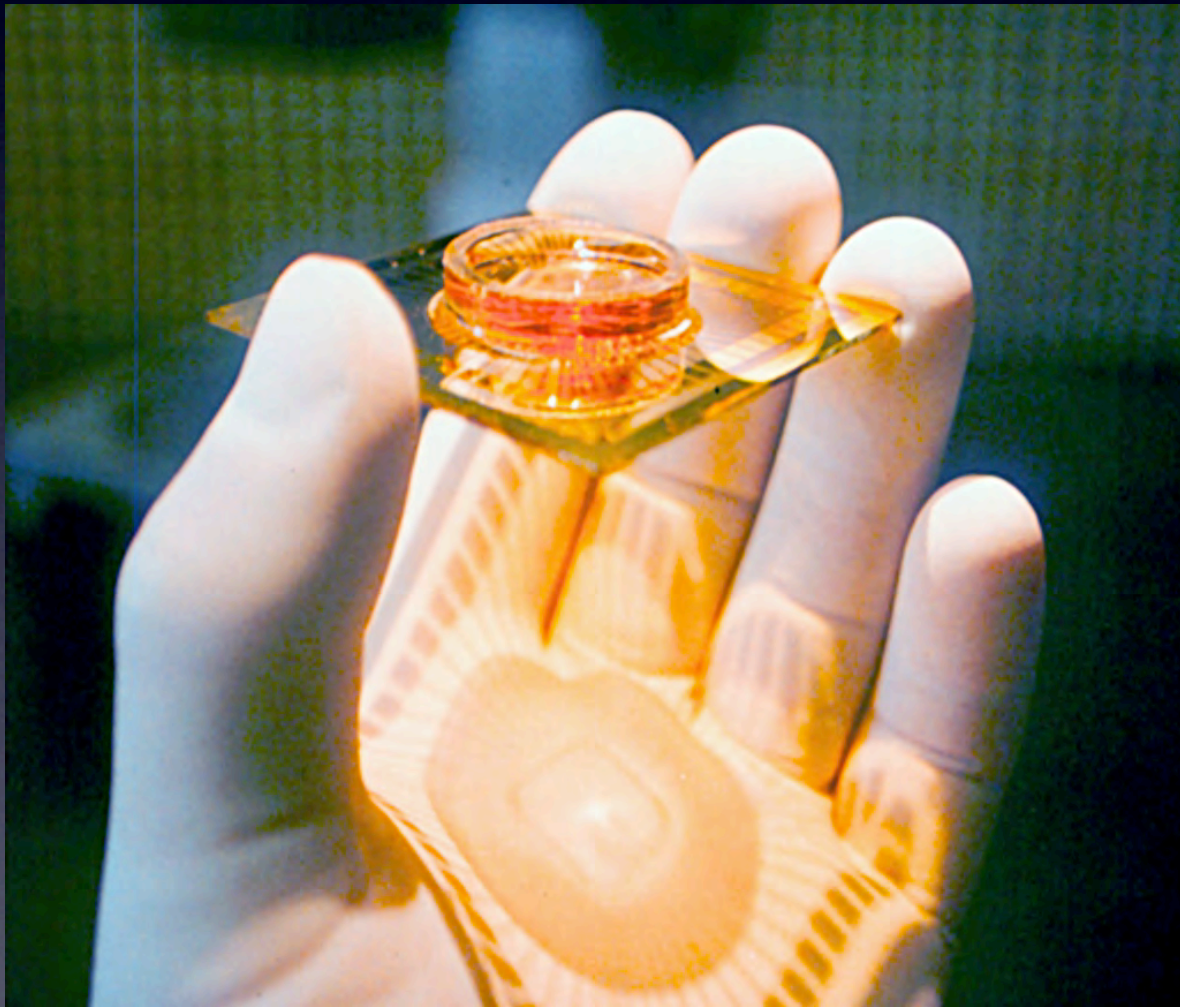
Neural culture in 60-electrode MEA dish and preamp, with custom stimulation switches

MeaBench

NeuroRighter



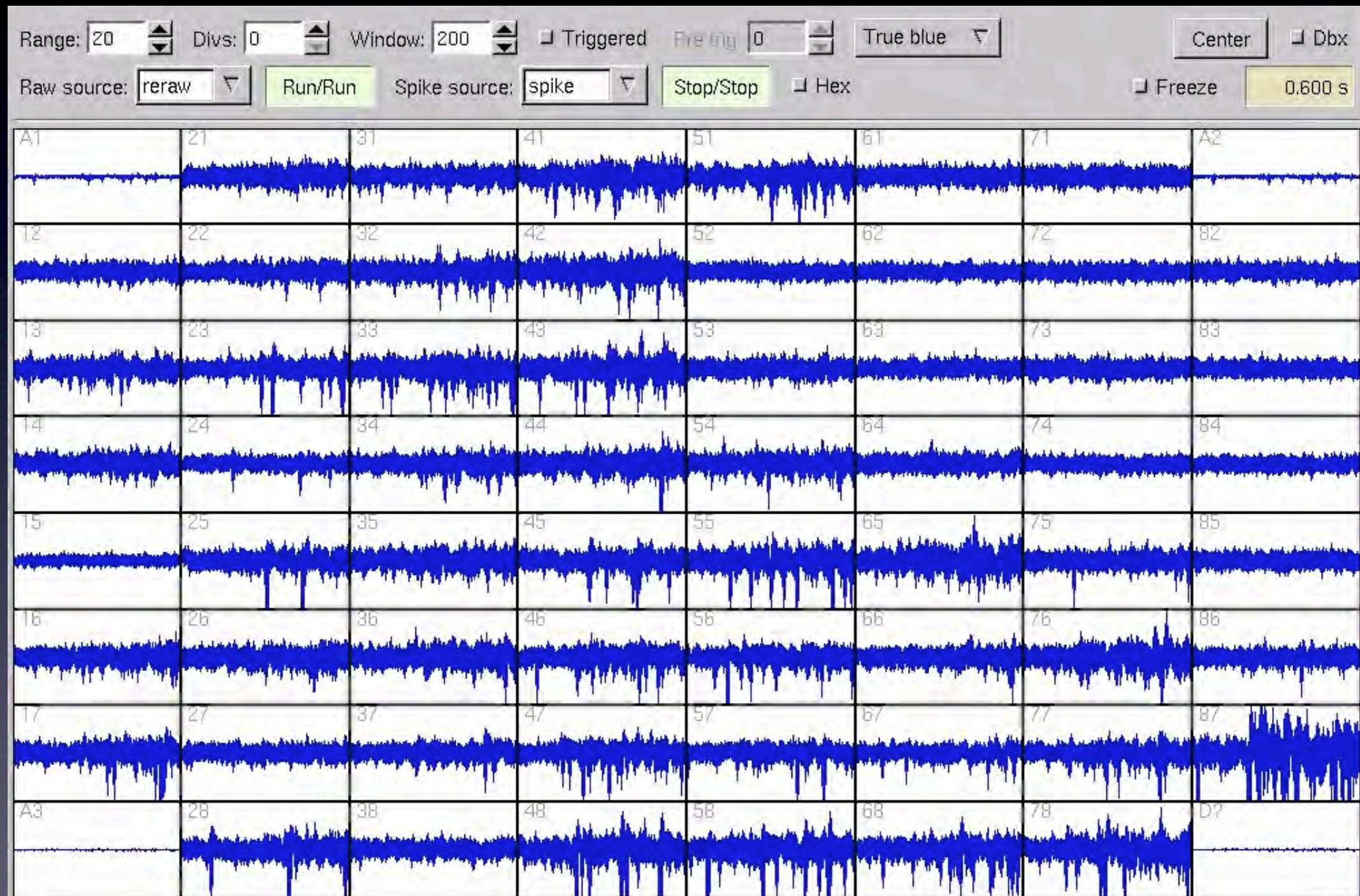
# Using closed-loop hybrid systems for basic neuro research



MEA with rat cortical culture

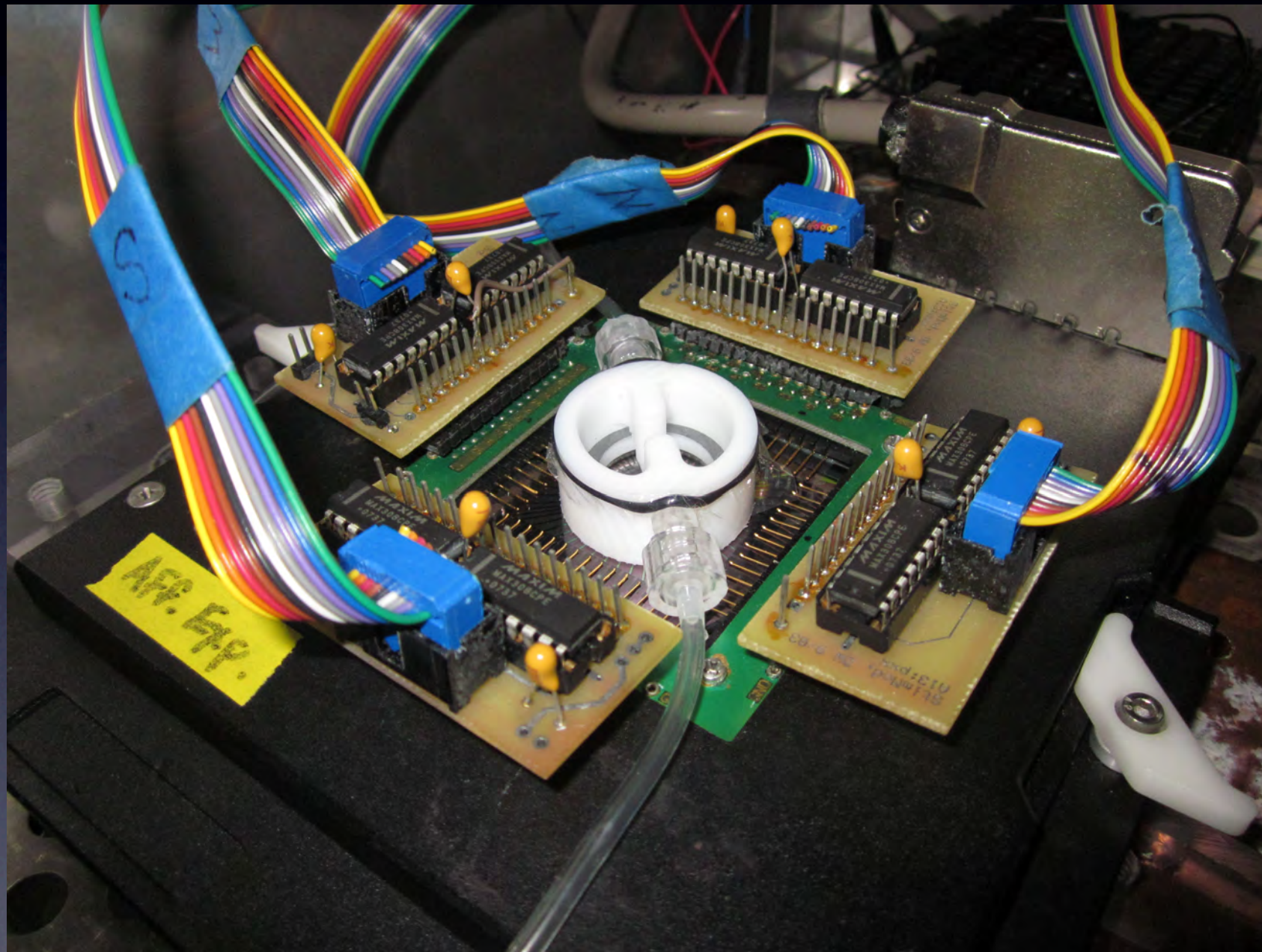


# Dish-wide bursts resemble epileptic seizures





# Closed-loop interface to a living neural culture



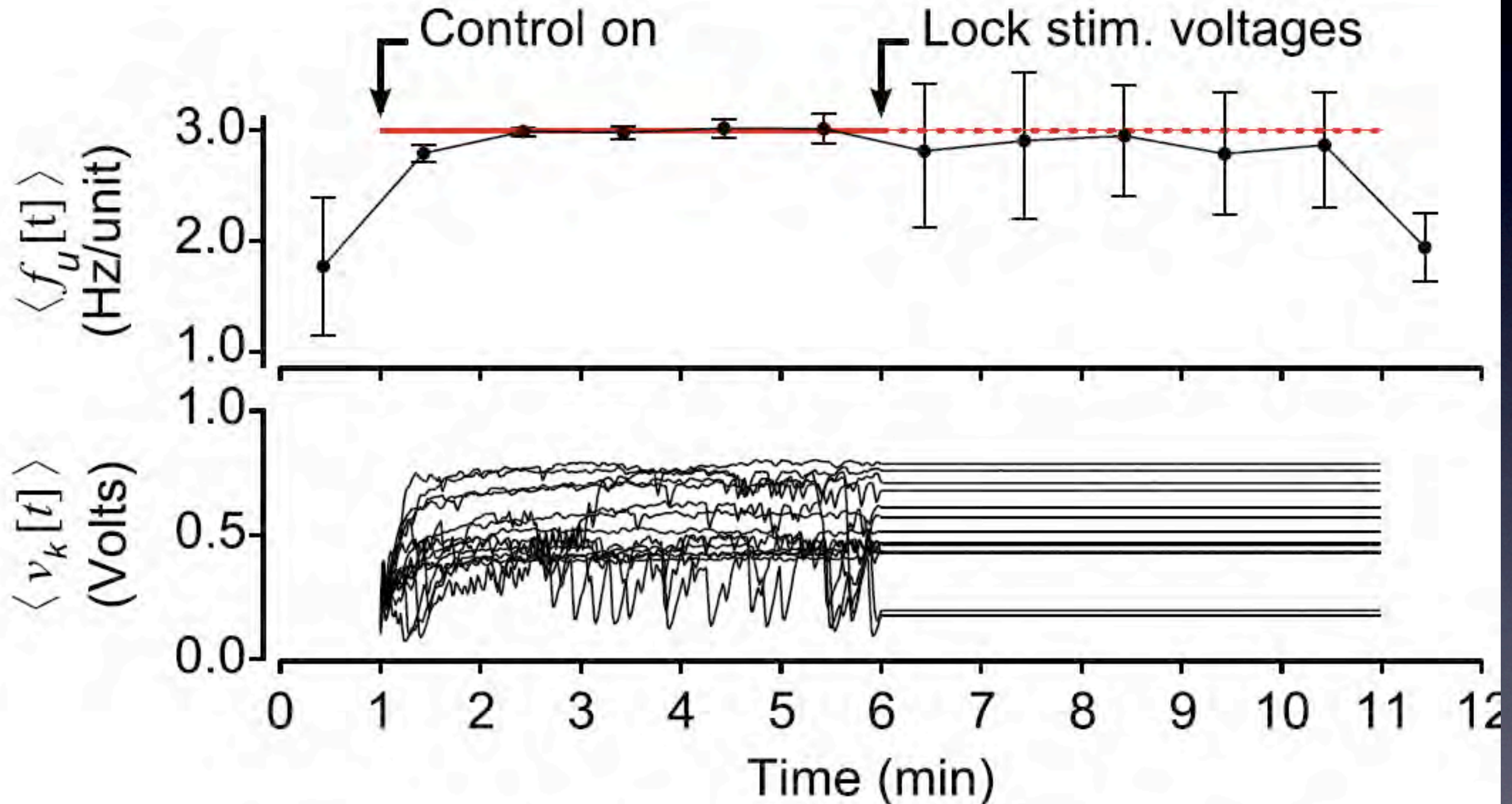
Wagenaar, D. A. and Potter, S. M. (2004).  
A versatile all-channel stimulator for electrode arrays, with real-time control.  
Journal of Neural Engineering 1: 39-45.



# Electrical clamping of network firing rate using NeuroRighter

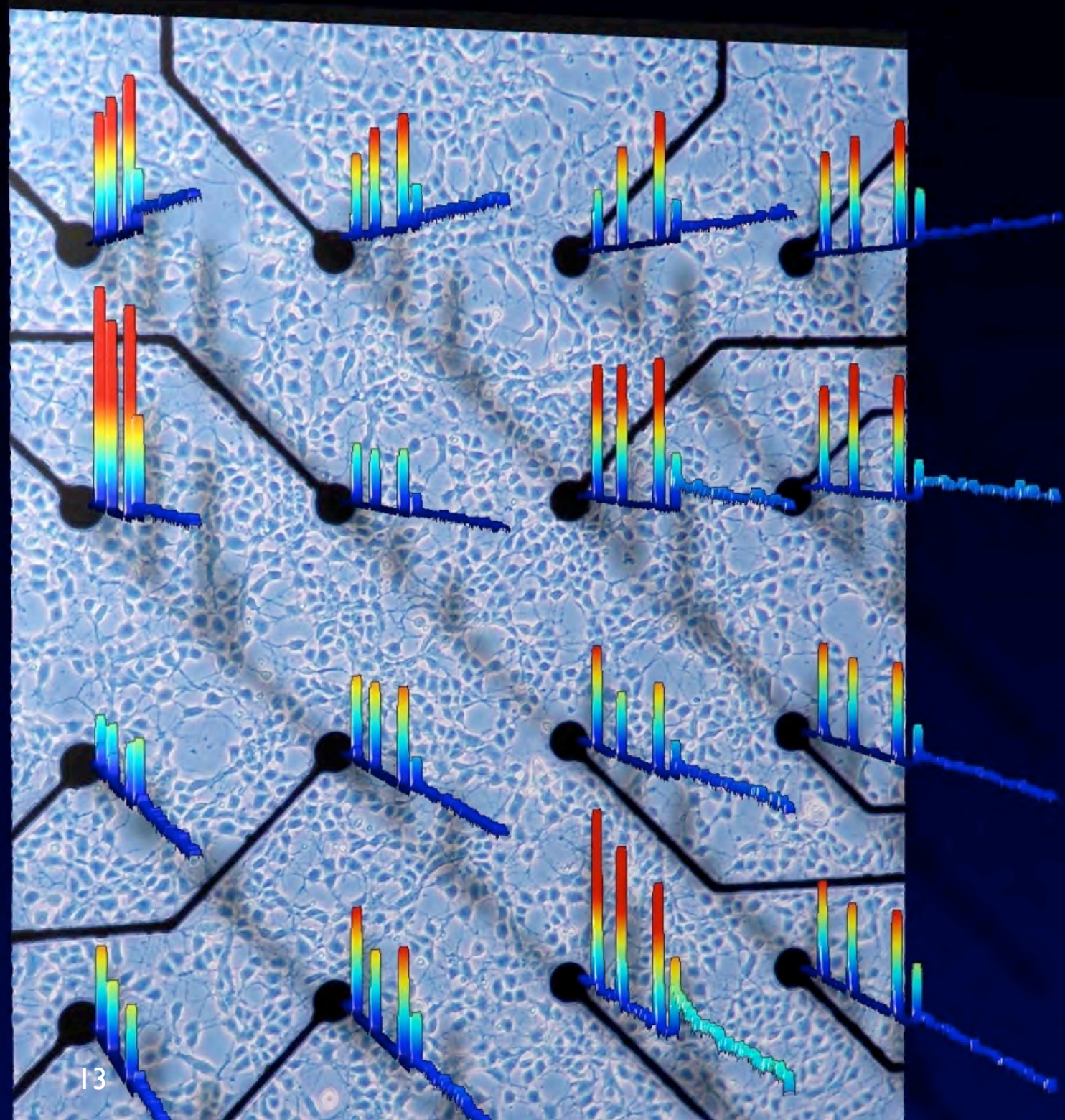
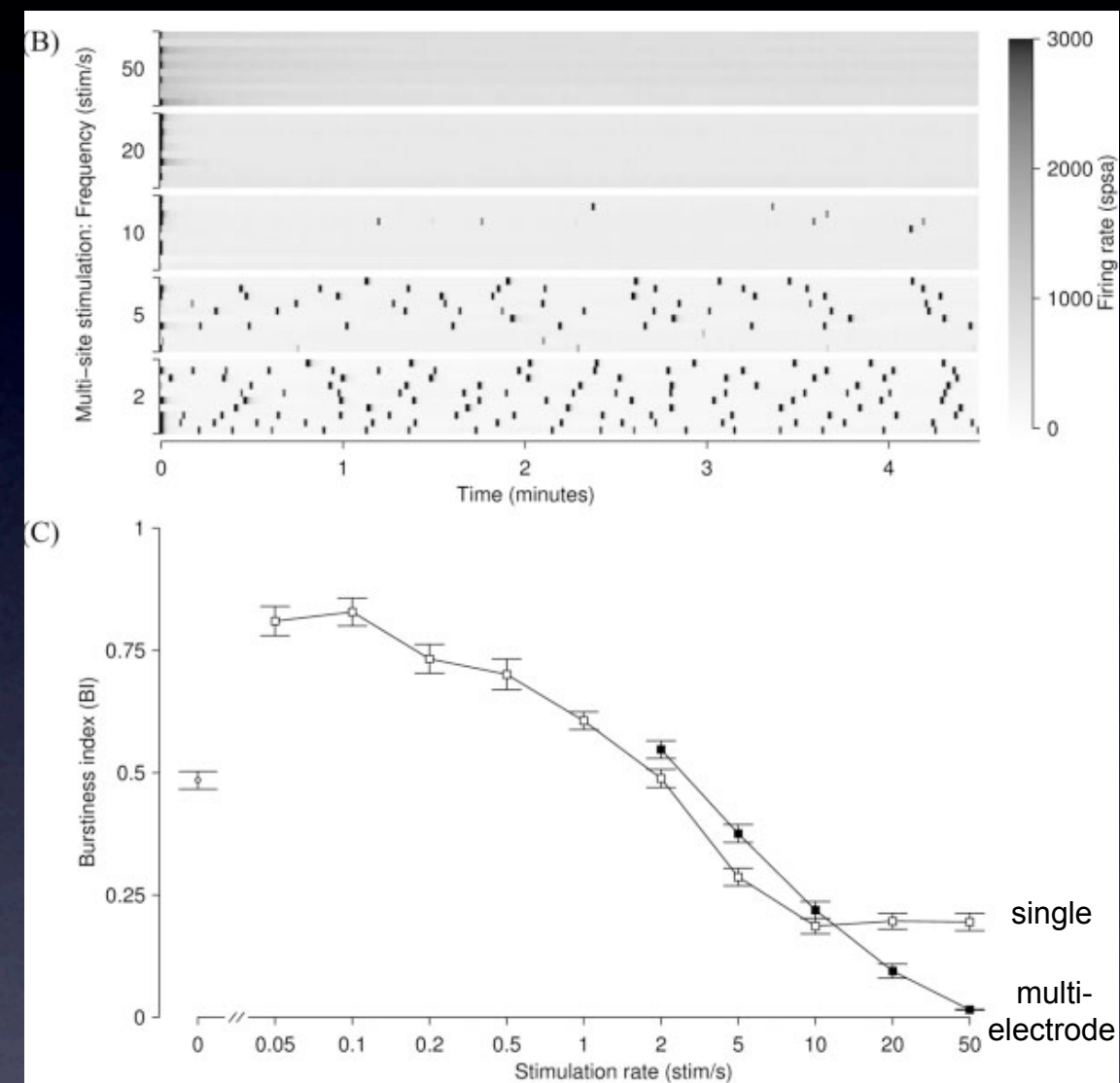
closed loop

open loop





# Multisite stimulation as a potential cure for epilepsy



Wagenaar, D. A., Madhavan, R., Pine, J., & Potter, S. M. (2005). Controlling bursting in cortical cultures with closed-loop multi-electrode stimulation. *J. Neuroscience*, 25, 680-688.



Success in rats:

Desai, S. A., Rolston, J. D., McCracken, C. E., Potter, S. M., & Gross, R. E. (2016).

Asynchronous distributed multielectrode microstimulation reduces seizures in the dorsal tetanus toxin model of temporal lobe epilepsy. *Brain Stimulation*, 9, 86-100.

# Note!

**This is not stimulating when a seizure is beginning,  
as most closed-loop approaches do.**

**This is closed-loop *state control*, keeping the neural  
tissue continuously in a state where it is less  
inclined to have a seizure, based on its current total  
firing rate.**



# The OptoClamp: optogenetic neuromodulation

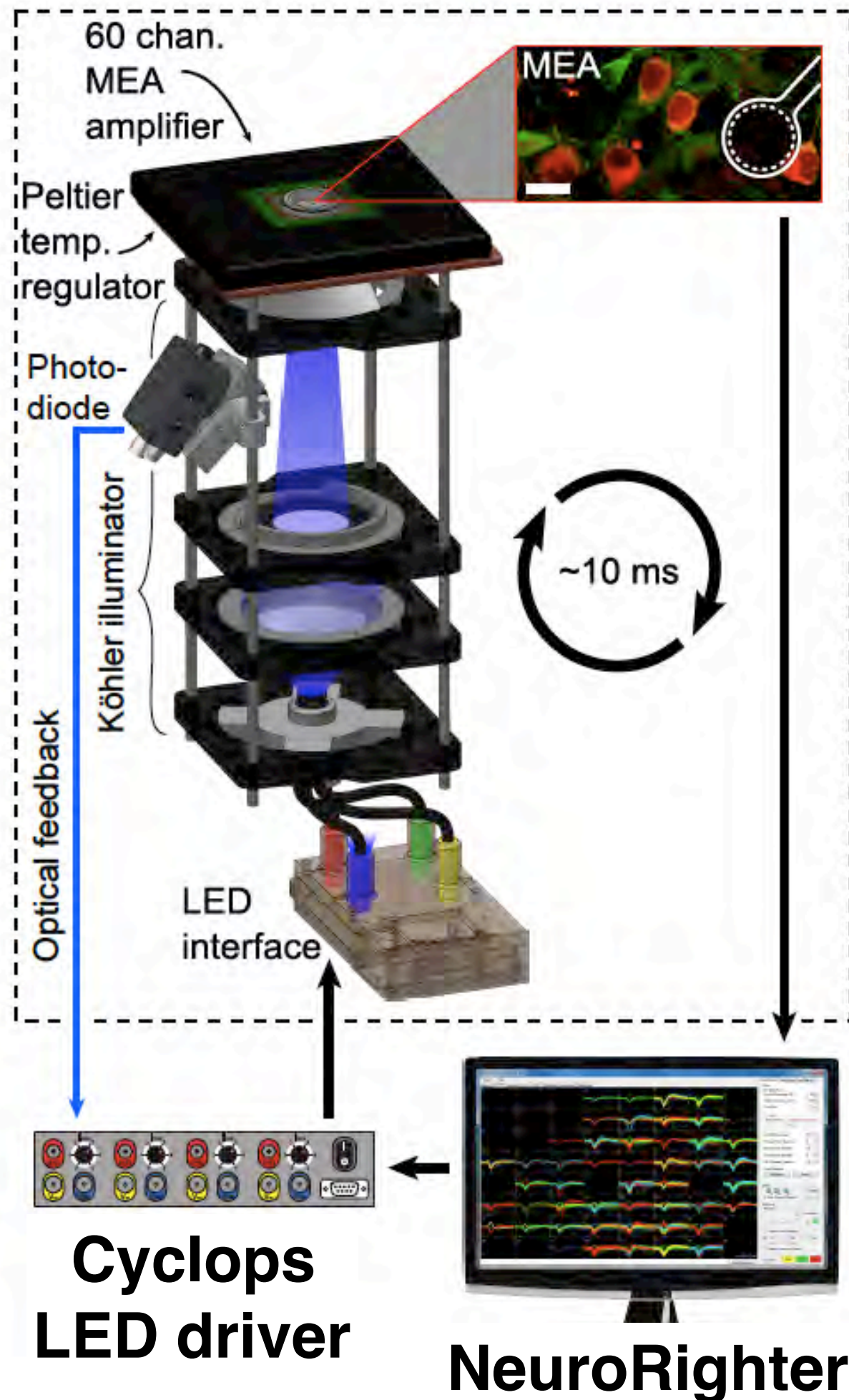
Using light AND electricity to  
close the loop around neural circuits



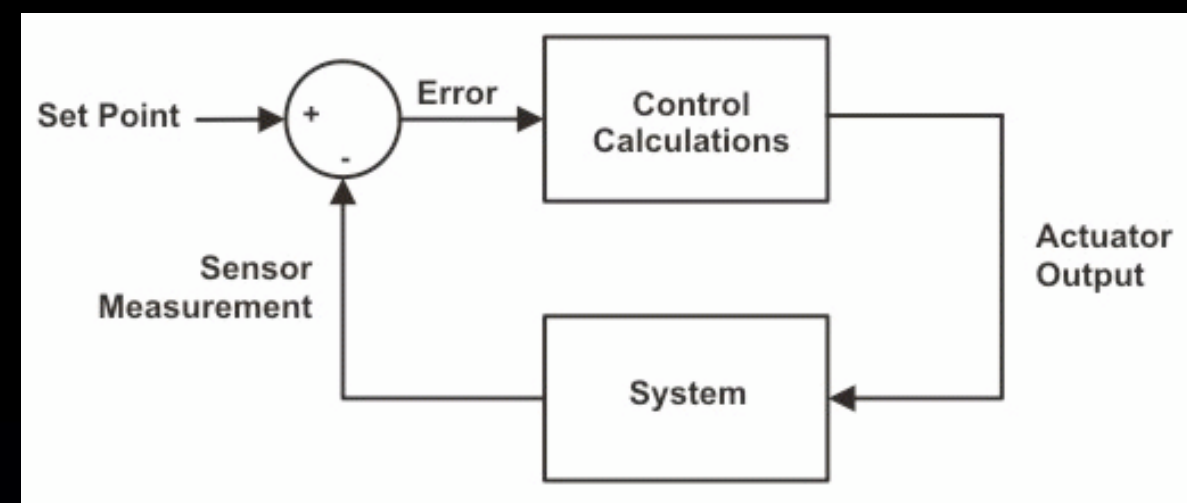
# The OptoClamp

Closed-loop Optogenetic setup for modulating neural activity with light

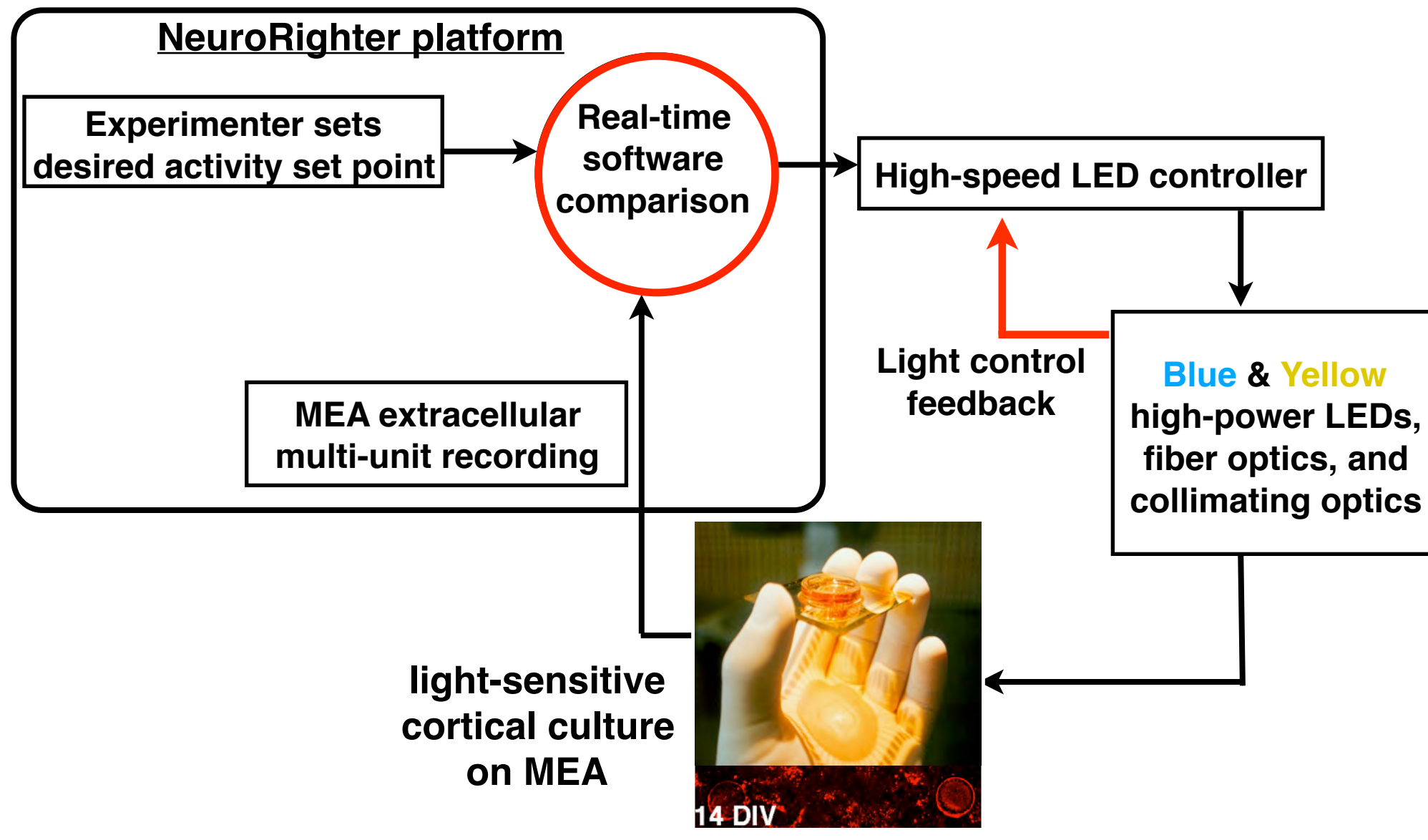
- Adeno-associated virus vector
- Channelrhodopsin for depolarizing currents. **Blue** light sensitive
- Halorhodopsin for inhibitory currents. **Yellow** light sensitive
- CaMKIIa promoter: expressed in excitatory neurons only.





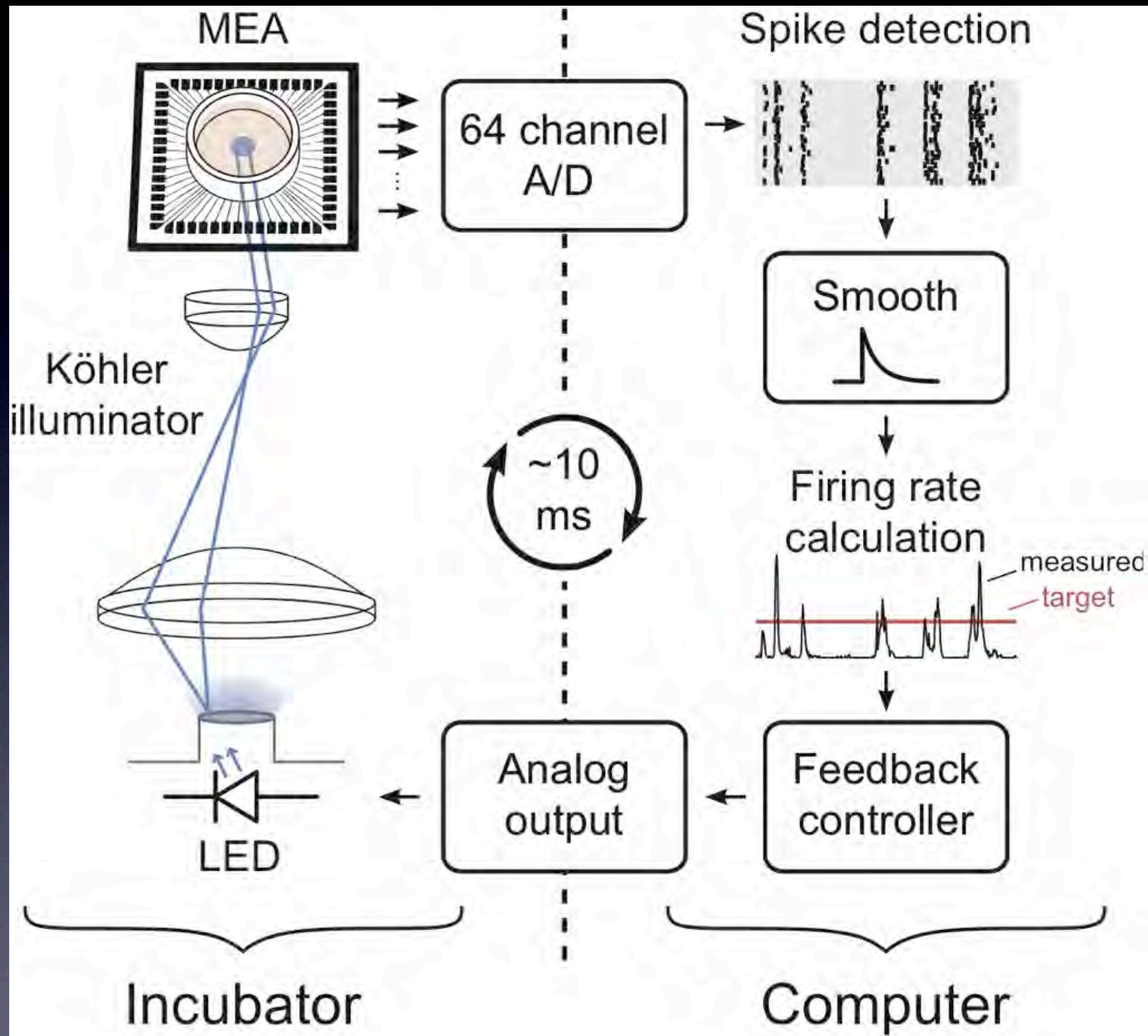


## The OptoClamp



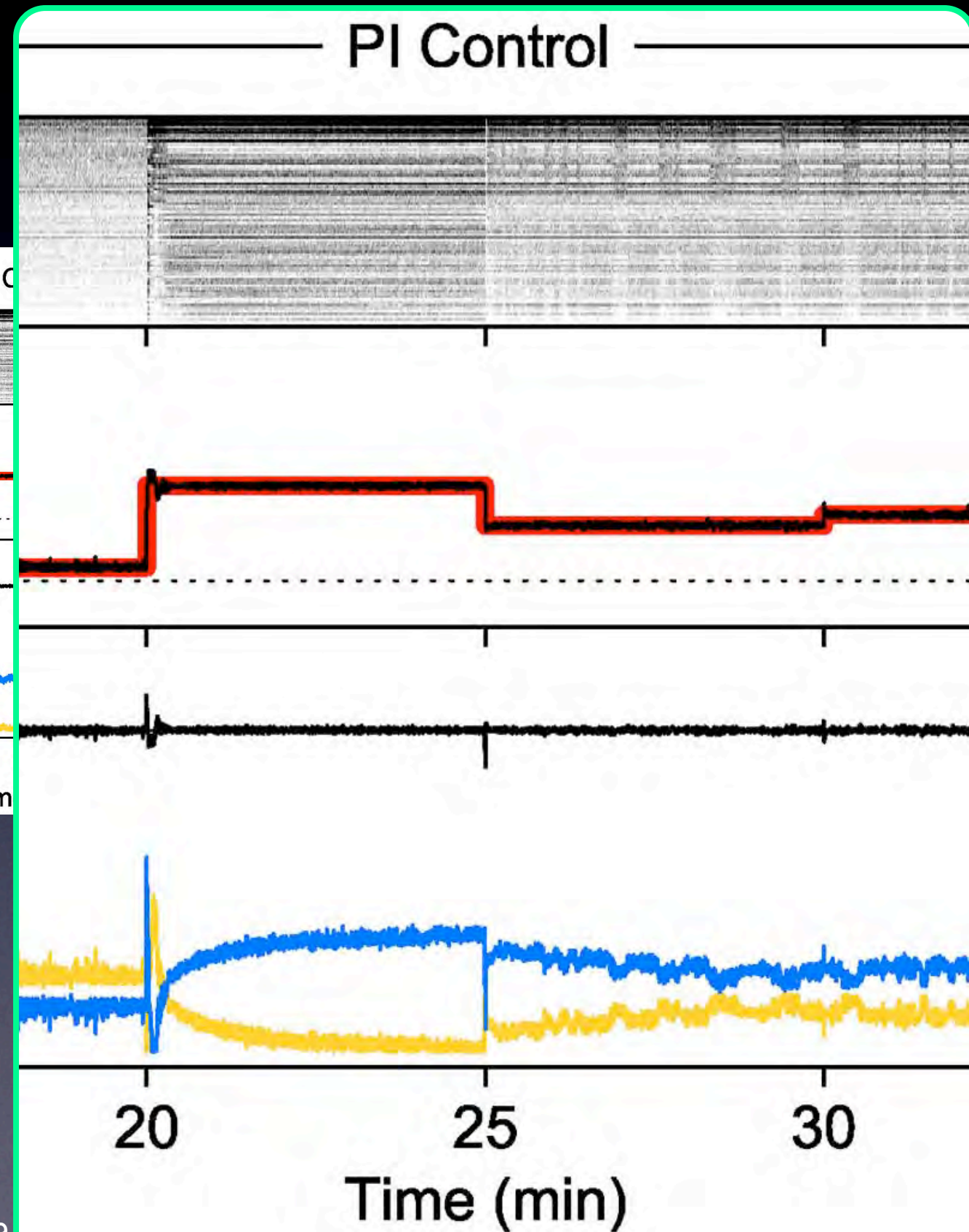
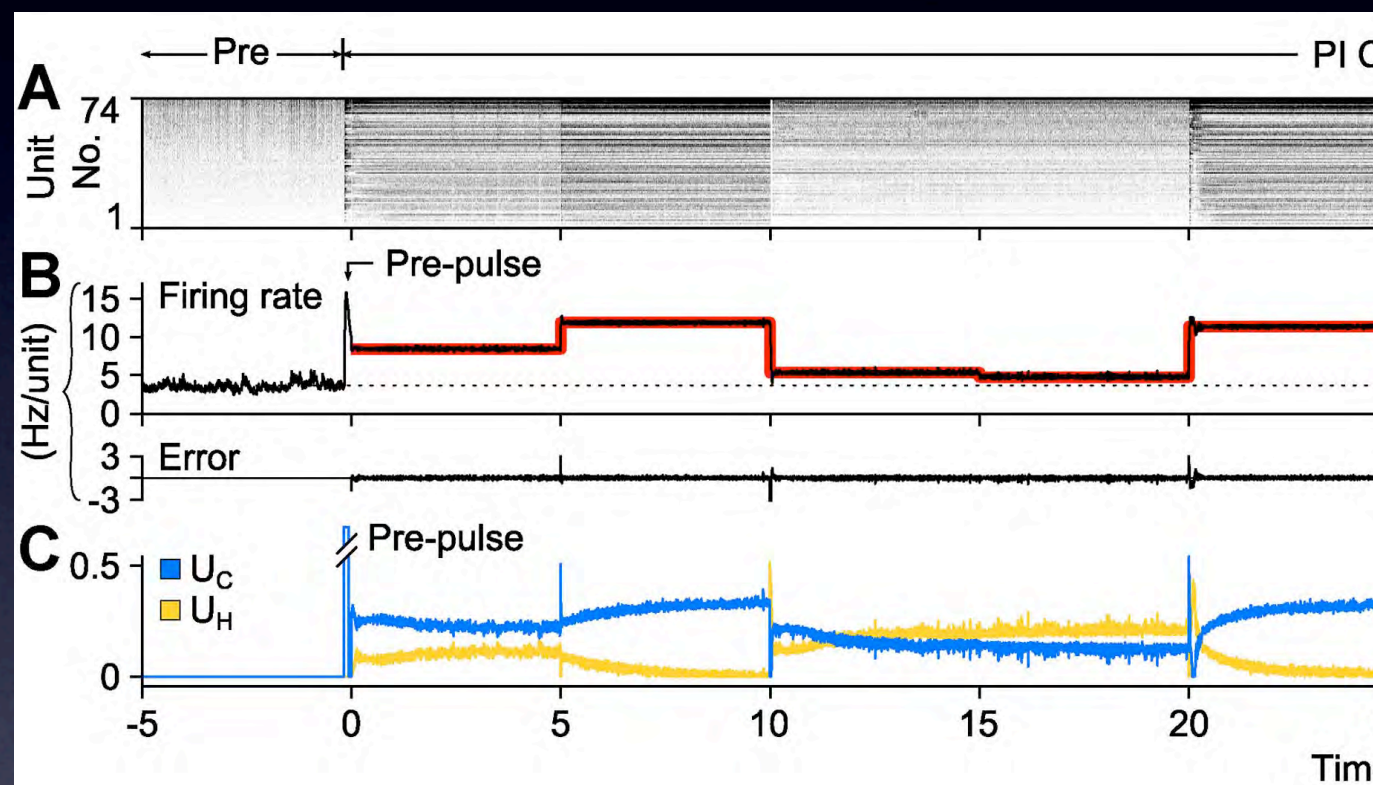


# MEA spikes as feedback signal for closed loop control





# 50-min Proportional-Integral (PI) feedback control





# OptoClamp used to study homeostatic plasticity



## ARTICLE

Received 8 Feb 2014 | Accepted 21 Jan 2015 | Published 9 Mar 2015

DOI: 10.1038/ncomms7339

OPEN

# Upward synaptic scaling is dependent on neurotransmission rather than spiking

Ming-fai Fong<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Jonathan P. Newman<sup>2,3</sup>, Steve M. Potter<sup>2</sup> & Peter Wenner<sup>1</sup>

Homeostatic plasticity encompasses a set of mechanisms that are thought to stabilize firing rates in neural circuits. The most widely studied form of homeostatic plasticity is upward synaptic scaling (upscaling), characterized by a multiplicative increase in the strength of excitatory synaptic inputs to a neuron as a compensatory response to chronic reductions in firing rate. While reduced spiking is thought to trigger upscaling, an alternative possibility is that reduced glutamatergic transmission generates this plasticity directly. However, spiking

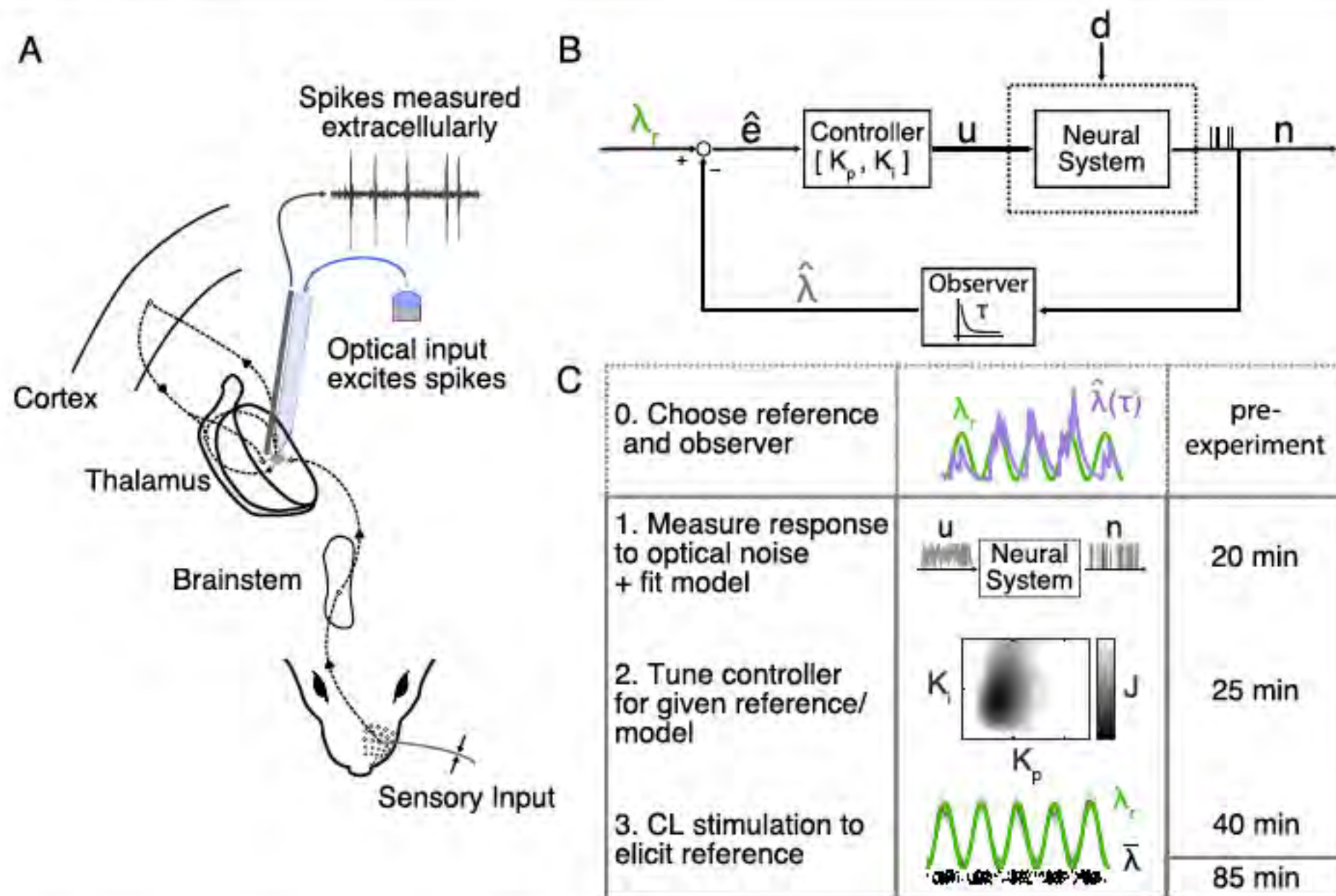


# OptoClamp in vivo

(from my collaborator Garrett Stanley's lab)

J. Neural Eng. 15 (2018) 026011

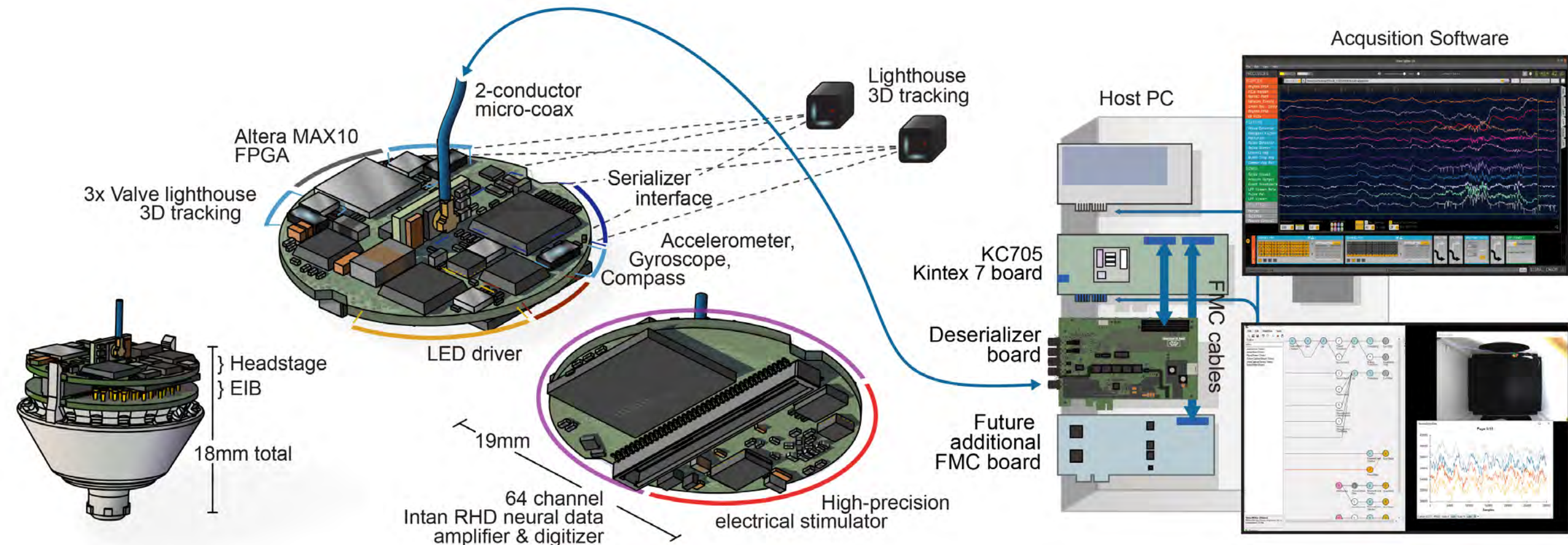
M F Bolus *et al*



**Figure 1.** Closed loop optogenetic control of firing rate. (A) Physical diagram. (B) System block flow diagram. (C) Procedure for closed-loop stimulation experiments. The observer was designed for a given reference firing rate pattern previous to experiments. A model was fit to data recorded for system identification during the experiment. Using this model, controller gains were optimized in simulation. These



# New standard for closed-loop neuroscience



On Github

## Open Ephys++ Communication Protocol and API Specification Version 0.0

Jonathan P. Newman, Wilson Lab, MIT

August 29, 2018

### Abstract

This document specifies requirements for implementing the Open Ephys++ data acquisition system. This specification entails two basic elements: (1) Communication protocols between acquisition firmware and host software and (2) an application programming interface (API) for utilizing this communication protocol. This document is incomplete and we gratefully welcome criticisms and amendments.

Contents



# Other types of hybrid systems

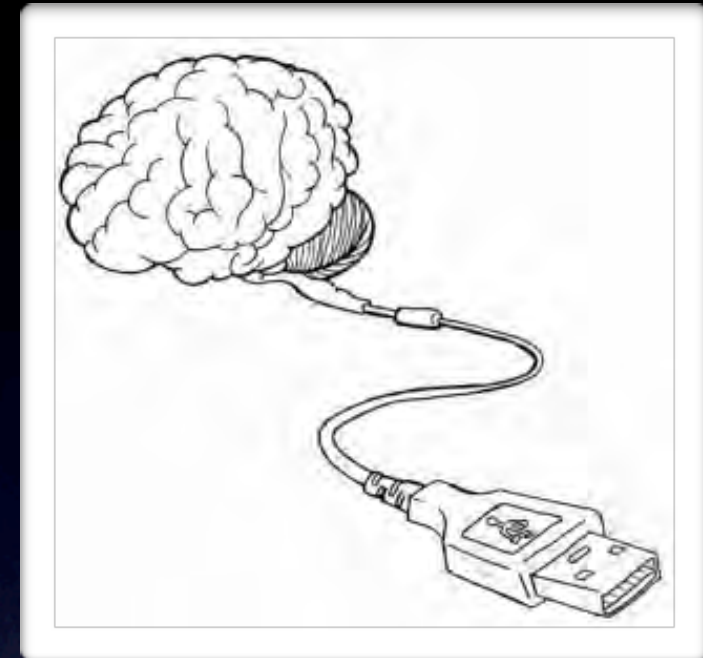
- Neural Prostheses
  - Sensory – cochlear & retinal implants
  - Motor – FES for moving paralyzed limbs
  - Sensory-motor – prosthetic hand with tactile feedback
  - (future) Cognitive
- Neuromodulators
  - Deep brain stimulators (DBS)
  - Spinal stimulators for chronic pain
- Diagnostic, e.g. electrocorticography array
- (future) Computers with living neuron processors





# More *brain-like* computing

- Extremely complex dynamical system
- Especially good for real-time control
- Analog not digital, or a mix of the two
- Sparse, distributed memory – No CPU or system clock
- Lots of feedback
- Delays are part of the computation
- Computation depends on connectivity and morphology
- Adaptive at every level





# Note!

We don't need to completely understand the brain's mechanisms to use more brain-like computing in our AI.



# I predict...

- Hybrid systems **for research** will lead to new insights about the brain that will help us design better hybrid systems **for AI**.
- Better 2-way (closed-loop) interfaces will revolutionize neuromodulation for diseases & disabilities, AND for cognitive enhancement.
- Less invasive closed-loop neural interfaces will become commonplace as they are refined and made more inexpensive:
  - EEG and MEG
  - Transcranial current and magnetic stimulation
  - fMRI and Near-IR recording
- Optical interfaces will make electrical ones obsolete.



If you take home only  
one message:

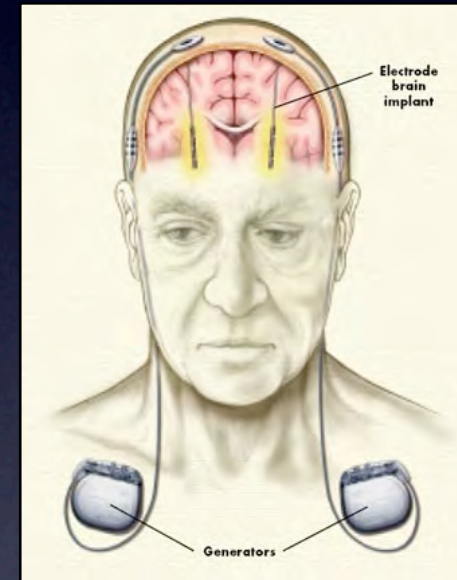
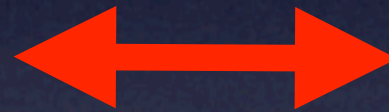
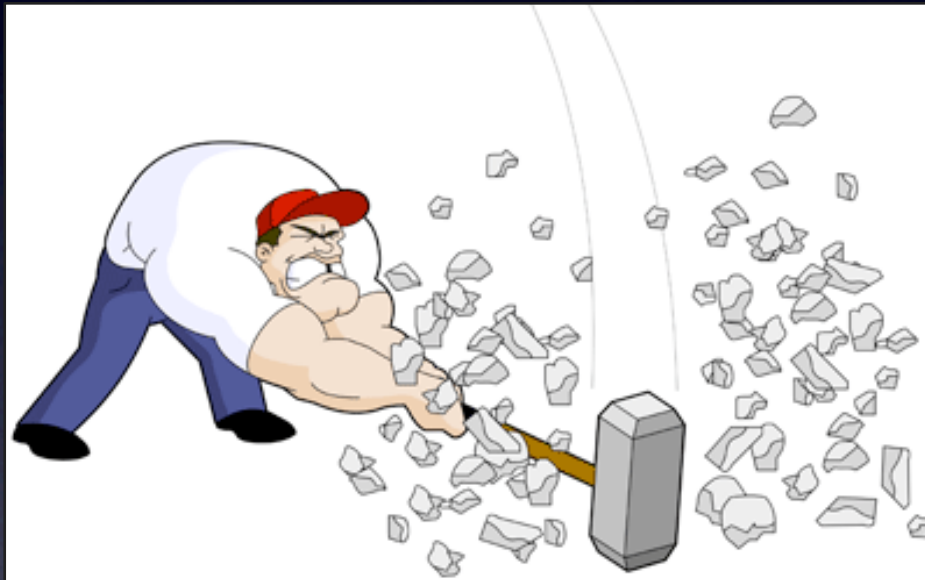
*Closed-loop hybrid  
systems are the future*



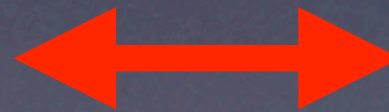
# Close the Loop!

- Some day all brain stimulation, whether electrical or optical, will be controlled in real time by recordings.
- Open-loop stimulation will be considered barbaric.

Open  
Loop



Closed  
Loop





# Fiber-optic implants for research, therapy and enhancement

**They will all be  
CLOSED-LOOP**

For example,  
**Optogenetic Approaches  
for Controlling Seizure  
Activity**

Tung, Berglund & Gross  
Brain stimulation 2016, Vol.  
9(6), p.801-810





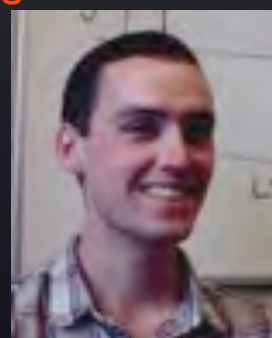
# Thanks



Sharanya Arcot Desai, Ethan Craig, Eric Eisner, Candace Law, Ushnik Ghosh, Silvia Vaca, Nathan Killian, Alex Calhoun, **Jon Newman**, Riley Zeller-Townson, **Ming-fai Fong**, Marc Powell, Michelle Kuykendal

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Former Georgia Tech and Emory Undergrads



Matthew MacDougall



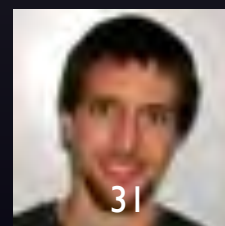
John Brumfield



Blythe Towal

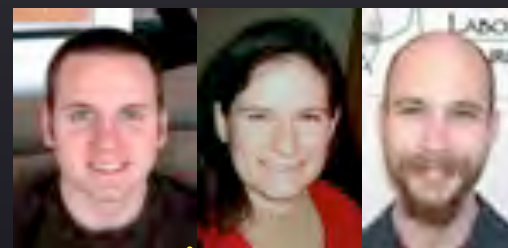
Alec Shkolnik

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Alex Kohl  
Sarah Davis  
Douglas Swehla



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Tom DeMarse



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Chad Hales



Axel Blau



Jonathan Newman



John Rolston



Ming-fai Fong



Radhika Madhavan



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Sharanya Arcot Desai

Former Grad Students

Former Postdocs

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Epilepsy Research Foundation



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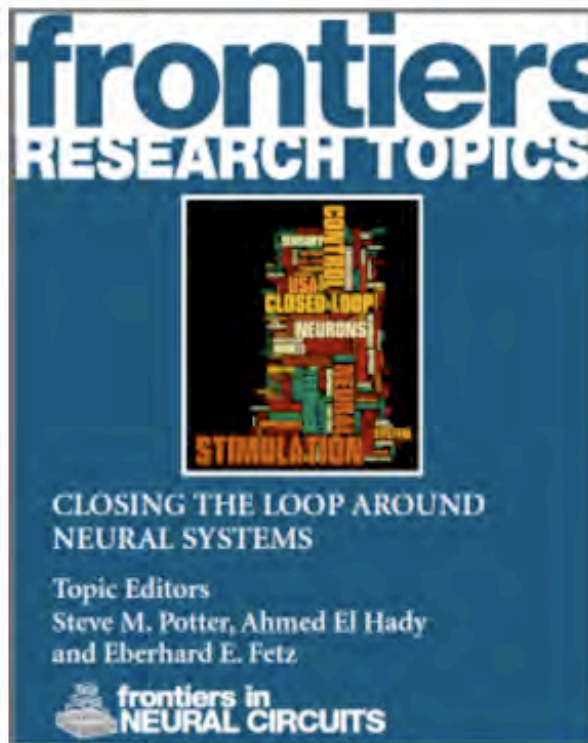
Yixiao Zou

Doug Bakkum



# Our Related Pubs

## Books



### [Closing the Loop Around Neural Systems](#)

Edited by: Steve M Potter, Eberhard E Fetz, Ahmed El Hady

Publisher: Frontiers Media SA

Frontiers Research Topic FREE Ebook

Potter, S. M. (2007). **What can Artificial Intelligence get from Neuroscience?** In book “50 Years of Artificial Intelligence: Essays Dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of Artificial Intelligence,” M. Lungarella, J. Bongard, & R. Pfeifer (eds.) (pp. 174-185). Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

Potter, S. M., (2017) “**The Future of Computing and Neural Interfacing: Wetware-Hardware Hybrids,**” Future Now: Reconfiguring Reality, Institute for the Future – Issue 3, pp. 57-59.

Potter, S. M. (2013). **Better Minds: Cognitive Enhancement in the 21st Century.** In D. Bulatov (Ed.), Evolution Haute Couture: Art and Science in the Post-biological age, Part 2 – Theory. (pp. 304-319). Kalingrad: National Center for Contemporary Arts.

- All our papers are available at <http://potterlab.gatech.edu>