

# Brain Connectome and ageing

---

Prof. Yaniv Assaf

Dept. of neurobiology, faculty of life-sciences

Sagol school of neuroscience

Tel Aviv University, Israel



The George S. Wise  
Faculty of Life Sciences  
Tel Aviv University



Sagol School  
of Neuroscience  
Tel Aviv University



The Strauss Center  
For Neuroimaging  
Tel Aviv University



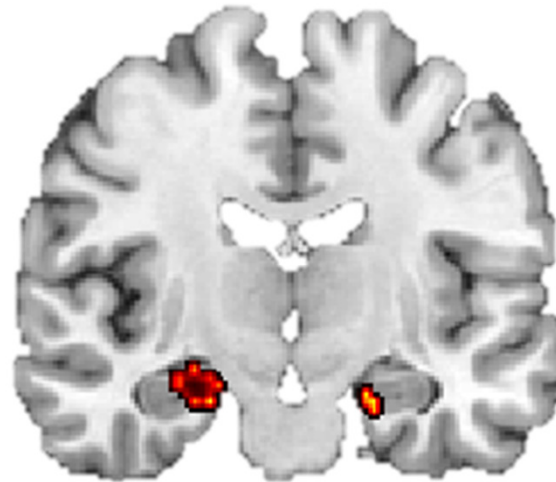
# BAW 2016



**Yaniv:** "Playing computer games help to increase the connections in your brain. It's good for you – tell your parents!"

**11 yo kid:** "Increase the connections? Won't the brain explode at some time?"

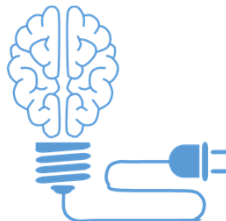
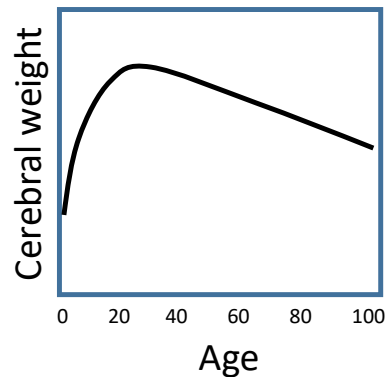
**Yaniv:** "ah..... Eh.... Well? Its complicated"



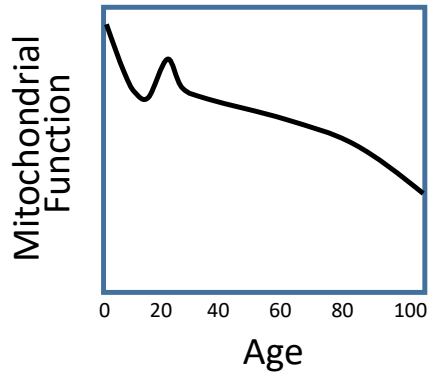
# Physics & Brain Ageing



## Conservation of mass



## Conservation of energy

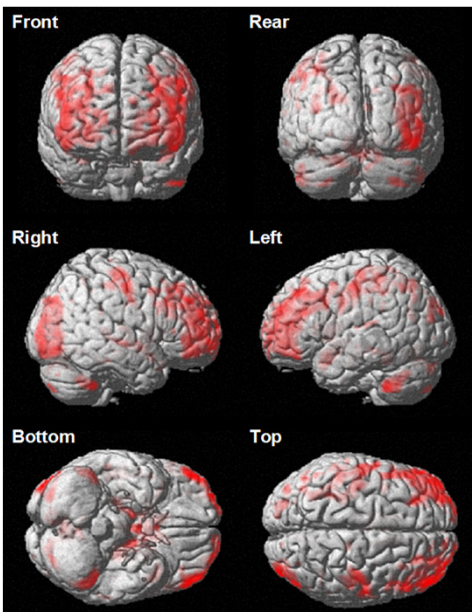


**Santiago Ramon y Cajal, 1909, Histology of the nervous system of man and vertebrates**  
 (Translation by N & LW Swanson, Oxford university press, 1995, p. 116)

“We realized that all of the various conformations of the neuron and its various components are simply morphological adaptations governed by laws of conservation for time, pace and material”

# Brain & Ageing

Correlation with age over 100 subjects (age range 21-92 y)



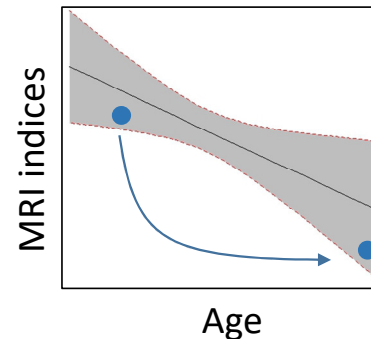
$$\text{Aging} = f(\text{genetics}) + f(\text{heredity}) + f(\text{Environment}) + f(\text{Life habits})$$

No control

No control

Minimal control

Some control

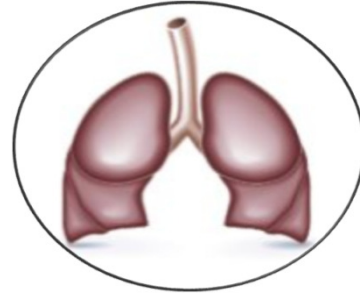
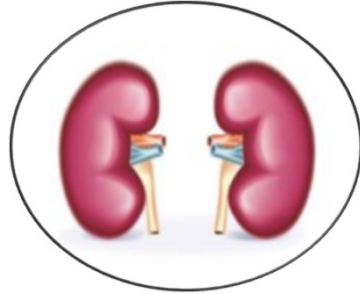
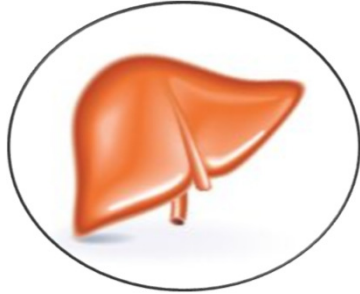


- Eat healthy
- Don't eat fat
- Eat good fat
- Don't eat carbohydrates
- Don't drink alcohol
- Drink Alcohol moderately
- Don't smoke
- Don't use cannabis
- Cannabis is good for the elderly
- Solve puzzles, Sudoku
- Do sports
- Don't overdo sports

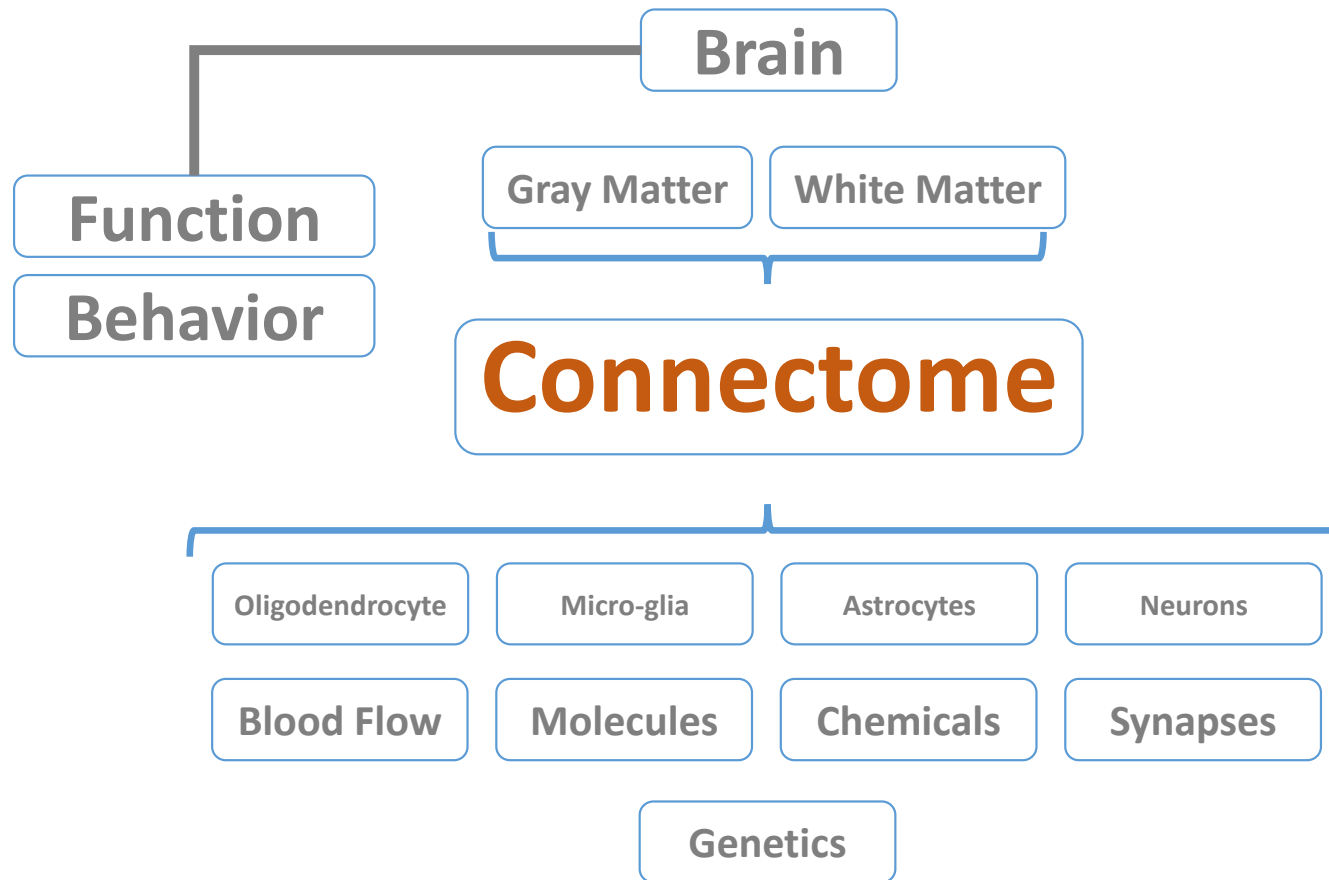
## Hypothesis:

Brain Imaging can provide better understanding of the ageing process, its interactions with well-being and other individual factors





# Brain Connectome



# Brain Connectome

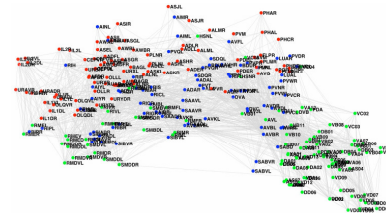
The mass array of neural connections that forms the dense network between all components of the nervous system

- The connectome spans over many dimensions
- The connectome is a map/graph
- The connectome affects our cognition and behavior
- As genes encode our body, the connectome encodes our mind

# Connectome Research



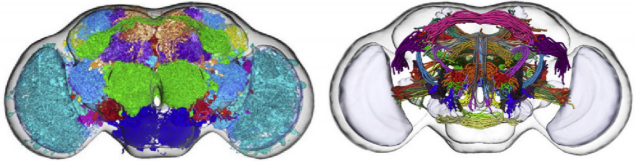
302 neurons



Varshney, L.R., et-al.  
*PLoS Comput. Biol.* 7, e1001066 (2011).



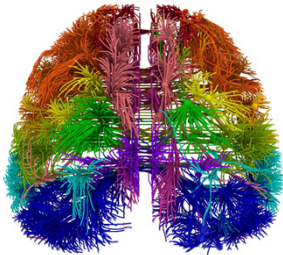
25,000 neurons



*Current Biology*, 21(1):1–11, January 2011.



70 million neurons



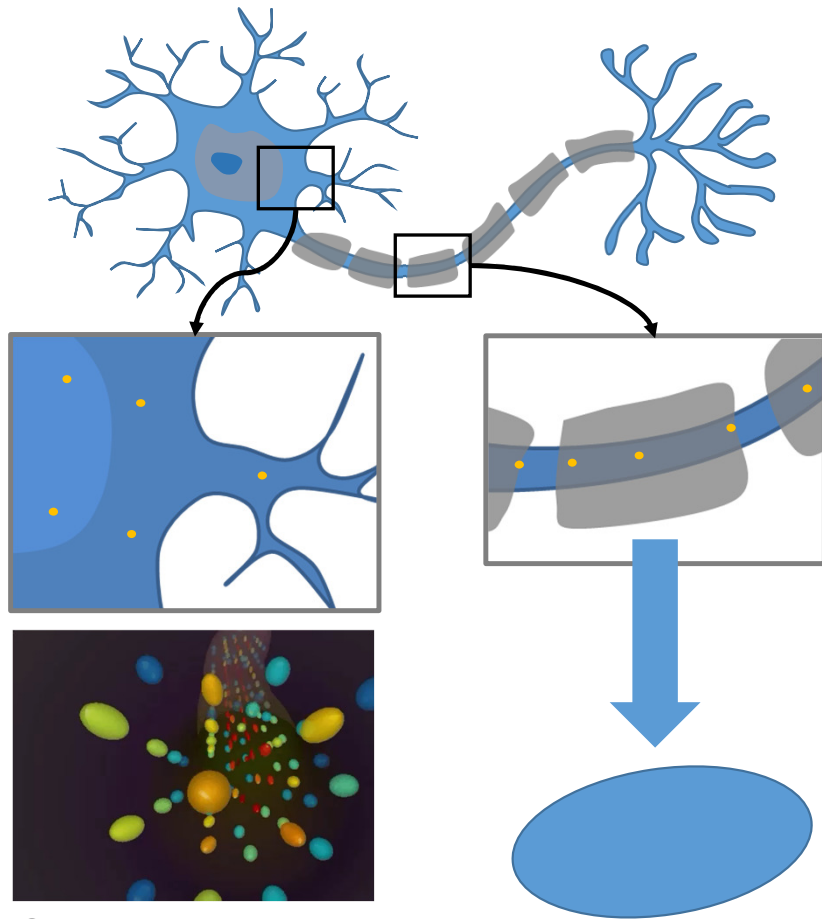
The Allen Brain Institute  
Wook Oh et al.  
*Nature*, 508, 207-217, 2014



100 billion neurons



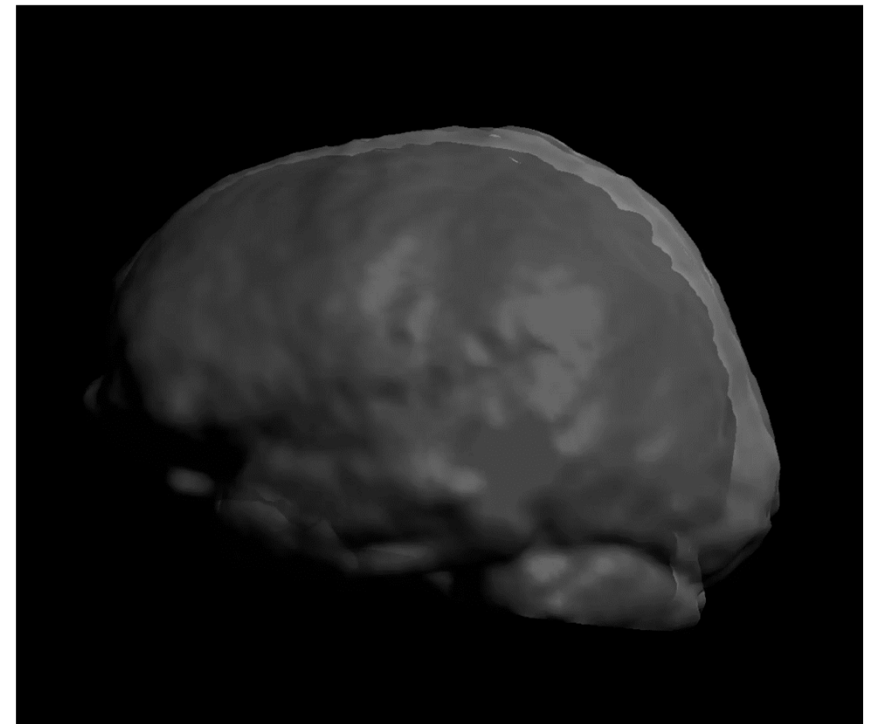
# Connectome Research



© Derek Jones, Alexander Leemans

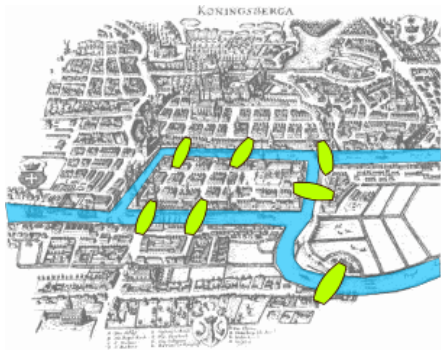


Diffusion MRI



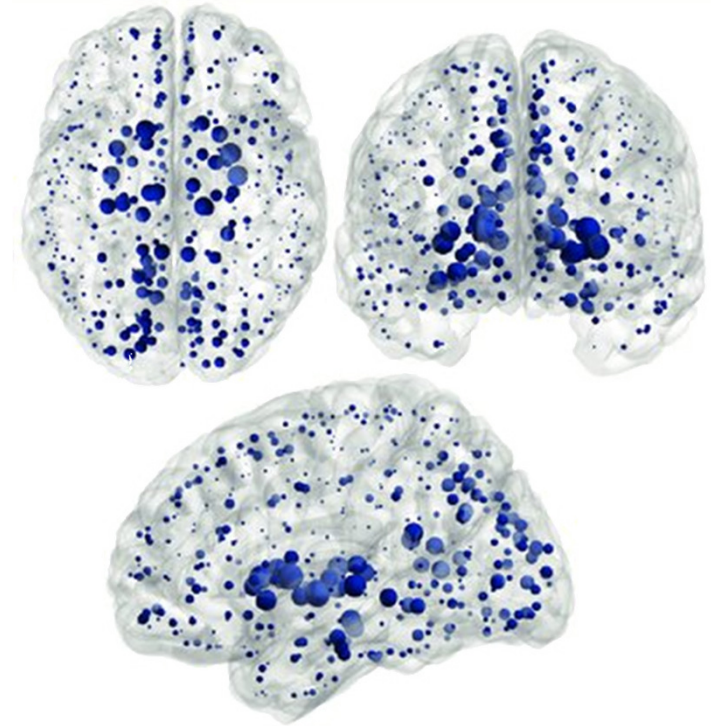
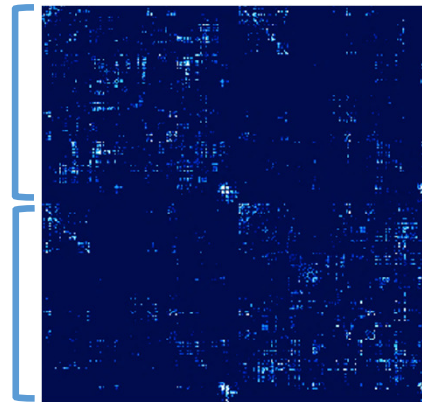
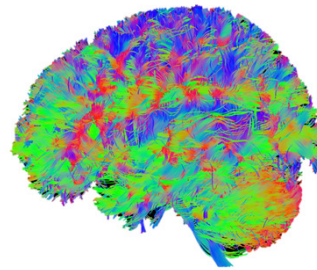
# Connectome & Graphs

## Graph Theory



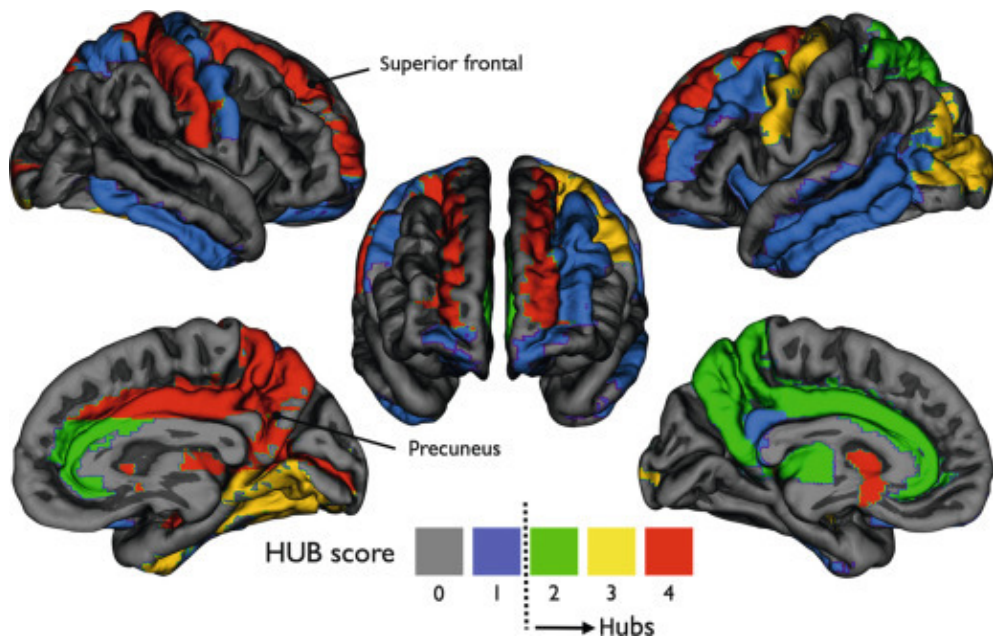
Leonhard Euler

|   | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A |   |   |   |   |
| B |   |   |   |   |
| C |   |   |   |   |
| D |   |   |   |   |



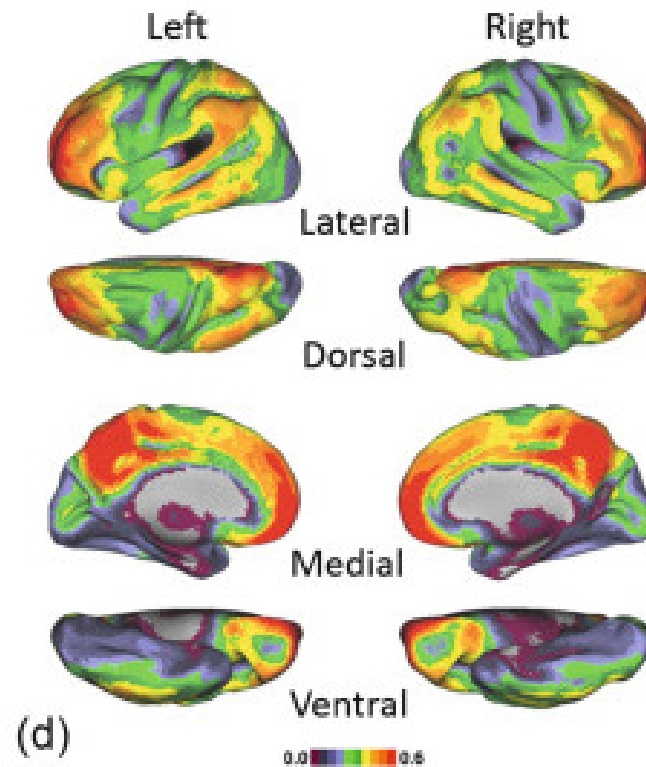
Crossley N.A., Mechelli A., Scott J., Carletti F., Fox P.T. McGuire P., Bullmore E.T. The hubs of the human connectome are generally implicated in the anatomy of brain disorders. Brain 137; 2382-2395 (2014)

# Brain Hubs



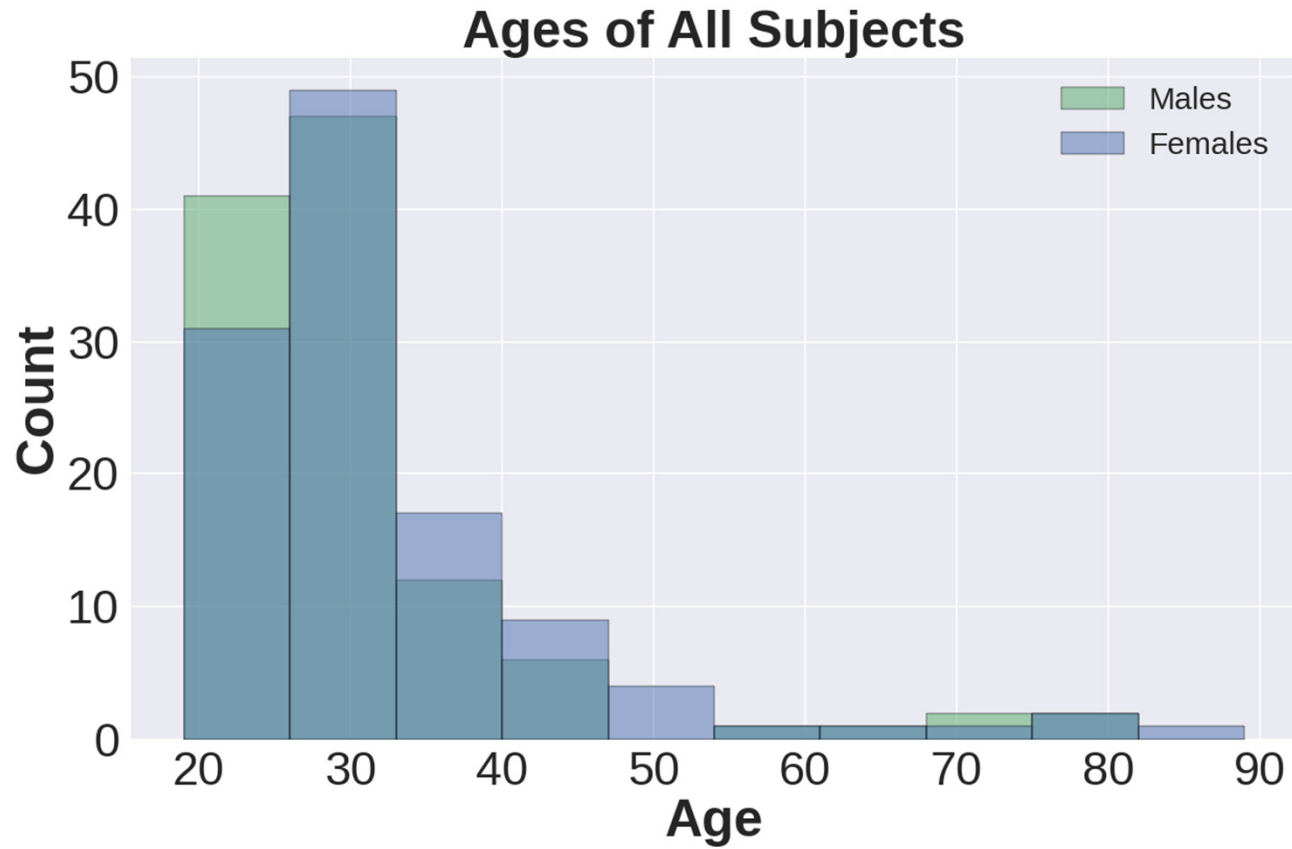
Fornito A., Zalesky A., Bullmore E.  
Fundamental of brain networks

## Amyloid deposition



Buckner 2009

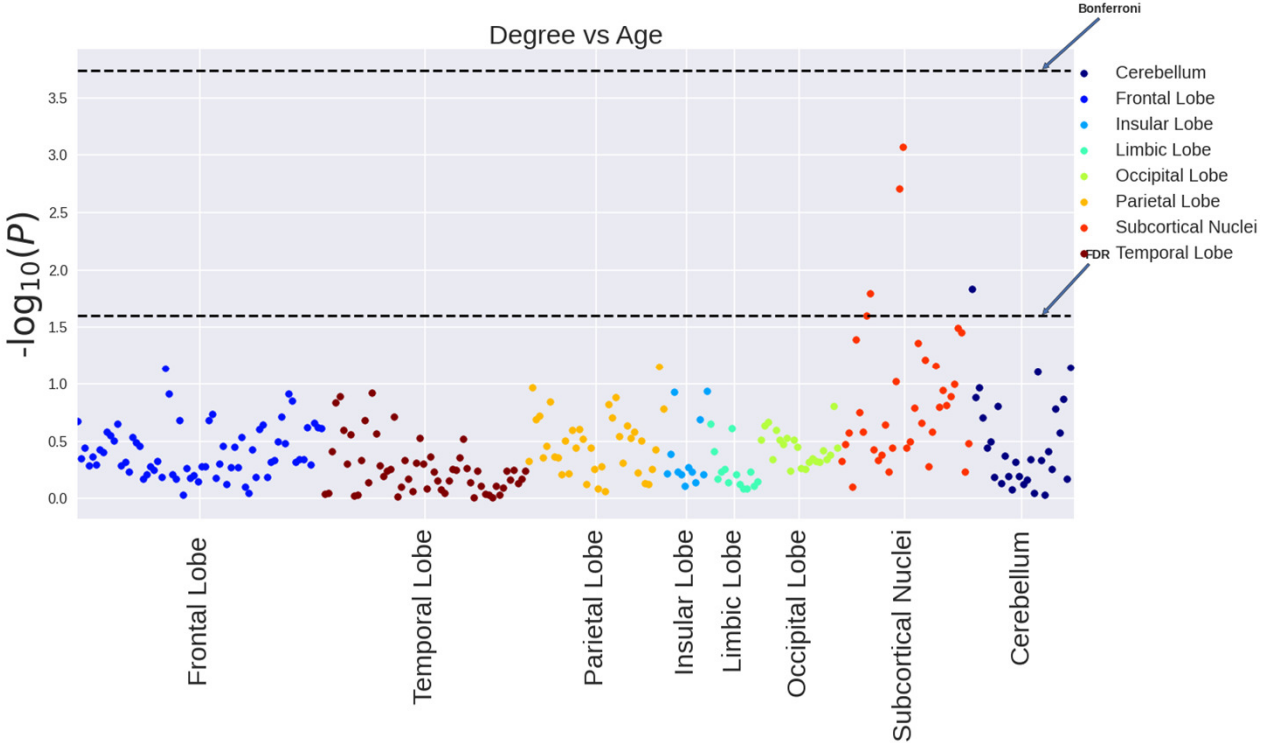
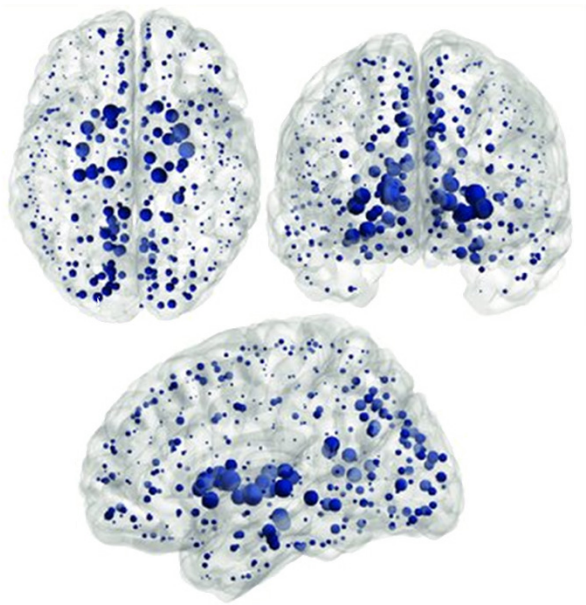
# TAU Brain Bank



400 subjects  
(+10/week)

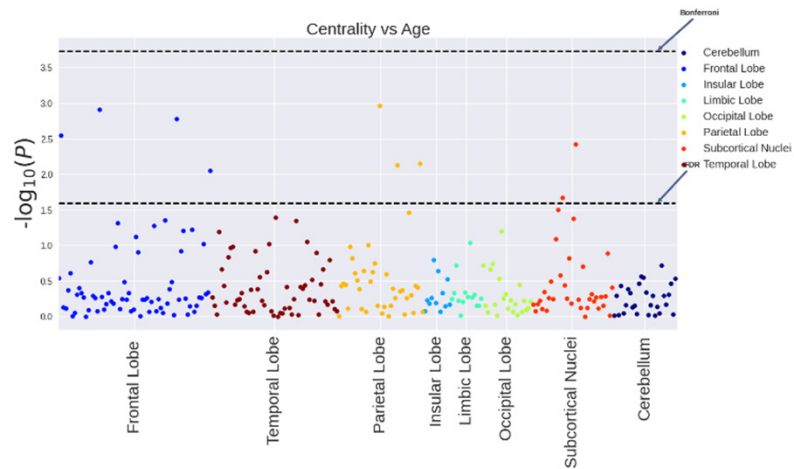
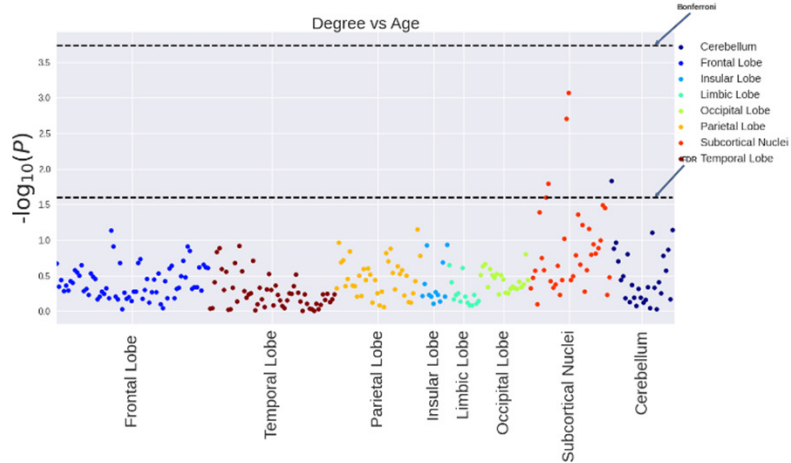
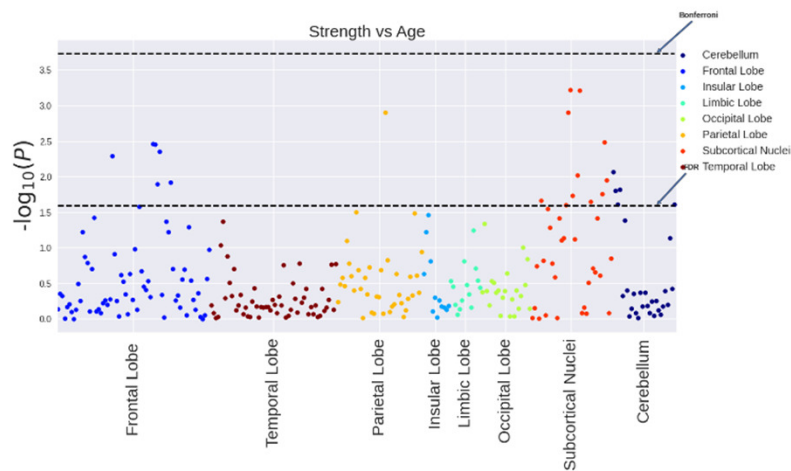
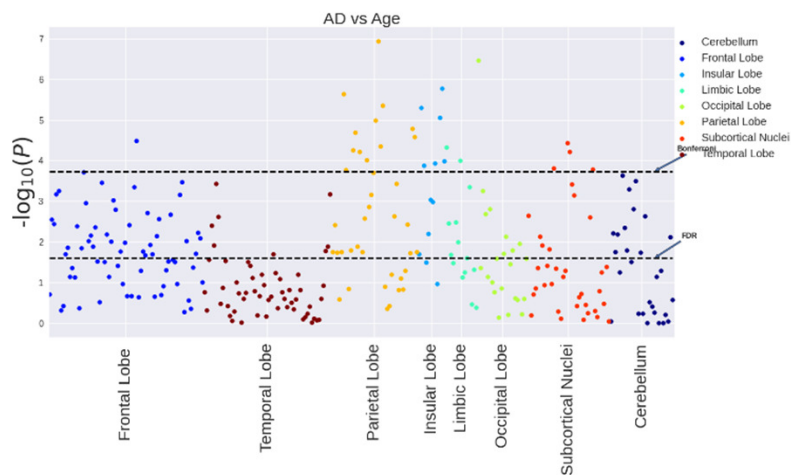


# Brain Hubs & Ageing

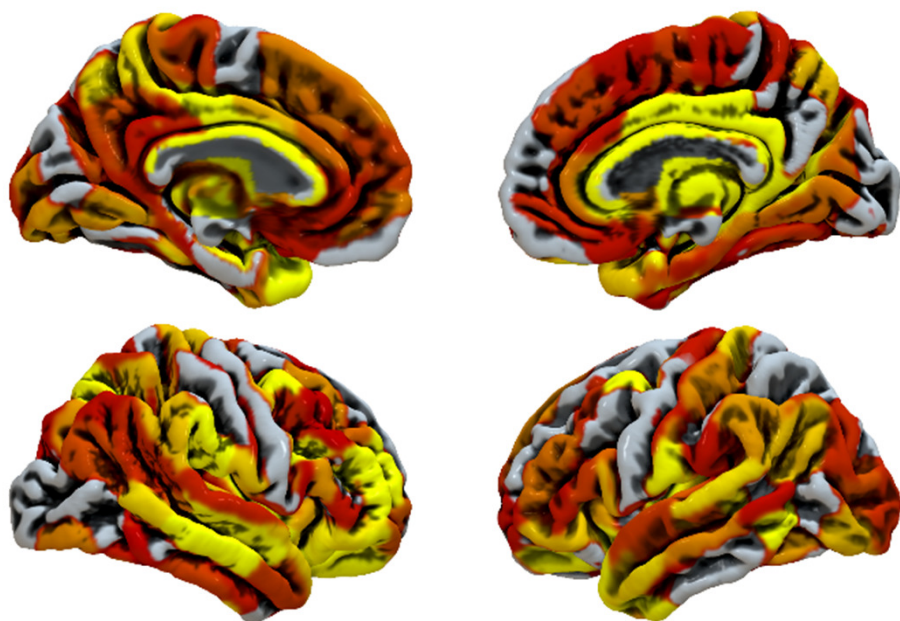




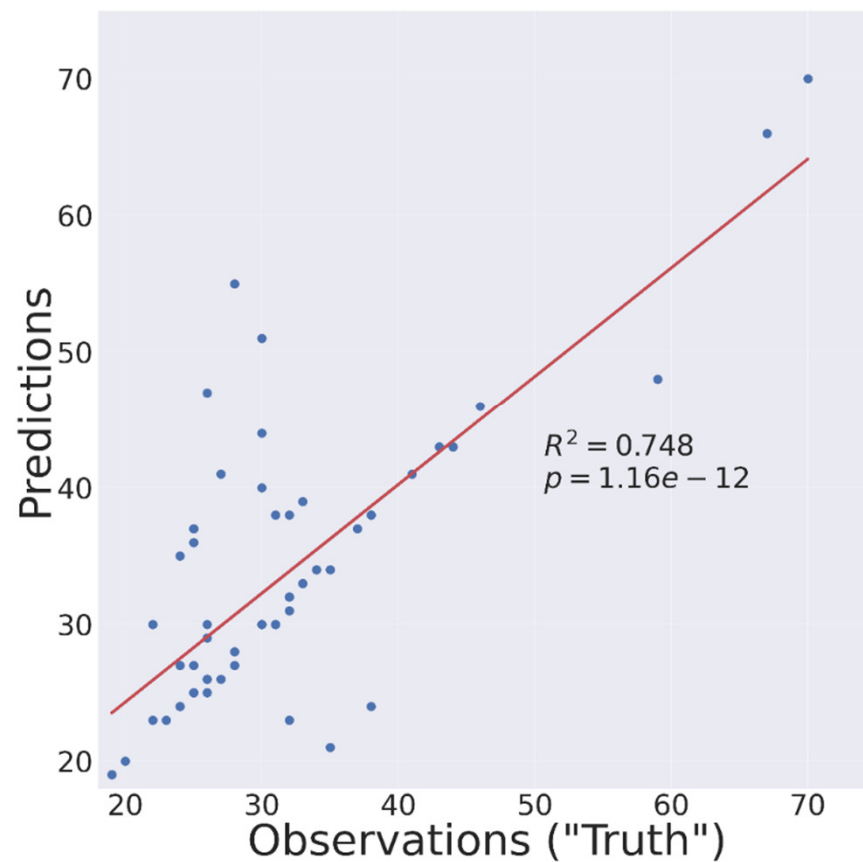
# Graph Analysis & Ageing



# Prediction Model



## Linear Regression's Predictions of Age



# Acknowledgement



**Prof. Heidi Johansen-Berg,**  
Oxford University



**Gal Ben-Zvi,**  
Sagol School of neuroscience  
Tel Aviv University



**Omri Tomer,**  
Sagol School of neuroscience  
Tel Aviv University

## Lab Members

- Ittai Shamir
- Omri Tomer
- Zvi Baratz
- Hila Gast
- Ronnie Krupnik
- Nadav Mark
- Gal BenZvi
- Adi Cohen
- Yael

## Lab Alumni

- Prof. Yossi Yovel
- Dr. Daniel Barazany
- Dr. Shani Ben-Amitay
- Dr. Shir Hofstetter
- Dr. Ido Tavor
- Dr. Shimrit Tzur
- Dr. Eyal Lotan
- Dr. Efrat Sasson
- Dr. Tamar Katzir
- Dr. Dan Stein
- Hadas Laufer
- Assaf Horowitz
- Omri Zomet
- Maya Faraggi
- Yoni Katzir

# Thanks