

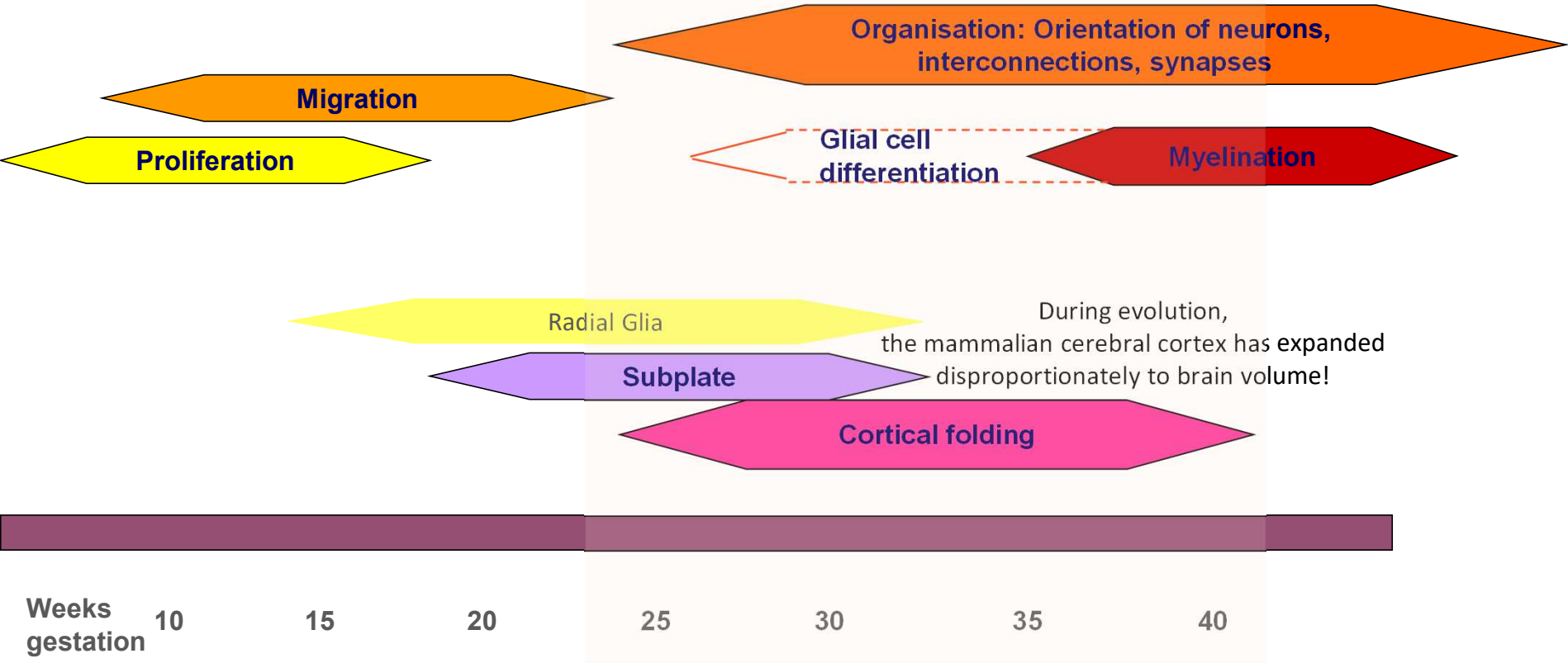
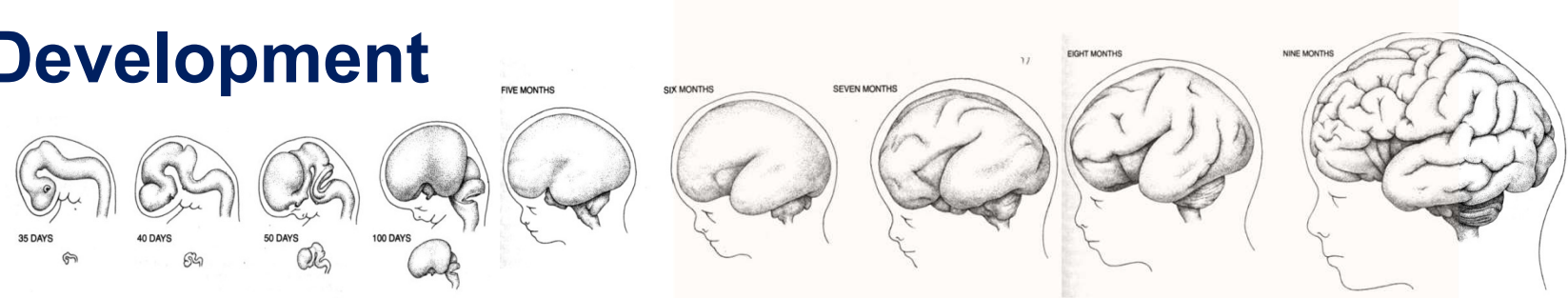
# La rete delle reti: il connettoma implicazioni diagnostico-terapeutiche



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**Pediatra, Neuropsichiatra Infantile, Neuropediatra, Psicoterapeuta  
Università degli Studi di Palermo**

# Brain Development



# CONNETTOMA

## Methods

### I. **Computing Connection matrix**

1. Register T1 over B0 (non-weighted diffusion image)
2. Over diffusion data, compute tractography over B0-registered T1 data:
  - i. Register all subject in a common referential
  - ii. Segment WM,GM and pial surfaces
  - iii. Divide cortical surface in standardized regions of interest –subnetwork definition
1. For each pair of regions of the cortex:
  - i. **Compute the density of the bundle connecting the 2 regions**
  - ii. Store the value in a matrix
  - iii. Threshold density values for mean FA along the bundle connecting ROIs and eliminate self-connections

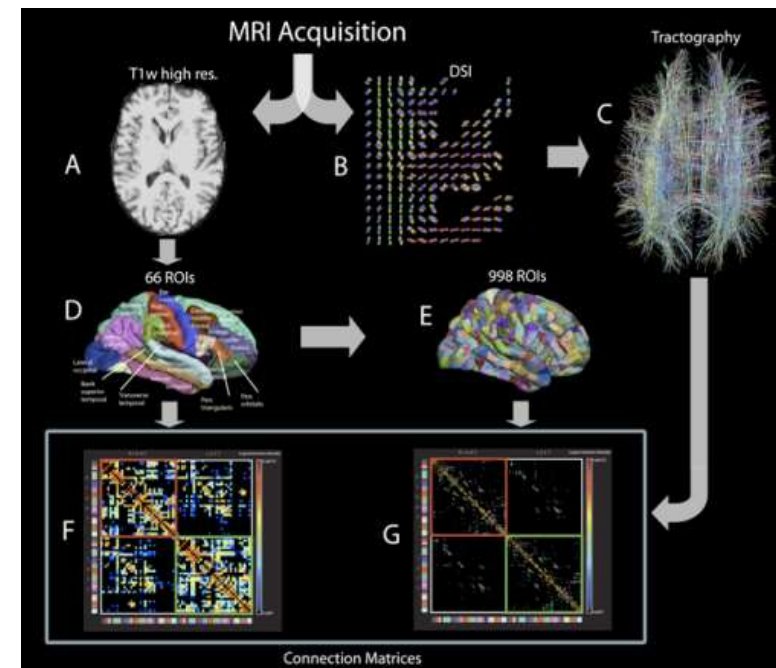
### II. **Wilcoxon rank-sum test for structural connectivity group differences**

### III. **Correlation of strength of ALTERED connections with the scores achieved on socio-cognitive**

*Pearson's correlaton*



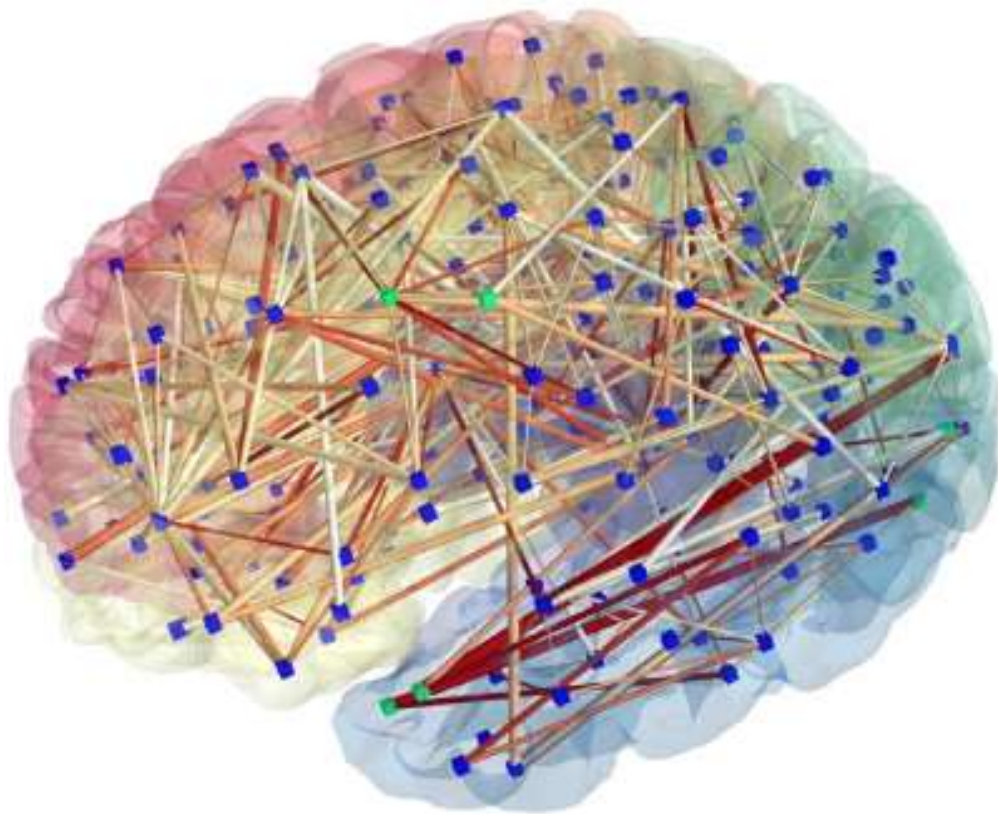
<http://www.brain-connect.eu/>



CAMMOUN L., et al 2012. *J Neurosci Methods* 203: 386-397. HAGMANN P., et al 2008. *PLoS Biol* 6: e159. HAGMANN P., et al 2007. *PLoS One* 2: e597. MESKALDJI D.E., et al 2013. *Neuroimage* 80: 416-425. MESKALDJI D.E., et al 2013. *J arXiv preprint arXiv:1307.3286*



# mappa delle connessioni neurali cerebrali

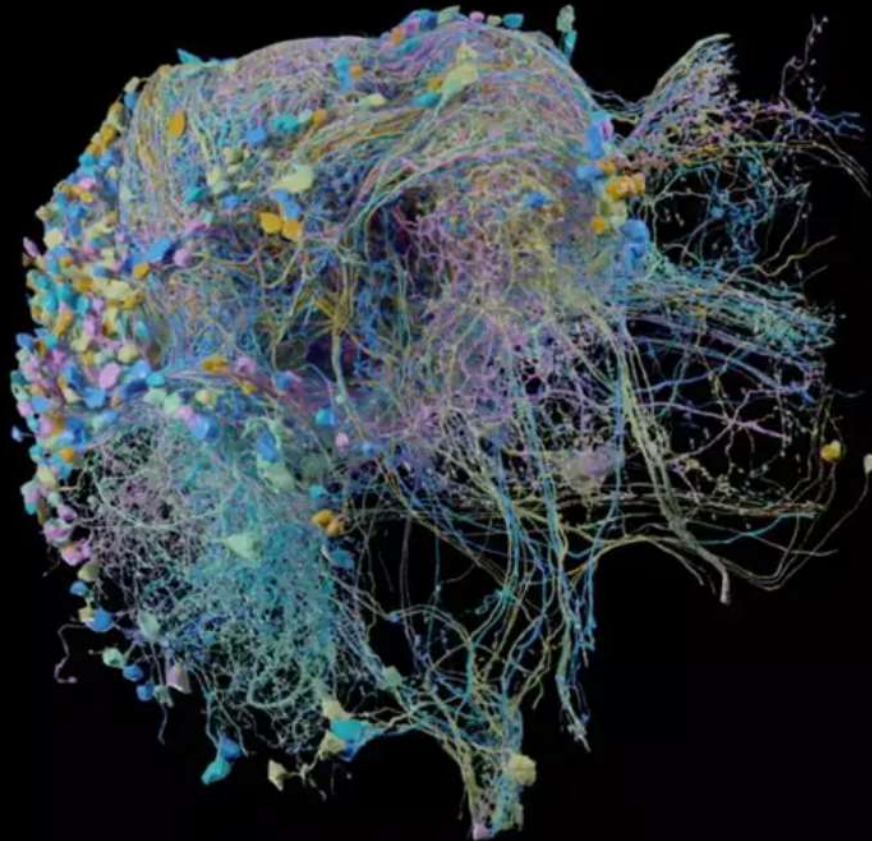


**Table 1** Names and abbreviations of the brain regions considered in the human connectome from Hagmann et al. (2008) (in alphabetical order)

Abbreviation	Brain region
BSTS	Bank of the superior temporal sulcus
CAC	Caudal anterior cingulate cortex
CMF	Caudal middle frontal cortex
CUN	Cuneus
ENT	Entorhinal cortex
FP	Frontal pole
FUS	Fusiform gyrus
IP	Inferior parietal cortex
ISTC	Isthmus of the cingulate cortex
IT	Inferior temporal cortex
LING	Lingual gyrus
LOCC	Lateral occipital cortex
LOF	Lateral orbitofrontal cortex
MOF	Medial orbitofrontal cortex
MT	Middle temporal cortex
PARC	Paracentral lobule
PARH	Parahippocampal cortex
PC	Posterior cingulate cortex
PCAL	Pericalcarine cortex
PCUN	Precuneus
POPE	Pars opercularis
PORB	Pars orbitalis
PREC	Precentral gyrus
PSTC	Postcentral gyrus
PTRI	Pars triangularis
RAC	Rostral anterior cingulate cortex
RMF	Rostral middle frontal cortex
SF	Superior frontal cortex
SMAR	Supramarginal gyrus
SP	Superior parietal cortex
ST	Superior temporal cortex
TP	Temporal pole
TT	Transverse temporal cortex

Taken from Deco, G., Ponce-Alvarez, A., Mantini, D., Romani, G.L., Hagmann, P., & Corbetta, M. (2013). Resting-state functional connectivity emerges from structurally and dynamically shaped slow linear fluctuations. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 33, 11239–11252.

# Connettoma



USC Mark and Mary Stevens Neuroimaging and Informatics Institute

USC University of Southern California

The HCP Human Connectome Project

## Human Connectome Project

Enter search keyword

Home About Data Informatics Gallery Publications News

### The Human Connectome Project

Navigate the brain in a way that was never before possible; fly through major brain pathways, compare essential circuits, zoom into a region to explore the cells that comprise it, and the functions that depend on it.

The Human Connectome Project aims to provide an unparalleled compilation of neural data, an interface to graphically navigate this data and the opportunity to achieve never before realized conclusions about the living human brain.

[Download Data](#)

[Laboratory of Cognitive Imaging](#)

#### News

**HCC News**

**National Geographic features the Human Connectome Project**

New research from members of our HCP team suggests that brain circuitry is organized more like Manhattan's street grid than London's chaotic tangle of random roadways. Read the full article in the February 2014 issue of National Geographic.

**Director of NIM Presents the Human Connectome Project**

The Symphony Inside Your Brain By Dr. Francis Collins Ever wonder what it is that makes you, you? Depending on whom you ask, there are a lot of different answers, but these days some of the world's top neuroscientists might say, "You are your connectome." Read the full article at: <http://www.scripps.edu/news/symphony-inside-your-brain/>

**Blaze's latest album uses a Human Connectome Project rendering of white matter tracts.**

The Human Connectome Project (HCP) Consortium is pleased to have had its graphical renderings of brain connectivity chosen by Grammy Award winning international recording artist Blaze ([www.blaze.us](http://www.blaze.us)) for the cover of their latest album "The 2nd Law." The images selected illustrate the complexity of the neural wiring of the human brain as computed using sophisticated [...]

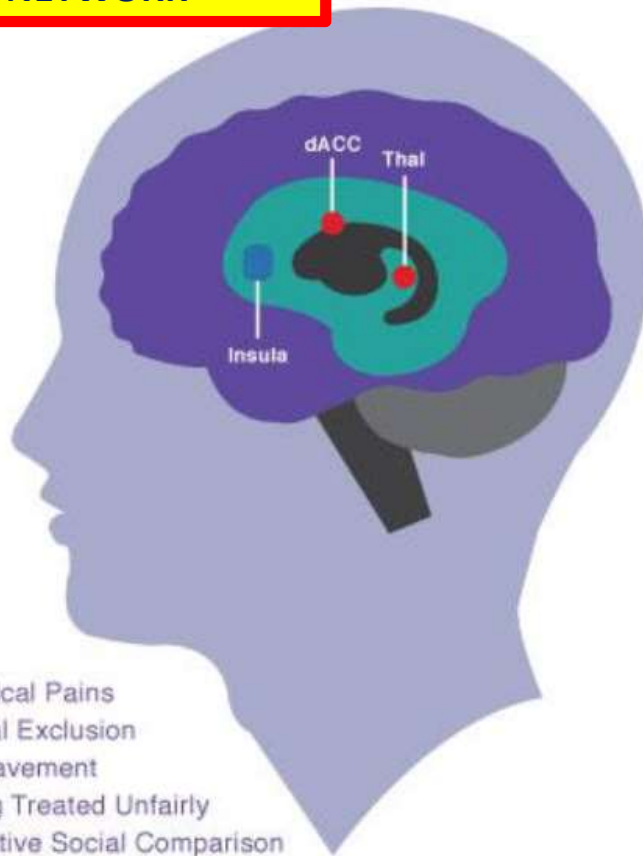
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# Pain and Pleasure

## PAIN NETWORK

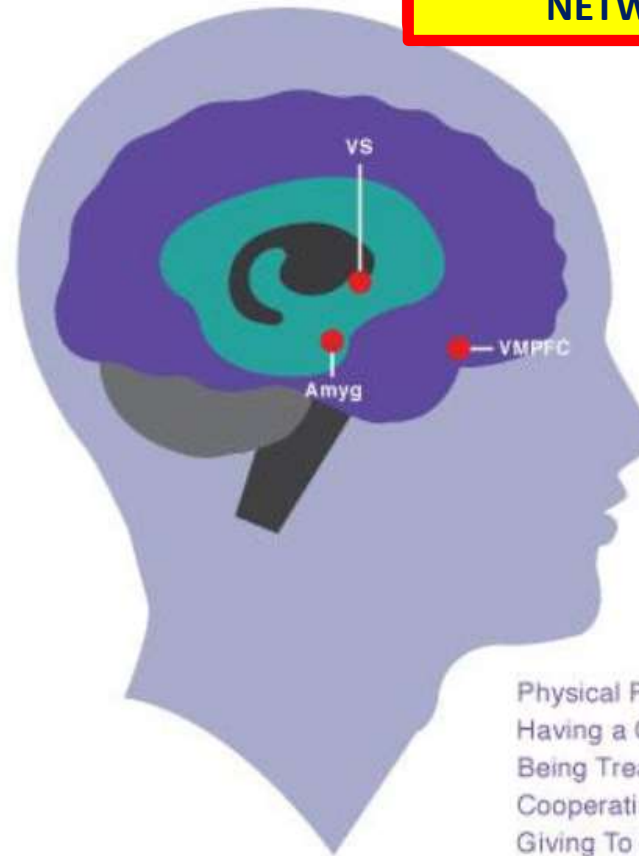
## REWARD NETWORK



Physical Pains  
Social Exclusion  
Bereavement  
Being Treated Unfairly  
Negative Social Comparison

### Pain Network

dACC = Dorsal Anterior Cingulate Cortex  
Thal = Thalamus  
INS = Insula



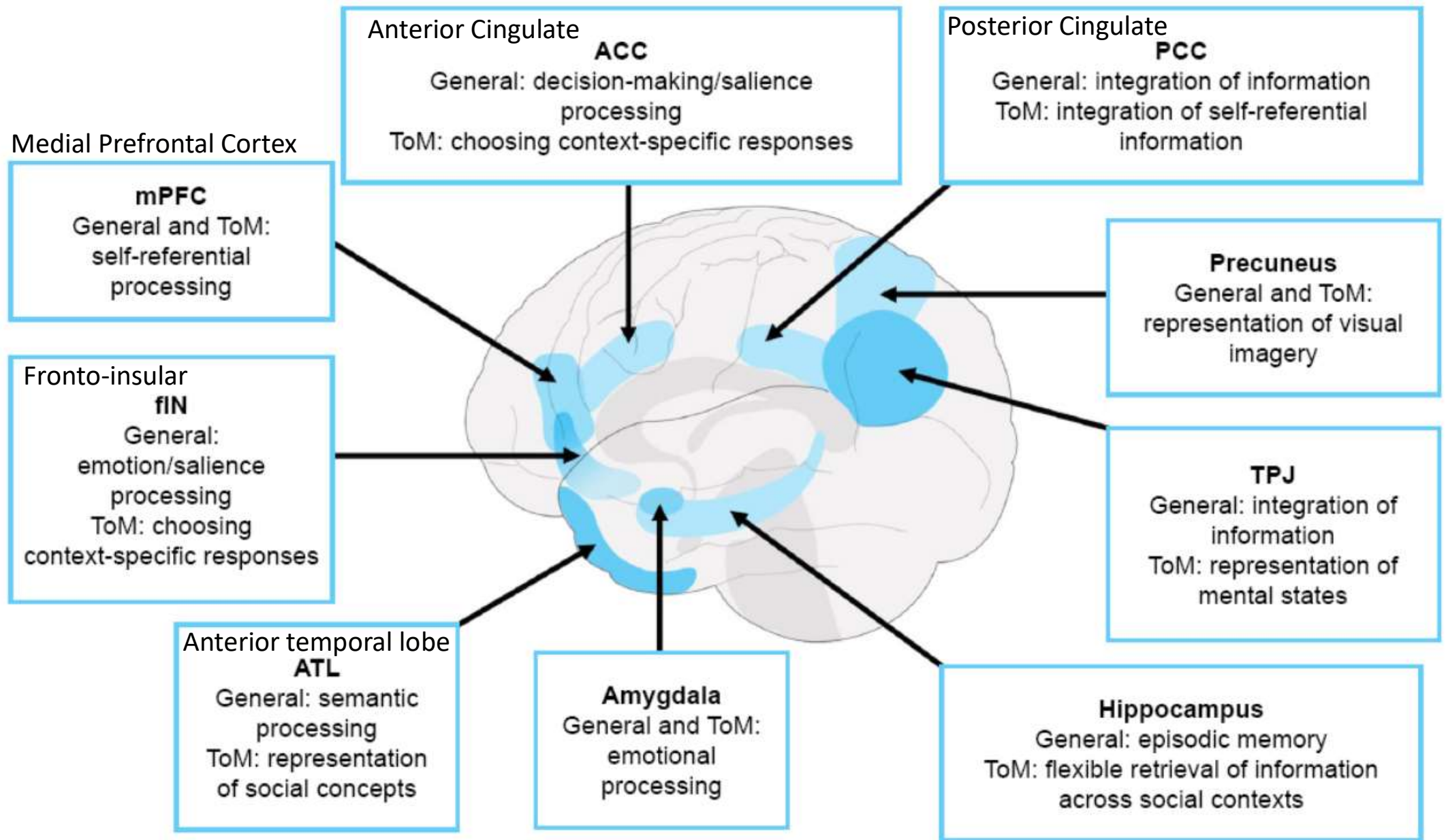
Physical Pleasures  
Having a Good Reputation  
Being Treated Fairly  
Cooperating  
Giving To Charity

### Reward Network

VS = Ventral Striatum  
Amyg = Amygdala  
VMPFC = Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex

# Theory of mind (ToM)

- La **teoria della mente** (D. Premack e G. Woodruff 1978)
- **Capacità di attribuire stati mentali a sé stessi e agli altri ed è fondamentale in ogni interazione sociale**
- **Stati mentali sono considerati emozioni, cognizioni/conoscenze, desideri, intenzioni, credenze-**
- **Aspetto fondamentale è la capacità di comprendere che gli altri hanno stati mentali diversi dai proprie potere quindi analizzare, comprendere e giudicare il comportamento degli altri.**
- **La teoria della mente è una teoria nel senso che la presenza della mente propria e altrui può essere inferita soltanto attraverso l'introspezione, e attraverso la congettura che gli altri, avendo atteggiamenti e comportamenti simili ai nostri, abbiano anche stati mentali propri.**
- **In questo senso, ogni individuo possiede una propria teoria della mente, e alcune condizioni come l'autismo e la schizofrenia sono state interpretate come un deficit specifico di questa abilità.**





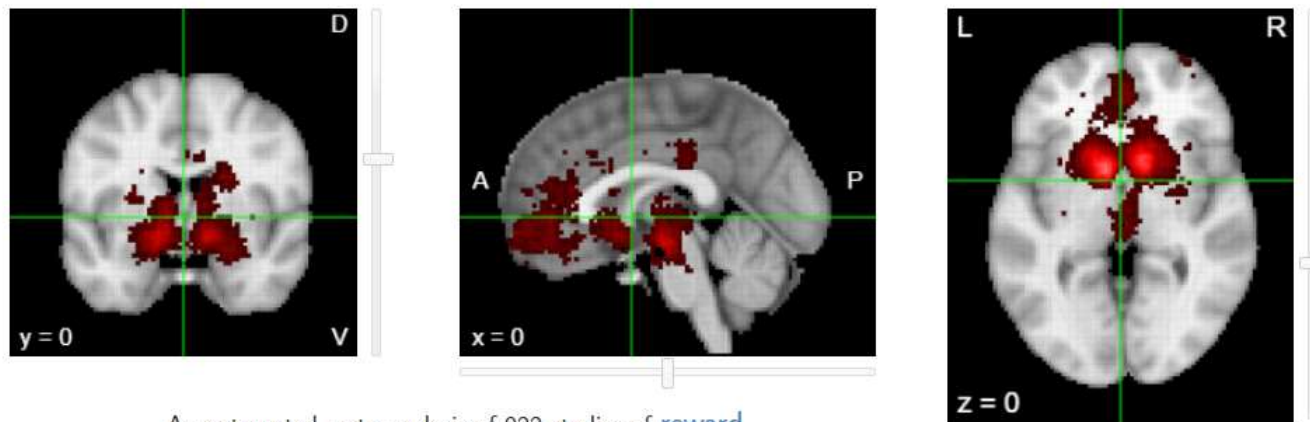
# Aggiornamento su studi e dati desunti da fMRI

Neurosynth.org Home Meta-analyses Studies Locations Genes Decoder Code FAQs

## neurosynth.org

Neurosynth is a platform for large-scale, automated synthesis of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) data.

It takes thousands of published articles reporting the results of fMRI studies, chews on them for a bit, and then spits out images that look like this:



An automated meta-analysis of 922 studies of [reward](#)

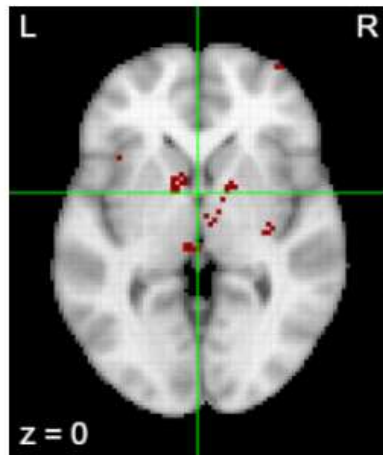
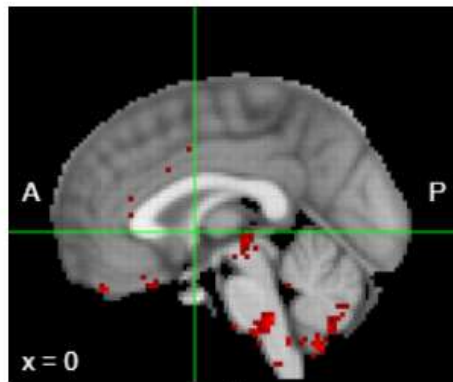
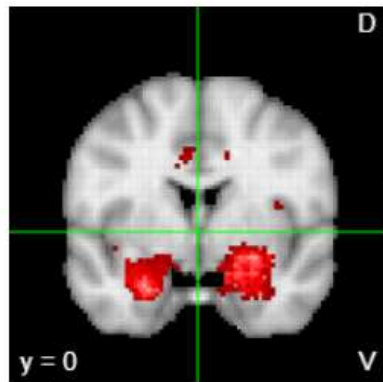
**Metanalisi automatizzata di 922 studi sul "rinforzo"**

# conditioning

An automated meta-analysis of 160 studies

Search for another term:

Maps Studies FAQs



z-score: 0 [What's here?](#)

X:  Y:  Z:

Layers

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	conditioning: association test	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	conditioning: uniformity test	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	anatomical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Color palette: red

Positive/Negative: positive

Crosshairs  
 Pan/zoom  
 Labels

Thresholds:

Opacity:

[Maps](#)[Studies](#)[FAQs](#)

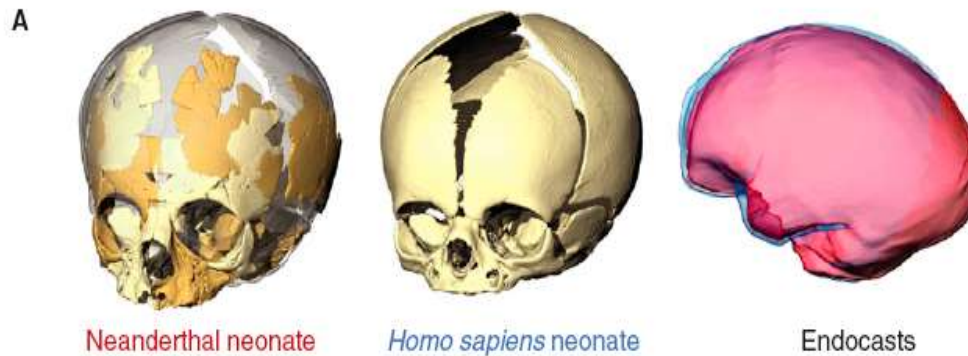
## Studies associated with conditioning

Show  entriesSearch: 

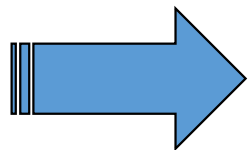
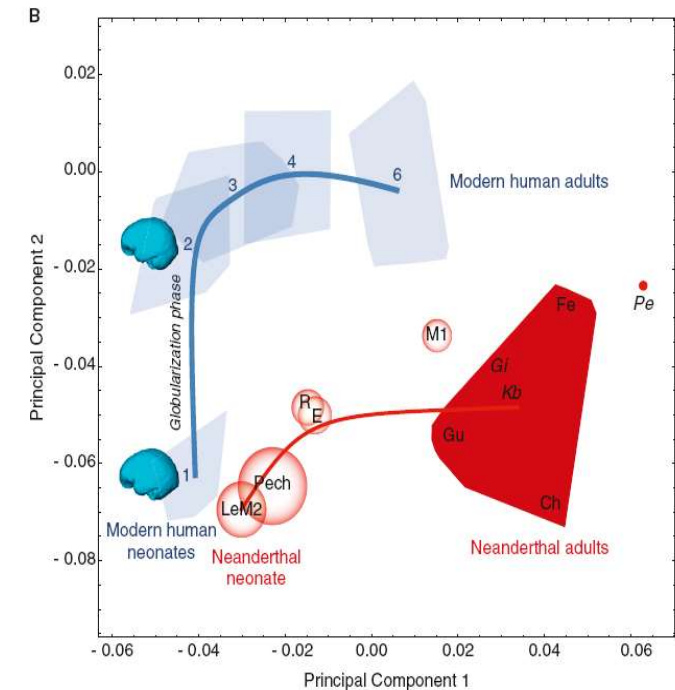
Title	Authors	Journal	Loading
<a href="#">Altered reward learning and hippocampal connectivity following psychosocial stress.</a>	Kruse O, Tapia Leon I, Stalder T, Stark R, Klucken T	NeuroImage	0.72
<a href="#">Amygdala-hippocampal involvement in human aversive trace conditioning revealed through event-related functional magnetic resonance imaging.</a>	Buchel C, Dolan RJ, Armony JL, Friston KJ	The Journal of neuroscience : the official journal of the Society for Neuroscience	0.703
<a href="#">Contextual fear conditioning in humans: cortical-hippocampal and amygdala contributions.</a>	Alvarez RP, Biggs A, Chen G, Pine DS, Grillon C	The Journal of neuroscience : the official journal of the Society for Neuroscience	0.642
<a href="#">Dissociable roles for the hippocampus and the amygdala in human cued versus context fear conditioning.</a>	Marschner A, Kalisch R, Vervliet B, Vansteenwegen D, Buchel C	The Journal of neuroscience : the official journal of the Society for Neuroscience	0.634
<a href="#">The scent of salience—is there olfactory-trigeminal conditioning in humans?</a>	Moessnang C, Pauly K, Kellermann T, Kramer J, Finkelmeyer A, Hummel T, Siegel SJ, Schneider F, Habel U	NeuroImage	0.575
<a href="#">Human fear conditioning and extinction in neuroimaging: a systematic review.</a>	Sehlmeyer C, Schoning S, Zwitserlood P, Pfeleiderer B, Kircher T, Arolt V, Konrad C	PloS one	0.511
<a href="#">Impact of COMT Val158Met-polymorphism on appetitive conditioning and amygdala/prefrontal effective connectivity.</a>	Klucken T, Kruse O, Wehrum-Osinsky S, Hennig J, Schweckendiek J, Stark R	Human brain mapping	0.497
<a href="#">Cerebellar activation during leg withdrawal reflex conditioning: an fMRI study.</a>	Dimitrova A, Kolb FP, Elles HG, Maschke M, Gerwig M, Gizewski E, Timmann D	Clinical neurophysiology : official journal of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology	0.479
<a href="#">Time course of amygdala activation during aversive conditioning depends on attention.</a>	Straube T, Weiss T, Mentzel HJ, Miltner WH	NeuroImage	0.471
<a href="#">Fear conditioning in humans: the influence of awareness and autonomic arousal on functional neuroanatomy.</a>	Critchley HD, Mathias CJ, Dolan RJ	Neuron	0.467



# Brain development during evolution



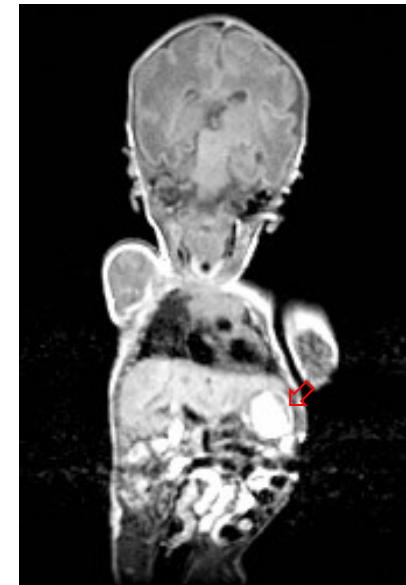
Neanderthal and modern human brains grow differently:  
❖ humans brain growth postnatal is globular, neanderthal postnatal growth was not  
❖ The shape changes of the frontal and parietal bone in the human are driven by the increase in brain volume



**Environment and stimuli shape the brain through evolution**  
**the pathway from genetic variation to individual differences in personality may be mediated via variation in regional brain structure**

*Brain development after birth differs between Neanderthals and modern humans Philipp Gunz, Simon Neubauer, Bruno Maureille, and Jean-Jacques Hublin, Current Biology 2010 Vol 20 No 21*

# Magnetic Resonance technique: Non-invasive method to study brain development & injury



MRI Baby

# Early growth and brain maturation into adolescence in term newborns

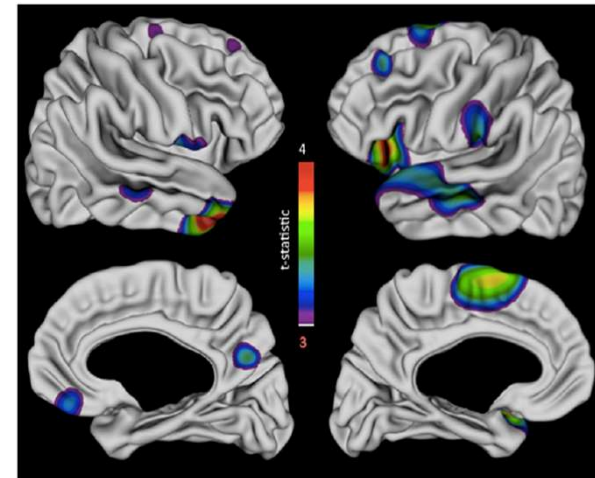
Monozygotic twin study (term birth):  
subtle variations of the in utero environment, with mild birth weight (BW) variation are accompanied by

- ① differences in postnatal intelligence quotient (IQ)
- ② alterations of brain anatomy

Greater BW within the **normal range** confers a sustained and generalized increase in brain volume, which in the cortical sheet, is specifically driven by altered **surface area**

Measure	Effect of BW		Estimated change with 500-g BW increase	
	t	P	Absolute	Relative
IQ	2.3	0.02	2.0 points	0.13 SD
VIQ	0.9	0.4	0.9 points	0.06 SD
PIQ	2.5	0.02	2.3 points	0.15 SD
Total brain volume	9.2	<0.0005	27 cm <sup>3</sup>	2%, 0.25 SD
GMV	5.7	<0.0005	19 cm <sup>3</sup>	2.1%, 0.27 SD
WMV	3.7	0.0002	10 cm <sup>3</sup>	1.9%, 0.17 SD
Total cortical volume	5.8	<0.0005	16 cm <sup>3</sup>	2.3%, 0.27 SD
Mean cortical thickness	2.3	0.02	0.025 mm	0.6%, 0.15 SD
Total surface area	8.3	<0.0005	35.7 cm <sup>2</sup>	1.8%, 0.3 SD

Main effect of BW is shown for cognitive [IQ, VIQ, PIQ (Full Scale, Verbal and Performance Intelligence Quotient respectively)] and global anatomical outcomes.





**Nato pretermine**



# Il nato pretermine

**Pretermine è il nato prima di 37 settimane complete di gestazione, sono circa il 10% dei nati in Italia**

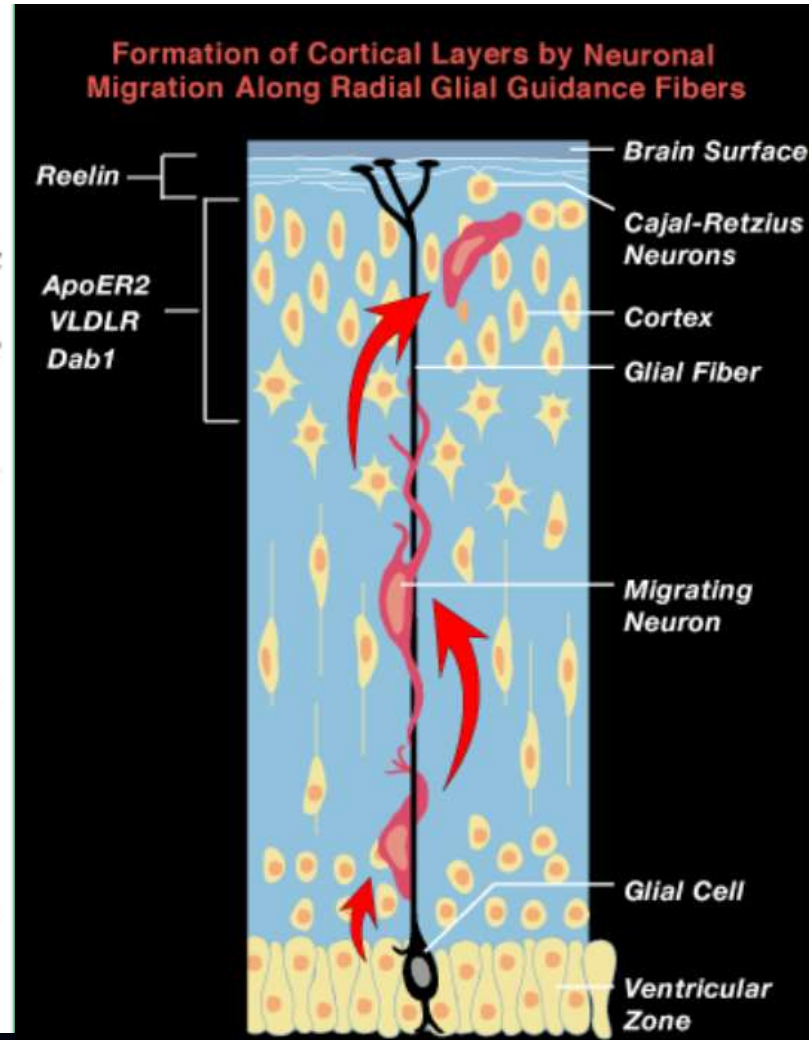
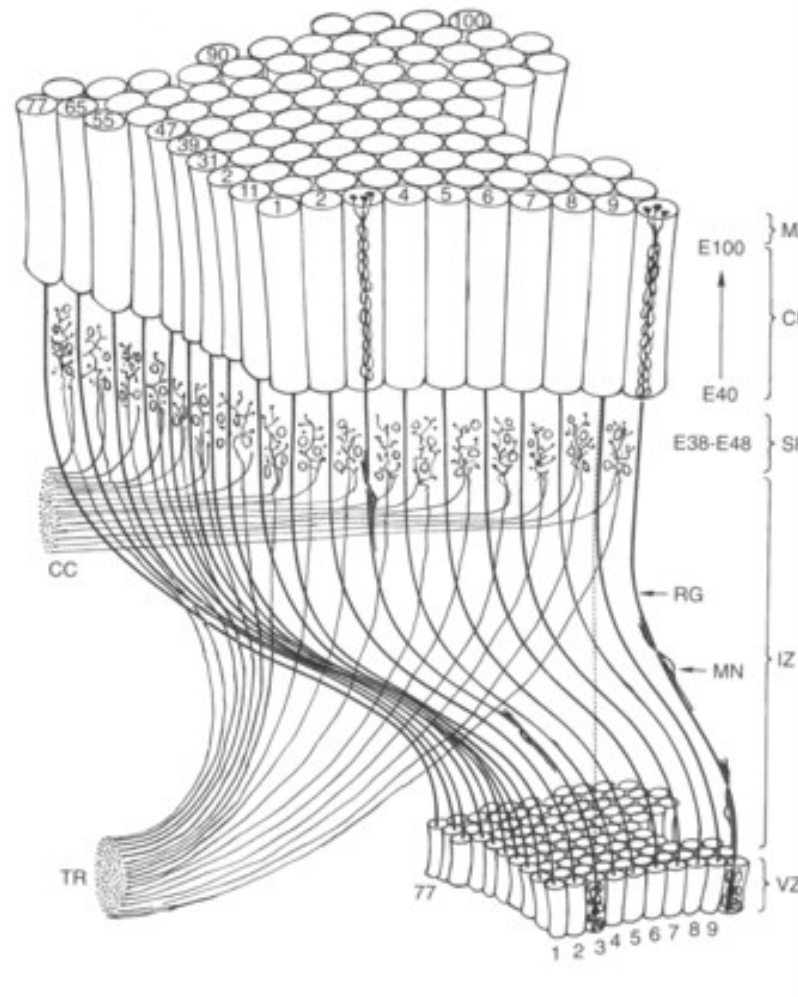
**Limite di sopravvivenza dalla 23 settimana di gestazione completata, con un peso medio di 400 grammi**

**Rischio maggiore se nati prima delle 32 settimane e sotto i 1500 grammi**

**Se gemelli rischio aumentato in specifiche classi di soggetti**

**Categoria a rischio di sviluppo di patologia non solo metabolica e neurologica, ma disturbi psico-comportamentali ed emotivo-relazionali (autismo, ADHD, DOP, DOC, Disabilità intellettiva, deficit sensoriali, disturbi apprendimento, patologia psichiatrica anche a lungo termine)**

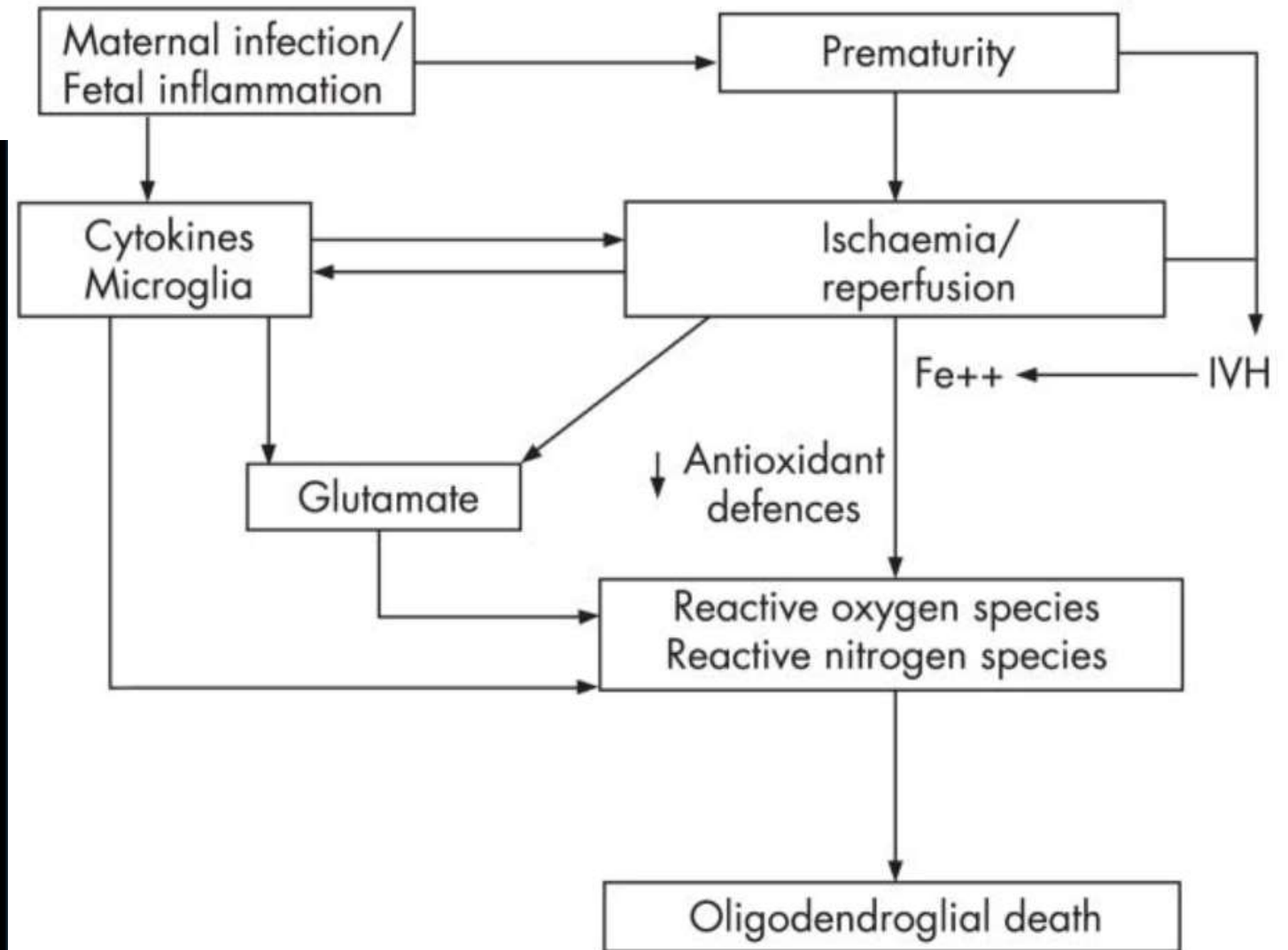
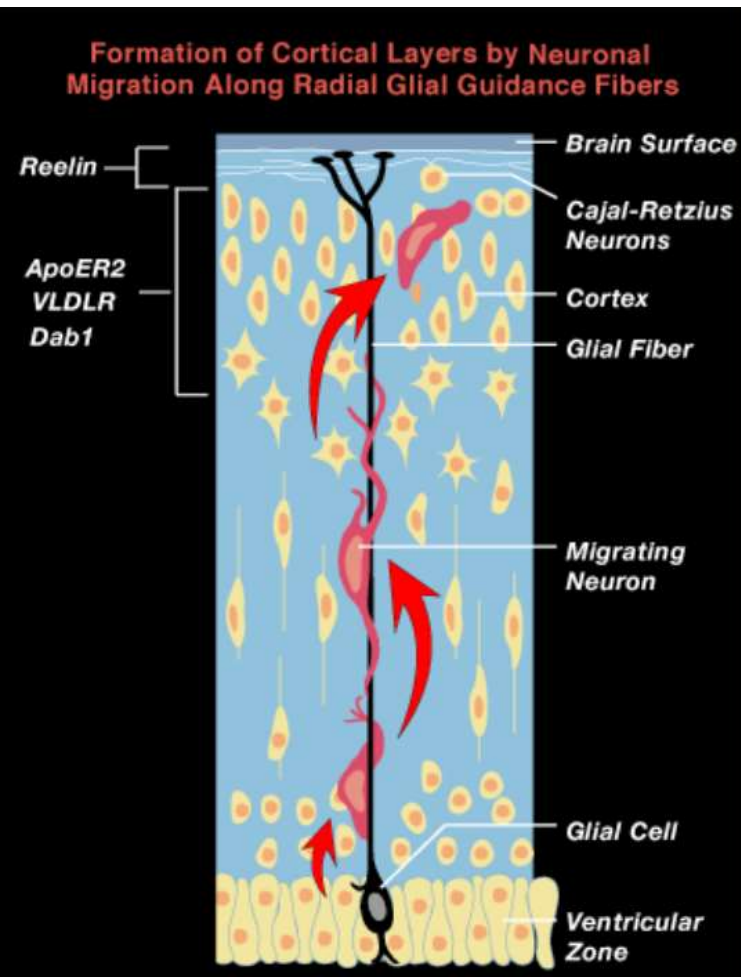
Correlazione dei rapporti tra microcolonne neuroblasti zona germinativa e organizzazione della corteccia → **network neuronali**



**Zona germinativa / ventricular zone**  
**Neuroblasti e cellule della glia**



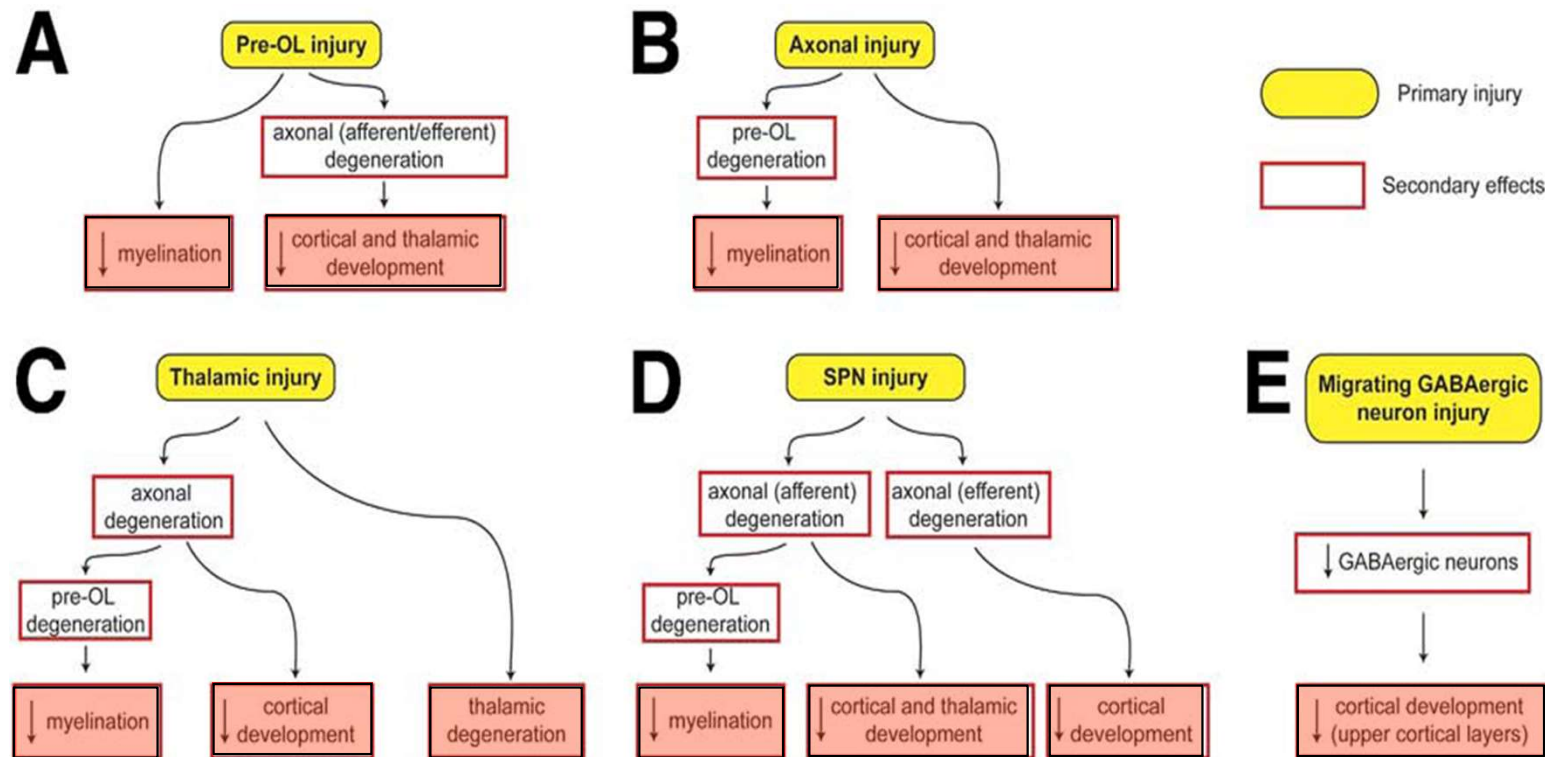
# Pretermine e insulto alle cellule della oligodendroglia → guida migrazione neuronale



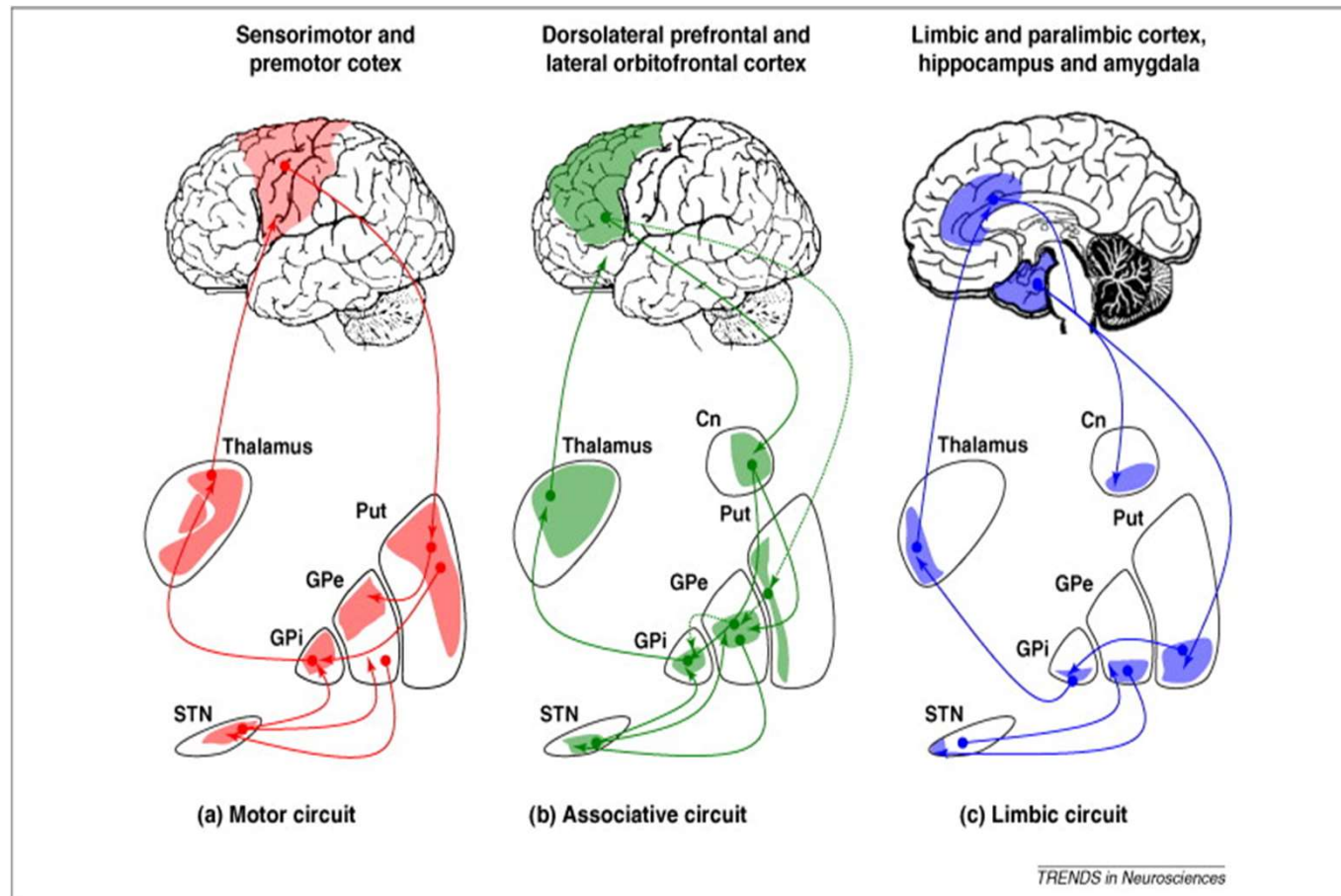
# Sequence of injury events leading to altered brain development

Pre-OL  
Glia non  
mielinizzata

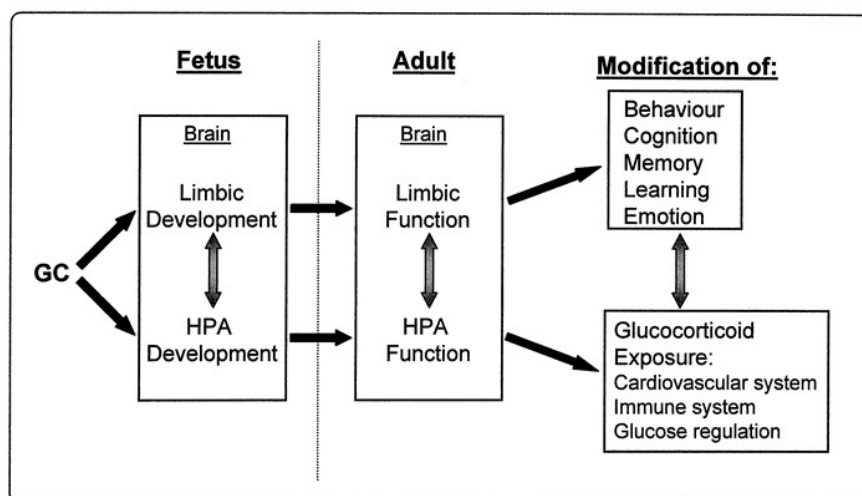
SPN  
Neuroni del  
subplate



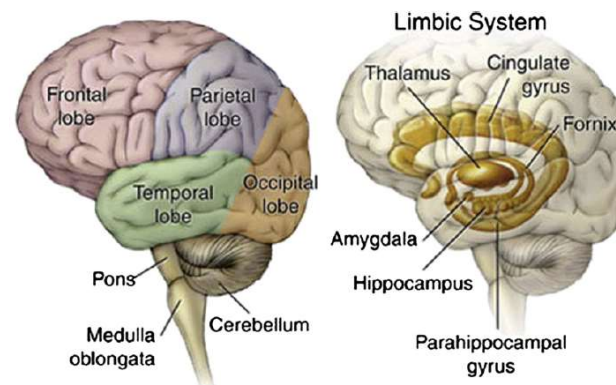
# Cortico-basal ganglia thalamo cortical circuits altered in 6 year old preterm children



# Developmental consequences of perinatal stress



The knowledge that neonatal emotional experience and associated learning processes are critical in the maturation of prefronto-limbic circuits emphasizes the great importance of preterm and neonatal care



**Regions of the limbic system, such as the hippocampus, amygdala, nucleus accumbens, PFC and OFC, and cingulate gyrus, play distinct roles in cognitive and emotional development and are affected by early stress/separation**

Matthews SG *Pediatr Res* 2000;47:291-300  
Braun K J *Perinatol* 2011



## ***Structural brain connectivity in school age preterm infants provides evidence for impaired networks relevant for higher-order cognitive skills and social cognition***

### **Whole brain connectom differences in children born extremely preterm (sotto 28 seg) vs moderately preterm**

- Structural connectivity (SC) was modeled by characterizing the efficacy of connections as the average fractional anisotropy (FA) and as the inverse of the apparent diffusion coefficient along the fiber bundles connecting 83 different cerebral regions.

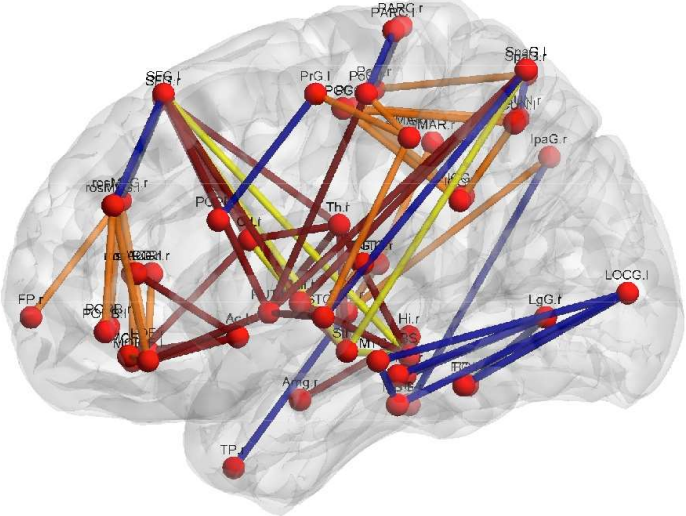
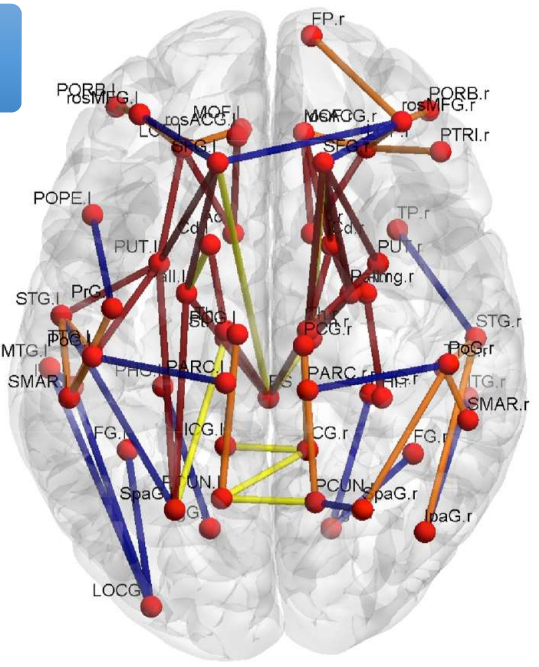
EP vs. control	FA-weighted analysis	ADC-weighted analysis
	<i>p-value / effect size</i>	<i>p-value / effect size</i>
Whole brain SC	$3.71 \cdot 10^{-7(*)}$ / 4.95	0.37159058 / 0.33
Right intrahemispheric SC	$2.87 \cdot 10^{-5(*)}$ / 4.02	0.81567628 / -0.90
Left intrahemispheric SC	$1.67 \cdot 10^{-5(*)}$ / 4.14	0.19646567 / 0.85
Interhemispheric SC	$9.64 \cdot 10^{-5(*)}$ / 3.72	0.03459978(*) / 1.82

ADC based structural connectivity, as an indicator of WM maturation and myelination was reduced in interhemispheric WM pathways in EP children compared to controls, FA based SC is reduced also in intrahemispheric connectivity

# Fractional anisotropy-weighted Structural connectivity (FAw-SC) Results (EP)

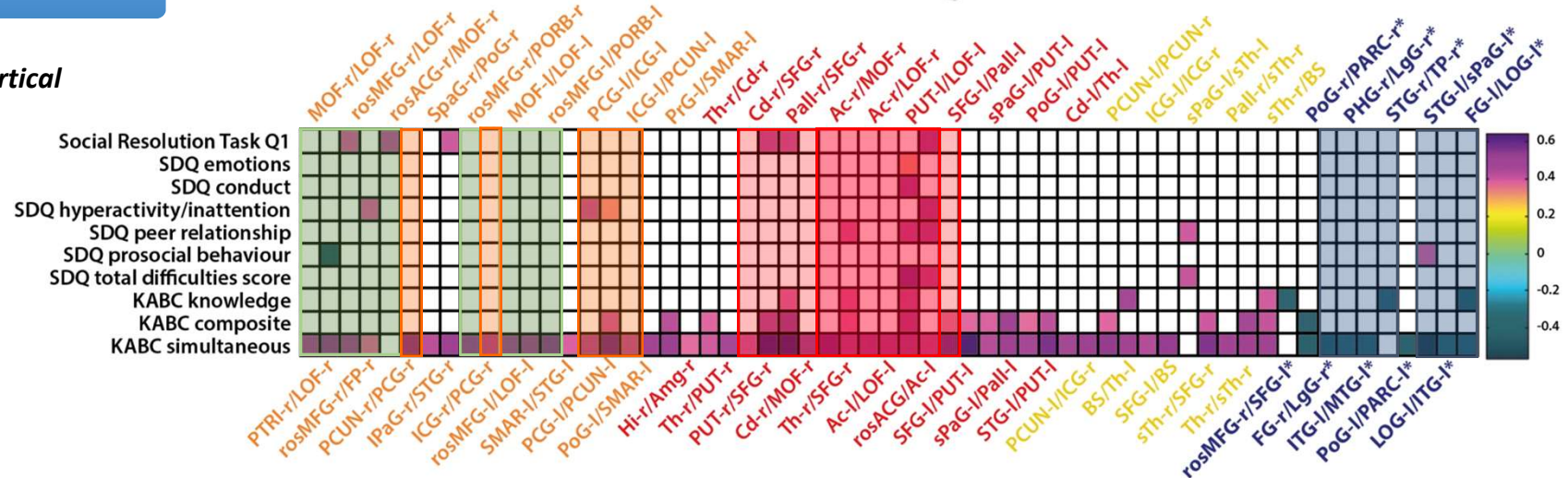
## FAwSC EP < Controls

- Cortico
- Basal ganglia
- Thalamo
- Cortical
- Loop
- Short
- Cortico-cortical
- Brain Stem
- Subthalamic
- Commissural



## FAwSC EP > Controls

- Short
- Cortico-cortical

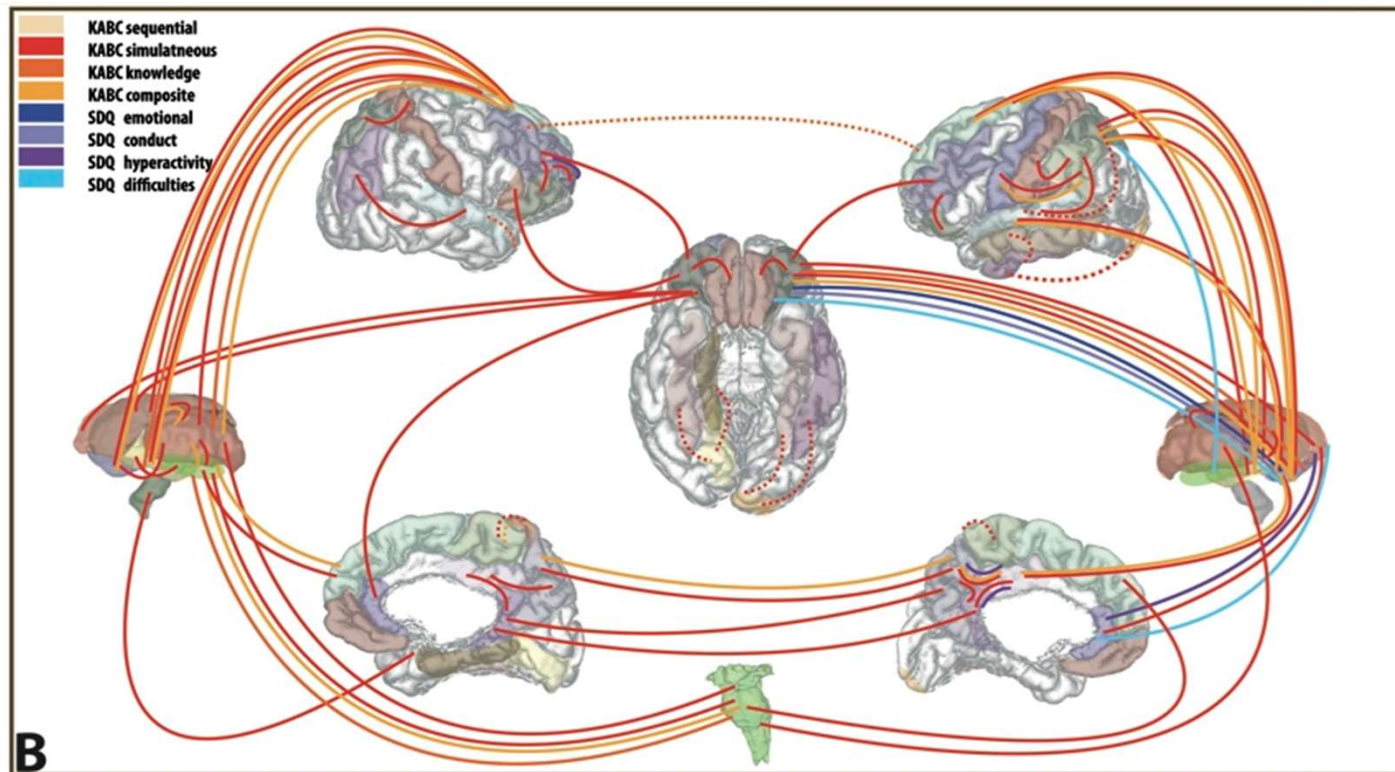


GOMEZ E.F., VASUNG L., et al 2014. Structural brain connectivity in school age preterm infants provides evidence for impaired networks relevant for higher-order cognitive skills and social cognition, *Cerebral Cortex*, in press, doi:10.1093/cercor/bhu073

*Structural brain connectivity in school age preterm infants provides evidence for impaired networks relevant for higher-order cognitive skills and social cognition*

Results (EP)

Cognitive skills



**Schematic drawing of altered connections in EP subjects whose FAW-SC strength correlates with socio-cognitive outcome.**

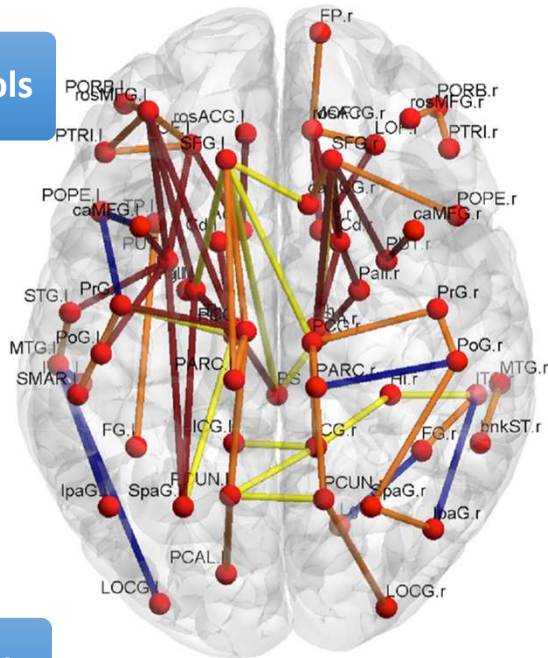
*Dotted lines: negative correlation. Continuous lines: positive correlation.*

*GOMEZ E.F., VASUNG L., et al 2014. Structural brain connectivity in school age preterm infants provides evidence for impaired networks relevant for higher-order cognitive skills and social cognition, Cerebral Cortex, doi:10.1093/cercor/bhu073*

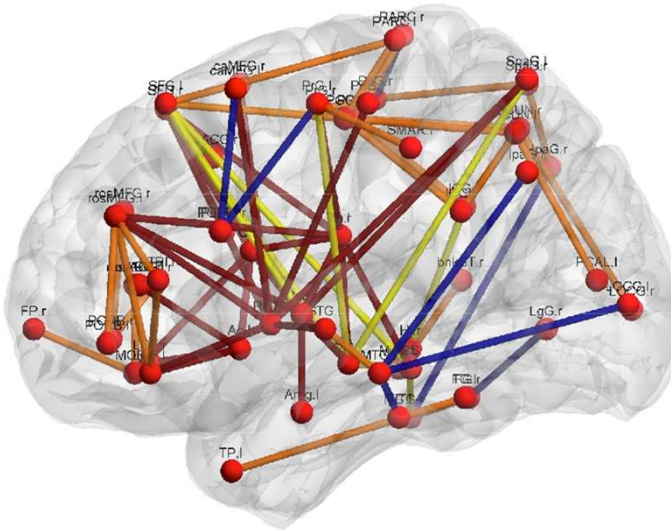


**FAwSC IUGR<Controls**

- Cortico
- Basal ganglia
- Thalamo
- Cortical
- Loop
- Short
- Cortico-cortical
- Brain Stem
- Subthalamic
- Commissural



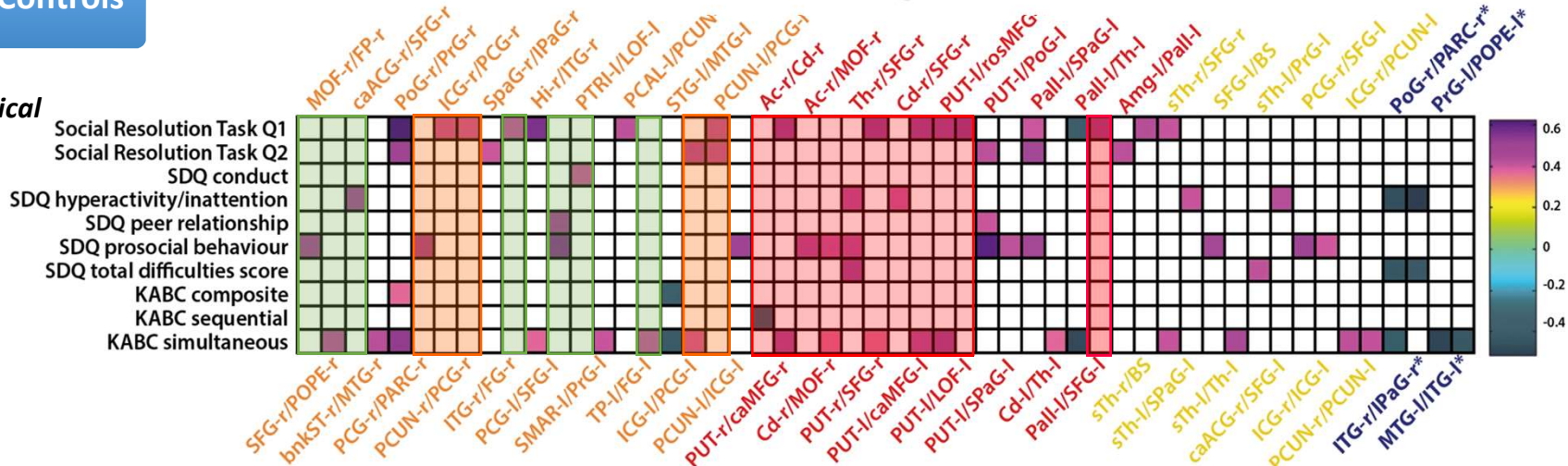
**Fractional anisotropy-weighted Structural connectivity (FAw-SC)**



**Results (IUGR)  
< 10° percentile**

**FAwSC IUGR>Controls**

- Short
- Cortico-cortical

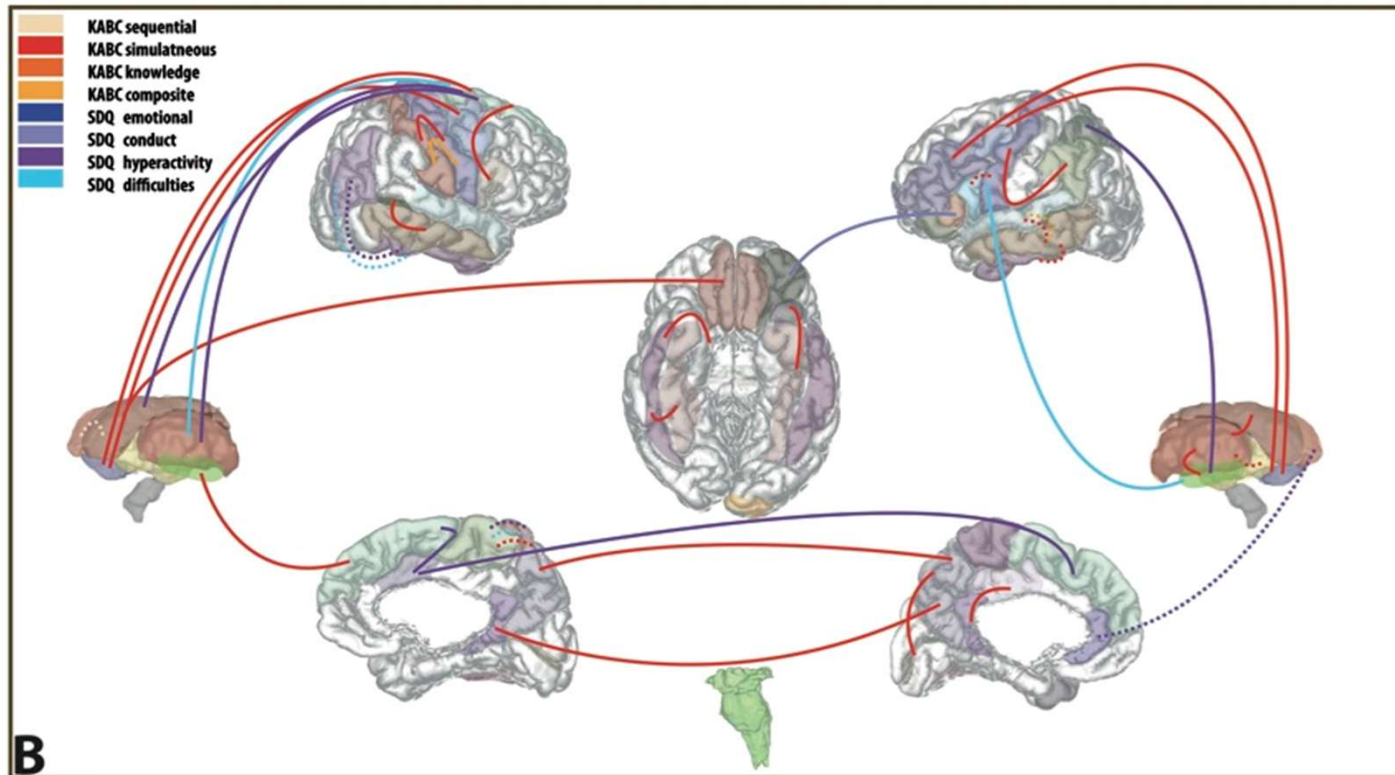


GOMEZ E.F., VASUNG L., et al 2014. Structural brain connectivity in school age preterm infants provides evidence for impaired networks relevant for higher-order cognitive skills and social cognition, *Cerebral Cortex*, in press, doi:10.1093/cercor/bhu073



# Results (IUGR)

## Cognitive skills



**Schematic drawing of altered connections in IUGR subjects whose FAW-SC strength correlates with socio-cognitive outcome.**

*Dotted lines: negative correlation. Continuous lines: positive correlation.*

*GOMEZ E.F., VASUNG L., et al 2014. Structural brain connectivity in school age preterm infants provides evidence for impaired networks relevant for higher-order cognitive skills and social cognition, *Cerebral Cortex*, in press, doi:10.1093/cercor/bhu073*



# THE BRAIN, INTERRUPTED

Babies are increasingly surviving premature birth — but researchers are only beginning to understand the lasting consequences for their mental development.

BY ALISON ABBOTT

*Alison Abbott is Nature's senior European correspondent.*