



Fortbildung Privatklinik Obach 2013  
*Aspekte im Umgang mit Schmerzkrankheiten*

Pathologie rezeptorischer  
Schmerzen  
*and new aspects of pain  
pathophysiology*

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Anesthesiology Dpt, CHUV, Lausanne



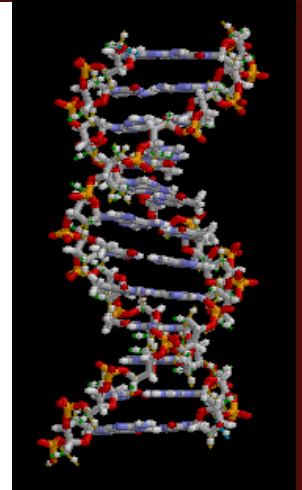
# *Congenital insensitivity to pain*

Gabby



- From Oprah Winfrey's talk show:
- "When she was a baby Gabby started chewing her hand...  
... it looked mangled and nasty, like raw hamburger"
  - > to pull out all of her teeth
- "she poke her own eye out"
  - > to wear protective eye goggles to spare the second eye

# *Rare genetic occurrence?*



- Yes
  - But why is it interesting?
    - Give powerful directions for pathophysiology
    - Patient will soon come to the visit with their exons screened

*...maybe mutations are not so rare*

# Nav1.7 example

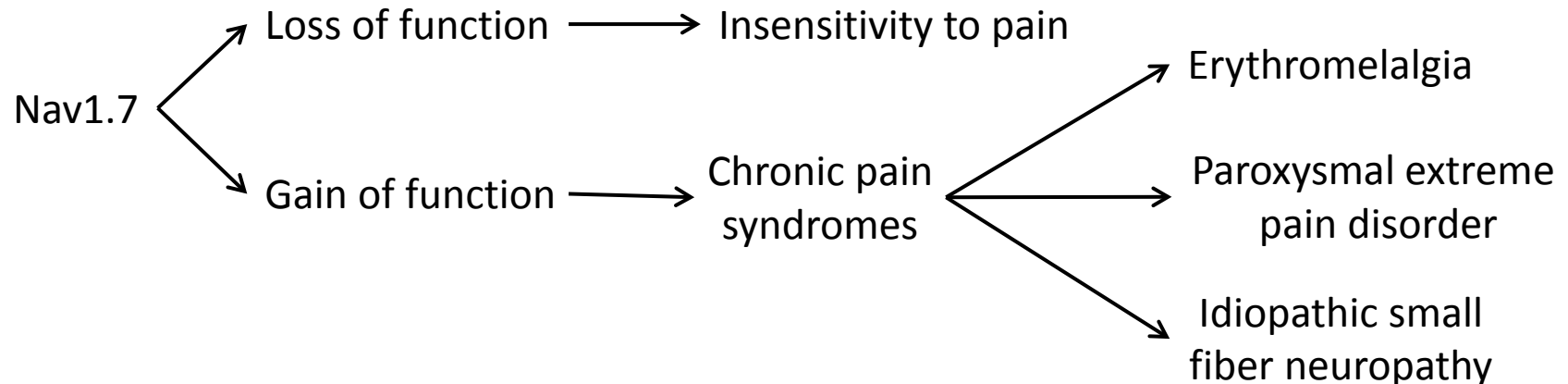
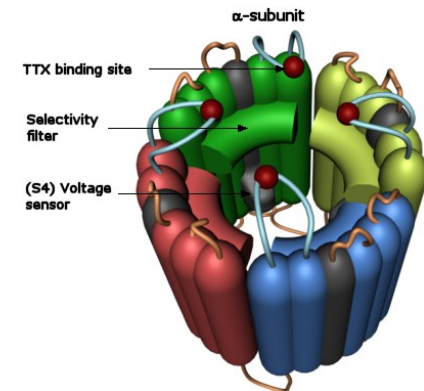
nature

Vol 444 | 14 December 2006 | doi:10.1038/nature05413

## ARTICLES

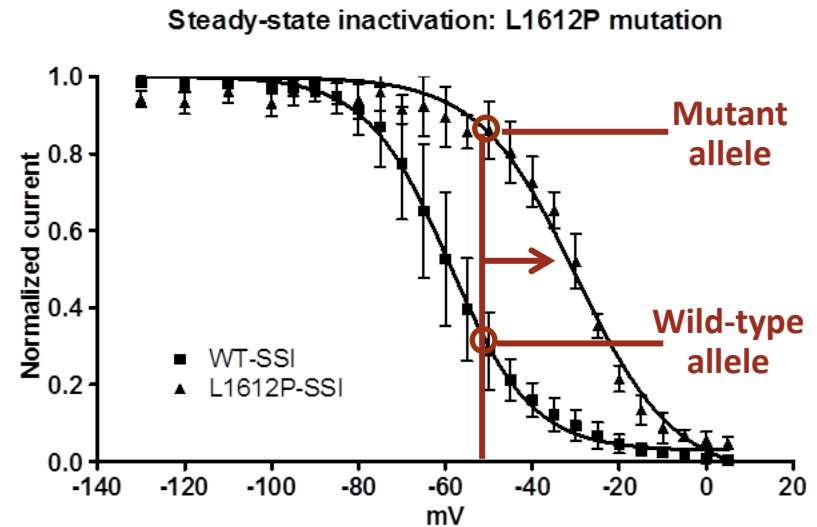
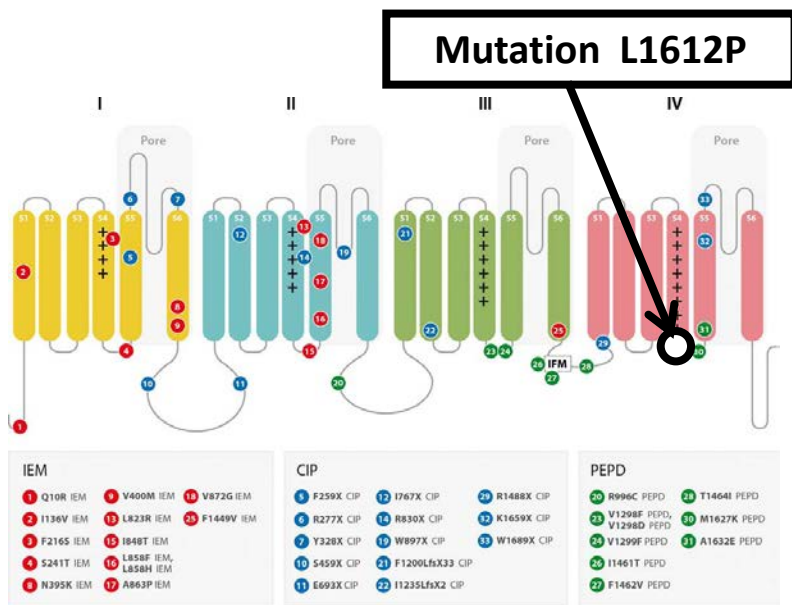
### An SCN9A channelopathy causes congenital inability to experience pain

- Sodium channels
  - Initiation and transmission of action potentials
  - 9 isoforms Nav1.1-9
  - SCN9A for Nav1.7-> mostly on nociceptors



# And even locally mutated

- Newly described mutation in the Nav1.7 gene:
  - In a family from Lausanne
  - Suffering from PEPD, currently followed at the CHUV
  - Translational study with in vitro hyperexcitability



Coll: Dr C. Wider, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, CHUV



# Magic bullet on Nav1.7?

## Toxins

*ProTx-II*

Tarantula: *Thrixopelma pruriens*



From last month:  
Centipede



**Discovery of a selective Nav1.7 inhibitor from centipede venom with analgesic efficacy exceeding morphine in rodent pain models**

Shilong Yang<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Yao Xiao<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Di Kang<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Jie Liu<sup>a,b</sup>, Yuan Li<sup>a,b</sup>, Eivind A. B. Undheim<sup>c</sup>, Julie K. Klint<sup>c</sup>, Mingqiang Rong<sup>a,2</sup>, Ren Lai<sup>a,2</sup>, and Glenn F. King<sup>c,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Key Laboratory of Animal Models and Human Disease Mechanisms, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Yunnan Province, Kunming 650223, Yunnan, China; <sup>b</sup>Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100009, China; and <sup>c</sup>Division of Chemistry and Structural Biology, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, QLD 4072, Australia

Edited\* by Baldomero M. Olivera, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, and approved September 4, 2013 (received for review April 3, 2013)

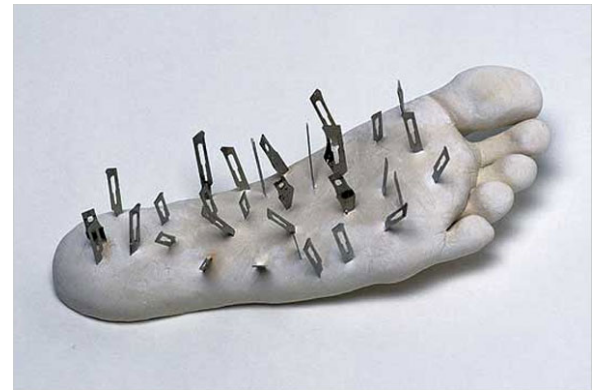
PNAS

# Definition of pain

- IASP – International Association for the Study of Pain
- Defines pain as:

“an unpleasant **sensory** and **emotional** experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage”

2 dimensions





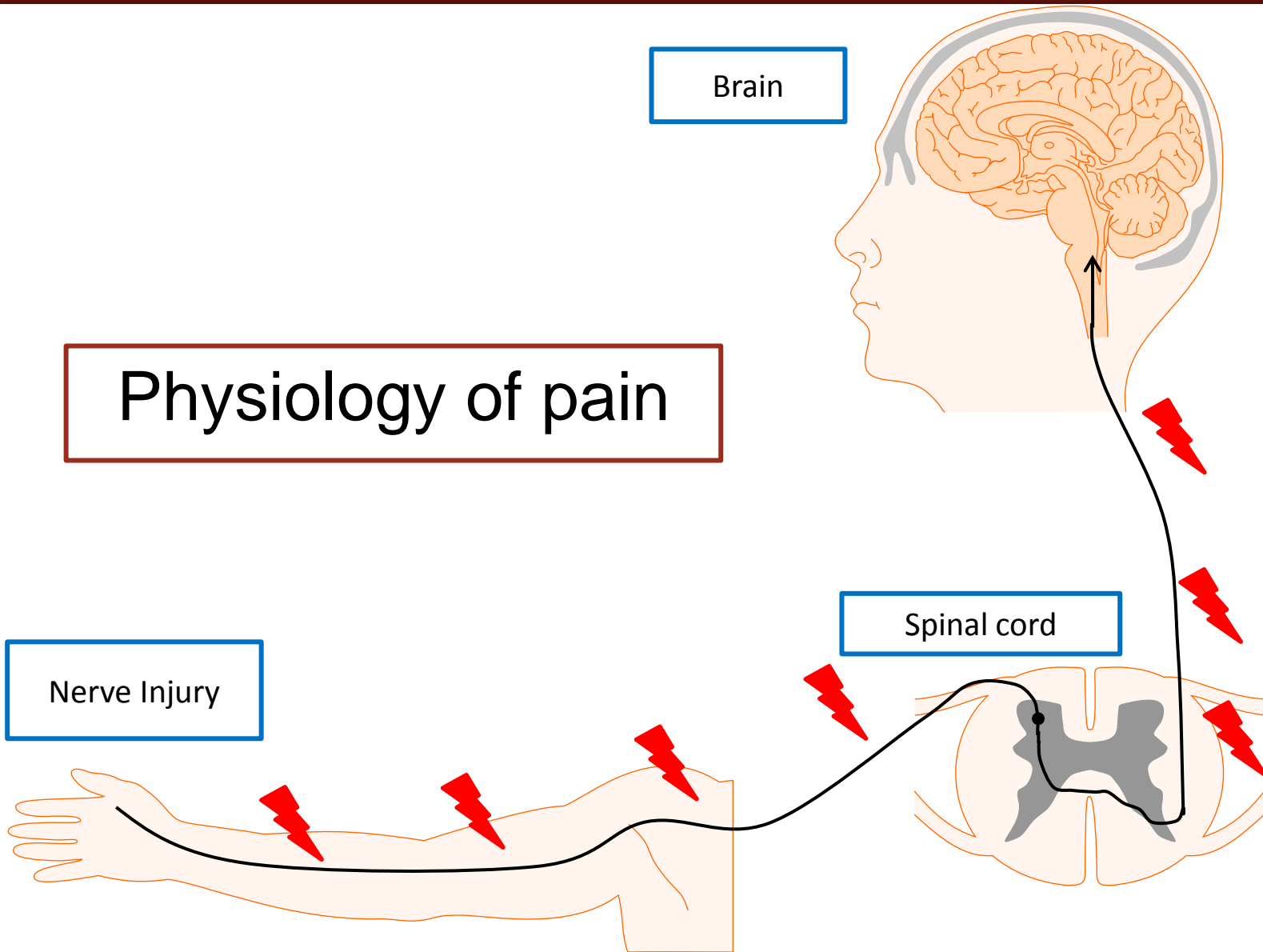


# Physiology of pain

Brain

Spinal cord

Nerve Injury



# Peripheral receptors

## Stimulus

## Various nature



TRPV1  
TRPV2

Heat



TRPM8  
TRPA1

Cold

Thermosensitivity



DEG/ENaC  
DRASIC  
TREK-1  
TRPN1

Mechanical

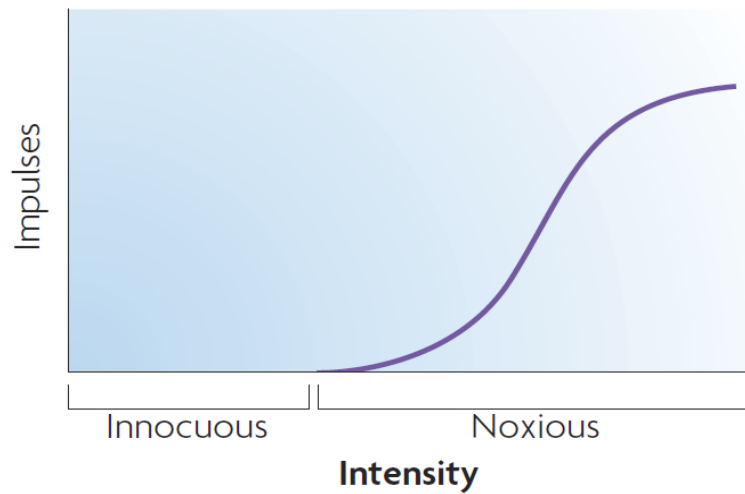


ASICs  
P2X3

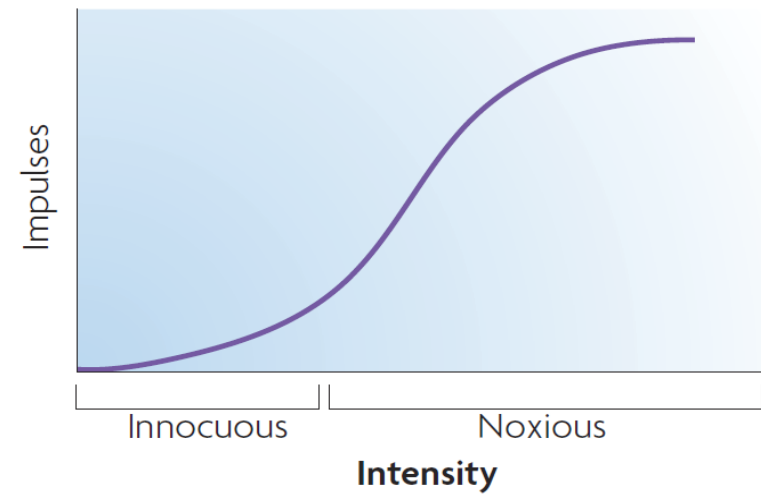
Chemical

Specificity is not a  
general principle

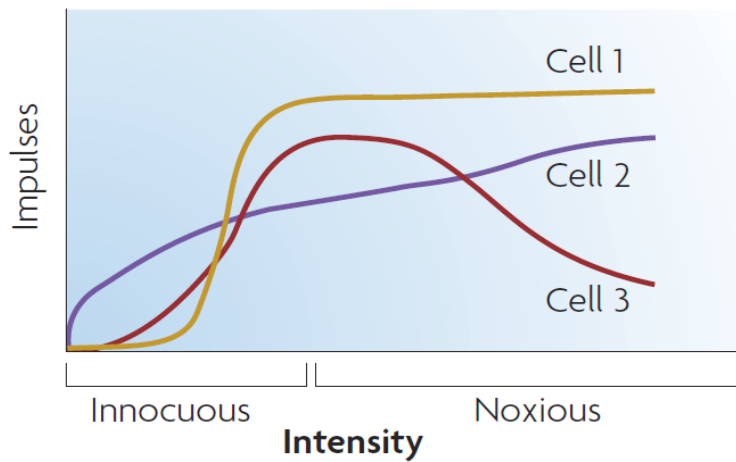
### Specificity theory



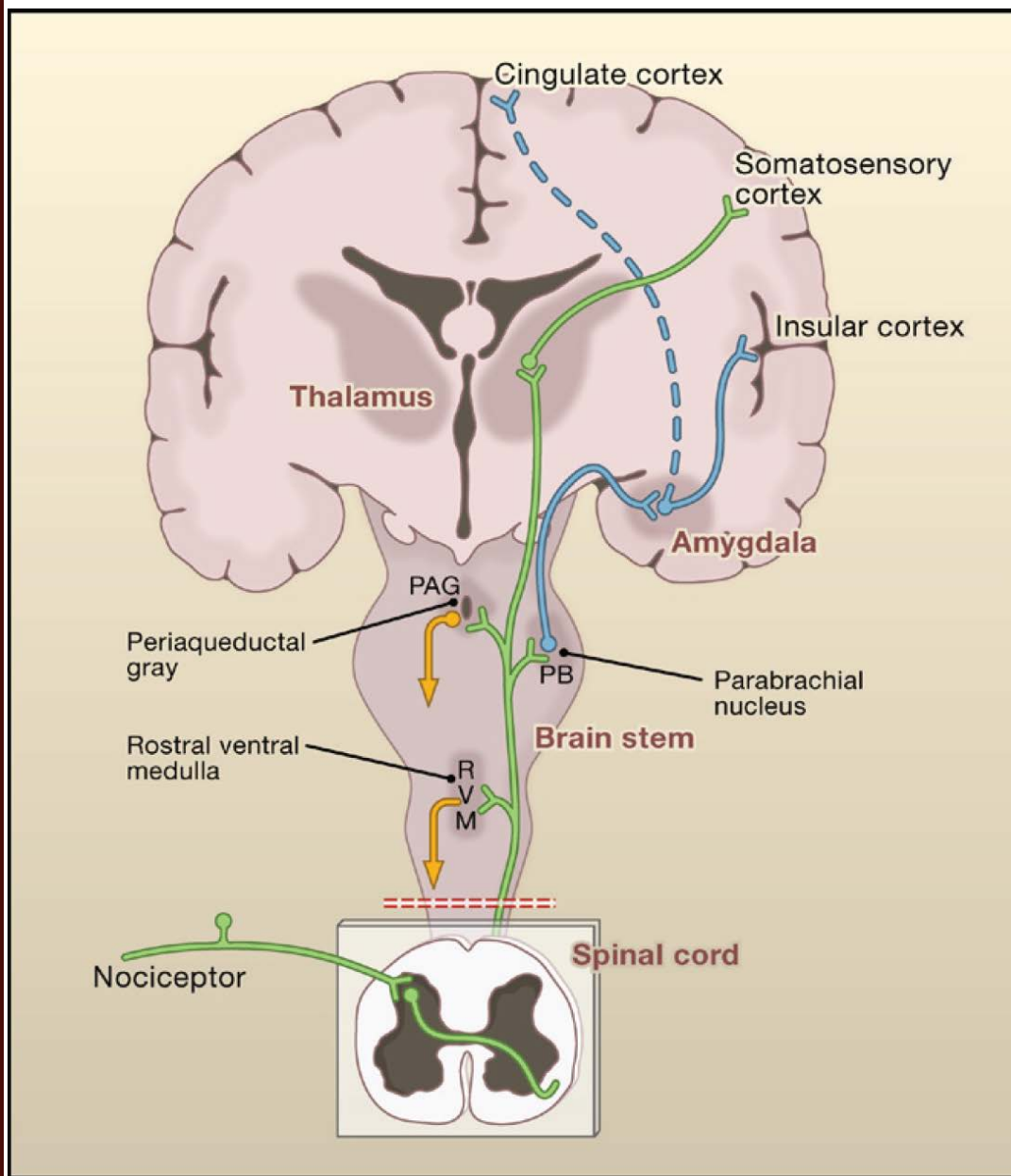
### Intensity theory



### Pattern theory

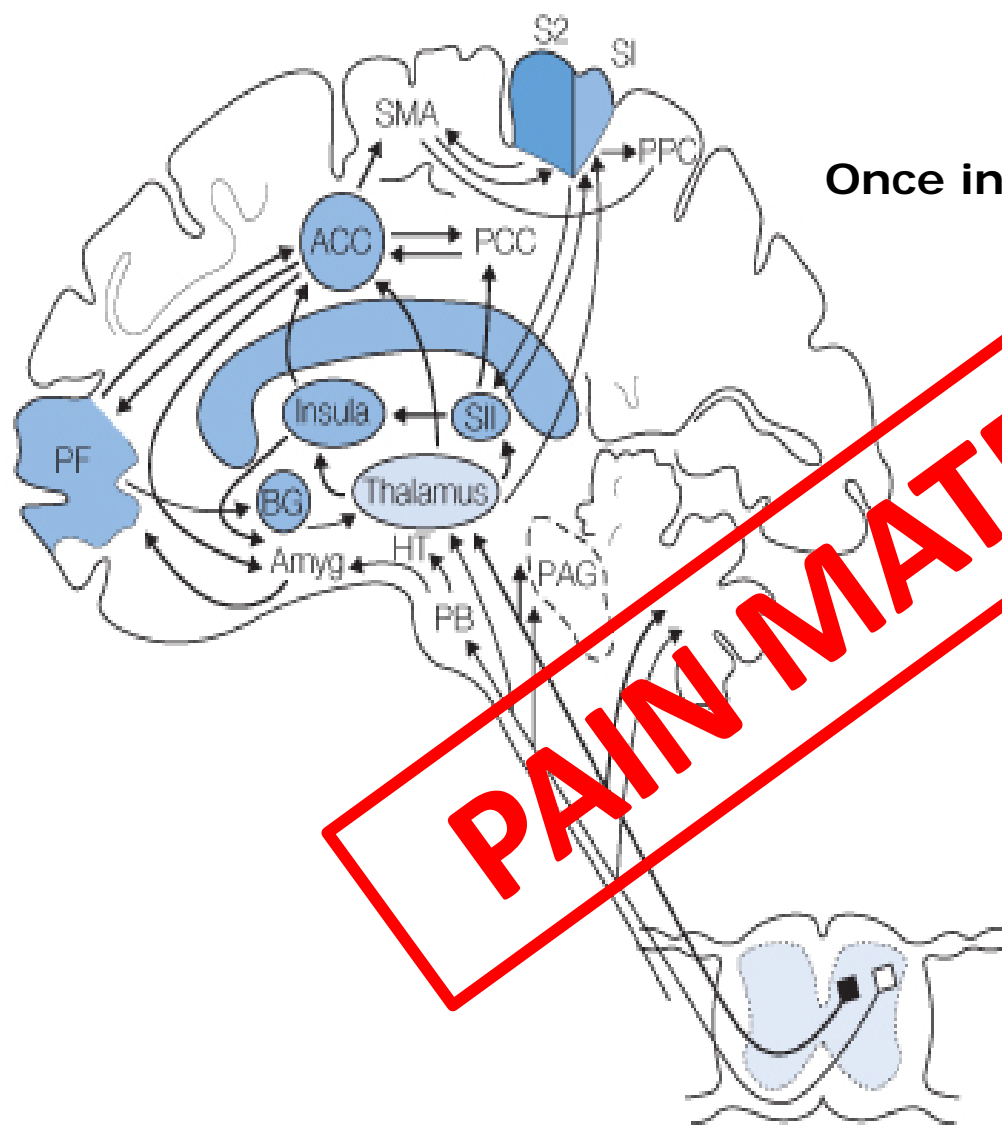


- Receptors are polymodal
- Different receptors on same fibers



## ***Anatomy of pain***

- Nociceptor  
to spinal cord
- Secondary neuron  
to thalamus
- Third neuron  
to cortex
- Also...  
descending pathways



Once in the brain.....

**PAIN MATRIX**



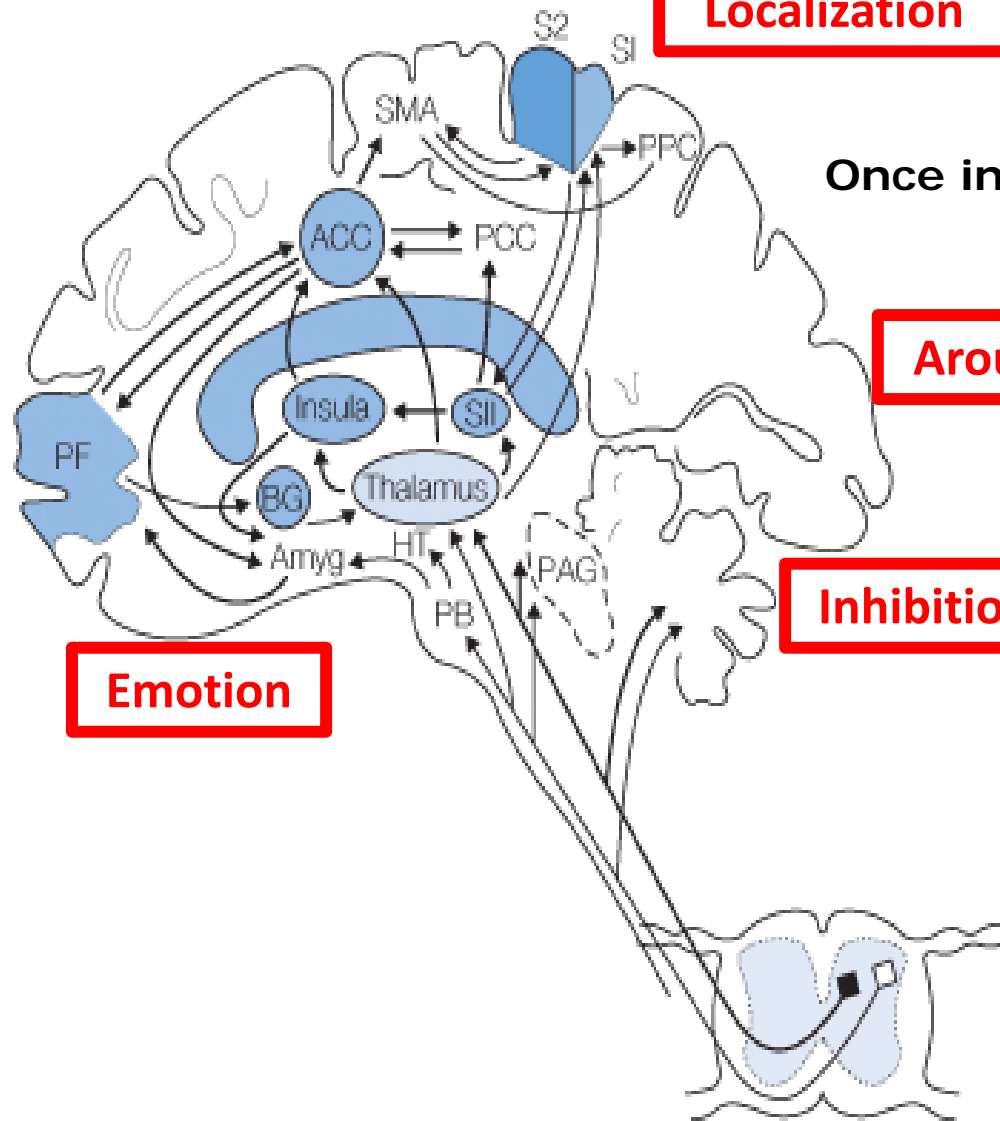
**Localization**

Once in the brain.....

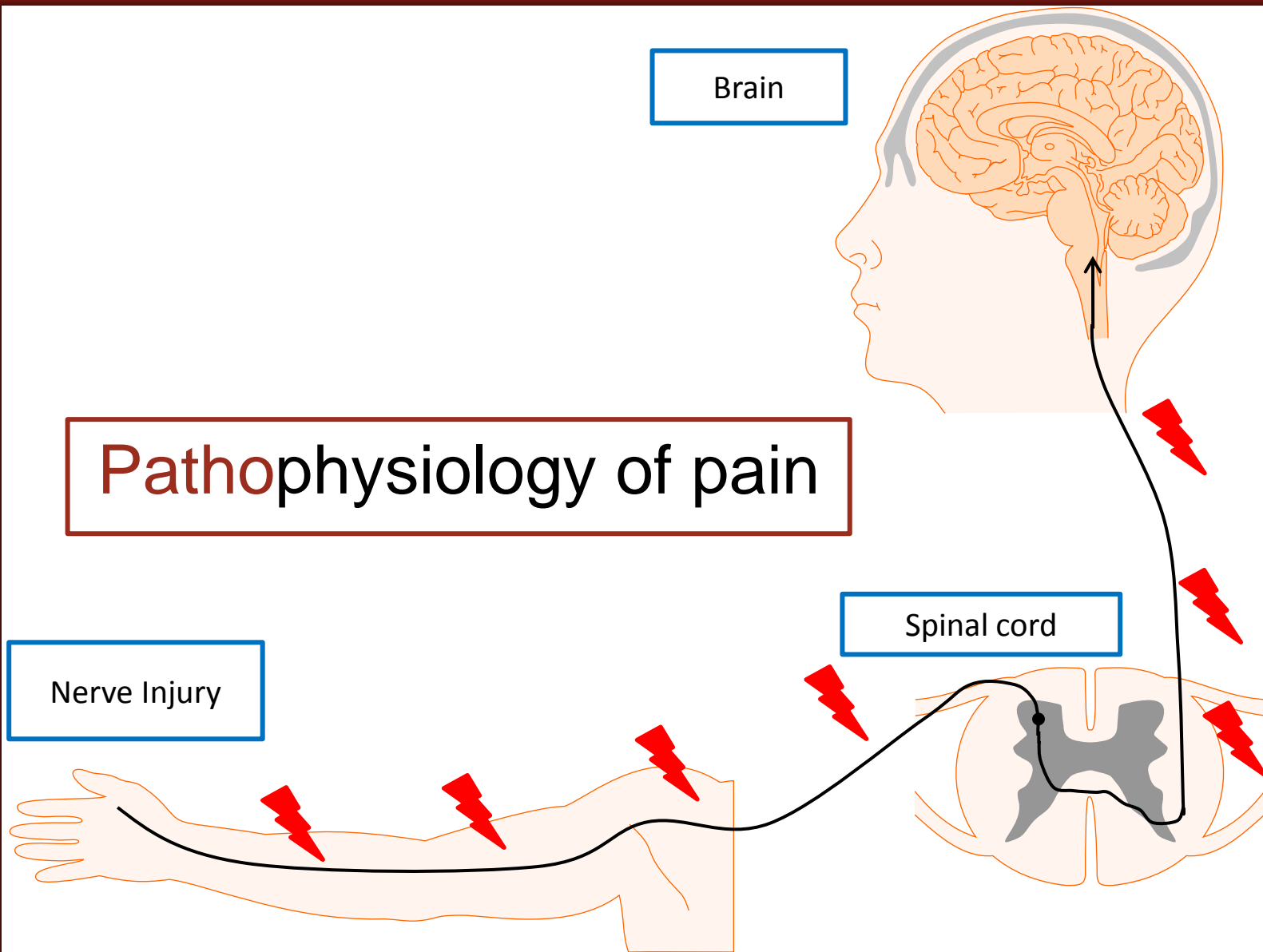
**Arousal**

**Inhibition**

**Emotion**



# Pathophysiology of pain



# ***What are new mechanisms?***

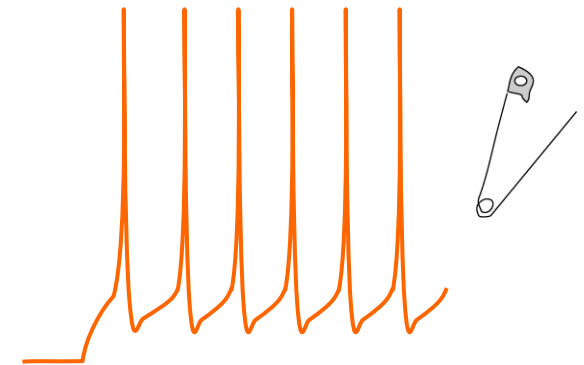
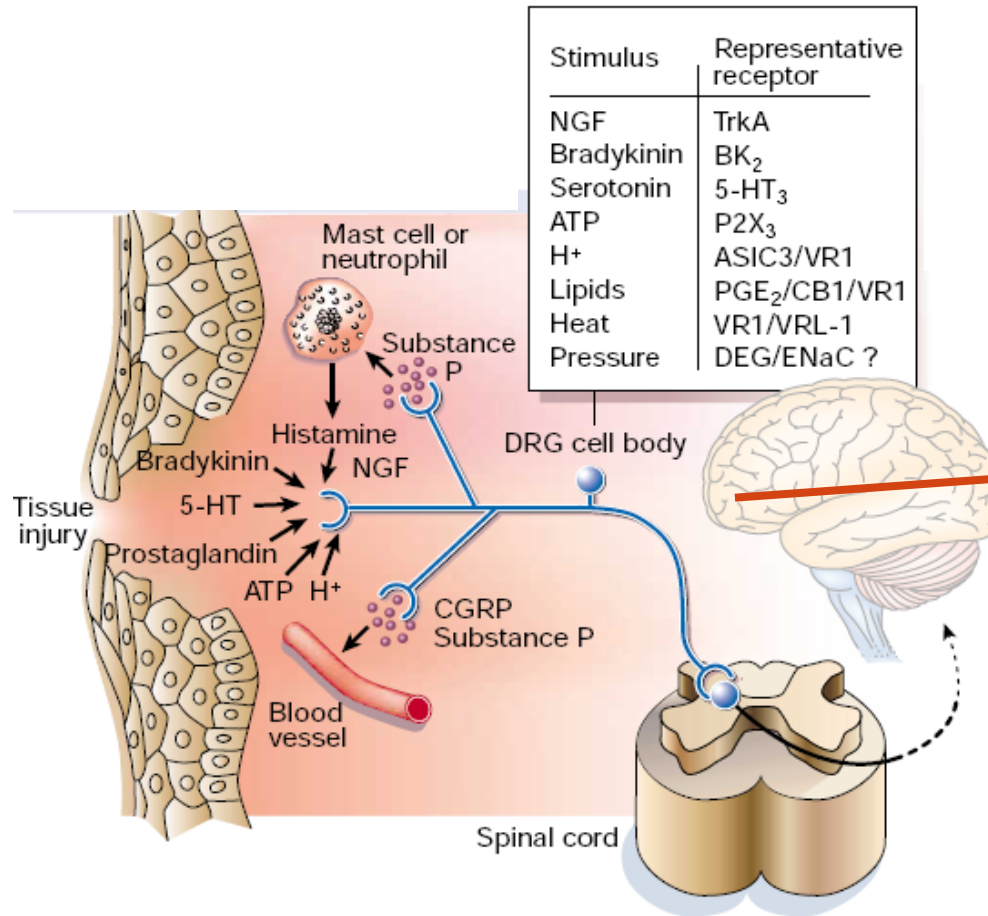
## Mechanisms of neuropathic pain

Sensitization processes

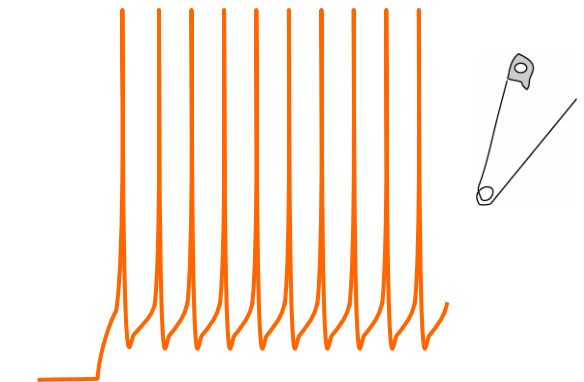
Microglial activation

Disinhibition

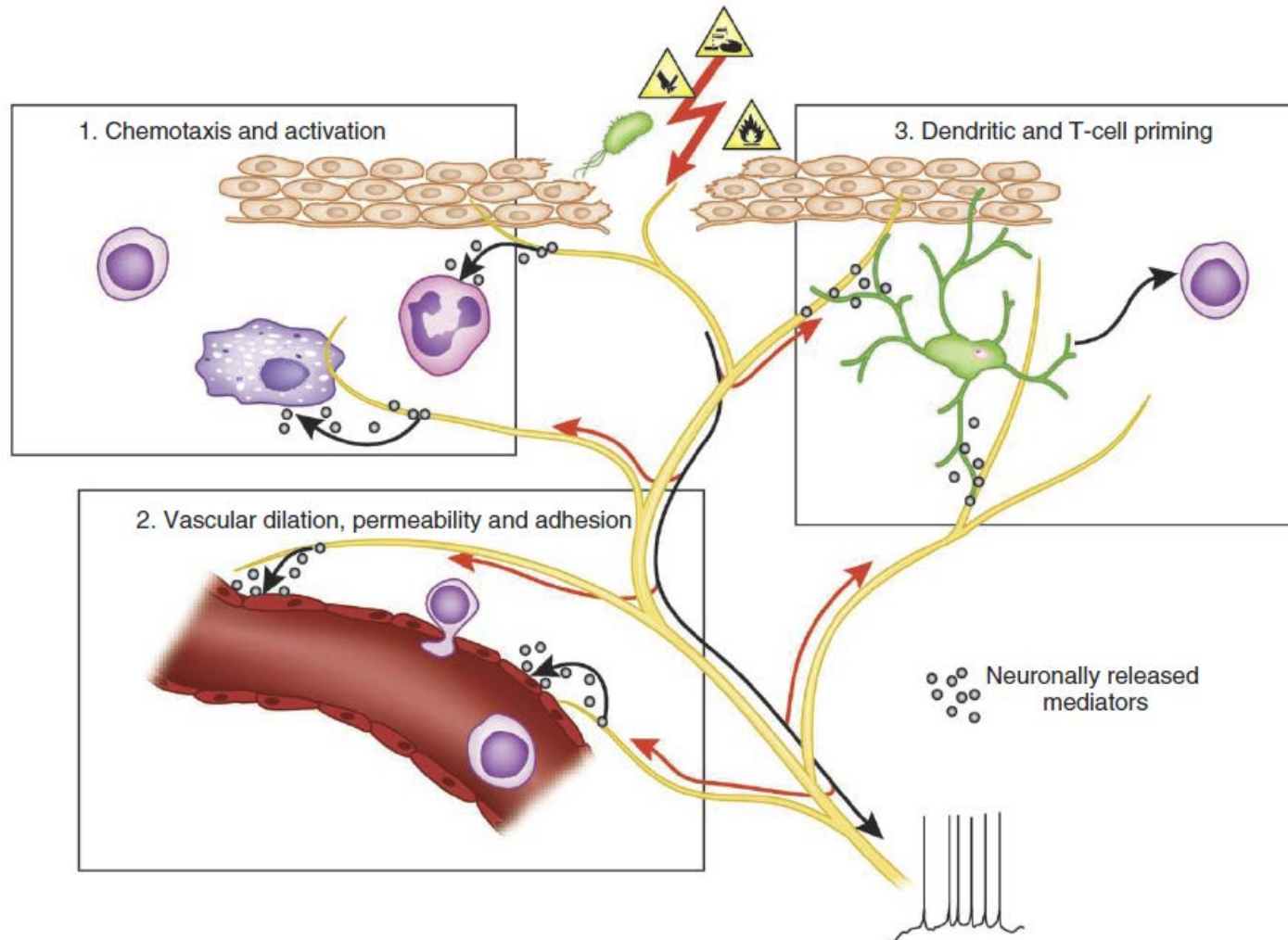
# Peripheral sensitization



**After a lesion**

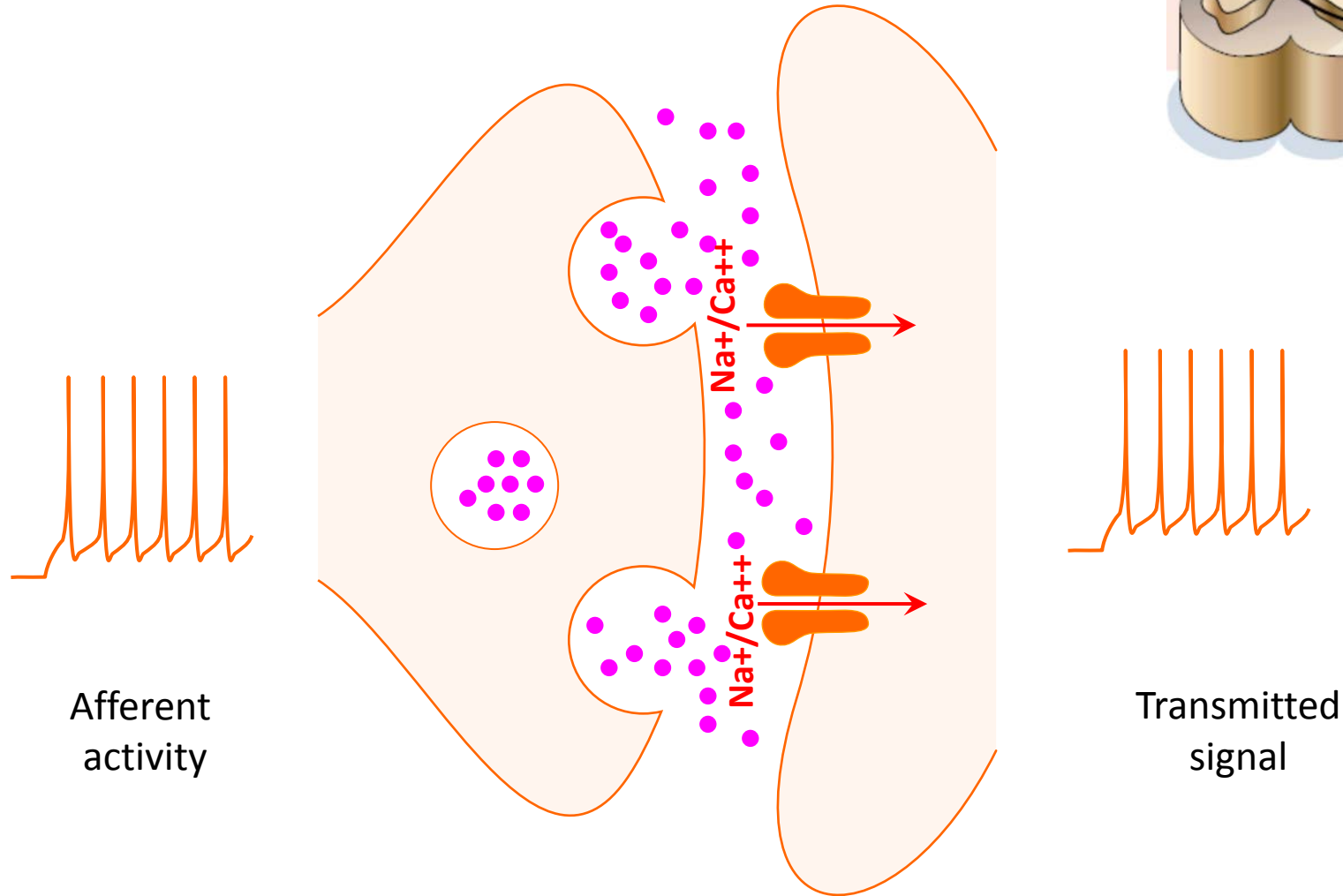


# Neurogenic inflammation and neuroimmune interaction



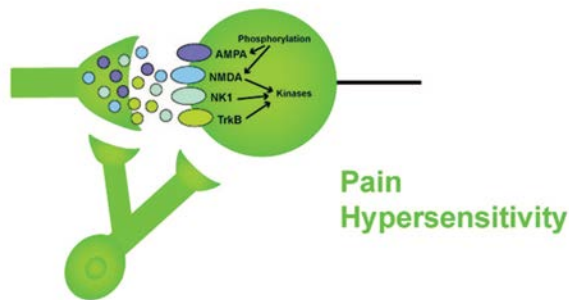


# Transmission -> spinal cord

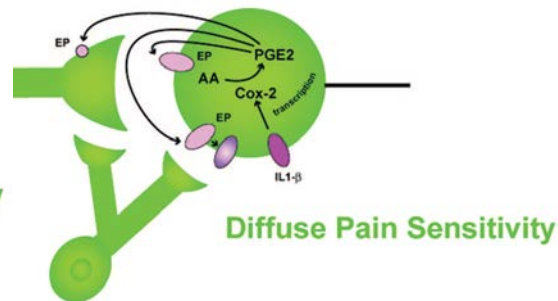


# Central sensitization

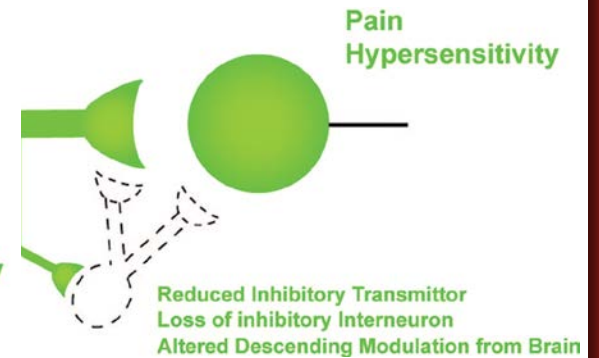
Acute phase



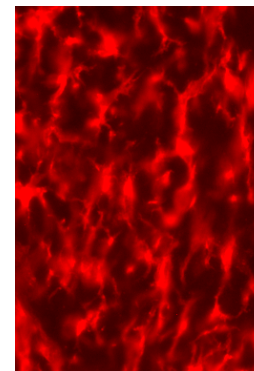
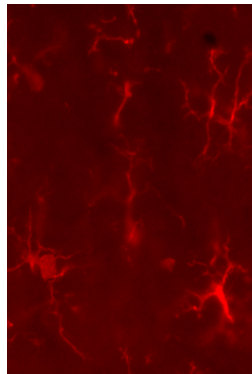
Late phase



Dishinhibition



And microglial activation....



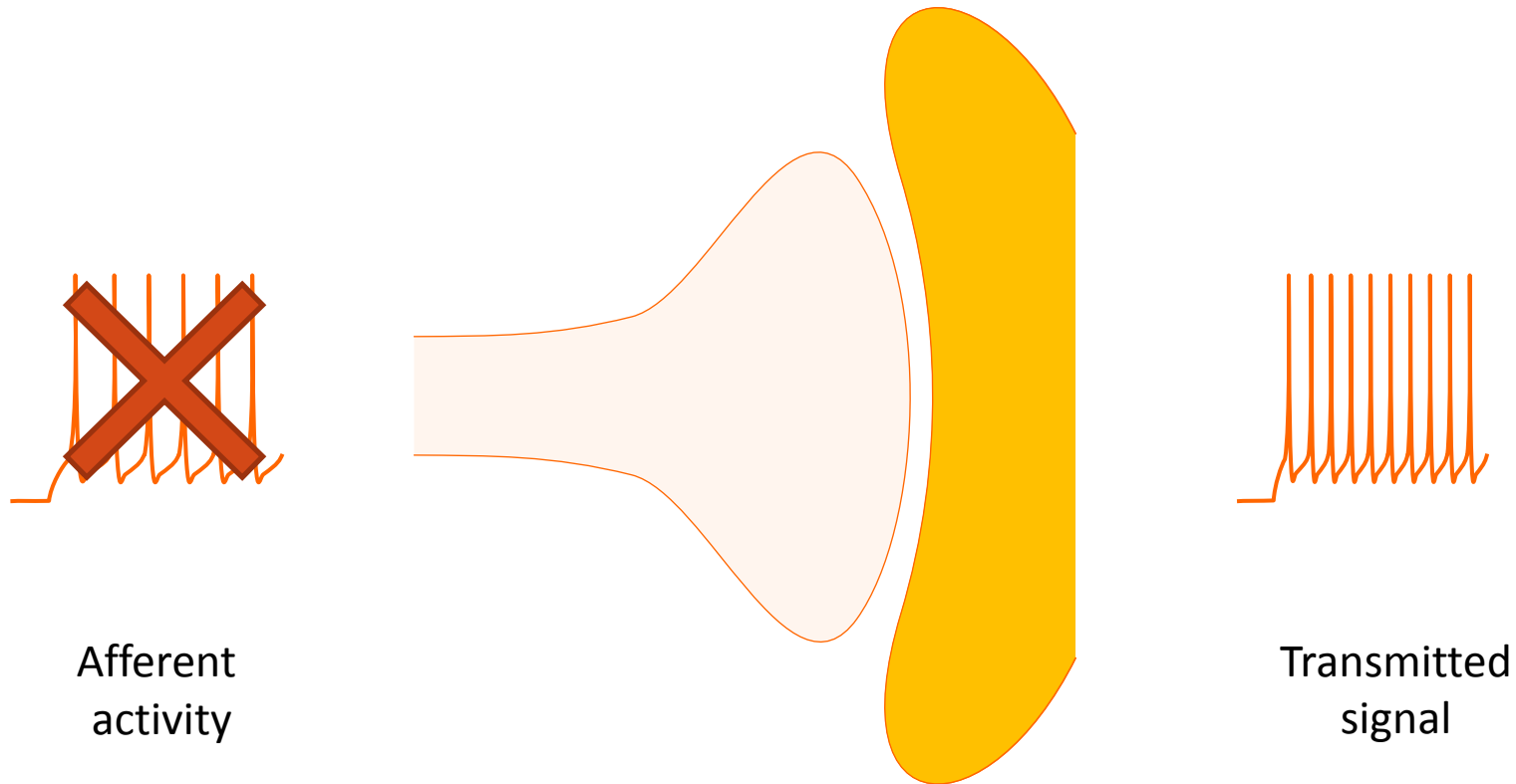
# Normal transmission



## Increased gain through central sensitization



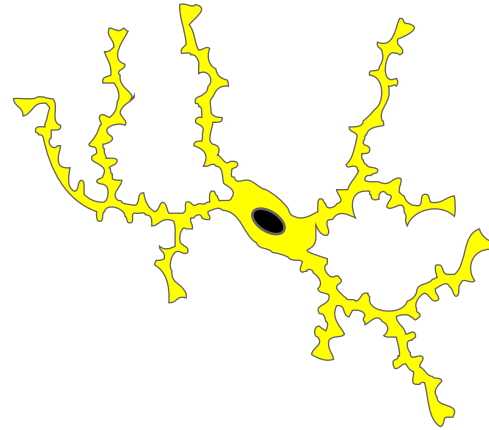
# Increased gain through central sensitization





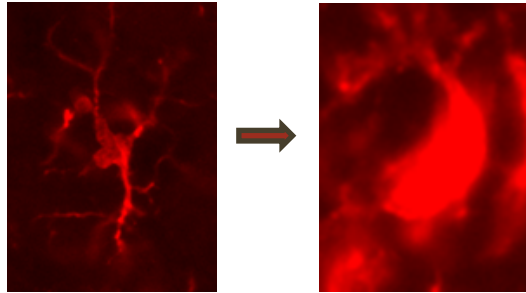
# Glia – glial cells - neuroglia

- Non-neuronal cells
  - Maintain homeostasis
  - Form myelin
  - Provide support and protection
- Divided into
  - Microglia:
    - Derived from the monocyte-macrophage lineage
    - Invade the CNS during the embryonic period
  - Macroglia:
    - Astrocytes and oligodendrocyte mainly



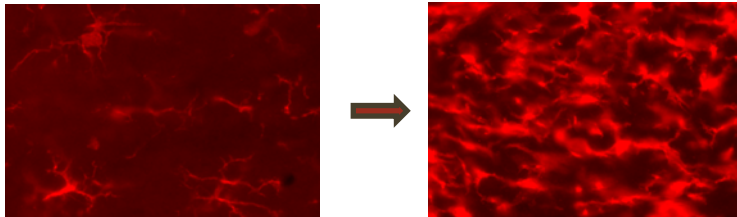
# ***"Activation" of microglia in the spinal cord***

## **Morphology**

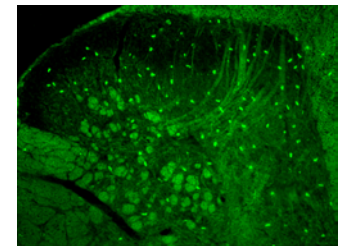
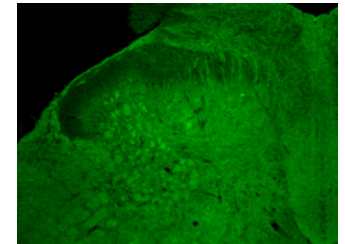


**Microglial changes 2 days  
after sciatic nerve injury**

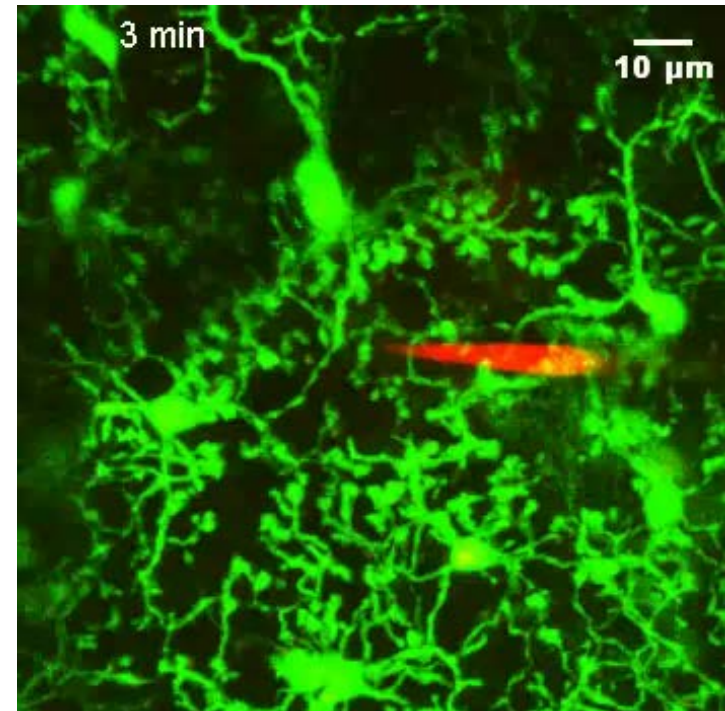
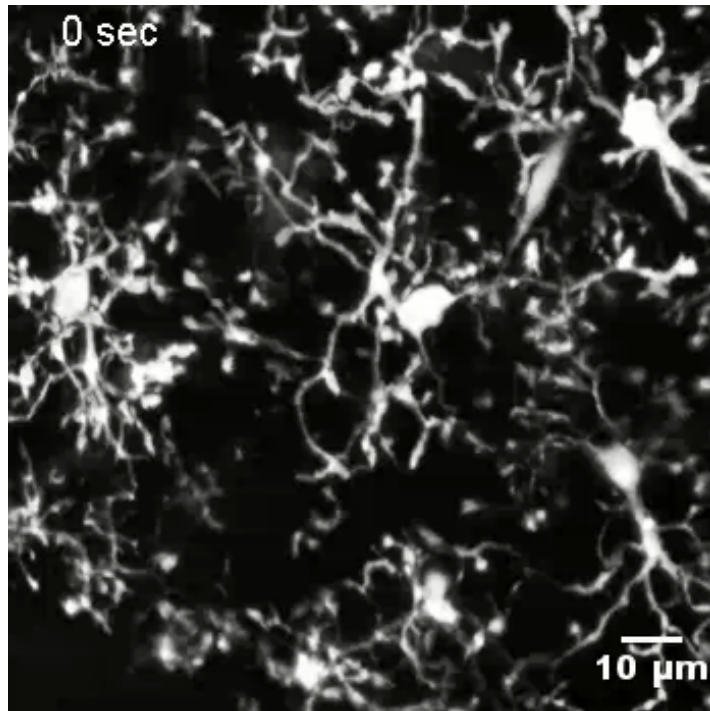
## **Marker**



## **Proliferation**

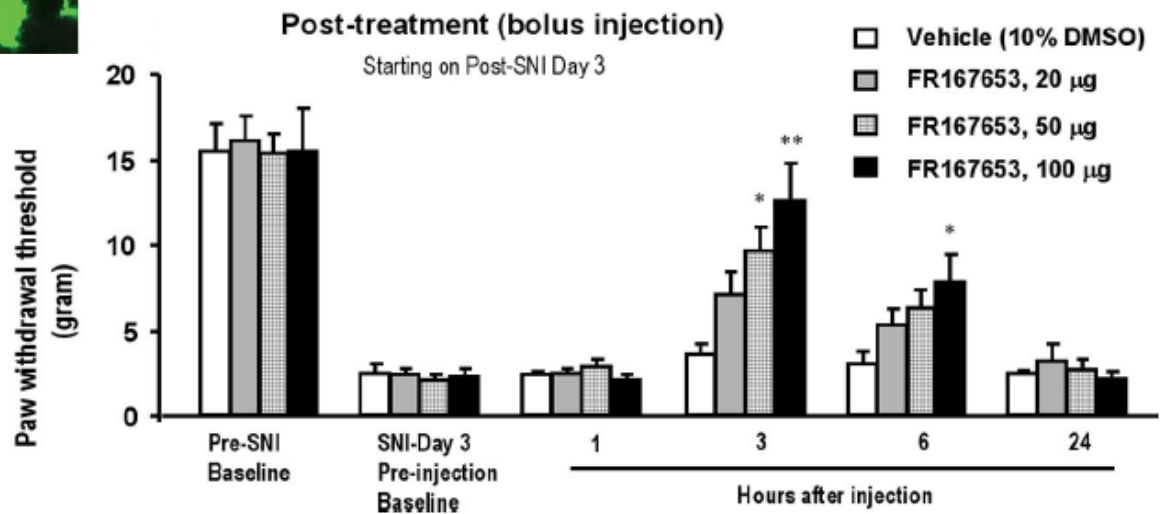
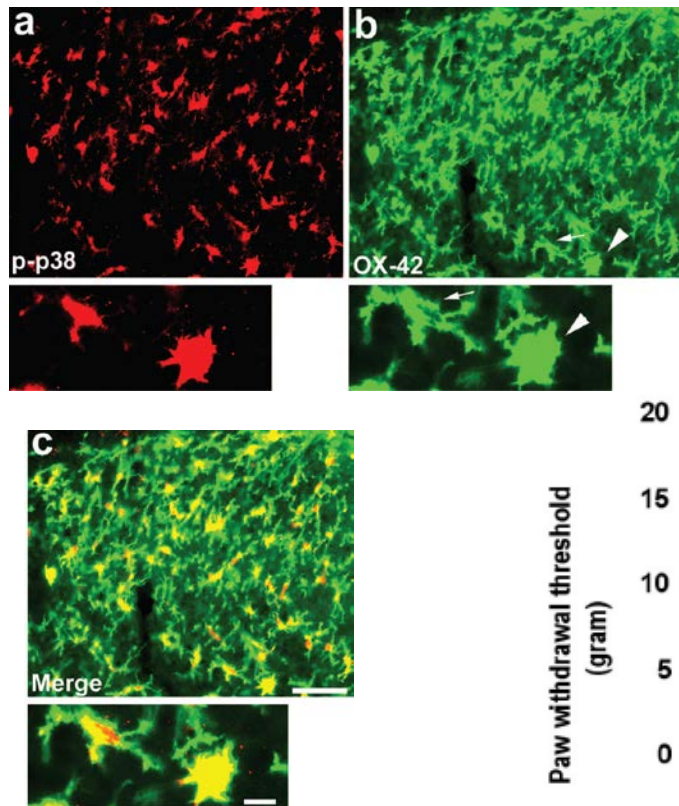


# Surveilling versus reactive?





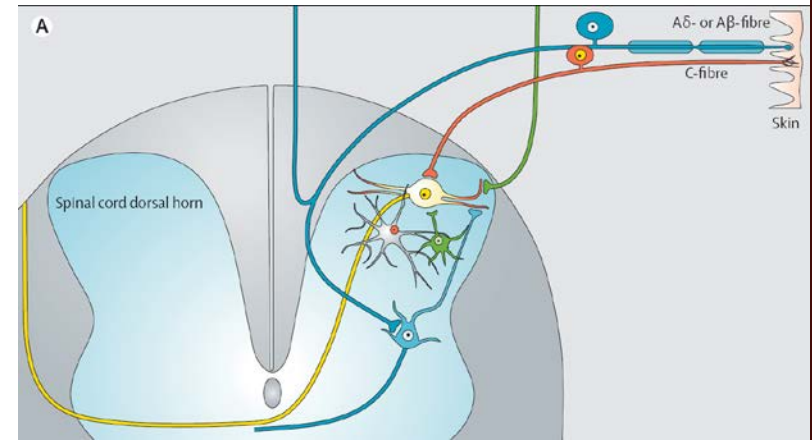
# *p38 inhibition relieves neuropathic pain*





# Summary of mechanisms

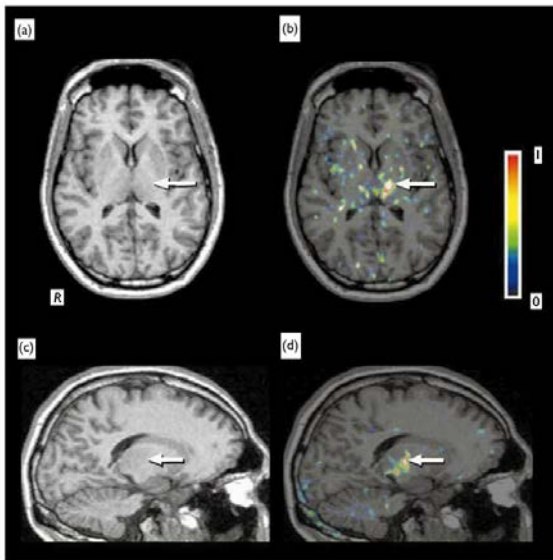
- **Peripheral sensitization**
  - Hyperexcitability
- **Central sensitization**
  - Increased excitability in DH neuron
  - Decreased inhibition
    - Death / dysregulation of inhibitory neurons
    - Modulation of descending inhibition
  - Glial activation
    - Microglia
    - Astrocytes



# Microglia in human?

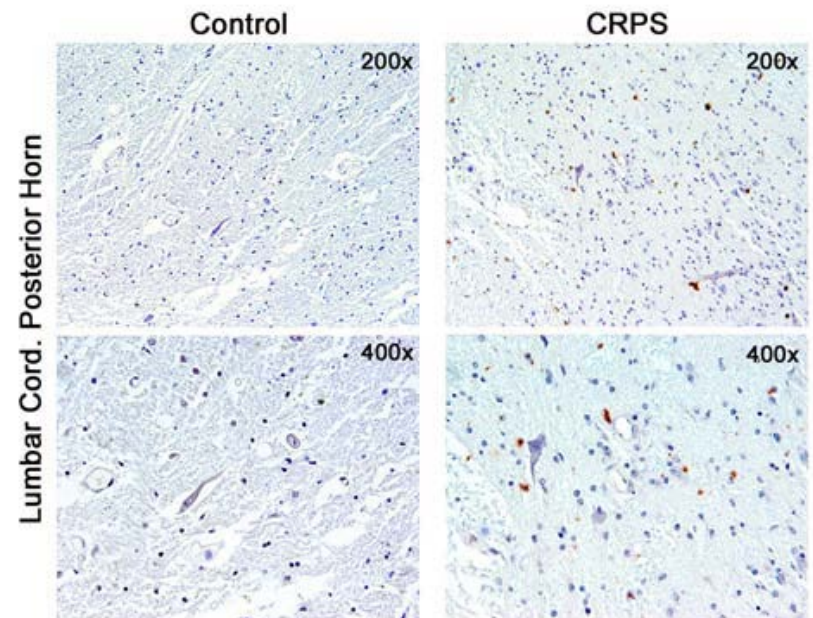
## PET imaging, $^{11}\text{C}$ -PK111957

- Patients with nerve injury
- Thalamus contralateral
- Up to 2 decades
- Nerve injury vs pain?



## Autopsy study

- Increase microglial staining (CD68)
- Maximum in ipsilateral side of lumbar dorsal horn
- CRPS
  - (complex regional pain syndrome)



# ***Microglia in human?***

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- Is microglia activated in human?
  - Not clearly demonstrated in pain
  - But in other neurodegenerative diseases
- Treatment?
  - Minocycline: currently used to treat acne
    - Proved efficient in animal pain models
    - Clinical trials ongoing for neurological diseases
  - For pain:
    - Martinez V, *Pain* 2013
      - Lumbar discectomy, not efficient on pain reduction at 3 months
      - maybe subgroup analysis
    - Sumracki NM, *PlosOne* 2013
      - Reduction of pain in sciatica, tendency, 18 patients
    - Postoperative intercostal neuralgia (3/2011) ([clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov))

# ***Clinical studies, p38***

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- Dilmapimod
  - Phase II, reduced average daily pain vs placebo
  - Anand P, *European Journal of Pain* 2011
- Losmapimod
  - 2 Phase II studies
    - No alleviation in patients with lumbosacral pain
    - No significant reduction in patients with peripheral nerve injury
      - Ostefeld T, *European Journal of Pain* 2013

# *Thoughts to conclude ...*

- We know quite a lot
  - But we are very poor with treatment
- Why?
  - Translation to human
    - Same mechanisms?
      - Not yet much info about microglia in human
  - Wrong treatment to the wrong person
    - Mechanism-based therapy
  - No drug available
    - Drugs used in lab are not for clinic
      - Minocycline unspecific and maybe not best microglia blocker

CHUV & UNIL Lausanne

Pain Center

Anesthesiology Dpt

- Isabelle Decosterd

Head of department

Christian Kern

Thank you

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Swiss Society Anesthesiology

Duke University

Medical Center

(Former: Harvard  
Medical School)

- Ru-Rong Ji

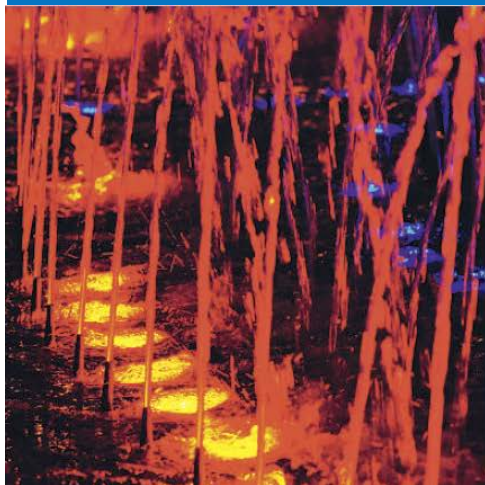


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Swiss Medical Forum 23.11.2011

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Supplément n° 57

**Douleurs neuropathiques chroniques**

Recommandations du groupe de travail (Special Interest Group, SIG)  
de la Société Suisse pour l'Etude de la Douleur (SSED)

Susanne Renaud, Marie Besson, Christine Cedraschi, Gunther Landmann,  
Marc R. Suter, Ethan Taub, Ulrich Buettner