

**FINDING OF MYELIN ENERGETIC FUNCTION
SUPPORTING THE AXONAL NERVOUS CONDUCTION:
PERSPECTIVES IN NEUROLOGY.**

Neurology 2015 – Rome, july 2015 – 28

Alessandro Morelli – University of Genova (www.biochemlab.it)

1)

ATP Production in the mitochondria and in the myelin



Mitochondria (and thylacoid disks) are considered the exclusive site of aerobic ATP synthesis. Is it true?

It is well known that *in vitro* mitochondria produce few ATP and that there is the need to energize them with pyruvate (and to add cyclosporin-A, etc.), which seems anomalous.

Moreover other cellular processes (DNA duplication, proteic synthesis, etc.) can proceed *in vitro* with the same if not higher efficiency than *in vivo*.

The ATP production in mitochondria, isolated from several cell types with, in the best experimental conditions, is about

7- 8 nmol ATP /min / mg protein

Overall Oxygen (atomic) consumption for a tissue (muscle at rest) is

3 nmole/min/mg prot.

With a P/O ratio = 2,36 the ATP production is:

~7 nmol ATP /min / mg protein

So muscle should be made only by mitochondria...

Otherwise...

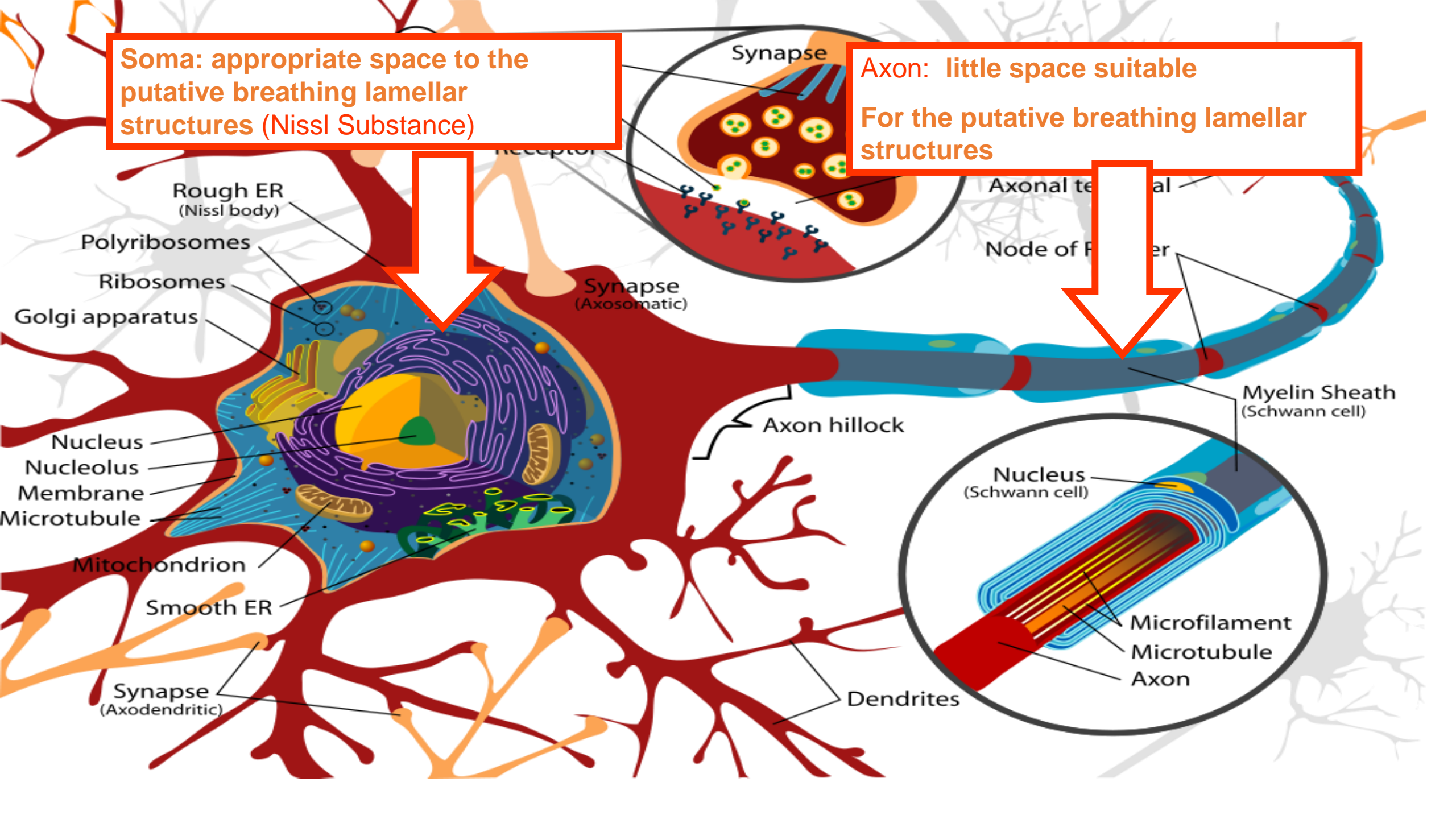
- **Considering that brain consumes much more oxygen than the other tissues it must have a great mitochondrial number. Instead...:**

Neuronal mitochondria:

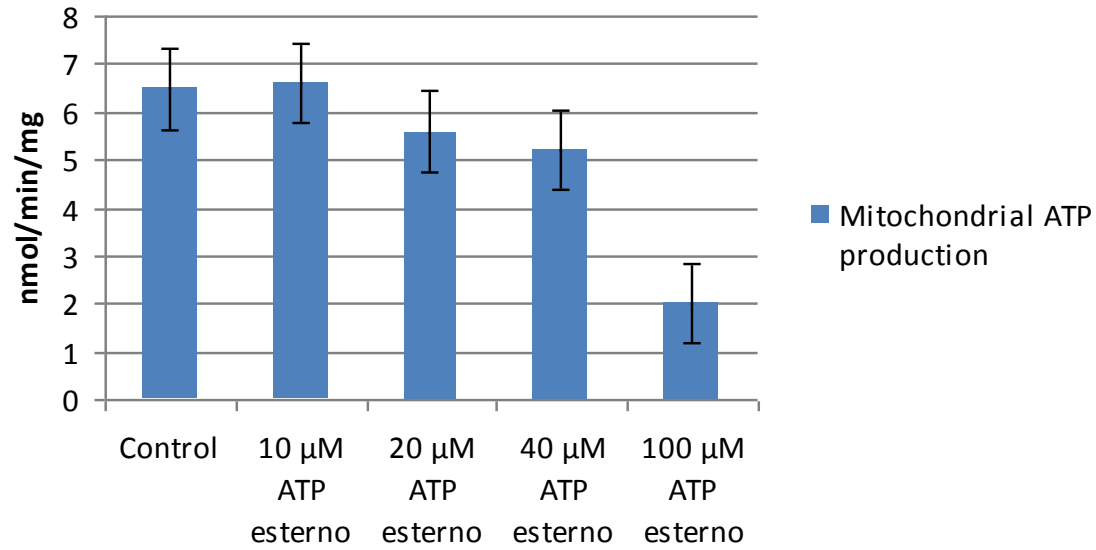
- **Are *fewer* than in the other tissues.**
- **Have *smaller* dimensions.**
- **Have *smaller* cristal surface.**

Soma: appropriate space to the putative breathing lamellar structures (Nissl Substance)

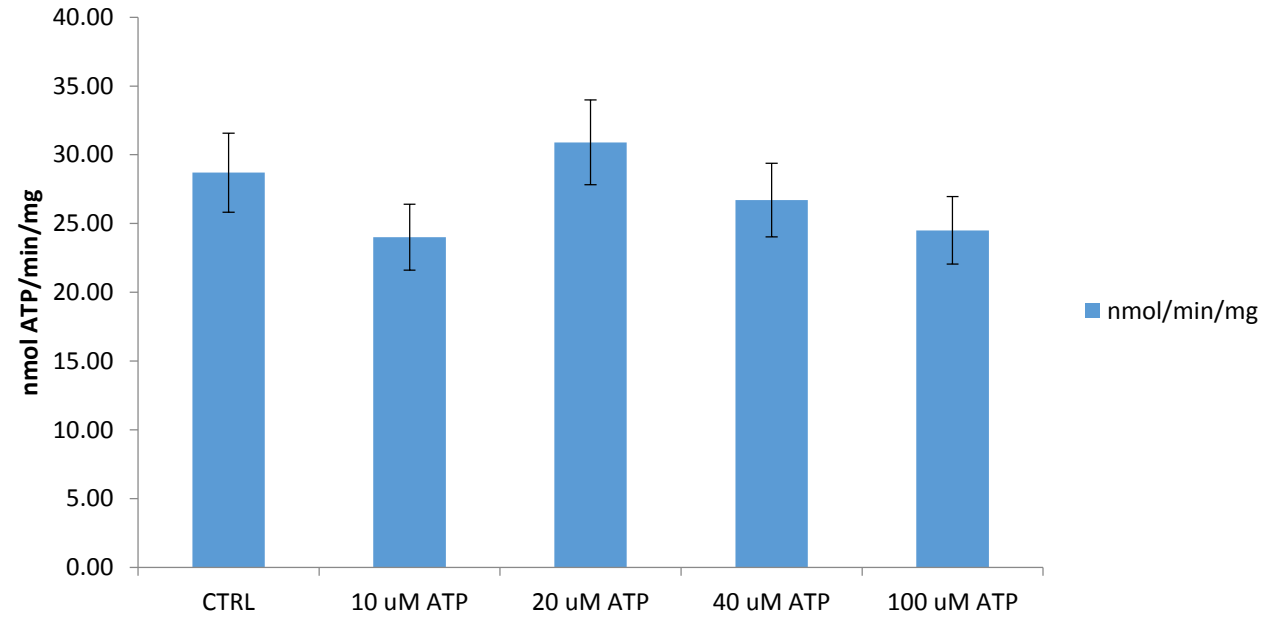
Axon: little space suitable for the putative breathing lamellar structures



Mitochondrial ATP production



Myelin ATP synthesis



- Myelin produce ~ 30 nmol ATP/min/mg (purified mitochondria only ~ 6 nmol ATP/min/mg .
- ATP production in myelin is'nt inhibited by external ATP. Otherwise at very low concentration external ATP inhibit strongly ATP production by mitochondria.

Biochimie. - 2013 Nov;95(11):1991-8. doi: 10.1016/j.biochi.2013.07.003.

Biochimie xxx (2013) 1–8



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Biochimie

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biochi



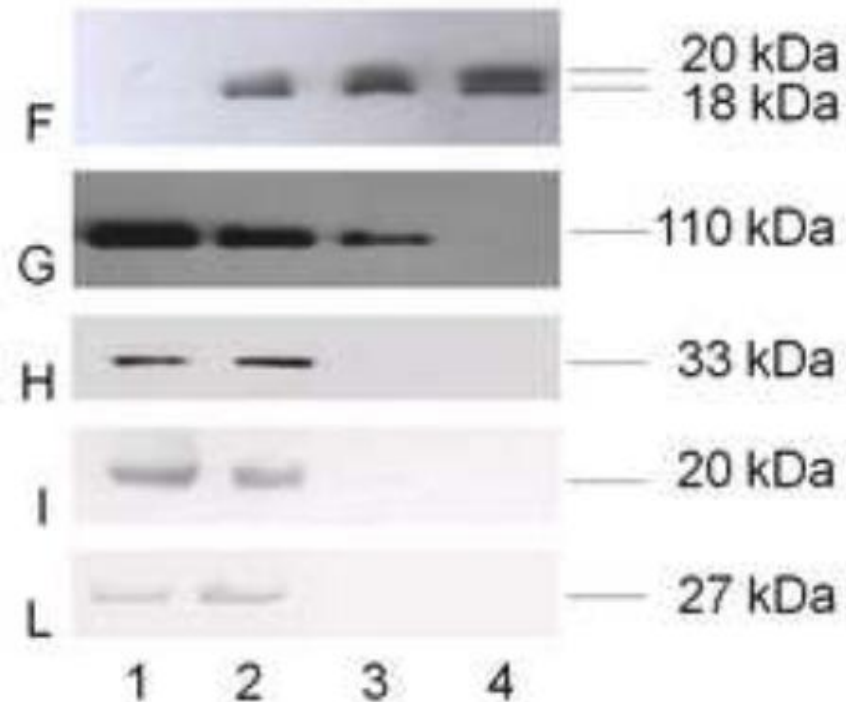
Research paper

Tricarboxylic acid cycle-sustained oxidative phosphorylation in isolated myelin vesicles

Silvia Ravera^{a,*}, Martina Bartolucci^a, Daniela Calzia^a, Maria Grazia Aluigi^b, Paola Ramoino^b, Alessandro Morelli^a, Isabella Panfoli^a

	Mitochondria enriched fraction	Forebrain homogenate	Crude myelin	Isolated myelin
Citrate Synthase	220 ± 20	60 ± 6	80 ± 9	140 ± 20
Aconitase	30 ± 5	60 ± 7	80 ± 10	90 ± 10
Isocitric dehydrogenase	13 ± 2	11 ± 1	8 ± 1	11 ± 2
αKetoglutarate dehydrogenase	7 ± 1	4 ± 0,5	5 ± 0,5	6 ± 1
Succinyl CoA synthetase	320 ± 30	115 ± 11	155 ± 16	210 ± 23
Succinic dehydrogenase	12 ± 2	9 ± 1	6 ± 0,7	6 ± 0,7
Fumarase	92 ± 9	42 ± 4	39 ± 4	33 ± 5
Malate dehydrogenase	900 ± 87	556 ± 55	753 ± 73	820 ± 86

Mitochondrial contamination excluded in purified myelin



MBP

Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase

ANT

TIM

AK3

Cyclic Nucleotide Phosphodiesterase (CNP) abundant in myelin born with sequence for importation in mitochondria

mitochondria-enriched fraction

forebrain homogenate

crude myelin fraction

isolated myelin fraction

ORIGINAL
ARTICLE

Proteomics-level analysis of myelin formation and regeneration in a mouse model for Vanishing White Matter disease

Irit Gat-Viks,* Tamar Geiger,† Mali Barbi,* Gali Raini* and Orna Elroy-Stein*‡

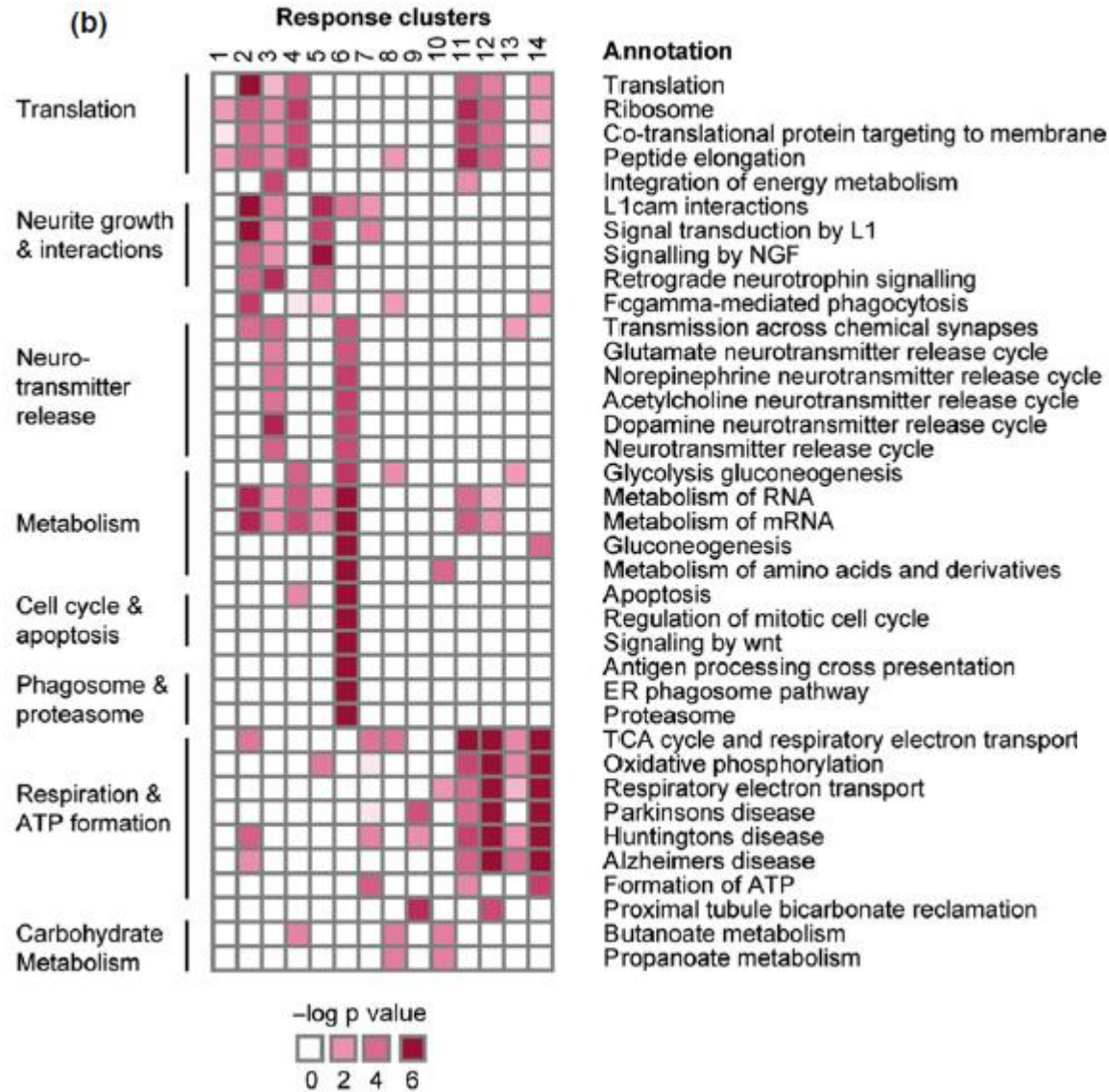
*Department of Cell Research & Immunology, George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

†Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

‡Sagol school of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

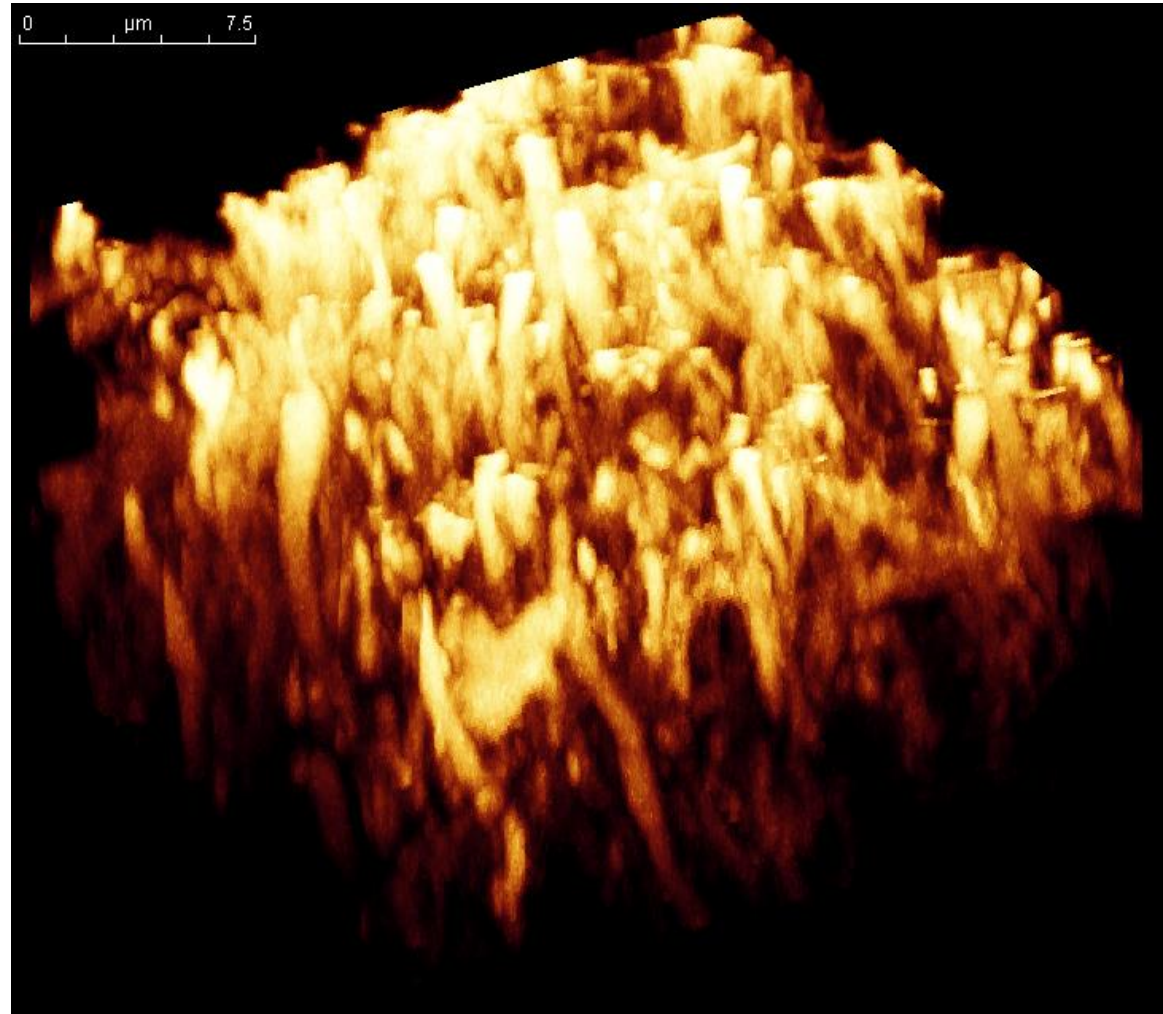
... The absence of other mitochondrial proteins in myelin vesicles ruled out mitochondrial contamination and led to an intriguing hypothesis that myelin sheaths may be able to perform aerobic metabolism by extra-mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation, to produce ATP and provide it to axons via gap junctions (Morelli et al. 2011).**

** Morelli A., Ravera S. and Panfoli I. (2011) Hypothesis of an energetic function for myelin. *Cell Biochem. Biophys.* **61**, 179–187.



The possible energetic role of myelin sheaths may explain the degeneration of chronically demyelinated axons and suggest that VWM disease could result from malfunction of energy supply by myelin. The relative contribution of defective mitochondrial function versus possible faulty extra-mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation to VWM pathogenesis will be addressed in future studies.

By a new technique that we have developed (Bianchini, 2008), myelin vesicles and optical nerves were incubated with MitoTracker Deep Red 633, a fluorescent dye that stains actively respiring membranes. After incubation, the samples were analyzed by CLSM.



(2)

**Aerobic ATP synthesis
in peripheral nervous
system**

ORIGINAL
ARTICLE

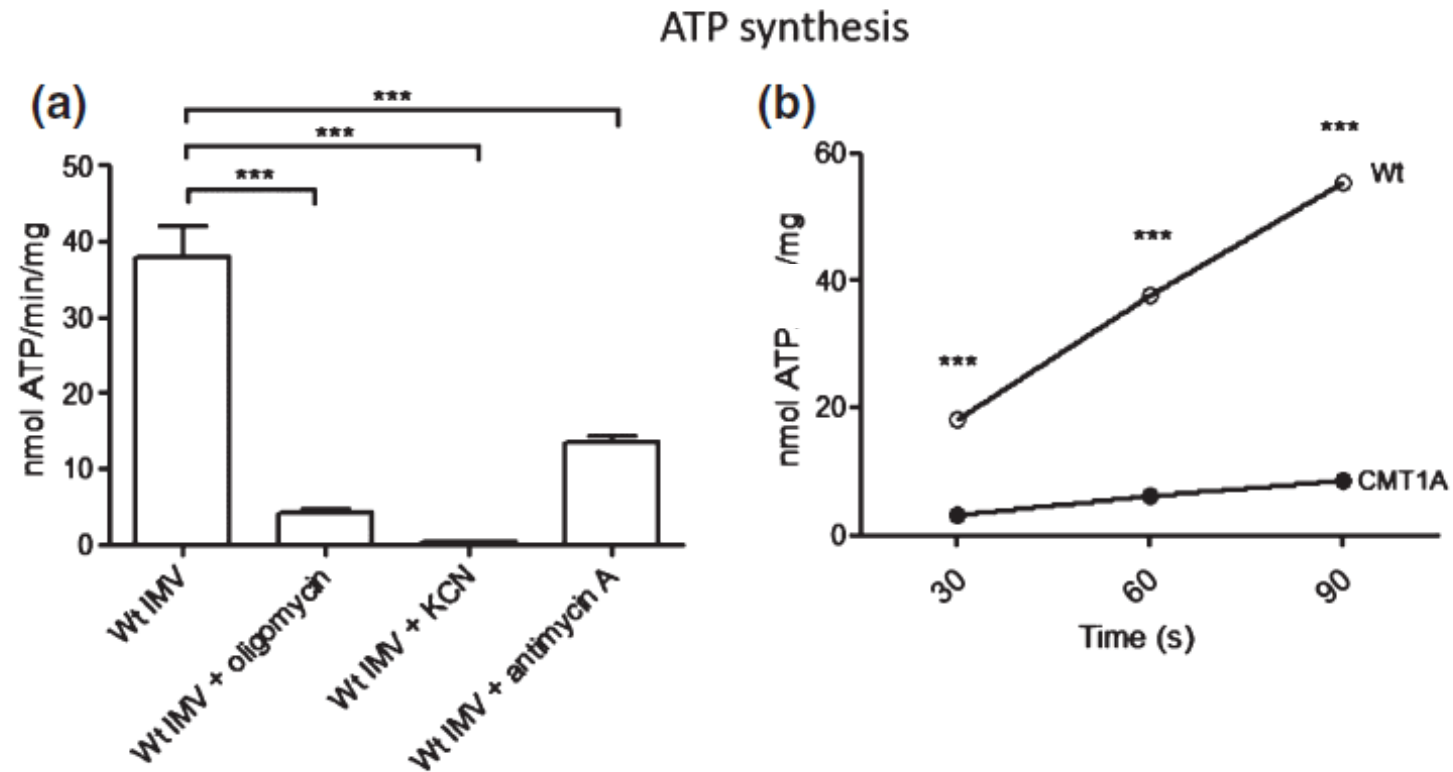
Oxydative phosphorylation in sciatic nerve myelin
and its impairment in a model of dysmyelinating
peripheral neuropathy

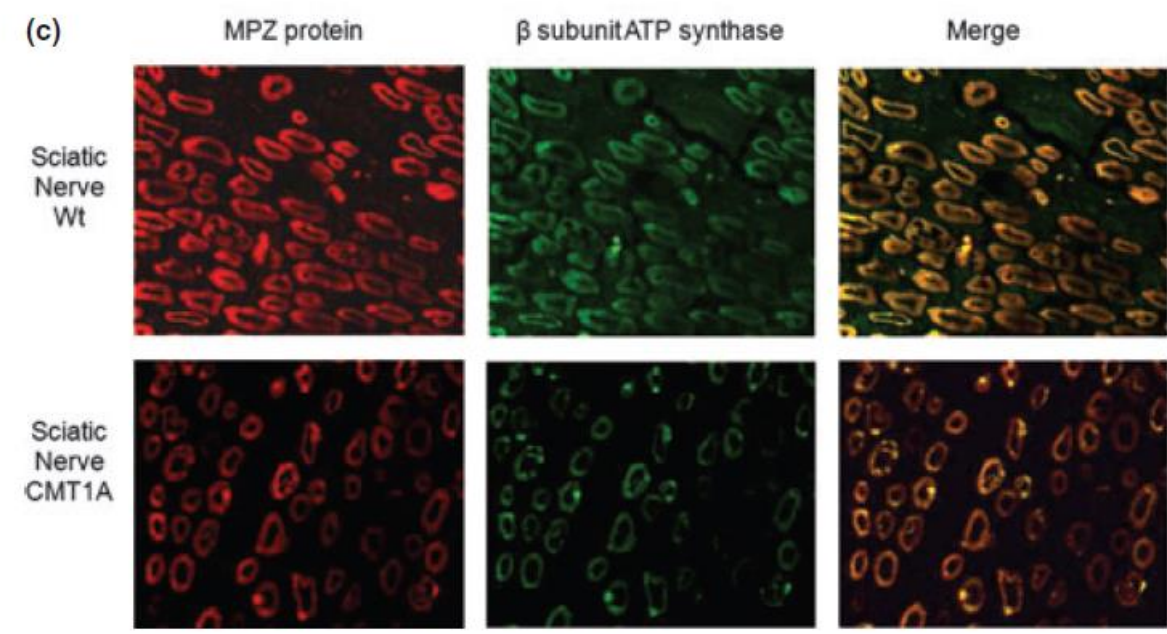
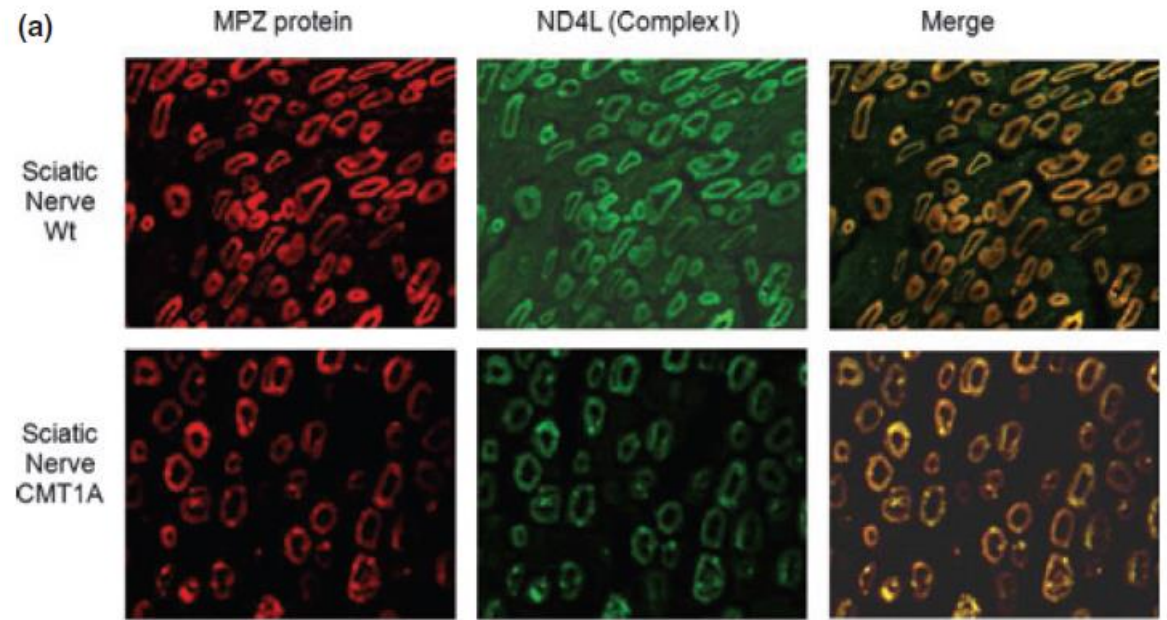
Silvia Ravera,^{*1} Lucilla Nobbio,^{†1} Davide Visigalli,[†] Martina Bartolucci,^{*}
Daniela Calzia,^{*} Fulvia Fiorese,[†] Gianluigi Mancardi,[†] Angelo Schenone,[†]
Alessandro Morelli^{*} and Isabella Panfoli^{*}

^{*}*DIFAR, University of Genoa, Italy*

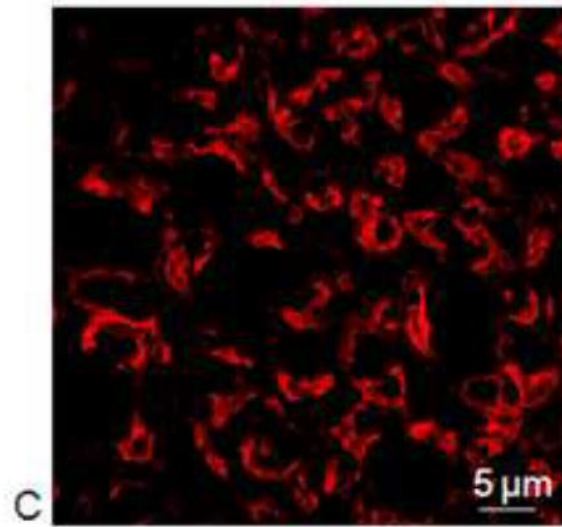
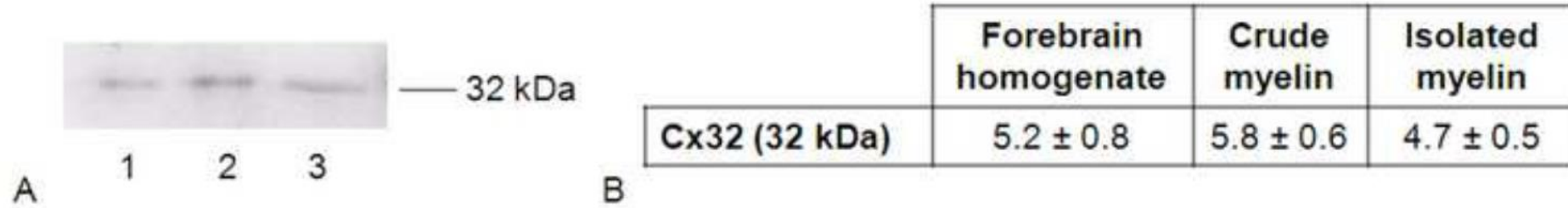
[†]*DINOGMI, University of Genoa, Italy*

ATP Synthesis in Sciatic nerve-derived isolated myelin vesicles (IMV) from Wt and dysmyelinating peripheral neuropathy (CMT1A) rats

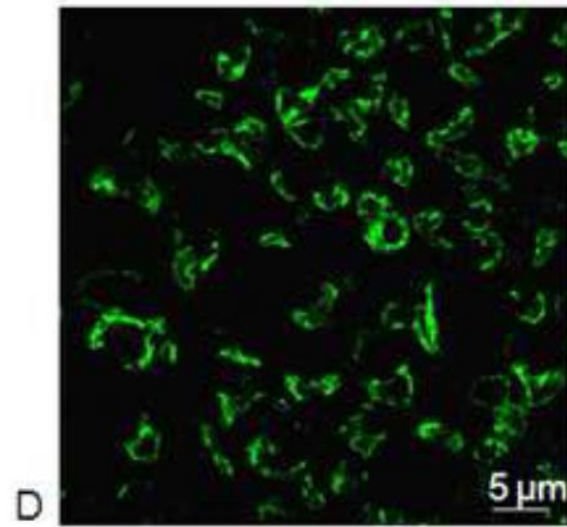




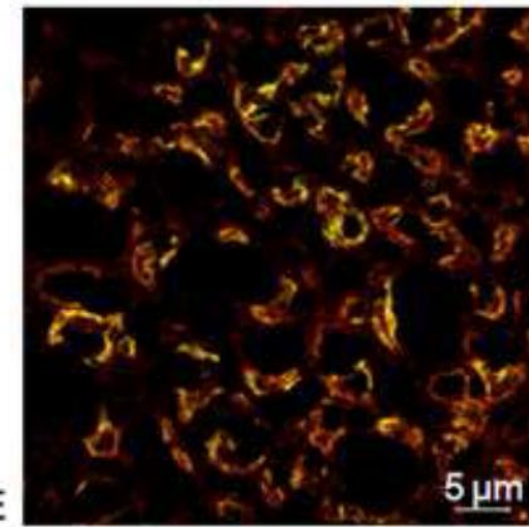
Gap-junction in myelin



immunohistochemically stained with Ab against MBP



immunohistochemically stained with Ab against Cx32



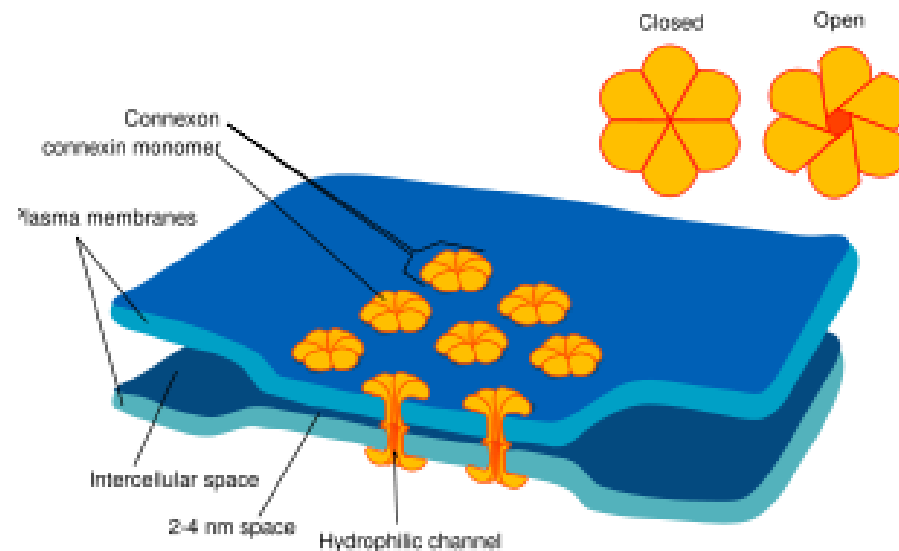
Merge

(3)

**Hypothesis of
molecular mechanism
in respiring/energizing
myelin sheath**

GAP JUNCTIONS :

Structures that allow the transport of molecules through two cells, by mass action. Considering that ATP is very concentrated in the cell it is possible to hypothesize that connexins could transport ATP.



Gap Junctions between Cells Expressing Connexin 43 or 32 Show Inverse Permselectivity to Adenosine and ATP

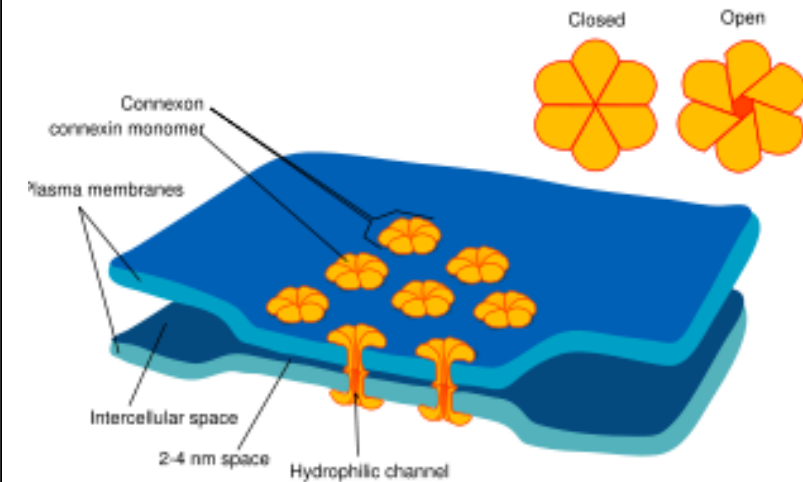
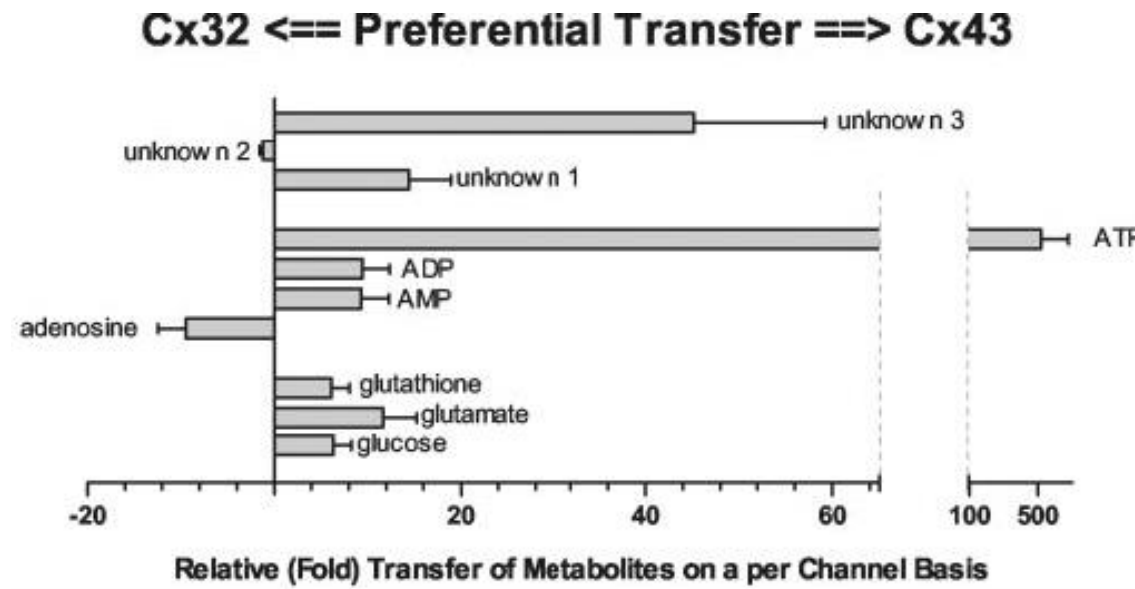
Gary S. Goldberg^{‡§}, Alonso P. Moreno[¶], and Paul D. Lampe

From the [‡]Department of Physiology and Biophysics, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11794-8661,

the [¶]Krannert Institute of Cardiology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202, and

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington 98109

THE JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY Vol. 277, No. 39, Issue of September 27, pp. 36725–36730, **2002**.



Myelin is rich in Gap-Junctions

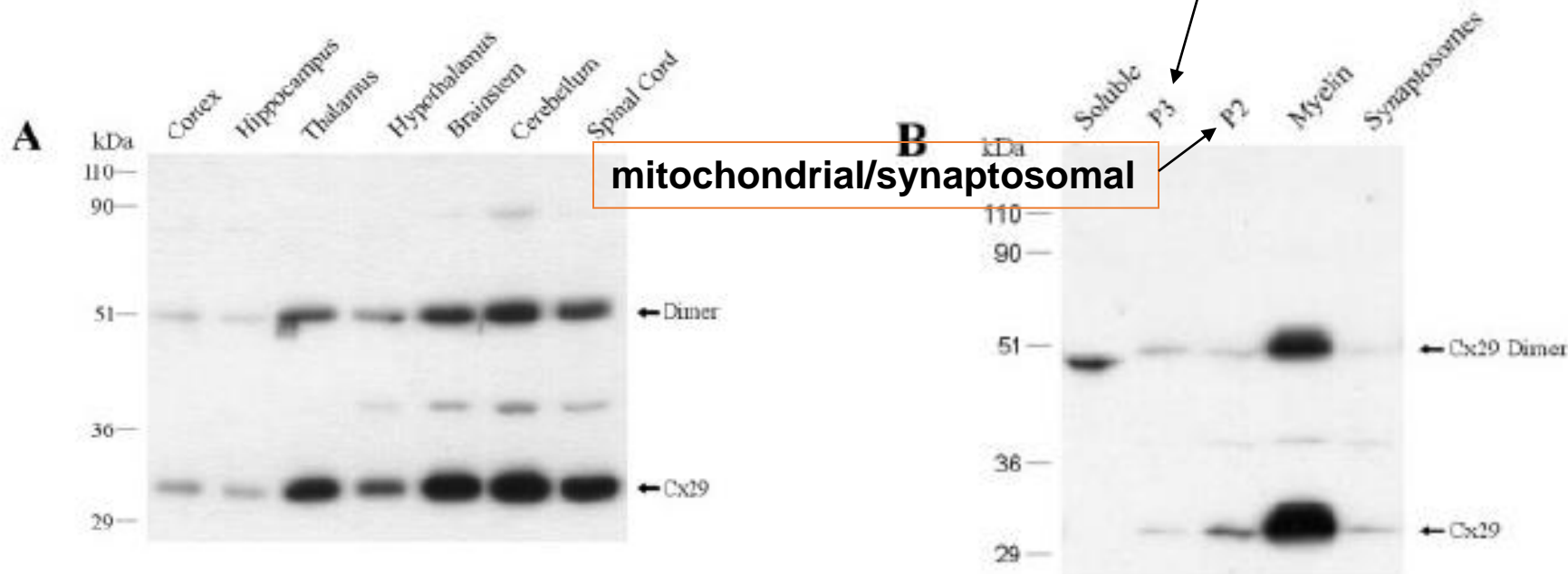
THE JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE NEUROLOGY 464:356-370 (2003)

Connexin29 and Connexin32 at Oligodendrocyte and Astrocyte Gap Junctions and in Myelin of the Mouse Central Nervous System

JAMES I. NAGY,^{1*} ANDREI V. IONESCU,¹ BRUCE D. LYNN,¹ AND JOHN E. RASH²

¹Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 3J7, Canada

Microsomal membrane

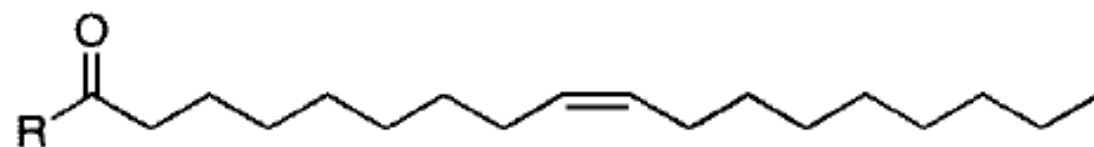
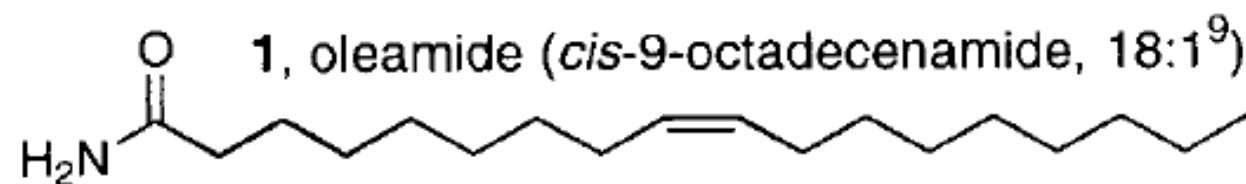


Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 95, pp. 4810–4815, April 1998
Chemistry

Chemical requirements for inhibition of gap junction communication by the biologically active lipid oleamide

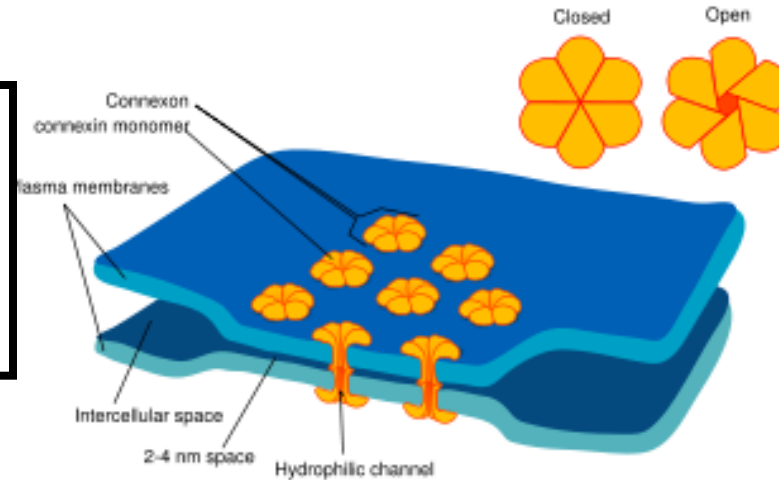
DALE L. BOGER^{*†}, JEAN E. PATTERSON^{*}, XIAOJUN GUAN[‡], BENJAMIN F. CRAVATT^{*}, RICHARD A. LERNER^{*},
AND NORTON B. GILULA[‡]

Departments of ^{*}Chemistry and [‡]Cell Biology and the Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology, The Scripps Research Institute, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037

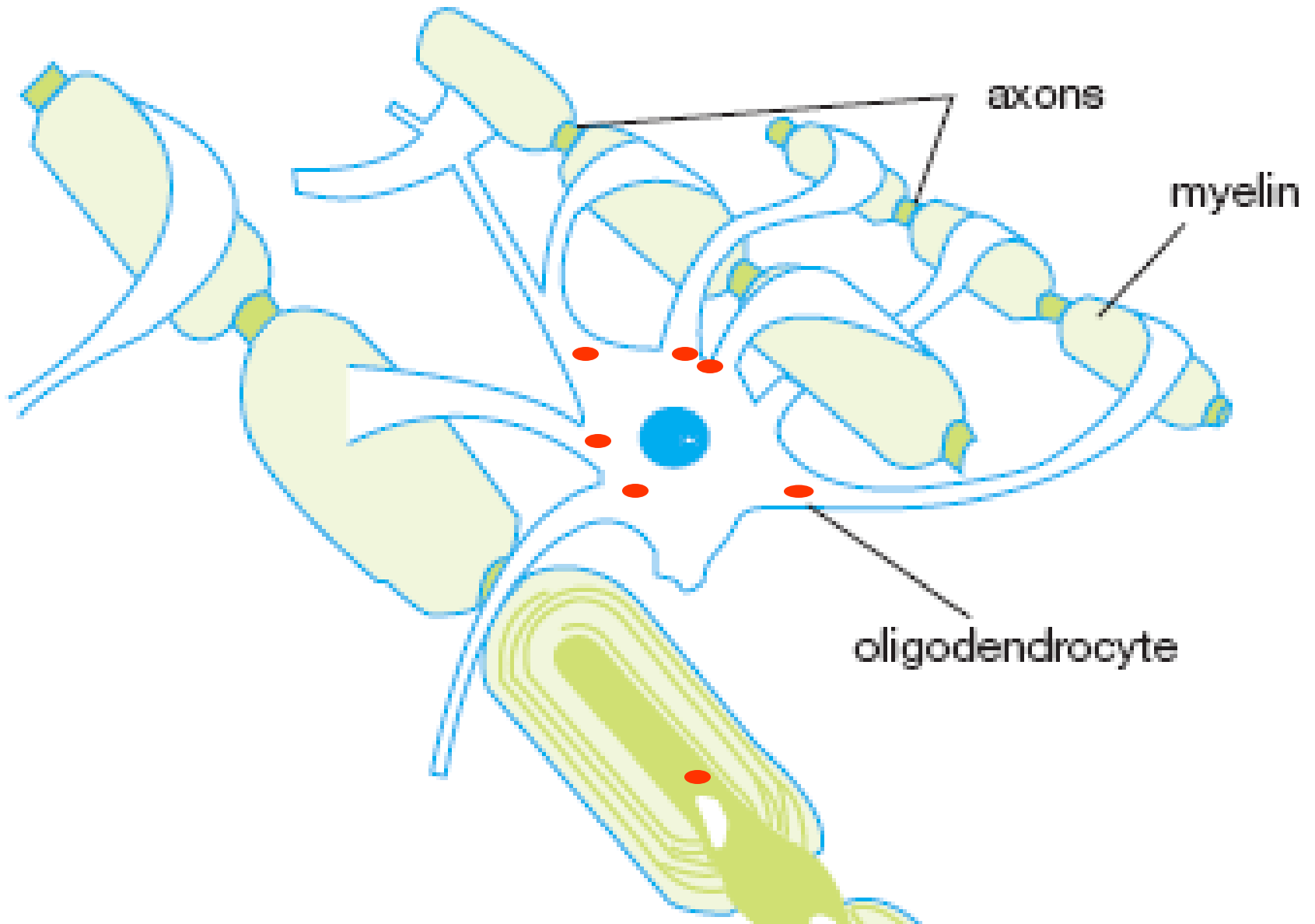


Agent (R)	% inhibition [†] , μ M		
	100	50	20
NH ₂ (oleamide)	100	100	100
OH (oleic acid)	0	0	0

Test of ATP production with Oleamide, an inhibitor of Gap-Junctions

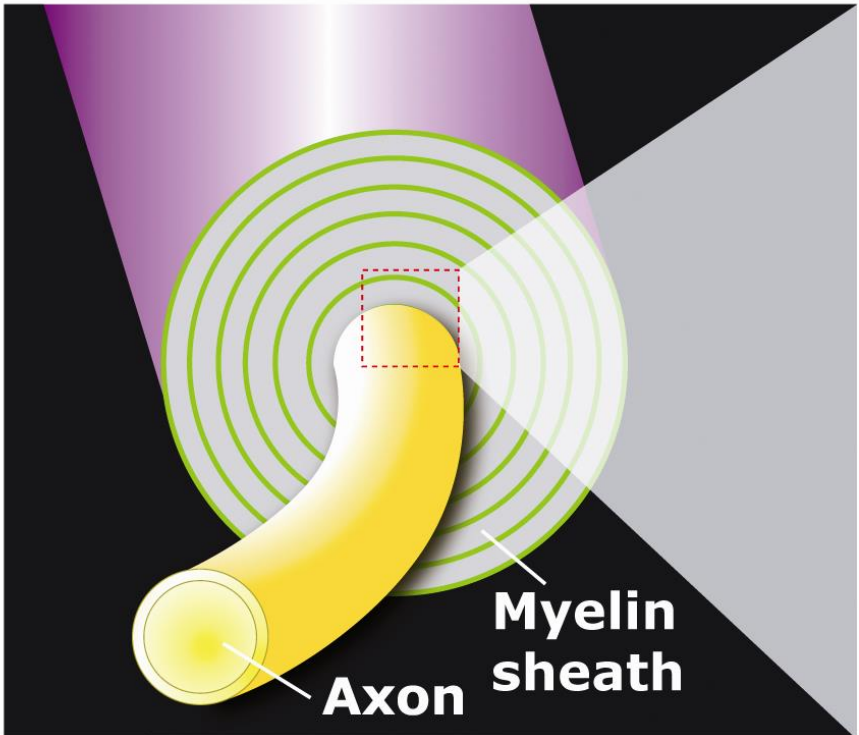


Sample	ATP produced (nmol/min/mg)
Myelin vesicles (+ DMSO)	35 ± 3.0
Myelin vesicles + Oleamide 50 μM (in DMSO)	5 ± 0,4
Myelin vesicles + Oleic Acid 50 μM (in DMSO)	35 ± 3.0

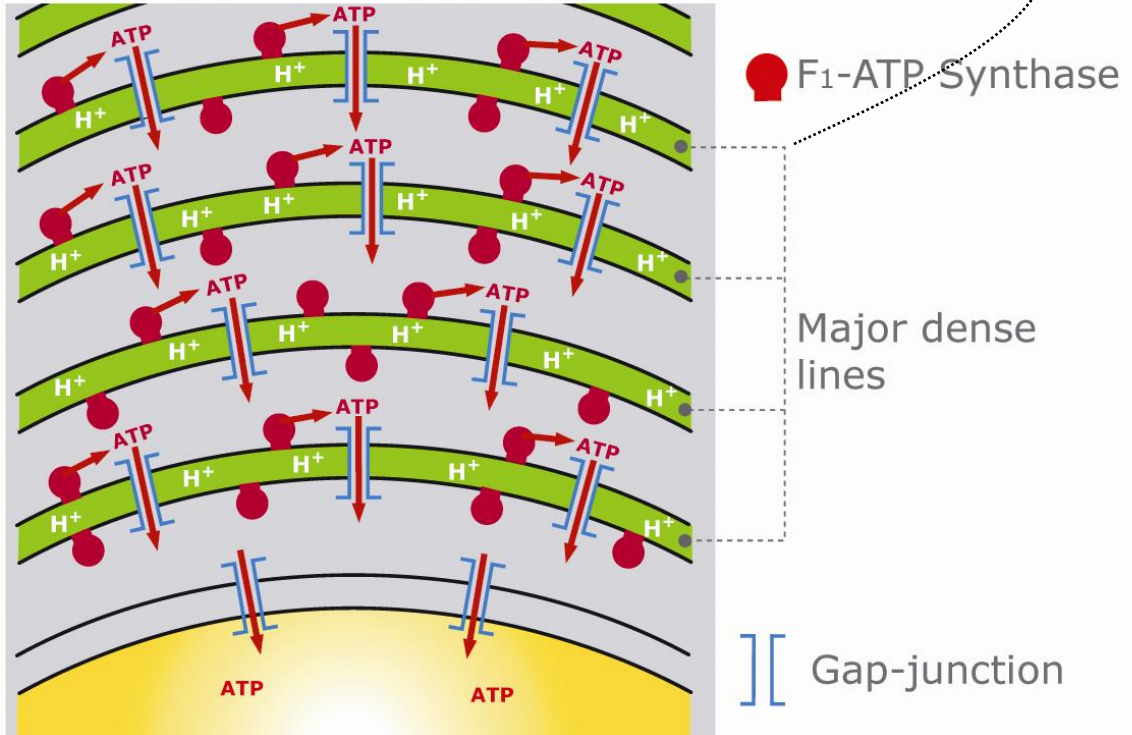





A




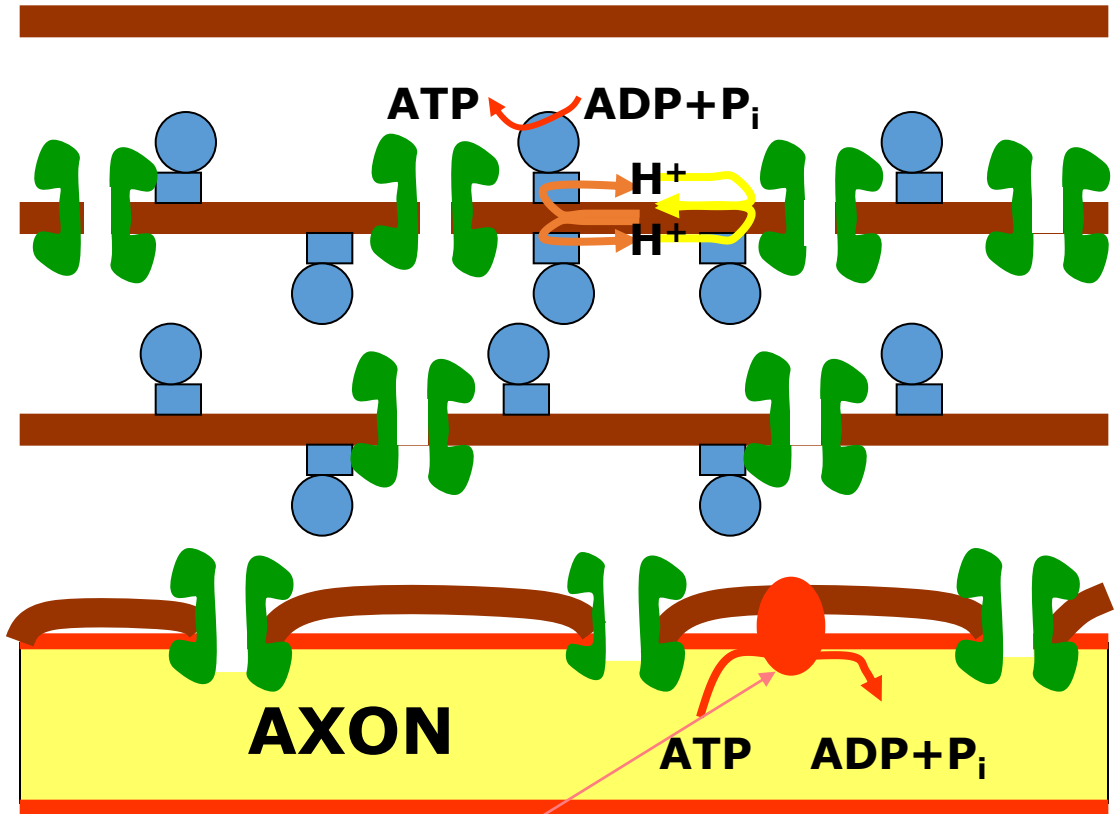
B




Hypothesis of Energized Myelin Sheath


**F₀F₁
ATPSynthase**


Gap junction




**Oxidative
Phosphorilati
on**


**Proton
Translocation
coupled to
Nanomachine
ATP synthase**

**Na⁺,K⁺-ATPase
pump**

(4)

**Hypotheses on Proton
movementation in
biological membrane**



OPINION ARTICLE

Hypothesis of lipid-phase-continuity proton transfer for aerobic ATP synthesis

Alessandro M Morelli, Silvia Ravera, Daniela Calzia and Isabella Panfoli

The basic processes harvesting chemical energy for life are driven by proton (H^+) movements. These are accomplished by the mitochondrial redox complex V, integral membrane supramolecular aggregates, whose structure has recently been described by advanced studies. These did not identify classical aqueous pores. It was proposed that H^+ transfer for oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) does not occur between aqueous sources and sinks, where an energy barrier would be insurmountable. This suggests a novel hypothesis for the proton transfer. A lipid-phase-continuity H^+ transfer is proposed in which H^+ are always bound to phospholipid heads and cardiolipin, according to Mitchell's hypothesis of asymmetric vectorial H^+ diffusion. A phase separation is proposed among the proton flow, following an intramembrane pathway, and the ATP synthesis, occurring in the aqueous phase. This view reminiscent of Grotthus mechanism would better account for the distance among the F_o and F_1 moieties of F_oF_1 -ATP synthase, for its mechanical coupling, as well as the necessity of a lipid membrane. A unique active role for lipids in the evolution of life can be envisaged. Interestingly, this view would also be consistent with the evidence of an OXPHOS outside mitochondria also found in non-vesicular membranes, housing the redox complexes.

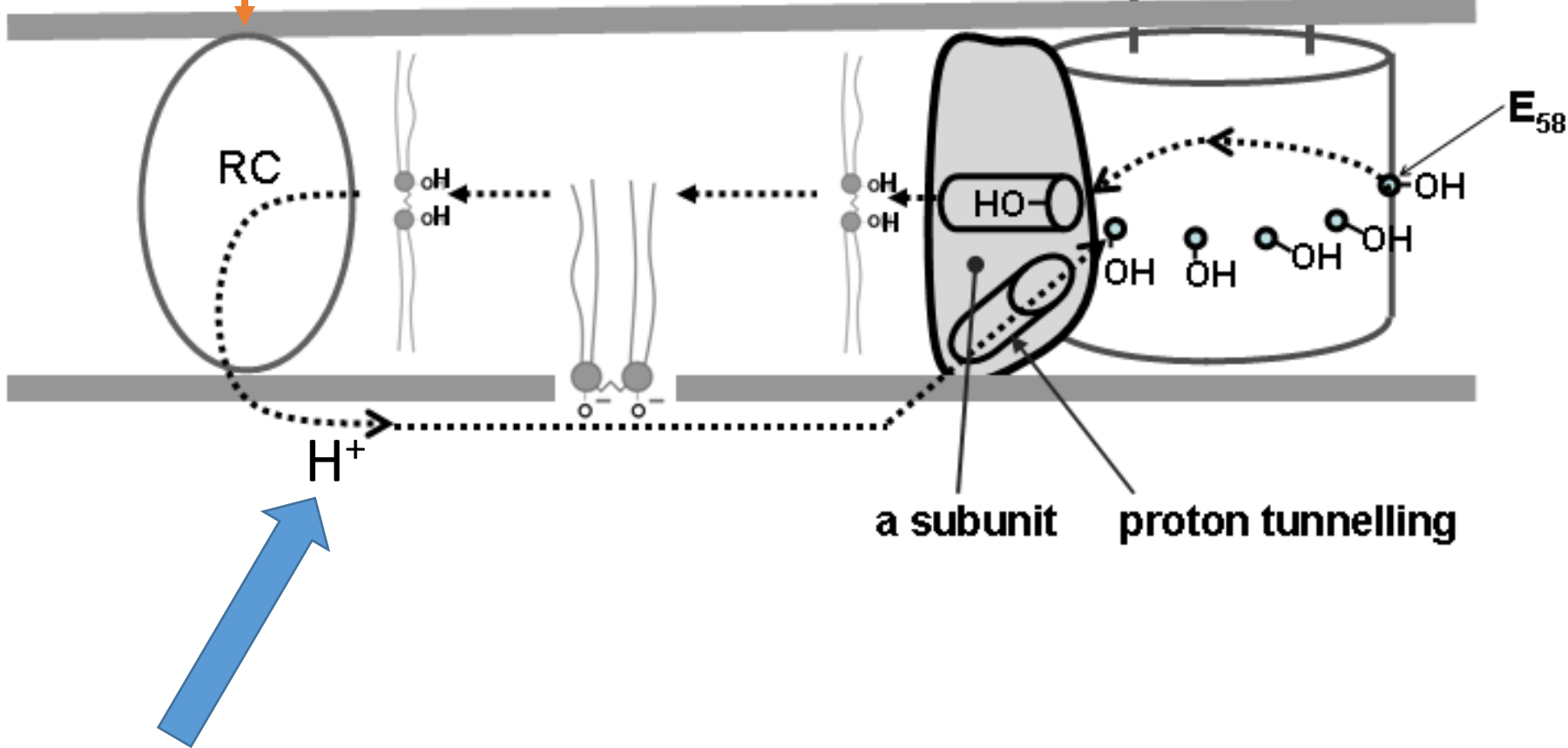
RC :
Respiratory
Complex

ADP + P_i

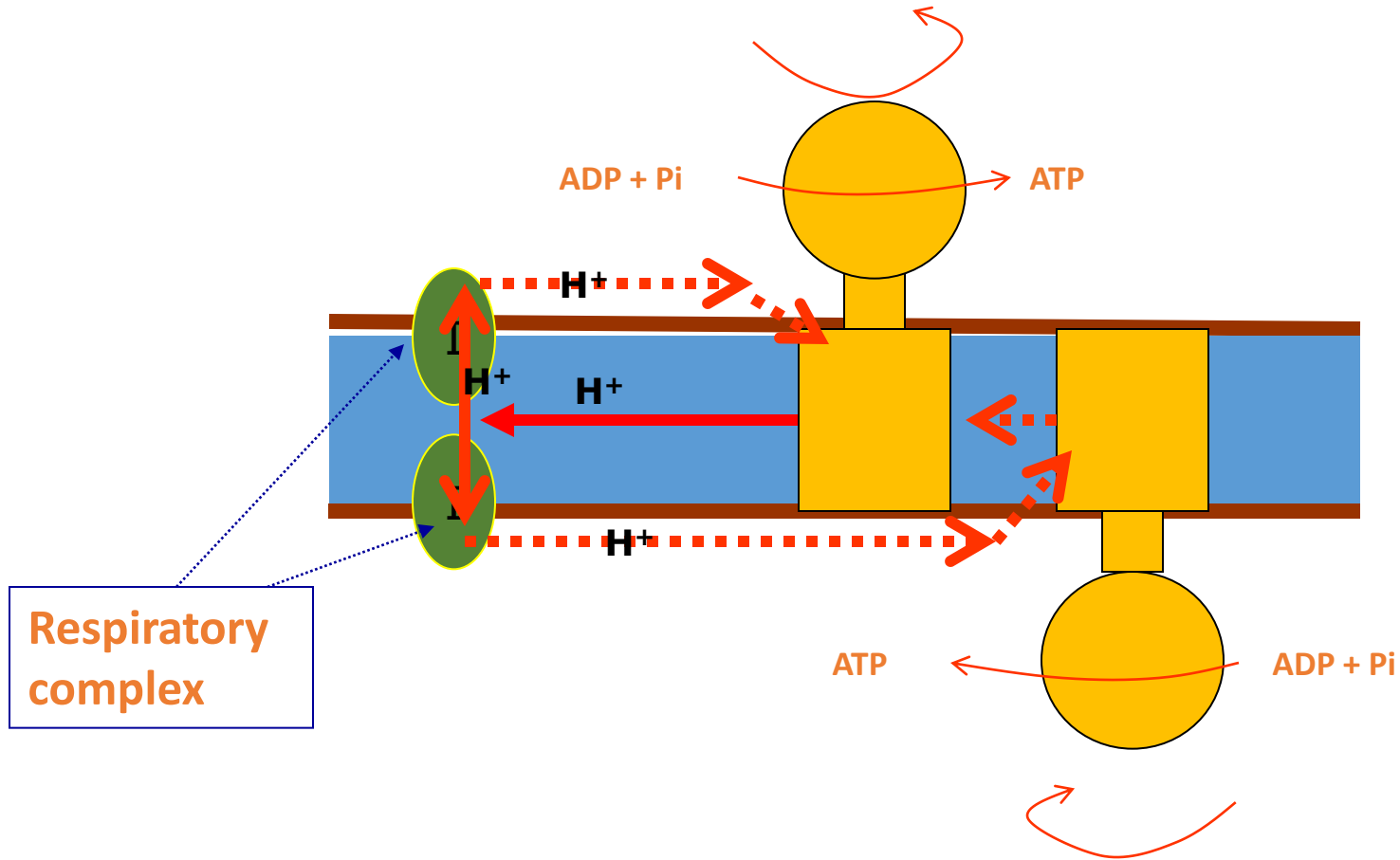
F₀F₁ ATP
synthase

ATP

Matrix Side



This model is consistent with the observed be-face operativity of ATP-Synthase in myelin



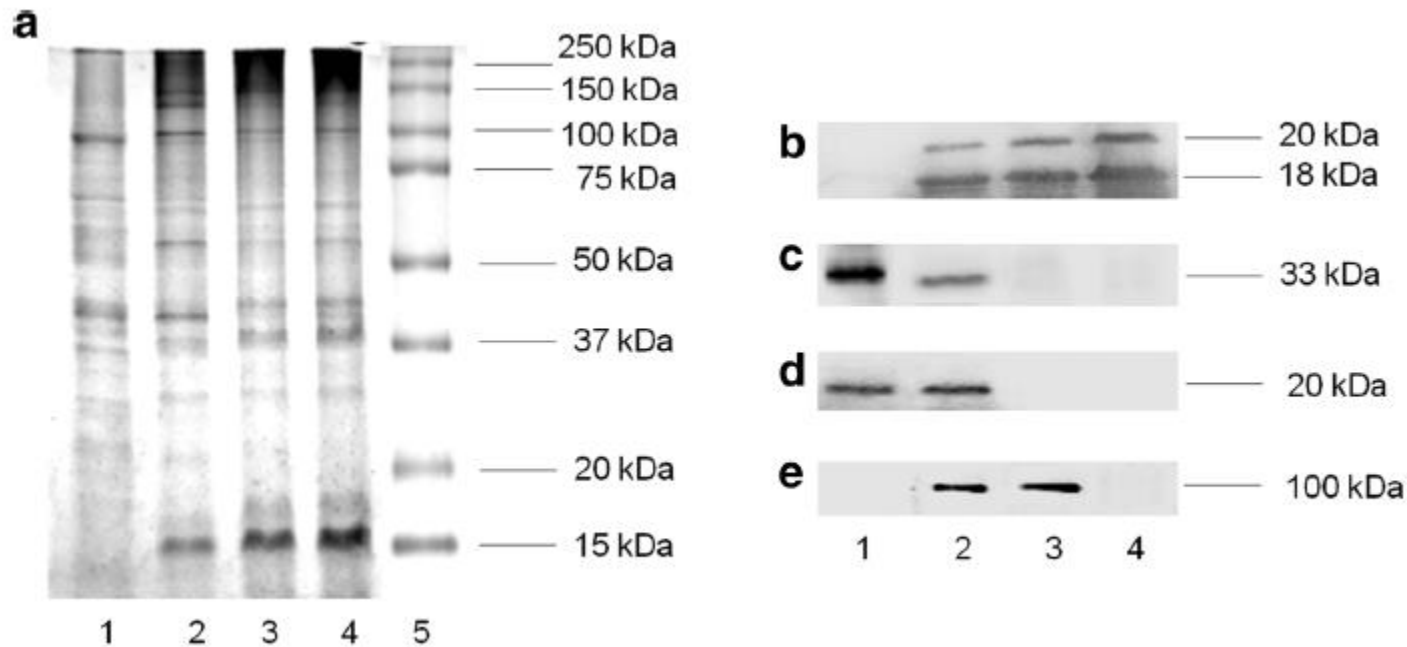
(5)

Support of Nerve
Conduction By Respiring
Myelin Sheath

Support of Nerve Conduction by Respiring Myelin Sheath: Role of Connexons

Silvia Ravera¹ • Martina Bartolucci¹ • Enrico Adriano² • Patrizia Garbati² • Sara Ferrando³ • Paola Ramoino³ • Daniela Calzia¹ • Alessandro Morelli¹ • Maurizio Balestrino² • Isabella Panfoli¹

- 1- Mitochondria
- 2 – Forebrain homogenate
- 3 – Crude myelin fraction.
- 4 – Isolated myelin



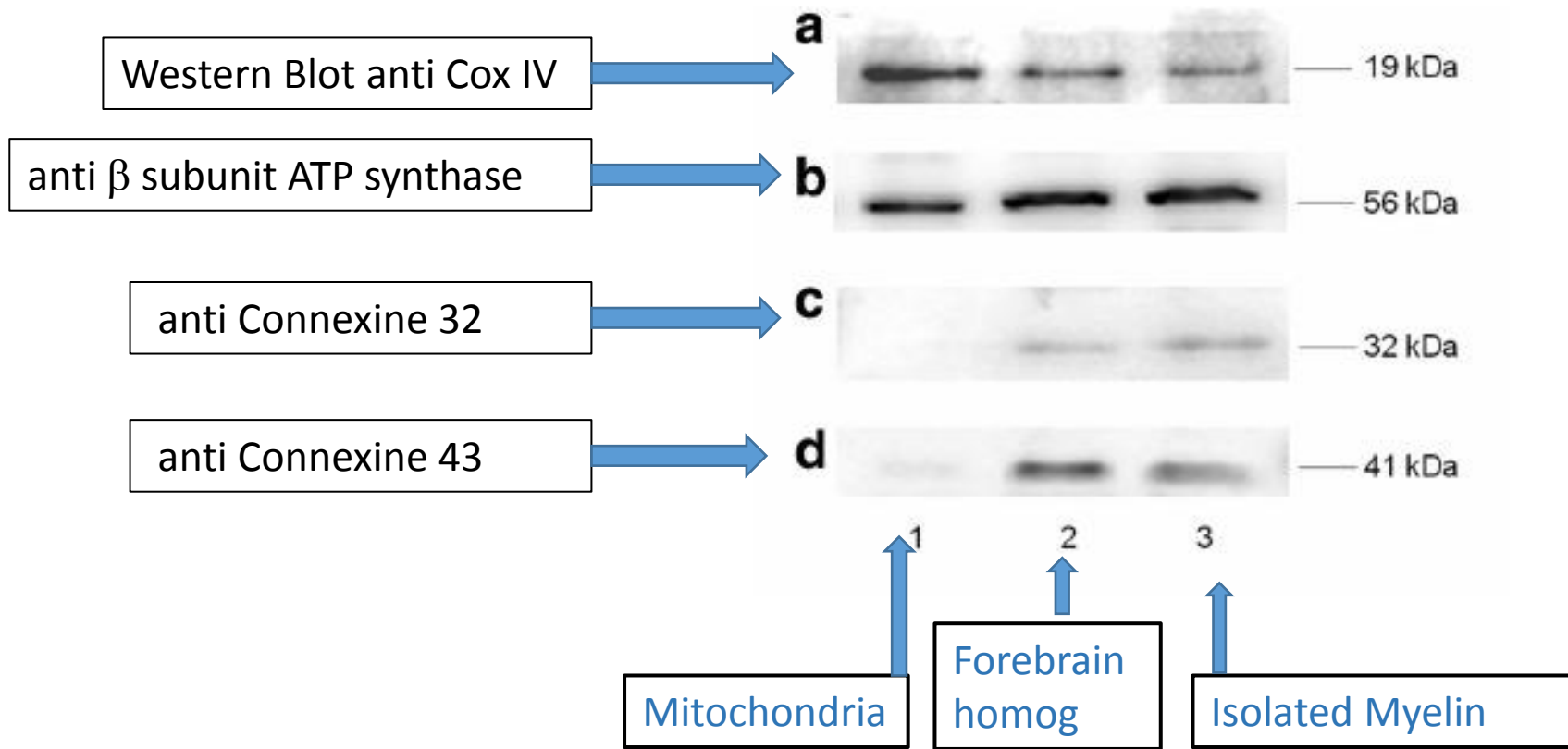
Western blot against:

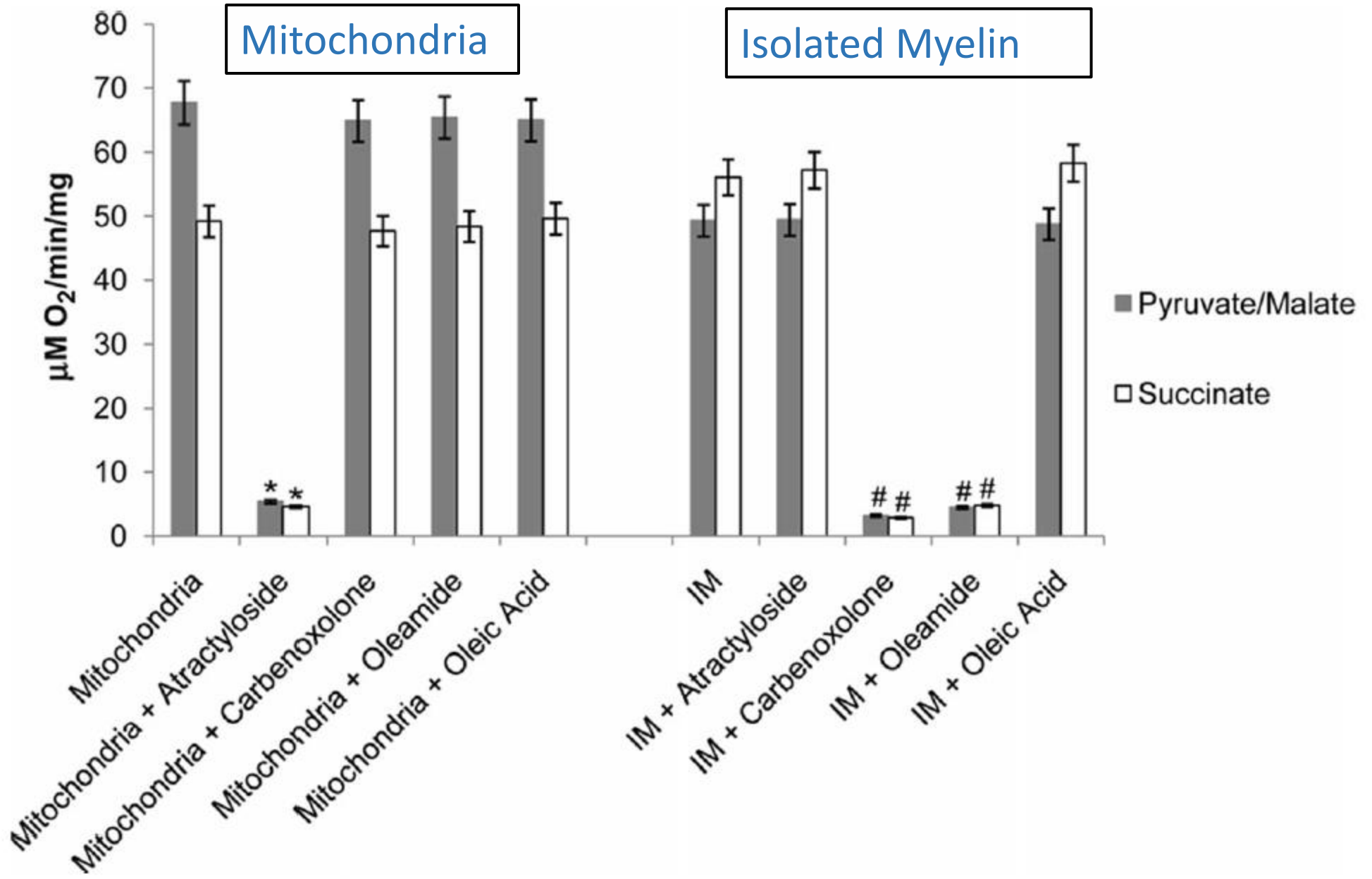
← Myelin Basic Protein

← Adenine Nucleotide translocase

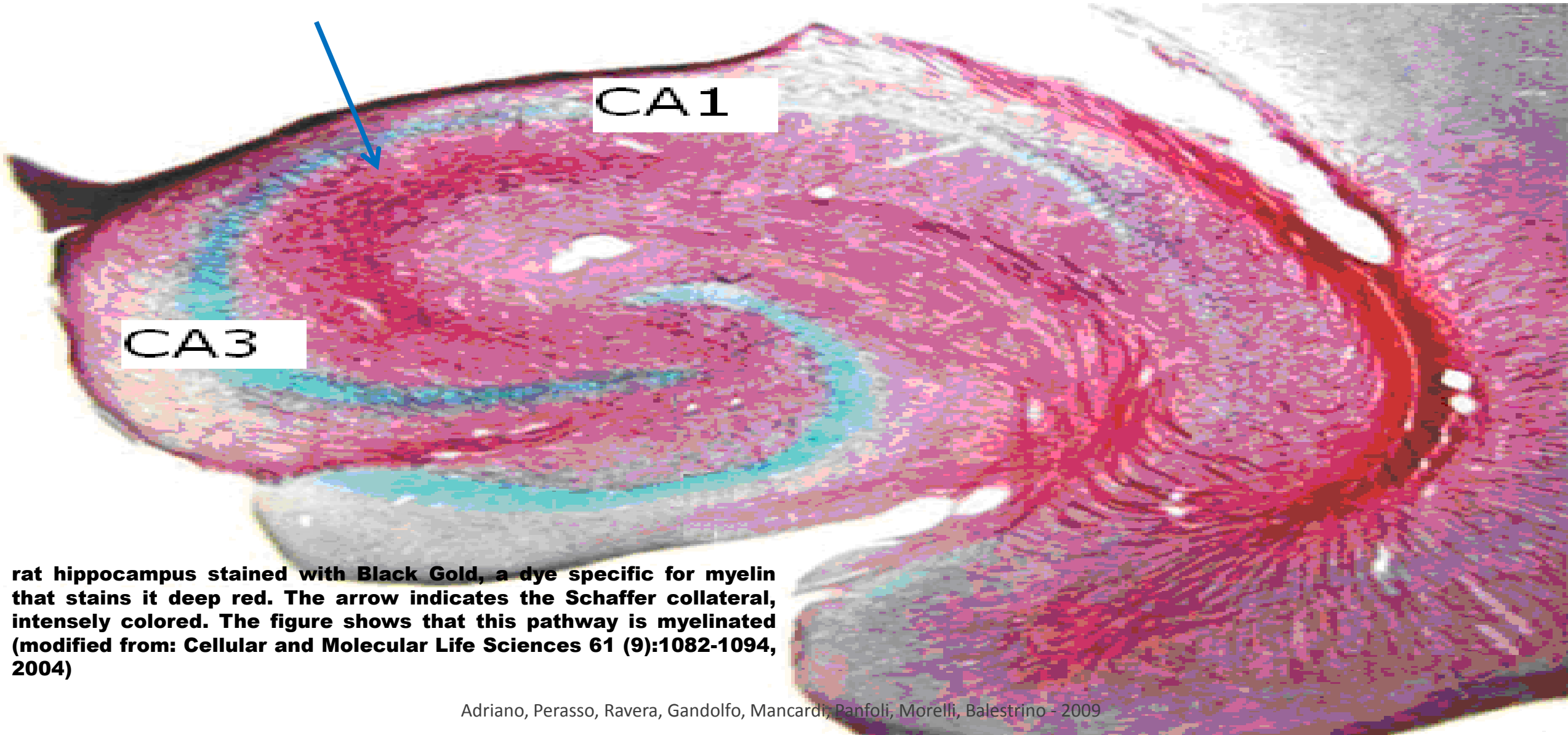
← Translocase Inner Membrane

← Na/K ATPase



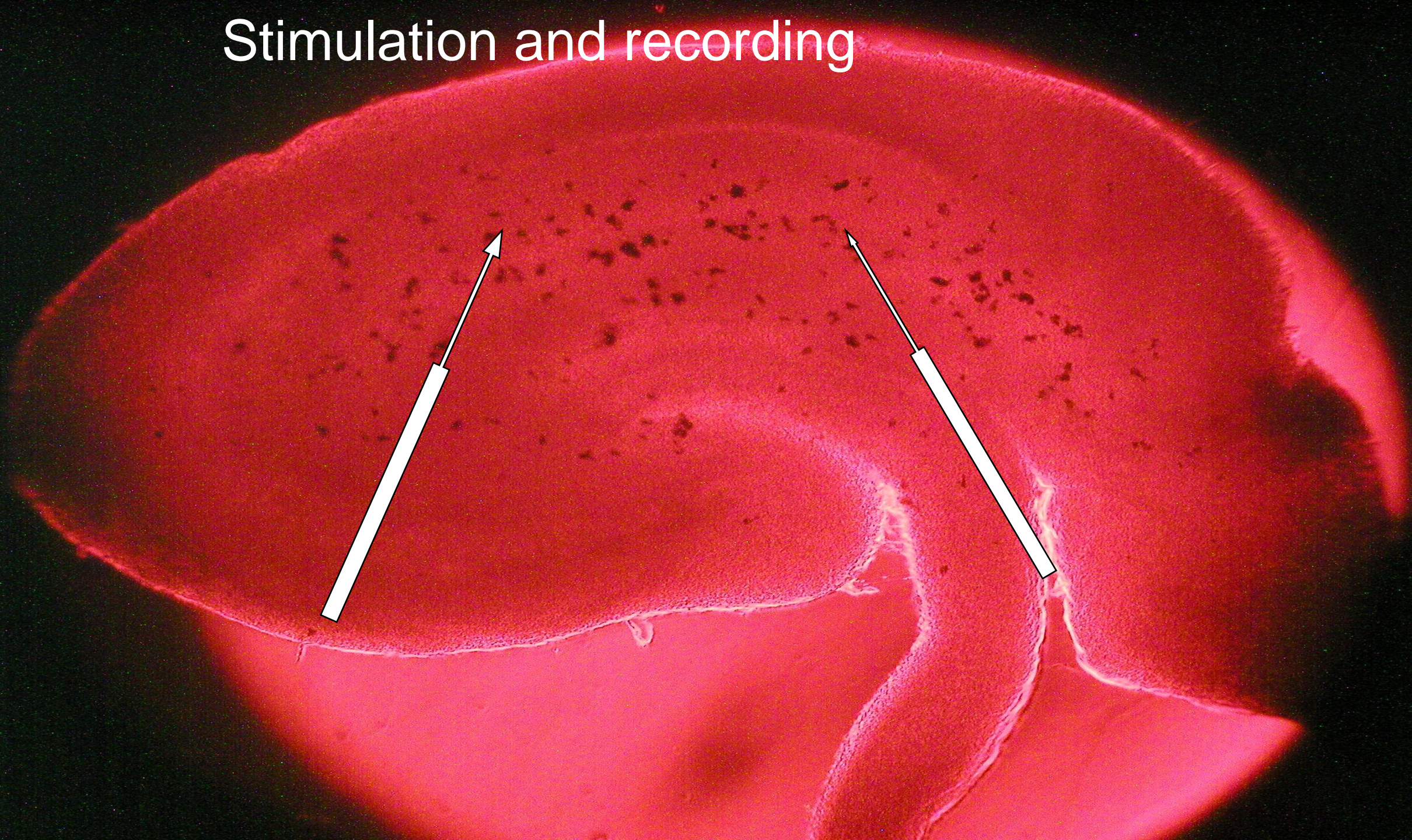


WE USED AS EXPERIMENTAL MODEL THE STIMULATION AND RECORDING OF 'NERVOUS IMPULSE AT THE SCHAFFER COLLATERAL, A CENTRAL NERVOUS MYELINATED PATHWAY

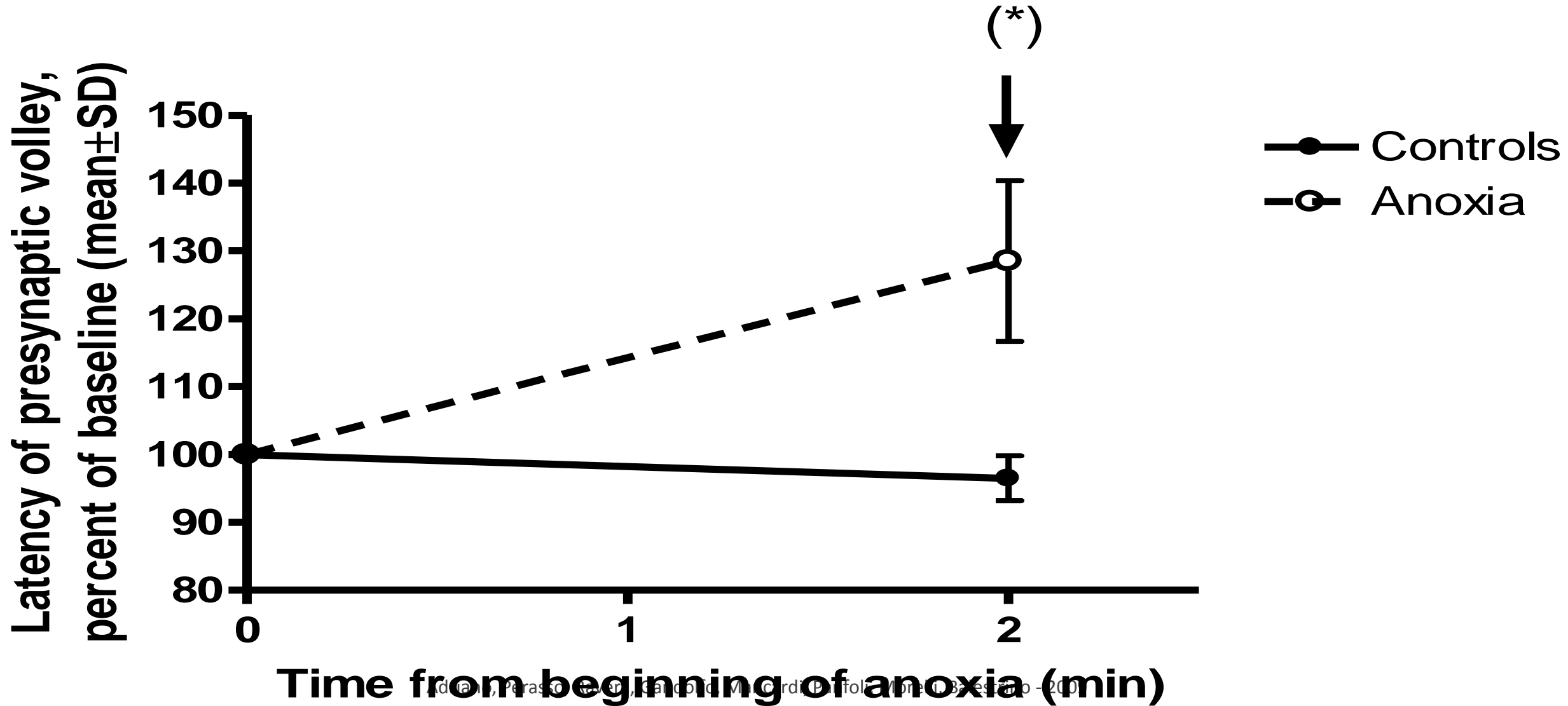


rat hippocampus stained with Black Gold, a dye specific for myelin that stains it deep red. The arrow indicates the Schaffer collateral, intensely colored. The figure shows that this pathway is myelinated (modified from: Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences 61 (9):1082-1094, 2004)

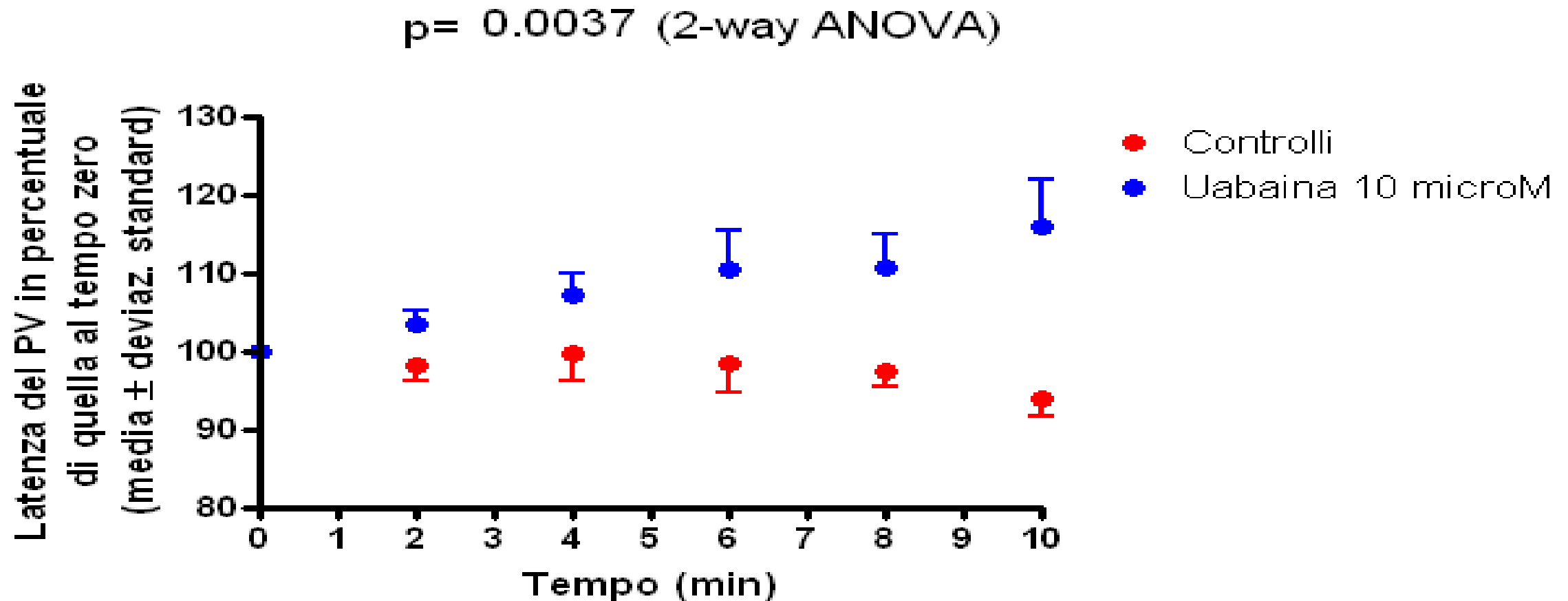
Stimulation and recording



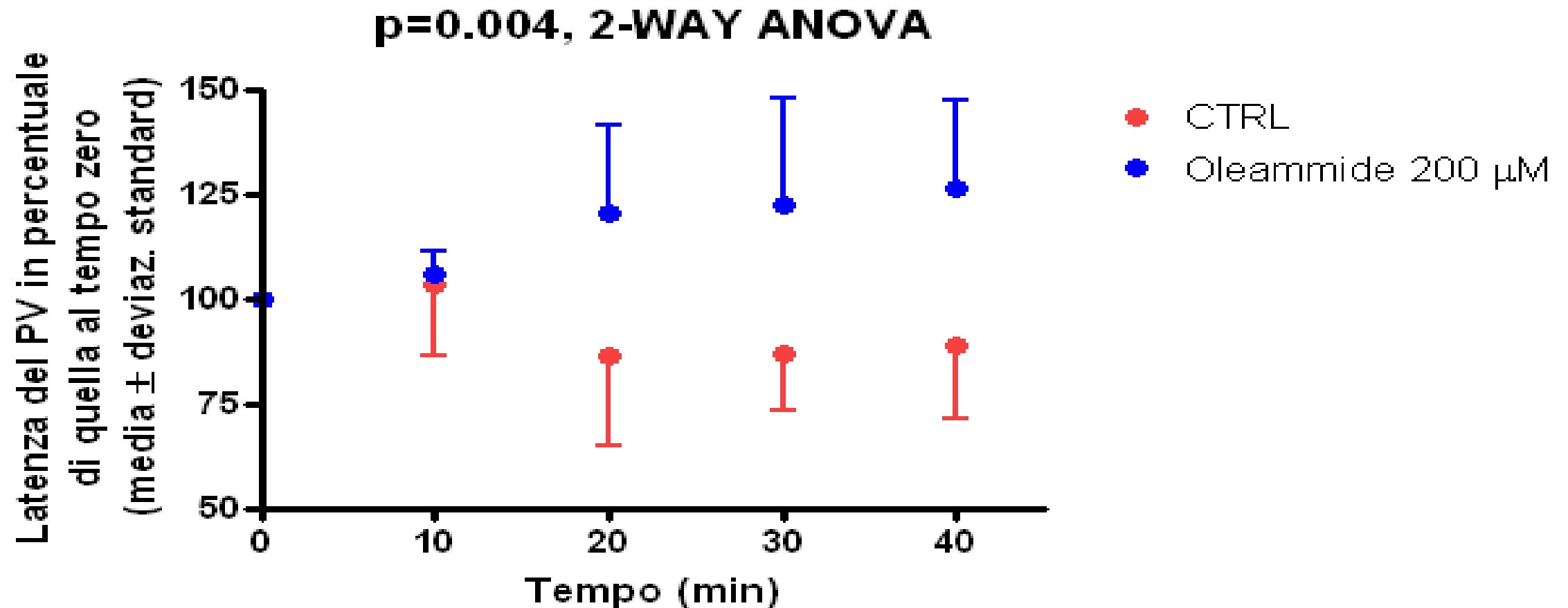
Anoxia and velocity of conduction



Inhibition of Na / K ATPase with uabaina reproduces the effects of ischemia and slows the conduction velocity in the Schaffer collateral



The experiment mimics the effect of ouabain and 'ischemia: Blocking of Gap-Junctions between neurons and glia with Oleamide is compatible with a transfer of ATP from glia to axons.





27/09/2010

Acknowledgements:

Isabella Panfoli, Silvia Ravera, Daniela Calzia, Martina Bartolucci

Dip.to di Farmacia, Università di Genova

Mario Pestarino, Simona Candiani

Dip.to di Scienze della Terra, dell'Ambiente e della Vita - Genova

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Vito Pistoia, Giovanni Candiano, Elisa Ferretti

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