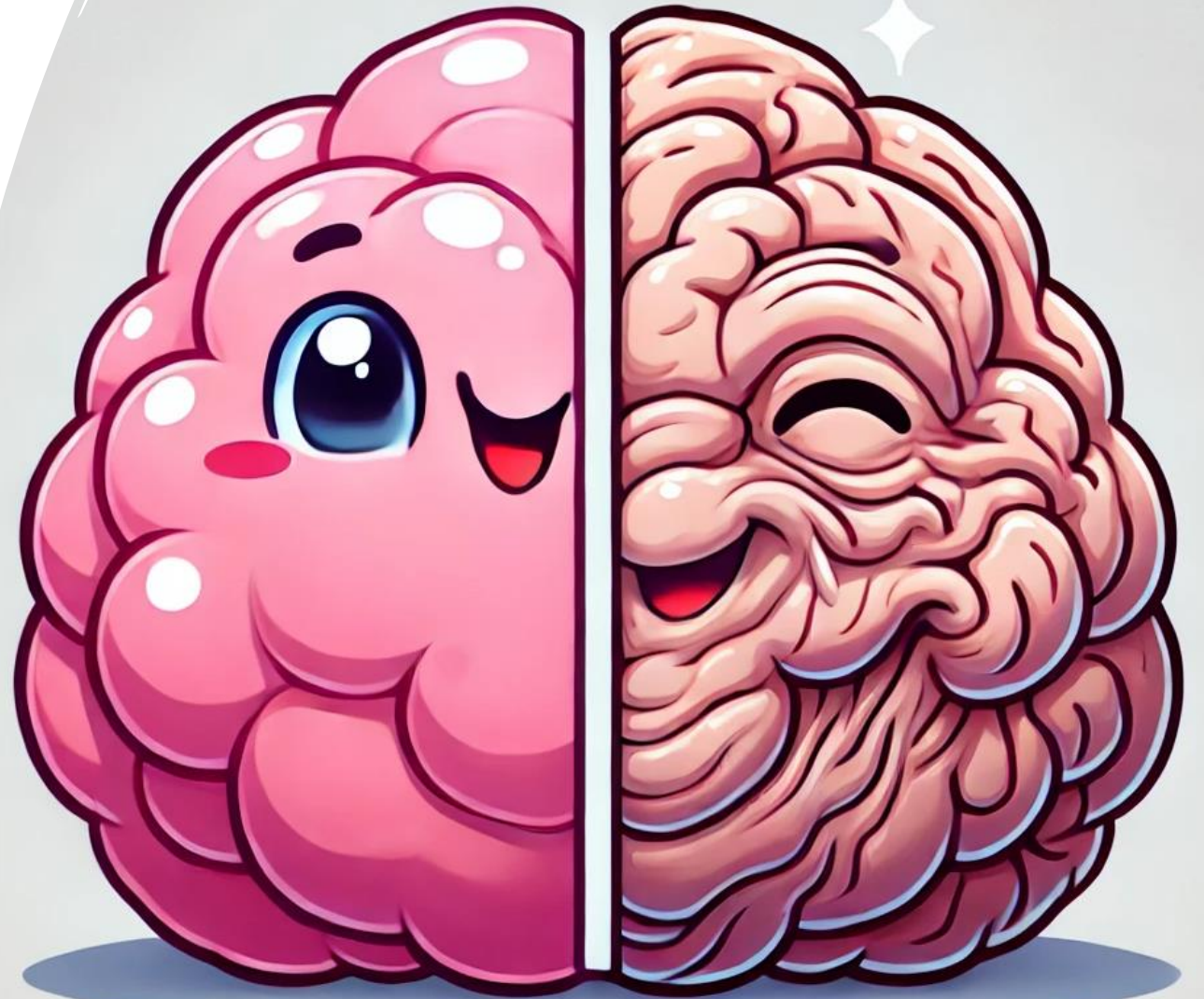


# Combining Radiomics and Diffusion-MR to Unveil the Ageing Brain

Agnese Robustelli Test



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Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare



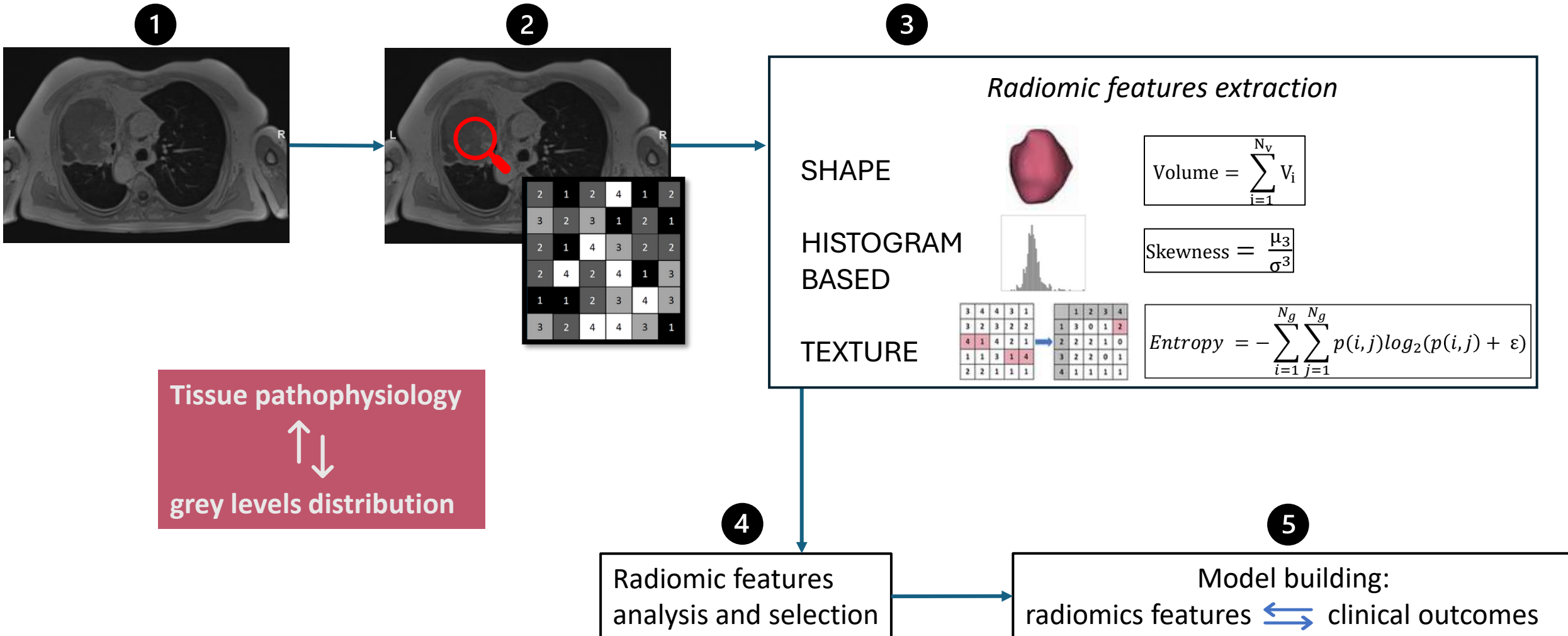
National Institute  
on Aging



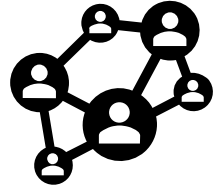
LUND  
UNIVERSITY

# RADIOMICS

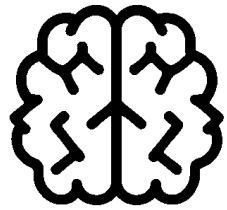
Quantitative analysis of medical images



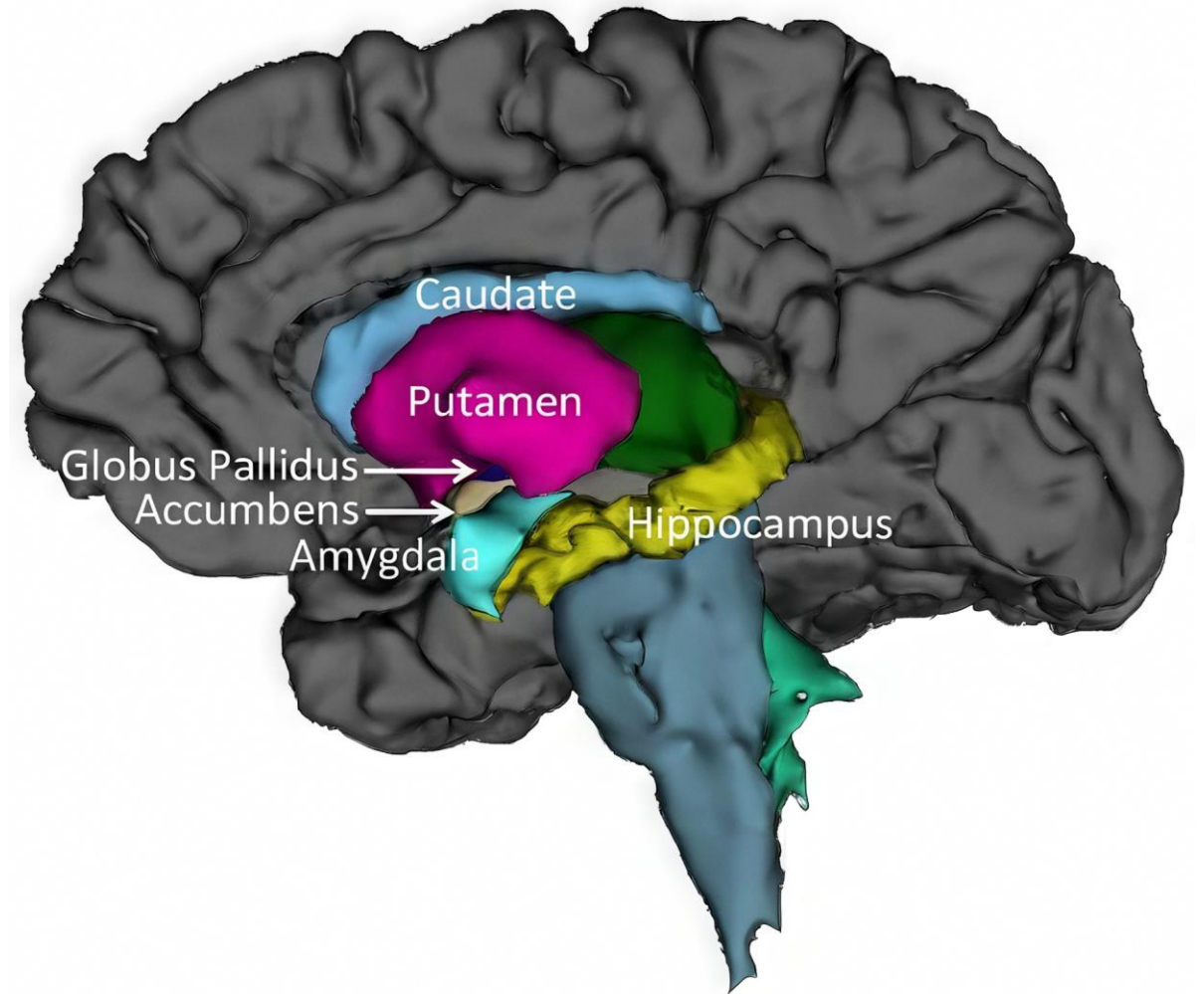
# COHORT



30 healthy subjects  
Age range: [23, 77] years



Accumbens  
Amygdala  
Caudate  
Globus Pallidus  
Hippocampus  
Inferior Occipital Gyrus  
Middle Occipital Gyrus  
Post Central Gyrus  
Precentral Gyrus  
Putamen



# ACQUISITIONS

## Diffusion-weighted signal

Mean Isotropic Diffusivity ( $D_{iso}$ )

Squared normalized Anisotropy ( $D_{\Delta}^2$ )

## Relaxometry

Spin-Lattice Relaxation ( $m_{R1}$ )

Spin-Spin Relaxation ( $m_{R2}$ )

# ACQUISITIONS

## Diffusion-weighted signal

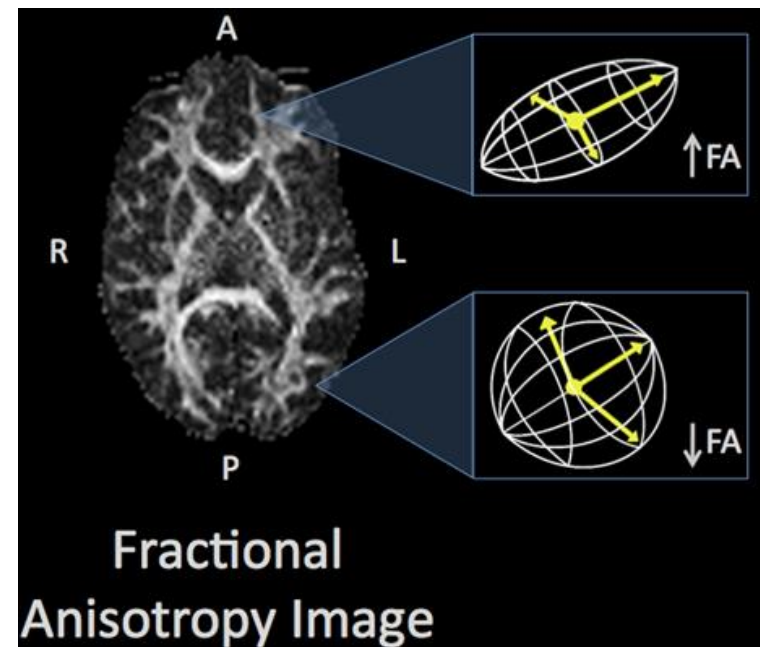
Mean Isotropic Diffusivity ( $D_{iso}$ )

Squared normalized Anisotropy ( $D_{\Delta}^2$ )

## Relaxometry

Spin-Lattice Relaxation ( $m_{R1}$ )

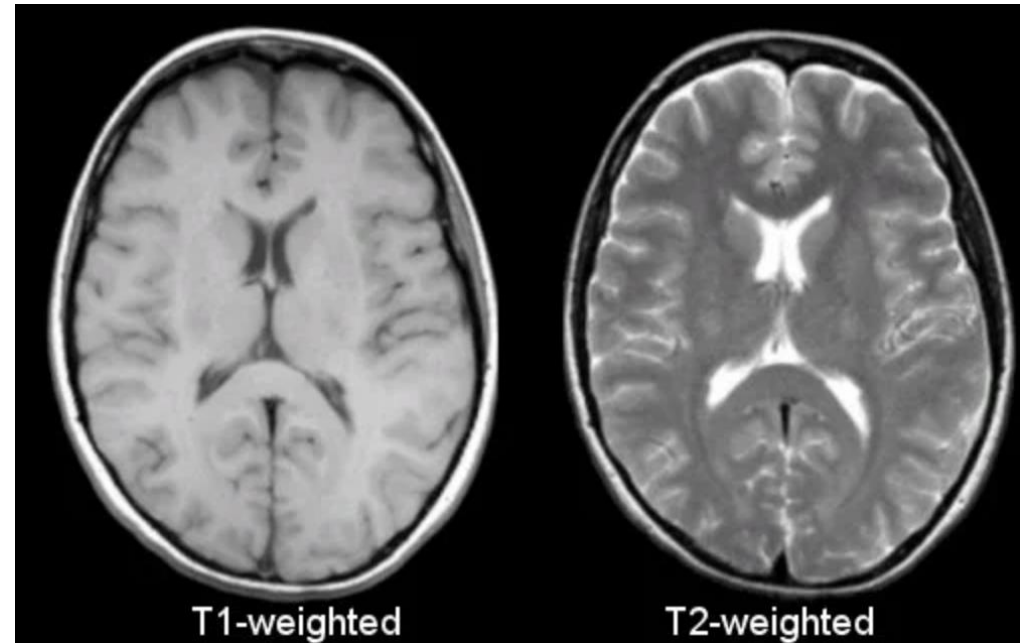
Spin-Spin Relaxation ( $m_{R2}$ )



$$D_{iso}(\omega) = \frac{D_{\parallel}(\omega) + 2D_{\perp}(\omega)}{3}$$

Axial diffusivity  
Radial diffusivity

$$D_{\Delta}^2(\omega) = \frac{(D_{\parallel}(\omega) - D_{\perp}(\omega))^2}{(D_{\parallel}(\omega) + 2D_{\perp}(\omega))^2}$$



# ACQUISITIONS

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Squared normalized Anisotropy ( $D_{\Delta}^2$ )

## Relaxometry

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Spin-Spin Relaxation ( $m_{R2}$ )

+

### Bin1 range:

$D_{iso} < 2.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2 > 0.25$

### Bin2 range:

$D_{iso} < 2.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2 < 0.25$

### Bin3 range:

$D_{iso} > 2.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2$  full range



# ACQUISITIONS

## Diffusion-weighted signal

Mean Isotropic Diffusivity ( $D_{iso}$ )  
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**Bin1** range:

$D_{iso} < 2.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2 > 0.25$

**White Matter**



**Bin2** range:

$D_{iso} < 2.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2 < 0.25$

**Gray Matter**



**Bin3** range:

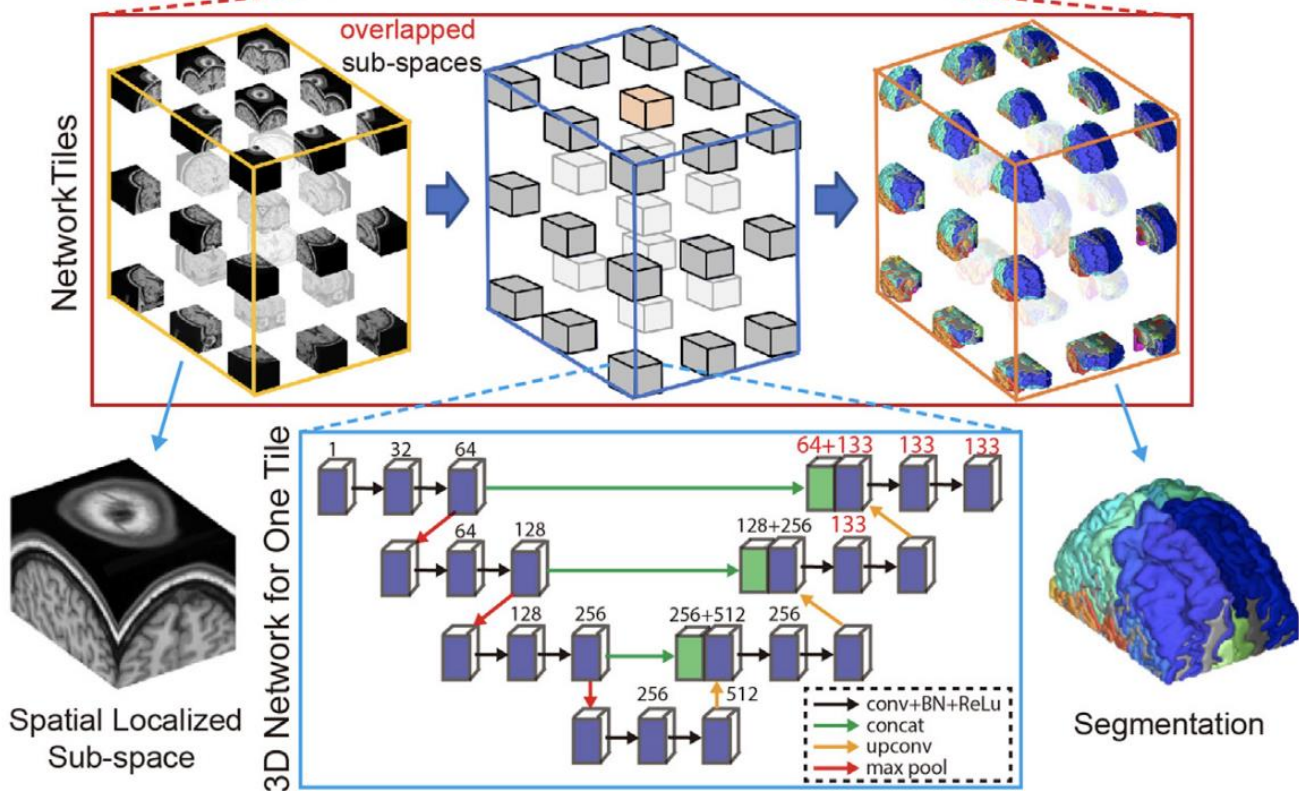
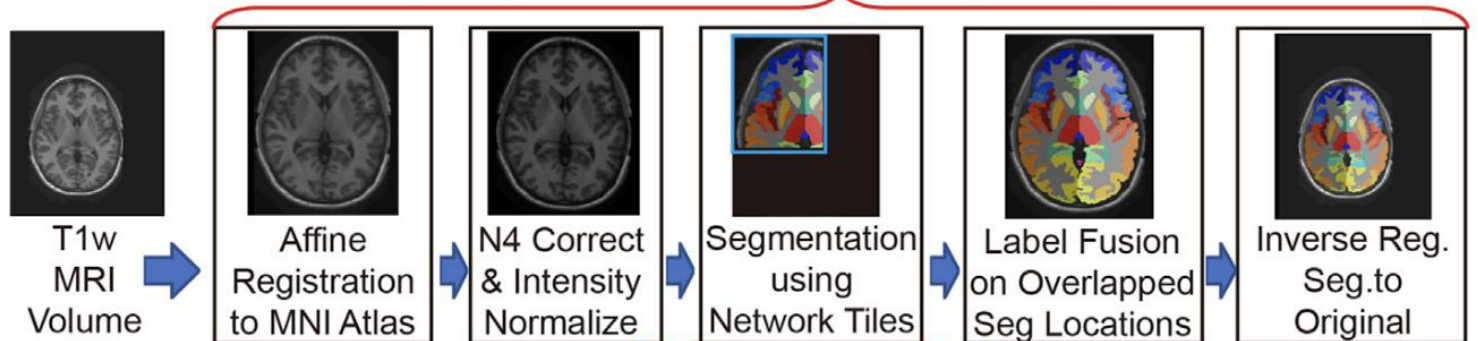
$D_{iso} > 2.5 \mu\text{m}^2/\text{ms}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2$  full range

**Cerebrospinal Fluid**



# SEGMENTATION

## Spatially Localized Atlas Network Tile (SLANT) Framework





# TO SUM UP

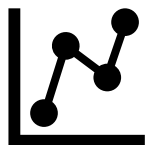
Diffusion-weighted signal

Relaxometry

**13 MRI acquisitions, 10 brain regions,  
30 healthy subjects**



# ANALYSIS



**Images pre-processing:**  
Z-score method

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$



**Feature selection:**  
*Spearman correlation coefficient*,  
 $p\text{-value} \leq 0,05$   
(Benjamini-Hochberg correction)

$$\rho = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$



**Radiomic features:**

- 104 IBSI-compliant features
- PyRadiomics 3.0.1

$d_i$ : difference between the two  
ranks of each observation  
 $n$ : number of observations

# RESULTS

## Metrics with more features age-related:

1. Caudate ( $m_{R2bin2}: 77$  ,  $D_{\Delta}^2: 69$ )
2. Putamen ( $m_{R2bin2}: 68$  ,  $D_{\Delta}^2: 61$ )
3. Accumbens ( $m_{R2bin1}: 56$ )

Age related volume shrinkage in  
Caudate and Putamen

Structural and functional  
changes affect the Accumbens

## $m_{R2bin2}$ - Caudate axial view

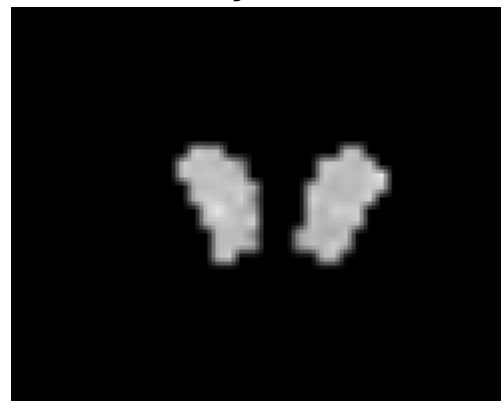
23 years



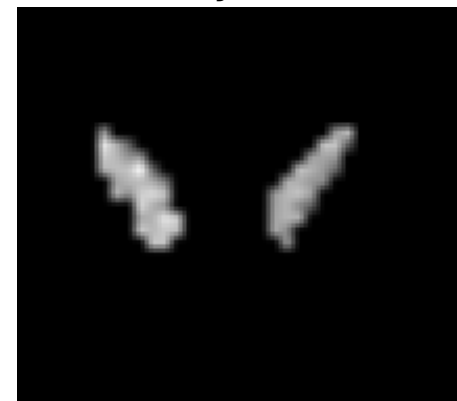
77 years



25 years



73 years



# RESULTS

**Region less affected by age:**  
Amygdala, 11/13 MRI-metrics with 0  
features age-informative

Healthy ageing does not  
markedly impair Amygdala  
structural integrity

# RESULTS

**Region less affected by age:**  
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features age-informative

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**More informative MRI metrics:**

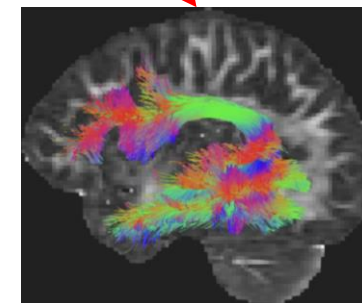
$m_{R2bin1}$ ,  $m_{R2bin2}$ ,  $D_{\Delta}^2$



White Matter



Gray Matter



Brain  
microstructure

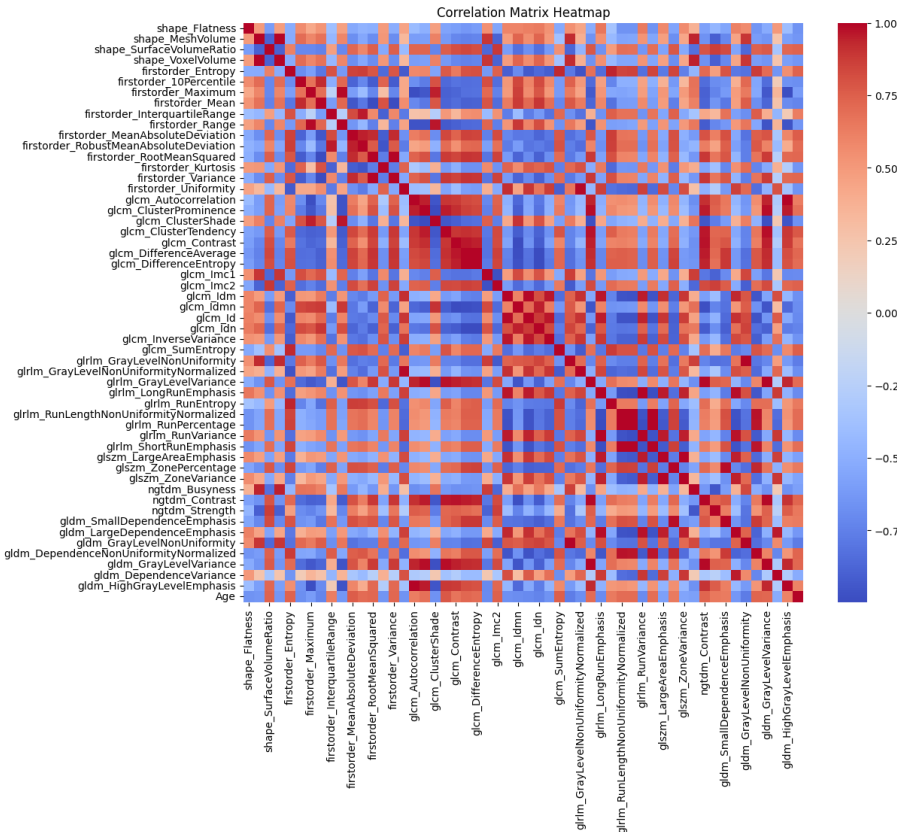
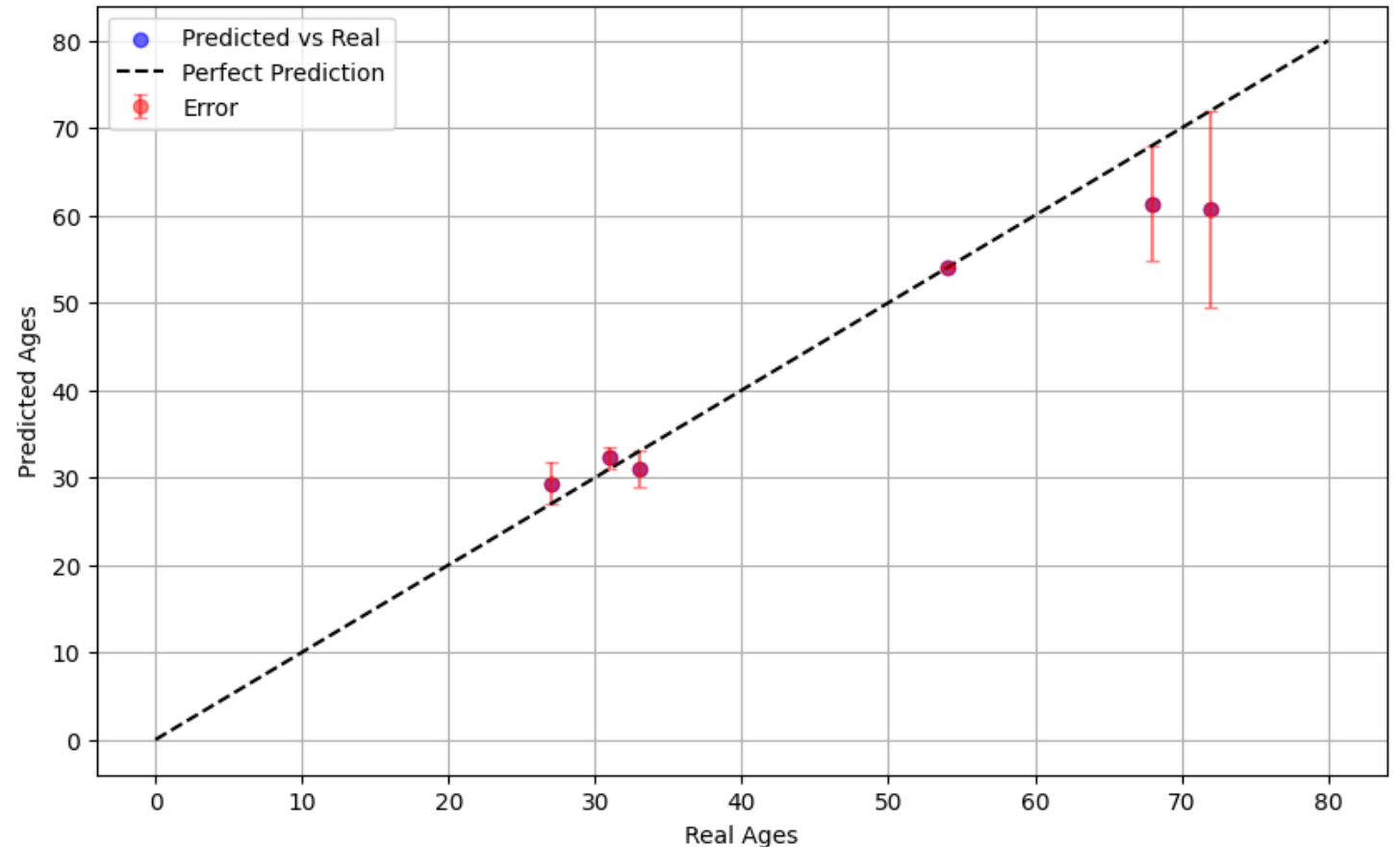


# NEXT STEPS

## Radiomics-based Regression

Preliminary results  
(PCA + Random Forest Regressor)

Real vs Predicted Ages with Associated Error



Drop related features  
PCA

# NEXT STEPS

## Radiomics-based Regression



### Explainable machine learning radiomics model for Primary Progressive Aphasia classification

Benedetta Tafuri<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Roberto De Blasi<sup>2</sup>, Salvatore Nigro<sup>2†</sup> and Giancarlo Logroscino<sup>1,2†</sup> on behalf of the Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration Neuroimaging Initiative



**SHAP  
LIME**

## NN-based Regression

### MULTI-BRANCH DEFORMABLE CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORK WITH LABEL DISTRIBUTION LEARNING FOR FETAL BRAIN AGE PREDICTION

Lufan Liao<sup>1,2</sup>, Xin Zhang<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Fenqiang Zhao<sup>2</sup>, Jingjiao Lou<sup>2</sup>, Li Wang<sup>2</sup>, Xiangmin Xu<sup>1</sup>, He Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Gang Li<sup>2\*</sup>



Medical Image Analysis  
Volume 51, January 2019, Pages 89-100

### 3D regression neural network for the quantification of enlarged perivascular spaces in brain MRI



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

NeuroImage

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/neuroimage](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/neuroimage)



### Learning patterns of the ageing brain in MRI using deep convolutional networks

Nicola K. Dinsdale<sup>a,1,\*</sup>, Emma Bluemke<sup>b,1</sup>, Stephen M. Smith<sup>a</sup>, Zobair Arya<sup>a</sup>, Diego Vidaurre<sup>a,c</sup>, Mark Jenkinson<sup>a</sup>, Ana I.L. Namburete<sup>b</sup>



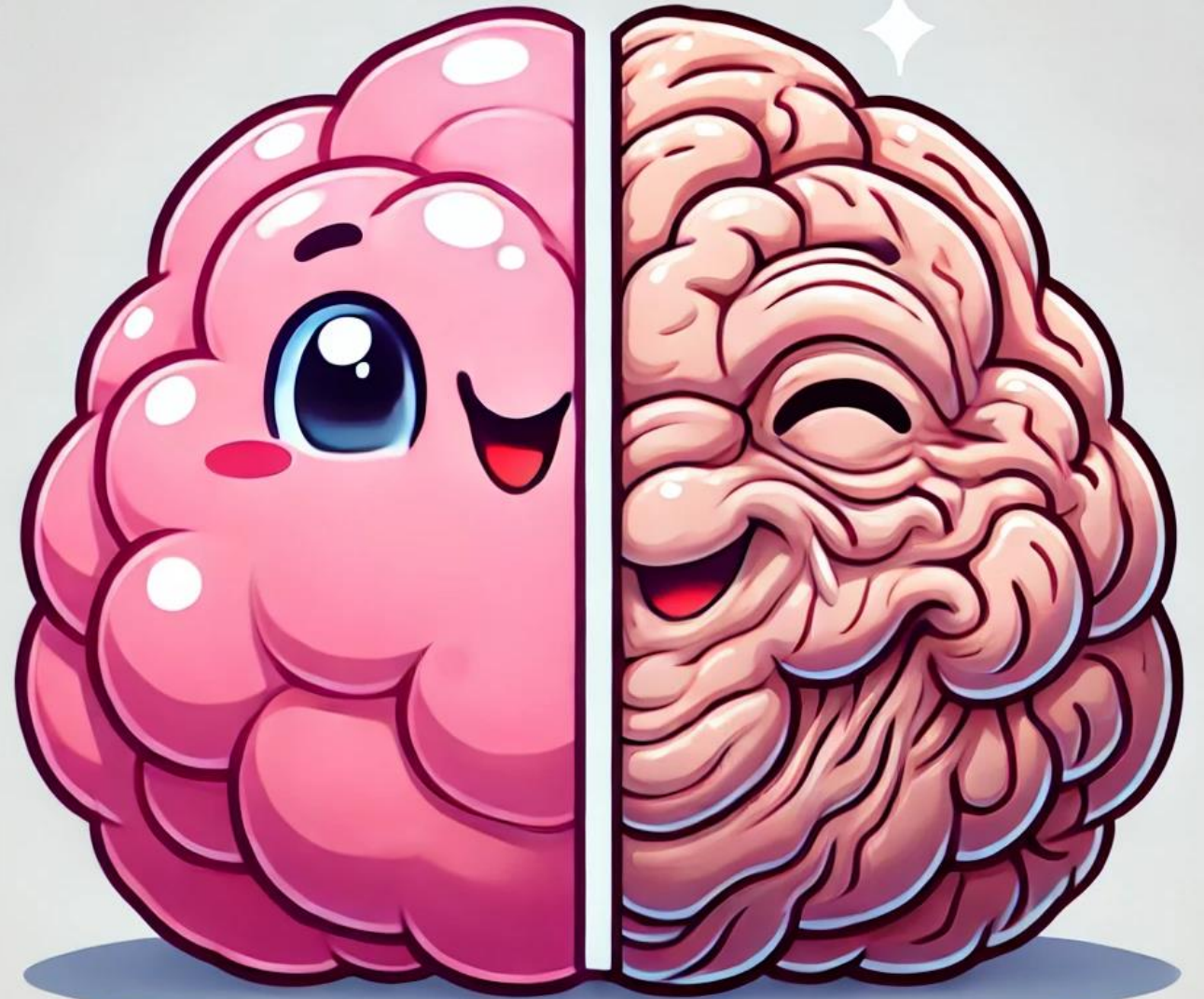
**Grad-CAM**

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