

# Optical Detected Magnetic Resonance and fluorescent Nanodiamonds: towards molecular resolution neuronal imaging

Antonina M. Monaco, PhD

Theoretical Neurobiology and Neuroengineering Lab  
University of Antwerp, Belgium



# Outline

- ◆ Neurons as RC circuits
- ◆ Background and motivations
- ◆ Why NV-NDs?
- ◆ Bare VS functionalized NV-NDs
- ◆ Experimental
- ◆ Future plans

# Neurons: a tale of circuits and Action Potentials

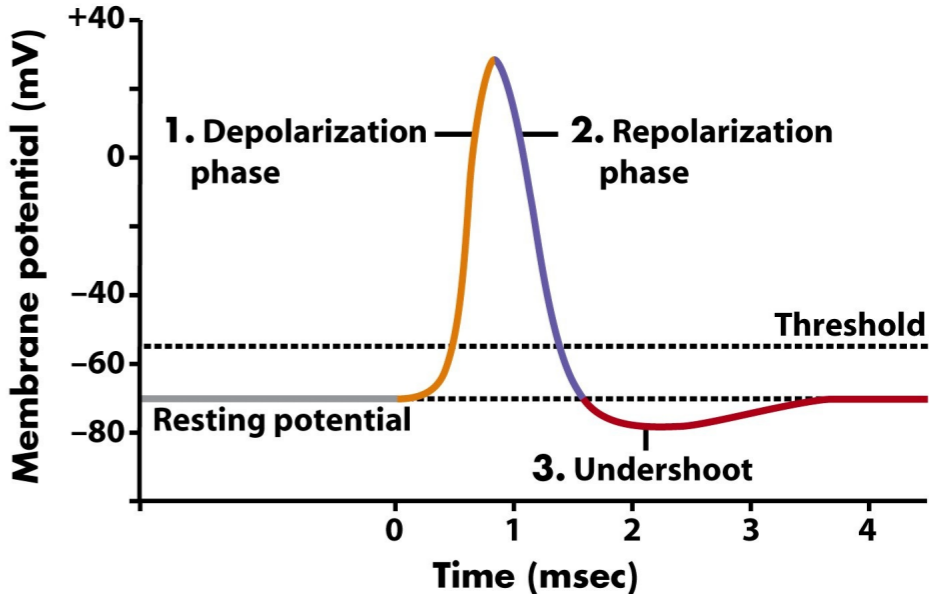
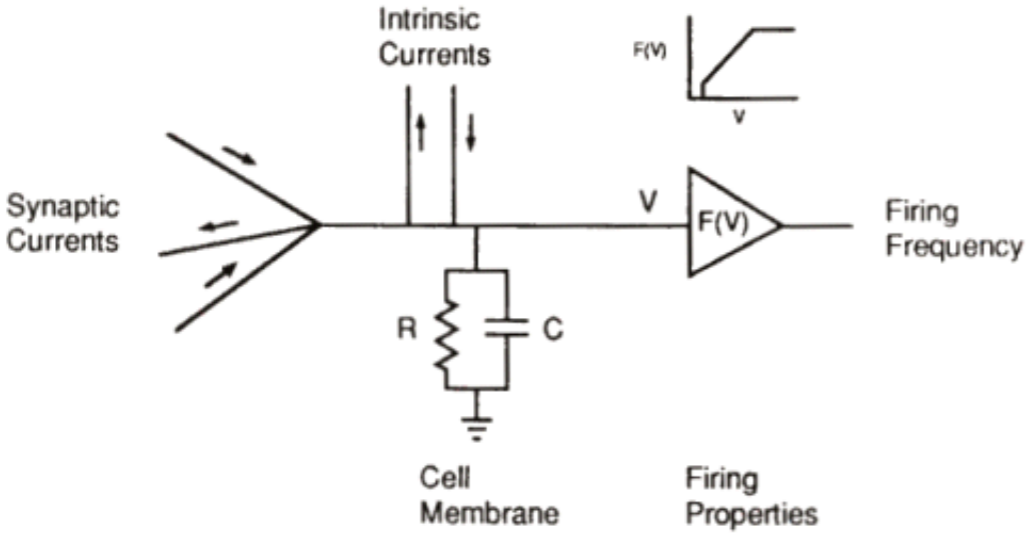
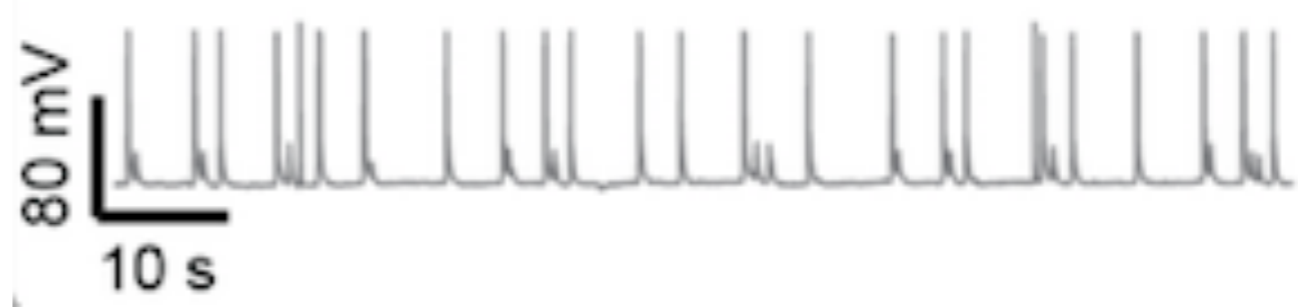
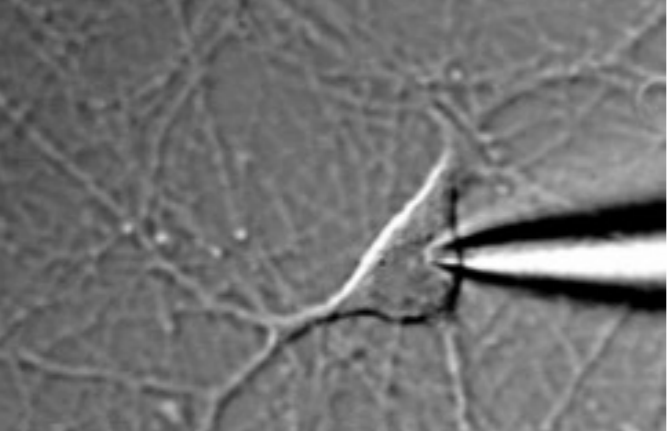


Figure 45-5 Biological Science, 2/e © 2005 Pearson Prentice Hall, Inc.



# Background and motivations

Nanoscale tools for monitoring cellular electrical activity

Drawbacks of Voltage/Calcium-Sensitive Dyes

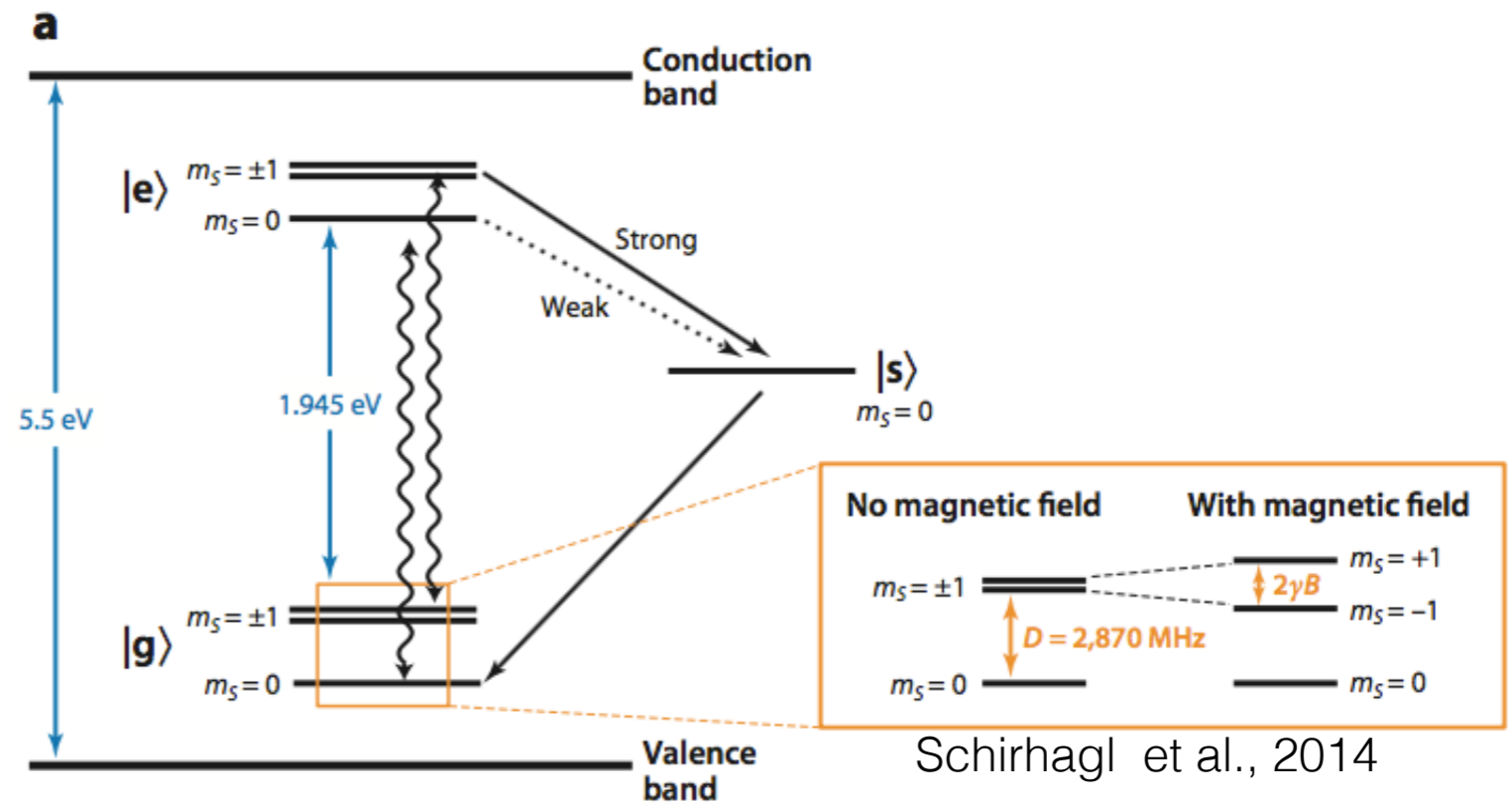
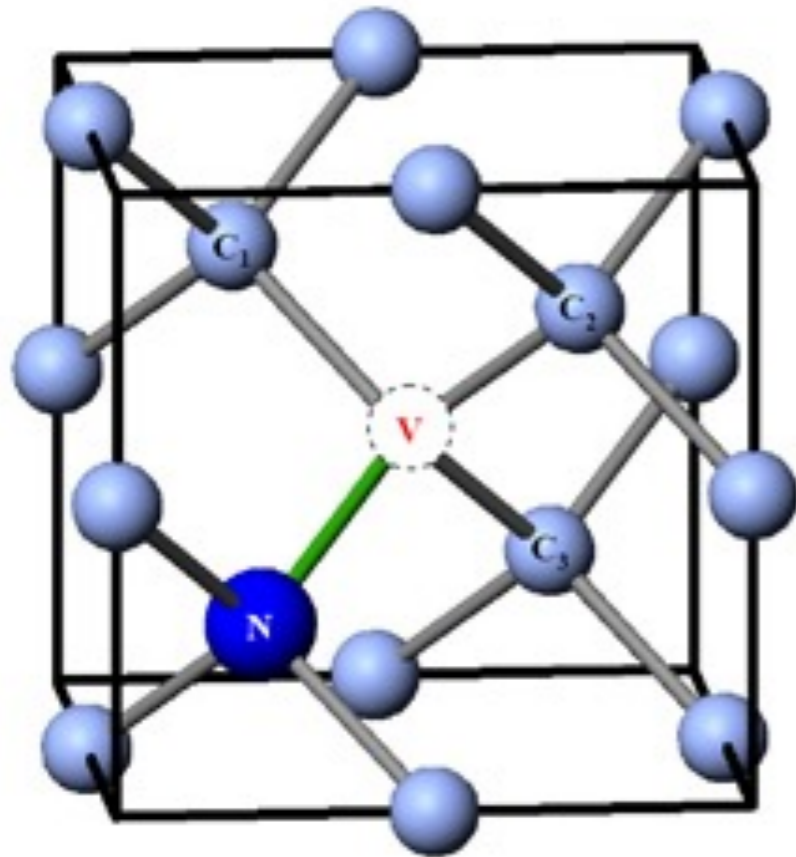
Intrinsic limitations of existing techniques (Electrophysiology, MEG, EEG)

Non-invasive access to subthreshold synaptic events

Direct evaluation of local neural electromagnetic field

Temporal resolution combined with localization of sources of neuronal activity

# Why Nitrogen Vacancy- NanoDiamonds?



Voltage Sensitive Dyes versus NV-NDs:

 **only** electrical potential changes versus electric **and** magnetic fields measurements

High-resolution measurements of membrane potentials

# Characterization and functionalization of NV-NDs

Electronic, chemical and morphological properties:

♦ SEM, TEM, DLS, Z-Potential, XPS, Raman, FTIR

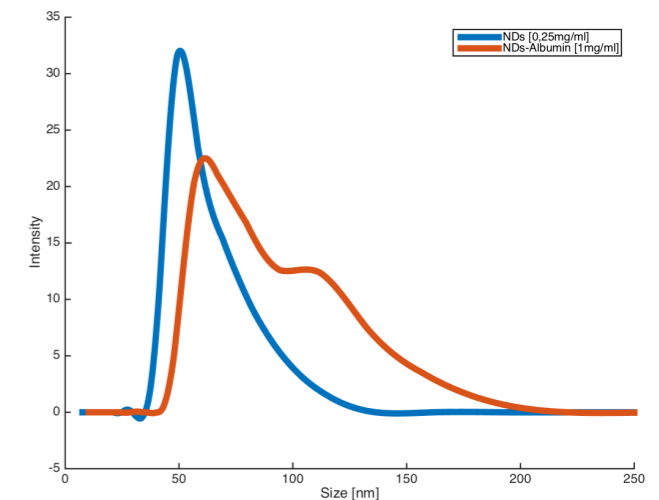
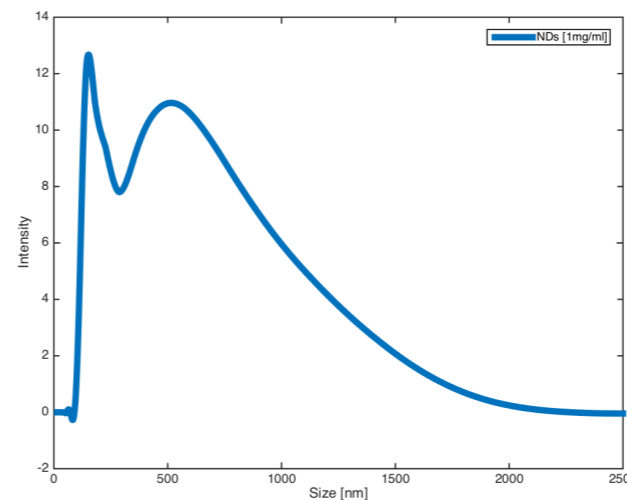
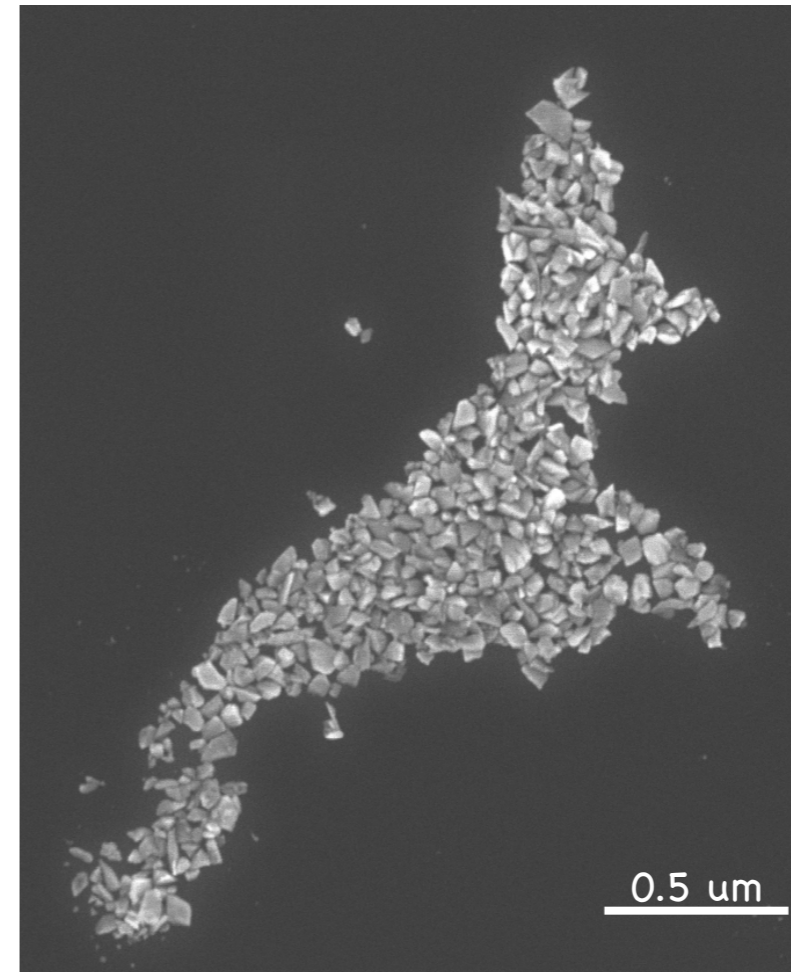
Avoiding clustering:

♦ albumin

♦ lipid micelle embedding

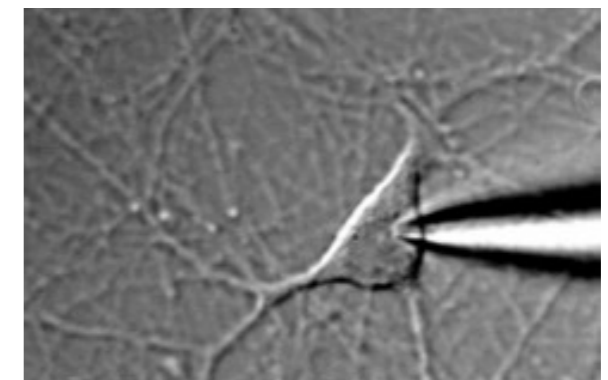
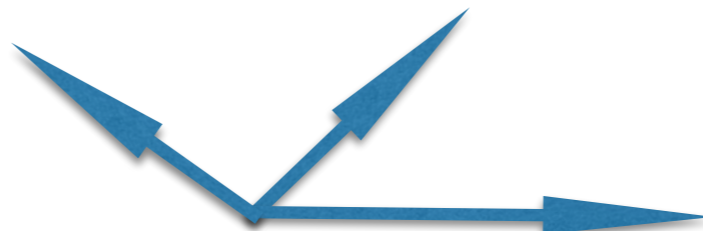
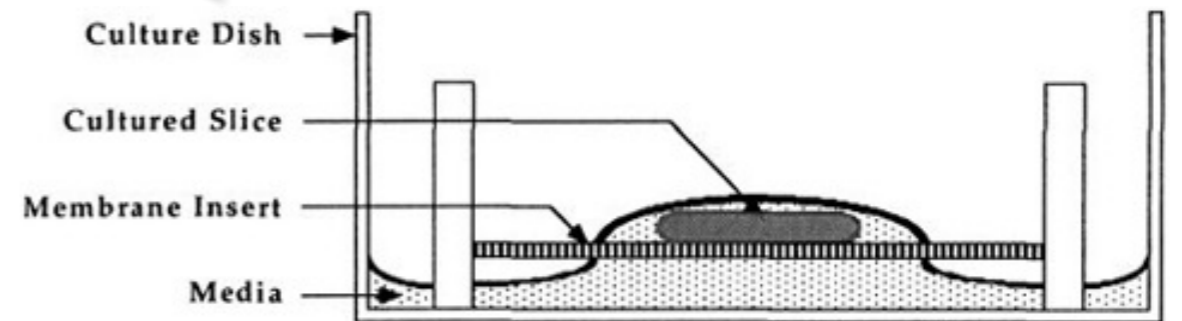
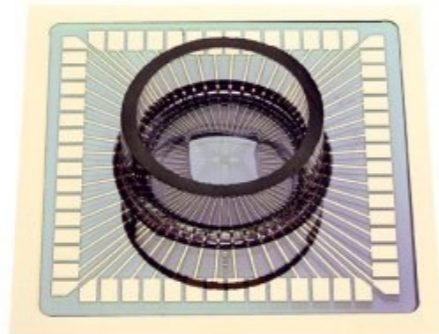
Promoting internalization:

♦ cell-penetrating peptides



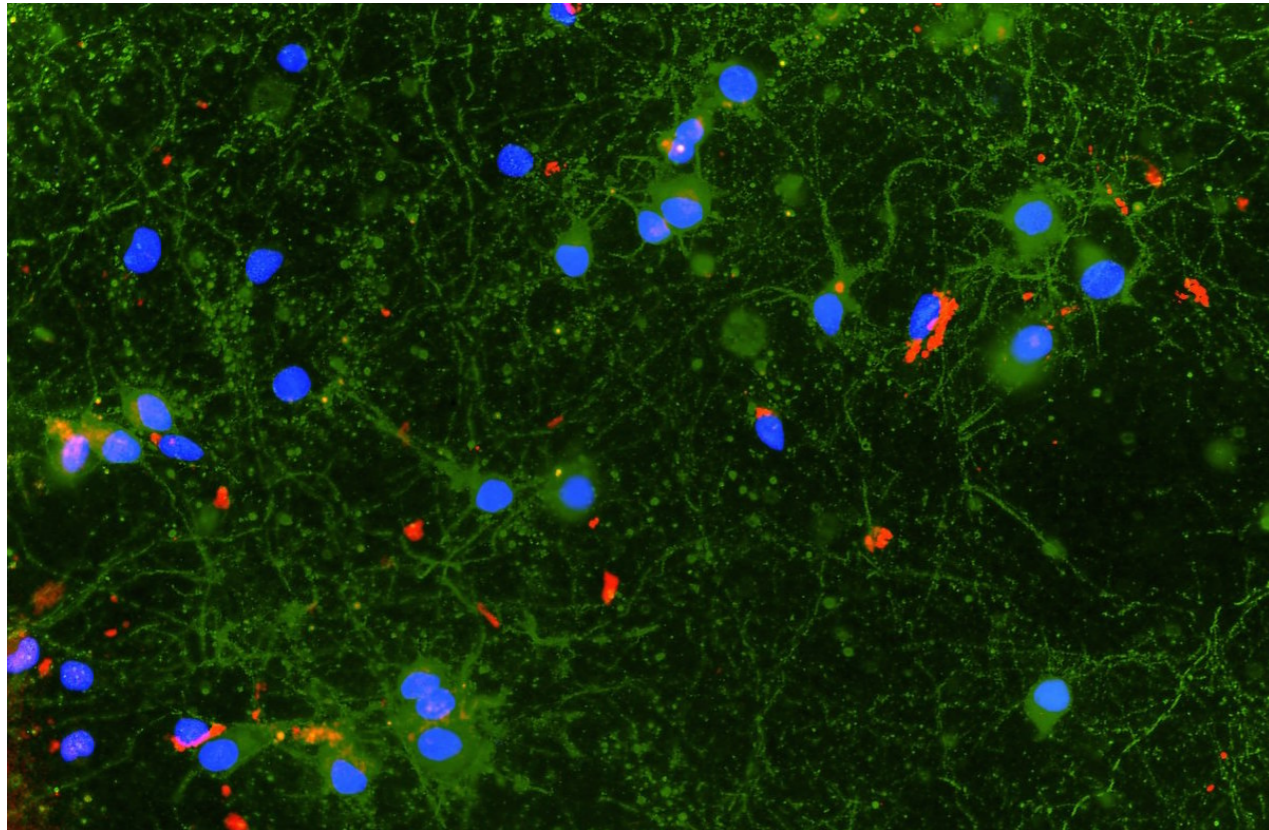


# Interfacing NV-NDs with primary neuronal cultures/organotypic brain slices





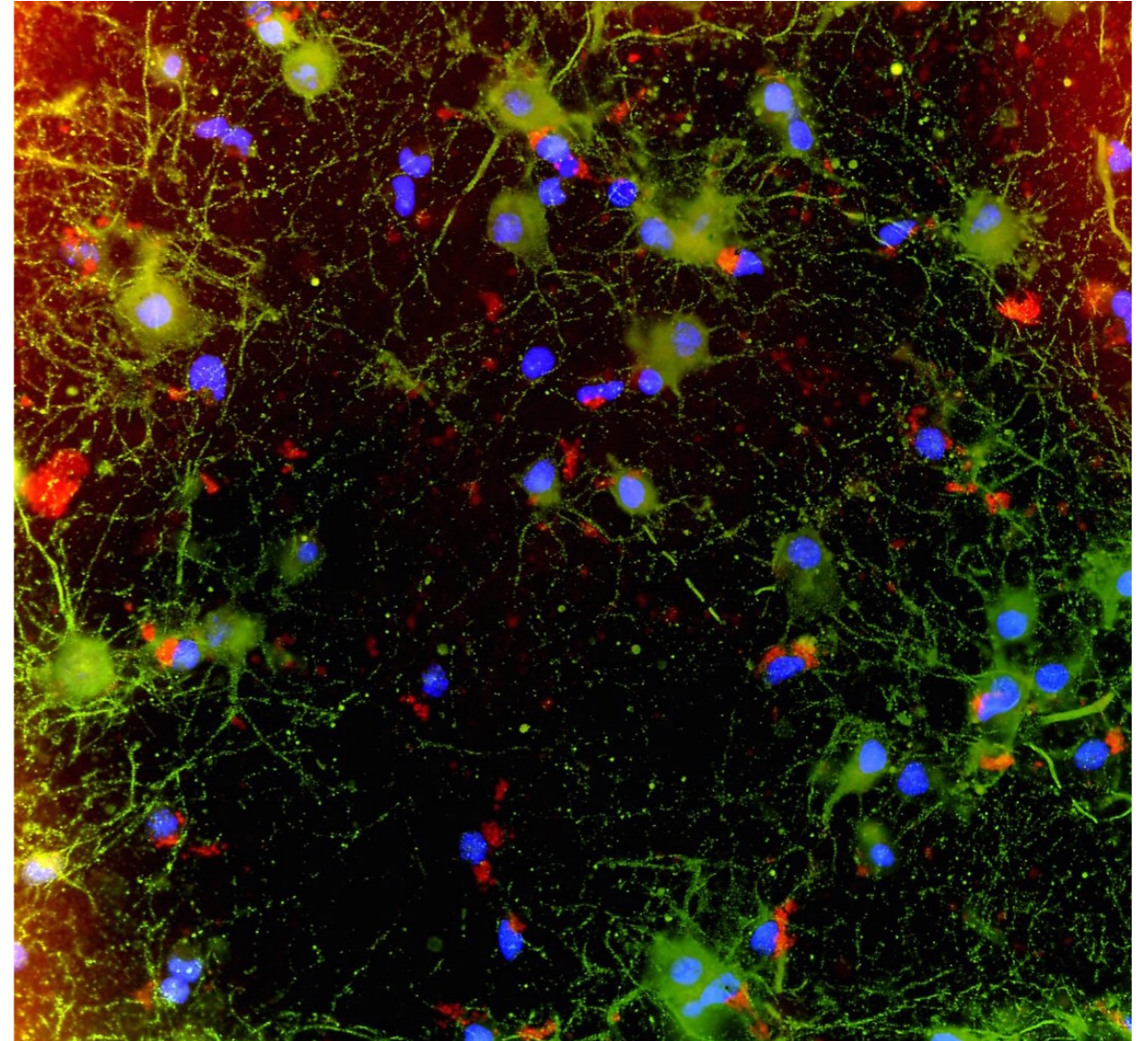
# Immunostaining



Neurons

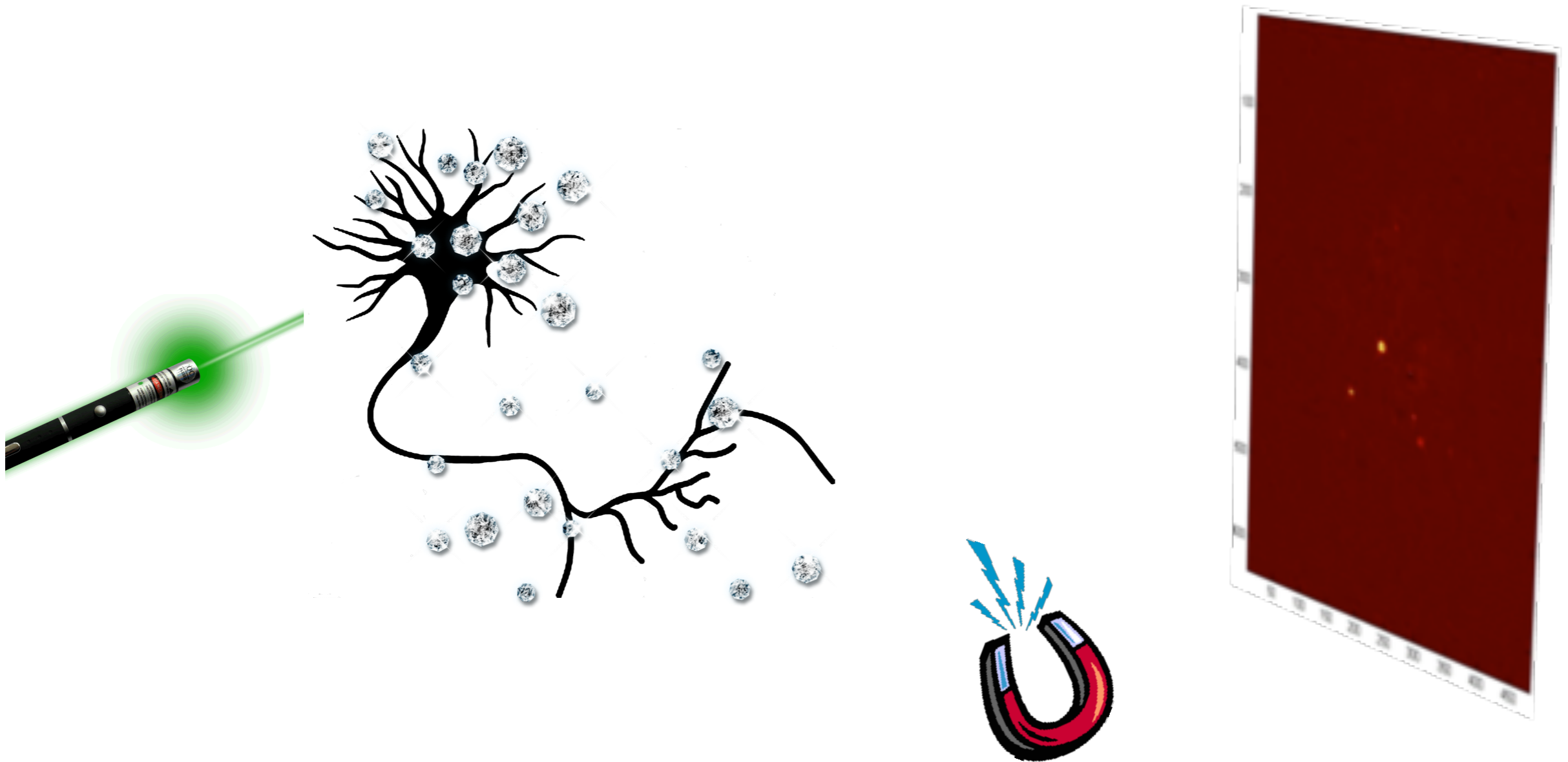
NV-NDs

Nuclei





# Observing differences in NV-NDs photoluminescence in living neurons



Work in progress



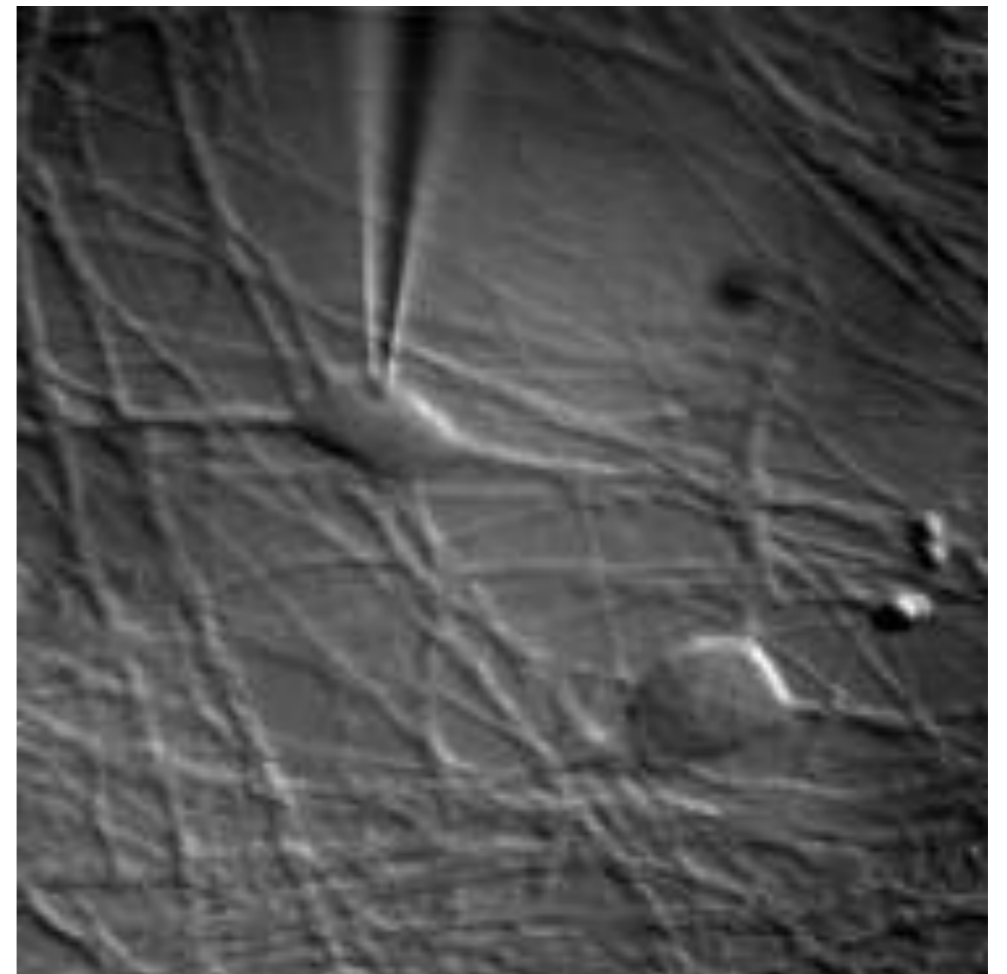
# NV-NDs localization and Patch Clamp recordings

💎 Internalization:

💎 Fluorescence Microscopy,  
TEM

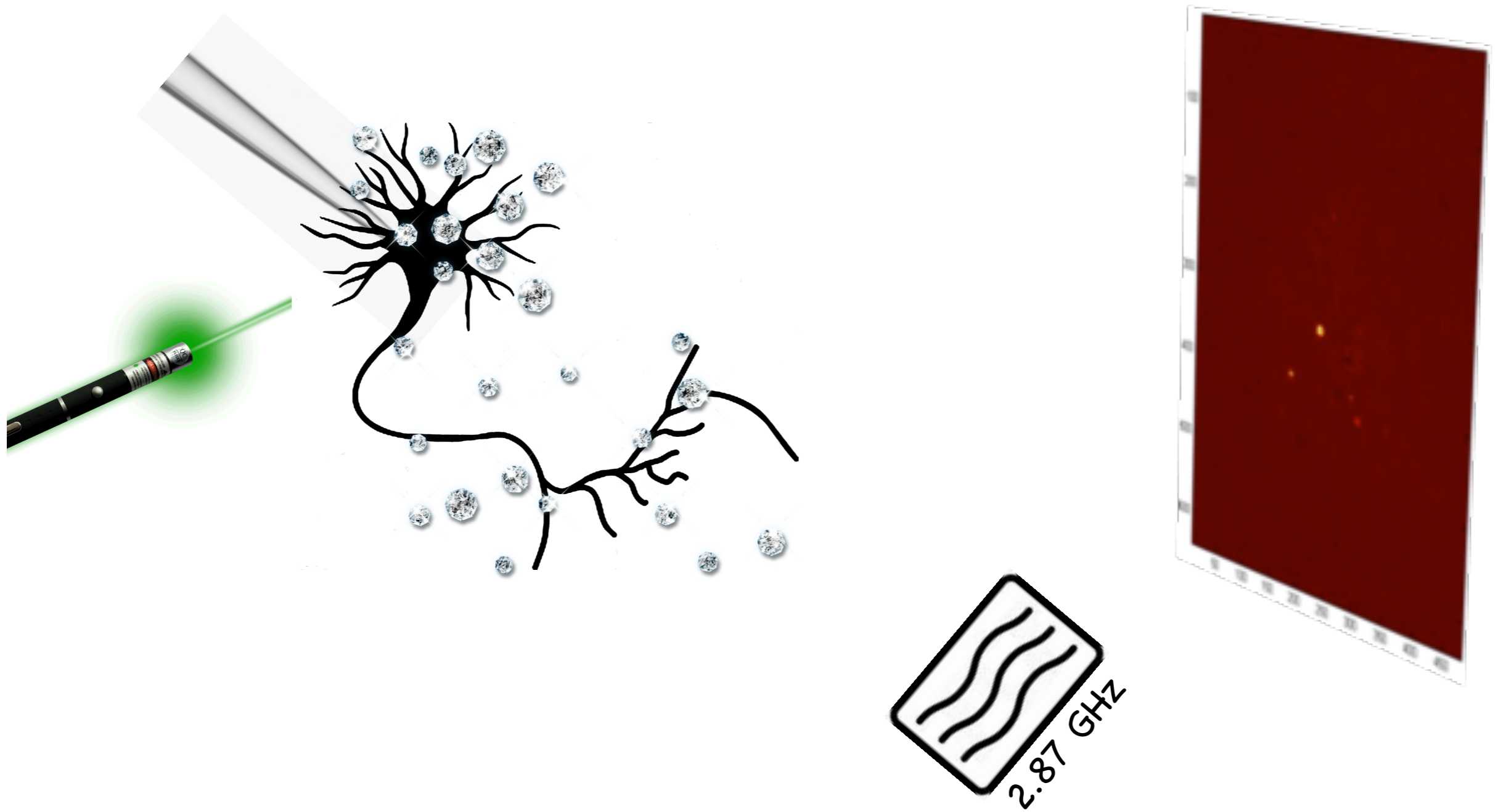
💎 Synchrotron Light: NEXAFS  
& Cryo-Electron Tomography

💎 Effects on neuronal  
electrical activity and  
morphology





# Correlating difference in NV-NDs photoluminescence with neuronal spontaneous activity



# Acknowledgements

 TNB Lab

 ECM Lab

 J. Motilewski

 S. K. R. Singam

 D. Van Dyck

 E. Goovaerts

 M. Giugliano





Thank you all for your kind attention

