

Network Physiology & the Human Physiome: Implications for Aging and Resilience

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Relevant Financial Relationships:

- salaried full professor, Department of Physics at Boston University.
- research funded by the W.M. Keck Foundation and Office of Naval Research.
- receives honoraria for courses and seminars on complex systems and network physiology besides place of employment, including at the International Summer Institute on Network Physiology, Lake Como School for Advance Studies.
- Receives financial compensation for reviews of grants from the NIH and other agencies



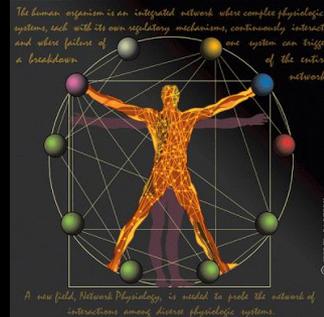
Relevant Nonfinancial Relationships:

- non-salaried faculty member at the Center for Systems Neural Science, Boston University
- serves as Field Chief Editor, Frontiers in Network Physiology
- serves on Editorial Boards: New Journal of Physics, Journal of Biological Physics,
- serves as reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals

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**Keck Laboratory for Network Physiology
Physics Department
Boston University**



**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**



**HARVARD
MEDICAL SCHOOL**

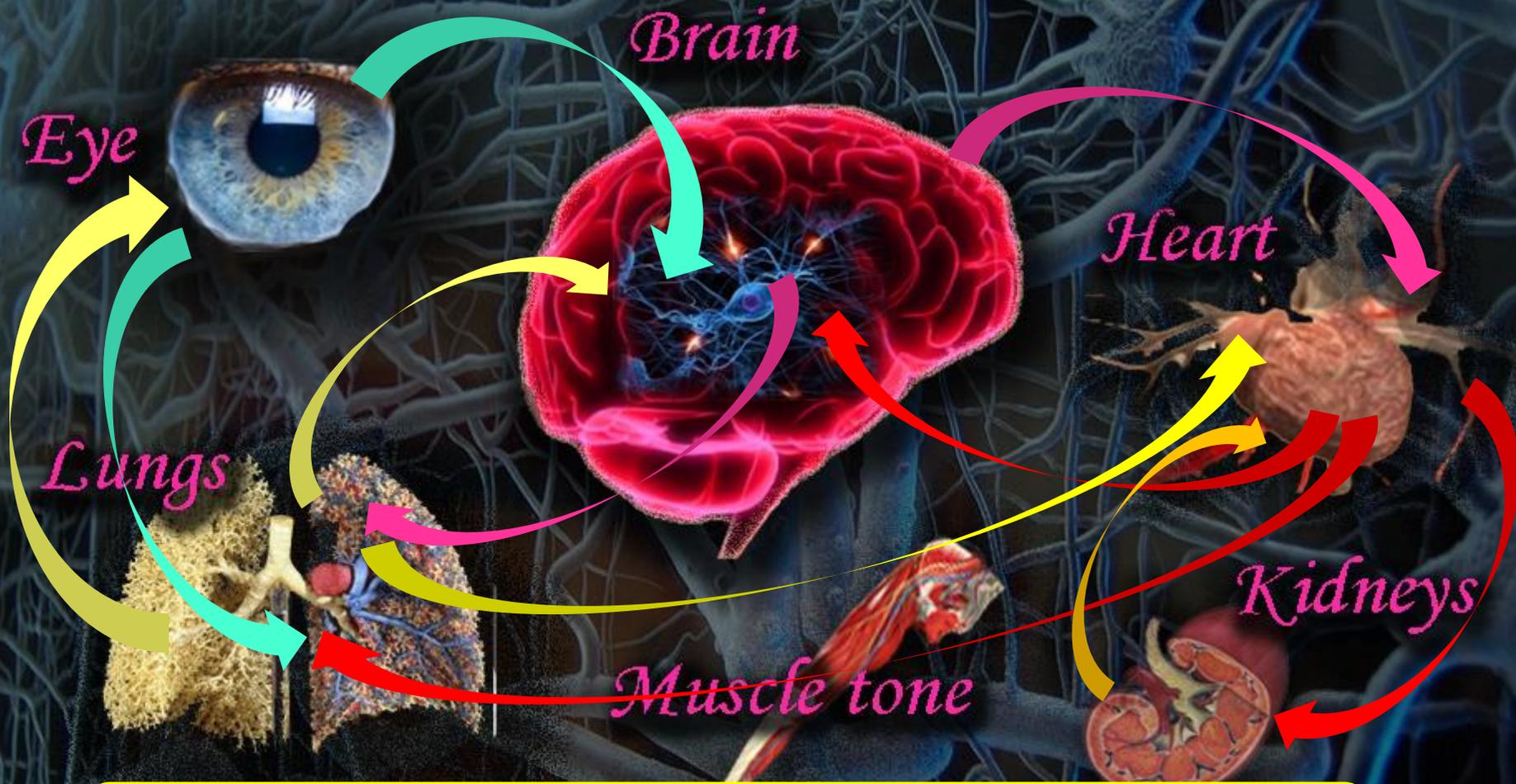
**3-4 March 2024
NIH Aging**



**National Institutes
of Health**

Human Organism – Integrated Network

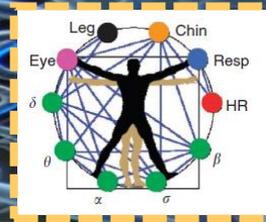
Coordinated Interactions of Organ Systems



Essential to: Maintain Health
Generate distinct physiological states

Fundamental Question:

How Physiologic States and Functions
Emerge
out of Organ Network Interactions ?



Macroscopic

*Horizontal
Integration*

Mesoscopic

Microscopic

**Integrative
Physiology**

**Systems
Biology**

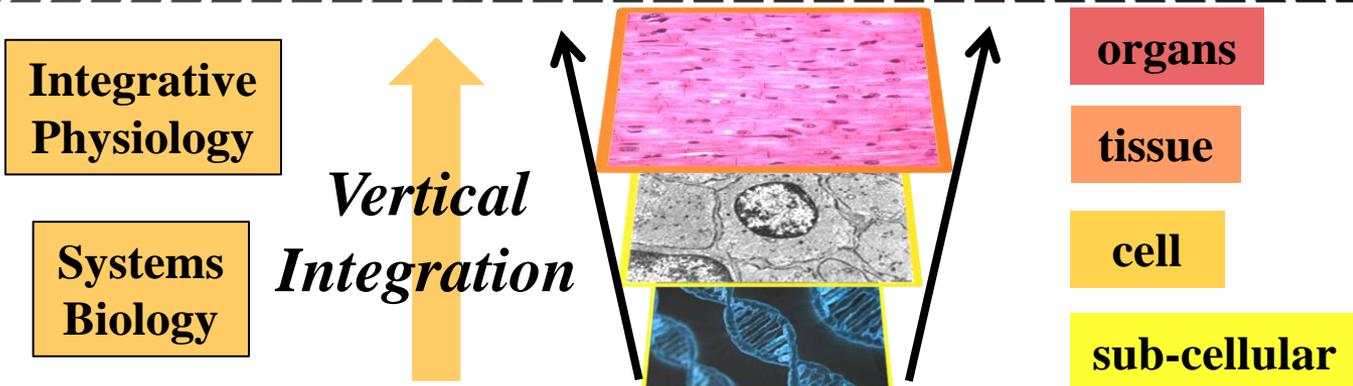
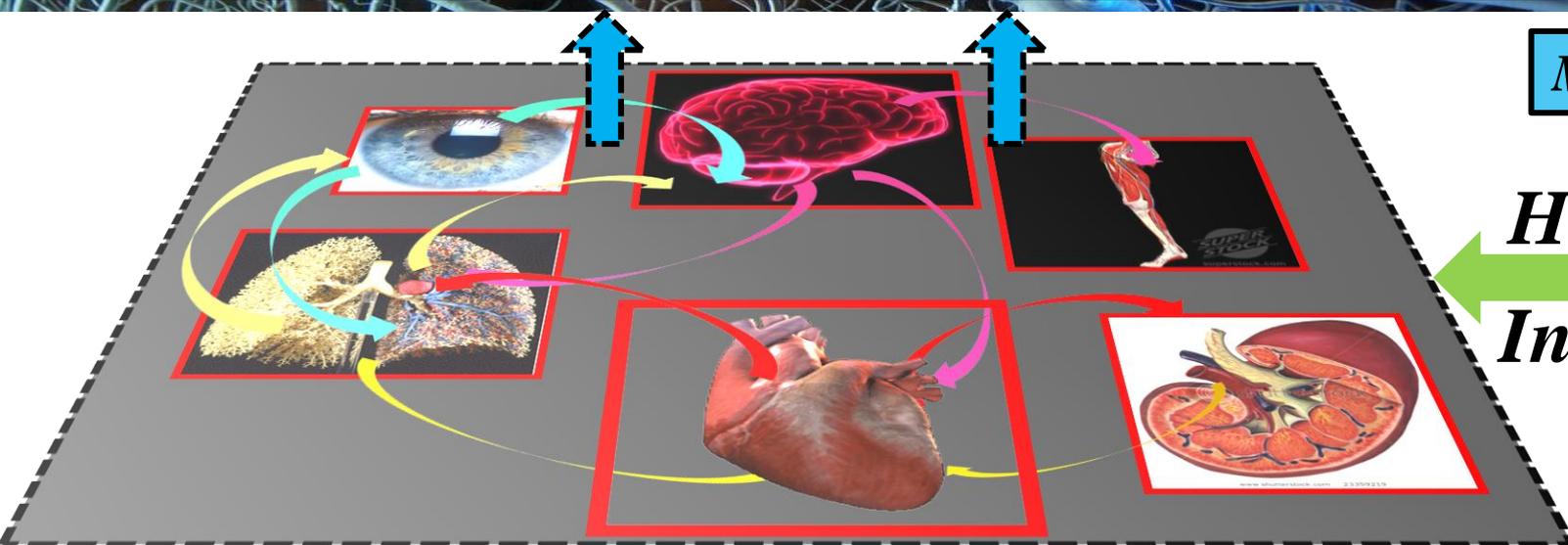
*Vertical
Integration*

organs

tissue

cell

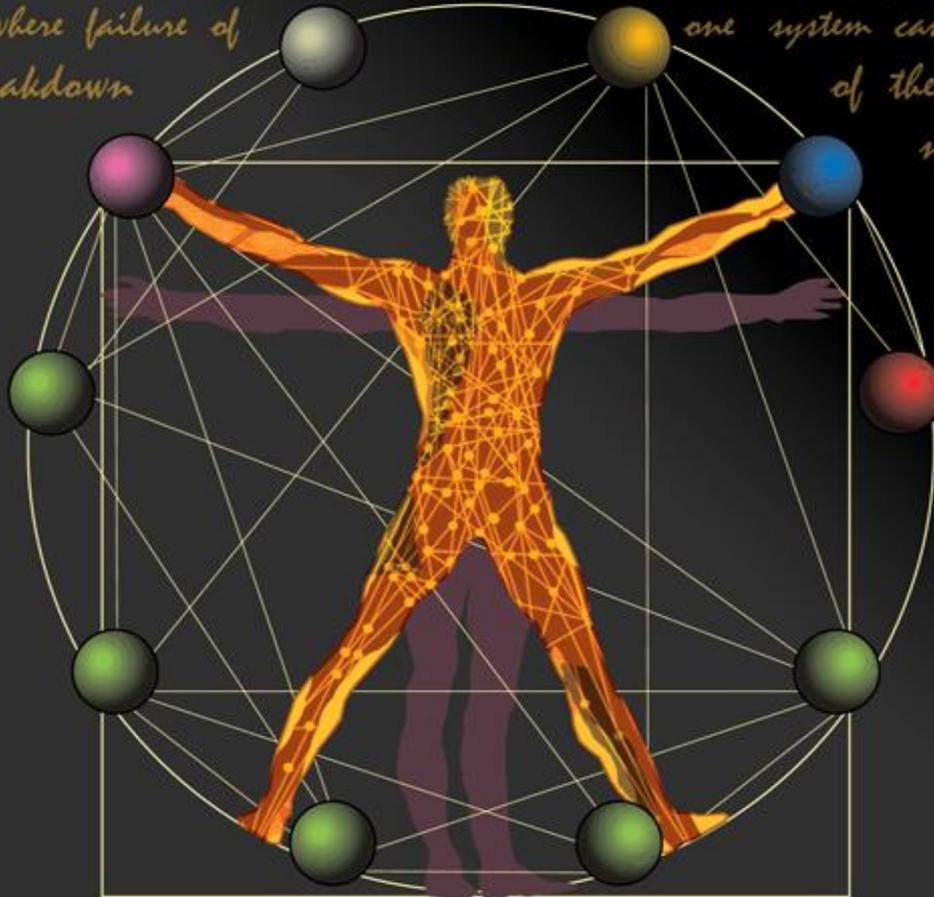
sub-cellular



Our Research Program

New Research Direction: Shifting the focus from single organ systems to the network of organ interactions

The human organism is an integrated network where complex physiologic systems, each with its own regulatory mechanisms, continuously interact, and where failure of one system can trigger a breakdown of the entire network.



A new field, Network Physiology, is needed to probe the network of interactions among diverse physiologic systems.

A new field

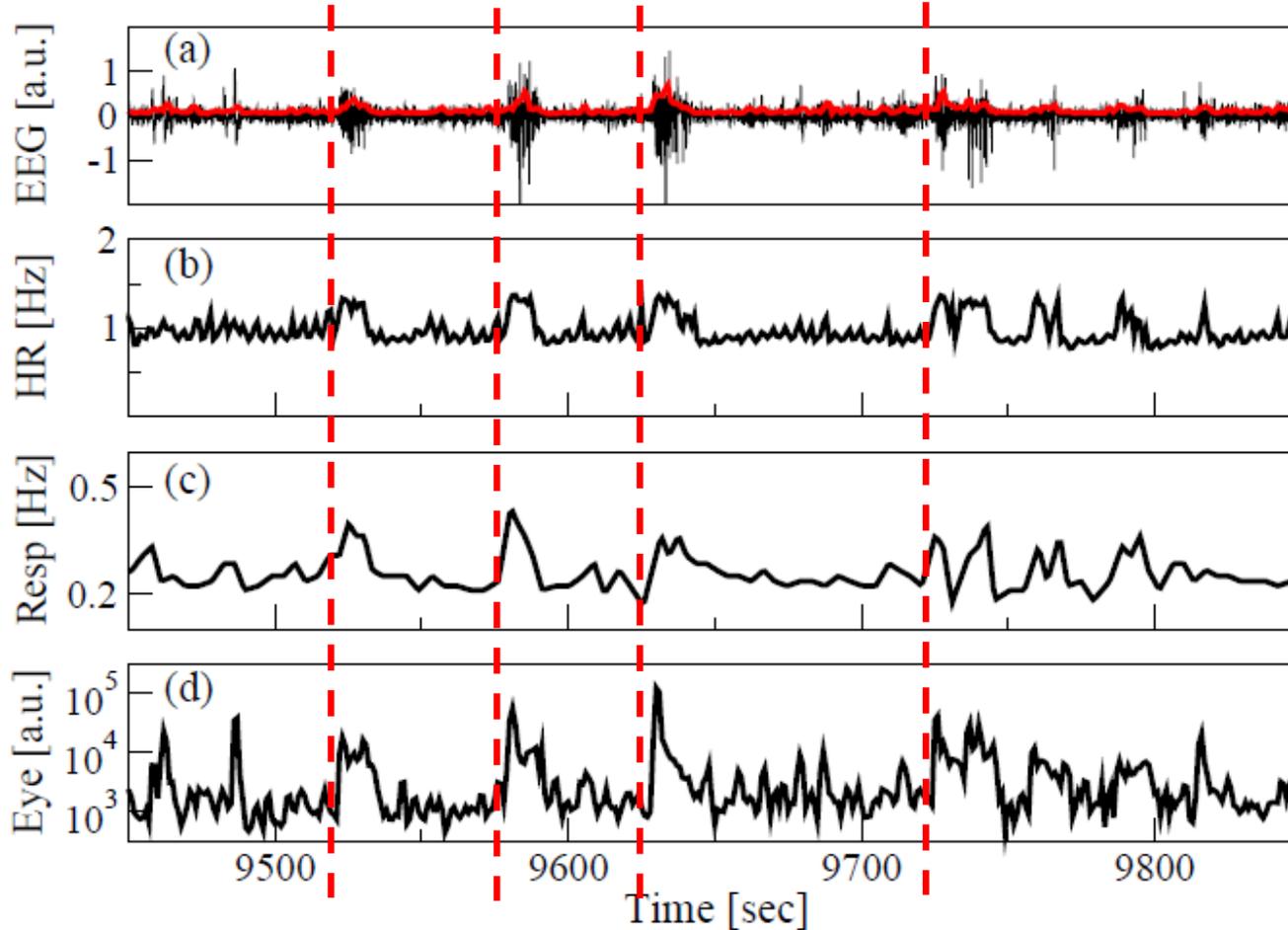
Network Physiology

needed to probe interactions among diverse physiologic systems.

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**Data-
Driven
Observation**

Coordinated activity across diverse systems



**EEG- σ band:
sleep spindles**

Heart rate

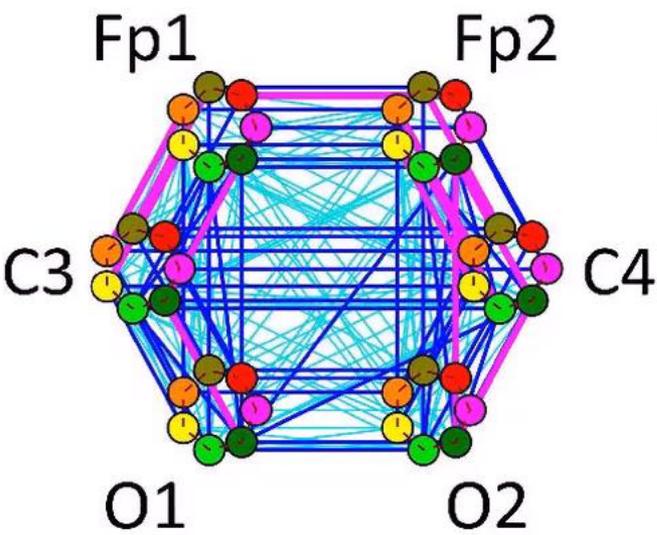
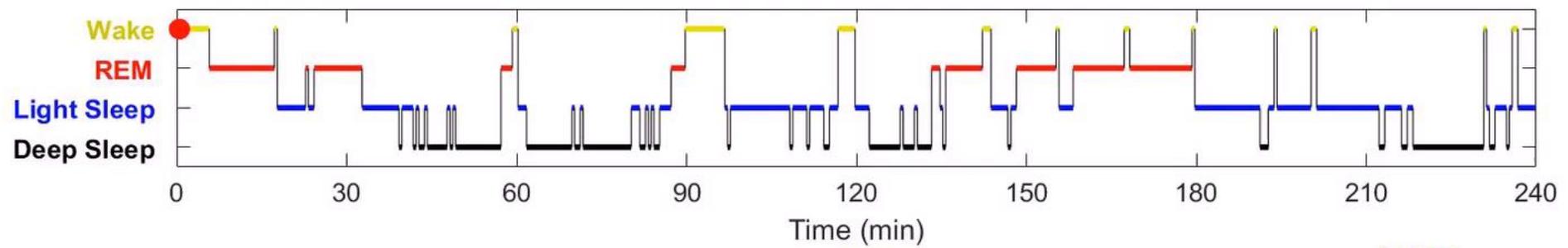
Respiratory rate

Eye movements

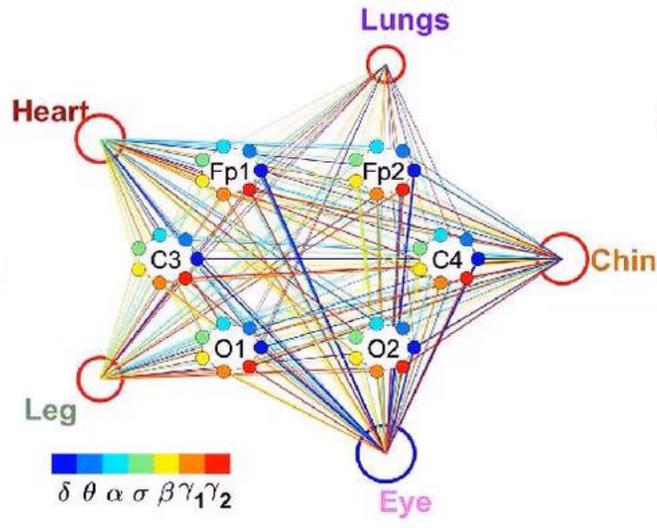
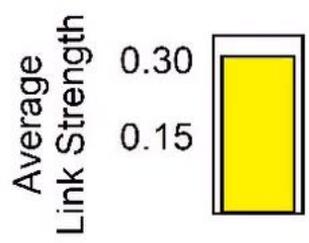
→ Bursts in the dynamics of one system are coordinated with bursts in other systems with stable time delay

**Level 3:
Networked
Interactions**

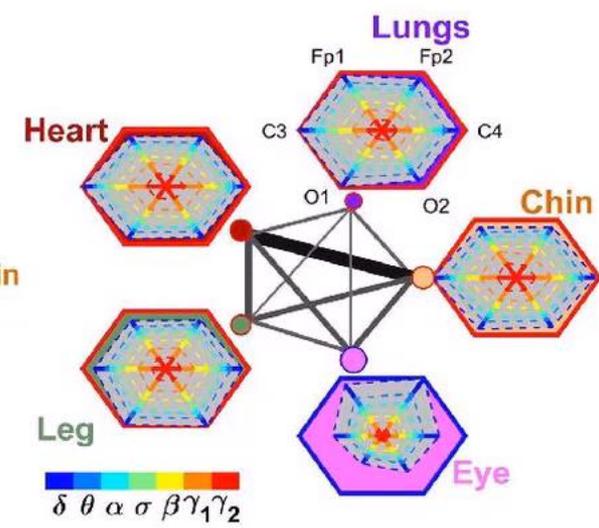
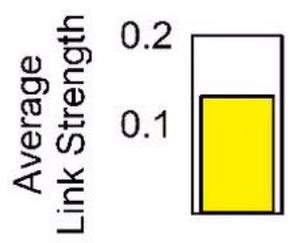
Network Physiology: Networks of brain activity and other physiologic systems across sleep stages



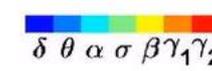
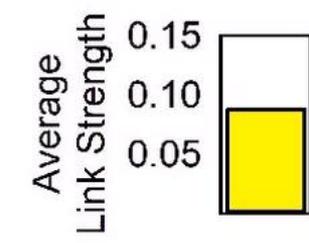
Brain-Brain



Brain-Organ

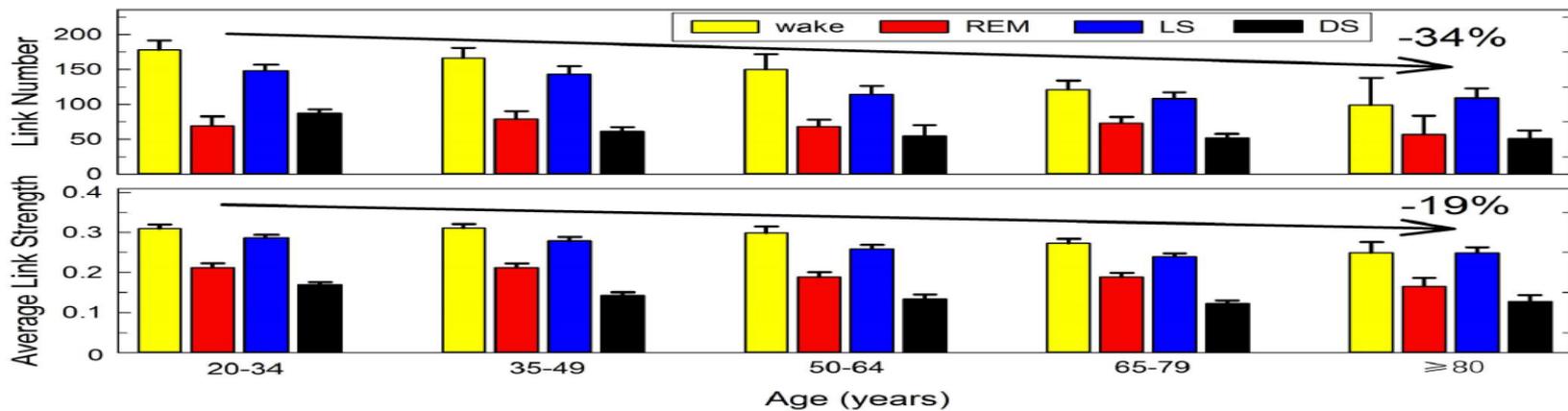
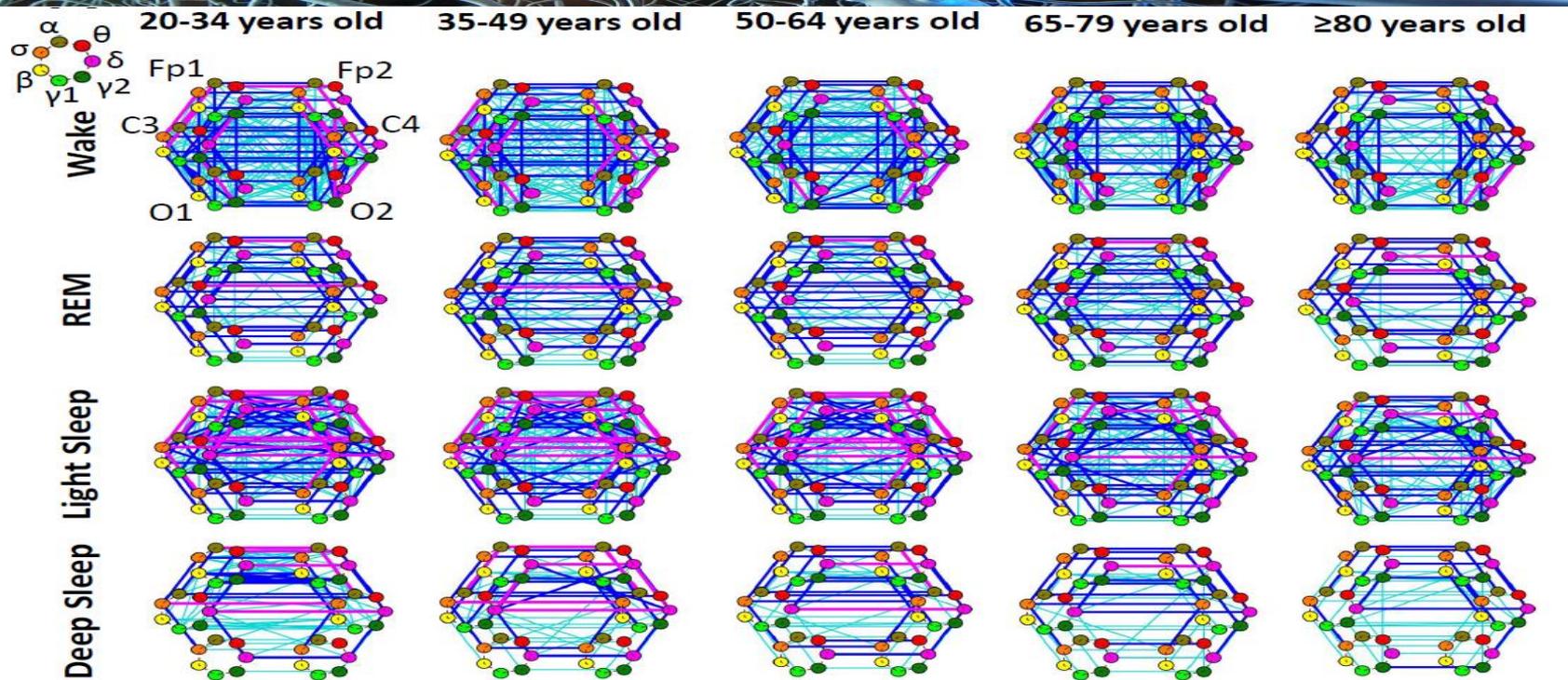


Organ-Organ



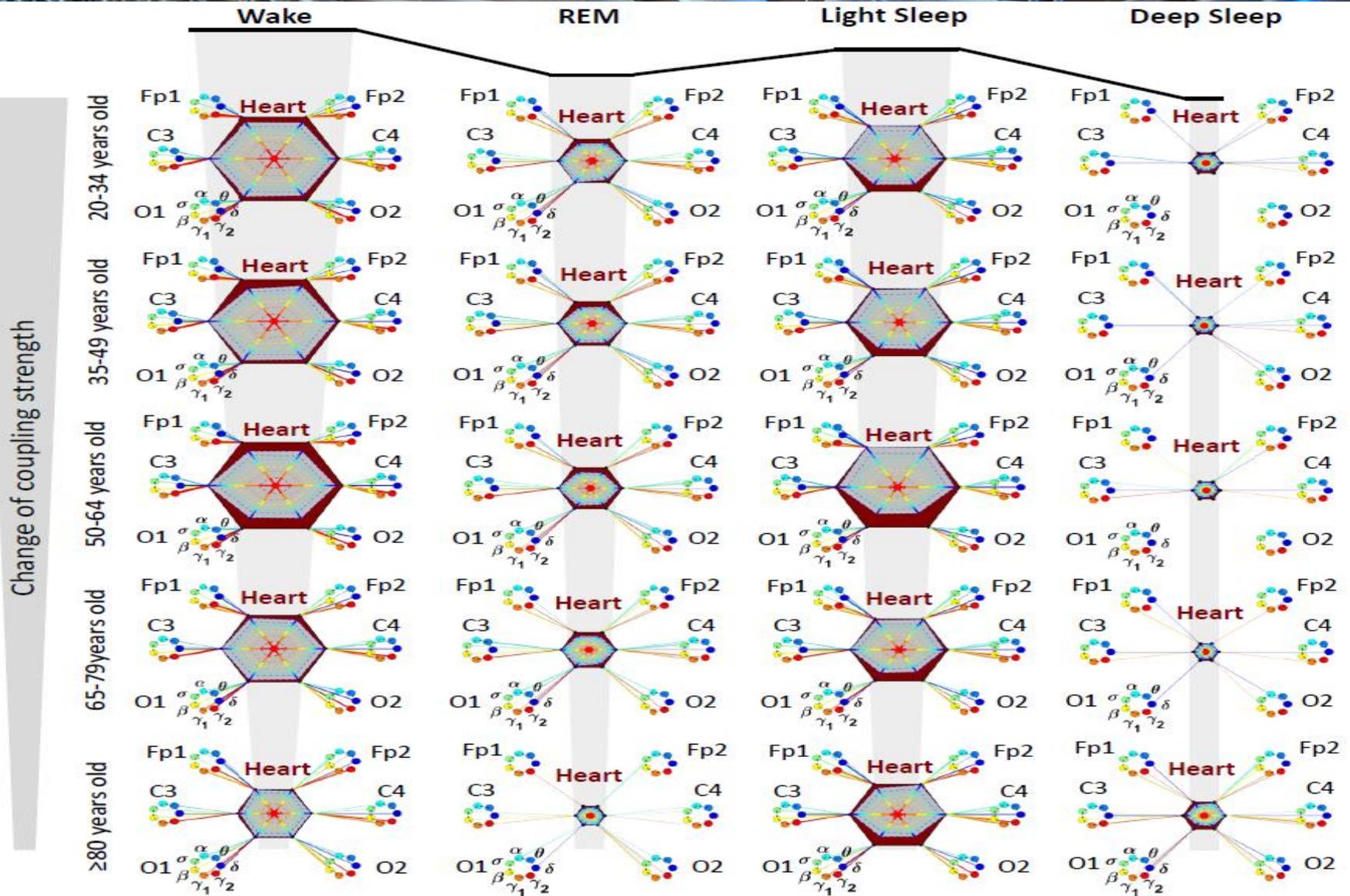
**Level 3:
Networked
Interactions**

Network Physiology: Implications for brain dynamics and neural plasticity



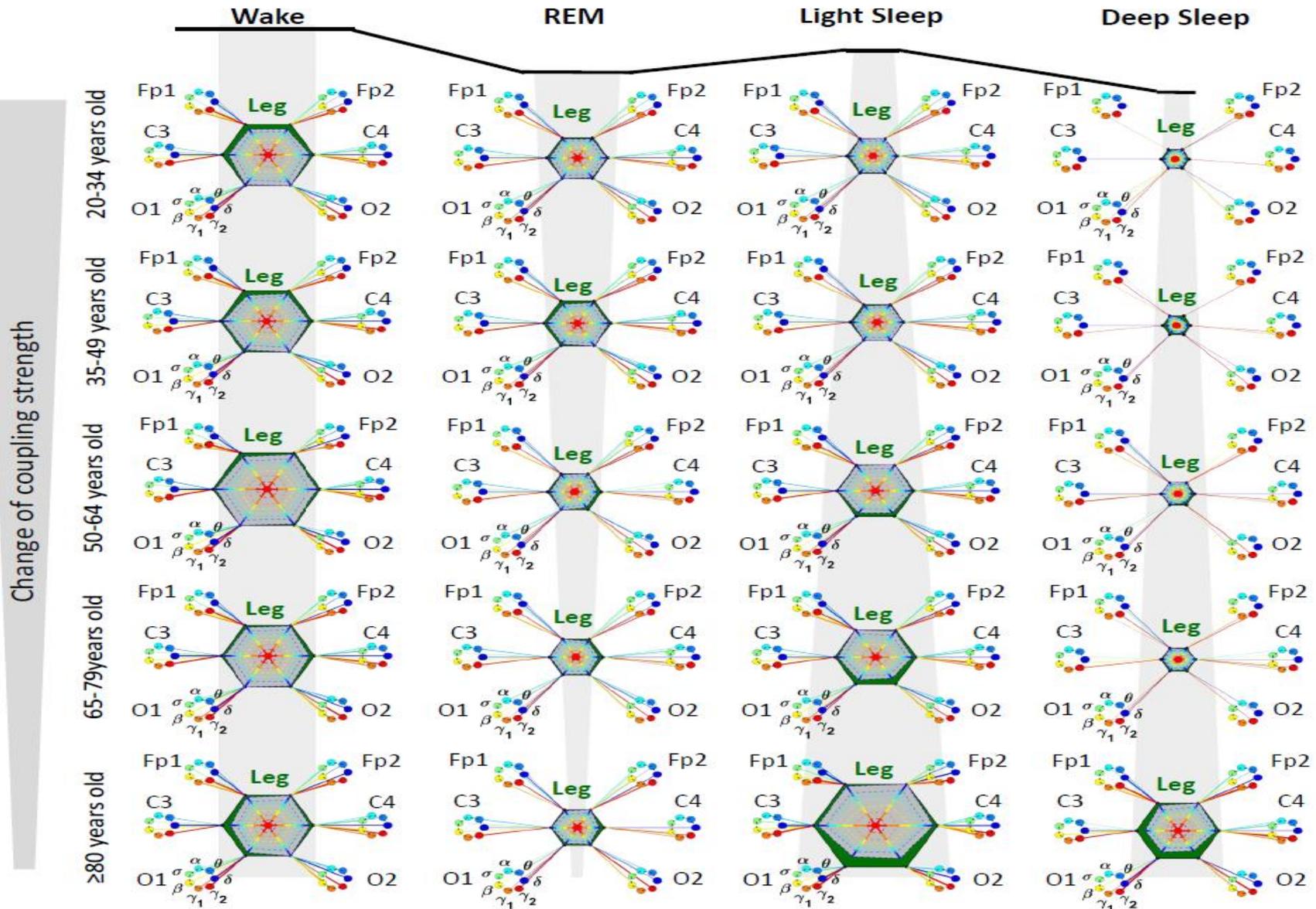
**Level 3:
Networked
Interactions**

Visualization: brain-organ interactions different physiologic states and age groups



**Level 3:
Networked
Interactions**

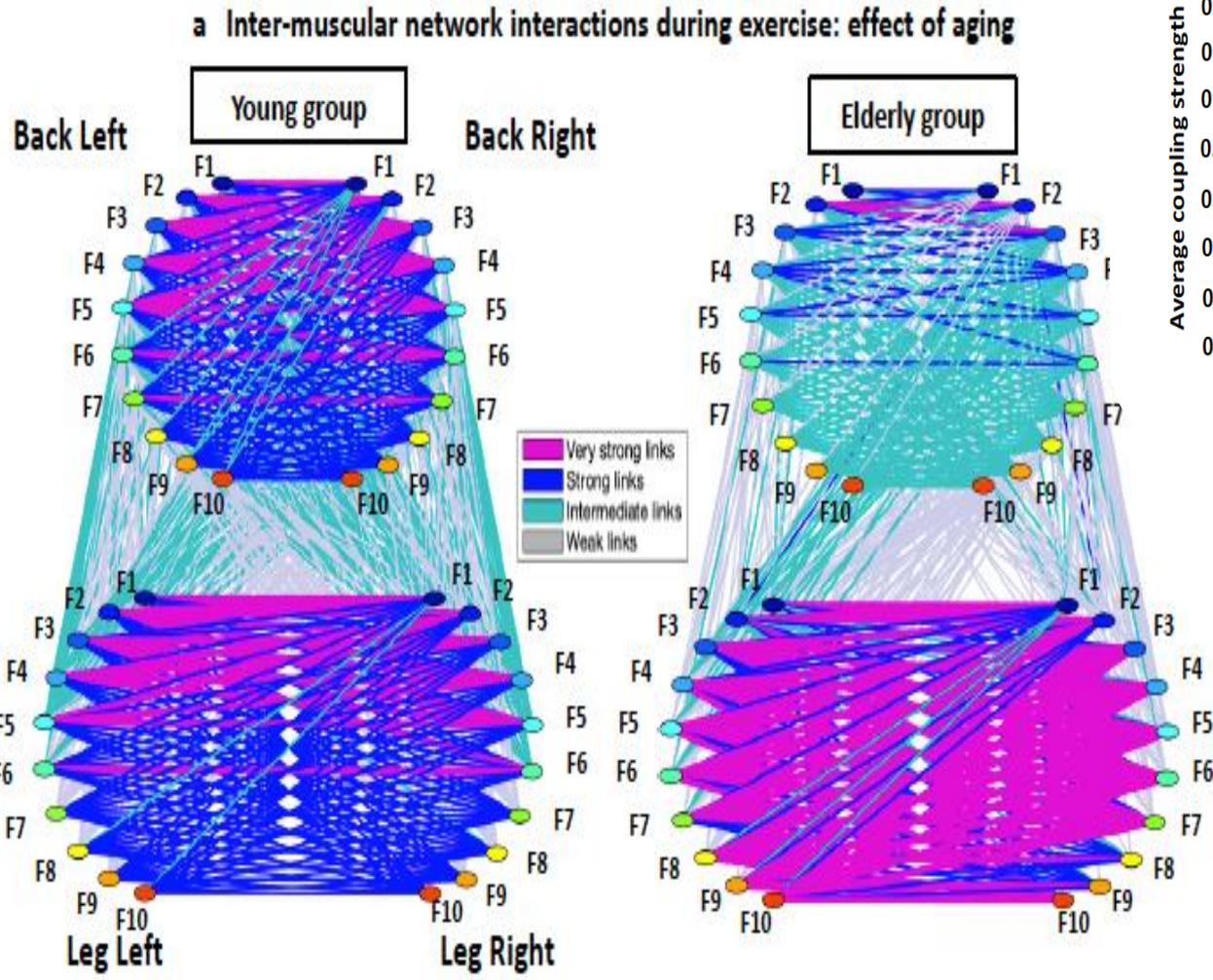
Visualization: brain-organ interactions different physiologic states and age groups



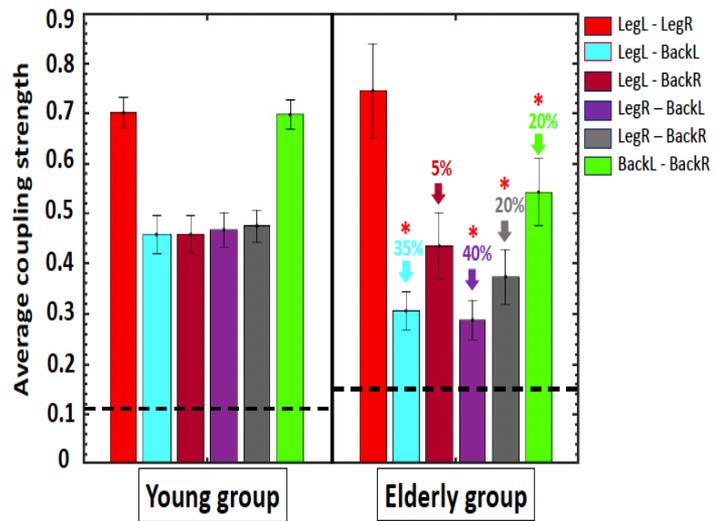
**Level 3:
Networked
Interactions**

Reorganization of muscle network interactions during exercise in young and elderly groups

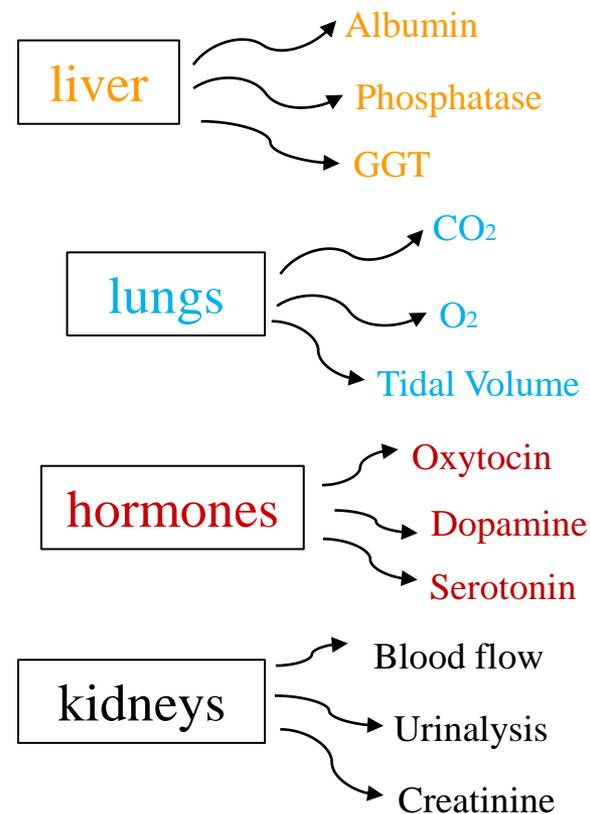
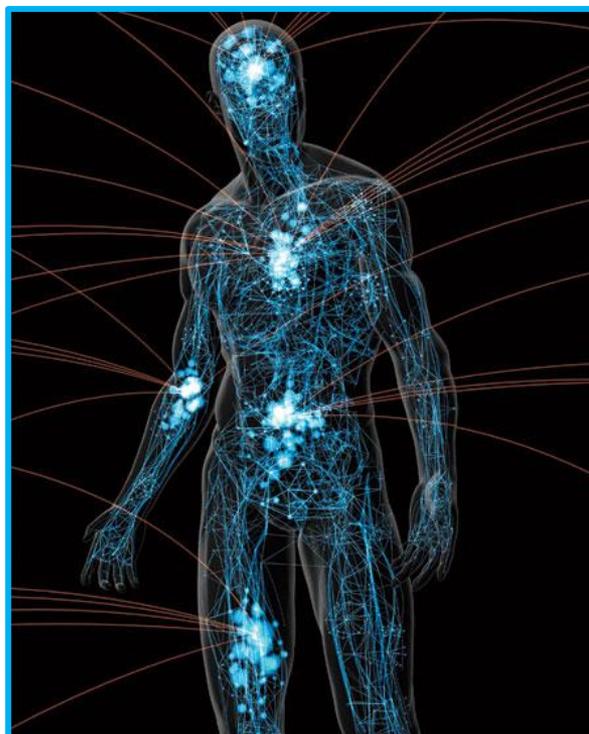
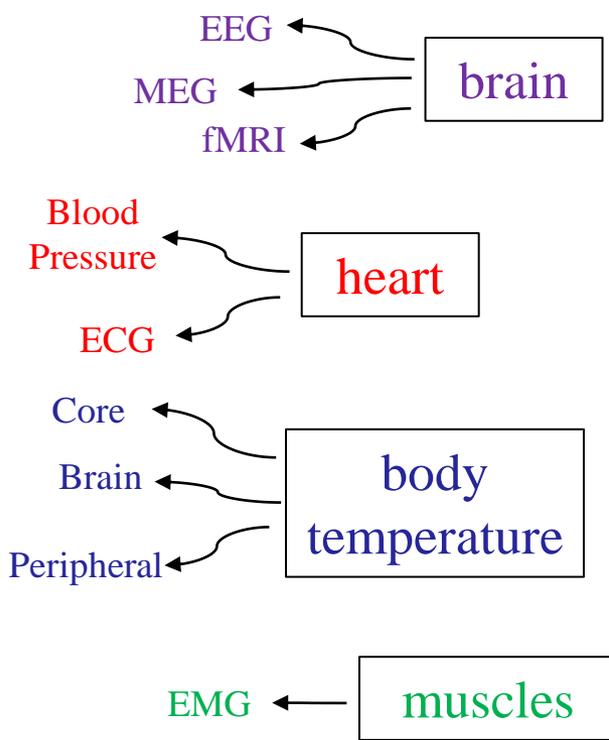
Fatigue response & Resilience in muscle networks



Stratification of global coupling in inter-muscular sub-networks



Human body produces gigantic amount of Data & Information
 Continuous streams of waveforms and physiologic parameters

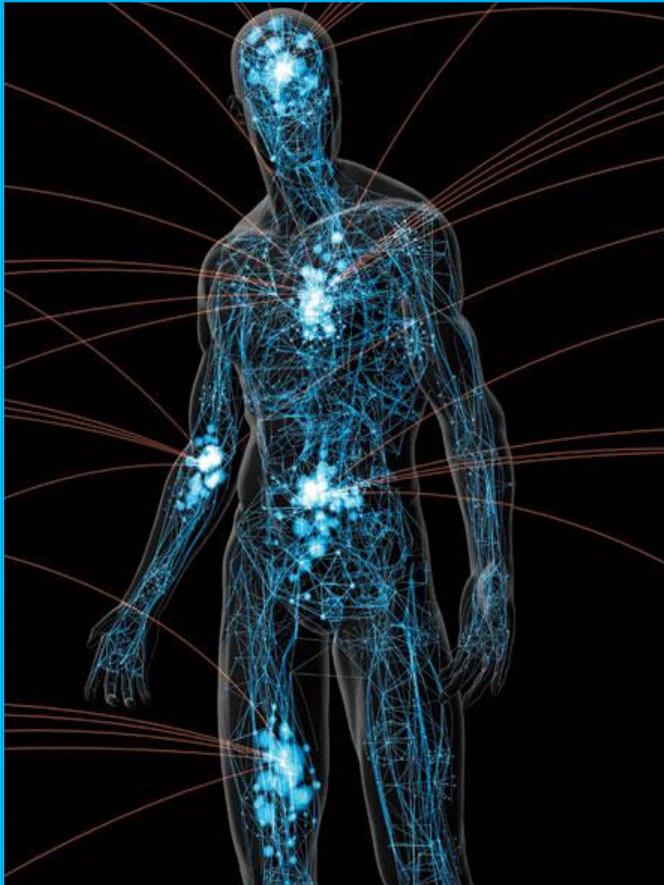


High frequency recordings (10^2 - 10^3 Hz)
Number of data points per person:
(just for 100 parameters)

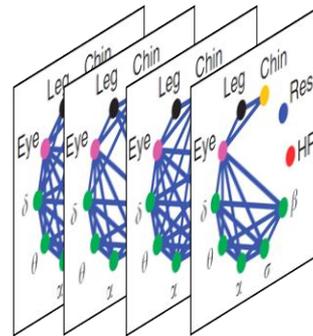
1 Day	1 Year	Life Time
$\sim 10^{10}$	$\sim 10^{12}$	$\sim 10^{14}$

Such Atlas would contain:

Atlas of Dynamic Interactions of Organ Systems

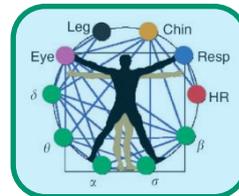


Catalog of reference maps representing dynamical organ interactions under:

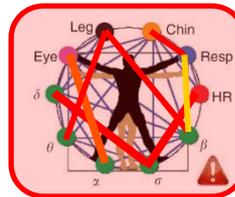


- healthy conditions
- age groups
- different physiologic states (rest/exercise, sleep/wake, sleep stages, circadian phases)
- pathological conditions (multiple organ failure, coma, heart failure, sleep apnea ...)

Quantitative assessment of variability in coupling strength for each map at a given state or condition



- Boundaries of coupling variability for normal conditions



- Establishing a **critical zone** for disease development as a function of age and physiologic state

Knowledge Gaps

Despite the importance to:

- understanding basic physiologic functions
- clinical relevance

We do not know how organ systems dynamically interact as a network to coordinate and optimize their functions

Fundamental Question:

What are the “blueprint reference” network maps that uniquely define physiologic states and functions in health, aging and disease?

Research Opportunities

- Identify laws of systems cross-communication from sub-cellular to organism level and their alteration with aging and disease
- Establish regulatory mechanisms of network integration and re-organization with aging and disease
- Develop new class of network-based dynamic markers of aging and disease: functional forms and strength of interaction; network connectivity and network modularity

