

# ***Neuro Cognitive and Imaging-Assisted Treatments***

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Maria Marcella Laganà, PhD*

**Study Visit to Don Gnocchi Foundation**  
**17-18 November 2016, Milan, Italy**  
*for EPR members involved in medical rehabilitation*



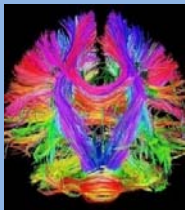
# MR Laboratory and Translational Research

**Multidisciplinary team (MD, Eng, Psy, Tech)  
for advanced rehabilitation purposes**

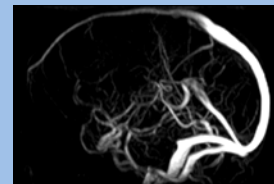
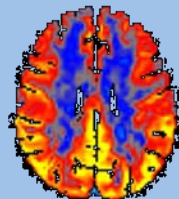


**State-of-the-art MRI techniques  
and processing methods**

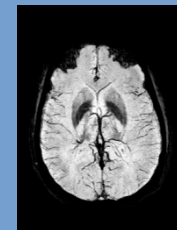
**TRACTOGRAPHY, WM  
STRUCTURAL CONNECTIVITY**



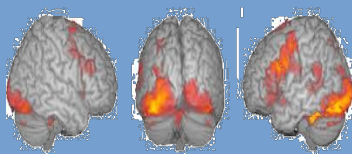
**VASCULAR IMAGING**



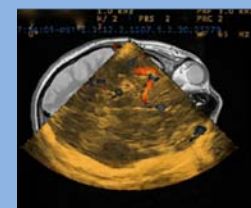
**GM MEASURES:  
VOLUMETRY, IRON  
QUANTIFICATION**



**Functional MRI**

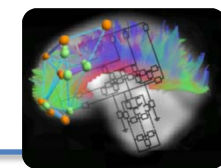


**FUSION WITH OTHER  
IMAGING MODALITIES**

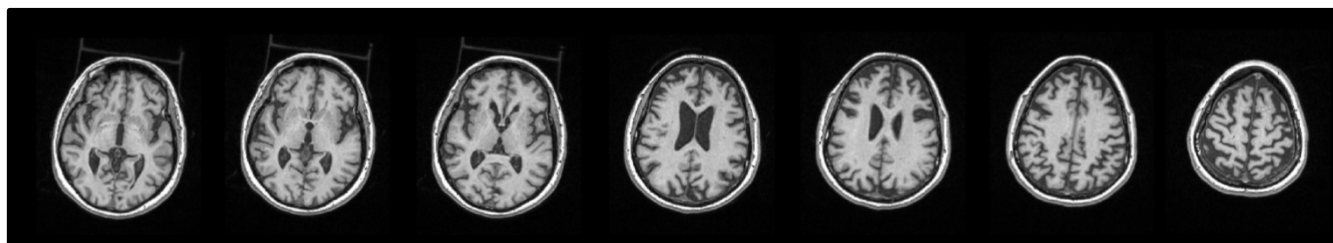




# Clinical Applications: Volumetric Analysis



## Conventional 3D-T1 weighted MPRAGE



Lesions and atrophy

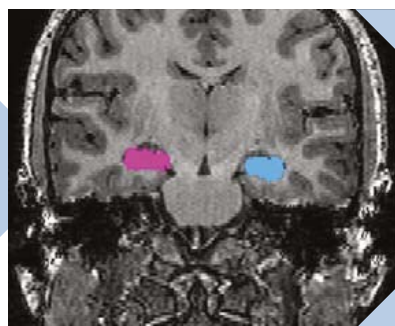


Quantitative measures?

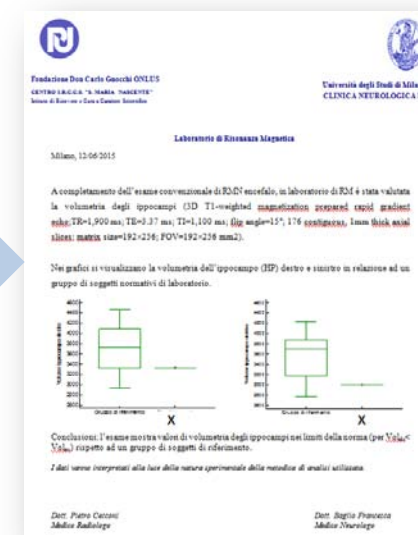
## QUANTITATIVE MEASURES FOR IMPROVING DIAGNOSIS

1)

Automated  
hippocampal  
segmentation

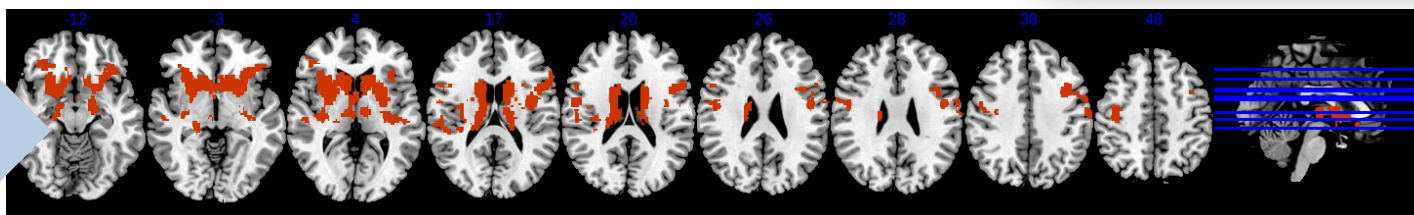


Comparison with  
reference values from an  
age-matched group  
(report for clinicians)

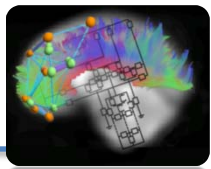


2)

Voxel-based  
morphometry



# Clinical Applications: Structural Connectivity



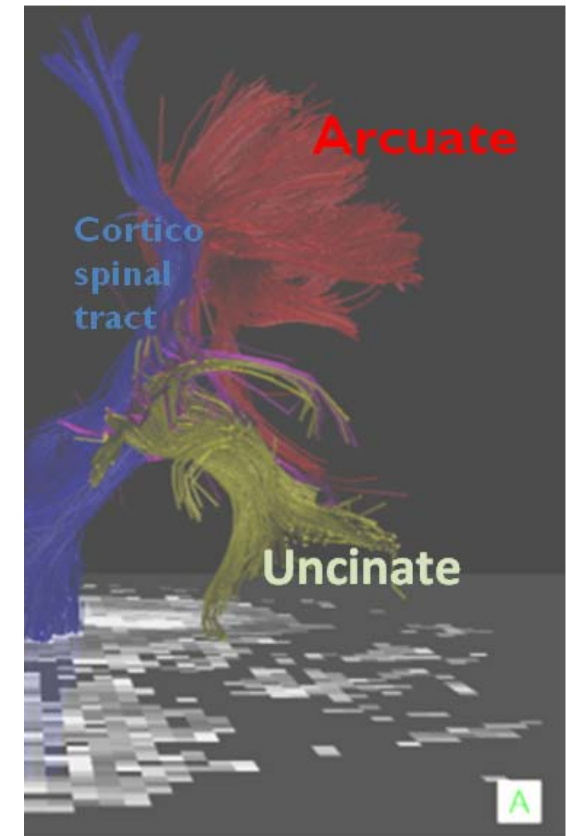
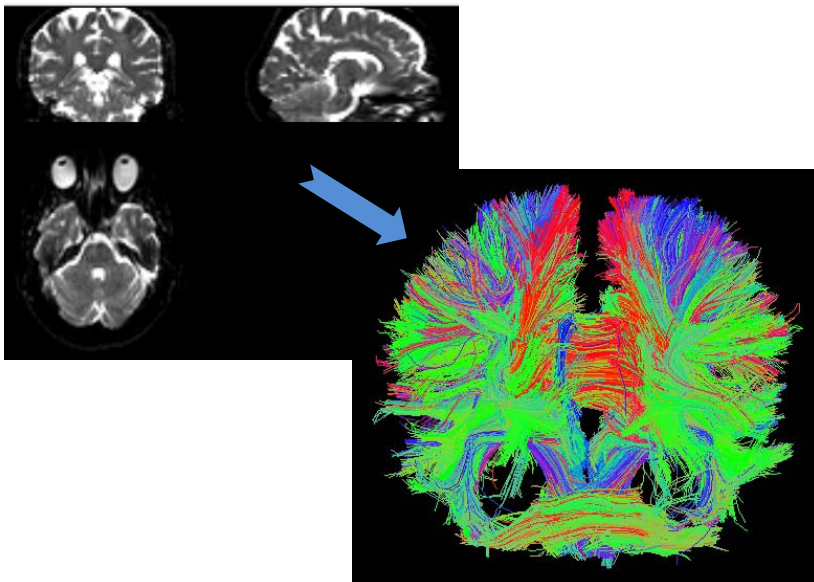
T1 and T2  
Visible lesions



- Is there a damage in the normal appearing White Matter?
- Which bundles are affected by the lesion?
- Structural connectivity changes after treatment

## PROGNOSIS AND MONITORING THE REHABILITATION TREATMENT

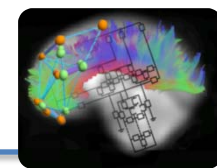
Diffusion Weighted Imaging (DWI)  
and Tractographic reconstruction







# Clinical Applications: Functional Connectivity



## Neurorehabilitation

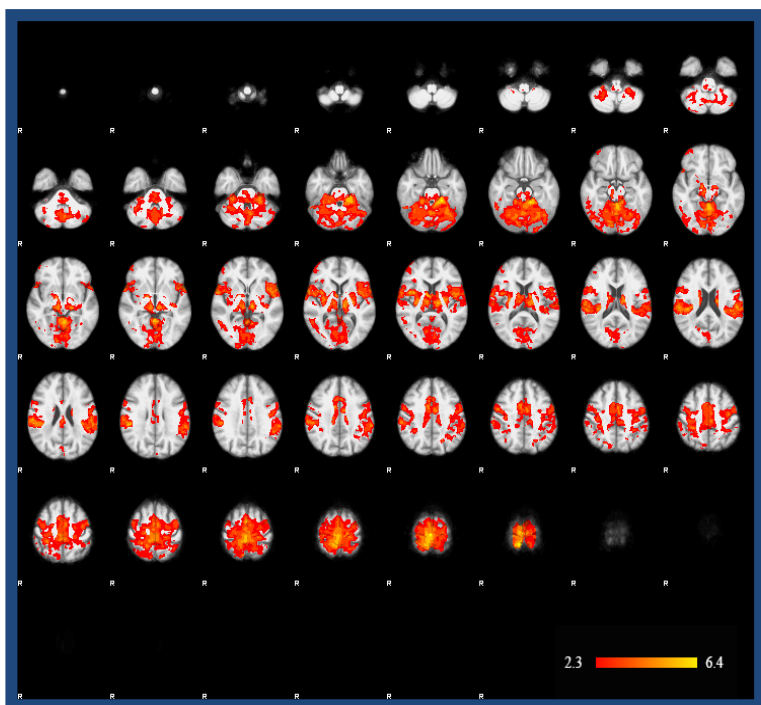


- How much does rehabilitation influence brain activity?
- Where are changes seen?

Task fMRI assessment (cognitive and/or motor paradigm)

## ACTIVATION PATTERN CHANGES WITH REHABILITATION

BEFORE

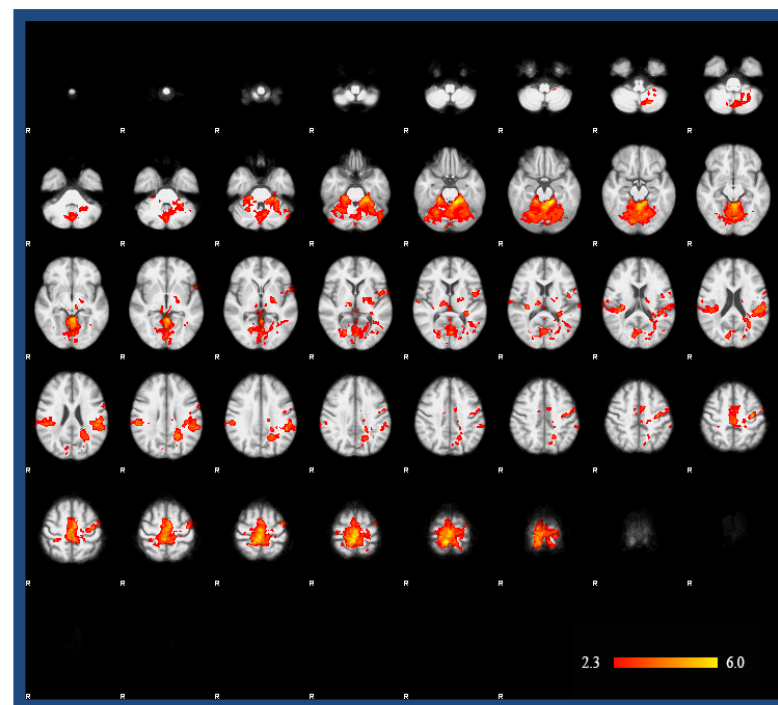


**Bilateral** activation for compensation



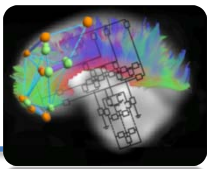
REHAB

AFTER

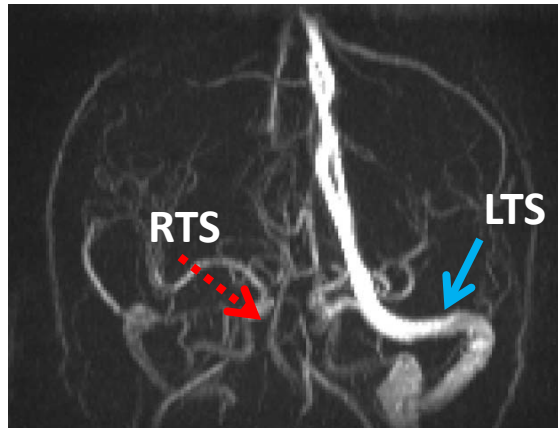


**Significant reduction** of activation in the motor cortex after rehabilitation

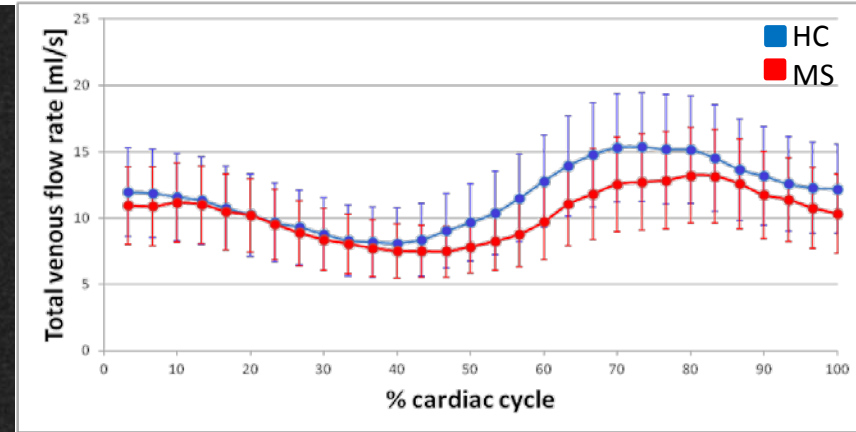
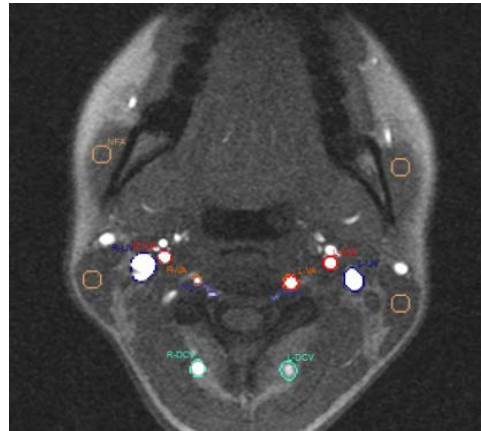
# Clinical Applications: Vascular Imaging



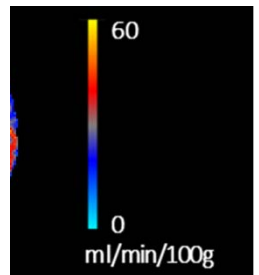
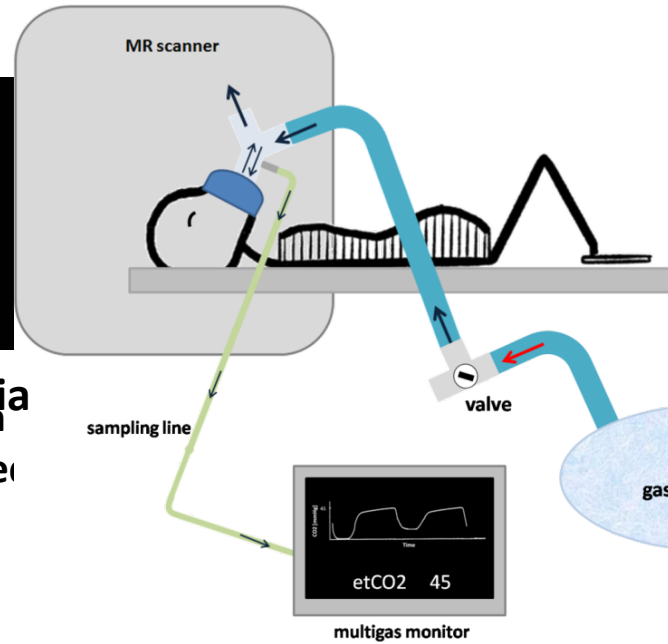
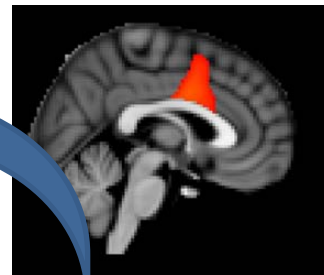
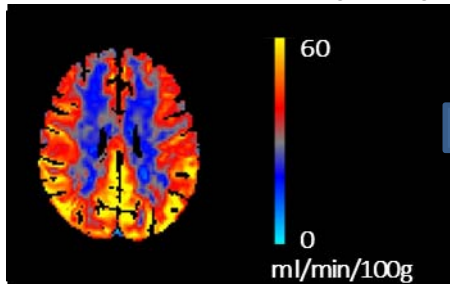
## 1) Brain Vascular Morphology



## 2) Hemodynamics (specific vessels)



## 3) Brain Perfusion (CBF)



hypercapnia  
Hypoperfusion in  
patients compared  
controls

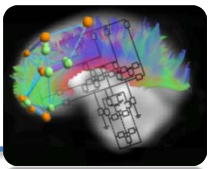
Alzheimer's Disease

## 4) Cerebrovascular reactivity (role in neurovascular coupling)

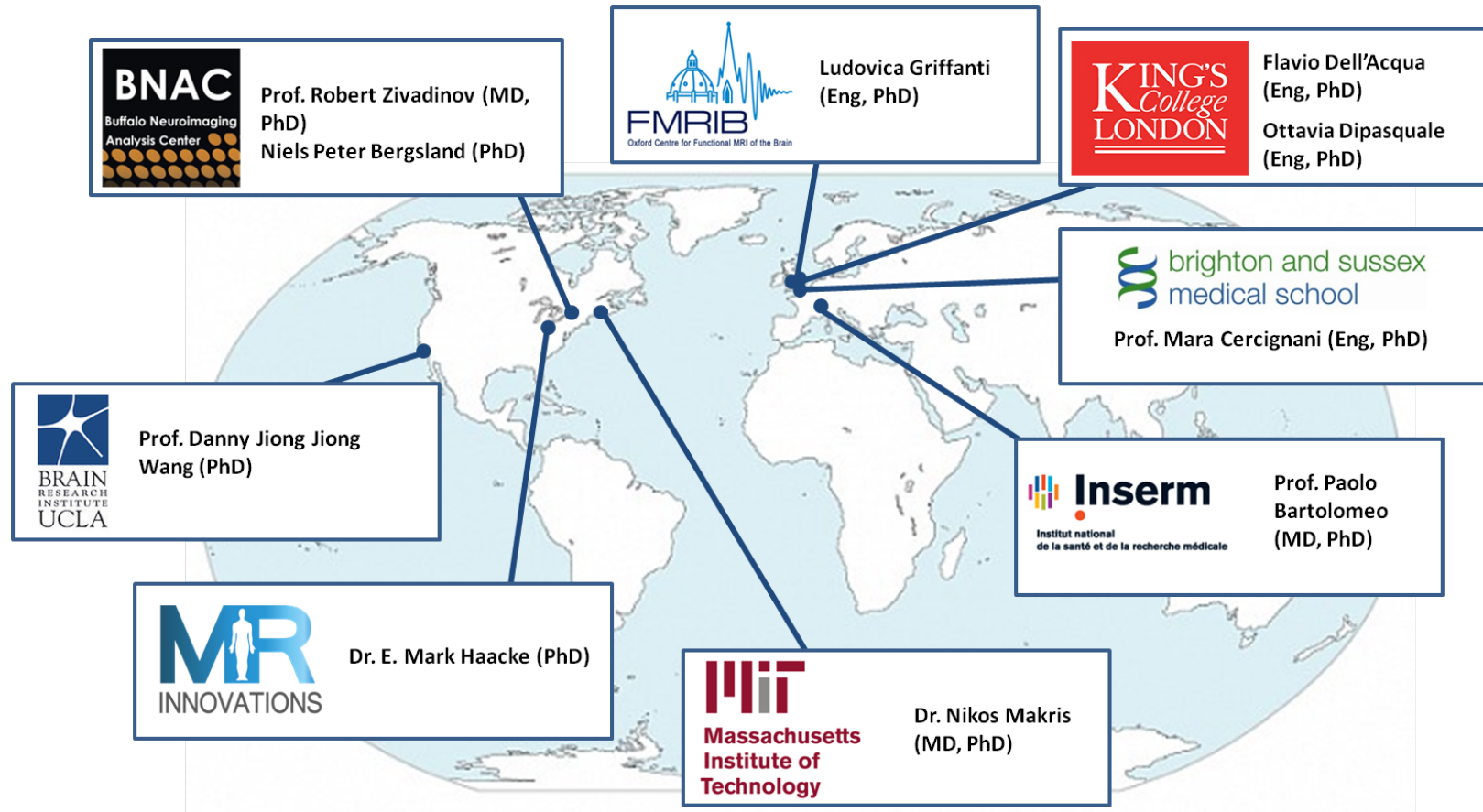
VASCULAR HEMODINAMIC CHANGES WITH REHABILITATION



# Collaborations

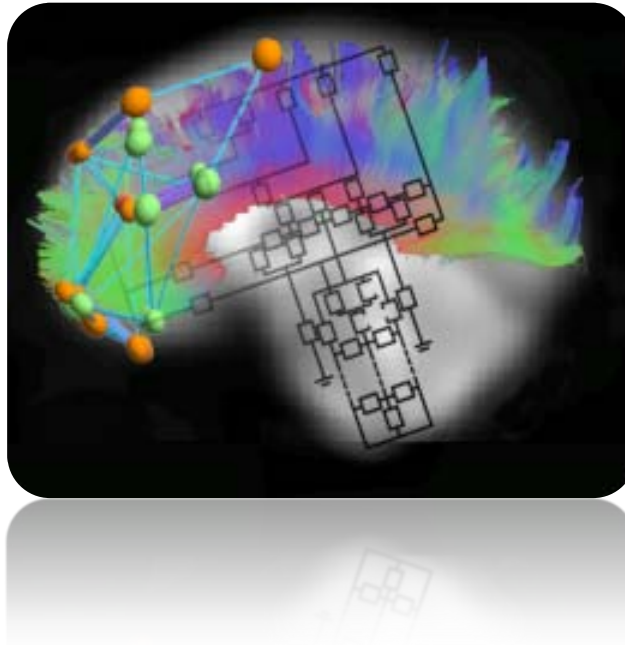


## Collaborations with International Neuroimaging Laboratories



## Collaborations with National institutions

- IRCCS Italian network for neuroimaging research with high technology
- Politecnico di Milano (Prof. Giuseppe Baselli, Eng)
- Università Cattolica (Prof. Antonella Marchetti, Psy)
- Università Satale di Milano (Prof. Carlo Lovati, MD)



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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