



# Using Maths and Physics to Treat Parkinson's With a Vibrating Glove

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**Stanford**  
MEDICINE | Neurosurgery



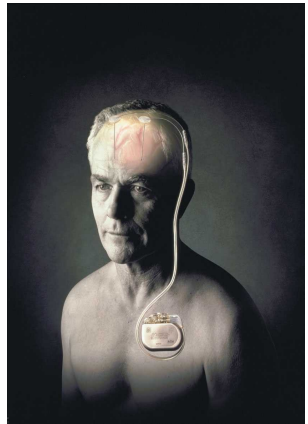
# Parkinson's disease

- **Abnormal neuronal synchrony**  
Hammond et al., Trends Neurosci. 2007
- **Abnormal synaptic connectivity**  
McGregor & Nelson, Neuron 2019



# Standard permanent

## high-frequency deep brain stimulation



PD Patient, 48 ys



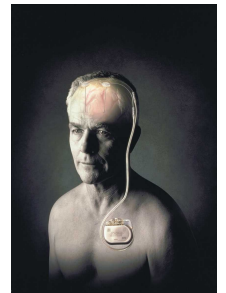


# Parkinson's disease

High-frequency (> 100Hz) permanent deep brain stimulation:

- no long-lasting therapeutic effects
- may have relevant side effects: DBS-induced movement disorders
- can result in speech deterioration and does not reliably improve gait and other axial symptoms

Benabid et al., The Lancet 1991; Baizabal-Carvallo et al Park. Rel. Dis. 2016; Buhmann et al PLoS One 2016; Lozana et al., Nature Rev Neurol 2019





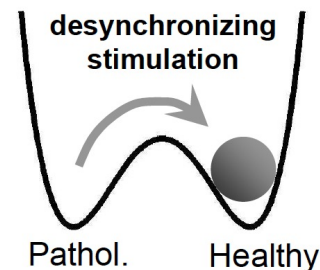
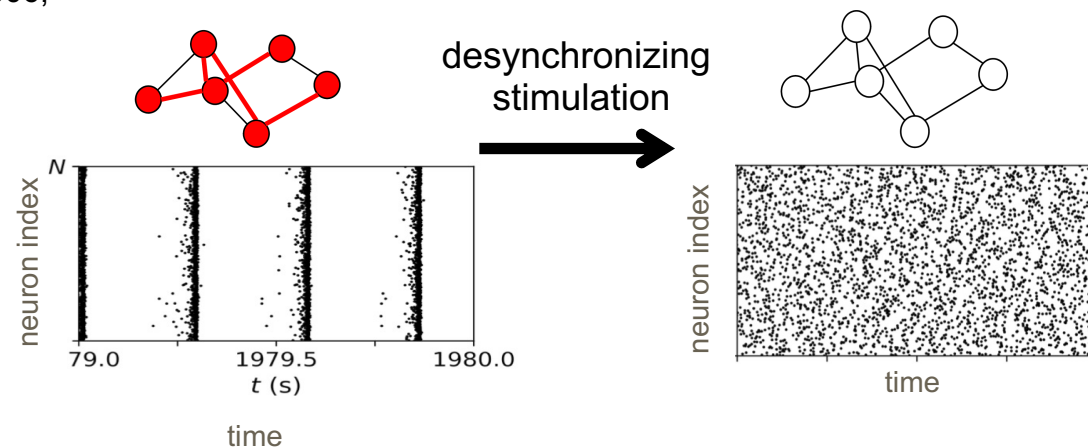
# Computationally based approach to induce long-lasting desynchronization by reshaping network connectivity

- Specifically counteract abnormal neuronal synchrony by desynchronization

Tass, Phase Resetting in Medicine and Biology. Springer 1999; Tass, Biol. Cybern. 2003

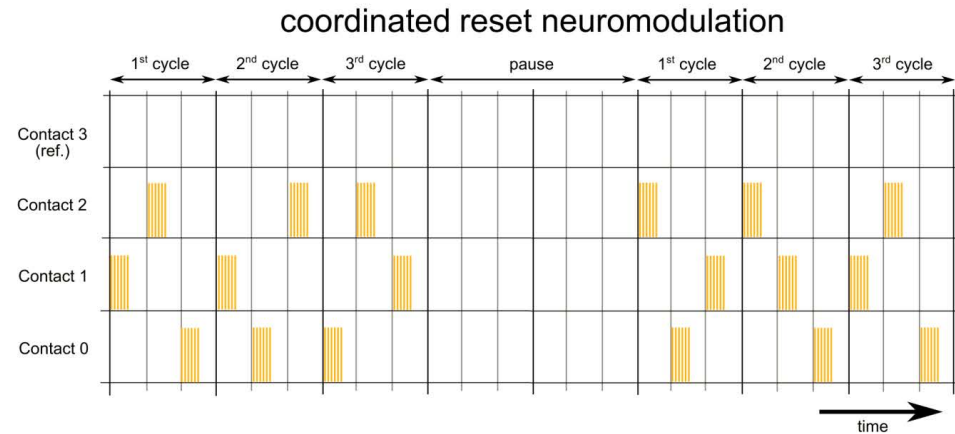
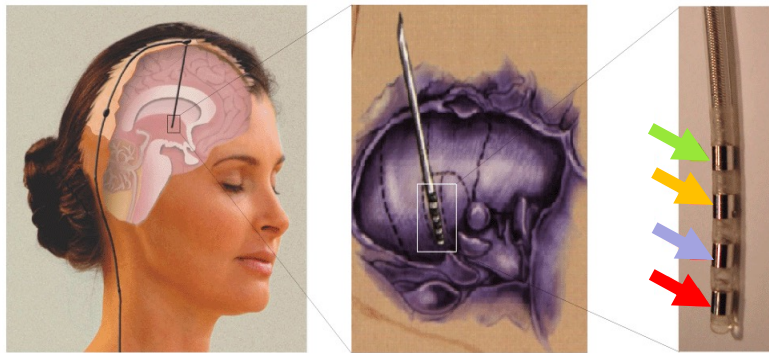
- Desynchronization of multistable plastic neural networks → long-lasting desynchronization

Tass & Majtanik, Biol. Cybern. 2006;  
Kromer & Tass, PRR 2020

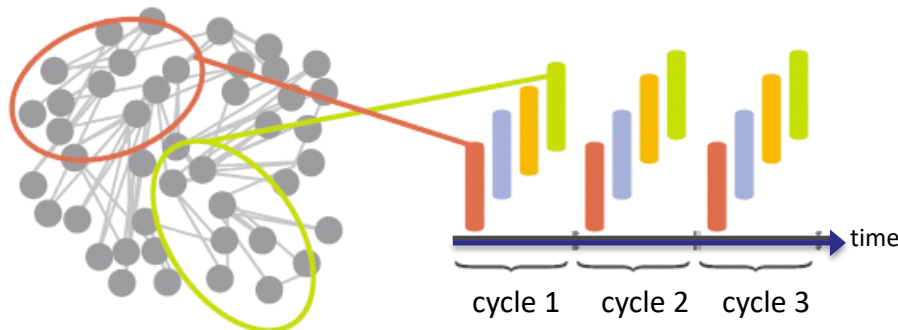




# Coordinated Reset Deep Brain Stimulation



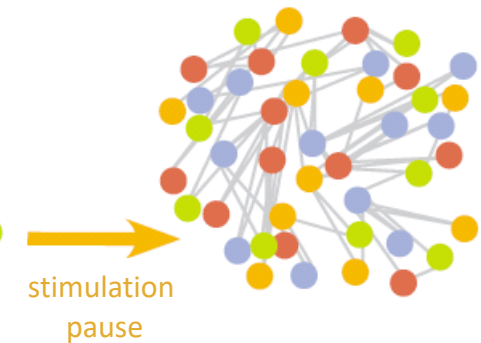
**Synchronous neuronal population**



**Divided into sub-groups**

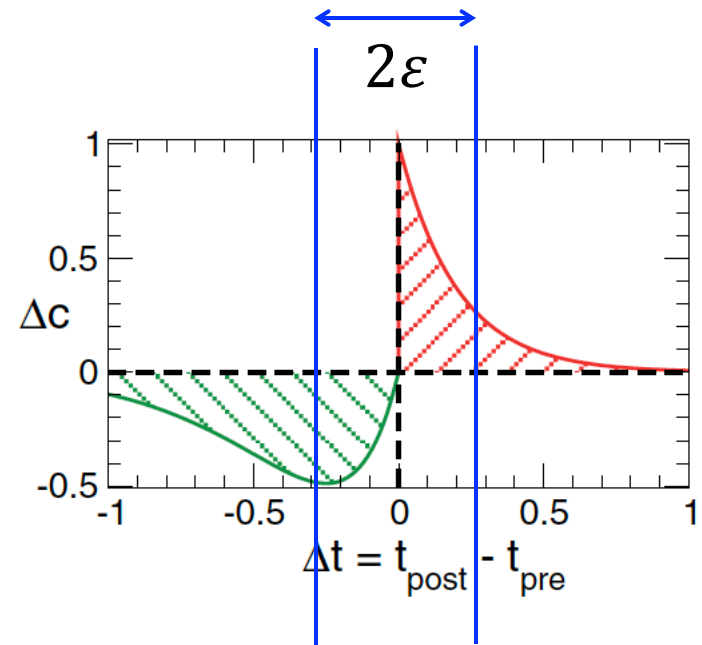
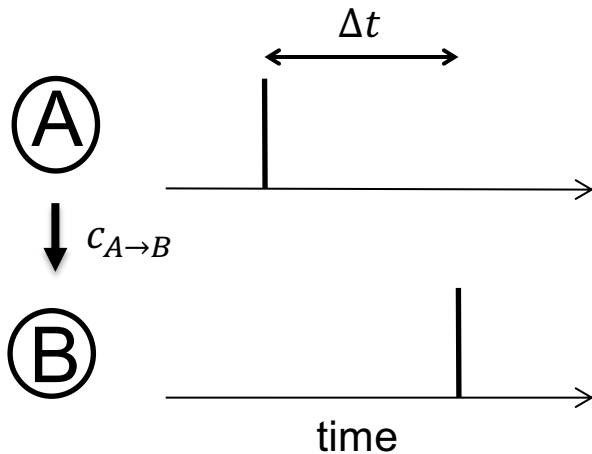


**Complete desynchronisation**



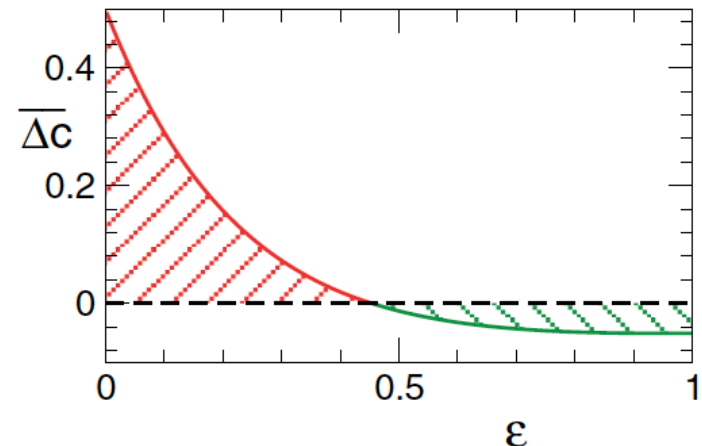


# Spike timing-dependent plasticity



Hebb, D.O. (1949). The Organization of Behavior. New York: Wiley & Sons;  
Gerstner et al., Nature 1996; Markram et al., Science 1997

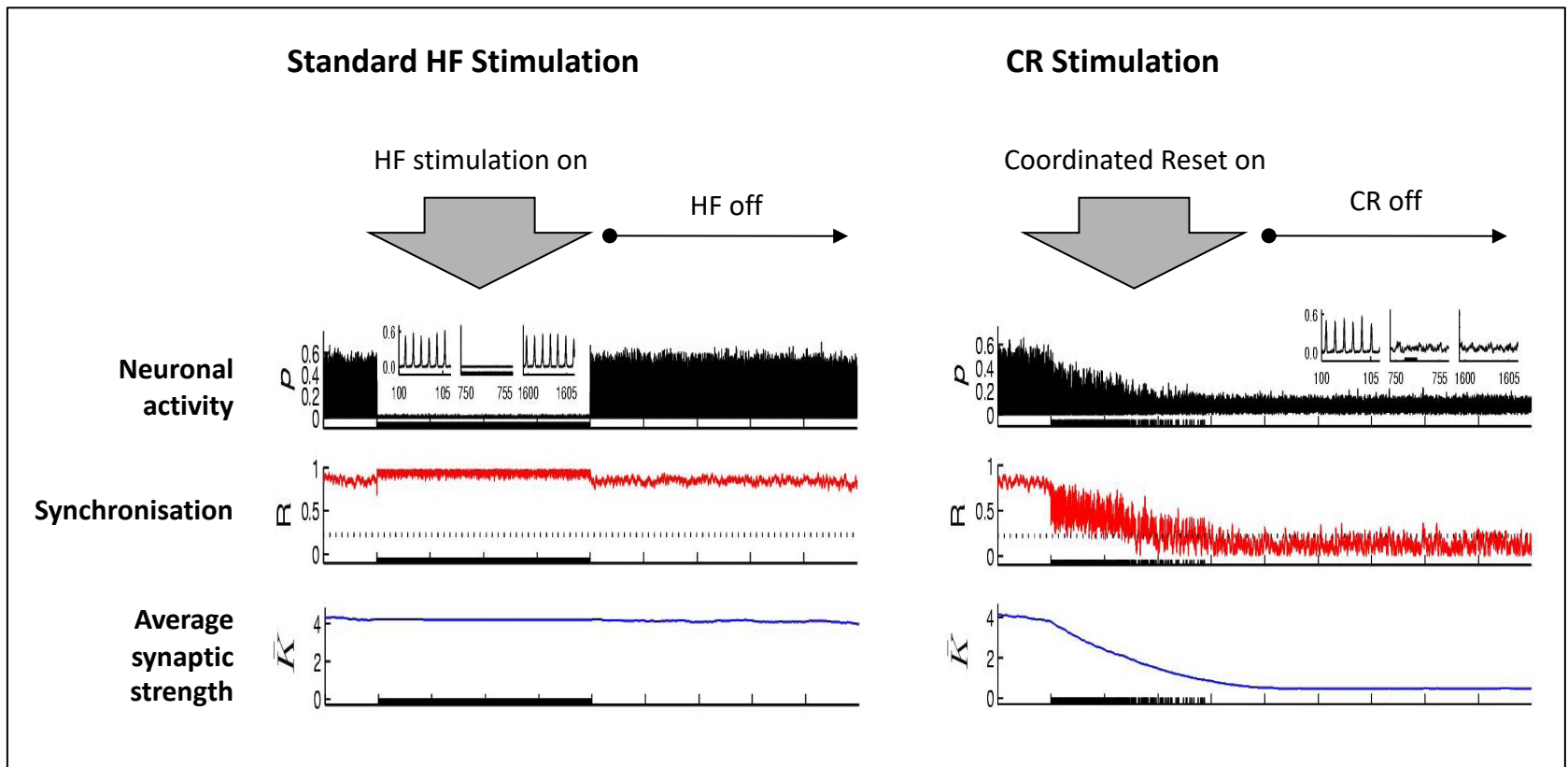
net STDP effect for  $\Delta t \in [-\epsilon, \epsilon]$  (uniform)



desynchronization-induced  
reduction of synaptic weights



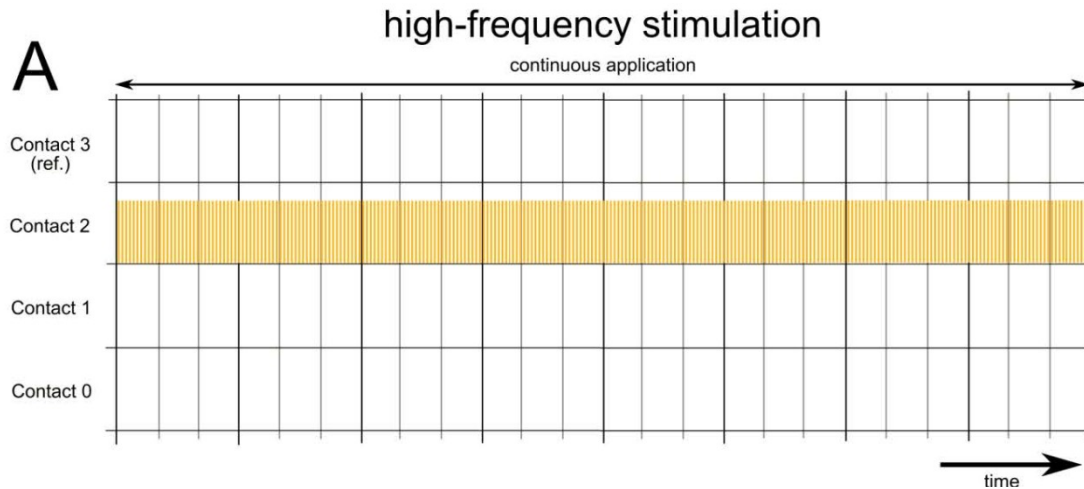
# Standard high-frequency (HF) stimulation vs. CR Stimulation



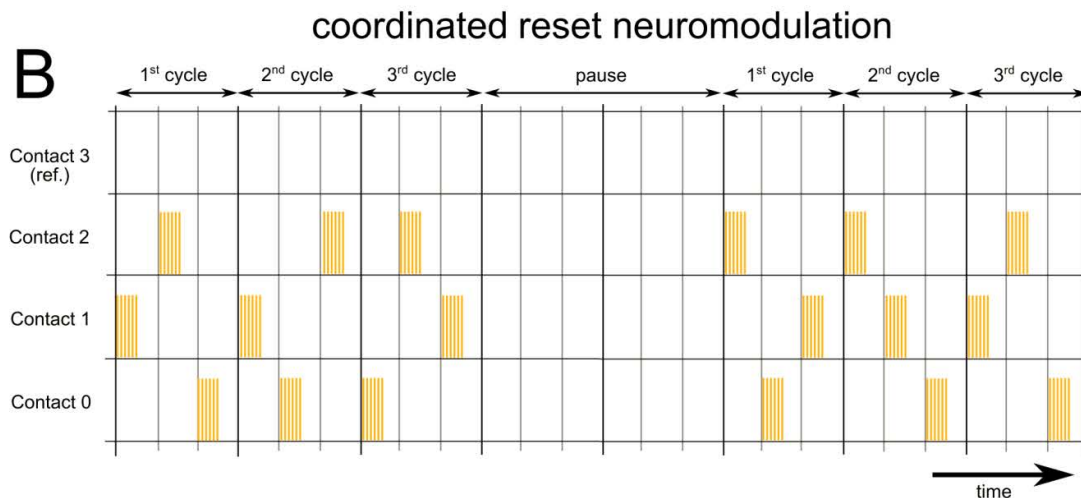




# CR stimulation in MPTP monkeys



frequency: 130 Hz,  
pulse width: 120  $\mu$ s  
most effective intensity: 0.6 mA  $\pm$  0.1 mA



burst = five pulses with  
150 Hz intraburst frequency  
pulse width: 120  $\mu$ s  
CR stimulation frequency: 7 Hz, fixed  
(close to frequency of abnormal  
oscillations in the STN in MPTP  
treated non-human primates,  
Meissner et al. Brain 2005)

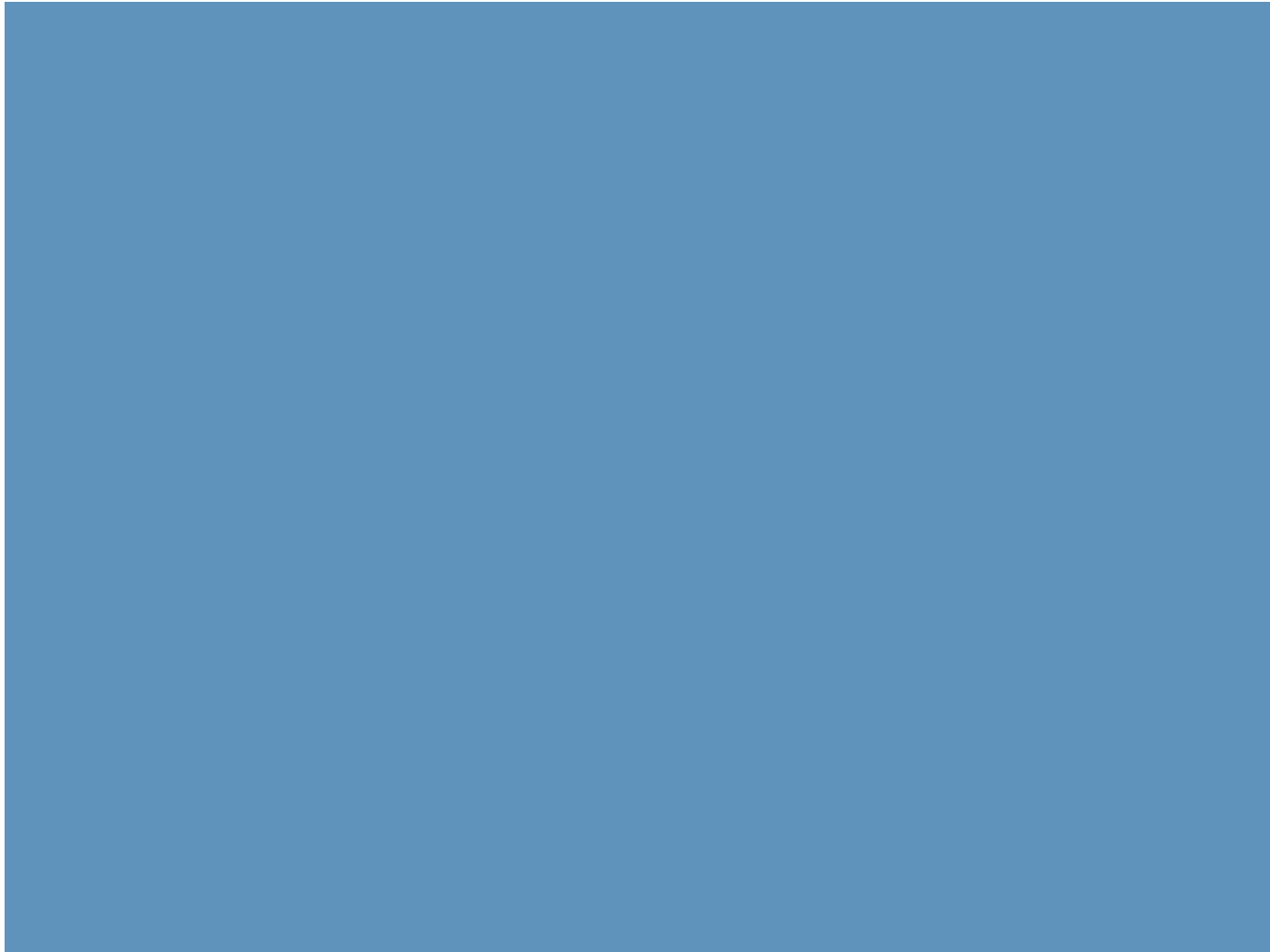


# CR-DBS (STN) in MPTP monkeys before CR stimulation





# CR-DBS (STN) in MPTP monkeys after 2h CR stimulation









# CR deep brain stimulation in MPTP monkeys

**Theoretical prediction:** low intensity = DBS-like intensity / 3 is optimal for CR

Lysyansky et al. J. Neural Eng. 2011

## Experimental cross-over design



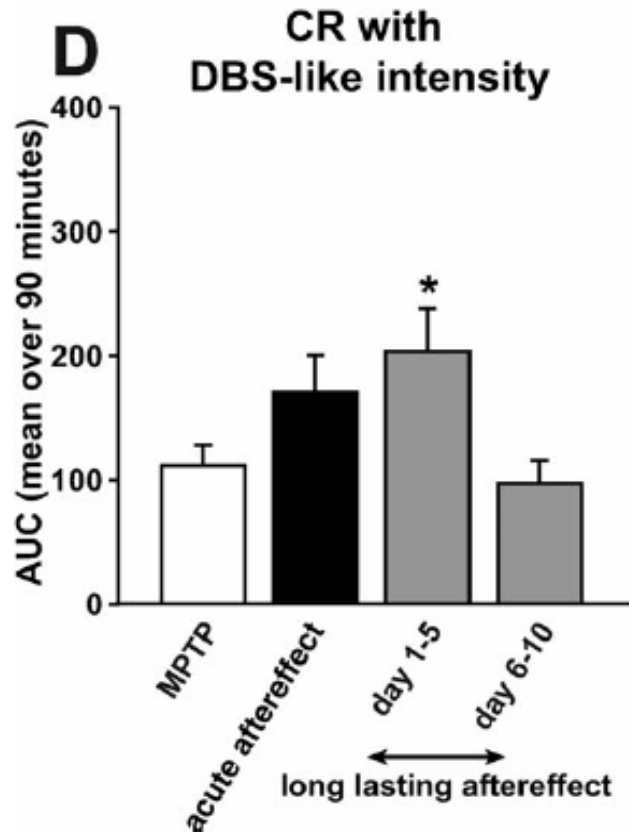
-  MPTP baseline (5 days)
-  assessment of acute post-effects after the end of each CR and DBS session (5 days)
-  assessment of long-lasting post-effects after the end of CR and DBS (5-40 days depending on duration of post-effect)
-  post-effect had returned to initial MPTP baseline (5 days)

- Akinesia was monitored for 90 minutes/day with infrared activity monitors, providing mobility counts every 5 minutes (Bezard et al. Nat. Med. 2003 ).
- The severity of motor symptoms and dyskinesia were further assessed on a parkinsonian monkey rating scale using videotape recordings of monkeys (Bezard et al. Nat. Med. 2003 ).

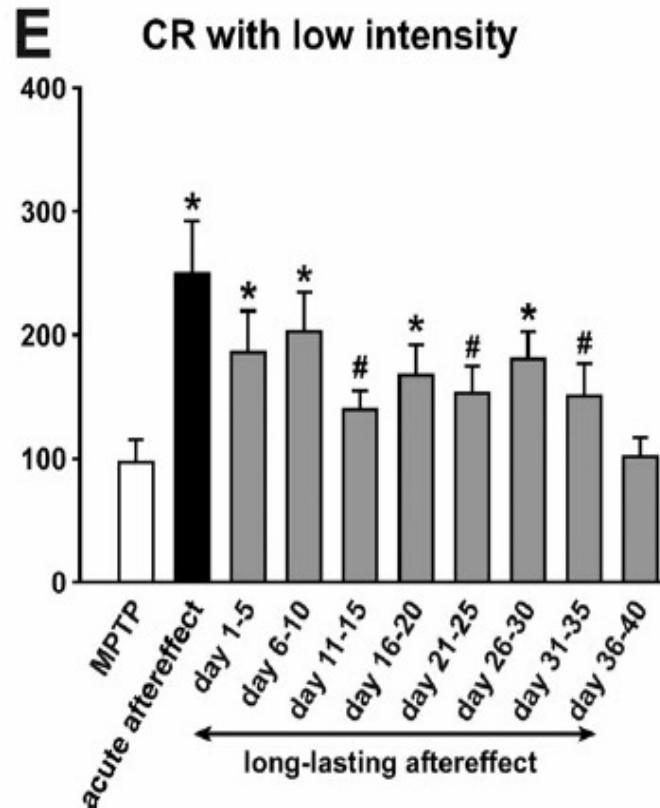


# Sustained after-effects of CR and standard DBS

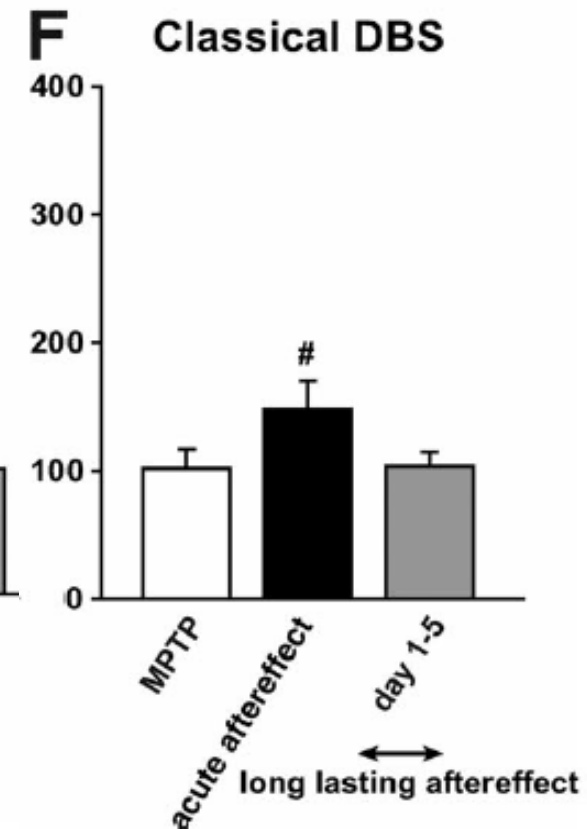
AUC = area under curve  
(mobility count)



intensity:  $0.6 \text{ mA} \pm 0.1 \text{ mA}$



intensity:  $0.2 \text{ mA} \pm 0.0 \text{ mA}$



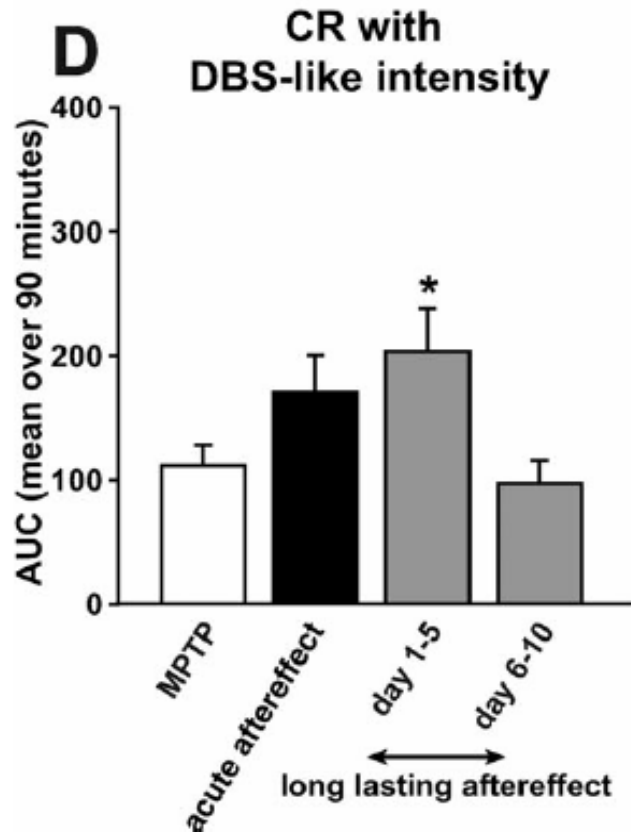
intensity:  $0.6 \text{ mA} \pm 0.1 \text{ mA}$

Each bar represents the mean of five days of behavioral assessment  $\pm$  s.e.m. \* $P < 0.05$ , # $P \leq 0.1$

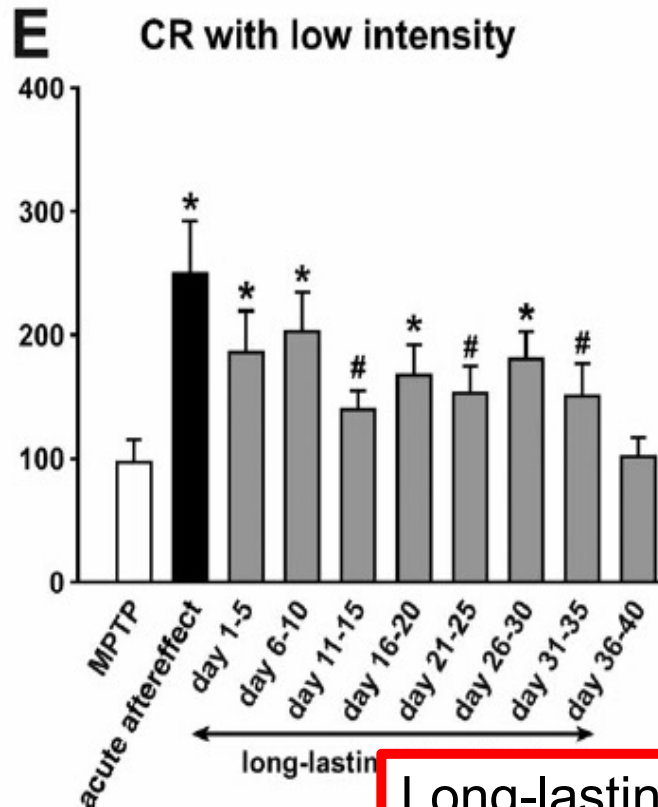


# Sustained after-effects of CR and standard DBS

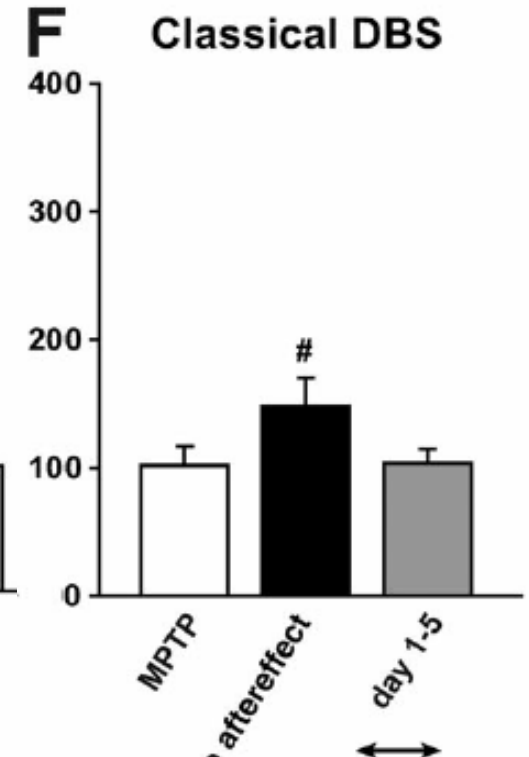
AUC = area under curve  
(mobility count)



intensity: 0.6 mA ± 0.1 mA



intensity: 0.2 mA ±



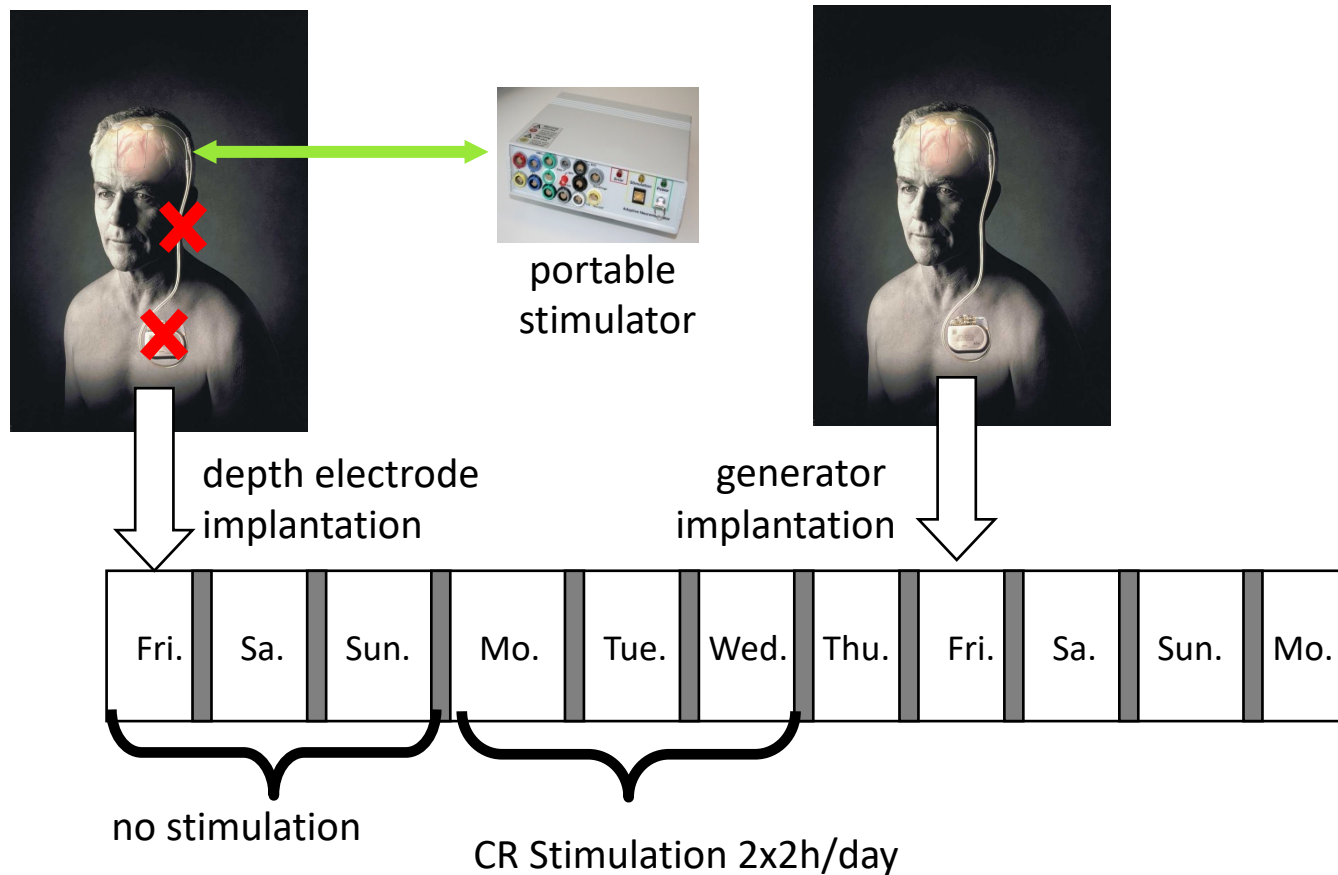
Long-lasting effects confirmed by  
 Wang et al., Brain Stimul. 2015;  
 Wang et al., Front. Neurol. 2022  
 Bore et al., Brain Stimul. 2022

Each bar represents the mean of five days of behavioral assessment ± s

Tass, Qin, Hauptmann, Dovero, Bezard, Boraud, Meissner; Annal



# Pilot study with unilateral CR-DBS in the STN in externalized patients with Parkinson's disease





# Deep brain coordinated reset stimulation

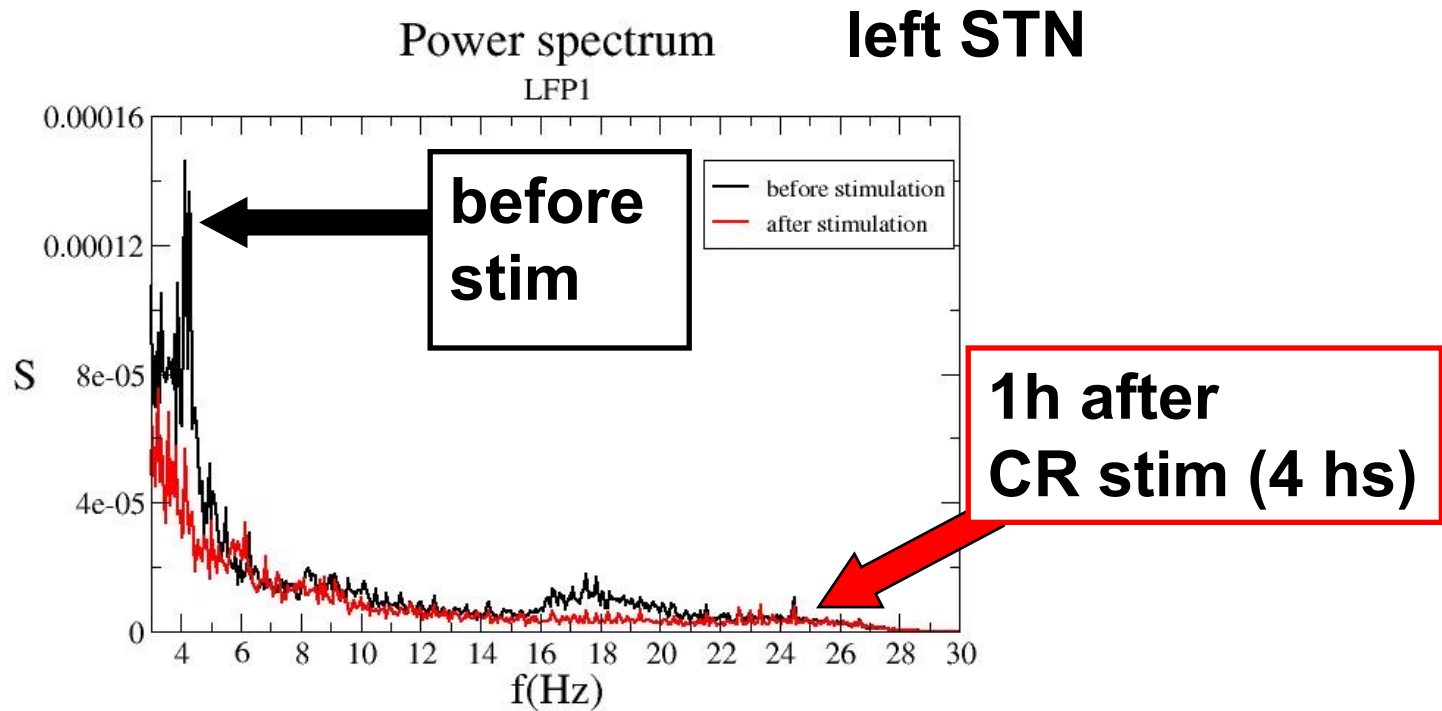
PD patient, 49 ys







# Long-lasting CR effects - electrophysiology



↔ **Significant decrease of LFP beta activity only during the first 12 sec after high-frequency DBS.**

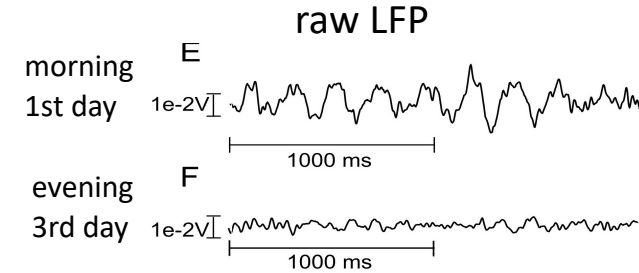
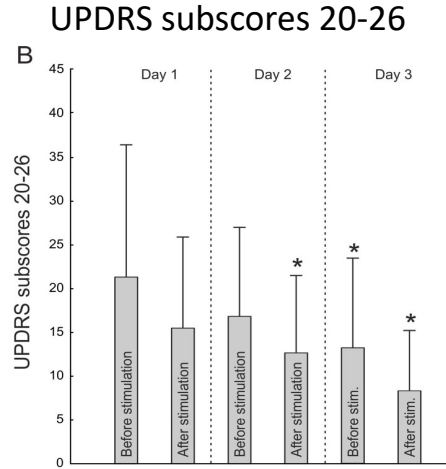
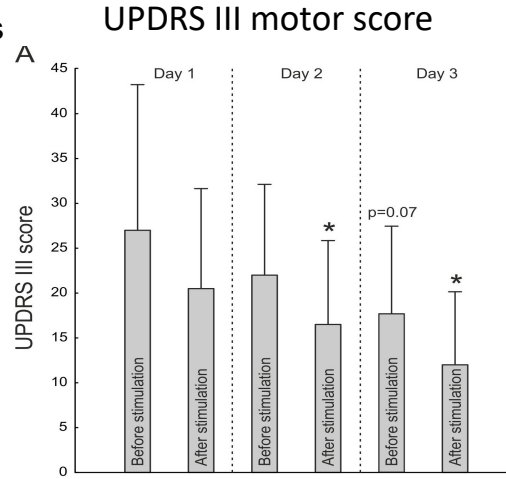
Kühn et al., J. Neurosci. 2008

Adamchic et al., Mov. Disord. 2014

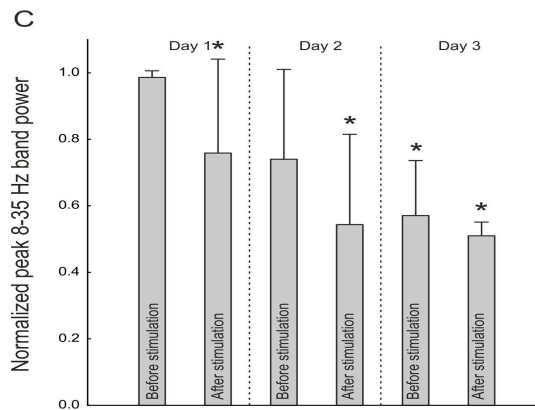


# Long-lasting and cumulative effects of CR stimulation

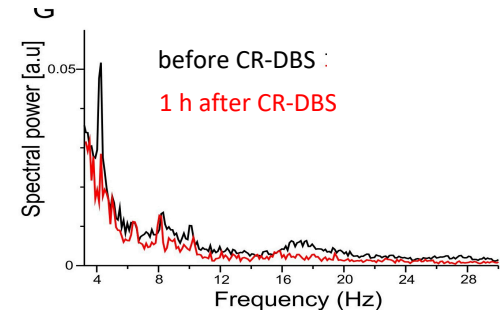
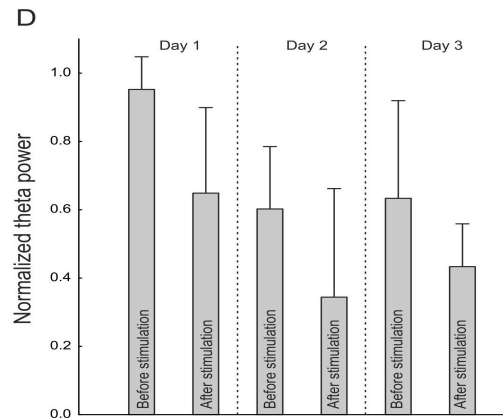
6 PD patients  
(akinetetic or  
equivalence  
type) without  
med



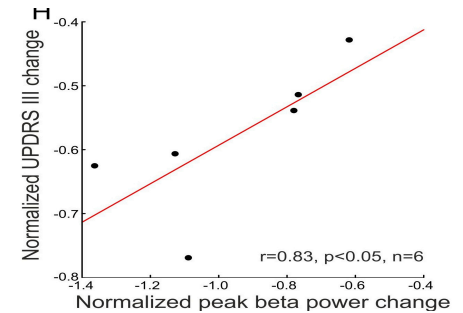
Individual normalized beta power (6 patients)



Individual normalized theta power (4 patients)



Normalized UPDRS part III motor score vs. reduction of individual beta power (3<sup>rd</sup> day)



Subscores 20-26: tremor at rest, action or postural tremor of hands, rigidity, finger taps, hand movements, rapid alternating movements of hands, leg agility



# Vibrotactile CR stimulation for Parkinson's therapy – non-invasive approach

## Computational prediction: non-invasive CR stimulation

Tass & Popovych, Biol. Cybern. 2012; Popovych & Tass, Front. Hum. Neurosci. 2012; Pfeifer et al., Front. Physiol. 2021

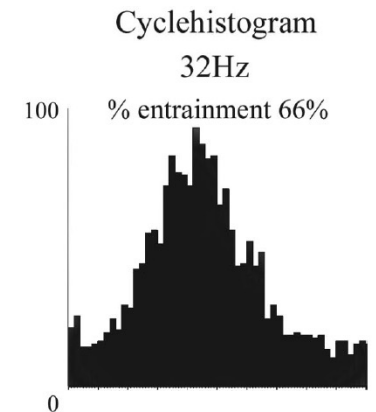
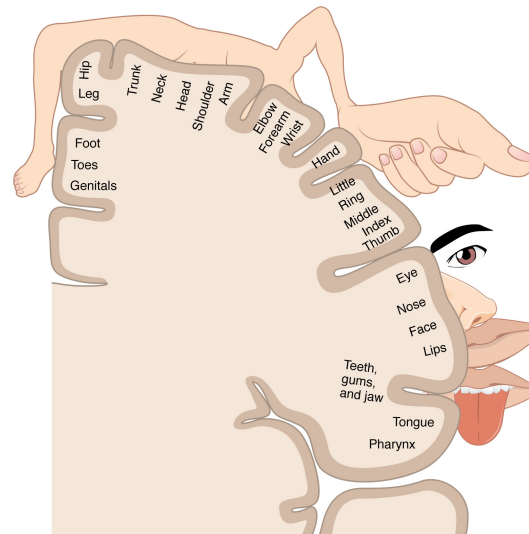
## human thalamic somatic sensory nucleus [ventral caudal (Vc)]: vibratory entrainment

Weiss et al., J. Neurophysiol. 2009

## Fingertip stimulation



Penfield & Rasmussen 1950



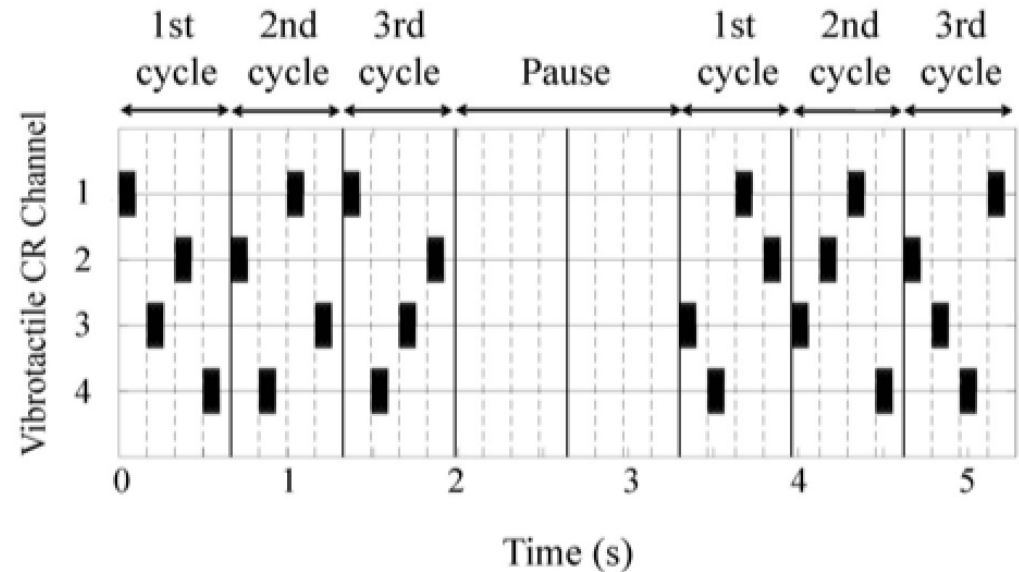


# Vibrotactile CR stimulation for the treatment of Parkinson's disease



## C-MF factors

Engineering Acoustics, Inc.

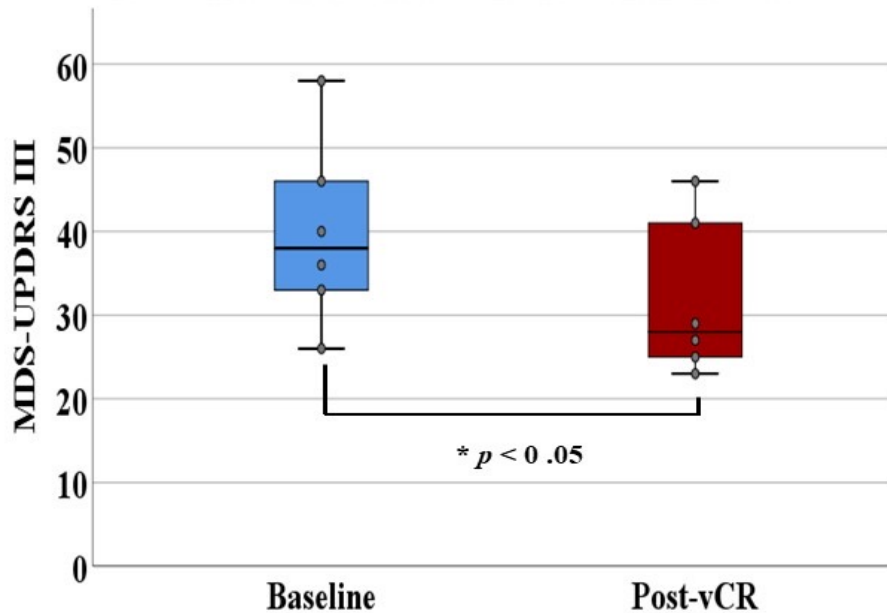




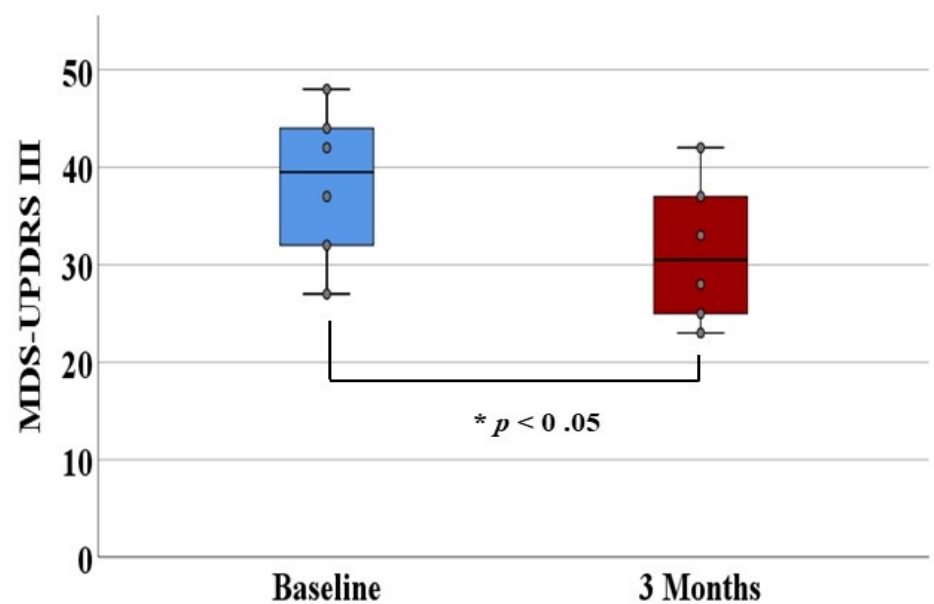
# 3 months pilot study

## Noisy vibrotactile CR – acute effects (day 1) vs. cumulative effects (3 months) off medication (n=6)

Acute Effects of Vibrotactile Treatment 1st Visit

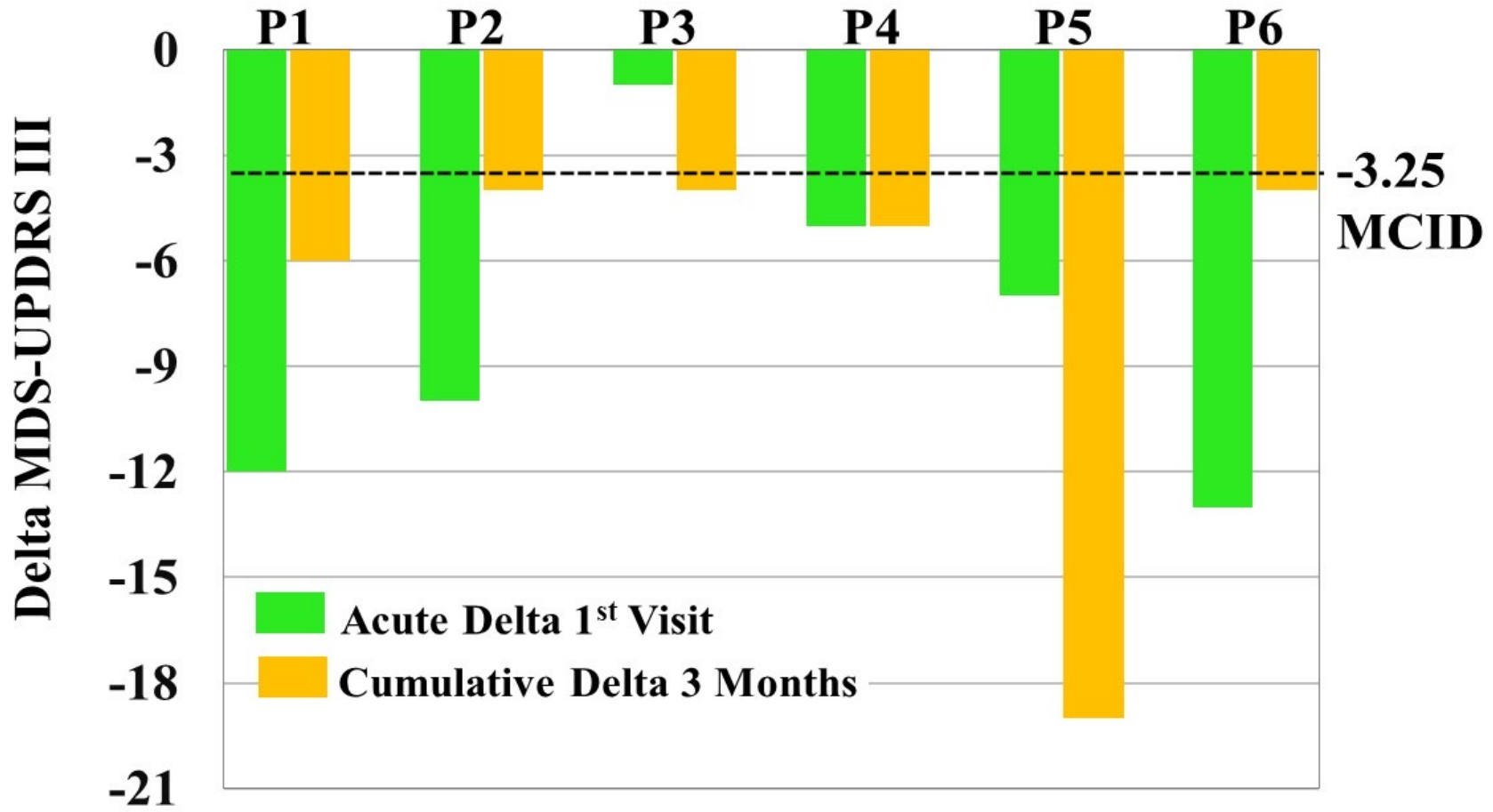


Cumulative Effects of Vibrotactile Treatment





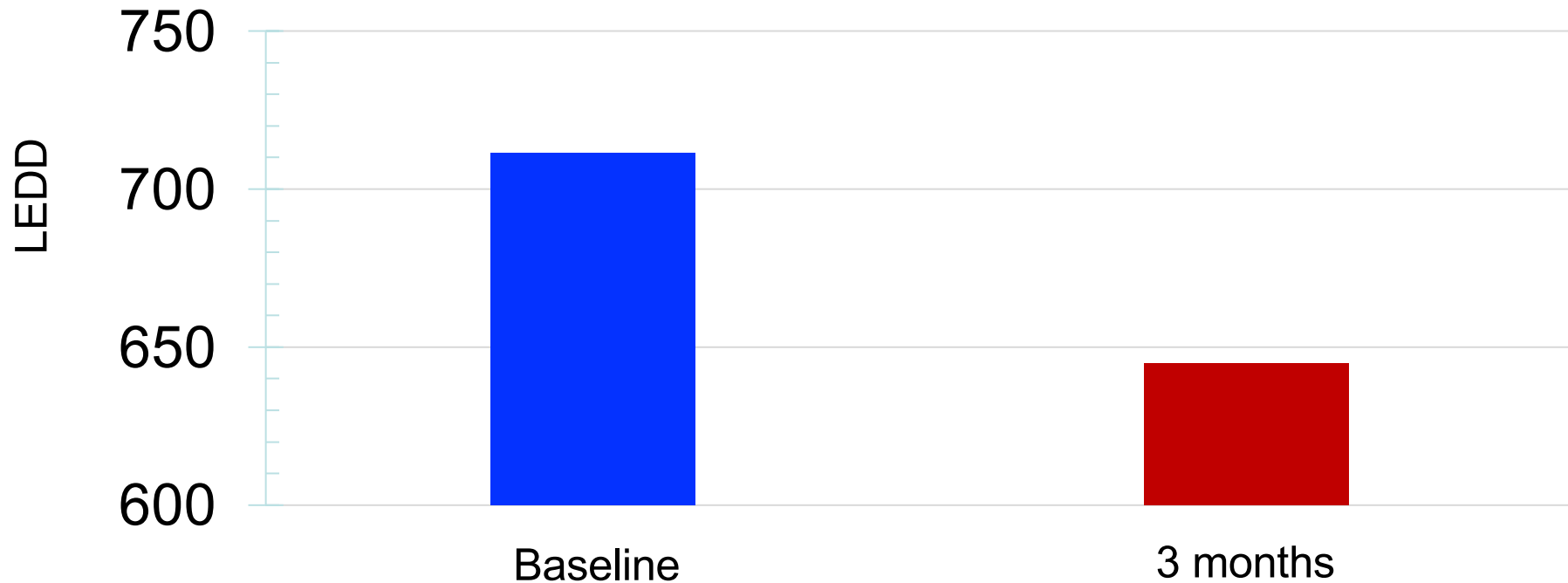
## Noisy vibrotactile CR – clinical significance



Delta UPDRS = UPDRS post vCR – UPDRS pre vCR

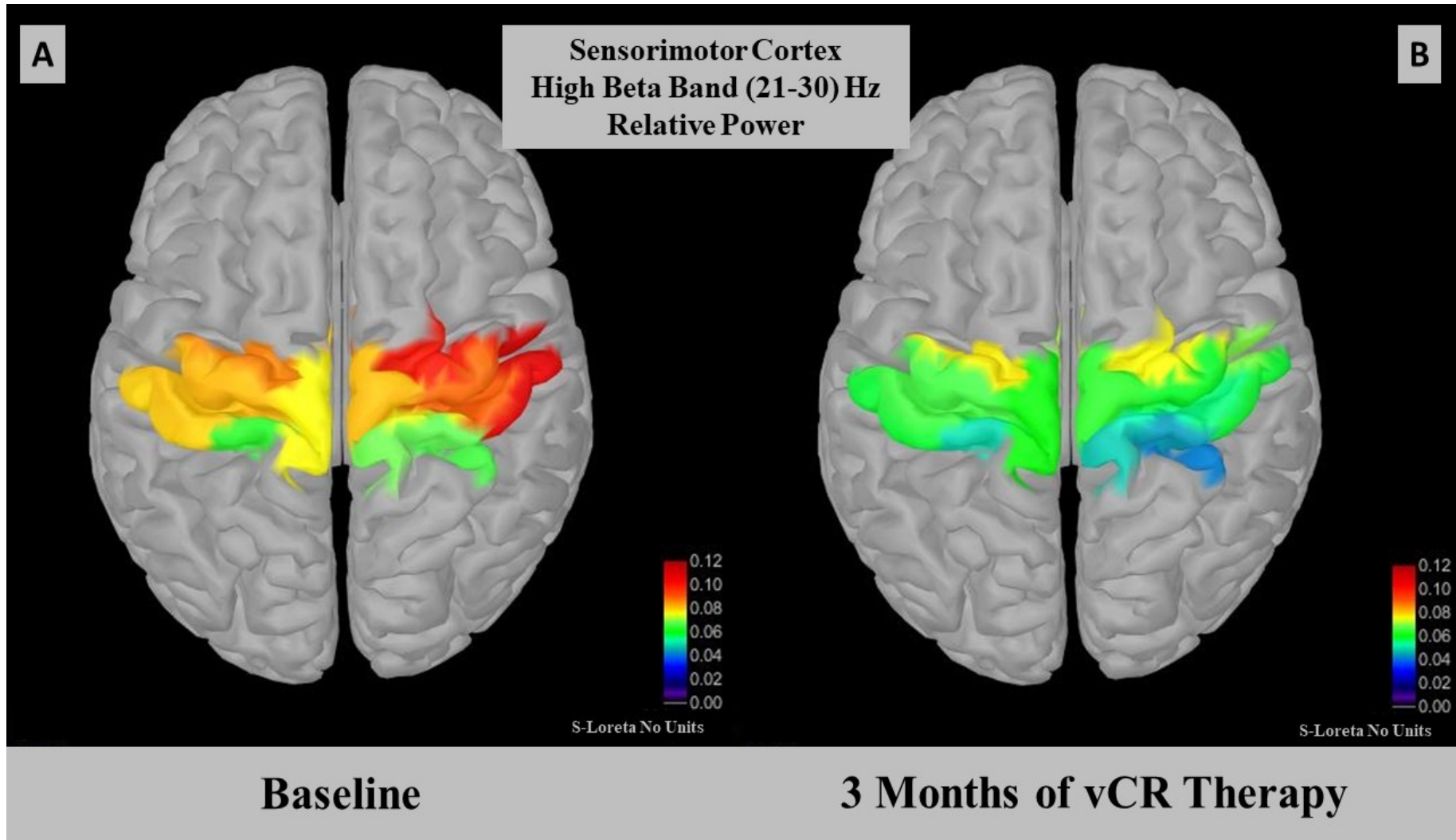


# Levodopa Equivalent Daily Dose (LEDD) 3 Month Vibrotactile Effects





# Noisy vibrotactile CR – EEG analysis: sLORETA high beta power



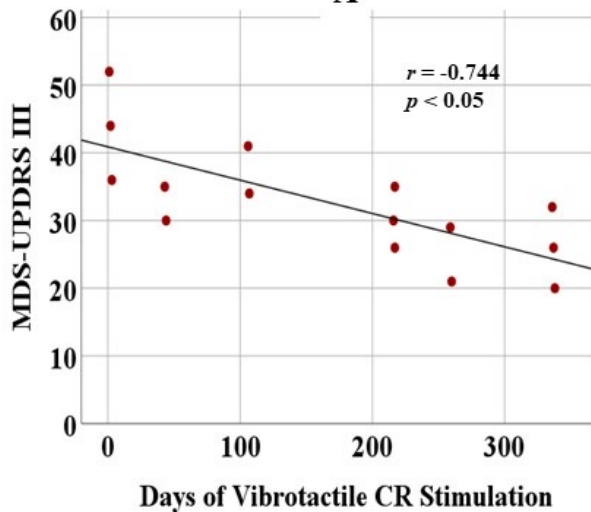




# 6+ months case series study - Noisy vs. regular vibrotactile CR

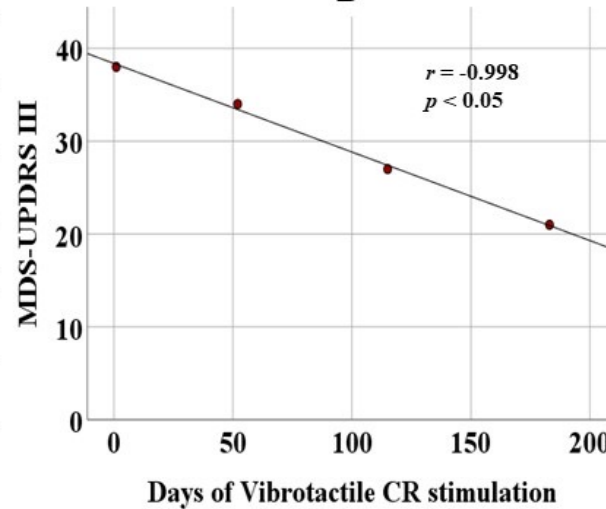
Patient 1

A



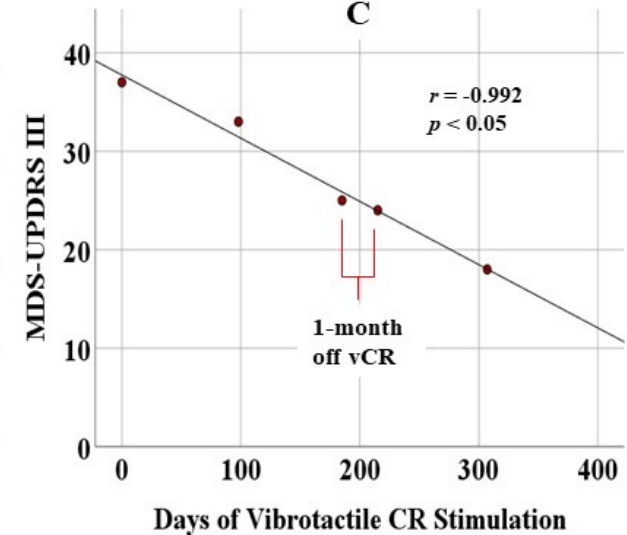
Patient 2

B



Patient 3

C



off meds scores

A,B: regular vibrotactile CR (no jitter of stimulus timing)

C: noisy vibrotactile CR (23.5% jitter of stimulus timing)



PD diagnosis in 2007

Meds:

20-25 Carbidopa Levodopa

25/100 per day

2 Amantadine per day

2-3 vapes of CBD/THC per day

50 % off time

used a cane; supposed to use a  
wheel chair



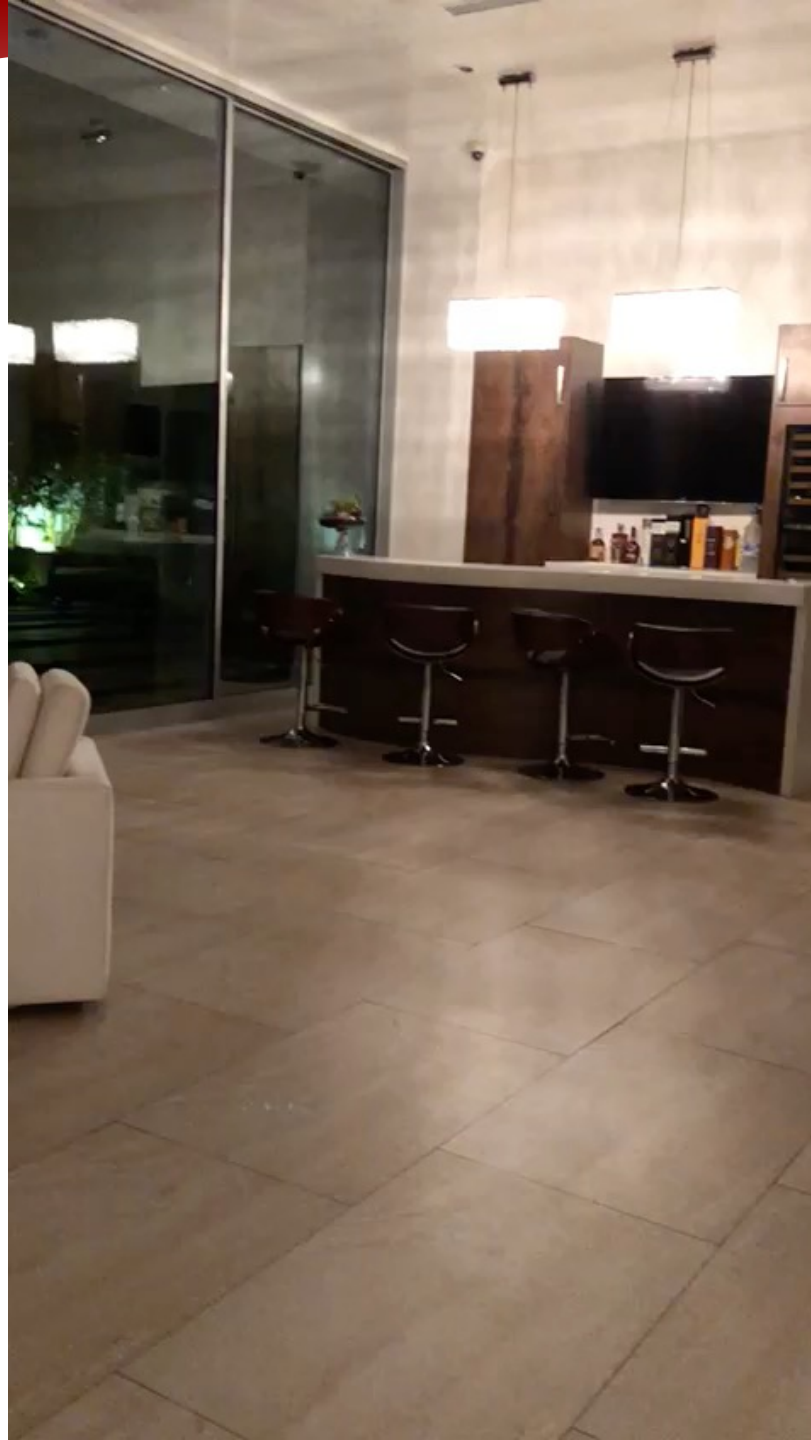


1<sup>st</sup> day of vibrotactile CR stim  
(2x2h/day)

6 (instead of 20-25)  
Carbidopa Levodopa  
25/100 per day

15 min off time

Pfeifer et al.,  
Front. Physiol. 2021



**6<sup>th</sup> day** of vibrotactile CR stim  
(2h/day)

6.5 (instead of 20-25)  
Carbidopa Levodopa  
25/100 per day

“Worked in my office for the  
first time in 2 years for 4 hours”

15 min off time

**7<sup>th</sup> day** of vibrotactile CR stim  
(2h/day)

6.0 (instead of 20-25)  
Carbidopa Levodopa  
25/100 per day

“Worked a full day in my office  
after 2 years”

15 min off time

**8<sup>th</sup> day** of vibrotactile CR  
stim (2h/day)

6.5 (instead of 20-25)  
Carbidopa Levodopa  
25/100 per day

“Noticed an improved sense of  
smell and taste”  
10 min off time



PD diagnosis  
at age 27

off meds, prior to  
vibrotactile treatment

Pfeifer et al.,  
Front. Physiol. 2021



after 6 weeks of vibrotactile noisy CR



1<sup>st</sup> visit, 1<sup>st</sup> day  
morning off meds,  
before vibrotactile  
therapy



3-month visit, 1<sup>st</sup> day  
morning off meds





after 5months



After 6 months  
vCR and 1 month  
pre-planned pause



# Theoretical/computational studies – for DBS

- **other plasticity mechanisms, e.g., structural (homeostatic)**  
Manos, Diaz, Tass: *Front. Physiol.* (2021); Chauhan, Khaledi-Nasab, Neiman, Tass: *Sci Rep.* (2022)
- **different types of spike-timing-dependent plasticity curves vs. different stimulation patterns**  
Kromer & Tass, *PRR* 2020; Kromer et al., *Chaos* 2020; Khaledi-Nasab et al., *Front Physiol.* 2021a, 2021b; Khaledi-Nasab et al. *Front. Netw. Physiol.* (2022)
- **cortico-basal ganglia-thalamo-cortical loops → propagation**  
Kromer, Bokil, Tass (in preparation)

## Outlook

- Theoretical/computational studies – for vibrotactile stimulation
- impact on neurodegeneration



# Theoretical/computational studies

- **desynchronization-induced reduction of synaptic weights**  
Tass & Majtanik: Biol. Cybern. 2006; Hauptmann & Tass: J. Neural Eng. 2009; Popovych & Tass: Front. Human Neurosci. 2012; Manos, Zeitler, Tass: PLoS Comput. Biol. 2018
- **decoupling stimulation: reduction of synaptic weights without acute desynchronization**  
Kromer & Tass: Phys. Rev. Research 2020; Khaledi-Nasab, Kromer, Tass: Front. Physiol. 2021
- **reshaping network topology with, e.g., periodic multichannel stimulation (PMCS)**  
Kromer & Tass: PLoS Biol. Comput. (under review)

## Outlook

- **stimulation-induced metabolic changes**



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University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

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Summer Han

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Thank you!

