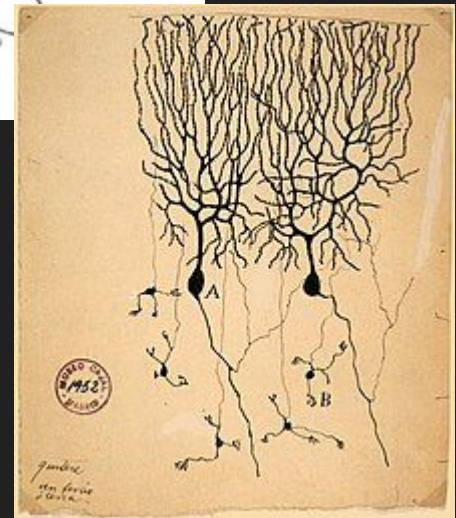
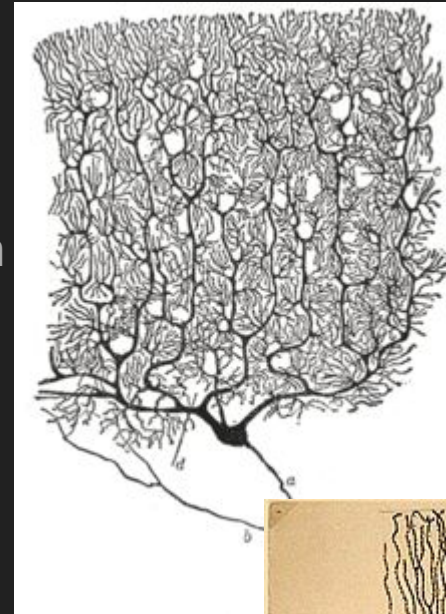


# Neurons on wifi: Wireless spiking neural P systems

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20th Brainstorming Week on Membrane Computing  
01.2024 Sevilla

# “wires” of neurons: *synapses*

Synapses: not the only way neurons “talk” to each other.

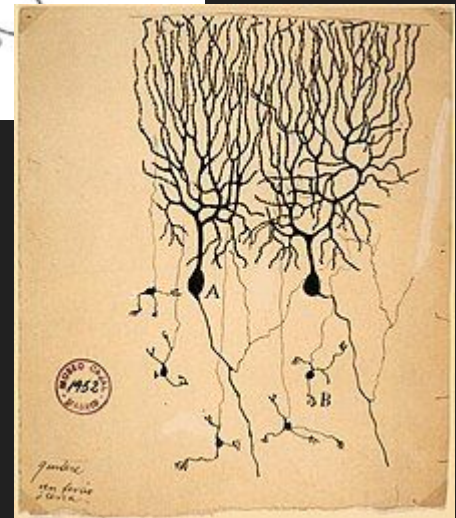


# “wires” of neurons: *synapses*

Synapses: not the only way neurons “talk” to each other.

*Extrasynaptic* communication of neurons:

“wireless” communication with neuropeptides,  
or molecular signals.



# Wi-Fi for neurons: first map of wireless nerve signals unveiled in worms

Studies find a densely connected network of neurons that communicate over long distances, rather than across synapses.

By [Claudia López Lloreda](#)

# Neural signal propagation atlas of *Caenorhabditis elegans*

[Francesco Randi](#), [Anuj K. Sharma](#), [Sophie Dvali](#) & [Andrew M. Leifer](#) ✉

*Nature* **623**, 406–414 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

## Neuron

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# The neuropeptidergic connectome of *C. elegans*

[Lidia Ripoll-Sánchez](#) • [Jan Wattereyne](#) • [HaoSheng Sun](#) • ... [Isabel Beets](#) <sup>9</sup> • [Petra E. Vértés](#) <sup>9</sup> •

[William R. Schafer](#) <sup>9, 10</sup> ✉ • [Show all authors](#) • [Show footnotes](#)

[Open Access](#) • [Published: November 06, 2023](#) • [DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2023.09.043](#)

# Extrasynaptic network in model organism: *C. elegans*

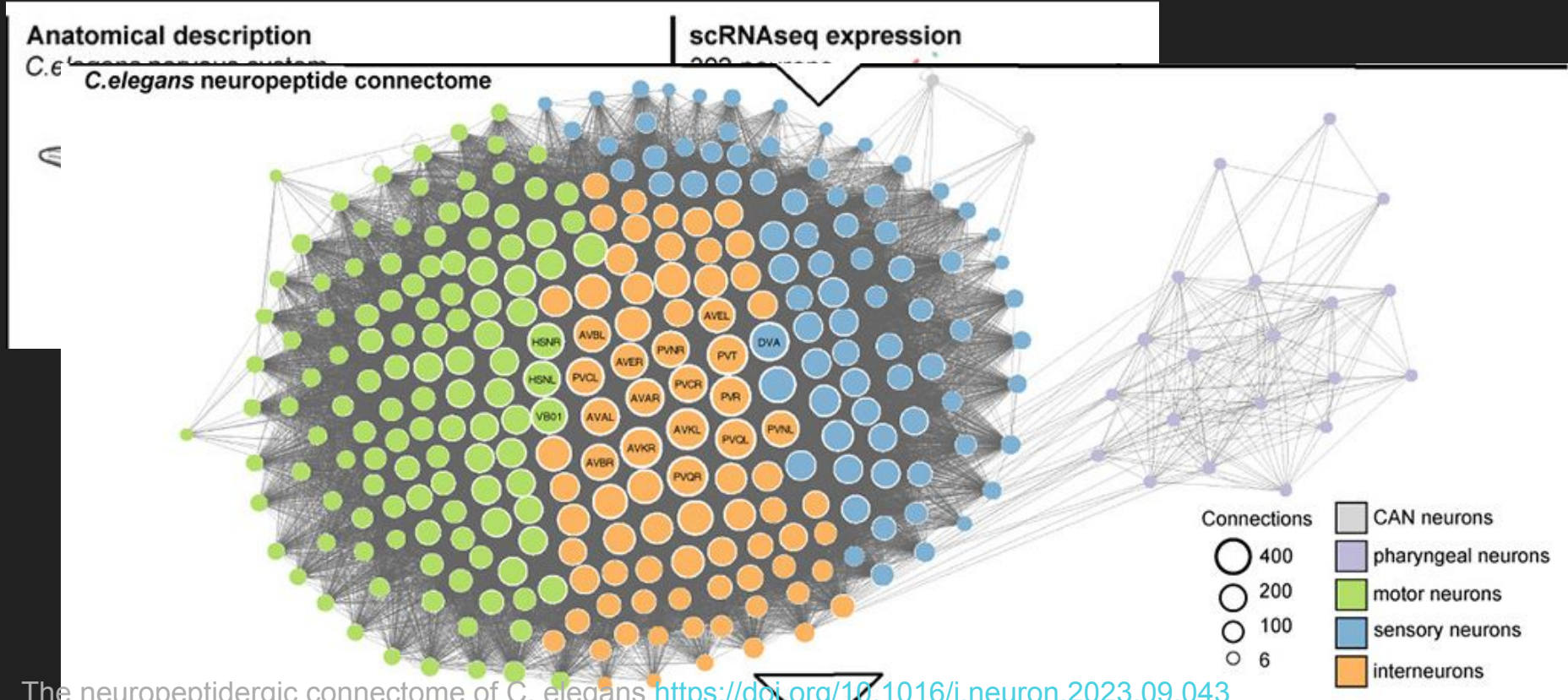
**Anatomical description**  
*C.elegans* nervous system



**scRNAseq expression**  
302 neurons



# Extrasynaptic network in model organism: *C. elegans*



# Extrasynaptic network in model organism: *C. elegans*

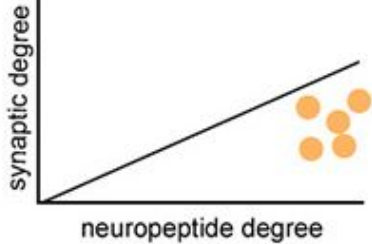
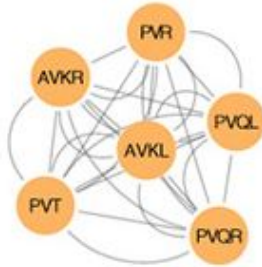
Anatomical description

*C. elegans* nervous system

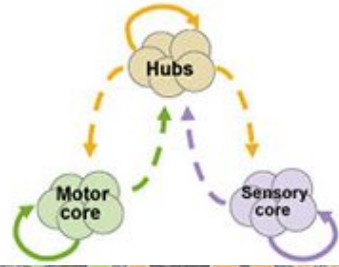
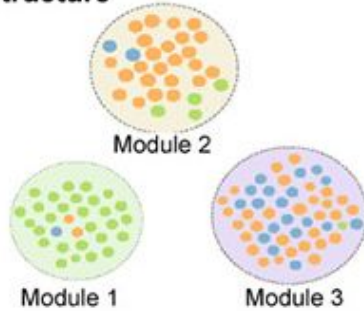
scRNAseq expression

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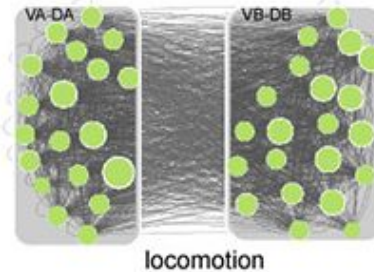
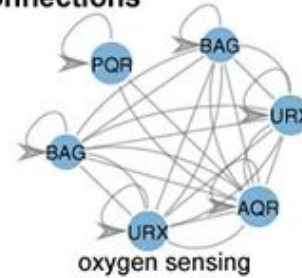
Identified neuropeptidergic hub neurons



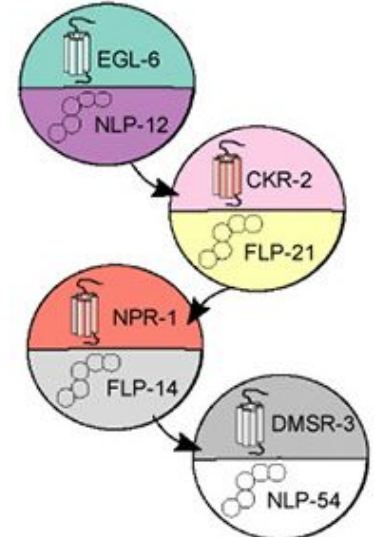
Identified network structure



Identified autocrine connections



Identified neuropeptidergic signalling cascades



# Extrasynaptic (peptidergic) network: recent results

- **Neuropeptides:** *ancient and conserved* signaling molecules in brains of *all organisms*.
- **Wireless network:** release + receive of neurotransmitters => *not random chemicals floating between neurons*.
- **Neuropeptides:** affects system over larger scales (time + space), unlike synaptic signals (restricted only to pre- and post-synapse).
- **Self-loops** or *autocrine* connections: similar to autapses (self-synapse).
- Interesting properties (compared to wired/synaptic network): *more flat, many high-degree nodes, higher clustering and reciprocity (decentralisation), rich-club property*.
- Better understanding of *neuron behaviour*: **synaptic + (neuro)peptidergic networks**.



# An early attempt

The image shows three energy levels represented by circles containing the letter 'a'.  
- The first level is labeled  $E_1 = a$  and has a '1' below the circle.  
- The second level is labeled  $E_2 = a$  and has a '2' below the circle.  
- The third level is labeled  $E_3 = a^2$  and has a '3' below the circle.  
Below the first level, two transitions are shown:  
-  $r_1: a^2/a \rightarrow a^2$   
-  $r_2: a \rightarrow a$   
Below the third level, two transitions are shown:  
-  $r_3: a^2 \rightarrow a$   
-  $r_4: a^2 \rightarrow a^2$

Fin! ¡Gracias por tu atención! Questions? Collaborations?



*Monumento a Santiago Ramón y Cajal, parque del Retiro, Madrid*

Support: QUAL21 008 USE project (PAIDI 2020 and FEDER 2014-2020 funds)

# Spiking neural P systems (SN P systems)

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## Spiking Neural P Systems

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Specifically, we consider a *spiking neural P system* (in short, an SN P system), of degree  $m \geq 1$ , in the form

$$\Pi = (O, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_m, \text{syn}, i_0),$$

where:

1.  $O = \{a\}$  is the singleton alphabet ( $a$  is called *spike*);
2.  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_m$  are *neurons*, of the form

$$\sigma_i = (n_i, R_i), 1 \leq i \leq m,$$

where:

- a)  $n_i \geq 0$  is the *initial number of spikes* contained by the neuron;
- b)  $R_i$  is a finite set of *rules* of the following two forms:
  - (1)  $E/a^r \rightarrow a; t$ , where  $E$  is a regular expression over  $O$ ,  $r \geq 1$ , and  $t \geq 0$ ;
  - (2)  $a^s \rightarrow \lambda$ , for some  $s \geq 1$ , with the restriction that  $a^s \notin L(E)$  for any rule  $E/a^r \rightarrow a; t$  of type (1) from  $R_i$ ;
3.  $\text{syn} \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \times \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  with  $(i, i) \notin \text{syn}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  (*synapses* among neurons);
4.  $i_0 \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  indicates the *output neuron*.

YAVSN P system: Yet another  
variant of SN P system