

# AI Meets Quantum Mechanics:

Unravelling the Molecular Fingerprints of Brain Function and Diseases

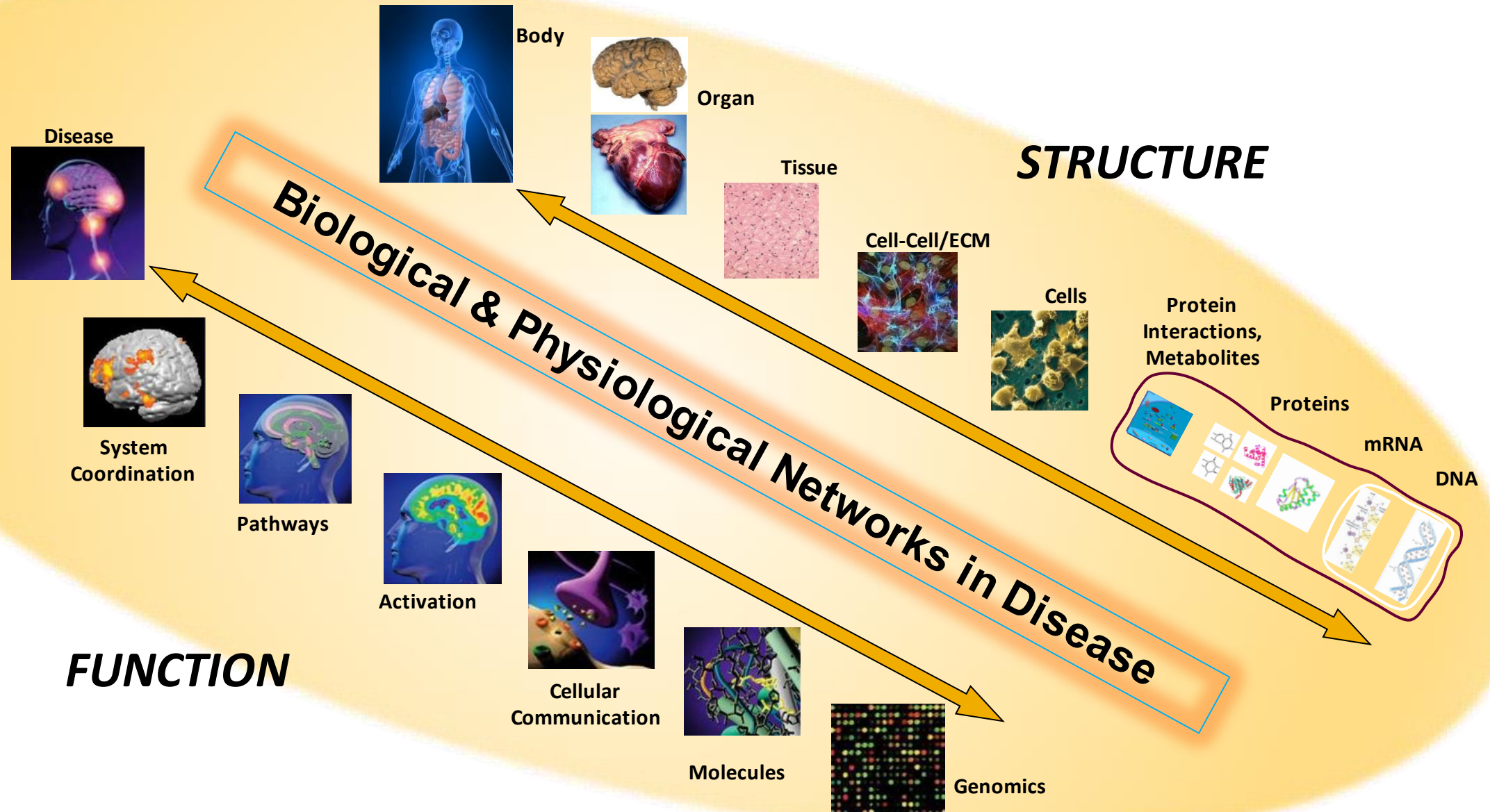
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Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, UIUC

**Yudu Li, Ph.D.**

Beckman Institute, Bioengineering Department, UIUC

# Complexity of the Brain

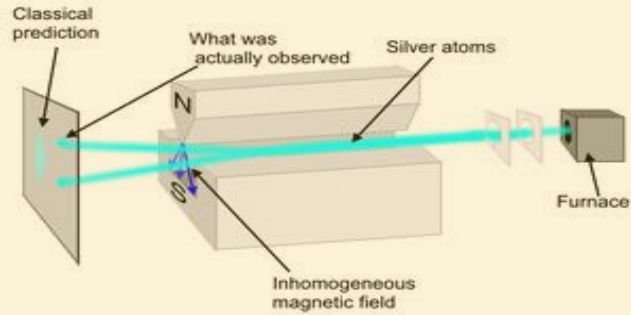






# Magic of Spins

- Stern–Gerlach experiment (1922)



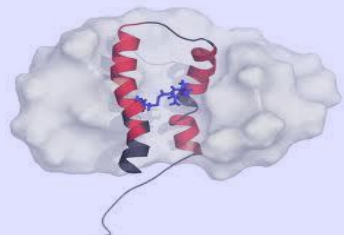
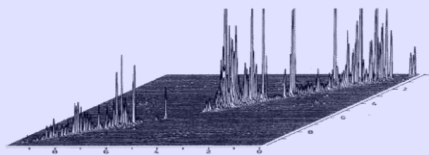
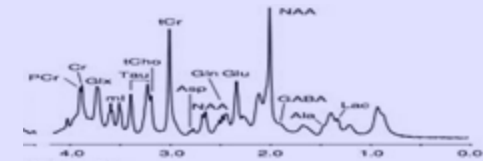
- Relativistic Schrodinger equation (Paul Dirac, 1928):

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + V\psi \quad \longrightarrow \quad i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \mathbf{H} \psi$$

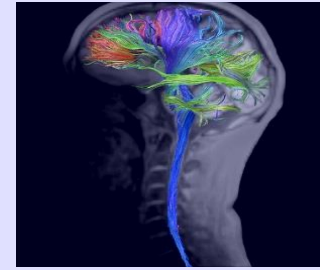
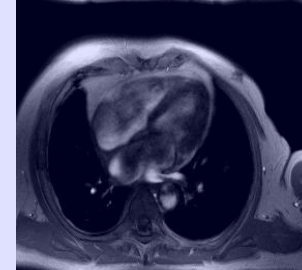
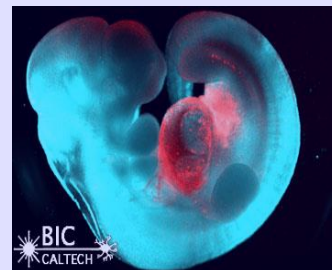
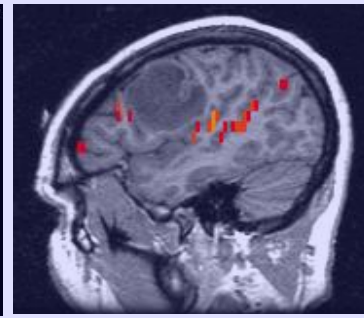
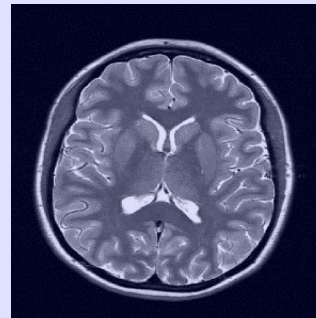
- “There is nothing nuclear spins will not do for you as long as you treat them as human beings”,

Erwin Hahn

- Spectroscopy



- Imaging



# Conventional MRI

Data Acquisition:

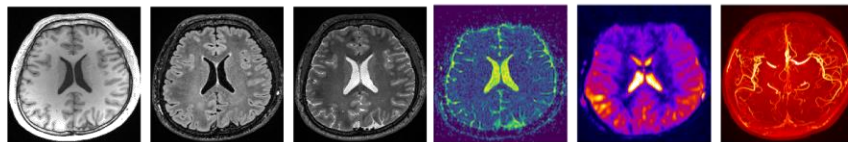
$$s(\mathbf{k}, t) = \iint \rho(\mathbf{x}, f) E(\mathbf{x}, f; \mathbf{k}, t) d\mathbf{x} df$$

Fourier encodings at the Nyquist rate

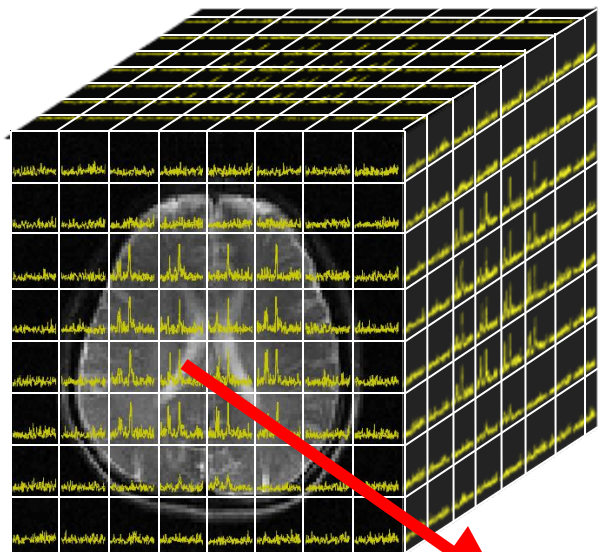
Image Reconstruction:



Fourier representation of image functions

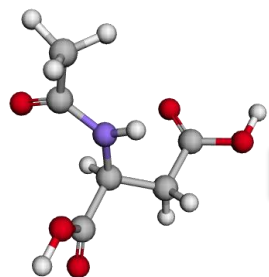
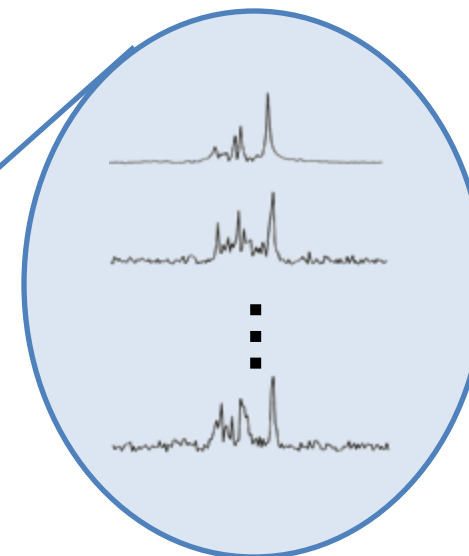


# AI-Powered MRI

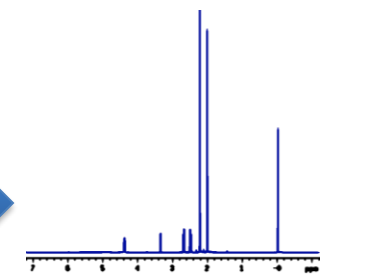


# of molecules

$$\rho(\mathbf{x}, f) = \bigcup_{m=1}^M \sum_{l=1}^L c_{ml}(\mathbf{x}) \varphi_{ml}(f)$$



Quantum  
Mechanics  
Simulation



$$\psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{l=1}^L c_l(t) e^{-\frac{iE_l t}{\hbar}} \phi_l(\mathbf{x})$$

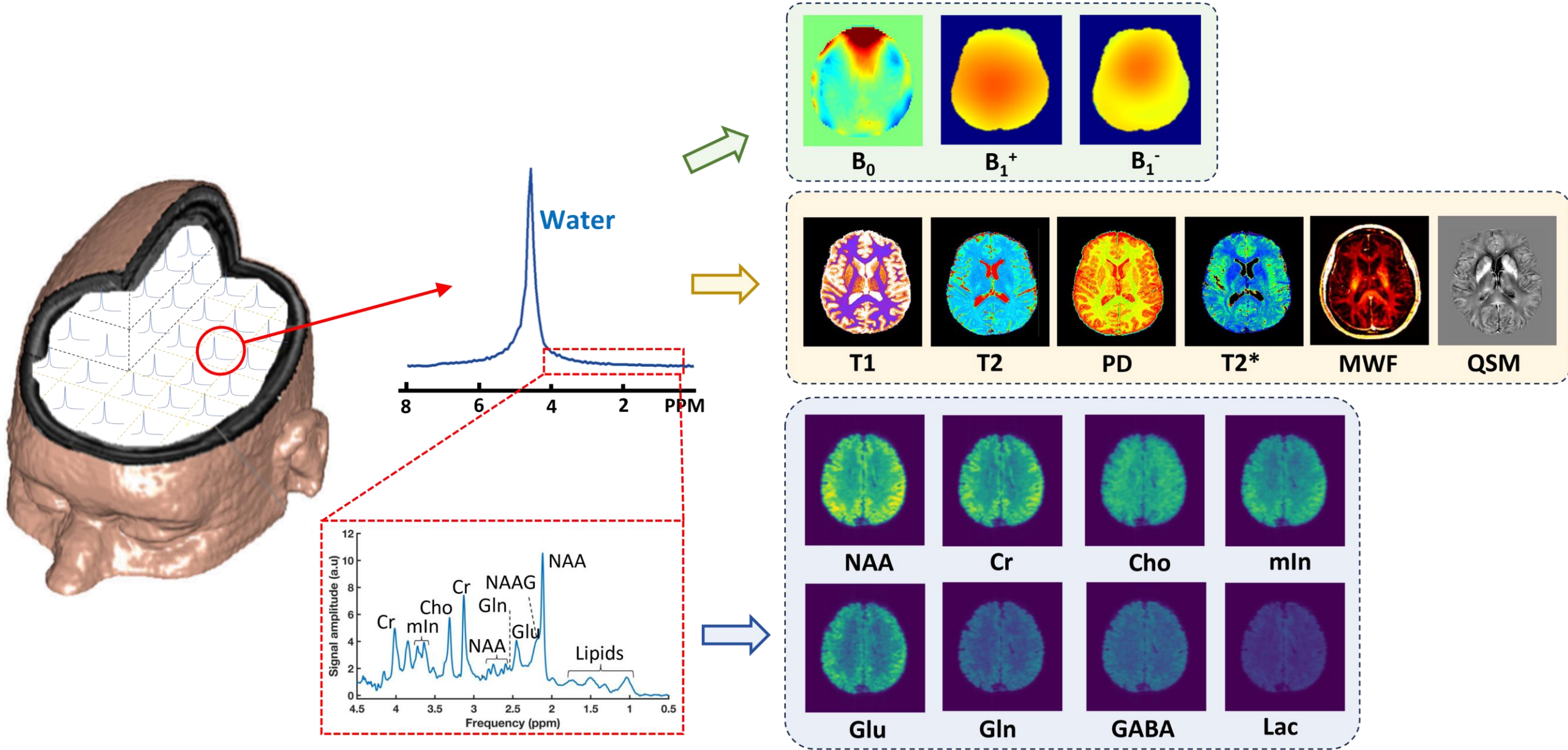


Training Data

A box containing multiple stacked MRI spectra, representing training data.

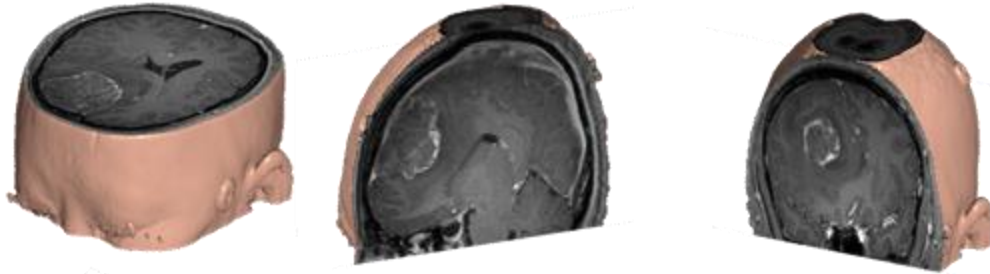


# "SPICY" AI-Powered MRI

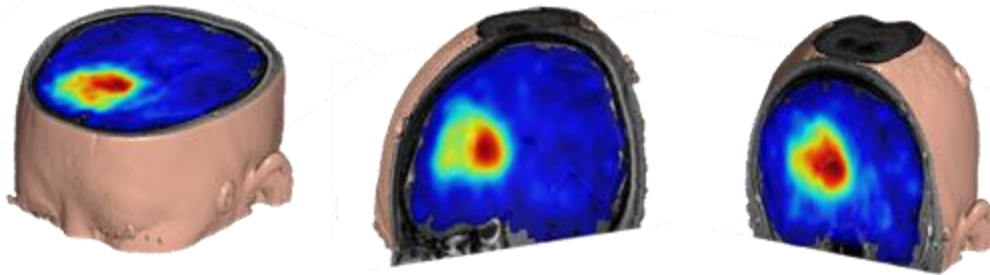


# Metabolic Imaging of Brain Tumor

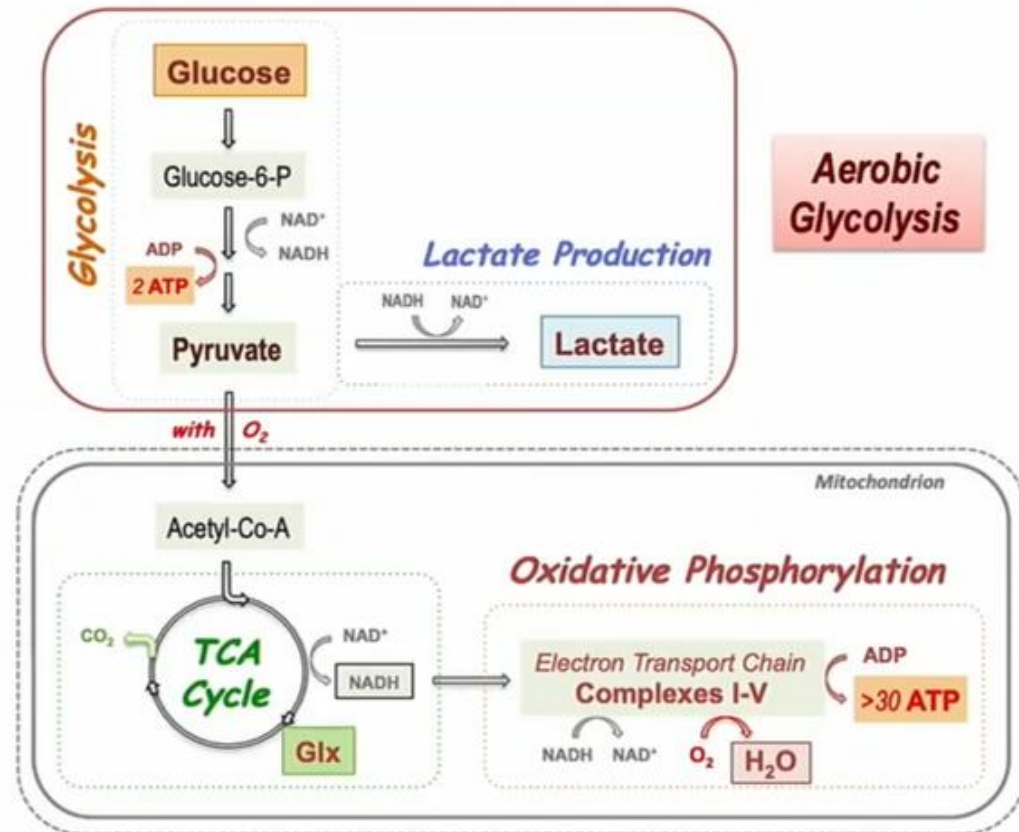
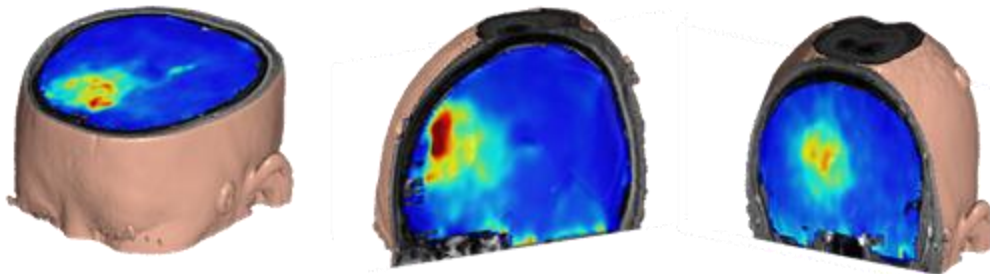
MPRAGE



Lac

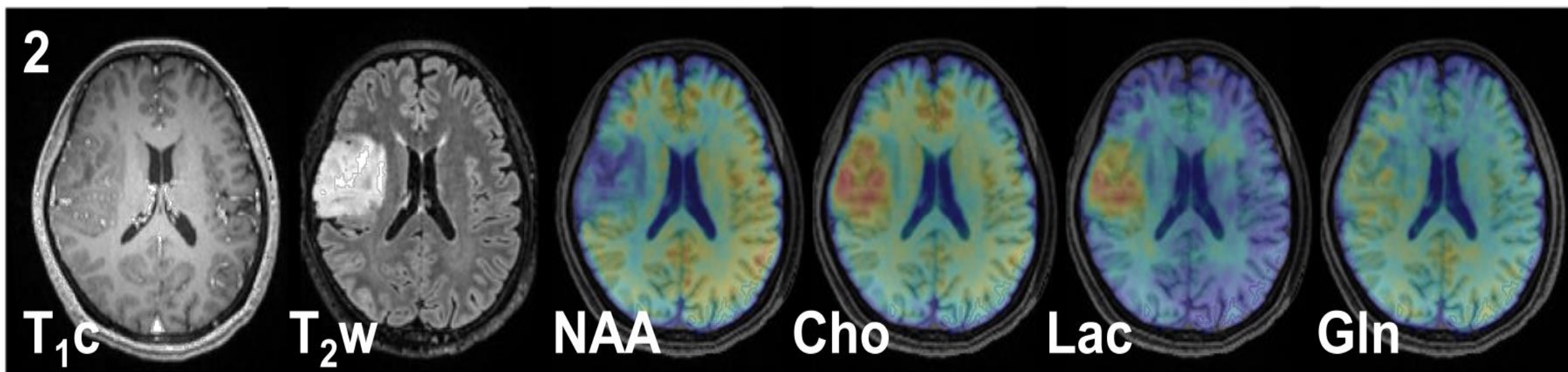
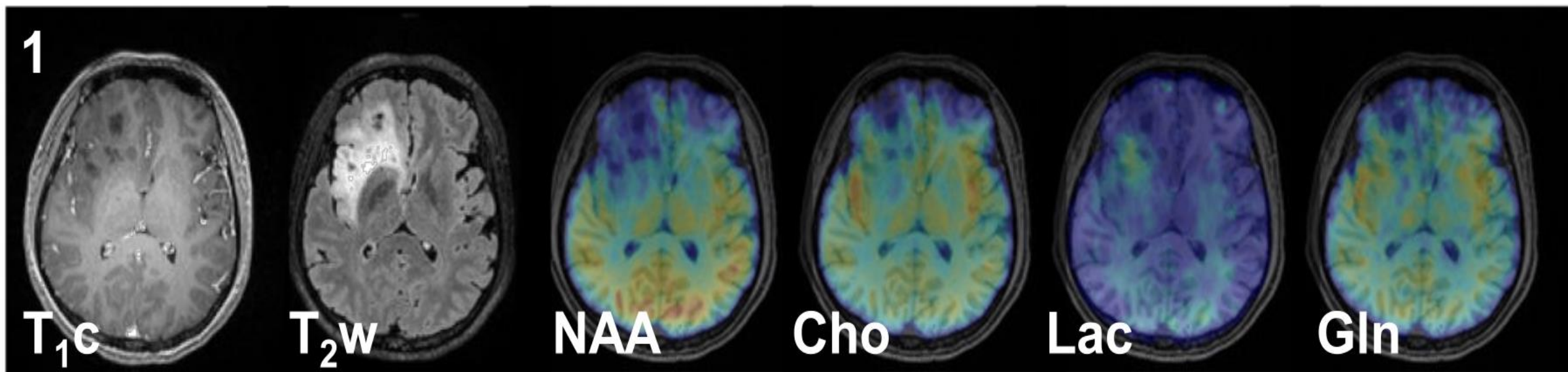


Cho/NAA

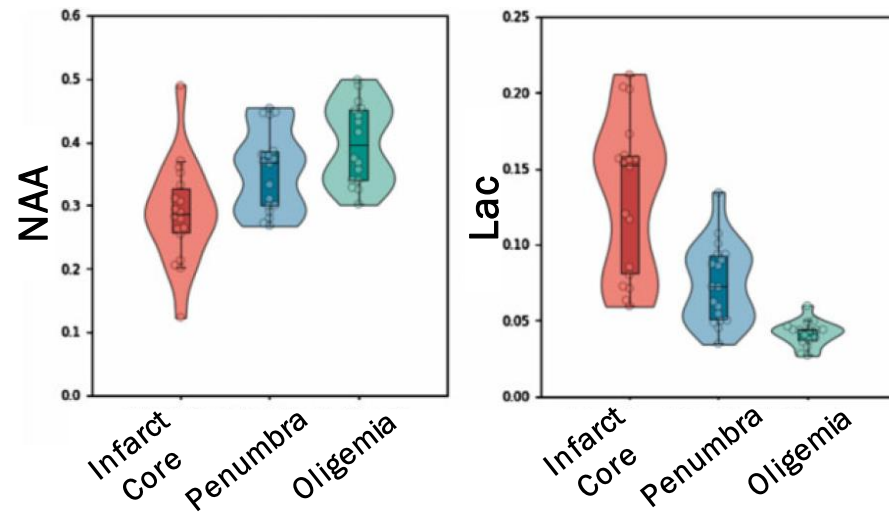
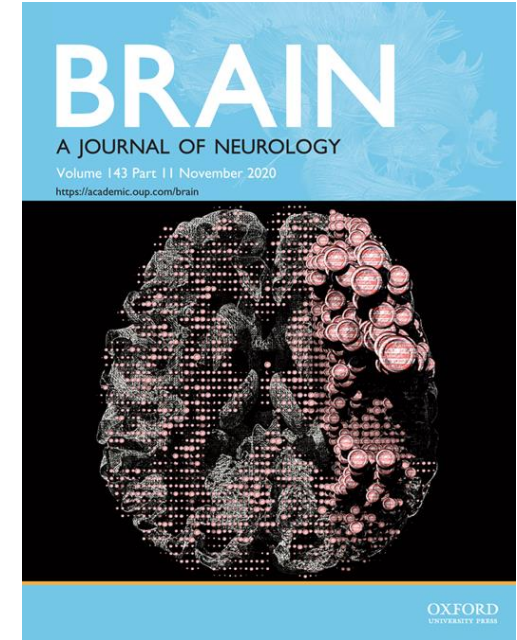
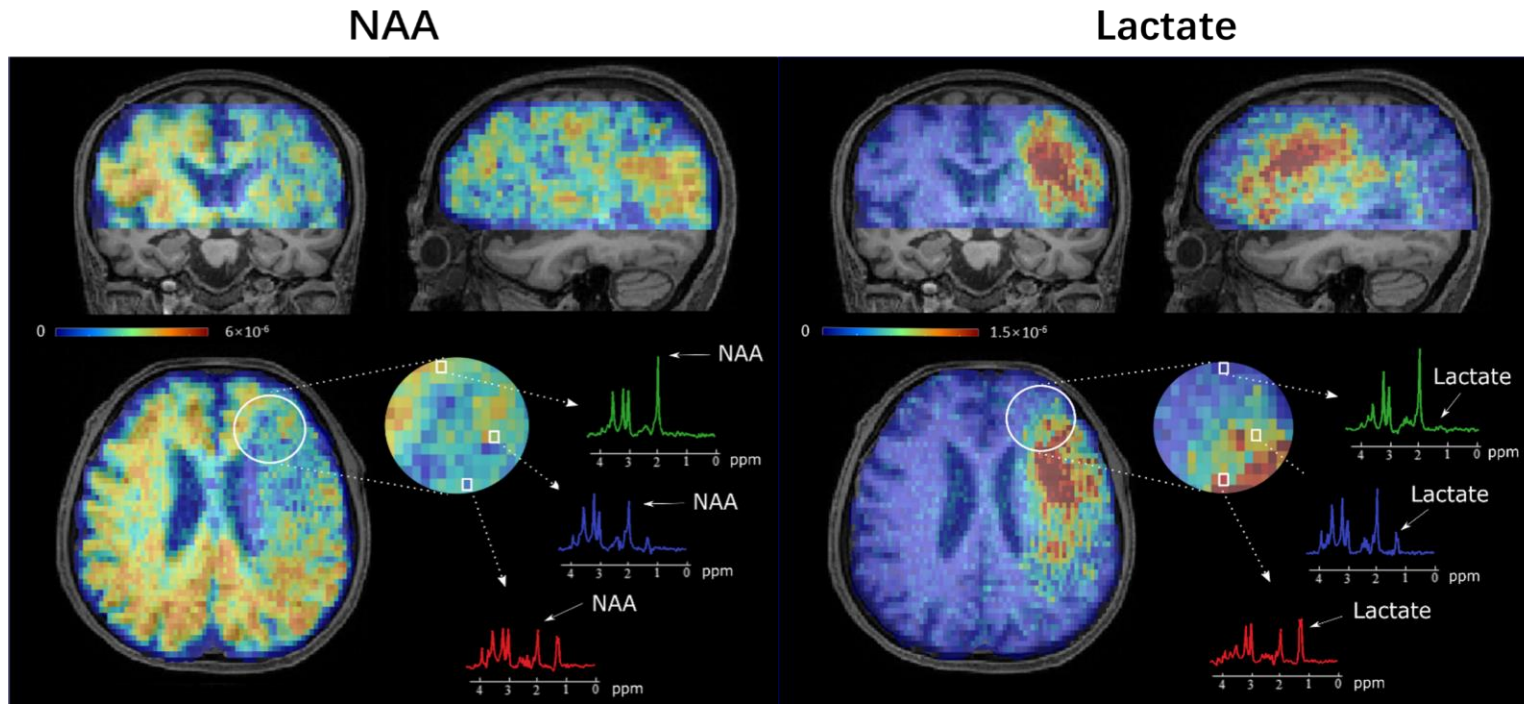




# Differentiation of Different Tumors



# Imaging Ischemia Stroke: Penumbra Characterization



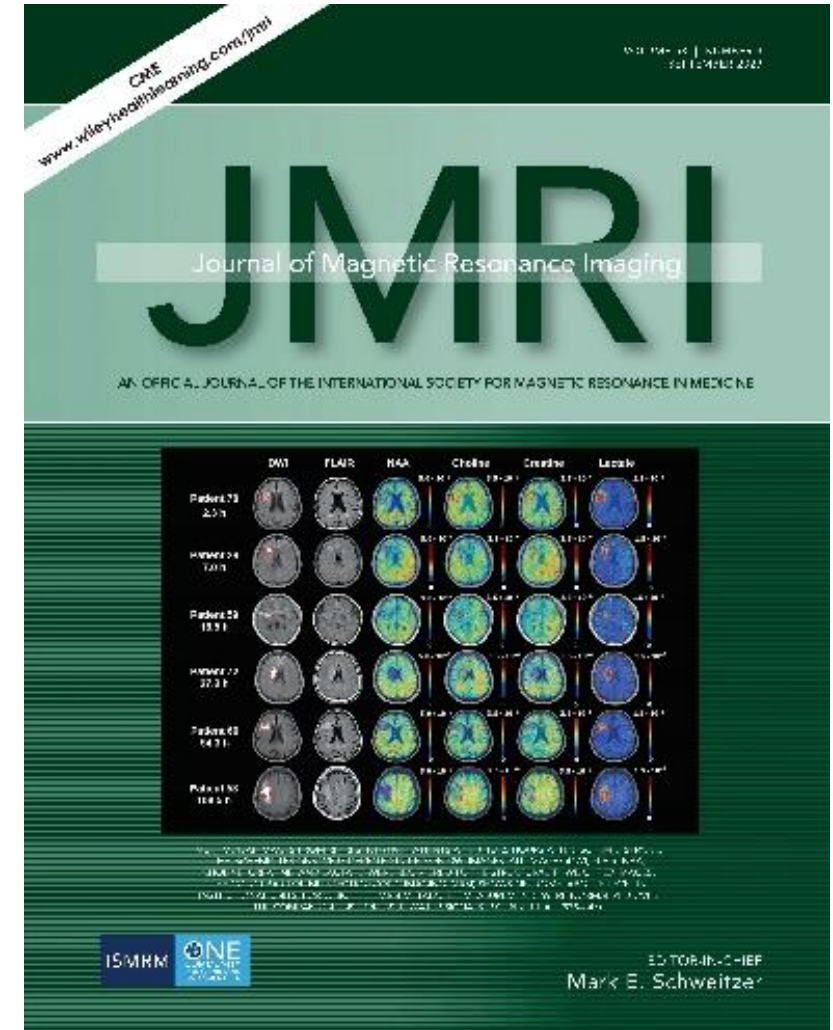
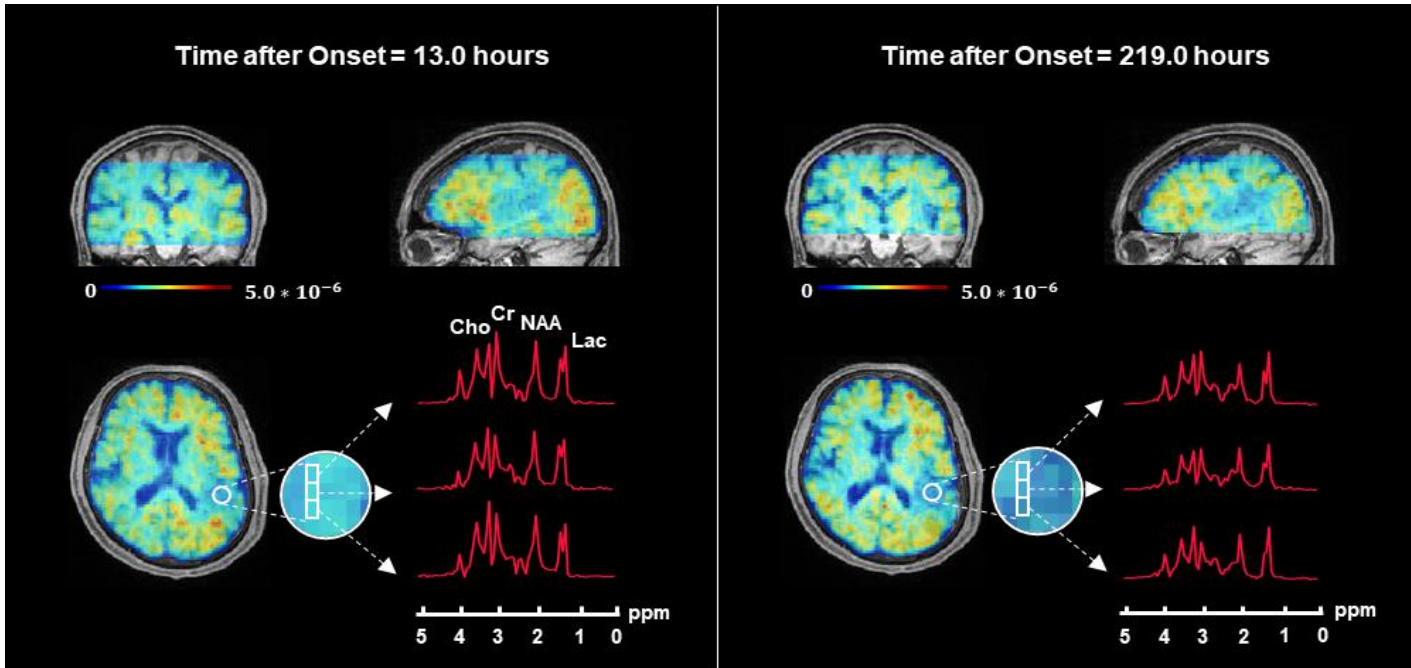
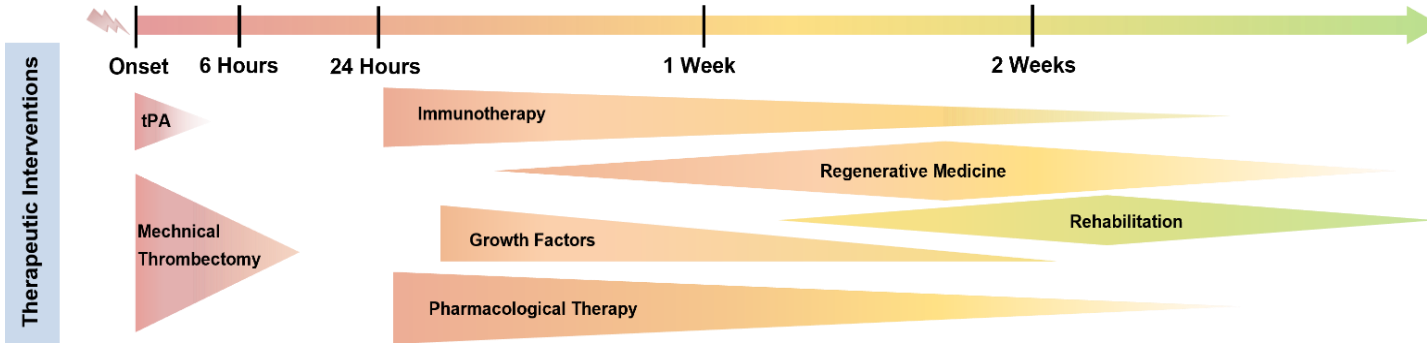
Acquisition Time: 8 minutes

Spatial Resolution:  $2.0 \times 3.0 \times 3.0 \text{ mm}^3$

*Li\*, et al., Brain, Nov. 2020 (Cover Feature Article)*



# Imaging Ischemia Stroke: Onset Time Prediction



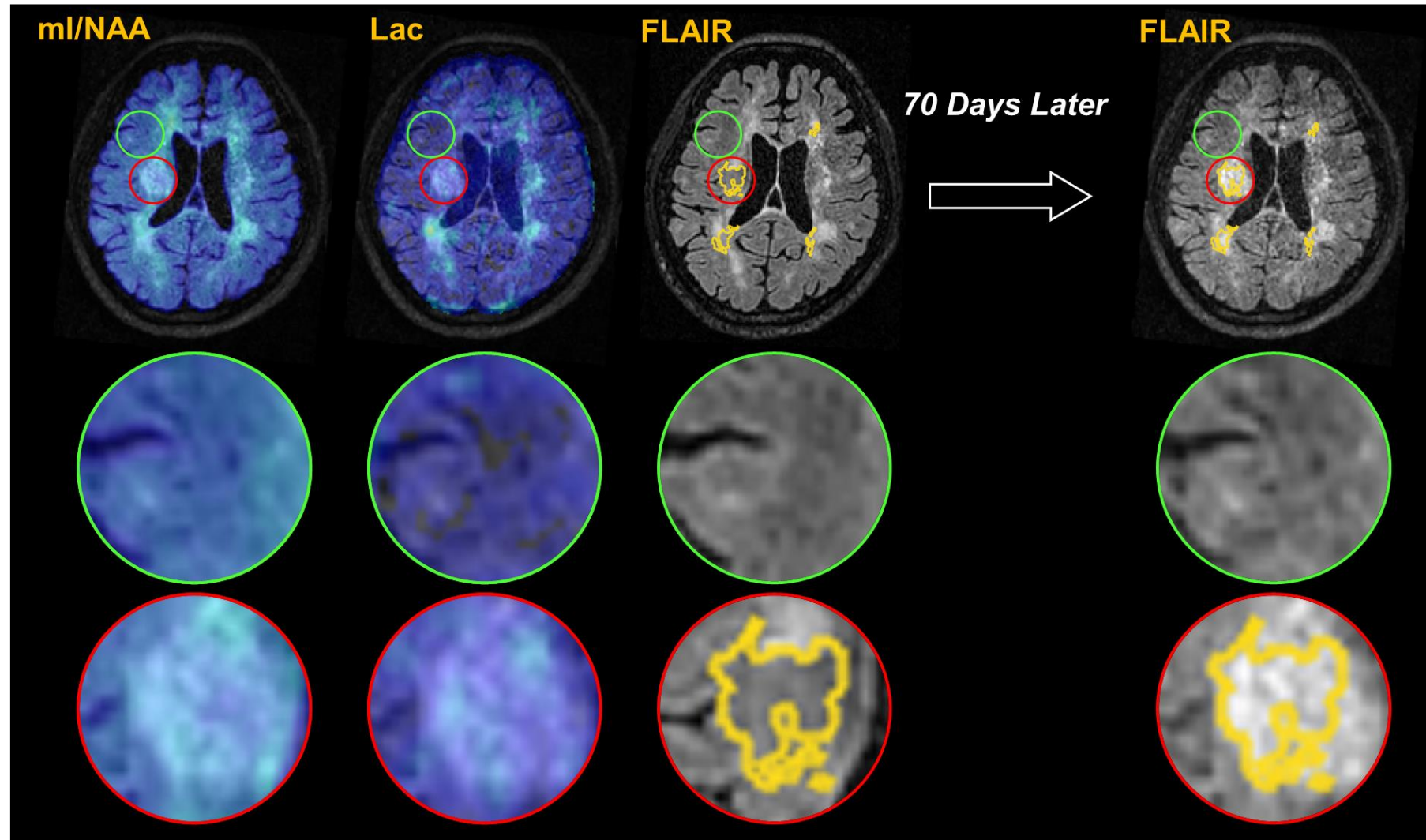
Lin, et al., JMIRI, Sep. 2023 (Cover Feature Article)

ISMRRM W. S. Moore Award, 2023



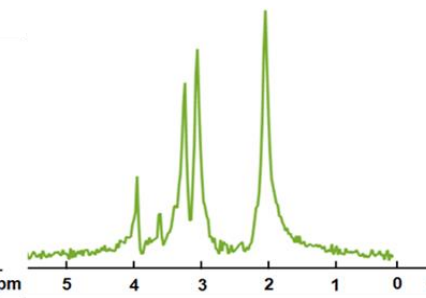
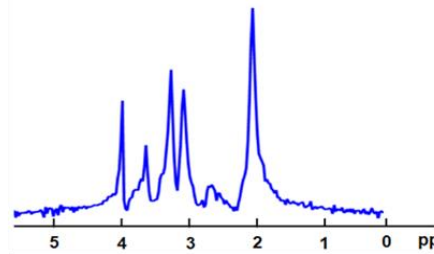
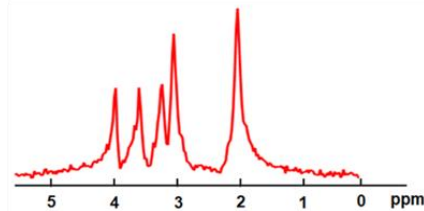
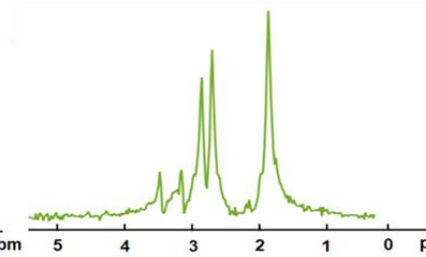
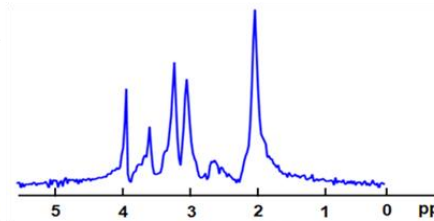
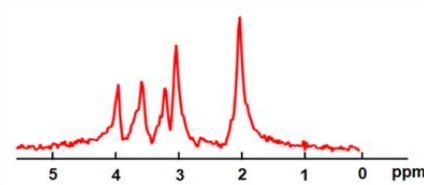
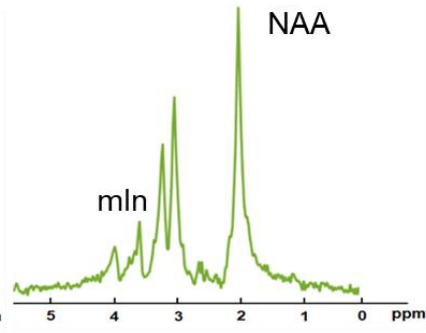
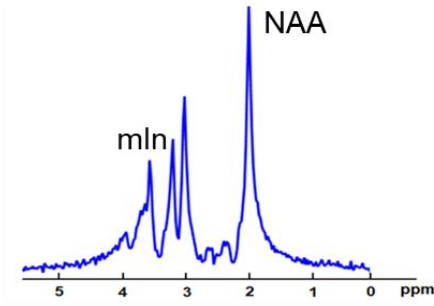
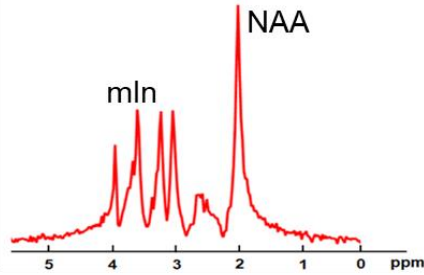
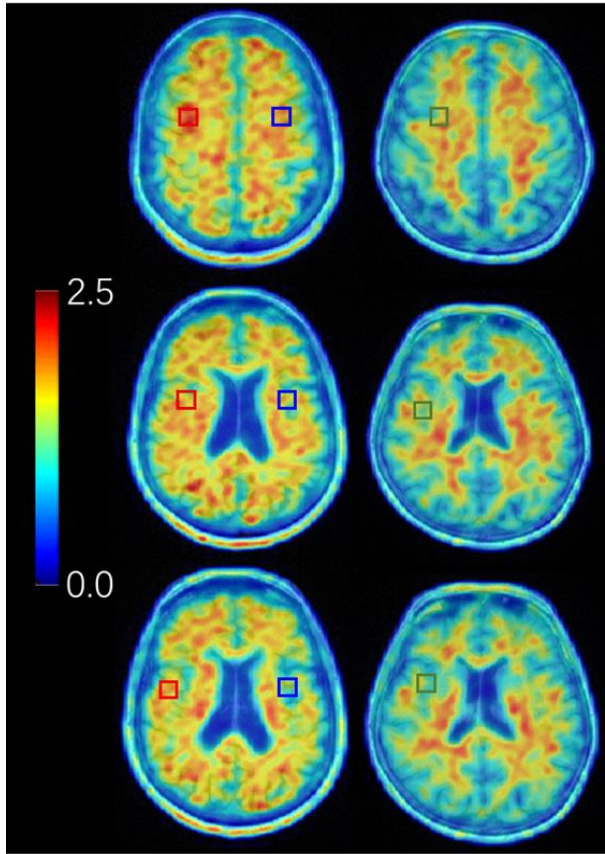
# Metabolic Imaging of Multiple Sclerosis

Detection of MRI-invisible pre-lesion



# Metabolic Imaging of Alzheimer's Disease

AV45-PET



High Aβ

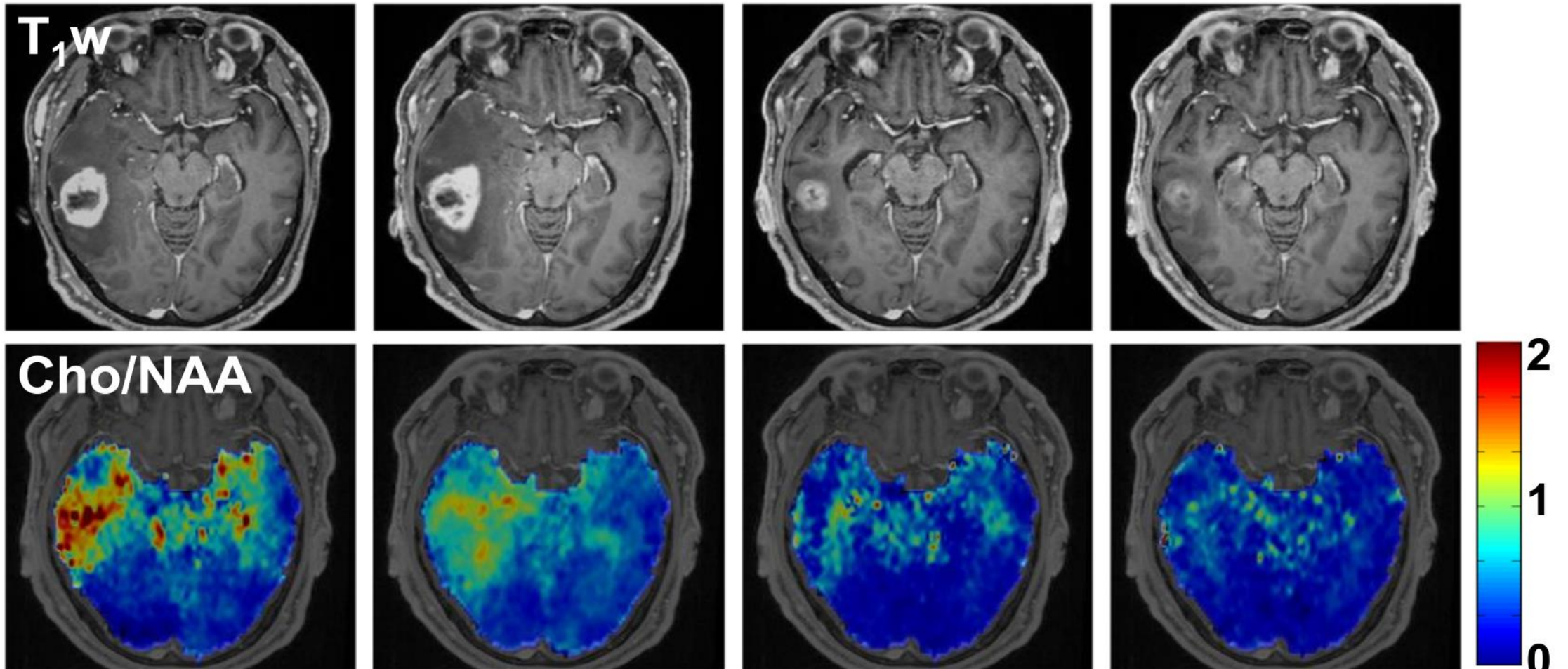
Low Aβ

Health Control

- **NAA** reduction  
↓  
Neuron/synaptic dysfunction or Neuron loss
- **mI** elevation  
↓  
Microglia and astrocyte activation



# Monitoring Treatment Response: Radiation Therapy



**Scan #1**

2 weeks

**Scan #2**

4 weeks

**Scan #3**

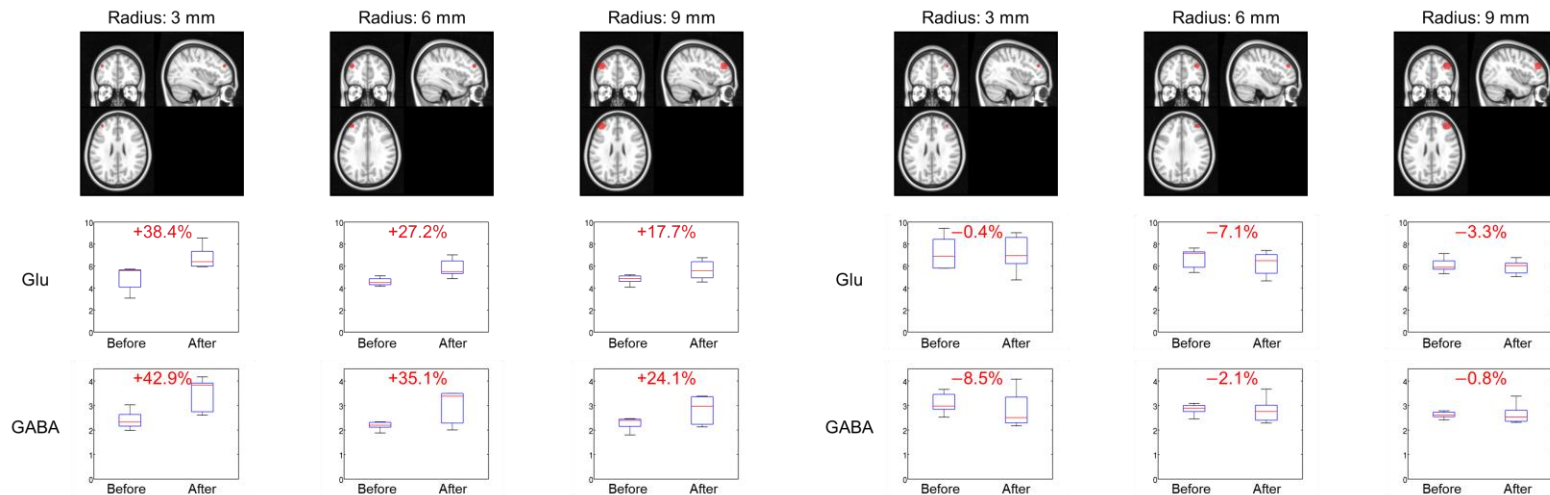
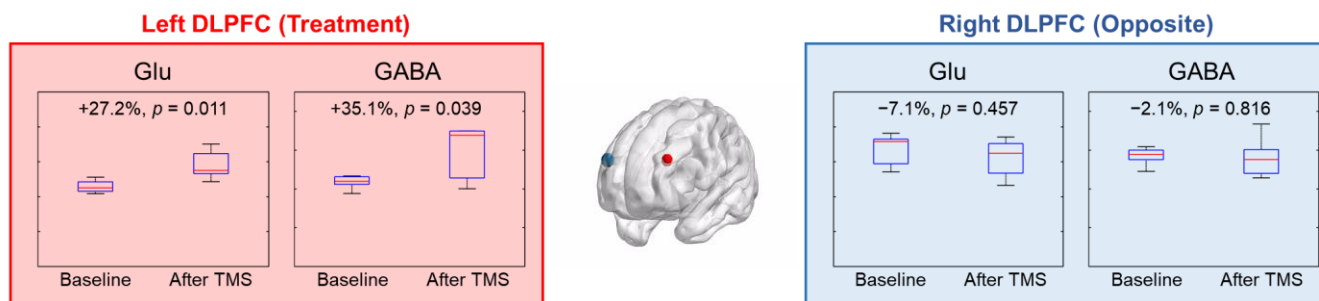
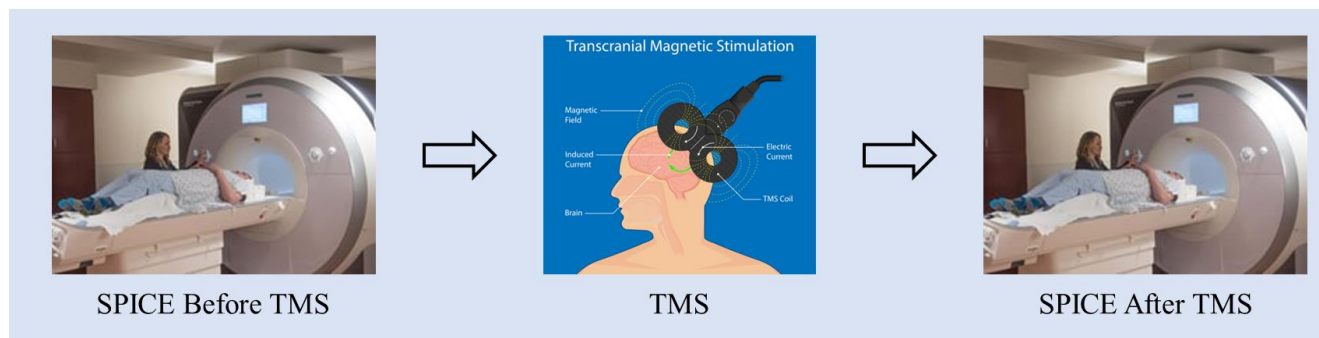
3 months

**Scan #4**

6 months



# Monitoring Treatment Response: Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation



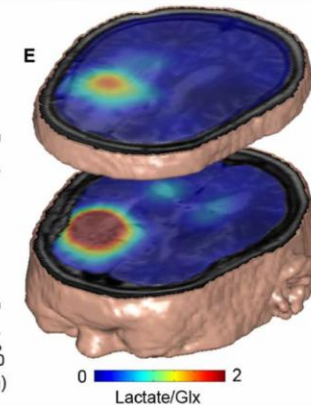
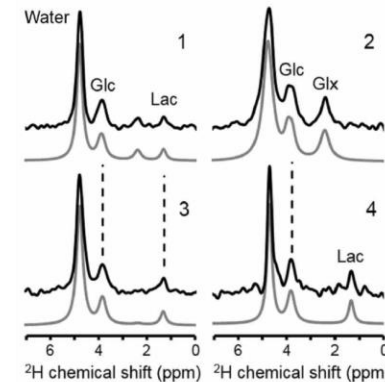
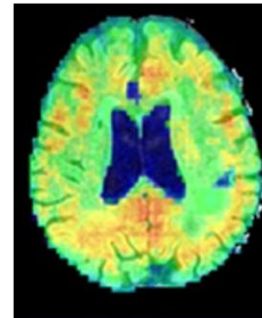
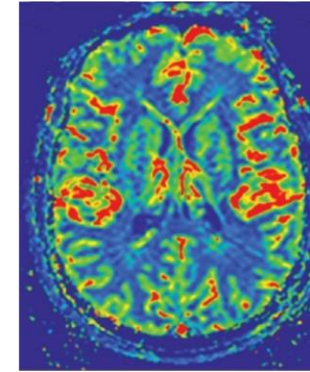
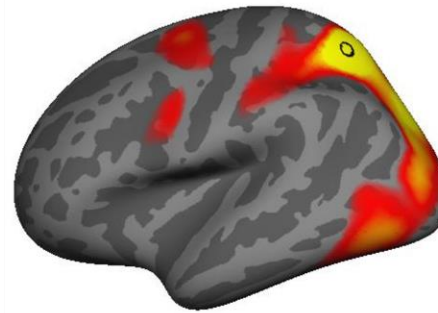
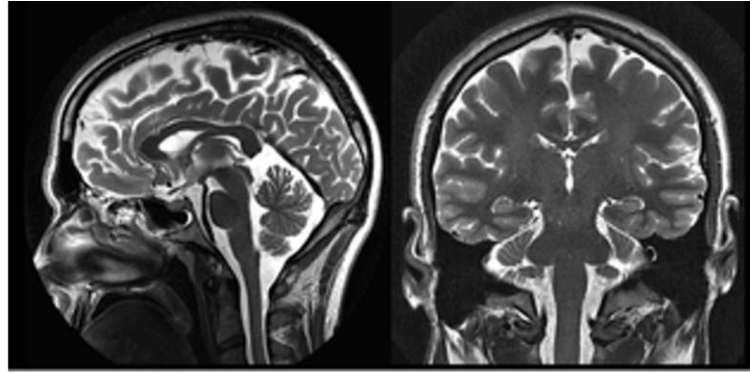
# Towards Unraveling Structural, Functional, Molecular Fingerprints of Brain Function and Neurodegenerative Disorders



Structure

Function

Metabolism



# Acknowledgements

