

Self-organization of proliferating cellular aggregates

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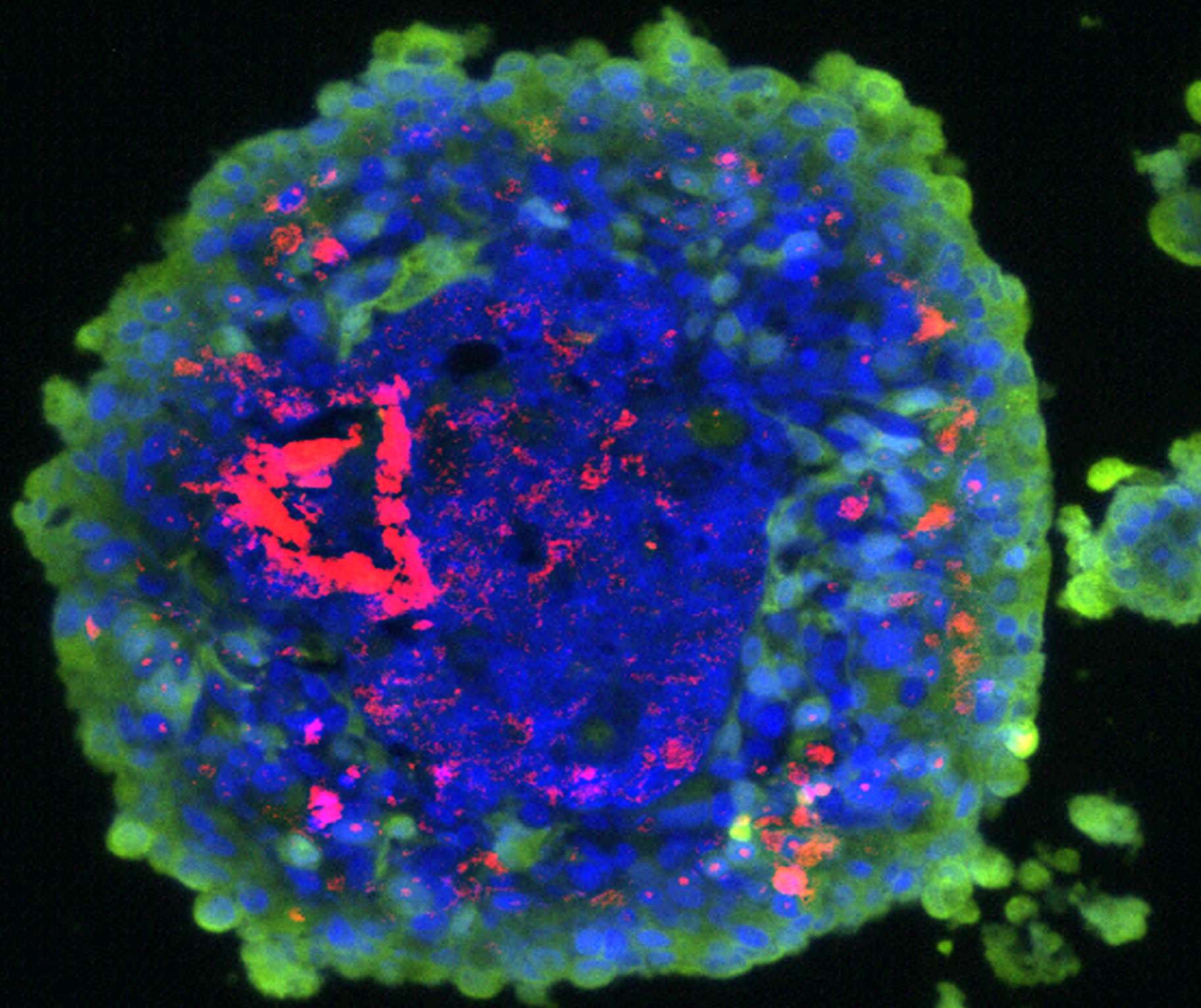
Self-organization of proliferating cellular aggregates

Marçal Gabaldà, Rosa Martínez-Corral (UPF)

Jintao Liu, Arthur Prindle, Jacy Humphries, Gürol Süel (UCSD)

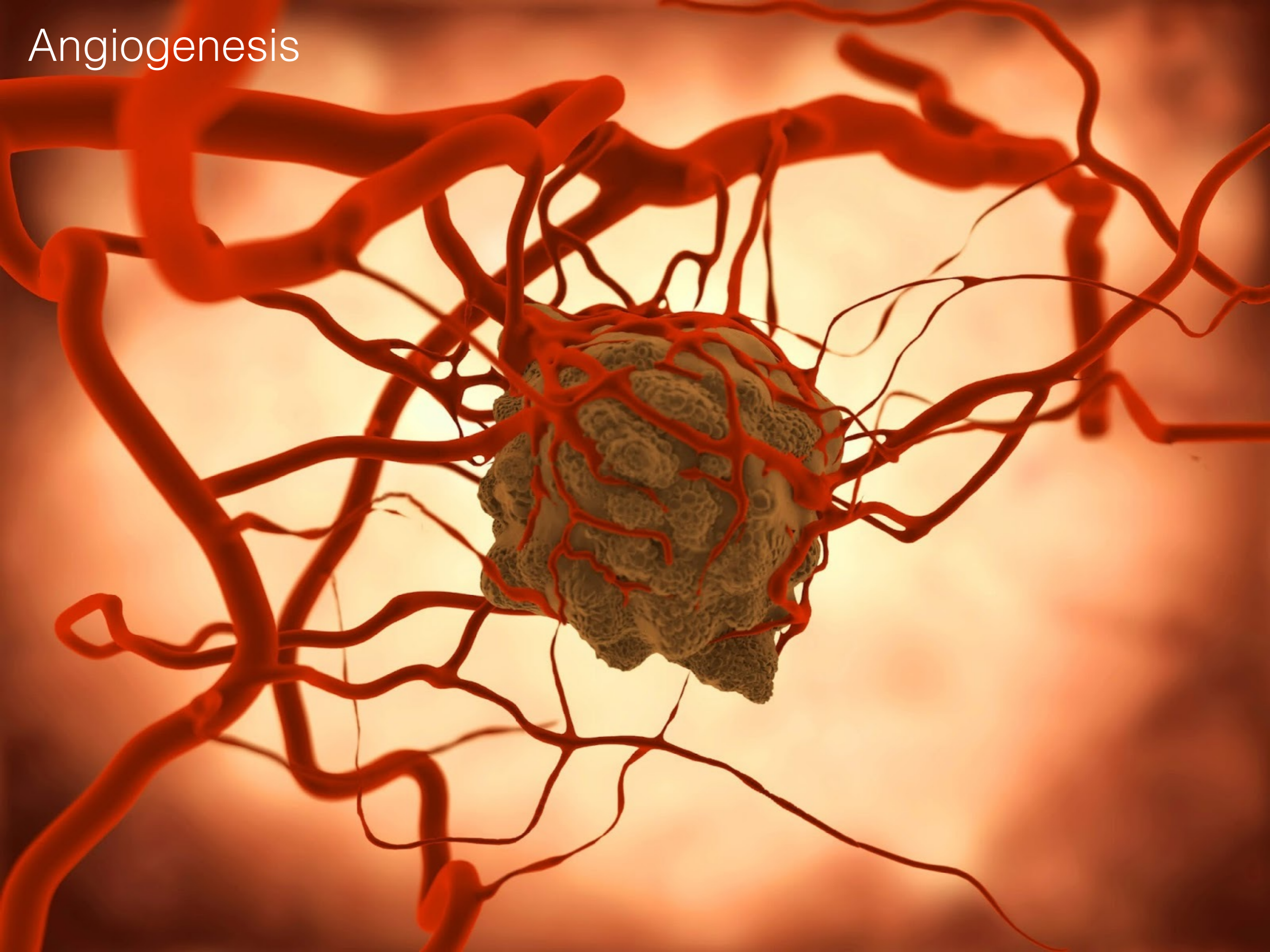
Munehiro Asally (Warwick)

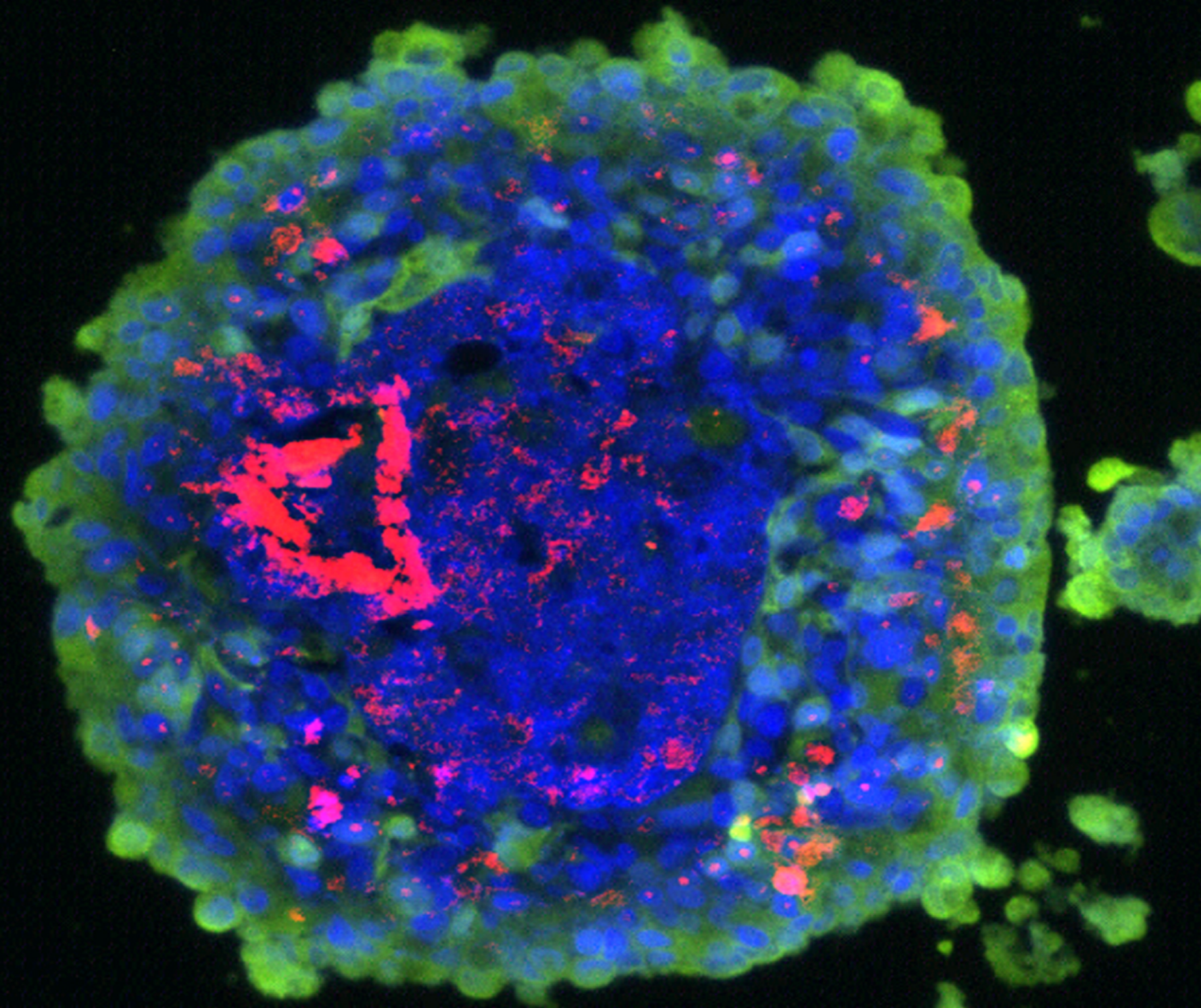
What makes populations
of growing cells viable?



Tumor-in-a-dish
University of Kansas Cancer Center

Angiogenesis



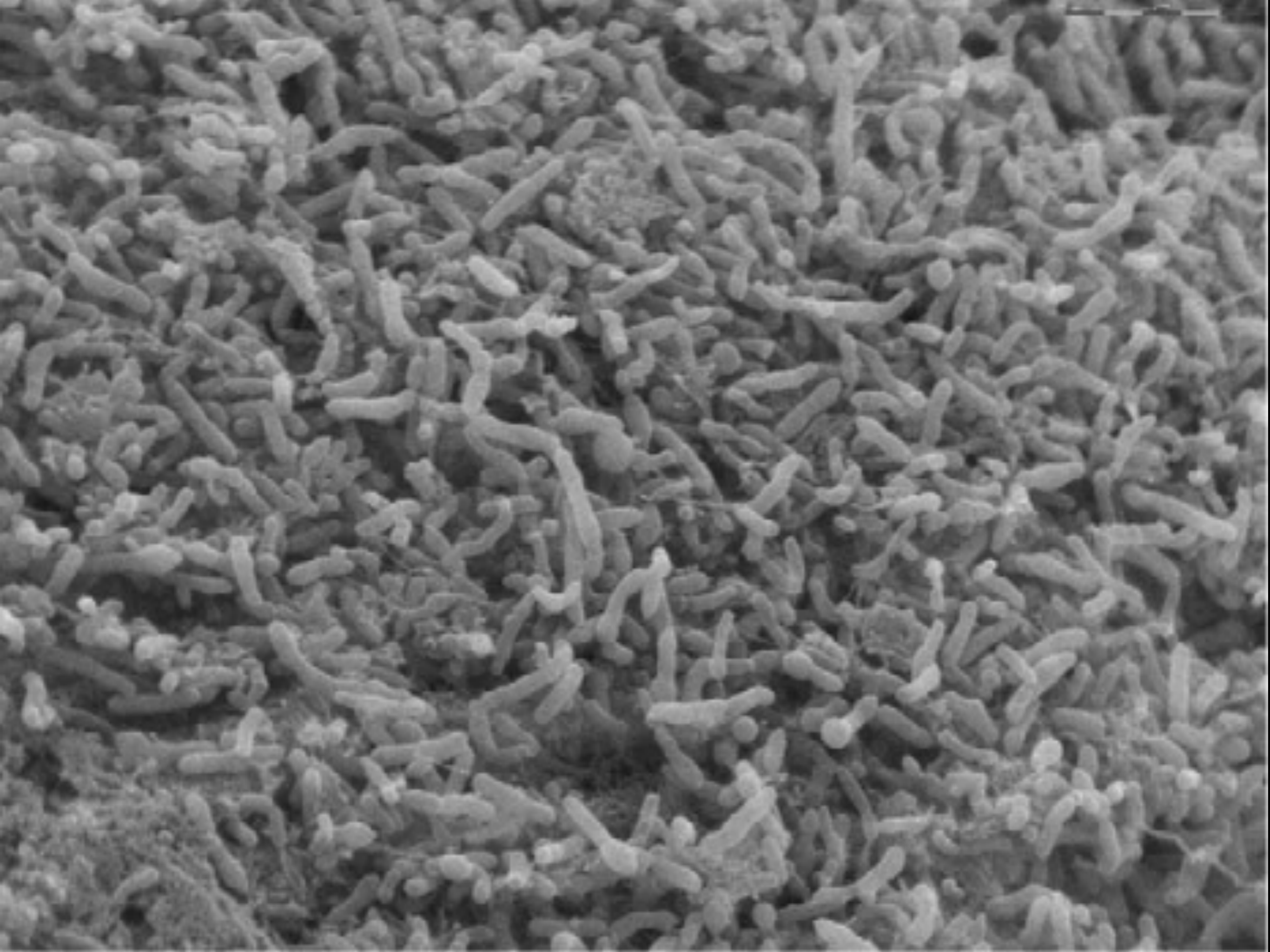


Tumor-in-a-dish
University of Kansas Cancer Center

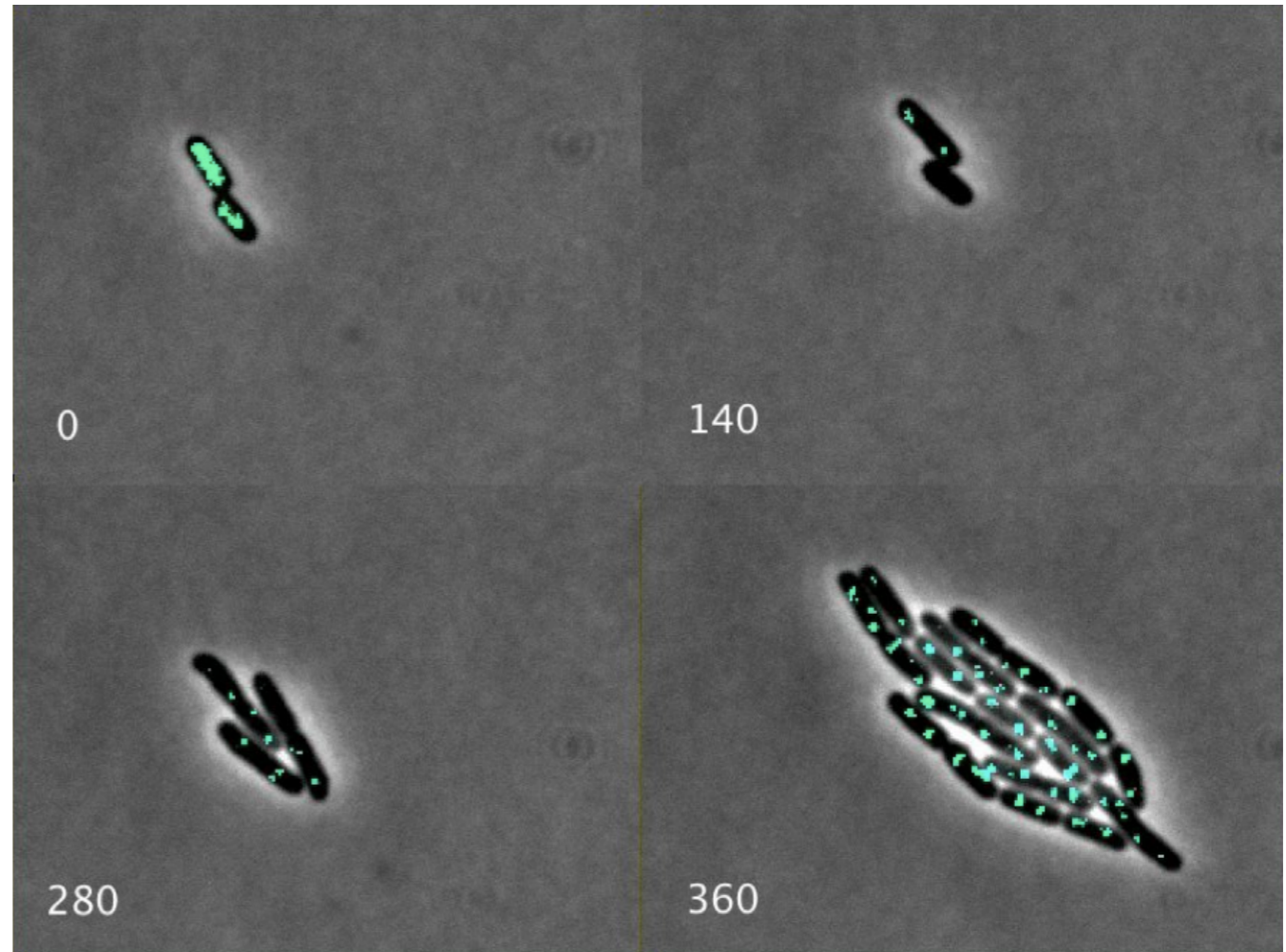
Bacterial biofilm (*Bacillus subtilis*)







Studying bacteria in isolation

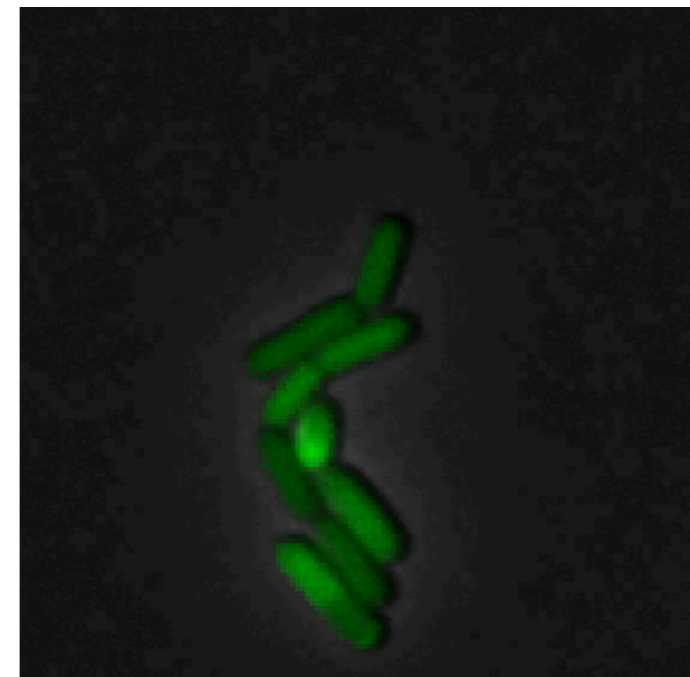


Leticia Galera

Dynamics of single bacteria under stress

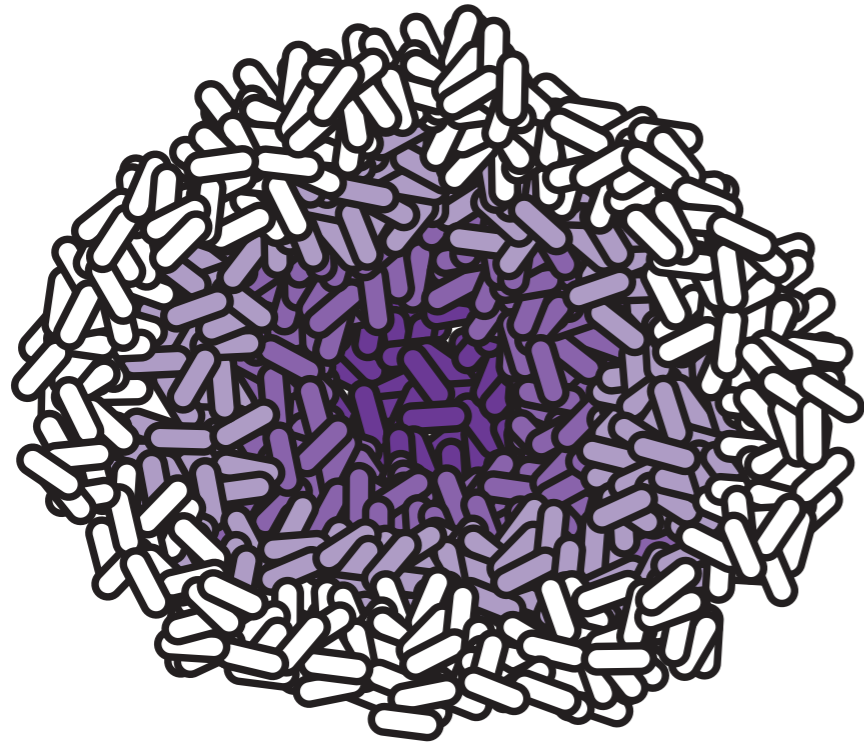


sigB activity pulses
[Locke et al, Science, 2011]



genetic competence
[Suel et al, Nature, 2006]

Protection



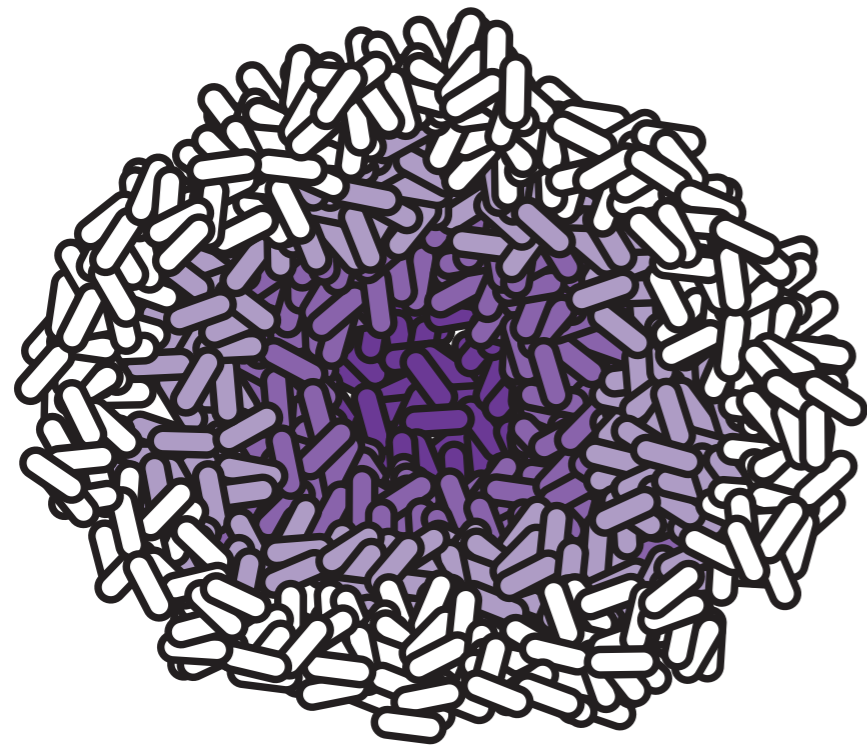
High



Low



Protection



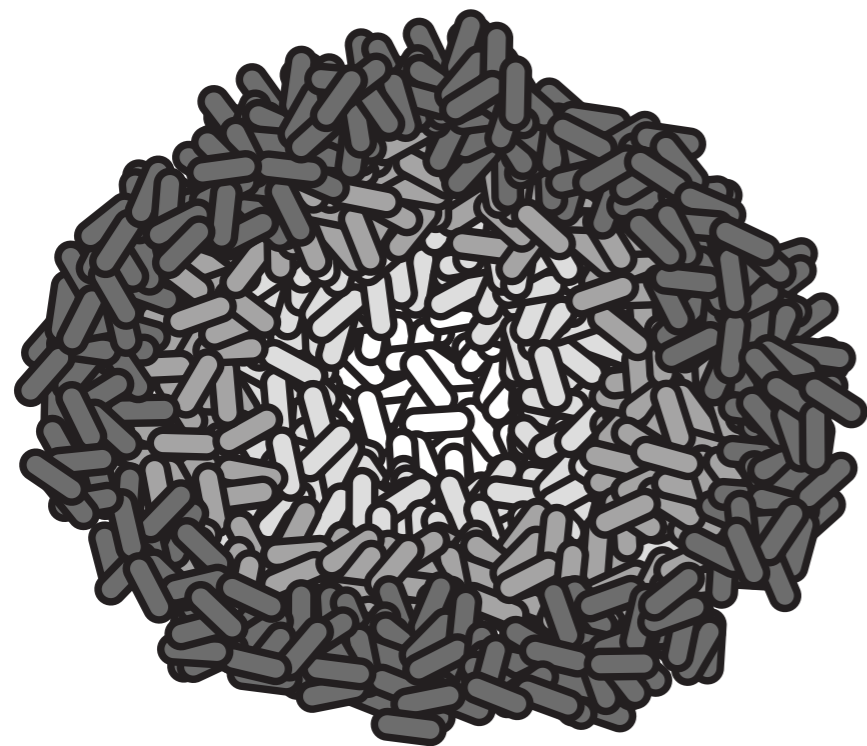
High



Low



Nutrient Access



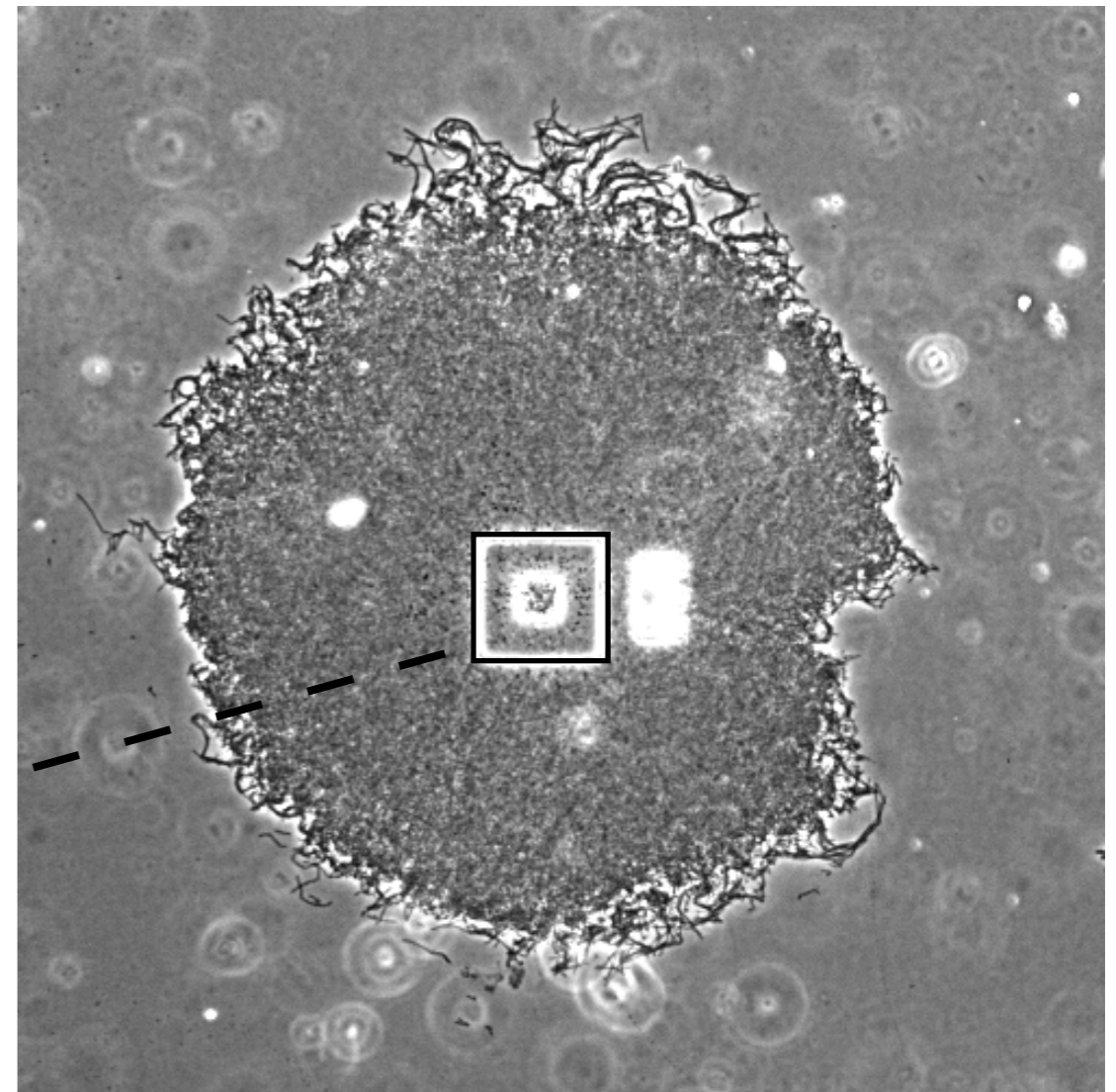
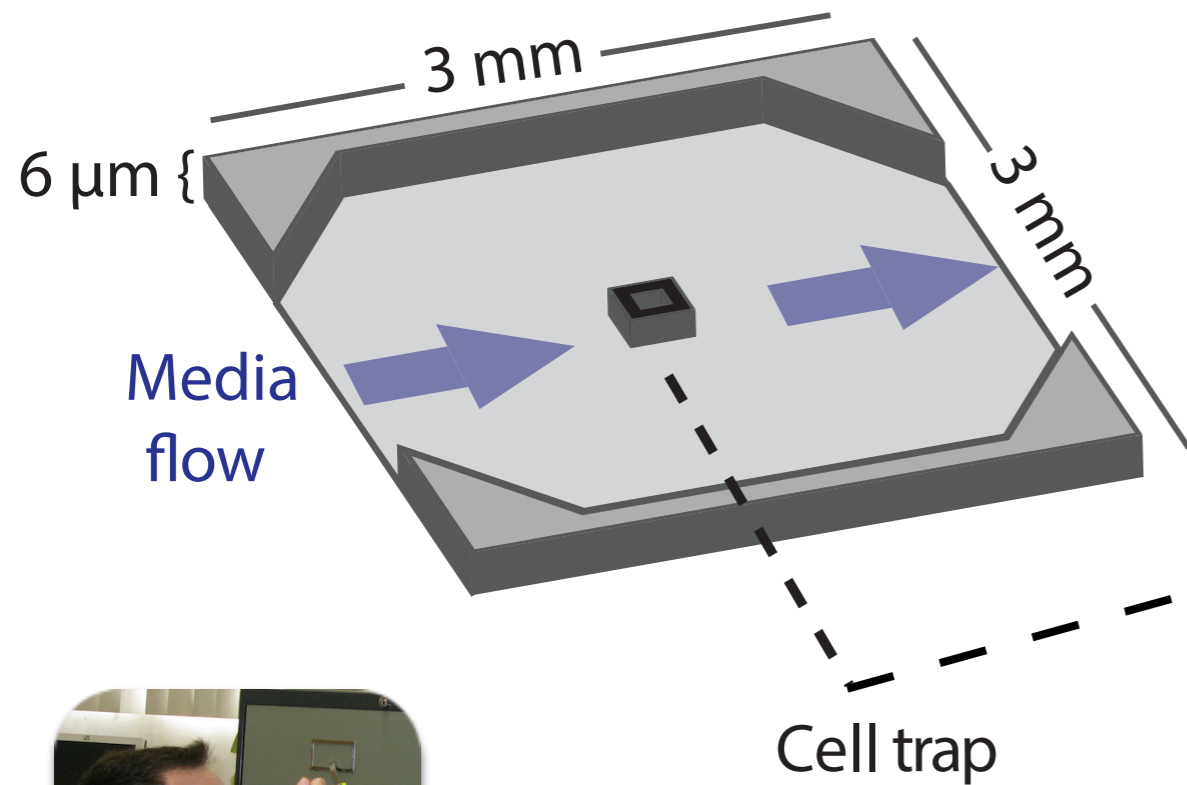
High



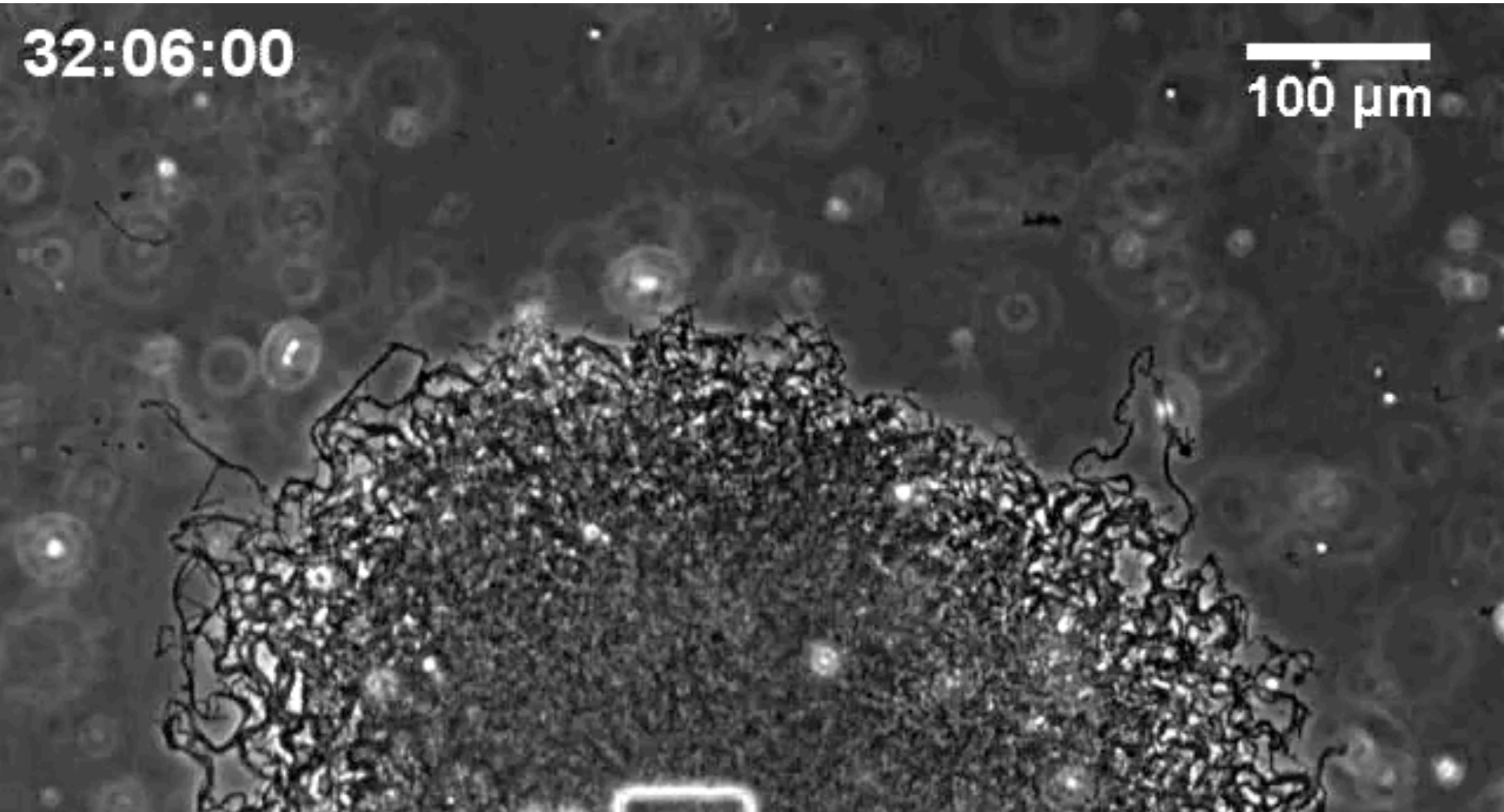
Low

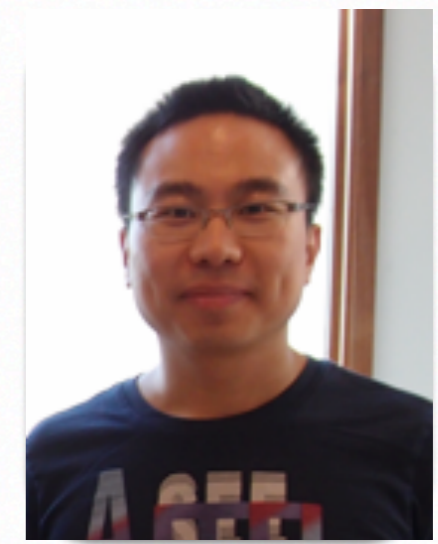
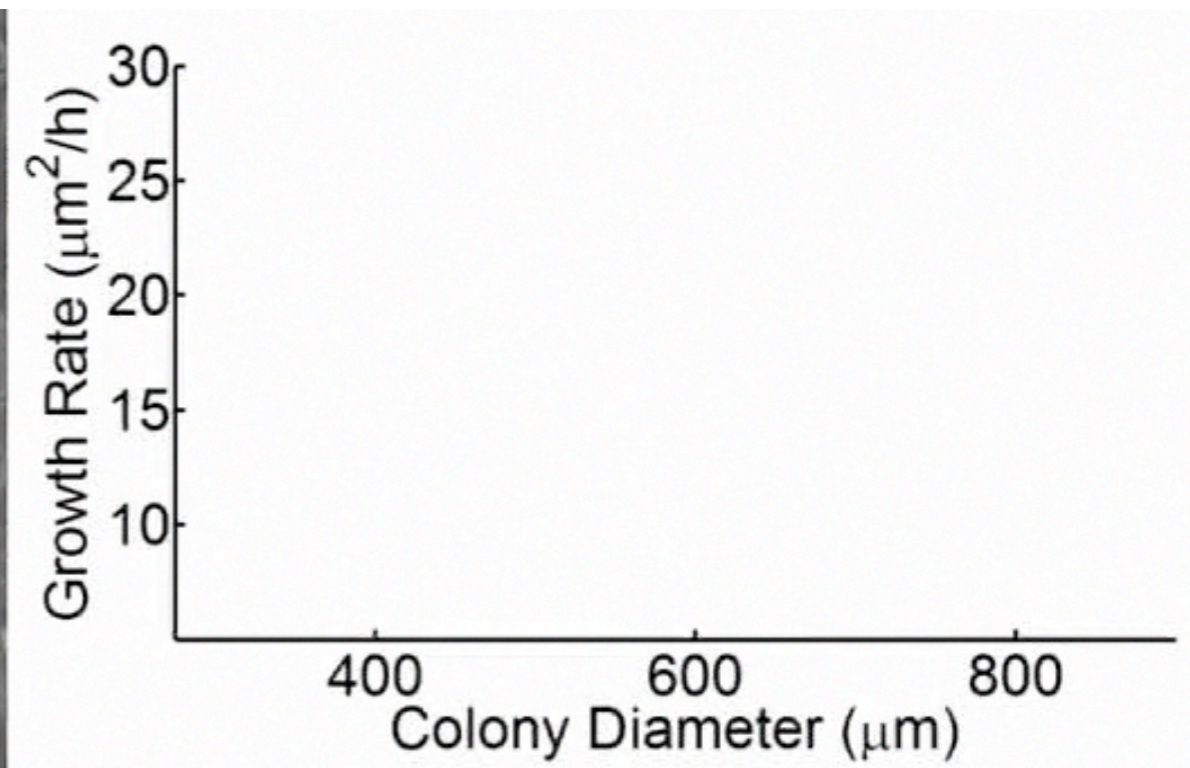
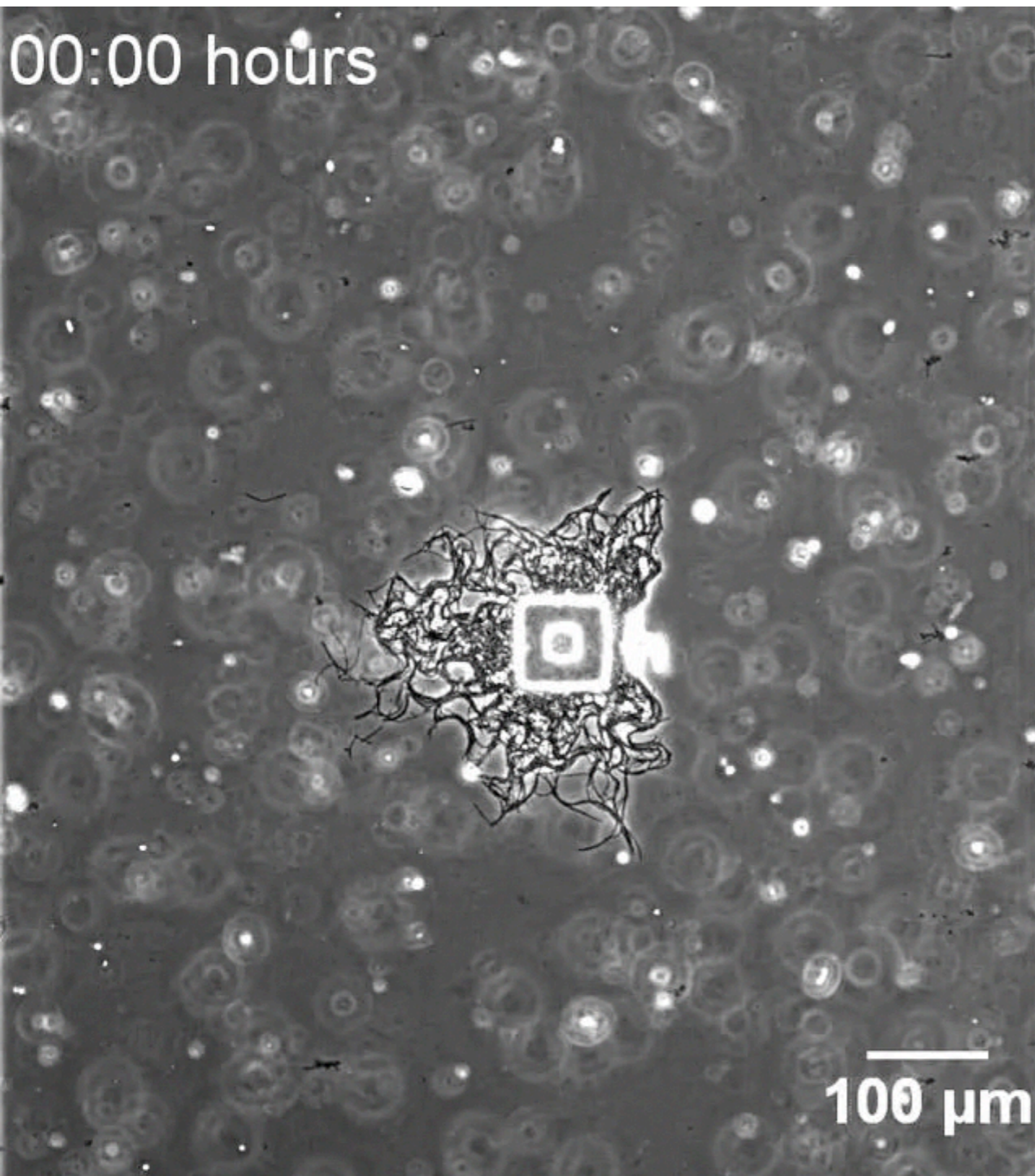


A microfluidics chip for 2D biofilm monitoring



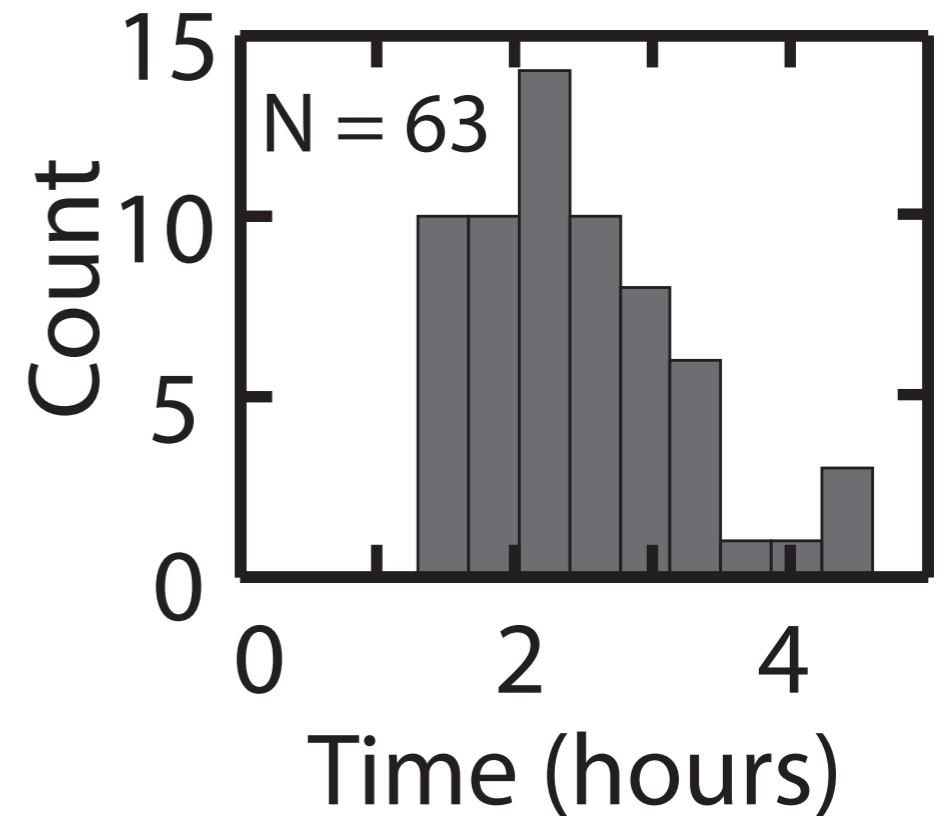
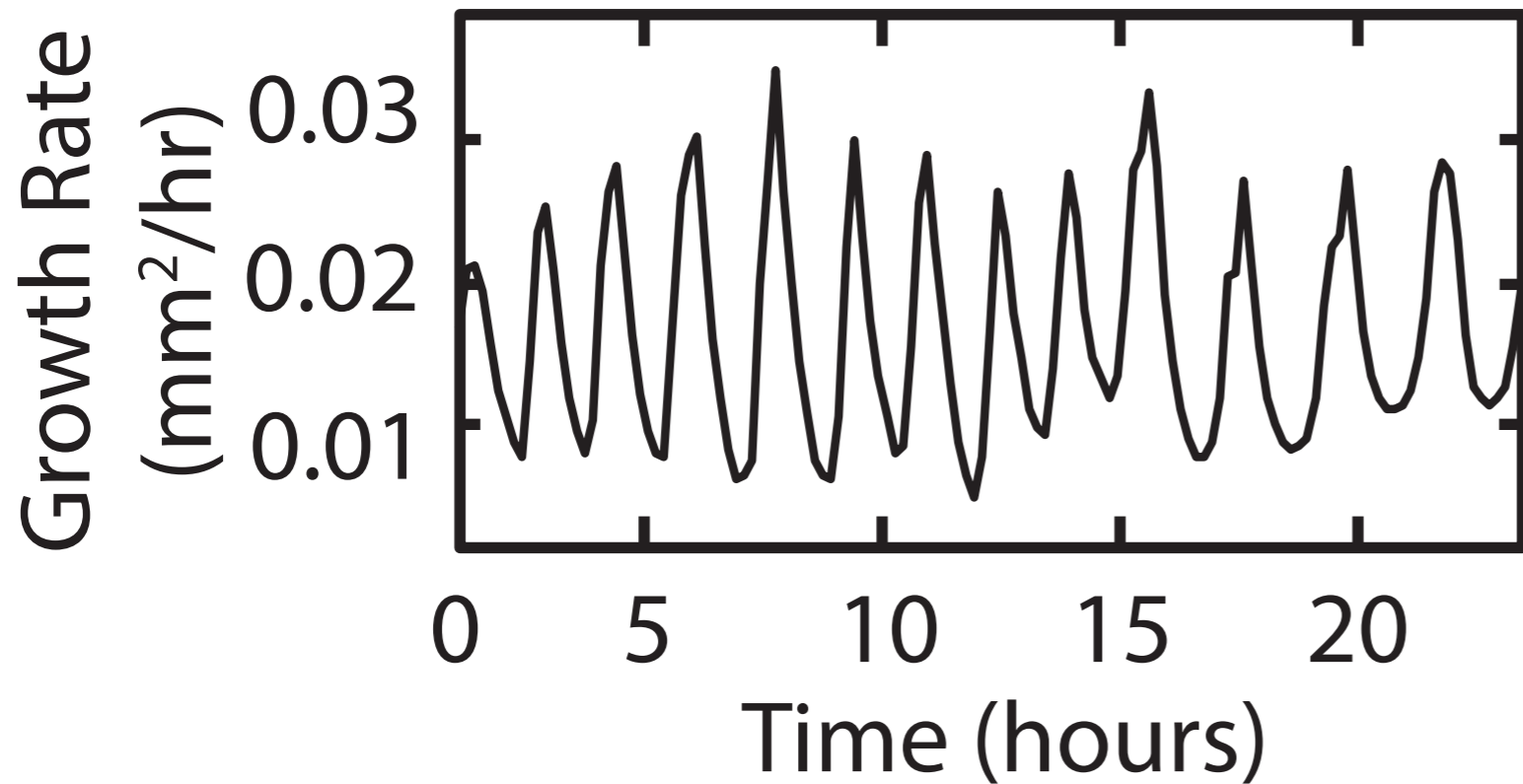
Gürol Süel



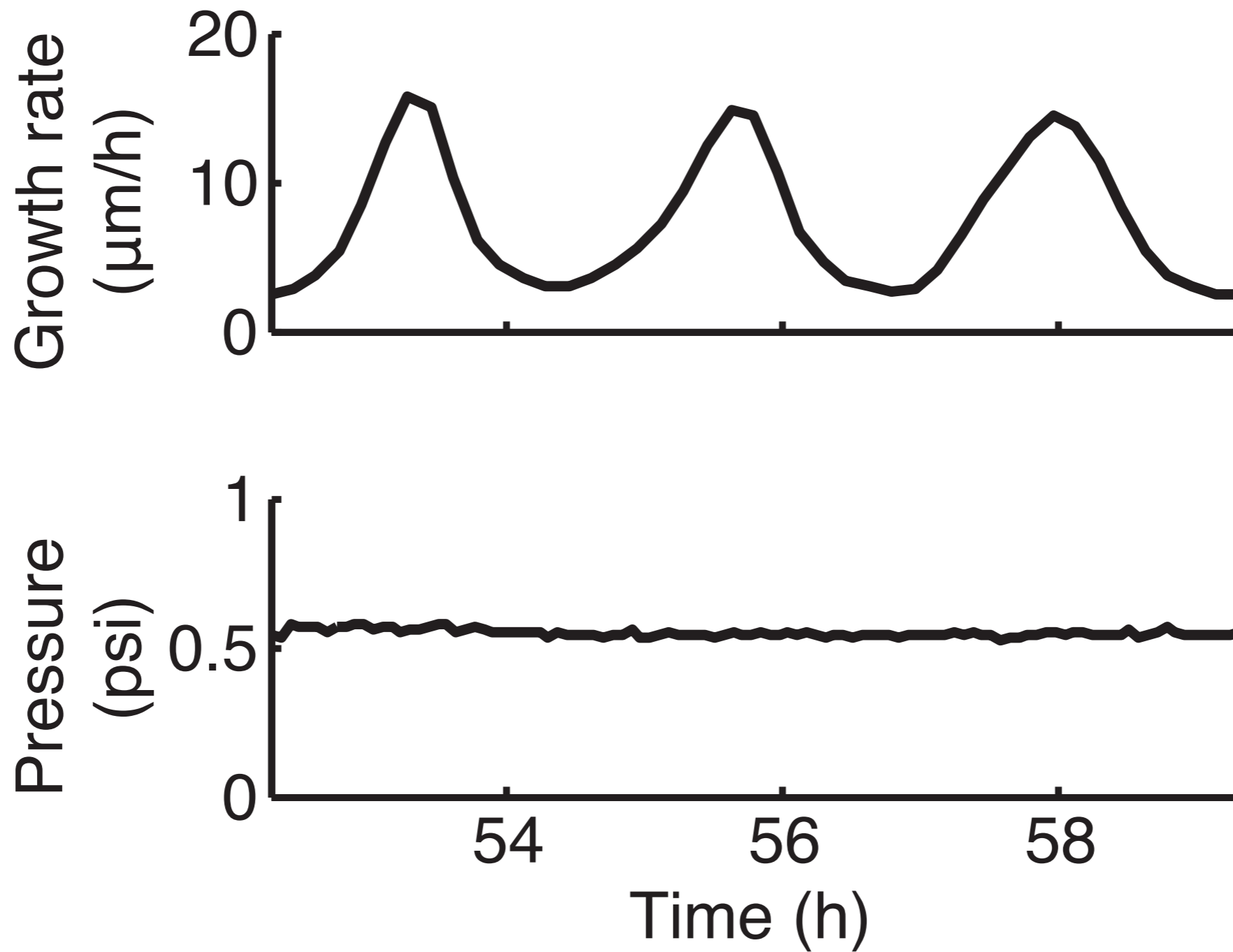


Jintao Liu

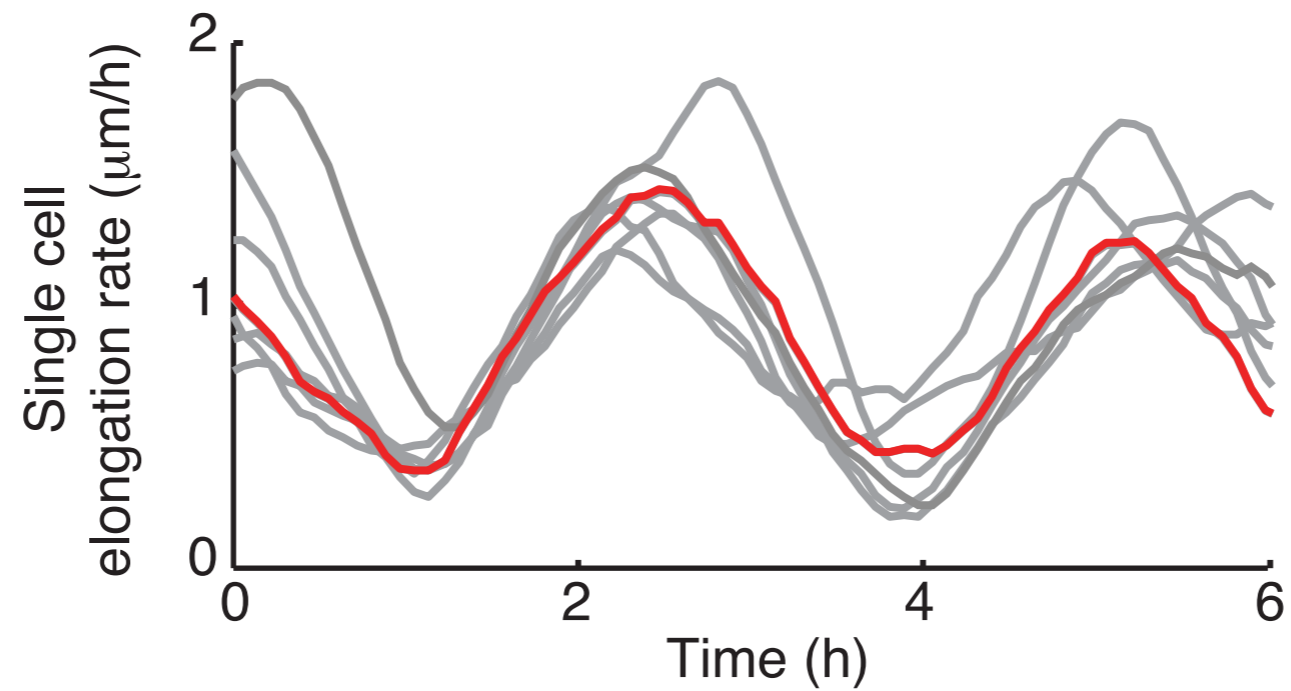
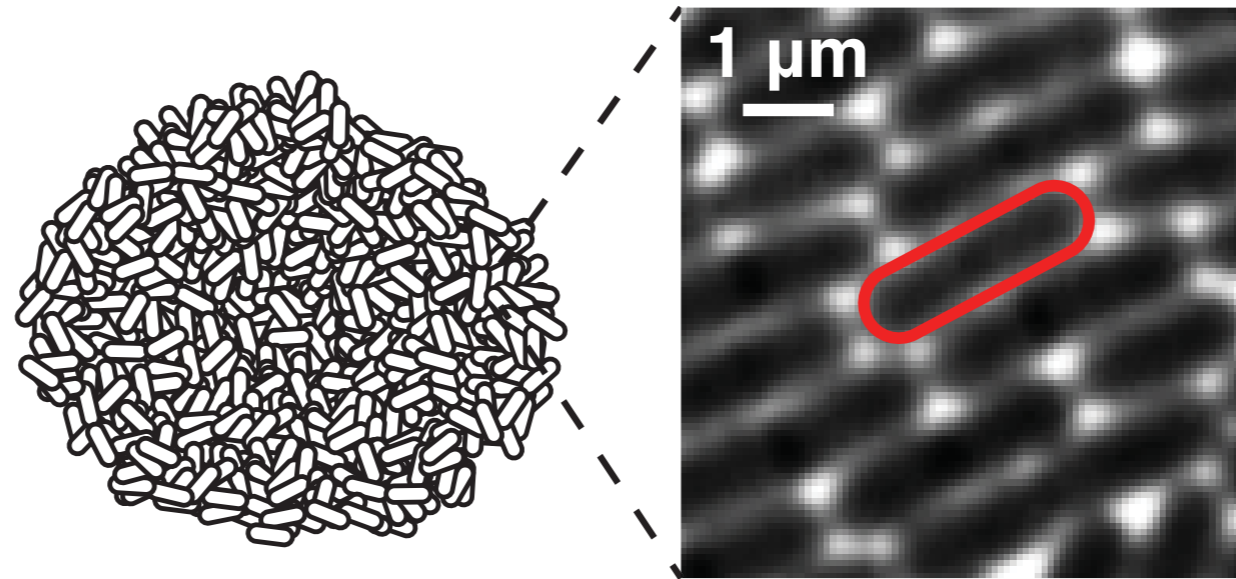
The oscillations persist for very long time



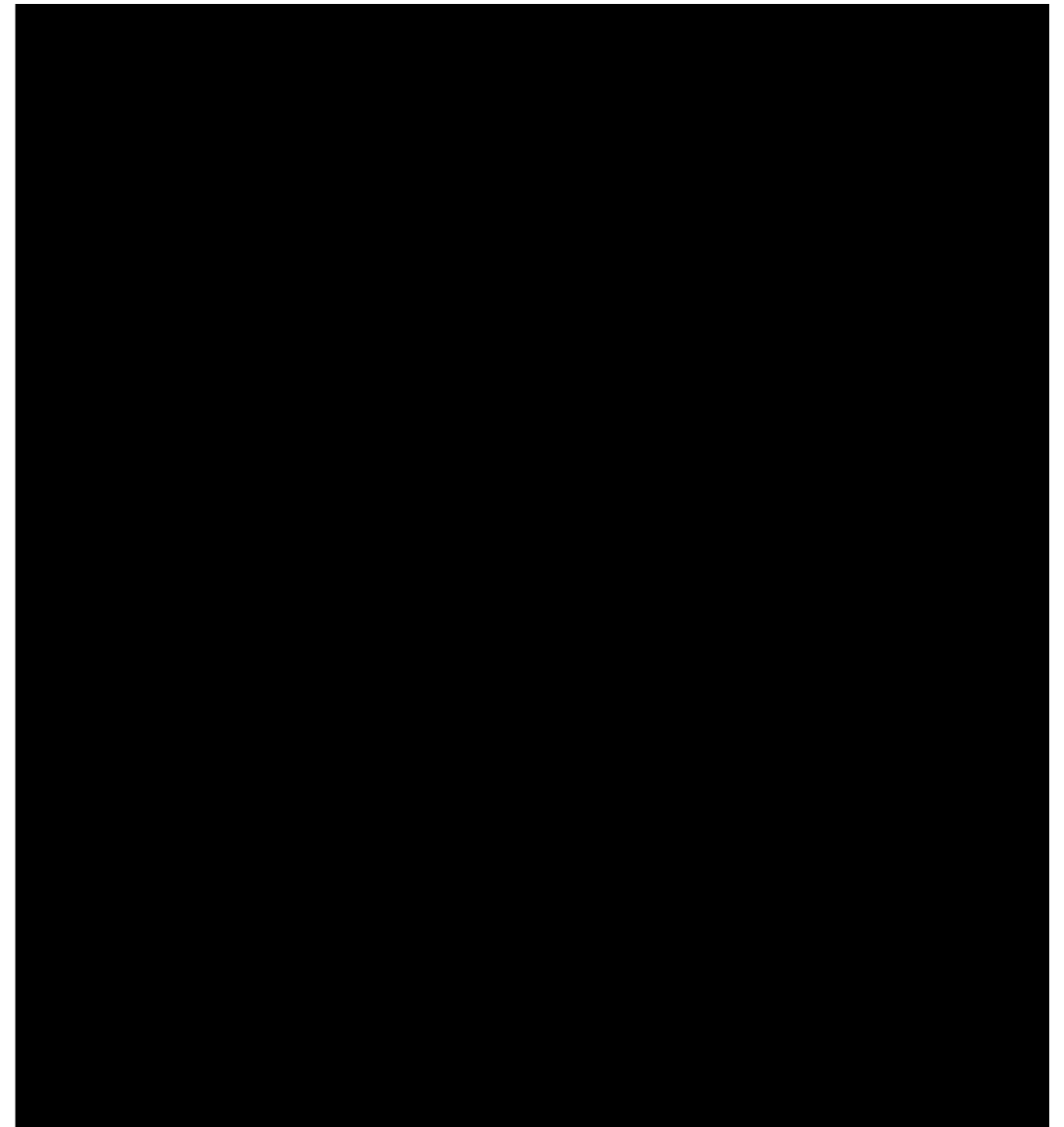
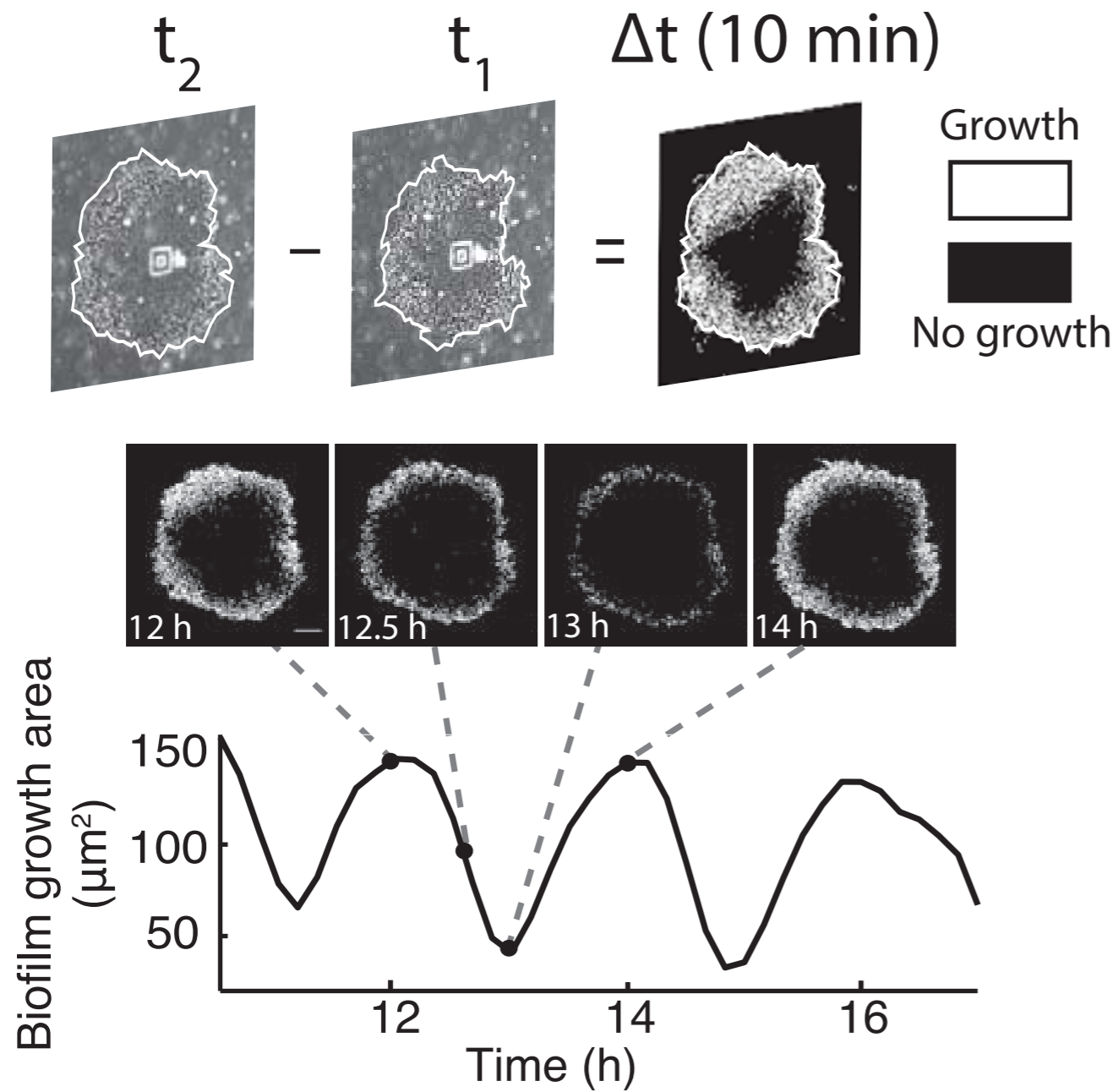
The oscillations are not due to the flow



The elongation rate of peripheral cells oscillates



Where does growth stop within the biofilm?



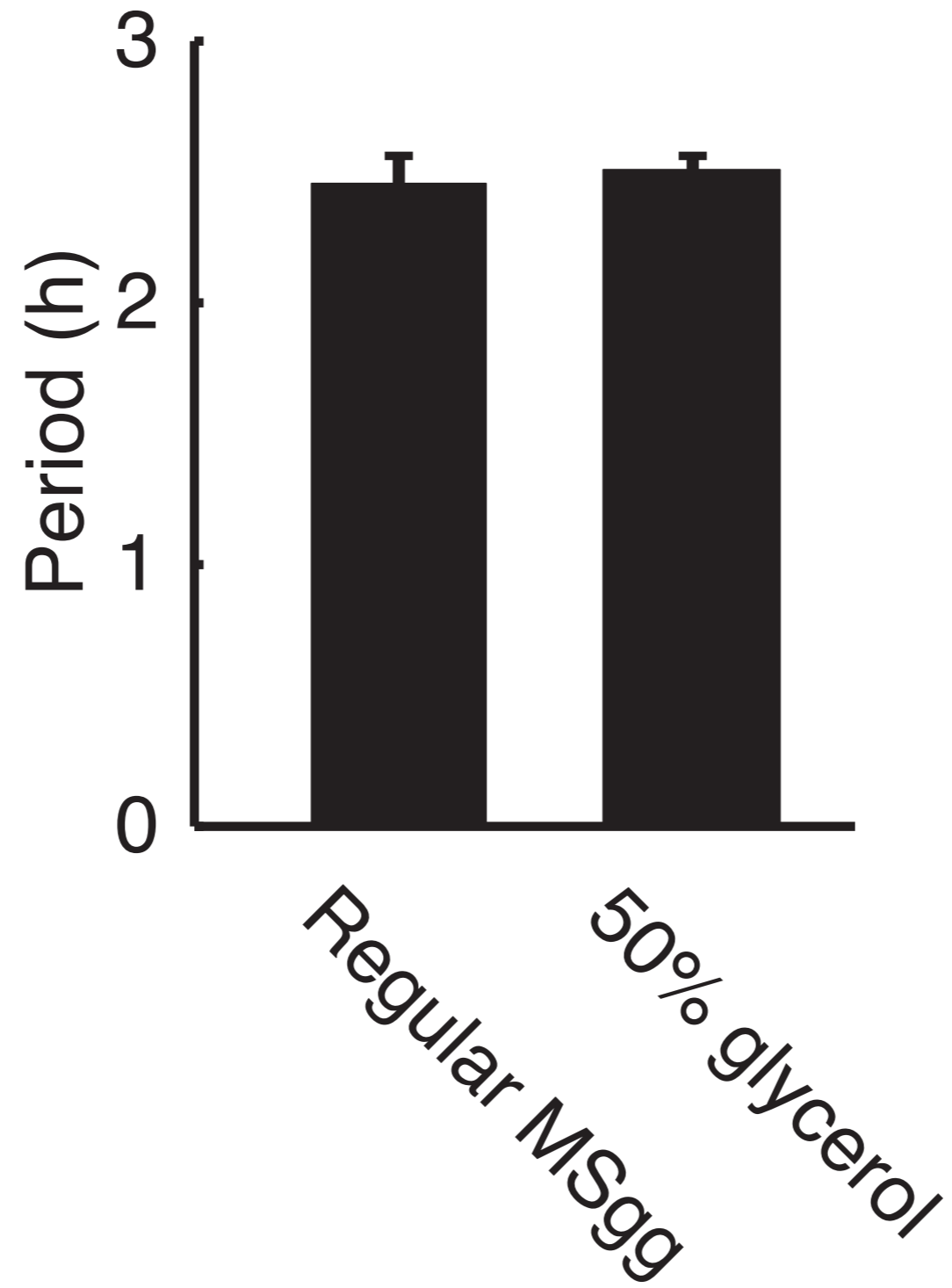
What causes peripheral cells to stop growing?

- Growth medium: MSgg (minimal salts glycerol glutamate)
 - ▶ **pH buffers:** potassium phosphate, MOPS
 - ▶ **Salts:** magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, manganese chloride, iron chloride, zinc chloride, thiamine hydrochloride
 - ▶ **Glycerol**
 - ▶ **Glutamate**

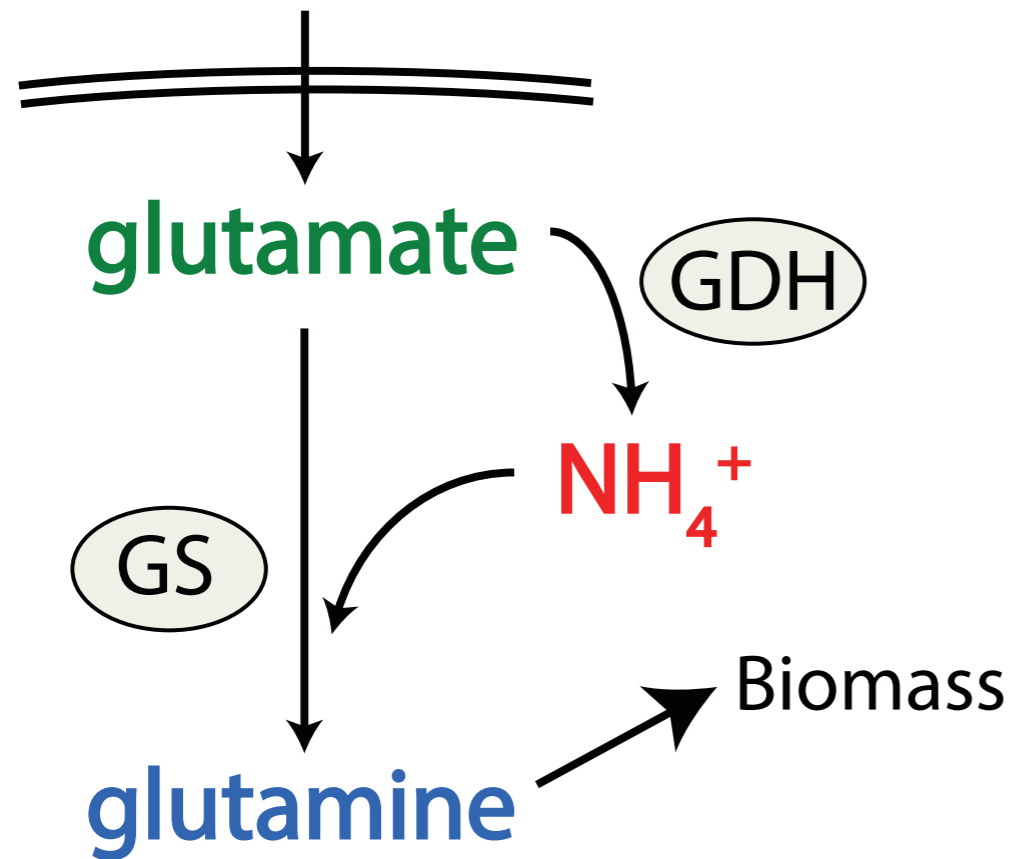
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 - ▶ **Glycerol** → carbon source
 - ▶ **Glutamate** → nitrogen source

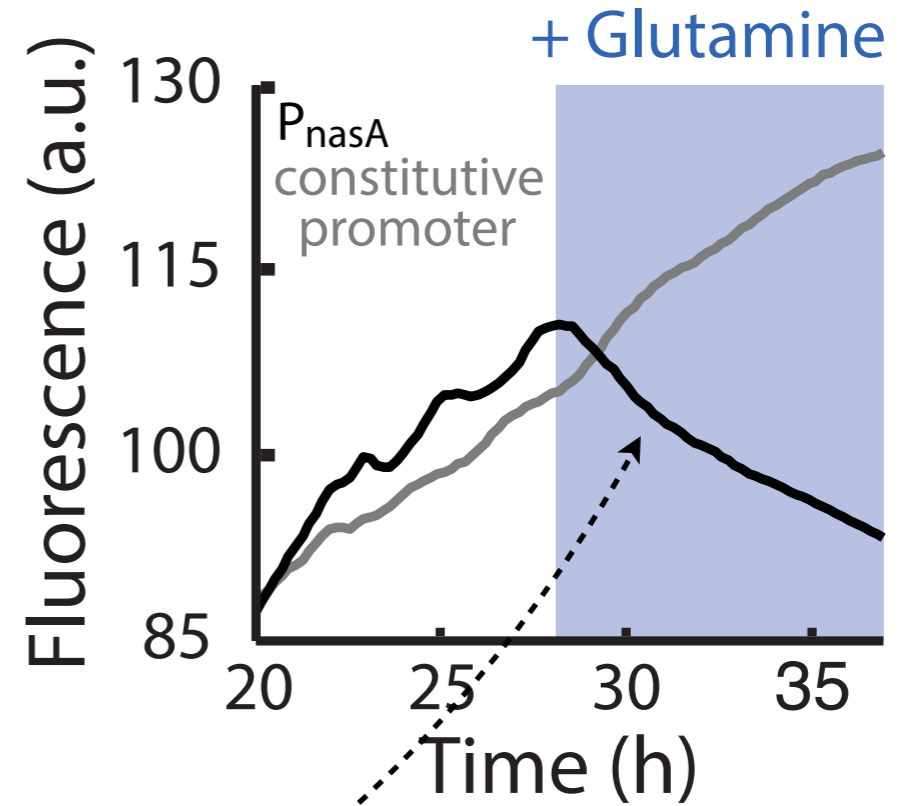
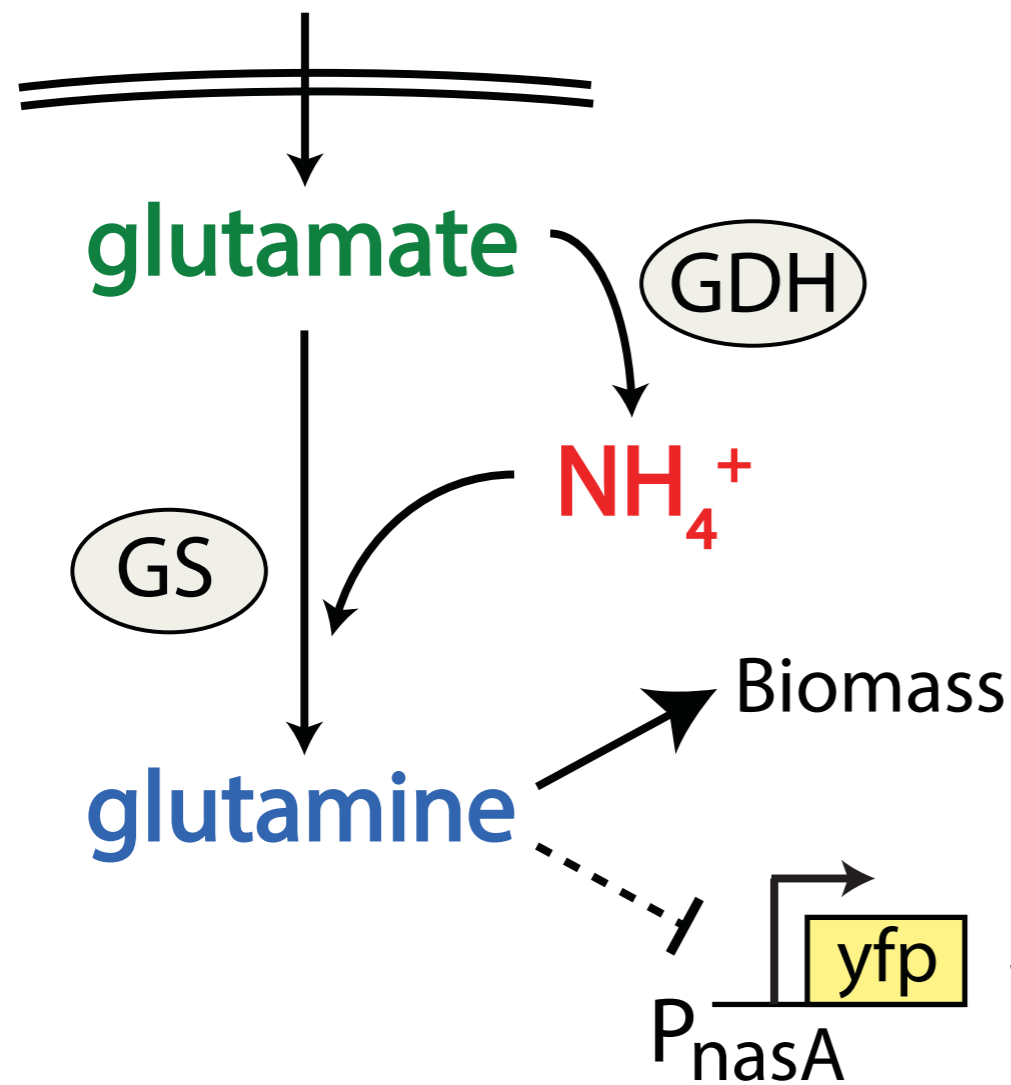
Carbon limitation does not affect oscillations



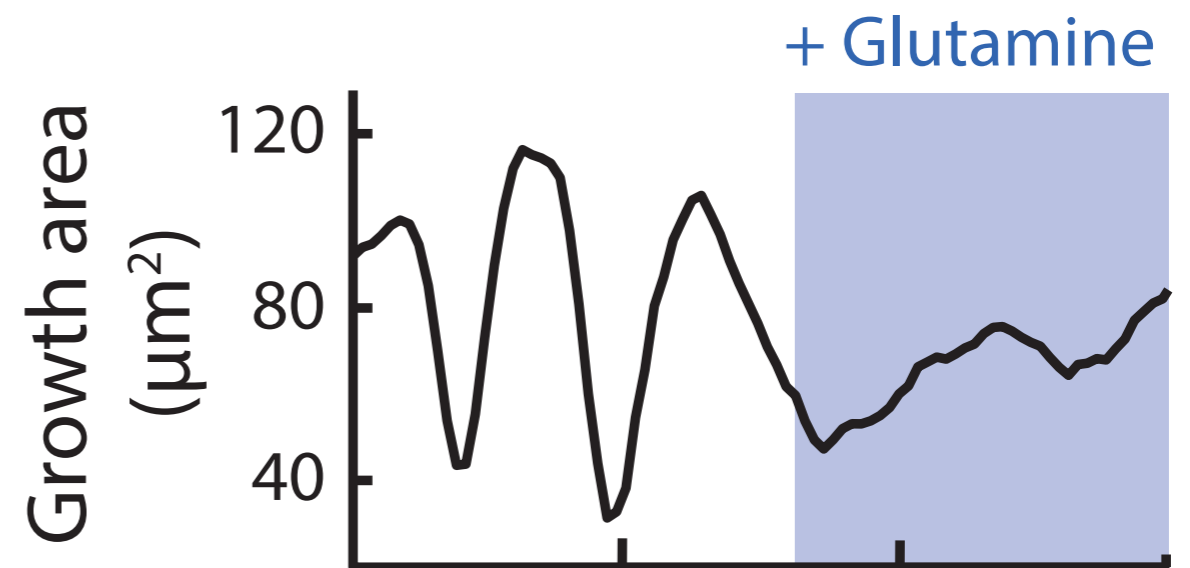
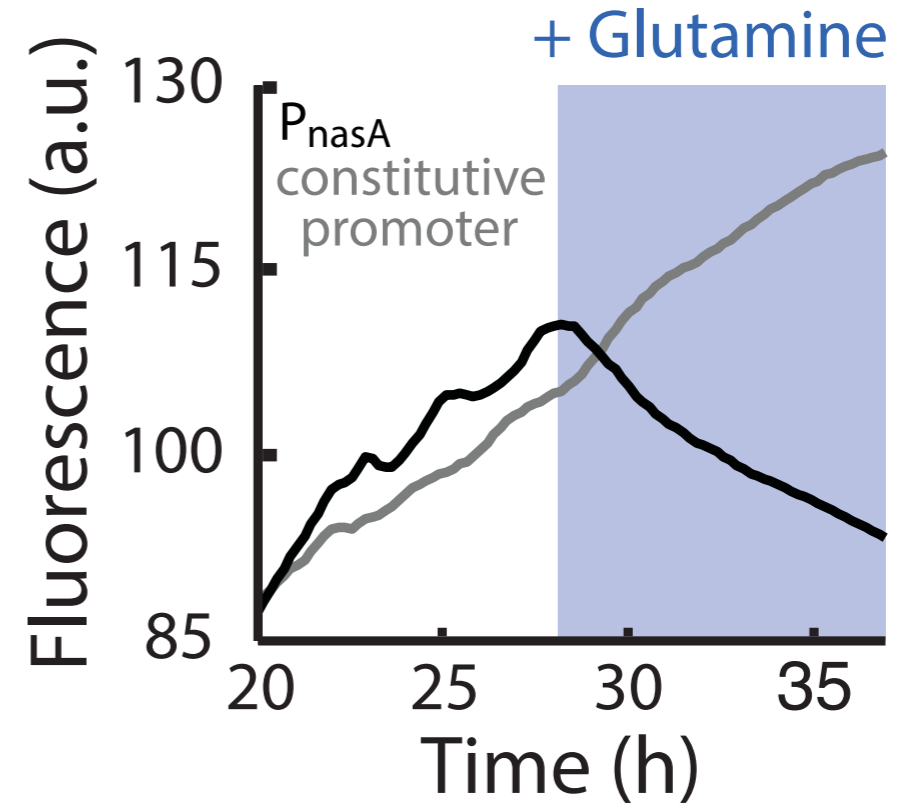
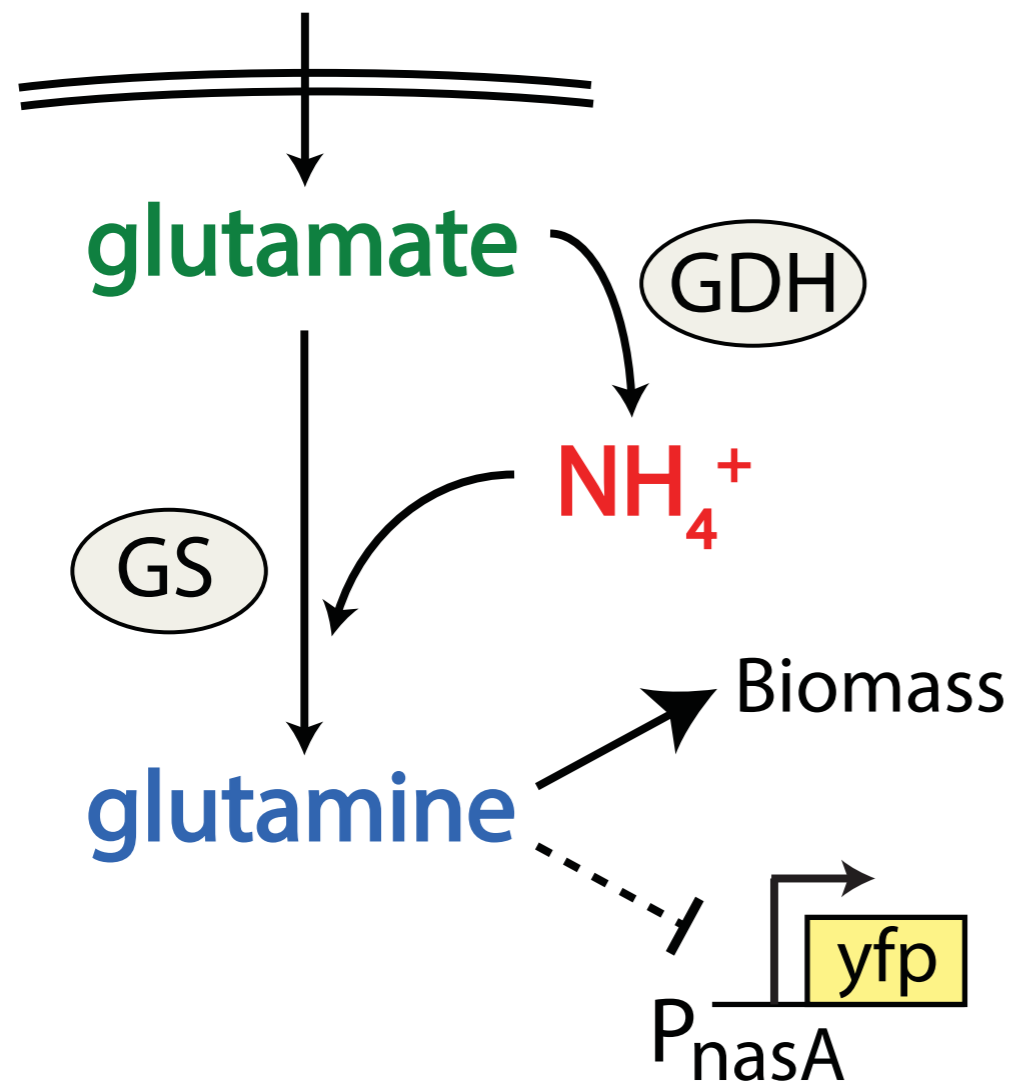
Nitrogen metabolism



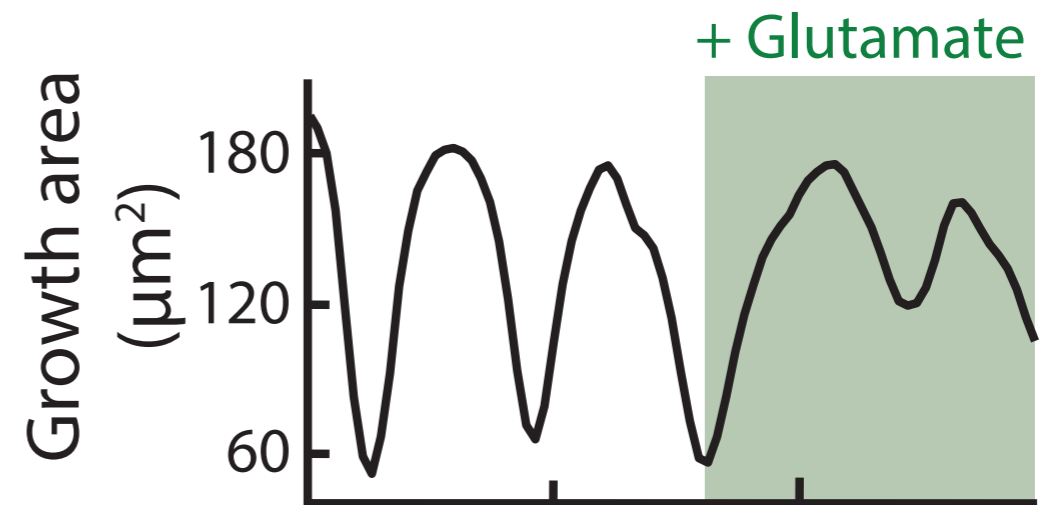
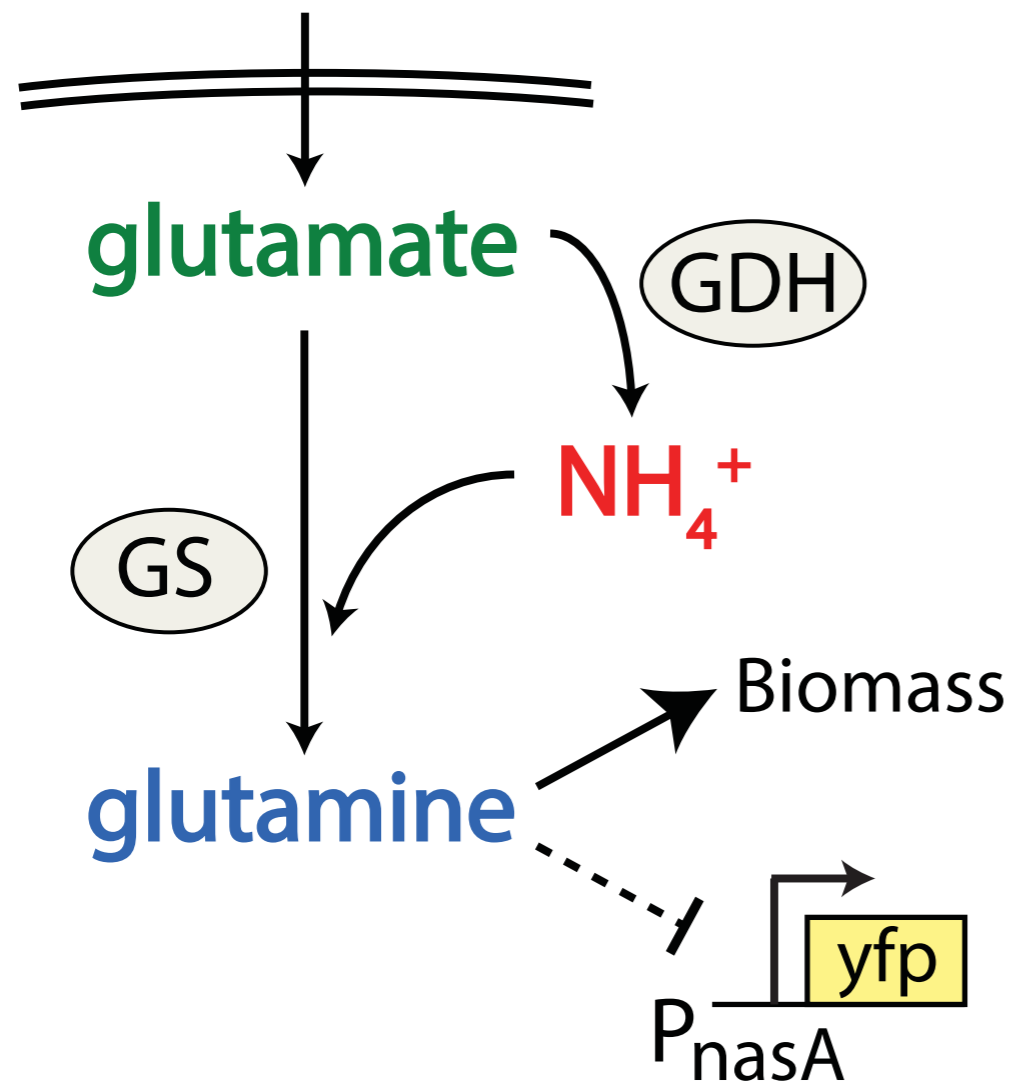
Biofilms experience glutamine limitation during growth



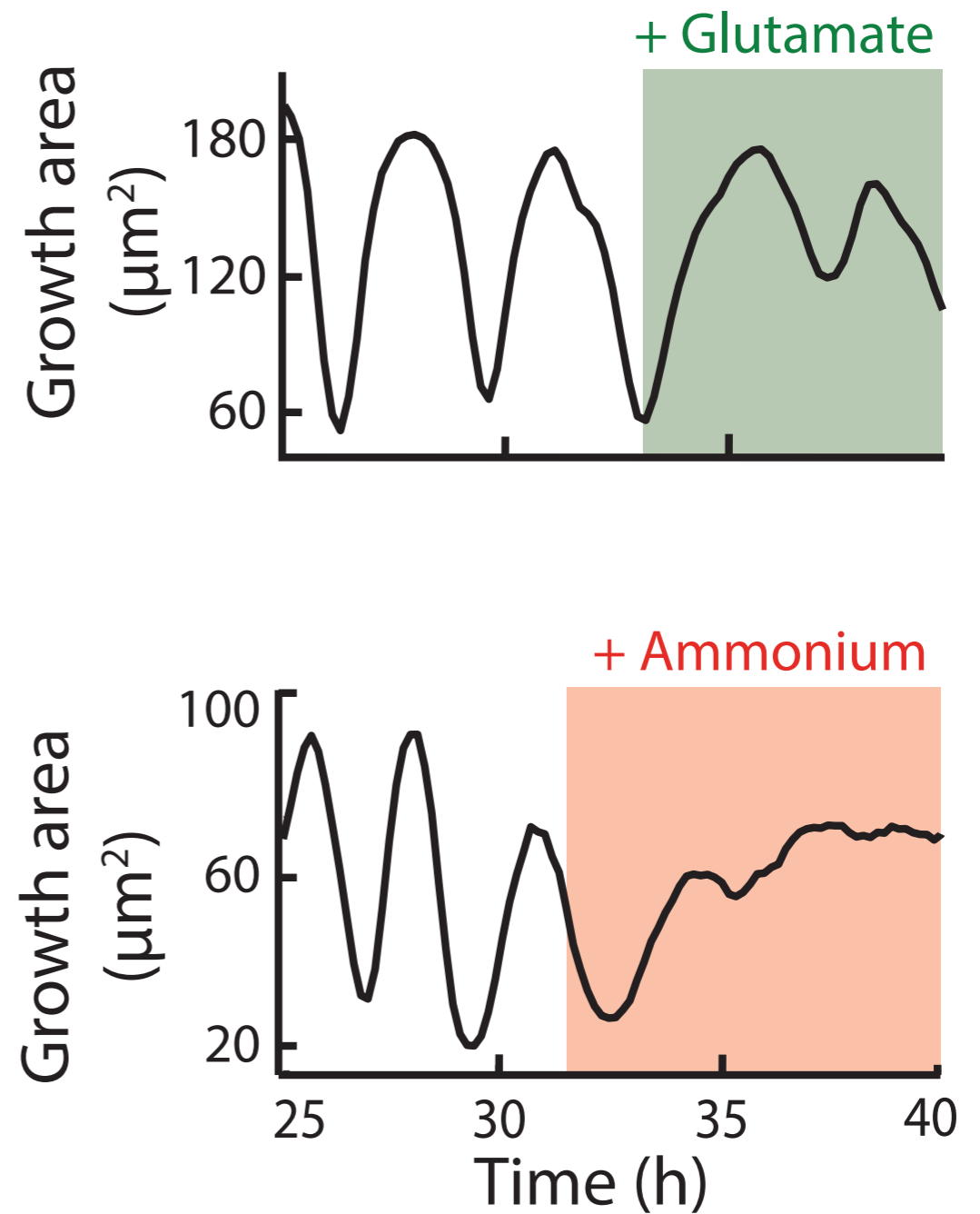
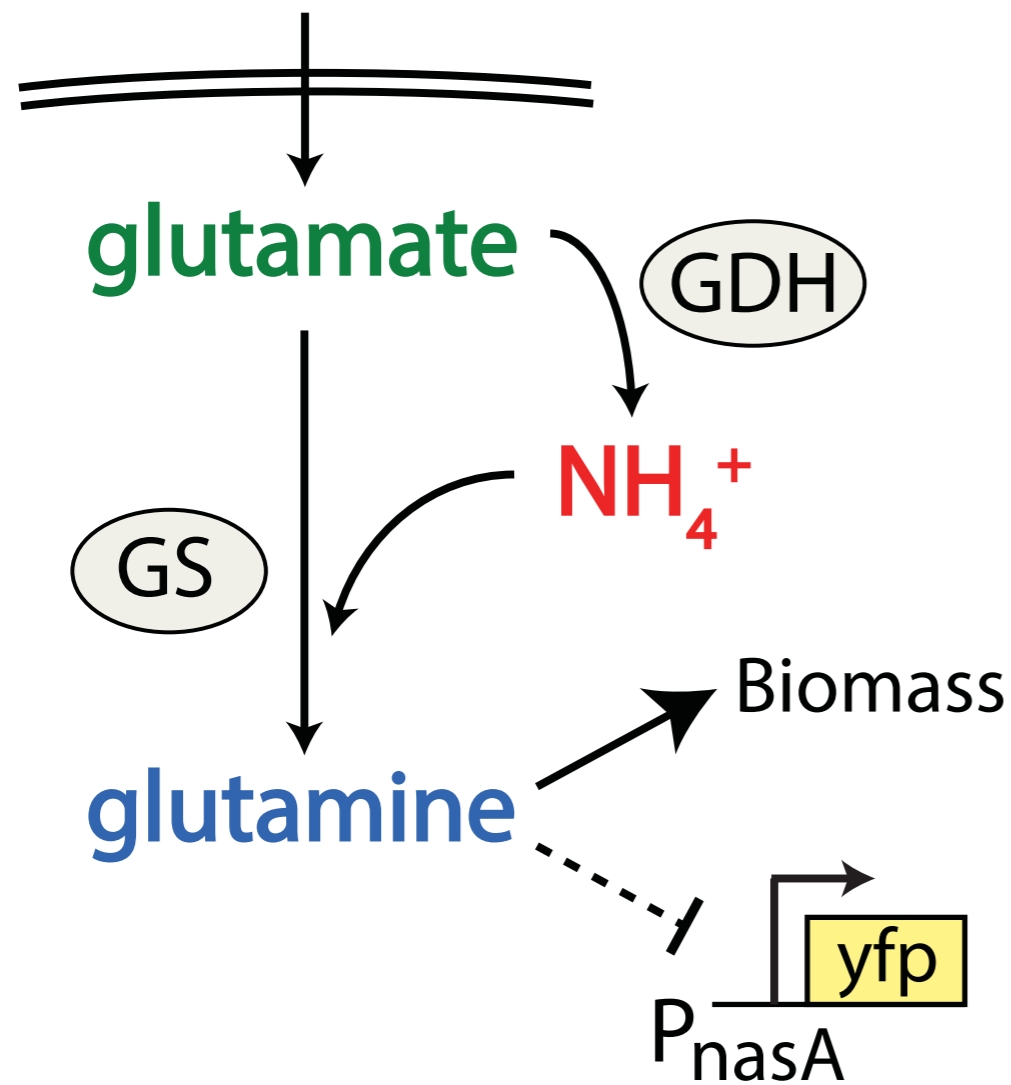
Addition of exogenous glutamine stops oscillations



...but glutamate is not limiting

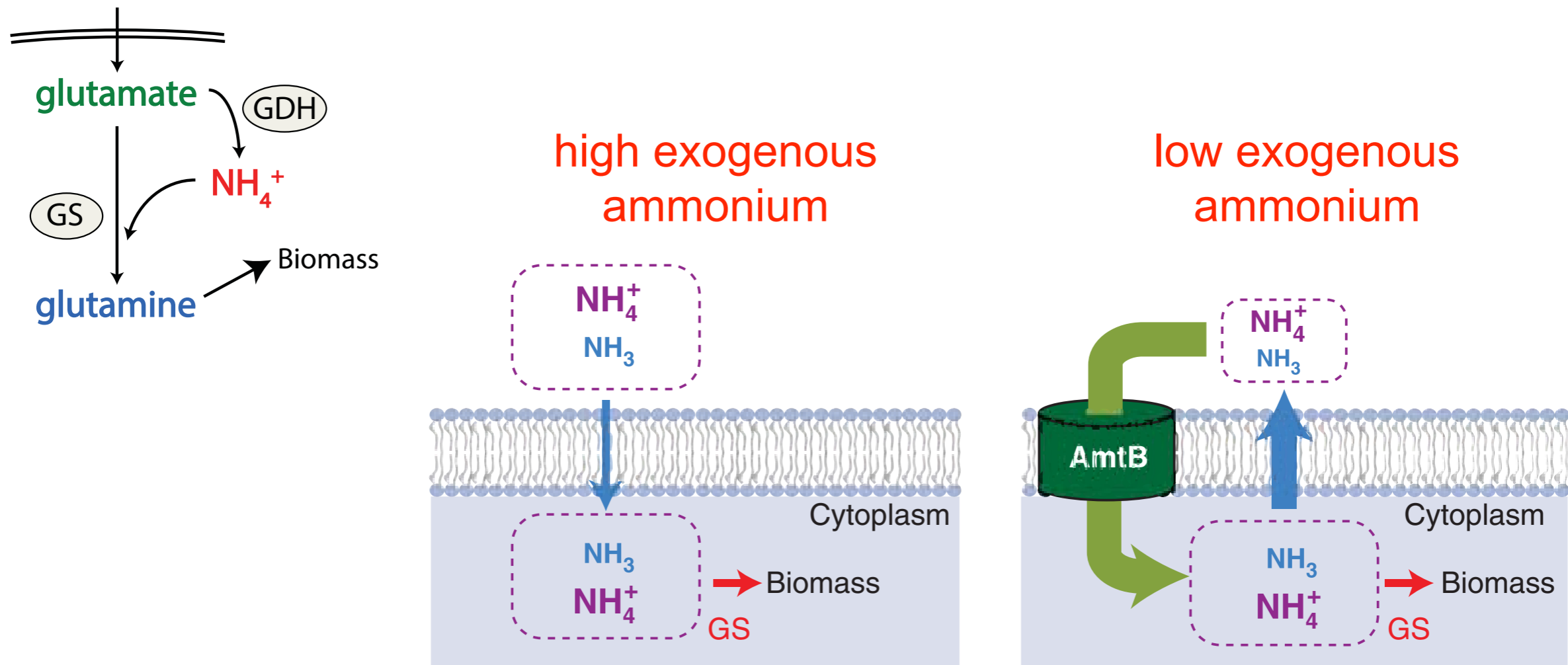


It's ammonium that is limiting!



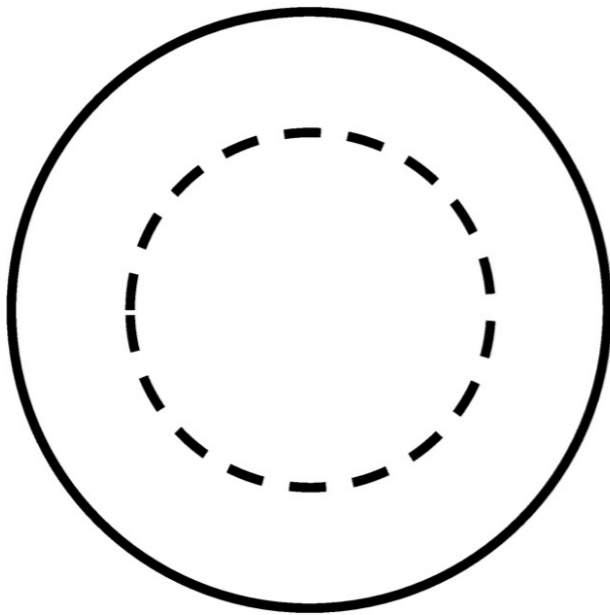
Need-based activation of ammonium uptake in *Escherichia coli*

Minsu Kim¹, Zhongge Zhang², Hiroyuki Okano¹, Dalai Yan³, Alexander Groisman^{1,*} and Terence Hwa^{1,2,4,*}

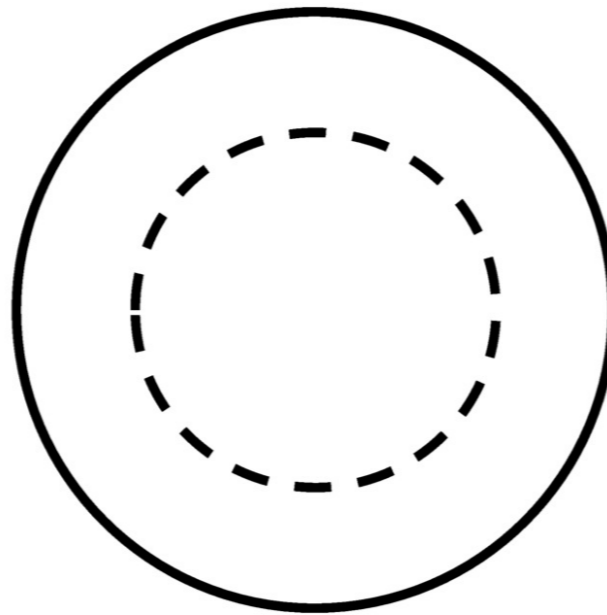


A metabolic tug-of-war between interior and periphery

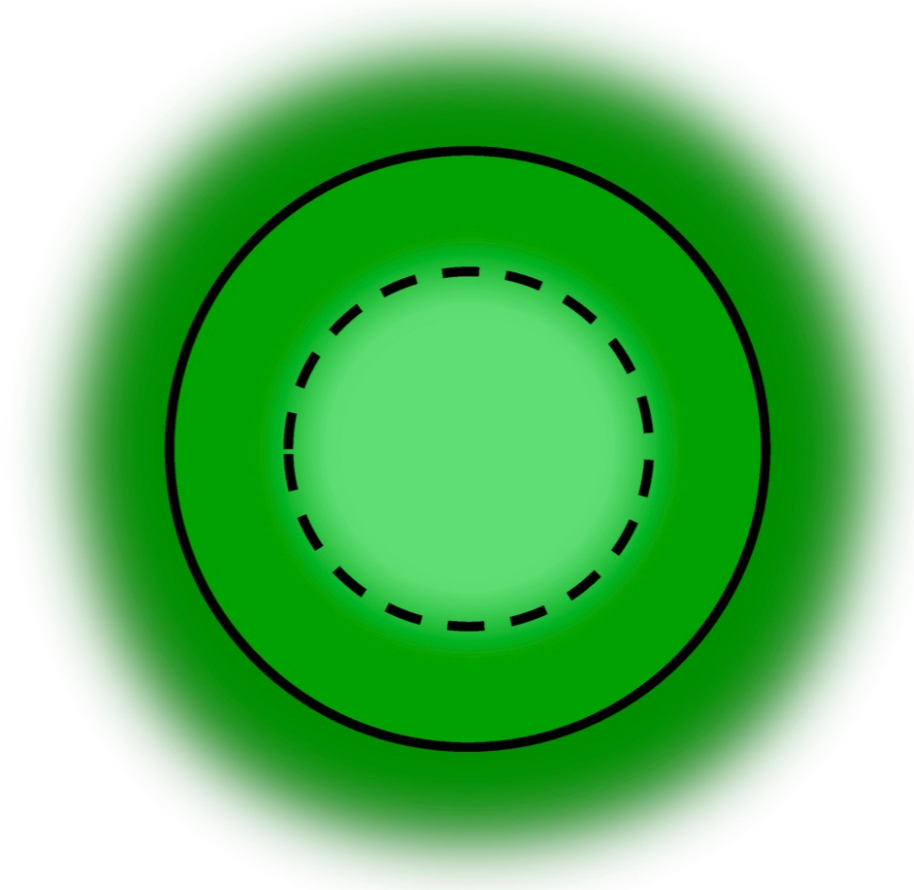
ammonium



growth

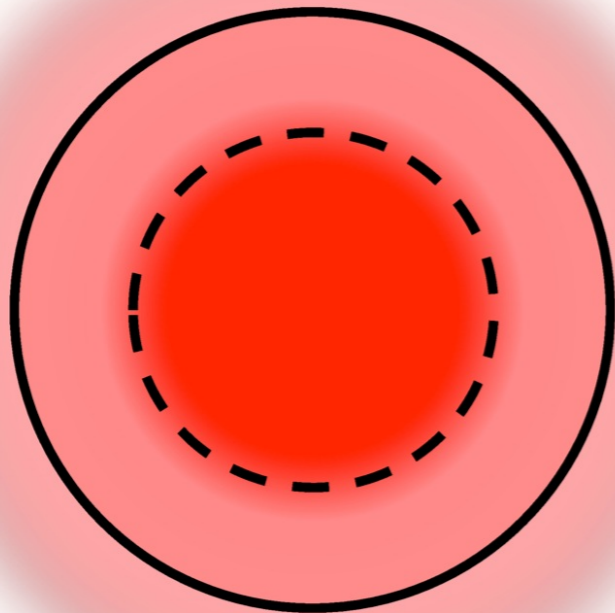


glutamate

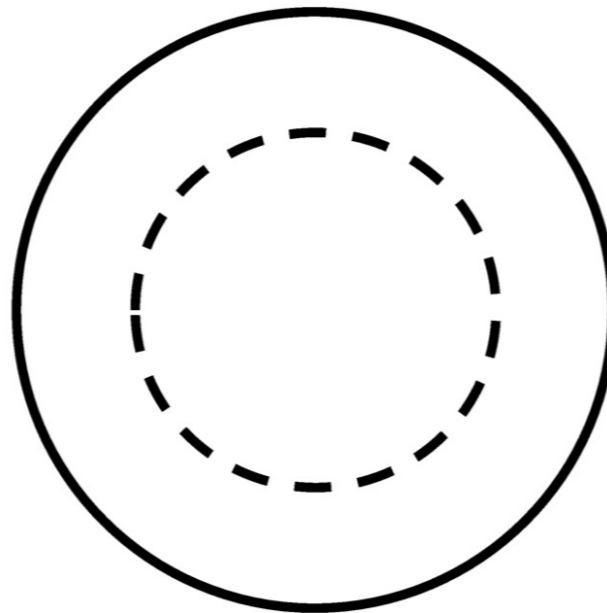


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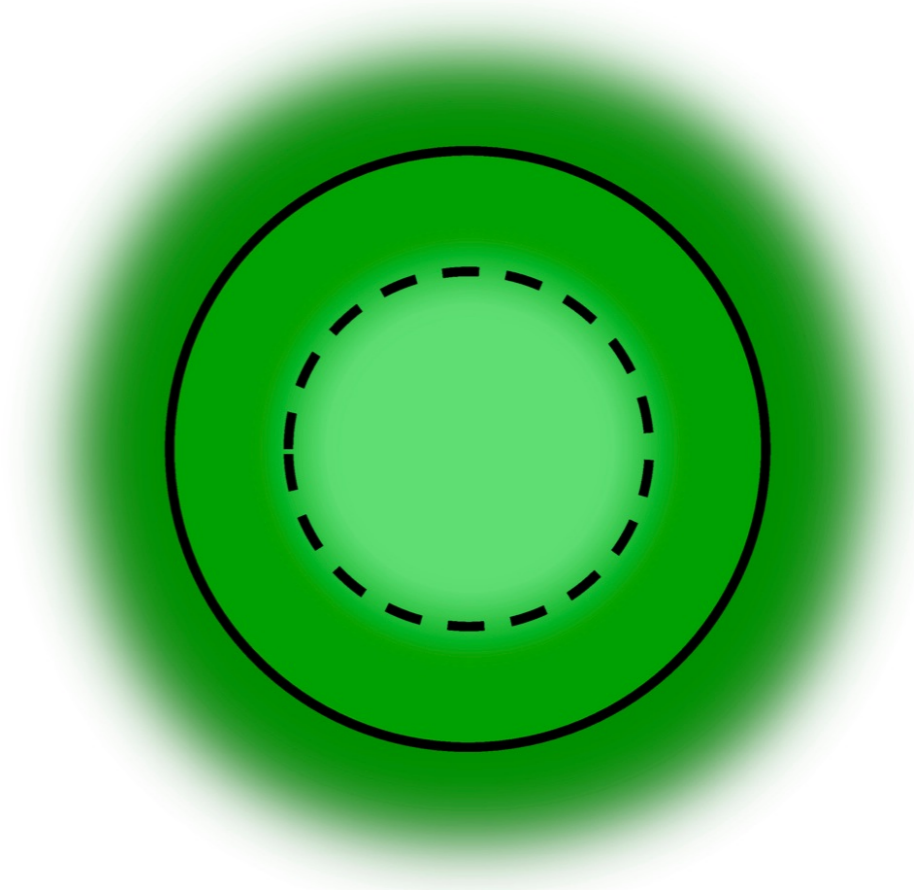
ammonium



growth

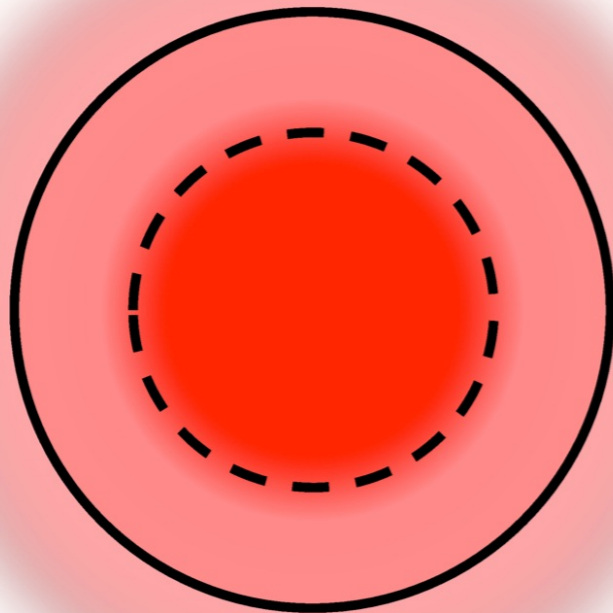


glutamate

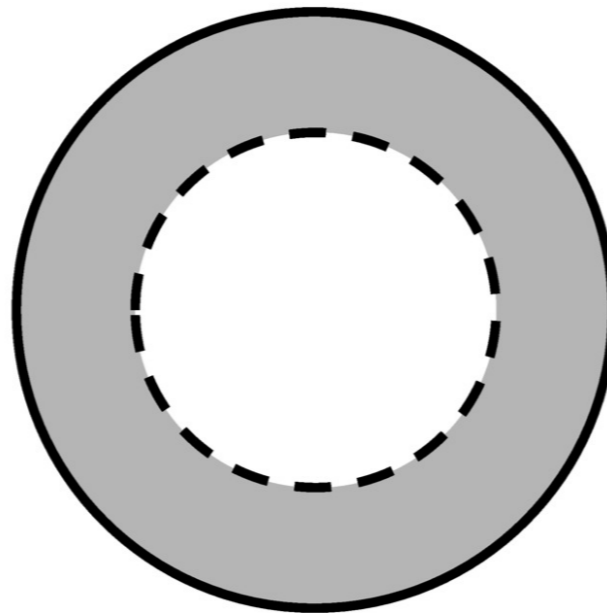


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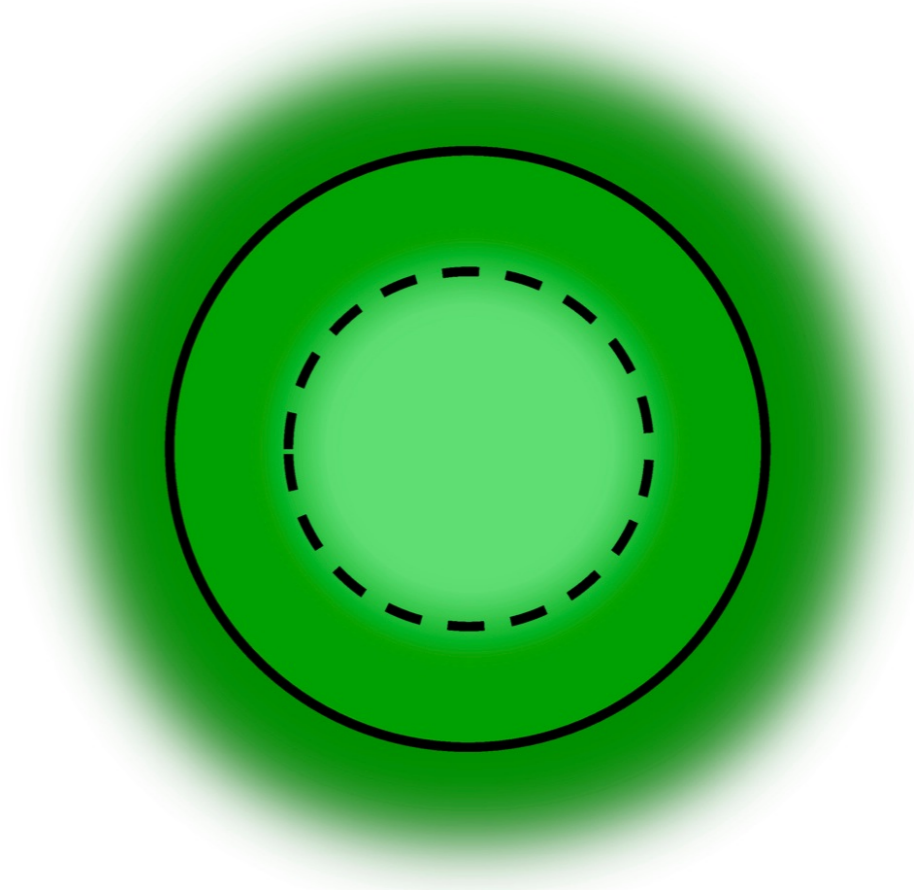
ammonium



growth

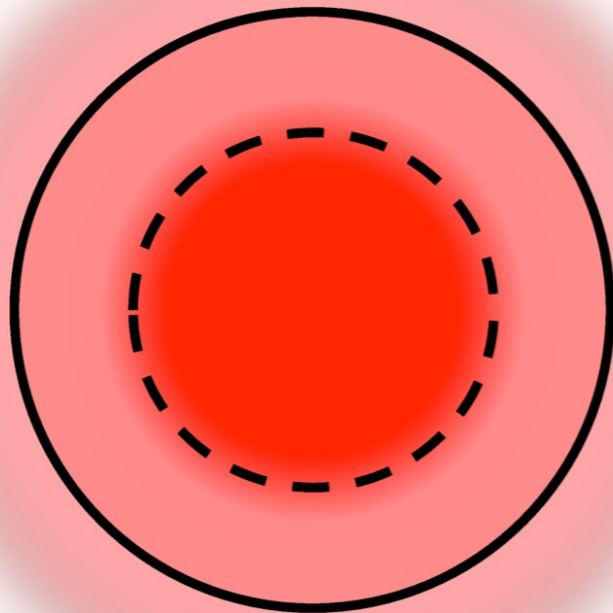


glutamate

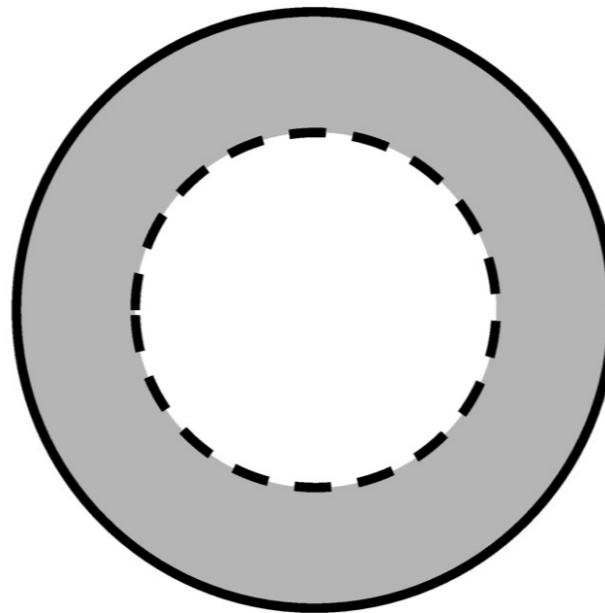


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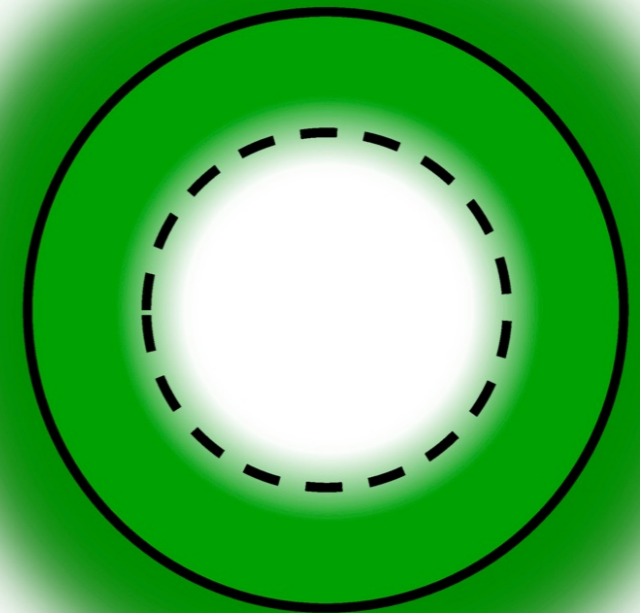
ammonium



growth

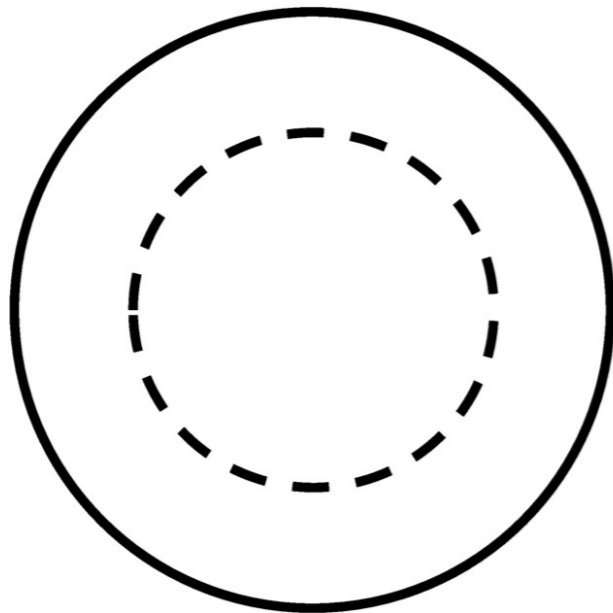


glutamate

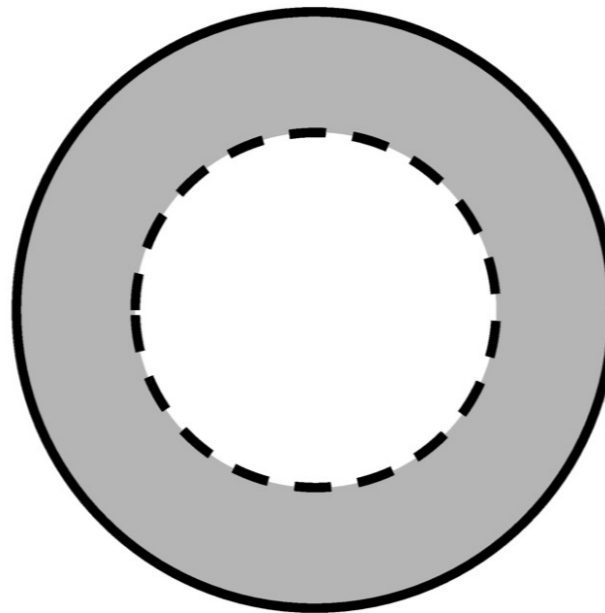


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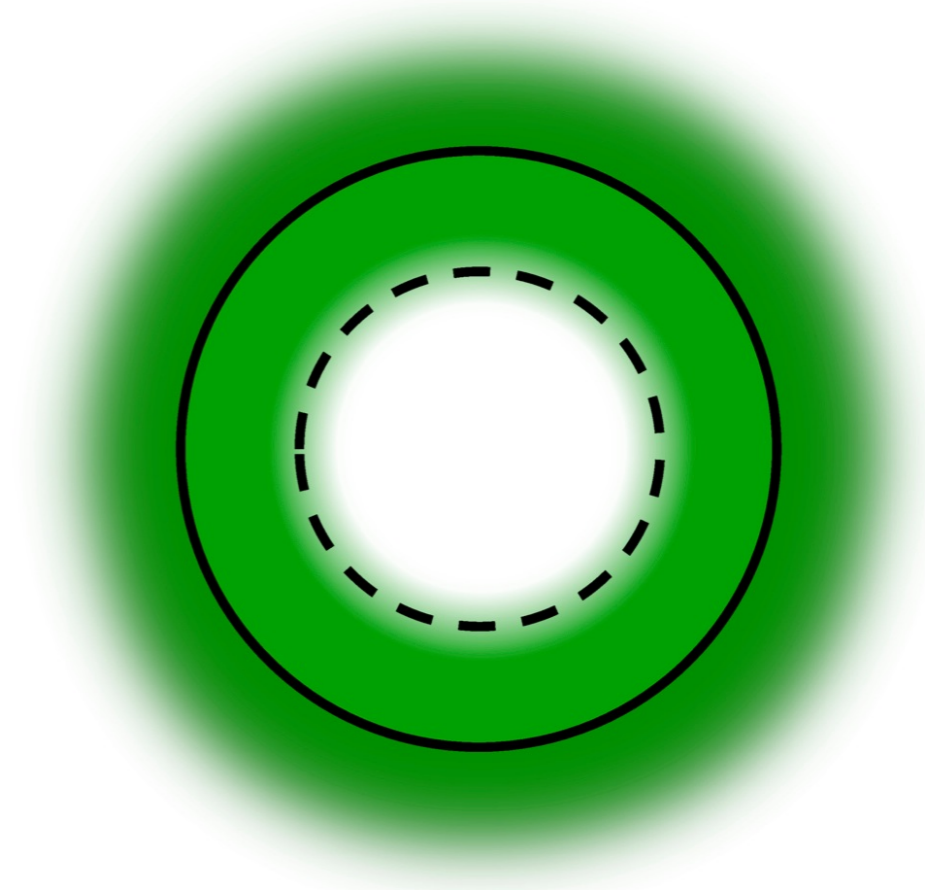
ammonium



growth

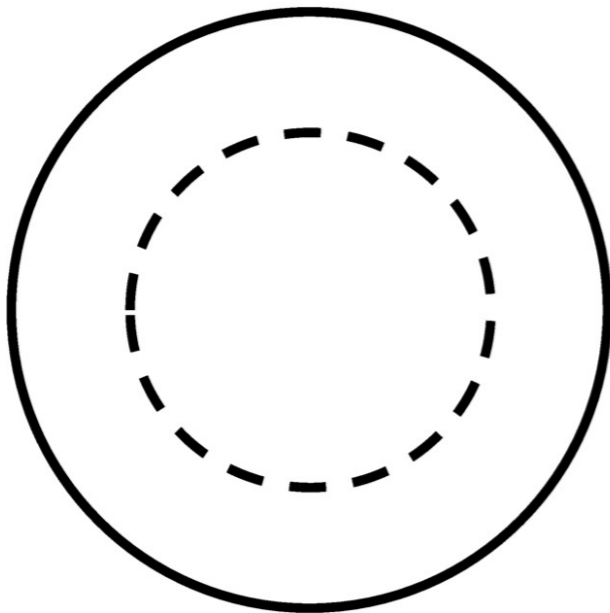


glutamate

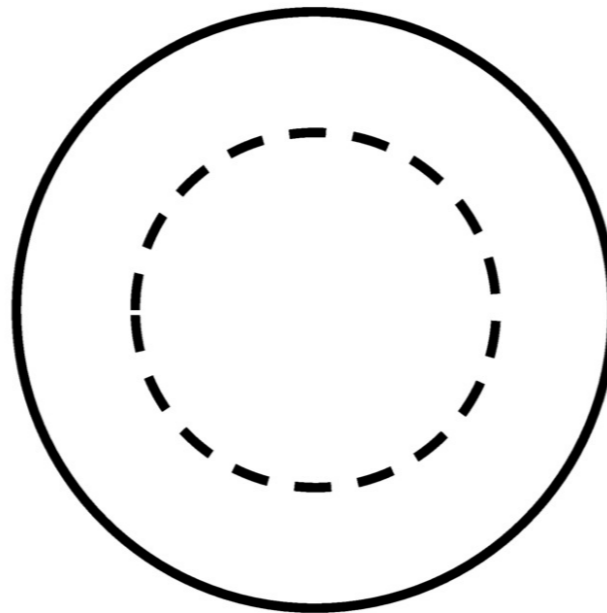


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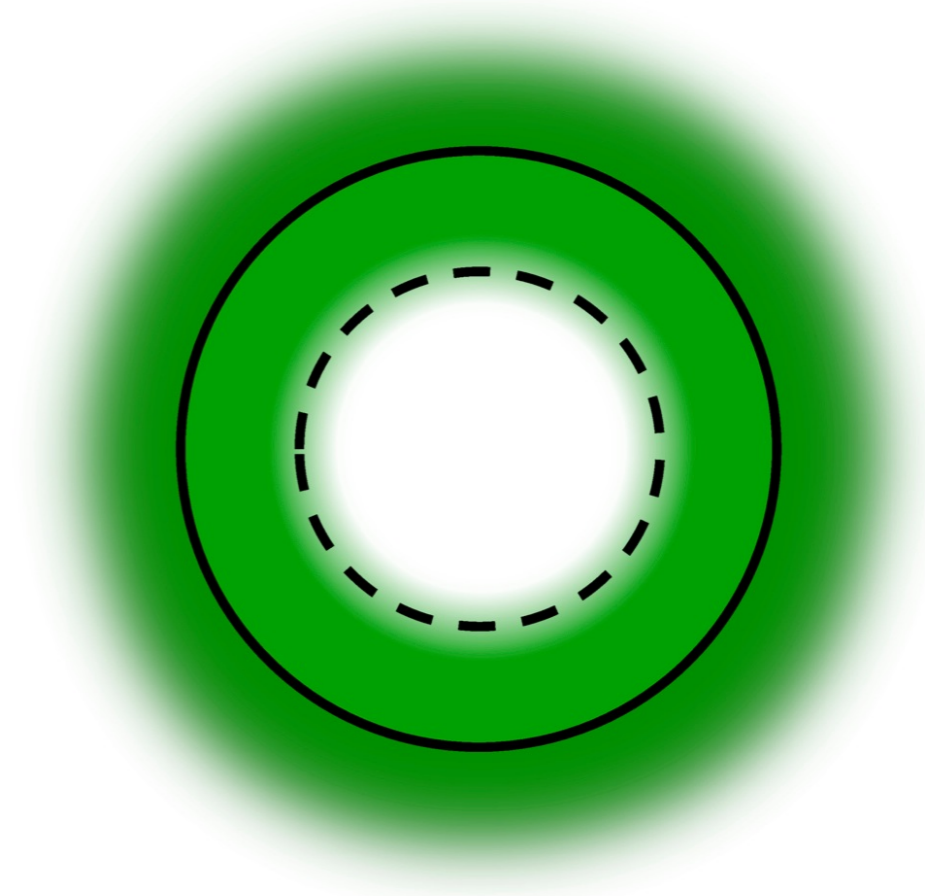
ammonium



growth

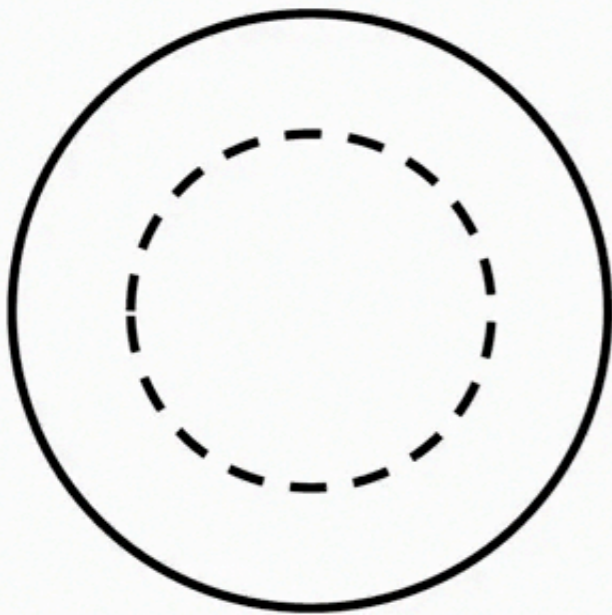


glutamate

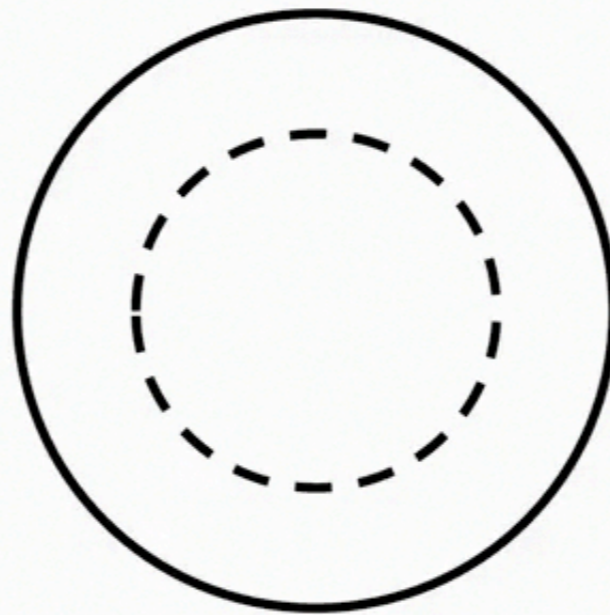


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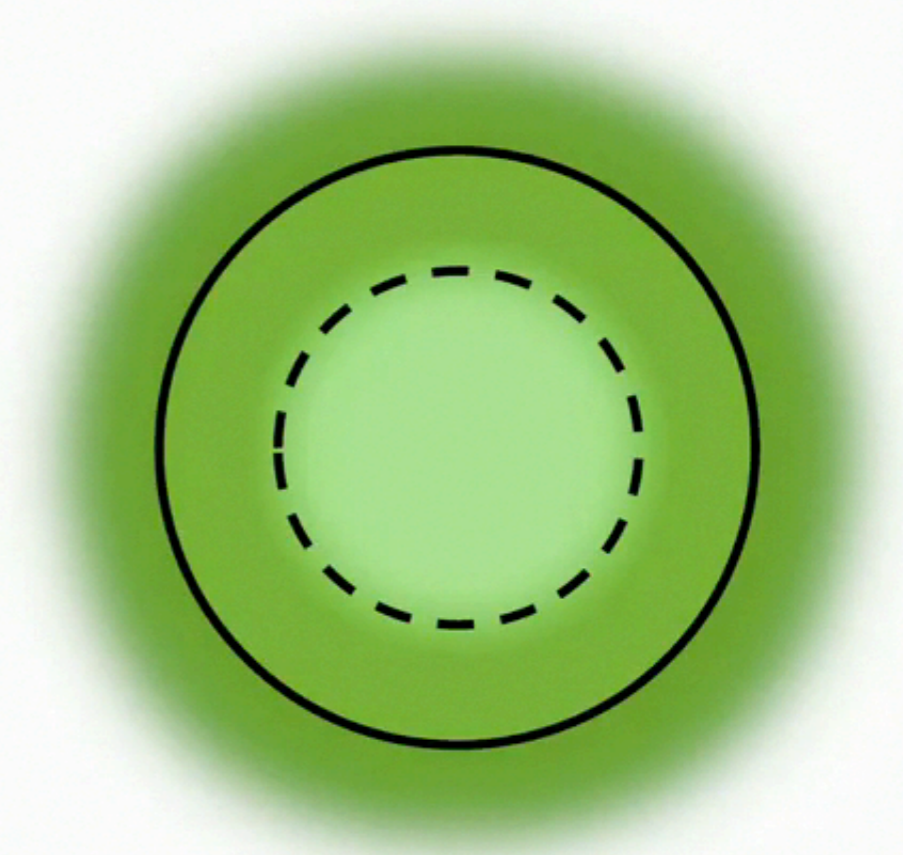
ammonium



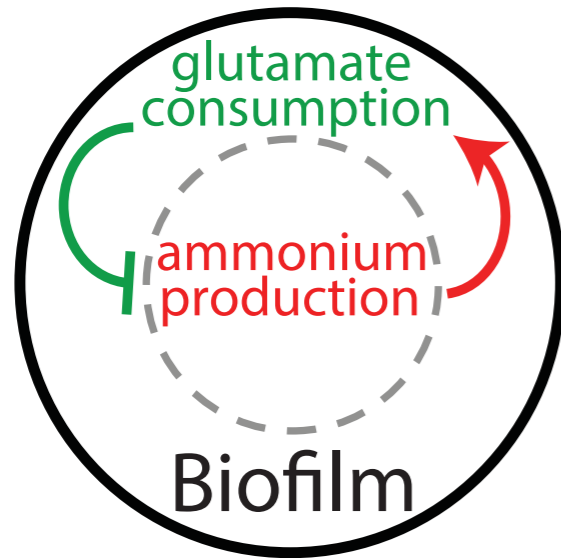
growth



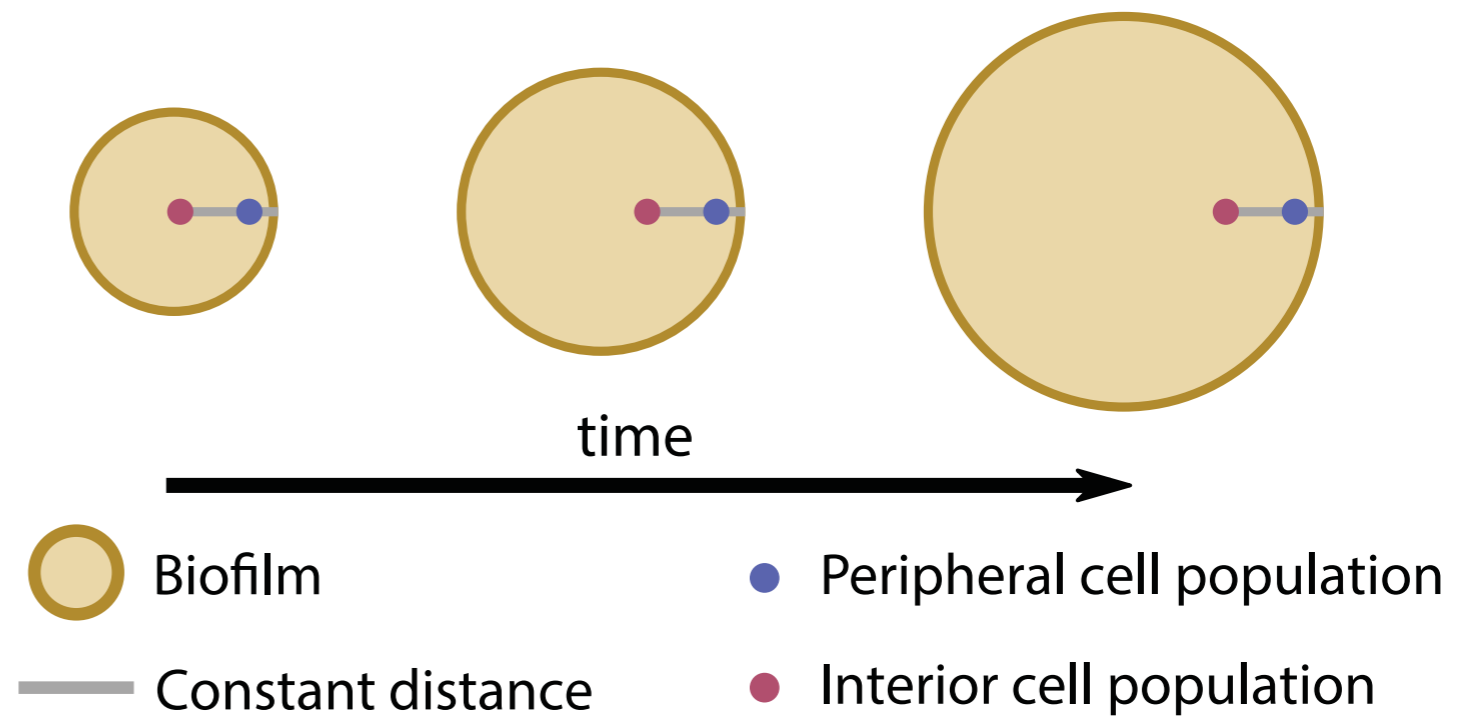
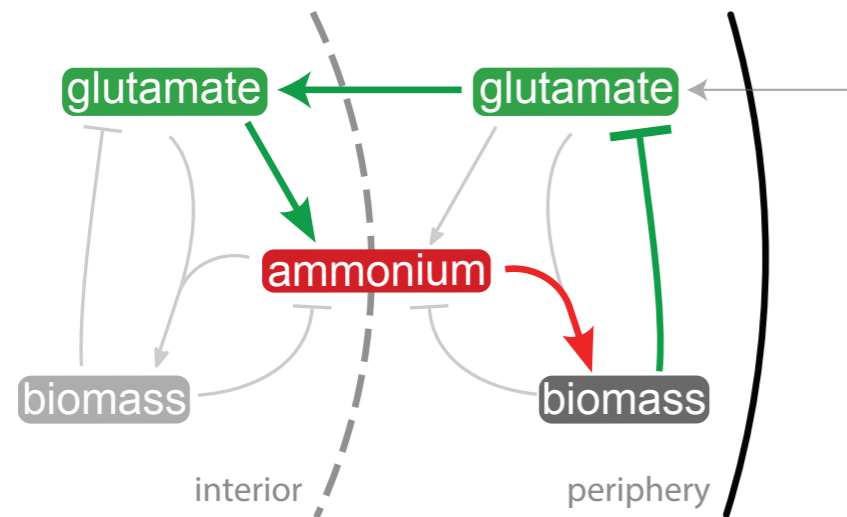
glutamate



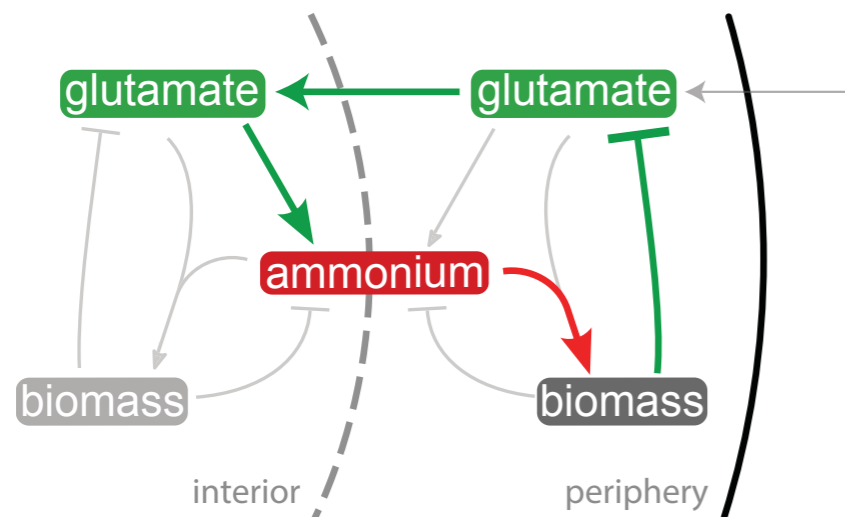
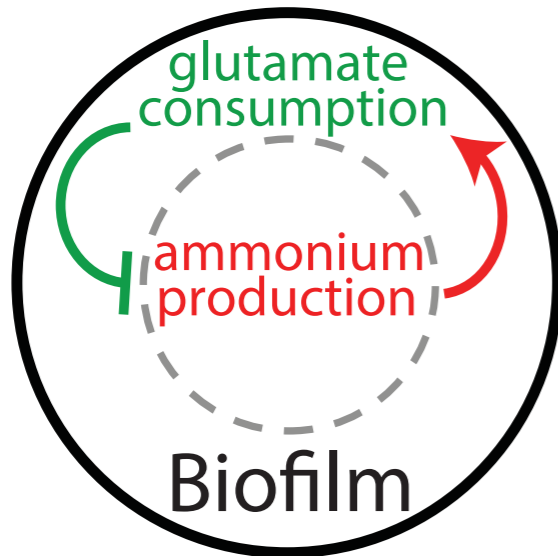
Mathematical model



Marçal Gabaldà



Mathematical model



$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

ammonium

$$\frac{dG_i}{dt} = D(G_p - G_i) - \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_G G_i r_i$$

glutamate

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

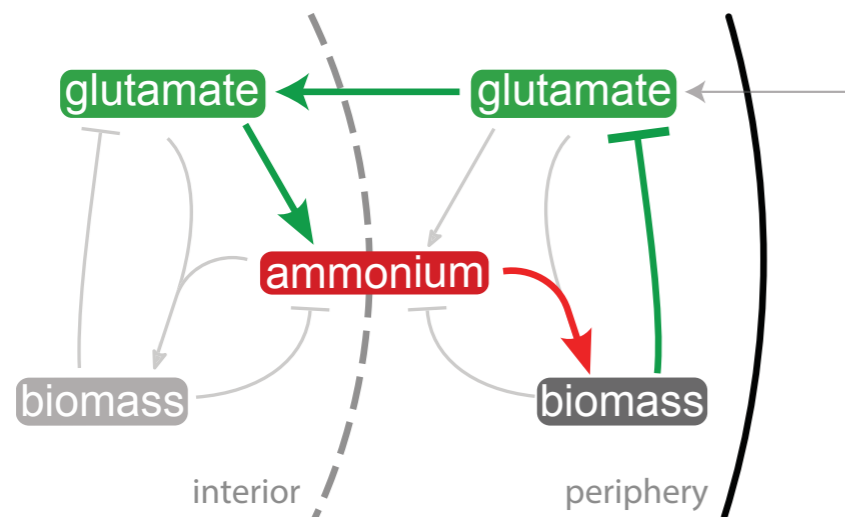
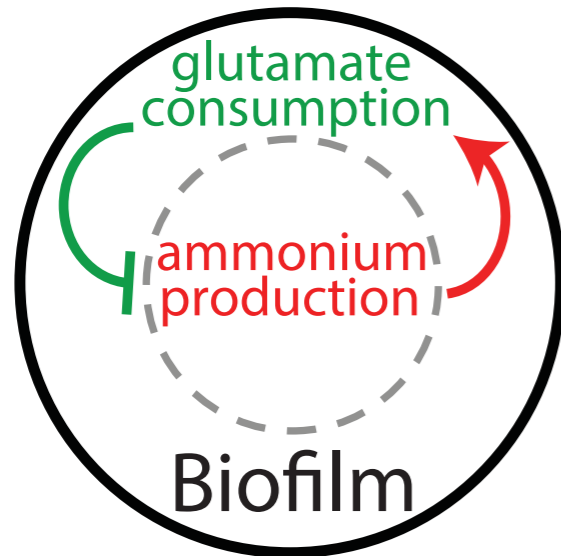
GDH

$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} = \beta_r A G_i - \gamma_r r_i$$

$$\frac{dr_p}{dt} = \beta_r A G_p - \gamma_r r_p$$

biomass

Mathematical model



ammonium
production

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

ammonium

$$\frac{dG_i}{dt} = D(G_p - G_i) - \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_G G_i r_i$$

glutamate

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

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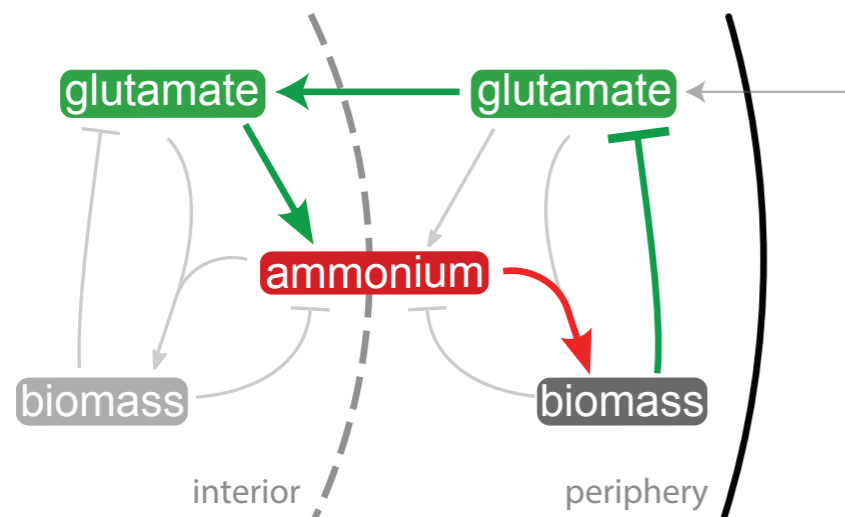
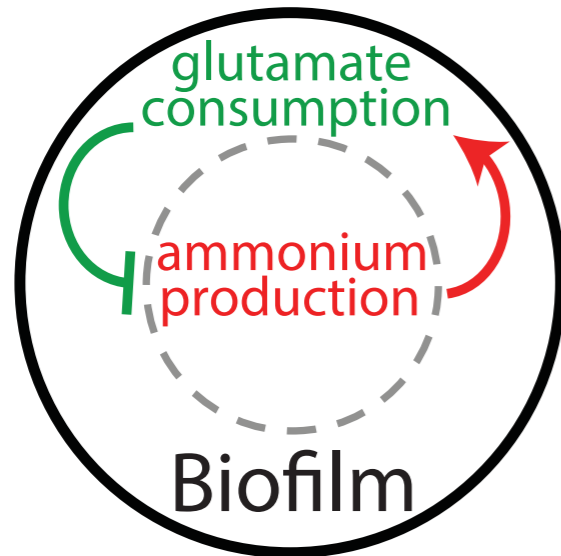
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biomass

Mathematical model



ammonium
consumption

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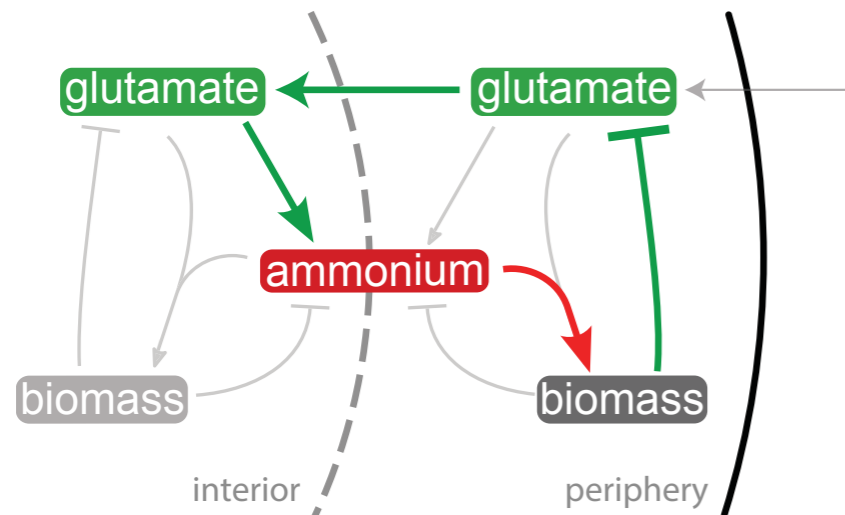
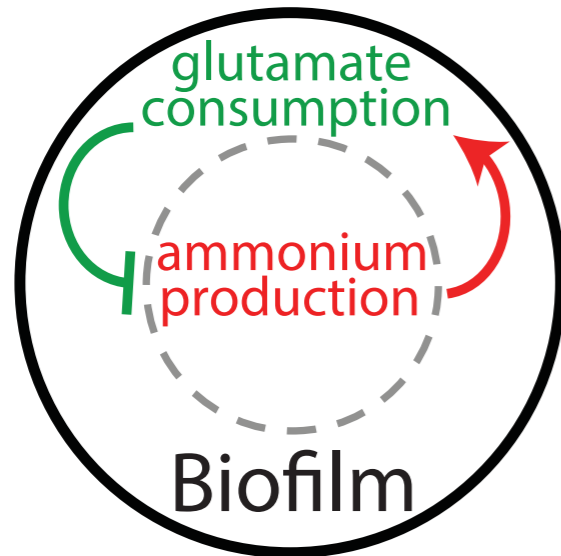
GDH

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biomass

Mathematical model



glutamate
diffusion

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

ammonium

$$\frac{dG_i}{dt} = D(G_p - G_i) - \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_G G_i r_i$$

glutamate

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

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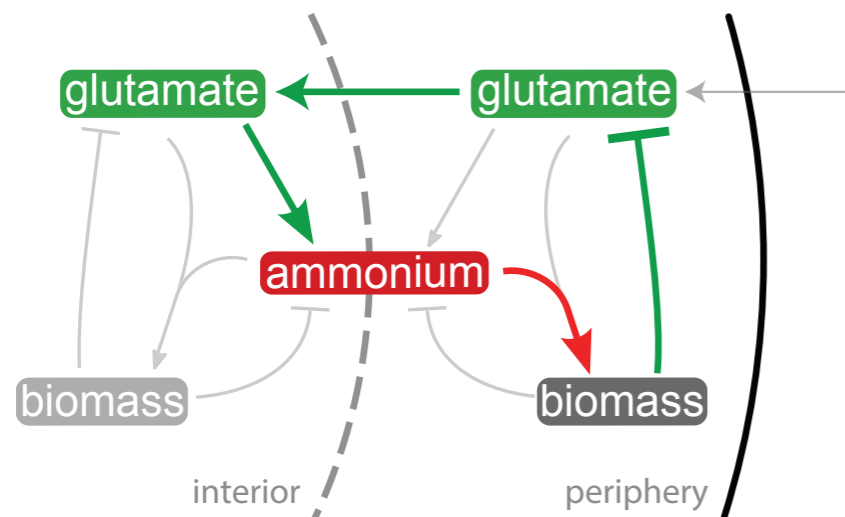
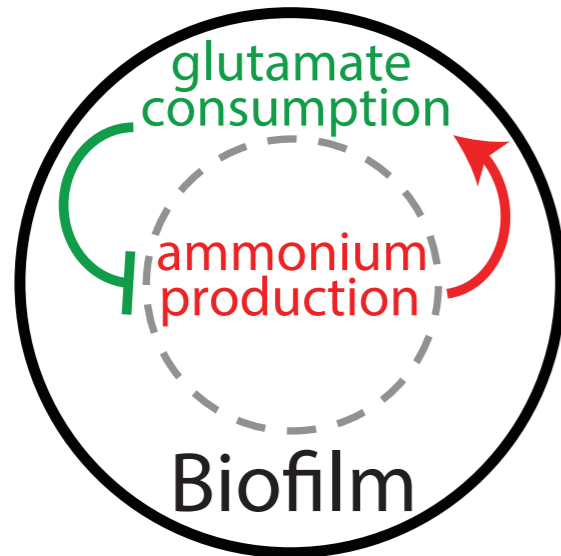
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biomass

Mathematical model



glutamate
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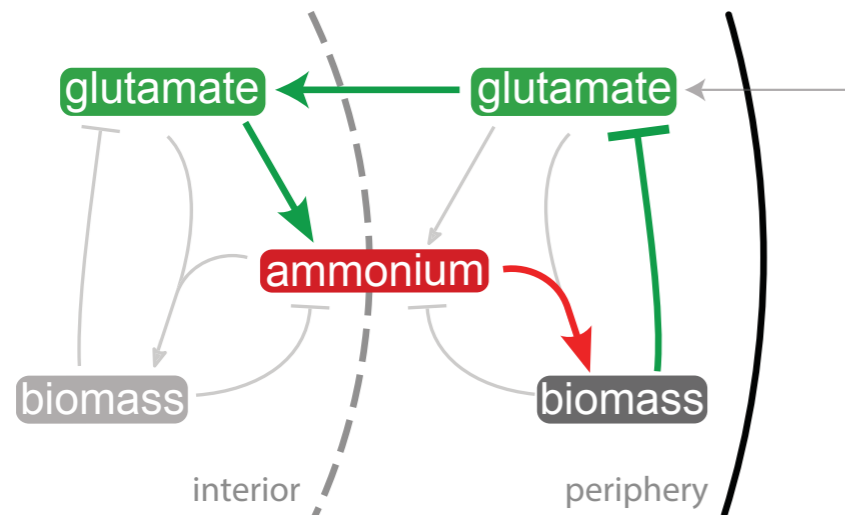
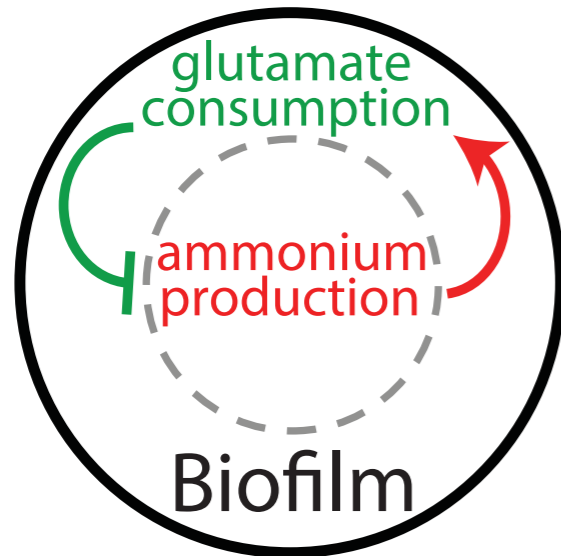
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biomass

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biomass
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ammonium

$$\frac{dG_i}{dt} = D(G_p - G_i) - \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_G G_i r_i$$

glutamate

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

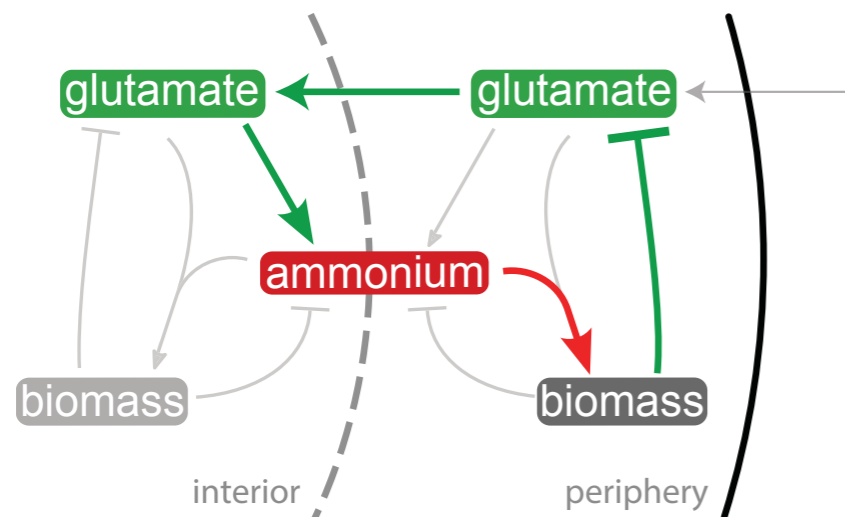
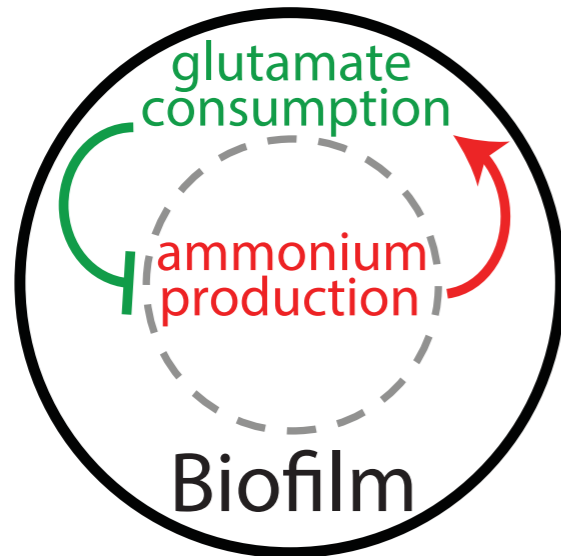
GDH

$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} = \beta_r A G_i - \gamma_r r_i$$

biomass

$$\frac{dr_p}{dt} = \beta_r A G_p - \gamma_r r_p$$

Mathematical model



GDH
activation

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

ammonium

$$\frac{dG_i}{dt} = D(G_p - G_i) - \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_G G_i r_i$$

glutamate

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

GDH

$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} = \beta_r A G_i - \gamma_r r_i$$

biomass

$$\frac{dr_p}{dt} = \beta_r A G_p - \gamma_r r_p$$

Measuring population growth

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

$$\frac{dG_i}{dt} = D(G_p - G_i) - \alpha G_i H_i - \delta_G G_i r_i$$

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

$$\frac{dr_i}{dt} = \beta_r A G_i - \gamma_r r_i$$

$$\frac{dr_p}{dt} = \beta_r A G_p - \gamma_r r_p$$

$$\frac{d\rho_{i,p}}{dt} = \eta r_{i,p} \rho_{i,p} \left(1 - \frac{\rho_{i,p}}{K(G_{i,p})} \right) - \lambda_{i,p} \rho_{i,p}$$

cell
density

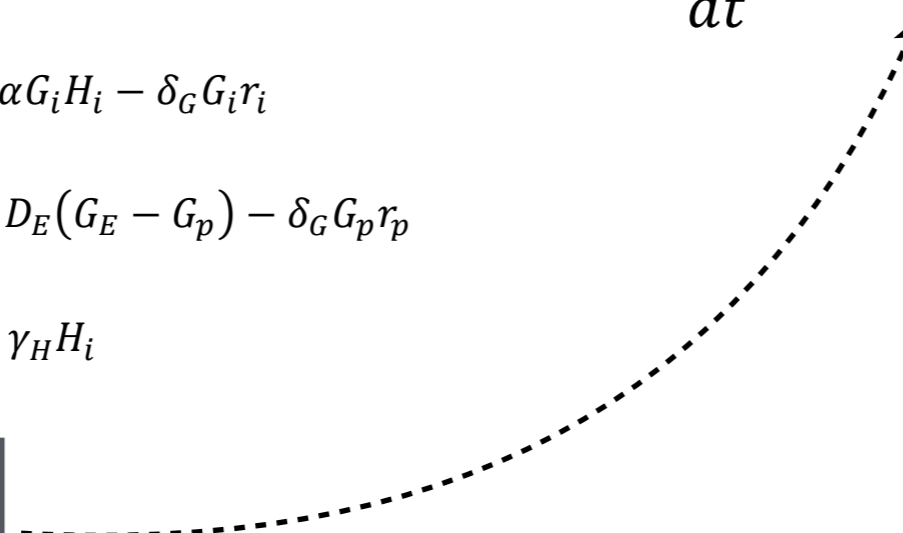
$$K(G) = \frac{G^m}{K_k^m + G^m}$$

carrying
capacity

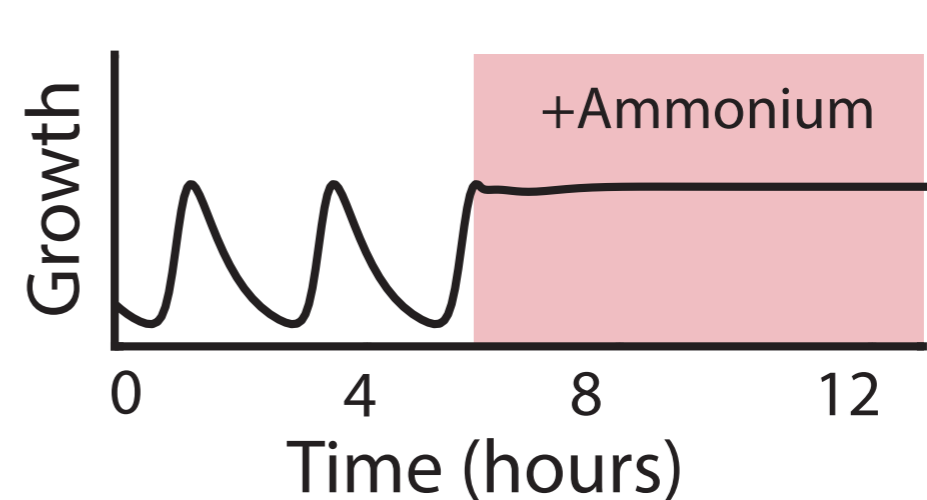
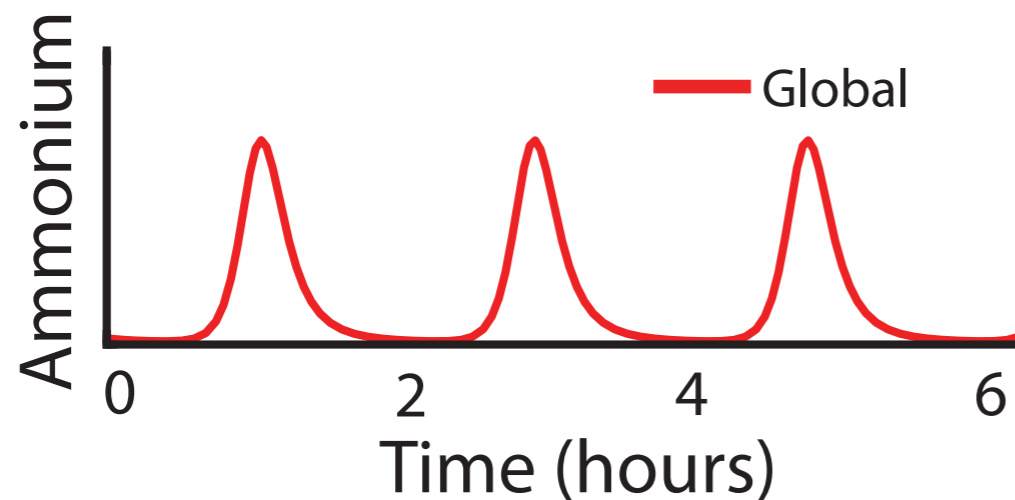
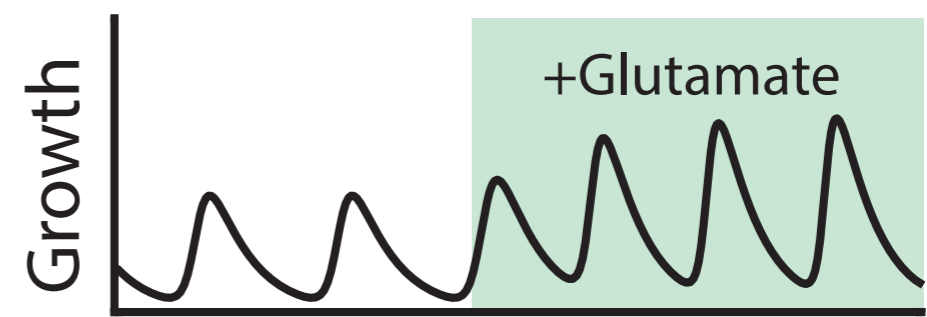
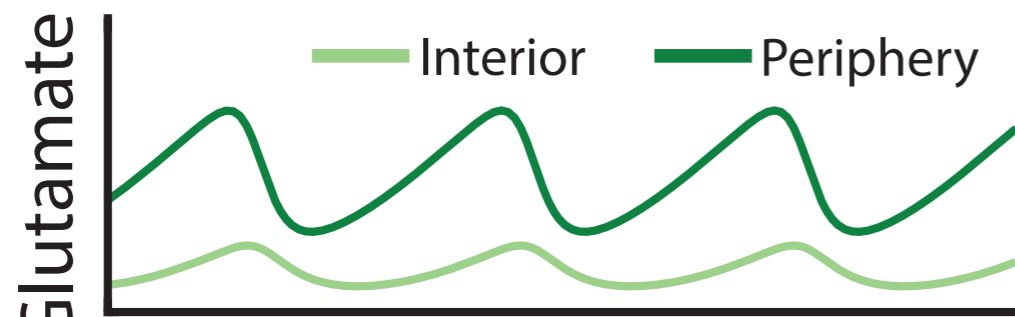
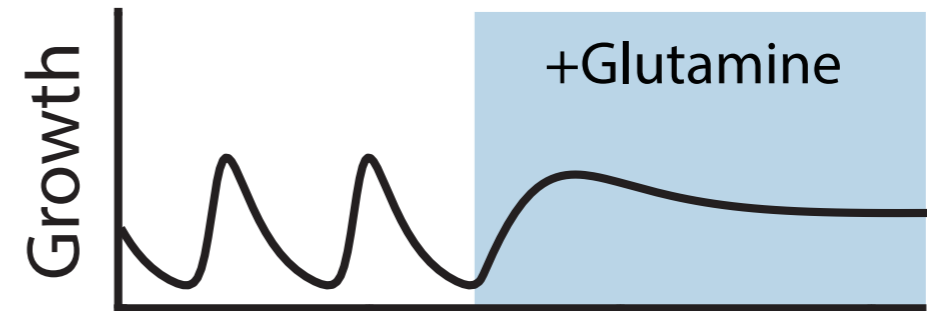
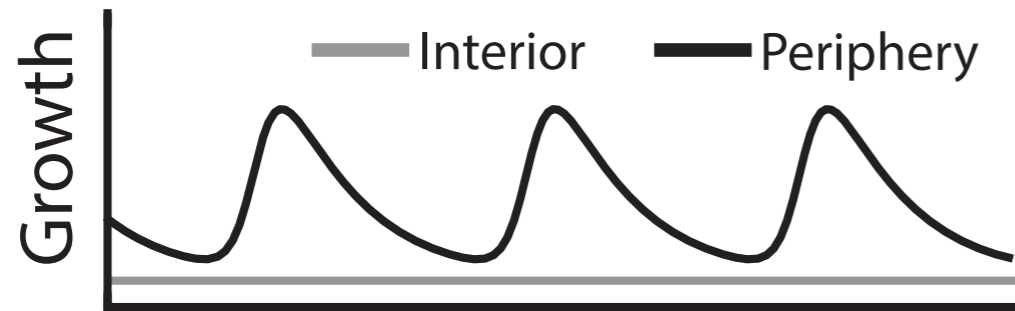


$$\mu_{i,p} = \eta r_{i,p} \rho_{i,p} \left(1 - \frac{\rho_{i,p}}{K(G_{i,p})} \right)$$

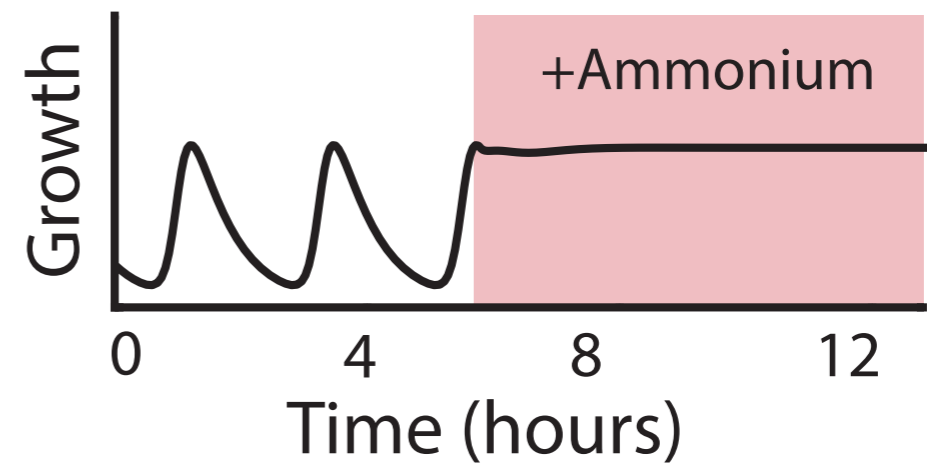
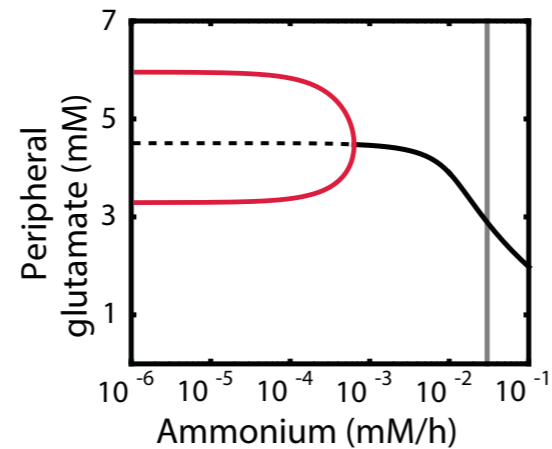
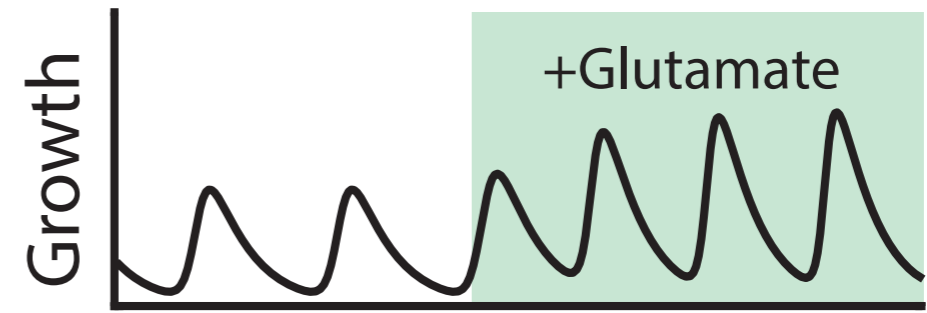
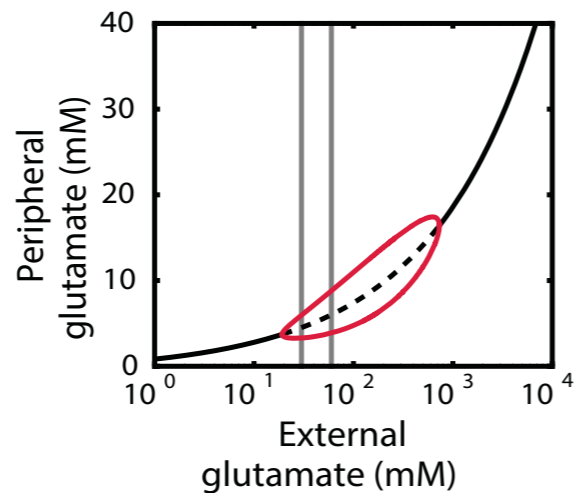
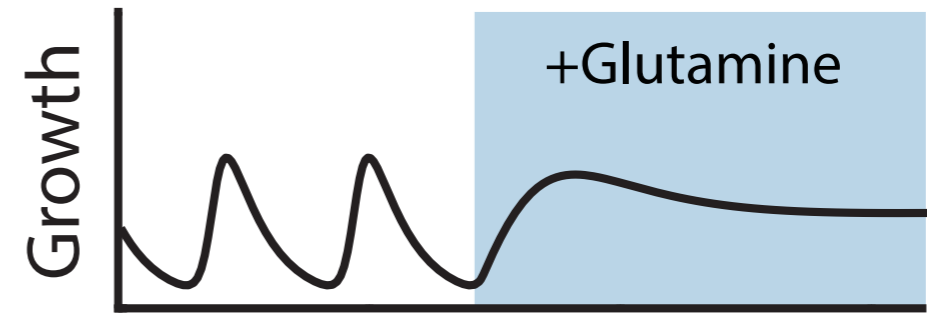
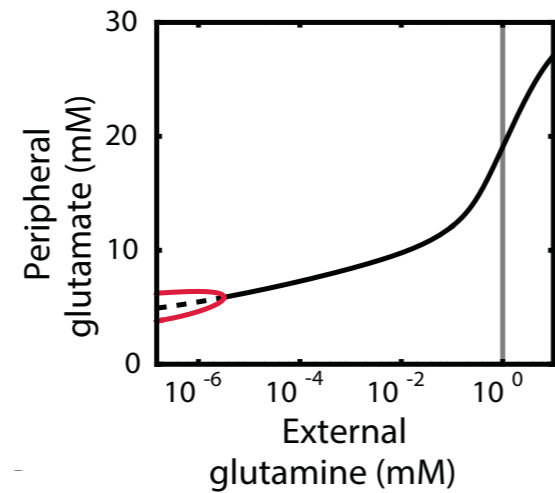
growth
rate



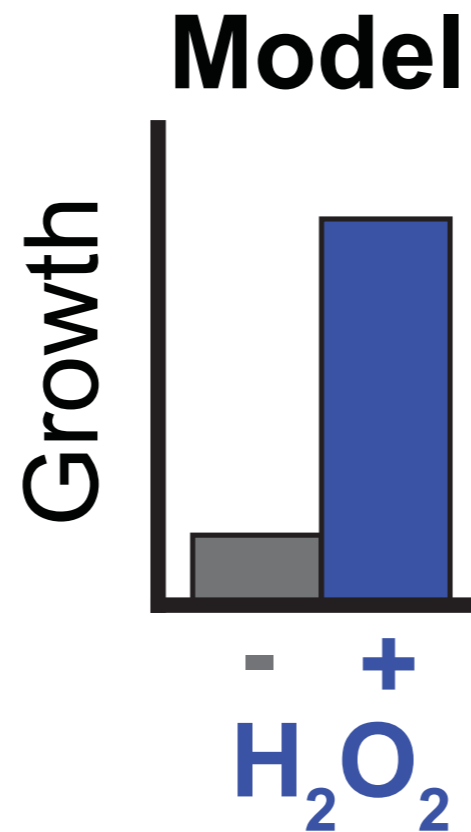
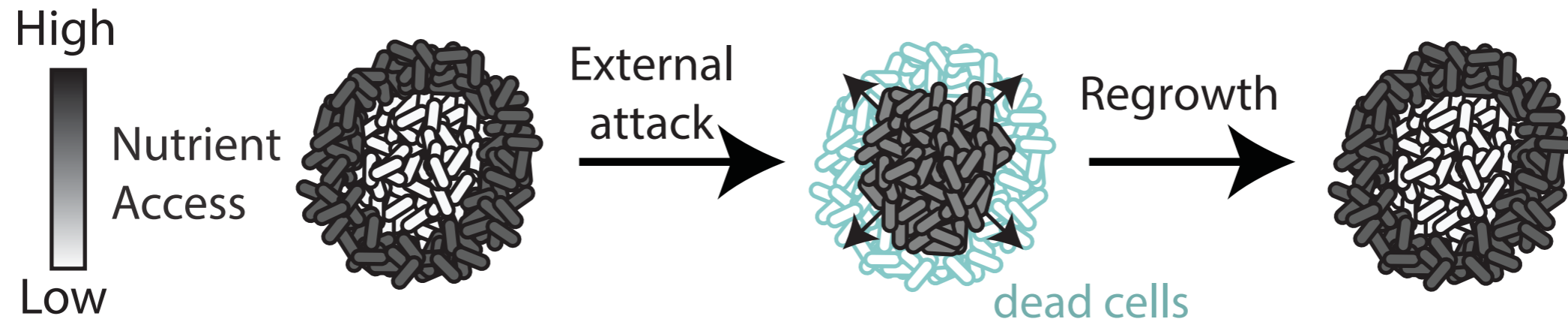
The model reproduces the experimental observations



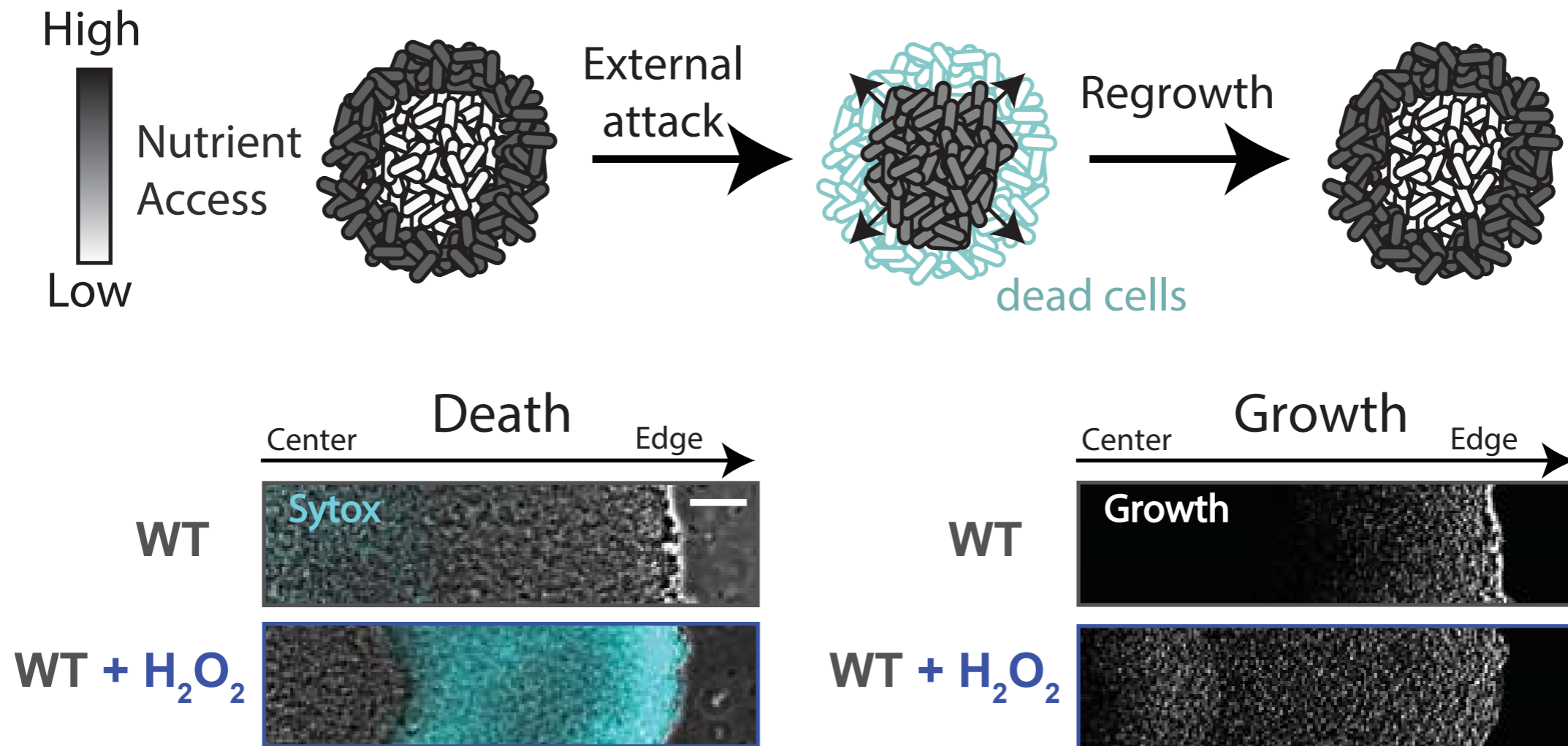
The model reproduces the experimental observations



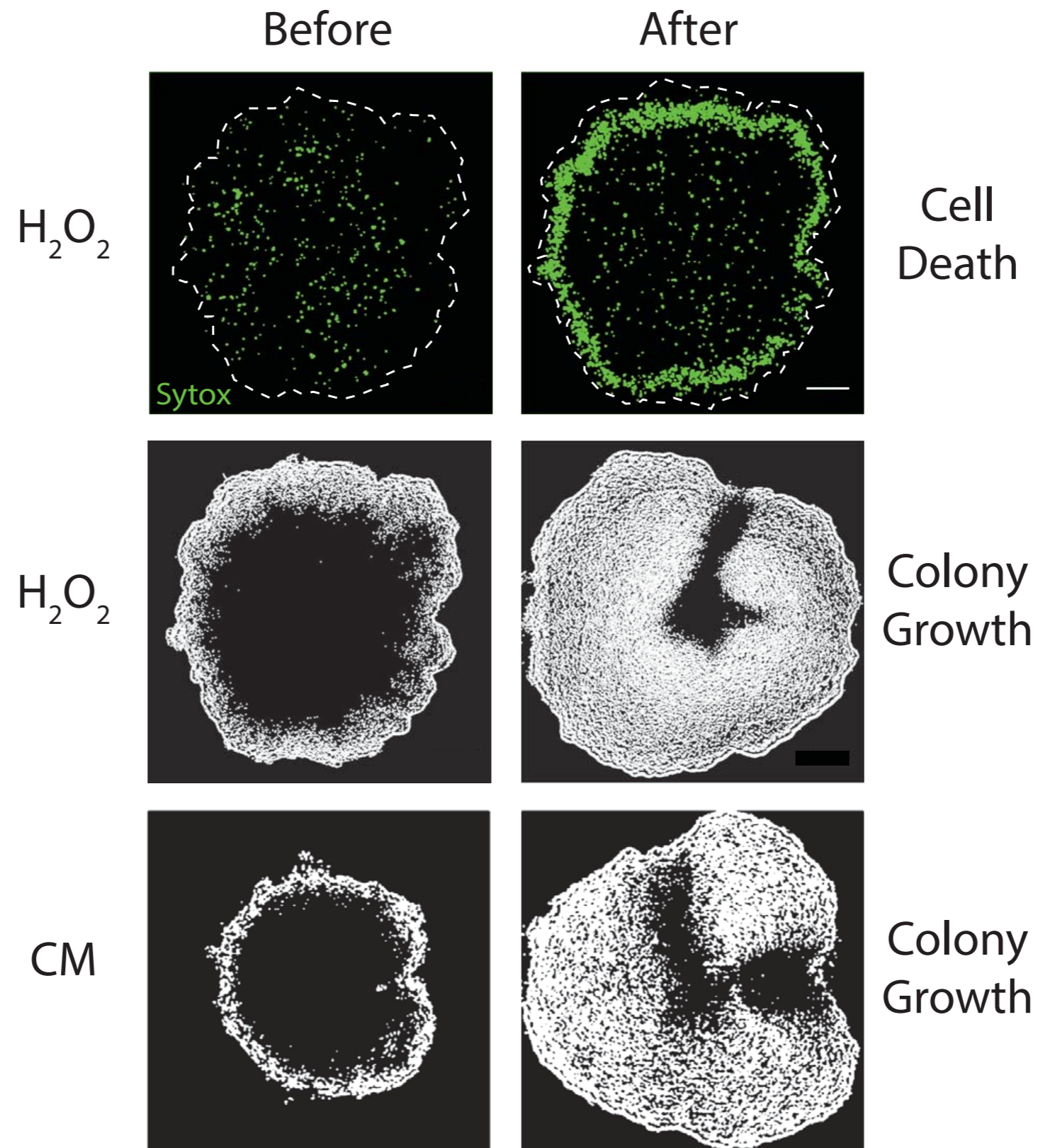
Prediction: killing the peripheral cells increases biofilm expansion



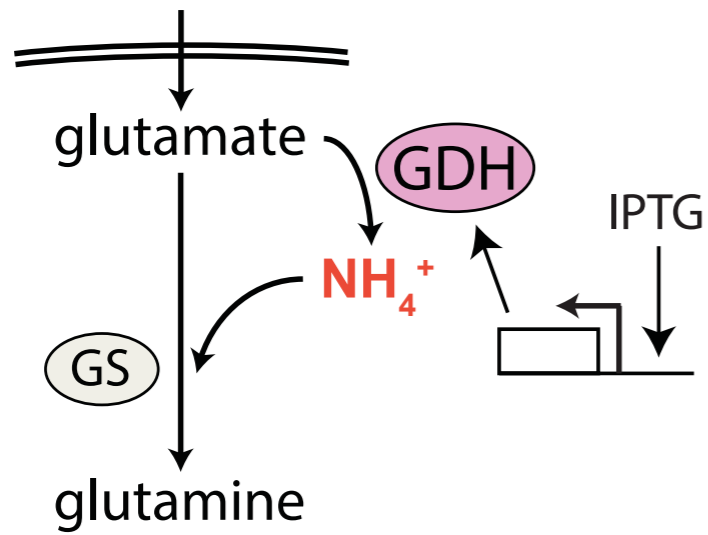
Killing the peripheral cells increases biofilm expansion



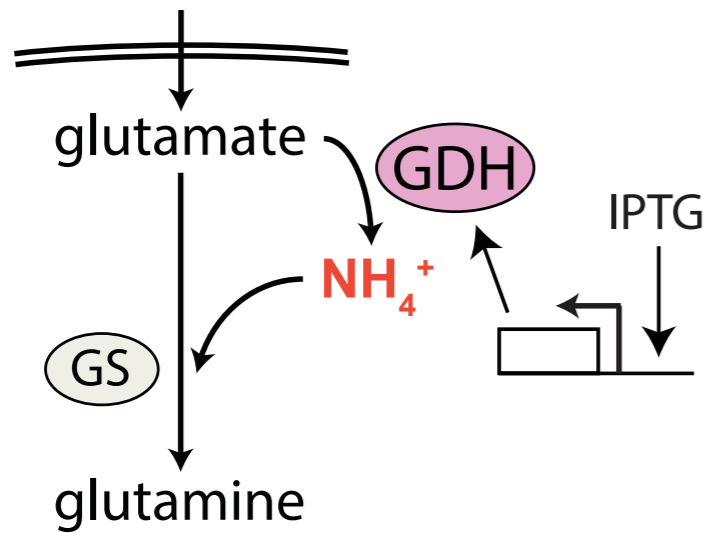
Killing the peripheral cells increases biofilm expansion



Why don't peripheral cells produce their own ammonium?



Why don't peripheral cells produce their own ammonium?

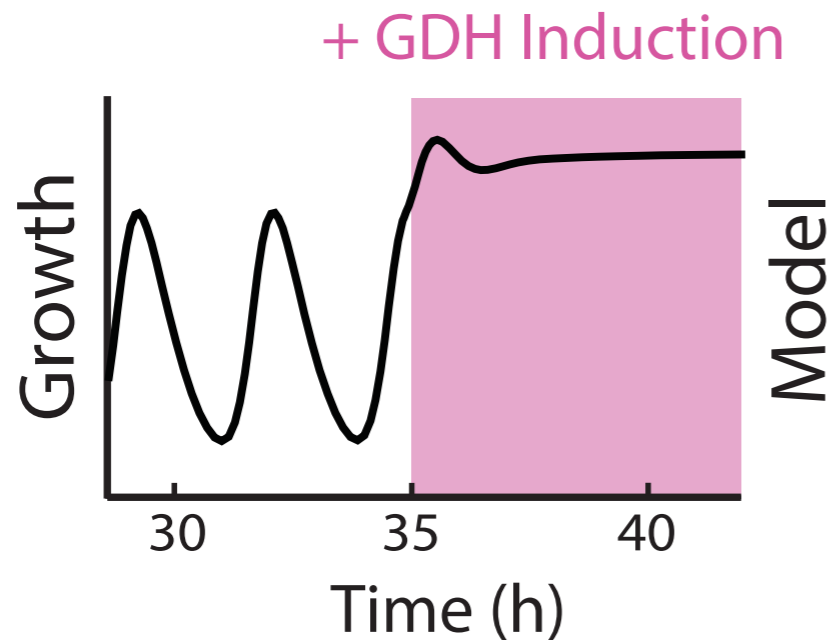


$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i + \alpha G_p H_p - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

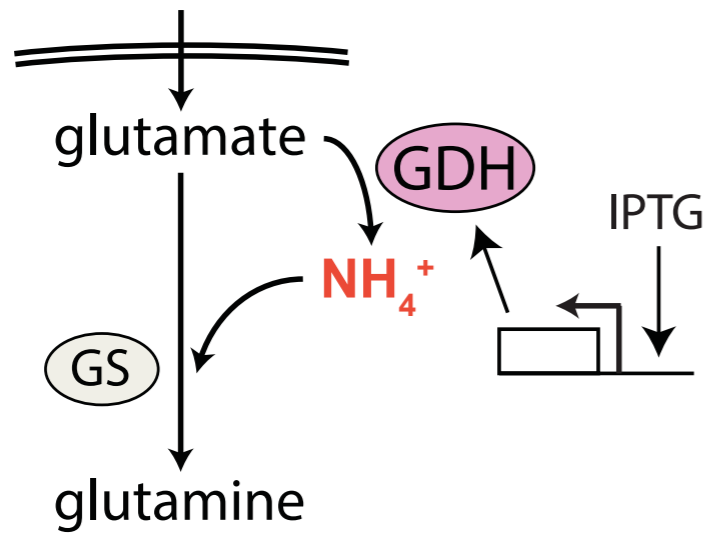
$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \alpha G_p H_p - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_0 + \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

$$\frac{dH_p}{dt} = \beta_0 - \gamma_H H_p$$



Why don't peripheral cells produce their own ammonium?

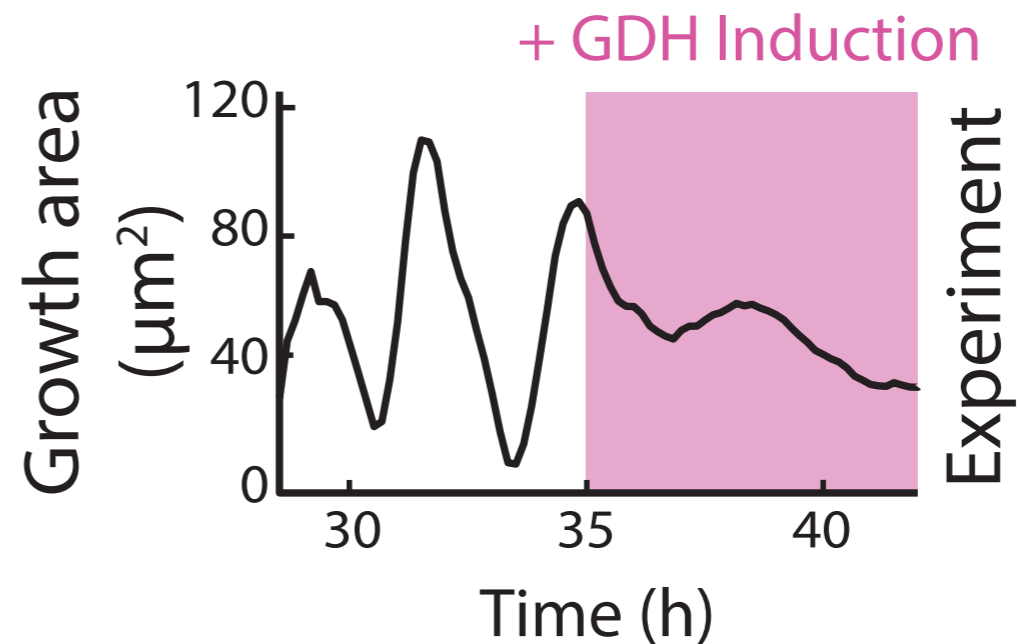
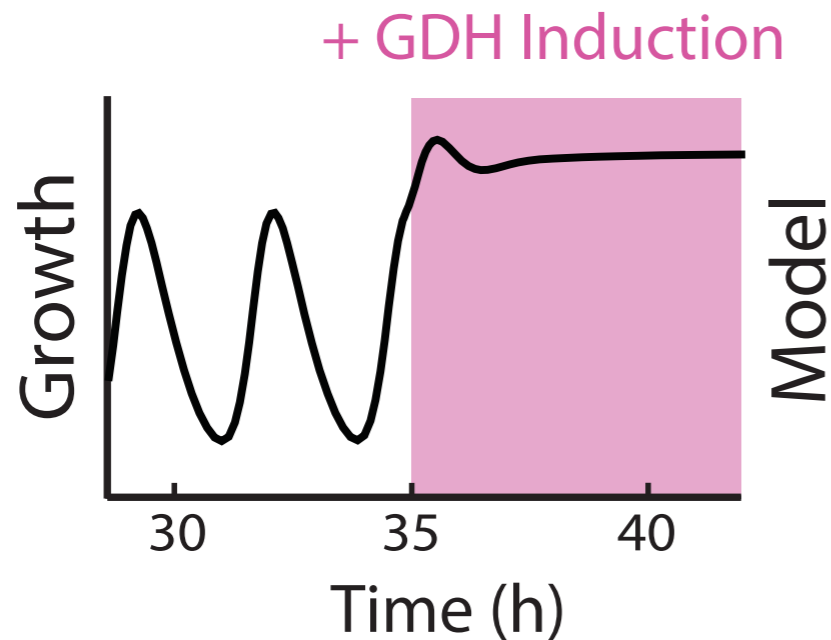


$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i + \alpha G_p H_p - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

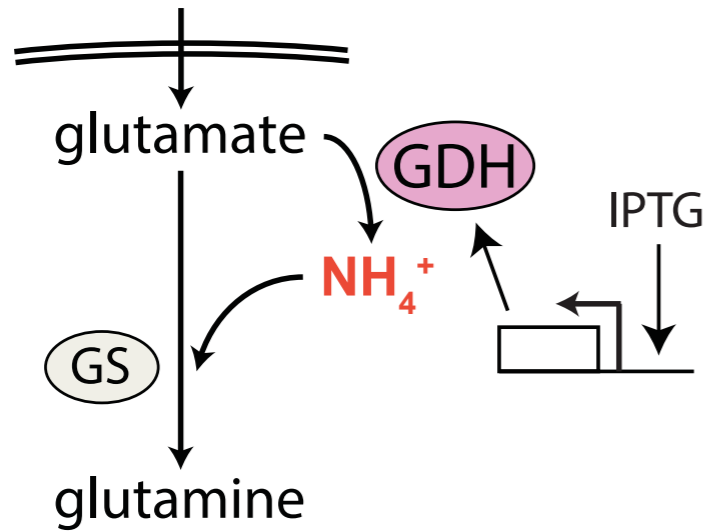
$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \alpha G_p H_p - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_0 + \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

$$\frac{dH_p}{dt} = \beta_0 - \gamma_H H_p$$



Why don't peripheral cells produce their own ammonium?



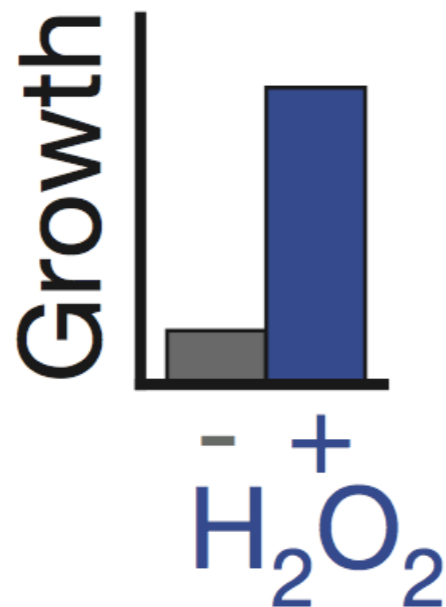
$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \alpha G_i H_i + \alpha G_p H_p - \delta_A A (r_i + r_p)$$

$$\frac{dG_p}{dt} = D(G_i - G_p) + D_E(G_E - G_p) - \alpha G_p H_p - \delta_G G_p r_p$$

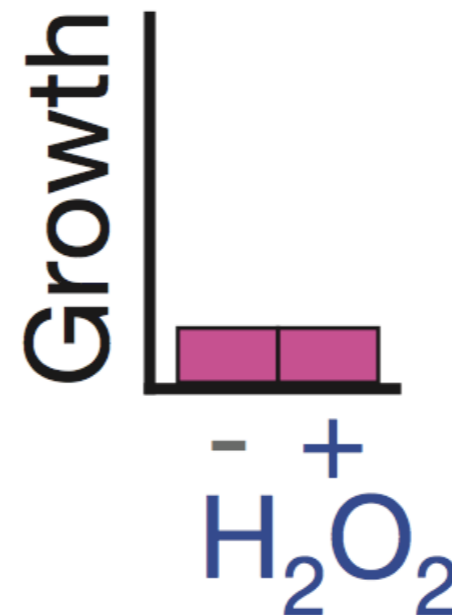
$$\frac{dH_i}{dt} = \beta_0 + \beta_H \frac{G_i^n}{K_H^n + G_i^n} - \gamma_H H_i$$

$$\frac{dH_p}{dt} = \beta_0 - \gamma_H H_p$$

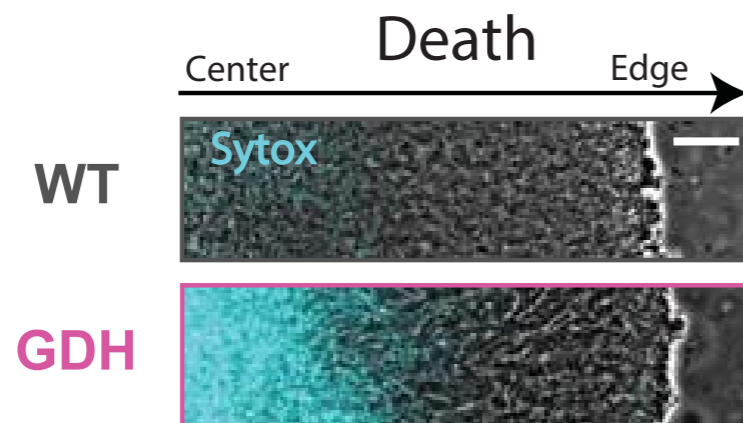
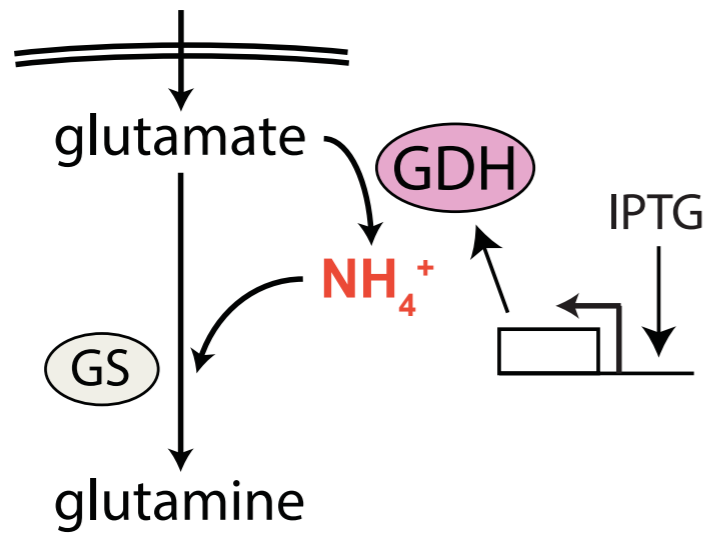
Wild type



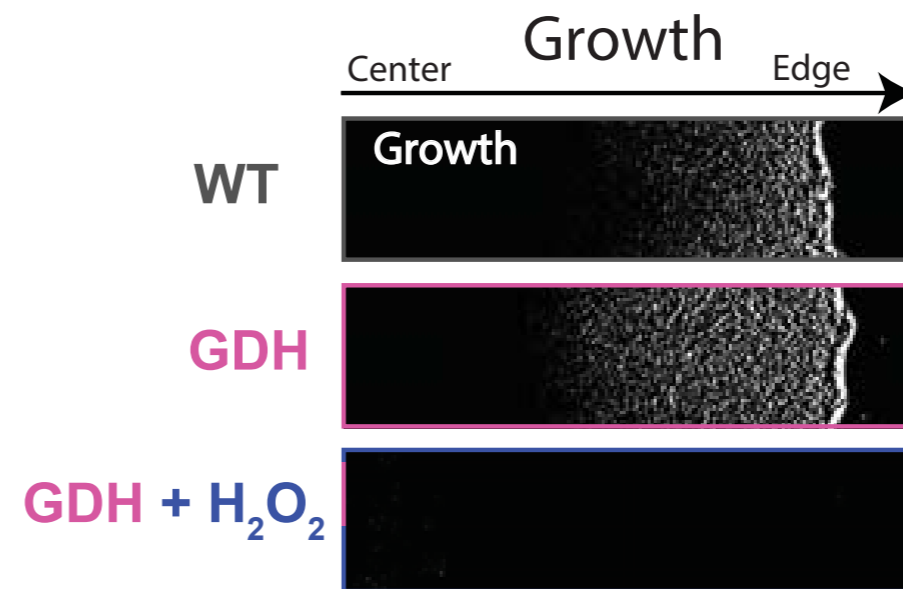
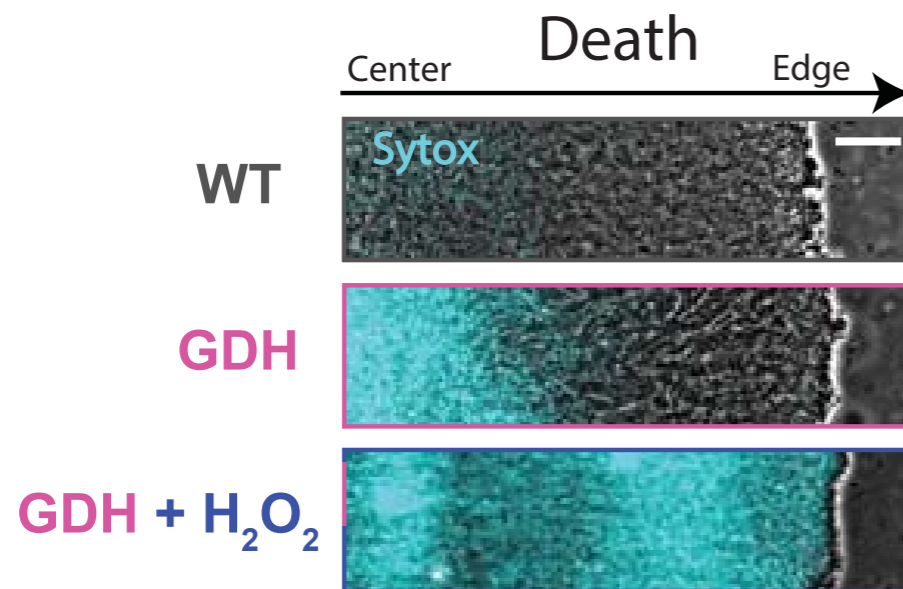
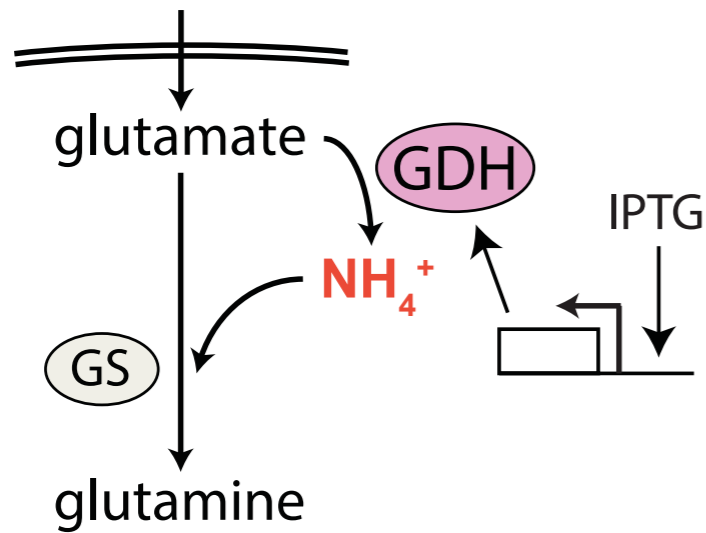
+ GDH induction



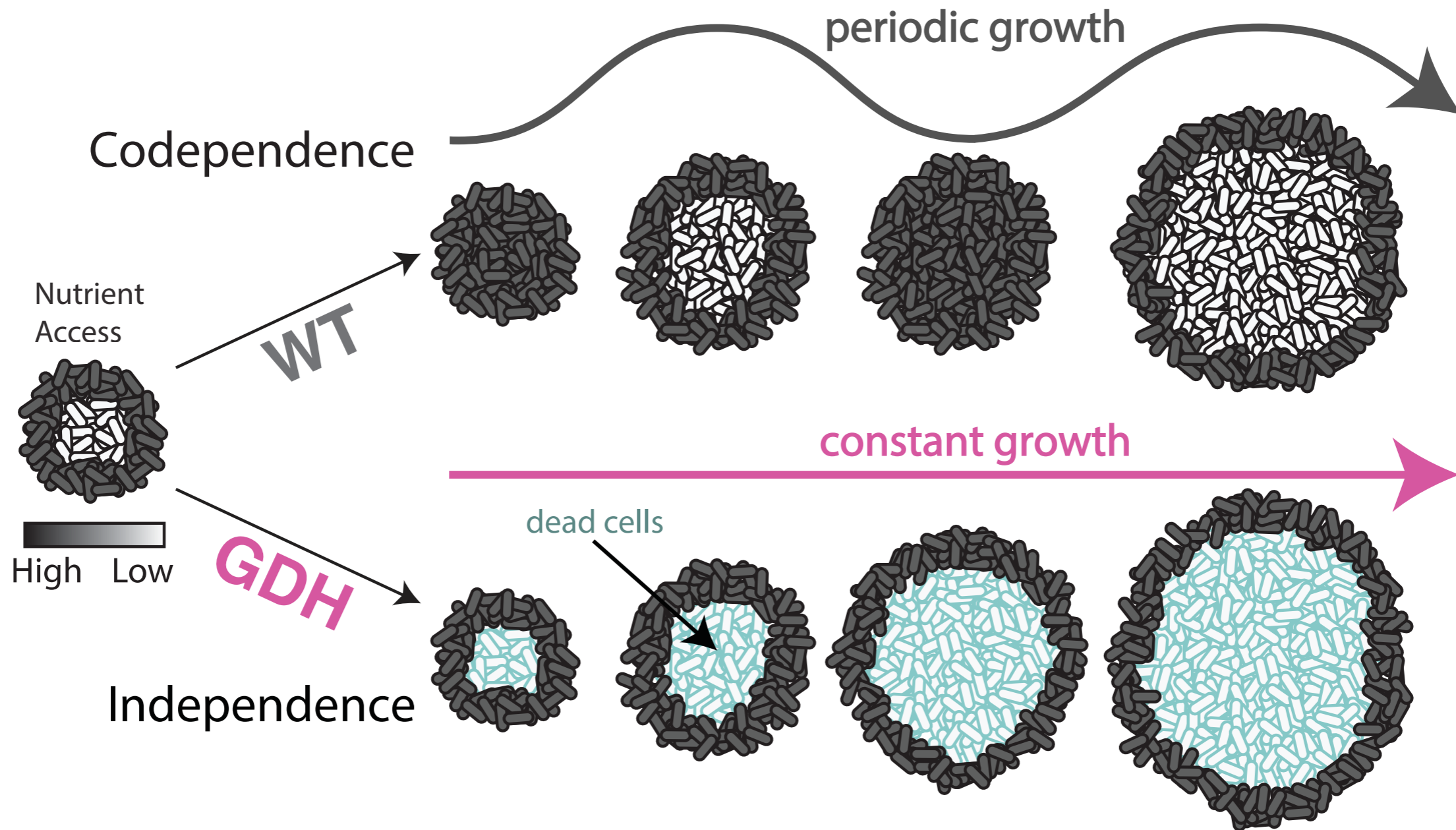
Why don't peripheral cells produce their own ammonium?



A strategy to eliminate biofilms: starve the interior first

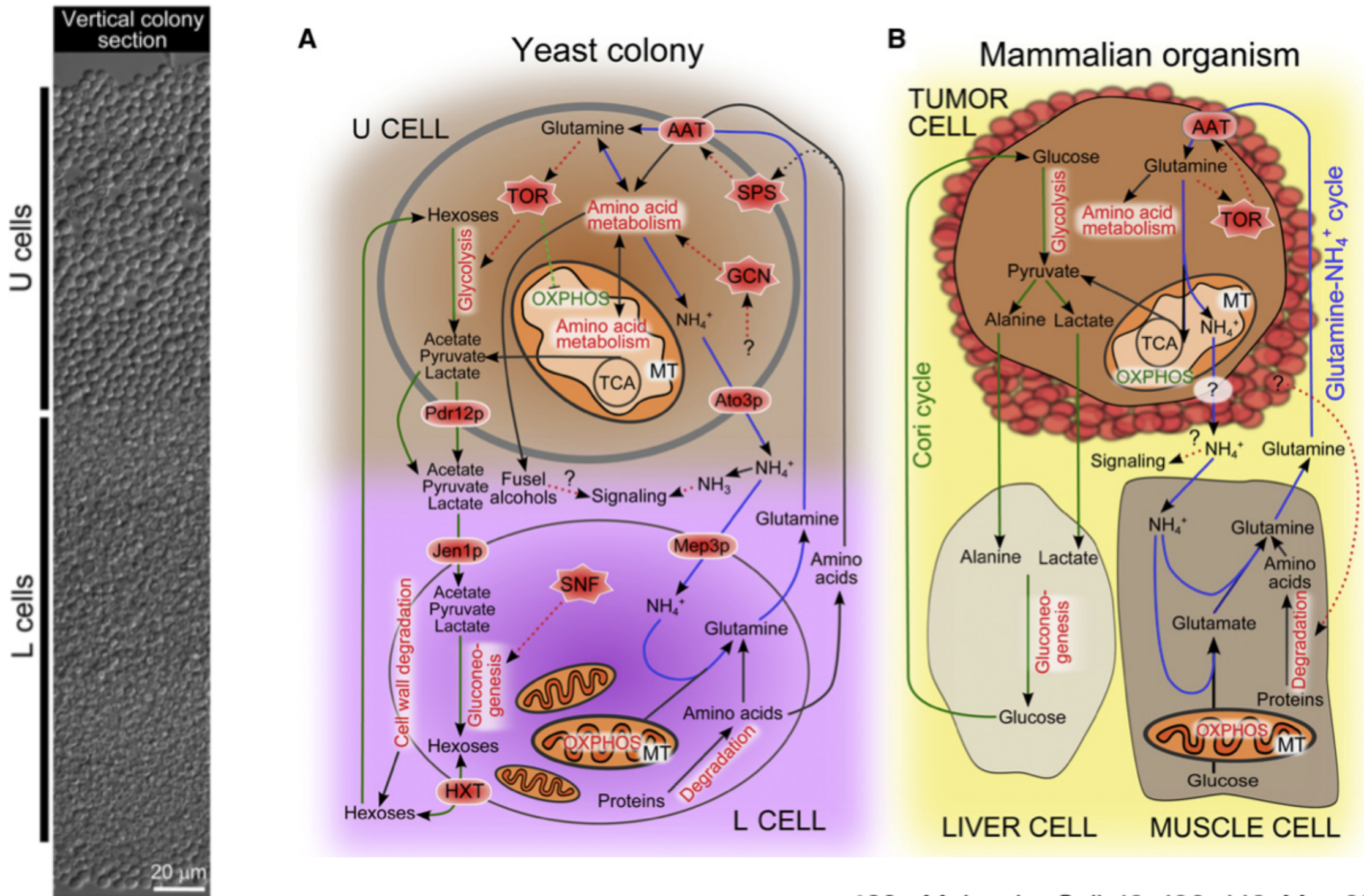


A strategy to eliminate biofilms: starve the interior first

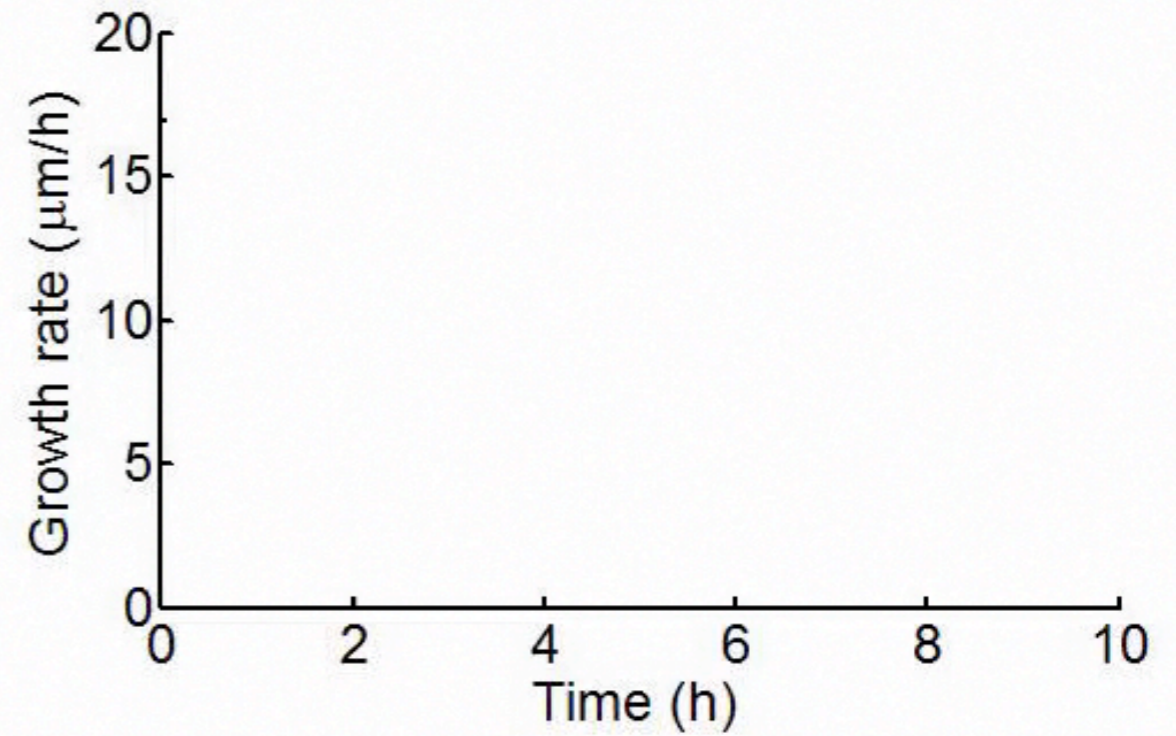
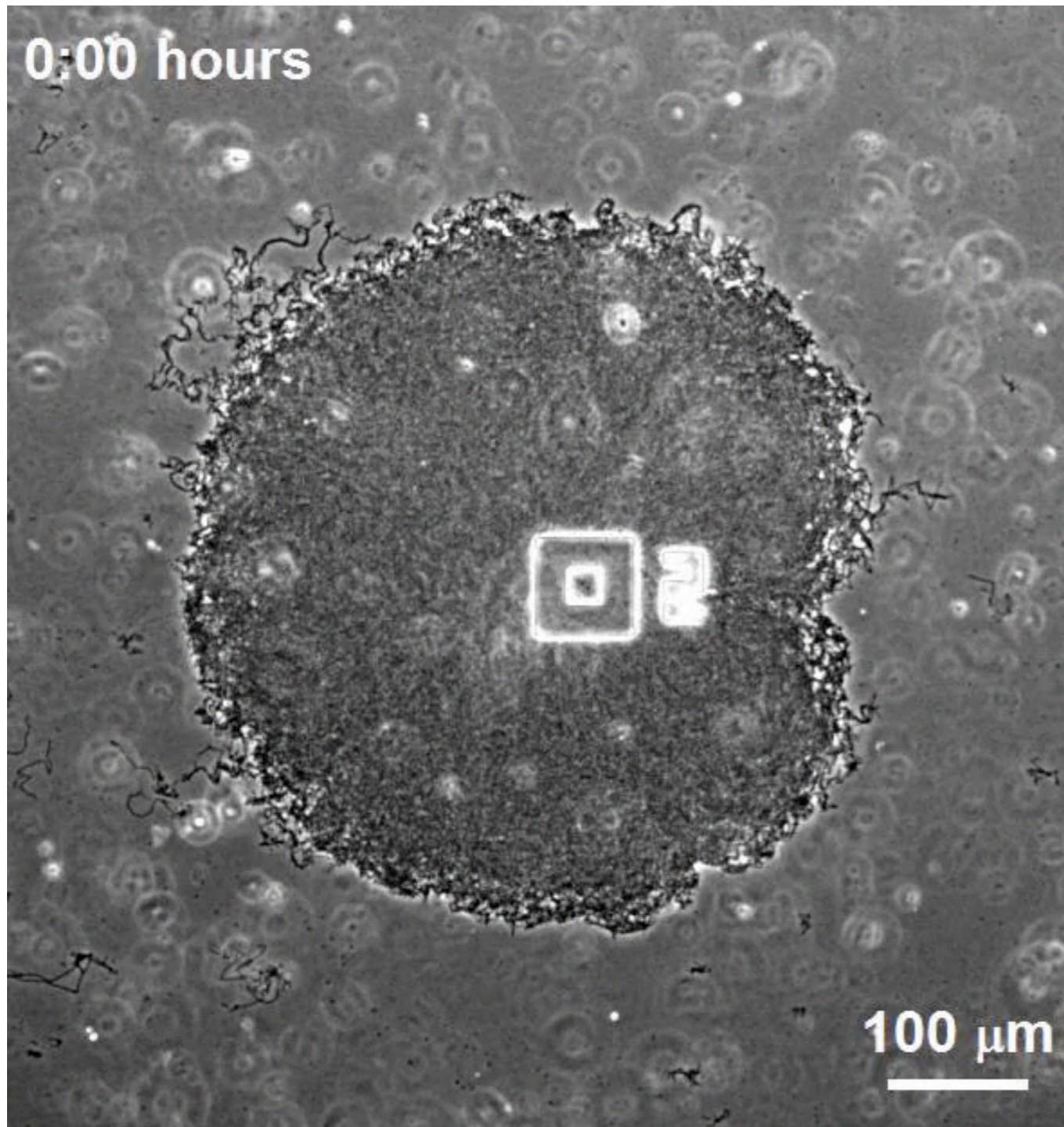


Cell Differentiation within a Yeast Colony: Metabolic and Regulatory Parallels with a Tumor-Affected Organism

Michal Čáp,¹ Luděk Štěpánek,¹ Karel Harant,^{1,2} Libuše Váchová,² and Zdena Palková^{1,*}

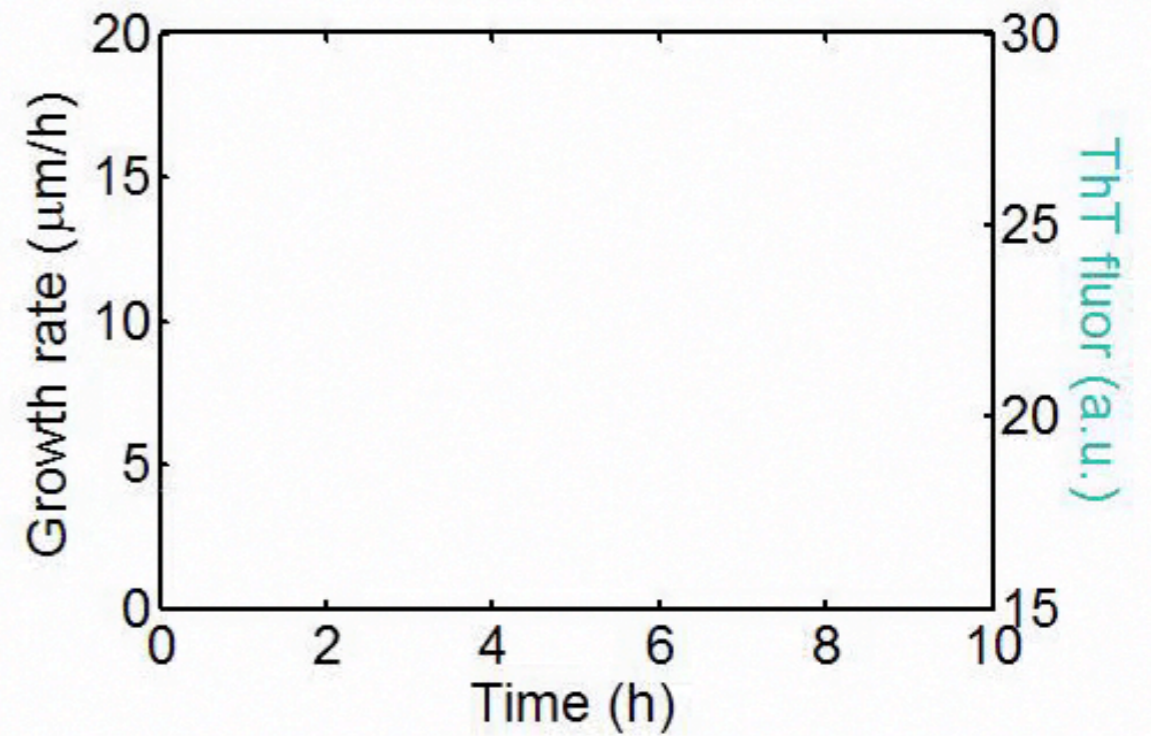
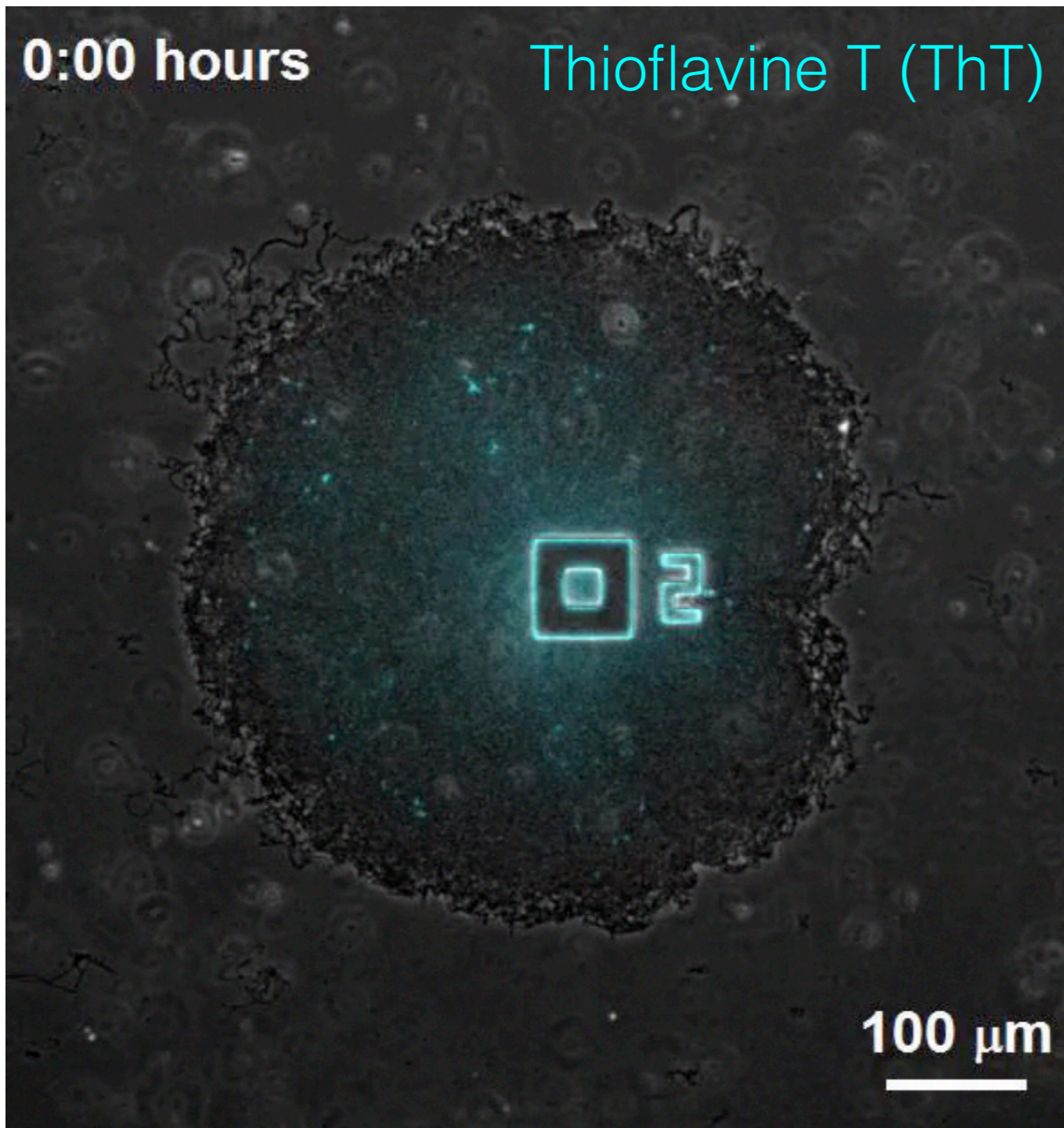


Beyond growth oscillations



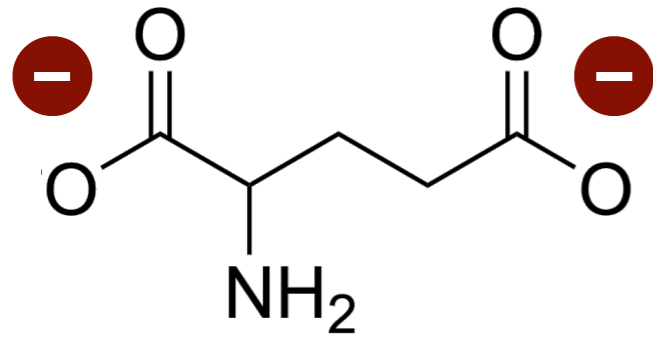
Arthur Prindle

Beyond growth oscillations

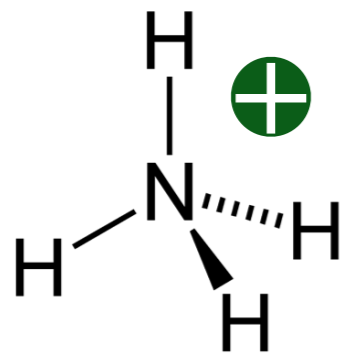


Arthur Prindle

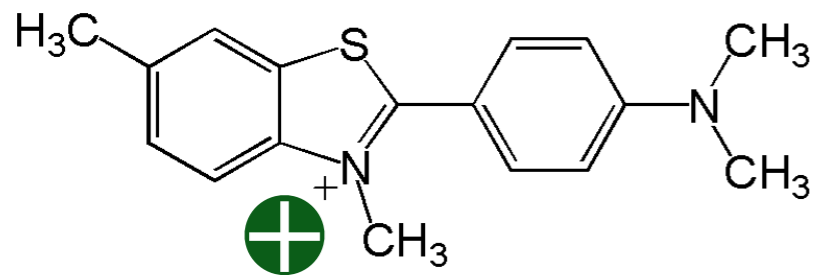
Our key metabolites are charged molecules



glutamate

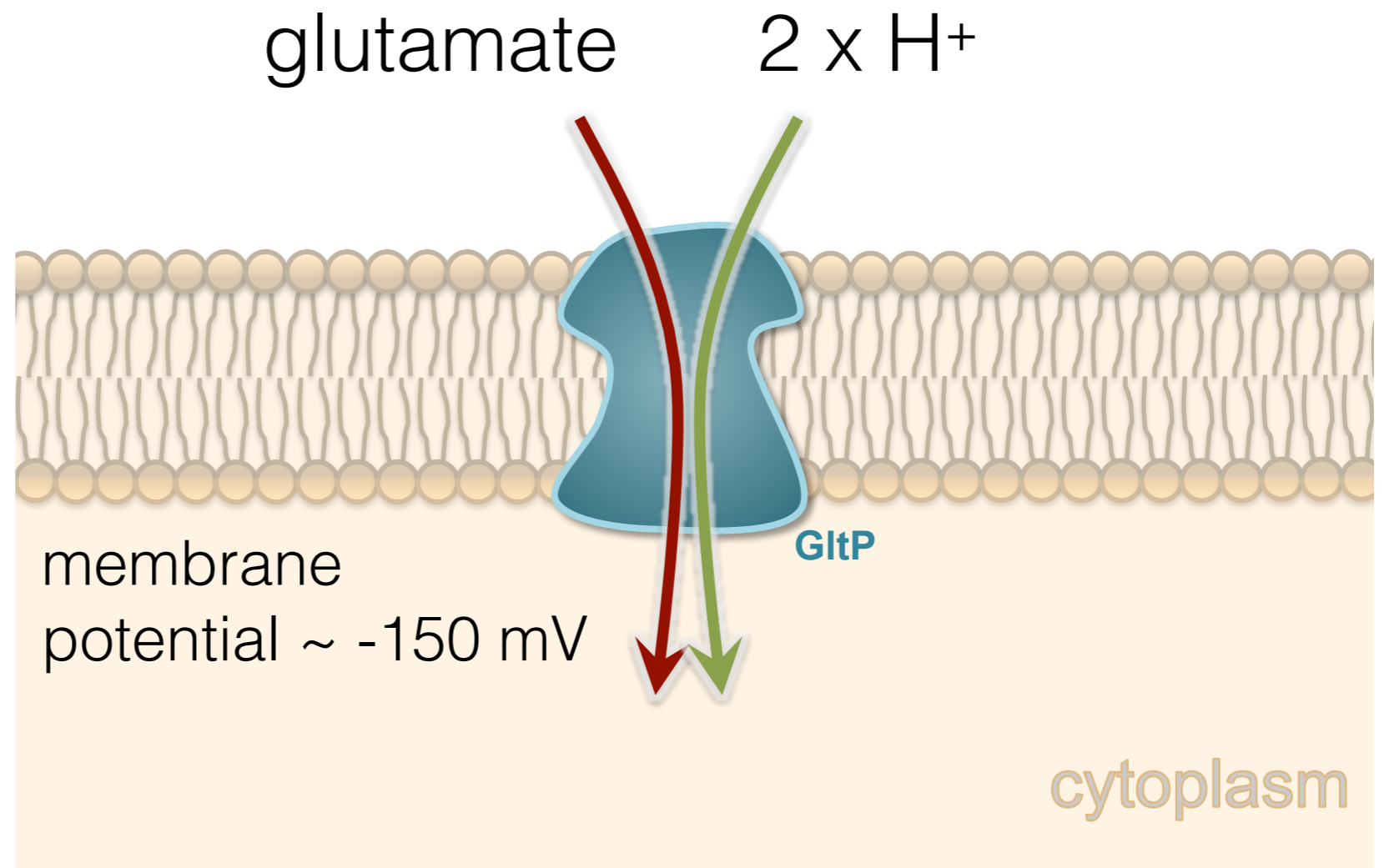
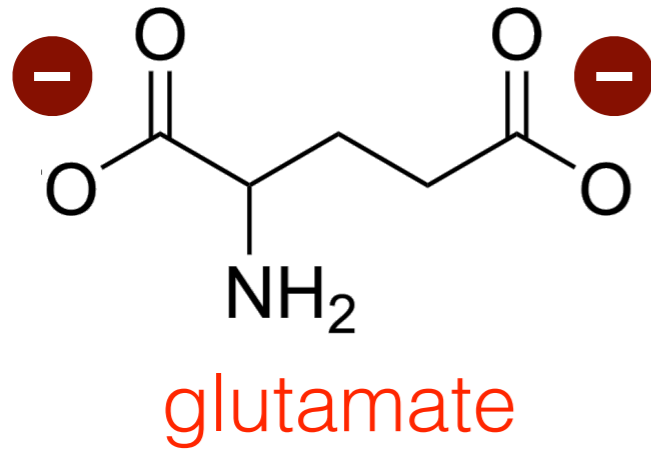


ammonium

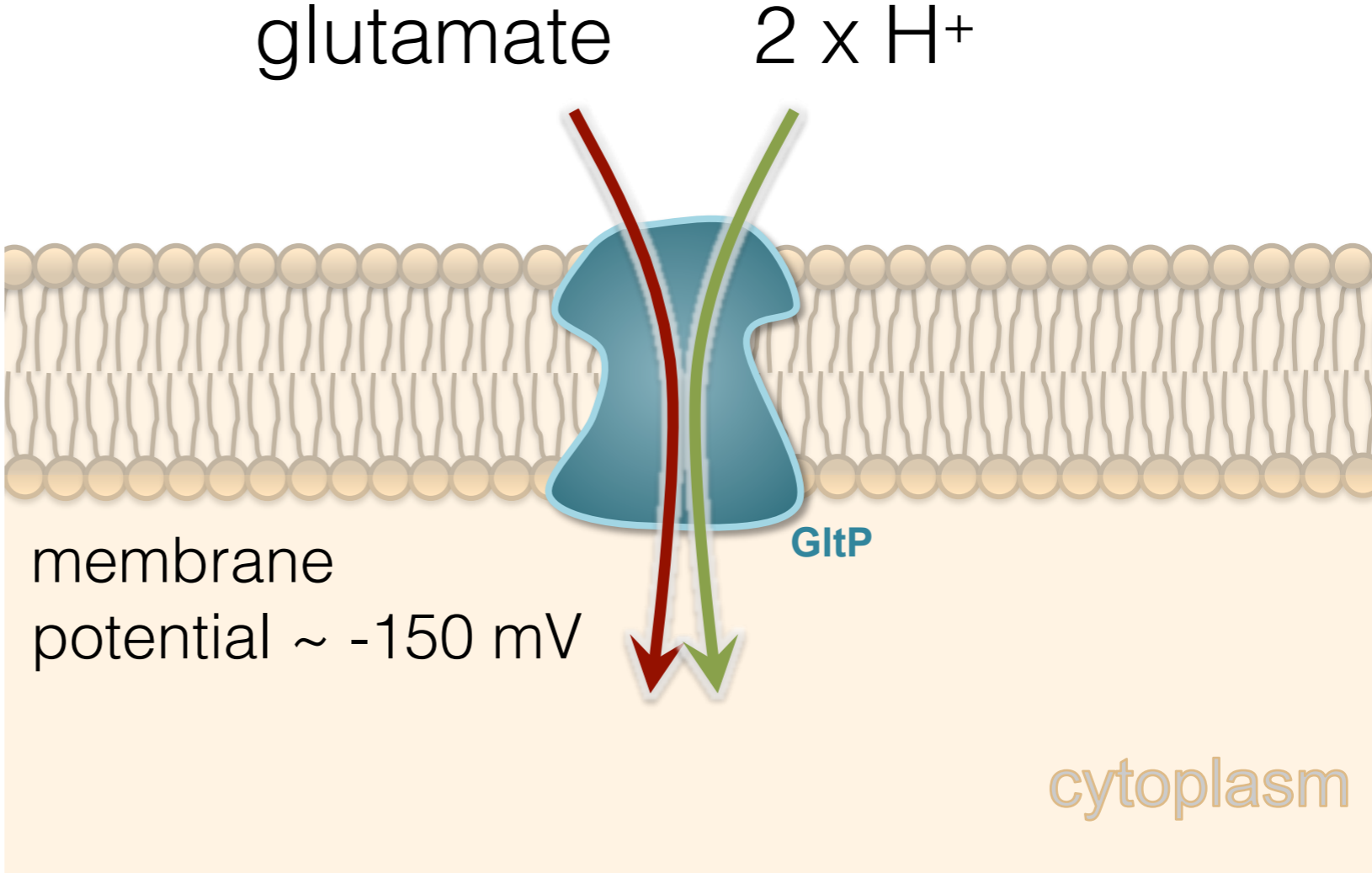
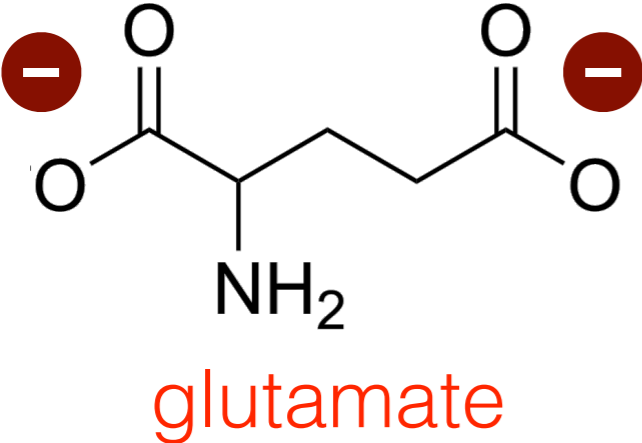


Thioflavine T (ThT)

Our key metabolites are charged molecules

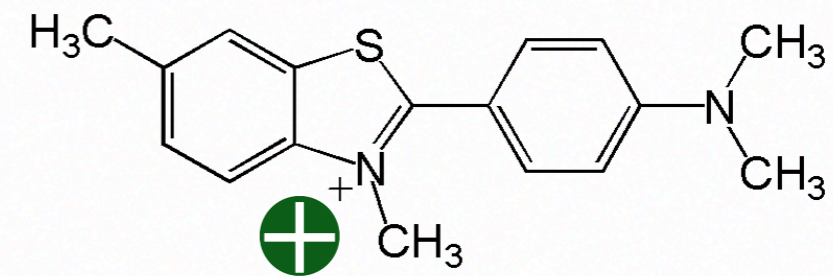
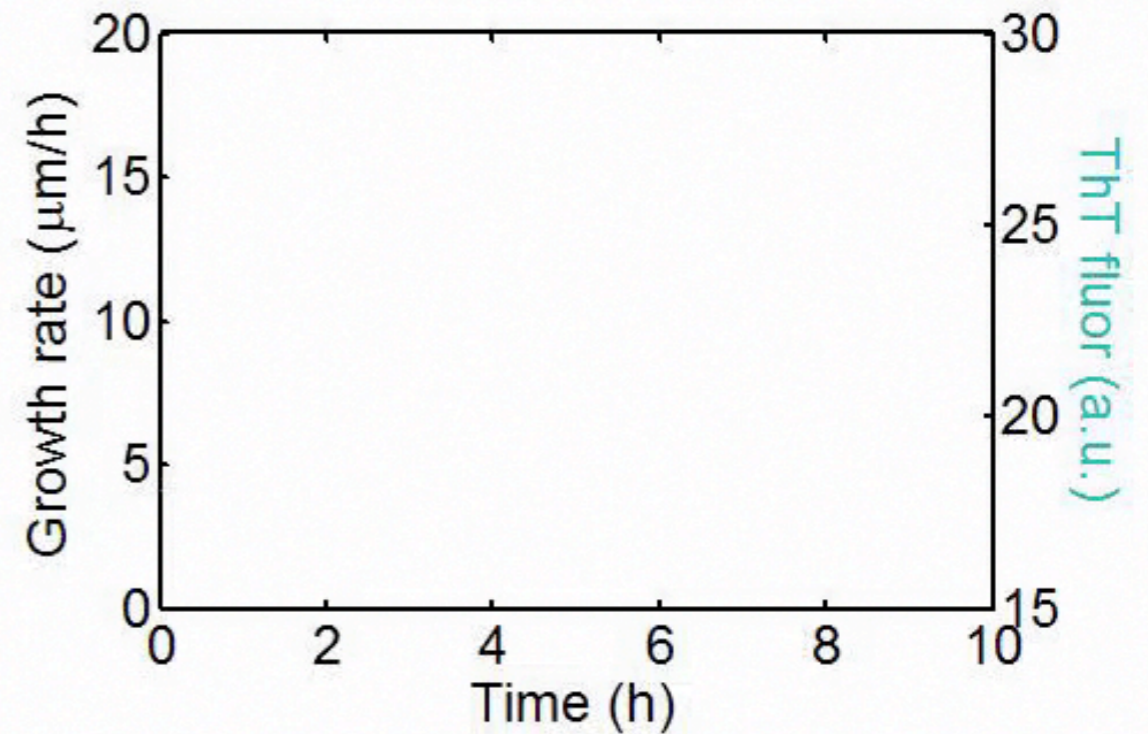
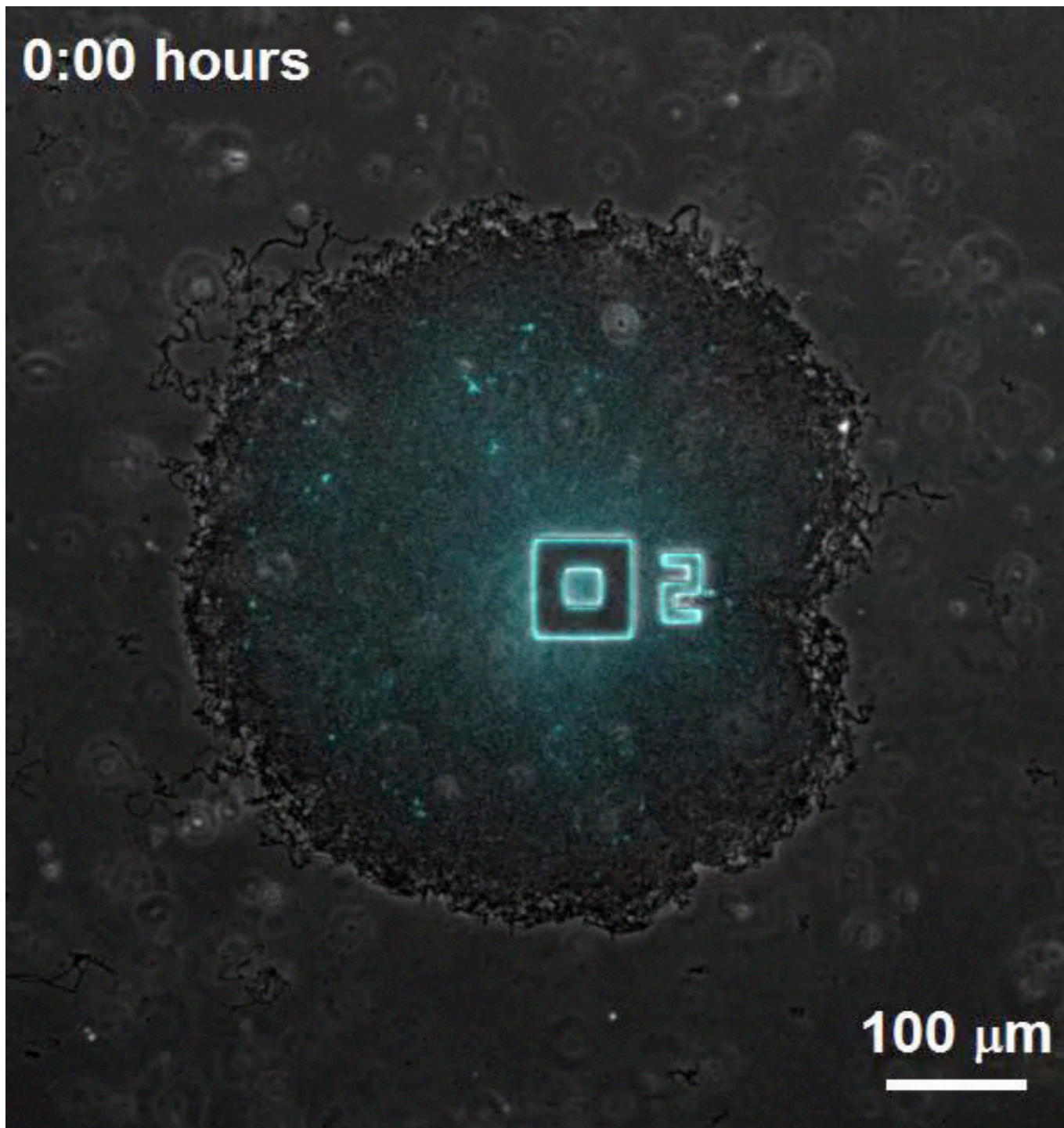


Membrane potential affects the metabolic state



→ glutamate uptake is reduced if the cell depolarizes

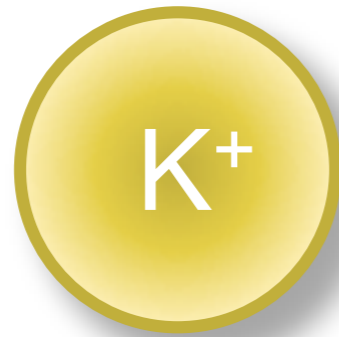
ThT oscillations reflect membrane potential oscillations



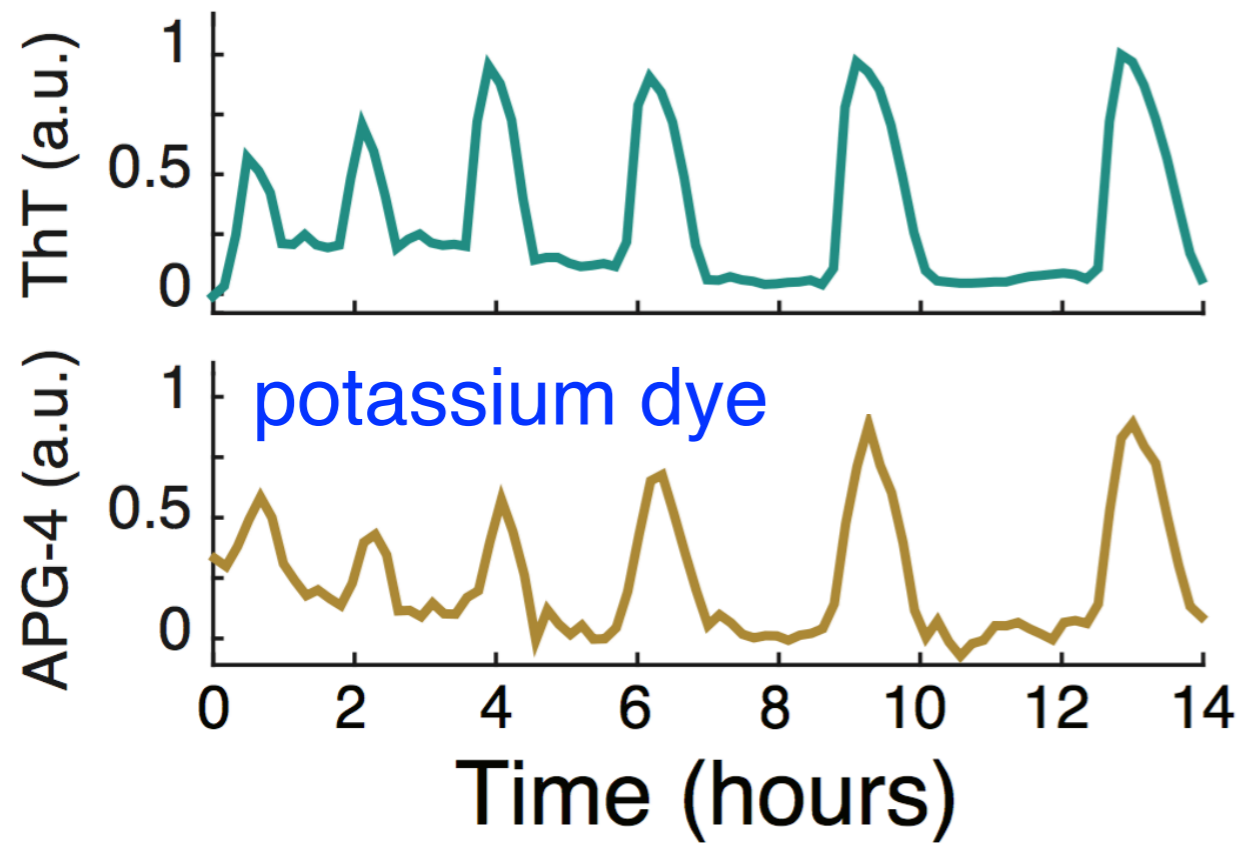
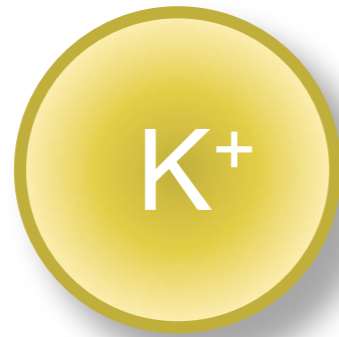
Thioflavine T (ThT)

(high when cell is hyperpolarized)

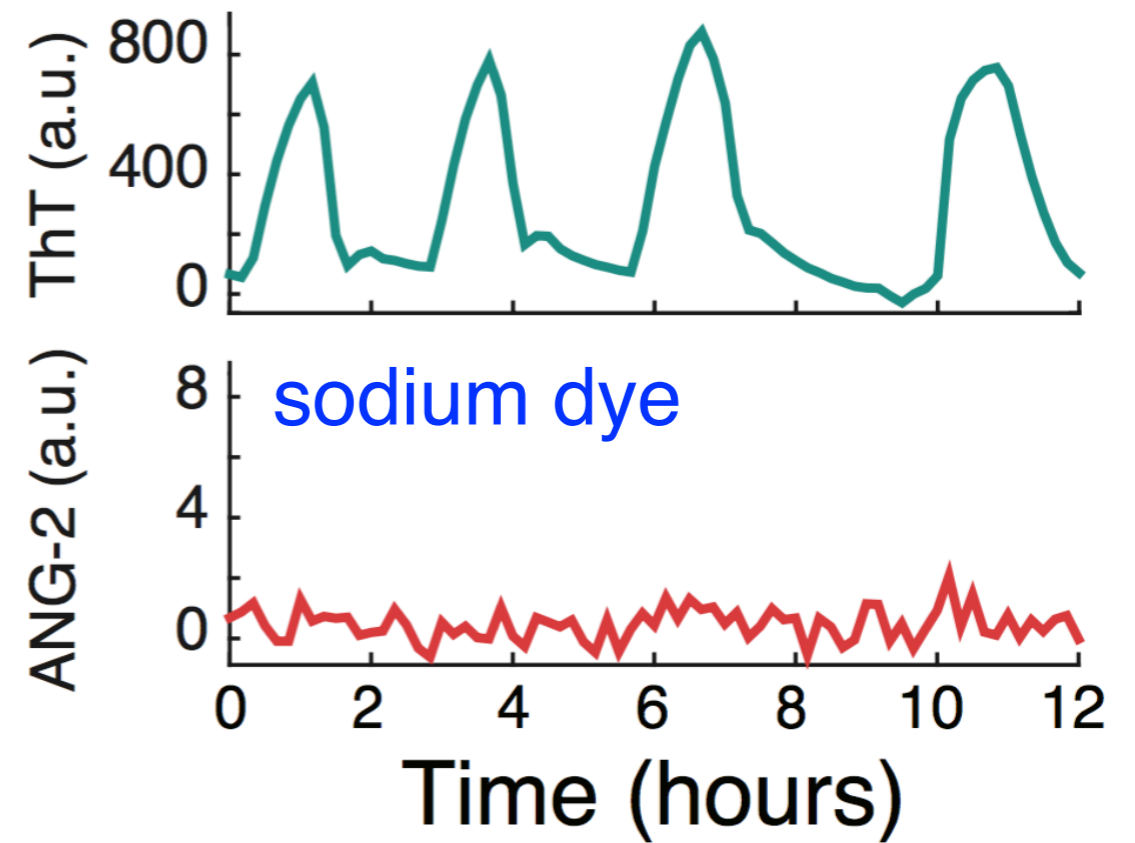
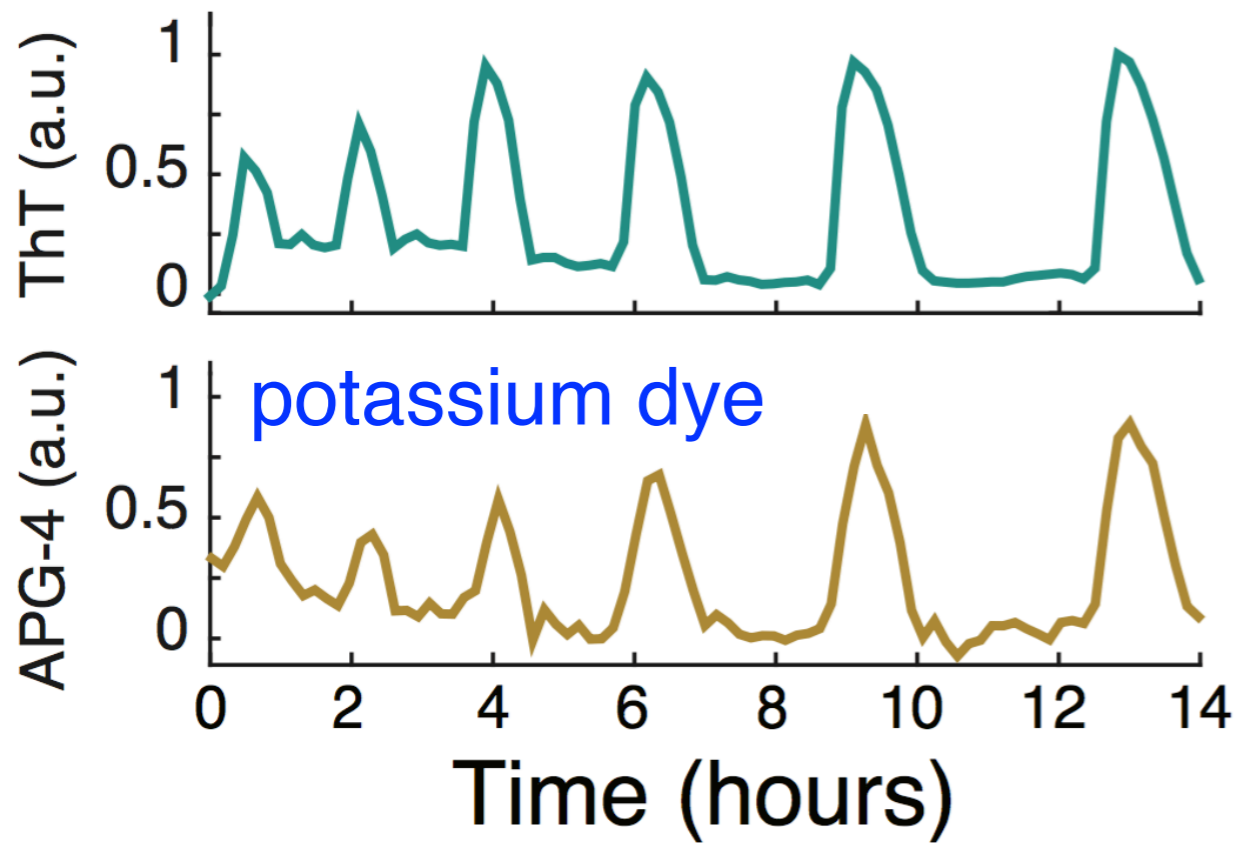
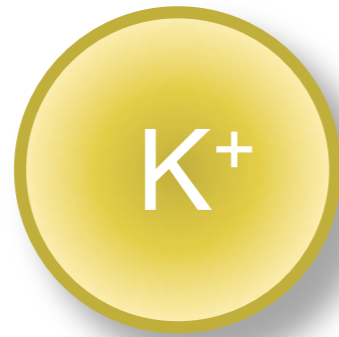
What ions are involved in the membrane potential oscillations?



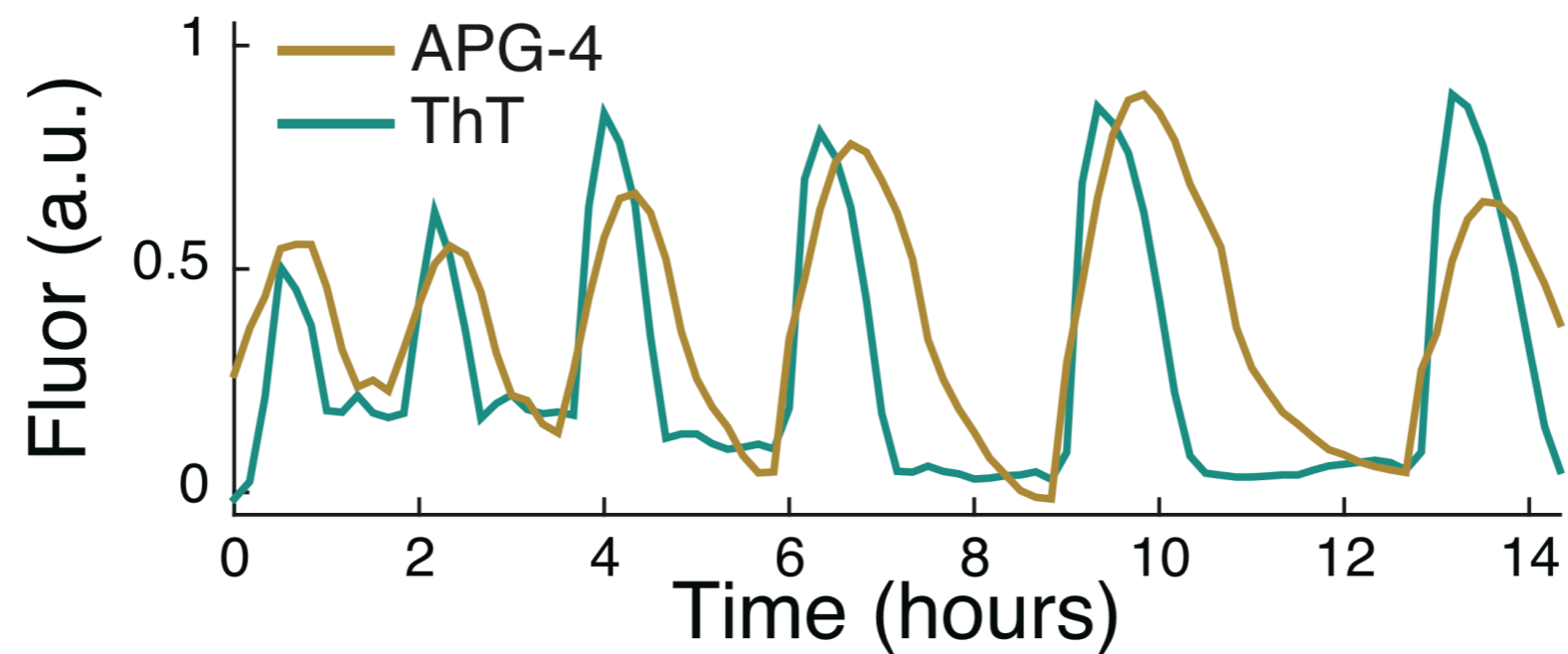
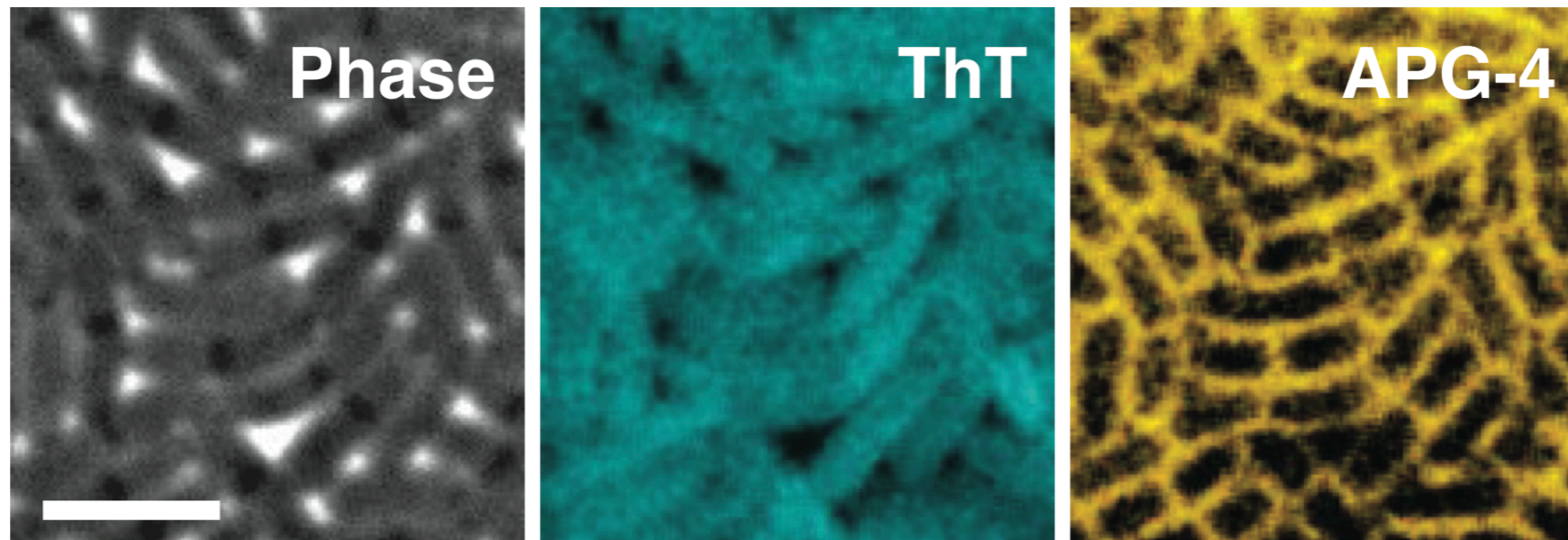
What ions are involved in the membrane potential oscillations?



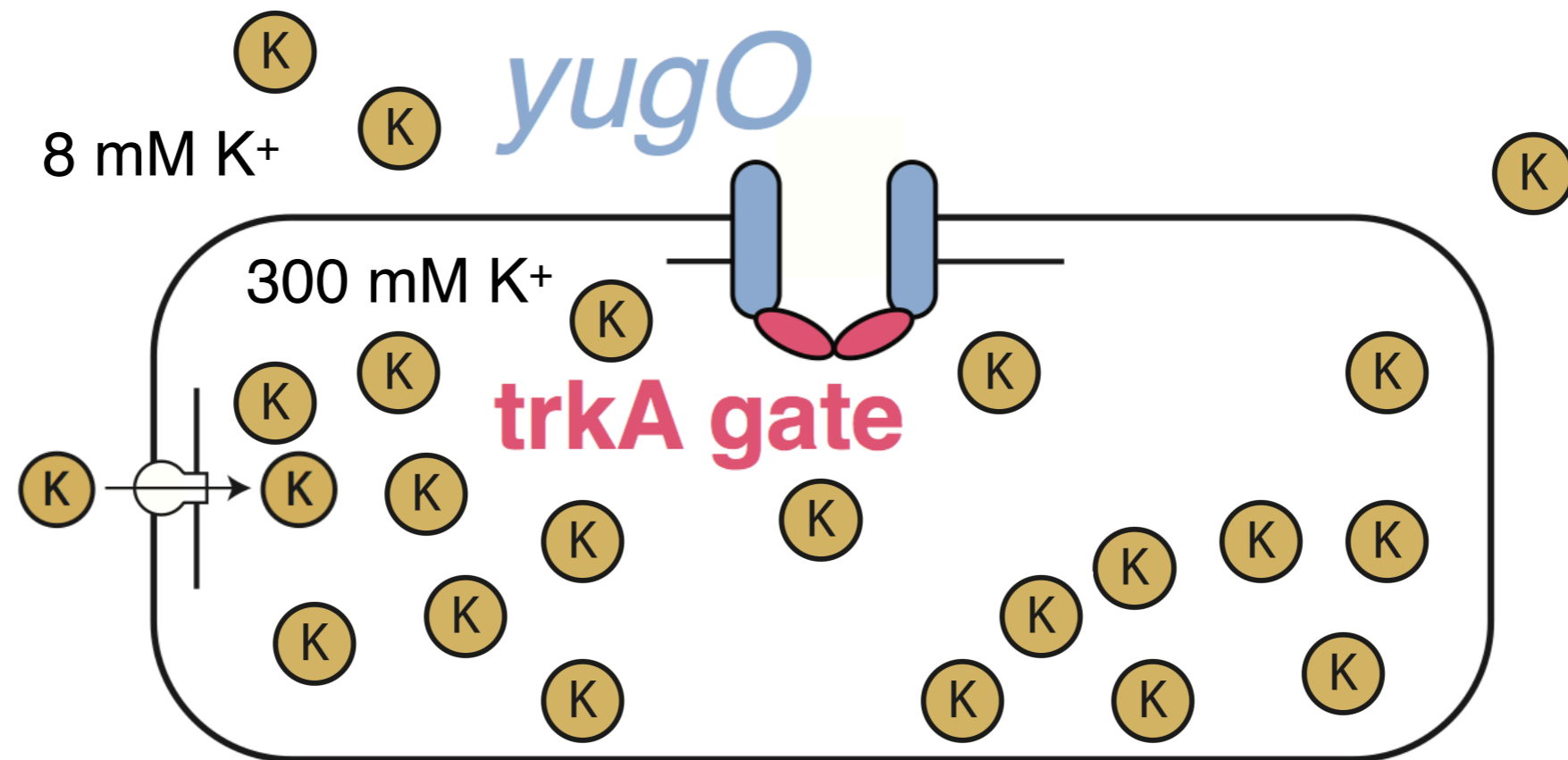
What ions are involved in the membrane potential oscillations?



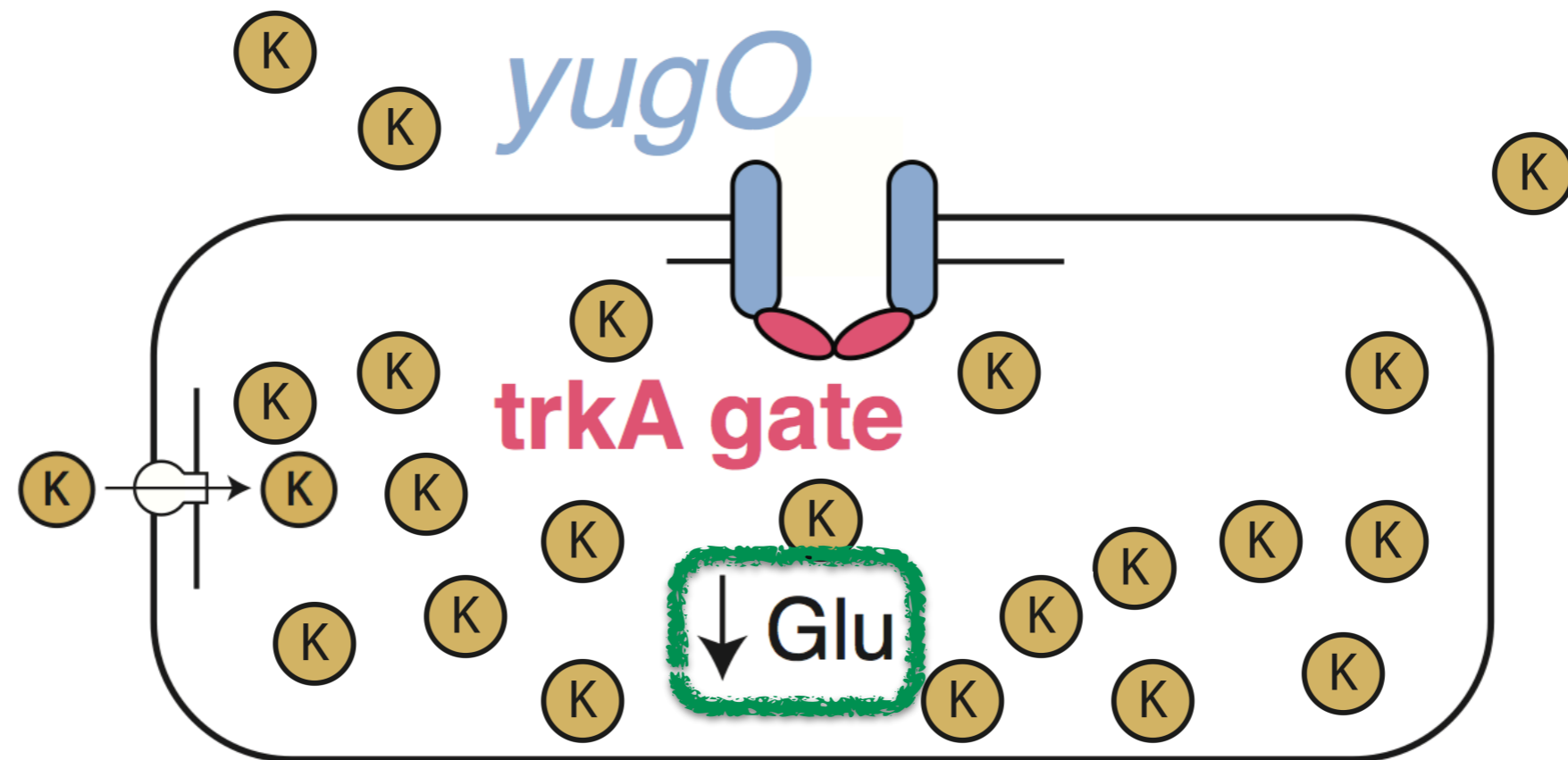
Dynamics of extracellular potassium



Potassium is concentrated inside the cell

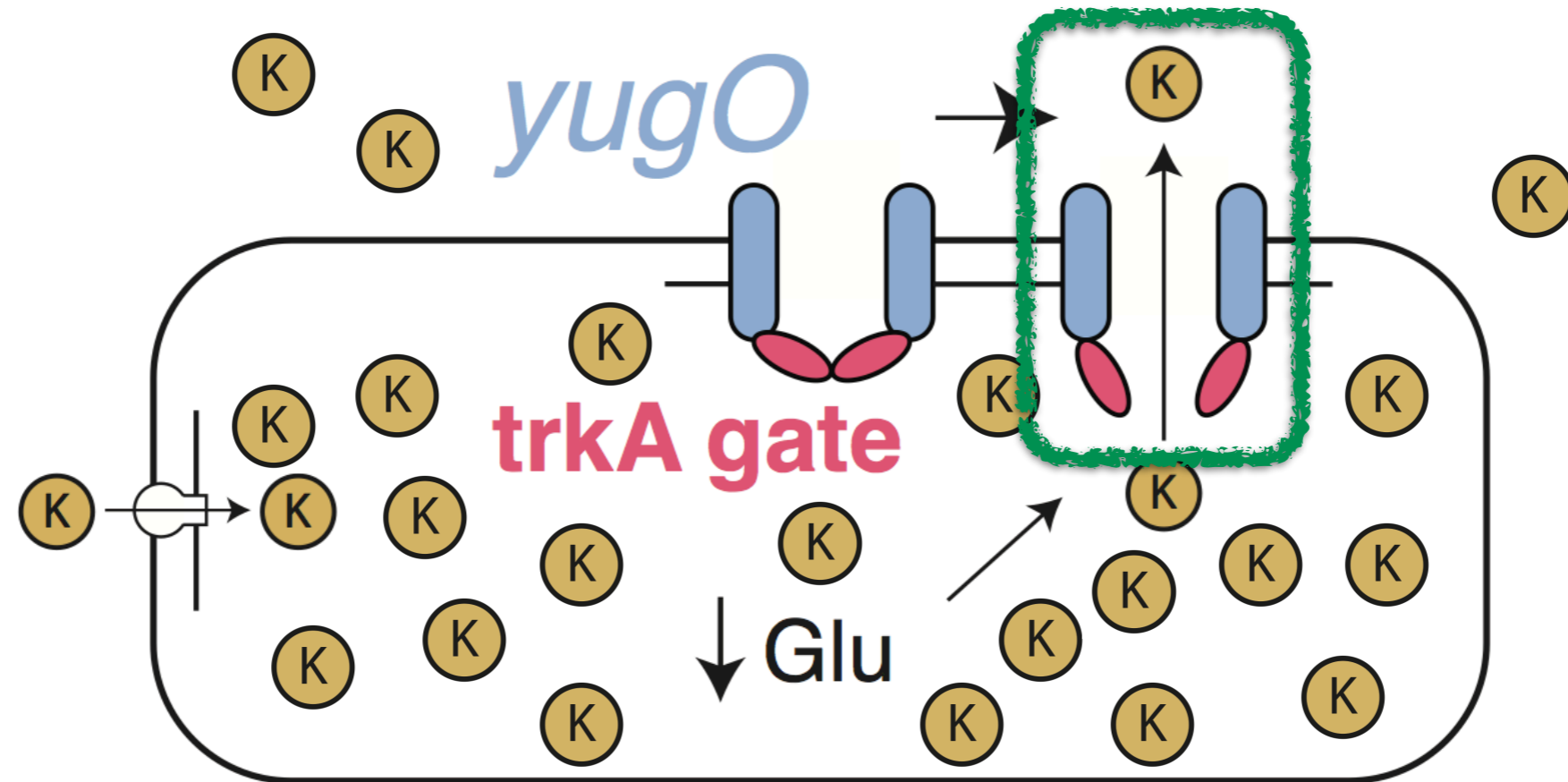


Potassium is released via a stress-gated ion channel



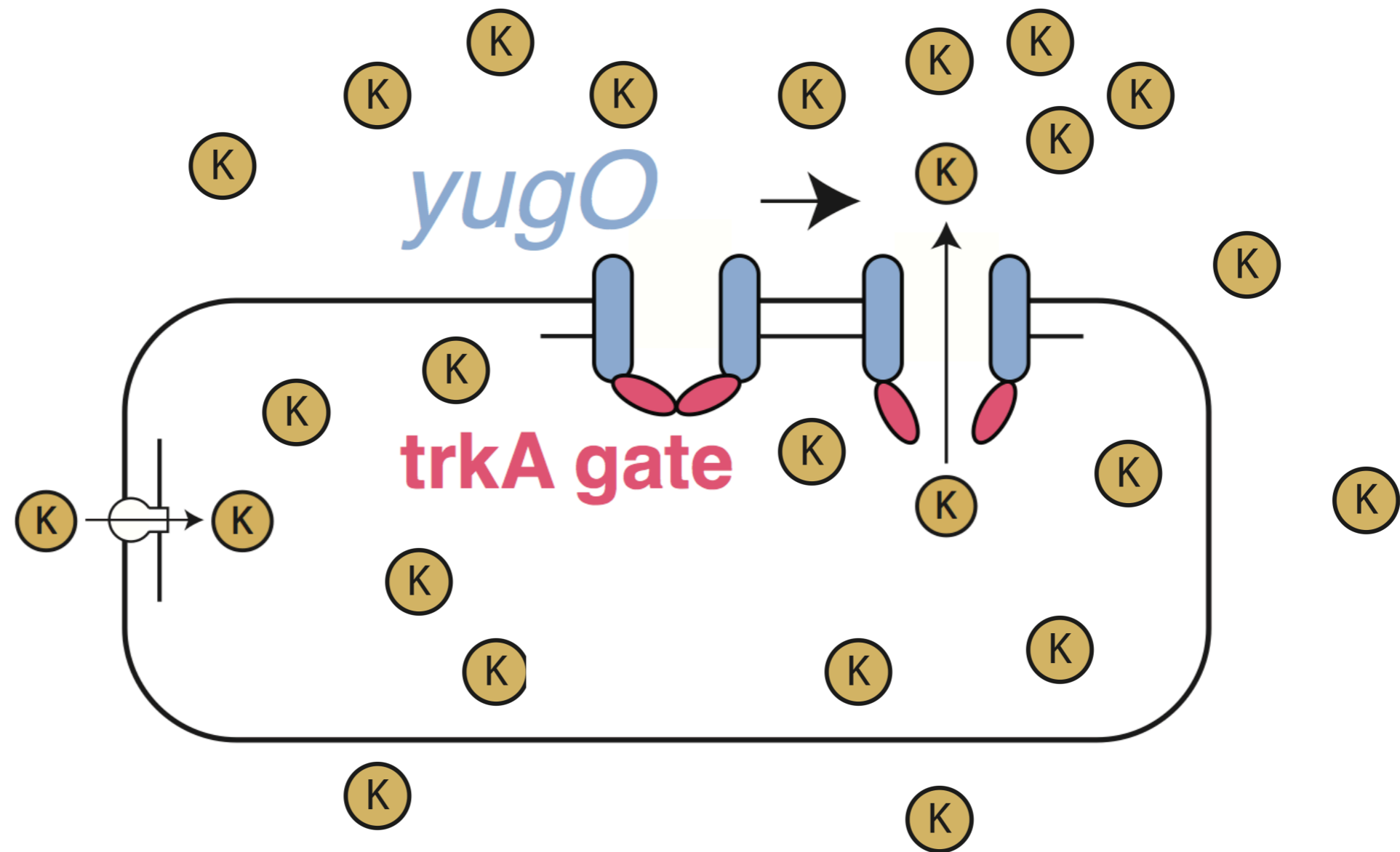
glutamate
decrease →

Potassium is released via a stress-gated ion channel



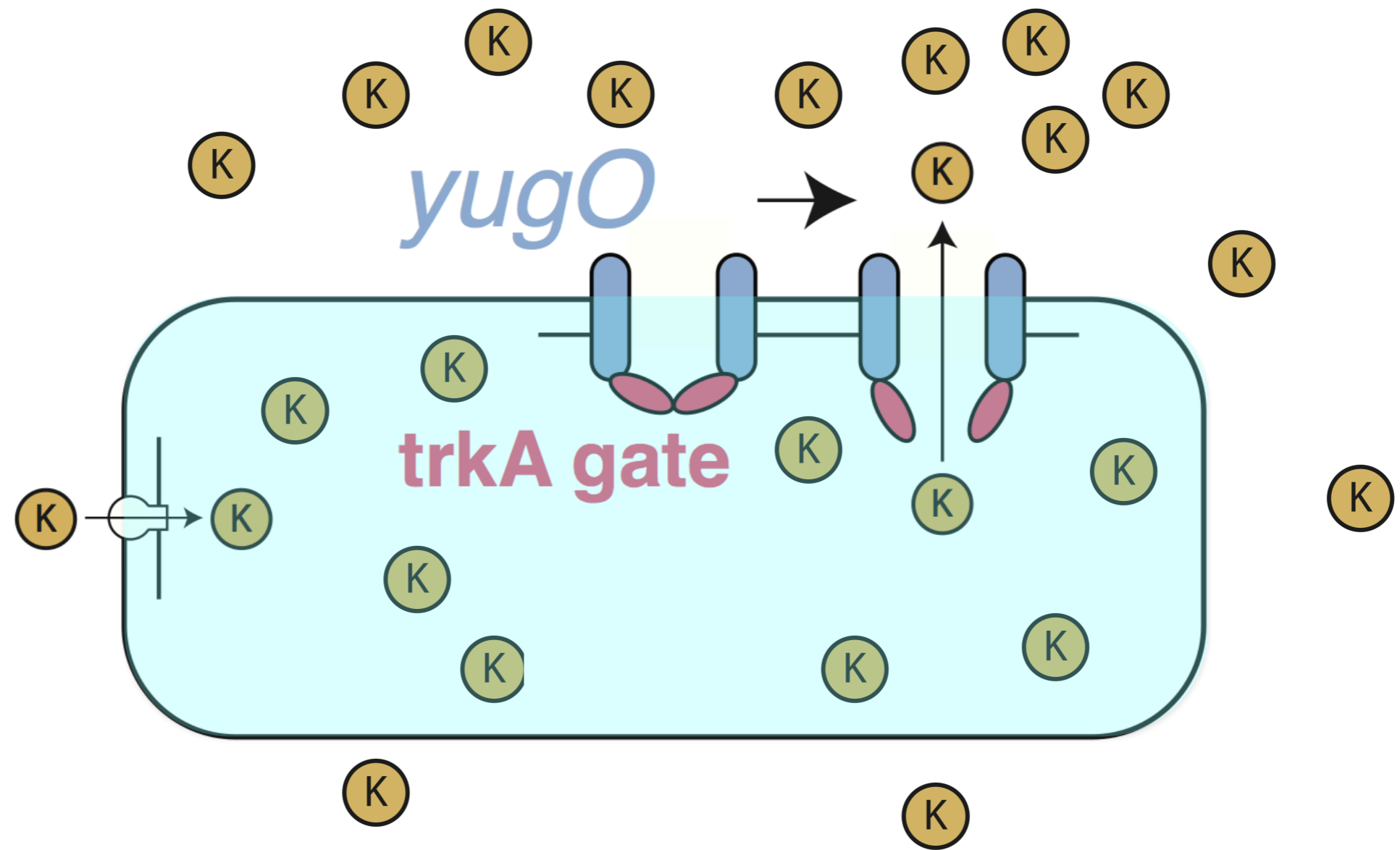
glutamate decrease → channel opens →

Potassium is released via a stress-gated ion channel



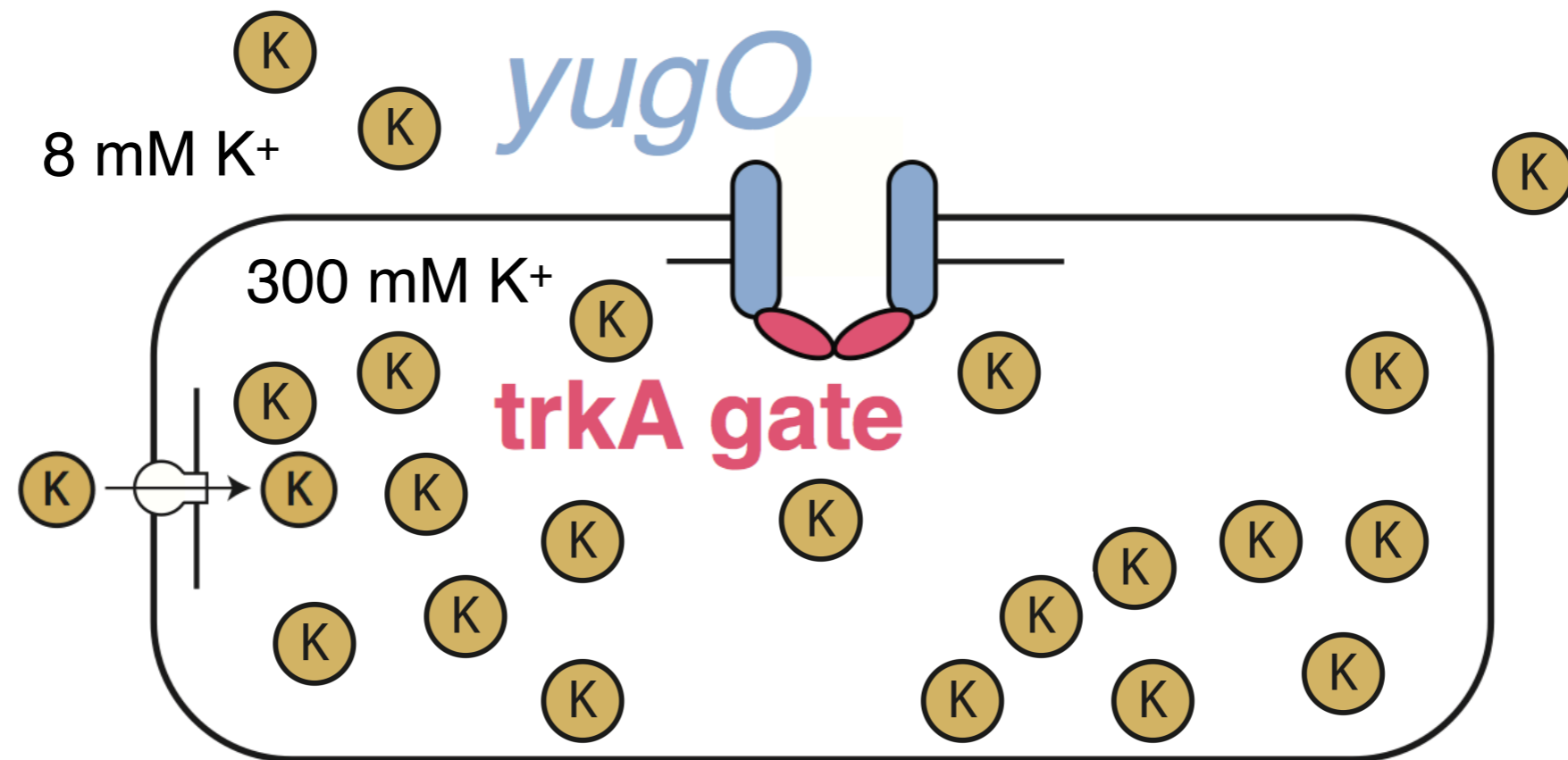
glutamate decrease → channel opens → potassium released →

Potassium release hyperpolarizes the cell



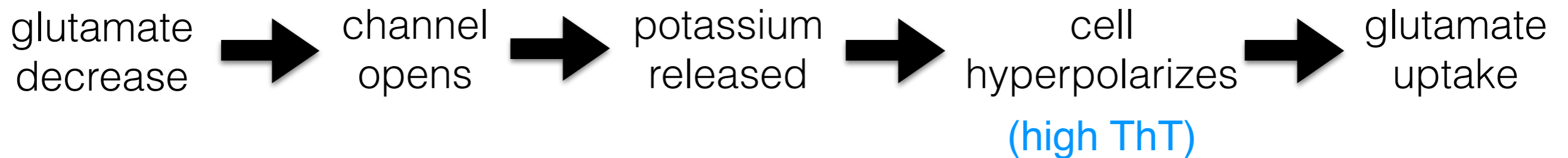
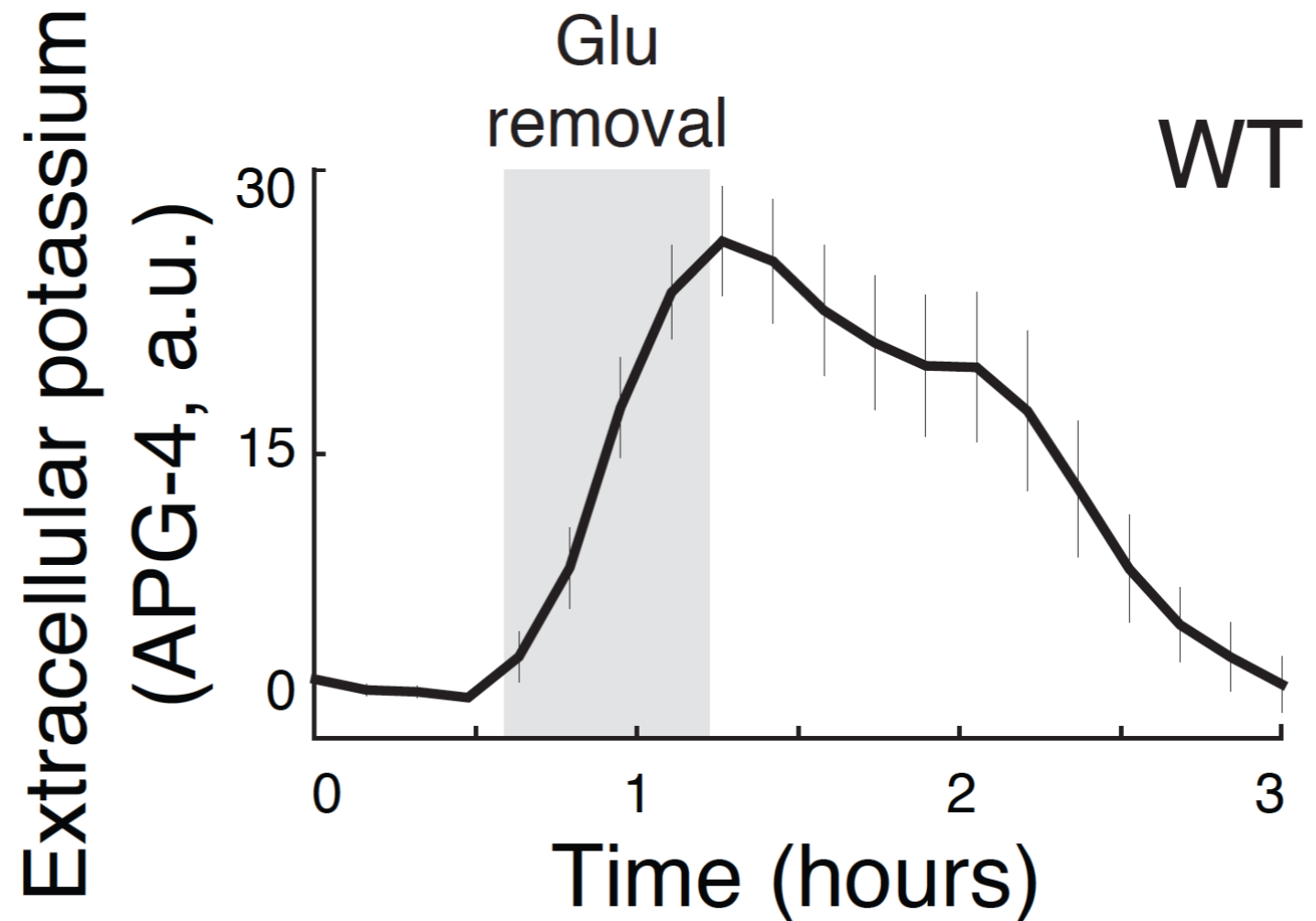
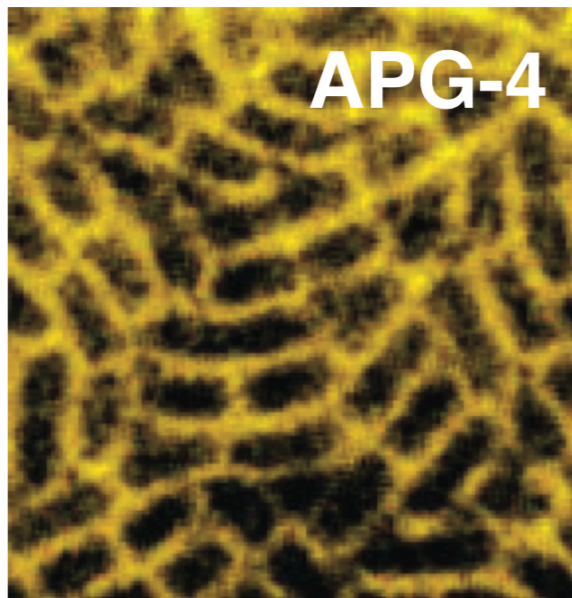
glutamate decrease → channel opens → potassium released → cell hyperpolarizes (high ThT) →

Hyperpolarization allows glutamate uptake again

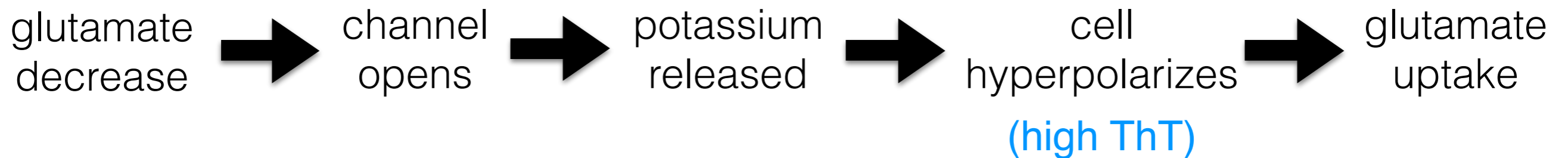
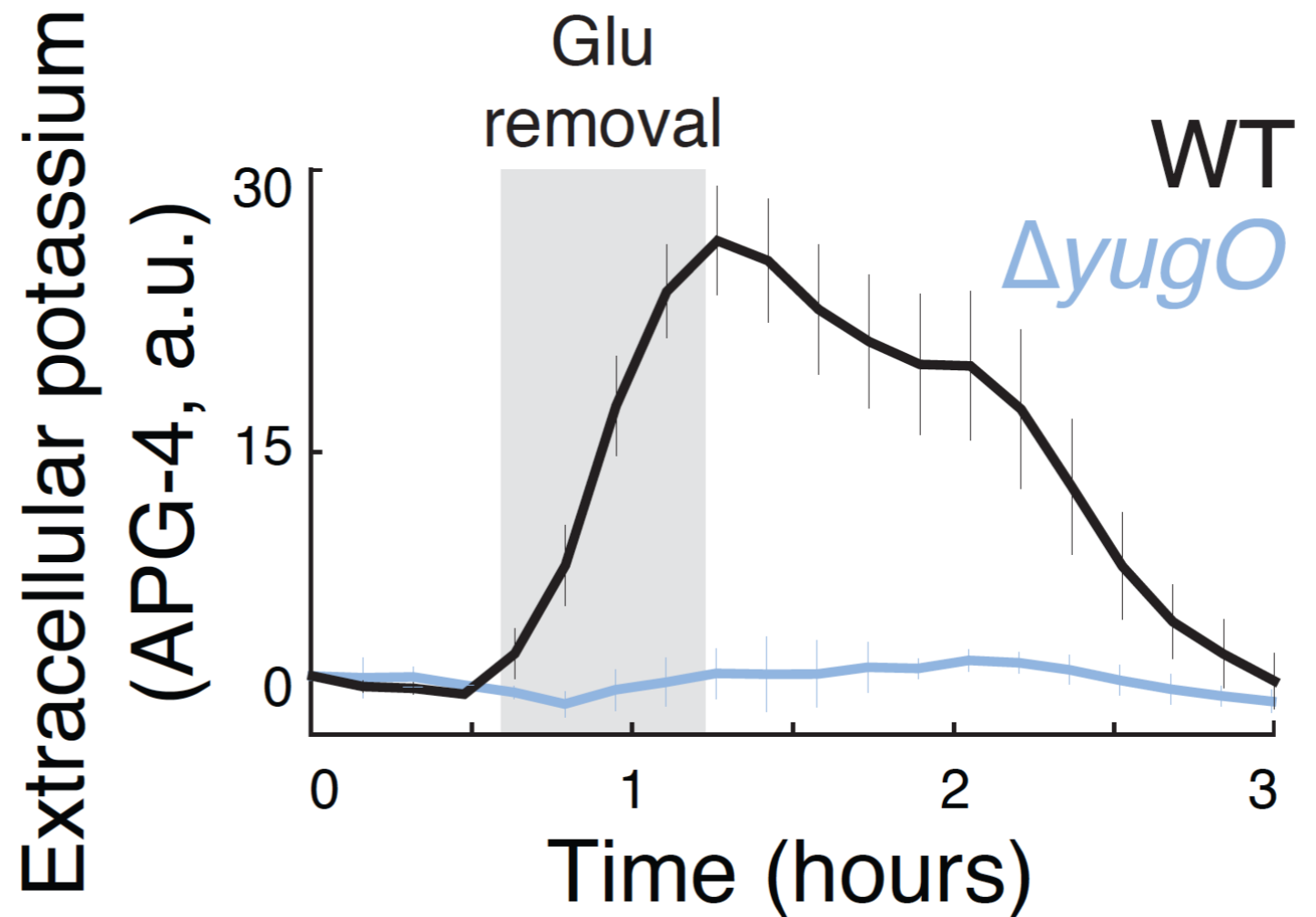
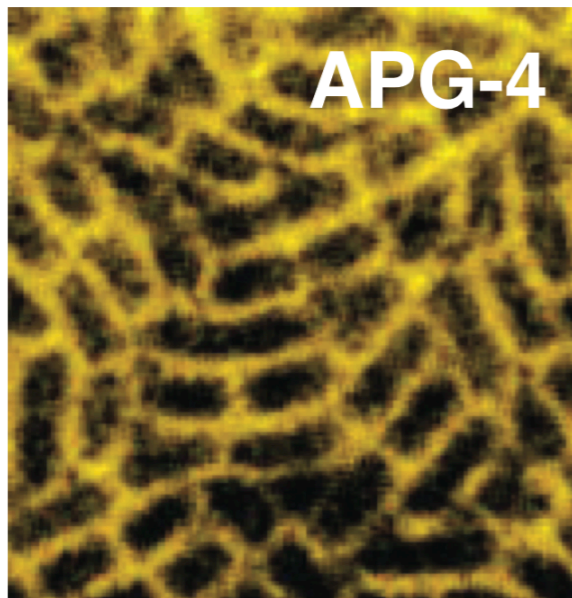


glutamate decrease → channel opens → potassium released → cell hyperpolarizes (high ThT) → glutamate uptake

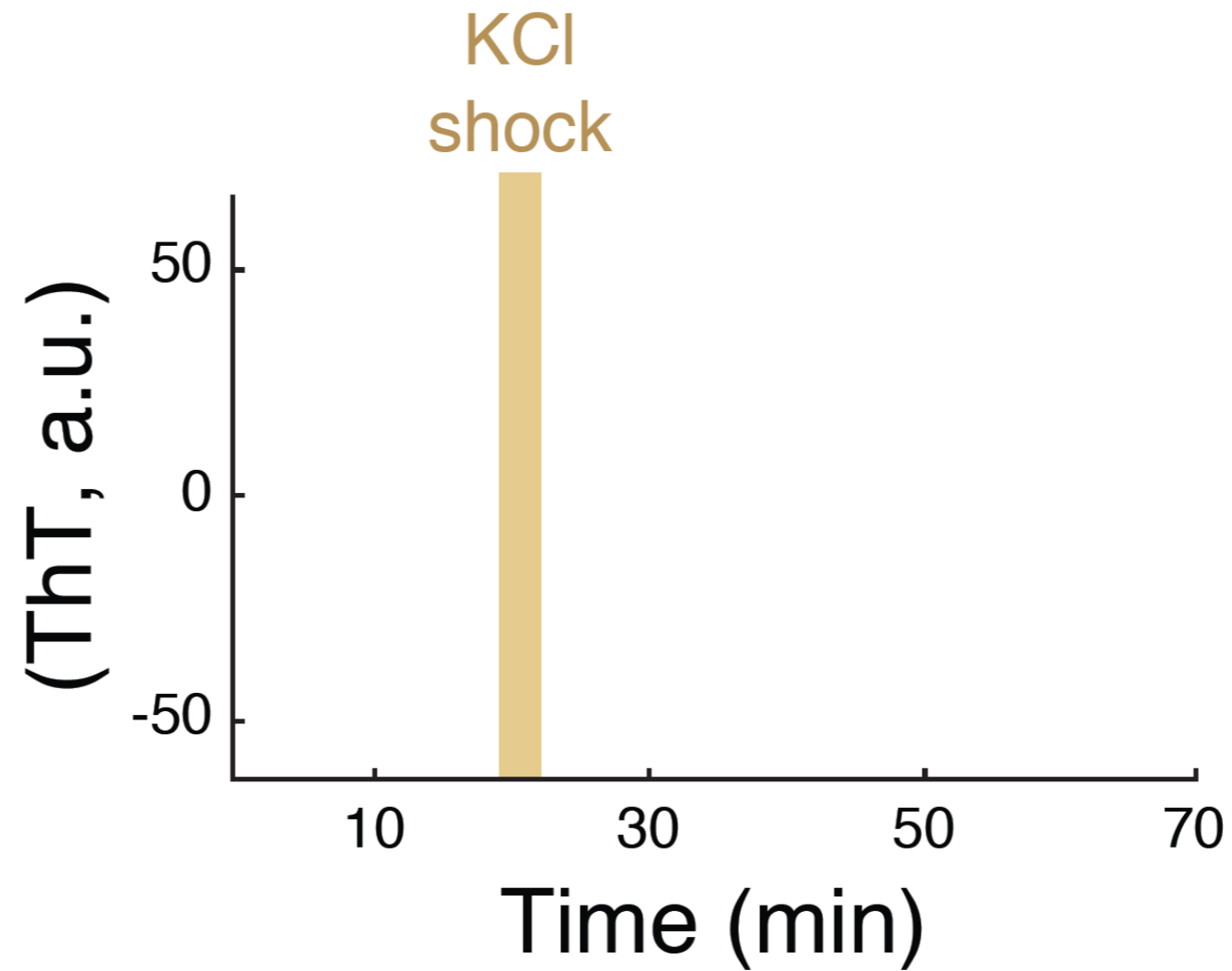
Testing the mechanism: glutamate removal triggers potassium release



Testing the mechanism: channel opening leads to potassium release

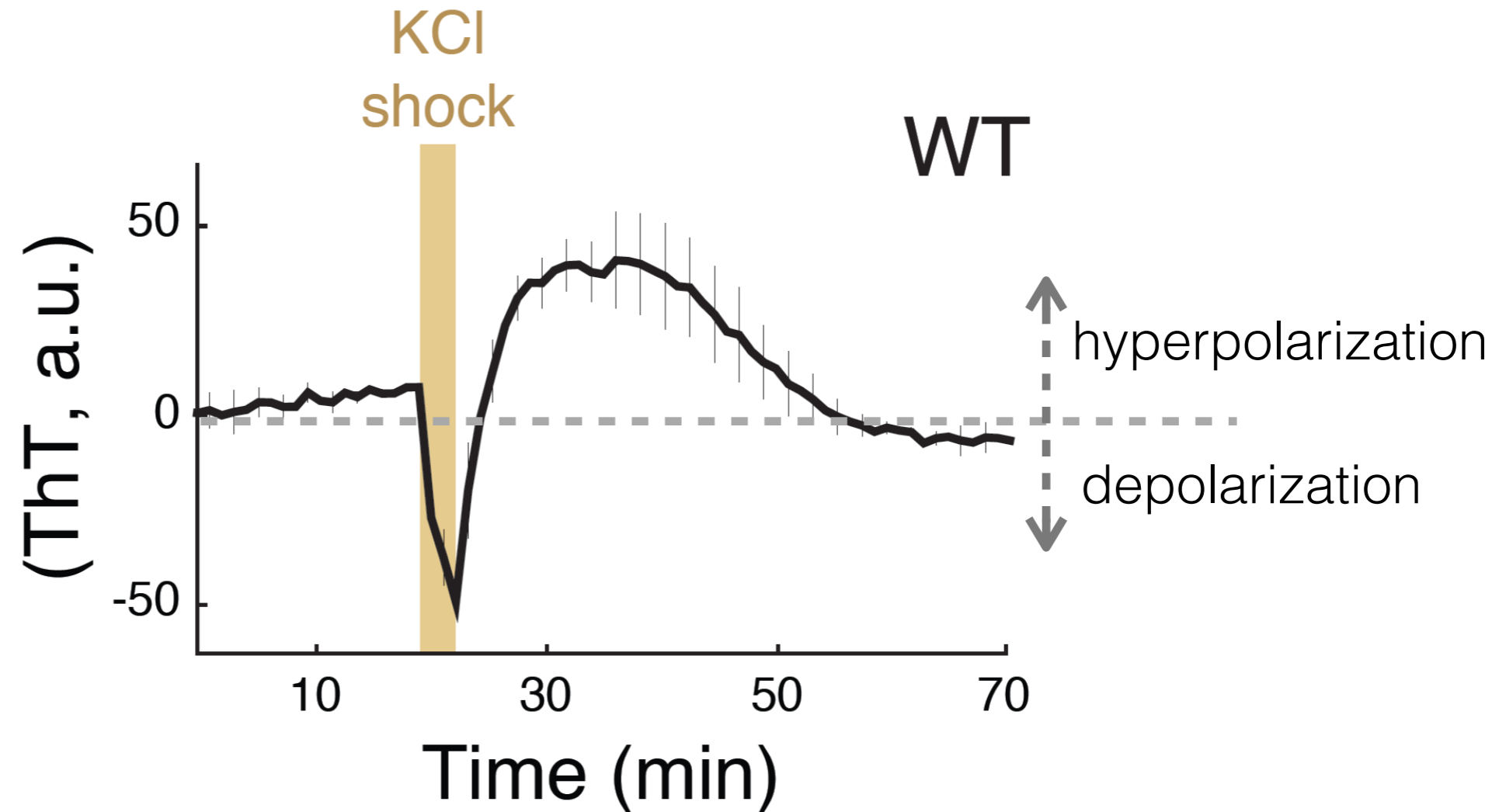


Potassium exposure also triggers potassium release

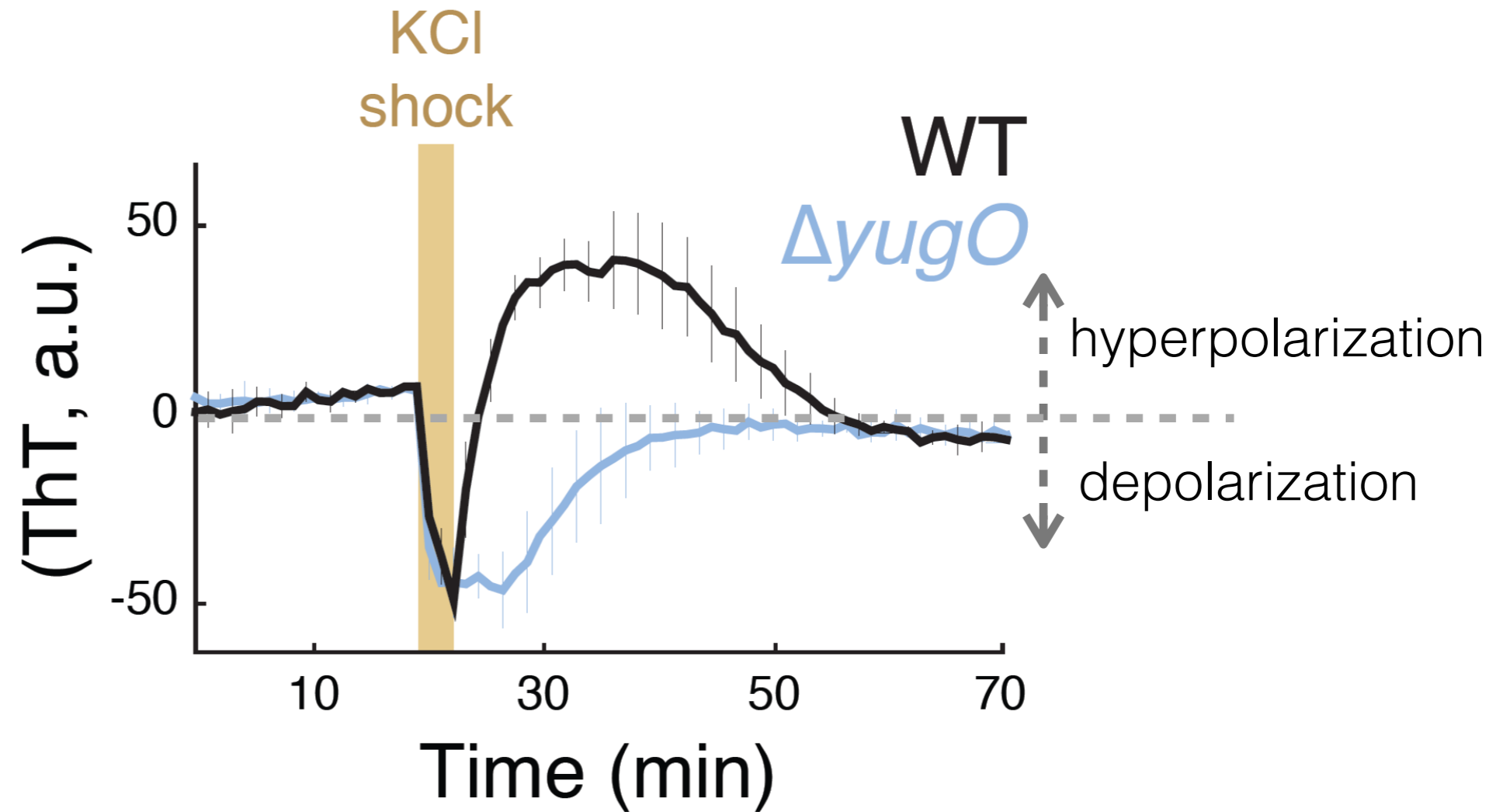


potassium exposure →

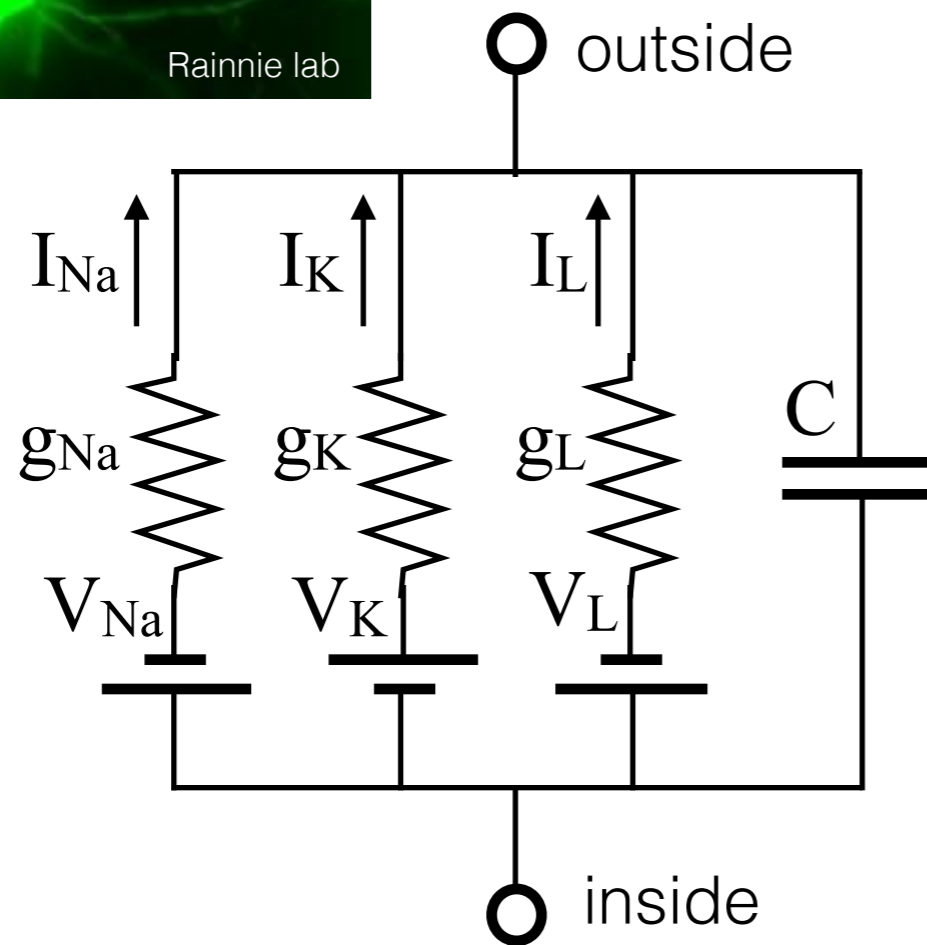
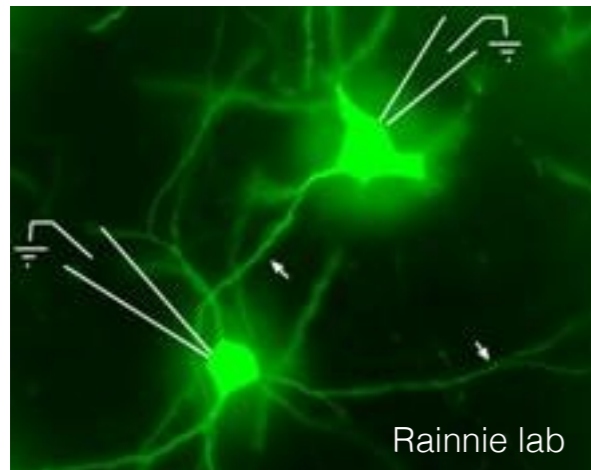
Potassium exposure also triggers potassium release



Potassium exposure also triggers potassium release

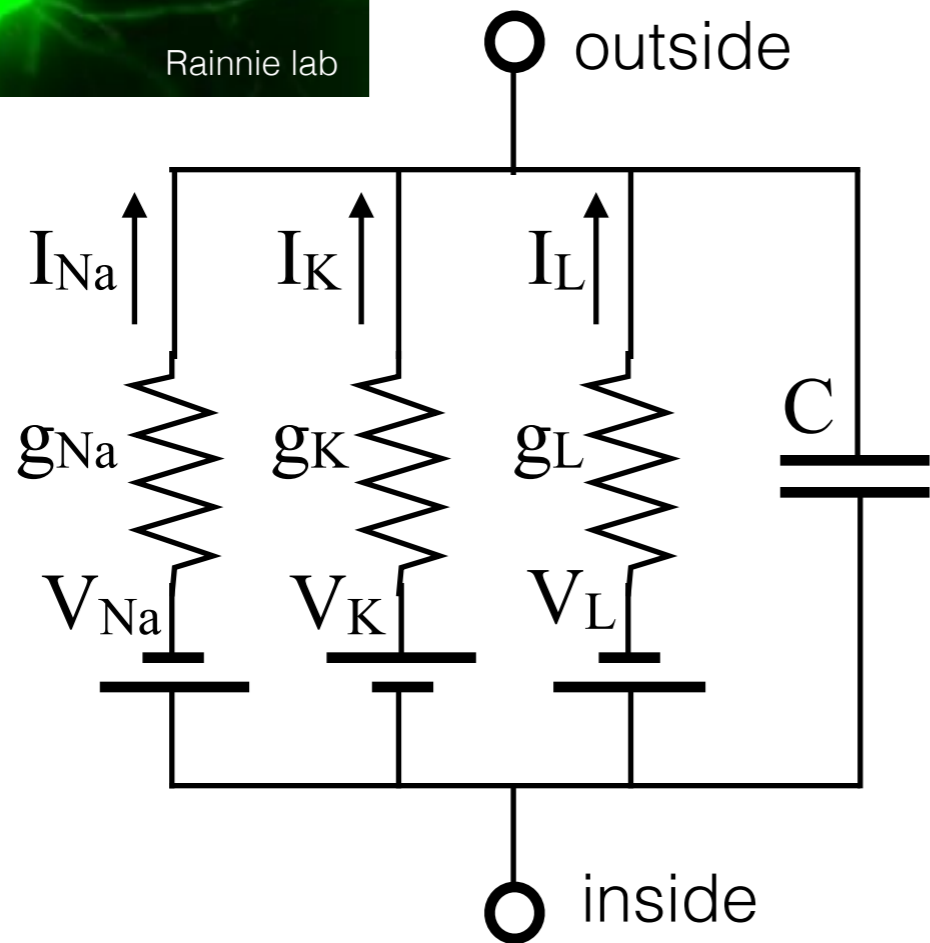
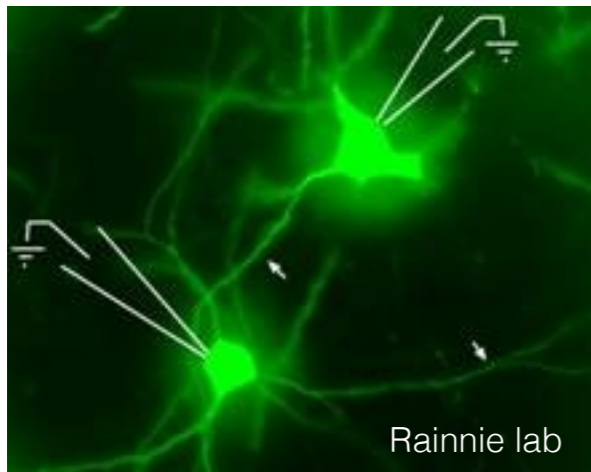


Hodgkin-Huxley model of neuronal electrophysiology



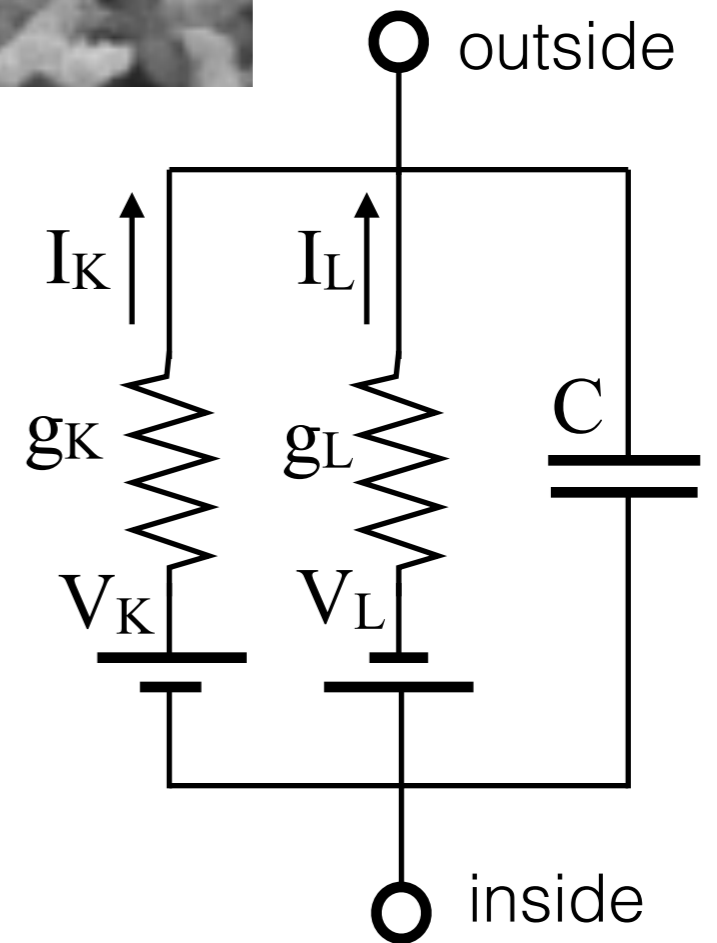
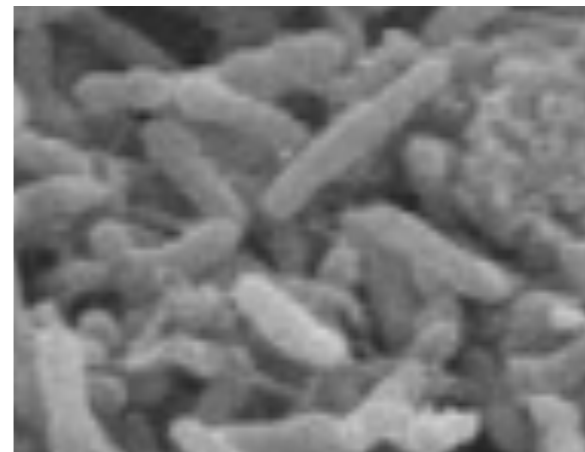
$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{-g_{Na} m^3 h (V - V_{Na})}_{\text{sodium current}} - \underbrace{g_K n^4 (V - V_K)}_{\text{potassium current}} - \underbrace{g_L (V - V_L)}_{\text{leak current}}$$

Hodgkin-Huxley model of neuronal electrophysiology



$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{-g_{Na} m^3 h (V - V_{Na})}_{\text{sodium current}} - \underbrace{g_K n^4 (V - V_K)}_{\text{potassium current}} - \underbrace{g_L (V - V_L)}_{\text{leak current}}$$

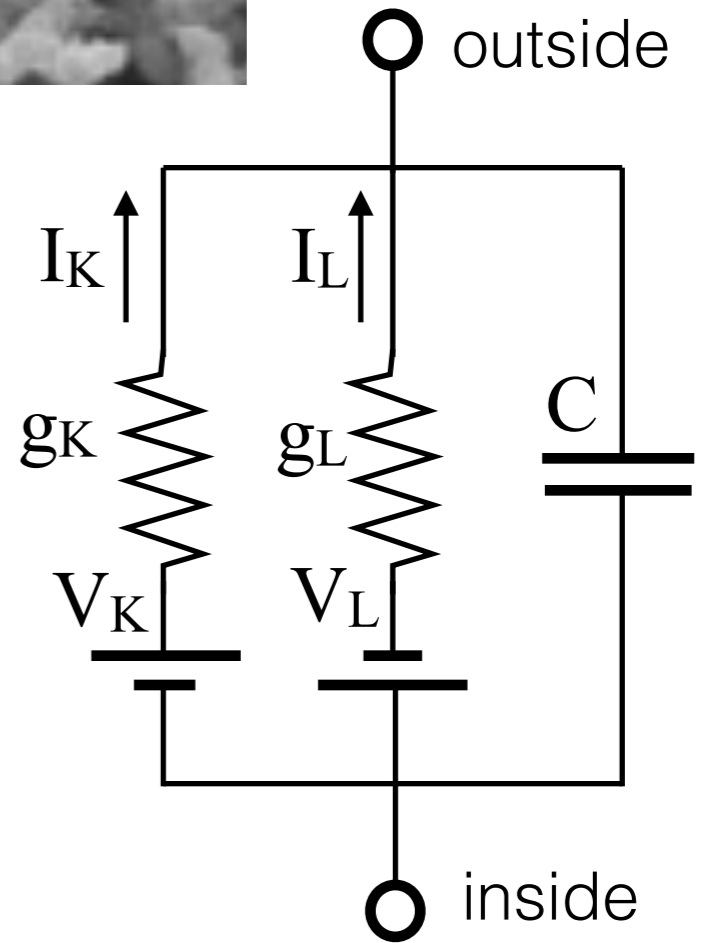
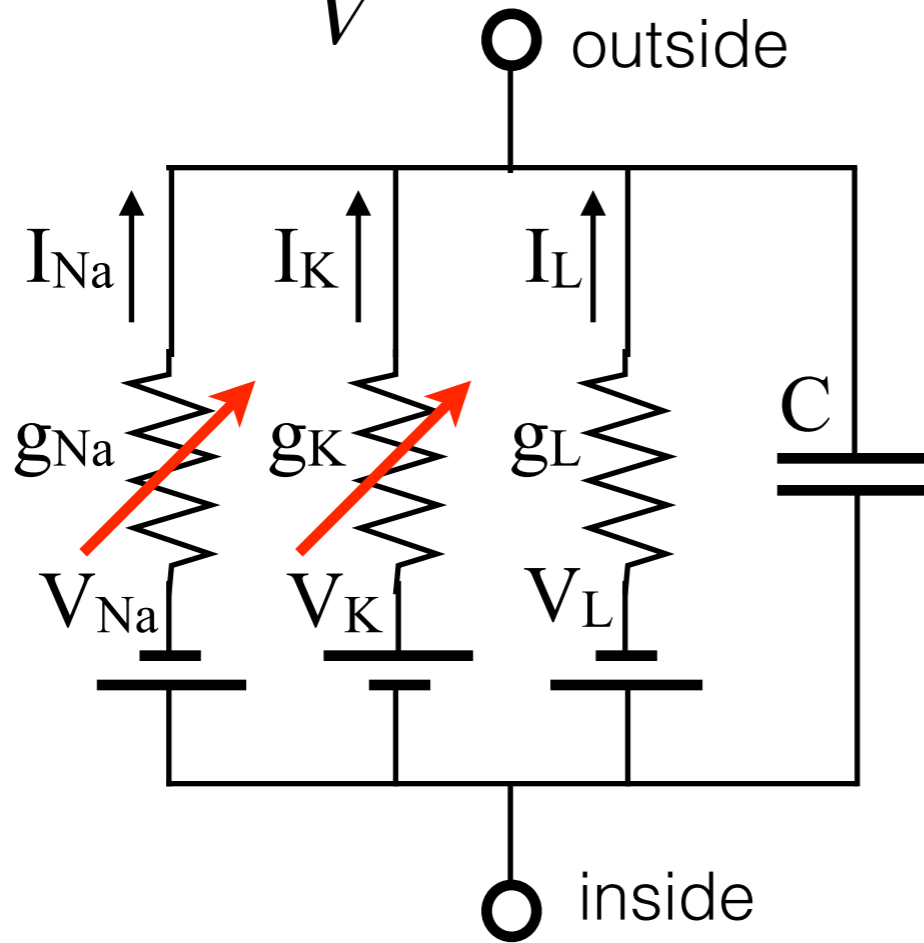
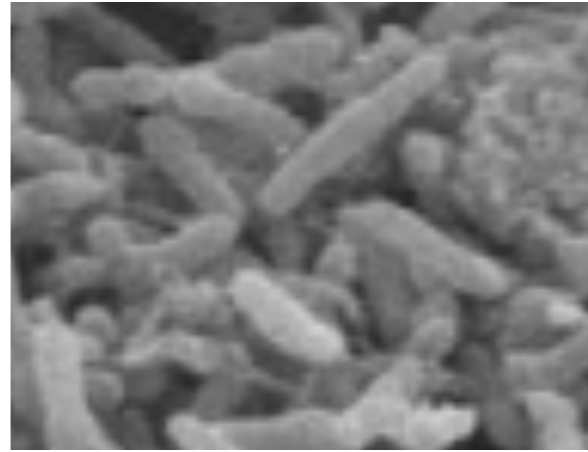
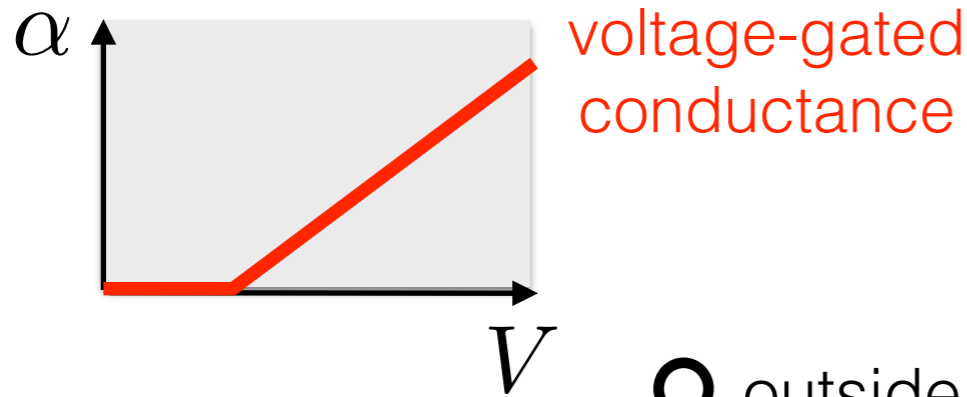
K-channel model of bacterial electrophysiology



$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = \underbrace{-g_K n^4 (V - V_K)}_{\text{potassium current}} - \underbrace{g_L (V - V_L)}_{\text{leak current}}$$

Hodgkin-Huxley model of neuronal electrophysiology

K-channel model of bacterial electrophysiology



$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_{Na} \underline{m^3 h} (V - V_{Na}) - g_K \underline{n^4} (V - V_K) - g_L (V - V_L)$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha(V)(1 - n) - \beta(V)n$$

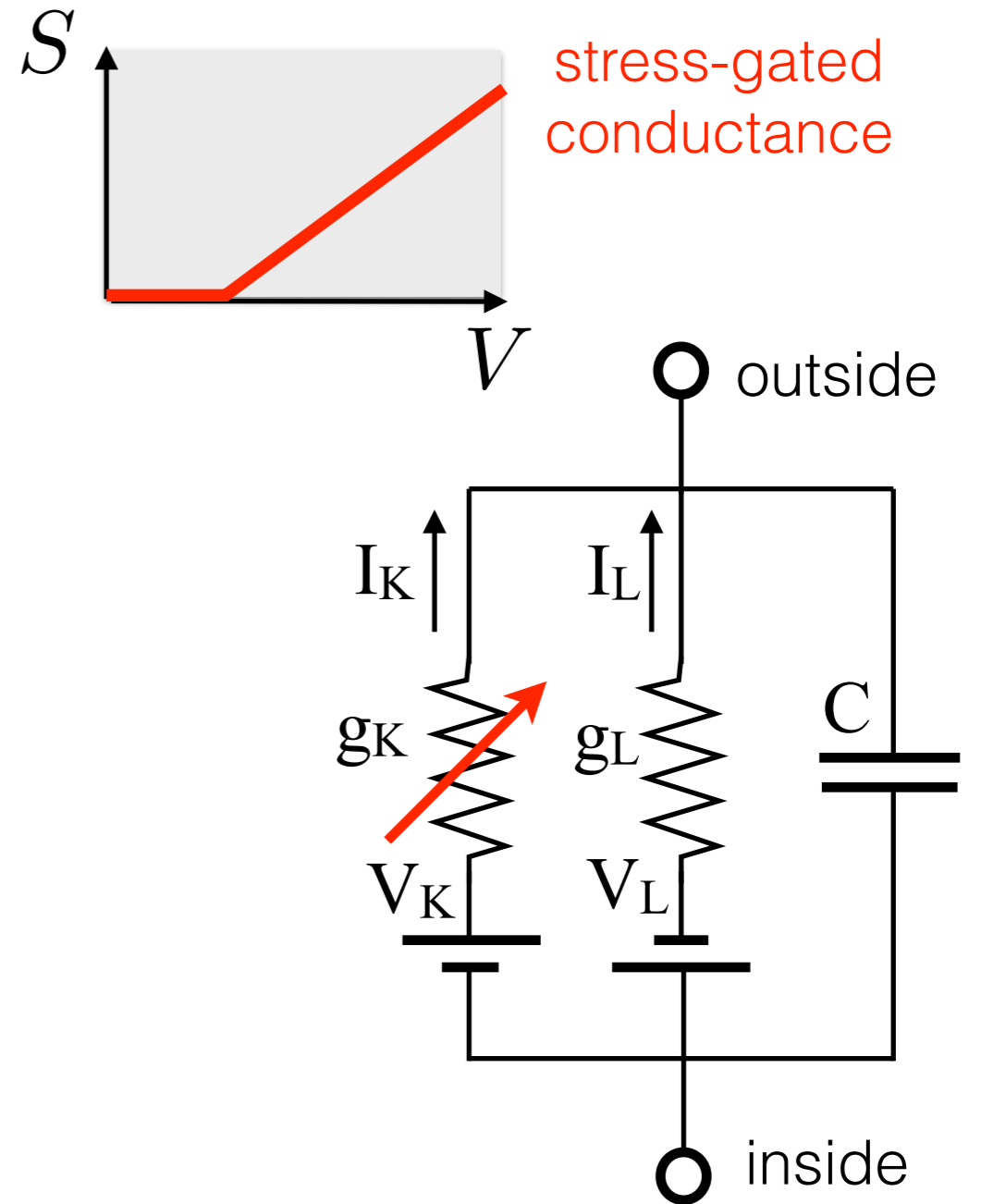
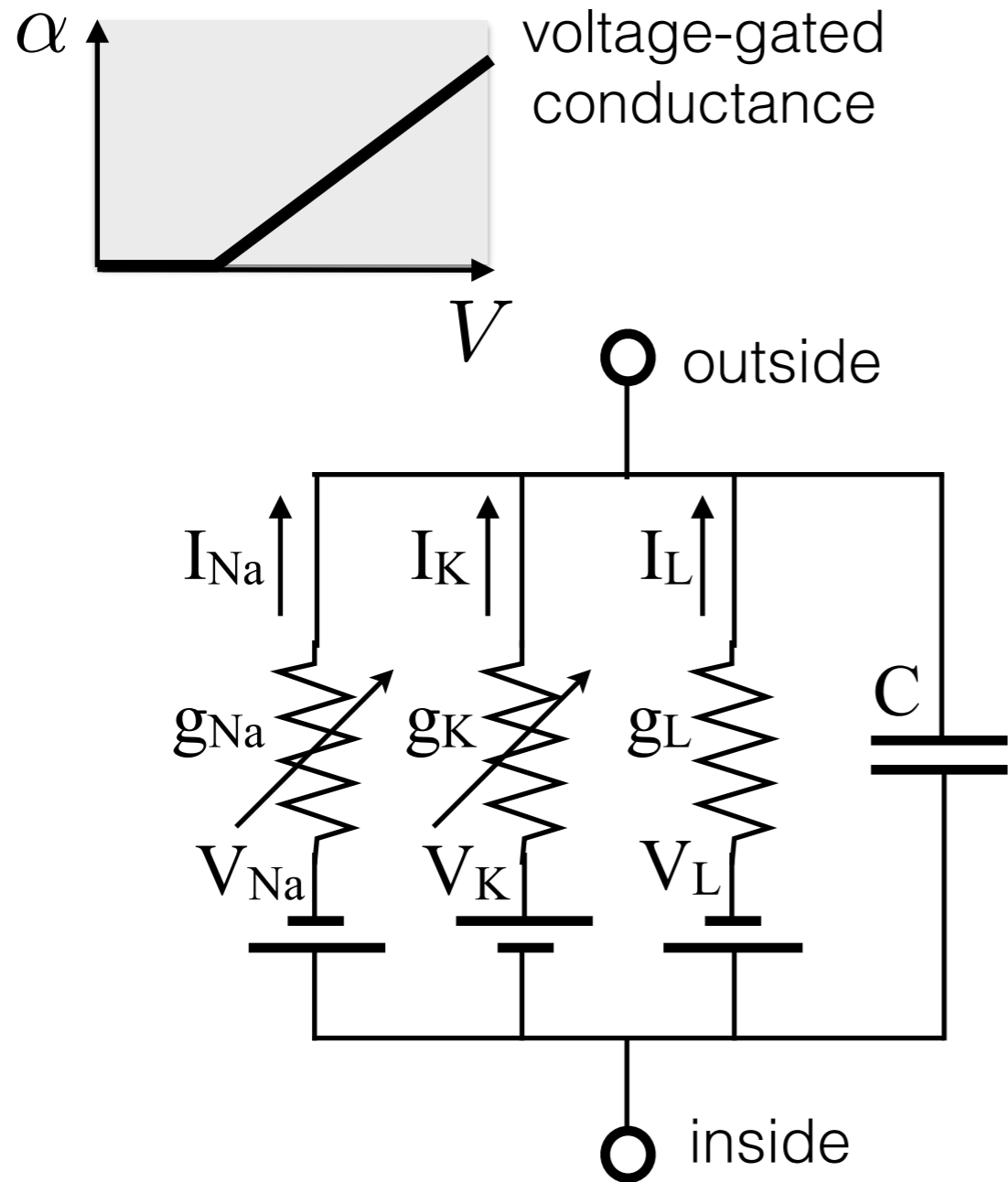
$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = - \underbrace{g_K n^4 (V - V_K)}_{\text{potassium current}} - \underbrace{g_L (V - V_L)}_{\text{leak current}}$$

potassium current

leak current

Hodgkin-Huxley model of neuronal electrophysiology

K-channel model of bacterial electrophysiology



$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_{Na} m^3 h (V - V_{Na}) - g_K n^4 (V - V_K) - g_L (V - V_L)$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha(V)(1 - n) - \beta(V)n$$

$$C \frac{dV}{dt} = -g_K n^4 (V - V_K) - g_L (V - V_L)$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha(S)(1 - n) - \beta n$$

K-channel model of bacterial electrophysiology

membrane potential | $\frac{dV}{dt} = -g_K n^4 (V - V_K) - g_L (V - V_L)$

opening probability | $\frac{dn}{dt} = \alpha(S)(1 - n) - \beta n$

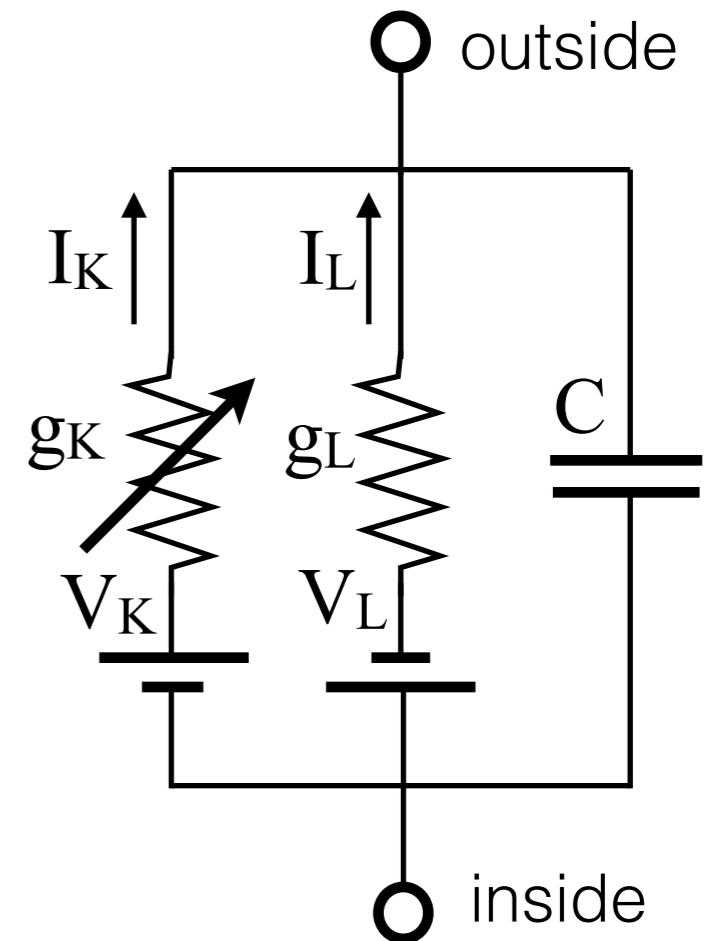
stress gating | $\alpha(S) = \frac{\alpha_0 S^m}{S_{th}^m + S^m}$

stress | $\frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{\alpha_s (V_{th} - V)}{\exp\left(\frac{V_{th} - V}{\sigma}\right) - 1} - \gamma_s S$

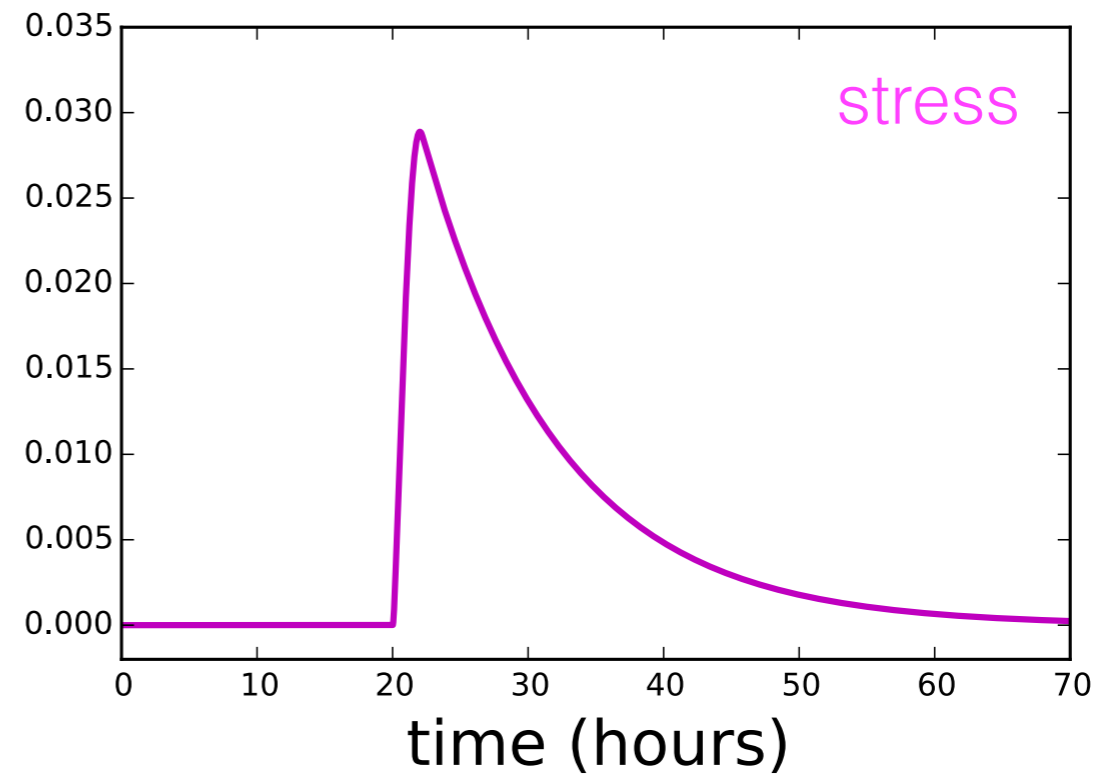
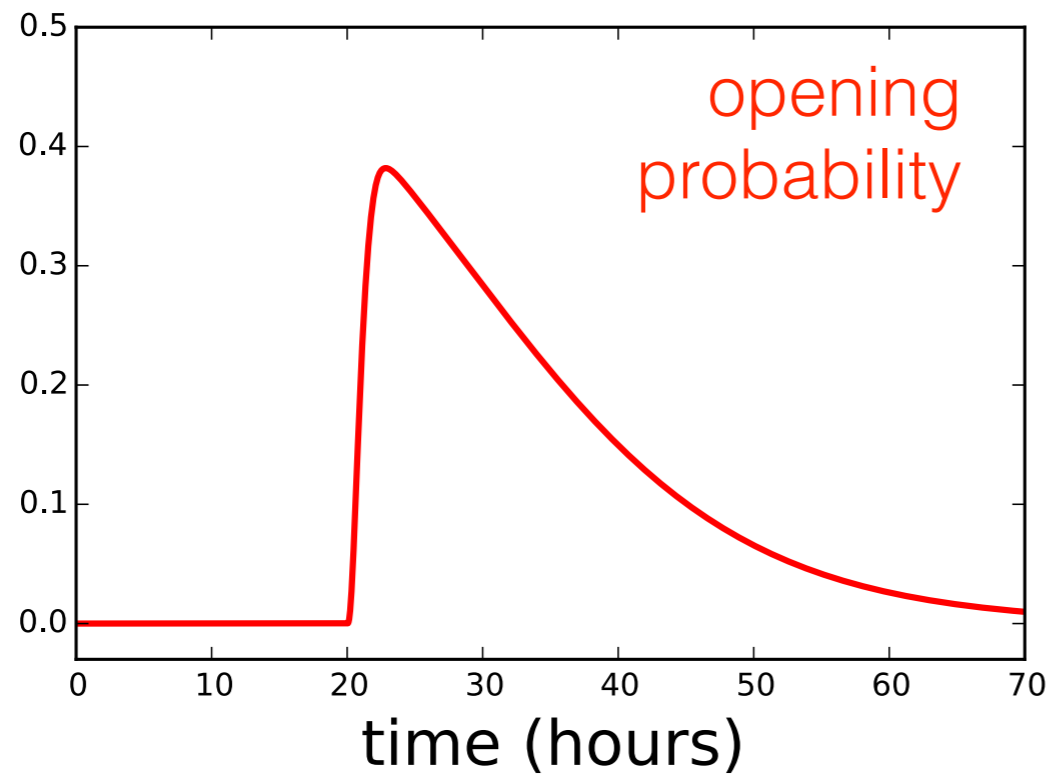
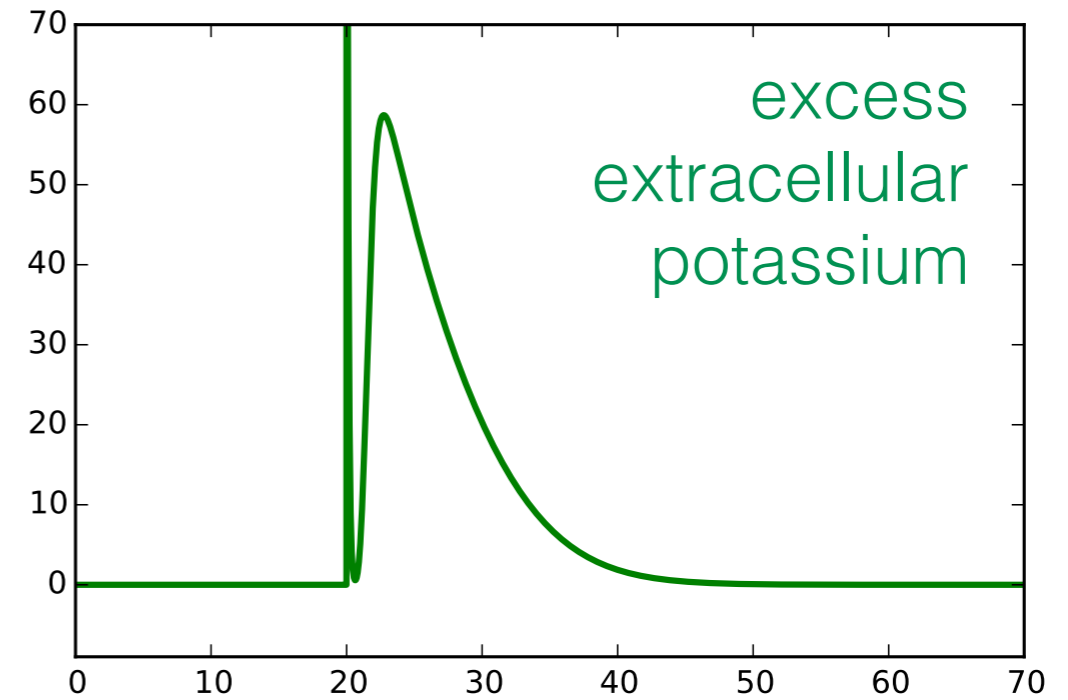
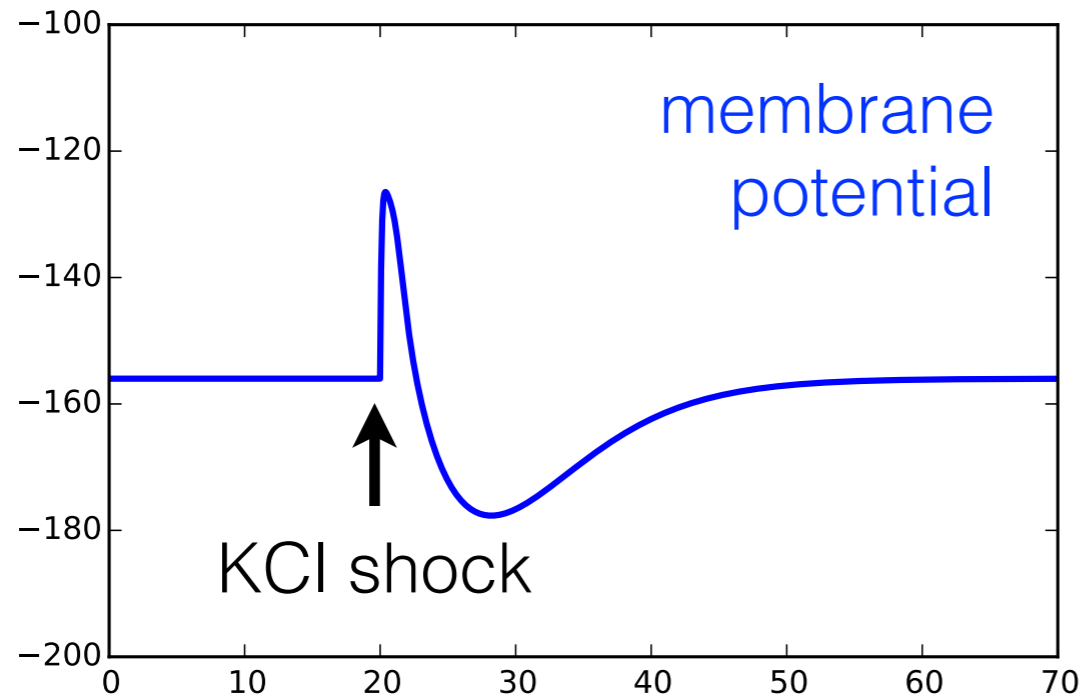
Nernst potentials | $V_K = V_{K0} + \delta_K E$
 $V_L = V_{L0} + \delta_L E$

excess extracellular potassium | $\frac{dE}{dt} = F g_K n^4 (V - V_K) - \gamma_e E$

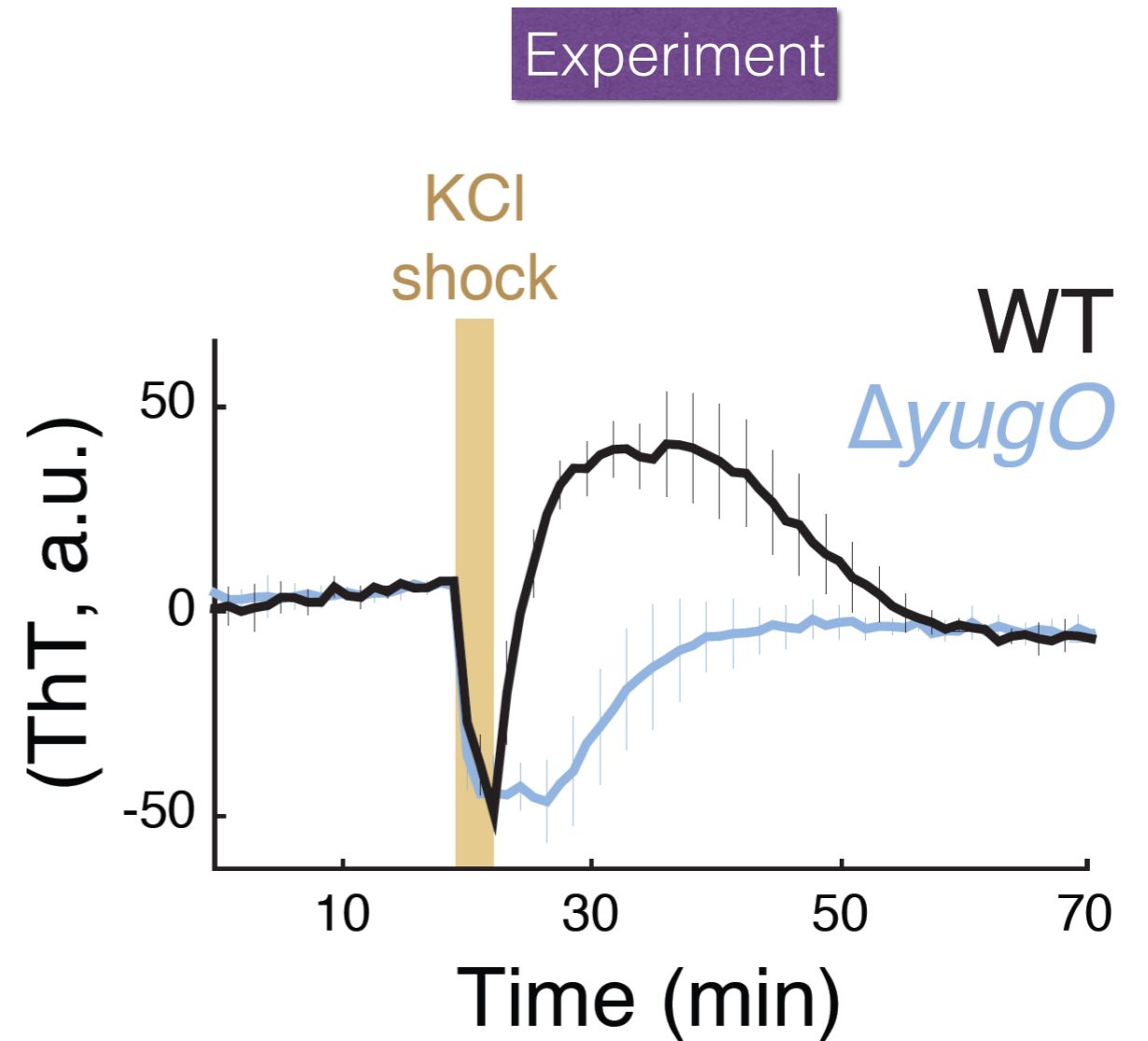
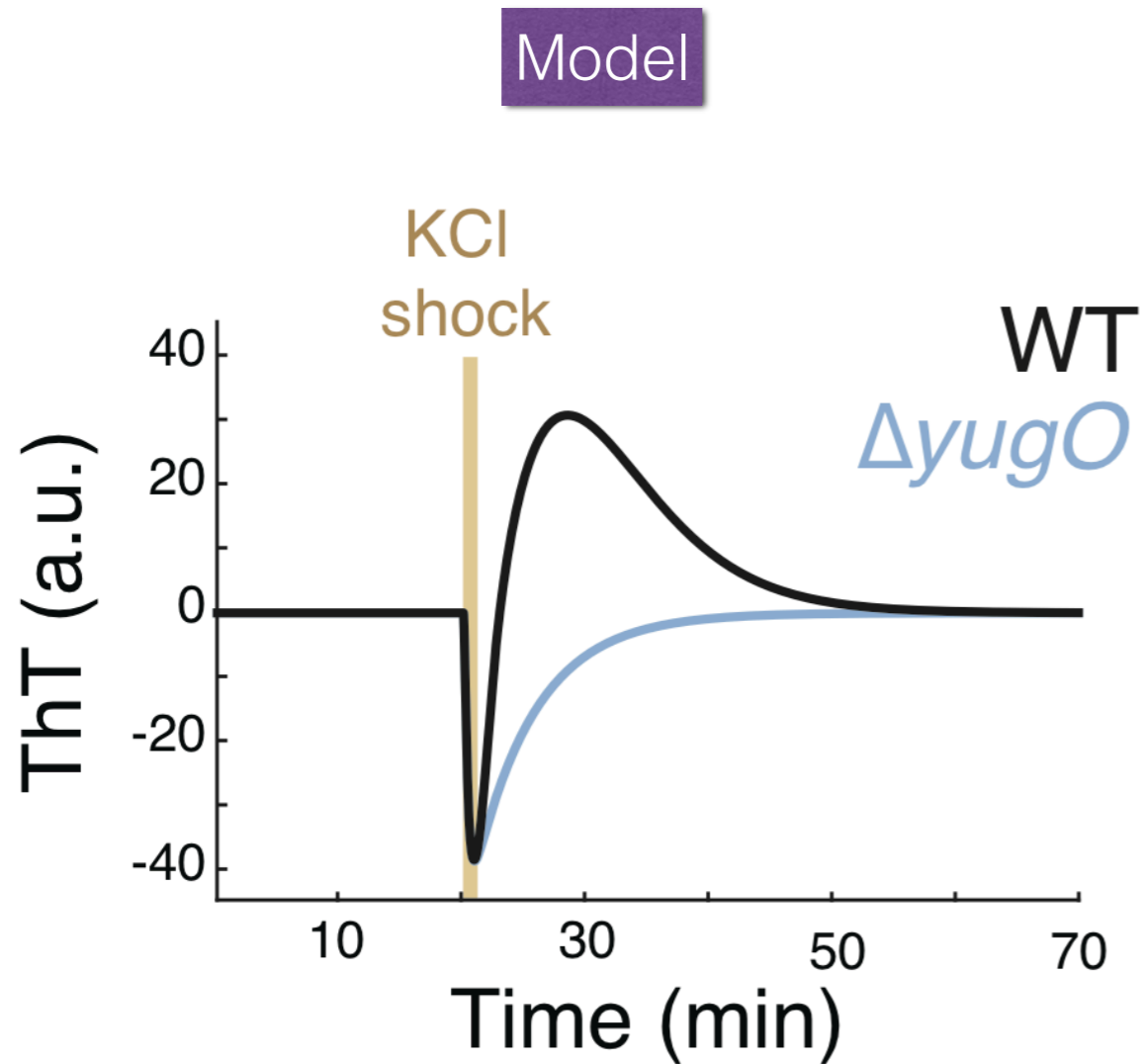
voltage sensor | $\frac{dT}{dt} = \alpha_t (V_{L0} - V) - \gamma_t T$



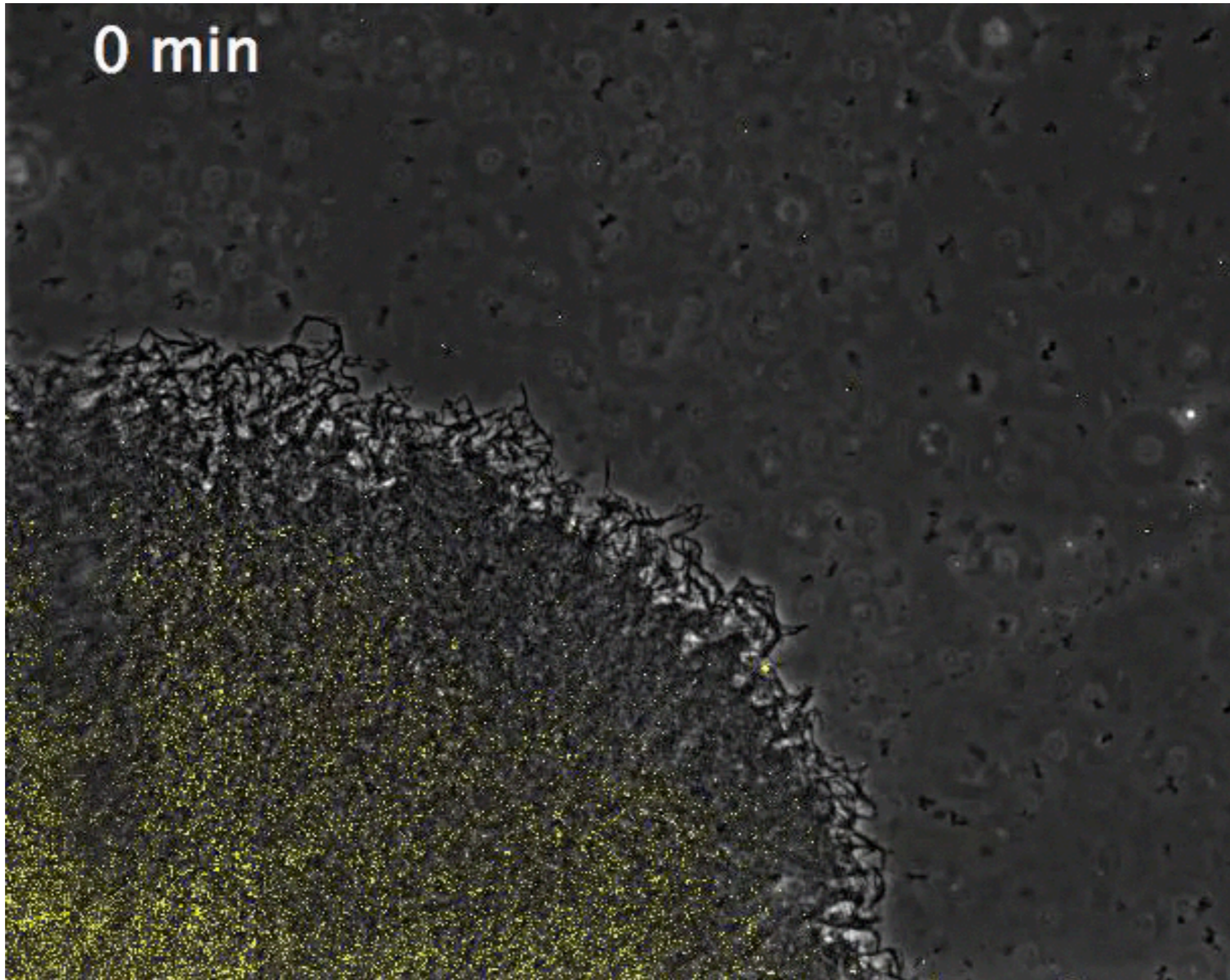
Modeling results



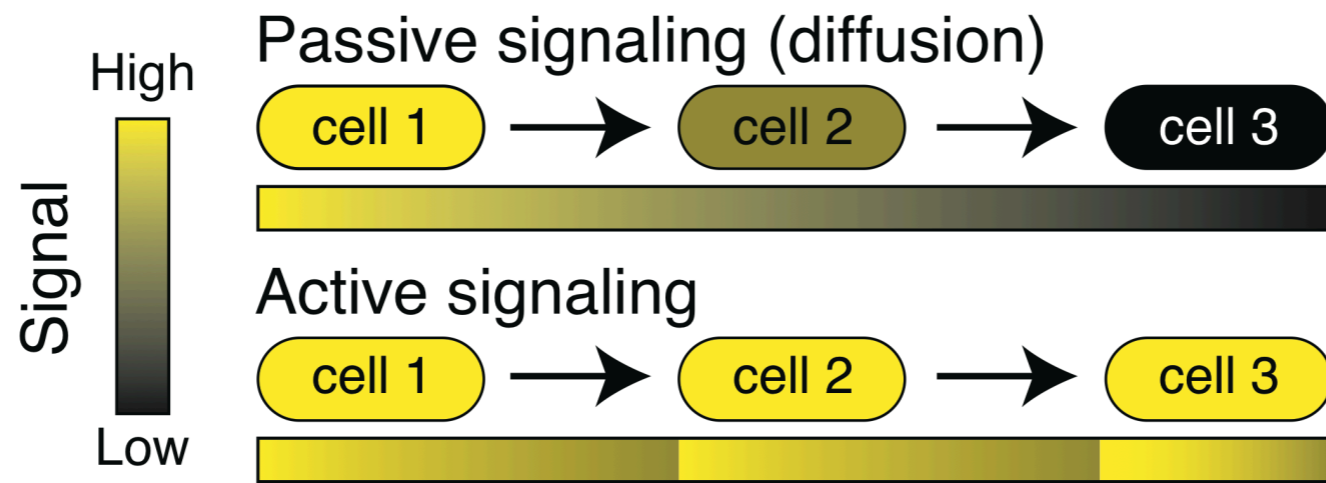
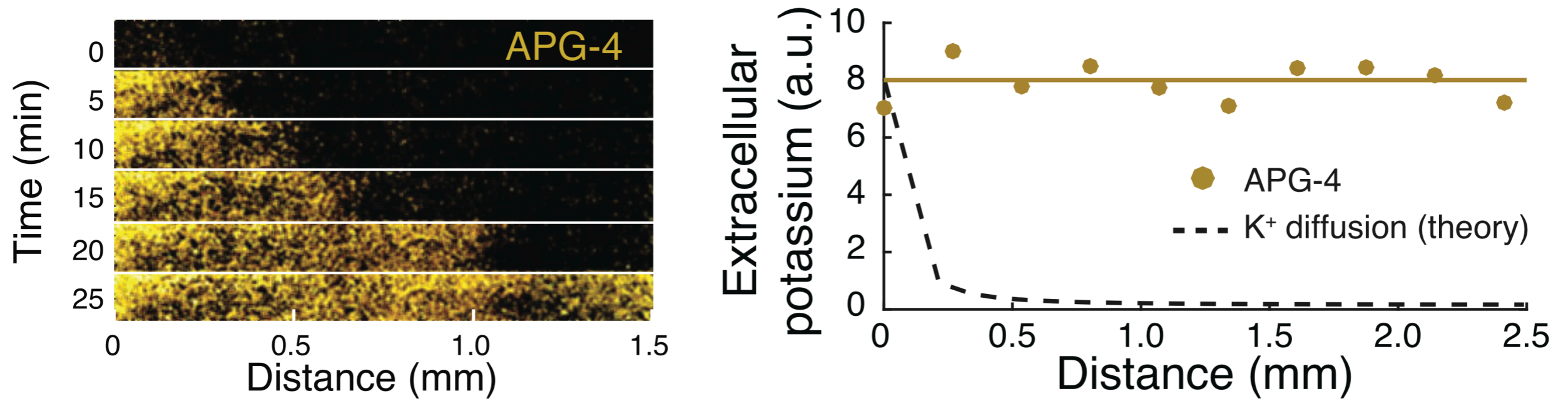
Comparison with experiments



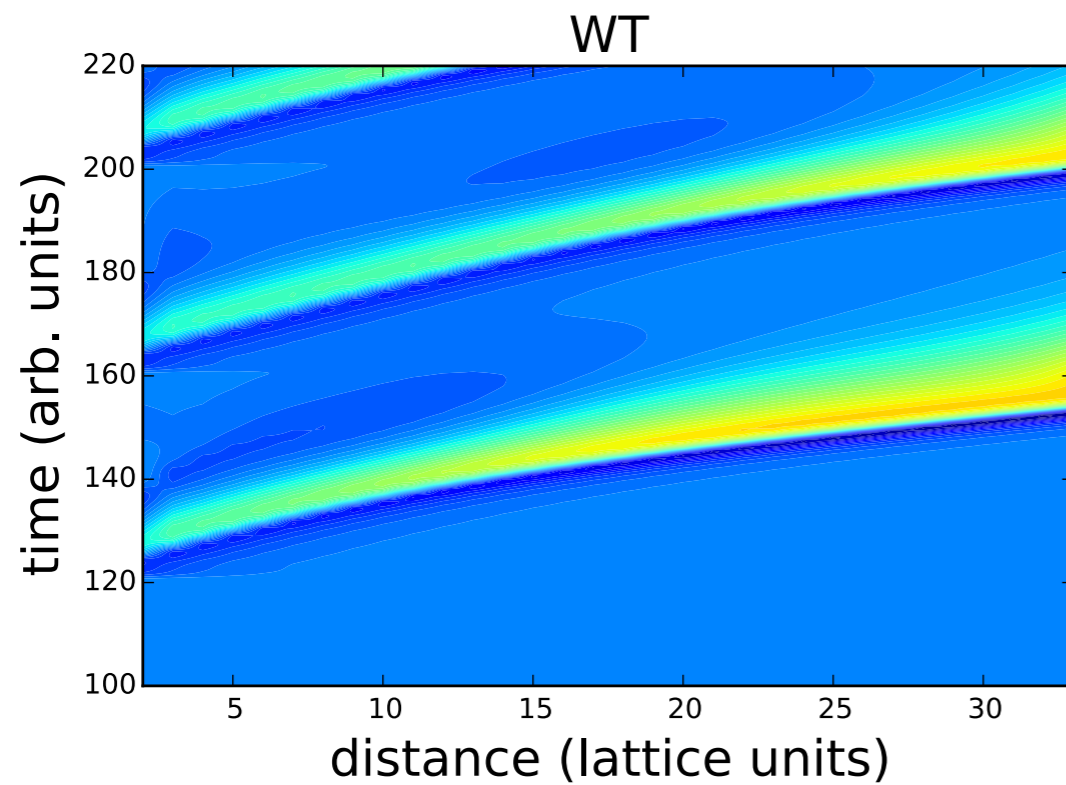
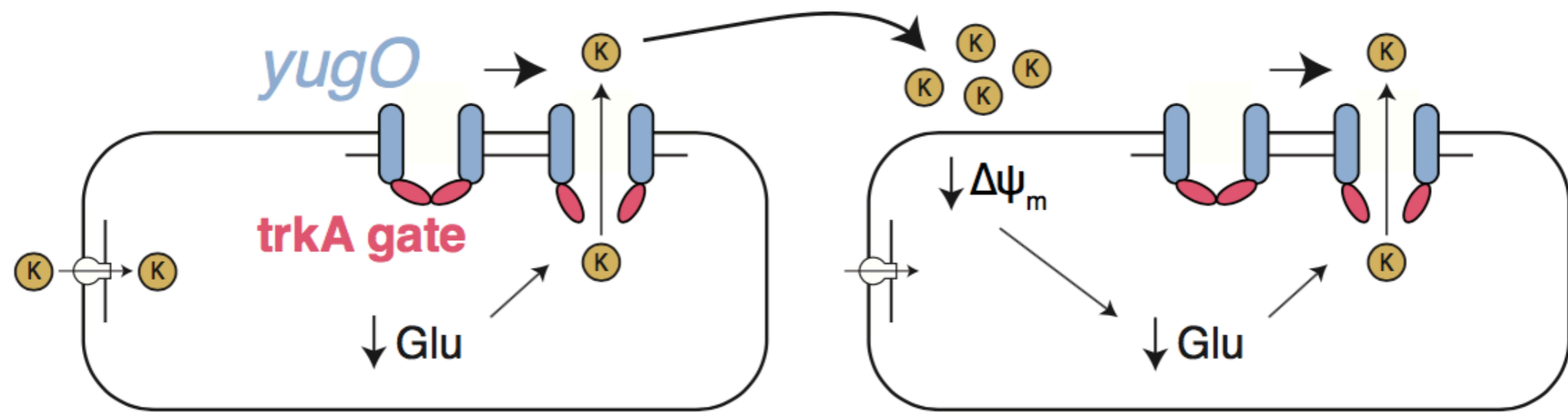
Propagating dynamics of the extracellular potassium



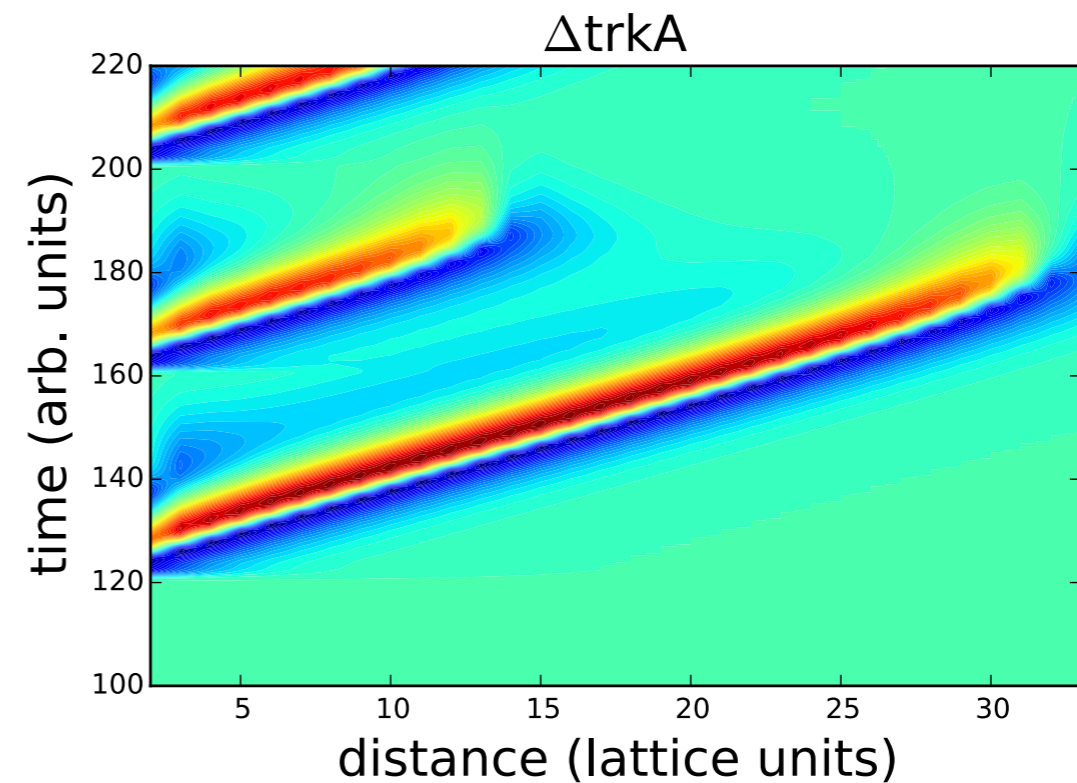
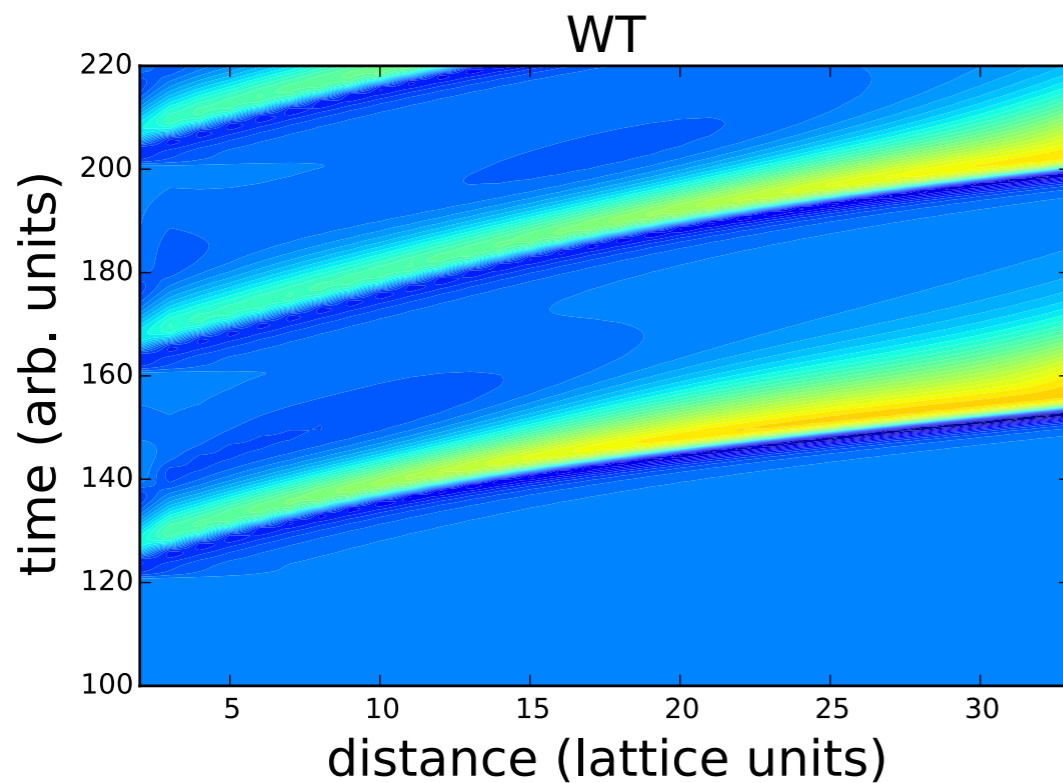
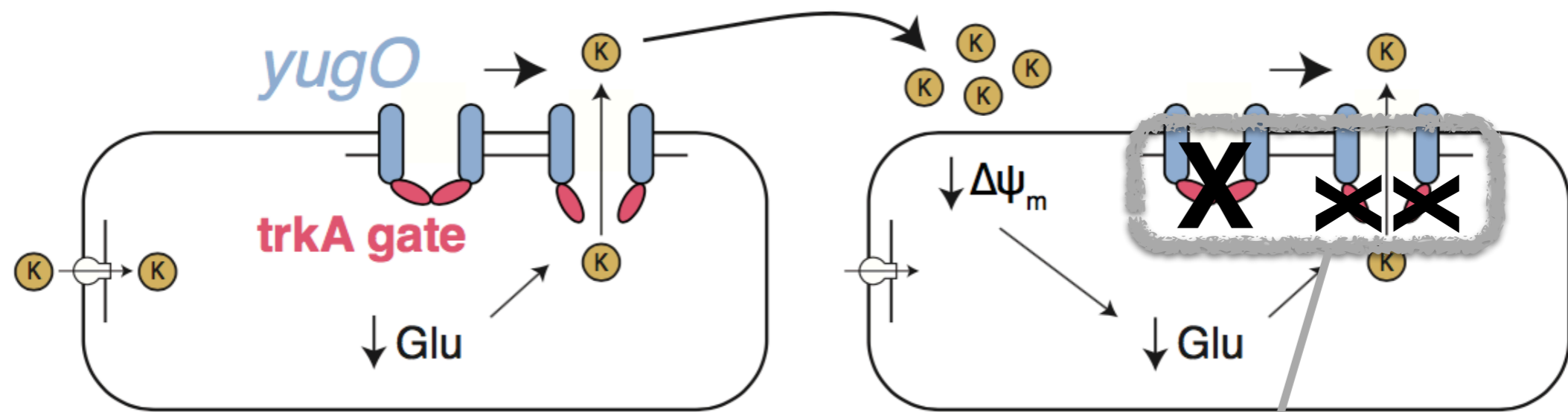
Propagation of potassium is active



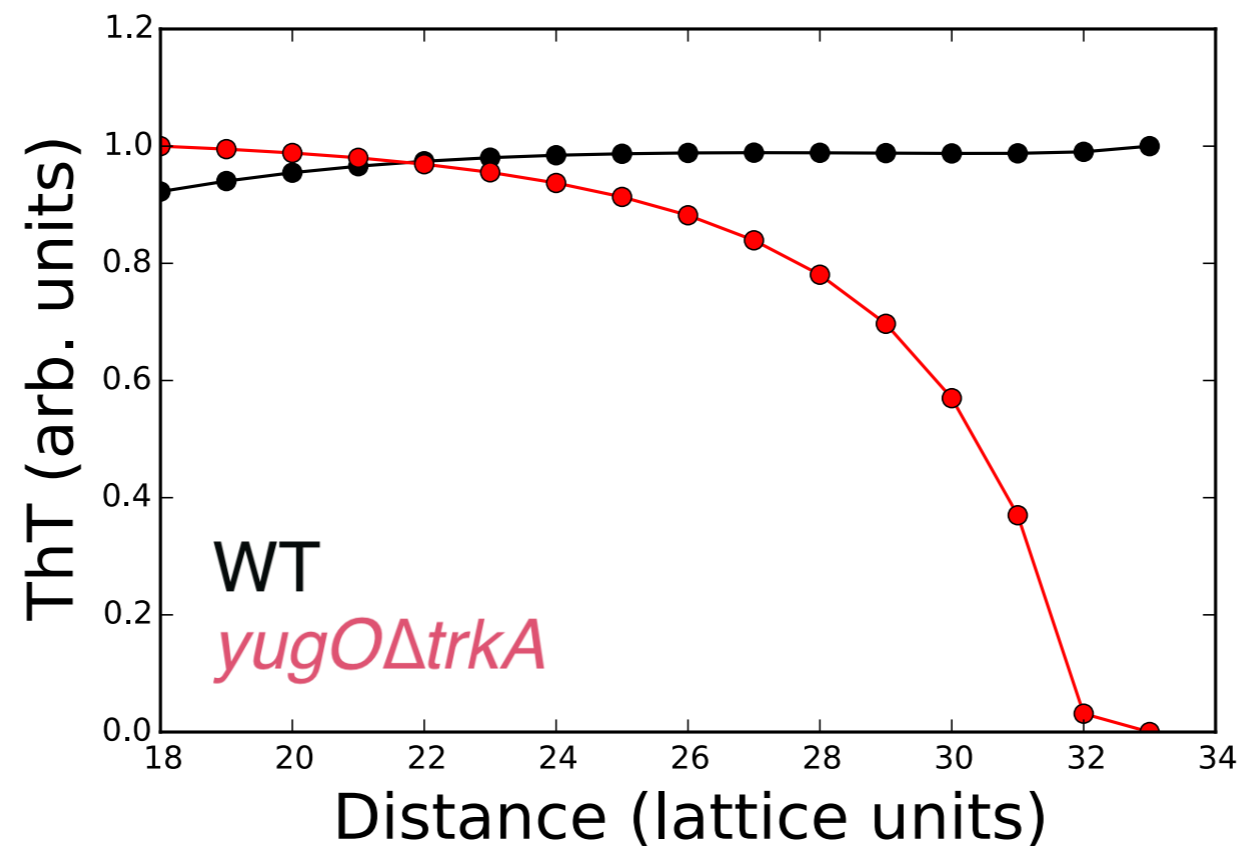
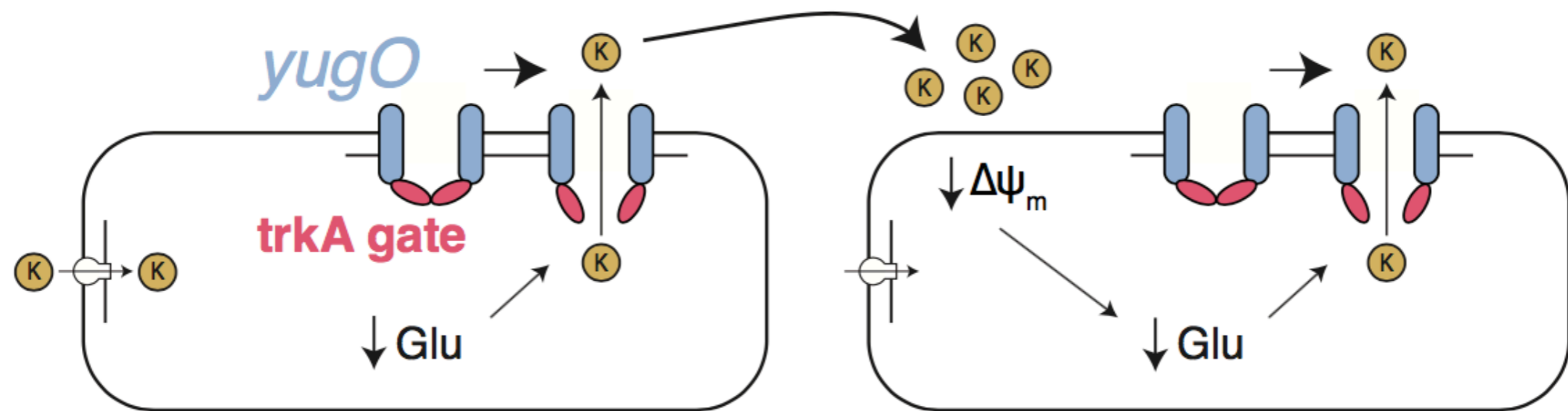
A bucket brigade of potassium



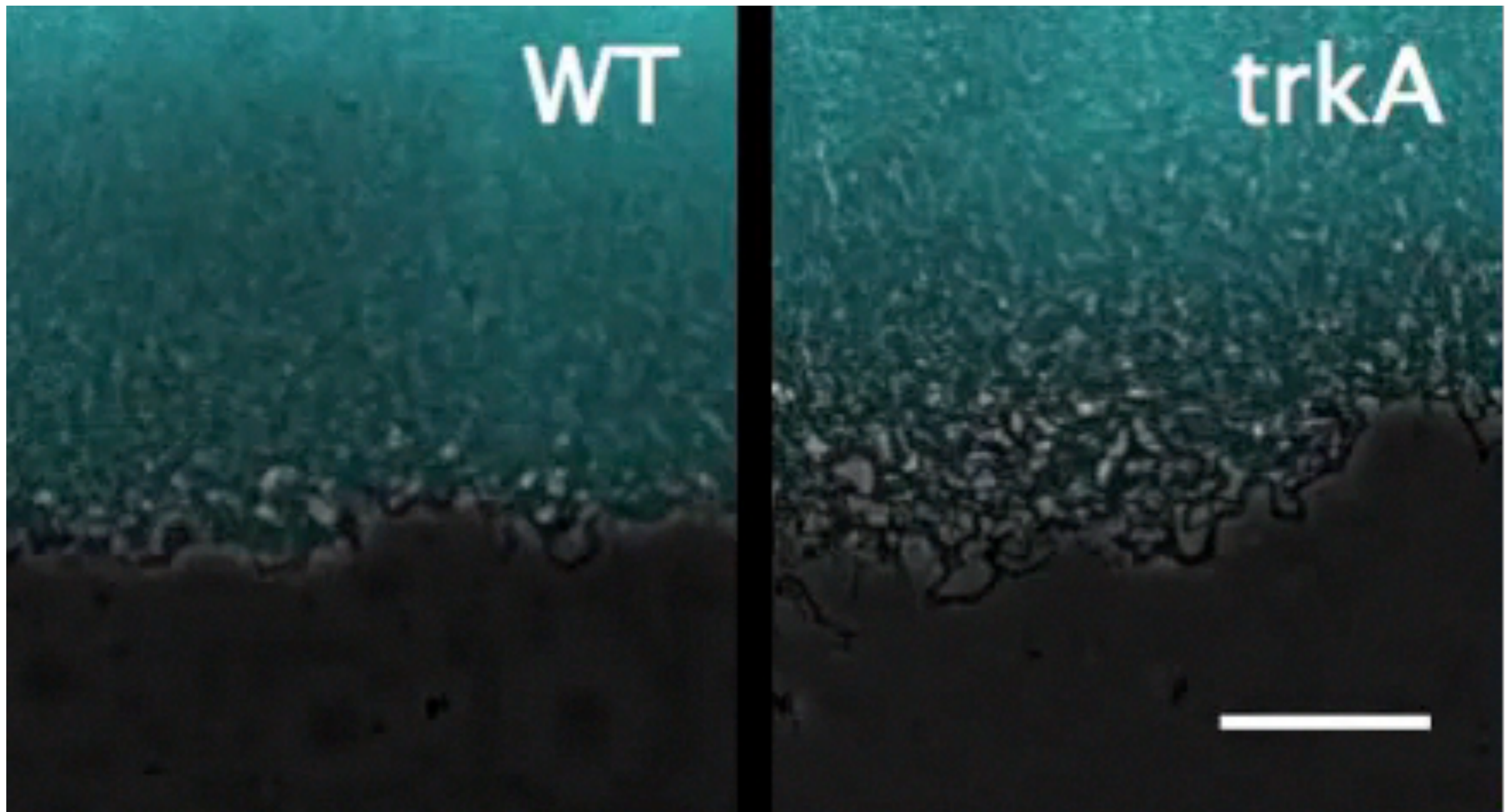
Model prediction: impairing the gate affects propagation



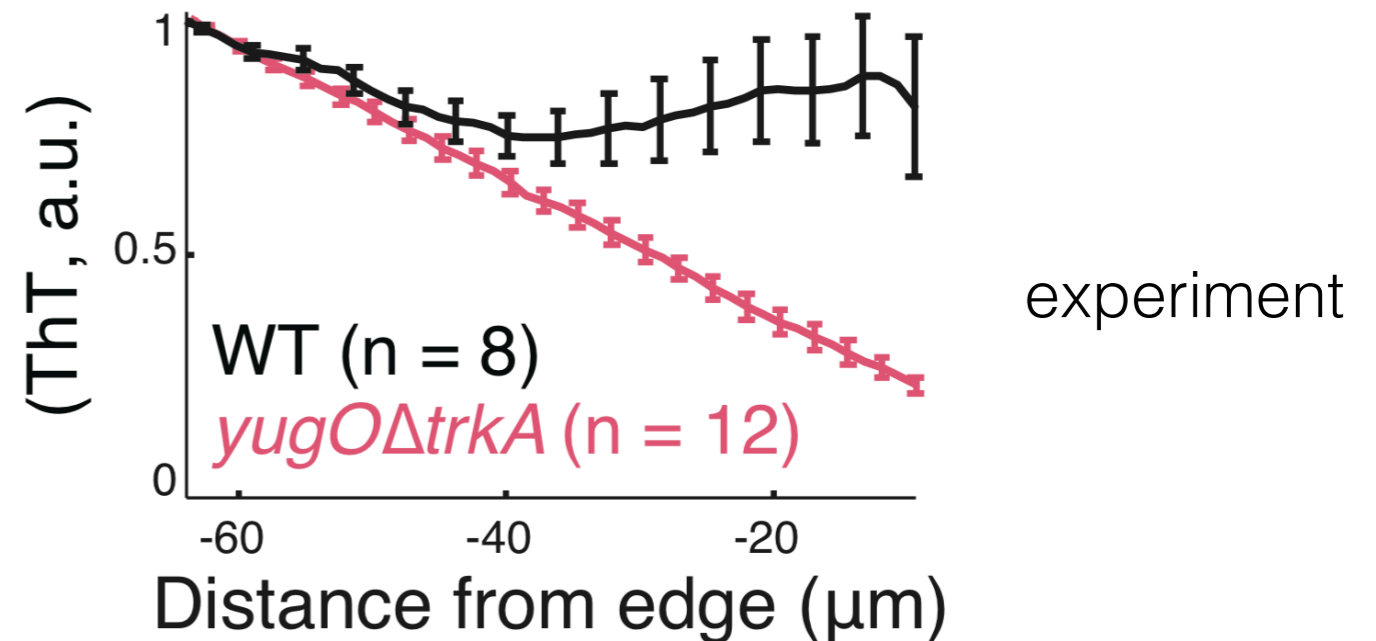
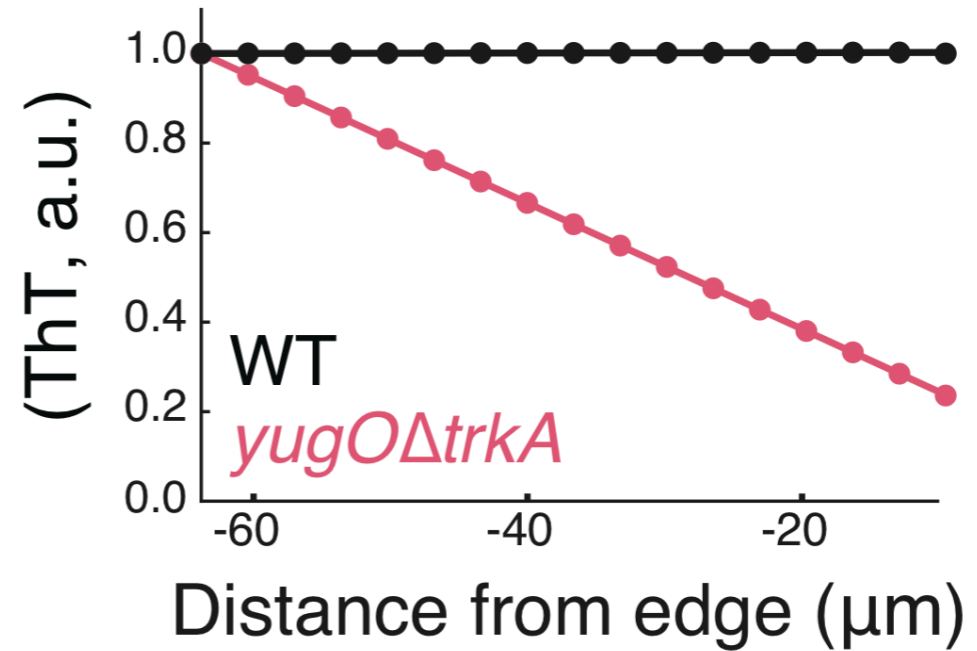
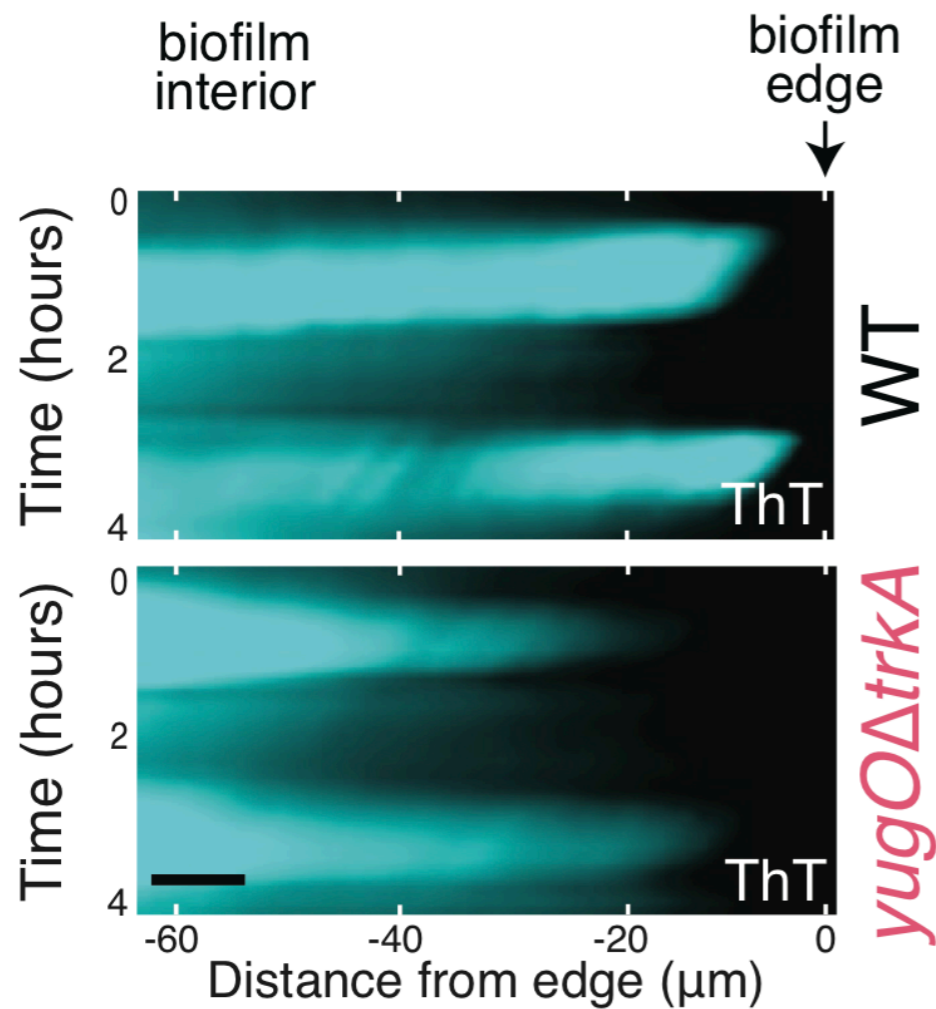
Model prediction: impairing the gate affects propagation



Impairing the gate affects propagation

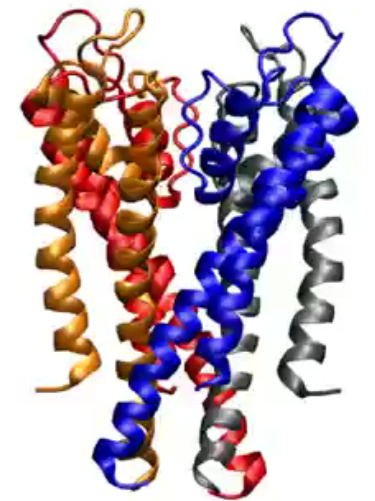


Impairing the gate affects propagation



Conclusions

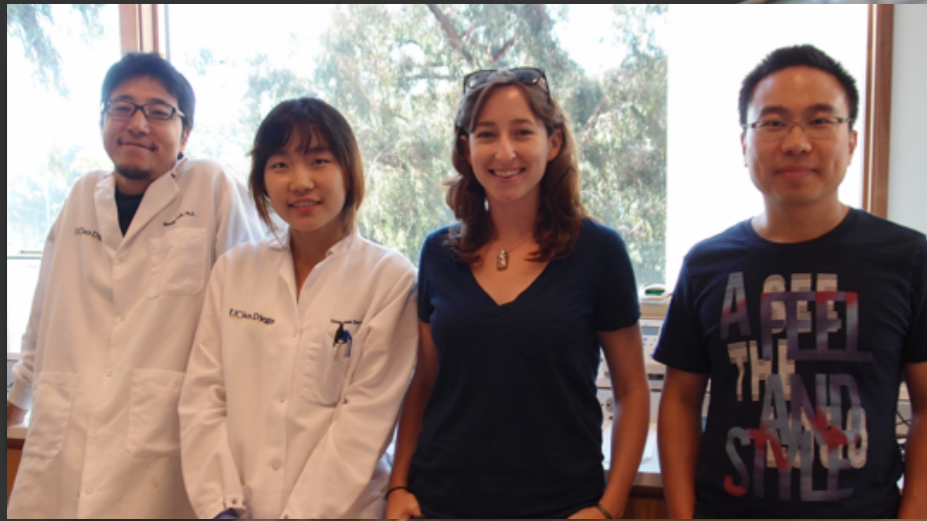
- Metabolic co-dependence leads to **global oscillations** in a biofilm
- The oscillations **resolve a conflict** between protection and nutrient availability among interior and peripheral cells
- The metabolic state is transmitted within a biofilm via **electrical communication** involving potassium
- A **Hodgkin-Huxley-like model** reproduces the observations
- A **biological role for ion channels** in bacteria



Bacteria as ancestral neurons



M. Berkmen and M. Penil, "Neurons"
Composite of *Nesterenkonia*, *Deinococcus* and *Sphingomonas* bacteria
American Society for Microbiology's 1st Agar Art contest



Marçal Gabaldà, Rosa Martínez-Corral (UPF)
Jintao Liu, Arthur Prindle, Jacy Humphries, Gürol Süel (UCSD)
Munehiro Asally (Warwick)





BARCELONA

16 - 20 September 2016

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SYSTEMS BIOLOGY



**Universitat
Pompeu Fabra**
Barcelona



**Centre
de Regulació
Genòmica**

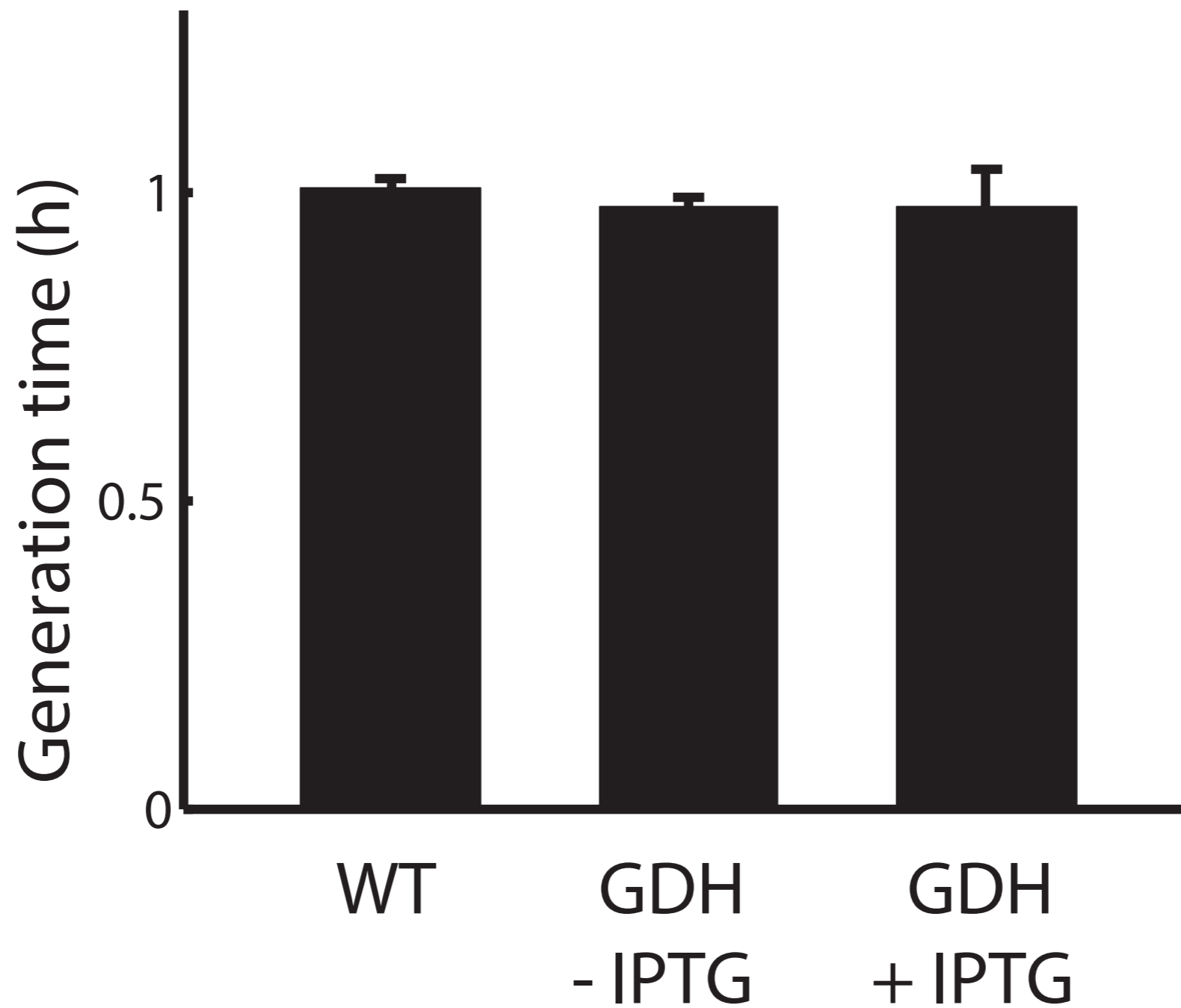
Organizers:

James Sharpe, Luis Serrano (CRG)

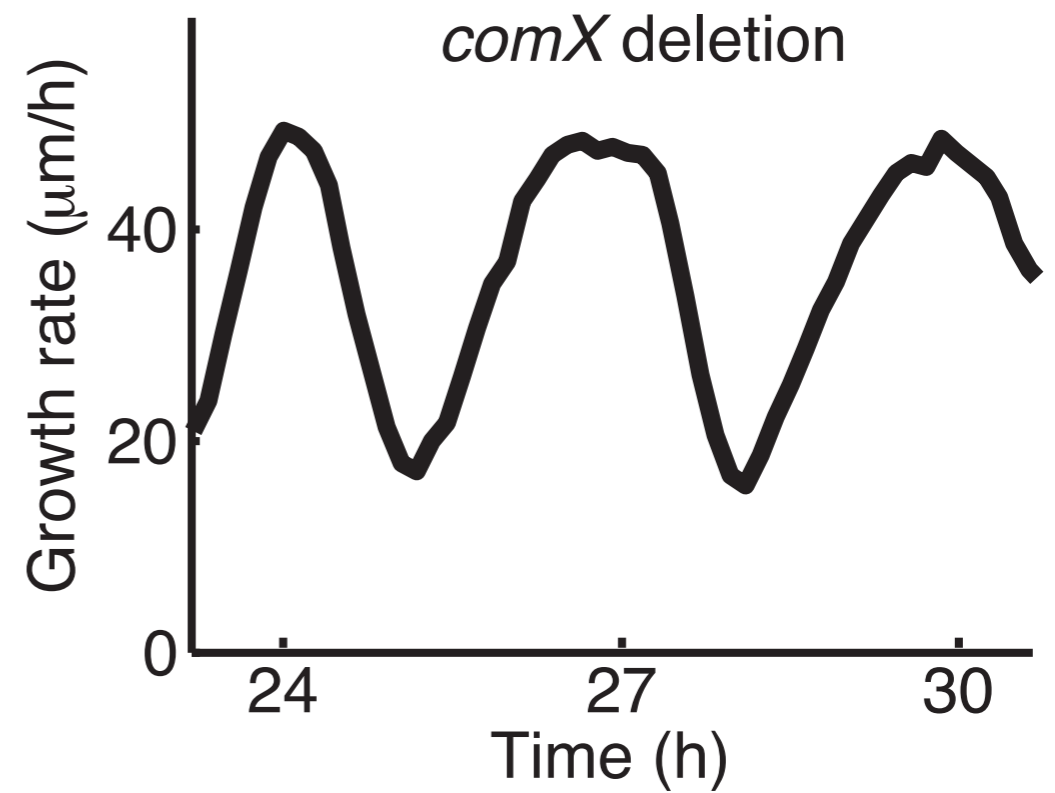
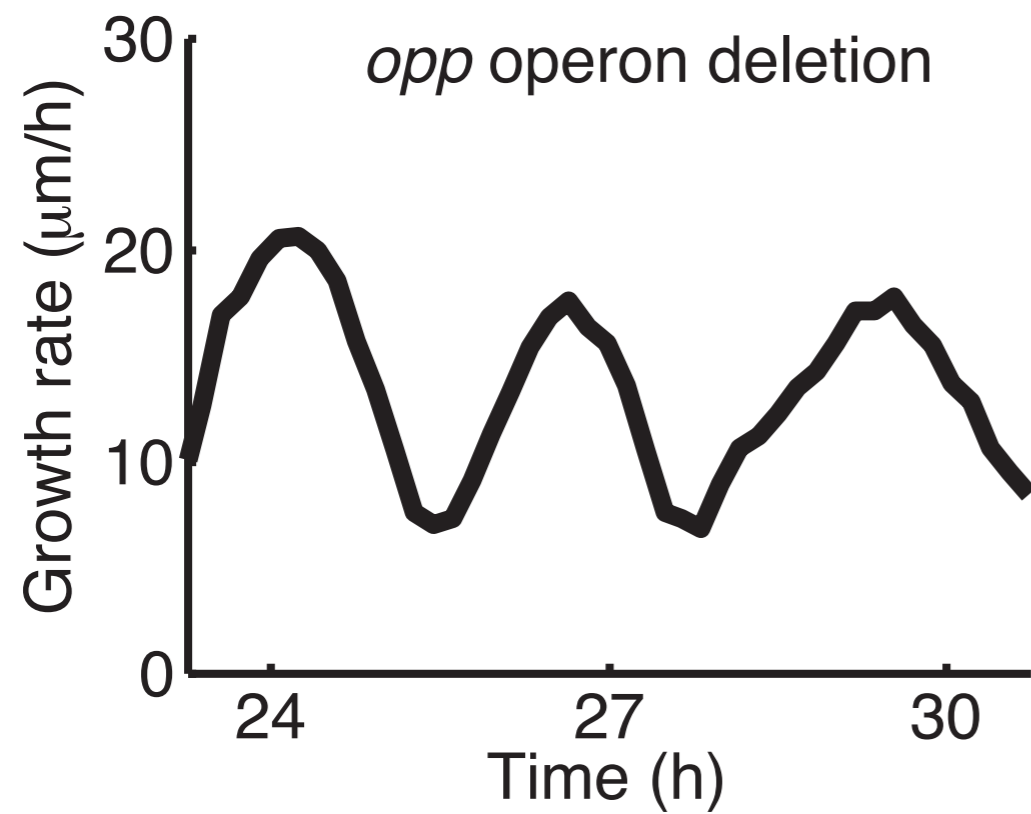
Jordi Garcia-Ojalvo (UPF)

www.icsb2016barcelona.org

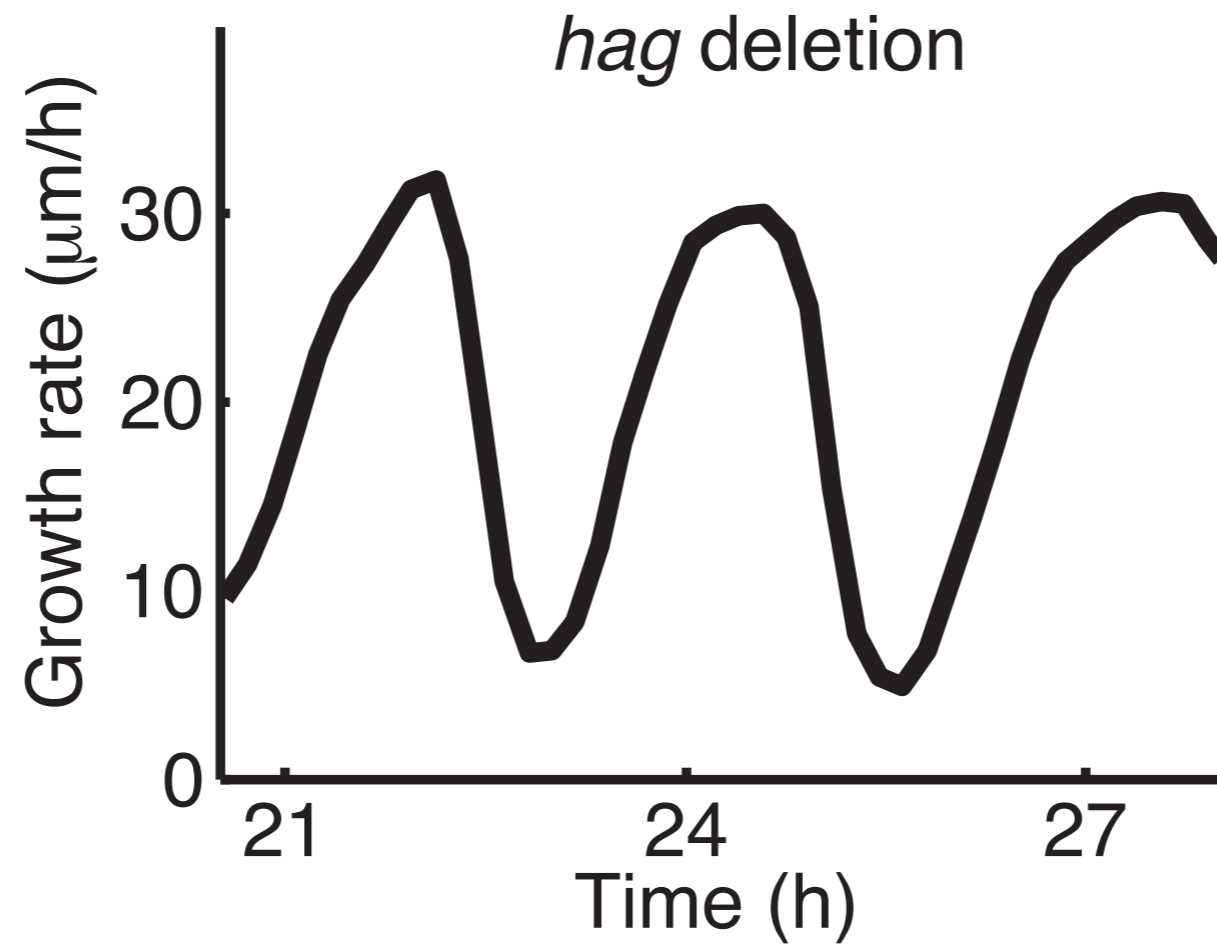
GDH overexpression is not toxic to single cells



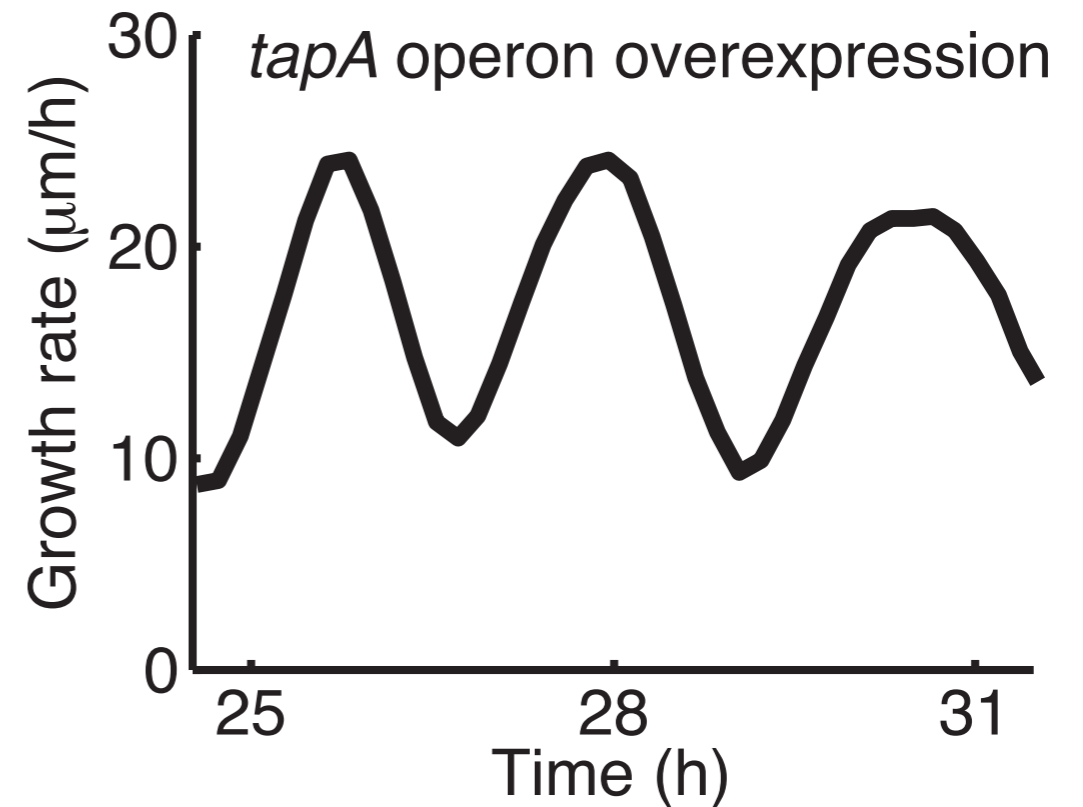
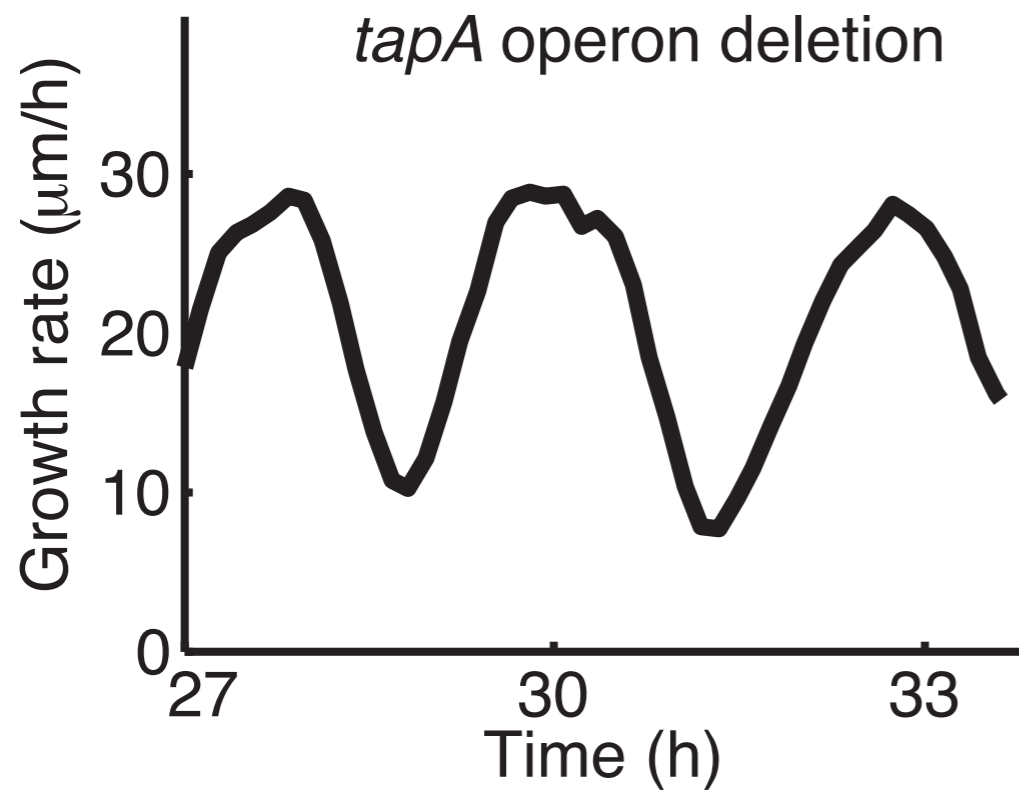
Oscillations do not require quorum sensing



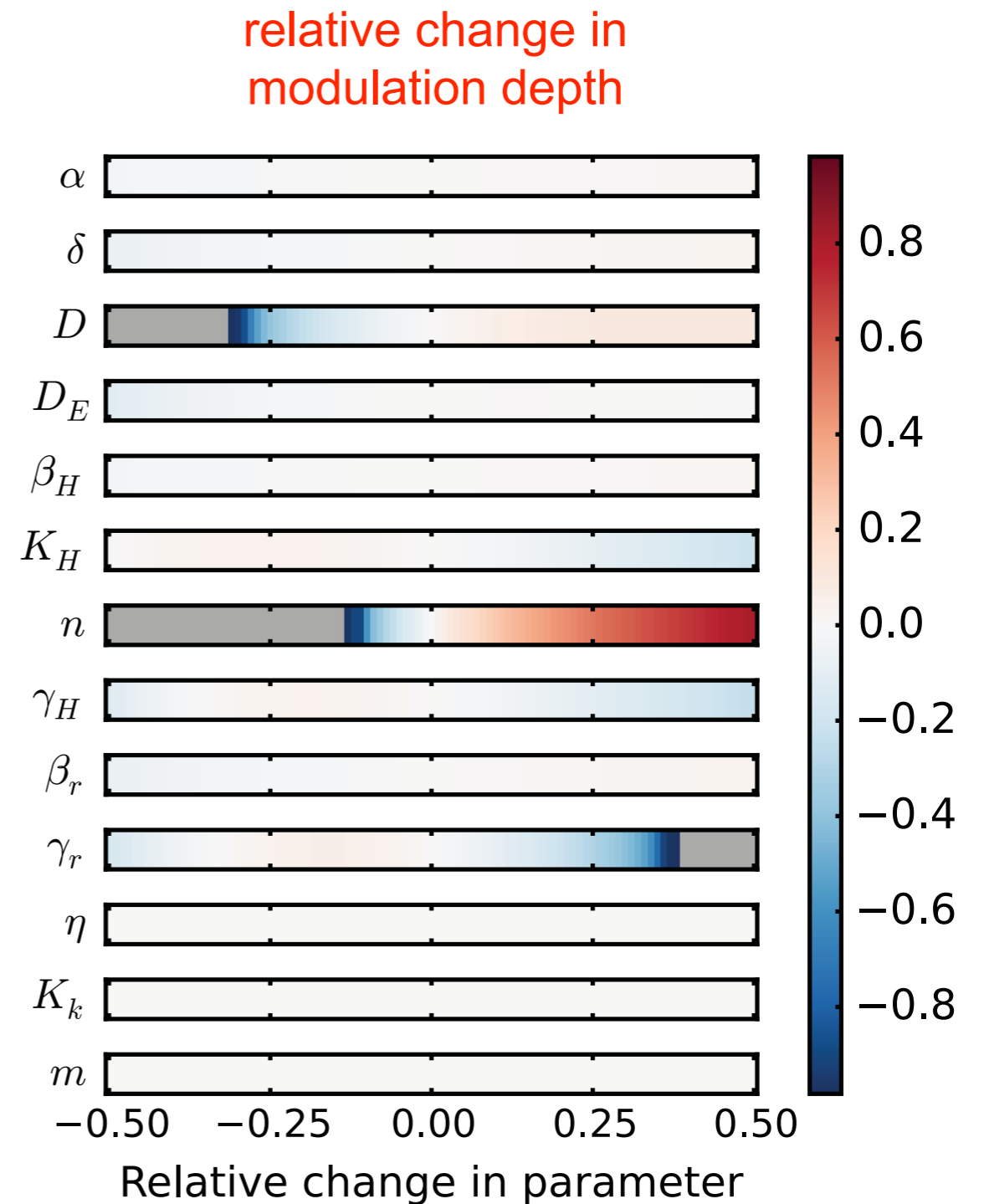
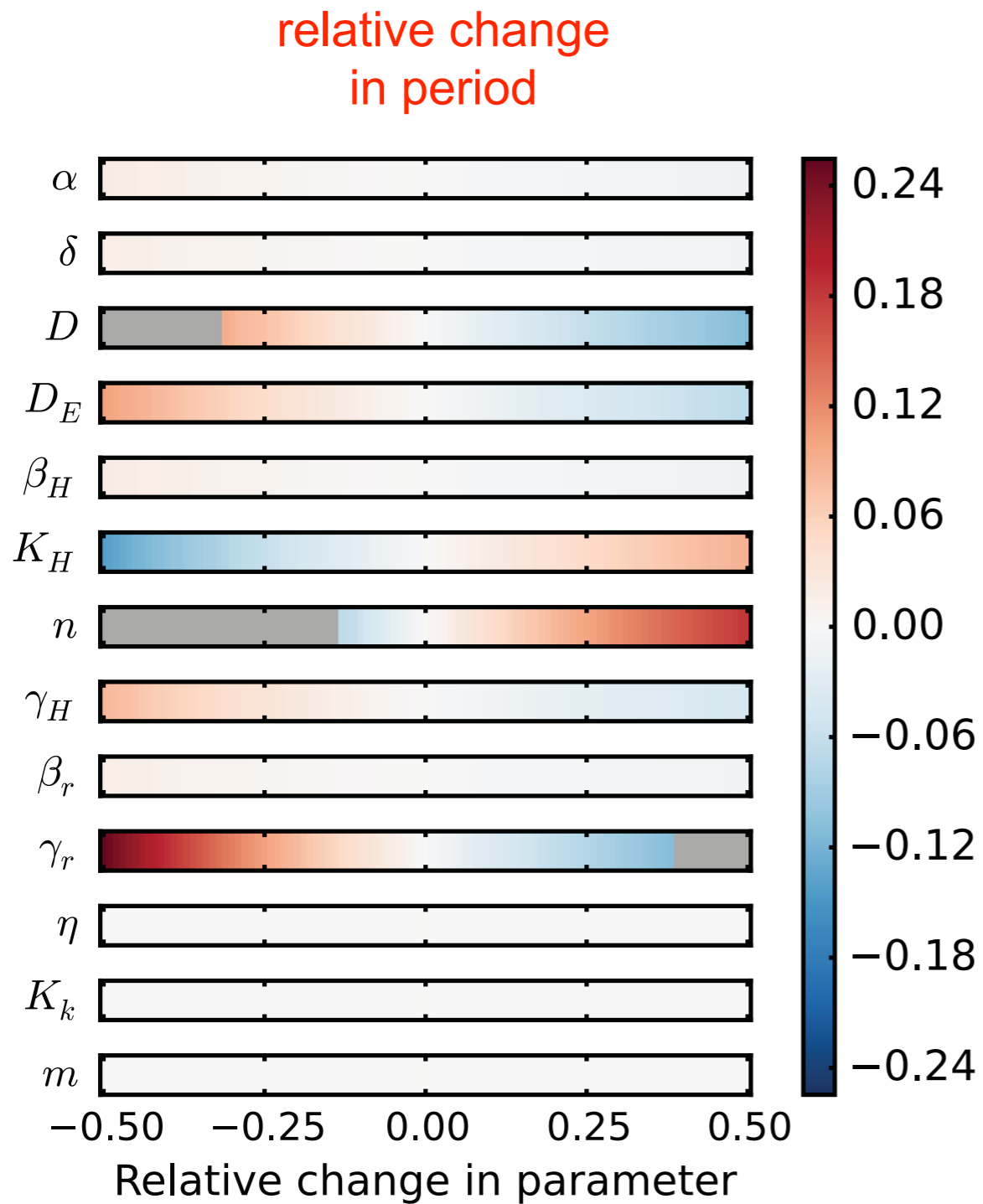
Oscillations do not require swarming



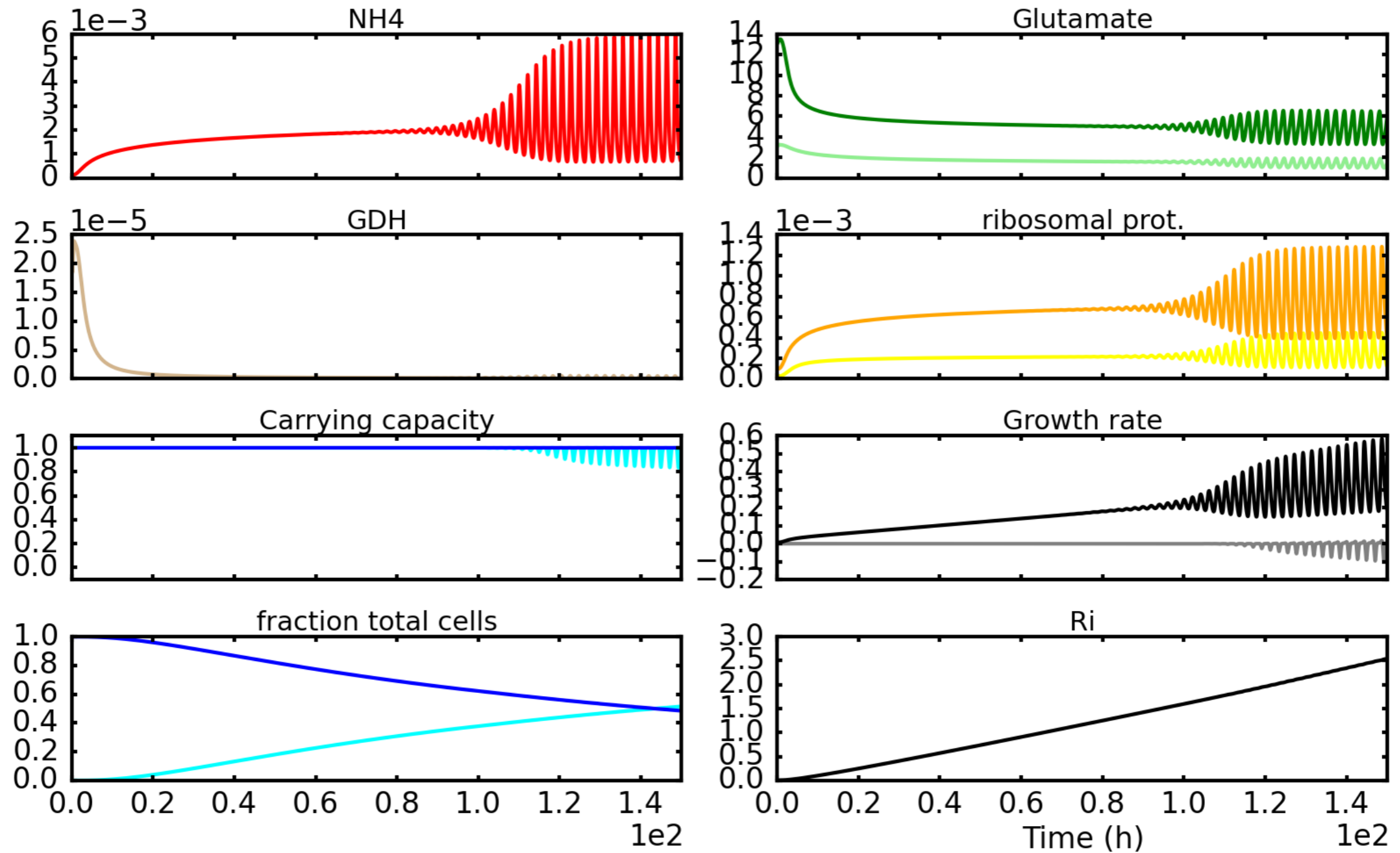
Oscillations are not affected by the extracellular matrix components



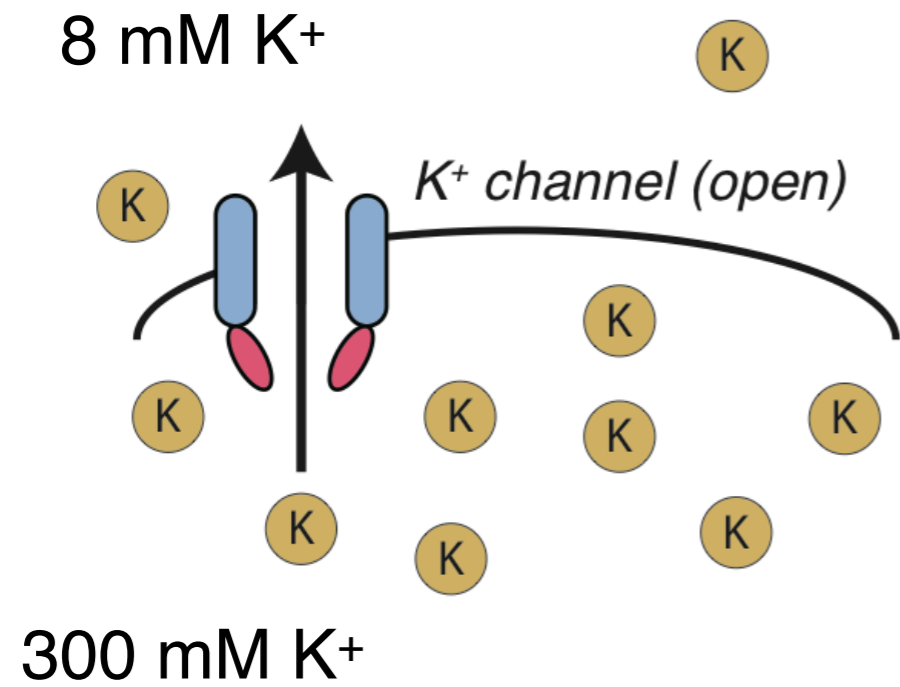
Sensitivity analysis of the model



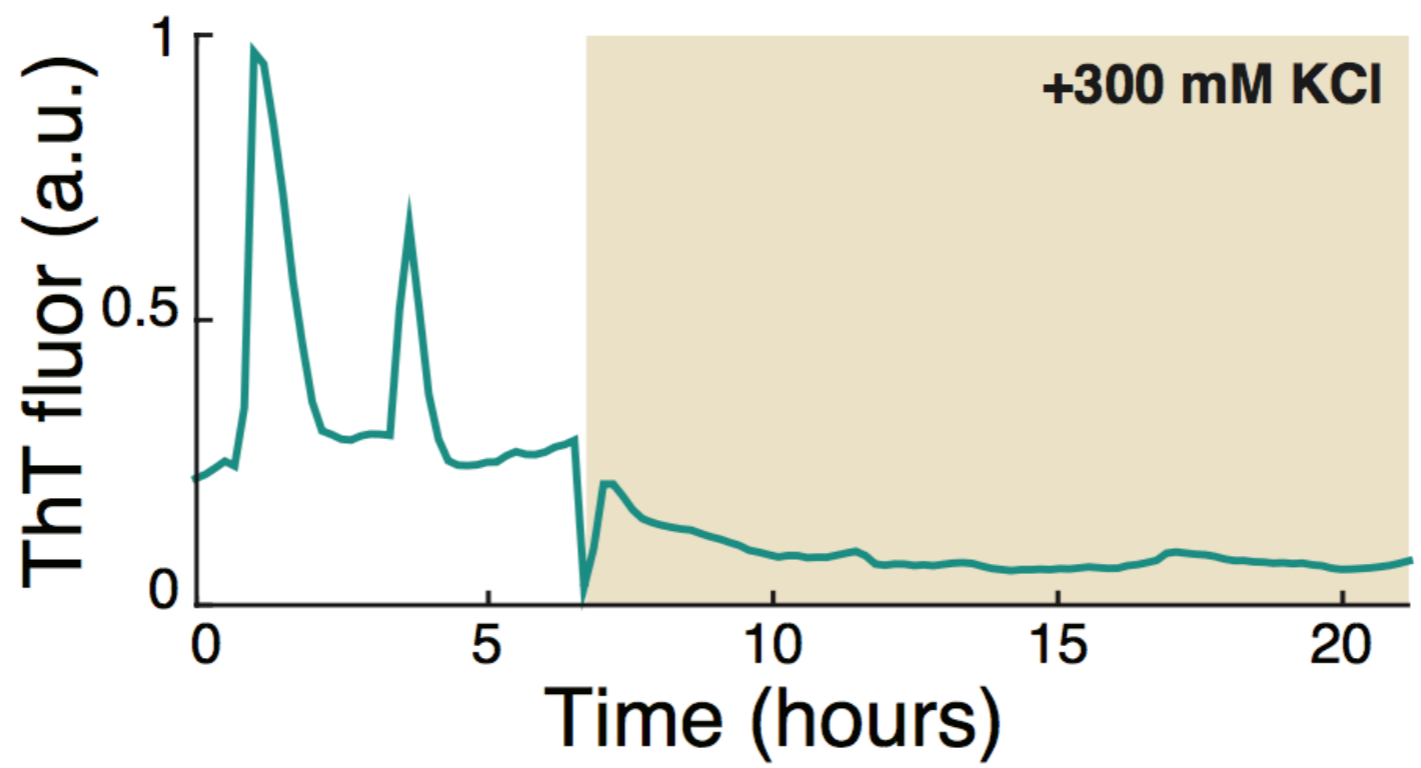
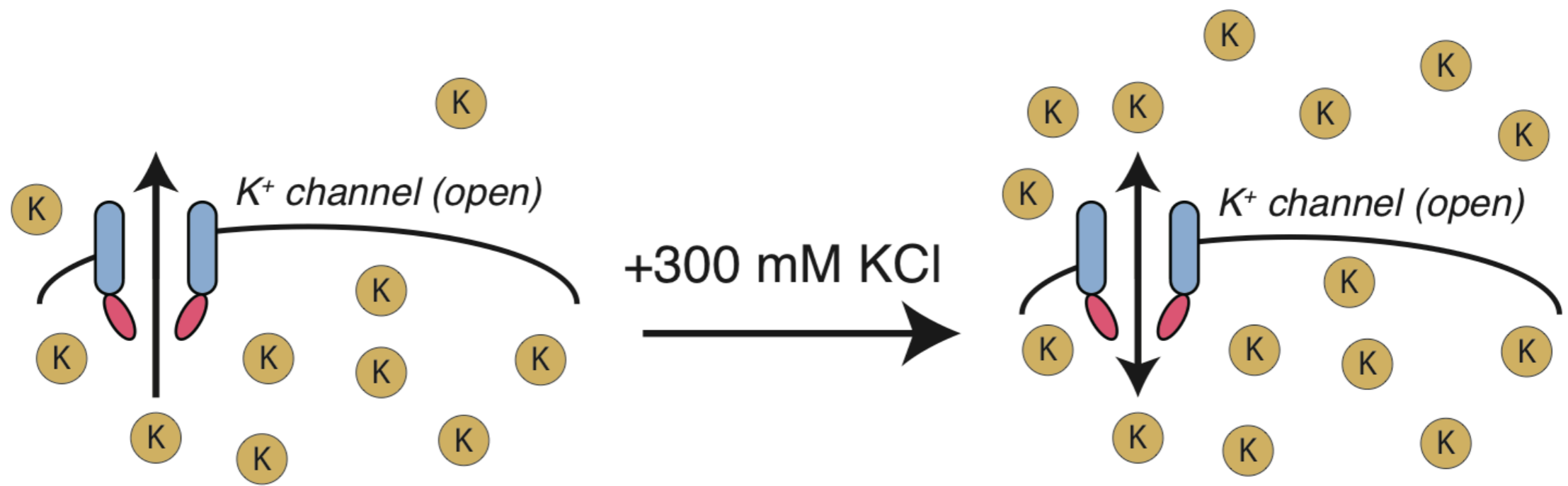
The model reproduces the system size effect



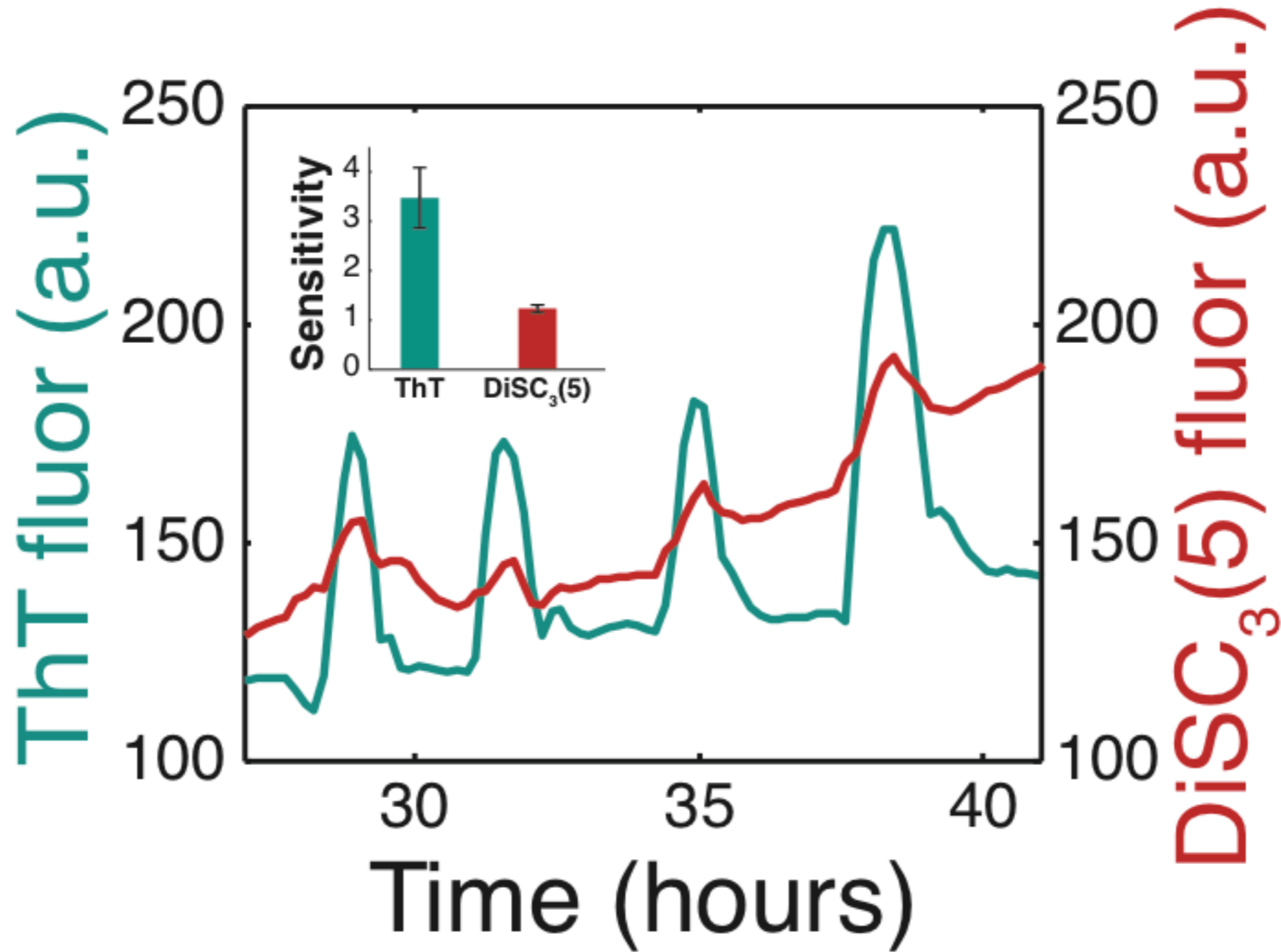
Clamping potassium abolishes oscillations



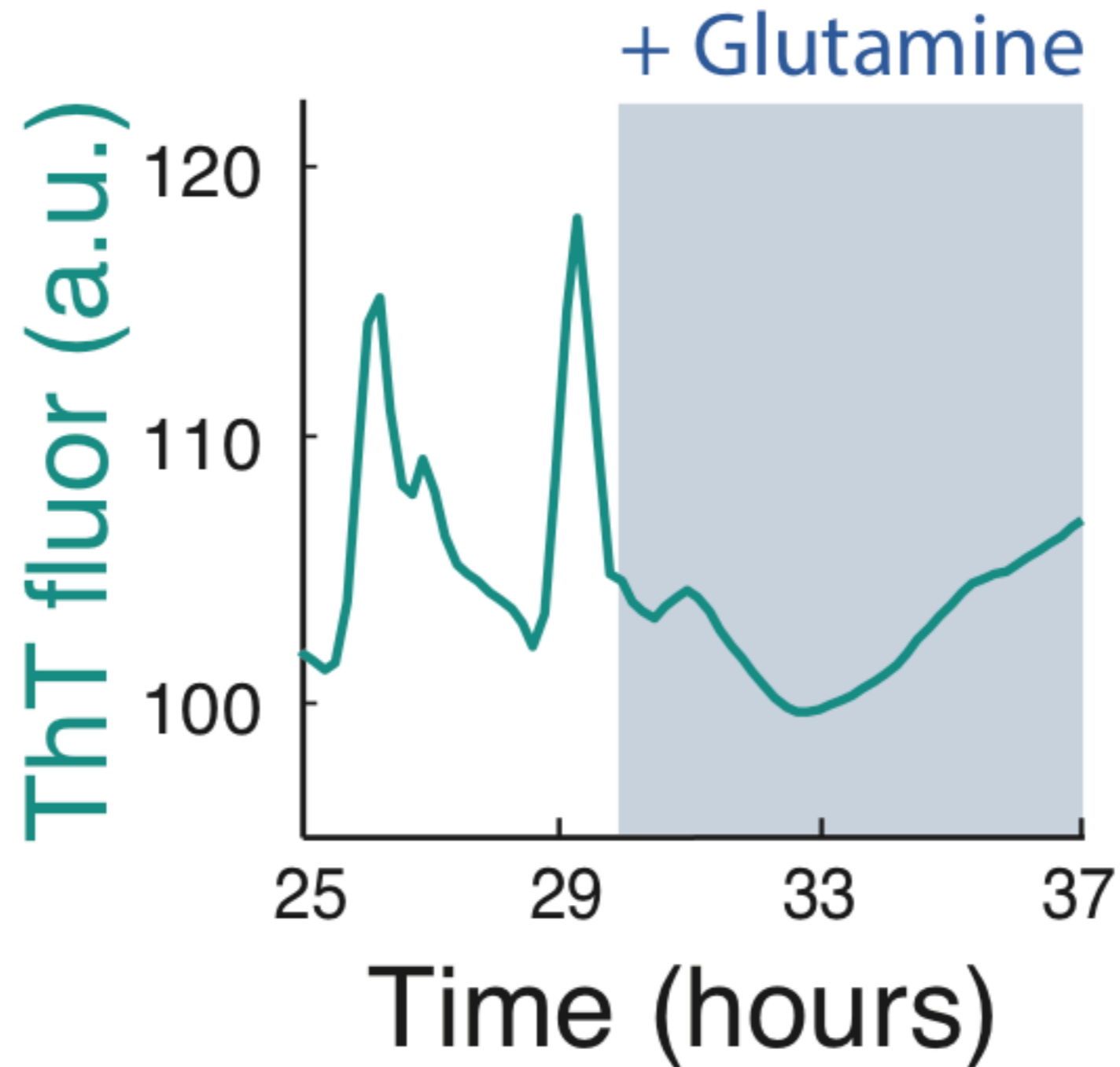
Clamping potassium abolishes oscillations



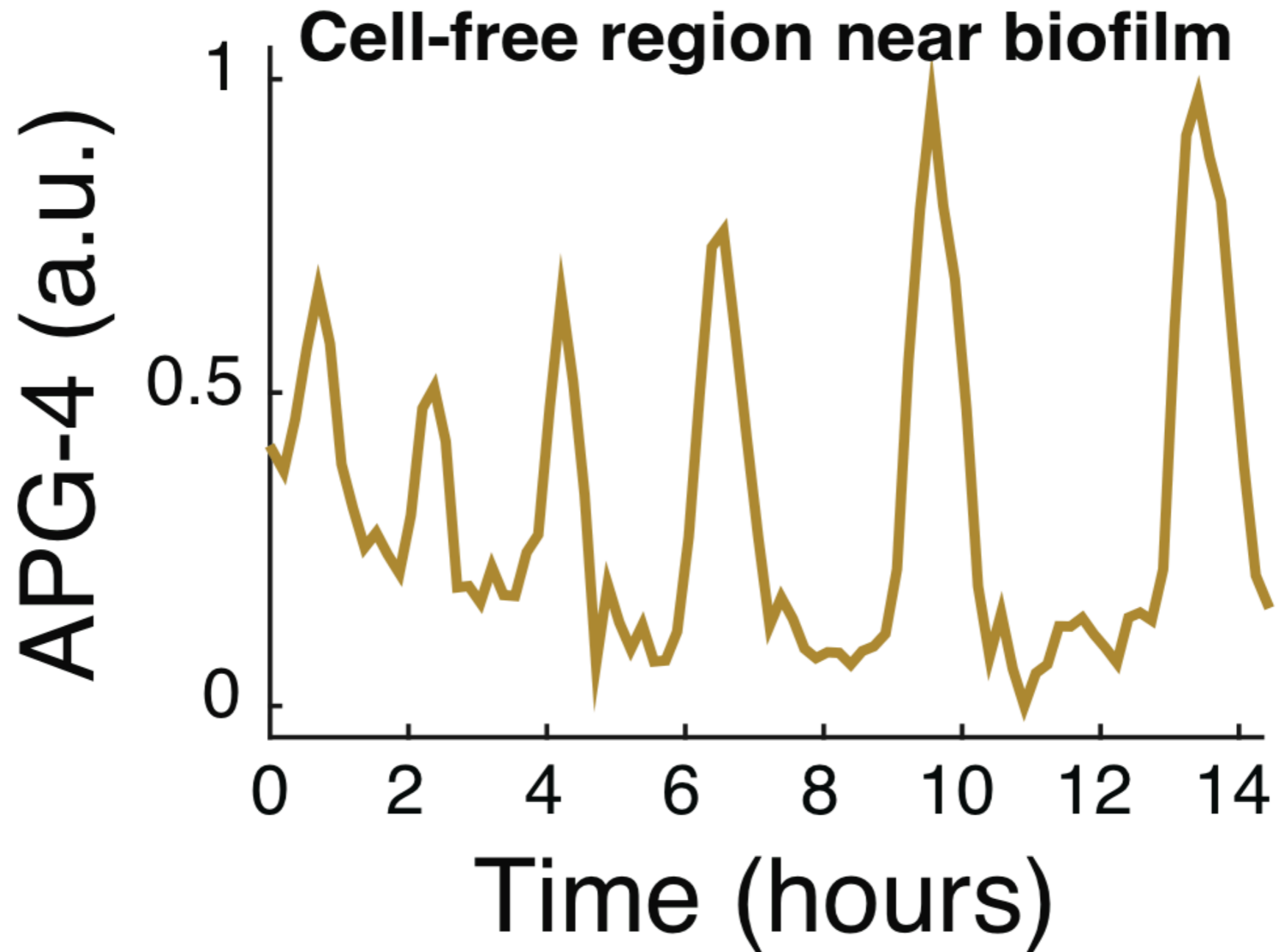
Comparison with a standard voltage-sensing dye



Glutamine quenches ThT oscillations



Potassium oscillations propagate outside biofilm



Sodium clamp does not affect ThT oscillations

