

Lecture layout:

- Properties of the experimental network system
 - Structural considerations
 - Electrophysiological recordings
 - Stimulation-induced activity
 - The concept of association-strength between a pair of activities, and its relations to activation paths
 - Interactions between activation paths
 - Long-term effects of stimulation on association-strength

- Selective adaptation
 - Increased sensitivity to rare input on the background of frequent input
 - Reversibility of the phenomenon
 - Impacts of path inactivation
 - Pharmacological effects
 - Mechanism

- Learning
 - Biological realization of learning using closed-loop designs
 - The concept of reward
 - >Rewarding entity (e.g. dopamine)
 - >Drive reduction theory (Guthrie, Hull)
 - The effect of dopamine on association strength
 - Dopamine as a drive
 - Experimental realization of learning by drive reduction

- The limits of the systems

- Envisioned technological and conceptual developments; their impacts on the ability to interface with real brains