

Tuesday, 12st December 2017 - 11 a.m



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Circuit organization of mouse motor cortex

The mammalian motor cortex enables purposive volitional movements, but in contrast to the primary sensory cortices the synaptic circuit organization of this part of brain has been mostly terra incognita. Recent findings are beginning to reveal the local and long-range input-output circuits of corticospinal and other excitatory neurons in mouse motor cortex, and the ways in which these circuits may represent system-specific variations on a common plan.