



Julia Kaltschmidt

Associate Professor of Neurosurgery

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Administrative Contact**

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Bio

BIO

I am a Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute Faculty Scholar and an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Stanford Medical School. Originally from Germany, I received my undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the University of Madison, Wisconsin. I then completed my PhD at the University of Cambridge in the UK, where I trained as a developmental biologist and studied the cellular mechanisms underlying early *Drosophila* nervous system development. During my postdoc at Columbia University, I began working with mouse as a model system, and became interested in mechanisms that underlie sensory-motor circuit connectivity in the spinal cord. I continued to explore the development and molecular regulation of spinal circuitry as an Assistant Professor at the Sloan Kettering Institute in New York City. During this time, the focus of my laboratory further expanded to include neuronal circuits that underlie sexual function and gut motility.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, Neurosurgery
- Member, Bio-X
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)
- Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute Faculty Scholar, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute, (2017- present)
- Associate Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Stanford University, (2017- present)
- Assistant Professor, Cell and Developmental Biology Program, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, (2008-2017)
- Assistant Professor, Developmental Biology Program, Sloan Kettering Institute, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, (2008-2017)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Louis V. Gerstner, Jr. Young Investigator Award, Gerstner Family Foundation (2009-2012)
- Whitehall Research Grant, Whitehall Foundation (2009-2012)
- Wellcome Prize Traveling Research Fellowship, The Wellcome Trust (UK) (2001-2003)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Co-Editor-in-Chief, Neural Development (2019 - present)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Postdoc, Columbia University , Neurobiology (2008)
- PhD, University of Cambridge (UK) , Developmental Biology (2002)

LINKS

- Kaltschmidt Lab website: <http://med.stanford.edu/kaltschmidt-lab.html>

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

The lab's goal is to understand the molecular basis of neuronal circuit formation. We are particularly interested in circuits that underlie locomotion, sexual function and gut motility.

Spinal circuits underlying locomotor function:

Local inhibitory microcircuits have a fundamental role in shaping animal behavior. In the mammalian spinal cord inhibitory interneurons modulate the sensory-motor signaling that controls locomotion. We are using a specific interneuron circuit to understand (i) how distinct neuronal populations are generated, (ii) how these distinct neuronal populations recognize and choose their correct synaptic partners from among different available targets, and (iii) how postsynaptic signals induce the differentiation of presynaptic terminals in service of balanced circuit function.

Spinal circuitry of sexual function:

During mammalian copulation, spinal circuits reflexively integrate sexually-specific sensory information. We are performing anatomical reconstructions of erectile circuits in the spinal cord, and are analyzing copulatory behavior in males with disrupted interneuron circuitry.

Enteric nervous system structure and function:

The enteric nervous system (ENS) in the gut contains more neurons than the spinal cord and presents a translational model relevant to many human illnesses. However, relatively little is known about the development, connectivity and function of ENS circuitry. The mouse ENS is experimentally tractable and allows application of molecular genetic and high-resolution imaging techniques, as well as innovative in vivo experimental approaches. We aim to (i) map ENS circuit connectivity and (ii) explore functional consequences of ENS circuit abnormalities.

Teaching

COURSES

2020-21

- Neurosciences Development Core: NEPR 202 (Win)

2019-20

- Neurosciences Development Core: NEPR 202 (Win)

2018-19

- Neurosciences Development Core: NEPR 202 (Win)

2017-18

- Neurosciences Development Core: NEPR 202 (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Chung-ha Davis, Ellen Gingrich, Cosmos Wang, ChiChi Xie

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Subhamoy Das, Ryan Hamnett, Jen Shadrach

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Lori Dershowitz, Julieta Gomez-Frittelli, Keiramarie Robertson, Beatriz Robinson, Janelle Siliezar-Doyle

GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Neurosciences (Phd Program)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Chandelier Cells Swipe Right for LICAM** *NEURON*
Hamnett, R., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2019; 102 (2): 267–70
- **Commissural axon guidance in the developing spinal cord: from Cajal to the present day.** *Neural development*
Comer, J. D., Alvarez, S., Butler, S. J., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2019; 14 (1): 9
- **Sensory and descending motor circuitry during development and injury.** *Current opinion in neurobiology*
Plant, G. W., Weinrich, J. A., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2018; 53: 156–61
- **A Role for Dystonia-Associated Genes in Spinal GABAergic Interneuron Circuitry.** *Cell reports*
Zhang, J., Weinrich, J. A., Russ, J. B., Comer, J. D., Bommareddy, P. K., DiCasoli, R. J., Wright, C. V., Li, Y., van Roessel, P. J., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2017; 21 (3): 666–78
- **Satb2 Stations Neurons along Reflex Arcs** *NEURON*
Hantman, A. W., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2016; 91 (4): 711-713
- **Sensory-Derived Glutamate Regulates Presynaptic Inhibitory Terminals in Mouse Spinal Cord** *NEURON*
Mende, M., Fletcher, E. V., Belluardo, J. L., Pierce, J. P., Bommareddy, P. K., Weinrich, J. A., Kabir, Z. D., Schierberl, K. C., Pagiazitis, J. G., Mendelsohn, A. I., Francesconi, A., Edwards, R. H., Milner, et al
2016; 90 (6): 1189-1202
- **Normal Molecular Specification and Neurodegenerative Disease-Like Death of Spinal Neurons Lacking the SNARE-Associated Synaptic Protein Munc18-1** *JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE*
Law, C., Profes, M. S., Levesque, M., Kaltschmidt, J. A., Verhage, M., Kania, A.
2016; 36 (2): 561-576
- **Sensory and spinal inhibitory dorsal midline crossing is independent of Robo3** *FRONTIERS IN NEURAL CIRCUITS*
Comer, J. D., Pan, F. C., Willet, S. G., Haldipur, P., Millen, K. J., Wright, C. V., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2015; 9
- **Misexpression of Ptf1a in Cortical Pyramidal Cells In Vivo Promotes an Inhibitory Peptidergic Identity** *JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE*
Russ, J. B., Borromeo, M. D., Kollipara, R. K., Bommareddy, P. K., Johnson, J. E., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2015; 35 (15): 6028-6037

- **From induction to conduction: how intrinsic transcriptional priming of extrinsic neuronal connectivity shapes neuronal identity** *OPEN BIOLOGY*
Russ, J. B., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2014; 4 (10)
- **Neuronal Ig/Caspr Recognition Promotes the Formation of Axoaxonic Synapses in Mouse Spinal Cord** *NEURON*
Ashrafi, S., Betley, J. N., Comer, J. D., Brenner-Morton, S., Bar, V., Shimoda, Y., Watanabe, K., Peles, E., Jessell, T. M., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2014; 81 (1): 120-129
- **Corticospinal tract insult alters GABAergic circuitry in the mammalian spinal cord** *FRONTIERS IN NEURAL CIRCUITS*
Russ, J. B., Verina, T., Comer, J. D., Comi, A. M., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2013; 7
- **Wnt7A identifies embryonic γ -motor neurons and reveals early postnatal dependence of γ -motor neurons on a muscle spindle-derived signal.** *journal of neuroscience*
Ashrafi, S., Lalancette-Hébert, M., Friese, A., Sigrist, M., Arber, S., Shneider, N. A., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2012; 32 (25): 8725-8731
- **Stringent Specificity in the Construction of a GABAergic Presynaptic Inhibitory Circuit** *CELL*
Betley, J. N., Wright, C. V., Kawaguchi, Y., Erdelyi, F., Szabo, G., Jessell, T. M., Kaltschmidt, J. A.
2009; 139 (1): 161-174
- **Gamma and alpha motor neurons distinguished by expression of transcription factor Err3** *PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*
Friese, A., Kaltschmidt, J. A., Ladle, D. R., Sigrist, M., Jessell, T. M., Arber, S.
2009; 106 (32): 13588-13593
- **Conditional rhythmicity of ventral spinal interneurons defined by expression of the Hb9 homeodomain protein** *JOURNAL OF NEUROSCIENCE*
Wilson, J. M., Hartley, R., Maxwell, D. J., Todd, A. J., Lieberam, I., Kaltschmidt, J. A., Yoshida, Y., Jessell, T. M., Brownstone, R. M.
2005; 25 (24): 5710-5719
- **Polar transport in the Drosophila oocyte requires Dynein and Kinesin I cooperation** *CURRENT BIOLOGY*
Januschke, J., Gervais, L., Dass, S., Kaltschmidt, J. A., Lopez-Schier, H., St Johnston, D., Brand, A. H., Roth, S., Guichet, A.
2002; 12 (23): 1971-1981
- **Planar polarity and actin dynamics in the epidermis of Drosophila** *NATURE CELL BIOLOGY*
Kaltschmidt, J. A., Lawrence, N., Morel, V., Balayo, T., Fernandez, B. G., Pelissier, A., Jacinto, A., Arias, A. M.
2002; 4 (12): 937-944
- **A new dawn for an old connection: development meets the cell** *TRENDS IN CELL BIOLOGY*
Kaltschmidt, J. A., Arias, A. M.
2002; 12 (7): 316-320
- **Asymmetric cell division: microtubule dynamics and spindle asymmetry** *JOURNAL OF CELL SCIENCE*
Kaltschmidt, J. A., Brand, A. H.
2002; 115 (11): 2257-2264
- **Frizzled regulates localization of cell-fate determinants and mitotic spindle rotation during asymmetric cell division** *NATURE CELL BIOLOGY*
Bellaïche, Y., Gho, M., Kaltschmidt, J. A., Brand, A. H., Schweisguth, F.
2001; 3 (1): 50-57
- **Rotation and asymmetry of the mitotic spindle direct asymmetric cell division in the developing central nervous system** *NATURE CELL BIOLOGY*
Kaltschmidt, J. A., Davidson, C. M., Brown, N. H., Brand, A. H.
2000; 2 (1): 7-12