

A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO CELLULAR SIGNAL
TRANSDUCTION

Jeremy E. Purvis

A DISSERTATION

in

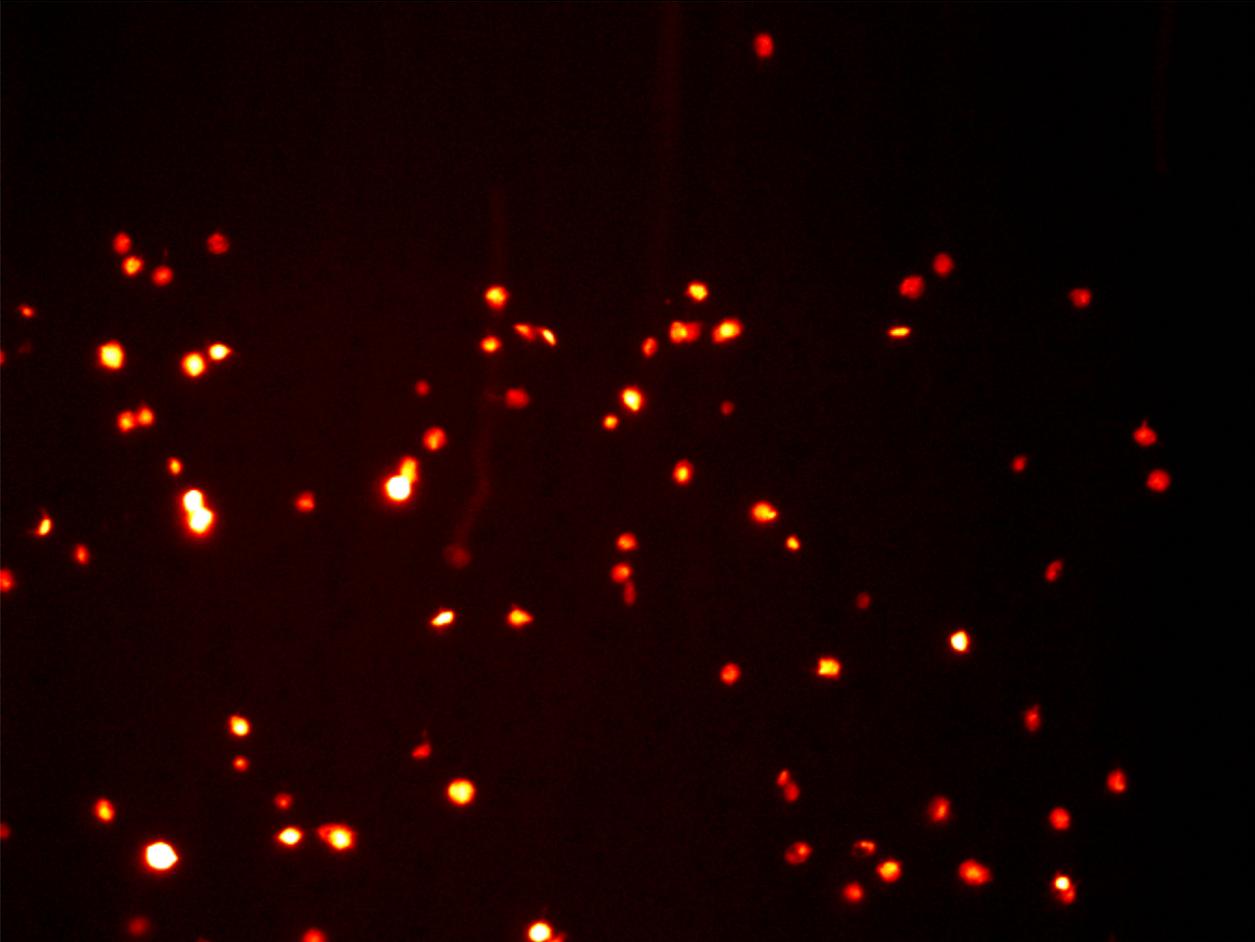
Genomics and Computational Biology

Presented to the Faculties of the University of Pennsylvania in Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

2009

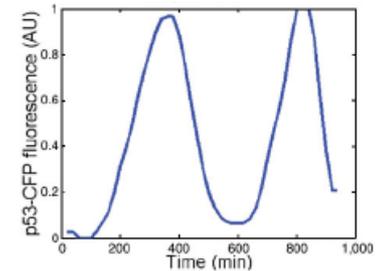
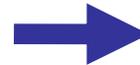
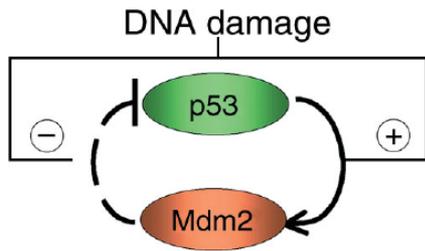
■ Cell signaling involves coordinated molecular interactions

Platelets adhering to collagen, triggering intracellular calcium release

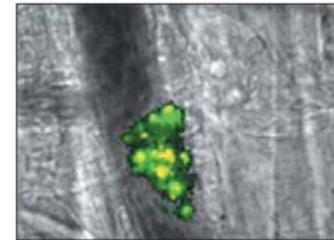
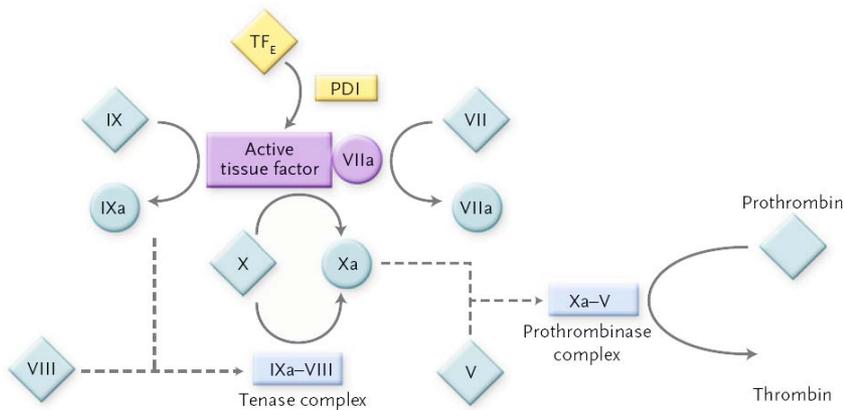


■ Signals are emergent behaviors with molecular causes

Reactions governing the DNA damage response give rise to pulses of activated p53

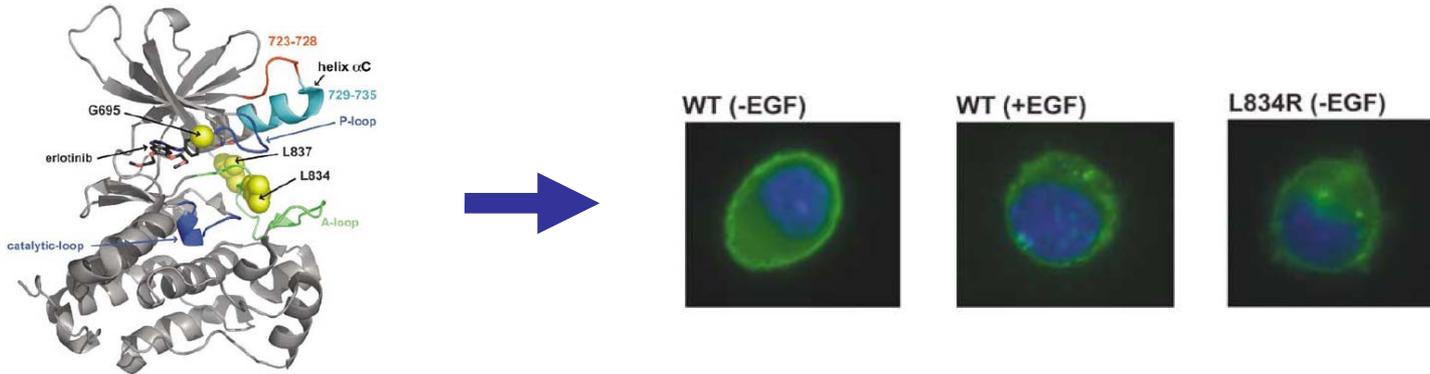


Reactions governing coagulation give rise to waves of calcium in a developing thrombus



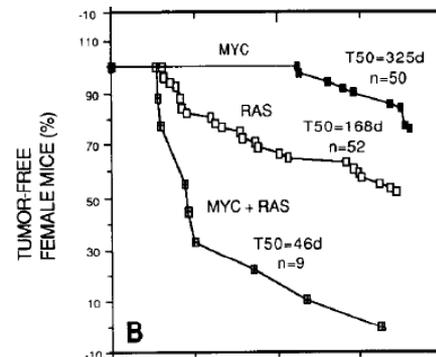
Errors in signaling can have pathological consequences

A single AA substitution in the epidermal growth factor receptor leads to constitutive growth signals



Expression of *c-myc* and *ras^D* in transgenic mice dramatically accelerates tumor growth

c-myc **AND** *ras^D* →



■ Computational approaches elucidate two clinically-relevant signaling responses

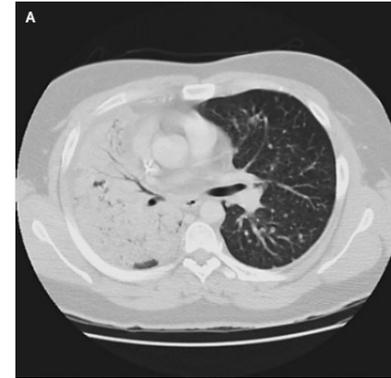
- Oncogenic signaling through the epidermal growth factor receptor

Ravi Radhakrisnan (PI)

Yingting Liu

Andrew Shih

Neeraj Agrawal

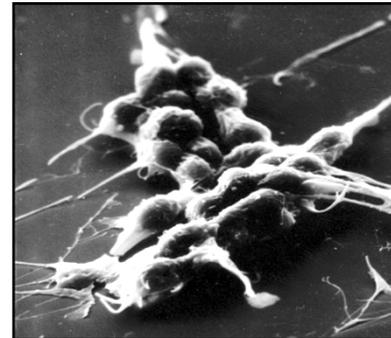


- Calcium and phosphoinositide signaling in human platelets

Scott Diamond (PI)

Skip Brass (PI)

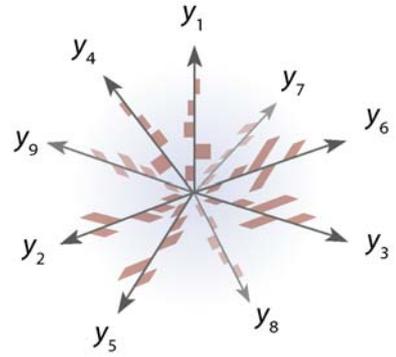
Manash Chatterjee



New modeling methods afford specific design goals

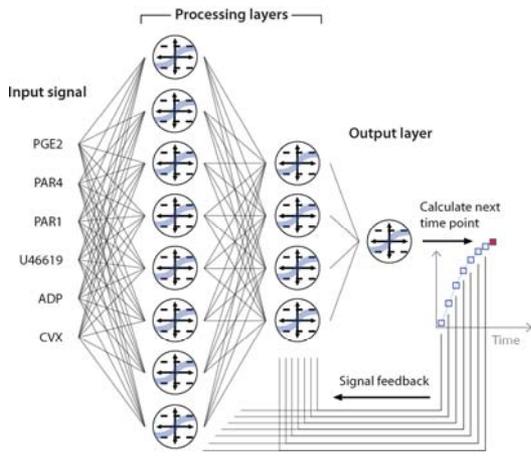
- Steady-state kinetic modeling constrains cellular resting states

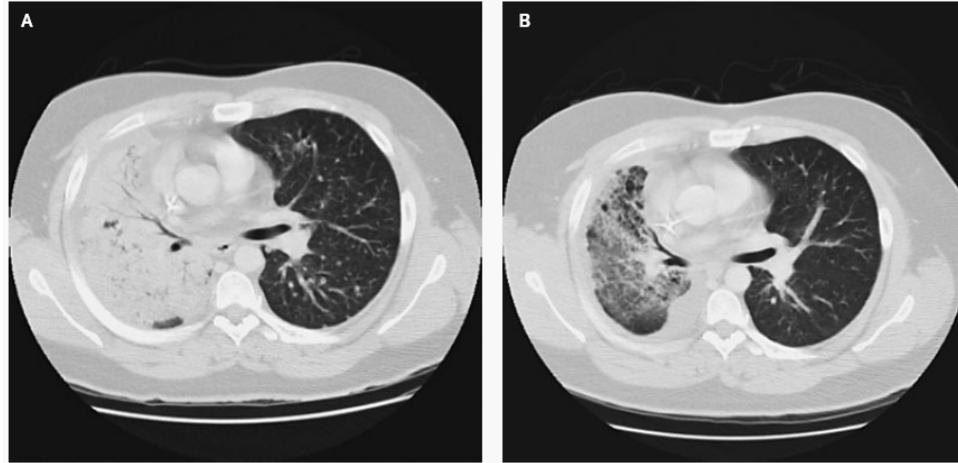
Ravi Radhakrisnan (PI)
Scott Diamond (PI)



- Dynamic neural network modeling predicts responses to multi-input signals

Scott Diamond (PI)
Manash Chatterjee





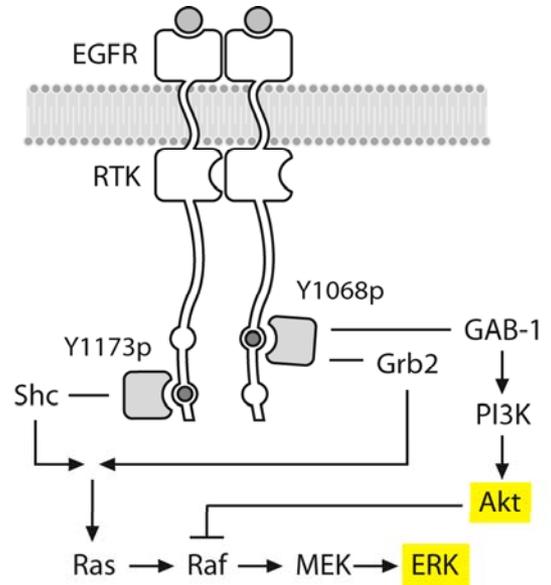
I. Phosphotyrosine Signaling in the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

Liu et al. (2007). *Ann Biomed Eng* 35:1012-25
Purvis et al. (2008). *Biotechnol Prog* 24:540-53
Shih et al. (2008). *Mol Biosyst* 4:1151-9.

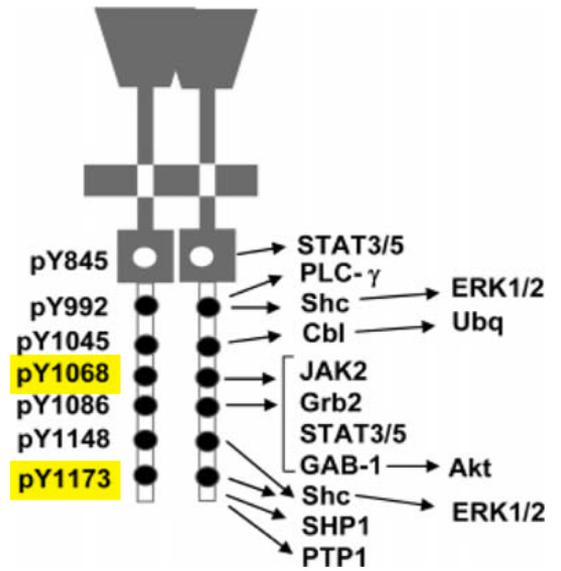
- Addresses the question of why certain cancer cell lines are responsive to tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) therapy
- Seeks to resolve how structural alterations in the receptor are communicated as downstream growth or survival signals

Differences in receptor signaling determine cell fate

- Growth factor signaling influences cell decisions through receptor activation and trafficking, effector processing, and transcription



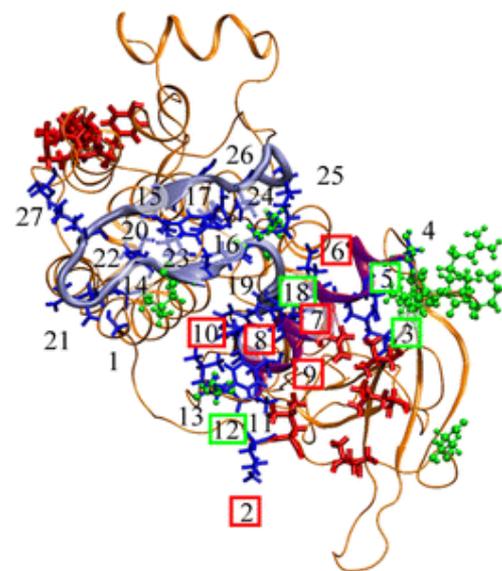
- Patterns of tyrosine phosphorylation encode varying signals mediated through adaptor proteins



■ Mutant behavior resolved through molecular dynamics and molecular docking

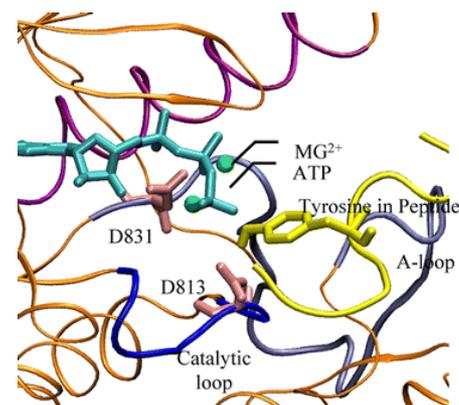
- Molecular dynamics simulations showed that the drug sensitizing mutation (L858R) of EGFR stabilizes the active conformation

Andrew Shih



- Docking simulations showed that L858R had an increased affinity for the drug and a preference for certain phosphorylated tyrosine residues

Yingting Liu



Increased flux through Y1068 causes a relative gain in Akt activation

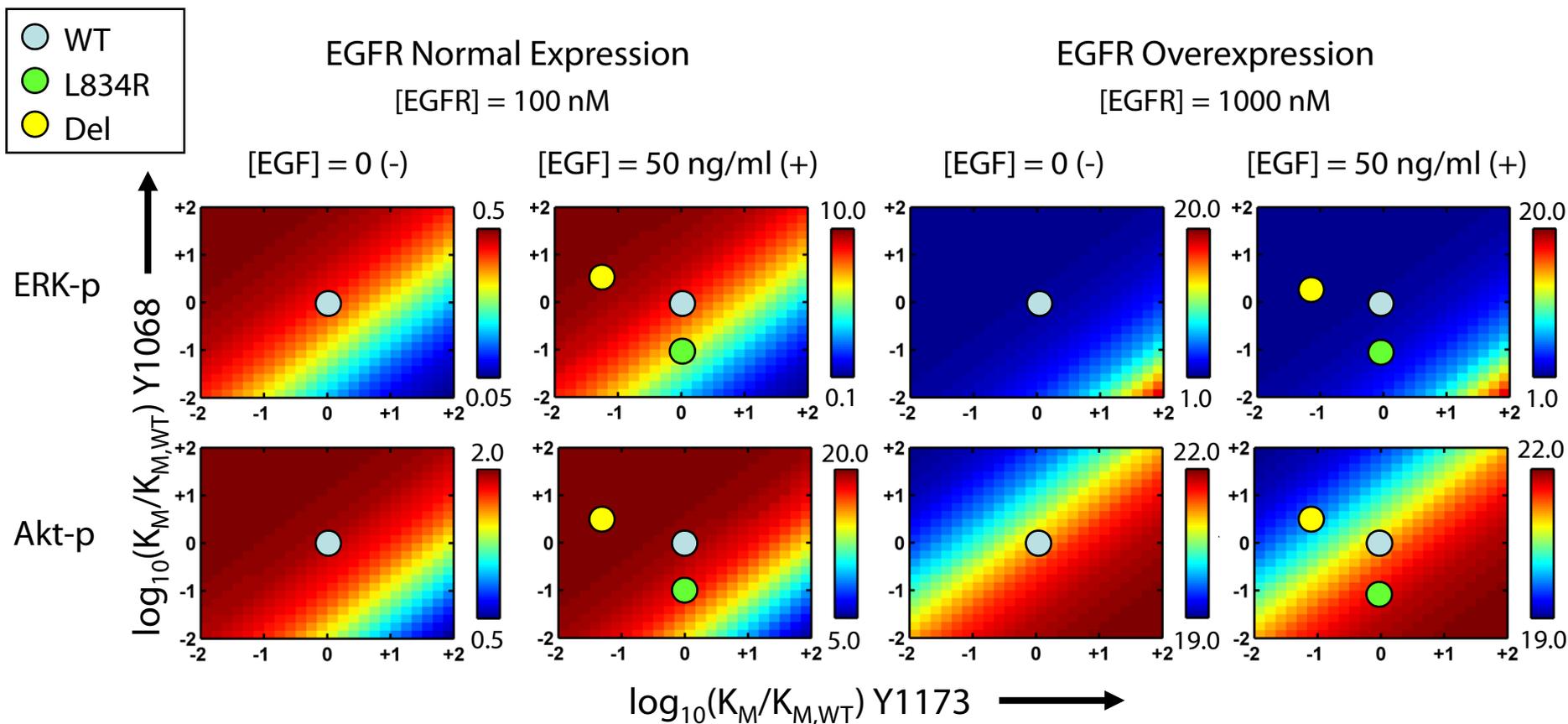
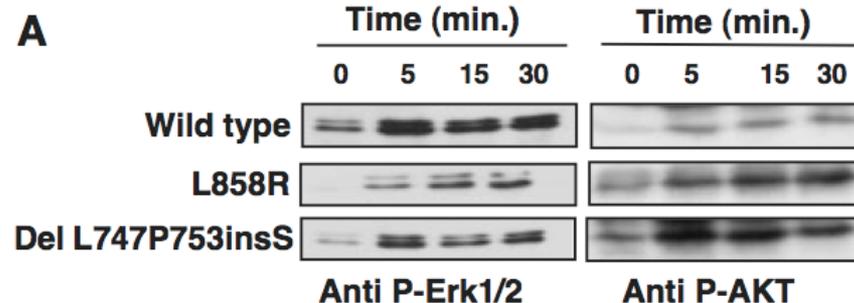


Table 1. Parametric Differences between WT and Mutant EGFR Systems Inferred from Experiments

parameter	WT	L834R	del	reference
K_M^{ATP}	5.0 μ M	10.9 μ M	129 μ M	3
$K_i^{erlotinib}$	17.5 nM	6.25 nM	3.3 μ M	3
K_M^{Y1068}	265 μ M	13.3 μ M	130 μ M	14, 57, 58
K_M^{Y1173}	236 μ M	200 μ M	300 μ M	14, 57, 58
k_{cat}^{Y1068}	0.29 s^{-1}	0.24 s^{-1}	0.2 s^{-1}	14, 54, 57, 58, 59
k_{cat}^{Y1173}	0.25 s^{-1}	0.21 s^{-1}	0.22 s^{-1}	14, 54, 57, 58, 59

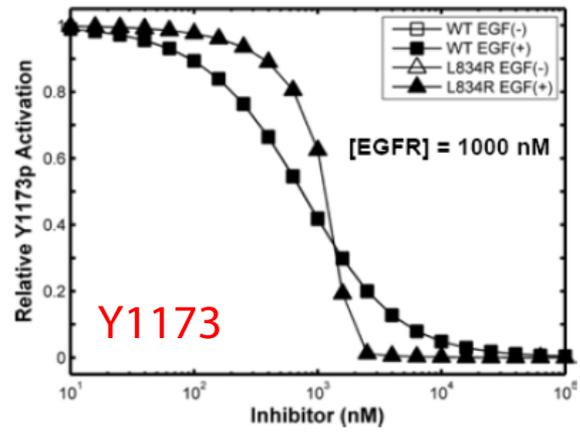
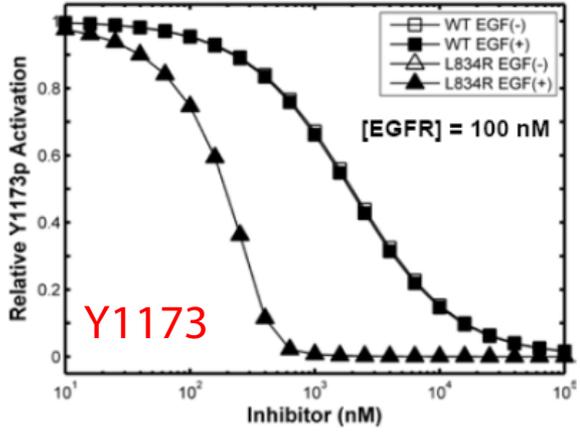
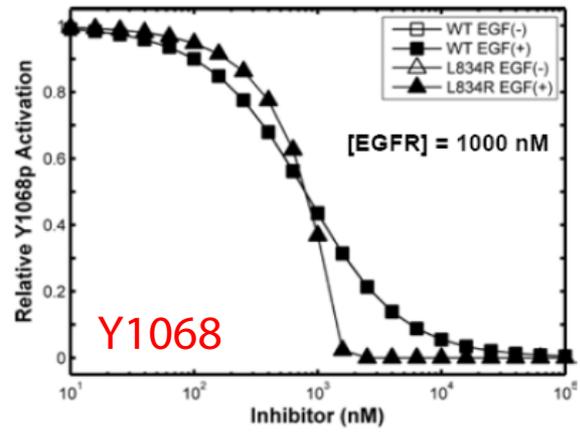
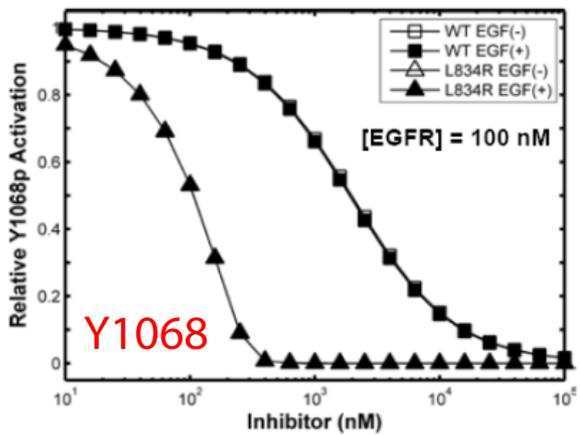


Tarceva® (erlotinib) reduces Y-phosphorylation under normal EGFR expression

Phosphorylation

Normal EGFR Expression

EGFR Overexpression



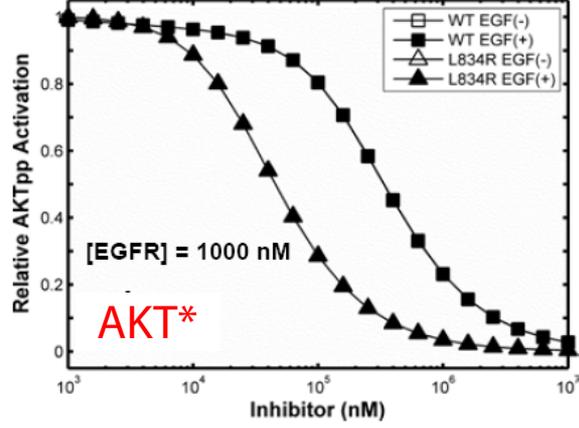
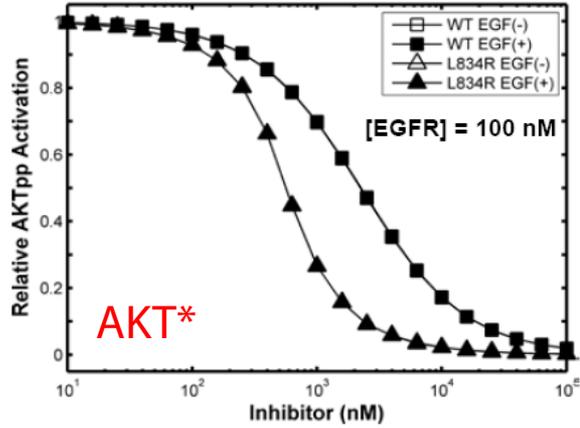
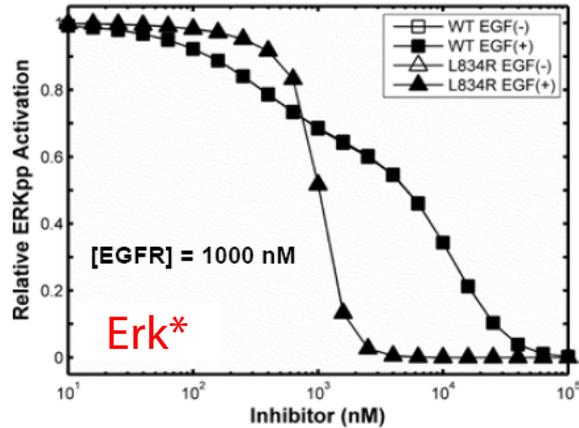
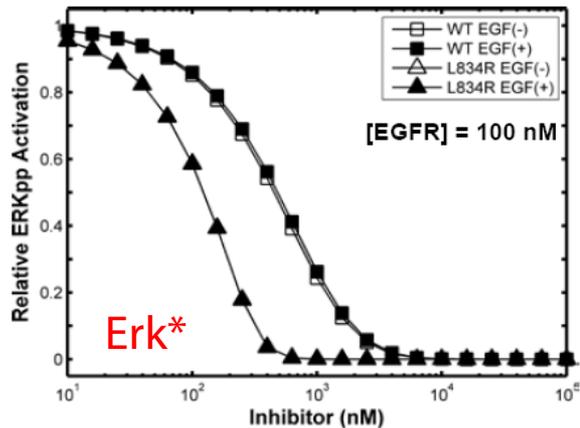
Inhibitor

Tarceva® (erlotinib) reduces Akt activation under normal and overexpressed EGFR

Kinase Activity

Normal EGFR Expression

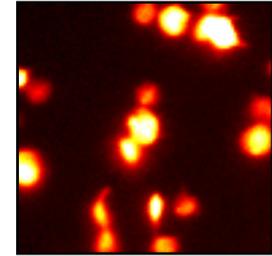
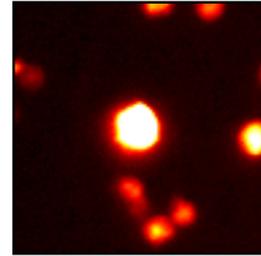
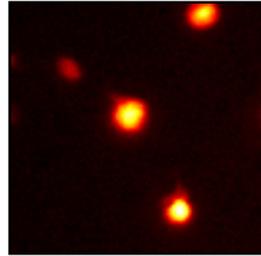
EGFR Overexpression



Inhibitor

■ Multiscale modeling offers mechanistic explanation for oncogene addiction

- Response of L858R to TKI therapy is an example of “oncogene addiction”
- Sensitivity may be used to identify probable resistance mechanisms
- Method provides a link between mutational status and kinetic properties of the system
- Akt, and not Erk, is the major mediator of cell survival in oncogenic mutants of EGFR



II. Calcium Signaling in Human Platelets

Purvis et al. (2008). *Blood* 112:4069-4079

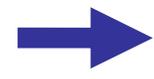
Purvis et al. (2009). *PLoS Comput Biol*

Chatterjee et al. (2009). *submitted*

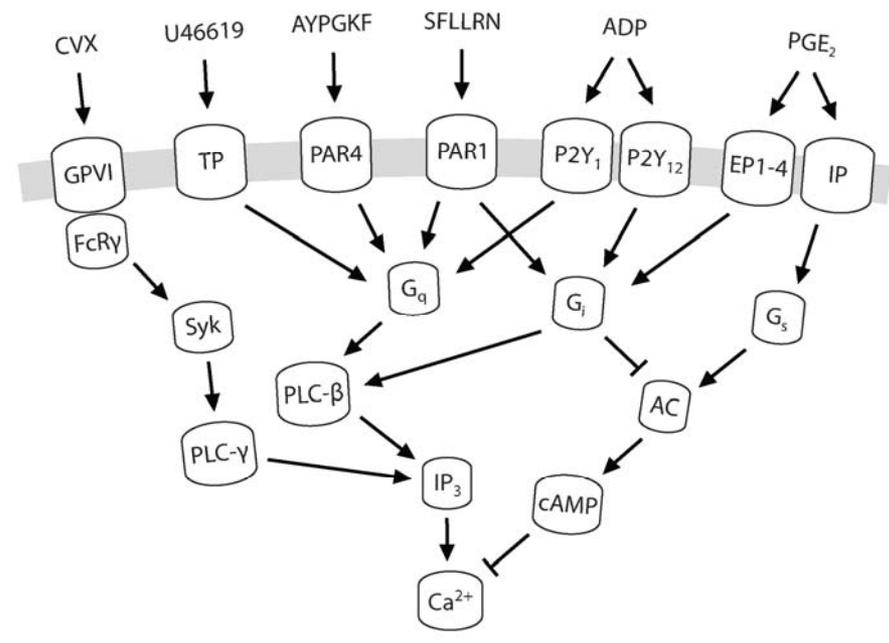
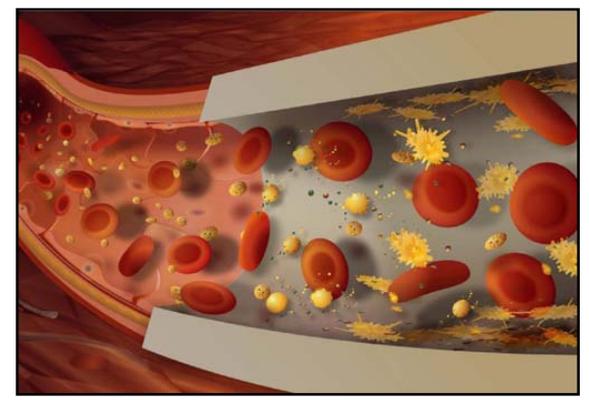
- Platelet activation is central to the 1.75 million heart attacks and strokes that occur annually in the US
- Quantitative models can make accurate predictions of patient-specific risks and biological mechanism

Platelet signaling regulates hemostasis and thrombosis

Normal circulation

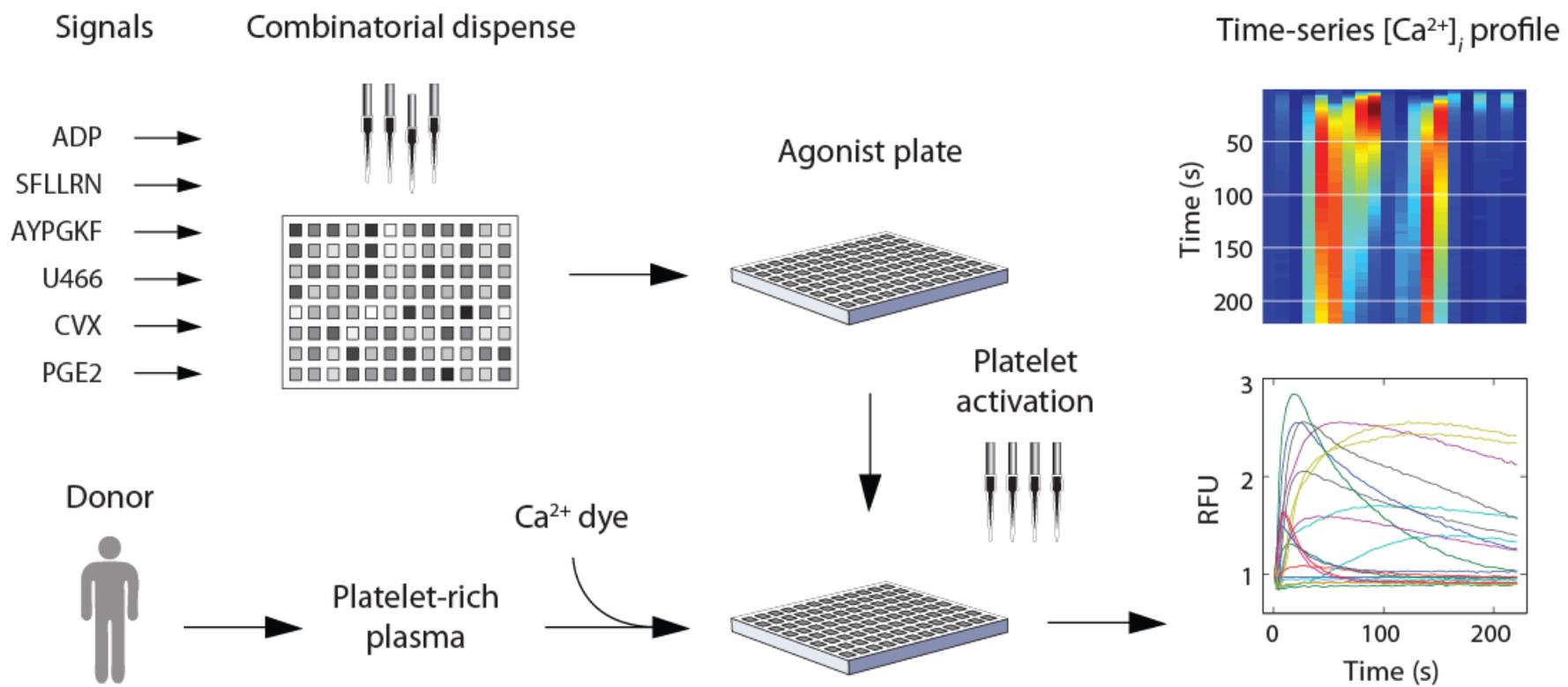


Injury



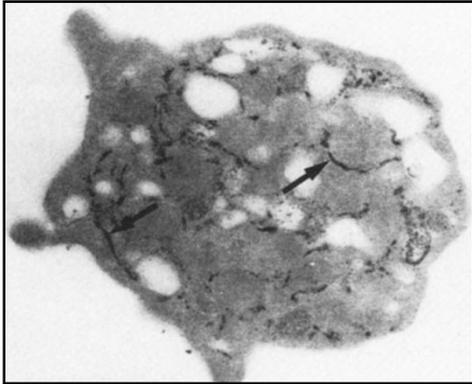
¹ Brubaker (2006). ² Chatterjee, Purvis, and Diamond (2009)

Platelet activation is monitored by dynamic intracellular calcium measurements



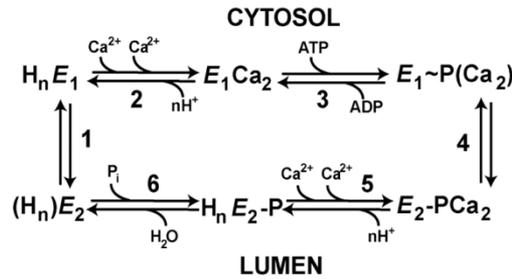
¹ Brubaker, 2006. ² Chatterjee, Purvis, and Diamond, 2009

■ Opposing kinetic processes balance calcium in the platelet

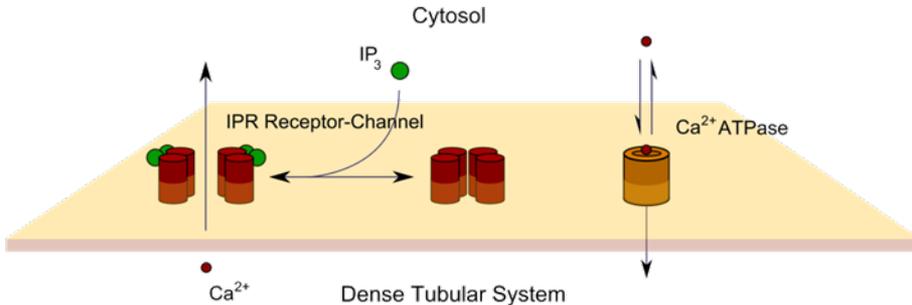
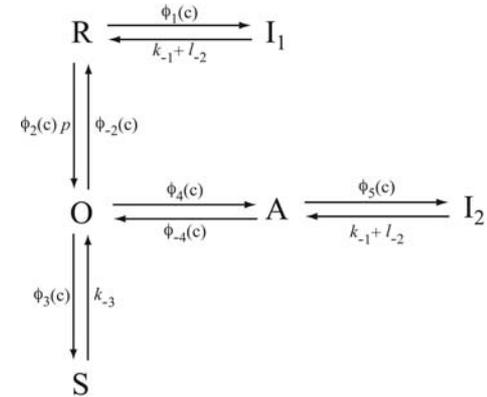


- Cytosolic calcium concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$) \approx 100 nM
- Luminal calcium concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_{dts}$) \approx 200-650 μ M
- Extracellular calcium concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_{dts}$) \approx 1 mM
- Luminal fraction appears to occupy \sim 0.1 to 10% of reactive volume

SERCA3 Calcium ATPase



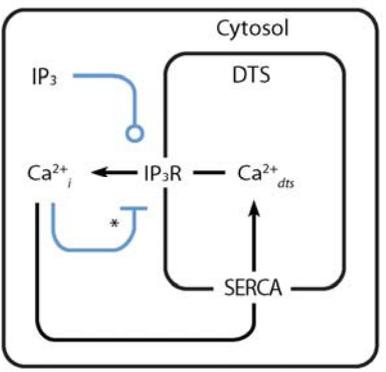
IP₃ Receptor Channel



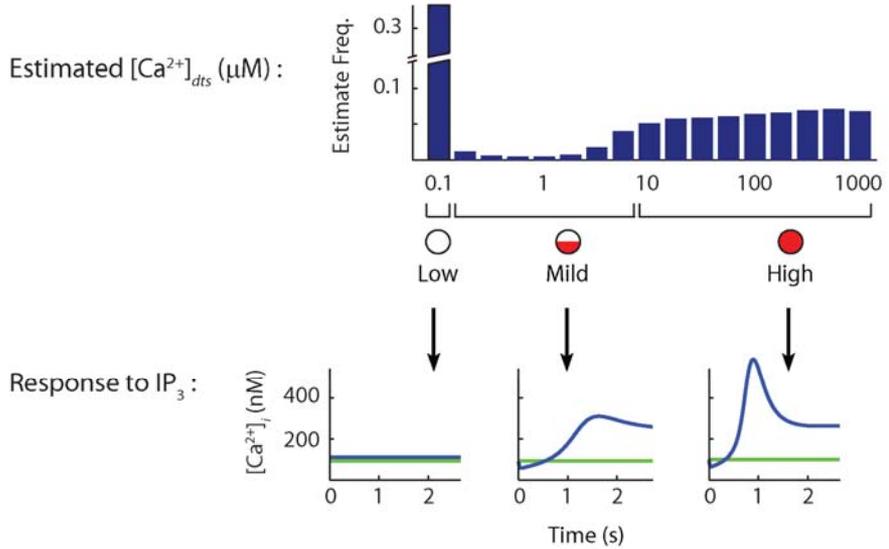
$$\frac{d}{dt} ([Ca^{2+}]_i) = I = N \gamma P_o \frac{RT}{zF} \log \left(\frac{[Ca^{2+}]_{dts}}{[Ca^{2+}]_i} \right)$$

Kinetic processes enforce natural constraints on molecular makeup and structure

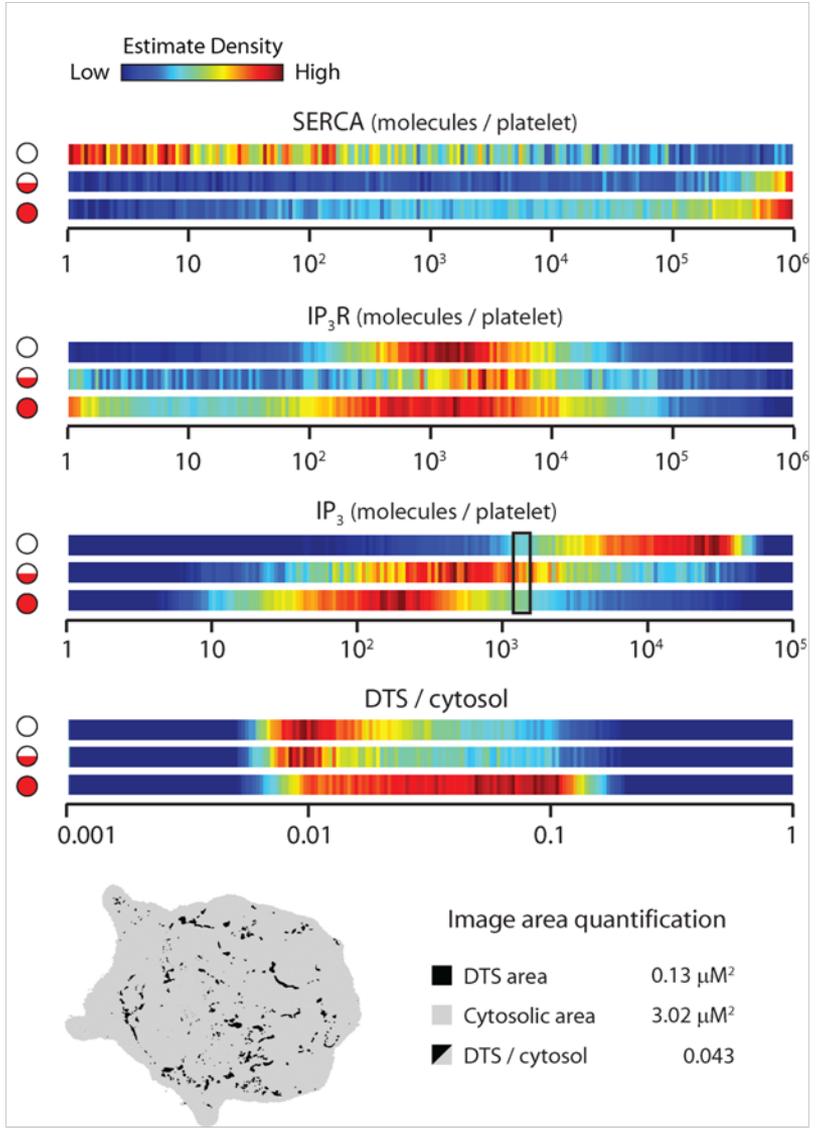
Fix topology and sample Ca^{2+} space



Parameter	Value Range
IP_3R	$1 - 10^6$ platelet ⁻¹
SERCA	$1 - 10^6$ platelet ⁻¹
$[IP_3]$	$1 - 10^4$ nM
$[Ca^{2+}]_{dts}$	0.01 - 10 mM
Cytosol	5 - 10 fL
DTS	0.01 - 1 fL

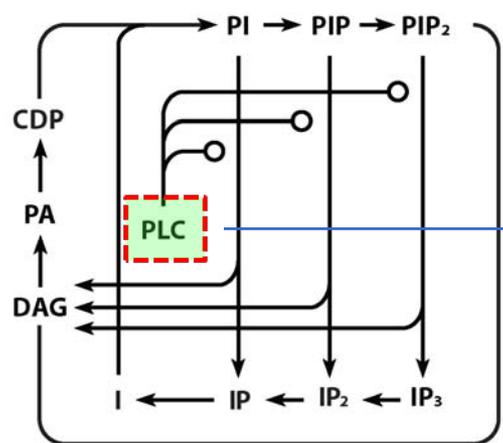


Preferred concentrations/structures

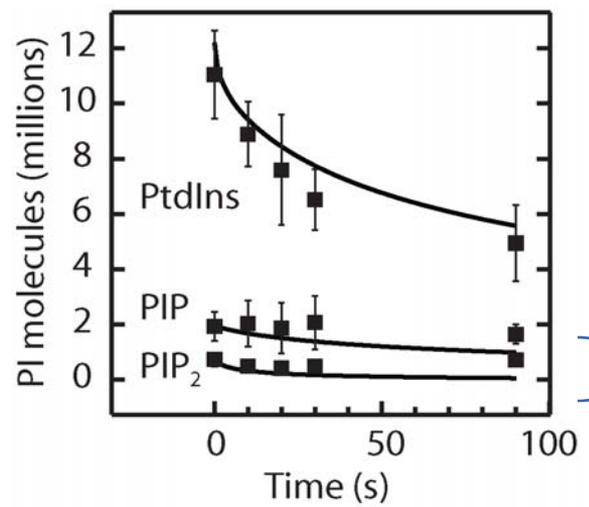


■ Simple signaling module cannot explain regeneration of PIs

PI reaction cycle¹



PI turnover in response to thrombin/elevated PLC-β^{1,2}



No repletion of PIP₂ in module

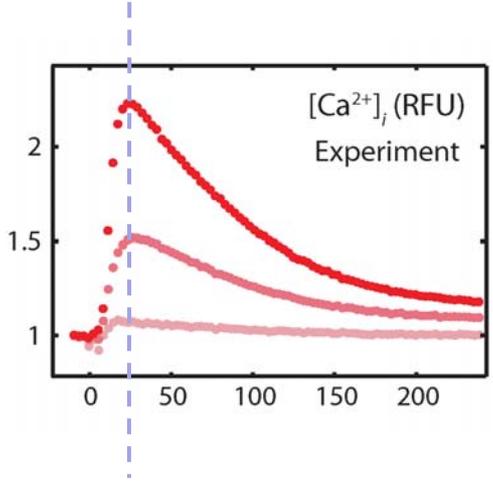
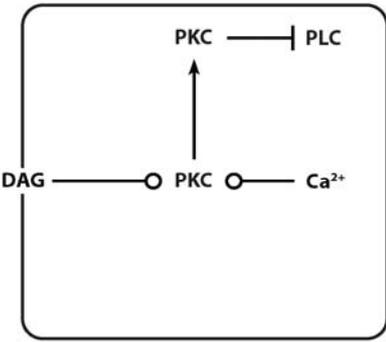
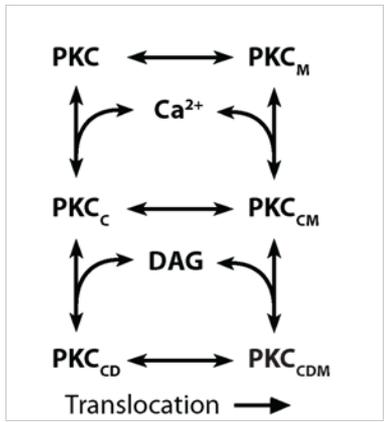
¹ Purvis, Chatterjee, Brass, and Diamond, 2008. ² Wilson, Neufeld, and Majerus, 1985.

Negative feedback through PKC reproduces synchronized calcium pulses

Modulation of PKC activity by second messengers, Ca^{2+} and DAG

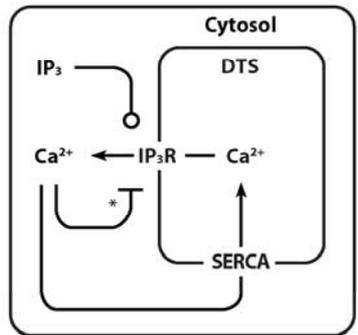
Activated PKC translocates to PM and phosphorylates PLC- β

Negative feedback necessary for synchronized responses

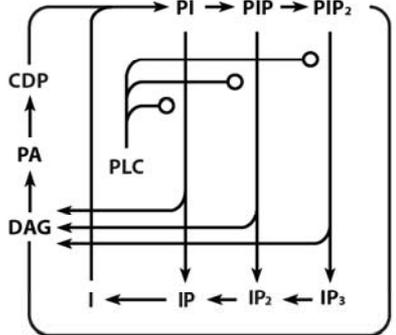


Resting modules are merged to form a full kinetic model

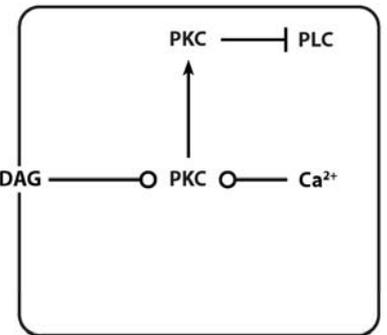
Module I
Ca²⁺ Balance



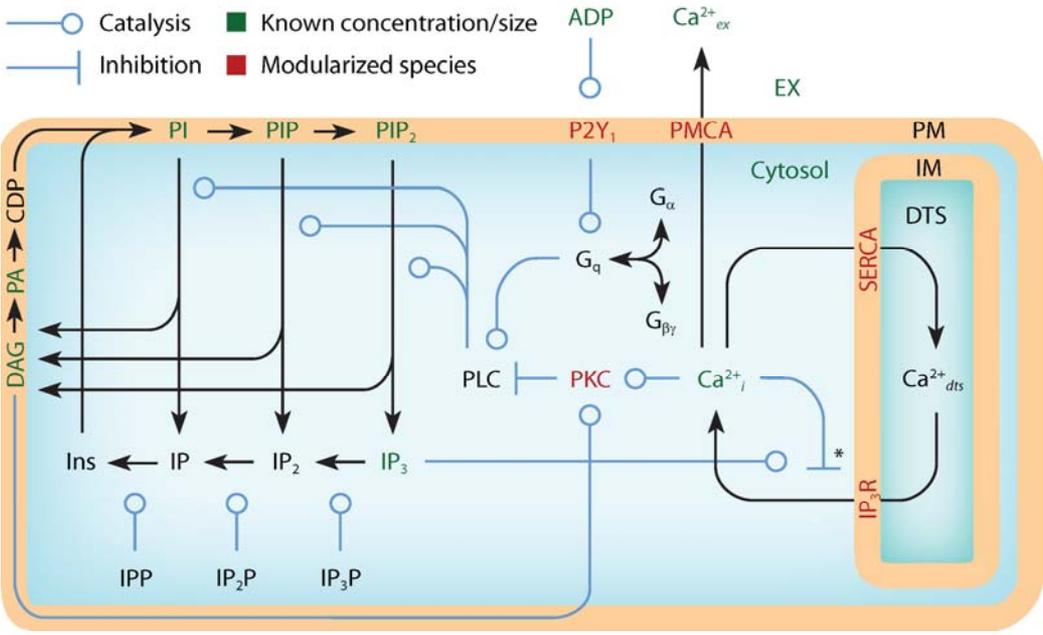
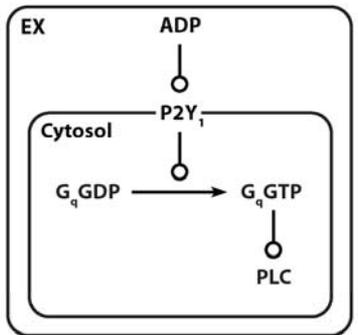
Module II
PI Metabolism



Module III
Signal Attenuation

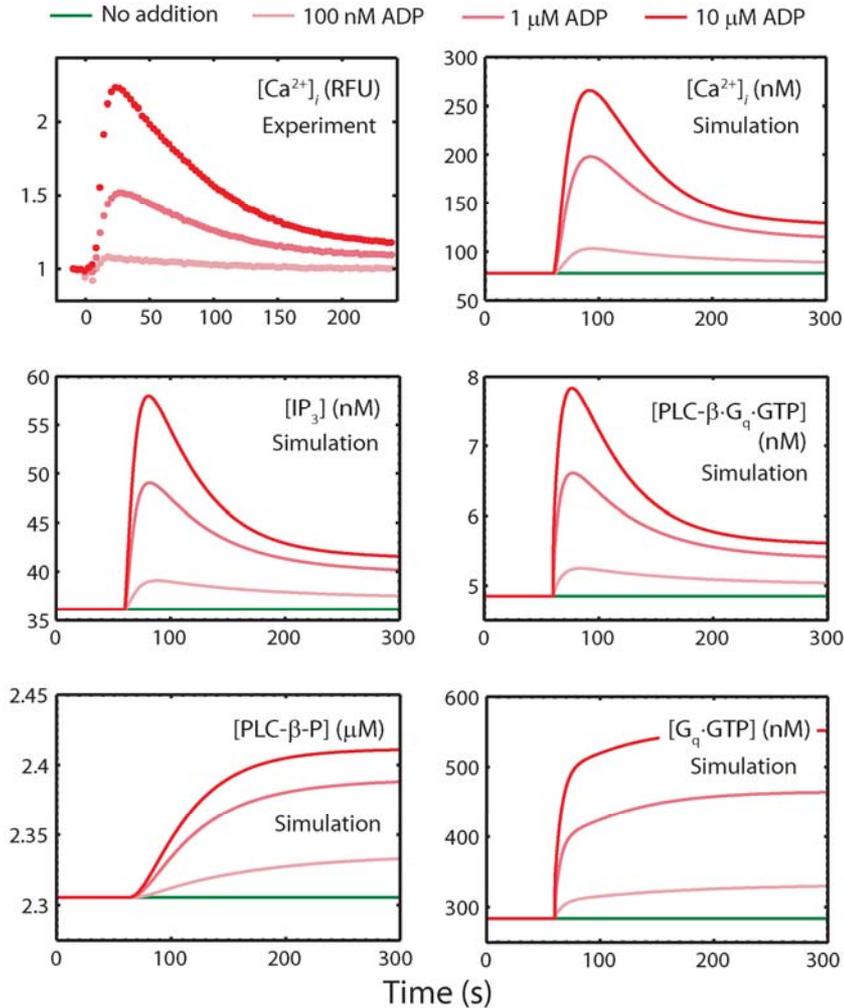


Module IV
Receptor Activation

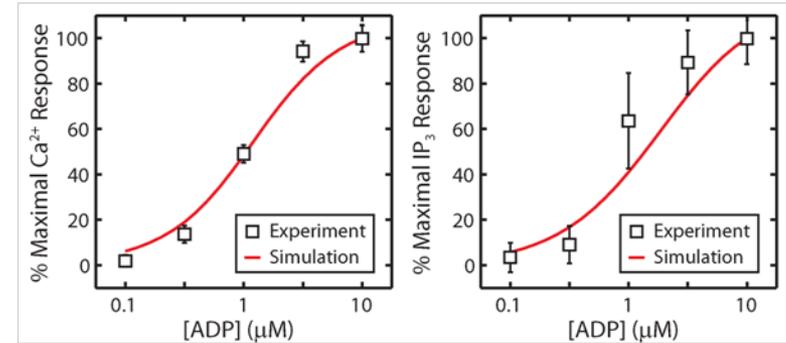


Model reproduces measured dynamic behavior of ADP-stimulated platelets

Measured/simulated time-course behavior



Dose response to ADP



Population Responses:

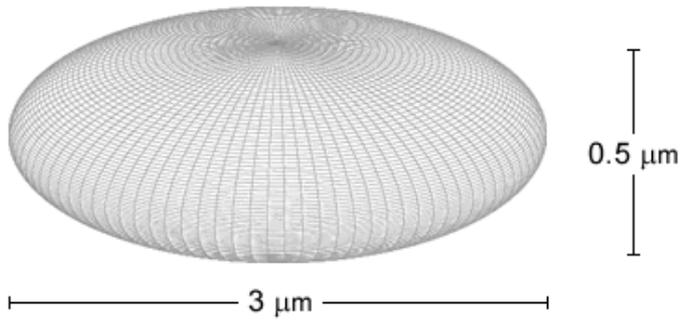
Smooth, average responses are observed when cells are pooled

Individual platelets exhibit noisy calcium release behavior

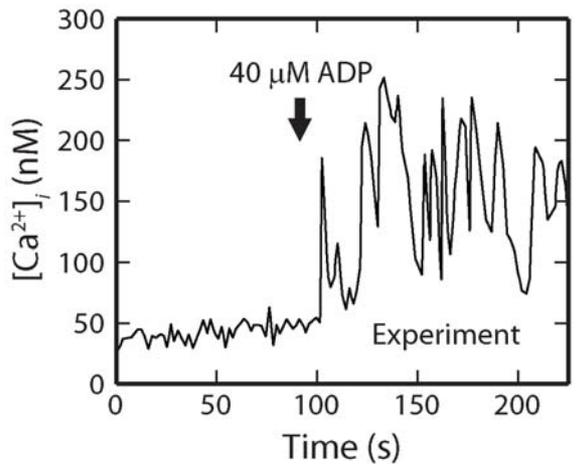
Single Platelet EM¹



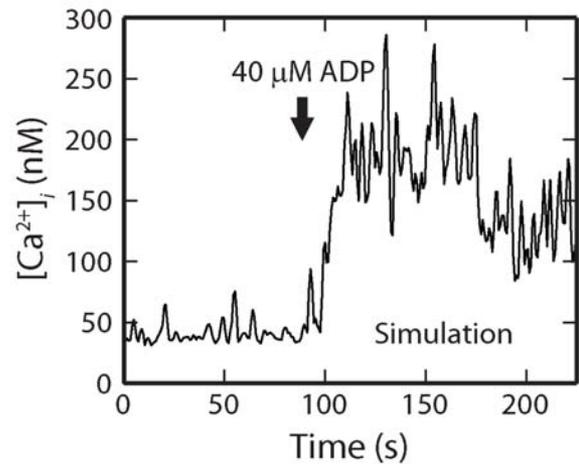
Simulated Platelet Structure



Single Platelet Ca²⁺ Release²



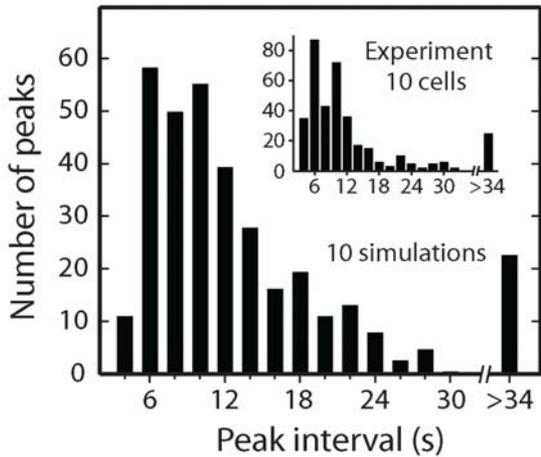
Simulated Platelet Ca²⁺ Release



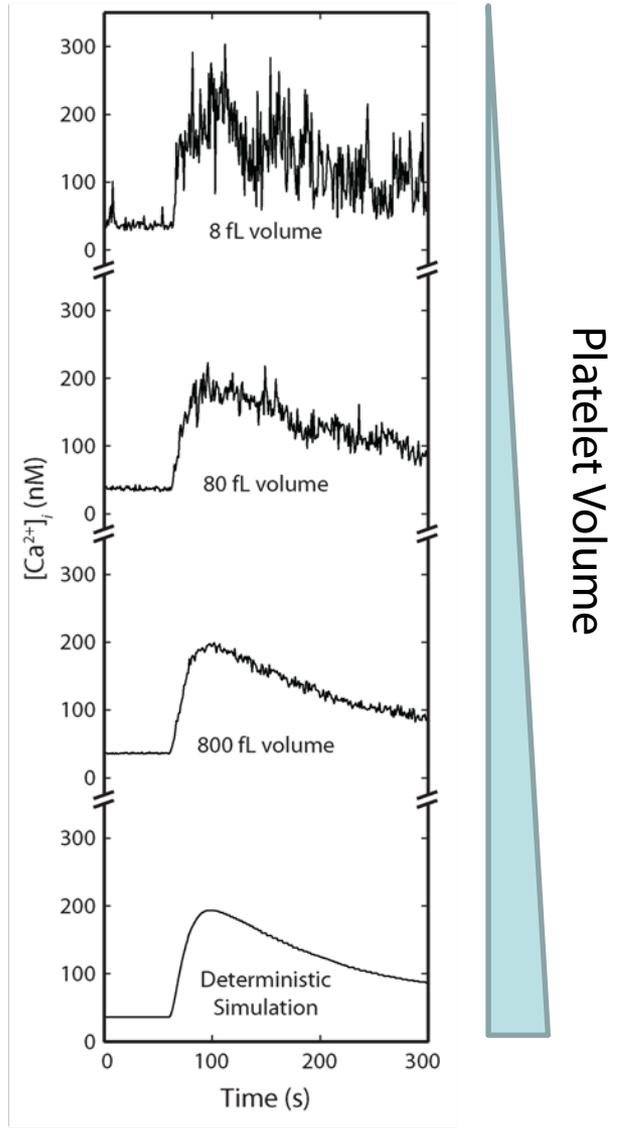
¹ White, 2007. ² Heemskerk *et al*, 1992. ³ Purvis *et al*, 2008.

Small cell volume gives rise to stochastic response

Ca²⁺ peak intervals for observed and simulated platelets



Ca²⁺ response as a function of cell volume



Platelet calcium signaling is stochastic

Platelet volume: ~ 8 fL

1 nM = 4 molecules per platelet

Homeostasis Requirement

Resting cell:

$$d\mathbf{C} / dt = \mathbf{0}$$

Transient cell:

$$d\mathbf{C} / dt \neq \mathbf{0}$$

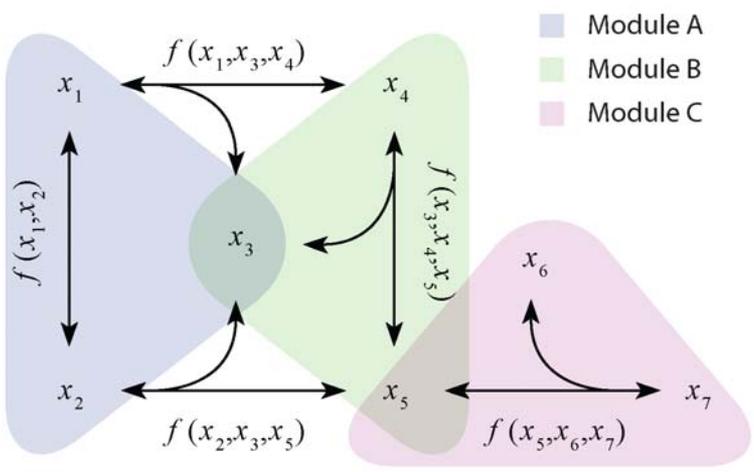
III. Steady-State Kinetic Modeling Constrains Cellular Resting States

Purvis et al. (2008). *Blood* 112:4069-4079

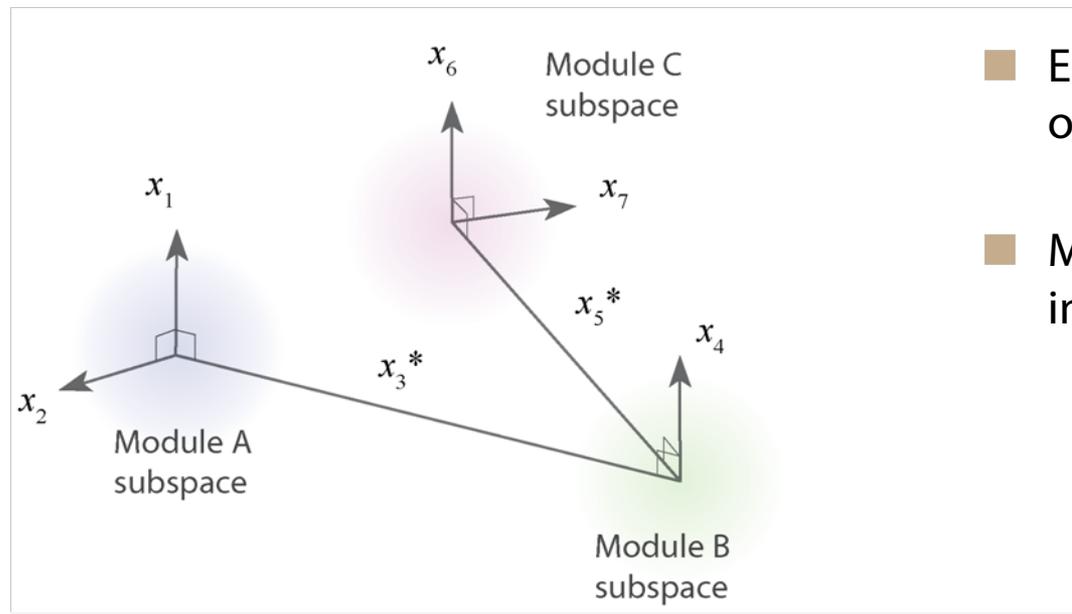
Purvis et al. (2009). *PLoS Comput Biol*

- Signaling systems are robust to small perturbations and have a steady state
- Large kinetic models have many unknown values that are possibly correlated

■ System with fixed kinetics is represented as a space of unknown concentrations

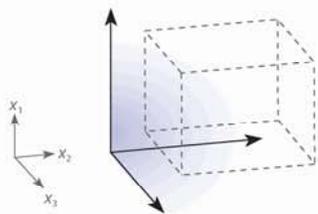


- Often, topology is known but concentrations are not
- Each molecule occupies a separate linear dimension
- Each module comprises a subspace of the full concentration space
- Modules that share a species have intersecting subspaces



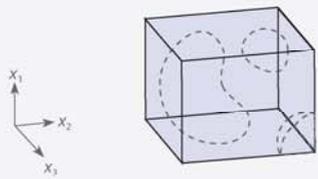
Homeostasis constraint and PCA reduce allowable cellular configurations

1. Truncate sample range for each x based on physiology



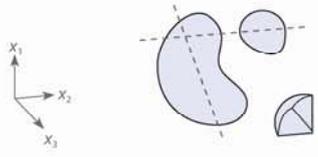
Full concentration space (R^N)

2. Compute steady-state solutions to the system of ODEs



Physiological concentration space

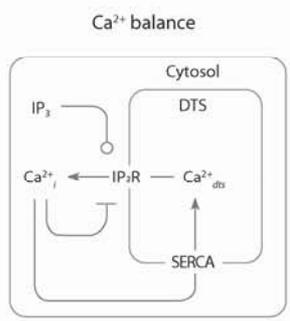
3. Condense steady-state solution space by PCA



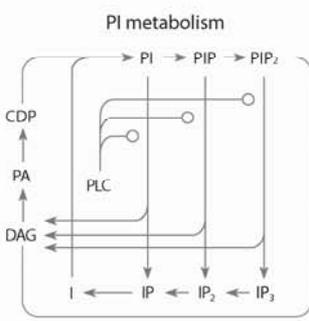
Steady-state concentration space



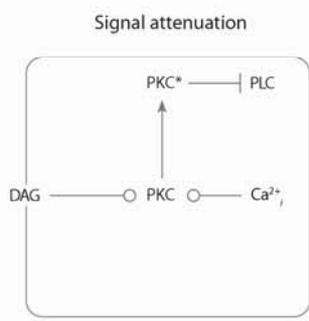
PCA-reduced steady-state concentration space



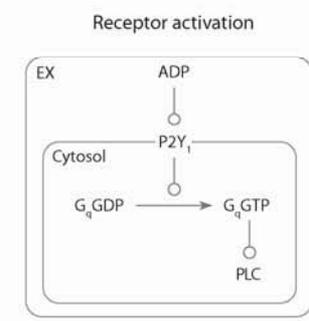
x	Value range	Units
IP ₃ R	1 - 10 ⁶	cell ⁻¹
SERCA	1 - 10 ⁶	cell ⁻¹
IP ₃	1 - 10 ³	nM
Ca ²⁺ _{dns}	0.01 - 10	mM
Cytosol	5 - 10	fL
...



x	Value range	Units
IP ₃	1 - 10 ³	cell ⁻¹
DAG	10 ⁴ - 10 ⁵	cell ⁻¹
PIP ₂	10 ⁵ - 10 ⁶	cell ⁻¹
PIP	10 ⁶ - 10 ⁷	cell ⁻¹
DAGK	10 ² - 10 ⁴	cell ⁻¹
...



x	Value range	Units
DAG	1 - 10 ⁶	cell ⁻¹
PKC	1 - 10 ⁶	cell ⁻¹
PLC	1 - 10 ²	nM
Ca ²⁺ _i	90 - 110	nM



x	Value range	Units
P2Y ₁	10 - 1000	cell ⁻¹
G _q GDP	10 ⁵ - 10 ⁷	cell ⁻¹
PLC	1 - 10 ²	nM
GDP	0.01 - 10	mM
ADP	5 - 75	nM
...

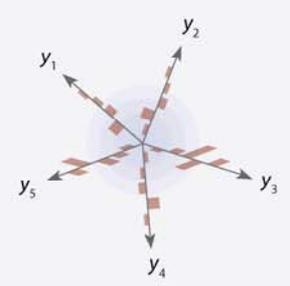
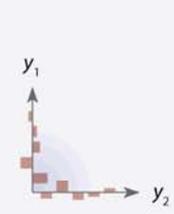
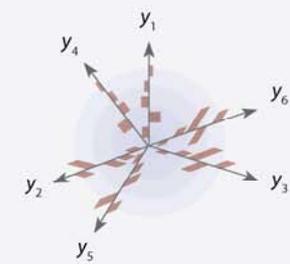
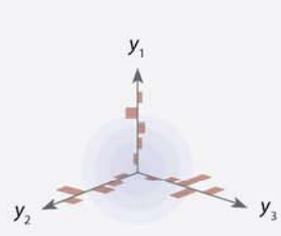
Steady-state Solutions

Molecule	IP ₃	IP ₃ R	SERCA	...	Ca ²⁺ _{dns}
351	134	56020	...	2.54	
520	113	70356	...	1.25	
251	253	52644	...	1.85	
350	118	46895	...	2.03	
322	98	65537	...	3.77	
...	

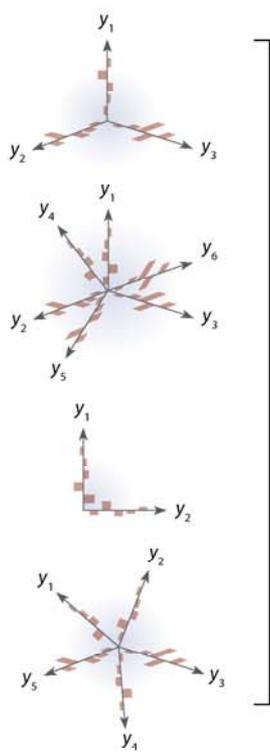
IP ₃	DAG	PIP ₂	...	PLC
482	13481	56020	...	1802
222	11377	70356	...	2333
419	25303	52644	...	2987
250	11894	46895	...	835
267	9856	65537	...	922
...

DAG	PKC	PLC	Ca ²⁺ _i
22703	3845	2100	102
38212	2142	1367	92
25119	1098	1822	57
35076	976	1556	73
32292	7353	1339	77
...

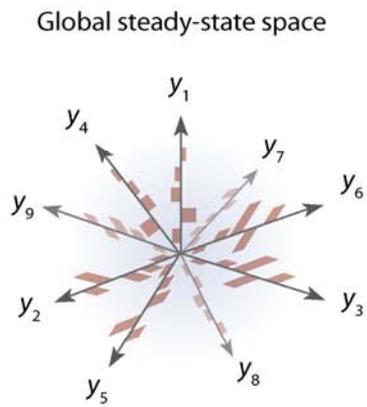
ADP	PLC	G _q GTP	...	P2Y ₁
50	2134	62531	...	154
46	1513	72441	...	135
19	253	80310	...	238
36	1188	32886	...	298
26	1198	37219	...	136
...



Resting modules are merged to find global time-dependent solution



Combine top principal vectors from each module's steady-state solution space

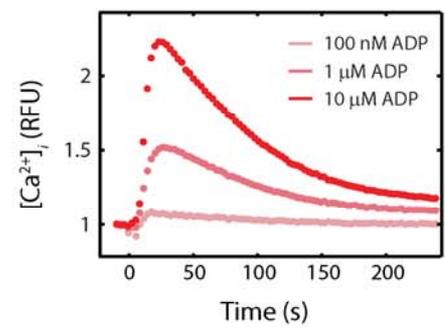


Search combined steady-state space for time-dependent solutions

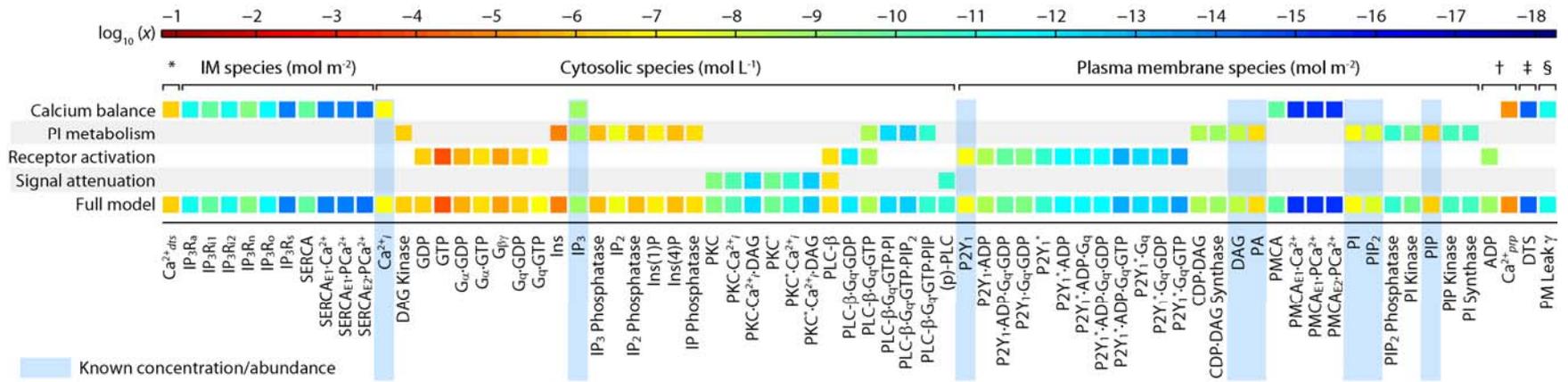
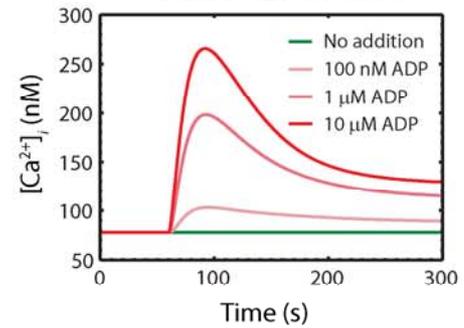
During search, constrain x_i values from overlapping modules

$$Ax = Bx$$

Experimental time-series

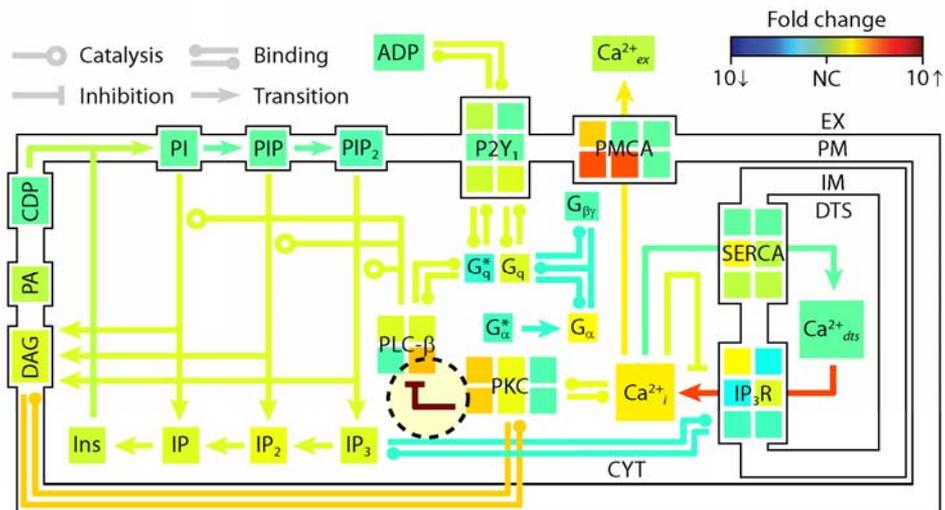
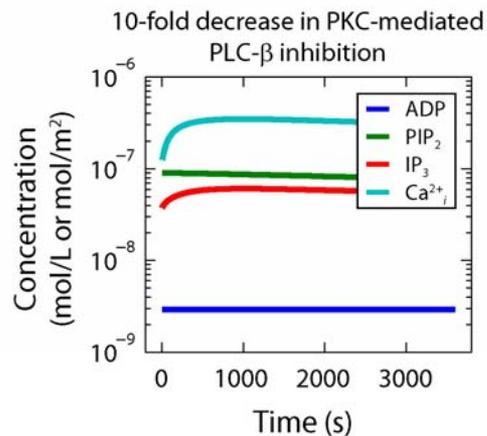
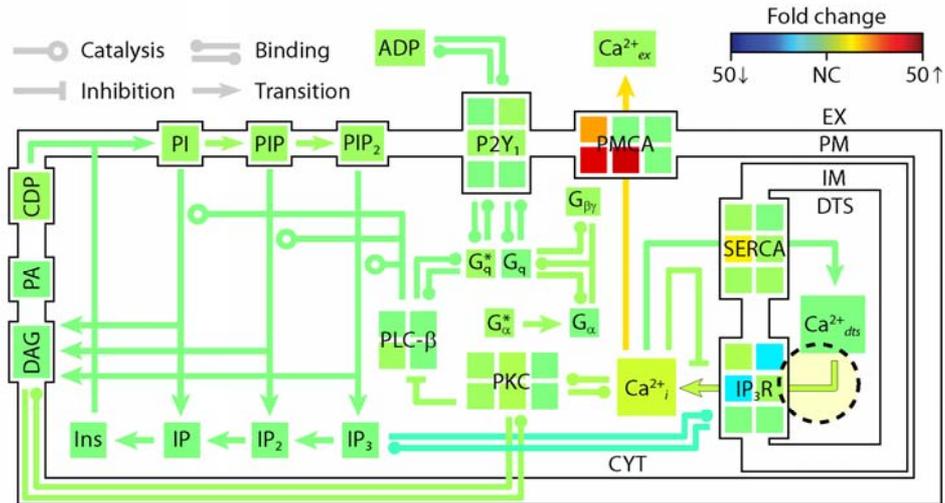
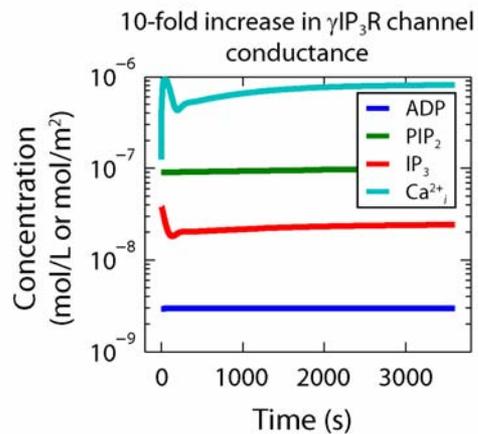


Simulated time-series

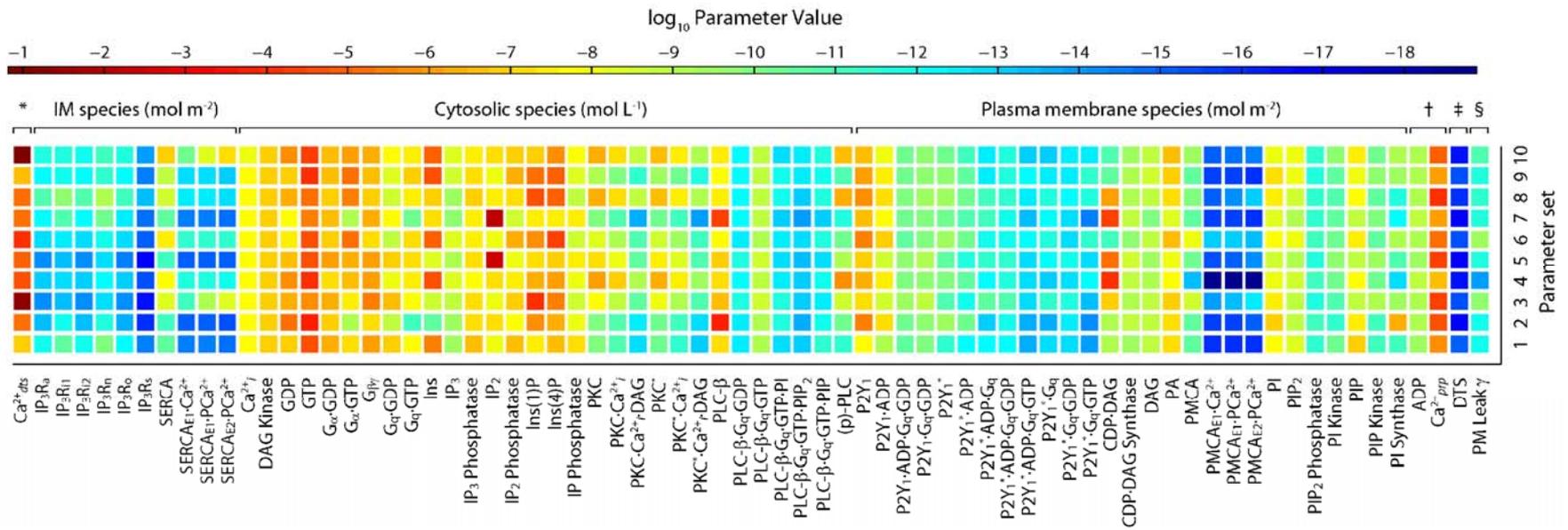


Known concentration/abundance

Kinetic perturbations cause cells to adopt new steady states



Alternate steady state profiles reveal 'rigid' and 'flexible' concentrations



'Rigid' nodes:

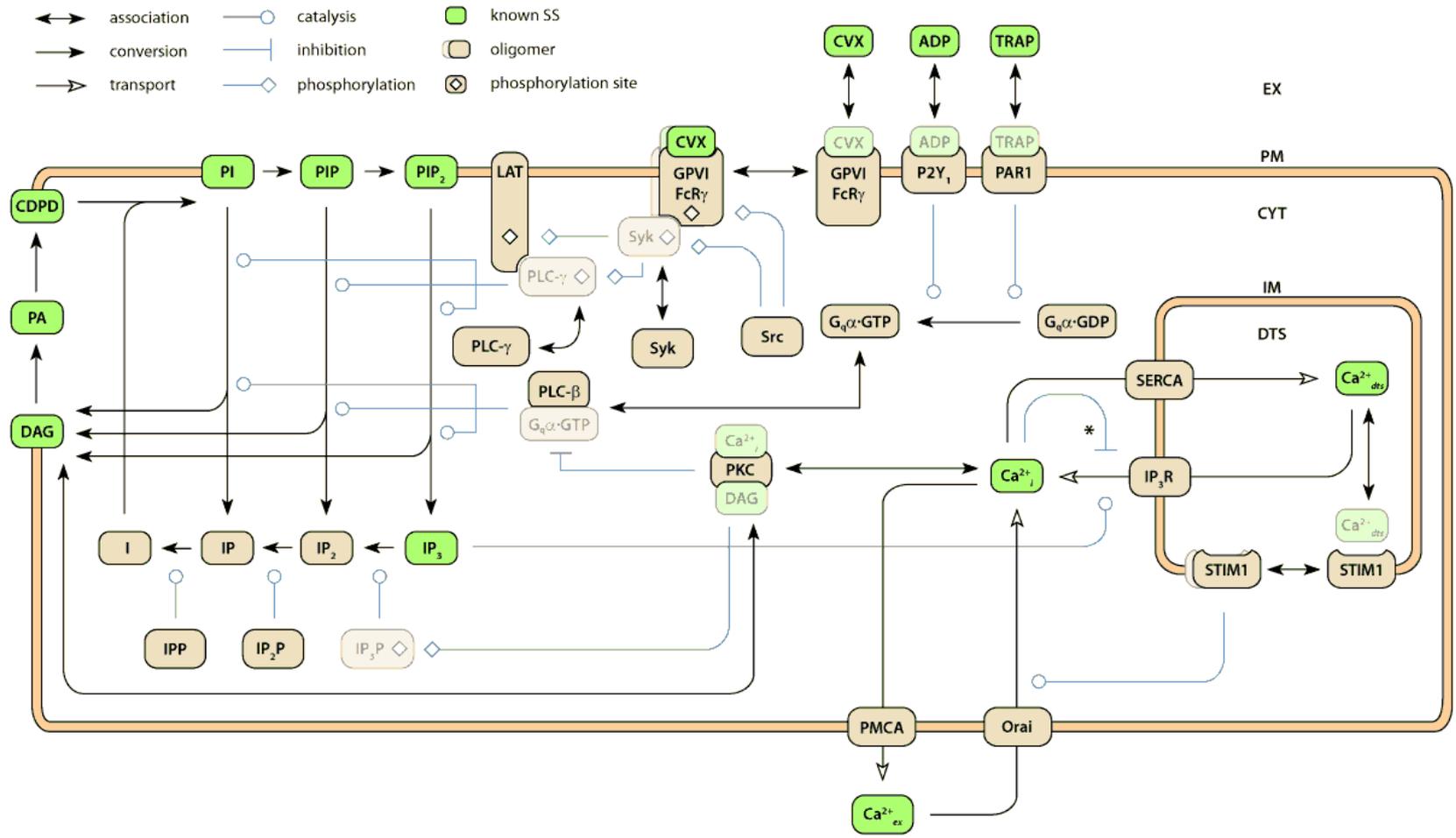
Values fixed during estimation

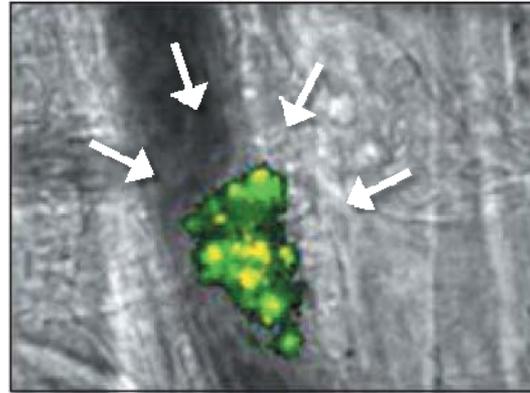
[Ca²⁺]_i
PIP₂
GTP
PLC-β

'Flexible' nodes:

PKC
G_q-GTP
P2Y₁
SERCA

A realistic description of signaling requires a multitude of reactions



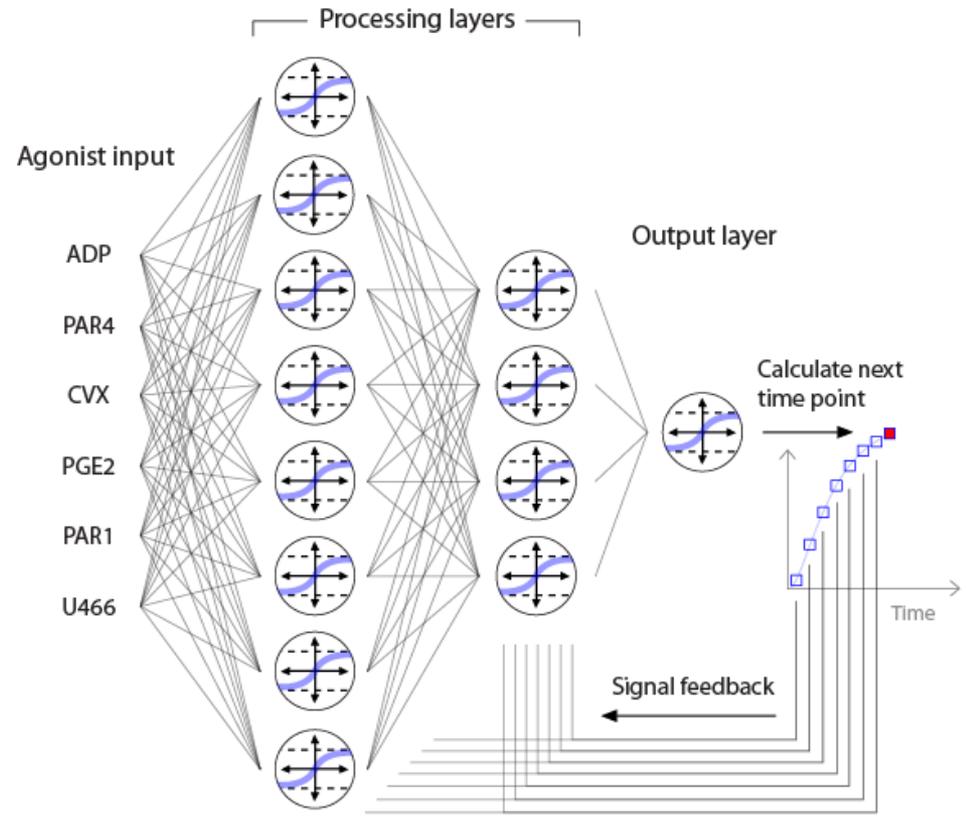
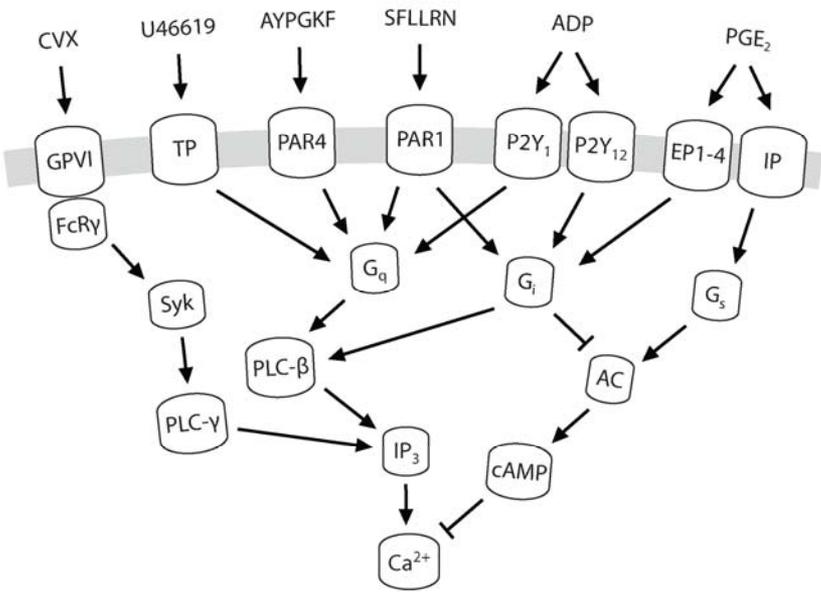


IV. Dynamic neural network modeling predicts responses to multi-input signals

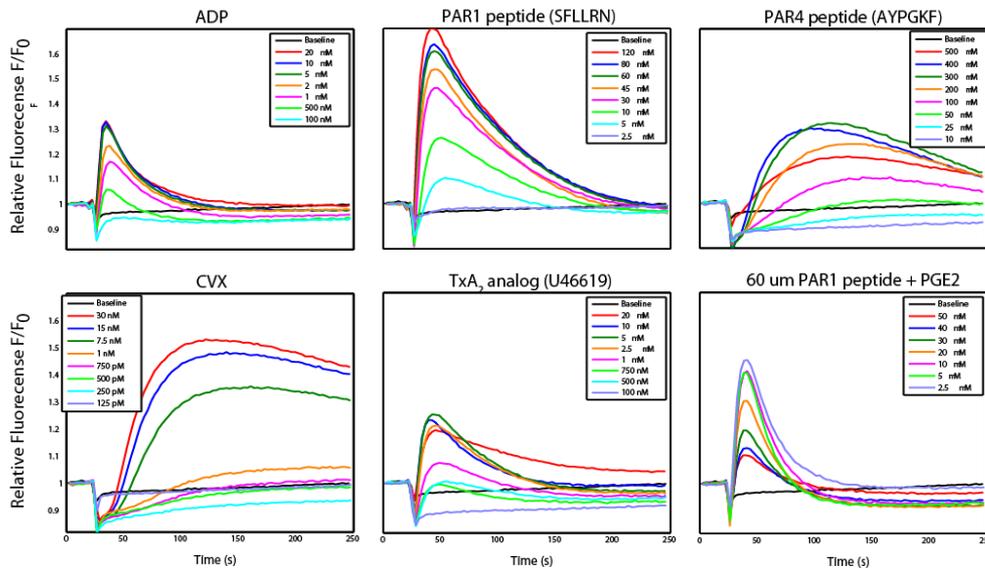
Chatterjee, Purvis, and Diamond (2009)
submitted

- Cells must respond to multiple potent signals *in vivo*
- Addresses question of how multiple simultaneous signals are integrated
- Sensitive enough to resolve differences in signaling among individuals

Multiple signaling pathways converge on intracellular calcium release



Signal inputs are normalized according to EC_{50}



4 agonists states:

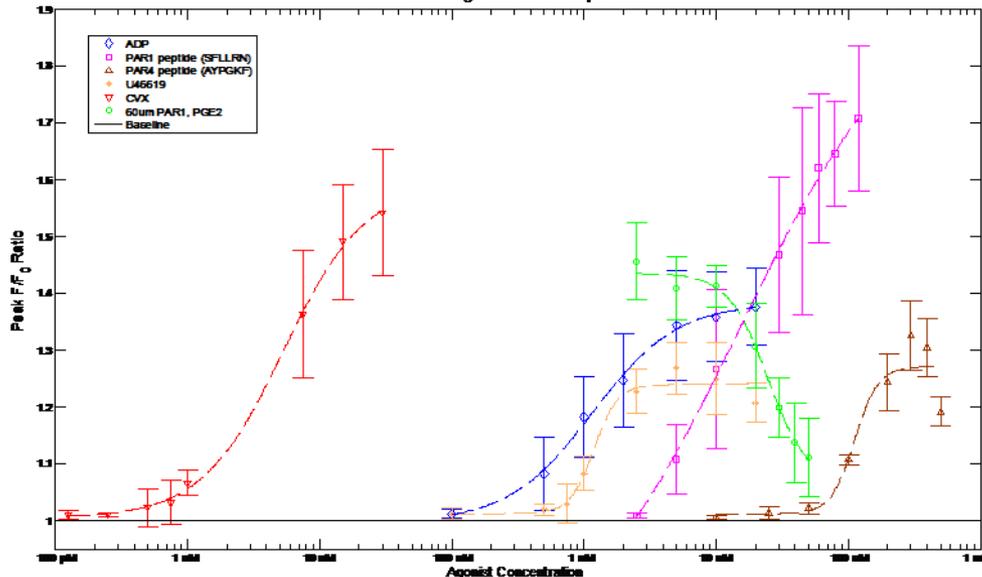
$$0 \times EC_{50}$$

$$0.1 \times EC_{50}$$

$$1 \times EC_{50}$$

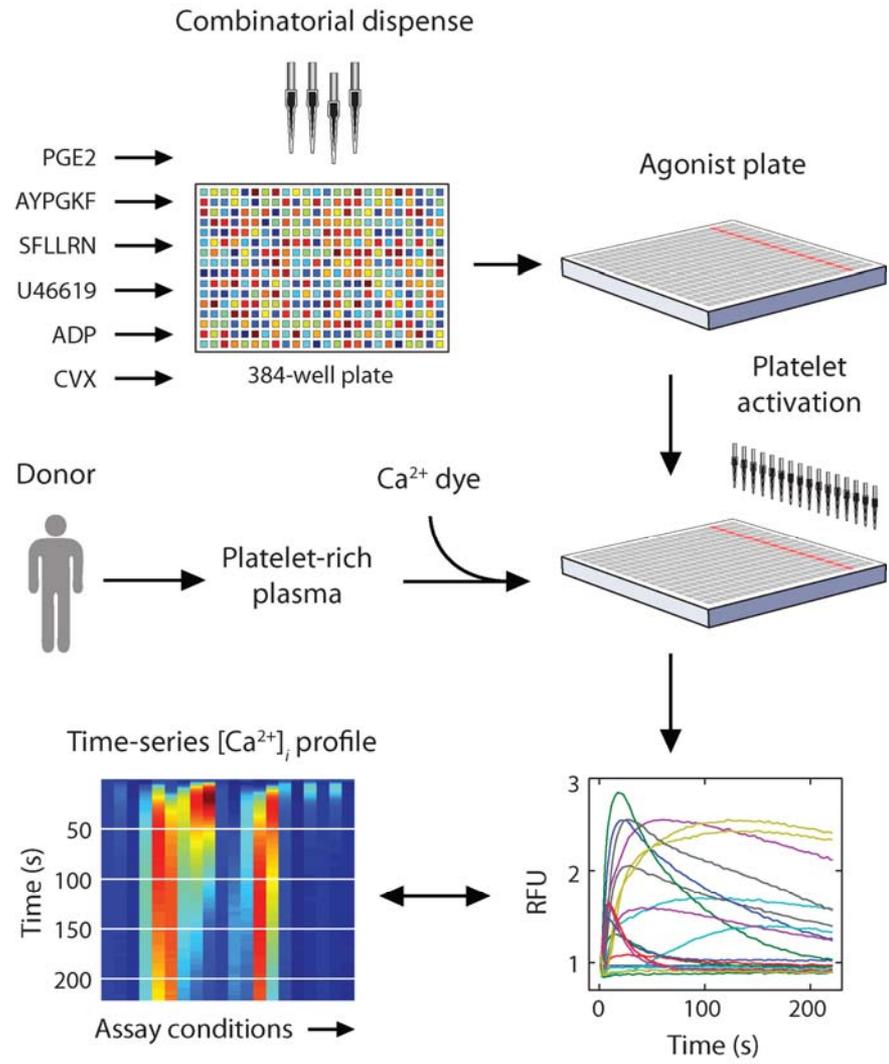
$$10 \times EC_{50}$$

Platelet agonist dose responses



Selecting low, moderate, and high doses for each agonist **normalizes** the input signals and **captures the dynamic range** of each agonist

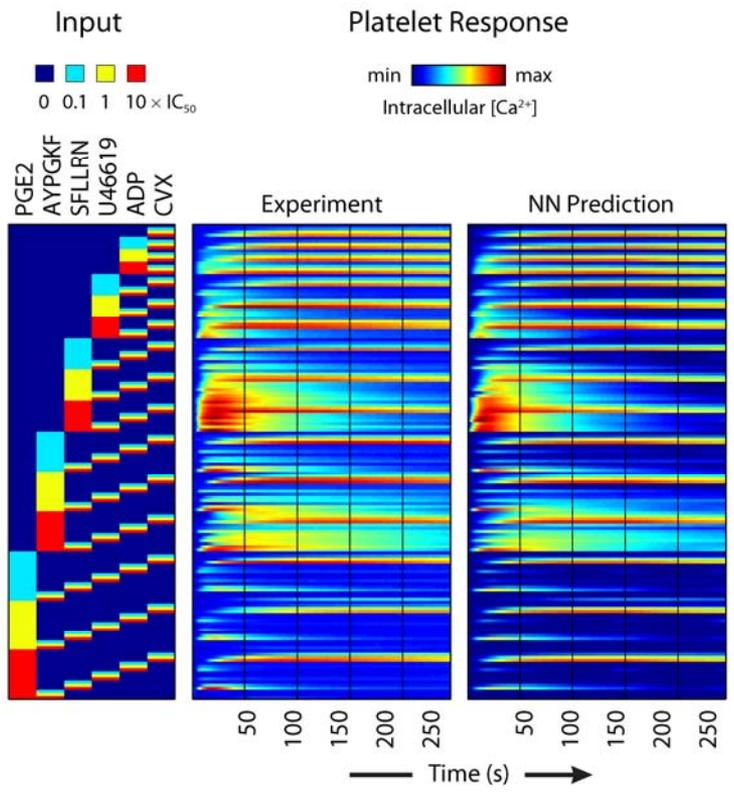
A high-throughput assay measures platelet response to combinatorial inputs



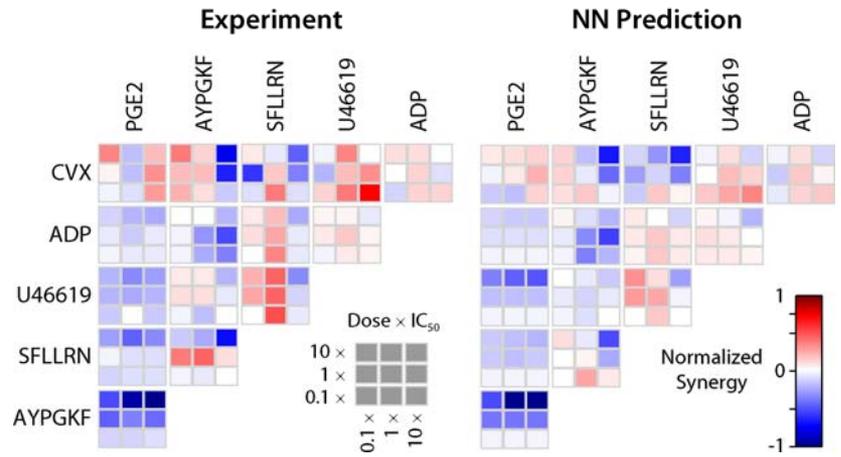
■ NN is trained on responses to all pairwise combinations of agonist

- Network trained on all pairwise combinations of 6 agonists at 3 concentrations
 $(6 \text{ choose } 2) \times 3^2 + 19 = 154 \text{ combinations}$

- Define synergy as the difference between the integrated calcium transient for the combined response and the integrated area for the individual responses

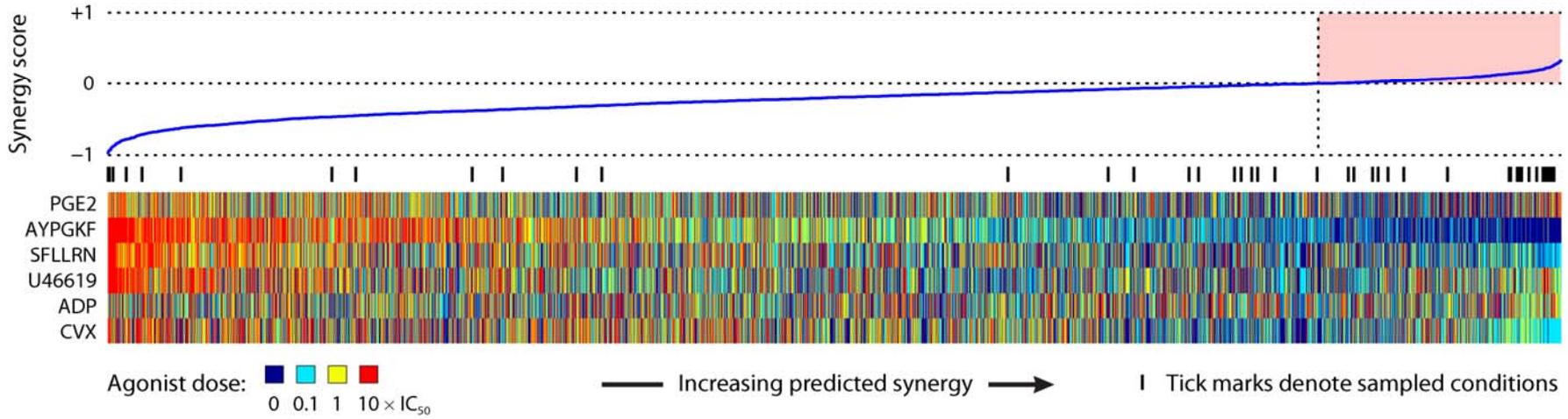


$$\text{Synergy} \equiv \frac{\int AB - (\int A + \int B)}{\max[\int AB - (\int A + \int B)]}$$

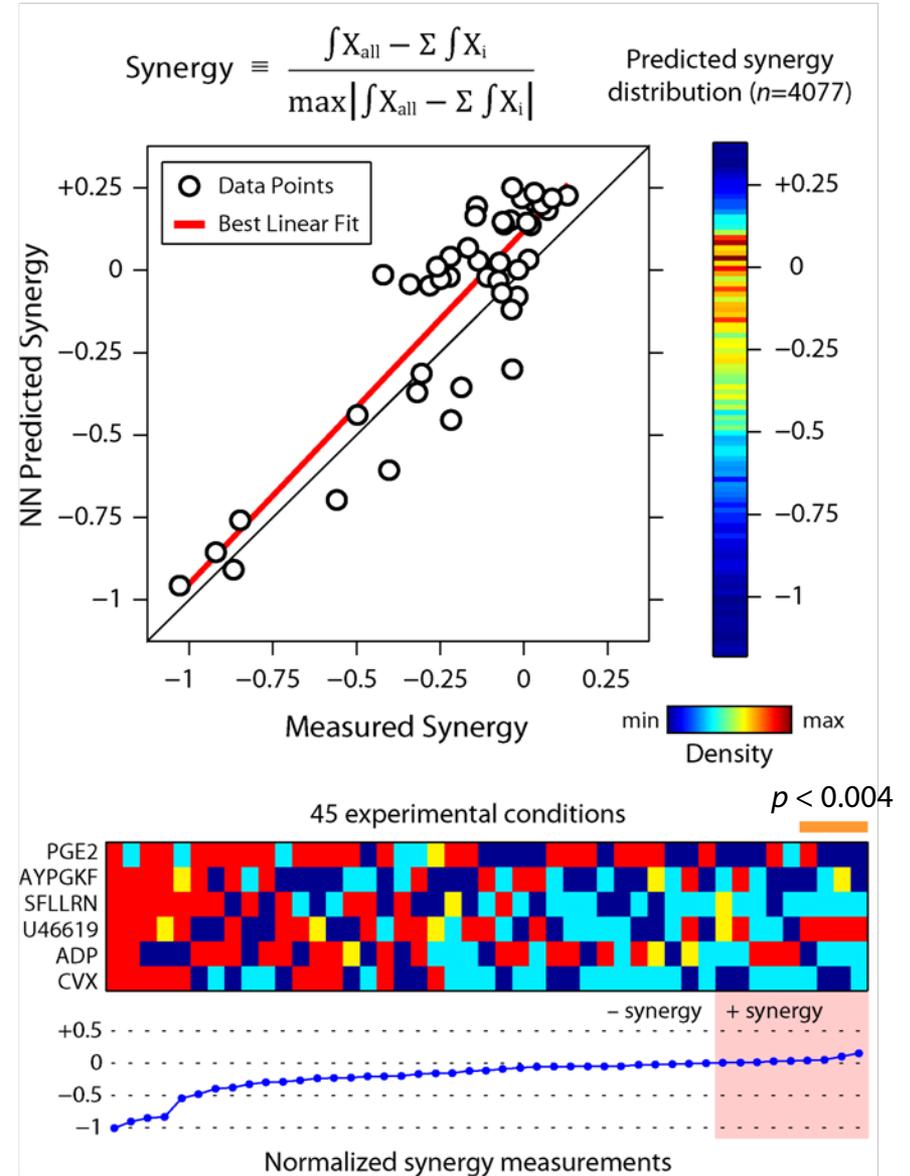
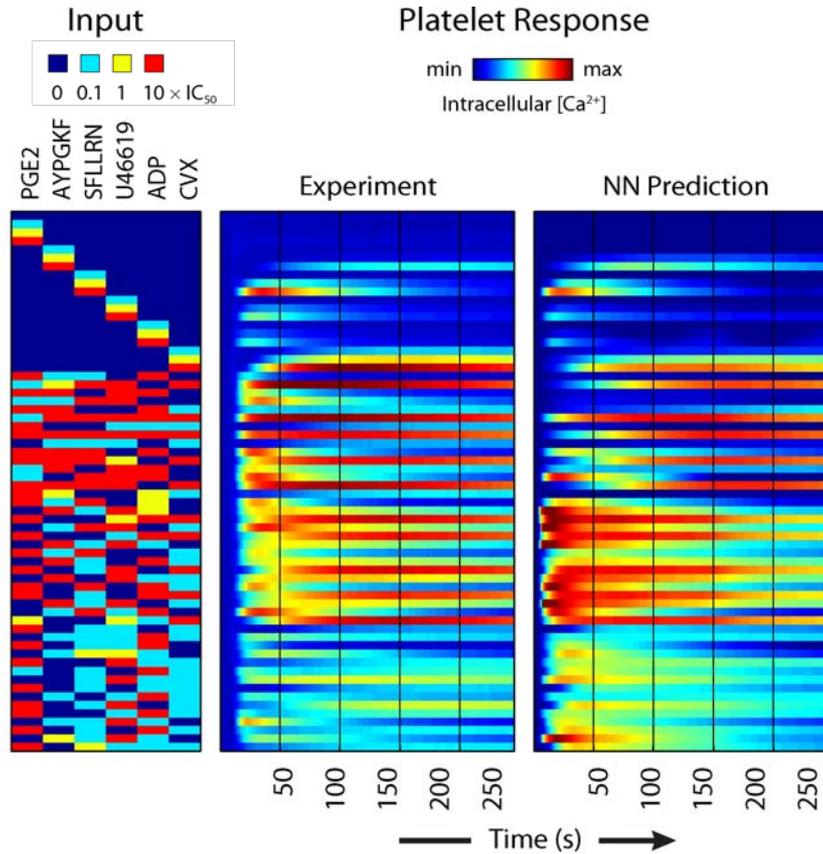


■ NN predicts entire 6-dimensional platelet response

- NN made 4077 predictions of synergy among all combinations of 6 agonists at 3 doses
- 45 dissimilar conditions were chosen for experimental verification

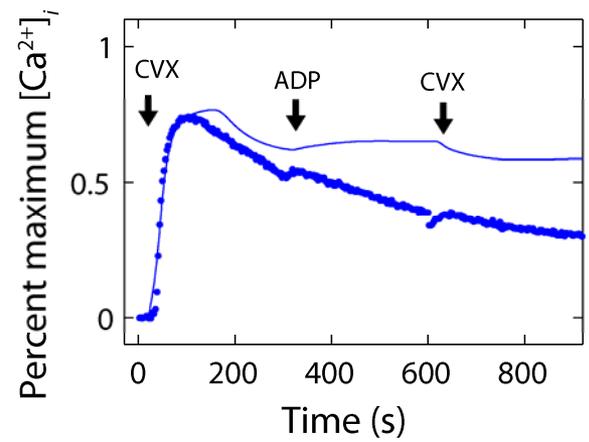
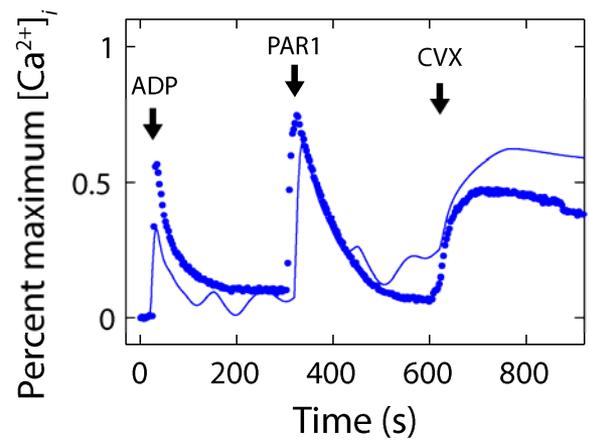
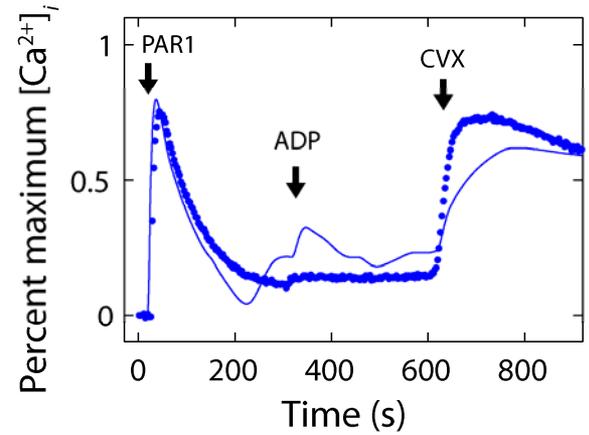
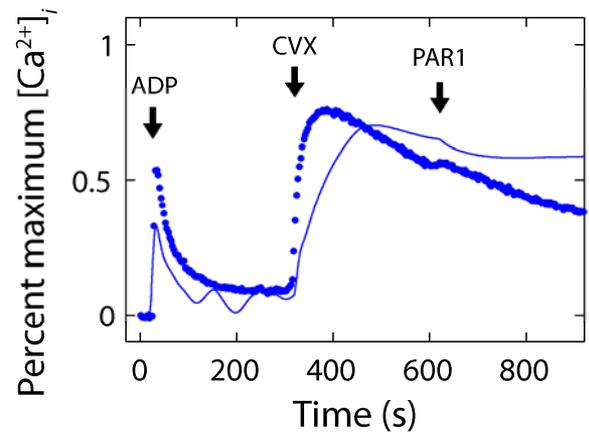


Sample ($n = 45$) of global response space identifies high-synergy conditions



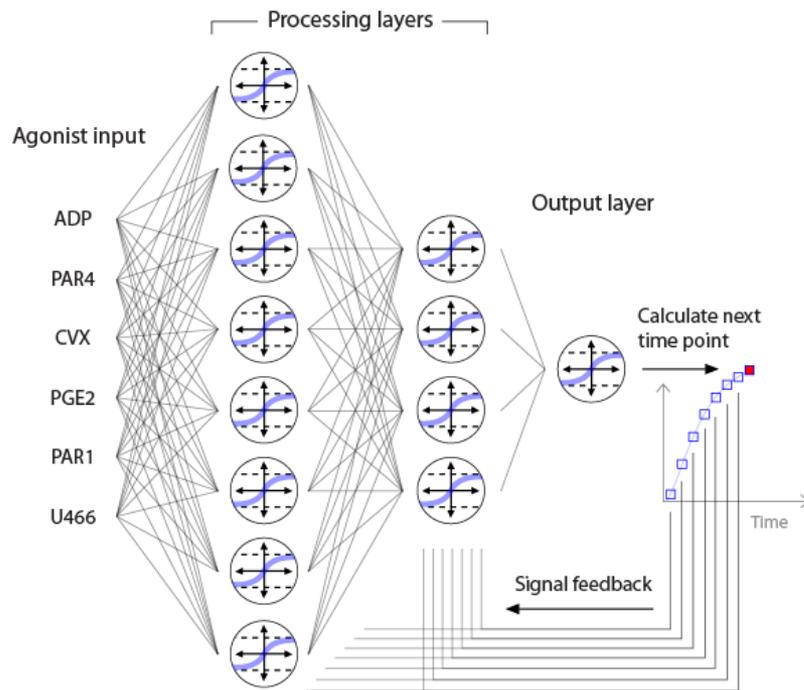
■ NN predicts sequential responses and downregulation

●● Experiment
— Simulation

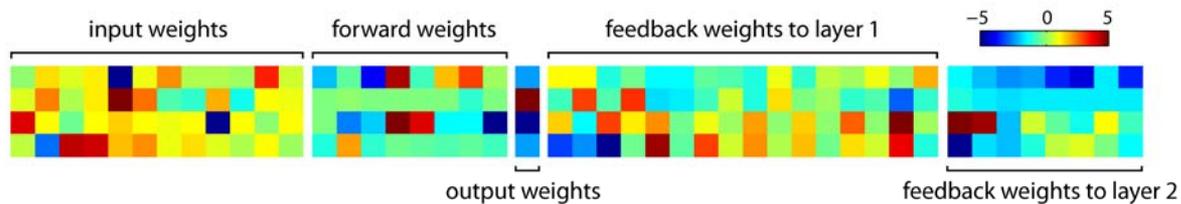


■ NN models provide a compact, patient-specific predictive tool

Train NN to match calcium profile for specific donor:



Weight values for donor-trained NN:



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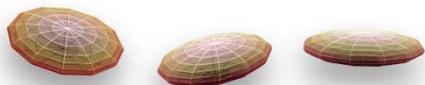
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SBML Shorthand
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DOQCS
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blood systems biology

