

# SPREADING DEPRESSION AS A HOLISTIC PROCESS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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**Professor of Neuroscience**

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**New York, NY**



I do not have a financial interest  
in commercial products or  
services related to the subject of  
this lecture.

## Why we are here

### **Aristides A.P. Leão (1914-1993)**



[http://semana.mct.gov.br/index.php/content/view/4411/Aristides\\_Leao\\_1914\\_1993.html](http://semana.mct.gov.br/index.php/content/view/4411/Aristides_Leao_1914_1993.html)

Leão, A.P., 1944a.  
SPREADING DEPRESSION OF ACTIVITY  
IN THE CEREBRAL CORTEX.  
J. Neurophysiol. 3, 359-390.

Leão, A.P., 1944b. PIAL CIRCULATION AND  
SPREADING DEPRESSION OF ACTIVITY  
IN THE CEREBAL CORTEX.  
J. Neurophysiol. 7, 391-396.

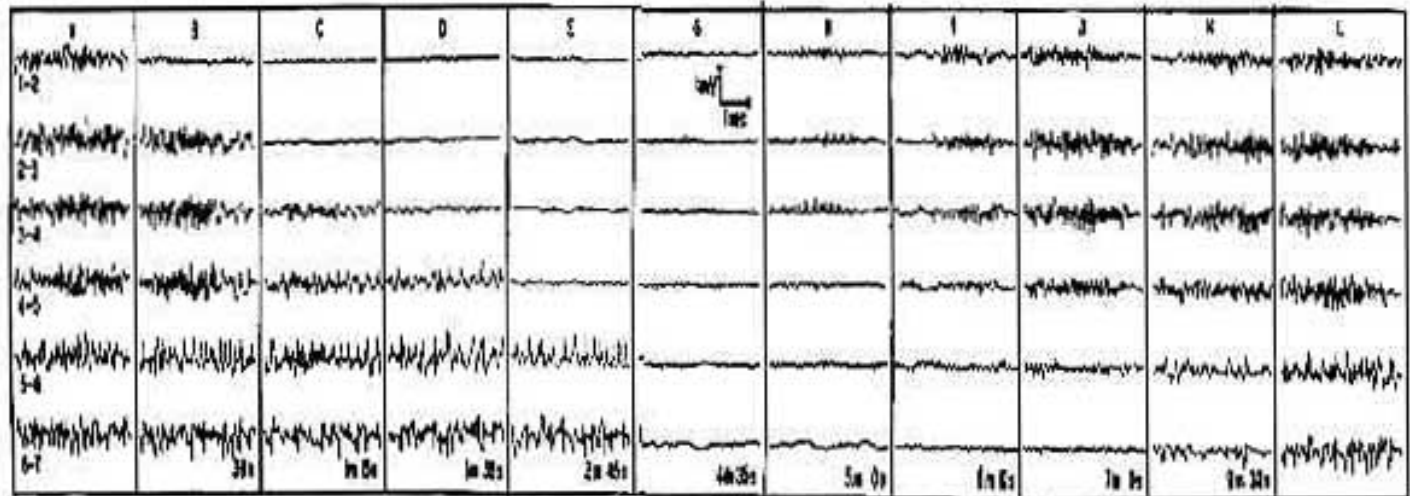
Leão, A.P., 1947.  
FURTHER OBSERVATIONS ON THE  
SPREADING OF DEPRESSION OF  
ACTIVITY IN THE CEREBRAL CORTEX.  
J. Neurophysiol. 7, 409-414.

Leão, A.P., 1951.  
THE SLOW VOLTAGE VARIATION OF CORTICAL  
SPREADING DEPRESSION OF ACTIVITY.  
EEG Clin. Neurophysiol. 3: 315-321.

Leão, A.P., Morison, R.A., 1945.  
PROPAGATION OF SPREADING CORTICAL  
DEPRESSION.  
J. Neurophysiol. 8, 33-45.

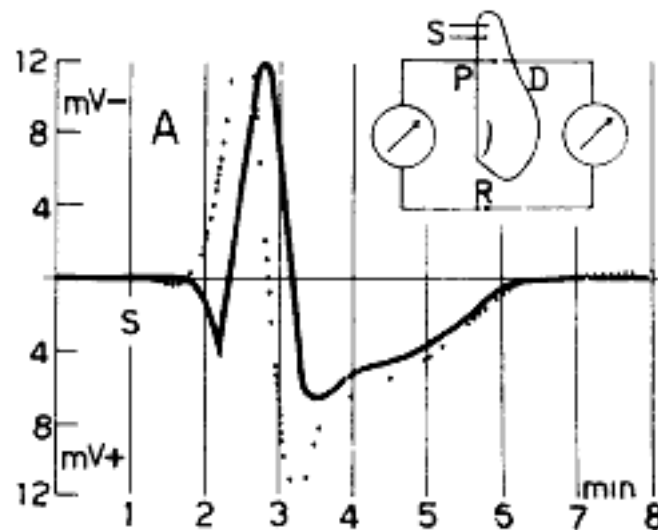
# Characteristics of spreading cortical depression

Sequential disappearance of electrical activity, advancing over cortex several mm/min



Modified from Leño, 1944

Slow surface depolarization



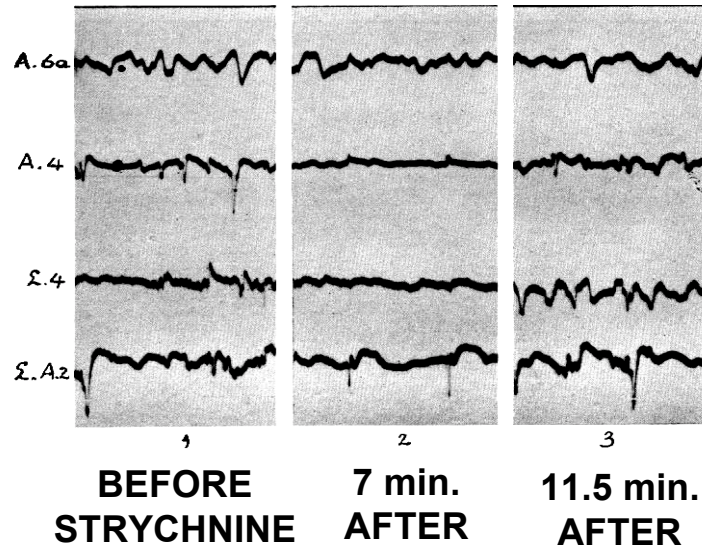
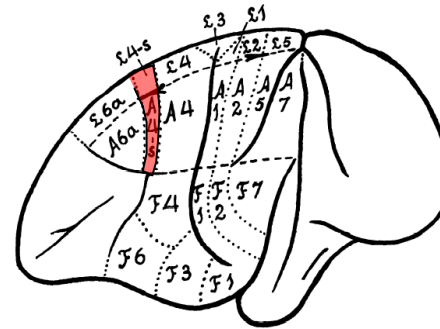
From Leño, 1951

# SD invalidates the concept of the “suppressor strip”

J.G. **Dusser de Barenne**



<http://www.uic.edu/depts/mcne/founders/page0027.html>



**Warren S. McCulloch**



<http://www.nesfa.org/boskone/b05/photos.html>

**FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION IN THE SENSORY CORTEX  
OF THE MONKEY (*MACACA MULATTA*)\***  
J. G. DUSSER DE BARENNE AND W. S. McCULLOCH  
J. Neurophysiol. 1: 369-85 (1938)

# Significance of spreading depression/depolarization

## **Initiating conditions:**

- strong electrical stimulation/activity
- depolarization
- KCl
- mechanical impact
- trauma
- anoxia/ ischemia
- hypoglycemia

## **Relevant clinical conditions:**

- migraine aura
- epilepsy/postictal symptoms
- head injury/ concussion/ chronic traumatic encephalopathy
- stroke
- subarachnoid hemorrhage

# Characteristics of spreading cortical depression (cont.)

Bernice Grafstein



Benedict Delisle Burns

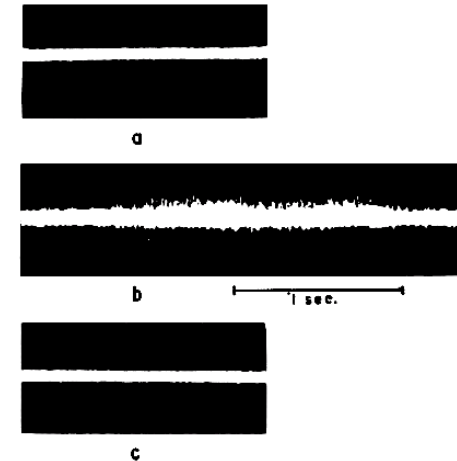
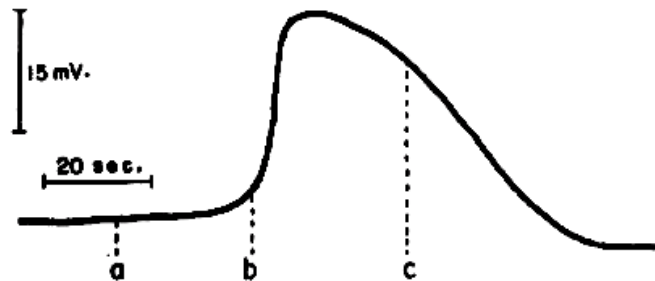


## MECHANISM OF SPREADING CORTICAL DEPRESSION

B. Grafstein

J. Neurophysiol. 19: 154-171 (1956)

Onset of slow  
surface  
depolarization  
is accompanied  
by neuronal  
excitation



Modified from Grafstein, 1956

# The hypothesis

## MECHANISM OF SPREADING CORTICAL DEPRESSION

B. GRAFSTEIN

J. Neurophysiol. 19: 154-171 (1956)

The intense neuronal activity preceding depression results in the liberation of  $K^+$  into the interstitial spaces in sufficient quantity to depolarize adjacent cells. These are in turn thrown into intense activity, and liberate more  $K^+$ .

# Some uneasiness?

## JOURNAL OF NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

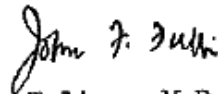
333 CEDAR STREET  
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

6 July 1955

My dear Dr. Grafstein:

Your paper, "The mechanism of spreading cortical depression," has now been the rounds of the Editorial Board, and has been accepted for publication. There were rather sharp differences of opinion concerning your interpretations, although none of the readers questioned the validity of your data.

Very sincerely yours,



John F. Fulton, M.D.



## Some high-quality support

### Spreading Deposition. Grafstein hypothesis

The mechanism proposed by Grafstein (diffusion + liberation of  $K$ ) gives the right order of magnitude for the velocity.

#### Note

The mathematical method used here is due to Huxley and his name should be quoted if any one finds these results of sufficient interest to ~~quote~~ mention in print.

A. L. Hordykin July 1959

## Some vindication

### **POTASSIUM OUTFLUX FROM RABBIT CORTEX DURING SPREADING DEPRESSION**

F. J. Brinley, Jr. **E. R. Kandel**, and Wade H. Marshall

J. Neurophysiol. 23:246-256 (1960)

50 years later -- still grumbling!

**Electrical prodromals of spreading depression void  
Grafstein's potassium hypothesis**

**Oscar Hernandez**

*J Neurophysiol* 94:3656-3657, 2005. doi:10.1152/jn.00709.2005

## White knights to the rescue

REPLY (condensed):

The release of  $K^+$  is an essential factor giving SD its all-or-none characteristic ... It was Grafstein (1956) who first suggested a critical role for  $K^+$ .

*George Somjen*

*Departments of Cell Biology and Neurobiology*

*Duke University Medical Center*

*Durham, North Carolina*

*E-mail: g.somjen@cellbio.duke.edu*

*Anthony Strong*

*Departments of Cell Biology and Neurobiology*

*Department of Clinical Neuroscience*

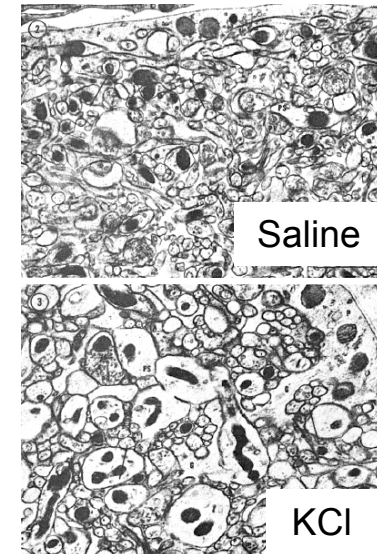
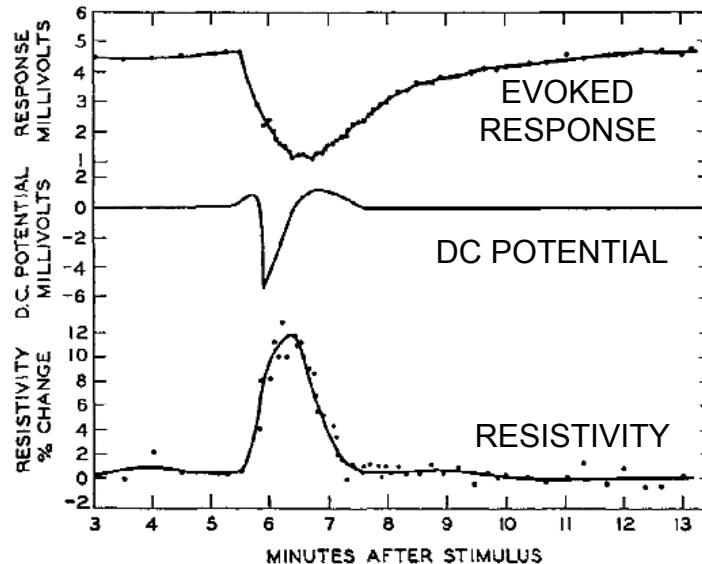
*King's College*

*London, United Kingdom*

*E-mail: anthony.strong@kcl.ac.uk*

## More features of SD

In SD there is increased tissue resistance, cell swelling and decreased extracellular space



**SOME RELATIONS BETWEEN RESISTIVITY AND ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY IN THE CEREBRAL CORTEX OF THE CAT<sup>1</sup>**

W. H. FREYKANG, JR. AND W. M. LANDAU  
*J. Cell Comp. Physiol.* 45: 377- 392 (1955)

**CHANGES IN CORTICAL EXTRACELLULAR SPACE DURING SPREADING DEPRESSION INVESTIGATED WITH THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPE<sup>1</sup>**

A. VAN HARREVELD AND F. I. KHATTAB  
*J. Neurophysiol.* 30: 911-929 (1967)



**LEÃO, A. A. P. AND FERREIRA, H. M.** Altração da impedância elétrica no decurso da depressão alastrante de atividade do córtex cerebral. *Anais Acad. Brasil. Cienc.* 25: 259-266, 1953.

# Spreading depression can be visualized in retina by change in light scattering

H. Martins-Ferreira



<http://www.abc.org.br/resultado.php3?codigo=hiss>

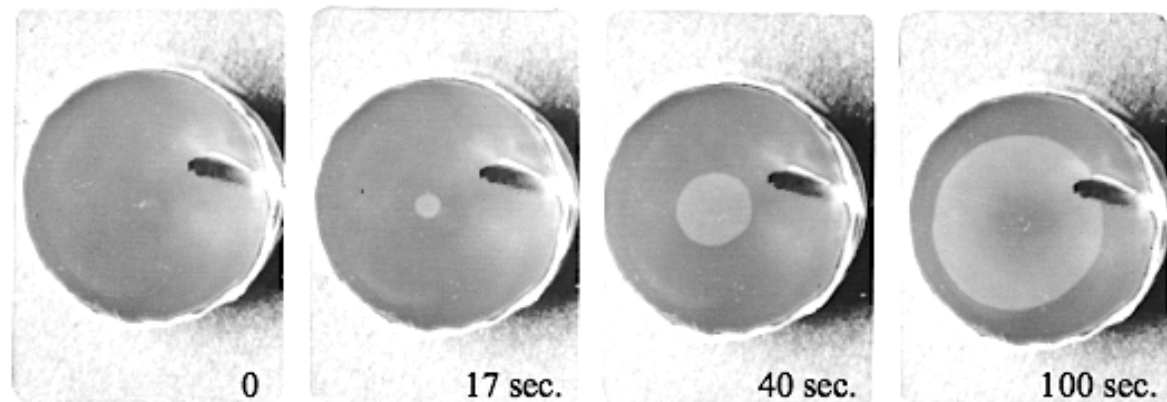


Figure modified from Martins-Ferreira et al., 2000

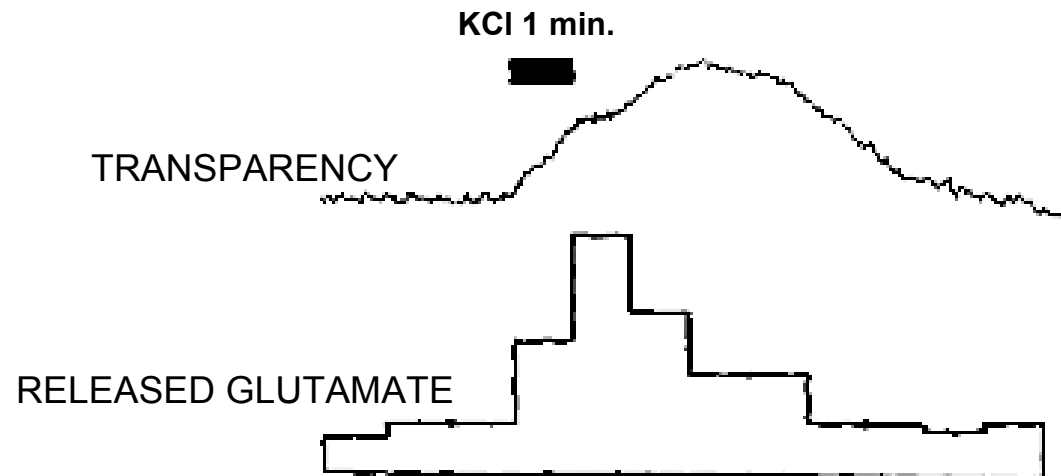
**LIGHT-SCATTERING CHANGES ACCOMPANYING  
SPREADING DEPRESSION IN ISOLATED RETINA**

H. MARTINS-FERREIRA AND G. DE OLIVEIRA CASTRO\*

J. Neurophysiol. 29: 715-726 (1966)

# SD is accompanied by glutamate release and can be initiated by glutamate

Antonie van Harreveld



## GLUTAMATE RELEASE FROM THE RETINA DURING SPREADING DEPRESSION

A. VAN HARREVELD and EVA FIFKOVÁ  
J. Neurobiol. 2: 13-29 (1970)

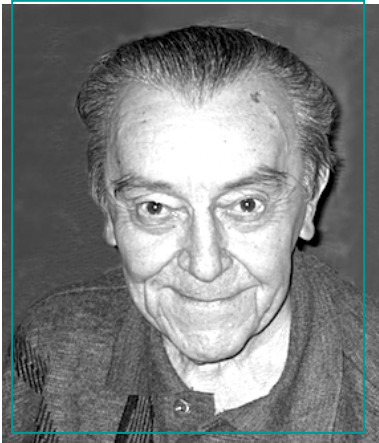
## COMPOUNDS IN BRAIN EXTRACTS CAUSING SPREADING DEPRESSION OF CEREBRAL CORTICAL ACTIVITY AND CONTRACTION OF CRUSTACEAN MUSCLE

A. VAN HARREVELD  
J. Neurochemistry 3: 300-315 (1959)



# Spreading depression as a tool to study brain function

Jan Bures



<http://www.biomed.cas.cz/fgu/en/index.php?skript=prezentace.php>

**Bures, J., & Buresova, O.** The use of Leao's **spreading** cortical depression in research on conditioned reflexes. *Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology, Supplement*, 1960, 13, 359–376.

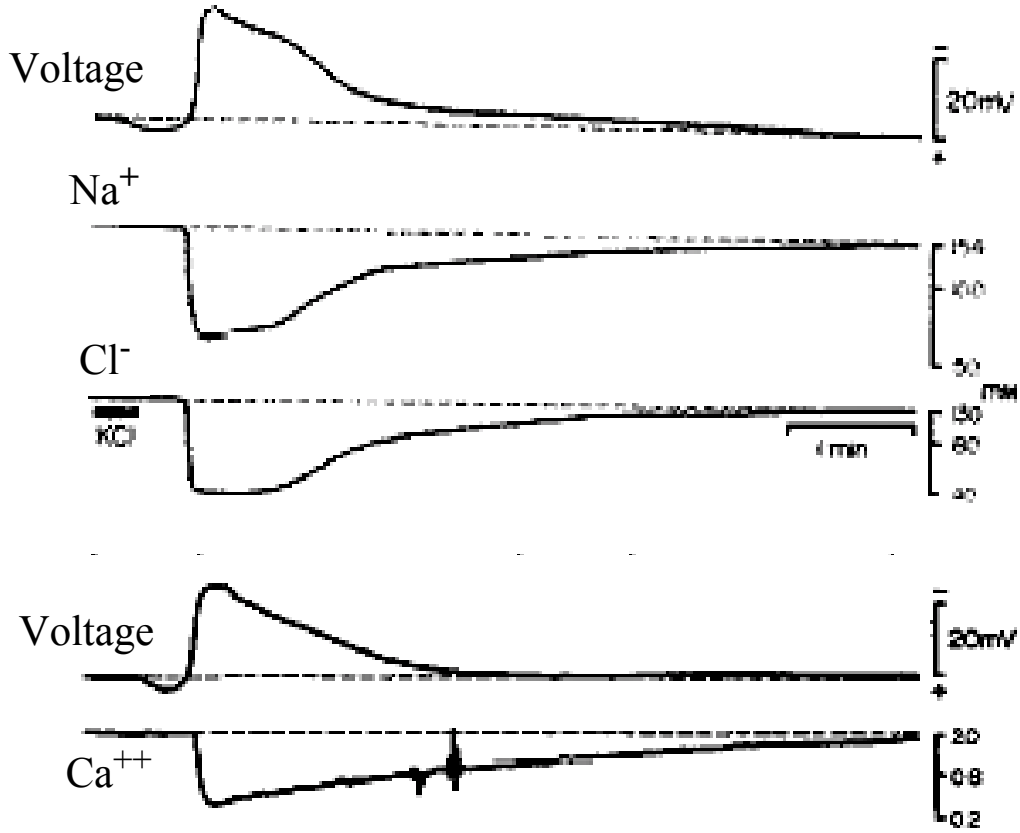
**Bures, J., & Buresova, O.** Cortical **spreading** depression as a memory disturbing factor. *Journal of Comparative and Physiological Psychology*, 1963, 56, 268–272. (a)

# SD involves ionic changes in addition to $K^+$

Richard P. Kraig



Charles Nicholson



**EXTRACELLULAR IONIC VARIATIONS DURING SPREADING DEPRESSION**  
R. P. KRAIG and C. NICHOLSON  
Neuroscience 3: 1045-1059 (1978)

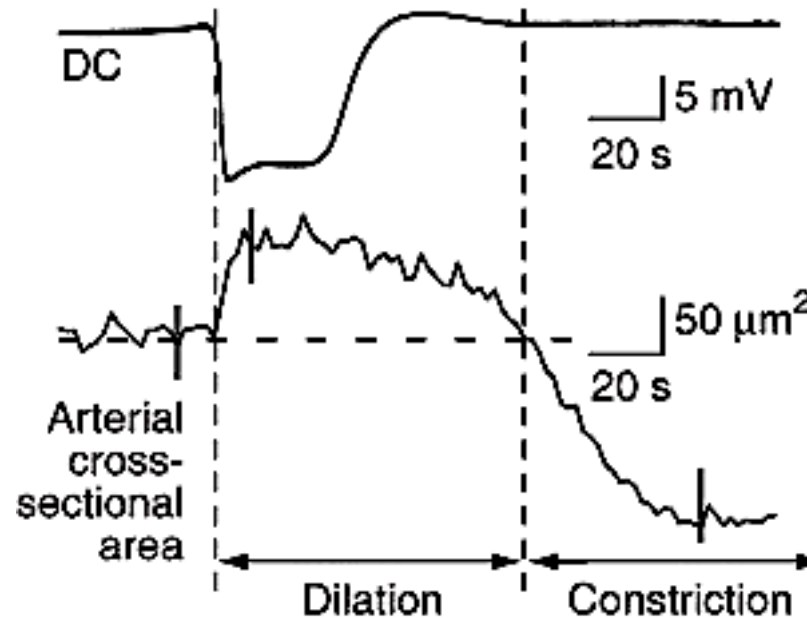
# Vascular changes

# Vascular changes during SD in mouse cortex

Takahiro Takano



Maiken Nedergaard

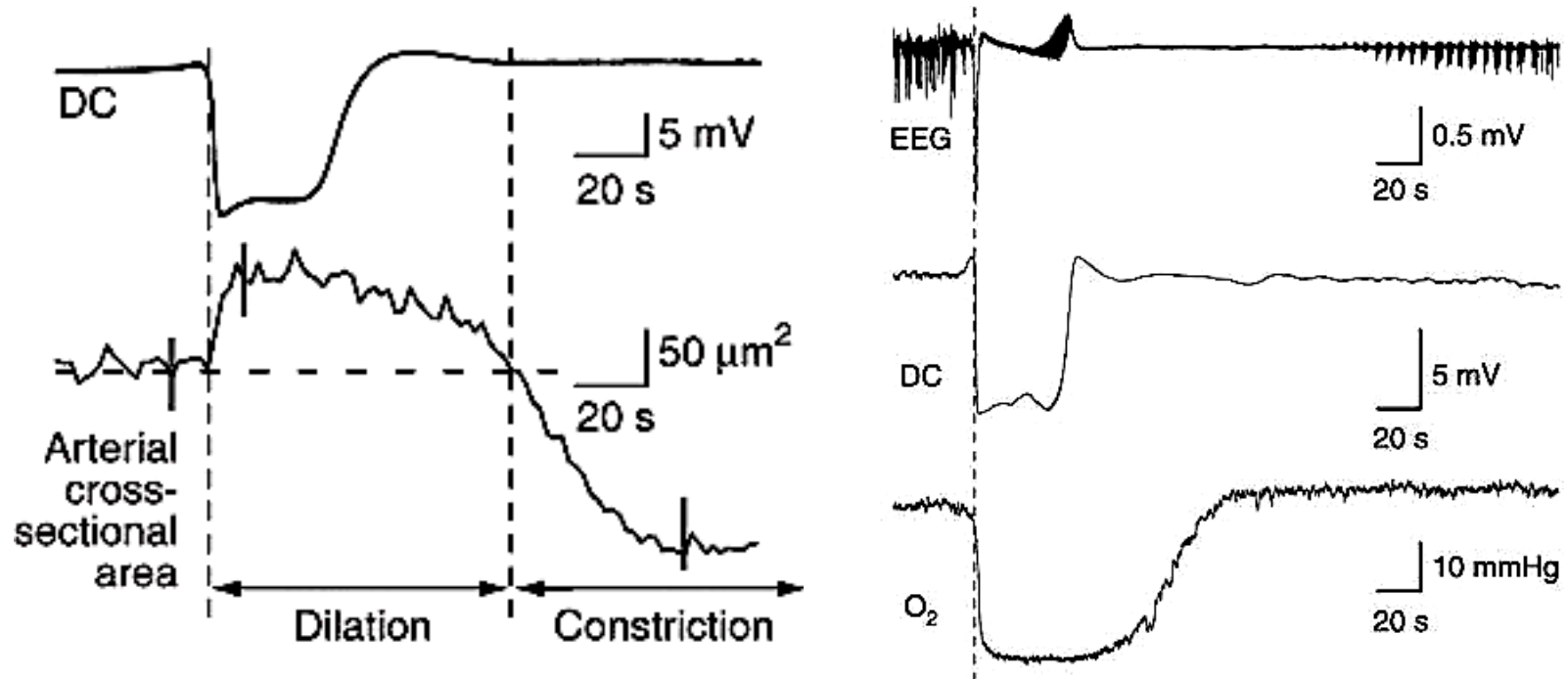


## CORTICAL SPREADING DEPRESSION CAUSES AND COINCIDES WITH TISSUE HYPOXIA

T. Takano, G.-F. Tian., W. Peng, N. Lou<sup>1</sup>, D. Lovatt, A.J. Hansen, K.A. Kasischke<sup>1</sup> and M. Nedergaard

Nature Neuroscience 10, 754 - 762 (2007)

# Hypoxia during SD, even during vasodilation phase



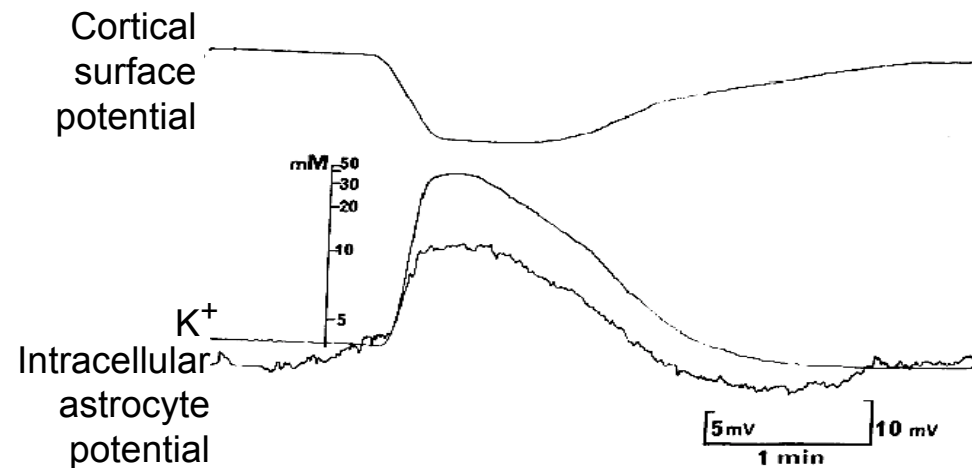
## CORTICAL SPREADING DEPRESSION CAUSES AND COINCIDES WITH TISSUE HYPOXIA

T. Takano, G.-F. Tian., W. Peng, N. Lou<sup>1</sup>, D. Lovatt, A.J. Hansen, K.A. Kasischke<sup>1</sup> and M. Nedergaard

Nature Neuroscience 10, 754 - 762 (2007)

# The role of astrocytes

## Astrocytes depolarize during SD



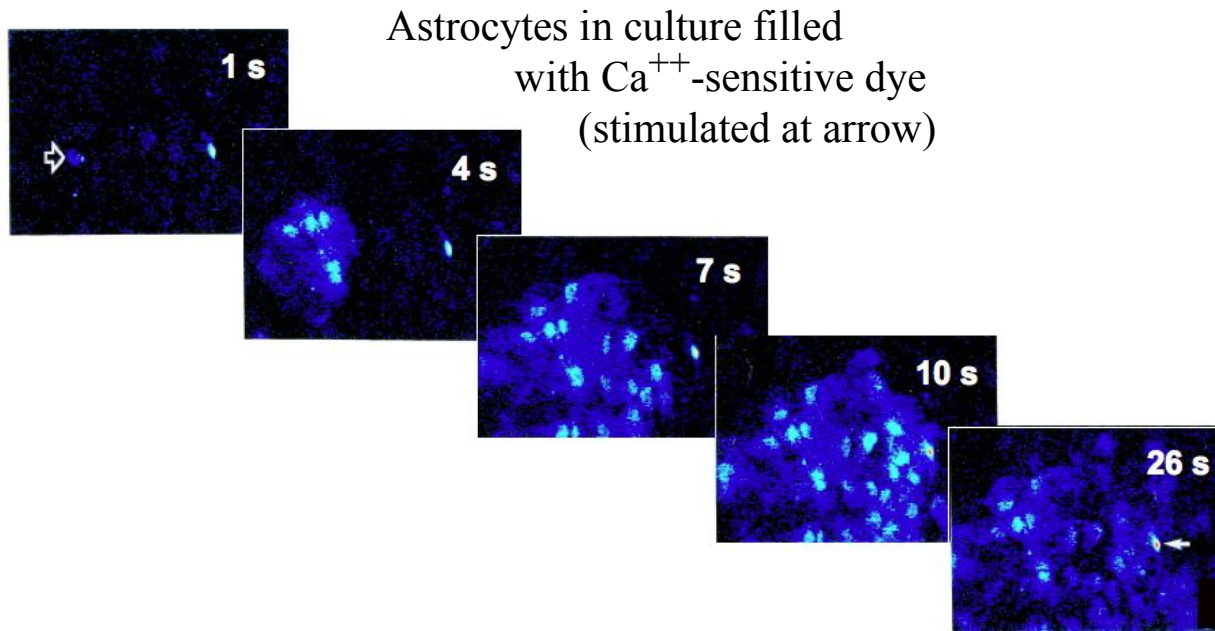
Modified from Sugaya et al., 1974

### NEURONAL AND GLIAL ACTIVITY DURING SPREADING DEPRESSION IN CEREBRAL CORTEX OF CAT

Sugaya, E., Takato, M., and Noda, Y.

J. Neurophysiol. 38:822-841 (1974)

# Calcium waves in astrocytes (mediated by gap junctions and ATP diffusion) spread at the same rate as SD



Modified from Martins-Ferreira et al., 2000



# Do astrocyte $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ waves contribute to SD?

YES

GAP JUNCTIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PROPAGATION  
OF SPREADING DEPRESSION

M. Nedergaard, A.J.L.Cooper and S.A. Goldman

J. Neurobiol. 28: 433-444 (1995)

NO

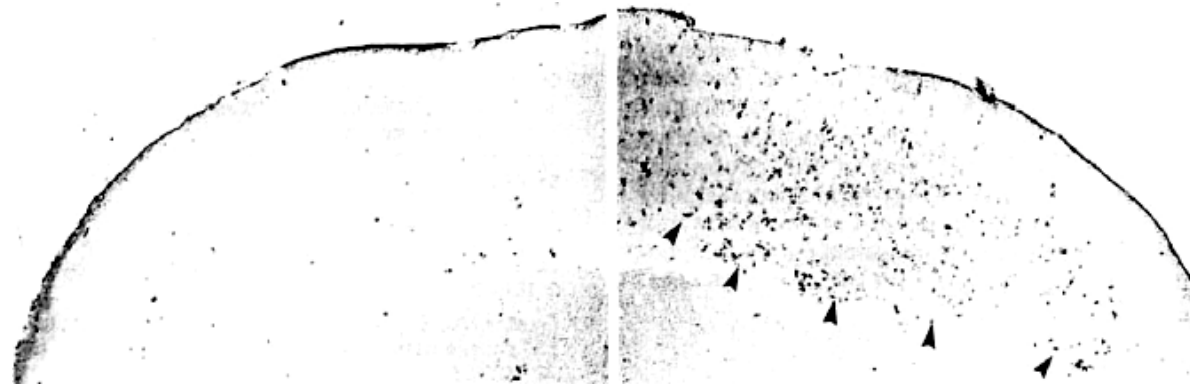
DIFFERENT MECHANISMS PROMOTE ASTROCYTE  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
WAVES AND SPREADING DEPRESSION  
IN THE MOUSE NEOCORTEX

O. Peters, C. G. Schipke, Y. Hashimoto, and H. Kettenmann

J. Neurosci. 23: 9888–9896 (2003)

# The role of microglia

## SD activates microglia in cerebral cortex



Normal

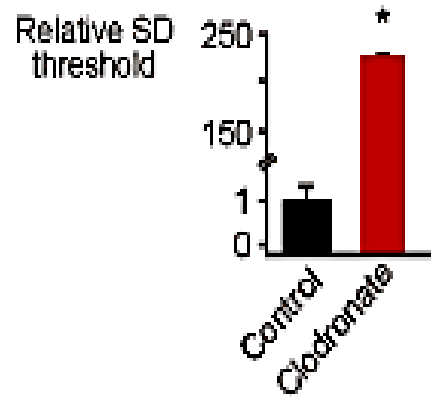
24 hr after SD

### MICROGLIAL REACTION IN THE RAT CEREBRAL CORTEX INDUCED BY CORTICAL SPREADING DEPRESSION

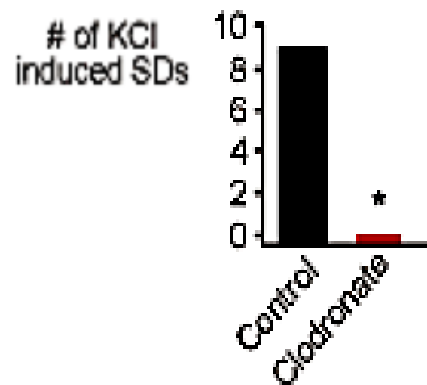
J. Gehrmann, G. Mies, P. Bonnekoh, R. Banati, T. Iijima,  
G.W. Kreutzberg and K.-A. Hossmann

Brain Pathology 3: 11-17 (1993)

# Initiation of spreading depression requires microglia



Drug (clodronate) that depletes microglia blocks initiation of SD by  $K^+$  in hippocampal slice cultures



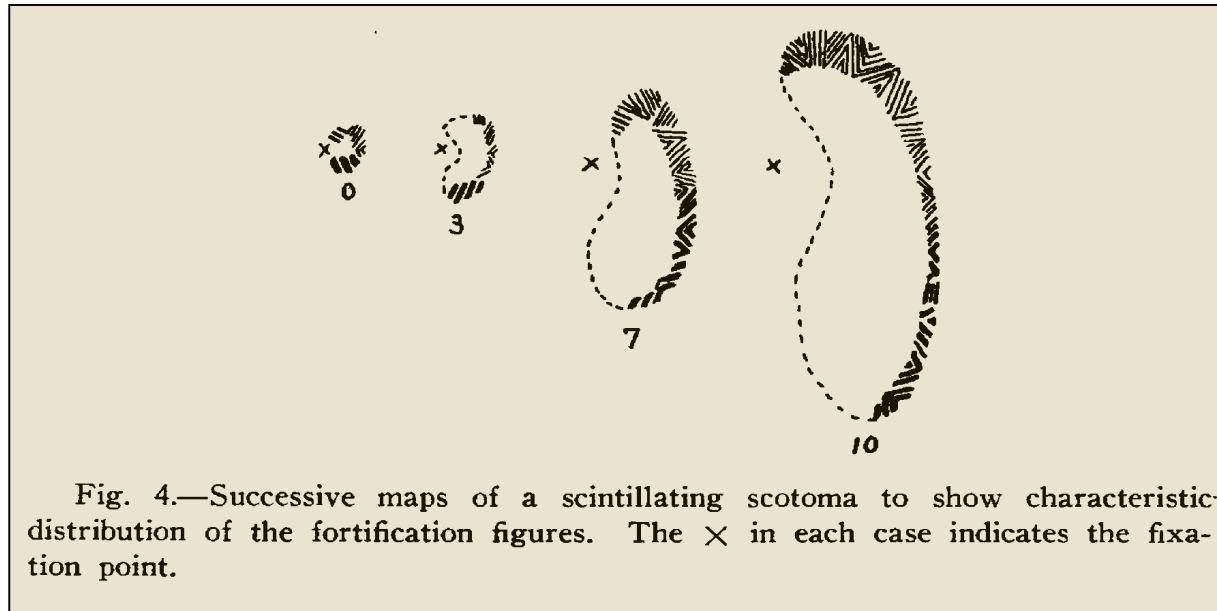
Adapted from Pusic et al., 2014

SPREADING DEPRESSION REQUIRES MICROGLIA  
AND IS DECREASED BY THEIR M2A POLARIZATION  
FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

K.M. Pusic, A.D. Pusic, J. Kemme and R.P. Kraig.  
Glia 62:1176–1194 (2014)

# The migraine connection

Spread of SD = spread of visual aura activity on the cortex



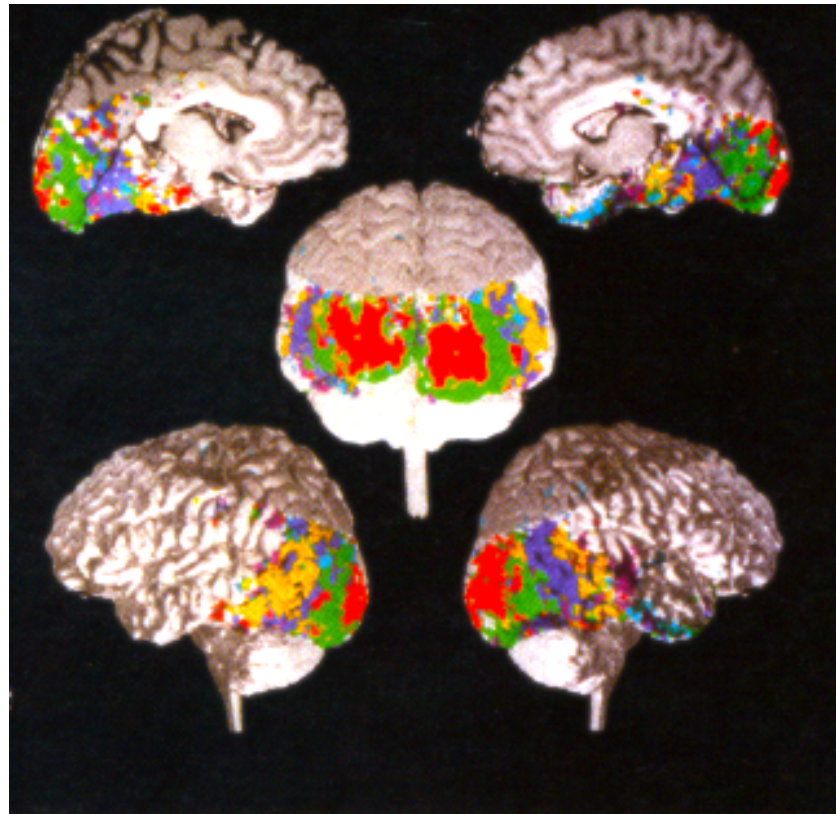
From Lashley, 1947

NOTE ON A POSSIBLE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE  
SCOTOMAS OF MIGRAINE AND SPREADING DEPRESSION OF LEÃO

P.M. Milner, Ph.D.

EEG Clin. Neurophysiol. 10: 705 (1958)

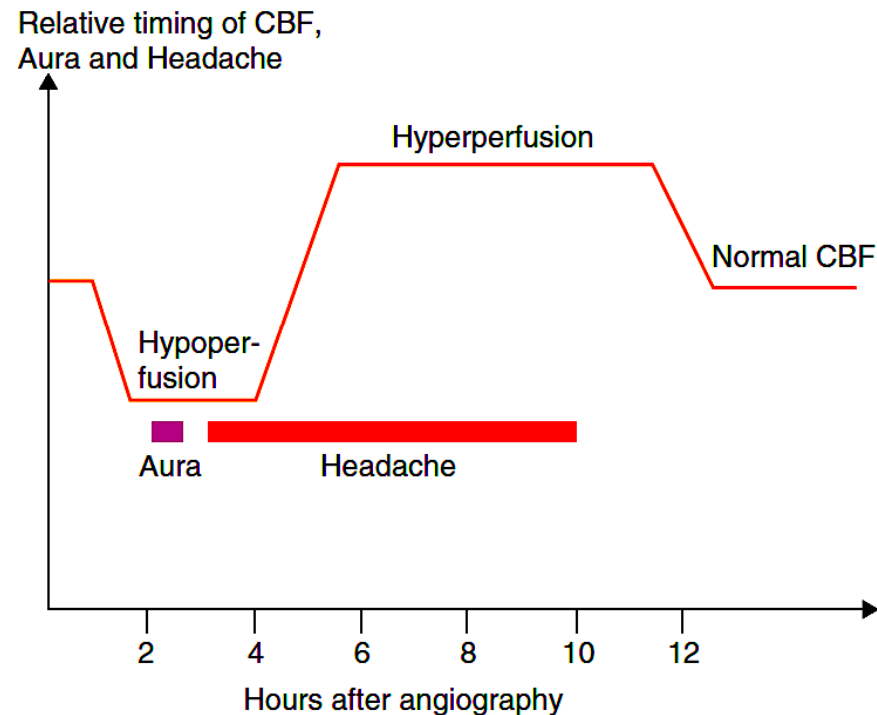
# First demonstration of spreading depression during migraine using PET



## BILATERAL SPREADING HYPOPERFUSION DURING SPONTANEOUS MIGRAINE HEADACHE

R.P. Woods, M. Iacoboni and J.C. Mazziotta  
New Eng. J. Med. 331: 1689-1692 (1994)

# Typical course of cerebral blood flow changes in migraine



Modified from Tfelt-Hansen, 2010,  
after original from Olesen et al., 1990

## TIMING AND TOPOGRAPHY OF CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW, AURA, AND HEADACHE DURING MIGRAINE ATTACKS

J. Olesen, L. Friberg, T. Skyhøj Olsen, H.K. Iversen, N.A. Lassen,  
A.R. Andersen and A.Karle

Ann. Neurol. 28: 791–798 (1990)



# Why women are more susceptible to migraine?

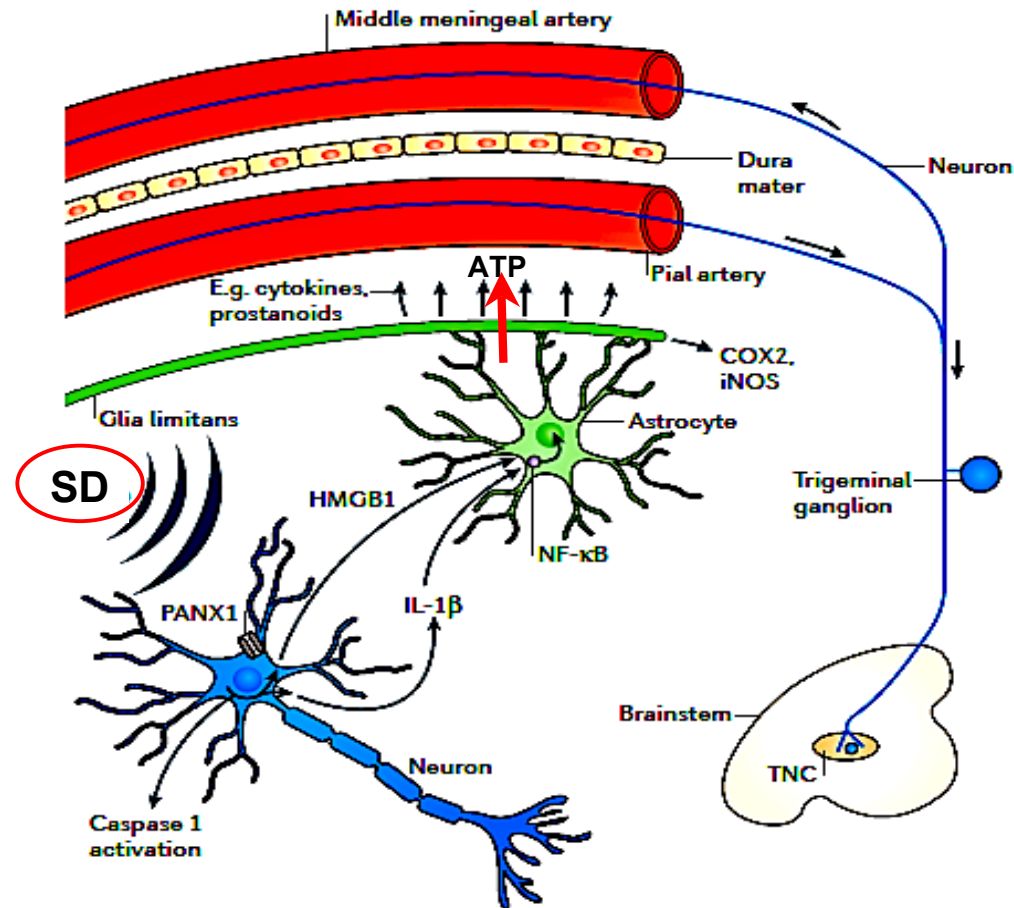
**Potassium-selective microelectrode revealed difference in threshold potassium concentration for cortical spreading depression in female and male rat brain**

Svatopluk Adámek , František Vyskočil  
Brain Research 1370: 215-219 (2011)

**8.0 +/- 0.6 mM K<sup>+</sup>**  
**vs.**  
**14.4 +/- 0.4 mM K<sup>+</sup>**

How do SD events cause headache?

# Trigeminovascular hypothesis of migraine headache



Modified from Pietrobon & Moskowitz, 2014

CHAOS AND COMMOTION IN THE WAKE OF CORTICAL SPREADING  
DEPRESSION AND SPREADING DEPOLARIZATIONS

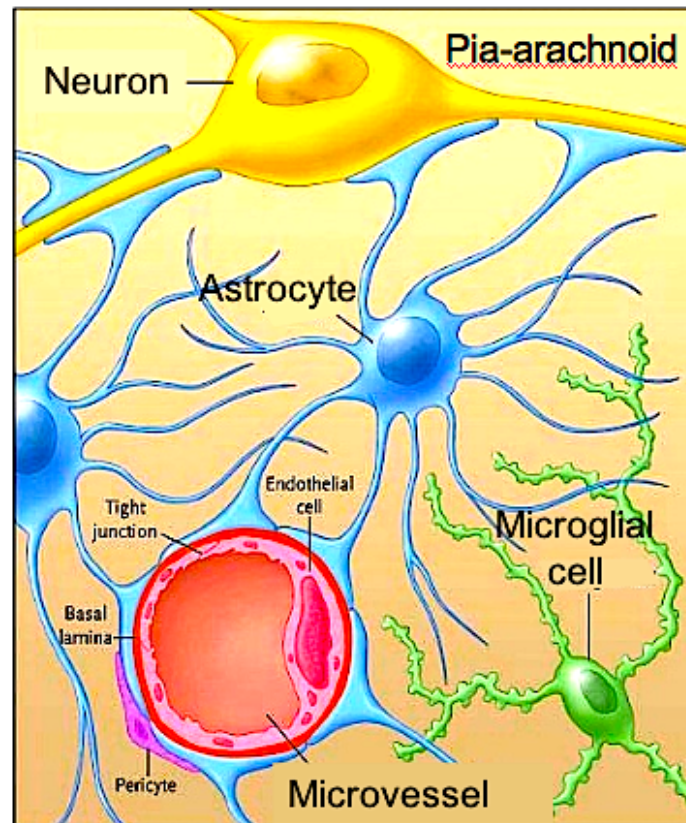
D. Pietrobon and M. Moskowitz  
Nature Rev. Neurosci. 15: 379-393 (2014)

The message

# Mechanisms participating in spreading depression

- $K^+$  release by neuronal activity and depolarization
- internalization of  $Na^+$ ,  $Cl^-$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  and cell swelling
- glutamate release from neurons and astrocytes
- astrocytic  $Ca^{++}$  waves via gap junctions and ATP release
- vasodilation/vasoconstriction
- microglial activation (inflammation)
- anoxia
- NO generation
- blood-brain barrier disruption

# The neurovascular unit: multiple participants in spreading depression



Modified from Del Zoppo, 2006