

# The Synapse Structure And Function

Imaging Synapse Structure and Function Structural and Functional Organization of the Synapse Regulation of Synaptic Structure and Function Structure and Function of Synapses The Synapse Structural and Functional Plasticity of the Ribbon Synapse in the Ampullae of Lorenzini Structure and Function of Inhibitory Neuronal Mechanisms Synapses Structure and Function in the Nervous Systems of Invertebrates Structure and Function of the Body The Structure and Function of Nervous Tissue Chemical Pharmacology of the Synapse A Molecular and Genetic Analysis of Neuromuscular Connectivity and Synaptic Growth in *Drosophila Melanogaster* The Physiology of Synapses Intercellular Junctions and Synapses The Lancet Cell Structure and Its Interpretation The Journal of Mental Science Ontogenesis and Functional Mechanisms of Peripheral Synapses Electrophysiological Analysis of Synaptic Transmission George J. Augustine Johannes W. Hell Zhiyong Shao New York Society of Electron Microscopists Virginia M. Pickel R. Douglas Fields Curt von Euler W. Maxwell Cowan Theodore Holmes Bullock Gary A. Thibodeau Geoffrey Howard Bourne D. J. Triggle Hong Iris Wan Eccles (Sir John Carew) J. Feldman John Randal Baker Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (France) John I. Hubbard

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*John I. Hubbard*

development of new imaging technologies in recent years has transformed neuroscience in profound ways following on the heels of the revolution based on the green fluorescent protein refined genetically encoded fluorescent reporters and genetic targeting strategies now enable optical recording of synaptic transmission in defined neuronal populations at speeds approaching the enviable temporal resolution of electrophysiology super resolution light microscopy permits observation of synapses and their molecular machinery at sub diffraction resolution at the ultrastructural level automated forms of electron microscopy improvements in specimen fixation methods and recent efforts to correlate data from light and electron micrographs now make the reconstruction of functional neural circuits a reality finally the use of optogenetic actuators such as channelrhodopsins allows precise temporal and spatial manipulation of neuronal activity and is revealing profound insights into the organization of neural circuits and their roles in behavior this research topic highlights recent advances in both light and electron microscopy with a specific focus on approaches that combine innovations from several different fields to obtain novel information about synapse structure and function we are confident that this collection of articles three original research papers six reviews one methods paper and one perspective article will enable neuroscientists to achieve the next generation of experiments aimed at cracking the neural code

the synapse is a fascinating structure for many reasons biologically it is an exquisitely organized subcellular compartment that has a remarkable capacity for fidelity and endurance computationally synapses play a central role in signal transmission and processing that represent evolution s solution to learning and memory nervous systems including our own brains possess an extraordinary capacity for adaptation and memory because the synapse not the neuron constitutes the basic unit for information storage because the molecular complexities underlying signal processing and information storage must occur within the tiny space of the synapse the precise molecular organization of proteins lipids and membranes at the synapse is paramount given the central role of the synapse in neuronal communication it comes as no surprise that dysregulation of the synapse accounts for many if not most neurological and psychiatric disorders clinically the synapse thus constitutes a primetarget for treatments of these diseases it is for these reasons that we have chosen to focus our work on deciphering the structural and functional organization of the synapse we have assembled leaders in the field of synapse biology to describe and distill the wonders and mysteries of the synapse this book provides a fundamental description of the synapse developed over many decades by numerous investigators paired with recent

insight into new aspects of synapse structure and function that is still in flux and at the cutting edge of research

the synapse summarizes recent advances in cellular and molecular mechanisms of synaptic transmission and provides new insights into neuronal plasticity and the cellular basis of neurological diseases part 1 provides an in depth look at structural differences and distribution of various pre and post synaptic proteins found at glutamatergic synapses part 2 is dedicated to dendritic spines and their associated perisynaptic glia which together constitute the tripartite synapse the spines are portrayed as major sites for calcium sequestration and local protein synthesis part 3 highlights the important regional and cellular differences between glutamatergic transmission and that of neurotransmitters such as dopamine and acetylcholine that are commonly found in axon terminals without synaptic membrane specializations part 4 provides an overview of the synapse from the time of formation to degeneration under the powerful influence of aging or hormonal decline that leads to severe deficits in cognitive function each chapter is illustrated with drawings and images derived from calcium imaging electron microscopic immunolabeling or electrophysiology this book is a valuable reference for neuroscientists and clinical neurologists in both research and clinical settings a comprehensive reference focused on the structure and function of the synapse covers the links between the synapse and neural plasticity and the cellular basis of neurologic disease detailed coverage of dendritic spines and associated perisynaptic glia the tripartite synapse includes in depth coverage of synapse degeneration due to aging or hormonal decline related to severe cognitive impairment

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