

1 **Comparing adult hippocampal neurogenesis across species:**
2 **translating time to predict the tempo in humans**

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9 Running title:
10 Comparing timetables of adult neurogenesis

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28 Keywords: hippocampus, neurogenesis, adult, human, rodent, monkey, Ki67, allometry

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33

Abstract

34

35 Comparison of neurodevelopmental sequences between species whose initial period of
36 brain organization may vary from one hundred days to one thousand days, and whose
37 progress is intrinsically nonlinear presents large challenges in normalization. Comparing
38 adult timelines when lifespans stretch from one year to seventy-five, when underlying
39 cellular mechanisms under scrutiny do not scale similarly, presents challenges to simple
40 detection and comparison. The question of adult hippocampal neurogenesis has
41 generated numerous controversies regarding its simple presence or absence in humans
42 versus rodents, whether it is best described as the tail of a distribution centered on early
43 neural development, or is several distinct processes. In addition, adult neurogenesis may
44 have substantially changed in evolutionary time in different taxonomic groups. Here we
45 extend and adapt a model of the cross-species transformation of early
46 neurodevelopmental events which presently reaches up to the equivalent of the third
47 human postnatal year for 18 mammalian species (www.translatingtime.net) to address
48 questions relevant to hippocampal neurogenesis, which permit extending the database to
49 adolescence or perhaps to the whole lifespan. We acquired quantitative data delimiting
50 the envelope of hippocampal neurogenesis from cell cycle markers (i.e., Ki67, DCX) and
51 RNA sequencing data for two primates (macaque, humans) and two rodents (rat, mouse).
52 To improve species coverage in primates, we gathered the same data from marmosets
53 (*Callithrix jacchus*), but additionally gathered data on a number of developmental
54 milestones to find equivalent developmental time points between marmosets and other
55 species. When all species are so modeled, and represented in a common time frame, the
56 envelopes of hippocampal neurogenesis are essentially superimposable. Early
57 developmental events involving the olfactory and limbic system start and conclude
58 possibly slightly early in primates than rodents, and we find a comparable early
59 conclusion of primate hippocampal neurogenesis (as assessed by the relative number of
60 Ki67 cells) suggesting a plateau to low levels at approximately 2 years of age in humans.
61 Marmosets show equivalent patterns within neurodevelopment, but unlike macaque and
62 humans may have wholesale delay in the initiation of neurodevelopment processes
63 previously observed in some precocial mammals such as the guinea pig and multiple
64 large ungulates.

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Comparing timetables of adult neurogenesis

68 **1.0 Introduction**

69

70 The following paper, a contribution to the collection “Adult Neurogenesis: beyond rats
71 and mice”, is a hybrid of two components. At its core is an empirical contribution to the
72 literature on hippocampal neurogenesis, comparing late neurogenesis in two rodents and
73 three primates, using evidence from cell cycle markers. We have informed that analysis
74 with the “Translating Time” project (www.translatingtime.net), where we have gathered
75 evidence about the relative progress of neurodevelopmental events from the first
76 birthdays of mature neurons until increasingly later ages across 18 mammalian species.
77 We will argue that any claim that onset, offset or duration of a developmental process, or
78 an adult brain feature produced by such a process, is “unique”, or even “specialized” in
79 humans or any other species or taxonomic group is absolutely dependent on a proper
80 allometric comparison, such as made possible by the “Translating time” modeling work,
81 or other similar analyses. A comparison of a developmental feature of the brain of a
82 particular rodent to particular primate species is not such an analysis, and will
83 systematically mislead researchers.

84

85 The second component is a discussion of the problems and opportunities of
86 developmental allometric analyses across mammals, which we present in this
87 introduction. We include a review and exposition of basic allometric claims and
88 procedures as they apply to brain mass and developmental duration in general, as well as
89 the progress of neurogenesis targeted in this paper. We will describe some of the
90 quantitative misunderstandings that typically arise from moving between the exponential
91 functions used in allometric analyses, and the linear functions used in basic
92 measurements of cell number and volume in developmental cell biology. The
93 immediately following expanded introduction concerns the motivation, history, and
94 methodology necessary to understand methods of analysis in developmental allometry.

95

96 **1.1 The purpose and methodology of allometric comparison**

97

98 **1.1.1 Prior work on developmental allometry**

99

100 In order to limit the need to contrast statistical methodologies of successive papers within
101 the text, the following description of species, neural structures, developmental span and
102 mathematical models employed in this research project follows, including immediately
103 relevant work of several other laboratories. First, the current database for the
104 “Translating Time” model with tables of species, structures and sources, a description of
105 the current model, and a utility to translate or predict a developmental equivalent day
106 between any two species in the model can be found at www.translatingtime.org (Clancy
107 et al., 2007). The initial comparison of neurogenetic schedules in rhesus monkey, cat,
108 four rodents and a marsupial, extending from onset of neurogenesis to approximately
109 birth in the monkey, using principal components analysis, is described in Finlay and
110 Darlington (1995) and an extended discussion of statistical considerations, principally
111 phylogenetic covariation can be found in Finlay et al. (2001). Darlington et al. (1999)
112 and Clancy et al. (2000) bring the number of species to 9 eutherian (placental) mammals
113 including humans and 6 metatherians (marsupials), principally using regression analyses.

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114 Clancy et al. (2001) extend the neurodevelopmental events past neurogenesis to include
115 synaptogenesis, cell death, ocular dominance columns and the like, using regression and
116 the general linear model (see also Clancy et al., 2008). The relationship of individual
117 variability to between-species variability is discussed in Finlay et al. (2011), and
118 specifically in humans in Charvet et al. (2013). The current iterative model deriving the
119 “event scale” of maturation developed in Workman et al. (2013) brings the number of
120 mammalian species to 18, the number of developmental events to 271, including
121 myelination, volume change, and early behavioral events, extending to human-equivalent
122 of the third postnatal year. Particularly relevant to the present paper, patterns in the
123 neural maturation of altricial versus precocial species are contrasted. A demonstration of
124 the problems arising from a failure to account for allometric concerns can be found in
125 “Human exceptionalism” (Finlay and Workman, 2013). Early behavioral development
126 and related neuroplasticity are integrated with translating time in Finlay and Uchiyama
127 (2017), and finally, evolution of life histories, including events like weaning and
128 menopause in Hawkes and Finlay (2018). Readers are directed to the early work of
129 Passingham (1985), and Garwicz et al. (2009), who use similar methods to examine
130 early independent ambulation, as well as that of Halley’s studies of the growth of initial
131 primordia and brain across a wide range of mammals (Halley, 2016, 2017). More
132 recently, the advent of single cell RNA sequencing provides an exciting opportunity to
133 investigate developmental trajectories of neural subpopulations across species (Habib et
134 al., 2017; Iacono et al., 2017; Fan et al., 2018; Zhong et al., 2018). We here broaden the
135 maturational range of neurodevelopmental ages of studies in our database to capture late
136 stages of hippocampal neurogenesis across species.

137

138 **1.1.2 Allometry of brain and brain parts.**

139

140 The general form of scaling of neural mass or neuron numbers in any brain region
141 compared to the whole brain, has been studied for many years (Jerison, 1973; Gould,
142 1975; Fleagle, 1985). Overall consensus exists about general features of brain and body
143 scaling, though subject to the normal continuing debate about optimal ways to quantify
144 statistical variation in large and complex datasets (Finlay et al., 2001; Freckleton et al.,
145 2002). We will take the particular example of cross-species comparisons of the volume
146 and number of neurons in the neocortex, and particularly the frontal cortex (the allometric
147 study of the brain), to introduce the related and less familiar topic of scaling of
148 developmental duration across species, which we term developmental allometry.

149

150 If scaling of neocortical volume (or “isocortex”) is the focus for consideration, the fact
151 that the human brain has a disproportionately large cortex compared to primates and most
152 other mammals is quite “obvious” – for example, the human cortex comprises over 80%
153 of its total brain mass, compared to around 20% in shrews and rodents (Finlay and
154 Darlington, 1995). The correct empirical observation of the apparently disproportionate
155 size of the cortex along with its persistent misinterpretation is the prototypical example of
156 a problem we will call “human exceptionalism” (Finlay and Workman, 2013). The
157 disproportionate volume of the human neocortex suggested to multiple researchers alike -
158 - anthropologists, embryologists, neuroscientists and psychologists -- that it must be the
159 result of special selection compared to the rest of the brain. Since the cortex was thus

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160 thought to be the subject of selection within the brain, every cognitive alteration or
161 adaptation in evidence in humans has typically been typically credited to its superior
162 computational prowess. But it's not necessarily so. Although we have an unusually large
163 brain, our cortex is the size it should be for a brain of our absolute size when cross-
164 species cortex volume or cell numbers are represented on logarithmic scales (Jerison,
165 1973; Hofman, 1989; Finlay and Darlington, 1995; Kaas and Herculano-Houzel, 2017).

166

167 **1.1.3 Linear scales, logarithmic scales and the allometric equation**

168

169 A “proper” comparison of variations across species of different sizes and developmental
170 durations requires care (this section is abridged from Hawkes and Finlay, 2018 to which
171 the reader is directed for a more extensive discussion). Even with “all else equal” in such
172 factors as a species’ niche, number of brain components, sex and age, still, the laws of
173 geometry, and of physics and chemistry, impose lawful changes in both form and process
174 with increase in brain mass. The intrinsic geometry of physical relationships results in
175 variable allometric relationships (e.g., doubling the volume of a sphere only increases its
176 radius by 1.26 times). After such geometric constants are understood, any two structures
177 or processes changing in size or duration across species could show nonlinear scaling
178 relationships, scale linearly, or might show no predictable scaling, depending on the
179 mechanisms or functions that are relevant. For example, the divisions, doubling and
180 redoubling of stem cell pools are best described by nonlinear equations. Some features
181 change linearly: for example, if multiplied by the appropriate constant, cross-sectional
182 diagrams of mice and rat eyes are superimposable even though the rat’s eye is twice as
183 big, as both are solving a linear optical problem with the same materials (Remtulla and
184 Hallet, 1985). Some features do not scale at all with brain mass (considering mammals
185 only here), such as the diameter of the cell bodies of neurons, the time to complete the
186 first generation of a mature neuron, or the duration of action potentials. Such variable
187 geometrical and biological scaling relations can coexist for different aspects of the same
188 structure. Finally, datasets of interest often have underlying geometries that can mislead
189 graphical comparisons. Consider a typical Mercator projection of the earth’s landmasses,
190 where the continents of Africa and Greenland appear approximately equal in size, but
191 when measured in its correct spherical coordinates, Africa is more than 10 times larger
192 than Greenland.

193

194 Allometries are conventionally represented as scaling relationships. If the relationship
195 between two features that correlate with each other in size, say ‘x’ and ‘y,’ is represented
196 as $y=kx^a$ where ‘k’ is some constant, and the exponent ‘a’ represents the rate at which ‘y’
197 changes with respect to a change in ‘x.’ If exponent ‘a’ is more or less than 1 then a
198 change in y is associated with a geometrical change in ‘x.’ Such geometrical or
199 exponential relationships can be plotted and visualized as linear ones by logarithmic
200 transformation: $\log y = a \log x + \log k$. In such log plots, the exponent ‘a’ now appears as
201 the slope of the increase in y with respect to x. Using this representation of cortex mass
202 relative to the whole brain is represented on a logarithmic scale, it is clear that the human
203 neocortex is exactly the size it “should” be (Figure 1). The human brain is absolutely
204 large compared to other primates, but given this large brain size, each part falls onto its
205 “expected” position, from hindbrain to cortex (Hofman, 1989). The cortex has “positive

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206 allometry” with respect to the rest of the brain, its slope greater than one, which is the
207 “linear scaling reference” of Figure 1. Inevitably, therefore, with different brain
208 components each increasing in mass at different rates, larger mammalian brains become
209 “disproportionately” composed of cortex. The exact exponent of cortical positive
210 allometry might vary with whether neurons, all cells, surface area or volume is measured,
211 and shows some taxon-specific differences, but none reduce the positive exponent to one
212 or less (a sampling of a large literature: Jerison, 1973; 1989; Hofman, 1989; Reep et al.,
213 2007; Herculano-Houzel et al., 2017; Charvet et al., 2013).

214

215 Because of the regular, predictable relationships of the relative sizes of brain parts at all
216 absolute brain volumes, lacking other information, our large cortex cannot be attributed
217 to special selection for that feature, as it comes “for free” with selection on the whole
218 brain, or in fact, could arise by leverage by selection on any part of the brain (Finlay and
219 Darlington, 1995). It is interesting, to be sure, that over evolutionary time that the cortex,
220 and the cerebellum are the two brain regions where disproportionate neuron number,
221 volume and energy consumption are routinely allocated (Finlay et al., 2011).
222 Comparison of relative cortical and cerebellar volume between any two mammals of
223 different brain size will reveal this feature, not only comparison of the human brain with
224 all others. The most telling evidence is that those several mammalian brains which are
225 absolutely larger in mass than the human brain, including several cetaceans and
226 ungulates, continue the allometric equation of the cortex, so that they have
227 proportionately even more cortex than humans do (Figure 1).

228

229 **1.1.4 The evolutionary question at issue: the case of the prefrontal cortex**

230

231 Questions involving allometric scaling are in no way historical debates as a similar
232 controversy is ongoing about whether a specific region of cortex, the prefrontal cortex, is
233 “allometrically unexpected” in humans (Sherwood and Smaers, 2013). Just as the cortex
234 has a particular exponent of enlargement with respect to the rest of the brain, every
235 cortical area (e.g., prefrontal, primary visual) has its own exponent (or slope in the log-
236 transformed equation) showing its change in relative volume compared to overall cortex
237 volume. Both the prefrontal and parietal cortex regions have an exponent that is larger
238 than the cortex’s overall exponent, showing a positive allometry (Jerison, 1997). The
239 issue under debate is whether the frontal cortex in humans is larger still than would be
240 expected from its already high positive allometry (Barton and Venditti, 2013; Chaplin,
241 Yu, Soares, Gattass, and Rosa, 2013; Passingham and Smaers, 2014; Semendeferi, Lu,
242 Schenker, and Damasio, 2002). As before, however, when we discussed preferential
243 allocation of “excess” neural mass for cortex and cerebellum versus the rest of the brain,
244 it is interesting that it is frontal and parietal cortex that are preferentially enlarged in the
245 cortical sheet when brains increase in volume across mammals.

246

247 Why should these researchers care about this issue? If researchers claim a region’s
248 volume is “allometrically unexpected” in humans, they are claiming that it must have
249 been the target of selection, typically because of special importance of the function
250 ascribed to that brain region in that species. In the case of the frontal cortex, the
251 cognitive features usually evoked are cognitive control, the ability to choose reasonable

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252 behavioral solutions from competing possibilities, or to evaluate choices with respect to
253 goals distant in space or time. Thus, the claim that the frontal cortex is allometrically
254 unexpected in humans is a claim that humans have been selected on a behavioral feature
255 like cognitive control, which in turn is improved with the relative volume of frontal
256 cortex. Structures that change their volume according to regular, cross-species
257 allometric rules, however, even if they look disproportionate on a linear scale, require no
258 special explanation. If the entire brain has been under special selection for larger size in
259 any species, every single change in the proportionality of its parts is generated by its
260 change in size. We'll make no ruling on this claim, except to note that the deviation in
261 human frontal cortex volume, if it exists, is small enough to make it susceptible to
262 relatively minor differences in methodology between research groups.

263
264 It remains interesting and important that brains enlarge in particular ways, and that
265 predictable patterns of reorganization, both behavioral and computational, are associated
266 with cortical enlargement (Finlay and Uchiyama, 2015). Mammals with large brains are
267 certain to show evidence of a disproportionate contribution of frontal cortex (Passingham
268 and Smaers, 2014). Allometric regularities in structural scaling, whether in the cortex, or
269 in the hippocampus we will soon be discussing, require that we investigate coordinated
270 mechanisms *outside* the structures of interest, and should make us skeptical of causal
271 accounts that depend on selection on hypothesized special adaptations of the particular
272 species of animal.

273
274 An important mechanism of volumes and neuron number coordination in several cases
275 studied so far appears to be the coordinated control of duration of neurogenesis, as
276 applied to every part of mammalian brains (e.g. Cahalane et al., 2014; Charvet and
277 Finlay, 2014; Dyer et al., 2009; Finlay and Darlington, 1995). As the duration of
278 hippocampal neurogenesis is the subject of the empirical component of this paper, we
279 will now turn to issues in the allometry of development.

280

281 **1.2 The allometry of developmental duration: basic requirements**

282

283 **1.2.1 The need for data from multiple species: why attempts to “norm”** 284 **measurements between only two species will be ineffective**

285

286 The formal properties of “allometrically expected” changes in mass also apply to
287 translations of developmental time from one species to another. The appropriate
288 coordinate system to represent time translations will depend on the data to be represented,
289 and the representation desired. The relationship of developmental timing between
290 species cannot be presumed to be best represented on a linear scale. In order to fairly
291 compare developmental durations between animals, enough data must be collected from a
292 number of relevant species to support generating an allometric equation with credible
293 confidence intervals for its slope and intercept. For example, taking a first example from
294 volume allometry, if you hypothesized that special selection in humans for language
295 ability resulted in a comparatively larger Broca's area, it is necessary to show that the
296 size of Broca's area in humans exceeds its expected allometric position compared to
297 Broca's area in other primates (Schoenemann, 2006). A “control structure” such as

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298 primary visual cortex, a subcortical structure, or the rest of the brain cannot be used to
299 “normalize” the volume of Broca’s area, as allometric relationships in brain volumes can
300 be expected to be nonlinear. Broca’s area will be disproportionately large in humans
301 versus rhesus monkeys, but it will also be disproportionately large in rhesus monkeys
302 versus marmosets, or in horses versus sheep, where relative language competence will
303 not apply. If Broca’s area has positive allometry compared to visual cortex, every
304 contrast of a large and small mammalian brain will *always* show disproportionate volume
305 increase in Broca’s area in the larger brain. Similarly, the question of whether
306 hippocampal neurogenesis and maturation is unusually early or late in humans depends
307 on whether the timing of hippocampal maturation deviates from its expected
308 developmental allometry.

309
310 Inappropriate norming procedures applied to developmental timing questions will
311 produce the identical errors to those produced by inappropriately norming allometric
312 comparisons of volume. You cannot, for example, compare the time from birth to
313 adolescence in chimpanzees versus humans, see that the duration is longer in humans,
314 and conclude that human have been specially selected for a longer childhood. The
315 duration may be entirely predictable from the time required to generate a large brain,
316 intrinsic correlation with longevity or some other superordinate feature of life history.
317 The “translating time” database was collected, in part, to be able to understand such
318 comparisons in a larger cross-species context. A major surprise of this work was the
319 extreme regularity of neural development in mammals, which in addition to the interest
320 of the regularity alone, gives us a reliable set of brain-based benchmarks to understand
321 the relative maturation of each species with respect to life-history events like birth or
322 weaning (Hawkes and Finlay, 2018).

323

324 **1.2.2 Setting zero, or onset of neurodevelopment: birth is not a reliable indicator of** 325 **brain maturation**

326

327 All allometric equations have a slope and an intercept, but in developmental allometry,
328 the intercept often suggests a real-world developmental meaning, for example, the onset
329 of neurogenesis, or conception, or birth. Even though a real-world event like conception
330 may appear to be a likely candidate for “zero” in an allometric equation, this must be
331 mathematically determined, not stipulated. In “translating time”, the best fit for “day
332 zero” to the empirically measured neuroembryological data first proved to be a point
333 located between conception and first production of mature neurons, possibly implantation
334 (Finlay and Darlington, 1995; Finlay et al., 2001; Workman et al., 2013). Although birth
335 is often chosen as a natural zero in anthropological work, and especially for research on
336 late hippocampal neurogenesis to be discussed here, for the good theoretical reason that it
337 marks the beginning of the independent life of the organism, and for the practical reason
338 that prenatal measurements often hard to come by, still, this choice can be very
339 misleading when attempting to compare developmental schedules (Figure 2). We will
340 explain the derivation of the axes and the maturational progress represented on this graph
341 in more detail in the next section, but for the moment, the x scale, the “event scale” is a
342 multivariate measure of overall maturational state of the nervous system, with the
343 generation of the first neurons near “0”, with “1” corresponding to about 3 years

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344 postnatal in humans, with embryological features like achievement of 80% of adult brain
345 volume and variable progress of myelination. The Y axis is post-conception days of
346 development on a linear scale – on a log scale, the allometric equation of each curve
347 plotted would become a straight line (Figure 3). Post-conception days are plotted on a
348 linear scale in this graph to emphasize the extreme divergences in absolute days to
349 maturity in the species plotted here.

350

351 We have stressed the importance of two basic features of developmental allometric
352 analysis critical for interpreting the presence or absence of “postnatal” or “adult
353 neurogenesis”. The first is obtaining developmental data from enough species to
354 generate reliable allometric equations, and the second is locating a true “zero” from
355 which to scale maturational events in the same equations. The Translating Time database
356 and model can supply both necessities. Exploring “postnatal” neurogenesis in the
357 hippocampus will be reporting on very different phenomena if mice, precocial guinea
358 pigs, or humans are compared.

359

360 **1.2.3 A brief review of our specific methodology for comparing neurodevelopmental** 361 **sequences across species**

362

363 Over the past 20 years, a database and methodology to compare the progress of neural
364 development across species have been elaborated (www.translatingtime.net). The
365 multiple statistical considerations leading to this representation can be found in the series
366 of papers detailed in the first section, and a full description of the model in Workman et
367 al. (2013). The original purpose of this work was to describe a mammalian “Bauplan”
368 for neural development, and thus identify deviations from this plan that might mark
369 taxon- or species-specific alterations corresponding to evolutionary adaptations, which is
370 exactly how we will employ it for to examine the hippocampal data we have collected.
371 The present model includes 18 species, and 271 “events” of mixed type, including
372 neurogenesis in particular structures or cell classes (e.g., Layer 4 of striate cortex;
373 Purkinje cells in the cerebellum; onset of synaptogenesis in a thalamic nucleus;
374 emergence of some minimal behavioral reactivity, and transitions capturing continuous
375 processes such as increases in brain volume or myelination).

376

377 The model from Workman et al., 2013 is reproduced in Figure 2, and extends to a
378 maturational stage equal to approximately 3 years postnatal in humans. Only events in
379 brain and some early behavioral capacities are included to model the event scale and each
380 species’ regression line – no measures of body or organ maturation or volume, or
381 interactional, life history events like birth or weaning are included in this version. The
382 “event scale”, which is the best order and interval relationship of the 271 distinct
383 neurodevelopmental events in the 18 species, is fit iteratively to all the data, (x-axis,
384 Figure 2). The speed of progress of each individual species through these events is given
385 as a regression equation, in days on a log scale (y-axis; compare the linear scale in Figure
386 2 of the same functions). It is more typical to plot time on the x-axis in developmental
387 studies, and it is important to remember this difference in representation. Days are on the
388 Y-axis because we are interested in duration as a function of maturational state. For
389 example, for species with different sized brains, how long will it take them to reach

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390 equivalent maturational states? The differences in each species' slope show differences
391 in maturational rate, with steeper slopes meaning slower progress through maturational
392 stages in absolute time: the mouse takes only about 30 days to execute its 271
393 neurodevelopmental events, while the human takes 1000 days, as humans generate
394 greater numbers of neurons and volumes of connectivity per event.
395

396 The fit of model results to empirically-measured results is astonishingly close, 0.9929,
397 which reflects an extreme, and initially unexpected conservation of developmental
398 sequences in mammals. Only two interaction terms are necessary to produce taxon-
399 specific differences in these data so far, which are the black-circled points floating above
400 the larger number of points of the corresponding color. The first term corresponds to a
401 delay in corticogenesis in primates, some marsupial species and carnivores (n.b: this can
402 be equally well represented as an advance in initiation and termination of neurogenesis in
403 the "rest of the brain" --Clancy et al., 2001; Workman et al., 2013, Charvet et al.,
404 2017ab). The second represents a delay in neurogenesis in the retina of the nocturnal cat
405 and ferret (also owl monkey, Dyer et al., 2009). Extensions in cortical neurogenesis
406 produce a disproportionate expansion of the cortex and, in particular, upper layer neurons
407 in primates (Cahalane et al., 2014; Charvet et al., 2015, 2017ab), and a greater number of
408 rods and rod-associated neurons in carnivores and owl monkeys.
409

410 **1.2.3.1 Birth can intersect quite different developmental events in different species**

411
412 As noted earlier, birth may occur at a wide range of stages in neural development in
413 different species. For example, cortical and cerebellar neurogenesis is ongoing at birth
414 in some rodents, but in primates, both are largely concluded at that time. No obvious
415 inflections, halts or accelerations near birth can be found in basic central nervous system
416 construction. There is one event, a whole-brain surge of synaptogenesis, which appears
417 to just antedate either birth or burrow exit in the four mammals studied to date instead of
418 conforming the otherwise monolithic neurodevelopment program (reviewed in Finlay and
419 Uchiyama, 2017).
420

421 **1.2.3.2 Other evidence for regular mammalian neurodevelopment**

422
423 Empirical support for the surprising claim of an extremely conserved mammalian
424 neurodevelopmental schedule can be found in several independent sources. Mammalian
425 brains continue to grow after birth, and Passingham (1985) first noted that if the volume
426 of the brain at birth is plotted against gestation length for an eclectic set of eutherian
427 mammals, including rats, pigs and dolphins (log transformed), a straight line results,
428 suggesting brain mass is produced generally at the same rates in all species, smaller
429 brains simply ceasing their growth earlier (Passingham, 1985). Halley, in a much larger
430 and more closely measured data set of changes in brain volume post conception, recently
431 confirmed the same notion (Halley, 2016, 2017). We have also successfully modeled the
432 development of neuron number in the cortex combining information on kinetics of
433 neurogenesis with adult neuron numbers in multiple species (Charvet and Finlay, 2014;
434 Cahalane et al., 2014). Other observations of single maturational phenomena give other

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435 insights, and underline further unexpected consequences of this conserved
436 neurodevelopmental rate.

437

438 **1.2.3.3. Two surprising findings about precocial animals**

439

440 In mammals, the onset of walking is predicted by neural maturation (which is conserved)
441 but not birth or any known niche variable. The time of the first unsupported step is
442 highly predictable from a developmental allometric equation derived from adult brain
443 mass, including one interaction term slightly accelerating the time of first step for those
444 species with a plantigrade standing position (Garwicz et al., 2009), which fits seamlessly
445 into the translating time model. This monolithic nature of the neurodevelopmental
446 program, and its close correlation with brain size puts an interesting constraint on
447 precocial mammals. Relatively large-brained, precocial ungulates like sheep and elk,
448 who must be ready to run just after birth, accomplished this evolutionarily by extending
449 gestation and delaying birth in their large offspring to match conserved parameters of
450 brain development. They do not selectively advance the general rate of brain maturation
451 nor push forward the maturation of circuitry closely associated with ambulation apart
452 from the rest of the brain, which might seem to be a less stressful solution.

453

454 A related peculiarity can be seen in precocial species with relatively small brains such as
455 the guinea pig and spiny mouse, that are born looking and moving quite mature, furred,
456 and with sensory systems functional. While it might seem a reasonable strategy to make
457 the most of every possible second for brain maturation available *in utero* in precocial
458 species, to allow fine tuning of the coordinated behavior required immediately after birth,
459 the conserved pace of brain maturation seems to rule this out. Since these animals must
460 also produce large, mature bodies, which appear to require more time than the brain, the
461 onset of neural development as marked by the first postmitotic neurons is substantially
462 *delayed*, not stretched to fill the available time, allowing somatic maturation a head start
463 (Workman et al., 2013). We will discuss whether a similar situation is present in
464 marmosets, born with some precocial features.

465

466 **1.3 Applying “Translating Time” to the question of late hippocampal neurogenesis**

467

468 The first reports of neurogenesis in adult humans and other mammals produced much
469 excitement, in that it contradicted the central dogma that no new neurons are generated
470 in adulthood and offered a possible avenue for brain rehabilitation and repair. At first,
471 the presence of new neurons was reported widely throughout the forebrain, but in time,
472 unambiguous neurogenesis was finally limited to two locations, the hippocampus and the
473 olfactory bulb via the “rostral migratory stream”, mostly from work in rodents, but with
474 confirmation in humans (Ming and Song, 2005). Recently, however, the existence of
475 significant adult hippocampal neurogenesis has been questioned (Dennis et al., 2016;
476 Kempermann et al., 2018; Andrae et al., 2018; Sorrells et al., 2018; Lee and Thuret,
477 2018). A report by Sorrells et al. (2018) concluded that neurogenesis in the human
478 hippocampal dentate gyrus drops to undetectable levels during childhood, suggesting that
479 human hippocampal neurogenesis is unlike that of other mammals (Knoth et al., 2010). A
480 concurrent study (Boldrini et al., 2018) also investigated adult neurogenesis in the human

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481 hippocampus (14 to 79 years of age) and contradicts the first study. Using quite similar
482 methodologies, the second group argued that adult hippocampal neurogenesis is in fact
483 present throughout the lifespan. In such cases of contradiction, consultation with the
484 animal model literature is of major help. A problem that has plagued this work is the
485 absence of a robust and reliable way to compare time courses of events in different
486 species. Adult hippocampal neurogenesis of any species could represent the tail end of a
487 normal embryonic period of neurogenesis, or a truly indeterminate phenomenon, as is
488 seen in virtually all non-mammalian vertebrates, or perhaps a targeted rekindling of
489 neurogenesis for a particular purpose in adulthood. Because of the methodological
490 similarity of the two studies, it may not be possible to rule in favor of one or the other on
491 reported evidence, but a better idea of where errors might lie is a natural outcome of
492 quantitative developmental modeling.

493

494 **1.3.1 Specific objectives 1: extending the translating time model and representing** 495 **species on a common scale.**

496

497 As we described previously, mammalian species vary in the length of both neural and
498 somatic development, the positioning of birth with respect to neural maturation, and the
499 relative length of neurogenesis in different structures. Comparing humans to macaques
500 and mice, human neurodevelopment is much longer (duration correlating close with brain
501 volume, as does the duration of lifespan). Humans are born at a slightly earlier stage of
502 neural maturation than macaques, and at much later stage than rats and mice. Rhesus
503 monkeys and humans also curtail neurogenesis in limbic structures relatively earlier than
504 rodents (Workman et al., 2013), corresponding to the fact that as limbic structures are
505 systematically relatively smaller (that is, scale with a smaller exponent) in primates
506 compared to rodents (Reep et al., 2007). The translating time model at present does not
507 have good data representation for late developmental stages to allow close comparisons
508 in adulthood. We are therefore adding new data, and one new species to extend the
509 model farther into the lifespan, but without any substantive change in its basic structure.
510 We find appropriately- transformed envelopes of neurogenesis across species to be very
511 similar, and continuous.

512

513 **1.3.2 Specific objectives 1: Closer examination of human hippocampal neurogenesis** 514 **and the problems of detecting non-scaling cellular events in a nonlinearly scaling** 515 **lifespan**

516

517 We consider the allometric nature of developmental schedules in humans to identify how
518 hippocampal neurogenesis should vary if the duration of hippocampal neurogenesis in
519 humans is similar to that of rodents. Further, the ability to align timetables allows us to
520 investigate an intrinsic problem of detection of a cellular signal in scaling situations,
521 which is that organismal variables of size and duration show robust scaling, but cellular
522 phenomena like action potentials, the length of the cell cycle and so forth rarely do. A rat
523 may expect to live around 700 days post-adolescence, while an approximate comparable
524 human figure is 25,000 days. If the cellular processes associated with an occasion of
525 neurogenesis are transitory, and almost certainly do not scale with lifespan, the
526 probability of simple detection falls radically in the long lifespan. We will discuss this

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527 aspect of scaling both as a methodological problem, and as a question about the
528 importance of extremely low-probability events.

529

530 **2.0 Materials and Methods**

531

532 **2.1 Species and sources**

533 In order to extend the current neurodevelopmental model to later developmental stages,
534 we added some additional data on the timing of developmental milestones in two rodent
535 species (i.e., rats, mice), and 3 primate species (i.e., macaques, marmosets, humans).
536 “Developmental events” capture rapid transformations, such as onset of neurogenesis or
537 any other process, or arbitrary divisions of continuous processes into epochs (e.g., 20%,
538 40%, 60% and 80% of a structure’s adult volume). Examples of developmental events
539 include birth-dating of cell types, synaptogenesis, myelination, changes in protein and
540 RNA expression. The new types of data added were those capturing temporal changes in
541 cell proliferation from markers (i.e., DCX, Ki67) in the hippocampus. We only include
542 developmental events present in at least two species, and at least one rodent species.

543

544 We identified variation in proliferative and newly born neuron numbers over the course
545 of prenatal and postnatal development in primates and in rodents. More specifically, we
546 collected previously published data where the number of Ki 67+ (proliferative) and newly
547 born (DCX+) cells relative to the total number of hippocampal granule cells was
548 quantified at several stages of development in rodents and in primates. We defined as
549 epochs when Ki67+ cells decline to 2%, 0.7%, 0.5%, 0.3%, 0.2%, and 0.1% of total
550 granule cells in primates and rodents. We also identified when the number of DCX+ cells
551 reach 3, 2.5, 2, 1.5, 1, and 0.5% of total granule cells in rodents and in primates. To do
552 so, we fit a linear regression between the natural-logged values of age and the relative
553 number of cell markers to compare the duration of the decline in late hippocampal
554 neurogenesis between primates and rodents (Figure 3). We only selected age ranges in
555 which there is a sharp decline in the relative number of Ki67 and DCX+ cells over time
556 as assessed on a natural-log scale. This permits fitting a linear regression through the data
557 for each species (Figure 3). These data are from Merrill et al., 2003; Rao et al., 2006;
558 Jabès et al., 2010, Ben Abdallah et al., 2010; Amrein et al., 2015, Amrein et al., 2011,
559 and Hochgerner et al., 2018. For rats, we considered the number of Ki67+ and DCX+
560 cells from Rao et al., 2006 and total granule cell numbers from Merrill et al., 2003. We
561 consider studies that normalize the total number of proliferative and immature cells
562 relative to total granule cells rather than those that consider the number of proliferative
563 and immature neurons per mm² of tissue.

564

565 We consider developmental transitions as the emergence of “plateaus” in the expression
566 of multiple genes in single structures. We identified such plateaus in RNA expression
567 from RNA sequencing data of bulk from the hippocampus in both species (Iacono et al.,
568 2017). We identified when expressed genes reach a plateau in their expression across
569 14,417 orthologous genes as defined by the mouse genome database (Smith et al., 2018).
570 We used a non-linear model with the software package R (easynls, model 3). Only
571 orthologous expressed genes were considered. Age ranges were constrained to vary
572 between 101 to 999 days in humans (n=10) and between P1 to P30 in mice (n=15) to

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573 compare roughly equivalent developmental time windows across these two species. We
574 used normalized RNA sequencing expression made available by the Allen brain Institute.
575 RNA expression from mice hippocampi was obtained from Iacono et al. (2017; GEO:
576 GSE79380). We selected only those models with p values of coefficients less than 0.05 in
577 humans and mice. This resulted in 34 genes in which plateaus were identified in both
578 species. We averaged the age in which plateaus in RNA expression we identified in both
579 species and include these data as one developmental event.

580

581 **2.2 Developmental timing in marmosets**

582

583 We gathered available data on the timing of early neurodevelopmental events for the
584 marmoset as we had done for other species. We matched our previously collected
585 database on developmental event definitions, principally using anatomical changes from
586 structural MRI scans (Hikishima et al., 2013), spatiotemporal changes in gene expression,
587 as well as anatomical transformations from the literature. Examples of developmental
588 events include morphological events such as first observation of retinal axons in the optic
589 stalk, or when neurofilament heavy polypeptide (NEFH) expression emerges in the
590 cortex. Because the marmoset is increasingly used as a model organism, we expect this
591 inclusion to be useful past this study alone. To compute the timing of developmental
592 events from MRIs, we noted the earliest age in which a event had occurred and the latest
593 age in which the event had not yet occurred, as we had done previously (Charvet et al.,
594 2010; Workman et al., 2013). In total, we include 29 events for marmosets.

595

596 **2.3 Statistical analyses**

597

598 We include 213 developmental events from Workman et al., 2013 and Charvet et al.,
599 2017b, eliminating events capturing the timing of cortical neurogenesis because cortical
600 neurogenesis is extended in primates compared with rodents. We only included
601 developmental events present in at least two of the species. Of the 213 events, 47
602 represented events or stages in limbic system development, including neurogenesis
603 timing as well as the emergence of axonal pathways of limbic structures. We added 22
604 developmental events, 14 of which that capture the decline in late hippocampal
605 neurogenesis (6 Ki67, 8 DCx; Figure 3).

606

607 A new 0-1 “event scale” was fit linearly to span this extended range, by subtracting the
608 timing of each developmental event from the earliest event and divided these values by
609 the difference between the latest event and the earliest event. We fit a linear regression
610 through log-transformed values for each species against the event scale. We use the fitted
611 values from the regression of human developmental event timing versus the event scale
612 to predict the timing of late stages of human hippocampal neurogenesis timing. We
613 omitted developmental events capturing cortical neurogenesis because a subset of cortical
614 cell types are generated later than expected in primates (Clancy et al., 2001; Charvet et
615 al., 2017ab), which may increase error when predicting the duration of hippocampal
616 neurogenesis across species.

617

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618 We tested whether hippocampal neurogenesis occurs earlier than expected given the
619 timing of other developmental events. We fit a linear model with the event scale as a
620 continuous variable and developmental event timing as the response variable. To test
621 whether limbic structures undergo neurogenesis earlier than expected relative to the
622 timing of other events, we classified neurogenetic events as limbic or non-limbic. We
623 tested whether the “limbic factor” as well as the interaction between the event scale and
624 the “limbic factor” would account for a significant percentage of the variance.

625

626 **2.4 Single cell RNA sequencing to identify adult hippocampal neurogenesis**

627

628 Because adult neurogenesis has recently been disputed in humans (Sorrells et al., 2018),
629 we investigated whether adult neurogenesis could be observed from single cell RNA
630 sequencing data extracted from the human hippocampus and prefrontal cortex aged 40 to
631 65 (Habib et al., 2017). We computed the relative number of cells expressing neural
632 progenitor markers (DCX+, SOX2+, DPYSL3+) relative to the number of cells
633 expressing PROX1+ in humans. We select PROX1 as a marker for granule cells because
634 it is expressed by hippocampal granule cells but not by other cell types in the cortex. That
635 is, the expression of PROX1 from bulk samples is higher in the hippocampus than in
636 other cortical regions (Figure S1A) and PROX1 is expressed by hippocampal granule
637 cells but not by isocortical cells (Figure S1B). We selected SOX2, DCX, and DPYSL3
638 (aka TUC-4) because they are markers of immature neurons (Ngwenya et al., 2006;
639 Cipriani et al., 2018). We considered PROX1 to be expressed if the gene count was
640 greater than 0. To identify whether DCX+, SOX2+, and DPYSL3+ collocate with
641 PROX1+ cells above chance level, we randomly reassigned PROX1 expression to
642 different neuronal types 1,000 times. We then computed the number of DCX+, SOX2+,
643 and DPYSL3+ cells relative to the number of PROX1+ cells. We assess whether the
644 relative number of DCX+, SOX2+, +, and DPYSL3+ falls above the 95% confidence
645 intervals generated from 1,000 permutations. Such an analysis permits investigating
646 whether the number of immature neurons is present above chance level. Because we are
647 focused on whether new neurons are generated in the adult hippocampus, we do not
648 include cells belonging to clusters previously identified as glial, astrocytic, microglia, and
649 endothelial. Data are from DroNc-Seq generated by Habib et al., 2017.

650

651 **3.0 Results**

652

653 **3.1 Initial characterization of late hippocampal neurogenesis**

654

655 The initial step is to characterize how the number of dividing progenitors (Ki67+ cells)
656 and immature neurons (DCX+) relative to granule cell numbers vary with post-
657 conceptional day. Figure 3 (A, C, E, and F) show the measured values of Ki67+ cells
658 expressed as a percent of total granule cells versus days post-conception for the
659 marmoset, mouse, macaque, and rat. Frames B and D show DCX+ labeled granule cells
660 for marmoset and mouse only, again as a percent of total granule cells. Both scales are
661 natural log scales, and the durations spanned vary considerably, from approximately 50 to
662 250 days post conception in the mouse, versus approximately 150 to 3,000 days postnatal
663 in macaque and marmoset. This enables calculating when the percentage of Ki67+ to

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664 total granule cells reach 2%, 0.7%, 0.5%, 0.3%, 0.2%, and 0.1%, and when the
665 percentage of DCX+ to total granule cells reach 3%, 2.5%, 2%, 1.5%, 1%, and 0.5% in
666 each species. The range for each species was constrained so that the natural-logged
667 values of the relative number of Ki67+ and DCX+ to total granule cells systematically
668 decline with age. This approach permitted fitting a linear regression through the data.

669

670 **3.2 Addition of declining hippocampal neurogenesis values into the overall** 671 **maturational event scale.**

672

673 In Figure 3, hippocampal neurogenesis indicators are described with relation to post-
674 conception day in each species, but we would like to know how the decline in
675 hippocampal neurogenesis relates to the common progress of brain maturation across
676 species. Two ways of presenting “translating time” data can be used. In Figure 4A, the
677 new data on late hippocampal neurogenesis for marmoset, macaque and mouse, and the
678 single rat point are plotted against the common “event scale”. This type of data
679 representation is optimal for visualizing overall slope and intercept similarities and
680 differences between multiple species. As expected, the species with long early
681 neurodevelopment periods show longer periods of adult hippocampal neurogenesis. No
682 truncations, breaks or sudden accelerations in any particular species are in evidence,
683 though there are interesting differences in the maturational path in marmosets versus
684 macaques we will address subsequently.

685

686 It is also possible to use the translating time scale to express the events of one species in
687 the time frame of a second species, “translate” the approximately 130 modeled days of
688 the macaque to the 50 days of a mouse, which facilitates close comparisons of delay or
689 advance of any class of events between the selected species (Figure 4, B and C). For
690 example, comparing nocturnal to diurnal mammals, the rods and other rod-related cells of
691 the retina are generated later in nocturnal mammals, which would be visible in graphs
692 like 4B and C as an elevation of rod-related points (nocturnal animals on the Y axis)
693 (Dyer et al. 2009; Workman et al. 2013). In this case, we look for a difference in the
694 implied intercept or slope of the “late hippocampal neurogenesis” points to determine if
695 they show any signs of systematic variation from the common developmental scaling
696 function. No such differences are apparent.

697

698 **3.2.1. Marmoset developmental timing**

699

700 Early in development, equivalent events in marmosets occur later than in macaques
701 (Figure 4A). At later time points, equivalent events occur earlier in marmosets than in
702 macaques. A linear model with the event scale as a continuous variable and the logged
703 values of developmental event timing as the predictor shows that the slope is lower in
704 marmosets ($y=1.27x+1.73$, slope SE=0.037, intercept SE=0.02, $R^2=0.976$, $p<2.2e-16$)
705 than it is in macaques ($y=1.89x+1.44$, slope SE=0.056, intercept SE=0.016, $R^2=0.903$;
706 $p<2.2e-16$). In other words, marmosets initiate neural development late with respect to
707 conception, close to day 90 compared to day 35 in macaques, but then progress through
708 developmental events faster than macaques, producing a smaller brain by the end of
709 neural development. The consequence of this late, accelerated developmental trajectory is

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710 that hippocampal neurogenesis wanes earlier in marmosets than in macaques. This is
711 similar to the pattern previously observed in precocial mammals like guinea pigs, spiny
712 mouse and sheep (Workman et al., 2013) where neural development is delayed with
713 respect to conception later, but once initiated, proceeds at a faster rate than in a number of
714 altricial species.

715

716 **3.2.2. Somewhat earlier termination of limbic neurogenesis in the macaque**

717

718 The large sample size in macaques allows us to test whether limbic neurogenesis occurs
719 earlier relative to the timing of other events in macaques (Figure 5). To that end, we fit a
720 linear model with the logged values of developmental event timing as the predictor, the
721 event scale as a continuous variable and a discrete categorical variable that classifies
722 neurogenetic events as limbic or not. We also tested whether the interaction between the
723 “limbic” factor and the event scale accounts for a significant percentage of the variance.
724 The fitted model accounts for a significant percentage of the variance in developmental
725 event timing for macaques ($F=416.7$; $R^2=0.91$). The limbic factor is not significant
726 ($F=2.065$; $p=0.15$) but the interaction between the limbic factor and the event scale is
727 significant for macaques ($F=11.92$; $p<0.05$). These data demonstrate that the slope of the
728 natural-logged values of late hippocampal neurogenesis versus the event scale is lower
729 than expected in macaques considering the timing of other developmental events. In other
730 words, hippocampal neurogenesis may cease slightly earlier than expected in macaques
731 compared with rodents.

732

733 **3.2.3 Hippocampal neurogenesis in humans**

734

735 For humans, a linear regression of the timing of reported developmental milestones versus the
736 event scale computed for humans by the translating time model (Workman et al., 2013) is plotted
737 for the reduced dataset we used in this model, as a visual check and demonstration of the
738 predictability of human data points, in Figure 6A. No new data are introduced in Figure 6A; its
739 intention is only to show the baseline variability against which we might introduce and compare
740 other data. ($y=2.44x+1.53$; slope SE=0.12; intercept SE=0.04, $R^2=0.85$, $p < 2.2e-16$). We then
741 extrapolated predicted values from the linear model to see how late stages of hippocampal
742 neurogenesis should vary if the timing of hippocampal neurogenesis were conserved across
743 humans and mice (Solid lines, Figures 6B and 6C) According to these predictions from mice ,
744 human hippocampal neurogenesis as assessed from the relative number of Ki67+ and DCX+
745 cells should drop sharply between prenatal stages up until to 8-26 years of age and subsequently
746 remain relatively invariant at later time points (Figure 6B). More specifically, the percentage of
747 Ki67+ to total granule cells should drop up until about 8 to 26 years of age (post-conception day
748 3,000 to 10,000; Figure 6) and remain relatively invariant thereafter. Similarly, the relative
749 number of DCX to total granule cells should drop from birth to about 8 to 26 years of age (post-
750 conception day 3,000 to 10,000; Figure 6C).

751

752 On these predicted functions, we overlay the number of DCX+ and Ki67+ cells compared to
753 total granule cells as reported by Boldrini et al., 2018. Our predictions are very generally
754 consistent with those of Boldrini et al., in that we predict that both markers should remain
755 relatively invariant from 8-26 years of age onward, but the added data do appear more variable,

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756 and the Ki67+ cell numbers higher than would be expected. Other data potentially addressing
757 this timetable, that of Sorrells et al. (2018), could not be plotted against this representation
758 because number of proliferative cells/mm² was assessed rather than relative to the total granule
759 cell numbers determined in the rodent studies.

760

761 To investigate whether hippocampal neurogenesis timing in humans should deviate from
762 that of rodents, we compare temporal changes in DCX expression in humans and mice.
763 These data offer a slightly different perspective on the temporal pattern of late stages of
764 hippocampal neurogenesis between species. We first note similarities between DCX
765 RNA expression and the relative number of immature hippocampal granule cells assayed
766 from single cell RNA sequencing data (Figure S2). A qualitative investigation of DCX
767 expression from multiple datasets in mice suggests that RNA sequencing from bulk data
768 mirrors the temporal changes in the relative number of immature granule cells. As the
769 relative number of granule cells declines in mice, DCX expression from bulk samples
770 also declines sharply. At roughly 38 to 50 days post-conception, the relative number of
771 immature granule cells varies relatively compared to earlier time points. That is, DCX
772 expression is relatively invariant from 1 month to 4 months of age in mice. In humans,
773 DCX expression also decreases from prenatal time points up until around post-conception
774 316 (50 days after birth) and subsequently remains relatively invariant. According to the
775 translating time model, 38 to 50 days post-conception in mice is roughly equivalent to
776 445 to 700 days post-conception in humans. In other words, the end in the abrupt decline
777 in DCX expression might occur slightly earlier than expected in humans.

778

779 Because the presence of hippocampal neurogenesis has recently been questioned, we
780 investigate whether hippocampal neurogenesis can be observed from single cell RNA
781 sequencing obtained from the human hippocampus and prefrontal cortex (Figure 7A). We
782 compare the number of cells expressing DPYSL3, DCX, and SOX2 relative to the
783 number of PROX1 cells (Figure 7 B-E). PROX1 is used as a marker of hippocampal
784 granule cells and its expression is observed in previously identified excitatory
785 hippocampal granule cells (cluster 8) and GABAergic cells (cluster 7). We computed the
786 number of DCX+, SOX2+, and DPYSL3+ cells relative to the number of PROX1+ cells.
787 We assess whether these values lie above chance level by comparing these values to
788 those generated by permutation-based significance thresholds. Such an analysis shows
789 that the SOX2+ and DPYSL3+ cell numbers relative to PROX1+ cell numbers occurs
790 above the 99% confidence intervals of distributions generated from permutations (Figure
791 7 F-H). However, the number of DCX+ to PROX1+ cells falls within the 99% confidence
792 intervals generated from permutations. These findings suggest that human hippocampal
793 neurogenesis is present at low but detectable numbers in the adult human brain but that
794 DCX expression may drop to such low levels in adulthood that human hippocampal
795 neurogenesis may be difficult to conclusively identify with DCX RNA expression.

796

797

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798 **4.0 Discussion**

799

800 **4.1 Late hippocampal neurogenesis as an extension of development**

801

802 When the dates and magnitudes of the long tail of declining late hippocampal
803 neurogenesis are represented on the common maturational scale of the translating time
804 procedure, it is clear that these events are continuous with early hippocampal
805 neurogenesis, with little or no convincing evidence or hints of breaks or inflections. The
806 translation of a maturational state to a particular duration of development is consistent
807 with the normal translation seen in smaller versus larger brains.

808

809 A structural correlate of duration of neurogenesis in the embryonic brain lends additional
810 support to the conclusion that late hippocampal neurogenesis is an aspect of
811 developmental neurogenesis in the brain. The embryonic brain first appears as a plate,
812 with its caudal-to-rostral dimension comprised of repeating segments, the familiar spinal
813 segments which undergo relatively little reorganization from embryo to adult,
814 rhombomeres to the level of the midbrain (Lumsden, 1996), and prosomeres in the
815 telencephalon (Puelles et al., 2013; Albuixech-Crespo et al., 2018). The rhombomeric
816 and prosomeric segments have repeating structural similarities, but undergo prolonged
817 neurogenesis compared to the spinal cord, producing major changes in their appearance
818 due to simple mass of neurons and neuronal migration. Important for the present
819 purposes, the basal-to-alar dimension of the original neural plate is also a gradient of
820 duration of neurogenesis, shortest medially and longest laterally corresponding to, but not
821 completely accounting for the number of neurons in each segment derived from each
822 germinal position (Finlay et al., 1998; Workman et al., 2013) At the most lateral margin
823 of the most anterior segments that produce the pallium, we find the zones that generate
824 the olfactory bulb, the hippocampus, and the neocortex. This region collectively
825 generates neurons for the longest duration, the first two continuing to add neurons well
826 past the early developmental period. Thus, extended neurogenesis is a feature of the
827 embryonic origin of the hippocampus, not a feature applied to an unpredictable location.

828

829 **4.1.1 Limitations of the database**

830 Several caveats are in order, some about the translating time approach in general, and
831 some about the particular procedures we used to incorporate this atypical corpus of data.
832 While the translating time database is presently the only source integrating multiple
833 aspects of developmental information over a large number of species, from a
834 phylogenetic perspective, those species are anything but systematically or randomly
835 chosen, featuring a large number of rodents and marsupials, relatively few primates, with
836 the first New World primate appearing with this article, few large ungulates or carnivores
837 and no cetaceans. As additions of new taxonomic groups or functionally defined groups,
838 such as the precocial mammals in Workman et al. (2013) typically reveal new ways that
839 neural development can be altered, blanket statements about “mammalian” neurogenesis
840 should be avoided. So far, however, a few generalities can be made. Neurogenesis can
841 begin very rapidly after the completion of the early germinal tissue, or it can be delayed
842 while other tissues begin proliferation as is seen in some precocial mammals, but it
843 always moves *en bloc*, and we have never observed breaks introduced into the overall

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844 sequence, as none were observed in this analysis. The onset and offset of neurogenesis in
845 identified groups can be shifted, most frequently seen for the limbic versus neocortex
846 shift described earlier, a neural variation extending back to sharks and rays (Finlay and
847 Darlington, 1995; Reep et al., 2007, Yopak et al., 2010). Finally, while duration of
848 neurogenesis is a very important aspect of brain evolution, it is important to keep in mind
849 it is not the only source of variation, with medial-lateral axis location, for example, only
850 accounting for about 50% of the variance in neuron number (Finlay et al., 1998).

851
852 We estimated the relative timing of the decline in hippocampal neurogenesis not by a
853 complete recomputation of the model to include the new observations, but rather by
854 extrapolating the former model, duration extending almost by a factor of 2 in mice and
855 more in the larger species, a substantial amount. It is possible that this procedure could
856 mis-estimate the slope of the decline fairly substantially, but it seemed reasonable to
857 attempt a first description. We did note that macaques appeared to begin initial
858 hippocampal neurogenesis slightly earlier and end earlier than expected given the timing
859 of surrounding, non-hippocampal events. Ideally, other late developmental events should
860 be used to anchor these observations, at which point the overall model will be
861 recalculated, but defined points become harder to identify in later development.
862 Continued reduction of neuron density in most structures in later development as well as
863 spatiotemporal changes in RNA expression are potential candidates, but these approaches
864 have rarely been employed systematically across a broad range of species.

865

866 **4.2 Developmental timing in marmosets**

867

868 The inclusion of marmosets in the present study was intended to allow better
869 comparisons between primate species, particularly because information on late
870 hippocampal neurogenesis was available for it. We were somewhat thwarted in this
871 enterprise, however, because we did not observe the simple translation for production of
872 a smaller brain expected from the pattern laid out in rhesus macaques. Rather, early
873 developmental events were delayed with respect to conception, then maturation
874 proceeded rapidly, consistent with the marmoset's smaller brain, and finally, late
875 developmental events occurred earlier than predicted. A delay followed by rapid
876 maturation was a pattern we had observed before, however, in precocial rodents and
877 ungulates (Workman et al., 2013). Why the rate of neural development does not simply
878 slow to take advantage of the extra time *in utero* is unclear. We have not yet observed
879 any case of slowing of rate of neural production in eutherian mammals, although
880 marsupials generate neural tissue at a slower rate overall (Darlington et al., 1999).
881 Marmosets do have small brains compared to macaques, and perhaps to have time to
882 generate the body, it is necessary to delay the onset of generation of the brain, to avoid
883 producing a post-mature brain while still *in utero* if no change in its rate of development
884 is possible. In a prior study of retinal neurogenesis in the owl monkey, *Aotus*, compared
885 to the capuchin monkey *Cebus apella*, we had notice that gestational lengths were longer
886 than we had anticipated from earlier work in Old World monkeys (Dyer et al., 2007).
887 The reason for this potential difference in life history parameters will require more
888 observations in the marmoset, and other New World monkeys as well.

889

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890 **4.2.2 The timing of late stages of human hippocampal neurogenesis and the** 891 **problems of detecting rare events**

892

893 We used the timing of developmental transformation across non-human mammalian
894 species to predict the timing of late stages of hippocampal neurogenesis in humans. If the
895 timing of hippocampal neurogenesis is conserved across humans, marmosets, and
896 rodents, hippocampal neurogenesis as assessed from the relative number of DCX+ and
897 Ki67+ to total granule cells should drop sharply up until 8-26 years of age and remain
898 low and invariant at later time points. Sorrells et al., 2018 showed that the relative
899 number of Ki67+ and DCX+ cells drop sharply during childhood up until 7 to 13 years of
900 age, consistent with our predictions in humans. The question is whether human
901 hippocampal neurogenesis ends earlier than expected given the developmental
902 allometries of late developmental events. It is presently difficult to determine whether
903 human hippocampal neurogenesis does indeed deviate from predictions generated from
904 rodents. However, the work of Boldrini et al., 2018, using similar techniques
905 demonstrates low and invariant human hippocampal neurogenesis between the ages of 14
906 to 79 years, but a markedly higher incidence than the prior studies.

907

908 We found inconsistent evidence for late hippocampal neurogenesis in humans within our
909 own study. Our analysis of RNA sequences from single cells showed that the relative
910 number of immature neurons to PROX1 (i.e., a marker of granule cells) were observed at
911 greater than chance levels in adult humans. However, the relative number of
912 DCX+/PROX1 is unusually low and fell below chance levels as assessed from our
913 permutation-based significance thresholds. Whether DCX expression is expressed at high
914 enough levels for it to be reliably detected in the adult human brain is unclear. Although
915 the number of potential confounds to detection of immature neurons are many, including
916 retention of immature neuron morphology in displaced populations until adulthood
917 (Piumatti et al., 2018); unusual levels of genetic variation (Kaushal et al., 2003) as well
918 as all of the problems of processing of human tissue, developmental scaling plays a role
919 as well.

920

921 As mentioned at the outset of this discussion, different components of the same tissue
922 may scale in altogether different ways with respect to brain size and developmental
923 duration. As a rule of thumb, with the usual number of exceptions, cell-based properties
924 do not scale with brain size or developmental duration. As cells essentially depend on
925 diffusion for many critical metabolic factors, in at least one plane of section, neuron
926 diameter cannot scale with brain size (long axons, but not fat ones, are acceptable).
927 Oxidative metabolism, action potentials and most other cellular processes ignore animal
928 mass. How about the cell cycle? The cell cycles of initial neurogenesis take similar
929 amounts of time in small and large brains (Takahashi et al., 1994; Charvet and Striedter,
930 2008). The duration of the cell cycle becomes longer and longer as maturation proceeds,
931 not by uniform elongation of every part, but particularly the quiescent period; in addition,
932 fewer and fewer cells contribute to the cell cycle (Takahashi et al., 1994; Kornack and
933 Rakic., 2008; Charvet and Striedter, 2008). We have claimed, though, that the
934 termination of hippocampal neurogenesis looks quite similar in its overall envelope
935 across the rodents, monkeys and the human we measured. This is with respect to these

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936 animals' maturational state, however, not their age in days. A back-of-napkin calculation
937 of the duration of equivalent maturational periods from early "childhood" to death would
938 be about 700 days for rats and about 25,000 days for a human. The initial spatial
939 densities for Ki67 and DCX+ are roughly similar (Figure 3). It seems unlikely that
940 generating a neuron would require 36 times longer in humans, or that the features of a
941 young neuron would persist a similar long duration. On the other hand, the migration and
942 integration of new neurons into circuits has been reported to take very much longer in
943 adults, exceeding six months (Kohler et al., 2011). Thus, an empirical question remains,
944 as it is unclear if these gene patterns represent a maintained state, or a transitory event. If
945 they are time-limited events, the chance of registering such an event in the slice of time
946 caught by a brain slice will be radically different in short- and long-lived mammals, and
947 comparisons must take these basic scaling features into account.
948
949
950

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951 **Acknowledgements**

952 RNA sequencing data from human hippocampi were taken from the Allen Institute
953 Website, which are supported by the NIH Contract HHSN-271-2008-00047-C to the
954 Allen Institute for Brain Science. The opinions in this article are not necessarily those of
955 the NIH. We thank Dr. Marnin Wolfe for helpful statistical discussions.

956

957 **Funding**

958 This work is supported by an NIH CHHD 1F32HD067011-01A1 fellowship to CJC as
959 well as an NSF grant, and by research chair support from the W.R.Kenan Jr. Charitable
960 Trust to BLF.

961

962 **Author Contributions Statement**

963 BF and CC designed the study, analyzed the data, and wrote the study. All authors read
964 and approved the manuscript.

965

966 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

967 The authors have no conflicts of interest

968

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969 **Figure legends**

970

971 **Figure 1**

972 Redrawn from Figure 2 in Hofman, 1989. Outer cortical surface area is plotted as a
973 function of brain volume on a logarithmic scale. The slope of the standard major axis is
974 0.727 ± 0.009 . The dashed line represents the scaling of the cortical surface area
975 according to a two-thirds power relation (the necessary geometric similarity of plotting an
976 area against a volume if both increase linearly). Dolphins and whales are indicated by
977 circles.

978

979 **Figure 2**

980 Predicted developmental schedules for human (blue circle), macaque (red diamonds), cat
981 (purple circle), short-tailed opossum (grey circle), and mouse (black diamonds), selected
982 from 18 species to illustrate the full range of developmental durations. This figure is
983 modified from Workman et al., 2013. In this graph the event scale is the x-axis, to which
984 we have added a subset of the 271 events that were observed. The event scale is a
985 common ordering of developmental events across all species and ranges from 0 to 1. The
986 y-axis is the estimated date of occurrence of each event in each species from conception
987 (log scale). To determine when a particular event would be predicted to occur in any
988 species from this graph, using the name of the event on the event scale, find where it
989 intersects the regression line for that particular species. The y-axis value will be the
990 predicted PC day for that event/species combination. Also represented on this graph are
991 interaction terms for corticogenesis and retinogenesis, with interaction terms always
992 associated with individual species. The parallel lines for a subset of events in four of the
993 species (black bordered circles for human, macaque, cat, and possum) represent delays in
994 cortical neurogenesis with respect to their time of occurrence in the rodent and rabbit. In
995 the cat, a second parallel line can be seen representing the delay of retinal neurogenesis
996 relative to the timing of other transformations (purple circle with a black dot). dLGN:
997 dorsal lateral geniculate nucleus.

998

999 **Figure 3.** The natural-logged values of DCX+ and Ki67+ cell numbers relative to
1000 hippocampal granule cell numbers are plotted against the natural-logged values of age in
1001 days post-conception in (A-B) marmosets, (C-D) mice, (E) macaques, and (F) rats. We
1002 performed a linear regression through these values to identify when the relative number
1003 of Ki67+ cells reaches 0.7, 0.5, 0.3, 0.2 and 0.1% of the total granule cell population. We
1004 also identify when DCX cell numbers reach 3, 2.5, 2, and 1.5% of the total granule cell
1005 population. With the exception of the marmoset, the relative number of DCX+ and Ki67+
1006 to total granule cells were averaged at each age. (G) We use single cell RNA seq to
1007 compute the number of immature granule cells relative to hippocampal neurons over the
1008 course of prenatal and postnatal development in mice. (H) Such an analysis shows that
1009 DCX+/granule cell numbers of mice fall within the 99% confidence intervals generated
1010 from single cell RNA seq data. These findings demonstrate strong concordance between
1011 methods. Data are from Merrill et al., 2003; Rao et al., 2006; Jabès et al., 2010, Ben
1012 Abdallah et al., 2010; Amrein et al., 2015, and Amrein et al., 2011. Data from single cell
1013 RNA seq are from Hochgerner et al., 2018. Regressions were generated with software
1014 package IGOR.

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1015

1016 **Figure 4** (A) The timing of developmental events is plotted against an event scale in
1017 macaques, marmosets, rats, and mice. The timing of hippocampal neurogenesis was
1018 extrapolated from regressions capturing the decline in the number of DCX and Ki67+
1019 cells relative to hippocampal granule cell numbers in primates and rodents. The timing of
1020 developmental events in macaques (B) and marmosets (C) are plotted against those in
1021 rats. (B-C) Developmental time points capturing late stages of hippocampal neurogenesis
1022 are highlighted (x).

1023

1024 **Figure 5.** Developmental milestones are plotted against the event scale in marmosets (A)
1025 and macaques (B). Milestones that capture the timing of limbic neurogenesis are in dark
1026 blue (marmosets) and in dark red (macaque). We fit a linear regression through the
1027 logged values of the timing of developmental milestones against the event scale. Late
1028 hippocampal neurogenesis consistently falls below the regression. In other words, late
1029 hippocampal neurogenesis may occur earlier than expected given the timing of most
1030 developmental milestones in macaques.

1031

1032 **Figure 6.** (A) The timing of developmental milestones in humans are plotted against the
1033 event scale. We fit a regression through the timing of developmental transformations
1034 against age in days post-conception. We use this regression to predict the decline in late
1035 hippocampal neurogenesis in humans. (B_C) The number of Ki67+ (B) and DCX+ (C)
1036 cells relative to the total granule cell population is predicted to decline sharply during
1037 childhood in humans.

1038

1039 **Figure 7.** (A) t_SNE plots of RNA expression from single cells extracted from the
1040 hippocampus and the prefrontal cortex of the human brain identifies clusters of cell
1041 populations. (B) PROX1 is used as a marker of hippocampal granule cells and its
1042 expression is observed in previously identified excitatory hippocampal granule cells
1043 (cluster 8) and GABAergic cells (cluster 7). (C) PROX1 co-localizes with genes
1044 expressed by immature neurons ((D) DPYSL3 (E) DCX (F) SOX2), which suggests that
1045 new granule cells are born in the human hippocampus. To identify whether DCX+,
1046 SOX2+, and DPYSL3+ collocate with PROX1+ cells above chance level, we randomly
1047 reassigned PROX1 expression to different neuronal types 1,000 times. We then extracted
1048 the number of DCX+, SOX2+, and DPYSL3+ cells relative to the number of PROX1+
1049 cells 1000 times (F-H). Such an analysis shows that the SOX2+ (F) and DPYSL3+ (H)
1050 cell numbers relative to PROX1+ cell numbers occurs above the 99% confidence
1051 intervals generated from permutations. However, the number of DCX+ to PROX1+ cells
1052 falls within the 99% confidence intervals generated from permutations (G). We removed
1053 cells belonging to clusters 9-15 from the analyses because they are identified as glia,
1054 astrocytic, microglia, and endothelial cell populations. We omit these cell types because
1055 our analysis is focused on identifying whether neurons rather than glial and endothelial
1056 cells are generated in the adult hippocampus. Data and identified clusters are from
1057 DroNc-Seq generated by Habib et al., 2017. Abbreviations: NSC: neural stem cells;
1058 exPFC: excitatory neurons in the prefrontal cortex; exCA1-3: excitatory neurons in CA1-
1059 3; exDG: excitatory neurons in dentate gyrus; ODC: oligodendrocytes; ASC: astrocytes;
1060 OPC: oligodendrocyte progenitors; MG: microglia; END: endothelial cells.

1061

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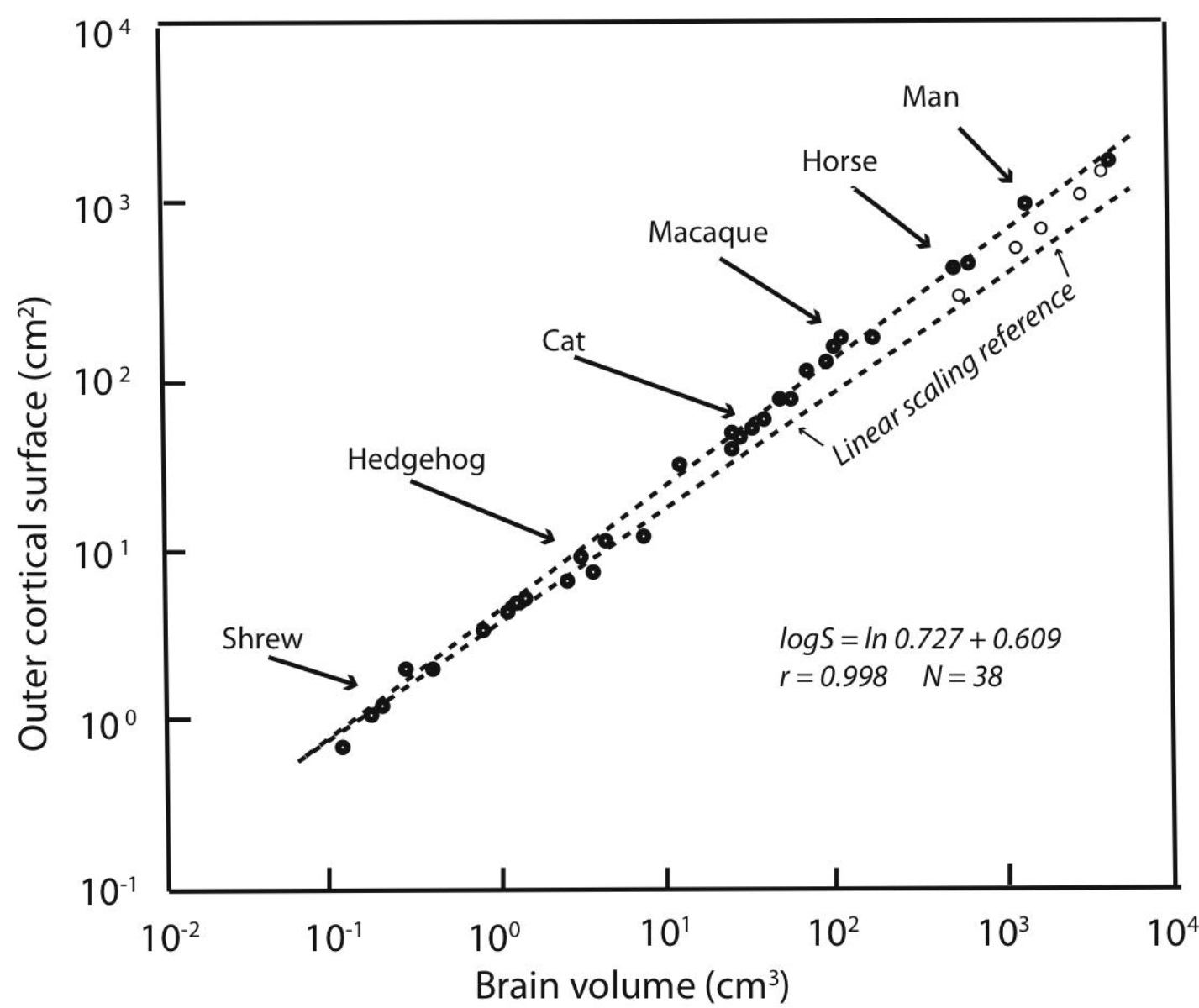
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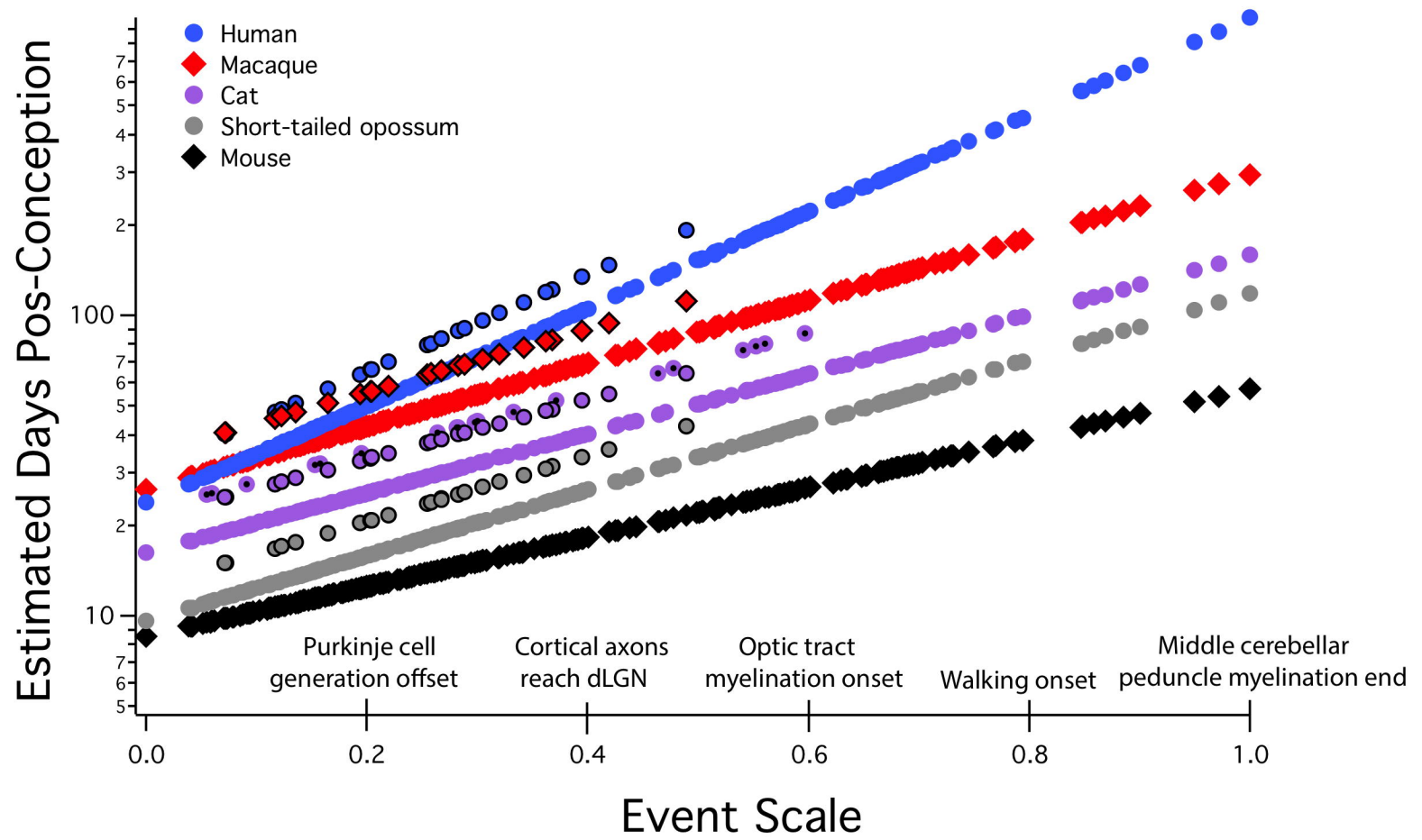
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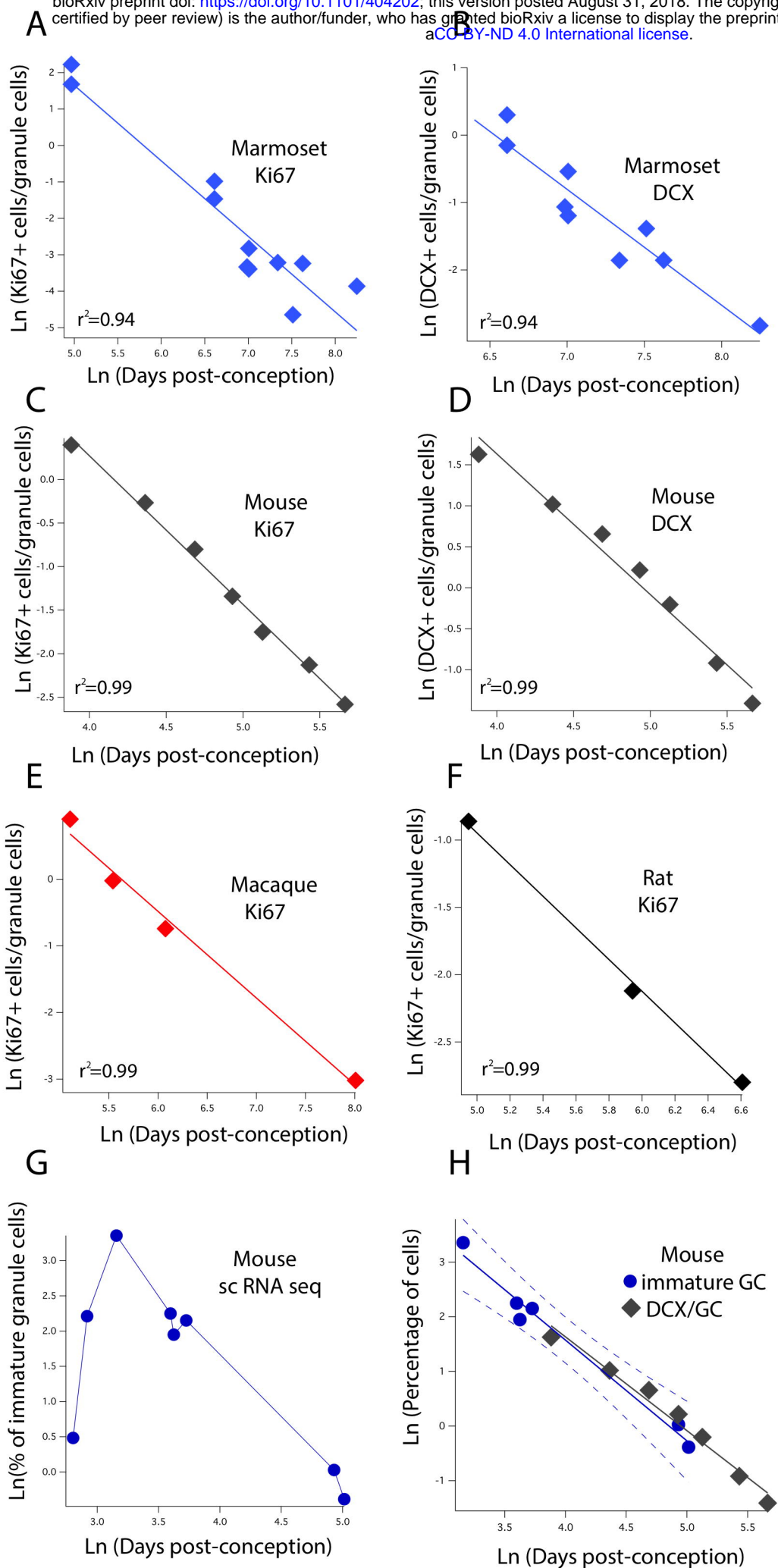
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Comparing timetables of adult neurogenesis

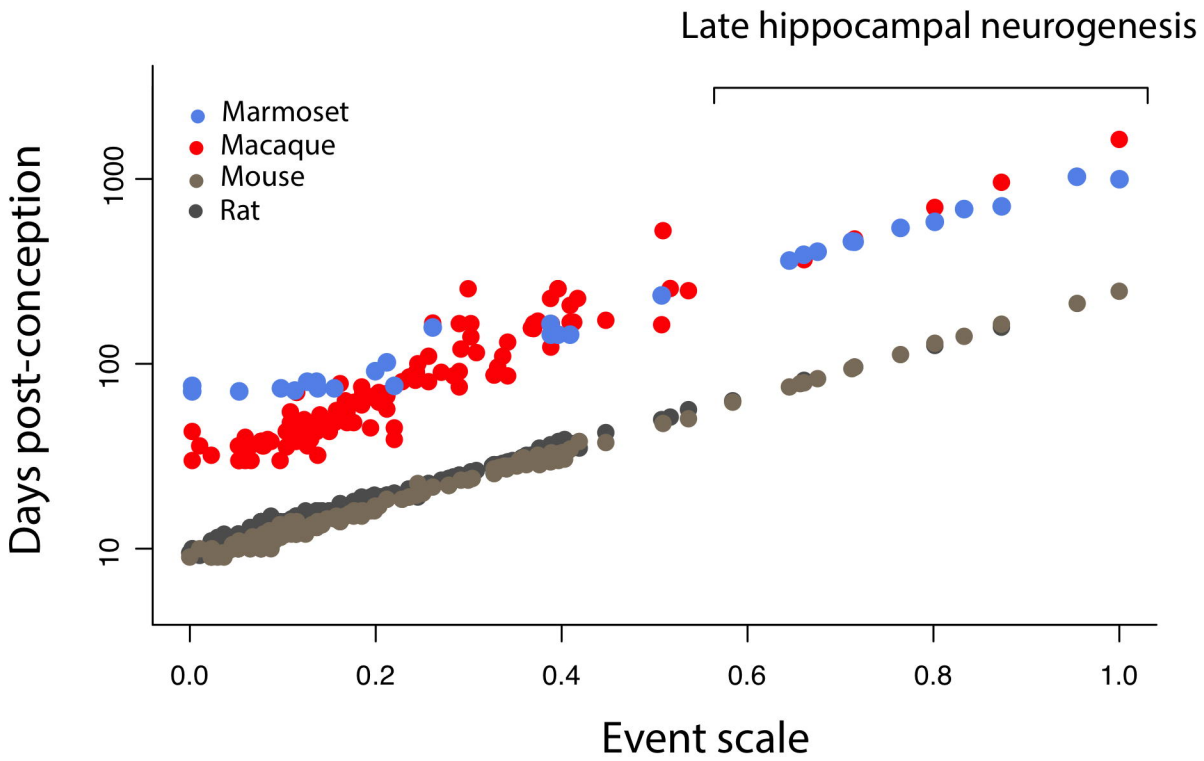
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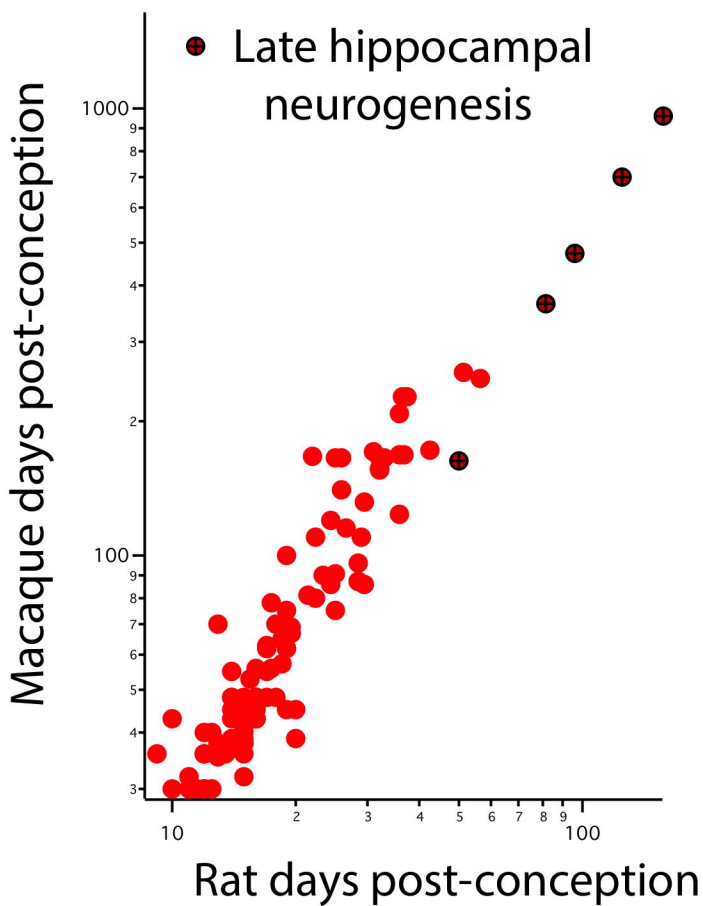




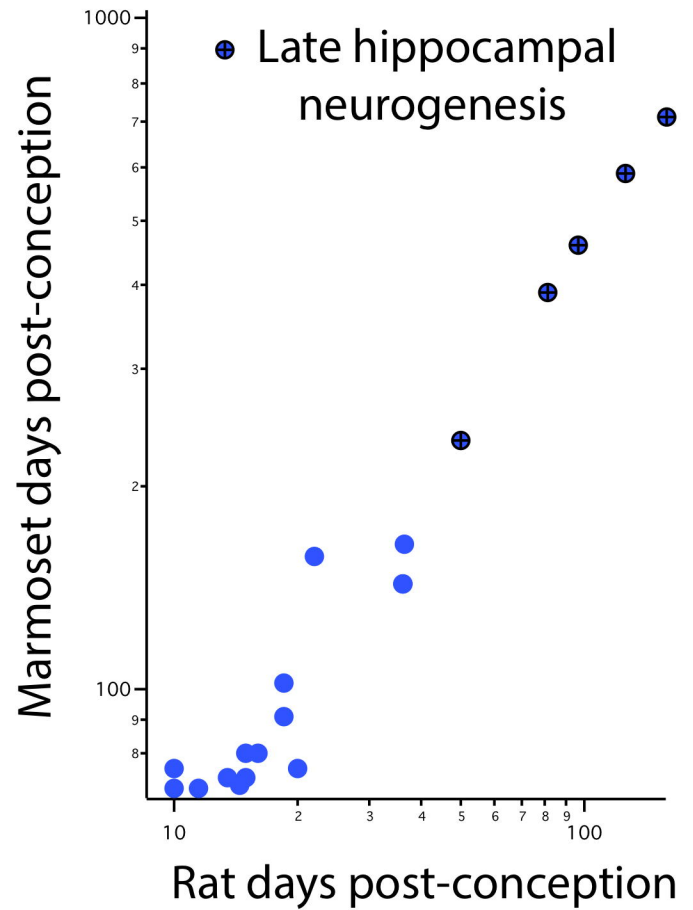
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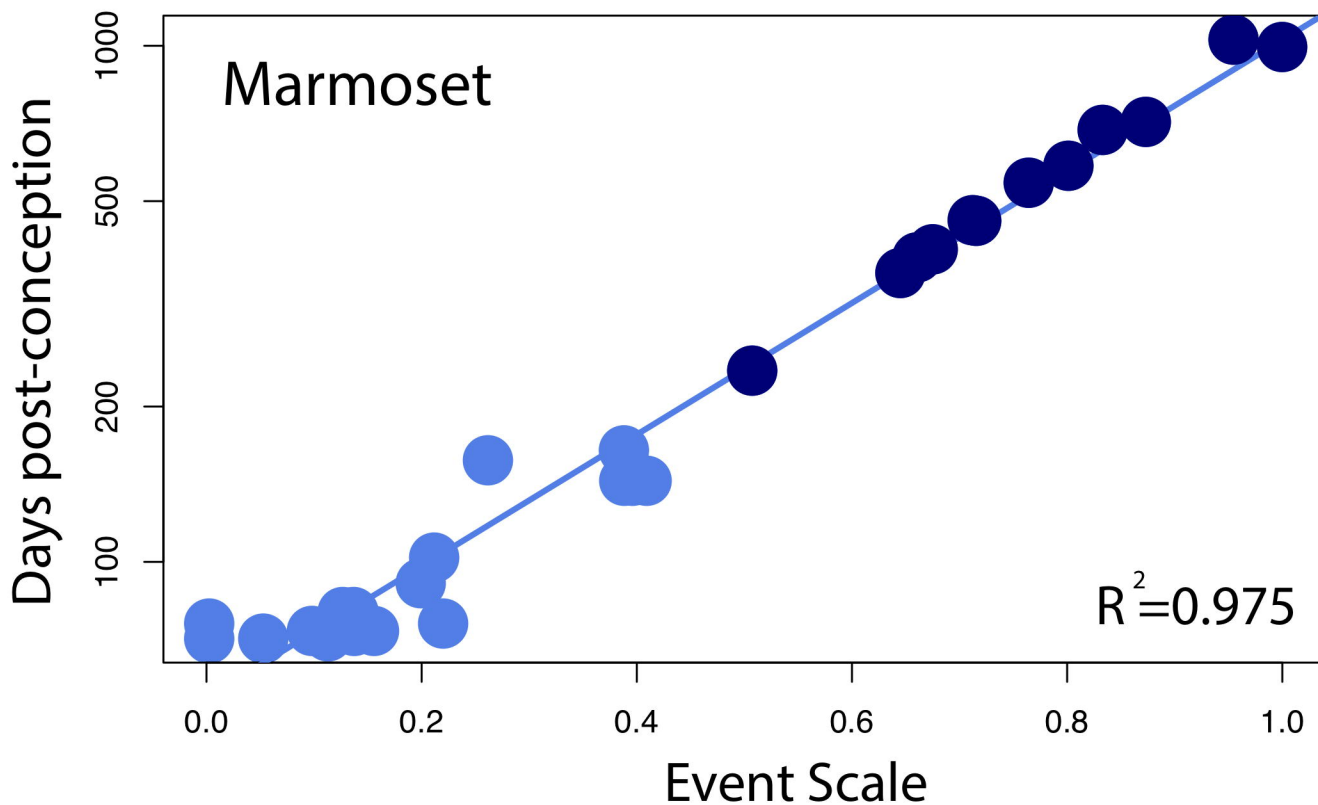
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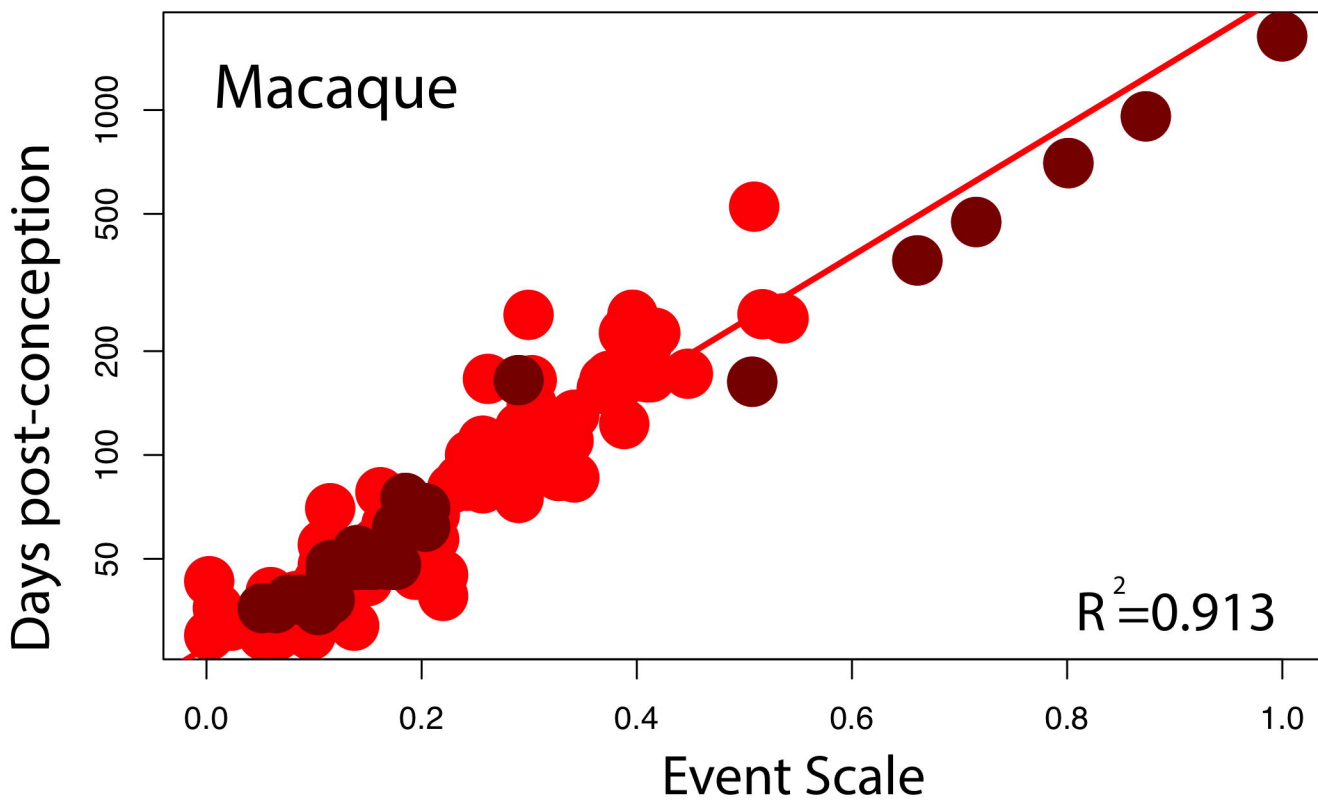
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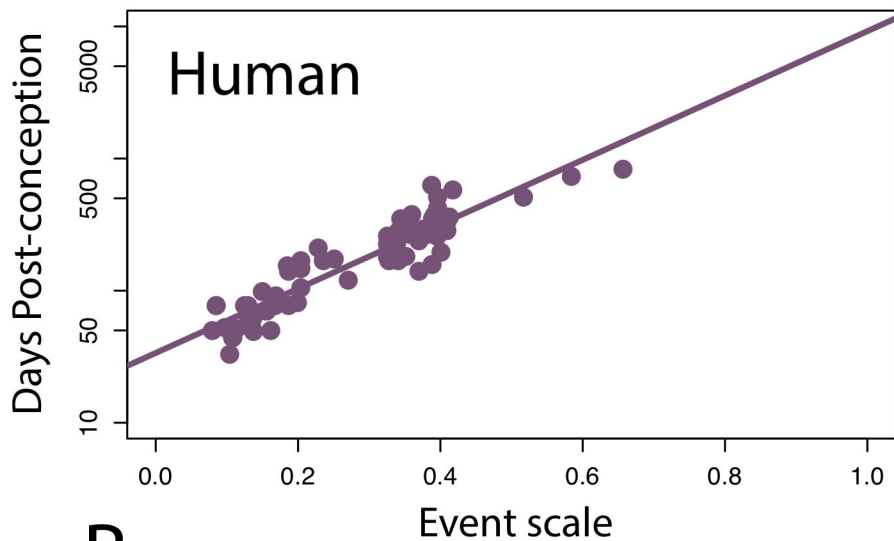
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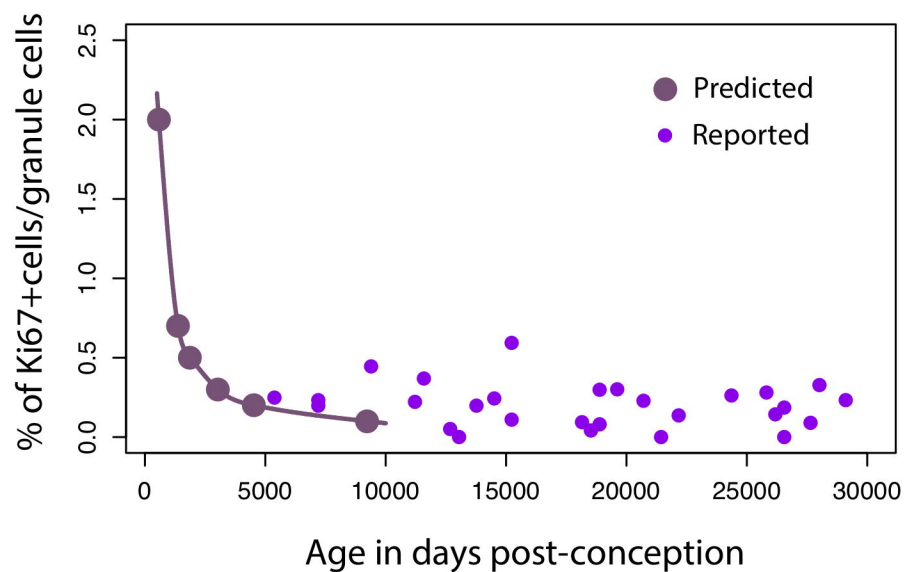
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