# The Journal of Neuroscience

June 18, 2008 • Volume 28 Number 25 www.jneurosci.org

**Cover legend:** Intensity-invariant discrimination seen in spike distances visualized with a spike distance matrix and multidimensional scaling (MDS) for 35 recording sites in songbird field L, an auditory structure. Distance matrices (each identifiable by the diagonal line of zero distance) were generated from computing all of the van Rossum distances between each pair of spike trains from one neuron. Larger distances are represented by brighter colors. Below each distance matrix is a scatter plot of the twodimensional MDS analysis. One bird song is shown as circles and another as triangles, and here bright colors indicate higher-intensity stimuli. The recordings are in reading order of decreasing invariance to intensity. The last 11 recordings are from sites that respond to the songs but show poor discrimination performance at all intensities tested. For more information, see the article by Billimoria et al. in this issue (pages 6304 – 6308).

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#### **Brief Communications**

- 6304 Invariance and Sensitivity to Intensity in Neural Discrimination of Natural Sounds Cyrus P. Billimoria, Benjamin J. Kraus, Rajiv Narayan, Ross K. Maddox, and Kamal Sen
- 6383 The Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis Modulates Learning after Stress in Masculinized But Not Cycling Females
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- Grape-Derived Polyphenolics Prevent Aβ Oligomerization and Attenuate Cognitive Deterioration in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease

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- **6402 GluR6/KA2 Kainate Receptors Mediate Slow-Deactivating Currents**Andrea Barberis, Shankar Sachidhanandam, and Christophe Mulle
- 6453 Loss of Resting Interhemispheric Functional Connectivity after Complete Section of the Corpus Callosum James M. Johnston, S. Neil Vaishnavi, Matthew D. Smyth, Dongyang Zhang, Biyu J. He, John M. Zempel, Joshua S. Shimony, Abraham Z. Snyder, Marcus E. Raichle

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- 6342 The Dimensions and Composition of Stereociliary Rootlets in Mammalian Cochlear Hair Cells: Comparison between High- and Low-Frequency Cells and Evidence for a Connection to the Lateral Membrane David N. Furness, Shanthini Mahendrasingam, Mitsuru Ohashi, Robert Fettiplace, and Carole M. Hackney
- Facilitation of P2X<sub>7</sub> Receptor Currents and Membrane Blebbing via Constitutive and Dynamic Calmodulin Binding
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- 6407 Sulfated Steroids as Natural Ligands of Mouse Pheromone-Sensing Neurons
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- 6473 Estrogen Facilitates both Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinase/Akt and ERK1/2 Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase Membrane Signaling Required for Long-Term Neuropeptide Y Transcriptional Regulation in Clonal, Immortalized Neurons Danny Titolo, Christopher M. Mayer, Sandeep S. Dhillon, Fang Cai, and Denise D. Belsham
- 6483 Corticostriatal and Thalamostriatal Synapses Have Distinctive Properties
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