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Subject: Plant neurobiology
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Hi Dr. Jahnke

I'm a fellow in endovascular neurosurgery at the University of Washington, and I'm also a vascular neurologist. I am super interested in blood vessels and the role they play in the nervous system specifically.

During my studies, I have become very interested in the similarities between plants and humans - it seems plants may in fact have a type of Alzheimer disease where no animals (other than humans) ever have been found with the disease.

I'm interested in studying more about neurotransmitters in plant life - especially because it seems odd to me that plants have almost all the same neurotransmitters as humans but because they don't really have synapses like we do, their "nervous system" really isn't taken as seriously as maybe it should be.

I've been thinking about doing PET scanning on plant neurotransmitter, namely acetylcholine, dopamine, serotonin, epinephrine/norepi, and histamine. Most of these have been imaged in humans with PET (and some w fMRI) so it is possible and tracers do exist.

I came across your 2009 report (http://www.plantphenomics.com/lw_resource/datapool/items/item_47/jppc_plant_phe_notyping_epso2009_jahnke.pdf) on PET and MRI imaging in plants and I am wondering if you are still active in this area, and if you might be willing to think about this small project alongside me. I suspect I would be able to find a small amount of funding to do the imaging and analytical work in the form of a grant if you think it would be possible.

Many thanks for your consideration...

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