Going BIIG - community building for biological imaging and image analysis at UCL and beyond

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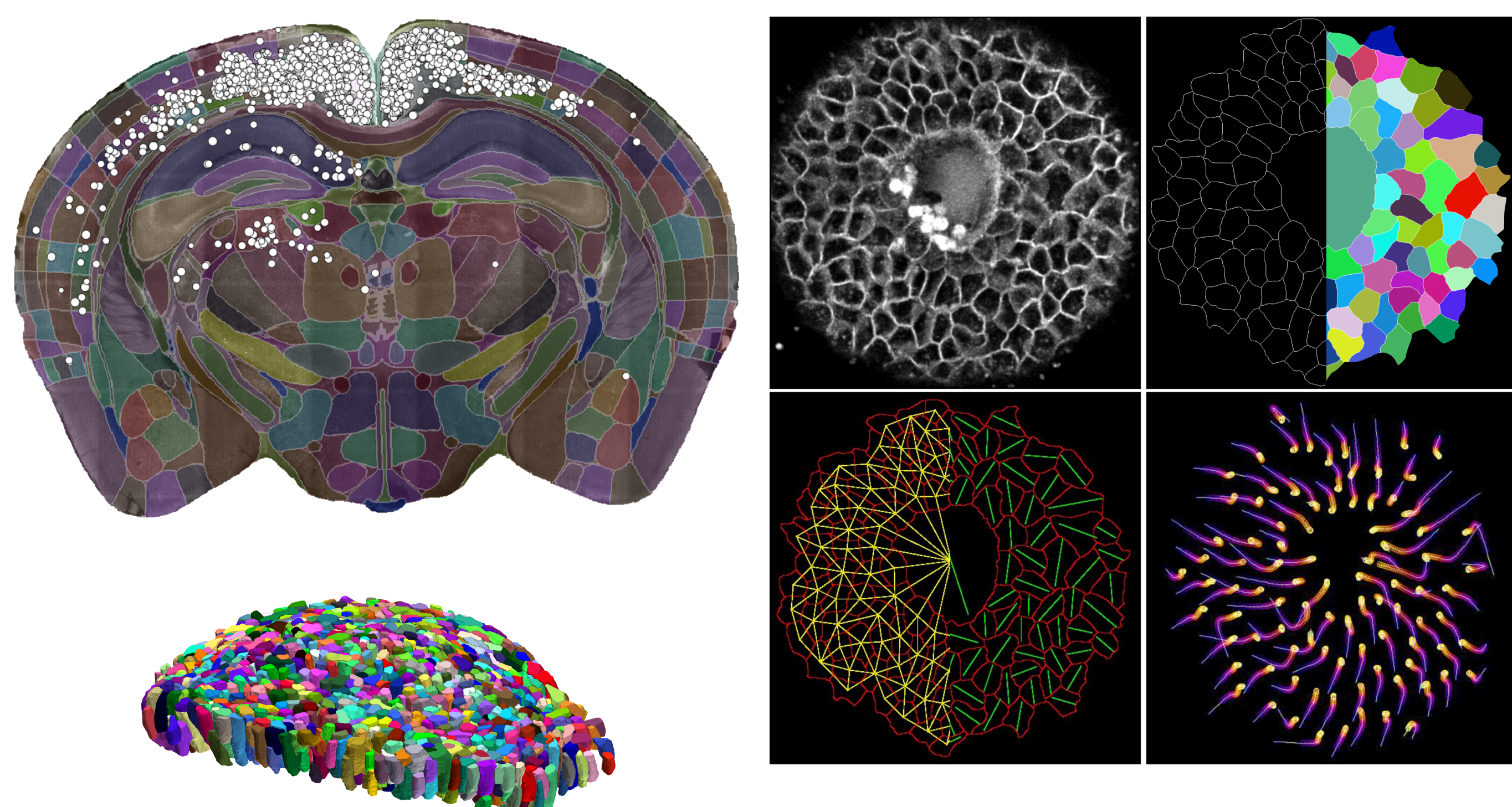
Figure 1 (clockwise from top left): Cells detected and brain regions segmented by cellfinder (Adam Tyson, BrainGlobe), from a whole mouse brain serial two-photon image. Data courtesy of Sepiedeh Keshavarzi and Chryssanthi Tsitoura; Image of mouse liver organoid. Credits: Alejandra Guzman Herrera, Mao Lab; Cells of a Drosophila wing disc segmented using plant-seg and Matlab. Credits: Pablo Vicente Munuera and Ricardo Barrientos, Mao Lab

UCL BioImage Interest Group (BIIG)

Founded in 2020 as an online seminar, in its current iteration, the UCL Bioimage Analysis Interest Group (BIIG) runs monthly hybrid seminars in an informal setting and a yearly special event (hackday, course, workshop) for anyone with an interest in biological imaging and image analysis. Seminar speakers are primarily early career researchers (ECRs) and non-traditional academics (e.g. research technology professionals (RTPs)) based at UCL, with some speakers from other nearby universities or institutes. The events are open to all and typically attract around 35 people each month (25 in-person, 10 online). BIIG's goal is to create networking and collaboration opportunities for bioimage aficionados across UCL and beyond. In order to promote cross-pollination, we (as the organising committee) aim to invite speakers from diverse scientific and personal backgrounds, often to the same event. We further created a slack channel (#bioimage-analysis) on the UCL Research Programming Hub to be integrated with the wider Digital Scholarship community. We also advertise via a mailing list and a website. Continuing BIIG as a place to connect Digital Scholars, other RTPs (such as microscopy facility staff) and (especially early-career) researchers is important and timely, as efforts at UCL (such as the new Technical Professionals framework) and beyond (e.g. the planned founding of a Global Bioimage Analysts society, globias.org) are underway to promote and recognise their careers more broadly. Everyone with an interest in biological images or community building is invited to get involved with BIIG.

BIIG numbers

BIIG currently has 158 members of the mailing list, from an estimated 20-30 different UCL-internal affiliations and surrounding research institutes. Speakers in the last year came from 6 different UCL departments, 1 company or 2 other London institutions.
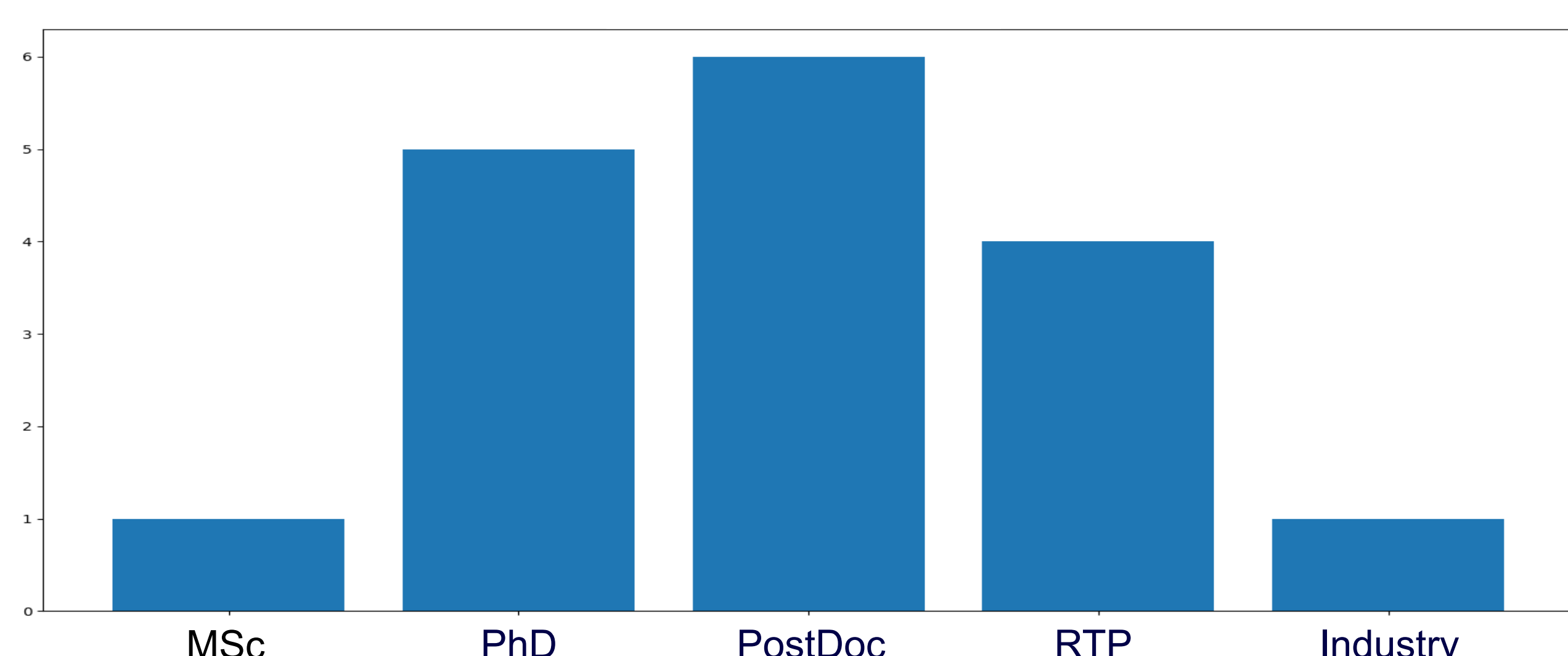

Figure 2: BIIG speakers by role (2023-2024). RTP=Research Technology Professional.

Figure 3: Shu En Lim (PhD candidate at LMCB) presents in October 2023

Get involved with BIIG

- Attend one of the monthly seminars (in person at LMCB or on zoom)

- New speakers are very welcome - come share your research!

- Join our annual hackday on 15-16th July

- For more information:

  - https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lmcb/ucl-biig

  - Sign up for our mailing list (link on biig website)

  - Join the 'bioimage-analysis' slack channel on the Research Programming Hub

  - Email us at bioimage-organisers@live.ucl.ac.uk

website   hackday tickets   mailing list   join the bioimage-analysis channel

BIIG organisers

Alessandro   Jonas   Pablo   Giulia   Courtney

Shu En   Kimberly   Franck   Giorgia   you?

Bonus: Pitch ideas around computational biology needs at UCL at https://bit.ly/biosciences-arc-ideas