

Supplementary Materials

1 Supplementary Data

1.1 MicroCT imaging of vagus nerves

1.1.1 Matching neighboring nerve segments

The nerve was cut into 4 cm segments subsequent to the placement of sutures as landmarks across the cut region. The number of suture landmarks differs between the cut regions to ensure the correct neighboring segments were matched up (an additional measure to the nerve segments being arranged in the correct order). The last whole cross section visible in the last scan of a segment of nerve was identified and visualized with the first whole cross section visible in the first scan of the next segment of nerve. The suture landmarks were identified and the cross sections' orientation aligned to allow for further correlation of fascicles across the cut region. The size, number, position and pattern of fascicles were matched up between the two cross-sections of each cut region between nerve segments (Supplementary Figure 4). Additional anatomical landmarks, such as blood vessels, connective tissue or fat cells were also used to assist in ensuring correct correlation between cross sections. Occasionally, fascicles were in the process of merging or splitting across the cut region (three examples are shown in the cross sections of Supplementary Figure 4); however, with process of elimination with the other identified and matched fascicles, and viewing the scans till the respective ends where the whole nerve may not be visible, but the slight movement of fascicles of interest is, it can be deduced that these fascicles follow on from one another. The identified merged fascicle or split fascicles will be incorporated in the continuation of segmentation.

1.1.2 Histology for validation

All contoured and segmented regions deemed to be fascicles in a cross-section of the nerve from the level of VNS cuff placement were validated against histology and were confirmed to have been correctly allocated and identified as being fascicular tissue within the nerve. No regions of the nerve other than fascicles were segmented. The number of fascicles was consistent between the microCT and respective histology images (Supplementary Figures 5 and 6).

- 2 Supplementary Figures and Tables
- 2.1 Supplementary Figures



Supplementary Figure 1. Placement of cuff with opening in ventral direction. The cuff was placed on the nerve with the opening facing the ventral direction – toward the surgical opening.



Supplementary Figure 2. Schematic of the surgical opening with electrode cuff placements – distance between electrical impedance tomography (EIT) cuff and recurrent laryngeal (RL) cuff. The RL branch exits the vagus nerve between the cardiac and pulmonary branches. It proceeds to loop, and then travel upwards towards the larynx where it innervates several laryngeal muscles. Within the surgical window of 5-7cm at the mid-cervical level of the vagus nerve, the trunks of the vagus nerve and the RL branch/nerve can be accessed. Here, the selective stimulation cuff (1) and the EIT cuff (2) are placed on the vagus nerve and the bipolar stimulation cuff (3) is placed on the RL branch roughly in line with the EIT cuff. Due to the path of the vagus nerve and its recurrent laryngeal branch, the distance along the length of the nerve between the EIT cuff and the RL cuff is approximately 40cm.

Supplementary Material



Supplementary Figure 3. Example of vagal branch identification and dissection. An example of dissection of cardiac branches of the left vagus nerve by tracing the branch to the organ to confirm branch type prior to labeling and cutting. The vagus nerve is initially identified and then its distal course is followed through the animal whilst dissecting any branches identified along its length. The branch is then dissected back towards its entry into the organ. Here, the branch is initially identified and the surrounding tissue dissected to visualize the path of the branch, which goes towards the heart (A). The pericardium of the heart is then removed and the branches followed further to confirm entry into the heart (B) and the branches subsequently labeled appropriately.



Supplementary Figure 4. Cross sections from neighboring cut segments of nerve. The last whole cross section visible in the last scan of a segment of nerve (**A**) is matched up to the first whole cross section visible in the first scan of the next segment of nerve (**B**). Suture landmarks were used to orient the nerve initially – shown here with white crosses. The number of suture landmarks differs between the cut regions to ensure the correct neighboring segments were matched up (an additional measure to the nerve segments being arranged in the correct order). The size, number, position and pattern of fascicles were matched up between the two cross-sections – shown here in various color groupings for ease of visualization. The three areas encircled in white here depict fascicles that were in the process of merging or splitting across this cut region; however, with process of elimination (with the other fascicles identified as matching) and viewing the scans till the respective ends, it can be deduced that these fascicles follow on from one another.

Supplementary Material



Supplementary Figure 5. Histology validation of microCT example 1. (A) MicroCT cross section (B) H&E histology cross section (C) MicroCT with fascicles and blood vessels labeled; (D) Histology cross section with fascicles and blood vessels labeled. Red = cardiac, blue = pulmonary, green = recurrent laryngeal, asterisk = merged fascicles between pulmonary and recurrent laryngeal, C = cardiac, P = pulmonary, R = recurrent laryngeal, M = merged fascicle, BV = blood vessel. See supplemental video 1 for visualization of the fascicles in the cross sections of the nerve.



Supplementary Figure 6. Histology validation of microCT example 2. (A) MicroCT cross section (B) H&E histology cross section (C) MicroCT with fascicles and blood vessels labeled; (D) Histology cross section with fascicles and blood vessels labeled. Red = cardiac, blue = pulmonary, green = recurrent laryngeal, asterisk = merged fascicles between pulmonary and recurrent laryngeal, C = cardiac, P = pulmonary, R = recurrent laryngeal, M = merged fascicle, BV = blood vessel. See supplemental video 2 for visualization of the fascicles in the cross sections of the nerve.



Supplementary Figure 7. Cardiac fascicles remaining separate from the rest of the vagal fascicles. An example of a vagus nerve with the fascicles of the cardiac, pulmonary and recurrent laryngeal branches segmented and contoured throughout the length of the nerve (the vagus nerve is in six 4cm segments). The cardiac fascicles in a segment of nerve have been 3D shelled and are visualized here with the rest of the contours showing the path of the cardiac fascicle(s) through the cervical nerve without any merger with the other vagal fascicles. Three panels are shown for different angles and perspectives. Red = cardiac, blue = pulmonary, green = recurrent laryngeal, orange = vagus nerve. See supplemental video 3.

2.2 Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1

EIT – Trace selection parameters, number of selected traces and resulting SNR values. List of numerical parameters adopted for filtering δV and δV -RMS traces. Parameters were adapted to noise levels of individual recordings for laryngeal EIT. Fixed values were used for spontaneous EIT of pulmonary function. Measurement-injection pairs selected for pulmonary imaging were also selected for imaging of cardiac function.

		Filter Thresholds				Number of traces		Peak SNR		
Pig #	Branch	Noise Std [µV]	Mean [µV]	Max [µV]		Origi nal	Post- filtering	Avg Noise [µV]	Mean abs (ðZ) at peak [µV]	SNR [-]
1	Larynge al	1.5	4.0	4.0		196	92	0.38	1.25	3.28
2		1.0	4.0	8.0		196	133	0.38	1.96	5.16
3		1.0	2.0	7.0		196	158	0.47	2.56	5.39
4		4.0	6.0	7.0		196	95	0.84	1.98	2.37
Pig #	Branch	Max amplitude [µV]	Stds from mean [µV]	Derivative [µV/s]	Stds from PCA [-]	Origi nal	Post- filtering	Avg Noise [µV]	Mean abs (δZ-RMS) at peak [μV]	SNR [-]
1		0.2	3	50.00	3	182	114	2.78E-09	8.00E-09	2.88
2	Pulmon ary	0.2	3	50.00	3	196	158	2.60E-09	8.31E-09	3.19
3		0.2	3	50.00	3	168	114	2.60E-09	8.31E-09	3.20
4		0.2	3	50.00	3	168	116	2.31E-09	6.86E-09	2.97
Pig #	Branch	Max amplitude [µV]	Stds from mean [µV]	Derivative [µV/s]	Stds from PCA [-]	Origi nal	Post- filtering	Avg Noise [µV]	Mean abs (δZ-RMS) at peak [μV]	SNR [-]
1	Cardiac							3.20E-09	9.09E-09	2.84
2		Same as pulmonary						2.53E-09	8.82E-09	3.48
3								3.71E-09	1.33E-08	3.60
4								4.23E-09	9.25E-09	2.19

Supplementary Table 2

Selective Stimulation – Parameters and Effects. List of neuromodulation effects achieved on the three branches of the left vagus for each animal. Effect on breathing and cardiac function is reported as beats per minute and percentage variation from baseline. Effect on larynx contraction is reported as RMS signal amplitude and relative variation from baseline. Stimulation parameters (pulse amplitude, width, repetition frequency, on/off time) are reported for the most selective iteration of stimulation on each animal and branch. Results are reported as electrode pairs with most localized effect, out of 14 radially organized pairs.

Recording		Neuromodulatio	Stimulation Pulse Parameters				Result		
Pig #	Effect Type	Baseline [bpm]	Effect on best pair [bpm]	Effect [%]	Freq (Hz)	Amp (uA)	Width (µS)	On/Off time (s)	Active Pairs
1	Pulmonary	10.5	5.5	-47.62	20	300	50	15	01 to 07
2		8.5	5	-41.18	20	400	50	15	4, 6, 7
3		13.5	11	-18.52	20	220	50	30	7, 8
4		8.5	4.5	-47.06	20	500	50	15	8, 9
Pig #	Effect Type	Baseline [bpm]	Stim on best pair [bpm]	Effect [%]	Freq (Hz)	Amp (uA)	Width (µS)	On/Off time (s)	Active Pairs
1		87	82	-5.75	20	1100	1000	30	1,2,3
2	Cardiac	65	55	-15.38	20	2000	1000	15	1, 2, 10, 14
3		91	80	-12.09	20	250	1000	30	4, 5, 6
4		96	89	-7.29	20	800	1000	30	5,6,8,9
Pig #	Effect Type	Baseline [-]	Stim on best pair [-]	Effect [-]	Freq (Hz)	Amp (uA)	Width (µS)	On/Off time (s)	Active Pairs
1		8.5	2144	251.24	20	150	50	5	8,910
2	Laryngeal	500	7744	14.49	20	250	50	5	9, 10, 11
3		300	18000	59.00	20	150	50	5	1,2,3,12,13,1 4
4		150	8180	53.53	20	400	50	5	2, 8 to 14

2.3 Supplementary Videos

Supplementary Video 1

MicroCT Nerve Scan XY Example 1 – available at <u>https://youtu.be/LJyvRieJDzE</u>

Supplementary Video 2

MicroCT Nerve Scan XY Example 2 – available at <u>https://youtu.be/-6VRq4NDt3s</u>

Supplementary Video 3

Cardiac Fascicles Separated from Nerve Example – available at <u>https://youtu.be/kKSjirWHm9E</u>

