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# Lab-grown human brain cells in dish play video game

Fact or science fiction? A groundbreaking study has shown that human brain cells in a dish can play the video game Pong

It may sound like a scene from a science fiction film, but no it’s actually true – [Melbourne-led scientists have shown that 800,000 brain cells living in a dish can perform goal-directed tasks](#), like playing the video game Pong.

The results of the groundbreaking study are published today in the journal *Neuron*.

The next stage of the study is to find out what happens when their DishBrain is affected by medicines and alcohol.

Lead author Dr Brett Kagan, who is Chief Scientific Officer of biotech start-up Cortical Labs commented: “We have shown we can interact with living biological neurons in such a way that compels them to modify their activity, leading to something that resembles intelligence.”

“DishBrain offers a simpler approach to test how the brain works and gain insights into debilitating conditions such as [epilepsy](#) and [dementia](#),” adds Dr Hon Weng Chong, Chief Executive Officer of Cortical Labs.

For some time scientists have been able to mount neurons on multi-electrode arrays and read their activity, but this is the first time that cells have been stimulated in a structured and meaningful way.

**Further Information, including a video, at:**

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/lab-grown-human-brain-cells-in-dish-play-video-game/145737/>

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