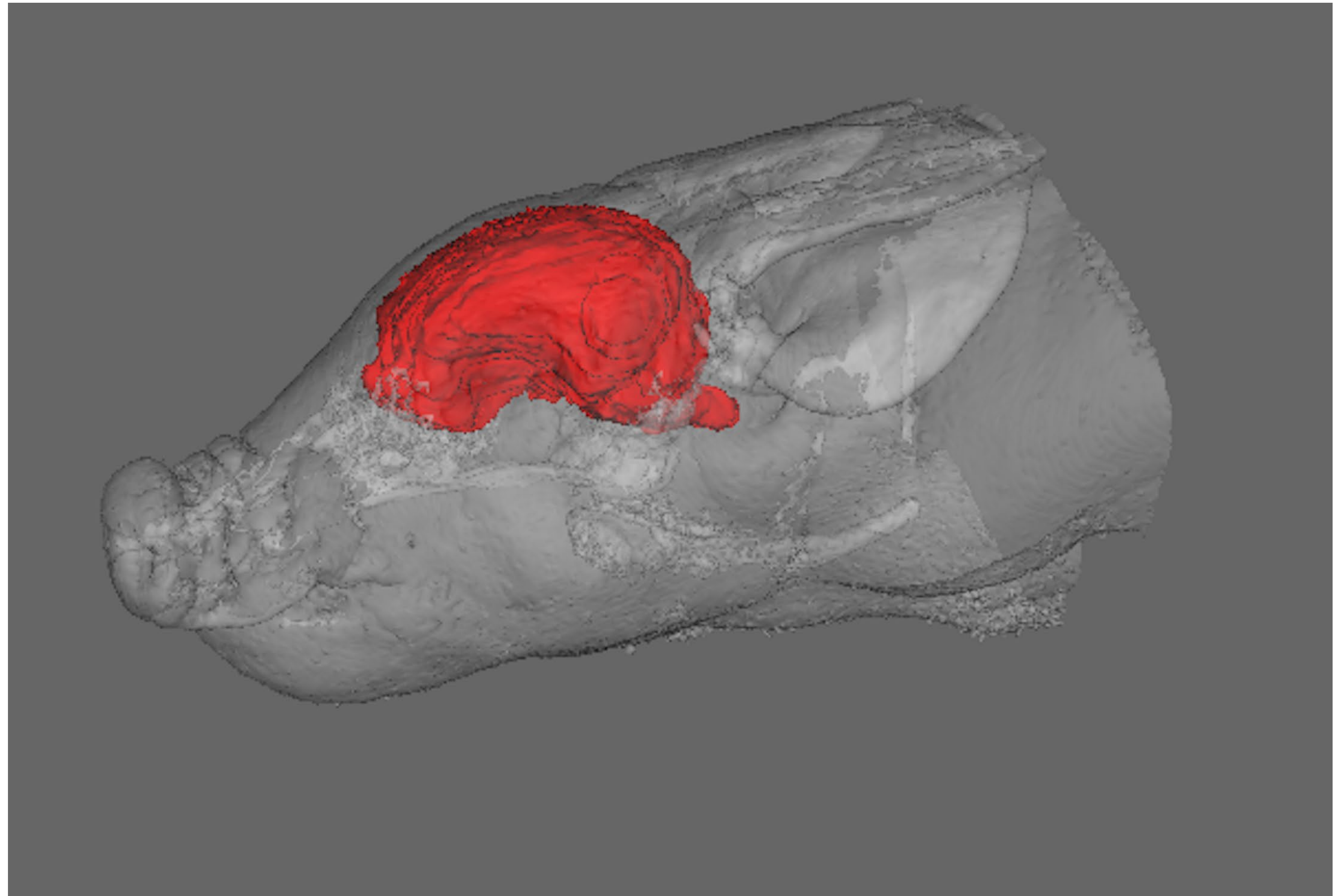


Pig brain development

Joanne E. Fil
Neuroscience Program



Pigs are remarkably similar to humans. They have a comparable gastrointestinal system and cardiovascular system to ours, they eat food that we eat, and have brains that look similar to the human brain as well. The question though, is do pig brains just look similar to the human brain or does it also develop the same way? The image presented is a 3D reconstruction of an magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan performed on a two week old pig. My research uses MRI to look at the macrostructure and microstructure of the pig brain from birth to sexual maturity. By evaluating the pig brain and its similarities to humans, we can assess changes in pig brain development when given different environmental stimuli or nutritional interventions and translate it to the brain development of human infants.