

# Regulating Neurotech Through The "Think Tank"

Natalia Montes & Andreas Schönau

Department of Philosophy, University of Washington; Center for Neurotechnology, University of Washington

## Ethical Concerns and Consumer Risks for BCI Technologies

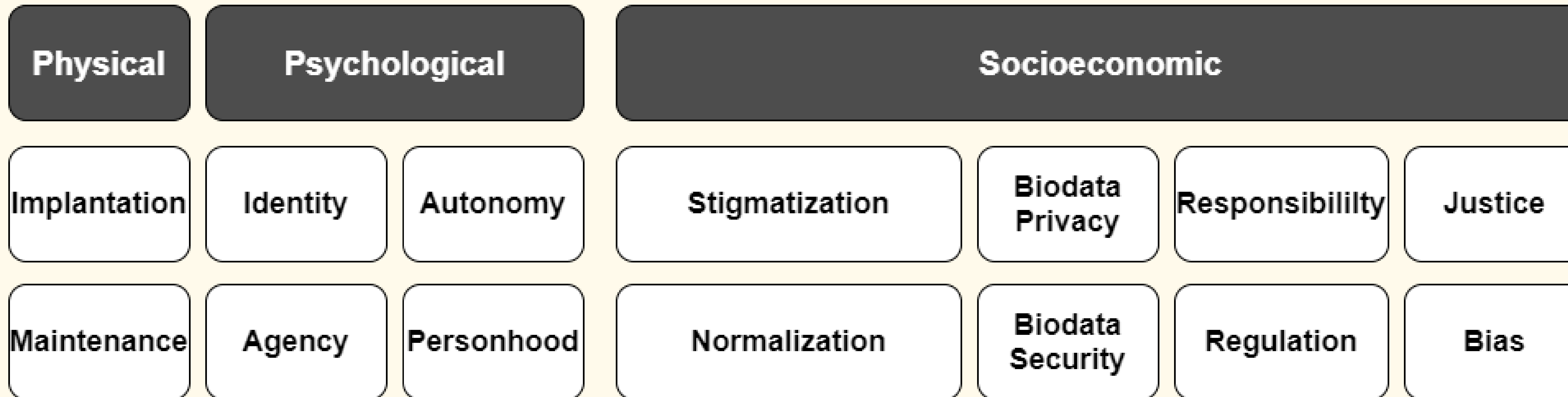


Figure 1: Adapted summary from Coin et. al.

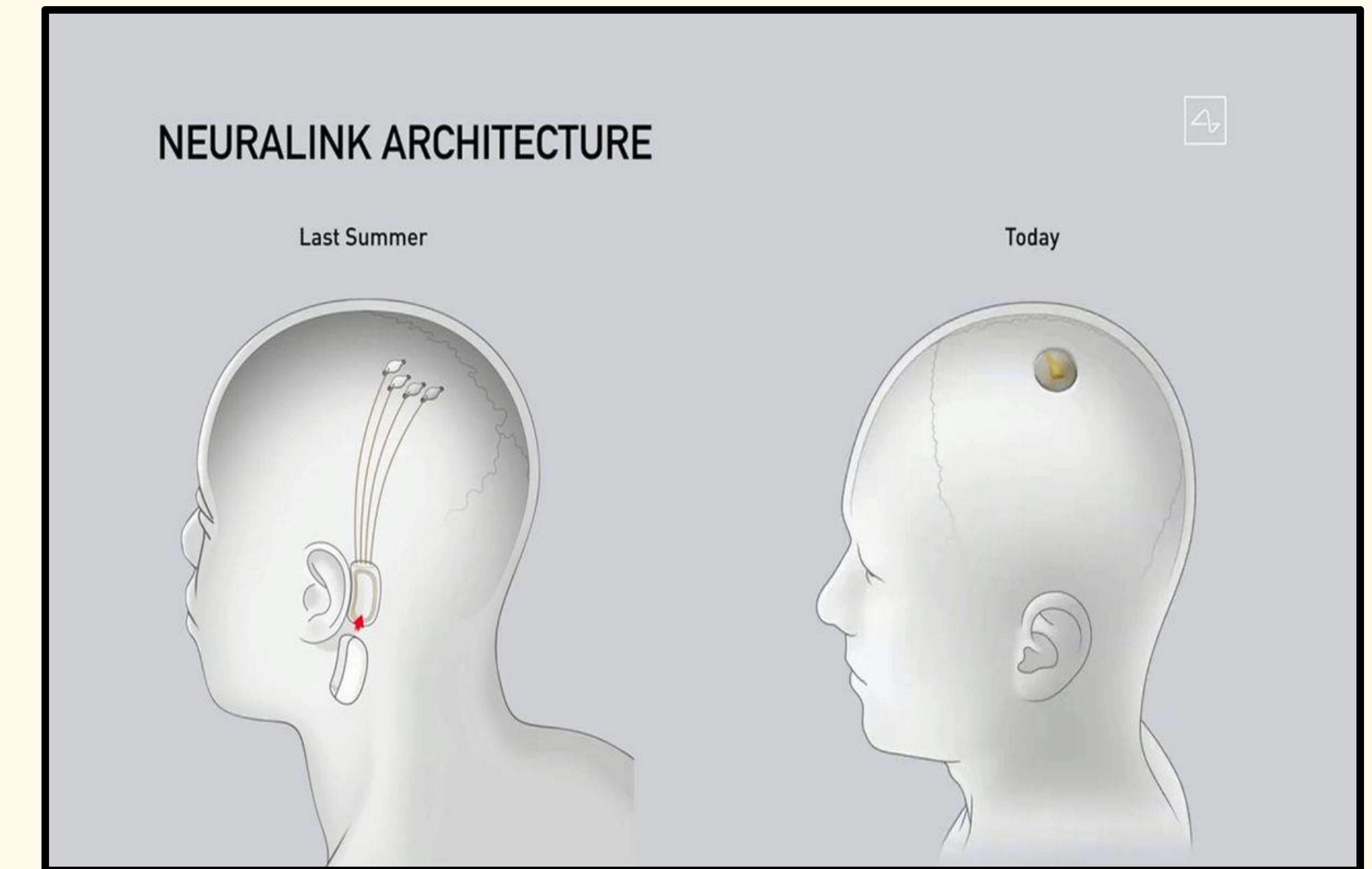
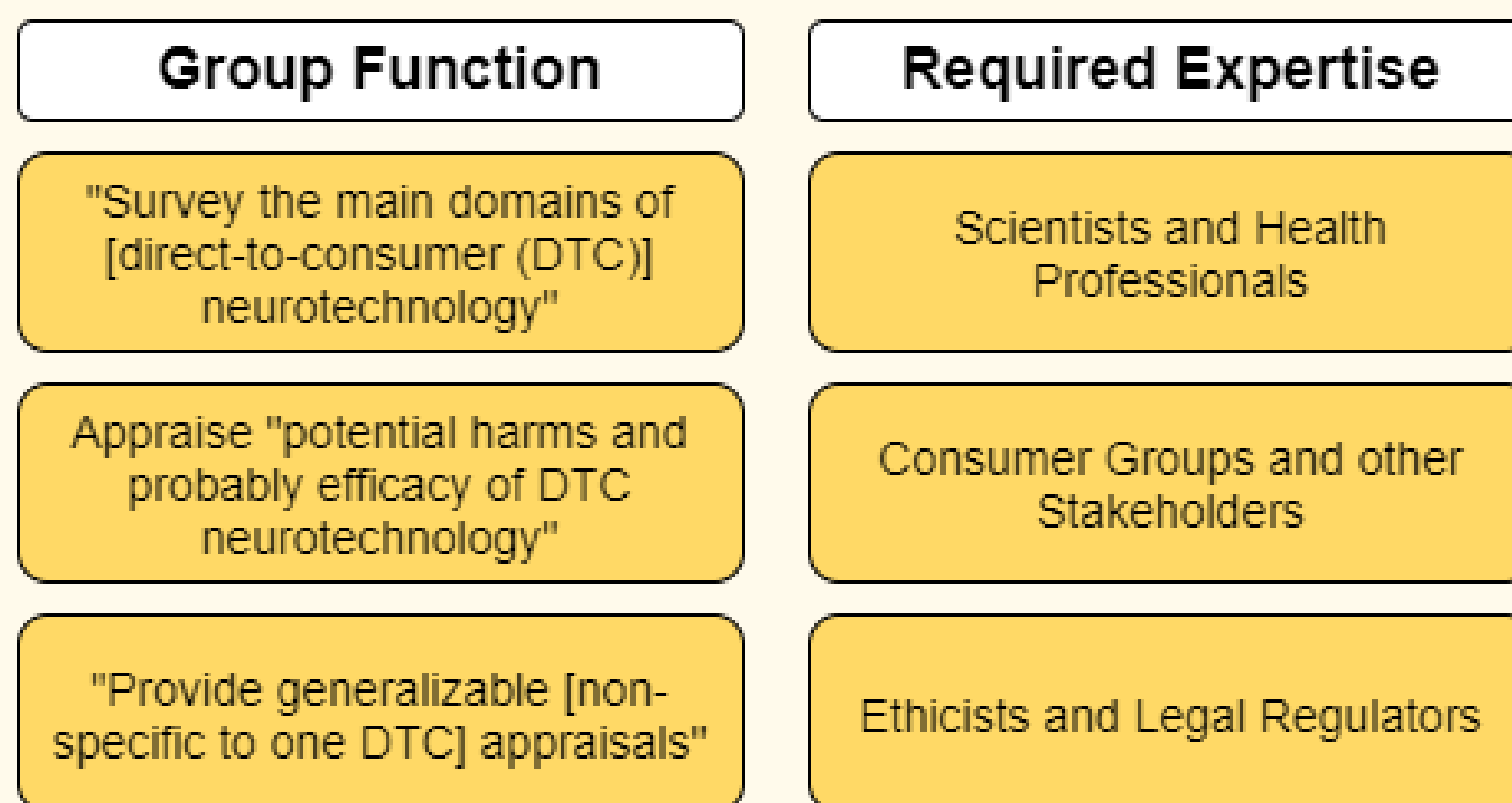


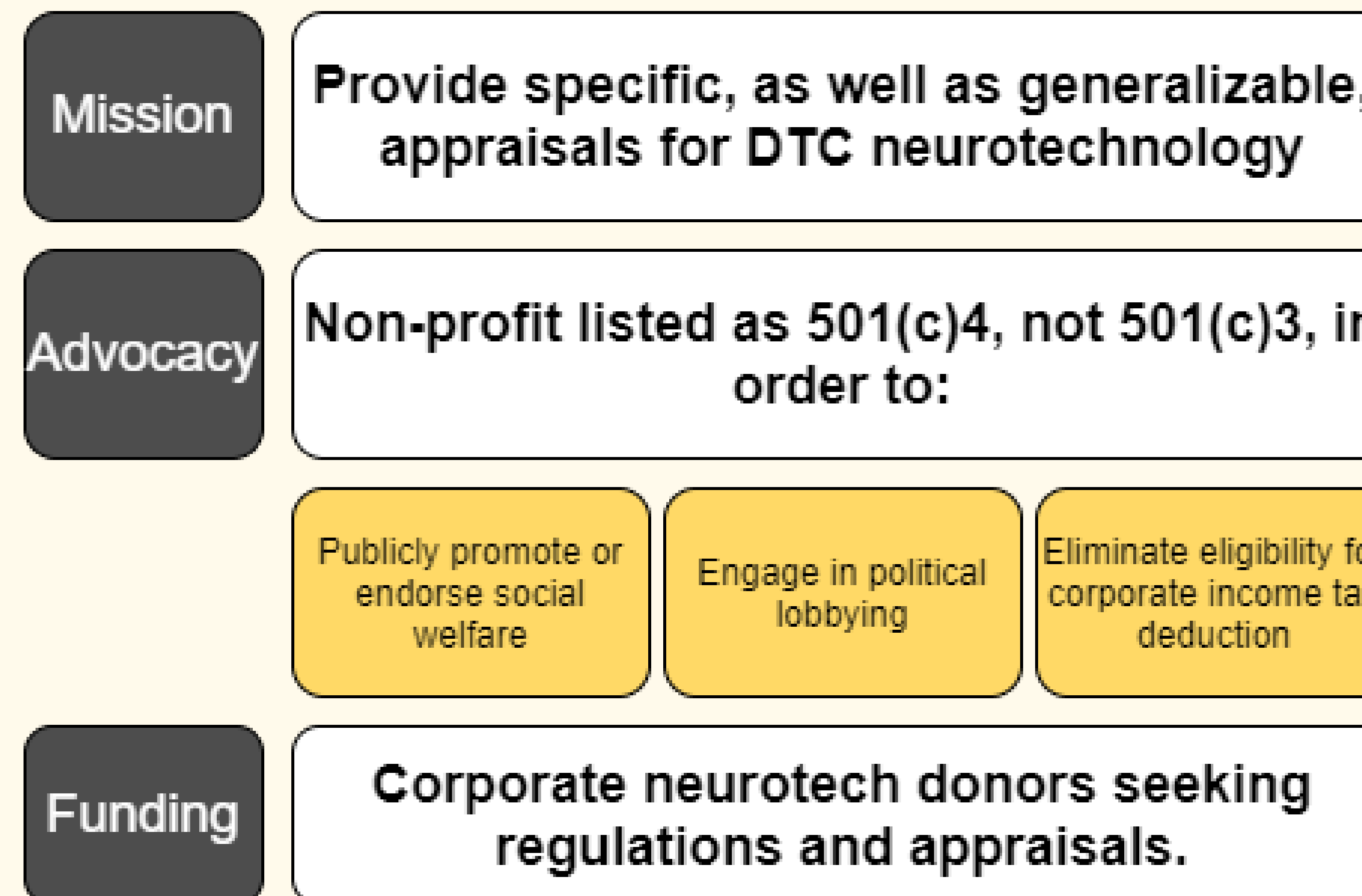
Figure 2: Screenshot from The Verge of 2020 Neuralink presentation

## An "Independent Working Group"

Wexler & Reiner (2019) propose "an independent working group"



## Expanding via The "Think Tank"



## Open Questions

Would having private and powerful corporate funders leave such an institution vulnerable to providing poor regulation?

Why would a corporation be invested in funding an appraising and regulatory institution to begin with?

Should the Think Tank remain unpolitical?

I.e. Would a listing as a 501(c)3 be more preferable?

## References:

- Coin, A.; Mulder, M.; Dubljević, V. (2020). Ethical Aspects of BCI Technology: What Is the State of the Art? *Philosophies* 2020, 5, 31. <https://doi.org/10.3390/philosophies5040031>
- O'Connor, J. (2013). Explaining the differences between 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 non-profits. NPR. Retrieved October 31, 2021, from <https://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/2013/04/05/explaining-the-differences-between-501c3-and-501c4-non-profits/>.
- Wetsman, N. (2020). Elon Musk trots out pigs in demo of Neuralink Brain implants. The Verge. Retrieved October 31, 2021, from <https://www.theverge.com/2020/8/28/21406143/elon-musk-neuralink-ai-pigs-demo-brain-computer-interface>.
- Wexler, A., & Reiner, P. B. (2019). Oversight of direct-to-consumer neurotechnologies. *Science*, 363(6424), 234–235. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aav0223>