Diffusion Tensor Imaging tutorial

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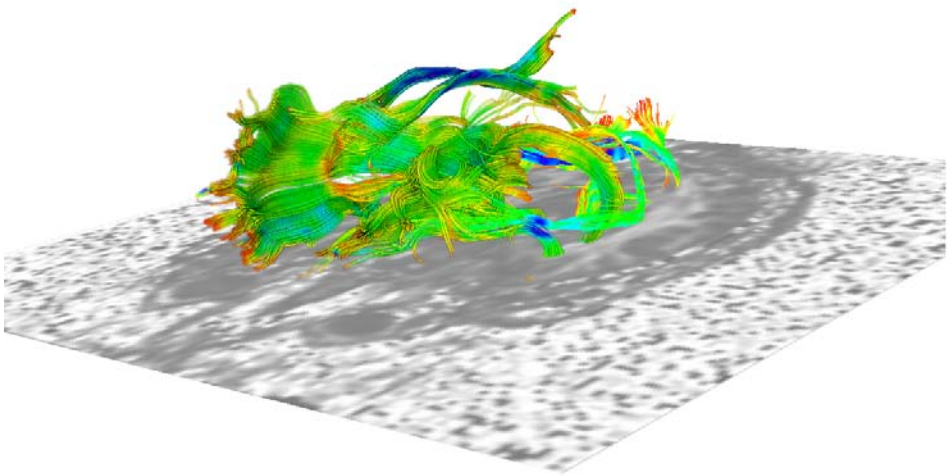
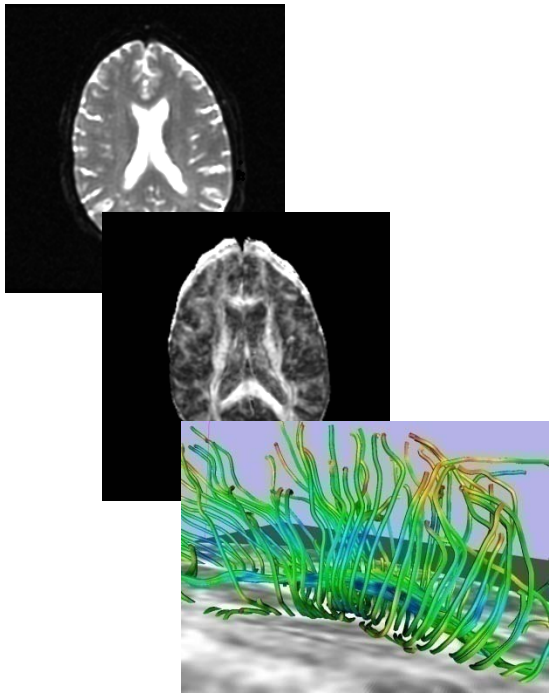
DTI tutorial

This tutorial is an introduction to the advanced Diffusion MR capabilities of the Slicer3 software for medical image analysis.

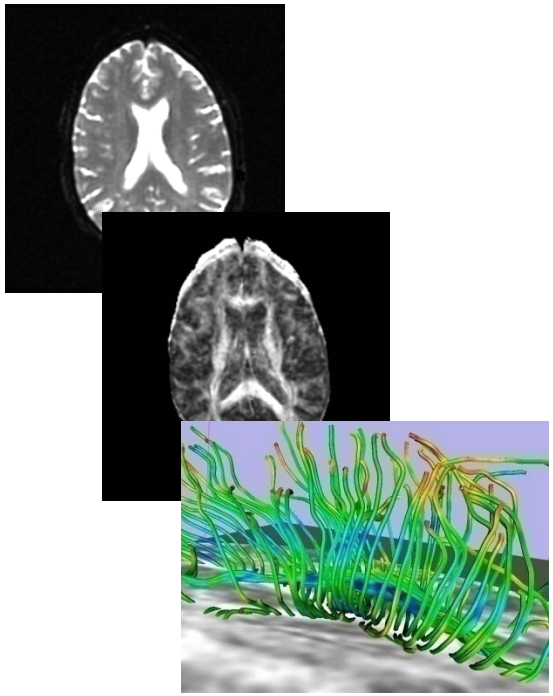


Outline



This tutorial guides you through the process of loading diffusion MR data, estimating diffusion tensors, and performing tractography of white matter bundles.

Outline

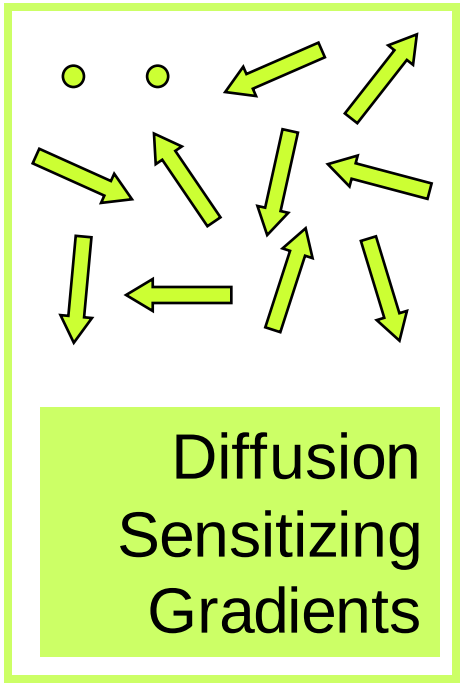


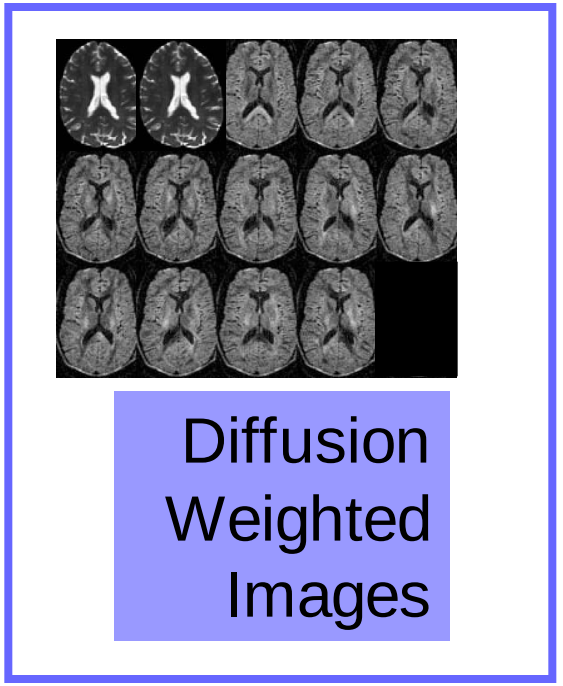
The processing pipeline uses 9 image analysis modules of Slicer3.4

1. Data
2. Volumes
3. Diffusion Tensor Estimation
4. Diffusion Tensor Scalar Measurements
5. Editor
6. LabelMap Seeding
7. Fiber Bundles
8. Fiducials
9. Fiducial Seeding

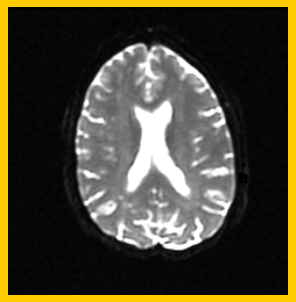
Tutorial Dataset

The Diffusion MR tutorial dataset is composed of a Diffusion Weighted MR scan of the brain acquired with 12 gradient directions and 2 baseline.

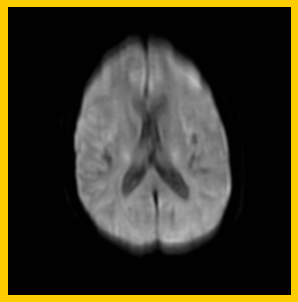




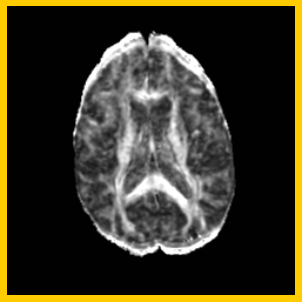
DTI Processing Pipeline



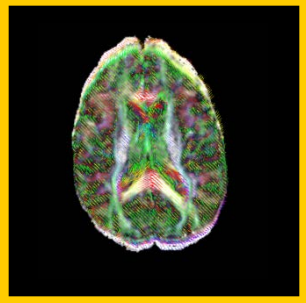
DWI
Acquisition



Tensor
Calculation



Scalar
Maps



3D
Visualization

Start Slicer3

Linux/Mac users

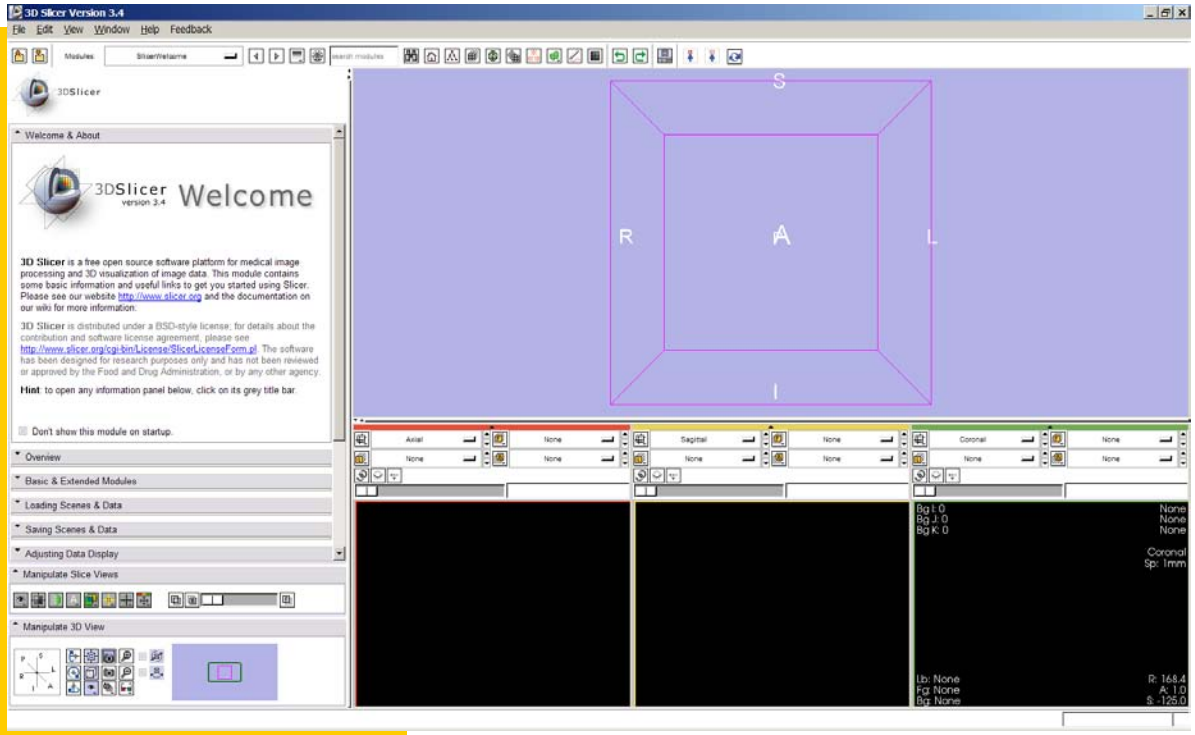
Launch the Slicer3 executable located in the Slicer3.4 directory

Windows users

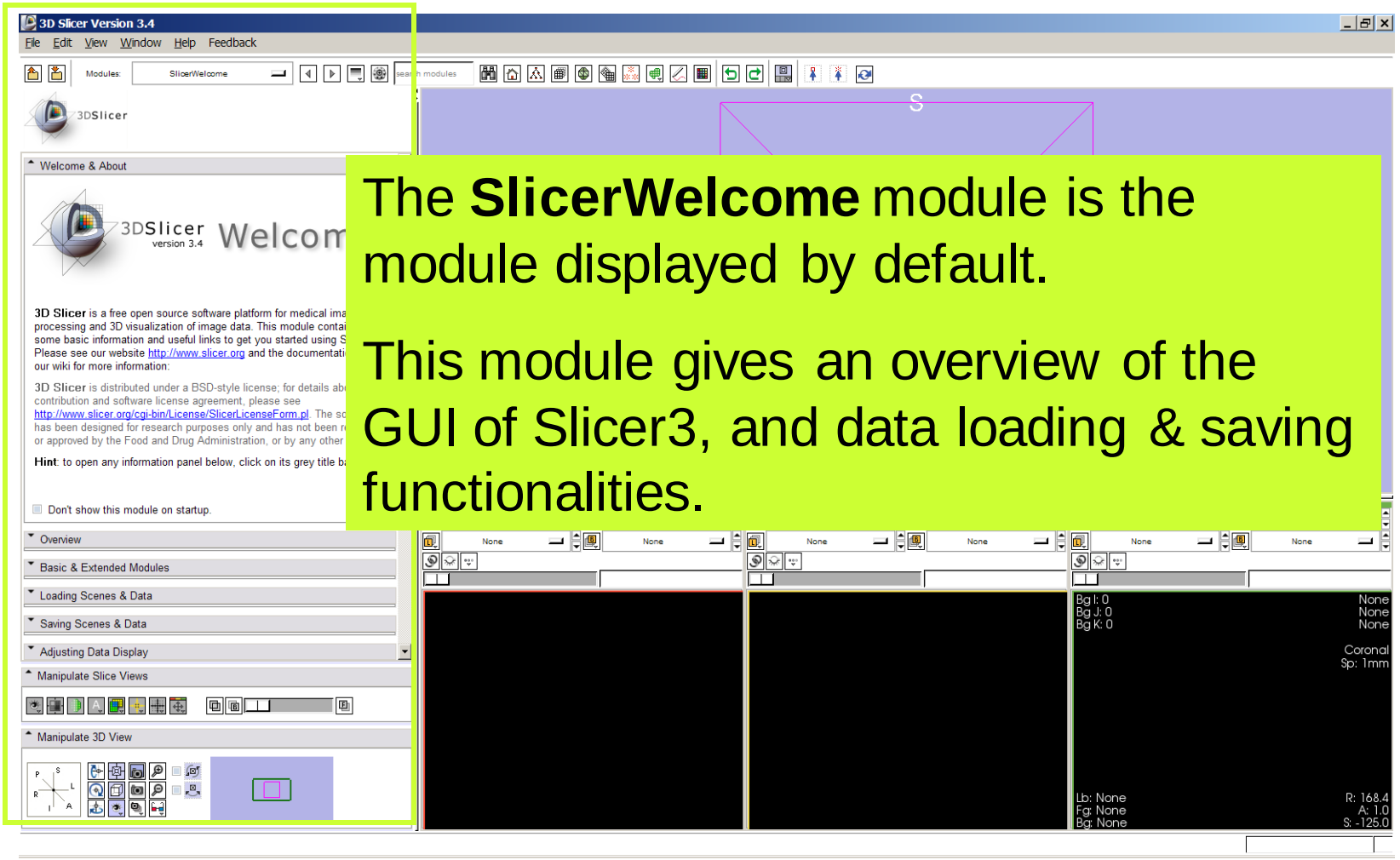
Select

Start → All Programs

→ Slicer3 3.4 2009-05-21→Slicer3

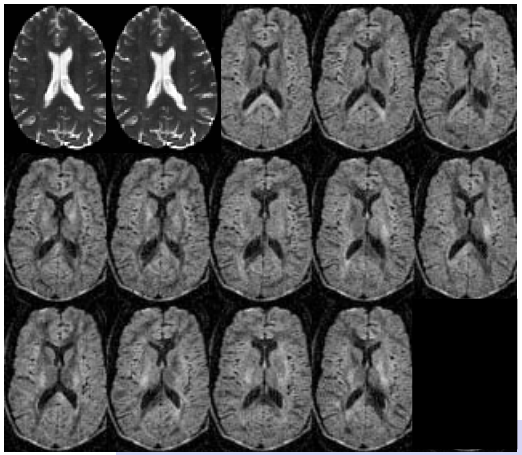


Slicer Welcome



The **SlicerWelcome** module is the module displayed by default.

This module gives an overview of the GUI of Slicer3, and data loading & saving functionalities.

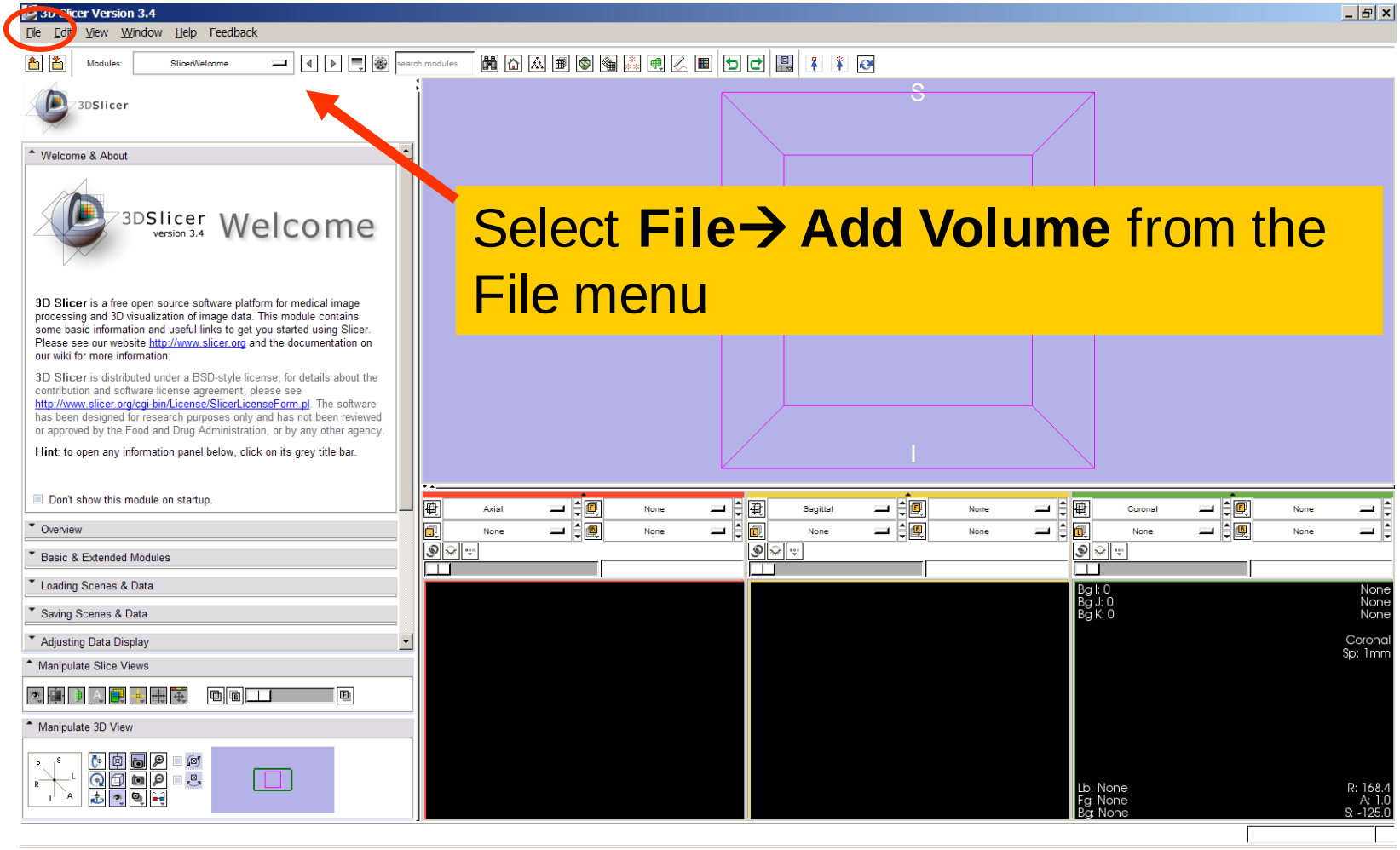


$$S_i = S_0 e^{-b\hat{g}i^T \underline{D} \hat{g}_i}$$

Part 1:

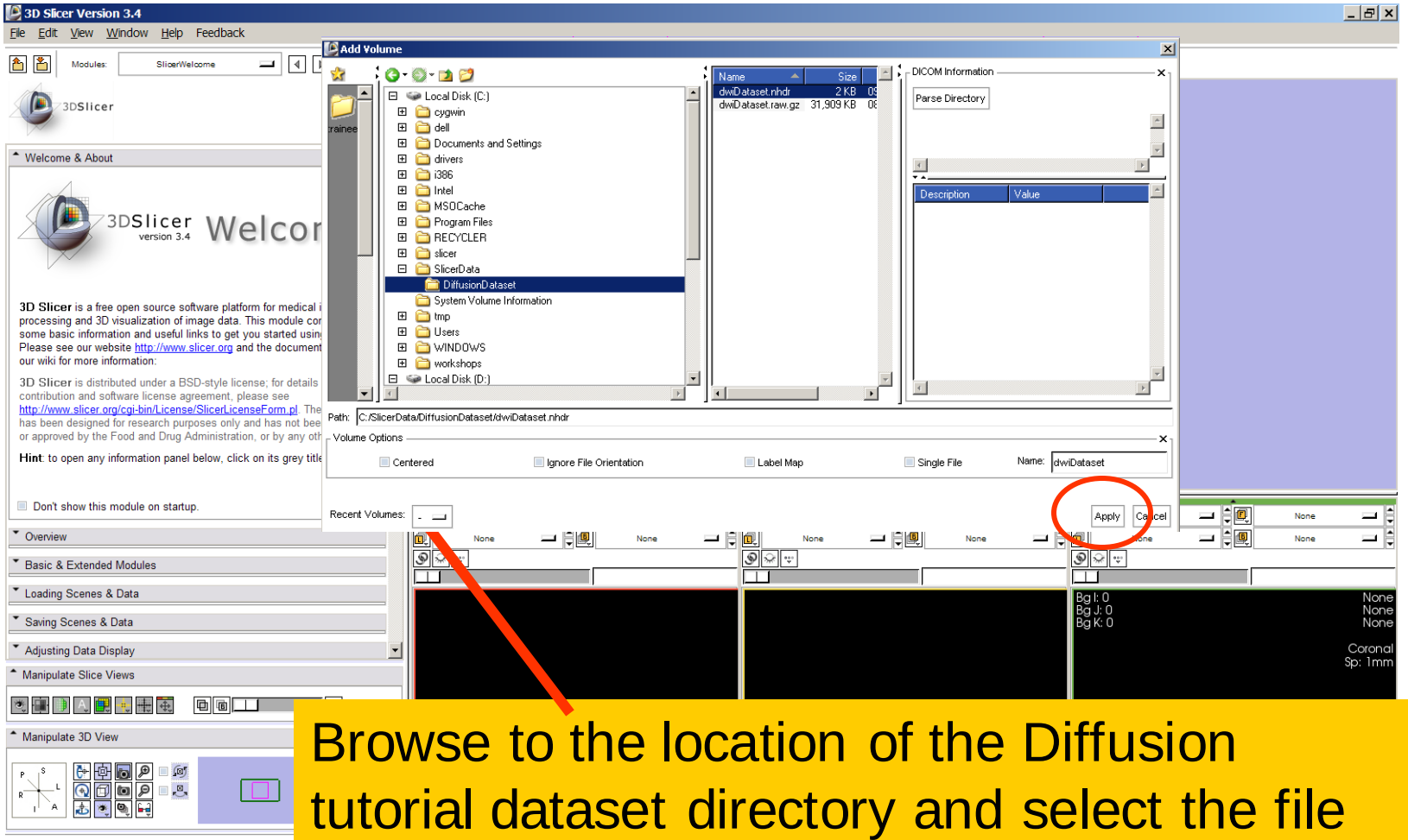
Diffusion data loading and tensor estimation

Loading the DWI volume



Select **File→ Add Volume** from the File menu

Loading the DWI volume

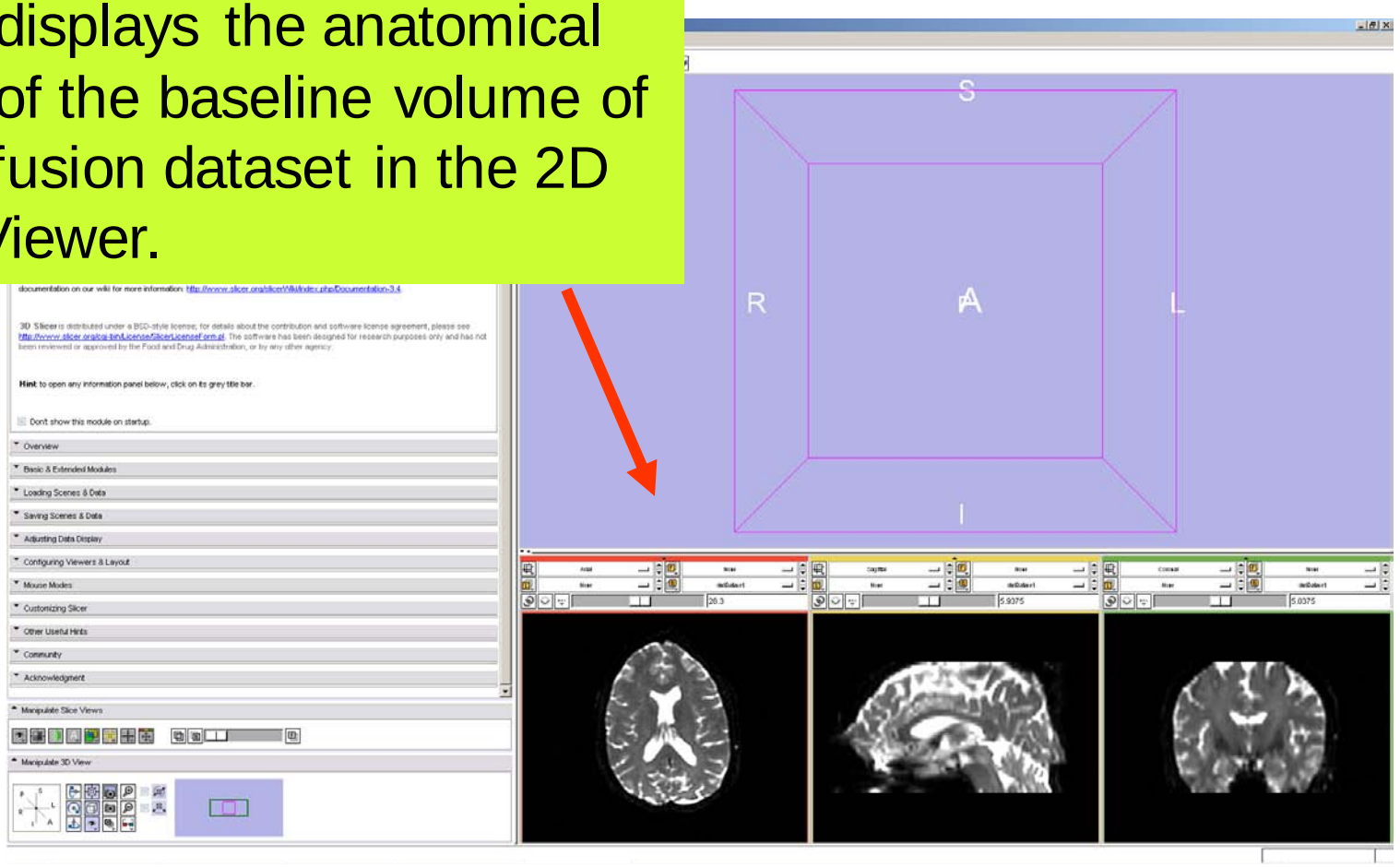


Browse to the location of the Diffusion tutorial dataset directory and select the file **dwiDataset.nhdr**

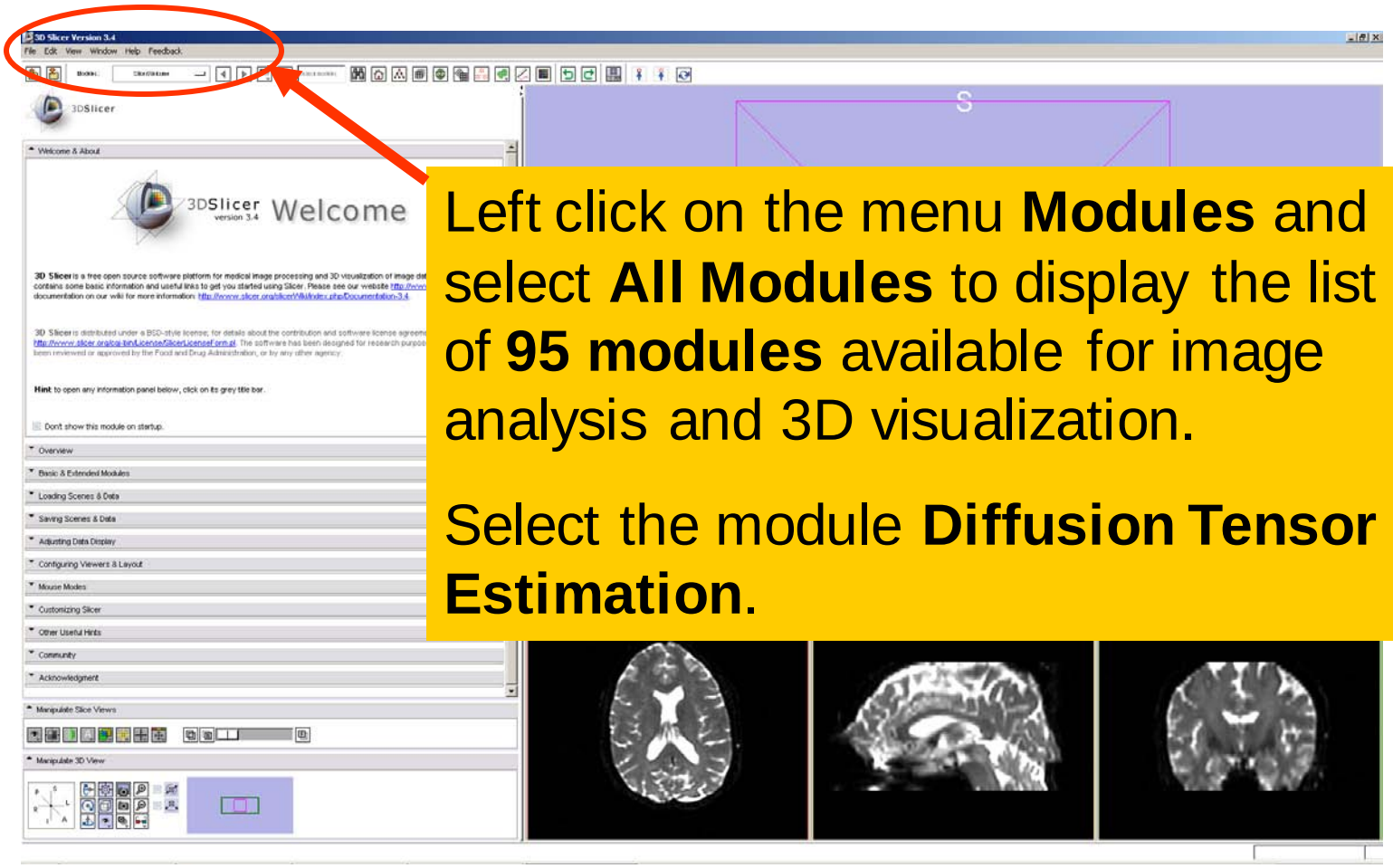
Click on **Apply** to load the volume

Loading the DWI volume

Slicer displays the anatomical views of the baseline volume of the diffusion dataset in the 2D Slice Viewer.



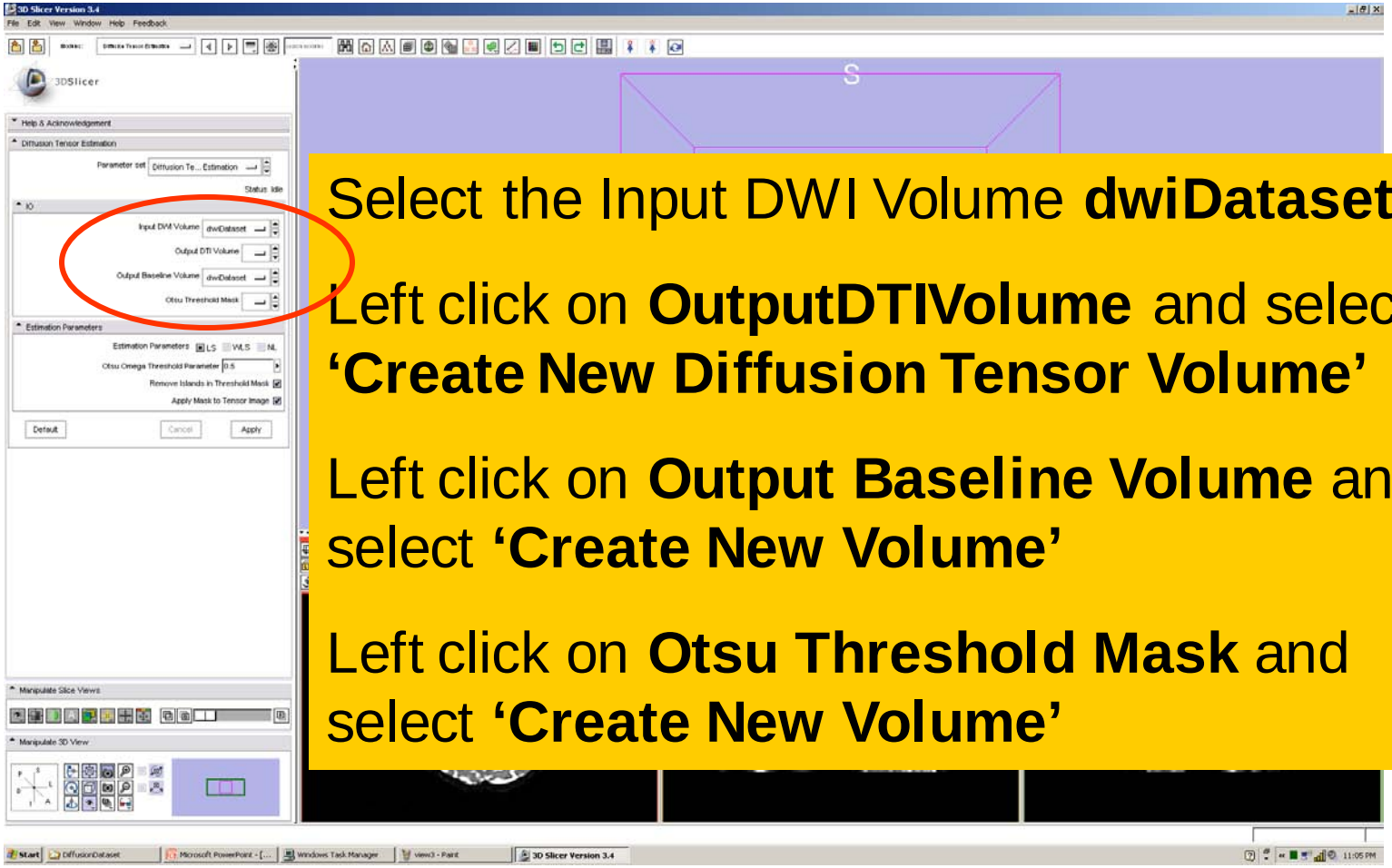
Tensor Estimation



Left click on the menu **Modules** and select **All Modules** to display the list of **95 modules** available for image analysis and 3D visualization.

Select the module **Diffusion Tensor Estimation**.

Tensor Estimation



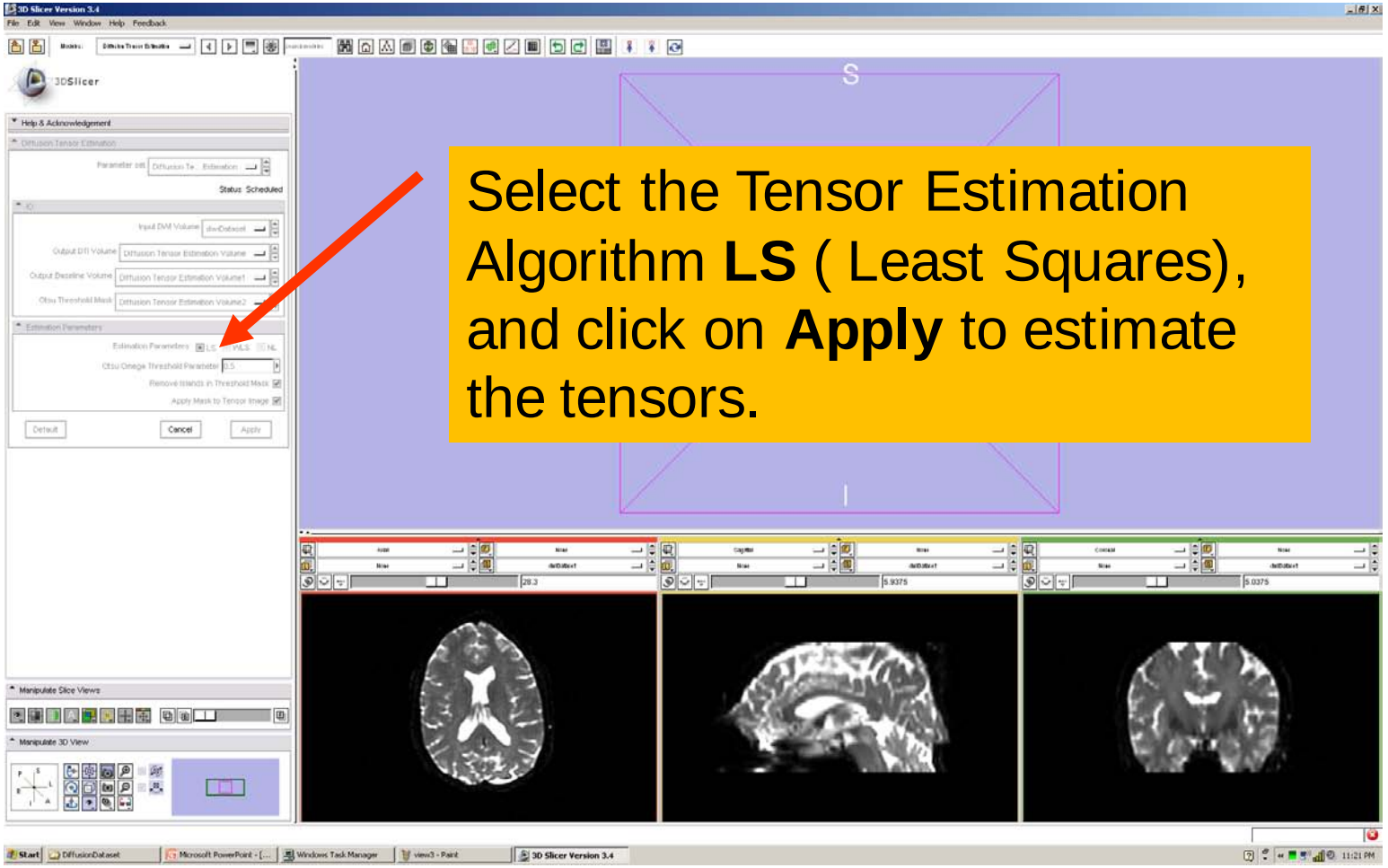
Select the Input DWI Volume **dwiDataset**

Left click on **OutputDTIVolume** and select **'Create New Diffusion Tensor Volume'**

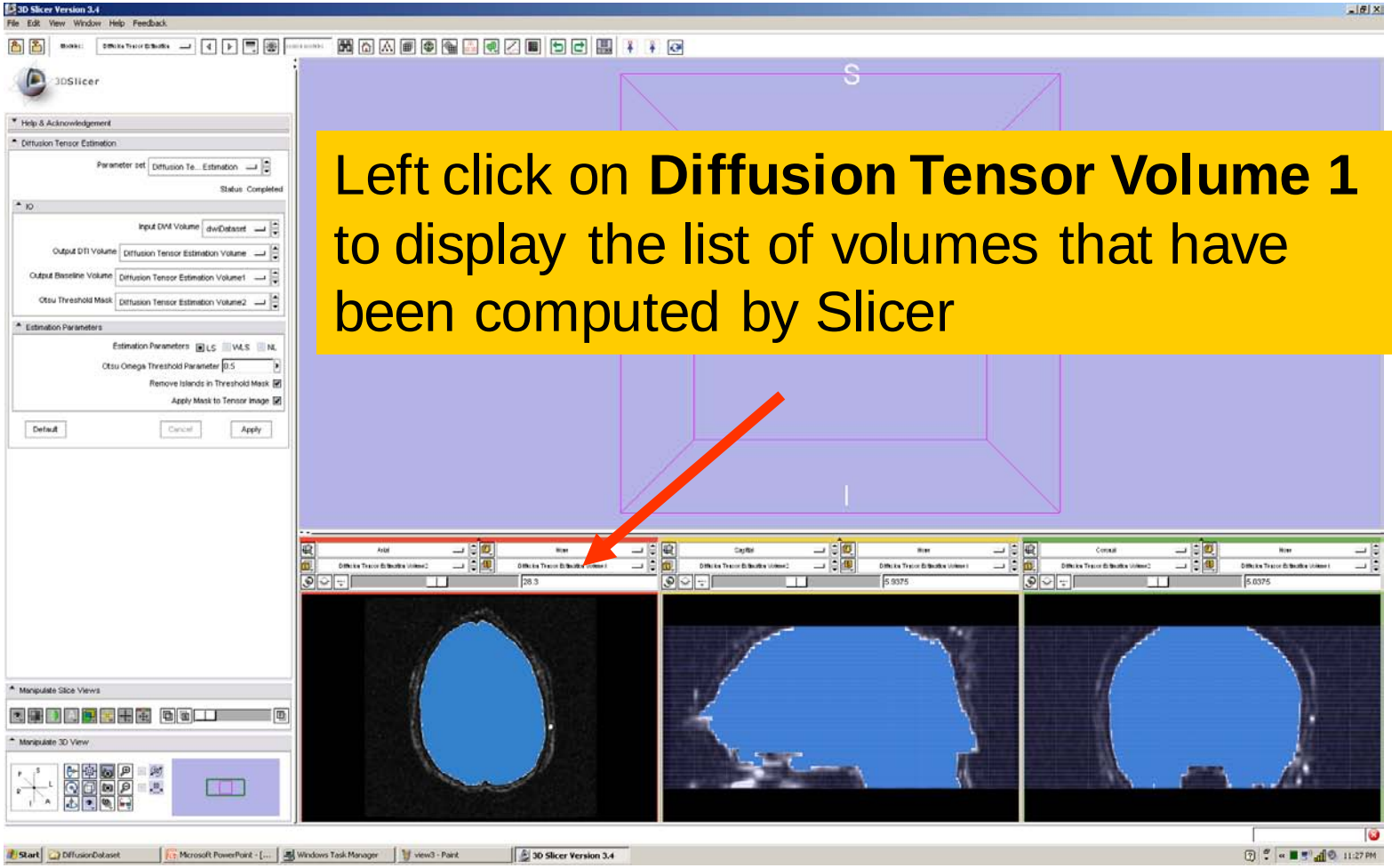
Left click on **Output Baseline Volume** and select **'Create New Volume'**

Left click on **Otsu Threshold Mask** and select **'Create New Volume'**

Tensor Estimation



Tensor Estimation

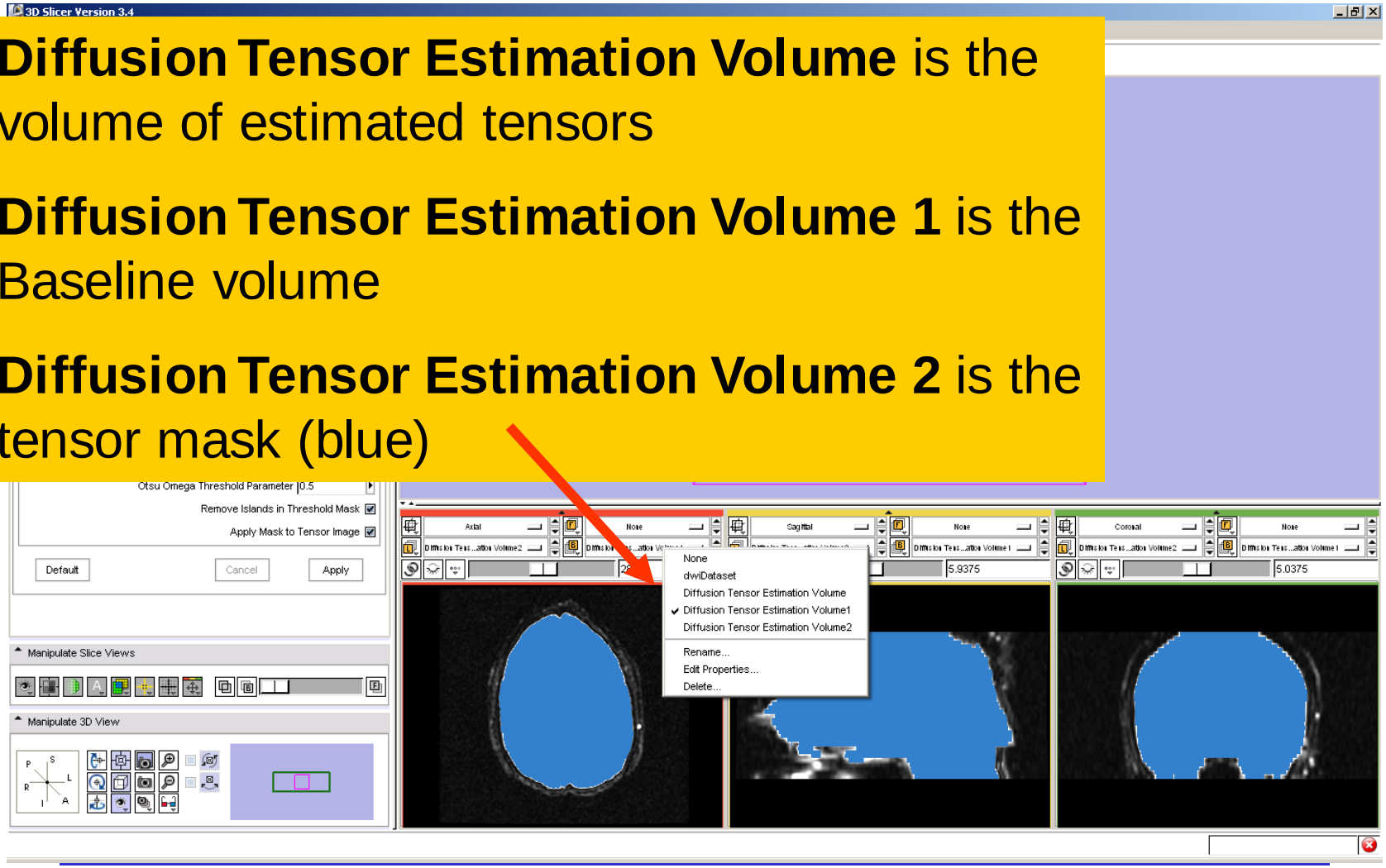


Tensor Estimation

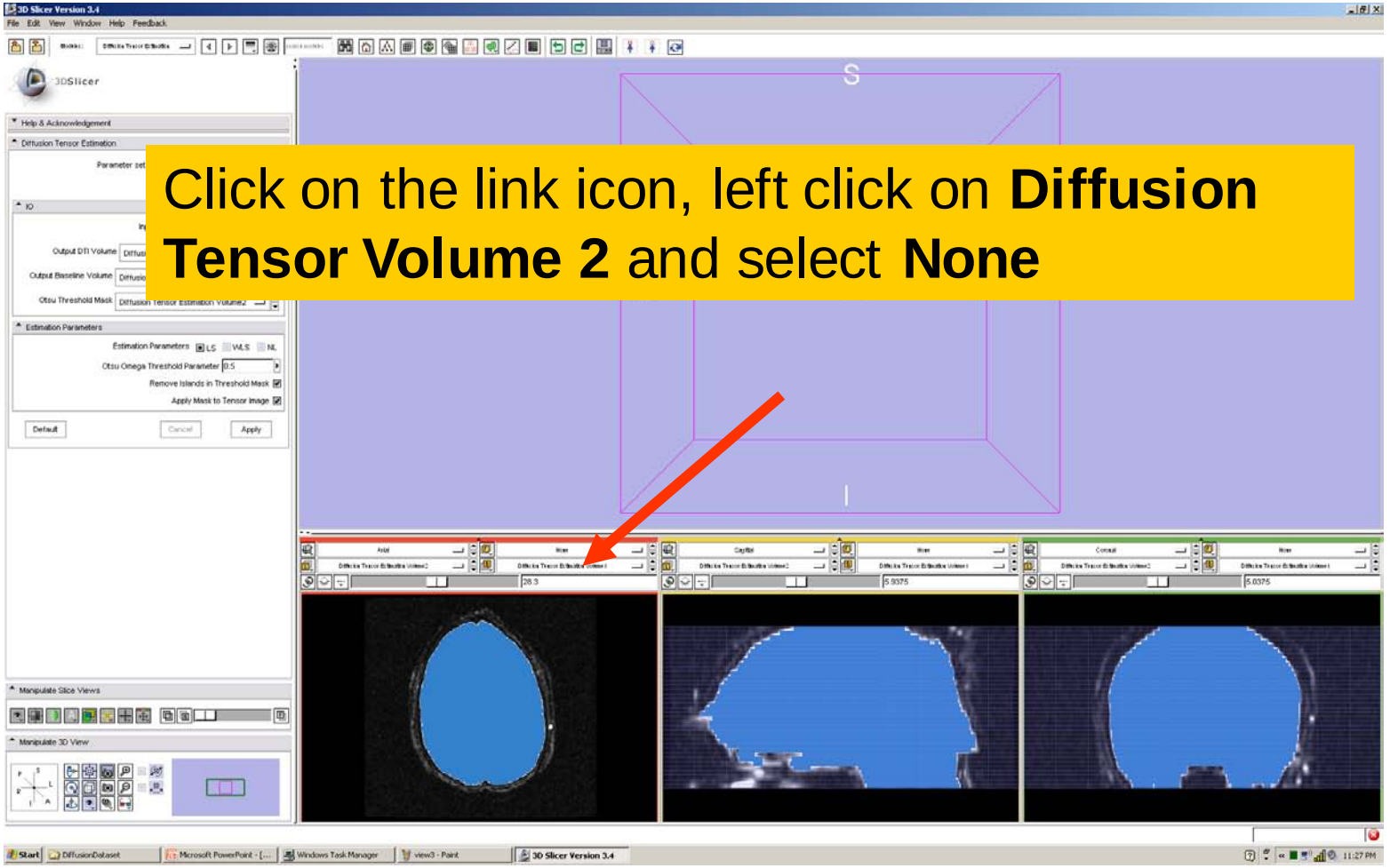
Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume is the volume of estimated tensors

Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume 1 is the Baseline volume

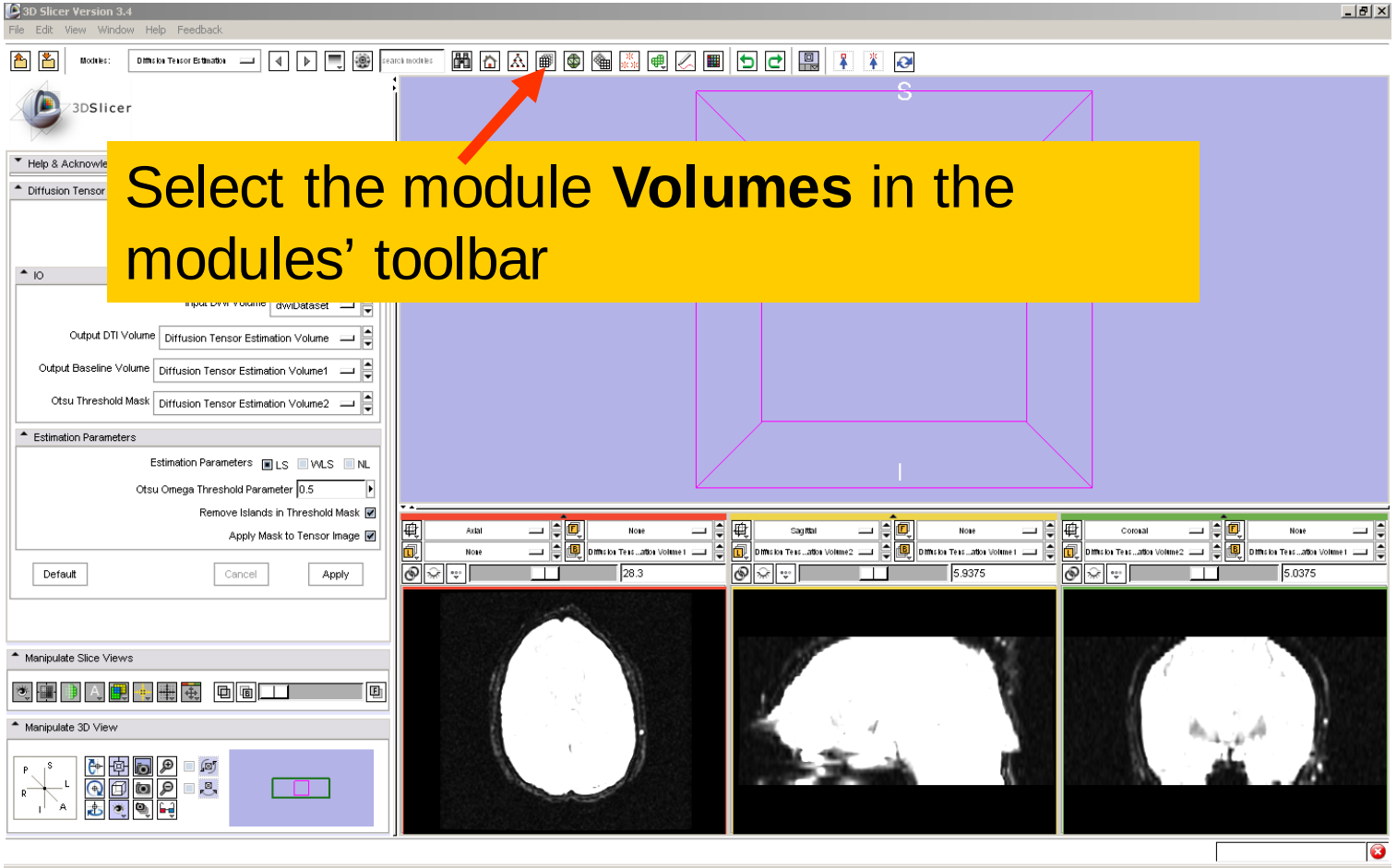
Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume 2 is the tensor mask (blue)



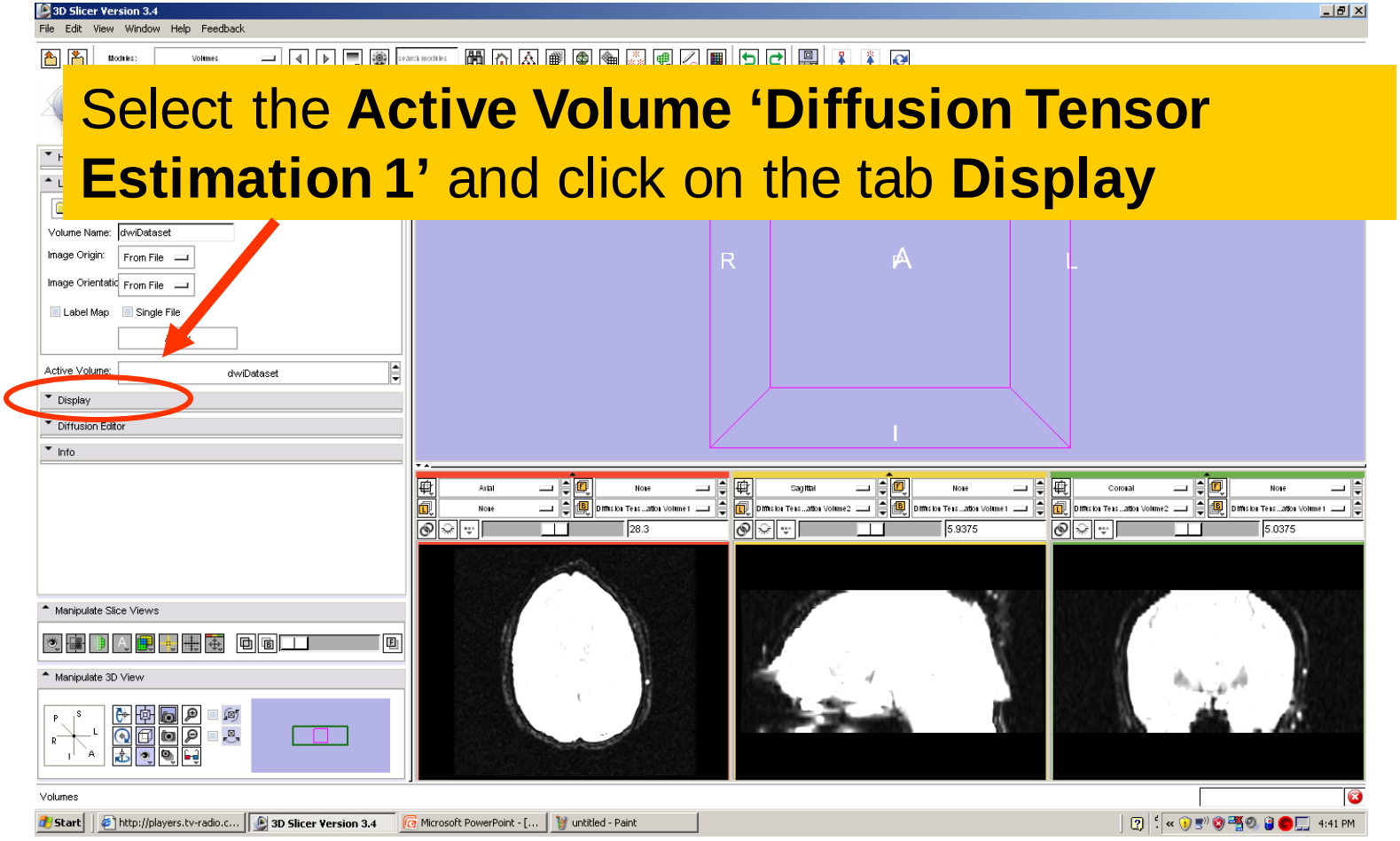
Tensor Estimation



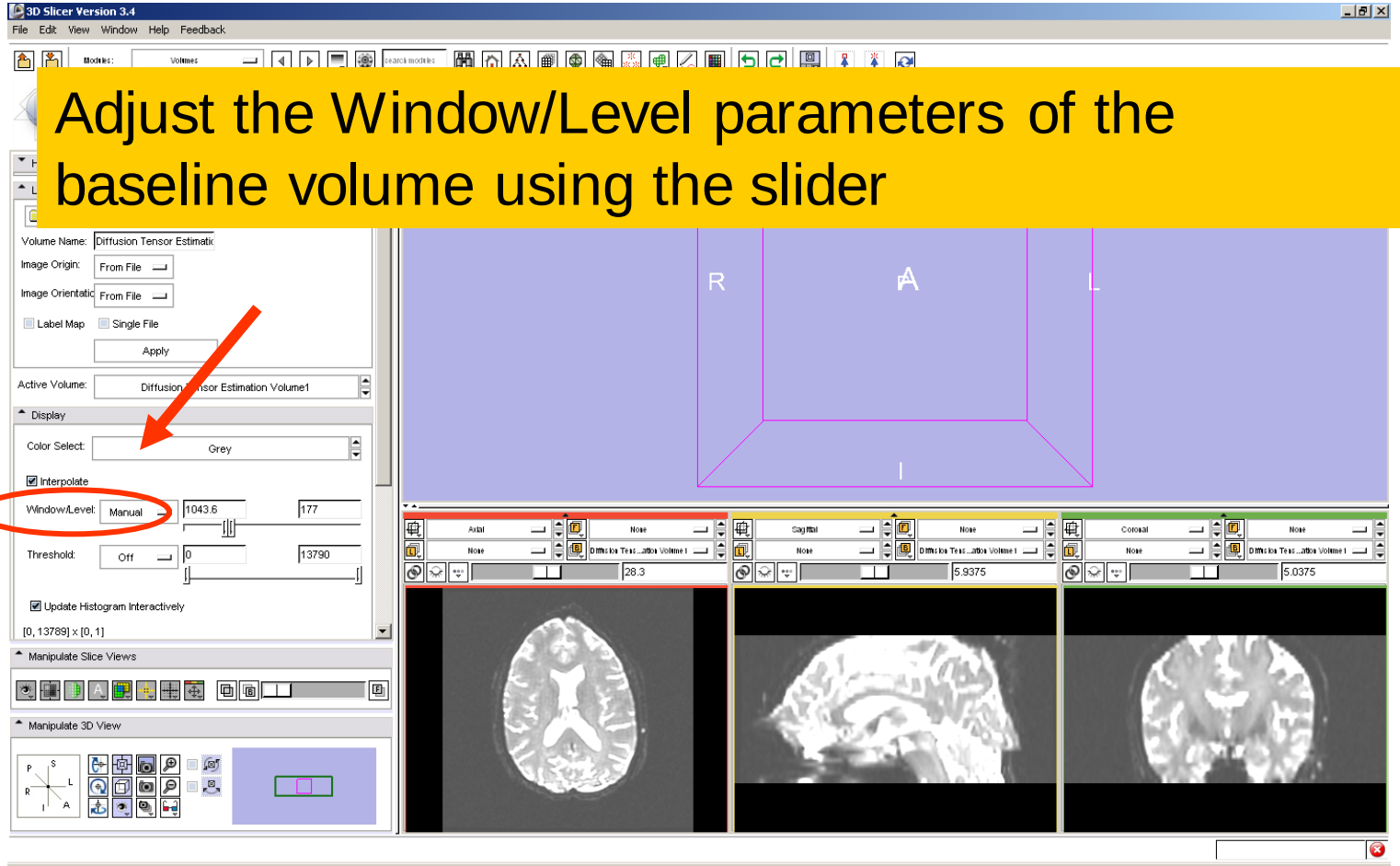
Tensor Estimation



Tensor Estimation

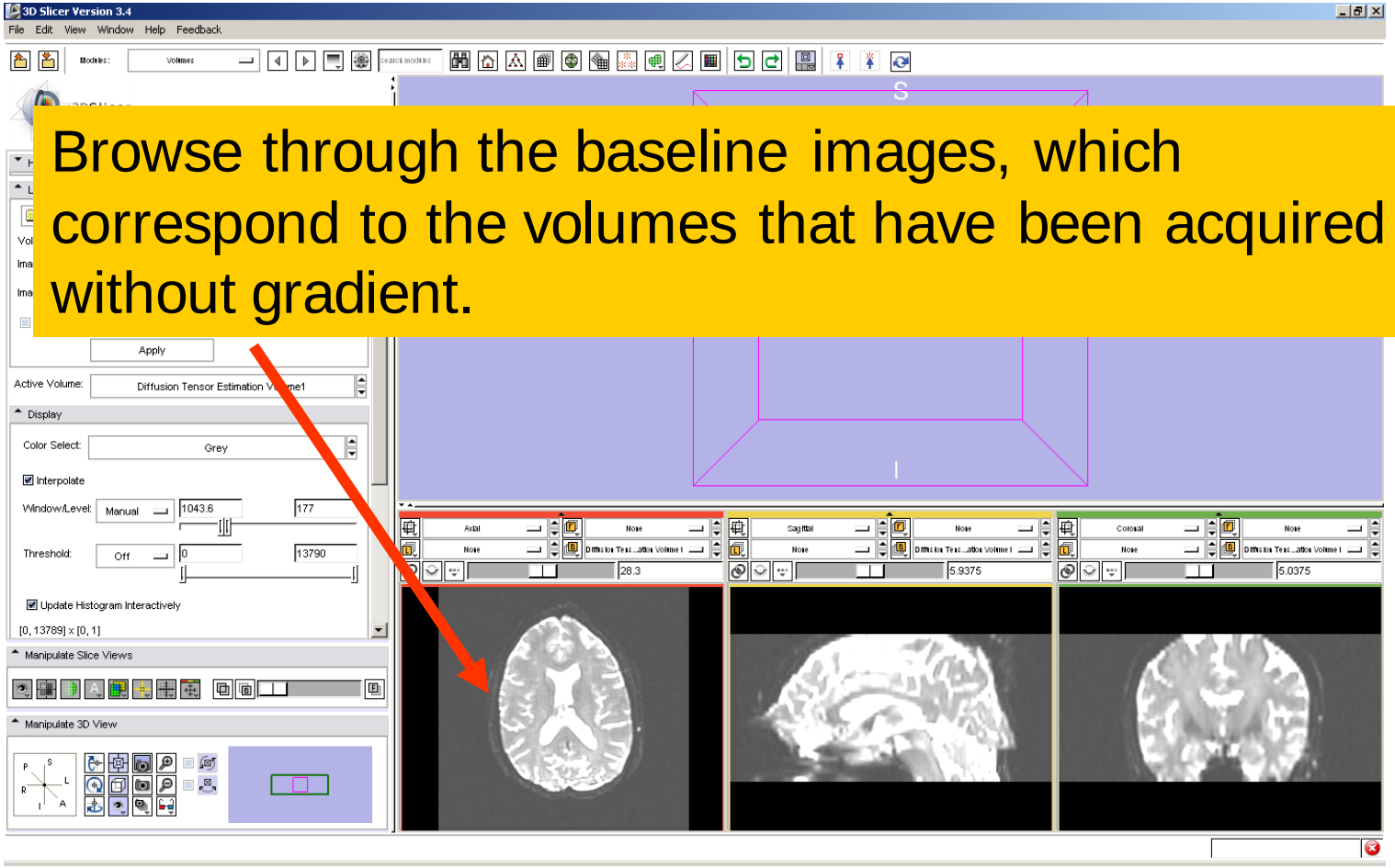


Tensor Estimation

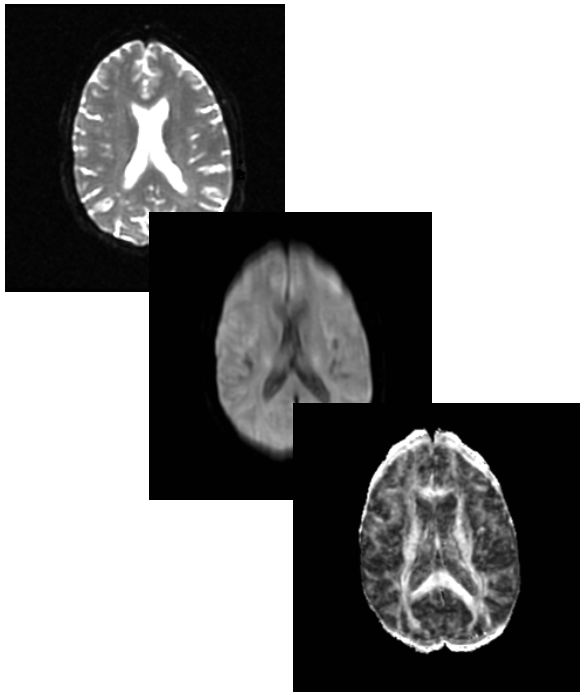


Adjust the Window/Level parameters of the baseline volume using the slider

Tensor Estimation



Browse through the baseline images, which correspond to the volumes that have been acquired without gradient.

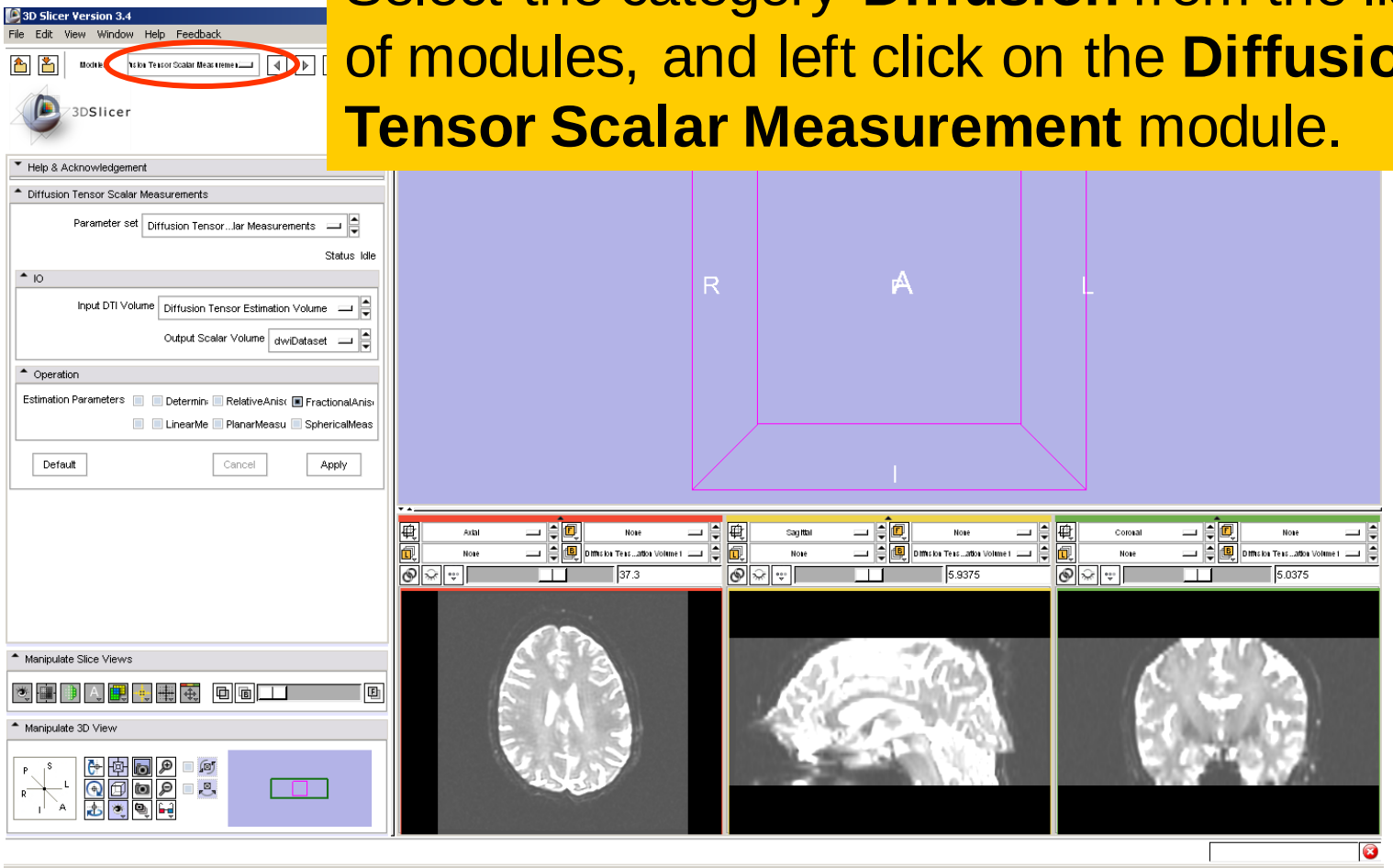


Part2:

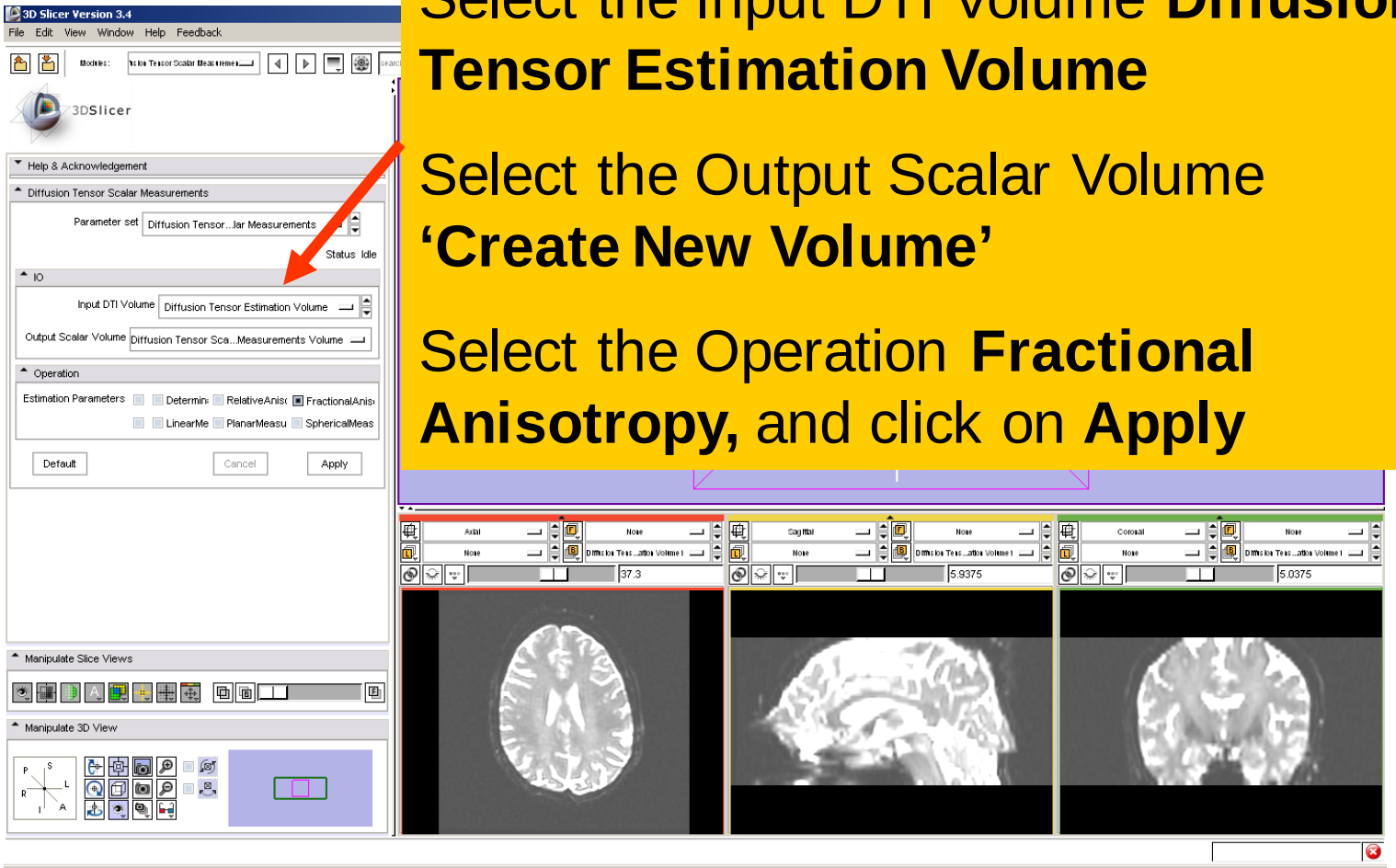
Scalar Measurements

Scalar Measurements

Select the category **Diffusion** from the list of modules, and left click on the **Diffusion Tensor Scalar Measurement** module.



Scalar Measurements

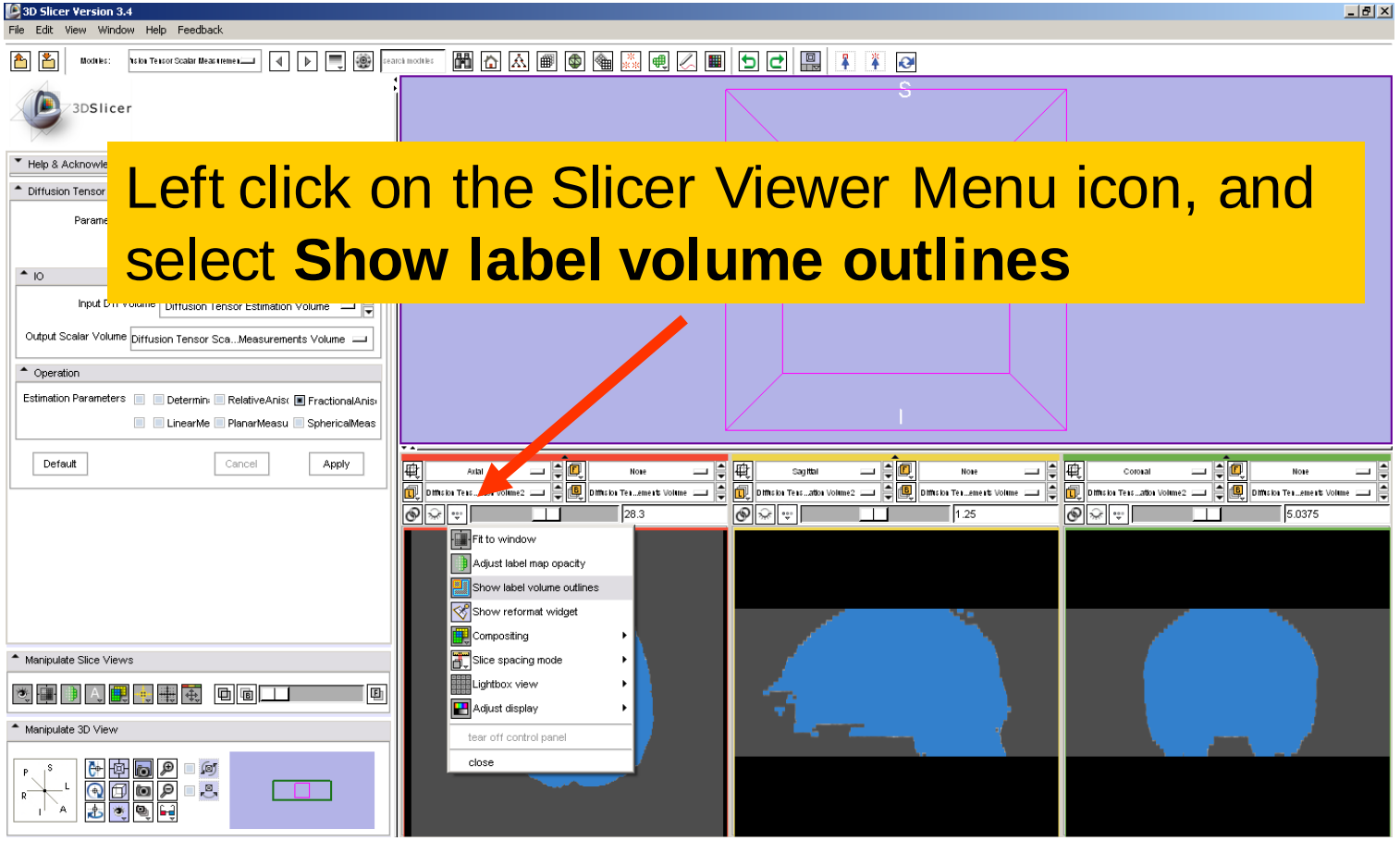


Select the Input DTI Volume **Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume**

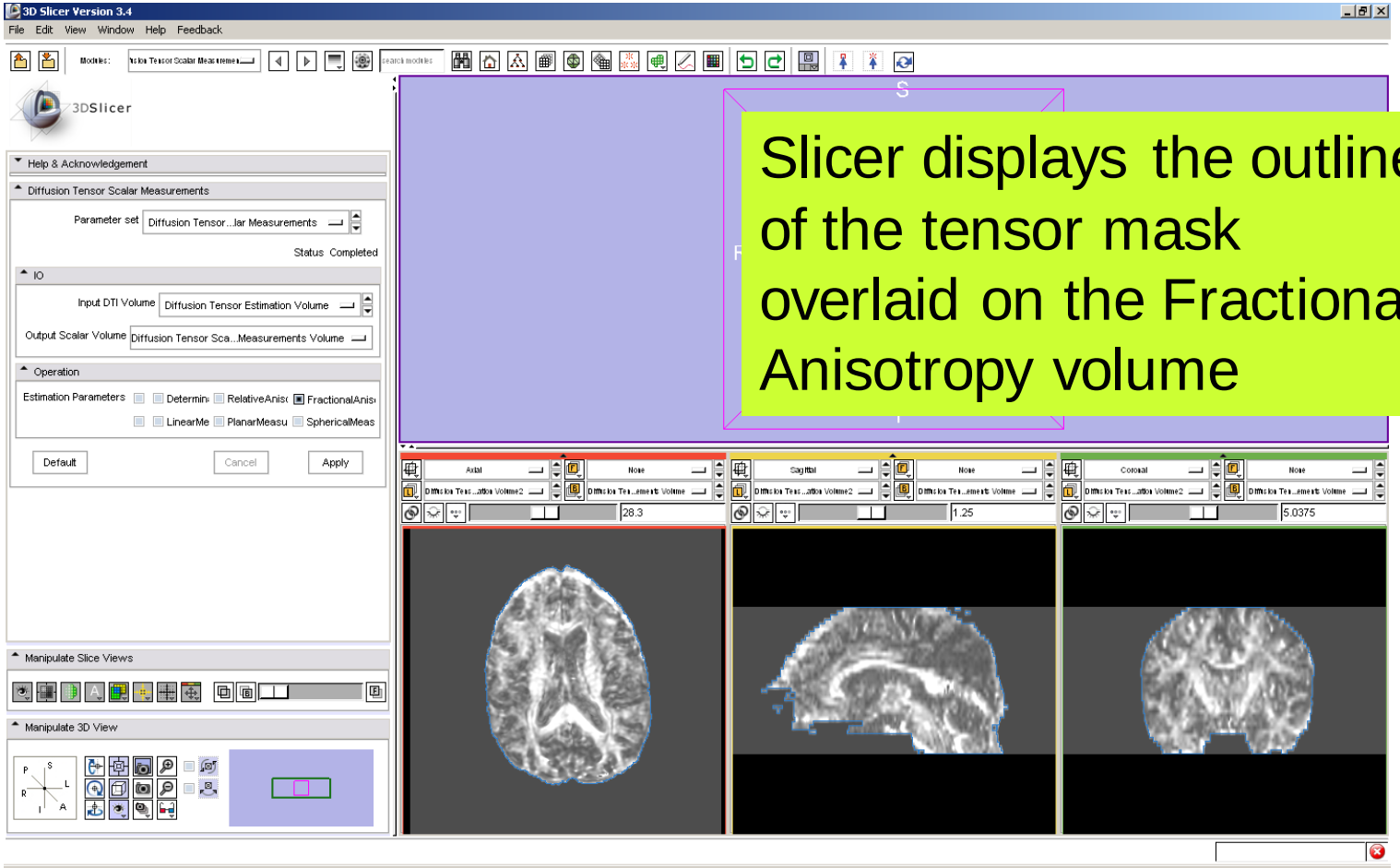
Select the Output Scalar Volume **'Create New Volume'**

Select the Operation **Fractional Anisotropy,** and click on **Apply**

Fractional Anisotropy Volume

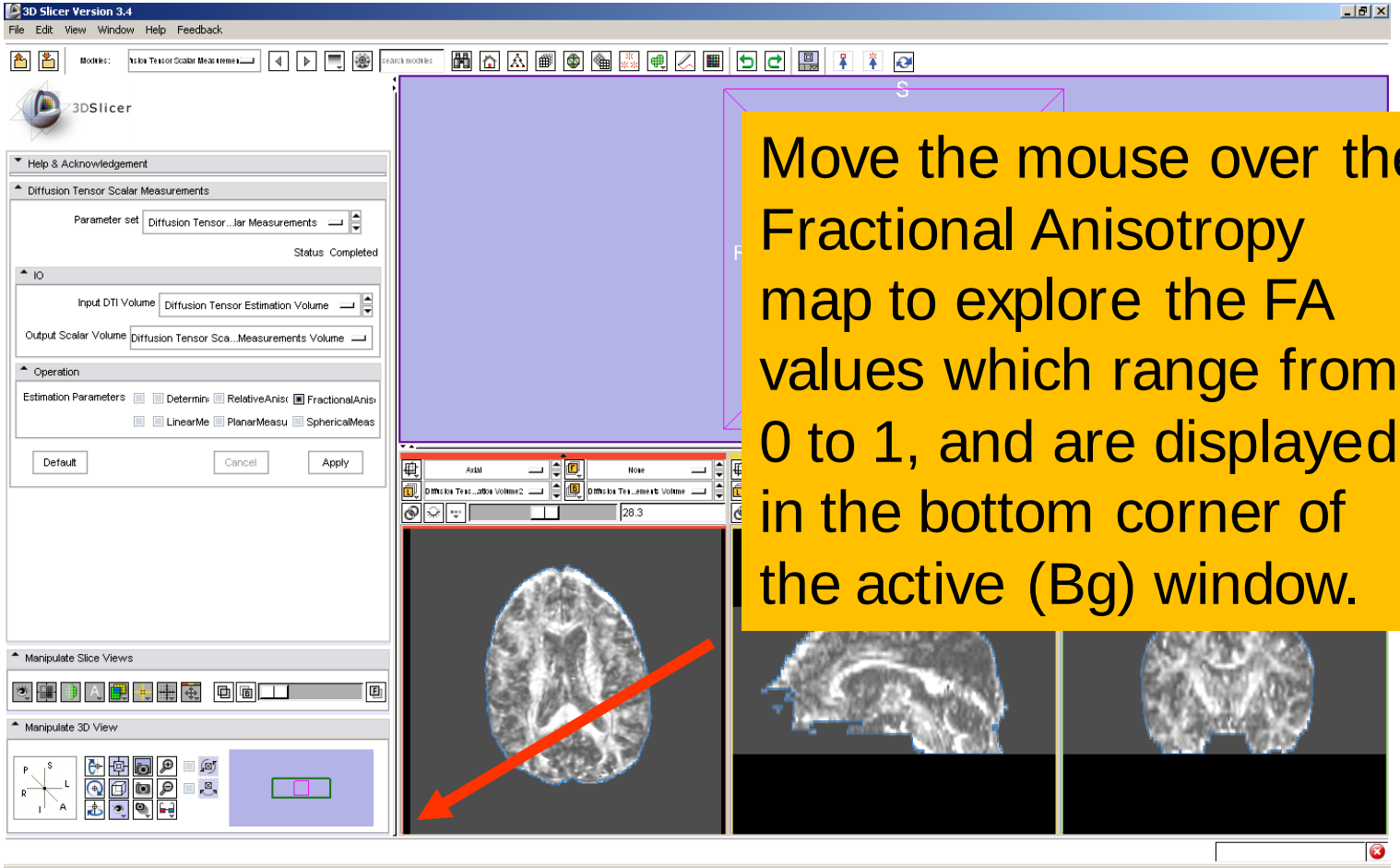


Fractional Anisotropy Volume



Slicer displays the outline of the tensor mask overlaid on the Fractional Anisotropy volume

Fractional Anisotropy Volume

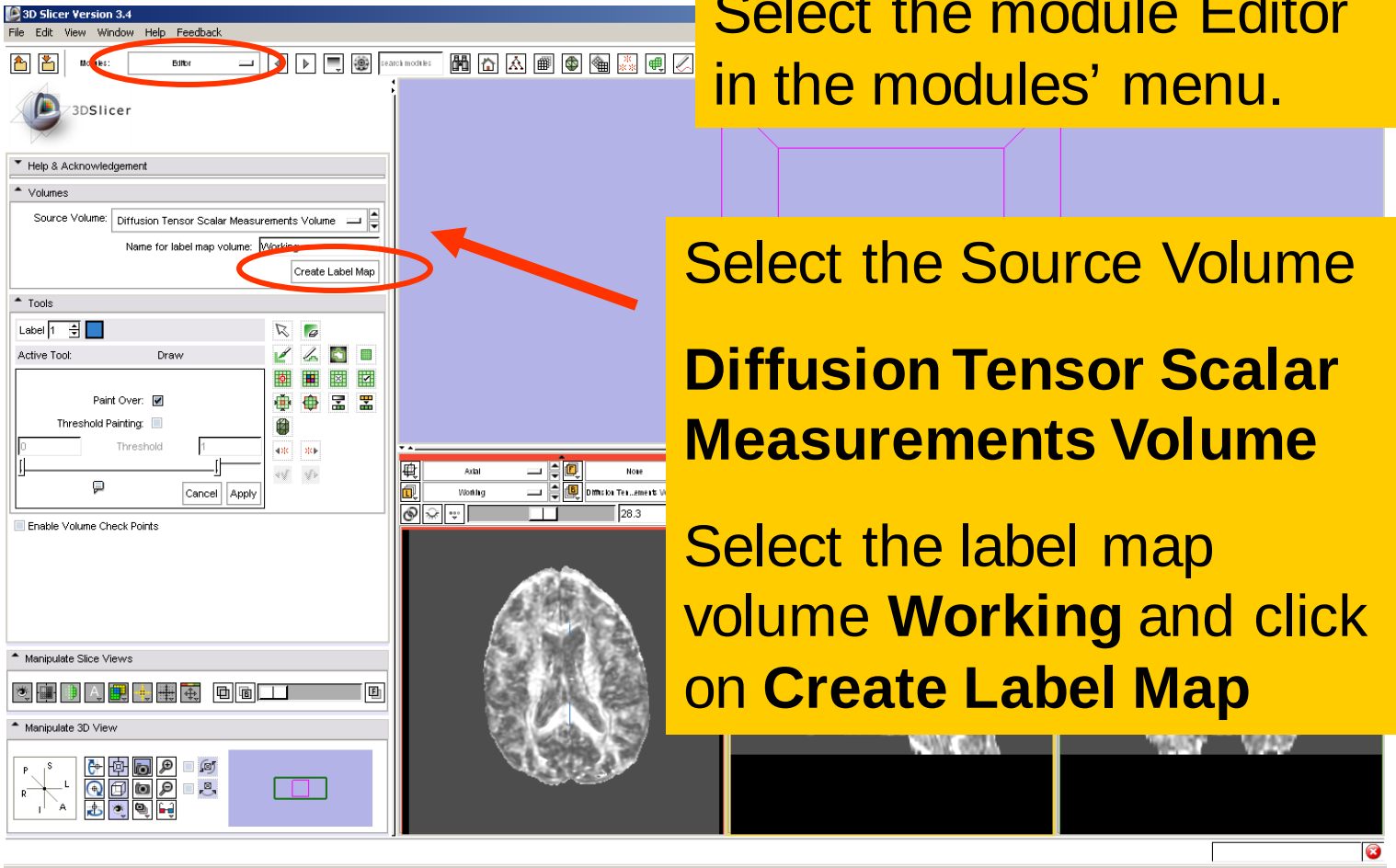


Move the mouse over the Fractional Anisotropy map to explore the FA values which range from 0 to 1, and are displayed in the bottom corner of the active (Bg) window.

Part 3:

Region of Interest based Tractography

LabelMap Generation



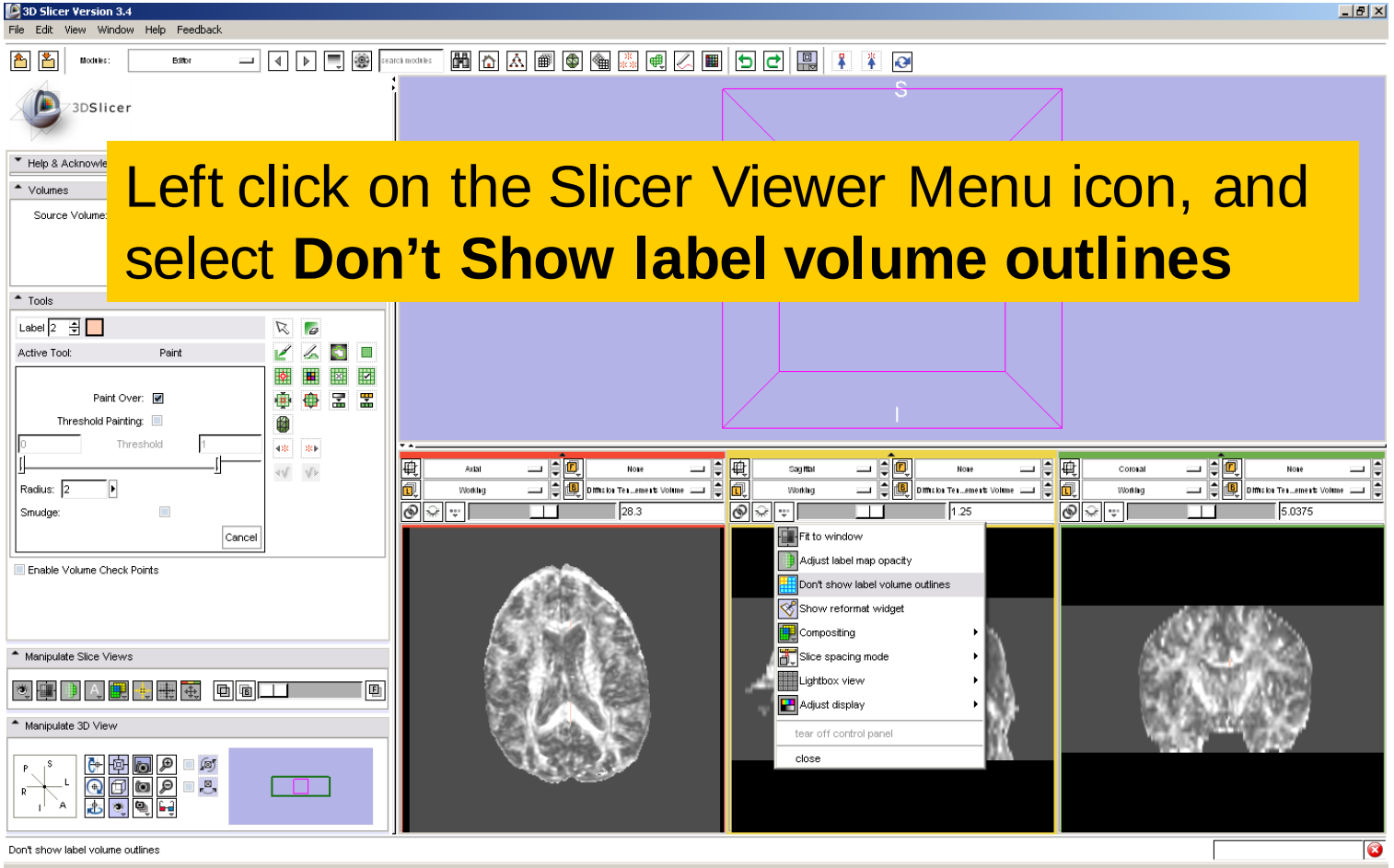
Select the module Editor in the modules' menu.

Select the Source Volume

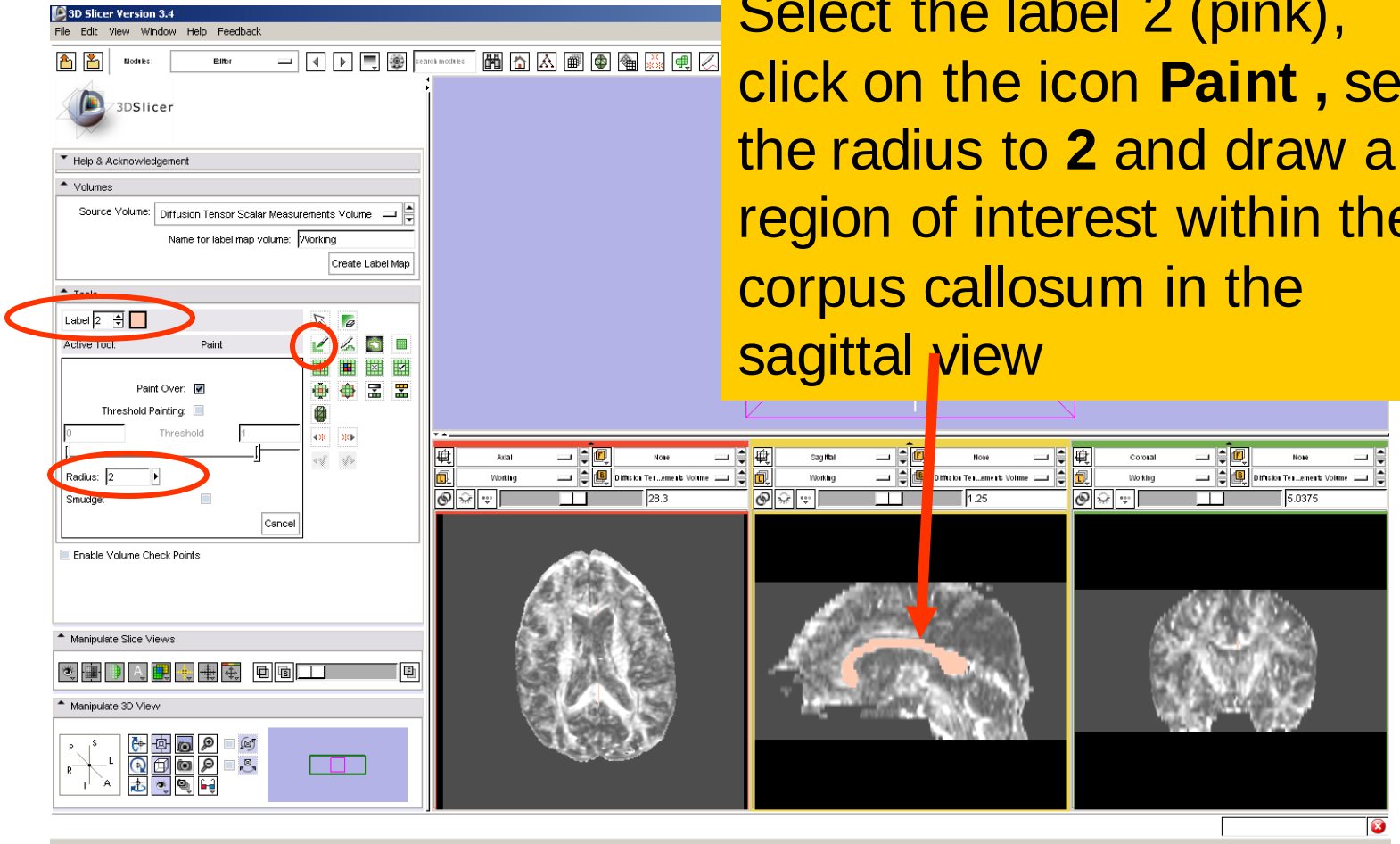
Diffusion Tensor Scalar Measurements Volume

Select the label map volume **Working** and click on **Create Label Map**

LabelMap Generation

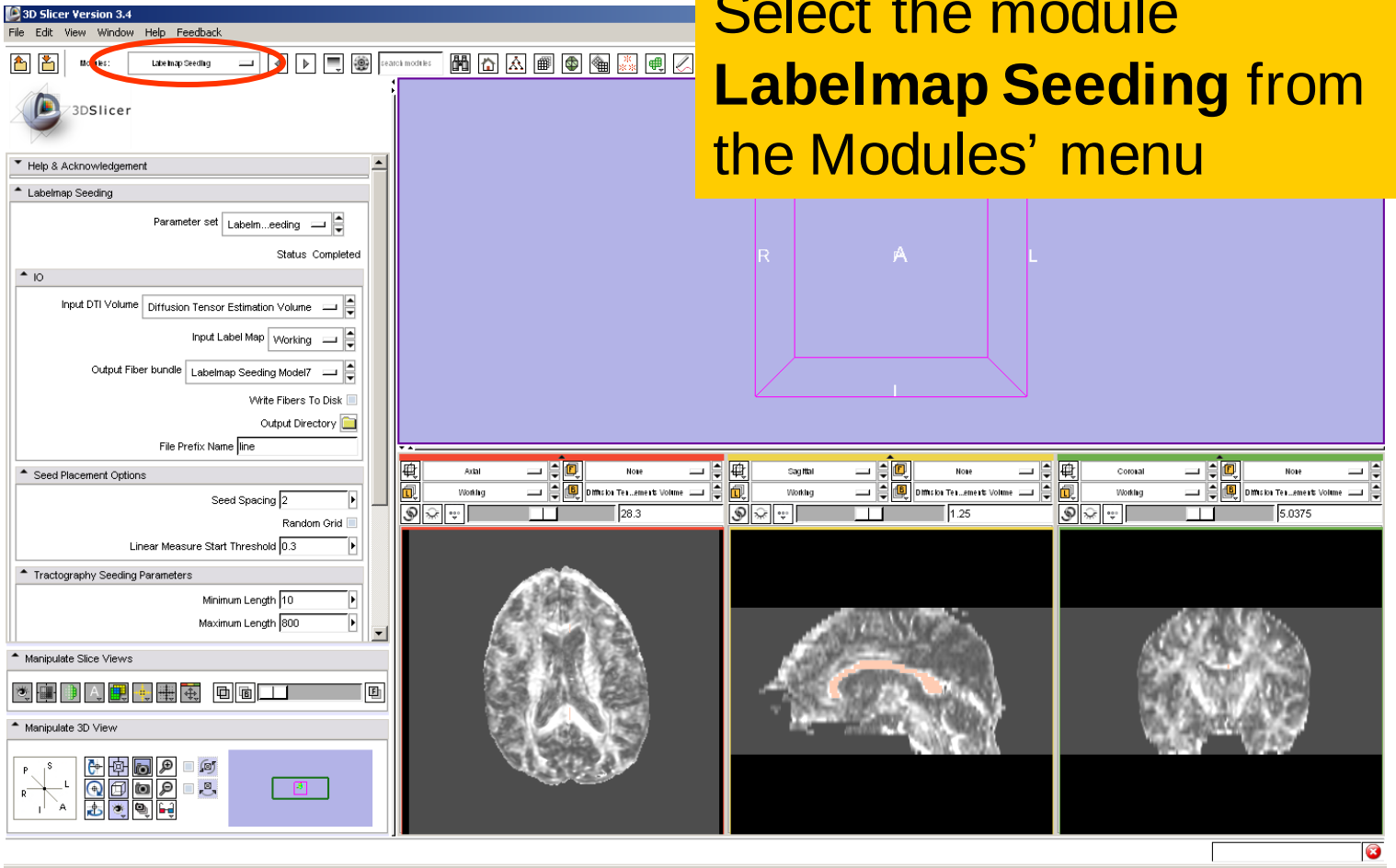


LabelMap Generation



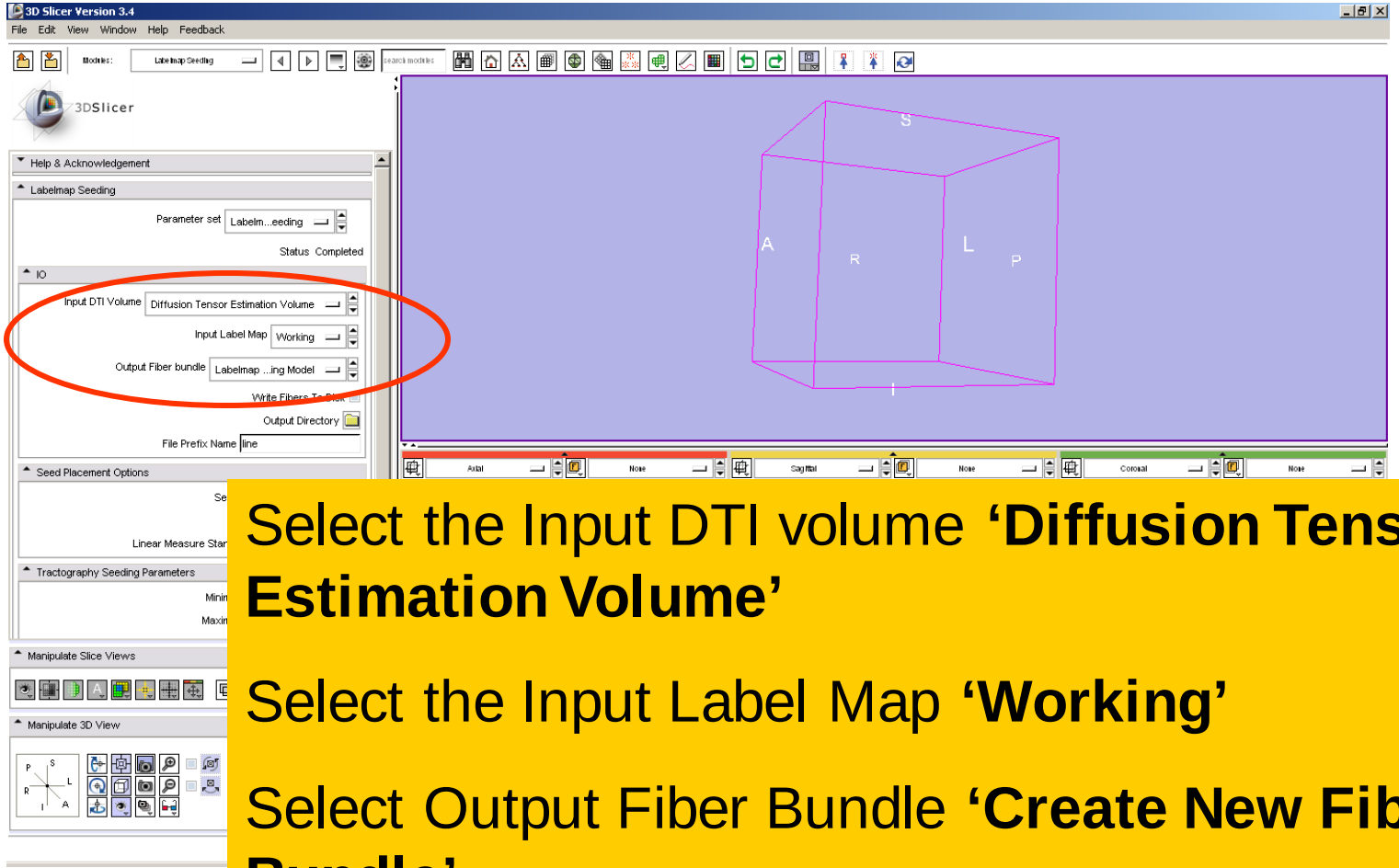
Select the label 2 (pink), click on the icon **Paint ,** set the radius to **2** and draw a region of interest within the corpus callosum in the sagittal view

LabelMap Seeding



Select the module **Labelmap Seeding** from the Modules' menu

LabelMap Seeding

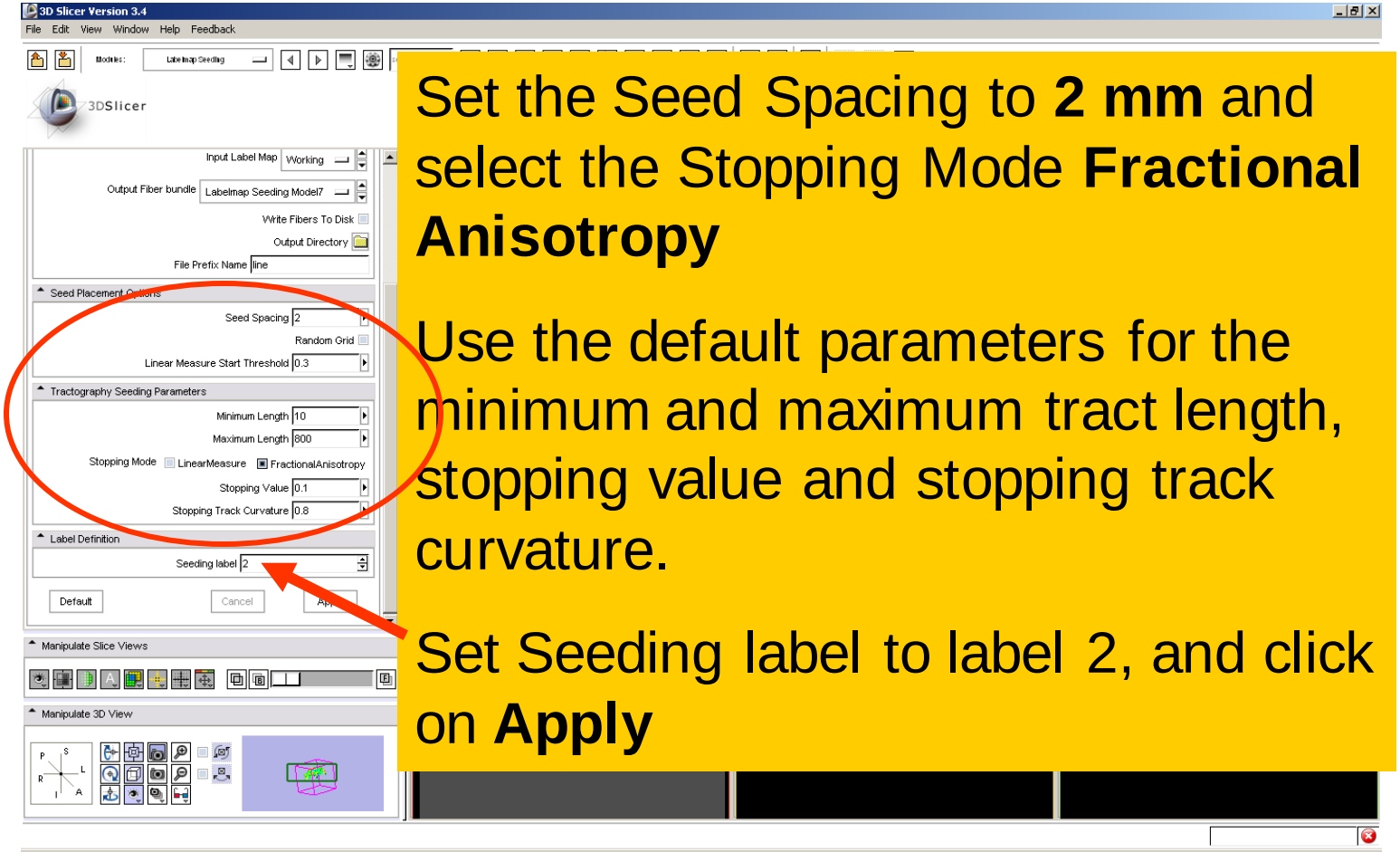


Select the Input DTI volume **'Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume'**

Select the Input Label Map **'Working'**

Select Output Fiber Bundle **'Create New Fiber Bundle'**

LabelMap Seeding



Set the Seed Spacing to **2 mm** and select the Stopping Mode **Fractional Anisotropy**

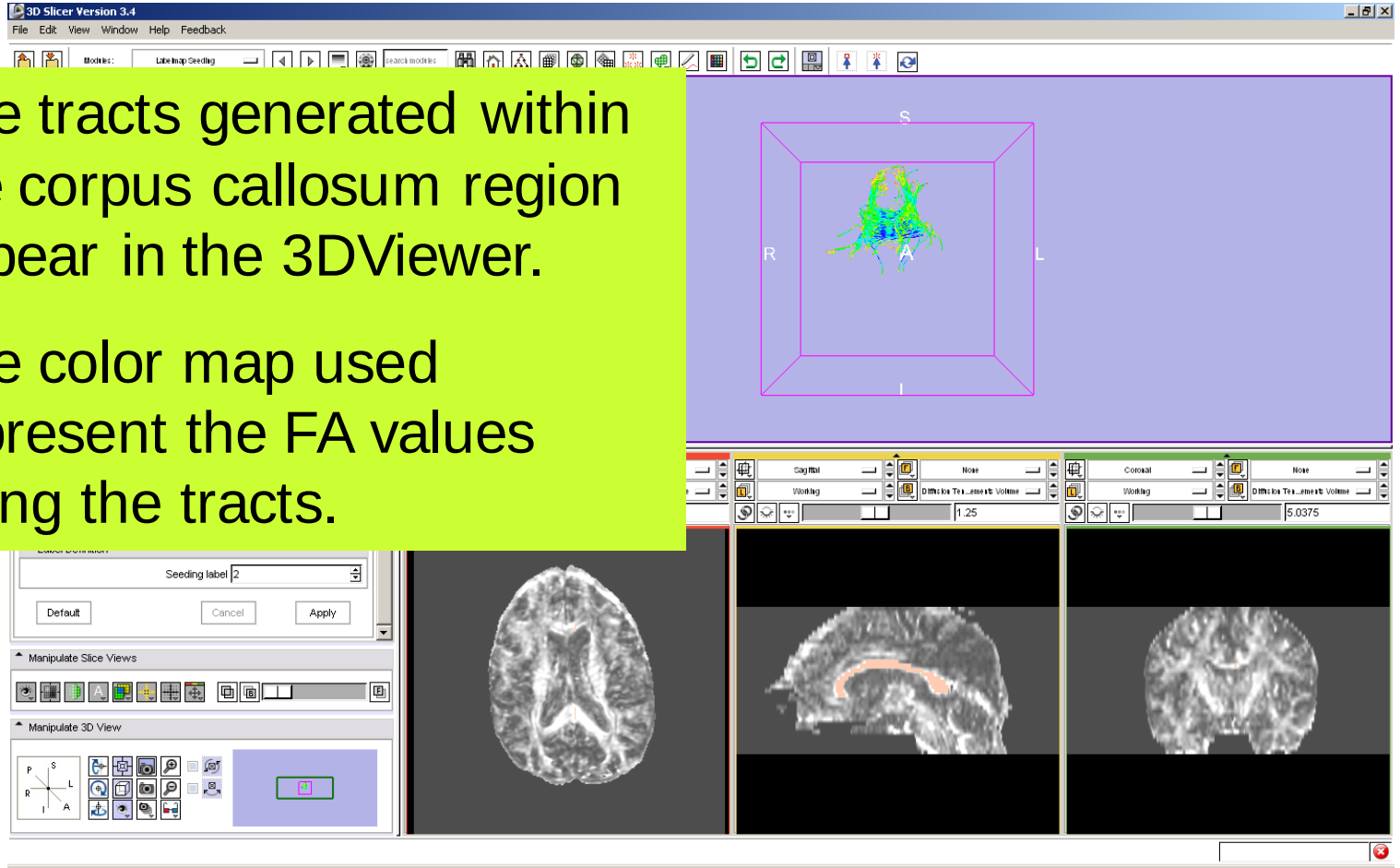
Use the default parameters for the minimum and maximum tract length, stopping value and stopping track curvature.

Set Seeding label to label 2, and click on **Apply**

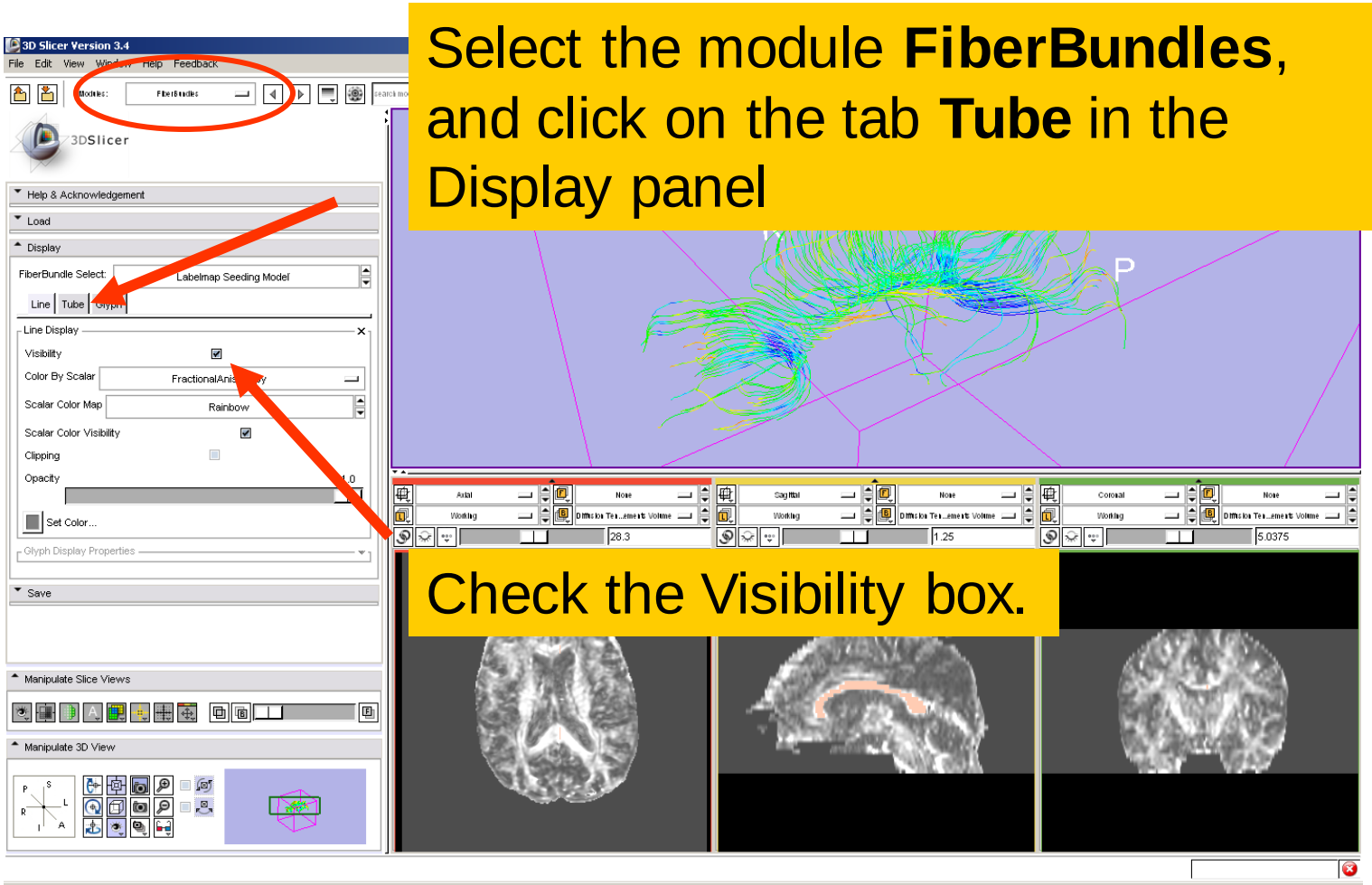
LabelMap Seeding

The tracts generated within the corpus callosum region appear in the 3DViewer.

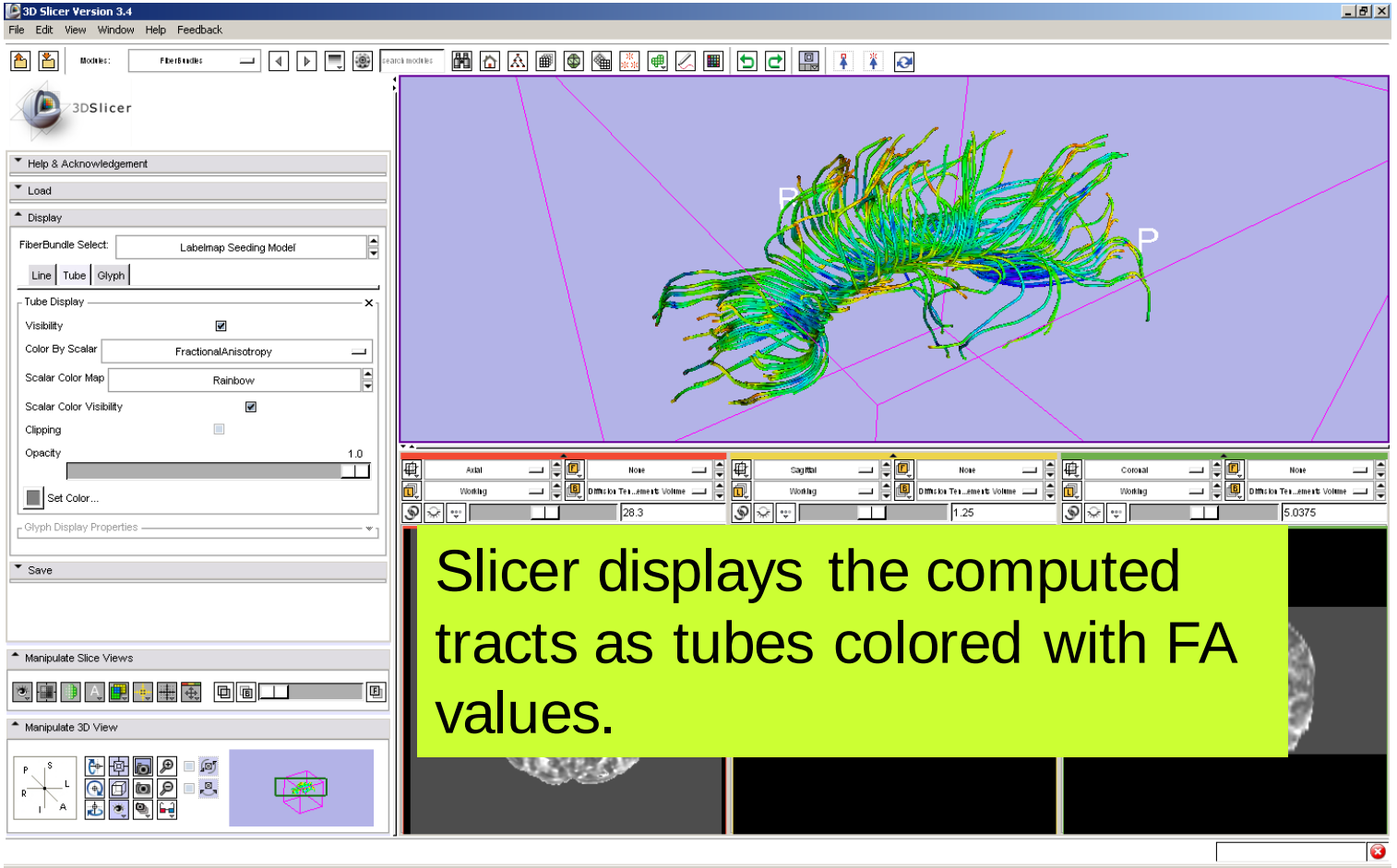
The color map used represent the FA values along the tracts.

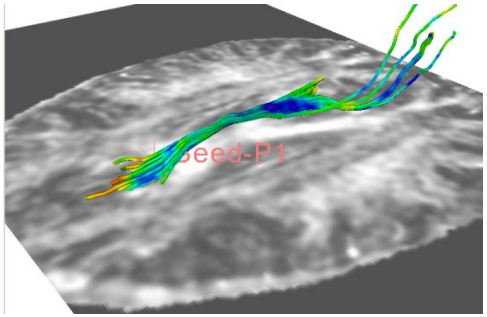


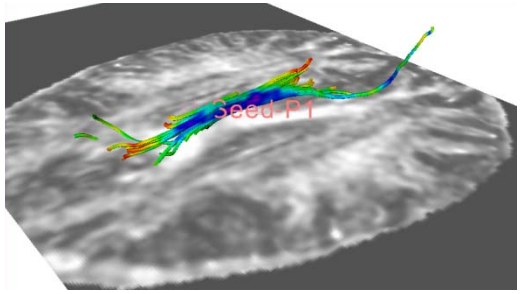
LabelMap Seeding

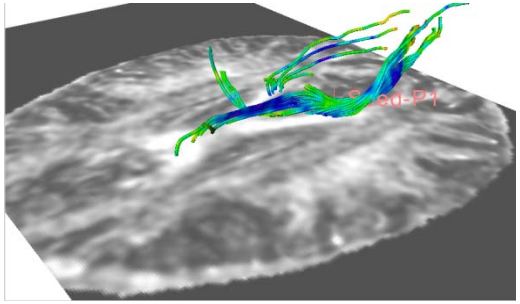


LabelMap Seeding





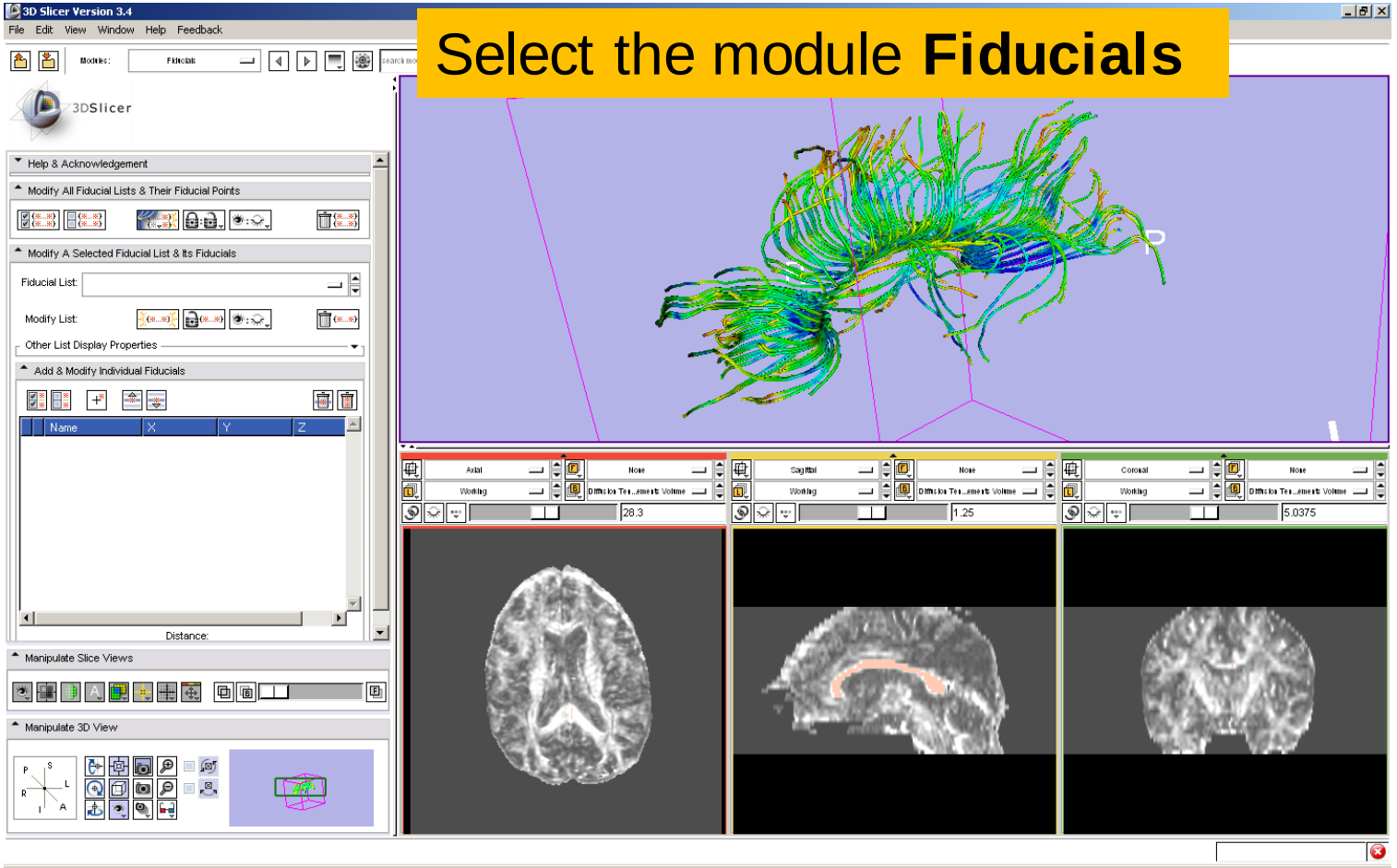




Part 4:

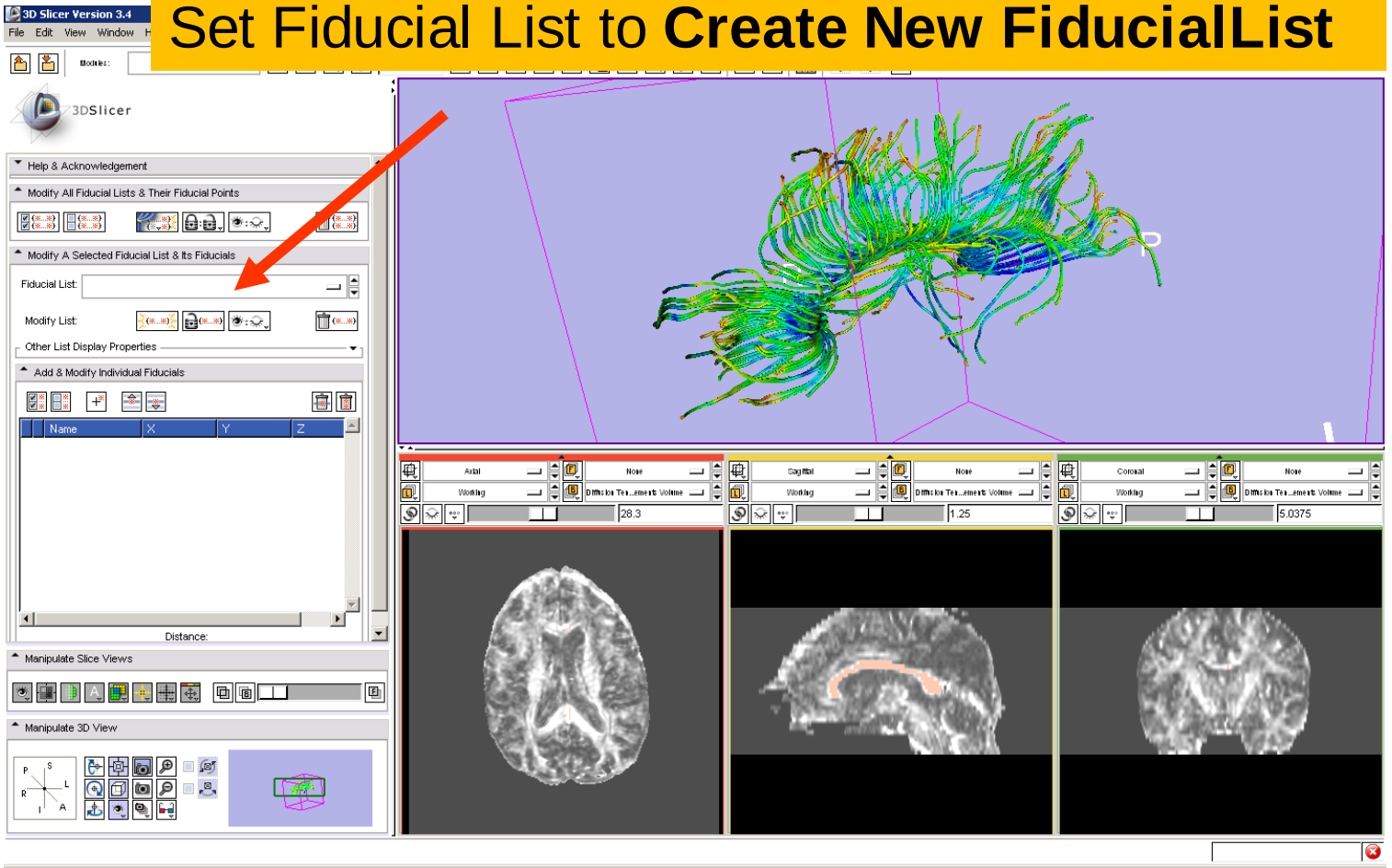
Tractography on-the-fly

Fiducial Seeding

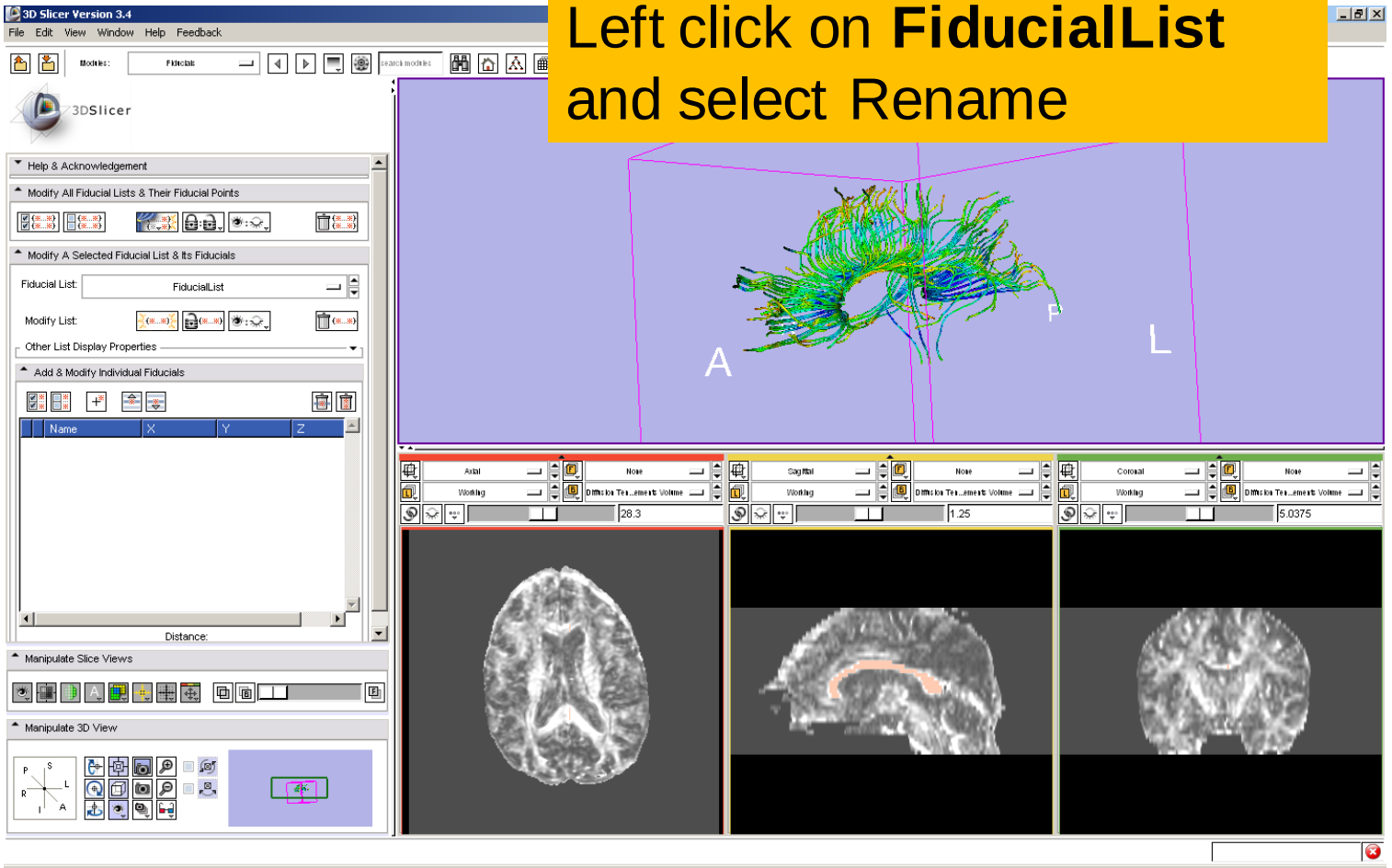


Fiducial Seeding

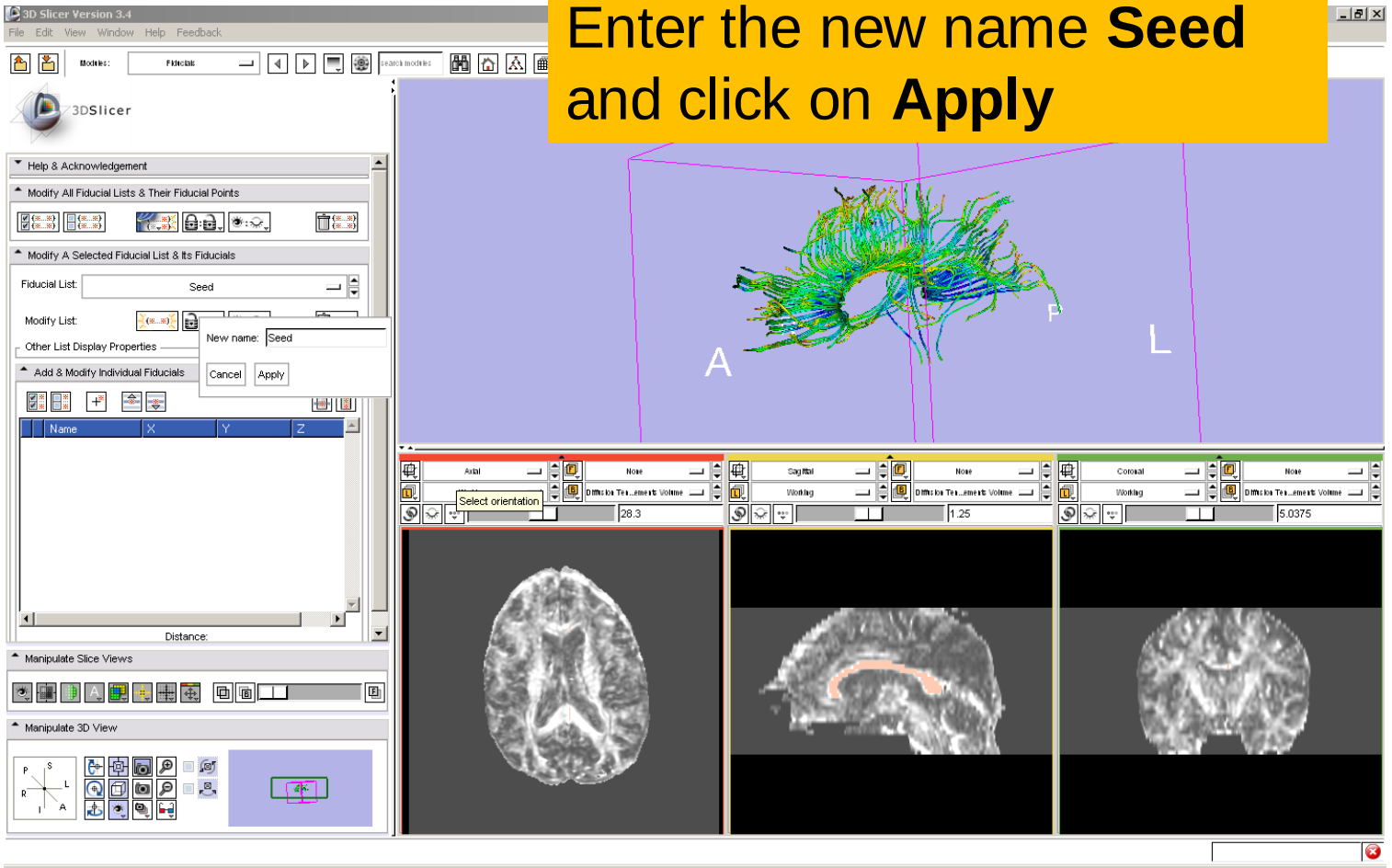
Set Fiducial List to **Create New FiducialList**



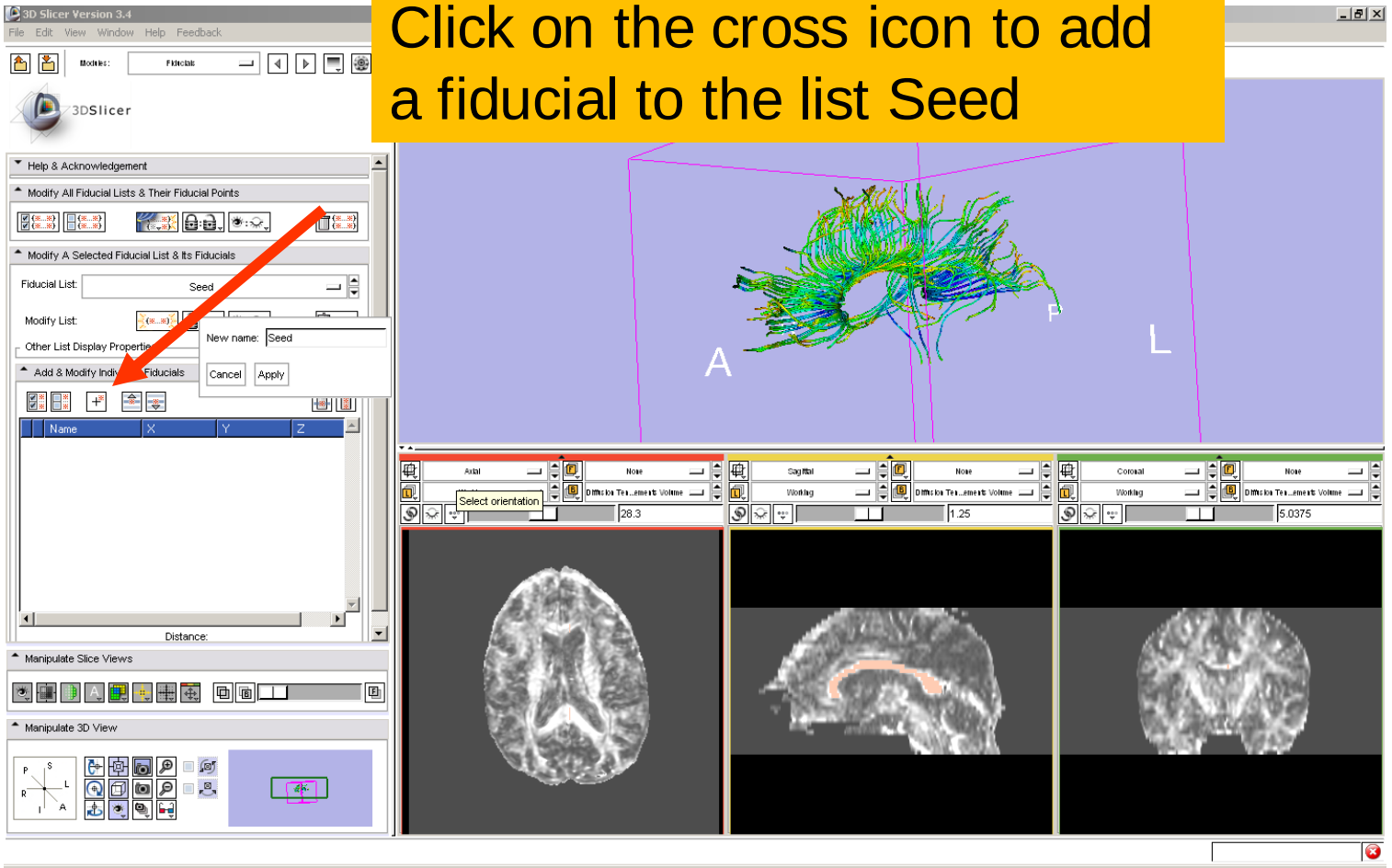
Fiducial Seeding



Fiducial Seeding

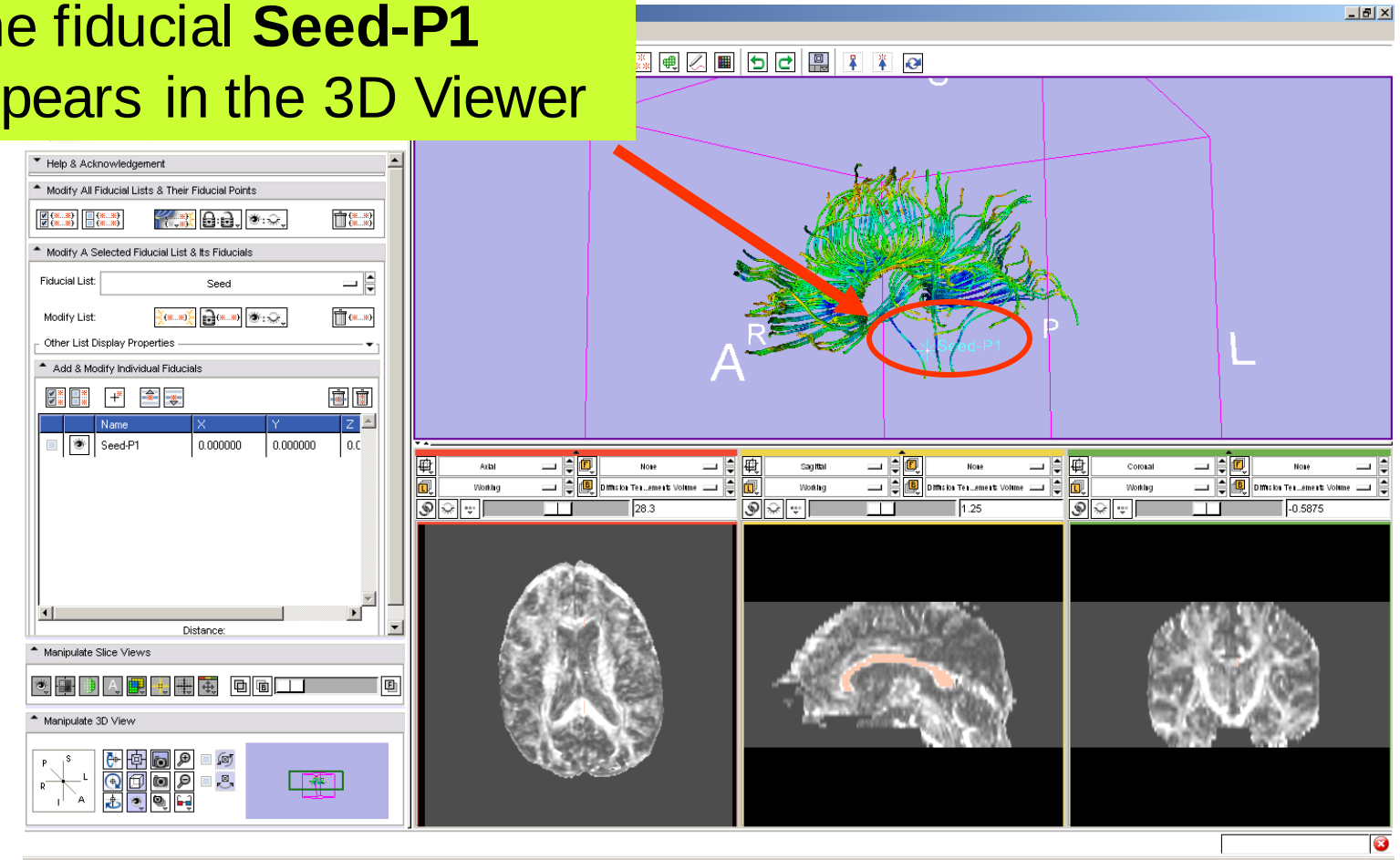


Fiducial Seeding



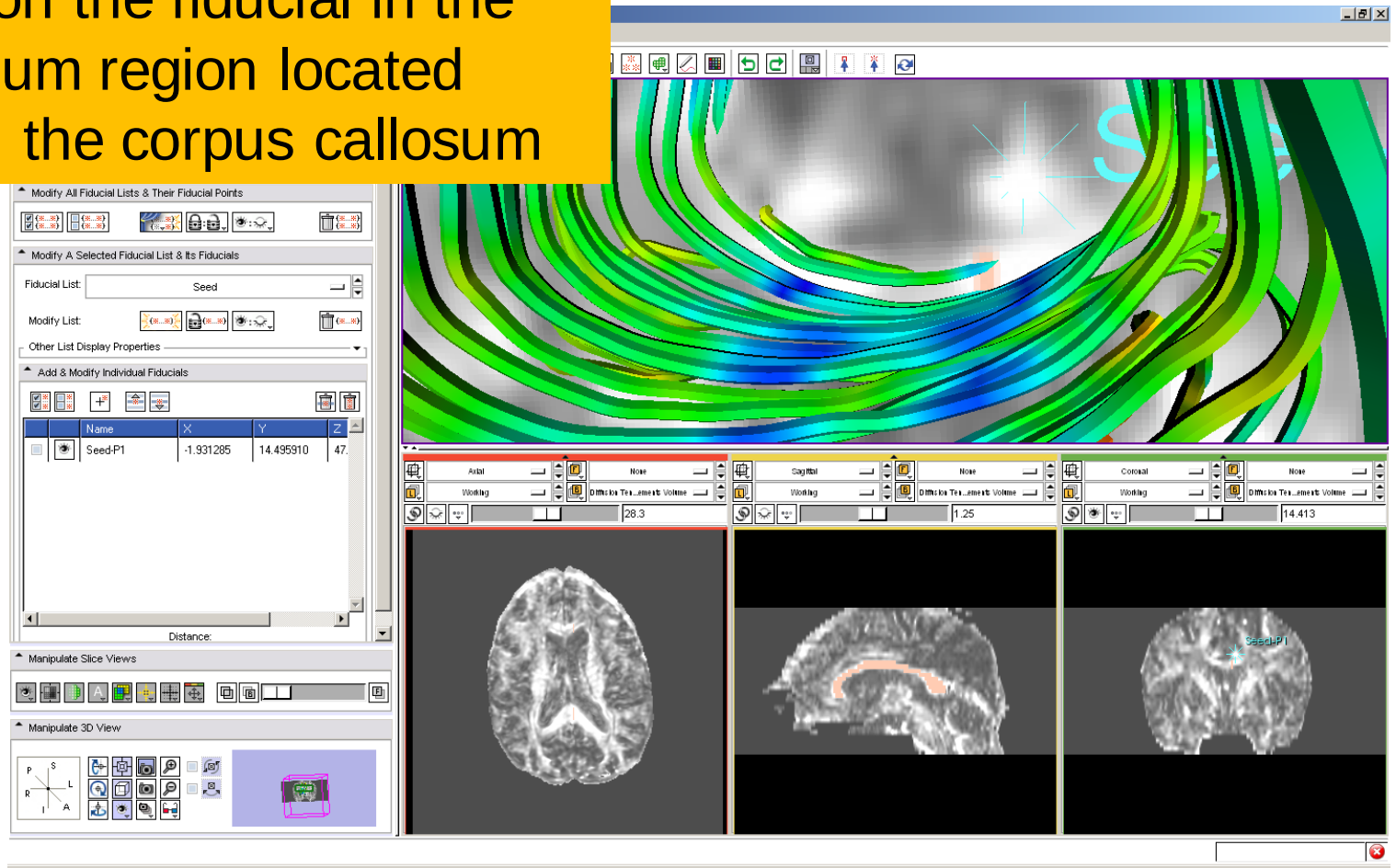
Fiducial Seeding

The fiducial **Seed-P1** appears in the 3D Viewer



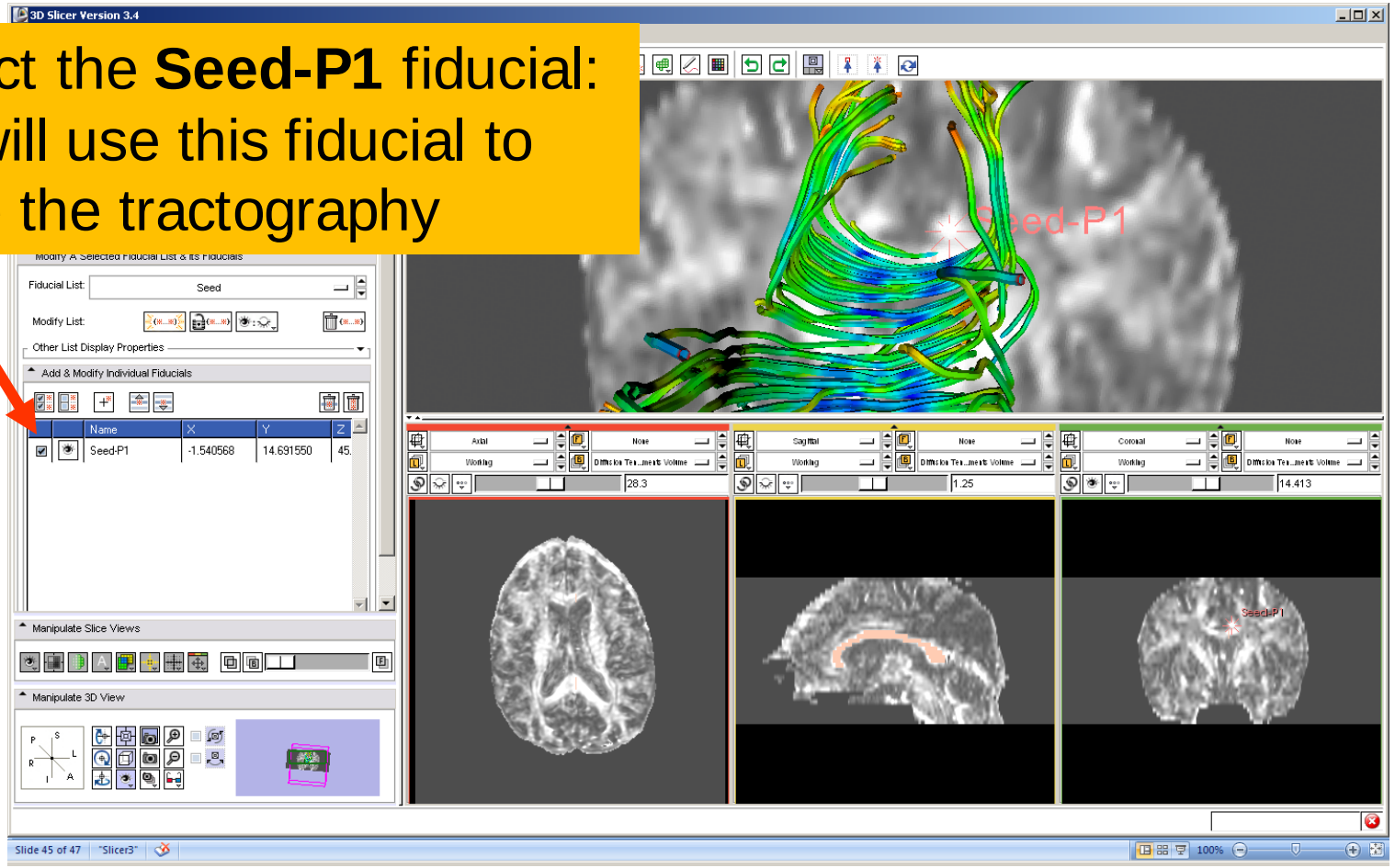
Fiducial Seeding

Position the fiducial in the cingulum region located above the corpus callosum



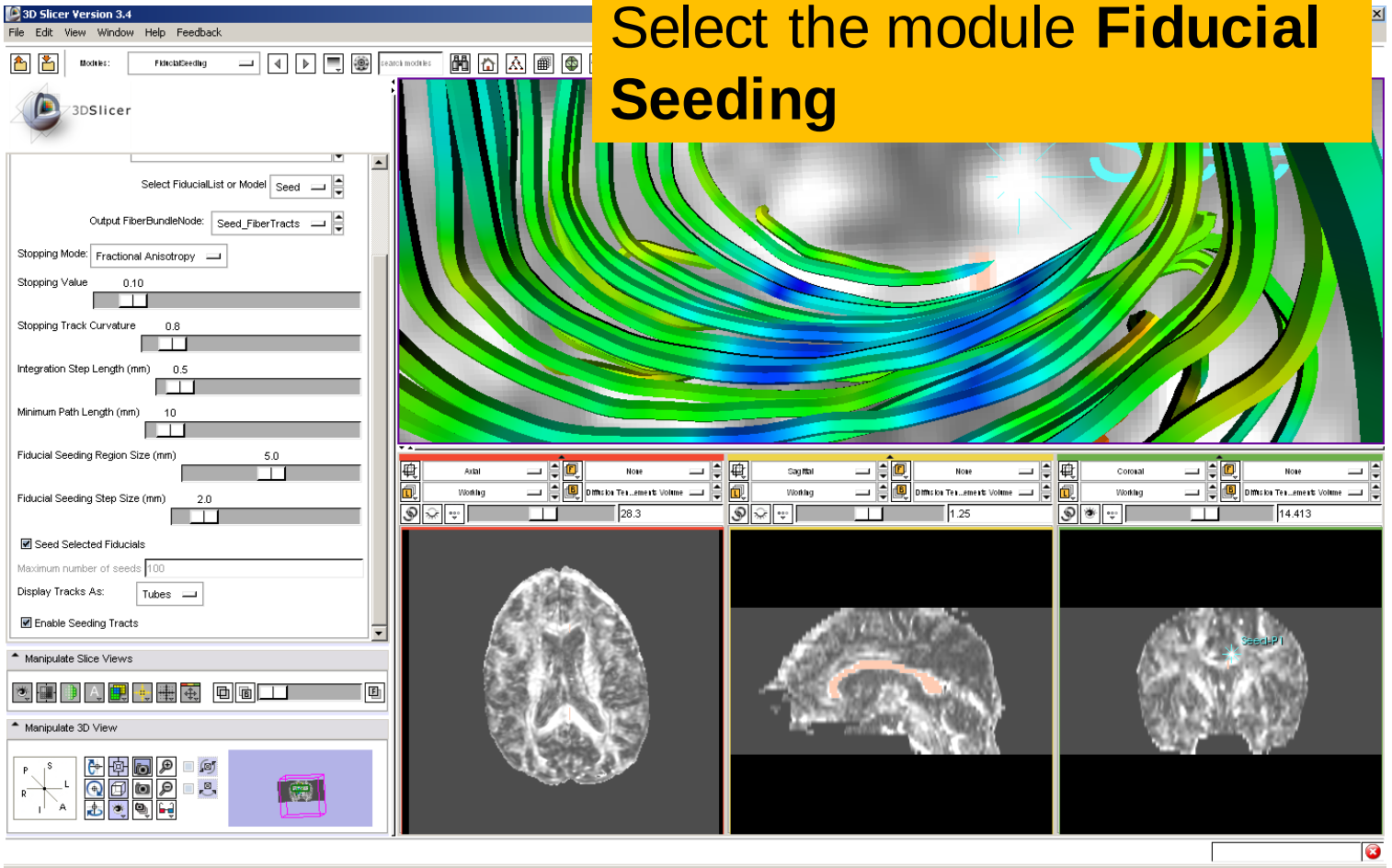
Fiducial Seeding

Select the **Seed-P1** fiducial: we will use this fiducial to drive the tractography

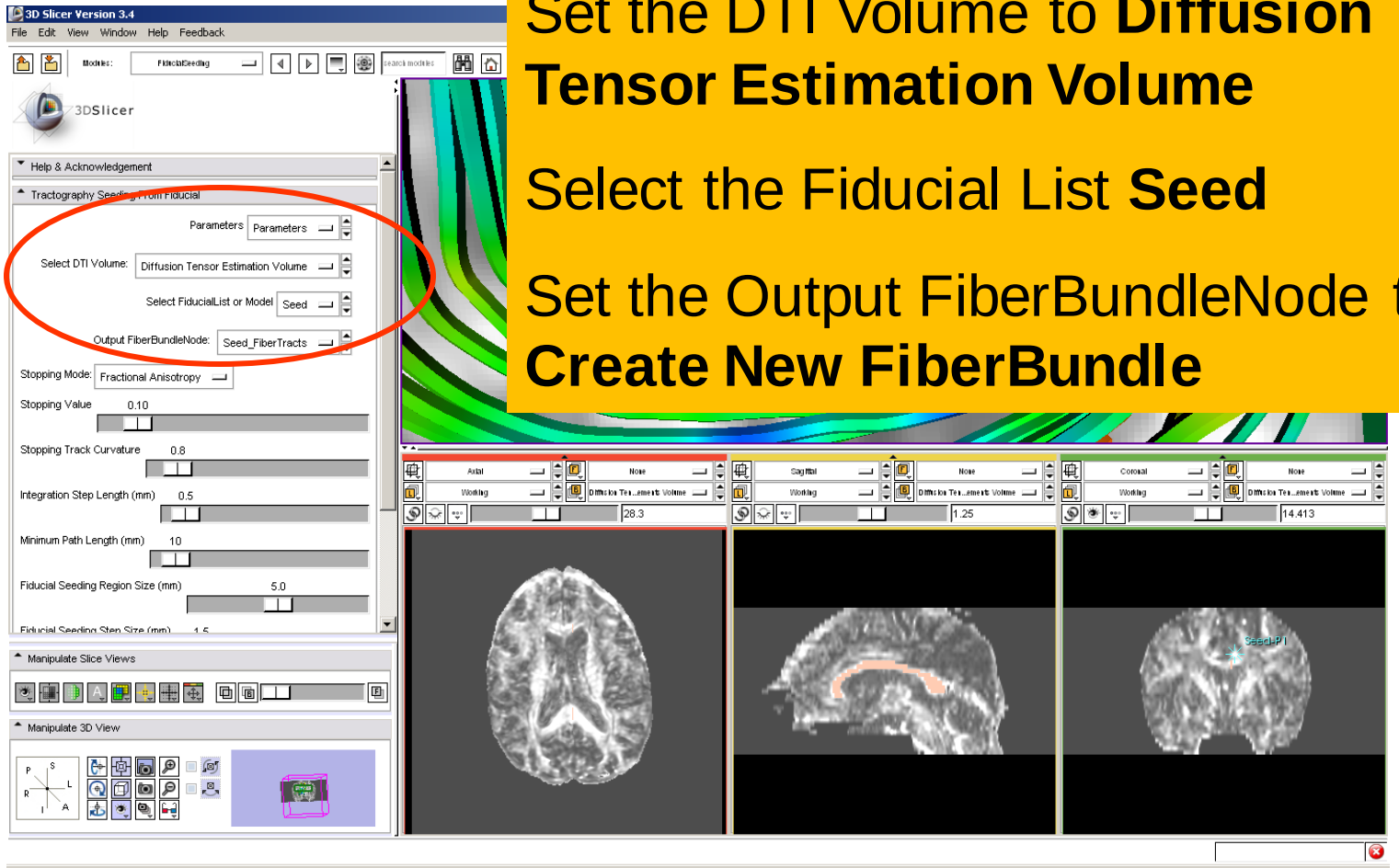


Fiducial Seeding

Select the module **Fiducial Seeding**



Fiducial Seeding

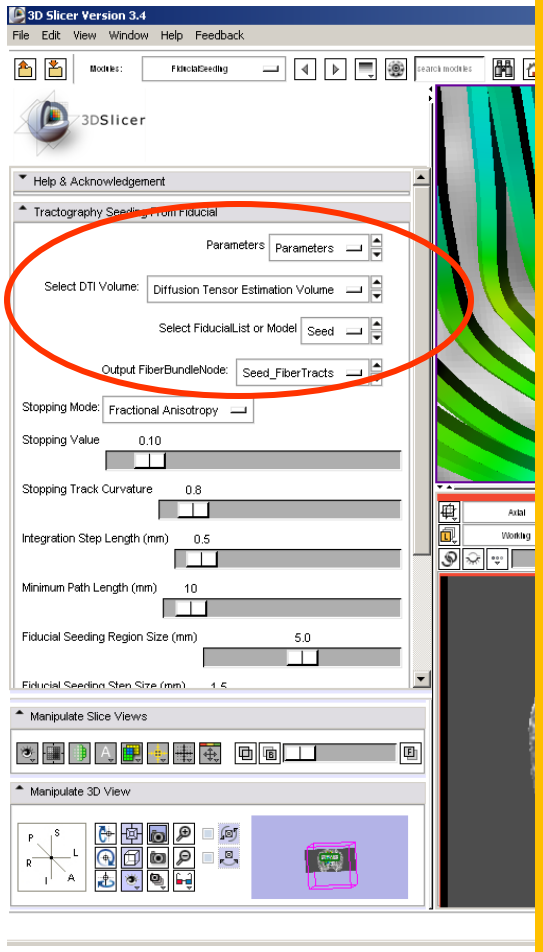


Set the DTI Volume to **Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume**

Select the Fiducial List **Seed**

Set the Output FiberBundleNode to **Create New FiberBundle**

Fiducial Seeding



Set the Stopping Mode to Fractional Anisotropy and set the tractography parameters to the values that we used for the corpus callosum:

Stopping Value: 0.1

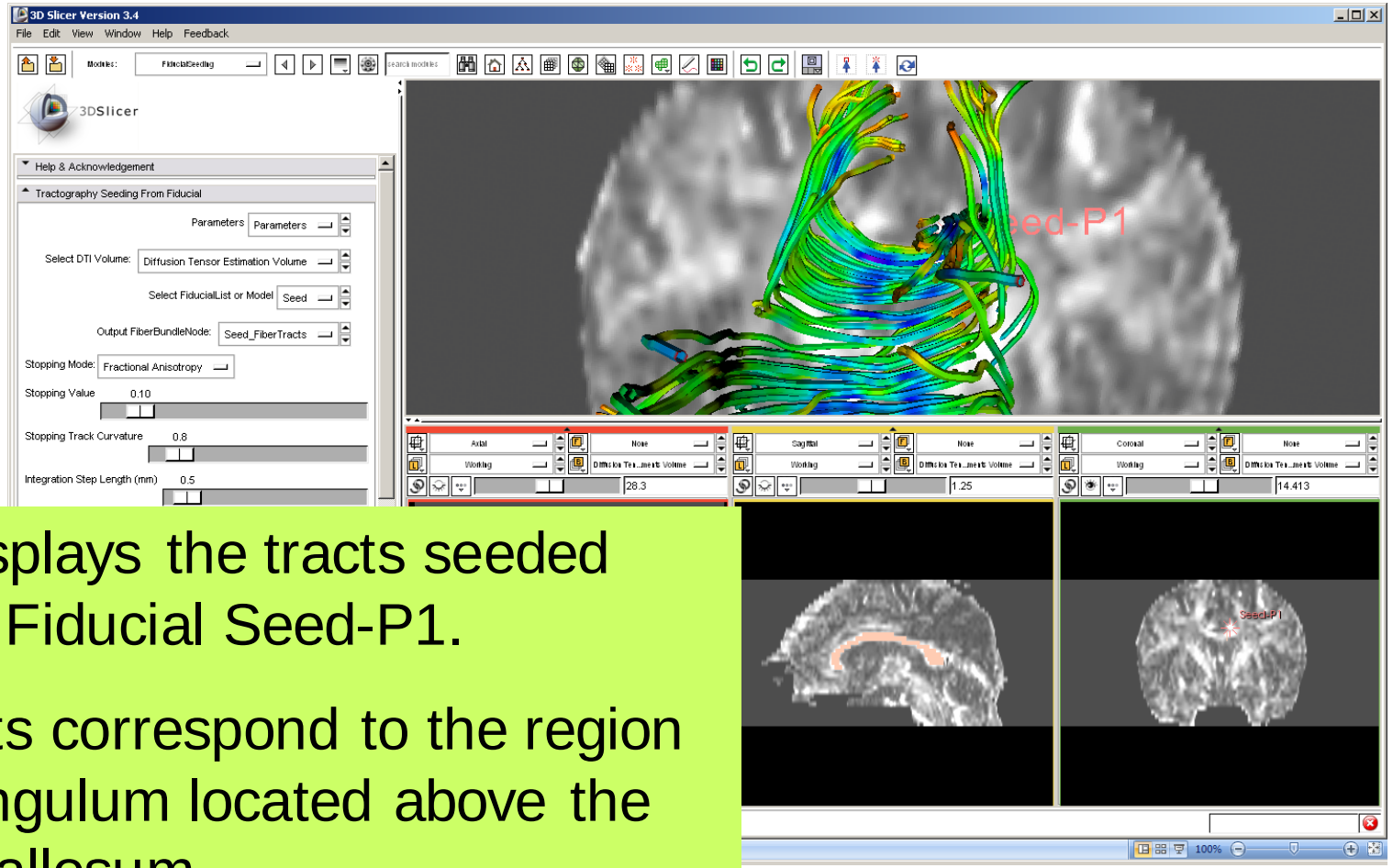
Stopping Track Curvature: 0.8

Step Length: 0.8 mm

Minimum Length: 10 mm

Fiducial Stepping Size: 1.5 mm

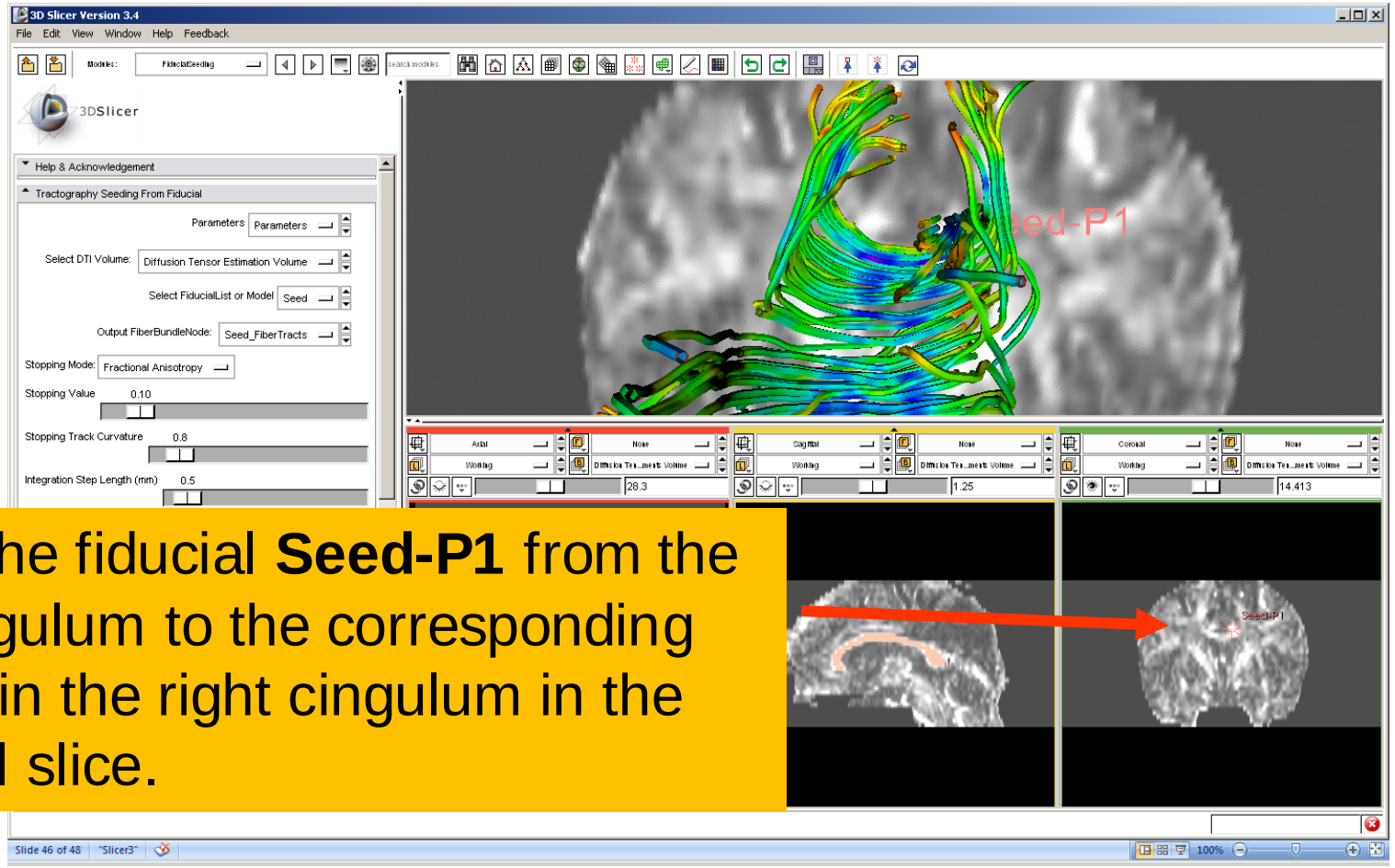
Fiducial Seeding



Slicer displays the tracts seeded from the Fiducial Seed-P1.

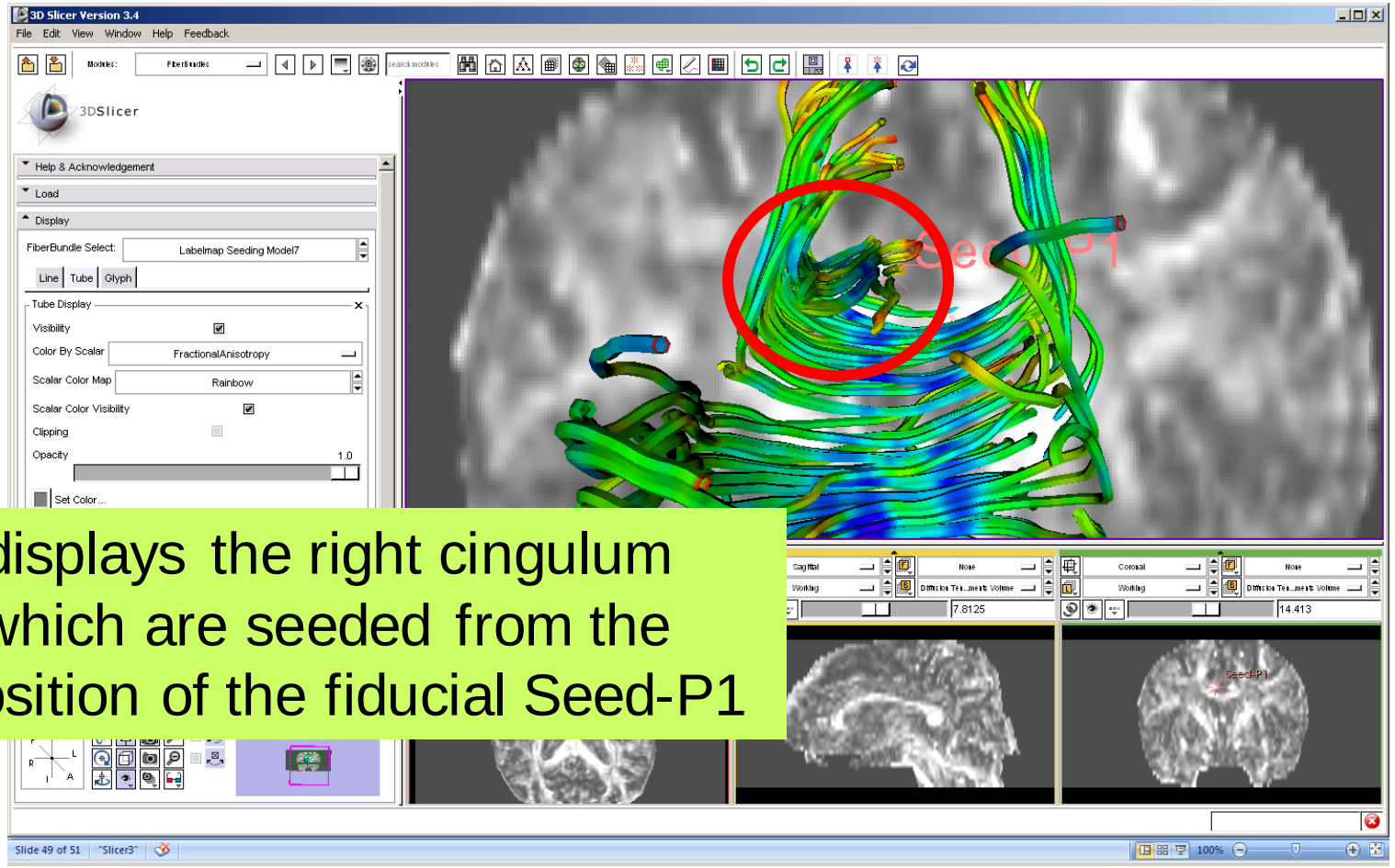
The tracts correspond to the region of the cingulum located above the corpus callosum.

Fiducial Seeding

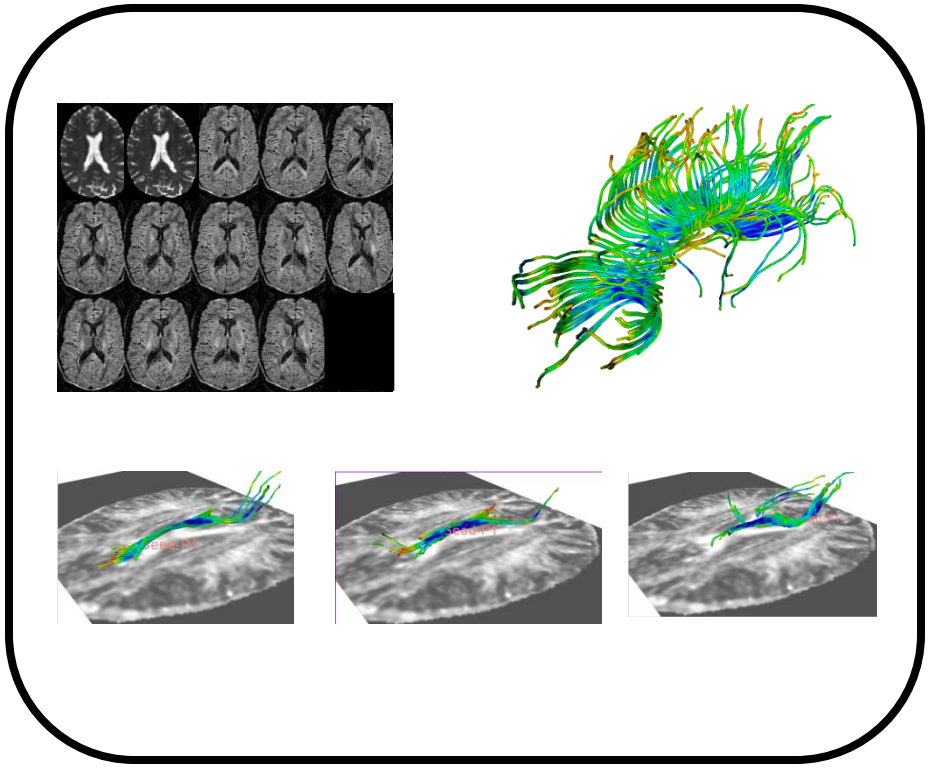


Move the fiducial **Seed-P1** from the left cingulum to the corresponding region in the right cingulum in the coronal slice.

Fiducial Seeding



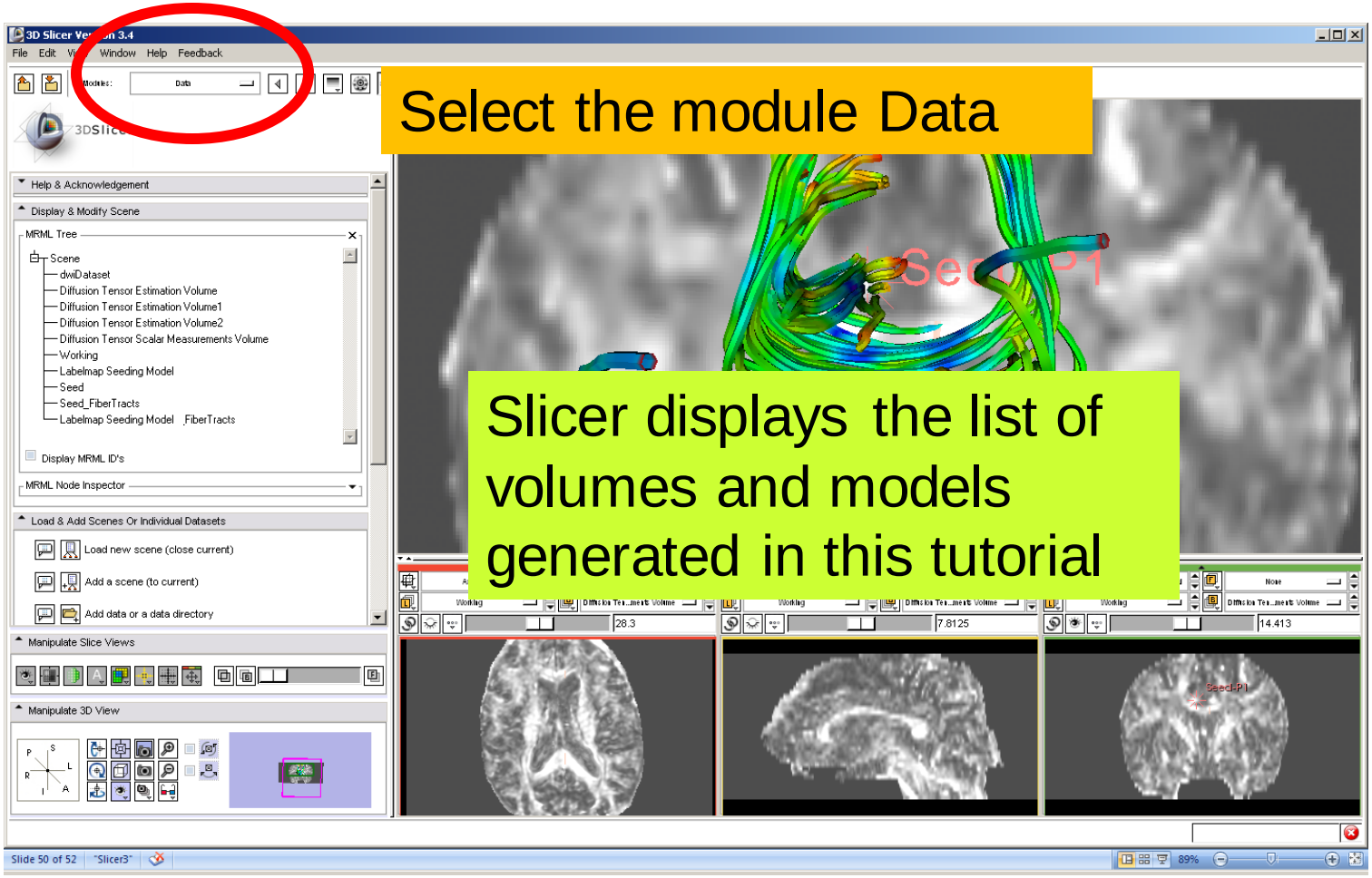
Slicer displays the right cingulum tracts which are seeded from the new position of the fiducial Seed-P1



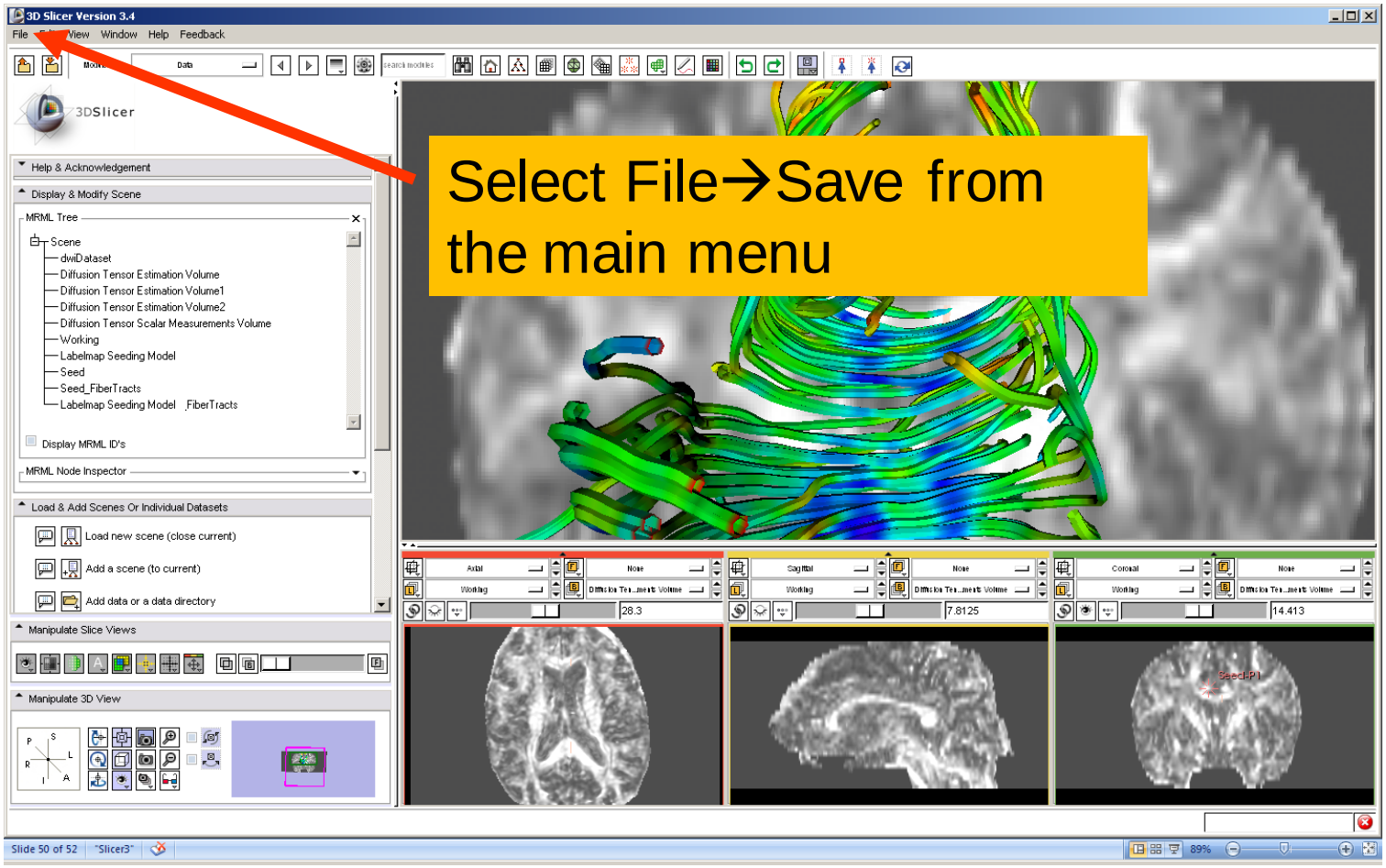
Part 5:

Saving a DTI Scene

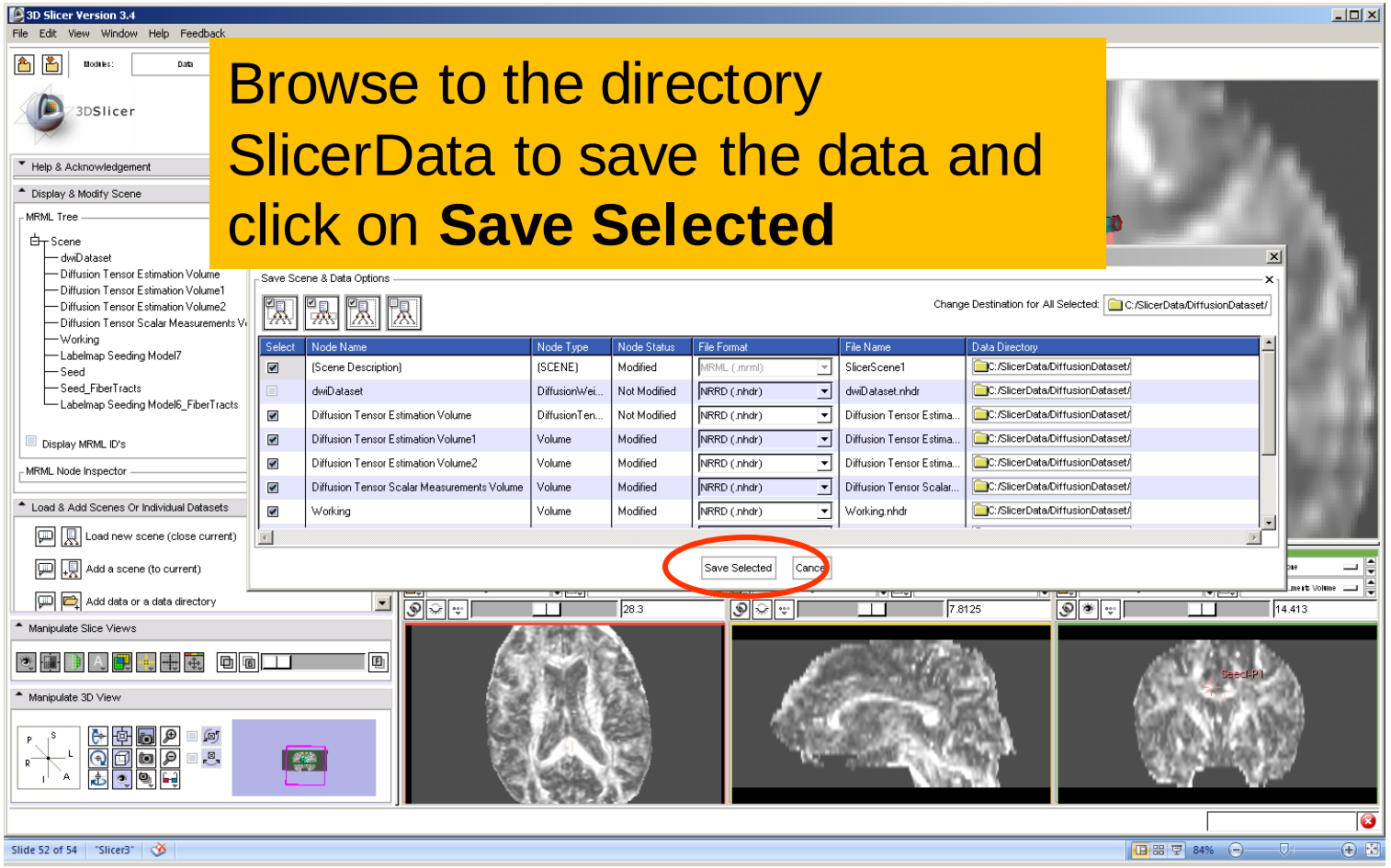
DTI Scene


Select the module Data
Slicer displays the list of volumes and models generated in this tutorial
Help & Acknowledgement
Display & Modify Scene
MRML Tree
Scene
dwiDataset
Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume
Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume1
Diffusion Tensor Estimation Volume2
Diffusion Tensor Scalar Measurements Volume
Working
Labelmap Seeding Model
Seed
Seed_FiberTracts
Labelmap Seeding Model _FiberTracts
Display MRML ID's
MRML Node Inspector
Load & Add Scenes Or Individual Datasets
Load new scene (close current)
Add a scene (to current)
Add data or a data directory
Manipulate Slice Views
Manipulate 3D View

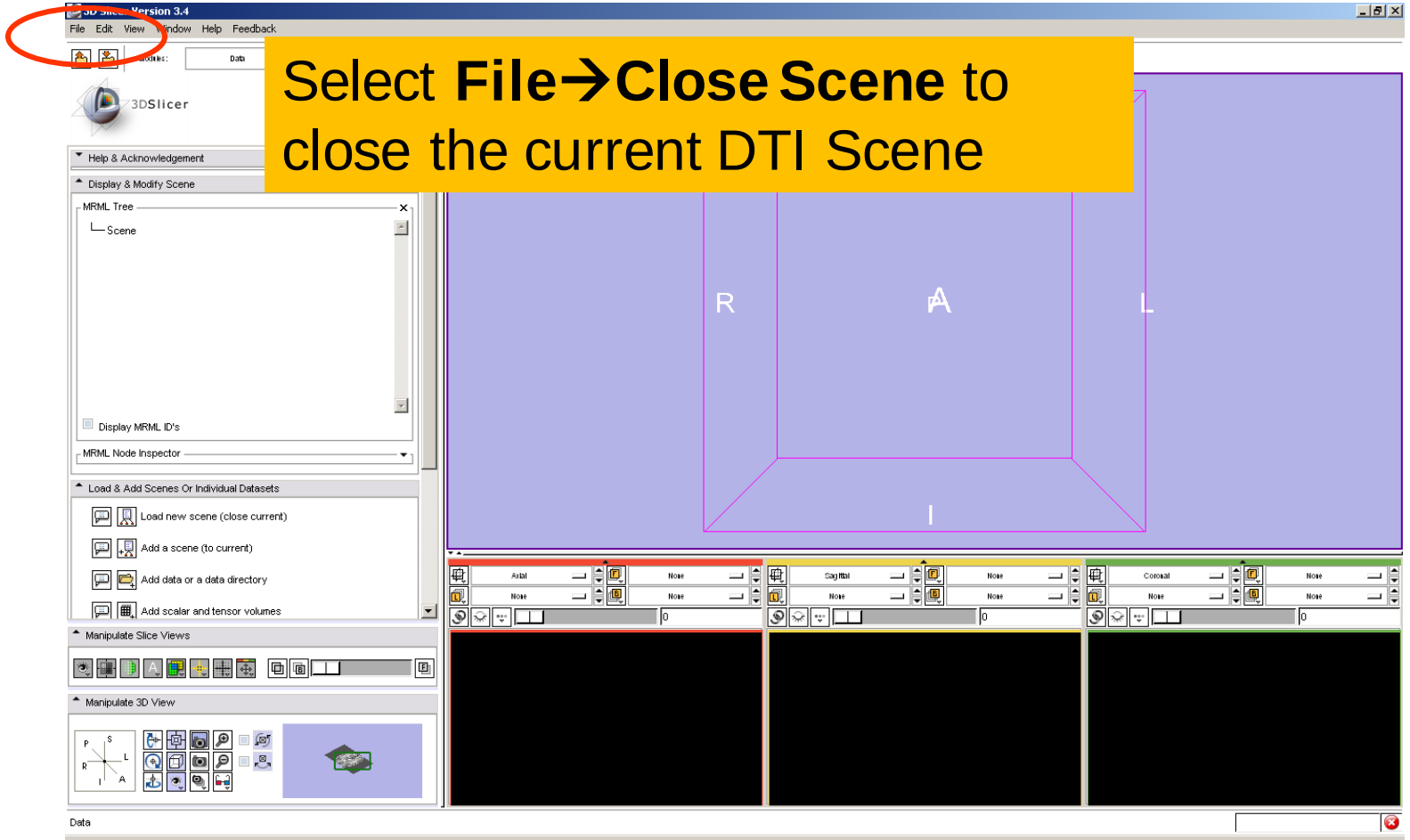
Saving a DTI Scene



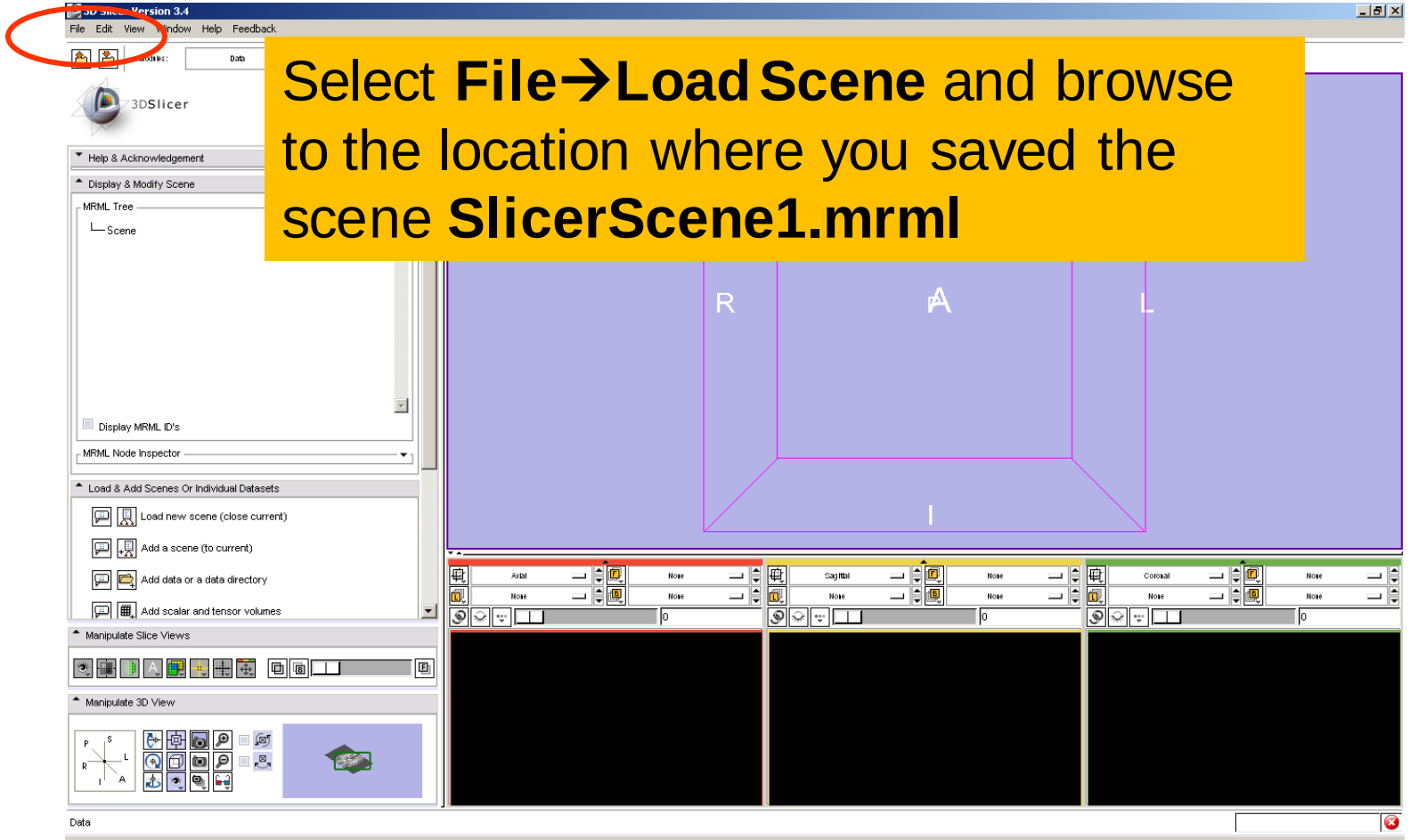
Saving a DTI Scene



Saving a DTI Scene

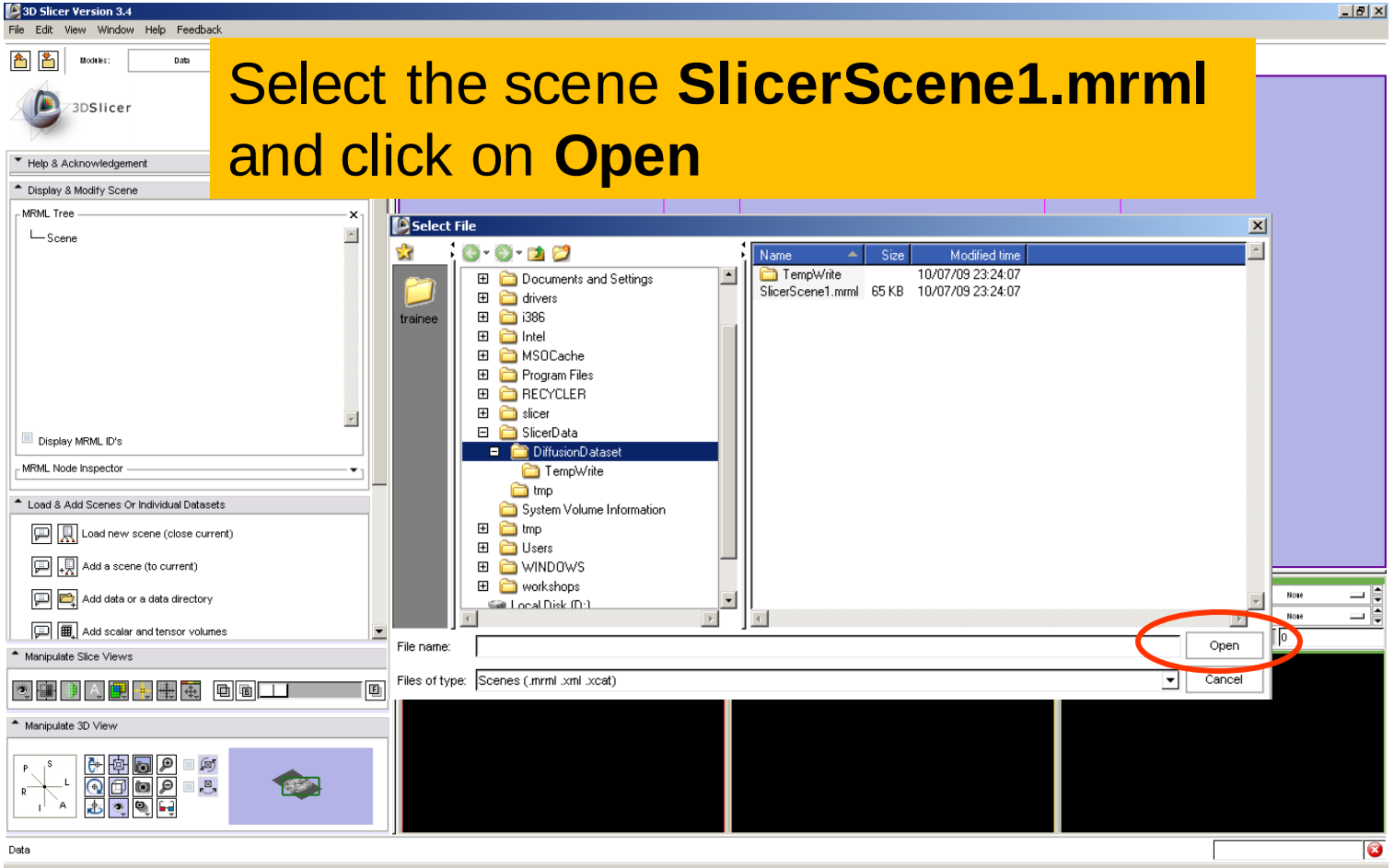


Loading a DTI Scene



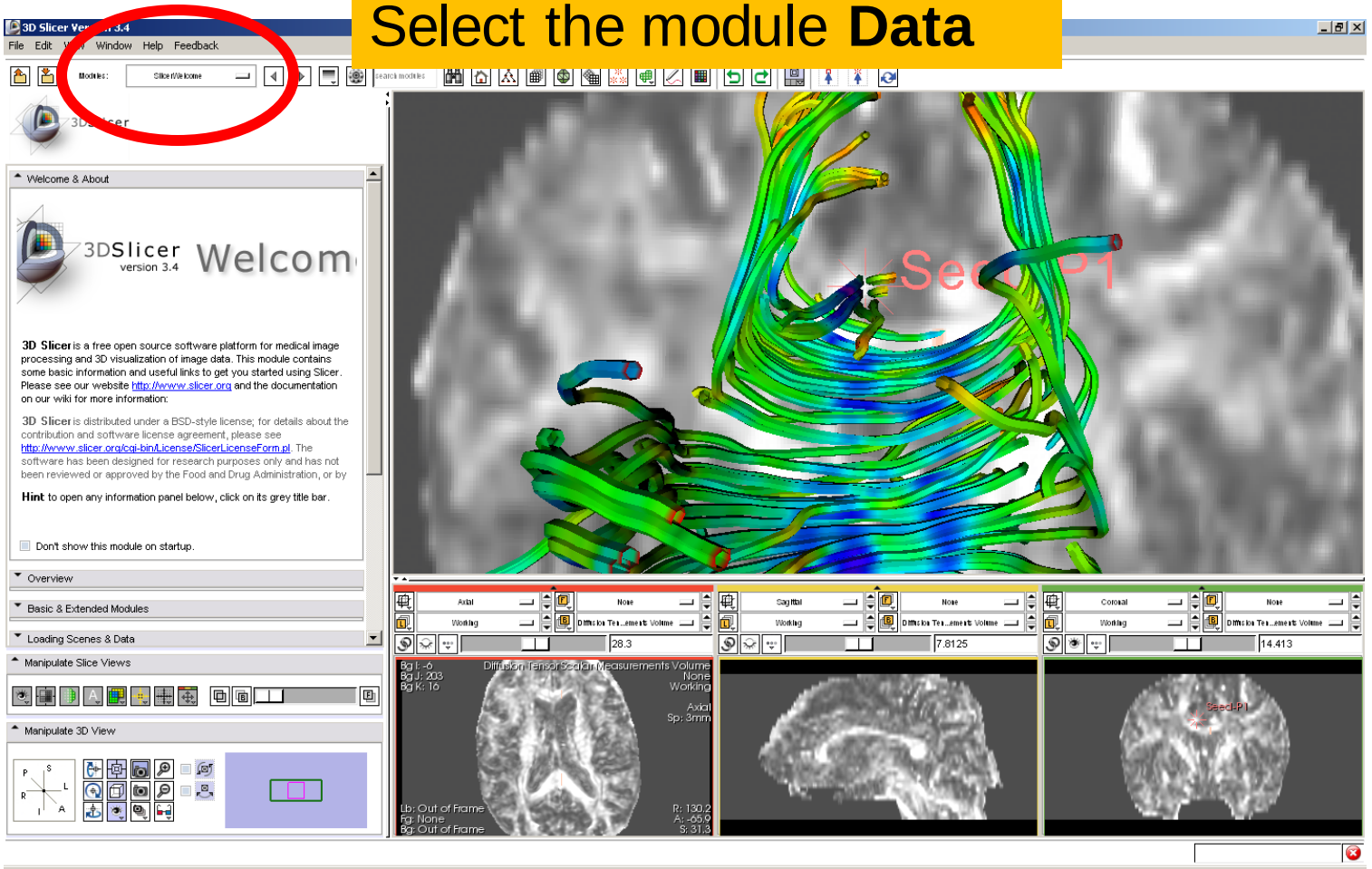
Select **File→Load Scene** and browse to the location where you saved the scene **SlicerScene1.mrml**

Loading a DTI Scene

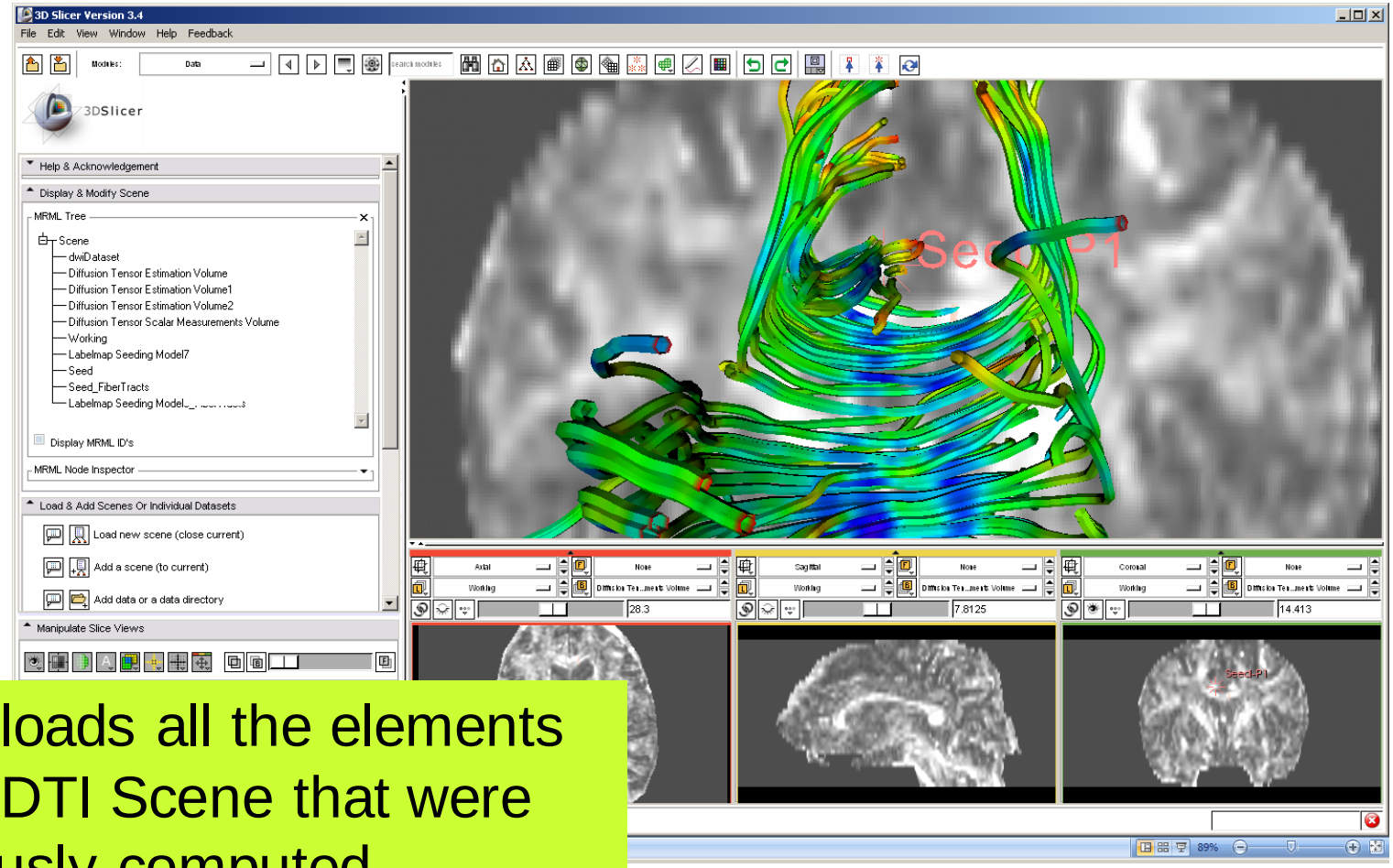


Loading a DTI Scene

Select the module **Data**

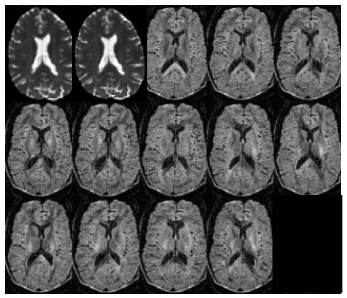


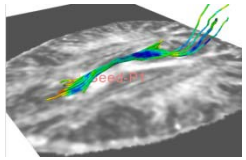
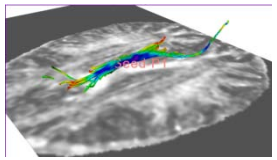
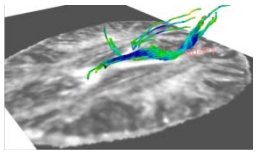
Loading a DTI Scene



Slicer loads all the elements of the DTI Scene that were previously computed.

Conclusion



This tutorial guided you through some of the Diffusion MR capabilities of the Slicer3 software.

For more tutorials and teaching events, please visit

www.slicer.org
www.na-mic.org/Wiki/index.php/Events

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Neuroimage Analysis Center

NIH P41RR013218