

Brain Circuits Underlying the Pathophysiology of Mood Disorders

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**Janssen Research &
Development, LLC**

Presenter's Disclosure of Interest

Presenter: Wayne C. Drevets, M.D.

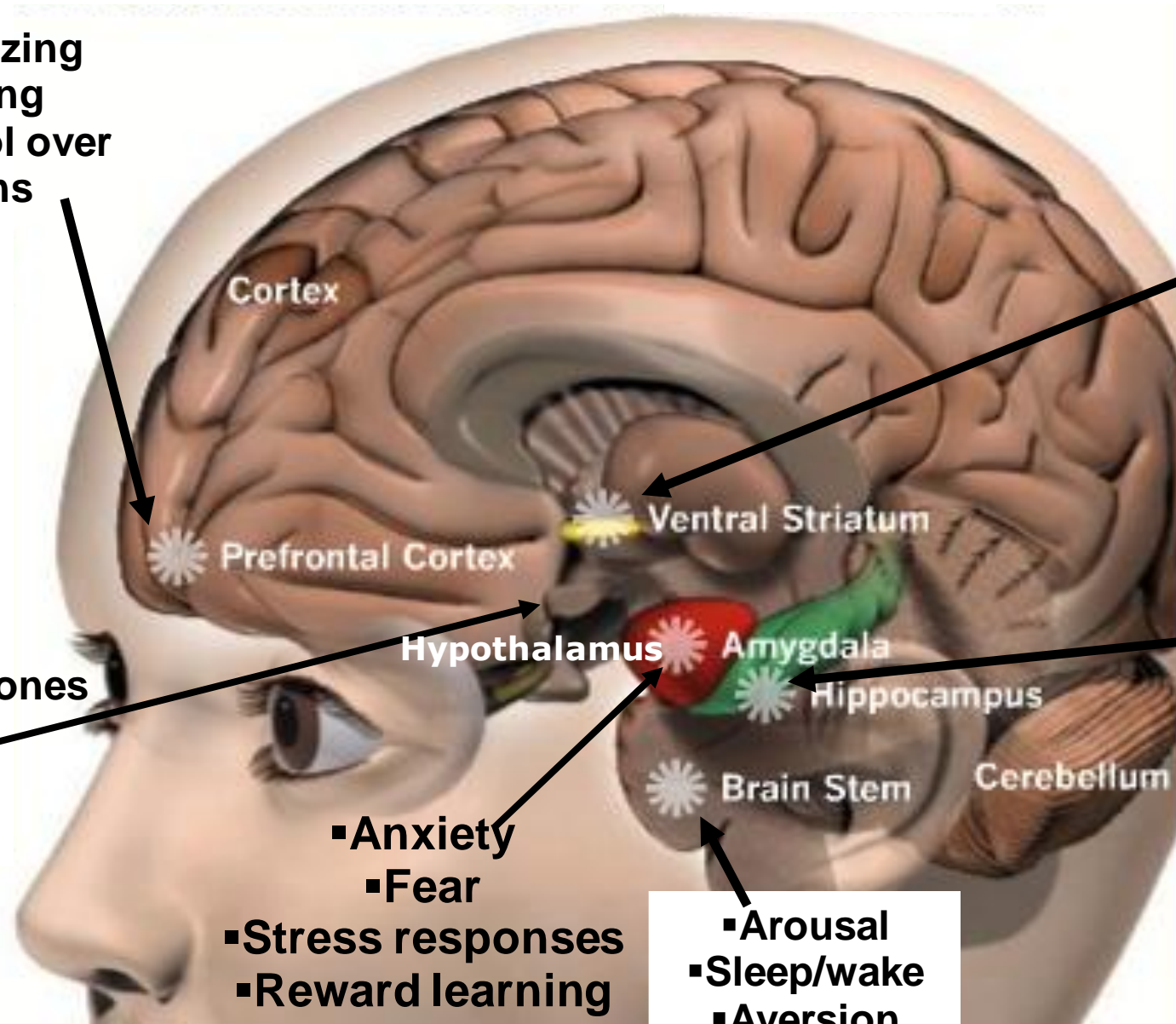
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PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES
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Brain Regions Involved in Mood Disorders



- Organizing
- Planning
- Control over emotions

- Pleasure
- Motivation
- Anxiety

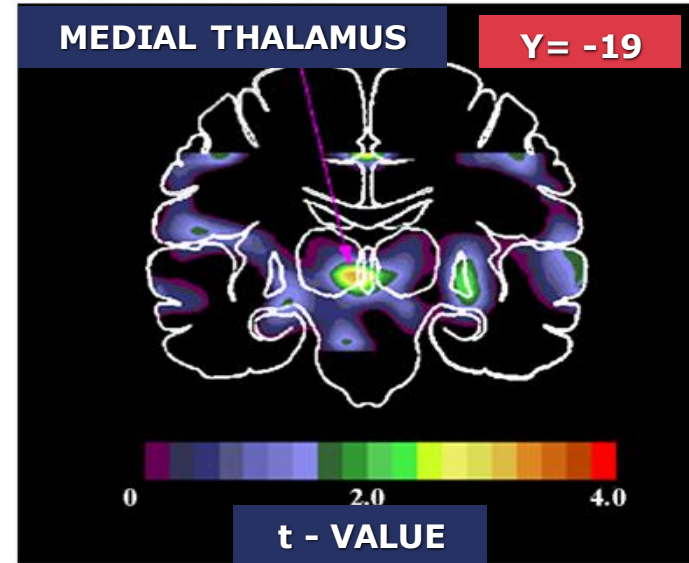
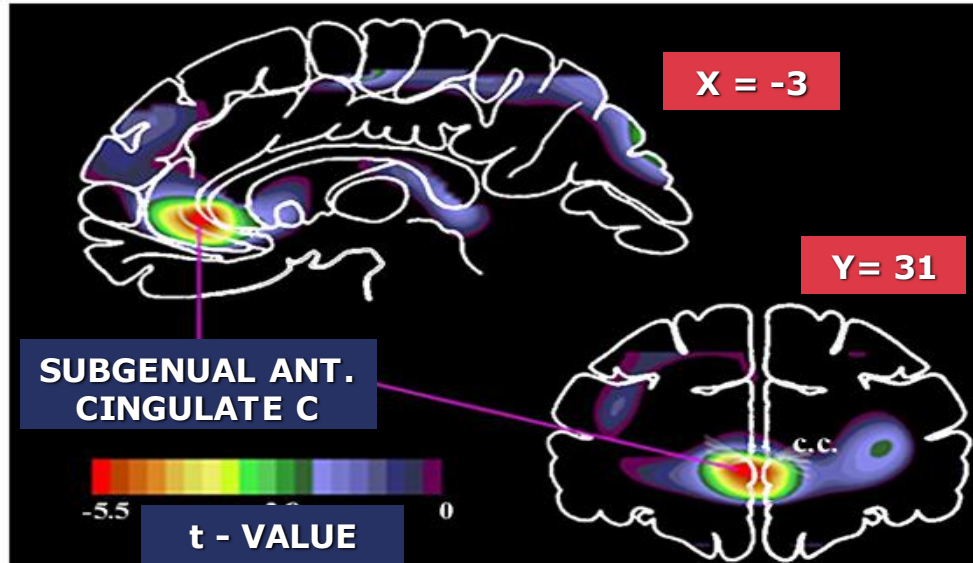
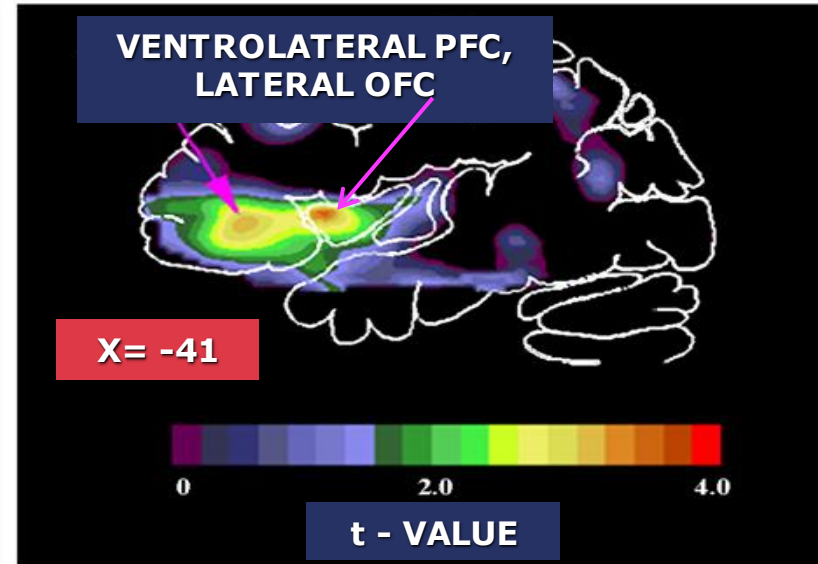
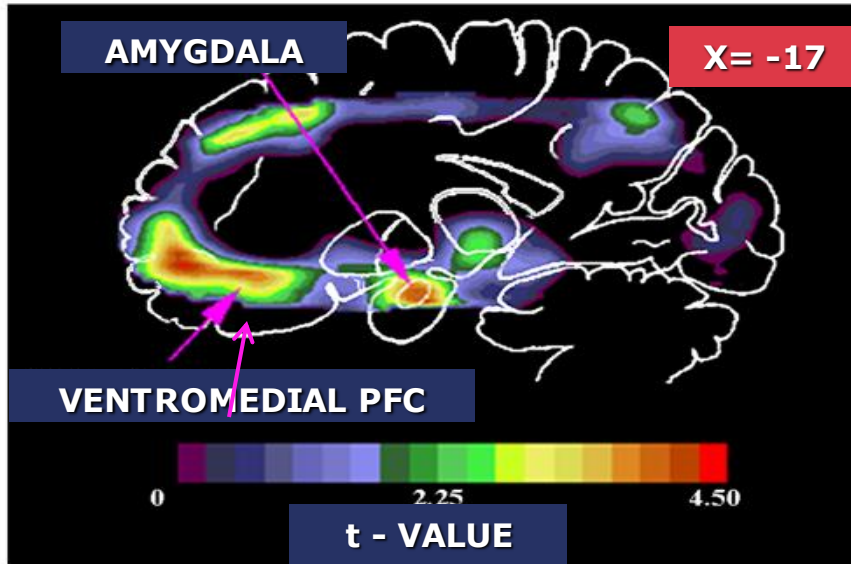
- Stress hormones
- Sleep
- Appetite
- Energy

- Memory
- Stress response
- Context

- Anxiety
- Fear
- Stress responses
- Reward learning

- Arousal
- Sleep/wake
- Aversion
- Reward

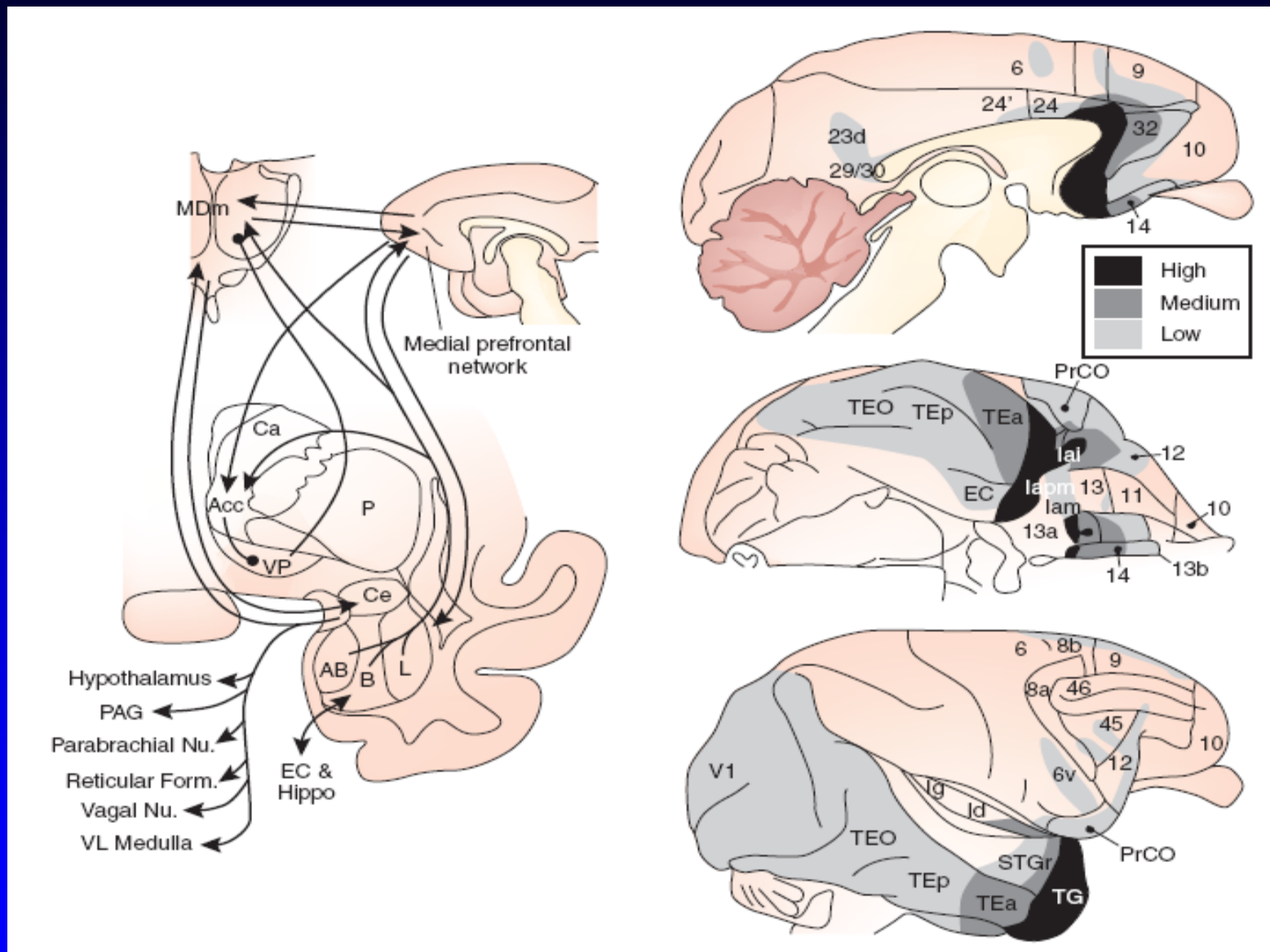
Areas of Abnormal Flow and Metabolism in MDD



Summary of Amygdala efferent projections

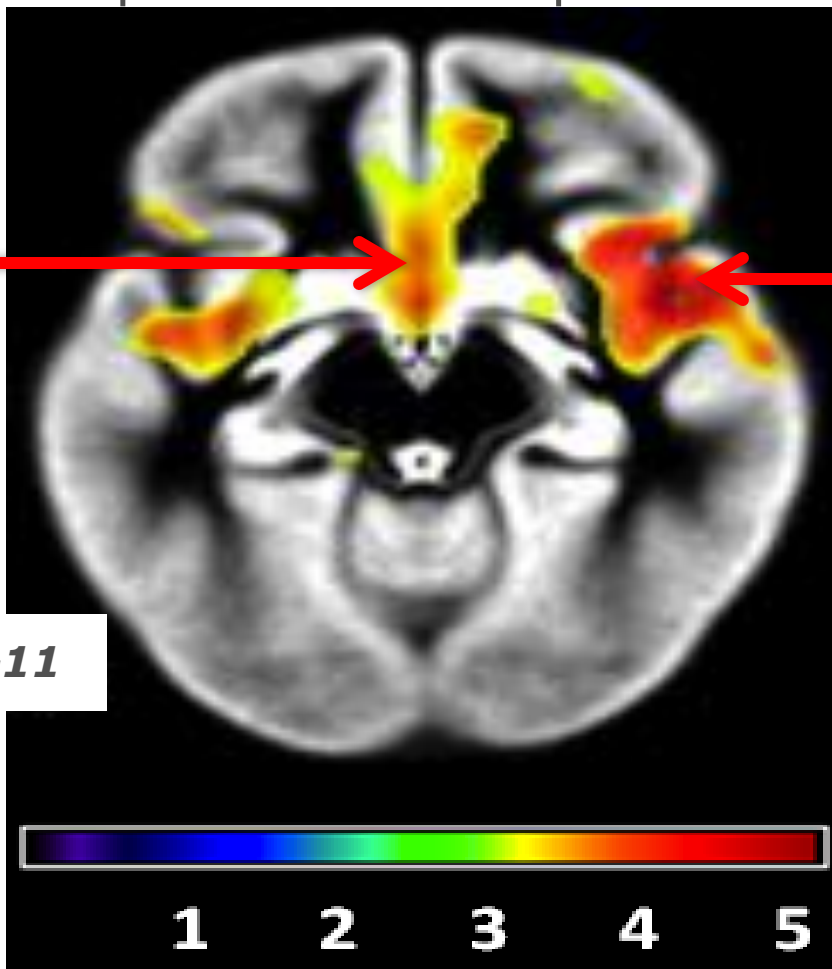
Left: amygdaloid circuits involving the striatum, pallidum, thalamus and PFC, and output to the hypothalamus and brainstem.

Right: Areas of cerebral cortex that receive axonal projections from the amygdala.



Target for Course Modification in MDD? – More persistent disabling illness associated with grey matter loss in corticolimbic networks

Voxel-Based Morphometry: Reduced gray matter in chronic/highly recurrent depression versus persistent remission



Subgenual Anterior Cingulate Cortex

Anterior Temporal cortex

slice location Z = -11

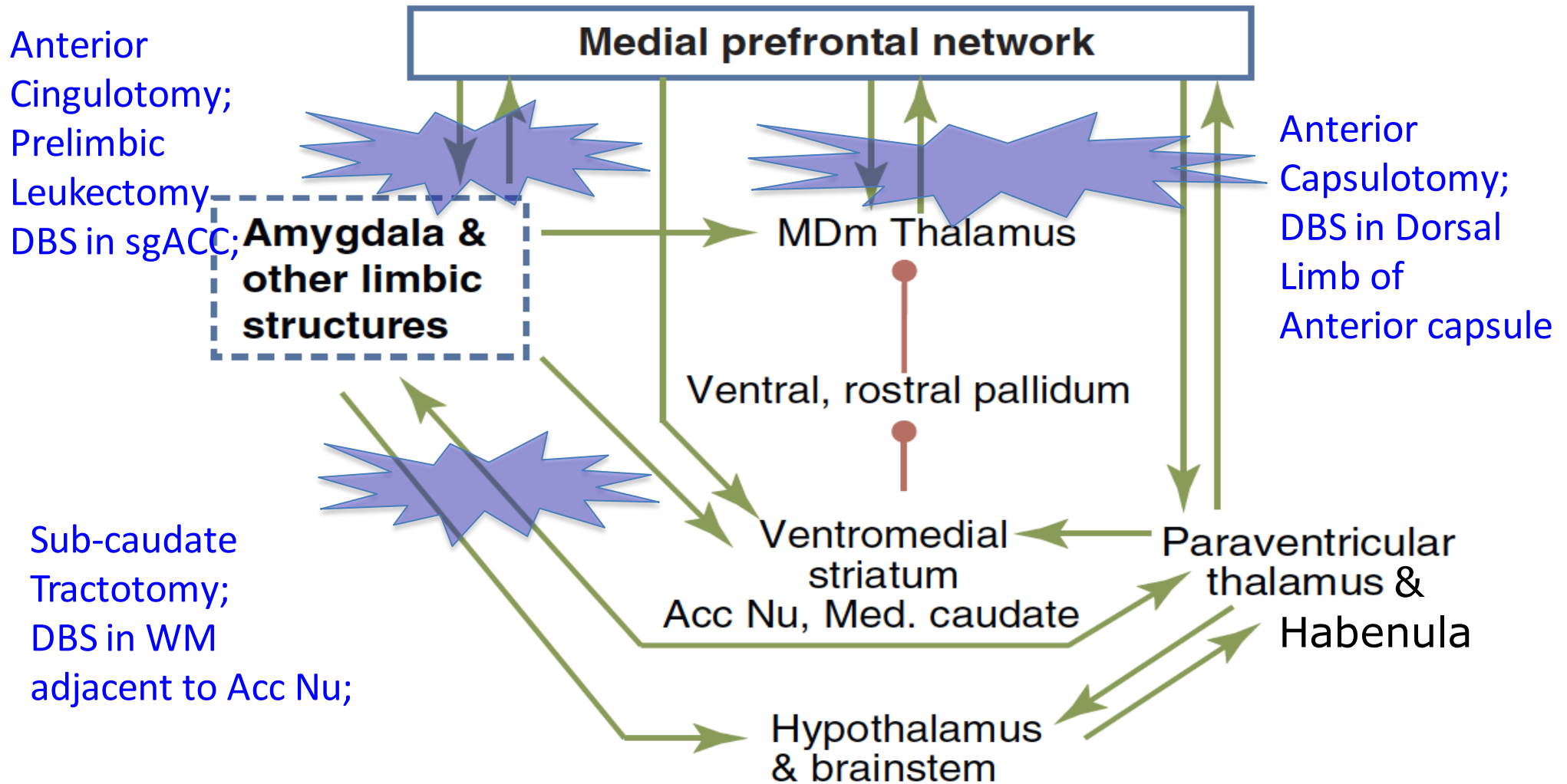


1 2 3 4 5

Voxel t - value

Salvadore G, et al. NeuroImage, 2011; 54(4):2643-51

Neurocircuitry of Mood Disorders, Neurosurgical Sites for Tx refractory MDD

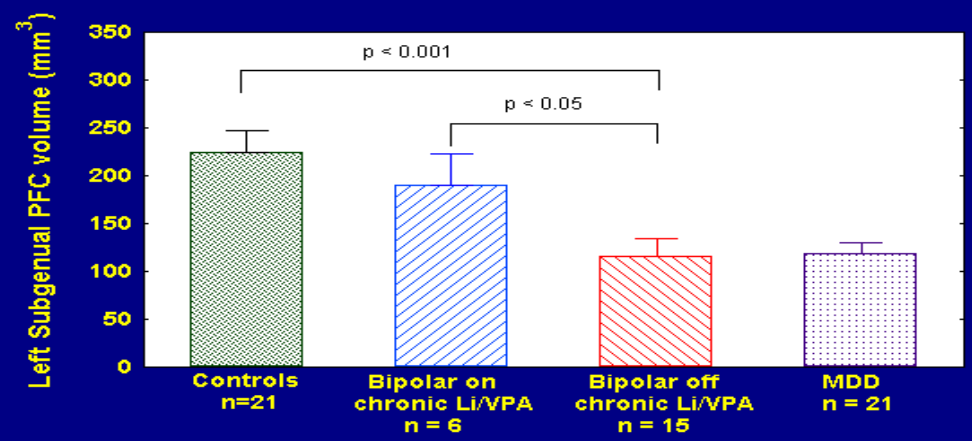
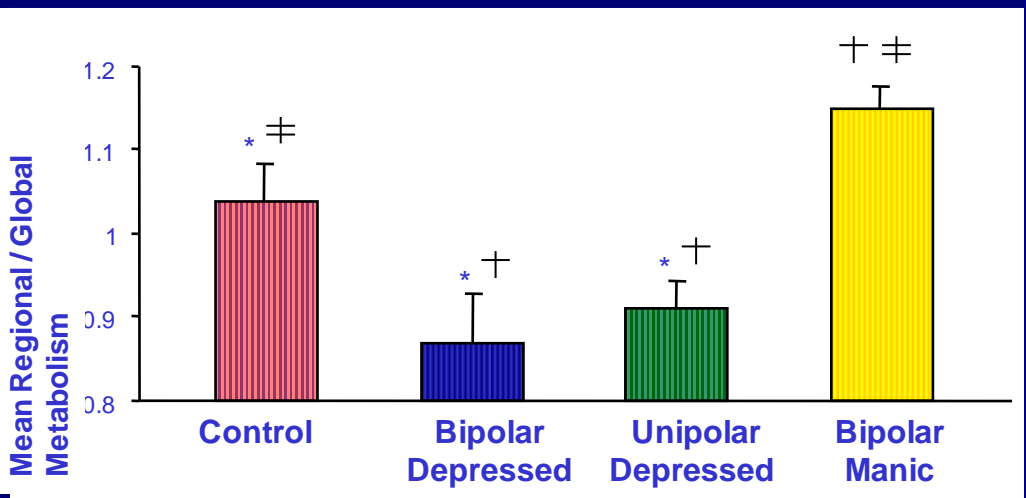
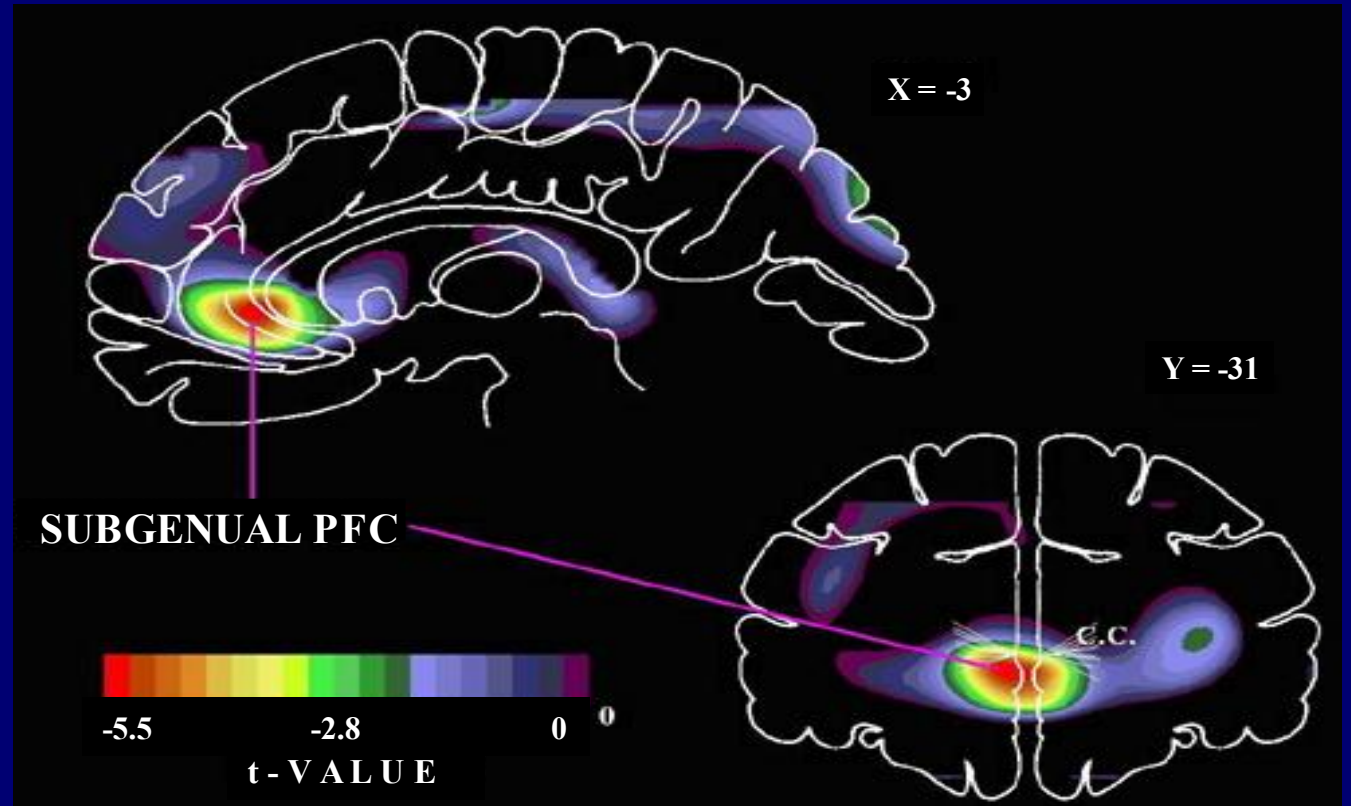


Modified from Price JL, Drevets W; TICS, 2012

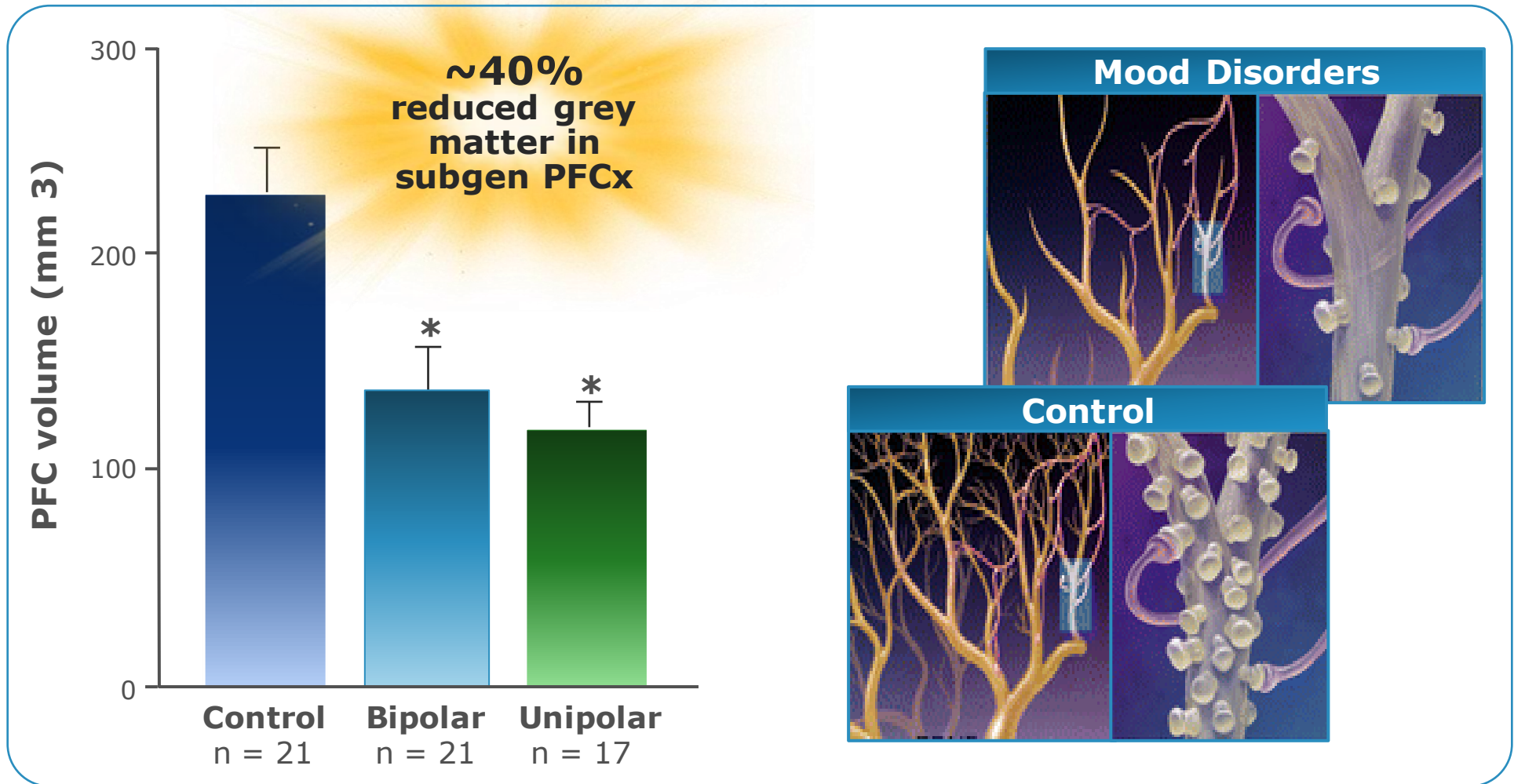
TRENDS in Cognitive Sciences

Persistent Reduction in Metabolism Pinpoints Corresponding Reduction in Cortex Volume

Drevets et al;
Nature 1997



Recurrent Mood Disorders Show Dendritic Atrophy in Stress Related Brain Regions (e.g., medial PFC, hippocampus)

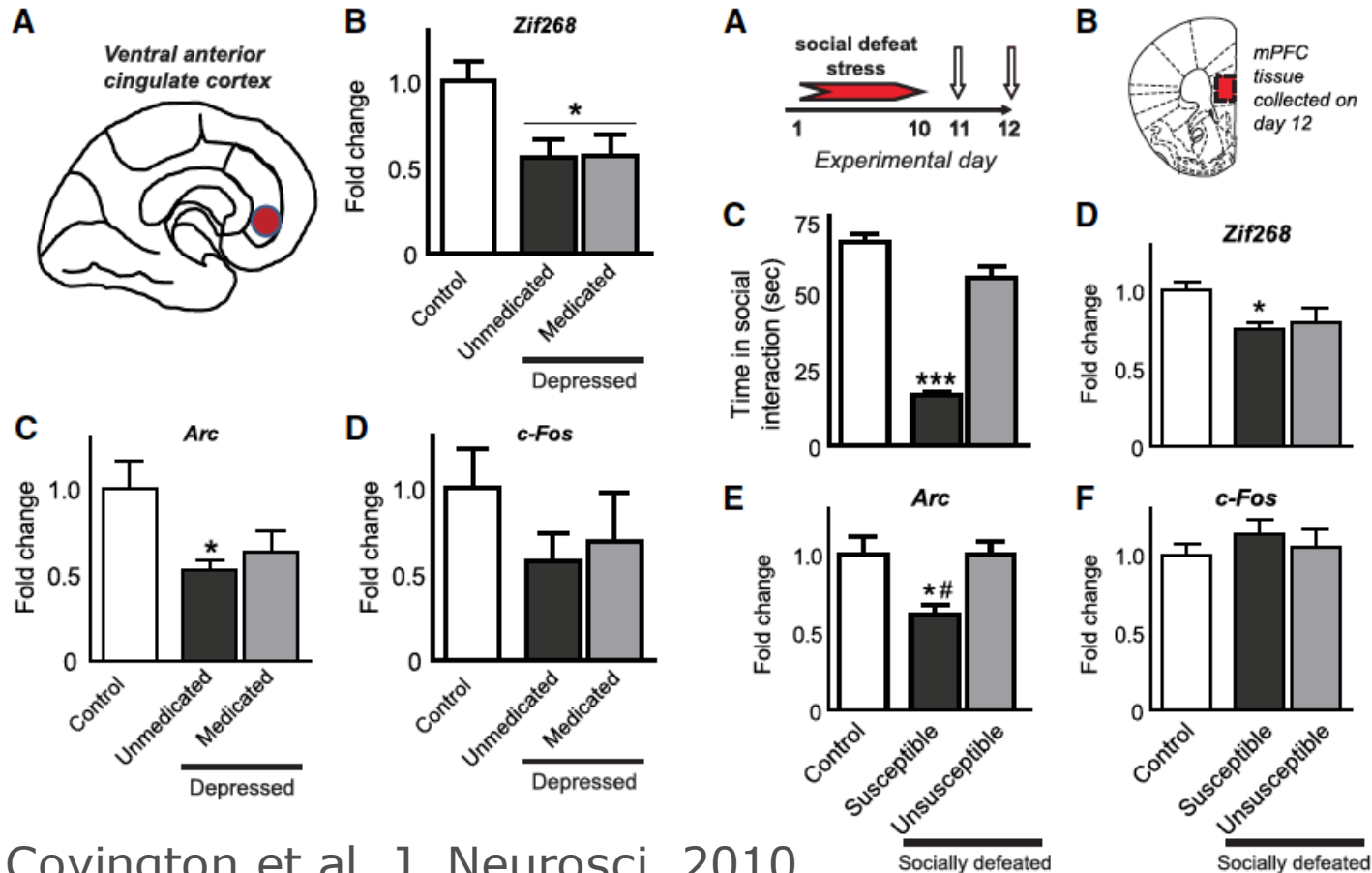


Drevets et al *Nature*, 1997

Nestler et al, *Nature Neuroscience*

mPFC Activity a Key Determinant of Depression-like Behavior

(LEFT) Reduced expression of immediate early genes (IEG), *zif268* (*egr1*), *c-fos* and *arc*, in ventral ACC (BA 24sg) of clinically depressed humans (postmortem), consistent with deficit in regional neuronal activity. (RIGHT) Mice subjected to chronic social defeat stress exhibit similar reductions in IEG expression in mPFC (though some changes not seen in defeated mice that escape the deleterious consequences of stress, i.e., resilient animals).



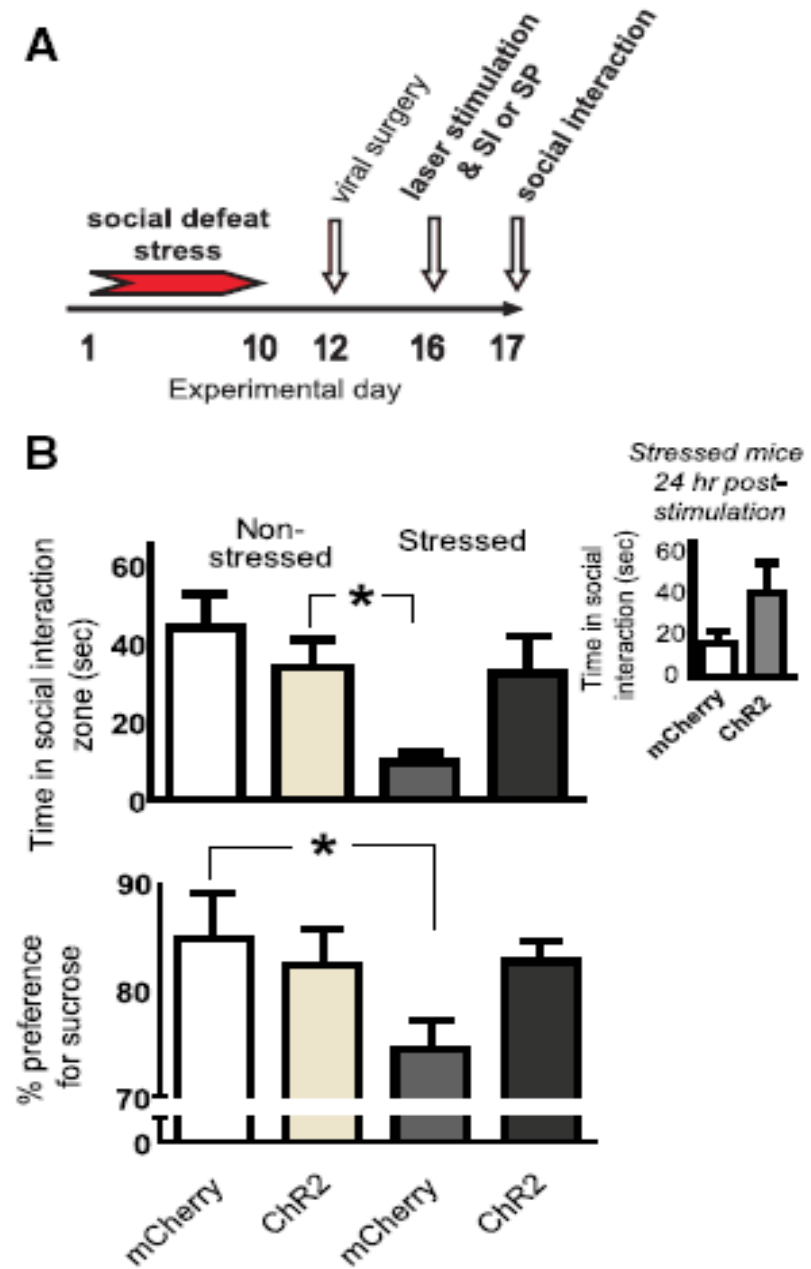
Covington et al. J. Neurosci. 2010

mPFC Activity a Key Determinant of antidepressant responses

Method: Optogenetically drive “burst” patterns of cortical firing *in-vivo* using viral vectors to overexpress channel rhodopsin 2 (a light-activated cation channel) in mouse ventral mPFC

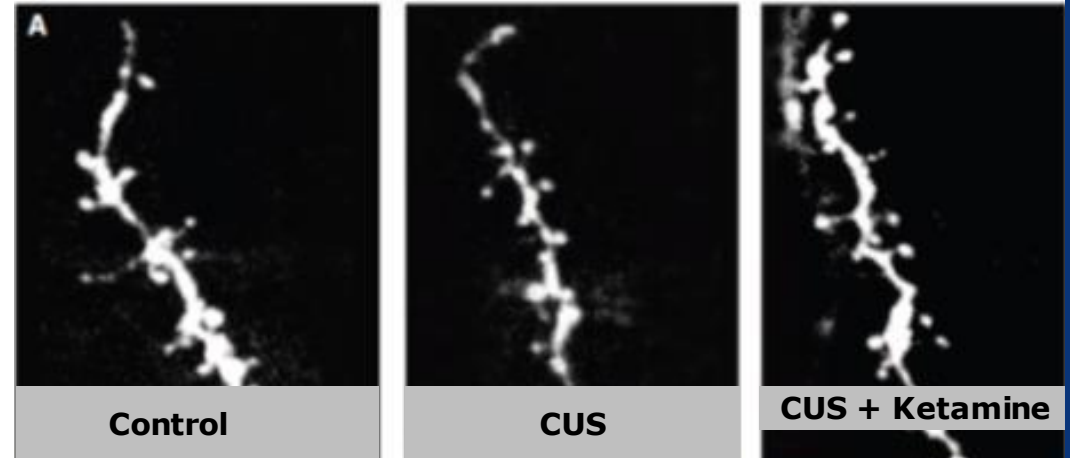
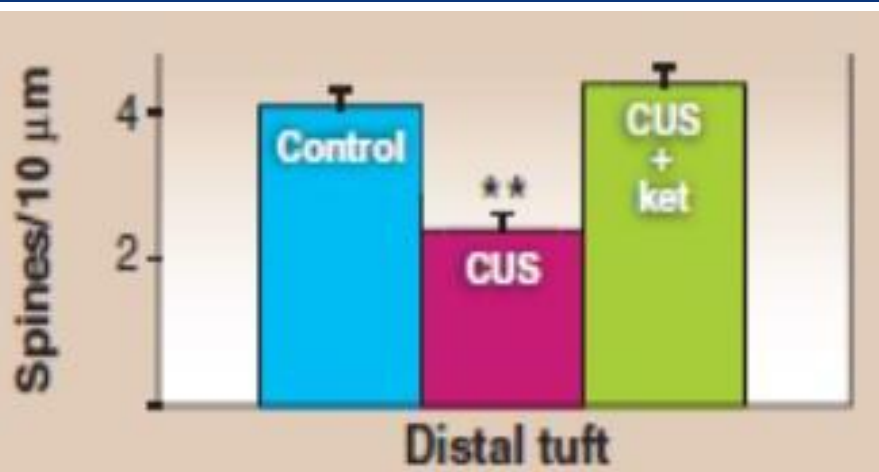
Result: In mice expressing a depressive-like phenotype, optogenetic stimulation of mPFC exerted antidepressant-like effects, without affecting general locomotor activity, anxiety-like behaviors, or social memory.

Covington et al J Neurosci 2010

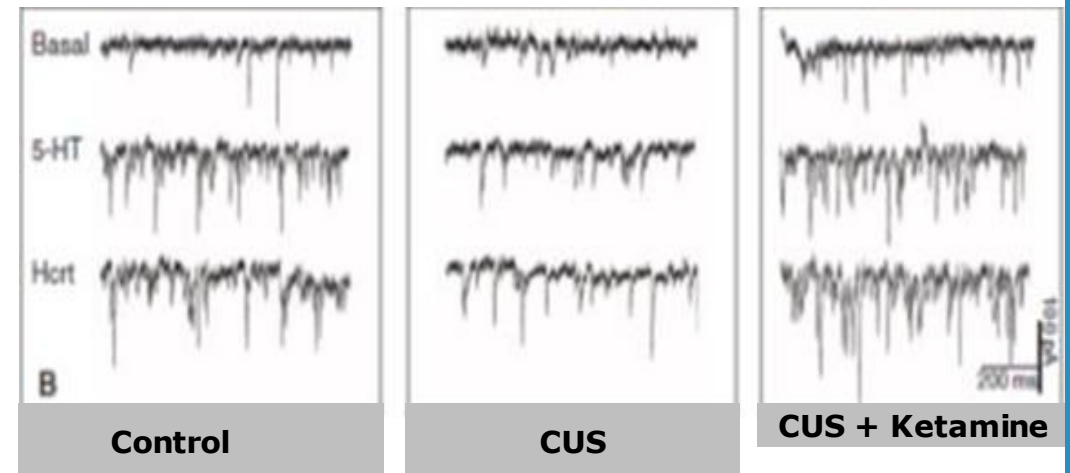
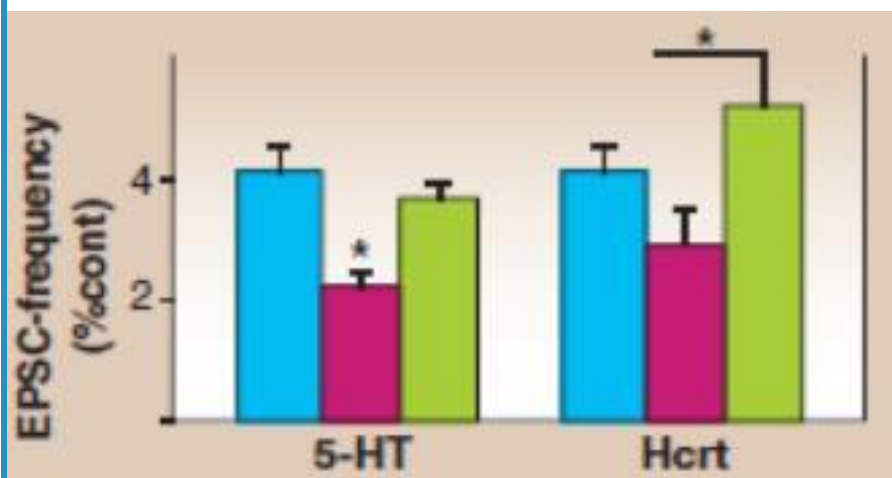


Chronic unpredictable stress (CUS) exposure decreases spine density in medial PFC, changes rapidly reversed by ketamine within 24 hrs

High magnification projections of distal segments of the layer V pyramidal cell apical tuft dendrites



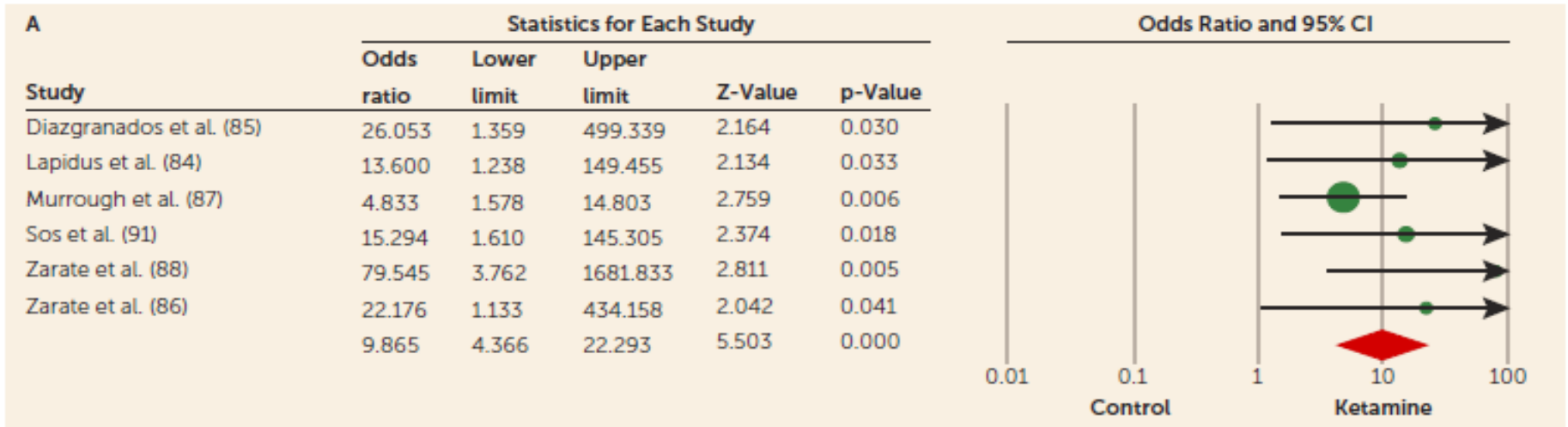
Decreased EPSC responses in PFC layer V pyramidal cells show rapid reversal by ketamine



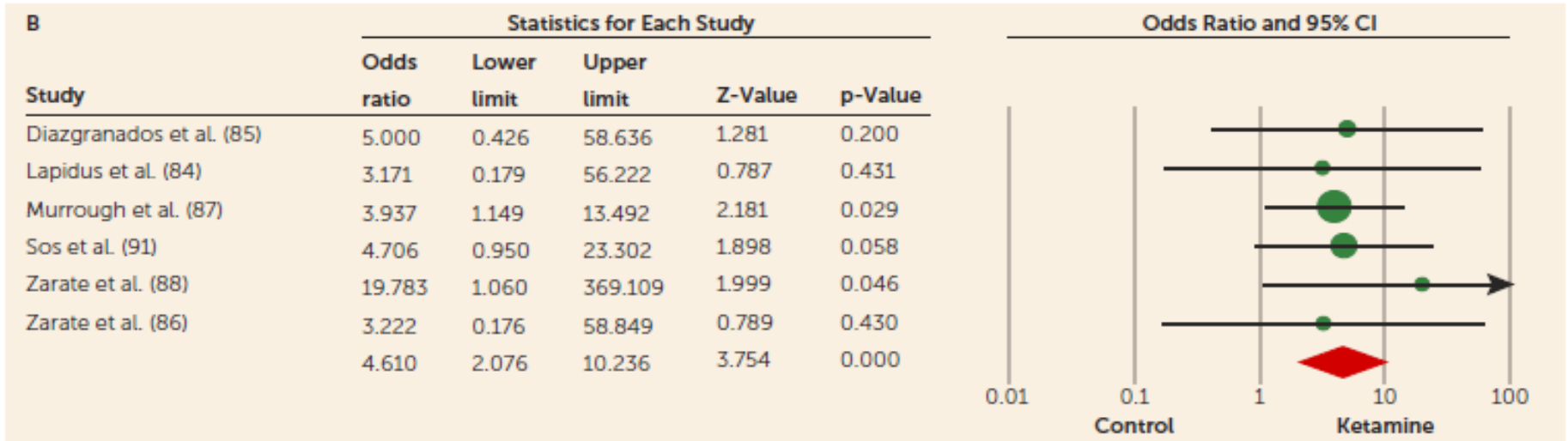
Meta-Analysis of ketamine (single dose, 0.5 mg/kg IV) shows rapid antidepressant effect 24h post dose, with attenuation by one week

FIGURE 2. Forest Plots of Therapeutic Response Rates One Day and One Week After Initiation of Ketamine^a

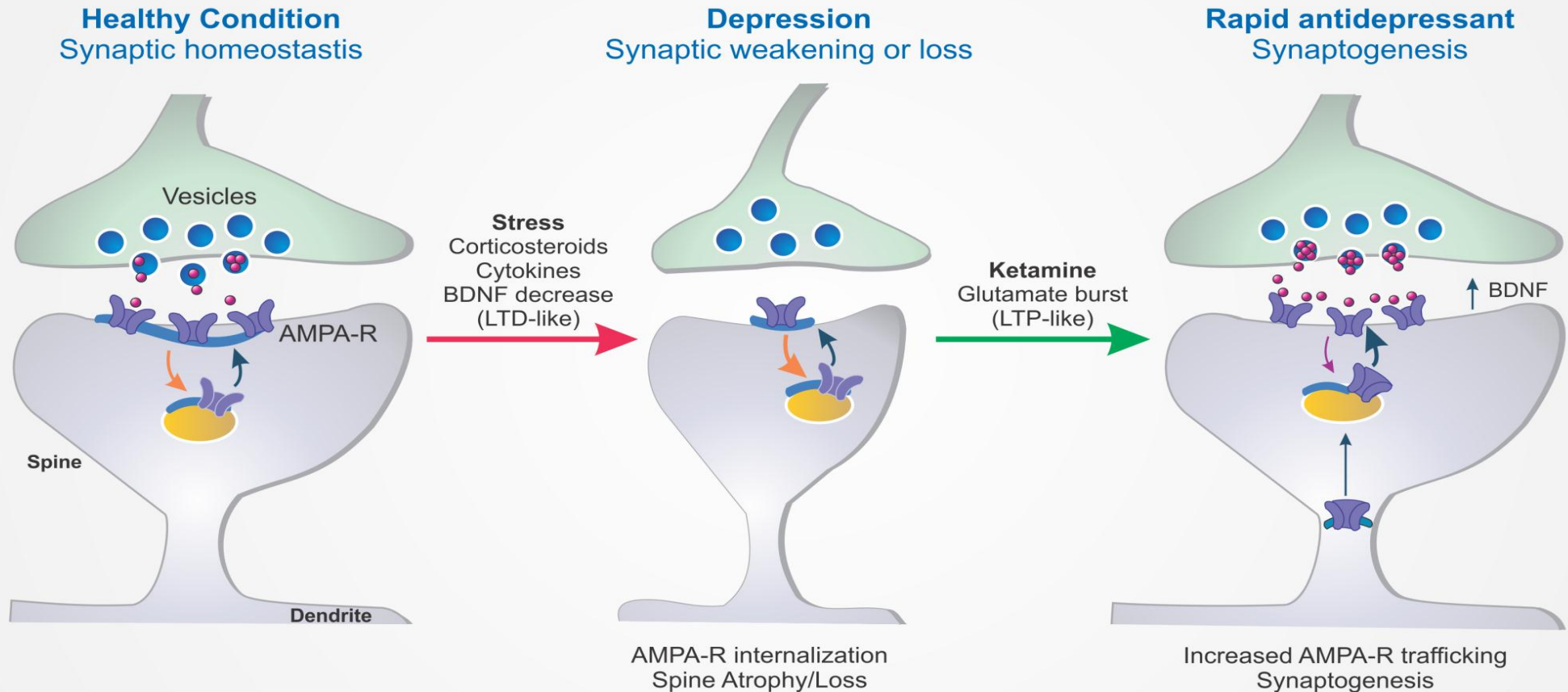
Results
one *day*
post
ketamine



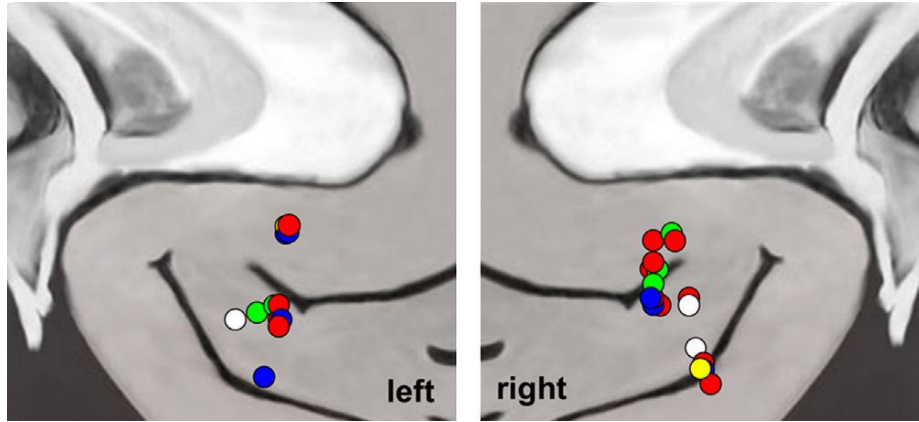
Results
one *week*
post
ketamine



Synaptic Loss in Depression Countered by Synaptogenesis During Treatment with Ketamine

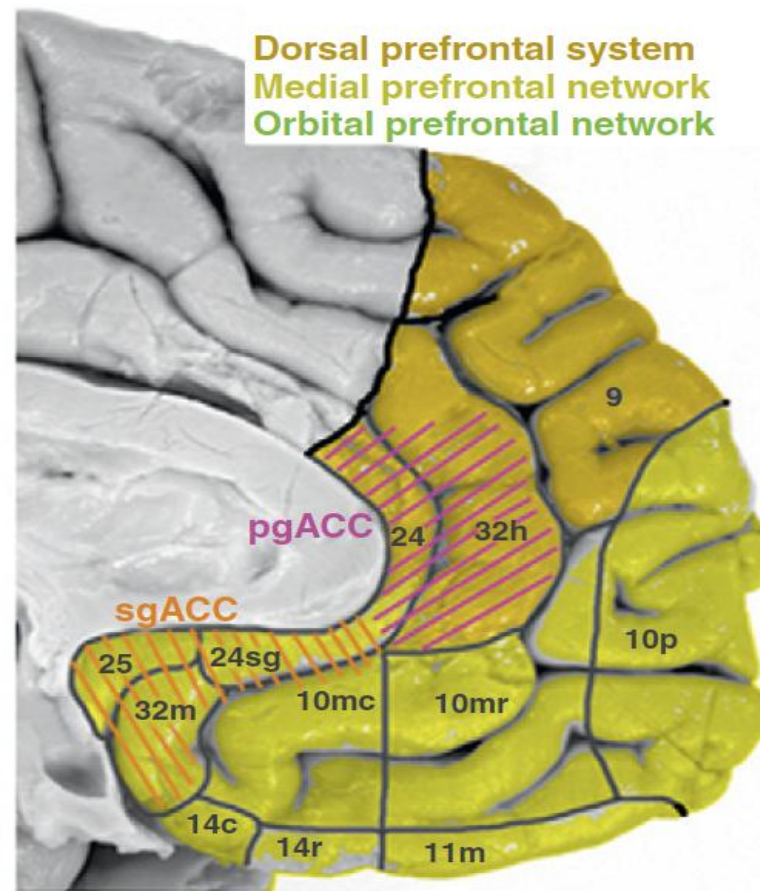


Subgenual (subcallosal) PFC loci for emotion processing and DBS



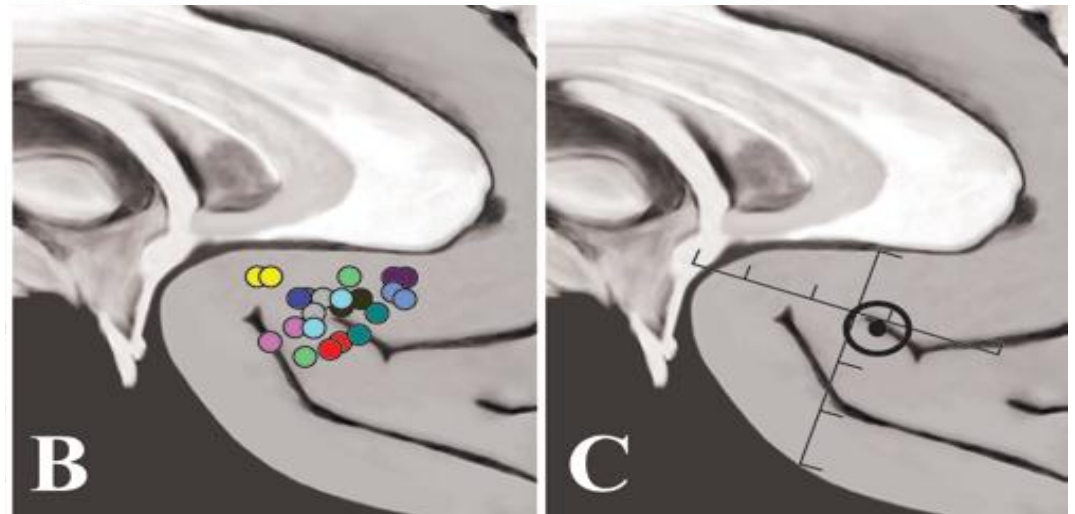
Microelectrode recording site for each emotion category responsive neuron. Red-disturbing, blue-sad, white-neutral, yellow-happy), green-exhilarating. *Laxton et al. Biol Psych 2013*

Loci of electrode contacts loci in patients who responded to DBS (procedure was bilateral, so 2 circles of same color for each patient). C: Average location of active contact in responders (+SD). *Hamani et al. J Neurosurgery 2009*

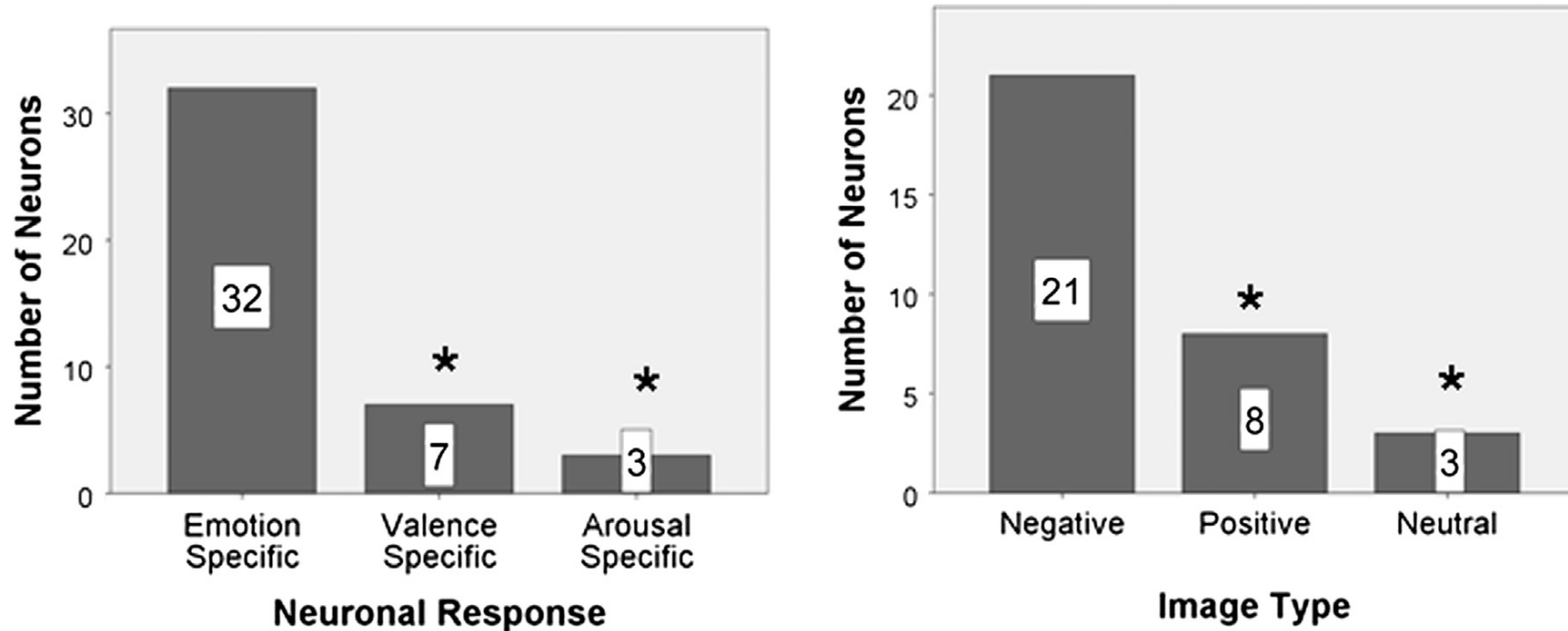


Medial surface of human brain subgenual (sgACC & pregenual (pgACC) anterior cingulate C

Price & Drevets, TICS, 2012



Neuronal Coding of Implicit Emotion Categories in Subgenual (Subcallosal) PFC in Depressed Patients



(A) Responsive neurons of sgACC and adjacent vmPFC show specificity for complex emotion categories rather than valence or arousal alone (* $p < .001$). (B) Preferential responsiveness for negative emotion categories over positive or neutral categories (* $p < .001$).

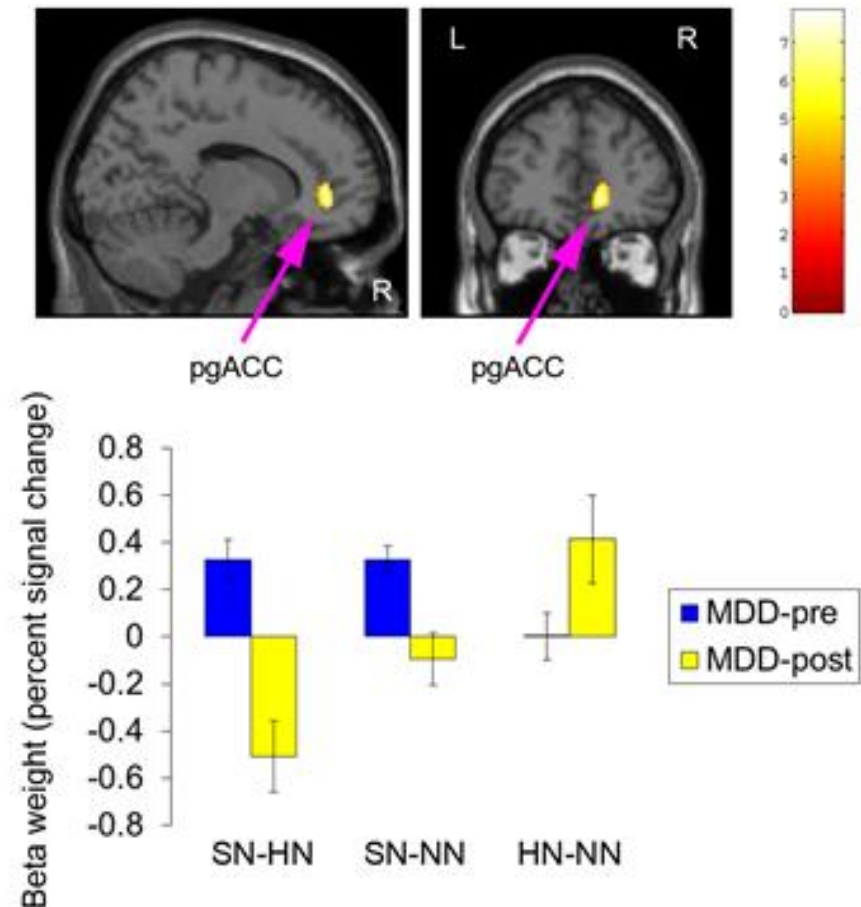
56/136 neurons responded to IAPS stimuli, of which 32 responded to a single emotion category, of which 44% responded to disturbing, 22% to sad, 9.4% to neutral, 9.4% to happy images, 16% to exhilarating images.
Laxton et al. Biol Psychiatry, 2013

Rostral anterior cingulate response to Sad vs Happy stimuli changes during sertraline treatment & predicts response

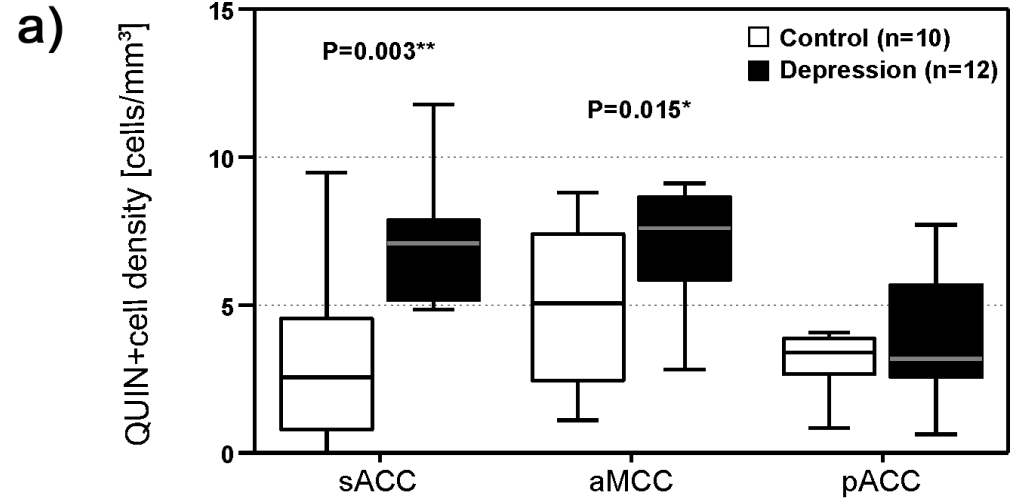
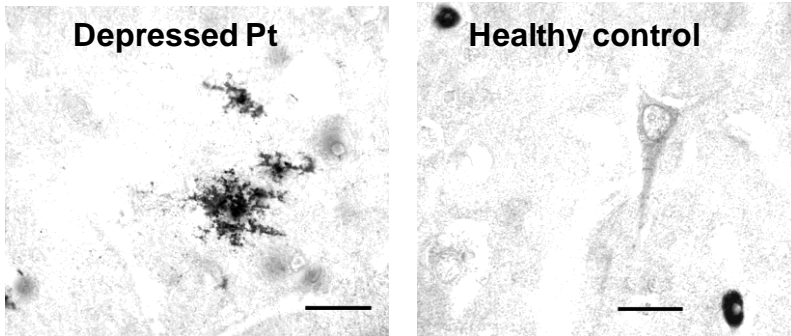
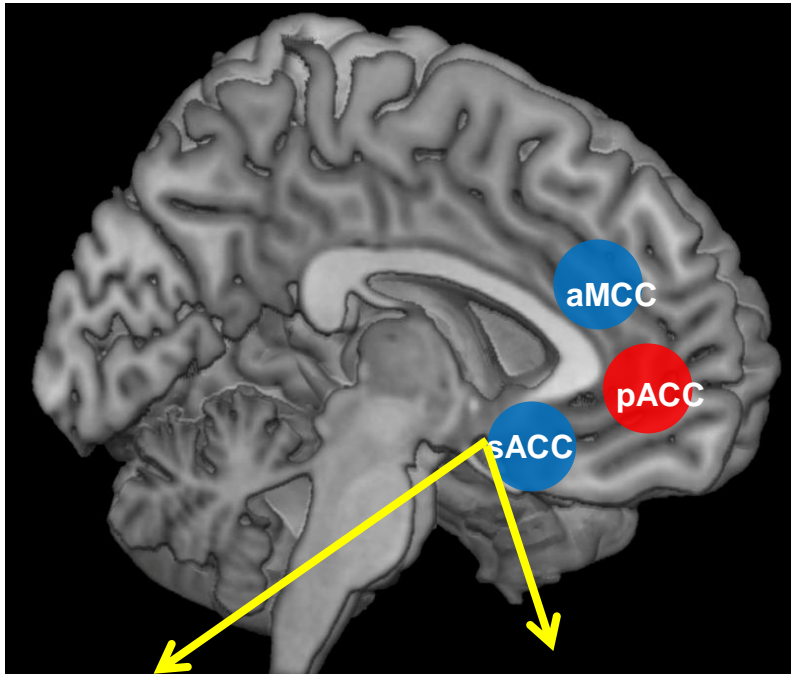
- In MDD, antidepressant-induced reversal of the negative processing bias is associated with shifts in the pattern of hemodynamic activity of pregenual and subgenual ACC.
- Under SSRI Tx the pre-treatment BOLD response of pregenual ACC to masked sad vs masked happy faces correlated with subsequent improvement in depression severity ($r=0.67$, $p<0.05$)
- Pretreatment baseline activity of pregenual ACC predicts response to various antidepressant treatment modalities (including ketamine).
- Rostral ACC shares substantial anatomical connections with amygdala and hippocampus, through which they modulate neural and behavioral responses to emotional stimuli.

Pizzagalli, 2011. Neuropsychopharmacology
Victor T, et al. Int. J. Psychopharmacology, 2013
Salvadore et al. Neuropsychopharmacology, 2010

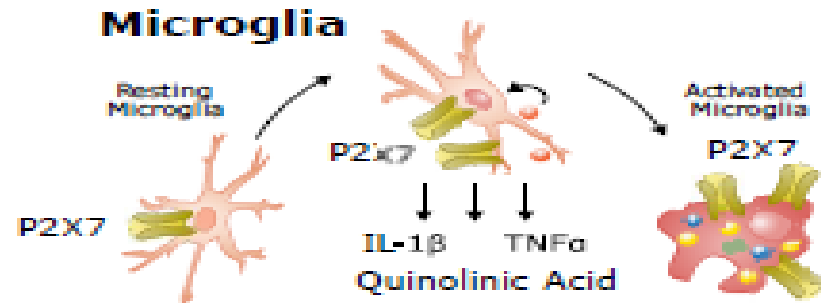
Right Pregenual Anterior Cingulate Cortex
(x, y, z = 14, 42, -5)



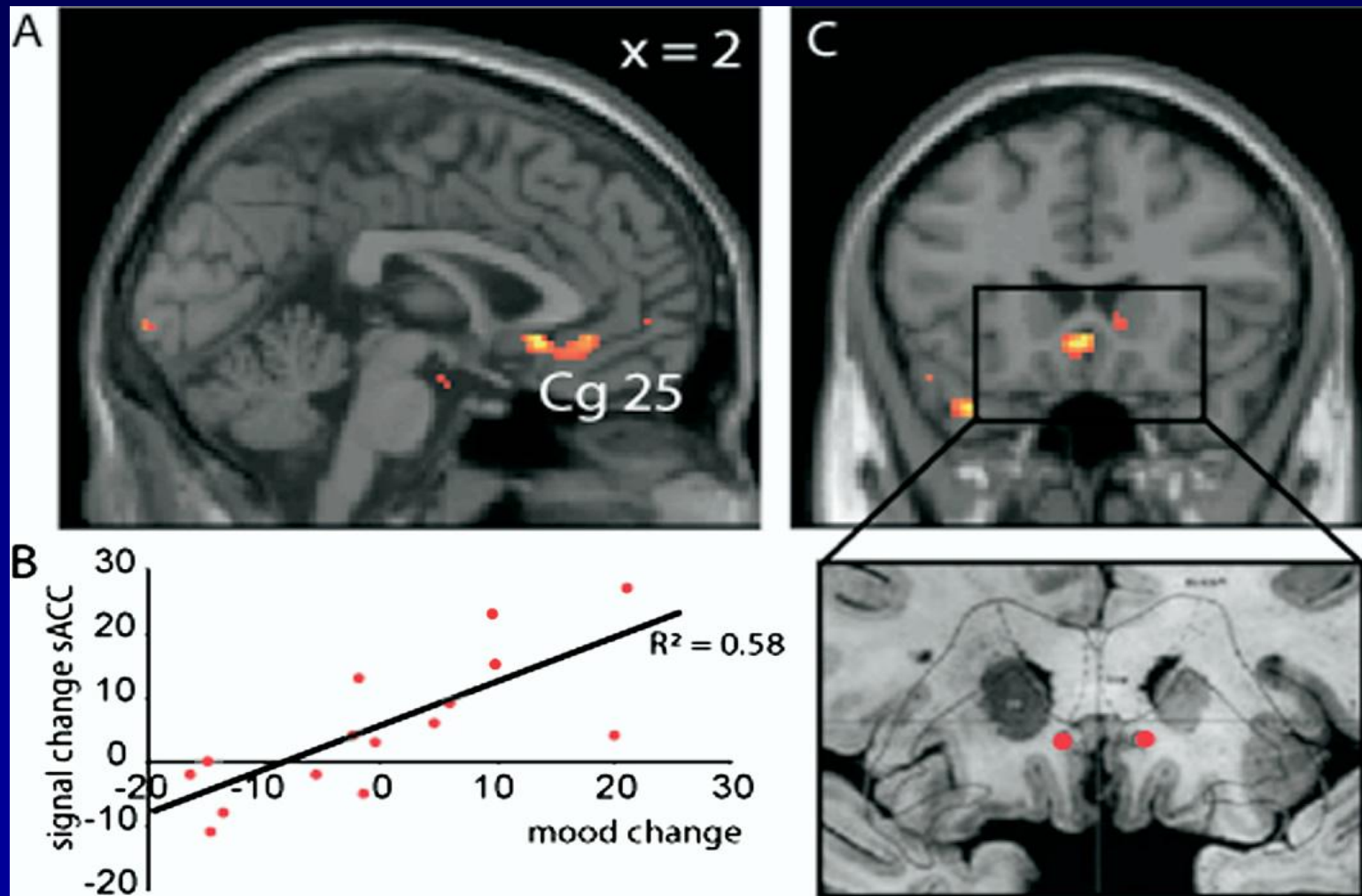
Severe depression is associated with increased microglial quinolinic acid in subregions of the anterior cingulate gyrus



Strong QUIN immunoreactivity found only in vascular monocytes and microglia. Immunoreactive microglia showed smooth, ovoid or elongated cell form in controls, but numerous granular structure processes in depressives in aMCC and sACC.



Subgenual anterior cingulate cortex activity predicts inflammation-associated mood change

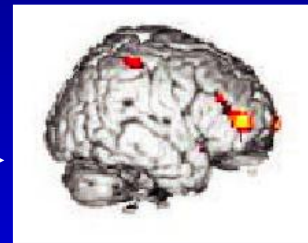
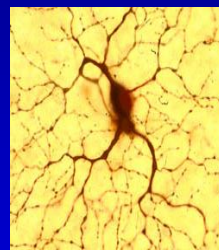
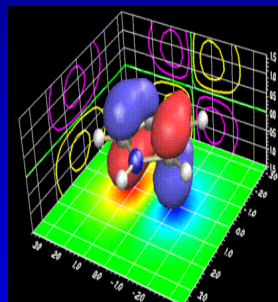


Hemodynamic response to emotional faces during mood change and cytokine release under typhoid Vaccine

Harrison et al.
Biol Psychiatry
2009

Complex Neuropsychiatric Disorders: Targeting Treatment at Multiple Levels

Environment: e.g., “stressors” (psychological, physiological)



Genes

Common susceptibility alleles of small effect (BDNF, P2X7, ANK3); Infrequent mutations of intermediate effect (K⁺ and Ca⁺⁺ channels)

Proteins,

Neurotransmitters & receptors (e.g., 5-HT, orexin), Hormones (e.g., cortisol, CRH, ghrelin/ leptin), Proinflammatory cytokines, chemokines, Autoantibodies, Kynurenine metabolites

Cells

Glia and neuronal dysfunction, mitochondrial dysfunction; Microglial activation, Glia-based glutamate transport

Systems

Abnormal function & information processing in interacting circuits & homeostatic systems regulating emotion, stress biology (e.g., glucocorticoid, immune, endocannabinoid)

Behavior

Complex interactions affecting emotional, motivational, cognitive, visceromotor domains; Illness course, treatment outcome, Comorbid psychiatric, medical syndromes