

The Topography of dopamine dysfunction in schizophrenia

Anissa Abi-Dargham MD

Professor of Psychiatry
Chief, Division of Translational Imaging
Columbia University
New York

Professor of Psychiatry
Vice Chair for Research
Department of Psychiatry
Stony Brook University
New York

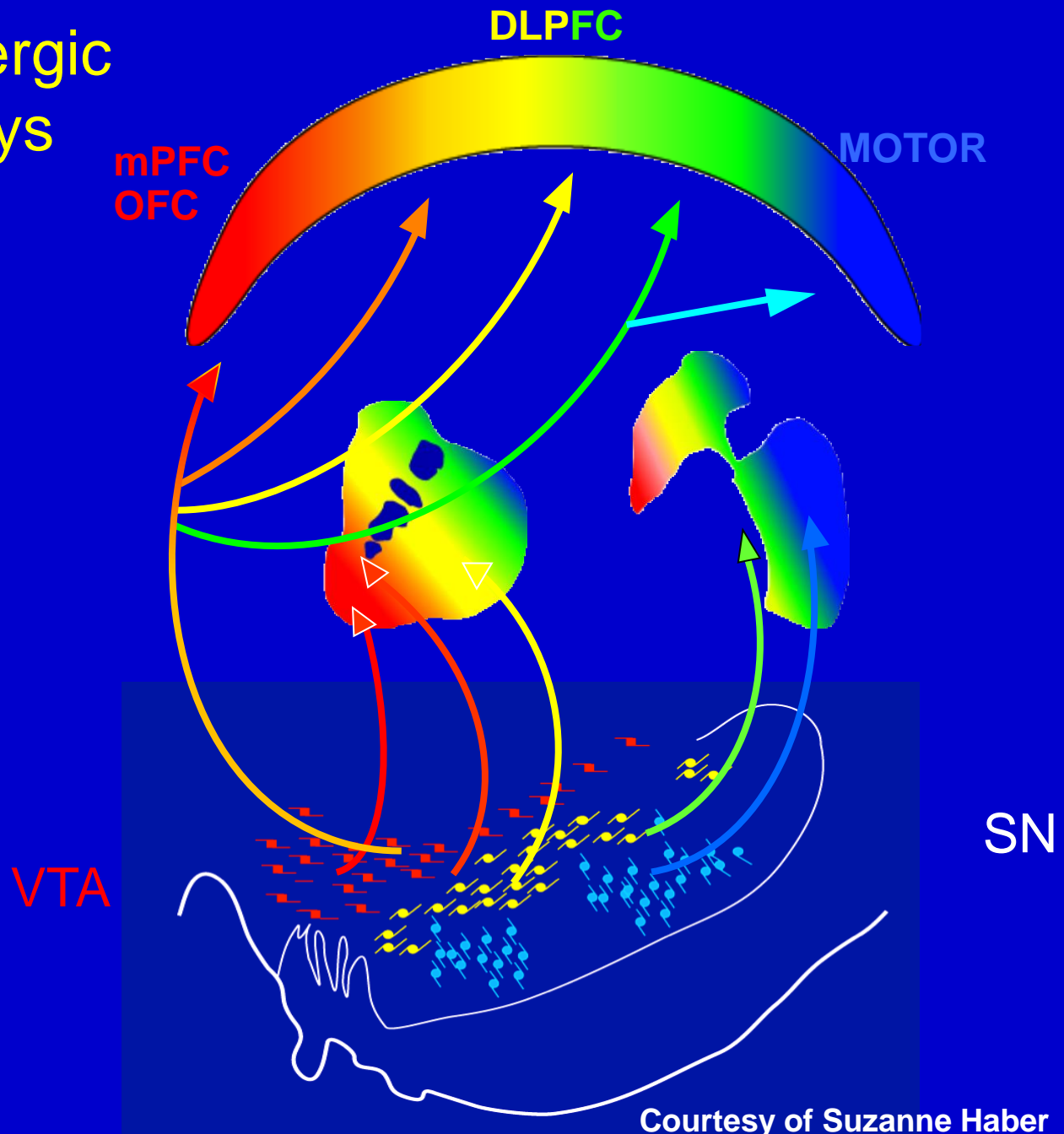
OUTLINE

- **The Hypothesis**
- **The Evidence**
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis
 - Expanding the hypothesis
- **The Model(s)**
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

OUTLINE

- **The Hypothesis/ background**
- The Evidence
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis
 - Expanding the hypothesis
- The Model(s)
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

Dopaminergic Pathways



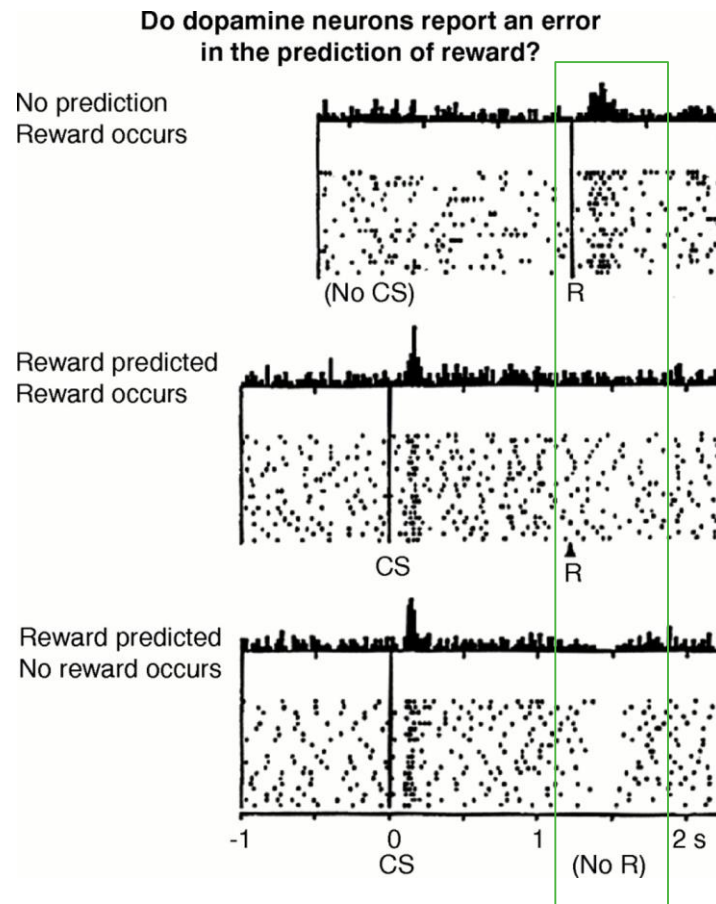
Midbrain Regulation of DA neuron firing

	Frequency	Basis	Regulation	Topography
--	-----------	-------	------------	------------

Tonic	2-4 Hz	Pacemaker firing Tonic synaptic input	SK3, Ca ²⁺ channels D2 autoreceptor	SN
-------	--------	---	--	----

Bursting	15-20 Hz 3-10 spikes	Excitatory input Inhibition of GABA input	NMDA receptor	VTA
----------	-------------------------	---	---------------	-----

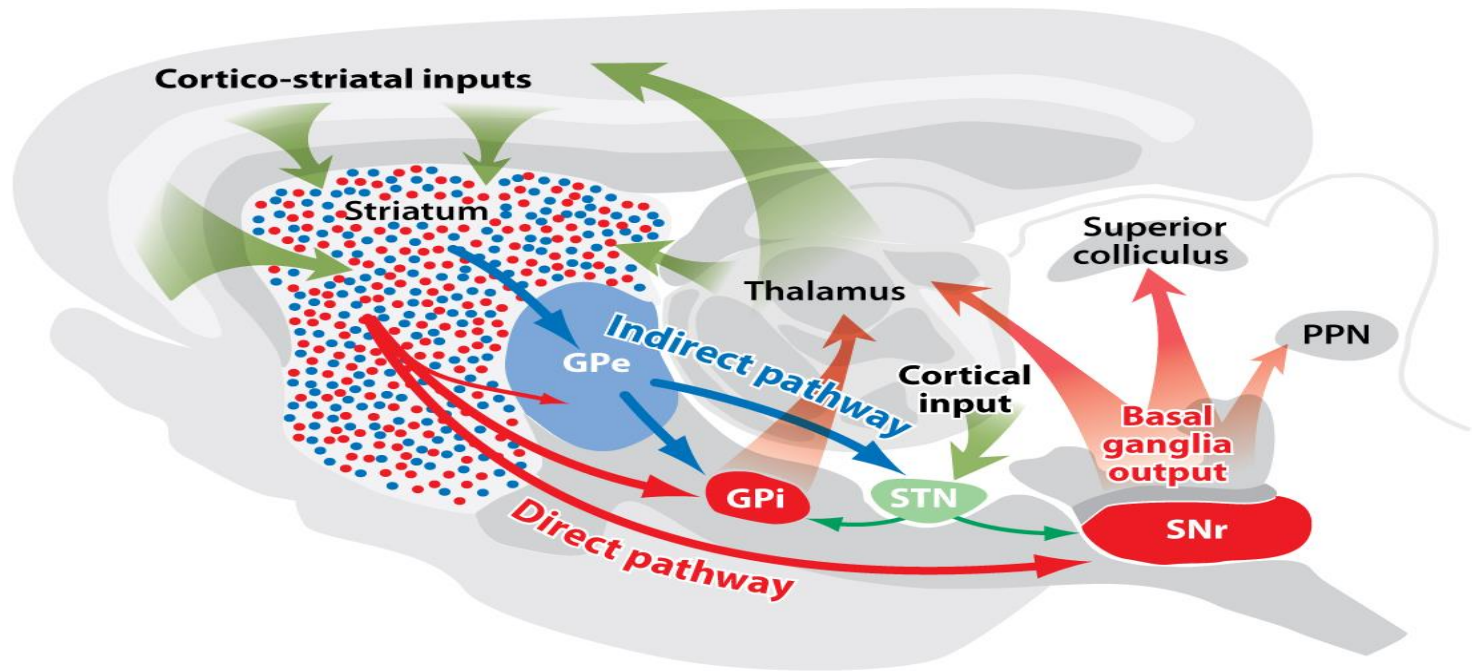
Reward prediction-error (rPE) signals



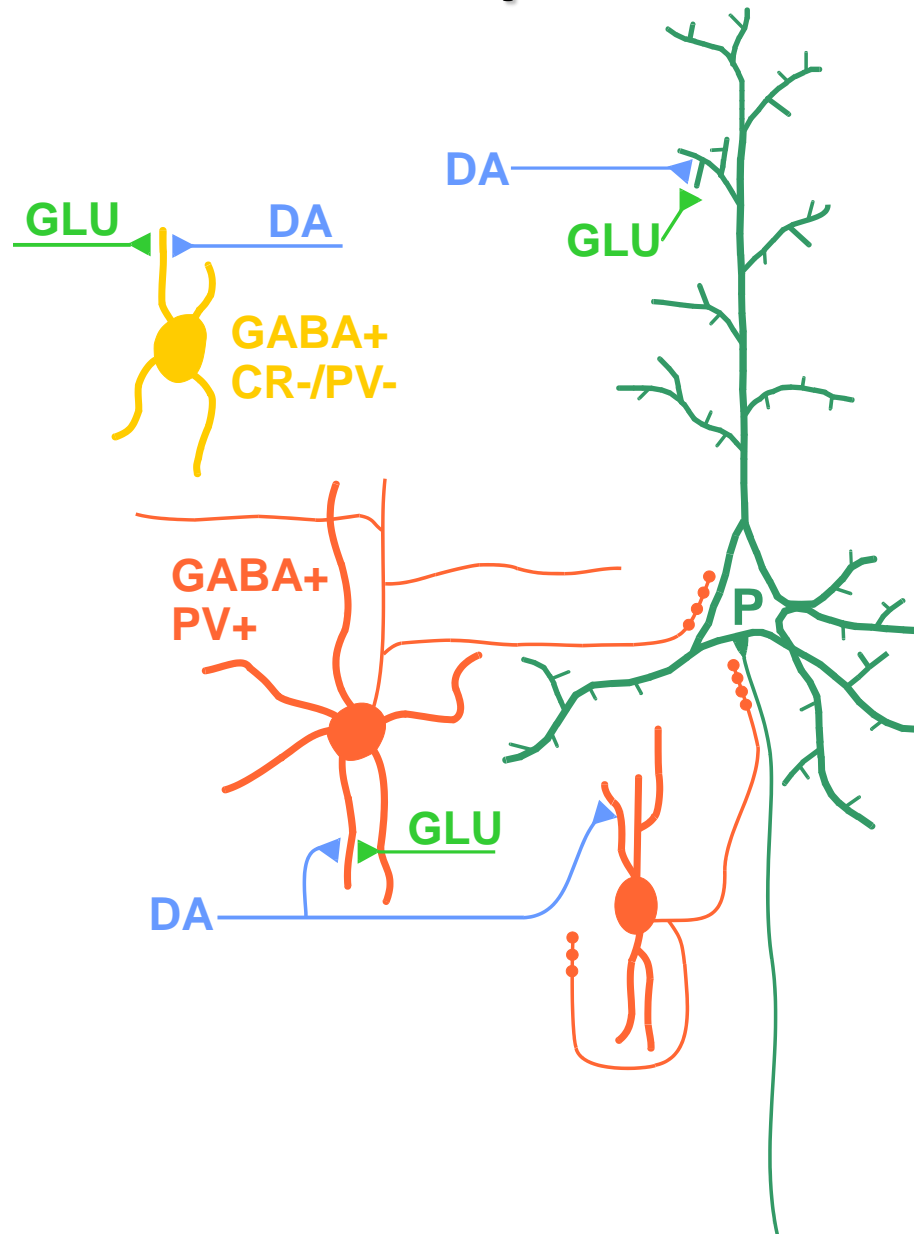
Schultz et al., O'Doherty et al., Daw et al., Glimcher et al.

a

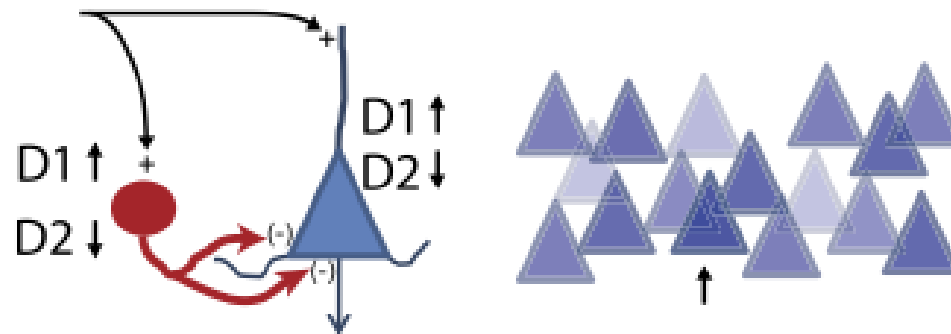
Basal ganglia circuits



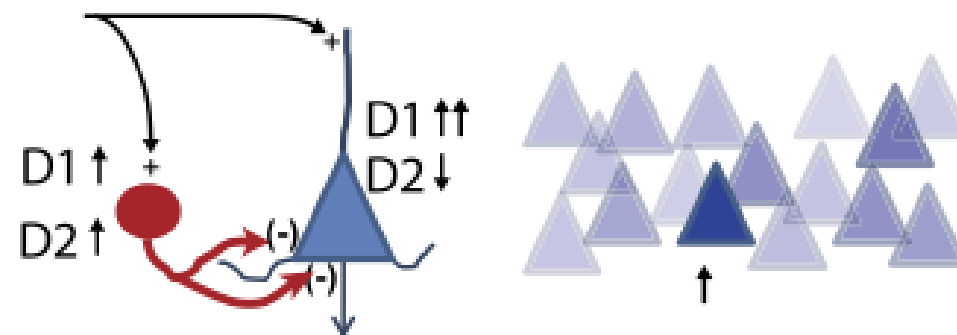
Dopamine modulates the balance of Excitation/ inhibition in the prefrontal cortex



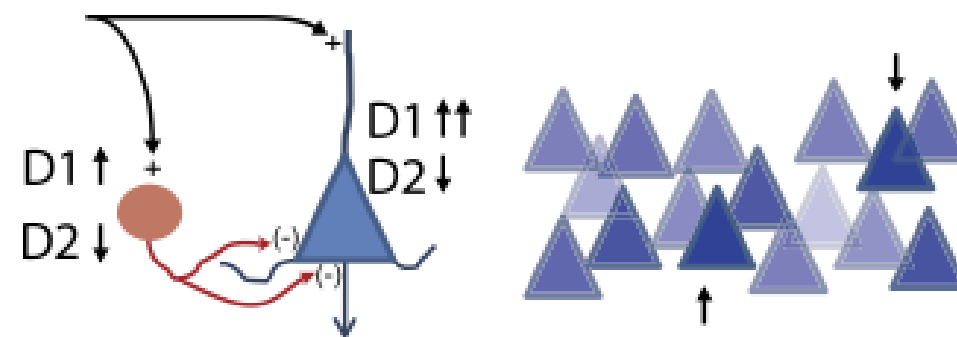
JUVENILE



ADULT



ADULT with LOSS of INTERNEURON FUNCTION



O'Donnell,
SCZ bull,
2011

THE HYPOTHESIS

- Antipsychotic properties of chlorpromazine (Delay & Denicker, 1952)
- Dopamine turnover increased by antipsychotics (Carlsson & Lindqvist, 1963)
- Overstimulation of DA receptors in SCZ (Van Rossum, 1966)
- Dopamine-sensitive adenylyl cyclase (Greengard et al., 1972)
- Antipsychotic binding sites (Snyder et al.; Seeman et al., 1976)
- D1 and D2 dopamine receptors (Spano, 1978; Kebabian & Calne, 1979)
- DA agonists produce psychosis (Angrist and Van kammen 1984, Lieberman 1987)
- First formulation: mesolimbic DA excess
- Re-formulation of DA in SCZ: subcortical excess and cortical deficit (Weinberger 1987, Davis, 1990)

OUTLINE

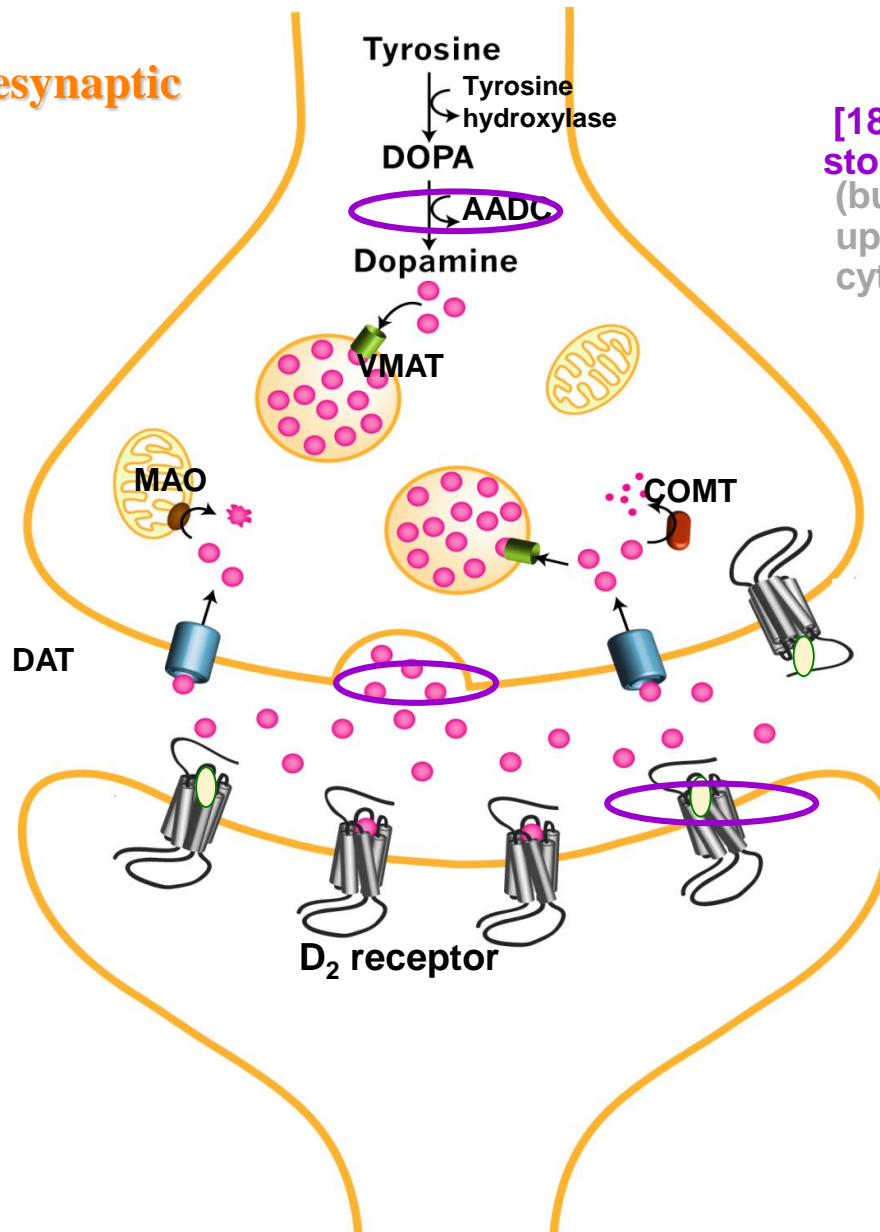
- The Hypothesis
- **The Evidence**
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis
 - Expanding the hypothesis
- The Model(s)
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

OUTLINE

- The Hypothesis
- **The Evidence**
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis
 - Expanding the hypothesis
- The Model(s)
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

Imaging the striatal dopaminergic synapse

Presynaptic



[18F]f-DOPA: synthesis and presynaptic storage (activity of AADC)

(but also uptake in DA neurons, VMAT activity and uptake in vesicles, pH in vesicles, metabolism in cytoplasm...)

D₂ receptor

Dopamine levels

D2 receptor

(but also affected by dopamine occupancy, internalization, synaptic localization, affinity state...)

Postsynaptic STR medium Spiny neuron

Imaging Dopamine

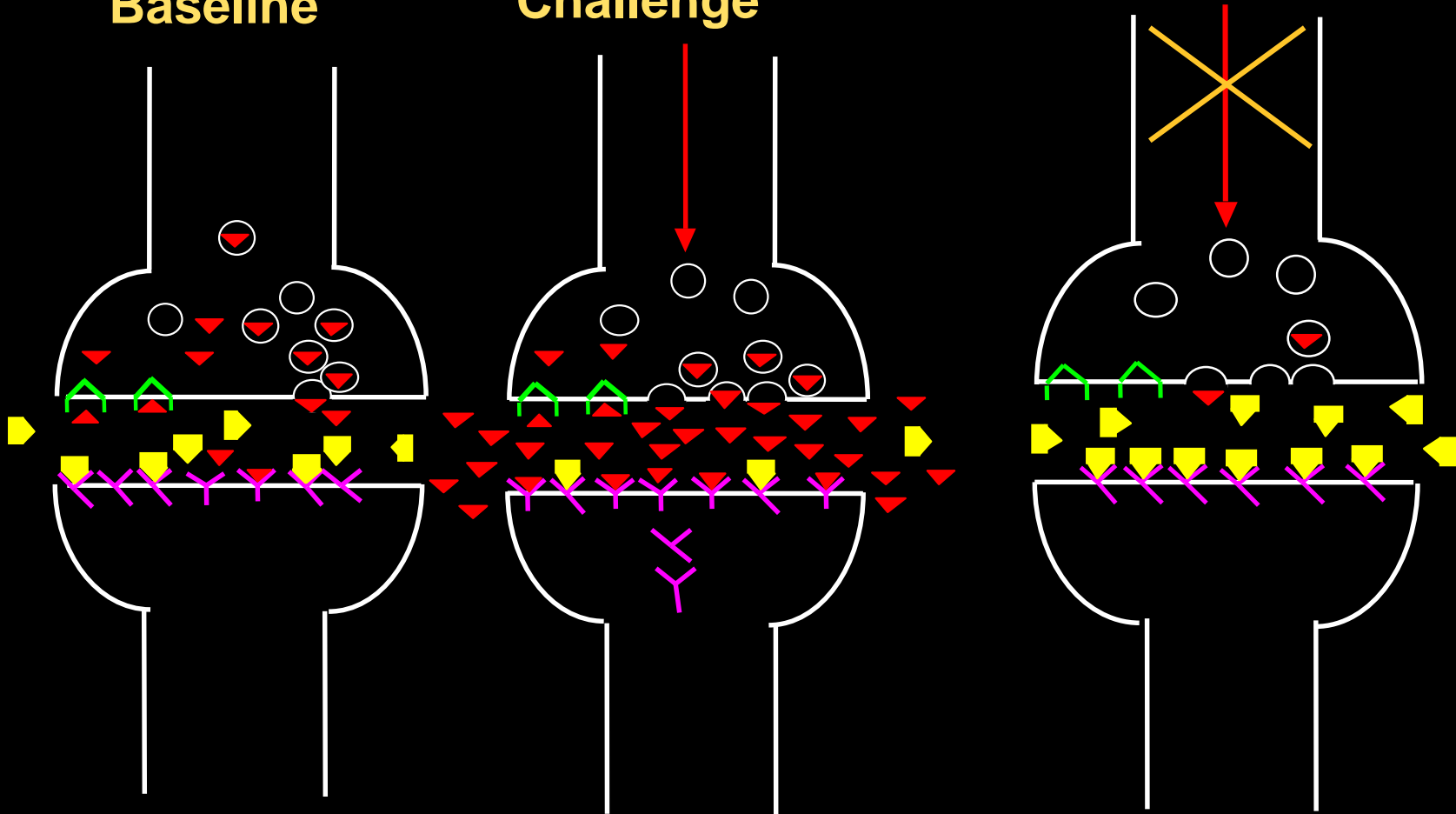
▼ D2 radiotracer

▼ Dopamine

Baseline

Amphetamine
Challenge

Alpha-methyl-para-tyrosine
Challenge



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

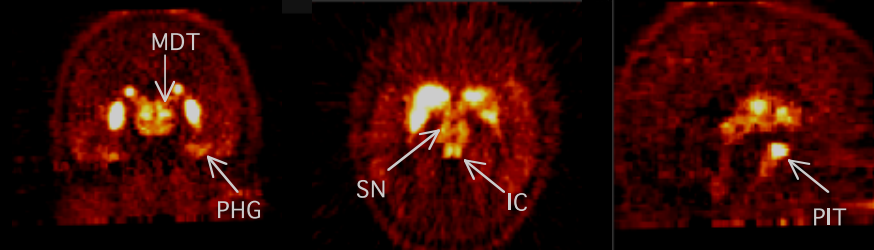
COLUMBIA
TRANSLATIONAL
NEUROSCIENCE
INITIATIVE



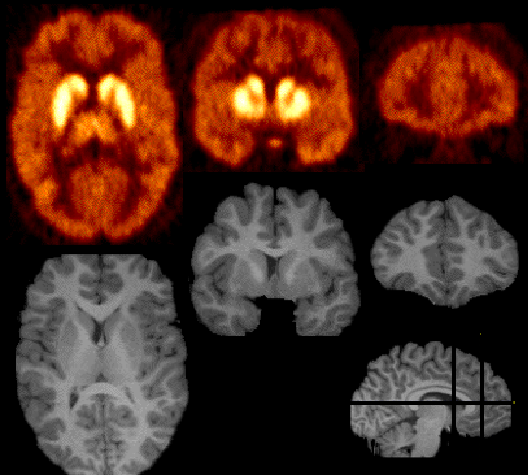
D2/3 PET imaging



[11C]raclopride



[11C]Fallypride

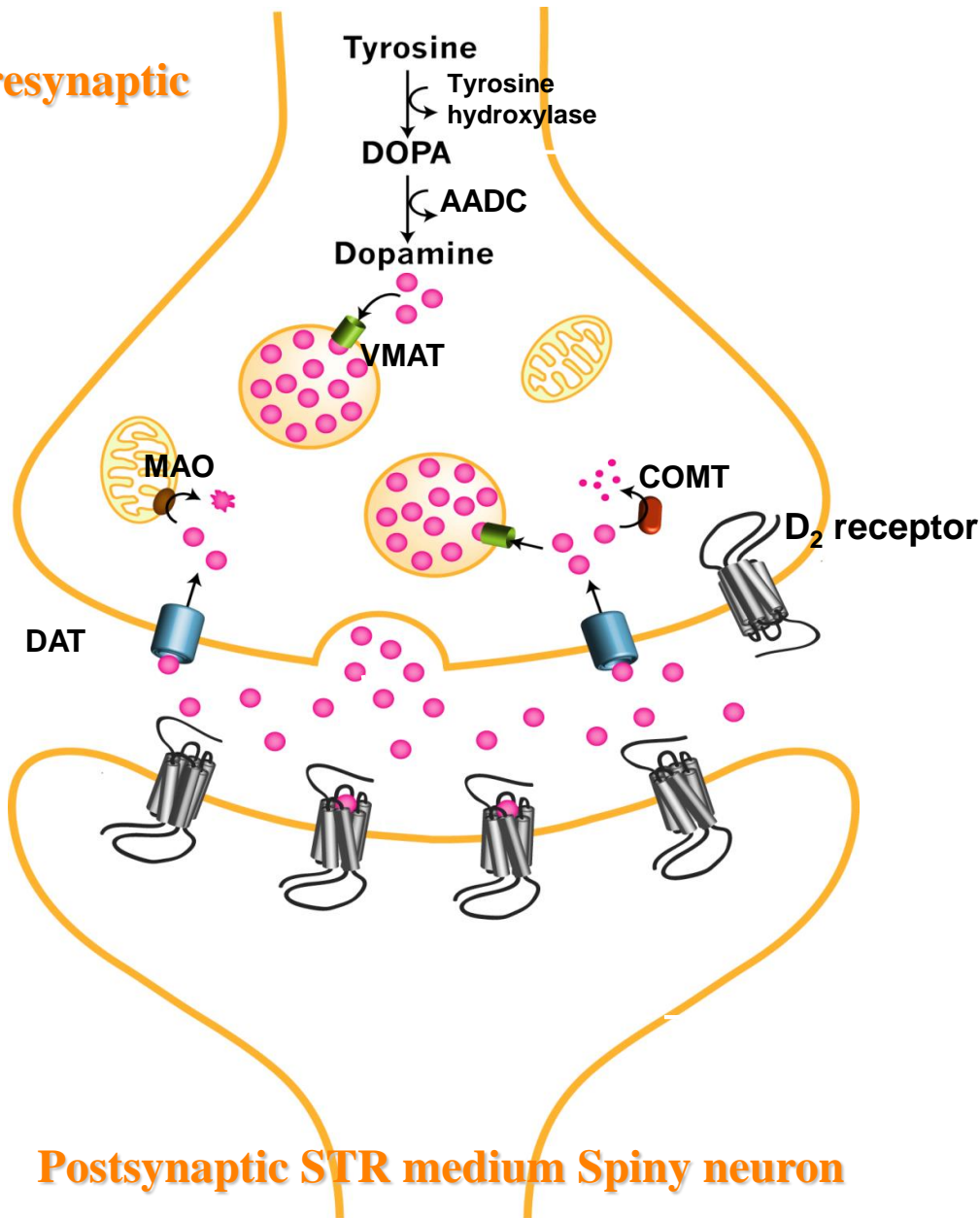


[11C]FLB457



STRIATAL dopamine alterations in schizophrenia

Presynaptic



Postsynaptic STR medium Spiny neuron

Dopamine “synthesis”



Reith et al., 1994

Hietala et al., 1995, 1999

Lindstorm et al., 1999

Meyer-Lindenberg et al., 2002

McGowan et al., 2004

Nozaki S et al., 2009

Howes et al., 2009

Dopamine “release”



- Amphetamine challenge -

Laruelle et al., 1996

Breier et al., 1997

Abi-Dargham et al., 1998

- AMPT -

Abi-Dargham et al., 2000

Kegeles et al., 2010

D₂ receptors

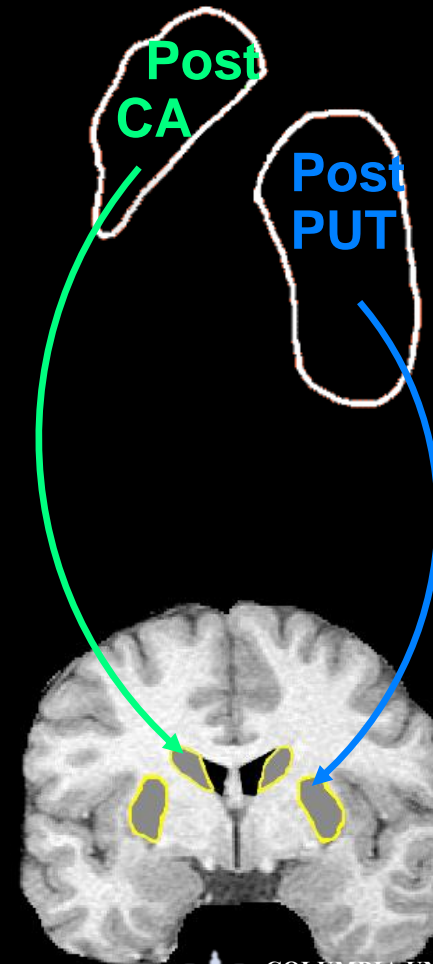
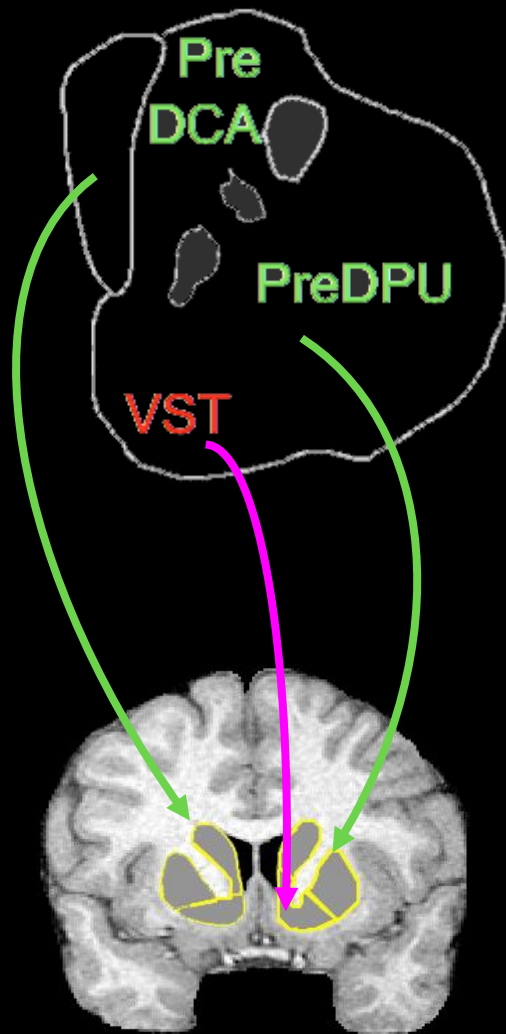


- Meta analyses -

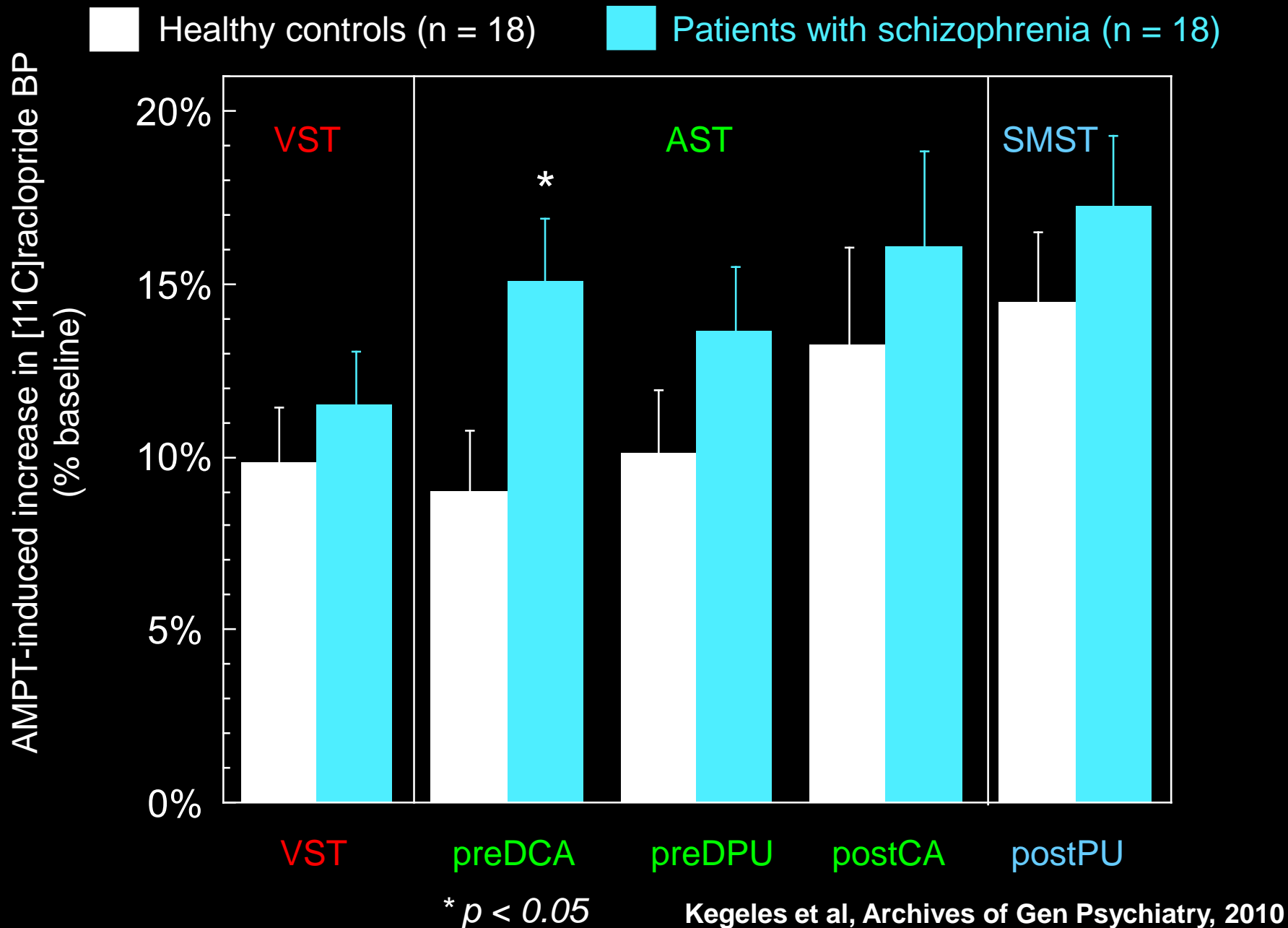
Weinberger & Laruelle, 2001

Howes et al., 2012

Topography of STRIATAL DA alterations in striatal subdivisions:



Intrasynaptic dopamine in STR subdivisions in SCZ

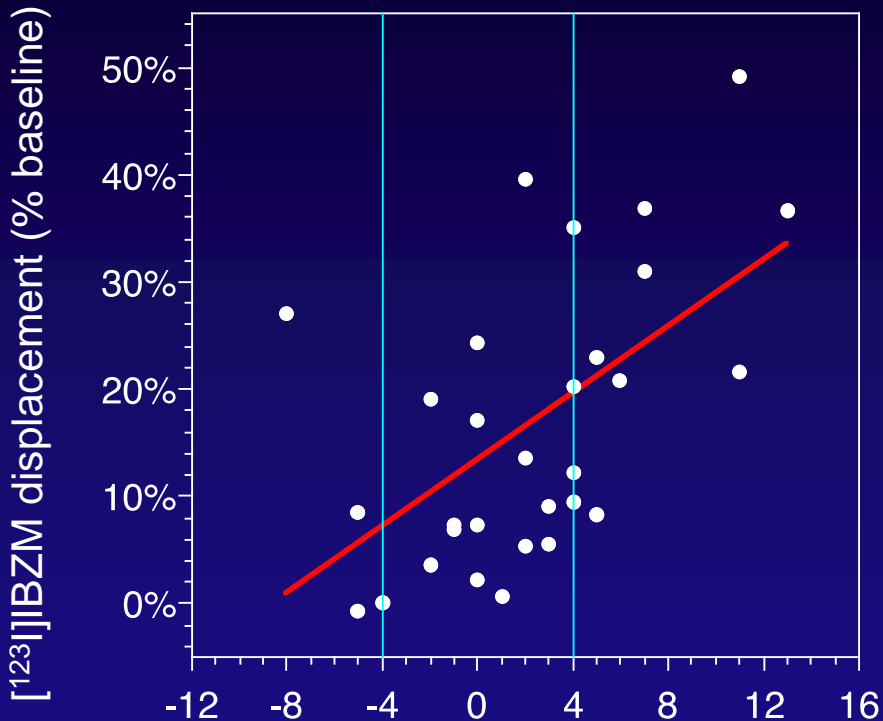


Striatal Dopamine Release and Psychotic Symptoms

Schizophrenia, n= 34

$r_P = 0.55$

STRIATUM

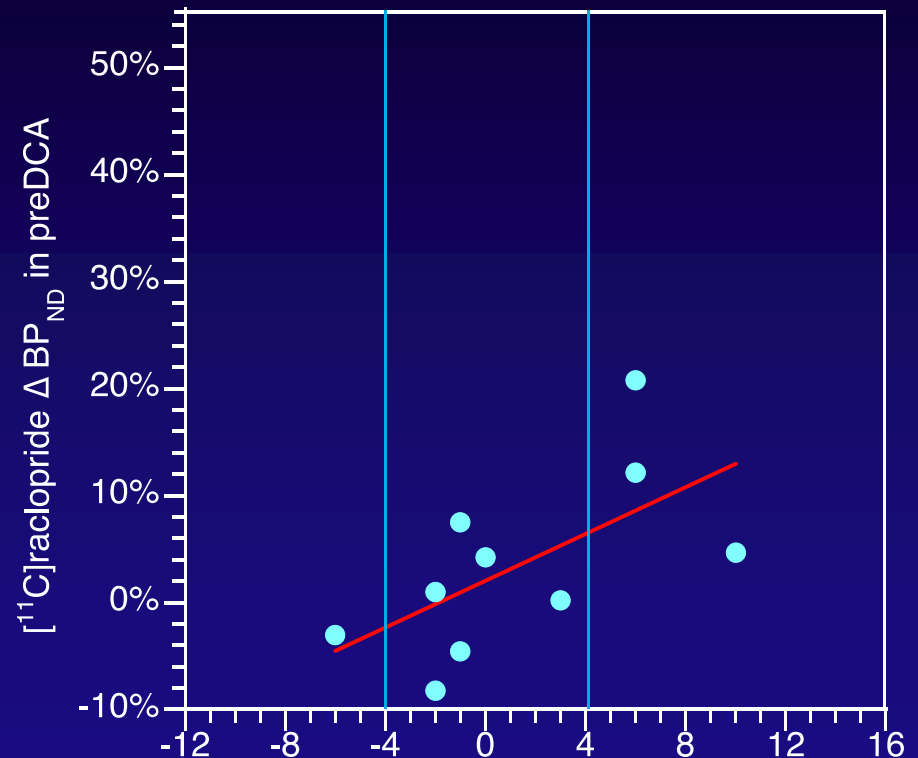


SCZ DD, n=10

$r_S = 0.69$

($r_P = 0.62$)

ROSTRAL caudate



Change in Psychosis scores (PANSS)



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

COLUMBIA
TRANSLATIONAL
NEUROSCIENCE
INITIATIVE



High Synaptic Dopamine Predicts Treatment Response at 6 Weeks

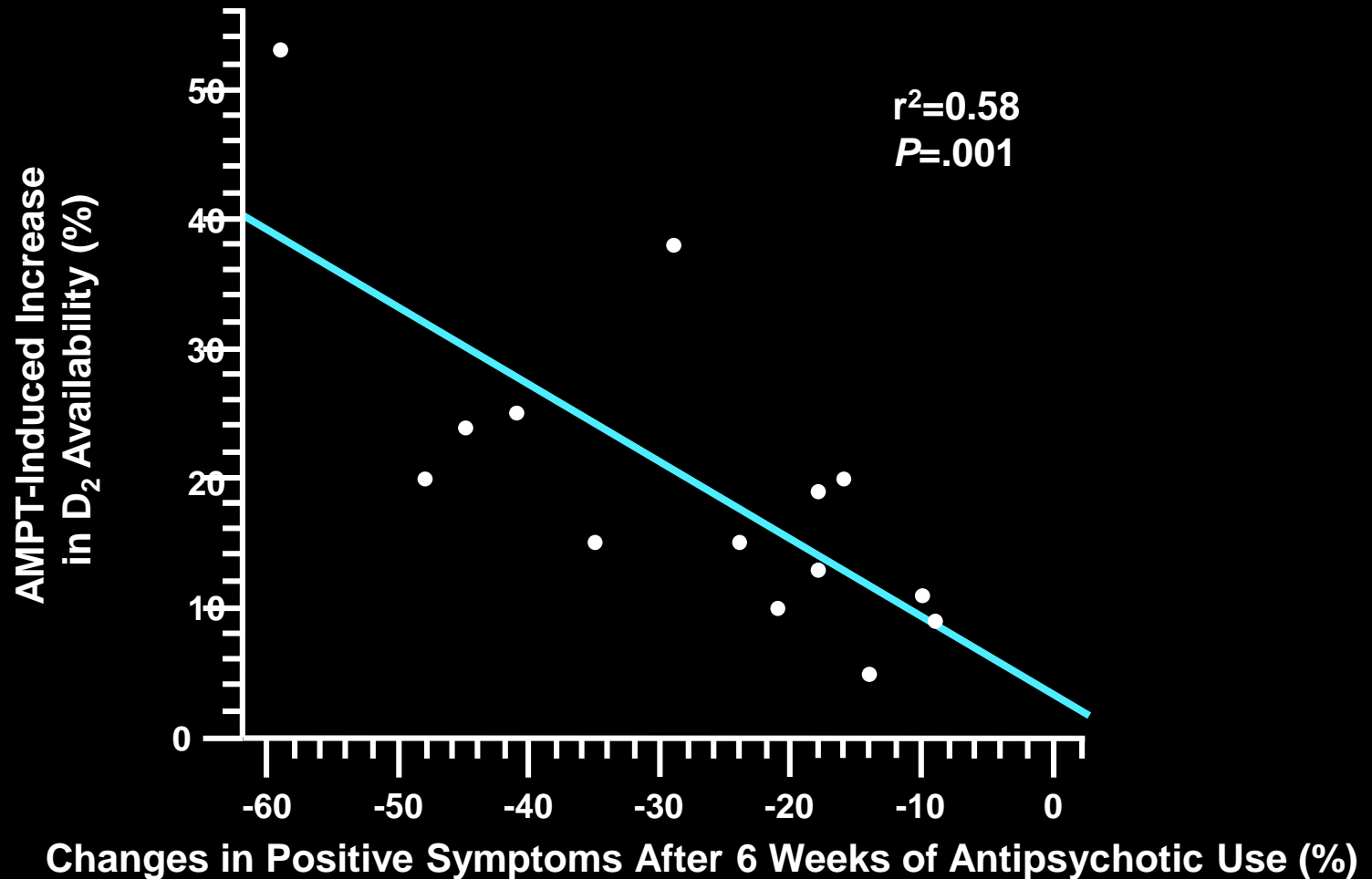
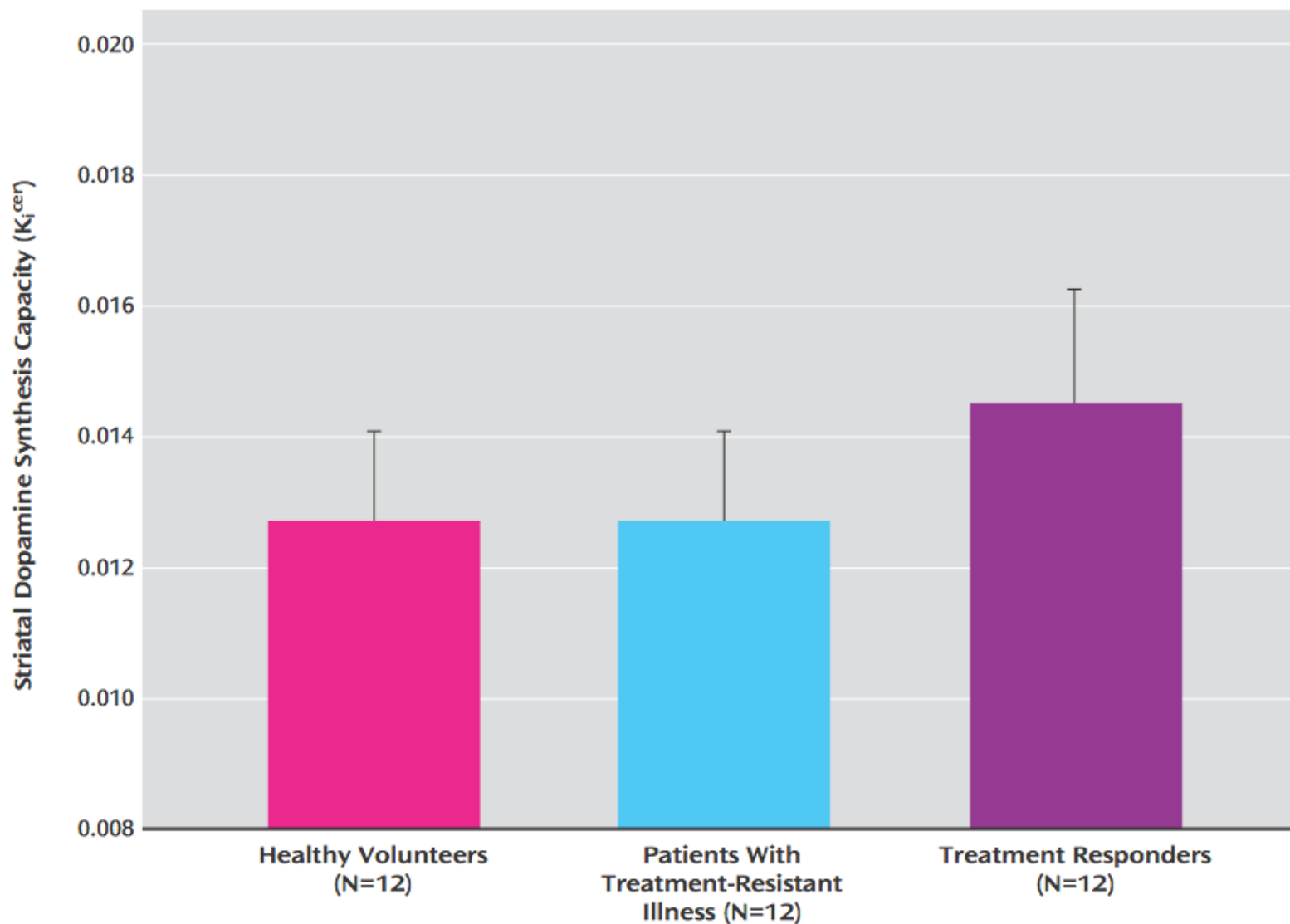
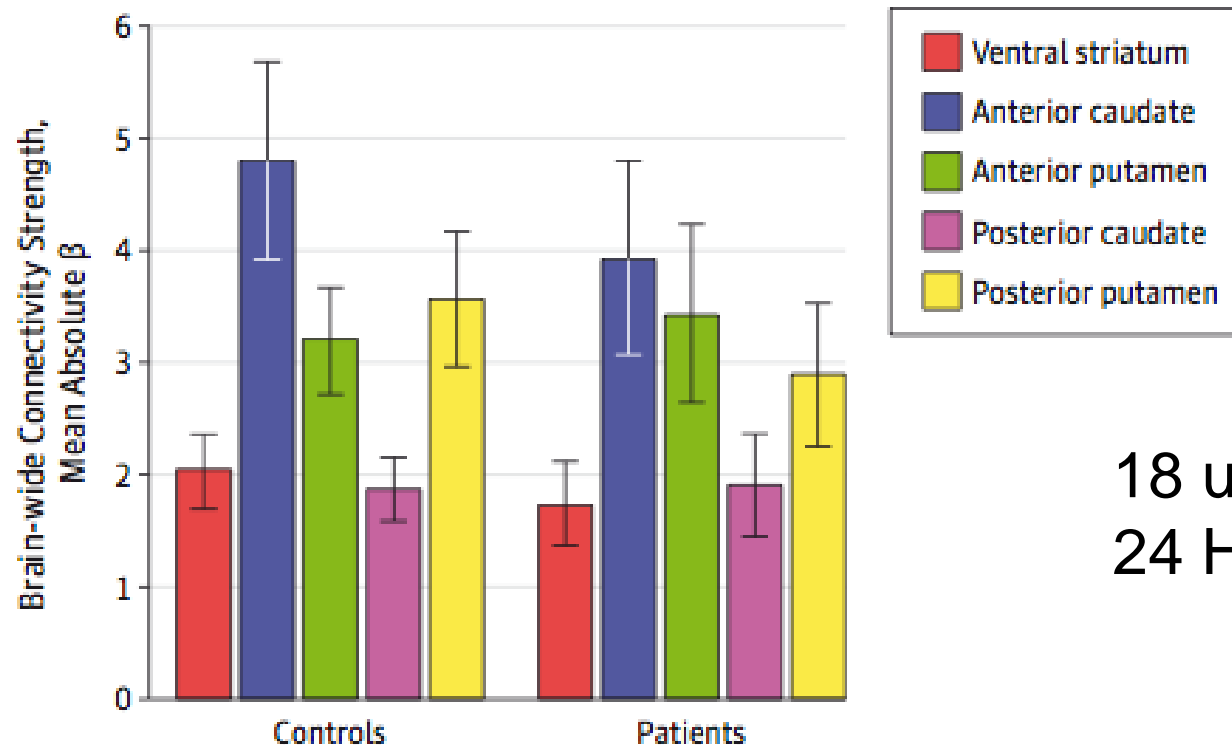


FIGURE 1. Mean Dopamine Synthesis Capacity for the Whole Striatum in Patients With Treatment-Resistant Schizophrenia, Treatment Responders, and Healthy Volunteers^a



^a The treatment-resistant group showed significantly lower dopamine synthesis capacity than the treatment responders ($p=0.02$, corrected for multiple comparisons). There were no significant differences between treatment-resistant patients and healthy volunteers. Error bars indicate standard deviation.

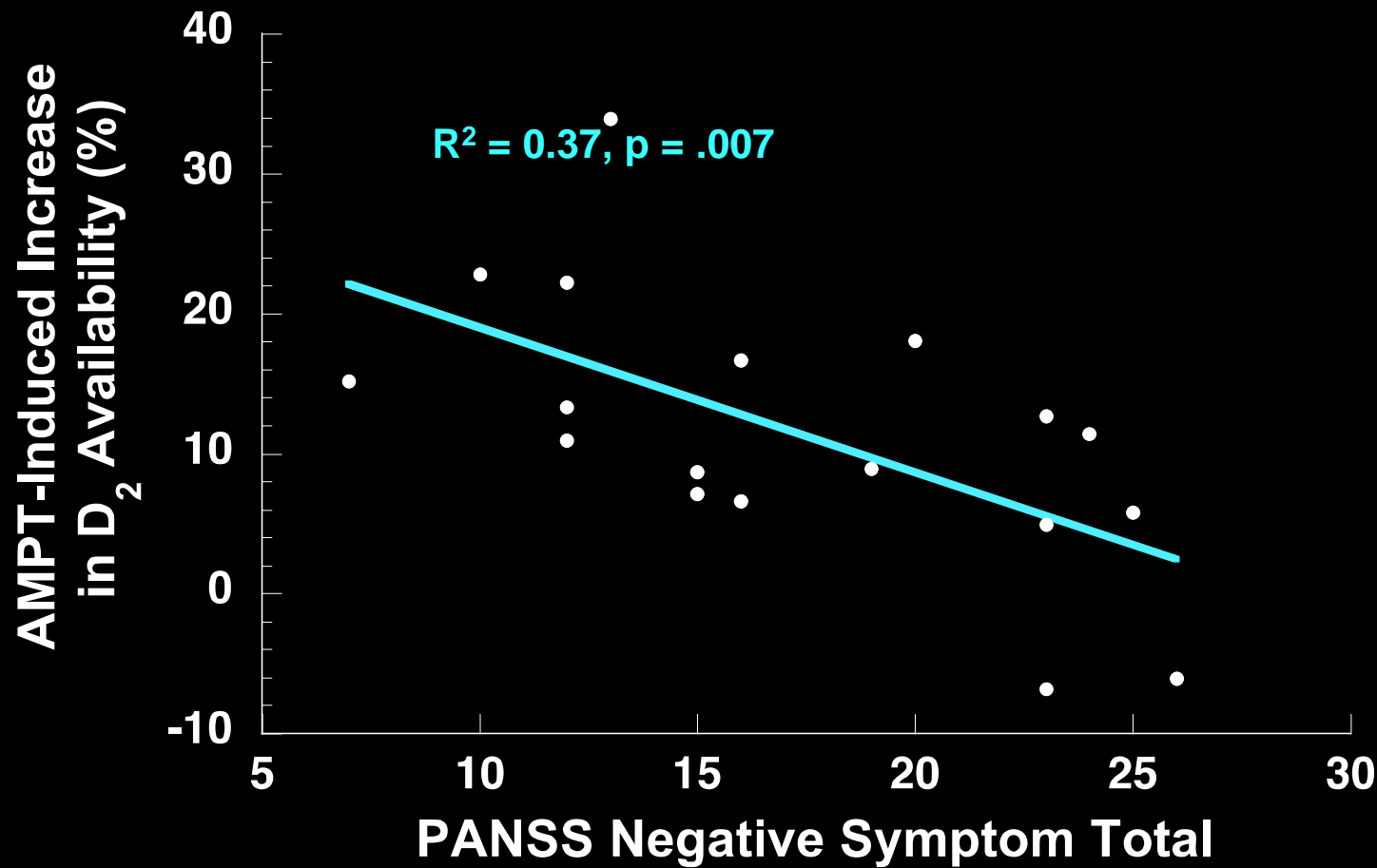
Figure 4. Global Brain Connectivity of Striatal Subregions in Patients and Healthy Controls



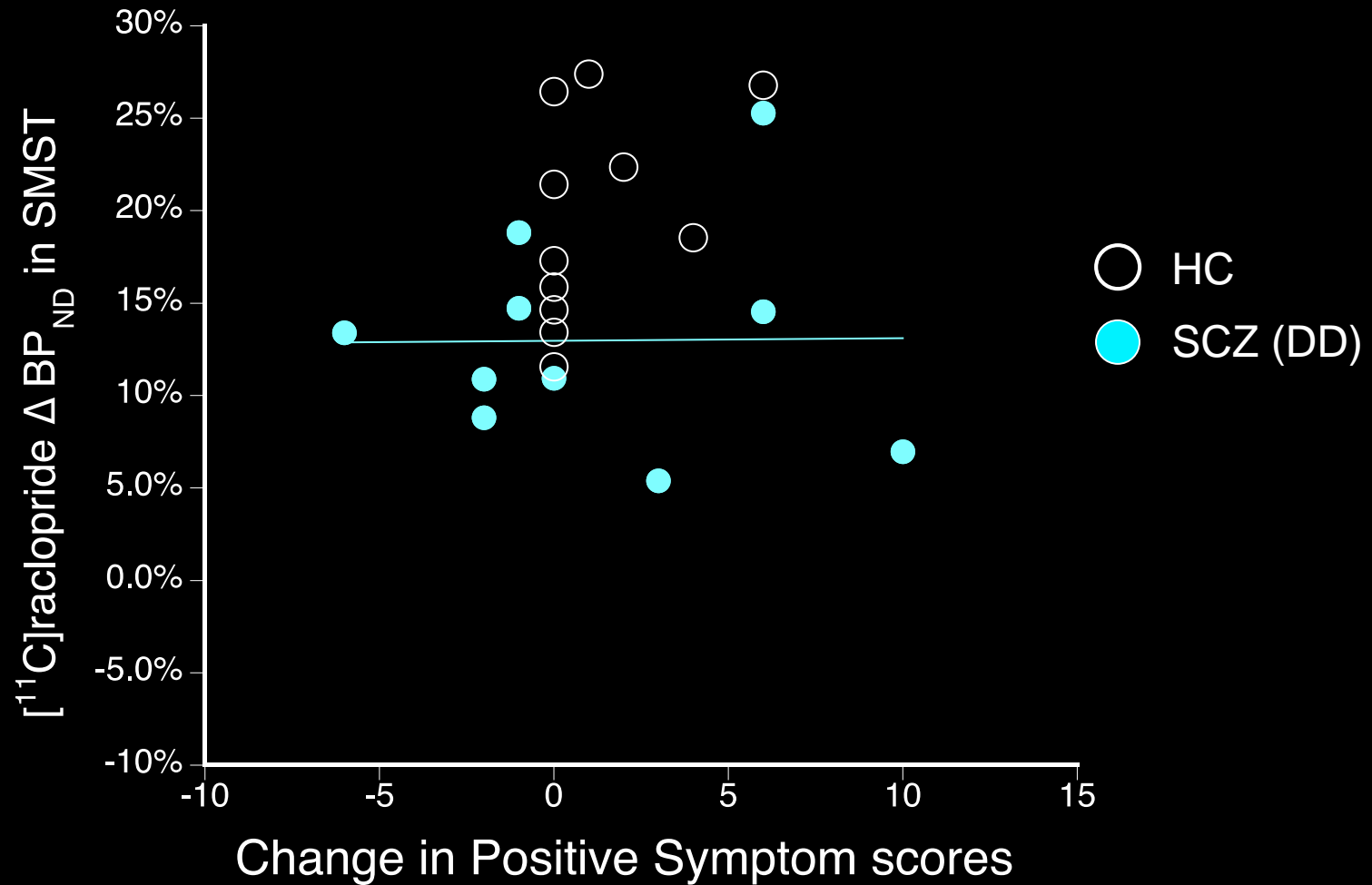
18 unmed SCZ
24 HC

Mean (SEM) absolute β values across all extrastriatal brain voxels are plotted by striatal subregion and group.

Negative Symptoms inversely related to Dopamine Levels in Ventral Striatum



But not in the sensorimotor striatum

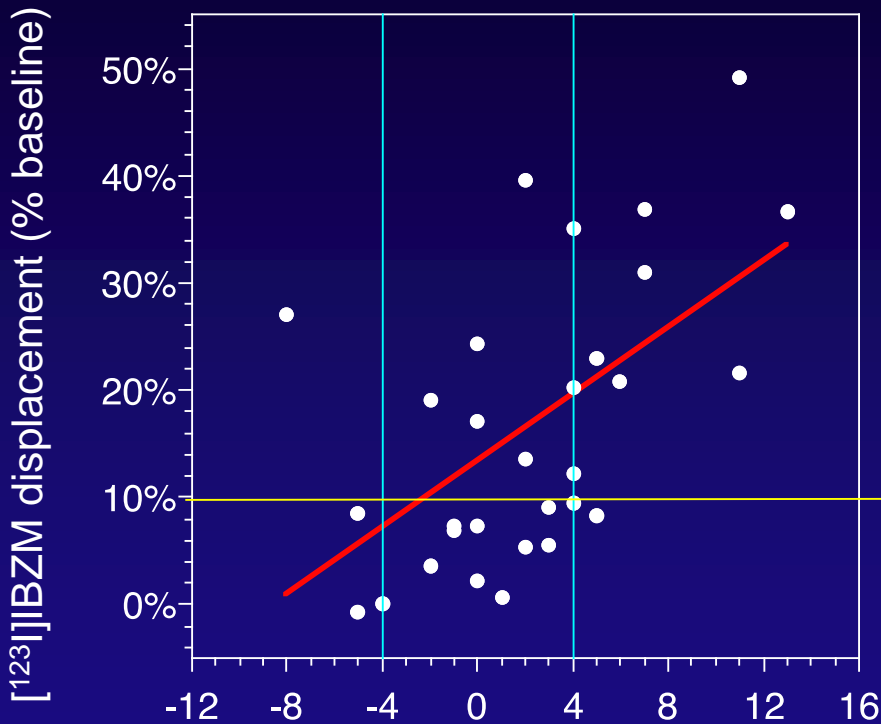


Striatal Dopamine Release and Psychotic Symptoms

Schizophrenia, n= 34

$r_P = 0.55$

STRIATUM

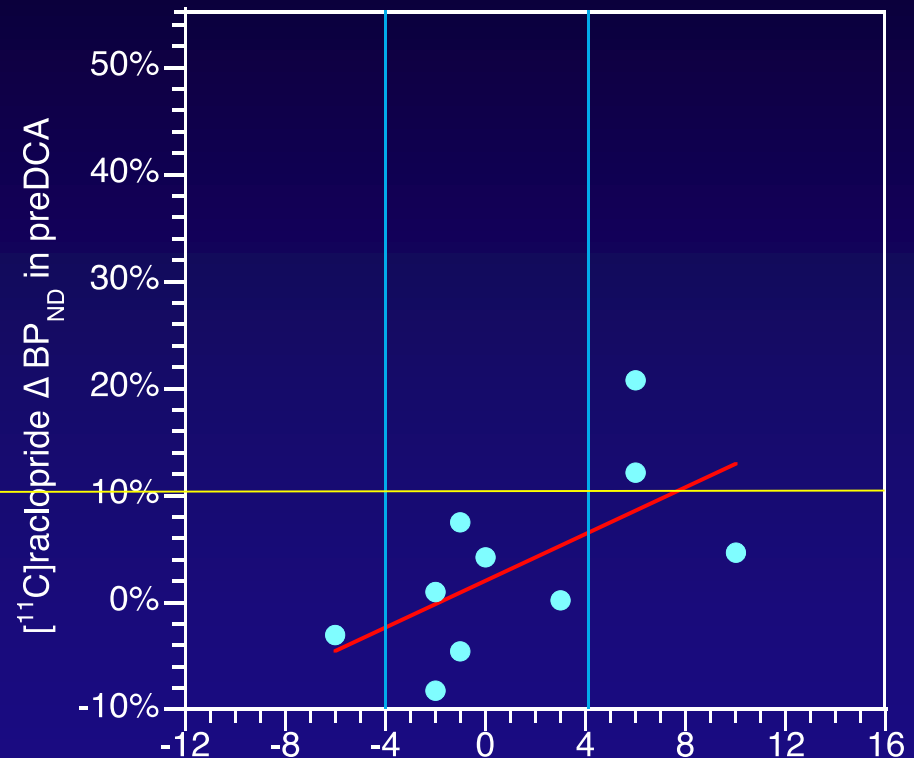


Dual Diagnosis, n=10

$r_S = 0.69$

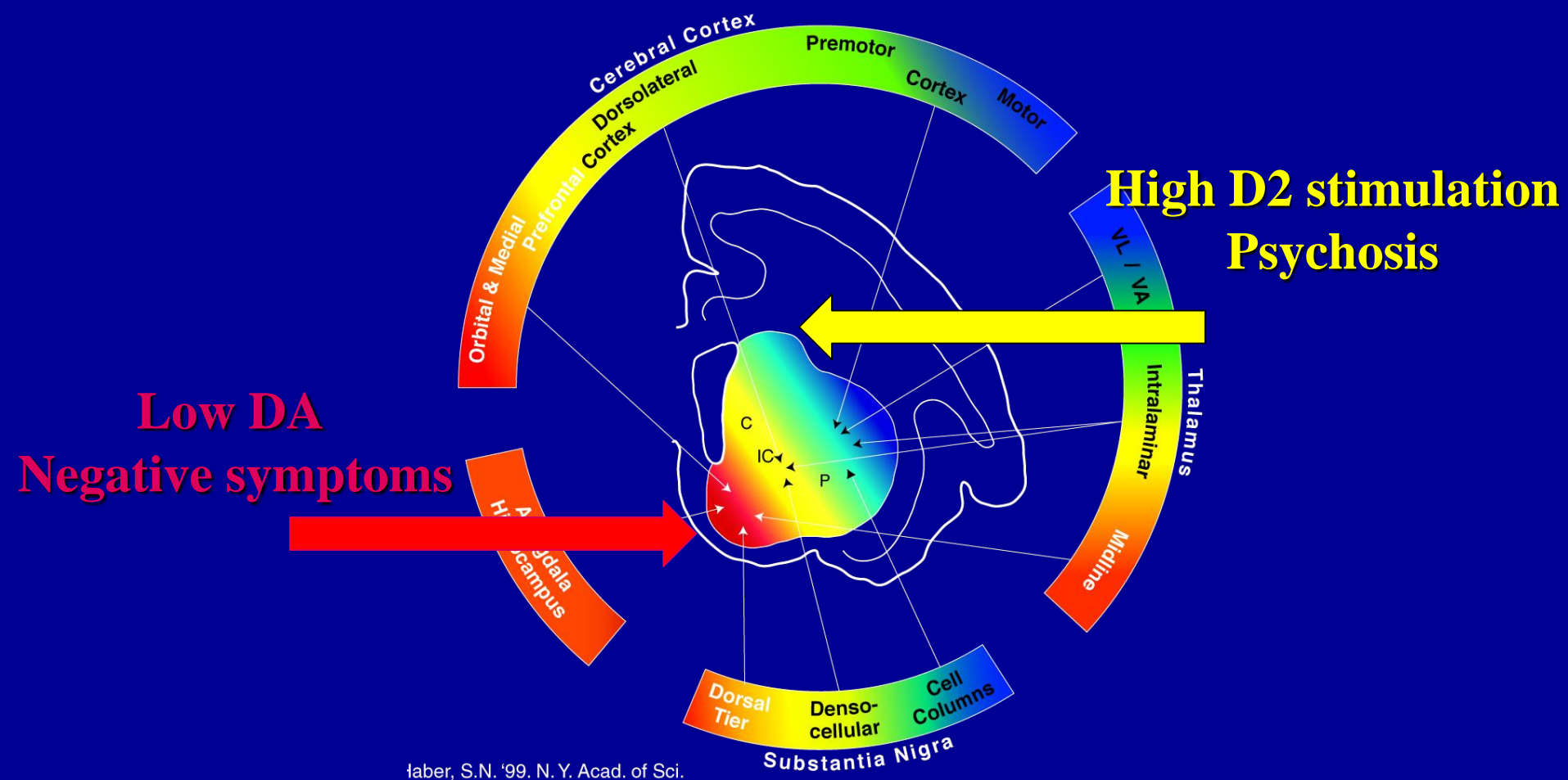
($r_P = 0.62$)

ROSTRAL caudate



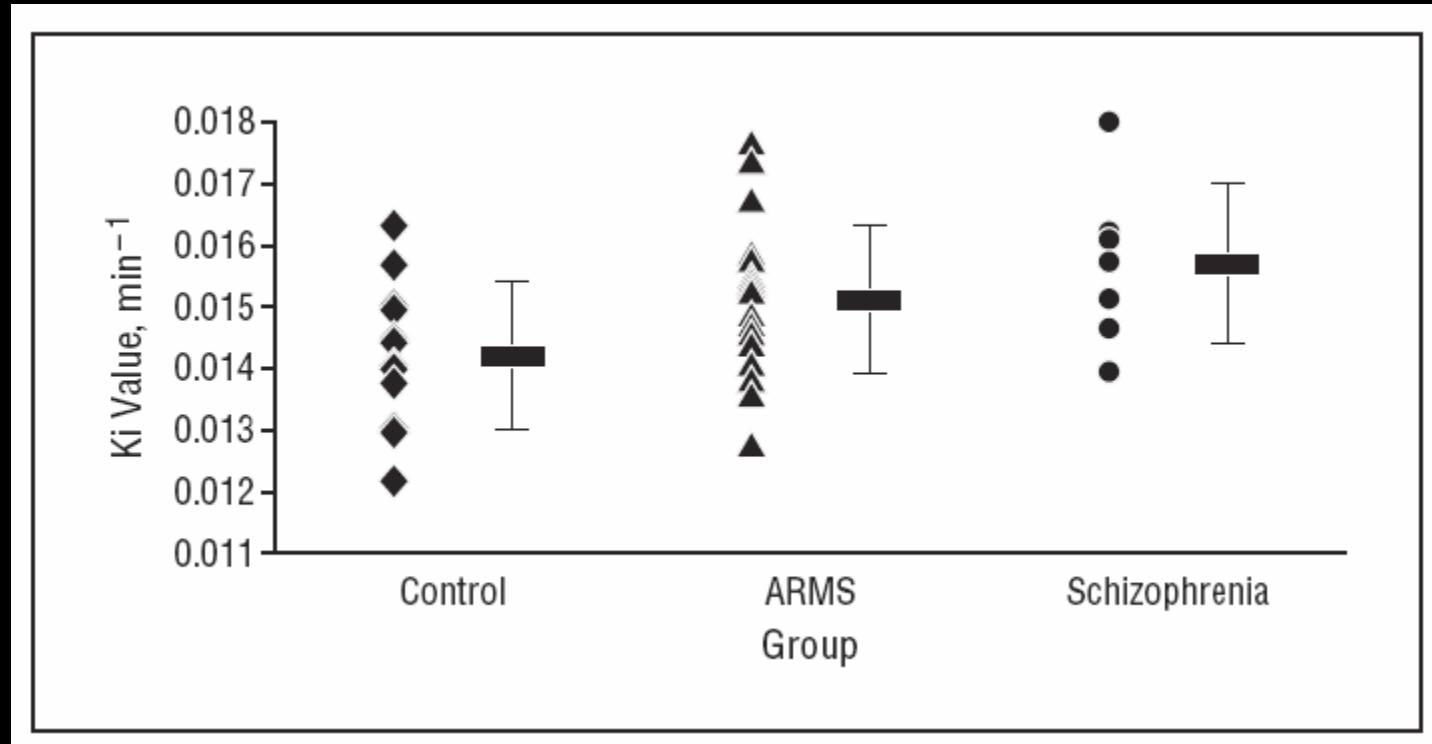
Change in Psychosis scores (PANSS)

Thompson et al, Mol Psychiatry 2012



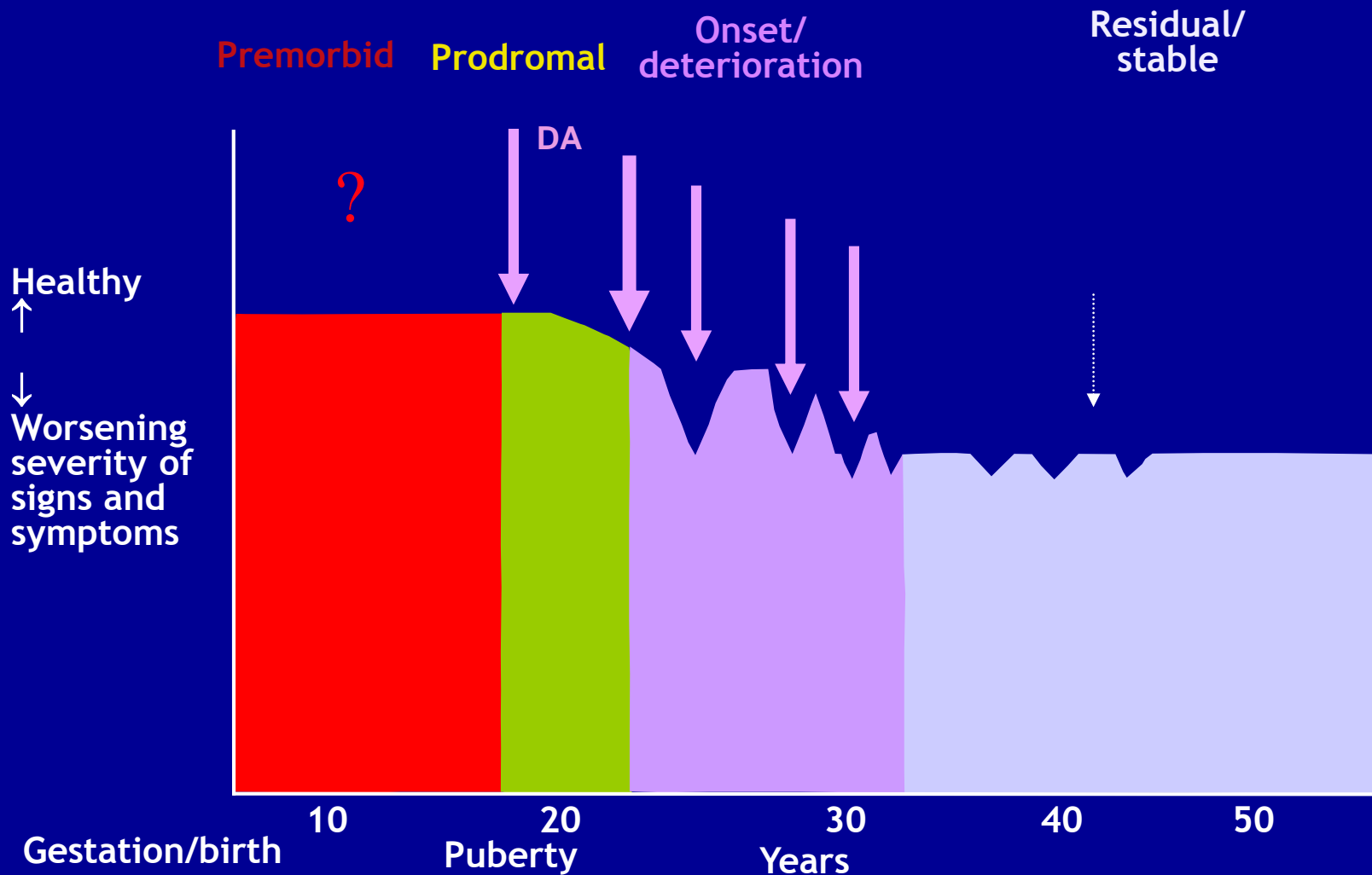
Haber and Mc Farland, Ann N Y Acad Sci.1999, Kegeles et al, Archives of Gen Psychiatry, 2010
Howes et al, Archives of Gen Psychiatry 2009

Dopamine synthesis in the prodrome: [18F]f-DOPA increased in striatum



Howes et al, Arch Gen Psych 2009
Howes et al, Molecular Psych 2011
Howes et al, Am J Psychiatry 2011

DA dysregulation is an early event, observed in the prodrome and predicts conversion

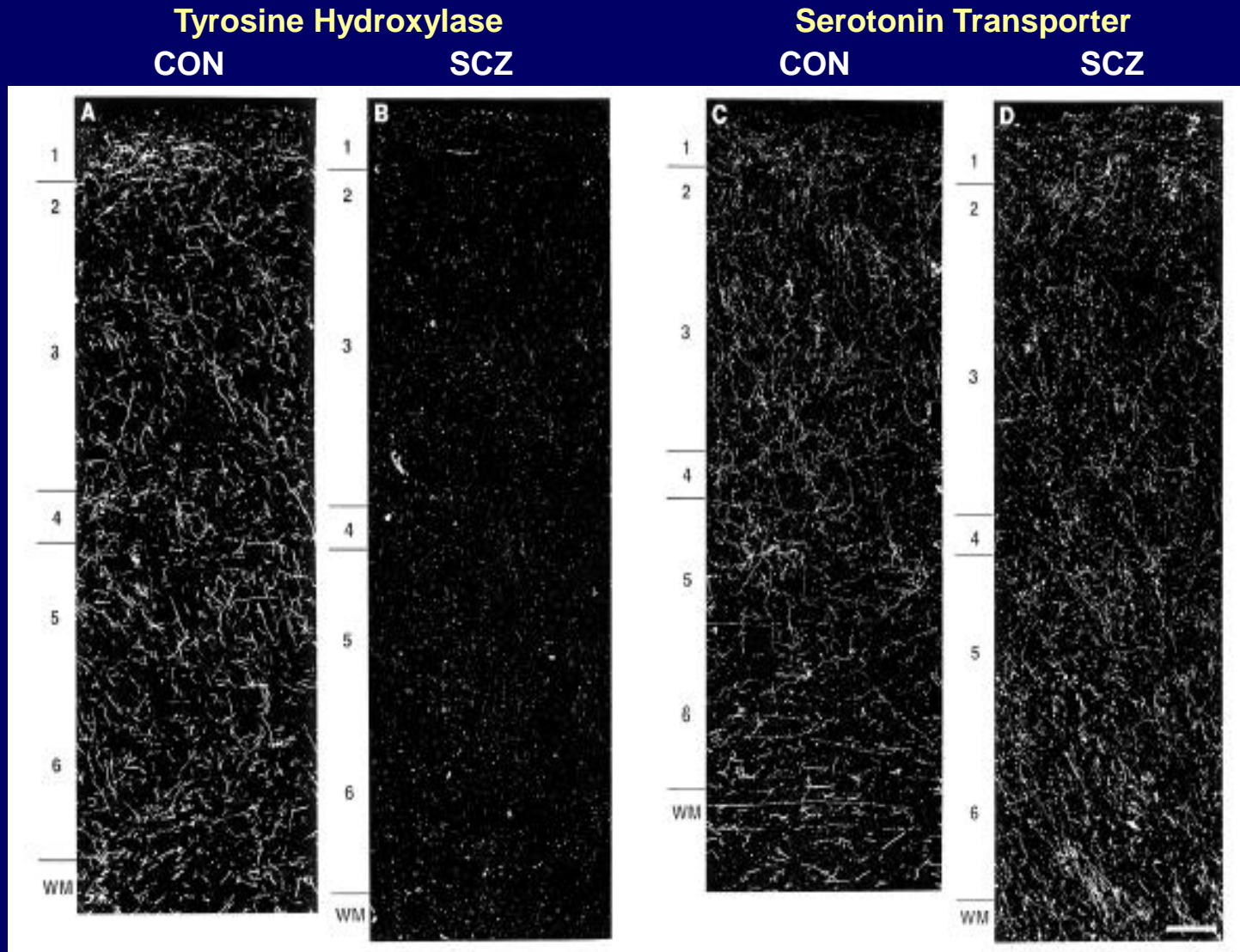


After Lieberman et al

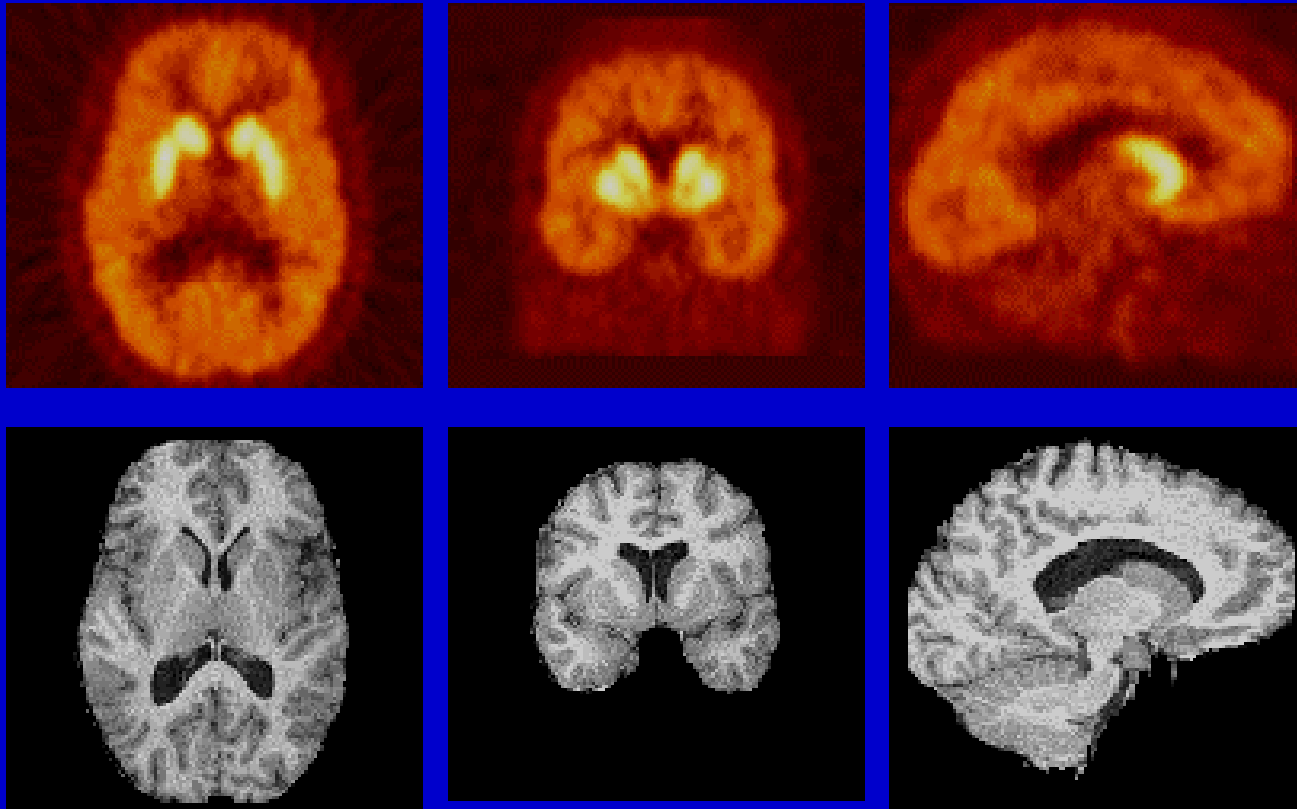
OUTLINE

- The Hypothesis
- The Evidence
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis: Associative striatum is affected
 - » DA dysregulation precedes onset
 - Expanding the hypothesis:
 - The Model(s)
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

Cortical Dopamine in SCZ



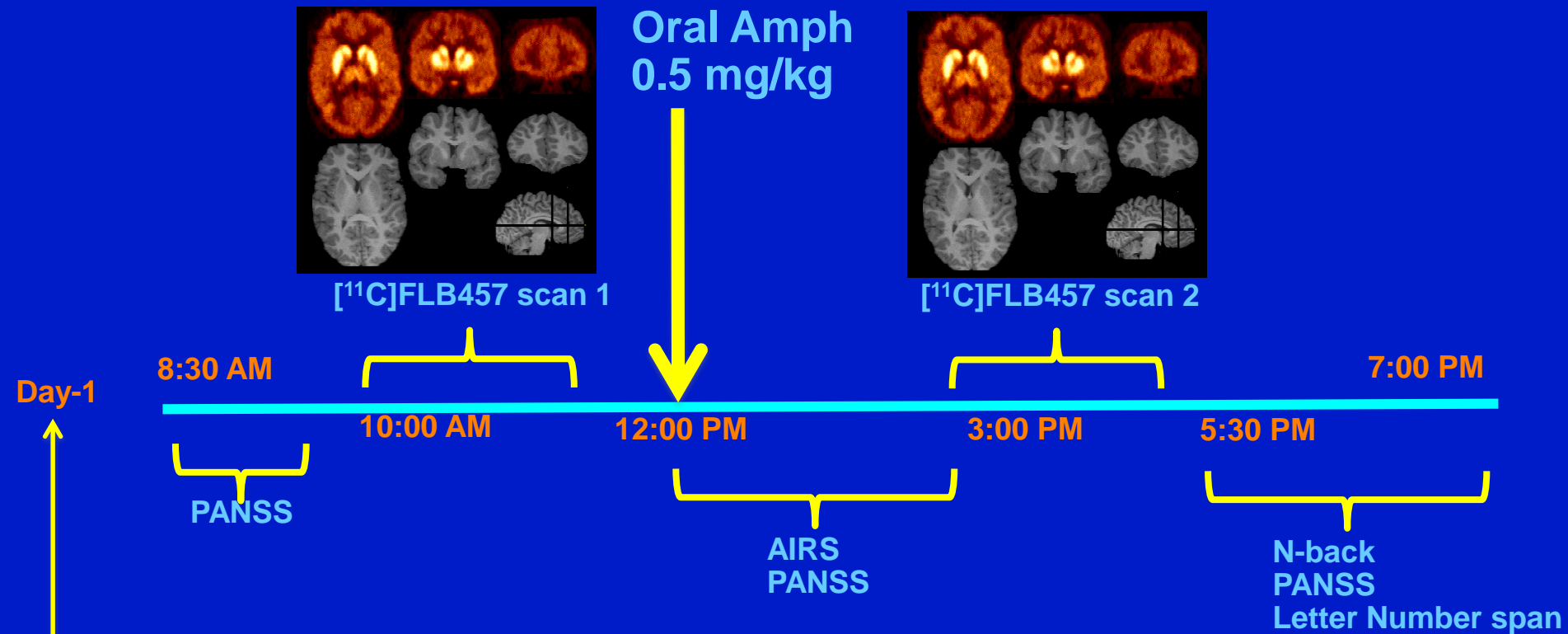
D1 PET imaging



PET studies of PFC D1 receptors in SCZ

Study	Ligand	n patients (DN/DF)	n controls	Results
Okubo et al., 1997	[11C]SCH23390	17 (10/7)	18	↓
Karlsson et al., 2002	[11C]SCH23390	10 (10/0)	10	No change
Hirvonen et al., 2006	[11C]SCH23390	(0/9)	(11/13)	↑ Disc Twins ↓ Medicated SCZ
Abi-Dargham et all, 2002	[11C]NNC112	16 (9/7)	16	↑
Abi-Dargham et all, 2009	[11C]NNC112	25 (12/13)	40	↑ In DN No change in DF

Imaging cortical DA release with [11C]FLB457/ amphetamine paradigm/ multimodal imaging



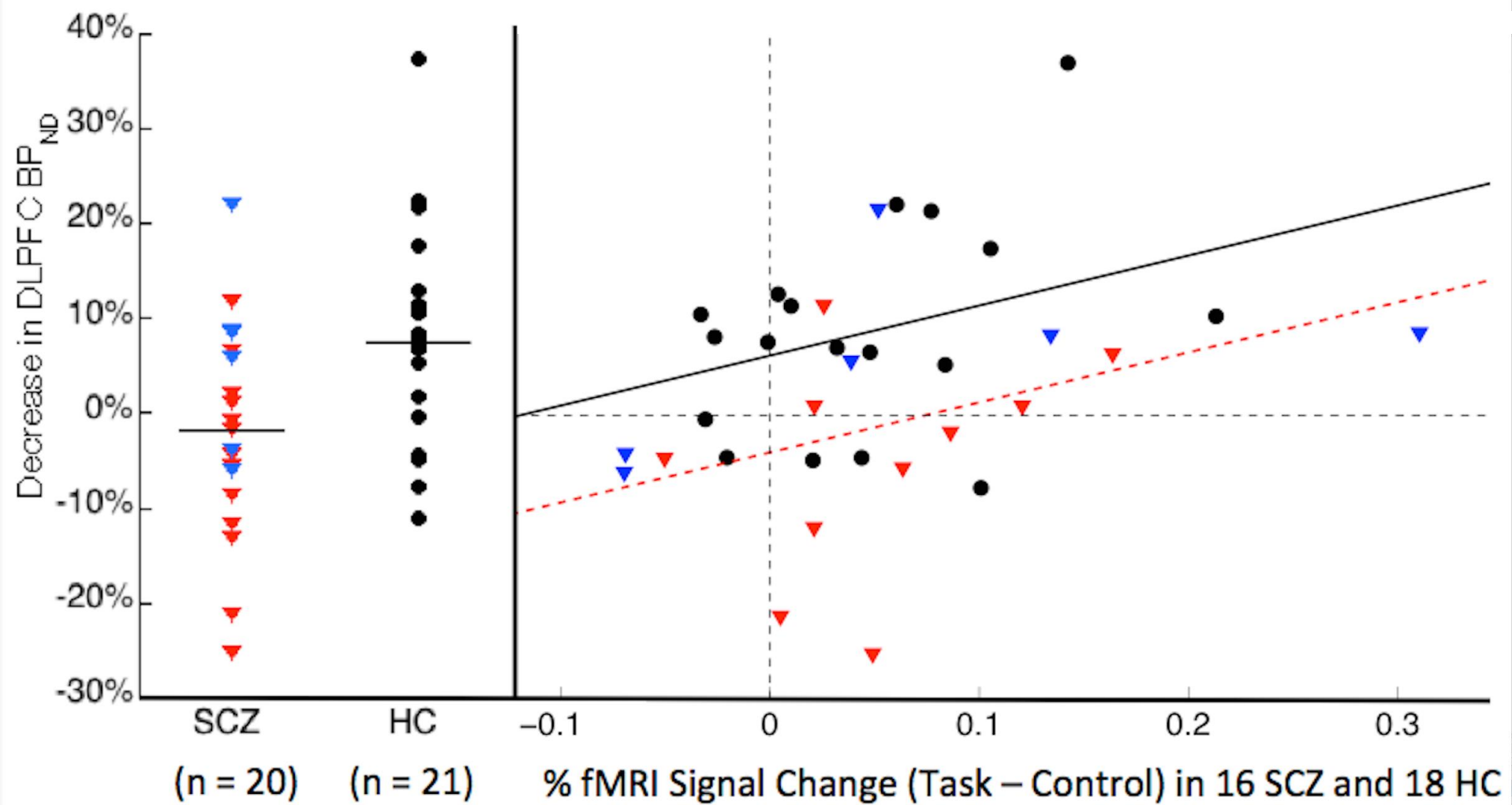
fMRI imaging session:
N back, SOT, resting state connectivity
Behavioral tests outside of the scanner



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

COLUMBIA
TRANSLATIONAL
NEUROSCIENCE
INITIATIVE

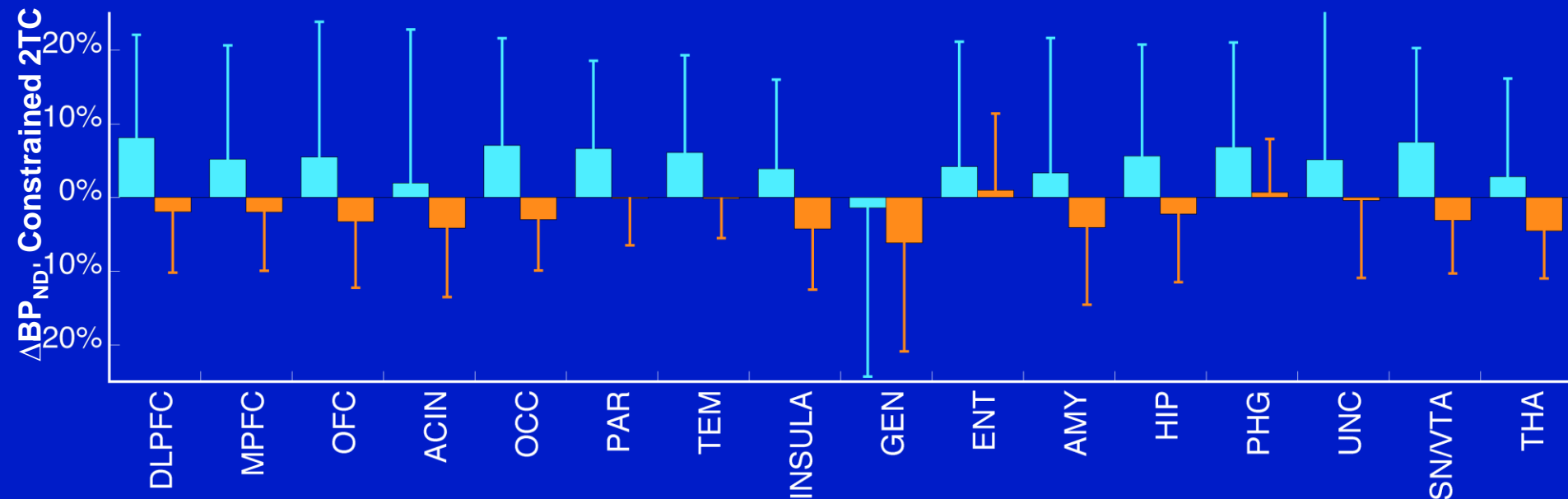




Slifstein et al, JAMA Psychiatry 2015

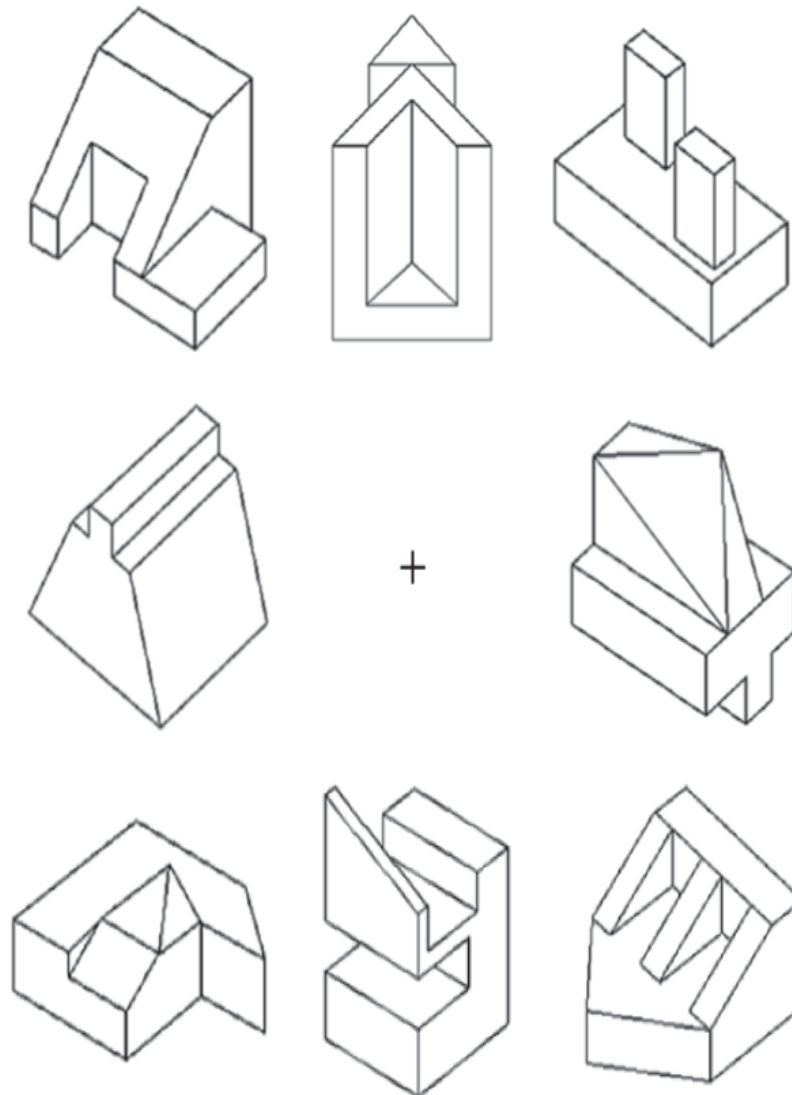
Generalized deficit in dopamine release capacity in SCZ

SCZ = 20, HC = 21



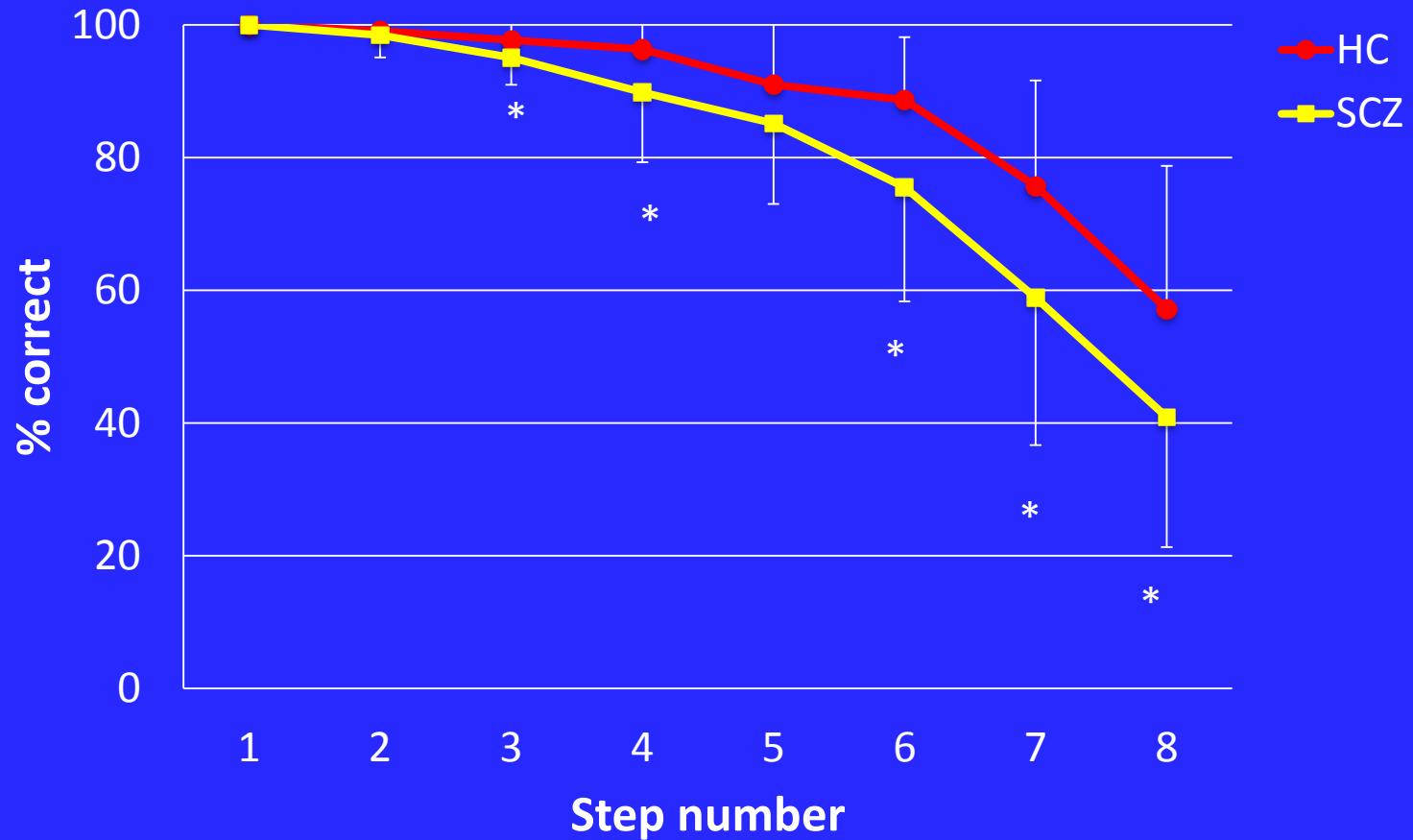
Regional Averages in displacement of radiotracer \pm SD

Self-Ordered Working Memory Task

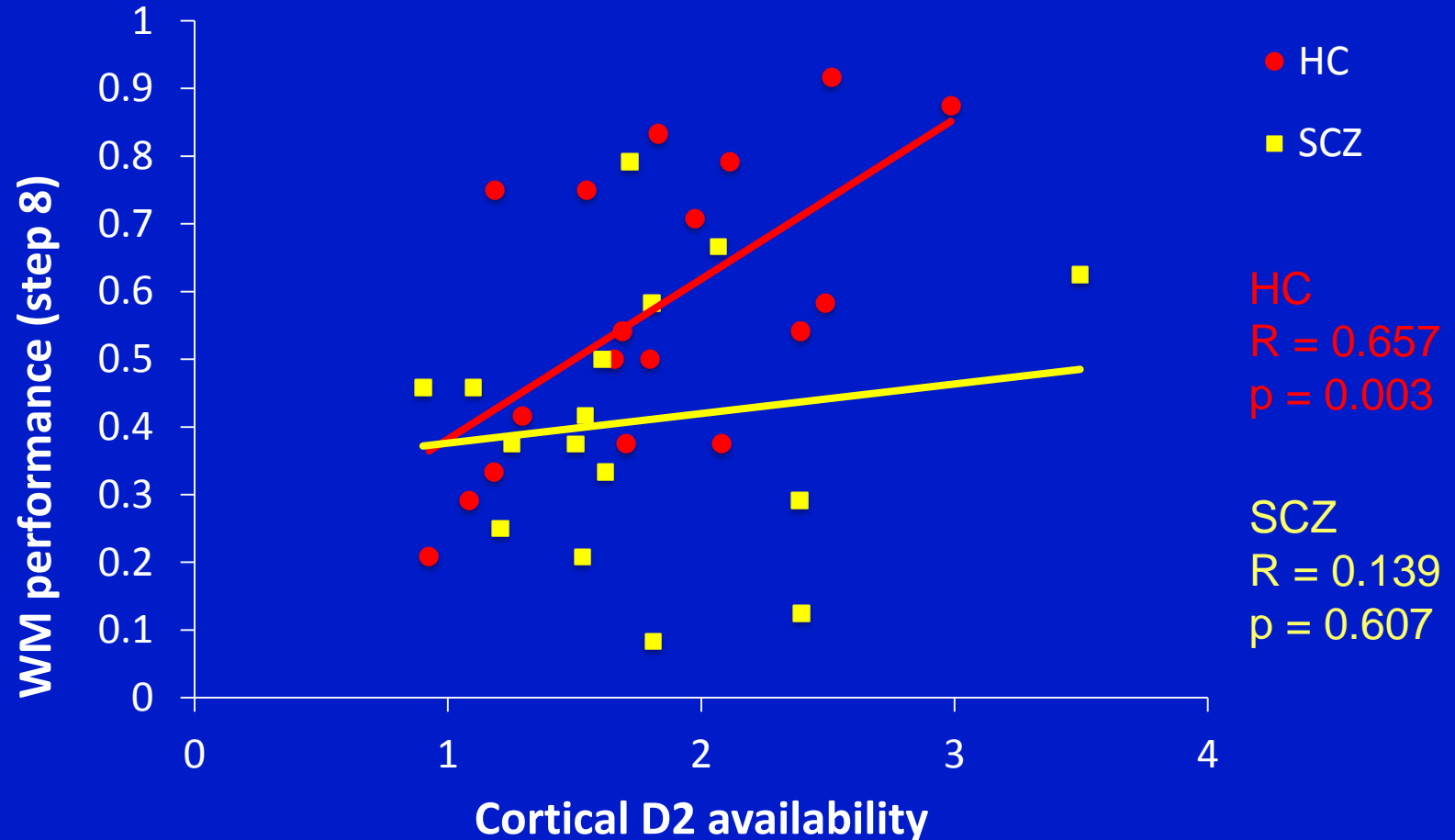


Jared Van Snellenberg

WM Performance



D2 levels in DLPFC predict Working Memory performance in HC



Neuroimaging of DLPFC Function in SCZ



Schizophrenia Research 60 (2003) 285–298

SCHIZOPHRENIA
RESEARCH

www.elsevier.com/locate/schres

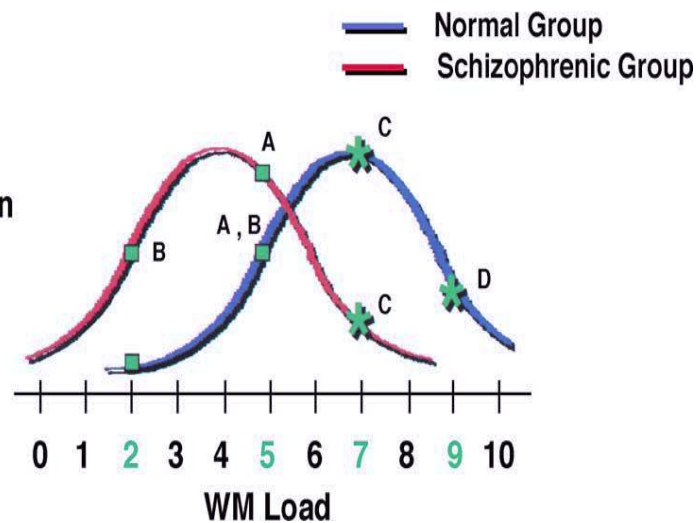
Prefrontal cortex dysfunction during working memory performance in schizophrenia: reconciling discrepant findings

Dara S. Manoach*

Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital-East and Harvard Medical School,
36 First Avenue, Room 420, Charlestown, MA 02129, USA
Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging, Charlestown, MA 02129, USA

Received 23 December 2001; revised 25 March 2002; accepted 1 April 2002

DLPFC Activation



Article

Complexity of Prefrontal Cortical Dysfunction in Schizophrenia: More Than Up or Down

Joseph H. Callicott, M.D.

Venkata S. Mattay, M.D.

Beth A. Verchinski, B.S.

Stefano Marenco, M.D.

Michael F. Egan, M.D.

Daniel R. Weinberger, M.D.

Objective: Numerous neuroimaging studies have examined the function of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in schizophrenia; although abnormalities usually are identified, it is unclear why some studies find too little activation and others too much. The authors' goal was to explore this phenomenon.

Method: They used the N-back working memory task and functional magnetic resonance imaging at 3 T to examine a group of 14 patients with schizophrenia and a matched comparison group of 14 healthy subjects.

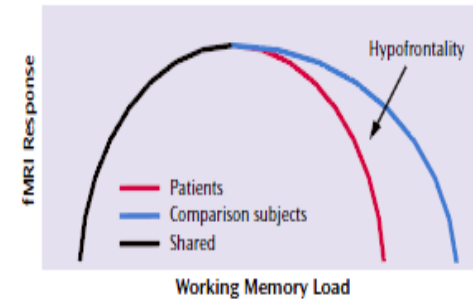
Results: Patients' performance was significantly worse on the two-back working memory task than that of healthy subjects. However, there were areas within the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex of the patients that were more active and areas that were less active than those of the healthy subjects. When the groups were subdivided on the basis of performance on the working memory task into healthy subjects and patients with high or low

performance, locales of greater prefrontal activation and locales of less activation were found in the high-performing patients but only locales of underactivation were found in the low-performing patients.

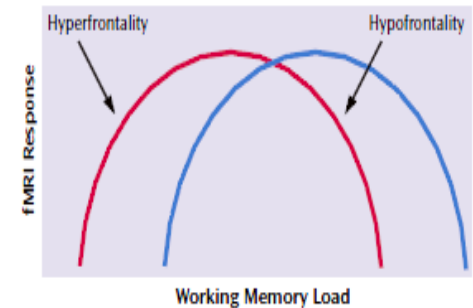
Conclusions: These findings suggest that patients with schizophrenia whose performance on the N-back working memory task is similar to that of healthy comparison subjects use greater prefrontal resources but achieve lower accuracy (i.e., inefficiency) and that other patients with schizophrenia fail to sustain the prefrontal network that processes the information, achieving even lower accuracy as a result. These findings add to other evidence that abnormalities of prefrontal cortical function in schizophrenia are not reducible to simply too much or too little activity but, rather, reflect a compromised neural strategy for handling information mediated by the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.

[Am J Psychiatry 2003; 160:2209–2215]

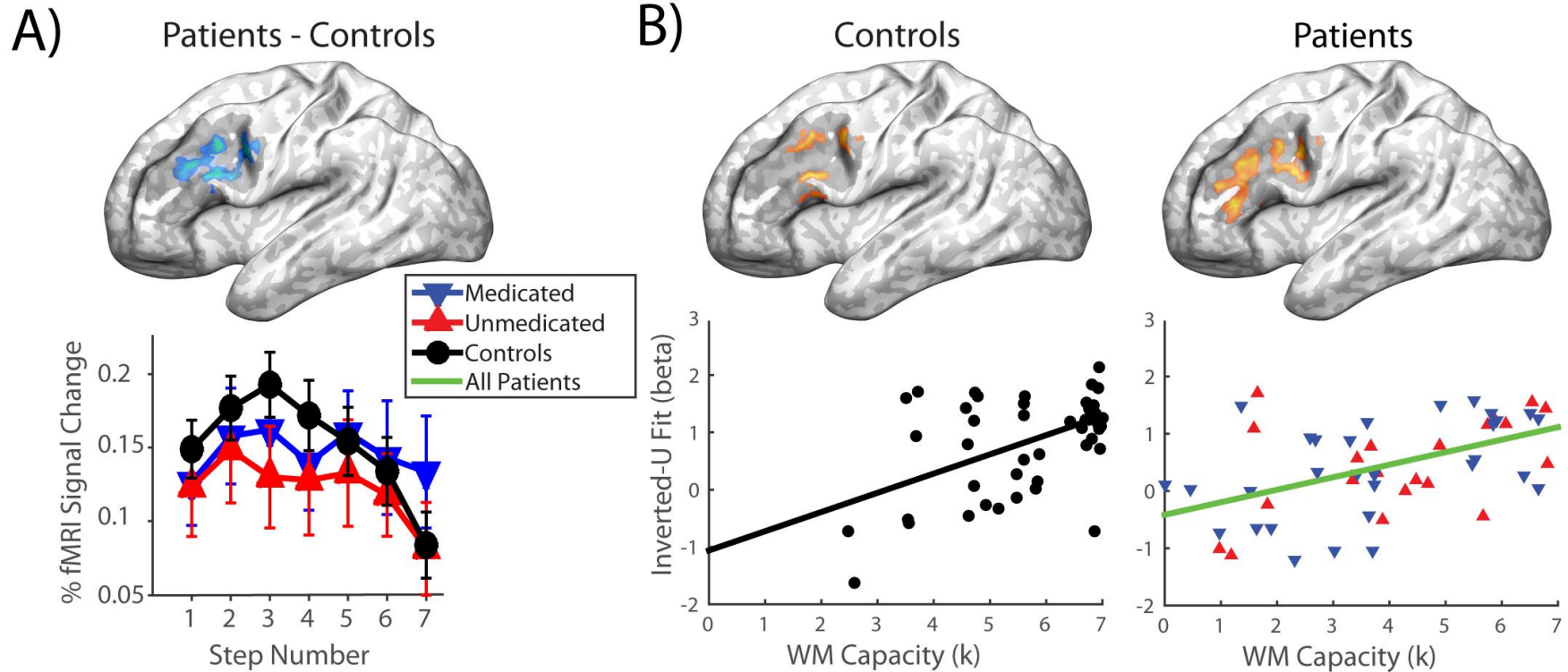
Patients and Comparison Subjects on Same Curve



Patients and Comparison Subjects on Distinct Curves



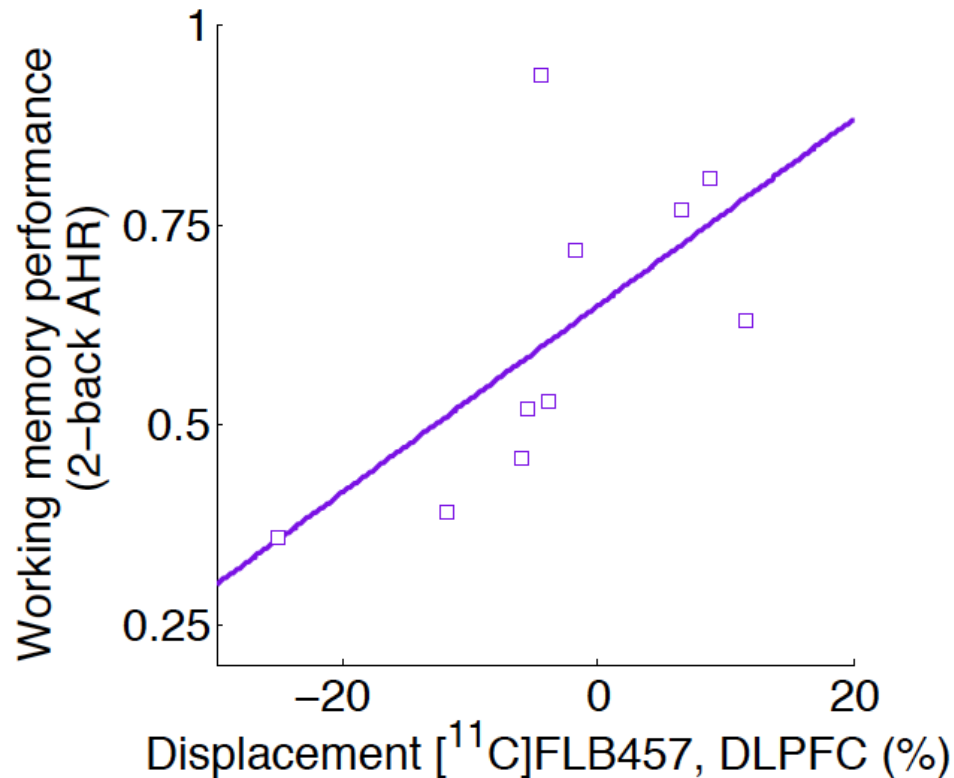
Mechanisms of WM Dysfunction in SCZ



$P < 0.05$, Alphasim extent thresholded; DLPFC ROI in shaded region

Dopamine release predicts working-memory performance

Schizophrenia



Schizophrenia (n=10)
 $\beta = 0.64$
 $p = 0.046$

**Low DA
Altered
cortical
function**

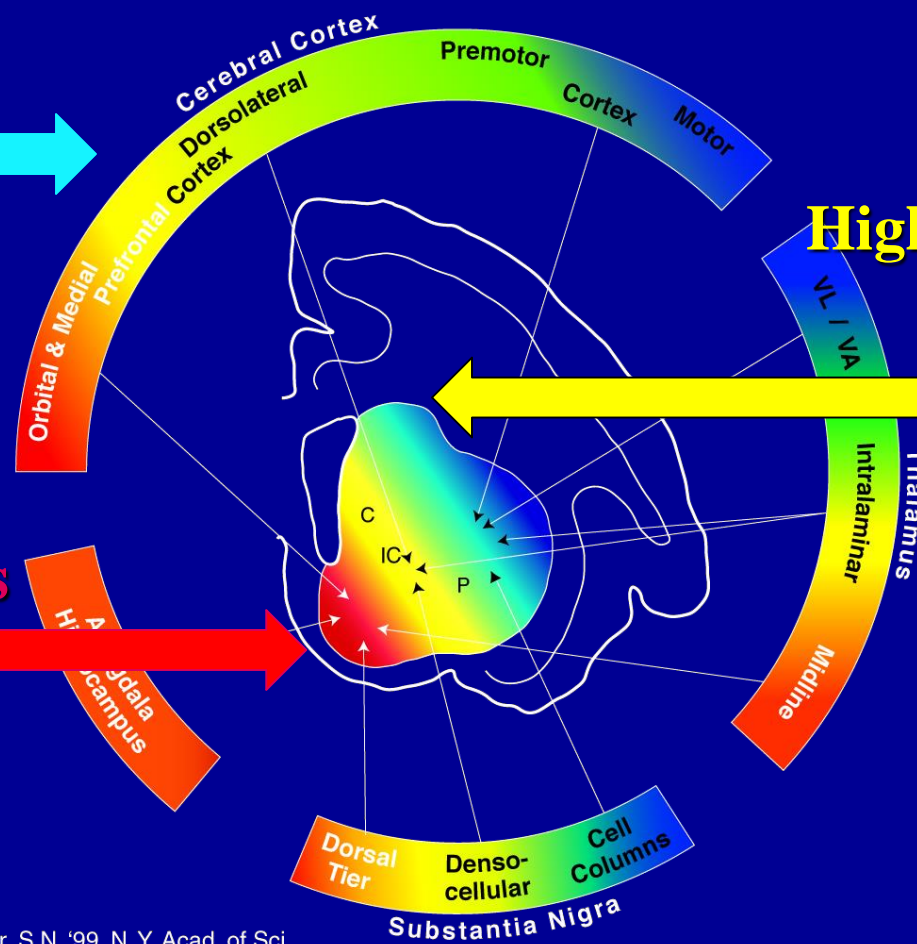


**High D2 stimulation
Psychosis**



Low DA

Negative symptoms

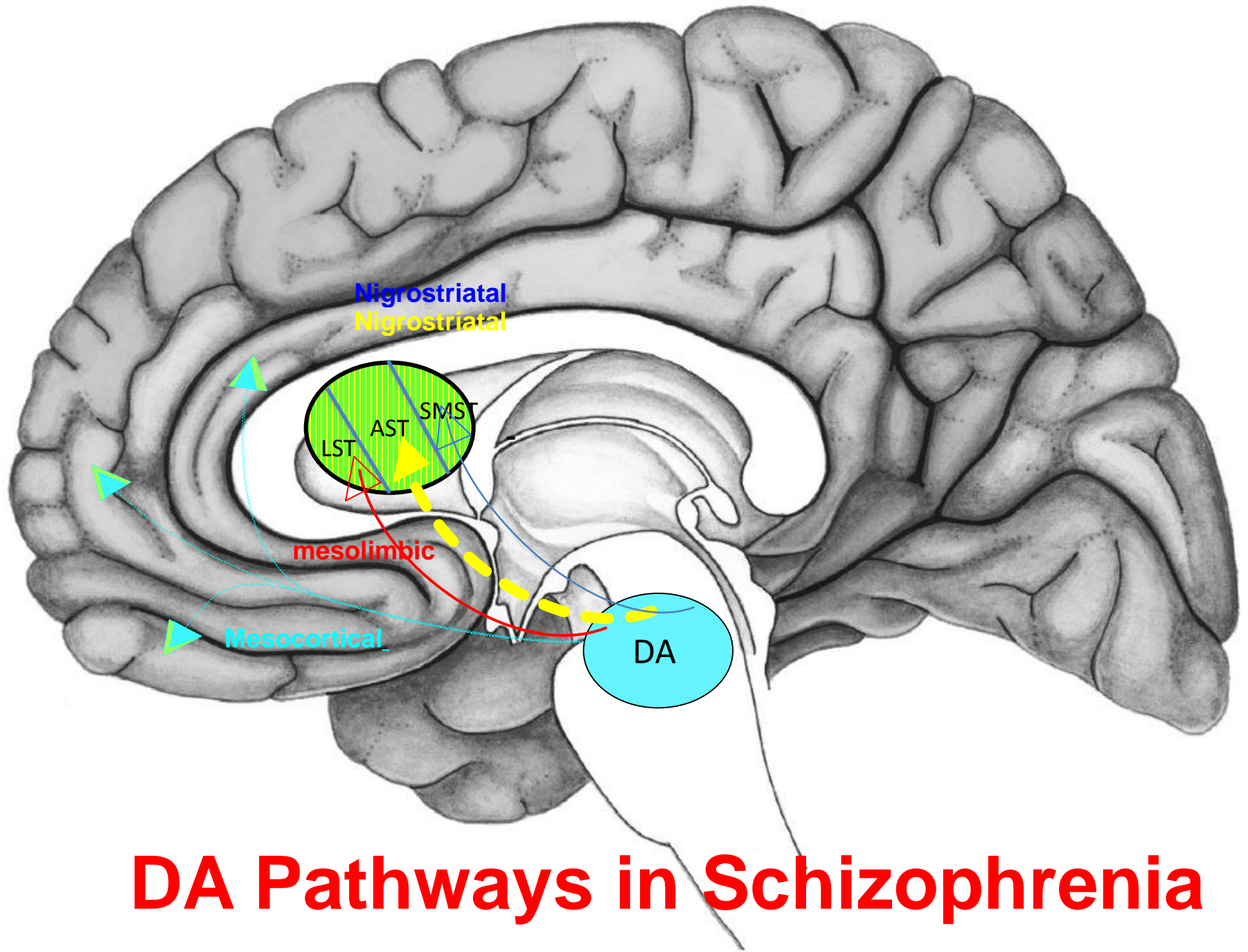


Haber, S.N. '99. N. Y. Acad. of Sci.

Haber and Mc Farland, Ann N Y Acad Sci.1999, Kegeles et al, Archives of Gen Psychiatry, 2010
Howes et al, Archives of Gen Psychiatry 2009, Slifstein et al, JAMA Psychiatry, 2015

OUTLINE

- The Hypothesis
- The Evidence
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis
 - **Expanding the hypothesis: extrastriatal deficit, midbrain deficit?**
- The Model(s)
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

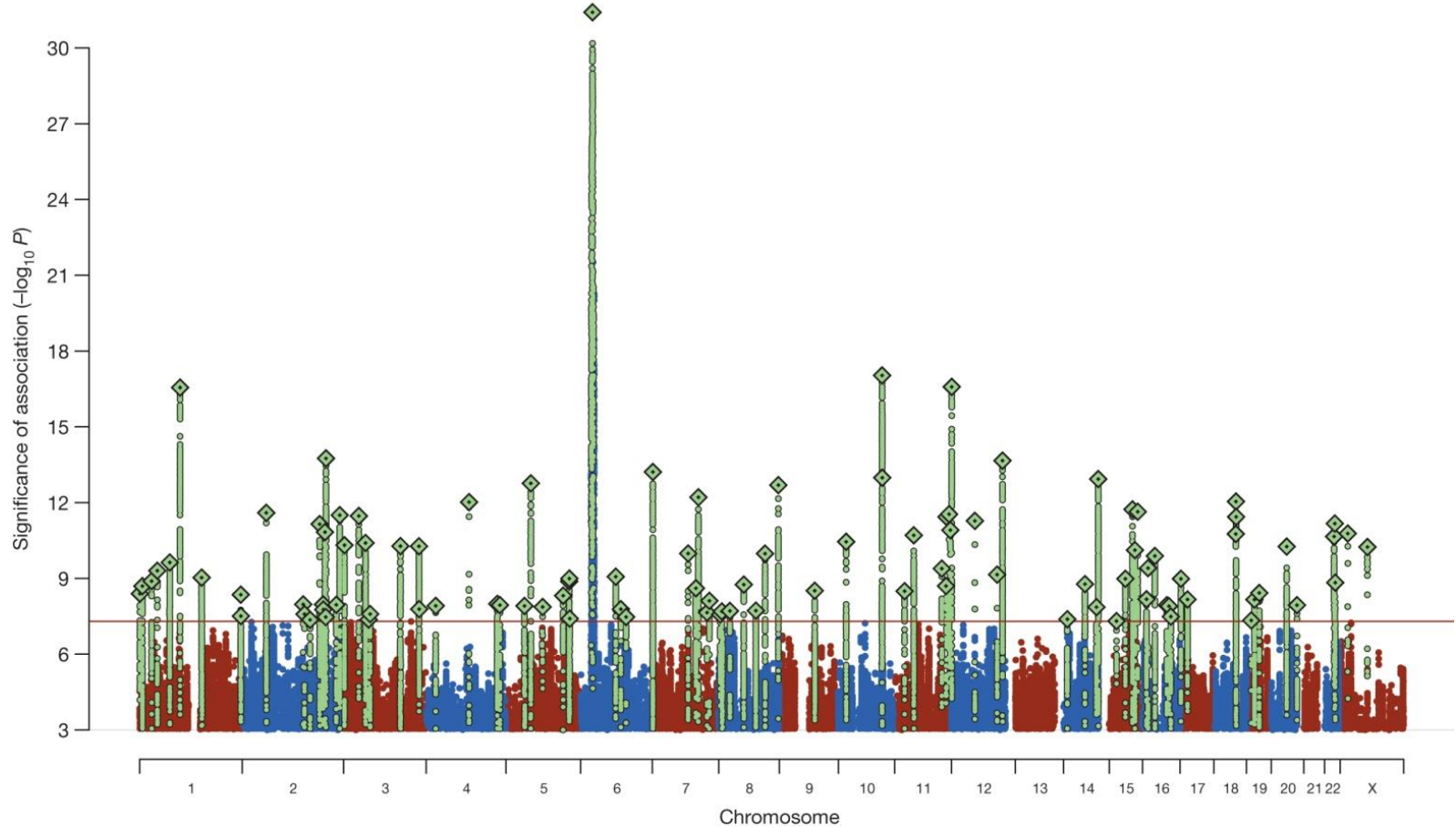


DA Pathways in Schizophrenia

OUTLINE

- The Hypothesis
- The Evidence
 - Confirming the hypothesis
 - Refining the hypothesis
 - Expanding the hypothesis
- **The Model(s)**
 - Is dopamine dysregulation a downstream effect of other more upstream events?
 - Or could it be more proximal than generally thought?

108 independent loci exceeding criteria for GWAS significance
These include D2 and other dopamine relevant genes



What are the consequences of increased D2 signaling during development?

Transgenic D2OE:
increase D2 by 15% in dorsal striatum to examine effects of increased D2 signaling on brain function and structure



Overexpression of D2Rs in the Striatum Leads to Deficits In Cognition And Motivation

1) **Non reversible** Deficit in prefrontal dependent cognition

(Kellendonk, Simpson et al. 2006 *Neuron* , Bach et al. 2008 *PNAS* , Ward et al. 2009 *Behavioral Neuroscience*)

2) **Reversible** Deficit in incentive motivation (negative symptom)

(Drew et al. 2007 *J. Neuroscience*, Simpson et al. 2011 *Biological Psychiatry*, Ward et al. 2012 *Neuropsychopharmacology*)

How does the increased D2 signaling in striatum affect prefrontal dependent cognition?

Increased DA turnover CTX (Kellendonk, Simpson et al. 2006 *Neuron*)

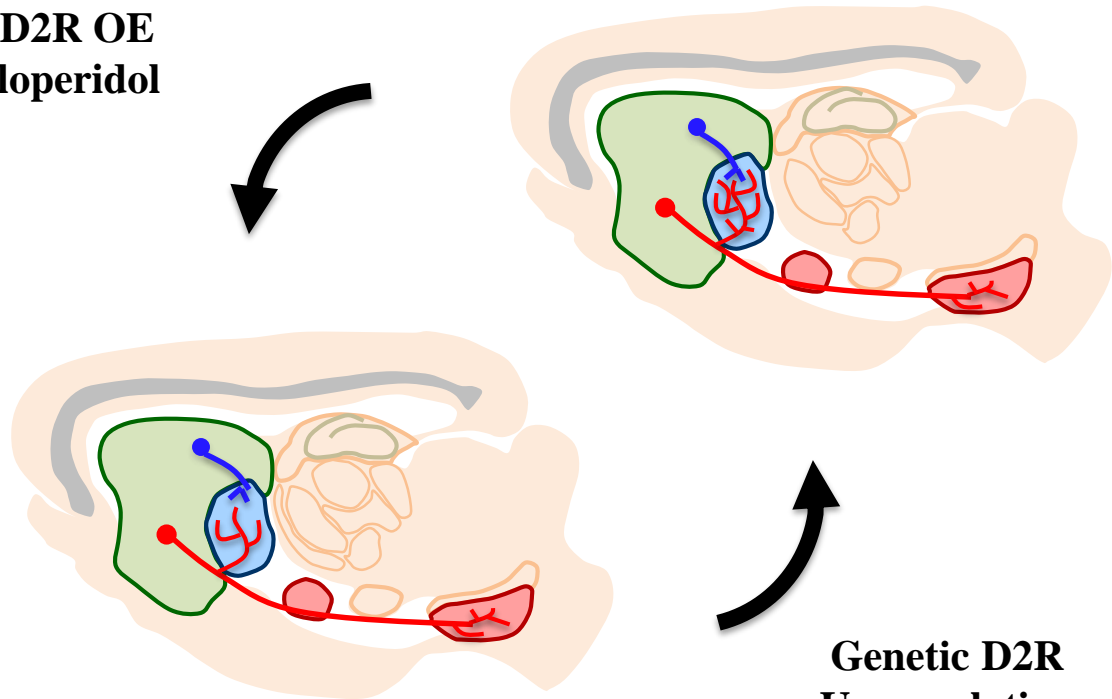
Decreased firing of VTA DA cells, due to decreased expression of NMDA receptors (Krabbe et al, *PNAS* 2015)

And even changes in anatomical collateral projections within basal ganglia:

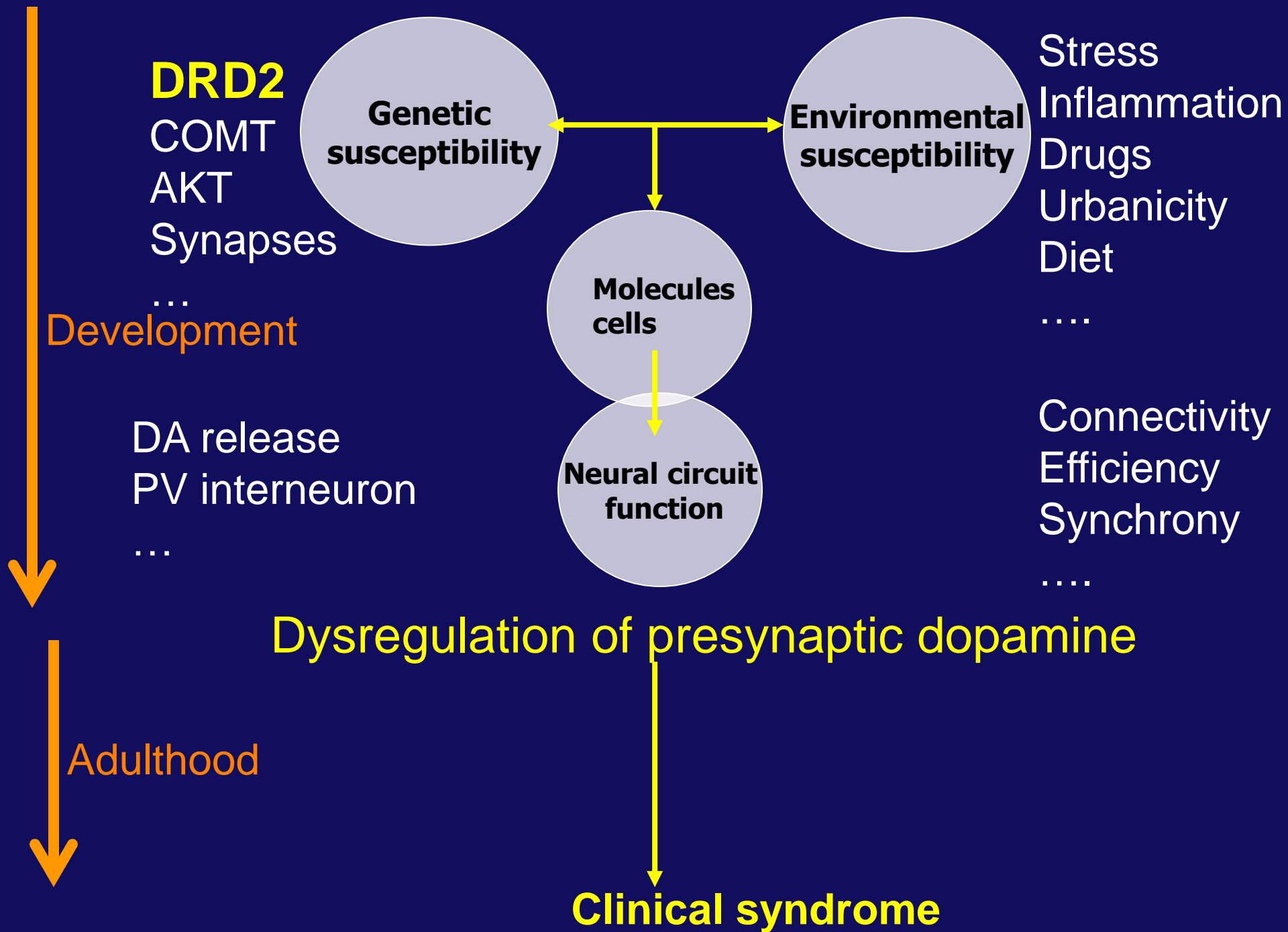
C. Kellendonk

Bi-directional Modulation Of Bridging Collaterals By Dopamine D2 Receptors

**Switching off D2R OE
Or chronic haloperidol**



**Genetic D2R
Up-regulation**

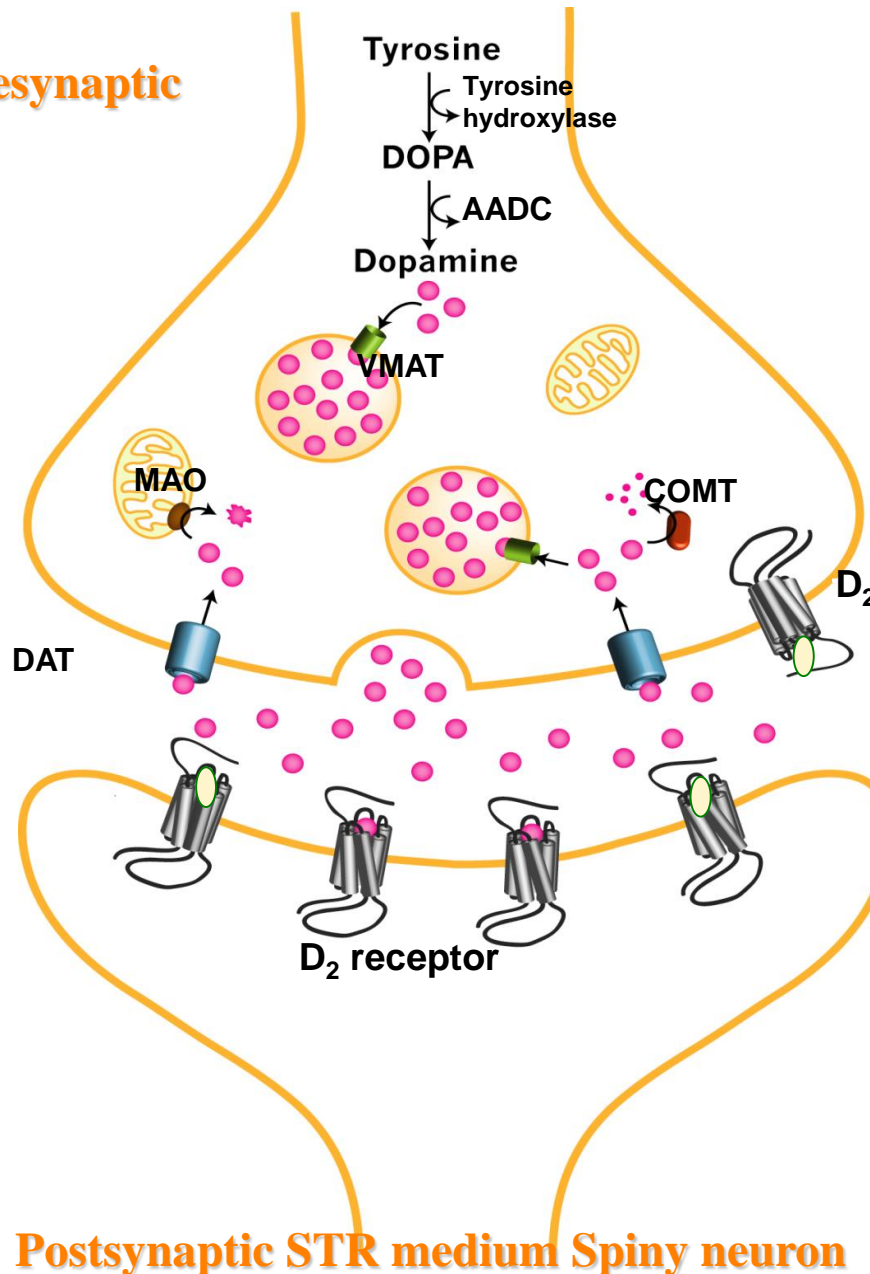


Emerging questions and Future directions

- Does the dual phenotype (striatal excess , extrastriatal deficit) exist at a single patient level?
- Which is primary?: D2 vs presynaptic DA dysfunction, striatal vs extrastriatal?
- Can the global « deficit »: pancortical, amygdala, hippocampus, thalamus, midbrain, explain the different domains of pathology?
- How does this affect learning and translate into symptoms?
- **Our treatments do not address this complexity!**
- We need to understand the cellular mechanisms and consequences to develop better treatments

Potential cellular mechanisms for striatal DA dysregulation

Presynaptic



[18F]f-DOPA:

- More transport of fdopa into cell: AAT
- More synthesis: Tyr H or AADC activity
- More storage: VMAT
- Less metabolism: COMT or MAO
- Specific problem with the D2 autoreceptors only in striatum: no feedback on the subset of cells that is overactive
- Number of DA neurons
- Excess firing activity of a subset of DA neurons

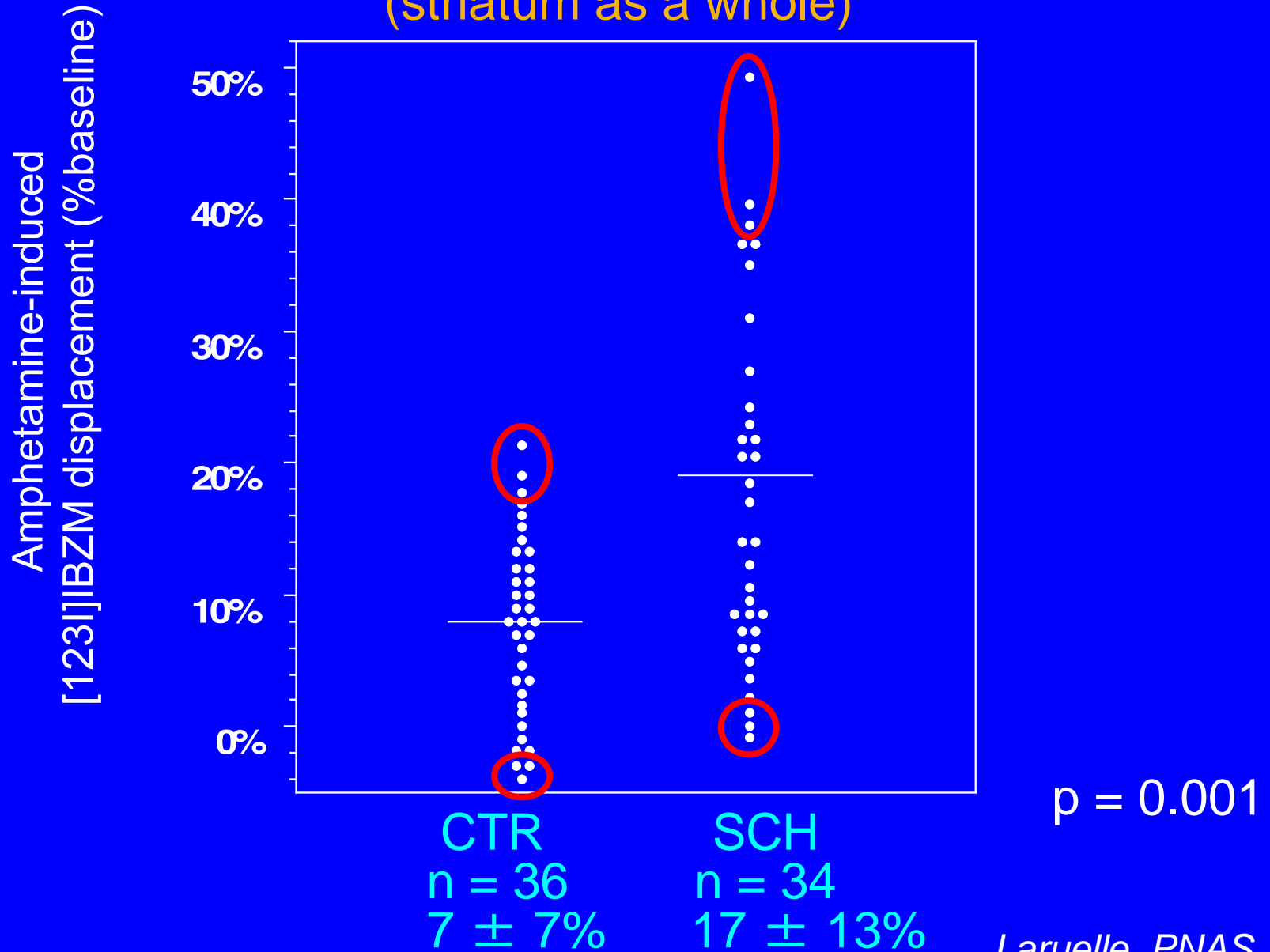
Amphetamine or AMPT:

- More vesicles
- Abnormal DAT function: “leaky” DAT and more synthesis to compensate?
- D2 shifted intrasynaptically
- D2 more sensitive to DA
- ACH enhancement of DA release is abnormal

.....

Postsynaptic STR medium Spiny neuron

Amphetamine-induced DA release in schizophrenia (striatum as a whole)





Division of Translational Imaging

Mark Slifstein PhD
Roberto Gil, MD
Larry Kegeles, MD, PhD
Ragy Girgis, MD

Guillermo Horga, MD
Jared Van Snellenberg, PhD
Cliff Cassidy, PhD

Jodi Weinstein, MD
Gary Brucato, PhD
Xiaoyan Xu PhD

Elizabeth Hackett /Rawad Ayoub/ Najate Ojeil
Rachel Rosenfield/ Juan Sanchez/Seth Baker

Yale collaborators:
Cyril D' Souza, Robert Malison, Richard
Carson, Henry Huang, Nabeel Nabulsi

Funding: NIMH, NIDA, NARSAD

Conte Center

Eric Kandel, MD, PhD
Jonathan Javitch MD, PhD
Jeff Lieberman MD
Holly Moore, PhD
Steve Rayport, MD, PhD
Daphna Shohamy, PhD
Eleanor Simpson, PhD
Christoph Kellendonk, PhD

Rochester U:
Suzanne Haber, PhD

Marc Laruelle, MD



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER