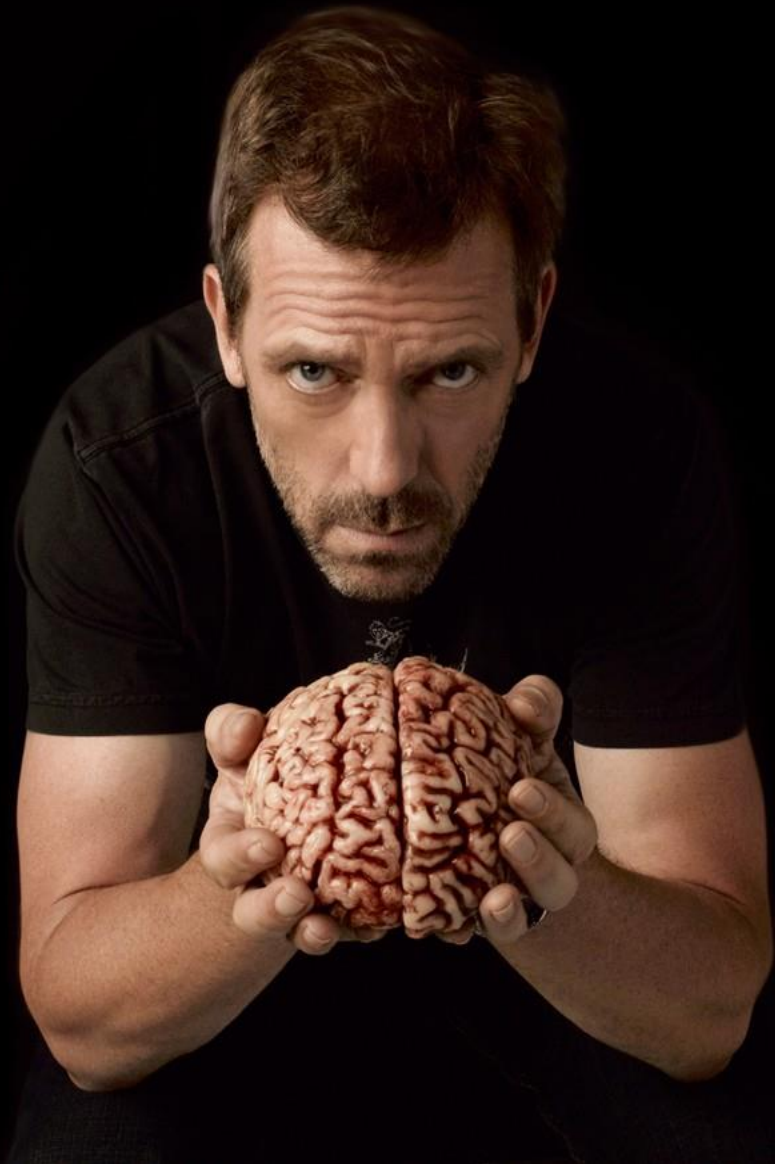


What Causes Them?

Pathophysiology of Psychiatric Disorders

Dr. Malay Dave
13-07-2019, Lonavla





U SE IT

Introduction

- ❑ Psychiatric illnesses have very complex pathophysiology
- ❑ Understanding psychiatric illnesses is a work in progress
- ❑ Neurosciences & molecular genetics have provided us with tools to understand brain processes better
- ❑ I don't claim to know the complete pathophysiology of a single psychiatric disorder
- ❑ Cellphones to be shut off or on silent mode

Take home message

Predetermined epigenesis:

(Unidirectional structure–functional development)

genes → brain structure → brain function → experience

Probabilistic epigenesis:

(Bidirectional structure–functional development)

genes ↔ brain structure ↔ brain function ↔ experience

What we shall discuss....

- ❑ What did the older theories tell us? - Sigmund Freud, B F Skinner and the rest
- ❑ What about Social & Family contributions?
- ❑ What is stress exactly? - Immunology, Endocrinology, Chronobiology
- ❑ What is happening in the brain? – Molecules, Cells, Areas & Networks
- ❑ Is there a second brain? - Gut Brain Axis
- ❑ What is the role of Development and Degeneration?
- ❑ What is the master control? – Genetics and Epigenetics
- ❑ Is there a common ground? – Chronic illnesses

What did the older theories tell us?

- ❑ Sigmund Freud
 - *Concept of Mind*
 - *Psychosexual development*
 - *Defence mechanisms*
 - *Conflict*

- ❑ Ivan Pavlov & B F Skinner
 - *Classical conditioning*
 - *Operant conditioning*

- ❑ Aaron Beck
 - *Cognition*

What did the older theories tell us?

□ Drawbacks

- *Observational*
- *Incomplete understanding*
- *Neuroscientific basis (?)*
- *Partial therapies*

What about Social & Family contributions?

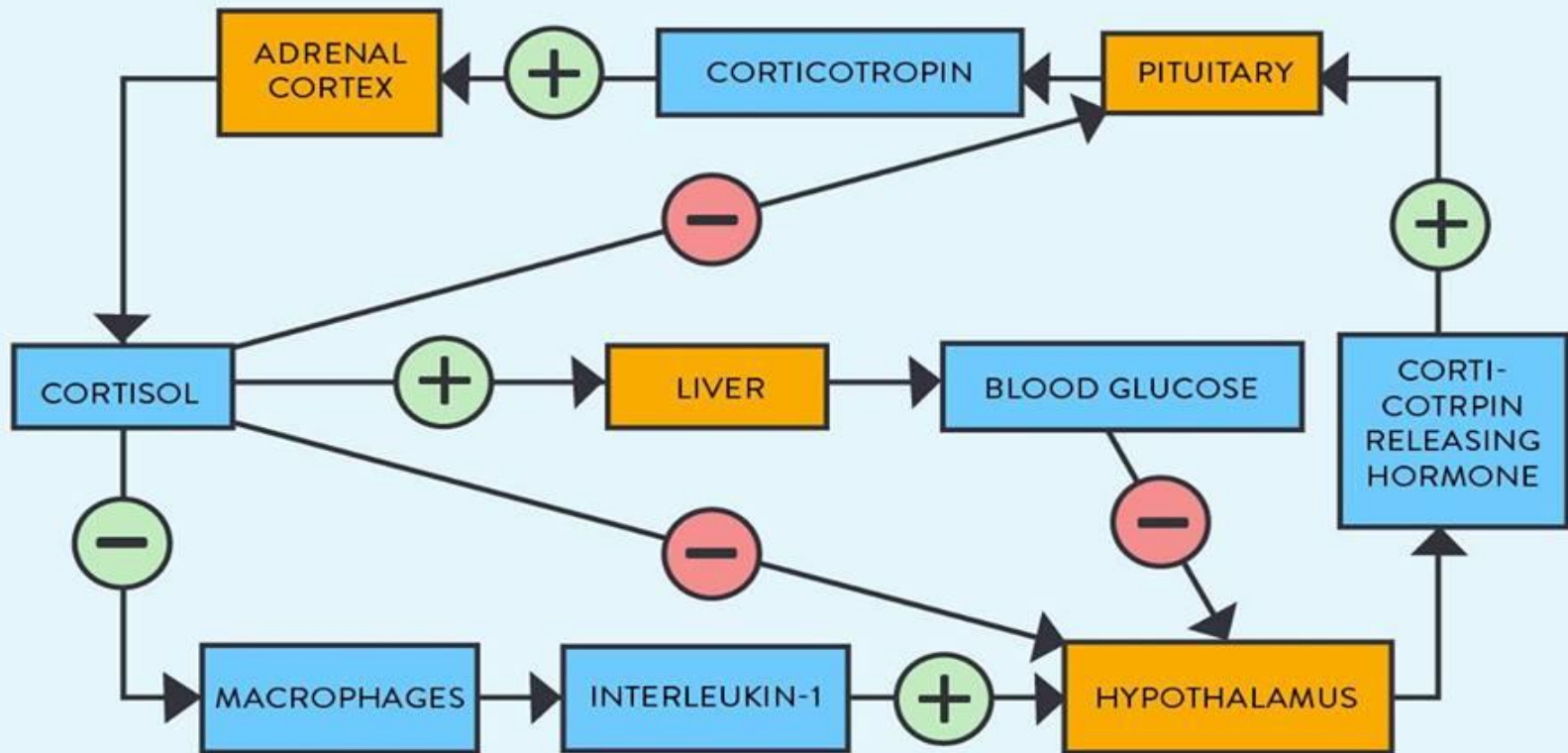
- ❑ Idea of a dysfunctional family
- ❑ Concepts of Skew, Schism, Double Bind
- ❑ Expressed Emotions
 - *Over-indulgence*
 - *Hostility*
 - *Over-protection*
- ❑ “Refrigerator Mother”
- ❑ Abuse

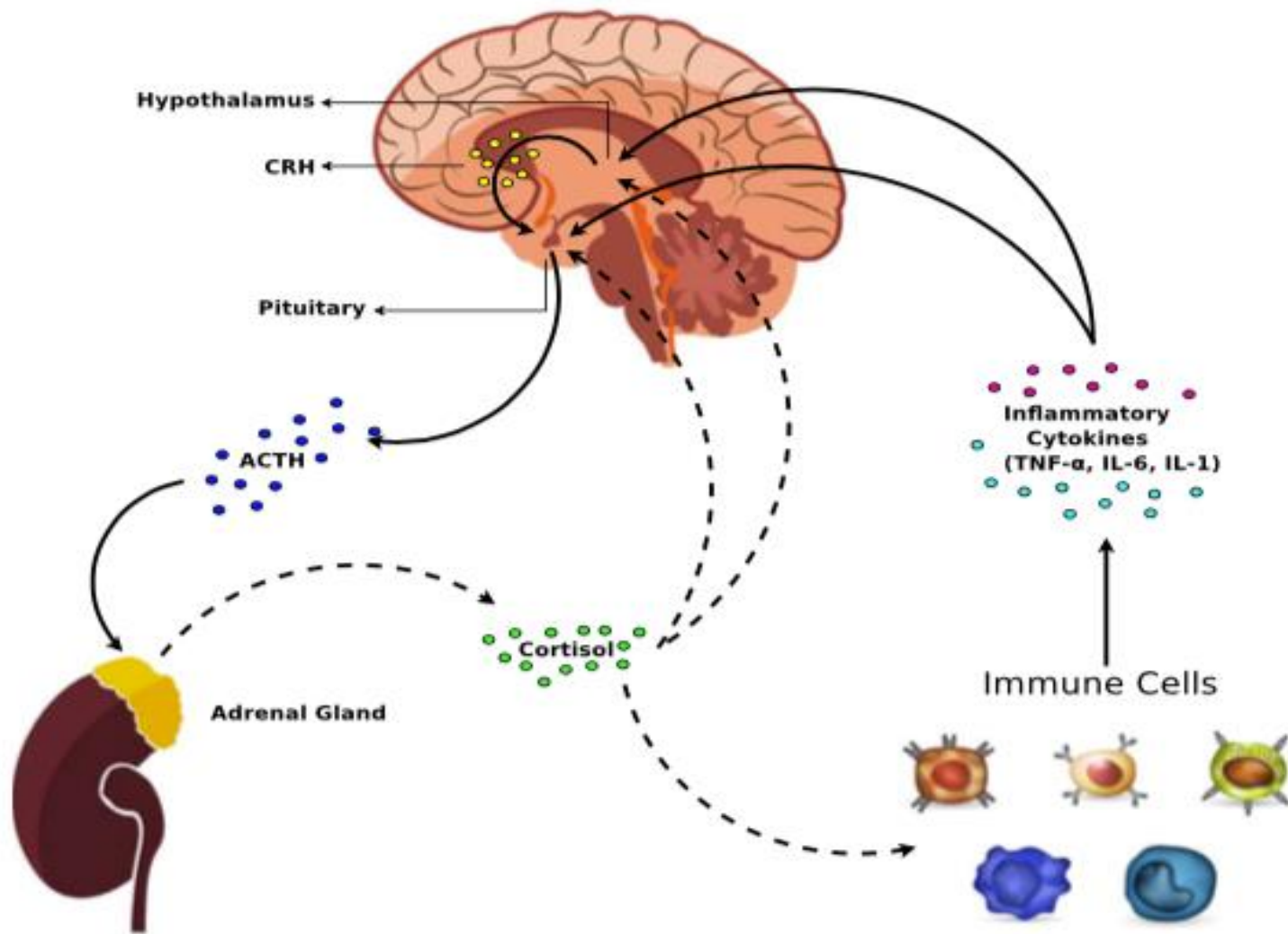
What is stress exactly?

- ❑ Homeostasis
 - *Allostasis*
- ❑ Systems involved
 - *Hypothalamo-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis (HPA Axis) & Immune System*
 - *Hypothalamo-Pituitary-Thyroid Axis (HPT Axis)*
 - *Hypothalamo-Pituitary-Gonadal Axis (HPG Axis)*
- ❑ Complexity
- ❑ Genetic control & settings

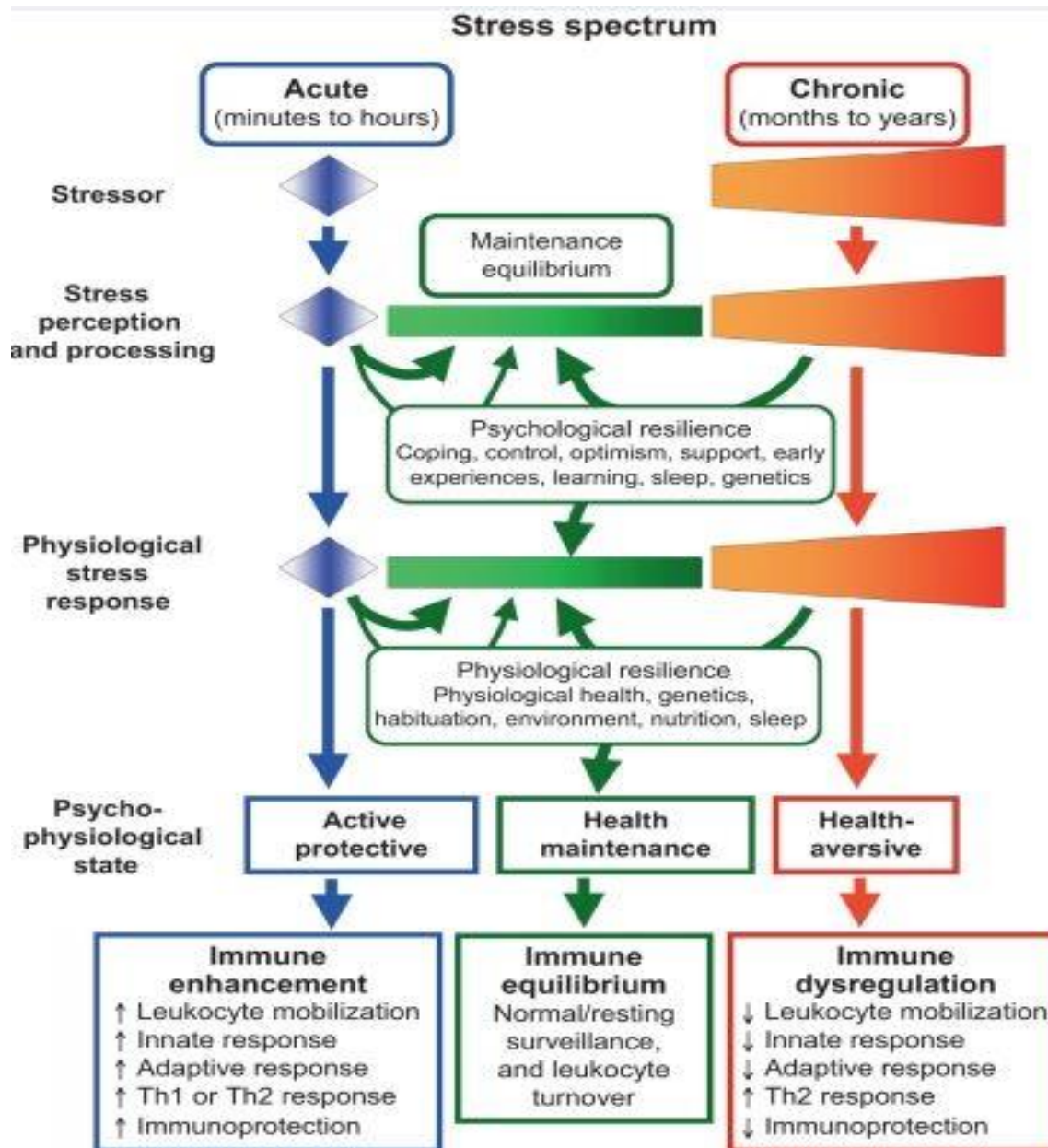
HPA Axis & Immunity - Inflammation

THE HPA AXIS

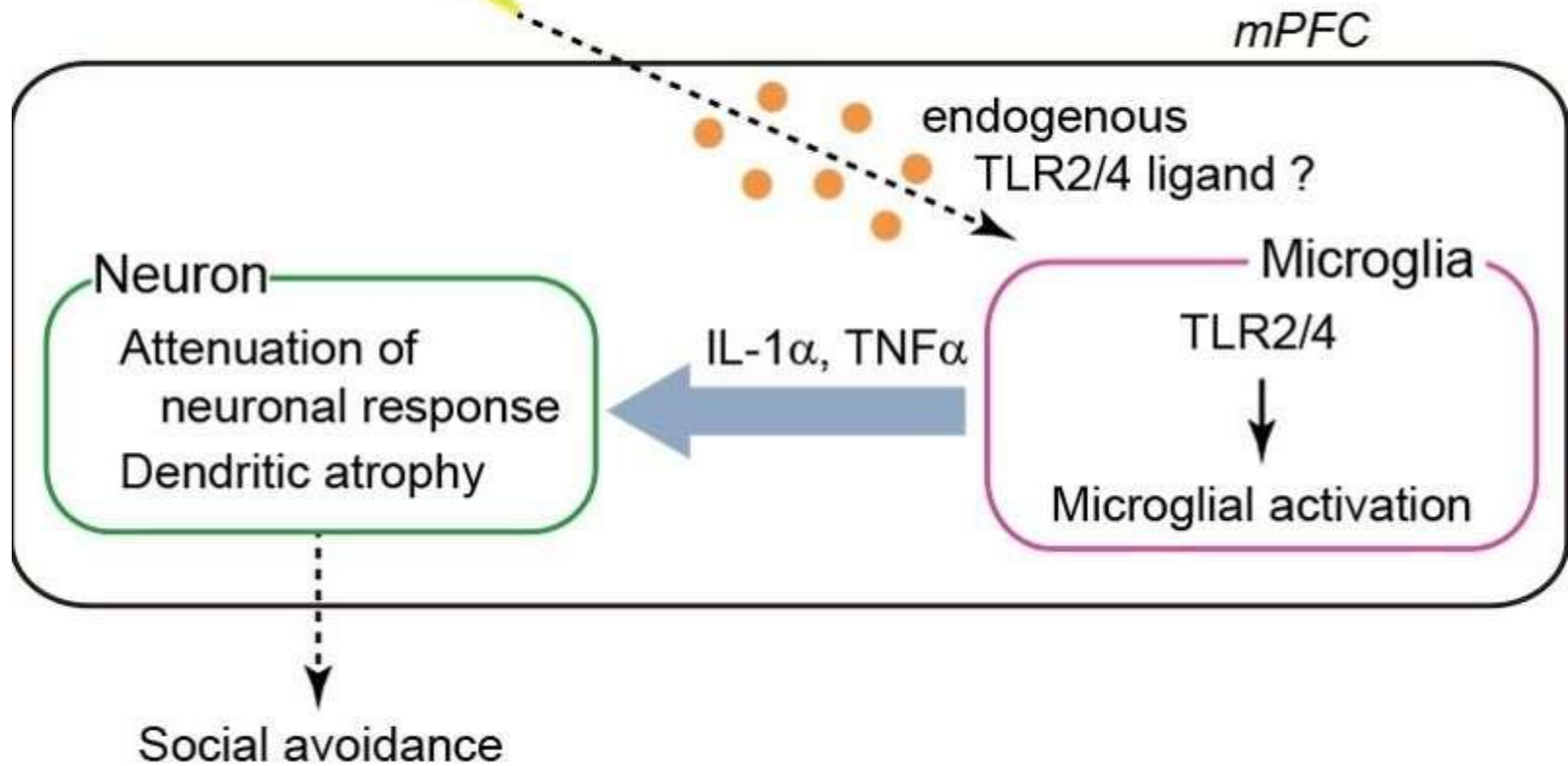


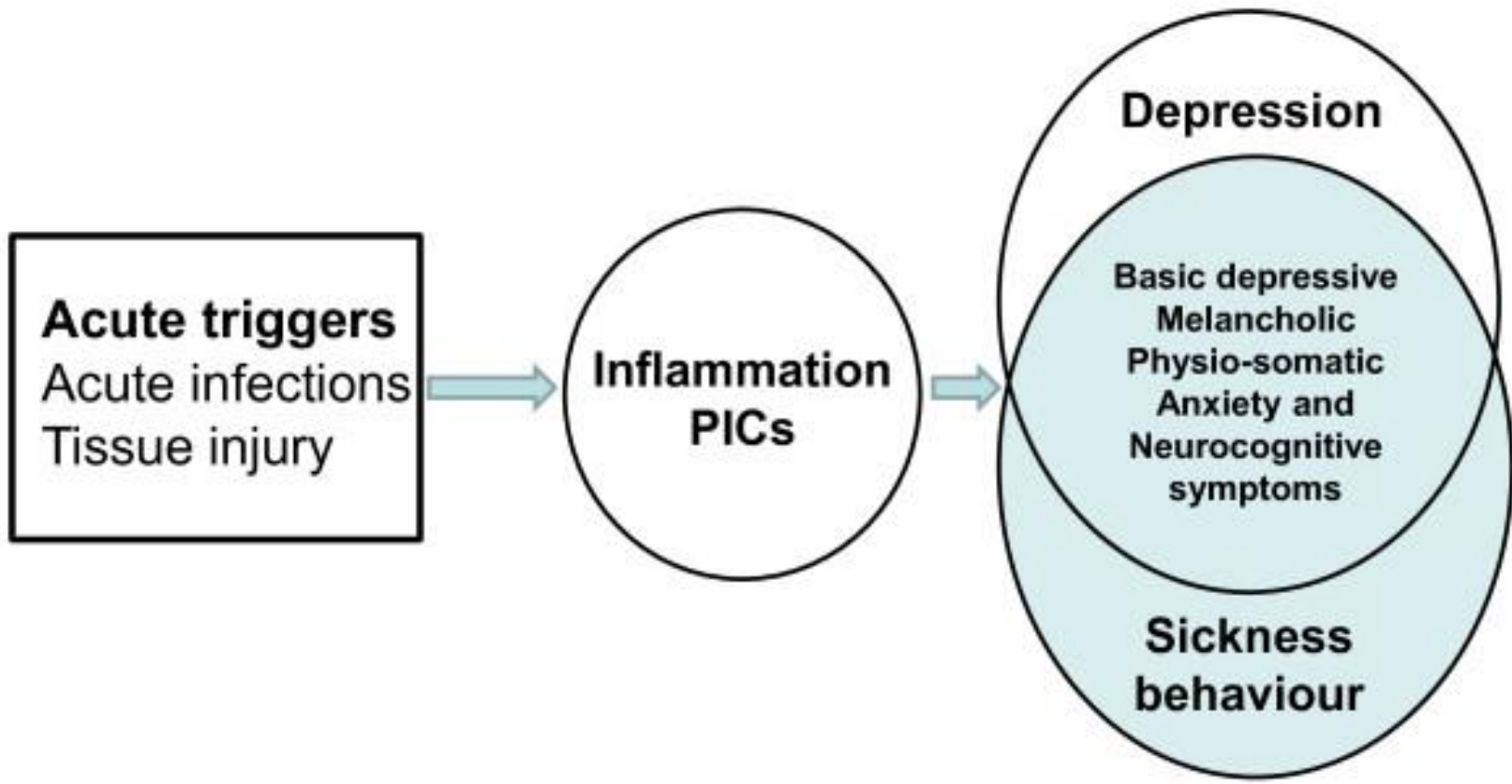


Schematic diagram of the interaction of innate immune cells with the HPA axis through inflammatory cytokines. Solid arrows indicate stimulation and dashed arrows indicate inhibition.

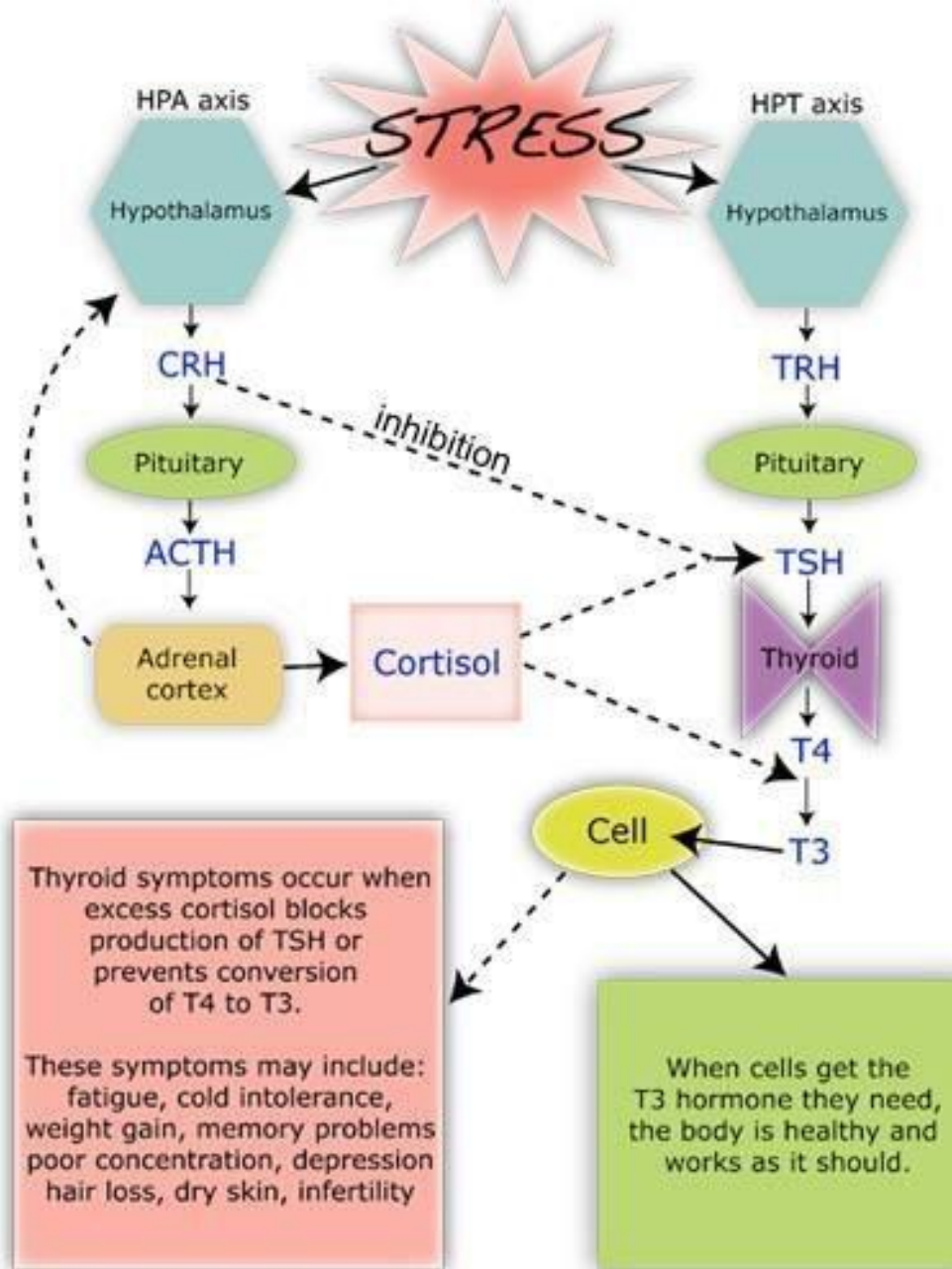


Repeated social defeat stress





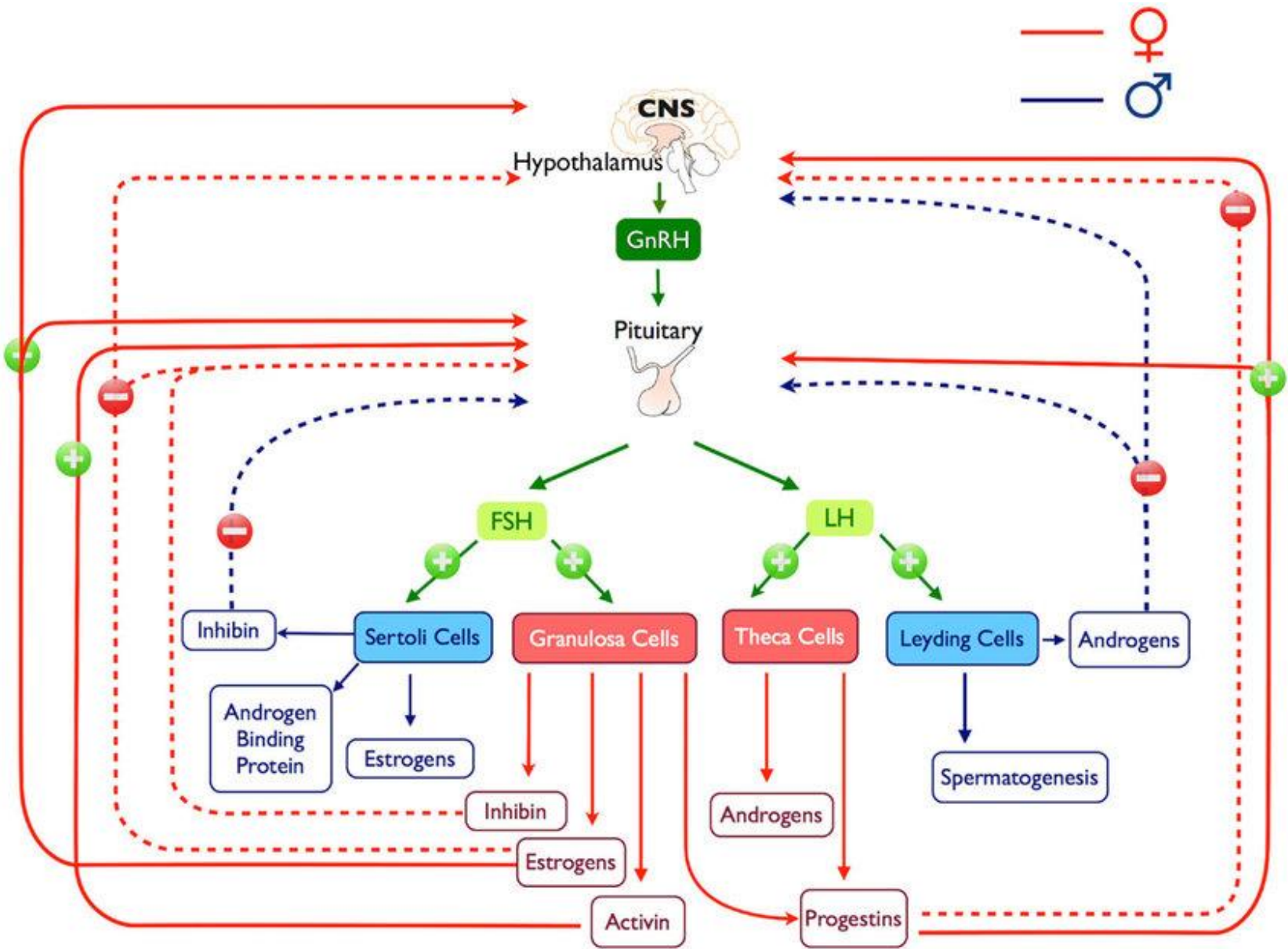
Stress - Endocrinology



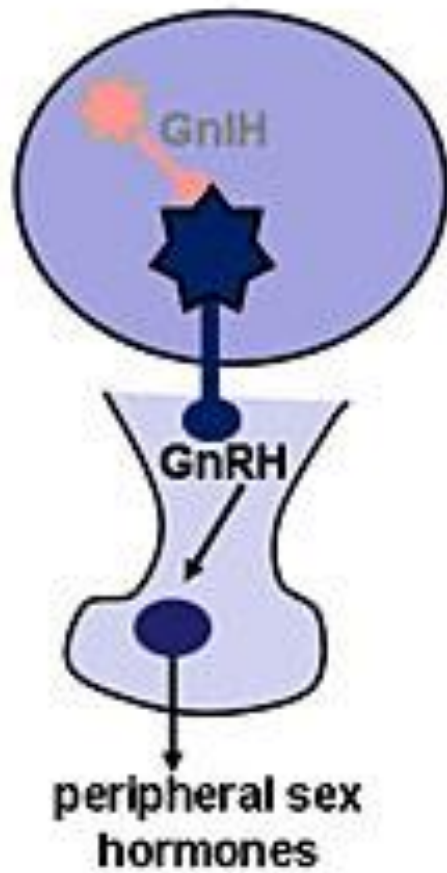
Thyroid symptoms occur when excess cortisol blocks production of TSH or prevents conversion of T4 to T3.

These symptoms may include:
 fatigue, cold intolerance,
 weight gain, memory problems
 poor concentration, depression
 hair loss, dry skin, infertility

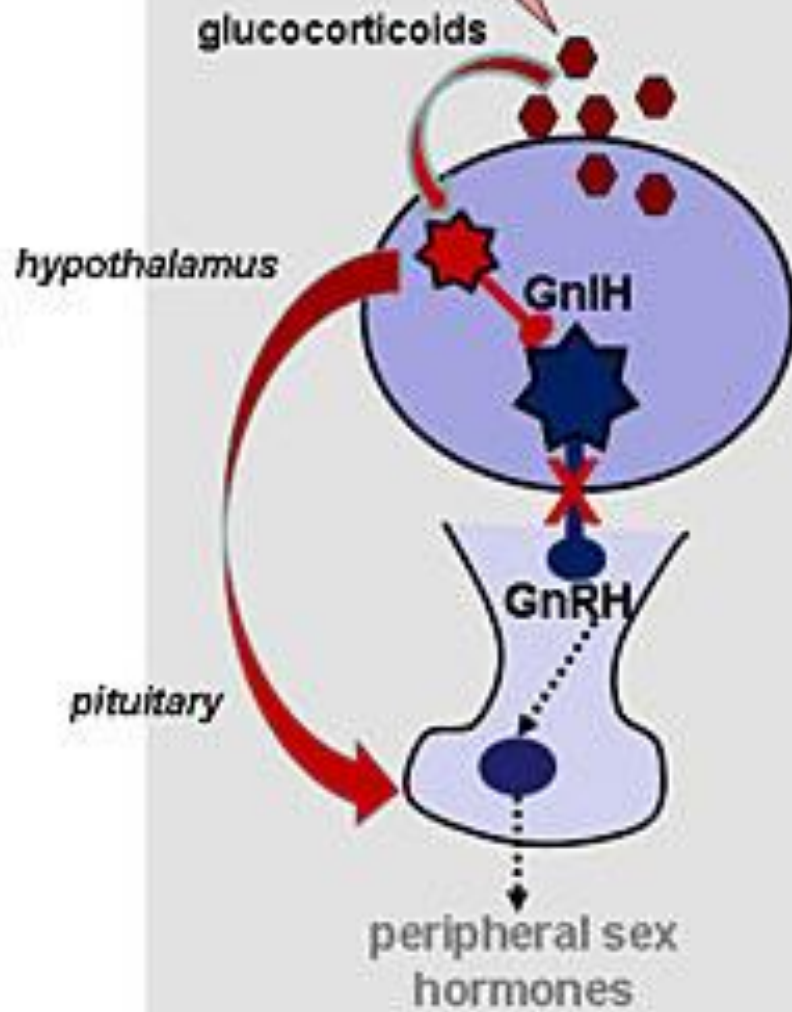
When cells get the T3 hormone they need, the body is healthy and works as it should.



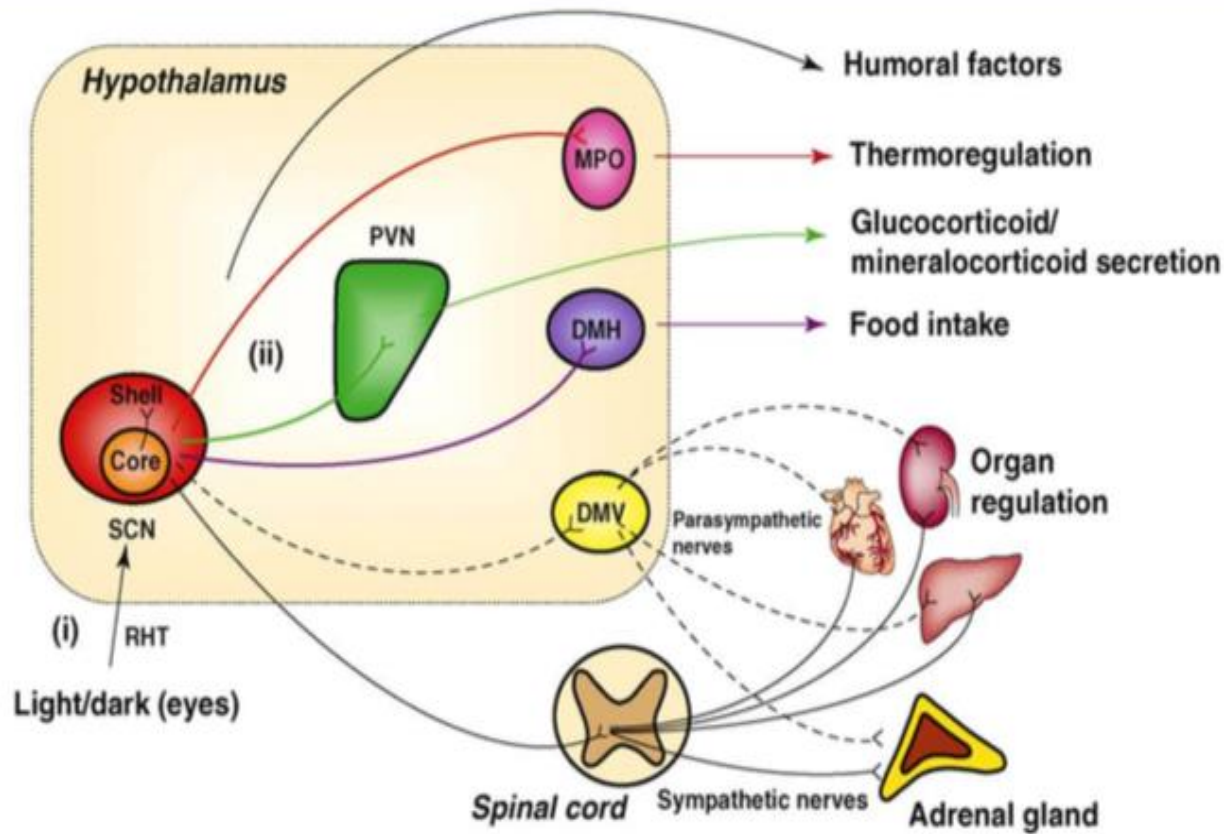
No Stress



Stress



Stress - Chronobiology



TRENDS in Endocrinology & Metabolism

Figure 1. Central CLOCK synchronizes the peripheral CLOCKS and regulates peripheral organ activities via neural and humoral interactions. (i) The central master CLOCK located in the SCN (core) obtains light/dark information from the retina through the retinohypothalamic track (RHT) and adjusts to synchronize its circadian rhythm, whereas (ii) it indirectly projects several efferent neurons to transmit timing information to other parts of the brain and distant organs their peripheral CLOCKS and influence their activities, such as secretion of pituitary hormones and melatonin, food intake, sleep and body temperature. The central master CLOCK employs the autonomic nervous system and humoral mediators for organ regulation. For simplicity, detailed anatomical structures for the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems, such as nuclei located in the brain stem including the solitary nucleus and the ambiguous nucleus and the sympathetic and parasympathetic ganglia, are omitted. DMH: dorsomedial nucleus of hypothalamus, DMV: dorsal motor nucleus of vagus, MPO: medial preoptic region, PVN: paraventricular nucleus, SCN: suprachiasmatic nucleus.

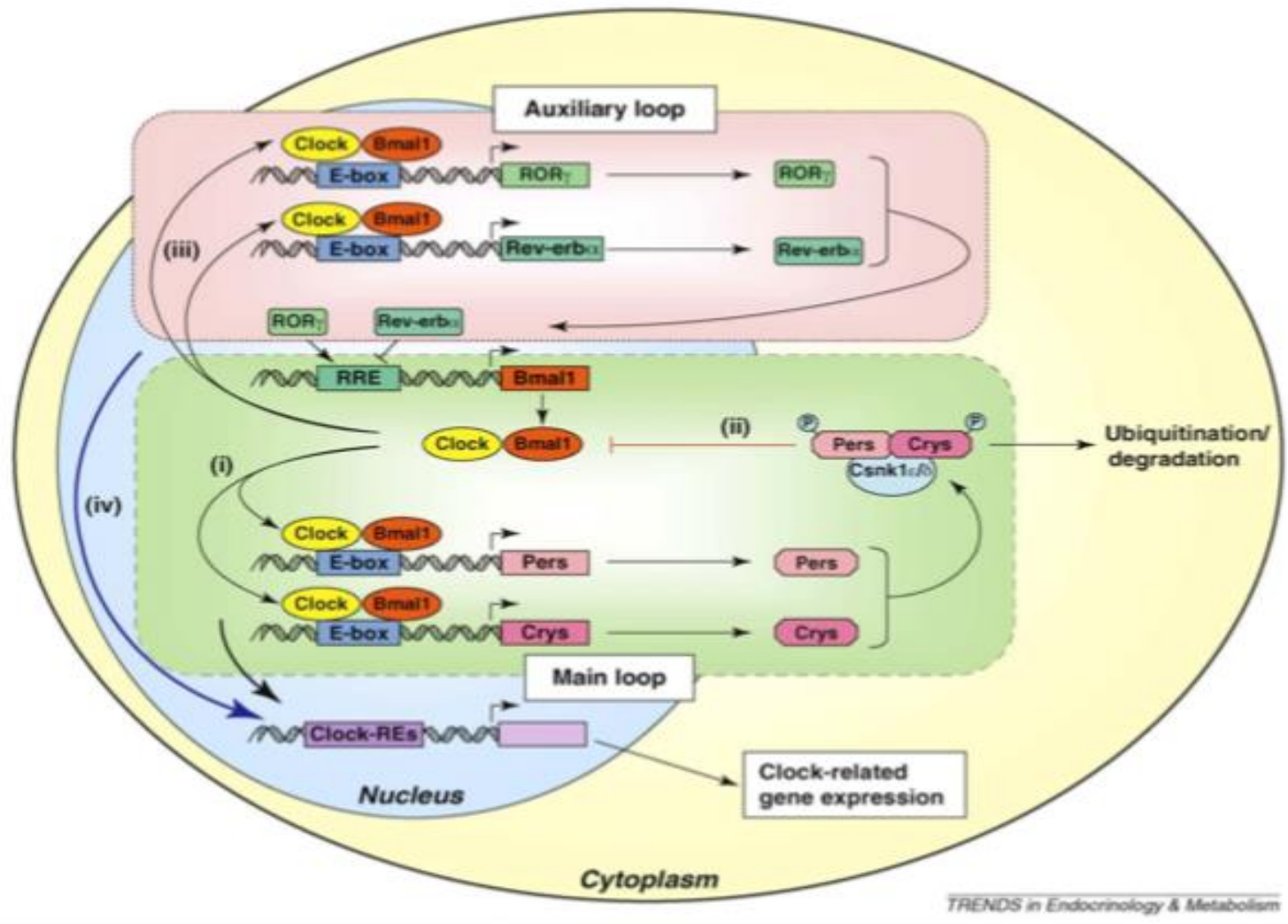


Figure 1. The circadian CLOCK system is regulated by a self-oscillating transcriptional loop. (i) The heterodimer Clock/Bmal1 binds to E-box elements located in the promoter region and stimulates expression of essential clock transcription factors Pers and Crys, which in turn (ii) repress the transcriptional activity of the Clock/Bmal1 heterodimer by inhibiting its binding to the E-box response elements located in their own promoters through formation of a complex with and subsequent phosphorylation by the casein kinase 1 α and δ . (iii) Clock/Bmal1 also stimulates expression of other CLOCK-related proteins, such as Rev-erb α , ROR α , Dec1, Dec2 and Dbp, which create an auxiliary loop that helps stabilize the main regulatory loop. (iv) These CLOCK transcription factors control numerous "downstream" CLOCK-responsive genes to influence a variety of biologic activities. Bmal1: brain-muscle-ant-like protein 1, Clock: circadian locomotor output cycle kaput, Crys: cryptochromes, Csnk1 α/δ : casein kinase 1 α/δ , P: phosphate residue on the phosphorylated molecules, Pers: periods, ROR γ : retinoic acid receptor-related orphan nuclear receptor γ .

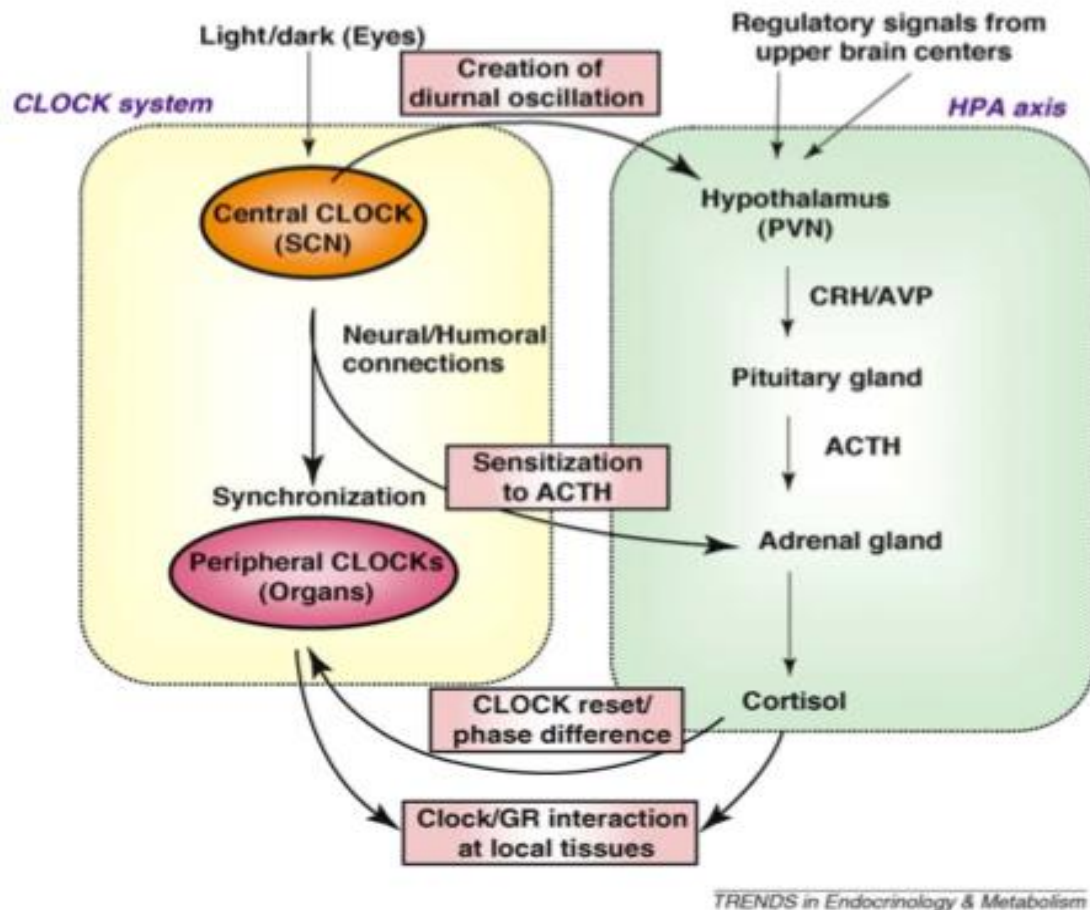
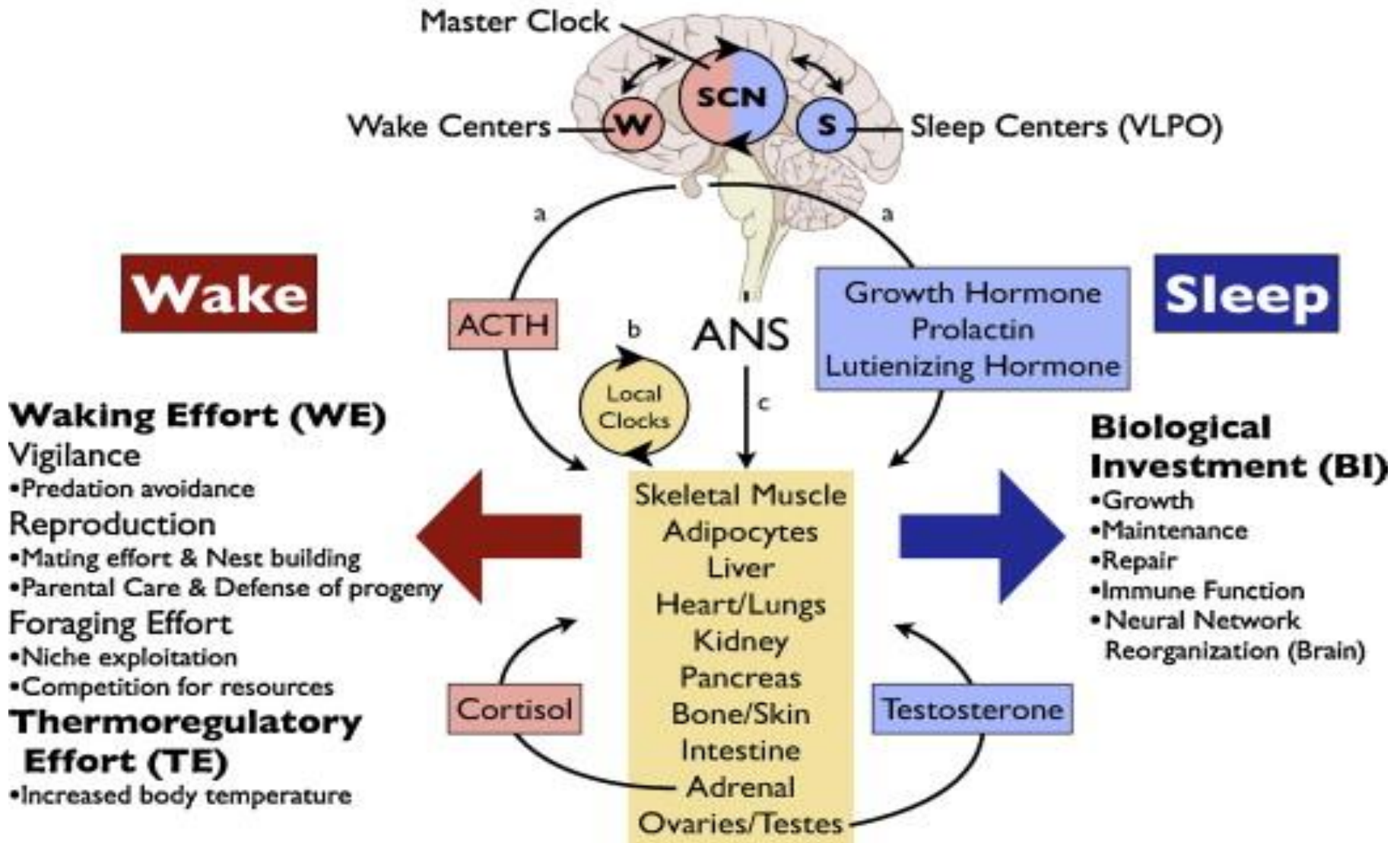
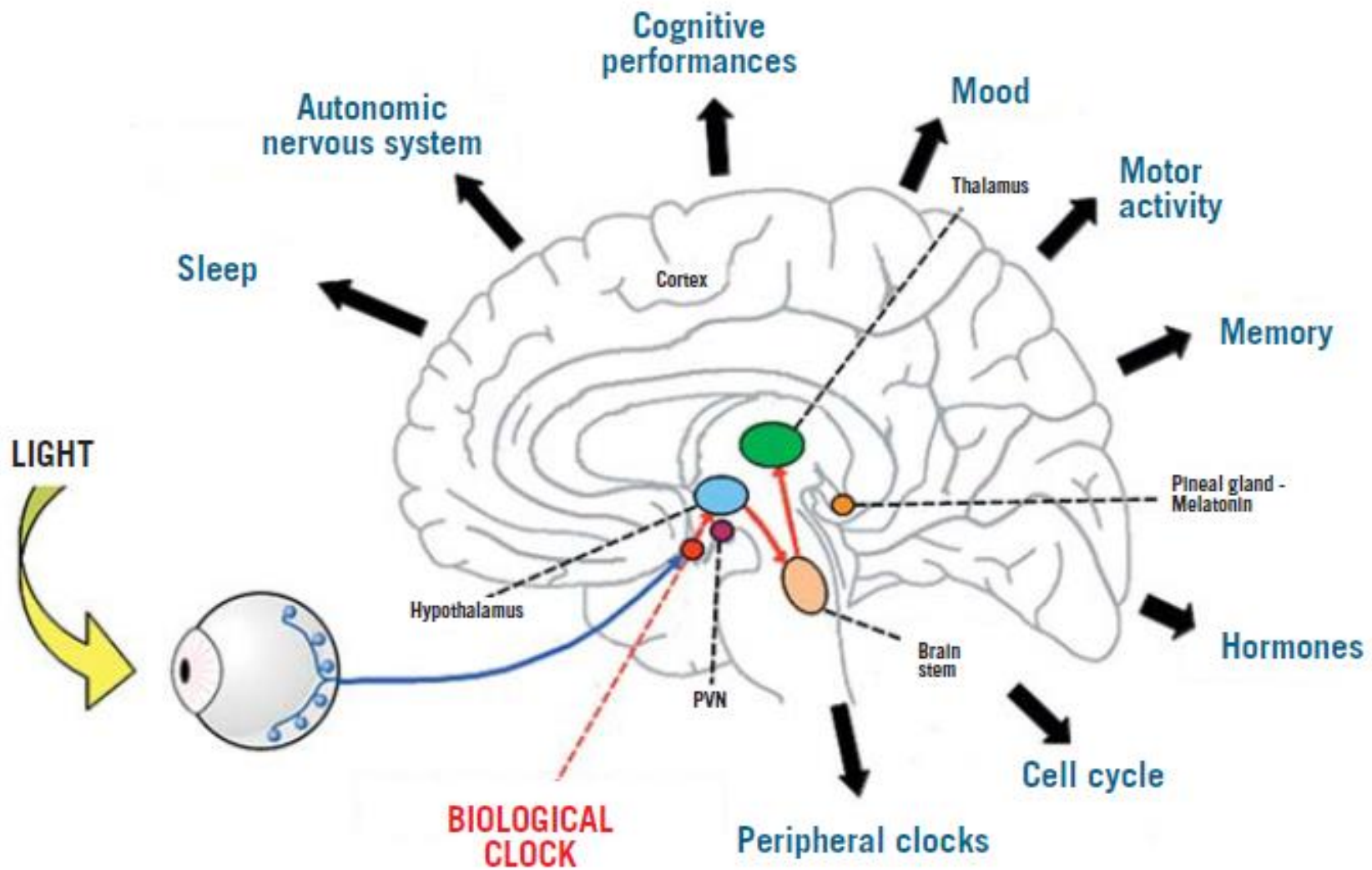


Figure 2. The circadian CLOCK system and the HPA axis influence the activity of one another at multiple levels. The central CLOCK under the regulation of the light input controls the HPA axis and produces regular diurnal secretion of glucocorticoid hormones from the adrenal glands, whereas the peripheral CLOCKS, which are located in the adrenal glands and other components of the HPA axis and are regulated by the central CLOCK through the sympathetic nervous system, also contribute to the rhythmic glucocorticoid secretion from these organs. Secreted glucocorticoids in turn reset and phase-shift the circadian rhythm of the peripheral CLOCKS by stimulating the expression of several CLOCK-related genes; this is particularly important for temporal adjustment of activity of the body against stress. The peripheral CLOCKS also regulate the glucocorticoid effect in local tissues through interaction between *Clock/Bmal1* and the GR, providing a local counter regulatory feedback loop to the effect of central CLOCK on the HPA axis. ACTH: adrenocorticotropic hormone, AVP: arginine vasopressin, CRH: corticotropin-releasing hormone, PVN: paraventricular nucleus, SCN: suprachiasmatic nucleus.

Control of Energy Allocation





What is happening in the brain?

- ❑ Neurotransmitters
- ❑ Relatively simple systems
 - *Dopamine – Psychosis, Impulsivity*
 - *Norepinephrine – Reward*
 - *Serotonin – Depression, OCD*
- ❑ Complex
 - *Glutamate - Learning*
 - *GABA - Inhibition*

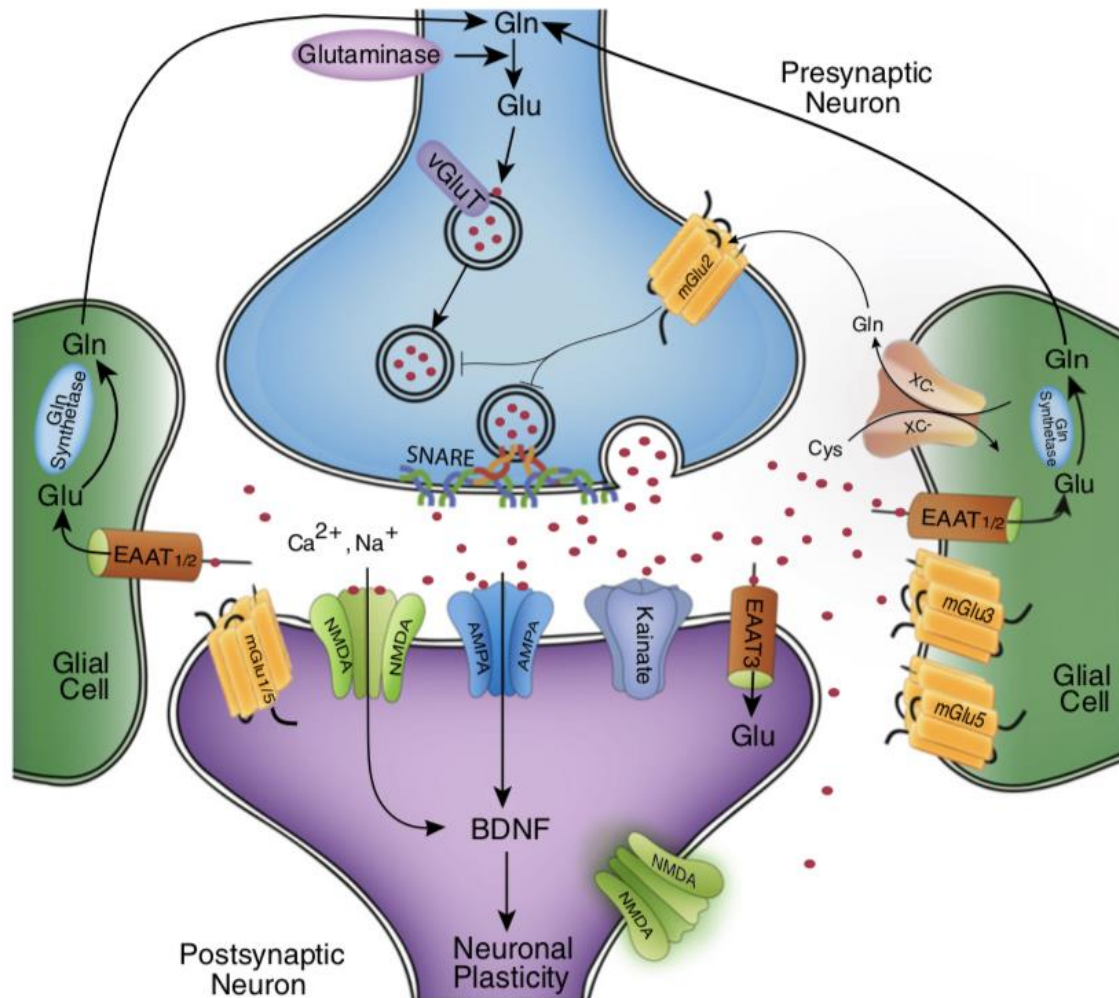
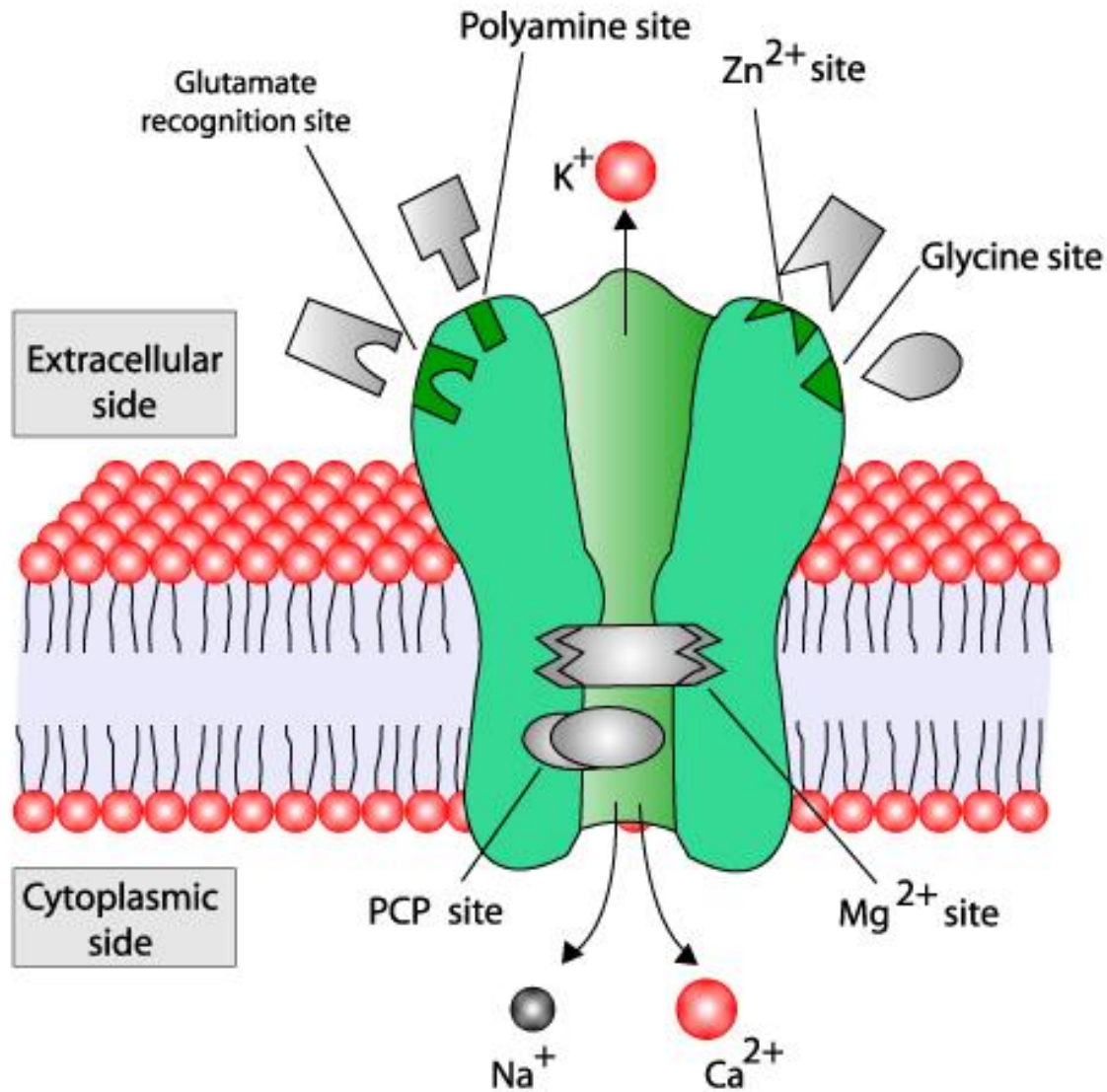
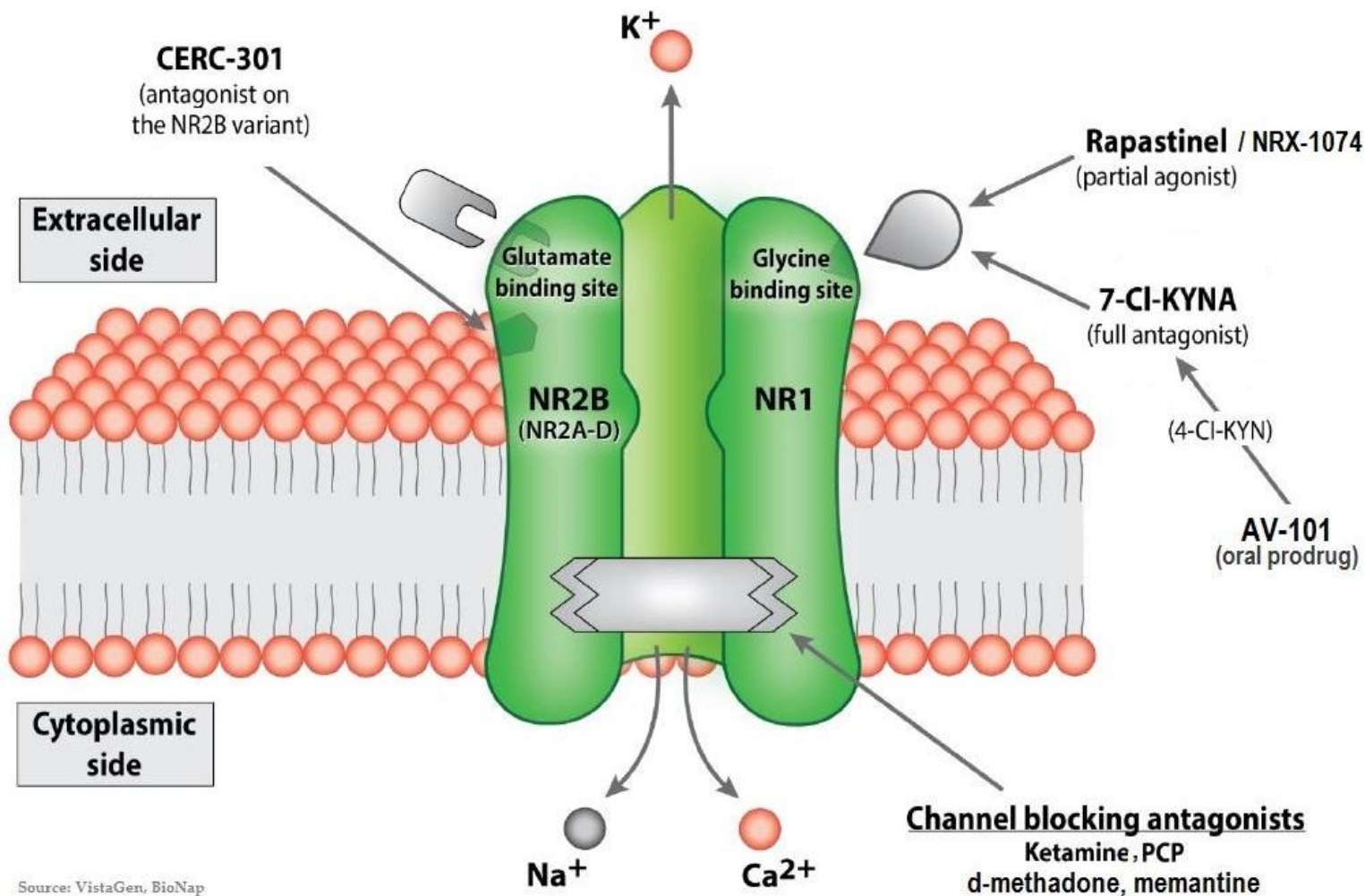


Fig. 1. Glutamatergic neurotransmission: due to the risk of excitotoxic damage in the wake of excessive glutamatergic stimulation, precise physiological control of glutamate must be maintained in the mammalian CNS. Glutamine (Gln) is converted to glutamate (Glu) by glutaminase [though glutamate may also be derived from the TCA cycle (not shown)]. Glu is packaged into presynaptic vesicles by vesicular Glu transporter (VGLUT) proteins and synaptically released in a voltage-dependent manner through vesicular interactions with SNARE proteins. Synaptically-released Glu is recycled from the extracellular space by excitatory amino acid transporters (EAATs) expressed predominantly on astroglia. In astrocytes, Glu is converted to Gln by Glu synthetase and exported extracellularly to be taken up again by neurons. Additionally, system x-C is a cystine/glutamate antiporter expressed on glia that also contributes to Glu recycling. Glu receptors are present on presynaptic and postsynaptic neurons as well as on glial cells. These include both ionotropic receptors (NMDA, AMPA/KA) and metabotropic receptors (mGluRs). The effect of Glu is determined by the receptor subtype, localization (synaptic, perisynaptic and extrasynaptic), and interactions with various scaffolding and signaling proteins (not shown) in the postsynaptic density. Glu receptor stimulation results not only in rapid ionotropic effects but also in synaptic plasticity, e.g. long-term potentiation (LTP) and long-term depression (LTD), via cognate signal transduction cascades.

Schematic representation of the NMDA (N - Methyl D- Aspartate) receptor complex

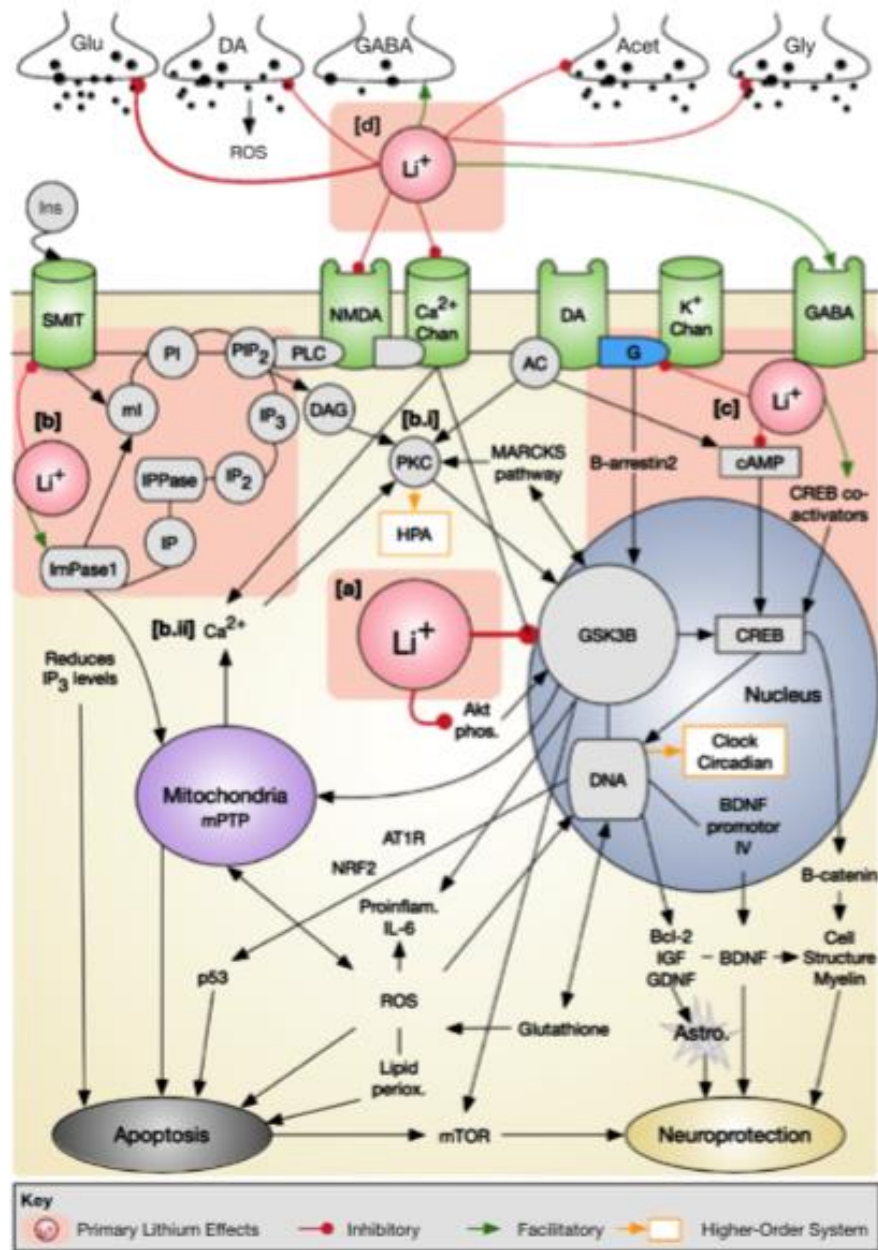


NMDA Receptor Pharmacology

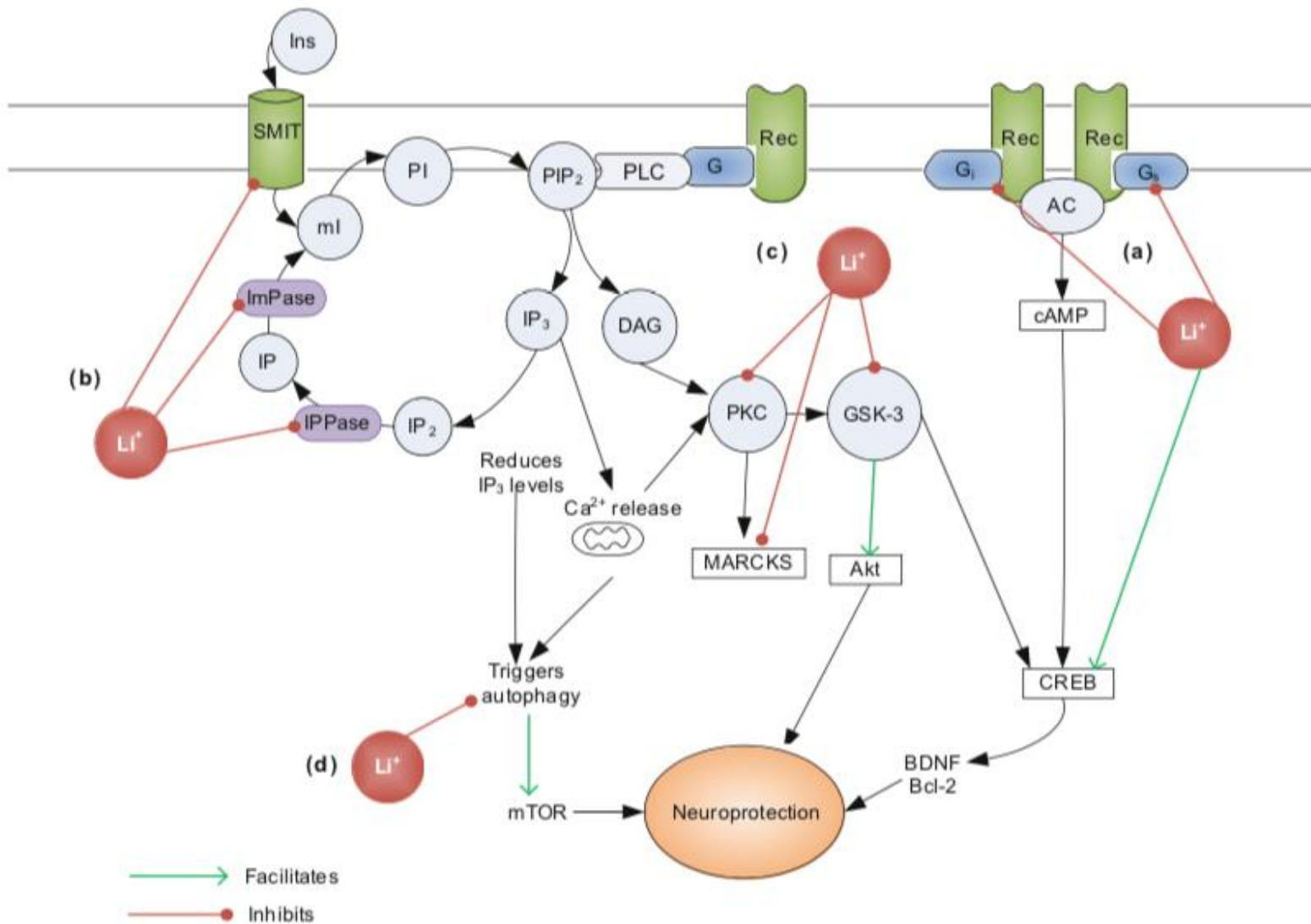


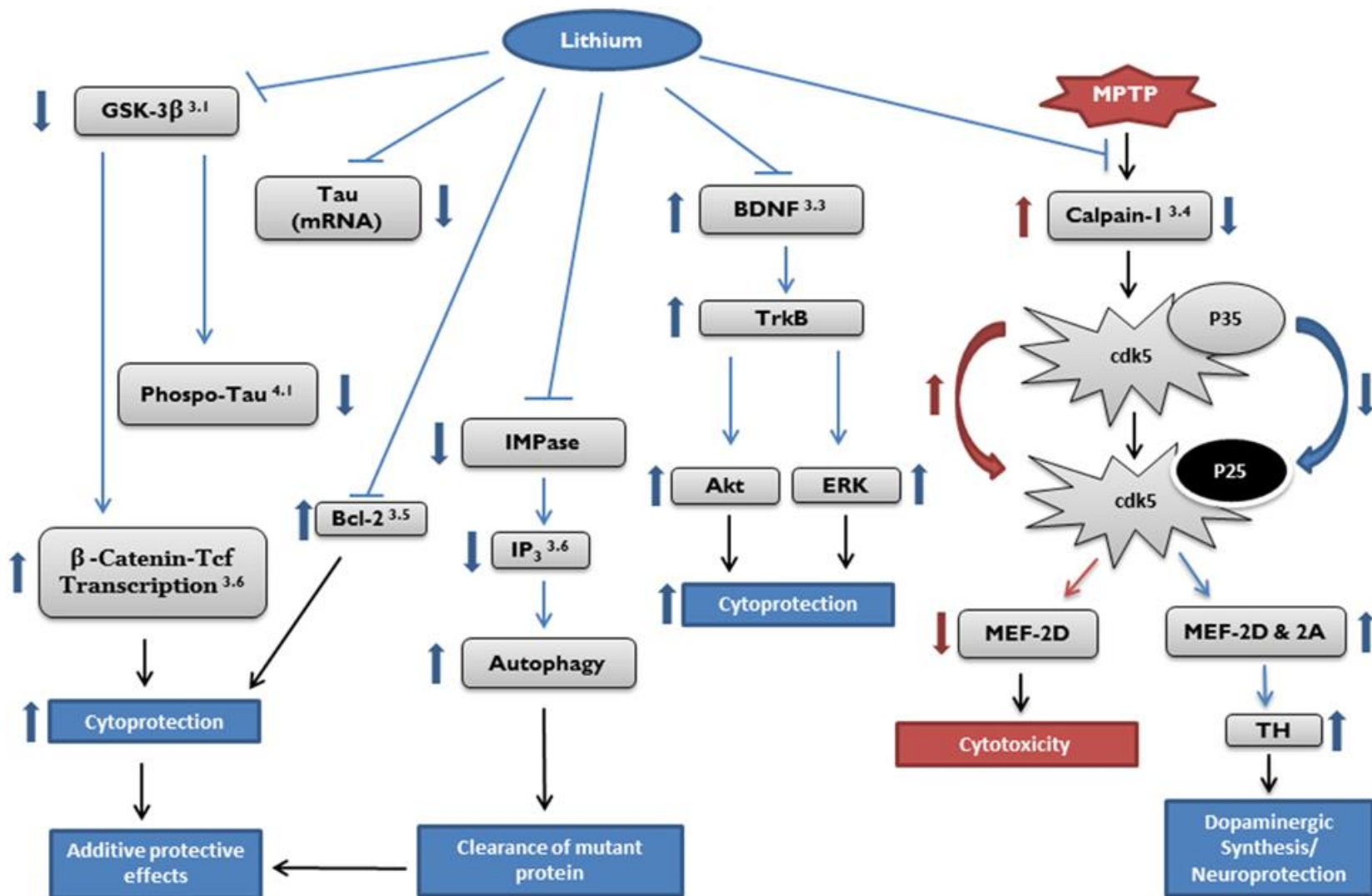
What is happening in the brain?

- ❑ Second messenger systems & beyond
 - *cAMP & cGMP, IP*
 - *Lithium and Bipolar disorder*



Key
 (Red circle) Primary Lithium Effects (Red line) Inhibitory (Green line) Facilitatory (Orange box) Higher-Order System





What is happening in the brain?

- ❑ Mitochondria & bio-energetics
 - *Depression & Bipolar disorder*

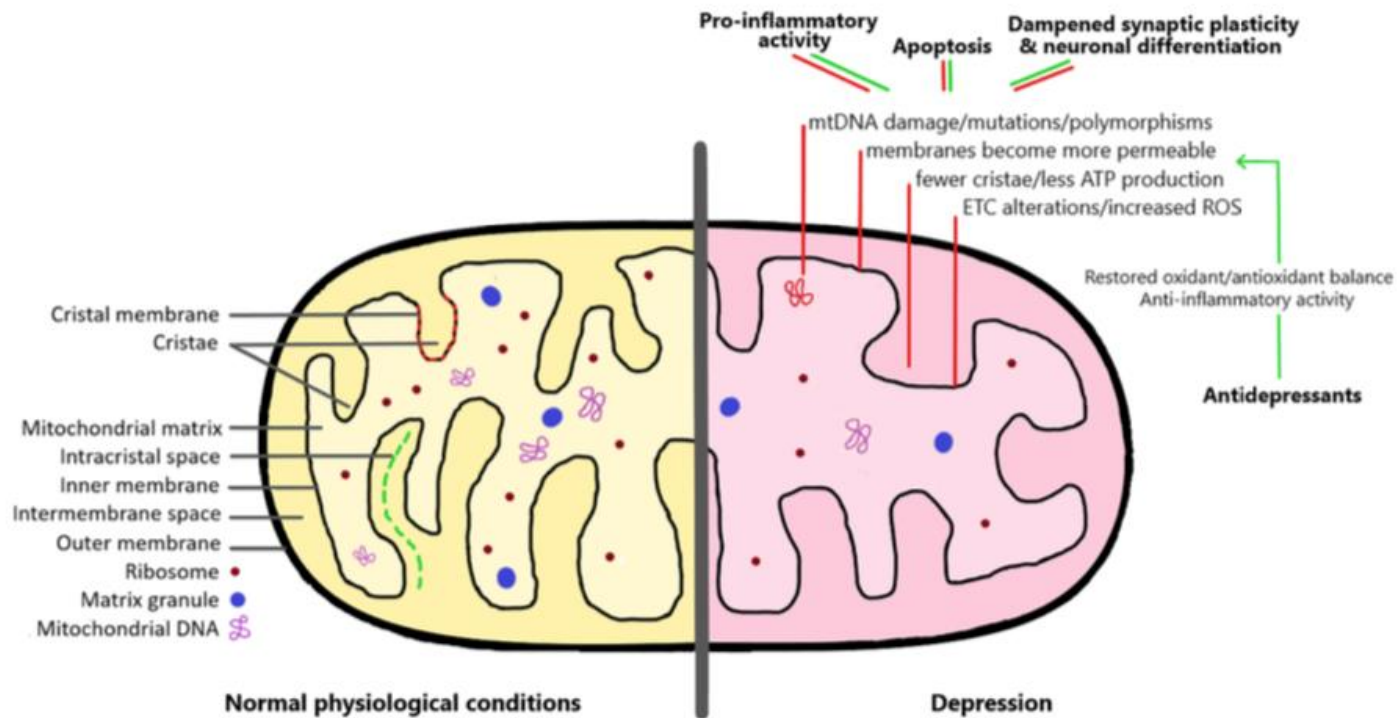


FIGURE 1 | The mitochondrion under normal physiological conditions and in the depression brain. As detailed in the right side of the image, there are a series of mitochondrial alterations that have been observed both in depressed patients and in animal models of depression (red lines). These include changes affecting mitochondrial DNA, membrane permeability, and increased formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS). As a consequence, these alterations lead to pro-inflammatory activity, increased apoptosis, and dampened synaptic plasticity and neuronal differentiation. Interestingly, antidepressant medication can restore the mitochondrial oxidant/antioxidant balance, and therefore help to rescue the negative effects of mitochondrial dysregulation (green lines). See the text for more detailed explanations.

Maternal overnutrition
diabetes and obesity

Nuclear epigenetic changes



Mitochondrial epigenetic modification
abnormal mitochondrial dynamics



Germline modifications
of fetal gametes



F1 offspring
with mitochondrial
dysfunction

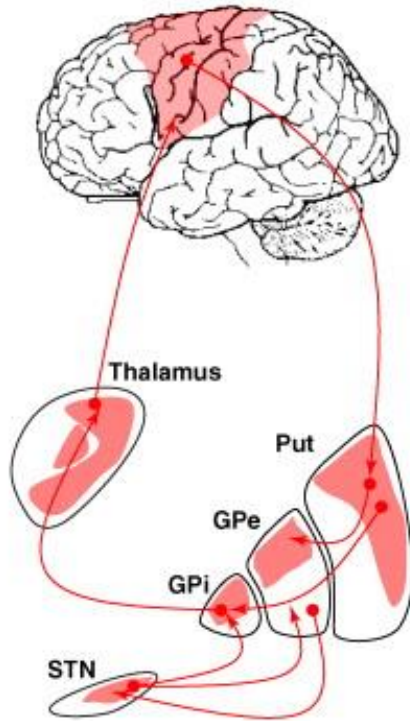
F2 offspring with
mitochondrial
dysfunction

F3 offspring with
mitochondrial
dysfunction

What is happening in the brain?

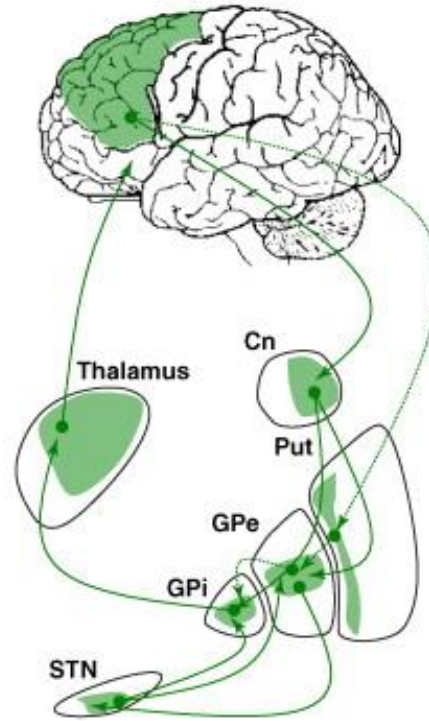
- ❑ Areas in isolation – no
- ❑ Areas in unison – yes
- ❑ The CSTC loops
 - *Cognition - Schizophrenia*
 - *Emotion processing - Mood Disorders*
 - *Motor behavior - OCD*

Sensorimotor and premotor cortex



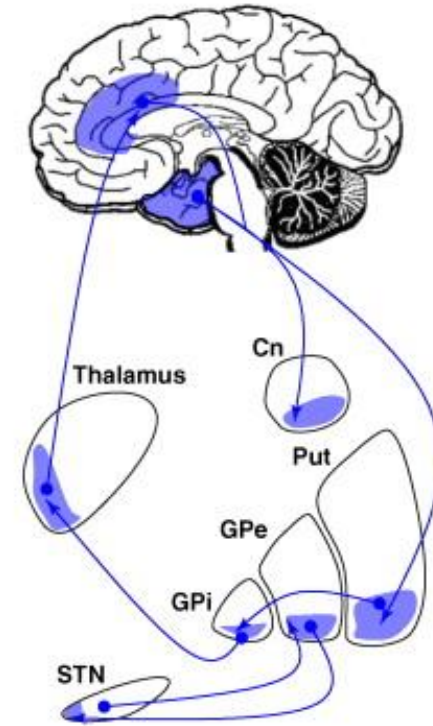
(a) Motor circuit

Dorsolateral prefrontal and lateral orbitofrontal cortex



(b) Associative circuit

Limbic and paralimbic cortex, hippocampus and amygdala

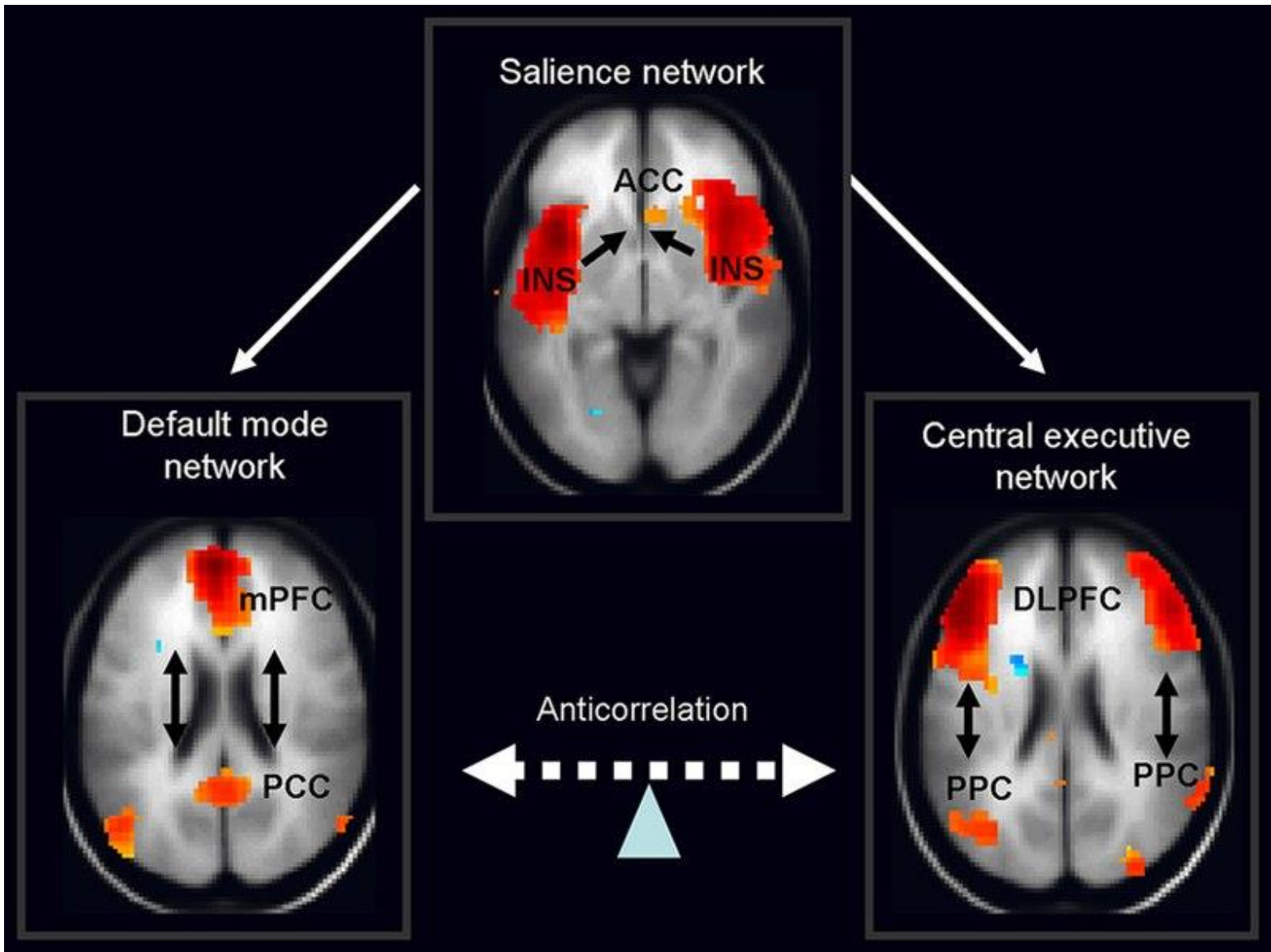


(c) Limbic circuit

TRENDS in Neurosciences

What is happening in the brain?

- ❑ Networks
 - *Nodes*
 - *Connections*
- ❑ Default Mode Network
 - *Consciousness, Autobiographical Memory, Self*
- ❑ Salience Network
 - *Attention*
- ❑ Central Executive Network
 - *Processing & execution*

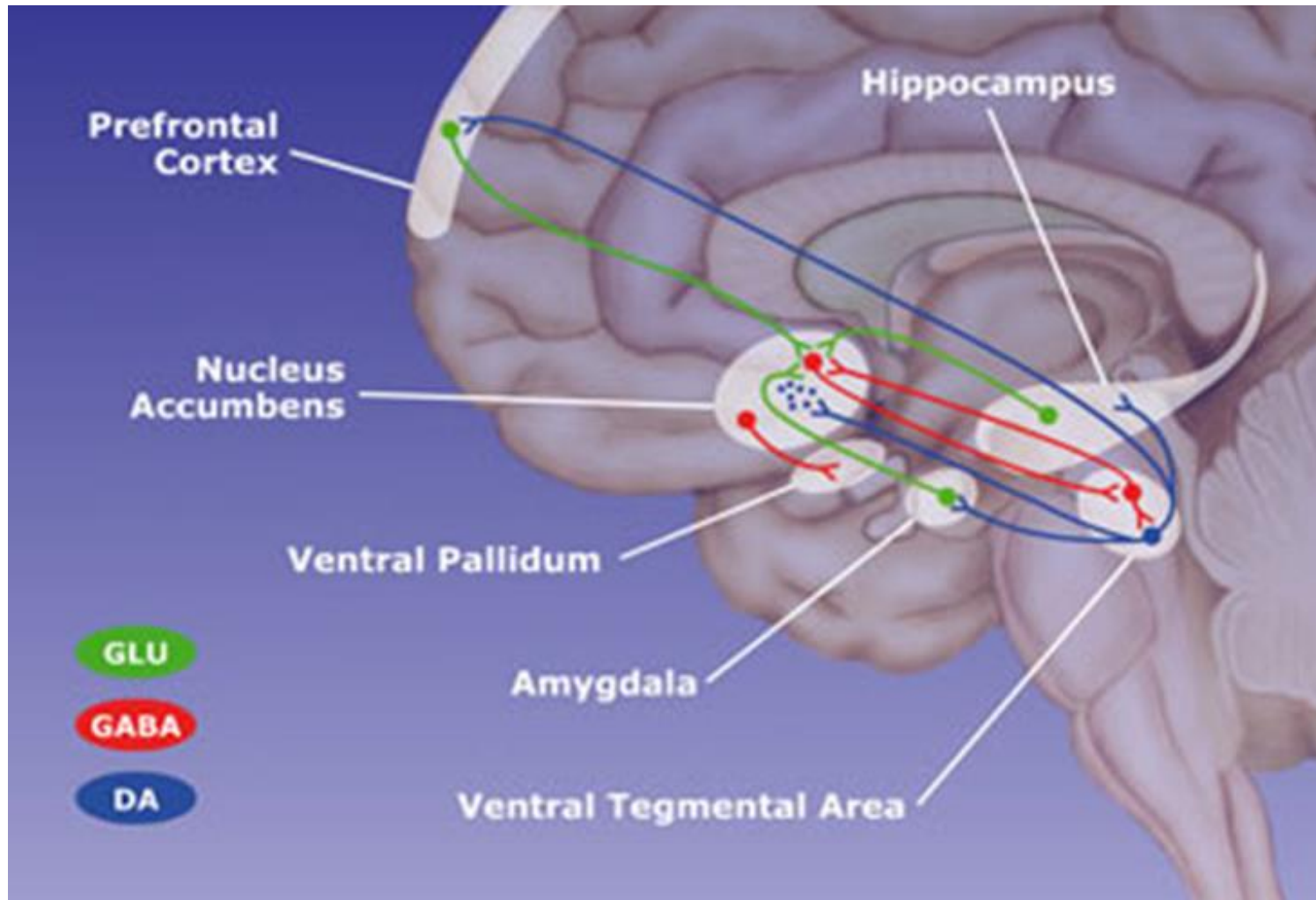


What is happening in the brain?

- Reward Circuit

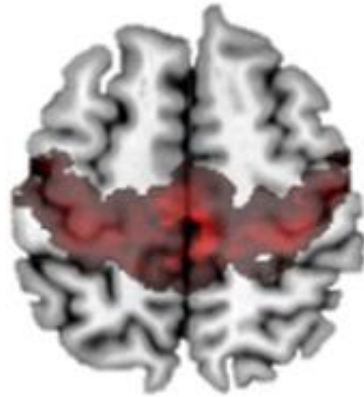
- *Basis of addictions*

The Reward Circuit



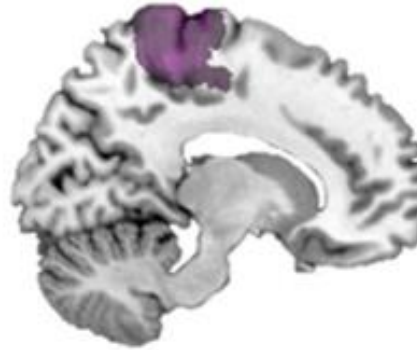
And what is cerebellum doing here?

As in motion, so in cognition



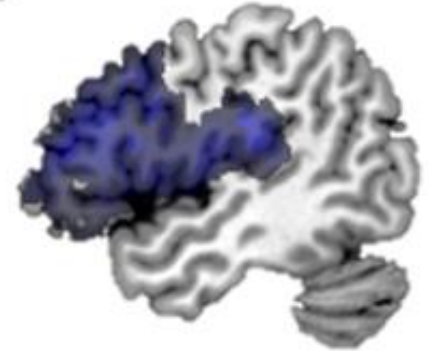
Anterior lobe

- Stereotyped and repetitive behaviors
- Motor impairments



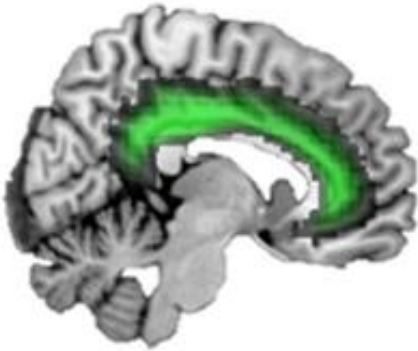
VIII A & VIII B

- Stereotyped and repetitive behaviors



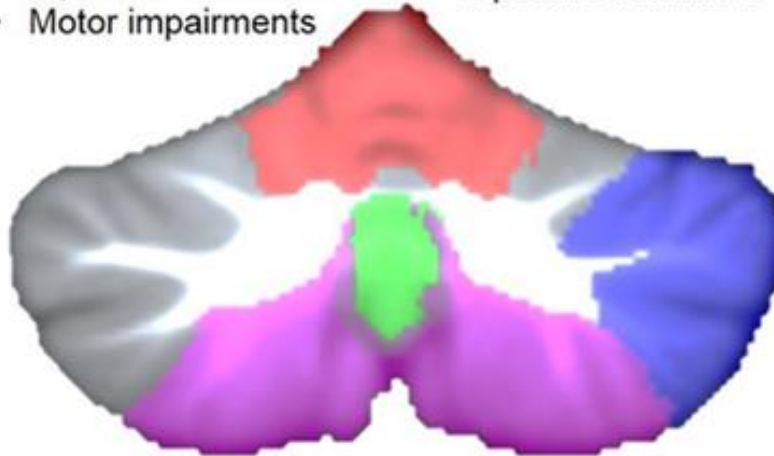
Right Crus I & II

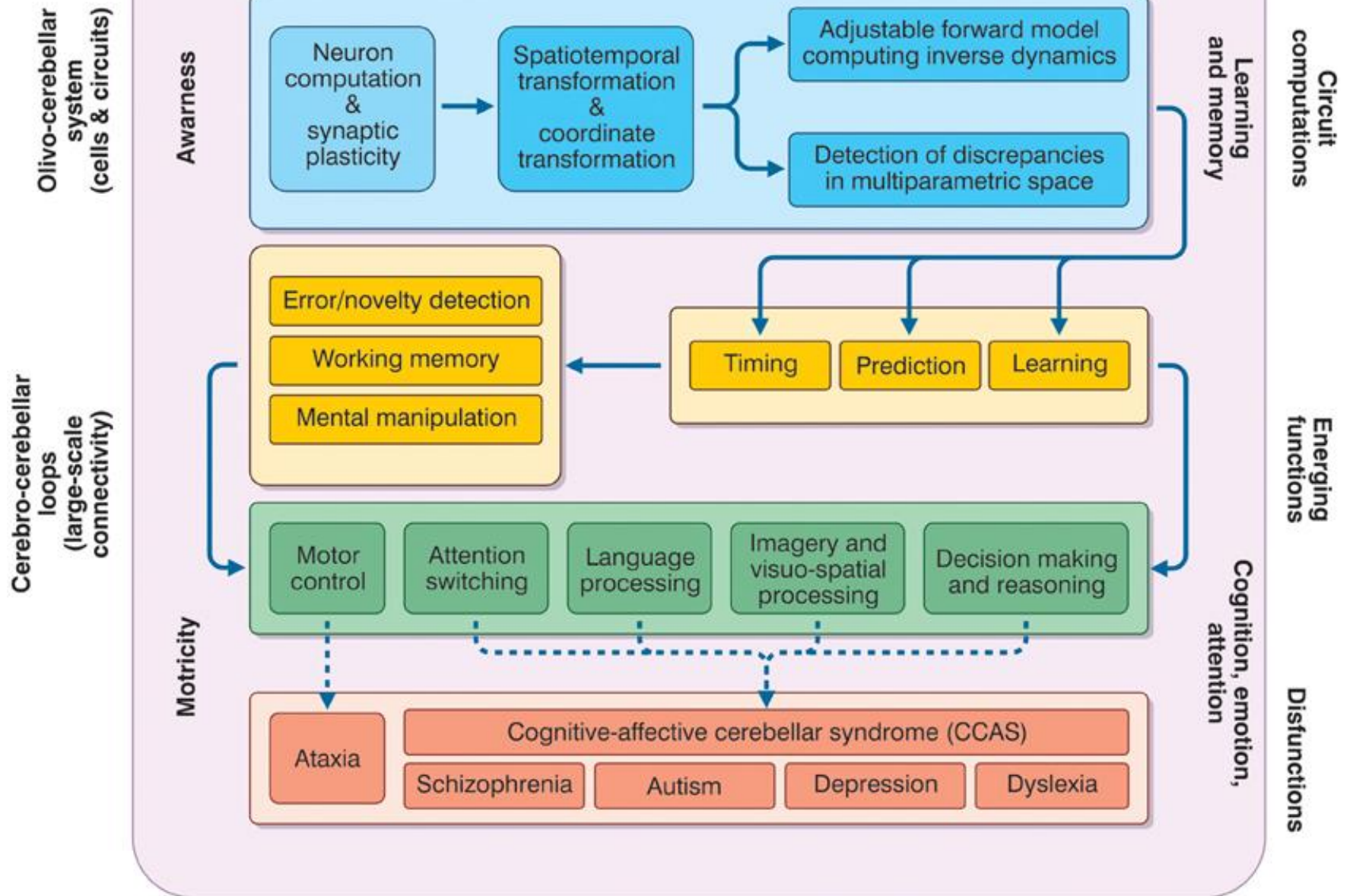
- Language deficits
- Social cognition deficits
- Theory of mind deficits
- Face processing impairments
- Imitation impairments
- Stereotyped and repetitive behaviors



Posterior Vermis

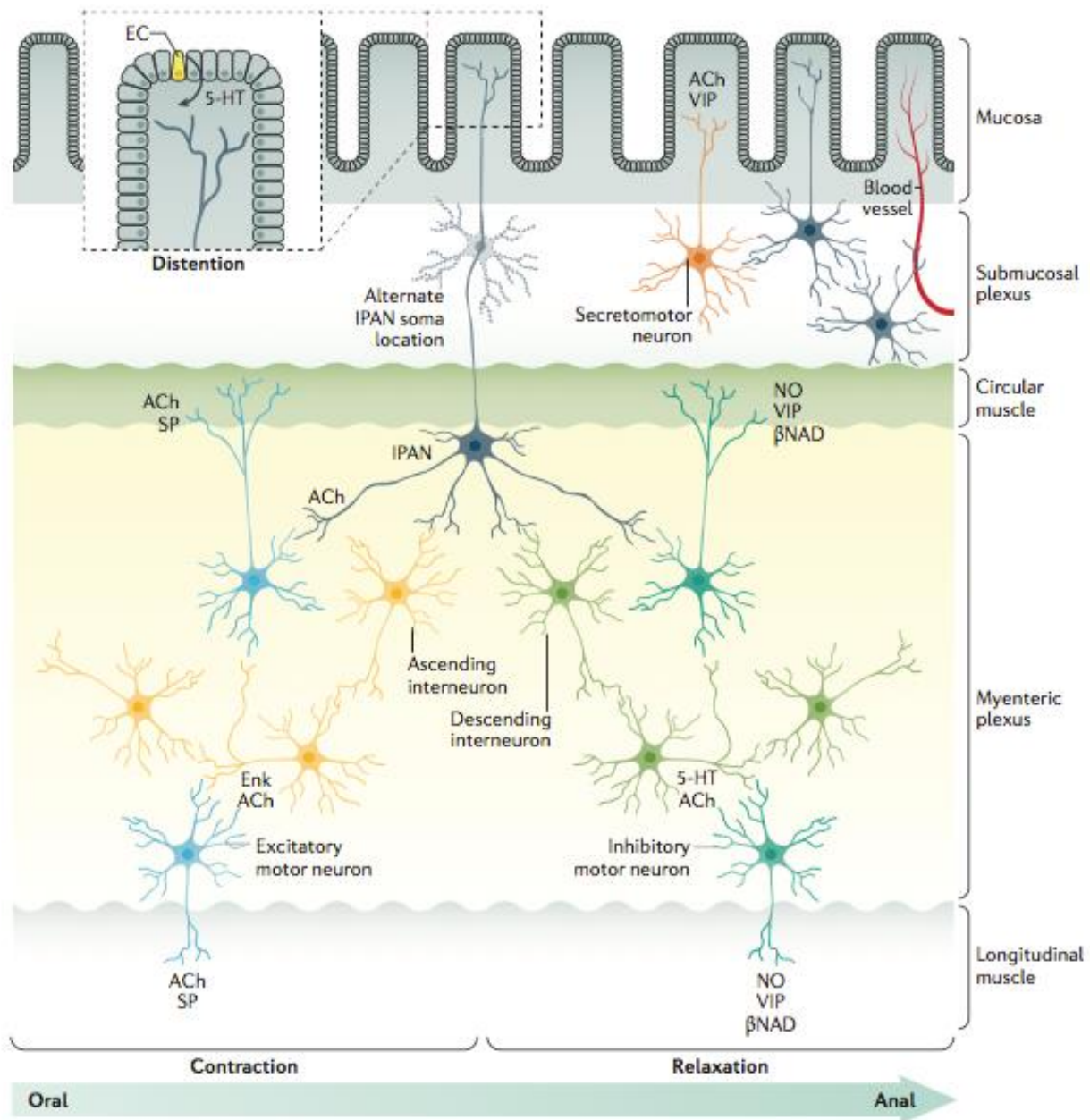
- Affective dysregulation
- Social processing deficits
- Irritability

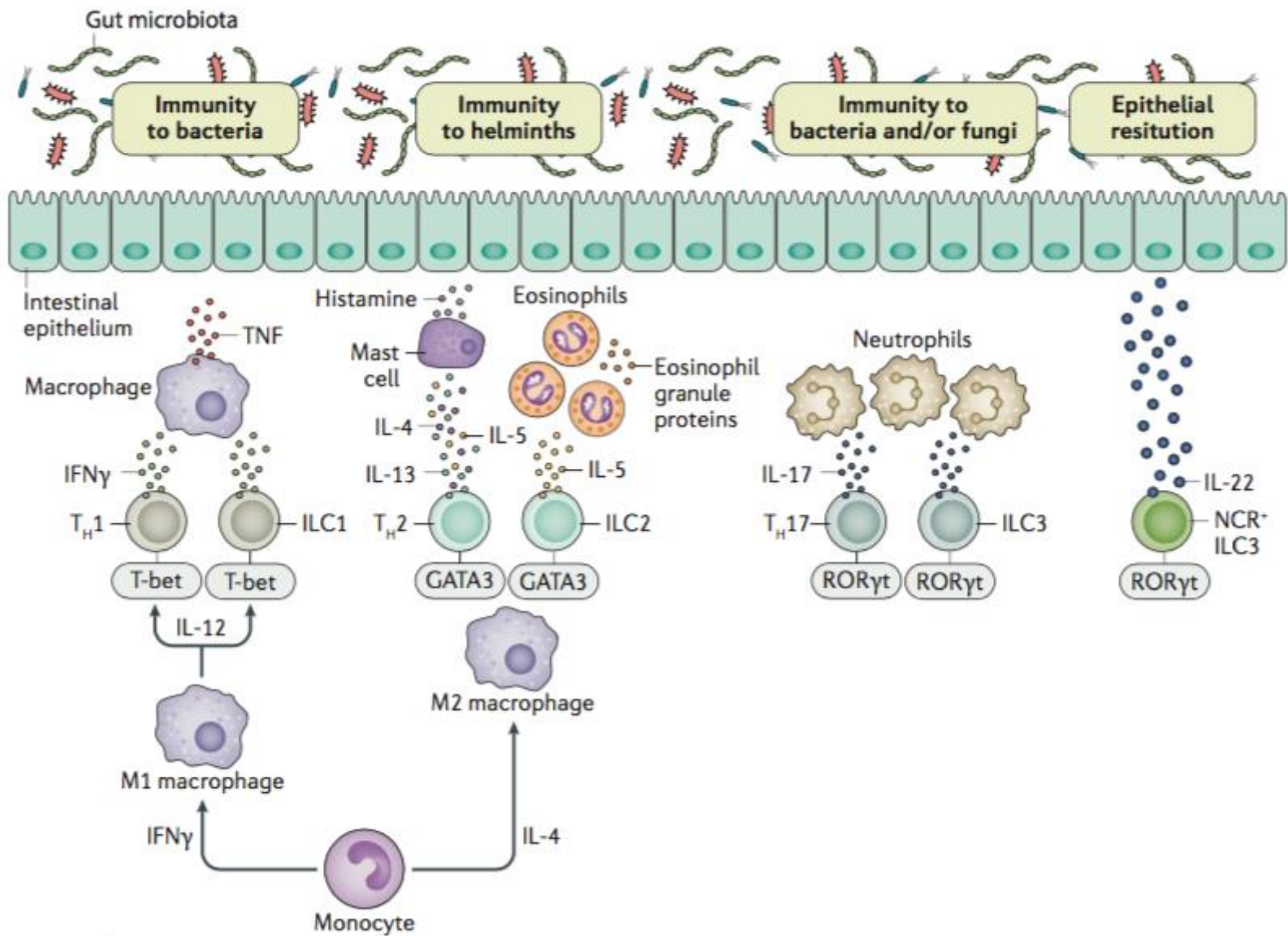


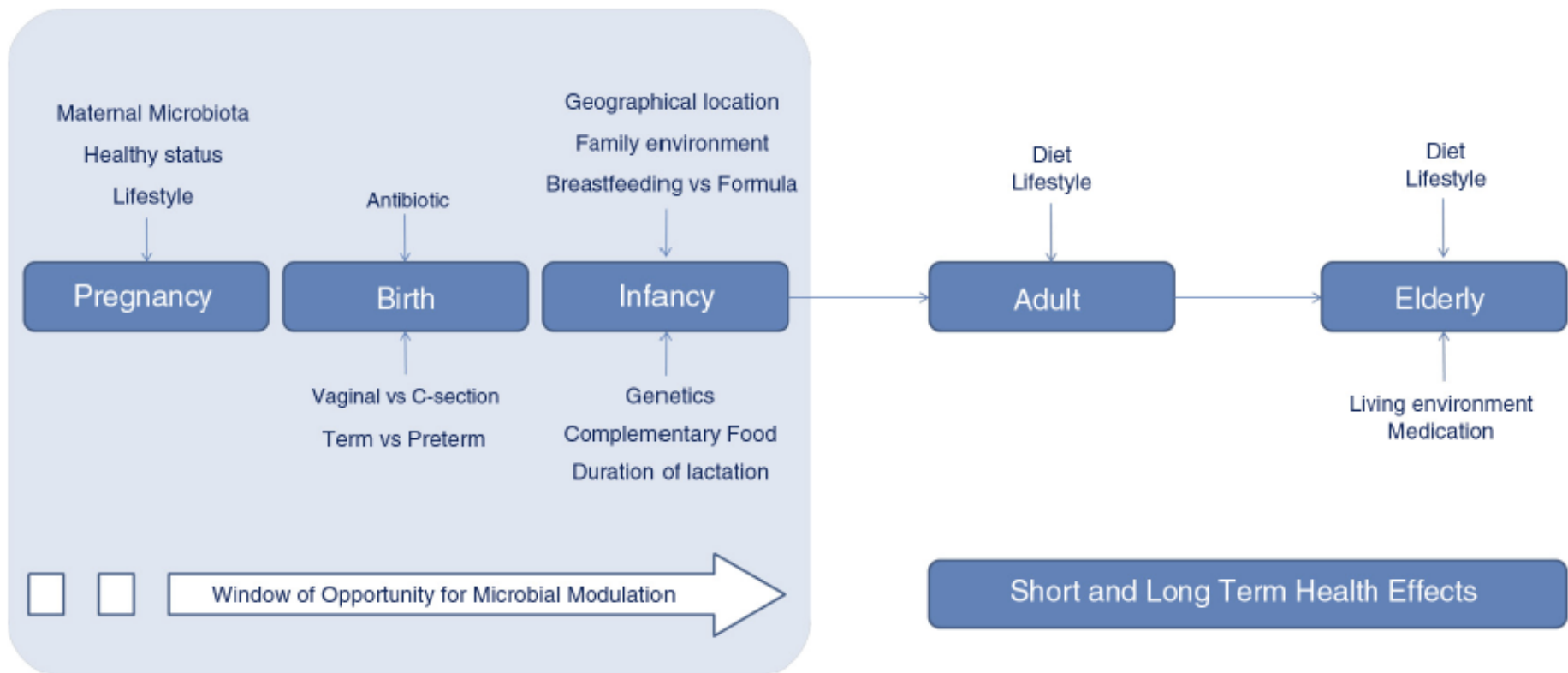


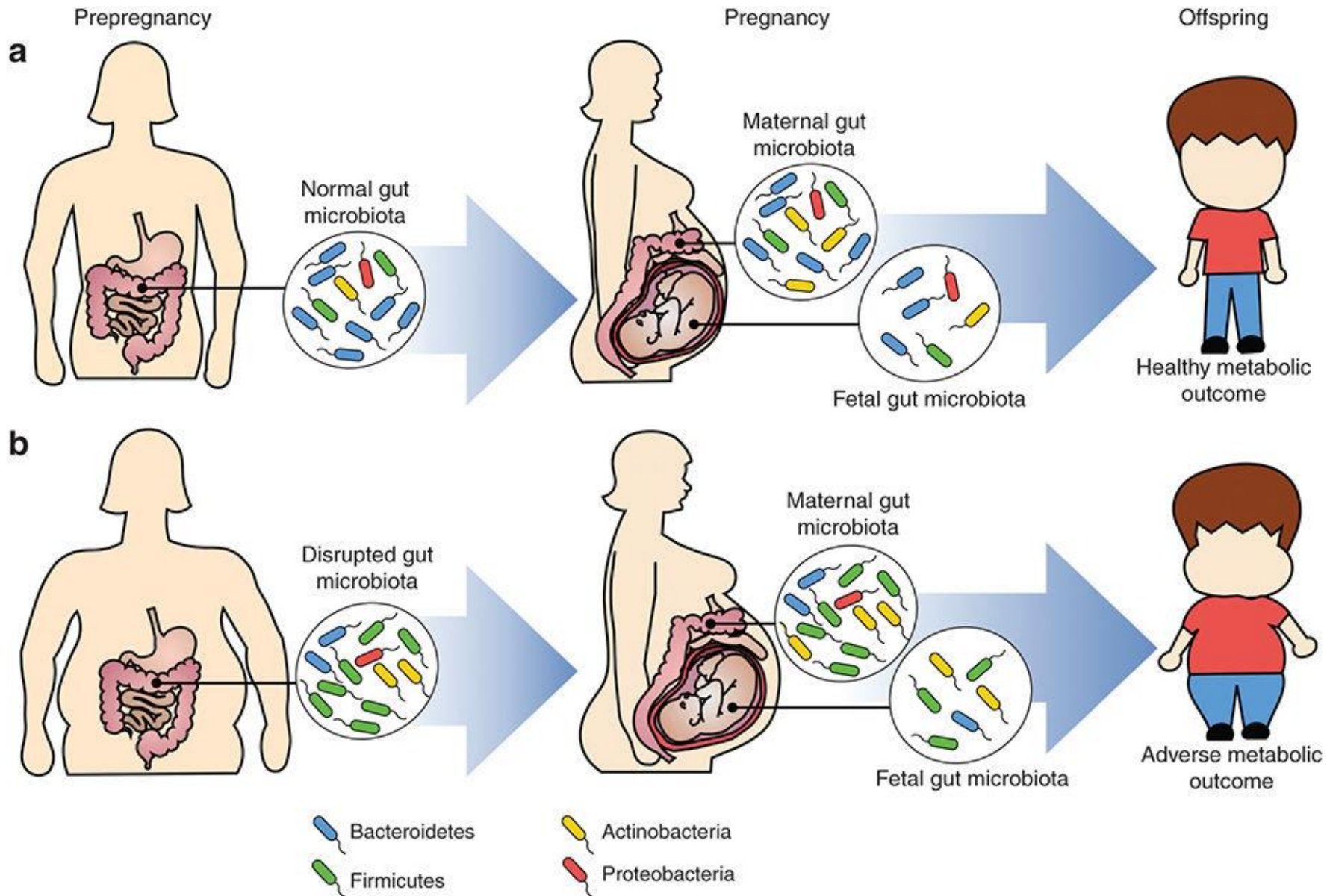
Is there a second brain?

- ❑ Discovered in the late 1900's
- ❑ Part of the autonomic nervous system
- ❑ “On Site” control of gut behavior
- ❑ Can alert the organism to danger & influence response (Unconscious)
- ❑ 90% of Vagus Nerve information flow is from the gut to the brain

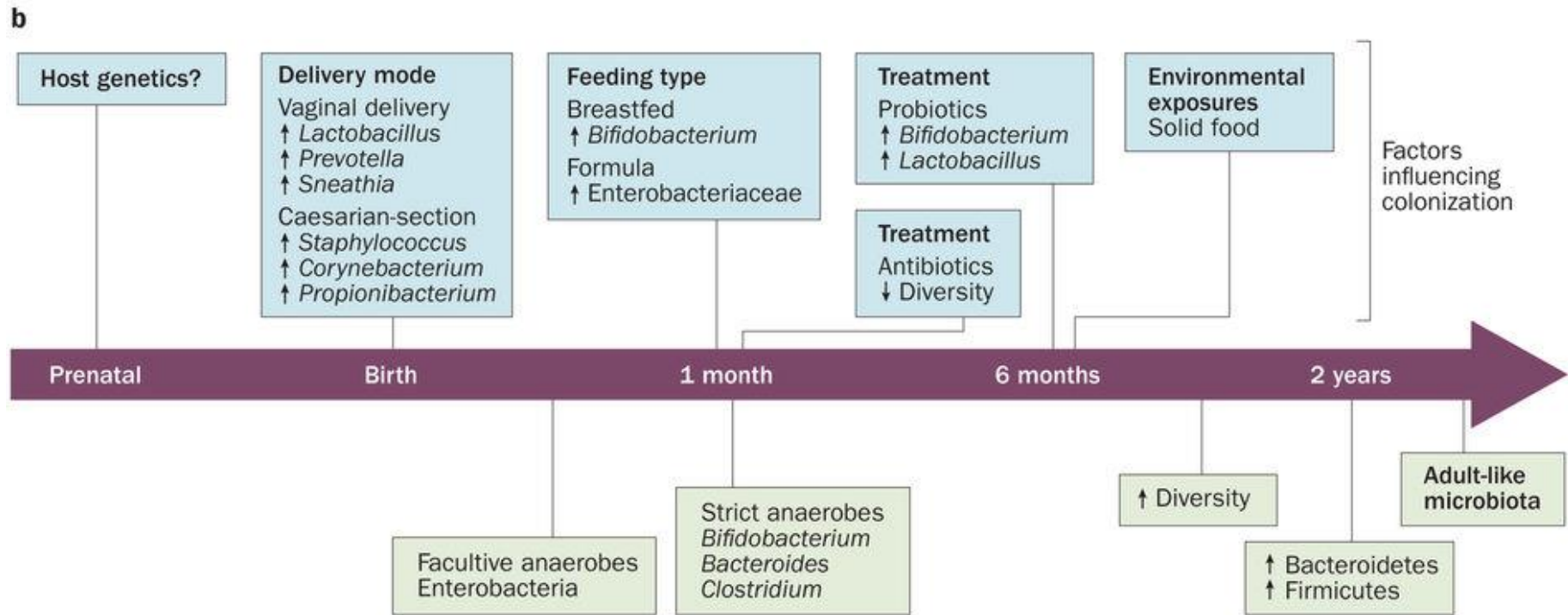


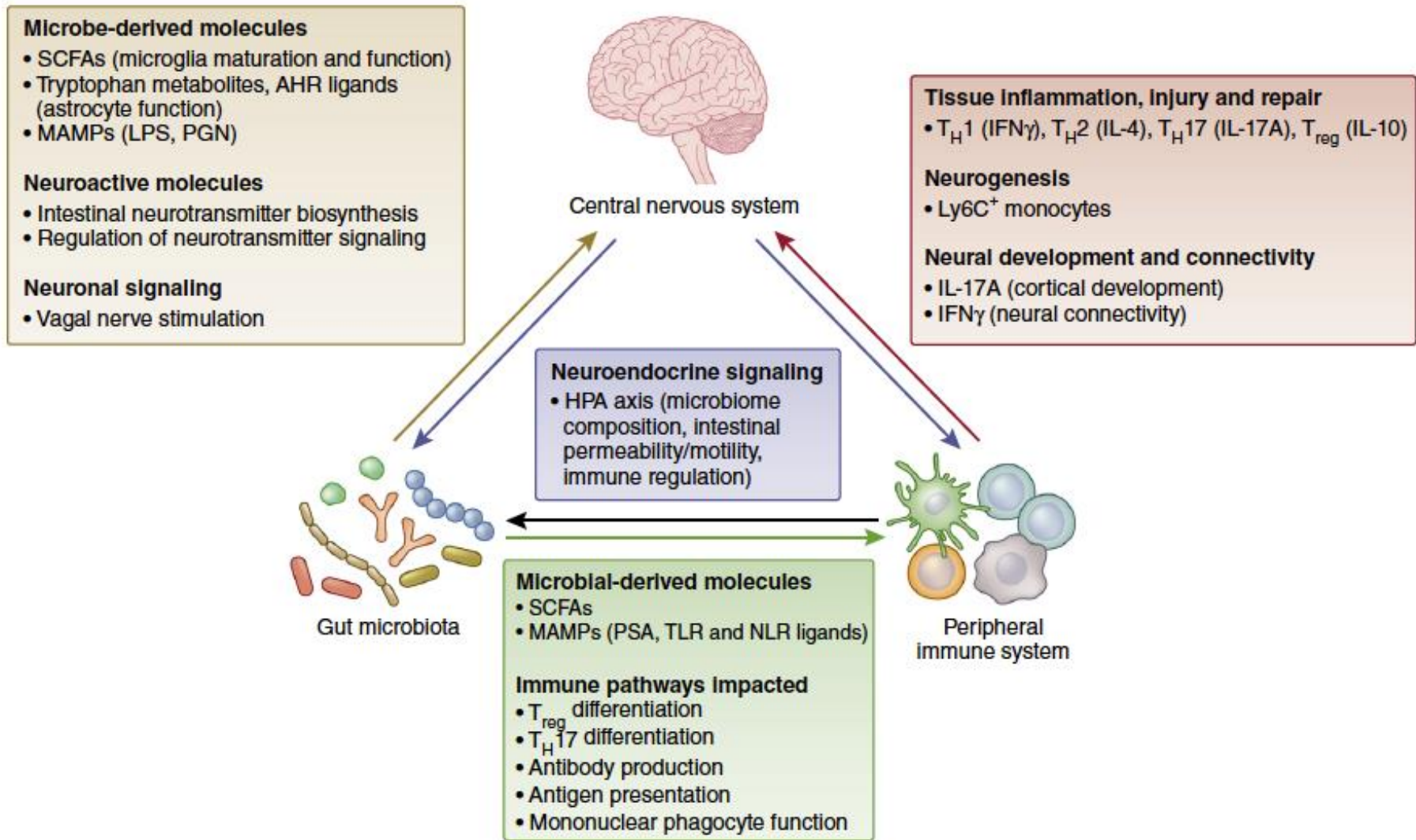


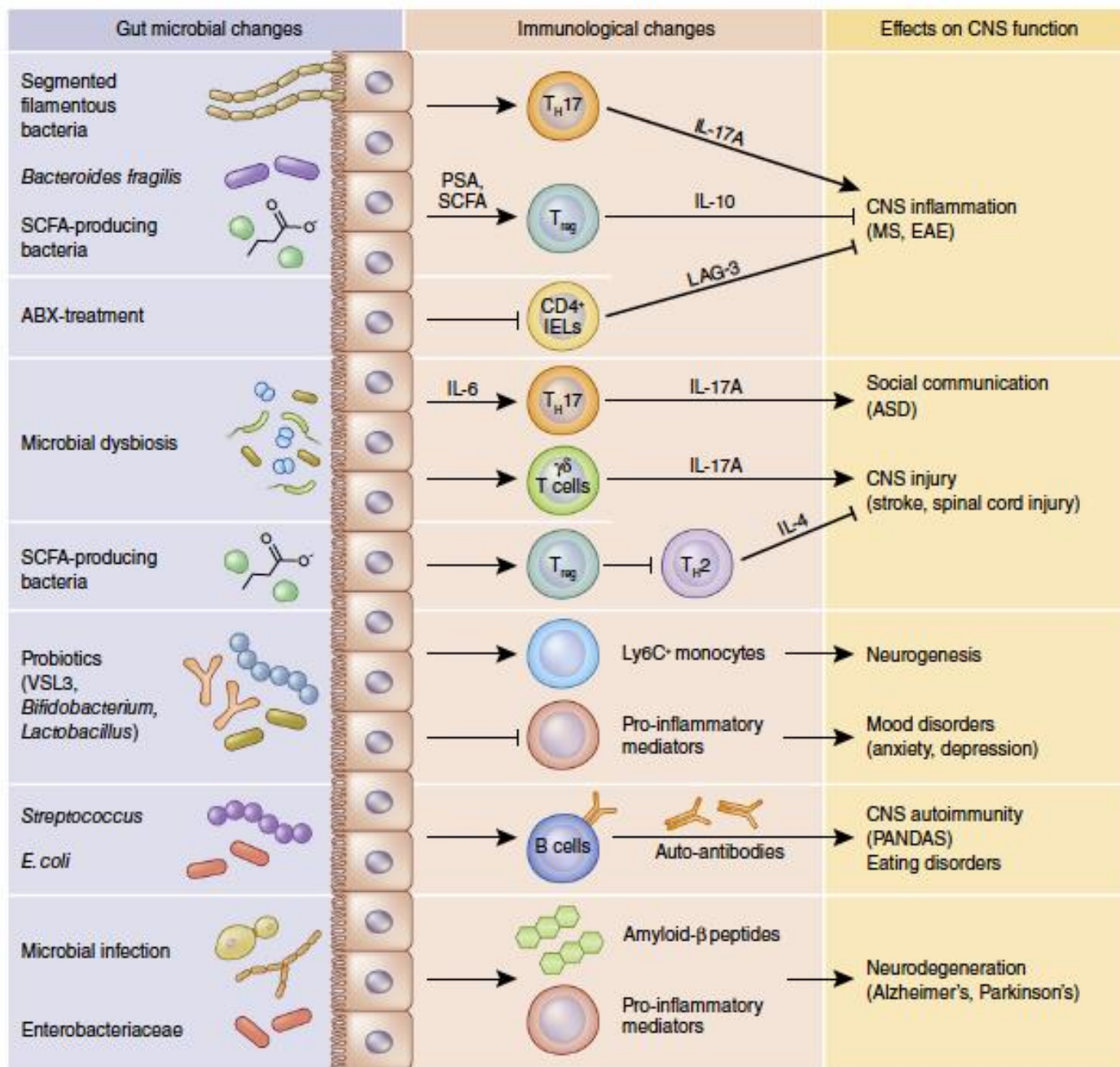




a Intestinal location	Stomach	Duodenum	Jejunum	Ileum	Colon
Microbes/gram	1×10^1	1×10^3	1×10^4	1×10^7	1×10^{12}
Composition	<i>Lactobacillus</i> <i>Helicobacter</i> <i>Veillonella</i>	<i>Streptococcus</i> <i>Lactococcus</i> <i>Staphylococcus</i>	<i>Lactobacillus</i> <i>Streptococcus</i> <i>Enterococcus</i>	SFB Enterobacteriaceae <i>Bacteroides</i> <i>Clostridium</i>	<i>Bacteroides</i> <i>Clostridium</i> Lachnospiraceae Proteobacteria Actinobacteria Prevotellaceae







What is the role of Development and Degeneration?

- ❑ Many psychiatric illnesses are developmental in origin
 - *ADHD, ASD, IDD, SLD*
- ❑ Many psychiatric illnesses are degenerative in origin
 - *Dementias*
- ❑ Most psychiatric illnesses are a combination of the two
- ❑ Genetically determined

Predetermined epigenesis:

(Unidirectional structure–functional development)

genes → brain structure → brain function → experience

Probabilistic epigenesis:

(Bidirectional structure–functional development)

genes ↔ brain structure ↔ brain function ↔ experience

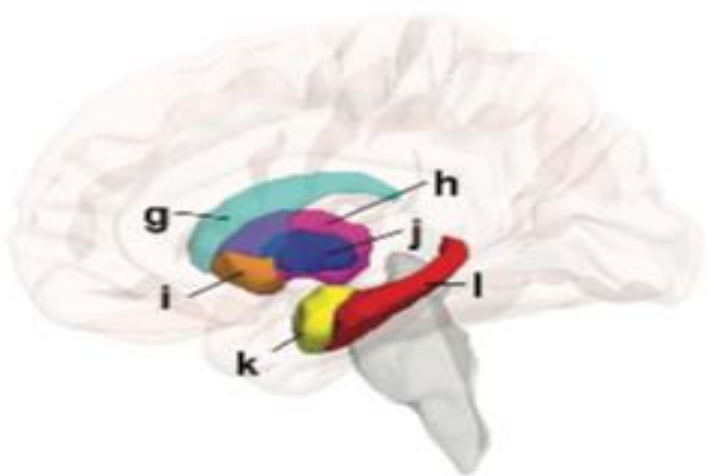
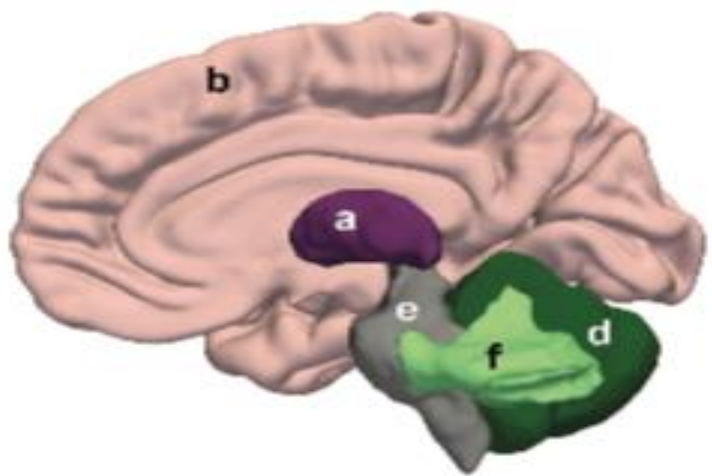
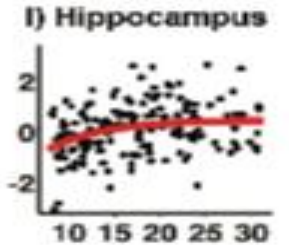
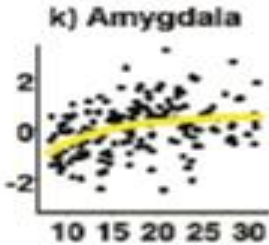
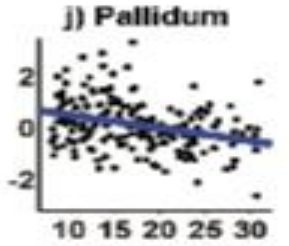
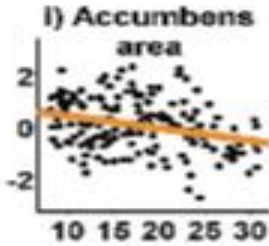
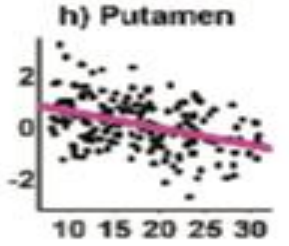
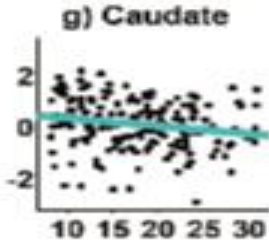
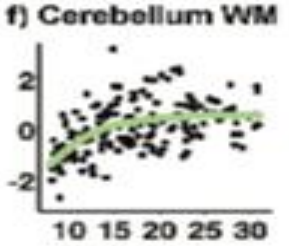
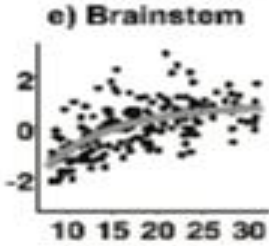
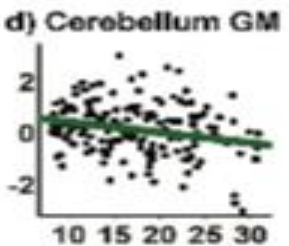
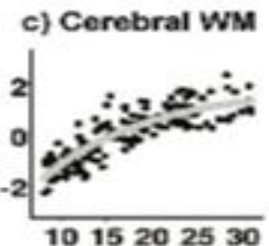
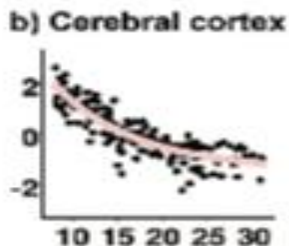
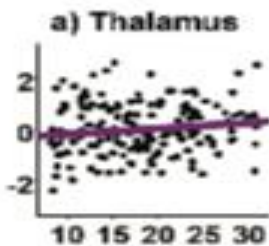
Development

- ❑ Nature – **Genetics**
- ❑ Nurture – **Tabula rasa**
- ❑ **BOTH** genes and environment make significant contributions to the regulation of how development unfolds
- ❑ Epigenesis – **G x E** interactions
- ❑ **Plasticity**
- ❑ **Chronobiology** – Periodicity
- ❑ Individual **variations**

Development

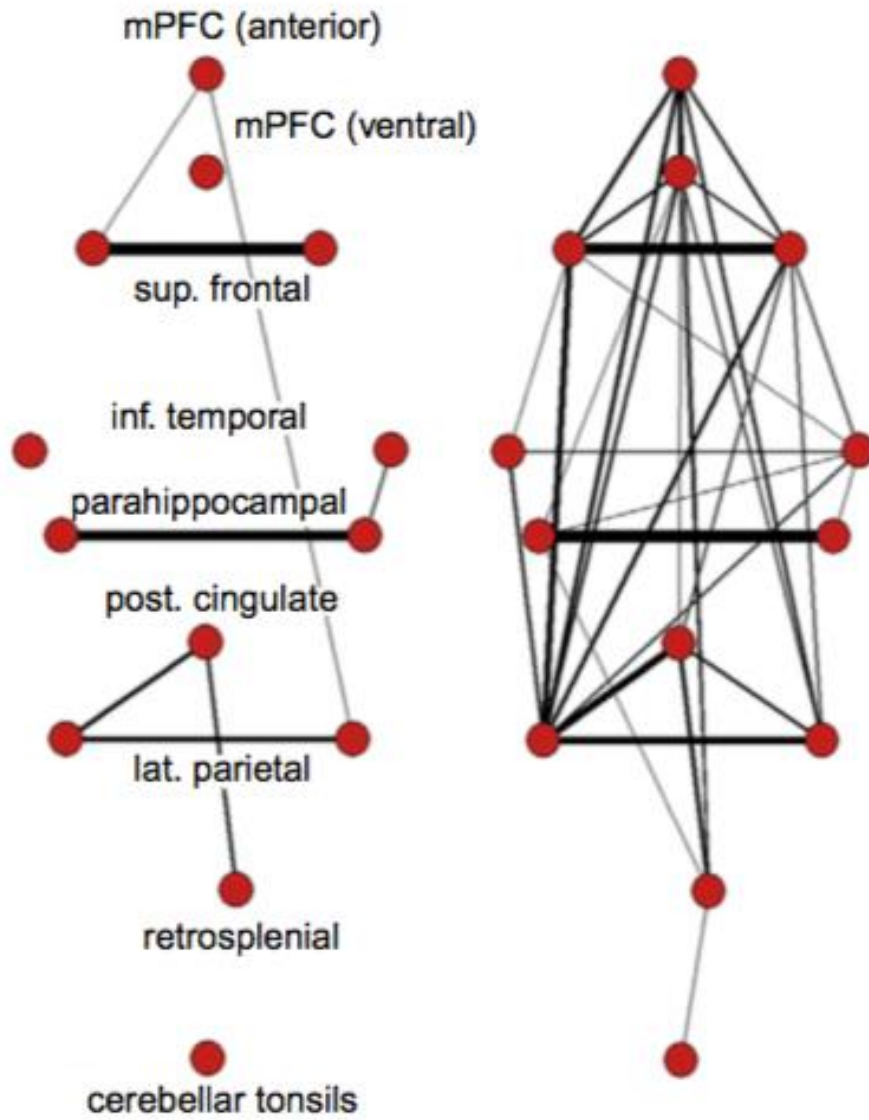
- ❑ **Differential** growth – Intraregional, Interregional, Hemispherical
- ❑ **Protracted** growth – into adulthood
- ❑ **Pruning** – “Use it Or Lose it”
- ❑ **Nodes & networks**
- ❑ **Lateralization** – “Logical thinking”
- ❑ **Efficiency**
- ❑ **Sexual** differentiation

Region	Functions	Girls / Boys
Frontal lobes	Planning, organizing, strategizing, initiating, shifting, sustaining, attention	11.0 years / 12.1 years
Temporal lobes	Language, emotional, memory	16.7 years / 16.2 years
Parietal lobes	Receiving and processing sensory input	10.2 years / 11.8 years

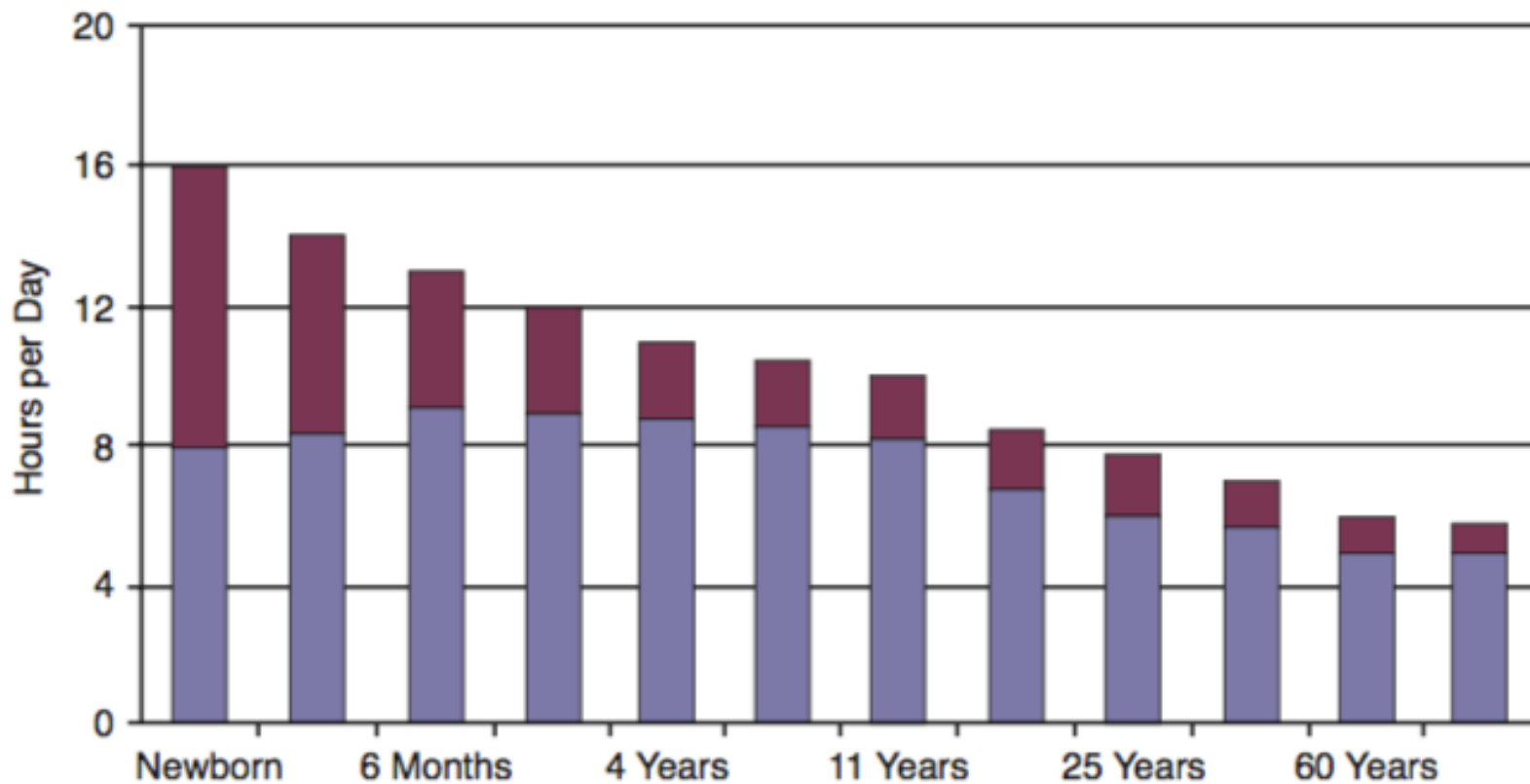


Children

Adults



■ Non-REM Sleep ■ REM Sleep



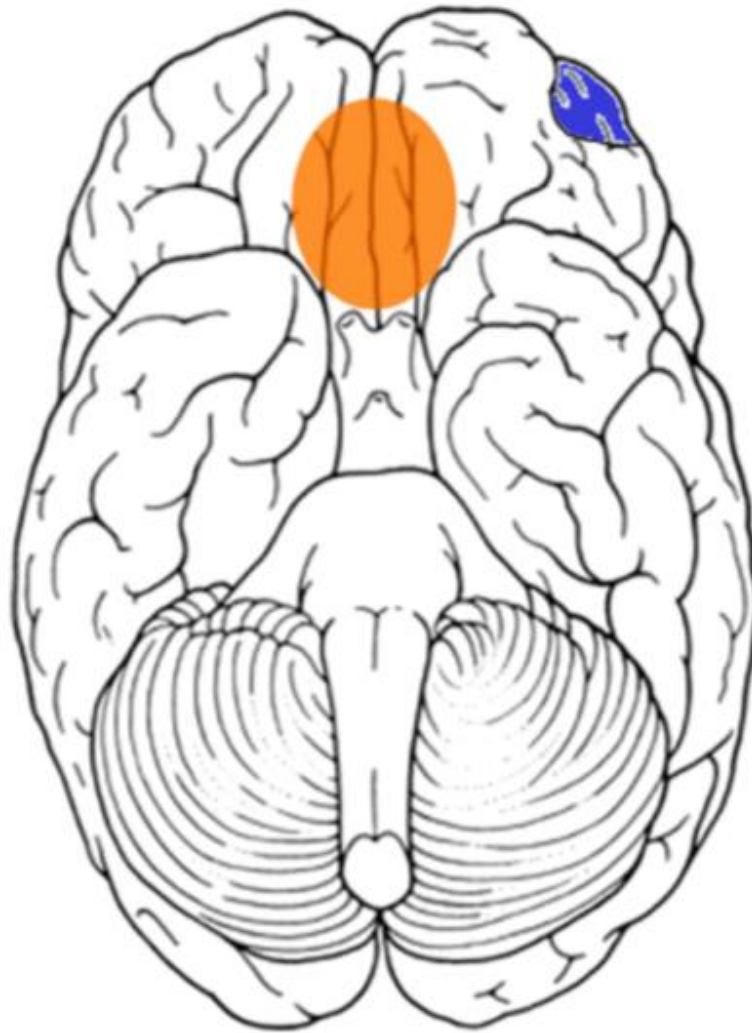
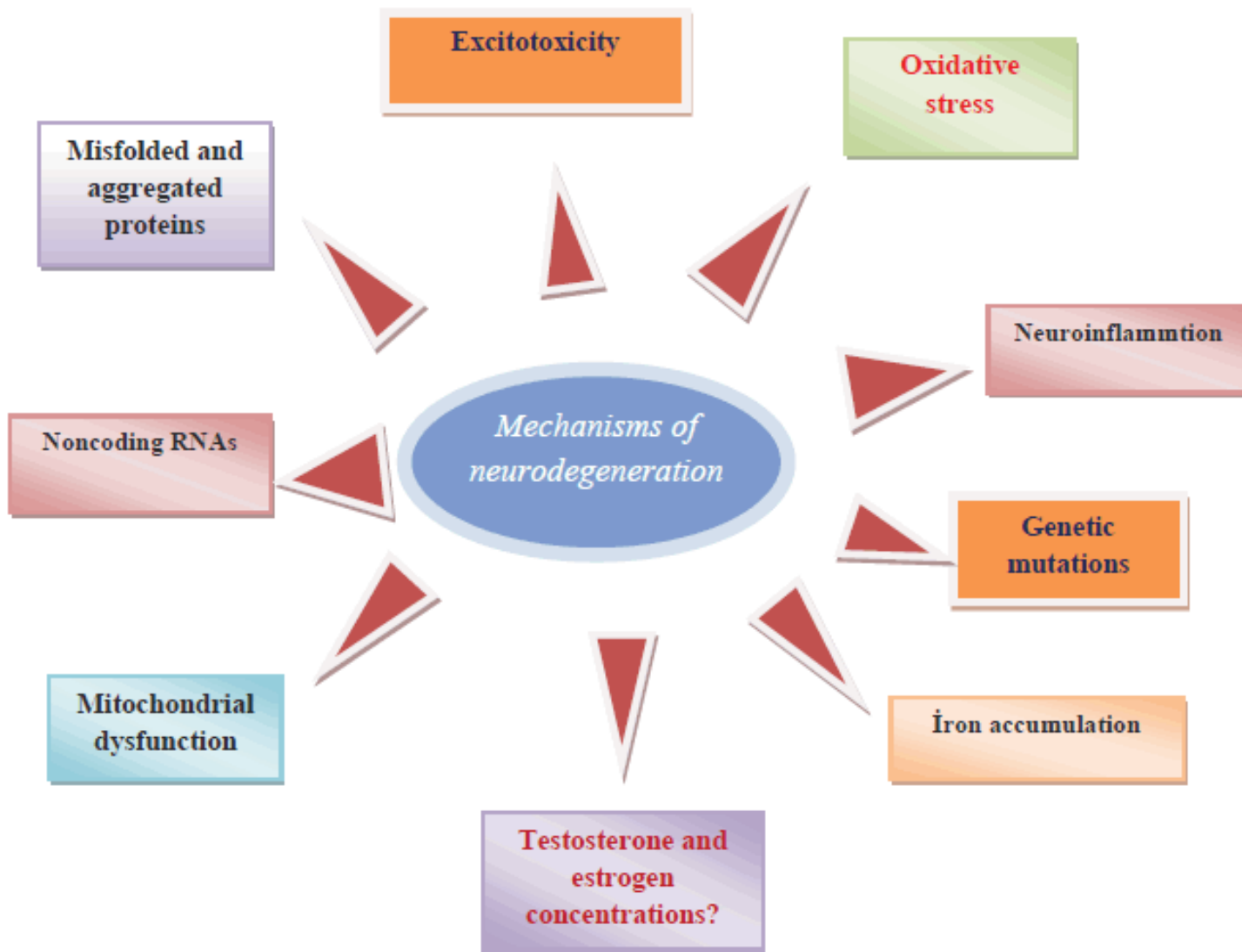


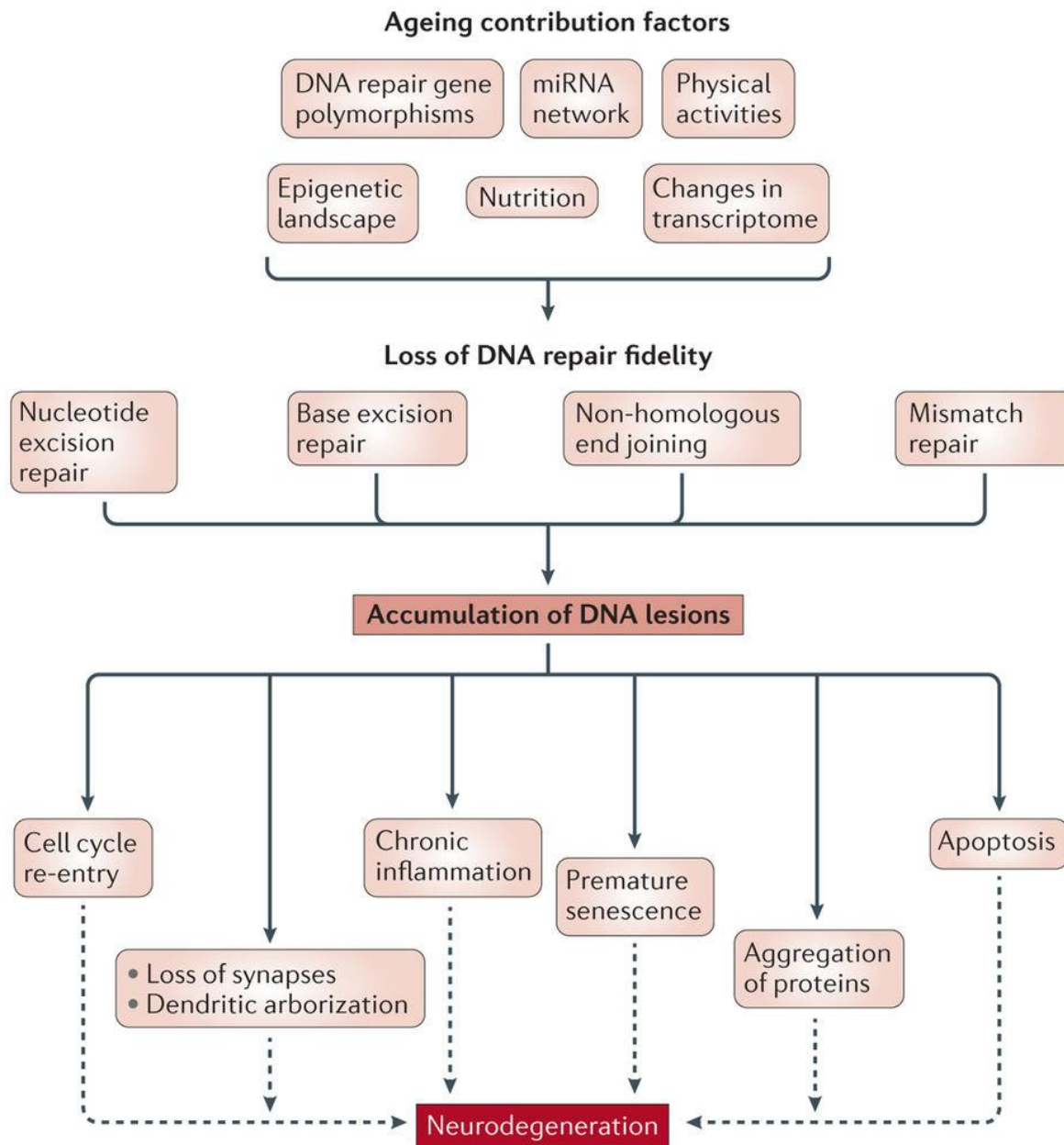
Fig. 3.3. The areas of the frontal cortex active during empathic responses change from the ventromedial portion (in orange) of the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) in childhood to the lateral OFC (colored blue) in adulthood, with a gradual shift from 10 to 40 years. (Source: See Ref. 77 for original data.)

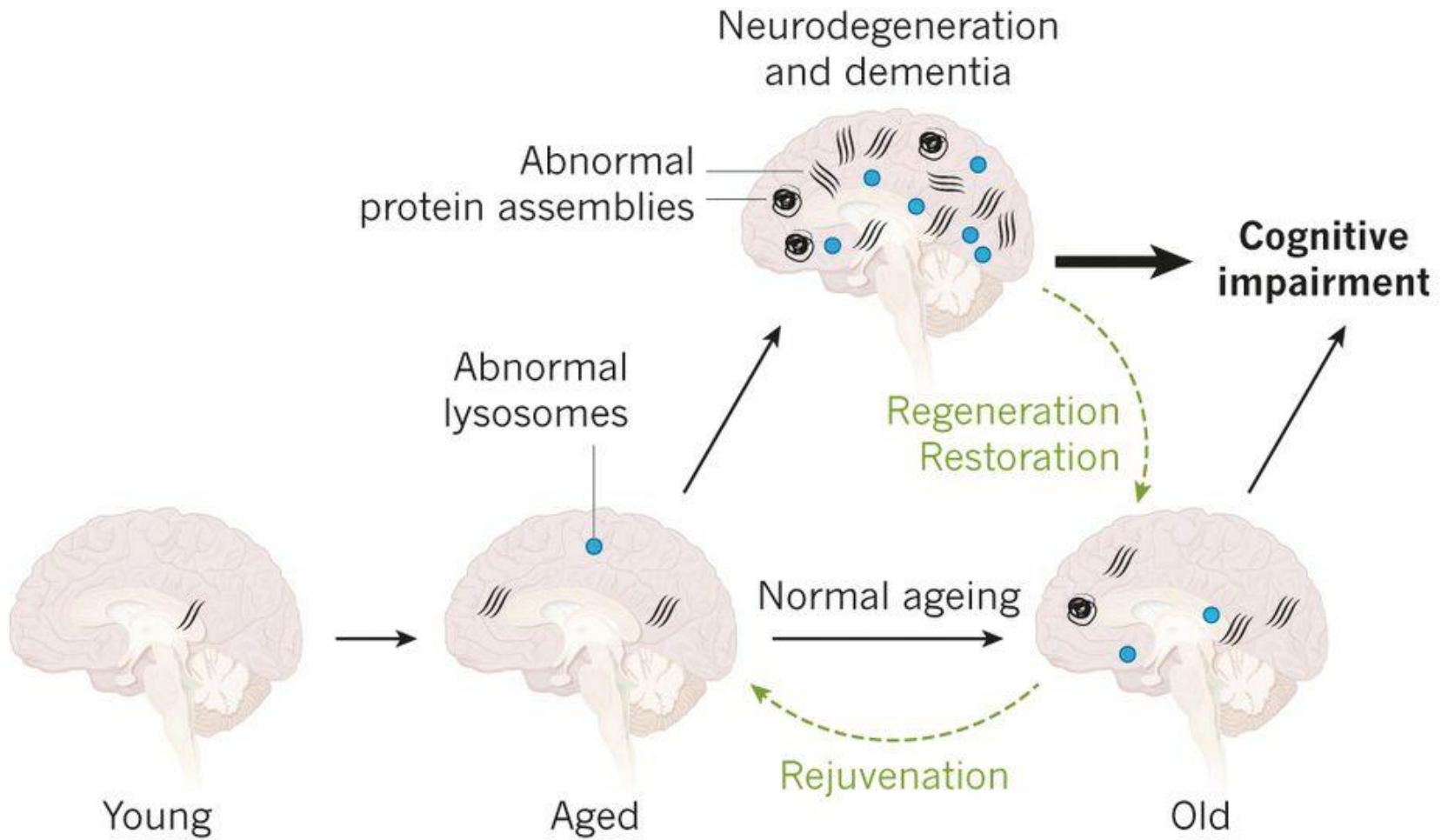
Degeneration

- ❑ Multifactorial
- ❑ Genetically determined



Different biological process which are involved in the development of neurodegeneration





What is the master control?

Heritability of Psychiatric Disorders

Disease	Heritability
Schizophrenia	0.81
Autism spectrum disorder	0.80
Bipolar disorder	0.75
Major depression	0.37
Attention deficit disorder	0.75
Alzheimer's disease	0.58

Source: Sullivan PF, et al. Genetic architectures of psychiatric disorders: the emerging picture and its implications. *Nat Rev Genet* 2012;13:537-52.

What is the master control?

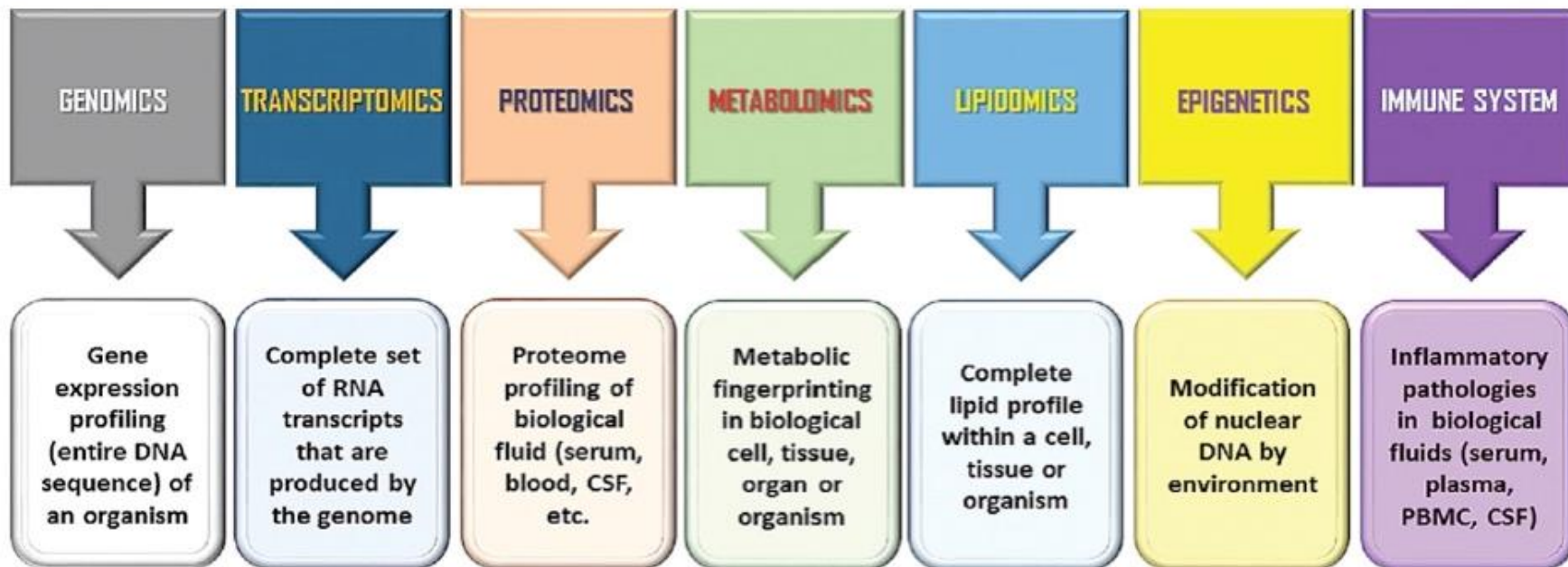
- ❑ Genetics

- *Single gene – rare*
- *Multiple genes – small effects*
- *G X E*

- ❑ Variability

- ❑ Concordance

BIOMARKER DISCOVERY RESEARCH

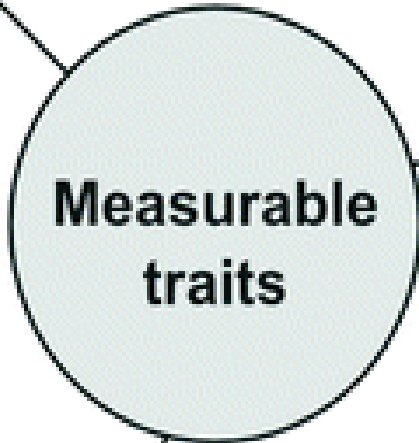


NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

(bipolar disorder, depression, schizophrenia, addictive disorder)

Phenotype

- Directly observable characteristic (e.g. normal or pathological morphology or function).
- Influenced by genetic and/or environmental factors and interactions.



Endophenotype

- Heritable.
- Associated with the disorder.
- Independent of the manifestation of the disorder.
- Co-segregate with the disorder.

Biomarker

- Indicator of biological processes (normal or pathologic).

Table**Candidate Genes With the Strongest Evidence for a Role in the Genesis of Schizophrenia**

Gene	Chromosomal Locus	Hypothesized Role
Dysbindin (<i>DTNBP1</i>)	6p22.3	Via synaptic glutamate release
Neuregulin 1 (<i>NRG1</i>)	8p12-21	Multiple, including effects on synaptic plasticity, neuro-development and transmitter activity
Catechol O-methyl-transferase (<i>COMT</i>)	22q11.2	Metabolizes cerebral monoamines including dopamine
Disrupted in schizophrenia 1 (<i>DISC1</i>)	1q42	Poorly understood; possible roles suggested in synaptogenesis and neurodevelopment
Metabotropic glutamate receptor 3 (<i>mGluR3</i> as well as <i>GRM3</i>)	7q21-22	NMDA receptor effects via affecting presynaptic glutamate release
Proline dehydrogenase (<i>PRODH</i>)	22q11.2	Modulation of synaptic transmission
D-amino acid oxidase activator (<i>DAOA</i>), also known as <i>G72</i>	13q32-34	Possibly affects ratio of L- to D-serine ratio, which may have a role in regulation of NMDA receptor

Source: Pickler J (2005)

Chromosomal loci reported by linkage studies for bipolar disorder

Location	LOD score	Reference
1q31-q32	2,6	Detera-Wadleigh et al, 1999
4p16	4,8	Blackwood et al, 1996
12q23-24	3,4	Ewald et al, 1998
13q32	3,5	Detera-Wadleigh et al, 1999
18q22	4,0	Mclnnes et al, 1996
20p11.2-q11.2	4,3	Radhakrishna et al, 2001
21q22	3,4	Vallada et al, 1996
22q11-q13	3,8	Kelsoe et al, 2001

Modified from Tsuang et al

Candidate genes with replicated association in anxiety disorders

Anxiety Disorder	Gene Name	Gene Symbol	Function
OCD	Glutamate transporter	SLC1A1	Neurotransmission
Panic disorder	Catechol-O-methyltransferase	COMT	Neurotransmission
	Neuropeptide S receptor gene	NPSR	Neuronal signaling
	Transmembrane protein 132D	TMEM132D	Unknown
PTSD	FK-506 binding protein	FKBPS	Glucocorticoid chaperone

Genetic variations affecting substance abuse risk

Gene	SNPs (Major / Minor)	Substance	Minor Allel Effect
ALDH2	rs671 (A>G)	Alcohol	Protective
ADH1B	rs1229984 (A?G)	Alcohol	Protective
ADH1C	rs1693482 (C>T) rs698 (A>G/T)	Alcohol Alcohol	Protective Protective
CHRNA5/A3/B4	rs16969968 (A>G)	Cocaine; nicotine*	Protective; risk*
CHRN3-CHRNA6	rs6474412 (C>T) rs13273442	Nicotine	Risk Protective
CYP2A6	rs1801272 (A>T)	Alcohol; nicotine	Risk
FKBP5	rs1360780 (C>T) rs3800373 (G>T)	Heroin Heroin	Protective Protective
GABRA2	rs279858 (A>G) rs279826 (A>G) rs279871 (A>G)	Alcohol; illicit drugs	Risk Risk Risk
OPRM1	rs1799971 (A>G)	Alcohol; opioids; nicotine	Risk

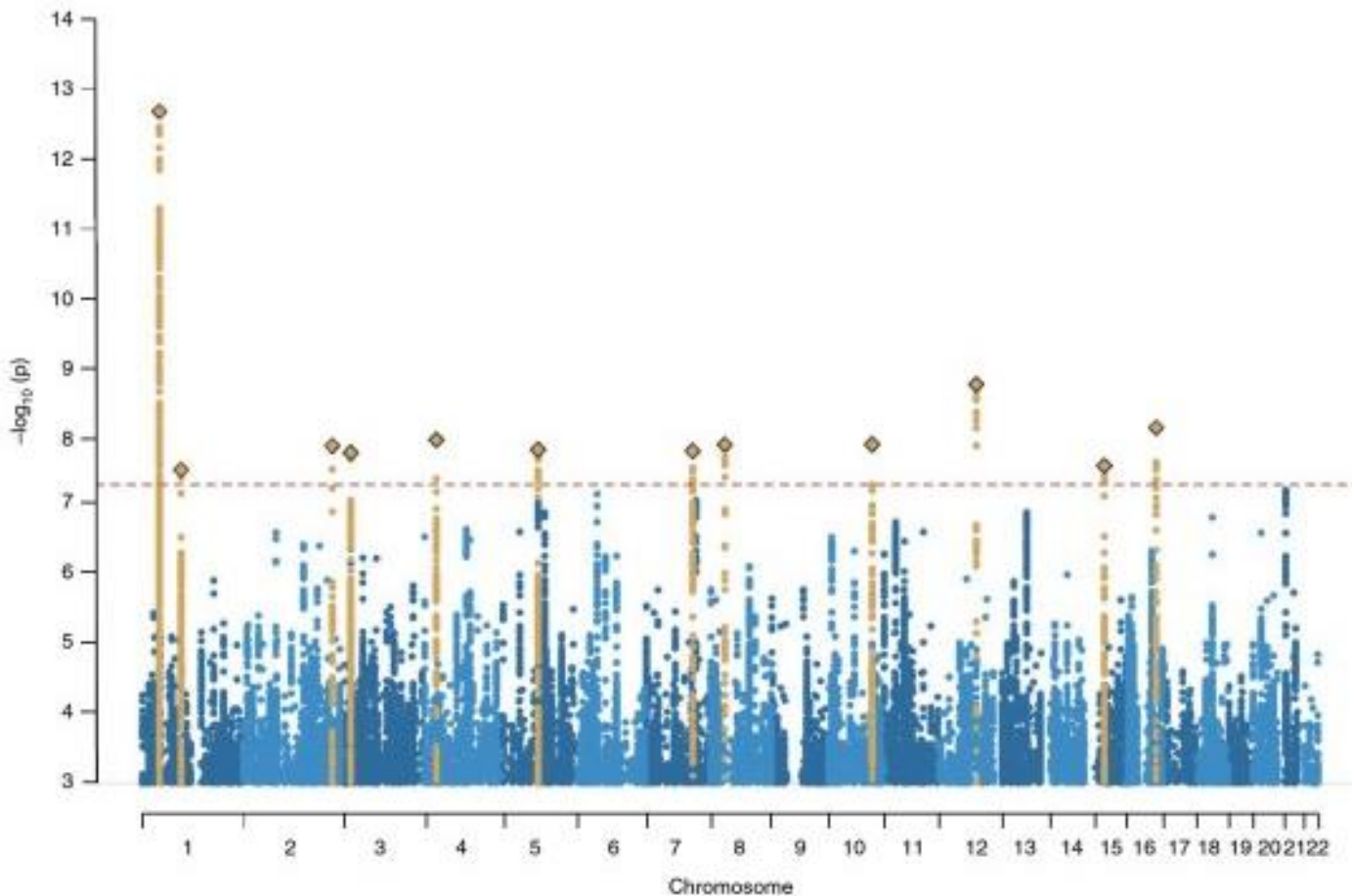


Fig. 1 | Manhattan plot of the results from the GWAS meta-analysis of ADHD. The index variants in the 12 genome-wide significant loci are highlighted as an orange diamond. Index variants located with a distance <400 kb are considered as one locus. The y axis represents $-\log(\text{two-sided } P \text{ values})$ for association of variants with ADHD, from meta-analysis using an inverse-variance weighted fixed effects model and a total sample size of 20,183 individuals with ADHD and 35,191 controls. The horizontal red line represents the threshold for genome-wide significance.

Gene	Protein description	Nature of abnormality	Reference
NRXN1	Transmembrane	Mutation, CNVs	Feng et al. (2006)
NRXN2	Transmembrane	Mutation	Arstikaitis et al. (2011)
NRXN3	Transmembrane	Mutation	Vaags et al. (2012)
NLGN1	Transmembrane	Genetic association	Glessner et al. (2009)
NLGN3	Transmembrane	Mutation	Jamain et al. (2003)
NLGN4	Transmembrane	Mutation, CNVs	Jamain et al. (2003)
CNTN3	Ig-CAM	Mutation, CNVs	Morrow et al. (2008)
CNTN 4	Ig-CAM	Mutation	Roohi et al. (2009)
CNTNAP2	Transmembrane	Mutation, genetic association	Arking et al. (2008)
NrCAM	Ig-CAM	Genetic association	Marui et al. (2009)
CDH9/10	Transmembrane	Genetic association	Bucan et al. (2009)
CDH18	Transmembrane	Chromosomal abnormality	Marshall et al. (2008)
PCDH9	Transmembrane	Mutation	Marshall et al. (2008)
PCDH10	Transmembrane	Mutation	Morrow et al. (2008)
PCDH19	Transmembrane	Mutation	Dibbens et al. (2008)
SHANK1	Scaffolding	Mutation	Sato et al. (2012)
SHANK2	Scaffolding	Mutation	Berkel et al. (2010)
SHANK3	Scaffolding	Mutation	Durand et al. (2007)
DLG4 (disk large homolog 4)	Scaffolding	SNPs	Feyder et al. (2010)
HOMER1	Scaffolding	Mutation	Kelleher et al. (2012)
cAMP-GEF (guanine exchange factor)	Cytoskeletal	Mutation	Bacchelli et al. (2003)
RELN (Reelin)	Secreted	Genetic association	Persico et al. (2001)
EN2 (Engrailed 2)	Transcription factor	Genetic association	Gharani et al. (2004)

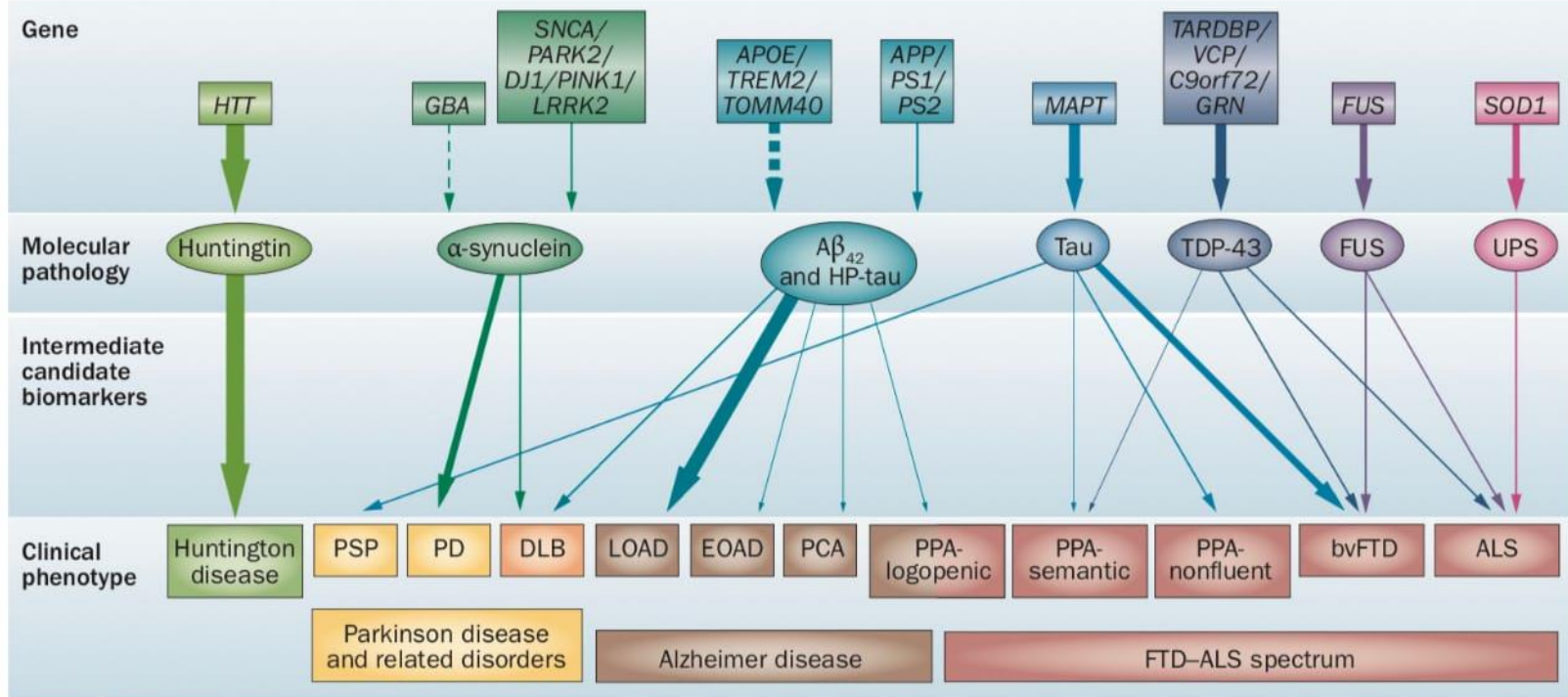
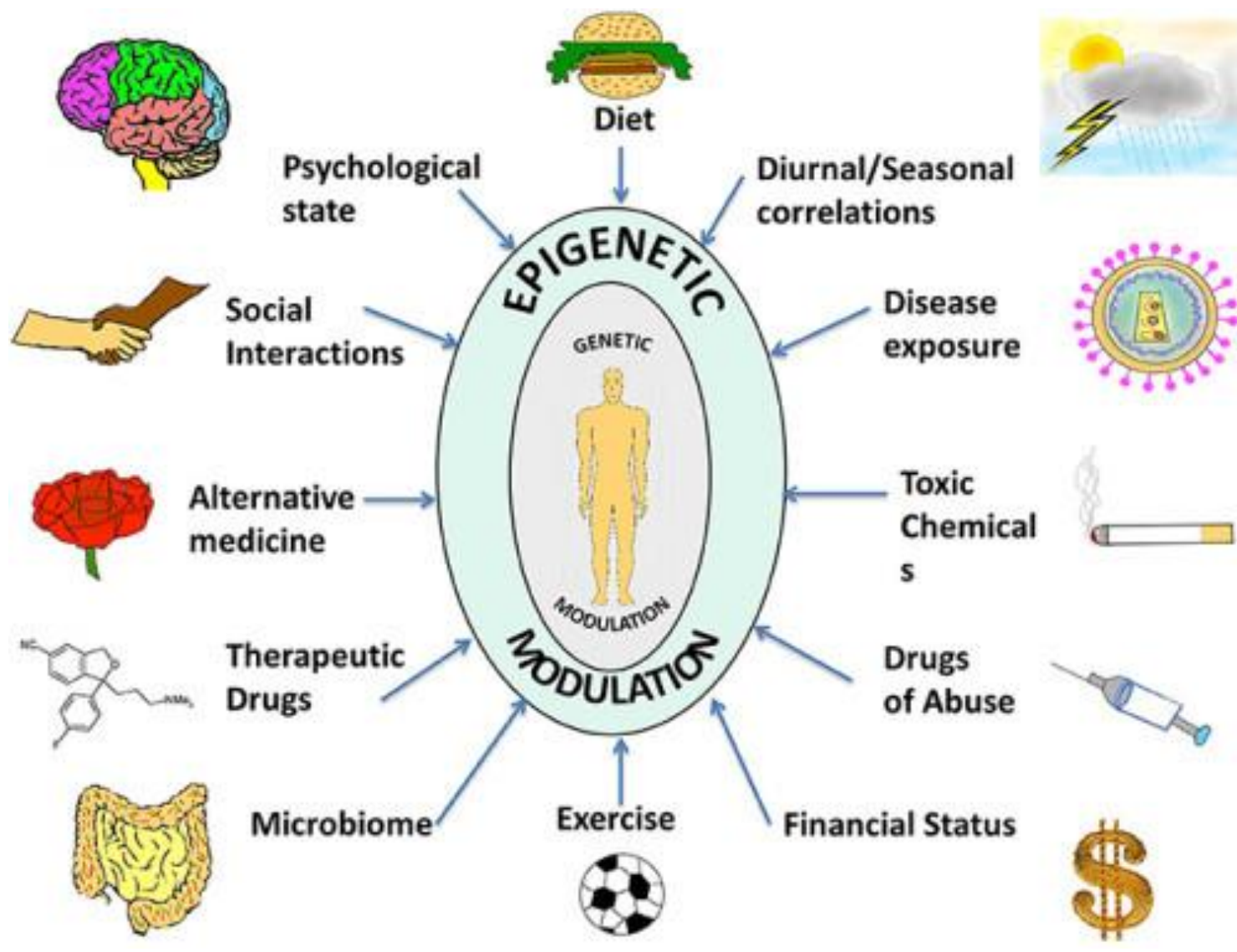
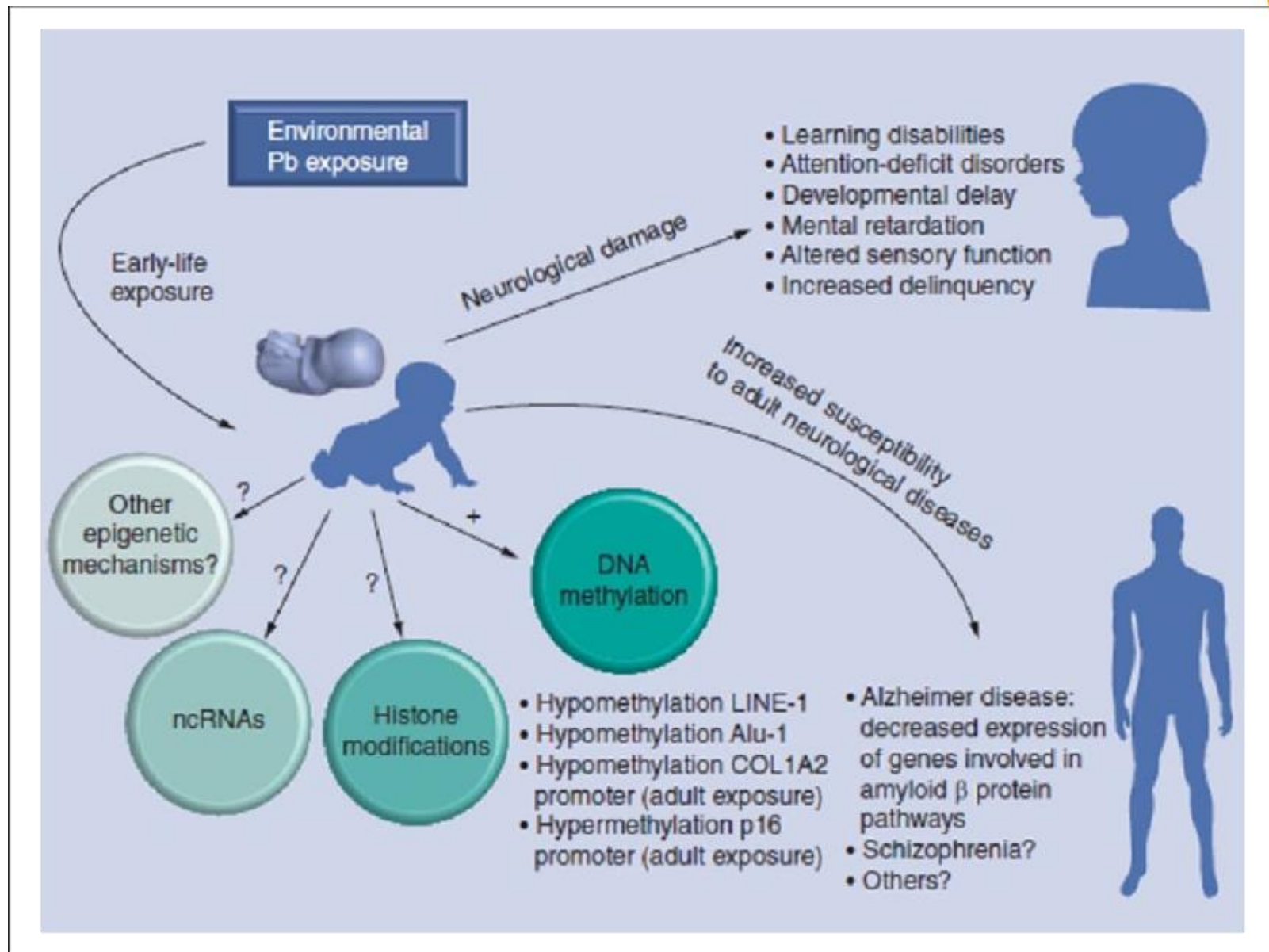


Figure : Upstream determinants (genes and molecular pathology) and downstream effects (clinical phenotypes) for the main neurodegenerative disorders. Functional and structural brain connectivity might act as intermediate biomarkers. Causative genetic mutations are shown by solid arrows and genetic risk factors by dotted arrows. The size of the arrow is roughly proportional to the population attributable fraction. The size of arrows linking molecular pathology to clinical phenotypes are roughly proportional to the prevalence of the clinical phenotype in the pertinent molecular pathology. Abbreviations: $A\beta_{42}$, amyloid- β_{42} ; ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; *APOE*, apolipoprotein E; *APP*, amyloid precursor protein; bvFTD, behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia; *DJ1*, parkinson protein 7; DLB, dementia with Lewy bodies; EOAD, early-onset Alzheimer disease; *FUS*, fused in sarcoma; *GBA*, glucocerebrosidase; *GRN*, granulin; HP-tau, hyperphosphorylated-tau; LOAD, late-onset Alzheimer disease; *LRRK2*, leucine-rich repeat kinase 2; *MAPT*, microtubule-associated protein tau; *PARK2*, parkin RBR E3 ubiquitin protein ligase; PCA, posterior cortical atrophy; PD, Parkinson disease; *PINK1*, PTEN induced putative kinase 1; PPA, primary progressive aphasia; *PS*, presenilin; PSP, progressive supranuclear palsy; *SNCA*, α -synuclein; *SOD1*, superoxide dismutase 1; *TARDBP*/*TDP-43*, TAR DNA-binding protein 43; *TOMM40*, translocase of outer mitochondrial membrane 40 homologue; *TREM2*, triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2; UPS, ubiquitin proteasome system; *VCP*, valosin containing protein.

What is the master control?

- ❑ Epigenetics
- ❑ Holy grail of pathophysiology (?)





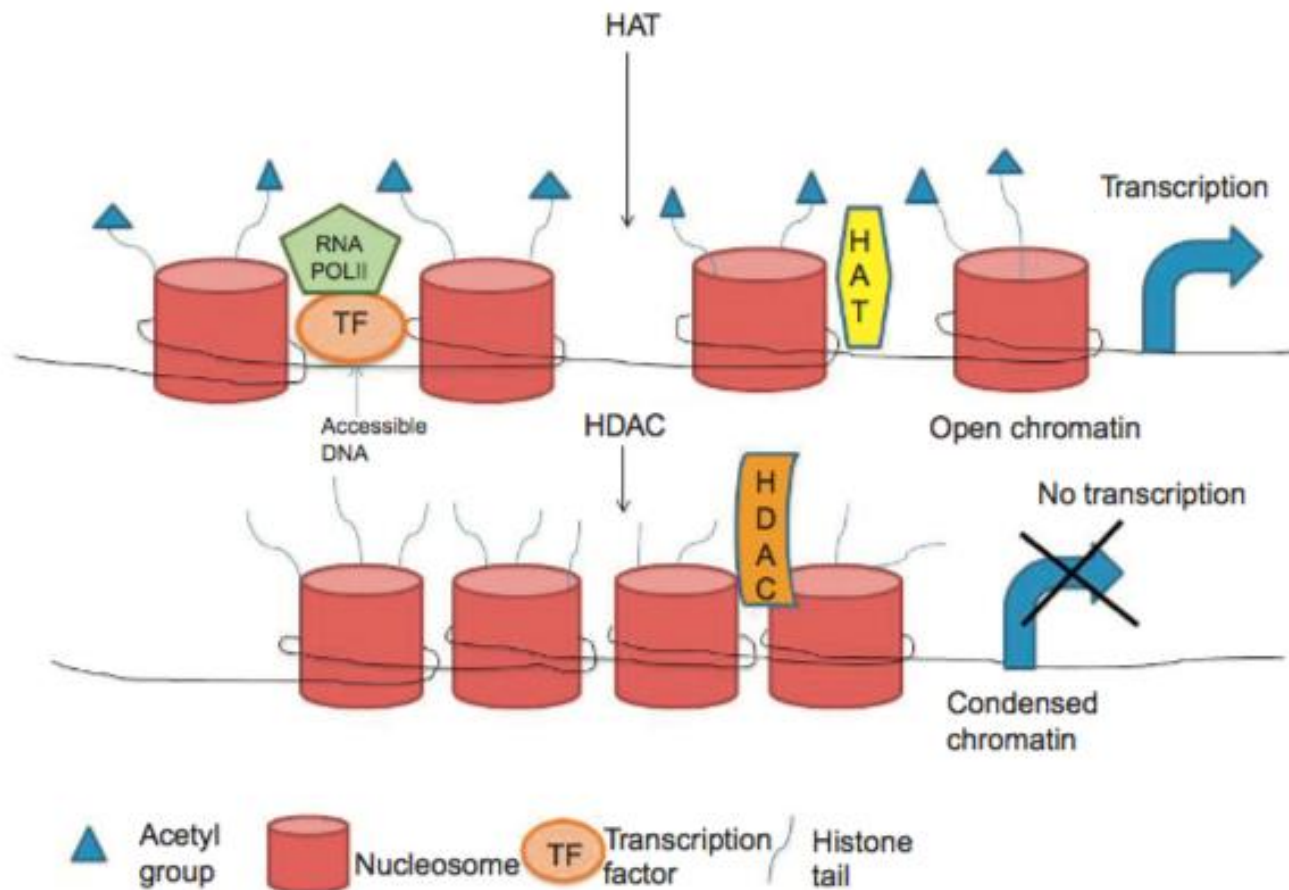


FIGURE 2.3

Acetylation of histones by histone acetyltransferase (HAT) generally leads to an open chromatin structure; thus, transcription factors and RNA polymerase can bind to DNA and activate transcription. Histone deacetylases (HDACs) deacetylate histone and lead to a closed chromatin state where the transcription factors cannot bind.

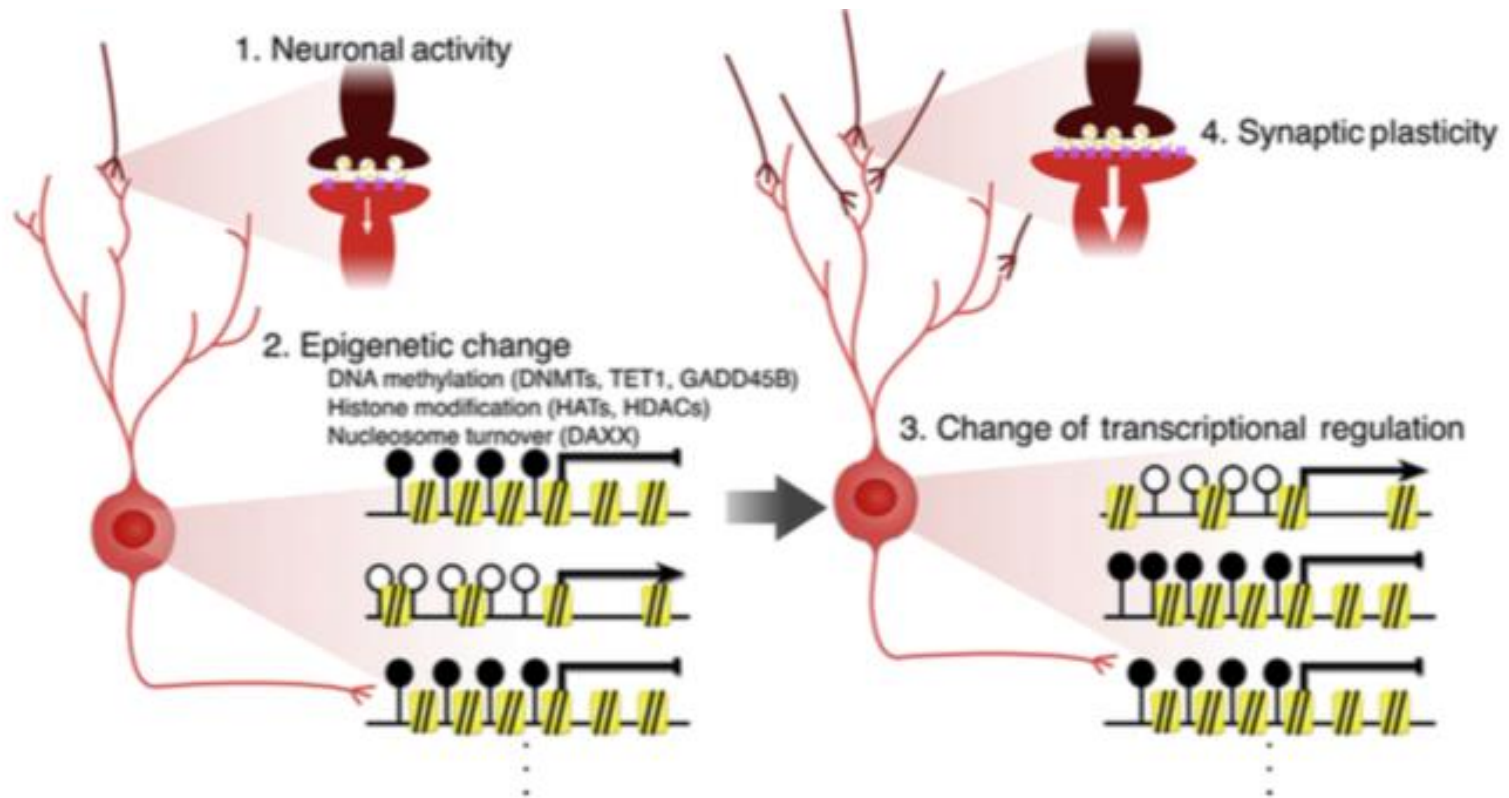
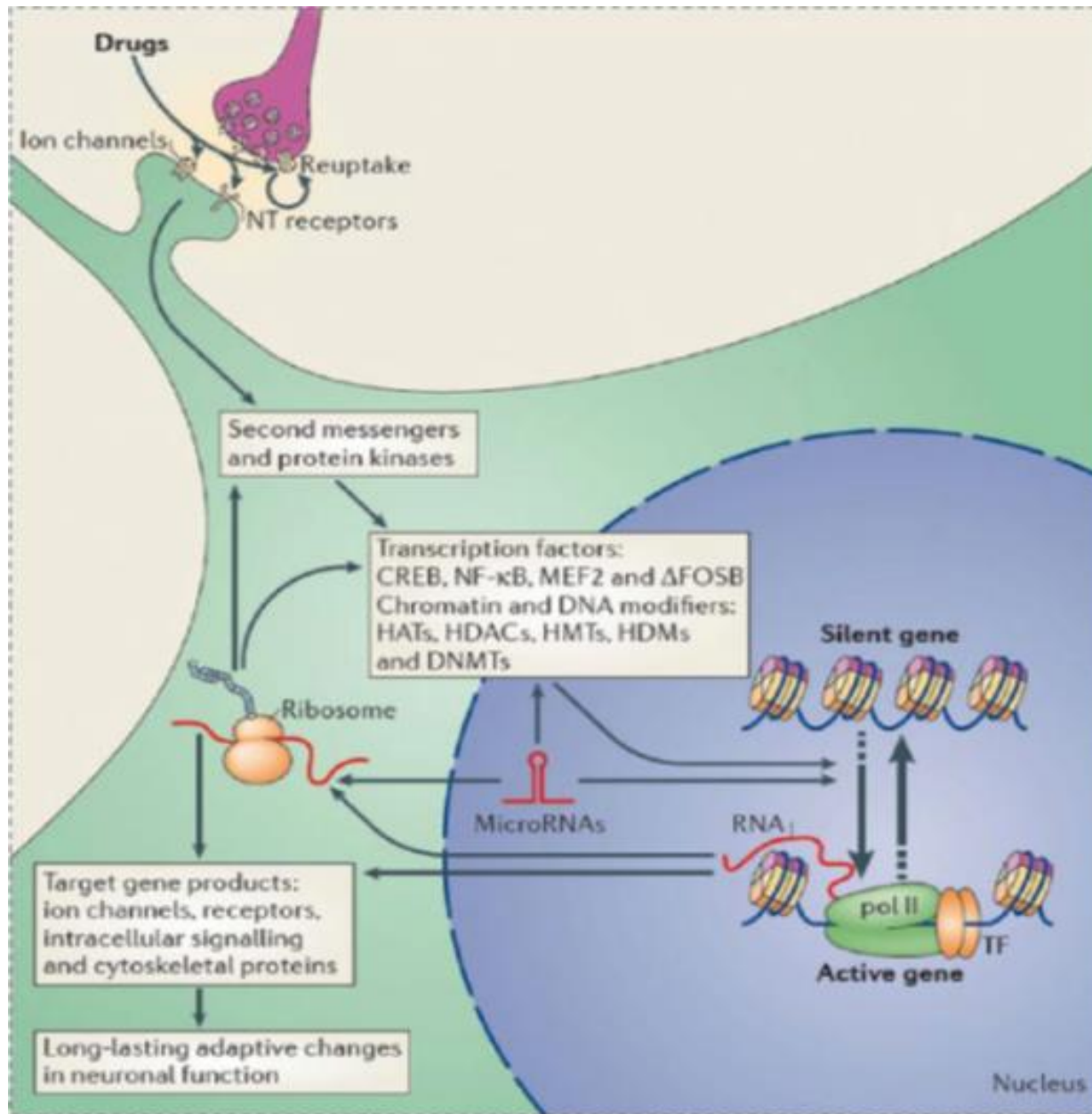
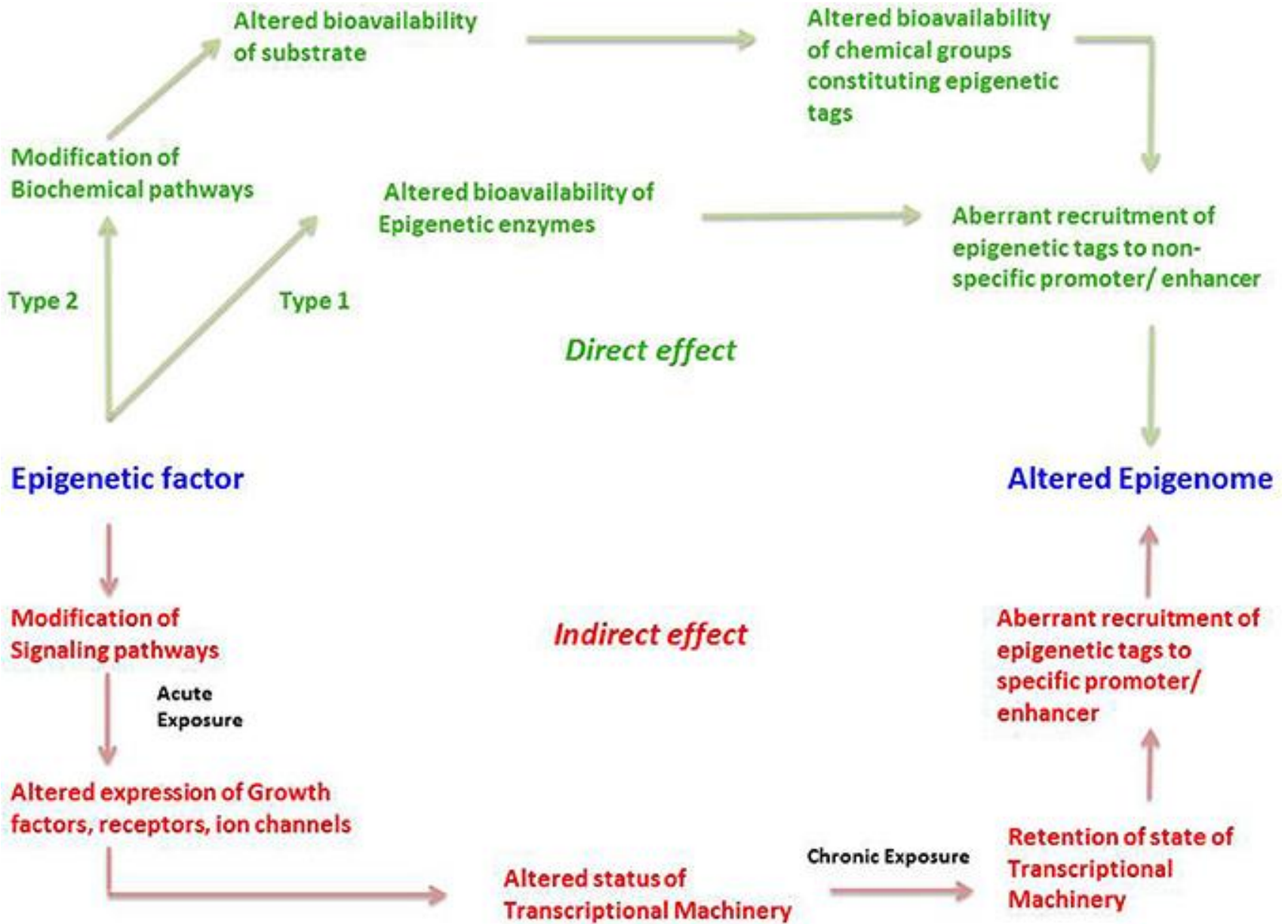


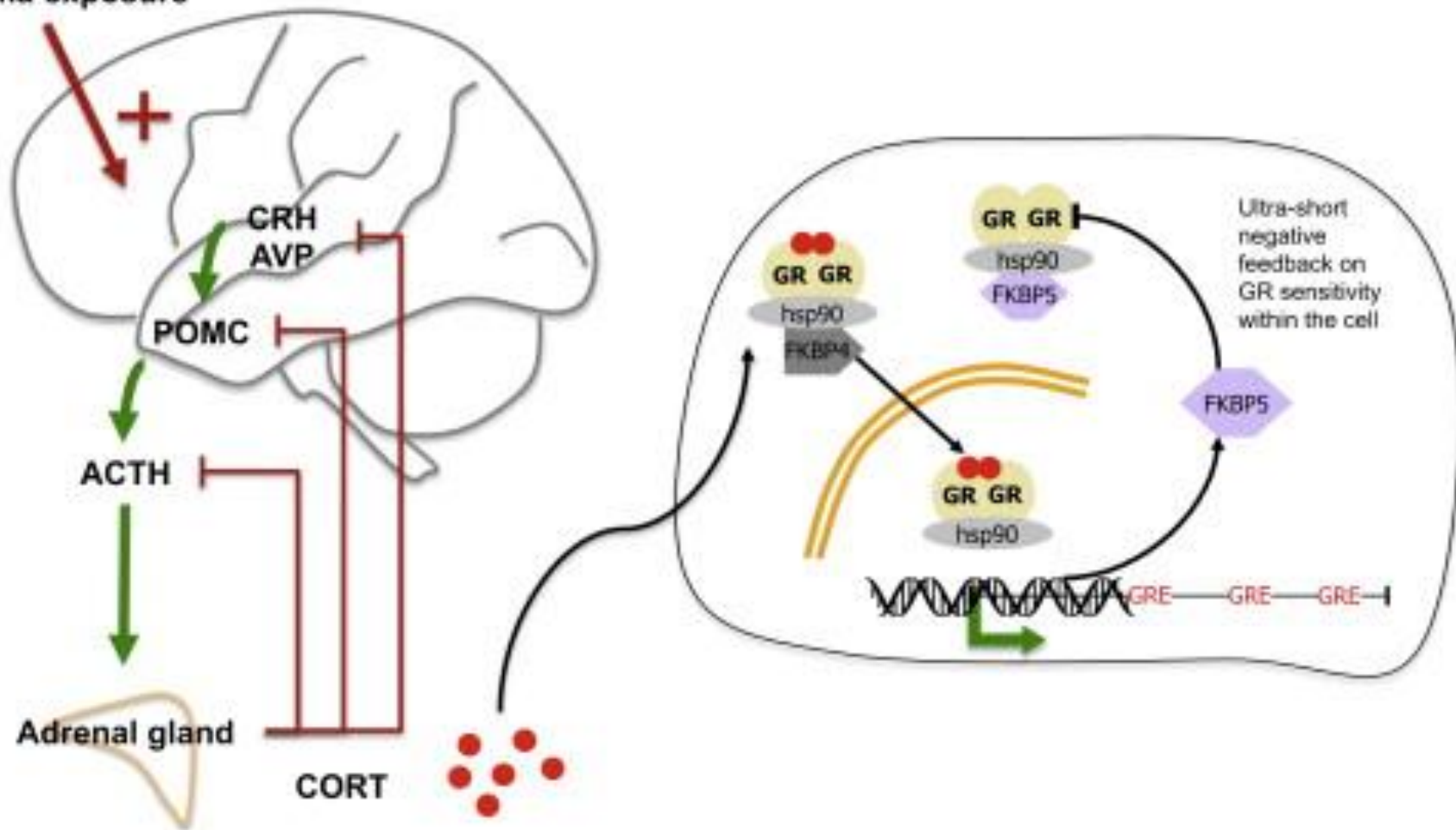
FIGURE 4.3

Epigenetic changes observed in postmitotic neurons. Neuronal activity can induce several changes of biological processes, such as the expression levels of epigenetic modifiers, leading to global and local changes of the epigenetic status. These epigenetic changes alter transcriptional regulation at several gene loci (e.g., *BDNF*), followed by enhancement of synaptic plasticity. Filled and open lollipops denote methylated and unmethylated cytosine, respectively. Arrows and hammers indicate expression and repression of downstream genes, respectively.





Early life stress
Trauma exposure



Genetic factors

For example,
COMT
DTNBP1
NRG1

Environmental factors

For example,
stress
viral infection

G x E ?

Epigenetic alterations

For example,
hypermethylation of *RELN*
hypermethylation of *SOX10*
hypomethylation of *COMT*

Schizophrenia symptoms
(phenotypes)

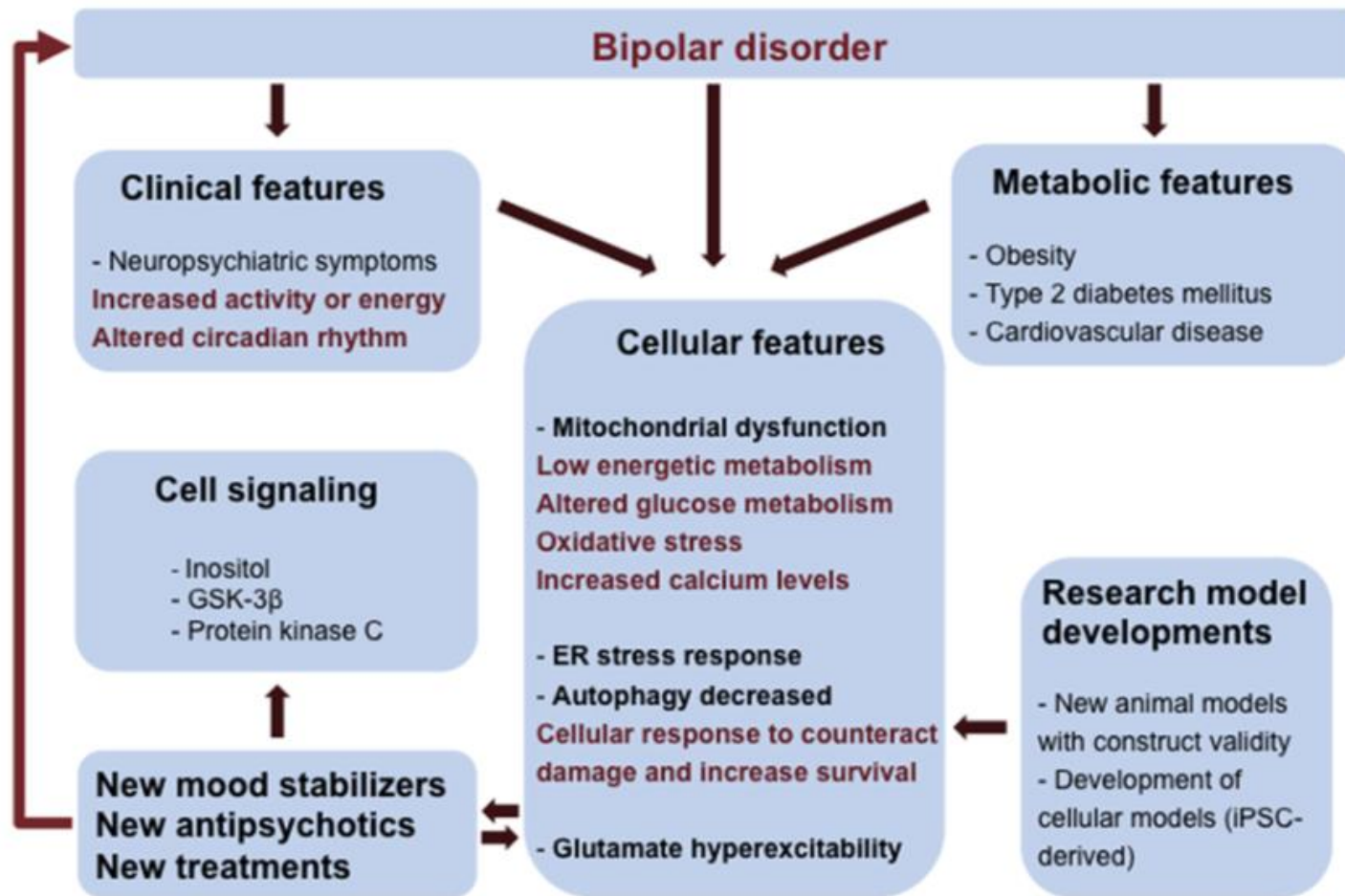
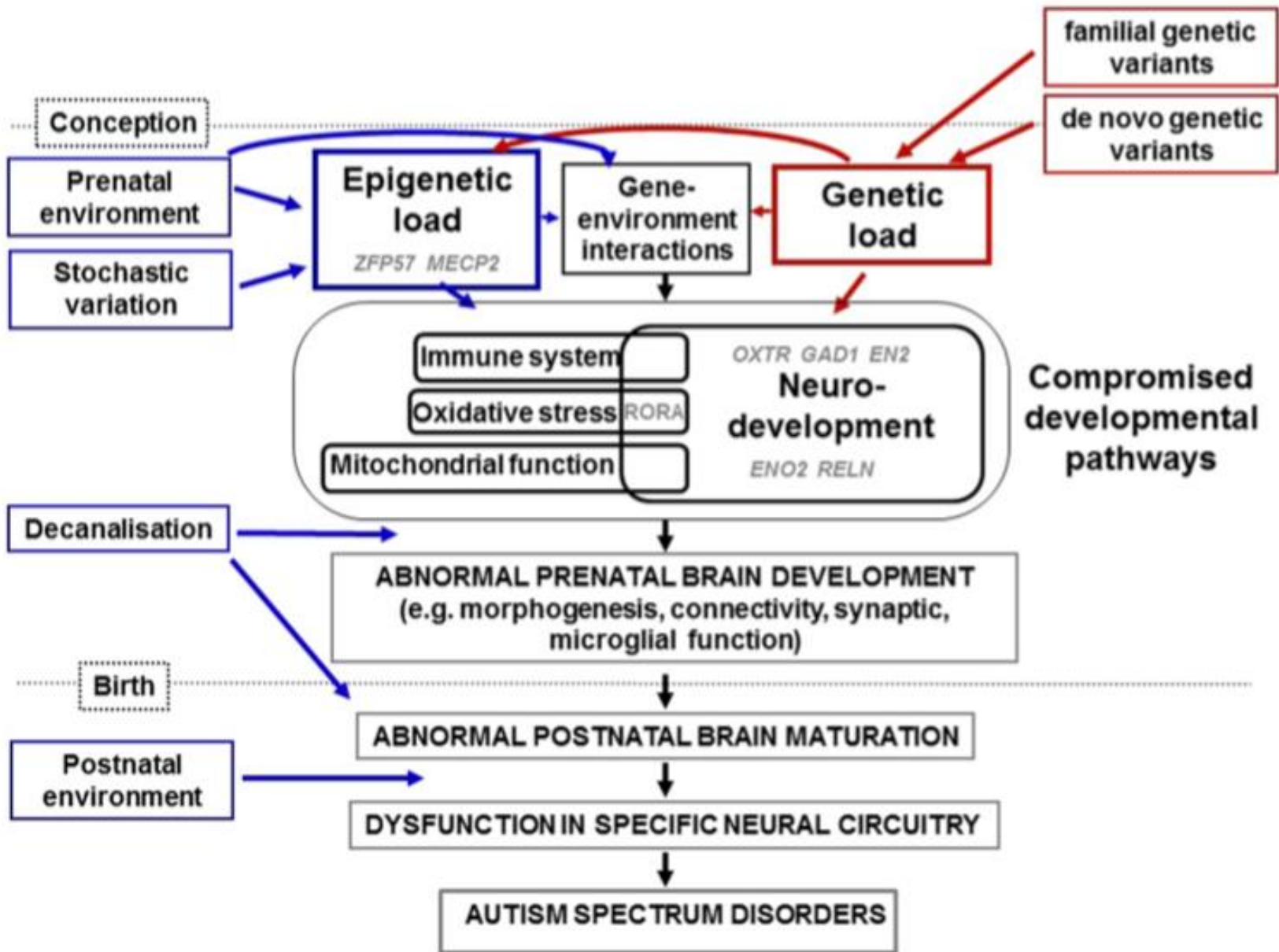
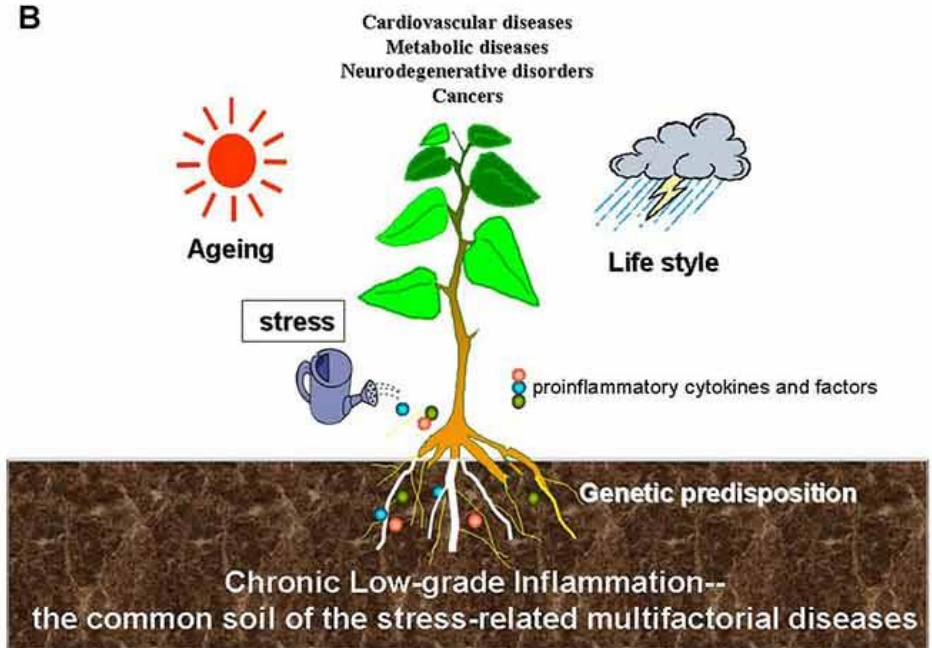
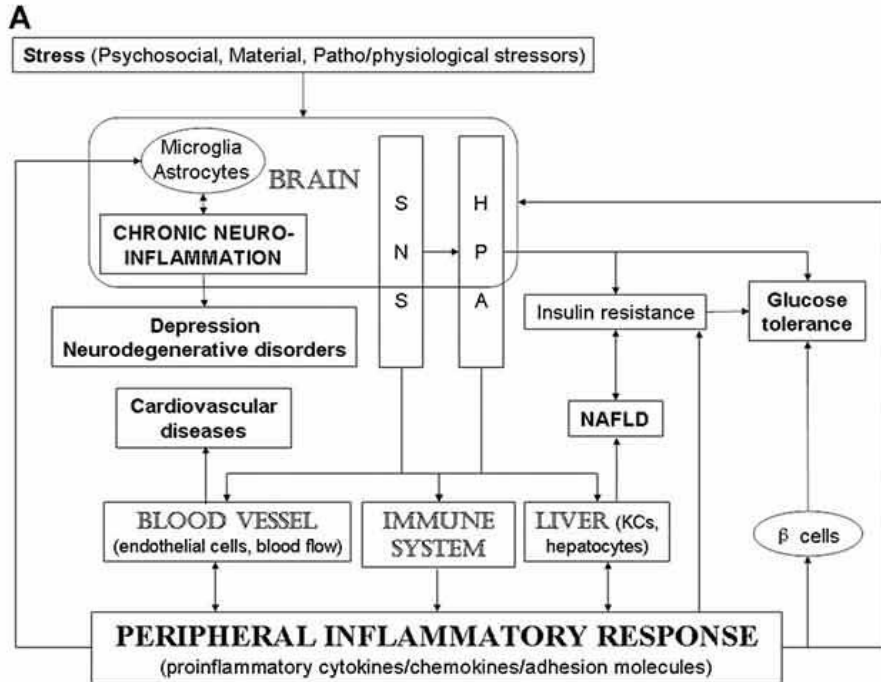


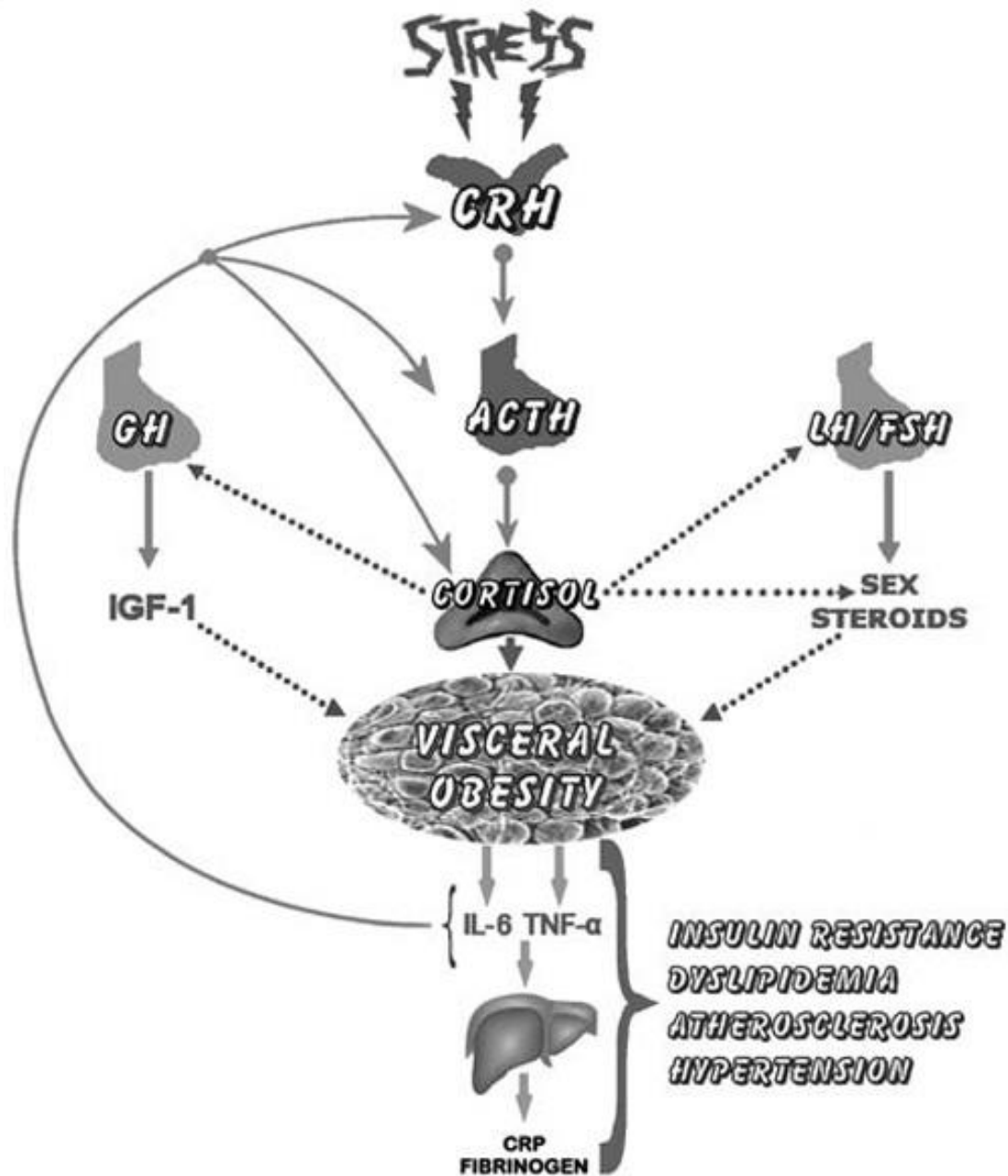
FIGURE 1 | Integrated view of clinical and fundamental research interventions in bipolar disorder (BD). BD patients have neuropsychiatric symptoms and metabolic comorbidities that can be associated to mitochondrial dysfunction and low energetic status. Oxidative stress, endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress, reduced autophagy and changes in glutamatergic neurotransmission are consequences of mitochondrial dysfunction and altered glucose metabolism contributing to the vulnerability of BD cells. Clinical and cellular features can be used to inform and validate cellular phenotypes useful in the construction of new research model systems (mouse models and induced pluripotent stem cells- iPSCs technology). Elucidation of pathways involved in BD pathology can lead to the development of novel therapies.



Is there a common ground?

- ❑ Similarities between psychiatric illnesses & chronic medical conditions





Thank You

Suggested reading

- ❑ Synopsis of Psychiatry, 11th edition
- ❑ Etiology in psychiatry: embracing the reality of poly-gene-environmental causation of mental illness. *Rudolf Uher, Alyson Zwickler, World Psychiatry 2017;16:121–129*
- ❑ Adolescent Brain Development. Lisa Wright, Stan Kutcher
- ❑ Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, 4th edition. Mark Johnson, Michelle de Haan
- ❑ Epigenetics in Psychiatry. Jacob Pedicaayil, Dennis Grayson, Dimitrios Avramopoulos