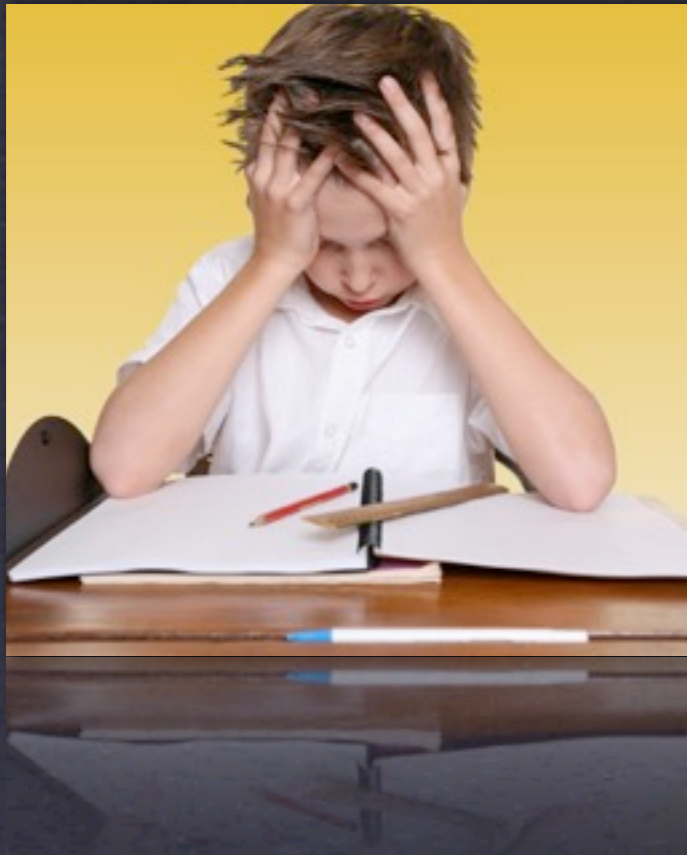


# RARE MISSPELLINGS OF THE GENOME, DOPAMINE MISHANDLING, AND ADHD



**RANDY D. BLAKELY, PH.D.**  
**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY BRAIN INSTITUTE**

**Dr. Blakely declares no conflicts of interest derived from financial support of the research to be discussed**

**Dr. Blakely has consulted on research projects in the past for Amgen, Forest Research Institute, Lundbeck, Jubilant Innovation, Pfizer, Prexa, and Wyeth**

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

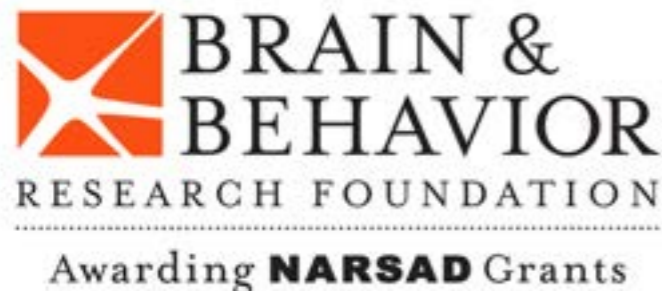
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Blakely Lab

Lorena Areal	Marc Mergy
Gwynne Davis	Rodenia Pert
Raaj Gowrishankar	Max Rabil
Paul Gresch	Nathan Richtand
Maureen Hahn	Justin Riele
Rania Katamish	DJ Sakrikar
Michelle Mazei-Robison	Keeley Spiess
Felix Mayer	Adele Stewart
Michael Gill	Jeremy Veenstra-VanderWeele
Peter Hamilton	Austin Wheeler

## Collaborators

Erica Bowton	Doug McMahon
Steve Couch	Richard Shelton
Heng Dai	Harald Sitte
Cristina Fenollar -Ferrer	Gregg Stanwood
Michael Freissmuth	Mark Stein
Aurelio Galli	Roxanne Vaughan
Stephanie Gantz	John Williams
Jonathan Javitch	



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Doug McMahon

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Gregg Stanwood

Mark Stein

Roxanne Vaughan

John Williams



# OUTLINE



## **ADHD: Diagnosis, Genetics and Dopamine Involvement**



## **Identification of Mutations in the Human Dopamine Transporter (DAT) in Subjects with ADHD**



## **The In Vivo Consequences of DAT Val559: From Biochemistry to Behavior and Novel Biomarkers**

# ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

- The most commonly diagnosed neurobehavioral disorder in children (**8.4% ages 2-17, 5.4 million**) in the U.S. have a formal ADHD diagnosis (National Survey of Children's Health 2016)
- Diagnosed solely through behavioral observation, with presentation of symptoms of **inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity** (by age 12, DSM-5). Male bias in diagnosis (~4:1)
- Approximately 60% are treated by medication, **25% receive no treatment of any form**
- Higher incidence of substance abuse, conduct disorders, unemployment, incarceration **if left untreated**

## BASIC FACTS AND STATISTICS

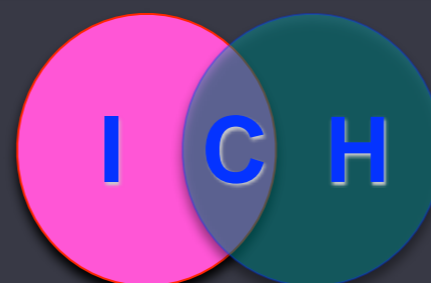
# ADHD: DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria

## Inattentive Symptoms

- Careless Mistakes
- Difficulty Sustaining Attention
  - Not Seeming To Listen
  - Failing To Finish Tasks
  - Difficulty Organizing
- Avoiding Tasks That Require Sustained Attention
  - Losing Things
  - Easily Distracted
  - Forgetful

## Hyperactive/Impulsive Symptoms

- Fidgeting
- Inability To Stay Seated
  - Moving Excessively
- Difficulty Playing Quietly
  - On the Go
- Talks Excessively
- Blurting Out Answers
- Difficulty Waiting Turns
  - Interrupting



- 6 or more symptoms per category for 6 months or more
- symptoms present in two or more settings and prior to age 12
- Symptoms disrupt normal function/quality of life

# ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

- **Heritability** estimated at 60-90%, common and rare gene variation linked to neuronal development and synaptic function
- Co-morbidity and co-occurrence: **Bipolar Disorder and Autism**
- **Shared genetic heritability** with Bipolar Disorder, Major Depression, and Schizophrenia (Brainstorm Consortium, 2018)

## GENETIC ARCHITECTURE

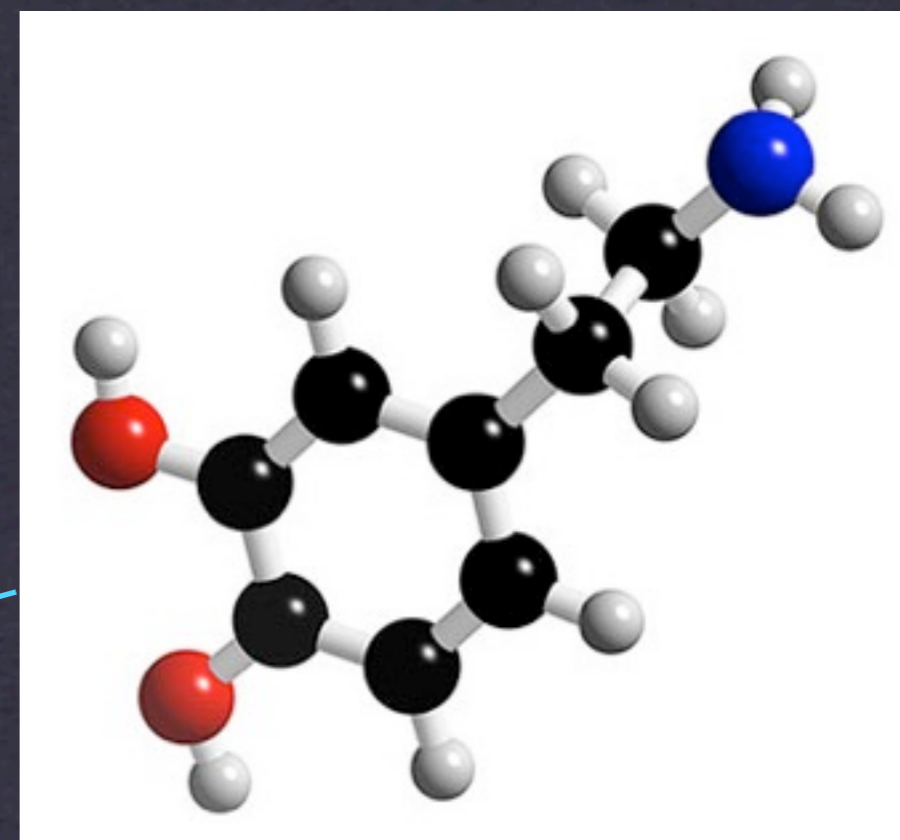
- Common genetic variation of small effect (GWAS)
- Rare genetic variation of large effect (e.g. Fragile X mutation)
- Rare genetic variation of small to moderate effect (risk factor)

## ADHD GENETICS



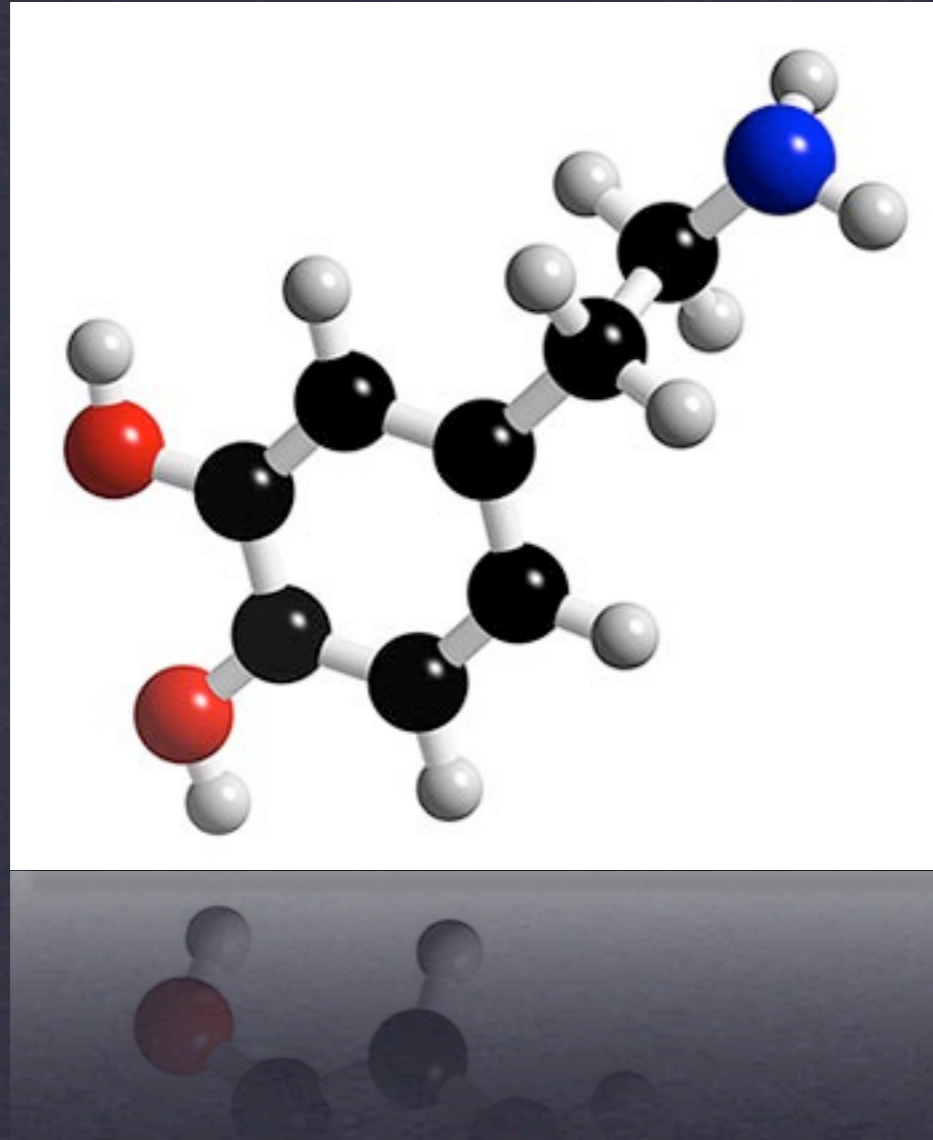
**HUMAN BRAIN**  
**100 BILLION NEURONS**

## **DOPAMINE**



# **DOPAMINE: KEY BRAIN NEUROTRANSMITTER**

# DOPAMINE



Cue Saliency

Attention

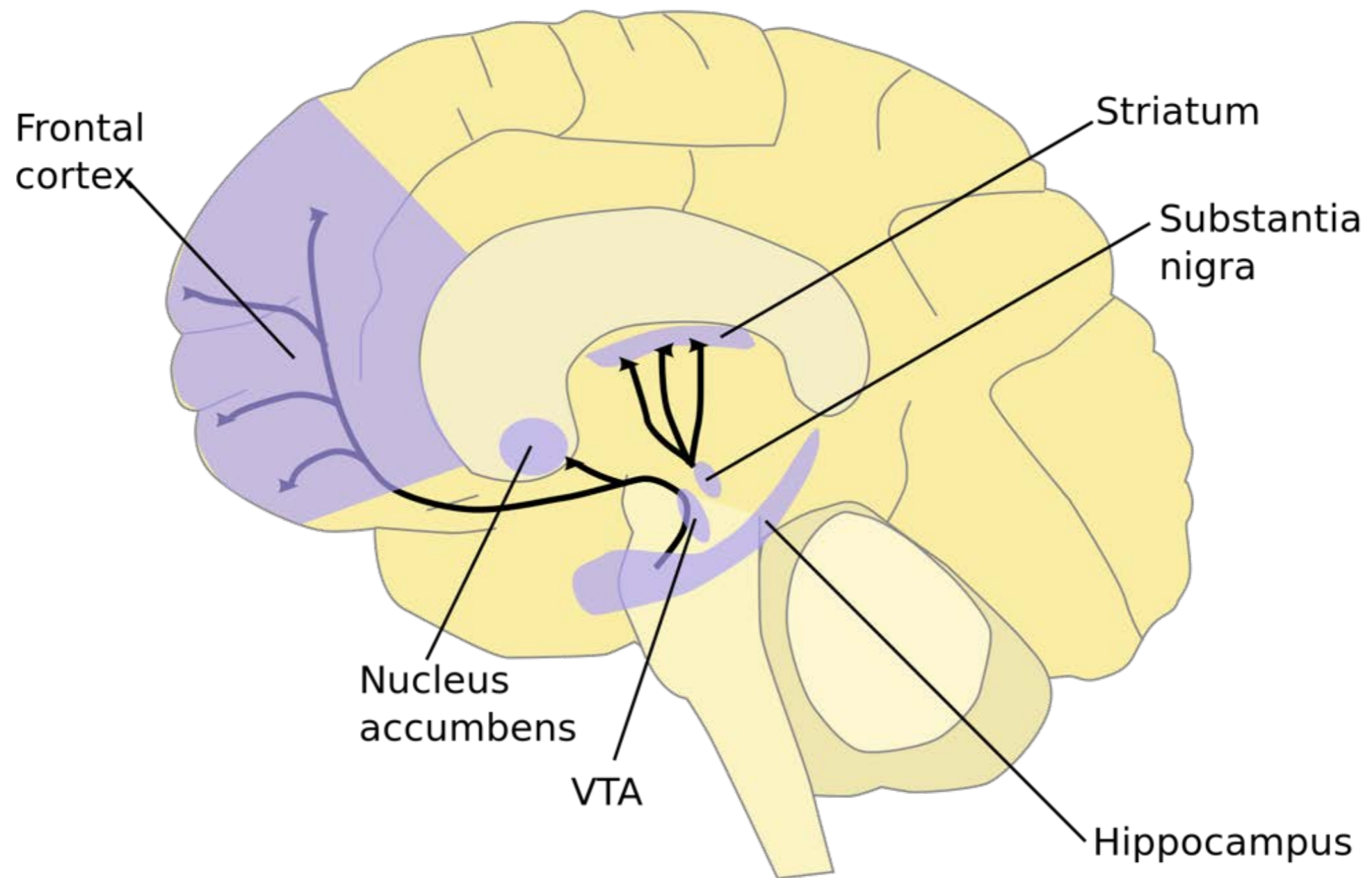
Executive Function

Learning

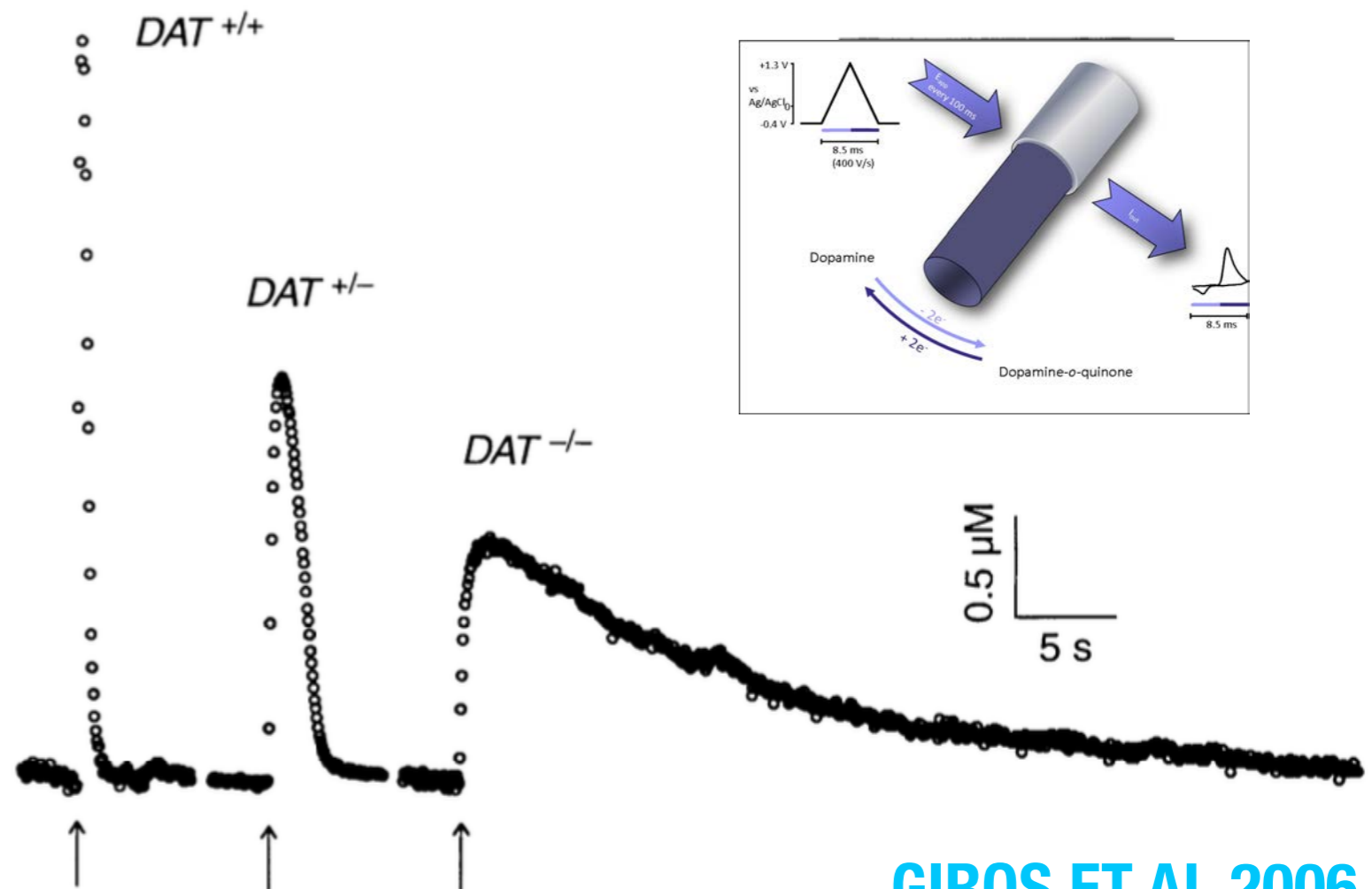
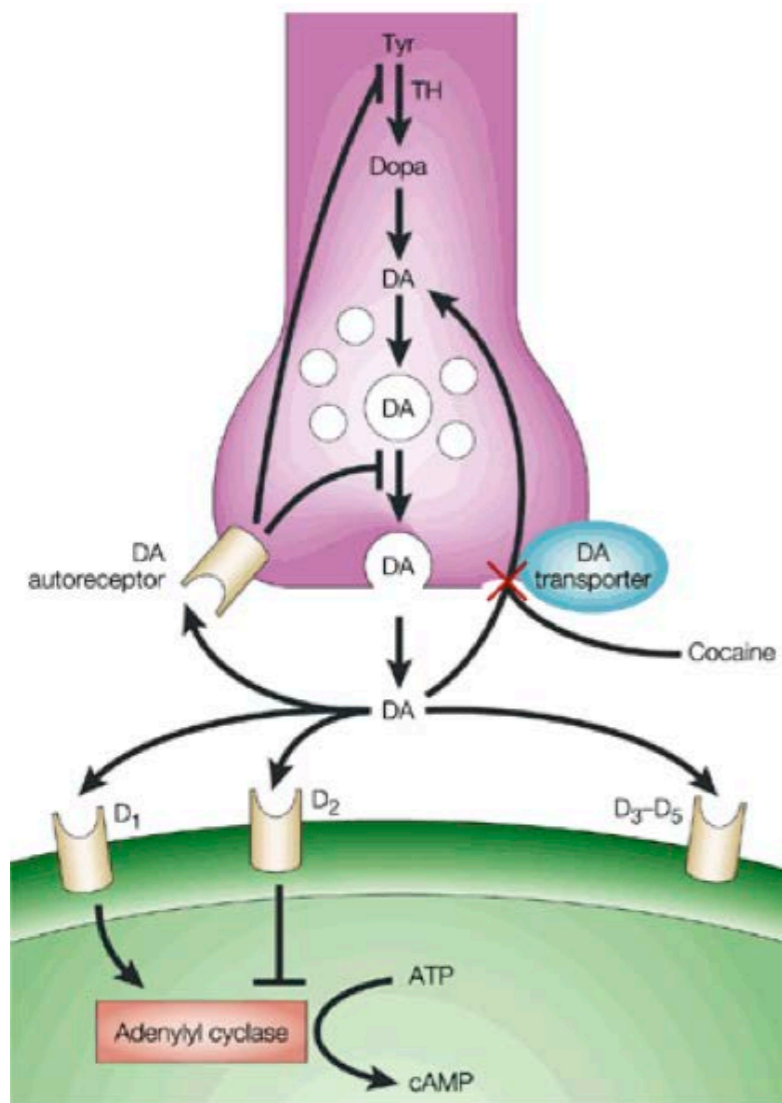
Reward and  
Motivation

Locomotor Activity

**DA CORE FUNCTIONS PERTURBED IN ADHD**

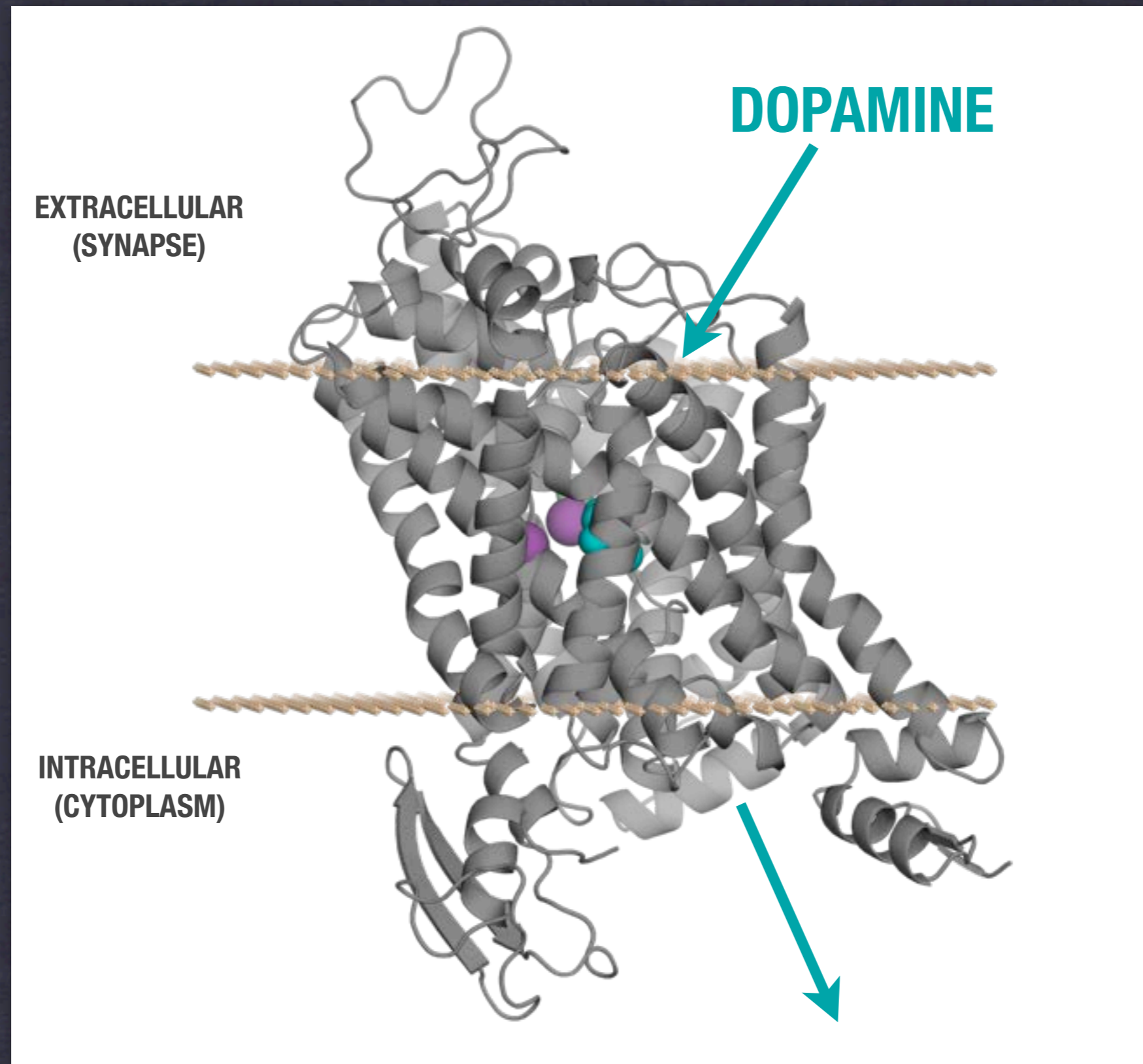


# BRAIN DOPAMINE PATHWAYS



GIROS ET AL 2006

# CONTROL OF DOPAMINE AVAILABILITY BY THE DOPAMINE TRANSPORTER (DAT)



DAT Model  
Courtesy of  
Cristina  
Fenollar-  
Ferrer

# DOPAMINE TRANSPORTER STRUCTURE

## Evaluating Dopamine Reward Pathway in ADHD:

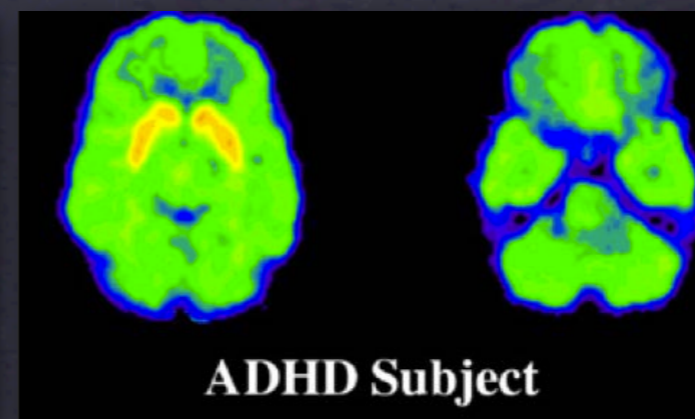
### Clinical Implications

Dr. Nora D. Volkow, MD, Dr. Gene-Jack Wang, MD, Dr. Scott H. Kollins, PhD, Dr. Tim L. Wigal, PhD, Dr. Jeffrey H. Newcorn, MD, Dr. Frank Telang, MD, Dr. Joanna S. Fowler, PhD, Dr. Wei Zhu, PhD, Dr. Jean Logan, PhD, Dr. Yeming Ma, PhD, Dr. Kith Pradhan, MS, Dr. Christopher Wong, MS, and Dr. James M. Swanson, PhD

National Institute on Drug Abuse (Dr Volkow) and Laboratory of Neuroimaging, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (Drs Volkow, Telang, and Ma), Bethesda, Maryland; Medical and Chemistry Departments, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York (Drs Wang, Fowler, and Logan, Messrs Pradhan and Wong); Department of Psychiatry, Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, New York (Drs Wang, Newcorn, and Fowler); Department of Psychiatry, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina (Dr Kollins); Child Development Center, University of California, Irvine (Drs Wigal and Swanson); Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook (Dr Zhu)

VOLKOW ET AL 2009

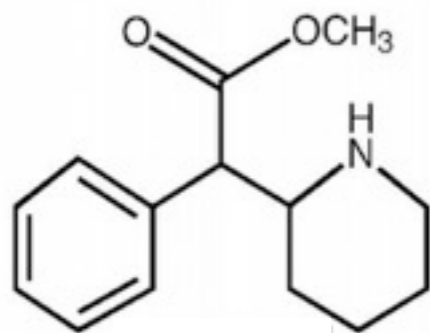
DA  
TRANSPORTER  
DENSITY



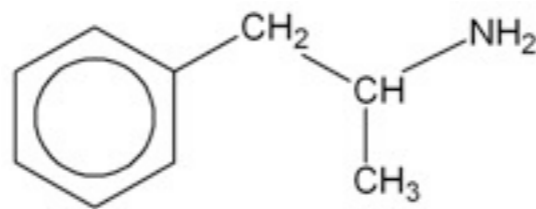
VOLKOW ET AL 2007

**REDUCED DAT LEVELS IN ADHD - TONIC ELEVATION IN DA?**

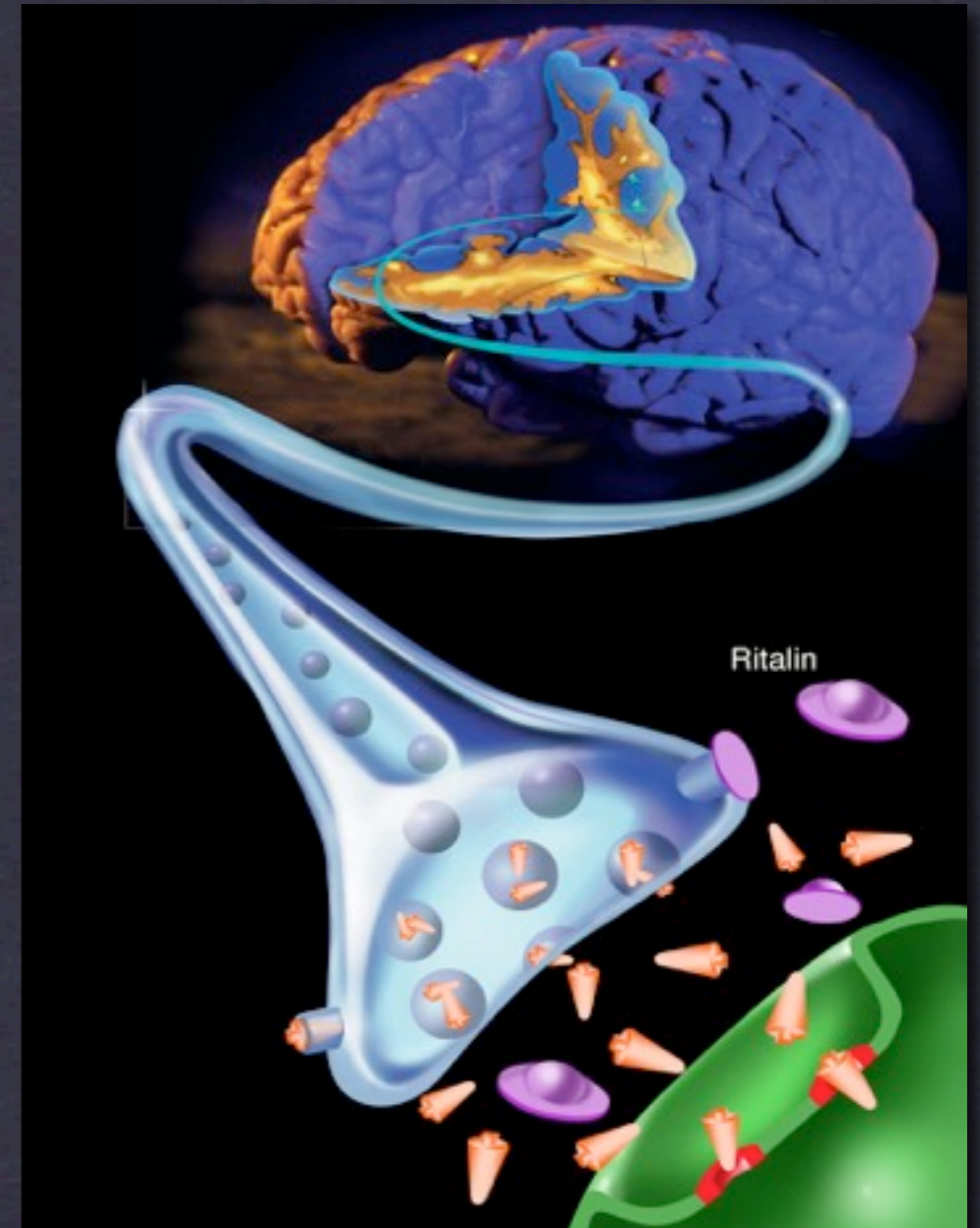
- **Methylphenidate (Ritalin™)-  
DAT Antagonist**
- **Amphetamine (Adderall™)-  
Competitive Substrate and  
Induces DA Efflux**



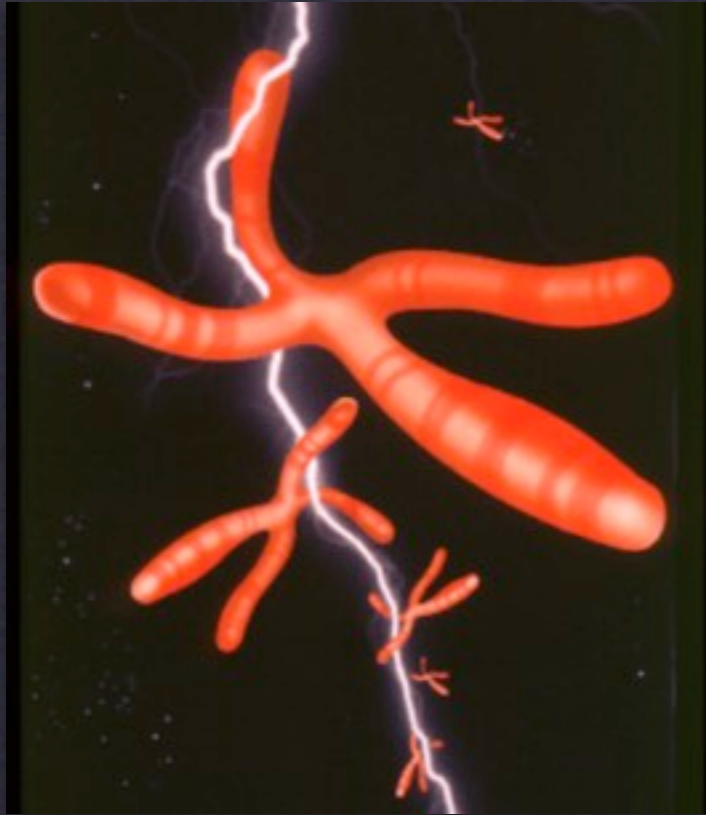
**Methylphenidate**



**Amphetamine**

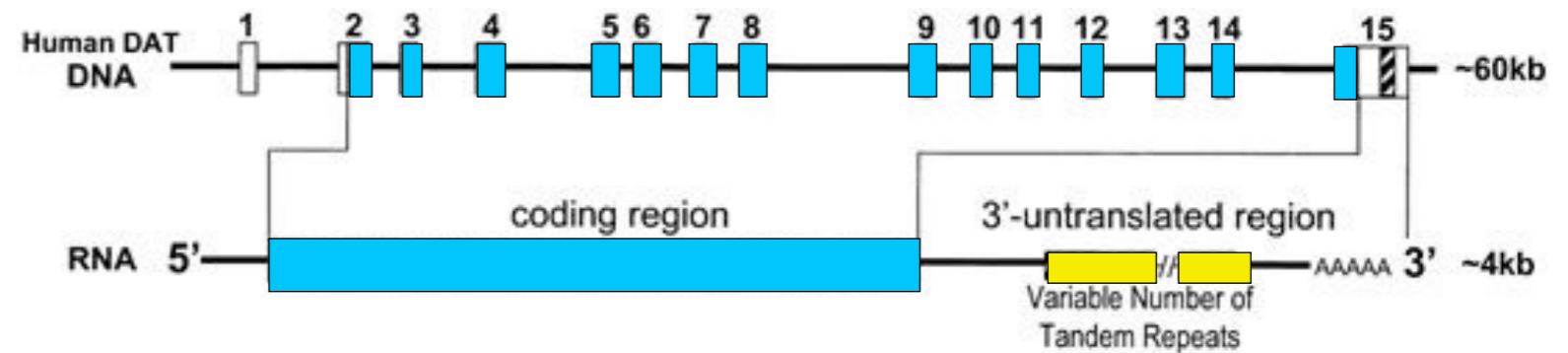


**MAJOR MEDICATIONS TO TREAT ADHD TARGET DAT**



## HUMAN DAT GENE - SLC6A3

CHROMOSOME 5



MILLER AND MADRAS, 2012

*Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 56:993-998, 1995

### Association of Attention-Deficit Disorder and the Dopamine Transporter Gene

Edwin H. Cook, Jr.,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Mark A. Stein,<sup>1,3</sup> Matthew D. Krasowski,<sup>1,2</sup> Nancy J. Cox,<sup>4</sup> Deborah M. Olkon,<sup>1</sup> John E. Kieffer,<sup>1</sup> and Bennett L. Leventhal<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, <sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Developmental Neuroscience, Harris Center for Developmental Studies, <sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatrics, and <sup>4</sup>Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, Chicago

JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY

Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry 55:8 (2014), pp 914-923

doi:10.1111/jcpp.12212

Serj et al. *Behavioral and Brain Functions* (2015) 11:21  
DOI 10.1186/s12993-015-0066-8

BBF BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN FUNCTIONS

#### Genetics of preparation and response control in ADHD: the role of DRD4 and DAT1

Rijon Albrecht,<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Daniel Brandeis,<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Henrik Uebel-von Sandersleben,<sup>1</sup> Lillian Valko,<sup>8</sup> Hartmut Heinrich,<sup>9,1</sup> Xiaohui Xu,<sup>8</sup> Renate Drechsler,<sup>8</sup> Alexander Heise,<sup>1</sup> Jonna Kuntai,<sup>8</sup> Ueli C. Müller,<sup>5,2</sup> Philip Asherson,<sup>8</sup> Hans-Christoph Steinhausen,<sup>3,10,11</sup> Albert Rothenberger,<sup>1</sup> and Tobias Banaschewski<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University Medical Center Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim/Heidelberg University, Mannheim, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>4</sup>Center for Innovative Human Physiology, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>5</sup>Neuroscience Center Zurich, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>6</sup>Department of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, University of Erlangen, Erlangen, Germany; <sup>7</sup>Hockeier-Klinik, München, Germany; <sup>8</sup>King's College London, MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, London, UK; <sup>9</sup>Interkantonale Hochschule für Heilpädagogik, Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>10</sup>Research Unit of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Aalborg University Hospital, Aalborg, Denmark; <sup>11</sup>Clinical Psychology and Epidemiology, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

#### RESEARCH

Open Access

A 40-bp VNTR polymorphism in the 3'-untranslated region of *DAT1/SLC6A3* is associated with ADHD but not with alcoholism

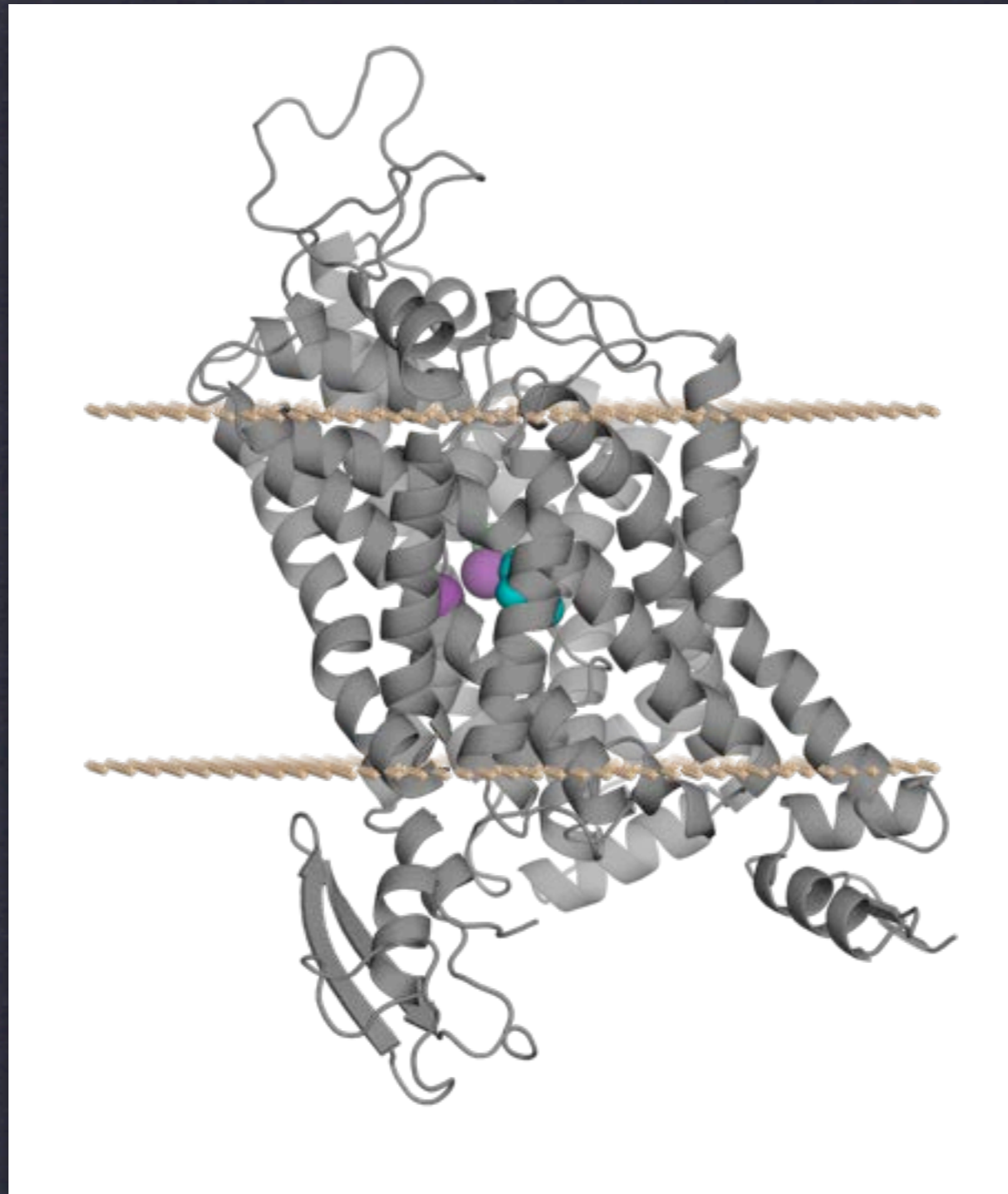
Omar Serj<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Ivo Pacht<sup>3</sup>, Ivana Ortlíková<sup>4</sup>, Pavel Theiner<sup>4</sup>, Maria Kopečková<sup>5</sup>, Petr Zvolský<sup>3</sup> and Vladimír J. Balcar<sup>3</sup>

# COMMON GENETIC VARIATION IN DAT GENE AND ADHD

# HYPOTHESIS

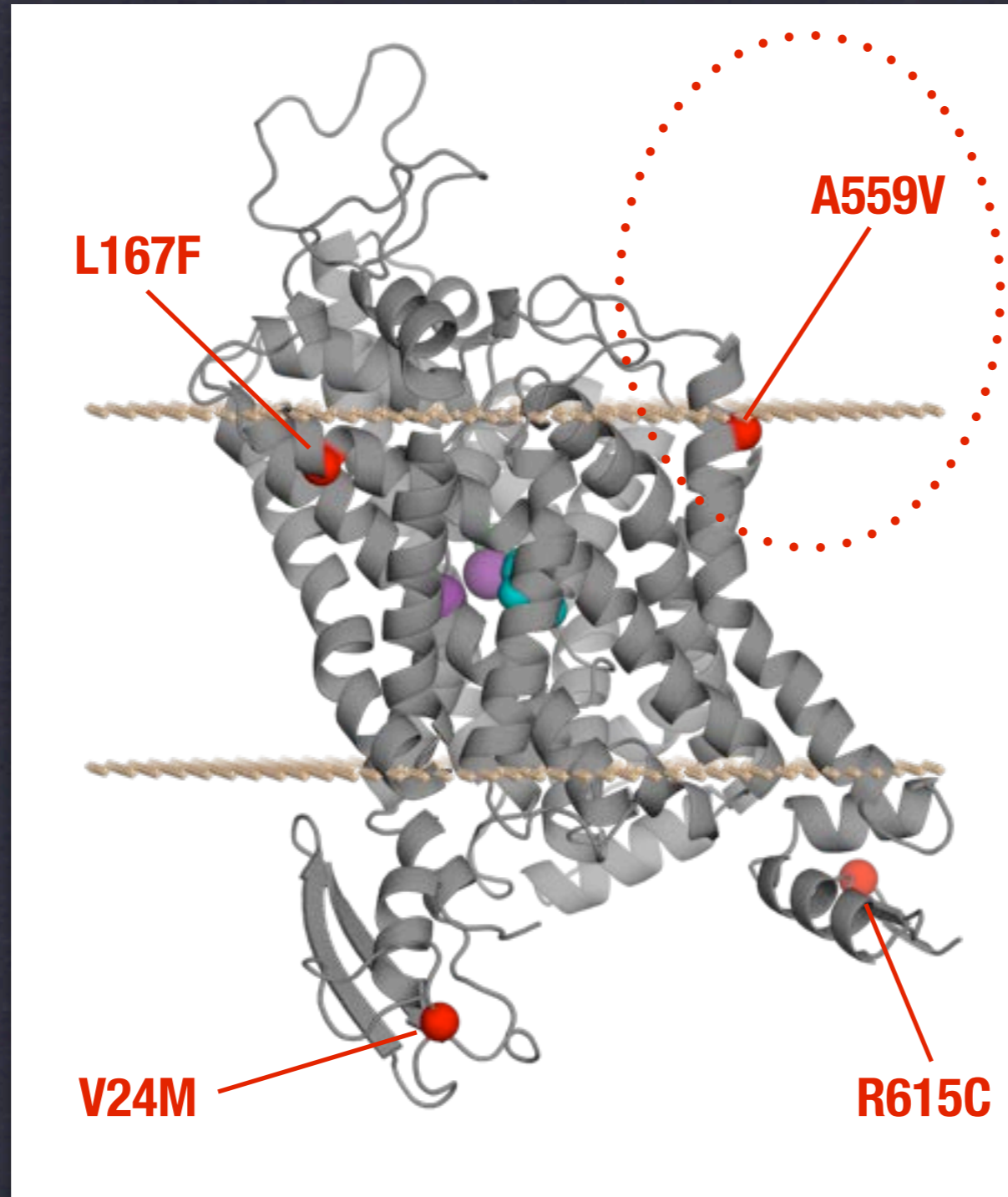
- ADHD is a brain disorder that may possess, and even be enriched for, highly penetrant but overall **rare, genetic variants** that target DA signaling **including DAT**.
- **Characterization of such variants** *in vitro* and *in vivo* is needed to support the hypothesis that a perturbation of DA signaling can contribute to the traits of ADHD
- Identification of rare, conserved genetic variation in DAT may help build **useful animal models** that can elucidate molecular, cellular and circuit level mechanisms linked to **ADHD**.

**DAT CODING VARIATION: RARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESS?**



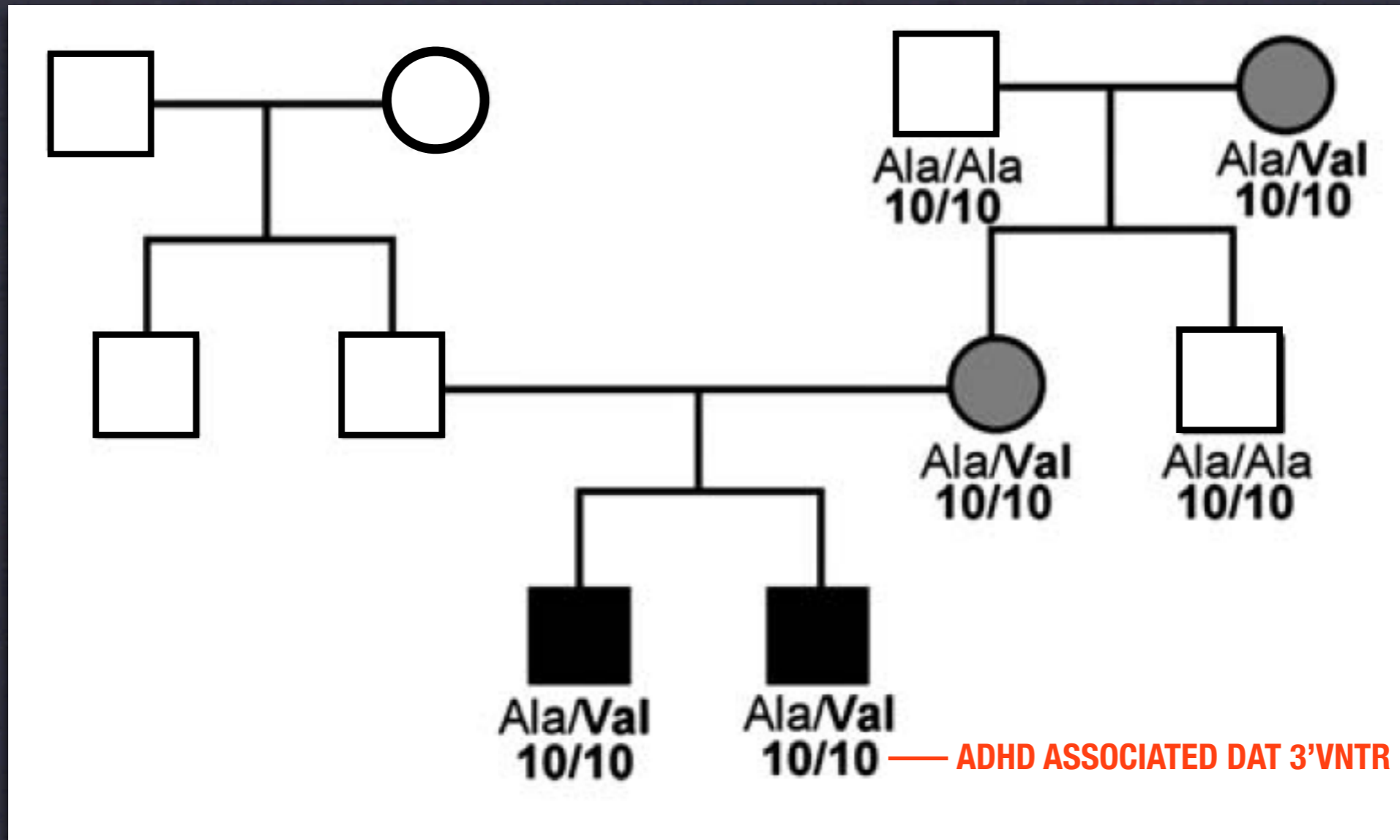
MAZEI-ROBISON ET AL., 2005  
SAKRIKAR ET AL, 2012  
MERGY ET AL, 2014

**MULTIPLE DAT CODING VARIANTS IDENTIFIED IN ADHD**



MAZEI-ROBISON ET AL., 2005  
SAKRIKAR ET AL, 2012  
MERGY ET AL, 2014

**MULTIPLE DAT CODING VARIANTS IDENTIFIED IN ADHD**



- BIPOLAR DISORDER: GRUNHAGE ET AL 2000
- AUTISM: BOWTON ET AL, 2014

MAZEI-ROBISON ET AL., 2005, 2008

## IDENTIFICATION OF DAT VAL559 IN TWO MALE ADHD SIBLINGS

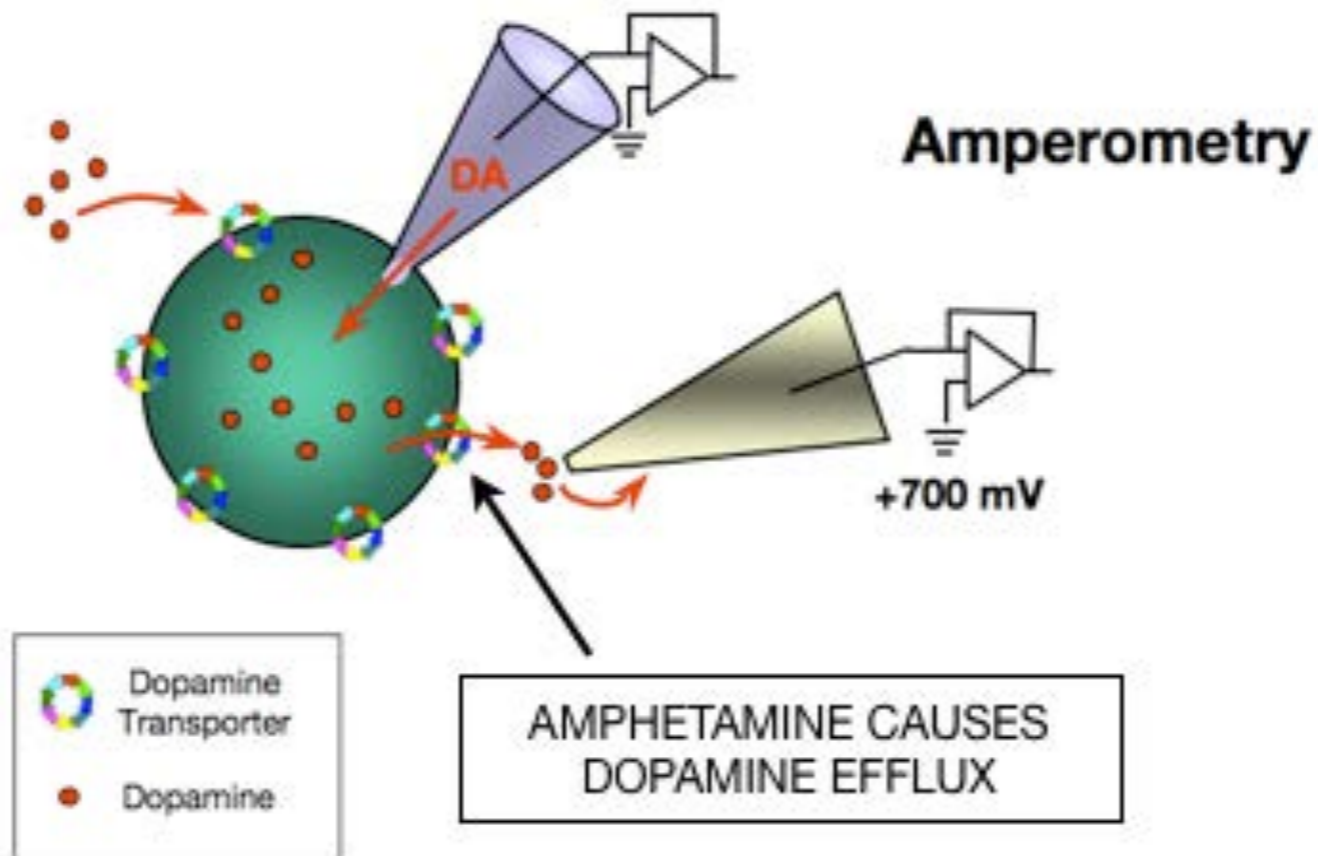
# **AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY NORMAL....**

- **Normal DAT total protein levels**
- **Normal DAT surface expression**
- **Normal dopamine transport activity**
- **Normal affinity for dopamine**
- **Normal affinity for amphetamine and methylphenidate**
- **Normal despondent reaction of graduate student**

**MAZEI-ROBISON ET AL 2008**

**DAT VAL559: INITIAL IN VITRO STUDIES COME UP DRY**

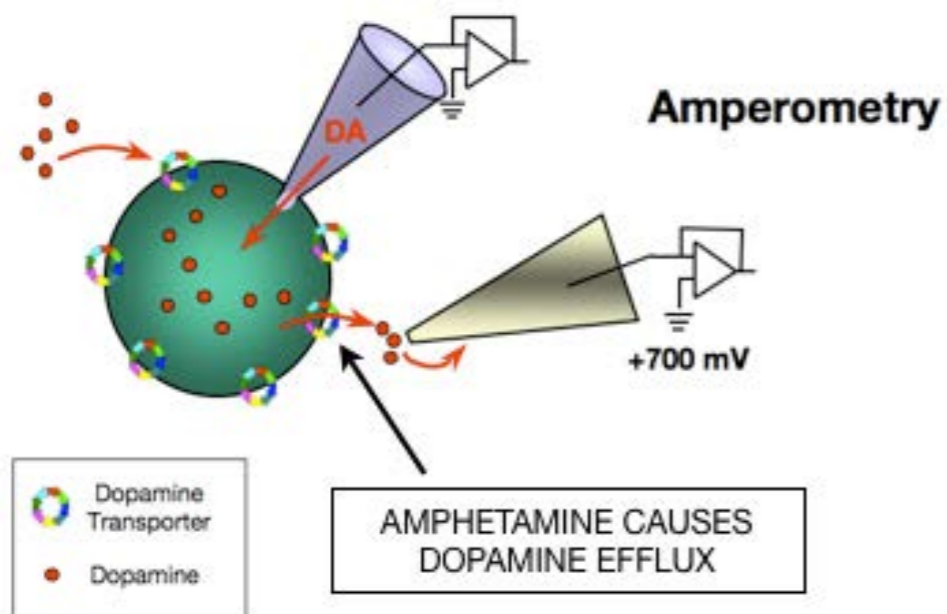
## Whole-Cell Patch Clamp



MAZEI-ROBISON ET AL 2008

**DAT VAL559 DISPLAYS ANOMALOUS DA EFFLUX (ADE)**

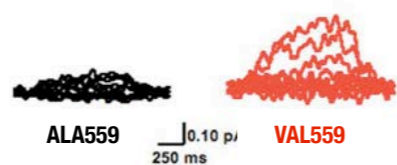
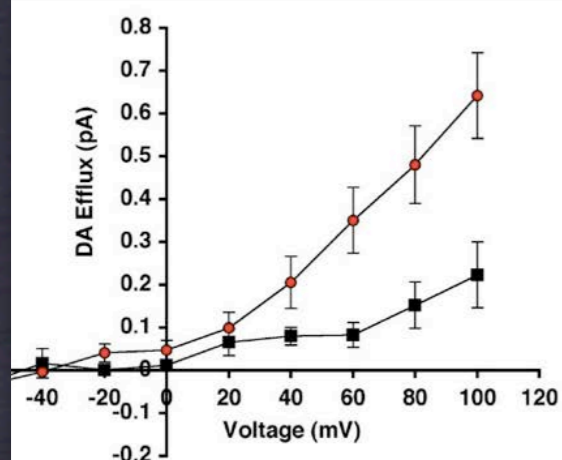
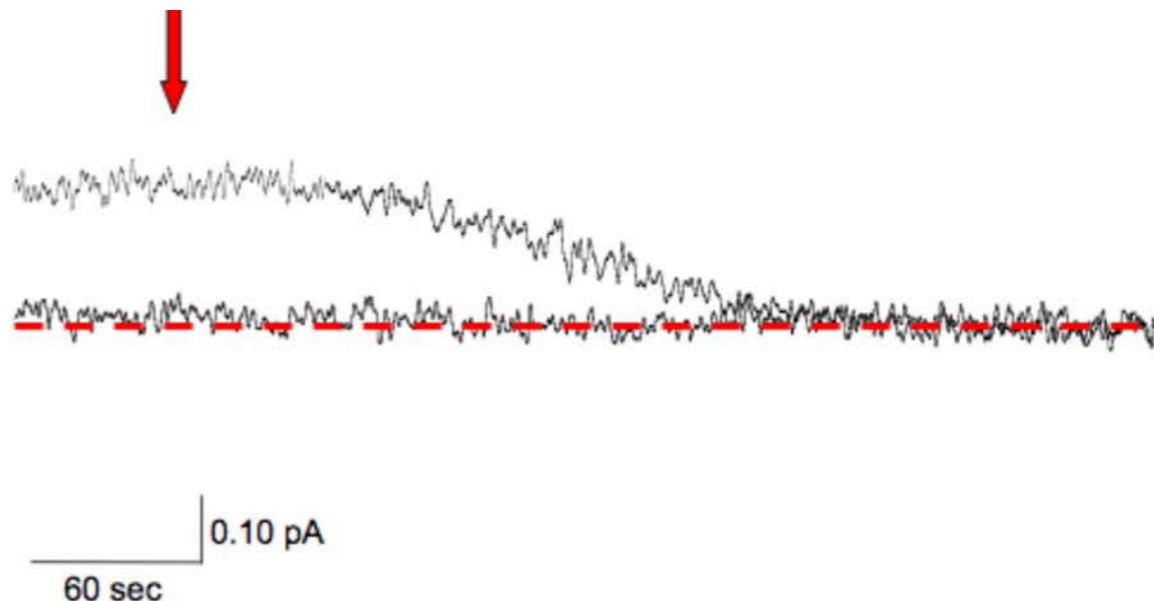
## Whole-Cell Patch Clamp



## Block of Dopamine Leak by DAT Antagonist

VAL559

ALA559



AMPH



ALA559

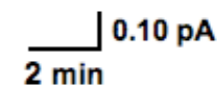
VAL559

METHYLPHENIDATE

AMPH

VAL559

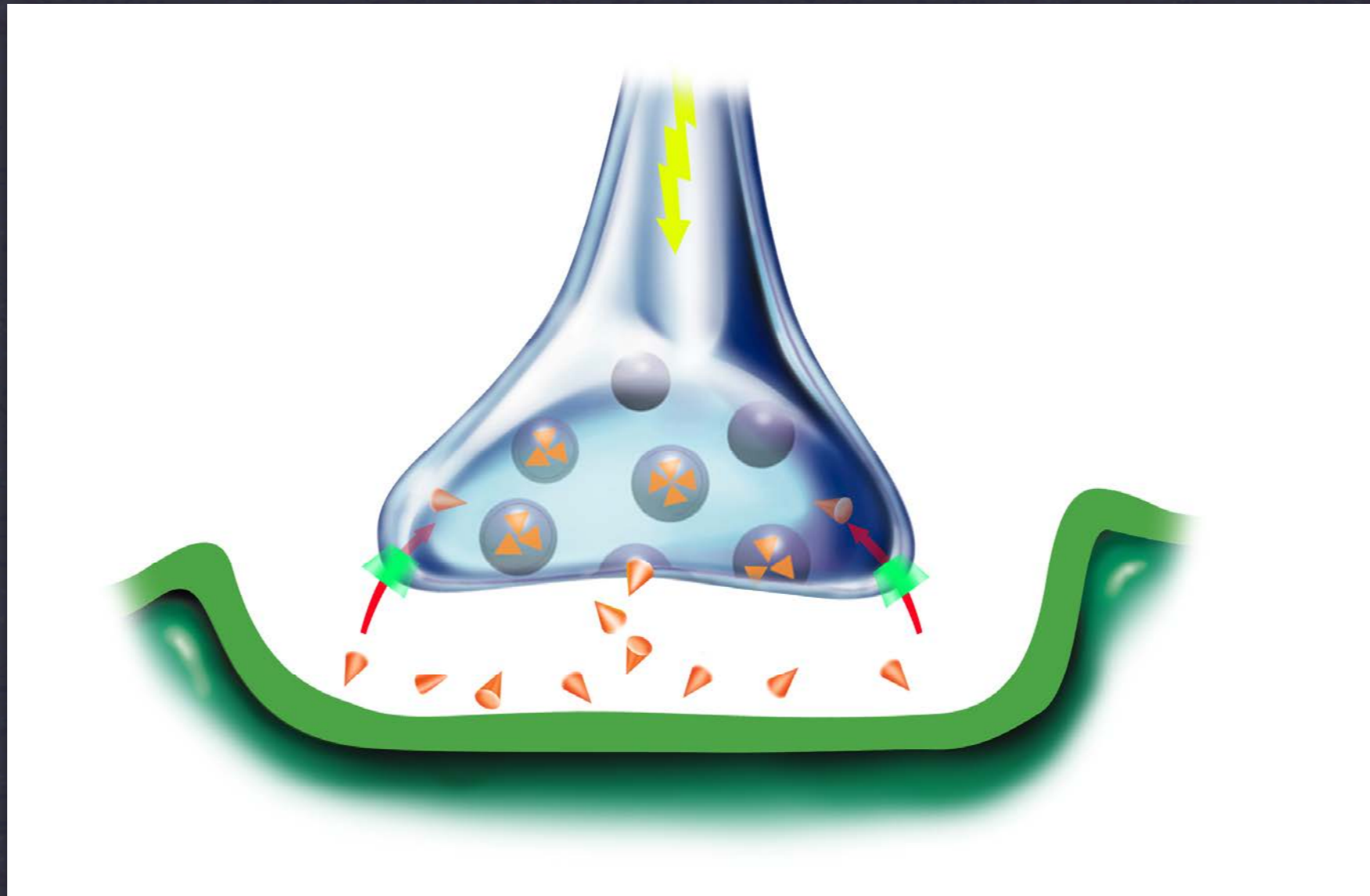
ALA559



MAZEI-ROBISON ET AL 2008

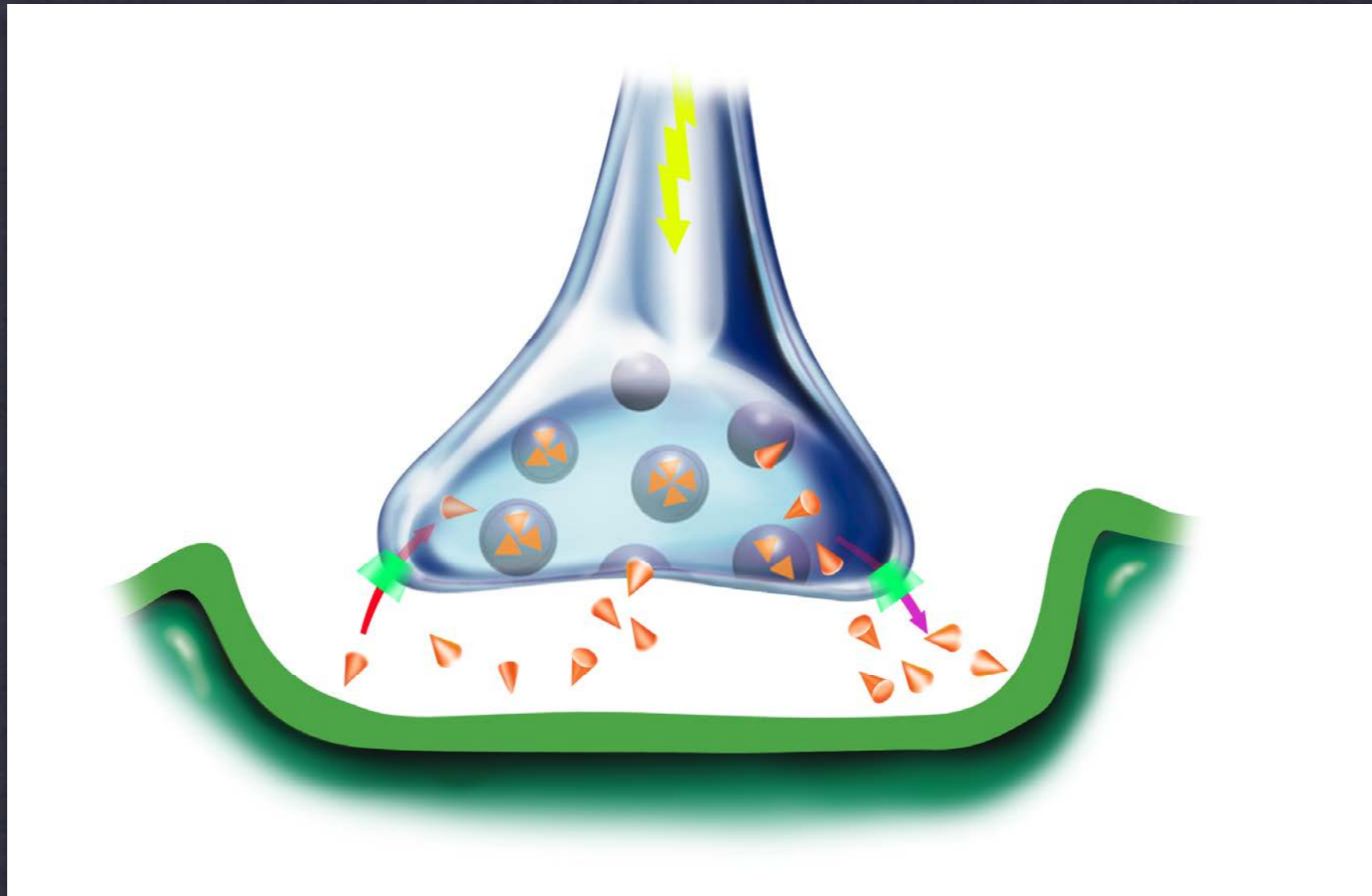
# DAT VAL559 DISPLAYS ANOMALOUS DA EFFLUX (ADE)

# NORMAL DAT



**PROPOSED SYNAPTIC IMPACT OF DAT VAL559**

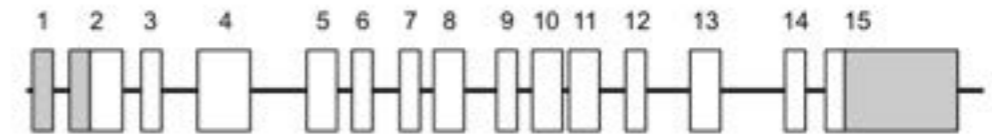
# LEAKY MUTANT DAT = VAL559



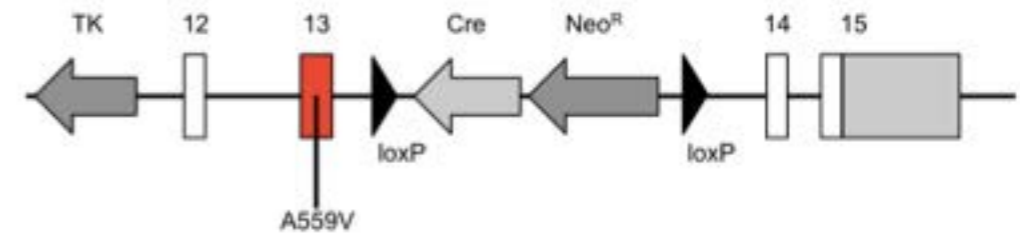
**PROPOSED SYNAPTIC IMPACT OF DAT VAL559**



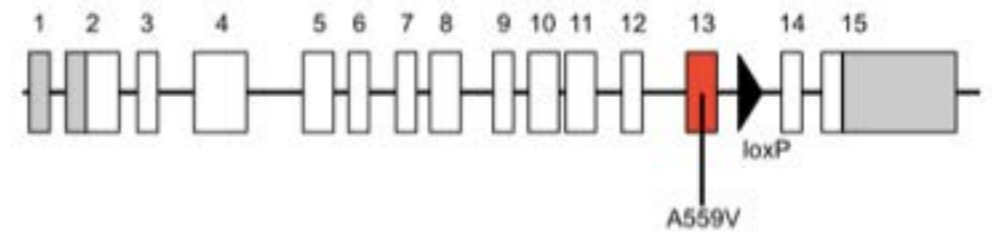
DAT Gene Structure



A559V Targeting Vector



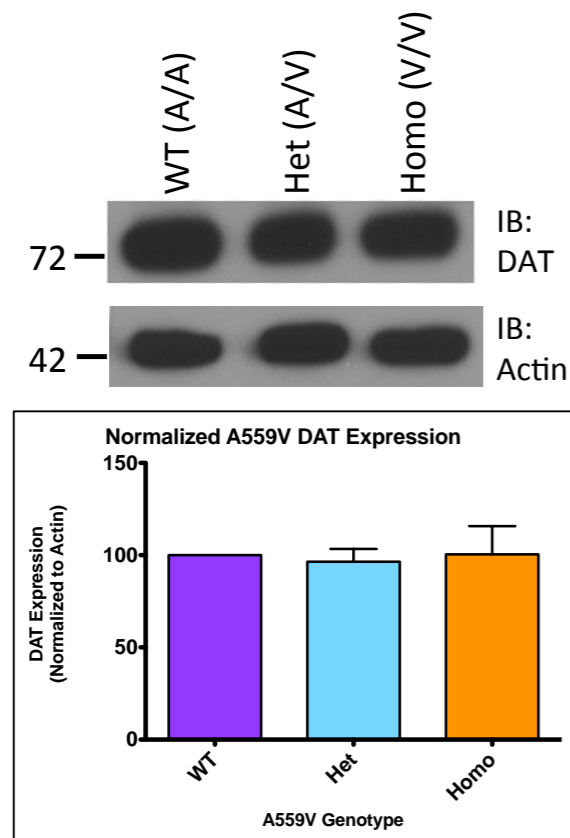
Targeted A559V DAT



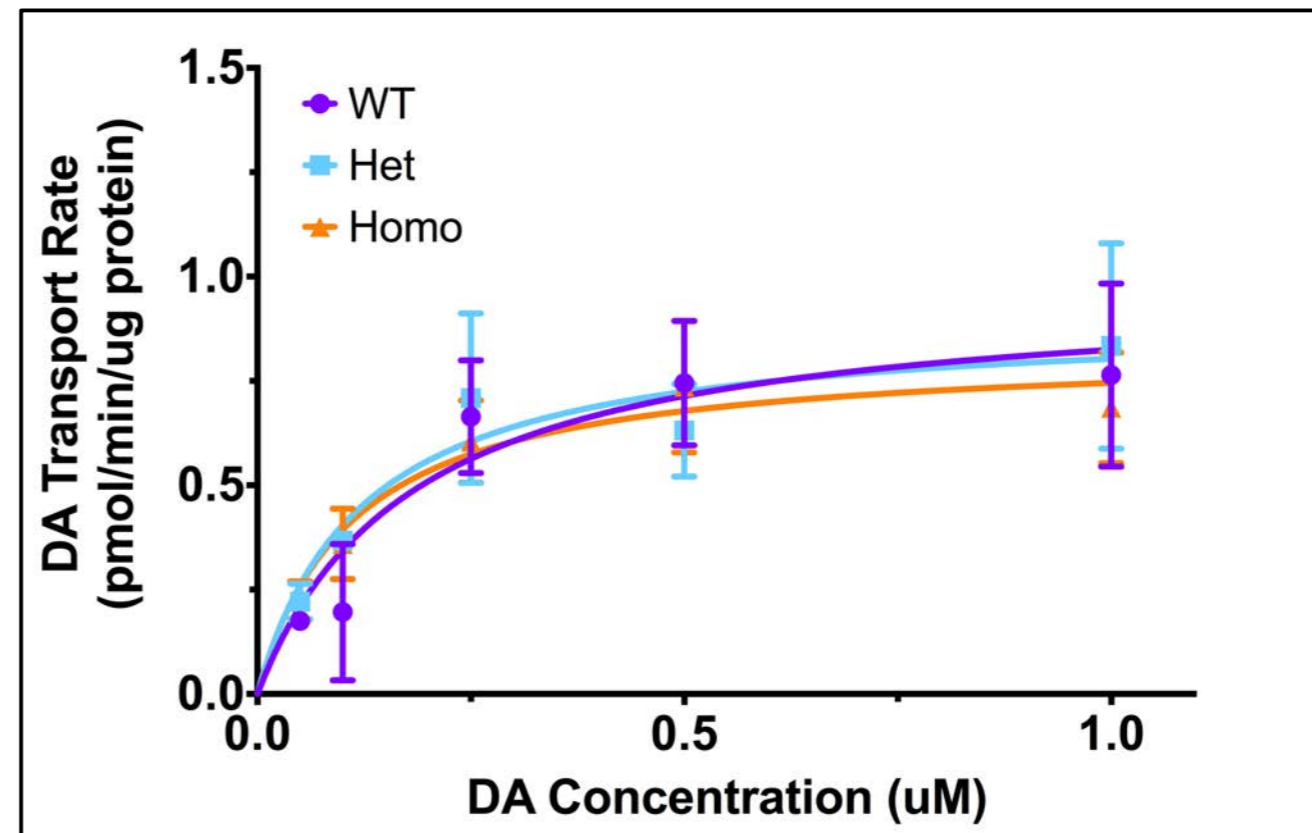
MERGY ET AL 2014

# DAT VAL559 MICE: MICE WITH ADHD TRAITS?

## DAT PROTEIN



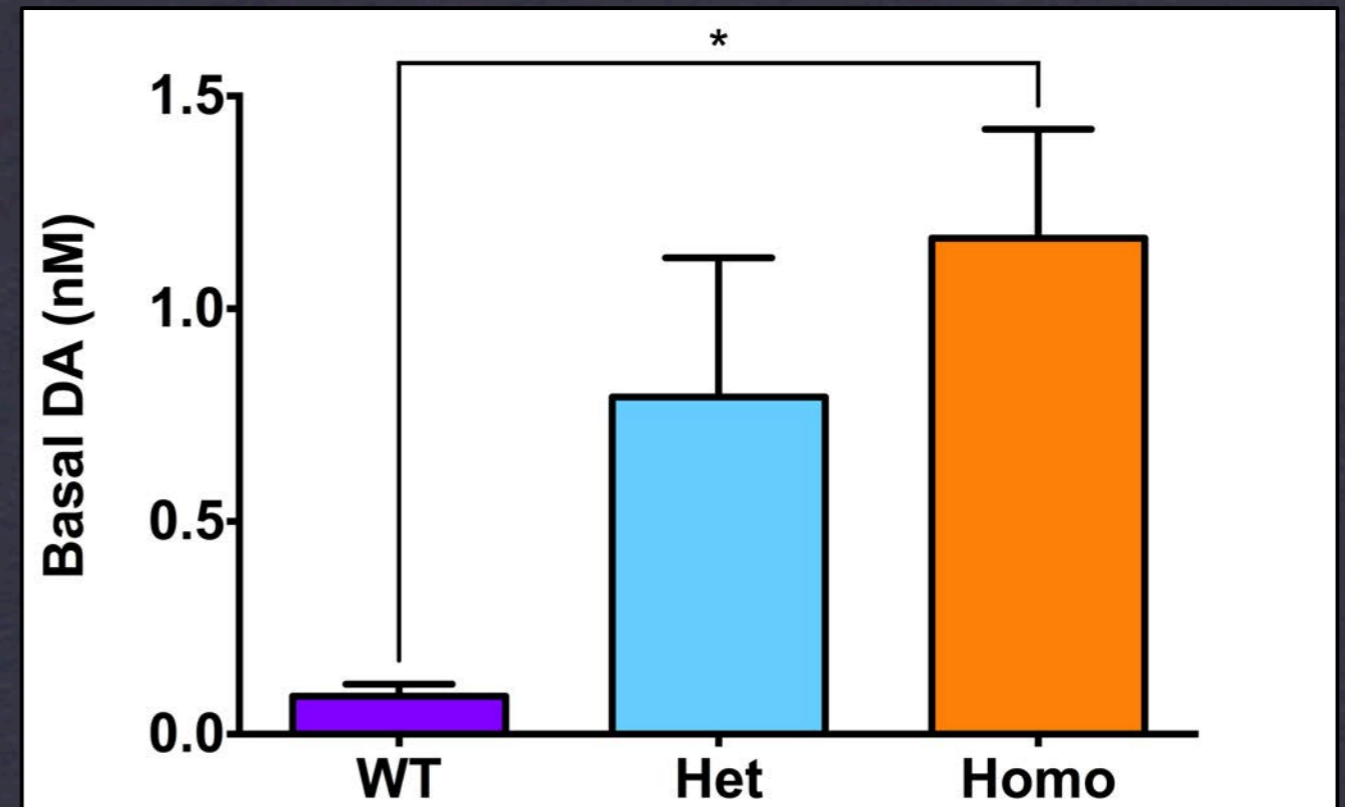
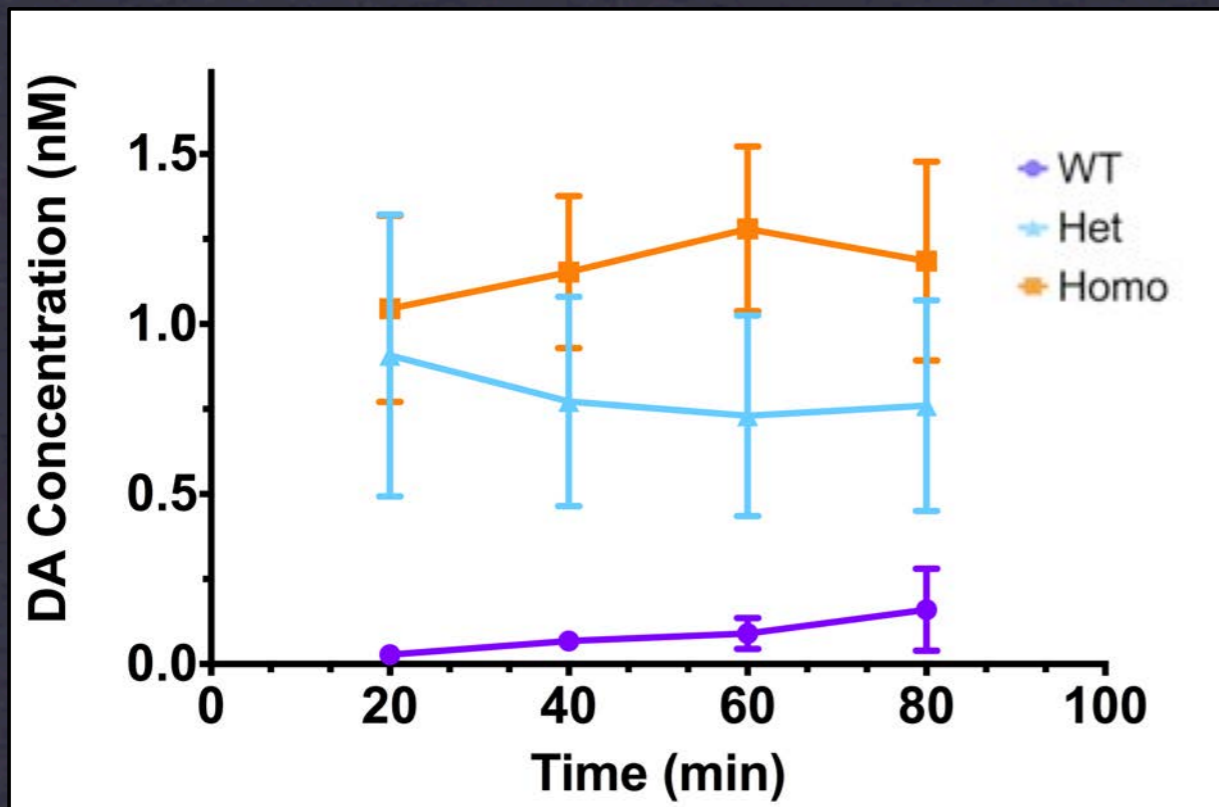
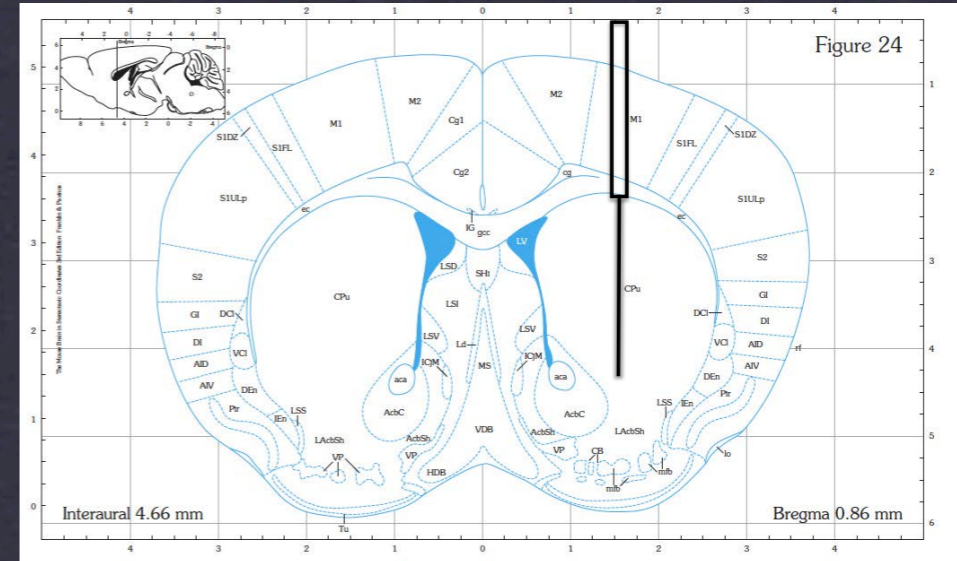
## DA UPTAKE



MERGY ET AL 2014

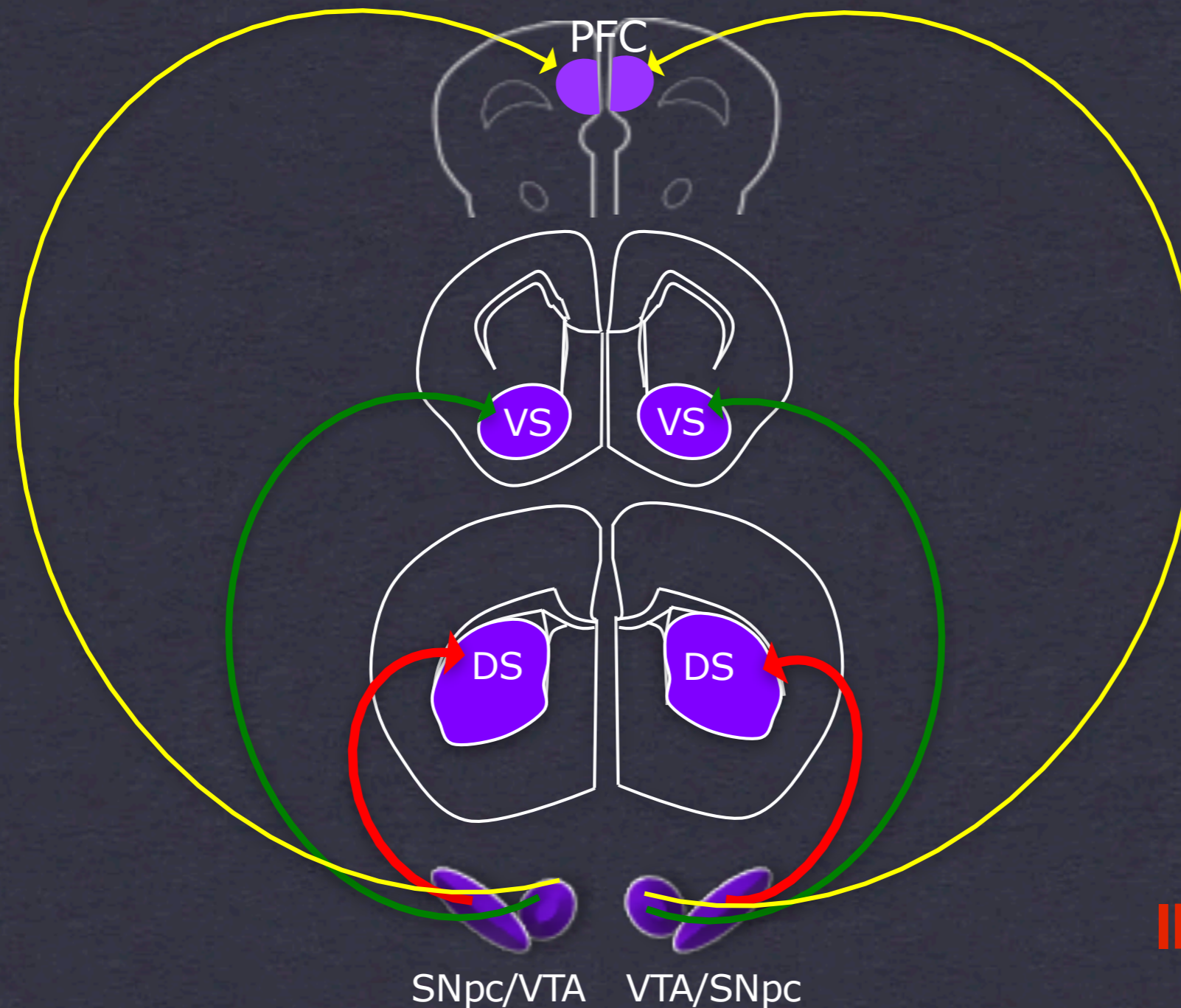
**DAT VAL559 MICE: NORMAL TRANSPORTER PROTEIN LEVELS  
AND DOPAMINE UPTAKE INTO NERVE TERMINALS**

# MICRODIALYSIS SAMPLING OF EXTRACELLULAR DA LEVELS



MERGY ET AL 2014

ELEVATED EXTRACELLULAR DOPAMINE IN DAT VAL559 MICE



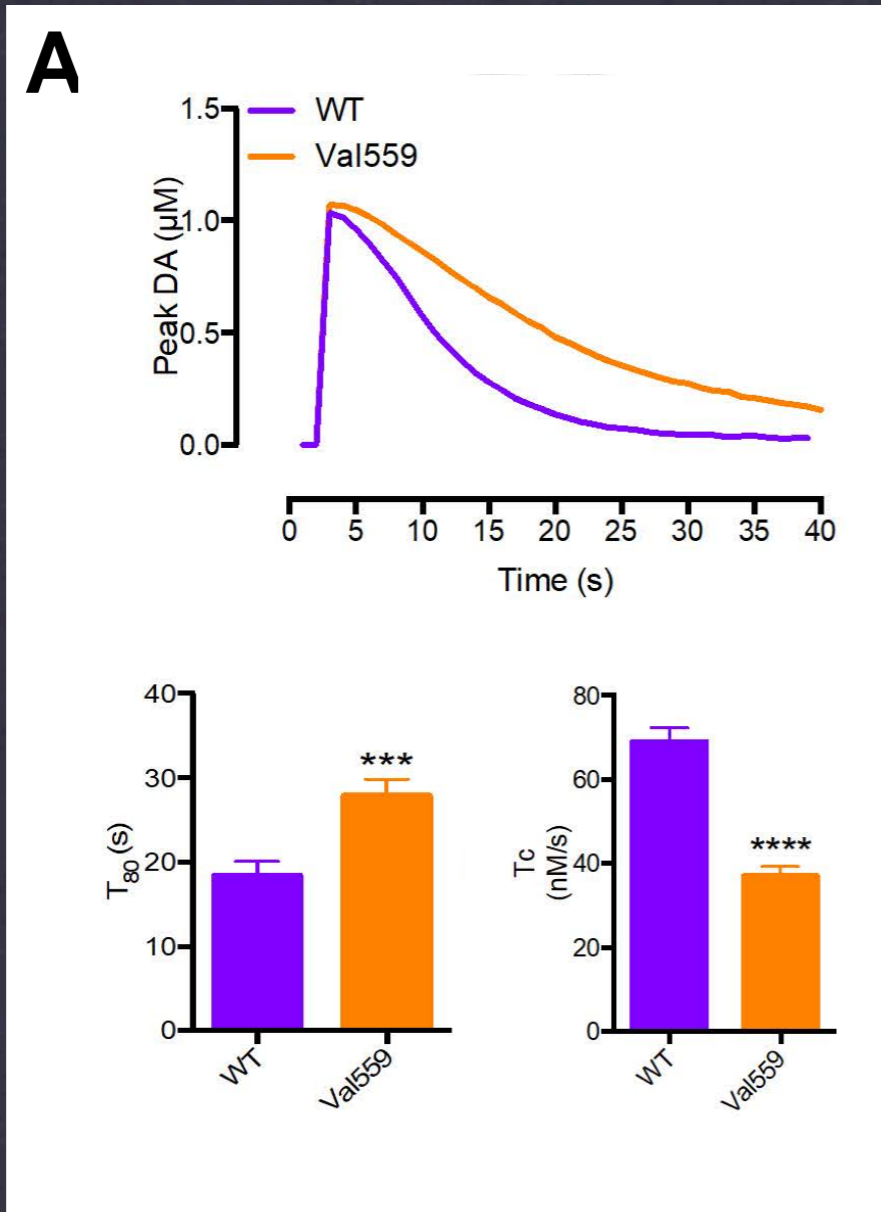
**EXECUTIVE  
FUNCTION  
ATTENTION**

**REWARD  
SALIENCE**

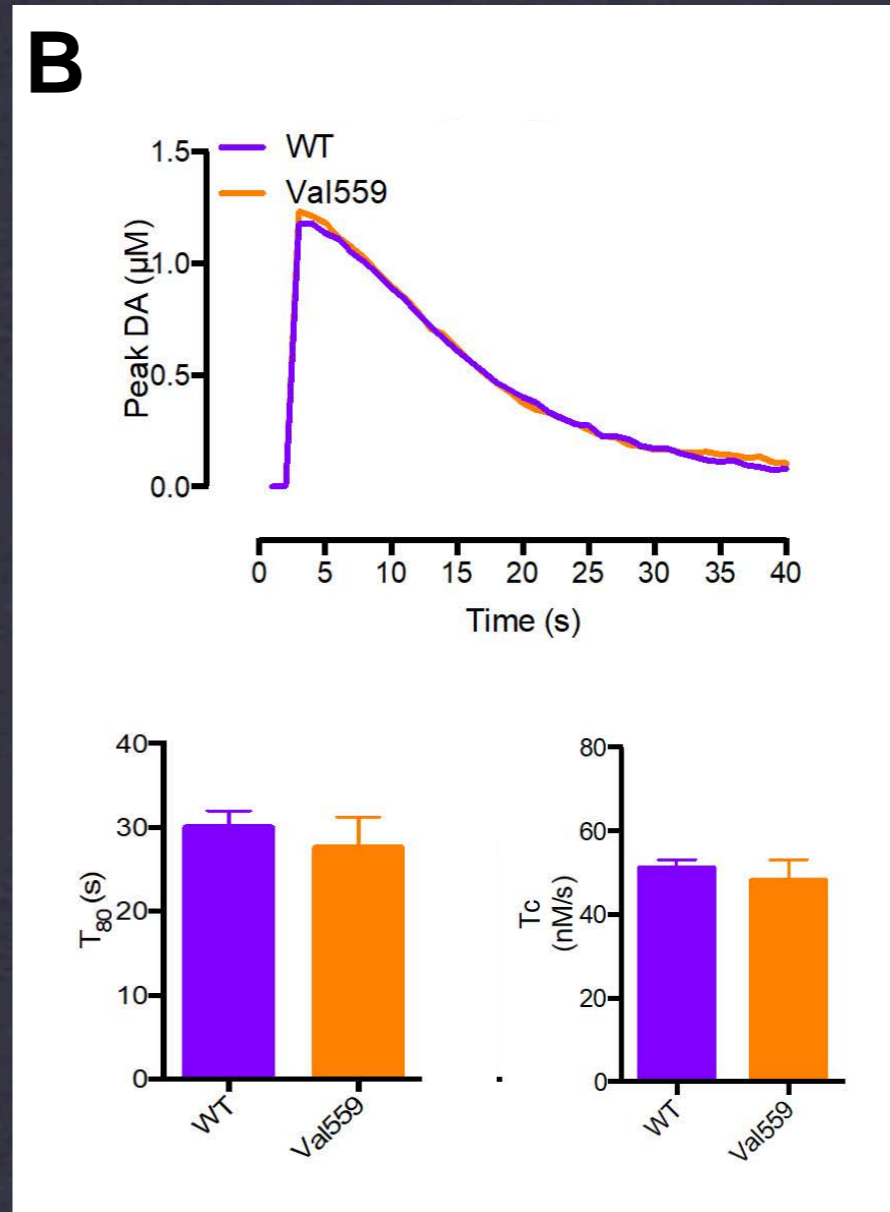
**LOCOMOTION  
HABIT LEARNING  
IMPULSE CONTROL**

**DISTINCT DA PROJECTIONS SUBSERVE DIFFERENT  
BEHAVIORAL DOMAINS**

## DORSAL STRIATUM



## VENTRAL STRIATUM



GOWRISHANKAR ET AL, 2018

**MUTANT DAT IN ALL DA BRAIN REGIONS BUT DAT VAL559 EFFECTS ONLY IN SOME**

# DAT VAL559 MOUSE: BEHAVIOR



**Spontaneous and Drug-  
Modulated Locomotor  
Activation**

**THE DOPAMINE TRANSPORTER:  
A CRUCIAL COMPONENT REGULATING  
DOPAMINE TRANSMISSION**

**Mohamed Jaber, Sara R. Jones,  
Bruno Giros and Marc G. Caron**

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
Depts. of Cell Biology & Medicine  
Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, NC 27710**

**GIROS ET AL, 1996**



Related Commentary, page 1455 Research article

**Homozygous loss-of-function mutations  
in the gene encoding the dopamine  
transporter are associated  
with infantile parkinsonism-dystonia**

**Manju A. Kurian,<sup>1,2</sup> Juan Zhen,<sup>3</sup> Shu-Yuan Cheng,<sup>3</sup> Yan Li,<sup>3</sup> Santosh R. Mordekar,<sup>4</sup> Philip Jardine,<sup>5</sup>  
Neil V. Morgan,<sup>1</sup> Esther Meyer,<sup>1</sup> Louise Tee,<sup>1</sup> Shanaz Pasha,<sup>1</sup> Evangeline Wassmer,<sup>2</sup>  
Simon J.R. Heales,<sup>6</sup> Paul Gissen,<sup>1</sup> Maarten E.A. Reith,<sup>3,7</sup> and Eamonn R. Maher<sup>1,8</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics, University of Birmingham School of Medicine, Institute of Biomedical Research, Birmingham, United Kingdom. <sup>2</sup>Department of Paediatric Neurology, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Millhauser Laboratories, New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York, USA.

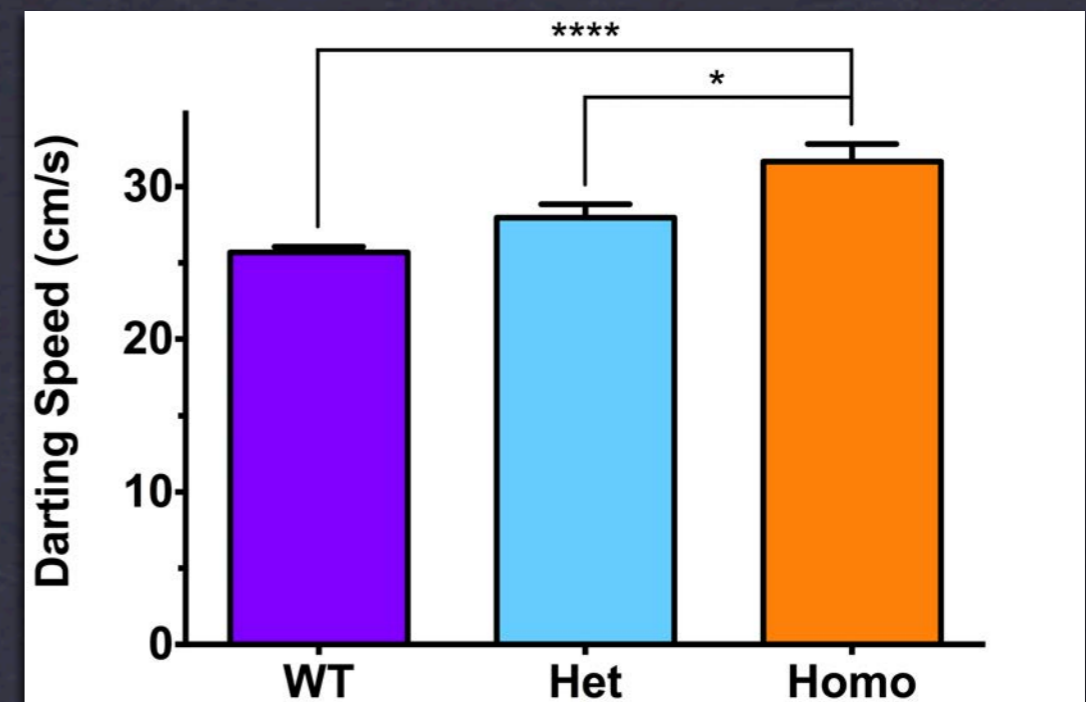
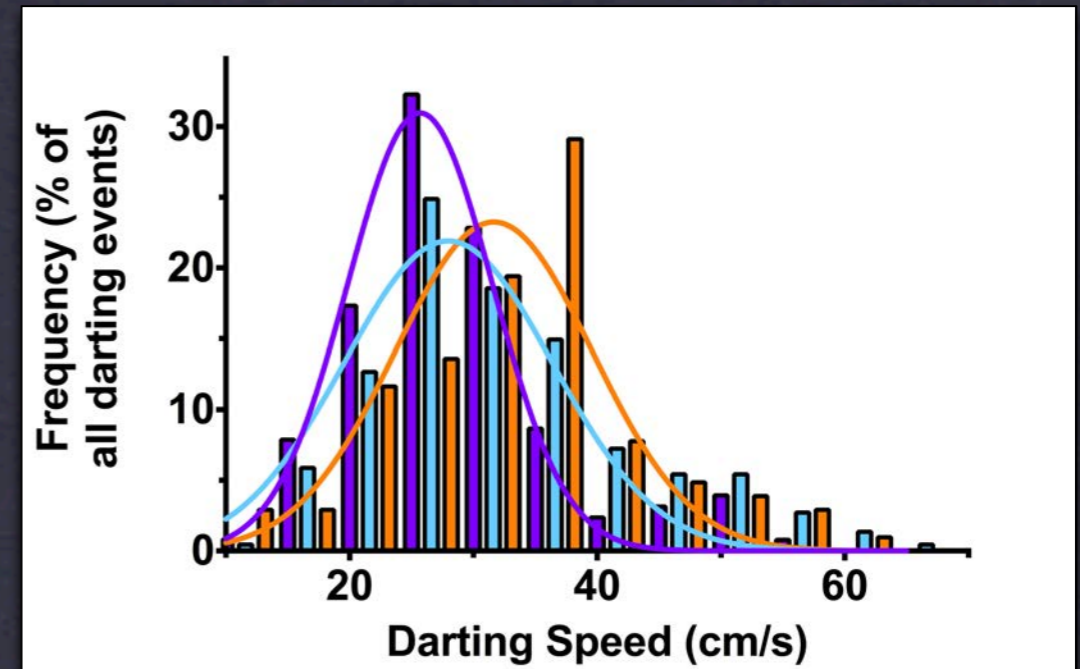
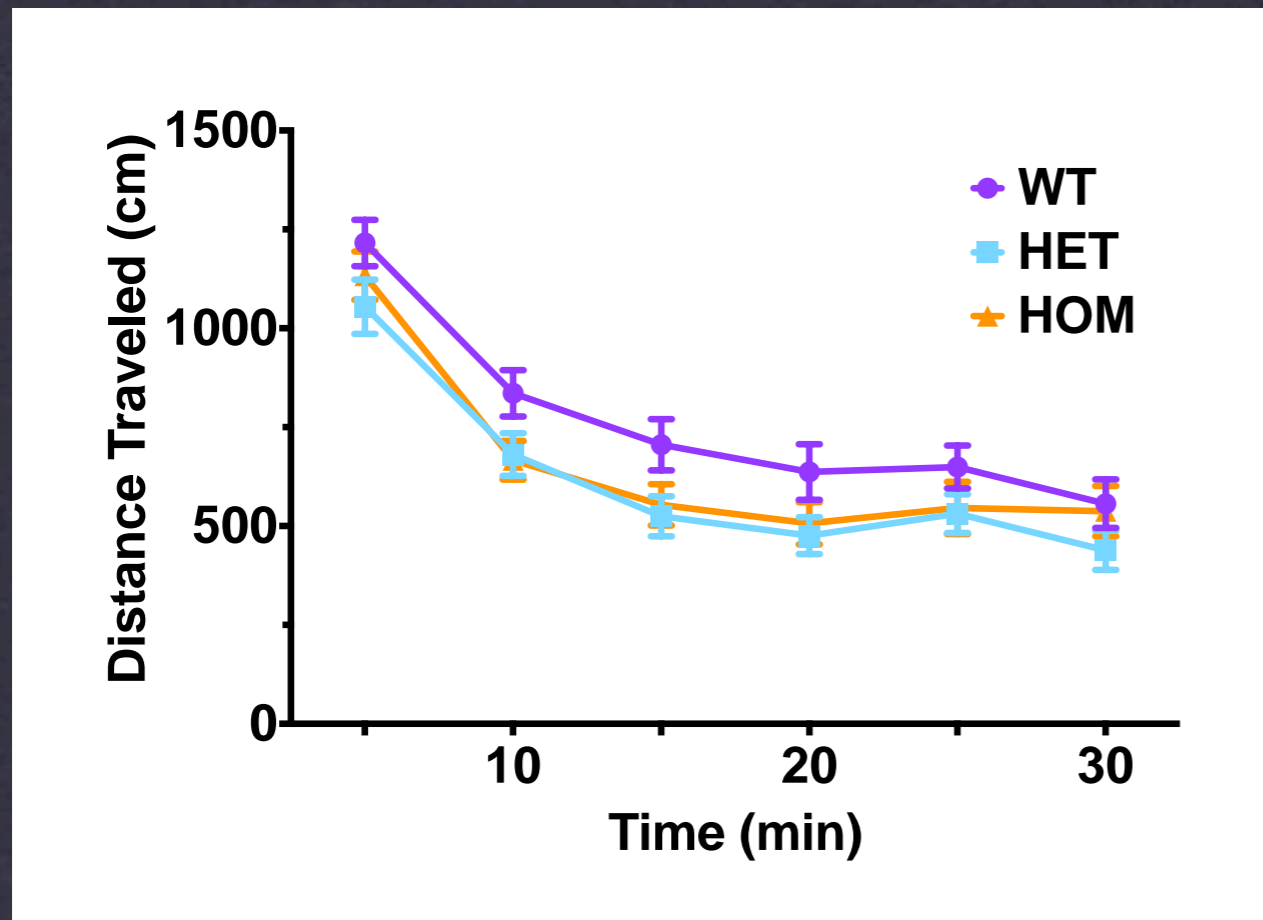
<sup>4</sup>Department of Paediatric Neurology, Sheffield Children's Hospital, Sheffield, United Kingdom. <sup>5</sup>Department of Paediatric Neurology, Bristol Children's Hospital, Bristol, United Kingdom. <sup>6</sup>Neurometabolic Unit, National Hospital, and Department of Chemical Pathology, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, United Kingdom. <sup>7</sup>Department of Pharmacology, New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York, USA.

<sup>8</sup>West Midlands Regional Genetics Service, Birmingham Women's Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Genetic variants of the *SLC6A3* gene that encodes the human dopamine transporter (DAT) have been linked to a variety of neuropsychiatric disorders, particularly attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. In addition, the homozygous *Slc6a3* knockout mouse displays a hyperactivity phenotype. Here, we analyzed 2 unrelated consanguineous families with infantile parkinsonism-dystonia (IPD) syndrome and identified homozygous missense *SLC6A3* mutations (p.L368Q and p.P395L) in both families. Functional studies demonstrated that both mutations were loss-of-function mutations that severely reduced levels of mature (85-kDa) DAT while having a differential effect on the apparent binding affinity of dopamine. Thus, in humans, loss-of-function *SLC6A3* mutations that impair DAT-mediated dopamine transport activity are associated with an early-onset complex movement disorder. Identification of the molecular basis of IPD suggests *SLC6A3* as a candidate susceptibility gene for other movement disorders associated with parkinsonism and/or dystonic features.

**KURIAN ET AL, 2009**

**FULL LOSS OF DAT IN MICE: PROFOUND HYPERACTIVITY**



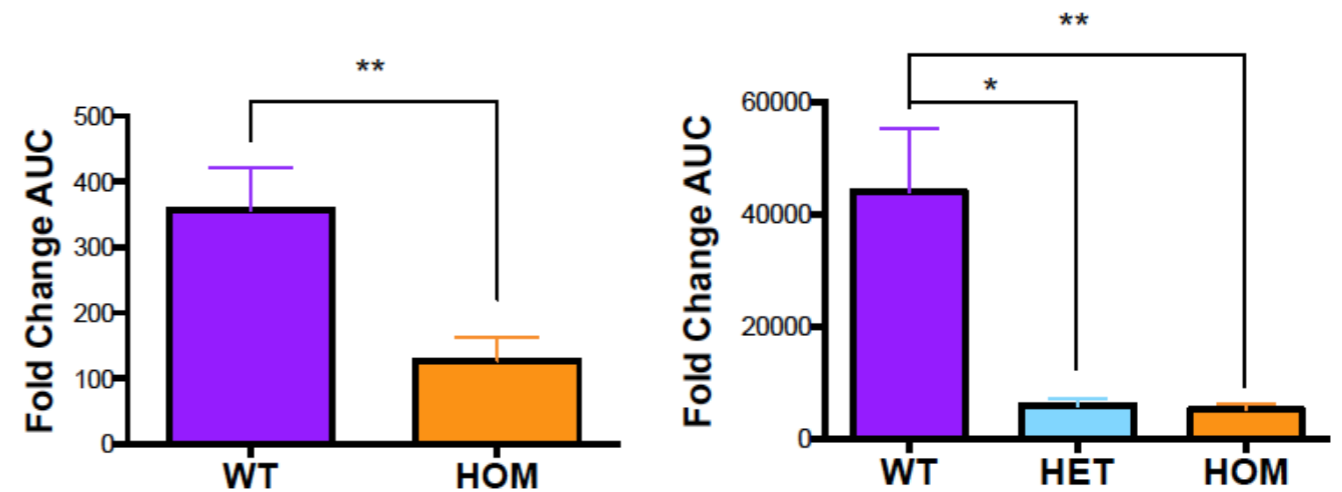
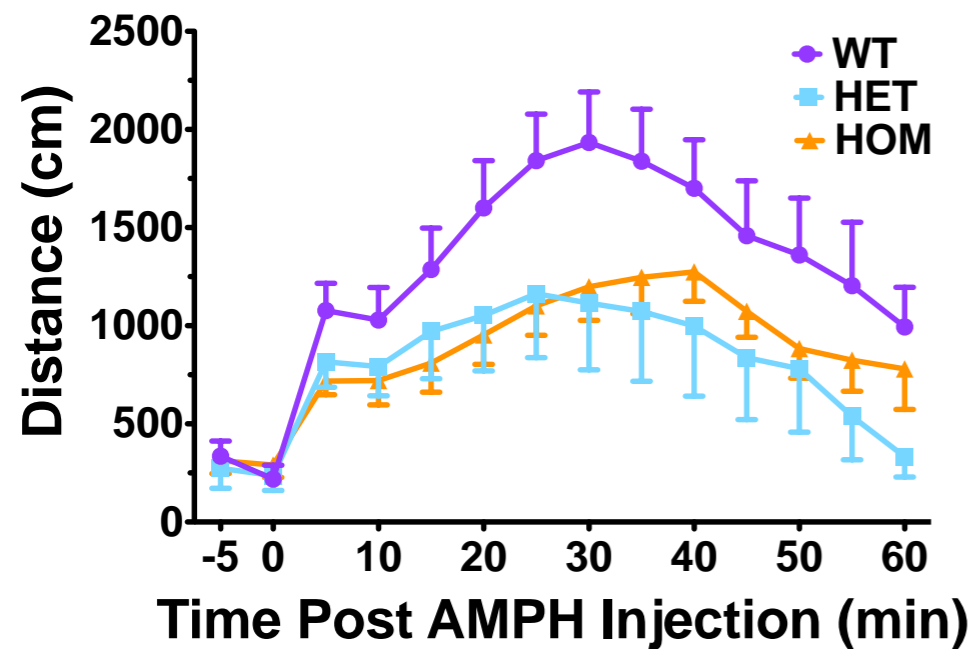
MERGY ET AL 2014

**DAT VAL559 MICE:  
A SURPRISE - LACK OF SPONTANEOUS HYPERACTIVITY**

AMPH- 3 MG/KG I.P.

AMPH- 3 MG/KG I.P.

AMPH- 0.1 $\mu$ M IN VIVO



MICRODIALYSIS DA-LEVELS

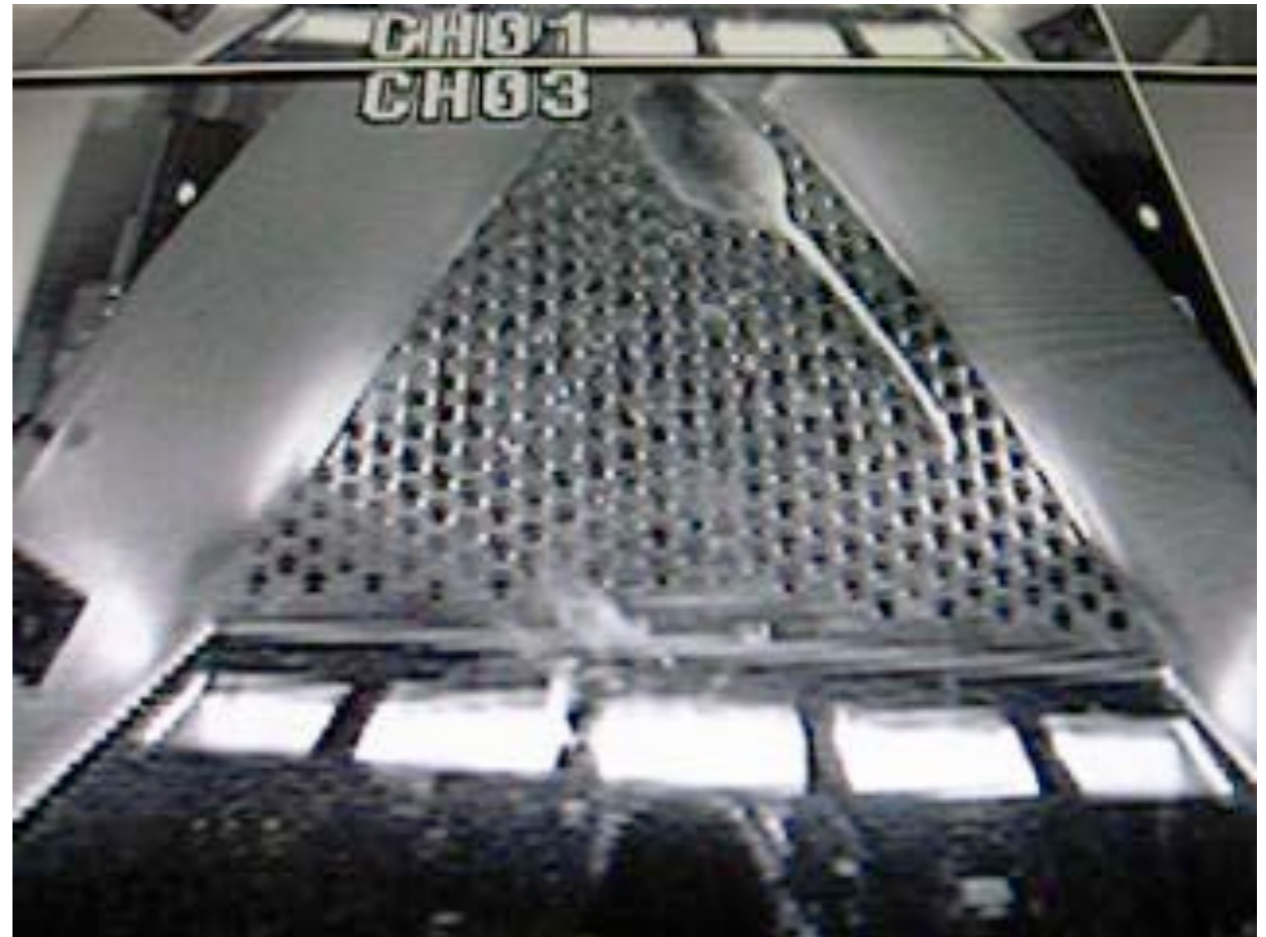
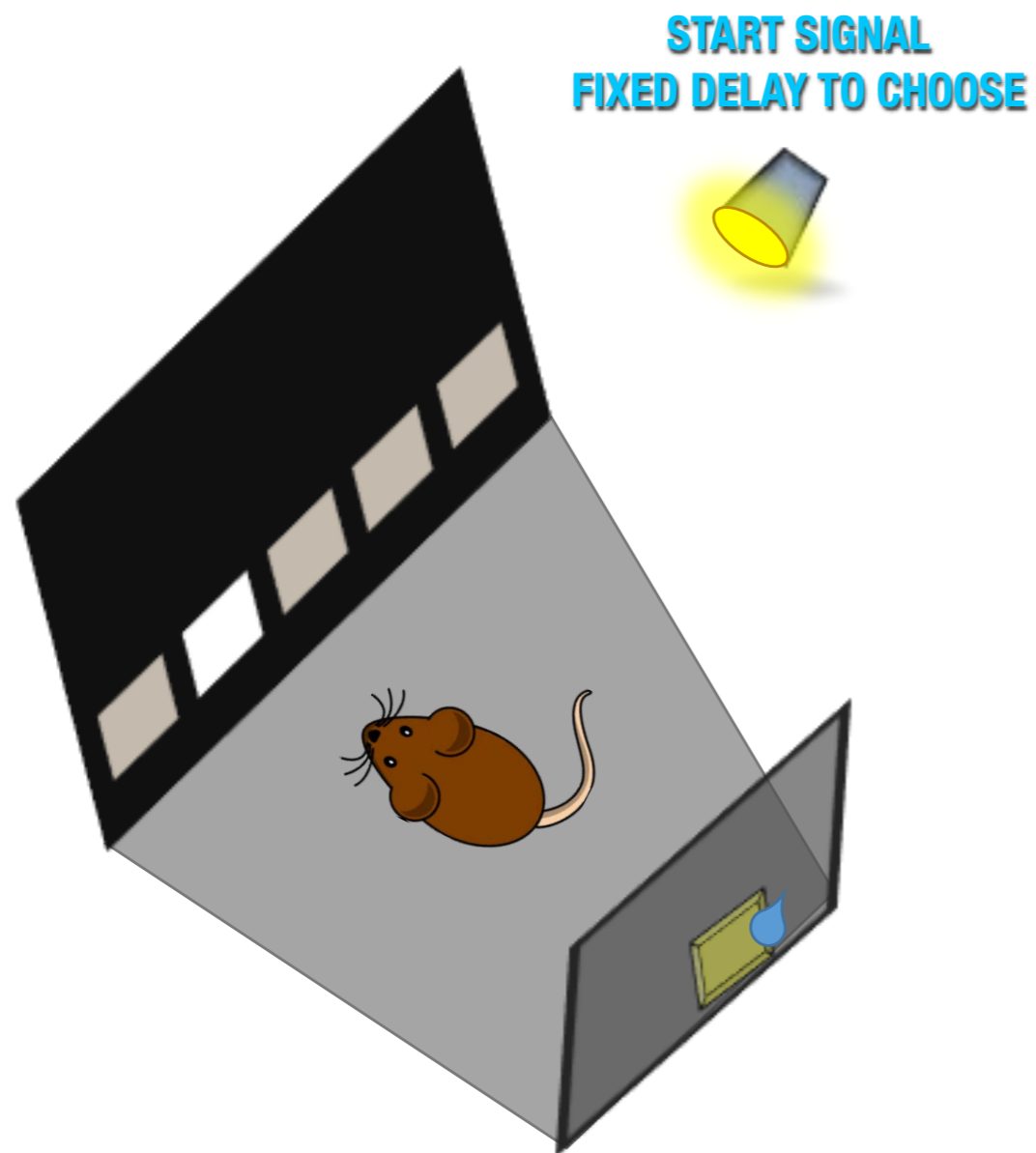
MERGY ET AL 2014

**DAT VAL559 KI MICE: BLUNTED LOCOMOTOR AND DOPAMINE RESPONSE TO AMPHETAMINE**

# DAT VAL559 MOUSE: BEHAVIOR

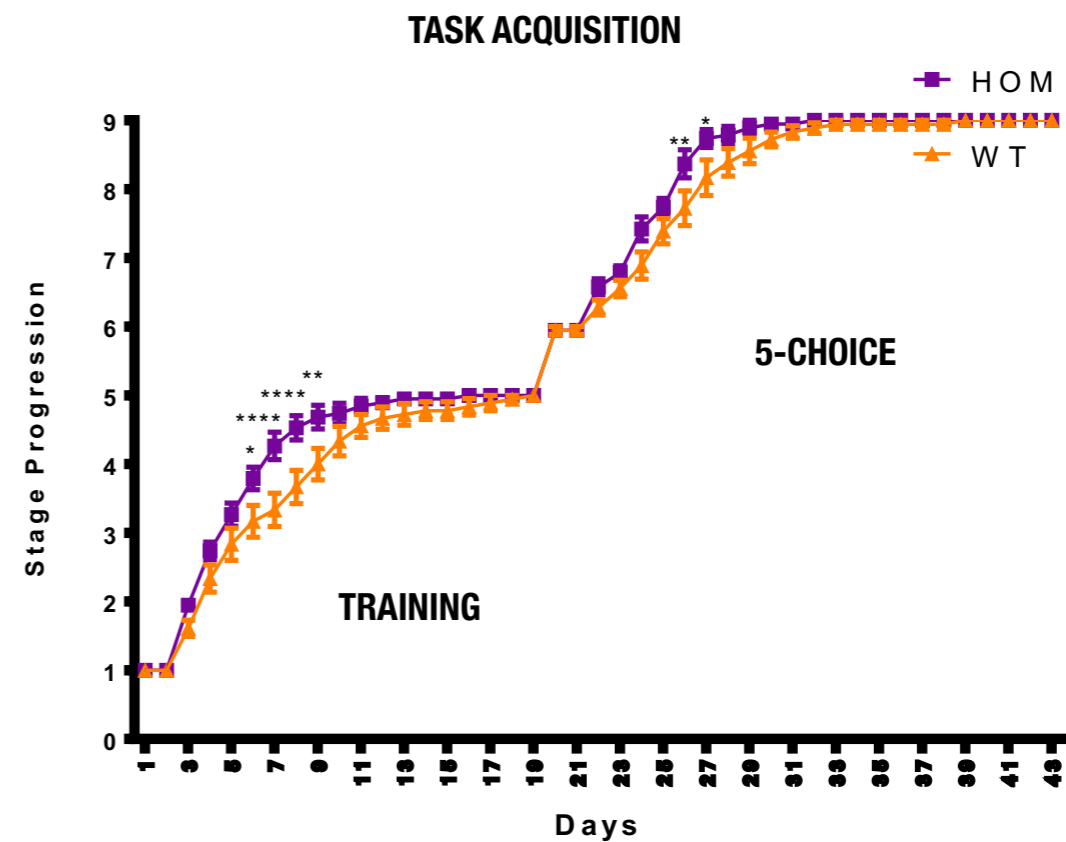
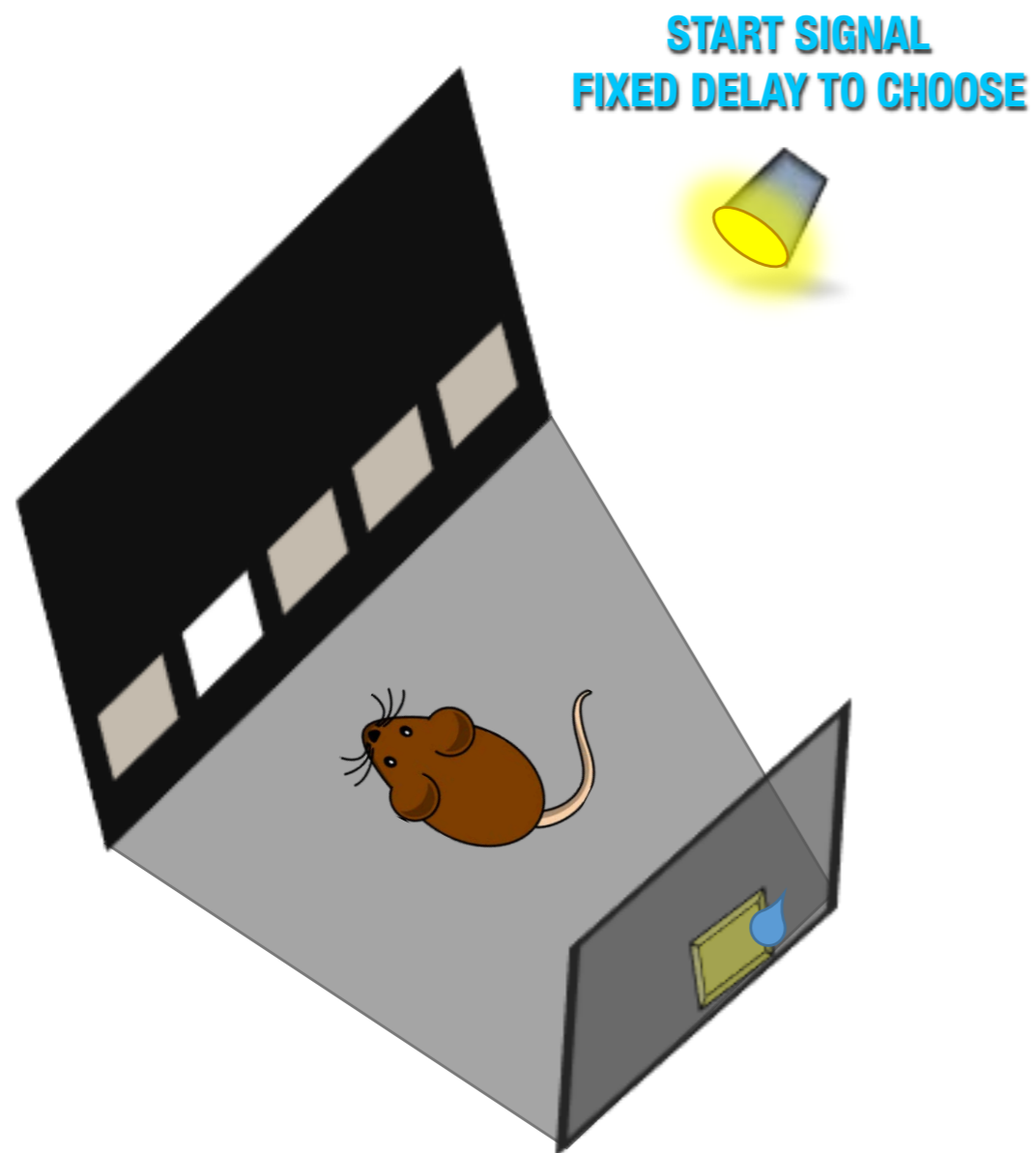


**Attention, Learning and  
Impulsivity**



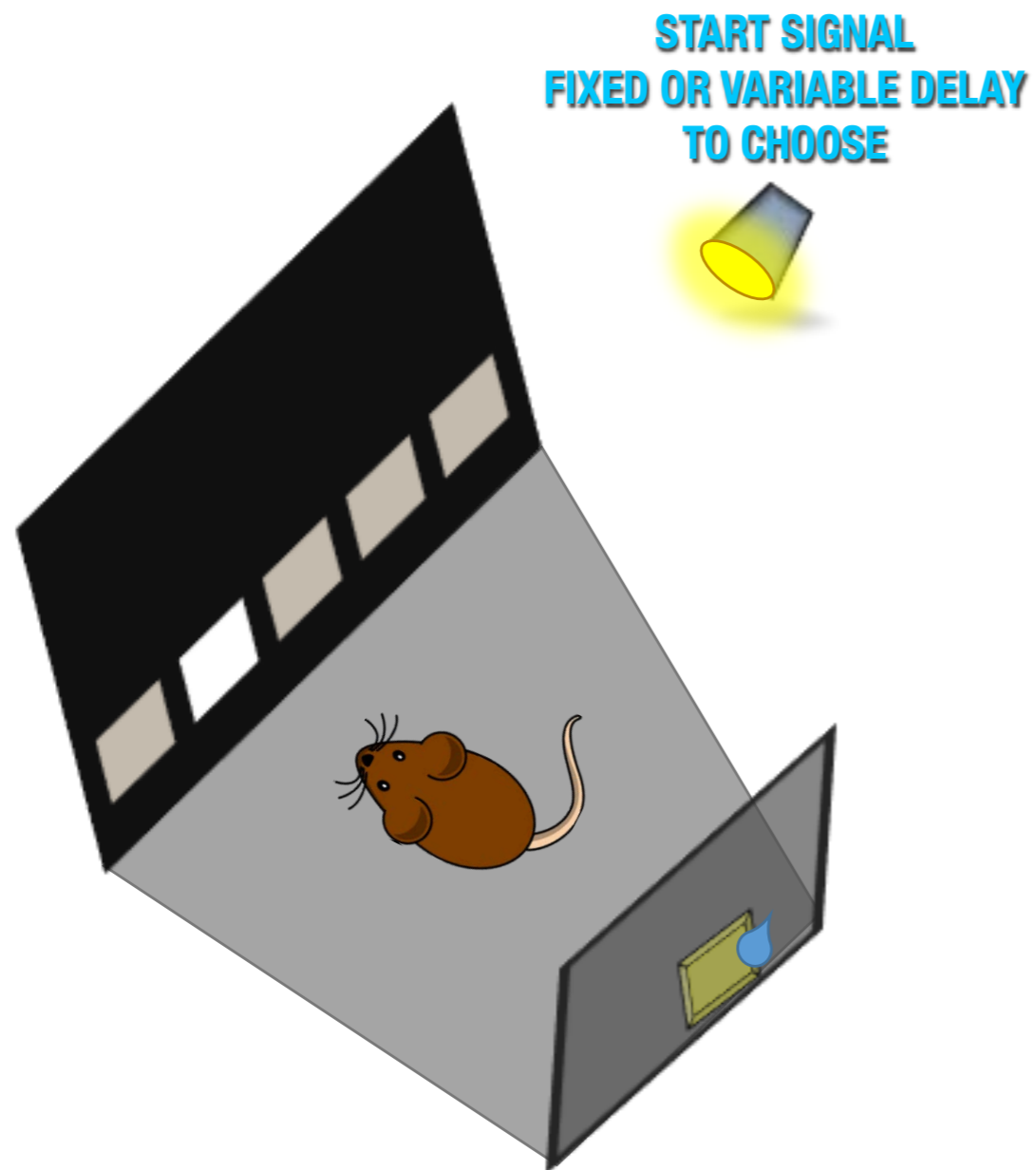
DAVIS ET AL 2017

**A TASK TO EVALUATE THE LEARNING CAPACITY  
AND IMPULSIVITY OF DAT VAL559**

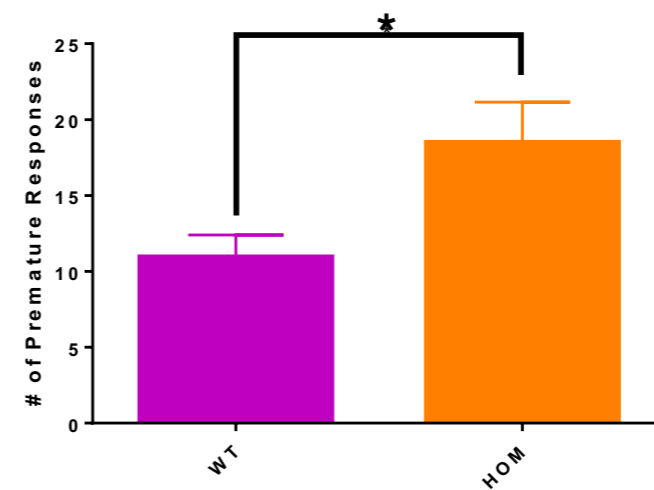


**DAVIS ET AL 2017**

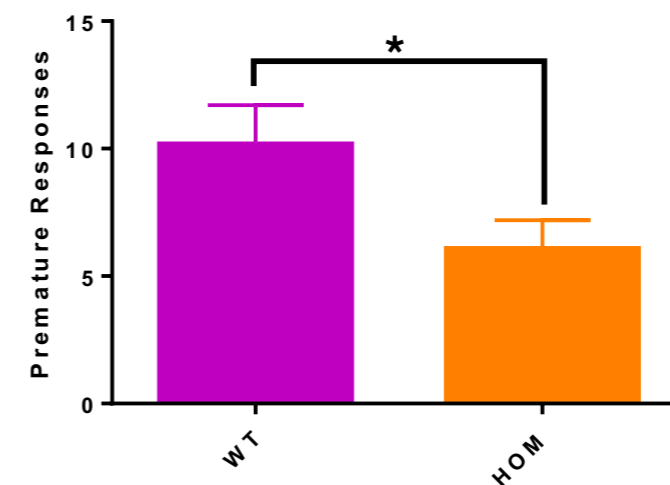
**A TASK TO EVALUATE THE LEARNING CAPACITY  
AND IMPULSIVITY OF DAT VAL559**



**MORE PREMATURE RESPONSES AFTER TRAINING  
ON FIXED DELAY**



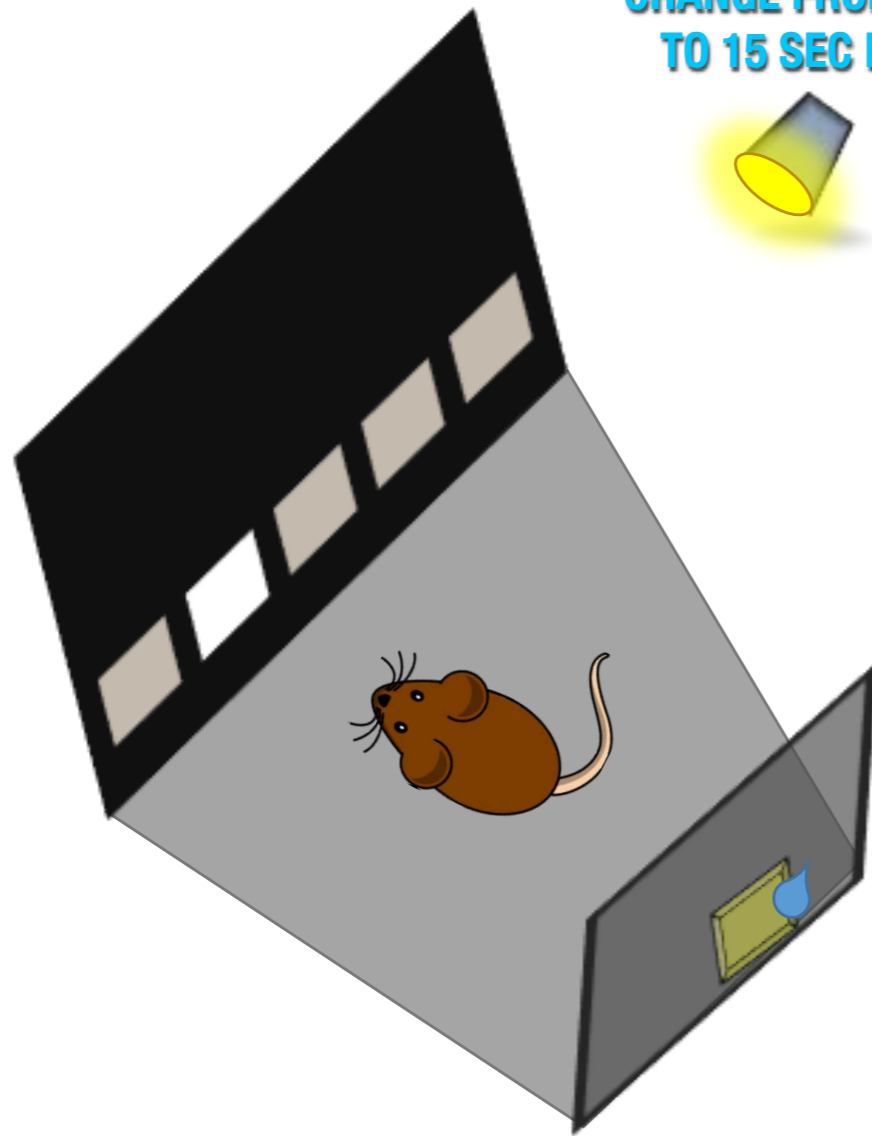
**FEWER PREMATURE RESPONSES AFTER TRAINING  
ON VARIABLE DELAY**



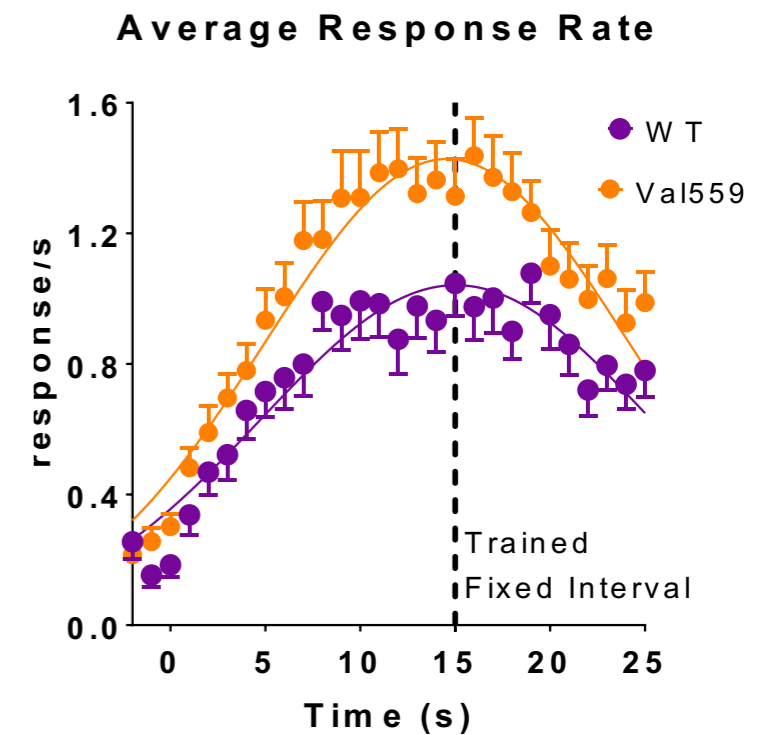
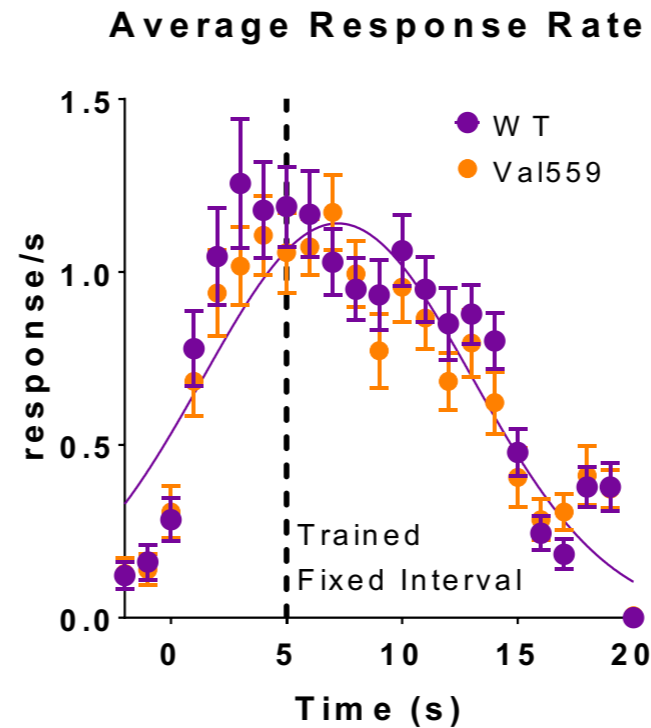
**DAVIS ET AL 2017**

**A TASK TO EVALUATE THE LEARNING CAPACITY  
AND IMPULSIVITY OF DAT VAL559**

START SIGNAL  
CHANGE FROM 5 SEC  
TO 15 SEC DELAY



## PEAK INTERVAL TESTING



DAVIS ET AL 2018

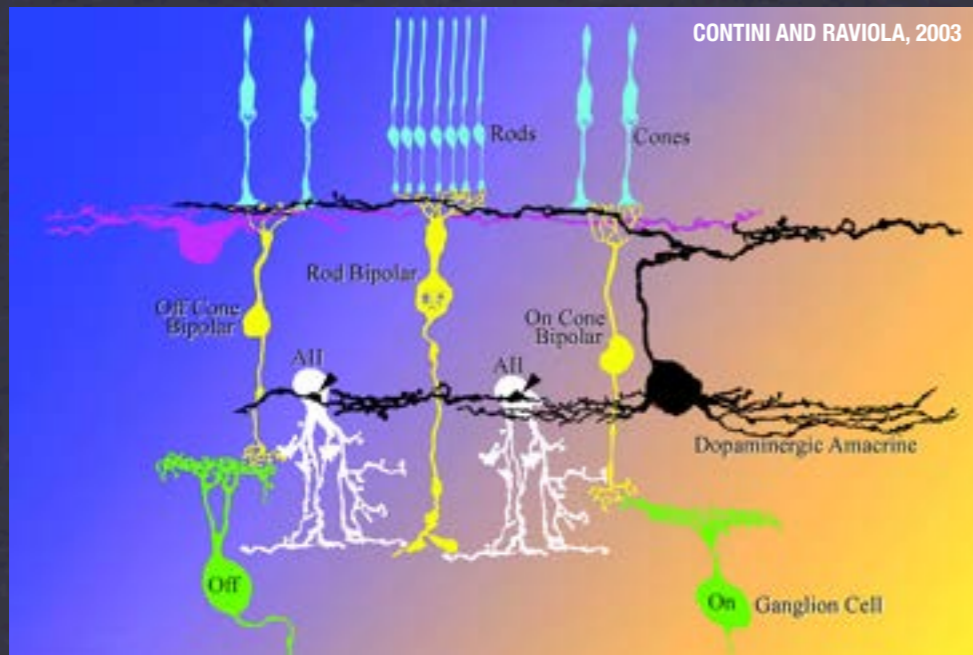
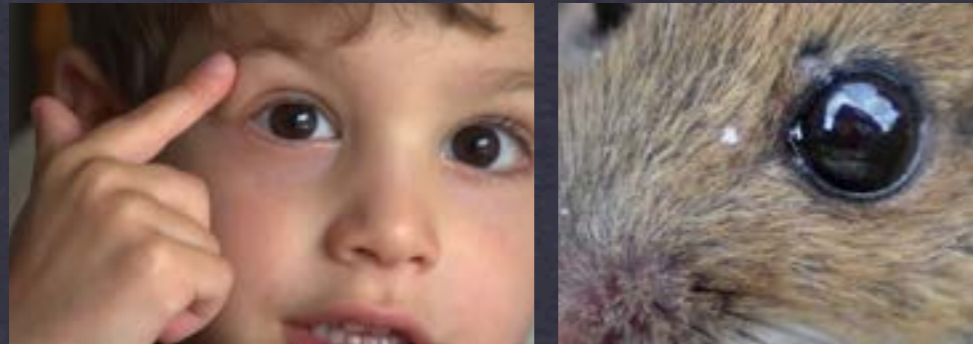
**DAT VAL559 MICE CAN ACCURATELY CALCULATE ELAPSED TIME BUT EXHIBIT ELEVATED RESPONSE RATES AS DELAYS INCREASE**

# DAT VAL559 MOUSE: BIOMARKERS

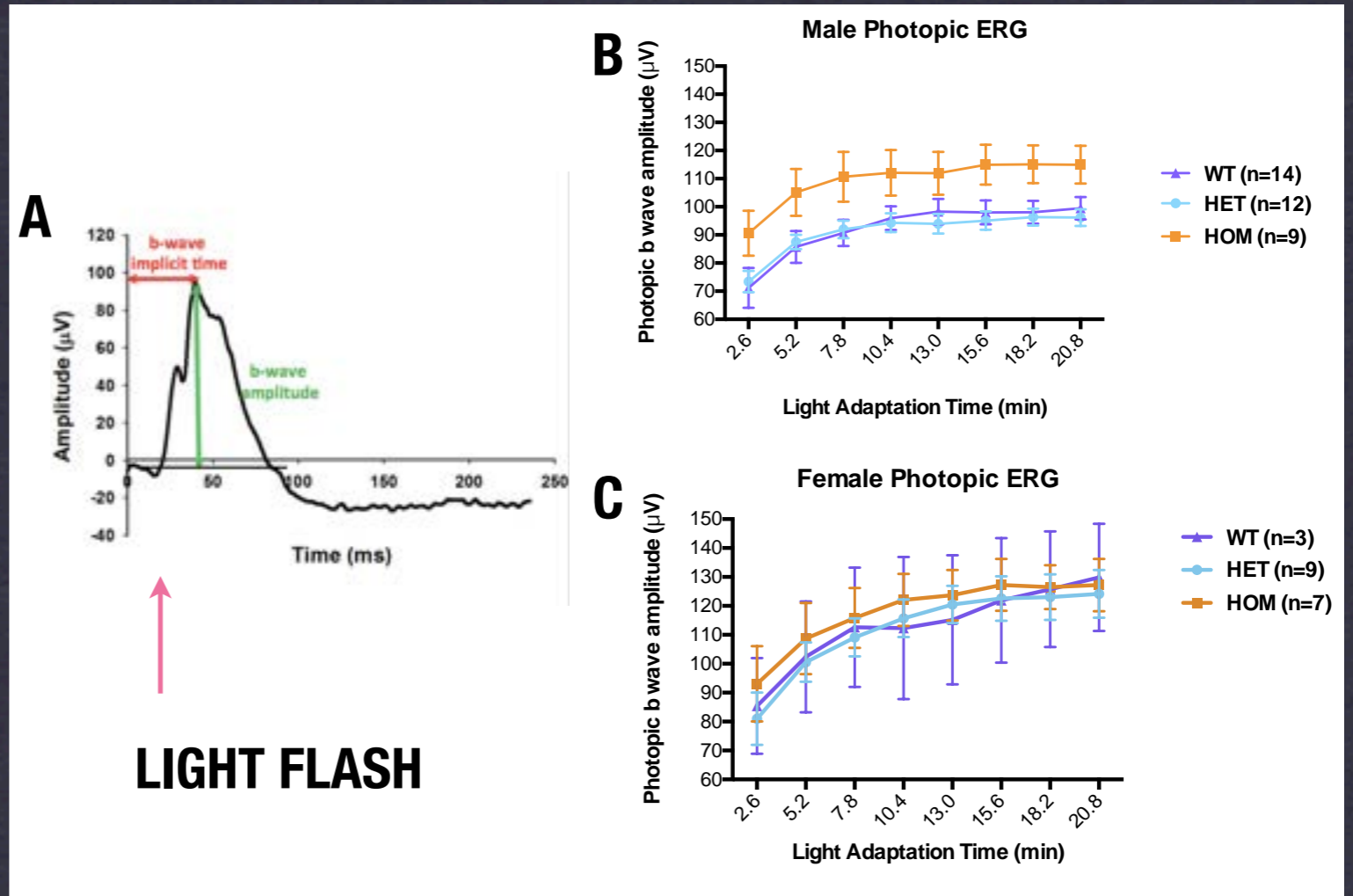


**The Eyes Have It: Retinal  
Changes in  
DAT and Dopamine**

## RETINAL AMACRINE CELLS MAKE AND RELEASE DOPAMINE



## DAT VAL559 MICE SHOW ALTERATIONS IN LIGHT-EVOKED ELECTRICAL RESPONSES



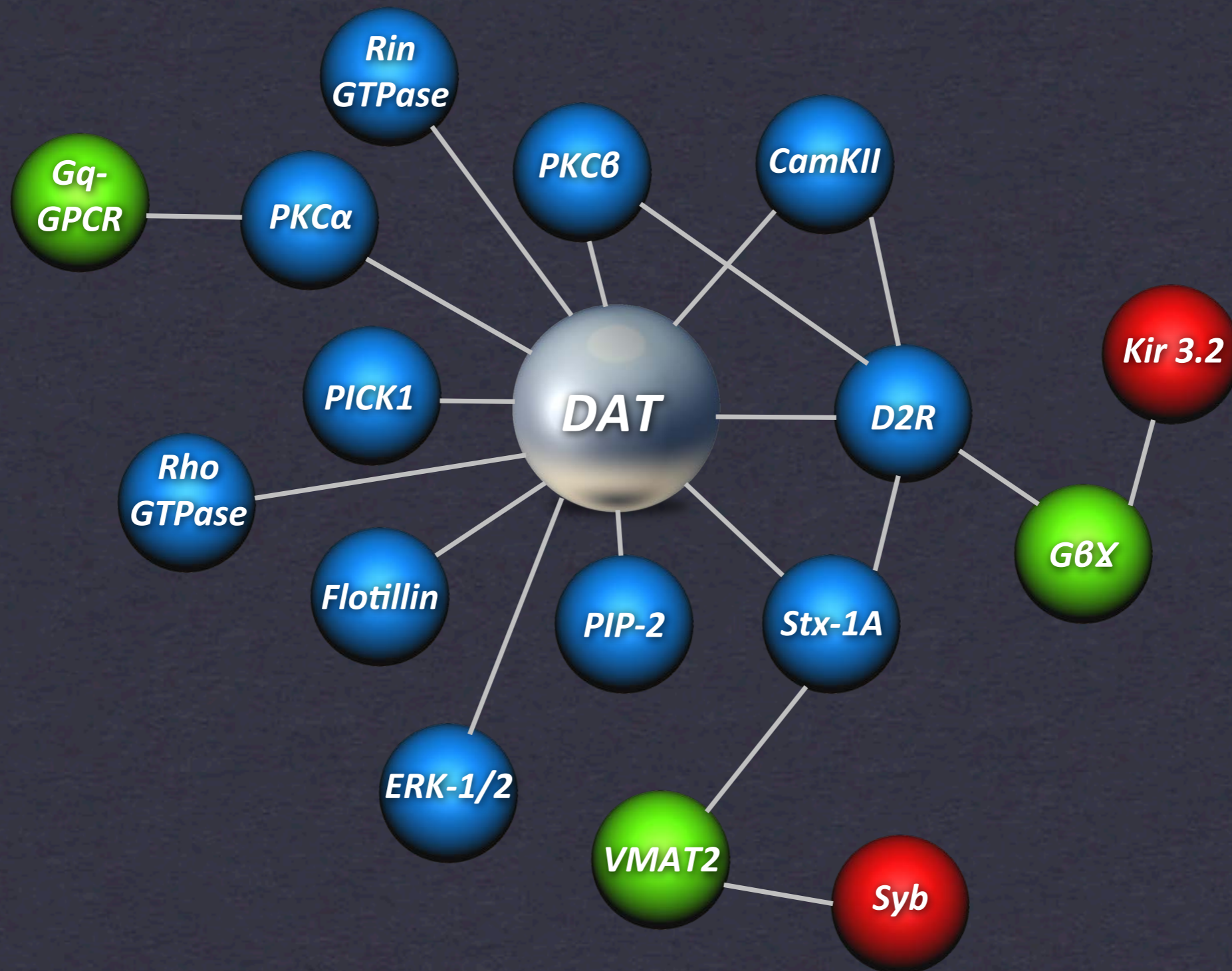
DAI ET AL IN 2017

# MONITORING DOPAMINE IN THE RETINA: BIOMARKER FOR ADHD?

# DAT VAL559 MOUSE: THE FUTURE



**Is DAT All There Is?**



**NO DAT IS AN ISLAND - AN ADHD GENE NETWORK?**

- **Rare variation in the human dopamine transporter (DAT) gene has been identified in individuals with ADHD and ADHD comorbid disorders (BPD, ASD).**
- **The DAT Val559 mutation exhibits an abnormal outward leak of dopamine that can be suppressed by the two most commonly used ADHD medications.**
- **Adolescent male DAT Val559 mice are not spontaneously hyperactive, but display stress-induced darting behavior and increased struggling when handled, suggesting deficits in aversive learning or impulse control**
- **DAT Val559 mice display increased motivation for reward, elevated reward-based learning, and waiting impulsivity when trained on predictable outcomes**
- **Although the DAT Val559 mutation is expressed throughout the brain, dopamine handling by DAT in the dorsal striatum, a region involved in reward learning, habit formation and goal directed behavior, is particularly impacted**
- **DAT Val559 mice may be useful in identifying biomarkers that could provide for improved diagnosis as well as treatments tailored to those with dopamine disturbances**

## **DAT VAL559: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**



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BRAIN INSTITUTE  
Florida Atlantic University

*WHERE DISCOVERY COMES TO MIND*