

Updates in Bipolar Disorder: Pathophysiology & Treatment Considerations

This program is paid for by
Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development &
Commercialization, Inc. and Lundbeck, LLC.

Speakers are paid consultants for Otsuka
Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc.

Table of Contents

Part I. Theories of Pathophysiology

- Molecular
- Cellular
- Systems
- Behavioral
- Proposed course of bipolar/mood disorders

Part II. Potential Role of Neurotransmitters & Treatment Considerations

- Symptoms & proposed anatomical localizations
- GABA, glutamate, serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine
- Neurotransmitter interactions
- Pharmacologic treatment

Summary

Part I.

Theories of Bipolar Disorder Pathophysiology



The Pathophysiology of Bipolar Disorder: Levels of Analysis¹

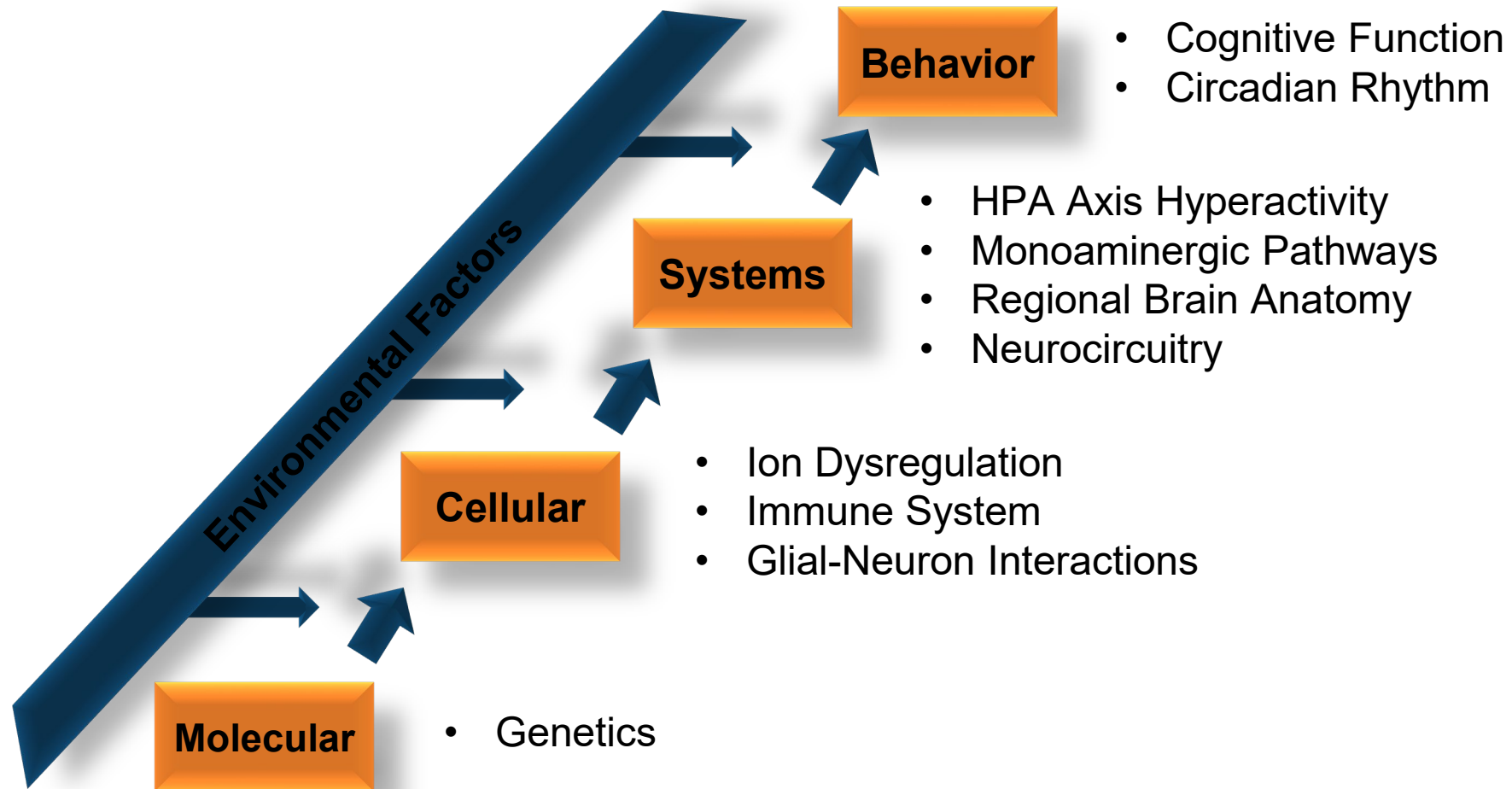


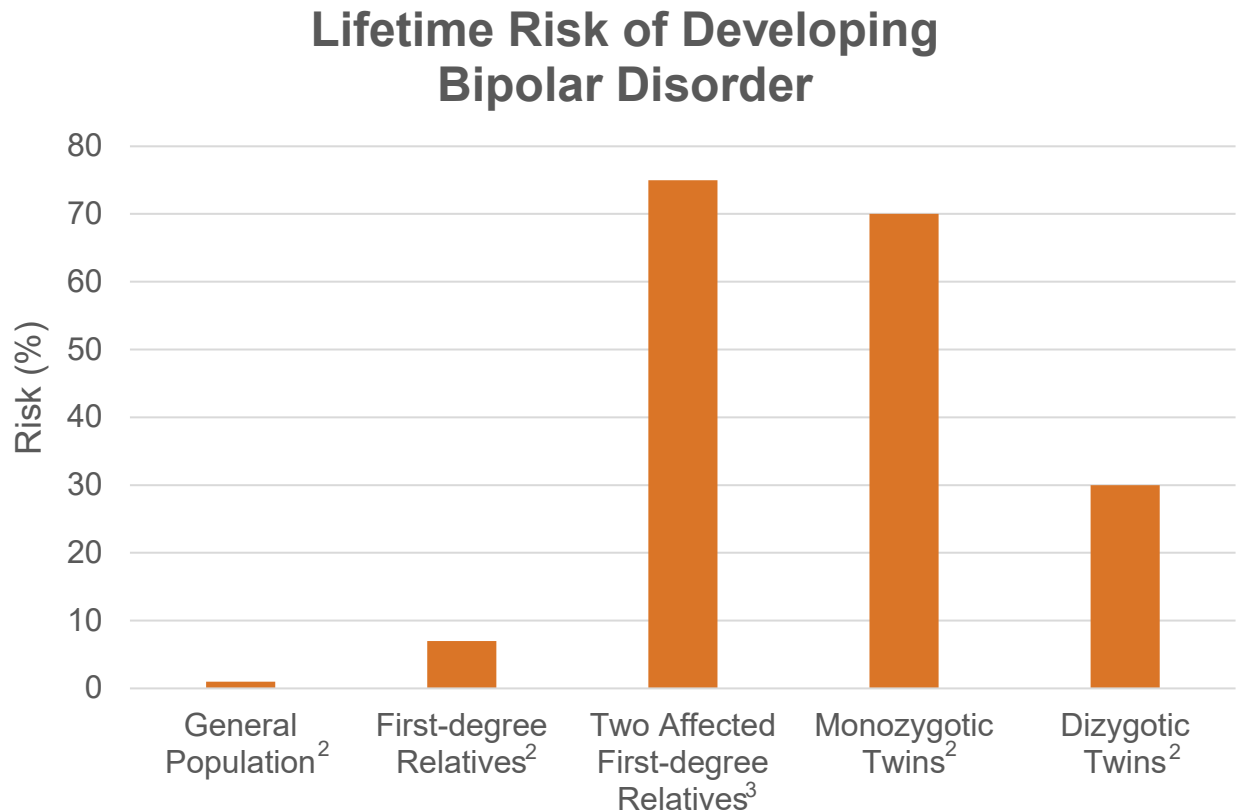
Image adapted from: Manji HK. 2000¹

HPA, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal.

1. Manji HK, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2000;48(6):518-30.

Lifetime Risk of Developing Bipolar Disorder

- Familial and identical twin studies have revealed a strong genetic basis for bipolar disorder (BD)¹



1. Maletic V, Raison C. *Front Psychiatry*. 2014;5:98.
2. Kelsoe JR. *J Affective Disord*. 2003;73:183-197.
3. Bechdolf A, et al. *J Affect Disord*. 2010;127(1-3):316-20.

Genetics

- Identical-twin concordance rates for BD generally range from 40% to 70%, with the estimated heritability reaching as high as 90% in recent reports¹
- Key genes
 - Genetic variations in COMT (enzyme involved in dopamine degradation) are strongly linked to BD²
 - Calcium channel signaling gene (*CACNA1C*) implicated across multiple psychiatric disorders¹
 - Genetic implications for glutamate and GABA receptor subtypes and metabolic enzymes³

COMT, catechol-O-methyltransferase; GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid.

1. Maletic V, Raison C. *Front Psychiatry*. 2014;5:98.
2. Andreazza AC, et al. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2014;17(7):1039-52.
3. Cherlyn SY, et al. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev*. 2010;34(6):958-77.

The Pathophysiology of Bipolar Disorder: Levels of Analysis¹

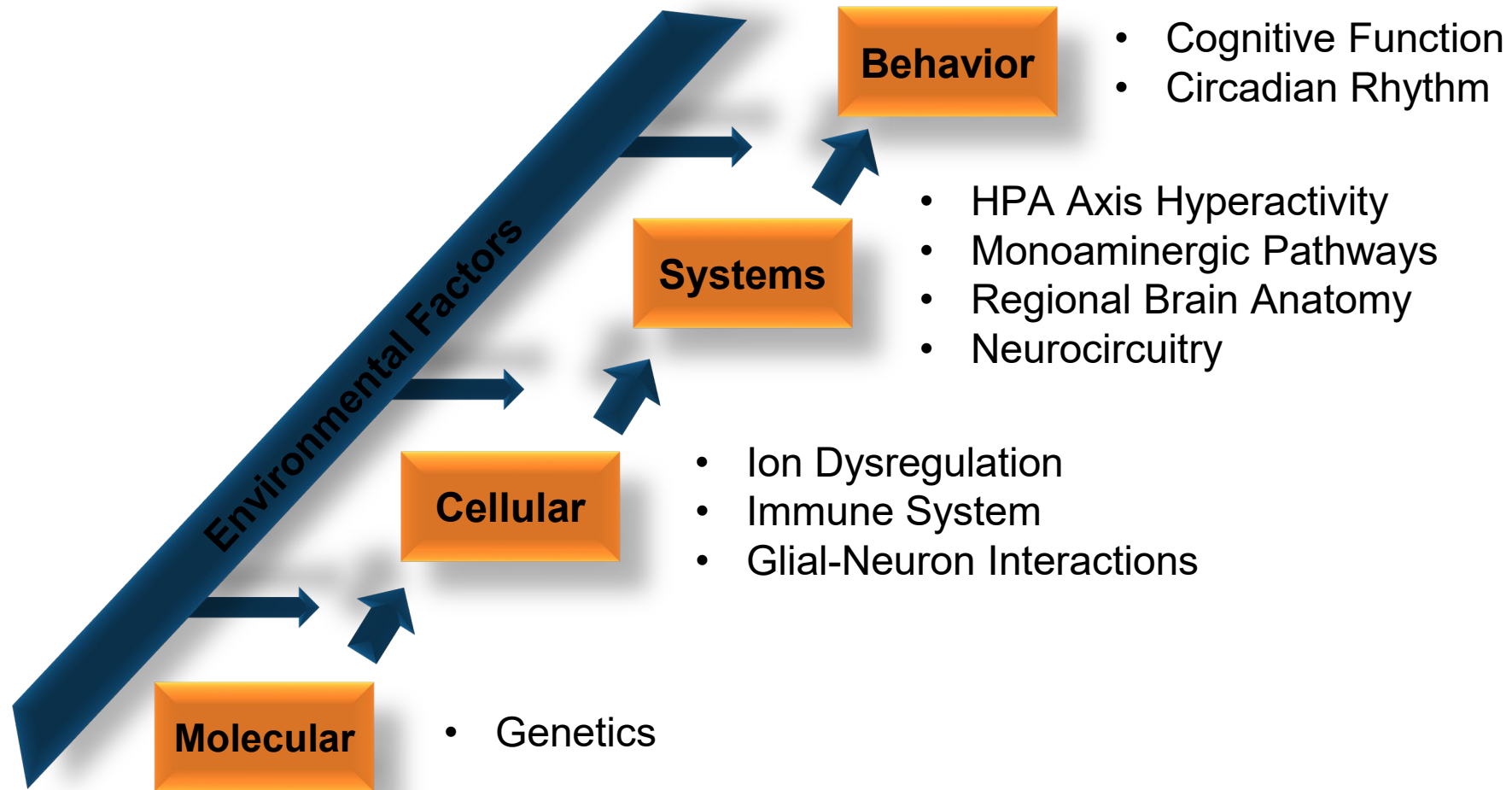


Image adapted from: Manji HK. 2000¹

HPA, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal.

1. Manji HK, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2000;48(6):518-30.

Ion Dysregulation

- Calcium ion
 - High intracellular calcium concentrations have been observed in BD (in both basal and receptor-regulated calcium conditions)¹
 - Mood stabilizers are thought to attenuate and/or modulate calcium levels via multiple cellular signal transduction pathways^{2,3}
- Sodium / potassium ions
 - Increased intracellular sodium concentrations have been observed in bipolar mania (partially attributed by altered sodium–potassium pump activity)⁴
 - Mood stabilizers via sodium-potassium pump interaction decreases intracellular sodium concentration^{4,5}
 - Antipsychotics are thought to reduce / normalize sodium concentrations via D₂ receptor blockade⁶

D₂, dopamine 2 receptor.

1. Malhi GS, et al. *Can J Psychiatry*. 2004;49(12):813-9.
2. Sourial-Bassillious N, et al. *Neuroscience*. 2009;161(4):1126-34.
3. Wasserman MJ, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2004;29(4):759-690.
4. Herman L, et al. *Neurosci Biobehav Rev*. 2007;31(6):874-81.
5. Marmol F, et al. *Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry*. 2008;32(8):1761-71.
6. Roberts RJ, et al. *World J Biol Psychiatry*. 2010;11(2 Pt 2):181-7.

Immune System Hypothesis¹

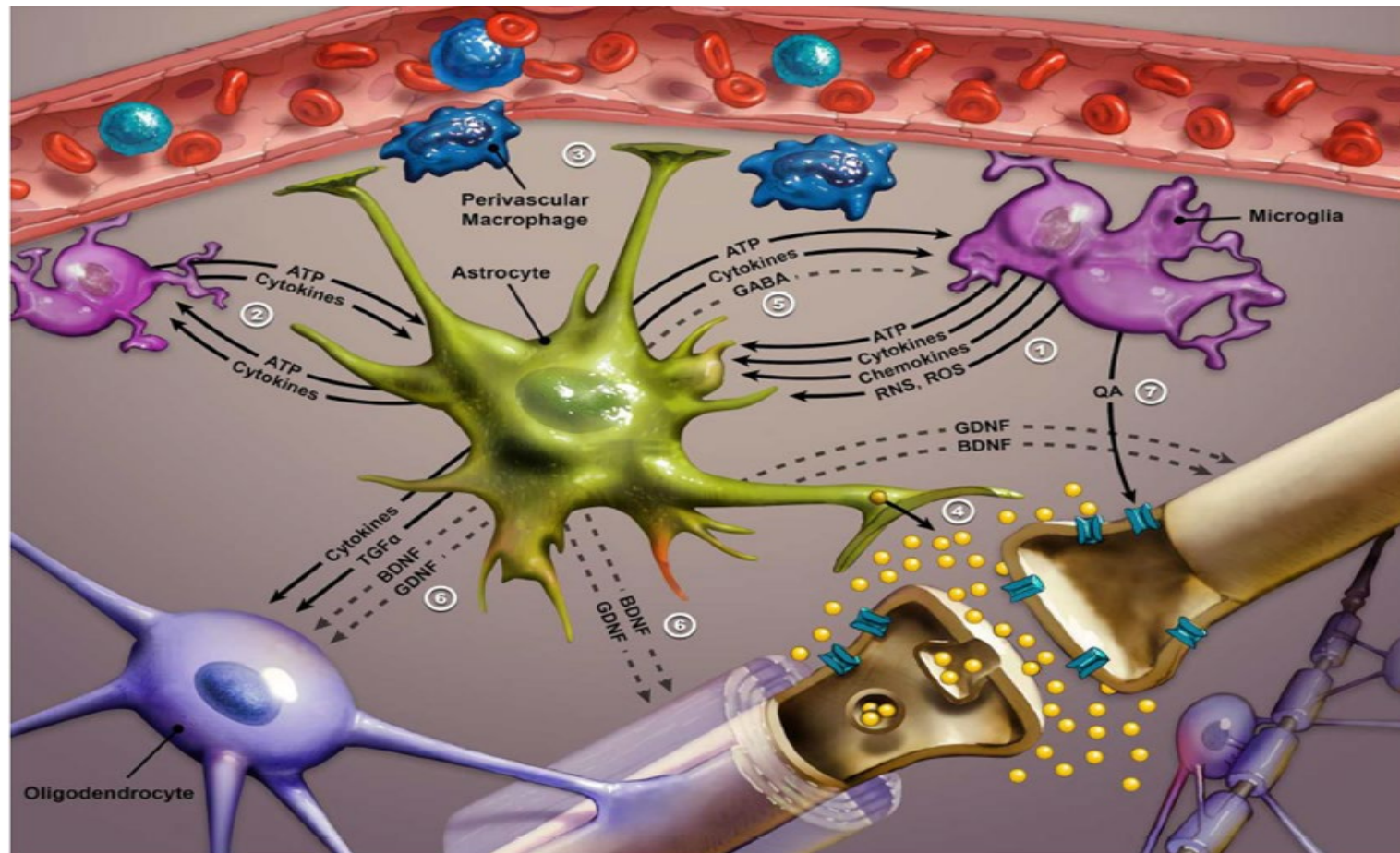


Image from: Maletic V, Raison C. 2014¹

ATP, adenosine triphosphate; BDNF, brain-derived neurotrophic factor; GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid; GDNF, glial cell-derived neurotrophic factor; QA, quinolinic acid; RNS, reactive nitrogen species; ROS, reactive oxygen species; TGfα, transforming growth factor alpha.

1. Maletic V, Raison C. *Front Psychiatry*. 2014;5:98.

Glial-Neuron Interactions¹

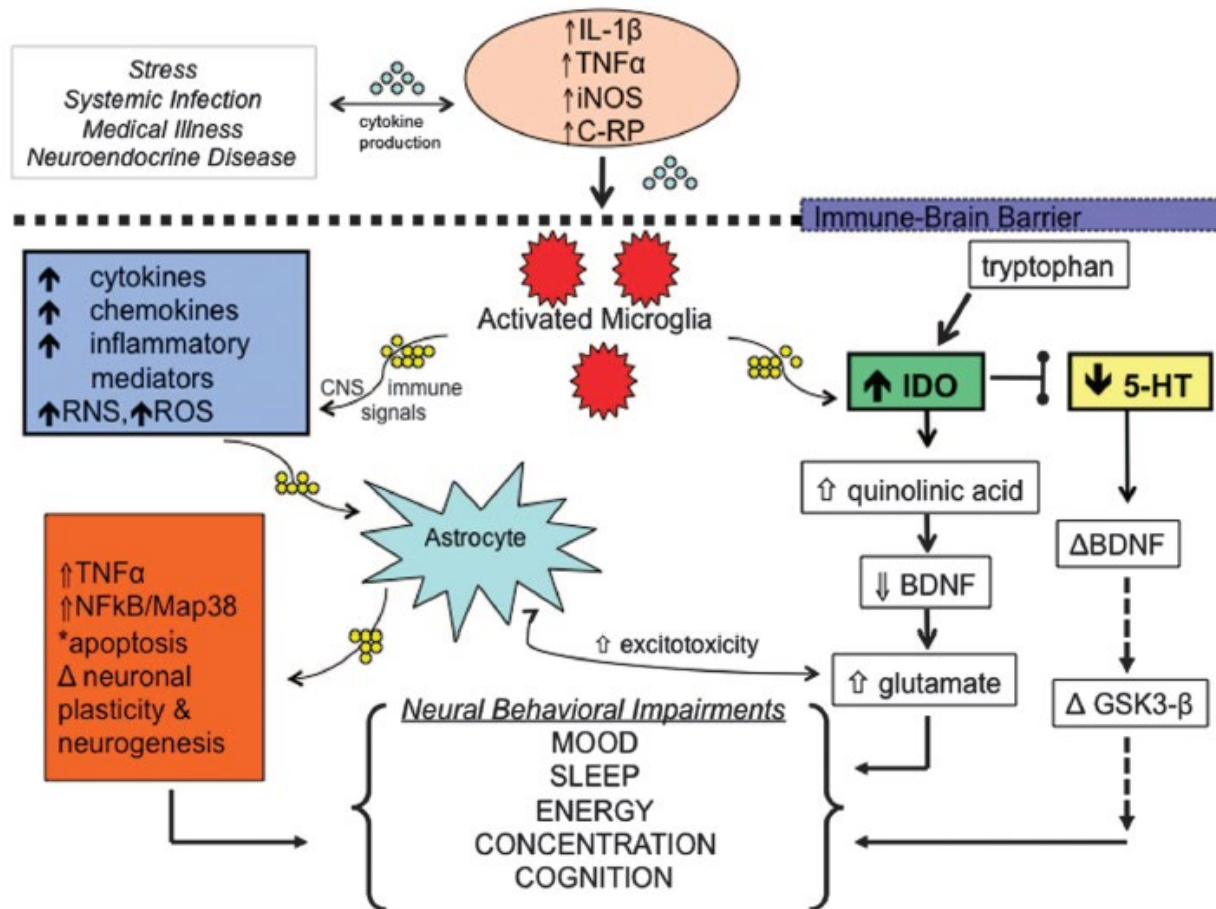


Image from: Watkins CC. 2014¹

5-HT, serotonin; BDNF, brain-derived neurotrophic factor; CNS, central nervous system; C-RP, C-reactive protein; GSK3-β, glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta; IDO, indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase; IL-1β, interleukin-1 beta; iNOS, inducible nitric oxide synthase; Map38, p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase; NFκB, nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells; RNS, reactive nitrogen species; ROS, reactive oxygen species; TNFα, tumor necrosis factor alpha.

1. Watkins CC, et al. *Transl Psychiatry*. 2014;4:e350.

The Pathophysiology of Bipolar Disorder: Levels of Analysis¹

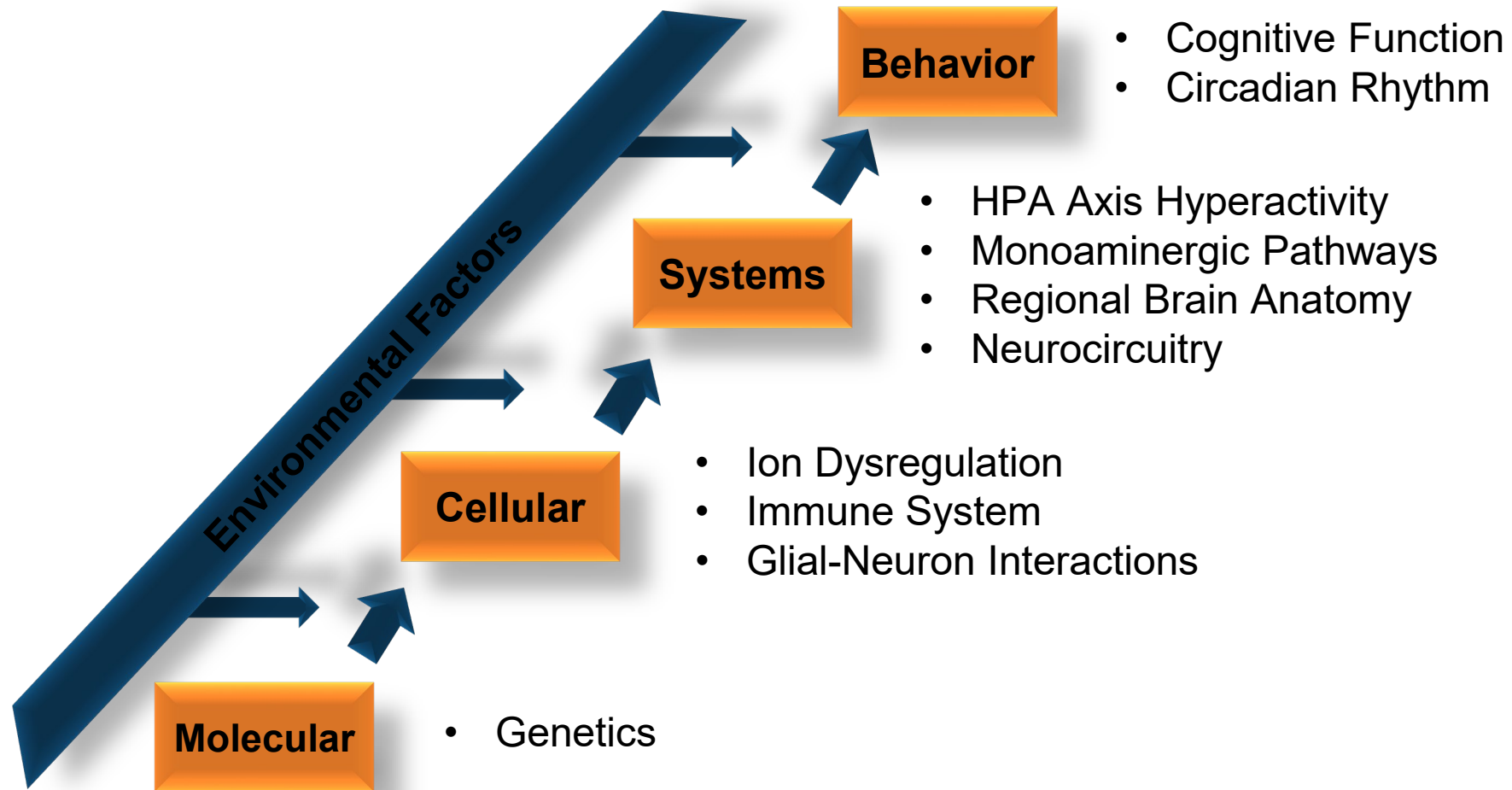


Image adapted from: Manji HK. 2000¹

HPA, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal.

1. Manji HK, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2000;48(6):518-30.

HPA Axis Hyperactivity Hypothesis

Cortisol / neuroendocrine dysfunction

- Early life adversity, leading to HPA axis activation, has been implicated in later mood disorders^{1,2}
- Evidence for HPA axis dysregulation in BD²
- Modifying the HPA axis with stress reduction improves depressive symptoms^{3,4}

ACTH, adrenocorticotrophic hormone; CRH, corticotropin-releasing hormone; CSF, cerebrospinal fluid; HPA, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal.

1. Hasler G. *World Psychiatry*. 2010;9(3):155-61
2. Watson S, et al. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2004;184:496-502.
3. Naveen GH, et al. *Indian J Psychiatry*. 2013;55(Suppl 3):S400-4.
4. Kasala ER, et al. *Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice*. 2013;30:1e7.
5. Belmaker RH. *CNS Spectr*. 2008;13(8):682-7.

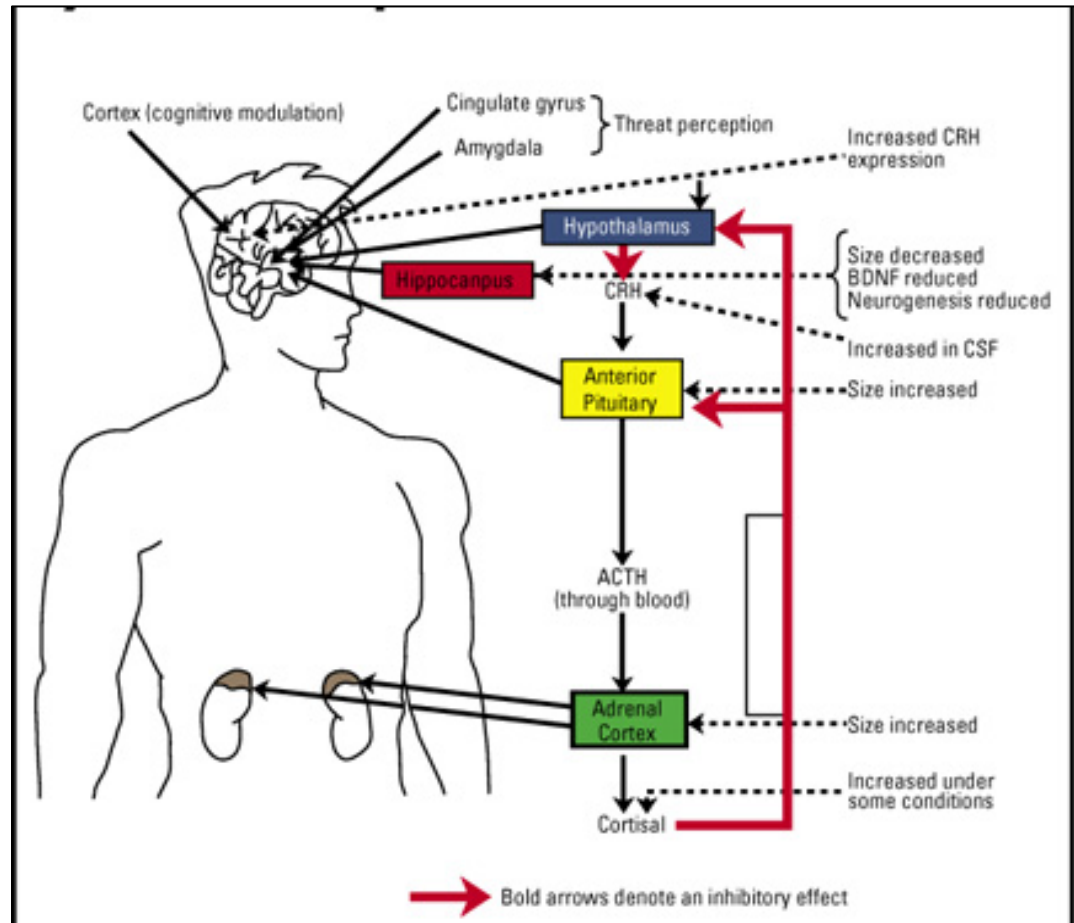
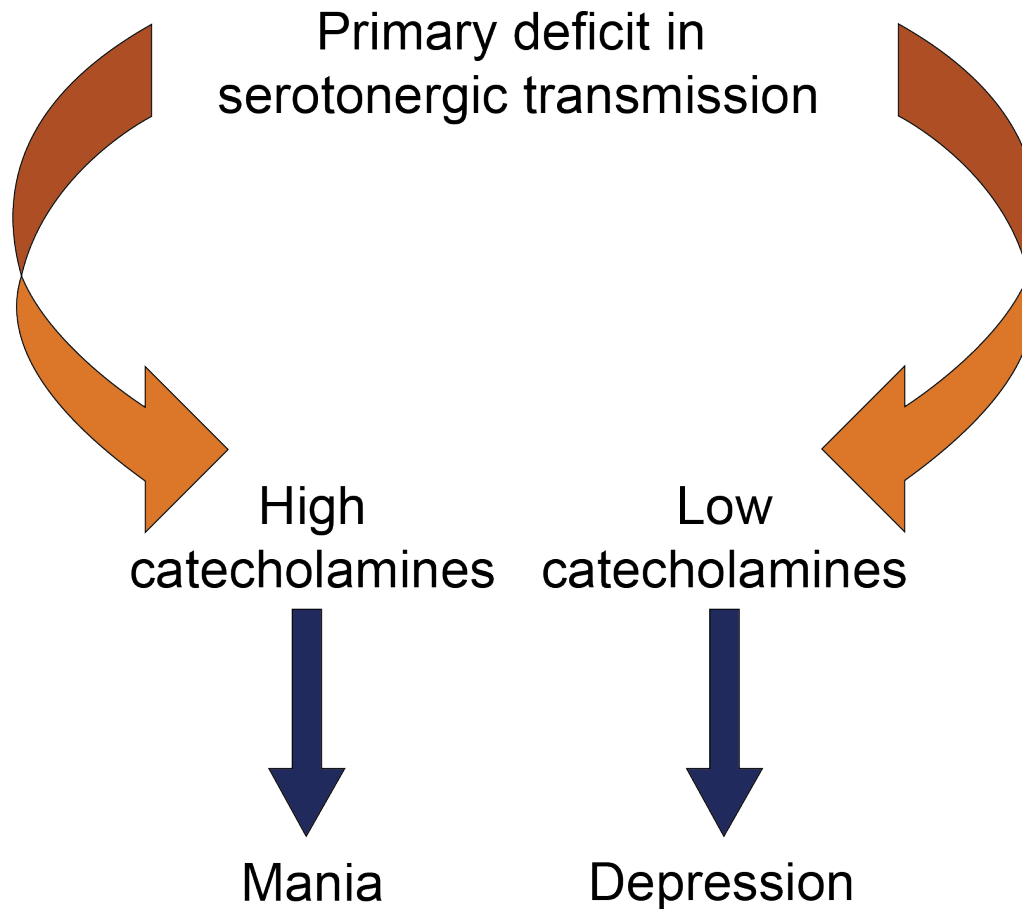


Image from: Belmaker RH. 2008⁵

Proposed Monoamine Dysregulation¹



1. Prange, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1974;30:56-62.

Image adapted from: Prange AJ. 1974¹

Brain Regions Implicated in Bipolar Disorder¹

Neuroimaging studies have revealed compromised cognitive control and increased emotional reactivity in euthymic patients with BD

Areas in Red = Regions involved in emotion regulation show increased responsiveness

Areas in Blue = Regions involved in cognitive control show reduced responsiveness

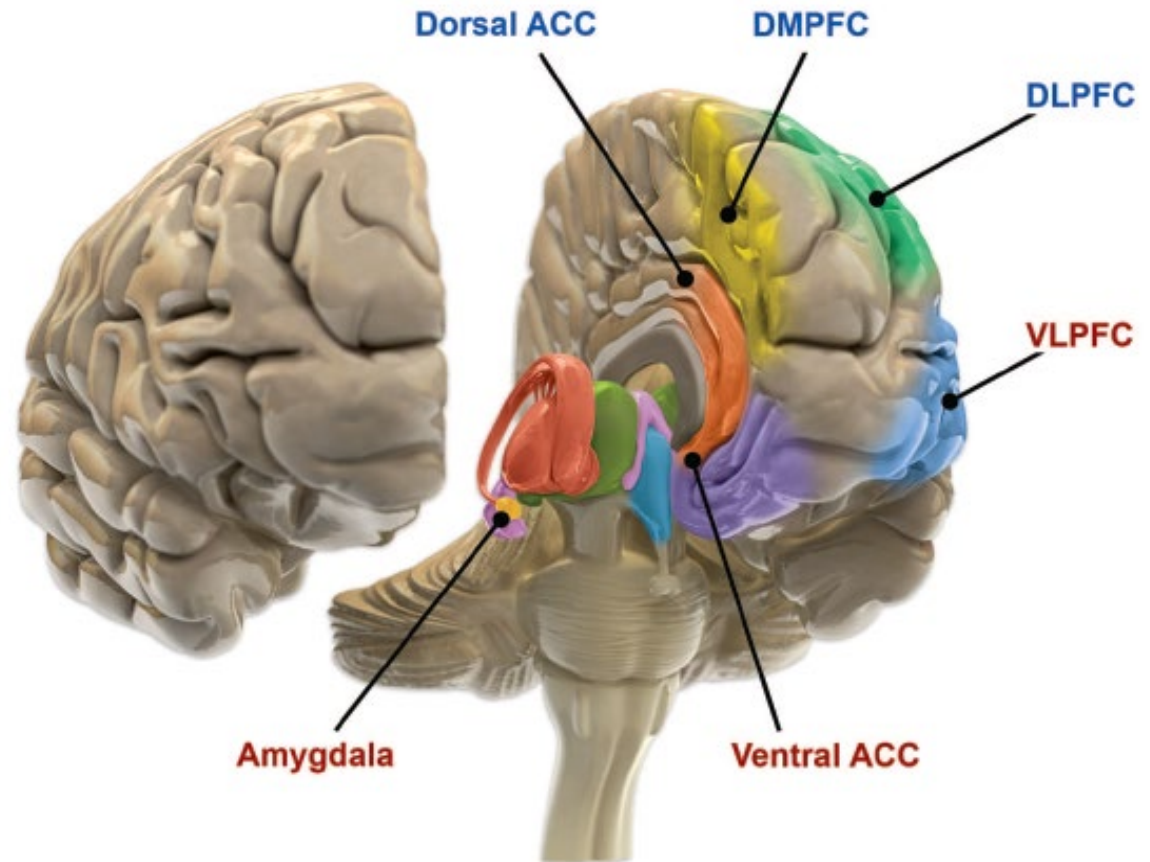


Image from: Maletic V, Raison C. 2014¹

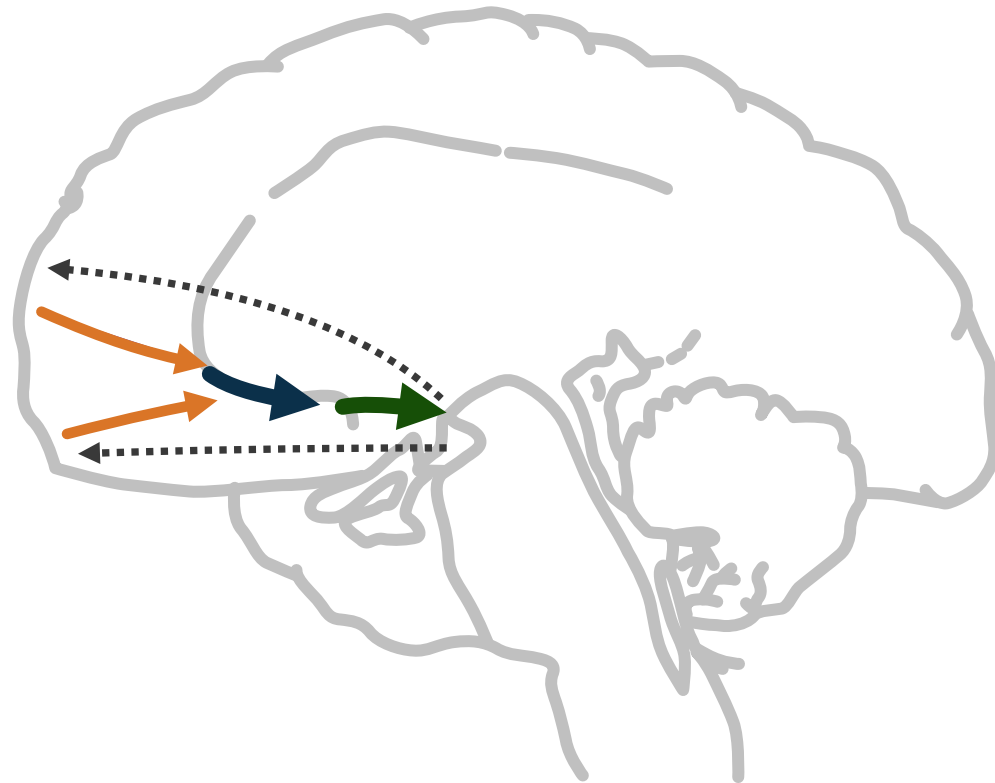
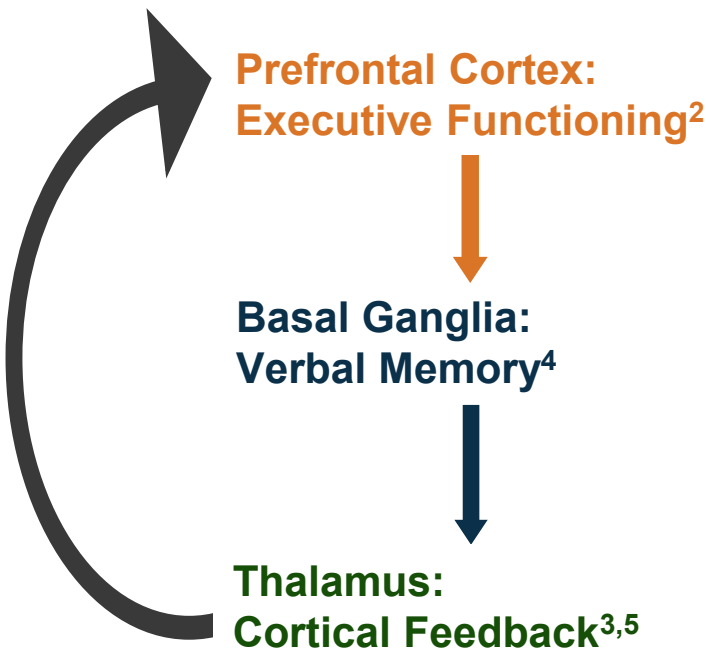
1. Maletic V, Raison C. *Front Psychiatry*. 2014;5:98.

DLPFC: Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex
VLPFC: Ventrolateral prefrontal cortex

DMPFC: Dorsomedial prefrontal cortex
ACC: Anterior cingulate cortex

Proposed Altered Circuitry: Prefrontal-Striatal-Thalamic Circuits

- Modulate executive functioning, attention, and verbal memory^{1,2}
- Modulate emotion and social behavior³
- Compromised in BD^{3,4}



1. Osuji IJ, et al. *Psychiatr Clin North Am.* 2005;28(2):427-41.
2. Malhi Gs, et al. *Can J Psych.* 2004;49(12):813-819.
3. Strakowski SM, et al. *Molecular Psychiatry.* 2005;10:105-116.
4. Bearden, et al. *Bipolar Disord.* 2001;3:106-150.
5. Strakowski SM, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology.* 2004;29(9):1734-40.
6. Stahl SM. *Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications.* 4th Edition. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press; 2013.

Image adapted from: Stahl S. 2013⁶

The Pathophysiology of Bipolar Disorder: Levels of Analysis¹

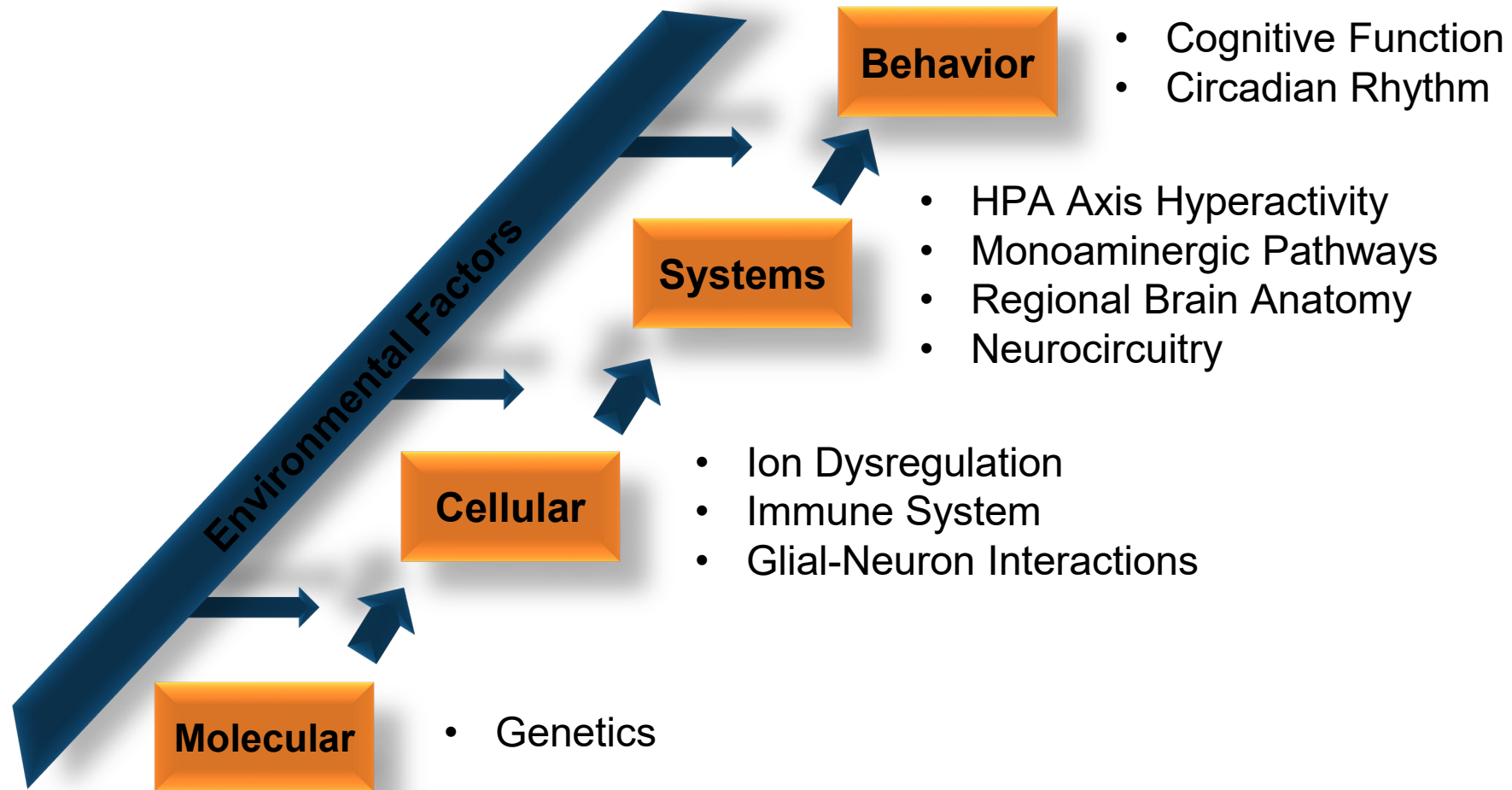


Image adapted from: Manji. 2000¹

HPA, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal.

1. Manji HK, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2000;48(6):518-30.

Cognitive Function

- Cognitive deficits include impairments in attention; working, episodic, and verbal memory; and processing speed and executive functioning^{1,2}
 - Prevalence rates of ~30% to 57% for cognitive impairment have been documented in recent meta-analyses^{2,3}
- Cognitive function in patients with BD is negatively correlated to¹:
 - Number of episodes suffered
 - Number of hospitalizations
 - Duration of illness
- Manic episodes are more strongly linked to deficits in delayed verbal memory and some measures of executive function versus depressed episodes; there is considerable overlap between BD-I and BD-II^{1,2}
- Research suggests an increased incidence of dementia with every affective episode leading to psychiatric hospitalization⁴

1. Robinson LJ, et al. *Bipolar Disord.* 2006;8(2):103-16.

2. Cullen B, et al. *J Affective Disorders.* 2016; 205:165–181.

3. Szmulewicz AG, et al. *Archives of Clinical Psychiatry (São Paulo).* 2015;42(5):139-46.

4. Kessing LV, et al. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry.* 2004;75(12):1662-6.

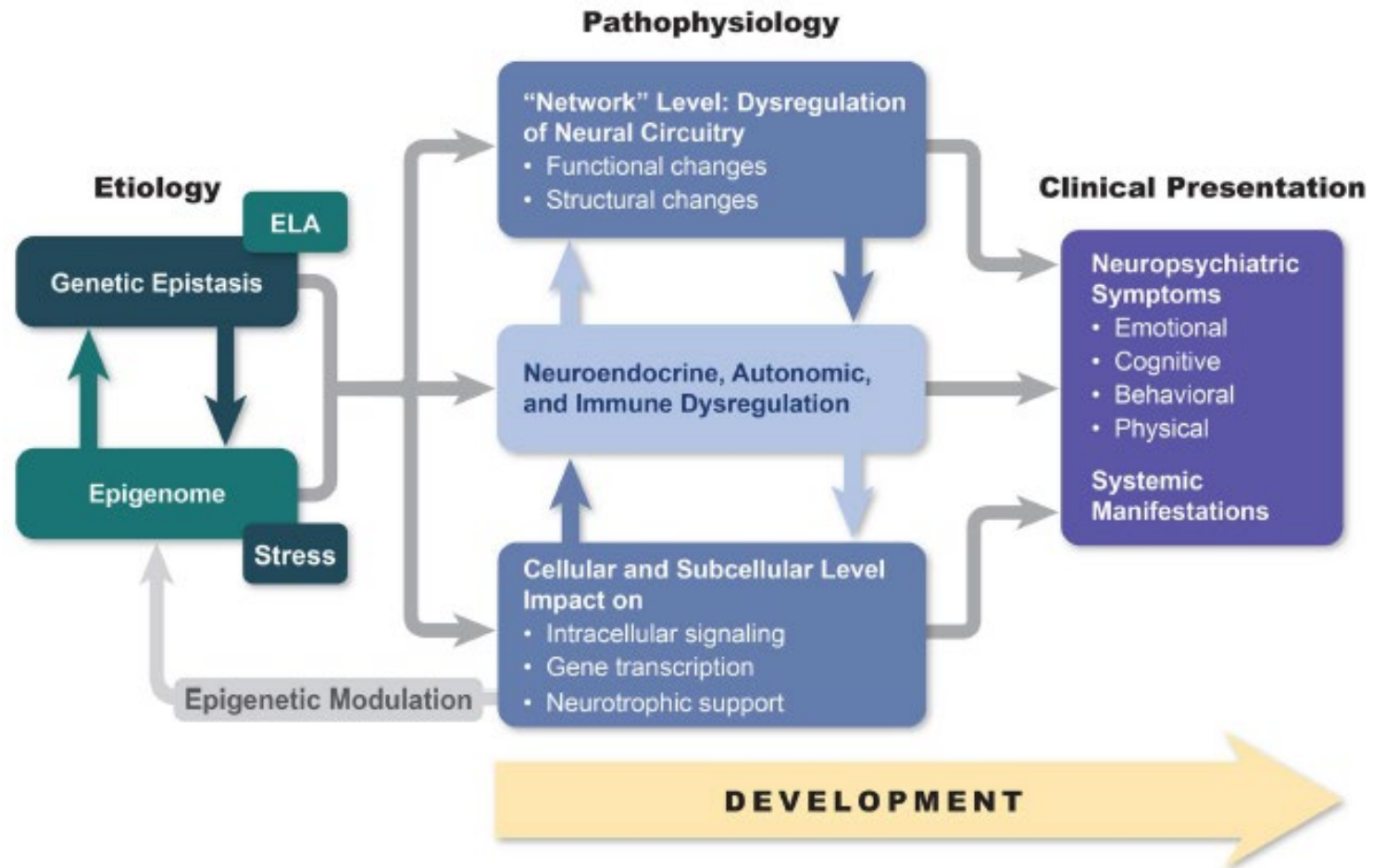
Sleep and Circadian Rhythms in Bipolar Disorder

- Sleep disturbances occur in individuals with bipolar disorders across lifespan and episode, even during periods of euthymia^{1,2}
- During a manic episode there is a reduced need for sleep in 69–99% of patients and longer sleep onset latency²
- Total sleep time and sleep variability was associated with symptom severity and functioning in STEP-BD³
- Polymorphisms in circadian genes have been associated with symptoms of BD in preclinical and human studies⁴
- Circadian rhythm sleep-wake disorder is significantly associated with younger onset of BD and a family history of suicide⁵

STEP-BD, Systematic Treatment Enhancement Program for Bipolar Disorder.

1. Sylvia LG, et al. *J Psychopharmacol*. 2012;26(8):1108-12.
2. Harvey AG, et al. *Clin Psychol (New York)*. 2009;16(2):256-277.
3. Gruber J, et al. *J Affect Disord*. 2011;134(1-3):416-20.
4. Murray G, et al. *Bipolar Disord*. 2010;12(5):459-72.
5. Takaesu Y, et al. *PLoS One*. 2016;11(7):e0159578.

Proposed Course of Bipolar / Mood Disorders¹



1. Maletic V, Raison C. *Front Psychiatry*. 2014;5:98.

Image from: Maletic V, Raison C. 2014¹



Part II.

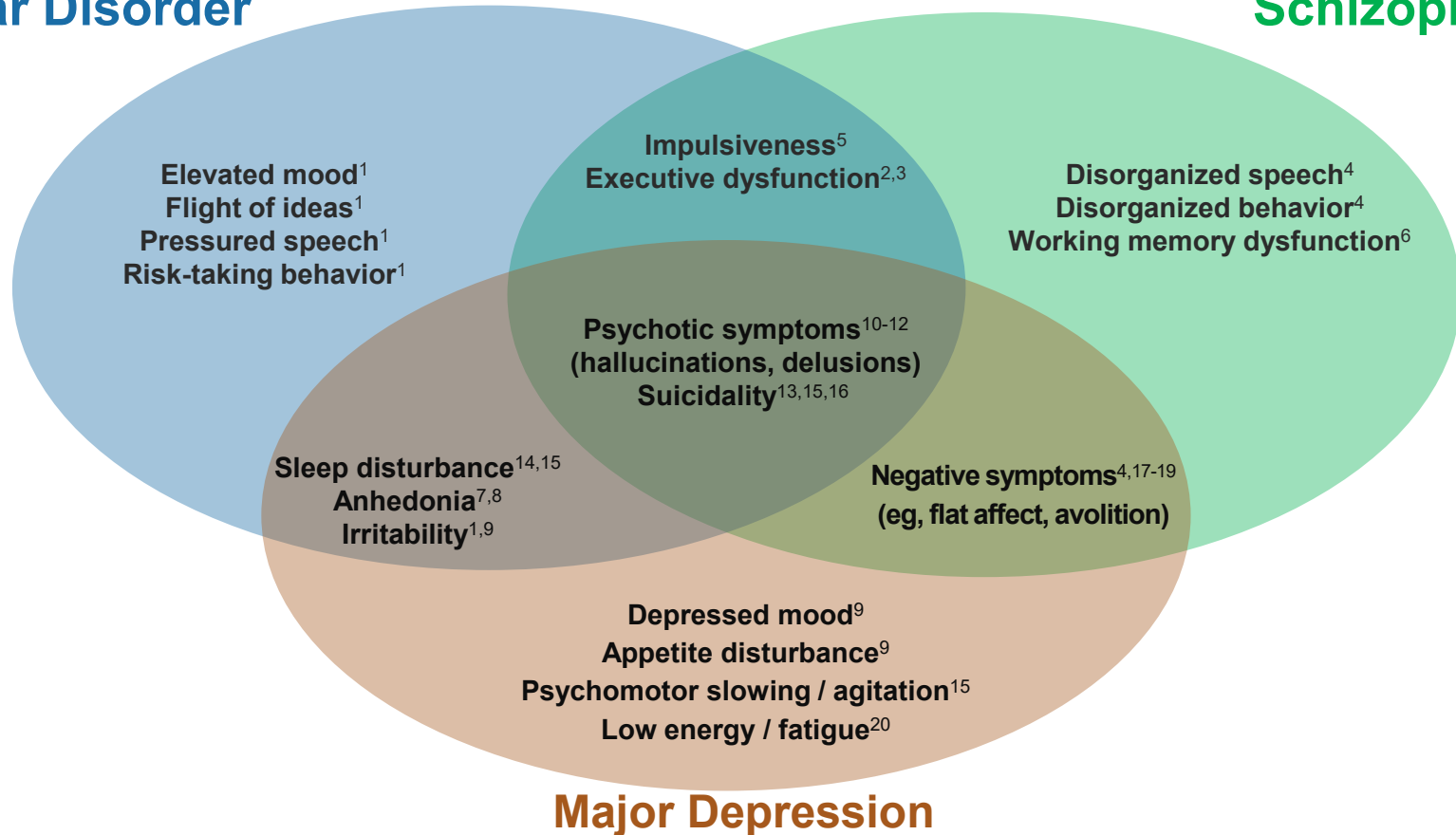
Potential Role of Neurotransmitters and Treatment Considerations in Bipolar Disorder



Clinical Overlap = Overlap of Symptoms

Bipolar Disorder

Schizophrenia



Major Depression

- Judd LL, et al. 2012.
- Barbosa IG, et al. 2012.
- Brown AS, et al. 2009.
- Kerns JG. 2006.
- Reddy LF, et al. 2014.

- 6. Forbes NF, et al. 2009.
- 7. Pizzagalli DA, et al. 2008.
- 8. Berlim MT, et al. 2004.
- 9. Farabaugh AH, et al. 2004.

- 11. ISC, et al. 2009.
- 12. Santosh SV et al. 2014.
- 13. MacKinnon DF, et al. 2005.
- 14. Harvey AG, et al. 2009.

- 16. Hor K, et al. 2010.
- 17. Foussias G, et al. 2010.
- 18. Pizzagalli DA, et al. 2002.
- 19. Bracht T, et al. 2012.

Proposed Anatomical Localization of Manic Symptoms

Label	Region	Manic Symptom
1	Prefrontal Cortex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racing thoughts • Grandiosity • Distractibility • Talkative / pressured speech • Mood • Risks
2	Basal Forebrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased sleep / arousal
3	Nucleus Accumbens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racing thoughts • Goal directed • Grandiosity
4	Striatum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor/agitation
5	Amygdala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mood
6	Hypothalamus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased sleep / arousal

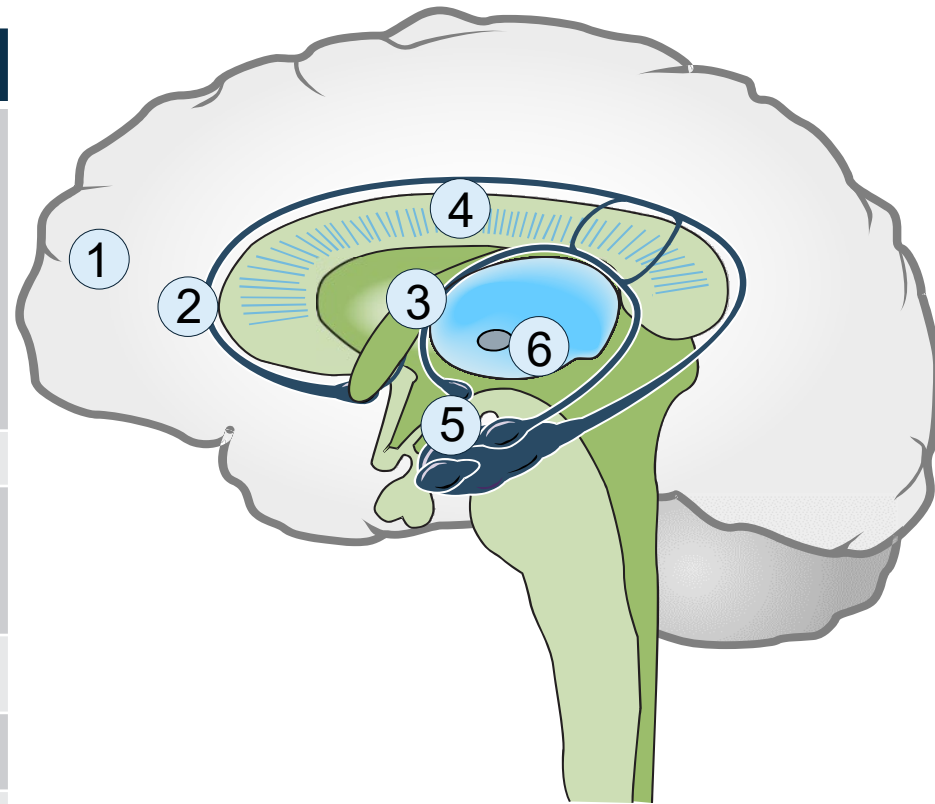


Figure adapted from Stahl SM. 2013

Stahl SM. *Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications*. 4th edition. Cambridge University Press; 2013.

Proposed Anatomical Localization of Depressive Symptoms

Label	Region	Depressive Symptom
1	Prefrontal Cortex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentration • Interest/pleasure • Psychomotor • Fatigue (mental) • Guilt • Suicidality • Worthlessness • Mood
2	Nucleus Accumbens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasure • Interests • Fatigue/energy
3	Striatum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychomotor • Fatigue (physical)
4	Amygdala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guilt • Suicidality • Worthlessness • Mood
5	Hypothalamus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep • Appetite
6	Cerebellum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychomotor
7	Spinal cord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatigue (physical)

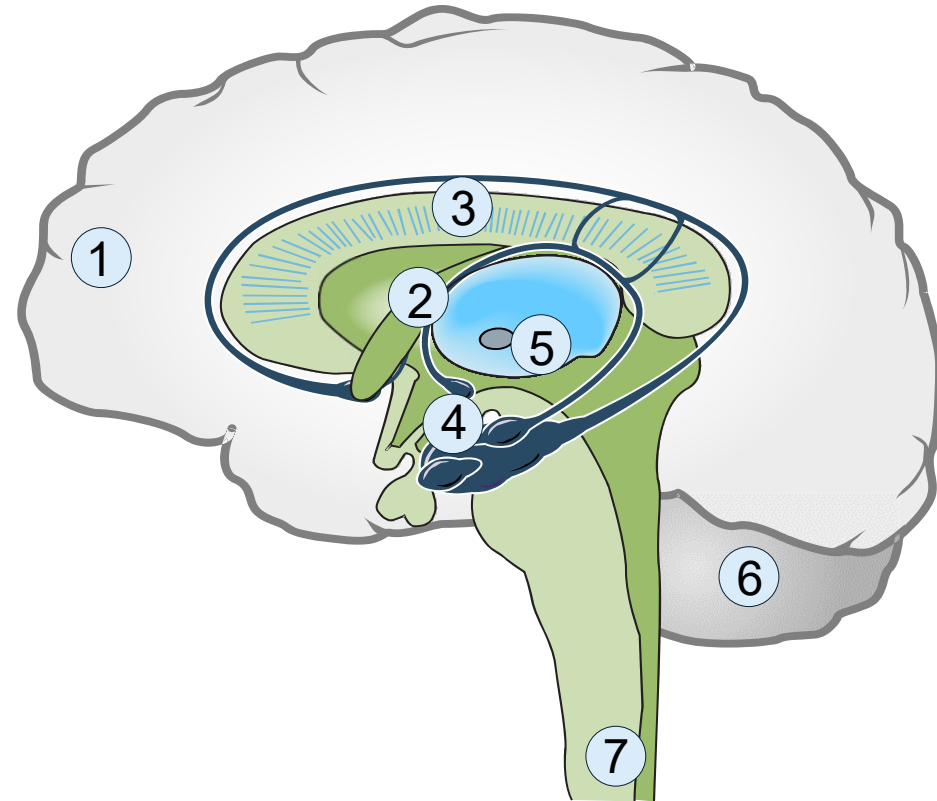


Figure adapted from Stahl SM. 2013

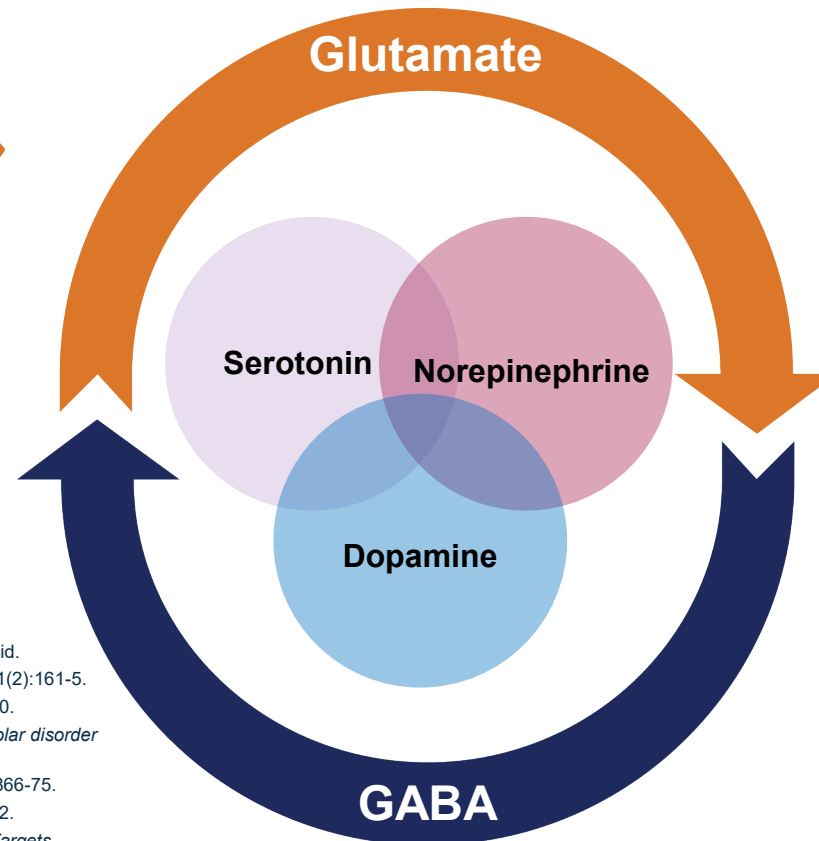
Stahl SM. *Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications*. 4th edition. Cambridge University Press; 2013.

GABA and Glutamate

- The major inhibitory and excitatory neurotransmitters¹

Glutamate

- Major excitatory neurotransmitter in the CNS²
- Regulates synaptogenesis and neurogenesis²
- Synaptic plasticity³



GABA

- Major inhibitory neurotransmitter in the CNS⁴
- Target of anti-anxiety drugs⁴
- Involved in sleep-wake cycle^{5,6}

CNS, central nervous system; GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid.

- Rainesalo S, et al. *Brain Res Mol Brain Res*. 2005;141(2):161-5.
- Boulland JL, et al. *J Comp Neurol*. 2004;480(3):264-80.
- Manji, HK, et al (eds). *Behavioral neurobiology of bipolar disorder and its treatment*. Springer, 2011
- D'Hulst C, et al. *Drug Discov Today*. 2009;14(17-18):866-75.
- Nitz D, et al. *Am J Physiol*. 1996;271(6 Pt 2):R1707-12.
- Murillo-Rodríguez E, et al. *CNS Neurol Disord Drug Targets*. 2009;8(4):245-53.

Potential Role of GABA

- In 1980, Emrich and colleagues proposed the GABA hypothesis for mood disorders, in which a potential GABAergic deficiency underlies mood disorders¹
- Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), plasma, and metabolite levels of GABA are altered (often decreased) in bipolar disorder (alterations may be dependent on current episode)¹
- GABA system changes occur in specific brain regions: hippocampus, prefrontal cortex, and anterior cingulate cortex¹
- Neuroimaging techniques assessing specific chemicals in certain brain regions (including GABA-related enzymes) may provide a means to differentiate between bipolar and unipolar depression^{1,2}
- Drugs effective in the treatment of bipolar disorder have direct effects on the GABA system including increasing GABA levels in specific brain regions and altering several key metabolic enzymes¹

1. GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid.
2. Brambilla P, et al. Mol Psychiatry. 2003;8(8):721-37, 715.
3. Maletic V, Raison C. Front Psychiatry. 2014;5(98):1-24.

Potential Role of Glutamate

- Evidence from genetic, postmortem, biochemical, and imaging studies points to a principal role of glutamatergic dysregulation in the etiopathogenesis of bipolar disorder¹
- Studies show an increase in glutamatergic transmission in the frontal cortex and hippocampus of bipolar subjects relative to control groups¹
- Studies reveal elevation of various glutamate/GABA metabolites in the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC), dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC), parieto-occipital cortex, insula, and hippocampus across bipolar mood states and euthymic individuals¹
- Drugs effective in bipolar disorder impact glutamatergic neurotransmission²
- An increased understanding of glutamate-dopamine (DA) interactions may enhance drug development efforts³

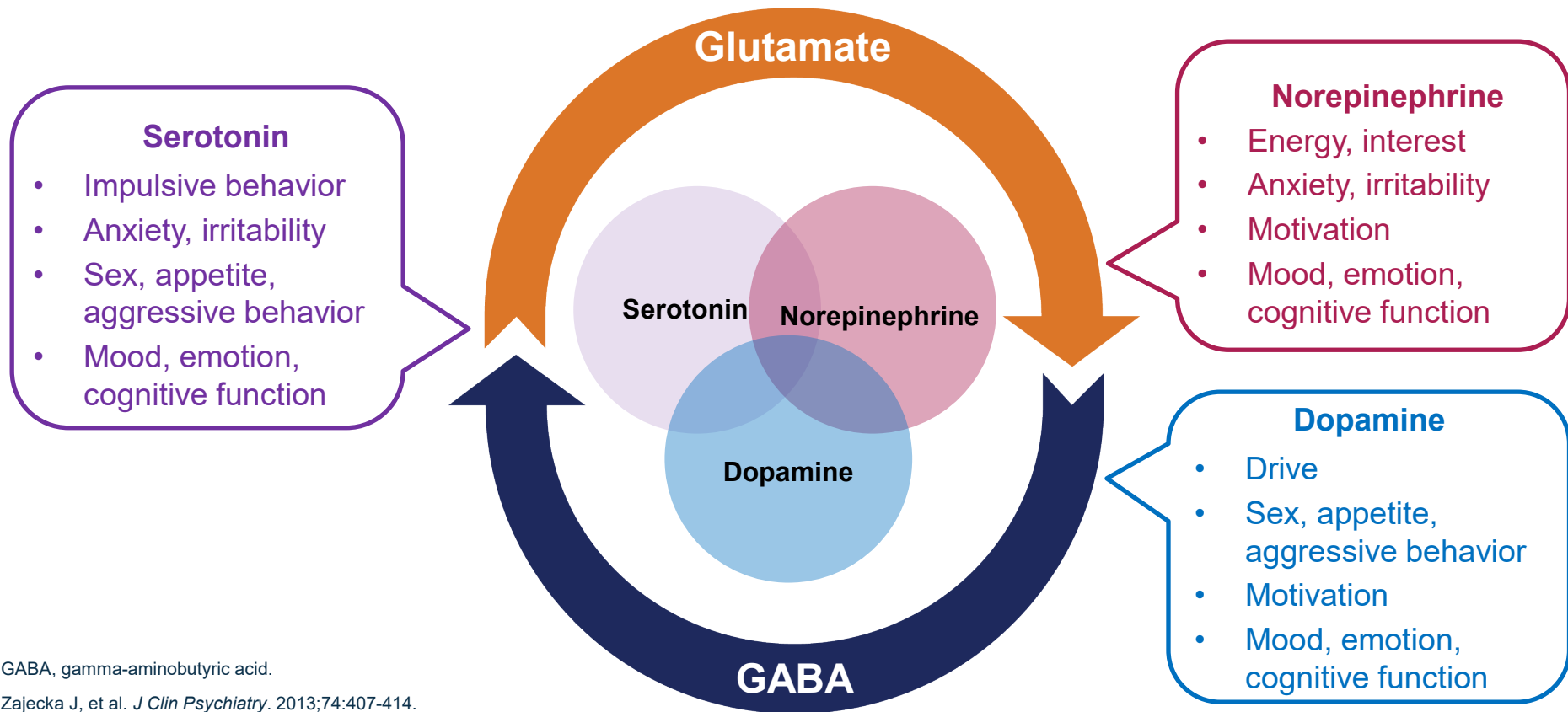
GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid.

1. Muneer A. *Psychiatry Investig.* 2016;13(1):18-33.

2. Soares JC. *Bipolar Disorders: Basic Mechanisms and Therapeutic Implications.* 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press; 2016.

3. de Bartolomeis A, et al. *J Psychopharmacol.* 2014;28(6):505-26.

Serotonin, Norepinephrine, and Dopamine



GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid.

Zajacka J, et al. *J Clin Psychiatry*. 2013;74:407-414.

Potential Role of Dopamine

- In the mid-1960's, the catecholamine hypothesis of bipolar disorder (CHBD) emerged due to pharmacological observations¹
 - Excessive DA neurotransmission involved in development of mania-like behavior²
 - Phase-related altered levels of DA and DA metabolite (HVA) found in CSF and urine³
 - Decreased DA transport (DAT) levels observed in frontal cortex of patients with bipolar disorder versus healthy control participants⁴
- Psychostimulants
 - Administration in healthy volunteers can produce a hypomanic-like state²
 - MOA of the psychostimulant amphetamine — reverses the direction of DAT⁵
 - Mood stabilizers are thought to alter DA neurotransmission²
- Catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT, DA metabolic enzyme) — genetic variations linked to bipolar disorder⁶

MOA, mechanism of action; HVA, homovanillic acid.

1. Soares JC. *Bipolar Disorders: Basic Mechanisms and Therapeutic Implications*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press; 2016.
2. Berk M, et al. *Acta Psychiatr Scand Suppl*. 2007;(434):41-9.
3. Cousins DA, et al. *Bipolar Disord*. 2009;11(8):787-806.
4. Rao JS, et al. *J Affect Disord*. 2012;136(1-2):63-71.
5. Berman SM, et al. *Mol Psychiatry*. 2009;14(2):123-42.
6. Andreazza AC, et al. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2014;17(7):1039-52.

Potential Role of Norepinephrine

- Plasma and urine norepinephrine (NE) levels and NE metabolite levels are lower in patients with bipolar depression compared with those with unipolar depression, and is higher in the manic phase versus the depressed phase¹
- Plasma NE levels are lower in response to orthostatic challenge in bipolar depression versus unipolar depression^{2,3}
- Elevated NE metabolite levels are observed in postmortem bipolar brains⁴

1. Manji HK, et al. *World Psychiatry*. 2003;2(3):136-46.

2. Roy A, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1985;42(12):1181-5.

3. Rudorfer MV, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1985;42(12):1186-92.

4. Young LT, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 1994;35(2):121-7.

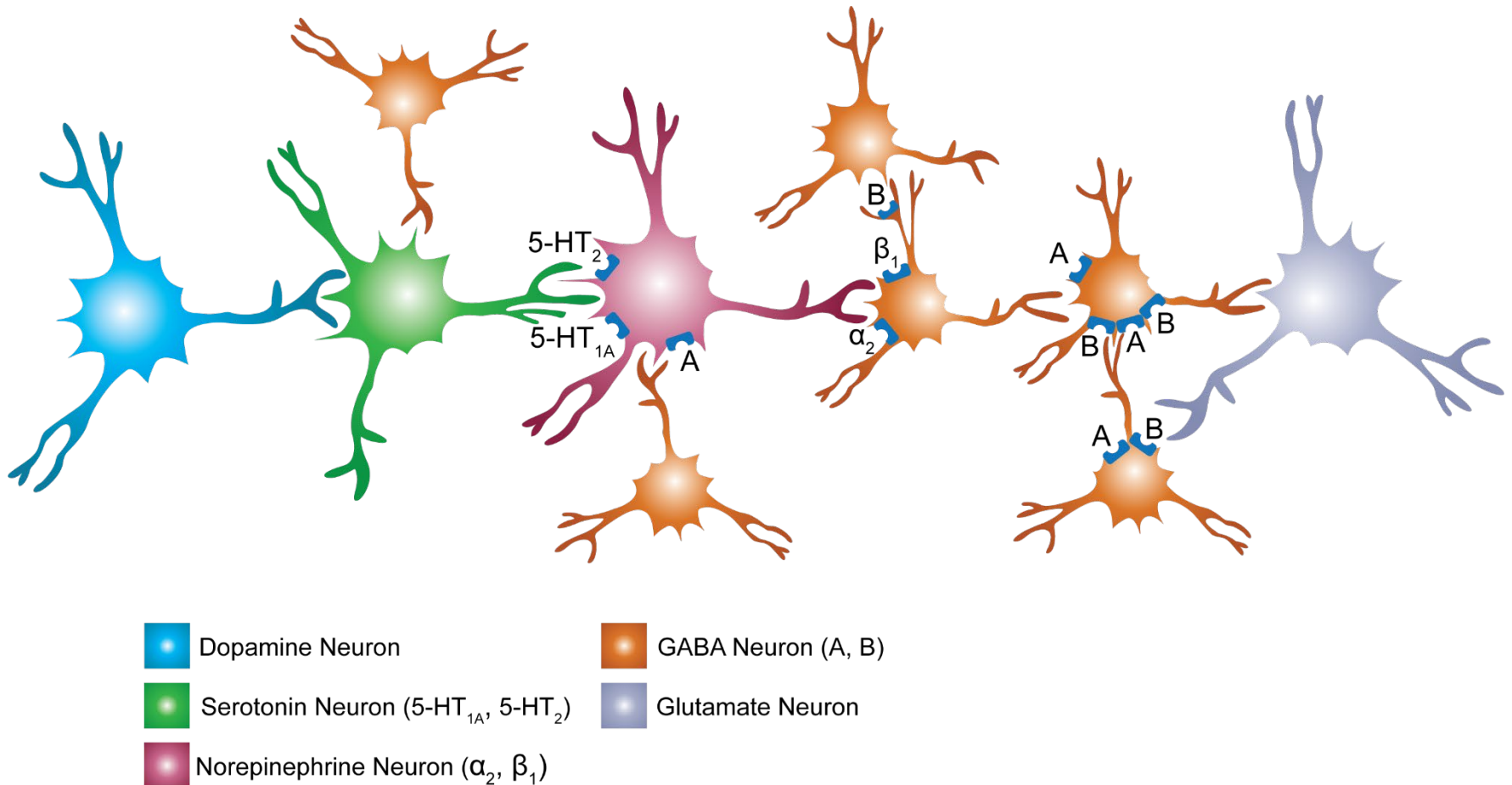
Potential Role of Serotonin

- No simple model for serotonergic involvement in bipolar exists
 - Deficient serotonin (5-HT) signaling seems to contribute to both depressive and manic symptoms
 - Low energy, anhedonia, altered sleep, and appetite
 - Impulsivity, interpersonal aggression
 - Increased 5-HT signaling implicated in some symptoms of mania
 - Increased hedonic behavior, decreased need for sleep, increased energy
- Postmortem studies show reduced levels of 5-HIAA
- Neuroimaging research implications:
 - Reduced 5-HT transporter binding in midbrain of depressed bipolar patients has been shown, extent of alterations correlates with aggressive symptoms in patients with bipolar II
 - One study reveals reduced 5-HT_{2A} receptor binding in manic patients
- Genetics: Two gene variants in 5-HTT have modest associations with bipolar
 - Short allele of 5-HTTLPR & intron two variable number of tandem repeats (VNTR)

5-HIAA, 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid; 5-HT_{2A}, serotonin receptor 2A; 5-HTT, serotonin transporter; 5-HTTLPR, serotonin-transporter-linked polymorphic region.

Soares JC. *Bipolar Disorders: Basic Mechanisms and Therapeutic Implications*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press; 2016.

Neurotransmitter Interactions



Petty F. *J Affect Disord.* 1995;34(4):275-81.

Figure adapted from Petty F. 1995

Historical Perspective of Pharmacologic Treatments for Bipolar Disorder

- Anticonvulsants: Used for mood stabilization, starting in 1960s, clinical trials began in 1980s
- Antipsychotics: Phenothiazines both oral and intramuscular standard treatment used for acute mania in 1970s
- Benzodiazepines: Possible use as adjunctive agents in acute mania in the 1960s

Hirschowitz J, Kolevzon A, Garkani A. *Harv Rev Psychiatry*. 2010;18(5):266-78.



Pharmacologic Treatment of Bipolar Disorder

US FDA-approved Therapies	Proposed Mechanism of Action
Mood stabilizers	Mechanism of action is complex and not fully understood. ¹ Suppresses formation of secondary messengers (eg, IP ₃ , by inhibiting IMPase). ¹ Reduces DA and Glu neurotransmission, enhances 5-HT and GABA neurotransmission ¹
Anticonvulsants	Blocks Na ⁺ and Ca ²⁺ channels, enhances GABA receptor functions, enhances 5-HT neurotransmission ^{2,3}
Atypical antipsychotics	Antagonist and/or partial agonist activity at D ₂ , 5-HT _{2A} , 5-HT _{1A} receptors and other DA, 5-HT, and NE targets ^{4,5}

5-HT, serotonin; 5-HT_x, serotonin receptor X; Ca, calcium; D_x, dopamine receptor X; DA, dopamine; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; GABA, gamma-aminobutyric acid; Glu, glutamate; IMPase, inositol monophosphatase; IP₃, inositol triphosphate; Na, sodium; NE, norepinephrine; US, United States.

1. Malhi GS, et al. *CNS Drugs*. 2013;27(2):135-53.
2. Schloesser RJ, et al. *Trends Neurosci*. 2012;35(1):36-46.
3. Nugent AC, et al. *J Psychopharmacol*. 2013;27(10):894-902.
4. Li X, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2012;37(1):77-101.
5. Stahl SM. *Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications*. 4th edition. Cambridge University Press; 2013.

Summary

- While the pathophysiology of bipolar disorder is not completely understood, several theories have been proposed on both the molecular and cellular level^{1,2}
- Various systems such as the HPA axis, monoaminergic pathways, and specific brain regions and circuits have also been implicated^{1,2}
- Neurotransmitters thought to be involved in bipolar disorder include GABA, glutamate, serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine¹⁻³
- Pharmacologic treatment options for bipolar disorder include mood stabilizers, anticonvulsants, and atypical antipsychotics⁴

1. Manji HK, et al. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2000;48(6):518-30.

2. Maletic V, Raison C. *Front Psychiatry*. 2014;5(98):1-24.

3. Soares JC. *Bipolar Disorders: Basic Mechanisms and Therapeutic Implications*. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press; 2016.

4. Li X, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2012;37(1):77-101.



Keep Up-To-Speed, On-The-Go



@PsychUCommunity



www.linkedin.com/company/PsychU



PsychU Community



Listen on
Apple Podcasts

PsychU Community Podcast



GET IT ON
Google Play

PsychU Community Podcast

Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC.

All product and company names are trademarks™ or registered® trademarks of their respective holders. Use of them does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement by them.

For more information or to request a more detailed live presentation on this topic from your local Medical Science Liaison, please visit
www.PsychU.org/events

www.PsychU.org