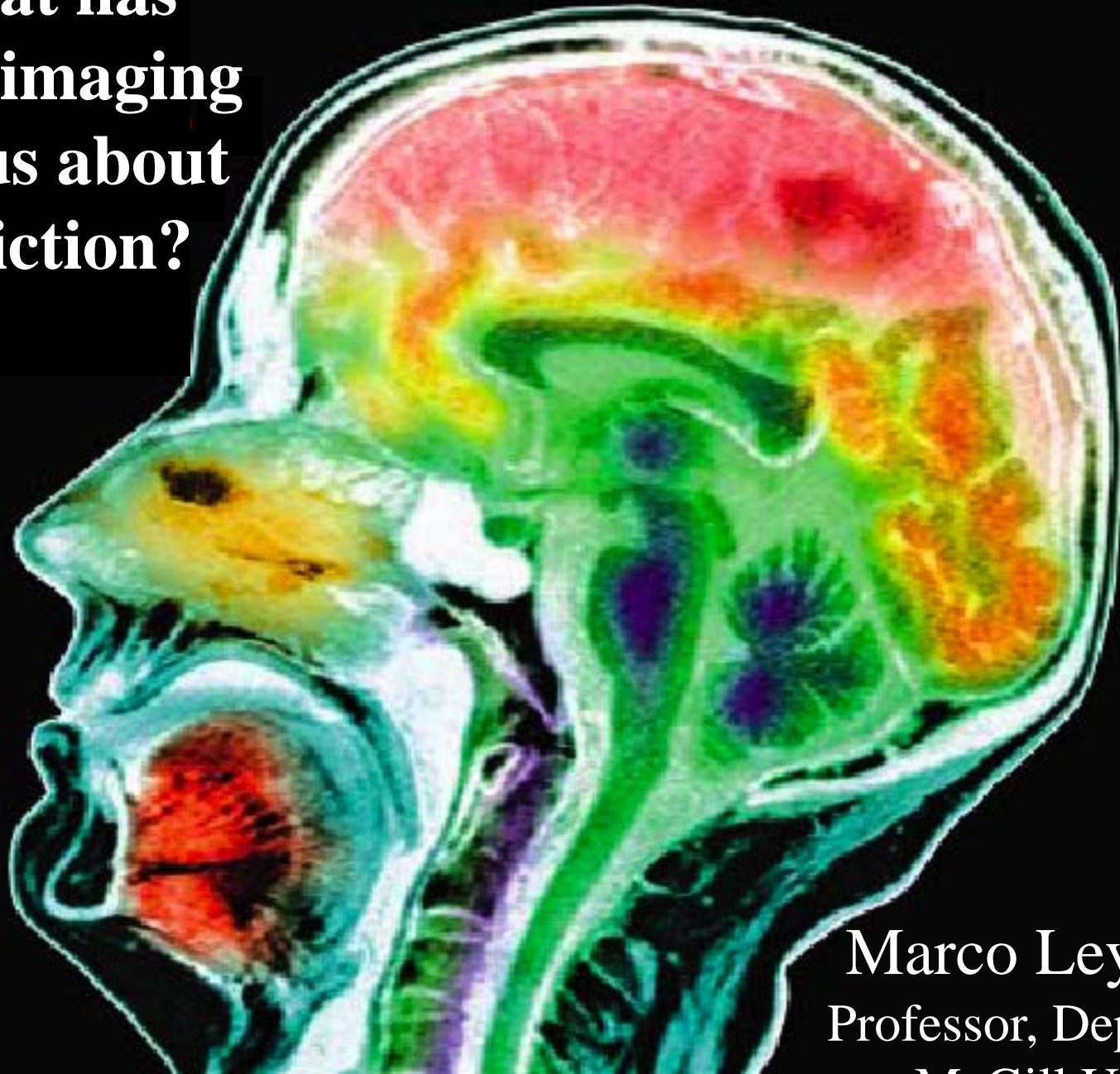


**What has  
neuroimaging  
told us about  
addiction?**

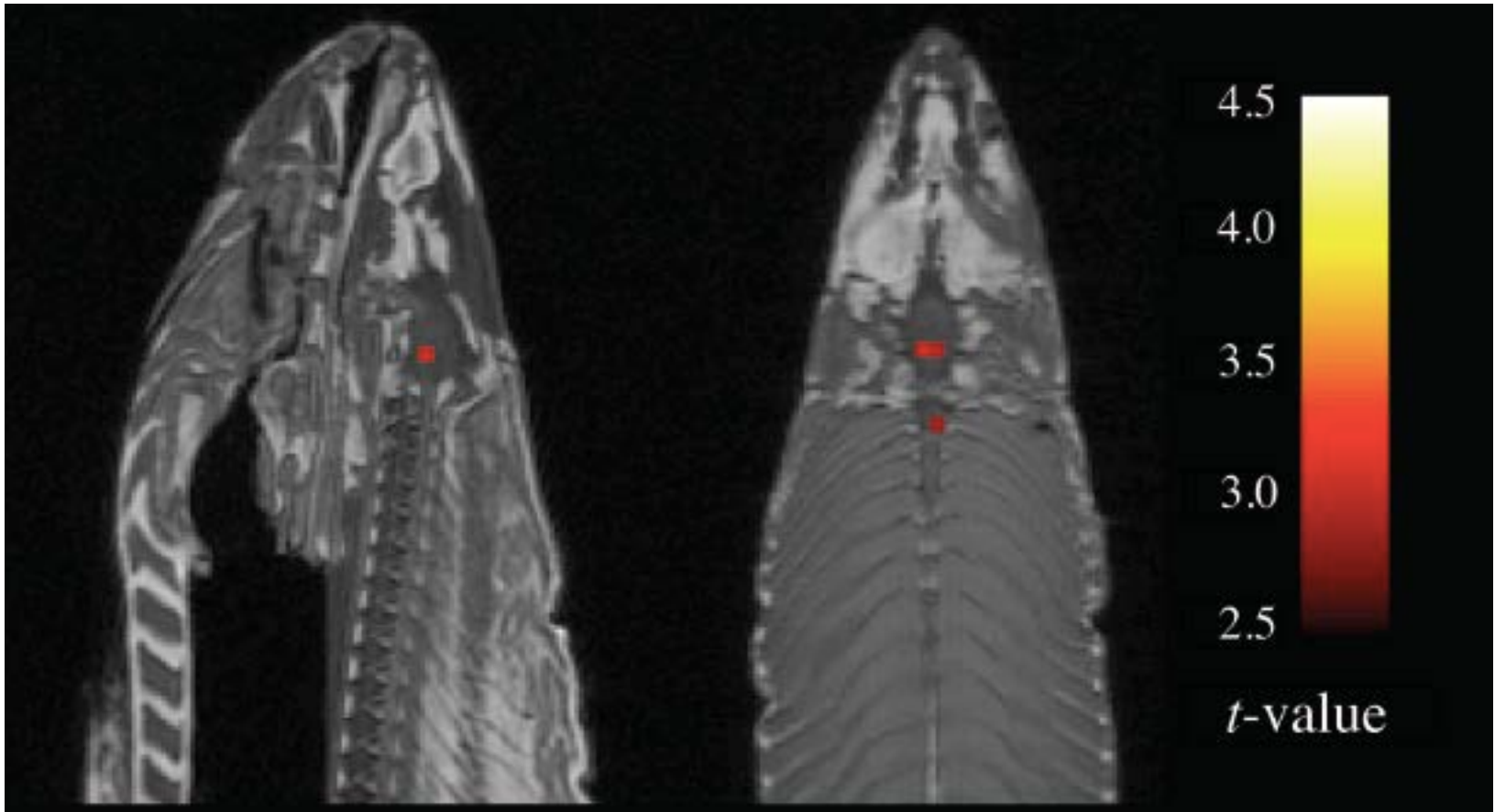


**Marco Leyton, PhD**  
Professor, Dept Psychiatry  
McGill University

# Neuroimaging Methods

Method	Anatomical Resolution	Temporal Resolution	Transmitter Specificity	Cost
<u>Anatomy</u>				
CAT	Medium	Zero	Zero	Medium
MRI	Excellent	Zero	Zero	Medium
MRI-DTI	Excellent	Zero	Zero	Medium
<u>Activity</u>				
PET	Medium	Poor	Good	High
SPECT	Medium	Poor	Good	Medium
fMRI	Excellent	Good	Zero/Medium	Medium
Spectroscopy	Excellent	Zero	Good	Medium
EEG	Poor	Excellent	Zero	Low

# Caution Before Enthusiasm



Social perspective taking task  
Higher ichthyological cognition?

# **What Would We Like Neuroimaging To Tell Us to be Useful?**

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1. Integration of findings.

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1. Integration of findings.
2. Identification of risk factors.

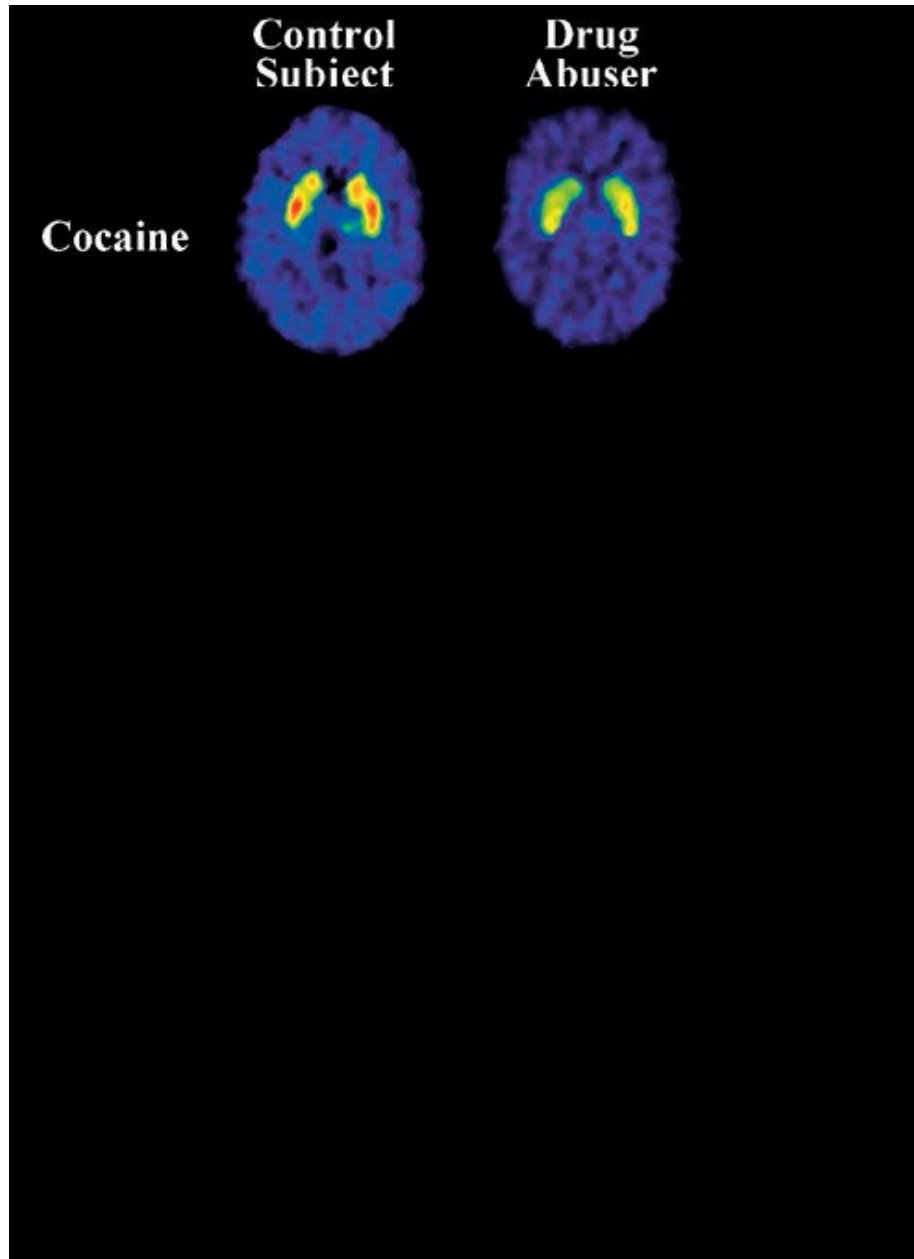
# What Would We Like Neuroimaging To Tell Us to be Useful?

1. Integration of findings.
2. Identification of risk factors.
3. Information that can inform treatment.

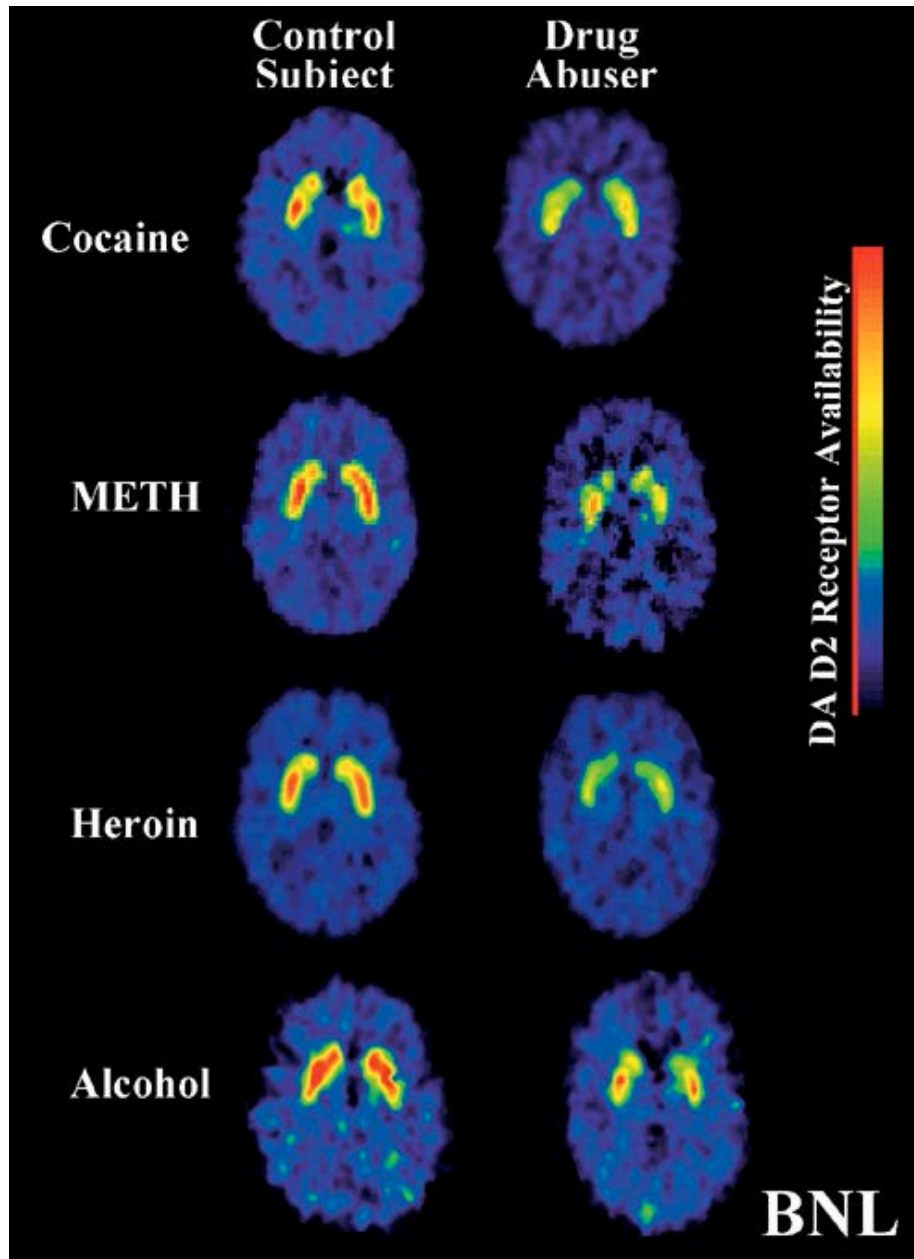
# **Consistent Findings in Neuroimaging Literature**



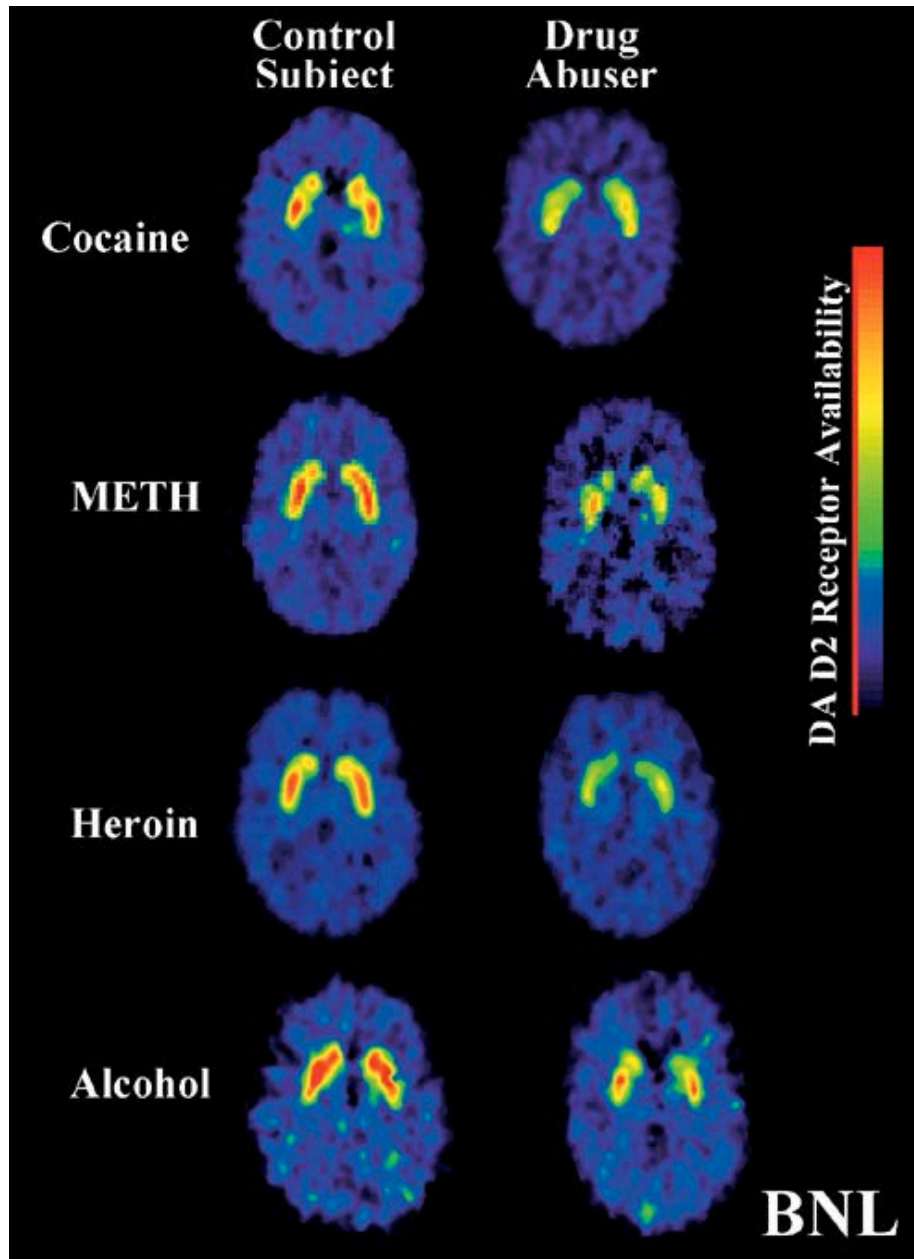
# Low 'Baseline' Striatal DA D2



# Low 'Baseline' Striatal DA D2



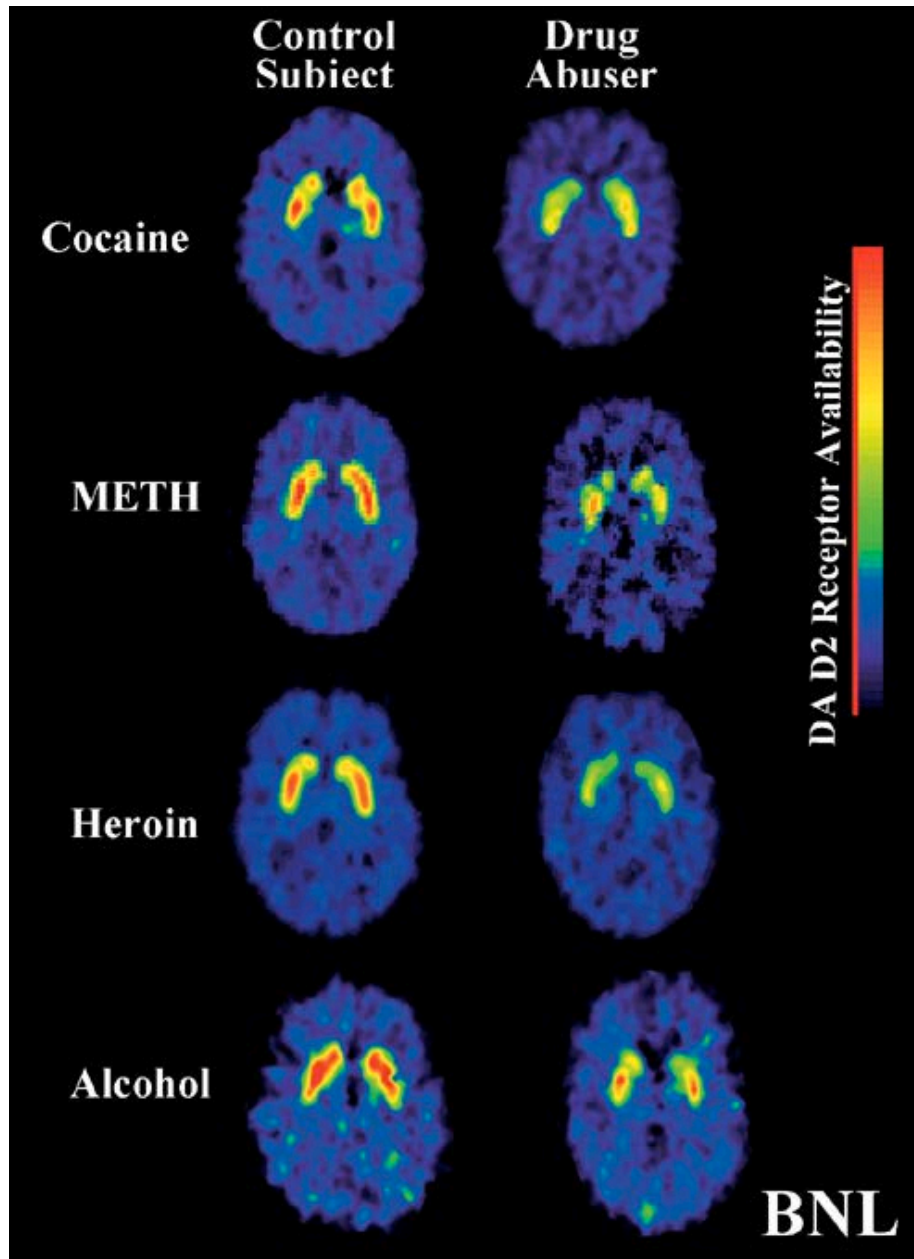
# Low 'Baseline' Striatal DA D2



Drug	Low DA D2	No Diff
Cocaine	6 studies	1 study
Alcohol	8 studies	2 studies
Opiates	3 studies	1 study
Meth-amphetamine	4 studies	0 studies
Cigarettes	5 studies	0 studies

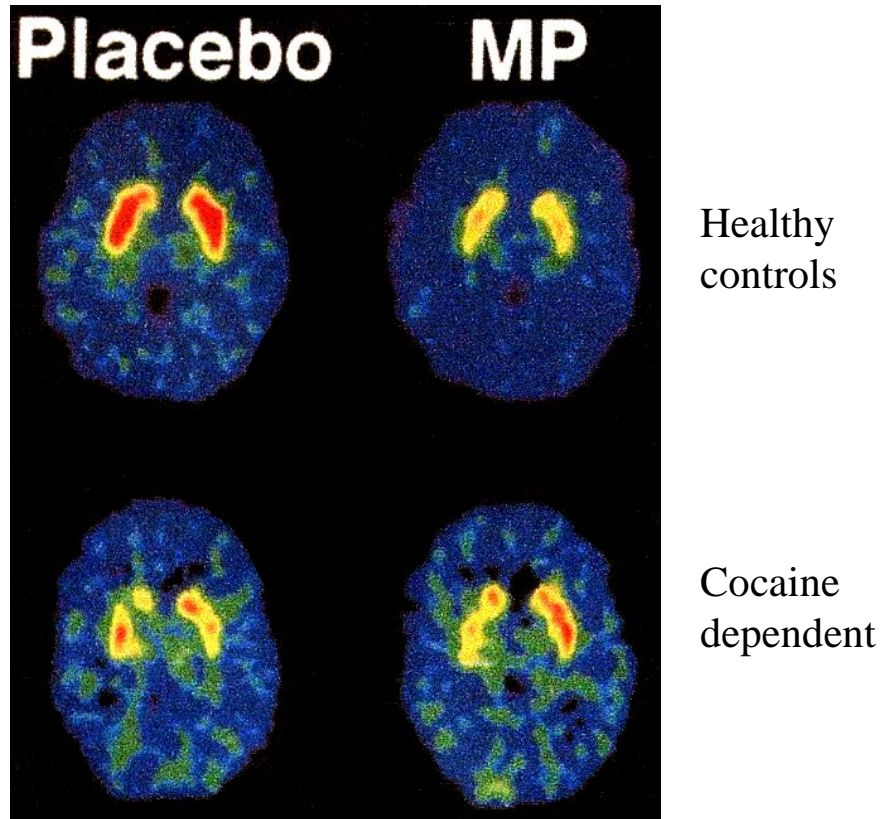
Total: 26 4

# Low 'Baseline' Striatal DA D2



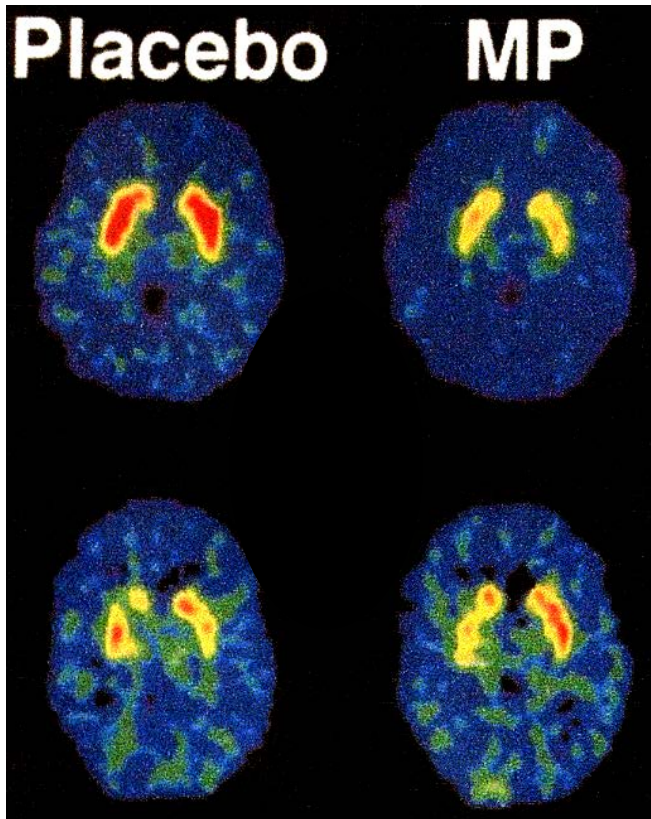
Drug	Low DA D2	No Diff
Cocaine	6 studies	1 study
Alcohol	8 studies	2 studies
Opiates	3 studies	1 study
Meth-amphetamine	4 studies	0 studies
Cigarettes	5 studies	0 studies
Cannabis	0 studies	4 studies
Total:	26	4+4

# Low Stimulant Drug-Induced Striatal DA Release



Volkow et al 1997  
*Nature*

# Low Stimulant Drug-Induced Striatal DA Release



Healthy  
controls

Cocaine  
dependent

Drug	Low DA Release	No diff
Cocaine	4 studies	0 studies
Alcohol	2 studies	0 studies
Opiates	1 study	0 studies
Meth-amphetamine	1 study	0 studies

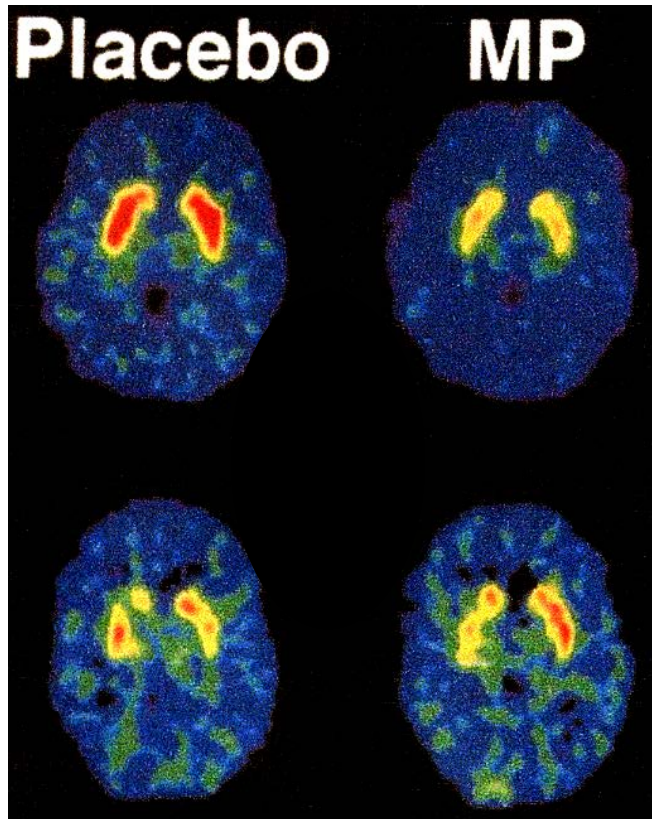
Total:

8

0



# Low Stimulant Drug-Induced Striatal DA Release



Healthy  
controls

Cocaine  
dependent

Drug	Low DA Release	No diff
Cocaine	4 studies	0 studies
Alcohol	2 studies	0 studies
Opiates	1 study	0 studies
Meth-amphetamine	1 study	0 studies
Cannabis	*1 study	1 study

Total:

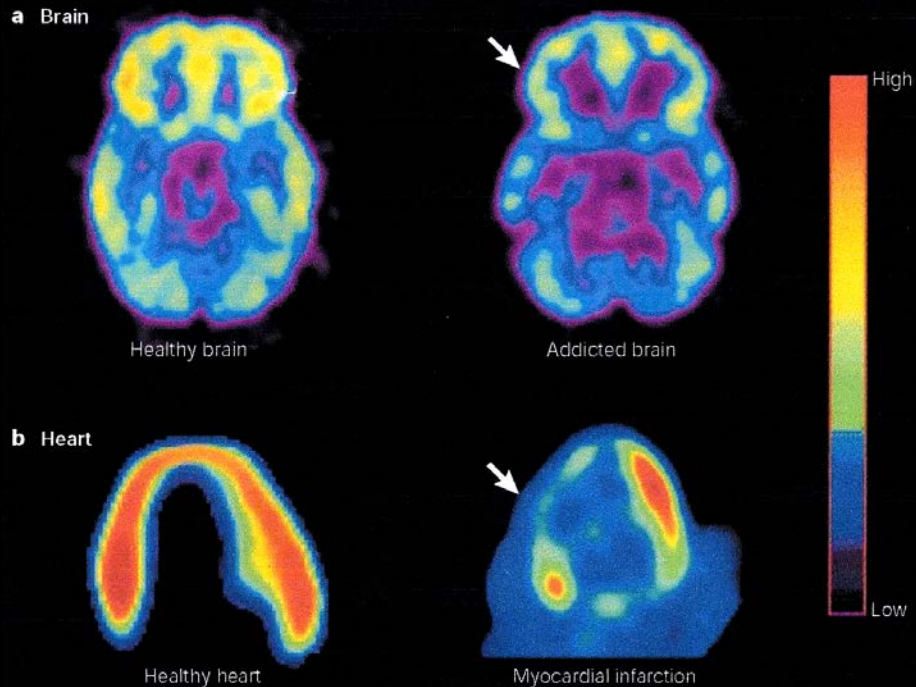
9

1

\*Subjects with co-morbid schizophrenia

# Low Cortical Function

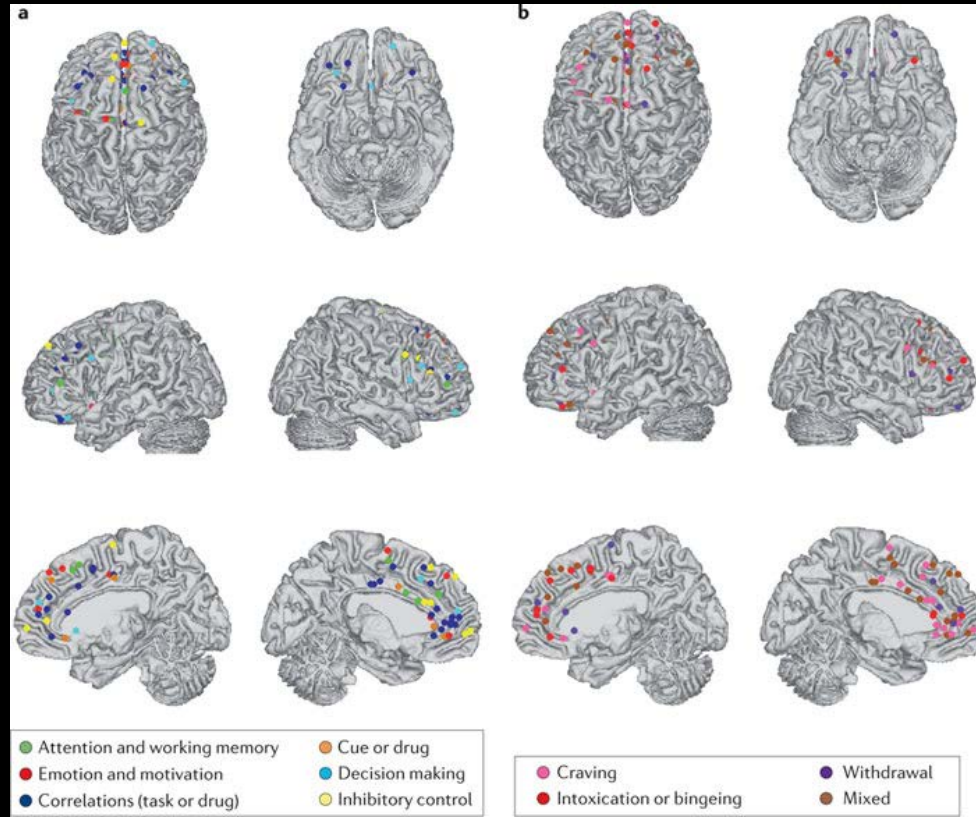
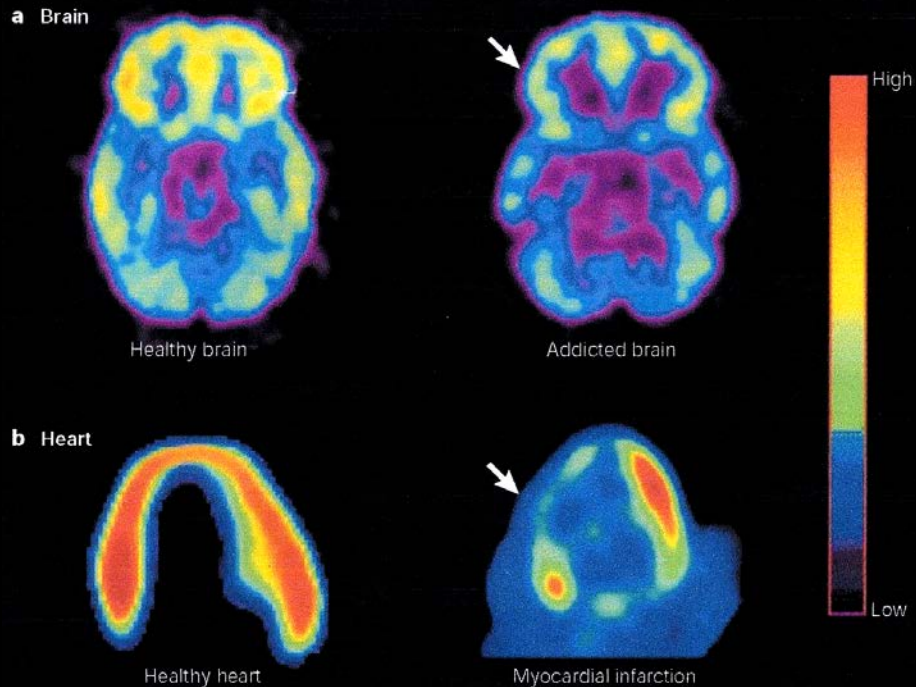
Lower resting OFC FDG Uptake



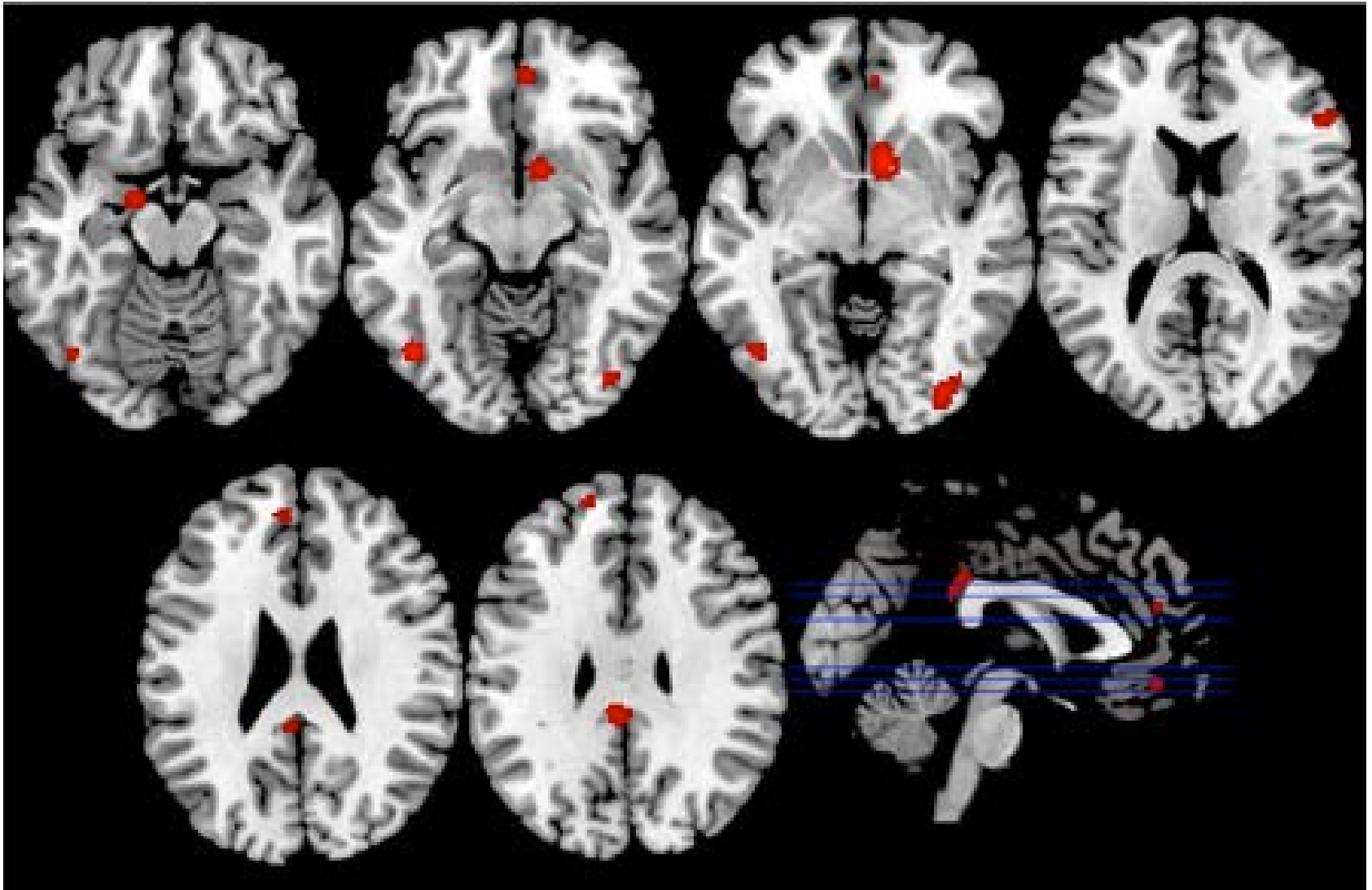


# Low Cortical Function

## Lower resting OFC FDG Uptake



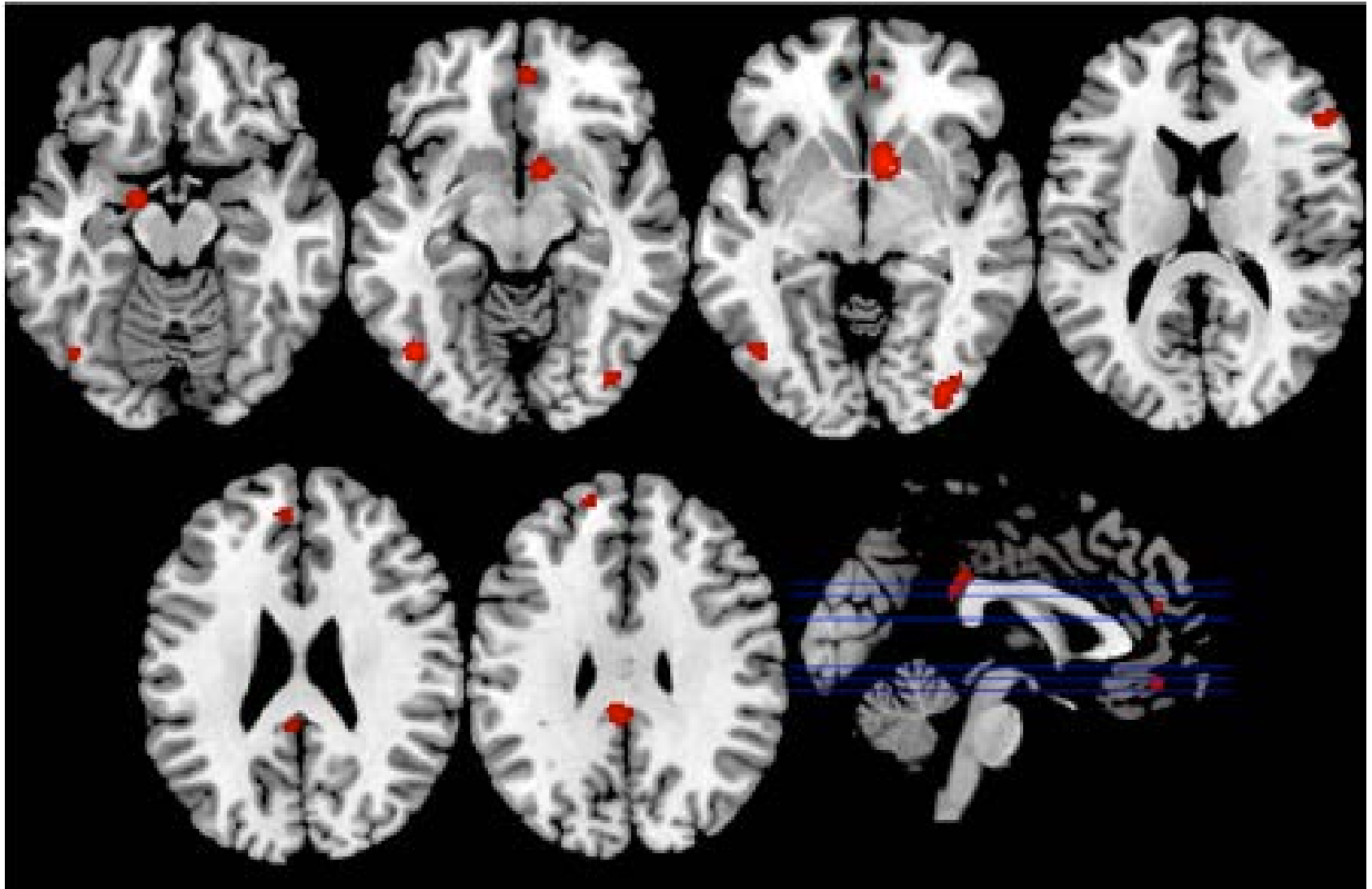
# Drug Cue-Induced Activation



Hyperactive responses in orbitofrontal cortex, amygdala, and ventral striatum

Chase et al 2011 *Biol Psychiatry*

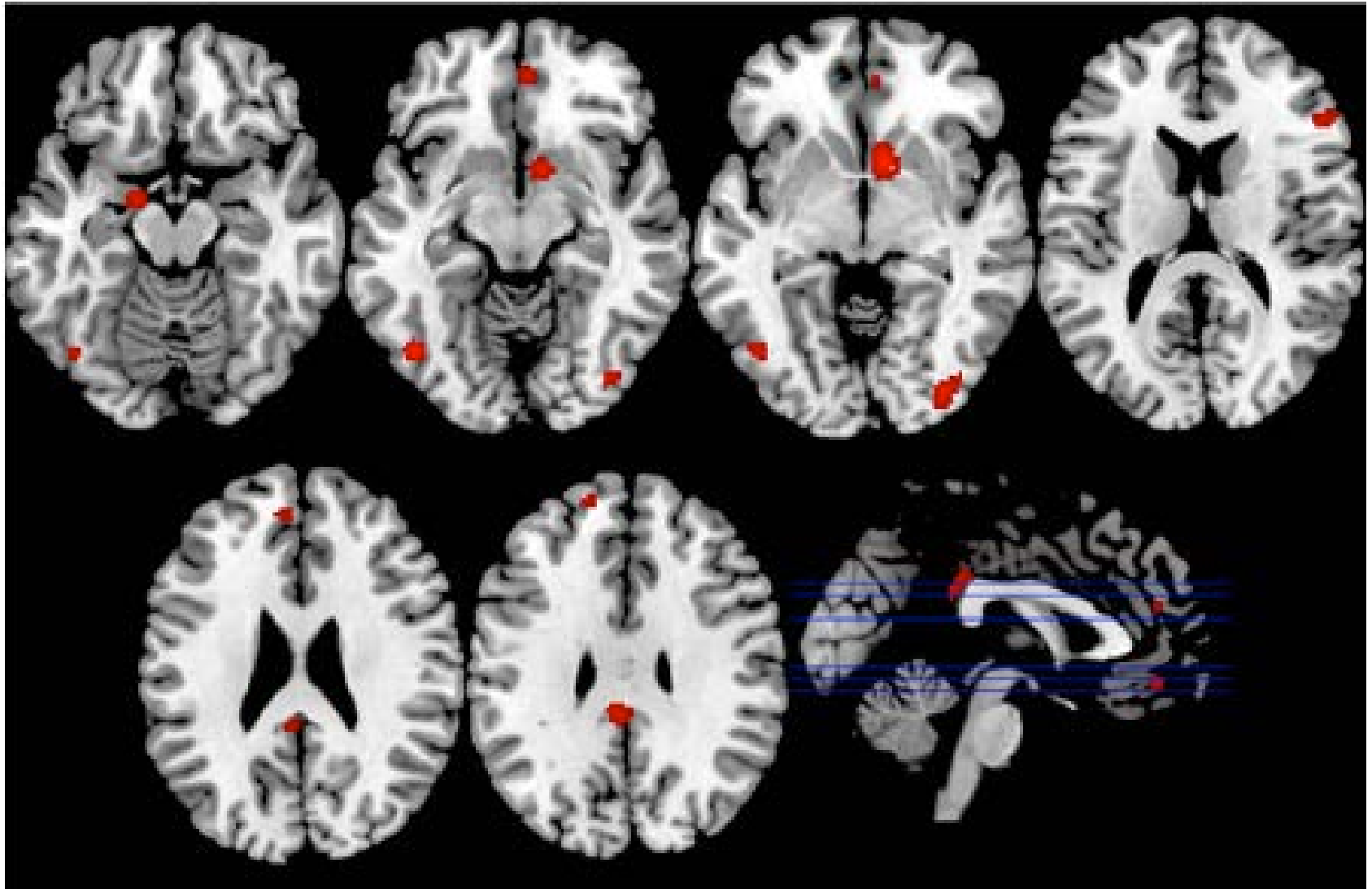
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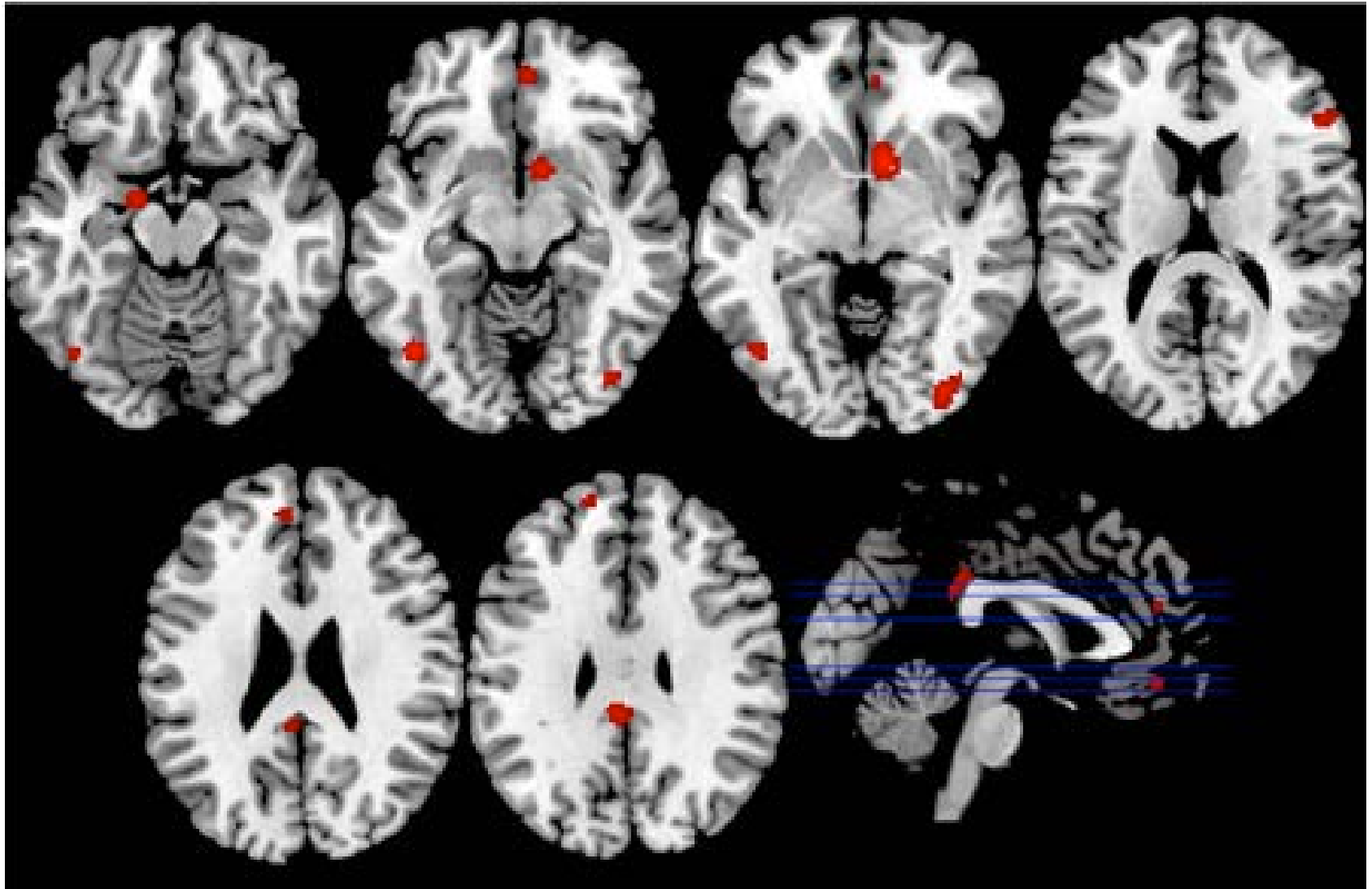
# Drug Cue-Induced Activation



Hyperactive responses in **orbitofrontal cortex**, **amygdala**, and **ventral striatum**

Chase et al 2011 *Biol Psychiatry*

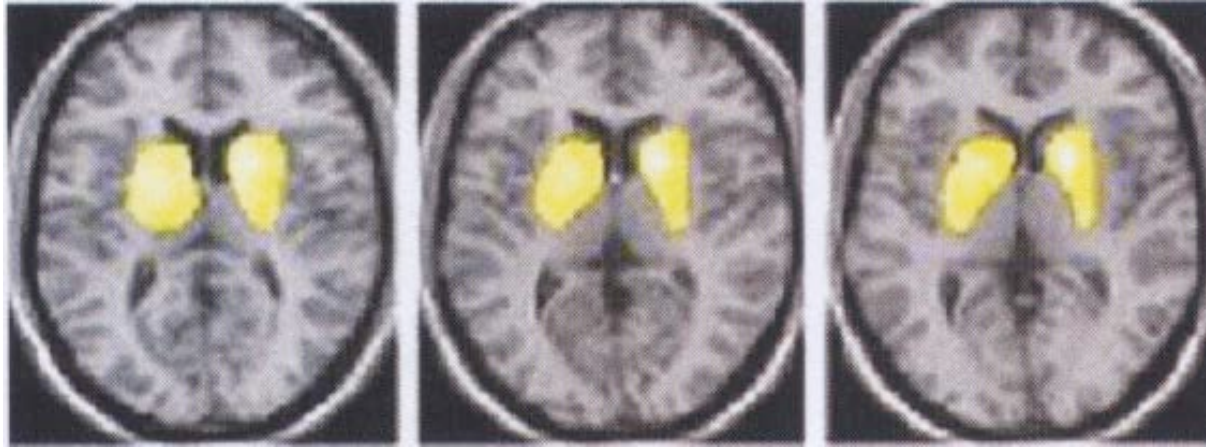
# Drug Cue-Induced Activation



Hyperactive responses in **orbitofrontal cortex**, **amygdala**, and **ventral striatum**

Chase et al 2011 *Biol Psychiatry*

# Drug Cue-Induced Striatal DA Release: Drug Dependence



## Drug cue-induced DA release.

Volkow et al *J Neurosci* 2006

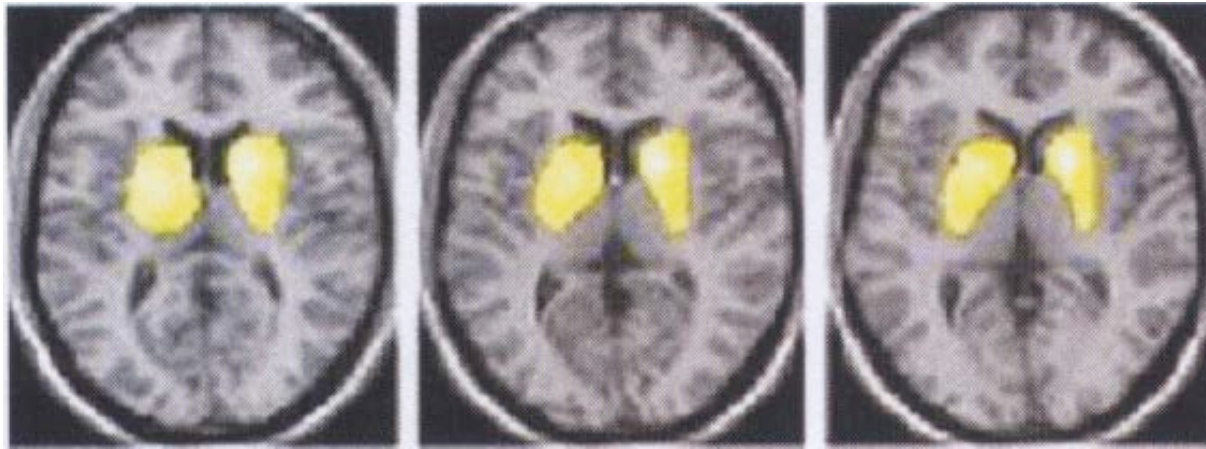
Wong et al *Biol Psychiatry* 2006

Fotros et al *Neuropsychopharm* 2013

Zijlstra et al *Eur Neuropsychopharm* 2008



# Drug Cue-Induced Striatal DA Release: Drug Dependence



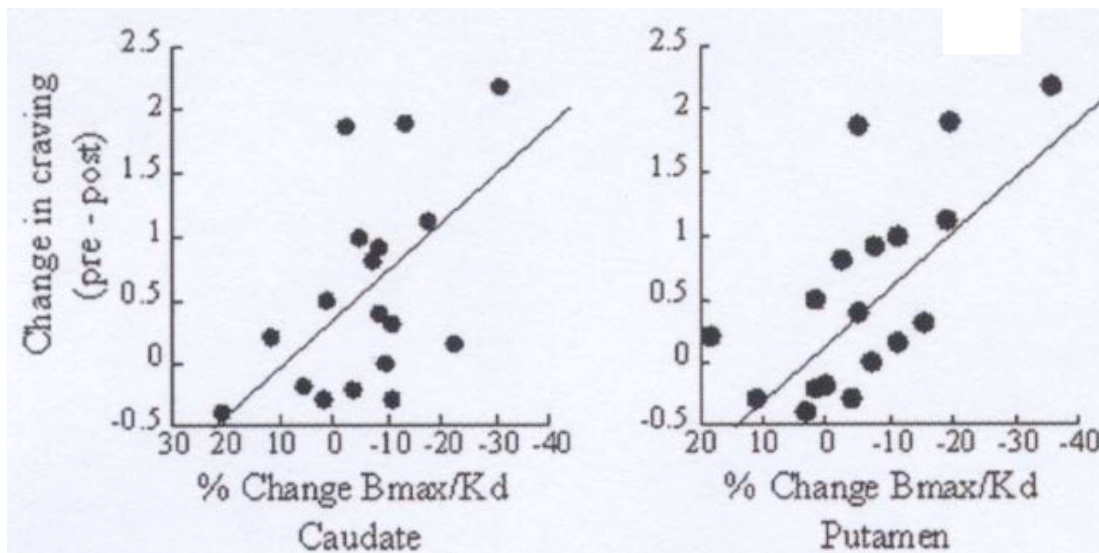
## Drug cue-induced DA release.

Volkow et al *J Neurosci* 2006

Wong et al *Biol Psychiatry* 2006

Fotros et al *Neuropsychopharm* 2013

Zijlstra et al *Eur Neuropsychopharm* 2008



## DA release co-varies with craving.

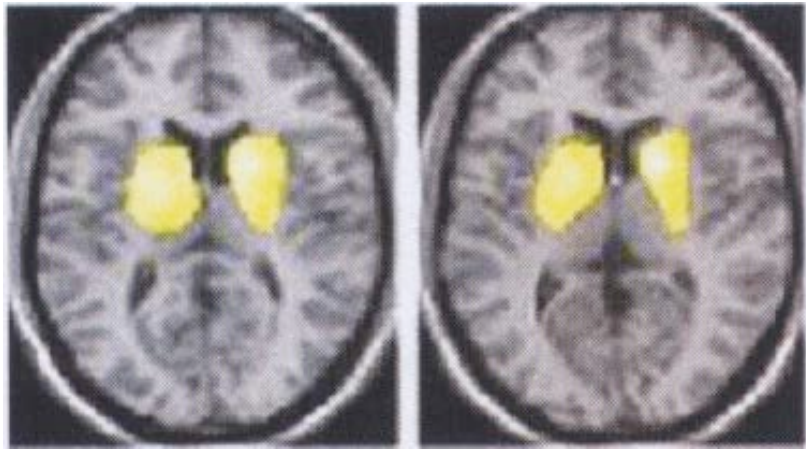
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Zijlstra et al *Eur Neuropsychopharm* 2008

# Drug Cue-Induced Striatal DA Release: Drug Dependence

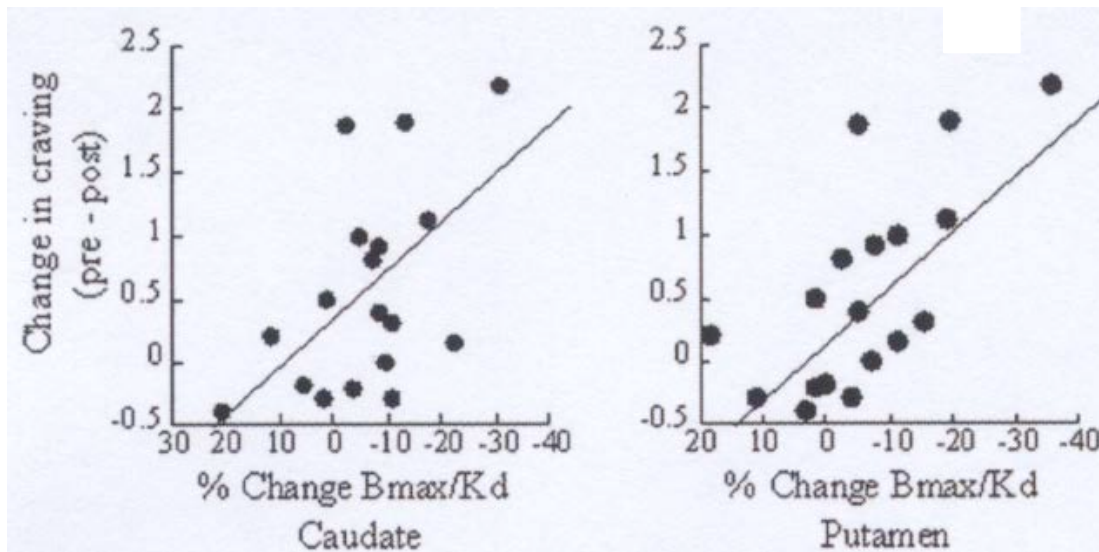


Drug Cues	DA Release	No diff
Cocaine	3 studies	0 studies
Heroin	1 study	0 studies

Total:

4

0



**DA release co-varies  
with craving.**

Volkow et al *J Neurosci* 2006

Wong et al *Biol Psychiatry* 2006

Fotros et al *Neuropsychopharm* 2013

Zijlstra et al *Eur Neuropsychopharm* 2008



# **Substance Dependence**

**Low cortical activity**

# **Substance Dependence**

**Low cortical activity**

**+**

**Low dopamine activity**

**At rest or in absence of drug cues**

# Substance Dependence

**Low cortical activity**

+

**Low dopamine activity**

**At rest or in absence of drug cues**

**High cortical activity**

+

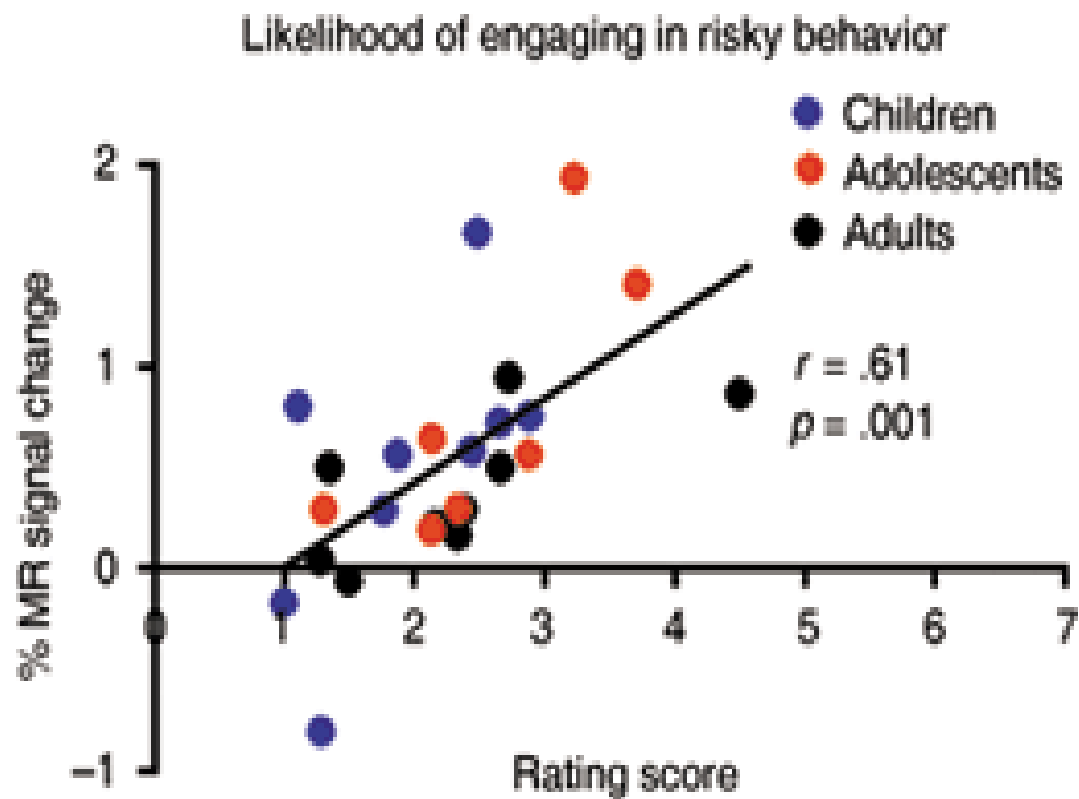
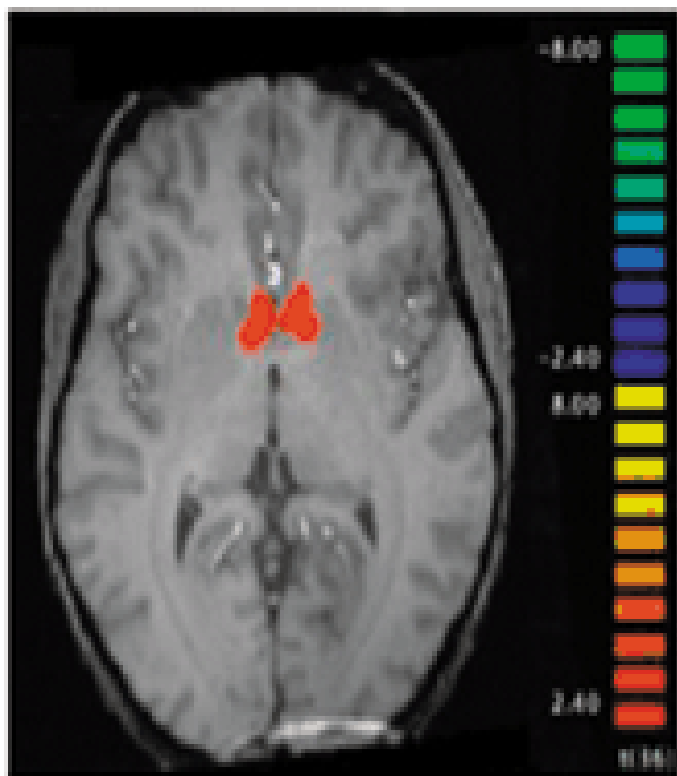
**High dopamine activity**

**In presence of drug cues**

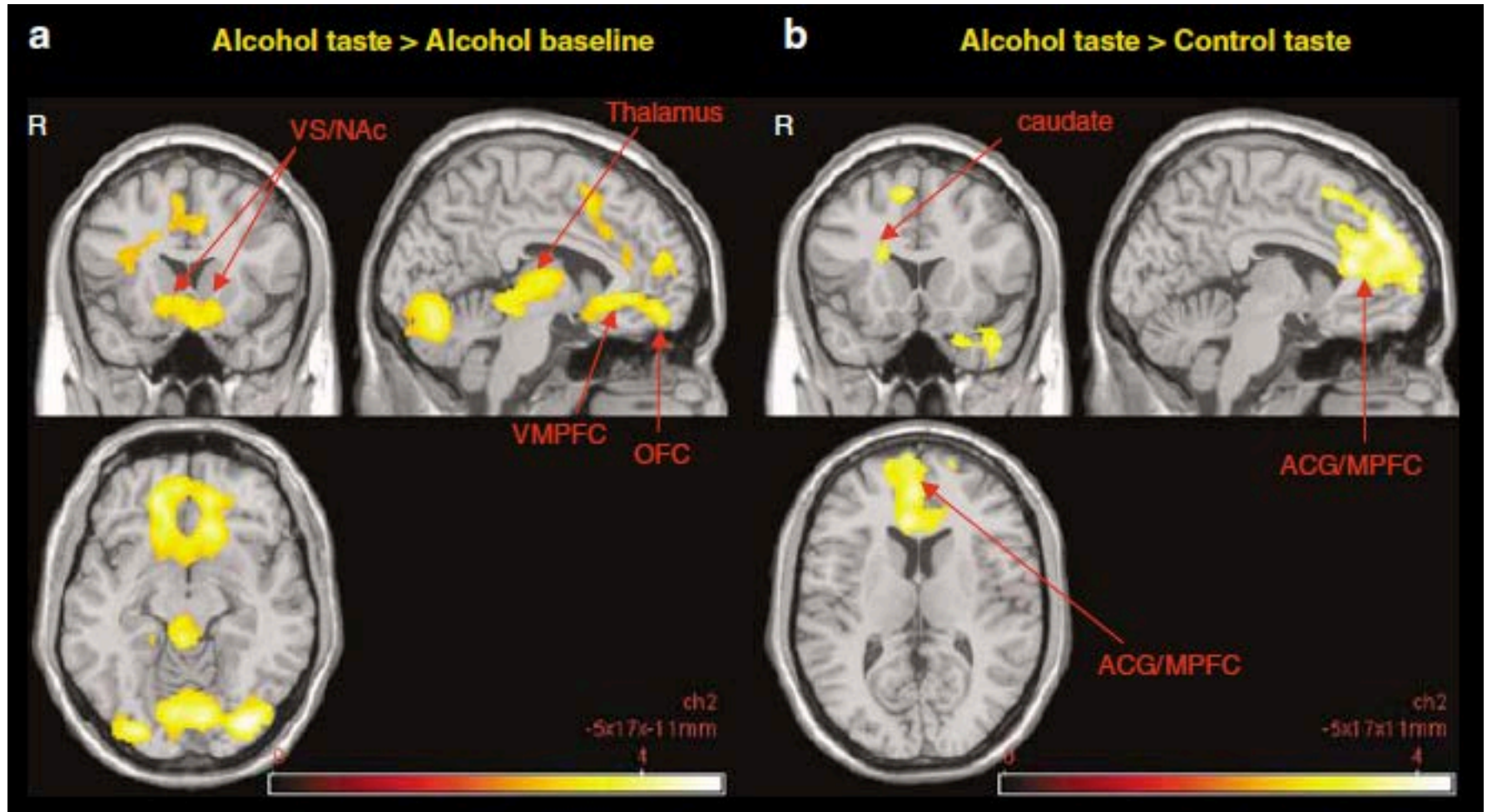
**Disease Expression or Pre-Existing Traits?**

# Teens Show Larger Ventral Striatum Response to Rewards

# Larger Reward Responses in Ventral Striatum Predict More Risk-Taking



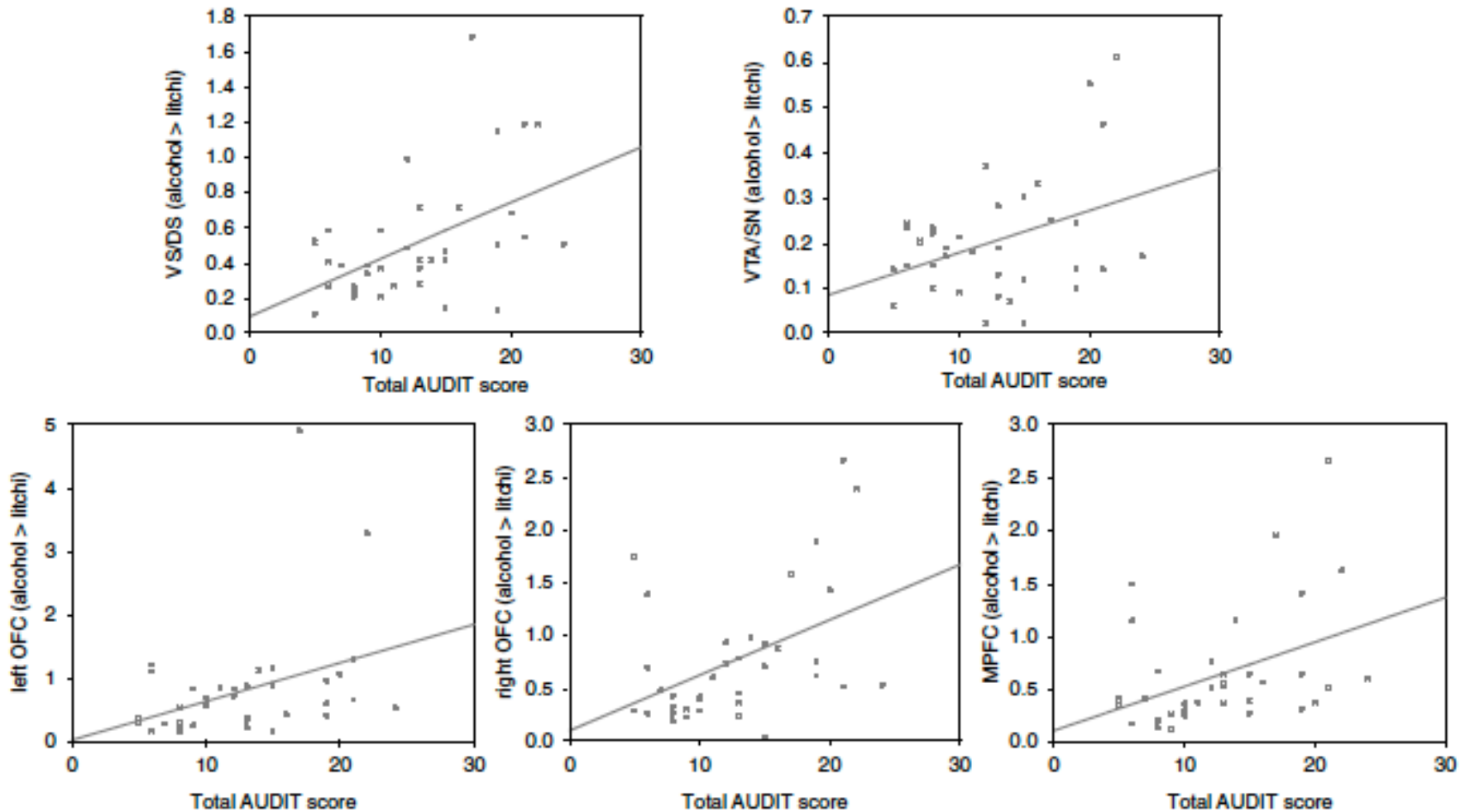
# Activation Responses to Alcohol Taste



38 heavy social drinkers (15/wk)  
22±2 years old

Filbey et al 2008  
*Neuropsychopharmacology*

# Activation Responses to Alcohol Taste Correlate with Alc Use Problems

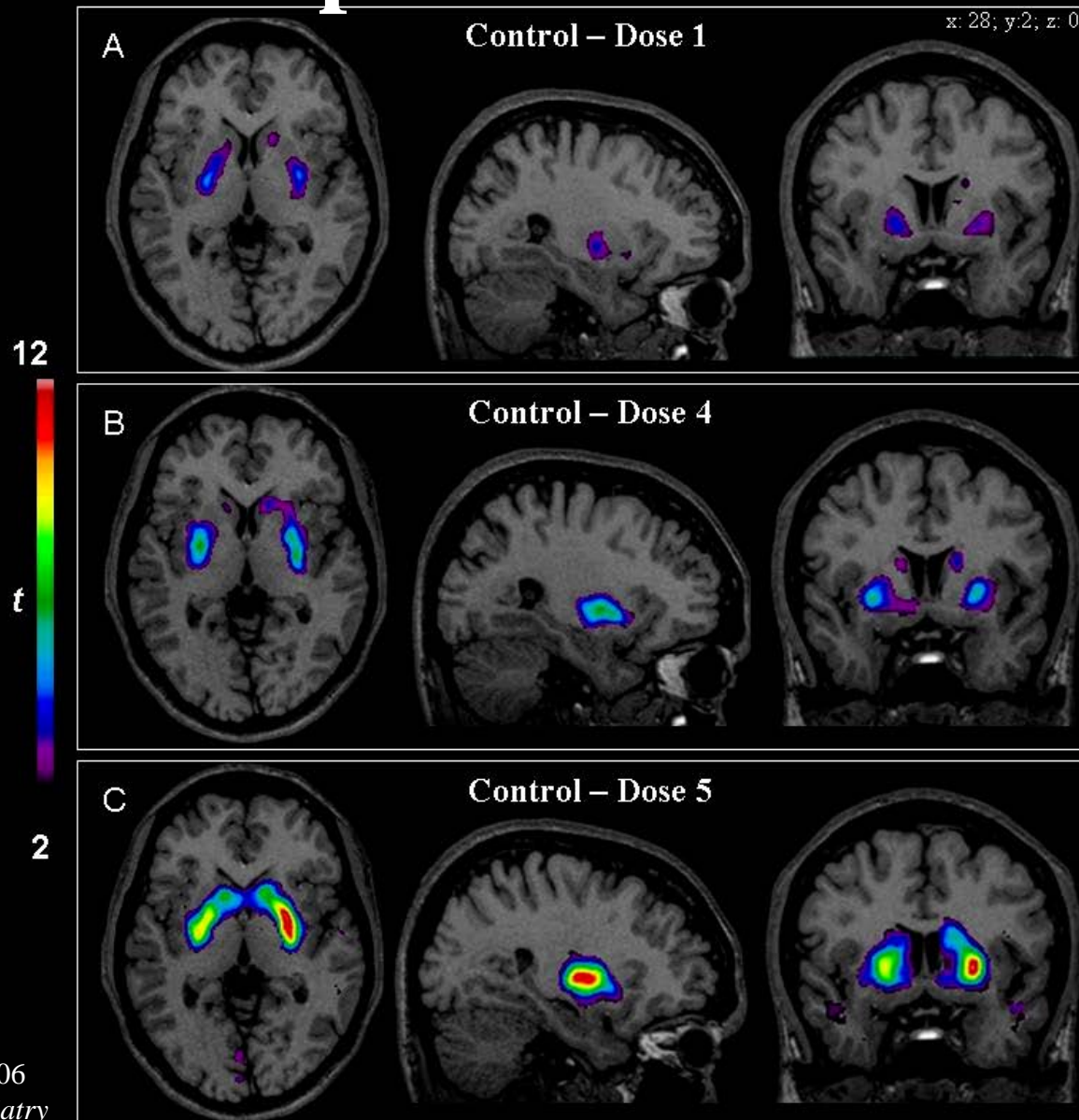


38 heavy social drinkers  
22 $\pm$ 2 years old

Filbey et al 2008  
*Neuropsychopharmacology*



# Repeat Amphetamine Administration Dopamine Sensitization



# Alcohol-Induced (cues present) DA Release

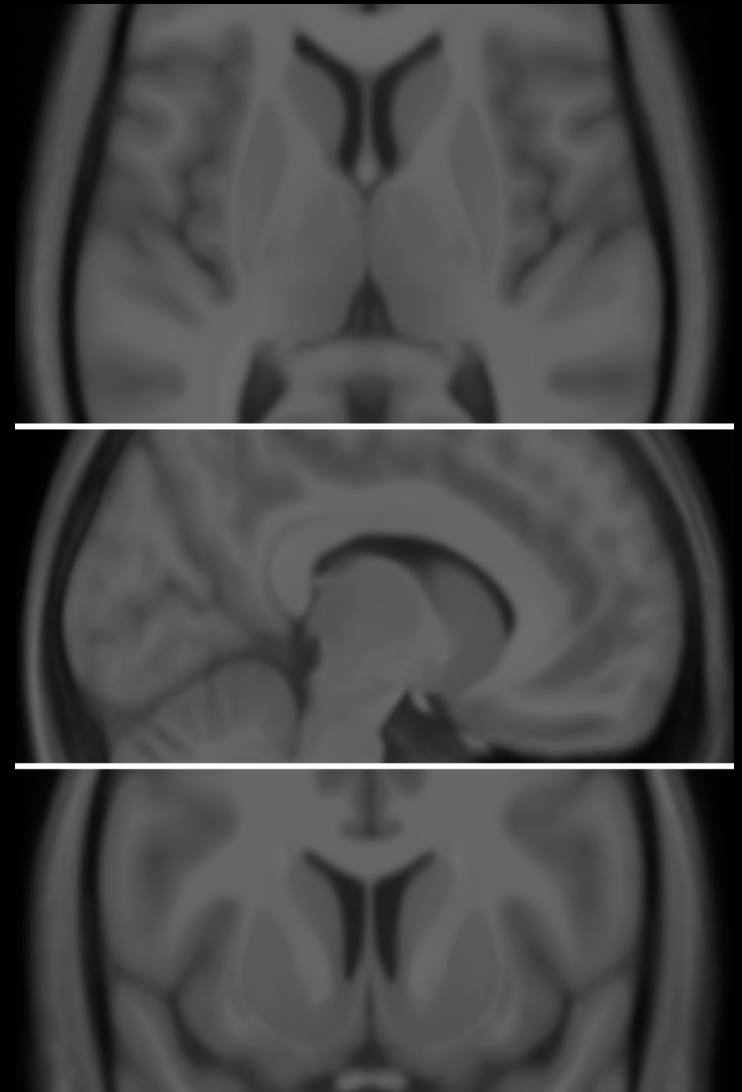
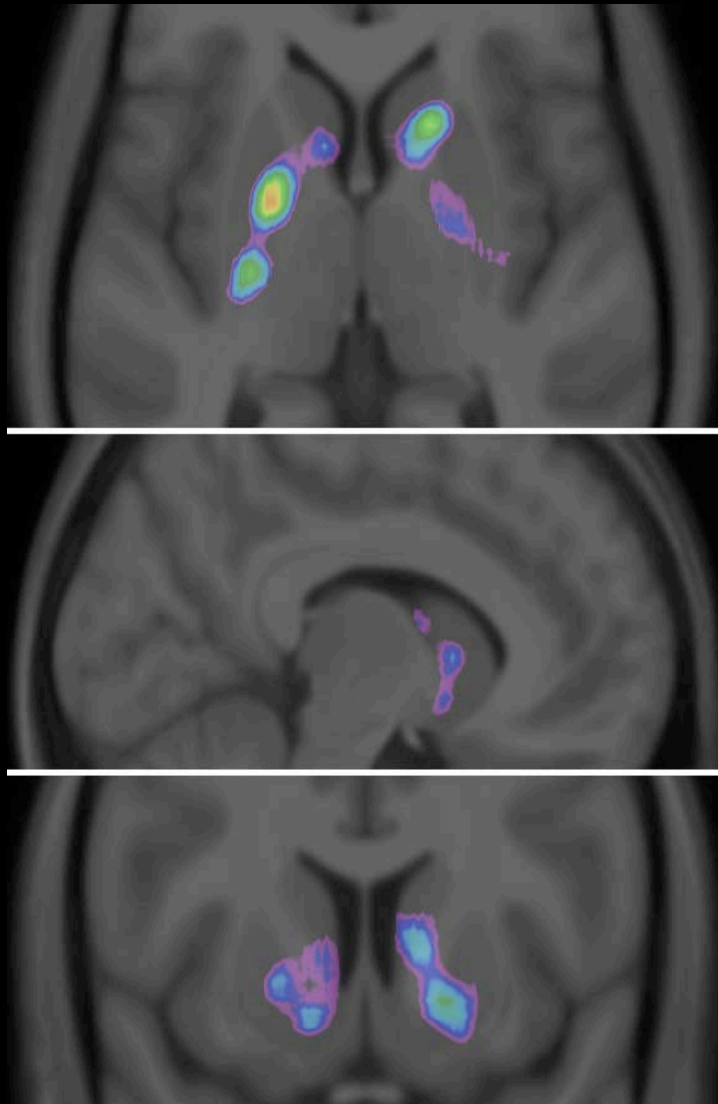
High-Risk

Low-Risk

7.3

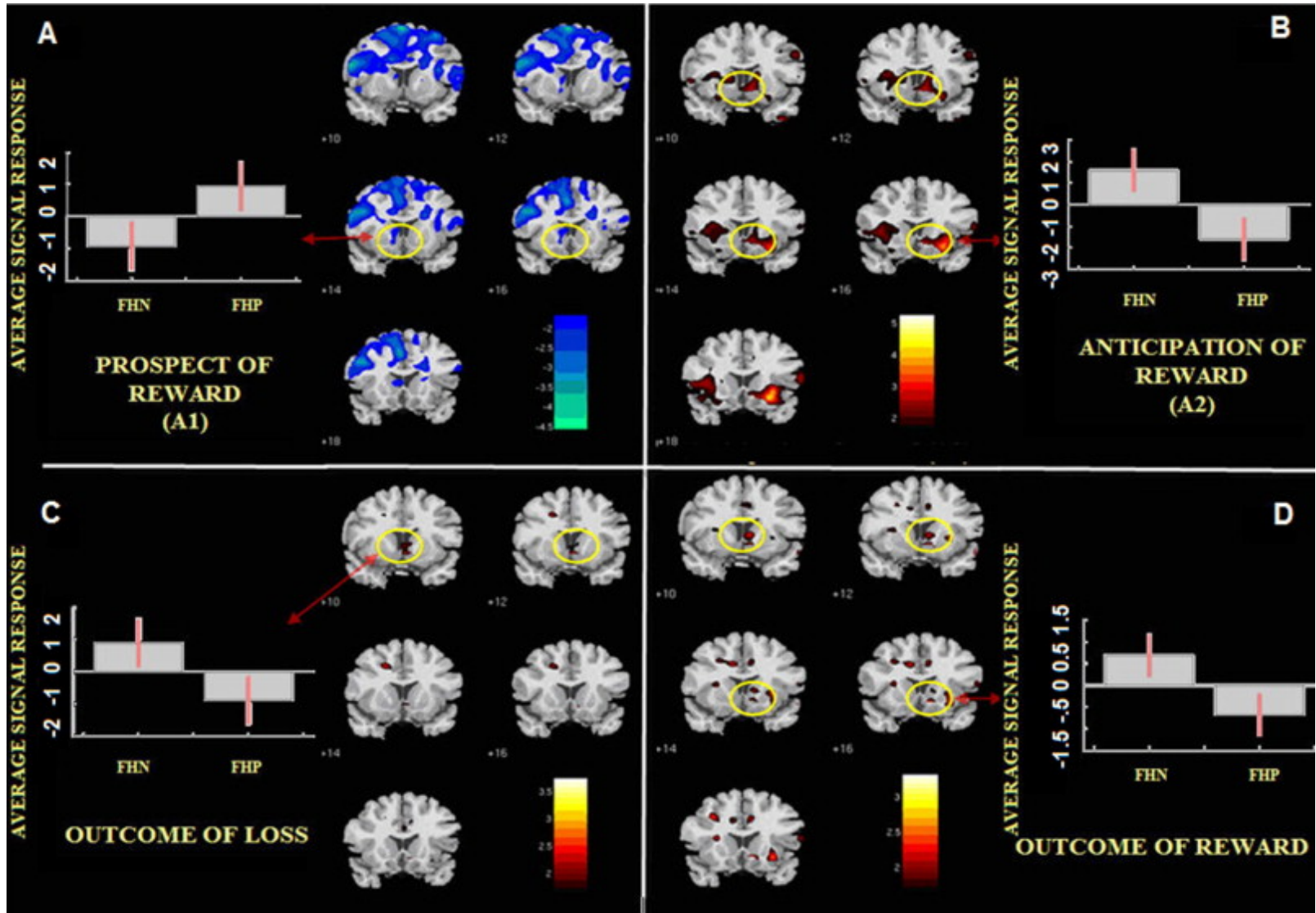
$t$

3.1

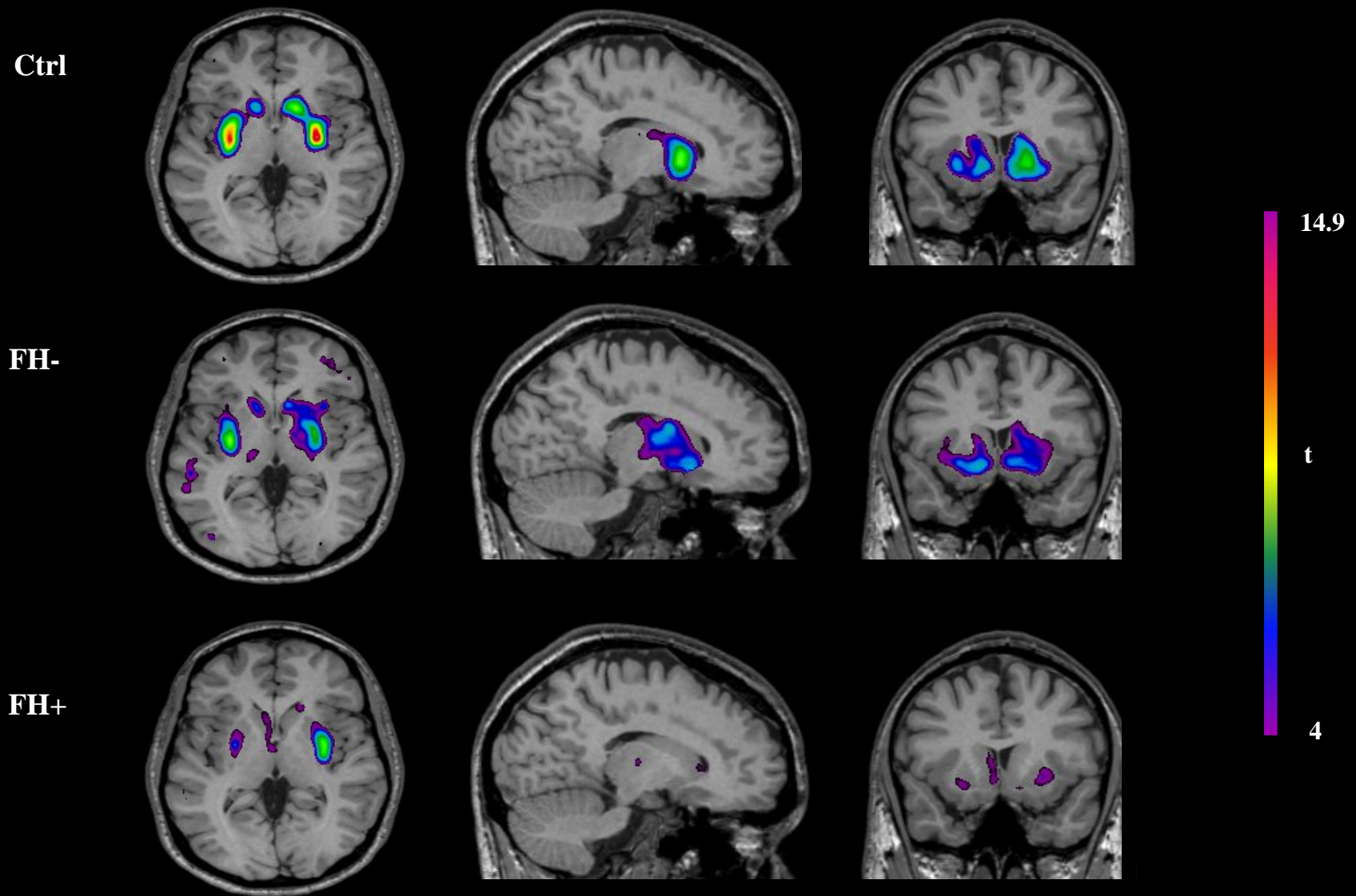


# At Risk (FH+) Drug Users

## Decreased Response to Non-Drug Cues



# Amphetamine (no cues) Induced Dopamine Release



# A Proposed Model of Addictions Vulnerability

Leyton *PNPBP* 2007  
Leyton & Vezina *Biol Psychiatry* 2012  
Leyton & Vezina *NBR* 2013

# A Proposed Model of Addictions Vulnerability

Step 1: Before drug use starts, (most) high-risk subjects have increased reward circuit responses to many rewards.

# A Proposed Model of Addictions Vulnerability

Step 1: Before drug use starts, (most) high-risk subjects have increased

Step 2: Once drug use starts, reward circuit activation can become tied to drug related cues.

Leyton *PNPBP* 2007

Leyton & Vezina *Biol Psychiatry* 2012

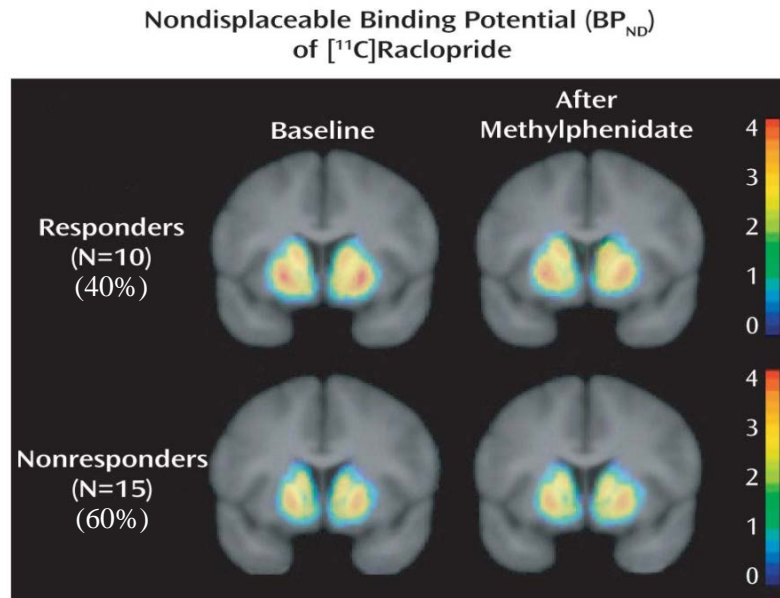
Leyton & Vezina *NBR* 2013

# **Implications for Treatment?**



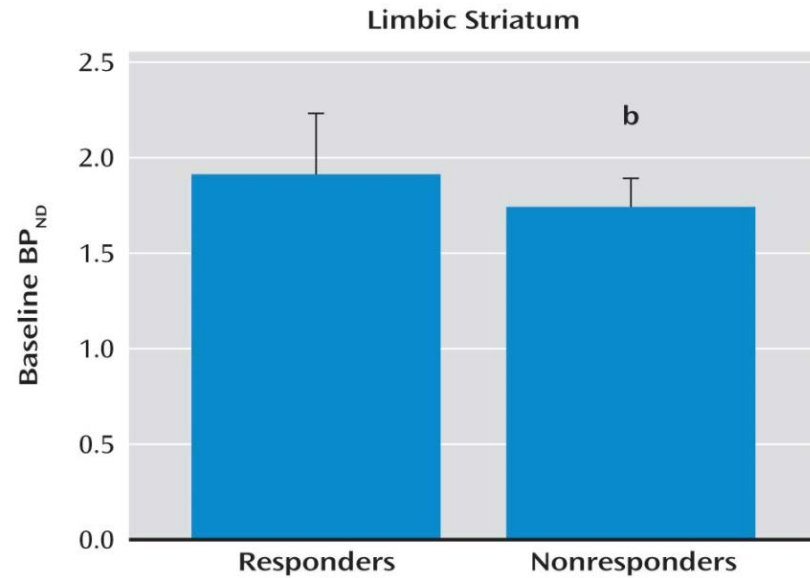
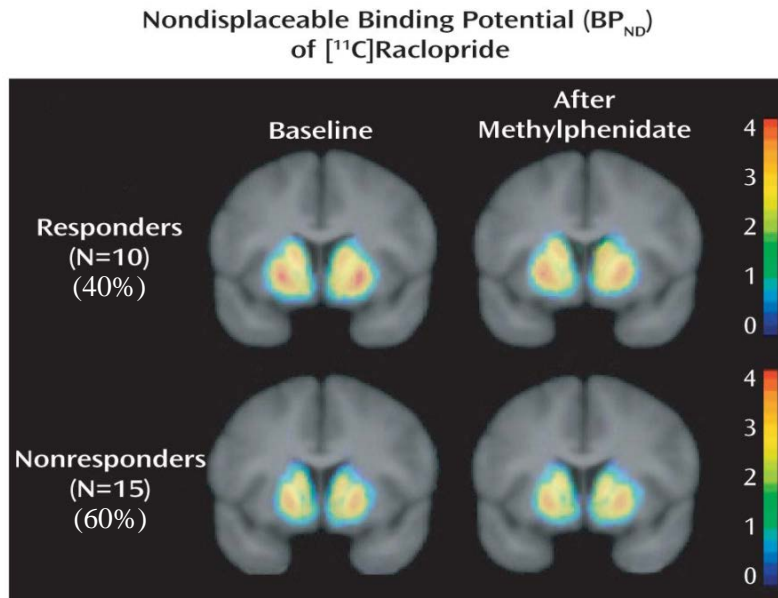
# Low DA: Non-response to Behavioral Treatment

## Normal DA: Respond to Behavioral Treatment



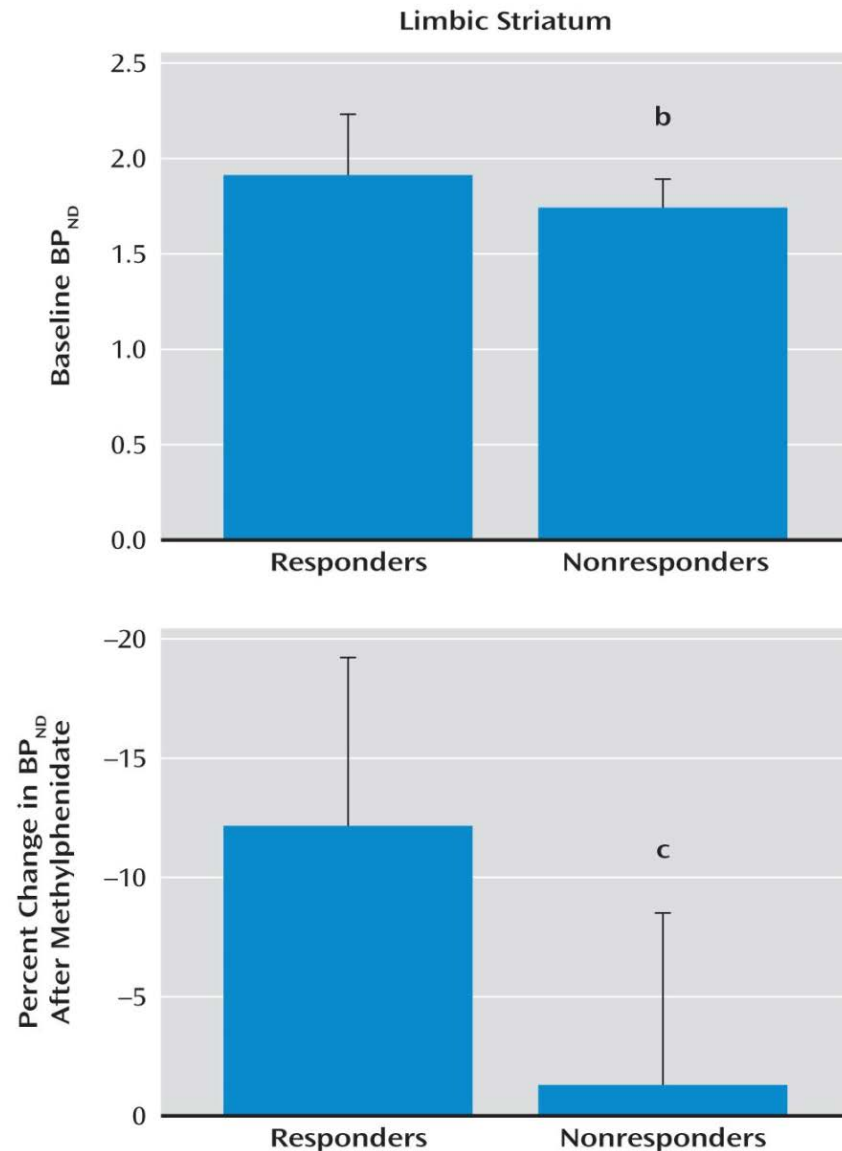
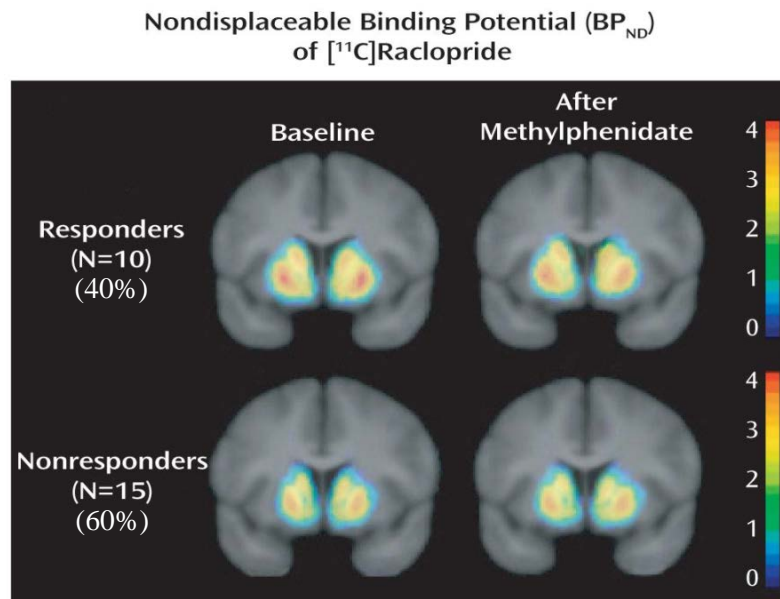
# Low DA: Non-response to Behavioral Treatment

## Normal DA: Respond to Behavioral Treatment



# Low DA: Non-response to Behavioral Treatment

## Normal DA: Respond to Behavioral Treatment



# Summary & Speculative Integration

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3. Most individuals with current addictions come to exhibit high dopamine / fronto-striatal circuit activity only when drug cues are present, low activity when at rest / absence of drug cues.

# Summary & Speculative Integration

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3. Most individuals with current addictions come to exhibit high dopamine / fronto-striatal circuit activity only when drug cues are present, low activity when at rest / absence of drug cues.
4. Those who retain the ability to activate their dopamine / reward system circuitry in the absence of drug cues can more easily develop new behaviors, and respond well to behavioral (CMT) therapies.



# Summary & Speculative Integration

1. Before drug use starts (most) high-risk subjects have increased reward circuit responses to many rewards, influencing risk-taking.
2. Once drug use starts, reward circuit activation can become tied to drug related cues.
3. Most individuals with current addictions come to exhibit high dopamine / fronto-striatal circuit activity only when drug cues are present, low activity when at rest / absence of drug cues.
4. Those who retain the ability to activate their dopamine / reward system circuitry in the absence of drug cues can more easily develop new behaviors, and respond well to behavioral (CMT) therapies.
5. Those who lose the ability to activate their dopamine / reward system circuitry in the absence of drug cues might require other / additional treatments.