

The Neuro-Endocrine-  
Immunology of  
Anxiety and Depression

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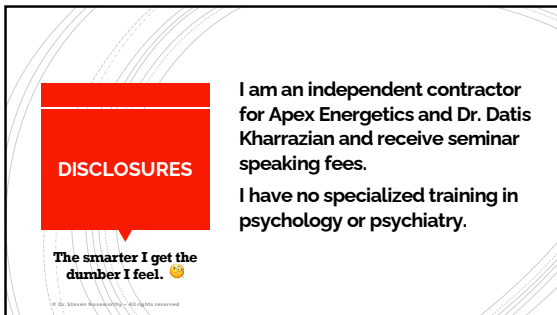
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**DISCLOSURES**

I am an independent contractor for Apex Energetics and Dr. Datis Kharrazian and receive seminar speaking fees.

I have no specialized training in psychology or psychiatry.

**The smarter I get the dumber I feel. 🤪**

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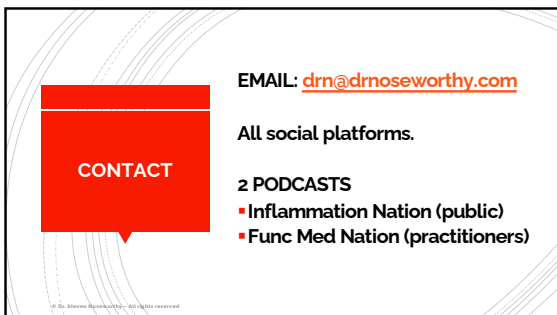
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**CONTACT**

EMAIL: [drm@dmnoseworthy.com](mailto:drm@dmnoseworthy.com)

All social platforms.

2 PODCASTS

- Inflammation Nation (public)
- Func Med Nation (practitioners)

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**A Mood Disorder is...**

A pervasive and sustained feeling that is endured internally, which

- Impacts nearly all aspects of a person's **behavior in the external world** (social, occupational etc.)
- Is described by **marked disruptions in emotions**

**Anxiety – Depression – Bipolar – Schizophrenia**

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**~300 million adults suffer from some combination of anxiety and depression**

**Did you know?**

Anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the U.S., affecting 40 million adults (18.1% of the population) age 18 and older every year.

- Anxiety disorders are highly treatable, yet only 36.1% of those suffering receive treatment.
- People with an anxiety disorder are 50% more likely to go to the doctor and 60% more likely to be hospitalized for psychiatric disorders than those who do not suffer from anxiety disorders.
- Anxiety disorders develop from a complex set of risk factors, including genetics, brain chemistry, personality, and life events.

**Did you know?**

264 million people worldwide live with depression.

- In 2019, around 60 million adults (age 18 and older) in the U.S. had experienced at least one major depressive episode in the last year of their lives (lifetime prevalence).
- Depression is the leading cause of disability in the United States among people ages 18-44.
- About 80% of adults with major depression episodes did not receive treatment.

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**Burden of disease by cause, United States, 2019**

Total disease burden, measured in Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) by sub-category of disease or injury. DALYs measure the total burden of disease – both from years of life lost due to premature death and years lived with a disability. One DALY equals one lost year of healthy life.

Disease Category	Number of DALYs (Millions)
Cardiovascular diseases	15.27
Diabetes	16.55
Cancer	10.75
Substance use disorders	7.4
Mental disorders	7.13
Respiratory diseases	7
Diabetes and kidney diseases	6.75
Neurological diseases	5.88
Other NCDs	5.53
Unintentional injuries	5.4
Digestive diseases	3.87
Transport injuries	2.64
Skin diseases	2.2
Self-harm	2.2
Respiratory rate (respiratory)	2.2
Neurological disorders	2.09
Intentional injuries	1.9
HIV/AIDS and STDs	0.97737
Genetic disorders	0.648421
Nutritional deficiencies	0.191349
Other infectious diseases	0.163204
Maternal & neonatal health disorders	0.10518
Maternal disorders	0.10518
Neonatal disorders	0.2516
Conflict and terrorism	0.23169

Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2019) | Our World in Data | <https://ourworldindata.org/burden-of-disease> | CC BY

Only those communicable diseases are shown in blue; communicable, maternal, neonatal and nutritional diseases in red; Injuries in grey.

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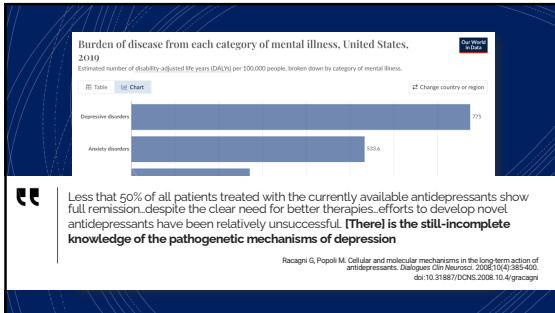
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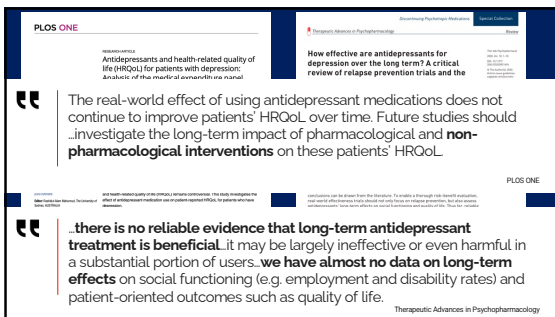
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**Conventional Medical Approach**

Pharmaceutical	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
<p><b>Benzodiazepines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyperpolarize neurons to reduce activation</li> </ul> <p><b>NT reuptake inhibitors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase NT levels in synaptic cleft by inhibiting reuptake by the presynaptic neuron</li> <li>SSRI - SNRI - SDRI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Challenging and changing cognitive distortions in thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes</b>, and their associated behaviors</li> <li>Improve emotional regulation and develop personal <b>coping strategies</b></li> <li>Problem-focused and action-oriented as opposed to psychoanalytic (looking for hidden meanings)</li> </ul>

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HHS Public Access  
 Published in final edited form as:  
 10.1001/jama.2015.1385

**Placebo-Activated Neural Systems are Linked to Antidepressant Responses:**  
 Neurochemistry of Placebo Effects in Major Depression

Paola M. Rohrer, M.D., Ph.D.,<sup>1</sup> Amy S. Sikora, M.D.,<sup>1,2</sup> Benjamin S. Sklar, M.D.,<sup>1,2</sup> David T. Ross, M.D.,<sup>1,2</sup> Robert A. Koepsell, Ph.D.,<sup>1,2</sup> Brian J. Ruffalo, M.D., Ph.D.,<sup>1,2</sup> and Andrew A. Stone, M.D., Ph.D.,<sup>1,2</sup>

**Placebo-induced endogenous opioid release...was associated with better antidepressant treatment response, predicting 43% of the variance in symptom improvement at the end of the antidepressant trial.**

Paola M. Rohrer, M.D., Ph.D., et al. Association Between Placebo-Activated Neural Systems and Antidepressant Responses: Neurochemistry of Placebo Effects in Major Depression. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015;72(11):1081-1094. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2015.1385

Abstract: This study examined the neurochemistry of placebo effects in major depression. The authors used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to measure brain activity during placebo and antidepressant treatment. They found that placebo-induced endogenous opioid release was associated with better antidepressant treatment response, predicting 43% of the variance in symptom improvement at the end of the antidepressant trial.

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**THE POWER OF PLACEBO**

Neuroimaging Studies of Antidepressant Placebo Effects: Challenges and Opportunities

Increased opioid activity in  
 • Anterior Cingulate  
 • Amygdala  
 Increase dopaminergic activity in  
 • Basal Ganglia

Placebo induced changes in opioid  $BOLD_{fMRI}$

Placebo induced changes in  $D_2/D_1$   $BOLD_{fMRI}$

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**CAM Approaches to Mood Disorders**

**Nutritional Deficiency**  
 • Magnesium  
 • Lithium  
 • B vitamins

**Herbal Support**  
 • St. John's Wort  
 • Passionflower  
 • Kava  
 • Valerian  
 • Adaptogens

**Methylation Support**  
 • Biosynthetic, and clearance pathways for many NTs  
 • Methyl-B12  
 • Trimethyl-glycine  
 • Betaine

**Urinary NTs Testing**  
 • Clinical boon or marketing hype?  
 • Serotonin  
 • Gaba  
 • Dopamine  
 • Catecholamines

\*Lists not exhaustive

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**You CAN'T correlate urinary NT results to the brain. PERIOD.**

**CLINICAL PEARL**

Urinary NTs are primarily a reflection of GI production

- Very few NTs cross the Blood Brain Barrier
- The brain makes its ALL of its own GABA, Serotonin, Dopamine, Acetylcholine
  - And MOST of its Catecholamines and Glutamate

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**MAJOR CATEGORIES OF MOOD DISORDERS**

DEPRESSION	ANXIETY & PHOBIAS
<p><b>Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor Depressive Disorder</li> <li>Recurrent Brief Depression (&lt;2 weeks)</li> <li>Dysthymia/Persistent Depressive Disorder (&gt;2 years)</li> </ul> <p><b>Depression With Known Triggers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD)</li> <li>Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)</li> </ul> <p><b>Nonspecific Depressive Disorder</b></p>	<p><b>Primarily ANXIETY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)</li> <li>Anxiety 2<sup>o</sup> to other condition/substances</li> </ul> <p><b>Primarily PHOBIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panic Disorder (rapid onset, short duration with ANS concomitants)</li> <li>Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)</li> <li>Phobias (avoidance behavior)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Anxiety Disorder</li> <li>Separation Anxiety Disorder</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>OTHER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)</li> </ul>

Adapted from: Neurobiology of Brain Disorders Second Edition 2012  
Biological Basis of Psychogeriatric and Psychiatric Disorders

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Five (or more) of the following present **nearly every day during the same 2-week period**  
 At least one of the symptoms is either depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure.

**Major Depressive Disorder**

1. Depressed most of the day, nearly every day
2. Markedly diminished interest or pleasure in most activities
3. Unintentional weight loss/gain (4% BW in one month), or decrease/increase in appetite
4. Insomnia or hypersomnia
5. Psychomotor agitation or retardation (observable by others)
6. Fatigue
7. Feelings of worthlessness or excessive/inappropriate guilt
8. Diminished ability to think, concentrate, or indecisiveness
9. Recurrent thoughts of death or recurrent suicidal ideation (without a specific plan, or a suicide attempt or a specific plan for committing suicide)

**Minor Depressive Disorder** requires only 1-3 items.

\*Symptoms not attributable to the direct physiological effects of a substance or to another medical condition.

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Poorly controlled excessive worry (apprehensive expectation) occurring **more days than not for at least 6 months**

## Generalized Anxiety Disorder

**Disproportionate and enduring fear where emotional response is larger than the actual/perceived threat**

Associated with **three or more** of the following

1. Restlessness or feeling keyed up or on edge
2. Being easily **fatigued**
3. **Difficulty concentrating** or mind going blank
4. Irritability
5. Muscle tension
6. **Sleep disturbance** (difficulty falling or staying asleep, or restless unsatisfying sleep)

Where these symptoms not attributable to the direct physiological effects of a substance or to another medical condition such as:

- Hypothyroidism (Thyroiditis/Overmedication/Grave's Dis)
- Pheochromocytoma (Adrenal Tumor)
- Cardiopulmonary disease
- Seizure Disorders
- Vestibular disorder

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**HOSPITAL ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION SCALE**

Revised Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD)

Item	1	2	3	4	5
1. I feel nervous, anxious or on edge	0	1	2	3	4
2. I feel restless, fatigued or tired	0	1	2	3	4
3. I have trouble concentrating	0	1	2	3	4
4. I feel irritable or annoyed	0	1	2	3	4
5. I have trouble sleeping	0	1	2	3	4
6. I feel sad or down	0	1	2	3	4
7. I lose interest in things	0	1	2	3	4
8. I feel hopeless	0	1	2	3	4
9. I think of harming myself or others	0	1	2	3	4
10. I feel that I am a burden on others	0	1	2	3	4
11. I feel that I am not worth the effort	0	1	2	3	4
12. I feel that I am not good at all	0	1	2	3	4
13. I feel that I am not interested in anything	0	1	2	3	4
14. I feel that I am not doing anything worthwhile	0	1	2	3	4
15. I feel that I am not enjoying life	0	1	2	3	4
16. I feel that I am not getting on with things	0	1	2	3	4
17. I feel that I am not doing things properly	0	1	2	3	4
18. I feel that I am not doing things as well as I should	0	1	2	3	4
19. I feel that I am not doing things as fast as I should	0	1	2	3	4
20. I feel that I am not doing things as often as I should	0	1	2	3	4
21. I feel that I am not doing things as well as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
22. I feel that I am not doing things as often as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
23. I feel that I am not doing things as well as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
24. I feel that I am not doing things as often as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
25. I feel that I am not doing things as well as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
26. I feel that I am not doing things as often as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
27. I feel that I am not doing things as well as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
28. I feel that I am not doing things as often as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
29. I feel that I am not doing things as well as I used to	0	1	2	3	4
30. I feel that I am not doing things as often as I used to	0	1	2	3	4

**THE GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER 7-ITEM (GAD-7) SCALE**

GAD-7

Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?

	Not at all	Several days	Most days	Nearly every day
1. Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge	0	1	2	3
2. Not being able to stop or control worrying	0	1	2	3
3. Worrying too much about different things	0	1	2	3
4. Trouble relaxing	0	1	2	3
5. Being so restless that it is hard to sit still	0	1	2	3
6. Becoming easily annoyed or irritable	0	1	2	3
7. Feeling afraid as if something awful might happen	0	1	2	3

Total Score: 0-21

0-4: Not at all  
5-9: Mild  
10-14: Moderate  
15-21: Severe

Archives of General Psychiatry, 2006, 163(11): 1568-1575. doi:10.1093/archpsyc/163.11.1568

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## Psychological Causes of Mood Disorders

**Psychological and Physiological mechanisms are intertwined (Psycho-Neuro-immunology)**

Finances

Lack of Community

Lack of Purpose

High demand life and lifestyle

MOOD DISORDERS

Guilt/Shame

Relationship Stress

Unhappy with choices

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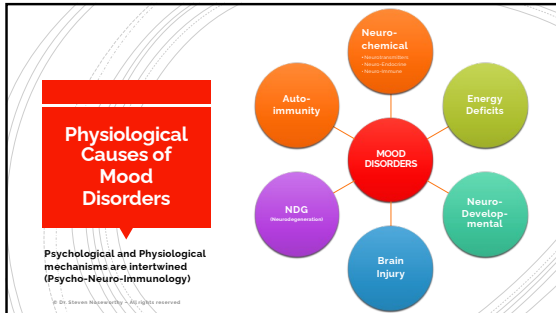
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**Age at Onset?**

**YOUNG ONSET/LIFELONG SYMPTOMS (WORSE PROGNOSIS)**

- Genetics (strong family history → 3x risk)
- Neuro-developmental issues → adulthood
- Acute onset at young age?: Think
  - Head injury
  - Infection (StrepA → PANDAS)

**ADULT ONSET (BETTER PROGNOSIS)**

- Less likely to be genetic
- Look at both psychological and physiological factors in a 6-month window before onset
- Consider age-related NDG if also see signs of cognitive decline

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**EPISODIC VS PERSISTENT**

**INTERMITTENT/EPISODIC (BETTER PROGNOSIS)**

- Worse with stress or immune activation?
- Hormone control and stability
- Thyroid Dysfunction
- Lifestyle inconsistent and variable

**CHRONIC/PERSISTENT (WORSE PROGNOSIS)**

- Prior brain injury → chronic microglial activation
- Neurodegeneration
- Unidentified or poorly managed metabolic issues
- Maladaptive/Negative Plasticity?

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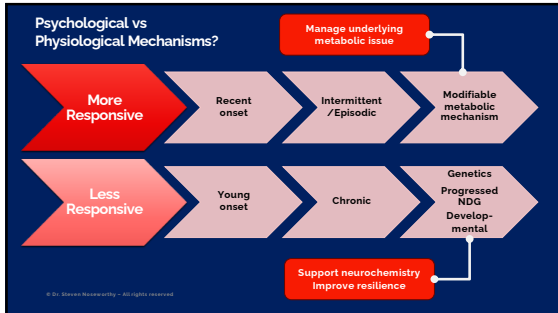
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**THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AS A SUPERSYSTEM**

Annual Review of Immunology  
Vol. 15:1-13 (Volume publication date April 1997)  
<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.immunol.15.1.1>

**Tomio Tada**  
Research Institute for Biological Sciences, Science University of Tokyo, 2689 Yamazaki, Noda City, Chiba, 278 Japan

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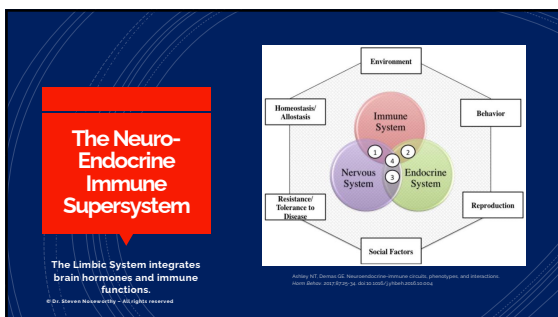
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**STRICTLY SPEAKING...**

**DEPRESSION IS DECREASED ACTIVATION OF THE FRONTAL LOBE (PREFRONTAL/ORBIFRONTAL CORTICES)**

- Neuroinflammation
- Neurotransmitter dysregulation
- Hormonal imbalances
- Lack of input
  - ↓ Vestibulo-Cerebellar activation

**ANXIETY IS INCREASED ACTIVATION OF THE AMYGDALA**

- Neuronal energy deficits
- Stress chemistry
- Hyperthyroidism
- Loss of inhibition (GAD65/Purkinje/D2 receptors)

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**LIMBIC REGIONS**

- Prefrontal Cortex
- Anterior Cingulate Gyrus
- Amygdala
- Hippocampus
- Mesencephalic Reticular Formation (Sympathetics)

**CELLS**

- Neurons (signaling)
- Glial Cells (supporting roles)
- Oligodendrocytes (myelin)
- Astrocytes (BBB, supplies glucose/glycogen/lactate)
- Microglia (immune/inflammation)

**THE LIMBIC SYSTEM**

Mood disorders arise as a consequence of altered function(s) among the neurons, that make up the circuits, that connect multiple brain regions and structures of the Limbic System.

Adapted from: Neurobiology of Stress Disorders, Second Edition 2008, Biological Basis of Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders

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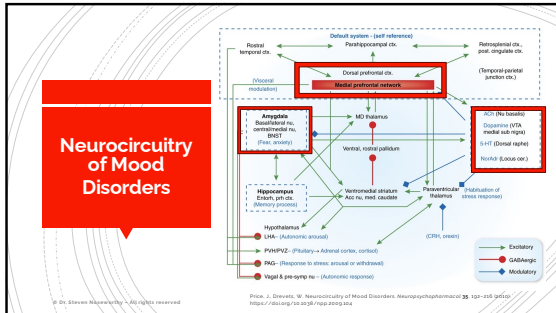
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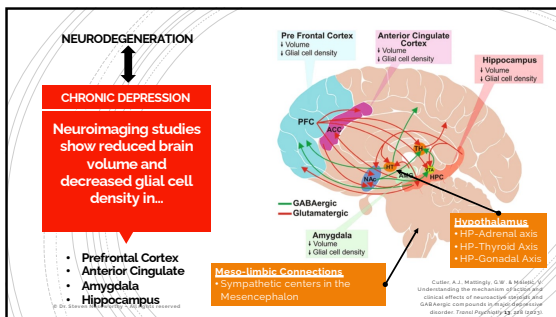
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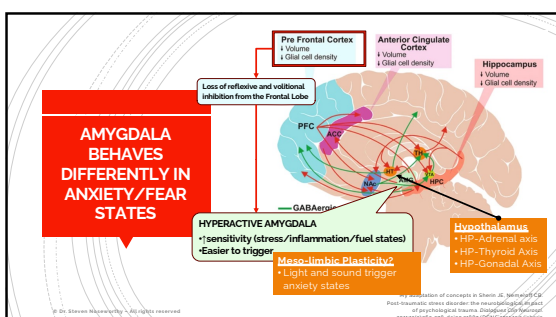
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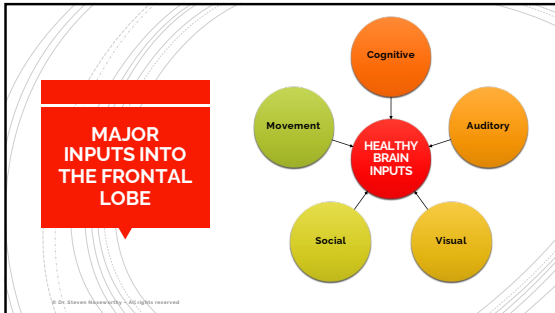
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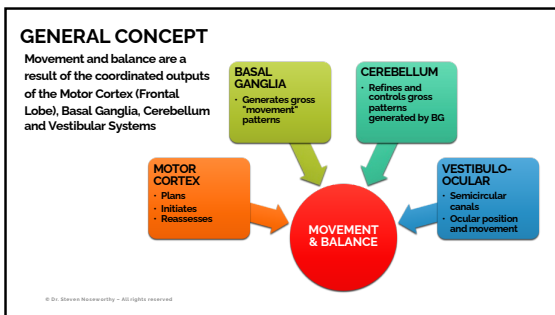
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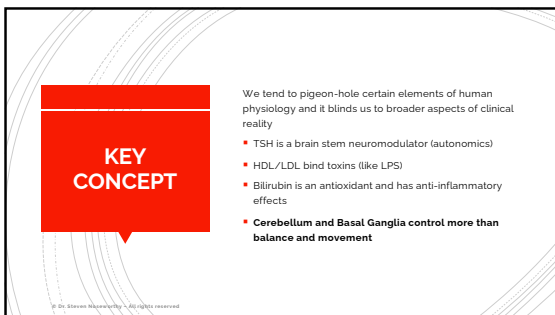
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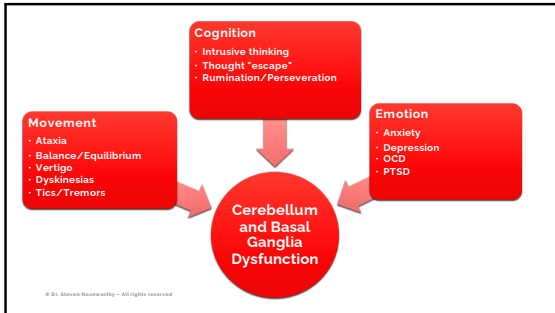
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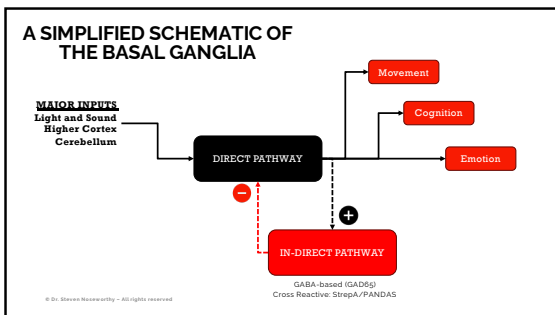
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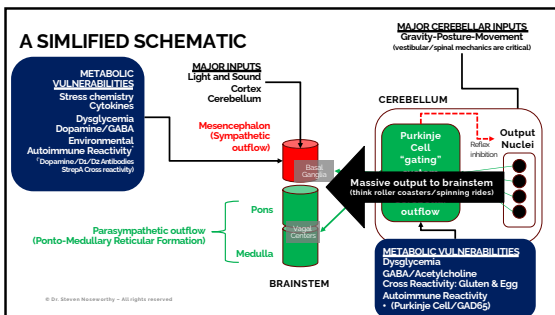
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On average

- Each neuron is connected to ~2000 other neurons.
- There are >100 Trillion synapses in the human brain

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Do we really use only 10% of our brain?

- Brainstem: Glia outnumber neurons 10:1
- Cerebellum: Neurons outnumber Glia 20-30:1
- Cortex: 1:1 ratio

GLIAL CELL TYPES

- Oligodendrocytes
  - Myelination
  - ~75% of total
- Astrocytes
  - BBB and glucose/glycogen reserve
  - ~20% of total
- Microglia
  - Brain macrophages
  - ~5% of total

\*%s and ratios vary by region & study

See Bennett (13), Bennett & Deschênes (2004) (13-15). The graph lists the numbers of neurons and glial cells in the human brain. A survey of 100 pieces of cell counting. J Comp Neurol 451(4):601-605 (2002). doi:10.1002/ajpa.10046

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CLINICAL PEARL

**THE RULE**

- Neuroinflammation from Microglial activation causes LOSS of function related to whatever is inflamed
- Look for: Brain fog, Depression, Cognitive fatigue

**THE EXCEPTION**

- The Mesencephalon is very sensitive to stress chemistry and inflammation
- Negative plasticity → ↑ efficiency in creating stress chemistry and inflammation

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**CRITICAL BRAIN CELL FUNCTIONS**

- Microenvironment integrity (BBB)
- Inflammation control (microglial cells)
- ATP/Energy production
- NTs and Synaptic Transmission
- Plasticity



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**CRITICAL CELL FUNCTIONS**

- Microenvironment integrity (BBB)
- Inflammation control
- Energy production
- Synaptic Transmission (NTs)
- Plasticity



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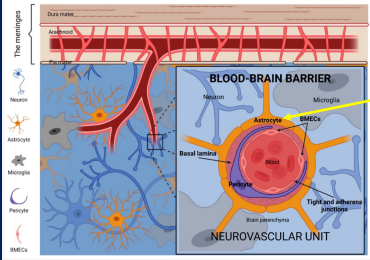
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**ASTROCYTES**

- Modulate endothelial Tight Junction Proteins
- Control water and ion balance
- Produce both growth and apoptotic factors

Reed-Geaghan E. Endothelin-1: Transmembrane of danger. How are endothelial through the Blood-Brain Barrier. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*. 2022; 628:11-20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrc.2021.10.031>

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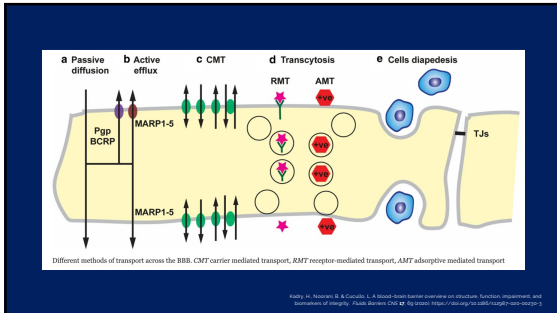
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**Effects of Oral Gamma-Aminobutyric Acid (GABA) Administration on Stress and Sleep in Humans: A Systematic Review**

**GABA is critical to the functioning of the CNS, where ~60–75% of all synapses are GABAergic.**

Front. Neurosci., 27 September 2020  
doi: 10.3389/fnol.2020.00075

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**CLINICAL PEARL**

If someone takes oral GABA and experiences relaxation and/or sedation

- Suspect some degree of Blood Brain Barrier permeability (Leaky Brain)

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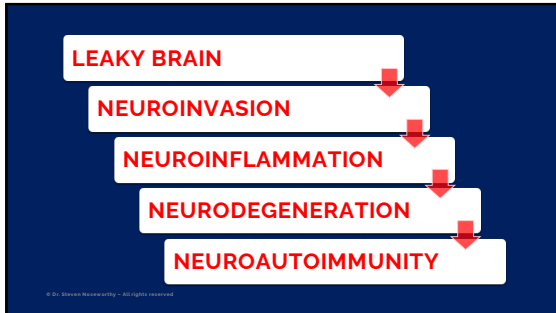
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**Things That Break The BBB**

Anything that affects vascular and neuronal integrity

- Poor perfusion
- Insulin resistance and AGEs
- Inflammation & ROS
- Stress chemistry
- Lipopolysaccharides
- Environmental chemicals
- Mycotoxins – by ↓ Astrocyte mitochondrial function
- Concussion
- Aging/Senescence

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**TESTING THE BBB**

**INDICATIVE**

- GABA Challenge
- ~1000 mg GABA at onset of anxiety or 45 minutes before bed

**DIAGNOSTIC**

- Cyrex Array 2: Anti-BBB Protein Antibodies
- Vibrant Labs Neural Zoomer
  - Anti-Microglia
  - Anti-Glial fibrillary acidic protein
  - Anti-s100b
  - Ant-Glucose regulated protein 78

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**NUTRIENTS TO SUPPORT BBB INTEGRITY**

Manage/remove triggers and mechanisms

**IMPROVE CEREBRAL BLOOD FLOW**

- Feverfew
- Butcher's Broom
- Gingko Biloba
- Capsaicin
- Vinpocetine

**DECREASE NEUROINFLAMMATION**

- Green Tea Catechins
- Baicalein (Skullcap)
- Rutin
- Apigenin
- Luteolin

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**CRITICAL CELL FUNCTIONS**

- Microenvironment integrity (BBB)
- **Inflammation control**
- Energy production
- Synaptic Transmission (NTs)
- Plasticity



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**Microglia in depression: an overview of microglia in the pathogenesis and treatment of depression**

Wang H, Liu Y, Sun Z, et al. Microglia in depression: an overview of microglia in the pathogenesis and treatment of depression. *J Neuroinflammation* 19: 139 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12974-020-1860-9>

Changes in microglia in different brain regions, including the PFC, HIP, anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), and amygdala, are involved in the development of depression.

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**So depression is an inflammatory disease, but where does the inflammation come from?**

Wang H, Liu Y, Sun Z, et al. So depression is an inflammatory disease, but where does the inflammation come from? *BMC Medicine* 18: 100 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-020-1860-9>

There is now an extensive body of data showing that **depression is associated with both a chronic low-grade inflammatory response**, activation of cell-mediated immunity and activation of the compensatory anti-inflammatory reflex system (CIRS), characterized by negative immunoregulatory processes

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**Role of inflammation in depression and anxiety: Tests for disorder specificity, severity and potential causality of association in the UK Biobank**

**Abstract**

Higher CRP, IL6 and ferritin levels were associated with higher levels of depression and anxiety. Associations were stronger for depression. Associations were stronger in women than men.

**Key findings**

- Higher CRP, IL6 and ferritin levels were associated with higher levels of depression and anxiety.
- Associations were stronger for depression.
- Associations were stronger in women than men.

**Conclusion**

Higher CRP, IL6 and ferritin levels were associated with higher levels of depression and anxiety. Associations were stronger for depression. Associations were stronger in women than men.

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**MICROGLIAL CELLS**

- Brain macrophages
  - M1: Proinflammatory
  - M2: Anti-inflammatory & neurotrophic
- Have receptors for
  - Cytokines
  - Hormones (Cortisol, E2...)
  - ATP (extracellular)
  - NTs (many...GABA?)

**Activation States:**

- RESTING MICROPHAGE:** Homeostatic surveillance, phagocytosis, antigen presentation, chemotaxis, chemokine secretion.
- ACTIVATED:** Synthesis of proinflammatory cytokines, chemokines, and reactive oxygen species; phagocytosis of pathogens and debris; antigen presentation.
- PHAGOCYTIC:** Phagocytosis of pathogens and debris; antigen presentation.

**Altered States:**

- ALERT:** Homeostatic surveillance, phagocytosis, antigen presentation, chemotaxis, chemokine secretion.
- PRIMED (INFLAMMING):** Homeostatic surveillance, phagocytosis, antigen presentation, chemotaxis, chemokine secretion.
- DAMAGE-ASSOCIATED MICROGLIA:** Homeostatic surveillance, phagocytosis, antigen presentation, chemotaxis, chemokine secretion.
- NEURONAL DEATH:** Homeostatic surveillance, phagocytosis, antigen presentation, chemotaxis, chemokine secretion.

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**MICROGLIAL CELLS**

- M1 Polarization
  - Inflammatory cytokines → Tight junction damage
  - ROS → ↓ influx/efflux capacity
  - MMP-9 → ↓ ECM
  - iNOS
- M2 Polarization
  - ↓ NFκB/inflammation
  - MMP-9 → ↑ ECM integrity
  - ↑ VEGF and growth factors

**Diagram Description:** The diagram illustrates the signaling pathways for M1 and M2 polarization. M1 polarization is triggered by inflammatory cytokines (TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6, IL-17) leading to tight junction damage, increased ROS, MMP-9, and iNOS. M2 polarization is triggered by anti-inflammatory cytokines (IL-4, IL-13) leading to decreased NFκB, MMP-9, and increased VEGF and growth factors.

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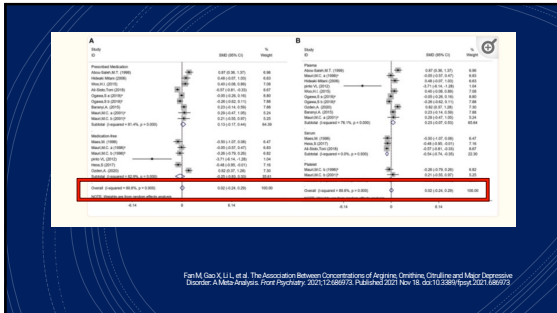
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Fan M, Guo X, Li L, et al. The Association Between Concentrations of Arginine, Ornithine, Citrulline and Major Depressive Disorder: A Meta-analysis. *Front Psychiatry*. 2023;12:1069773. Published 2023 Nov 18. doi:10.3389/fpsp.2023.1069773

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“ A growing body of evidence suggest that nNOS regulates the synthesis, release, and uptake of 5-HT.

Zhou QG, Zhu XH, Nemes AD, Zhu DY. Neuronal nitric oxide synthase and affective disorders. *BPJ Rep*. 2018;5(1):16-132. Published 2018 Nov 17. doi:10.1016/j.bpr.2018.11.004

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**NUTRIENTS TO SUPPORT NOS-ISOMER BALANCE**

**GENERAL GOAL: ↓iNOS**

- ↑eNOS ↑nNOS

ATP  
Xanthinol Nicotinate  
N-Acetyl L-Carnitine  
Alpha-GPC  
Vinpocetine  
Huperzine A

Manage/remove immune triggers and mechanisms

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### NUTRIENTS TO DAMPEN MICROGLIA

**DECREASE NEUROINFLAMMATION**

- Green Tea Catechins
- Baicalein (Skullcap)
- Rutin
- Apigenin
- Luteolin

Manage/remove triggers and mechanisms

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### CRITICAL CELL FUNCTIONS

- Microenvironment integrity (BBB)
- Inflammation control
- **Energy production**
- Synaptic Transmission (NTs)
- Plasticity

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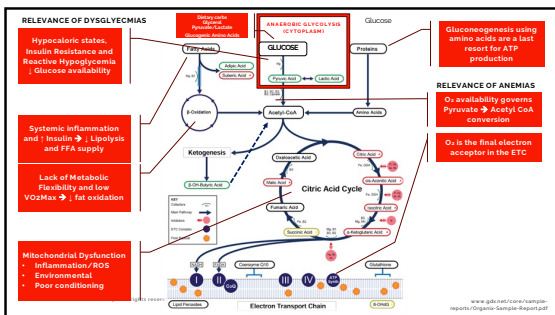
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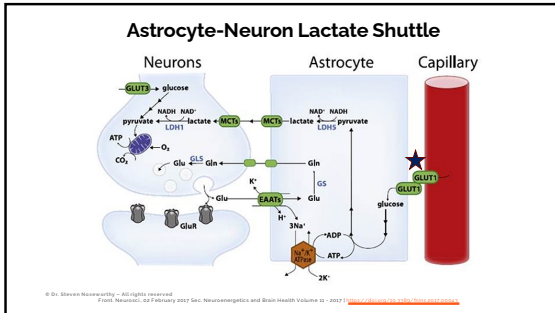
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### Hyperinsulinemia drives anxiety and depression

- Alters brain mitochondrial function
  - ↓ ATP
  - ↑ ROS
  - ↑ lipid peroxidation
- ↑ MAO activity → ↓ Dopamine

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Insulin resistance in brain alters dopamine turnover and causes behavioral disorders

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**REACTIVE  
HYPOGLYCEMIA**

- Activates Mesencephalic Reticular Formation
- Leads to ↑ catecholamines and ↑ Cortisol
- Dysregulates most NT biosynthetic pathways
- Neurons can't maintain Resting Membrane potential
  - Easier to fire with trivial inputs
- Lack of Metabolic Flexibility and adaptive responses leads to low fuel states
  - Prefrontal Cortex can't fire inhibitory signals
  - Amygdala activates "spontaneously"

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STRATEGIES AND NUTRIENTS THAT SUPPORT BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL

Keto and Intermittent Fasting are desirable if tolerated  
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**INSULIN RESISTANCE**

- Diet: Control calories and carbs; adequate protein
- Nutrients that support AMPK and Insulin Sensitivity
  - Berberine HCL
  - Alpha Lipoic Acid
  - Burdock Root
  - Rose Hips
  - Chromic Picolinate

**REACTIVE HYPOGLYCEMIA**

- Diet: Adequate calories and protein → Develop Metabolic flexibility
  - Careful of low carb and Intermittent Fasting
- Nutrients
  - Phytosterols-BCAA-Cinnamon extract
  - Adrenal co-support?

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CRITICAL CELL FUNCTIONS

- Microenvironment integrity (BBB)
- Inflammation control
- Energy production
- Synaptic Transmission (NTs)
- Plasticity

Fire or die.



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Cell body is up here and signals flow !

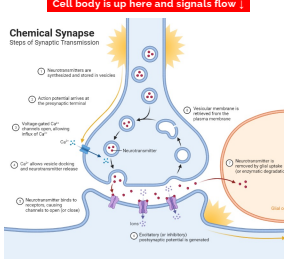
**Fire or Die Means 3 things**

1. Presynaptic neuron synthesizes & releases NT
2. NT crosses the Synapse & binds to post-synaptic receptor
3. Signal is terminated/reset to fire again

**Chemical Synapse**  
Steps of Synaptic Transmission

1. Neurotransmitters are synthesized and added to vesicles
2. Action potential arrives at the presynaptic terminal
3. Voltage-gated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels open, allowing entry of Ca<sup>2+</sup>
4. Ca<sup>2+</sup> allows vesicle docking and neurotransmitter release
5. Neurotransmitter binds to postsynaptic receptors (binds to open ion channel)
6. Ions flow in or out of cell (membrane potential is generated)
7. Neurotransmitter is removed from synapse (by reuptake, degradation, or enzymatic breakdown)

Purves et al. (2018) Neuroscience, 6th Ed. Oxford University Press



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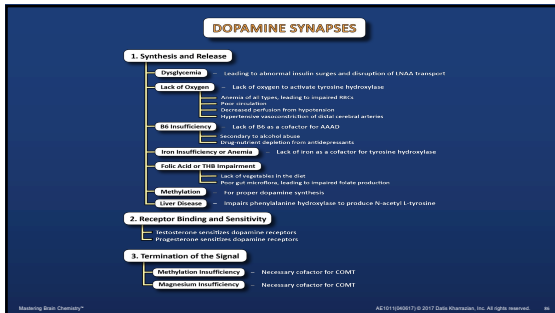
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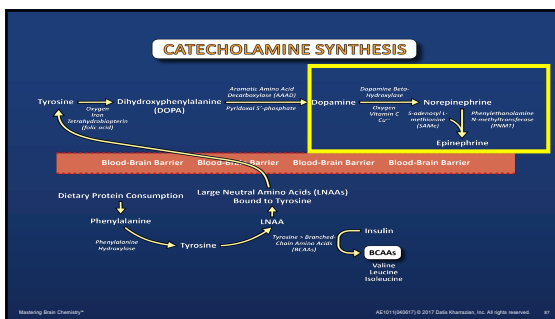
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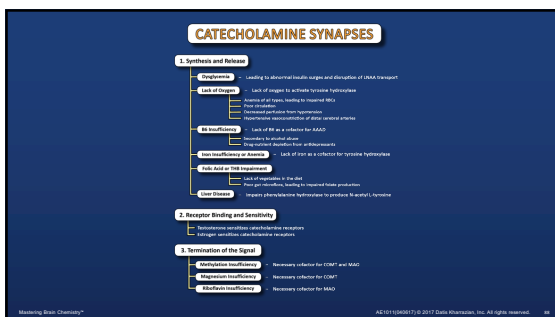
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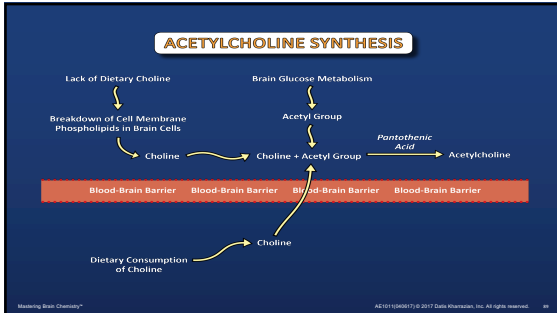
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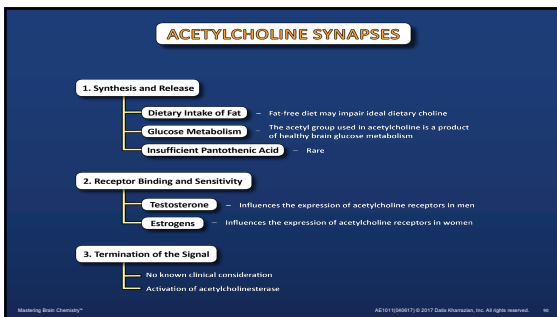
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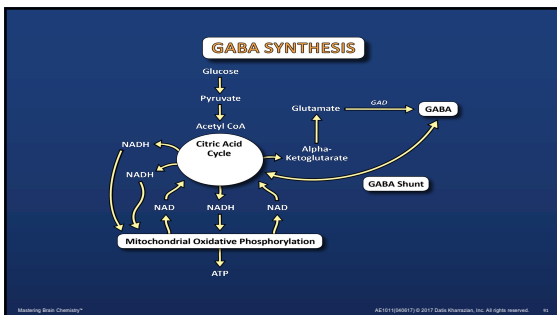
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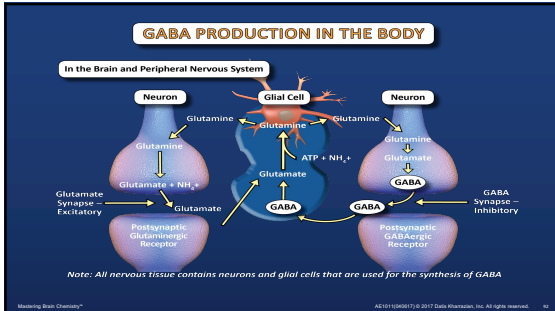
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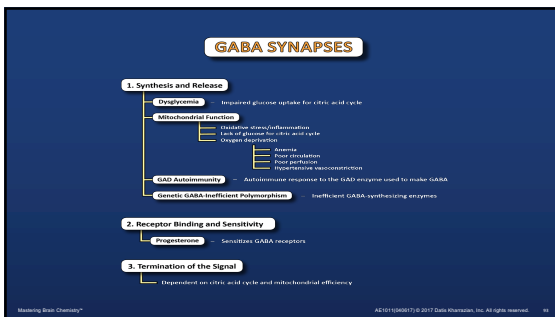
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**CRITICAL CELL FUNCTIONS**

- Microenvironment integrity (BBB)
- Inflammation control
- Energy production
- Synaptic Transmission (NTs)
- Plasticity

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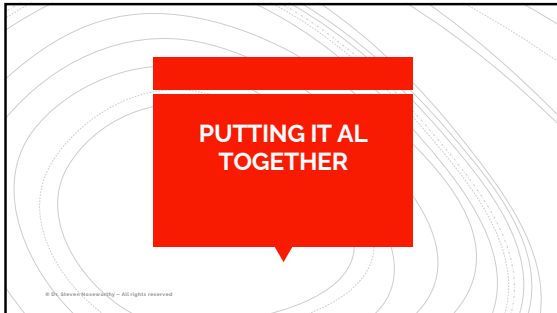
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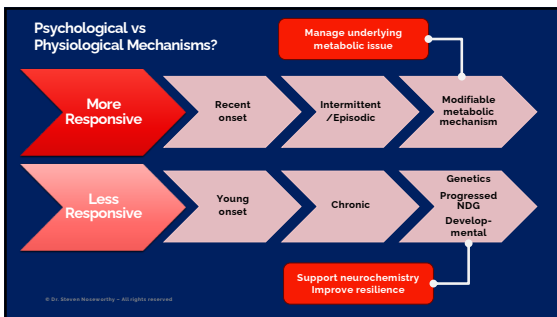
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- GENERAL CONCEPTS
- History of mTBI? (even remote)
  - History of chronic stress or abuse?
  - Find and fix any systemic inflammatory/oxidative stressors
  - Find and fix barrier breaches (BBB/GALT)
  - Address diet, exercise, modifiable stressors and sleep
  - Check perfusion and energy mechanics
    - Hypotension-Anemias-VO2Max
  - Blood sugar control and calorie sufficiency
  - Parse out NT symptoms and mechanisms
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**ANXIETY CORE CONCEPTS**

Anxiety is inappropriate activation of the Amygdala

Goals:

- Stabilize neurochemistry
- Create plasticity in Frontal Lobe and Cerebellum

**PRIMARY MECHANISMS TO CONSIDER**

- Mesolimbic Plasticity? (light/sound sensitivity, easily startled)
- History of StrepA?
- Reactive Hypoglycemia and calorie sufficiency are VERY common
  - Often intolerant to low carb/Keto/IF
- Consider autoimmune reactivity
  - GAD65-Purkinje cells-GABA-D2 receptors
  - Gluten cross reactivity with GAD65 and/or Cerebellum
- Any mechanism that alters GABA
  - Consider Progesterone sufficiency
- Check for balance issues

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**DEPRESSION CORE CONCEPTS**

Depression is decreased activation of the Prefrontal Cortex

Goals:

- Dampen microglial inflammation
- Stabilize general metabolic state

**PRIMARY MECHANISMS TO CONSIDER**

- Fire the Frontal Lobe
  - Exercise
  - Community
  - Purpose, Problem solving and Planning (75 Hard!?!?)
  - Sensory rich life
  - Control modifiable stressors
- Frontal Lobe heavily dependent on
  - Dopamine and Catecholamines
  - Testosterone in men
  - Estrogens in women

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