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FONDAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE  
PER IL SOSTEGNO DELLA  
RICERCA IN PSICHIATRIA

# Personalized Psychiatry & Panic Disorder: from Genetics to Endophenotypes

presented by.

**Giampaolo Perna, MD, PhD**

*WPA Madrid, 16th September 2014*

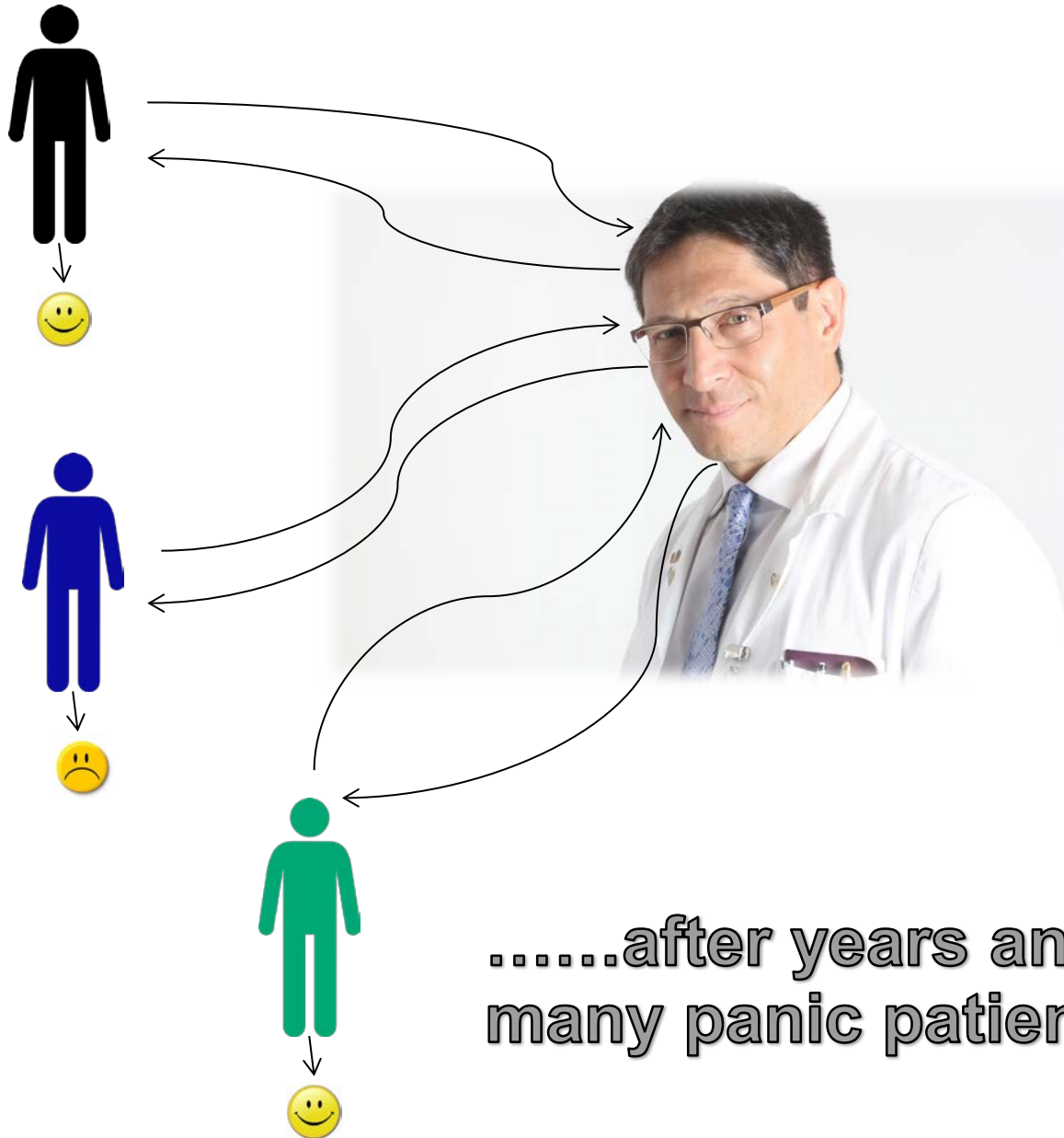


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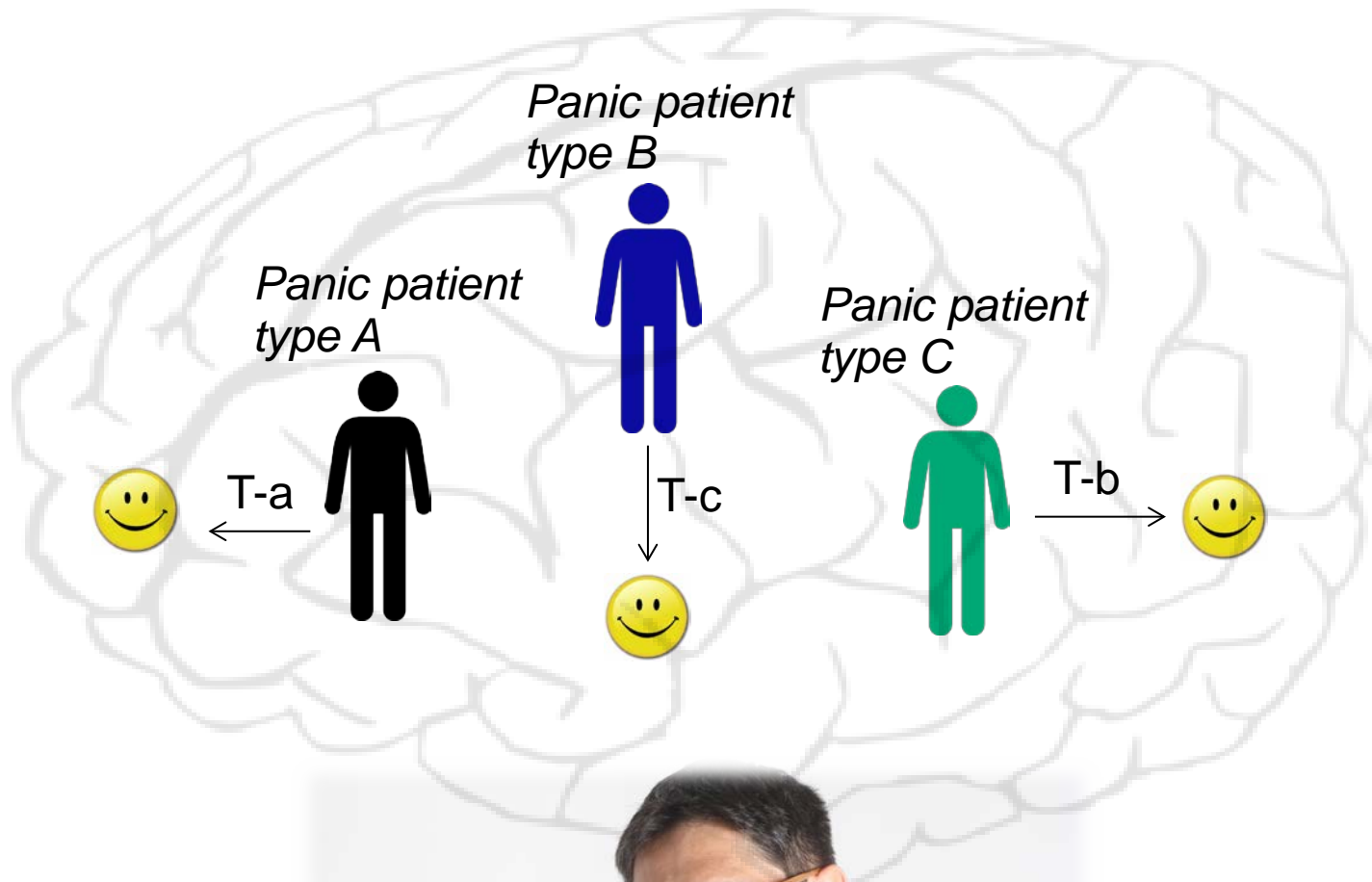




**Personalized Psychiatry:**  
**is it really something new?**



.....after years and many,  
many panic patients

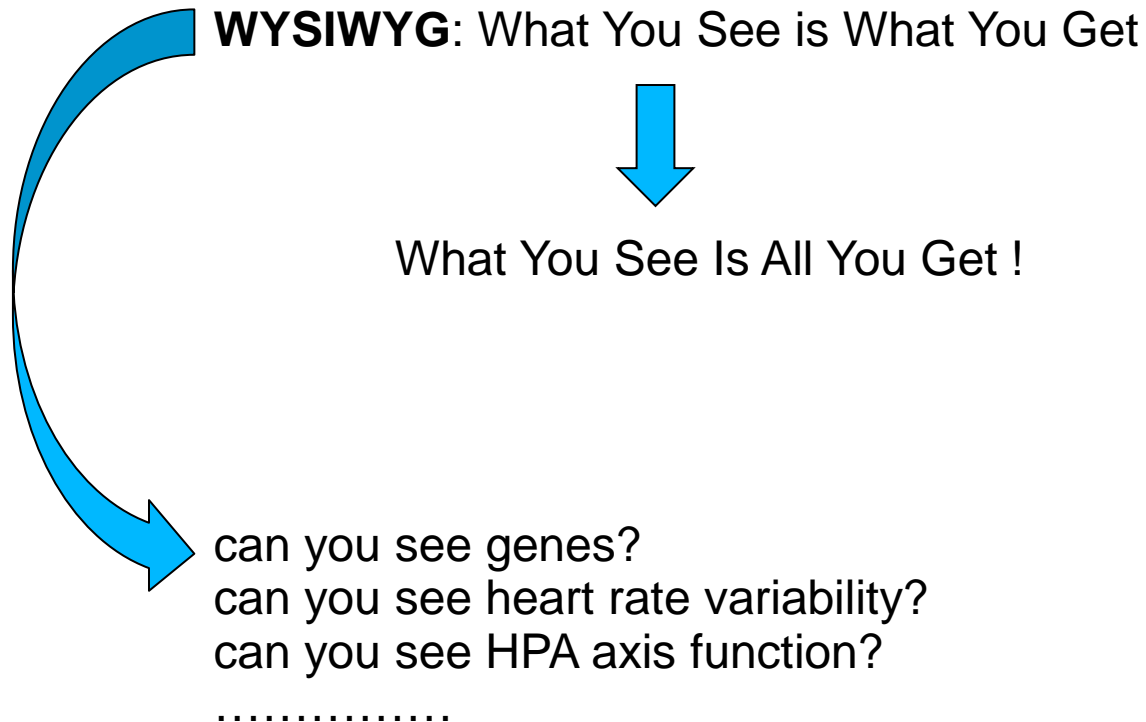




**Personalized Psychiatrist:**  
**is this enough?**



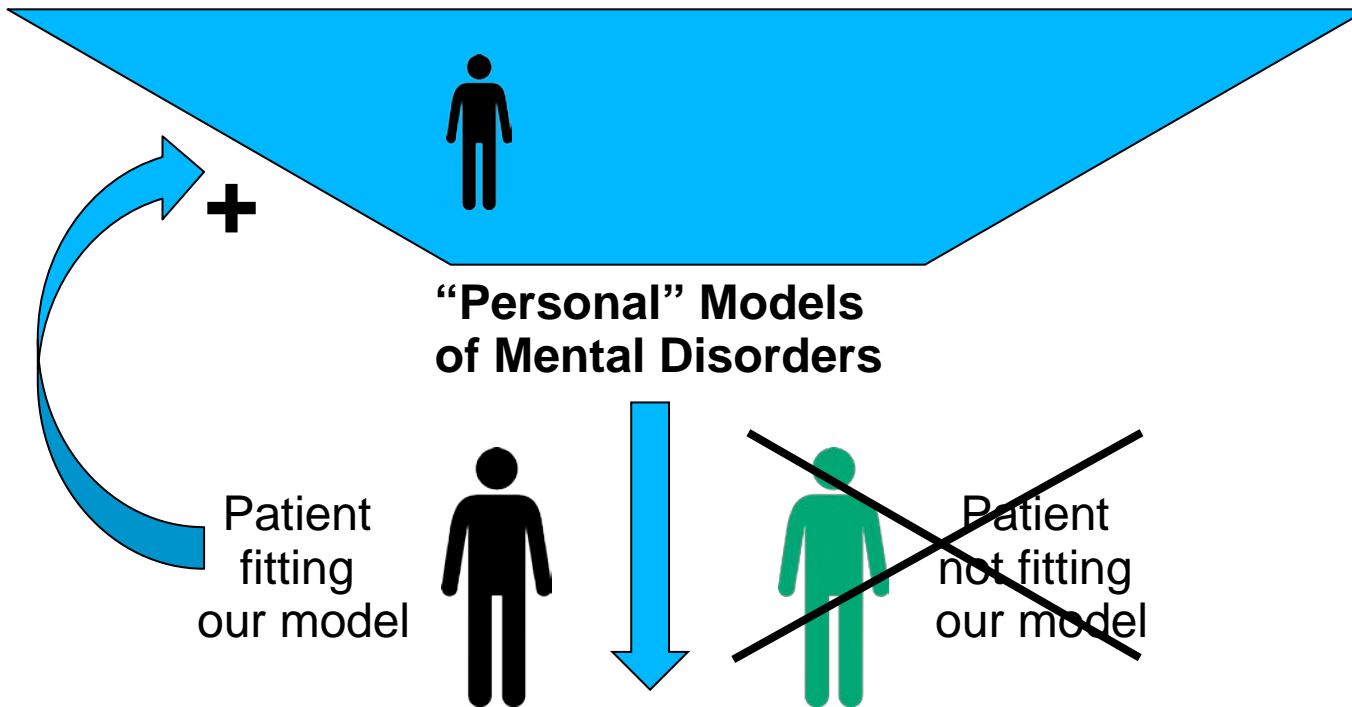
# Personalized Psychiatrist approach: Biases.....





# Personalized Psychiatrist approach: Biases.....

Education Experiences Personality Age Sex .....



***We See What We Want to See***



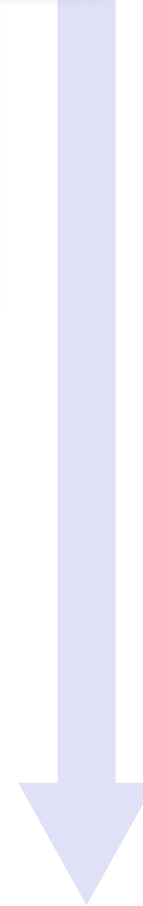
## **Personalized Psychiatry as a Science will help us to:**

To move from the science of “mean ideal patient” to the science of “real life patient”

To become better Personalized Psychiatrists:

- overcoming our personal biases
- including “hidden” information in our thinking
- opening our mind to ideas of others





.....after 25 years of more  
than 5'000 panic patients

# Panic Perna Personalized Psychiatry (P4)



1. Respiratory, Cardiac, Vestibular Patterns are those specific for Perna's True Panic Patients
2. Cardiorespiratory patients respond better to paroxetine and clomipramine
3. Patients with otovestibular symptoms respond better to sertraline
4. Clomipramine works on dyspnea panic patients
5. Fluovamine does not work in panic patients
6. Cardiorespiratory patients respond quicker than depersonalization patients
7. Paroxetine & SSRIs are protective on cardiovascular system
8. CO2 hypersensitivity is an endophenotype of true panic patients
9. ....
- 10.....



**Personalized Psychiatry & Panic Disorder:**  
**a Systematic Review of Predictors of**  
**Efficacy of Antipanic treatments**



## **Key words in PubMed database (up to 15 August)**

("panic disorder"[TIAB] AND ("predict\*" OR  
(("treatment\*" OR "therapy" OR "therapies" OR  
"pharmacotherapy" OR "psychotherapy") AND  
"response") OR "pharmacogen\*" OR "longitudinal" OR  
"artificial neural network" OR "artificial neural  
networks" OR "support vector machine" OR "support  
vector machines")

**References obtained: 1167**

**References selected: 171**



## **Not predictors of response to treatment:**

1. Agoraphobia (both drugs and CBT)(9/9 studies)
2. Diagnosis of Depression (both drugs and CBT (5/6 studies)
3. Duration of illness (both drugs and CBT) (11/11 studies)
4. Gender (both drugs and CBT) (19/22 studies)
5. Age (both drugs and CBT) (16/19 studies)

## **Discordant data:**

1. Panic Severity
2. Anxiety Severity (discordant for drugs, negative for CBT)
3. Depressive symptomatology
4. Respiratory subtype



## **Predictors of response to treatment:**

1. Blood levels of Antipanic drugs  
(9/10 studies)
1. Early response to treatment (both drugs and CBT)  
(5/5 studies)
1. Personality Disorders comorbidity (both drugs and CBT)  
(8/9 studies)



# **Personalized Psychiatry & Panic Disorder:**

## **Genetics**



**Neuropsychopharmacology (2005) 30, 2230–2235**

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[www.neuropsychopharmacology.org](http://www.neuropsychopharmacology.org)

# Antipanic Efficacy of Paroxetine and Polymorphism within the Promoter of the Serotonin Transporter Gene

**Giampaolo Perna<sup>\*,1</sup>, Elisa Favaron<sup>1</sup>, Daniela Di Bella<sup>1</sup>, Riccardo Bussi<sup>1</sup> and Laura Bellodi<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*Anxiety Disorders Clinical and Research Unit, Istituto Scientifico H.S. Raffaele, Vita-Salute University, Milan, Italy*



**Table 2** Treatment Outcome and 5-HTTLPR Variants in Female Patients with PD

	l/l	l/s	s/s
$\Delta\%$ PASS*	$82.3 \pm 34.3$	$79.5 \pm 21.9$	$59.1 \pm 31.6$
Good Responders*	6/8 (75%)	17/31 (55%)	2/12 (17%)
No panic attacks at week 12*	6/7 (86%)	16/30 (53%)	1/9 (11%)
No anticipatory anxiety at week 12	5/8 (63%)	12/29 (41%)	2/12 (17%)
No agoraphobia at week 12	5/6 (83%)	13/22 (59%)	7/11 (64%)

\* $p < 0.05$ .

**Table 3** Treatment Outcome and 5-HTTLPR Variants in Male Patients with PD

	l/l	l/s	s/s
$\Delta\%$ PASS	$83.5 \pm 30.8$	$80.5 \pm 20.3$	$64.7 \pm 28.0$
Good responders	9/11 (82%)	12/17 (71%)	7/11 (64%)
No panic attacks at week 12	10/11 (91%)	11/16 (69%)	7/10 (70%)
No anticipatory anxiety at week 12	5/10 (50%)	6/16 (37%)	2/11 (18%)
No agoraphobia at week 12	7/8 (87%)	10/15 (67%)	5/10 (50%)



PHARMACOGENETICS

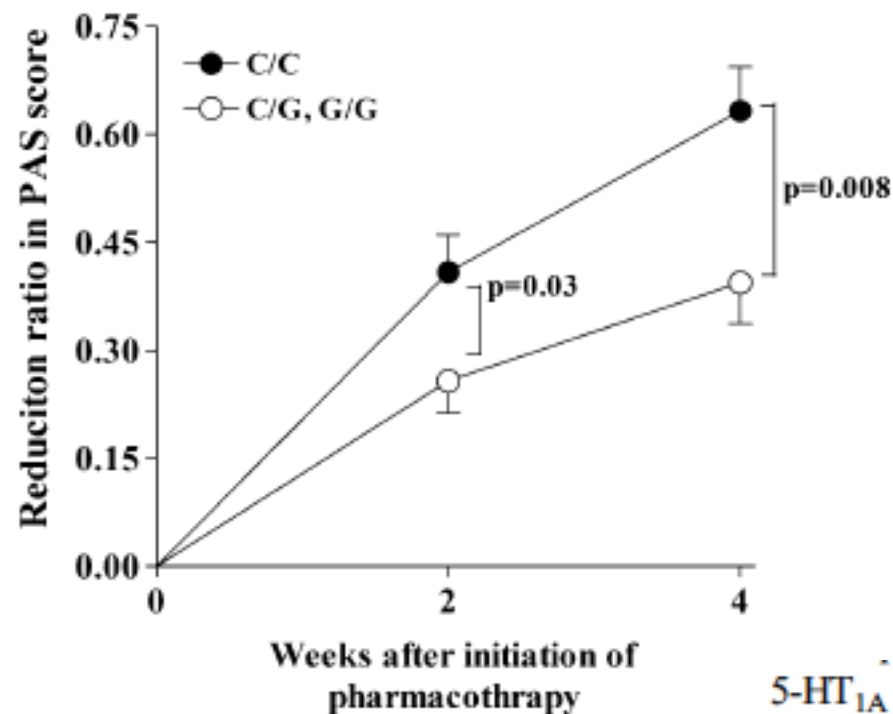
# **Determinants of pharmacodynamic trajectory of the therapeutic response to paroxetine in Japanese patients with panic disorder**

**Shin Ishiguro • Takashi Watanabe • Mikito Ueda • Yoshinori Saeki • Yuki Hayashi •  
Kazufumi Akiyama • Atsushi Saito • Kazuko Kato • Yoshimasa Inoue •  
Kazutaka Shimoda**



**Table 3** Results of the stepwise multiple regression analysis after 2 weeks of treatment

Independent variable	<i>p</i> value
Plasma concentration of paroxetine	0.001
5-HTTLPR genotype	0.001
5HT <sub>1A</sub> -1019C/G genotype	0.004





Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)



Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry 30 (2006) 1413–1418

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Progress In  
Neuro-Psychopharmacology  
& Biological Psychiatry

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[www.elsevier.com/locate/pnpbp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pnpbp)

# Tryptophan hydroxylase and serotonin transporter gene polymorphism does not affect the diagnosis, clinical features and treatment outcome of panic disorder in the Korean population

Won Kim <sup>a</sup>, Young Hee Choi <sup>b</sup>, Kyung-Sik Yoon <sup>c</sup>, Dae-Yeon Cho <sup>d</sup>,  
Chi-Un Pae <sup>e</sup>, Jong-Min Woo <sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Department of Psychiatry and Stress Research Institute, Seoul Paik Hospital, Inje University, Seoul, Republic of Korea*



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

## Journal of Affective Disorders

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jad](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jad)



Preliminary communication

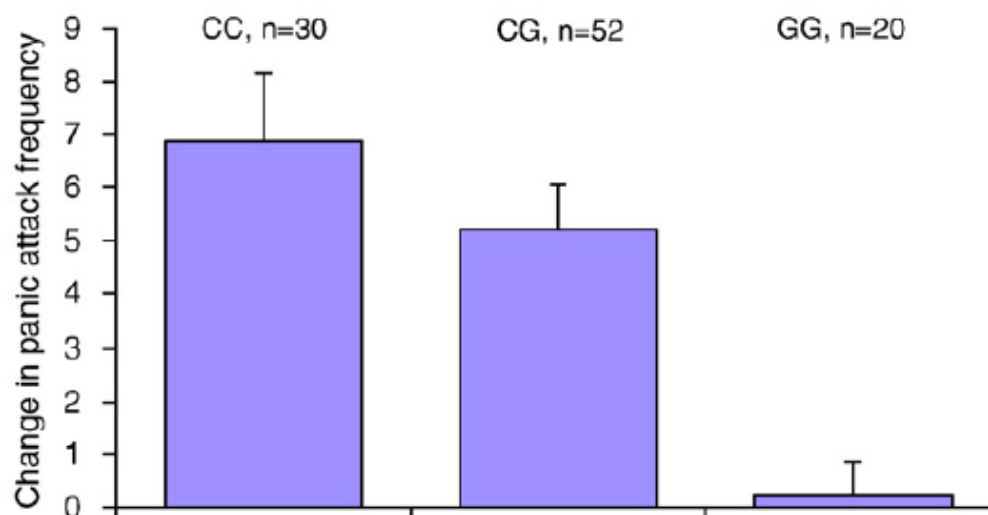
# Early response to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors in panic disorder is associated with a functional 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptor gene polymorphism

Olga O. Yevtushenko<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Mykhaylo M. Oros<sup>c</sup>, Gavin P. Reynolds<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Neuropsychopharmacology, Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology AMS Ukraine, Eugene Potie str., 14, Kyiv, 03057, Ukraine

<sup>b</sup> Department of Psychiatry, Queen's University Belfast, Whitla Medical Building, 97 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7BL, U.K.

<sup>c</sup> Clinic "Vodolij", Pachov's'kogo str., 14, Khust, 90400 Ukraine





# The association between panic disorder and the L/L genotype of catechol-*O*-methyltransferase<sup>☆</sup>

Jong-Min Woo<sup>a</sup>, Kyung-Sik Yoon<sup>b</sup>, Young-Hee Choi<sup>a</sup>, Kang-Sub Oh<sup>c</sup>,  
Young-Sik Lee<sup>d</sup>, Bum-Hee Yu<sup>e,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Neuropsychiatry, Inje University Seoul Paik Hospital, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Table 3  
Response to paroxetine treatment in panic patients according to COMT genetic polymorphism

Variable	H/H ( <i>n</i> = 95)		H/L ( <i>n</i> = 64)		L/L ( <i>n</i> = 19)		Analysis		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	<i>F</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
CGI-SI	5.5	0.9	5.5	1.1	5.3	0.8	0.36		0.699
CGI-GI	1.9	0.9	2.2	0.9	2.8	1.1	6.73		0.002 <sup>a</sup>

CGI-SI, pre-treatment clinical global impression scale – severity of illness; CGI-GI, clinical global impression scale – global improvement.

<sup>a</sup>The L/L group had a poorer treatment response than the H/H group (*p* = 0.002), but not significantly higher than L/H group (*p* = 0.069) by a post-hoc (Scheffé) test.



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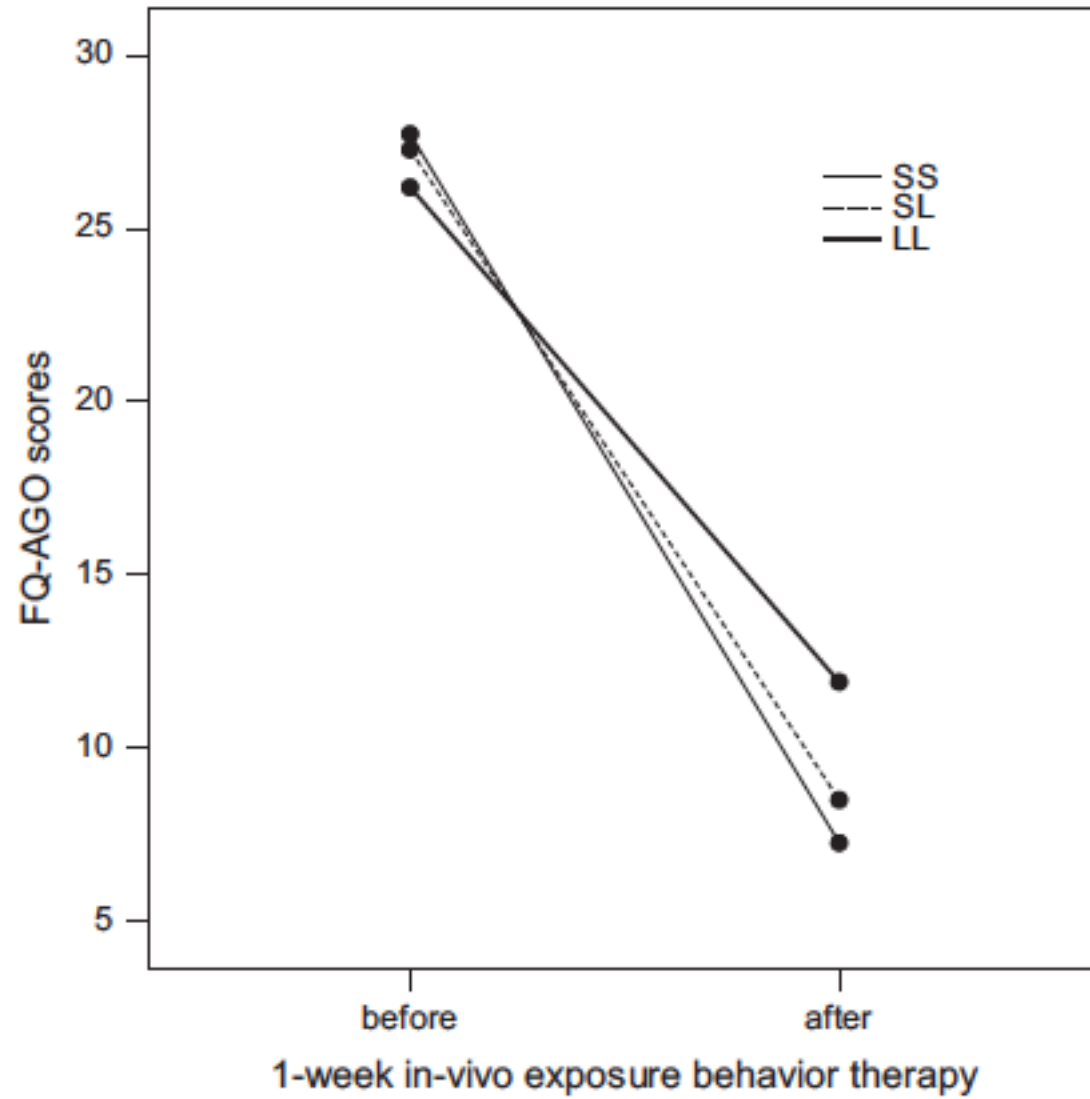
[www.elsevier.com/locate/euroneuro](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/euroneuro)

# Therapygenetics: 5-HTTLPR genotype predicts the response to exposure therapy for agoraphobia

Inge Knuts<sup>a,\*</sup>, Gabriel Esquivel<sup>b</sup>, Gunter Kenis<sup>b</sup>, Thea Overbeek<sup>b</sup>  
Nicole Leibold<sup>b</sup>, Lies Goossens<sup>b</sup>, Koen Schruers<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>*School for Mental Health en Neuroscience, Maastricht University and Mondriaan, Vijverdalseweg 1, gebouw Concorde, 6226 NB Maastricht, The Netherlands*

<sup>b</sup>*School for Mental Health en Neuroscience, Maastricht University, Maastricht, The Netherlands*







RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

# The COMTval158met polymorphism is associated with symptom relief during exposure-based cognitive-behavioral treatment in panic disorder

Tina B Lonsdorf<sup>1,3,4,5,7\*</sup>, Christian Rück<sup>2</sup>, Jan Bergström<sup>2</sup>, Gerhard Andersson<sup>2,6</sup>, Arne Öhman<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Nils Lindefors<sup>2</sup>, Martin Schalling<sup>3</sup>

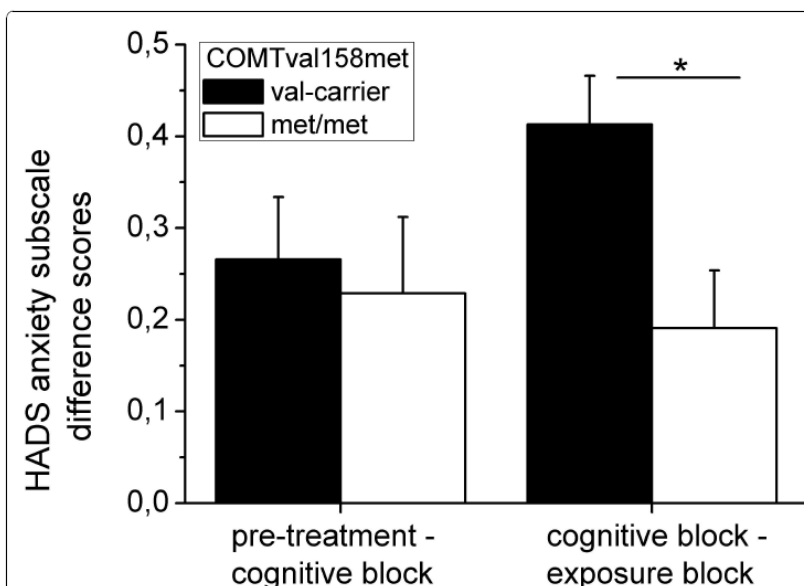


Figure 1 Difference scores between the HADS anxiety mean scores pre-treatment and during the cognitive block as well as during the cognitive vs. the exposure block for COMT 158val-carriers (black bars) and patients with the met/met genotype (white bars).



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# MAOA and mechanisms of panic disorder revisited: from bench to molecular psychotherapy

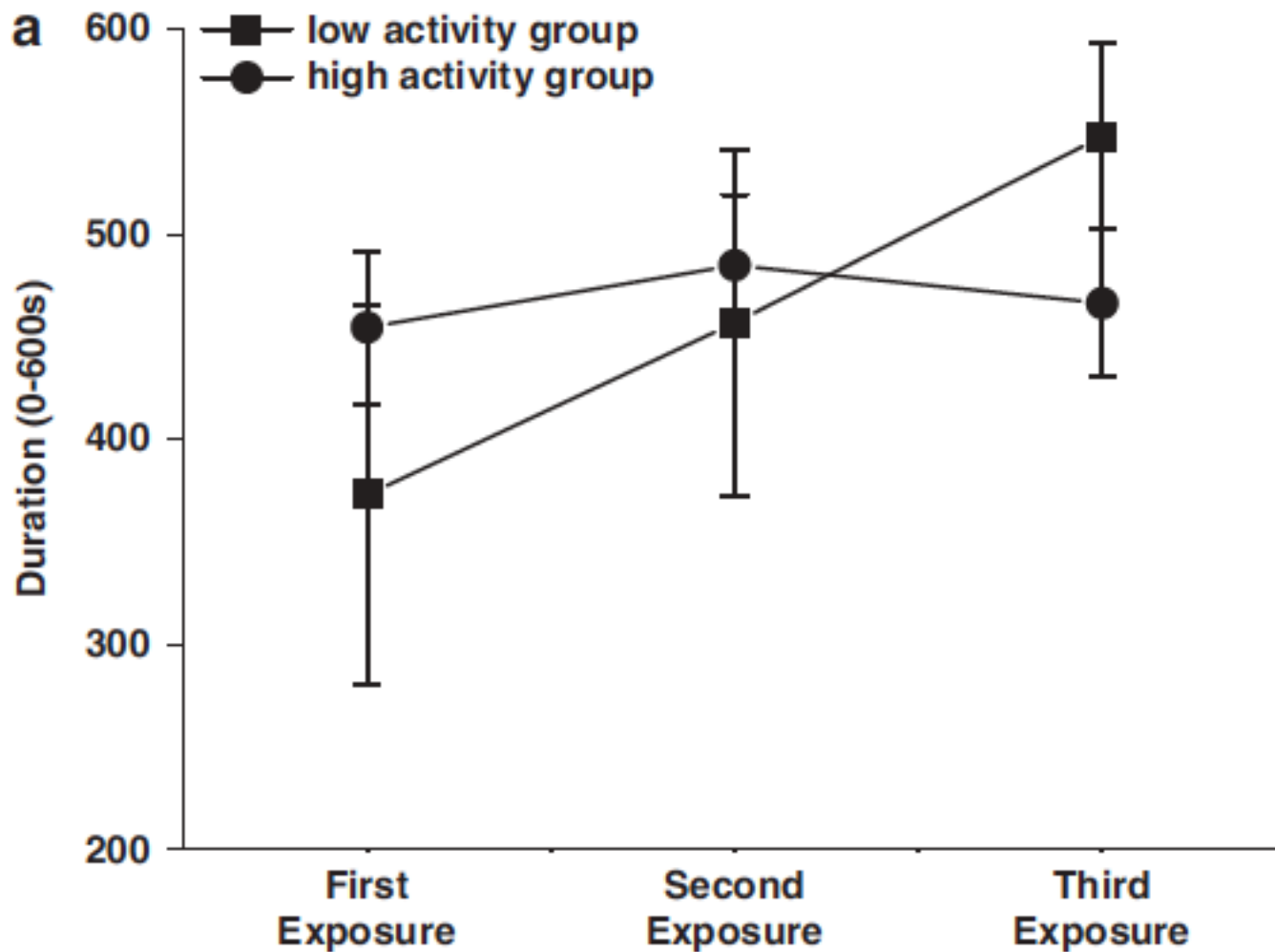
A Reif<sup>1,14</sup>, J Richter<sup>2,14</sup>, B Straube<sup>3</sup>, M Höfler<sup>4</sup>, U Lueken<sup>4</sup>, AT Gloster<sup>4</sup>, H Weber<sup>1</sup>, K Domschke<sup>1,5</sup>, L Fehm<sup>6</sup>, A Ströhle<sup>7</sup>, A Jansen<sup>3</sup>, A Gerlach<sup>8</sup>, M Pyka<sup>3</sup>, I Reinhardt<sup>9</sup>, C Konrad<sup>3,5</sup>, A Wittmann<sup>7</sup>, B Pfeleiderer<sup>10</sup>, GW Alpers<sup>11</sup>, P Pauli<sup>12</sup>, T Lang<sup>13</sup>, V Arolt<sup>5</sup>, H-U Wittchen<sup>4</sup>, A Hamm<sup>2</sup>, T Kircher<sup>3</sup> and J Deckert<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1.** Effect of MAOA genotype (dichotomized in high (H) and low (L) activity as defined in the Materials and methods) on therapy response in panic disorder

Sex/genotype group	N (total)	HAMA			CGI			Number of panic attacks			MI		
		N (responder)	% (responder)	P-value	N (responder)	% (responder)	P-value	N (responder)	% (responder)	P-value	N (responder)	% (responder)	P-value
LOCF analysis, N = 232													
Males, H	41	20	48.8	0.286	13	31.7	0.035	17	41.5	0.771	21	52.5	0.816
Males, L	19	12	63.2		12	63.2		8	42.1		9	50.0	
Females, H	152	68	44.7	0.039	74	48.7	0.338	89	58.6	0.705	65	44.8	0.098
Females, L	20	14	70.0		12	60.0		13	65.0		15	75.0	
Total, H	193	88	45.6	0.017	87	45.1	0.068	106	54.9	0.624	86	46.5	0.348
Total, L	39	26	66.7		24	61.5		21	53.8		24	63.2	
Completer analysis, N = 196													
Males, H	35	20	57.1	0.866	12	34.3	0.537	14	40.0	0.778	21	61.8	0.537
Males, L	17	10	58.8		10	58.8		7	41.2		7	46.7	
Females, H	130	66	50.8	0.025	71	54.6	0.579	78	59.5	0.850	63	51.2	0.026
Females, L	14	12	85.7		11	78.6		9	64.3		13	92.9	
Total, H	165	86	52.1	0.048	83	50.3	0.874	92	55.4	0.487	84	53.5	0.235
Total, L	31	22	71.0		21	67.7		16	51.6		20	69.0	

Abbreviations: CGI, Clinical Global Impression; HAMA, Hamilton Anxiety Scale; LOCF, last observation carried forward; MI, Mobility Inventory; MAOA, monoamine oxidase A.

# behavioral avoidance test





# **Personalized Psychiatry & Panic Disorder:**

## **Neuroimaging**



# Neural Substrates of Treatment Response to Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy in Panic Disorder With Agoraphobia

Ulrike Lueken, Ph.D.

Benjamin Straube, Ph.D.

Carsten Konrad, M.D.

Hans-Ulrich Wittchen, Ph.D.

Andreas Ströhle, M.D.

André Wittmann, Dipl.-Psych.

Bettina Pfleiderer, M.D., Ph.D.

Christina Uhlmann, Ph.D.

Volker Arolt, M.D.

Andreas Jansen, M.D.

Tilo Kircher, M.D.

**Objective:** Although exposure-based cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) is an effective treatment option for panic disorder with agoraphobia, the neural substrates of treatment response remain unknown. Evidence suggests that panic disorder with agoraphobia is characterized by dysfunctional safety signal processing. Using fear conditioning as a neurofunctional probe, the authors investigated neural baseline characteristics and neuroplastic changes after CBT that were associated with treatment outcome in patients with panic disorder with agoraphobia.

**Method:** Neural correlates of fear conditioning and extinction were measured using functional MRI before and after a manualized CBT program focusing on behavioral exposure in 49 medication-free patients with a primary diagnosis of panic disorder with agoraphobia. Treatment response was defined as a reduction exceeding 50% in Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale scores.

**Results:** At baseline, nonresponders exhibited enhanced activation in the

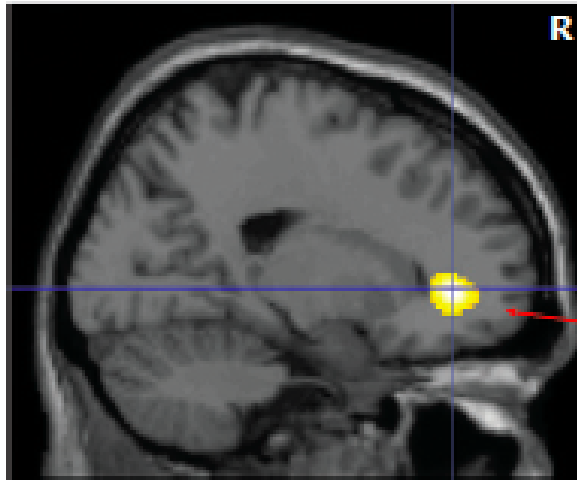
right pregenual anterior cingulate cortex, the hippocampus, and the amygdala in response to a safety signal. While this activation pattern partly resolved in nonresponders after CBT, successful treatment was characterized by increased right hippocampal activation when processing stimulus contingencies. Treatment response was associated with an inhibitory functional coupling between the anterior cingulate cortex and the amygdala that did not change over time.

**Conclusions:** This study identified brain activation patterns associated with treatment response in patients with panic disorder with agoraphobia. Altered safety signal processing and anterior cingulate cortex-amygdala coupling may indicate individual differences among these patients that determine the effectiveness of exposure-based CBT and associated neuroplastic changes. Findings point to brain networks by which successful CBT in this patient population is mediated.

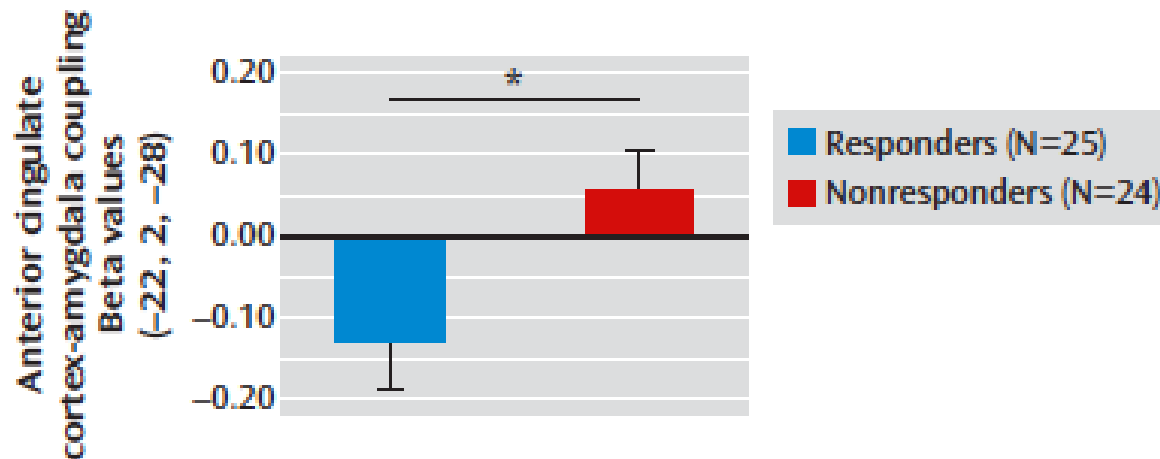
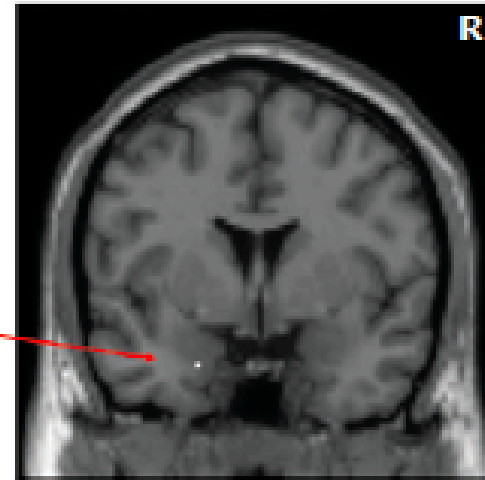


## B. Connectivity between the anterior cingulate gyrus and amygdala

Anterior cingulate gyrus (R)



Amygdala (L)



**FIGURE 1. Differences in Functional Brain Activation During the Fear-Conditioning Task in Responders (N=25) and Nonresponders (N=24) Before Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy<sup>a</sup>**



# Single-Subject Anxiety Treatment Outcome Prediction using Functional Neuroimaging

**Tali M Ball<sup>\*,1,2</sup>, Murray B Stein<sup>1,3,4</sup>, Holly J Ramsawh<sup>5</sup>, Laura Campbell-Sills<sup>1</sup> and Martin P Paulus<sup>1,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA; <sup>2</sup>San Diego State University/University of California San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, San Diego, CA, USA; <sup>3</sup>Psychiatry Service, Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System, San Diego, CA, USA; <sup>4</sup>Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA; <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, USA

Random forest model



Greater activation in cortico-limbic circuitry  
predicts better CBT response



# **Personalized Psychiatry & Panic Disorder:**

## **Respiration**





## Panic Disorder Respiratory Subtype: Psychopathology, Laboratory Challenge Tests, and Response to Treatment

Rafael C. Freire, MD, MSc, Giampaolo Perna, MD, PhD, and Antonio E. Nardi, MD, PhD

**Table 2. Differences Between the Respiratory and Nonrespiratory Subtypes**

Evidence type	Respiratory subtype	Nonrespiratory subtype
Familial history of PD	+	–
Comorbidity with depression	–	+
Duration of illness	+	–
Scores in panic disorder severity scales	+	–
Sensitivity to CO <sub>2</sub> challenge tests	+	–
Sensitivity to breath-holding challenge tests	+	–
Sensitivity to hyperventilation challenge tests	+	–
Sensitivity to caffeine challenge tests	+	–



*Psychological Medicine* (2012), 42, 461–474. © Cambridge University Press 2011  
doi:10.1017/S0033291711001425

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# A latent class approach to the external validation of respiratory and non-respiratory panic subtypes

R. Roberson-Nay\*, S. J. Latendresse and K. S. Kendler

*Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, P.O. Box 980489, Richmond, VA 23298, USA*

**Conclusions.** These data suggest that respiratory and non-respiratory panic represent valid subtypes along the PD continuum, with the respiratory variant representing a more severe form of the disorder.



*British Journal of Psychiatry* (1993), 163, 201–209

## Subtyping of Panic Disorder by Symptom Profile

ANDREW C. BRIGGS, DAVID D. STRETCH and SYDNEY BRANDON

During Phase II of the Cross-National Panic Study, descriptions of the patient's last severe panic attack were collected for 1168 patients. Statistical analysis indicated that patients could be divided into two groups, characterised by the presence or absence of prominent respiratory symptoms. The two groups did not differ on demographic variables or coexisting diagnoses, but they did differ on psychopathology on entry to the study and treatment outcome. The group with prominent respiratory symptoms suffered more spontaneous panic attacks and responded to imipramine, whereas the group without prominent respiratory symptoms suffered more situational panic attacks and responded more to alprazolam. It is important to distinguish spontaneous and situational panic attacks, to aid choice of treatment.



# Antipanic Drug Modulation Of 35% CO<sub>2</sub> Hyperreactivity and Short-Term Treatment Outcome

GIAMPAOLO PERNA, MD, PhD, ANGELO BERTANI, MD, DANIELA CALDIROLA, MD, ANGELA GABRIELE, MD, SILVIA COCCHI, MD, AND LAURA BELLODI, MD

*The Anxiety Disorder Clinical and Research Unit, Department of Neuropsychiatric Sciences, University of Milan, Istituto Scientifico Ospedale San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*

Decreased CO<sub>2</sub> hyperreactivity after one week ( $\Delta$  7 POST-VAS) was the only significant predictor for the clinical outcome after one month for all measures considered ( $\Delta\%$  PASS:  $\beta$ :  $.40 \pm .12$ ,  $p < .001$ ;  $\Delta\%$  FQ:  $\beta$ :  $.31 \pm .12$ ,  $p < .02$  and  $\Delta\%$  SDS:  $\beta$ :  $.26 \pm .12$ ,  $p < .05$ ),

***Clinical outcome  
after 1 month  
of treatment***

Paroxetine  
Sertraline



Fluvoxamine



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Psychiatry Research

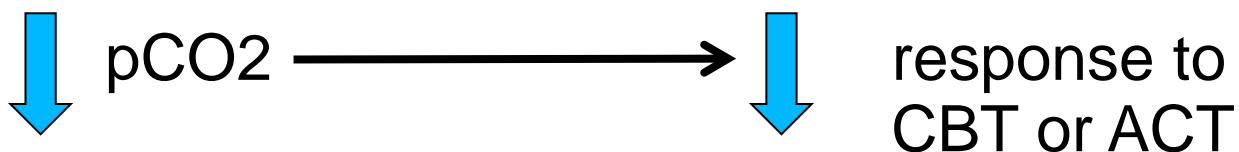
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/psychres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/psychres)



### Low baseline $p\text{CO}_2$ predicts poorer outcome from behavioral treatment: Evidence from a mixed anxiety disorders sample

Carolyn D. Davies\*, Michelle G. Craske

*Department of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), 1285 Franz Hall, Box 951563, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1563, USA*





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## Journal of Psychiatric Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/psychires](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/psychires)

### Phosphate levels as a possible state marker in panic disorder: preliminary study of a feasible laboratory measure for routine clinical practice

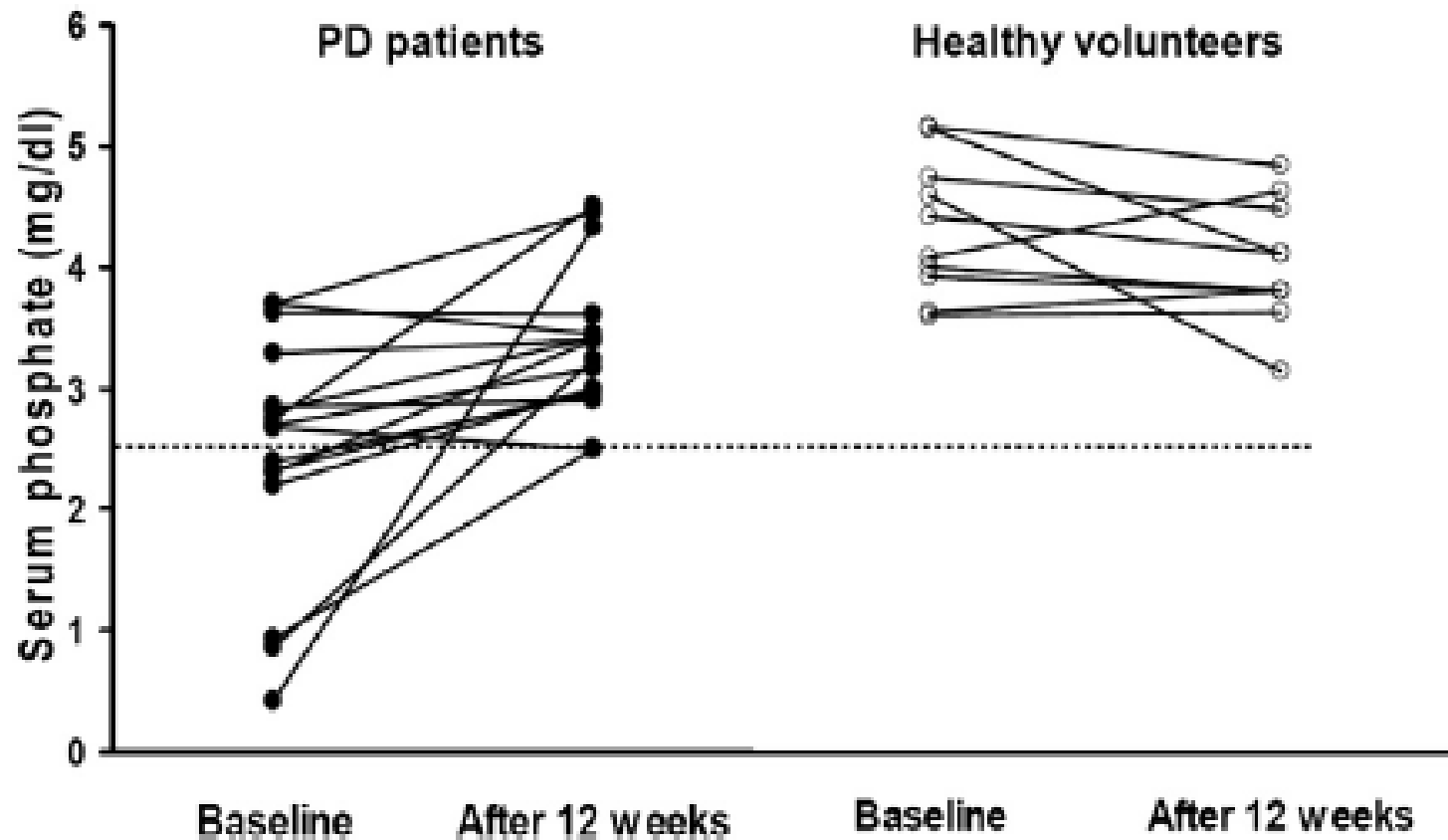
Lucía Pérez-Costillas<sup>a,1</sup>, M. Rosa Montes<sup>b</sup>, José M. Martínez-Ortega<sup>c,d</sup>,  
María Dolores Carretero<sup>c</sup>, Luis Gutiérrez-Rojas<sup>a,d</sup>, Manuel Gurpegui<sup>c,d,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Psychiatry Service, San Cecilio University Hospital, Granada, Spain

<sup>b</sup> Department of Physiology, Institute of Neurosciences, University of Granada, Granada, Spain

<sup>c</sup> Department of Psychiatry, University of Granada, Granada, Spain

<sup>d</sup> CTS-549 Research Group, Institute of Neurosciences, Center for Biomedical Research (CIBM), University of Granada, Granada, Spain

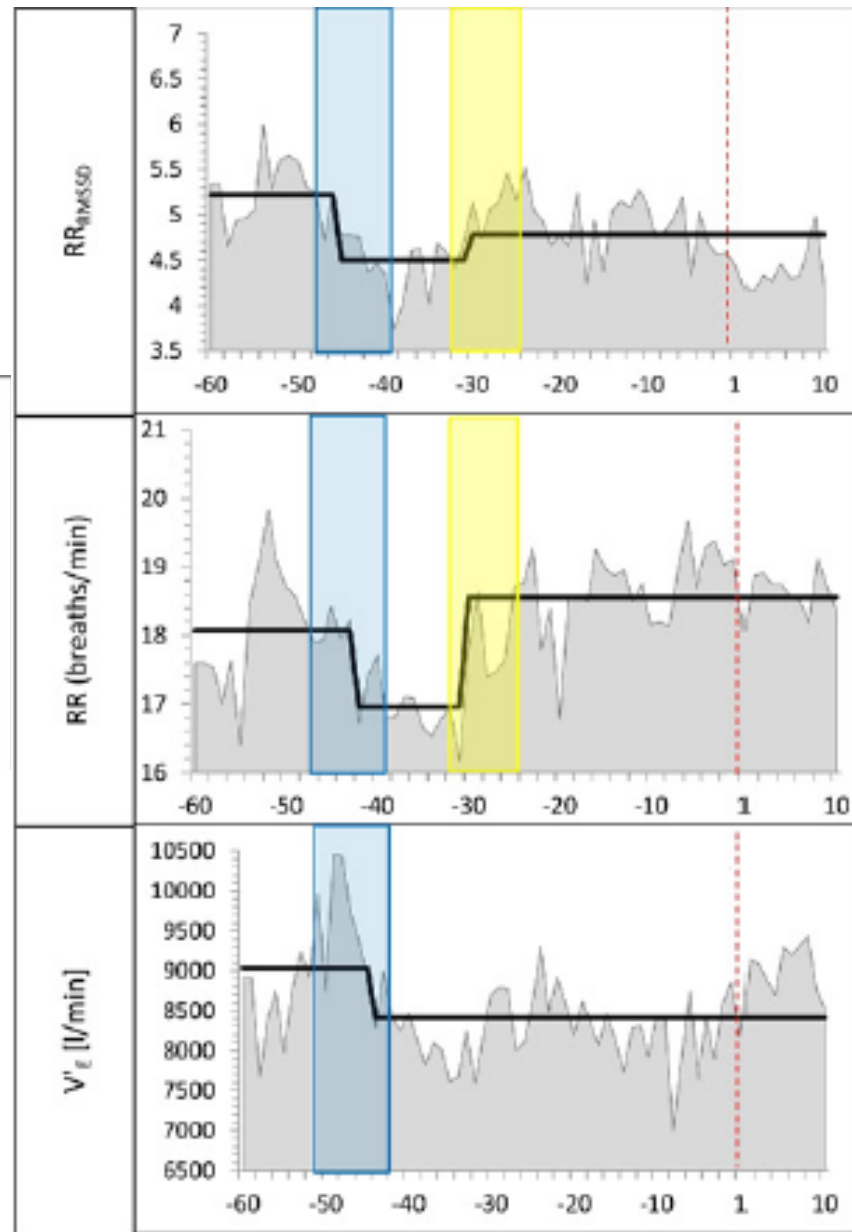
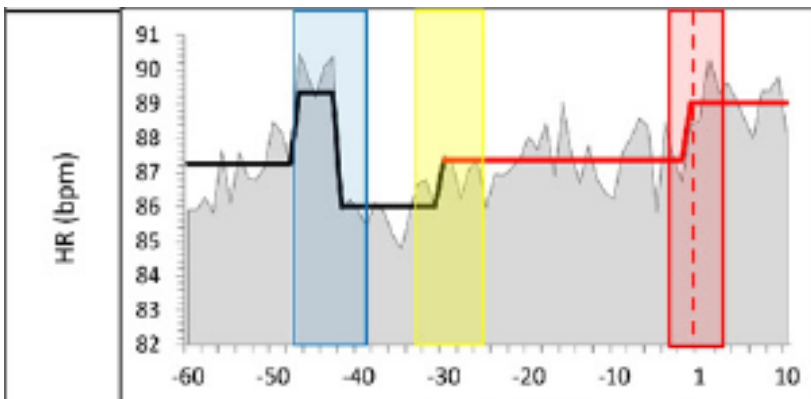


**Fig. 1.** Serum phosphate levels in 16 panic disorder (PD) patients and 10 healthy volunteers at baseline and after 12 weeks of successful treatment (in patients) or a similar period in the control group.

# Do Unexpected Panic Attacks Occur Spontaneously?

Alicia E. Meuret, David Rosenfield, Frank H. Wilhelm, Enlu Zhou, Ansgar Conrad, Thomas Ritz, and Walton T. Roth

BIOL PSYCHIATRY 2011;70:985–991







**Ideas for new predictors**

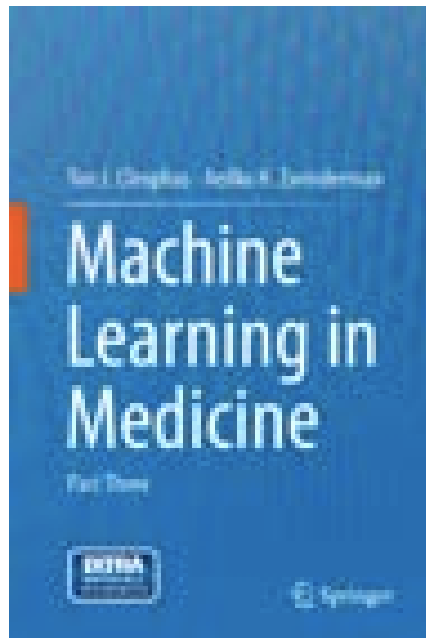
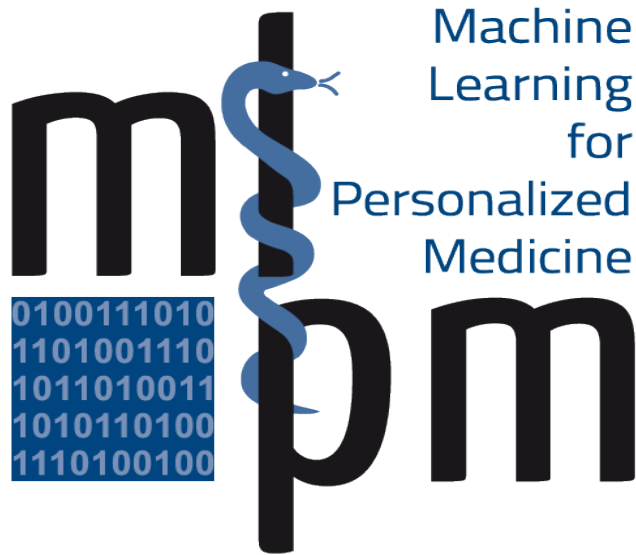
**Challenging personal models**

**Personalized  
Psychiatry  
Studies**



**Better Personalized Psychiatrist !**

# The future.....?



## ***Machine Learning: Supervised Artificial Neural Networks***

These are AI systems doesn't work according to predetermined general decision algorithms and rules (as guidelines do for the “average” patients). Instead they can provide personalized predictions and suggest clinical decisions tailored on the individual characteristics of each individual, joining the ability to handle the complexity of real clinical cases and the rigor of algorithms.

The techniques are able to learn and modellize them starting from a certain amount of so-called training cases.