

Oxidative stress and impaired methylation in autism: Focus on vitamin B12

Richard Deth, PhD

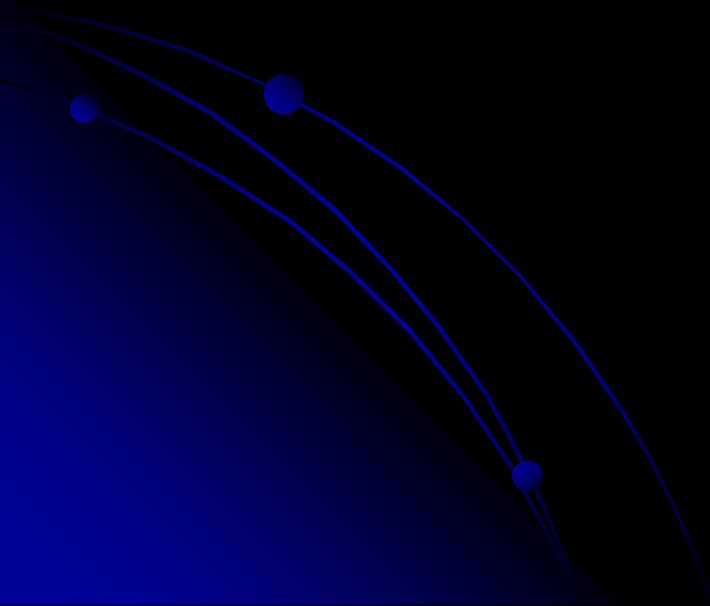
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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:

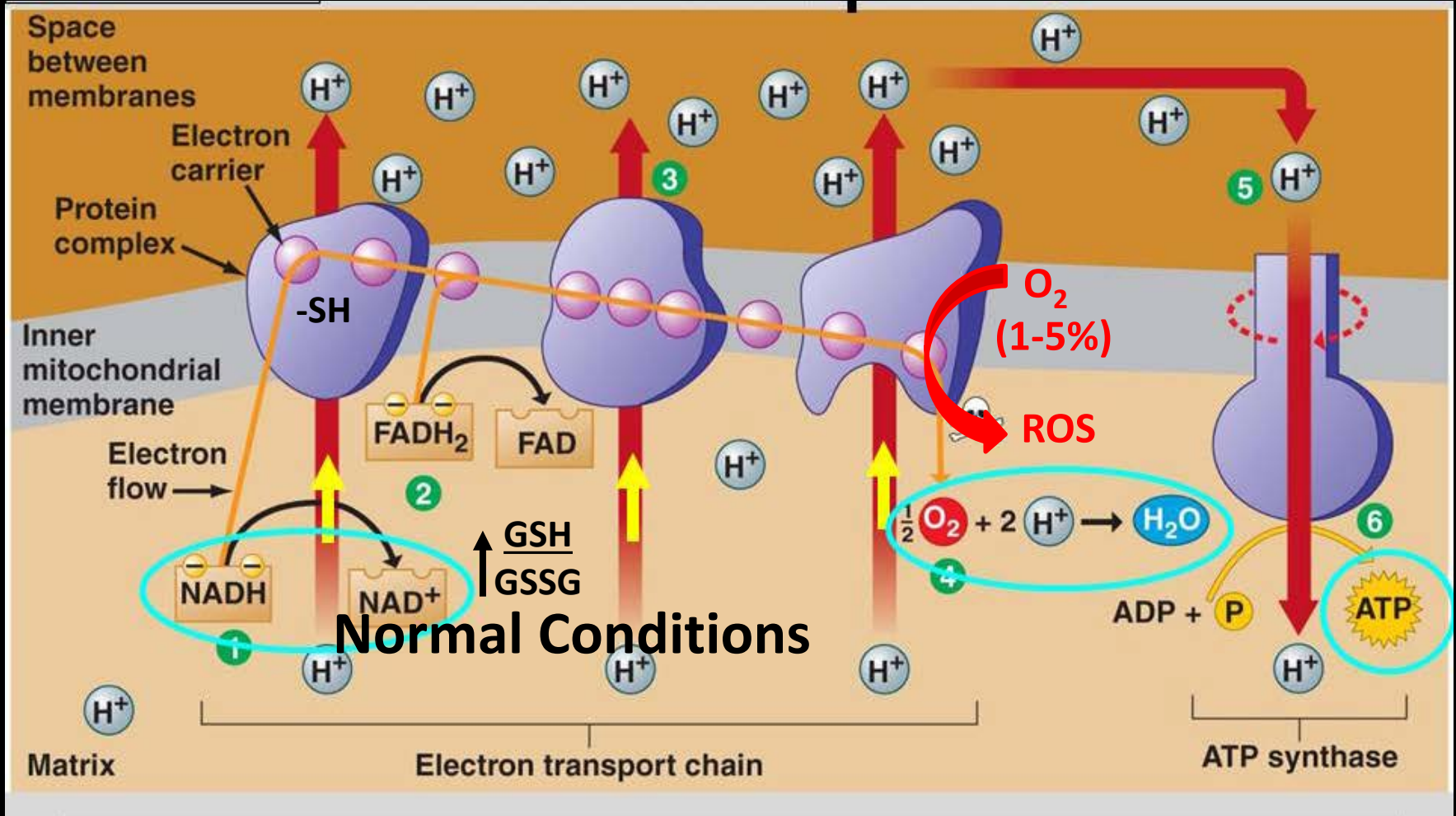
- 1. Member of the scientific advisory board of Immunotec Inc.**
- 2. Received research grant support from A2 Milk Corporation**



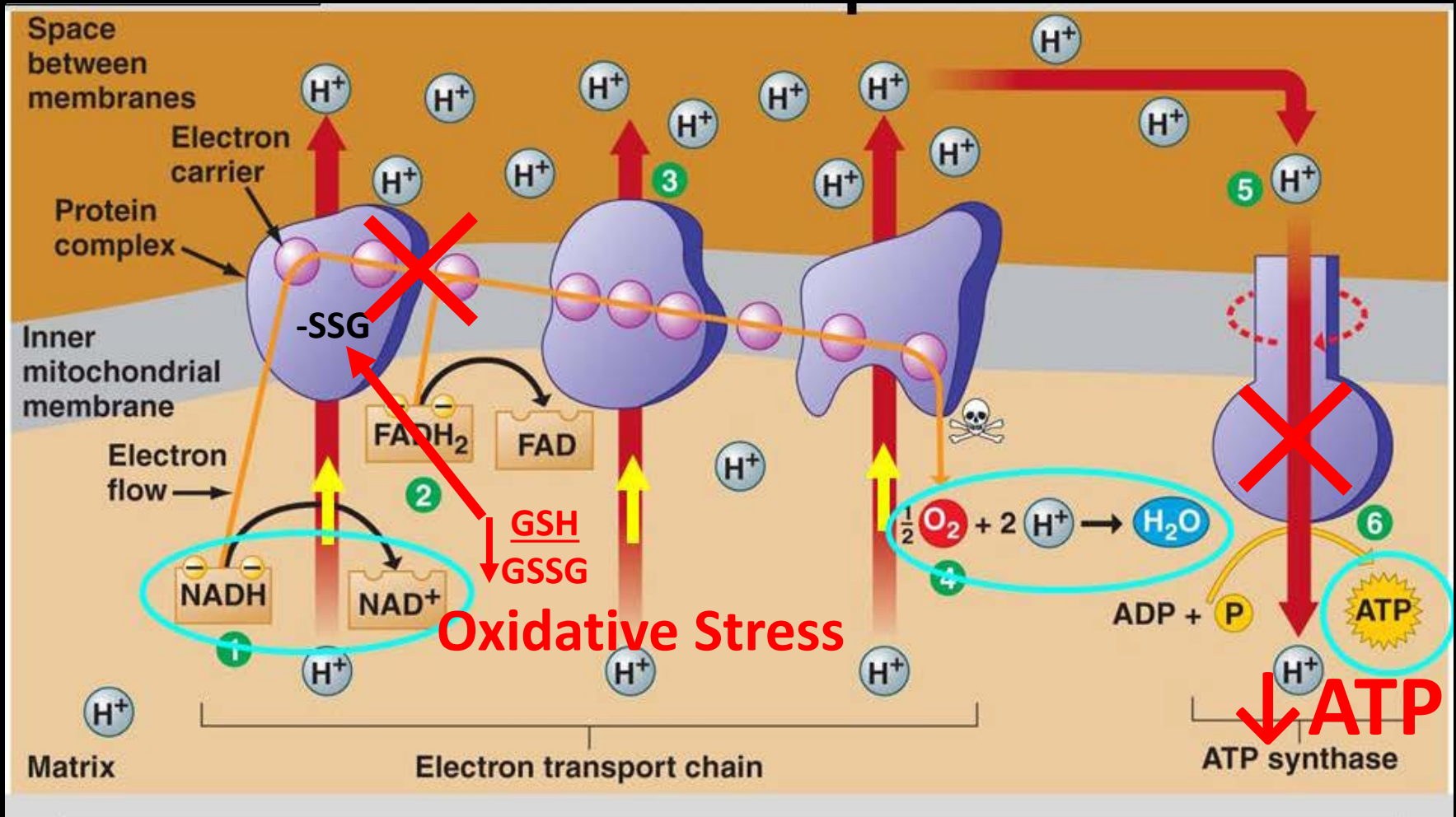
OUTLINE:

- 1. Brief Review of Redox/Methylation Metabolism**
- 2. DNA Methylation, Epigenetic Regulation**
- 3. Gluten/Casein-derived Opiate Peptides**
- 3. Vitamin B12 in Human Brain**

Mitochondrial Electron Transport Chain Activity Provides ATP and Maintains Energy But Also Generates Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)



Oxidative Stress Turns Off The Electron Transport Chain: Mitochondrial Dysfunction



Epigenetic changes can help restore redox equilibrium



Antioxidant Demand
(ROS formation)

Antioxidant Supply
(Glutathione; GSH)



Homeostatic Equilibrium

Restoration of
Homeostasis



Antioxidant demand

↓ Antioxidant Supply



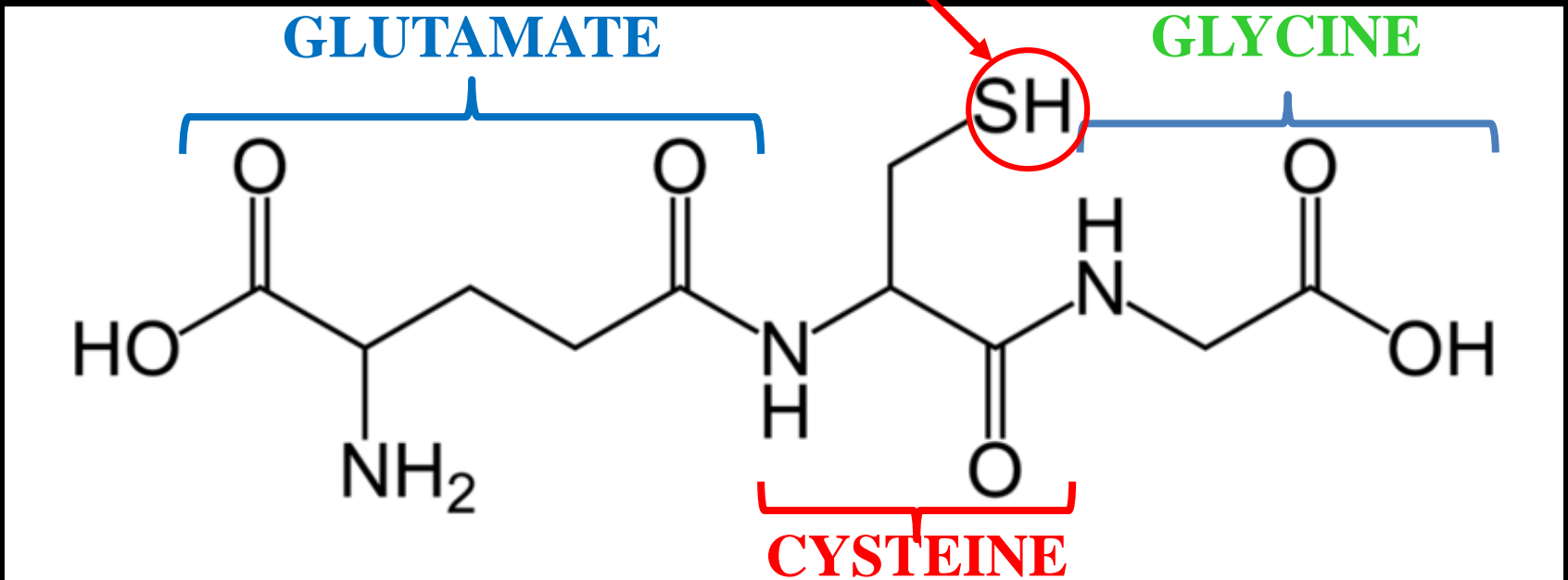
Oxidative Stress → Adaptive
Epigenetic
Changes



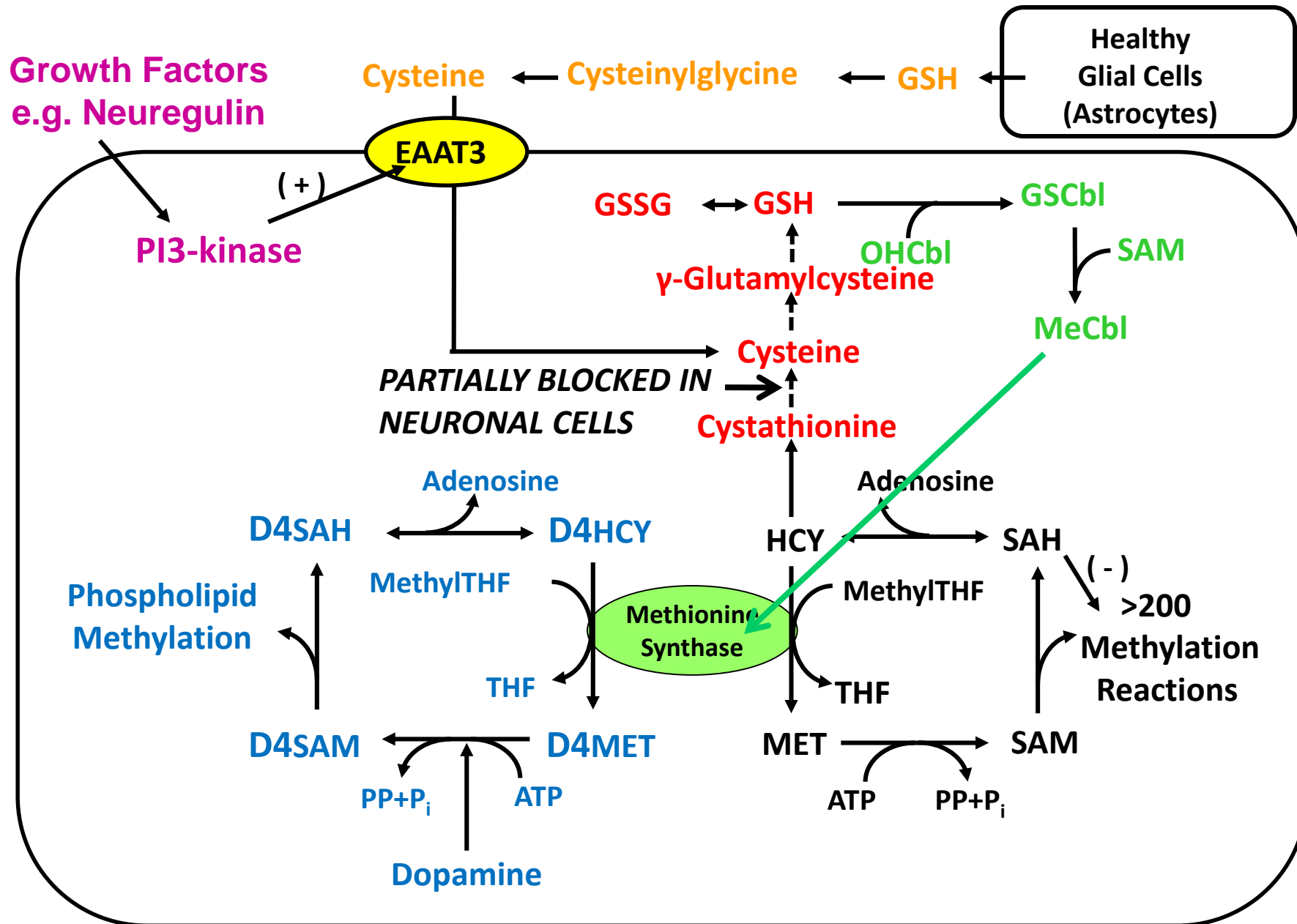


Glutathione: The primary antioxidant in cells

Reducing Thiol



Redox and Methylation Metabolic Pathways



REDOX:

- The balance between reduced vs. oxidized states
- The balance between antioxidant supply and demand
e.g. the antioxidant glutathione (GSH)

GSH (reduced form) } REDOX
GSSG (oxidized form) } STATUS

METHYLATION:

- Addition of a carbon atom (CH₃- methyl group)
e.g. DNA methylation
- S-Adenosylmethionine (SAM) is the universal donor

SAM (methyl donor) } METHYLATION
SAH (methylation inhibitor) } STATUS

Integrated Metabolic Activities

GROWTH FACTOR REGULATION

Growth Factors
e.g. Neuregulin

PI3-kinase

Cysteine

EAAT3

(+)

REDOX REGULATION

Cysteinylglycine

GSH

Healthy
Glial Cells
(Astrocytes)

GSSG

GSH

GSCbl

OHCHI

γ -Glutamylcysteine

SAM

MeCbl

VITAMIN B12

PARTIALLY BLOCKED IN
NEURONAL CELLS

Cysteine

B6

Cystathionine

ATTENTION

Adenosine

D4SAH

D4HC

Phospholipid
Methylation

MethylTHF

FOLATE

THF

Methionine
Synthase

MethylTHF

THF

FOLATE

D4SAM

D4MET

PP+P_i

ATP

Dopamine

HCY

B6 Adenosine

SAH

(-)

>200
Methylation
Reactions

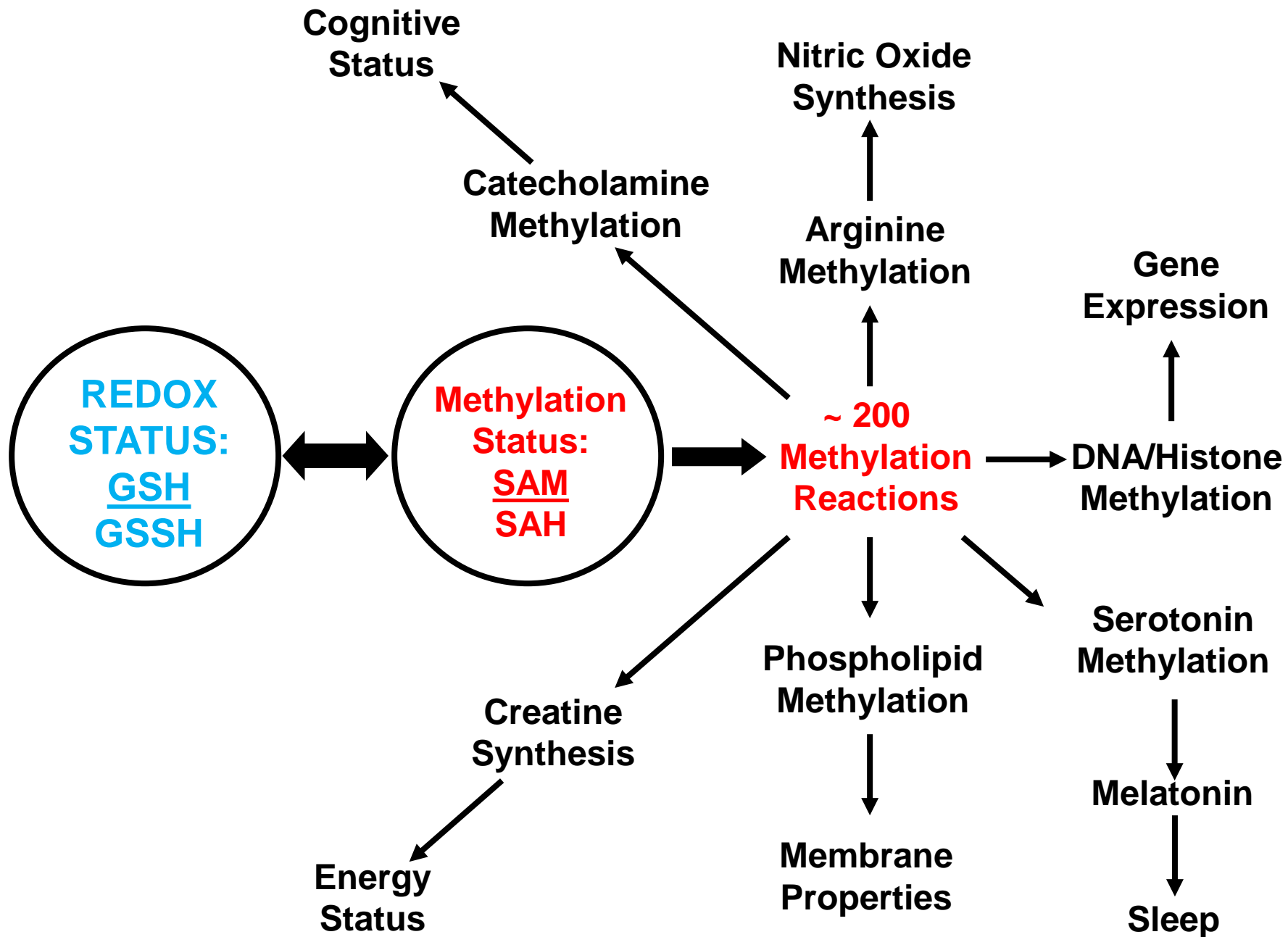
MET

SAM

ATP

PP+P_i

METHYLATION / EPIGENETICS



>40 studies link ASD to oxidative stress, low levels of the antioxidant glutathione (GSH) and impaired methylation

Research Article Intracellular and Extracellular Redox Status and Free Radical Generation in Primary Immune Cells from Children with Autism

Shannon Rose, Stepan Melnyk, Timothy A. Trusty, Oleksandra Pavliv, Lisa Seidel, Jingyun Li, Todd Nick, and S. Jill James

Department of Pediatrics, Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR 72203, USA

Clinical Rapid Genet (2011) 28:1143-1145
DOI 10.1007/s10851-011-9645-2

COMMENTARY

Autism, imprinting and epigenetic disorders: a metabolic syndrome linked to anomalies in homocysteine recycling starting in early life??

Metabolic biomarkers of increased oxidative stress and impaired methylation capacity in children with autism^{1,2}

S. Jill James, Paul Cutler, Stepan Melnyk, Stefanie Jernigan, Laurette Janak, David W Gaylor, and James A Neuberger

ABSTRACT
Background: Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder that usually presents in early childhood and that is thought to be influenced by a high concordance of autism between monozygotic twins and males than females, occurring at a ratio of 4:1. A significant role for genetics in the etiology of the autistic disorder is supported by a high concordance of autism between monozygotic twins and

ORIGINAL PAPER

Brain Region-Specific Glutathione Redox Imbalance in Autism

Abha Chhabra, et al. Nutrition & Metabolism 2012, 9:35
http://www.nutritionandmetabolism.com/content/9/1/35



RESEARCH

Open Access

The potential role of the antioxidant and detoxification properties of glutathione in autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Penelope AE Main^{1,2*}, Marya T Angley¹, Catherine E O'Doherty¹, Philip Thomas² and Michael Fenech²

Abstract

Background: Glutathione has a wide range of functions; it is an endogenous anti-oxidant and plays a key role in the maintenance of intracellular redox balance and detoxification of xenobiotics. Several studies have indicated that children with autism spectrum disorders may have altered glutathione metabolism which could play a key role in the condition.

Methods: A systematic literature review and meta-analysis was conducted of studies examining metabolites, interventions and/or genes of the glutathione metabolism pathways i.e. the γ -glutamyl cycle and trans-sulphuration pathway in autism spectrum disorders.

Results: Thirty nine studies were included in the review comprising an *in vitro* study, thirty two metabolite and/or co-factor studies, six intervention studies and six studies with genetic data as well as eight studies examining enzyme activity.

Conclusions: The review found evidence for the involvement of the γ -glutamyl cycle and trans-sulphuration pathway in autistic disorder is sufficiently consistent, particularly with respect to the glutathione redox ratio, to warrant further investigation to determine the significance in relation to clinical outcomes. Large, well designed intervention studies that link metabolites, cofactors and genes of the γ -glutamyl cycle and trans-sulphuration pathway with objective behavioural outcomes in children with autism spectrum disorders are required. Future risk factor analysis should include consideration of multiple nutritional status and metabolite biomarkers of pathways linked with the γ -glutamyl cycle and the interaction of genotype in relation to these factors.

Keywords: γ -glutamyl cycle, Trans-sulphuration pathway, Metabolites, Genes, Supplementation, Autism spectrum disorders

Background

Autism spectrum disorders are a heterogeneous group of neurodevelopmental conditions comprising autistic disorder which is characterised by impairments in reciprocal social interaction and communication and the presence of stereotyped behaviours, Asperger's Syndrome which is distinguished by no significant delay in early language acquisition or cognitive abilities, and

perspective developmental disorder - not otherwise stated (PDD-NOS) in which individuals do not fully meet the criteria for autistic disorder or Asperger's syndrome. Over the last 30 years the number of diagnosed cases has increased from 0.4-0.5 to 4.0 per 1000 for autistic disorder and from 2 to 7.7-9.9 per 1000 for autism spectrum disorders [1-3] which is largely attributable to broadening diagnostic criteria, younger age at diagnosis and improved case ascertainment [4]. Autism spectrum disorders are increasingly being recognised as a major public health issue.

Metabolic Endophenotype and Related Genotypes are Associated With Oxidative Stress in Children With Autism

S. Jill James,^{1*} Stepan Melnyk,¹ Stefanie Jernigan,¹ Mario A. Cleves,¹ Charles H. Halsted,² Donna H. Wong,² Paul Cutler,³ Kenneth Bock,⁴ Marvin Boris,⁵ J. Jeffrey Bradstreet,⁶ Sidney M. Baker,⁷ and David W. Gaylor⁸

TABLE II. Transmethylation and Transsulfuration Metabolites in Autistic Cases and Controls

	Control ^a (n = 73)	Autistic ^a (n = 80)	P-value
Methionine (μmol/L)	28.0 ± 6.5	20.6 ± 5.2	<0.0001
SAM (nmol/L)	93.8 ± 18	84.3 ± 11	<0.0001
SAH (nmol/L)	18.8 ± 4.5	23.3 ± 7.9	<0.0001
SAM/SAH ratio	5.5 ± 2.8	4.0 ± 1.7 ← 28% ↓	<0.0001
Adenosine (μmol/L)	0.19 ± 0.13	0.28 ± .13	0.001
Homocysteine (μmol/L)	6.0 ± 1.3	5.7 ± 1.2	0.03v
Cystathionine (μmol/L)	0.19 ± 0.1	0.24 ± 0.1	<0.0001
Cysteine (μmol/L)	207 ± 22	165 ± 14	<0.0001
Cysteinylglycine (μmol/L)	39.4 ± 7.3	38.9 ± 11	0.78
Total GSH (μmol/L)	7.53 ± 1.7	5.1 ± 1.2	<0.0001
Free GSH (μmol/L)	2.2 ± 0.9	1.4 ± 0.5 ← 36% ↓	<0.0001
GSSG (μmol/L)	0.24 ± 0.1	0.40 ± 0.2	<0.0001
Total GSH/GSSG ratio	28.2 ± 7.0	14.7 ± 6.2	<0.0001
Free GSH/GSSG ratio	7.9 ± 3.5	4.9 ± 2.2 ← 38% ↓	<0.0001

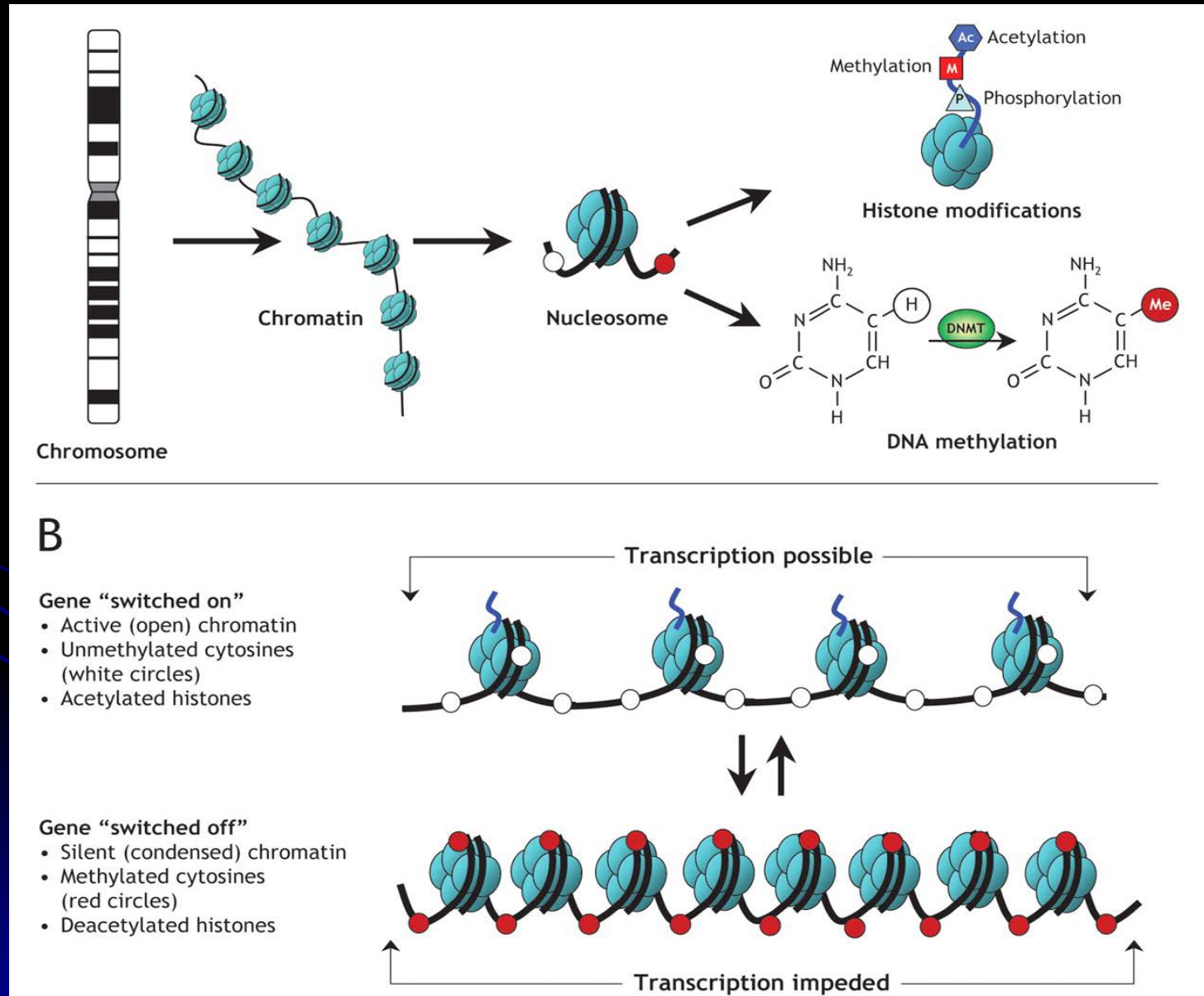
SAM, S-adenosylmethionine; SAH, S-adenosylhomocysteine; GSH, glutathione; GSSG, glutathione disulfide.
^aMeans ± SD.

*Correspondence: penelope.main@unsw.edu.au

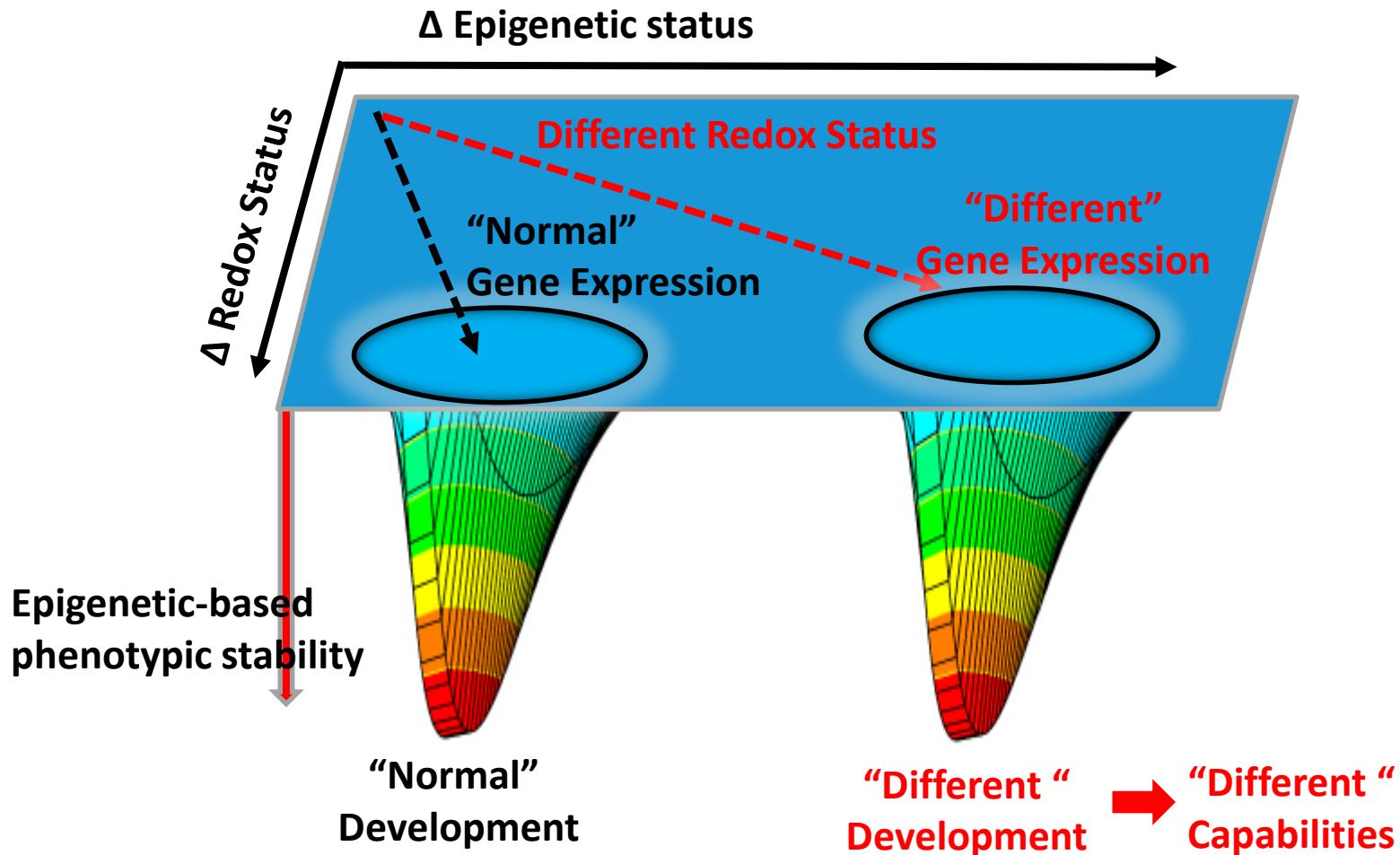
¹Sanborn Institute for Health Research, University of South Australia, City East Campus, Adelaide, SA 5001, Australia

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

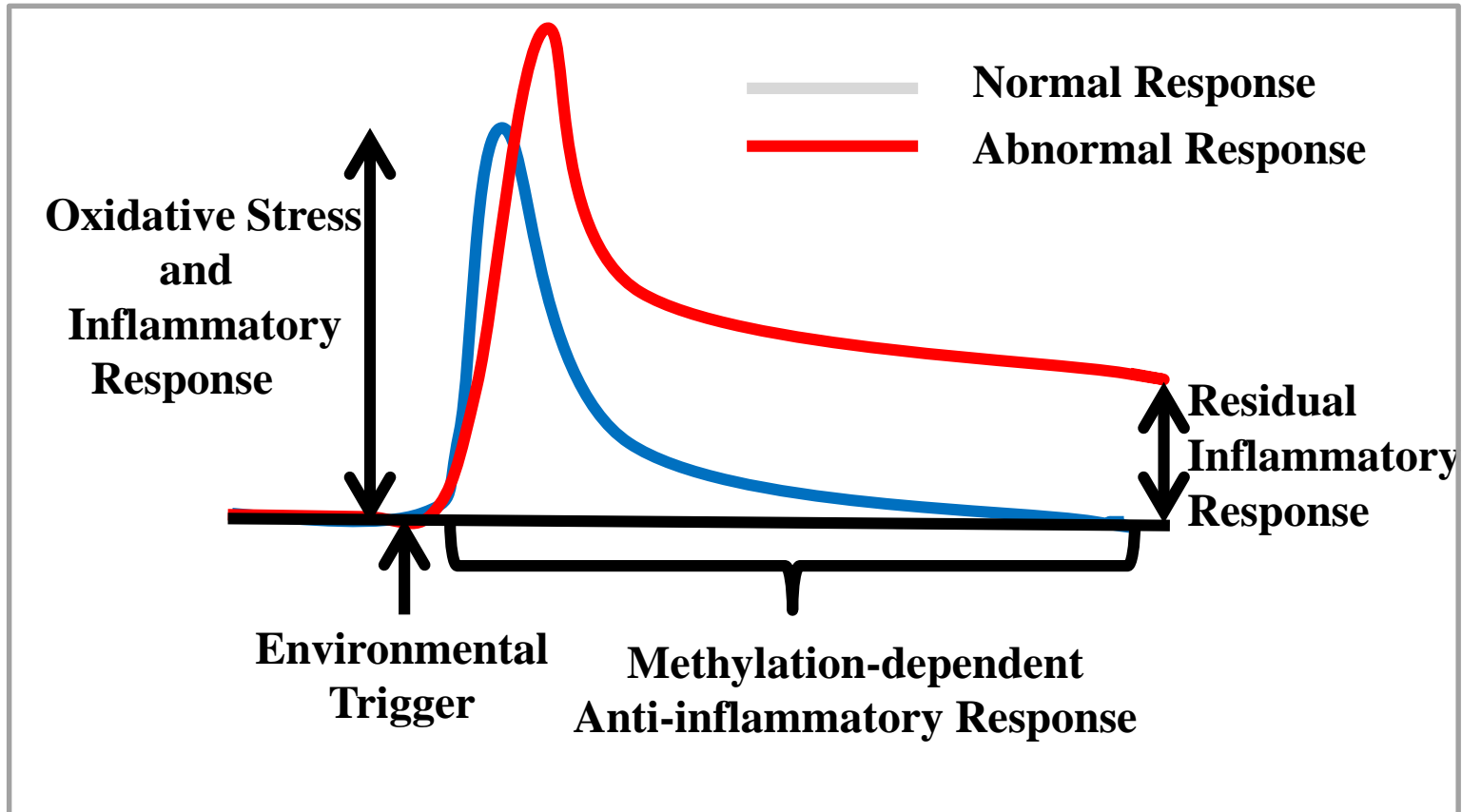
Methylation of DNA and histones is fundamental to epigenetic regulation of gene expression during development



Differences in Redox Status Can Influence Epigenetic Status Leading To Different Developmental Outcomes



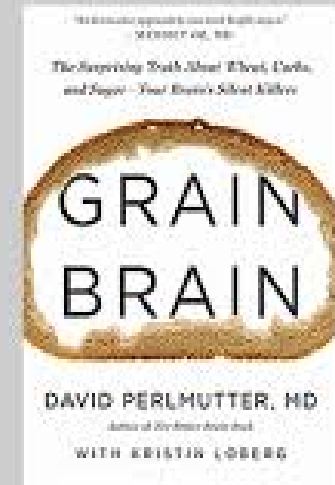
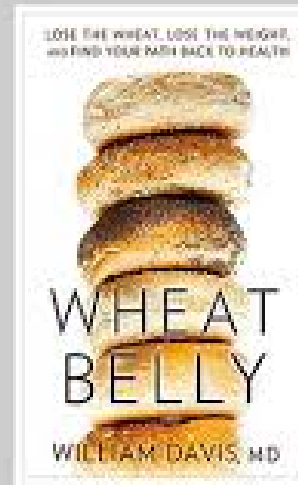
Inadequate resolution of inflammation and/or oxidative stress in vulnerable individuals can contribute to chronic inflammation



Redox and Epigenetic Effects of Gluten/Casein-derived Opiate Peptides



Dr. Malav Trivedi



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry xx (2014) xxx–xxx

**Journal of
Nutritional
Biochemistry**

Food-derived opioid peptides inhibit cysteine uptake with redox and epigenetic consequences[☆]

Malav S. Trivedi^a, Jayni S. Shah^a, Sara Al-Mughairy^a, Nathaniel W. Hodgson^a, Benjamin Simms^a, Geert A. Trooskens^b, Wim Van Criekinge^b, Richard C. Deth^{a,*}

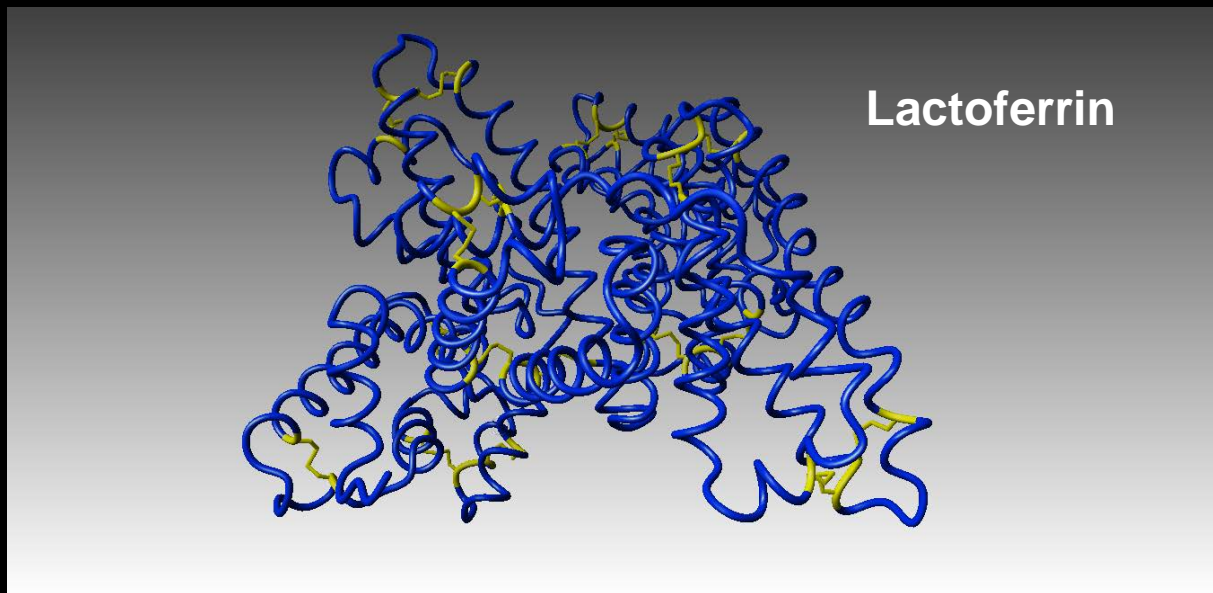
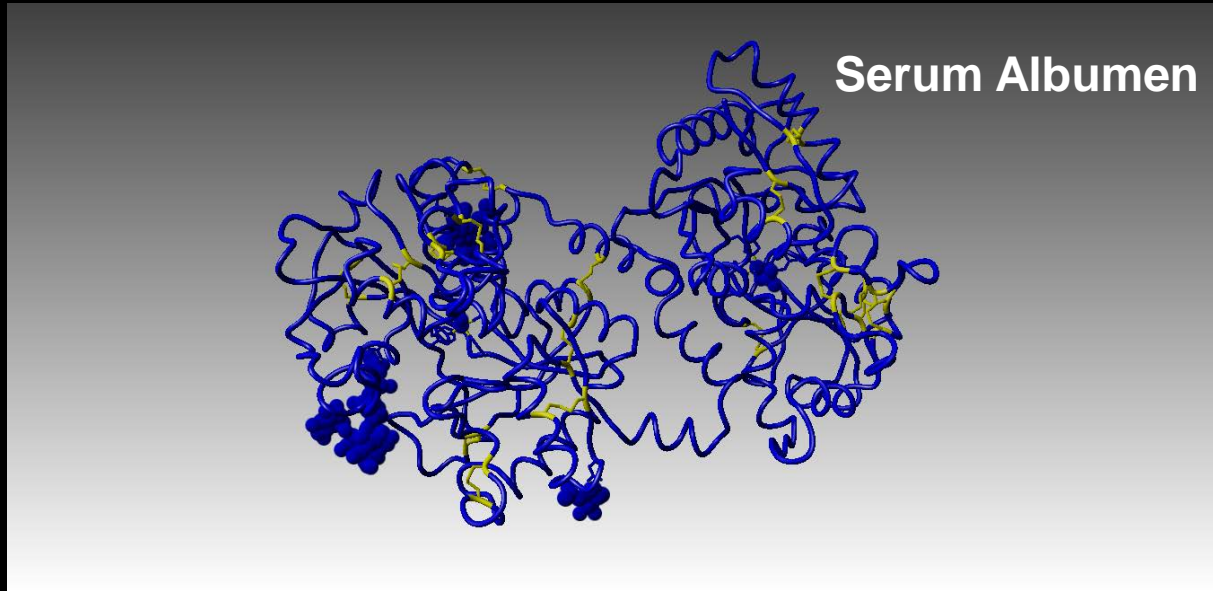
MILK: It's all about the curds and whey

CURDS = Caseins

**WHEY = Cystine-rich
soluble
proteins**



Why proteins are rich in cysteine (cystine)

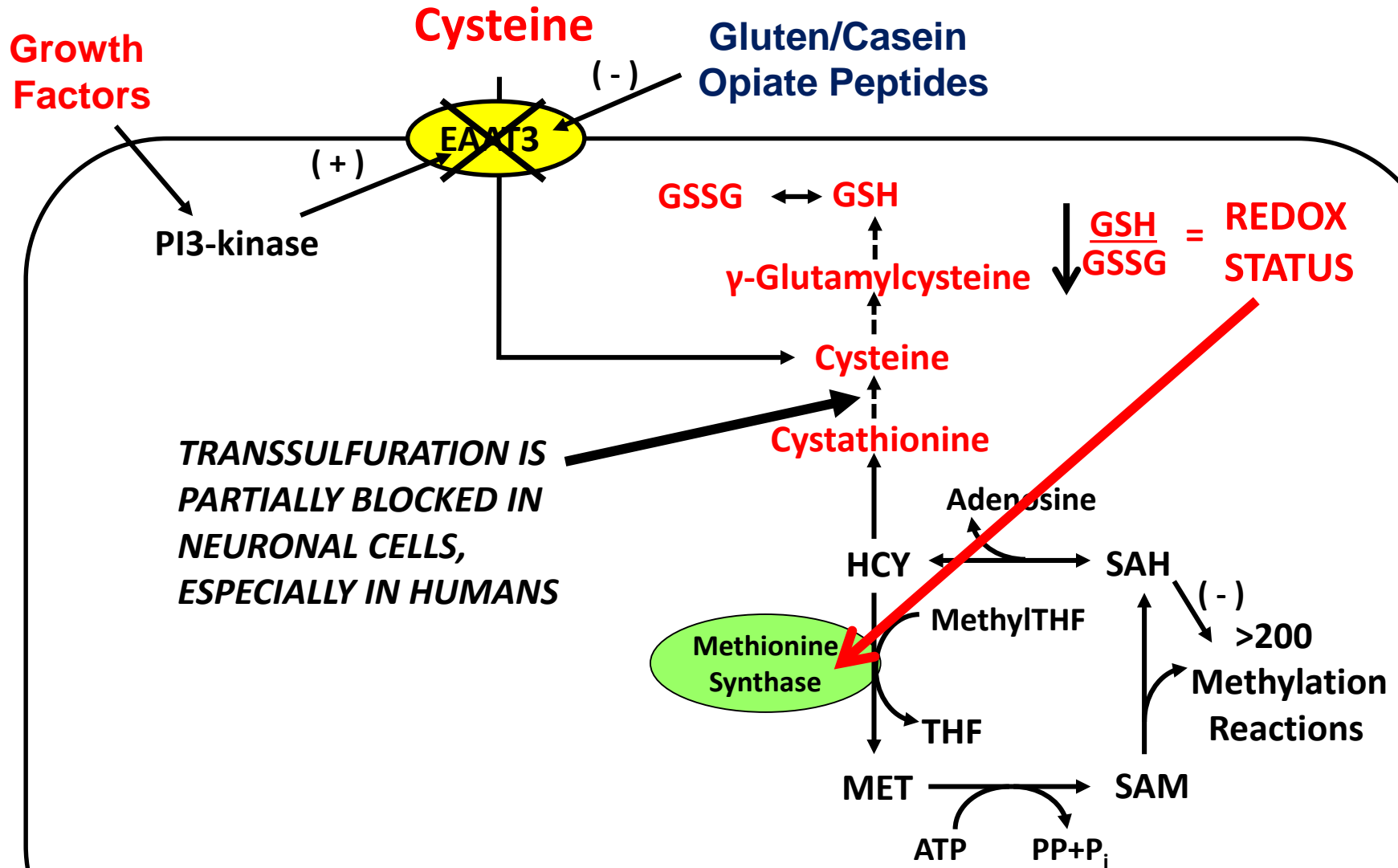


NOT ALL COWS ARE THE SAME: SOME ARE A1, SOME ARE A2



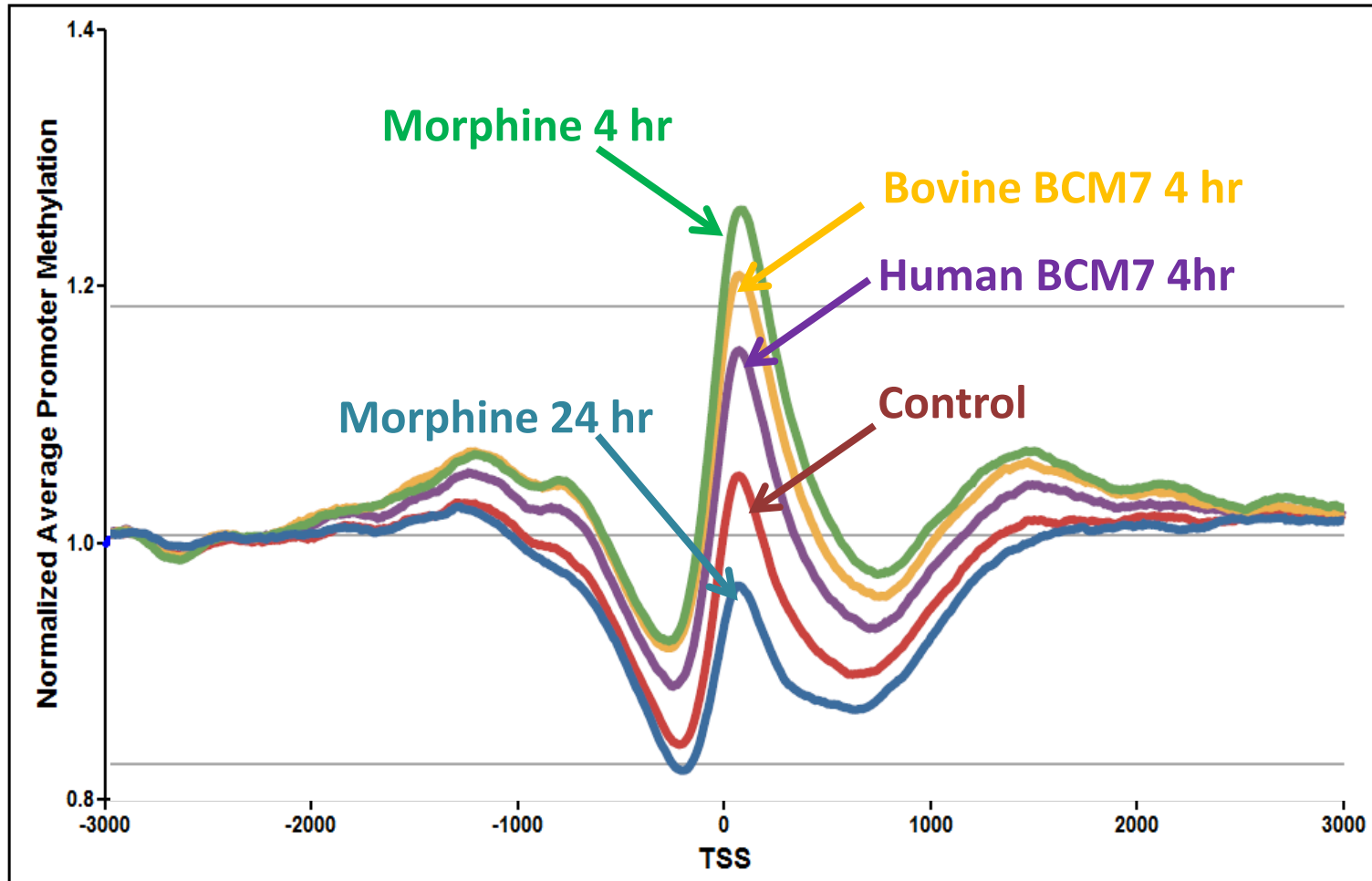


Opiates inhibit-mediated cysteine uptake



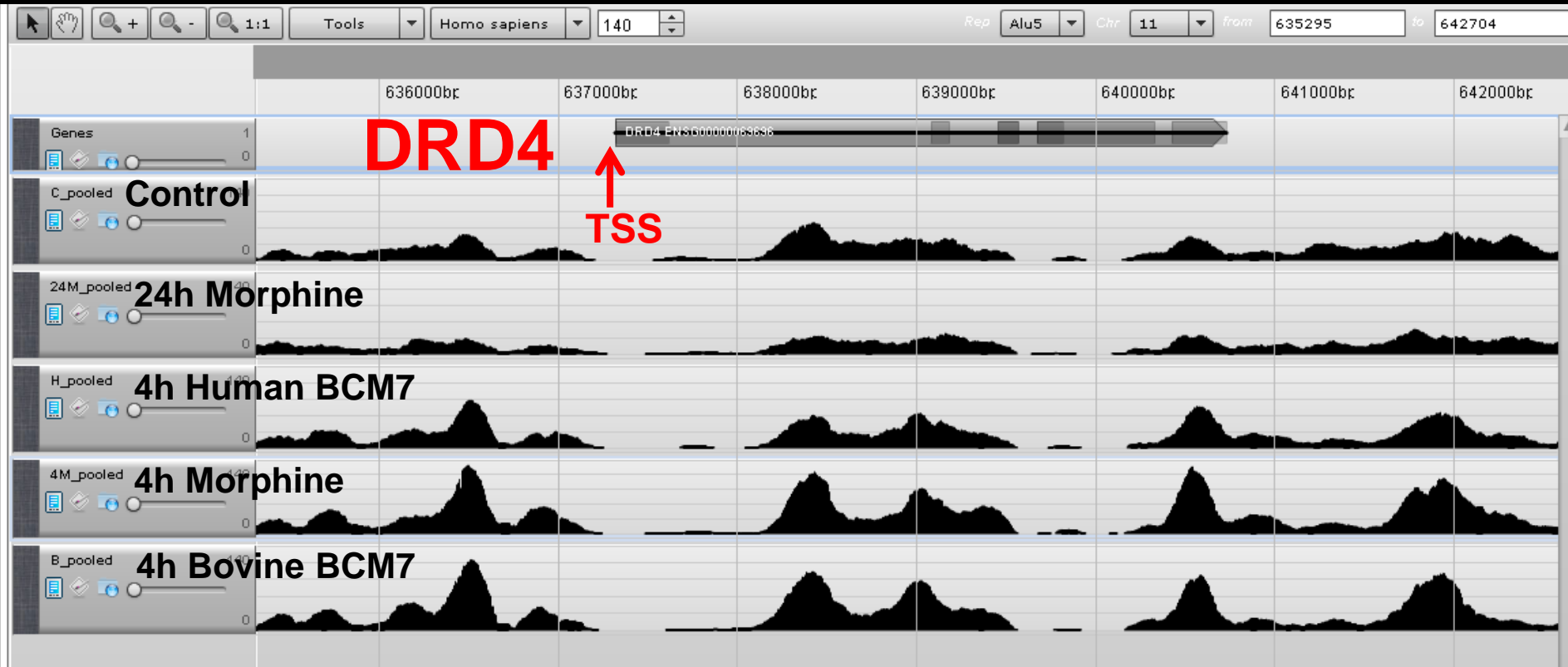
Global Promoter Methylation- SH-SY5Y cells

Morphine > bBCM7 > hBCM7

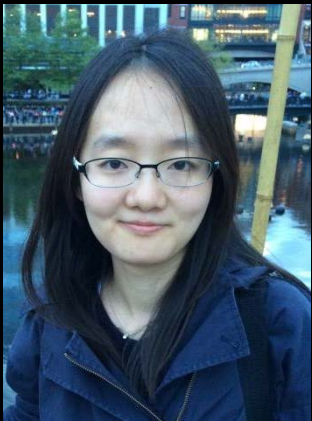


SH-SY5Y human neuroblastoma cells were treated with 1 μ M morphine, bBCM7 or hBCM7 for 4 hr (n = 5) and DNA methylation was analyzed by MBD-seq. 53,561 genes were aligned at their transcription start site (TSS) and average methylation between -3000bp and +3000bp was computed and normalized to values at -3000bp.

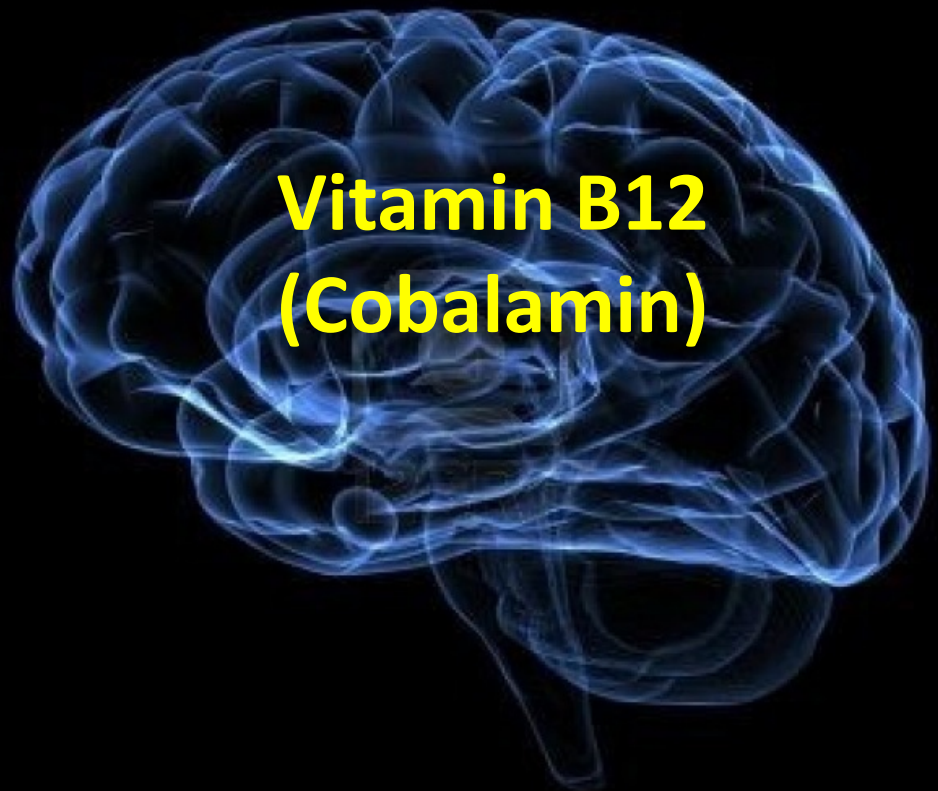
Changes in DNA methylation in the D4 Dopamine Receptor region following treatment with morphine or human/bovine BCM7



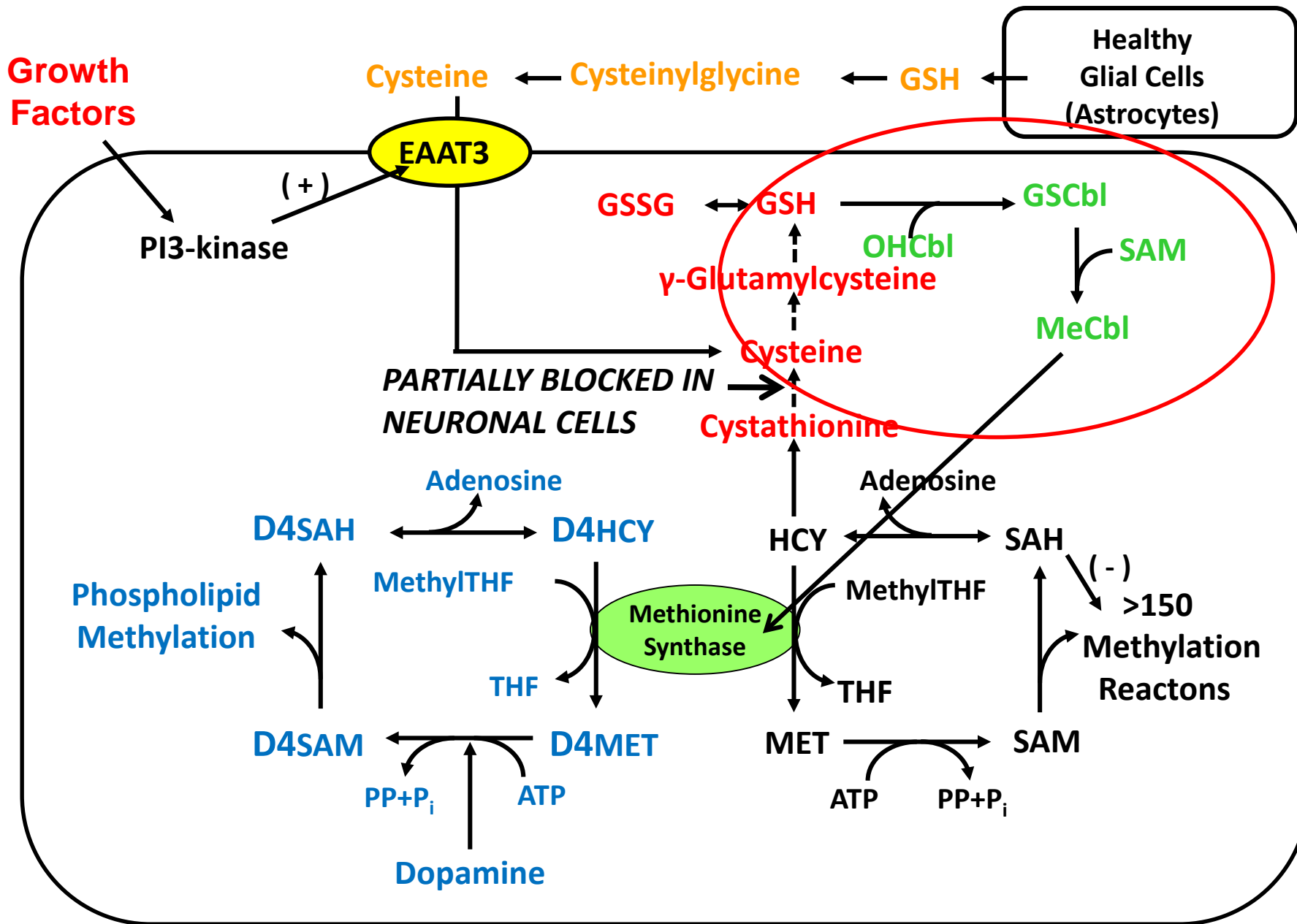
Brain-specific Aspects of Redox /Methylation Metabolism



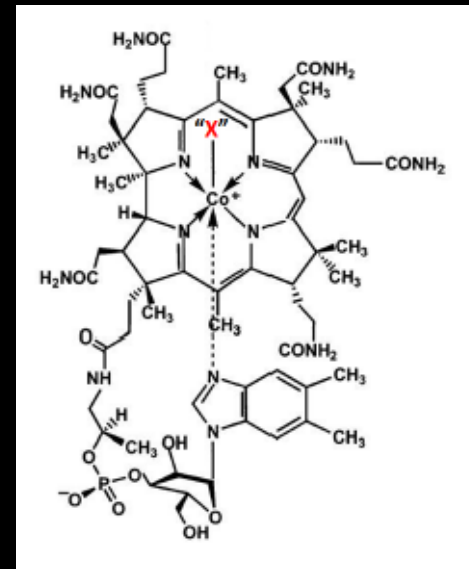
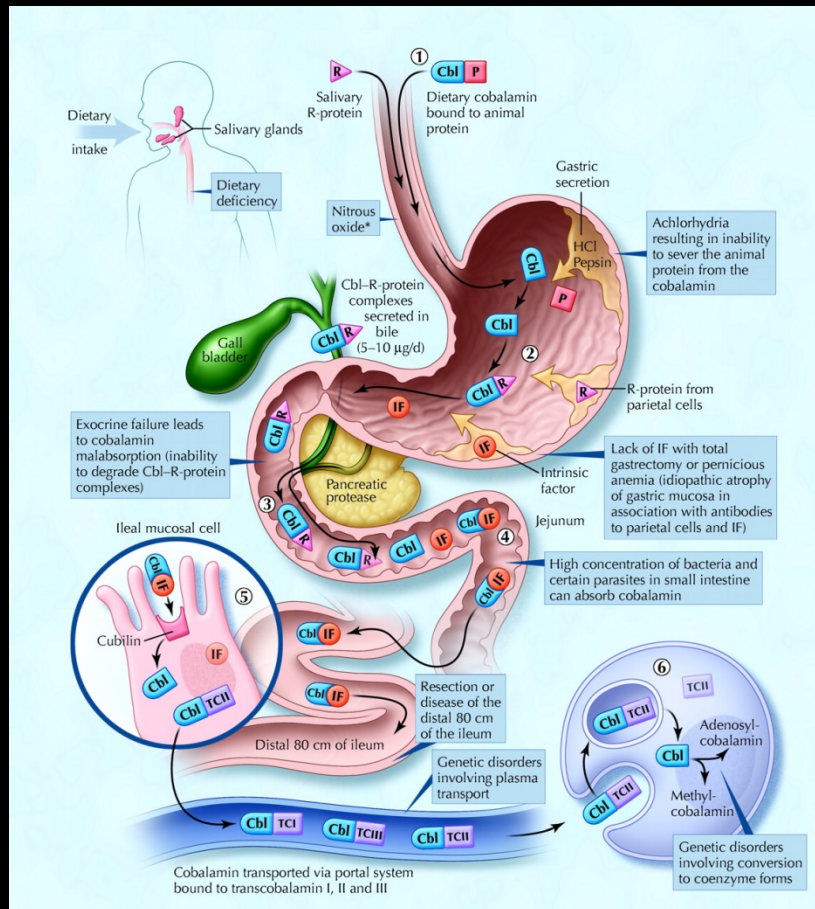
Yiting Zhang

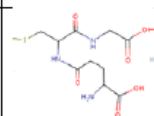
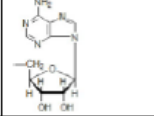


Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin) in the Human Frontal Cortex

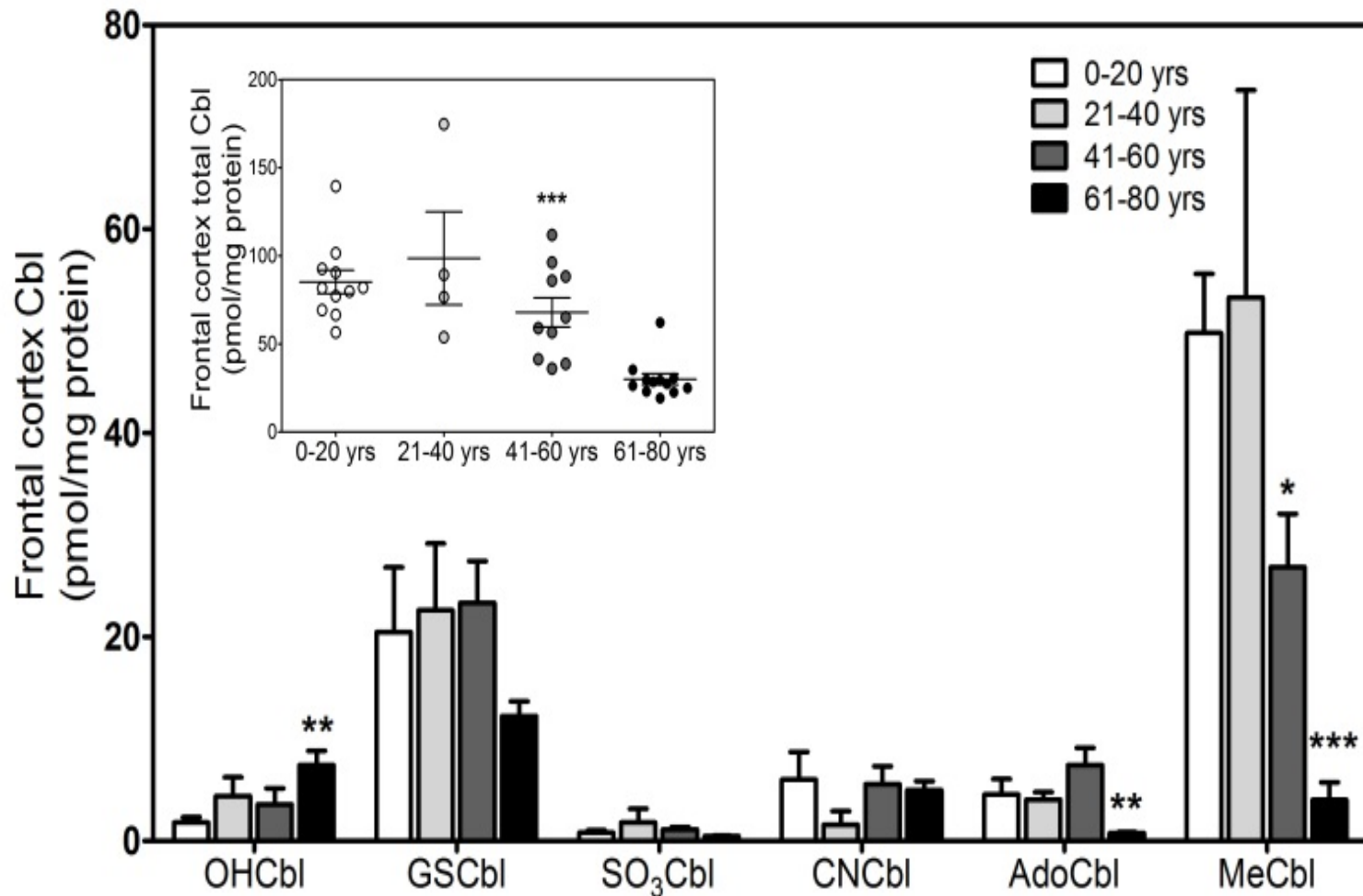


Vitamin B12 status in postmortem human brain during aging, autism and schizophrenia

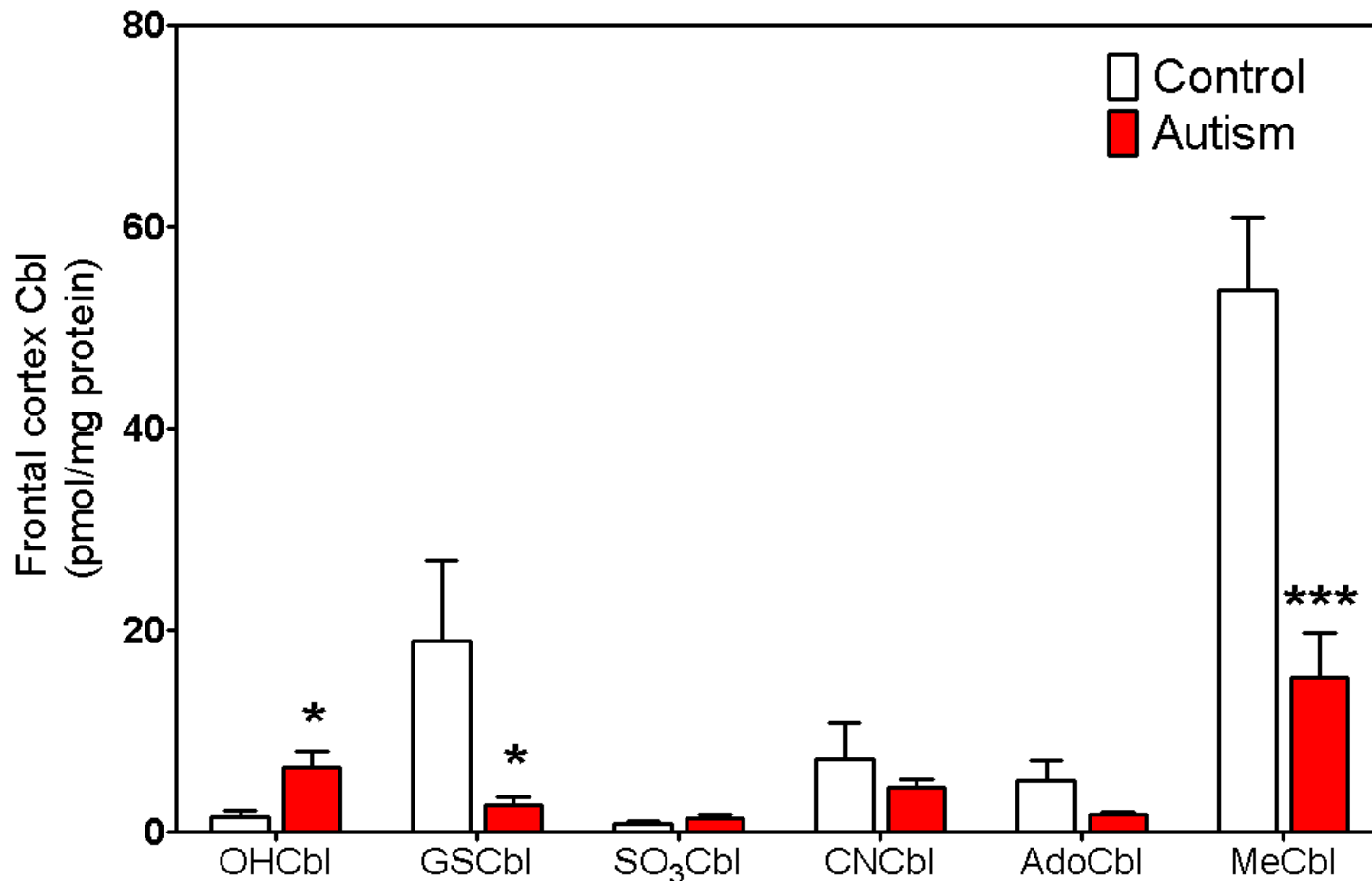


Cbl species	
X=	-hydroxo -OH
X=	-glutathionyl 
X=	-sulfito -SO ₃
X=	-cyano -CN
X=	-deoxyadenosyl 
X=	-methyl -CH ₃

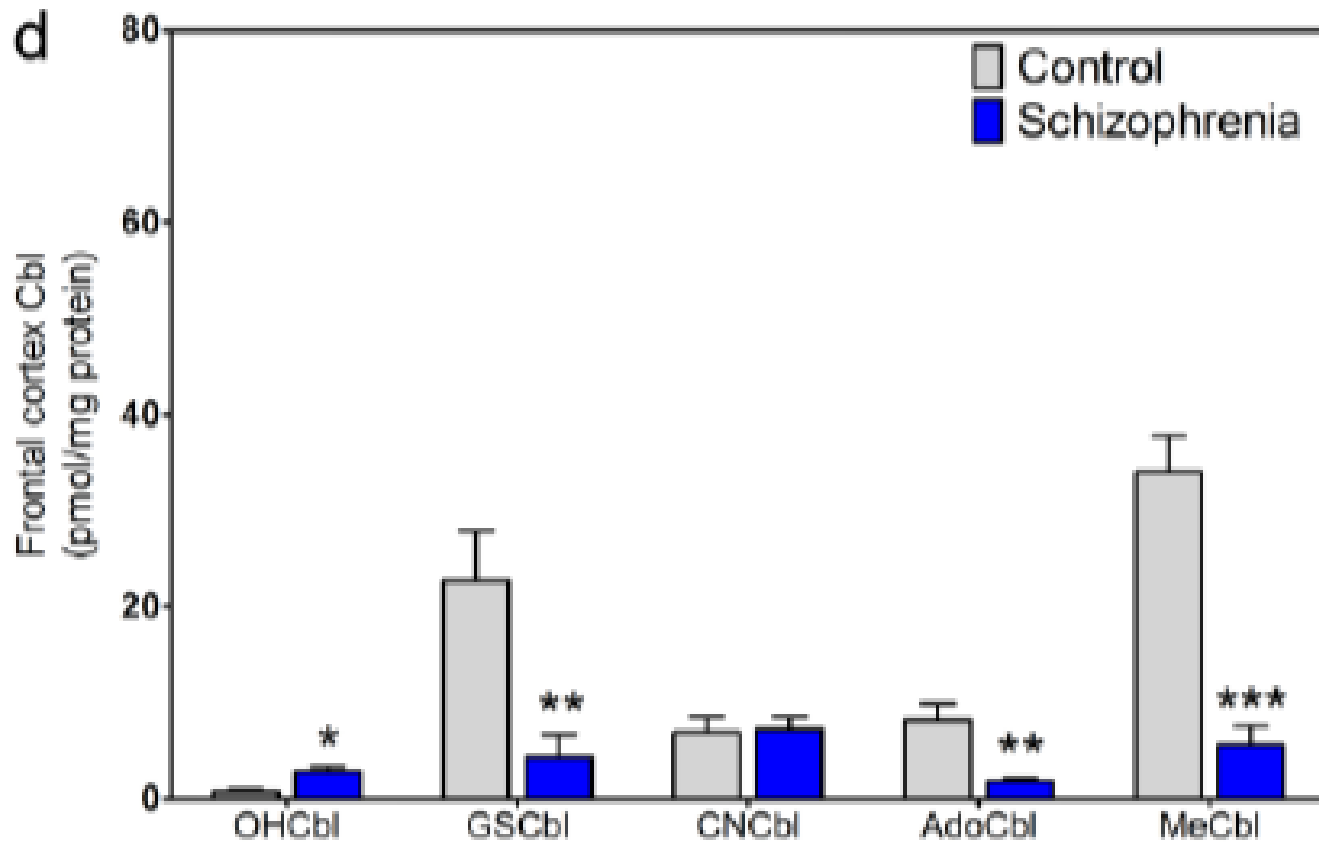
Levels of MethylB12 (MeCbl) and total Cbl decrease with age in frontal cortex



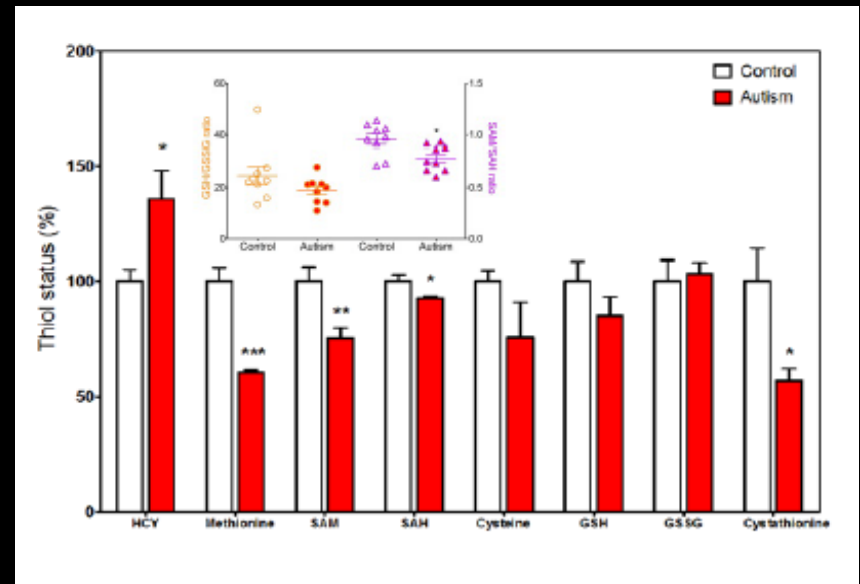
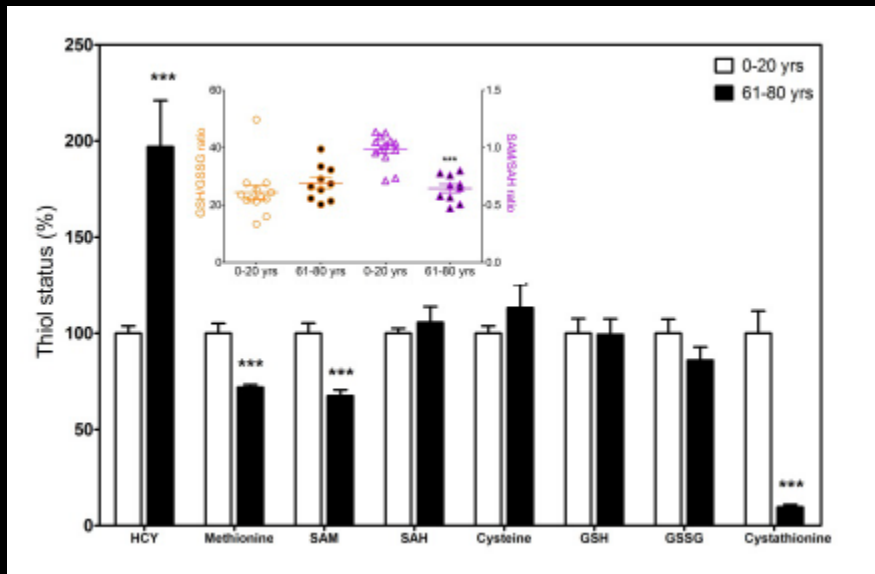
MethylB12 (MeCbl) and total B12 are decreased in autism compared to age-matched control subjects



MethylB12 (MeCbl) and total B12 are decreased in schizophrenia, similar to the decrease in autism



Brain levels of redox and methylation metabolites change with age and are abnormal in autistic subjects



Research Article

Neuregulin 1 Promotes Glutathione-Dependent Neuronal Cobalamin Metabolism by Stimulating Cysteine Uptake

Yiting Zhang,¹ Nathaniel Hodgson,² Malav Trivedi,³ and Richard Deth^{1,3}

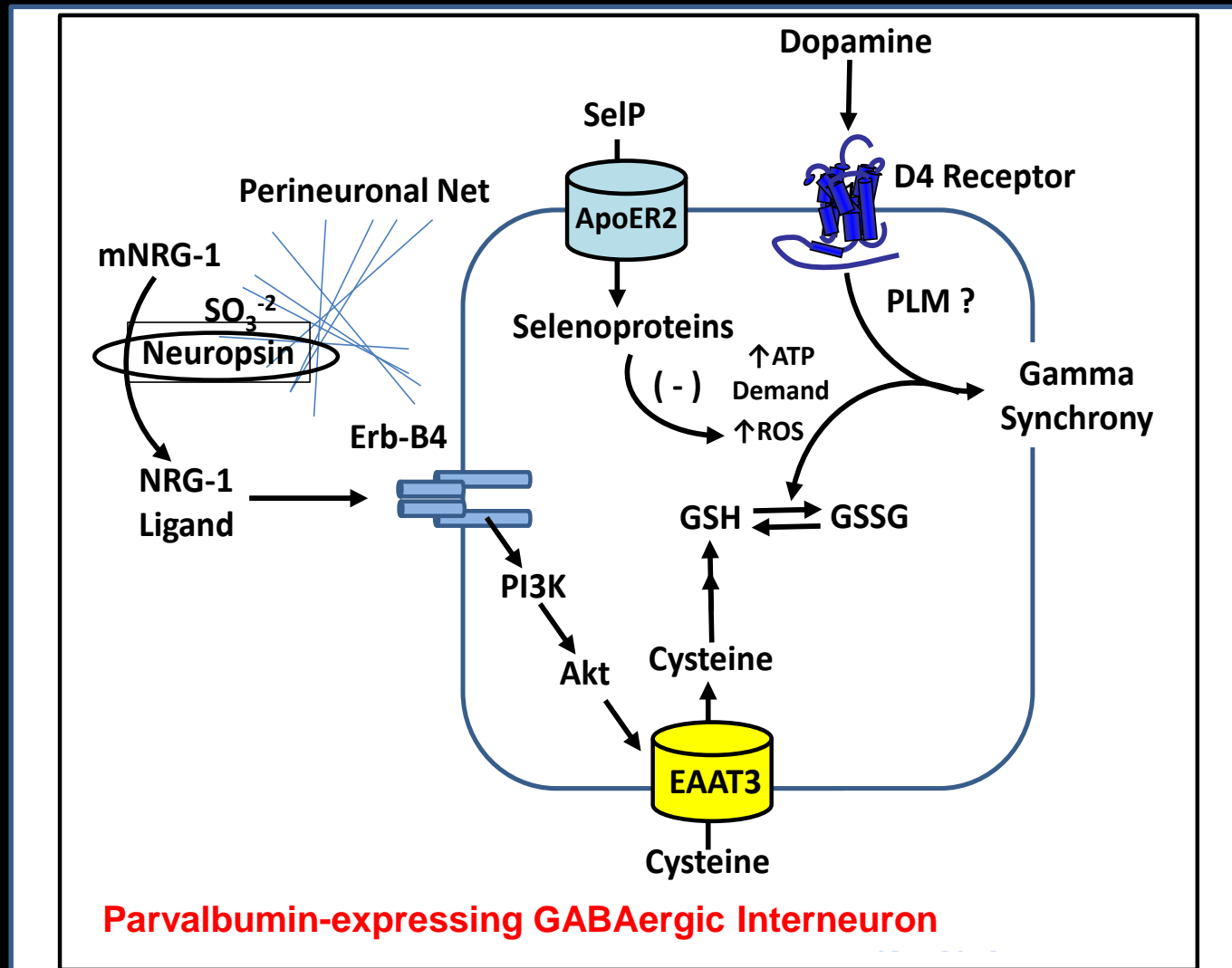
¹Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA



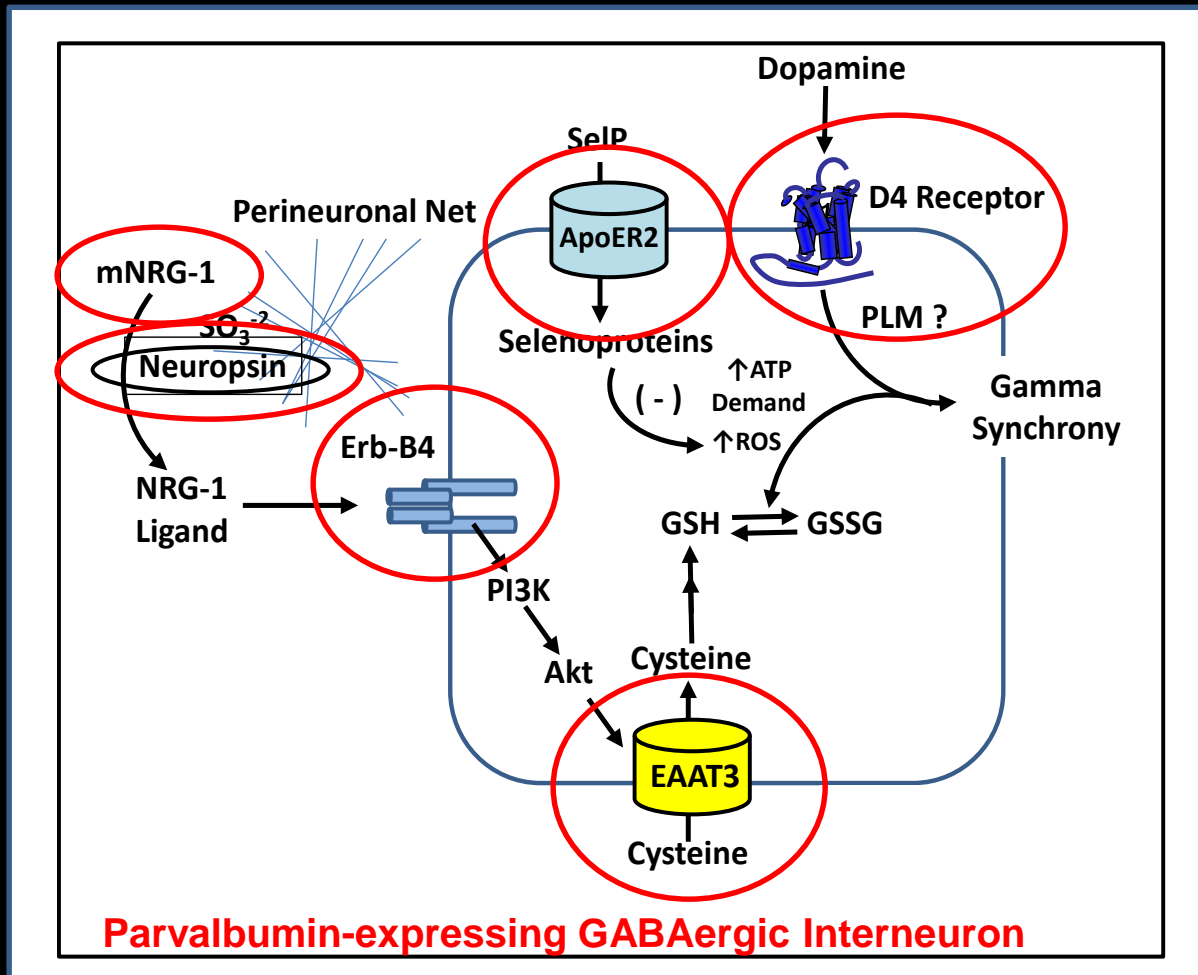
²Department of Neurology, F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center, Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, USA

³Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328, USA

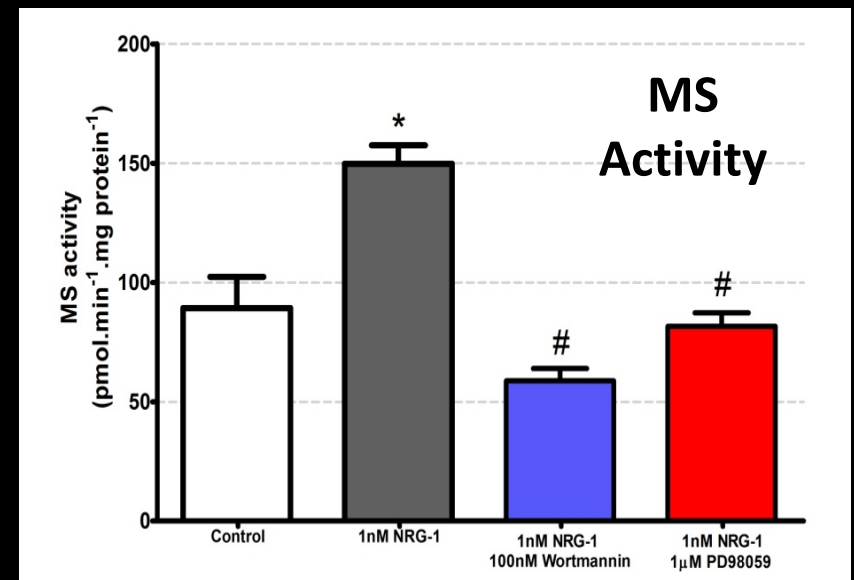
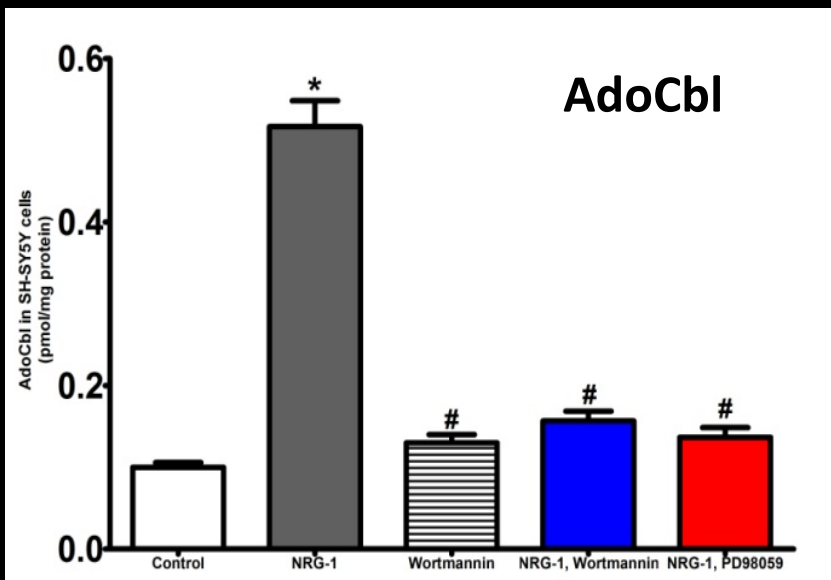
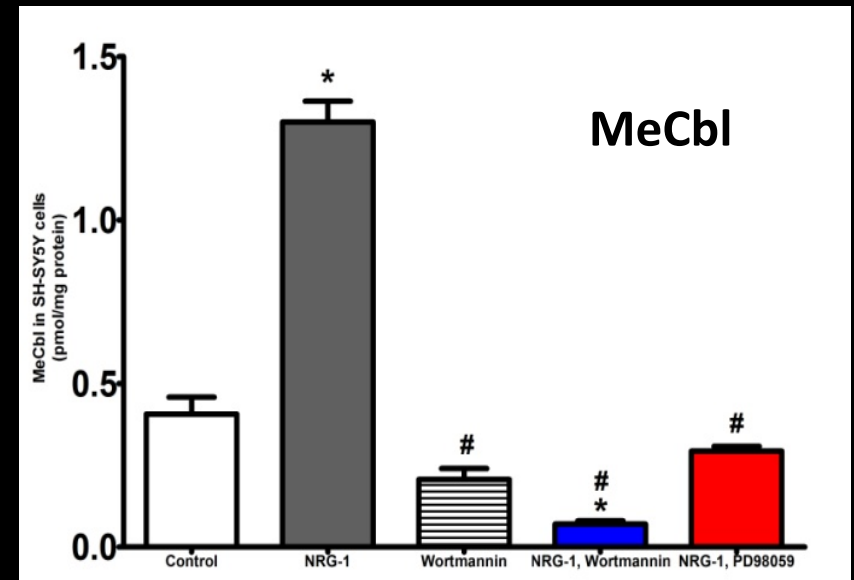
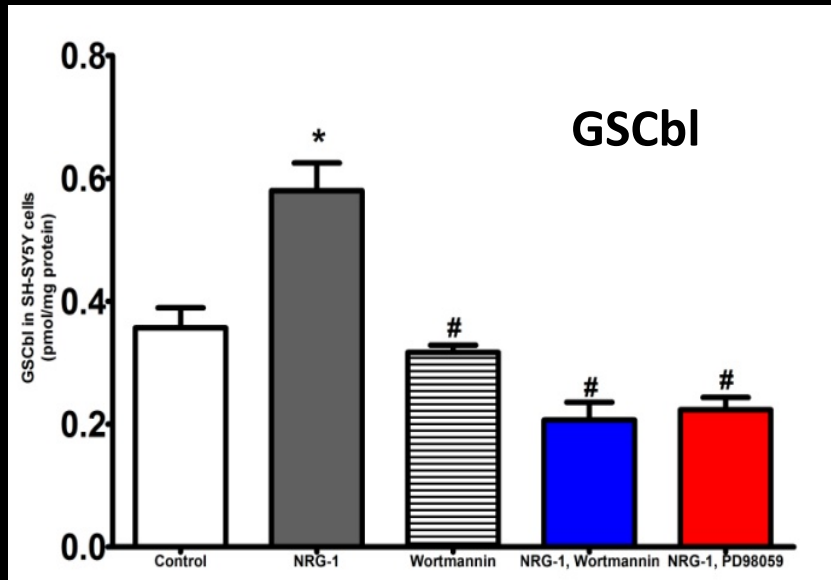
Neuregulin-1 (NRG-1) stimulates cysteine uptake and GSH synthesis in parvalbumin-expressing interneurons



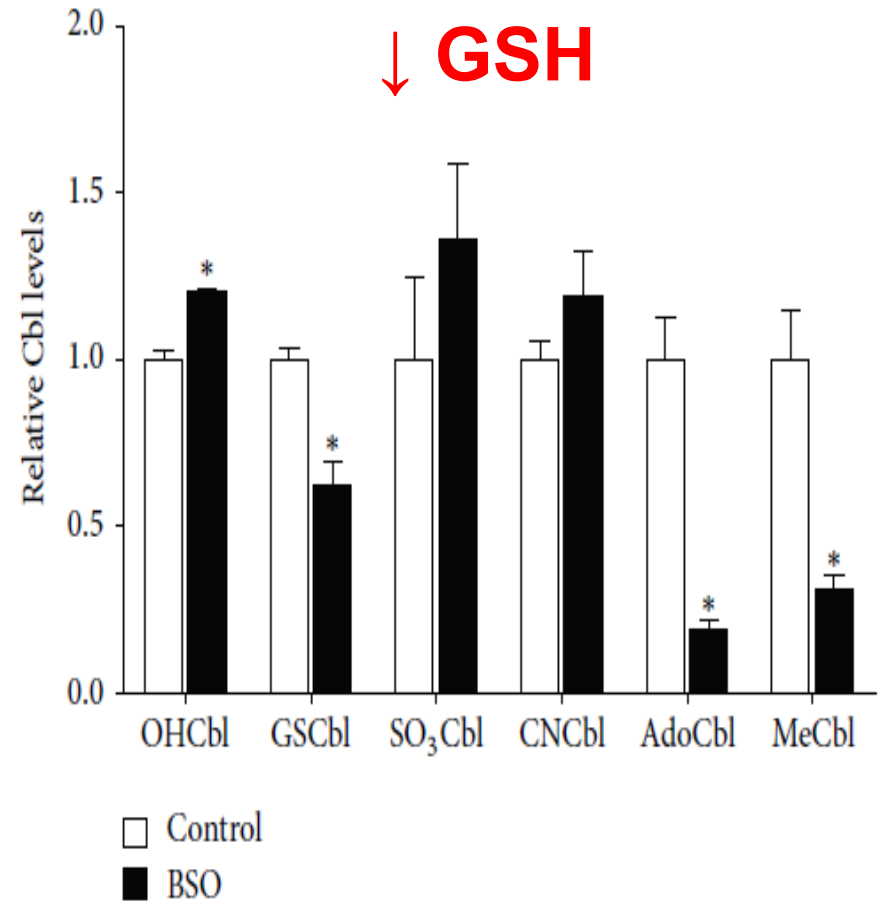
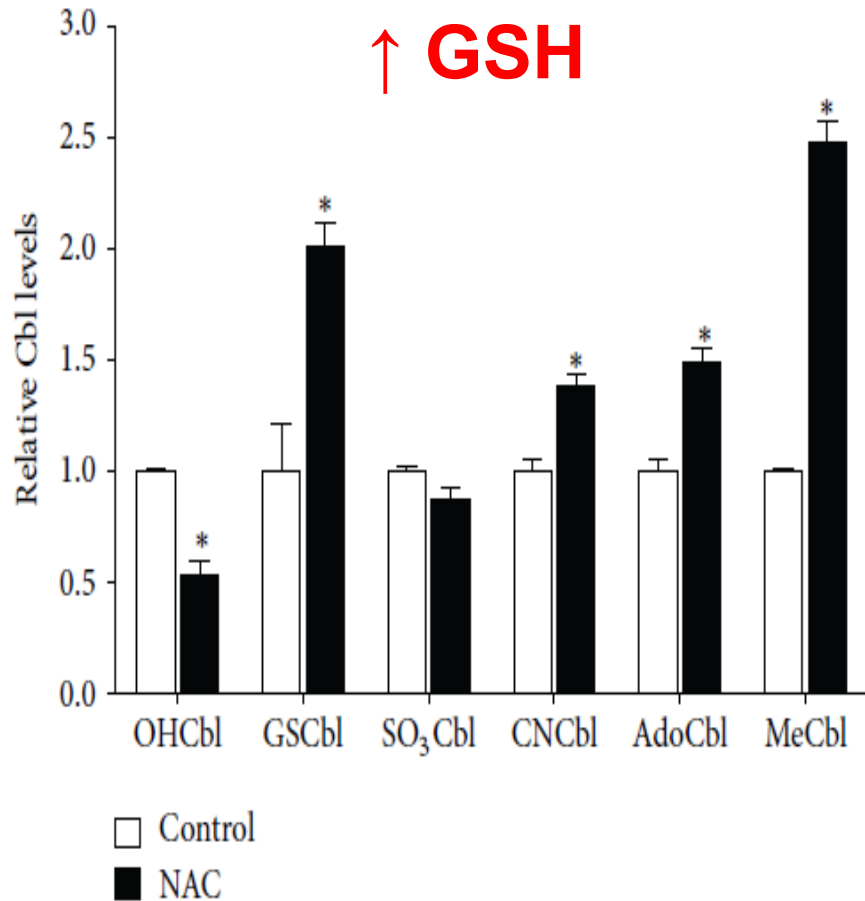
Each of these genes have been linked to schizophrenia



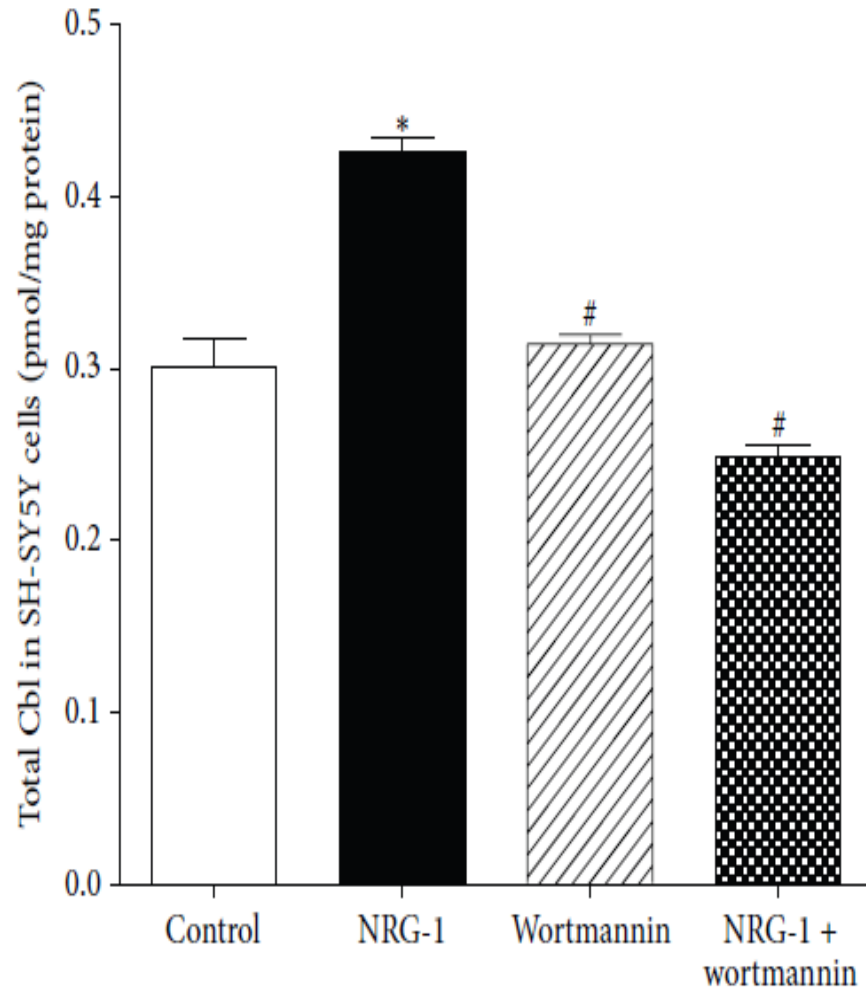
NRG-1 increases GSCbl, MeCbl and AdoCbl in association with increased MS activity



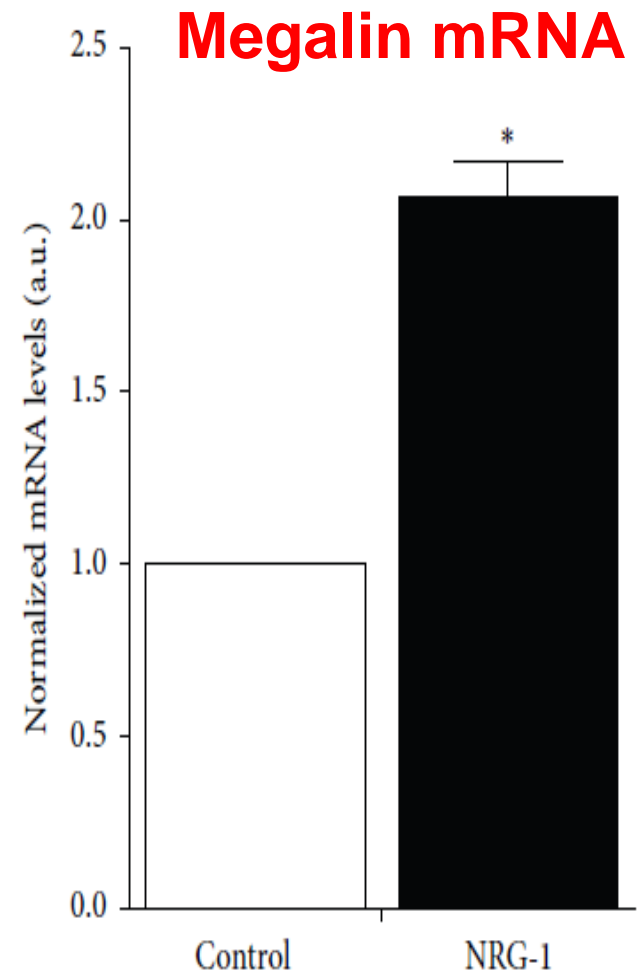
Increasing or decreasing GSH increases or decreases active forms of B12



The NRG-1-induced increase of Cbl is accompanied by an increase in megalin mRNA

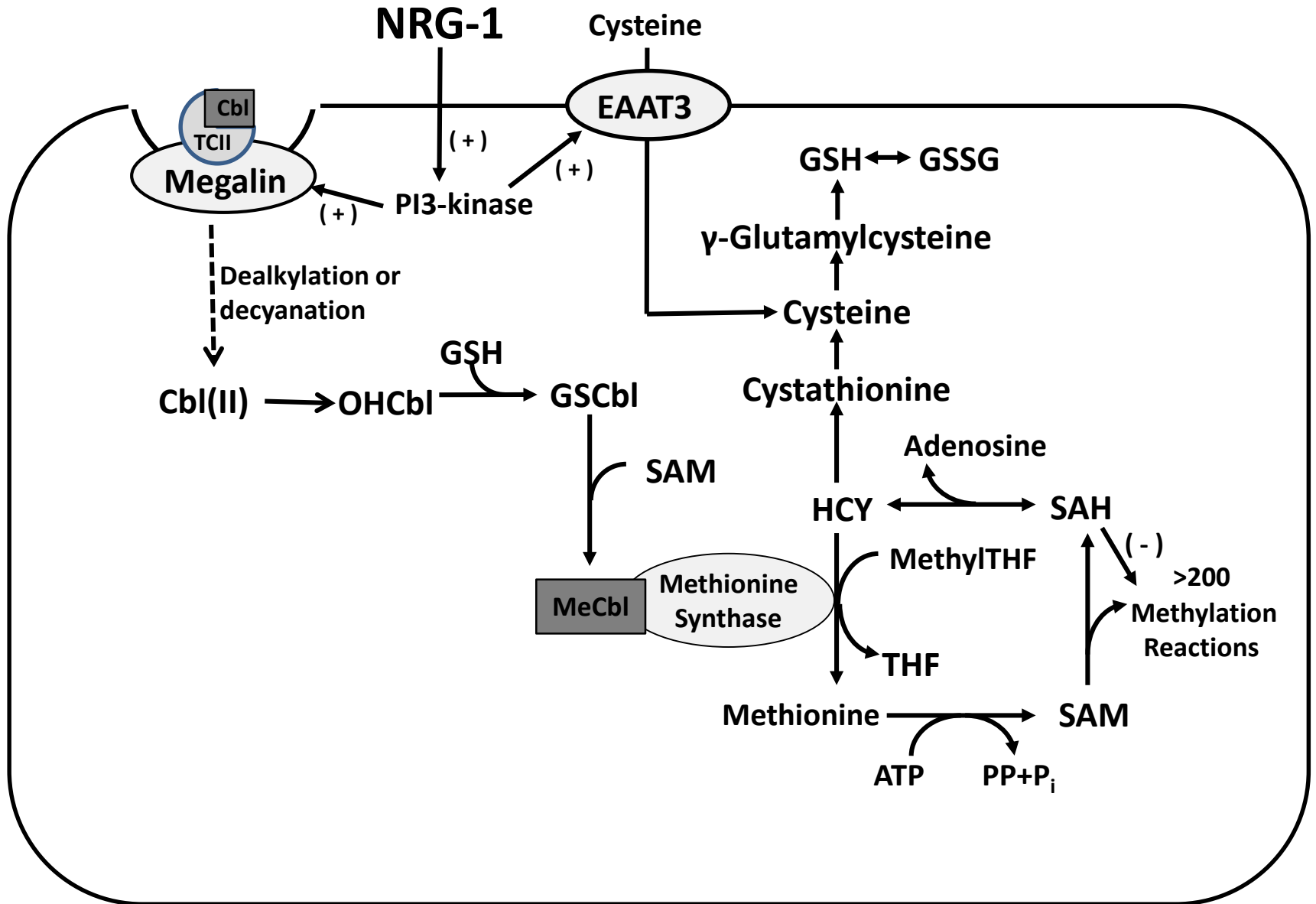


(a)



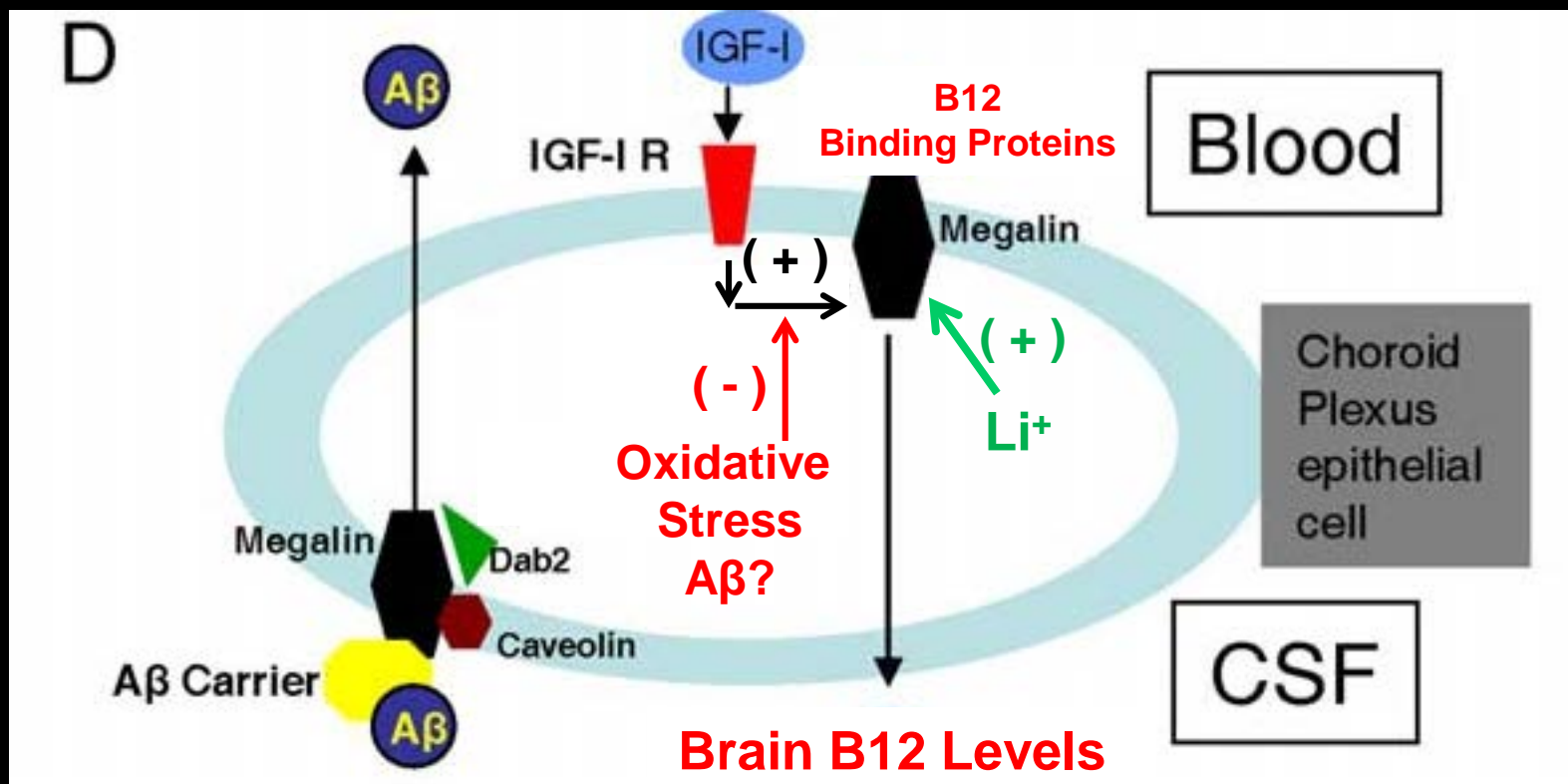
(b)

Neuregulin promotes uptake of cysteine and vitamin B12



A Hypothesis:

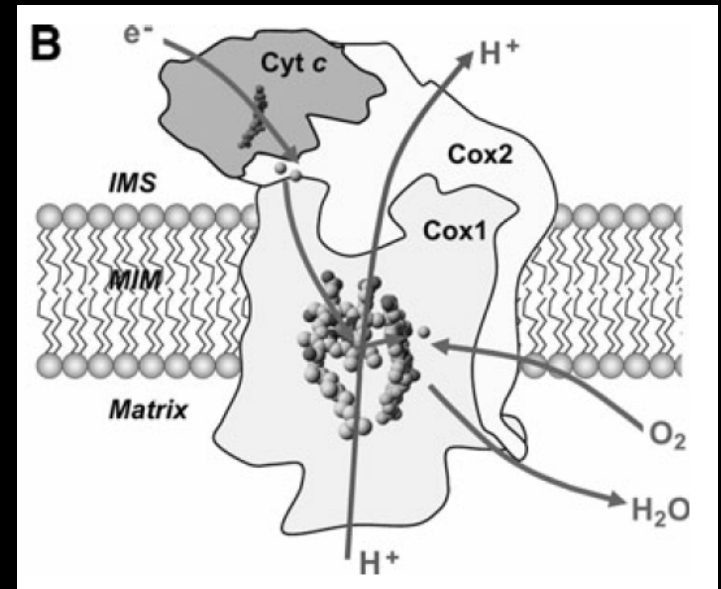
Megalin transports B12 into the brain in the choroid plexus



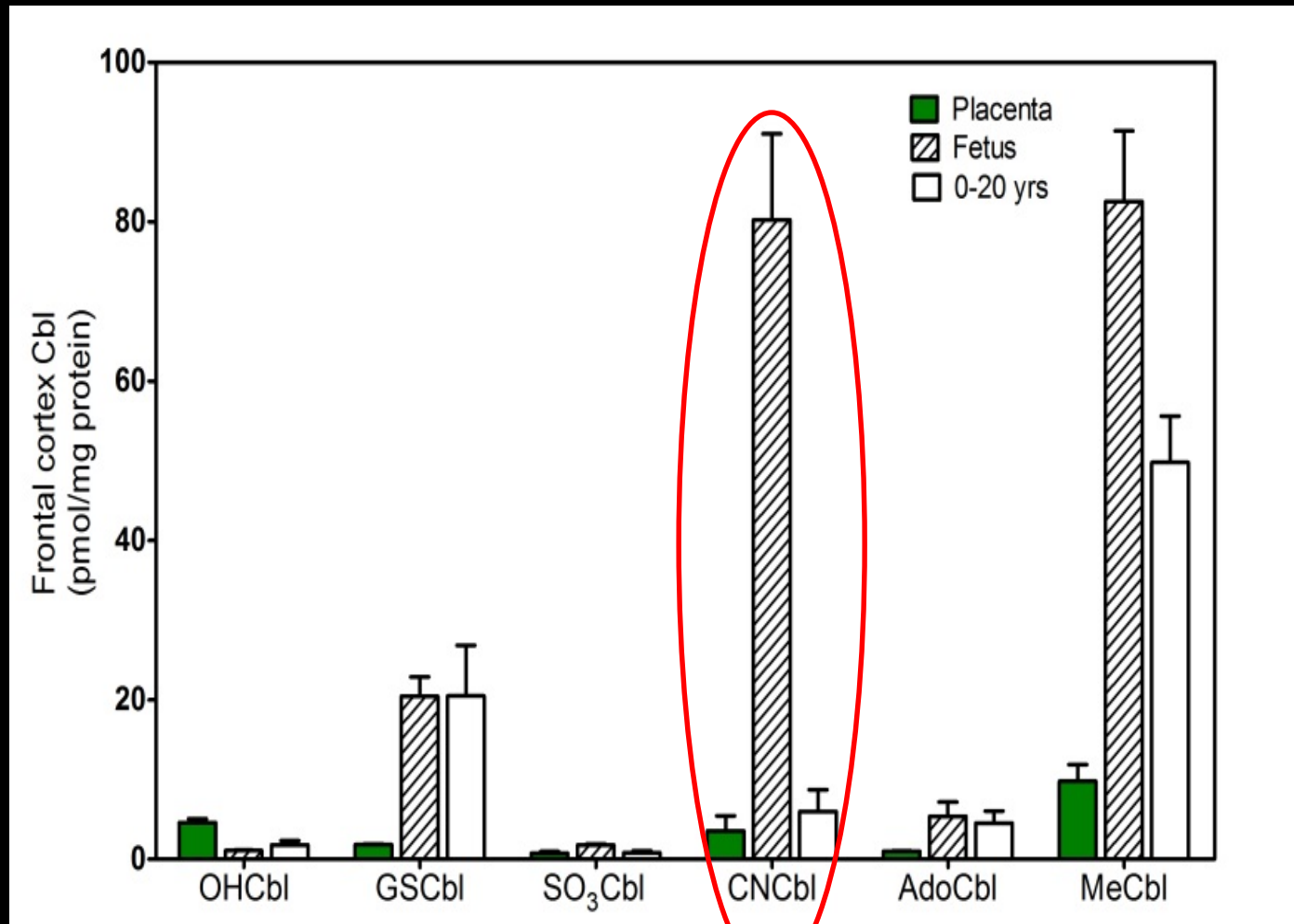
Cytochrome C Oxidase :

In bacteria and mitochondria

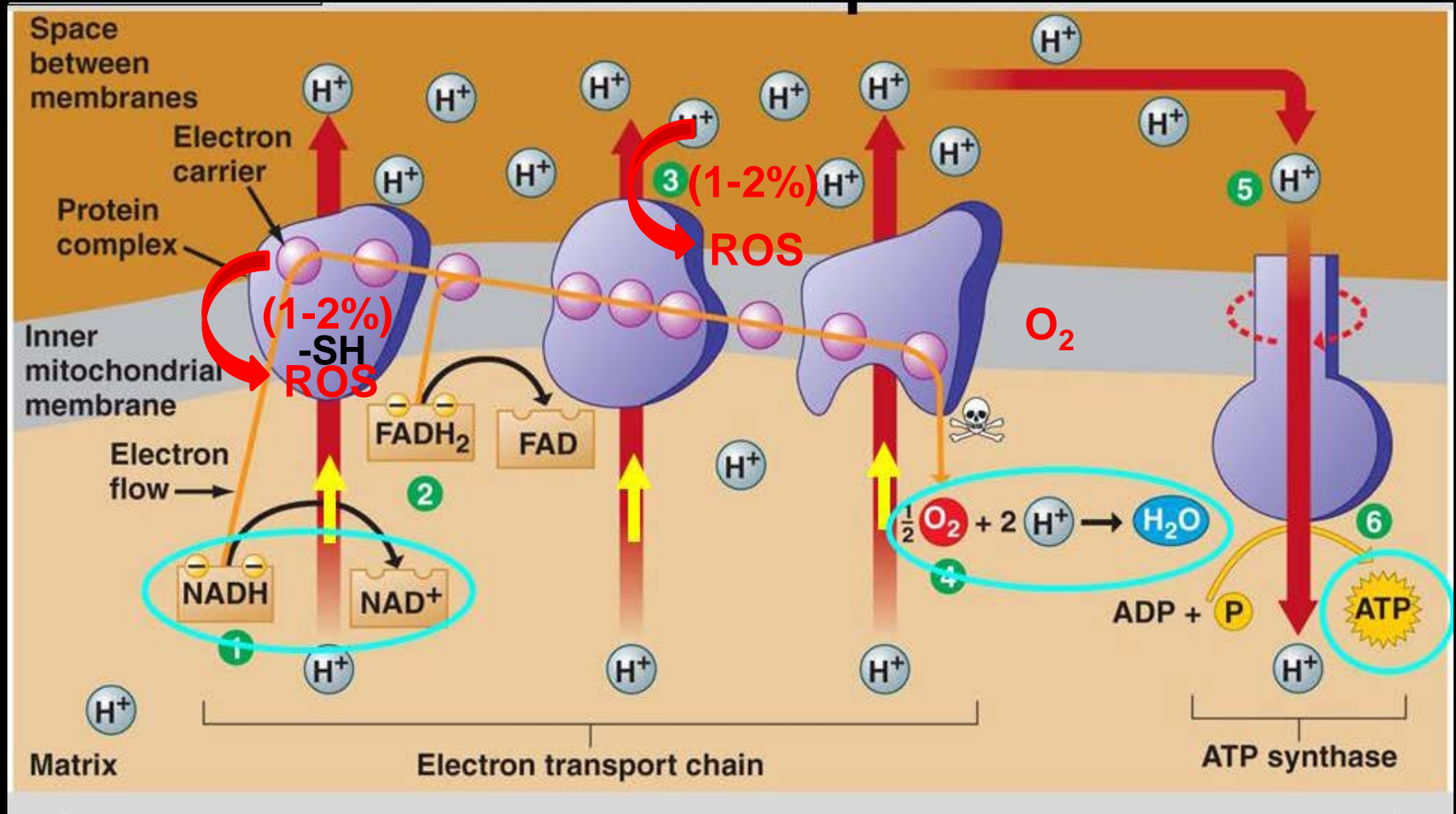
Reduces O_2 to water:



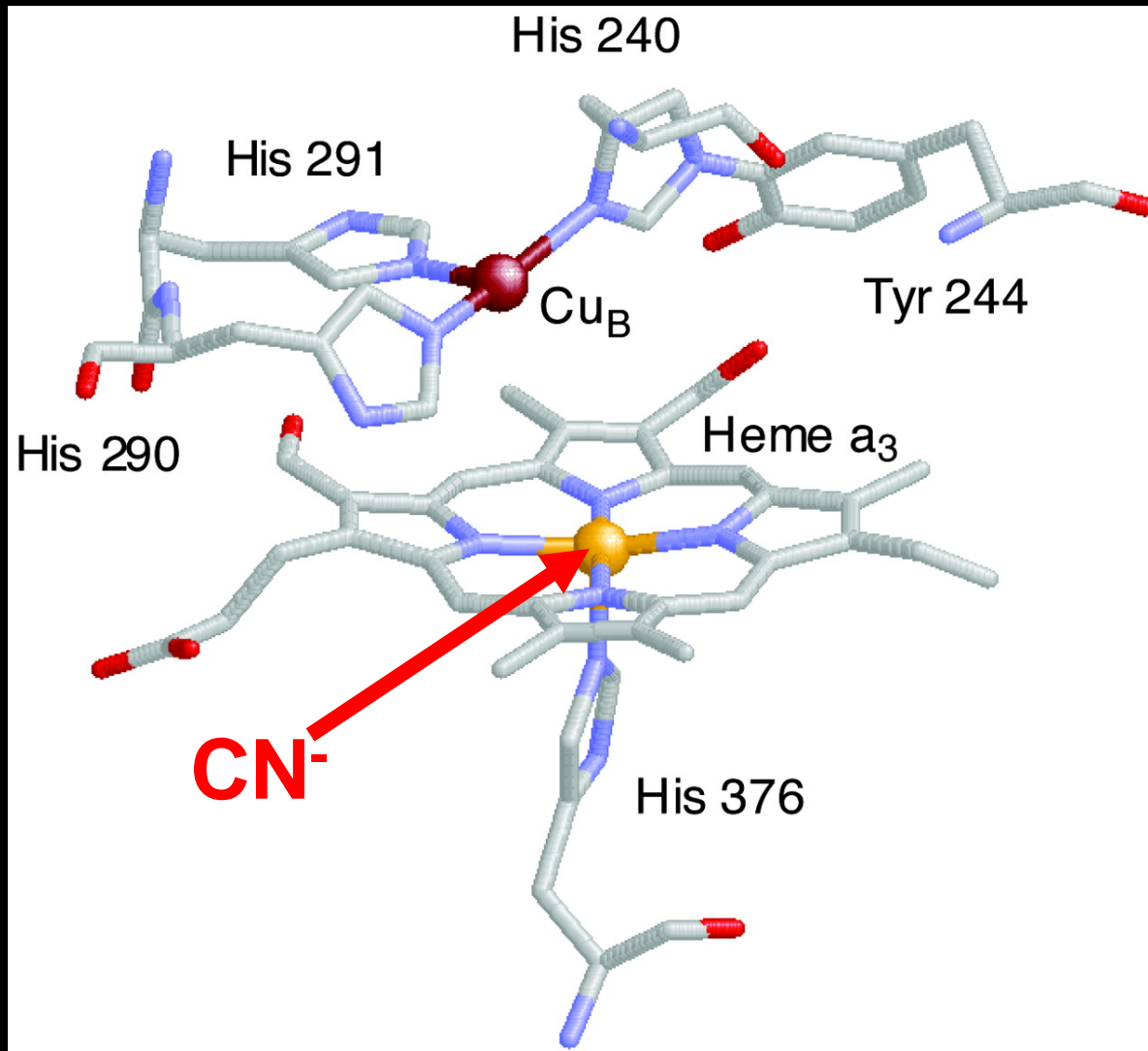
Levels of cyanocobalamin (CNCbl) are remarkably higher in fetal brain



Complex IV (Cytochrome C Oxidase) reduces O_2 and creates H^+ gradient for ATP formation



Heme groups in cytochrome C oxidase are the target of cyanide poisoning



Hydroxocobalamin is an antidote for cyanide poisoning

About CYANOKIT

Mechanism of Action

Preparation and Administration

Medical Information

Mechanism of Action

How Cyanide and CYANOKIT Work in the Body

Cyanide and CYANOKIT[®]
(hydroxocobalamin for injection) 5 g

Mechanism of Action

This video is intended for emergency medical personnel and first responders.

Important Safety Information is available at the end of this video.

View the full Prescribing Information

at CYANOKIT.com.



00:00

08:23



VOL.14, NO.1
MAY 1976

Research Communications in
Chemical Pathology and Pharmacology

Effect of hydroxycobalamin on the inhibition of cytochrome c
oxidase by cyanide. II - In isolated cytochrome c oxidase.*

L.C.Vieira Lopes and A.P.Campello

Cytochrome C
oxidase -CN

```
graph LR; CO[Cytochrome C oxidase] --- CN[-CN]; HC[Hydroxocobalamin] --> J(( )); CN --> J; J --> CC[Cyanocobalamin];
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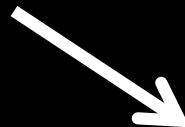
Cyanocobalamin

Hydroxocobalamin

DOPAMINE



D4 Receptors



**Phospholipid
Methylation**

DNA

Methylation



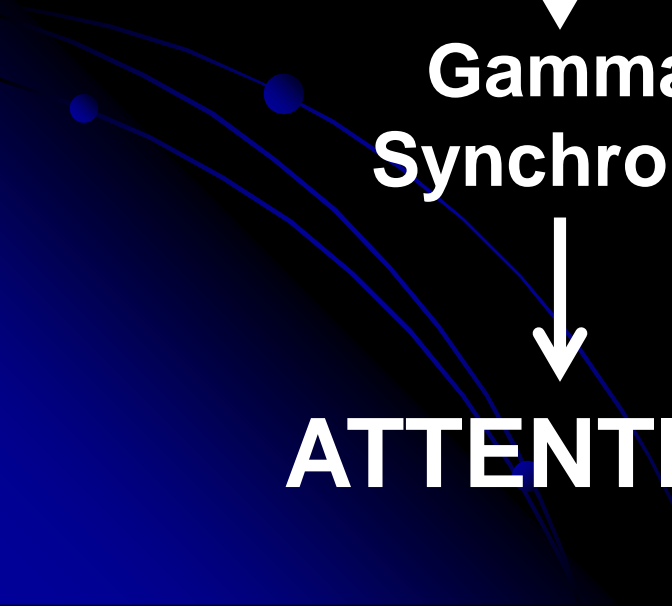
**Gamma
Synchrony**

**Epigenetic
Effects**



ATTENTION

MEMORY



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Grad Students:

Christina Muratore

Nate Hodgson

Alok Sharma

Malav Trivedi

Yiting Zhang

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Autism Tissue Program

Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center

Tissue Resource Center (Australia)

Stanley Medical Research Foundation
and donor families.

Collaborators:

Antonio Persico

Suzanne De la Monte

Hamid Abdolmaleky

Mostafa Waly

Yahya Al-Farsi

Steve Walker

Bernat Kocsis

Grant Support:

Autism Research Institute

SafeMinds

NIH

National Autism Association

Autism Speaks

A2 Milk Corporation