

# Diseases of the Brain

(*Psychiatric* diseases of the brain)

Stephen Lewis, MD

Department of Psychiatry

University of New Mexico SOM

SFLewis@salud.unm.edu

# Why worry about mental illness?

- 26% of American adults with a mental illness each year
- Cost to treat mental illness
  - About 10% of health care costs per year are for mental illness
  - Serious mental illnesses (SMIs), cost society \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year
- Suicide
  - About 30,000 of suicides / year in US
  - Twice as many suicides as homicides every year

# Why study the brain in mental illness - couldn't you just make yourself well?

- If you could make yourself well, who would be sick?
- Lots of people don't respond to the treatments we have
- Lots of illnesses don't have good treatments
- Lots of things happen in your brain that you aren't aware of

# Big questions

- What the brain does
- Parts of the brain
- When things don't work right

# How do we know what the brain does?

2 main ways: ***What do you think?***

1)

2)

# How do we know what the brain does?

Its really (*really really really*) hard to figure out how the brain works.

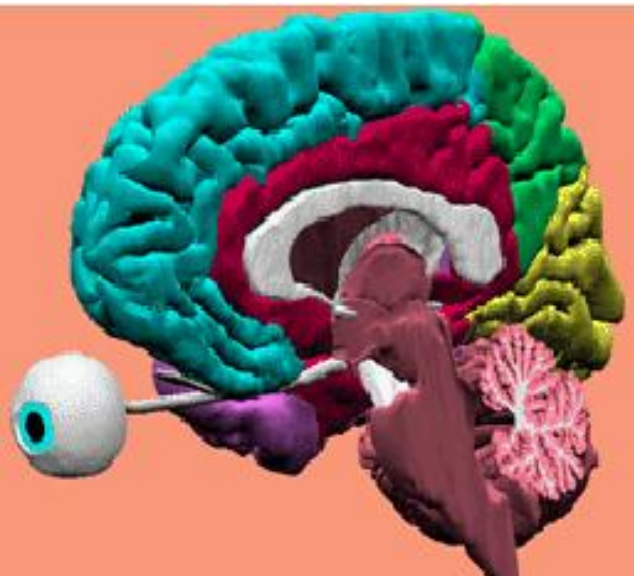
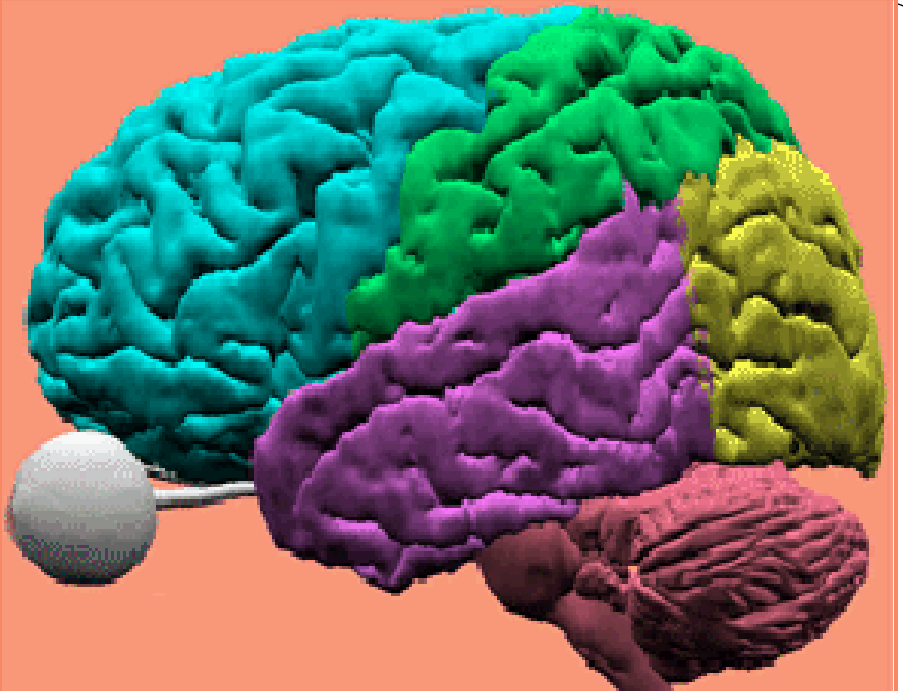
2 main ways:

1) See what happens with brain damage

2) Use new machines to look through the skull into the brain

How to know what the brain  
does?

Look for what changes when  
the brain is damaged

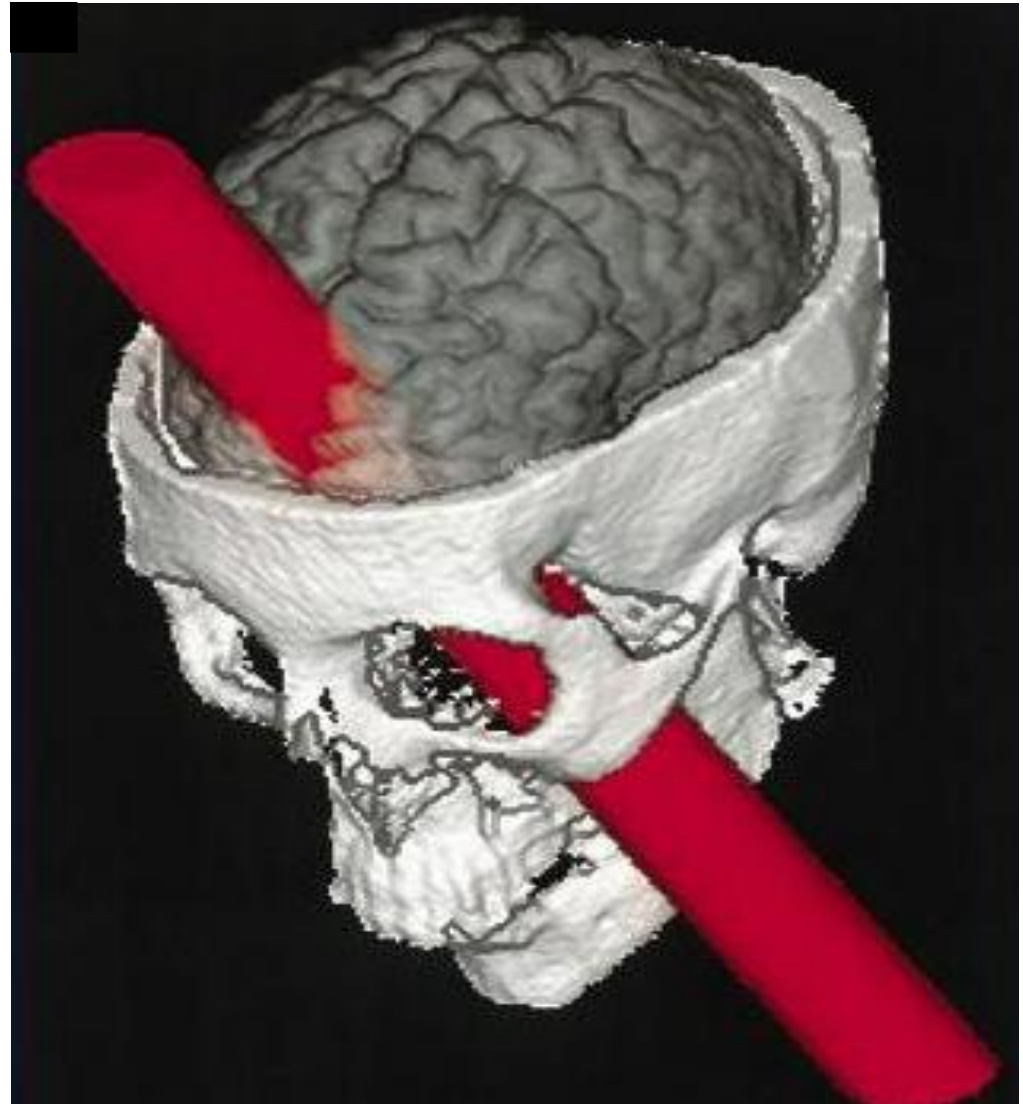


Different jobs for different parts of the brain



# Phineas Gage & brain anatomy

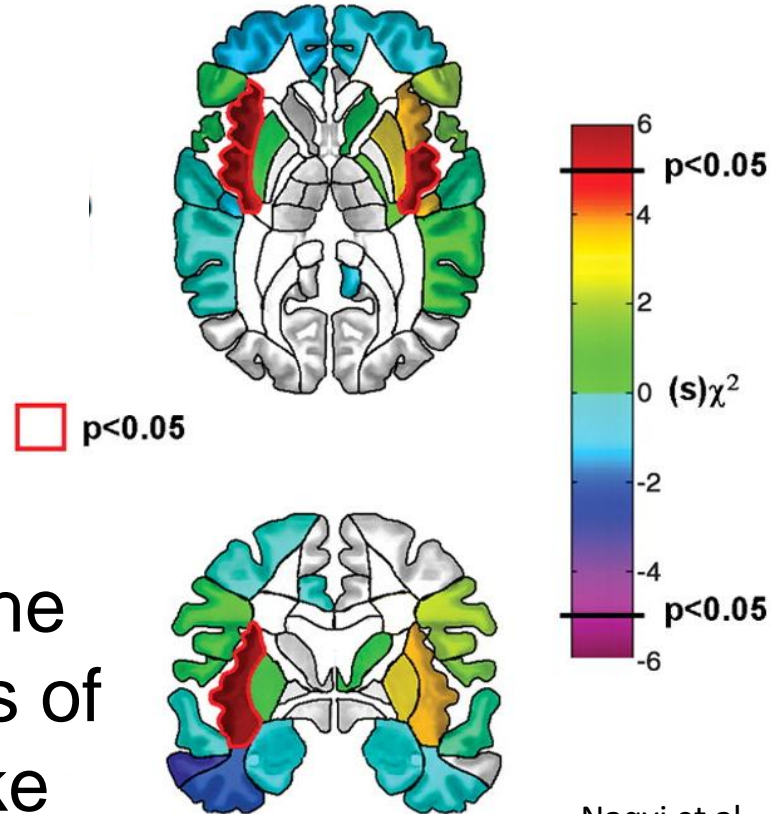
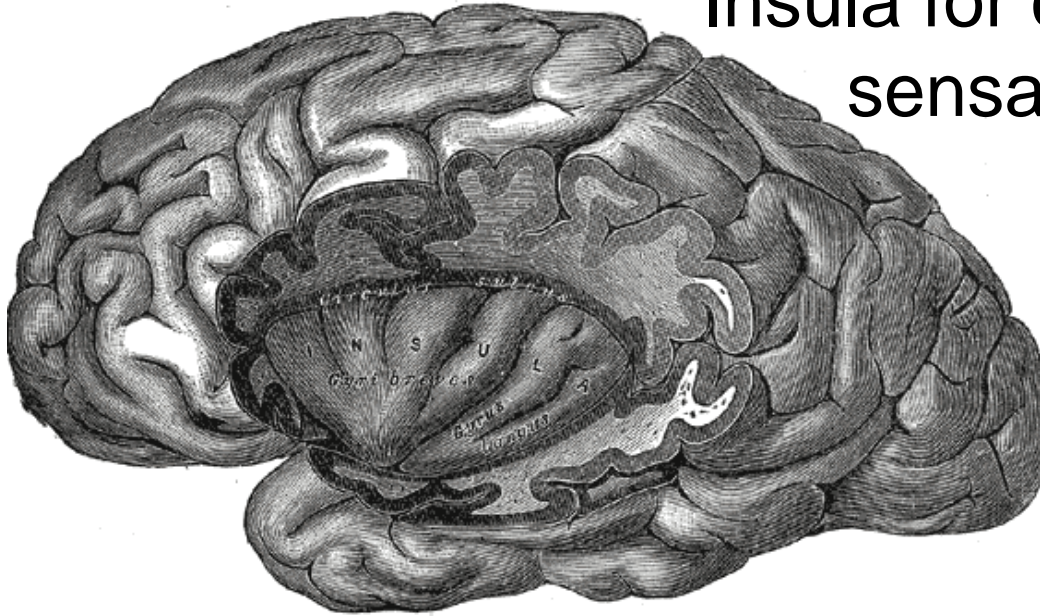
- **Before** “shrewd, smart businessman”, “possessed a well-balanced mind
- **After** accident 1848 – didn’t care about other people, couldn’t follow rules & couldn’t make up his mind, drunk, friends said “he was no longer Gage”



from Damasio H et al  
Science. 1994

# “insula... bodily sensations & conscious emotions”

Insula for chest/abdomen sensation - “gut feelings”

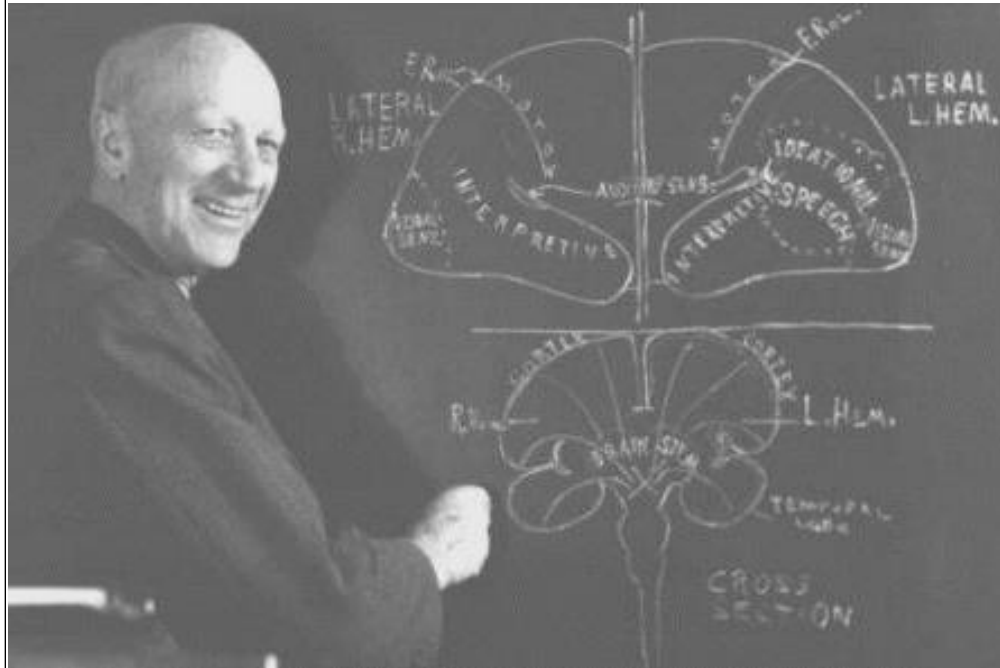


Damage to the insula  $\Rightarrow$  loss of urge to smoke

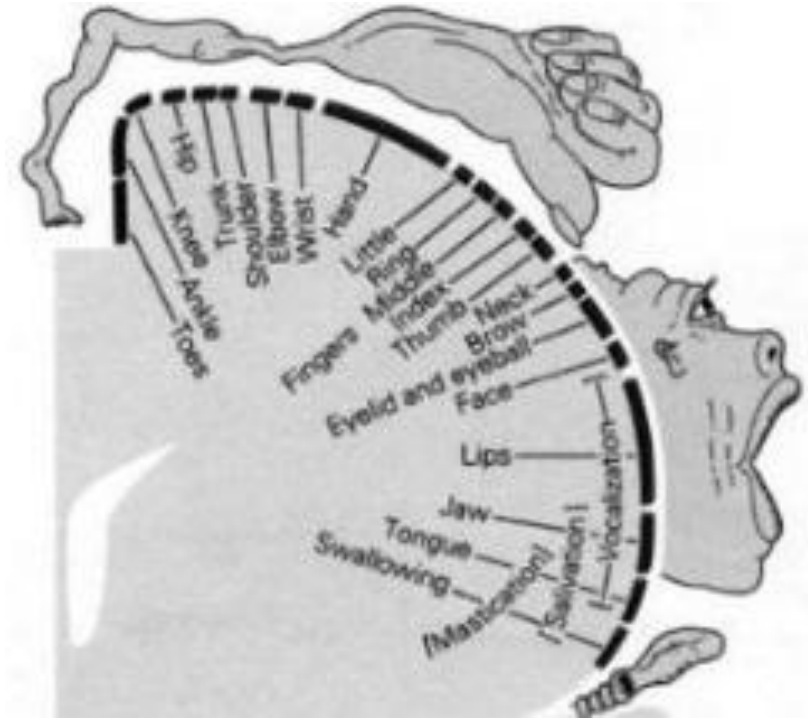
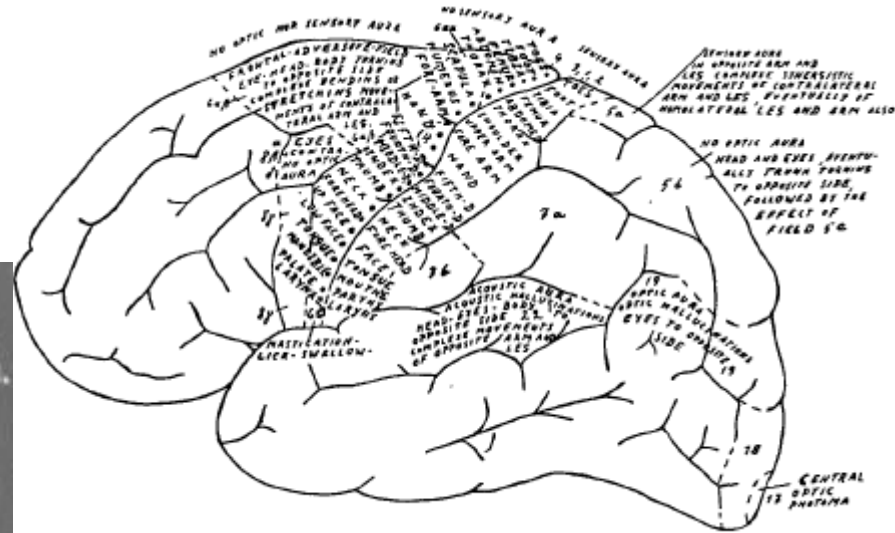
How to know what the brain  
does?

A different way to know what the  
brain does - see it working

# Wilder Penfield



Stimulation of brain during surgeries told us about simple movements / simple sensations



# Structural and functional neuroimaging - “pictures of the brain & brain activity”

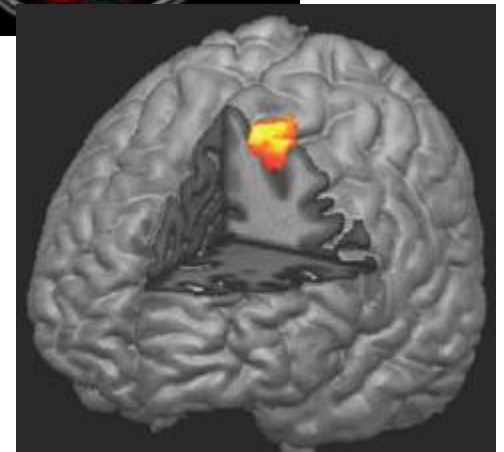
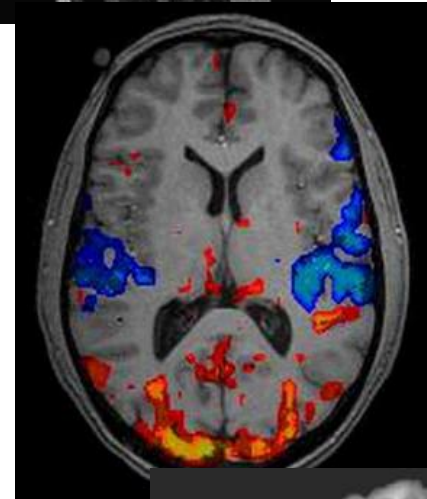
- Structural
  - CT
  - MRI

- Functional
  - PET
  - SPECT
  - fMRI
  - MEG

You don't need to open someone's skull to do it - people like that



# MRI scanner

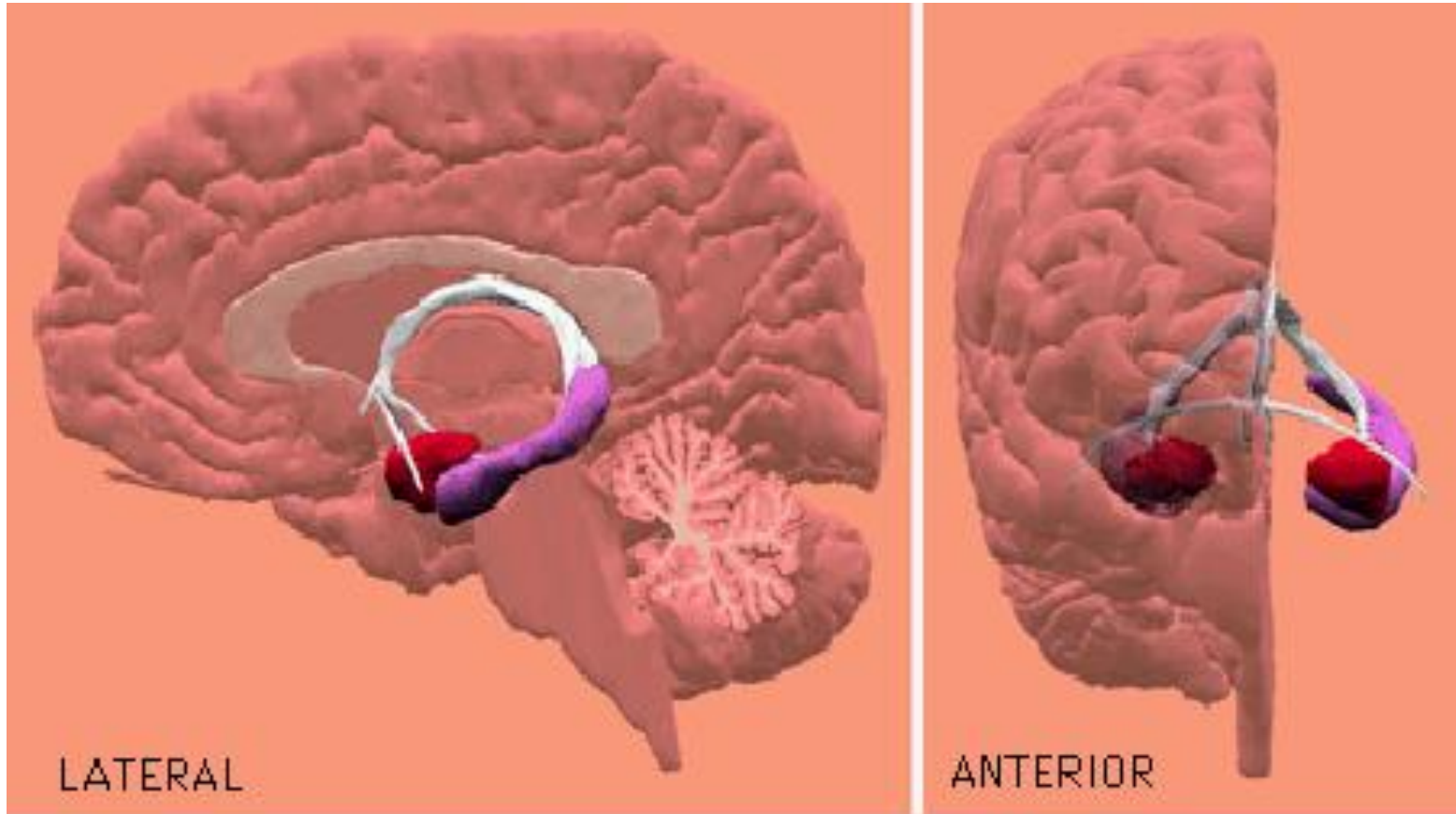


# Some important parts of the brain

- Frontal Lobe – words/plans/actions
- Temporal lobe –  
put your senses  
together
- Amygdala and  
hippocampus



# Amygdala & hippocampus in temporal lobe

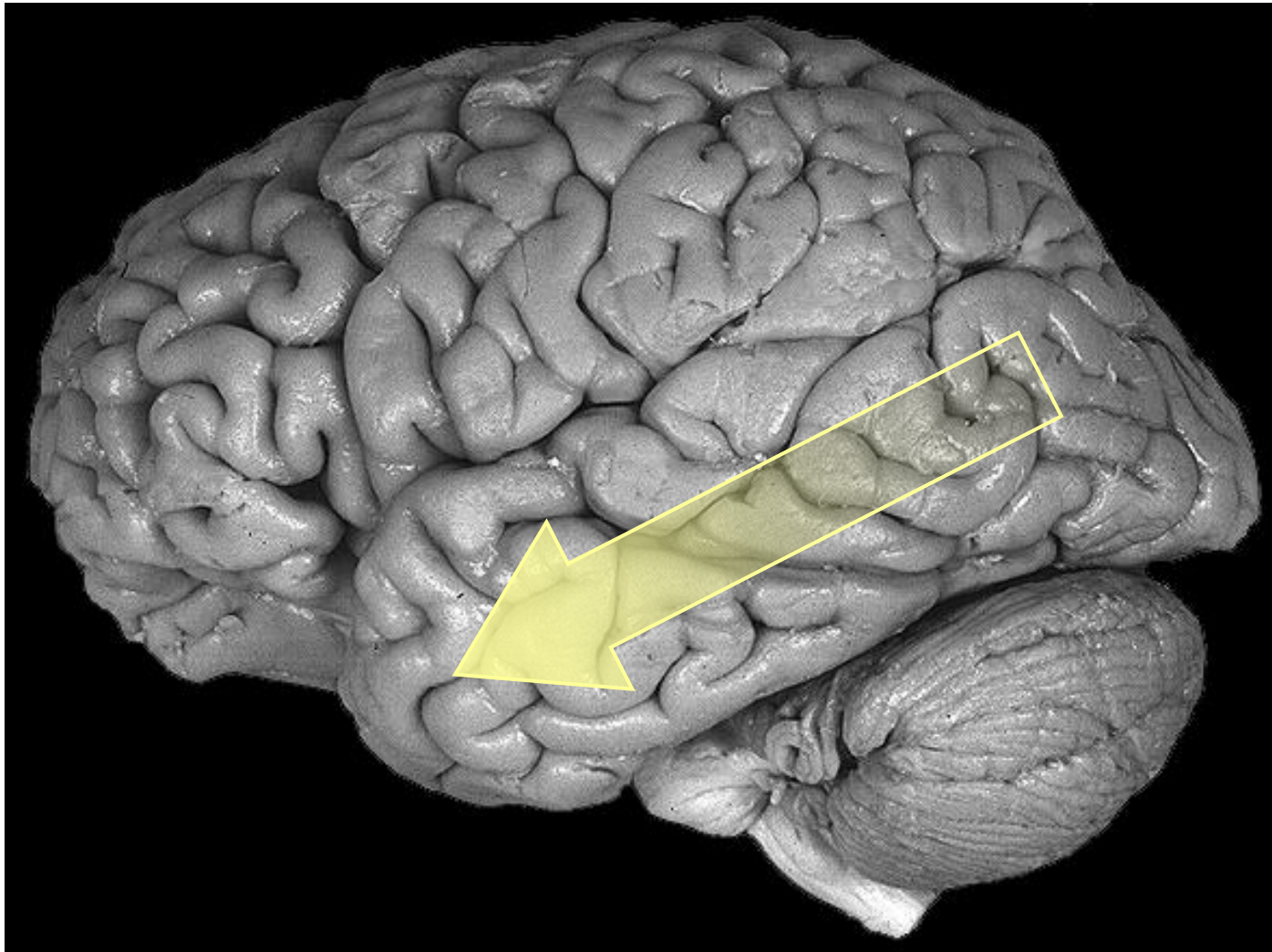




# Amygdala & hippocampus

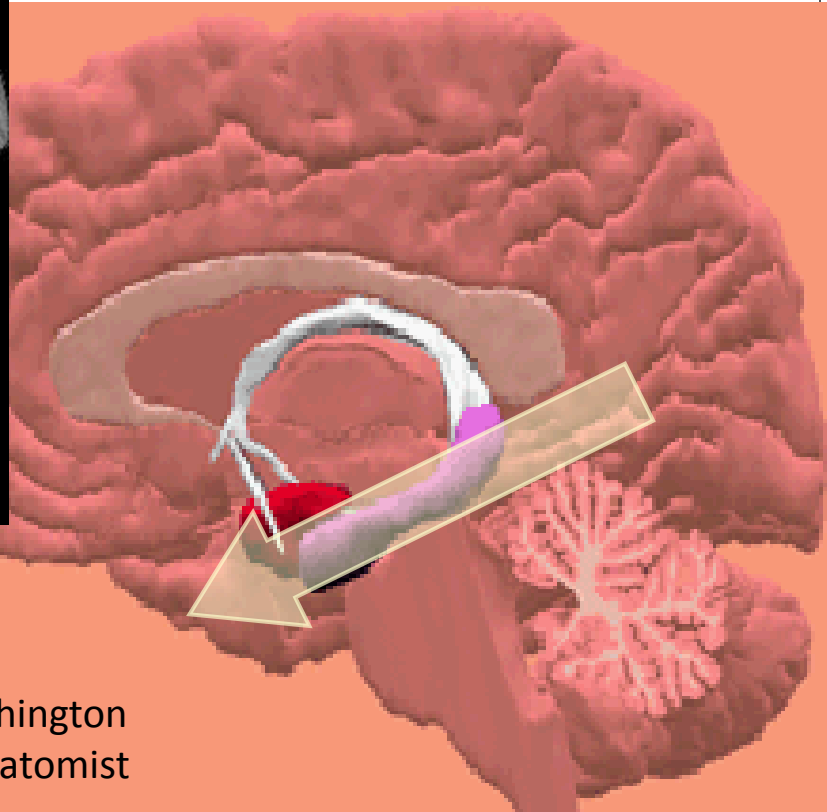
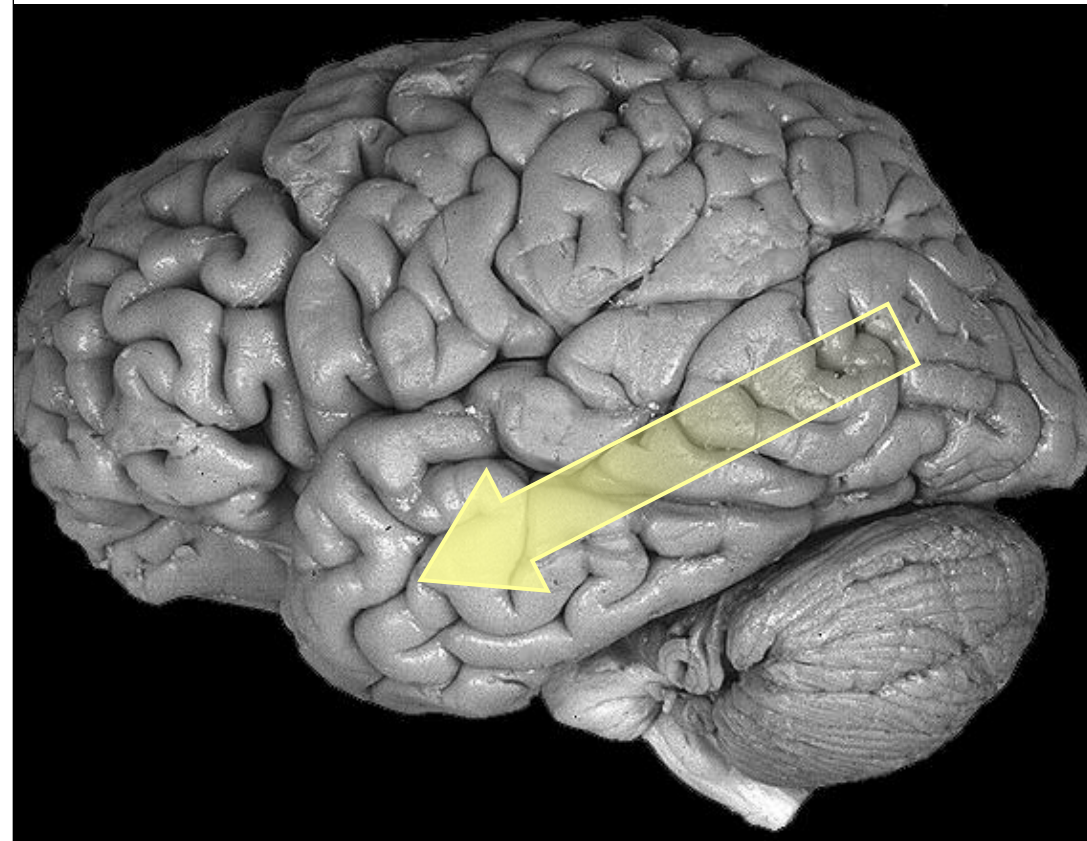
- Amygdala
  - Emotional knowledge and emotional memories
- Hippocampus
  - Memory about facts/places

# How you know what your senses tell you



Senses start at the back and move forward

# Mental picture of what your senses tell you - amygdala & hippocampus help

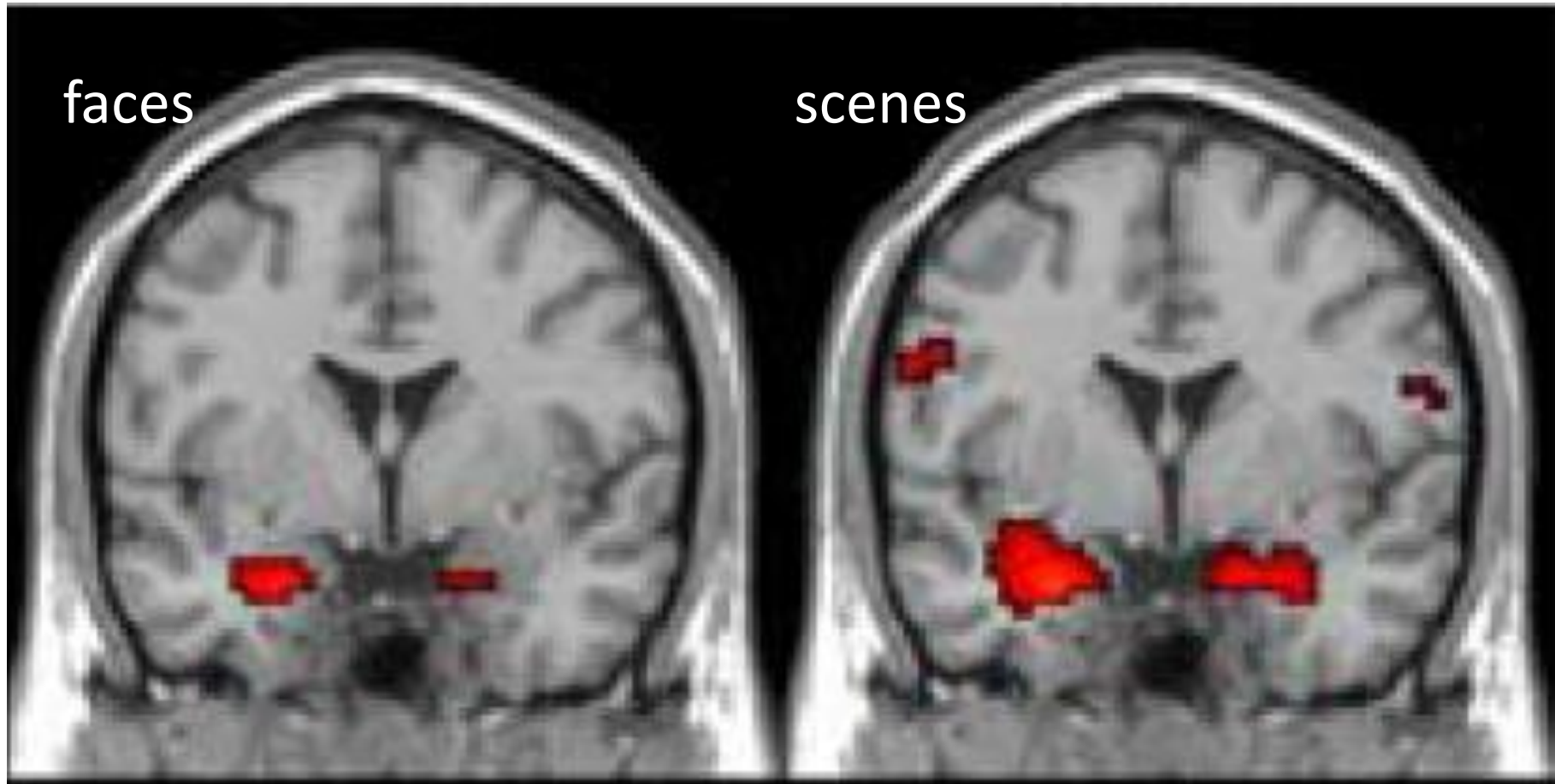


What happens when some brain parts  
don't work right

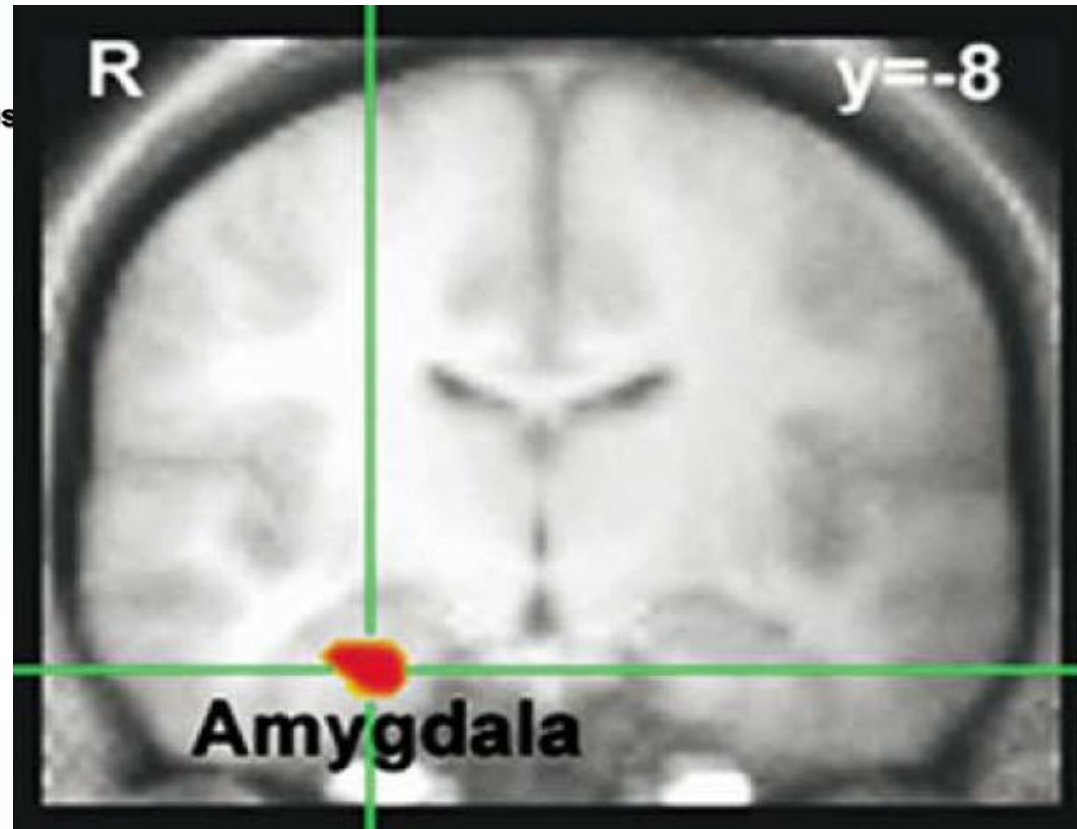
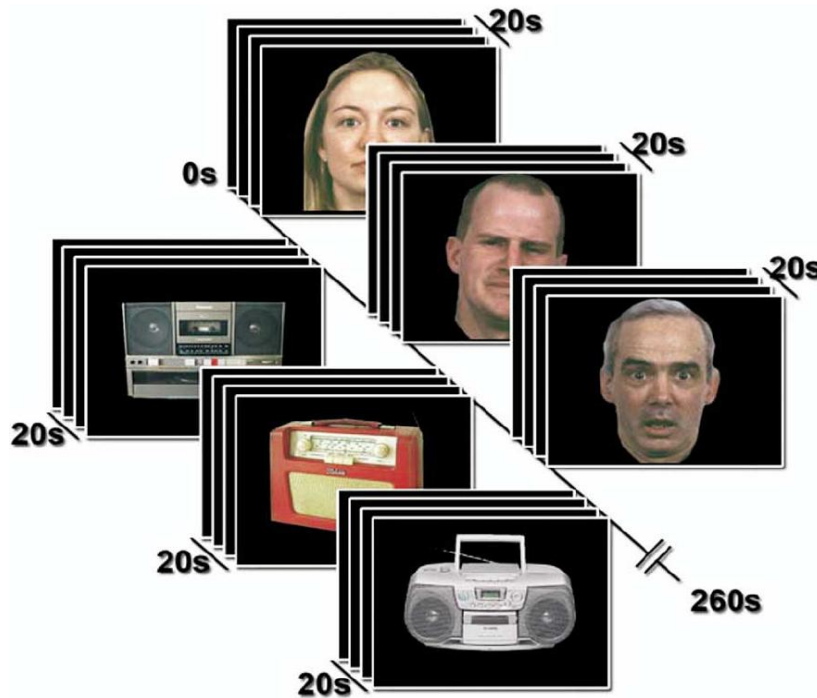
Amygdala - fear & anxiety

Frontal lobe - depression

# Fearful faces or frightening scenes increases amygdala activity

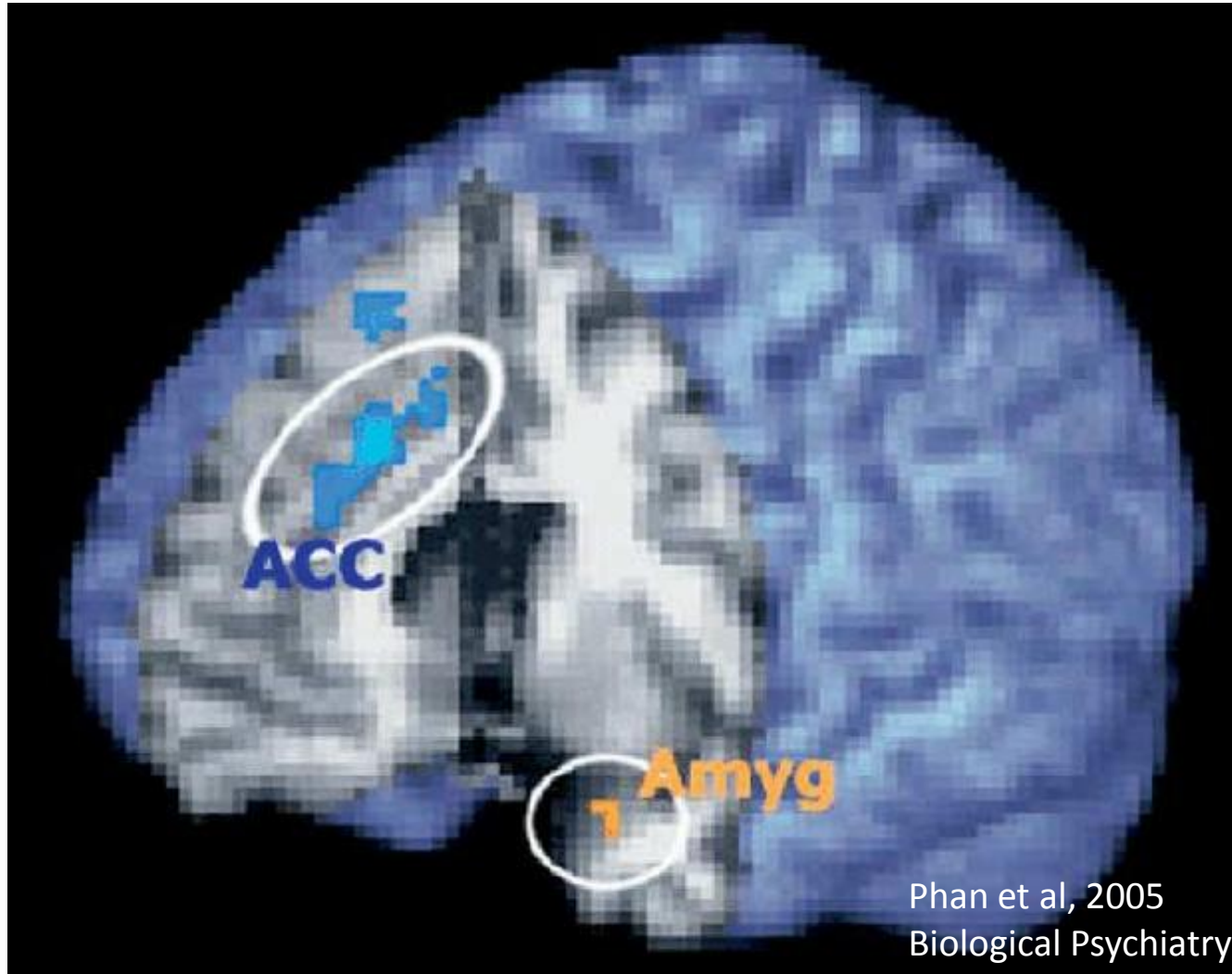


# Amygdala has a stronger reaction in anxiety illnesses



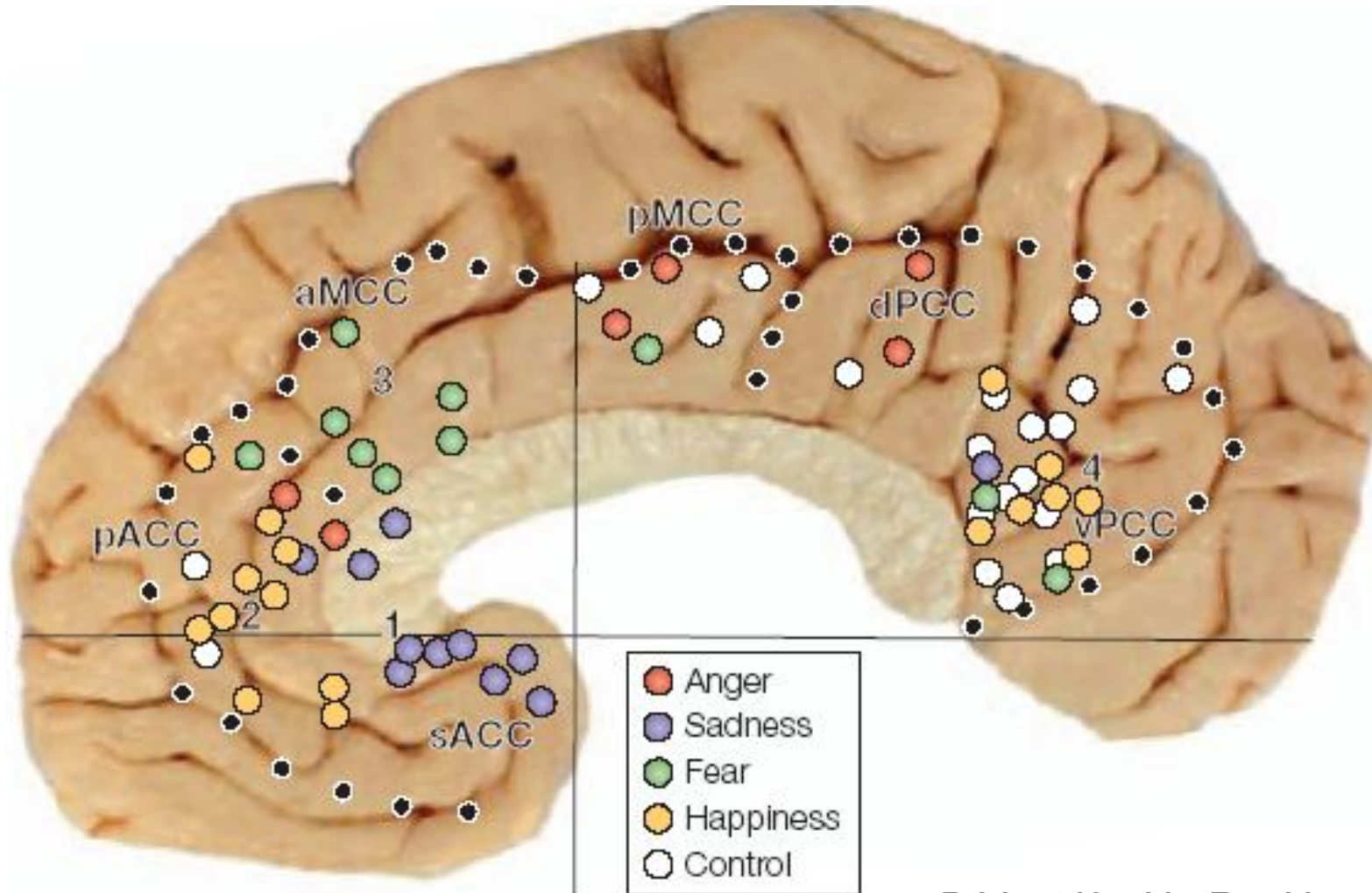


# Top of the frontal lobe helps quiet down emotion



This can help decrease anxiety and sadness

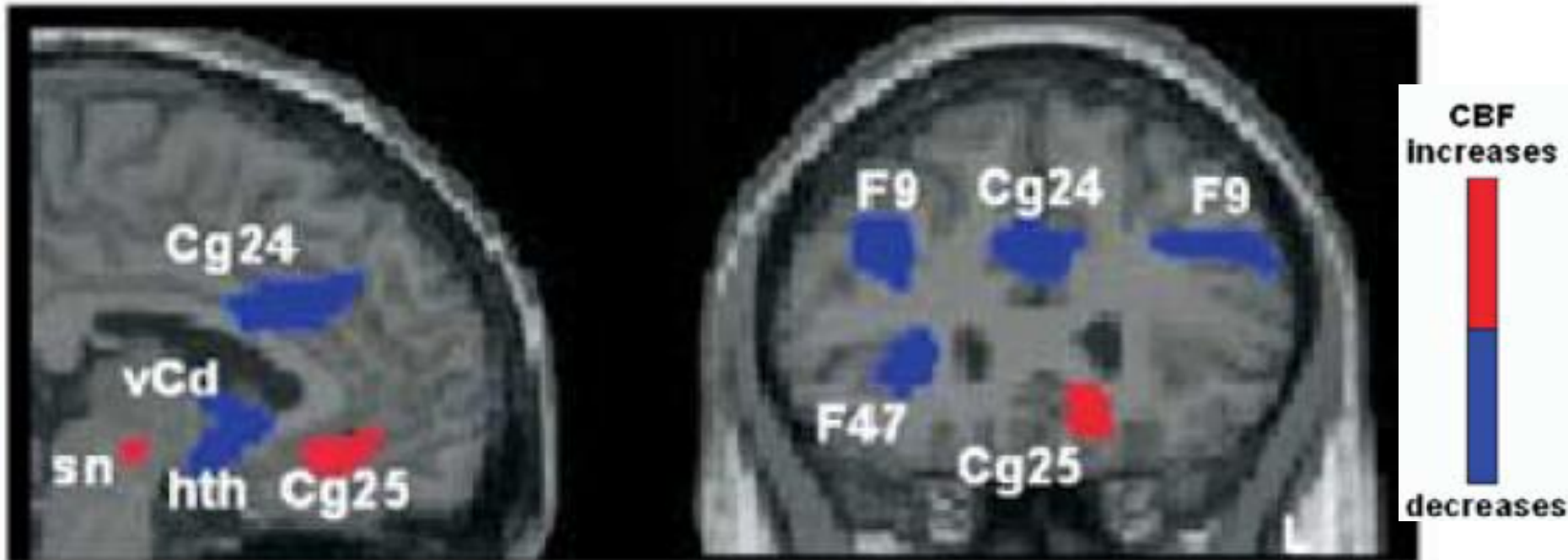
# Middle of frontal lobe responds to emotion pictures / stories





# Depression in the brain

Depressed subjects vs non-depressed controls

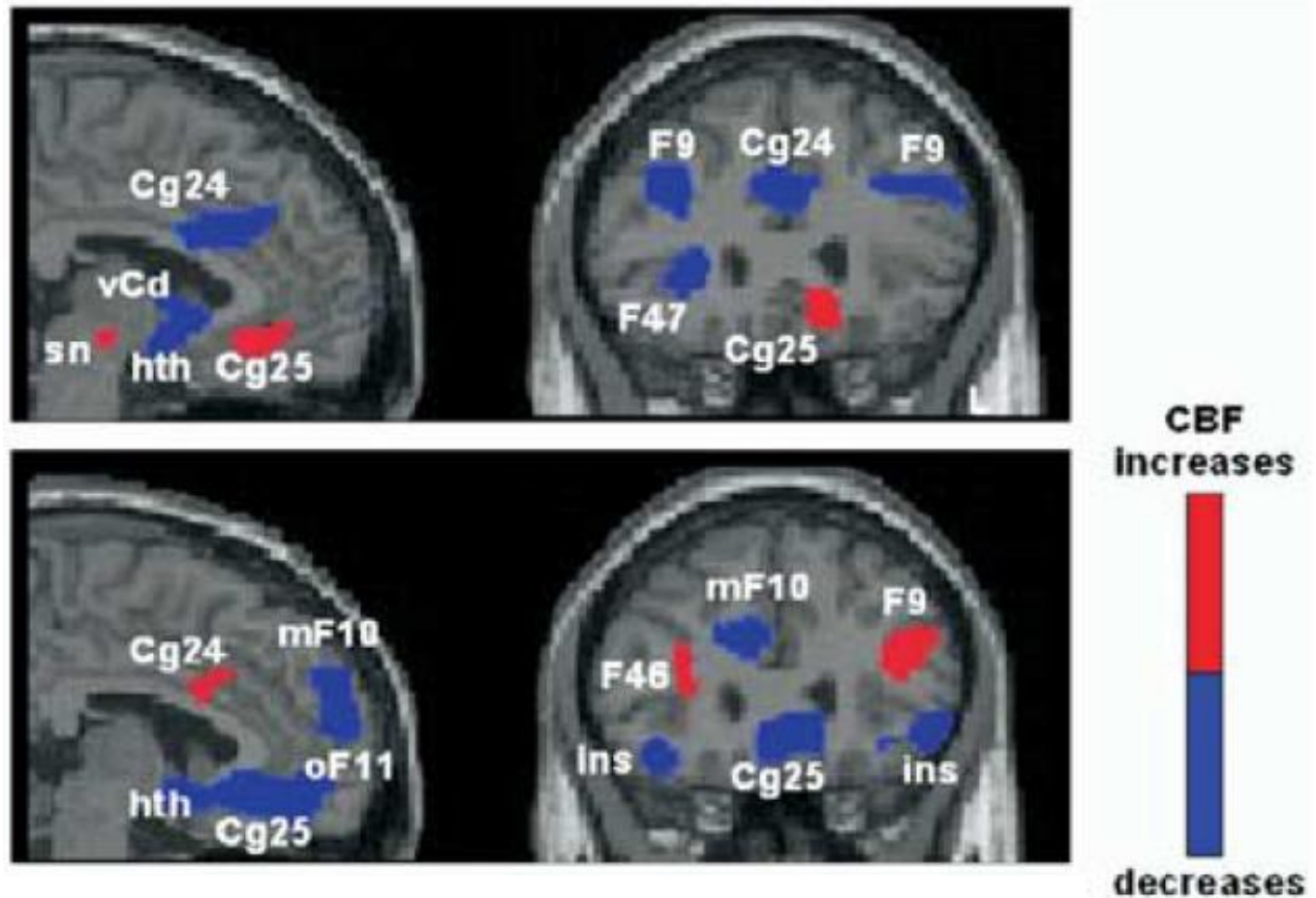


Red means more active, blue means less active

A normal function converted to abnormal function

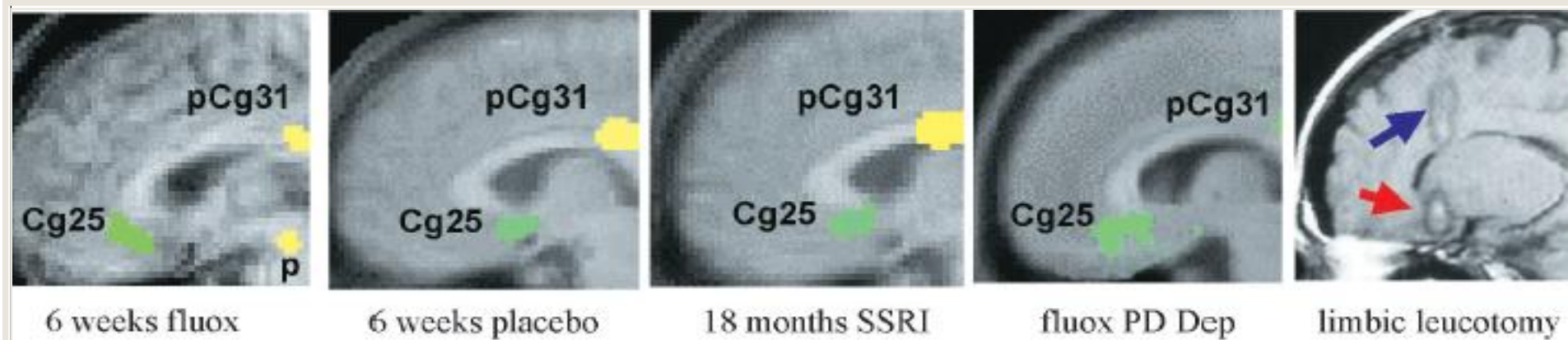
# Depression in the brain - treatment

## Patients vs Normals



Before treatment vs after treatment

# Brain activity changes when depression improves



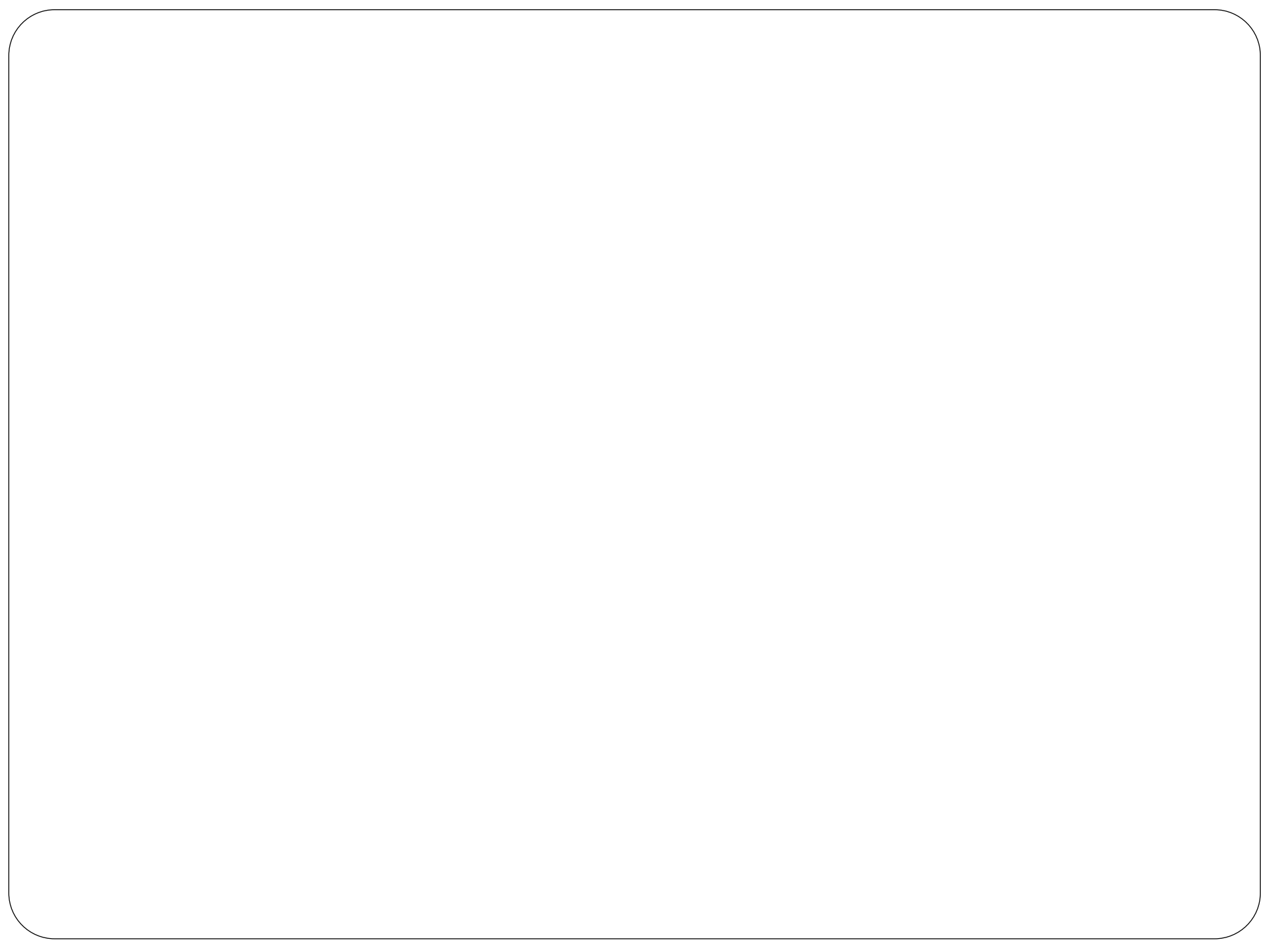
So....

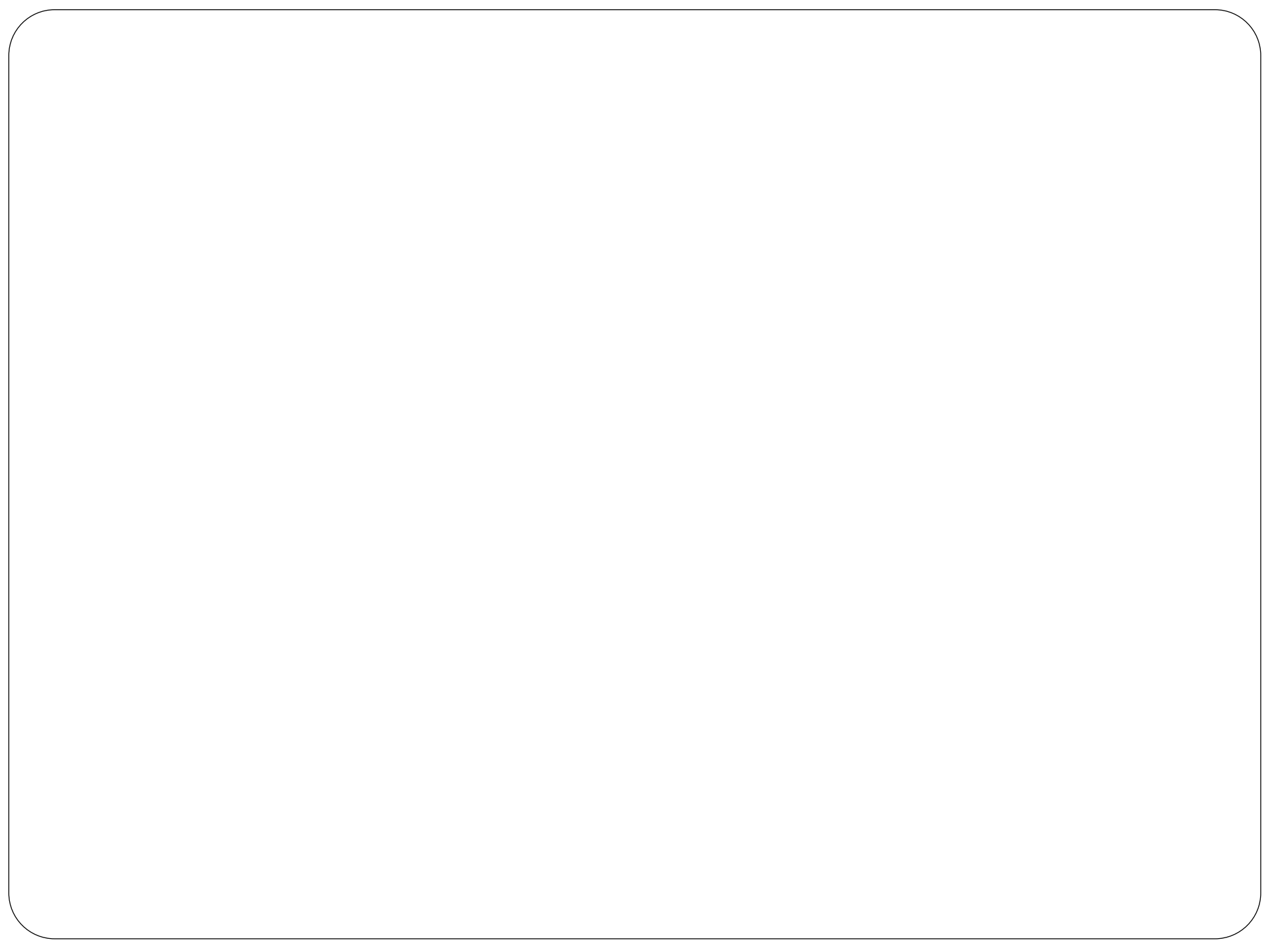
Psychiatric diseases are due to changes in the  
how the brain works.

Depression & anxiety diseases are exaggerated  
normal functions.

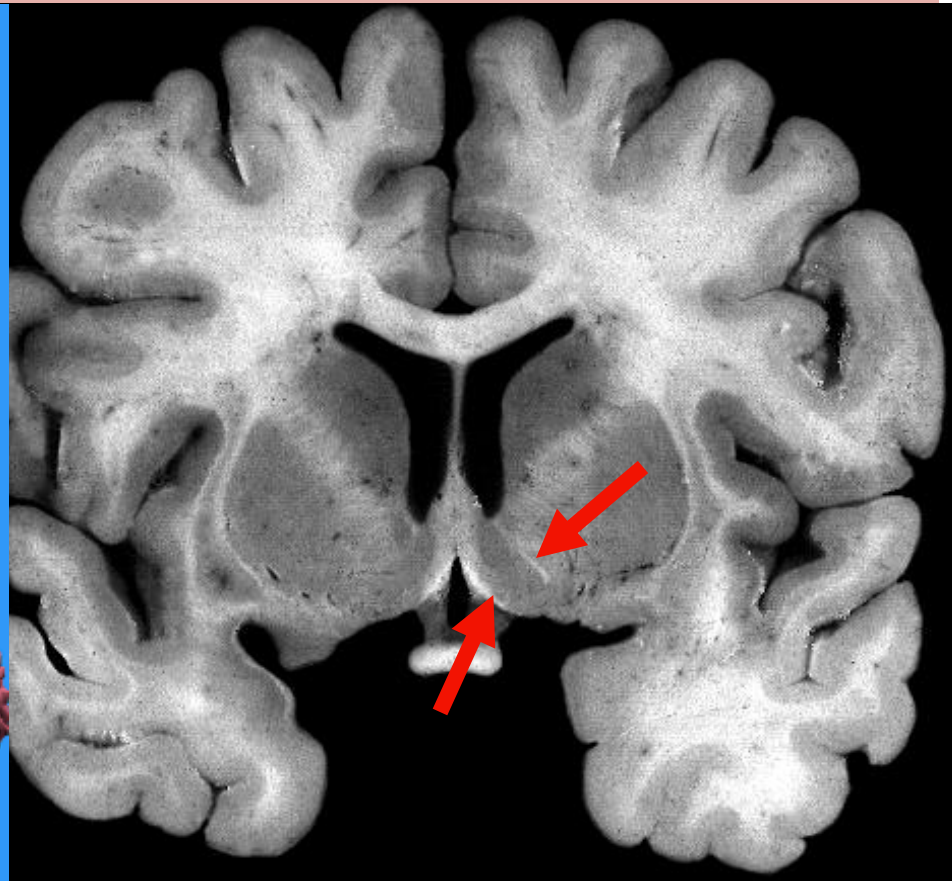
# Questions

- 1. Are you in control of your thoughts?
- 2. What diseases do you know about and how do they affect your life?
- 3. What is the importance of treatment in psychiatric disorders?





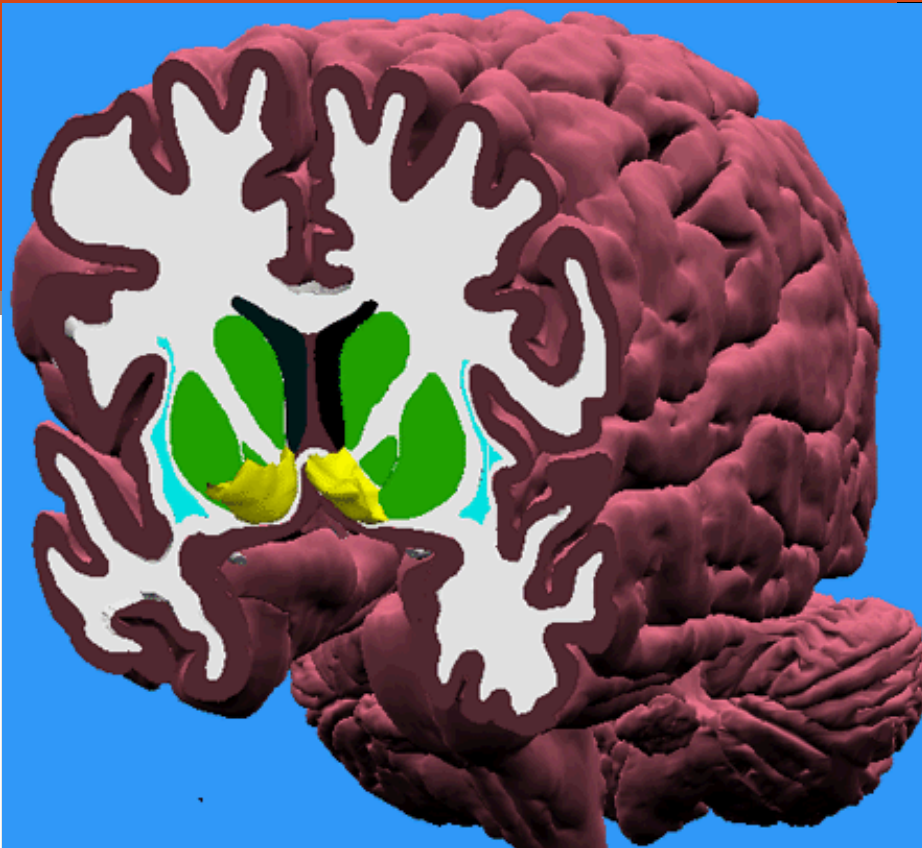
# Behavior and the basal ganglia



What is this yellow thing?

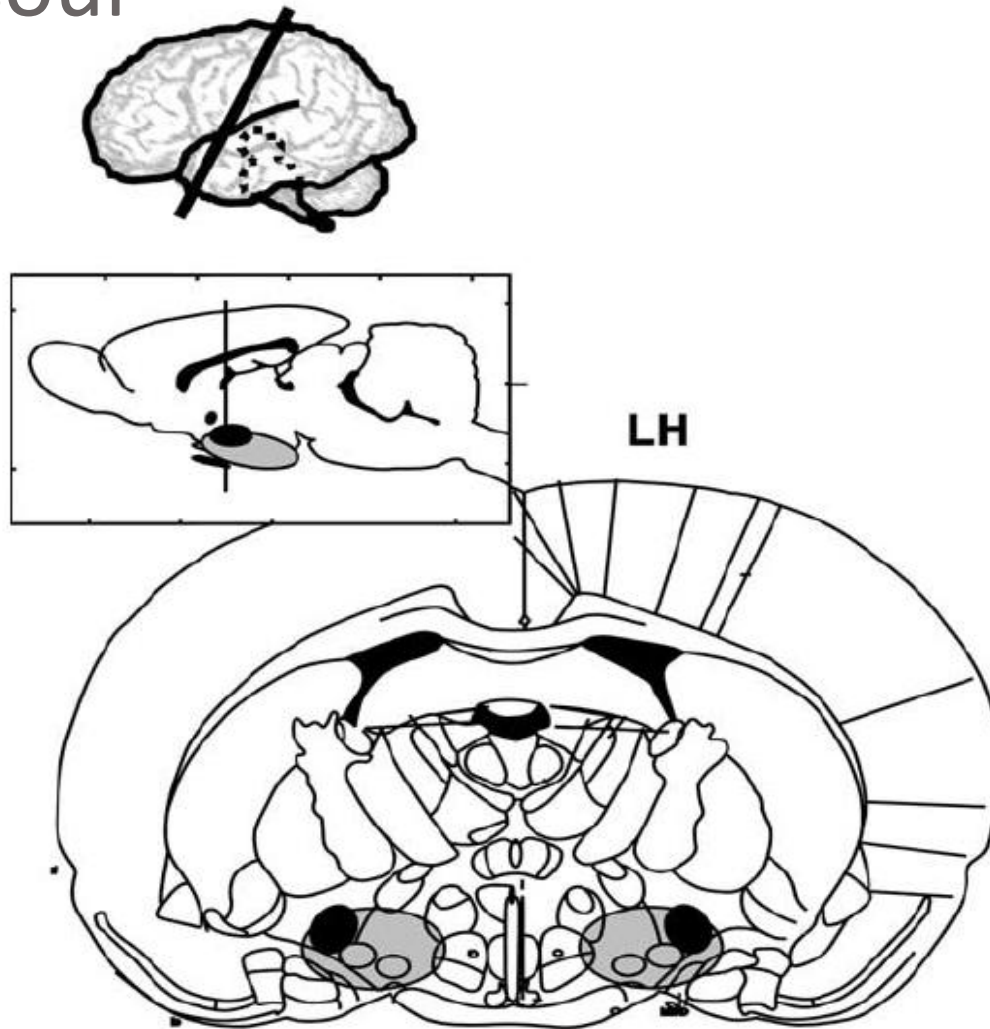


# Reward systems



Ventral striatum / accumbens

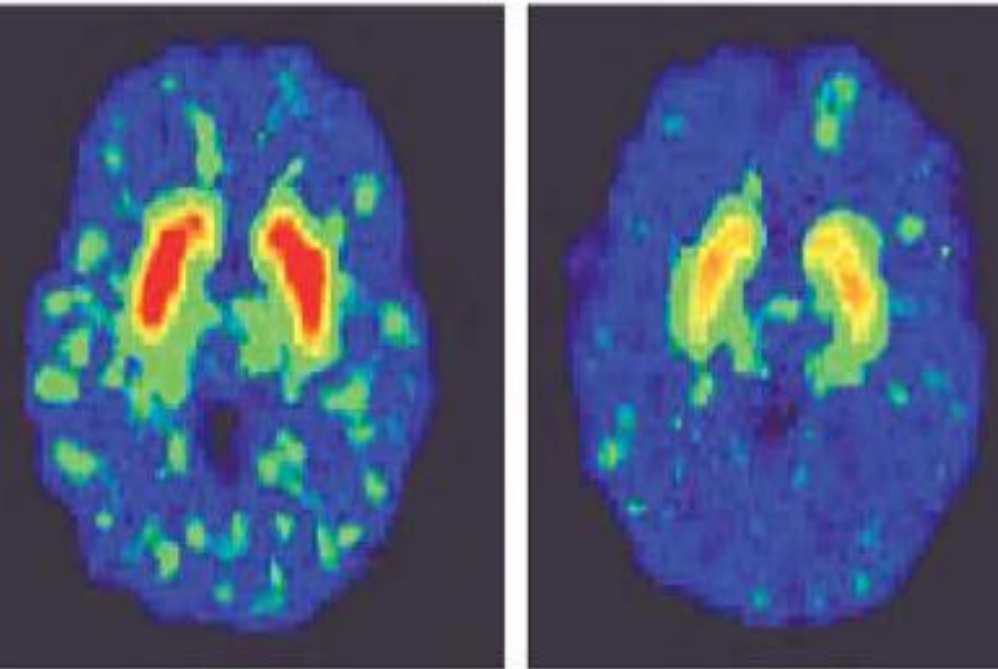
# Lesion in ventral striatum makes sweet “taste” sour



**Ventral Pallidum**  
'Aversion lesion'

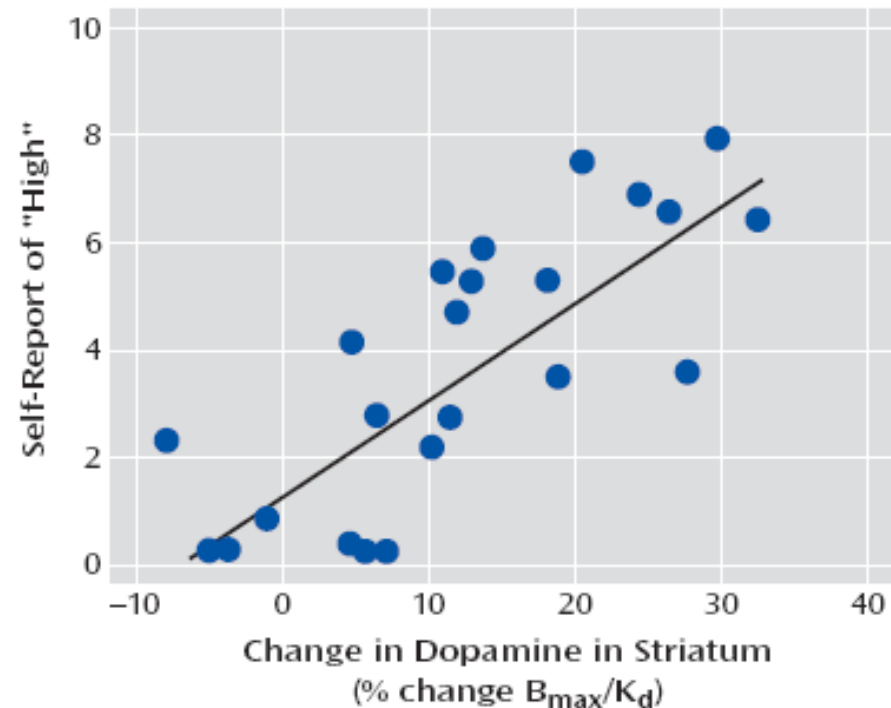
# Ventral striatum & high

Increases in Dopamine in Striatum



Placebo

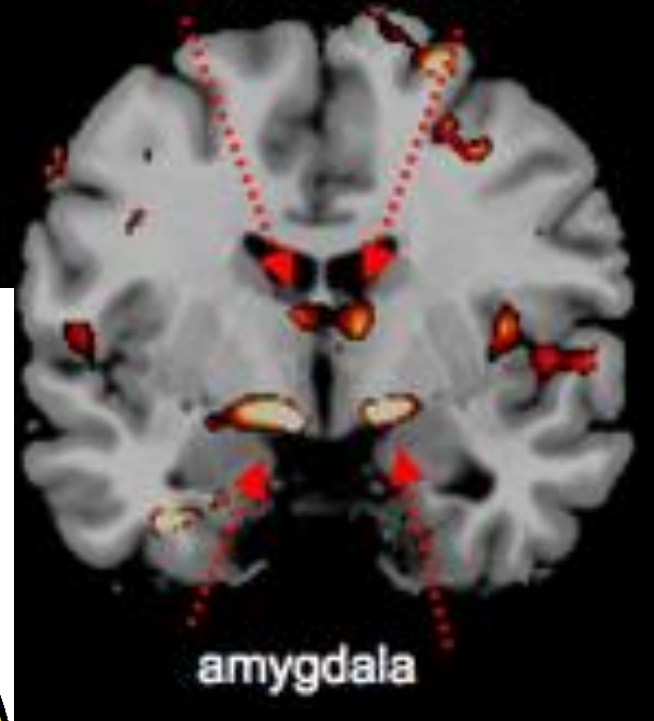
Methylphenidate



# Bullies activate ventral striatum when viewing pain in others



ventral striatum



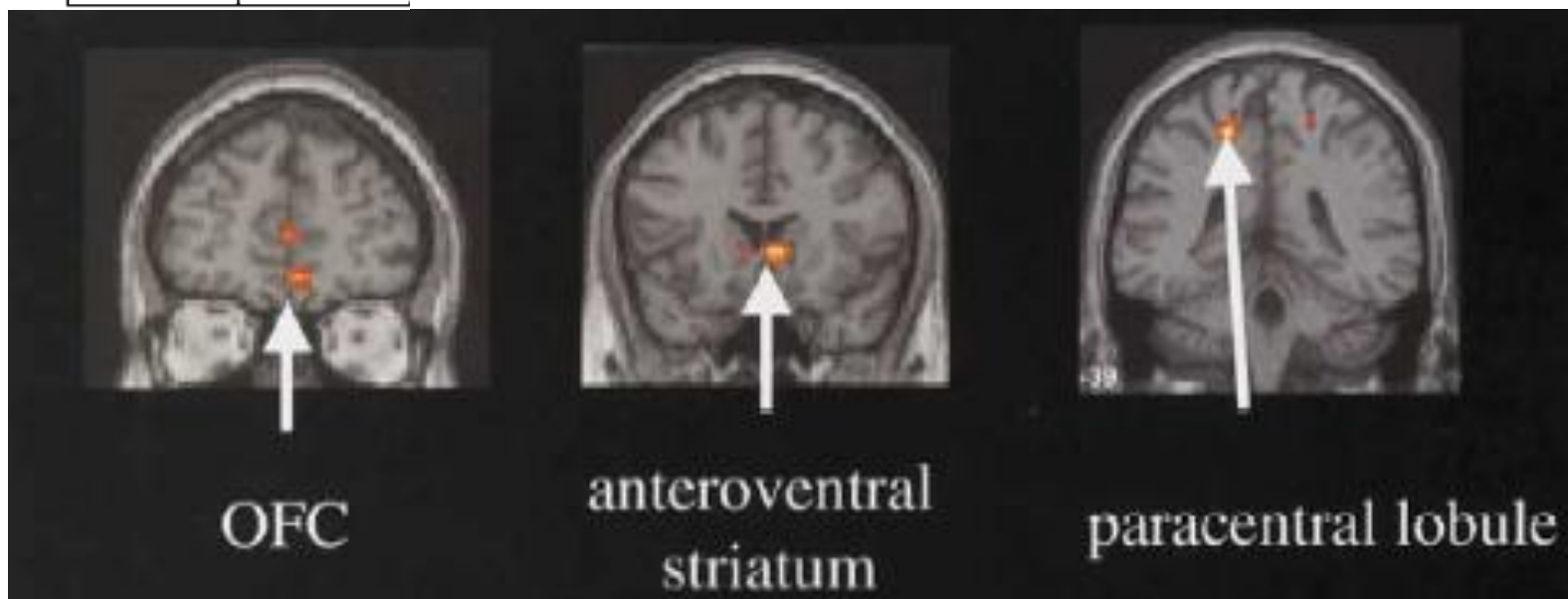
amygdala





# Activation with mutual cooperation

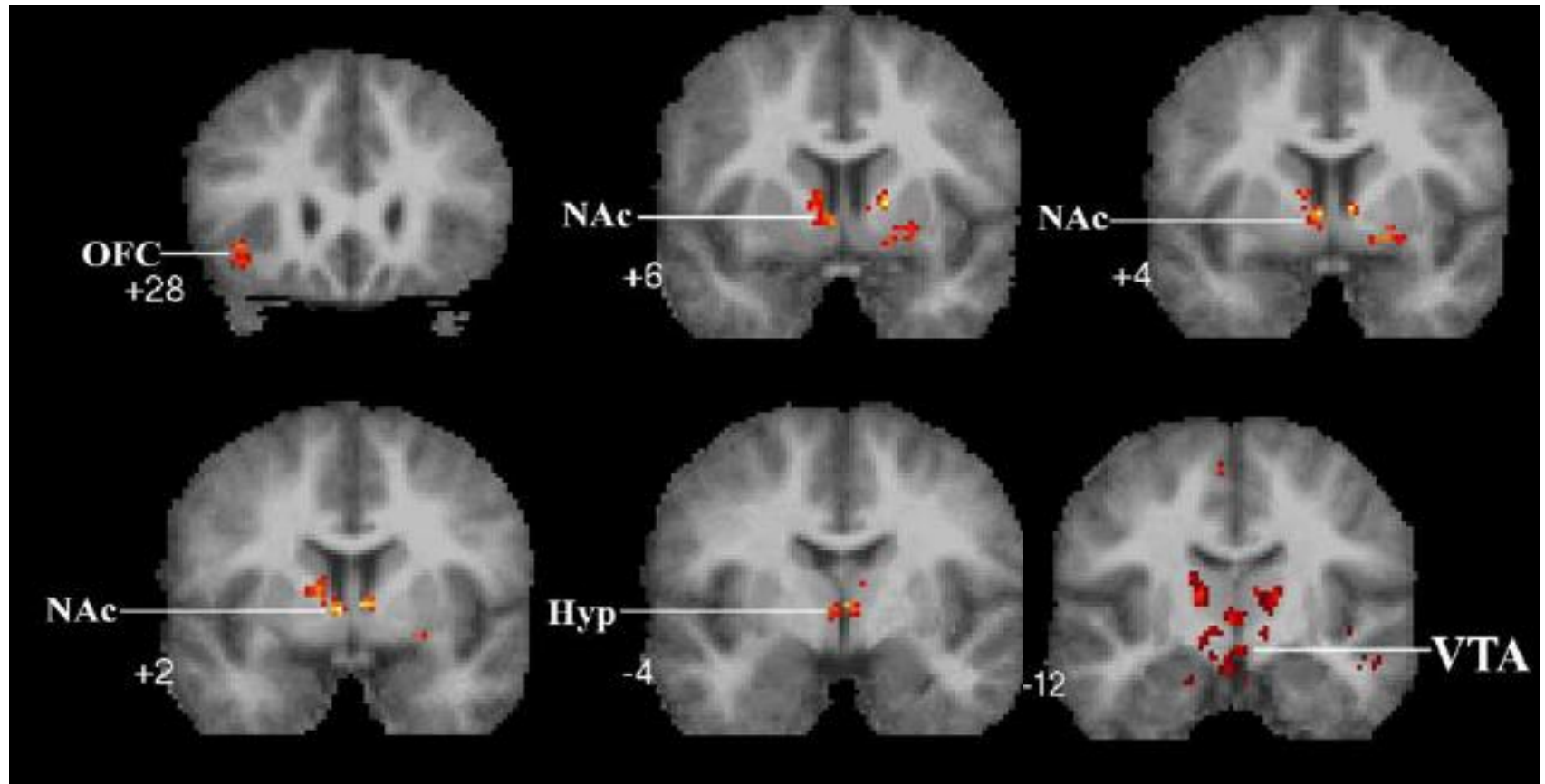
		Player A	
		Coop	Defect
Player B	Coop	\$2(2) \$3(0)	\$3(0) \$2(2)
	Defect	\$0(3) \$1(1)	\$1(1) \$0(3)



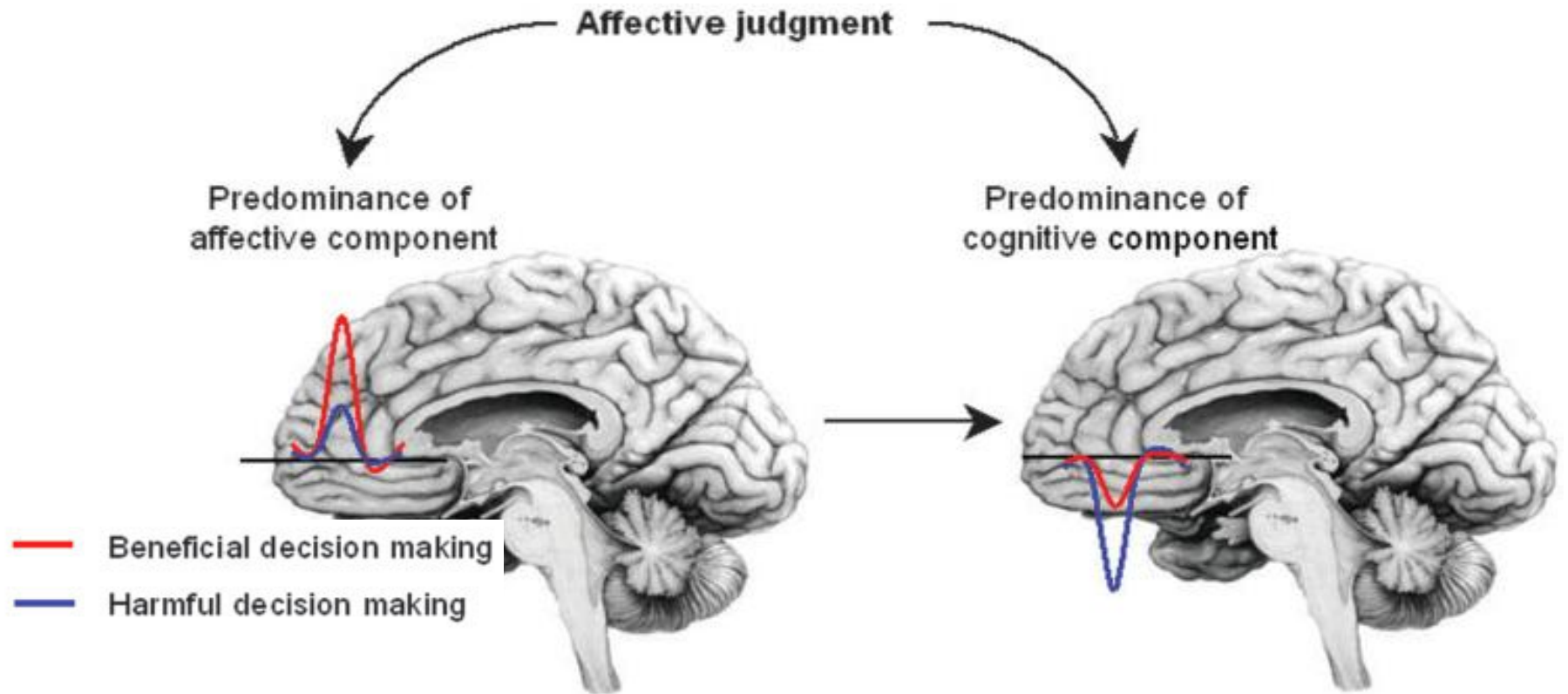
OFC

Anteroventral  
striatum

# Pleasurable music – scrambled music



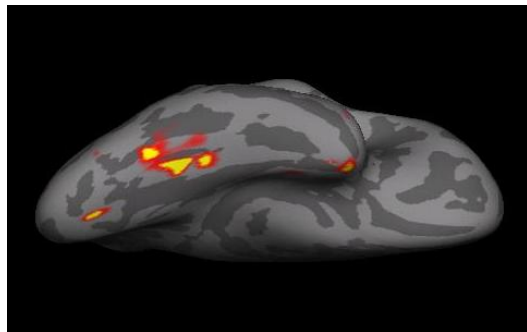
# Ventromedial frontal cortex & beneficial decision making



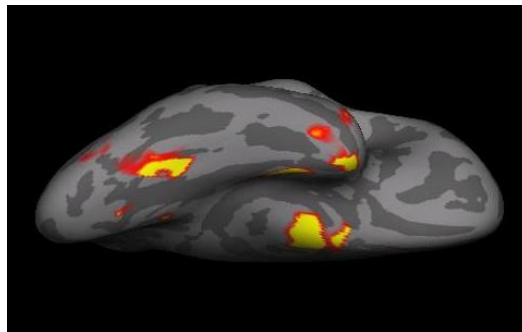
“higher VMPFC activity is associated with better decision-making performance”

# Facial expressions in ventral temporal lobe

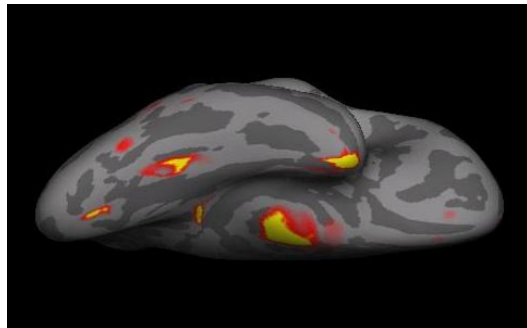
Anger



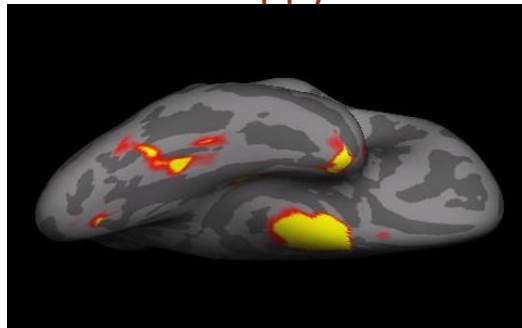
Disgust



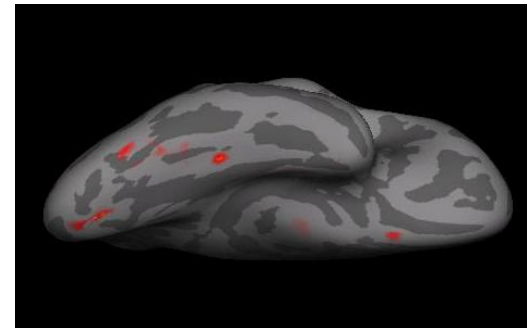
Fear



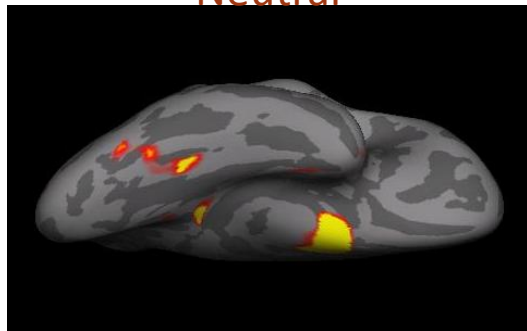
Happy



Swirl



Neutral



Sad

