

Granollers , 18 de novembre de 2010  
Centre de Medicina Avançada del Vallès



# El cervell humà i la seva modulació per la interacció dels gens i les experiències vitals

Araceli Rosa

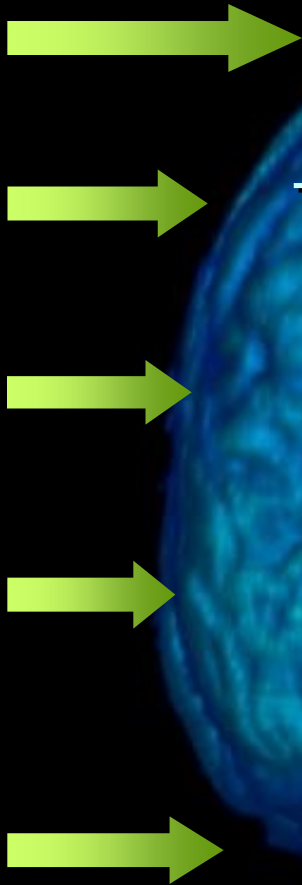


# La malaltia mental no és aliena a la condició humana



# PLASTICITY

**Environment**



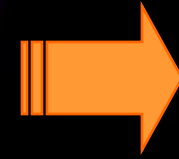
Tot el que té lloc en el cervell és Biologia i tot el que té lloc a la ment passa a través del cervell.

*Joseph Le Douarin, 1999*

**Brain functions**



**Genes**



**BEHAVIOUR**





By an apparent contradiction, *human brain maintains its stability only if it is* excitable and capable of modifying itself according to external stimuli, and adjusting its response to the stimulation. In a sense, human brain is stable because it is modifiable

W.B. Cannon, 1929

# Evolutionary process- History of our genes

**The recent origin of *Homo sapiens sapiens*  
(200.000 years b.p.)**

Origin of *Homo* ( $\sim 2 \cdot 10^6$  y)

Origin of Hominids ( $\sim 5 \cdot 10^6$  y)

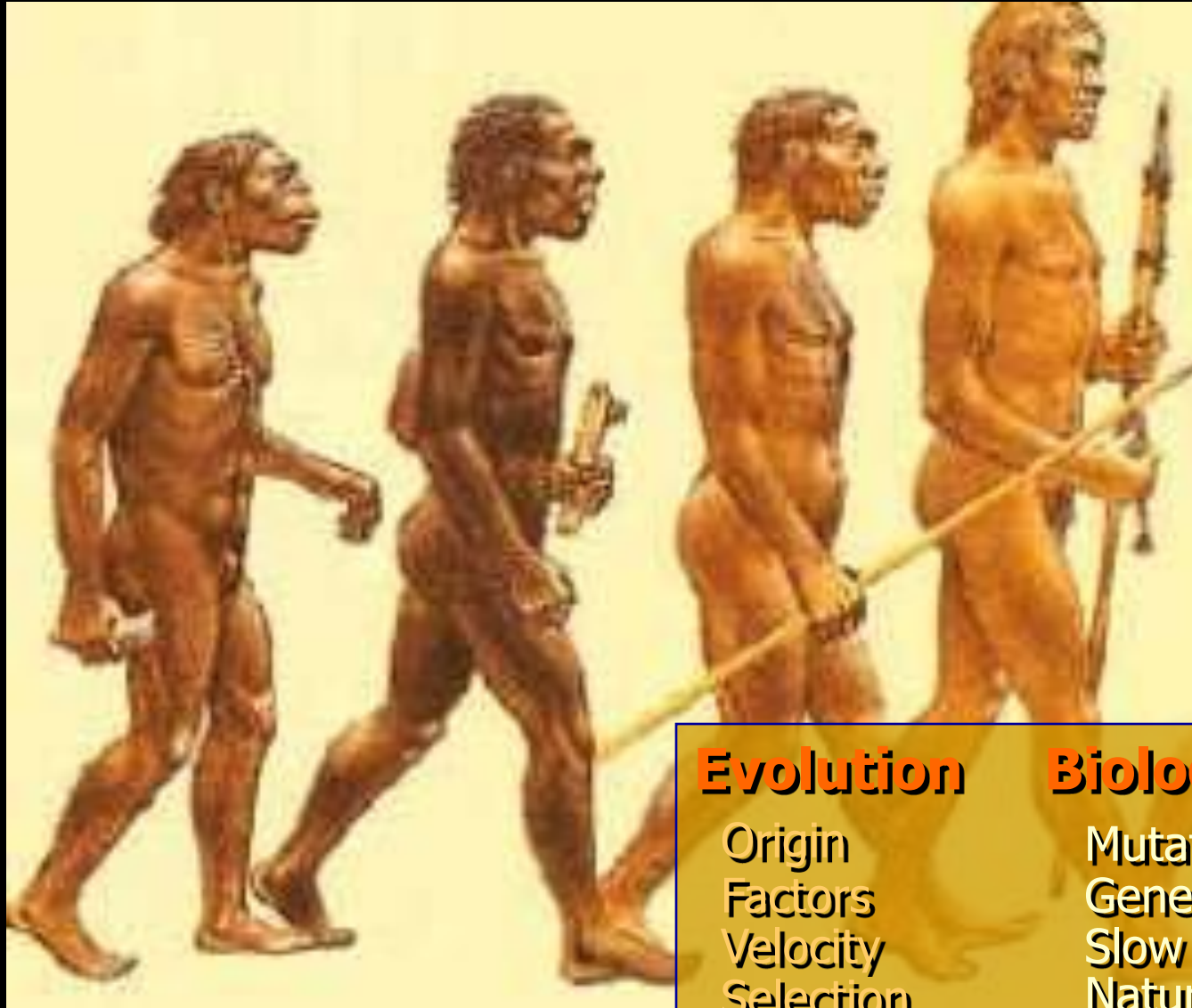
( $\sim 6 \cdot 10^6$  y)

Chimpanzees





# The history of human lineage



## Evolution

Origin  
Factors  
Velocity  
Selection  
Sense  
Results

## Biological

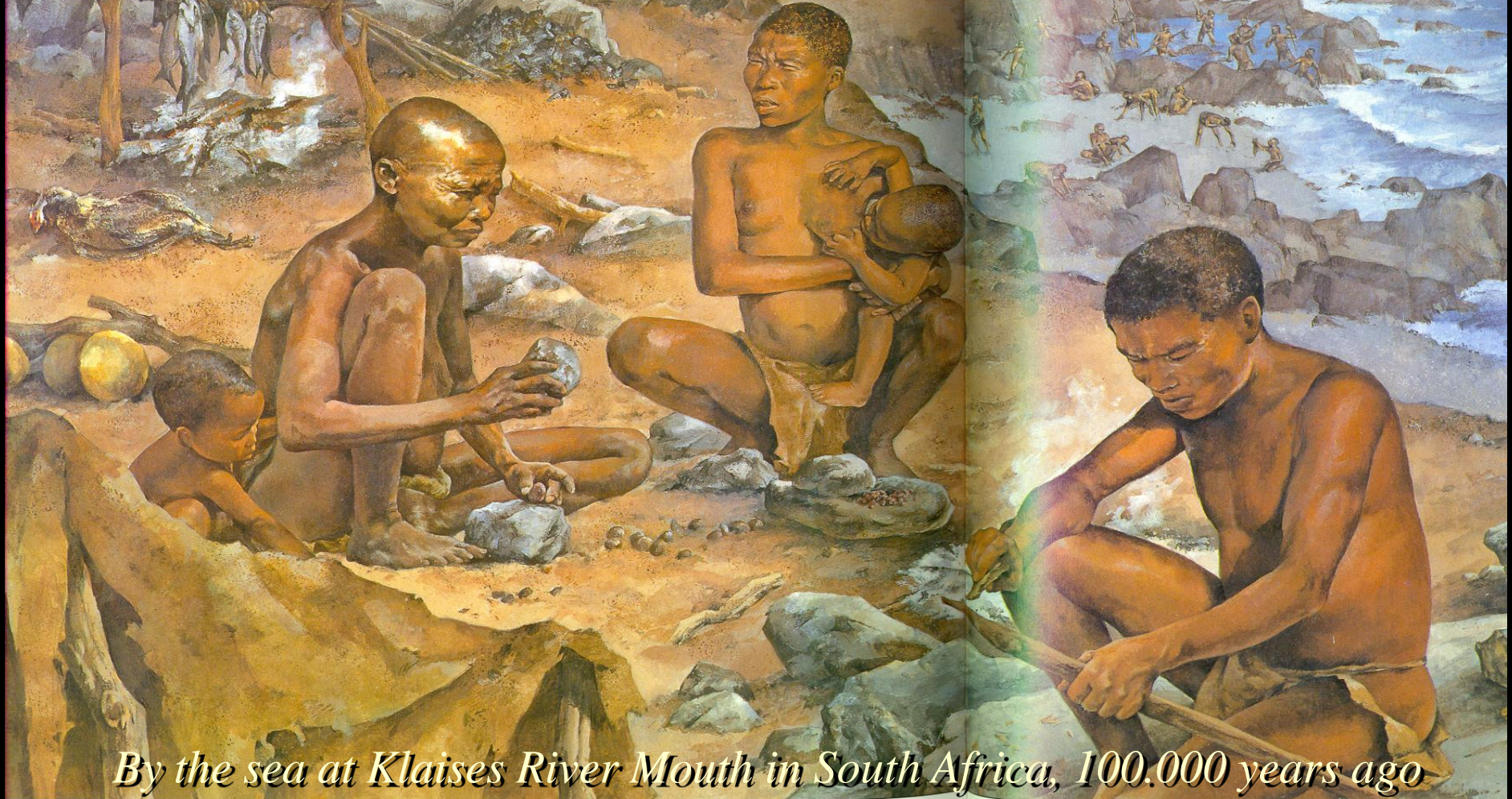
Mutation  
Genes  
Slow  
Natural  
Random  
"Hominize"

## Cultural

Invention  
Culture  
Fast  
Social  
Deliberate  
"Humanize"



Els reptes socials han constituït el factor selectiu més important a favor de l'evolució del nostre cervell



*By the sea at Klaises River Mouth in South Africa, 100.000 years ago*

MODERN HUMANS HISTORY

100.000 years

40.000 years

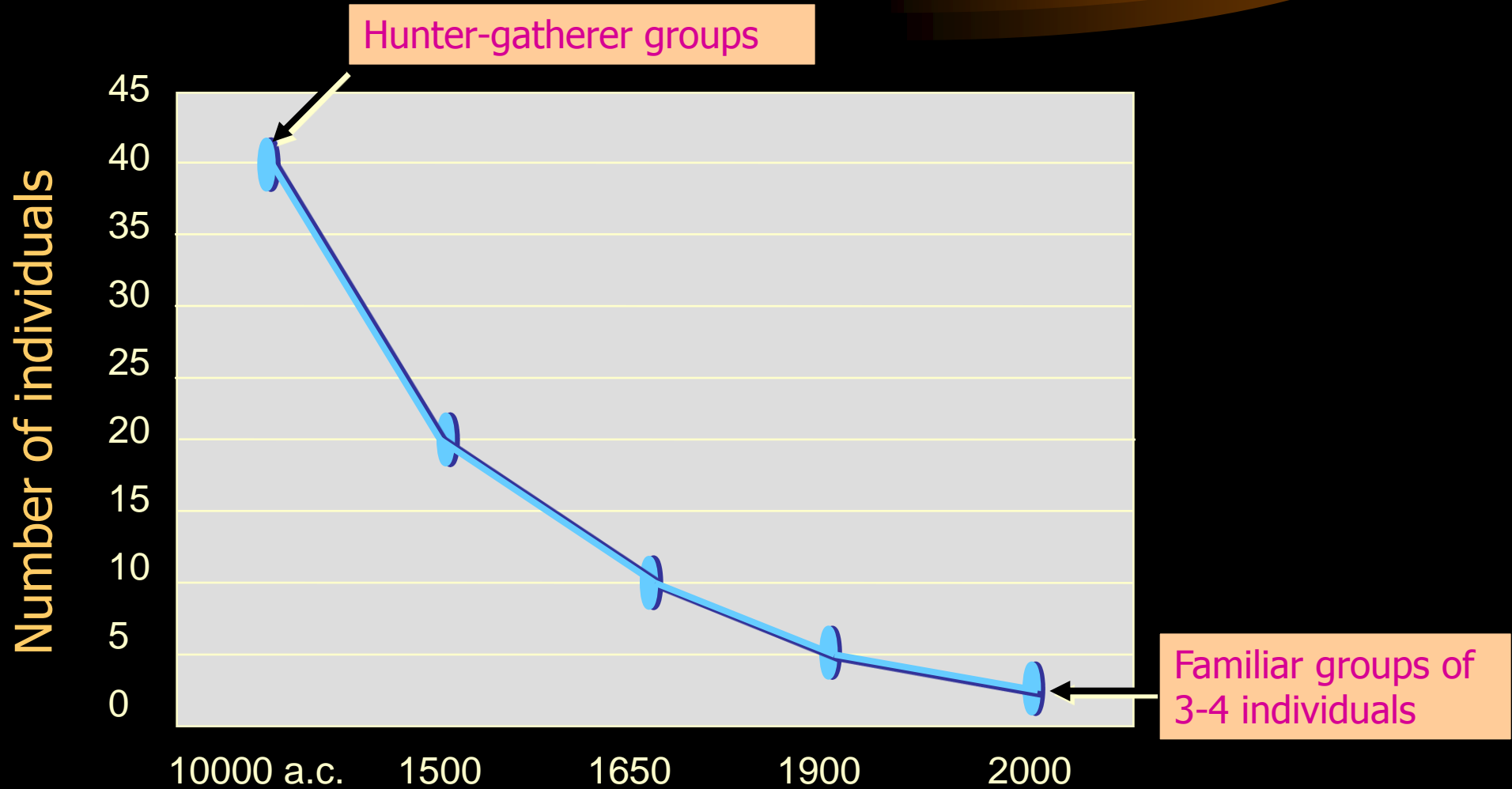
10.000 years

Present

PALEOLITHIC

NEOLITHIC

# From Neolithic to now: Evolution of the group living

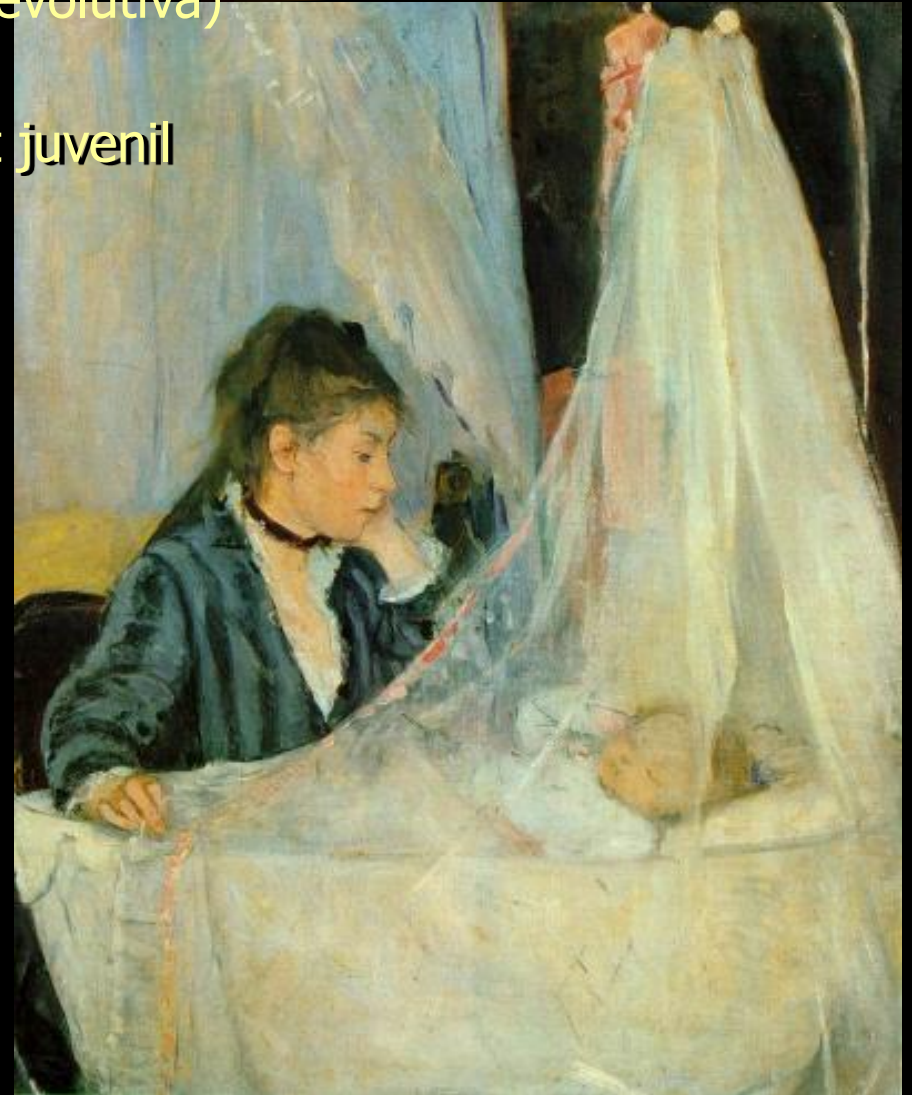




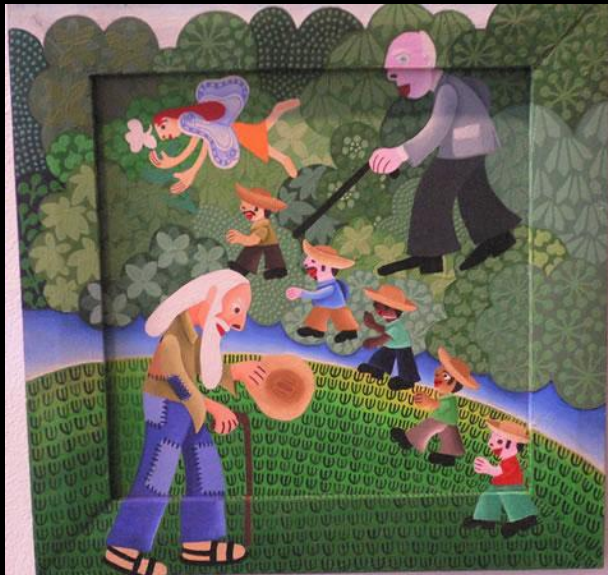
- ✓ Major immaduresa cerebral en el nounat humà que en qualsevol altre primat (estratègia evolutiva)
- ✓ Desenvolupament cerebral fins a l'edat juvenil

El neonat humà neix amb un desenvolupament neurològic insuficient per a adaptar-se activament al seu entorn i, per aquesta raó la seva maduració cerebral és un procés permanent i continu depenent alhora del vagatge genètic i de la informació i material posats a la seva disposició per l'ambient, especialment per la mare.

*Marcelli i De Ajuriaguerra, 1996*



## Manteniment de la parella reproductora (supervivència dels fills)



Major longevitat post-reproductora que  
qualsevol altra espècie (augment del  
període de contacte entre generacions)

*Lahdenpera et al., 2004. Nature, 428*



# Neocortex



Human  
Language

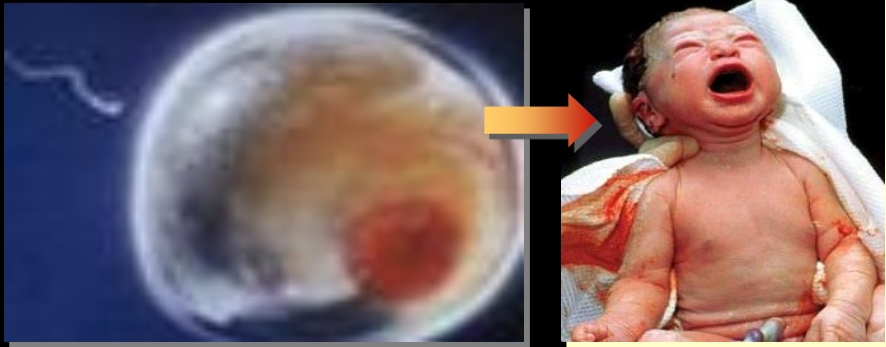
Associative capacity,  
symbolism, creativity...

“Cada grup humà ha de capacitar al nen per  
adquirir formes de comunicar-se, pensar i fer,  
ha de protegir-lo durant molts anys de  
dependència immadura, mentre aprèn”

*Theodore Lidz, 1960*

# FUNCIIONS BASIQUES

~ 100.000 milions neurones x 10-50 cèl·lules glials

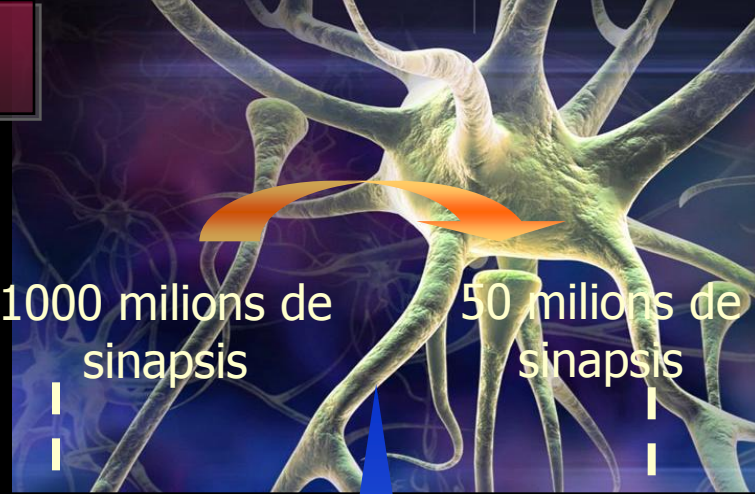


**PRENATAL**

**INFANCIA I PUBERTAT**

1000 milions de sinapsis

50 milions de sinapsis



**NEUROGÈNESI**

**MIGRACIÓ**

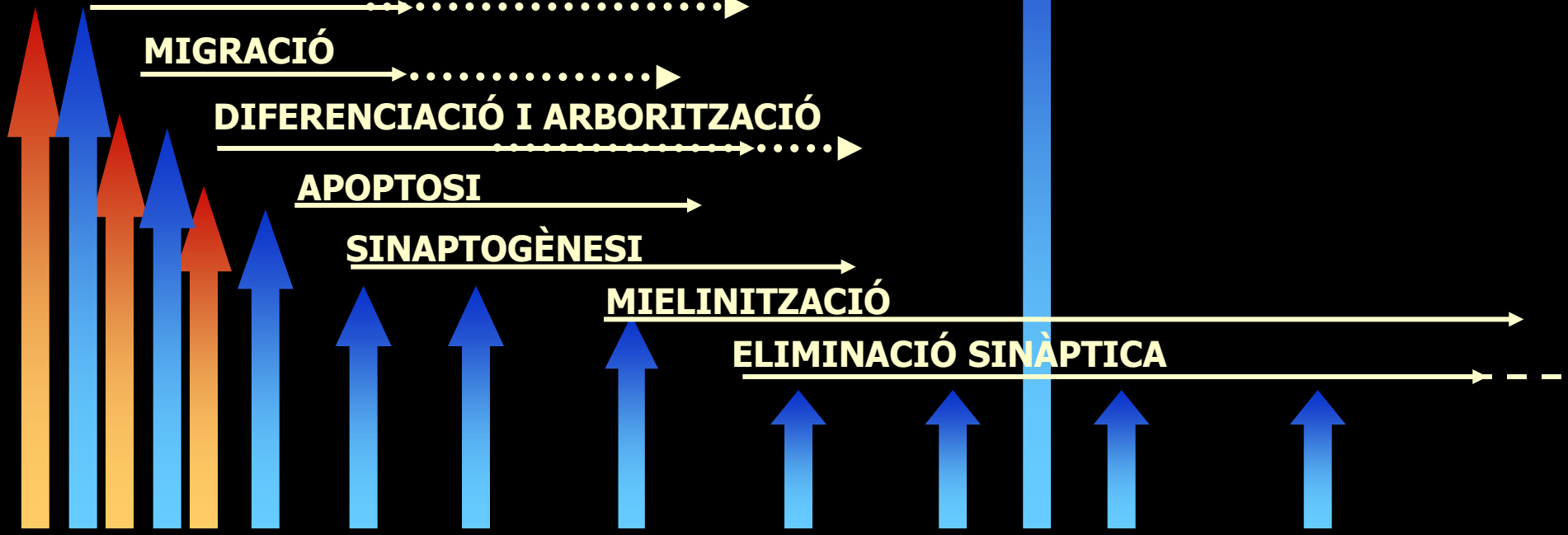
**DIFERENCIACIÓ I ARBORITZACIÓ**

**APOPTOSI**

**SINAPTOGÈNESI**

**MIELINITZACIÓ**

**ELIMINACIÓ SINÀPTICA**



**G E N S**

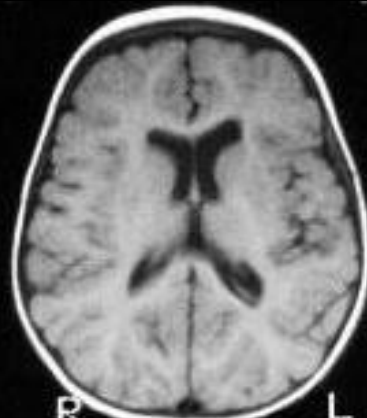
**A M B I E N T**



- ✓ MALNUTRICIÓ
- ✓ NEGLIGÈNCIA



nen 14 mesos ingressat per malnutrició



MRI després de 90 dies de rehabilitació nutricional

**PRENATAL**

- ✓ TRISOMIA 21
- ✓ DELECIÓ 22q11
- ✓ MUTACIÓ LIS-1 (17p13.3)

**INFANCIA I PUBERTAT**  
**LISSENCI**

- ✓ INFECCIONS
- ✓ TÒXICS
- ✓ COMPLICACIÓ OBSTÈTRICA

del (22)

19 20 21

X Y

**G E N S**

**A M B I E N T**

## The Caregiving Environments Provided to Children by Depressed Mothers With or Without an Antisocial History

Julia Kim-Cohen, Ph.D.

Avshalom Caspi, Ph.D.

Michael Rutter, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Mónica Polo Tomás, M.Sc.

Terrie E. Moffitt, Ph.D.

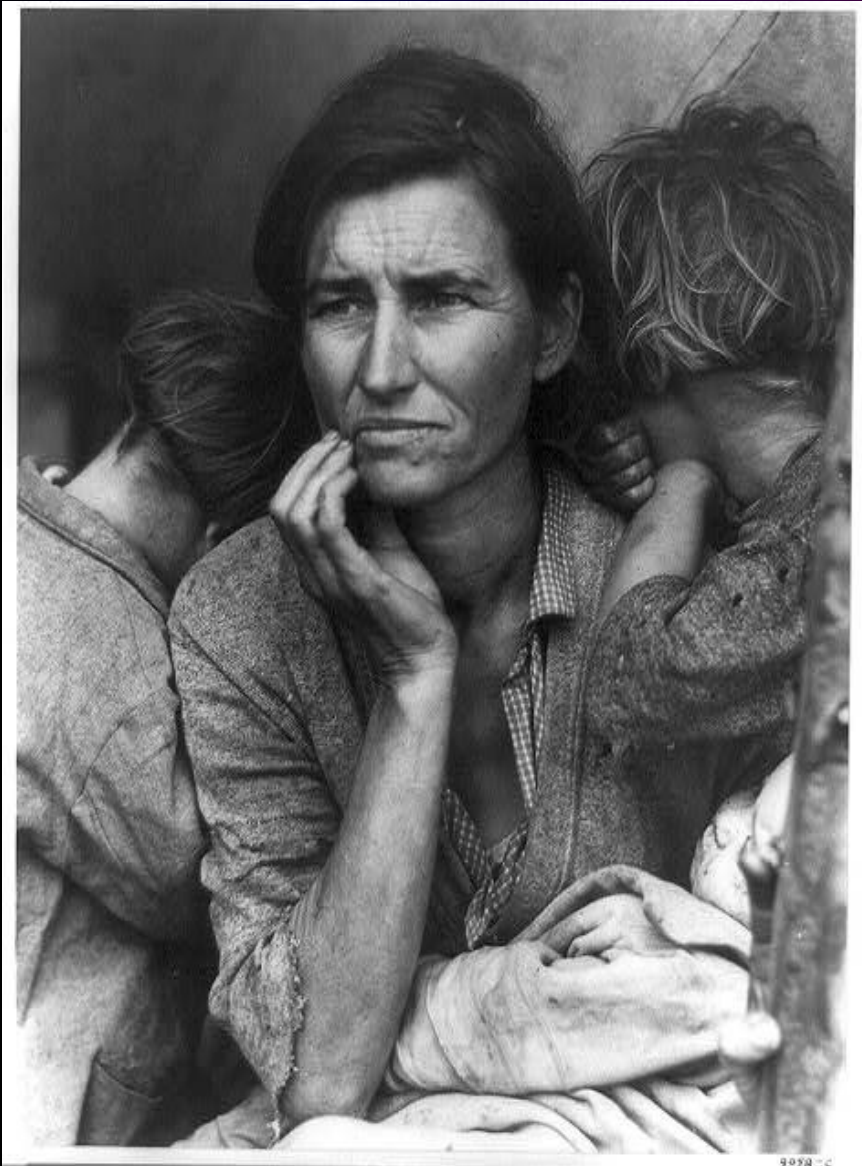
**Objective:** Many depressed women have a history of antisocial behavior, but research into maternal depression has not ascertained if this has implications for children of depressed mothers. This study compared the developmental outcomes in and caregiving environments provided to children by depressed mothers with or without an antisocial history.

**Method:** In the Environmental Risk Longitudinal Twin Study, a nationally representative study of 1,106 families, mothers were administered the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Major Depressive Disorder and interviewed about their lifetime history of antisocial personality disorder symptoms. Mothers and teachers provided information regarding the children's behavior problems at 5 and 7 years of age. The authors assessed the quality of the caregiving environment through maternal reports and interviewer observations.

**Results:** Compared with children of mothers with depression only, the children of depressed and antisocial mothers had significantly higher levels of antisocial behavior and rates of DSM-IV conduct disorder, even after the authors controlled for numbers of symptoms and chronicity of maternal major depressive disorder. The children of depressed and antisocial mothers were at an elevated risk of experiencing multiple caregiving abuses, including physical maltreatment, high levels of maternal hostility, and exposure to domestic violence.

**Conclusions:** If one ignores the common co-occurrence of an antisocial history in depressed mothers, it may obscure the significantly elevated risks in children's development. Clinicians treating women's depression should be aware that children of depressed and antisocial mothers constitute a group at extremely high risk for early-onset psychopathology.





Durant la nostra avaluació, la Sra A no es va moure del llit. Es mostrava plorosa, tenia mal aspecte, semblava absent, fumava i renegava constantment.

El seu metge li havia prescrit antidepressius el darrer any, però ella havia considerat que no l'ajudaven, i va decidir no prendre'ls.

Va explicar que havia conegut el pare biològic dels seus fills quan tenia 19 anys en un centre de desintoxicació on tots dos hi anaven. El pare no s'havia quedat amb ella quan els bessons van néixer. Els nens (ara 7 anys) no passaven massa temps a l'apartament i solien voltar pel barri sense supervisió fins la nit. No obstant, els nens no tenien problemes a l'escola, i s'havien adaptat bé a l'ajuda que els ofería un treballador social que els visitava cada mes.

# The Environmental Risk Longitudinal Twin Study (E-Risk)

**AIM:** The quality of the caregiving environment provided to children by depressed mothers (with or without antisocial history)

## Sample:

1.106 families (mothers and their twins with same sex)

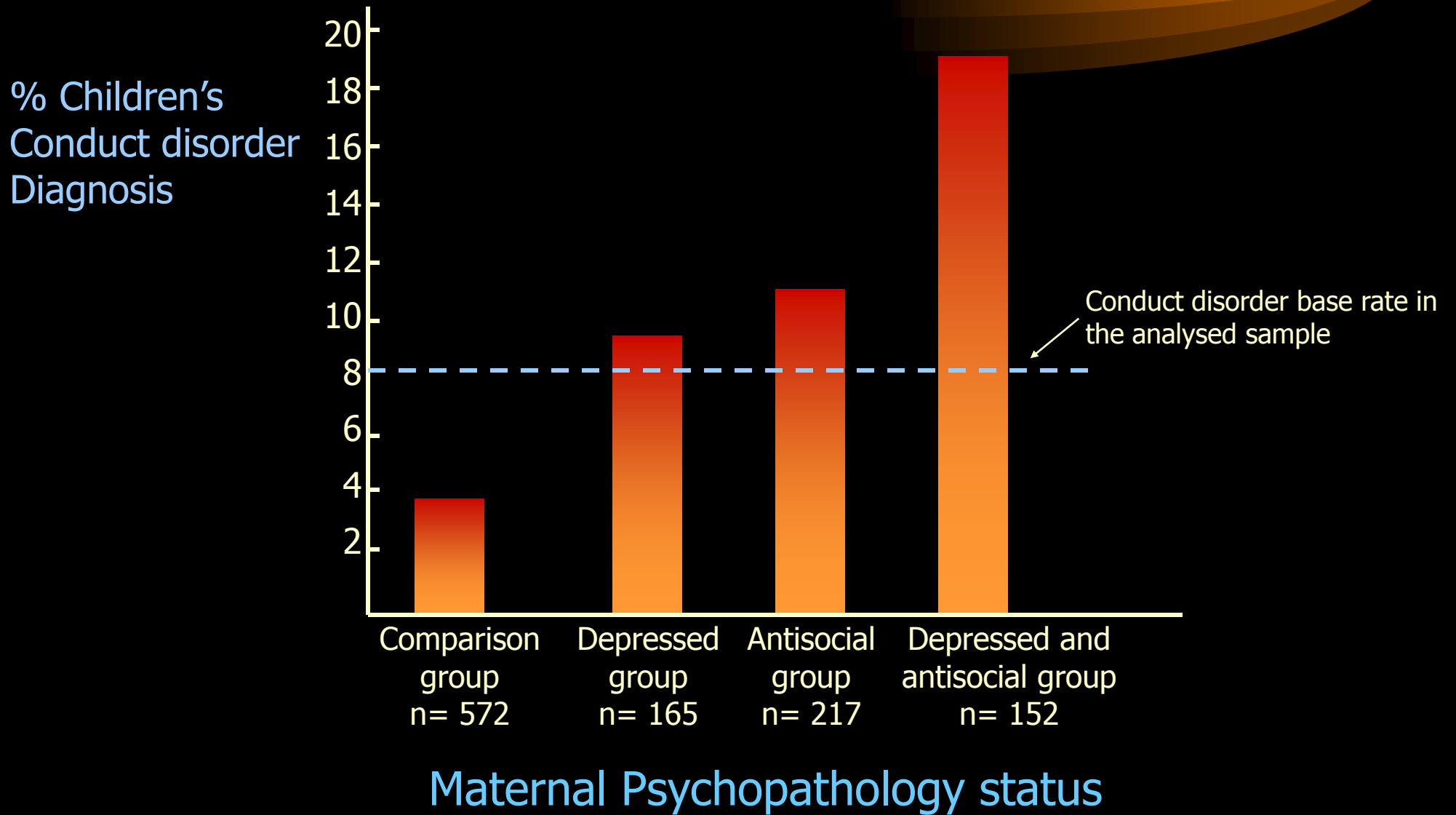
## Mother assessment:

The Diagnostic interview Schedule for Major Depressive disorder and antisocial personality disorder symptoms

## Children assessment:

Mothers and teachers provided information regarding children's behavior problems at 5 and 7 years old.

# Prevalence of Children's conduct disorder Diagnosis Among Children of Depressed Mothers with and without Antisocial History





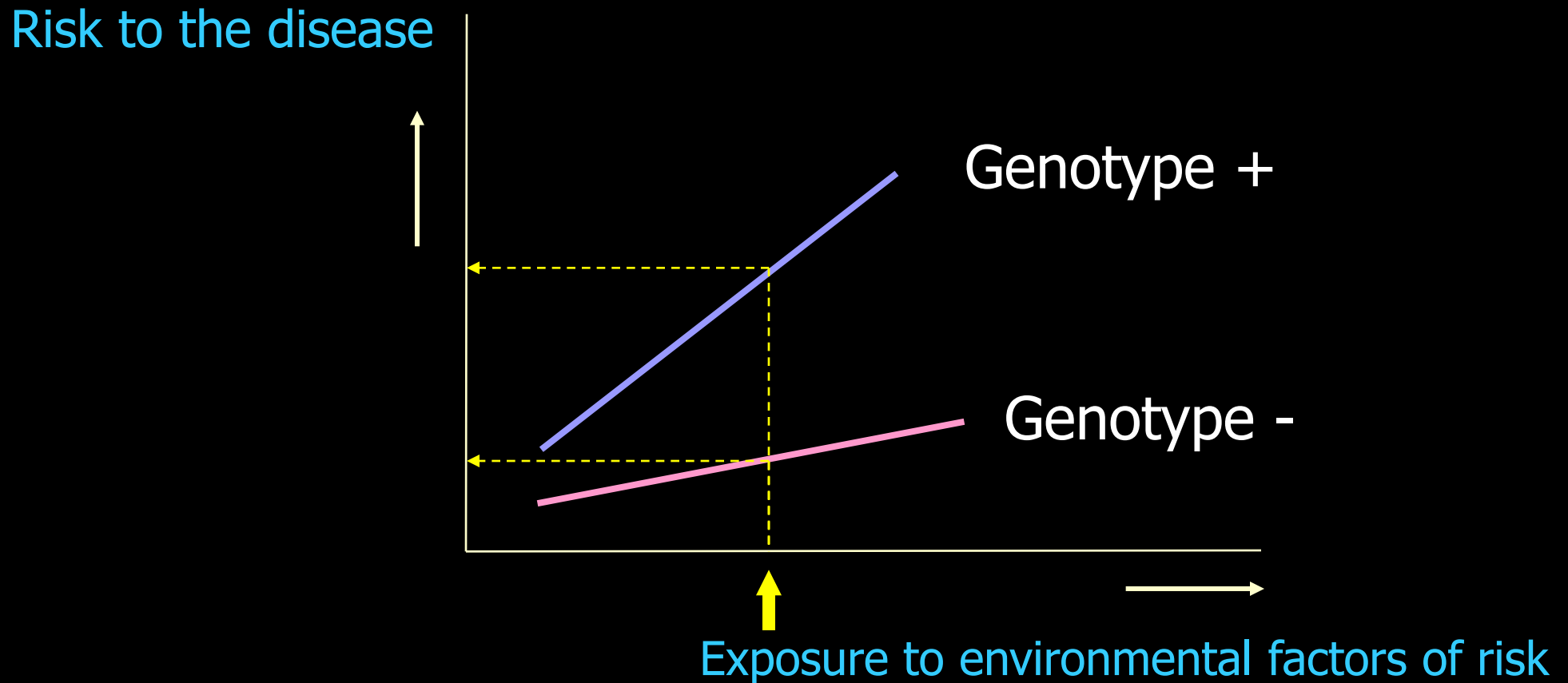


## ***Vulnerable:***

Susceptible de ser ferit o vulnerat, de prendre mal o perjudici de ser afectat, commogut, convençut o vençut per alguna cosa que s'expressa.

# Gene-environment interaction (GxE):

(Genotypes are differentially sensitive to environmental influence)



# DEPRESSIÓ MAJOR: Síntomes clínics

(DSM-IV, APA, 1994)

## Emocionals

- Humor deprimit
- Poc interès o satisfacció en la majoria d'activitats

## Somàtics

- Pèrdua o augment de pes, canvi de gana
- Insomni o hipersòmnia
- Moviments agitats o més lents
- Fatiga, cansament o pèrdua d'energia

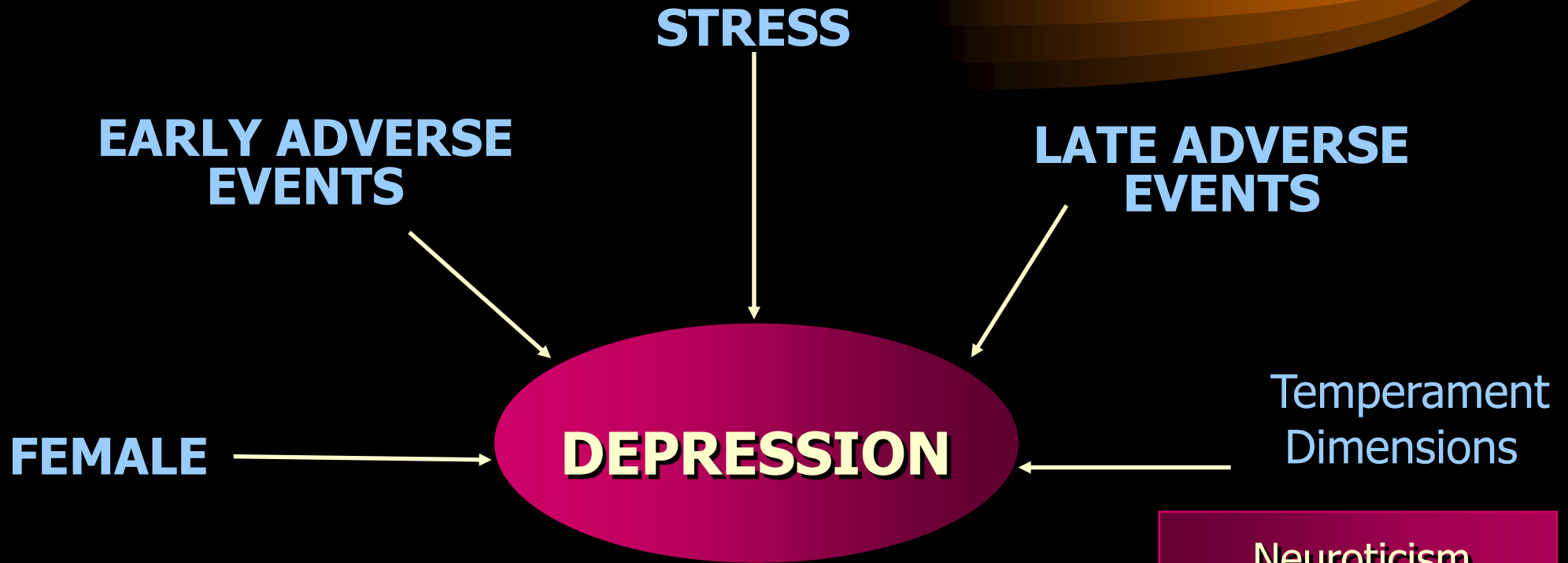
## Cognitius

- Sentiments d'infravaloració o de culpabilitat excessiva
- Menor capacitat de pensar o concentrar-se
- Pensaments recurrents de mort o suïcidi

\* Aquests símptomes han de ser presents cada dia al menys durant dues setmanes



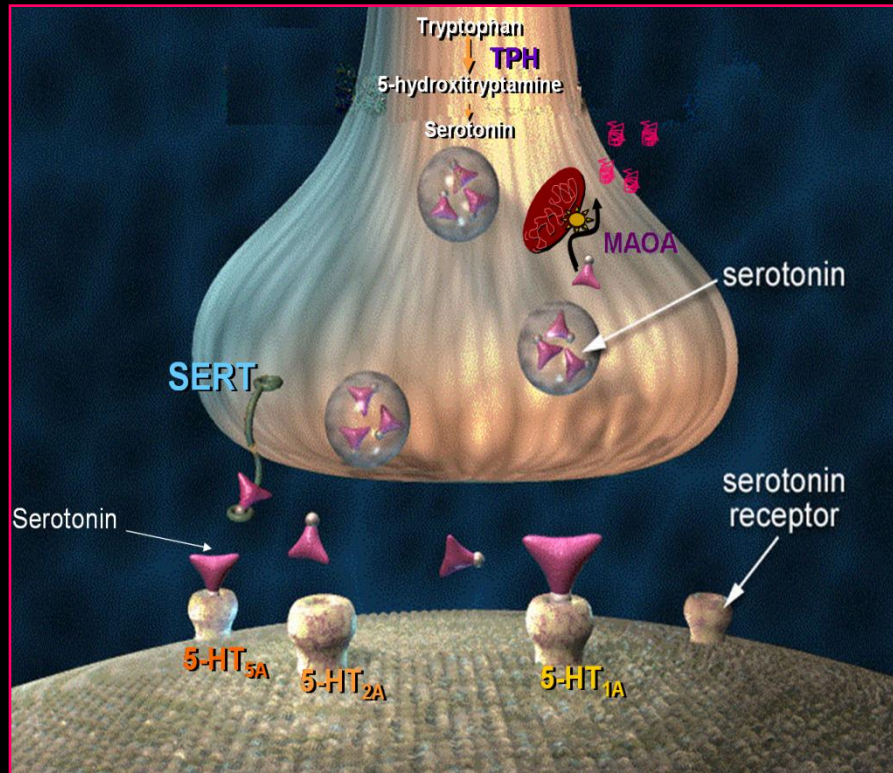
# Risk factors for depression



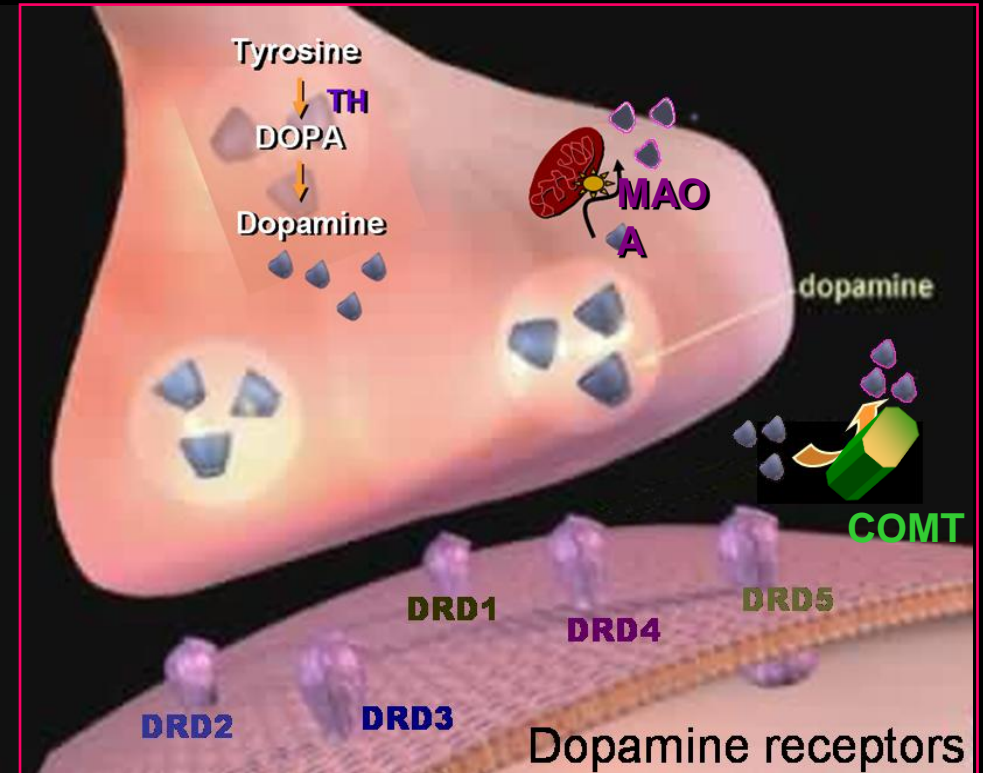
**G E N E S**

Most of the GxE studies have focused on polymorphisms in MAOA and 5-HTT

## Serotonin Neurotransmission



## Dopamine Neurotransmission



Two principal genes implicated in early brain maturation and the regulation of mood, behavior, and stress response

# Serotonin transporter (5-HTT o SERT)

Cr. 17 materno

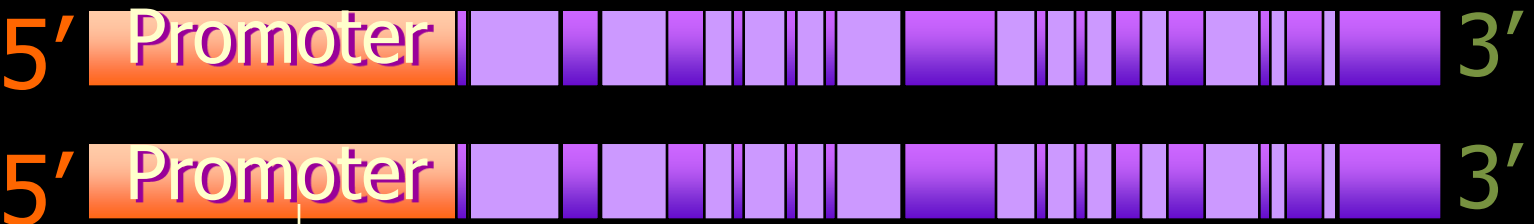


Cr. 17 paterno

Cr. 17q12

Cr. 17q12

| Allele variants   |     |     |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| L                 |     | S   |
| Genotype variants |     |     |
| L/L               | L/S | S/S |



Short allele (S) has been related to low expression and function (Heils et al., 1997) and increased fear and anxiety



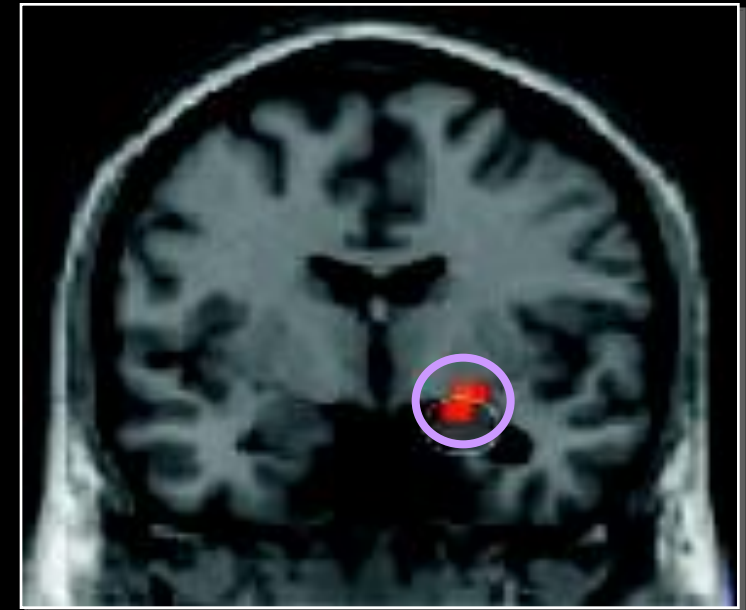
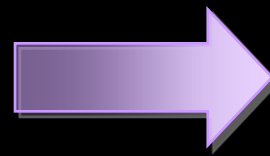
# Serotonin transporter (5-HTT) genetic variation and the response of the human amygdala.

Hariri, AR, Mattay, VS, Tessitore, A, Kolachana, B, Fera, F, Goldman, D, Egan, MF, Weinberger, DR. *Science*, 2002, 297: 789-796.

## EMOTION TASK



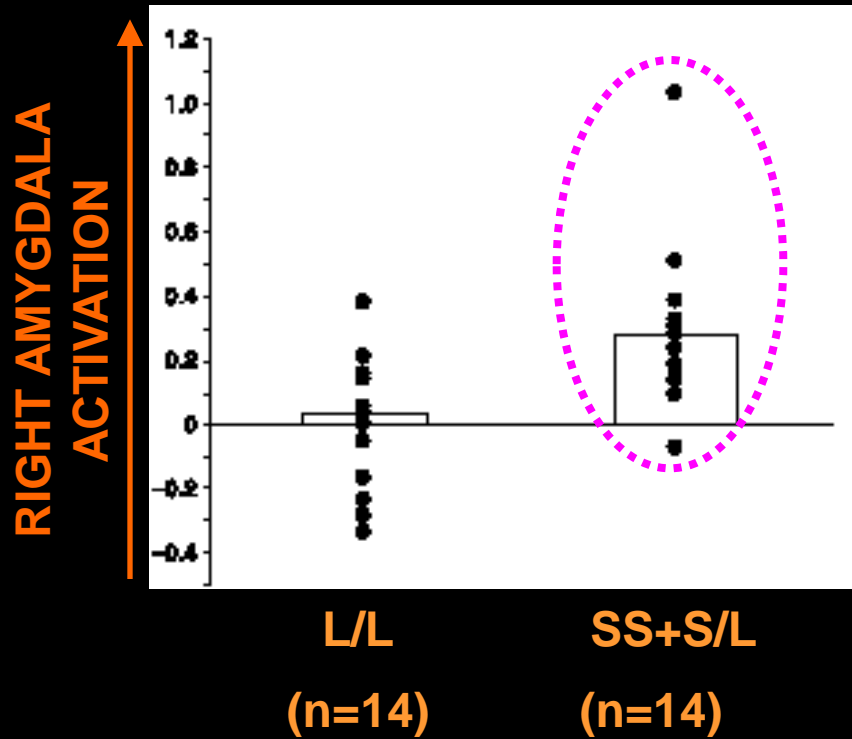
Subjects viewed a trio of faces and selected one of two faces (bottom) that expressed the same emotion as the target face (top)



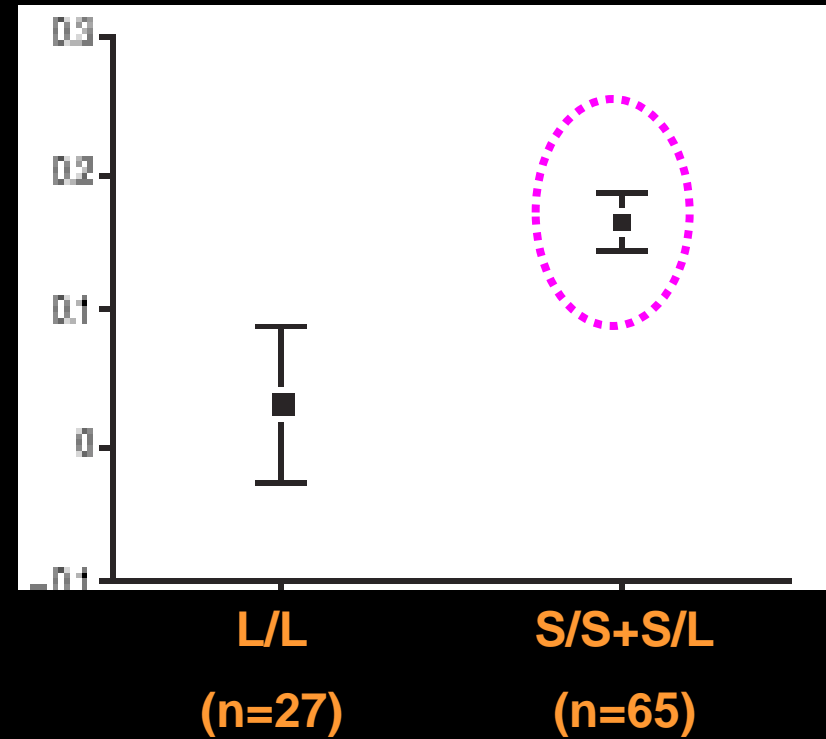
AMYGDALA  
ACTIVITY

# Right amygdala response to fearful stimuli according to Serotonin Transporter polymorphism status:

*short* allele carriers (SS+SL) *versus* long/long homozygous (L/L)



Hariri et al., 2002.  
*Science* 297:400-3



Hariri et al., 2005.  
*Archives of General Psychiatry* 62: 146-52

# Influence of Life Stress on Depression: Moderation by a Polymorphism in the 5-HTT Gene

Avshalom Caspi,<sup>1,2</sup> Karen Sugden,<sup>1</sup> Terrie E. Moffitt,<sup>1,2\*</sup>  
Alan Taylor,<sup>1</sup> Ian W. Craig,<sup>1</sup> HonaLee Harrington,<sup>2</sup>  
Joseph McClay,<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Mill,<sup>1</sup> Judy Martin,<sup>3</sup>  
Antony Braithwaite,<sup>4</sup> Richie Poulton<sup>3</sup>

In a prospective-longitudinal study of a representative birth cohort, we tested why stressful experiences lead to depression in some people but not in others. A functional polymorphism in the promoter region of the serotonin transporter (5-HTT) gene was found to moderate the influence of stressful life events on depression. Individuals with one or two copies of the short allele of the 5-HTT promoter polymorphism exhibited more depressive symptoms, diagnosable depression, and suicidality in relation to stressful life events than individuals homozygous for the long allele. This epidemiological study thus provides evidence of a gene-by-environment interaction, in which an individual's response to environmental insults is moderated by his or her genetic makeup.

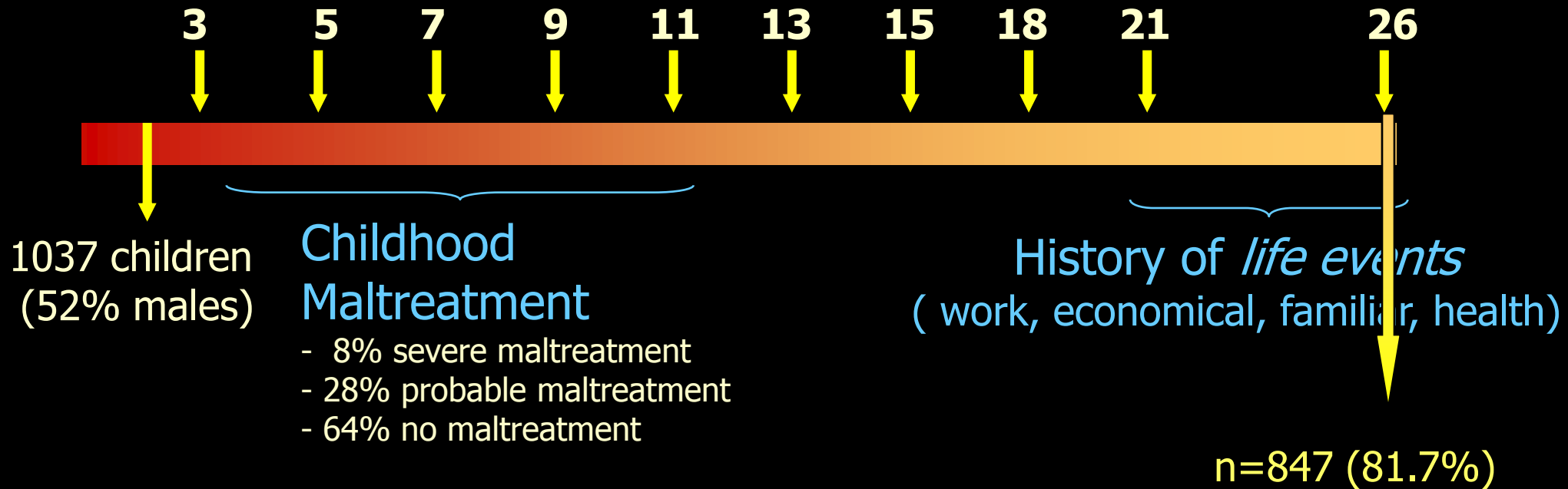


# Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Developmental study



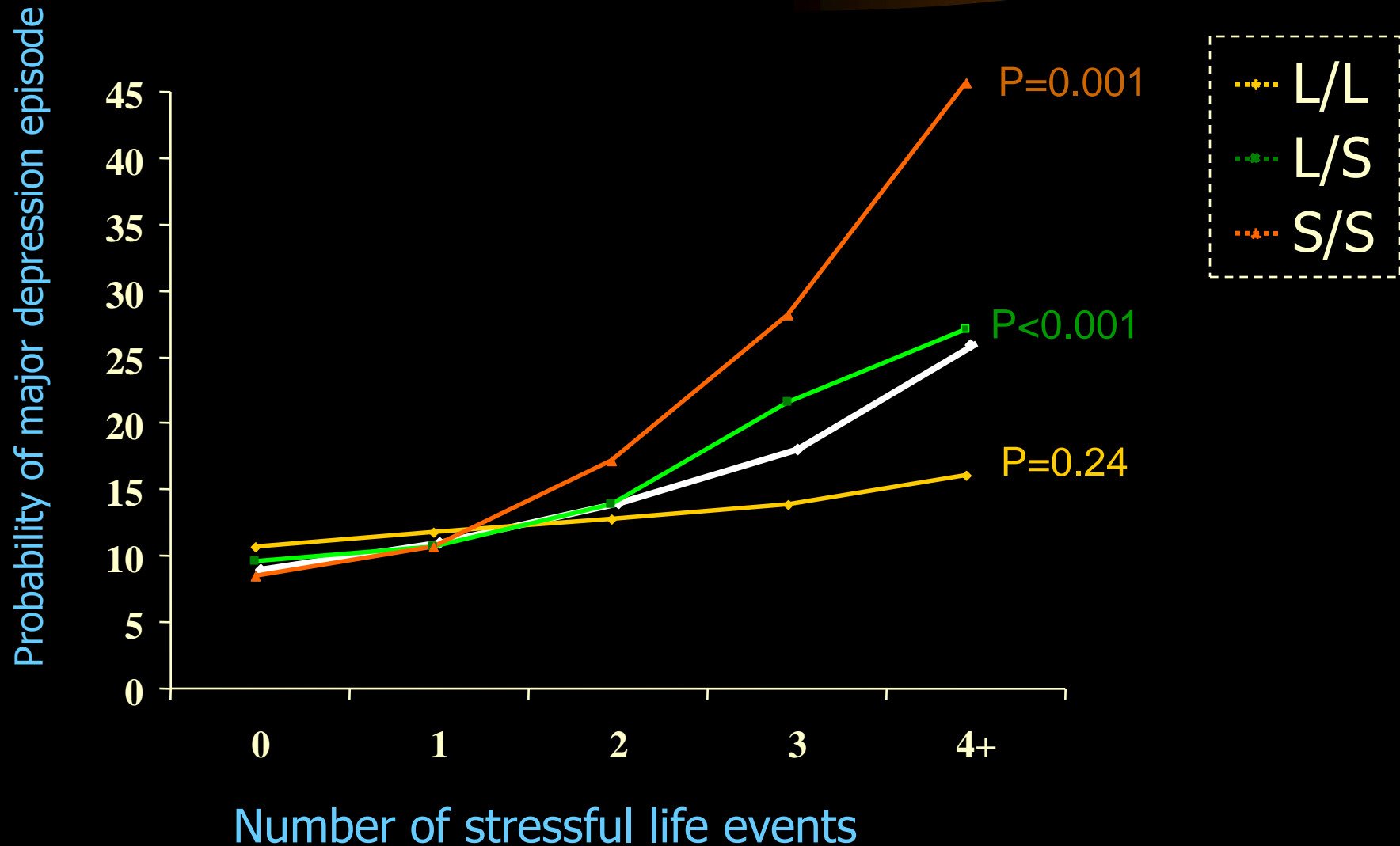
# Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Developmental study

(1972-1973)



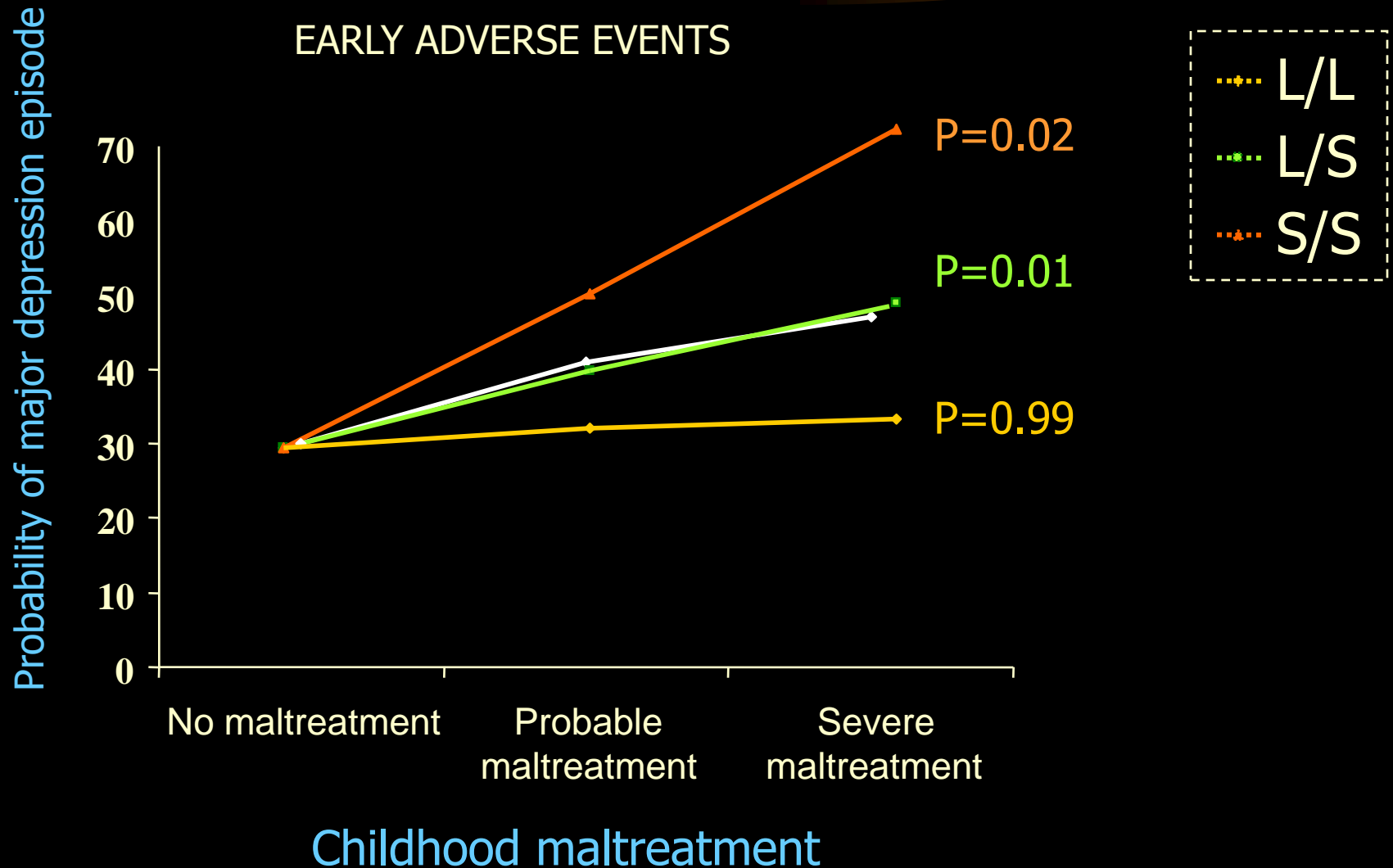
- 17% of study members (N=140) met criteria (DSM-IV) for a past-year major depressive episode.

# Prediction of major depression by gene- environment interaction (5HHT – stressful life events)

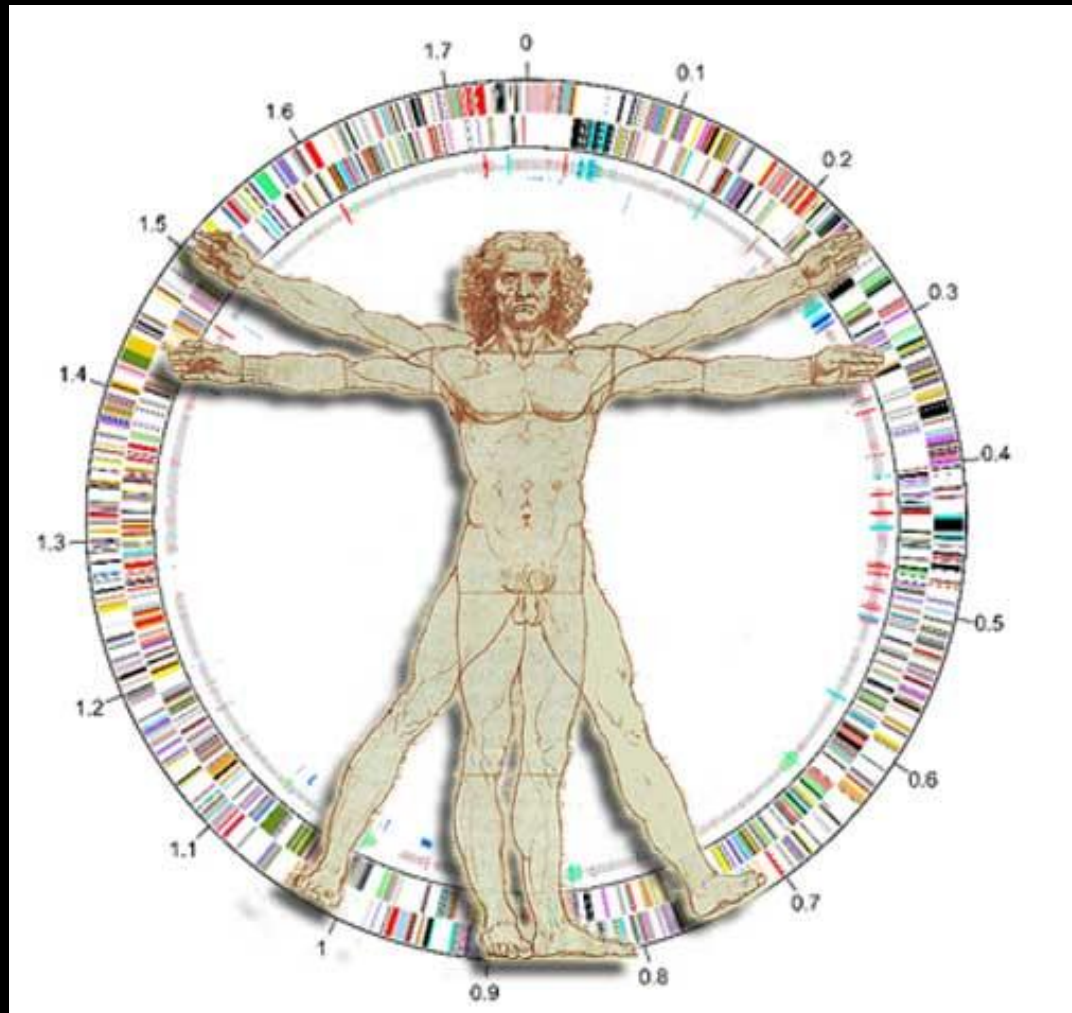




# Prediction of major depression by gene- environment interaction (5HHT – childhood maltreatment)



This epidemiological study provides evidence of a gene-by-environment interaction, in which an individual's response to environmental insult is moderated by his or her genetic make up.



# Role of Genotype in the Cycle of Violence in Maltreated Children

Avshalom Caspi,<sup>1,2</sup> Joseph McClay,<sup>1</sup> Terrie E. Moffitt,<sup>1,2\*</sup>  
Jonathan Mill,<sup>1</sup> Judy Martin,<sup>3</sup> Ian W. Craig,<sup>1</sup> Alan Taylor,<sup>1</sup>  
Richie Poulton<sup>3</sup>

We studied a large sample of male children from birth to adulthood to determine why some children who are maltreated grow up to develop antisocial behavior, whereas others do not. A functional polymorphism in the gene encoding the neurotransmitter-metabolizing enzyme monoamine oxidase A (*MAOA*) was found to moderate the effect of maltreatment. Maltreated children with a genotype conferring high levels of *MAOA* expression were less likely to develop antisocial problems. These findings may partly explain why not all victims of maltreatment grow up to victimize others, and they provide epidemiological evidence that genotypes can moderate children's sensitivity to environmental insults.



# MAOA gene: Xp11.23-11.4

## Location:

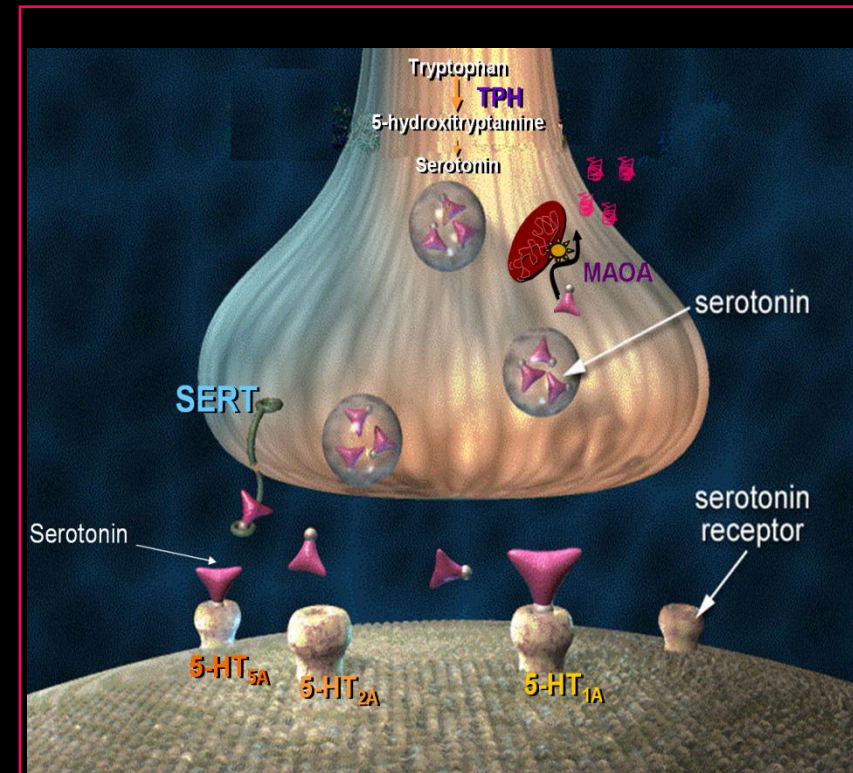
- Enzyme of mitochondrial outer membrane
- High levels in catecholaminergic neurons

## Function:

- Degradative deamination of biogenic amines
- High affinity for 5-HT and NE

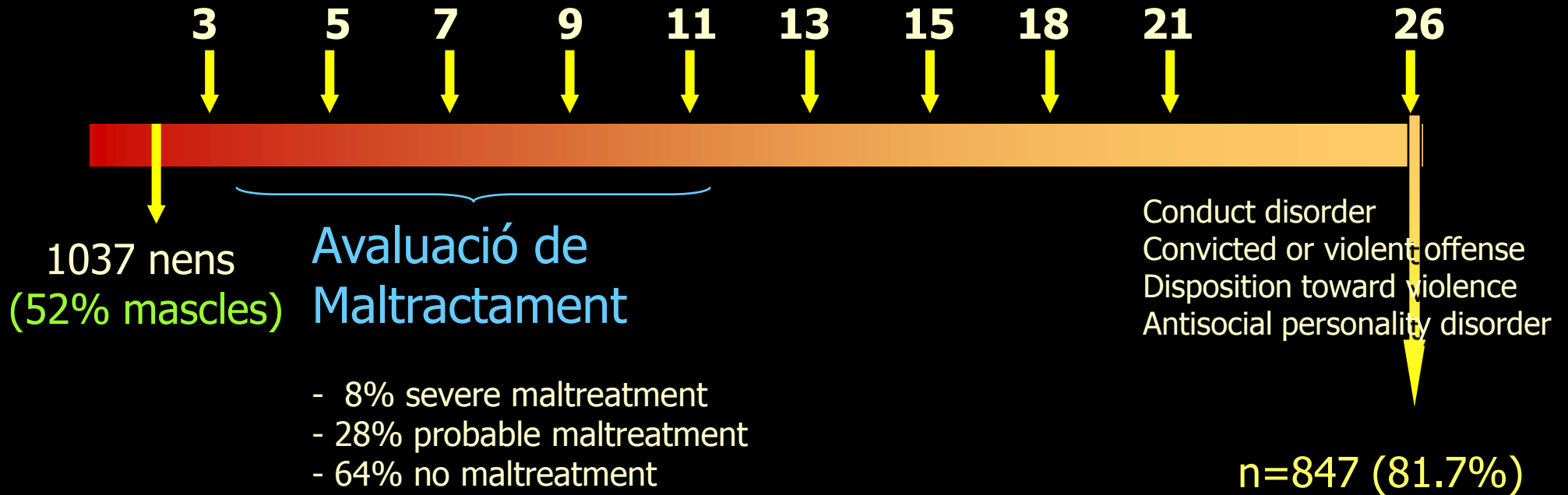
## Knock-out mice:

- Effect on CNS:  $\uparrow$ 5-HT,  $\uparrow$ DA,  $\uparrow$ NE
- Effects on mice behaviour:  $\uparrow$  Aggressivity

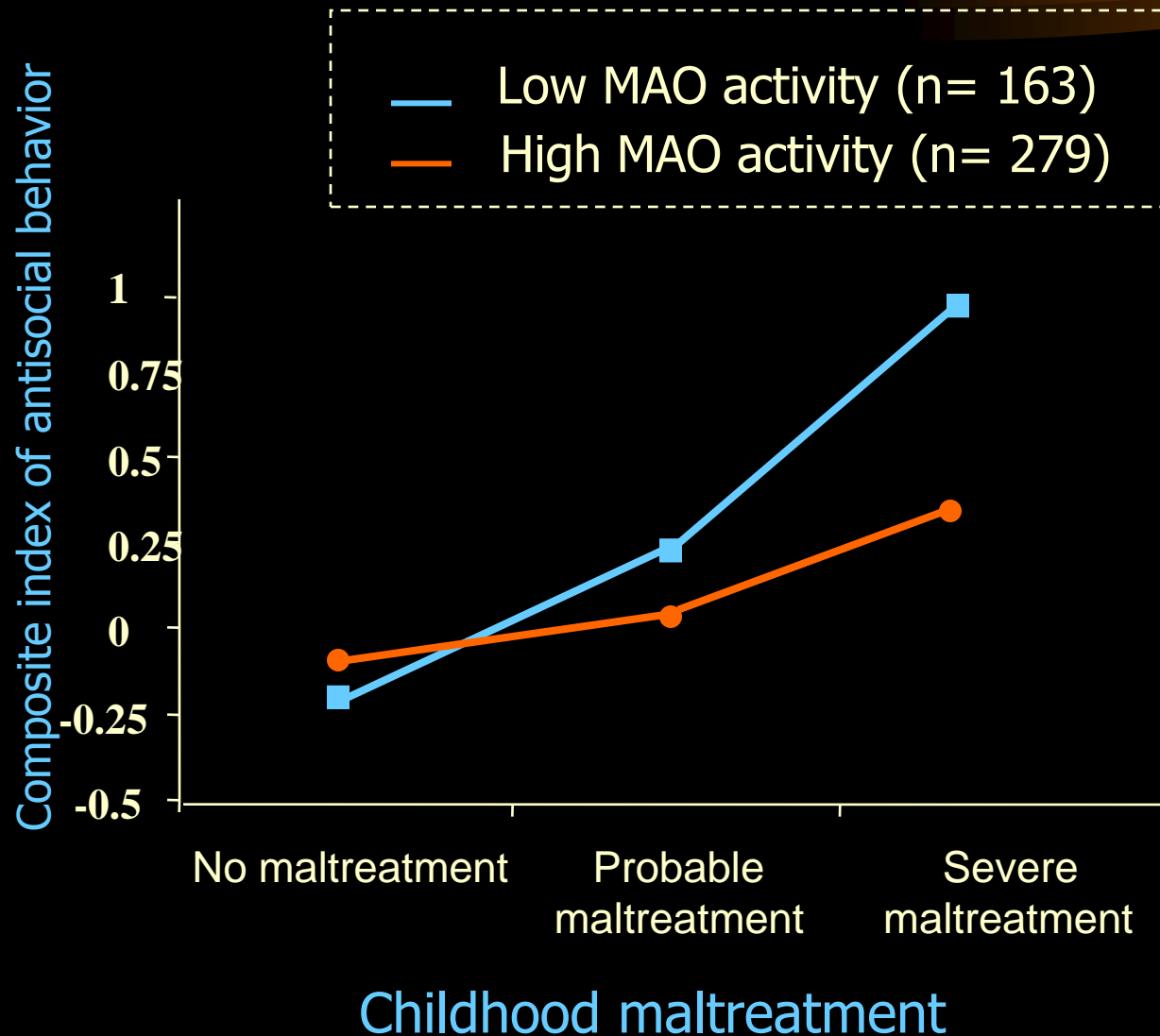


# Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Developmental study

(1972-1973)



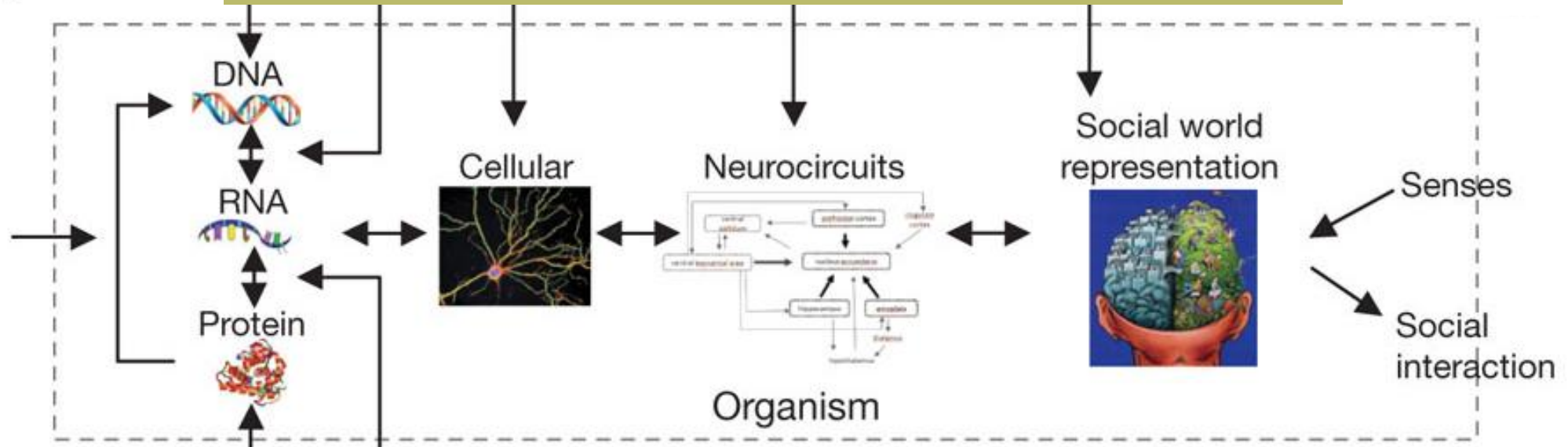
# Antisocial behavior as a function of MAOA activity and childhood history of maltreatment





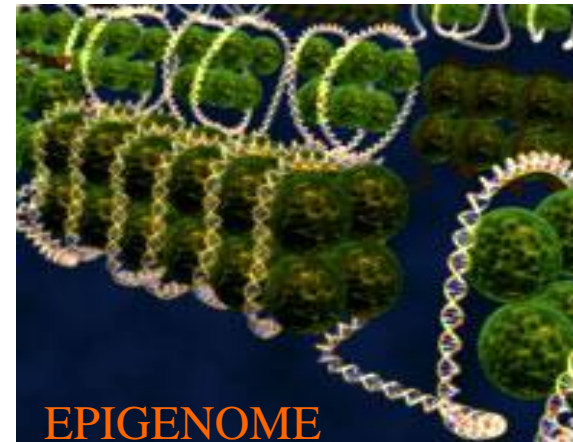
**b**

ENVIRONMENT

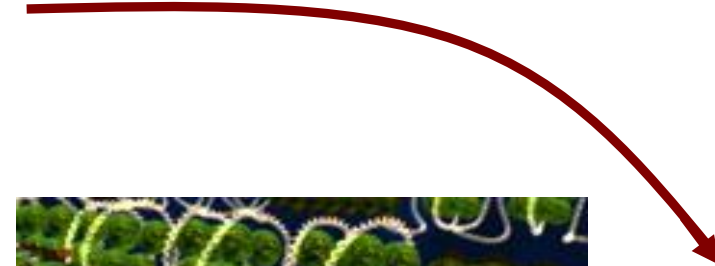


ENVIRONMENT

The Epigenotype plays a critical role along with the Genotype and Environmental factors in determining phenotypes



P  
H  
E  
N  
O  
T  
Y  
P  
E



## Maternal care:

**Implication in anxiety and stress-response in adulthood.**

Evidence of influence of maltreatment in the origin of mental disorders

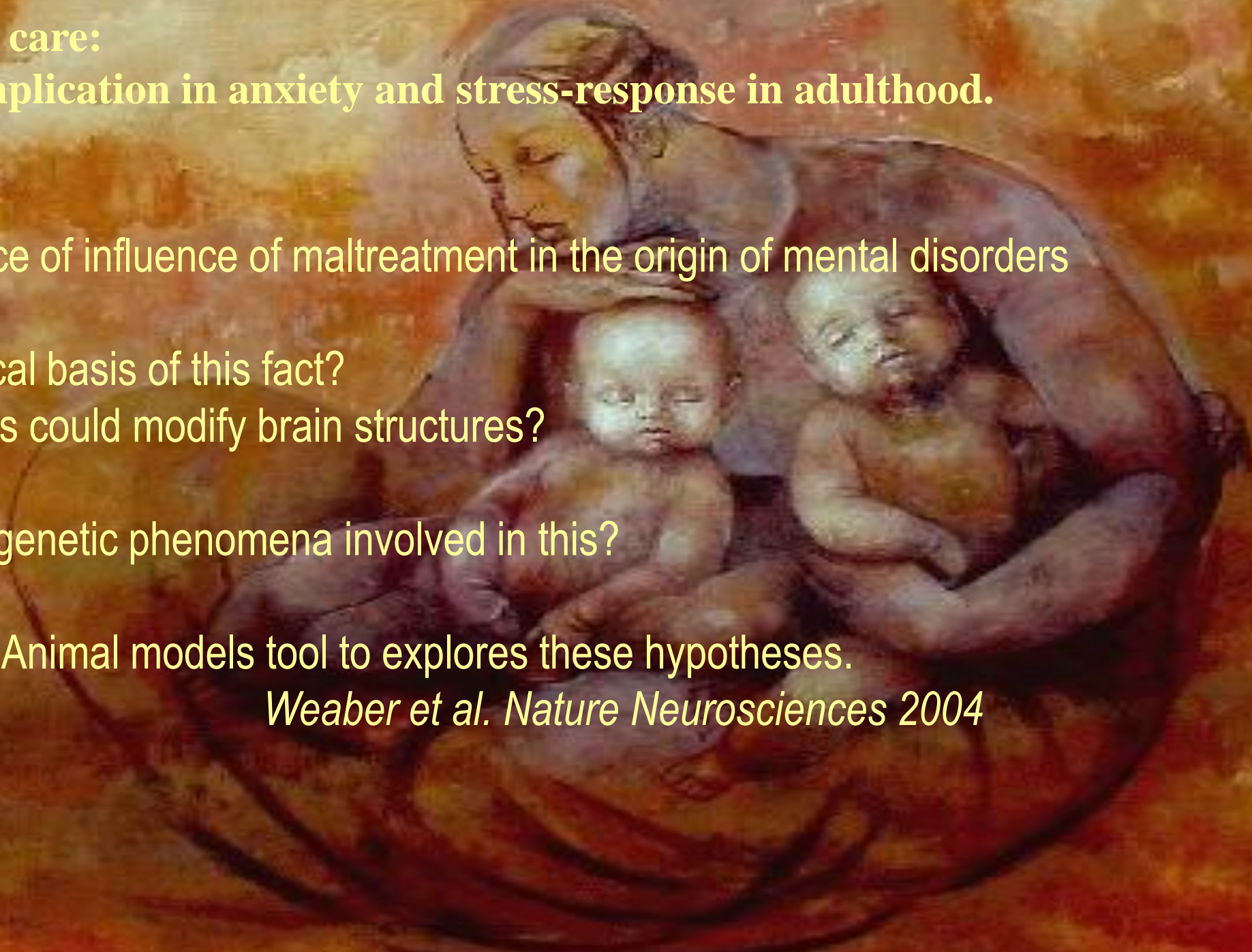
Biological basis of this fact?

How this could modify brain structures?

Are epigenetic phenomena involved in this?

Animal models tool to explores these hypotheses.

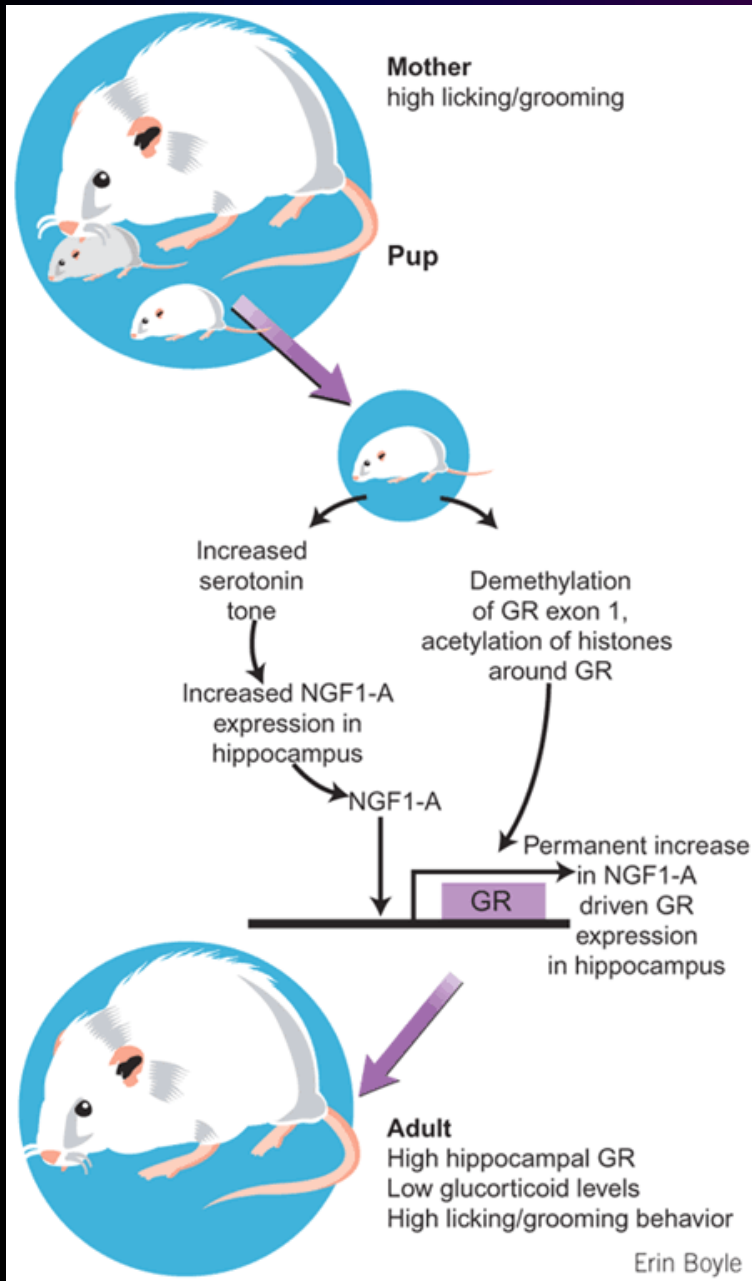
*Weaver et al. Nature Neurosciences 2004*





# The importance of a well-groomed child

*R.M Sapolsky. Science 277: 1620-1621 (1997)*



Maternal licking and grooming

**INFANCY**



Less glucocorticoid secretion



Less glucocorticoid mediated neurodegeneration and more intact cognition

**ADULTHOOD**



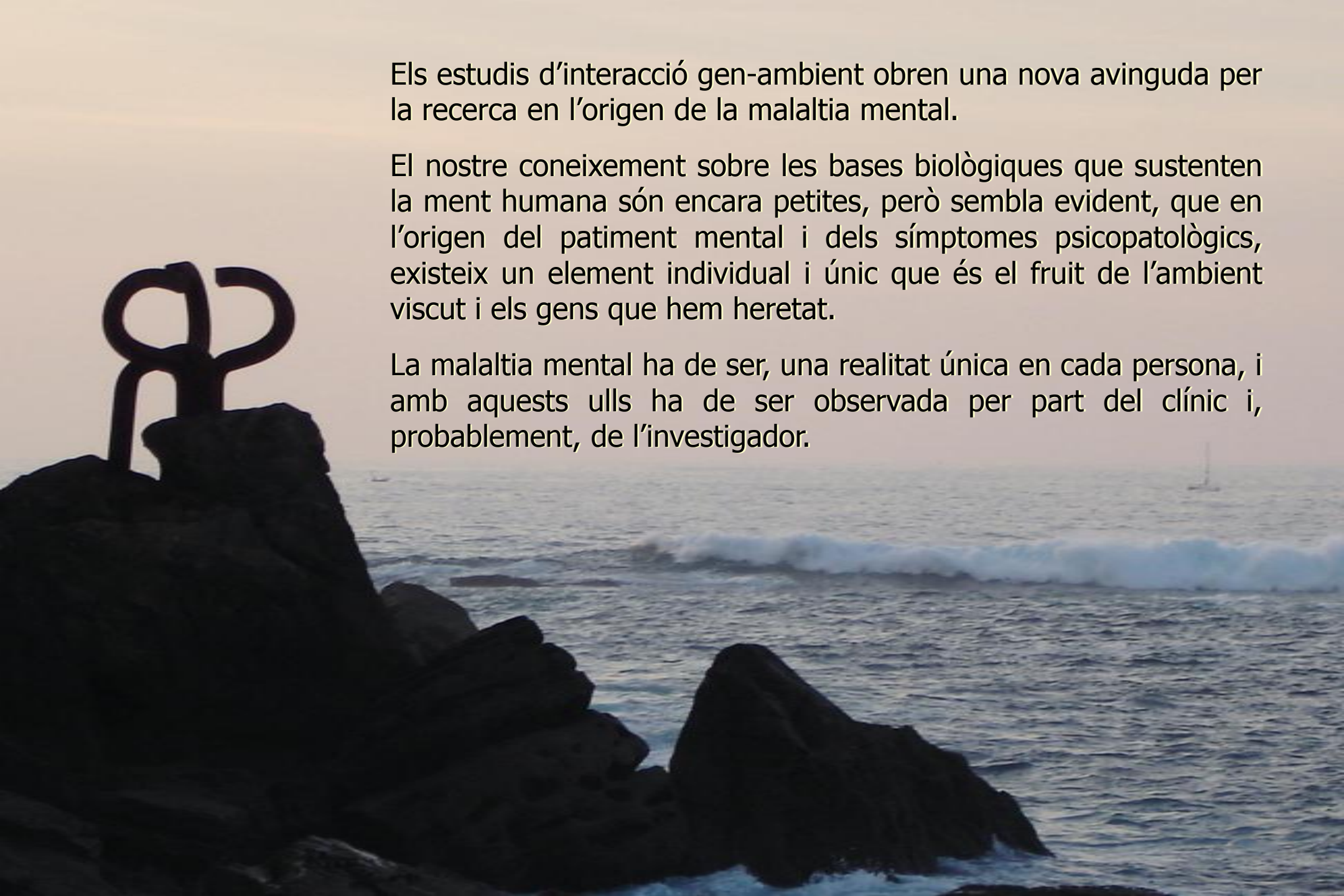
Increase in hippocampal glucocorticoid receptor number



Greater negative-feedback sensitivity of glucocorticoid secretion

**OLD AGE**





Els estudis d'interacció gen-ambient obren una nova avinguda per la recerca en l'origen de la malaltia mental.

El nostre coneixement sobre les bases biològiques que sustenten la ment humana són encara petites, però sembla evident, que en l'origen del patiment mental i dels símptomes psicopatològics, existeix un element individual i únic que és el fruit de l'ambient viscut i els gens que hem heretat.

La malaltia mental ha de ser, una realitat única en cada persona, i amb aquests ulls ha de ser observada per part del clínic i, probablement, de l'investigador.