



Depression as a Glial-Based Synaptic Dysfunction

Daniel Rial^{1,2}, Cristina Lemos¹, Helena Pinheiro¹, Joana M. Duarte¹,
Francisco Q. Gonçalves¹, Joana I. Real¹, Rui D. Prediger², Nélío Gonçalves¹,
Catarina A. Gomes^{1,3}, Paula M. Canas¹, Paula Agostinho^{1,3} and Rodrigo A. Cunha^{1,3*}

¹ CNC - Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal, ² Departamento de Farmacologia, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, SC, Brazil, ³ Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Recent studies combining pharmacological, behavioral, electrophysiological and molecular approaches indicate that depression results from maladaptive neuroplastic processes occurring in defined frontolimbic circuits responsible for emotional processing such as the prefrontal cortex, hippocampus, amygdala and ventral striatum. However, the exact mechanisms controlling synaptic plasticity that are disrupted to trigger depressive conditions have not been elucidated. Since glial cells (astrocytes and microglia) tightly and dynamically interact with synapses, engaging a bi-directional communication critical for the processing of synaptic information, we now revisit the role of glial cells in the etiology of depression focusing on a dysfunction of the “quad-partite” synapse. This interest is supported by the observations that depressive-like conditions are associated with a decreased density and hypofunction of astrocytes and with an increased microglia “activation” in frontolimbic regions, which is expected to contribute for the synaptic dysfunction present in depression. Furthermore, the traditional culprits of depression (glucocorticoids, biogenic amines, brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF) affect glia functioning, whereas antidepressant treatments (serotonin-selective reuptake inhibitors, SSRIs, electroshocks, deep brain stimulation) recover glia functioning. In this context of a quad-partite synapse, systems modulating glia-synapse bidirectional communication—such as the purinergic neuromodulation system operated by adenosine 5'-triphosphate (ATP) and adenosine—emerge as promising candidates to “re-normalize” synaptic function by combining direct synaptic effects with an ability to also control astrocyte and microglia function. This proposed triple action of purines to control aberrant synaptic function illustrates the rationale to consider the interference with glia dysfunction as a mechanism of action driving the design of future pharmacological tools to manage depression.

OPEN ACCESS

Edited by:

Tycho M. Hoogland,
Erasmus MC, Netherlands

Reviewed by:

Lisa Mapelli,
University of Pavia, Italy
Anna Maria Pugliese,
University of Florence, Italy

*Correspondence:

Rodrigo A. Cunha
cunharod@gmail.com

Received: 11 November 2015

Accepted: 27 December 2015

Published: 22 January 2016

Citation:

Rial D, Lemos C, Pinheiro H,
Duarte JM, Gonçalves FQ, Real JI,
Prediger RD, Gonçalves N,
Gomes CA, Canas PM, Agostinho P
and Cunha RA (2016) Depression as
a Glial-Based Synaptic Dysfunction.
Front. Cell. Neurosci. 9:521.
doi: 10.3389/fncel.2015.00521

Keywords: depression, synapse, astrocytes, microglia, purines

INTRODUCTION

Depression is the neuropsychiatric disorder with higher incidence worldwide, representing a major socio-economical burden (Kessler et al., 2003). Depressive conditions display heterogeneous presentations and are defined clinically based on different affective symptoms (sadness, desperation, anhedonia, sensation of discomfort) that decrease interest in daily

activities (Ferrari et al., 2013). Understanding the causes and neurobiological basis of depression remains a challenge, probably due to the lack of faithful animal models (Berton et al., 2012). The relation between cumulative stress and the incidence of depression (de Kloet et al., 2005) and the prevalence of depression in suicide completers (Coryell and Young, 2005), provide two windows of opportunities to indirectly study the neurobiological basis of depression using chronically stressed animals and brain samples from suicide completers.

PURPORTED BIOLOGICAL BASIS OF DEPRESSION

Depressive conditions have traditionally been considered to involve a deregulated hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, leading to an aberrant impact of sustained increased levels of glucocorticoids (Sousa et al., 2008). However, recent studies in adrenalectomized animals (thus blunting the main source of glucocorticoids) revealed an impact of ghrelin rather than glucocorticoids in formatting the emotional disturbances associated with repeated stress (Meyer et al., 2014).

Another lead for the neurobiology of depression is based on the clinical use of serotonin-selective reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) to manage depression, which hints at the dysfunction of the neuromodulation by serotonin and other biogenic amines in depression (Krishnan and Nestler, 2008). However, these drugs have a slow onset of action (over 2 weeks) and are effective in only *circa* 50% of patients, leaving open the possibility that they may influence different targets apart normalizing the levels of biogenic amines.

Neurotrophins and in particular brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) have also been linked to depression, based on the ability of BDNF to reactivate neuronal plasticity and on the association between serum BDNF levels and depression (Castrén, 2014). This should be cautiously evaluated since the plasma levels of substances might not reflect their brain levels and there is no clear association between depression and different polymorphisms of the *bdnf* gene (Gyekis et al., 2013). Also, excessive BDNF-induced plasticity can actually trigger an aberrant hyper-plasticity, as heralded by the key pathogenic role of BDNF in neuropathic pain (Trang et al., 2012).

SYNAPTIC DYSFUNCTION IN DEPRESSION

A major breakthrough in understanding depression was the observation that sub-anesthetic doses of ketamine, an NMDA receptor antagonist, can revert rapidly (within 90 min) symptoms of depression, with a long-lasting antidepressant effect (2 weeks; Berman et al., 2000; Zarate et al., 2006). Since NMDA receptors are the main switches to trigger synaptic plasticity (both long-term potentiation, LTP, and depression, LTD), this indicates that an abnormal plasticity at glutamatergic synapses underlies the expression of depressive symptoms (Duman and Aghajanian, 2012); indeed, chronically-stressed rodents display abnormal patterns of synaptic plasticity (both LTP and/or LTD) in

brain areas involved in emotional processing, namely amygdala, ventral striatum, hippocampus and prefrontal cortex (Krishnan and Nestler, 2008). Animal studies also allowed identifying the molecular mechanisms of the antidepressant effect of ketamine, which involves the antagonism of NMDA (2B) receptors and the preservation of dendritic morphology and AMPA receptor trafficking through an mTOR pathway in the prefrontal cortex (Li et al., 2010). This joins other observations showing that riluzole and antagonists of types 2/3 or 5 metabotropic glutamate receptors, which control glutamatergic transmission, also display robust antidepressant effects (Machado-Vieira et al., 2009; Pilc et al., 2013). Altogether these observations support the hypothesis that depression results from the disruption of mechanisms controlling synaptic plasticity in afflicted regions (Duman and Aghajanian, 2012).

This de-regulation seems to translate into a destabilization and loss of synaptic connections. Indeed, repeated stress triggers a reduction of dendritic complexity in prefrontocortical and hippocampal neurons (Magariños et al., 1997; Sousa et al., 2000; Radley et al., 2006) and a selective loss of markers of excitatory synapses (Gilabert-Juan et al., 2012; Tzanoulinou et al., 2014; Kaster et al., 2015), which recover upon alleviation of “depressive”-like symptoms using SSRIs, exercise or enriched environment (Li et al., 2010, 2011; McEwen et al., 2012). Post-mortem brain samples of depressed patients also revealed a reduction in the size rather than number of prefrontocortical and hippocampal pyramidal neurons (Rajkowska et al., 1999; Stockmeier et al., 2004) accompanied by a decreased number of synaptic contacts (Kang et al., 2012). As occurs in stressed rodents, synaptic markers in frontolimbic area are also altered in patients with major depressive disorder (Feyissa et al., 2009; Zhao et al., 2012; Duric et al., 2013).

This pivotal role of the disruption of mechanisms controlling synaptic plasticity for the expression of depressive symptoms also has the attractive feature to allow bridging the different traditional explanations for the emergence of depression. In fact, glucocorticoids are well established to affect synaptic plasticity and to contribute for synaptic atrophy in several brain regions (Sousa et al., 2008). Likewise, BDNF is well recognized as a bolster of synaptic plasticity (Gray et al., 2013) and different biogenic amines, such as serotonin (Lesch and Waider, 2012), noradrenaline (Marzo et al., 2009) and dopamine (Tritsch and Sabatini, 2012) impact on synaptic plasticity in cortical regions.

However, although the pivotal role of aberrant synaptic plasticity successfully integrates different findings derived from patients and animal models of depression, it still fails to provide an explanation for the etiology of depression. This review proposes to focus on the emerging concept of the quad-partite synapse (Schafer et al., 2013), integrating both astrocytes and microglia as critical pillars of synaptic plasticity, to address the possible relevance of a mis-communication between glia and synapses, as a possible basis of depression.

THE “QUAD-PARTITE” SYNAPSE

Astrocytes were long considered as morphological and metabolic support cells, as testified by their importance in the synthesis

(Rose et al., 2013) and re-uptake of glutamate (Asztely et al., 1997; Arnth-Jensen et al., 2002), in buffering extracellular K^+ to control neuronal excitability (Wallraff et al., 2006), in neurovascular coupling (Viswanathan and Freeman, 2007; Petzold et al., 2008; Figley and Stroman, 2011) and transport (Rouach et al., 2008) and delivery of nutrients to active synapses (Magistretti et al., 1999; Pellerin et al., 2007). This concept has actually evolved to recognize astrocytes as dynamic players engaged in a bi-directional communication with synapses and able to actually format synaptic function with impact on the expression of behavior (Achour and Pascual, 2010; Allen, 2014; Oliveira et al., 2015). This interplay between synapses and astrocytes is so tight that it is difficult to disentangle if a synaptic dysfunction results from intrinsic modifications of neurons or from astrocytic modifications (Agostinho et al., 2010; Sanacora and Banasr, 2013; Crunelli et al., 2015; Verkhratsky et al., 2015).

Probably the first experimental support of an ability of astrocytes to respond to synaptic activity was provided by observations that astrocytes respond to glutamate by triggering a directional long-distance response, typified by a wave of variation of intracellular calcium (Cornell-Bell et al., 1990). The inter-astrocytic transport of calcium waves is possible thanks to the organized formation of a syncytium through different connexins pores, that form an alphabet still to be fully deciphered to understand this long-range directional communication of information through astrocytes (Wallraff et al., 2004; Theis and Giaume, 2012; Decrock et al., 2015). Astrocytes respond not only to glutamate, but to most neurotransmitters and neuromodulators, such as GABA, noradrenaline, acetylcholine or adenosine 5'-triphosphate (ATP; Volterra and Meldolesi, 2005; Haydon and Carmignoto, 2006). Astrocytic calcium waves can feedback to influence neuronal responses (Nedergaard, 1994; Parpura et al., 1994) and control synaptic strength (Jourdain et al., 2007; Perea and Araque, 2007) through the release of different mediators such as glutamate, ATP, D-serine, NO, neurotrophins, prostaglandins or cytokines to name a few (Volterra and Meldolesi, 2005; Haydon and Carmignoto, 2006). Several of these mediators are released from astrocytes in a vesicular manner, with SNARE complexes similar, but with some differences to neurons (e.g., synaptobrevin 2), able to sustain a quantal release (Bezzi et al., 2004; Pangrsic et al., 2007). The relevance of this astrocytic vesicular apparatus to control synaptic function is re-enforced by the observation that astrocytic processes enwrap synapses in a spatially organized manner, with a single astrocyte wrapping from 300 (in rodents) up to 90,000 (in humans) synapses (Bushong et al., 2002; Ogata and Kosaka, 2002; Oberheim et al., 2006) and this association of astrocytes with synapses was found to be an experience-dependent dynamic process (Genoud et al., 2006; Haber et al., 2006). This prompted the concept of the tri-partite synapse to recognize the importance of the astrocytic network as a new level of integration of information in neuronal networks (Araque et al., 1999, 2014; Halassa et al., 2007). Accordingly, synaptic plasticity processes are controlled by different gliotransmitters such as D-serine (Yang et al., 2003; Panatier et al., 2006; Henneberger et al., 2010), glutamate (Fellin et al., 2004),

ATP (Koizumi et al., 2003; Zhang et al., 2003; Pankratov and Lalo, 2015) or adenosine (Newman, 2003; Pascual et al., 2005; Serrano et al., 2006) or by controlling glutamate clearance (Diamond, 2001; Tsvetkov et al., 2004; Omrani et al., 2009; Murphy-Royal et al., 2015). Accordingly, astrocytic function critically affects integrated brain responses such as sleep, mood or memory (Banasr and Duman, 2008; Halassa et al., 2009; Suzuki et al., 2011; Lima et al., 2014; Perea et al., 2014; Matos et al., 2015).

The addition of microglia to the number of synaptic players is more recent. Microglia coordinate brain innate immunity, displaying features characteristic of immune cells able to rapidly expand their population, to chemotactically migrate to sites of injury and to trigger and sustain inflammatory responses through their chemokine and cytokine repertoire (Lynch, 2009; Kettenmann et al., 2011). Traditionally, microglia were considered to be “resting”, becoming “activated” upon allostatic changes to coordinate immune-like responses (Perry and Gordon, 1988). Several studies revealed that the purported “resting”-state of microglia actually corresponds to an active surveying state, where microglia filopodia dynamically interact with neurons and astrocytes with a regulatory and supportive role critical for brain homeostasis (Raivich, 2005; Hanisch and Kettenmann, 2007; Wake et al., 2013; Cherry et al., 2014). In particular, microglia dynamically interact with synapses in an activity-dependent manner (Biber et al., 2007; Kettenmann et al., 2013; Wake et al., 2013), to such an extent that the concept of a quad-partite synapse has been forwarded (Schafer et al., 2013). In fact, microglia are equipped with receptors for neurotransmitters (Pocock and Kettenmann, 2007), and excitatory transmission increases whereas inhibitory transmission decreases microglial processes dynamic (Fontainhas et al., 2011; Wong et al., 2011). Conversely, microglia can affect both excitatory and inhibitory transmission (Tsuda et al., 2003; Pascual et al., 2012) through the release of a variety of signals ranging from chemokines (Schafer et al., 2012), cytokines (Rebola et al., 2011), purines (Pascual et al., 2012; George et al., 2015), glutamate and D-serine (Scianni et al., 2013), NO (Zhan et al., 2014) or BDNF (Gomes et al., 2013; Parkhurst et al., 2013). The importance of this bi-directional communication between synapses and microglia is best heralded by the synaptic dysfunction observed upon genetic manipulation of microglia function (Roumier et al., 2004; Costello et al., 2011; Hoshiko et al., 2012), which can be direct or involve astrocytes (Pascual et al., 2012). Thus, microglia are critical for the dynamic synaptic carving that is essential to entrain adaptive brain function (Paolicelli et al., 2011; Ji et al., 2013; Cristovão et al., 2014; Zhan et al., 2014).

DYSFUNCTION OF GLIAL CELLS AND DEPRESSION

Numerous lines of evidence support the contention that a modification of astrocytes in frontolimbic regions is associated with depression (Altshuler et al., 2010; Rajkowska and Stockmeier, 2013; Peng et al., 2015). Most studies analyzing post-mortem brain samples from adult individuals with major

depressive disorder or suicide completers concur to conclude that there is a decreased number of astrocytic-like elements in frontolimbic structures (Ongür et al., 1998; Rajkowska et al., 1999; Cotter et al., 2002; Medina et al., 2015; Nagy et al., 2015; Torres-Platas et al., 2015). This is paralleled by an alteration of astrocytic morphology, typified by hypertrophic cell bodies (Rajkowska et al., 1999; Cotter et al., 2002; Torres-Platas et al., 2011, 2015), and a modification in frontolimbic regions of the density of different astrocytic markers, such as GFAP (Miguel-Hidalgo et al., 2000; Si et al., 2004; Schlicht et al., 2007; Gittins and Harrison, 2011), connexins (Ernst et al., 2011; Sun et al., 2012; Miguel-Hidalgo et al., 2014), aquaporin-4 (Rajkowska et al., 2013), GLT-1 and glutamine synthase (Choudary et al., 2005; Sequeira et al., 2009; Miguel-Hidalgo et al., 2010) and an increased release of S100 β (e.g., Grabe et al., 2001; Schroeter et al., 2008). A causal relation between astrocytic dysfunction and depression is provided by animal studies showing that the selective destruction of frontocortical astrocytes with the gliotoxin L- α -amino adipic acid is sufficient to trigger a depressive-like phenotype (Banasr and Duman, 2008); likewise, a depressive-like phenotype also emerges upon

functional inhibition of astrocytes, such as upon downregulating synaptobrevin-2 thus blunting astrocytic vesicular release (Cao et al., 2013), upon altering connexin-mediated gap-junctions (Sun et al., 2012), upon knocking out IP3-receptor type-2 (Cao et al., 2013) or aquaporin-4 (Kong et al., 2014) or inhibiting astrocytic glutamate transporters (Bechtholt-Gompf et al., 2010; John et al., 2012). Notably, astrocytic function is affected by the signaling systems assumed as traditional culprits of depression, namely glucocorticoids (Yin et al., 2013), BDNF (Ye et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2015), serotonin (Hertz et al., 2015), noradrenaline (Madrigal et al., 2009; Pankratov and Lalo, 2015) or dopamine (Shao et al., 2013). Furthermore, treatments alleviating depressive symptoms can recover astrocytic function, such as SSRIs (Czéh et al., 2006; Schipke et al., 2011) or electroconvulsive shock (Iwata et al., 2011) and some are even critically dependent on astrocytic function, such as fluoxetine (Kong et al., 2009) or deep brain stimulation (Etiévant et al., 2015). Altogether, these observations indicate that a decreased astrocytic function in frontolimbic regions is necessary and sufficient for the emergence of depressive symptoms (Figure 1). This suggests a scenario where a defective astrocyte function

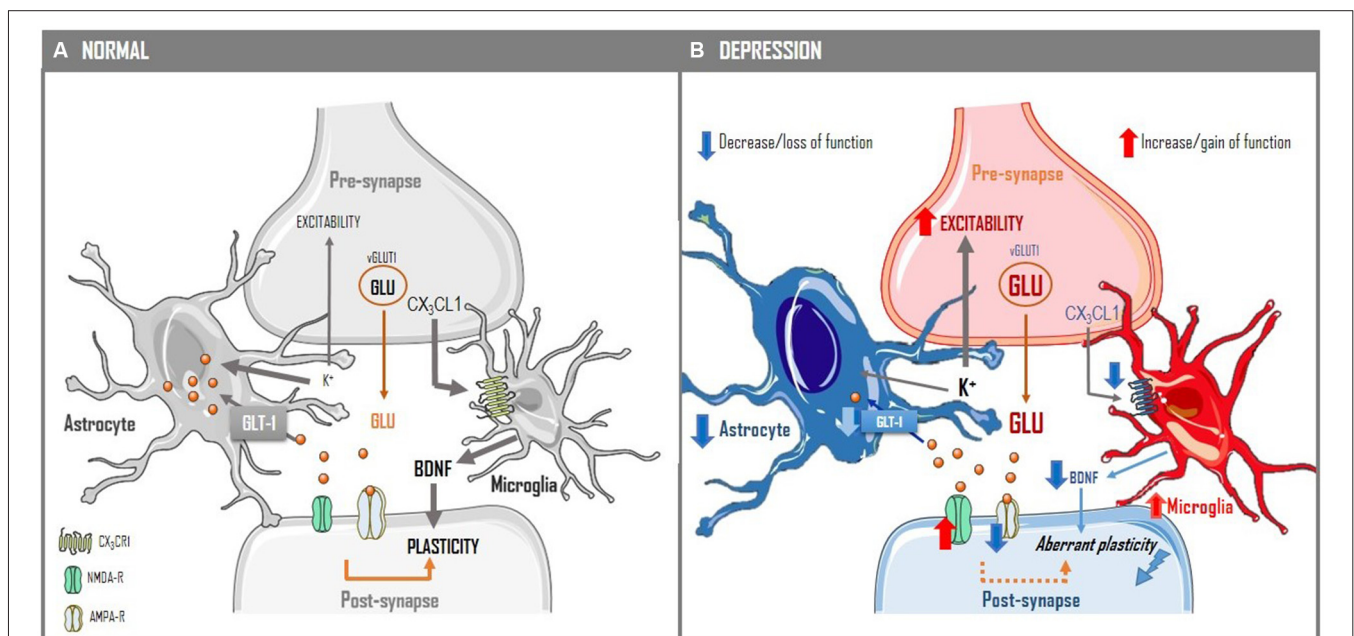


FIGURE 1 | Modifications of the quad-partite synapse in depression. The processing of information in synapses is not only defined by neurons, but also by glial cells, namely by astrocytes, which enwrap synapses, and microglia, which dynamically interact with synapses in an activity-dependent manner (A). Thus, amongst other roles, astrocytes regulate both K⁺ and the basal levels of glutamate, defining the basal excitability of neurons; also the extracellular levels of glutamate contribute to define the density of NMDA and AMPA receptors in the plasma membrane of the post-synaptic compartment, which trigger and sustain alterations of synaptic plasticity, respectively. The excitability of neurons, their set-up of plasma membrane glutamate receptors, namely of NMDA receptors, and the neurotrophins support provided by glial cells are critical to allow the implementation of adequate synaptic plasticity traits, i.e., an appropriate encoding of both long-term potentiation (LTP) and depression (LTD) according to specific patterns of incoming information. In depression (B) there is a modification of information processing in excitatory synapses in frontolimbic area: there is modification of astrocytes, typified by hypertrophic cell bodies and decreased complexity and activity of phyloplodia, resulting in a hypofunction of astrocytes and a decreased ability to buffer K⁺ and to clear extracellular glutamate; this leads to increased excitability, corresponding to greater noise in the circuit, and to an imbalance of NMDA and AMPA receptors, with an increased availability of NMDA receptors in dendrites. Additionally, there is a decreased signaling through the master chemokine CX3CL1 in microglia, which is associated (through mechanisms still undefined) to a shift of microglia towards a more pro-inflammatory profile associated with decreased microglia-derived BDNF release. These alterations of the quad-partite synapse, typified by the altered inter-relations between glial cells and neurons, are associated with an aberrant plasticity, typified by a shift in the stimuli triggering LTD and LTP, which translates into inadequate encoding of information in frontocortical circuits.

initially hampers synaptic plasticity, which then evolves into neuronal loss at advanced phases of depressive disorders.

Depression is also tightly associated with alterations of microglia and inflammation (Yirmiya et al., 2015; **Figure 1**). Thus, depressive patients exhibit increased levels of peripheral inflammatory markers (Raison et al., 2006; Howren et al., 2009); conversely, bolstering inflammation triggers a sickness behavior reminiscent of depression (Dantzer et al., 2008) and patients with inflammatory and autoimmune diseases often experience depression (Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 2015). Indeed, most studies converge to propose that microglia are morphologically altered in frontolimbic regions of depressed patients or suicide completers (Steiner et al., 2008; Schnieder et al., 2014; Torres-Platas et al., 2014; Setiawan et al., 2015). Likewise, repeated stress in rodents also triggers microglia dystrophy (Kreisel et al., 2014; Milior et al., 2015; Ślusarczyk et al., 2015) and the manipulation of microglia function, altering its dynamic (Kreisel et al., 2014) or hampering microglia-neuron communication via the CX3CR1-fractalkine pathway (Corona et al., 2010; Milior et al., 2015), alters stress responsiveness and depressive-like behavior. Furthermore, microglia function is affected by all the signaling systems traditionally associated with depression, namely glucocorticoids (Ros-Bernal et al., 2011), BDNF (Gomes et al., 2013), serotonin (Müller and Schwarz, 2007; Krabbe et al., 2012), noradrenaline or dopamine (Färber et al., 2005). Further highlighting the role of microglia in depression are the observations that antidepressants like ketamine (Walker et al., 2013), fluoxetine (Chung et al., 2011) or citalopram (Su et al., 2015) regulate microglia function and minocycline, an inhibitor of microglia, simultaneously recovers microglia function and emotional impairments (Hinwood et al., 2013). Thus, the available evidence indicates that microglia dysfunction is a core event in depression (**Figure 1**), affecting synaptic plasticity either directly (Paolicelli et al., 2011; Zhan et al., 2014) or indirectly through its ability to control astrocytic function (Pascual et al., 2012).

INTEGRATIVE ROLE OF PURINES IN THE QUAD-PARTITE SYNAPSE TO CONTROL DEPRESSION

In view of the key role of aberrant synaptic plasticity involving neuronal, astrocytic and microglia dysfunction (**Figure 1**), therapeutic strategies to manage depression should ideally target systems dedicated to the control of neuron-glia bidirectional communication. Purines operate one such system through the action of ATP and adenosine (**Figure 2**). ATP is released in a controlled manner from synaptic terminals, astrocytes and microglia and it is a documented signal to control astrogliosis, microglia dynamics and reactivity and synaptic transmission through ionotropic P2X1–7 and metabotropic P2Y1–13 receptors (reviewed in Rodrigues et al., 2015). Adenosine can be formed from the catabolism of extracellular ATP (Augusto et al., 2013) by ectonucleotidases located in synapses (Cunha, 2001) or released as such through bidirectional nucleoside transporters in synapses (Pinto-Duarte et al., 2005). Adenosine mainly activates inhibitory A₁ and facilitatory A_{2A}

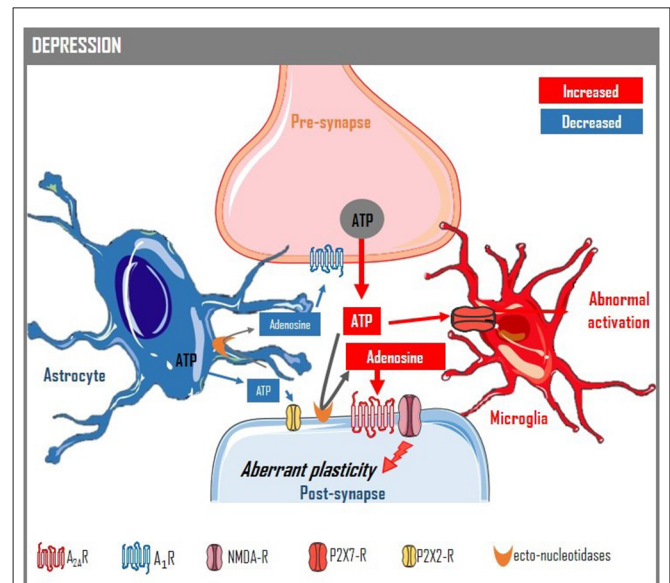


FIGURE 2 | Purine-based control of glia-neuron bidirectional communication in depression. Associated with astrocytic hypofunction in depression, there is a lower release of ATP and adenosine from astrocytes (Cao et al., 2013; Hines et al., 2013). This causes a deficient astrocyte-to-neuron activation of P2X2 (ATP) receptors (Cao et al., 2013) and a deficient activation of inhibitory adenosine A₁ receptors in neurons (Serchov et al., 2015), which density decreases upon chronic stress (Cunha et al., 2006; Kaster et al., 2015). In parallel, there is an increased excitability (increased noise), which bolsters the synaptic release of ATP (Cunha et al., 1996), an up-regulation of synaptic adenosine A_{2A} receptors (Cunha et al., 2006; Batalha et al., 2013; Kaster et al., 2015), which is associated with aberrant plasticity (Li et al., 2015), and an up-regulation of microglia P2X7 receptors, which contributes to microglia hyper-responsiveness upon depression (Stokes et al., 2015). This illustrates the role of the purinergic system in the control of the homeostasis of the quad-partite synapse and shows that maladaptive changes in the purine neuromodulation system occur upon depression that can be exploited therapeutically, such as increasing the release of ATP and adenosine from astrocytes, decreasing the neuronal activation of A_{2A} receptor or bolstering the neuronal activation of A₁ receptors or inhibiting microglia P2X7 receptors.

receptors (Fredholm et al., 2005) that act neuronally to control synaptic transmission and plasticity (Cunha, 2008) and also control astrocytic (van Calker and Biber, 2005; Matos et al., 2013, 2015) and microglia function (Rebola et al., 2011; Luongo et al., 2014; George et al., 2015).

Notably, both ATP and adenosine signaling have been implicated in the control of depressive conditions (**Figure 2**). Thus, a deficient astrocyte-derived ATP release providing an insufficient P2X2 receptor-mediated neuronal tonus was identified in chronically stressed mice (Cao et al., 2013); also, the prevention of excessive P2X7 receptor activation in glial cells ameliorates depressive-like conditions (Stokes et al., 2015) and P2X7 receptor polymorphisms lead to vulnerability to mood disorders (Bennett, 2007). The case for an involvement of adenosine is more robust. Thus, epidemiological studies show an inverse relation between the intake of moderate amounts of caffeine (an adenosine receptor antagonist) and the incidence of depression (Lucas et al., 2011) and suicide

(Lucas et al., 2014). Accordingly, adenosine A_{2A} receptors are up-regulated in animal models of chronic stress and polymorphisms of A_{2A} receptors are associated with emotional disturbances (reviewed in Cunha et al., 2008), their over-expression triggers emotional dysfunction (Coelho et al., 2014) and their blockade prevents chronic stress-induced emotional dysfunction (Kaster et al., 2015). Additionally, there is a hypofunction of neuronal A₁ receptors due to decrease astrocyte-derived adenosine (Hines et al., 2013), which compensation with various antidepressant treatments can revert depressive-like behavior (Etiévant et al., 2015; Serchov et al., 2015).

This compilation of evidences illustrates the relevance of the purinergic signaling in the control of neuron-glia bidirectional communication and its therapeutic potential in the normalization of aberrant synaptic processing in frontolimbic circuits upon depression. Based on the available information,

the most promising strategy is a multi-target approach, based on the increase of astrocytic release of purines (both ATP and adenosine to activate A₁ receptors) coupled to antagonists of P2X7 and of A_{2A} receptors (**Figure 2**).

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

RAC planned and organized the review; all others contributed with valuable suggestions, partial writing and editing of the review.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The research activity was supported by funding from NARSAD, *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (PTDC/NEU-NMC/4154/2014, UID/NEU/04539/2013), COMPETE and FCT-CAPES.

REFERENCES

- Achour, S., and Pascual, O. (2010). Glia: the many ways to modulate synaptic plasticity. *Neurochem. Int.* 57, 440–445. doi: 10.1016/j.neuint.2010.02.013
- Agostinho, P., Cunha, R. A., and Oliveira, C. (2010). Neuroinflammation, oxidative stress and the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. *Curr. Pharm. Des.* 16, 2766–2778. doi: 10.2174/138161210793176572
- Allen, N. J. (2014). Astrocyte regulation of synaptic behavior. *Annu. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol.* 30, 439–463. doi: 10.1146/annurev-cellbio-100913-013053
- Altshuler, L. L., Abulseoud, O. A., Folland-Ross, L., Bartzokis, G., Chang, S., Mintz, J., et al. (2010). Amygdala astrocyte reduction in subjects with major depressive disorder but not bipolar disorder. *Bipolar Disord.* 12, 541–549. doi: 10.1111/j.1399-5618.2010.00838.x
- Araque, A., Carmignoto, G., Haydon, P. G., Oliet, S. H., Robitaille, R., and Volterra, A. (2014). Gliotransmitters travel in time and space. *Neuron* 81, 728–739. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2014.02.007
- Araque, A., Parpura, V., Sanzgiri, R. P., and Haydon, P. G. (1999). Tripartite synapses: glia, the unacknowledged partner. *Trends Neurosci.* 22, 208–215. doi: 10.1016/s0166-2236(98)01349-6
- Arnth-Jensen, N., Jabaudon, D., and Scanziani, M. (2002). Cooperation between independent hippocampal synapses is controlled by glutamate uptake. *Nat. Neurosci.* 5, 325–331. doi: 10.1038/nn825
- Azszely, F., Erdemli, G., and Kullmann, D. M. (1997). Extrasynaptic glutamate spillover in the hippocampus: dependence on temperature and the role of active glutamate uptake. *Neuron* 18, 281–293. doi: 10.1016/s0896-6273(00)80268-8
- Augusto, E., Matos, M., Sévigny, J., El-Tayeb, A., Bynoe, M. S., Müller, C. E., et al. (2013). Ecto-5'-nucleotidase (CD73)-mediated formation of adenosine is critical for the striatal adenosine A_{2A} receptor functions. *J. Neurosci.* 33, 11390–11399. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.5817-12.2013
- Banasr, M., and Duman, R. S. (2008). Glial loss in the prefrontal cortex is sufficient to induce depressive-like behaviors. *Biol. Psychiatry* 64, 863–870. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2008.06.008
- Batalha, V. L., Pego, J. M., Fontinha, B. M., Costenla, A. R., Valadas, J. S., Baqi, Y., et al. (2013). Adenosine A_{2A} receptor blockade reverts hippocampal stress-induced deficits and restores corticosterone circadian oscillation. *Mol. Psychiatry* 18, 320–331. doi: 10.1038/mp.2012.8
- Bechtolt-Gompf, A. J., Walther, H. V., Adams, M. A., Carlezon, W. A., Jr., Ongür, D., and Cohen, B. M. (2010). Blockade of astrocytic glutamate uptake in rats induces signs of anhedonia and impaired spatial memory. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 35, 2049–2059. doi: 10.1038/npp.2010.74
- Bennett, M. R. (2007). Synaptic P2X7 receptor regenerative-loop hypothesis for depression. *Aust. N Z J Psychiatry* 41, 563–571. doi: 10.1080/00048670701399994
- Berman, R. M., Cappiello, A., Anand, A., Oren, D. A., Heninger, G. R., Charney, D. S., et al. (2000). Antidepressant effects of ketamine in depressed patients. *Biol. Psychiatry* 47, 351–354. doi: 10.1016/s0006-3223(99)00230-9
- Berton, O., Hahn, C. G., and Thase, M. E. (2012). Are we getting closer to valid translational models for major depression? *Science* 338, 75–79. doi: 10.1126/science.1222940
- Bezzi, P., Gundersen, V., Galbete, J. L., Seifert, G., Steinhäuser, C., Pilati, E., et al. (2004). Astrocytes contain a vesicular compartment that is competent for regulated exocytosis of glutamate. *Nat. Neurosci.* 7, 613–620. doi: 10.1038/nn1246
- Biber, K., Neumann, H., Inoue, K., and Boddeke, H. W. (2007). Neuronal 'On' and 'Off' signals control microglia. *Trends Neurosci.* 30, 596–602. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2007.08.007
- Bushong, E. A., Martone, M. E., Jones, Y. Z., and Ellisman, M. H. (2002). Protoplasmic astrocytes in CA1 stratum radiatum occupy separate anatomical domains. *J. Neurosci.* 22, 183–192.
- Cao, X., Li, L. P., Wang, Q., Wu, Q., Hu, H. H., Zhang, M., et al. (2013). Astrocyte-derived ATP modulates depressive-like behaviors. *Nat. Med.* 19, 773–777. doi: 10.1038/nm.3162
- Castrén, E. (2014). Neurotrophins and psychiatric disorders. *Handb. Exp. Pharmacol.* 220, 461–479. doi: 10.1007/978-3-642-45106-5_17
- Cherry, J. D., Olschowka, J. A., and O'Banion, M. K. (2014). Are "resting" microglia more "m2"? *Front. Immunol.* 5:594. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2014.00594
- Choudary, P. V., Molnar, M., Evans, S. J., Tomita, H., Li, J. Z., Vawter, M. P., et al. (2005). Altered cortical glutamatergic and GABAergic signal transmission with glial involvement in depression. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 102, 15653–15658. doi: 10.1073/pnas.0507901102
- Chung, Y. C., Kim, S. R., Park, J. Y., Chung, E. S., Park, K. W., Won, S. Y., et al. (2011). Fluoxetine prevents MPTP-induced loss of dopaminergic neurons by inhibiting microglial activation. *Neuropharmacology* 60, 963–974. doi: 10.1016/j.neuropharm.2011.01.043
- Coelho, J. E., Alves, P., Canas, P. M., Valadas, J. S., Schmidt, T., Batalha, V. L., et al. (2014). Overexpression of adenosine A_{2A} receptors in rats: effects on depression, locomotion, and anxiety. *Front. Psychiatry* 5:67. doi: 10.3389/fpsy.2014.00067
- Cornell-Bell, A. H., Finkbeiner, S. M., Cooper, M. S., and Smith, S. J. (1990). Glutamate induces calcium waves in cultured astrocytes: long-range glial signaling. *Science* 247, 470–473. doi: 10.1126/science.1967852
- Corona, A. W., Huang, Y., O'Connor, J. C., Dantzer, R., Kelley, K. W., Popovich, P. G., et al. (2010). Fractalkine receptor (CX3CR1) deficiency sensitizes mice to the behavioral changes induced by lipopolysaccharide. *J. Neuroinflammation* 7:93. doi: 10.1186/1742-2094-7-93
- Coryell, W., and Young, E. A. (2005). Clinical predictors of suicide in primary major depressive disorder. *J. Clin. Psychiatry* 66, 412–417. doi: 10.4088/jcp.v66n0401

- Costello, D. A., Lyons, A., Denieffe, S., Browne, T. C., Cox, F. F., and Lynch, M. A. (2011). Long-term potentiation is impaired in membrane glycoprotein CD200-deficient mice: a role for Toll-like receptor activation. *J. Biol. Chem.* 286, 34722–34732. doi: 10.1074/jbc.M111.280826
- Cotter, D., Mackay, D., Chana, G., Beasley, C., Landau, S., and Everall, I. P. (2002). Reduced neuronal size and glial cell density in area 9 of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex in subjects with major depressive disorder. *Cereb. Cortex* 12, 386–394. doi: 10.1093/cercor/12.4.386
- Cristovão, G., Pinto, M. J., Cunha, R. A., Almeida, R. D., and Gomes, C. A. (2014). Activation of microglia bolsters synapse formation. *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 8:153. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2014.00153
- Crunelli, V., Carmignoto, G., and Steinhäuser, C. (2015). Novel astrocyte targets: new avenues for the therapeutic treatment of epilepsy. *Neuroscientist* 21, 62–83. doi: 10.1177/1073858414523320
- Cunha, R. A. (2001). Regulation of the ecto-nucleotidase pathway in rat hippocampal nerve terminals. *Neurochem. Res.* 26, 979–991. doi: 10.1046/j.1471-4159.2000.0740334.x
- Cunha, R. A. (2008). Different cellular sources and different roles of adenosine: A₁ receptor-mediated inhibition through astrocytic-driven volume transmission and synapse-restricted A_{2A} receptor-mediated facilitation of plasticity. *Neurochem. Int.* 52, 65–72. doi: 10.1016/j.neuint.2007.06.026
- Cunha, G. M., Canas, P. M., Oliveira, C. R., and Cunha, R. A. (2006). Increased density and synapto-protective effect of adenosine A_{2A} receptors upon sub-chronic restraint stress. *Neuroscience* 141, 1775–1781. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2006.05.024
- Cunha, R. A., Ferré, S., Vaugeois, J. M., and Chen, J. F. (2008). Potential therapeutic interest of adenosine A_{2A} receptors in psychiatric disorders. *Curr. Pharm. Des.* 14, 1512–1524. doi: 10.2174/138161208784480090
- Cunha, R. A., Vizi, E. S., Ribeiro, J. A., and Sebastião, A. M. (1996). Preferential release of ATP and its extracellular catabolism as a source of adenosine upon high- but not low-frequency stimulation of rat hippocampal slices. *J. Neurochem.* 67, 2180–2187. doi: 10.1046/j.1471-4159.1996.67052180.x
- Czéh, B., Simon, M., Schmelting, B., Hiemke, C., and Fuchs, E. (2006). Astroglial plasticity in the hippocampus is affected by chronic psychosocial stress and concomitant fluoxetine treatment. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 31, 1616–1626. doi: 10.1038/sj.npp.1300982
- Dantzer, R., O'Connor, J. C., Freund, G. G., Johnson, R. W., and Kelley, K. W. (2008). From inflammation to sickness and depression: when the immune system subjugates the brain. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* 9, 46–56. doi: 10.1038/nrn2297
- Decrock, E., De Bock, M., Wang, N., Bultynck, G., Giaume, C., Naus, C. C., et al. (2015). Connexin and pannexin signaling pathways, an architectural blueprint for CNS physiology and pathology? *Cell. Mol. Life Sci.* 72, 2823–2851. doi: 10.1007/s00018-015-1962-7
- de Kloet, E. R., Joëls, M., and Holsboer, F. (2005). Stress and the brain: from adaptation to disease. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* 6, 463–475. doi: 10.1038/nrn1683
- Diamond, J. S. (2001). Neuronal glutamate transporters limit activation of NMDA receptors by neurotransmitter spillover on CA1 pyramidal cells. *J. Neurosci.* 21, 8328–8338.
- Duman, R. S., and Aghajanian, G. K. (2012). Synaptic dysfunction in depression: potential therapeutic targets. *Science* 338, 68–72. doi: 10.1126/science.1222939
- Duric, V., Banasr, M., Stockmeier, C. A., Simen, A. A., Newton, S. S., Overholser, J. C., et al. (2013). Altered expression of synapse and glutamate related genes in post-mortem hippocampus of depressed subjects. *Int. J. Neuropsychopharmacol.* 16, 69–82. doi: 10.1017/S1461145712000016
- Ernst, C., Nagy, C., Kim, S., Yang, J. P., Deng, X., Hellstrom, I. C., et al. (2011). Dysfunction of astrocyte connexins 30 and 43 in dorsal lateral prefrontal cortex of suicide completers. *Biol. Psychiatry* 70, 312–319. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2011.03.038
- Etiévant, A., Oosterhof, C., Bétry, C., Abrial, E., Novo-Perez, M., Rovera, R., et al. (2015). Astroglial control of the antidepressant-like effects of prefrontal cortex deep brain stimulation. *EBioMedicine* 2, 896–906. doi: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2015.06.023
- Färber, K., Pannasch, U., and Kettenmann, H. (2005). Dopamine and noradrenaline control distinct functions in rodent microglial cells. *Mol. Cell. Neurosci.* 29, 128–138. doi: 10.1016/j.mcn.2005.01.003
- Fellin, T., Pascual, O., Gobbo, S., Pozzan, T., Haydon, P. G., and Carmignoto, G. (2004). Neuronal synchrony mediated by astrocytic glutamate through activation of extrasynaptic NMDA receptors. *Neuron* 43, 729–743. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2004.08.011
- Ferrari, A. J., Charlson, F. J., Norman, R. E., Patten, S. B., Freedman, G., Murray, C. J., et al. (2013). Burden of depressive disorders by country, sex, age, and year: findings from the global burden of disease study 2010. *PLoS Med.* 10:e1001547. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001547
- Feyissa, A. M., Chandran, A., Stockmeier, C. A., and Karolewicz, B. (2009). Reduced levels of NR2A and NR2B subunits of NMDA receptor and PSD-95 in the prefrontal cortex in major depression. *Prog. Neuropsychopharmacol. Biol. Psychiatry* 33, 70–75. doi: 10.1016/j.pnpbp.2008.10.005
- Figley, C. R., and Stroman, P. W. (2011). The role(s) of astrocytes and astrocyte activity in neurometabolism, neurovascular coupling, and the production of functional neuroimaging signals. *Eur. J. Neurosci.* 33, 577–588. doi: 10.1111/j.1460-9568.2010.07584.x
- Fontainhas, A. M., Wang, M., Liang, K. J., Chen, S., Mettu, P., Damani, M., et al. (2011). Microglial morphology and dynamic behavior is regulated by ionotropic glutamatergic and GABAergic neurotransmission. *PLoS One* 6:e15973. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0015973
- Fredholm, B. B., Chen, J. F., Cunha, R. A., Svenningsson, P., and Vaugeois, J. M. (2005). Adenosine and brain function. *Int. Rev. Neurobiol.* 63, 191–270. doi: 10.1016/S0074-7742(05)63007-3
- Genoud, C., Quairiaux, C., Steiner, P., Hirling, H., Welker, E., and Knott, G. W. (2006). Plasticity of astrocytic coverage and glutamate transporter expression in adult mouse cortex. *PLoS Biol.* 4:e343. doi: 10.1371/journal.pbio.0040343
- George, J., Gonçalves, F. Q., Cristovão, G., Rodrigues, L., Meyer Fernandes, J. R., Gonçalves, T., et al. (2015). Different danger signals differently impact on microglial proliferation through alterations of ATP release and extracellular metabolism. *Glia* 63, 1636–1645. doi: 10.1002/glia.22833
- Gilbert-Juan, J., Varea, E., Guirado, R., Blasco-Ibáñez, J. M., Crespo, C., and Nacher, J. (2012). Alterations in the expression of PSA-NCAM and synaptic proteins in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex of psychiatric disorder patients. *Neurosci. Lett.* 530, 97–102. doi: 10.1016/j.neulet.2012.09.032
- Gittins, R. A., and Harrison, P. J. (2011). A morphometric study of glia and neurons in the anterior cingulate cortex in mood disorder. *J. Affect. Disord.* 133, 328–332. doi: 10.1016/j.jad.2011.03.042
- Gomes, C., Ferreira, R., George, J., Sanches, R., Rodrigues, D. I., Gonçalves, N., et al. (2013). Activation of microglial cells triggers a release of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) inducing their proliferation in an adenosine A_{2A} receptor-dependent manner: A_{2A} receptor blockade prevents BDNF release and proliferation of microglia. *J. Neuroinflammation* 10:16. doi: 10.1186/1742-2094-10-16
- Grabe, H. J., Ahrens, N., Rose, H. J., Kessler, C., and Freyberger, H. J. (2001). Neurotrophic factor S100 beta in major depression. *Neuropsychobiology* 44, 88–90. doi: 10.1159/000054922
- Gray, J. D., Milner, T. A., and McEwen, B. S. (2013). Dynamic plasticity: the role of glucocorticoids, brain-derived neurotrophic factor and other trophic factors. *Neuroscience* 239, 214–227. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2012.08.034
- Gyekis, J. P., Yu, W., Dong, S., Wang, H., Qian, J., Kota, P., et al. (2013). No association of genetic variants in BDNF with major depression: a meta- and gene-based analysis. *Am. J. Med. Genet. B Neuropsychiatr. Genet.* 162B, 61–70. doi: 10.1002/ajmg.b.32122
- Haber, M., Zhou, L., and Murai, K. K. (2006). Cooperative astrocyte and dendritic spine dynamics at hippocampal excitatory synapses. *J. Neurosci.* 26, 8881–8891. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.1302-06.2006
- Halassa, M. M., Fellin, T., and Haydon, P. G. (2007). The tripartite synapse: roles for gliotransmission in health and disease. *Trends Mol. Med.* 13, 54–63. doi: 10.1016/j.molmed.2006.12.005
- Halassa, M. M., Florian, C., Fellin, T., Munoz, J. R., Lee, S. Y., Abel, T., et al. (2009). Astrocytic modulation of sleep homeostasis and cognitive consequences of sleep loss. *Neuron* 61, 213–219. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2008.11.024
- Hanisch, U. K., and Kettenmann, H. (2007). Microglia: active sensor and versatile effector cells in the normal and pathologic brain. *Nat. Neurosci.* 10, 1387–1394. doi: 10.1038/nrn1997
- Haydon, P. G., and Carmignoto, G. (2006). Astrocyte control of synaptic transmission and neurovascular coupling. *Physiol. Rev.* 86, 1009–1031. doi: 10.1152/physrev.00049.2005

- Henneberger, C., Papouin, T., Oliet, S. H., and Rusakov, D. A. (2010). Long-term potentiation depends on release of D-serine from astrocytes. *Nature* 463, 232–236. doi: 10.1038/nature08673
- Hertz, L., Rothman, D. L., Li, B., and Peng, L. (2015). Chronic SSRI stimulation of astrocytic 5-HT_{2B} receptors change multiple gene expressions/editings and metabolism of glutamate, glucose and glycogen: a potential paradigm shift. *Front. Behav. Neurosci.* 9:25. doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2015.00025
- Hines, D. J., Schmitt, L. I., Hines, R. M., Moss, S. J., and Haydon, P. G. (2013). Antidepressant effects of sleep deprivation require astrocyte-dependent adenosine mediated signaling. *Transl. Psychiatry* 3:e212. doi: 10.1038/tp.2012.136
- Hinwood, M., Tynan, R. J., Charnley, J. L., Beynon, S. B., Day, T. A., and Walker, F. R. (2013). Chronic stress induced remodeling of the prefrontal cortex: structural re-organization of microglia and the inhibitory effect of minocycline. *Cereb. Cortex* 23, 1784–1797. doi: 10.1093/cercor/bhs151
- Hoshiko, M., Arnoux, I., Avignone, E., Yamamoto, N., and Audinat, E. (2012). Deficiency of the microglial receptor CX3CR1 impairs postnatal functional development of thalamocortical synapses in the barrel cortex. *J. Neurosci.* 32, 15106–15111. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1167-12.2012
- Howren, M. B., Lamkin, D. M., and Suls, J. (2009). Associations of depression with C-reactive protein, IL-1 and IL-6: a meta-analysis. *Psychosom. Med.* 71, 171–186. doi: 10.1097/PSY.0b013e3181907c1b
- Iwata, M., Shirayama, Y., Ishida, H., Hazama, G. I., and Nakagome, K. (2011). Hippocampal astrocytes are necessary for antidepressant treatment of learned helplessness rats. *Hippocampus* 21, 877–884. doi: 10.1002/hipo.20803
- Ji, K., Akgul, G., Wollmuth, L. P., and Tsirka, S. E. (2013). Microglia actively regulate the number of functional synapses. *PLoS One* 8:e56293. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0056293
- John, C. S., Smith, K. L., Van't Veer, A., Gompf, H. S., Carlezon, W. A., Jr., Cohen, B. M., et al. (2012). Blockade of astrocytic glutamate uptake in the prefrontal cortex induces anhedonia. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 37, 2467–2475. doi: 10.1038/npp.2012.105
- Jourdain, P., Bergersen, L. H., Bhaukaurally, K., Bezzi, P., Santello, M., Domercq, M., et al. (2007). Glutamate exocytosis from astrocytes controls synaptic strength. *Nat. Neurosci.* 10, 331–339. doi: 10.1038/nn1849
- Kang, H. J., Voleti, B., Hajsjan, T., Rajkowska, G., Stockmeier, C. A., Licznarski, P., et al. (2012). Decreased expression of synapse-related genes and loss of synapses in major depressive disorder. *Nat. Med.* 18, 1413–1417. doi: 10.1038/nm.2886
- Kaster, M. P., Machado, N. J., Silva, H. B., Nunes, A., Ardais, A. P., Santana, M., et al. (2015). Caffeine acts through neuronal adenosine A_{2A} receptors to prevent mood and memory dysfunction triggered by chronic stress. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 112, 7833–7838. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1423088112
- Kessler, R. C., Berglund, P., Demler, O., Jin, R., Koretz, D., Merikangas, K. R., et al. (2003). The epidemiology of major depressive disorder: results from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication (NCS-R). *JAMA* 289, 3095–3105. doi: 10.1001/jama.289.23.3095
- Kettenmann, H., Hanisch, U. K., Noda, M., and Verkhratsky, A. (2011). Physiology of microglia. *Physiol. Rev.* 91, 461–553. doi: 10.1152/physrev.00011.2010
- Kettenmann, H., Kirchhoff, F., and Verkhratsky, A. (2013). Microglia: new roles for the synaptic stripper. *Neuron* 77, 10–18. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2012.12.023
- Kiecolt-Glaser, J. K., Derry, H. M., and Fagundes, C. P. (2015). Inflammation: depression fans the flames and feasts on the heat. *Am. J. Psychiatry* 172, 1075–1091. doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.2015.15020152
- Koizumi, S., Fujishita, K., Tsuda, M., Shigemoto-Mogami, Y., and Inoue, K. (2003). Dynamic inhibition of excitatory synaptic transmission by astrocyte-derived ATP in hippocampal cultures. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 100, 11023–11028. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1834448100
- Kong, H., Sha, L. L., Fan, Y., Xiao, M., Ding, J. H., Wu, J., et al. (2009). Requirement of AQP4 for antidepressive efficiency of fluoxetine: implication in adult hippocampal neurogenesis. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 34, 1263–1276. doi: 10.1038/npp.2008.185
- Kong, H., Zeng, X. N., Fan, Y., Yuan, S. T., Ge, S., Xie, W. P., et al. (2014). Aquaporin-4 knockout exacerbates corticosterone-induced depression by inhibiting astrocyte function and hippocampal neurogenesis. *CNS Neurosci. Ther.* 20, 391–402. doi: 10.1111/cns.12222
- Krabbe, G., Matyash, V., Pannasch, U., Mamer, L., Boddeke, H. W., and Kettenmann, H. (2012). Activation of serotonin receptors promotes microglial injury-induced motility but attenuates phagocytic activity. *Brain Behav. Immun.* 26, 419–428. doi: 10.1016/j.jbbi.2011.12.002
- Kreisel, T., Frank, M. G., Licht, T., Reshef, R., Ben-Menachem-Zidon, O., Baratta, M. V., et al. (2014). Dynamic microglial alterations underlie stress-induced depressive-like behavior and suppressed neurogenesis. *Mol. Psychiatry* 19, 699–709. doi: 10.1038/mp.2013.155
- Krishnan, V., and Nestler, E. J. (2008). The molecular neurobiology of depression. *Nature* 455, 894–902. doi: 10.1038/nature07455
- Lesch, K. P., and Waider, J. (2012). Serotonin in the modulation of neural plasticity and networks: implications for neurodevelopmental disorders. *Neuron* 76, 175–191. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2012.09.013
- Li, N., Lee, B., Liu, R. J., Banasr, M., Dwyer, J. M., Iwata, M., et al. (2010). mTOR-dependent synapse formation underlies the rapid antidepressant effects of NMDA antagonists. *Science* 329, 959–964. doi: 10.1126/science.1190287
- Li, N., Liu, R. J., Dwyer, J. M., Banasr, M., Lee, B., Son, H., et al. (2011). Glutamate N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonists rapidly reverse behavioral and synaptic deficits caused by chronic stress exposure. *Biol. Psychiatry* 69, 754–761. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2010.12.015
- Li, P., Rial, D., Canas, P. M., Yoo, J. H., Li, W., Zhou, X., et al. (2015). Optogenetic activation of intracellular adenosine A_{2A} receptor signaling in the hippocampus is sufficient to trigger CREB phosphorylation and impair memory. *Mol. Psychiatry* 20, 1339–1349. doi: 10.1038/mp.2014.182
- Lima, A., Sardinha, V. M., Oliveira, A. F., Reis, M., Mota, C., Silva, M. A., et al. (2014). Astrocyte pathology in the prefrontal cortex impairs the cognitive function of rats. *Mol. Psychiatry* 19, 834–841. doi: 10.1038/mp.2013.182
- Liu, W. X., Wang, J., Xie, Z. M., Xu, N., Zhang, G. F., Jia, M., et al. (2015). Regulation of glutamate transporter 1 via BDNF-TrkB signaling plays a role in the anti-apoptotic and antidepressant effects of ketamine in chronic unpredictable stress model of depression. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)* doi: 10.1007/s00213-015-4128-2 [Epub ahead of print].
- Lucas, M., Mirzaei, F., Pan, A., Okereke, O. I., Willett, W. C., O'Reilly, É. J., et al. (2011). Coffee, caffeine and risk of depression among women. *Arch. Intern. Med.* 171, 1571–1578. doi: 10.1001/archinternmed.2011.427
- Lucas, M., O'Reilly, É. J., Pan, A., Mirzaei, F., Willett, W. C., Okereke, O. I., et al. (2014). Coffee, caffeine and risk of completed suicide: results from three prospective cohorts of American adults. *World J. Biol. Psychiatry* 15, 377–386. doi: 10.3109/15622975.2013.795243
- Luongo, L., Guida, F., Imperatore, R., Napolitano, F., Gatta, L., Cristino, L., et al. (2014). The A₁ adenosine receptor as a new player in microglia physiology. *Glia* 62, 122–132. doi: 10.1002/glia.22592
- Lynch, M. A. (2009). The multifaceted profile of activated microglia. *Mol. Neurobiol.* 40, 139–156. doi: 10.1007/s12035-009-8077-9
- Machado-Vieira, R., Manji, H. K., and Zarate, C. A. (2009). The role of the tripartite glutamatergic synapse in the pathophysiology and therapeutics of mood disorders. *Neuroscientist* 15, 525–539. doi: 10.1177/1073858409336093
- Madrigal, J. L., Leza, J. C., Polak, P., Kalinin, S., and Feinstein, D. L. (2009). Astrocyte-derived MCP-1 mediates neuroprotective effects of noradrenaline. *J. Neurosci.* 29, 263–267. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.4926-08.2009
- Magariños, A. M., Verdugo, J. M., and McEwen, B. S. (1997). Chronic stress alters synaptic terminal structure in hippocampus. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 94, 14002–14008. doi: 10.1073/pnas.94.25.14002
- Magistretti, P. J., Pellerin, L., Rothman, D. L., and Shulman, R. G. (1999). Energy on demand. *Science* 283, 496–497. doi: 10.1126/science.283.5401.496
- Marzo, A., Bai, J., and Otani, S. (2009). Neuroplasticity regulation by noradrenaline in mammalian brain. *Curr. Neuropharmacol.* 7, 286–295. doi: 10.2174/157015909790031193
- Matos, M., Augusto, E., Agostinho, P., Cunha, R. A., and Chen, J. F. (2013). Antagonistic interaction between adenosine A_{2A} receptors and Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase- α 2 controlling glutamate uptake in astrocytes. *J. Neurosci.* 33, 18492–18502. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1828-13.2013
- Matos, M., Shen, H. Y., Augusto, E., Wang, Y., Wei, C. J., Wang, Y. T., et al. (2015). Deletion of adenosine A_{2A} receptors from astrocytes disrupts glutamate homeostasis leading to psychomotor and cognitive impairment: relevance to schizophrenia. *Biol. Psychiatry* 78, 763–774. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2015.02.026
- McEwen, B. S., Eiland, L., Hunter, R. G., and Miller, M. M. (2012). Stress and anxiety: structural plasticity and epigenetic regulation as a consequence of stress. *Neuropharmacology* 62, 3–12. doi: 10.1016/j.neuropharm.2011.07.014

- Medina, A., Watson, S. J., Bunney, W., Jr., Myers, R. M., Schatzberg, A., Barchas, J., et al. (2015). Evidence for alterations of the glial syncytial function in major depressive disorder. *J. Psychiatr. Res.* 72, 15–21. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2015.10.010
- Meyer, R. M., Burgos-Robles, A., Liu, E., Correia, S. S., and Goosens, K. A. (2014). A ghrelin-growth hormone axis drives stress-induced vulnerability to enhanced fear. *Mol. Psychiatry* 19, 1284–1294. doi: 10.1038/mp.2013.135
- Miguel-Hidalgo, J. J., Baucom, C., Dilley, G., Overholser, J. C., Meltzer, H. Y., Stockmeier, C. A., et al. (2000). Glial fibrillary acidic protein immunoreactivity in the prefrontal cortex distinguishes younger from older adults in major depressive disorder. *Biol. Psychiatry* 48, 861–873. doi: 10.1016/s0006-3223(00)00999-9
- Miguel-Hidalgo, J. J., Waltzer, R., Whittom, A. A., Austin, M. C., Rajkowska, G., and Stockmeier, C. A. (2010). Glial and glutamatergic markers in depression, alcoholism and their comorbidity. *J. Affect. Disord.* 127, 230–240. doi: 10.1016/j.jad.2010.06.003
- Miguel-Hidalgo, J. J., Wilson, B. A., Hussain, S., Meshram, A., Rajkowska, G., and Stockmeier, C. A. (2014). Reduced connexin 43 immunolabeling in the orbitofrontal cortex in alcohol dependence and depression. *J. Psychiatr. Res.* 55, 101–109. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2014.04.007
- Milior, G., Lecours, C., Samson, L., Bisht, K., Poggini, S., Pagani, F., et al. (2015). Fractalkine receptor deficiency impairs microglial and neuronal responsiveness to chronic stress. *Brain Behav. Immun.* doi: 10.1016/j.bbi.2015.07.024 [Epub ahead of print].
- Müller, N., and Schwarz, M. J. (2007). The immune-mediated alteration of serotonin and glutamate: towards an integrated view of depression. *Mol. Psychiatry* 12, 988–1000. doi: 10.1038/sj.mp.4002006
- Murphy-Royal, C., Dupuis, J. P., Varela, J. A., Panatier, A., Pinson, B., Baufreron, J., et al. (2015). Surface diffusion of astrocytic glutamate transporters shapes synaptic transmission. *Nat. Neurosci.* 18, 219–226. doi: 10.1038/nn.3901
- Nagy, C., Suderman, M., Yang, J., Szyf, M., Mechawar, N., Ernst, C., et al. (2015). Astrocytic abnormalities and global DNA methylation patterns in depression and suicide. *Mol. Psychiatry* 20, 320–328. doi: 10.1038/mp.2014.21
- Nedergaard, M. (1994). Direct signaling from astrocytes to neurons in cultures of mammalian brain cells. *Science* 263, 1768–1771. doi: 10.1126/science.8134839
- Newman, E. A. (2003). Glial cell inhibition of neurons by release of ATP. *J. Neurosci.* 23, 1659–1666.
- Oberheim, N. A., Wang, X., Goldman, S., and Nedergaard, M. (2006). Astrocytic complexity distinguishes the human brain. *Trends Neurosci.* 29, 547–553. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2006.08.004
- Ogata, K., and Kosaka, T. (2002). Structural and quantitative analysis of astrocytes in the mouse hippocampus. *Neuroscience* 113, 221–233. doi: 10.1016/s0306-4522(02)00041-6
- Oliveira, J. F., Sardinha, V. M., Guerra-Gomes, S., Araque, A., and Sousa, N. (2015). Do stars govern our actions? Astrocyte involvement in rodent behavior. *Trends Neurosci.* 38, 535–549. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2015.07.006
- Omrani, A., Melone, M., Bellesi, M., Safulina, V., Aida, T., Tanaka, K., et al. (2009). Up-regulation of GLT-1 severely impairs LTD at mossy fibre-CA3 synapses. *J. Physiol. Lond.* 587, 4575–4588. doi: 10.1113/jphysiol.2009.177881
- Ongür, D., Drevets, W. C., and Price, J. L. (1998). Glial reduction in the subgenual prefrontal cortex in mood disorders. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 95, 13290–13295. doi: 10.1073/pnas.95.22.13290
- Panatier, A., Theodosis, D. T., Mothet, J. P., Touquet, B., Pollegioni, L., Poulain, D. A., et al. (2006). Glia-derived D-serine controls NMDA receptor activity and synaptic memory. *Cell* 125, 775–784. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2006.02.051
- Pangrsic, T., Potokar, M., Stenovec, M., Kreft, M., Fabbretti, E., Nistri, A., et al. (2007). Exocytotic release of ATP from cultured astrocytes. *J. Biol. Chem.* 282, 28749–28758. doi: 10.1074/jbc.m700290200
- Pankratov, Y., and Lalo, U. (2015). Role for astroglial α 1-adrenoreceptors in gliotransmission and control of synaptic plasticity in the neocortex. *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 9:230. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2015.00230
- Paolicelli, R. C., Bolasco, G., Pagani, F., Maggi, L., Scianni, M., Panzanelli, P., et al. (2011). Synaptic pruning by microglia is necessary for normal brain development. *Science* 333, 1456–1458. doi: 10.1126/science.1202529
- Parkhurst, C. N., Yang, G., Ninan, I., Savas, J. N., Yates, J. R., III, Lafaille, J. J., et al. (2013). Microglia promote learning-dependent synapse formation through brain-derived neurotrophic factor. *Cell* 155, 1596–1609. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2013.11.030
- Parpura, V., Basarsky, T. A., Liu, F., Jęftinija, K., Jęftinija, S., and Haydon, P. G. (1994). Glutamate-mediated astrocyte-neuron signalling. *Nature* 369, 744–747. doi: 10.1038/369744a0
- Pascual, O., Ben Achour, S., Rostaing, P., Triller, A., and Bessis, A. (2012). Microglia activation triggers astrocyte-mediated modulation of excitatory neurotransmission. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 109, 197–205. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1111098109
- Pascual, O., Casper, K. B., Kubera, C., Zhang, J., Revilla-Sanchez, R., Sul, J. Y., et al. (2005). Astrocytic purinergic signaling coordinates synaptic networks. *Science* 310, 113–116. doi: 10.1126/science.1116916
- Pellerin, L., Bouzier-Sore, A. K., Aubert, A., Serres, S., Merle, M., Costalat, R., et al. (2007). Activity-dependent regulation of energy metabolism by astrocytes: an update. *Glia* 55, 1251–1262. doi: 10.1002/glia.20528
- Peng, L., Verkhratsky, A., Gu, L., and Li, B. (2015). Targeting astrocytes in major depression. *Expert. Rev. Neurother.* 15, 1299–1306. doi: 10.1586/14737175.2015.1095094
- Perea, G., and Araque, A. (2007). Astrocytes potentiate transmitter release at single hippocampal synapses. *Science* 317, 1083–1086. doi: 10.1126/science.1144640
- Perea, G., Yang, A., Boyden, E. S., and Sur, M. (2014). Optogenetic astrocyte activation modulates response selectivity of visual cortex neurons *in vivo*. *Nat. Commun.* 5:3262. doi: 10.1038/ncomms4262
- Perry, V. H., and Gordon, S. (1988). Macrophages and microglia in the nervous system. *Trends Neurosci.* 11, 273–277. doi: 10.1016/0166-2236(88)90110-5
- Petzold, G. C., Albeanu, D. F., Sato, T. F., and Murthy, V. N. (2008). Coupling of neural activity to blood flow in olfactory glomeruli is mediated by astrocytic pathways. *Neuron* 58, 897–910. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2008.04.029
- Pilc, A., Wierońska, J. M., and Skolnick, P. (2013). Glutamate-based antidepressants: preclinical psychopharmacology. *Biol. Psychiatry* 73, 1125–1132. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2013.01.021
- Pinto-Duarte, A., Coelho, J. E., Cunha, R. A., Ribeiro, J. A., and Sebastião, A. M. (2005). Adenosine A_{2A} receptors control the extracellular levels of adenosine through modulation of nucleoside transporters activity in the rat hippocampus. *J. Neurochem.* 93, 595–604. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-4159.2005.03071.x
- Pocock, J. M., and Kettenmann, H. (2007). Neurotransmitter receptors on microglia. *Trends Neurosci.* 30, 527–535. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2007.07.007
- Radley, J. J., Rocher, A. B., Miller, M., Janssen, W. G., Liston, C., Hof, P. R., et al. (2006). Repeated stress induces dendritic spine loss in the rat medial prefrontal cortex. *Cereb. Cortex* 16, 313–320. doi: 10.1093/cercor/bhl104
- Raison, C. L., Capuron, L., and Miller, A. H. (2006). Cytokines sing the blues: inflammation and the pathogenesis of depression. *Trends Immunol.* 27, 24–31. doi: 10.1016/j.it.2005.11.006
- Raivich, G. (2005). Like cops on the beat: the active role of resting microglia. *Trends Neurosci.* 28, 571–573. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2005.09.001
- Rajkowska, G., Hughes, J., Stockmeier, C. A., Javier Miguel-Hidalgo, J., and Maciag, D. (2013). Coverage of blood vessels by astrocytic endfeet is reduced in major depressive disorder. *Biol. Psychiatry* 73, 613–621. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2012.09.024
- Rajkowska, G., Miguel-Hidalgo, J. J., Wei, J., Dilley, G., Pittman, S. D., Meltzer, H. Y., et al. (1999). Morphometric evidence for neuronal and glial prefrontal cell pathology in major depression. *Biol. Psychiatry* 45, 1085–1098. doi: 10.1016/s0006-3223(99)00041-4
- Rajkowska, G., and Stockmeier, C. A. (2013). Astrocyte pathology in major depressive disorder: insights from human postmortem brain tissue. *Curr. Drug Targets* 14, 1225–1236. doi: 10.2174/13894501113149990156
- Rebola, N., Simões, A. P., Canas, P. M., Tomé, A. R., Andrade, G. M., Barry, C. E., et al. (2011). Adenosine A_{2A} receptors control neuroinflammation and consequent hippocampal neuronal dysfunction. *J. Neurochem.* 117, 100–111. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-4159.2011.07178.x
- Rodrigues, R. J., Tomé, A. R., and Cunha, R. A. (2015). ATP as a multi-target danger signal in the brain. *Front. Neurosci.* 9:148. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2015.00148
- Ros-Bernal, F., Hunot, S., Herrero, M. T., Parnadeau, S., Corvol, J. C., Lu, L., et al. (2011). Microglial glucocorticoid receptors play a pivotal role in regulating dopaminergic neurodegeneration in parkinsonism. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 108, 6632–6637. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1017820108
- Rose, C. F., Verkhratsky, A., and Parpura, V. (2013). Astrocyte glutamine synthetase: pivotal in health and disease. *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* 41, 1518–1524. doi: 10.1042/BST20130237

- Rouach, N., Koulakoff, A., Abudara, V., Willecke, K., and Giaume, C. (2008). Astroglial metabolic networks sustain hippocampal synaptic transmission. *Science* 322, 1551–1555. doi: 10.1126/science.1164022
- Roumier, A., Béchade, C., Poncer, J. C., Smalla, K. H., Tomasello, E., Vivier, E., et al. (2004). Impaired synaptic function in the microglial KARAP/DAP12-deficient mouse. *J. Neurosci.* 24, 11421–11428. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.2251-04.2004
- Sanacora, G., and Banasr, M. (2013). From pathophysiology to novel antidepressant drugs: glial contributions to the pathology and treatment of mood disorders. *Biol. Psychiatry* 73, 1172–1179. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2013.03.032
- Schafer, D. P., Lehrman, E. K., Kautzman, A. G., Koyama, R., Mardinly, A. R., Yamasaki, R., et al. (2012). Microglia sculpt postnatal neural circuits in an activity and complement-dependent manner. *Neuron* 74, 691–705. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2012.03.026
- Schafer, D. P., Lehrman, E. K., and Stevens, B. (2013). The “quad-partite” synapse: microglia-synapse interactions in the developing and mature CNS. *Glia* 61, 24–36. doi: 10.1002/glia.22389
- Shipke, C. G., Heuser, L., and Peters, O. (2011). Antidepressants act on glial cells: SSRIs and serotonin elicit astrocyte calcium signaling in the mouse prefrontal cortex. *J. Psychiatr. Res.* 45, 242–248. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2010.06.005
- Schlicht, K., Büttner, A., Siedler, F., Scheffer, B., Zill, P., Eisenmenger, W., et al. (2007). Comparative proteomic analysis with postmortem prefrontal cortex tissues of suicide victims versus controls. *J. Psychiatr. Res.* 41, 493–501. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2006.04.006
- Schnieder, T. P., Trencsevska, I., Rosoklija, G., Stankov, A., Mann, J. J., Smiley, J., et al. (2014). Microglia of prefrontal white matter in suicide. *J. Neuropathol. Exp. Neurol.* 73, 880–890. doi: 10.1097/NEN.0000000000000107
- Schroeter, M. L., Abdul-Khaliq, H., Krebs, M., Diefenbacher, A., and Blasig, I. E. (2008). Serum markers support disease-specific glial pathology in major depression. *J. Affect. Disord.* 111, 271–280. doi: 10.1016/j.jad.2008.03.005
- Scianni, M., Antonilli, L., Chece, G., Cristalli, G., Di Castro, M. A., Limatola, C., et al. (2013). Fractalkine (CX3CL1) enhances hippocampal N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAR) function via D-serine and adenosine receptor type A2 (A2AR) activity. *J. Neuroinflammation* 10:108. doi: 10.1186/1742-2094-10-108
- Sequeira, A., Mamdani, F., Ernst, C., Vawter, M. P., Bunney, W. E., Lebel, V., et al. (2009). Global brain gene expression analysis links glutamatergic and GABAergic alterations to suicide and major depression. *PLoS One* 4:e6585. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0006585
- Serchov, T., Clement, H. W., Schwarz, M. K., Iasevoli, F., Tosh, D. K., Idzko, M., et al. (2015). Increased signaling via adenosine A1 receptors, sleep deprivation, imipramine and ketamine inhibit depressive-like behavior via induction of homer1a. *Neuron* 87, 549–562. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2015.07.010
- Serrano, A., Haddjeri, N., Lacaille, J. C., and Robitaille, R. (2006). GABAergic network activation of glial cells underlies hippocampal heterosynaptic depression. *J. Neurosci.* 26, 5370–5382. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.5255-05.2006
- Setiawan, E., Wilson, A. A., Mizrahi, R., Rusjan, P. M., Miler, L., Rajkowska, G., et al. (2015). Role of translocator protein density, a marker of neuroinflammation, in the brain during major depressive episodes. *JAMA Psychiatry* 72, 268–275. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2014.2427
- Shao, W., Zhang, S. Z., Tang, M., Zhang, X. H., Zhou, Z., Yin, Y. Q., et al. (2013). Suppression of neuroinflammation by astrocytic dopamine D2 receptors via α B-crystallin. *Nature* 494, 90–94. doi: 10.1038/nature11748
- Si, X., Miguel-Hidalgo, J. J., O'Dwyer, G., Stockmeier, C. A., and Rajkowska, G. (2004). Age-dependent reductions in the level of glial fibrillary acidic protein in the prefrontal cortex in major depression. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 29, 2088–2096. doi: 10.1038/sj.npp.1300525
- Ślusarczyk, J., Trojan, E., Glombik, K., Budziszewska, B., Kubera, M., Lasoń, W., et al. (2015). Prenatal stress is a vulnerability factor for altered morphology and biological activity of microglia cells. *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 9:82. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2015.00082
- Sousa, N., Cerqueira, J. J., and Almeida, O. F. (2008). Corticosteroid receptors and neuroplasticity. *Brain Res. Rev.* 57, 561–570. doi: 10.1016/j.brainresrev.2007.06.007
- Sousa, N., Lukoyanov, N. V., Madeira, M. D., Almeida, O. F., and Paula-Barbosa, M. M. (2000). Reorganization of the morphology of hippocampal neurites and synapses after stress-induced damage correlates with behavioral improvement. *Neuroscience* 97, 253–266. doi: 10.1016/s0306-4522(00)00050-6
- Steiner, J., Bielau, H., Brisch, R., Danos, P., Ullrich, O., Mawrin, C., et al. (2008). Immunological aspects in the neurobiology of suicide: elevated microglial density in schizophrenia and depression is associated with suicide. *J. Psychiatr. Res.* 42, 151–157. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2006.10.013
- Stockmeier, C. A., Mahajan, G. J., Konick, L. C., Overholser, J. C., Jurjus, G. J., Meltzer, H. Y., et al. (2004). Cellular changes in the postmortem hippocampus in major depression. *Biol. Psychiatry* 56, 640–650. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2004.08.022
- Stokes, L., Spencer, S. J., and Jenkins, T. A. (2015). Understanding the role of P2X7 in affective disorders—are glial cells the major players? *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 9:258. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2015.00258
- Su, F., Yi, H., Xu, L., and Zhang, Z. (2015). Fluoxetine and S-citalopram inhibit M1 activation and promote M2 activation of microglia *in vitro*. *Neuroscience* 294, 60–68. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2015.02.028
- Sun, J. D., Liu, Y., Yuan, Y. H., Li, J., and Chen, N. H. (2012). Gap junction dysfunction in the prefrontal cortex induces depressive-like behaviors in rats. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 37, 1305–1320. doi: 10.1038/npp.2011.319
- Suzuki, A., Stern, S. A., Bozdagi, O., Huntley, G. W., Walker, R. H., Magistretti, P. J., et al. (2011). Astrocyte-neuron lactate transport is required for long-term memory formation. *Cell* 144, 810–823. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2011.02.018
- Theis, M., and Giaume, C. (2012). Connexin-based intercellular communication and astrocyte heterogeneity. *Brain Res.* 1487, 88–98. doi: 10.1016/j.brainres.2012.06.054
- Torres-Platas, S. G., Cruceanu, C., Chen, G. G., Turecki, G., and Mechawar, N. (2014). Evidence for increased microglial priming and macrophage recruitment in the dorsal anterior cingulate white matter of depressed suicides. *Brain Behav. Immun.* 42, 50–59. doi: 10.1016/j.bbi.2014.05.007
- Torres-Platas, S. G., Hercher, C., Davoli, M. A., Maussion, G., Labonté, B., Turecki, G., et al. (2011). Astrocytic hypertrophy in anterior cingulate white matter of depressed suicides. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 36, 2650–2658. doi: 10.1038/npp.2011.154
- Torres-Platas, S. G., Nagy, C., Wakid, M., Turecki, G., and Mechawar, N. (2015). Glial fibrillary acidic protein is differentially expressed across cortical and subcortical regions in healthy brains and downregulated in the thalamus and caudate nucleus of depressed suicides. *Mol. Psychiatry* doi: 10.1038/mp.2015.65 [Epub ahead of print].
- Trang, T., Beggs, S., and Salter, M. W. (2012). ATP receptors gate microglia signaling in neuropathic pain. *Exp. Neurol.* 234, 354–361. doi: 10.1016/j.expneurol.2011.11.012
- Tritsch, N. X., and Sabatini, B. L. (2012). Dopaminergic modulation of synaptic transmission in cortex and striatum. *Neuron* 76, 33–50. doi: 10.1016/j.neuron.2012.09.023
- Tsuda, M., Shigemoto-Mogami, Y., Koizumi, S., Mizokoshi, A., Kohsaka, S., Salter, M. W., et al. (2003). P2X4 receptors induced in spinal microglia gate tactile allodynia after nerve injury. *Nature* 424, 778–783. doi: 10.1038/nature01786
- Tsvetkov, E., Shin, R. M., and Bolshakov, V. Y. (2004). Glutamate uptake determines pathway specificity of long-term potentiation in the neural circuitry of fear conditioning. *Neuron* 41, 139–151. doi: 10.1016/s0896-6273(03)00800-6
- Tzanoulinou, S., Riccio, O., de Boer, M. W., and Sandi, C. (2014). Peripubertal stress-induced behavioral changes are associated with altered expression of genes involved in excitation and inhibition in the amygdala. *Transl. Psychiatry* 4:e410. doi: 10.1038/tp.2014.54
- van Calker, D., and Biber, K. (2005). The role of glial adenosine receptors in neural resilience and the neurobiology of mood disorders. *Neurochem. Res.* 30, 1205–1217. doi: 10.1007/s11064-005-8792-1

- Verkhatsky, A., Steardo, L., Parpura, V., and Montana, V. (2015). Translational potential of astrocytes in brain disorders. *Prog. Neurobiol.* doi: 10.1016/j.pneurobio.2015.09.003 [Epub ahead of print].
- Viswanathan, A., and Freeman, R. D. (2007). Neurometabolic coupling in cerebral cortex reflects synaptic more than spiking activity. *Nat. Neurosci.* 10, 1308–1312. doi: 10.1038/nn1977
- Volterra, A., and Meldolesi, J. (2005). Astrocytes, from brain glue to communication elements: the revolution continues. *Nat. Rev. Neurosci.* 6, 626–640. doi: 10.1038/nrn1722
- Wake, H., Moorhouse, A. J., Miyamoto, A., and Nabekura, J. (2013). Microglia: actively surveying and shaping neuronal circuit structure and function. *Trends Neurosci.* 36, 209–217. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2012.11.007
- Walker, A. K., Budac, D. P., Bisulco, S., Lee, A. W., Smith, R. A., Beenders, B., et al. (2013). NMDA receptor blockade by ketamine abrogates lipopolysaccharide-induced depressive-like behavior in C57BL/6J mice. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 38, 1609–1616. doi: 10.1038/npp.2013.71
- Wallraff, A., Köhling, R., Heinemann, U., Theis, M., Willecke, K., and Steinhäuser, C. (2006). The impact of astrocytic gap junctional coupling on potassium buffering in the hippocampus. *J. Neurosci.* 26, 5438–5447. doi: 10.1523/jneurosci.0037-06.2006
- Wallraff, A., Odermatt, B., Willecke, K., and Steinhäuser, C. (2004). Distinct types of astroglial cells in the hippocampus differ in gap junction coupling. *Glia* 48, 36–43. doi: 10.1002/glia.20040
- Wong, W. T., Wang, M., and Li, W. (2011). Regulation of microglia by ionotropic glutamatergic and GABAergic neurotransmission. *Neuron Glia Biol.* 7, 41–46. doi: 10.1017/S1740925X11000123
- Yang, Y., Ge, W., Chen, Y., Zhang, Z., Shen, W., Wu, C., et al. (2003). Contribution of astrocytes to hippocampal long-term potentiation through release of D-serine. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 100, 15194–15199. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2431073100
- Ye, Y., Wang, G., Wang, H., and Wang, X. (2011). Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) infusion restored astrocytic plasticity in the hippocampus of a rat model of depression. *Neurosci. Lett.* 503, 15–19. doi: 10.1016/j.neulet.2011.07.055
- Yin, Y., Zhang, X., Li, Z., Deng, L., Jiao, G., Zhang, B., et al. (2013). Glucocorticoid receptor β regulates injury-mediated astrocyte activation and contributes to glioma pathogenesis via modulation of β -catenin/TCF transcriptional activity. *Neurobiol. Dis.* 59, 165–176. doi: 10.1016/j.nbd.2013.07.013
- Yirmiya, R., Rimmerman, N., and Reshef, R. (2015). Depression as a microglial disease. *Trends Neurosci.* 38, 637–658. doi: 10.1016/j.tins.2015.08.001
- Zarate, C. A., Jr., Singh, J. B., Carlson, P. J., Brutsche, N. E., Ameli, R., Luckenbaugh, D. A., et al. (2006). A randomized trial of an N-methyl-D-aspartate antagonist in treatment-resistant major depression. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry* 63, 856–864. doi: 10.1001/archpsyc.63.8.856
- Zhan, Y., Paolicelli, R. C., Sforzini, F., Weinhard, L., Bolasco, G., Pagani, F., et al. (2014). Deficient neuron-microglia signaling results in impaired functional brain connectivity and social behavior. *Nat. Neurosci.* 17, 400–406. doi: 10.1038/nn.3641
- Zhang, J. M., Wang, H. K., Ye, C. Q., Ge, W., Chen, Y., Jiang, Z. L., et al. (2003). ATP released by astrocytes mediates glutamatergic activity-dependent heterosynaptic suppression. *Neuron* 40, 971–982. doi: 10.1016/s0896-6273(03)00717-7
- Zhao, J., Bao, A. M., Qi, X. R., Kamphuis, W., Luchetti, S., Lou, J. S., et al. (2012). Gene expression of GABA and glutamate pathway markers in the prefrontal cortex of non-suicidal elderly depressed patients. *J. Affect. Disord.* 138, 494–502. doi: 10.1016/j.jad.2012.01.013

Conflict of Interest Statement: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Copyright © 2016 Rial, Lemos, Pinheiro, Duarte, Gonçalves, Real, Prediger, Gonçalves, Gomes, Canas, Agostinho and Cunha. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution and reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) or licensor are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.