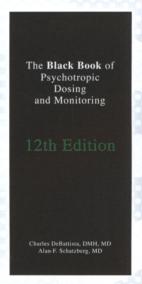
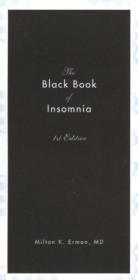
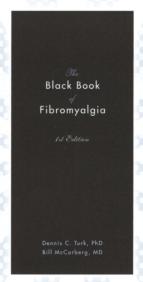
## Editorial Questionnaire

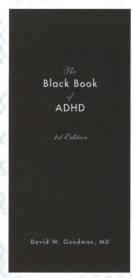
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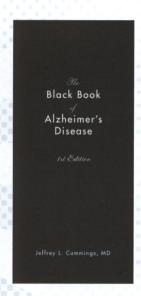
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## Defining the role of alpha-2A receptors within ADHD

New preclinical science suggests that stimulation of alpha-2A receptors located throughout the prefrontal cortex (PFC) strengthens executive function including working memory, which is thought to play an important role within ADHD.<sup>1-3</sup>

Our current understanding of ADHD treatment includes, in part, increasing levels of norepinephrine that act at the alpha-2A receptor.<sup>1</sup> Directly engaging these receptors is thought to exert a positive effect on cognitive functioning, such as behavioral inhibition and impulse control.<sup>1,4</sup>

As we continue to learn more about ADHD, we must consider the emerging role of the alpha-2A receptor—it's big.

**References: 1.** Arnsten AFT, Li B-M. Neurobiology of executive functions: catecholamine influences on prefrontal cortical functions. *Biol Psychiatry.* 2005;57:1377-1384. **2.** Wang M, Ramos BP, Paspalas CD, et al.  $\alpha$ 2A-adrenoceptors strengthen working memory networks by inhibiting cAMP-HCN channel signaling in prefrontal cortex. *Cell.* 2007;129:397-410. **3.** Mao Z-M, Arnsten AFT, Li B-M. Local infusion of an  $\alpha$ -1 adrenergic agonist into the prefrontal cortex impairs spatial working memory performance in monkeys. *Biol Psychiatry.* 1999;46:1259-1265. **4.** Arnsten AFT, Steere JC, Hunt RD. The contribution of  $\alpha_2$ -noradrenergic mechanisms to prefrontal cortical cognitive function. *Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 1996;53:448-455.

**Shire**