INTERNATIONAL ANXIETY DISORDERS SYMPOSIUM AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS MAY 27-28, 2009

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Presentations

- Advances in PTSD
- Advancing drug development in anxiety disorders
- Cognition in anxiety disorders
- Comorbidity of anxiety disorders
- Current trends in OCD treatment
- DSM-V and ICD-10 issues of anxiety disorders
- Visualizing anxiety disorders

Speakers

- Christer Allgulander, Sweden
- David Baldwin, UK
- Wim van den Brink, Netherlands
- Sam Chamberlain, UK
- Damiaan Denys, Netherlands
- Naomi Fineberg, UK
- Christian Grillon, USA
- Dirk Hermans, Belgium
- Eric Hollander, USA
- David Mataix-Cols, UK
- David Nutt, UK
- Miranda Olff, Netherlands
- Michael Otto, USA
- Stefano Pallanti, Italy
- Katharine Phillips, USA
- Predrag Petrovic, Sweden
- Dan Stein, South Africa
- Murray Stein, USA
- Dick Veltman, Netherlands



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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.¹⁻³

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

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. α 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 α -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 α_2 -noradrenergic mechanisms to prefrontal cortical cognitive function. *Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 1996;53:448-455.

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