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Testing antidepressant compounds in a neuropsychological model of drug action

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Citation

Cerit, H. (2015, March 12). *Testing antidepressant compounds in a neuropsychological model of drug action*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/32211>

Version: Corrected Publisher's Version

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Issue Date: 2015-03-12

Propositions

1. ARA290 modulates some aspects of emotional processing, however, the direction and the strength of its effects do not unequivocally support an antidepressant-like profile for ARA290. *(dit proefschrift)*
2. Single administration of ARA290 does not affect brain functional connectivity in healthy volunteers. *(dit proefschrift)*
3. As an anti-inflammatory compound, ARA290 may have potential as an antidepressant compound within a subgroup of depressed patients in whom inflammation of the central nervous system is present. *(dit proefschrift)*
4. Tryptophan supplementation attenuates the cortisol response to acute social stress depending on 5-HTTLPR genotype. *(dit proefschrift)*
5. Tryptophan supplementation and 5-HTTLPR genotype do not affect social decision making as measured by the response to unfairness in the ultimatum game. *(dit proefschrift)*
6. “While current treatments are more selective than first generation antidepressants, and suffer from fewer associated side-effects, their efficacy is no better than original drug treatments discovered in the 1950s.” *(Harmer et al., 2011)*
7. “With this degree of heterogeneity among participants in depression-trials, it is not a major surprise that researchers are struggling to tease out clinically relevant effects of treatments and significant interactions between genetic and environmental risk factors.” *(Østergaard et al., 2011)*
8. “Focusing CNS research on treatments that target disease pathophysiology will improve the chances of developing therapies that go beyond current symptomatic therapies.” *(Pangalos et al., 2007)*
9. “A biologically informed classification of major depression will be an important approach toward a better understanding of individual differences in disease pathophysiology and treatment requirements.” *(Anacker, 2014)*
10. That which does not kill me, may leave me both stronger and more vulnerable. (Adapted from F. Nietzsche, “*Was mich nicht umbringt, macht mich stärker.*”).
11. Every PhD trajectory has its pleasures and its price. (Adapted from Socrates, “*Every action has its pleasures and its price.*”).
12. Cultureel hermafroditisme en blootstelling aan een omgeving waar bilaterale onwetendheid heerst, vormen samen een vruchtbare bodem voor het ontwikkelen van een kwetsbaarheid voor depressie.
13. For everything in the world – for civilization, for life, for success – the truest guide is knowledge and science. To seek a guide other than knowledge and science is [a mark of] heedlessness, ignorance and aberration. (Mustafa Kemal Atatürk)