

# Identification and Validation of Targets for Chronic Pain Treatment

Hanns Ulrich Zeilhofer  
Institute of Pharmaceutical  
Sciences

ETH Zurich  
Institute of Pharmacology  
University of Zurich

# Prevalence of Chronic Pain

19% of the European population suffer from chronic pain (VAS  $\geq 5$ , range 0 ... 10)

33% of these patients report strong pain (VAS  $\geq 8 - 10$ )

In 59% of these patients pain lasted for at least 5 years.

\* Telephone interviews with 46'392 persons from 15 European countries and from Israel

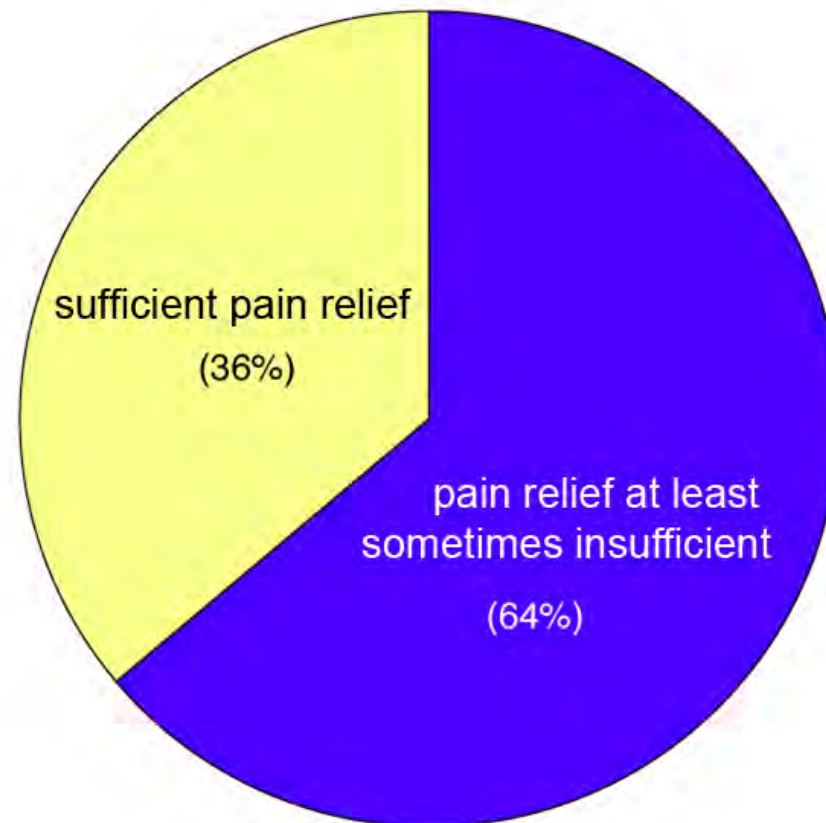
\*\* longer than 6 months, VAS (0-10):  $\geq 5$

\*\*\* VAS (0-10): 8-10

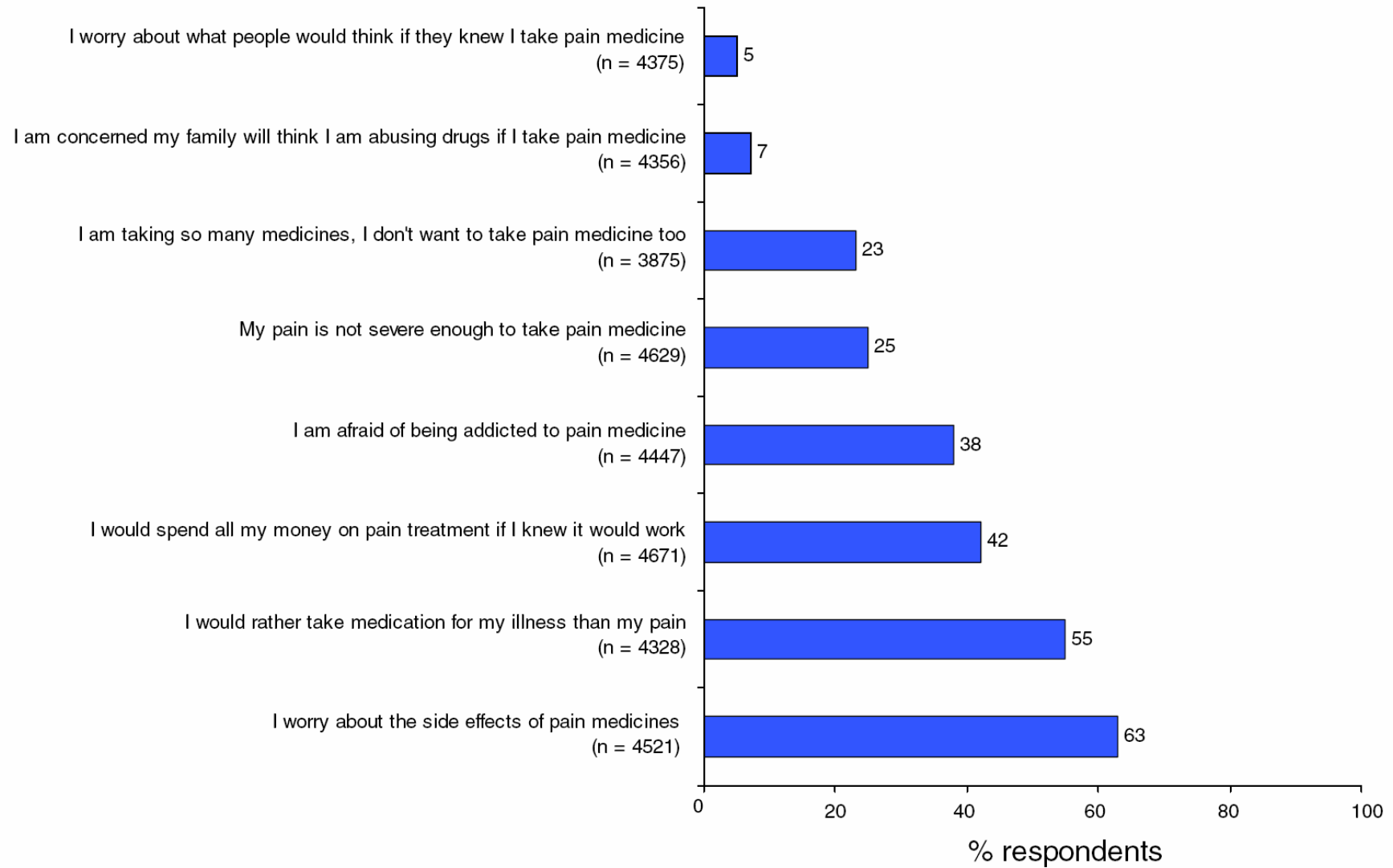
# Satisfaction with Pain Medication

## Insufficient pain relief

(n = 2450)



# Patients Concerns about Pain Medication



# Examples for Sources of Chronic Pain

- Inflammation



*rheumatoid arthritis*

- Nerve damage



*chronic regional pain  
syndrome*

- Trauma

Zur Anzeige wird der QuickTime™  
Dekompressor „TIFF (LZW)“  
benötigt.

*amputation*

# Acute Pain - Chronic Pain

## Acute Pain

Evoked by adequate stimuli, e.g.  
mechanical stress  
noxious heat  
acidosis

Correlates with  
intensity and duration of the stimulus

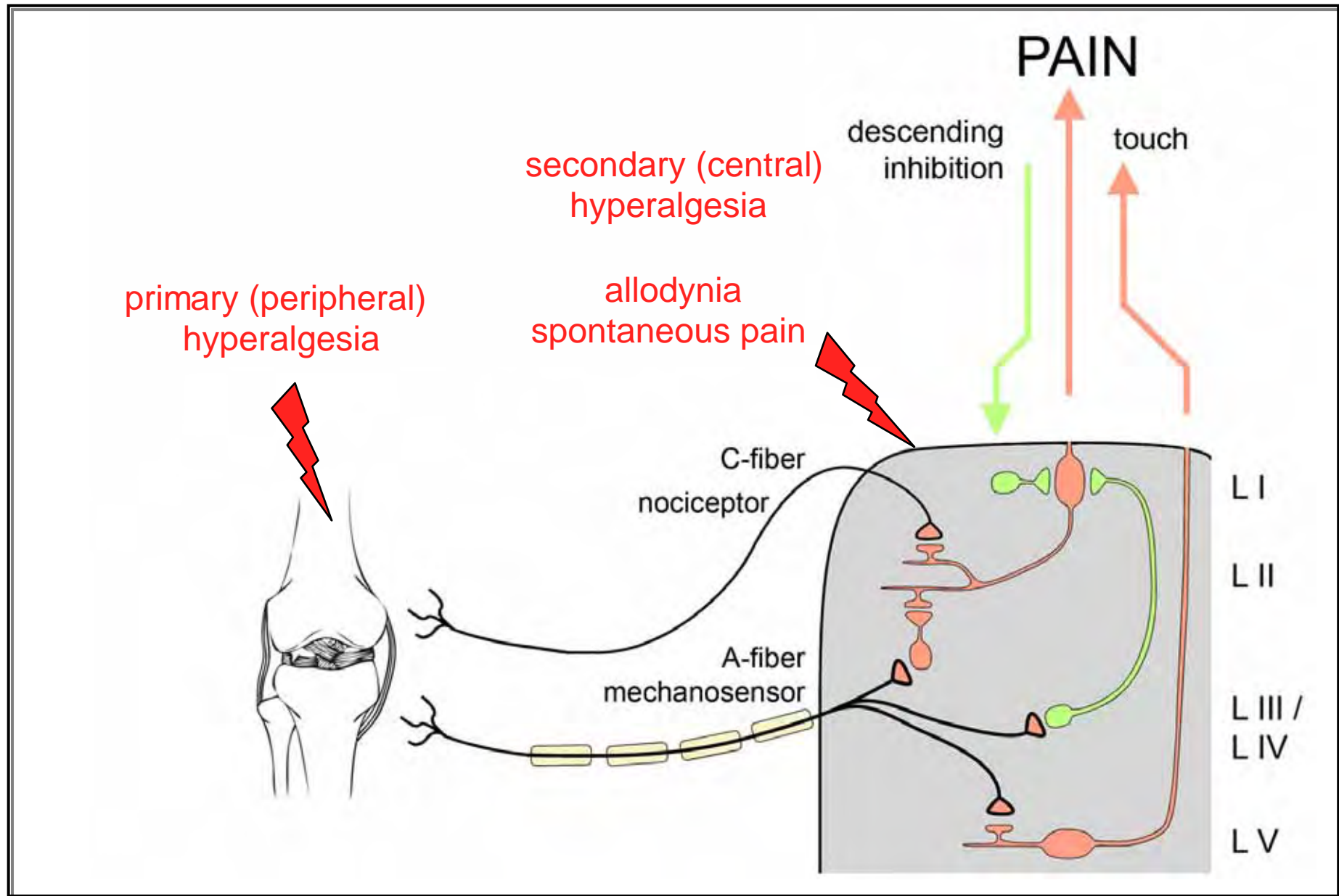
## Chronic Pain

Evoked by in-adequate stimuli  
hyperalgesia  
allodynia  
spontaneous pain

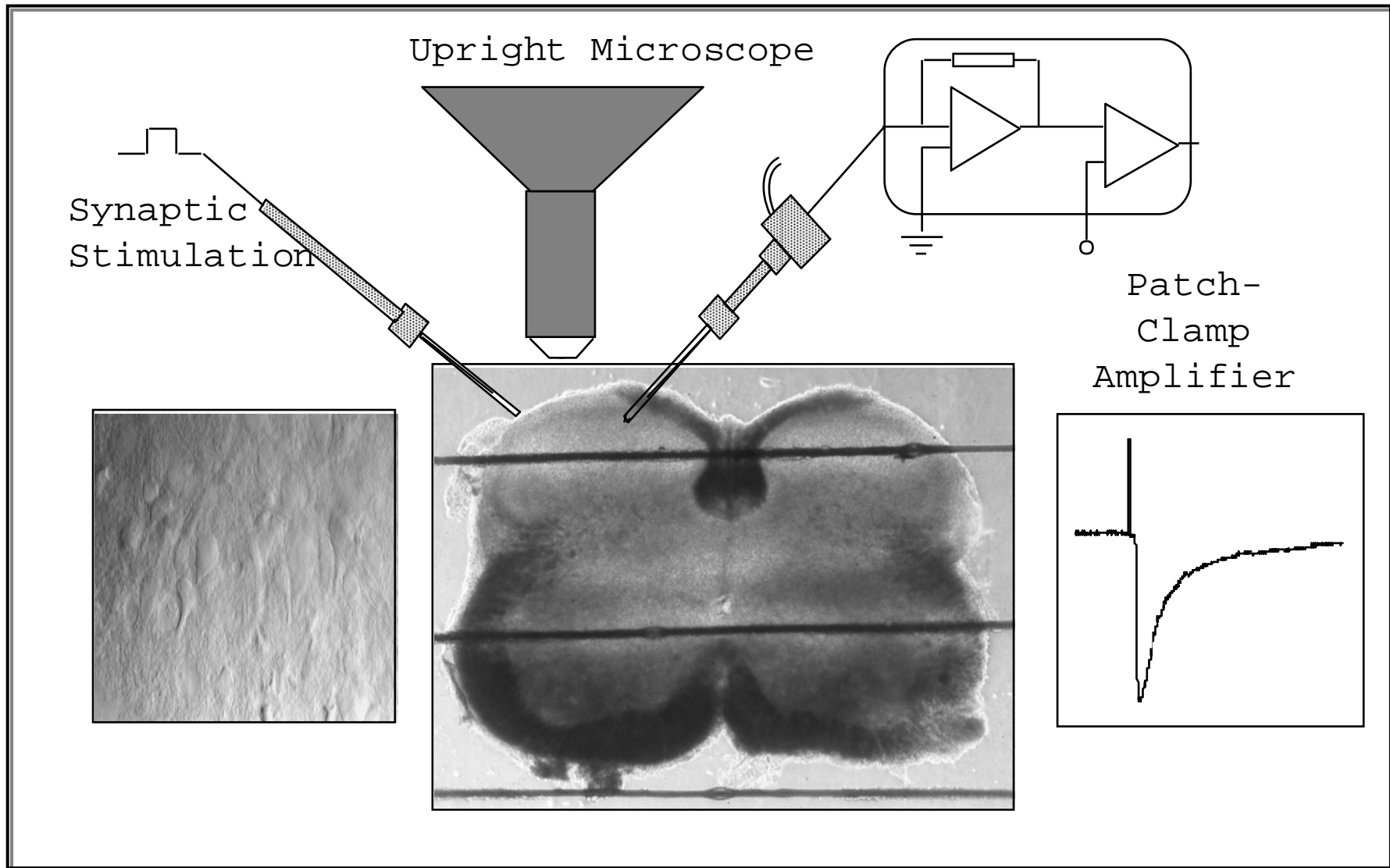
Outlasts peripheral stimulation  
(inflammation or tissue repair)

Chronic pain is a form of maladaptive CNS  
plasticity

# Peripheral and Central Pain Sensitization

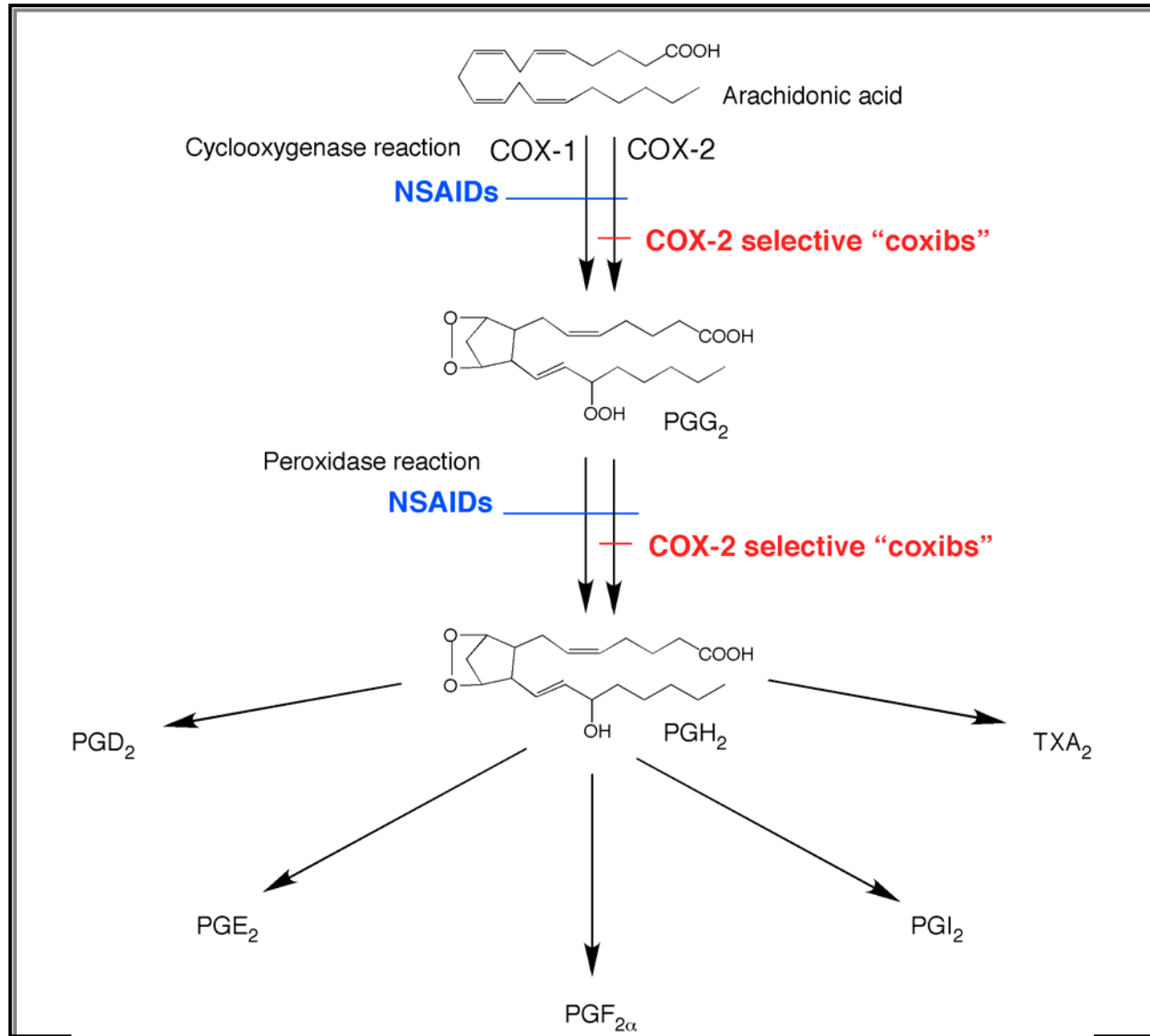


# Patch-Clamp Recordings from Neurons in a Transverse Rat Spinal Cord Slice Preparation

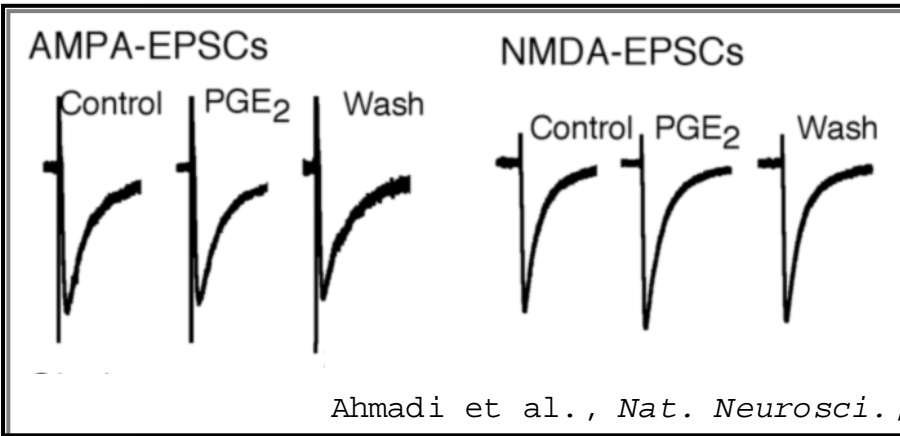




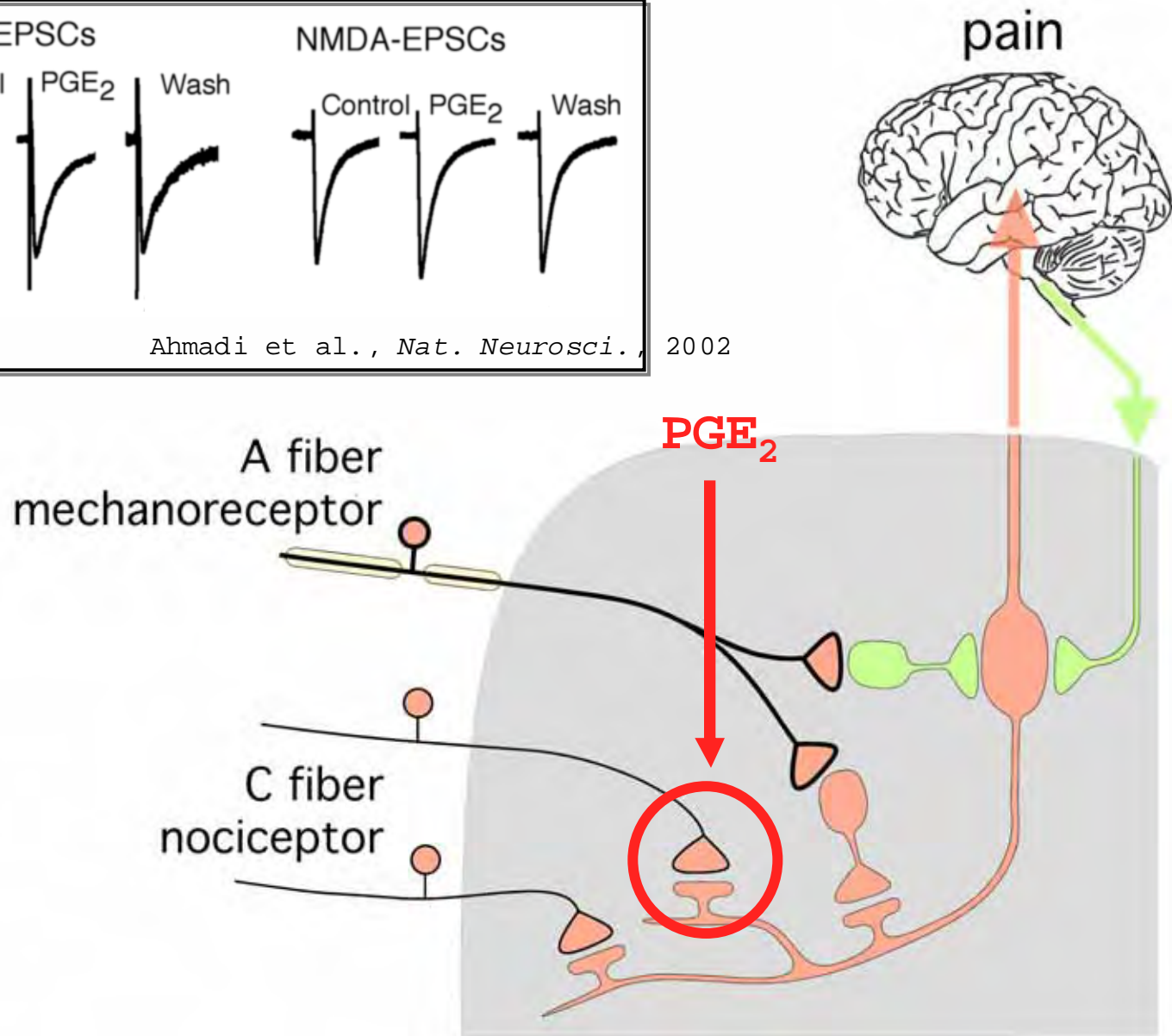
# Biologically Active Prostanoids



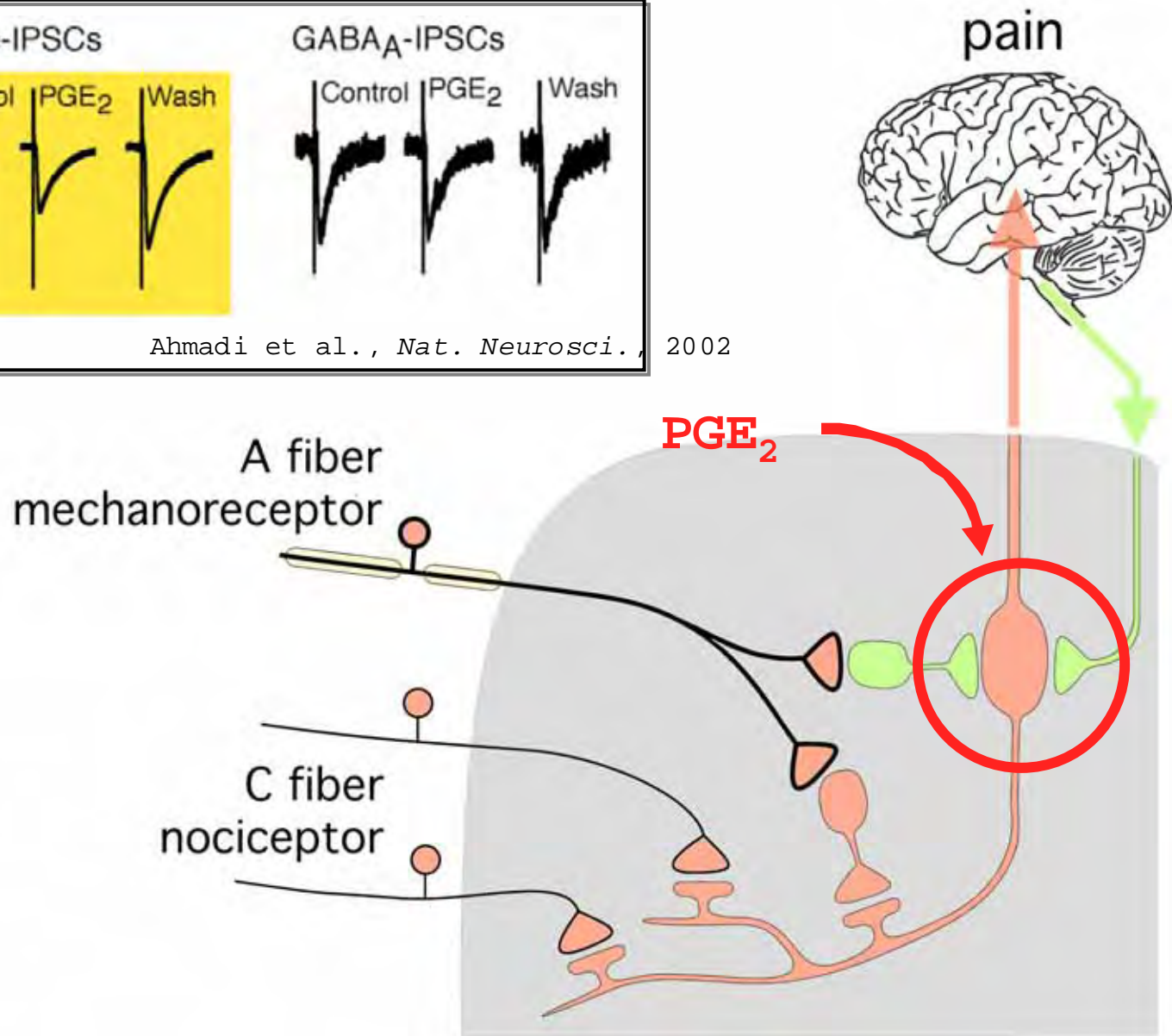
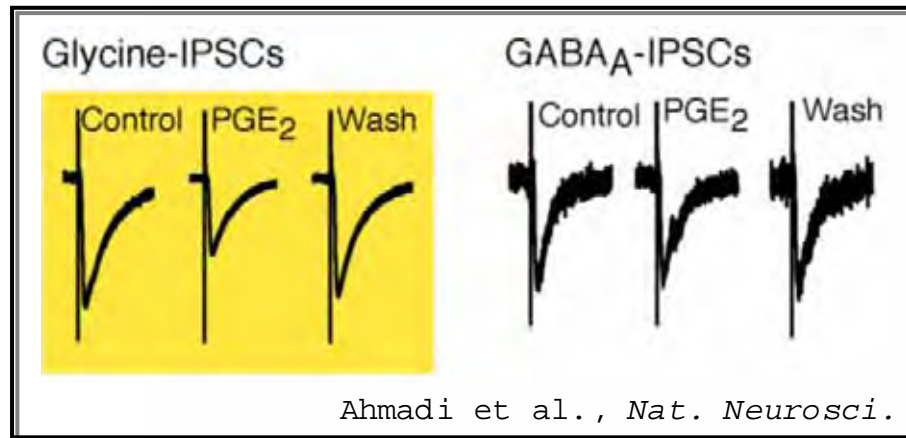
# Do Prostaglandins Affect Dorsal Horn Synapses?



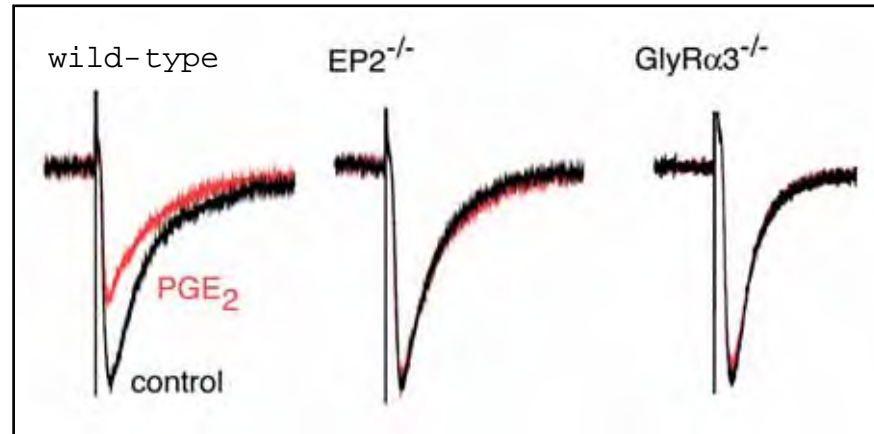
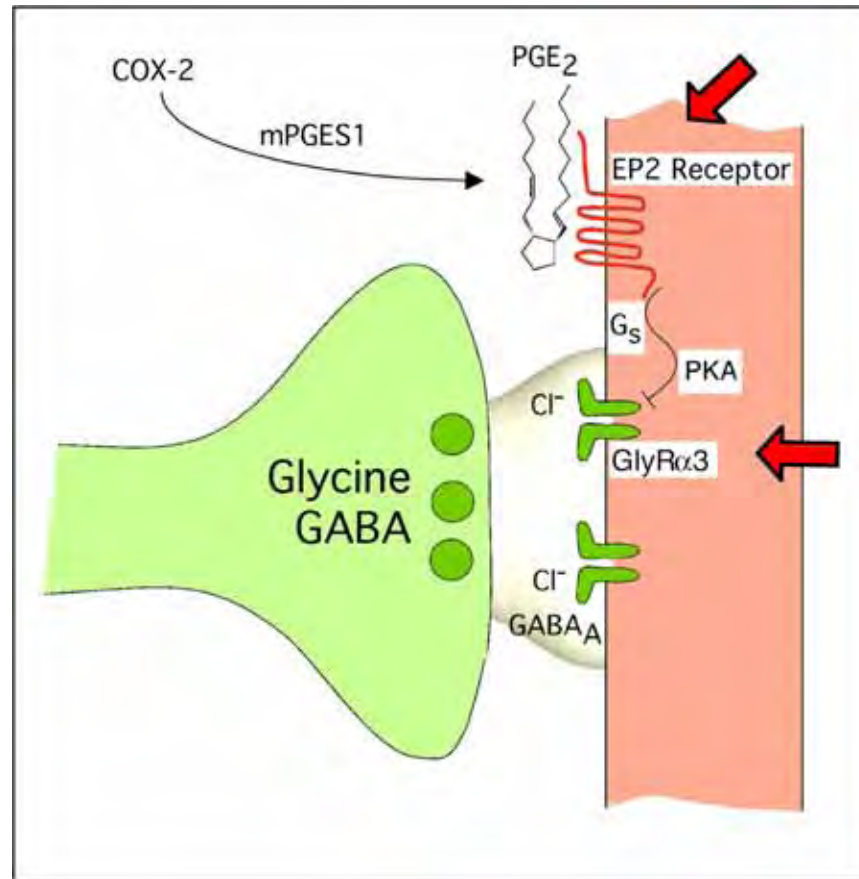
Ahmadi et al., *Nat. Neurosci.*, 2002



# Do Prostaglandins Affect Dorsal Horn Synapses?

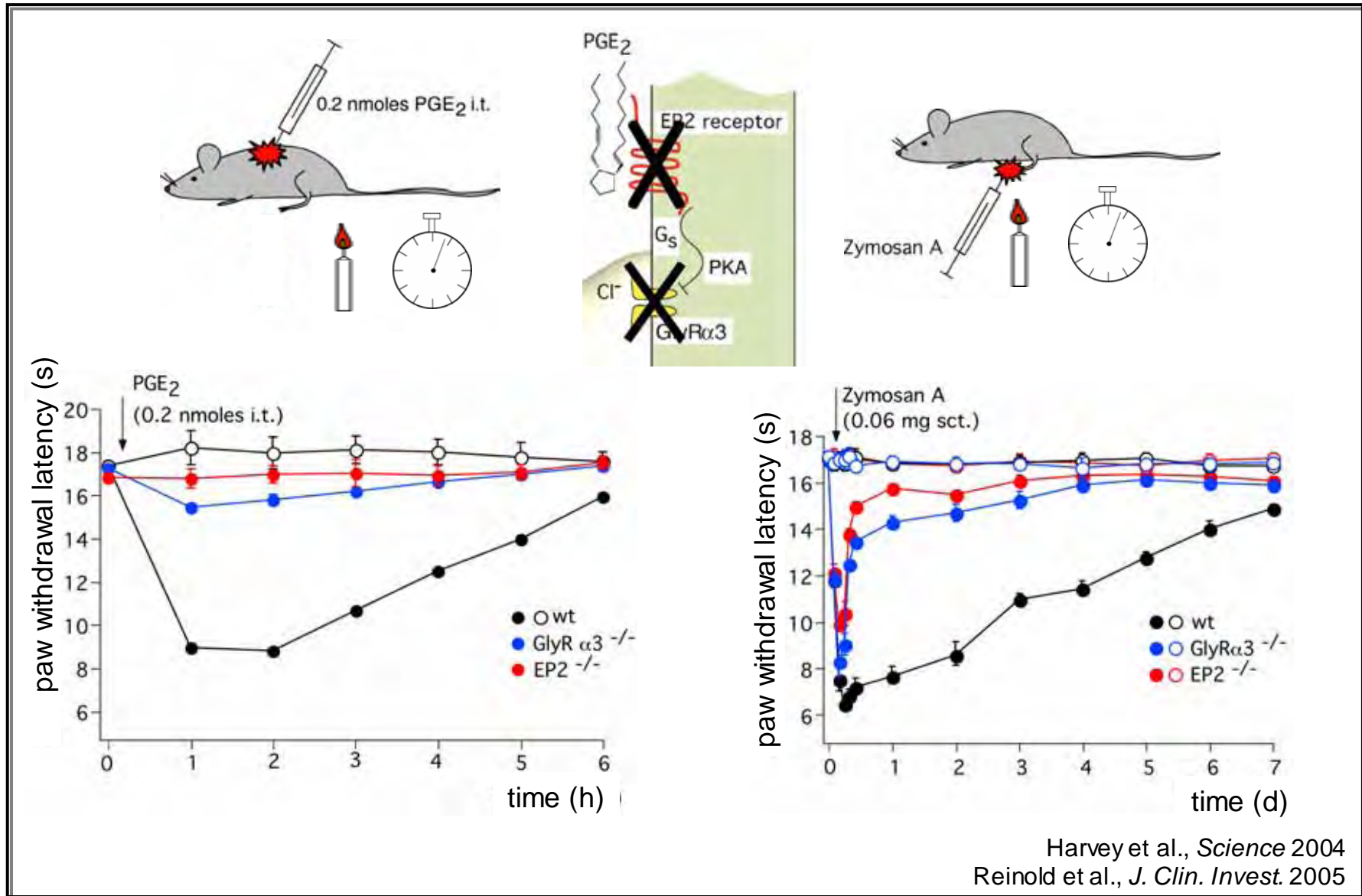


# Spinal Neuroplasticity and Pain: Disinhibition



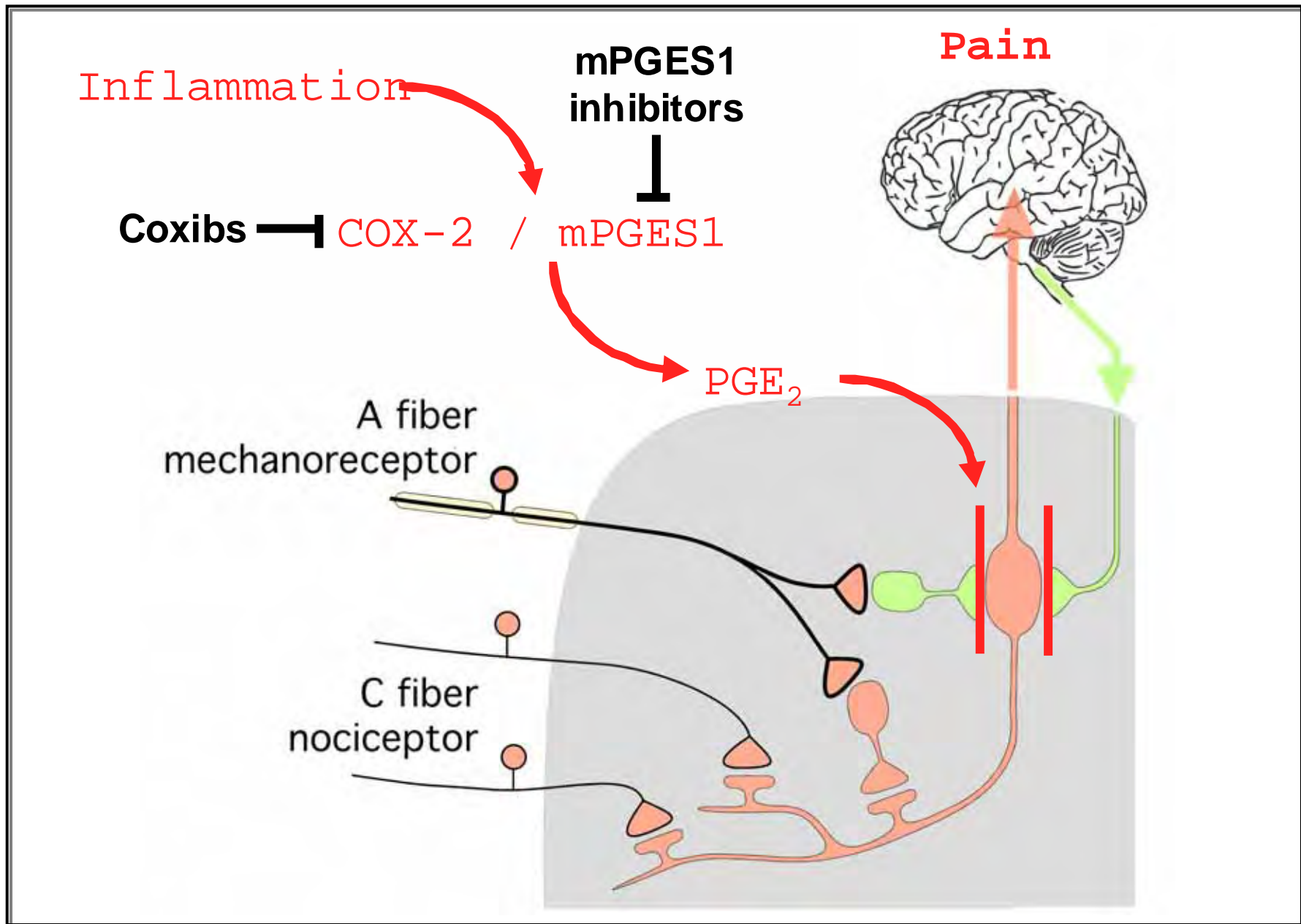
Harvey et al., *Science* 2004  
Reinold et al., *J. Clin. Invest.* 2005

# EP2 and GlyR $\alpha$ 3 Mediate the Central Component of Inflammatory Pain

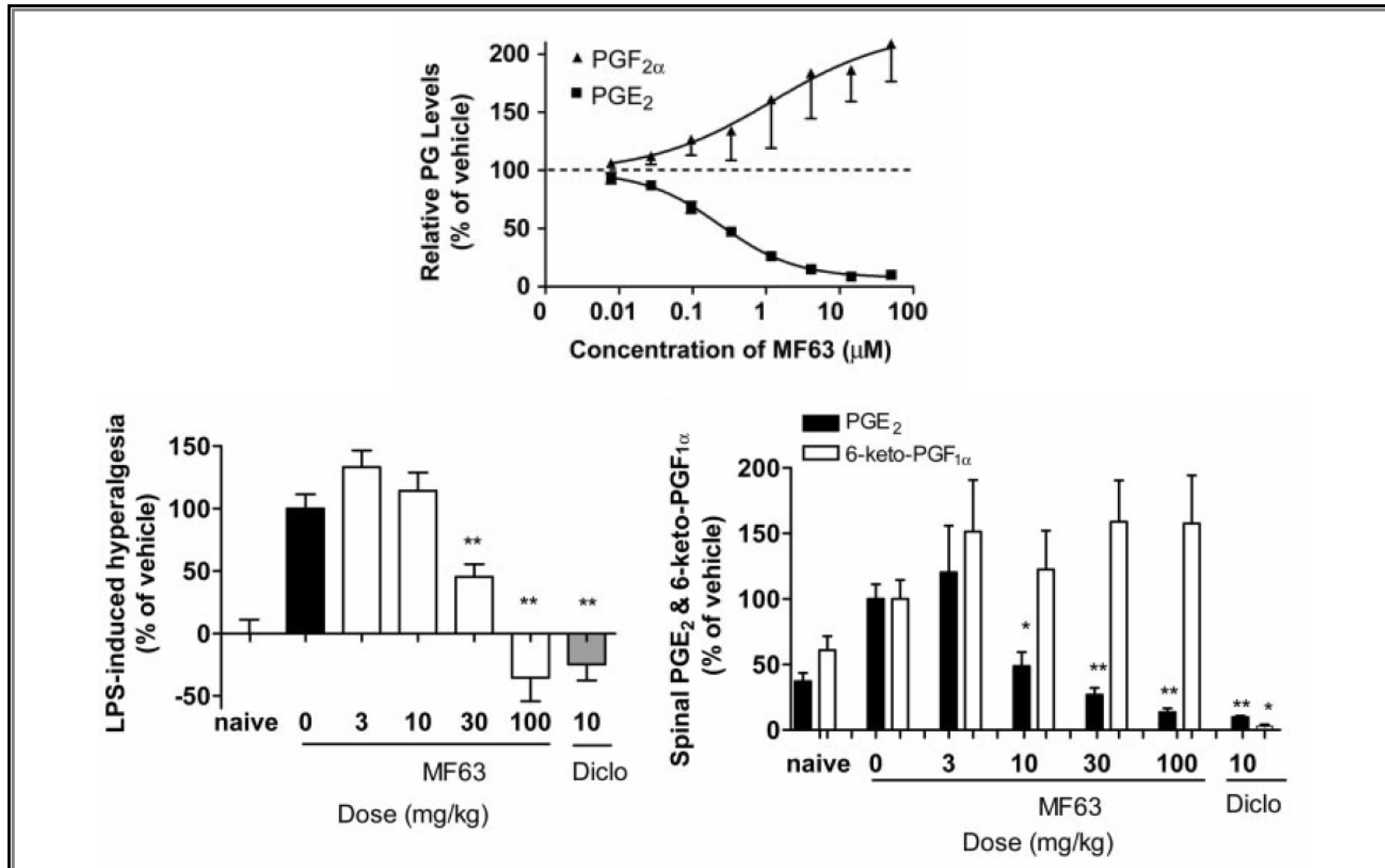




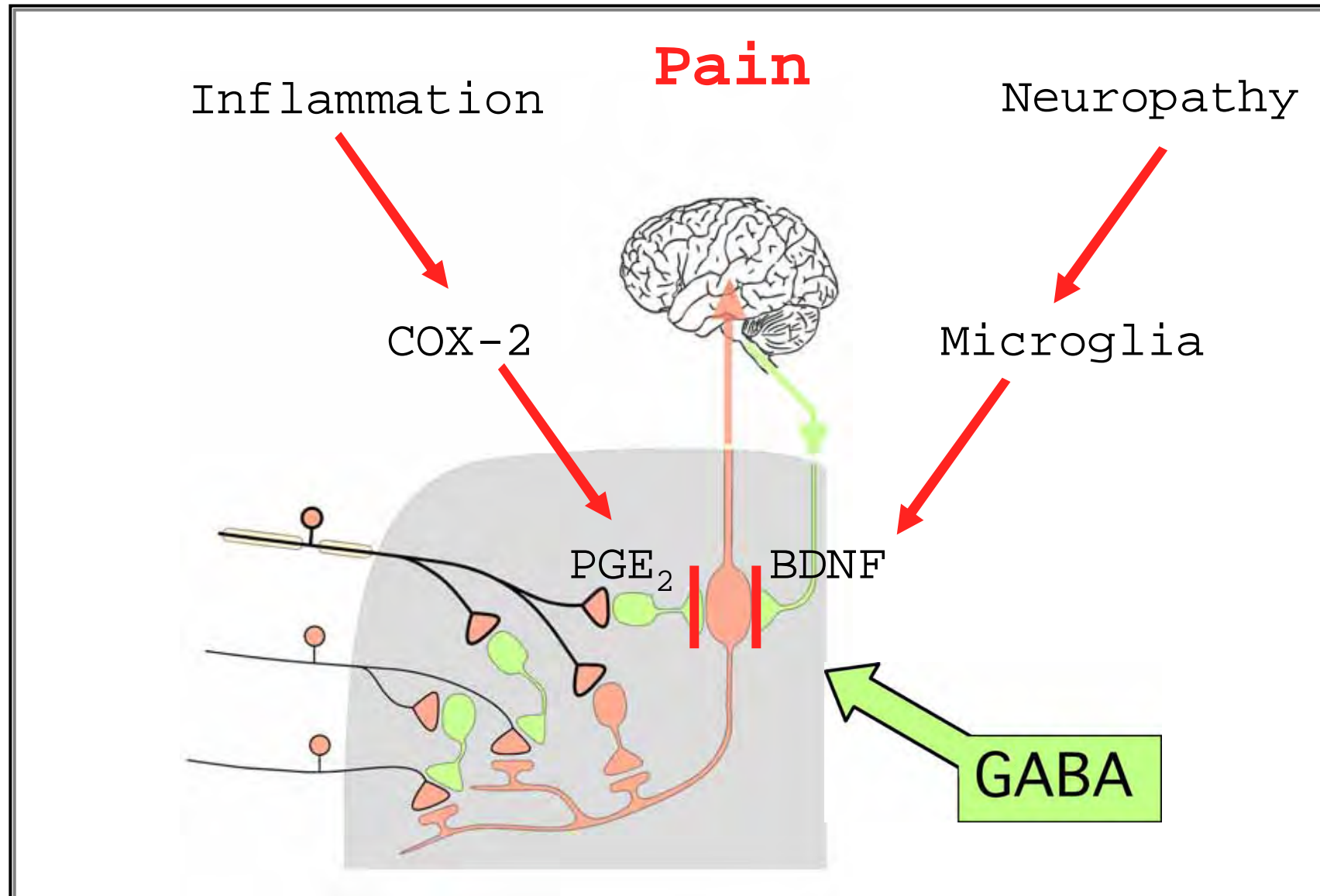
# Dis-Inhibition in Inflammatory Pain



# mPGES-1 Inhibition in Inflammatory Pain

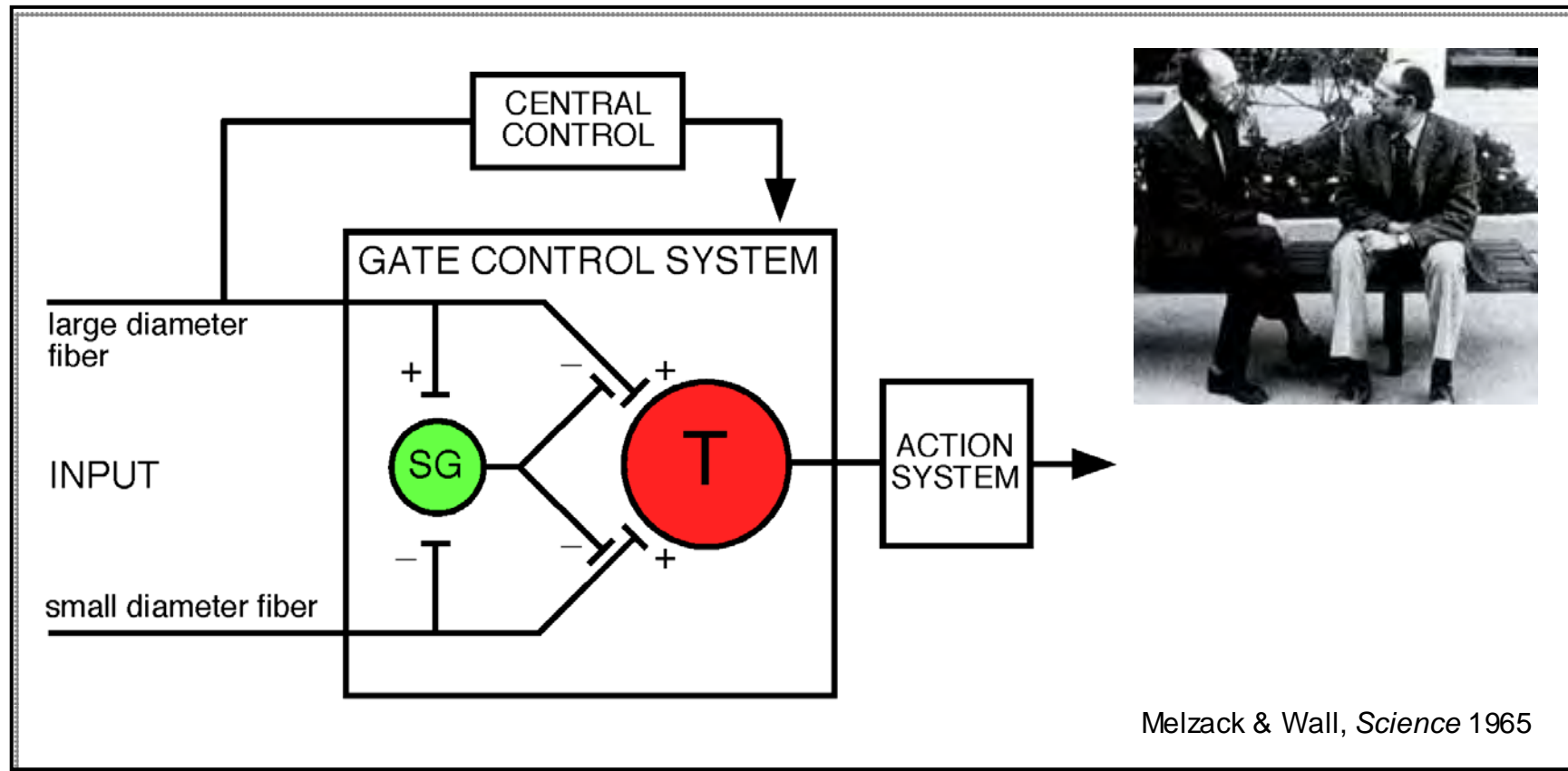


# The Dorsal Horn Pain Filter: Impairment and Repair

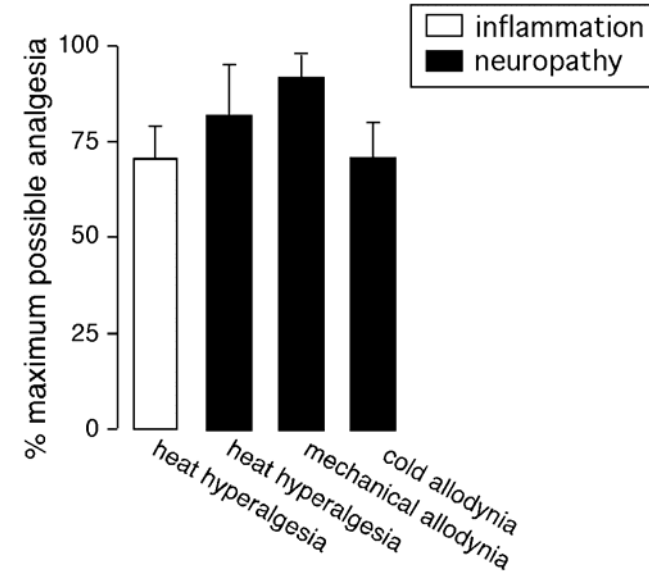
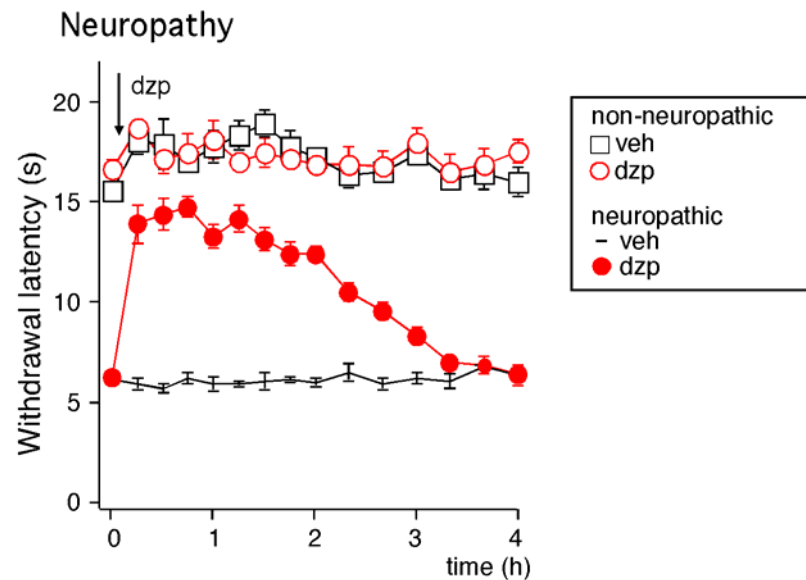
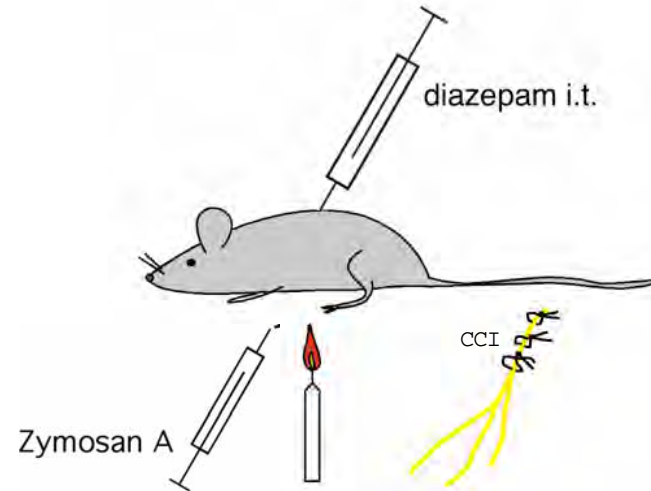
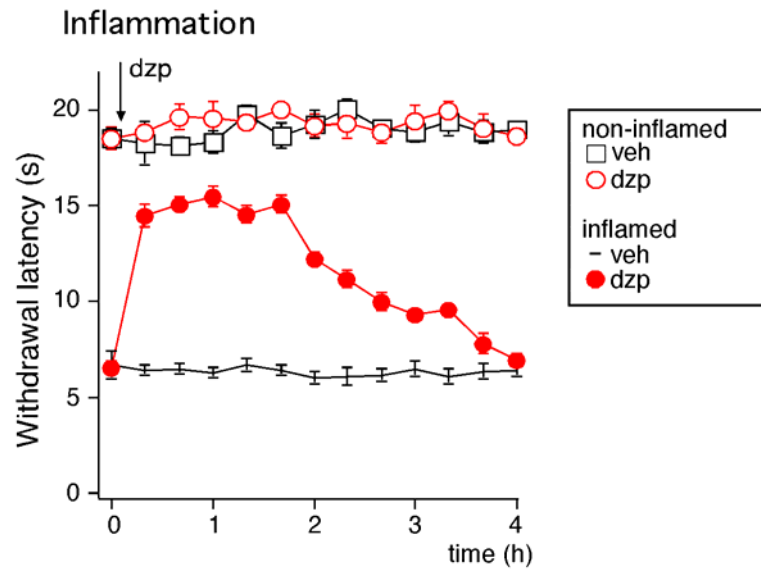




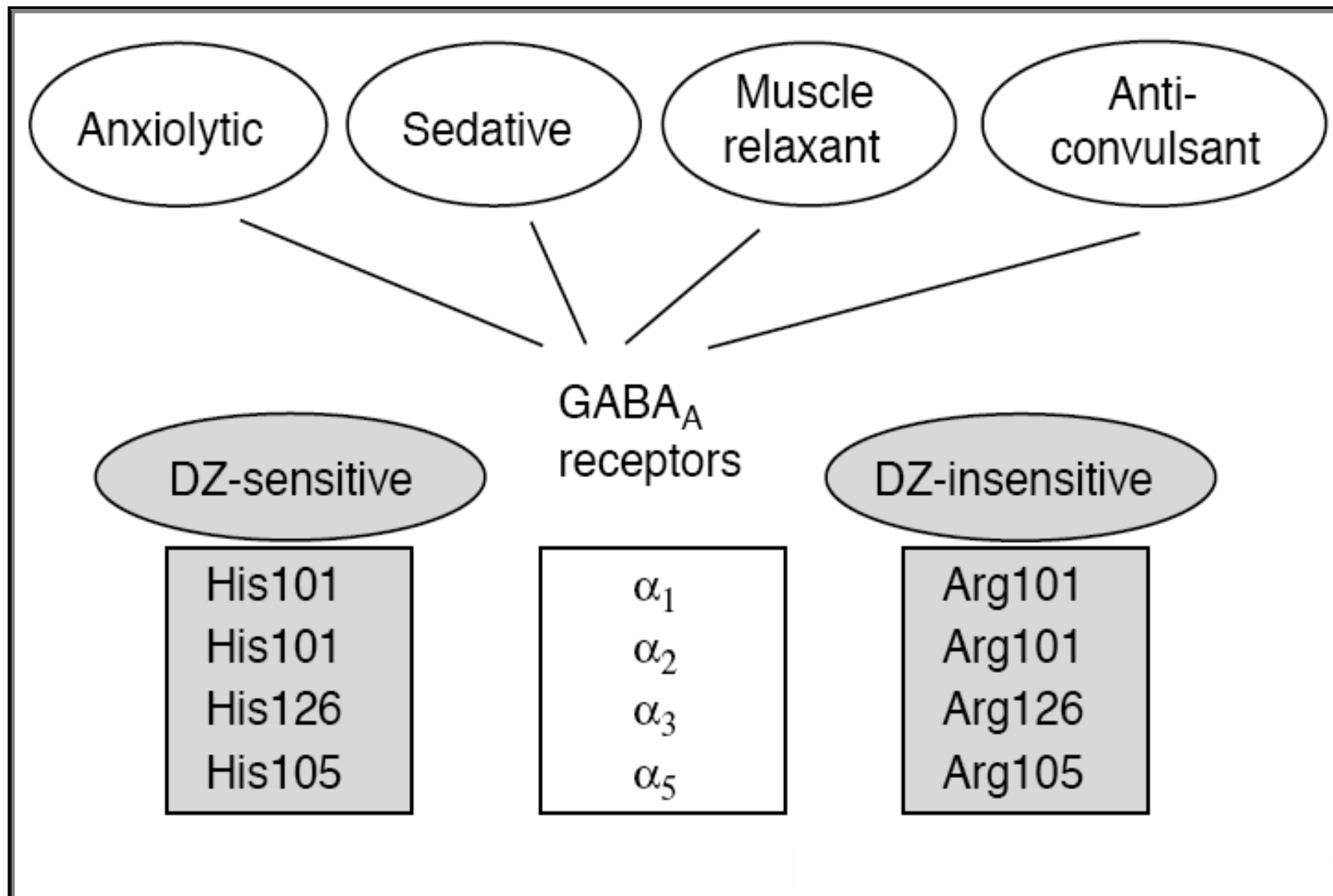
# Gate-Control Theory of Pain



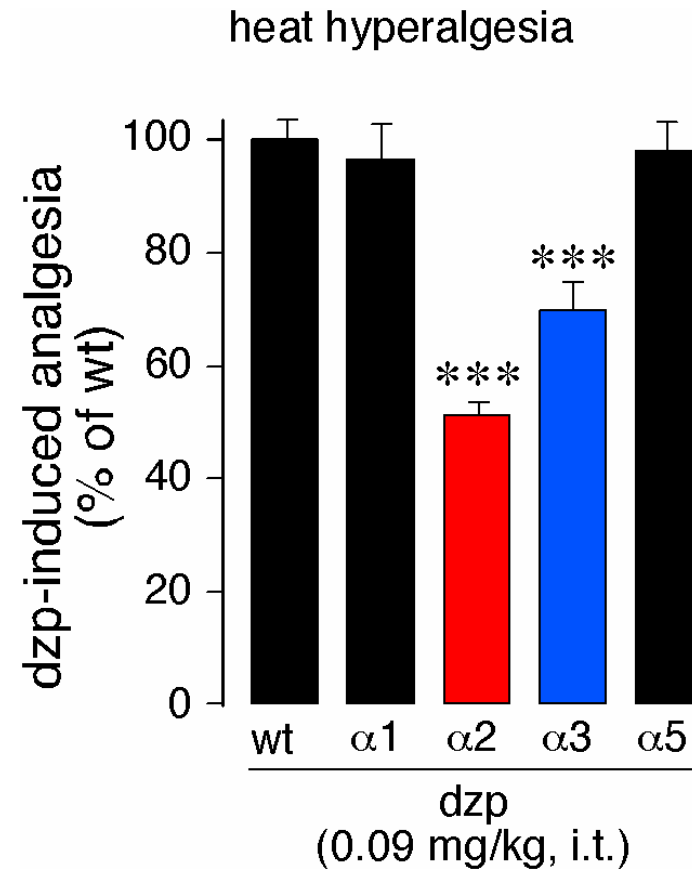
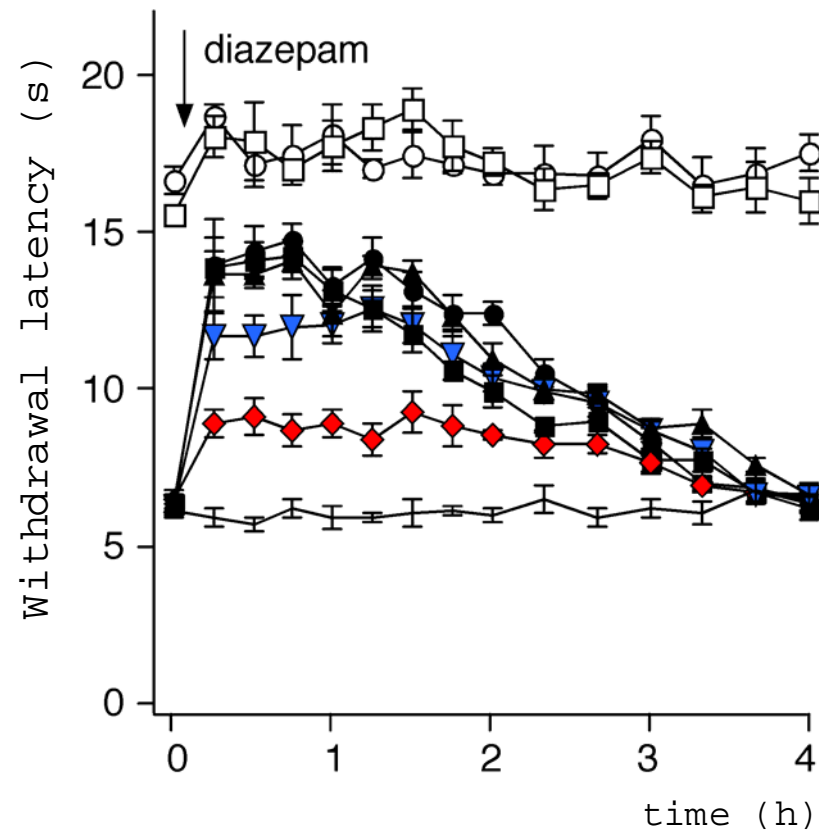
# Facilitation of GABAergic Inhibition Reverses Hyperalgesia



# Subtype-Selective “Benzodiazepines”: L-838,417

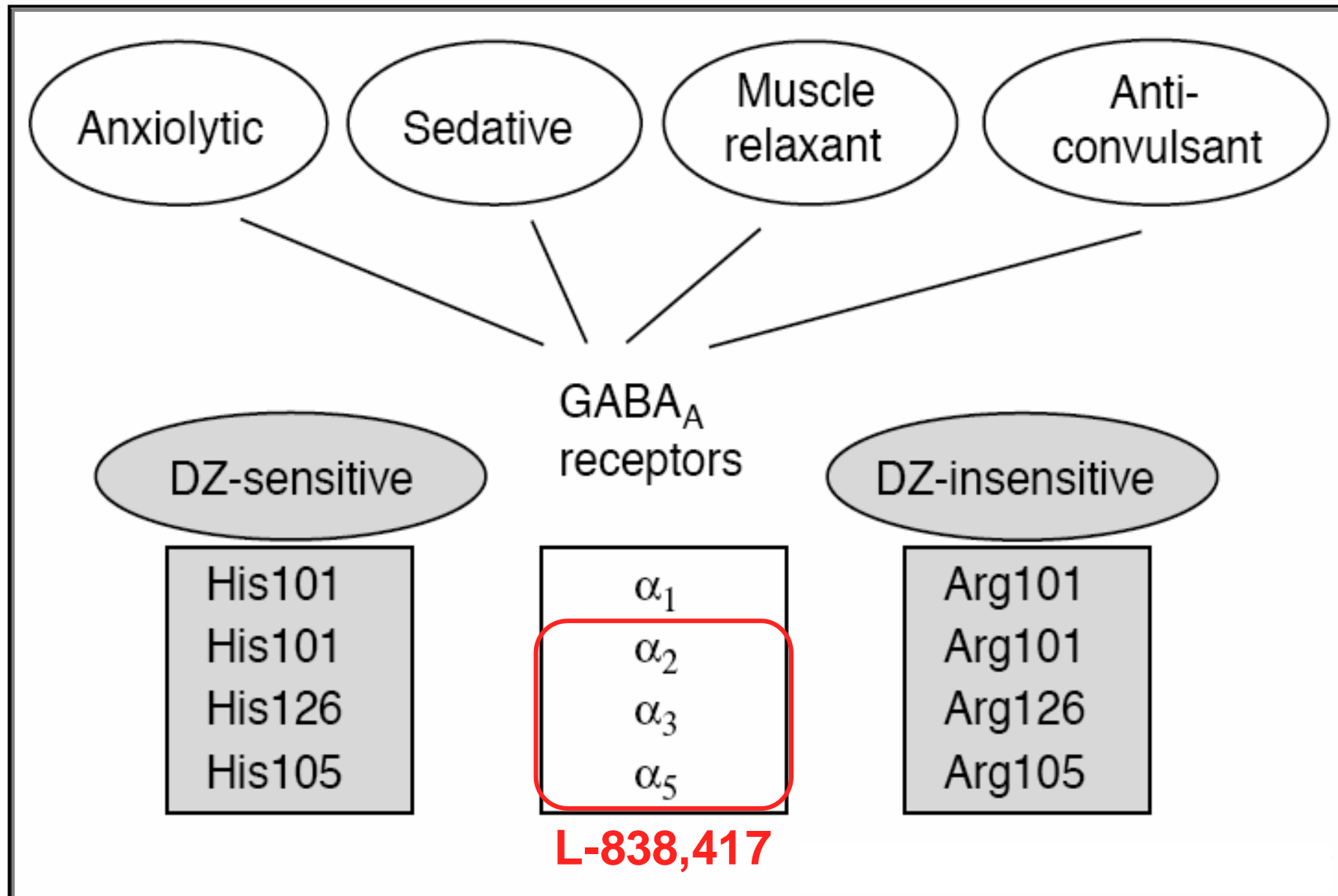


# GABA<sub>A</sub> Receptor Subtypes and Spinal Analgesia - Inflammatory Pain

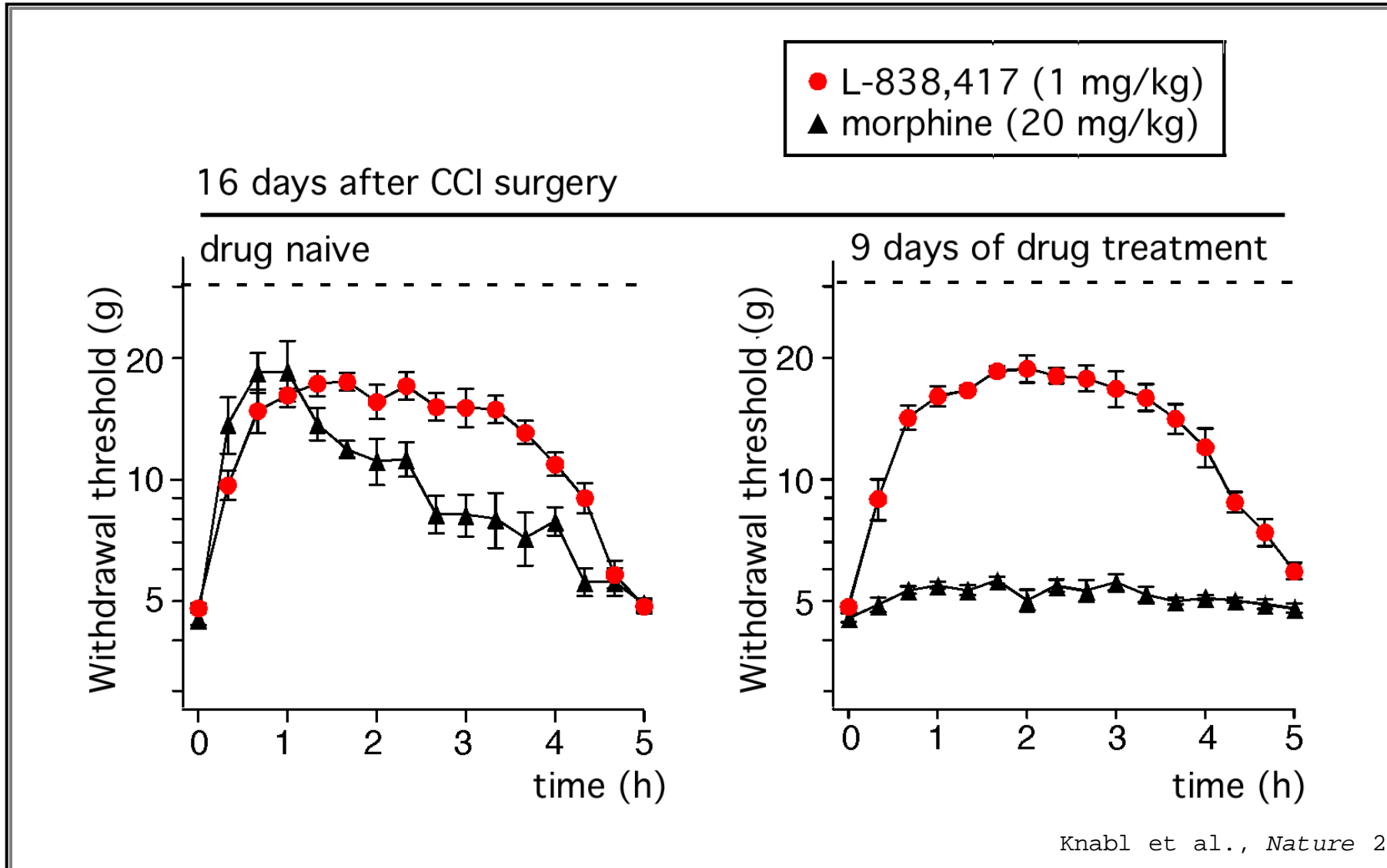


Katharina Hösl & Heiko Reinold  
in Knabl et al., *Nature* 2008

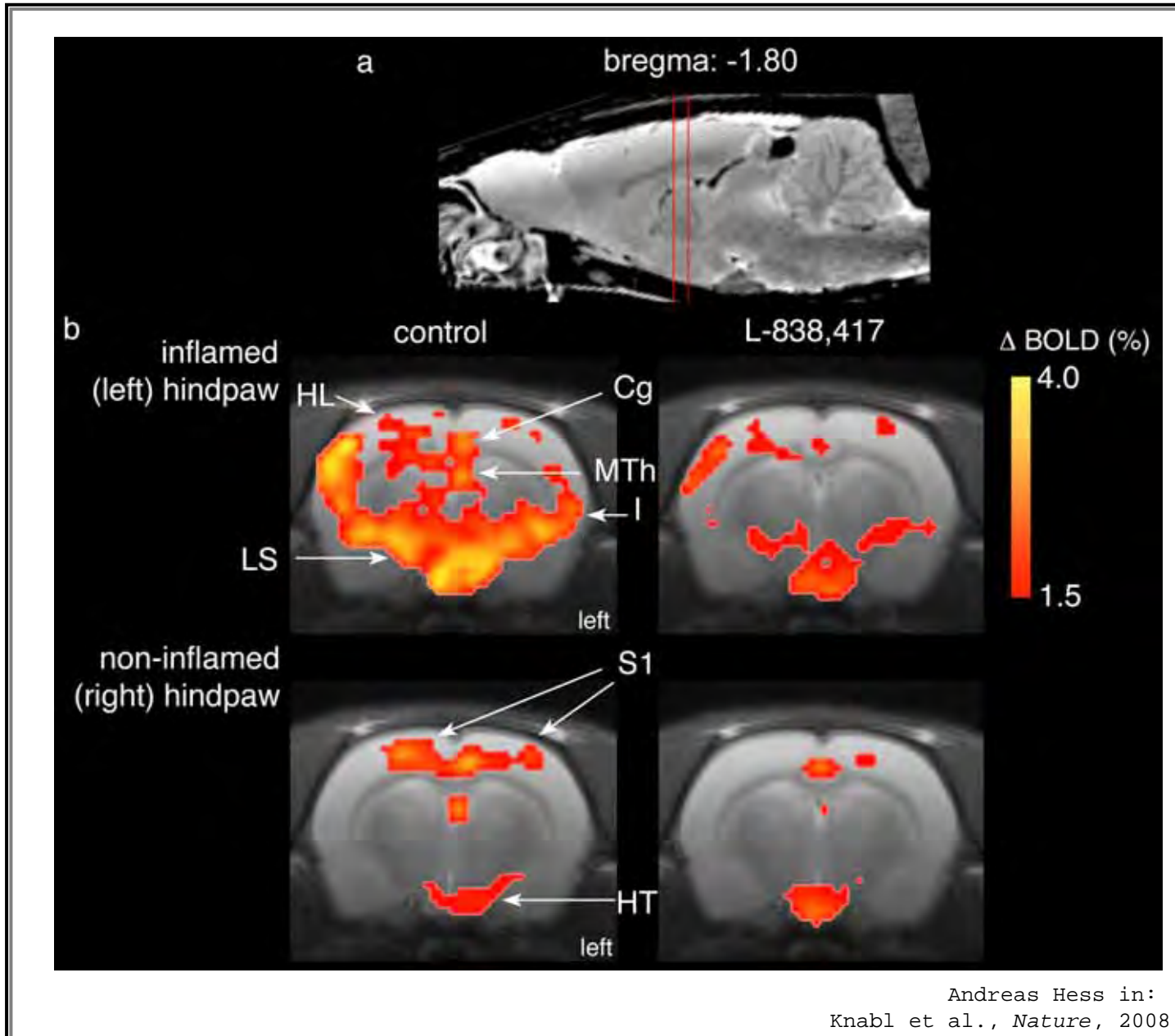
# Subtype-Selective “Benzodiazepines”: L-838,417



# L-838,417 versus Morphine

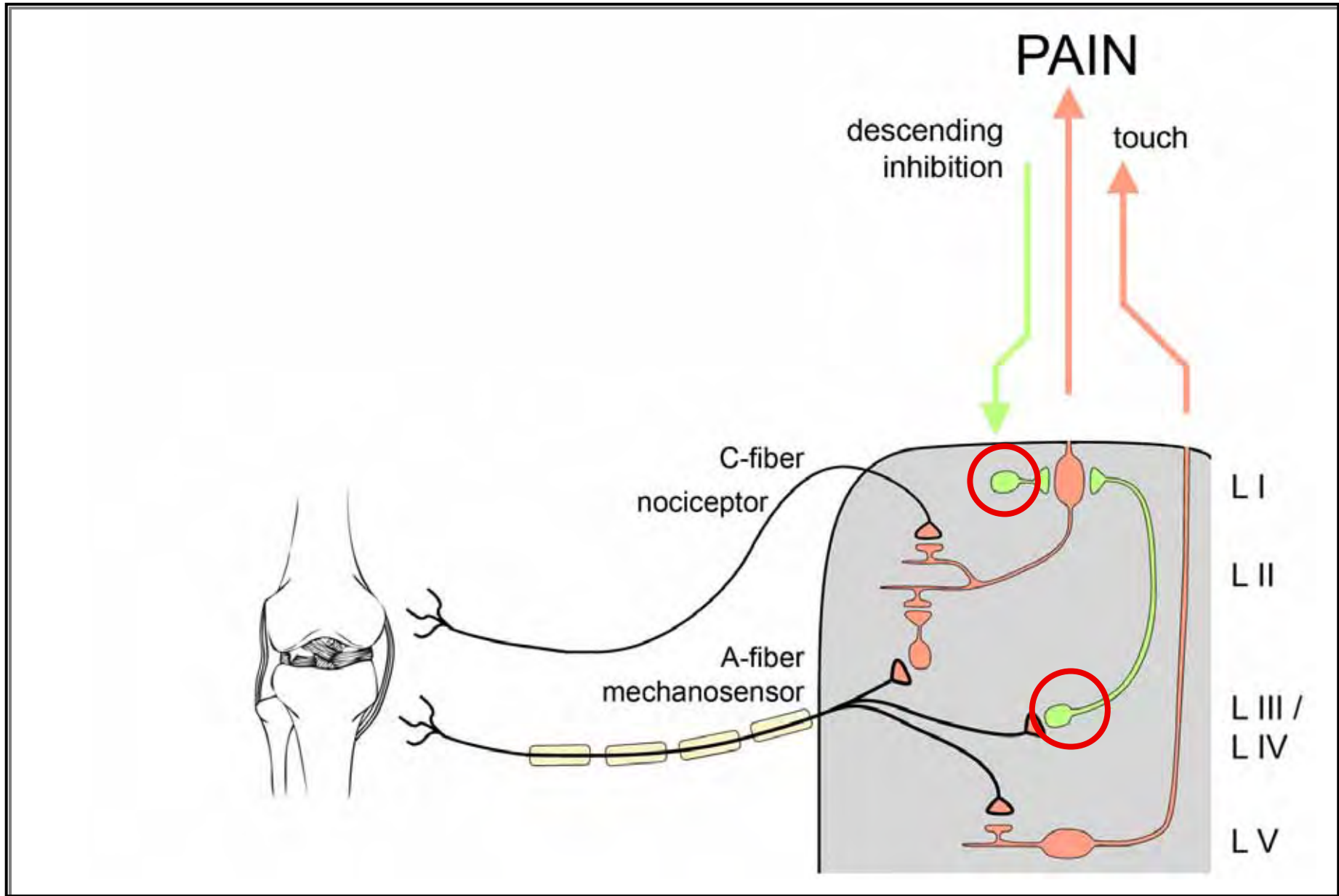


# L-838'417: fMRI in Hyperalgesic Rats



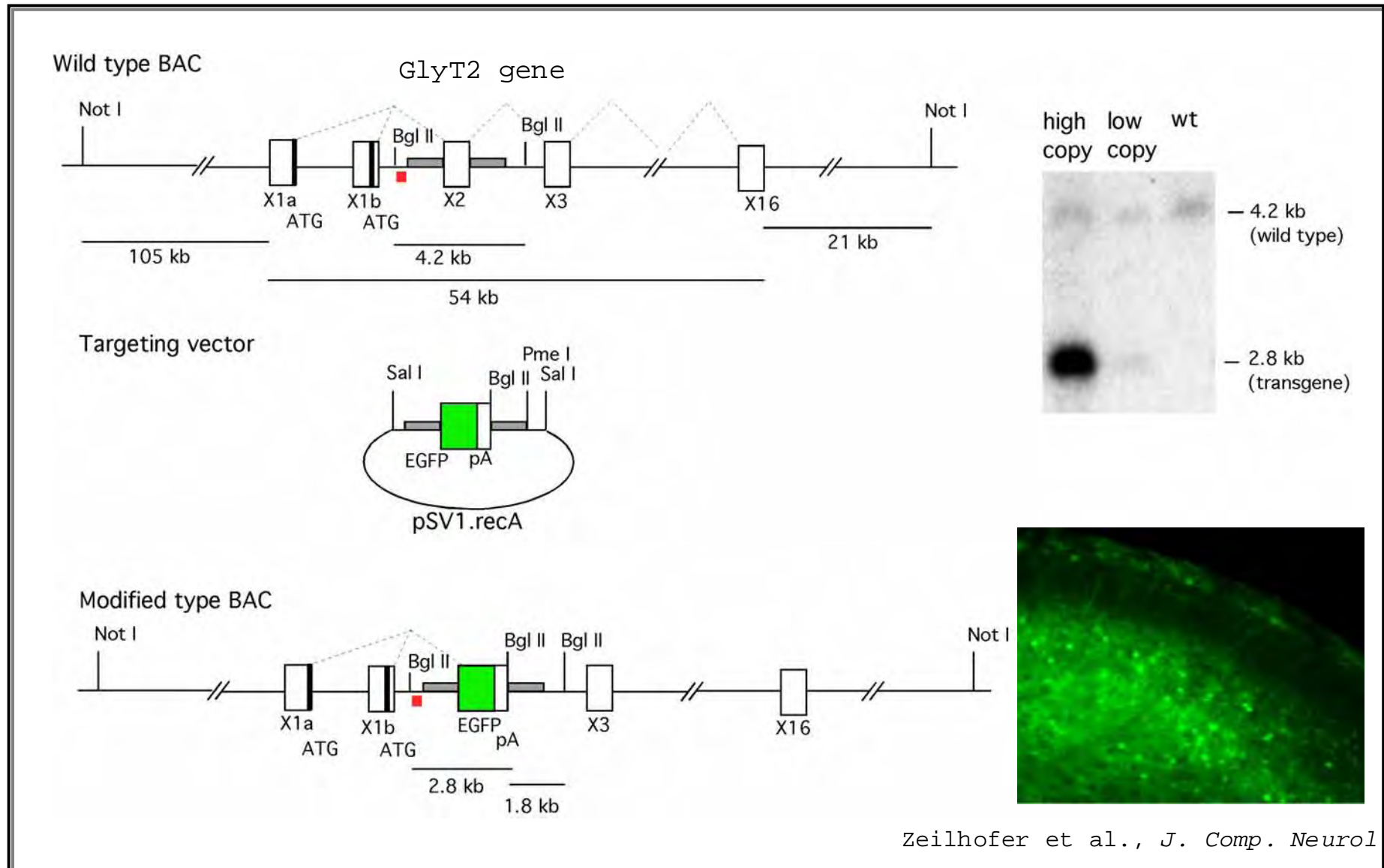
Andreas Hess in:  
Knabl et al., *Nature*, 2008

# Pain Control by Inhibitory Interneurons

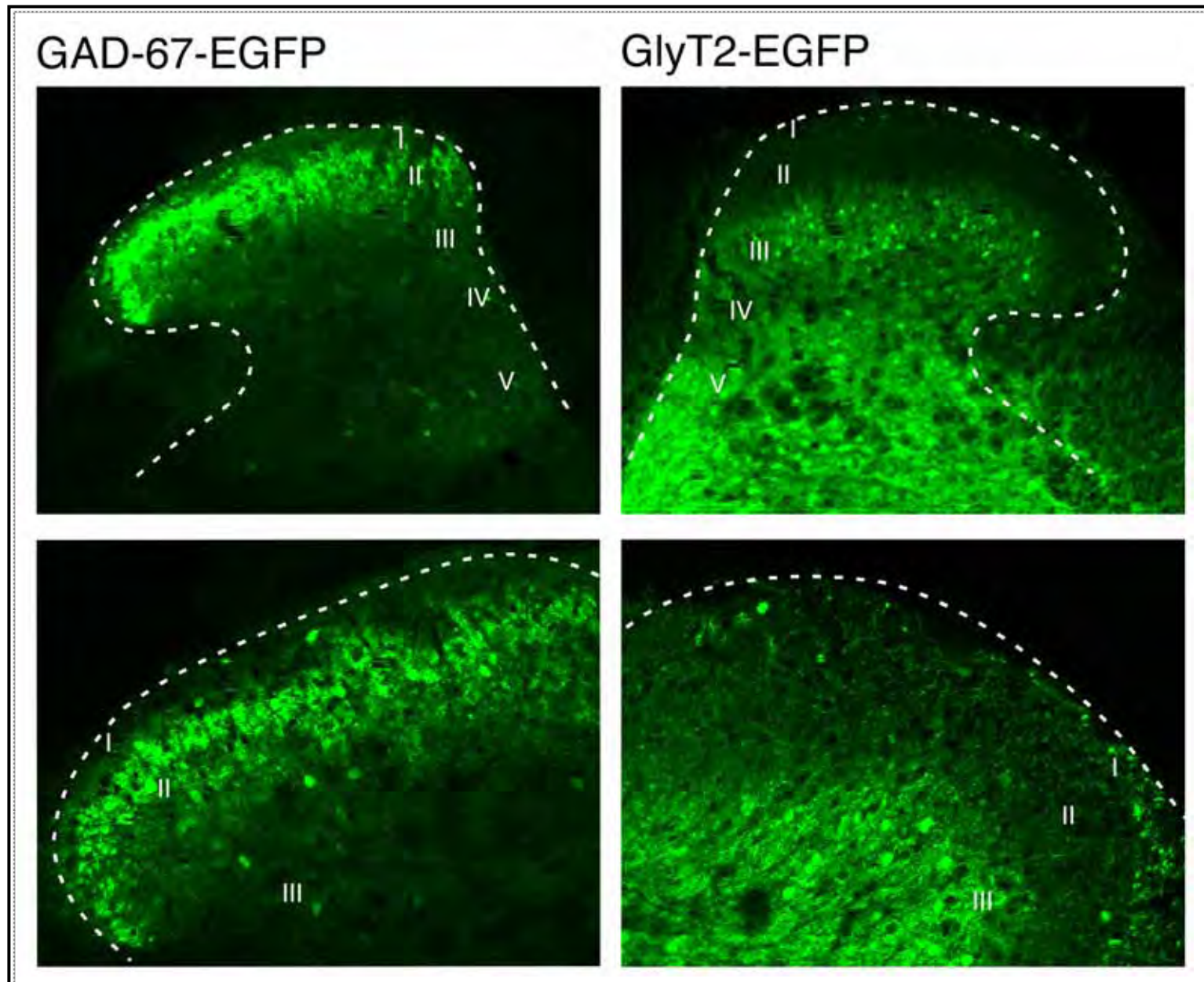




# Generation of BAC Transgenic Mice Expressing EGFP in Neuronal Subpopulations



# Inhibitory Neurons in the Spinal Dorsal Horn



Transcriptom of dorsal horn inhibitory cells

*GlyT2*-EGFP

*GAD67*-EGFP

*ppN/OFQ*-EGFP

Inhibitory interneuron-specific gene deletion

*GlyT2*-cre

*GAD67*-cre

Association studies

postoperative hyperalgesia

migraine