

In collaborazione



PRESIDENZA DEL CONSIGLIO DEI MINISTRI

Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga

NEUROSCIENZE  
e DIPENDENZE



REGIONE DEL VENETO  
Programma  
Regionale sulle  
Dipendenze

Verona, 9 June 2010



# BRAIN MATURATION BEHAVIORAL PROBLEM DRUGS

only

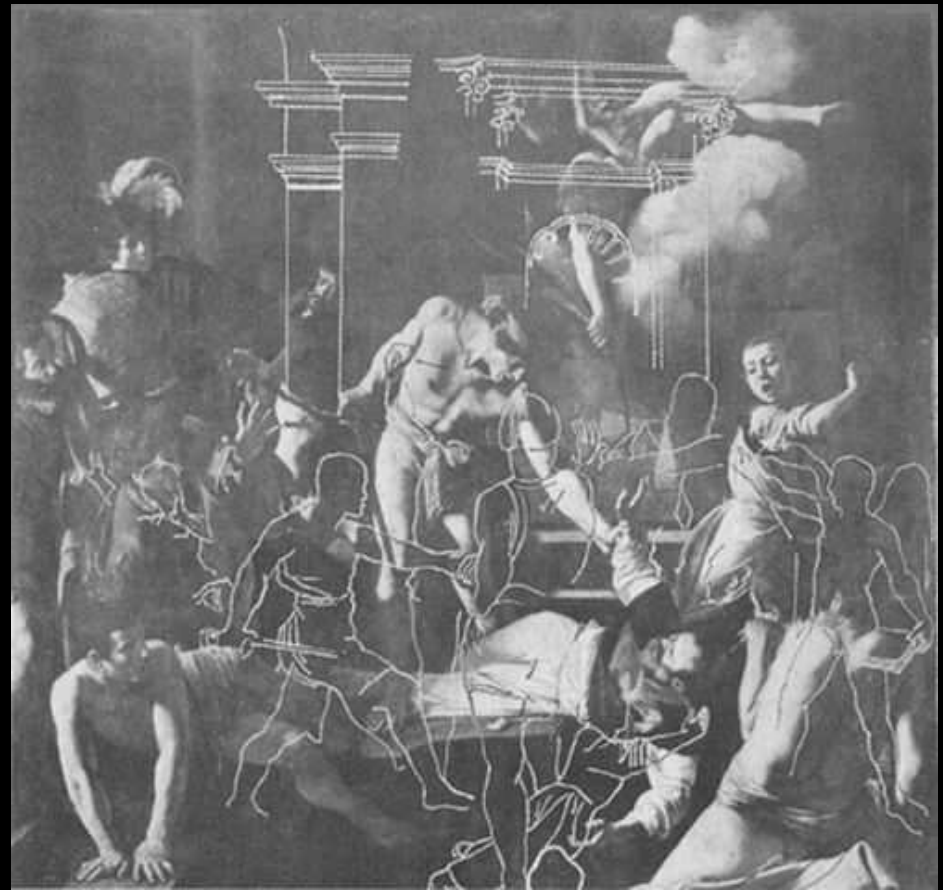
if



Francesco A. Bricolo M.D.



## Martirio di san Matteo



WHAT WE KNOW

EXAMPLE

WHAT WE DO

## WHAT WE KNOW

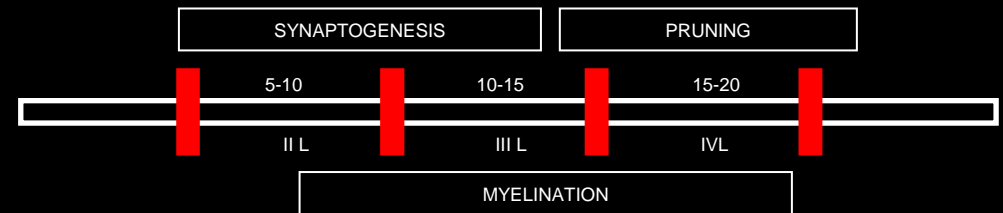
1. TIME



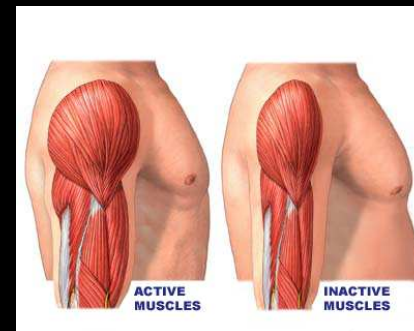
2. DIRECTION



3. EVENTS



4. RULES





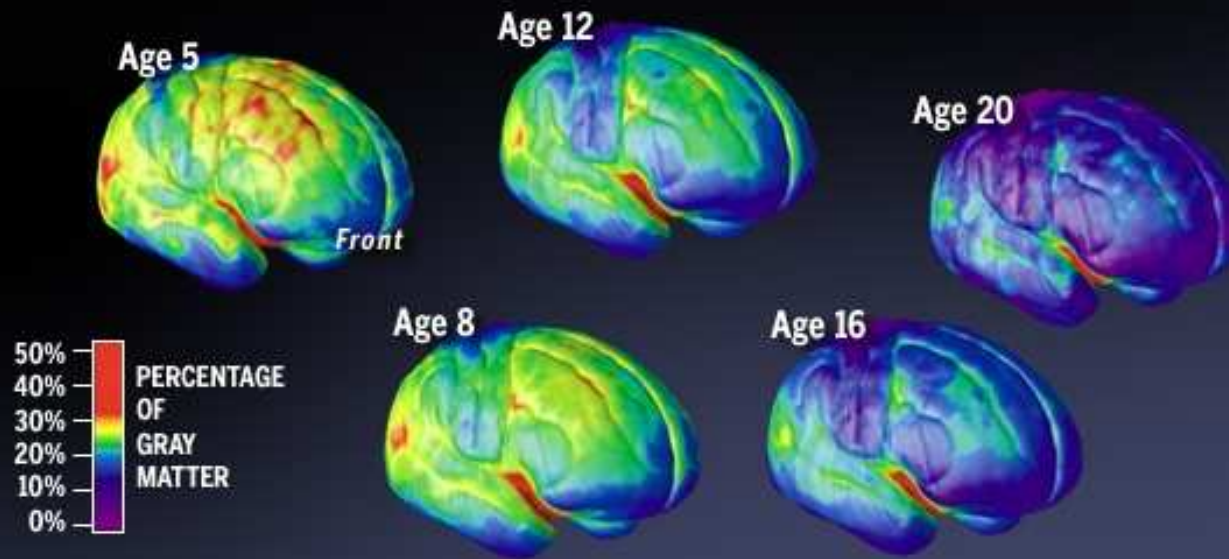
## WHAT WE KNOW

# 1. TIME



### Time-Lapse Brain

■ Gray matter wanes as the brain matures. Here 15 years of brain development are compressed into five images, showing a shift from red (least mature) to blue.

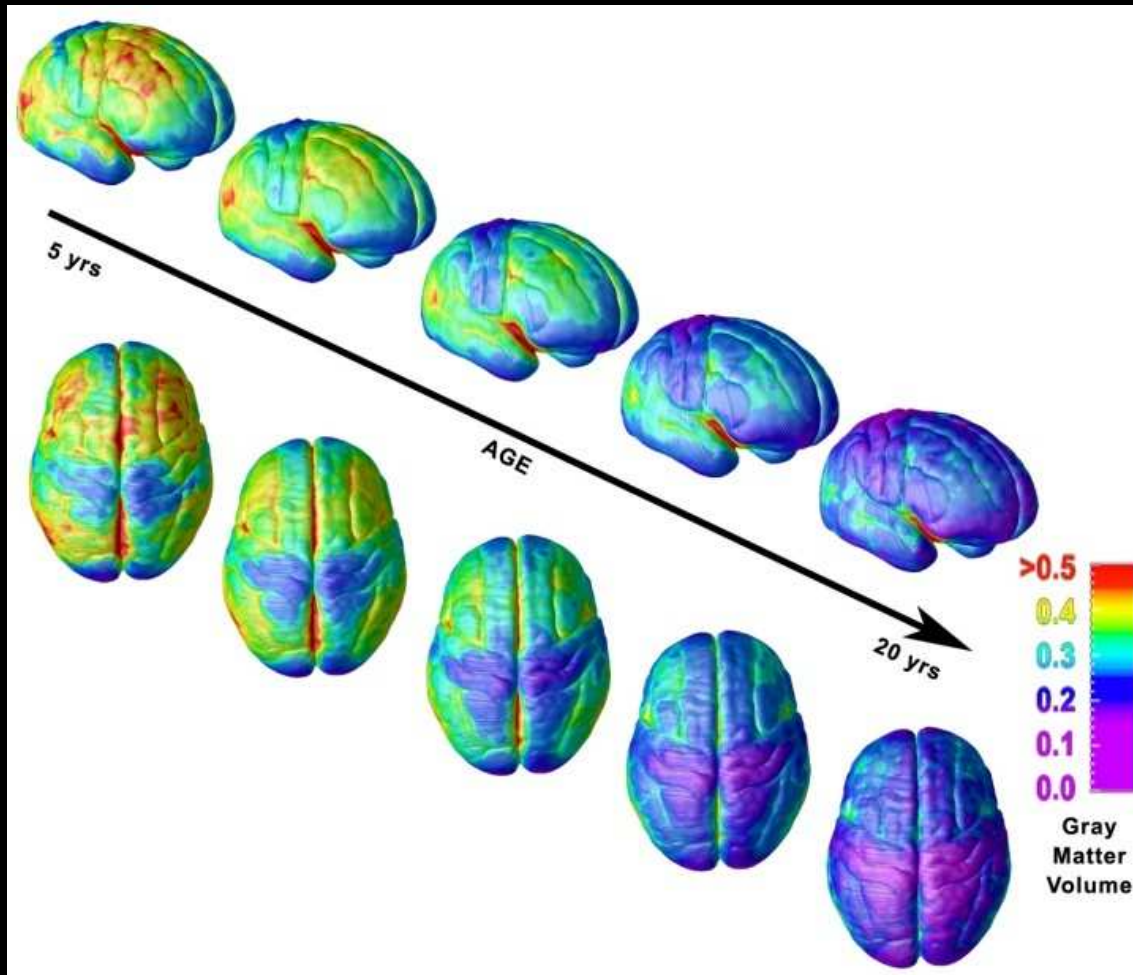


[« PREVIOUS](#)

[NEXT: Launch Flash Movie »](#)

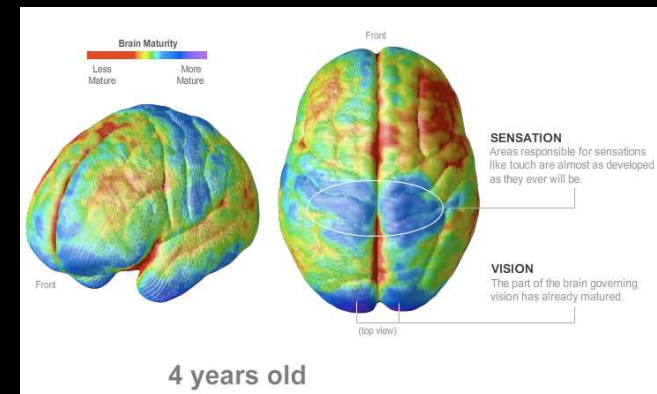
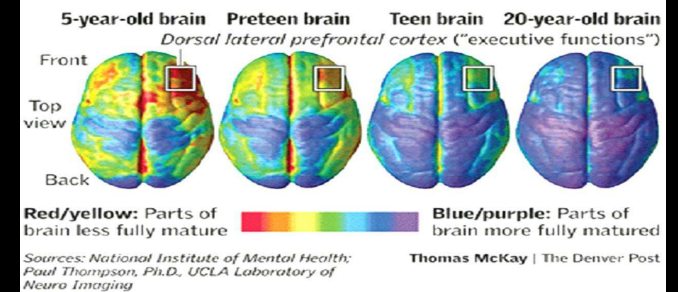
# WHAT WE KNOW

## 1. TIME



### Judgment last to develop

The area of the brain that controls "executive functions" — including weighing long-term consequences and controlling impulses — is among the last to fully mature. Brain development from childhood to adulthood:



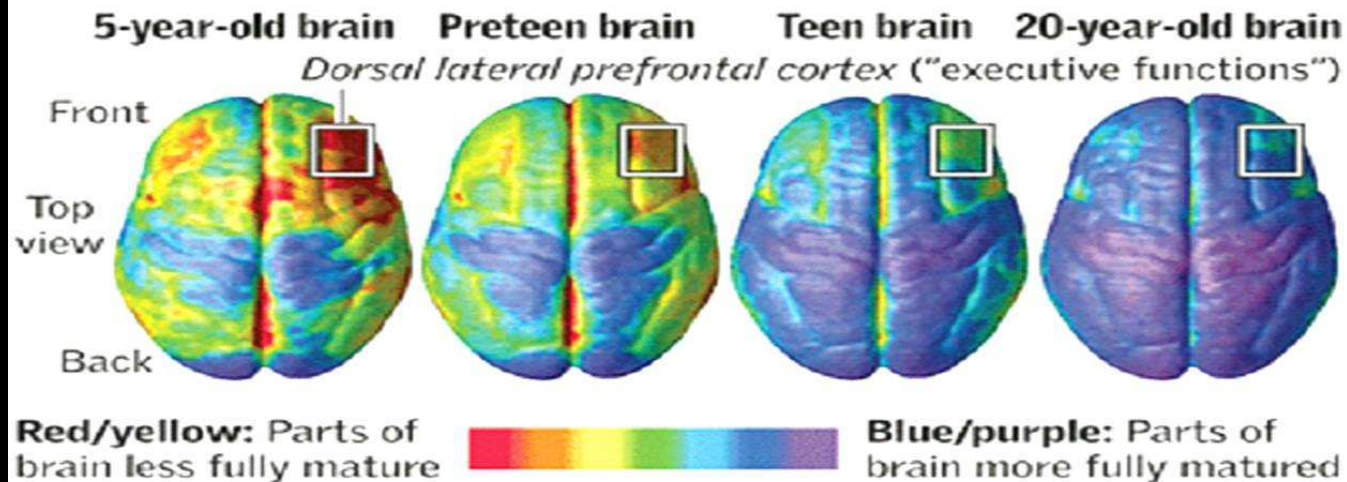
# WHAT WE KNOW

## 1. TIME



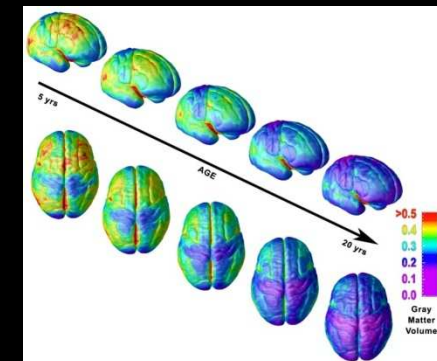
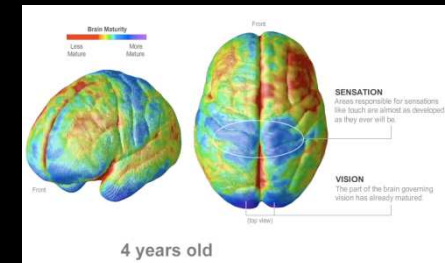
### Judgment last to develop

The area of the brain that controls “executive functions” — including weighing long-term consequences and controlling impulses — is among the last to fully mature. Brain development from childhood to adulthood:



Sources: National Institute of Mental Health;  
Paul Thompson, Ph.D., UCLA Laboratory of  
Neuro Imaging

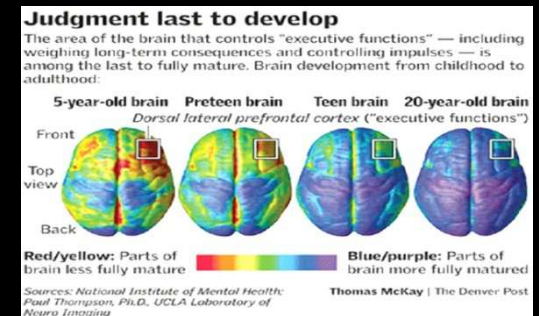
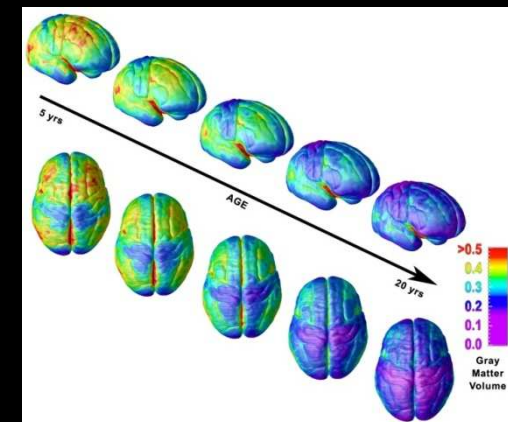
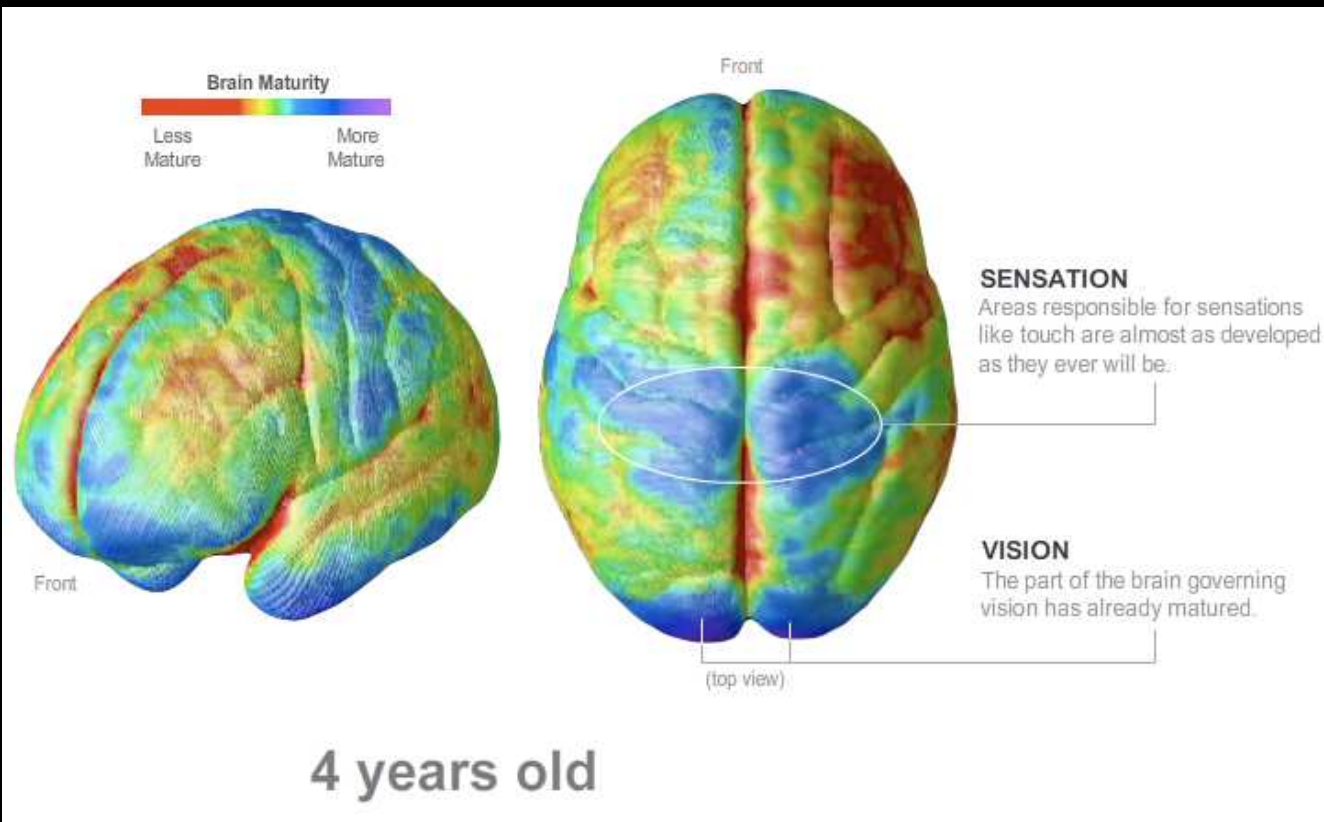
Thomas McKay | The Denver Post





# WHAT WE KNOW

## 1. TIME

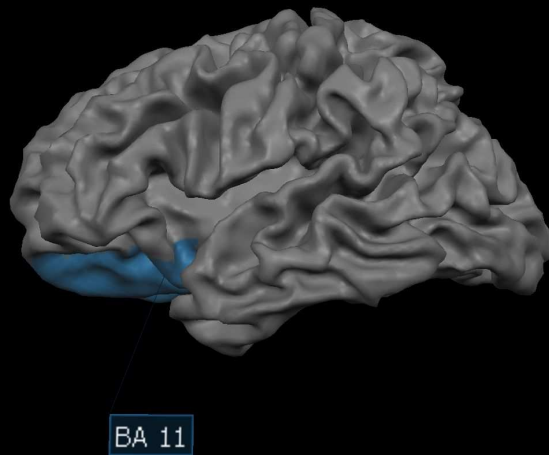




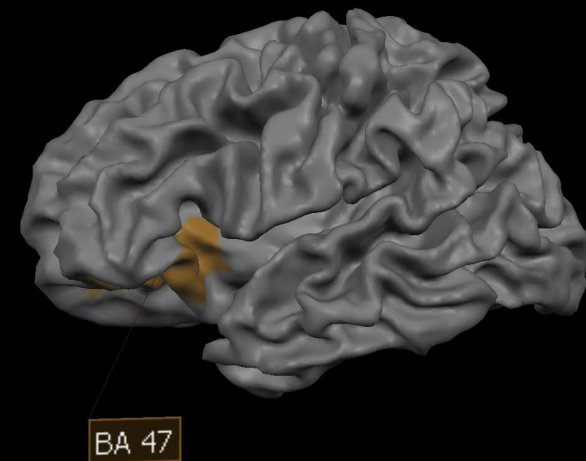
# WHAT WE KNOW



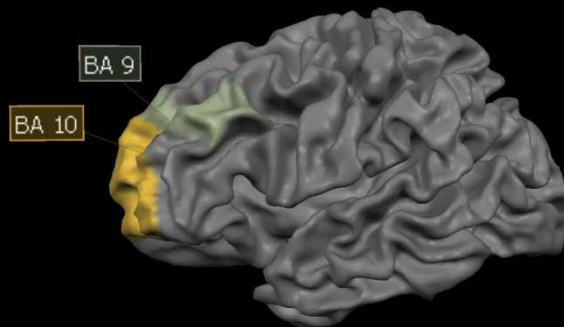
OFC  
Orbito Frontal Cortex



VLPFC  
Ventro Lateral Prefrontal Cortex

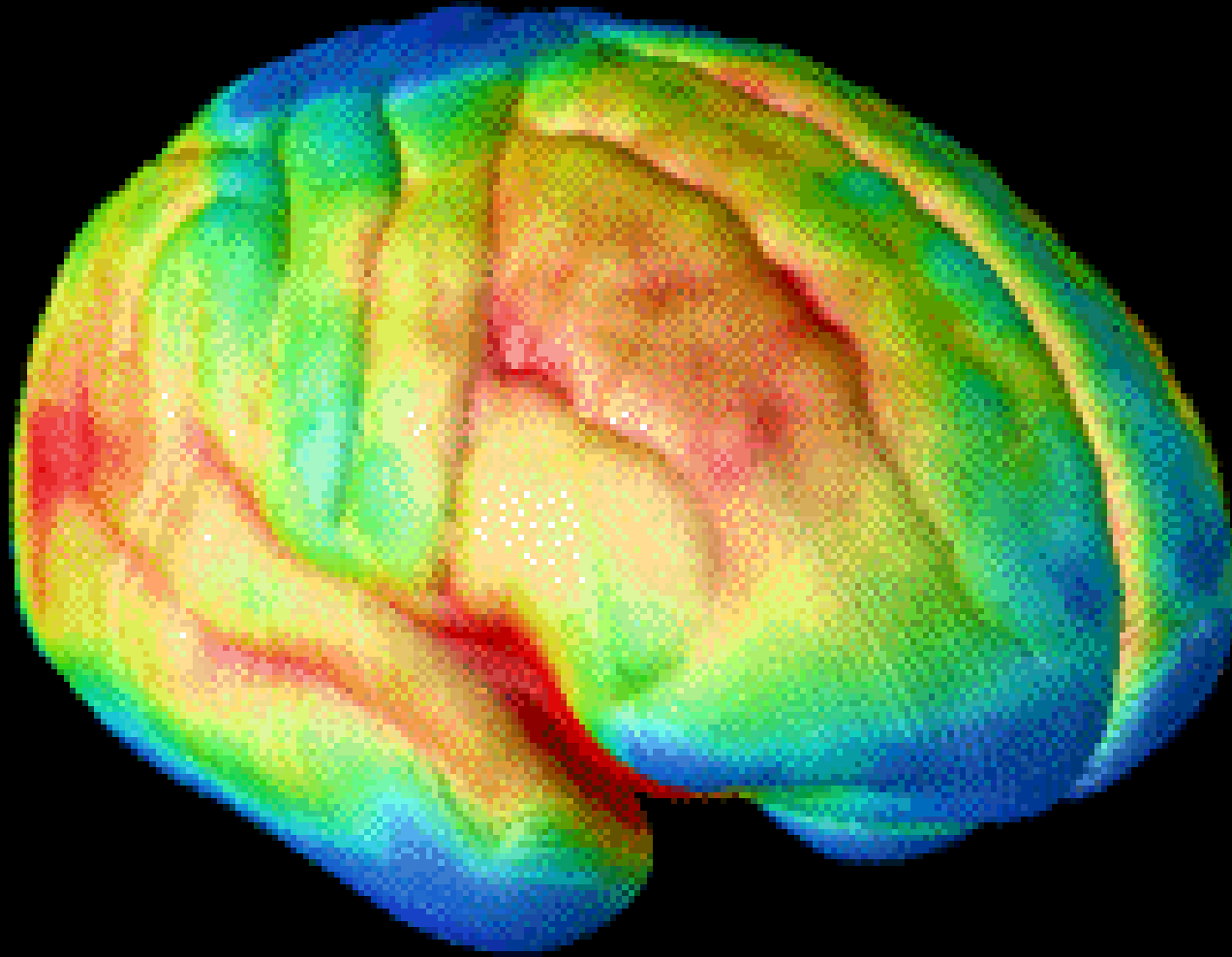


DLPFC  
Dorso Lateral Prefrontal Cortex



## WHAT WE KNOW

### 1. TIME



WHAT WE KNOW



DIRECTION

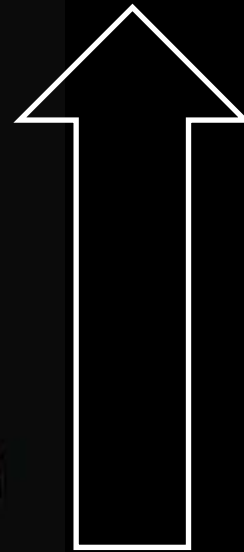


neocortex



old brain

up



down

adolescence

**L** > **C**

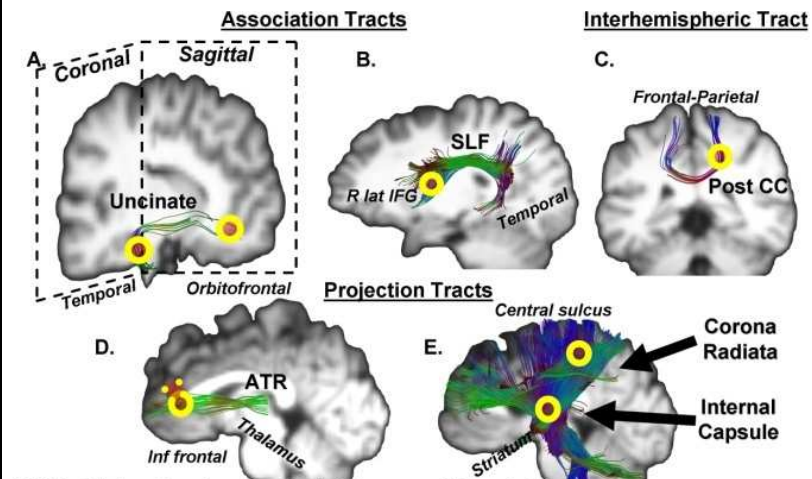


# WHAT WE KNOW

## 2. DIRECTION

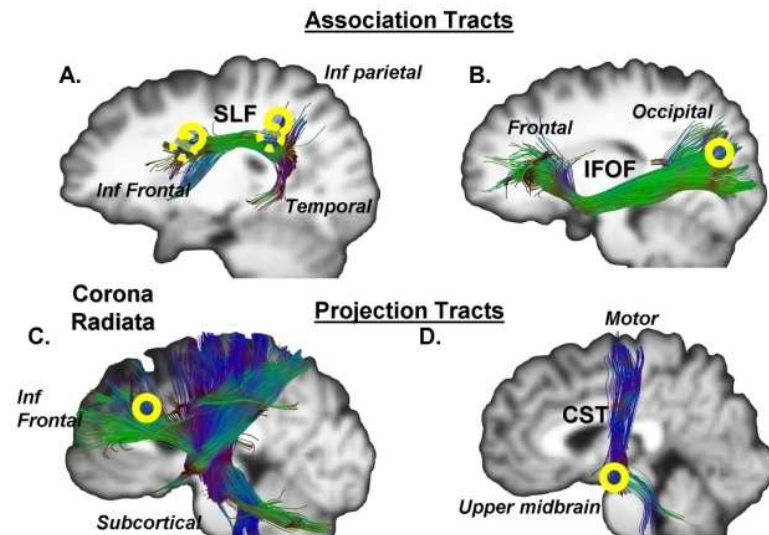


### Immature During Adolescence



"White Matter Development in Adolescence" Cereb Cortex.  
2010 Jan 5." Used with permission, M. Asato MD

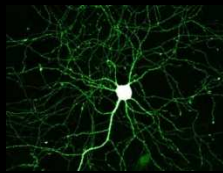
### Matures by Adolescence



"White Matter Development in Adolescence" Cereb Cortex.  
2010 Jan 5." Used with permission, M. Asato MD

## WHAT WE KNOW

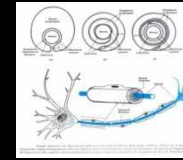
### 3. EVENTS



+



+



SYNAPTOGENESIS

PRUNING



MYELINATION

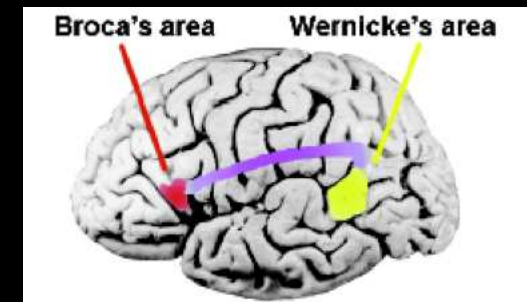


4-12  
mesi

Linguaggio

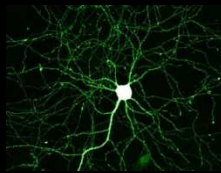


5



## WHAT WE KNOW

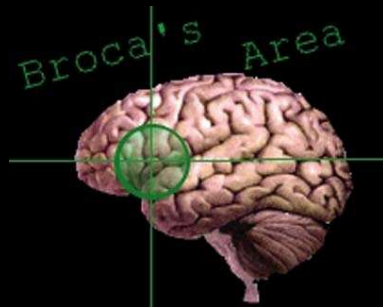
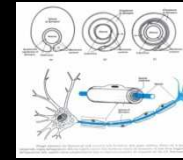
### 3. EVENTS



+



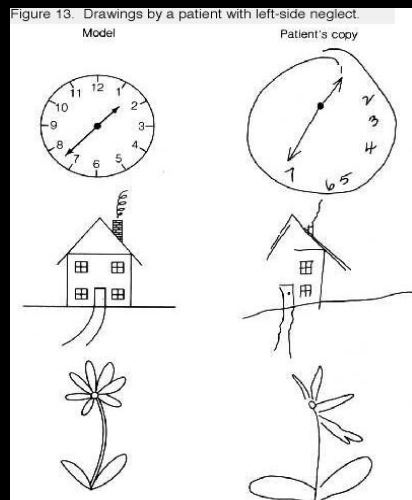
+



5

Linguaggio

I L



7

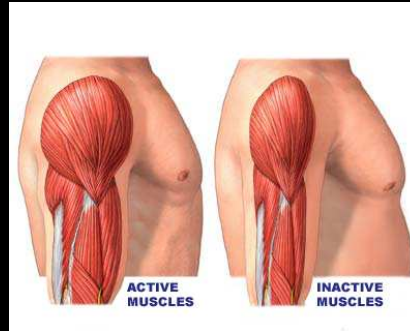
Schema corporeo

I L

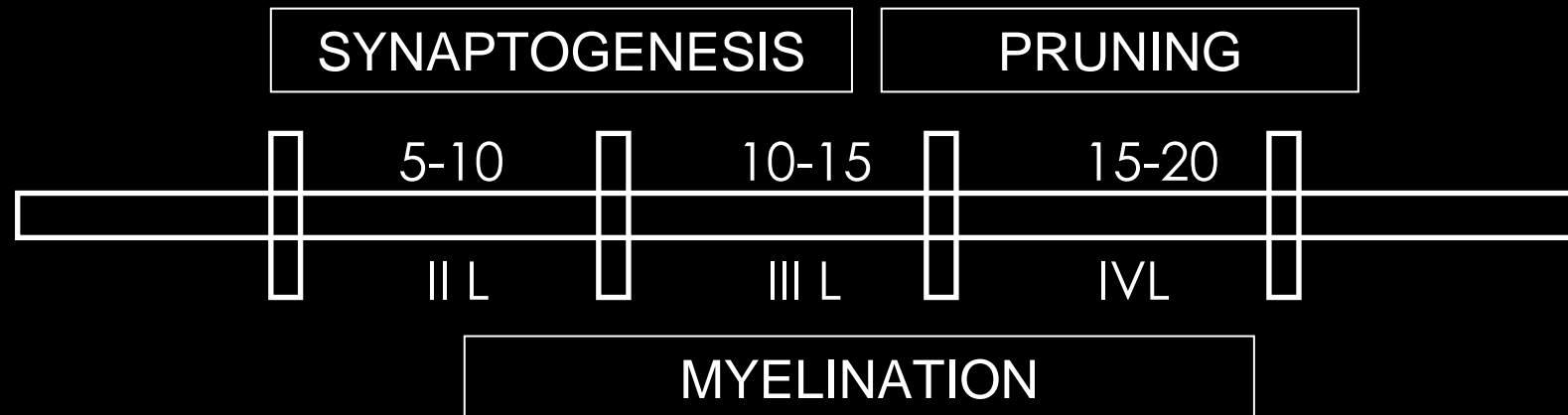


## 4. RULES

### WHAT WE KNOW

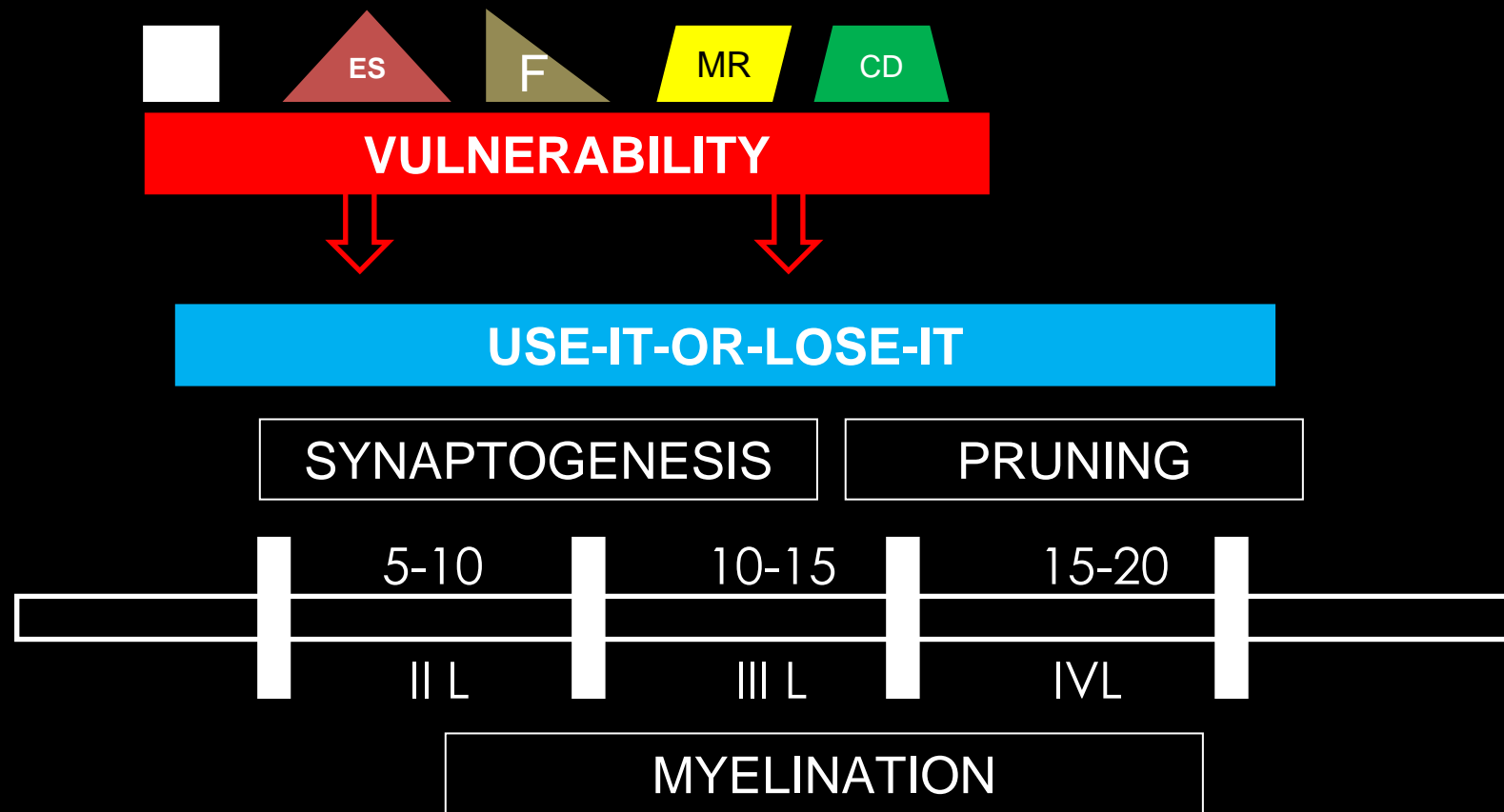
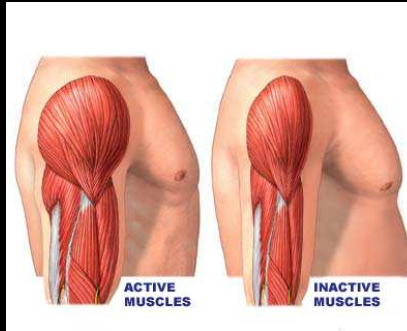


# USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT

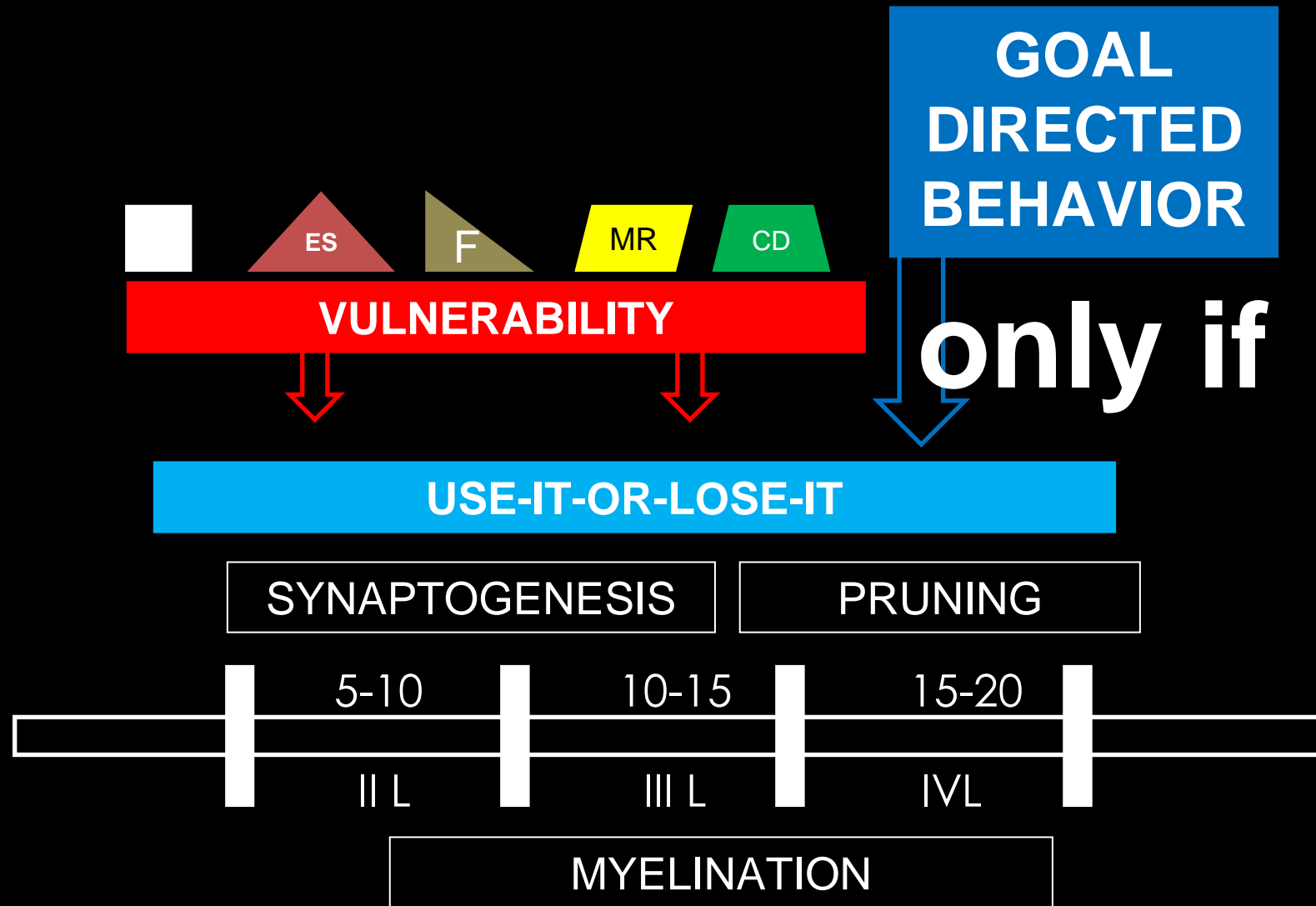


# 4. RULES

## WHAT WE KNOW

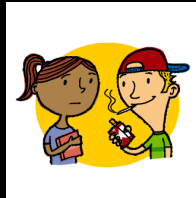


# WHAT WE KNOW SUMMARY?



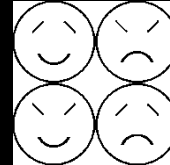


**RISK TAKING**



**PEER PRESSURE**

**TEMPERAMENT**



**CANNABIS**

**EXTERNALIZING**



# RISK TAKING



## RISKY SELECTIONS ADULTS VS ADOLESCENTS

Neir Eshel, 2007



VS



> OFC/VLPFC (BA 47) dACC (BA 32)



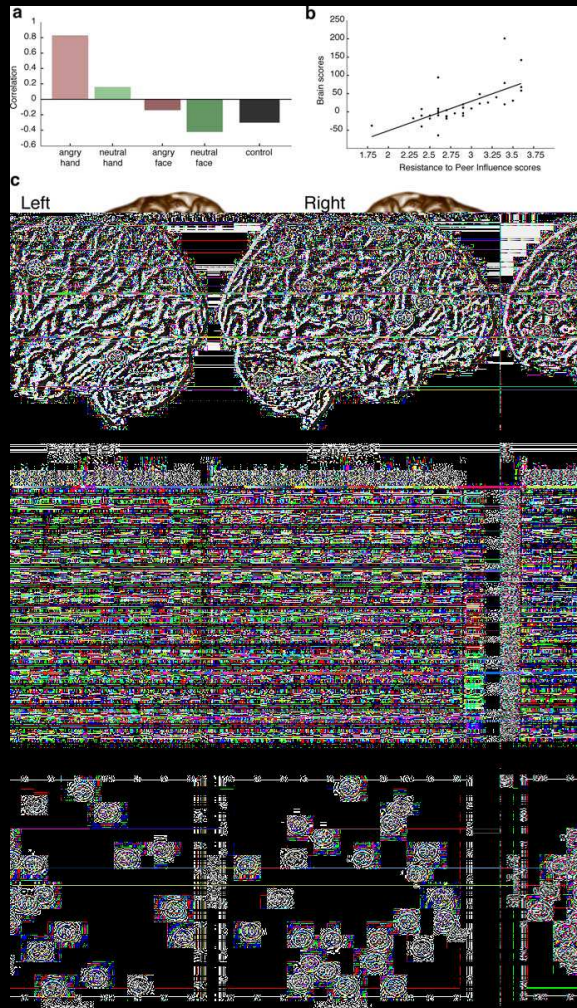
> OFC/VLPFC (BA 47) dACC (BA 32)



“adolescents engage prefrontal regulatory structures to a lesser extent than adults when making risky economic choices”



# PEER PRESSURE



Paus T, 2007; Grosbras 2007

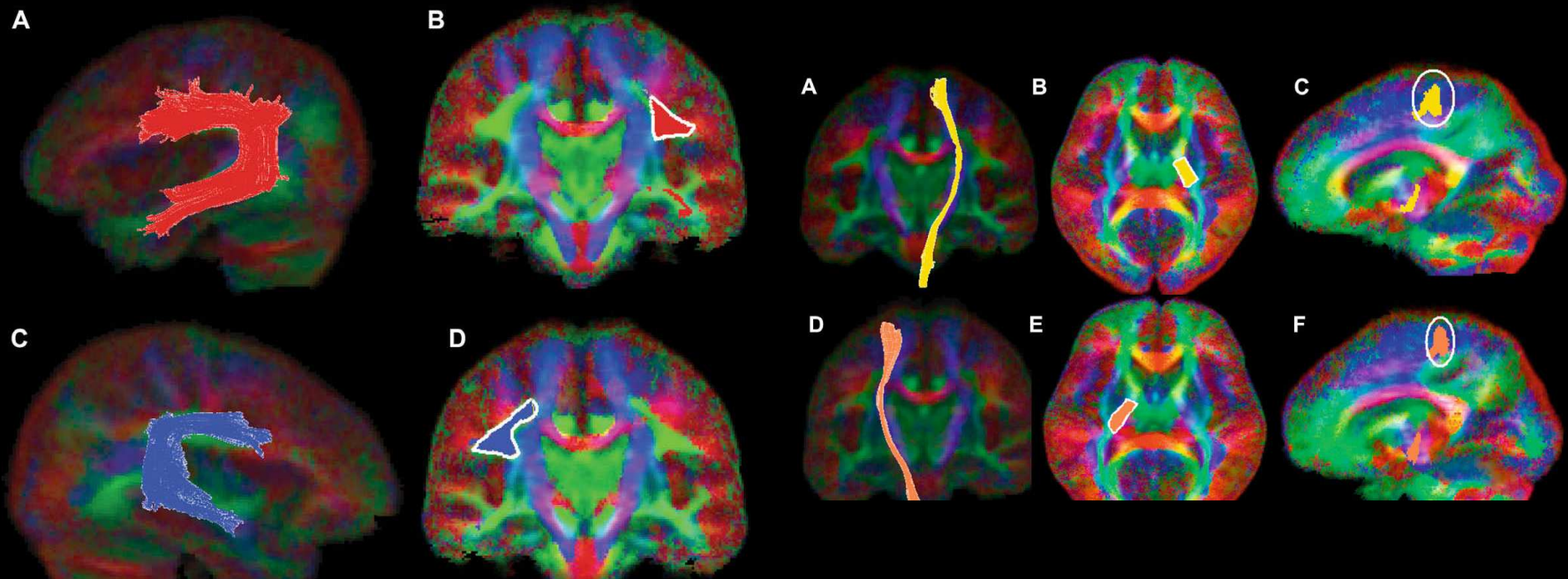
“cortical thickness increased with the resistance to peer influence”





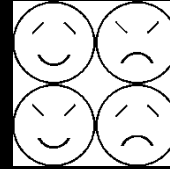
# CANNABIS

**“MAY AFFECT TRAJECTORY OF  
NORMAL BRAIN MATURATION”**



Ashtari M, Cervellione K, Cottone J, Ardekani BA, Sevy S, Kumra S. Diffusion abnormalities in adolescents and young adults with a history of heavy cannabis use. *Psychiatr Res*. 2009 Jan;43(3):189-204.

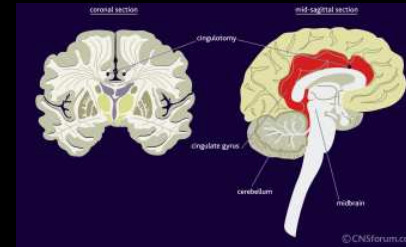
# TEMPERAMENT



Gardini S, Cloninger CR, Venneri A. Individual differences in personality traits reflect structural variance in specific brain regions. Brain Res Bull. 2009 Jun 30;79(5):265-70. Epub 2009 Mar 28.

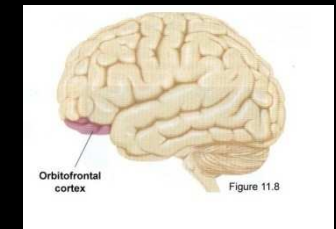
## NOVELTY SEEKING

**correlated positively** with grey matter volume in frontal and posterior cingulate regions.



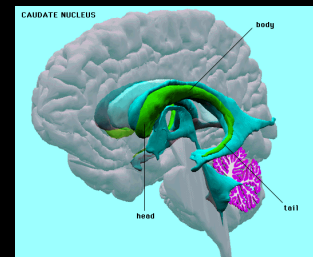
## HARM AVOIDANTS

**negative correlation** with grey matter volume in orbito-frontal, occipital and parietal structures.



## REWARD DEPENDENCE

**negatively correlated** with grey matter volume in the caudate nucleus and in the rectal frontal gyrus.



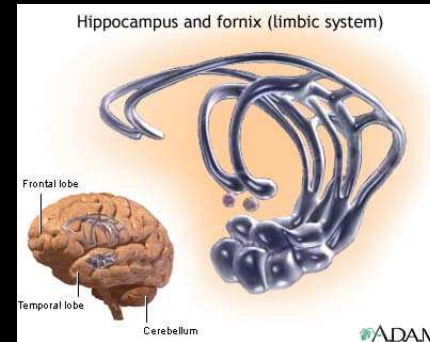
# EXTERNALIZING



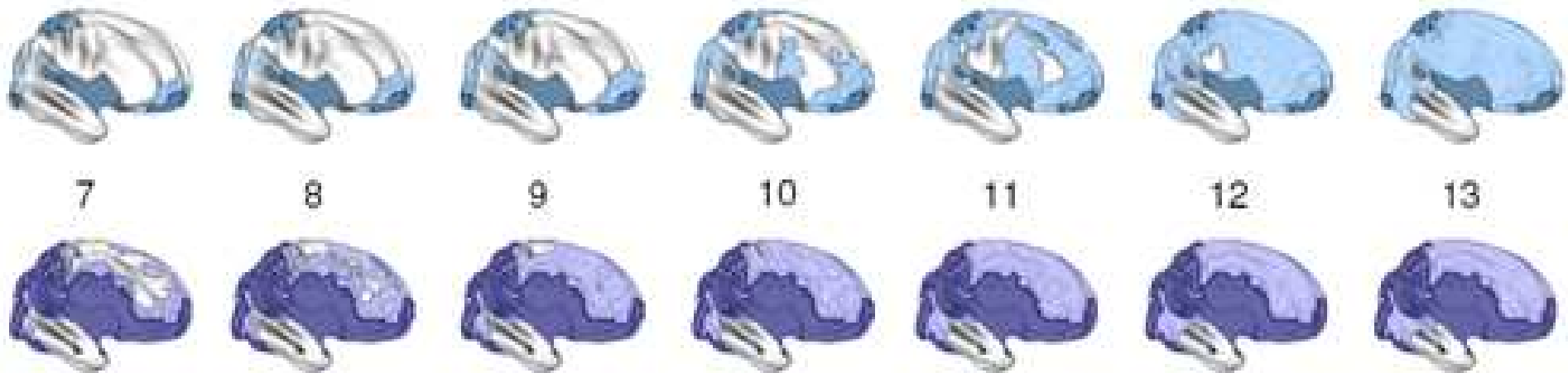
Bjork JM, Chen G, Smith AR, Hommer DW. Incentive-elicited mesolimbic activation and externalizing symptomatology in adolescents. J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2009 Dec 11

“exaggerated limbic response to outcomes of reward-directed behavior”

NIH



DISTURBI COMPORTAMENTALI



GRUPPO SANO

# WHAT WE CAN DO

# CLINICAL PRACTICE

<http://www.neuroscienzedipendenze.it>

## NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

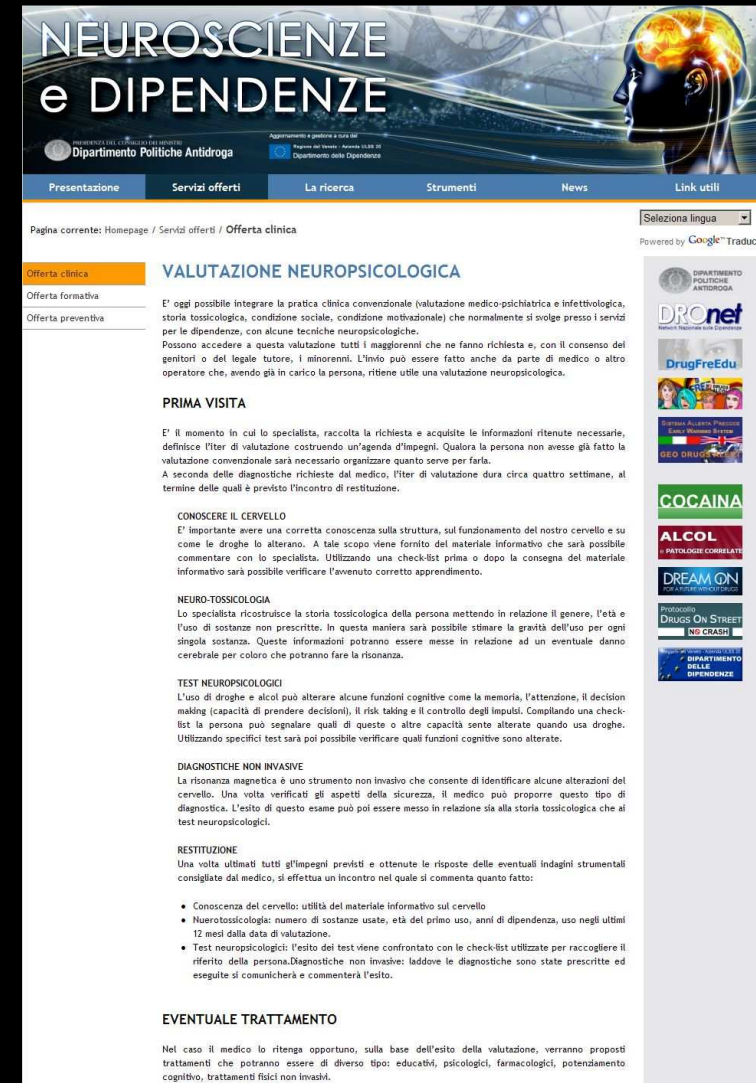
Talking about the brain

Neurotoxicology

Test

Non invasive diagnosis

Non invasive treatment

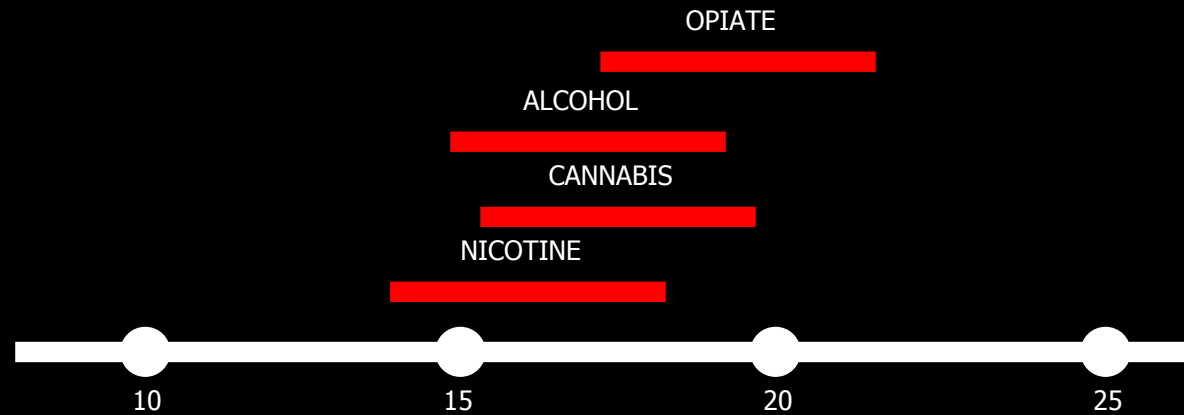


The screenshot displays the homepage of the website 'NEUROSCIENZE e DIPENDENZE', which is part of the 'Dipartimento Politiche Antidroga' (Department of Drug Policies). The page is titled 'VALUTAZIONE NEUROPSICOLOGICA' (Neuropsychological Assessment). The main content area discusses the integration of clinical practice with medical-psychiatric and toxicological history, social conditions, and motivational conditions. It mentions that the assessment is typically performed by a specialist, often a neurologist or psychiatrist, and involves a series of tests. The page also includes a sidebar with various links and resources, such as 'DROnet', 'DrugFreeEdu', 'COCAINA', 'ALCOL', 'DREAM ON', 'DRUGS ON STREET', and 'DIPARTIMENTO DELLE DIPENDENZE'. The footer contains information about the website's purpose and contact details.



# VNTS - VERONA NEURO TOX SCALE

VERONA		
0	0/365	0
1	1/365	1
2	1/180	2
3	1/150	2,4
4	1/120	3
5	1/90	4
6	1/60	6
7	1/30	12,1
8	1/15	24,3
9	1/7	52,1
10	1/6	60,8
11	1/5	73
12	1/4	91,2
13	2/7	104
14	1/3	121,6
15	1/2	182,5
16	1/1	365
17	+1	>365

[illegible]

VERONA = 4/11

OPIATE VR8

ALCOHOL VR9

# CANNABIS VR12

NICOTINE VR17

[illegible]

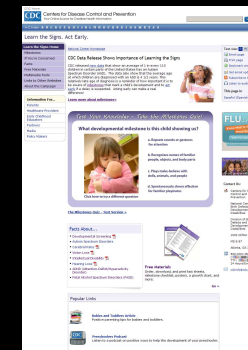
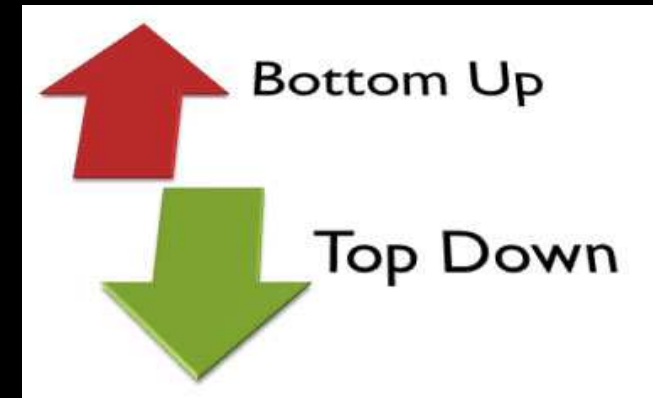
VERONA = 0/11

[illegible]

# EDUCATION

Natural born ability

Natural born ability



Time out



Ignore



# EDUCATION

# USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT

## INHIBITION

Turn off TV



Stop to play



## ACTIVATION

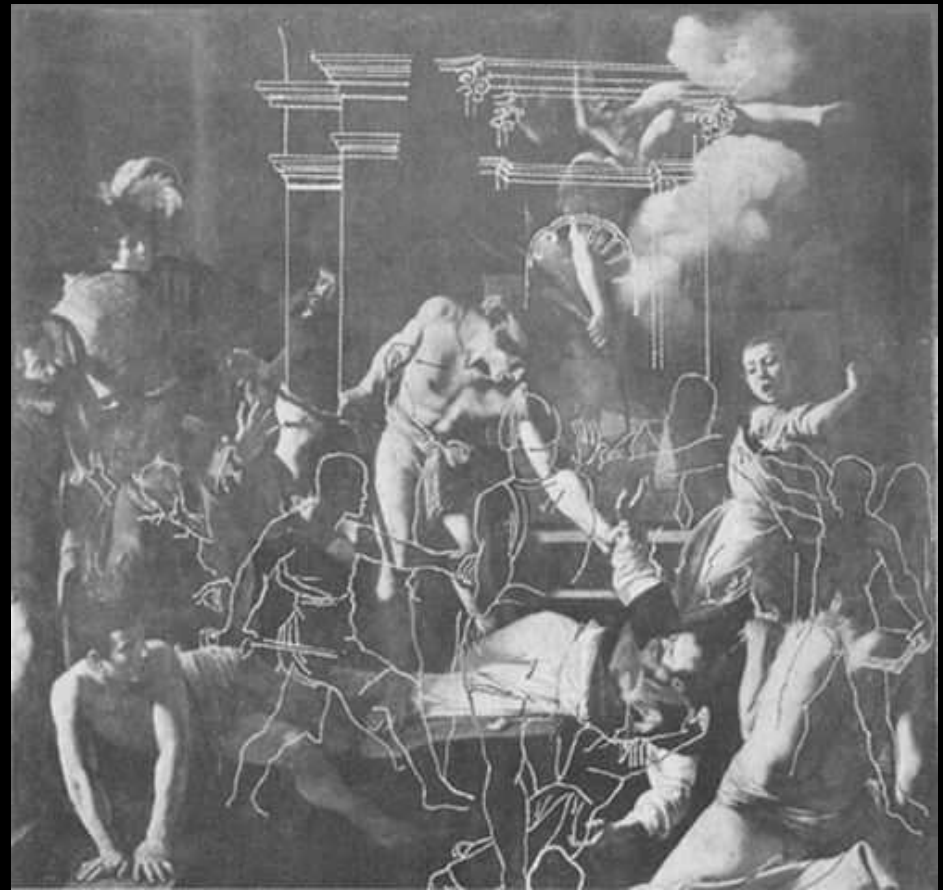
Go to play



Lunch time



## Martirio di san Matteo





[illegible]