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# The Nights of Our Lives: Why We Sleep & Dream

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# The Nights of Our Lives: Why We Sleep & Dream

Circle of Friends

**NSU**

Florida

College of Psychology  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

**Society** *for*  
**NeuroSports**  
*from lab bench to weight bench*

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**Nova Southeastern University**  
**Department of Psychology and Neuroscience**

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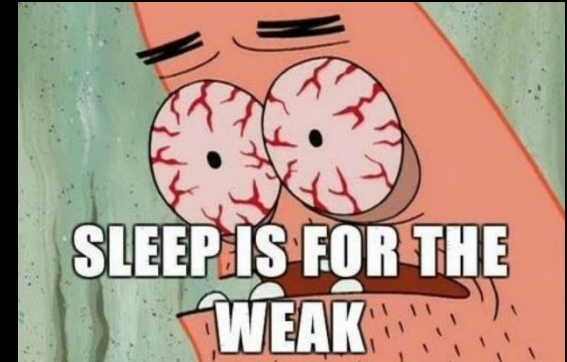
**Instagram: SocietyforNeuroSports**

1. Did you get enough sleep this past week?

2. Do you wake up without an alarm clock, feeling refreshed, not needing caffeine?



Two-thirds of adults do not get enough sleep

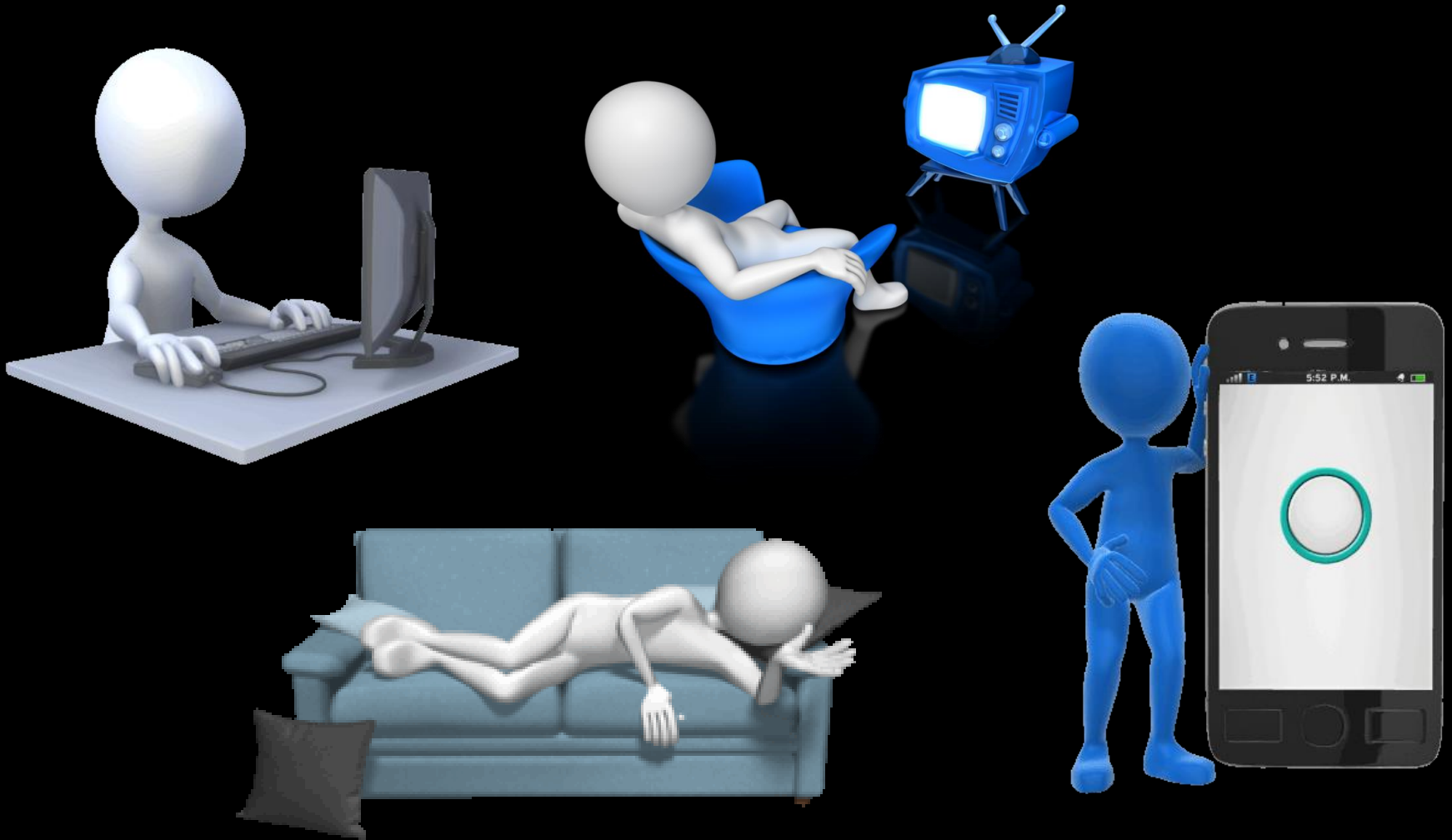


Sleep is not a luxury

Sleeping well is one of the absolute best things you can do for your health.



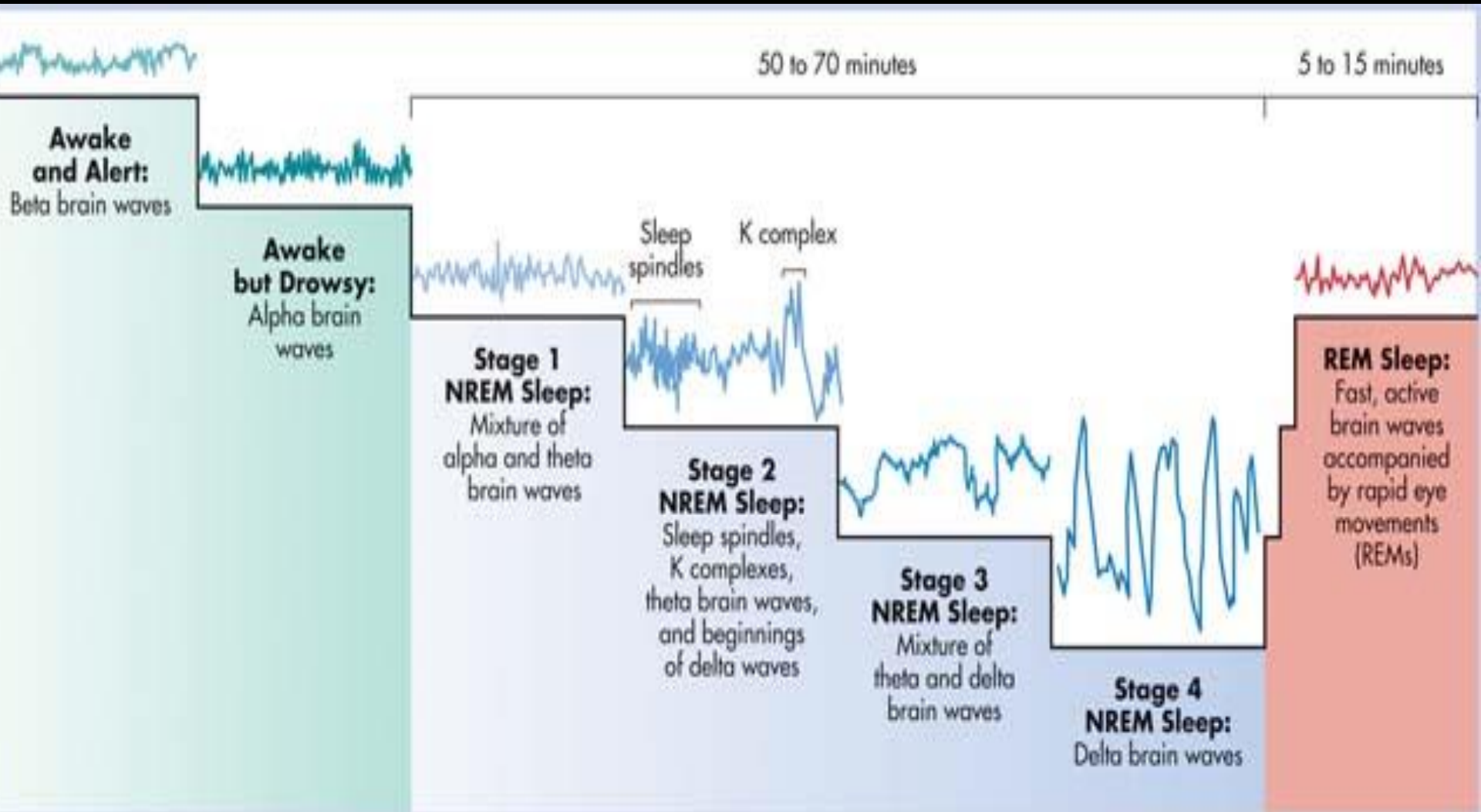
# Sleep Deprivation vs. Sleep Restriction



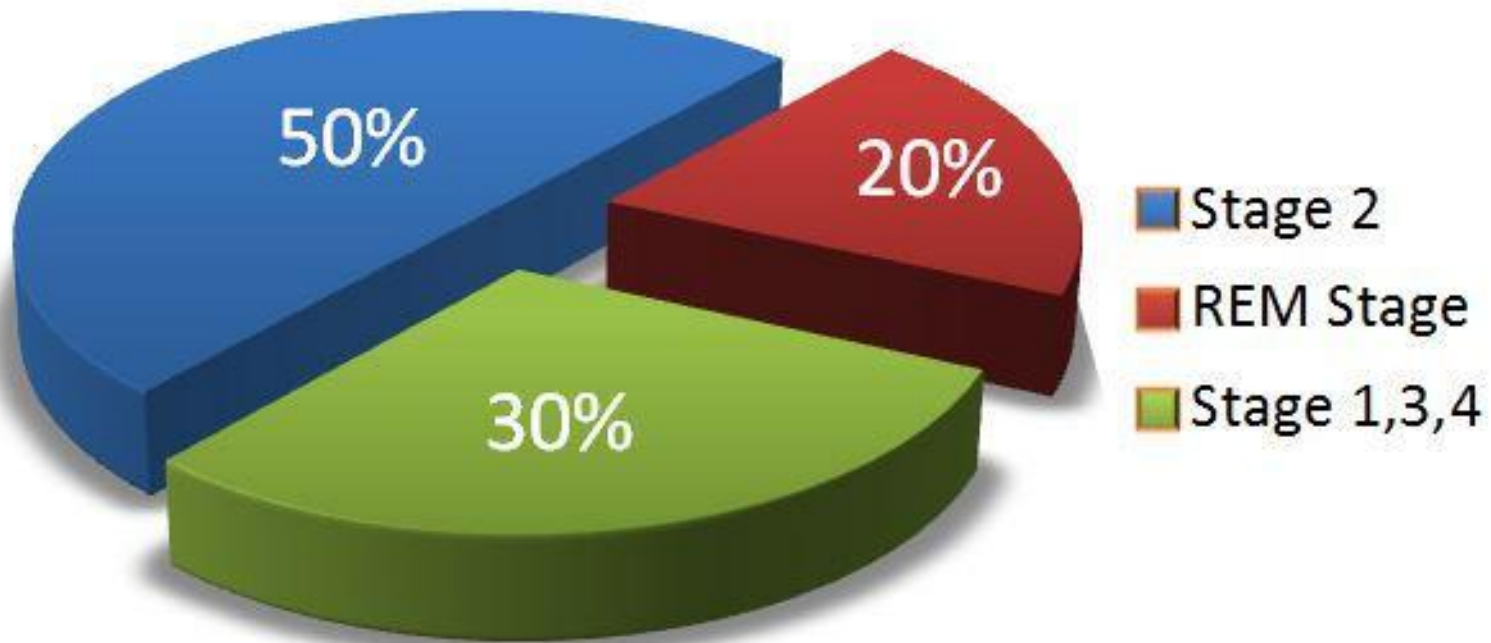
# Who wants to sleep better?



# Sleep Stages and Sleep Architecture



# Sleep Stages and Sleep Architecture



Total Sleep Time In Different Sleep Stages

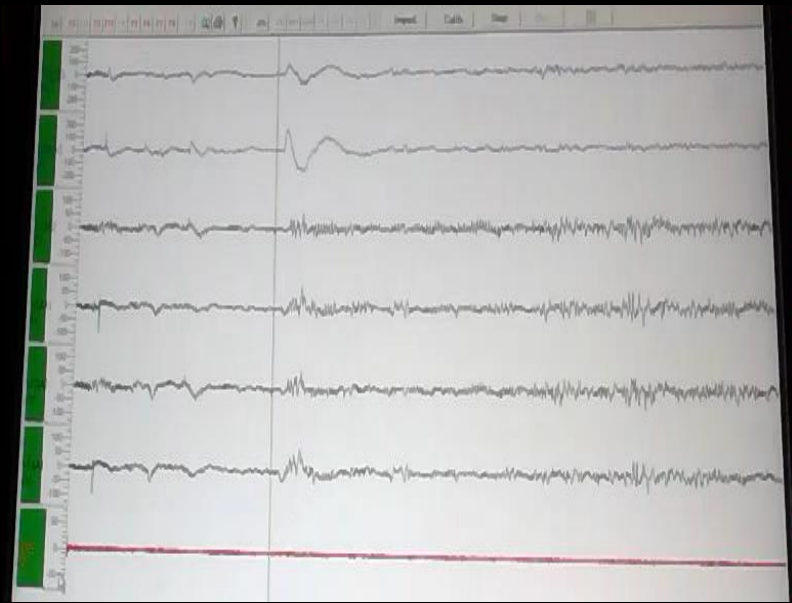
PSG wake and sleep recordings during a napping session in the NSU Sleep Lab.



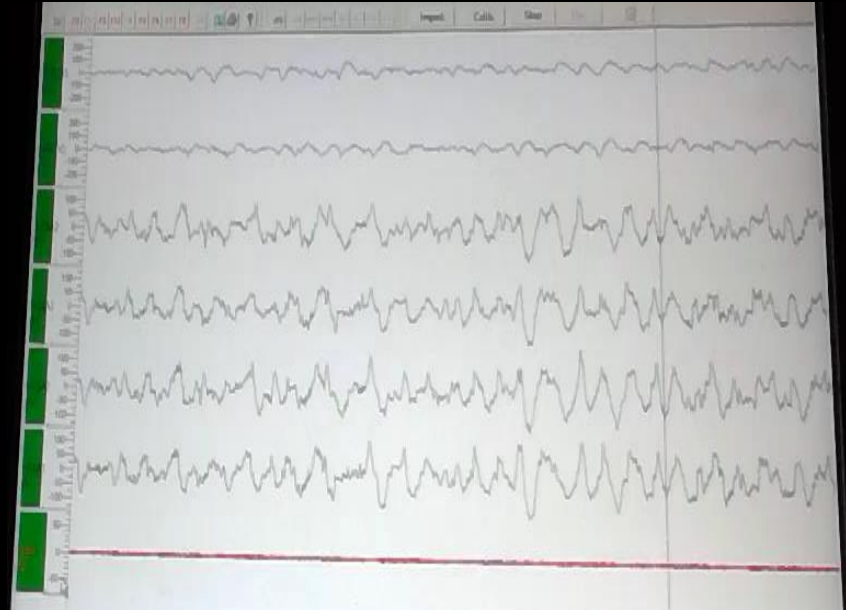
NSU grad student Kayla Thompson



Dr. Ana Fins



WAKE



SLEEP



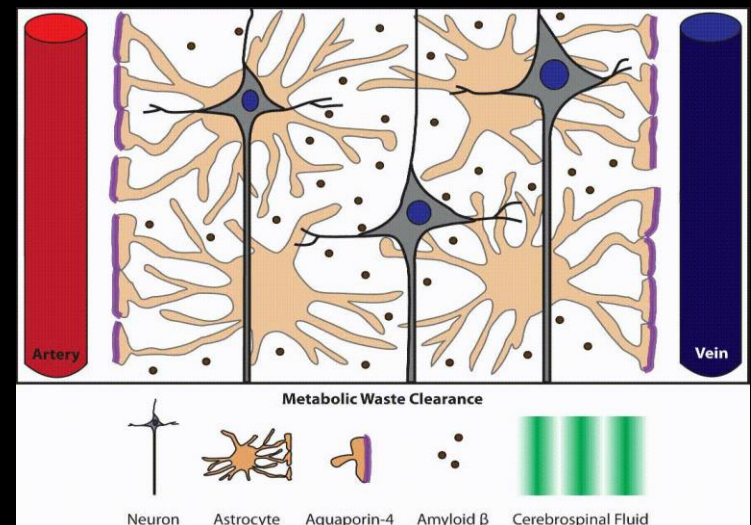
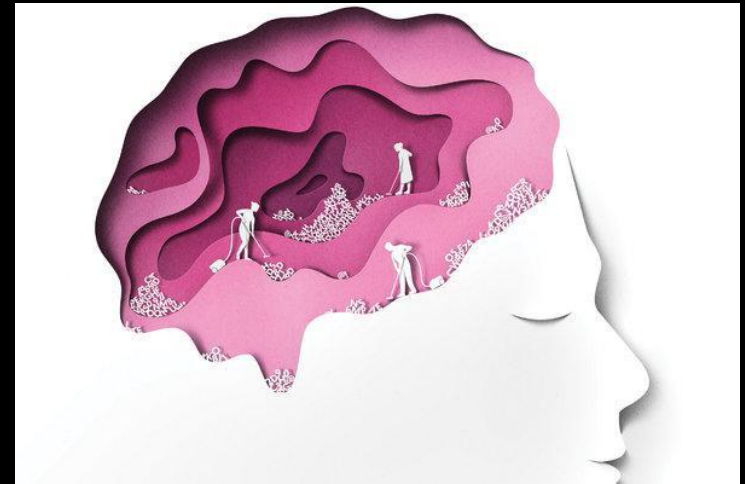
# Question 1 -Why do we Sleep?



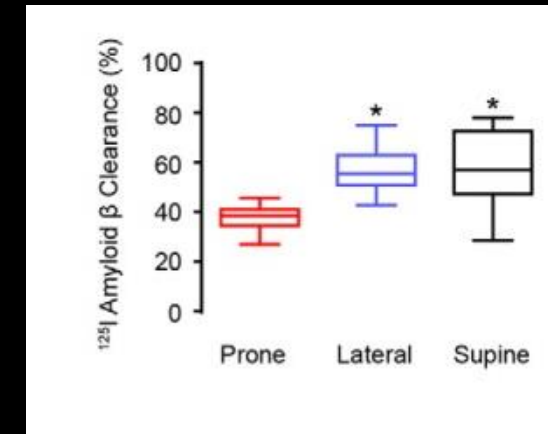
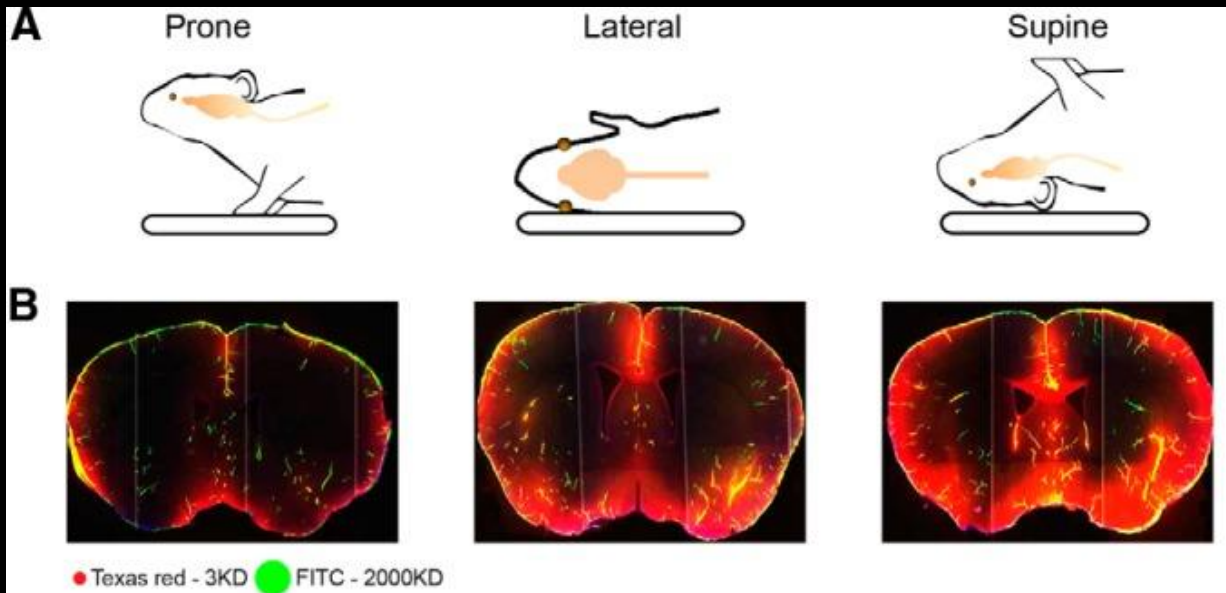
# Sleep Cleans the Brain: The Glymphatic System

The lymphatic drainage pathway removes extracellular proteins, excess fluid, and metabolic waste products.

The clearance of these waste products- like Amyloid- $\beta$  ( $A\beta$ )- increases during slow wave sleep.



# The Glymphatic System and Sleeping Position



A tracer (red) was mixed with CSF and injected into the area surrounding the brain.  
CSF influx in brain was significantly reduced in prone brain compared with lateral and supine brain

A $\beta$  clearance was significantly more efficient in the supine than in the lateral and prone positions

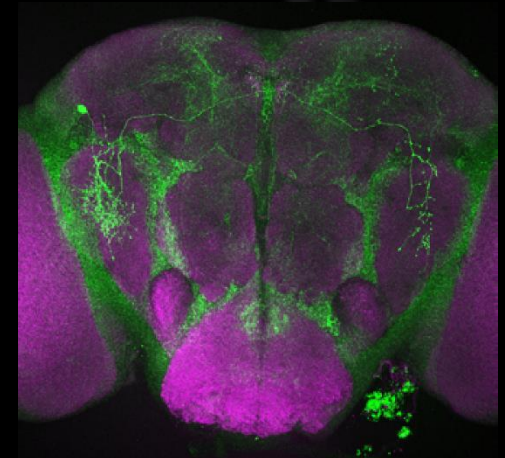
# Sleep Helps the Immune System: Sickness, Stress, and Somnogens

Adenosine builds up during the day to promote sleepiness at night.

Interleukin-1 beta (IL-1 $\beta$ ) and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF $\alpha$ ) promote NREM sleep under stress and inflammatory conditions.

...and hot off the press (Feb 2019)!

The peptide *nemuri* has been discovered in fruit flies to combat bacteria AND increase sleepiness.



Expression of the *nemuri* gene (green) in neurons in the brain of a fruit fly.

# Findings from my Lab

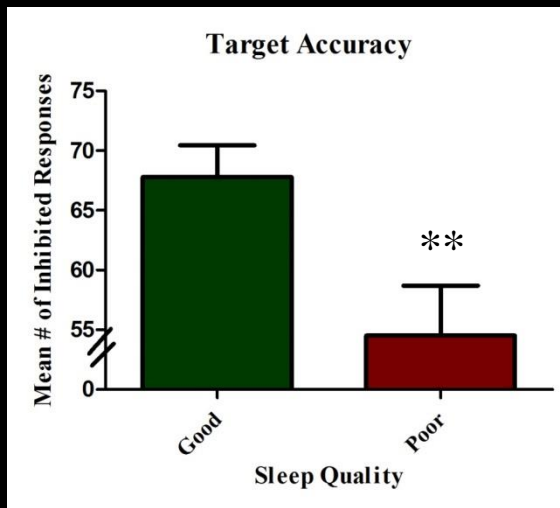
## Sleep Loss Affects Interrelated Processes



We use a combination of physiological and clinical assessments to test the effects of sleep loss across multiple health and behavioral domains.

# Poor sleep quality is associated with an increased negativity bias and decreased sustained attention

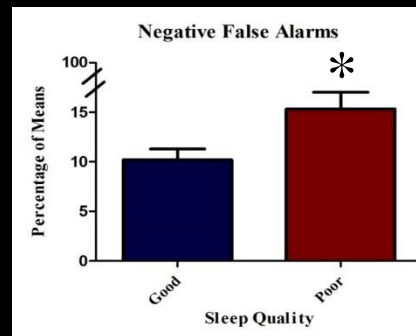
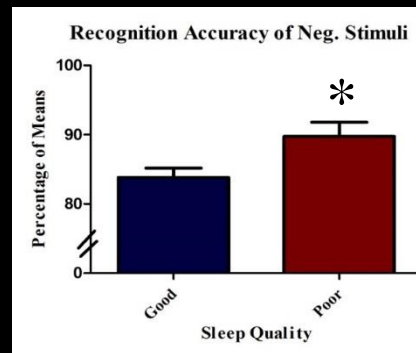
## Non-Emotion Attention Task



Poor quality is associated with a reduction in target accuracy

\* =  $p < 0.05$  \*\* $p < 0.01$

## Emotion Task: Memory for Emotionally Negative Pictures



Poor sleep quality is associated with greater sensitivity to negative stimuli



Jonathan Banks, Ph.D.

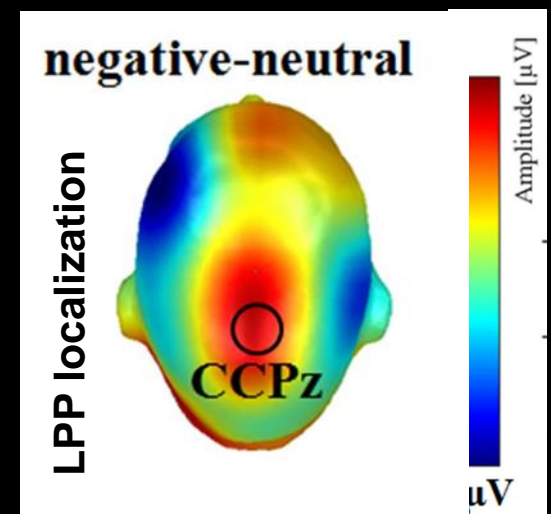
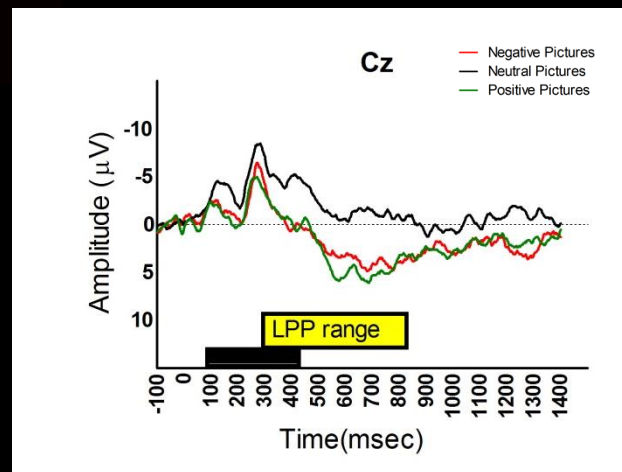
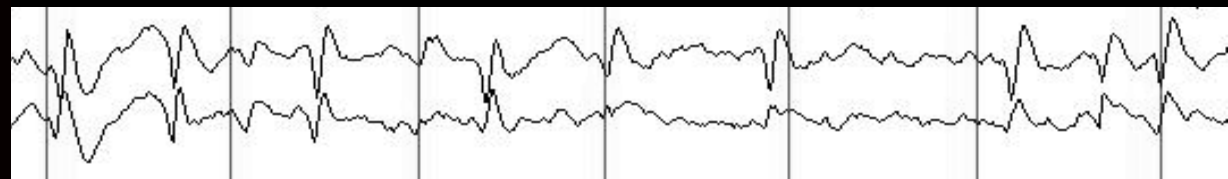
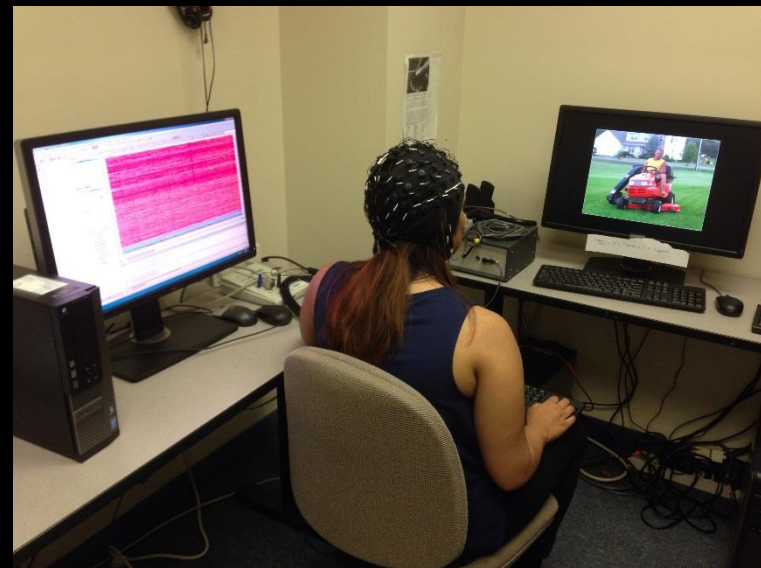


Ana Fins, Ph.D.



Christina Gobin

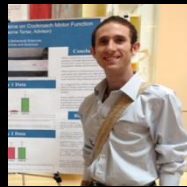
# Getting into the Brain



# Sleep Deprivation and Sleepiness Leads to Emotional Instability



Ramey Alfarra



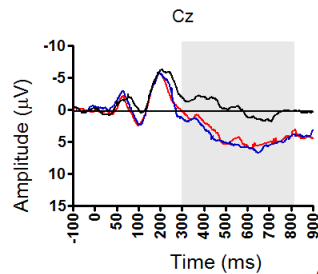
Isaac Chayo



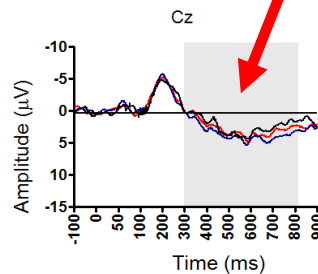
Ana Fins, Ph.D

## Sleep Deprivation

### Baseline



### After SD

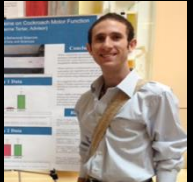
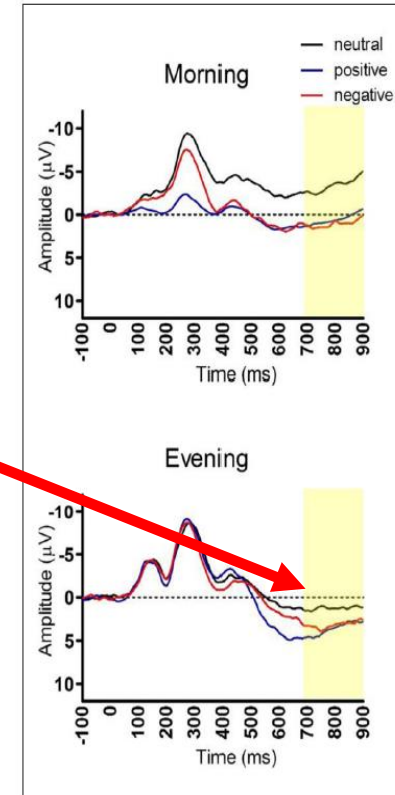


- Neutral Pictures
- Negative Pictures
- Positive Pictures

After SD:  
Not able to differentiate emotional from non-emotional pictures

In the Evening:  
Less able to differentiate emotional from non-emotional pictures.

## Morning vs. Evening



Isaac Chayo



Samantha Sandor



Mercedes Fernandez, Ph.D



# Sleep Deprivation is No Bueno for Biomarkers of Health



Aurelien Tartar, Ph.D.



Xavier Tatin

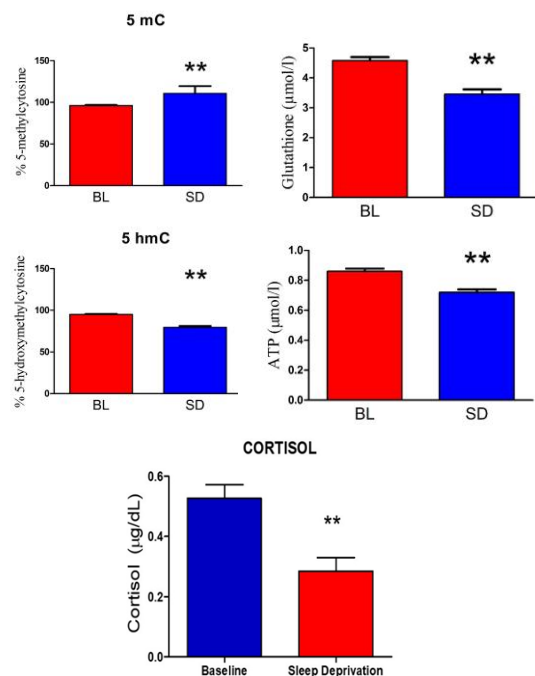


Andrew Gonedes



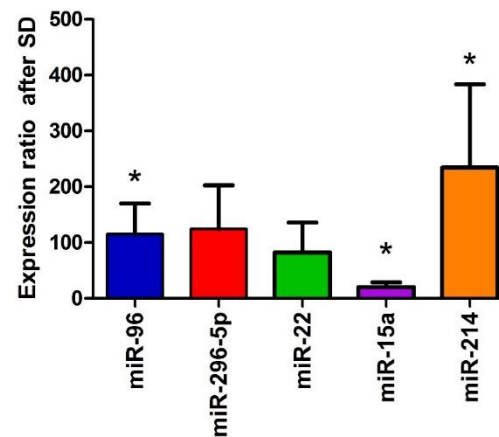
Ezana Assefa

SD changes gene methylation, reduces GSH, and reduces ATP



Trivedi, Holger, Bui, Craddock, Tartar, PloS ONE (2017)

SD increases miRNAs associated with Cancer Risk



Tartar, Tatin, Gonedes, Assefa, Tartar, In Prep



Malav Trivedi, Ph.D.

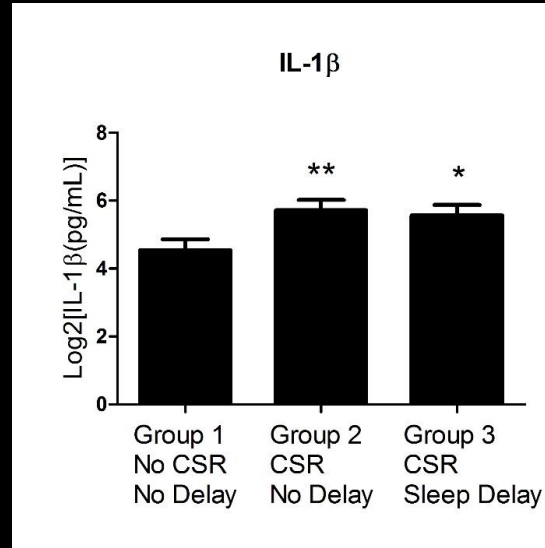
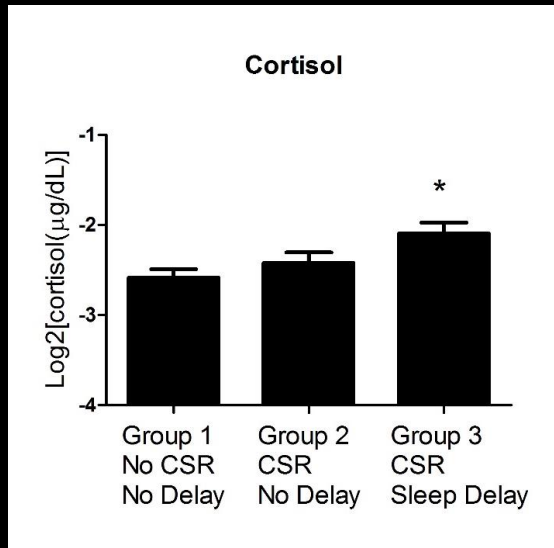


Travis Craddock, Ph.D.

# Sleep Restriction...Still No Bueno

Chronic Sleep Restriction increases cortisol in those who go to bed late

Chronic Sleep Restriction increased inflammation



Ana Fins, Ph.D

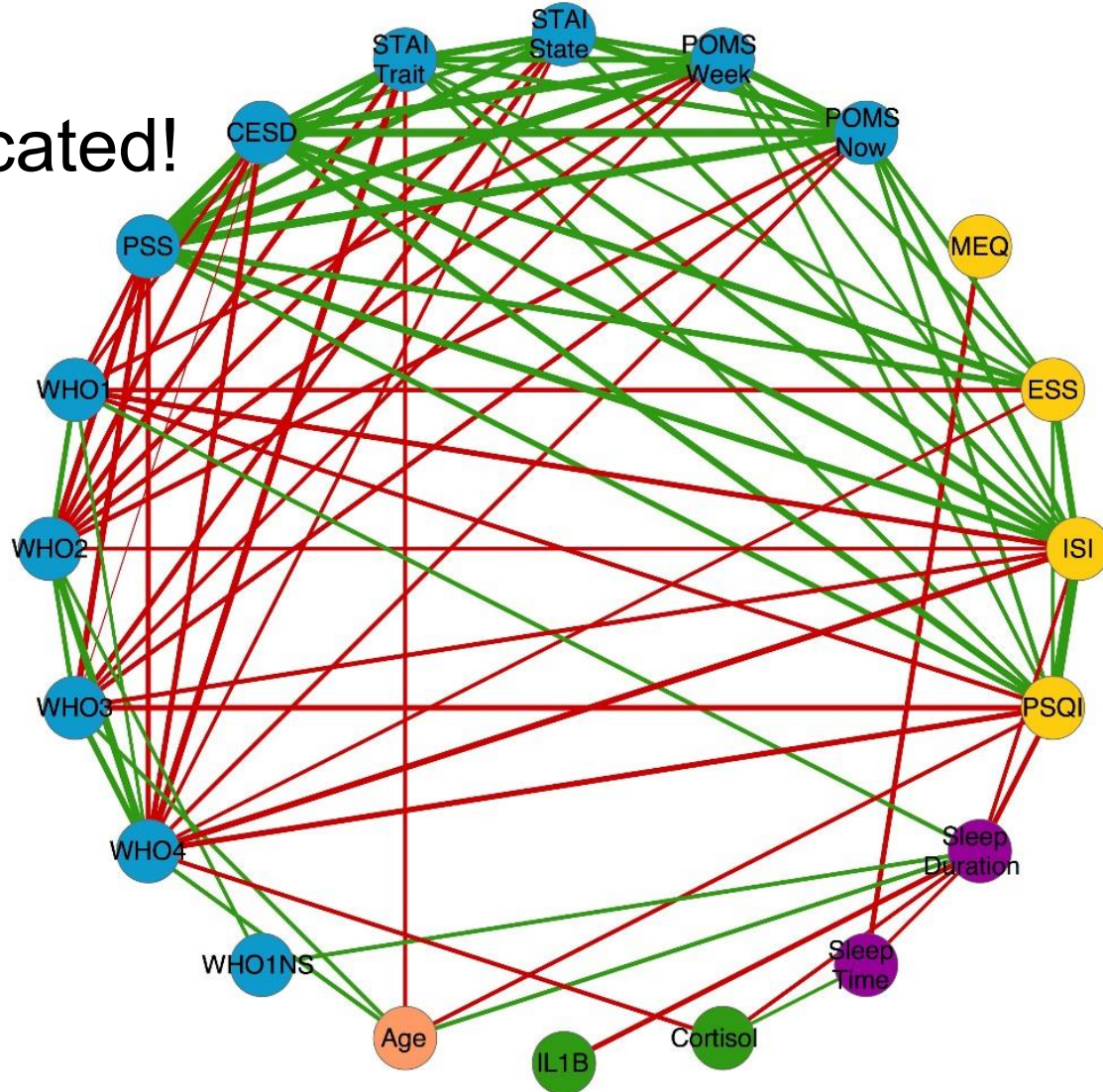


Travis Craddock, Ph.D.

Combined this Indicates GC resistance

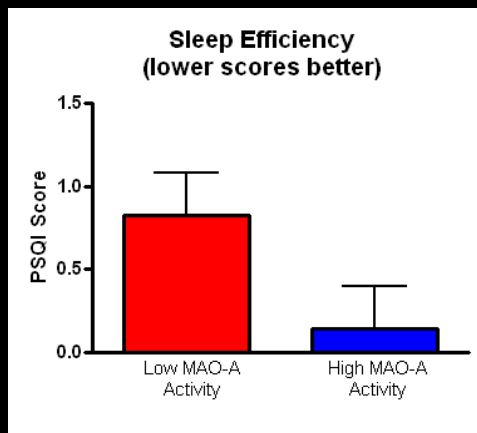
# Sleep Restriction...Still No Bueno

But...  
it's complicated!



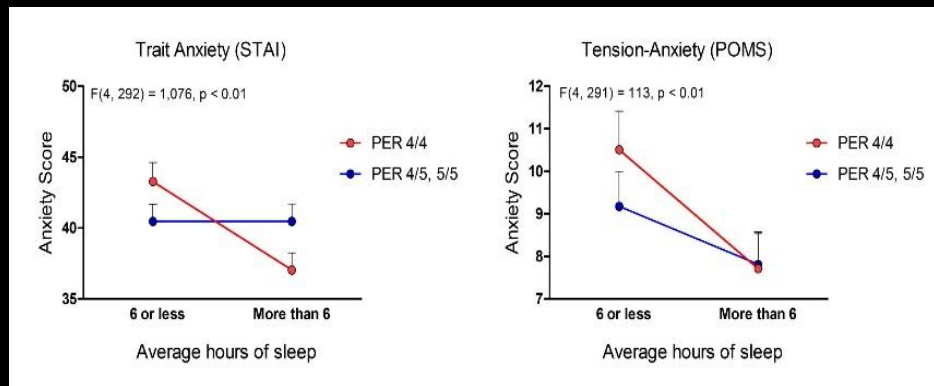


# Sleep Loss and Individual Differences



- Dopamine is associated with wakefulness
- People with **higher dopamine** (low MAO-A activity) have poorer sleep quality

## Anxiety

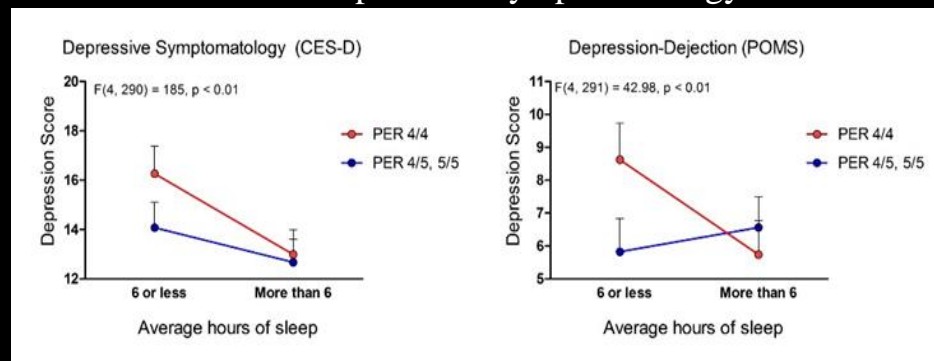


Aurelien Tartar, Ph.D.



Ana Fins, Ph.D.

## Depressive Symptomatology

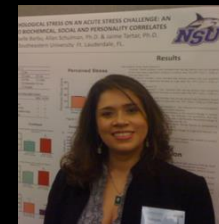


Travis Craddock, Ph.D.



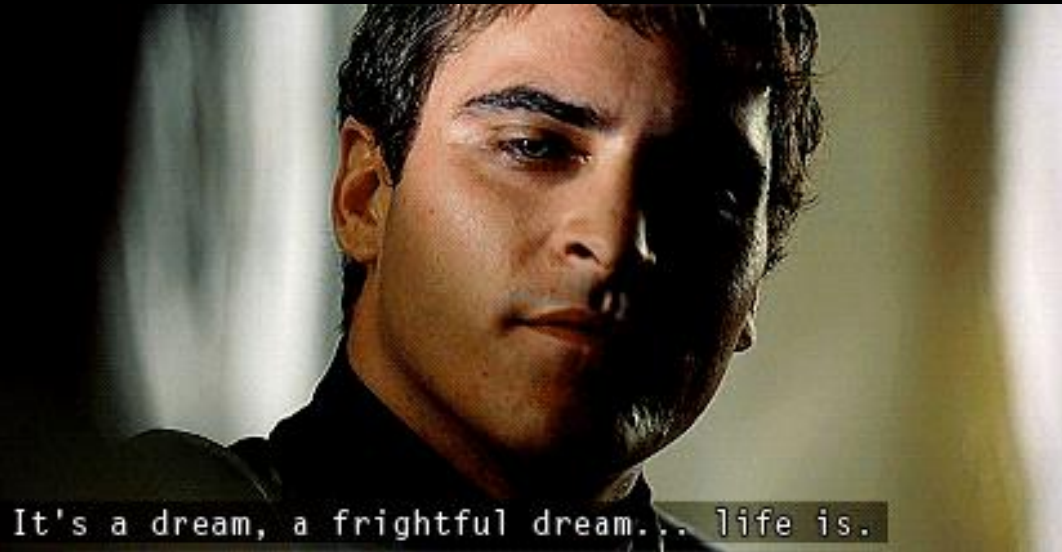
Christina Gobin, M.S.

Night Owl genotypes who have sleep restriction show increased anxiety and depression symptoms.



Tatiana Vienna, Ph.D.

# Question 2 -Why do we Dream?



# Stress, REM Sleep, and Cell Death

Daily mild stress results in an increase in depressive symptomatology *and* an increase in REM sleep.



These changes were associated with increased gene expression in a signaling pathway related to cell death.

Opens up new possibilities in understanding how stress leads to mood disorders and how changes in sleep may contribute to this.



# REM Sleep and Muscle Memory!

## Sleep benefits memory consolidation

- SWS is beneficial for declarative memories,
- REM sleep appears important for consolidation of non-declarative, procedural and emotional memories.



Kayla's thesis is currently testing the idea that procedural memory is strengthened by REM sleep!



Learn



Sleep while wearing  
an EEG band



Test



# What Can You Do?

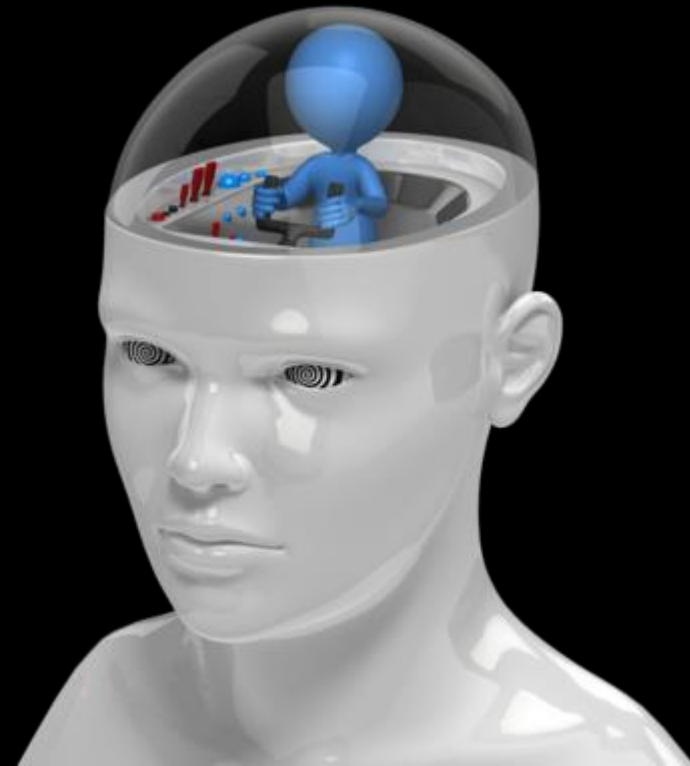
1. Stick to a sleep schedule.
2. Pay attention to what you eat and drink.
3. Create a restful environment.
4. Limit daytime naps.
5. Manage worries.
6. Include physical activity in your daily routine.



# Sleep Efficacy is Critical

Sleep efficacy -the belief that one can get a good night's sleep- was associated with

1. **perceived competence**- or an individual's sense that he or she could do the things they wanted to do
2. **locus of control**- or sense that they were in control of their own lives



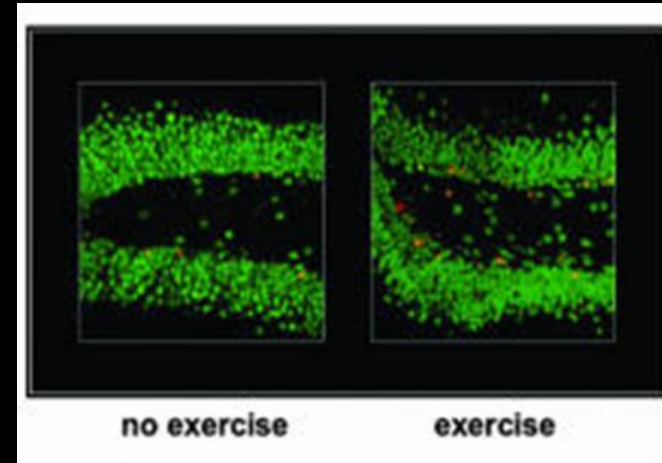
Exercise is your brain's BFF and it helps you sleep better!



# Exercise is your brain's BFF and can help you sleep better.

Oh...and this other stuff, too!

- Combats psychological consequences to stress – especially memory.
- Decreases the rate at which telomeres shorten – by seven biological years!.
- Increases the number of mitochondria and ribosomes in cells
- Increases cognitive function and brain plasticity
- Reduces the risk of the primary development of several cancers
- Increased neurogenesis and expression of brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF)
- People in their 80s having immune profiles similar to people in their 20s !



# Thanks!

