

Elsevier Editorial System(tm) for Neuroscience
Manuscript Draft

Manuscript Number:

Title: D2 and D4 dopamine receptor mRNA distribution in pyramidal neurons and GABAergic subpopulations in monkey prefrontal cortex: implications for schizophrenia treatment

[View metadata, citation and similar papers at core.ac.uk](#)

brought to you by  CORE
provided by Digital.CSIC

Section/Category: Cognitive, Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience

Keywords: calbindin
co-localization
glutamatergic neurons
in situ hybridization
parvalbumin

Corresponding Author: Dr. Julian de Almeida, Ph.D.

Corresponding Author's Institution: Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques de Barcelona

First Author: Julian de Almeida, Ph.D.

Order of Authors: Julian de Almeida, Ph.D.; Guadalupe Mengod, Ph.D.

Abstract: D2 and D4 dopamine receptors play an important role in cognitive functions in the prefrontal cortex and they are involved in the pathophysiology of neuropsychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia. The eventual effect of dopamine upon pyramidal neurons in the prefrontal cortex depends on which receptors are expressed in the different neuronal populations. Parvalbumin and calbindin mark two subpopulations of cortical GABAergic interneurons that differently innervate pyramidal cells. Recent hypotheses about schizophrenia hold that the root of the illness is a dysfunction of parvalbumin chandelier cells that produces disinhibition of pyramidal cells. In the present work we report double in situ hybridization histochemistry experiments to determine the prevalence of D2 receptor mRNA and D4 receptor mRNA in glutamatergic neurons, GABAergic interneurons and both parvalbumin and calbindin GABAergic subpopulations in monkey prefrontal cortex layer V. We found that around 54% of glutamatergic neurons express D2 mRNA and 75% express D4 mRNA, while GAD-positive interneurons express around 34% and 47% respectively. Parvalbumin cells mainly expressed D4 mRNA (65%) and less D2 mRNA (15-20%). Finally, calbindin cells expressed both receptors in similar proportions (37%). We hypothesized that D4 receptor could be a complementary target in designing new antipsychotics, mainly because of its predominance in parvalbumin interneurons.

1
2
3
4 **D2 and D4 dopamine receptor mRNA distribution in pyramidal neurons and**
5 **GABAergic subpopulations in monkey prefrontal cortex: implications for**
6
7 **schizophrenia treatment**
8
9

10
11
12
13
14 J. de Almeida and G. Mengod
15
16

17
18
19 Departament de Neuroquímica i Neurofarmacologia, Institut d'Investigacions
20 Biomèdiques de Barcelona, CSIC, IDIBAPS, CIBERNED, 08036 Barcelona, Spain
21
22

23
24
25
26 Address correspondence and reprint requests to Guadalupe Mengod; Department, of
27 Neurochemistry and Neuropharmacology, IIBB-CSIC, Rosselló, 161, 08036 Barcelona,
28
29 Spain. Phone: +3493-3638323; Fax: +3493-3638301; E-mail: gmlnqr@iibb.csic.es
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Abstract

1
2 D2 and D4 dopamine receptors play an important role in cognitive functions in the
3
4 prefrontal cortex and they are involved in the pathophysiology of neuropsychiatric
5
6 disorders such as schizophrenia. The eventual effect of dopamine upon pyramidal
7
8 neurons in the prefrontal cortex depends on which receptors are expressed in the
9
10 different neuronal populations. Parvalbumin and calbindin mark two subpopulations of
11
12 cortical GABAergic interneurons that differently innervate pyramidal cells. Recent
13
14 hypotheses about schizophrenia hold that the root of the illness is a dysfunction of
15
16 parvalbumin chandelier cells that produces disinhibition of pyramidal cells. In the
17
18 present work we report double *in situ* hybridization histochemistry experiments to
19
20 determine the prevalence of D2 receptor mRNA and D4 receptor mRNA in
21
22 glutamatergic neurons, GABAergic interneurons and both parvalbumin and calbindin
23
24 GABAergic subpopulations in monkey prefrontal cortex layer V. We found that around
25
26 54% of glutamatergic neurons express D2 mRNA and 75% express D4 mRNA, while
27
28 GAD-positive interneurons express around 34% and 47% respectively. Parvalbumin
29
30 cells mainly expressed D4 mRNA (65%) and less D2 mRNA (15-20%). Finally,
31
32 calbindin cells expressed both receptors in similar proportions (37%). We hypothesized
33
34 that D4 receptor could be a complementary target in designing new antipsychotics,
35
36 mainly because of its predominance in parvalbumin interneurons.
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47

48 *Keywords:* calbindin, co-localization, glutamatergic neurons, *in situ* hybridization,
49
50 parvalbumin.
51
52
53
54
55

56 *Running title:* Dopamine receptors in monkey prefrontal cortex.
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1
2 Dopaminergic afferents in the prefrontal cortex (PFC) play an important role in
3
4 normal cognitive functions and neuropsychiatric pathophysiology (Seeman et al., 1995;
5
6 Williams and Goldman-Rakic, 1995). Dopaminergic inputs regulate different aspects of
7
8 working memory, planning, attention, and malfunction could help explain some
9
10 positive, negative and cognitive symptoms observed in schizophrenia.
11
12

13
14 The majority of studies into the etiology and treatment of schizophrenia focus on
15
16 dopamine D2 receptors, due to the affinity most antipsychotic drugs show for them.
17
18 However, some antipsychotics such as clozapine show a high affinity for D4 receptors
19
20 (Van Tol et al., 1991; Kapur and Remington, 2001). Furthermore, D4 receptors are
21
22 predominant in monkey PFC (Lidow et al., 1998; Mulcrone and Kerwin, 1997; Staley et
23
24 al., 2000). Taken together, this could mean that part of the therapeutic effect of some
25
26 antipsychotics attributed to D2 receptors could be due to the action of these drugs on D4
27
28 receptors (Seeman et al., 1997; Kapur and Remington, 2001).
29
30
31

32
33 Dopaminergic axons innervate PFC pyramidal neurons and GABAergic interneurons
34
35 (Goldman-Rakic et al., 1989; 1998; Sesack et al., 1995), and D2-like receptors are
36
37 present in both populations (Vincent et al., 1993; Khan et al., 1998; Santana et al., 2009;
38
39 Mrzljak et al., 1996; Wedzony et al., 2000). However, there is no precise and accurate
40
41 quantification of dopamine receptors in PFC cellular populations in primates.
42
43
44

45
46 There are several types of GABAergic neurons in the PFC. Two important
47
48 subpopulations are those that express parvalbumin (PV) and those that express calbindin
49
50 (CB). The former have the morphology of chandelier cells or large basket cells, while
51
52 the majority of the latter have the morphology of double-bouquet cells (Conde et al.,
53
54 1994; DeFelipe, 1997; Zaitsev et al., 2005). Changes in these cell populations have been
55
56 described in schizophrenia, (Daviss and Lewis, 1995; Hashimoto et al., 2003; Beasley et
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

al., 2002), bipolar disorder (Sakai et al., 2008) and major depressive disorder (Rajkowska et al., 2007). Recent hypotheses about the pathophysiology of schizophrenia maintain that there is a dysfunction of PV+ chandelier cells that results in a disinhibition of pyramidal cells. The functional deficit of PV+ interneurons could produce hyperactivity in basal conditions, saturating the capacity of pyramidal neurons, preventing normal PFC and hippocampus recruitment during cognitive tasks, and this could contribute to working memory dysfunction in subjects with schizophrenia (Lewis et al., 2005). This suggest that the main effect of most antipsychotics is the inhibition of the inhibitory activity of D2-like receptors localized in PV+ GABAergic interneurons, which increases their excitability and consequently reduces pyramidal neuron hyperactivity (Lewis and Gonzalez-Burgos, 2006; Lisman et al., 2008).

Our aim in the present work is to contribute to the study of the cellular localization and distribution of both D2 and D4 receptor mRNA in identified neuronal populations of monkey PFC. To this end we use dual-label *in situ* hybridization histochemistry with specific oligonucleotides for these receptors and for the cellular markers. We quantify the proportion of glutamatergic and of GABAergic neurons (as well as PV+ and CB+ GABAergic subpopulations) that express D2 and D4 dopamine receptors in monkey PFC.

Materials and Methods

Specimens and tissue preparation

Three monkey brains (*Macaca fascicularis*, aged 2 years and 2 months) were used. The animals were administered an overdose of sodium pentobarbital (60 mg/kg, i.v.). All procedures followed European Union regulations (O.J. of E.C. L358/1 18/12/1986). Upon removal of the brain from the skull, tissue blocks about 1 cm thick were dissected,

1 immediately frozen and kept at - 20°C until used. Coronal tissue sections 20 µm thick
2 were cut from the frozen blocks using a microtome-cryostat (Microm HM500 OM,
3 Walldorf, Germany), thaw-mounted on slides coated with APTS (3-
4 aminopropyltriethoxysilane, Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) slides and kept at - 20°C until
5 used.
6
7
8
9
10

11 ***Hybridization probes***

12 Different oligonucleotides complementary to the mRNA coding for monkey D2 and D4
13 receptors were used: three oligonucleotides for D2 mRNA complementary to bases 52-
14 101, 1315-1365, and 1355-1400 (GenBank accession number M29066); two
15 oligonucleotides for D4 mRNA, complementary to bases 66-113 and 1093-1135
16 (GenBank accession number NM_000797). Each region was chosen because it shares
17 no similarity with the other dopamine receptor subtypes. The results shown here for
18 each receptor subtype were obtained by simultaneously using all the radioactively
19 labeled oligonucleotides for the corresponding receptor as hybridization probes.
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

34 Glutamatergic cells were identified by the vesicular glutamate transporter vGluT1
35 mRNA with two oligonucleotides complementary to bases 26-67 and 1626-1670
36 (GenBank acc no NM_020309). GABAergic cells were identified by the GABA
37 synthesizing enzyme, glutamic acid decarboxylase (GAD), which in adult brain has two
38 major isoforms, GAD65 and GAD67. Three oligonucleotides for each mRNA isoform
39 were made: bases 237-281, 496-540 and 736-780 (M81882) and bases 811-855, 1059-
40 1103 and 2267-2311 (M81883). PV cells were identified by hybridization with
41 oligonucleotides complementary to: 19-63, 70-111, 173-215, 335-379 bp of human PV
42 mRNA (X63070). CB cells were identified by hybridization with oligonucleotides
43 complementary to: 183-227, 448-492, 512-556, 809-853, 887-931, 938-982 bp of
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1 human CB mRNA (NM_004929). All the oligonucleotides were synthesized and HPLC
2 purified by Isogen Bioscience BV (Maarsden, The Netherlands).
3

4 Each dopamine receptor oligonucleotide was individually labeled at its 3'-end with
5 terminal deoxynucleotidyltransferase (TdT, Oncogene Research Products, San Diego, CA,
6 USA) and [³³P] α-dATP (3000 Ci mmol⁻¹, New England Nuclear, Boston, MA, USA).
7 Labeled probes were purified through ProbeQuant G-50 microcolumns (GE Healthcare,
8 Little Chalfont, UK). All GAD, vGluT1, PV and CB oligonucleotides (100 pmol) were
9 individually labeled with TdT and Dig-11-dUTP (Boehringer Mannheim, Germany), in
10 line with a procedure described elsewhere (Schmitz et al., 1991).
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

22 ***In situ hybridization histochemistry***

23
24 The protocols for single- and double-label *in situ* hybridization histochemistry were
25 based on previously described procedures (Tomiyama et al., 1997; Landry et al., 2000)
26 and have already been published (Serrats et al., 2003). Frozen tissues were brought to
27 room temperature (22 ± 2 °C), air-dried and fixed for 20 min in 4% paraformaldehyde in
28 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS: 2.6 mM KCl, 1.4 mM KH₂PO₄, 136 mM NaCl, 8 mM
29 Na₂HPO₄). They were then washed once in 3xPBS, twice in 1xPBS, 5 min each, and
30 incubated in a freshly prepared solution of predigested pronase (incubated at 37°C, 4 hr,
31 and kept frozen in aliquots) (Calbiochem, San Diego, CA, USA) at a final concentration
32 of 12 U/mL in 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5 and 5 mM EDTA for 2 min at room temperature
33 (22 ± 2 °C). Proteolytic activity was stopped by immersion for 30 sec in 2 mg/mL glycine
34 in PBS. Tissues were rinsed in PBS and dehydrated in 70% and 100% ethanol for 2 min
35 each. For hybridization, the radioactive and non-radioactive labeled probes were
36 appropriately combined and diluted in hybridization buffer (50% formamide, 4xSSC, 1x
37 Denhardt's solution, 1% sarkosyl, 10% dextran sulfate, 20 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7,
38 250 µg /mL yeast tRNA and 500 µg/mL salmon sperm DNA) at approximately 1-2 x
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

10⁴cpm/μL. For single *in situ* hybridization, all the oligonucleotides used were independently labeled with radioactivity (a total of 4 different oligonucleotides for dopamine receptor mRNA, 2 oligonucleotides for vGluT1 mRNA and 1 each for GAD65 and GAD67 mRNA). For the double *in situ* hybridization experiments, all dopamine receptor probes (labeled with ³³P) and all available probes for vGluT1, GAD65/67, PV or CB (labeled with digoxigenin) were combined and diluted to a final concentration of approximately 2 nM. Tissues were covered with 100μL of the hybridization solution and overlaid with Nescofilm (Bando Chemical Ind, Kobe, Japan) coverslips to prevent evaporation. Tissues were incubated in humid boxes overnight at 42°C and then washed 4 times (45 min each) in 600 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and 1 mM EDTA at 60°C. Hybridized sections were exposed to Biomax-MR (Kodak, Rochester, NY, USA) films for 3-5 weeks at - 70°C with intensifying screens.

Development of radioactive and non-radioactive hybridization signal

After washing, double *in situ* hybridized sections were immersed for 30 min in a buffer containing 0.1 M Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 1 M NaCl, 2 mM MgCl₂ and 0.5% bovine serum albumin (Sigma) and incubated overnight at 4°C in the same solution with alkaline-phosphate-conjugated anti-digoxigenin-F(ab) fragments (1:5000; Boehringer Mannheim). Afterwards, they were washed three times (10 min each) in the same buffer (without antibody), and twice in an alkaline buffer containing 0.1 M Tris-HCl pH 9.5, 0.1 M NaCl and 5 mM MgCl₂. Alkaline phosphatase activity was developed by incubating the sections with 3.3 mg nitroblue tetrazolium and 1.65 mg bromochloroindolyl phosphate (Gibco BRL, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) diluted in 10 mL of alkaline buffer. The enzymatic reaction was blocked by extensive rinsing in the alkaline buffer containing 1 mM EDTA. The sections were then briefly dipped in 70% and 100% ethanol, air-dried and dipped into Ilford K5 nuclear emulsion (Ilford,

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Mobberly, Cheshire, UK) diluted 1:1 with distilled water. They were exposed in the dark at 4°C for 6 weeks, developed in Kodak D19 (Kodak) for 5 min, and fixed in Ilford Hypam fixer (Ilford).

Specificity of the probes

The specificity of the autoradiographic signal obtained in the *in situ* hybridization histochemistry experiments was confirmed by performing a series of routine controls (Pompeiano et al., 1992). Briefly, for each mRNA under study, several oligonucleotide probes complementary to different regions of the same mRNA were used independently as hybridization probes in consecutive tissue sections showing identical pattern hybridization. For a given oligonucleotide probe, addition to the hybridization solution of an excess of the same unlabeled oligonucleotide resulted in the complete abolition of the specific hybridization signal. The remaining autoradiographic signal was considered background. If the unlabeled oligonucleotide included in the hybridization was a different oligonucleotide, then the hybridization signal was not affected (data not shown). The thermal stability of the hybrids was examined by washing at increasing temperatures: a sharp decrease in the hybridization signal was observed at a temperature consistent with the T_m of the hybrids. To confirm the specificity of the non-radioactive hybridization signal, we compared the results obtained with the same probe labeled radioactively (data not shown).

Analysis of results

Tissue sections were examined and cells quantified with an Olympus BX51 Stereo Microscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). Visiopharm Integrator System software (Olympus) was used to draw contours around the zone of interest at low magnification. We used the optical dissector of the software to randomly sample cells in the region of interest with a 100x oil immersion objective.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Glutamatergic, GAD-positive, PV and CB cells were identified as cellular profiles exhibiting a dark precipitate (alkaline phosphatase reaction product) surrounding or covering the nucleus. Dopamine receptor mRNA hybridization signal was considered positive when accumulation of silver grains over the stained cellular profiles was greater than four times that of the background. Cells were counted using Visiopharm Integrator System software.

Cell counting for dorsolateral PFC (DLPFC) was performed in areas 9 and 46, and for orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) in area 11; see Figure 1. Quantification was performed in layer V, where both types of dopamine receptor mRNA is consistently present. The percentage of cells expressing dopamine receptors was determined from an average of 40.2 cells per cortical layer from each area and each case examined, with a total of 1931 cells counted. Cortical layer V was identified in cresyl violet-stained sections. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Bonferroni post-tests were performed using GraphPad Prism software (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA). $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

Preparation of figures

Photographs of the film autoradiograms of the hybridized tissue sections were taken with a Wild 420 Leica microscope equipped with a digital camera (DXM1200 F, Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) and ACT-1 Nikon Software. Microphotography of the hybridized tissue slides was performed using a Nikon Eclipse E1000 microscope equipped with a digital camera (DXM1200, Nikon) and analySIS Software (Soft Imaging System, Münster, Germany). Figures were prepared for publication using Adobe Photoshop software (Adobe Software, San Jose, CA, USA). The contrast and brightness of the images were the only variables we adjusted digitally.

Results

Distribution of D2 and D4 receptor mRNA in glutamatergic and GABAergic cortical neurons

Previous studies have described the presence of D2 and D4 receptor mRNA mainly in layer V of primate PFC (Lidow et al., 1998), and in both glutamatergic and GABAergic neurons (2001; Khan et al., 1998; Paspalas and Goldman-Rakic, 2004). In good agreement with these findings, we found that D2 receptor is mainly expressed in layer V cells, whereas D4 receptor is expressed in all layers of the PFC except layer I, and its highest levels are in layer V (Fig. 1). As expected, D2 (Fig. 2a, 2c) and D4 (Fig. 2b, 2d) receptor mRNAs co-localized with the cellular markers vGluT1 (Fig. 2a, 2b) and GAD 65/67 (Fig. 2c, 2d). D2 receptor mRNA is expressed in about 55% of glutamatergic neurons and in about 35% of GAD-positive interneurons. The presence of D4 receptor was significantly higher than that of D2 receptor in both neuronal populations ($p < 0.05$). About 75% of glutamate neurons and nearly half of the GAD-positive interneurons express D4 receptor (Fig. 4). Thus, the data extends previous findings by showing a more widespread distribution of D4 receptors than D2 receptors both in pyramidal neurons and GABAergic interneurons across the monkey dorsolateral PFC and OFC.

D2 and D4 receptor expression in PFC interneurons

A few reports based on immunohistochemistry describe the presence of D2 receptor and D4 receptors in primate PFC PV+ interneurons (Khan et al., 2001; Mrzljak et al., 1996). However, and despite the relevance of PV+ and CB+ interneuron subpopulations in schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression, there are no quantitative studies assessing the relative abundance of D2 and D4 receptors in PV+ and CB+ interneurons. Here we quantified D2 and D4 mRNA expression in layer V, where both types of dopamine receptor mRNA are consistently present.

1 Double in situ hybridization shows that CB and PV mRNAs can co-localize with D2
2 and D4 mRNAs (Fig. 3). Both D2 and D4 receptors were expressed in 40% of CB+
3 neurons. However, a high proportion of PV+ neurons expressed D4 receptor (65-66%)
4 and a relatively low percentage expressed D2 (15-20%) (Fig. 4). There were no
5 significant differences between OFC and DLPFC in any of the cases studied (Fig. 4).
6
7 Thus, there is a heterogeneous distribution of dopamine receptors in cortical interneuron
8 populations, where PV+ interneurons are enriched in D4 receptors.
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Discussion

The present work establishes the expression of D2 and D4 receptor mRNA in different cellular populations of monkey PFC. Our main findings are: 1) D4 receptor mRNA has a more widespread laminar distribution than D2 receptor, which is expressed almost exclusively in neurons in layer V; 2) both receptors are expressed in a large percentage of glutamatergic and GAD-positive neurons in layer V, but D4 receptor is present in a greater proportion of both neuronal populations than is D2 receptor; 3) most (about 65%) PV+ perisomal interneurons express D4 receptors while only a minority (15-20%) express D2 receptors.

Schizophrenia and the distribution of D2 and D4 receptors in the PFC

Irregularities in PFC inhibitory neurotransmission in schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder seem to be mostly restricted to alterations in two subpopulations of GABAergic neurons; CB and PV interneurons (Daviss and Lewis, 1995; Rajkowska et al., 2007; Sakai et al., 2008; Hashimoto et al., 2003; Beasley et al., 2002). The most recent hypotheses on the pathophysiology of schizophrenia suggest that there is a hypofunction of the chandelier cells (PV+ GABAergic interneurons) due to a hypofunction of NMDA receptors (see (Lewis and Gonzalez-Burgos, 2006; Lisman et al., 2008) for a review). In primate PFC, these perisomal interneurons are activated by axon collaterals of pyramidal neurons, and they provide a potent inhibitory feedback by acting over the axon cone (Melchitzky and Lewis, 2003). The model suggests that a functional deficit of PV+ interneurons would diminish the effectiveness of the inhibiting loop, resulting in disinhibition of the pyramidal neurons. In this way, the functional deficit of PV+ interneurons causes hyperactivity in basal conditions, saturating the capacity of pyramidal neurons and preventing normal recruitment of the PFC and

1 hippocampus during cognitive tasks (Lewis et al., 2005). Our results show that when
2 analyzing the population of GABAergic interneurons as a whole, the proportion of
3 interneurons expressing D2 receptor (35%) did not differ greatly from the proportion of
4 interneurons expressing D4 receptor (47%) (Fig. 4). Nevertheless, when considering only the
5 perisomal PV+ interneurons, the majority of them (65%) express D4 receptors, while
6 and only 15-20% express D2 receptors. Because of the predominance of D4 receptor in
7 parvalbumin interneurons, we hypothesized that D4 receptor could be a complementary
8 target in designing new antipsychotics. The effect of those antipsychotics could be the
9 inhibition of the activity of the inhibitory D4 receptors located in the inhibitory PV+
10 interneurons. This would increase the activity of PV cells and thereby diminish
11 pyramidal neuron hyperactivity.
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

26 D4 activation has been shown to hamper synaptic excitation in GABAergic
27 interneurons that would lead to decreased GABAergic inhibition in the PFC circuit
28 (Yuen and Yan, 2009). Moreover, the main problem with classic antipsychotics are
29 extra-pyramidal effects, partly as a result of the occupation of D2 receptors located in
30 the caudate-putamen nuclei. Studies to determine the presence and densities of D4
31 receptors in the striatum have produced controversial results (from high to very low
32 levels) by using either immunohistochemistry with different antibodies (Defagot et al.,
33 1997; Mauger et al., 1998; Rivera et al., 2002; Mrzljak et al., 1996; Ariano et al., 1997),
34 or receptor autoradiography (Defagot et al., 2000; Defagot and Antonelli, 1997; De La
35 and Madras, 2000; Primus et al., 1997; Murray et al., 1995). *In situ* hybridization
36 describes D4 mRNA levels in the caudate-putamen as ranging from low to very low
37 (Lidow et al., 1998) (de Almeida and Mengod, unpublished observations). This is
38 consistent with the low to very low levels resulting from rat and human RT-PCR
39 experiments (Suzuki et al., 1995; Van Tol et al., 1991; Matsumoto et al., 1995;
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Matsumoto et al., 1996), and also with single-cell RT-PCR from human striatal neurons (Surmeier et al., 1996). All this indicates that the presence of D4 receptors in the striatum is still a subject of debate, but if there are indeed there, it is in much smaller quantities than D2 receptors. This suggests that the replacement of part of D2 antagonism by D4 antagonism in the development of antipsychotics could reduce the unwanted side effects of these drugs.

In conclusion, both D2 and D4 receptors are found in different neuronal populations in the PFC of primates. D4 receptor is more ubiquitous in both laminar and cellular distributions. This is important when assessing the performance of these receptors in the dopaminergic modulation of the PFC through receptors from the D2 family, and also their link with schizophrenia and its therapies. For a better understanding of dopamine modulation in the PFC, D1-like dopamine receptors should also be studied in different neural populations. Knowledge of the differential distribution of dopamine receptors in pyramidal neurons and interneurons in primate PFC could elucidate the specific functional contribution of each receptor to inherent PFC functions, such as working memory. Furthermore, this knowledge could pinpoint the role of alterations in the abundance of these receptors or in their cellular location on diseases such as Parkinson's or schizophrenia.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

J. de A. is the recipient of a fellowship from the Spanish Ministry of Education. This research was funded by the Fundació La Marató TV3 (# 01/3930) and Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (SAF2006-10243). Support from the Generalitat de Catalunya (Grup de Recerca de Qualitat 2005-SGR0758) is also acknowledged.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

References

Ariano MA, Wang J, Noblett KL, Larson ER, and Sibley DR (1997) Cellular distribution of the rat D4 dopamine receptor protein in the CNS using anti-receptor antisera. *Brain Research* 752:26-34.

Beasley CL, Zhang ZJ, Patten I, and Reynolds GP (2002) Selective deficits in prefrontal cortical GABAergic neurons in schizophrenia defined by the presence of calcium-binding proteins. *Biol Psychiatry* 52:708-715.

Conde F, Lund JS, Jacobowitz DM, Baimbridge KG, and Lewis DA (1994) Local circuit neurons immunoreactive for calretinin, calbindin D-28k or parvalbumin in monkey prefrontal cortex: distribution and morphology. *J Comp Neurol* 341:95-116.

Daviss SR and Lewis DA (1995) Local circuit neurons of the prefrontal cortex in schizophrenia: selective increase in the density of calbindin-immunoreactive neurons. *Psychiatry Res* 59:81-96.

De La GR and Madras BK (2000) [(3)H]PNU-101958, a D(4) dopamine receptor probe, accumulates in prefrontal cortex and hippocampus of non-human primate brain. *Synapse* 37:232-244.

Defagot MC and Antonelli MC (1997) Autoradiographic localization of the putative D4 dopamine receptor in rat brain. *Neurochem Res* 22:401-407.

Defagot MC, Falzone TL, Low MJ, Grandy DK, Rubinstein M, and Antonelli MC (2000) Quantitative analysis of the dopamine D4 receptor in the mouse brain. *J Neurosci Res* 59:202-208.

Defagot MC, Malchiodi EL, Villar MJ, and Antonelli MC (1997) Distribution of D4 dopamine receptor in rat brain with sequence-specific antibodies. *Mol Brain Res* 45:1-12.

DeFelipe J (1997) Types of neurons, synaptic connections and chemical characteristics of cells immunoreactive for calbindin-D28K, parvalbumin and calretinin in the neocortex. *J Chem Neuroanat* 14:1-19.

1 Goldman-Rakic PS, Leranath C, Williams SM, Mons N, and Geffard M (1989) Dopamine synaptic
2 complex with pyramidal neurons in primate cerebral cortex. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 86:9015-
3 9019.
4

5
6 Hashimoto T, Volk DW, Eggan SM, Mirnics K, Pierri JN, Sun Z, Sampson AR, and Lewis DA
7 (2003) Gene expression deficits in a subclass of GABA neurons in the prefrontal cortex of
8 subjects with schizophrenia. J Neurosci 23:6315-6326.
9

10
11
12 Kapur S and Remington G (2001) Atypical antipsychotics: new directions and new challenges in
13 the treatment of schizophrenia. Annu Rev Med 52:503-517.
14

15
16
17 Khan ZU, Gutierrez A, Martin R, Penafiel A, Rivera A, and de la Calle A (1998) Differential
18 regional and cellular distribution of dopamine D2-like receptors: an immunocytochemical study
19 of subtype-specific antibodies in rat and human brain. J Comp Neurol 402:353-371.
20

21
22
23 Khan ZU, Koulen P, Rubinstein M, Grandy DK, and Goldman-Rakic PS (2001) An astroglia-
24 linked dopamine D2-receptor action in prefrontal cortex. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 98:1964-1969.
25

26
27
28 Landry M, Holmberg K, Zhang X, and Hokfelt T (2000) Effect of axotomy on expression of NPY,
29 galanin, and NPY Y1 and Y2 receptors in dorsal root ganglia and the superior cervical ganglion
30 studied with double-labeling in situ hybridization and immunohistochemistry. Exp Neurol
31 162:361-384.
32

33
34
35 Lewis DA and Gonzalez-Burgos G (2006) Pathophysiologically based treatment interventions in
36 schizophrenia. Nat Med 12:1016-1022.
37

38
39
40 Lewis DA, Hashimoto T, and Volk DW (2005) Cortical inhibitory neurons and schizophrenia. Nat
41 Rev Neurosci 6:312-324.
42

43
44
45 Lidow MS, Wang F, Cao Y, and Goldman-Rakic PS (1998) Layer V neurons bear the majority of
46 mRNAs encoding the five distinct dopamine receptor subtypes in the primate prefrontal cortex.
47 Synapse 28:10-20.
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1 Lisman JE, Coyle JT, Green RW, Javitt DC, Benes FM, Heckers S, and Grace AA (2008)
2 Circuit-based framework for understanding neurotransmitter and risk gene interactions in
3 schizophrenia. Trends Neurosci.
4

5
6 Matsumoto M, Hidaka K, Tada S, Tasaki Y, and Yamaguchi T (1995) Full-length cDNA cloning
7 and distribution of human dopamine D4 receptor. Brain Res Mol Brain Res 29:157-162.
8
9

10
11 Matsumoto M, Hidaka K, Tada S, Tasaki Y, and Yamaguchi T (1996) Low levels of mRNA for
12 dopamine D4 receptor in human cerebral cortex and striatum. J Neurochem 66:915-919.
13
14

15
16
17 Mauger C, Sivan B, Brockhaus M, Fuchs S, Civelli O, and Monsma F, Jr. (1998) Development
18 and characterization of antibodies directed against the mouse D4 dopamine receptor. Eur J
19 Neurosci 10:529-537.
20
21

22
23
24 Melchitzky DS and Lewis DA (2003) Pyramidal neuron local axon terminals in monkey prefrontal
25 cortex: differential targeting of subclasses of GABA neurons. Cereb Cortex 13:452-460.
26
27

28
29 Mrzljak L, Bergson C, Pappy M, Huff R, Levenson R, and Goldman-Rakic PS (1996)
30 Localization of dopamine D4 receptors in GABAergic neurons of the primate brain. Nature
31 381:245-248.
32
33

34
35
36 Mulcrone J and Kerwin RW (1997) The regional pattern of D4 gene expression in human brain.
37 Neurosci Lett 234:147-150.
38
39

40
41 Murray AM, Hyde TM, Knable MB, Herman MM, Bigelow LB, Carter JM, Weinberger DR, and
42 Kleinman JE (1995) Distribution of putative D4 dopamine receptors in postmortem striatum from
43 patients with schizophrenia. J Neurosci 15:2186-2191.
44
45

46
47
48 Paspalas CD and Goldman-Rakic PS (2004) Microdomains for dopamine volume
49 neurotransmission in primate prefrontal cortex. J Neurosci 24:5292-5300.
50
51

52
53 Pompeiano M, Palacios JM, and Mengod G (1992) Distribution and cellular localization of
54 mRNA coding for 5-HT1A receptor in the rat brain: correlation with receptor binding. J Neurosci
55 12:440-453.
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

1 Primus RJ, Thurkauf A, Xu J, Yevich E, McInerney S, Shaw K, Tallman JF, and Gallagher DW
2 (1997) II. Localization and characterization of dopamine D4 binding sites in rat and human brain
3
4 by use of the novel, D4 receptor-selective ligand [3H]NGD 94-1. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther*
5
6 282:1020-1027.
7

8
9 Rajkowska G, O'Dwyer G, Teleki Z, Stockmeier CA, and Miguel-Hidalgo JJ (2007) GABAergic
10
11 neurons immunoreactive for calcium binding proteins are reduced in the prefrontal cortex in
12
13 major depression. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 32:471-482.
14

15
16 Rivera A, Cuellar B, Giron FJ, Grandy DK, de la Calle A, and Moratalla R (2002) Dopamine D4
17
18 receptors are heterogeneously distributed in the striosomes/matrix compartments of the
19
20 striatum. *J Neurochem* 80:219-229.
21

22
23 Sakai T, Oshima A, Nozaki Y, Ida I, Haga C, Akiyama H, Nakazato Y, and Mikuni M (2008)
24
25 Changes in density of calcium-binding-protein-immunoreactive GABAergic neurons in prefrontal
26
27 cortex in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. *Neuropathology* 28:143-150.
28

29
30 Santana N, Mengod G, and Artigas F (2009) Quantitative Analysis of the Expression of
31
32 Dopamine D1 and D2 Receptors in Pyramidal and GABAergic Neurons of the Rat Prefrontal
33
34 Cortex. *Cereb Cortex* 19:849-860.
35

36
37 Schmitz GG, Walter T, Seibl R, and Kessler C (1991) Nonradioactive labeling of
38
39 oligonucleotides in vitro with the hapten digoxigenin by tailing with terminal transferase. *Anal*
40
41 *Biochem* 192:222-231.
42

43
44 Seeman P, Corbett R, and Van Tol HH (1997) Atypical neuroleptics have low affinity for
45
46 dopamine D2 receptors or are selective for D4 receptors. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 16:93-
47
48 110.
49

50
51 Seeman P, Guan HC, and Van Tol HH (1995) Schizophrenia: elevation of dopamine D4-like
52
53 sites, using [3H]nemonapride and [125I]epidepride. *Eur J Pharmacol* 286:R3-R5.
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Serrats J, Artigas F, Mengod G, and Cortés R (2003) GABAB receptor mRNA in the raphe nuclei: co-expression with serotonin transporter and glutamic acid decarboxylase. *J Neurochem* 84:743-752.

Sesack SR, Hawrylak VA, Melchitzky DS, and Lewis DA (1998) Dopamine innervation of a subclass of local circuit neurons in monkey prefrontal cortex: ultrastructural analysis of tyrosine hydroxylase and parvalbumin immunoreactive structures. *Cereb Cortex* 8:614-622.

Sesack SR, Snyder CL, and Lewis DA (1995) Axon terminals immunolabeled for dopamine or tyrosine hydroxylase synapse on GABA-immunoreactive dendrites in rat and monkey cortex. *J Comp Neurol* 363:264-280.

Staley JK, Tamagnan G, Baldwin RM, Fujita M, Al Tikriti MS, Eshima L, Thornback J, Roe D, Lu L, Seibyl JP, and Innis RB (2000) SPECT imaging with the D(4) receptor antagonist L-750,667 in nonhuman primate brain. *Nucl Med Biol* 27:547-556.

Surmeier DJ, Song WJ, and Yan Z (1996) Coordinated expression of dopamine receptors in neostriatal medium spiny neurons. *J Neurosci* 16:6579-6591.

Suzuki T, Kobayashi K, and Nagatsu T (1995) Genomic structure and tissue distribution of the mouse dopamine D4 receptor. *Neurosci Lett* 199:69-72.

Tomiya M, Palacios JM, Cortés R, Vilaró MT, and Mengod G (1997) Distribution of AMPA receptor subunit mRNAs in the human basal ganglia: an in situ hybridization study. *Mol Brain Res* 46:281-289.

Van Tol HH, Bunzow JR, Guan HC, Sunahara RK, Seeman P, Niznik HB, and Civelli O (1991) Cloning of the gene for a human dopamine D4 receptor with high affinity for the antipsychotic clozapine. *Nature* 350:610-614.

Vincent SL, Khan Y, and Benes FM (1993) Cellular distribution of dopamine D1 and D2 receptors in rat medial prefrontal cortex. *J Neurosci* 13:2551-2564.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Wedzony K, Chocyk A, Mackowiak M, Fijal K, and Czyrak A (2000) Cortical localization of dopamine D4 receptors in the rat brain - Immunocytochemical study. *Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology* 51:205-221.

Williams GV and Goldman-Rakic PS (1995) Modulation of memory fields by dopamine D1 receptors in prefrontal cortex. *Nature* 376:572-575.

Yuen EY and Yan Z (2009) Dopamine D4 receptors regulate AMPA receptor trafficking and glutamatergic transmission in GABAergic interneurons of prefrontal cortex. *J Neurosci* 29:550-562.

Zaitsev AV, Gonzalez-Burgos G, Povysheva NV, Kroner S, Lewis DA, and Krimer LS (2005) Localization of calcium-binding proteins in physiologically and morphologically characterized interneurons of monkey dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. *Cereb Cortex* 15:1178-1186.

1
2
3 **Figure Legends**

4 **Figure 1.** Autoradiographic localization of dopamine D2 (A) and D4 (B) receptor
5 mRNA in monkey prefrontal cortex. Both mRNA transcripts were visualized by *in situ*
6 hybridization with oligonucleotides labeled with ³³P. Panel A shows the areas where
7 cells were quantified. (DLPFC: dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, OFC: orbitofrontal
8 cortex). Bar: 5 mm.
9

10
11
12
13
14
15
16 **Figure 2.** Localization of D2 and D4 receptor mRNA in glutamatergic and
17 GABAergic cells in primate prefrontal cortex. High-magnification, bright-field
18 microphotographs of emulsion-dipped sections simultaneously showing by double *in*
19 *situ* hybridization the presence of D2 (a, c) and D4 (b, d) dopamine receptor mRNA in
20 glutamatergic (a, b) and GABAergic (c, d) layer V neurons of monkey prefrontal cortex.
21 The oligonucleotides complementary to the receptor mRNA were radiolabeled and are
22 observed as clusters of dark silver grains. The oligonucleotides complementary to the
23 mRNA of the glutamatergic marker vGluT1 and GABAergic marker GAD65/67 were
24 labeled with digoxigenin and are observed as heavily purple stained cells. Bar: 20 μm.
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37

38
39 **Figure 3.** Localization of D2 and D4 receptors mRNA in parvalbumin (PV) and
40 calbindin (CB) cell populations in monkey prefrontal cortex. High-magnification bright-
41 field microphotographs of emulsion-dipped sections of layer V monkey dorsolateral
42 prefrontal cortex, simultaneously showing the different mRNA visualized by double *in*
43 *situ* hybridization using ³³P-labeled oligonucleotides complementary to the mRNA
44 coding for D2 (a, c) and D4 (b, d) dopamine receptors (clusters of dark silver grains),
45 with DIG-labeled oligonucleotides (dark precipitate) for PV mRNA, panels a and b, or
46 for CB mRNA, panels c and d. Bar: 20 μm.
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65

Figure 4. Bar graph showing the distribution of D2 and D4 dopamine receptors in different neuronal populations of primate prefrontal cortex (vGluT1: vesicular glutamate transporter, GAD: gamma-aminobutyric acid decarboxylase, PV: parvalbumin, CB: calbindin, DLPFC: dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, OFC: orbitofrontal cortex). Data are the mean and SEM of three monkeys and represent the percentage of counted cells expressing D2 and D4 dopamine receptor mRNA in different neuronal populations. Each percentage was determined from an average of 40.2 cells (1931 cells counted).

Figure
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

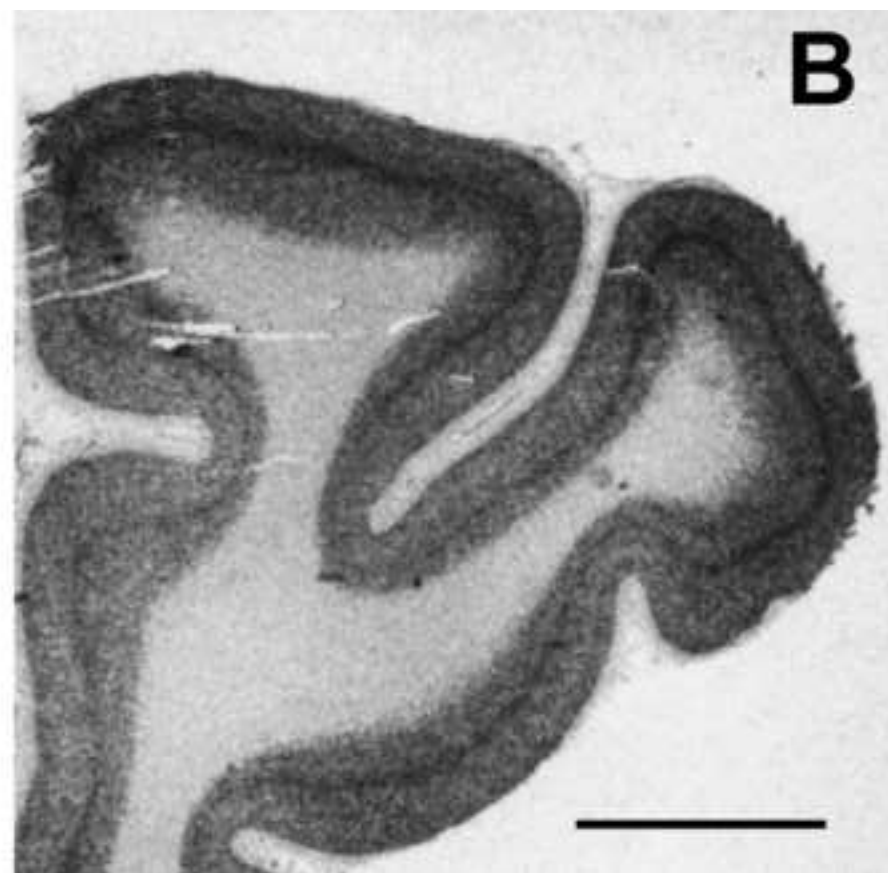
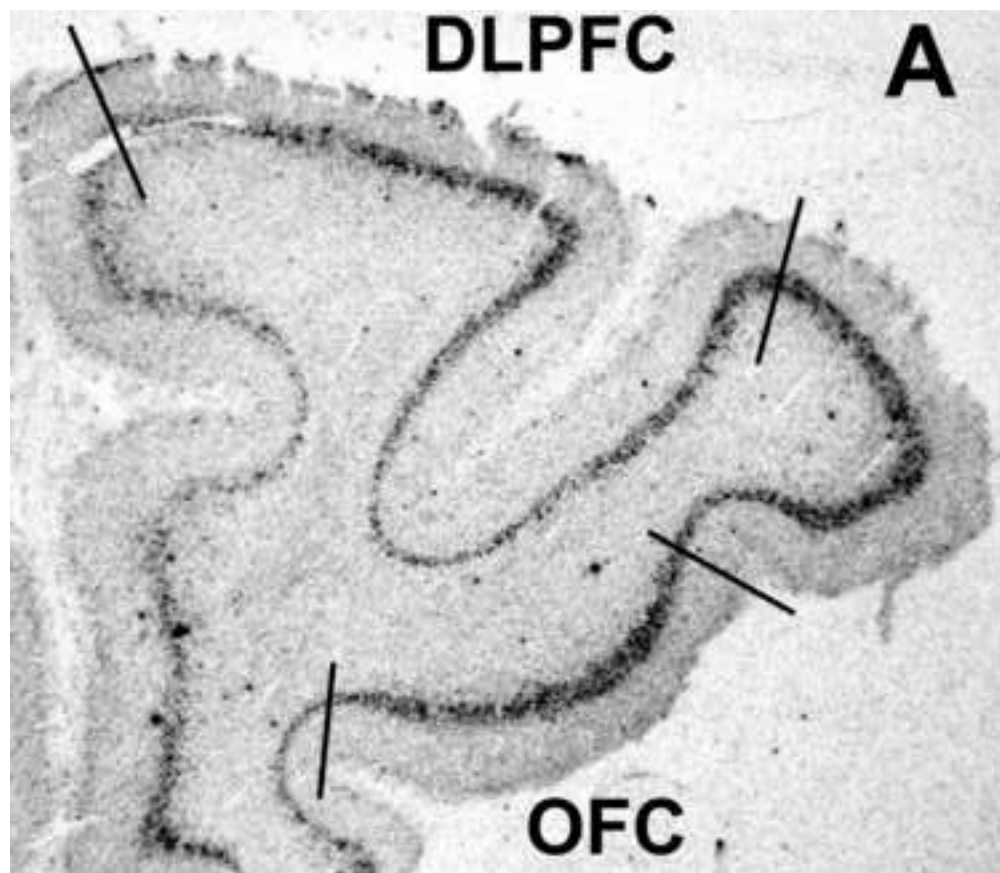


Figure 2
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

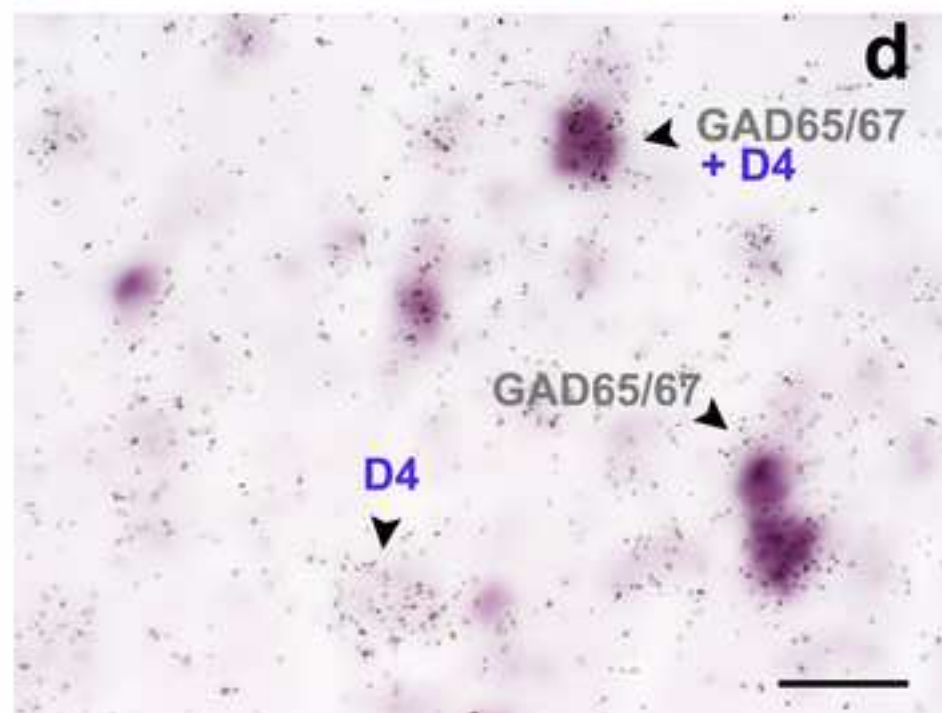
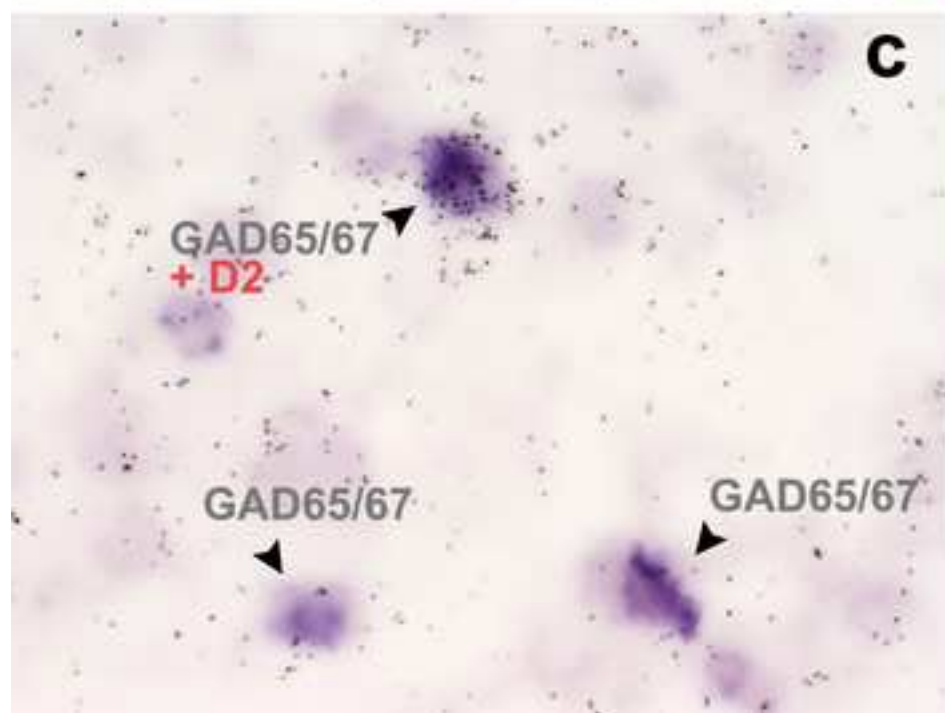
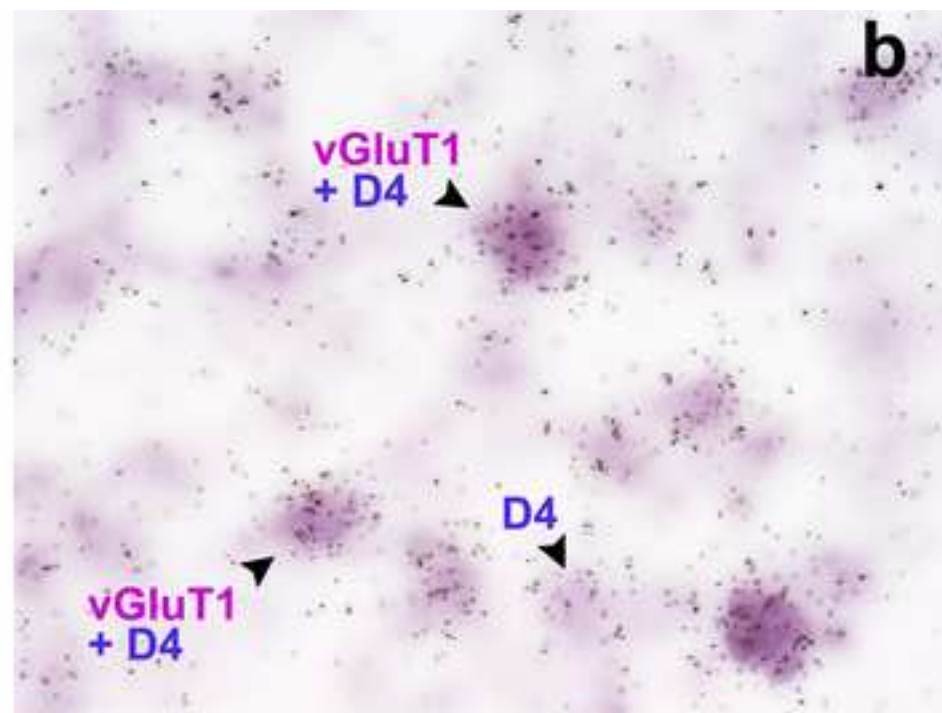
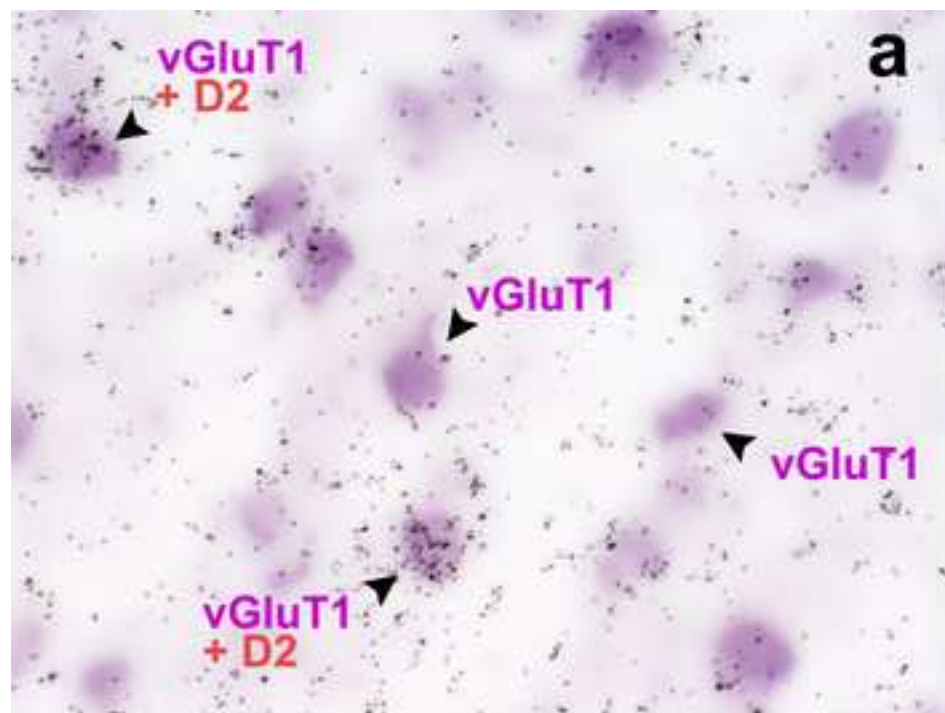


Figure 3
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

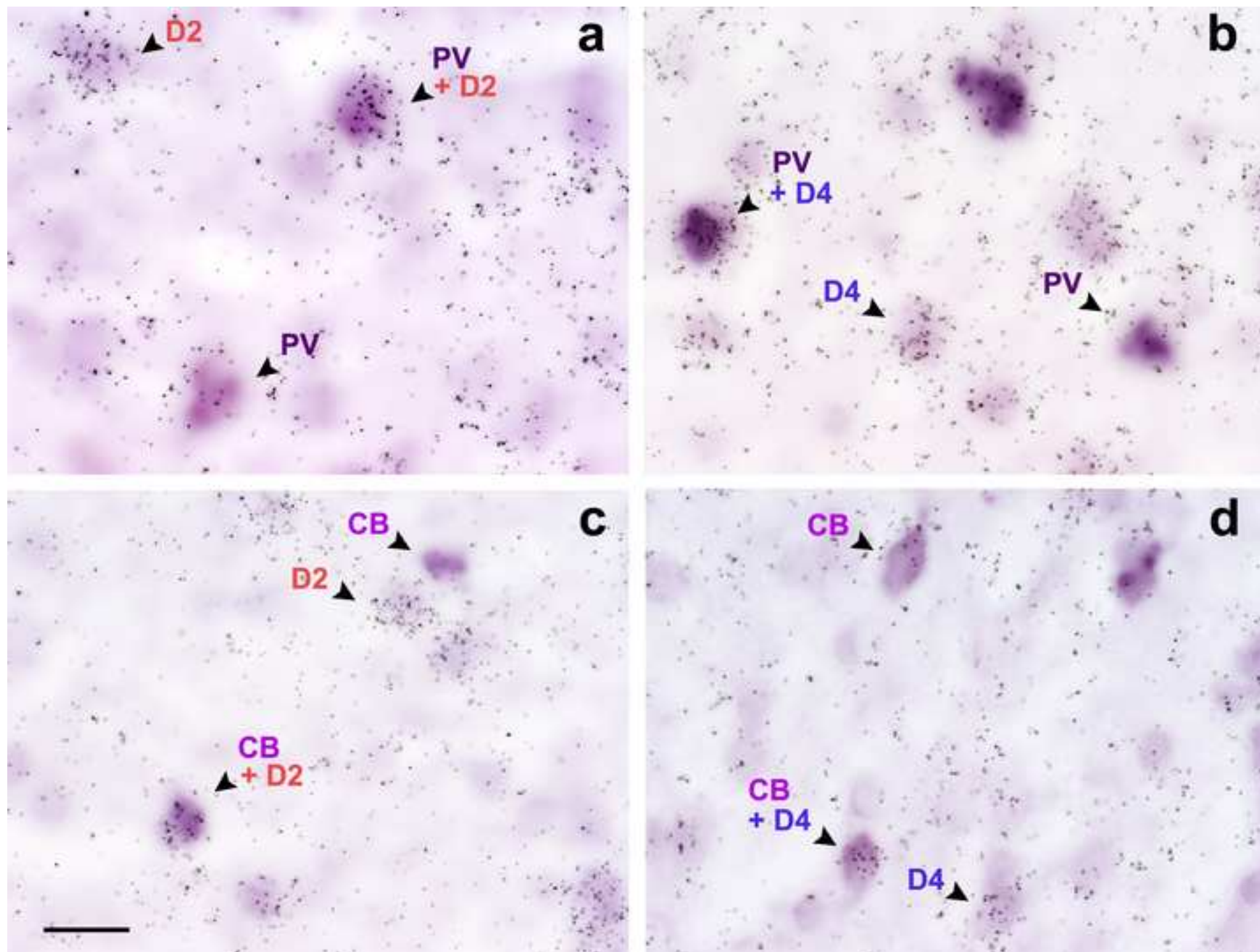


Figure 4
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

