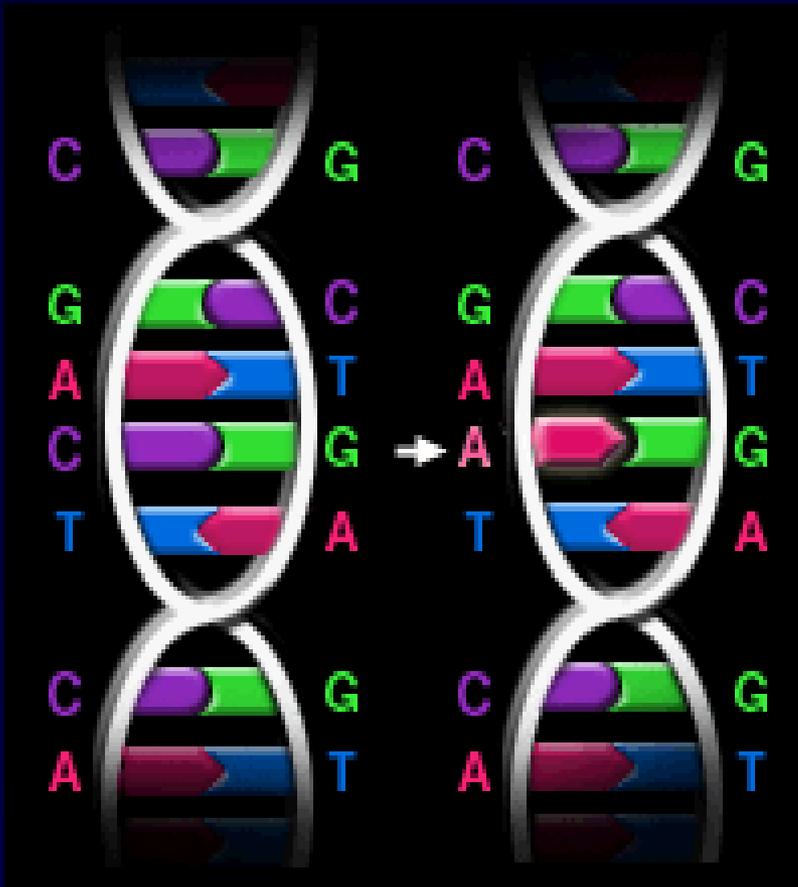


# Φύλο και εγκέφαλος

Νεοκλής Α. Γεωργόπουλος

Ενδοκρινολόγος



# Genes & Jeans

Για την ανάπτυξη άρρενος τύπου ταυτότητας φύλου απαραίτητη η άμεση δράση των ανδρογόνων στον εγκέφαλο μέσω του ανδρογονικού υποδοχέα

Pope Joan: A Recognizable Syndrome\*  
Maria I. New and Elizabeth S. Kitzinger, JCEM 1993



Baubo: a Case of Ambiguous Genitalia in the Eleusinian Mysteries  
Neoklis A. Georgopoulos, George A. Vagenakis, Apostolos L. Pierris  
**Hormones 2003**

1



**Βαυβώ**

το μυθικό αιδού



**Ως ειπούσα  
πέπλους  
ανεσύρετο, δείξε  
δε πάντα  
σώματος ουδέ  
πρέποντα τύπον.**

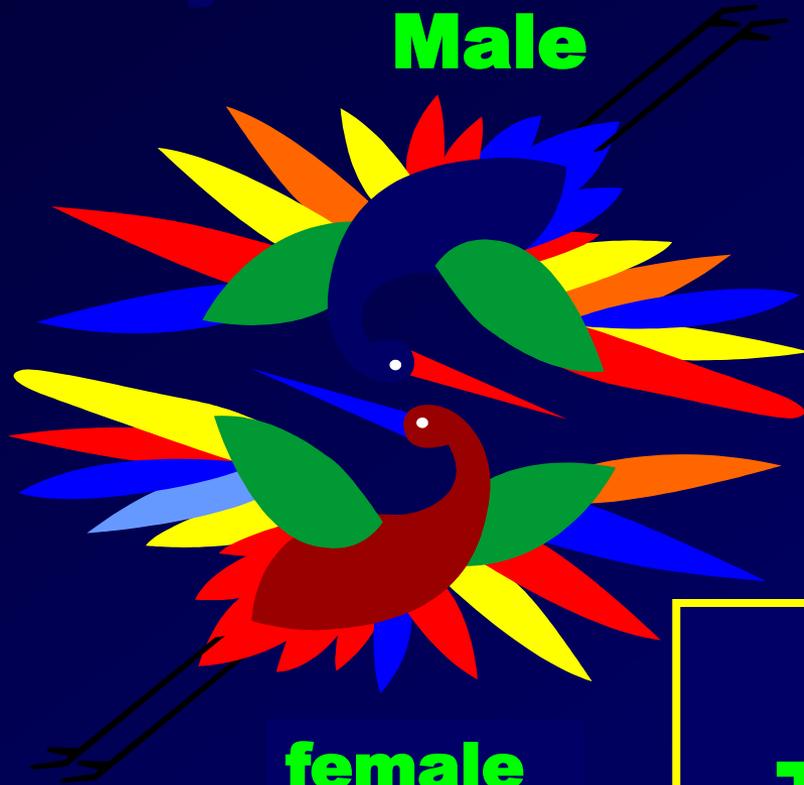
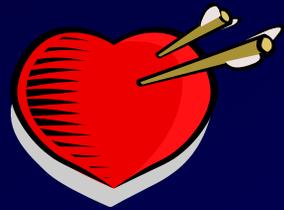
**Παίς δ'ήεν  
Ίακχος Βαυβούς  
υπο κόλπους**

# Masculinization of the brain

## The sing of the

canary

Male



Female +

Testosterone



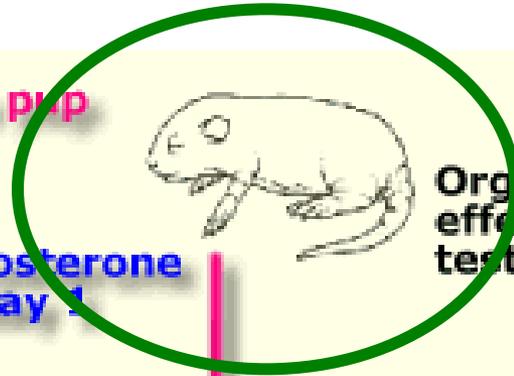
# Testosterone masculinizes and defeminizes rat brain

Male pup



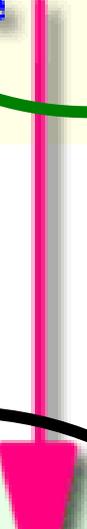
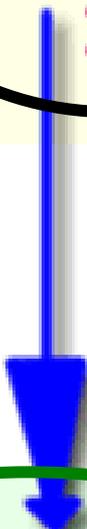
castration  
on day 1

Female pup



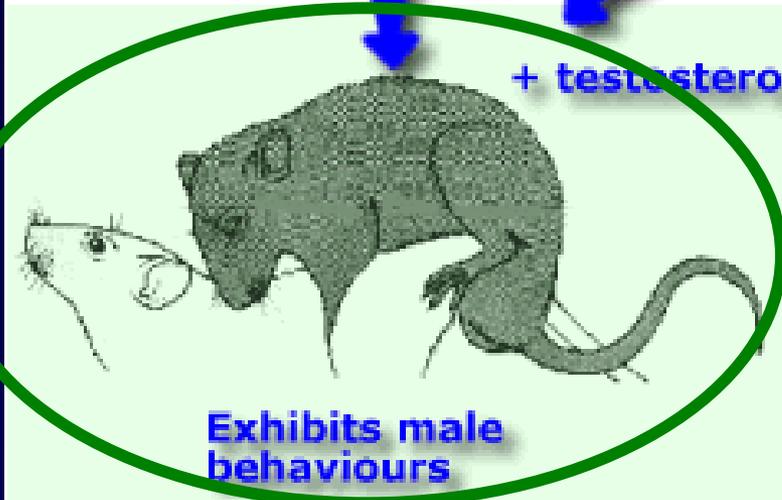
Organizational  
effect of  
testosterone

testosterone  
on day 1

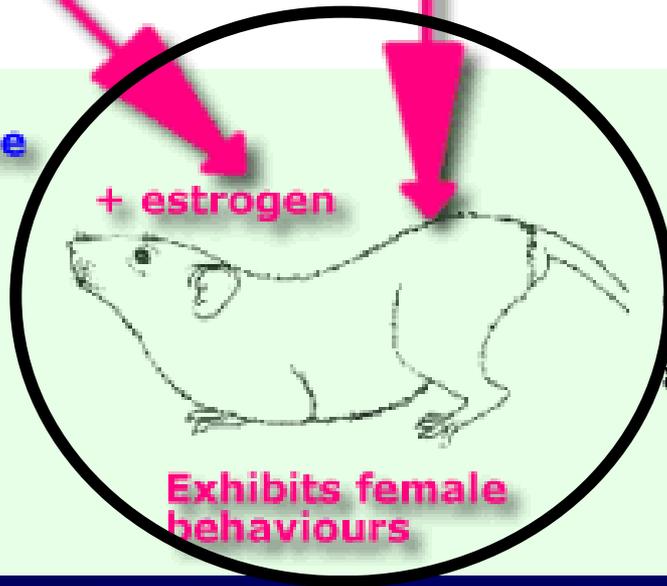


+ testosterone

+ estrogen

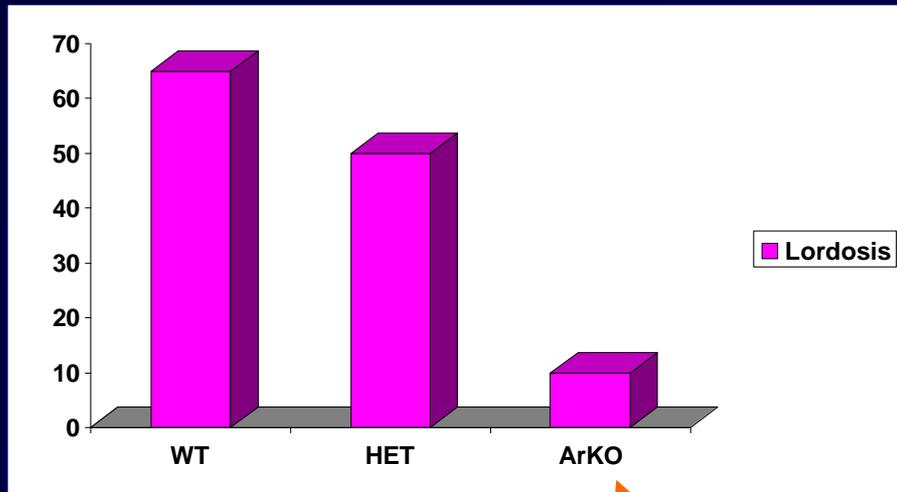


Exhibits male  
behaviours

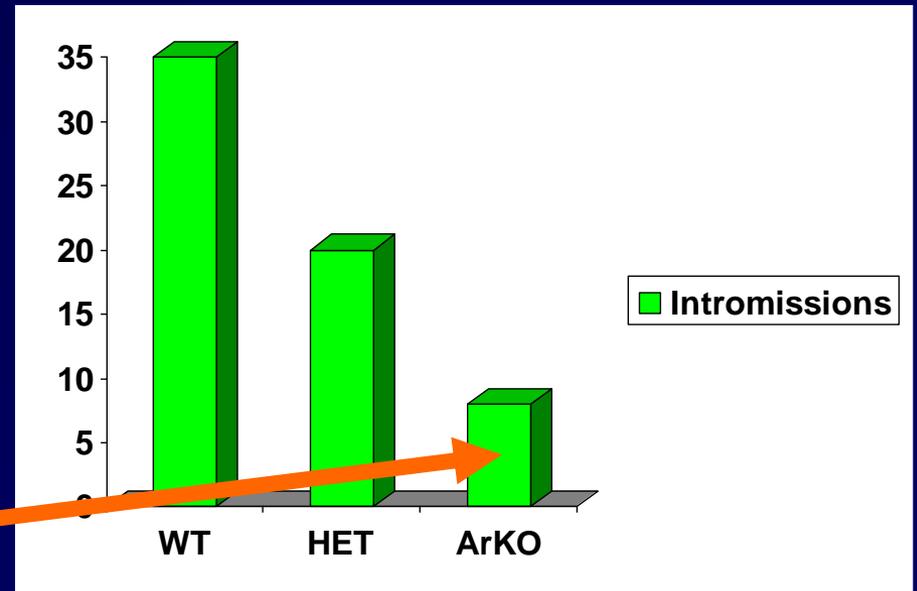


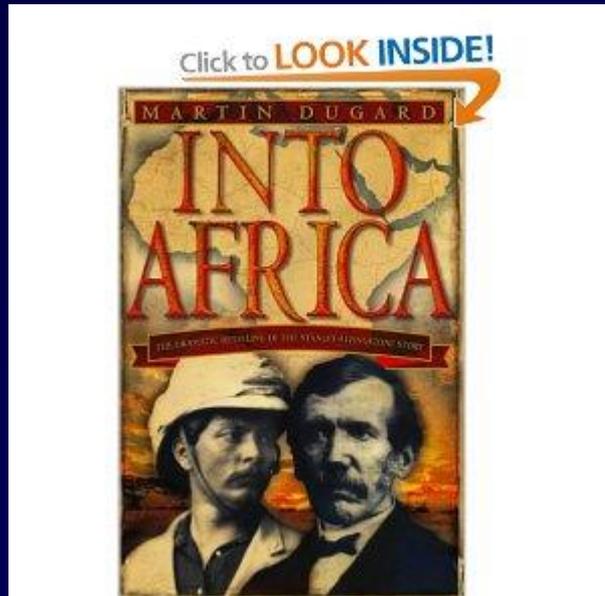
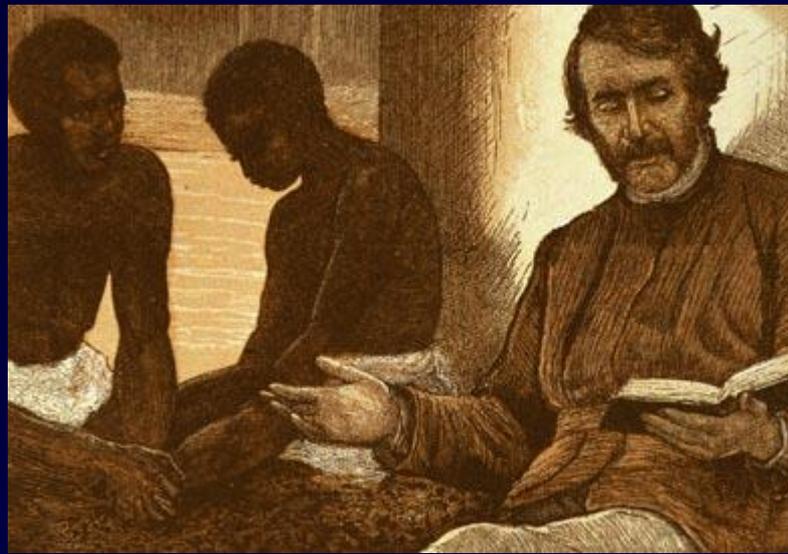
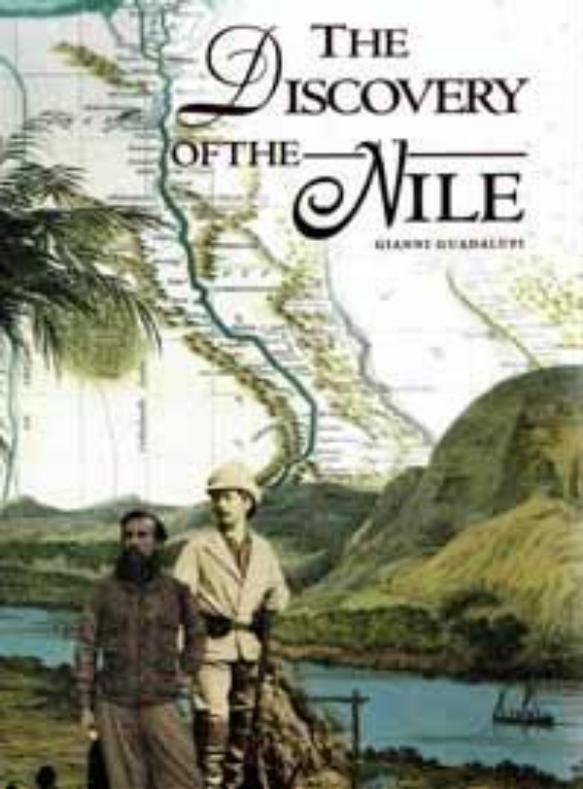
Activational  
effect of  
testosterone  
and estrogen

# Estrogens are required for female typical brain and behavioral sexual differentiation



## Aromatase Knock out mice





# Φυλετικός διμορφισμός ΚΝΣ

# Brain Sexual Differentiation

## Multisignaling process

Brain development

Adult brain

Behavior

XX



Female

XY

ORGANIZATIONAL  
ACTIONS

ACTIVATIONAL  
ACTIONS

Male

**NEUROACTIVE STEROIDS**

Neurotrophic Factors

Neurotransmitters

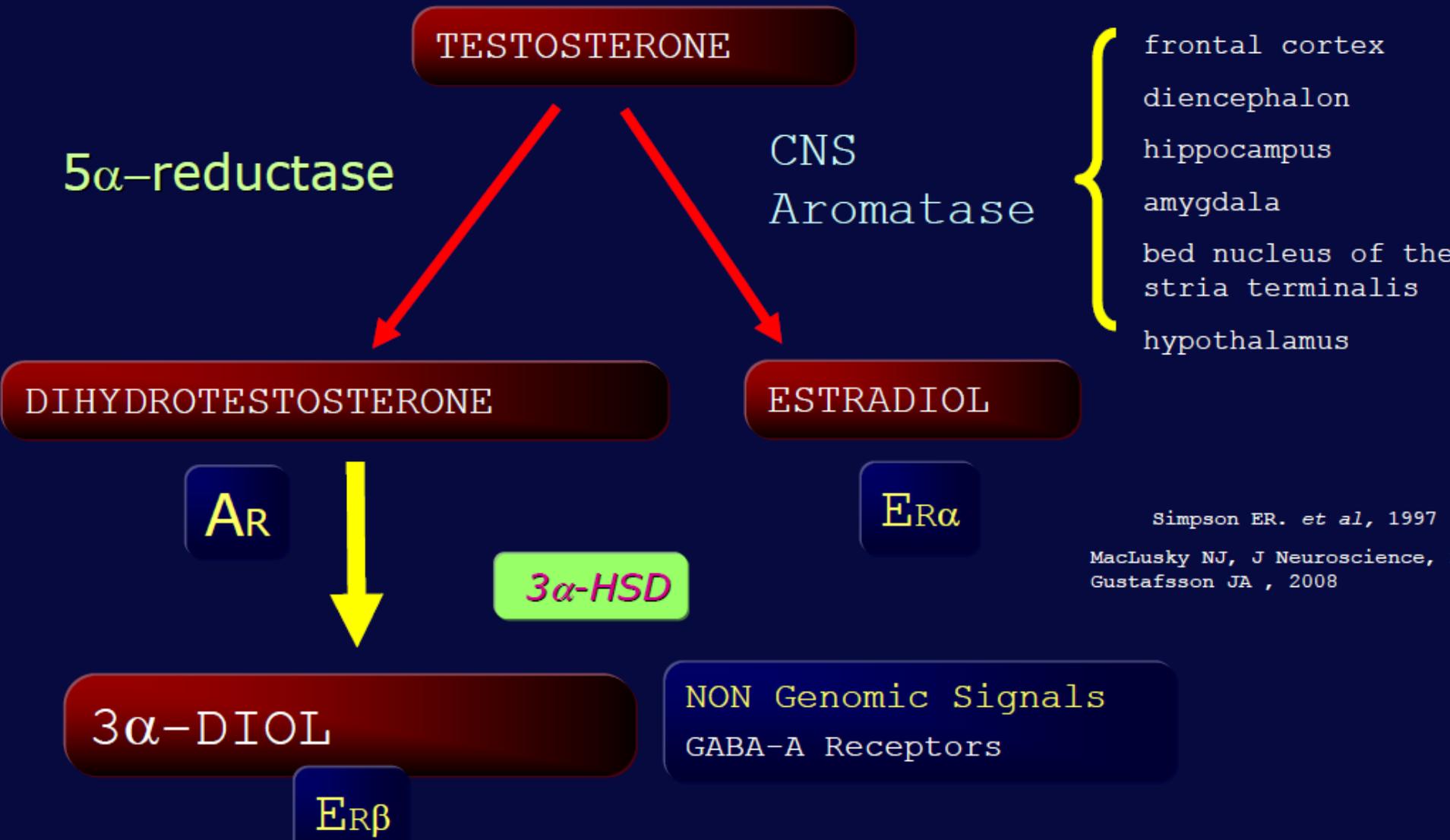
Messenger Pathways Cross-Talks

Second

**NEURAL and ENDOCRINE  
CONDITIONS**

Endocrine Disruptors

# Central Metabolism of Sex Steroids



# The Brain as a Target Tissue for Sex Steroids

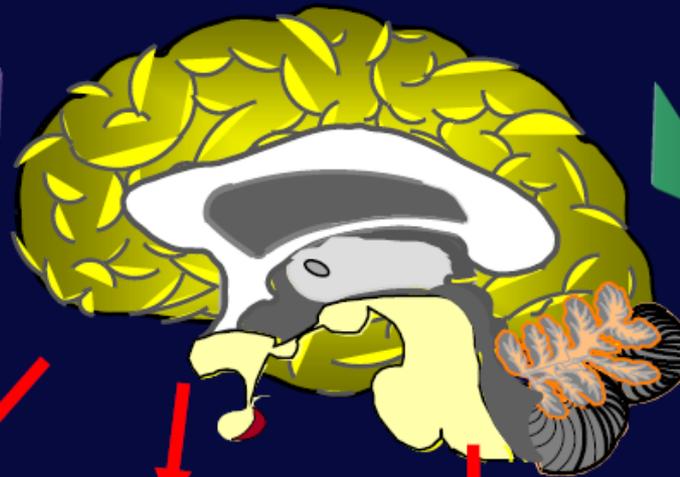
## CNS Sexual Dimorphism

### FUNCTIONAL SEX DIFFERENCES

- Ers, PRs, ARs different expression in brain areas
- ER polymorphisms
- Enzyme induction

### STRUCTURAL SEX DIFFERENCES

- Different neuronal subpopulations in brain areas



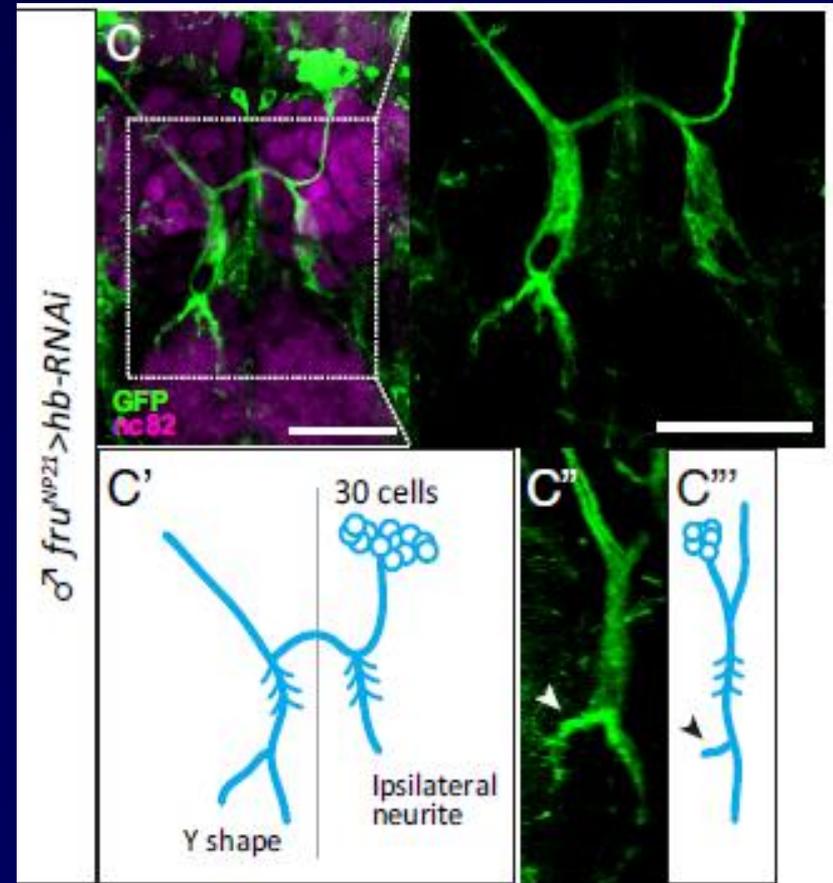
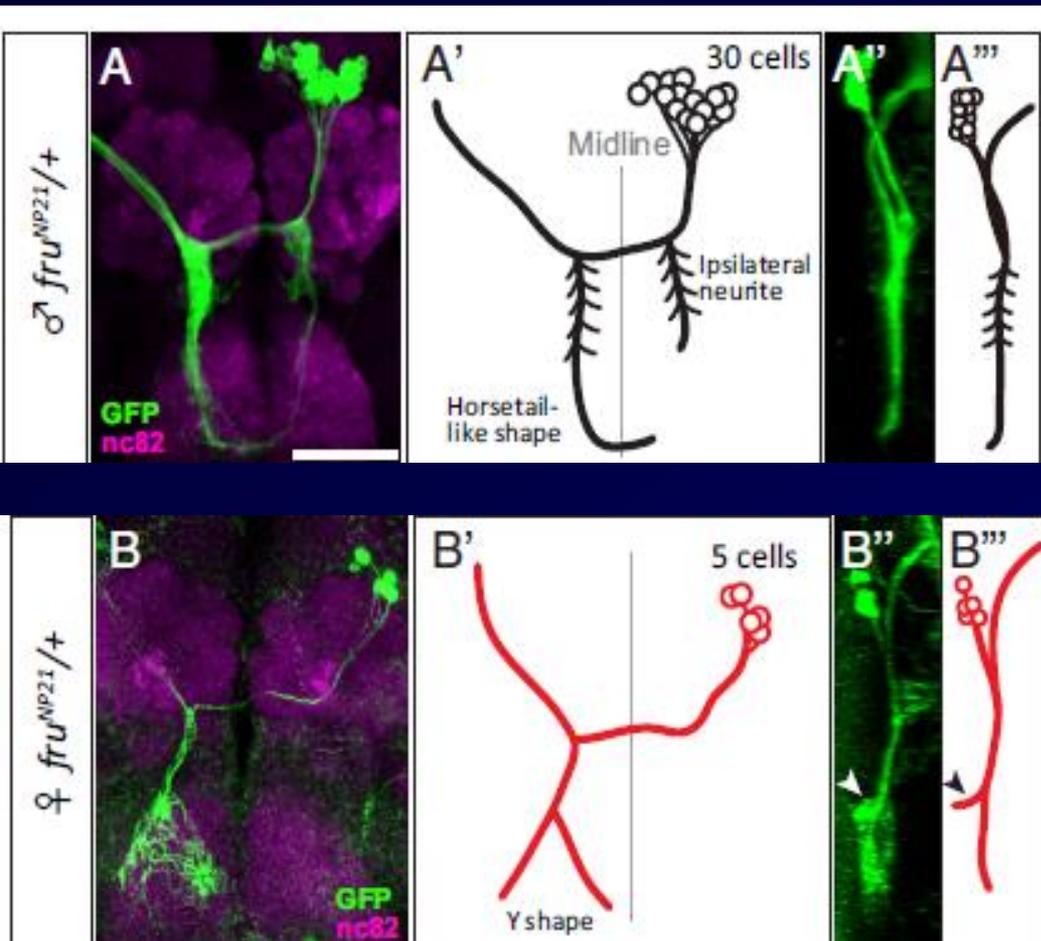
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

GENDER IDENTITY

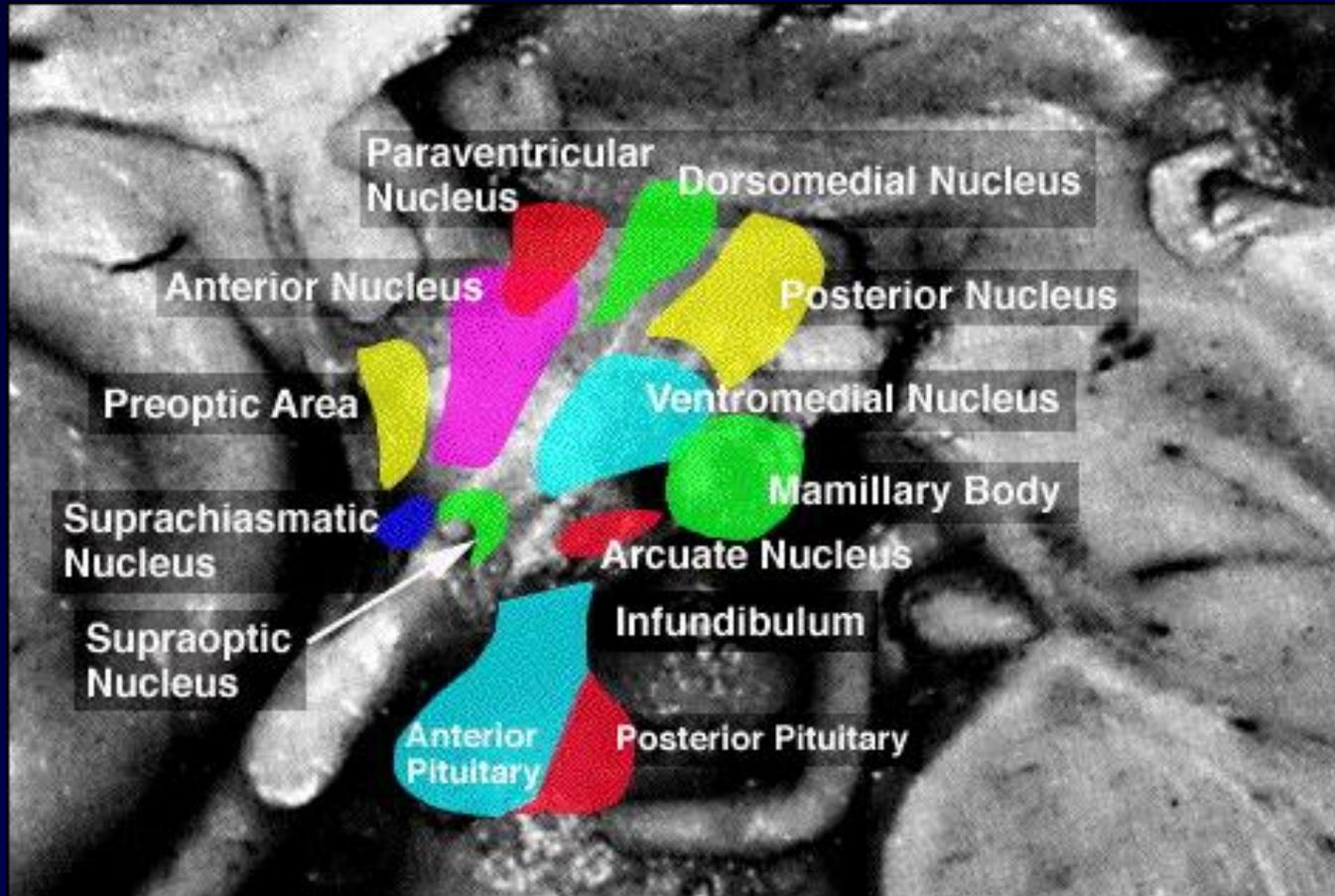
COGNITIVE DIMORPHISM

PREVALENCE OF NEUROLOGICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC DISEASES

# Male-typical shape of neurites: substantial evidence



# Sexually dimorphic nuclei - Hypothalamus



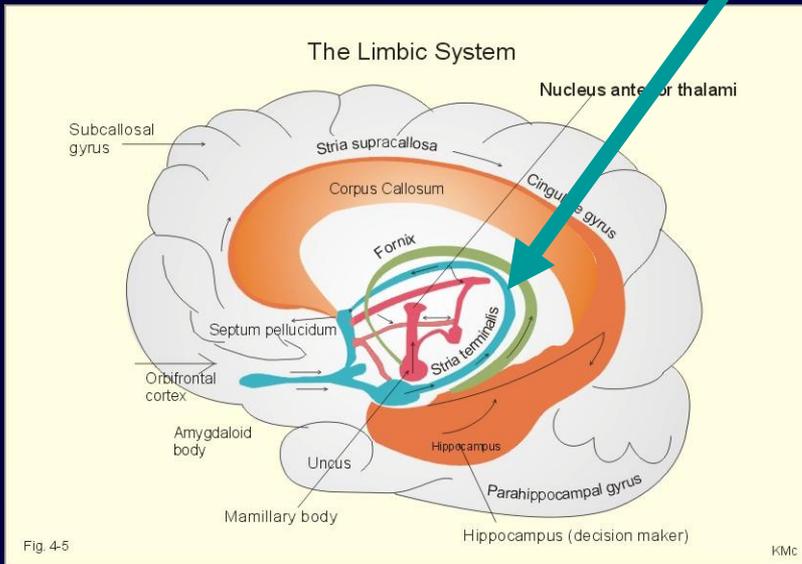
Πυρήνες - SDN of MPOA, SCN, BST, INAH 2

Μέγεθος, σχήμα, αριθμός νευρώνων

Οι περιοχές του εγκεφάλου διαφοροποιούνται μέχρι και την ενήλικη ζωή

# BST Bed nucleus of the Stria Terminalis

- Males : increased size and number of neurons

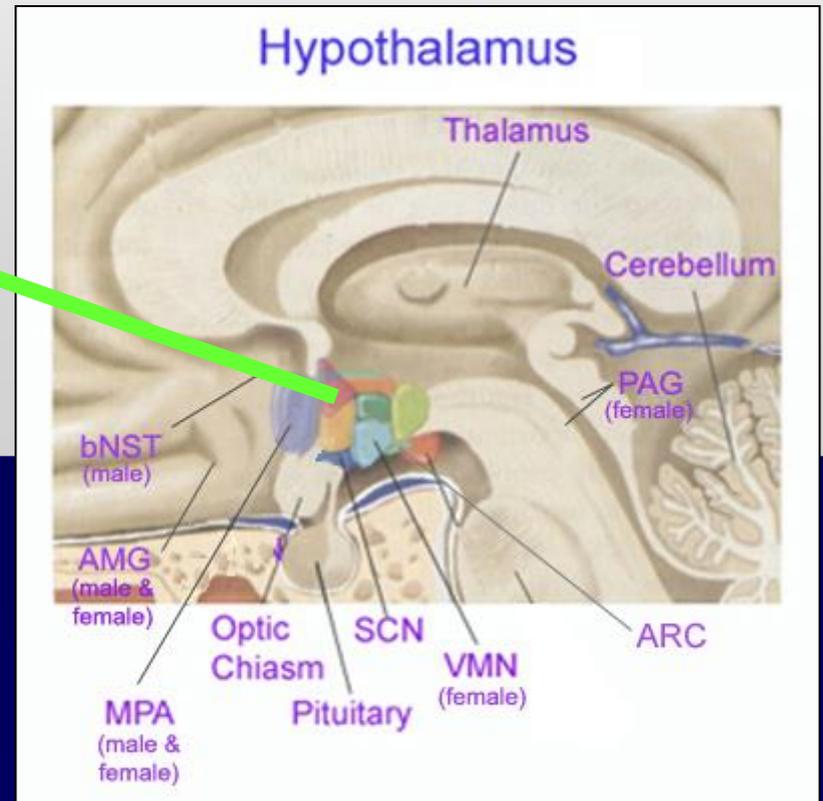
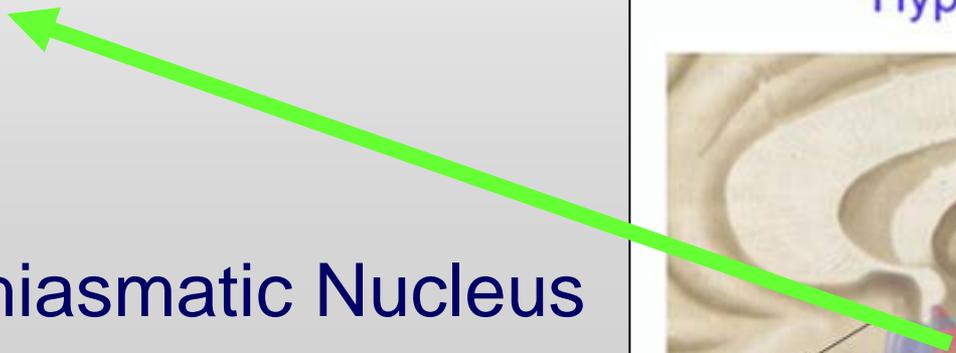


**Males : Spherical** vs

**Elongated in Females**

**SCN**

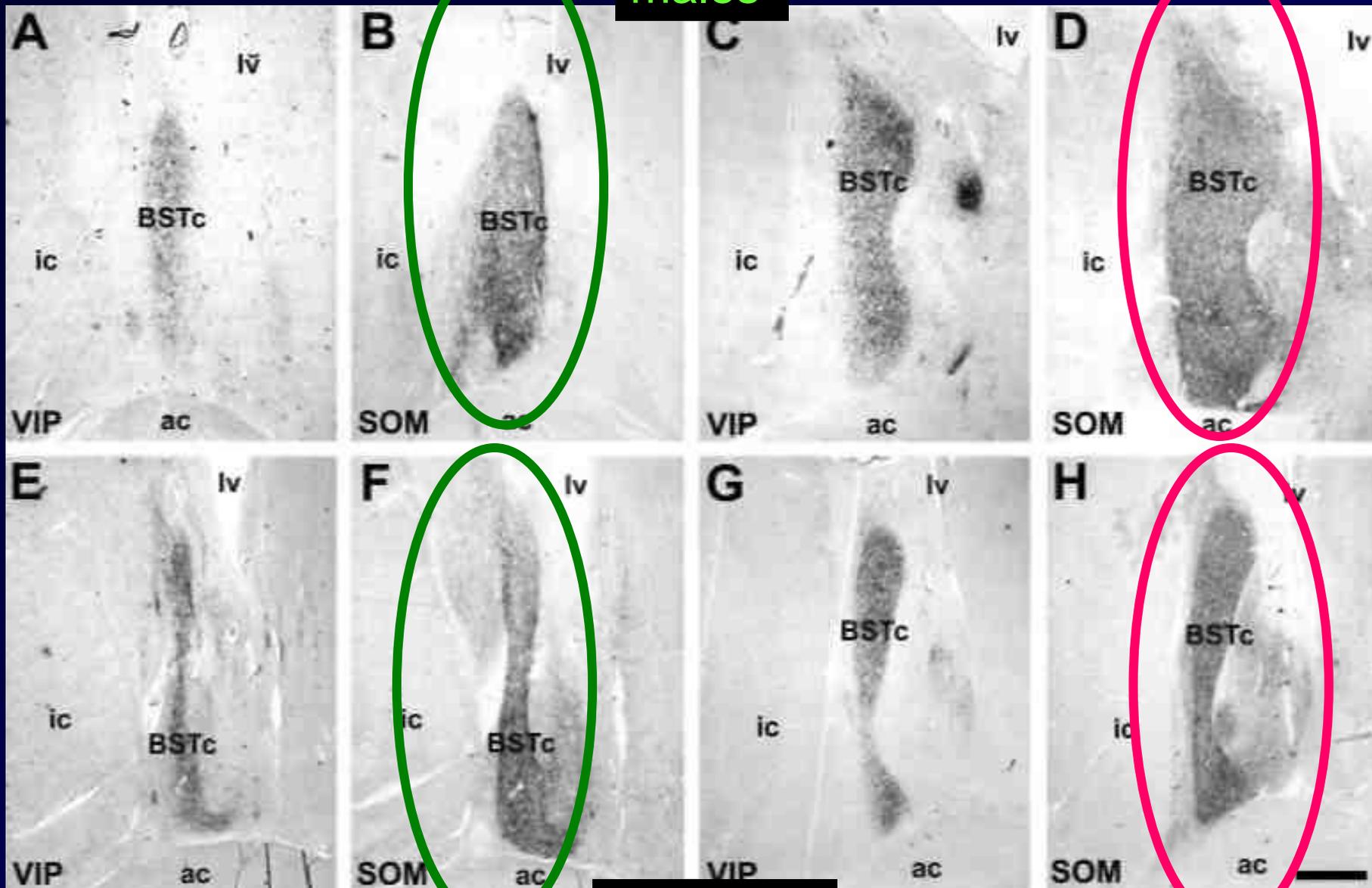
**Suprachiasmatic Nucleus**



14 y

males

39 y

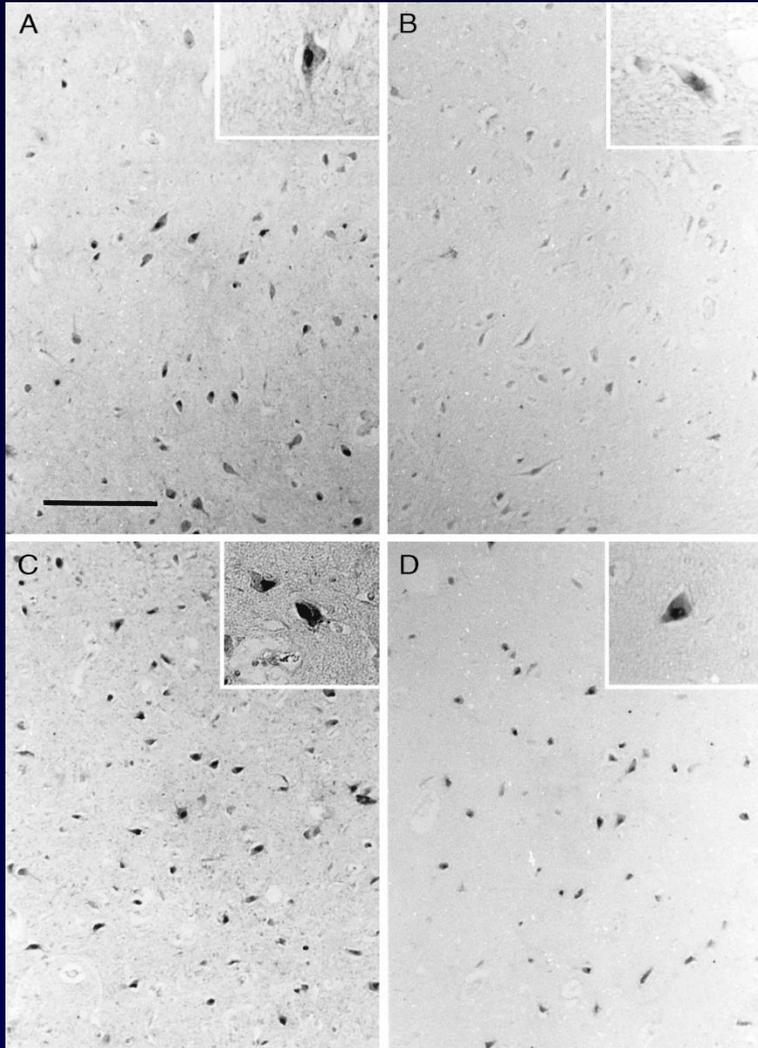


16 y

females

32 y

# Sex differences in androgen receptors (AR) of the human mamillary bodies: differences in circulating levels of androgens



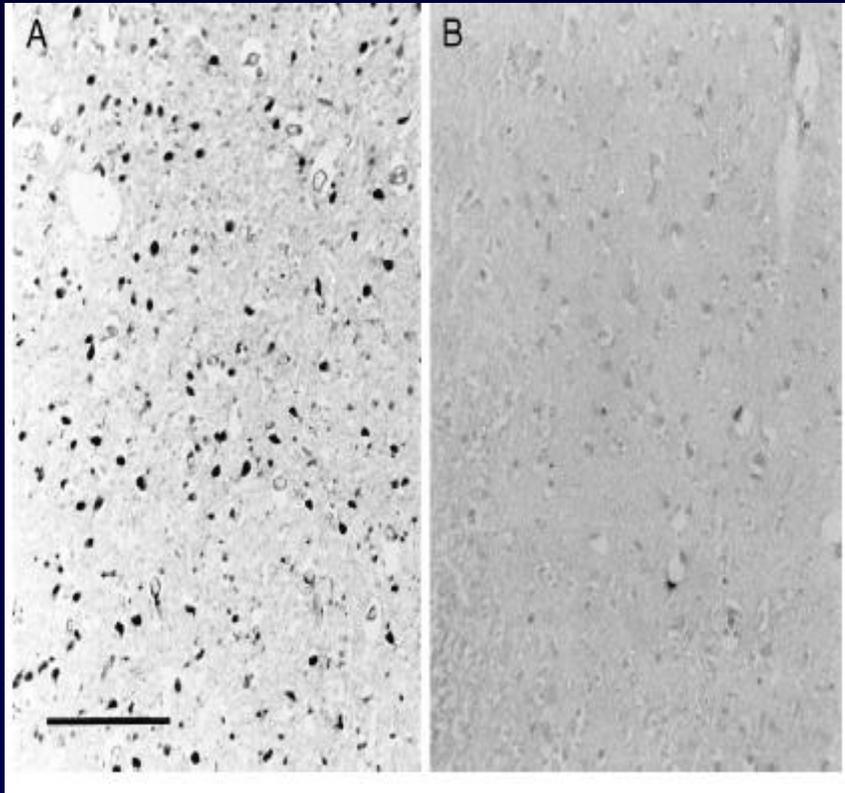
- A: Heterosexual man
- B: Heterosexual woman
- C: Homosexual man
- D: Woman with high levels of androgens

L  
E  
G  
E  
N  
D

## Conclusions:

1. Sex difference in the nuclear AR immunoreactivity between A and B.
2. No difference in the intensity of AR staining between A, C and D.

# Sex differences in androgen receptors (AR) of the human mamillary bodies: differences in circulating levels of androgens



A: Non-castrated male-to-female transsexual

B: Castrated male-to-female transsexual

L  
E  
G  
E  
N  
D

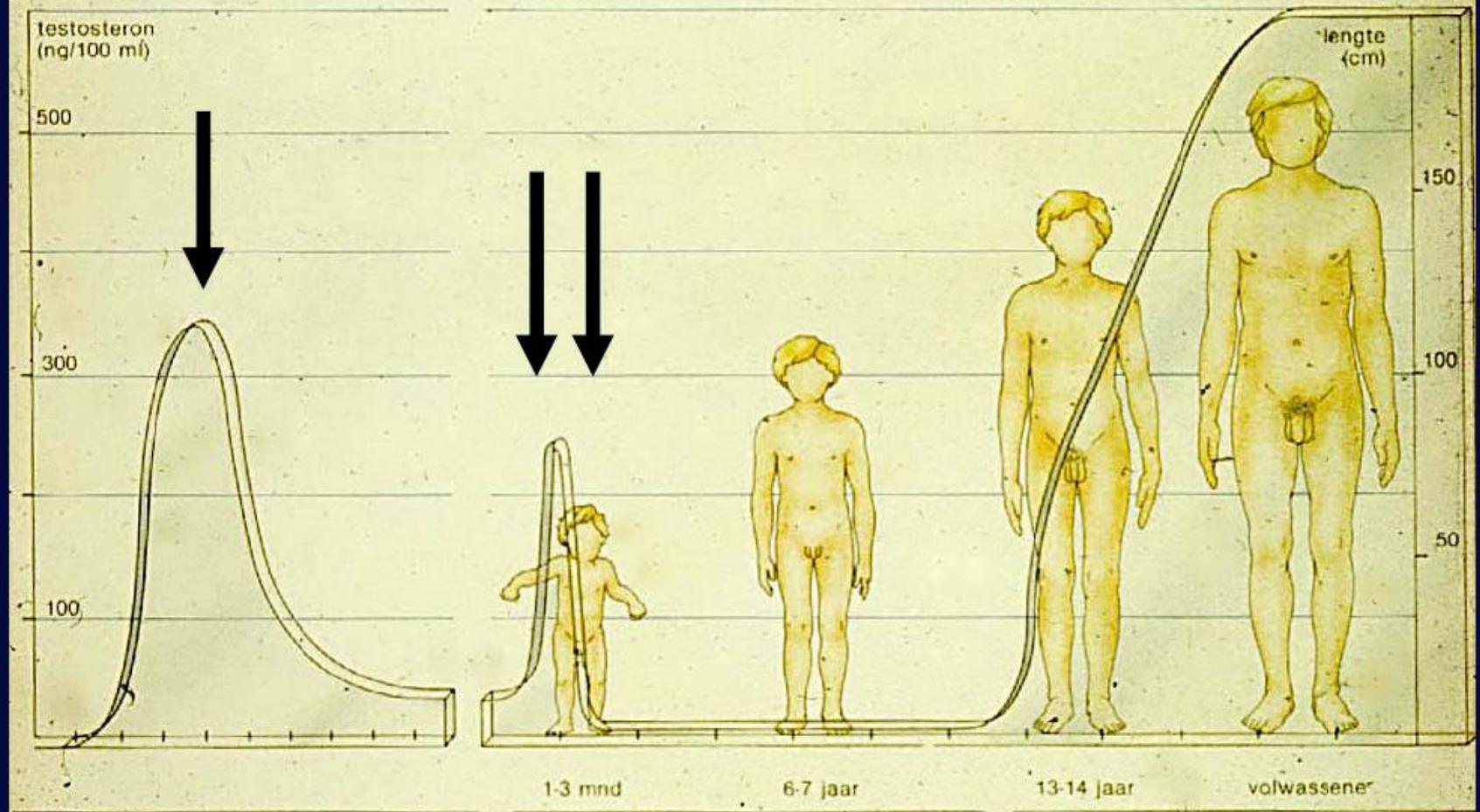
Conclusions:  
Sex difference in the nuclear AR immunoreactivity between A and B.

Φυλετικός διμορφισμός ΚΝΣ

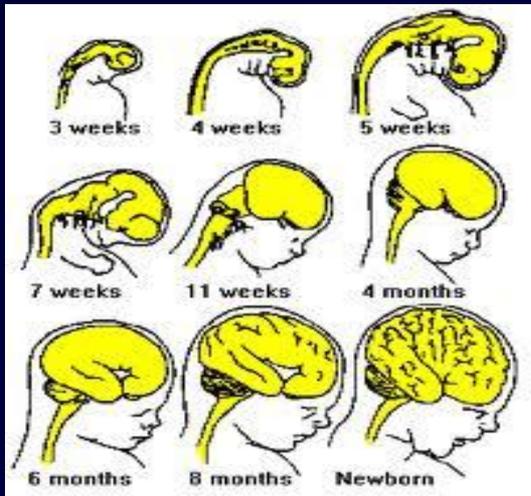
Πως και πότε δημιουργείται;

# Testosterone Plasma Levels in Men

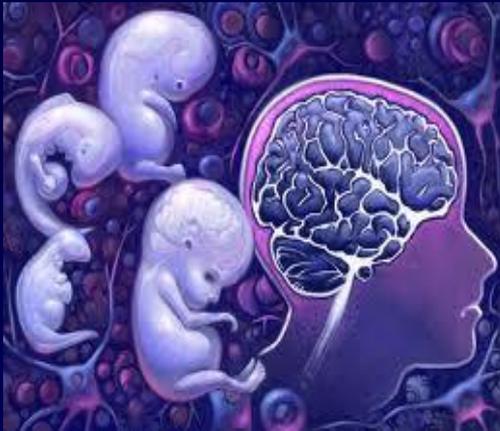
testosteronconcentraties in het plasma op verschillende leeftijden (naar Butt en London, *Clinics in Endocrinology and Metabolism* 1975; 4, 3: 585)



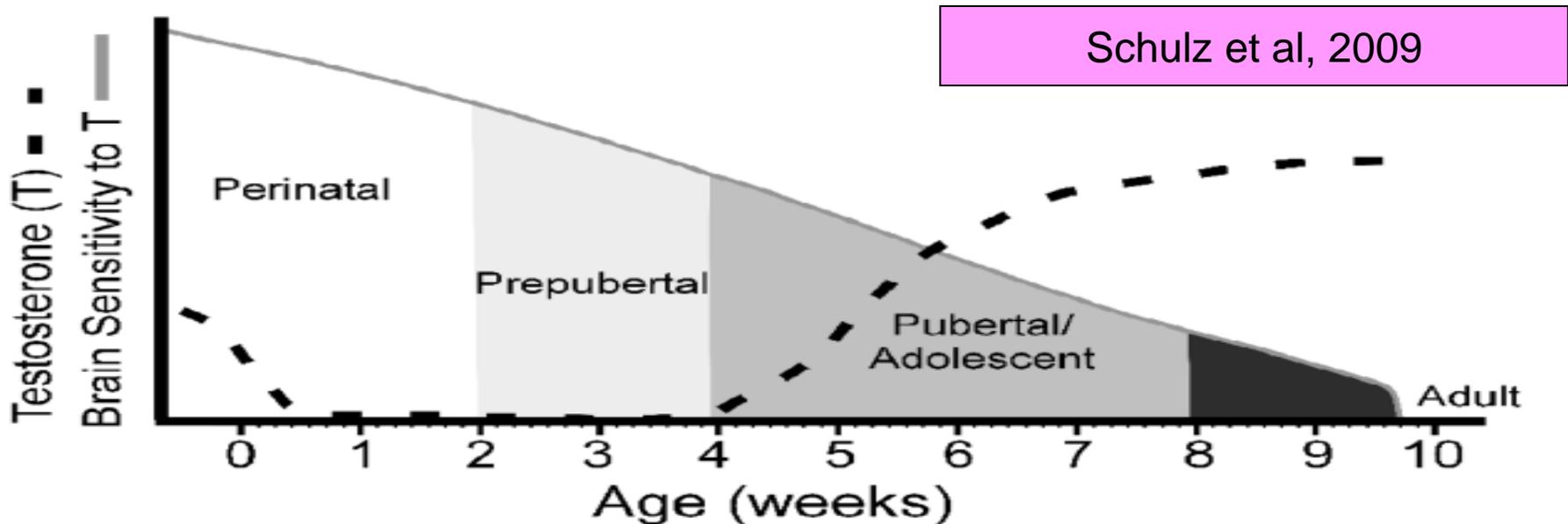
# Phoenix et al, 1959: Organizational-activational hypothesis of hormone-driven sex differences in brain and behavior



- A. Prenatal/early postnatal transient rise in testosterone: Masculinizes and defeminizes neural circuits in males
- B. Absence of the transient rise in testosterone: Feminine neural phenotype
- C. Puberty: Testicular and ovarian hormones act on previously sexually differentiated circuits to facilitate expression of sex-typical behaviors in particular social contexts.



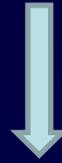
# Revised Organizational hypothesis: **One** protracted sensitive period for the organizing actions of testosterone



**Fig 3.**

Illustration depicting the overall findings of our study investigating the effects of early, on-time, and late adolescent testosterone treatments on adult mating behavior. Given that early adolescent testosterone treatment was initiated immediately following the period of sexual differentiation (postnatal day 10), our data suggest that adolescence is part of a protracted sensitive period for the organizing actions of testosterone (area under the solid gray curve). In addition, because early adolescent treatments most effectively organized adult mating behavior, we propose that sensitivity to the organizing actions of testosterone decreases across postnatal development. The dashed line approximates testosterone secretions across development, whereas the solid line depicts decreasing sensitivity to the organizing actions of testosterone across development. Shading approximates the timing of perinatal, prepubertal, adolescent periods in the Syrian hamster.

Masculinization of behavioral traits



Organizational effect of prenatal androgen exposure



Sex dimorphism of the central nervous system

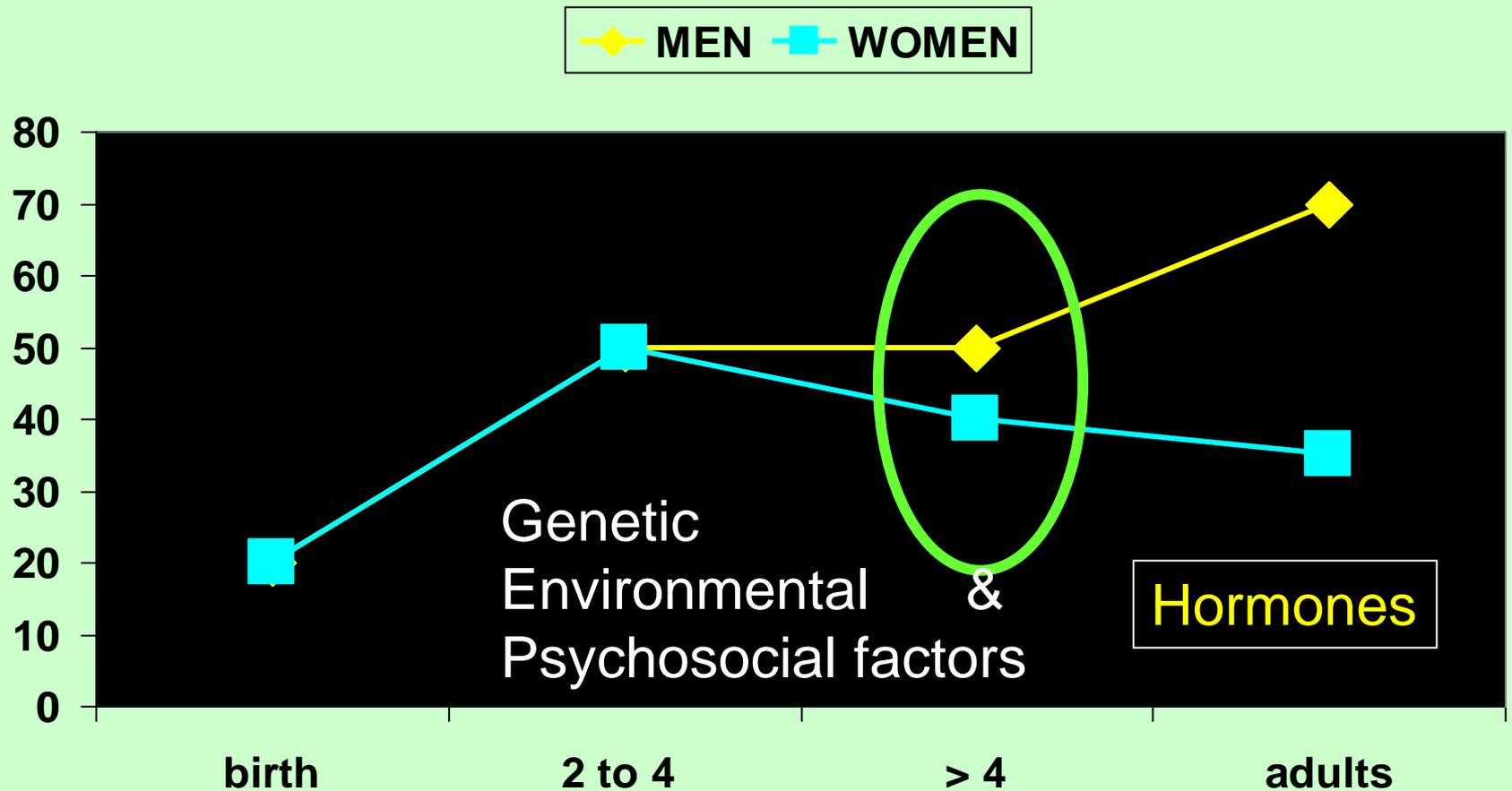
We can not evaluate the organizational effect of prenatal androgen exposure in humans based on animal studies



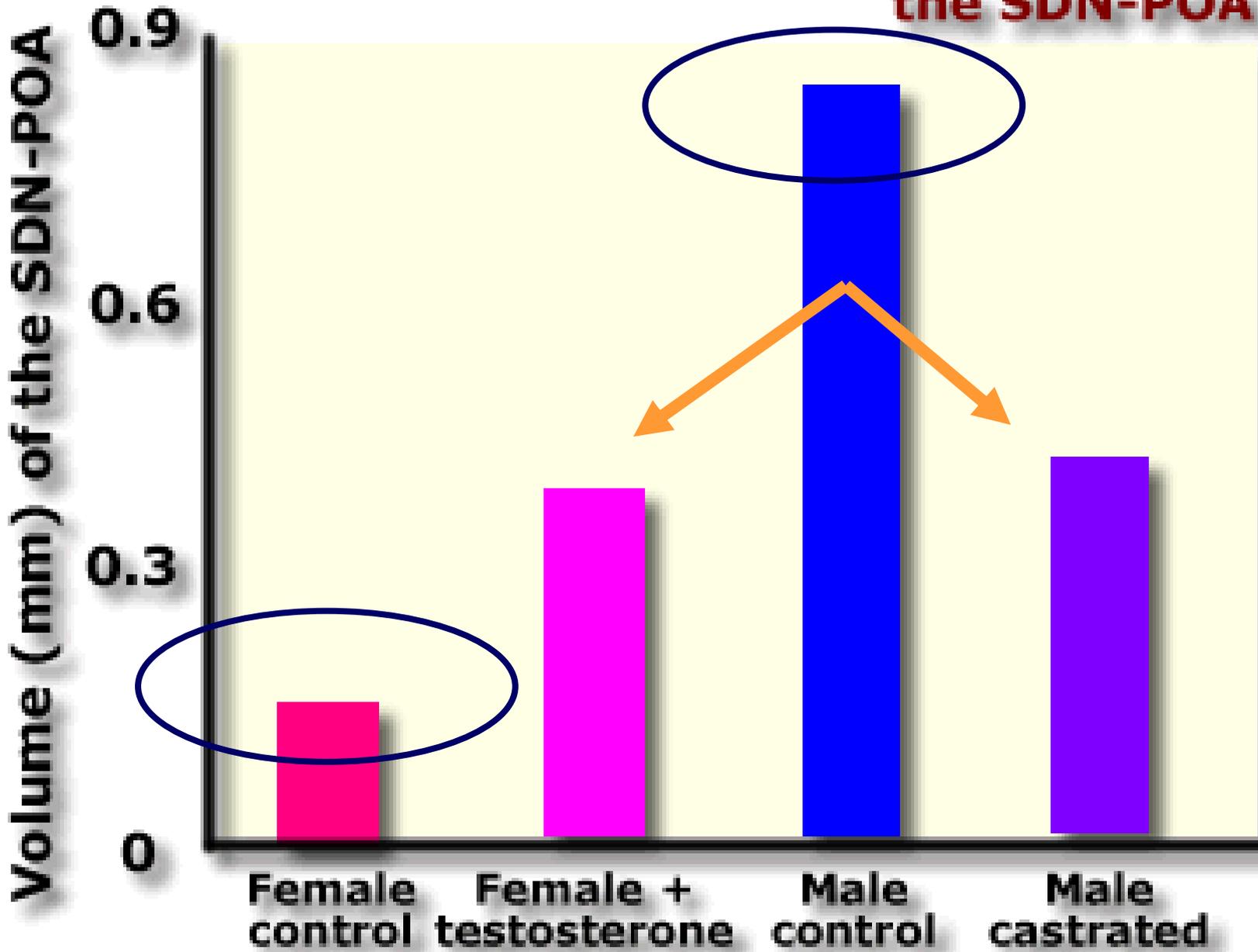
# Postnatal period of hypothalamic differentiation

## Sexual differentiation of **SDN**

### **Sexually Dimorphic Nucleus**



# Neonatal testosterone influences size of the SDN-POA



# Intrauterine androgen exposure of the female fetus and behavior

- (i) individuals who have genetic disorders that cause abnormalities in the amount or activity of testosterone, beginning prenatally;
- (ii) individuals whose mothers were prescribed hormones during pregnancy for medical reasons; and
- (iii) individuals with no history of hormone abnormality, but for whom information on prenatal hormone levels is available and can be related to postnatal behaviour.

# Causes of hyperandrogenic states in pregnancy

## **A. Fetal causes**

- Congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH)

## **B. Maternal causes**

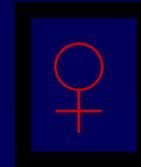
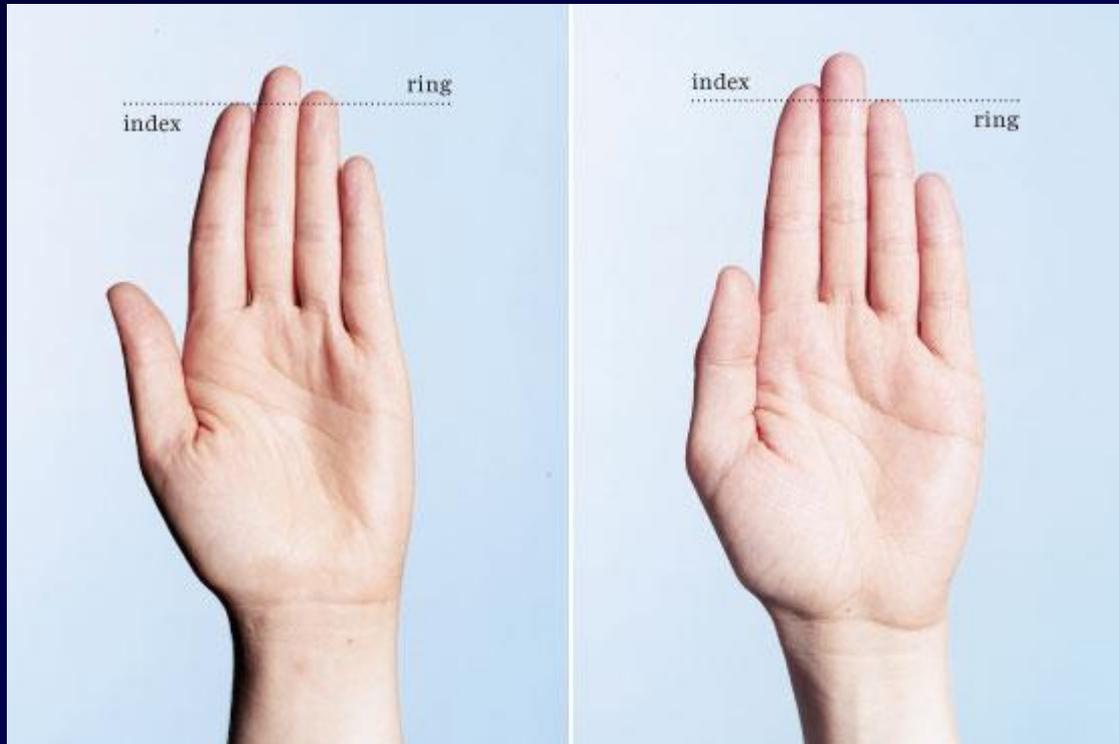
1. Ovarian tumors
2. Non- tumor ovarian conditions (pregnancy luteoma, hyperreactio luteinalis, PCOS)
3. Adrenal tumors (rare)
4. Non-tumor adrenal causes (Cushing's syndrome, irregular secretion of CRH in the placenta, non-functional adenomas in the cortex of the adrenal glands containing receptors with aberrant activity for CRH)
5. Iatrogenic (preparations containing androgens or progestins)

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia as a  
model of prenatal exposure to androgens

# Sizes of sex differences in human behavior/psychological characteristics

Behavior/Psychological characteristic	approximate size in standard deviation units (d)
Core gender identity <sup>23,74</sup>	11.0 to 13.2
Sexual orientation <sup>24,75</sup>	6.0 to 7.0
<b>Childhood Play</b>	
Play with girls' toys <sup>8</sup>	1.8
Play with boys' toys <sup>8</sup>	2.1
Feminine preschool games <sup>76</sup>	1.1
Masculine preschool games <sup>76</sup>	0.7 to 1.8
Playmate preferences <sup>76</sup>	2.3 to 5.6
Composite of sex-typed play (PSAI) <sup>77,78</sup>	2.7 to 3.2
<b>Cognitive and Motor Abilities (adolescents/adults)</b>	
Targeting <sup>37,38,79-81</sup>	1.1 to 2.0
Fine Motor Skill <sup>38,82,83</sup>	0.5 to 0.6
Mental rotations <sup>84,85</sup>	0.3 to 0.9
Spatial perception <sup>84,85</sup>	0.3 to 0.6
Spatial visualization <sup>84,85</sup>	0.0 to 0.6
SAT Mathematics <sup>86</sup>	0.4
Computational skills <sup>86</sup>	0.0
Math concepts <sup>86</sup>	0.0
Verbal fluency <sup>87,88</sup>	0.5
Perceptual speed <sup>89</sup>	0.3 to 0.7
Vocabulary <sup>90</sup>	0.0
SAT Verbal <sup>90</sup>	0.0
<b>Personality (assessed with questionnaires)</b>	
Tendencies to physical aggression <sup>35,91</sup>	0.4 to 1.3
Empathy <sup>34,92</sup>	0.3 to 1.3
Dominance/Assertiveness <sup>92</sup>	0.2 to 0.8

Ratio of the length of the second digit divided by the length of the fourth digit (2D:4D):



Prenatal androgens?

Perinatal androgens?

AMH?

Sex chromosomes?

Behavioral?

# Ratio of the length of the second digit divided by the length of the fourth digit (2D:4D):

## CAH

Females with CAH had a significantly smaller 2D:4D on the right hand than did females without CAH.

Males with CAH had a significantly smaller 2D:4D than did males without CAH. A subset of six males with CAH had a significantly smaller 2D:4D on both hands compared with their male relatives without CAH.

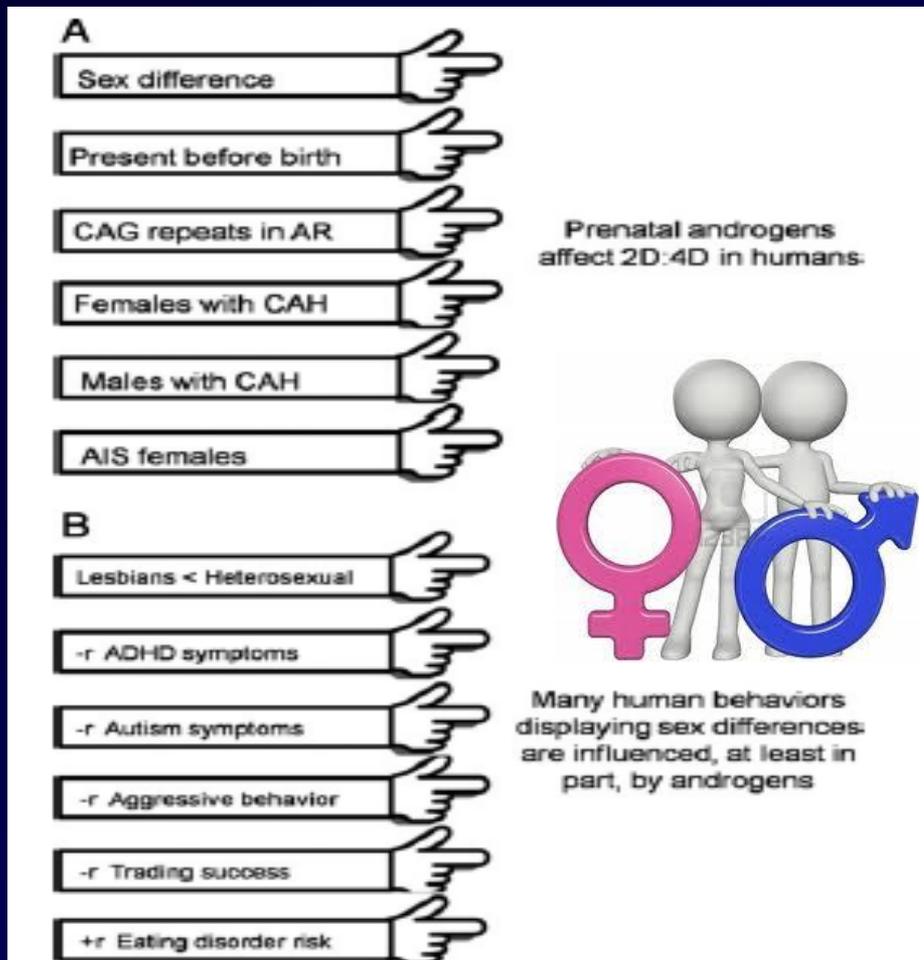
These results are consistent with the idea that prenatal androgen exposure reduces the 2D:4D and plays a role in the establishment of the sex difference in human finger length patterns.

Brown WM, Hines M, Horm Behav 2002

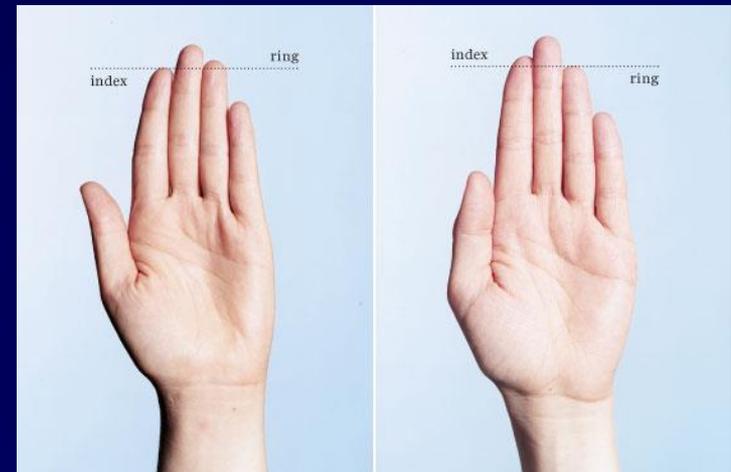
We found lower 2D/4D ratio in female patients with 21-hydroxylase deficiency compared to healthy girls ( $p=0.000$ ) and equal 2D/4D ratio for female patients when compared to male controls. Male patients with 21-hydroxylase deficiency had significantly lower 2D/4D ratio than female and male controls in the right hand. Healthy boys had lower 2D/4D ratio than healthy girls.

Okten A, Kalyoncu M, Early Hum Dev 2002

# Ratio of the length of the second digit divided by the length of the fourth digit (2D:4D): a test of the organizational hypothesis that androgens act early in life to masculinize various human behaviors



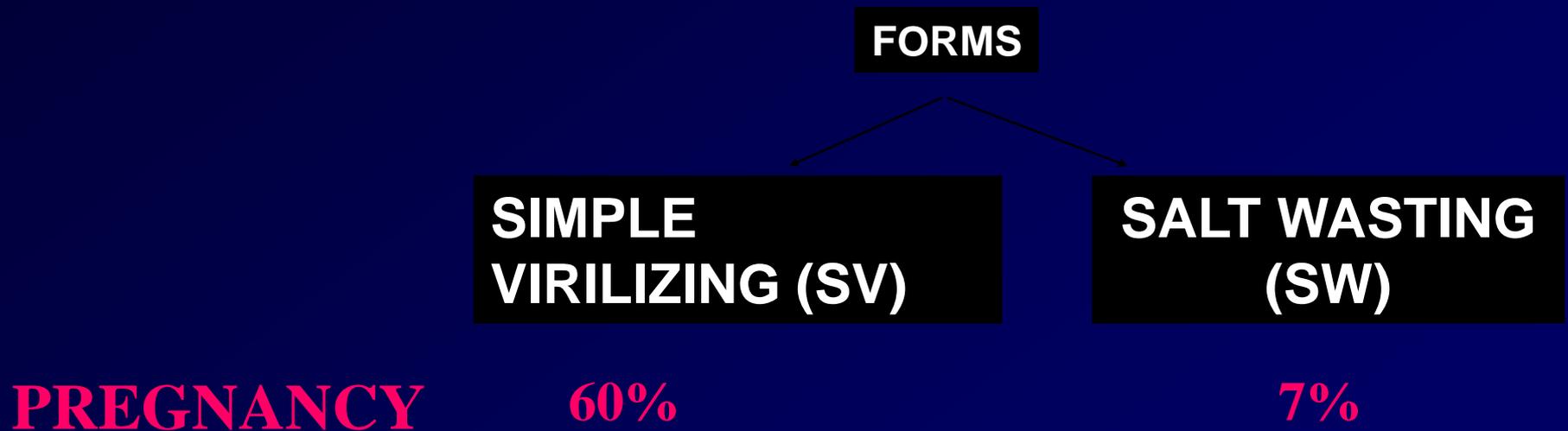
Fingerpost reflect total androgenic stimulation rather than just prenatal androgen exposure



Breedlove, 2010

# Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia as a model of prenatal exposure to androgens

- **Low rates of child-bearing in CAH?**
- **Low rates of heterosexual drive in CAH?**



*Among SV + SW with adequate and heterosexual activity*

# Low “maternalism” in CAH

↓ Interest in getting married -  
performing childcare/housewife role

“... Jim and I can’t stand children. They’ re cute and everything, but I had never had any maternal feeling like that, like I wanted to have a baby... Most people look at babies and think they’ re cute and they coo over them. I never felt anything. It’ s just a baby. I have cats. Those are my babies...”

# Sexual interest in women with CAH

- Low levels of sexual interest and activity associated with low fertility have been reported in women with CAH.

Meyer-Bahlburg, 1999

Possible cause

## Desensitization hypothesis (Bancroft, 2003)

1. Exposure to high levels of testosterone during fetal and early postnatal life desensitize CNS to testosterone effects in males.
2. If males were as sensitive to CNS effect of testosterone as females, then the behavioral masculinizing effects could be maladaptive.
3. Physiologically, no such desensitization process occurs in females.

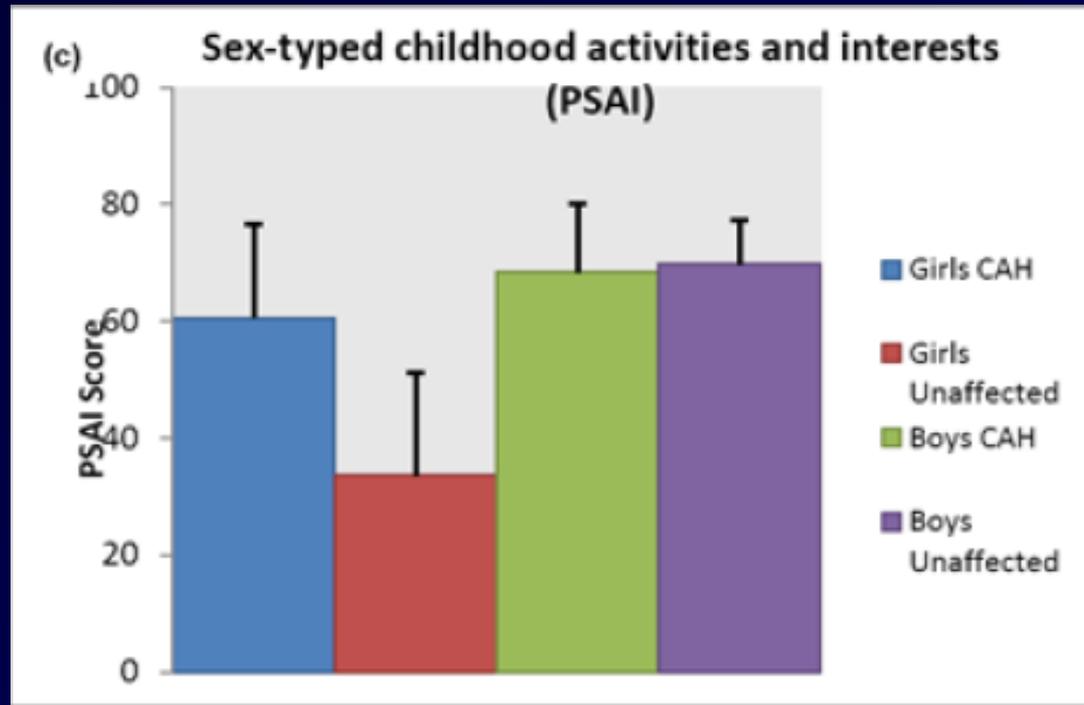
# Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia



# Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia



# Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia



Hines M, Trends Cogn Sc 2010

# Sexual orientation in women with CAH

**TABLE 2.** Relationships and sexuality in the 62 women with CAH and the different *CYP21A2* genotype groups compared to controls

	CAH	Null	I2splice	I172N	Miscellaneous	V281L	Controls
n	62	14	15	25	3	5	62
Relationships							
Partner	38 (61%)	4 (29%)	8 (53%)	21 (84%)		2 (40%)	50 (81%)
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.01	0.0004	0.04	NS (0.7)		NS (0.3)	
Not debuted sexually	8 (13%)	2 (14%)	5 (33%)	1 (4%)		0 (0%)	1 (2%)
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.02	NS (0.09)	0.0008	NS (0.5)		NS	
Sexual orientation							
Heterosexual	43	5	10	21	2	5	56
Bisexual	7	3	2	1	1	0	0
Homosexual	3	2	1	0	0	0	1
Total	53	10	13	22	3	5	57
No answer	9	4	2	3	0	0	5
Bi/homosexual	19%	50%	30%	5%	33%	0	2%
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.005	0.0001	0.02	NS (0.5)	NS (0.1)	NS	

## Mutations

1. Null, I2splice: salt-wasting (SW)
2. I172N: simple virilizing (SV)
3. V281L: non-classical (NC)

	CAH	controls
Active sexually	52%	71%
Sexual interest	73%	90%

Frisen et al, 2009

# Sexual orientation in women with CAH in correlation with genotype

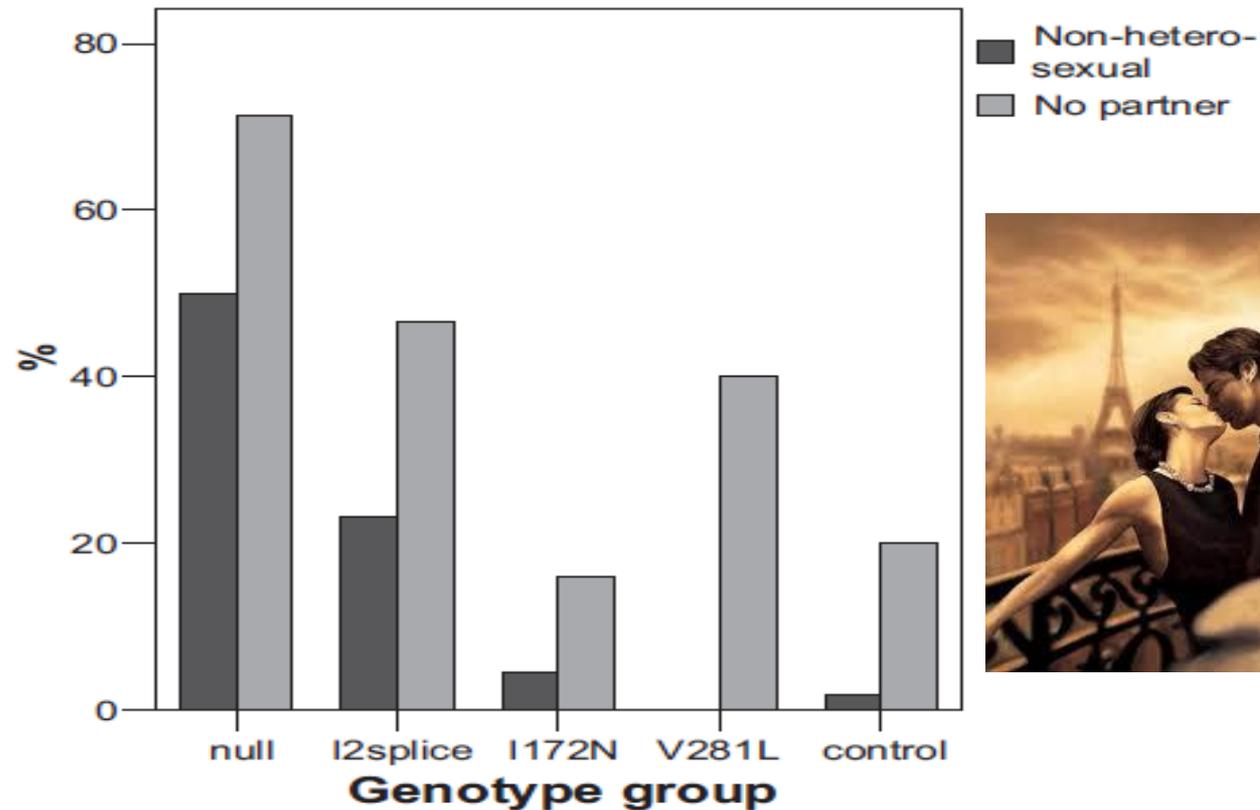
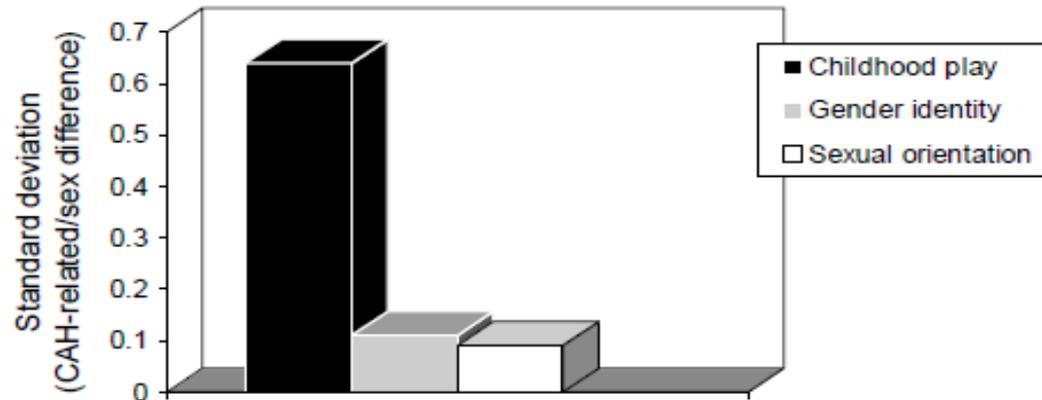


FIG. 2. Women with bi- or homosexual orientation and women with no partner given as percentage for the *CYP21A2* genotype groups and the controls.



Testosterone effect of CAH on gender identity is smaller than the effect on sex-typed childhood play behavior and similar to the effect on sexual orientation



**Figure 1** The size of the difference between females with congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) and those without CAH relative to the size of the sex difference in three characteristics: childhood play behaviour (sex-typed toy, activity, temperamental and playmate preferences); sexual orientation (preferences for erotic partners of same or the other sex); and core gender identity (sense of self male or female). Group differences (CAH versus control; male versus female) are expressed in standard deviation units.

**Childhood play**  
behaviour:  
females with CAH  
moved about 60%  
of the distance  
toward mean  
male-typical  
behaviour.

**Sexual**  
**orientation: 10%**

Hines, 2006



# Occupation and interests in women with CAH in correlation with genotype

**TABLE 1.** Choice of occupation and leisure activities in the 62 women with CAH and the different CYP21A2 genotype groups compared to controls

	CAH	Null	I2splice	I172N	V281L	Controls
n	62	14	15	25	5	62
Occupation						
Male dominant	13/43	6/11	3/12	2/17	2/3	6/47
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.04	0.006 <sup>a</sup>	NS (0.3)	NS (0.7)	NS	
Extreme male dominant	6/43	5/11	1/12	0/17	0/3	1/47
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.04	0.0005 <sup>b</sup>	NS (0.4)	NS	NS	
Females in occupation (%)	50	35	48	61	41	63
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.009	0.01	NS (0.1)	NS (0.6)	NS	
Interests						
Sports	47/57	12/13	10/14	20/25	5/5	41/60
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	NS (0.06)	NS (0.07) <sup>f</sup>	NS (0.5)	NS (0.2)	NS	
Rough sports	42/57	12/13	10/14	17/25	3/5	30/60
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.007	0.004 <sup>d</sup>	NS (0.1)	NS (0.1)	NS	
Motor vehicles	8/57	4/13	3/14	1/25	0/5	0/60
<i>P</i> value (patients vs. controls)	0.002	0.000	0.006	NS (0.3)	NS	

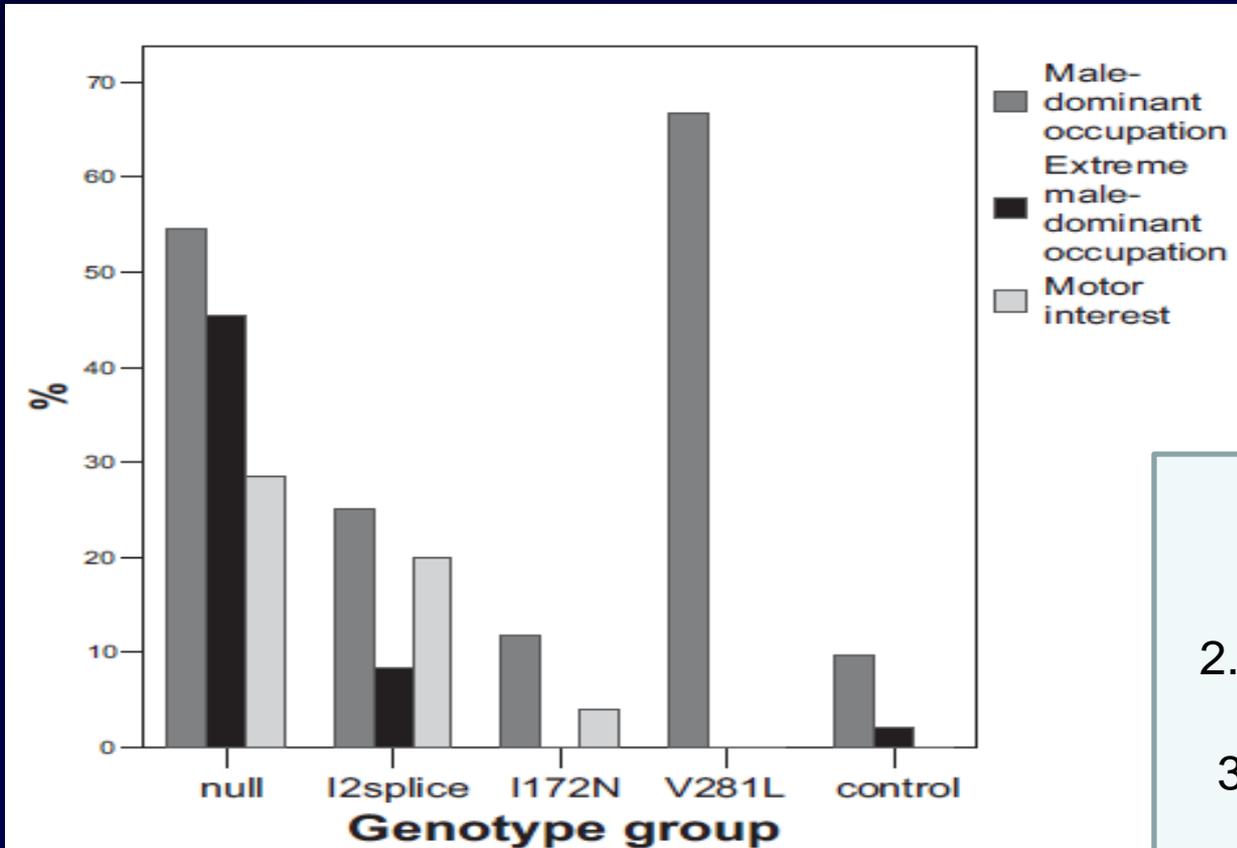
## Mutations

1. Null, I2splice: salt-wasting (SW)
2. I172N: simple virilizing (SV)
3. V281L: non-classical (NC)



Frisen et al, 2009

# Occupation and interests in women with CAH in correlation with genotype



**FIG. 1.** Male-dominant occupations ( $\leq 25\%$  females in occupation), extreme male-dominant occupations ( $\leq 11\%$  females in occupation) and motor vehicles as main interest, given as the percentage for the different *CYP21A2* genotype groups and the controls.

- Mutations**
1. Null, I2splice: salt-wasting (SW)
  2. I172N: simple virilizing (SV)
  3. V281L: non-classical (NC)

# Core gender identity, sexual orientation and recalled childhood gender role behavior in women with CAH

**Table 1. Control Variables and Psychosexual Outcomes in Women and Men With and Without CAH (Means + SD)**

	Women		Men	
	CAH (n = 16)	Control (n = 15)	CAH (n = 9)	Control (n = 10)
Control variables				
Age (years)	23.6+6.7	22.7+3.4	28.1+8.4	24.3+7.8
Vocabulary	8.19+1.51	9.07+1.62	9.00+2.45	8.90+2.01
Psychosexual outcomes				
Recalled childhood gender role behavior <sup>a</sup>	60.5+16.1***	33.6+17.6	68.3+11.8	69.8+7.4***
Core gender identity <sup>b</sup> (past 12 months)	5.44+3.01*	3.93+1.28	3.22+0.67	3.80+1.13
Core gender identity <sup>b</sup> (lifetime)	6.75+4.84*	4.27+1.22	3.44+0.88	4.20+1.14
Sexual orientation <sup>c</sup> (past 12 months)	3.75+2.62*	2.27+0.59	2.44+1.33	2.10+0.32
Sexual orientation <sup>c</sup> (lifetime)	3.69+2.60*	2.33+0.72	2.22+0.67	2.20+0.42

<sup>a</sup> Numbers of participants for recalled childhood gender role behavior = 14 women with CAH, 11 control women, 8 men with CAH, and 8 control men. <sup>b</sup> Scores can range from 3 to 21. Lower scores indicate stronger identification with the assigned gender. <sup>c</sup> Scores can range from 2 to 10. Lower scores indicate stronger heterosexual orientation.

\* Differs from mean for control women,  $p < .05$ . \*\*\*  $p < .001$ .

Hines et al, 2004

Those girls who are most behaviorally masculinized as children are also the most likely to evolve a bisexual or homosexual orientation as adults

# Gender identity in women with CAH

TABLE 1. Frequency of male-typical responses to items on the gender identity interview

	CAH girls (n = 43)	Tomboys (n = 7)	Control girls (n = 29)	Significant group differences
1. Prefers short hair	10 (23%)	3 (43%)	6 (21%)	
2. Does not like dresses	25 (58%)	3 (43%)	10 (35%)	cah/ctl <sup>a</sup>
3. Better to be boy	2 (5%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	cah/tb <sup>a</sup> , tb/ctl <sup>b</sup>
4. Not happy as girl	4 (9%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	cah/tb <sup>a</sup> , tb/ctl <sup>c</sup>
5. Wishes to be boy	12 (28%)	3 (43%)	5 (17%)	
6. Try boy for a while	23 (54%)	5 (71%)	11 (38%)	
7. Boy forever	1 (2%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	cah/tb <sup>c</sup> , tb/ctl <sup>c</sup>
8. Rather be father	2 (5%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	cah/tb <sup>c</sup> , tb/ctl <sup>c</sup>
9. Pretends male	9 (21%)	5 (71%)	2 (7%)	cah/tb <sup>b</sup> , cah/ctl <sup>b</sup> , tb/ctl <sup>c</sup>

cah, Girls with CAH; tb, tomboys; ctl, control girls.

Group differences on items scored 0, 1, or 2 tested by  $\chi^2$ , <sup>a</sup>  $P < 0.10$ ; <sup>b</sup>  $P < 0.05$ ; <sup>c</sup>  $P < 0.01$ .



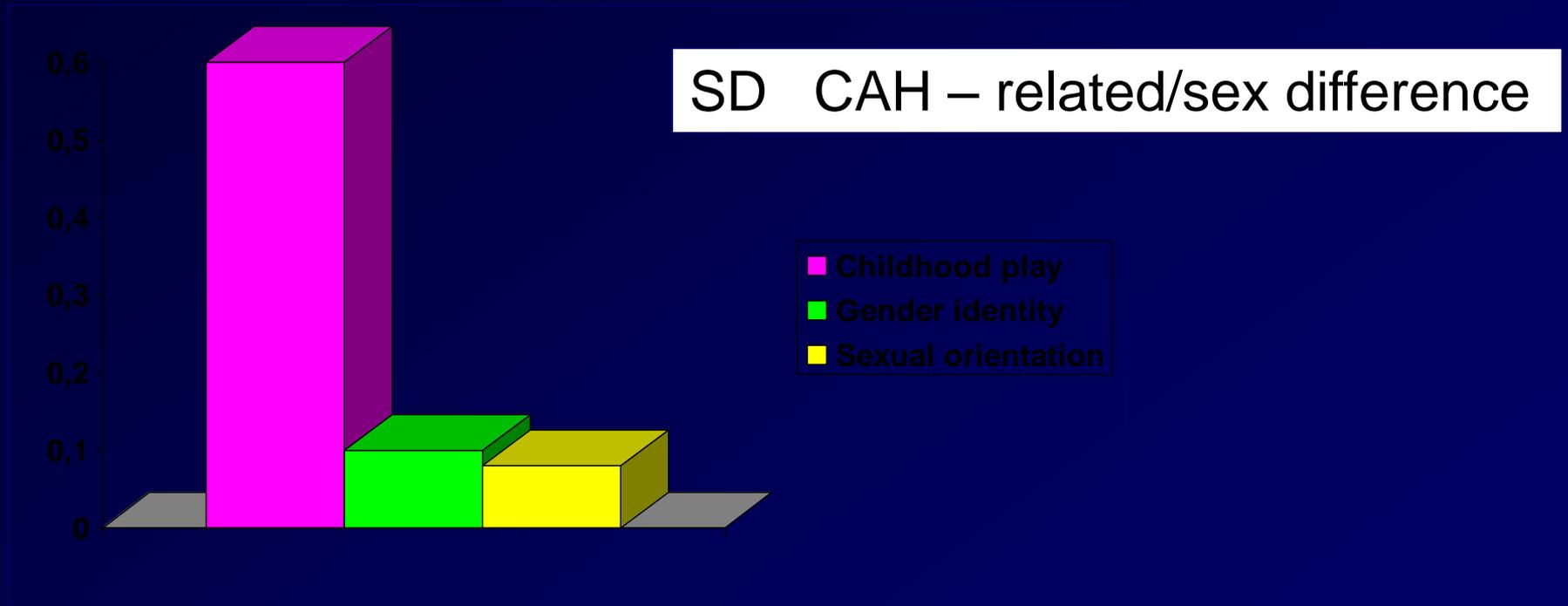
Berenbaum et al, 2003

# Gender dysphoria and gender change in chromosomal females with CAH

- Patients raised as females: 94.8% later developed a gender identity as girls and did not feel gender dysphoric.
- 5.2% of those girls, expressed gender identity dysphoria.
- Among patients raised as males, 12.1% of those expressed gender identity problems.



# Difference between females with CAH and those without CAH relative to the size of the sex difference in 3 characteristics



## Gender identity and gender role

5<sup>α</sup> Reductase deficiency as a model of prenatal exposure to androgens

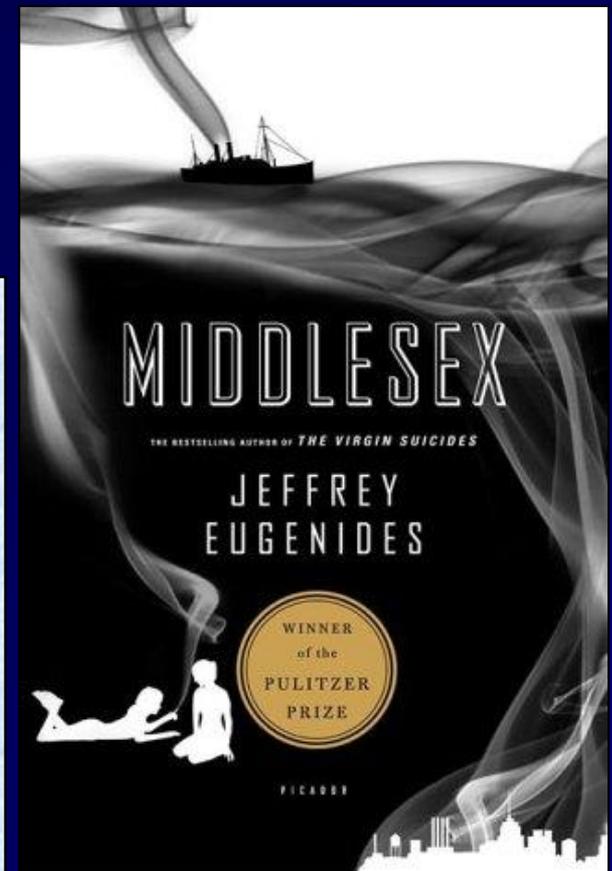
# Prenatal Hormones and Sexual Orientation

## 5- $\alpha$ Reductase deficiency

### Clinical presentation

46 XY neonate with

- Female phenotype
- Ambiguous genitalia
- Blind vagina

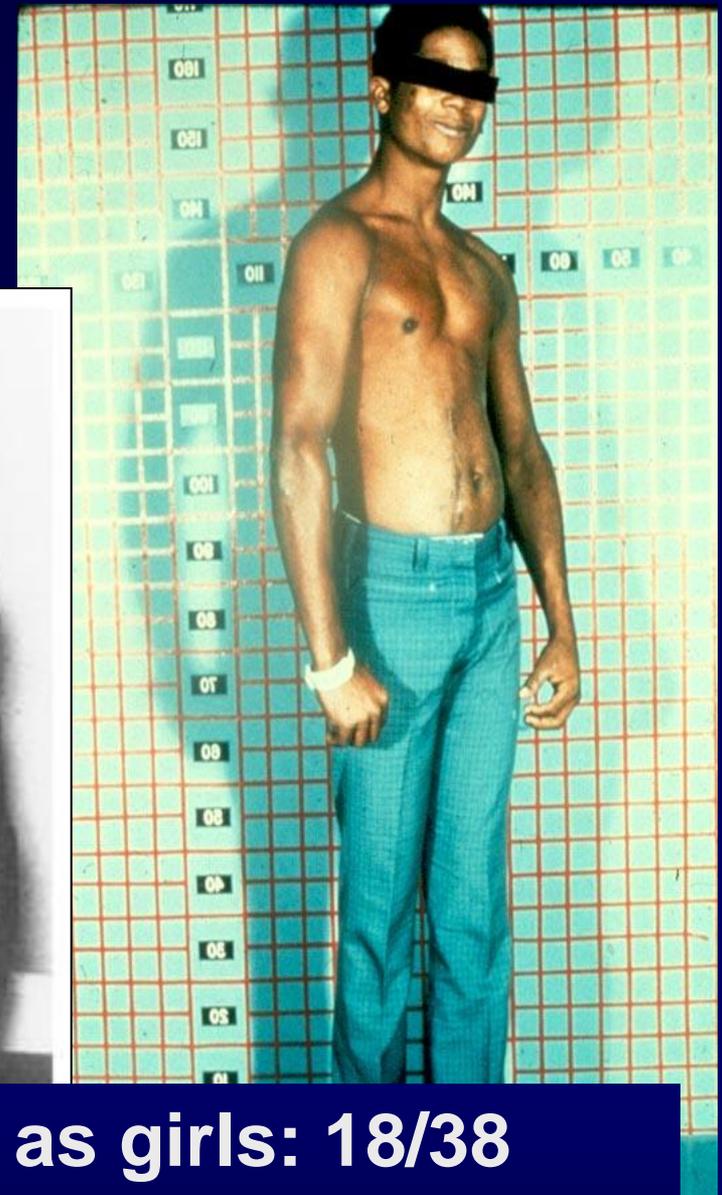
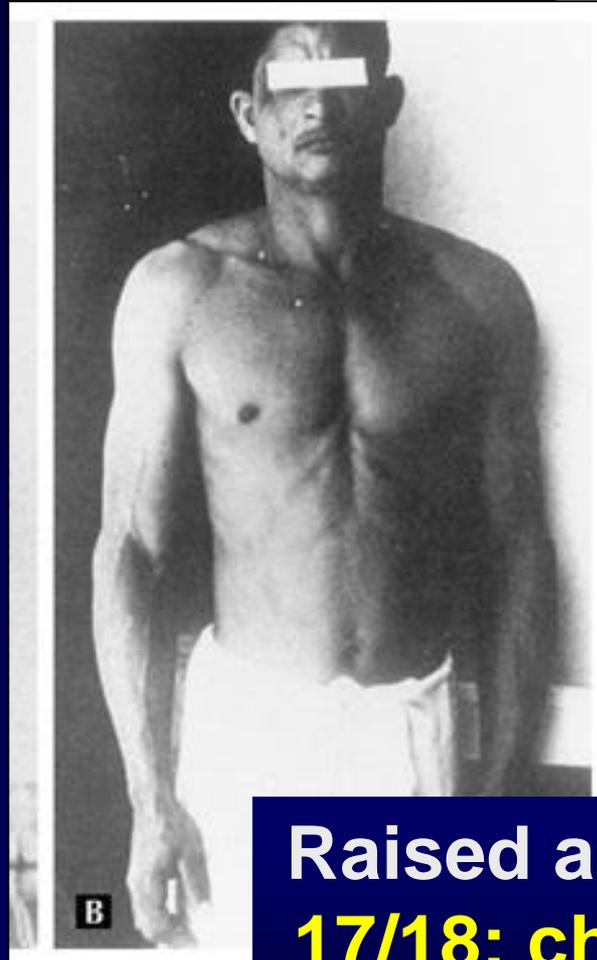
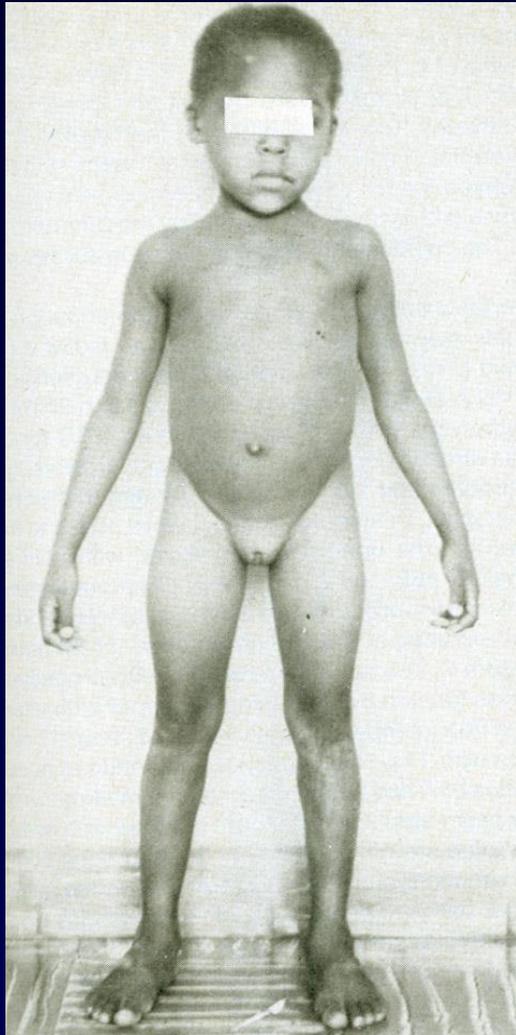




Bifid scrotum, Urogenital sinus,  
Small phallus.

# Virilization at puberty

## Gender change

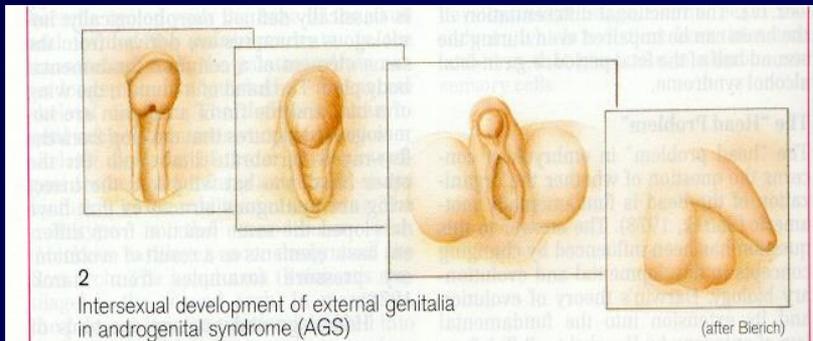


**Raised as girls: 18/38**  
**17/18: changed to a**  
**male-gender role**

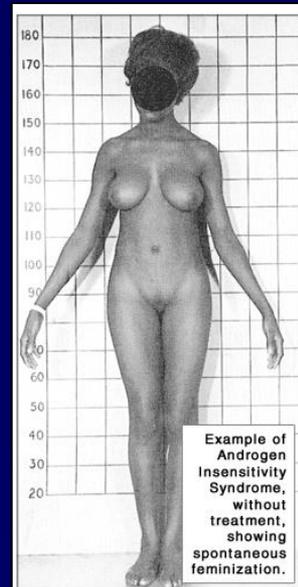
Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS) as  
a model of prenatal exposure to androgens

# Androgen role in male gender identity

- Gender: Gender identity (self estimation)  
Gender role (objective estimation)  
Sexual orientation (hetero- or homosexual)
- Female gender identity: presence of ovaries or lack of gonads (gonadal dysgenesis)
- Male gender identity: testicular issue irrespective of female or hermaphrodite (intersex) phenotype.
- Complete androgen insensitivity syndrome: Female gender identity
- Partial androgen insensitivity syndrome: Female or male gender identity.

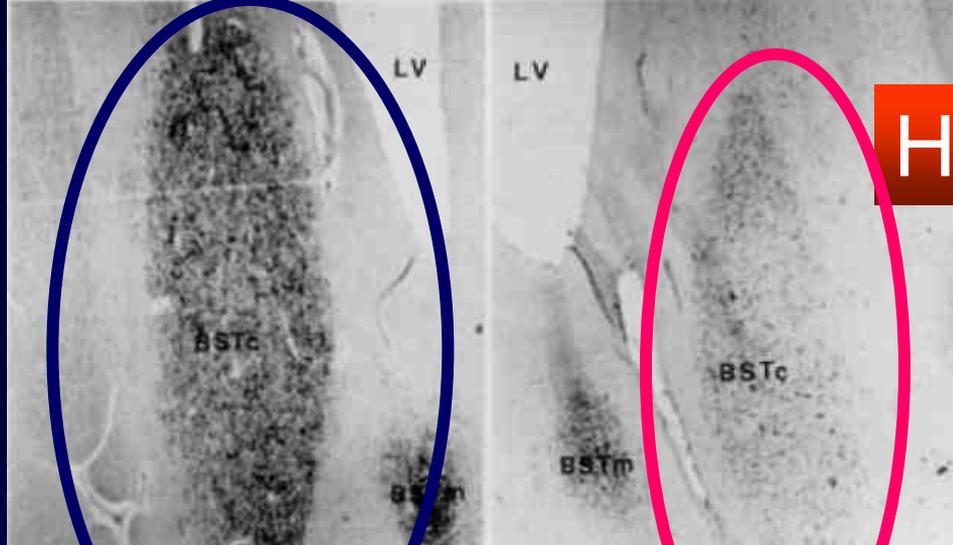


Kula et al, 2000



Ταυτότητα φύλου και ΚΝΣ

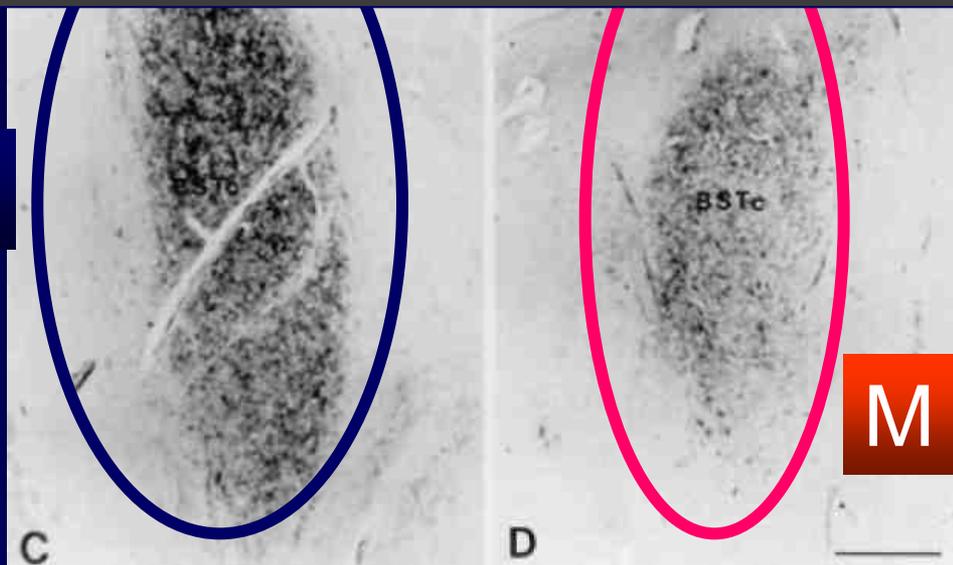
Het MAN



Het FEMALE

Male to female transsexuals have female  
SOM neuron numbers in BSTc

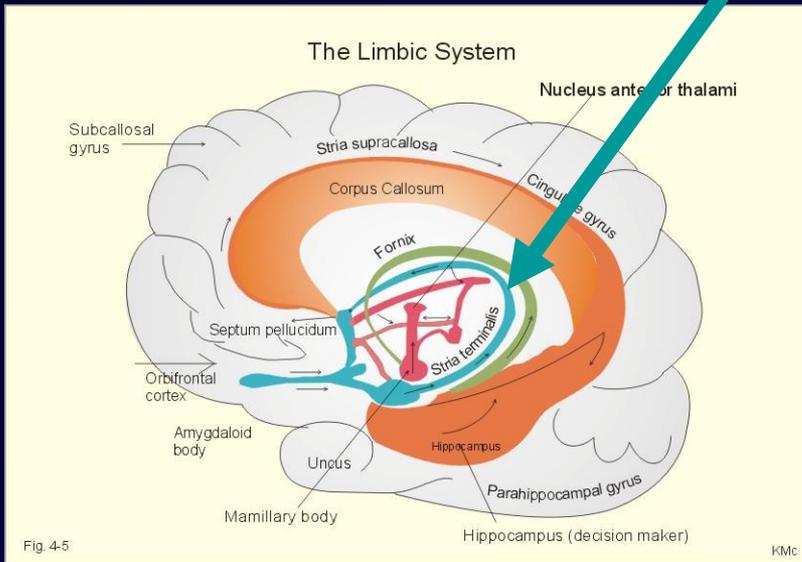
Hom MAN



M to F TRANS

# BST Bed nucleus of the Stria Terminalis

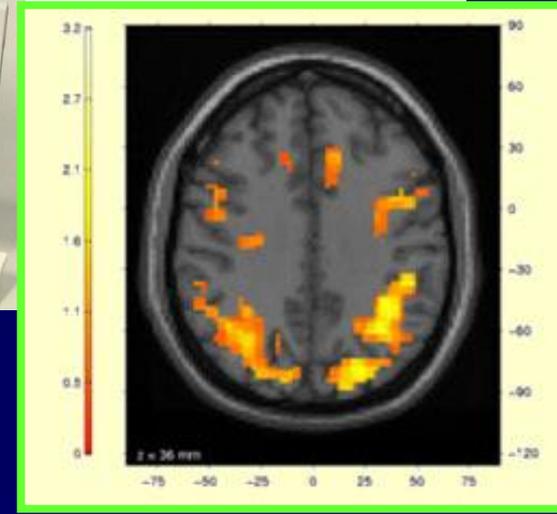
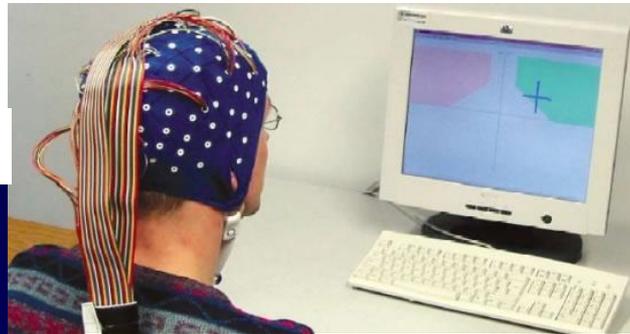
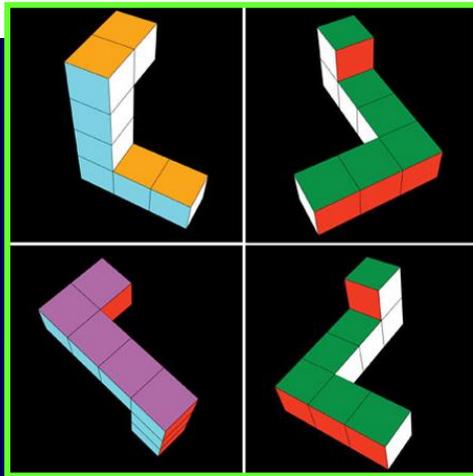
- Males : increased size and number of neurons
- Male to Female transsexuals have 1. female size and 2. number of neurons

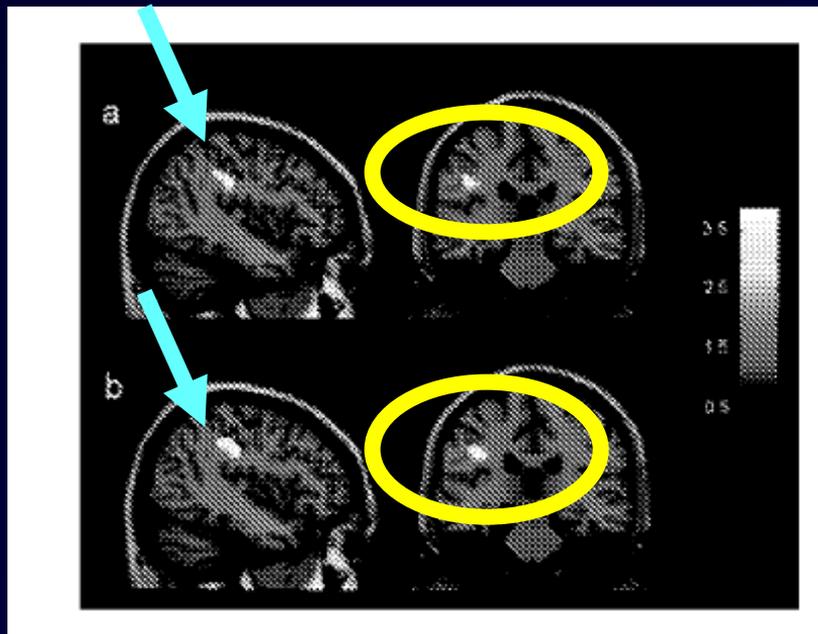


# Sex atypical cerebral asymmetry and functional connections in Transsexuals ? Linked to neurobiological entities

**Neuroimaging Differences in Spatial Cognition between Men and Male-to-Female Transsexuals Before and During Hormone Therapy**

Schoning S. J Sex Med 2009





Before Hormonal treatment

After Hormonal treatment

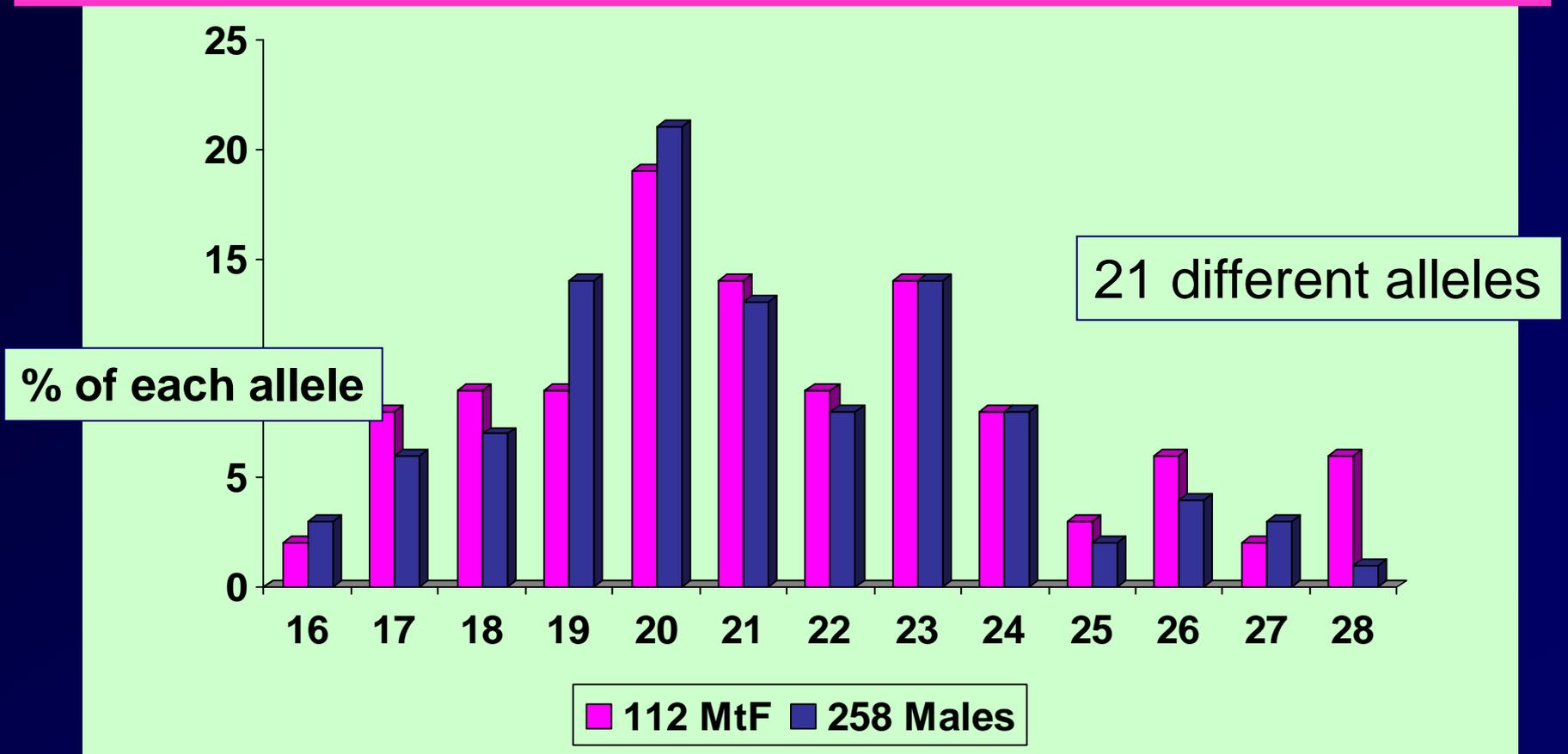
Trans show cortical activation patterns for a mental rotation distinct from their biological sex

**a priori** Neuroimaging differences in spatial cognition between MEN and M to F trans caused by different Neurobiological processes, which remain stable over hormonal therapy

# Androgen Receptor repeat length polymorphism associated with Male to Female Transsexualism

Hare L. Biol Psychiatry 2009

MTF trans have significantly longer mean repeat lengths



Number of CAG repeats in the Androgen Receptor gene

Σεξουαλικότητα και ΚΝΣ

**Michael Crichton (2003):** "...the work of science has nothing whatever to do with consensus.

Consensus is the business of politics.

Science, on the contrary, requires only one investigator who happens to be right, which means that he or she has results that are verifiable by reference to the real world. In science consensus is irrelevant. **What is relevant are reproducible results. The greatest scientists in history are great precisely because they broke with the consensus . . .** There is no such thing as consensus science. If it's consensus, it isn't science. If it's science, it isn't consensus...

Consensus is invoked only in situations where the science is not solid enough"

# Προγεννητικοί παράγοντες που πιθανώς επηρεάζουν τον σεξουαλικό προσανατολισμό

Swaab, Best Practice&Research Clinical endocrinology&Metabolism,2007

Γενετικοί

Χημικοί

Κοινωνικοί

Ορμόνες

Ανατομικοί

Ανοσολογικοί

Παιδιά από οικογένειες transsexual ή ομοφυλοφίλων δεν εμφανίζουν διαταραχή σεξουαλικού προσανατολισμού

**Males : Spherical** vs

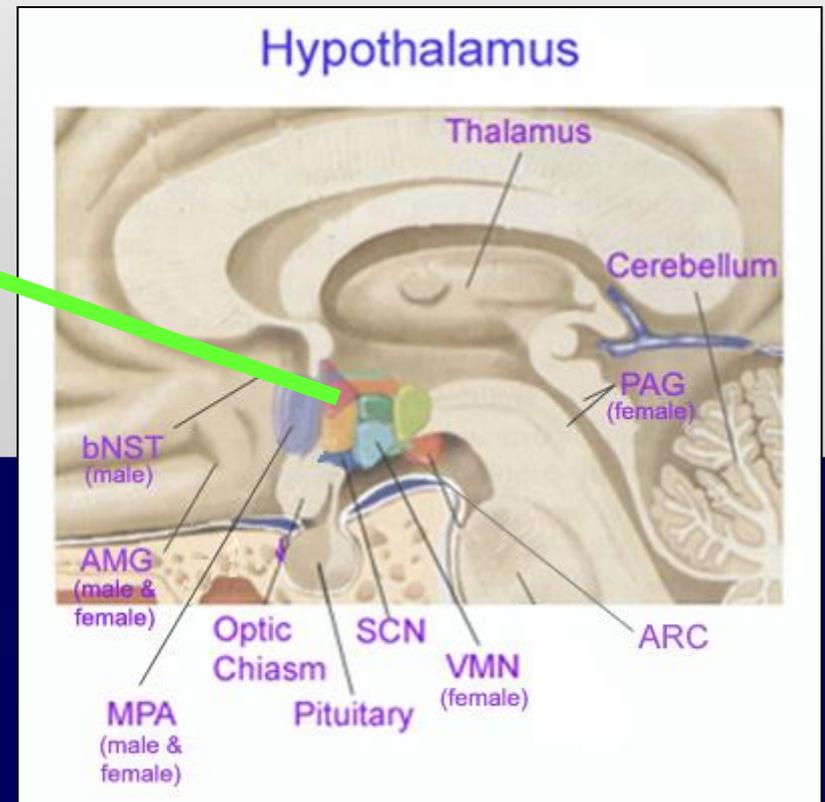
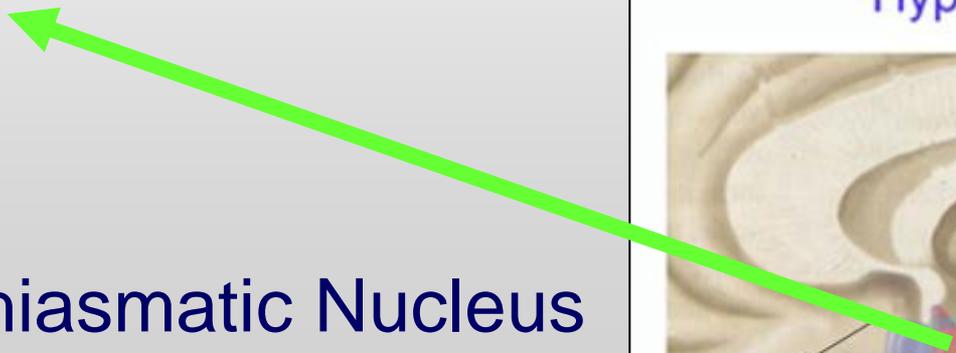
**Elongated in Females**

**Homo- twice as many cells** vs

**Hetero- sexual men**

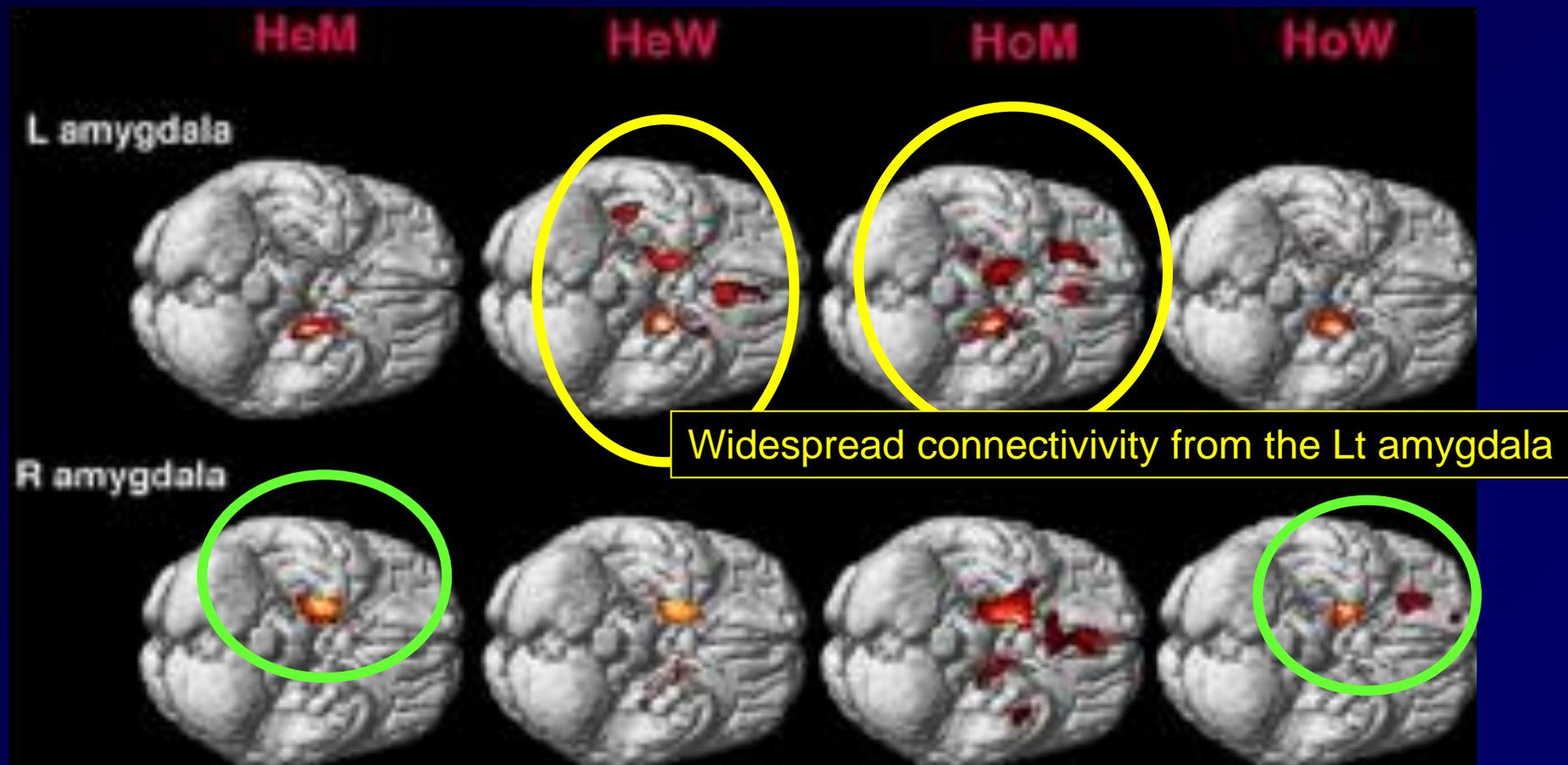
**SCN**

**Suprachiasmatic Nucleus**



# PET and MRI show differences in cerebral asymmetry and functional connectivity between homo and heterosexual subjects

Savic I. PNAS, 2008

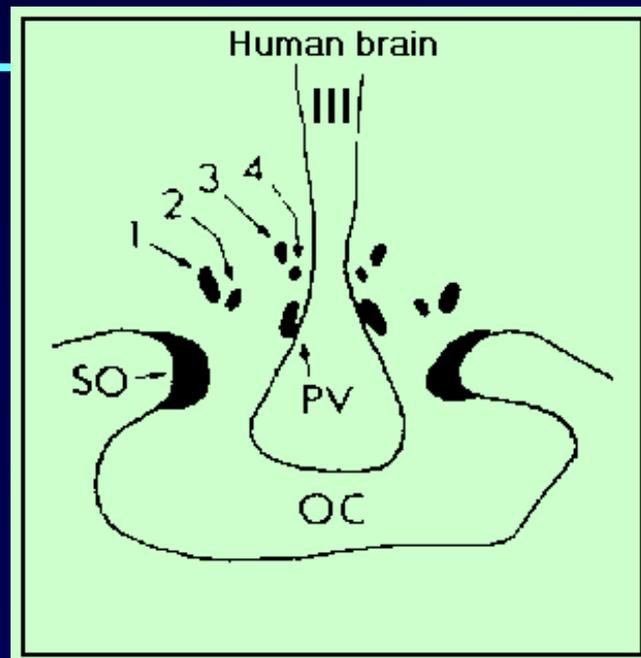


Rightward cerebral asymmetry widespread connectivity from the Rt amygdala

# INAH-3

## Interstitial Nuclei of Anterior Hypothalamus

Le Vay, Science, 1991



larger in **Het men** VS **Women** and **Hom men**

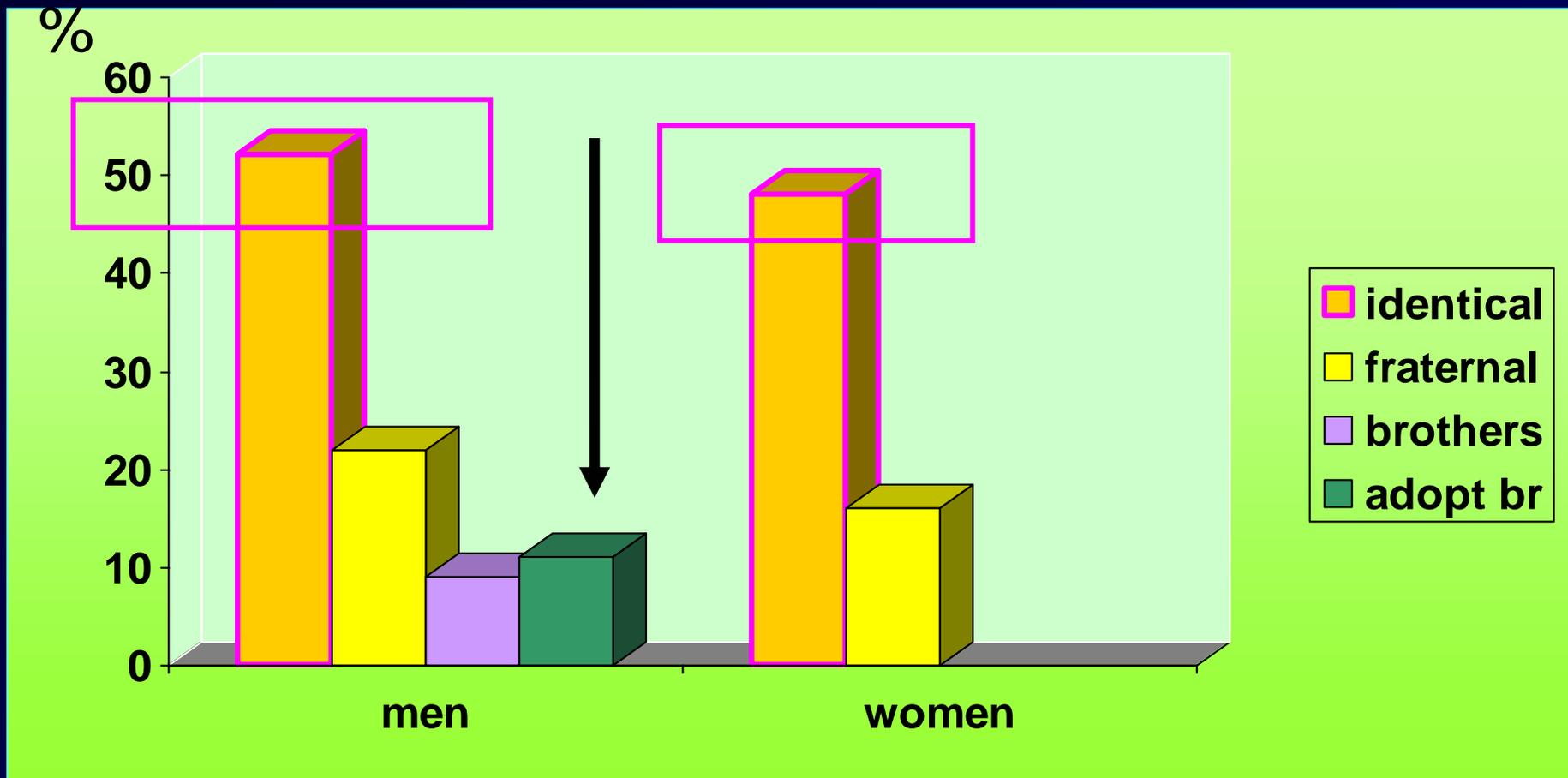
- ? a small INAH3 cause homosexuality
- ? homosexuality reduce the size of INAH3
- ? unknown 'third factor' responsible for homosexuality and reduced INAH3 volume

? Certain sexually dimorphic features in the brain may differ between individuals of the same sex but different sexual orientation

PET and MRI : Sexual dimorphism with respect to hemispheric asymmetry and the functional connections from the RT and LT amygdala

1. MRI volumetry of cerebral hemispheres
2. PET measurement of cerebral blood flow for analysis of functional connections from the RT to the LT amygdalae

# Genetic basis of sexual orientation



Bailey J, Pillard R. Arch Gen Psychiatry , 1991  
Carlson, Niel R. 2001

# MEN ARE FROM MARS, Women Are from Venus

A Practical Guide for  
Improving Communication and  
Getting What You Want in Your Relationships

JOHN GRAY, Ph.D.

