



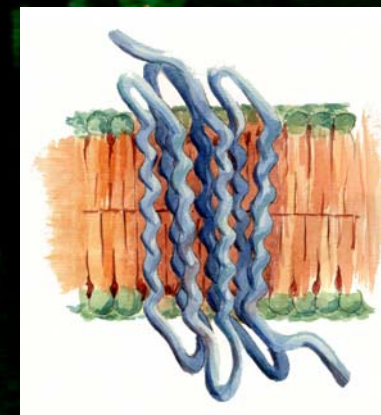
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



# Basic concepts in G-protein-coupled receptor homo- and heterodimerization

**NIDA minisymposium. SfN  
San Diego. November 2007**

[www.bq.ub.es/recep/franco.html](http://www.bq.ub.es/recep/franco.html)  
[www.rafaelfranco.cat](http://www.rafaelfranco.cat)



**RAFAEL FRANCO**  
rfranco@ub.edu



**STOCKHOLM**

K. Fuxe  
C. Ibáñez  
D. Marcellino

**GLASGOW**

G. Milligan  
M. Canals

**NIH/NIDA**

N. Volkow  
S. Goldberg  
S. Ferré  
A. Woods

**COIMBRA**

R. Cunha

**WAKE-FOREST U.**

D. Roberts

**BERLIN**

M. Bader

**MODENA**

L. Agnati  
S. Tanganelli  
P. G. de Benedetti  
F. Fanelli

**ALBACETE**

R. Luján

**MONTREAL**

M. Bouvier

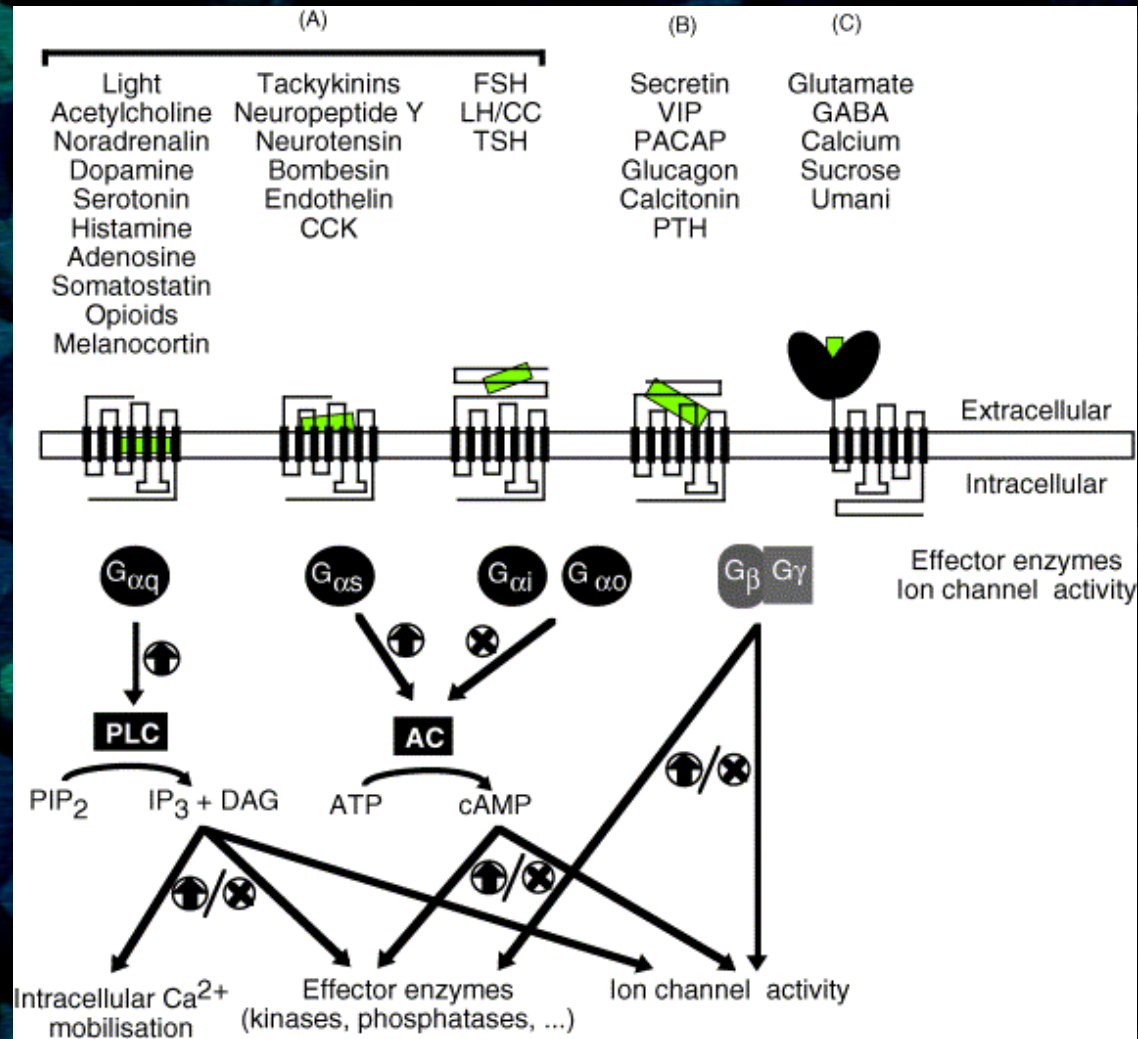


**Centro Investigación  
Médica Aplicada  
Pamplona**



**Digna Biotech**

# GPCR classes



# NOMENCLATURE

**Receptor for Neurotransmitters (including neuromodulators and neuropeptides):**

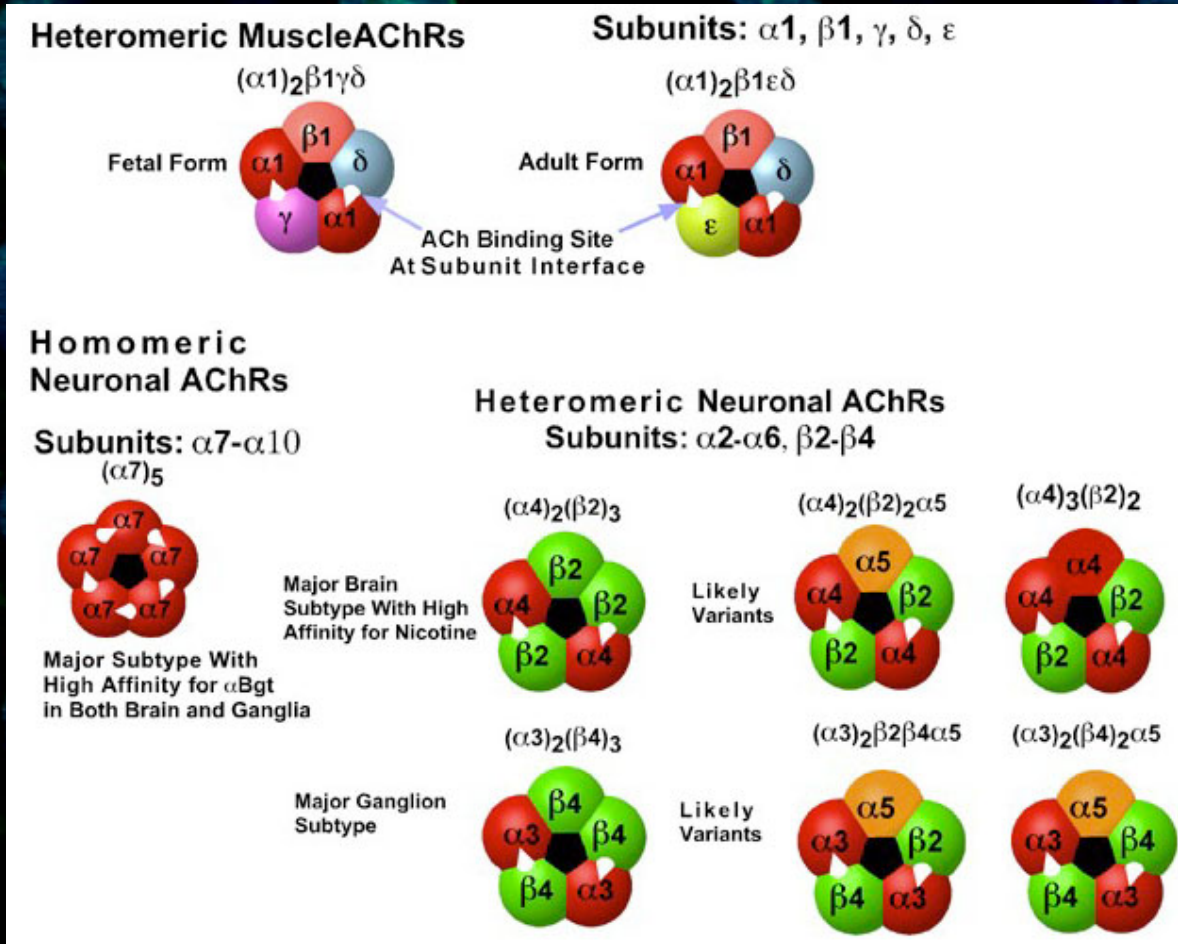
- Ionotropic
- Metabotropic (G-protein-coupled, GPCR)

**Heteromeric receptor**

**Receptor homomer**

**Receptor heteromer**

# Heteromeric receptor: Ach receptor



# NOMENCLATURE

**Receptor for Neurotransmitters (including neuromodulators and neuropeptides):**

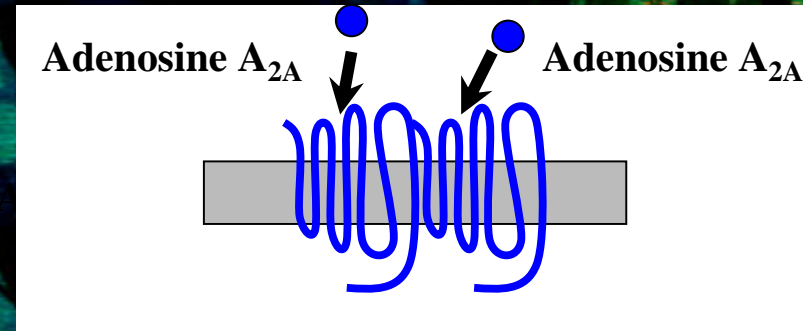
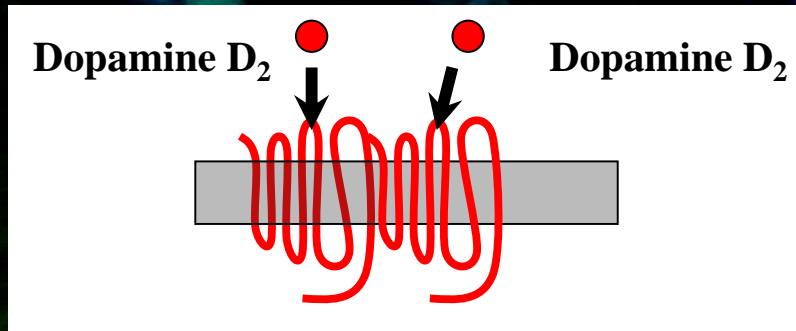
- Ionotropic
- Metabotropic (G-protein-coupled, GPCR)

**Heteromeric receptor**

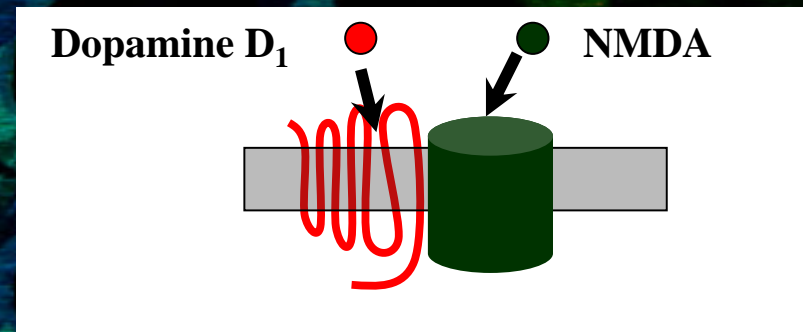
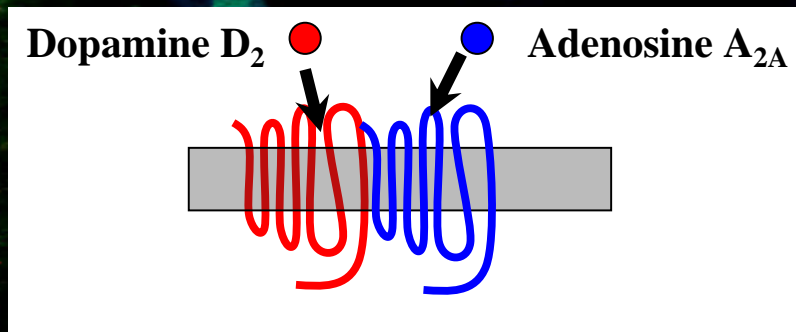
**Receptor homomer**

**Receptor heteromer**

## Receptor homomers

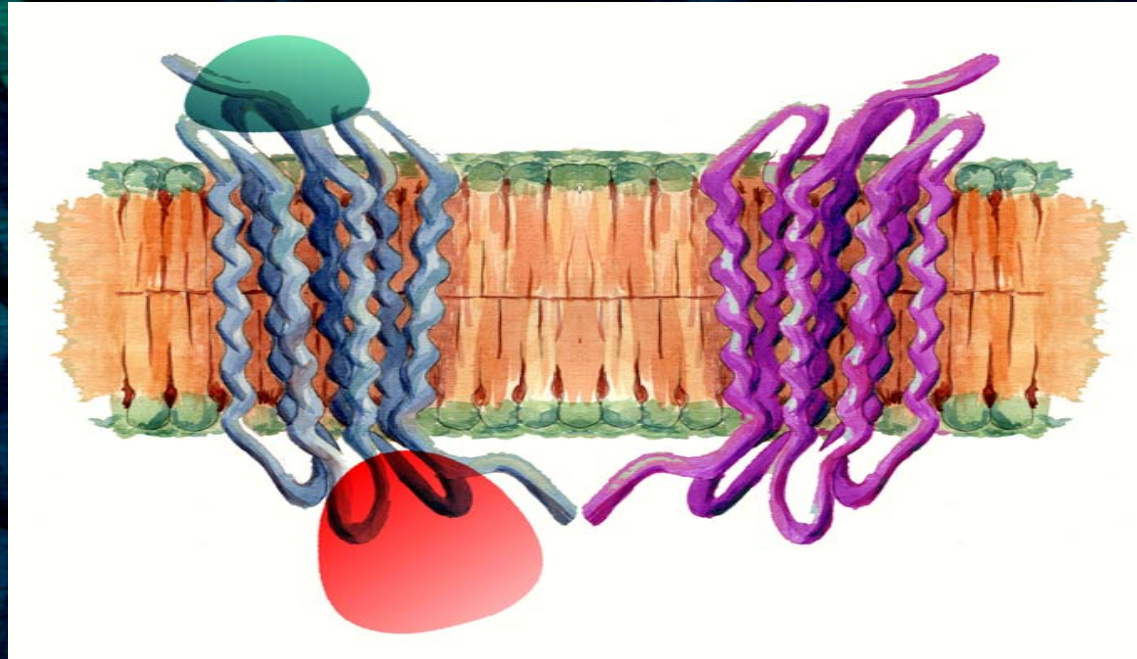


## Receptor heteromers



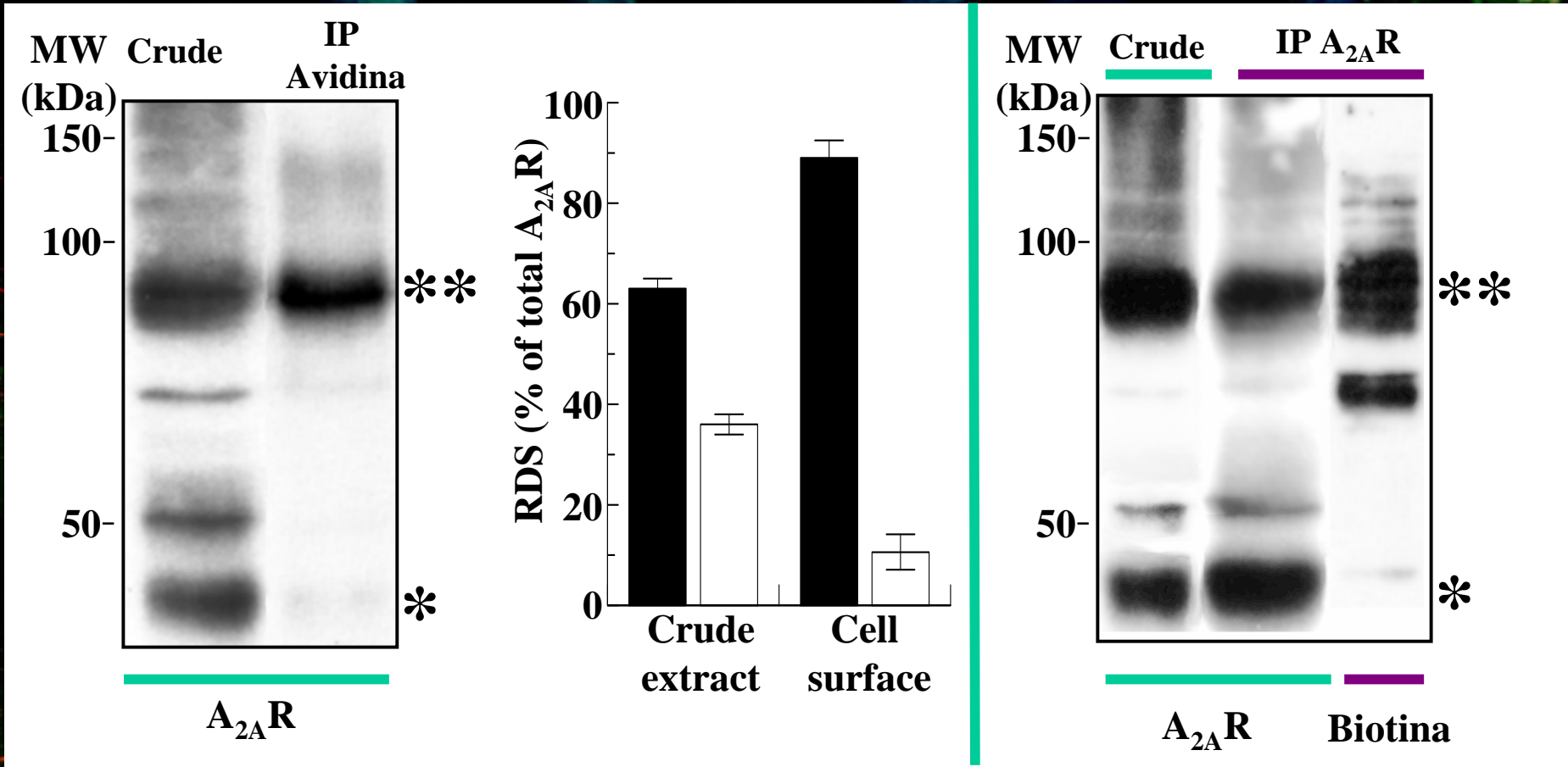


# HETEROMERS AS SENSORS



- 1983: Evidence and formulation of the hypothesis: Agnati et al., *Neurosc. Letters*
- 1994: DR homomers: Ng et al., *Eur. J. Pharmacol.* (infected cells)
- 1995: A1R homomers: Ciruela et al., *J. Neurosc. Res.* (brain extracts)
- Late nineties, early XXI Century: heteromers (opioid, GABA, Dopa/Ado)

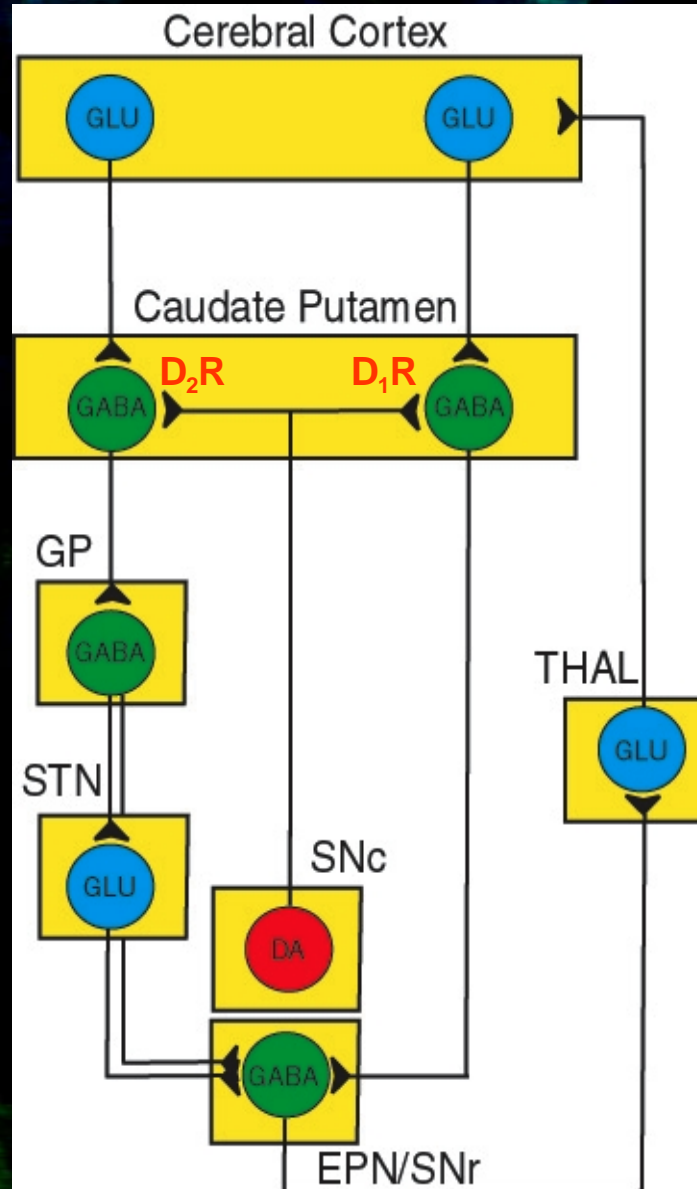
# The $A_{2A}R$ dimer is the functional specie



The C terminal tail of  $A_{2A}R$  is not required for dimerization

# HETERODIMERS: DR/AR

$D_2R-A_{2A}R$   
receptor heteromers



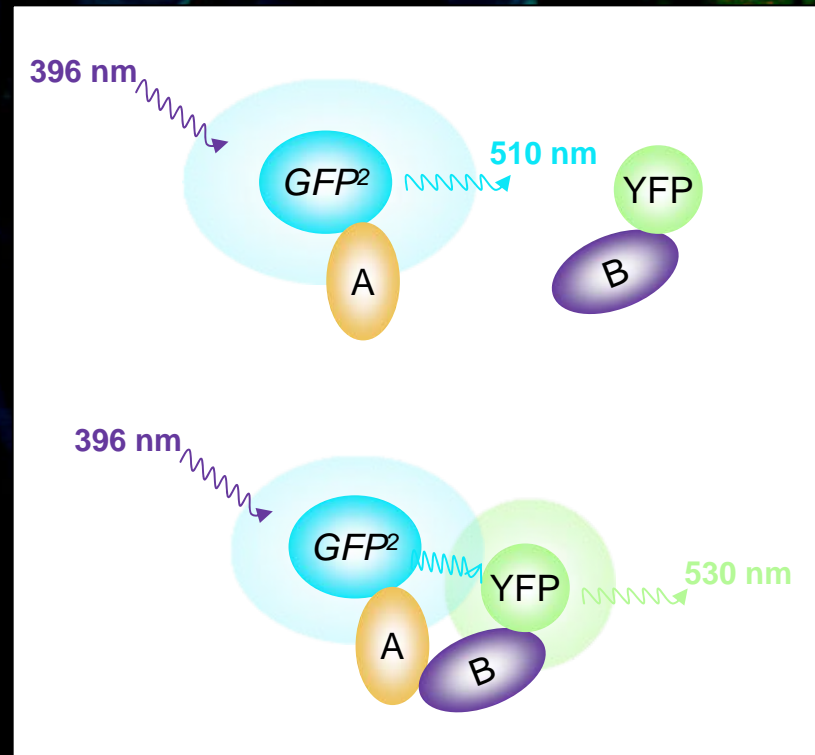
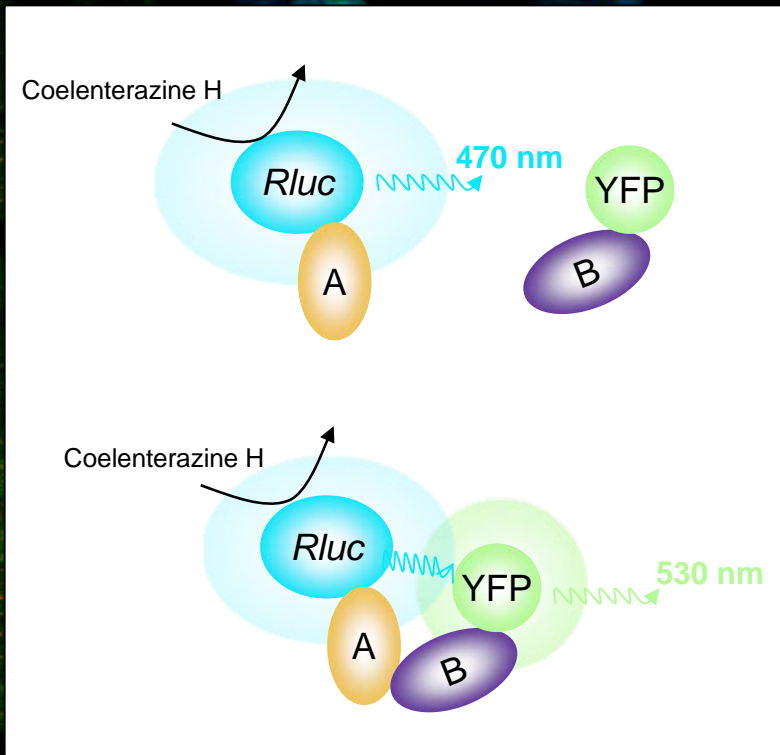
$D_1R-A_1R$   
receptor heteromers

Hillion et al (2002)  
J Biol Chem

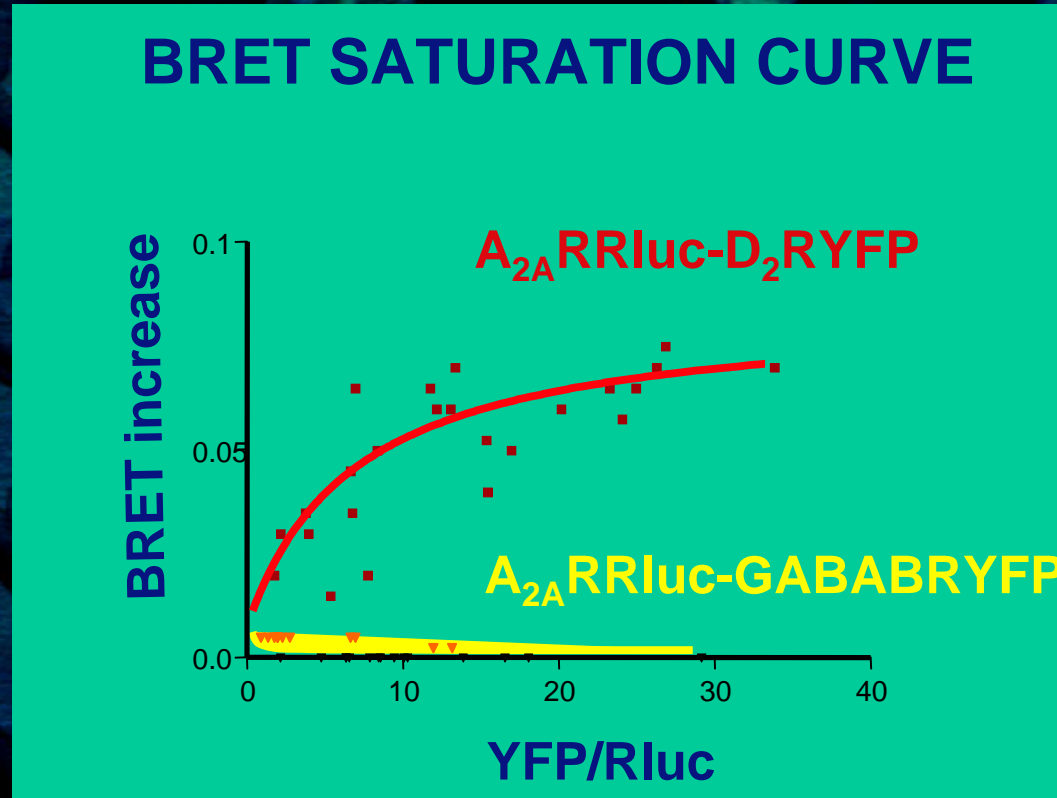
Gines et al (2000)  
PNAS

# BRET

# FRET



# The A<sub>2</sub>AR/D<sub>2</sub> homodimers: BRET: Bioluminescence Resonance Energy Transfer





UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

U

B

# LOOKING FOR THE BIOCHEMICAL/PHARMACOLOGICAL “DIMER FINGERPRINT”

# IUBCP: Recognition and nomenclature

0031-6997/07/0901-5-13\$30.00  
PHARMACOLOGICAL REVIEWS  
Copyright © 2007 by The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
*Pharmacol Rev* 59:5-13, 2007

Vol. 59, No. 1  
504383191655  
Printed in U.S.A.

## International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology. LXVII. Recommendations for the Recognition and Nomenclature of G Protein-Coupled Receptor Heteromultimers

JEAN-PHILIPPE PIN, RICHARD NEUBIG, MICHEL BOUVIER, LAKSHMI DEVI, MARTA FILIZOLA, JONATHAN A. JAVITCH,  
MARTIN J. LOHSE, GRAEME MILLIGAN, KRZYSZTOF PALCZEWSKI, MARC PARMENTIER, AND MICHAEL SPEDDING

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Abstract .....  | 5  |
| I. Introduction .....   | 6  |
| II. The class C G protein-coupled receptors .....                                       | 6  |
| III. The class A G protein-coupled receptors .....                                      | 7  |
| A. Rhodopsin .....  | 8  |
| B. The melatonin receptor .....   | 8  |
| C. The glycoprotein hormone receptors .....   | 8  |
| D. The opioid receptors .....   | 8  |
| E. The CCR2 and CCR5 receptors .....  | 9  |
| F. The AT1 and Mas receptors .....  | 10 |
| G. The $\alpha_{1B}$ and $\alpha_{1D}$ adrenoceptors .....                              | 10 |
| H. The $\beta_1$ and $\beta_2$ adrenoceptors .....                                      | 10 |
| IV. On the nomenclature and recognition of multimeric G protein-coupled receptors ..... | 10 |
| Acknowledgments .....   | 11 |
| References .....  | 11 |

**Alternative nomenclature in:**

**Ferré, Ciruela, Woods, Lluís & Franco (2007) Trends Neurosci 30 (9) 440-446**

1. Evidence for physical association in native tissue or primary cells.
  - A. Both subunits that compose the receptor heterodimer must be identified in the same cell and, if possible, within the same subcellular compartment. Coimmunolocalization experiments using antibodies recognizing each of the subunits should be used, if possible, at the electron microscopic level. If the physical interaction is convincingly demonstrated in vivo (see B) the need for colocalization is less important. In contrast, a colocalization study without the physical evidence for interaction is more or less meaningless.
  - B. The physical interaction between both subunits should be documented in native tissue. This can be achieved using coimmunoprecipitation experiments from native tissue. However, such an experiment would only demonstrate that both proteins are part of the same multimeric protein complex, but this result cannot be an argument for a direct interaction between the two partners. Alternatively, energy transfer technologies using labeled ligands and/or labeled antibodies or transgenic animals (knockin) expressing physiological levels of recombinant fluorescent proteins could be used to demonstrate close receptor proximity in native tissue. Alternatively, the use of antibodies selective for a specific receptor dimer may be useful (Wager-Miller et al., 2002).
2. A specific functional property for the heterodimeric receptor will be critical to identify such receptors in native tissue. This could include the

3. The use of knockout animals or RNAi technology may also provide key information on the existence of heterodimeric GPCRs in vivo. Indeed, the response mediated by such a unique dimeric receptor should be greatly modified in the absence of either one of the subunits. These results can be meaningfully interpreted only if the dimer has been shown to occur in vivo or if the change in function has been shown to be related to the dimerization in a simpler heterologous expression system in which the dimerization can be more easily documented.

## IUBCP: Recognition

2 out of 3:

1 A Coimmunolocalization

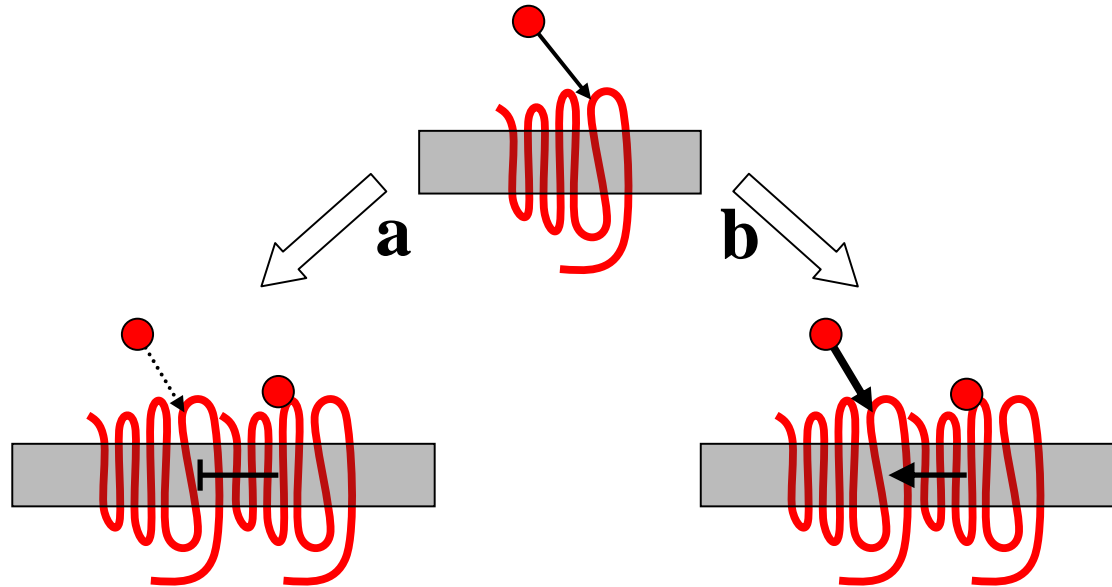
1 B Coimmunoprecipitation/transgenics

2 Specific functional property  
(Pharmacology/Signalling)

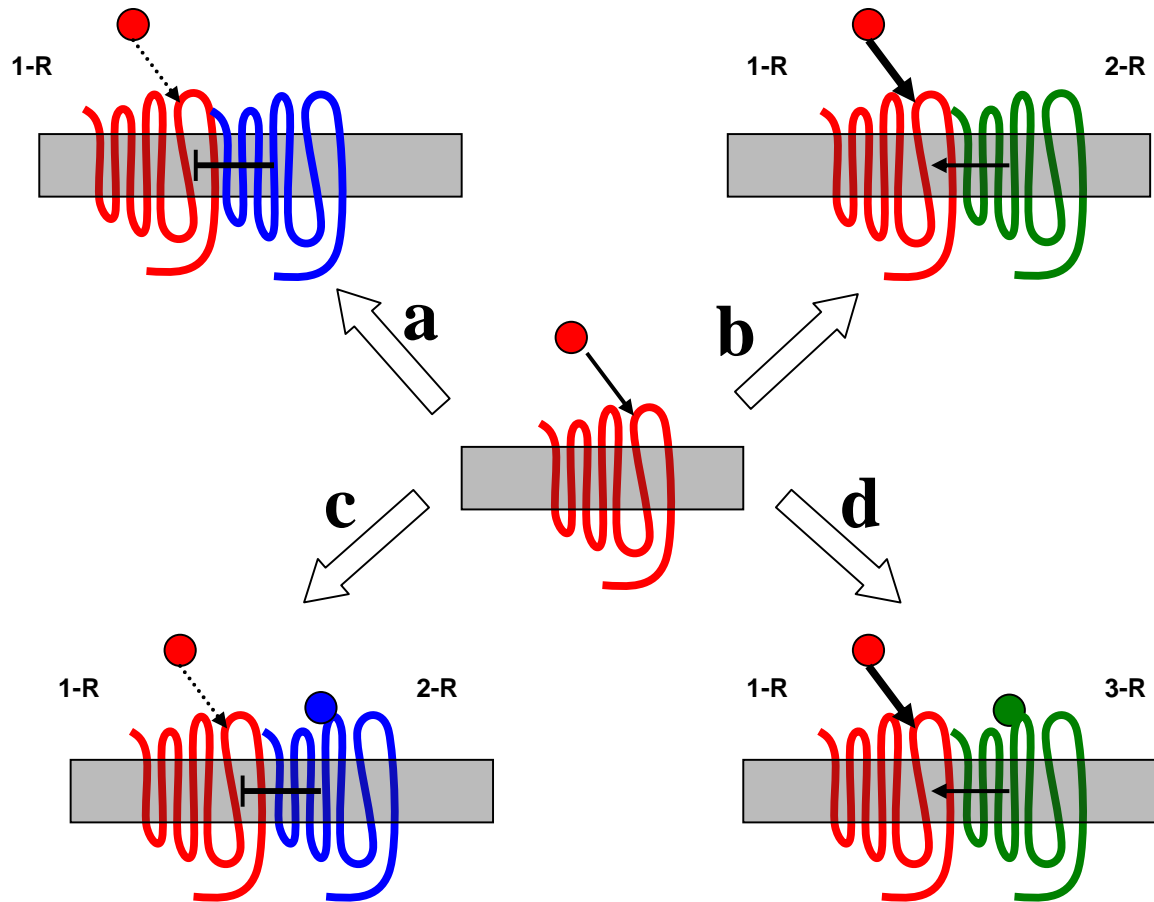
3 Knockouts: Loss of function!!!??



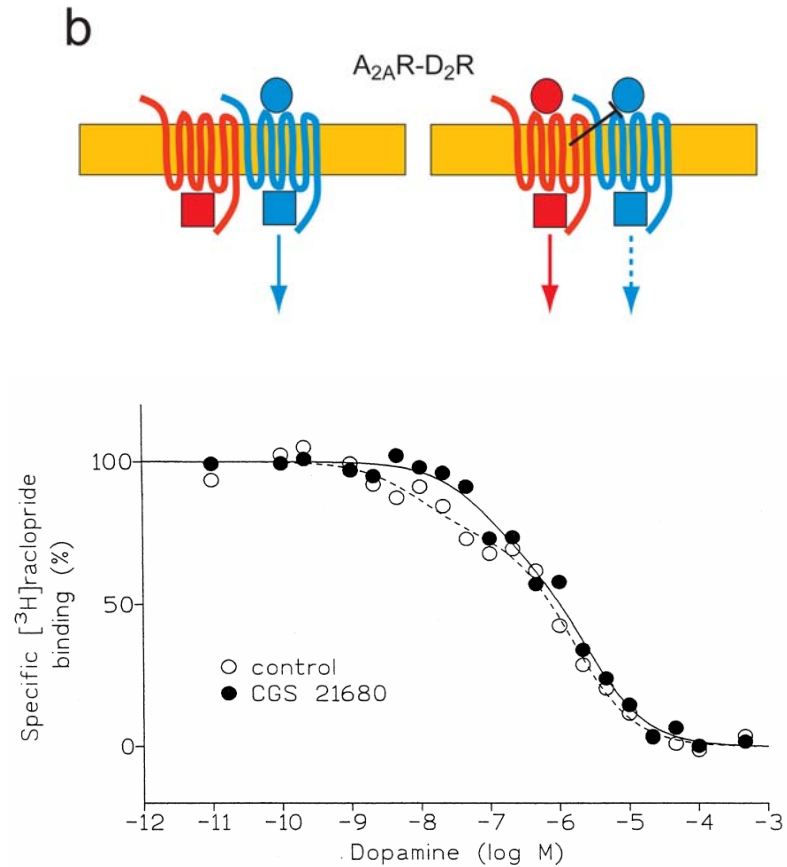
# Intramolecular cross-talk in the homomer: Cooperativity



# Intramolecular cross-talk in the heteromer: Cooperativity and/or ?



# Looking for the “biochemical fingerprint” of a receptor heteromer



Fingerprint lost  
in knockout animals

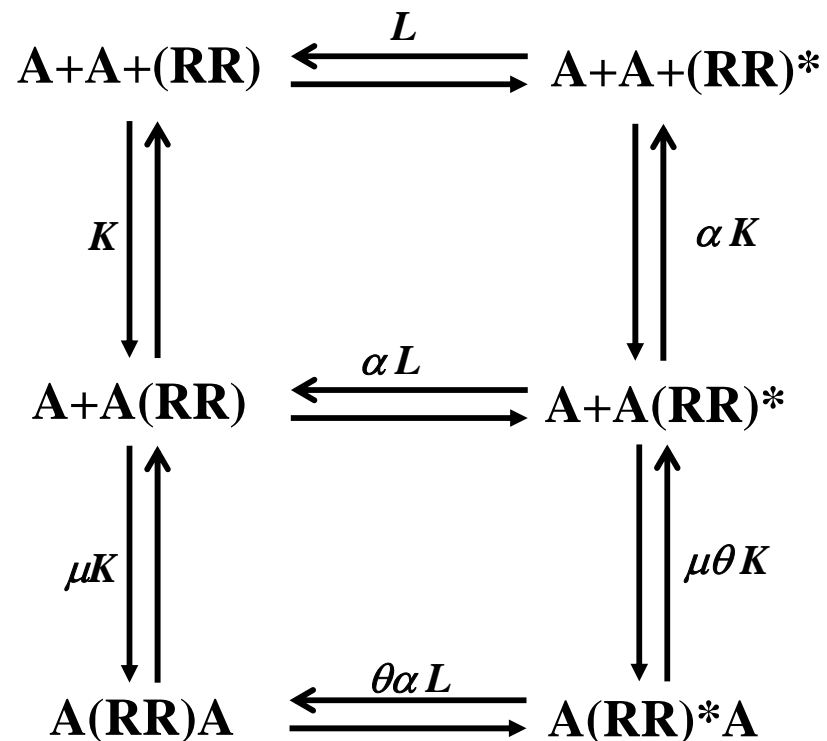
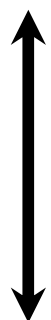


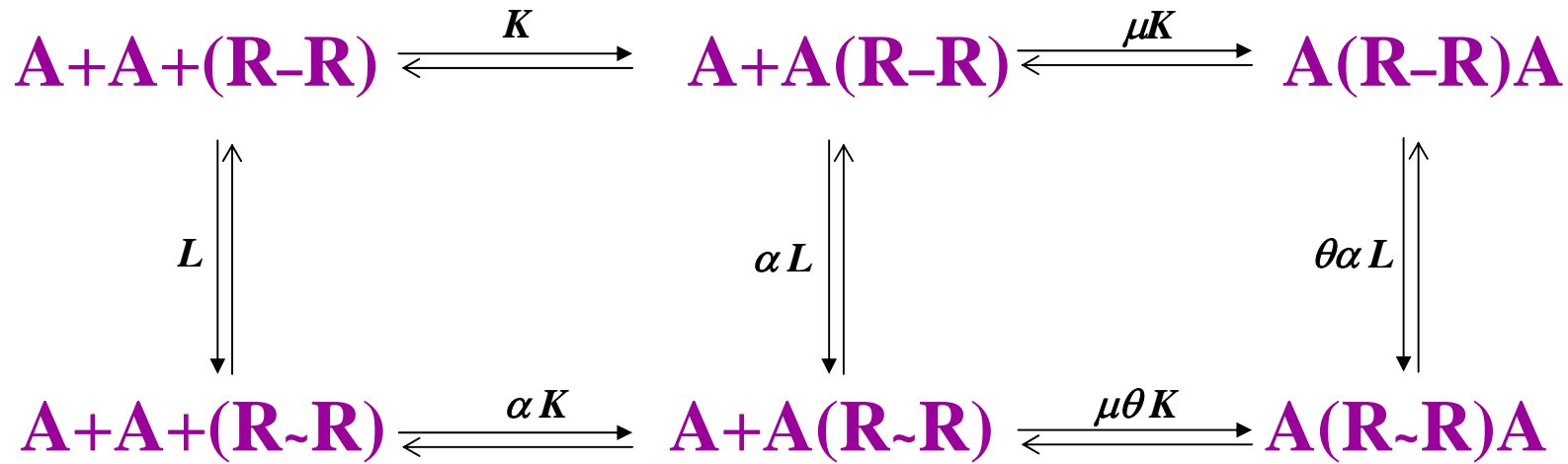
# Different affinities for ligands: Caffeine as adenosine antagonist

| Transfection                          | Radioligand               | Displacer | $K_D$      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>A<sub>1</sub>R</b>                 | [ <sup>3</sup> H]R-PIA    | R-PIA     | 1.9±0.4 nM |
|                                       |                           | Caffeine  | 90±20 μM   |
| <b>A<sub>2A</sub>R</b>                | [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS21680 | CGS21680  | 110±30 nM  |
|                                       |                           | Caffeine  | 7±1 μM     |
| <b>A<sub>1</sub>R+A<sub>2A</sub>R</b> | [ <sup>3</sup> H]R-PIA    | R-PIA     | 1.9±0.3 nM |
|                                       |                           | Caffeine  | 90±20 μM   |
|                                       | [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS21680 | CGS21680  | 120±40 nM  |
|                                       |                           | Caffeine  | 90±20 μM*  |
| <b>A<sub>2A</sub>R+D<sub>2</sub>R</b> | [ <sup>3</sup> H]CGS21680 | CGS21680  | 110±40 nM  |
|                                       |                           | Caffeine  | 5±2 μM     |

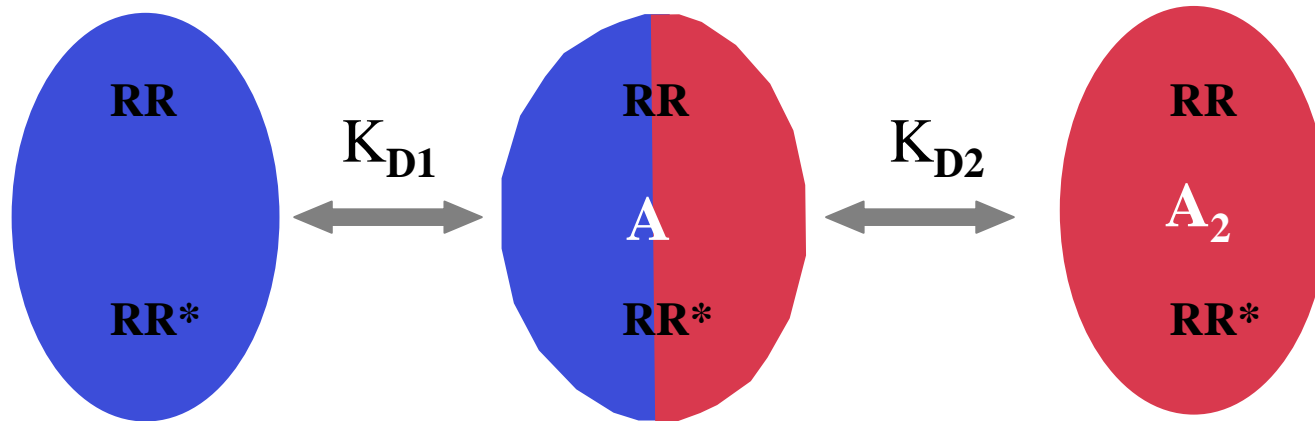
# TERNARY MODEL

# RECEPTOR DIMER MODEL



**a**

$$\boxed{
 \frac{[A]_{Bound}}{[R_T]} = \frac{K \cdot (1 + \alpha L) \cdot [A] + 2K^2 \mu \cdot (1 + \alpha \theta L) \cdot [A]^2}{1 + L + K \cdot (1 + \alpha L) \cdot [A] + K^2 \mu \cdot (1 + \alpha \theta L) \cdot [A]^2}
 }$$

**b**

$$\mathbf{A_{bound}} = (\mathbf{K_{D2} A + 2 A^2}) \mathbf{R_T} / (\mathbf{K_{D1} K_{D2} + K_{D2} A + A^2})$$

**Dimer Cooperativity Index,  $D_c$ :**  
**It depends on  $K_{D1}$  and  $K_{D2}$**

**Allosterism:**  
**Useful parameter to**  
**“measure allosterism”**

**$D_{50}$  in Drug discovery:**  
**A more meaningful**  
**parameter to measure**  
**binding potency**  
**compared to  $IC_{50}$ .**

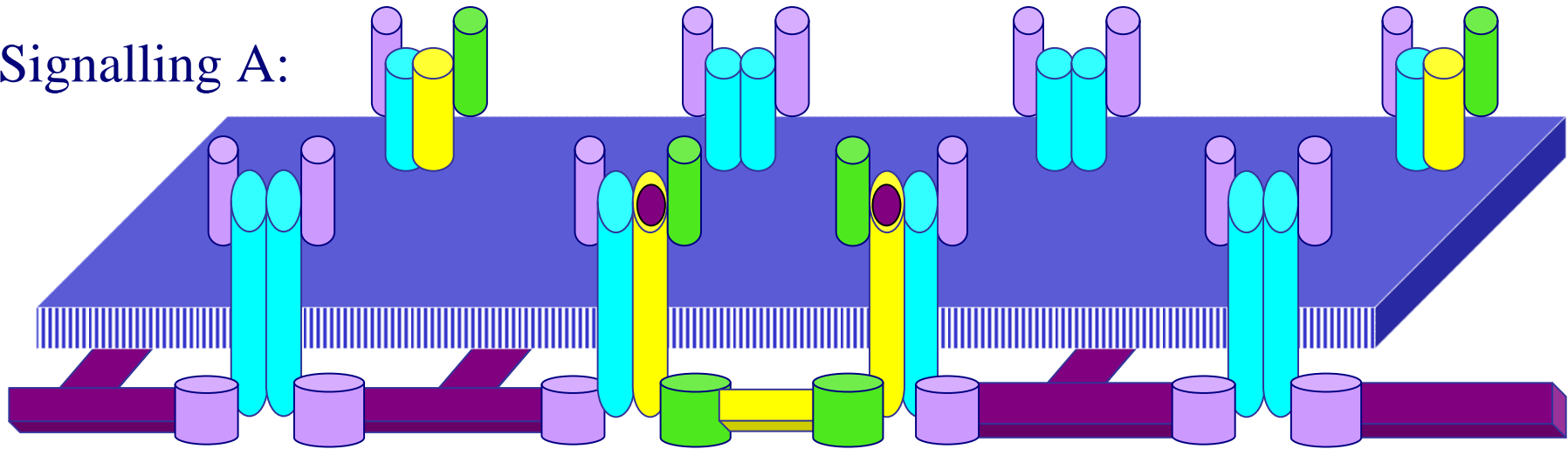
**LOOKING FOR THE  
FUNCTIONAL  
“DIMER FINGERPRINT”**



Fig 4

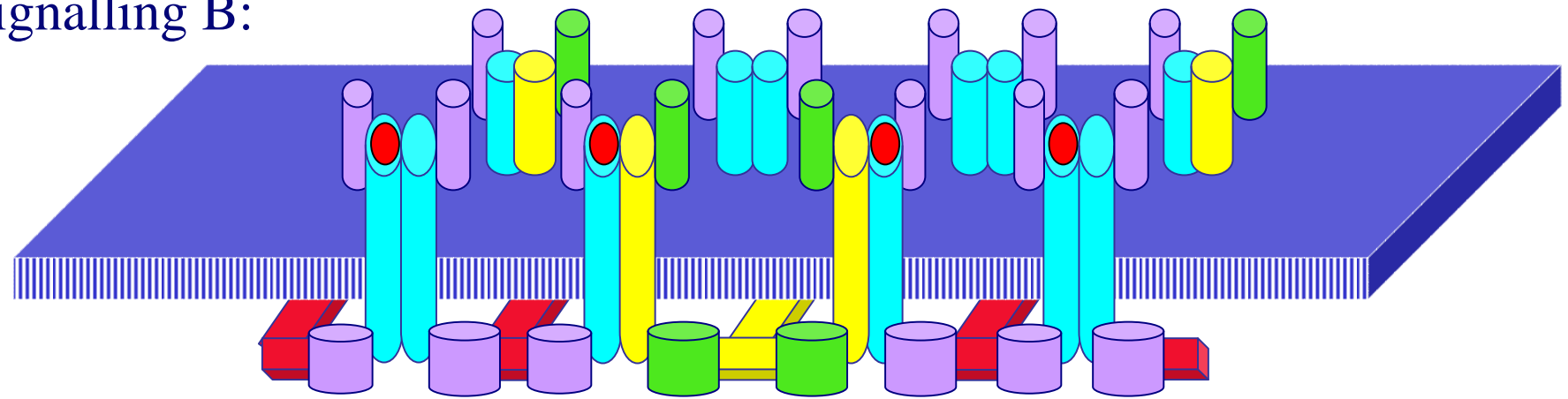
 Clustering adaptor/scaffolding proteins  
 Agonists for the two receptors

Signalling A:



Franco et al Trends Biochemical Sci 28 (2003) 238-243

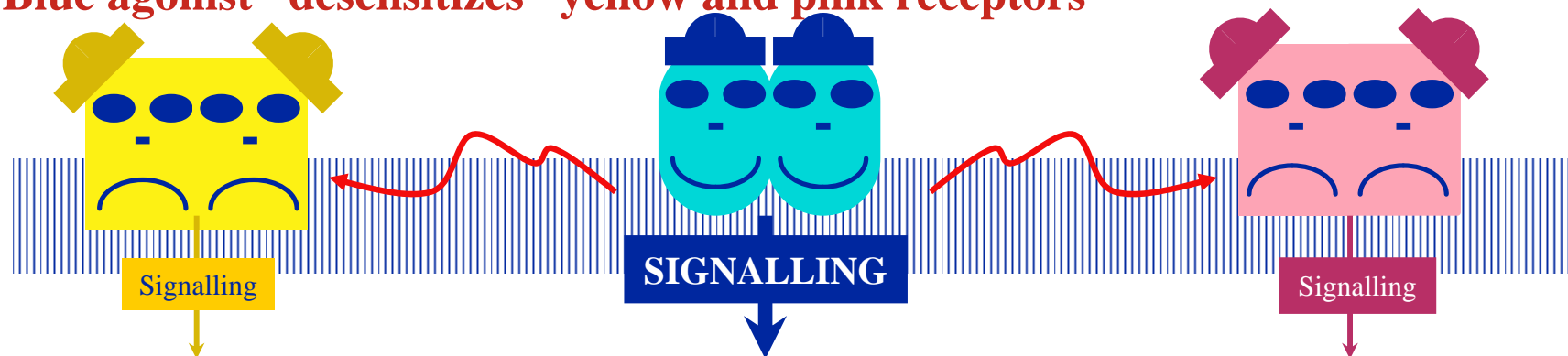
Signalling B:



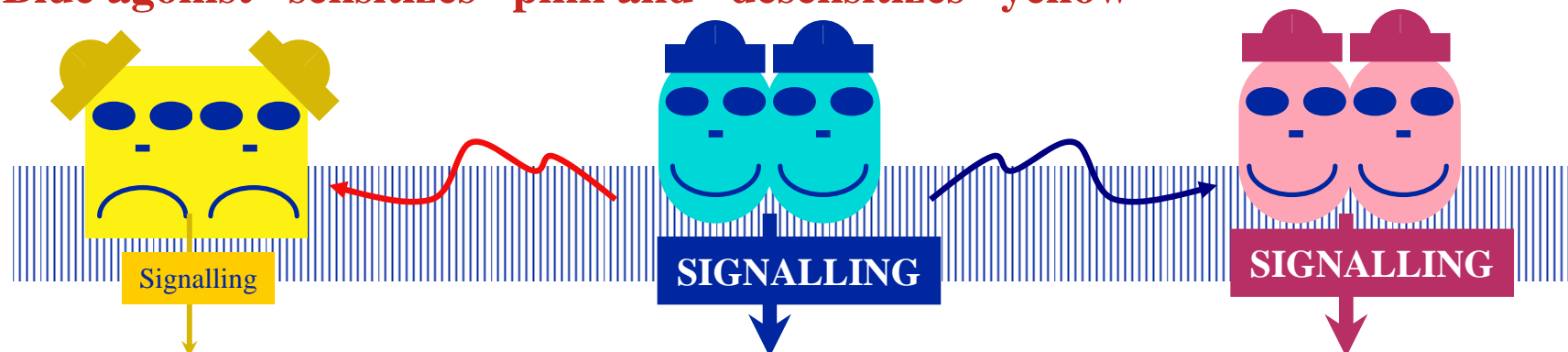
### Blue agonist "sensitizes" yellow and pink receptors



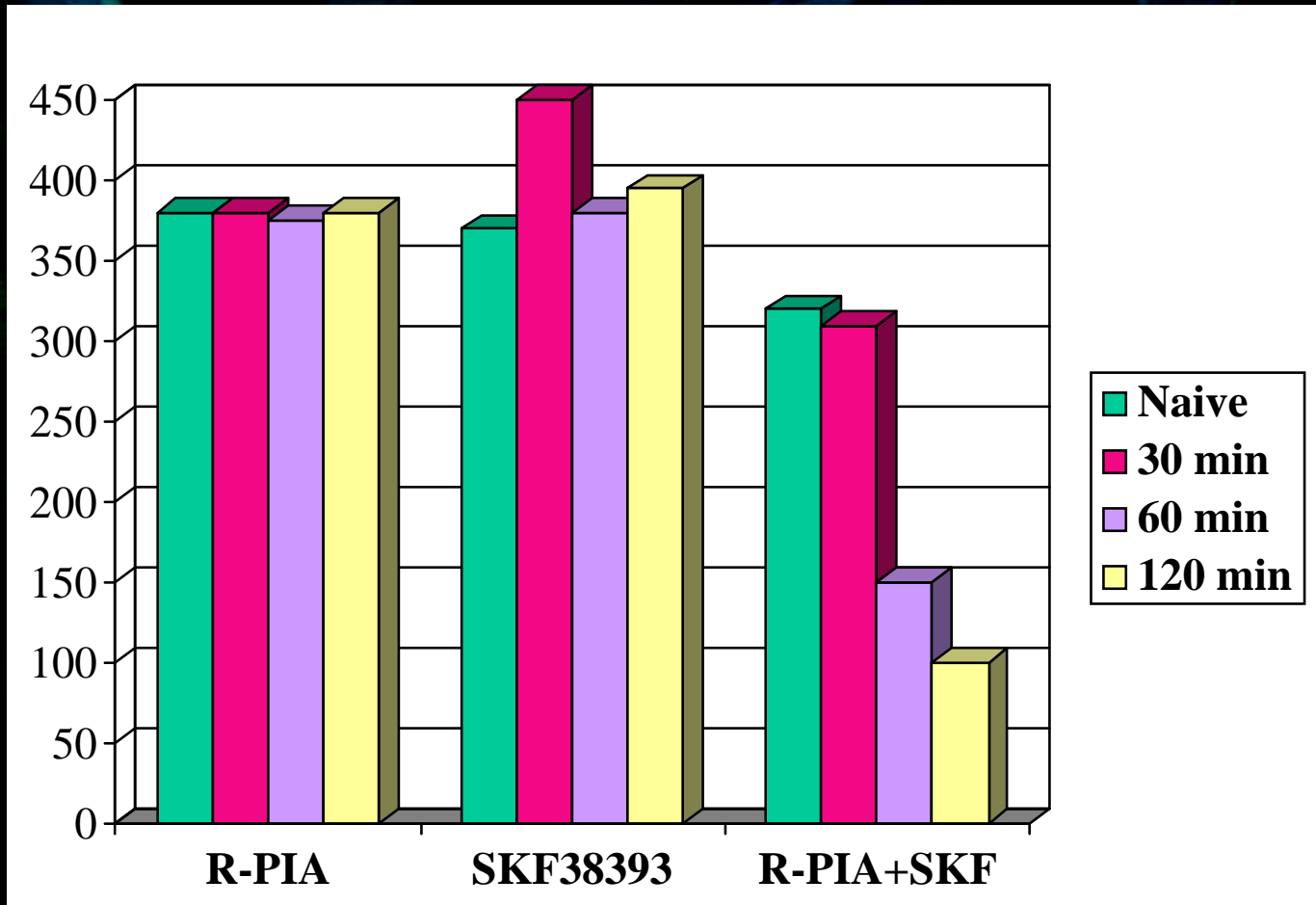
### Blue agonist "desensitizes" yellow and pink receptors



### Blue agonist "sensitizes" pink and "desensitizes" yellow

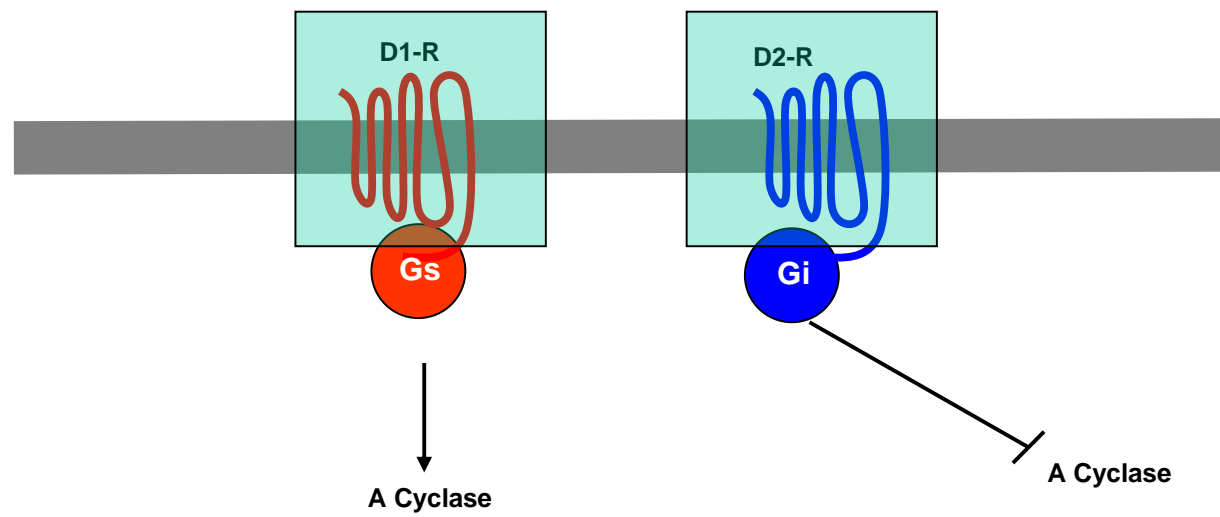


# The intracytoplasmic receptor-receptor cross-talk: **ANTAGONISM** (A1R/D1R)

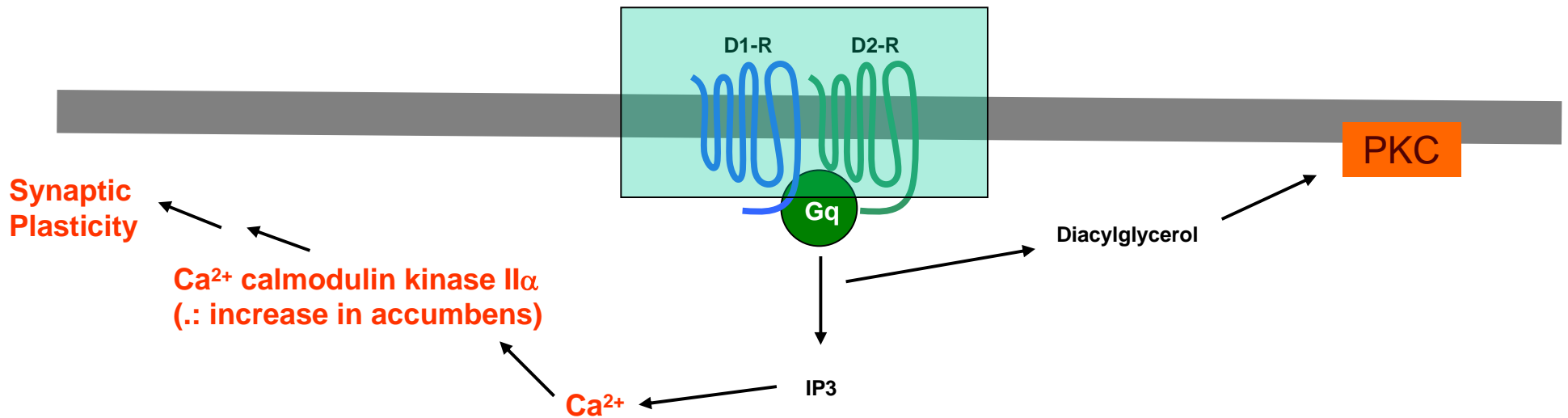


Ginés et al  
(2000) PNAS  
97, 8606-11

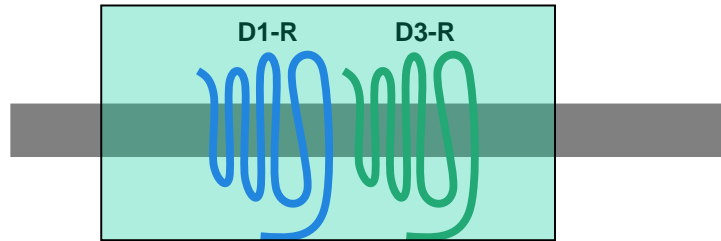
**cAMP production via D1R after pretreatment with  
agonists of A1R and/or D1R  
(A1/D1 cotransfected mouse Ltk<sup>-</sup> fibroblasts)**



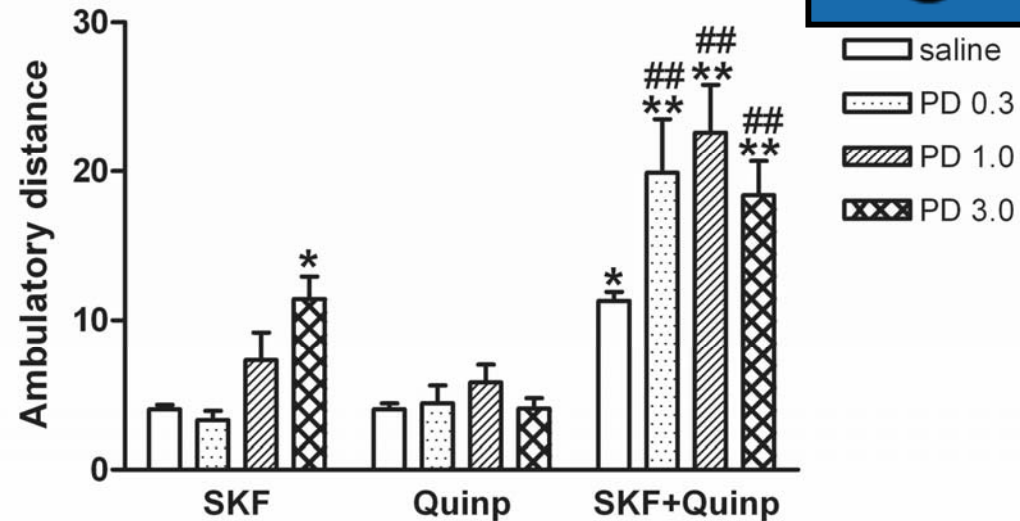
## Shift to Gq coupling in the D1-D2 receptor heteromer



# D1-D3 Receptor heteromerization



- FRET
- BRET
- Fingerprint (Intramembrane cross-talk)

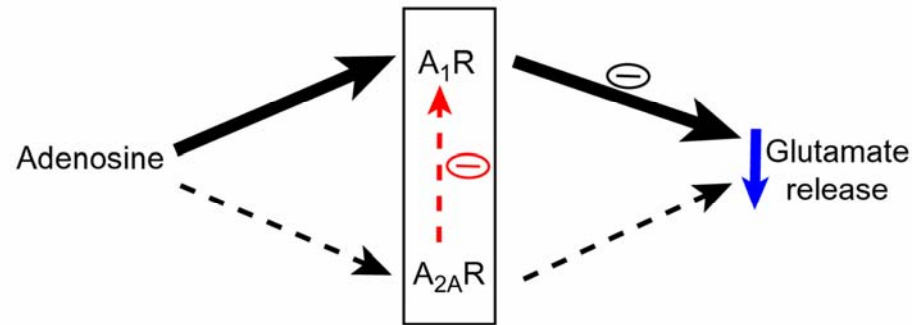


1.-D<sub>1</sub> receptor agonist affinity is enhanced by D<sub>3</sub> agonists. This indicates the existence of a synergistic intramembrane receptor-receptor interaction.

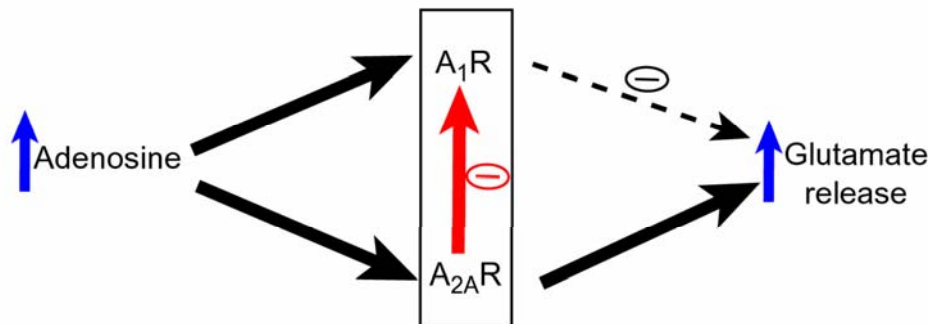
2.-Experiments in reserpinized mice showed that D<sub>3</sub> receptor stimulation potentiates D<sub>1</sub> receptor-mediated behavioral effects by a different mechanism than D<sub>2</sub> receptor stimulation.

# Dual regulatory role of Adenosine on Glu release via $A_1R/A_{2A}R$

a. Heteromeric  $A_1R-A_{2A}R$ , low adenosine



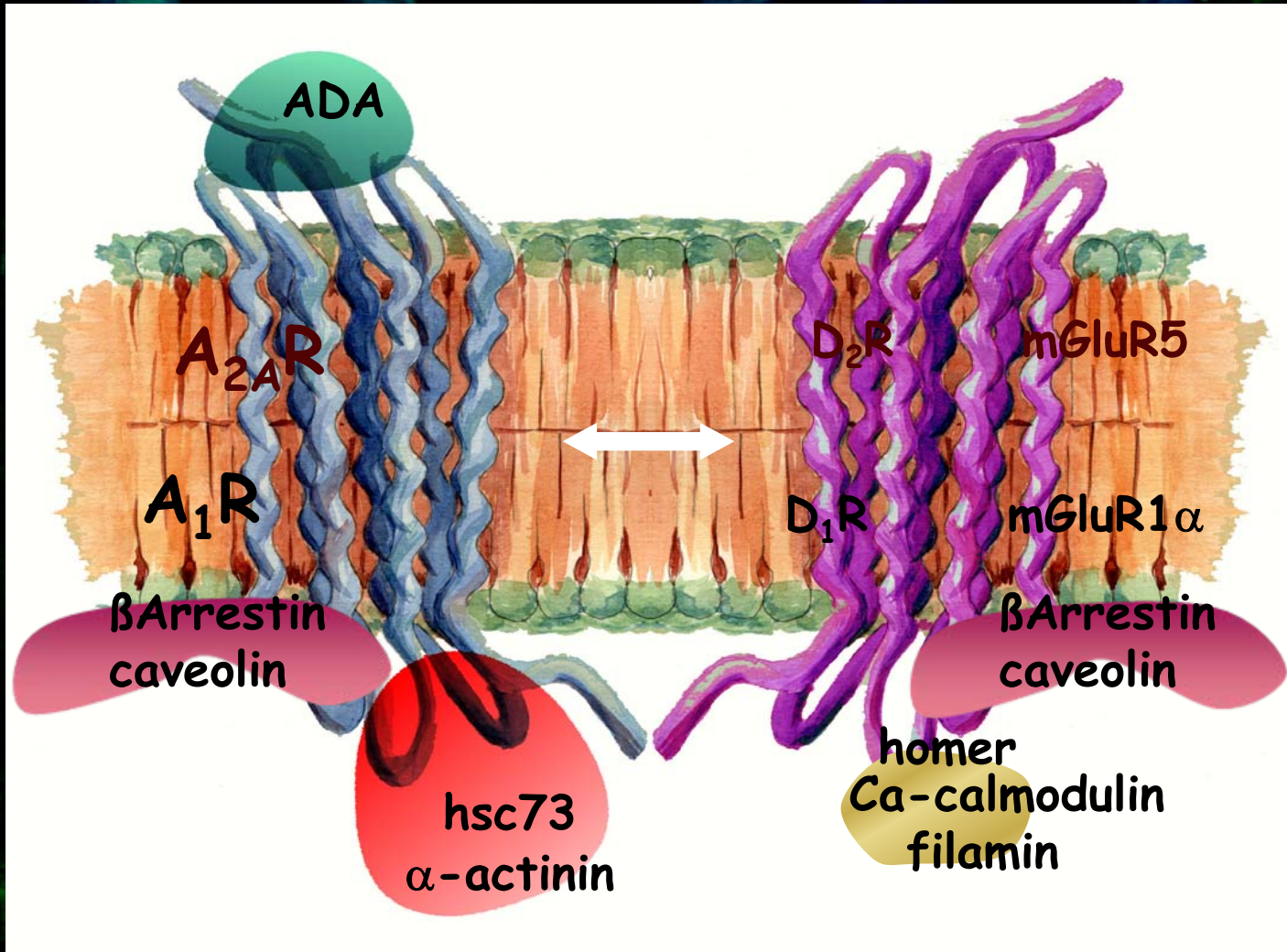
b. Heteromeric  $A_1R-A_{2A}R$ , high adenosine



## **CONCLUSIONS**

- 1. Heteromers exist in natural tissues**
- 2. Heteromers are sensors for neurotransmitters**
- 3. Heteromerization modifies:**
  - biochemical,**
  - pharmacological,**
  - and functional properties of receptors**

# FUNCTIONAL MODULES IN THE PLASMA MEMBRANE





Class A Rhodopsin like

Amine

Peptide

Hormone protein

(Rhodopsin

Rhodopsin Vertebrate

Rhodopsin Vertebrate

type 1

Rhodopsin Vertebrate

type 2

Rhodopsin Vertebrate

type 3

Rhodopsin Vertebrate

type 4

Rhodopsin Vertebrate

type 5

Rhodopsin Arthropod

Rhodopsin Mollusc

Rhodopsin Other

Olfactory

Prostanoid

Nucleotide-like

Cannabis

Platelet activating factor

Gonadotropin-releasing hormone

Thyrotropin-releasing hormone &

Secretagogue

Melatonin

Viral

Lysosphingolipid & LPA (EDG)

Leukotriene B4 receptor

Class A Orphan/other

Class B Secretin like

Class C Metabotropic glutamate / pheromone

Class D Fungal pheromone

Class E cAMP receptors (Dictyostelium)

Frizzled/Smoothed family