

**First Congress**  
*International Society of  
Diamagnetic Therapy*

**“The Physiopathology of Pain”**

Dr. Caterina, Pace



13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Magna Graecia University - Catanzaro



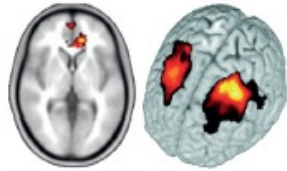
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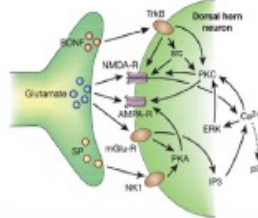
**UMG**  
*Dubium sapientiae initium*

Descartes, 1644

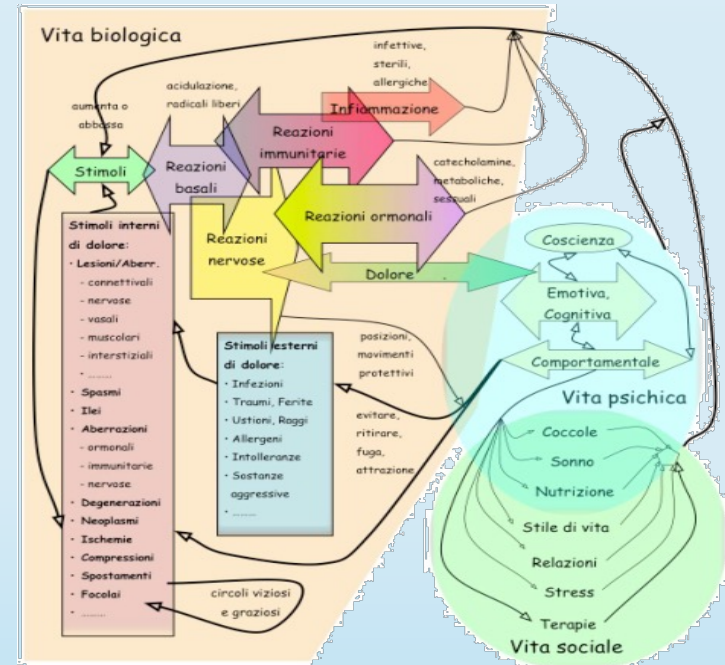
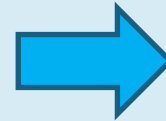
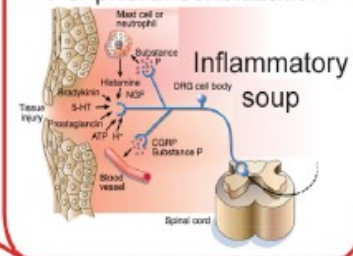
### Cortical reorganization



### Central sensitization



### Peripheral sensitization



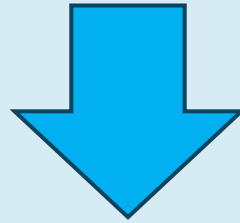
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# Definizione IASP

*«Un'esperienza sensitiva ed emotiva spiacevole, associata ad un reale o potenziale danno tissutale o comunque descritta in rapporto a tale danno»*



*«Un'esperienza sensoriale ed emotiva spiacevole associata o simile a quella associata a un danno tissutale reale o potenziale»*

E viene implementata dall'aggiunta di sei note integrative

# Definizione IASP



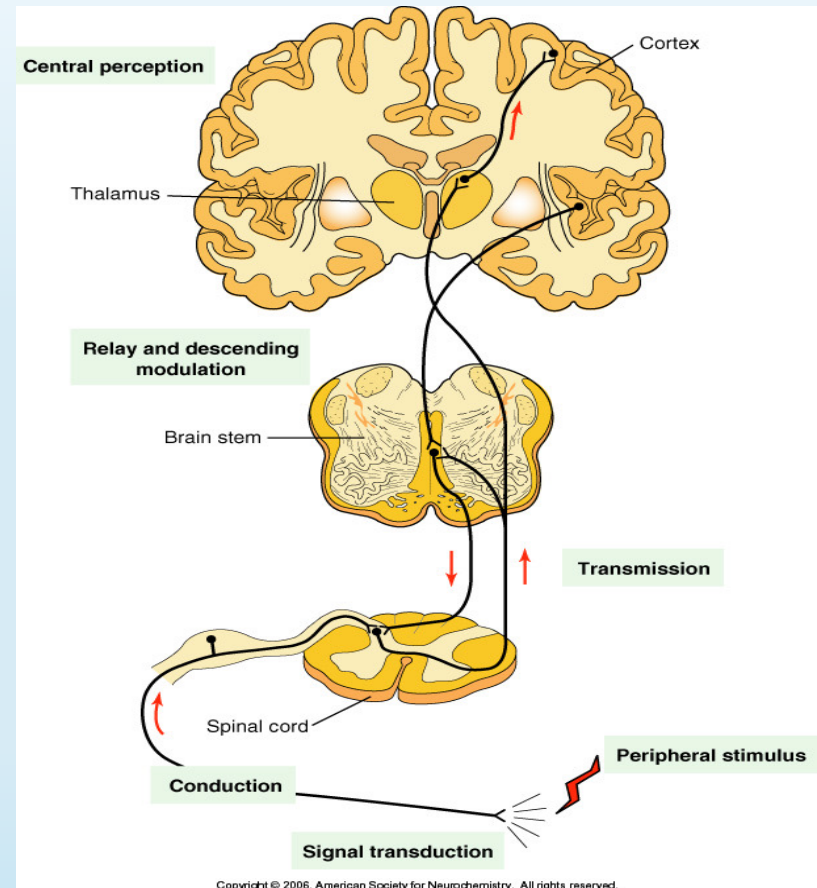
- Il dolore è sempre un'esperienza personale influenzata a vari livelli da fattori biologici, psicologici e sociali.
- Il dolore e la nocicezione sono fenomeni diversi. Il dolore non può essere ridotto solo all'attività delle vie sensitive.
- Le persone apprendono il concetto di dolore attraverso le loro esperienze di vita.
- Il racconto di un'esperienza come dolorosa dovrebbe essere rispettato.
- Sebbene il dolore di solito abbia un ruolo adattativo, può avere effetti negativi sulla funzionalità e il benessere sociale e psicologico.
- La descrizione verbale è solo uno dei numerosi modi per esprimere il dolore; l'incapacità di comunicare non nega la possibilità che un essere umano o un animale provi dolore.

## Via nocicettiva: 3 neuroni

- Nocicettore (la corrente elettrica è il linguaggio dei neuroni)
- Neurone spinotalamico
- Neurone Talamo corticale



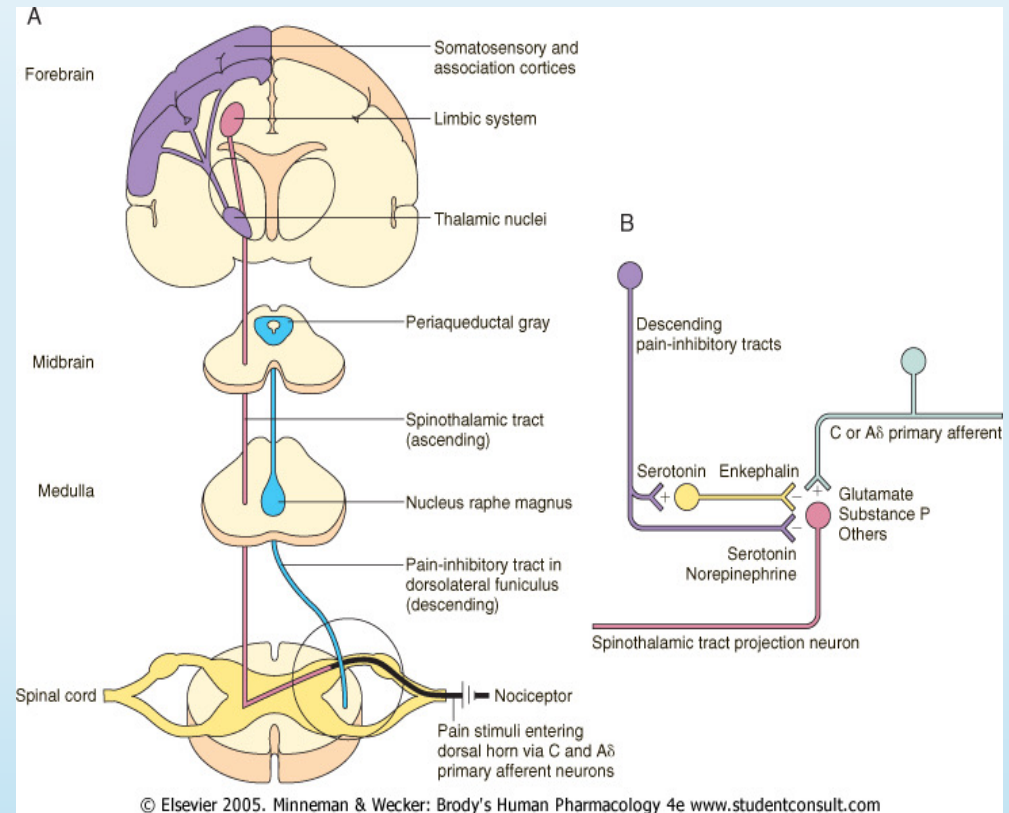
- Sinapsi corno posteriori



## Via discendente

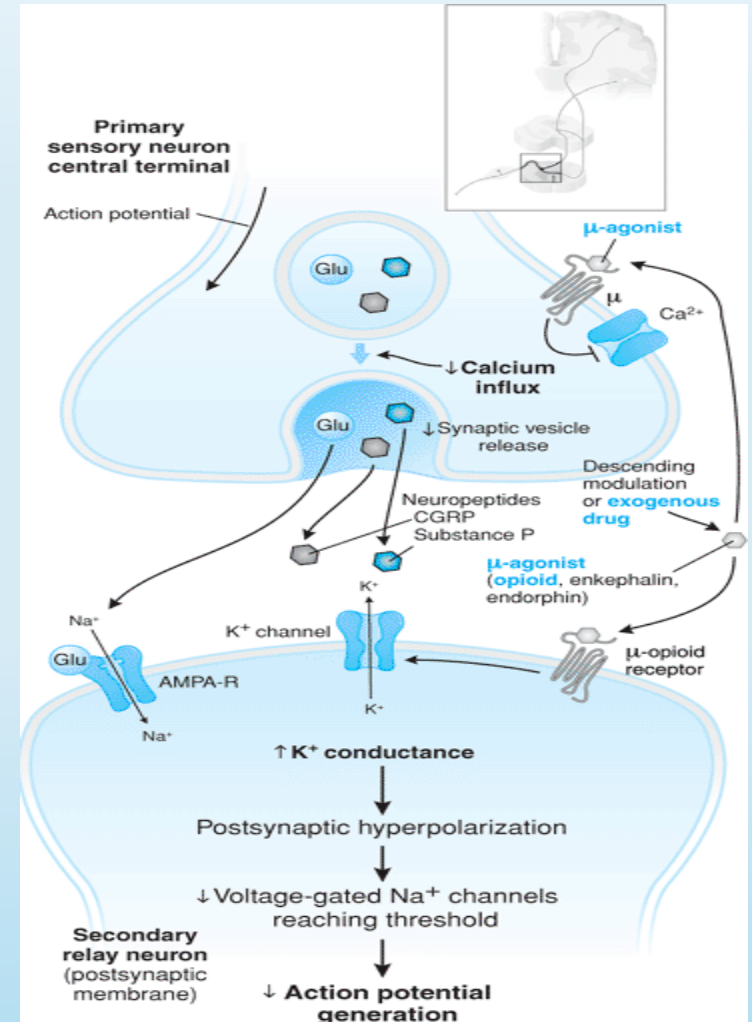


- Oppioidi endogeni



# Sinapsi

- Essenzialmente glutammatergica
- Nocicettore muto
- Neurone spinotalamico sordo



# Pain matrix = Network cerebrale diffuso



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European Journal of Pain 9 (2005) 463–484



[www.EuropeanJournalPain.com](http://www.EuropeanJournalPain.com)

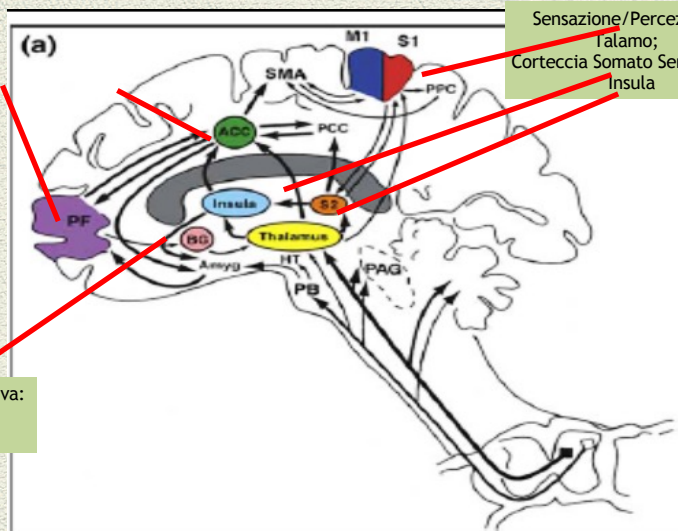
## Human brain mechanisms of pain perception and regulation in health and disease

A. Vania Apkarian <sup>a,\*</sup>, M. Catherine Bushnell <sup>b</sup>, Rolf-Detlef Treede <sup>c</sup>, Jon-Kar Zubieta <sup>d</sup>

Attenzione/Valutazione:  
Corteccia Cingolata Anteriore  
Corteccia Prefrontale

Sensazione/Percezione:  
Talamo;  
Corteccia Somato Sensoriale;  
Insula

Componente affettiva:  
Amigdala  
Striato ventrale



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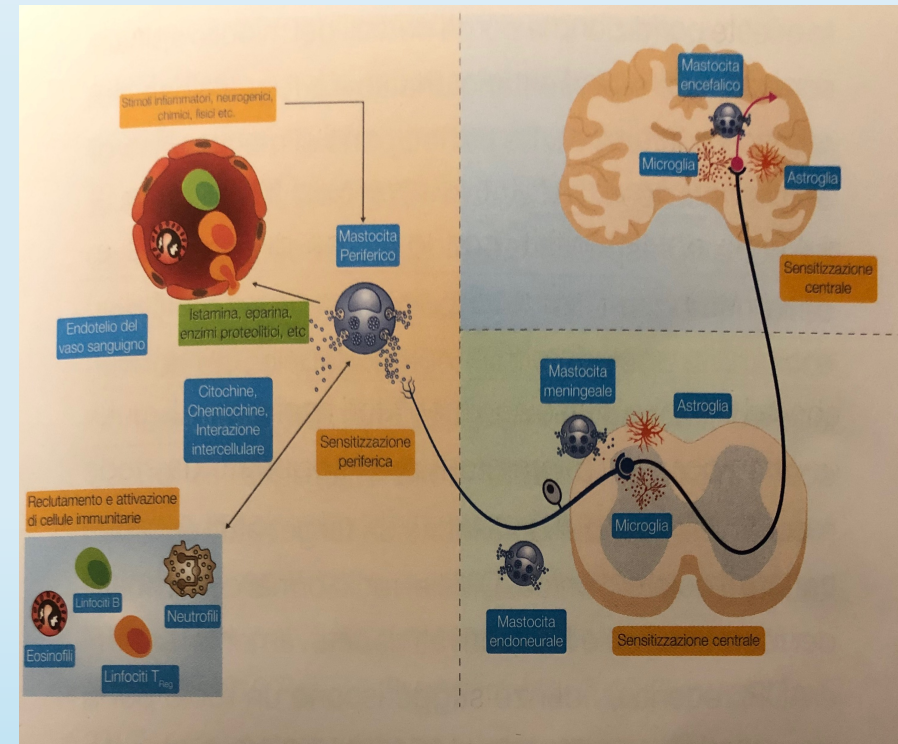


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Dubium sapientiae initium

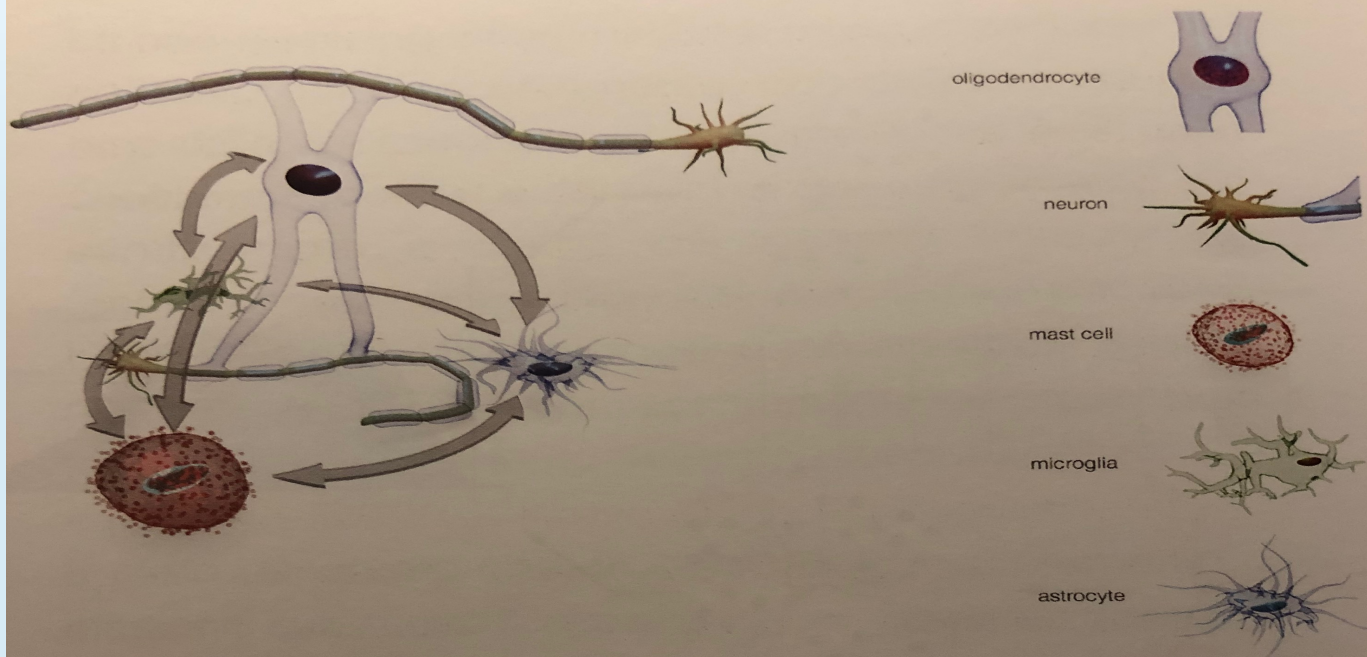


# COMPLESSO NETWORK DI COMUNICAZIONE

- Mastociti (nervi periferici, parenchima cerebrale e meningi)
- Microglia
- Astrociti (segnalazione immunitaria periferica al cervello)
- Oligodendrociti

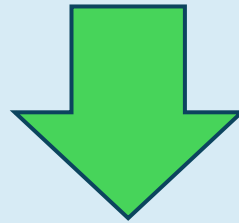


I mastociti del SNC, essendo particolarmente concentrati nel talamo, possiedono un ruolo nell'integrazione centrale del dolore.

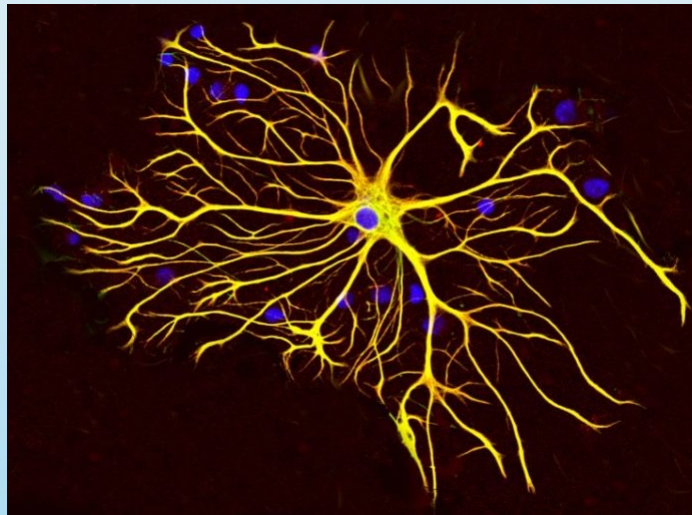


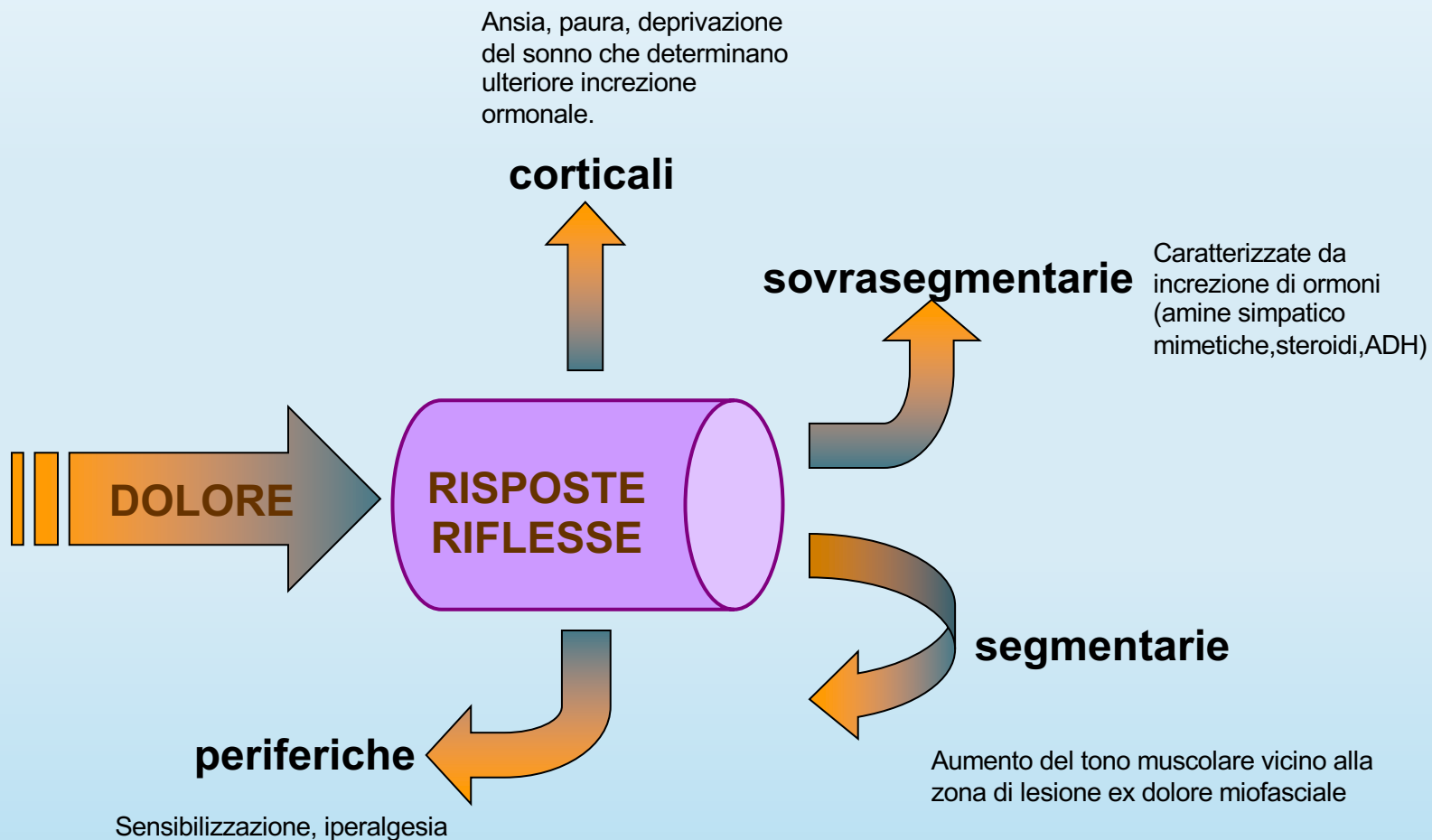
**Figura 6:** La neuroinfiammazione può risultare dal network di comunicazione tra astrociti e microglia, come risultato di una regolazione inadeguata di queste cellule non-neuronali, causata da stimoli endogeni e/o esogeni persistenti ed eccessivi, o dall'inadeguata capacità inibitoria. La comunicazione bi-direzionale tra microglia, mastociti e astrociti può rafforzare i segnali dannosi, agendo sui neuroni. Gli oligodendrociti aggiungono un ulteriore livello di complessità a questo network di interazione tra cellule non-neuronali, essendo essi sia target che fonte di segnali (Kiray et al, 2016). Gli oligodendrociti hanno forti funzioni immunitarie, esprimono recettori del sistema immunitario innato e producono e rispondono a chemochine e citochine che modulano la risposta immunitaria nel SNC.

# Neuroinfiammazione non più come fenomeno conseguente ad un danno neuronale



Dal neurocentrismo assoluto al concerto con le cellule non neuronali (S. Skaper)



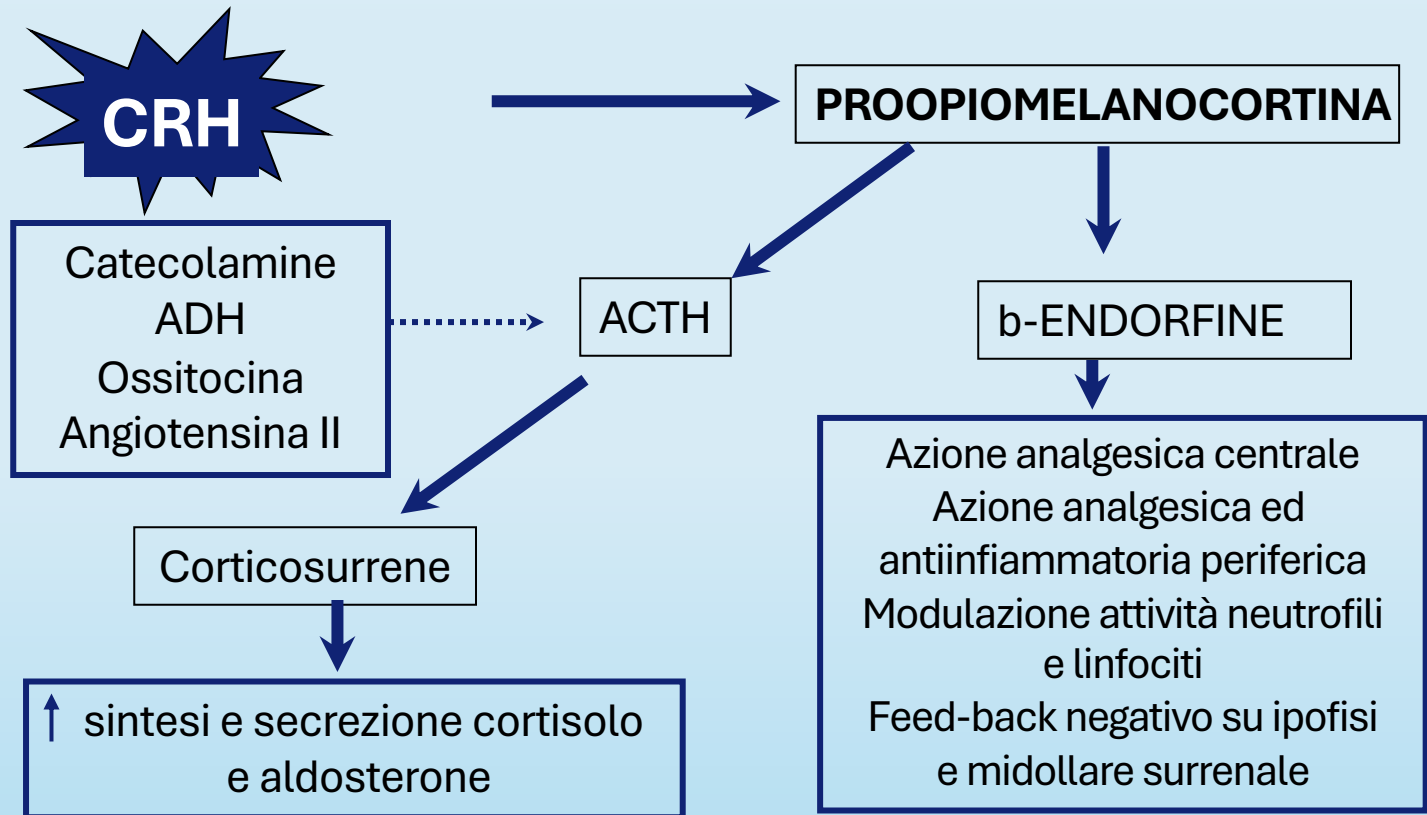


# RISPOSTE RIFLESSE PERIFERICHE

- Il danno tissutale determina la liberazione o la sintesi di sostanze chimiche algogene:

- $K^+$  e  $H^+$
- istamina
- acetilcolina
- serotonina (5HT)
- noradrenalina
- adenosintrifosfato (ATP)
- bradichinina (BK)
- prostaglandine (PG)
- leucotrieni
- neuropeptidi (sostanza P, calcium gene-related peptide)
- citochine (Tumor necrosis factor alfa, Interleuchine 1, 6 e 8)
- nerve growth factor (NGF)

# ASSE IPOTALAMO-IPOFISI- CORTICOSURRENALE (HPA)



# Definizioni

- Definizione temporale
- Definizione fisiopatologica



# CLASSIFICAZIONE DEL dolore

## Timing



**Acuto:** generalmente fisiologico, svolge un ruolo fondamentale, perché rappresenta una “protezione”. È un dolore autolimitante, che si risolve nel giro di giorni o di settimane, e che, nella maggior parte dei casi, è correlato allo stimolo che lo ha determinato e scompare con la scomparsa dello stesso

**Cronico:** è un dolore patologico che dura per tre o più mesi, è dovuto anche alla profonda alterazione dei normali meccanismi di regolazione e alla plasticità maladattativa. In questi casi, si può affermare che la nocicezione è “malata”.

# CLASSIFICAZIONE DEL dolore



The IASP-WHO joint task force which developed the new concepts of the chronic pain classification system has suggested a distinction between chronic primary pain (disease of its own right) and chronic secondary pain (pain as a symptom of an underlying disease). The main pathophysiological mechanism of primary pain syndromes is nociplastic pain and of chronic secondary pain syndromes nociceptive and/or neuropathic pain (Nicholas et al., 2019; Treede et al., 2019; Trouvin & Perrot, 2019). Nociplastic pain is defined by *pain* that (1) arises from altered nociception despite no (2) clear evidence of actual or threatened tissue damage causing the activation of peripheral nociceptors or (3) evidence for disease or lesion of the somatosensory system causing the pain (Kosek et al., 2016).



# CLASSIFICAZIONE DEL dolore

Nocicettivo: in seguito ad un  
evento lesivo

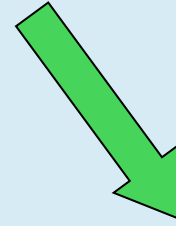
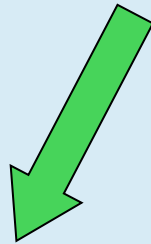
Somatico

Viscerale

L'intensità del dolore è  
correlata all'entità del danno subito e si risolve, in genere,  
al risolversi della causa

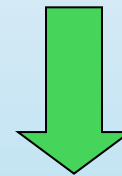
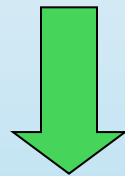
# CLASSIFICAZIONE

In base alla sede



Superficiale

Profondo

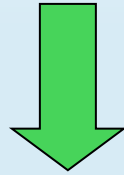


✓ Cutaneo

✓ Viscerale

✓ Da mucose

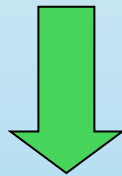
# Dolore cronico oncologico



## Bt<sub>c</sub>P



# Dolore cronico non oncologico



## Dolore Misto



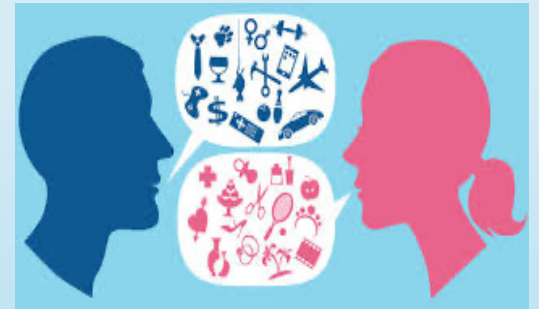
**DOLORE NEL BAMBINO**

**DOLORE NELL'ANZIANO**

**DOLORE E COVID**

**Dolore DI GENERE**

**DOLORE NEI PAZ NON COMUNICANTI**



# Fattori di rischio

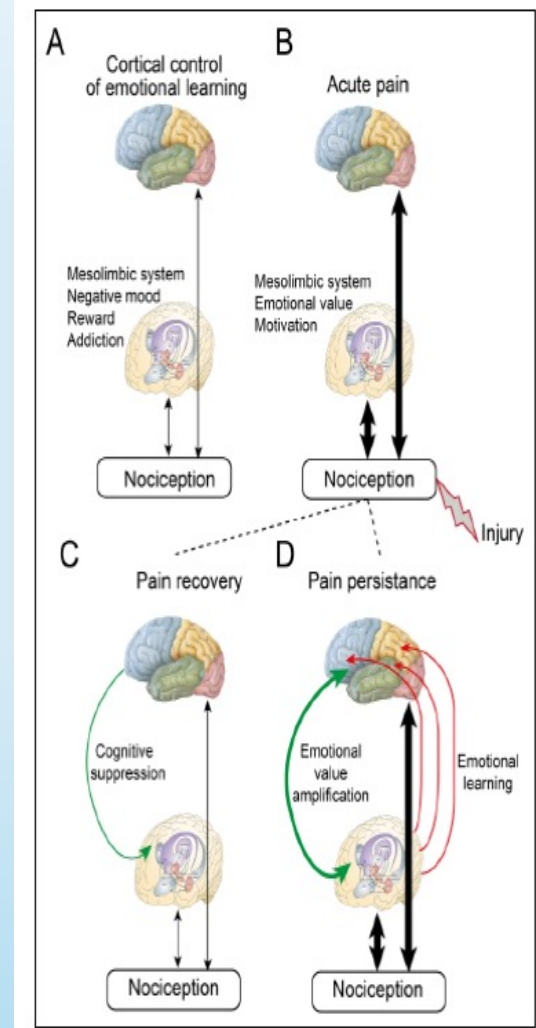
- Vita sedentaria
- Età
- Obesità
- Fumo
- Disordini del sonno
- Depressione, ansia
- Lavori manuali



## The Emotional Brain as a Predictor and Amplifier of Chronic Pain

E. Vachon-Preseau<sup>1</sup>, M.V. Centeno<sup>1</sup>, W. Ren<sup>1</sup>, S.E. Berger<sup>1</sup>,  
P. Tétreault<sup>1</sup>, M. Ghantous<sup>1</sup>, A. Baria<sup>1</sup>, M. Farmer<sup>1</sup>, M.N. Baliki<sup>1</sup>,  
T.J. Schnitzer<sup>1</sup>, and A.V. Apkarian<sup>1</sup>

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The 2 critical questions that the field has yet to address regarding chronic pain are

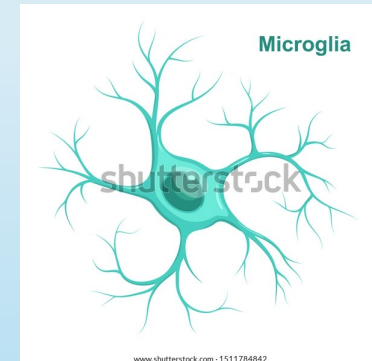
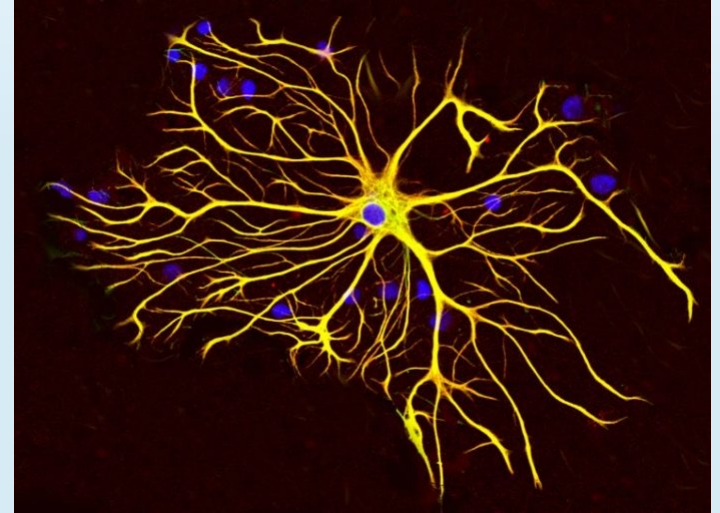
- 1) Who is vulnerable to developing it? and
- 2) What underlies this vulnerability?

An accumulating body of animal and human literature has identified the **mesocorticolimbic system** (**Amygdala, Hippocampus etc**), as a modulator for acute pain and as a mediator for chronic pain





- Il dolore è nocicettivo?
- E' neuropatico?
- E' nociplastico?
- E' cronico?
- E' acuto?
- E' BtCP?
- E' patologico?



## Memoria:

«In generale, la capacità, comune a molti organismi, di conservare traccia, più o meno completa e duratura, degli stimoli esterni sperimentati e delle relative risposte.» (Treccani)



A breve termine o primaria: che ritiene le informazioni per alcuni minuti .



A lungo termine o secondaria: che conserva e permette di richiamare i ricordi anche dopo anni .

## Memoria esplicita



Es: il ricordo di una lista di cose o di date

## Memoria implicita



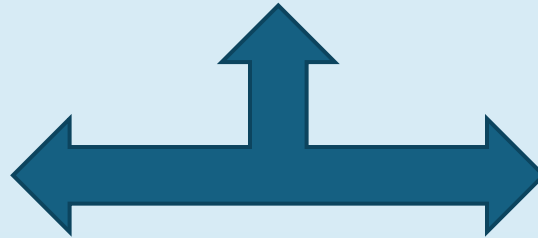
Es: legarsi i lacci delle scarpe.

Codifica

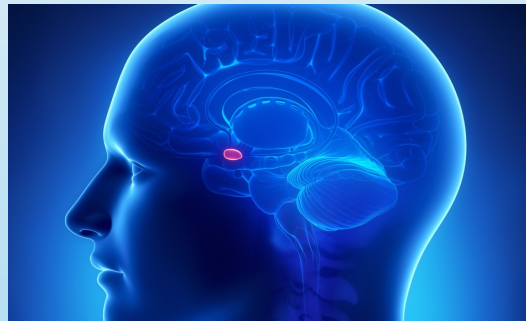


Attenzione

Talamo



Lobo frontale



# Amigdala ed Ippocampo



## MEMORIA A LUNGO TERMINE

# NEUROPLASTICITA'

# Pain Pathways and Nervous System Plasticity: Learning and Memory in Pain

Bill McCarberg, MD,<sup>\*,†,‡</sup> and John Peppin, DO, FACP<sup>§,¶</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Chronic Pain Management Program, Kaiser Permanente, San Diego, California; <sup>†</sup>University of California, San Diego, California; <sup>‡</sup>Neighborhood Health, San Diego, California; <sup>§</sup>College of Osteopathic Medicine, Marian University, Indianapolis, Indiana; <sup>¶</sup>John F. Peppin, DO, LLC, Hamden, Connecticut

Correspondence to: Bill McCarberg, MD, Chronic Pain Management Program, Kaiser Permanente, 2855 5th Ave, unit #803, San Diego, 92103, California. Tel: 858 - 312-5234; FAX: 619-501-3733; E-mail: drknowpain@cox.net.

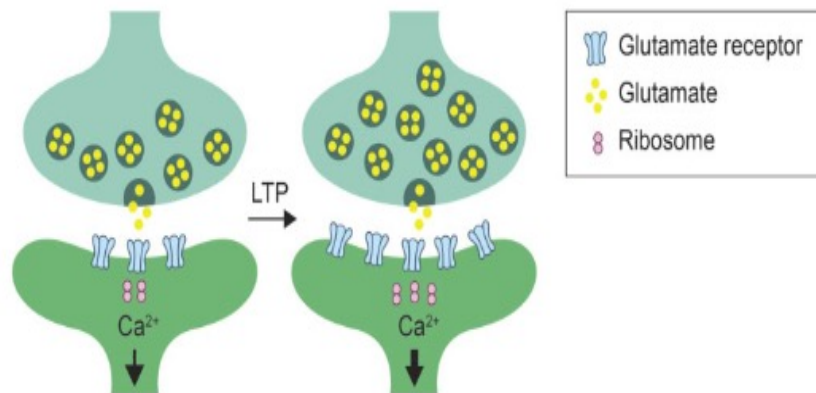
**Table 1.** Anatomic and physiologic overlap between pain, learning, and memory [9,33,46–48,50–67]

Shared Features	Chronic/Persistent Pain	Learning and Memory
Synaptic plasticity	Activity-dependent synaptic plasticity (wind-up, central sensitization) underlies inflammatory and neuropathic pain NMDA receptor involvement in central sensitization BDNF enhances C-fiber-evoked responses in central sensitization Serotonin dysregulation is a feature of chronic pain  Calcium signaling through NMDA receptors or voltage-dependent calcium channels contributes to central sensitization	Learning and memory rely on activity-dependent LTP at CNS synapses NMDA receptor activation involvement in LTP BDNF contributes to synaptic plasticity associated with various types of learning Serotonin signaling plays a role in learning and memory through interactions with other neurotransmitter systems Calcium signaling through NMDA receptors or voltage-dependent calcium channels contributes to LTP associated with memory
Structural changes	Central sensitization involves protein synthesis and synaptogenesis Changes in connectivity in limbic and cortical areas contribute to chronic pain	LTP involves protein synthesis and synaptogenesis Cortical reorganization accompanies learning and memory
Anatomical overlap	Cortico-limbic pathways are involved in transition to pain chronicity Chronic pain is associated with functional changes in the hippocampus and amygdala Hippocampal activity is associated with exacerbation of pain by anxiety	Cortico-limbic circuits are crucial for emotional learning Hippocampus and amygdala act synergistically in the formation of long-term memories of significantly emotional events

BDNF = brain-derived neurotrophic factor; CNS = central nervous system; LTP = long-term potentiation; NMDA = N-methyl-D-aspartate.

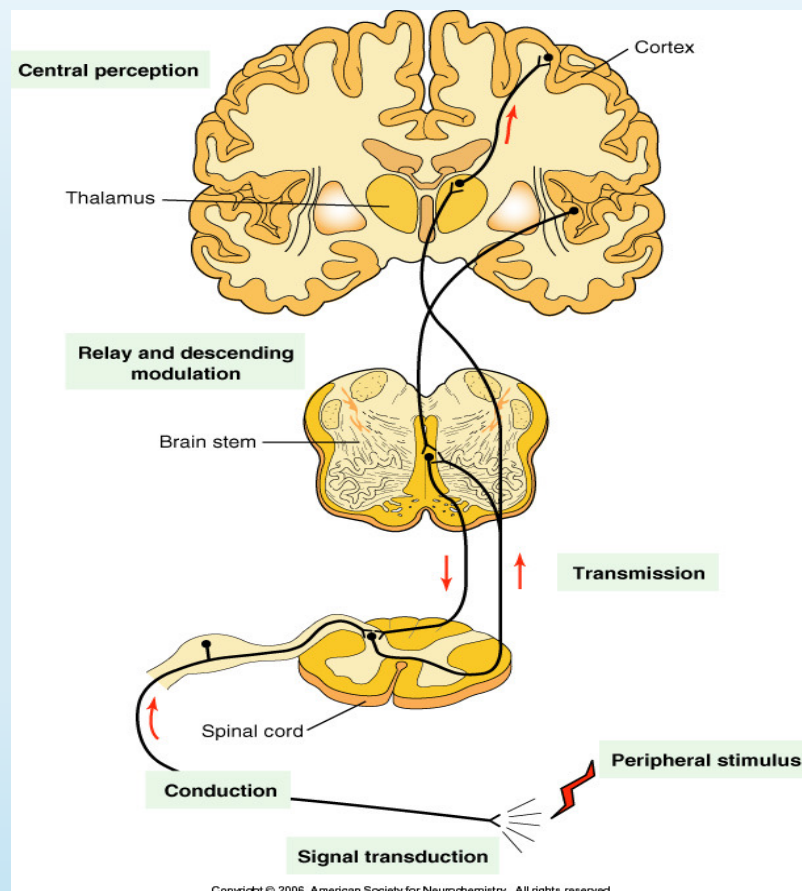


### Changes in Synapses with LTP



### Cellular correlation:

- ↑ Presynaptic vesicles
- ↑ Postsynaptic vesicles
- Changes in calcium compartmentalization



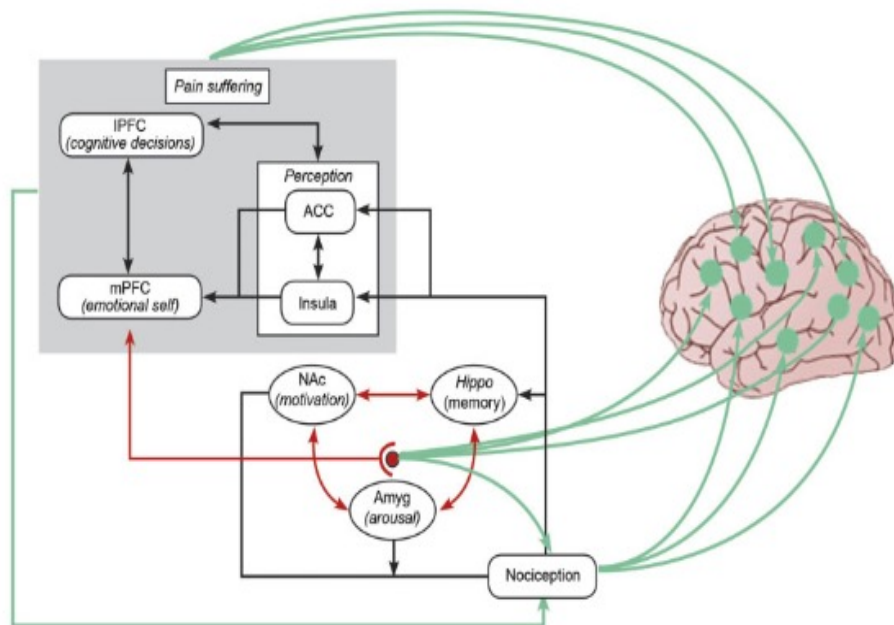
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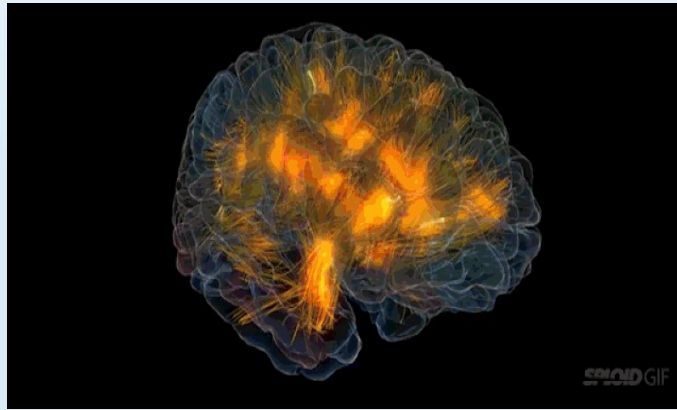




**Figure 5.** A model of the brain circuitry involved in the transition from acute to chronic pain (used with permission from Mansour et al. [130]). ACC, anterior cingulate cortex; Amyg=amygdala; Hippo=hippocampus; IPFC=lateral prefrontal cortex; mPFC=medial prefrontal cortex; NAc=nucleus accumbens.

## Conclusions

In sum, chronic pain can result from a persistent pain stimulus due to injury or disease, but it can also persist after the original injury is healed. Nonetheless, chronic pain is accompanied by the persistence of pain plasticity mechanisms analogous to memory and/or the failure to terminate pain plasticity induced by the original inciting injury. This conceptual framework is consistent with neuroimaging evidence of structural and functional neuroplasticity associated with chronic pain, as well as the large body of clinical and experimental evidence demonstrating anatomical and physiologic overlap with learning and memory. In this context, chronic pain can be conceptualized as the consequence of plastic changes in limbic-cortical circuitry, leading to new learning and reinforced maladaptive plasticity analogous to memory mechanisms that cannot be extinguished due to emotional associations with painful stimuli. Further studies



- Il dolore cronico è associato ad una riorganizzazione globale dell'attività
- Anomalo stato del network
- Maggiore è la disregolazione maggiore è l'intensità riportata
- Il sistema mesocortico-limbico è un po' il fulcro di entrambi i processi
- Il dolore cronico è potenziato dall'inabilità della memoria di estinguere il corrispettivo ricordo





With accumulating evidence suggesting the implication of mesocorticolimbic influences in chronic pain, it is now necessary to evaluate how targeting these mechanisms fares, against more peripherally centered treatment options. Can we reduce, revert, or impede chronic pain by tapping into this system?



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# Ma quanto è accurata la memoria del dolore?



L'abilità di ricordare coinvolge 3 processi fondamentali:

- La codifica
- Lo «storaggio»
- Il recupero (accesso alle informazioni)

# Ma quanto è accurata la memoria del dolore?



## 4.1.3. Memory bias in CP patients: the mood-congruity effect

The *mood-congruity effect* refers to the tendency of individuals to learn or recall information more easily when it has the same emotional content as their current emotional state (Drace, 2013). Bower's (1981) associative network theory provides an attractive explanation for the mood congruity effect on memory. According to this theory, each emotion forms a central node which is integrated into memory net.

painful episodes (Mansour et al., 2014). The inability to extinguish this painful memory trace could explain the chronic persistence of pain even when the original injury has disappeared.

# Ma quanto è accurata la memoria del dolore?

Progress in Neuropsychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry 87 (2018) 183–192

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Progress in Neuropsychopharmacology  
& Biological Psychiatry**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pnp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pnp)

**A comprehensive literature review of chronic pain and memory**

Stéphanie Mazza<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Maud Frot<sup>b</sup>, Amandine E. Rey<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Laboratoire d'Étude des Mécanismes Cognitifs, Équipe d'Accueil 3082, Université Lyon 2, France  
<sup>b</sup> Central Integration of Pain, Lyon Center for Neuroscience, INSERM U1028, CNRS UMR5292, Claude Bernard University, Lyon, France

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subjects. Several authors have suggested that CP could be a maladaptive consequence of memory mechanisms. The long-lasting presence of pain continuously reinforces aversive emotional associations with incidental events. The inability to extinguish this painful memory trace could explain the chronic persistence of pain even when the original injury has disappeared. A major concern is the need to extricate pain-related cognitive effects from those



PAIN 01614

## Clinical Section

### Review Article

#### Memory for pain: a review

Aleda Erskine <sup>a</sup>, Stephen Morley <sup>b</sup> and Shirley Pearce <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Clinical Psychology, Whittington Hospital, Highgate Hill, London N19 (U.K.), <sup>b</sup> Department of Psychiatry, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT (U.K.), and <sup>c</sup> Department of Psychology, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT (U.K.)

(Received 11 August 1989, revision received 17 January 1990, accepted 28 January 1990)

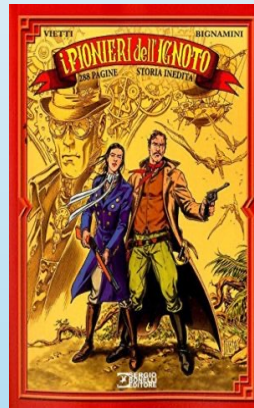
- Pain distress agisce direttamente sulla memoria (ruolo fondamentale delle emozioni)
- Psicologia della Memoria



**FUTURE  
RICERCHE**

Jones (Psicoanalista) 1957

- Esperienze passate elicitano risposte più elevate a stimoli correnti



Merskey 1975.

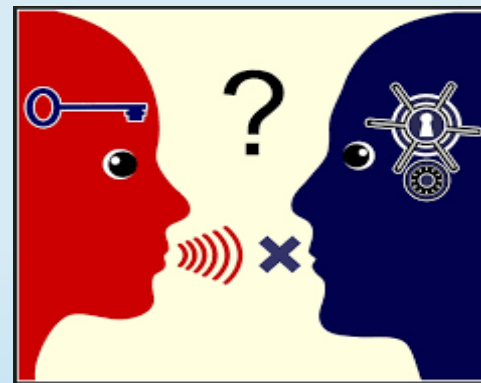
- Episodi dolorosi sono «storati» come tracce mnemoniche che si riattivano con nuovi processi fisici e/o emozionali

# CAMBIARE LINGUAGGIO

- *Modello biopsicosociale*
- *Riempire la distanza tra segno e significato*
- *Multidisciplinarietà*
- *Multimodalità*
- *Relazione come momento di cura*



## Formazione





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*Dubium sapientiae initium*

# Grazie

«Noi siamo all'alba di una nuova rivelazione, di un nuovo risveglio. Ma ciò che abbiamo realizzato fin qui, se vogliamo prender parte alla battaglia e vincere, va moltiplicato per migliaia di volte»

*Ansel Adams*

