

# Precision Psychiatry, A Vision for the Future

Joshua A. Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, NIMH

Massachusetts General Hospital  
First Annual Conference on  
Precision Psychiatry  
October 1, 2021



Follow me on Twitter: @NIMHDirector



National Institute  
of Mental Health

# Agenda

---

- Re-examining Our Frameworks
- A Framework for the Future
- How Can We Get There?

# Agenda

---

- Re-examining Our Frameworks
  - Theory-Driven vs Data-Driven
  - Diagnoses → Symptoms
- A Framework for the Future
- How Can We Get There?

# Data-Driven Approaches to Precision Psychiatry

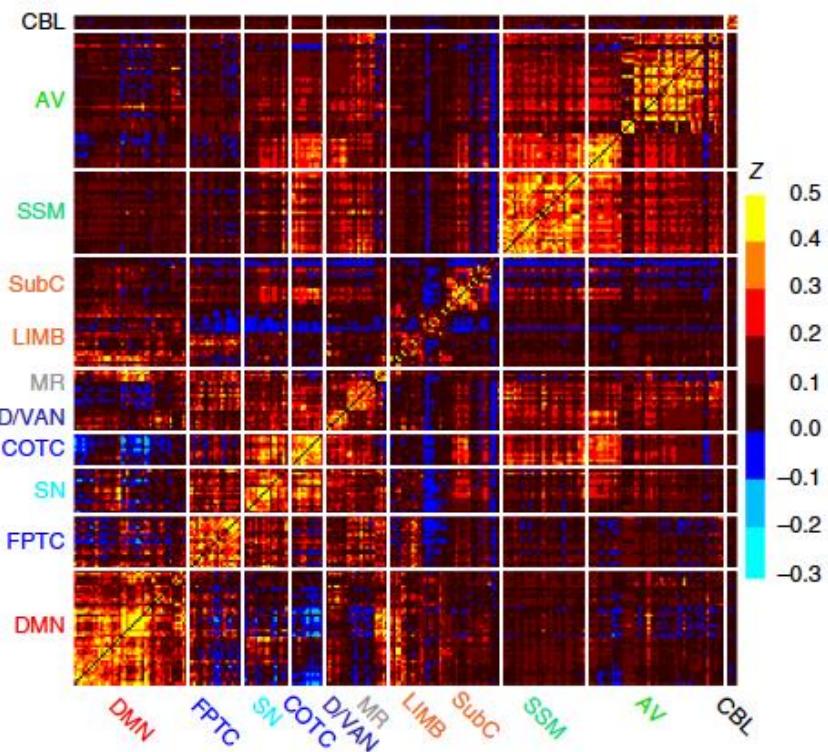
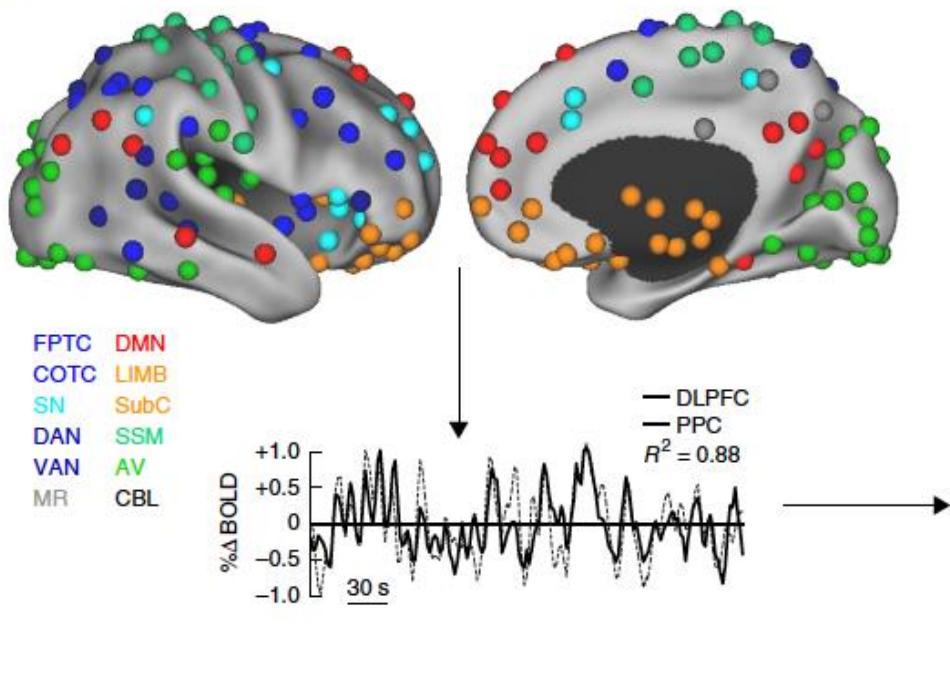


2017

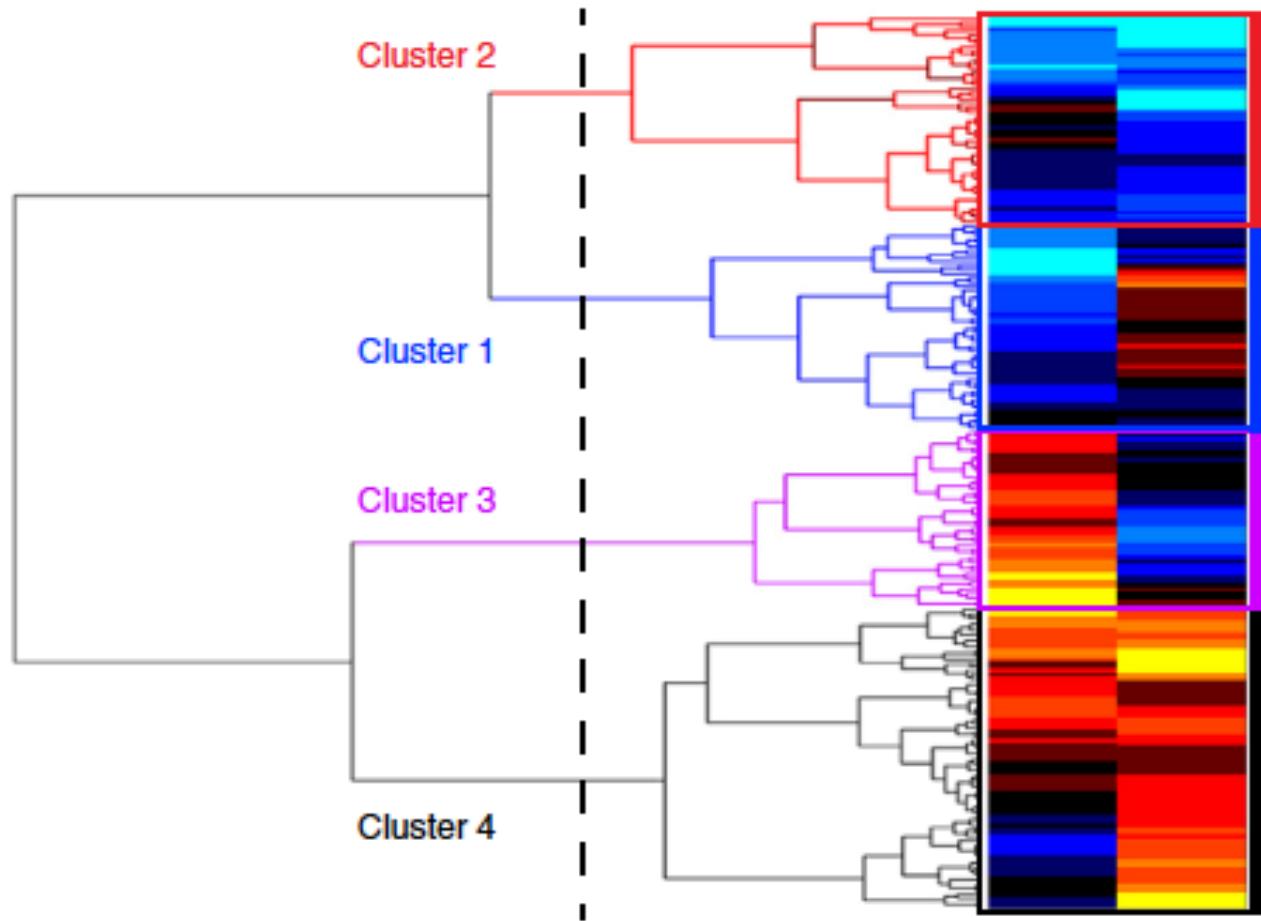
## Resting-state connectivity biomarkers define neurophysiological subtypes of depression

Andrew T Drysdale<sup>1-3</sup>, Logan Grosenick<sup>4,5</sup>, Jonathan Downar<sup>6</sup>, Katharine Dunlop<sup>6</sup>, Farrokh Mansouri<sup>6</sup>, Yue Meng<sup>1</sup>, Robert N Fethko<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Zebley<sup>7</sup>, Desmond J Oathes<sup>8</sup>, Amit Etkin<sup>9,10</sup>, Alan F Schatzberg<sup>9</sup>, Keith Sudheimer<sup>9</sup>, Jennifer Keller<sup>9</sup>, Helen S Mayberg<sup>11</sup>, Faith M Gunning<sup>2,12</sup>, George S Alexopoulos<sup>2,12</sup>, Michael D Fox<sup>13</sup>, Alvaro Pascual-Leone<sup>13</sup>, Henning U Voss<sup>14</sup>, BJ Casey<sup>15</sup>, Marc J Dubin<sup>1,2</sup> & Conor Liston<sup>1-3</sup>

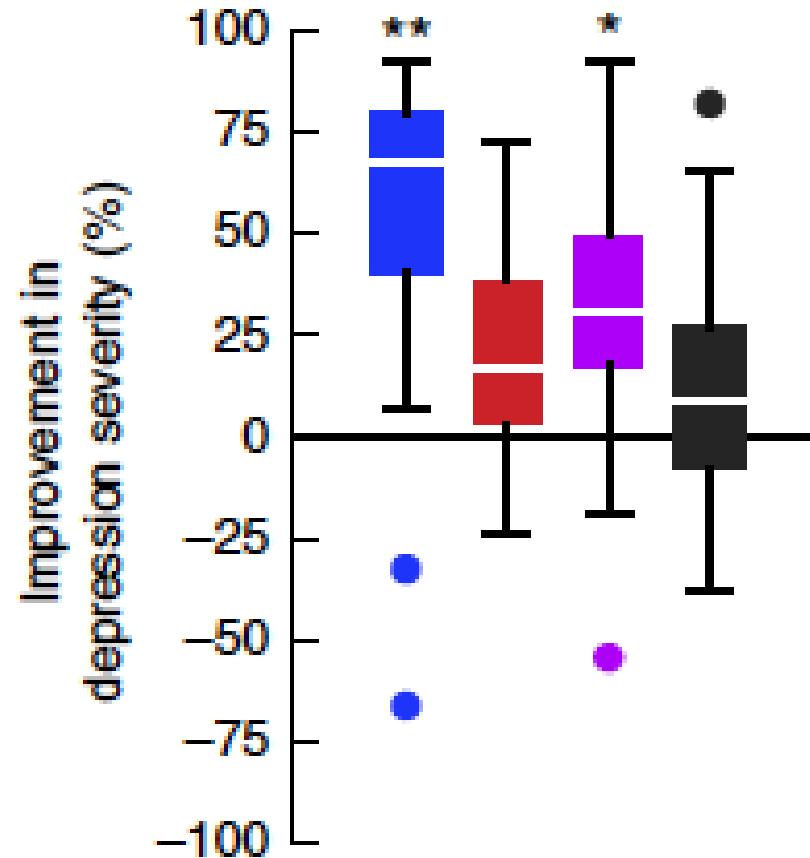
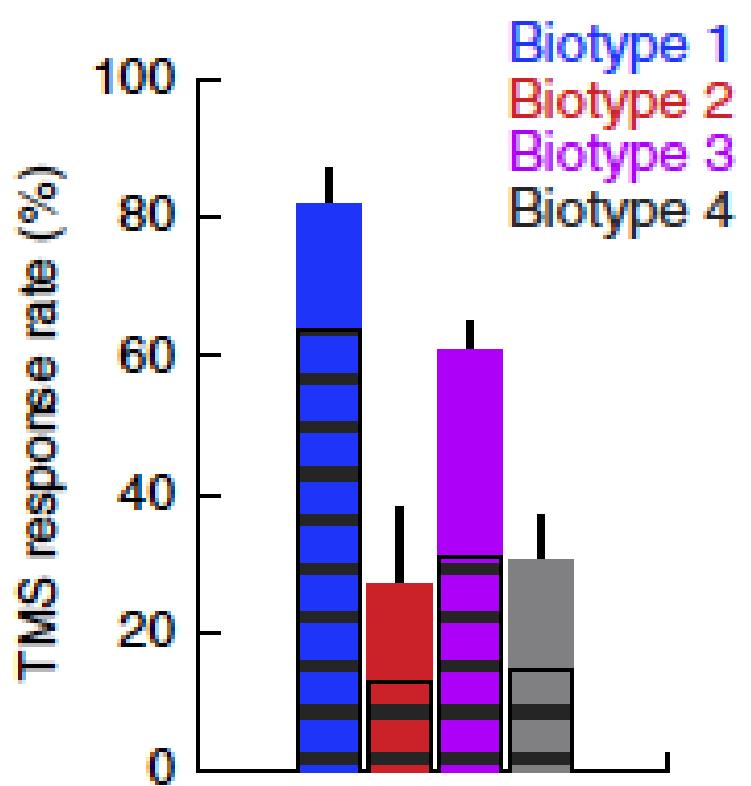
# Patterns of Resting State Connectivity



# Clustering Patients Based on Connectivity



# Subtypes Differ in Responsivity to Prefrontal Cortex Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation



# Theory-Driven Approaches to Clinical Psychiatry

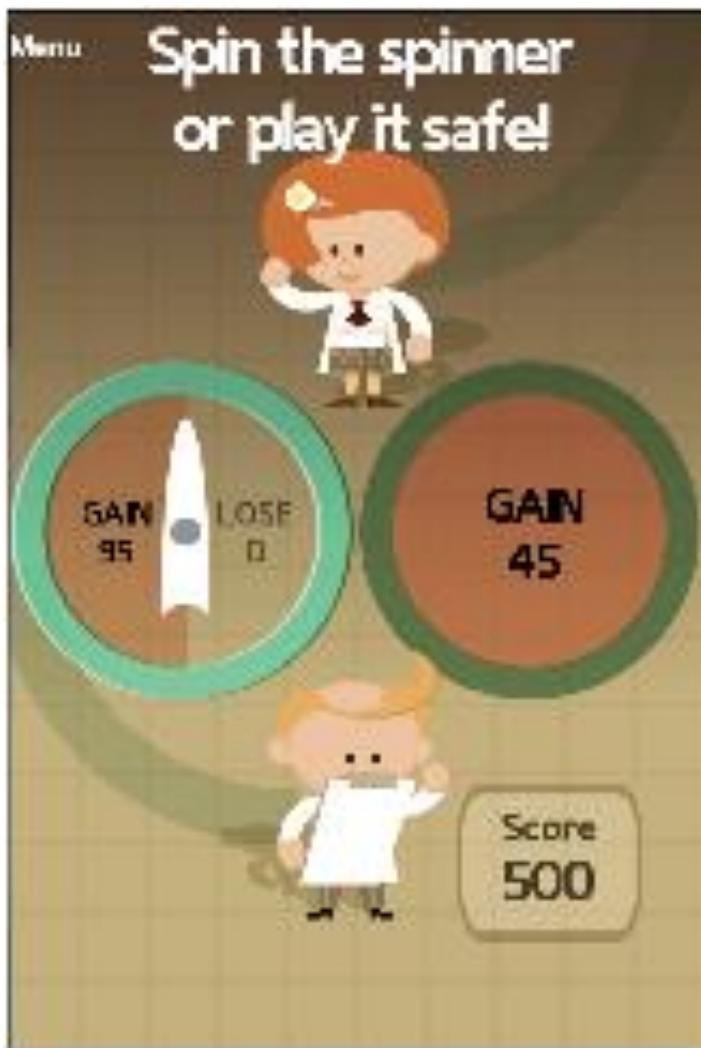
2017

JAMA Psychiatry | Original Investigation

## Association of Neural and Emotional Impacts of Reward Prediction Errors With Major Depression

Robb B. Rutledge, PhD; Michael Moutoussis, PhD; Peter Smittenaar, PhD; Peter Zeidman, PhD; Tanja Taylor, PhD; Louise Hrynkiewicz, BSc; Jordan Lam, BSc; Nikolina Skandali, MSc; Jenifer Z. Siegel, MSc; Olga T. Ousdal, MD, PhD; Gita Prabhu, PhD; Peter Dayan, PhD; Peter Fonagy, PhD; Raymond J. Dolan, FRS, MD

# Breaking Down Behavior

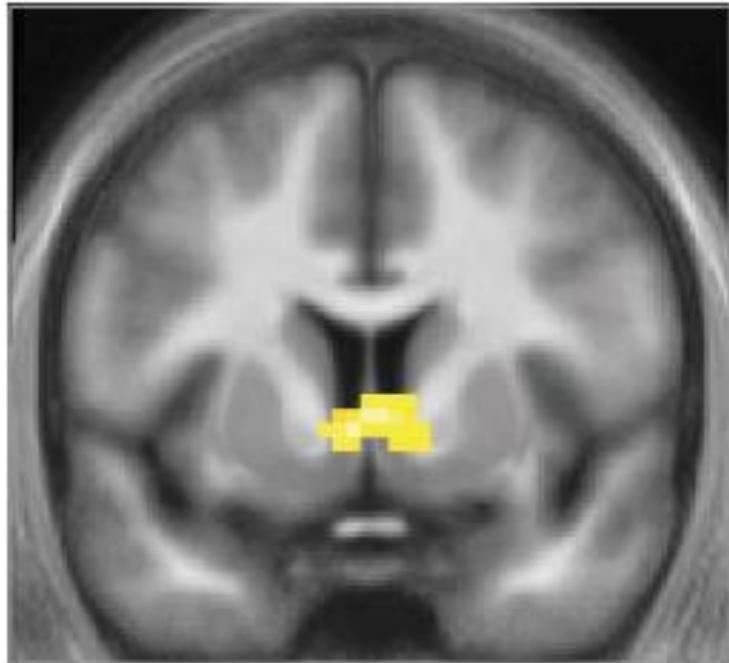


$$\text{Happiness}(t) = w_0 + w_1 \sum_{j=1}^t \gamma^{t-j} CR_j + w_2 \sum_{j=1}^t \gamma^{t-j} EV_j + w_3 \sum_{j=1}^t \gamma^{t-j} RPE_j$$

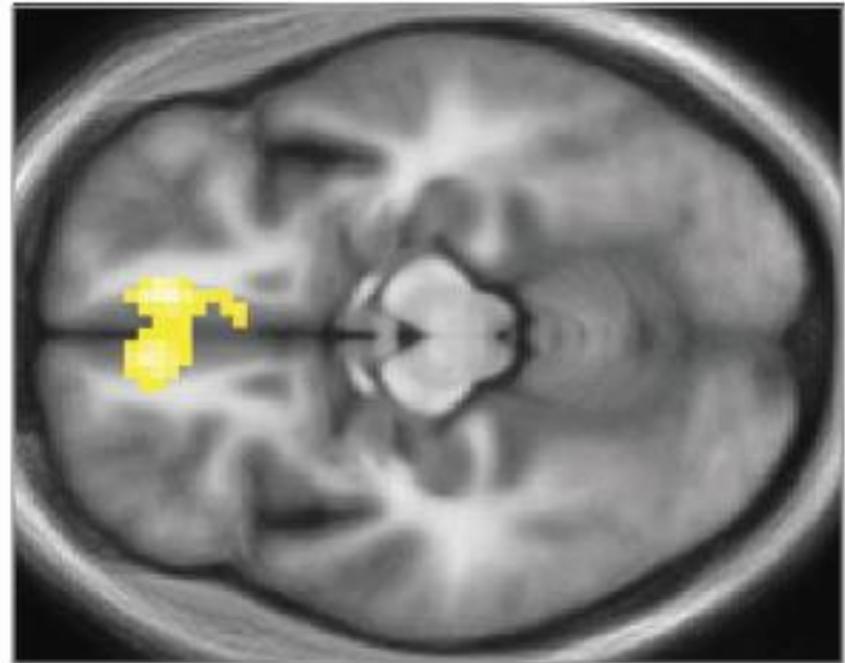
- baseline happiness
- past rewards
- expected values
- reward prediction error

# Breaking Down Behavior

Reward Prediction Error



ventral striatum



medial prefrontal cortex

# Science Highlight

The American Journal of  
**Psychiatry**

2018

## **Reward Processing in Depression: A Conceptual and Meta-Analytic Review Across fMRI and EEG Studies**

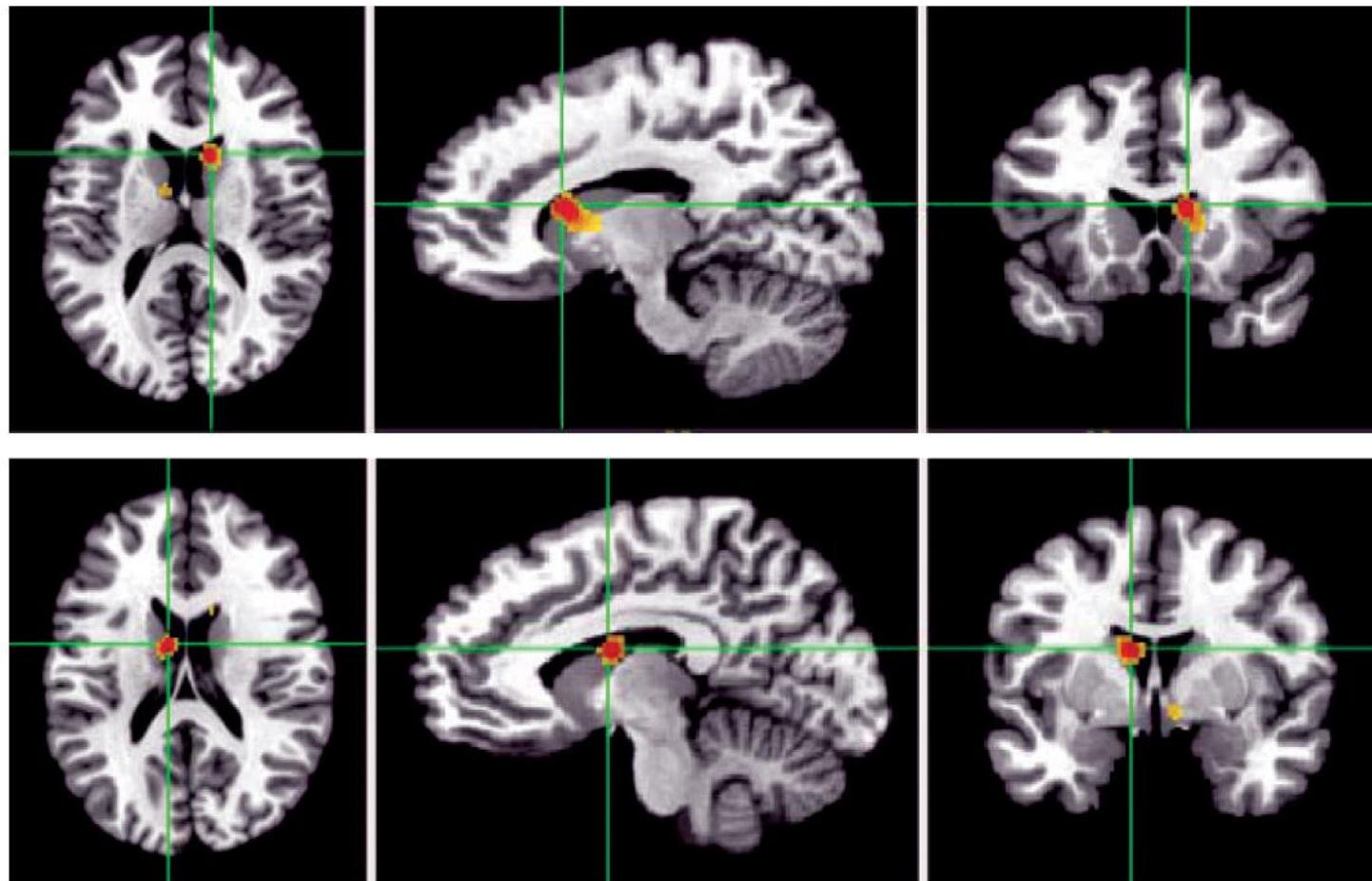
Hanna Keren✉, Ph.D., Georgia O'Callaghan, Ph.D., Pablo Vidal-Ribas, M.Sc., George A. Buzzell, Ph.D., Melissa A. Brotman, Ph.D., Ellen Leibenluft, M.D., Pedro M. Pan, M.D., Ph.D., Liana Meffert, B.Sc., Ariela Kaiser, B.A., Selina Wolke, M.Sc., Daniel S. Pine, M.D., Argyris Stringaris, M.D., Ph.D.

Show Fewer Authors

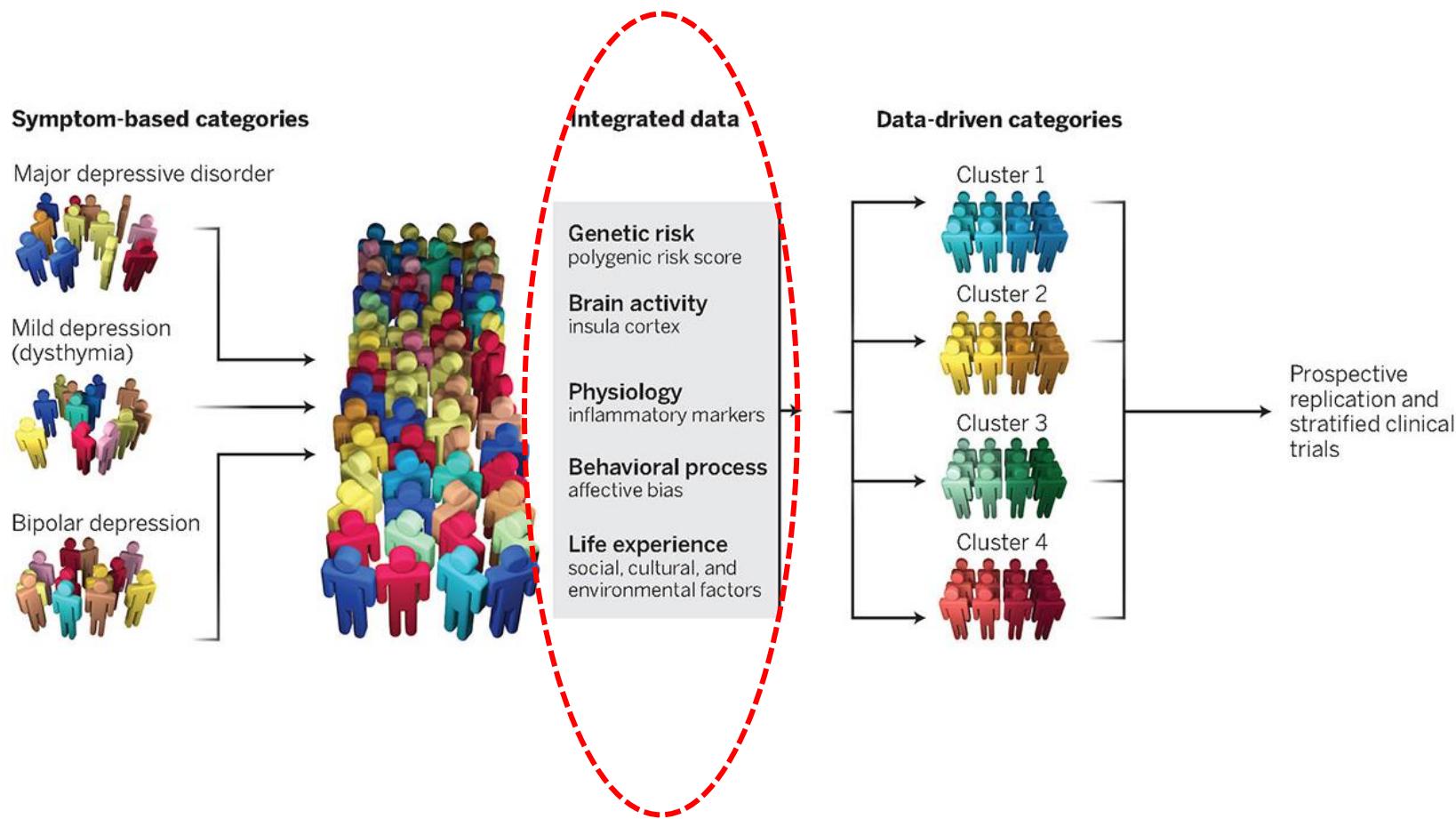


**Published Online:** 20 Jun 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2018.17101124>

# Reward Processing in Depression



# Combining Theory- and Data-Driven Approaches



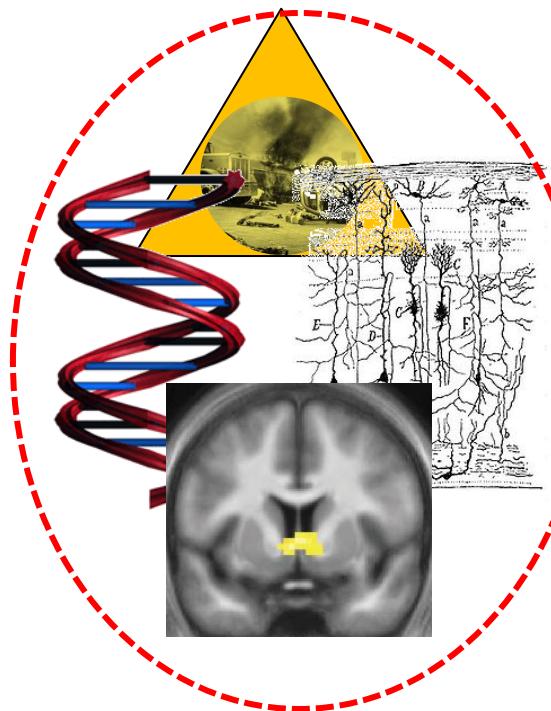
# Agenda

---

- Re-examining Our Frameworks
  - Theory-Driven vs Data-Driven
  - Diagnoses → Symptoms
- A Framework for the Future
- How Can We Get There?

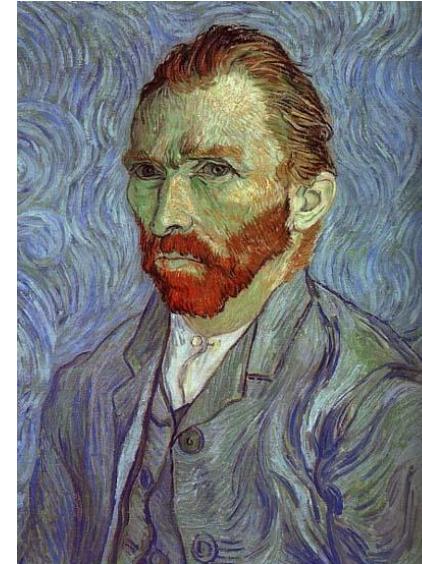
# Traditional Diagnostic Framework

Disease



Depression

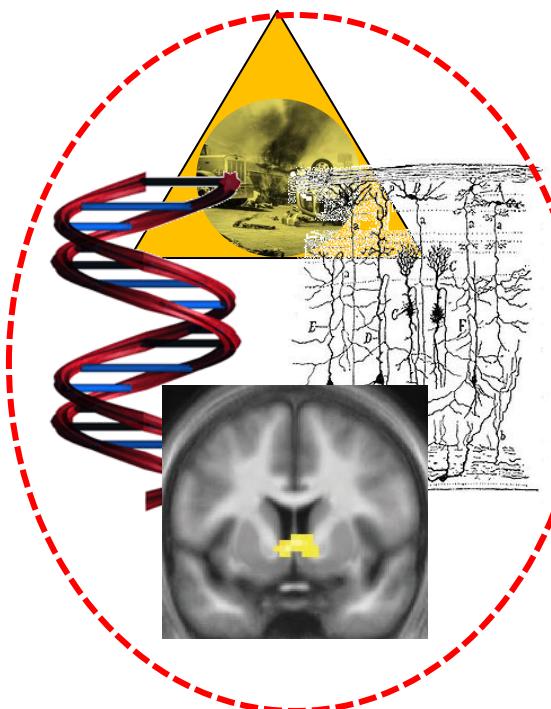
Symptoms



Mood, Energy,  
Concentration, etc.

# Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) Framework

Disease

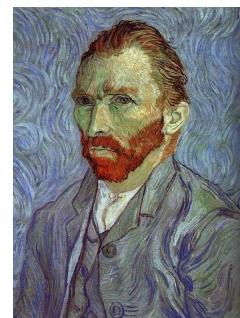


Depression

Transdiagnostic  
Phenotypes

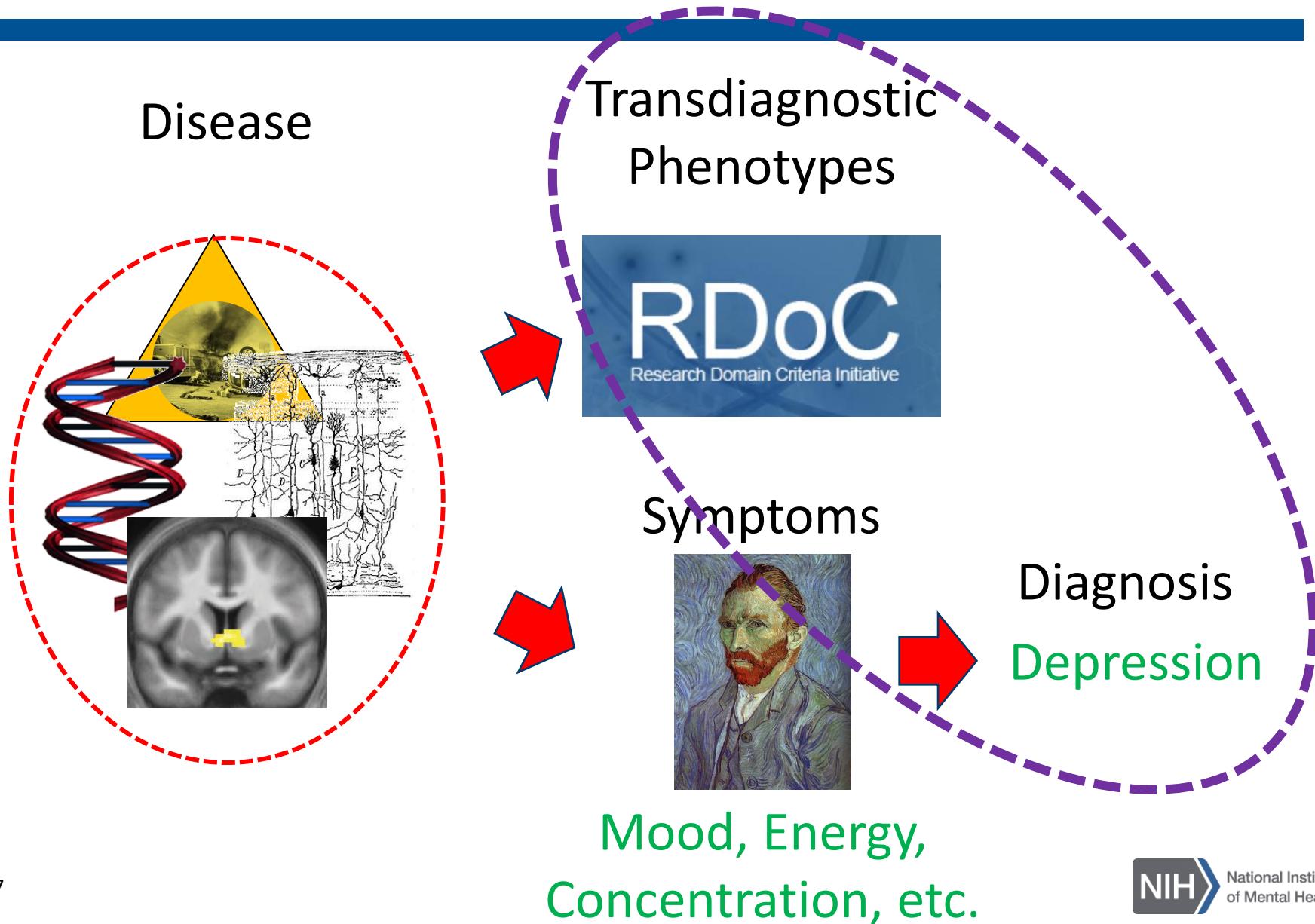


Symptoms



Mood, Energy,  
Concentration, etc.

# Diagnosis as Outcome

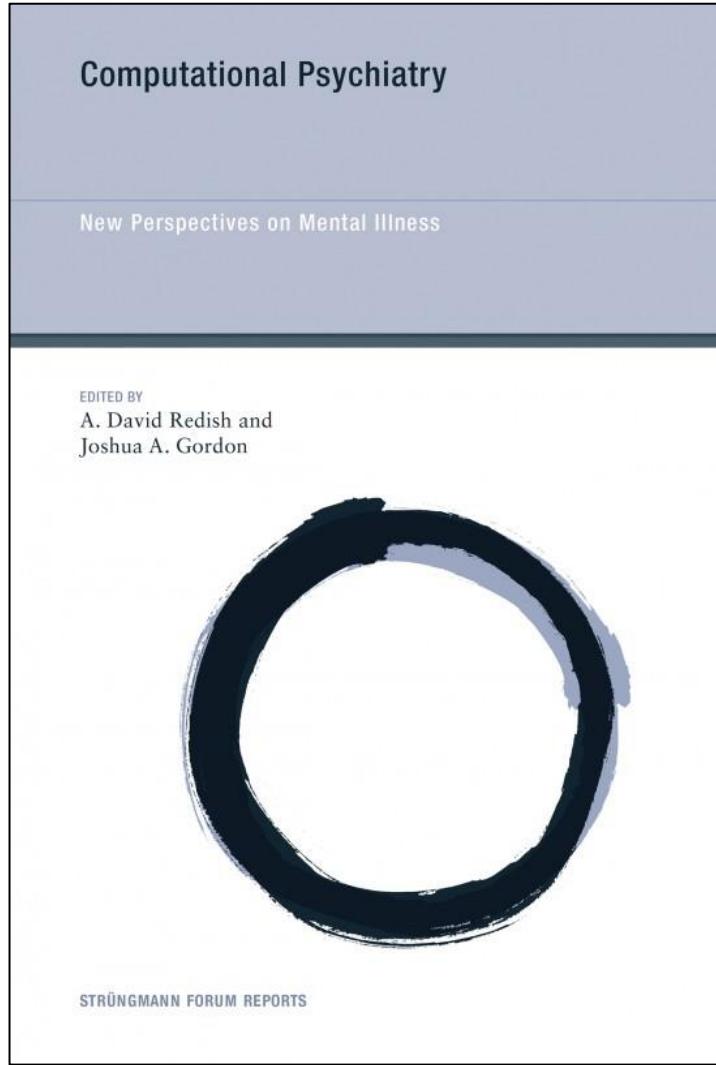


# Agenda

---

- Re-examining Our Frameworks
- A Framework for the Future
- How Can We Get There?

# A Bayesian Approach To Precision Psychiatry

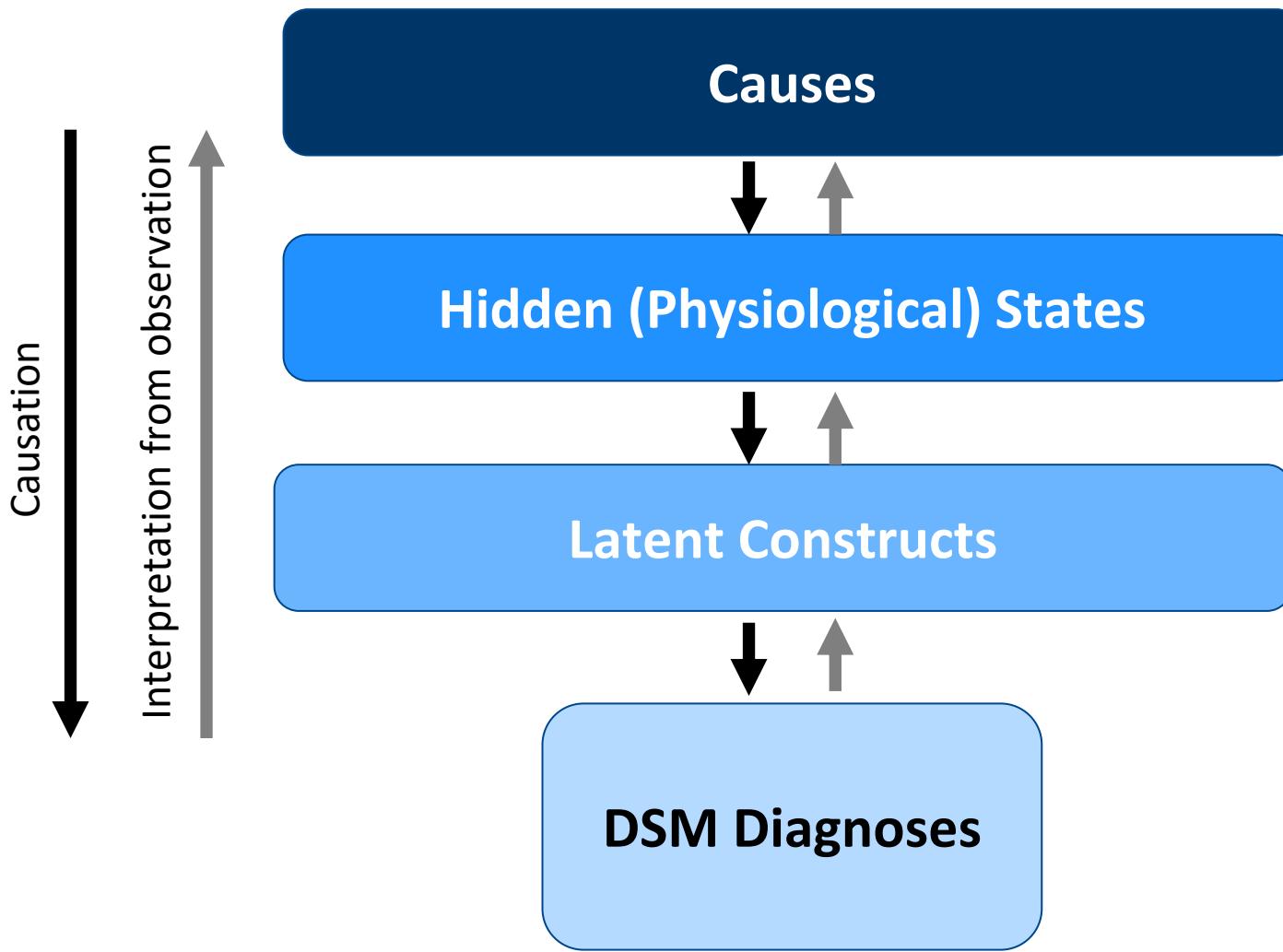


10

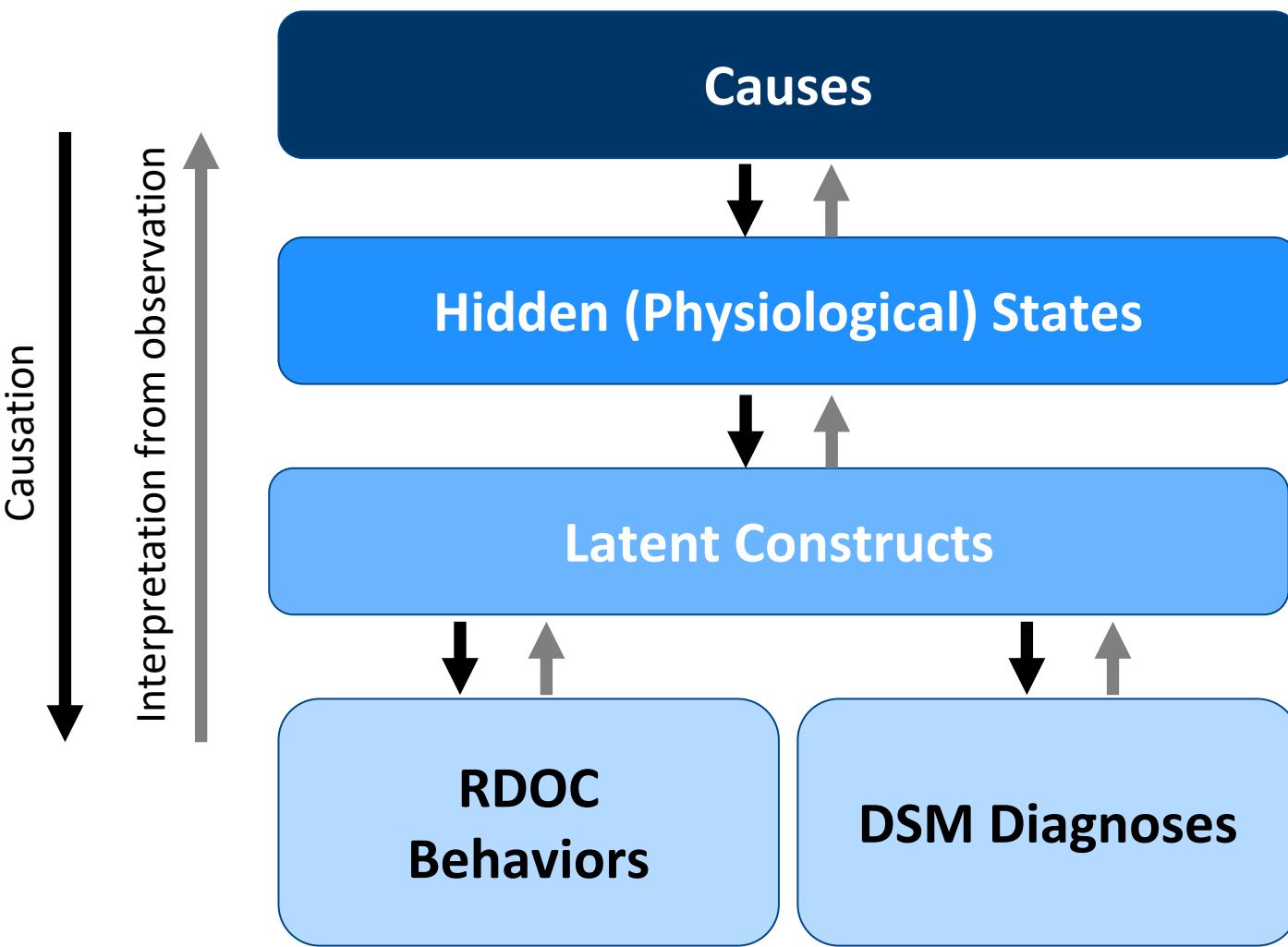
## A Novel Framework for Improving Psychiatric Diagnostic Nosology

Shelly B. Flagel, Daniel S. Pine, Susanne E. Ahmari,  
Michael B. First, Karl J. Friston,  
Christoph Mathys, A. David Redish,  
Katharina Schmack, Jordan W. Smoller,  
and Anita Thapar

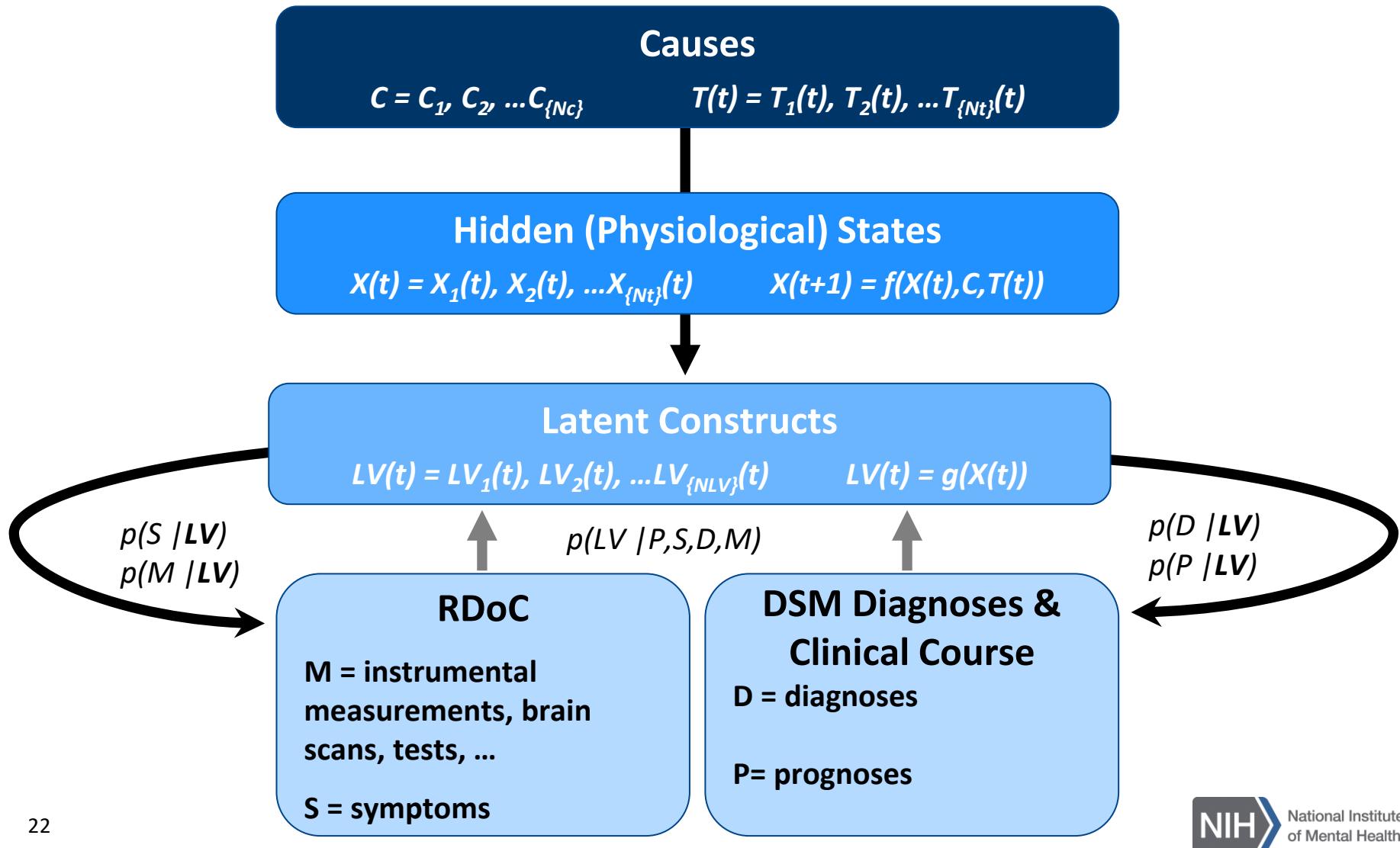
# Diagnoses as Observations



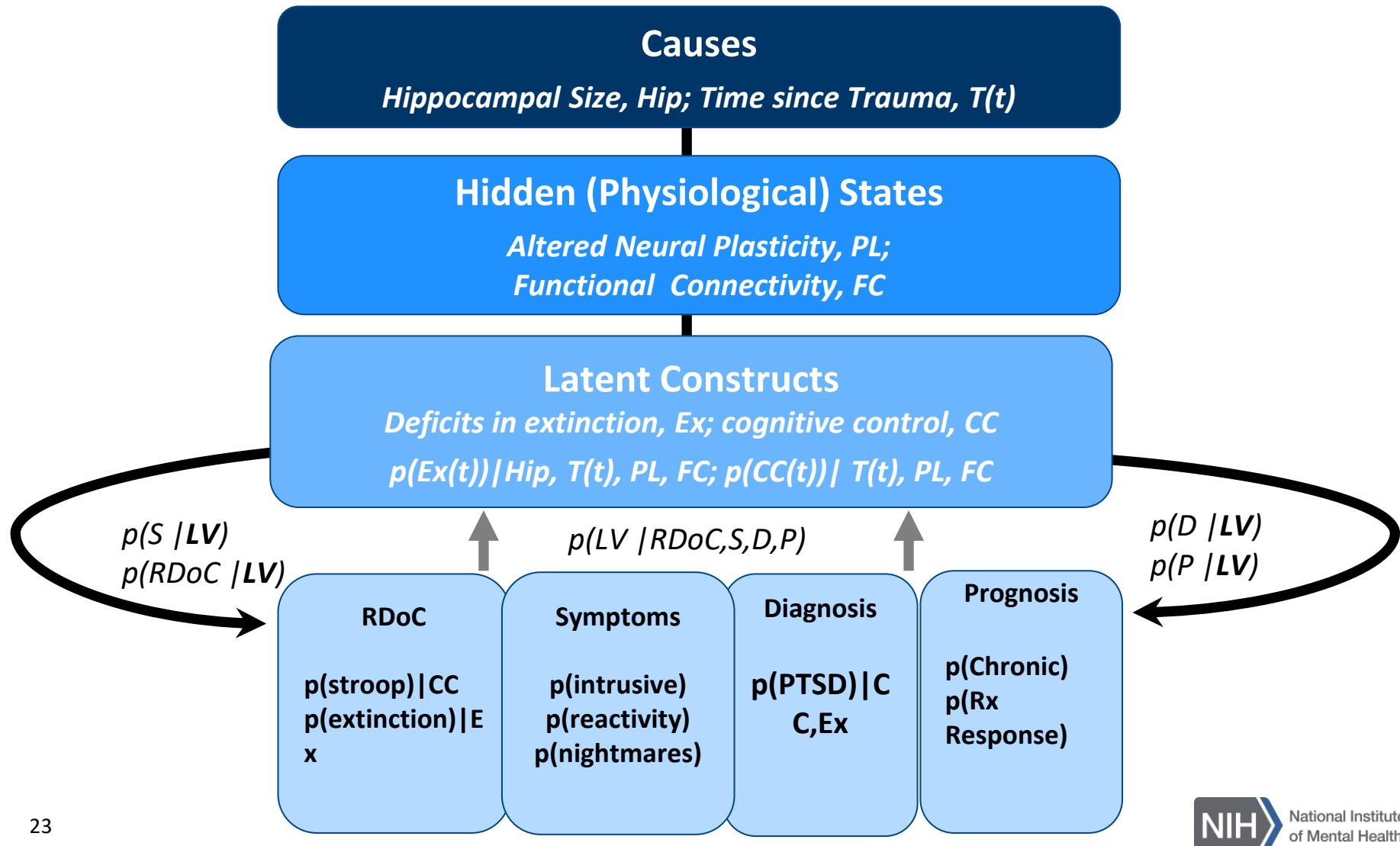
# Integrating RDoC



# Bayesian Approach



# Example: Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

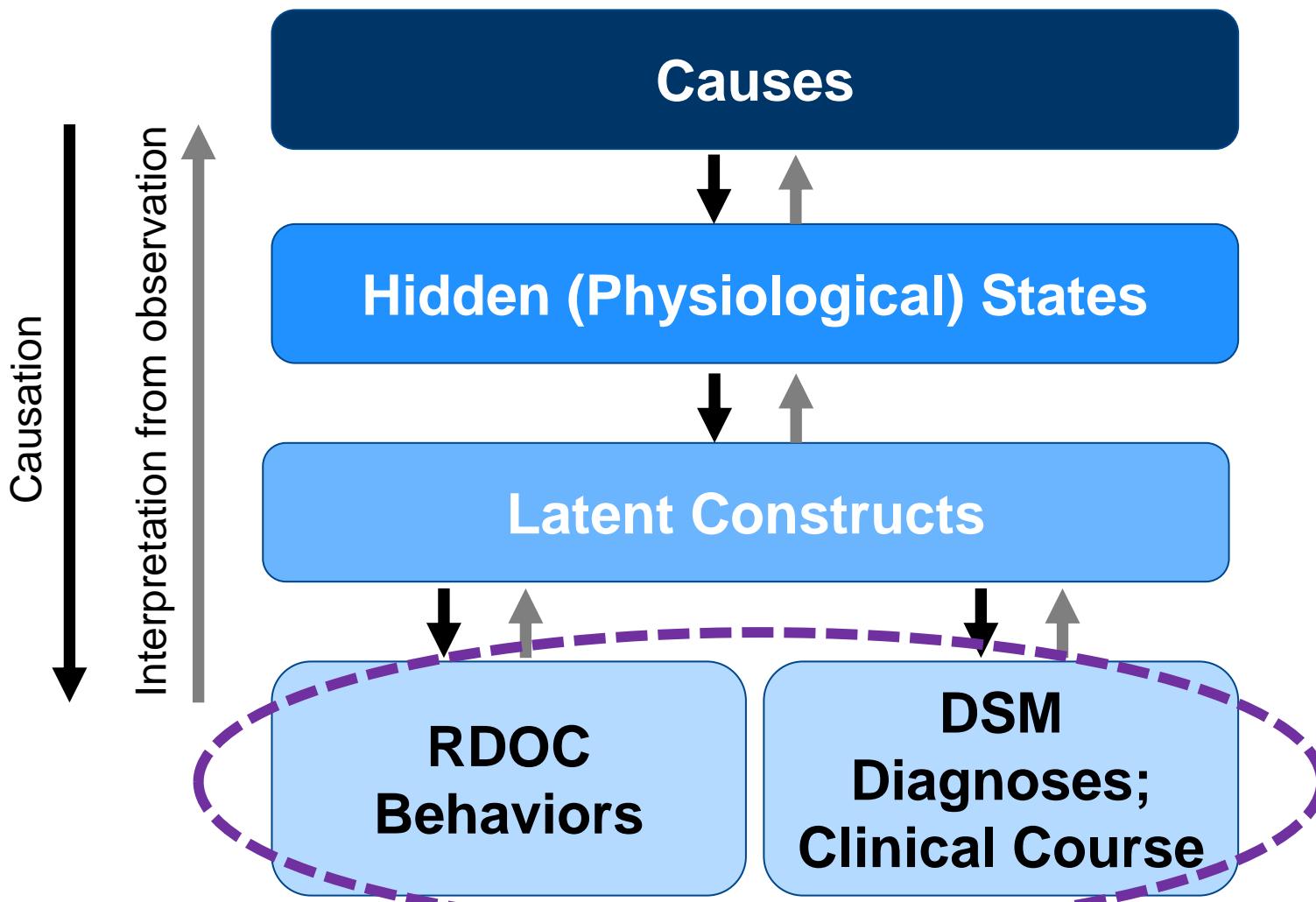


# Agenda

---

- Re-examining Our Frameworks
- A Framework for the Future
- How Can We Get There?

# Integrating RDoC

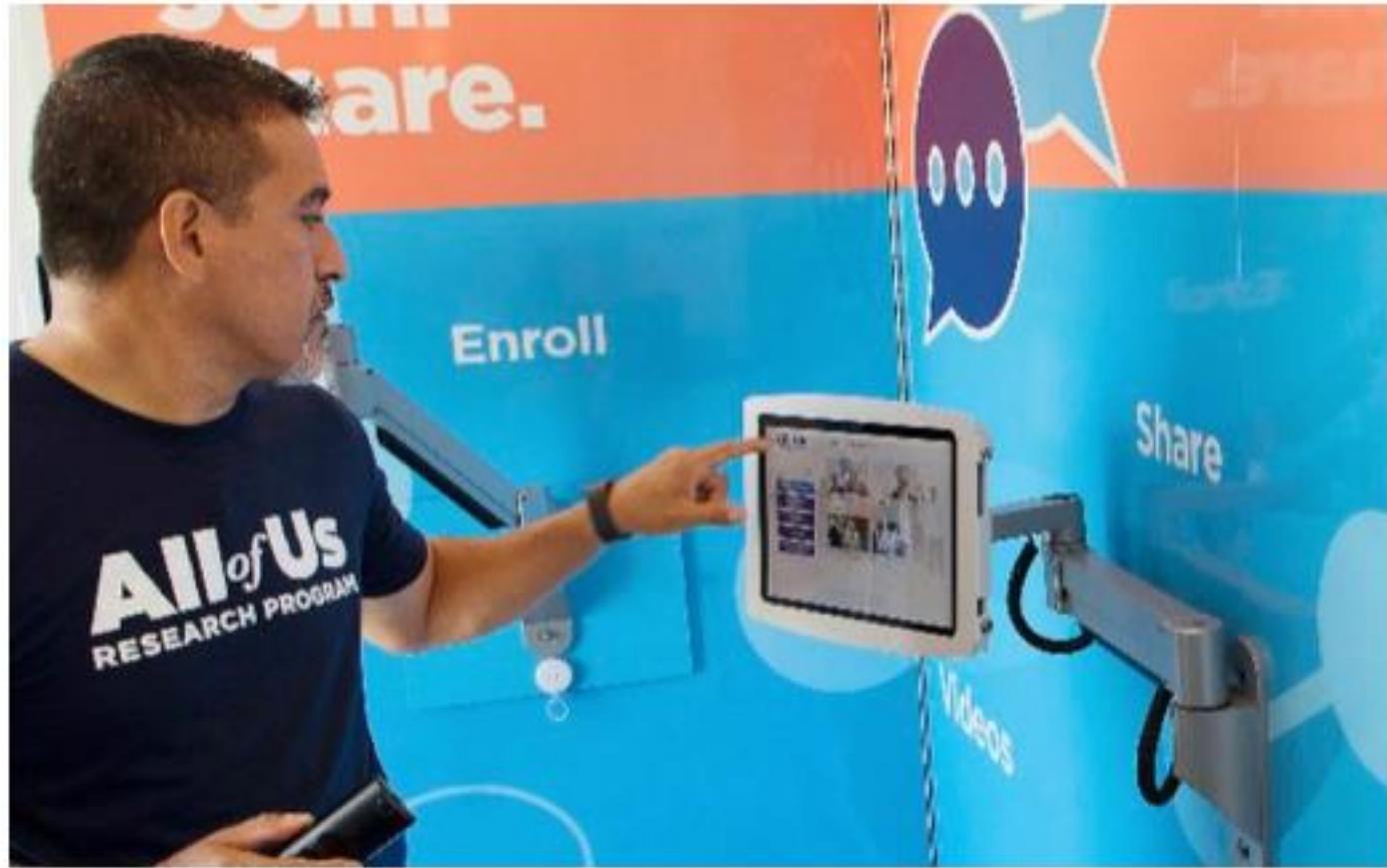


# *All of Us*

- The NIH *All of Us* Research Program is an historic effort to advance precision medicine by collecting and studying data from **one million or more people** living in the United States



# NIMH and *All of Us*: New Tasks and Measures



# NIMH and *All of Us*: New Tasks and Measures

---

- The *All of Us* cohort provides a variety of other data (genetics, health records, scores on self-report measures) that could be **combined with behavioral tasks** to assess the utility of psychological constructs
- In line with this goal, NIMH is collaborating with *All of Us* to develop and deploy behavioral tasks focused on:
  - emotion identification;
  - sustained attention;
  - reward responsiveness/reward learning;
  - risky decision-making; and,
  - response inhibition

# NIMH and *All of Us*: Advancing Computational Psychiatry

---

- **Data-driven Validation:** Test the relationships between and within RDoC domains/constructs
- **Theory-driven Computational Phenotypes:** Develop parameterized, mathematically formalized behavioral descriptions and associated tests and measures

# NIMH and *All of Us*: Validating Constructs

---

- The *All of Us* cohort enables **testing and validating psychological constructs** with very large samples
- In line with this goal, NIMH has launched several funding opportunities, focused on:
  - using computational approaches to test the validity of constructs in the NIMH Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) matrix ([PAR-21-263](#))
  - applying computational approaches to develop behavioral assays across mental-health relevant domains of function ([PAR-21-264](#))
  - developing and optimizing tasks and measures for constructs pertaining to functional aspects of behavior or cognitive/affective processes ([PAR-18-930](#))

# NIMH Vision and Mission

## VISION

NIMH envisions a world in which mental illnesses are prevented and cured.

## MISSION

To transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through basic and clinical research, paving the way for prevention, recovery, and cure.

# Questions

---

