

STELLINGEN

DOPAMINE RECEPTOR EXPRESSION AND FUNCTION IN THE NORMAL AND PATHOLOGICAL HYPOTHALAMUS-PITUITARY-ADRENAL AXIS

1. The dopaminergic system plays a pivotal physiological role in the regulation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis (present thesis)
2. Medical treatment with the dopamine agonist cabergoline can be considered a useful tool in the management of Cushing's disease (present thesis)
3. Corticotroph tumors deriving from the *pars intermedia* of the pituitary gland express the highest number of dopamine D₂ receptors and demonstrate the greatest response to short-term treatment with dopamine D₂ receptor agonists (present thesis).
4. In order to predict the long-term response to dopamine agonists in Cushing's disease, the pattern of expression of dopamine receptor subtypes and dopamine D₂ receptor isoforms is more important than the number of D₂ receptors (present thesis)
5. The combined use of dopamine agonists and somatostatin analogues, or of somatostatin and dopamine chimeric compounds, might be useful in the treatment of neuroendocrine tumors associated with ectopic Cushing's syndrome (present thesis)
6. Confidence, like art, never comes from having all the answers; it comes from being open to all the questions. (Earl Gray Stevens)
7. Our brain...does not appear to be built for discovering the ultimate causes of things, but rather for determining their immediate causes and invariant relationship....Having been granted the immense advantage of participating in the unfolding of our world, and modifying it to life's advantage, we may proceed quite nicely without knowing the essence of things (Santiago Ramon y Cajal).
8. The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science (Albert Einstein).
9. Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart).
10. The life of every man is a road in the direction of himself, the attempt of a track, the hint of a path (Hermann Hesse)
11. Take your time, think a lot, think to everything you have got 'cause you will still be here tomorrow but your dreams may not (Cat Stevens).

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