



REVIEW ARTICLE OPEN

G protein-coupled receptors in neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatric disorders

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Neuropsychiatric disorders are multifactorial disorders with diverse aetiological factors. Identifying treatment targets is challenging because the diseases are resulting from heterogeneous biological, genetic, and environmental factors. Nevertheless, the increasing understanding of G protein-coupled receptor (GPCR) opens a new possibility in drug discovery. Harnessing our knowledge of molecular mechanisms and structural information of GPCRs will be advantageous for developing effective drugs. This review provides an overview of the role of GPCRs in various neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases. Besides, we highlight the emerging opportunities of novel GPCR targets and address recent progress in GPCR drug development.

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INTRODUCTION

The nervous system employs membrane receptors to detect extracellular stimuli and transmit signals across the cell membrane. As the largest membrane protein family, G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) allow the nervous system to respond accurately to external stimuli and internal states. GPCRs are structurally similar transmembrane proteins containing seven transmembrane (TM) α -helices linked by three extracellular loops and three intracellular loops.¹ The unique ligand binding pockets formed by the 7TM regions allow the receptor to engage with various stimuli, including neurotransmitters, nucleotides, amines, peptides, cytokines, and hormones in the extracellular environment (Fig. 1).² Through expressing GPCRs with different ligand-recognizing abilities, the nervous system could filter and select particular signals to respond.³ Furthermore, the intrinsic ligand selectivity of neuronal GPCRs allows crosstalk and proper integration between signal transduction pathways. GPCRs drive signal transduction via two major modulators: heterotrimeric G protein and arrestins. Characterizing the physiological functions of GPCRs in the nervous system and pathological mechanisms in disease models could accelerate GPCR-targeted drug development.

The progressive dysfunction of neural tissues in the central and peripheral nervous systems is the hallmark feature of neurodegenerative diseases. Neurodegenerative diseases are increasing in the elderly population.⁴ It is estimated that neurodegenerative diseases affect over 50 million people across the globe.⁵ Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, and Multiple sclerosis are representative examples. Currently, there is no effective cure. The pathogenesis and underlying mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases remain poorly

understood. At present, symptom control is the primary treatment objective.⁶ It is estimated that neurodegenerative diseases will become the second most common cause of death.⁷

Alzheimer's disease and dementias are in the top-ten ranking leading cause of death globally.⁸ Deposition of the insoluble and phosphorylated β -amyloid peptide (derived from amyloid precursor protein) in the brain parenchyma of Alzheimer's disease patients affects functions/regeneration of various forms of neurons.⁹ The resulting widespread neuron damage affects synaptic communication leading to cognitive deficits, regional brain shrinkage, and brain atrophy;¹⁰ Huntington's disease could appear in childhood or adolescence. Aberrant expansion of DNA segment containing CAG trinucleotide repeats in the huntingtin gene is a hallmark feature.¹¹ Large CAG repeat is associated with early symptoms manifestation.¹² Symptoms include poor coordination, chorea (involuntary dance-like movements), slow movement, seizures, and slurred speech; Parkinson's disease affects motion control. Rigidity, tremor, and slow movement (bradykinesia) are frequently observed. Risk factors include genetic polymorphism, chronic inflammation, and metabolic disorders.¹³ Multiple sclerosis is a relapsing-remitting disease caused by an autoimmune attack in the central nervous system. Damage of myelin sheath in multiple areas by immune cells causes cognitive impairment, fatigue, muscle weakness, tremor, and vision problems.¹⁴

Brain disorders are frequently associated with mental/psychiatric illnesses.¹⁵ Mental illness is burdening the healthcare system with enormous unmet medical needs.^{16,17} Serious mental illness is closely linked to reduced life expectancy due to a higher risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.¹⁸ Common mental illnesses include anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and schizophrenia. Both children

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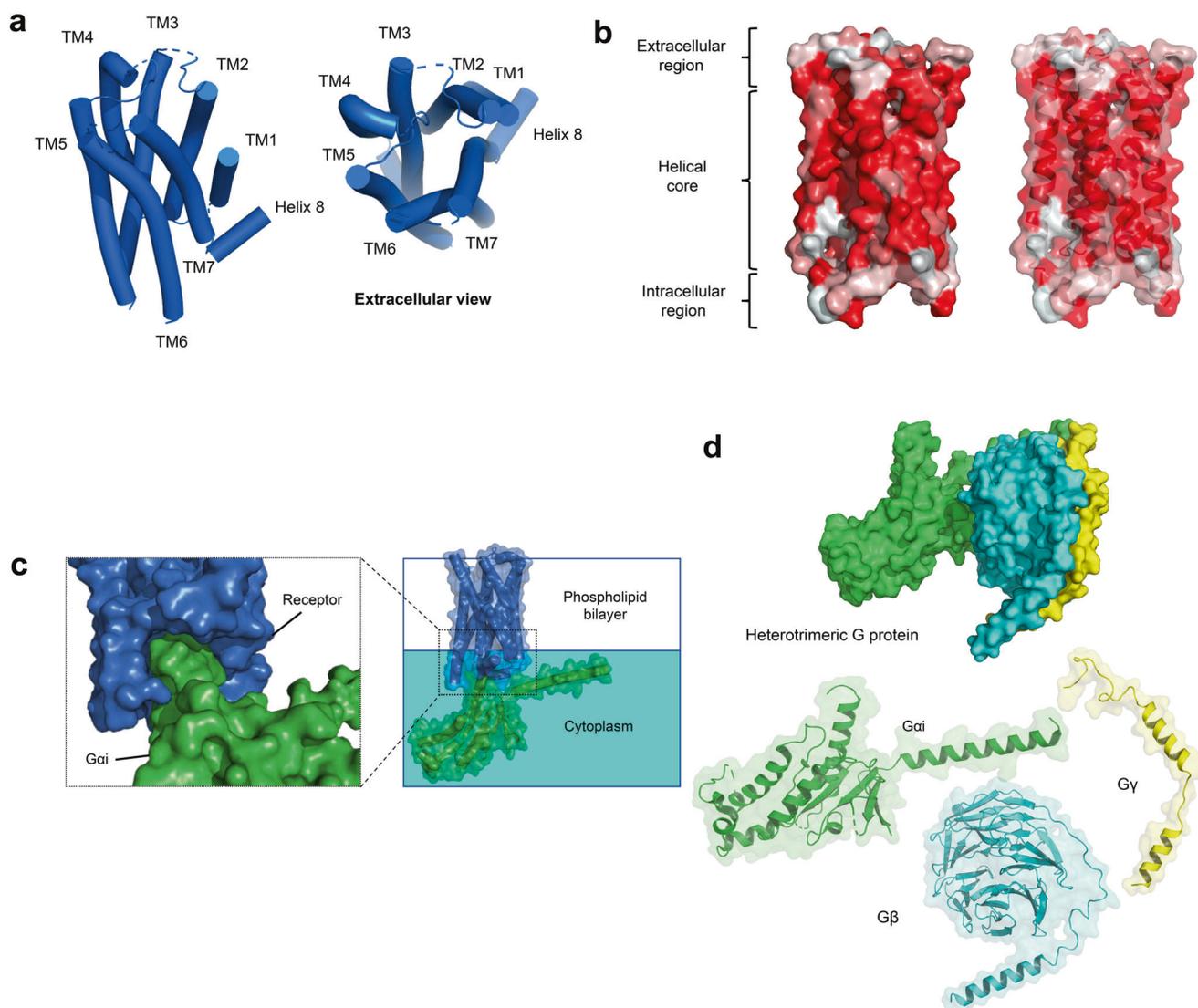


Fig. 1 Structure features of active GPCR. **a** Orthosteric pocket forms by the helical core of 5-HT_{2A} receptor (marine blue, PDB 6WHA). **b** Solvent-accessible surface. Hydrophobic surface (red); hydrophilic surface (white). **c** Activated GPCR opens cytosolic pocket for G protein coupling. **d** Heterotrimeric G protein, Monomeric G α i, G β γ . **d** Activated 5-HT_{2A} receptor forms a cytoplasmic pocket which allows G-protein coupling

and adolescents are vulnerable to mental illnesses. Mental health condition is interlinked with physical health. The generation of suicide ideation/attempts and self-destructive thoughts are closely related to psychiatric diseases.¹⁹ Patients with degenerative diseases could also present emotional symptoms adding complexity to disease diagnosis and management. Recent studies reveal that hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and survivors display different levels of neuropsychiatric complications and the underlying mechanisms remain to be explored.²⁰

GPCRs are one of the most intensively exploited targets for drug development. Approximately 35% of the FDA-listed drugs act through GPCRs.^{21,22} With our increasing understanding of the neuronal relay functions of GPCRs in the nervous system, many GPCRs are perceived as promising druggable targets for neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases. This review summarizes the multifaceted role of GPCRs in chronic neurodegenerative conditions exemplified by Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, and Multiple sclerosis. The emerging role of GPCRs on psychiatric illnesses, including Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, Depression, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and Tourette's disorder, are discussed. We

also highlight the emerging opportunities for the previously unexplored GPCRs and provides examples of pharmaceutical development of GPCR-targeted therapeutics.

G PROTEIN-COUPLED RECEPTORS SIGNALING

Synaptic transmission can be classified into two types: fast and slow synaptic transmission.²³ In fast synapses, GPCRs such as glutamate and GABA (γ -aminobutyric acid) receptors generate membrane depolarizing signals in less than 1/1000 s. In slow synapses, biogenic amines, peptides, and amino acid receptors generate signals in hundreds of milliseconds to minutes.²³ GPCRs are structurally similar membrane proteins (Fig. 1). They elicit different intracellular signal pathways by interacting with heterotrimeric G proteins (α , β , and γ). GPCRs can be stabilized by an array of neurotransmitters and neurological modulators, including ions, hormones (peptide or non-peptide), vitamins, metabolites (ATP, fatty acids, etc.), natural products, and pharmacological ligands.²⁴ A plethora of GPCR signaling events are involved in developing neuropsychiatric disorders. Understanding the downstream signaling events of disease-associated GPCR is essential for designing efficacious therapy.

Table 1. Reported GPCR structures

Class	Receptors	Total number	PDB ID (receptor alone)	PDB ID (G protein coupled receptor)
A	ADRB3	1		7DH5
	AGTR1	6	6OS0, 6OS1, 6OS2, 6DO1, 4ZUD, 4YAY	
	AGTR2	7	7JN1, 7C6A, 6JOD, 5XJM, 5UNH, 5UNG, 5UNM	
	HTR1A	3		7E2X, 7E2Y, 7E2Z
	HTR1B	5	7C61, 5V54, 4IAR, 4IAQ	6G79
	HTR1D	1		7E32
	HTR1E	1		7E33
	HTR1F	1		7EXD
	HTR2A	13	7WC4, 7WC5, 7WC6, 7WC7, 7WC8, 7WC9, 7VOD, 7VOE, 6WGT, 6WH4, 6A94, 6A93	6WHA
	HTR2B	8	6DRY, 6DS0, 6DRZ, 6DRX, 5TUD, 5TVN, 4NC3, 4IB4	
	HTR2C	2	6BQG, 6BQH	
	ACM1	6	6ZFZ, 6ZG9, 6ZG4, 6WJC, 5CXV	6OIJ
	ACM2	10	5ZKB, 5ZKC, 5ZK3, 5ZK8, 5YC8, 4MQT, 4MQS, 3UON	6U1N, 6OIK
	ACM3	5	5ZHP, 4U14, 4U15, 4U16, 4DAJ	
	ACM4	2	6KP6, 5DSG	
	ACM5	1	6OL9	
	APJ	2	6KNM, 5VBL	
	BKRB1	1		7EIB
	BKRB2	1		7F2O
	C5AR1	3	6C1Q, 6C1R, 5O9H	
	CCKAR	8	7F8X, 7F8U, 7F8Y	7EZM, 7EZH, 7EZX, 7MBX, 7MBY
	CCR1	3		7VLA, 7VL8, 7VL9
	CCR2	3		6GPS, 6GPX, 5T1A
	CCR5	11	7F1T, 6MET, 6MEO, 6AKY, 6AKX, 5UIW, 4MBS	7F1Q, 7F1R, 7F1S, 7O7F
	CCR6	1		6WWZ
	CCR7	1	6QZH	
	CCR9	1	5LWE	
	CNR1	8	7V3Z, 6KQI, 5XRA, 5XR8, 5U09, 5TGZ	6KPG, 6N4B
	CNR2	4	6KPC, 5ZTY	6KPF, 6PT0
	CXCR2	3	6LFL	6LFM, 6LFO
	CXC-R4	6	4RWS, 3ODU, 3OE0, 3OE6, 3OE8, 3OE9	
	DRD1	11		7JOZ, 7CKW, 7CKX, 7CKY, 7CKZ, 7CRH, 7LJC, 7LJD, 7JV5, 7JVP, 7JVQ
	DRD2	5	7DFP, 6LUQ, 6CM4	7JVR, 6VMS
	DRD3	3	3PBL	7CMV, 7CMU
	DRD4	3	6IQL, 5WIV, 5WIU	
	EDNRB	8	6LRY, 6K1Q, 6IGL, 6IGK, 5XPR, 5X93, 5GLH, 5GLI	
	FFAR1	4	5KW2, 5TZY, 5TZR, 4PHU	
	FPR1	2		7WVU, 7T6T
	FPR2	9	6LW5	7WVW, 7WVX, 7WVY, 7T6V, 7T6S, 7T6U, 6OMM
	GALR1	1		7WQ3
	GALR2	1		7WQ4
	CCKBR	2		7F8V, 7F8W
	GHSR	7	7F83, 6K05	7W2Z, 7NA7, 7NA8, 7F9Y, 7F9Z
	GNRHR	1	7BR3	
	GPBAR1	3		7CFM, 7CFN, 7BW0
	HRH1	2	3RZE	7DFL
	LPAR1	6	4Z34, 4Z35, 4Z36	7TD0, 7TD1, 7TD2
	LSHR	4	7FIJ	7FIG, 7FII, 7FIH
	LT4R1	2	7K15	7VKT
	MC4R	8	6W25	7PIV, 7PIU, 7F53, 7F54, 7F55, 7F58, 7AUE

Table 1. continued

Class	Receptors	Total number	PDB ID (receptor alone)	PDB ID (G protein coupled receptor)
	MSHR	4		7F4D, 7F4H, 7F4I, 7F4I
	MTNR1A	8	6PS8, 6ME2, 6ME3, 6ME4, 6ME5	7VGY, 7VGZ, 7DB6
	MTNR1B	5	6ME6, 6ME7, 6ME8, 6ME9	7VH0
	NK1R	11	6J20, 6J21, 6HLP, 6HLL, 6HLO, 6E59	7P00, 7P02, 7RMI, 7RMG, 7RMH
	NPY1R	3	5ZBH, 5ZBQ	7VGX
	NPY2R	1	7DDZ	
	NTSR1	24	6YVR, 6Z4Q, 6Z4S, 6Z4V, 6Z66, 6Z8N, etc	7L0P, 7L0Q, 7L0R, 7L0S, 6UP7, 6PWC, 6OSA, 6OS9
	OPRD	6	6PT2, 6PT3, 4RWD, 4RWA, 4N6H, 4EJ4	
	OPRK	3	6VI4, 6B73, 4DJH	
	OPRM	7	5C1M, 4DKL	7U2L, 7SBF, 7SCG, 6DDF, 6DDE
	OPRL1	3	5DHG, 5DHH, 4EA3	
	HCRTR1	14	6V9S, 6TOT, 6TOS, 6TOD, 6TQ4, 6TP4, etc	
	HCRTR2	8	6TPG, 6TPJ, 6TPN, 5WS3, 5WQC, 450V	7L1U, 7L1V
	OXYR	2	6TPK	7RYC
	P2RY1	2	4XNV, 4XNW	
	P2Y12	3	4PXZ, 4PY0, 4NTJ	
	PAR1	1	3VW7	
	PAR2	3	5NDZ, 5NJ6, 5NDD	
	PTGDR2	3	7M8W, 6D26, 6D27	
	PTGER2	3		7CX2, 7CX3, 7CX4
	PTGER3	2	6AK3, 6M9T	
	PTGER4	3	5YHL, 5YWY	7D7M
	PTAFR	2	5ZKQ, 5ZKP	
	lpar6a	1	5XSZ	
	BLT1	1	5X33	
	S1PR1	11	3V2W, 3V2Y	7TD4, 7TD3, 7EO4, 7EO2, 7EVY, 7WF7, 7EW0, 7EW7, 7EVZ
	S1PR2	1		7T6B
	S1PR3	4	7C4S	7EW2, 7EW3, 7EW4
	S1PR5	1		7EW1
	SSR2	2		7T10, 7T11
	SUCR1	3	6Z10, 6RNK, 6IBB	
	TBXA2R	2	6IIU, 6IIV	
	V2R	2		7DW9, 7BB6
	GPR52	4	6LI0, 6LI1, 6LI2	6LI3
	GPR88	2		7EJX, 7WZ4
	GPR139	4		7VUH, 7VUJ, 7VUI, 7VUY
	GPR183	2	7TUY	7TUZ
	MRGX2	14	7VV6, 7VV4, 7VV0	7VDM, 7VDH, 7VUZ, 7VDL, 7VV5, 7VUY, 7VV3, 7S8M, 7S8O, 7S8L, 7S8N
	MRGX4	1		7S8P
B1	CALCR	12		5UZ7, 6NIY, 7TYL, 7TYI, 7TYN, 7TYO, 7TYF, 7TYW, 7TYH, 7TYX, 7TYZ, 7TZF
	CALRL	6	7KNU, 7KNT	6E3Y, 6UVA, 6UUN, 6UUS
	CRFR1	4	4K5Y, 4Z9G	6PB0, 6P9X
	CRFR2	1		6PB1
	GHRHR	2		7CZ5, 7V9M
	GIPR	6		7FIY, 7VAB, 7FIN, 7DTY, 7RBT, 7RA3
	GLP1R	34	5NX2, 5VEW, 5VEX, 6KJV, 6KK1, 6KK7, 6LN2	7FIM, 7VBI, 7LLL, 7LLY, 7S1M, 7S3I, 7RTB, 7DUR, 7EVM, 7KI0, 7KI1, 7DUQ, 7E14, 7LCJ, 7LCK, 7LCI, 6XOX, 6X1A, 6X18, 6X19, 7C2E, 6VCB, 6ORV, 6B3J, 7RGP, 7RG9, 7VBH
	GLP2R	1		7D68
	GCGR	10	4L6R, 5EE7, 5XEZ, 5XF1, 5YQZ	6LMK, 6LML, 6WHC, 6WPW, 7V35
	SCTR	3		6WZG, 6WI9, 7D3S

Table 1. continued

Class	Receptors	Total number	PDB ID (receptor alone)	PDB ID (G protein coupled receptor)
B2	ADGRG1	1		7SF8
	ADGRL3	1		7SF7
C	GABBR1	1	6W2Y	
	GABBR2	12	7C7S, 7C7Q, 6UO8, 6VJM, 6UOA, 6UO9, 6W2X, 6WIV, 7CUM, 7CA5, 7CA3	7EB2
	GRM1	3	4OR2, 7DGE, 7DGD,	
	GRM2	9	7MTR, 7MTQ, 7EPE, 7EPD, 7EPB, 7EPF, 7EPA	7MTS, 7E9G
	GRM3	3	7WI6, 7WI8, 7WIH	
	GRM4	1		7E9H
	GRM5	11	4OO9, 5CGC, 5CGD, 6FFH, 6FFI, 6N4X, 6N4Y, 6N50, 6N51, 6N52, 7FD8, 7P2L, 7FD9	
	GRM7	1	7EPC	
	GP158	5	7EWL, 7SHF, 7SHE, 7EWR, 7EWP	
	CASR	16	7SIL, 7SIM, 7SIN, 7E6U, 7E6T, 7M3E, 7M3J, 7M3G, 7M3F, 7DD5, 7DD6, 7DD7, 7DTU, 7DTV, 7DTT	
F	FZD4	1	6BD4	
	FZD5	1	6WW2	
	FZD7	1		7EVW

ADRB3 beta-3 adrenergic receptor, *AGTR1* type 1 angiotensin II receptor, *AGTR2* type 2 angiotensin II receptor, *HTR1A* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1A, *HTR1B* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1B, *HTR1D* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1D, *HTR1E* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1E, *HTR1F* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1F, *HTR2A* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2A, *HTR2B* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2B, *HTR2C* 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2C, *ACM1* muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M1, *ACM2* muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M2, *ACM3* muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M3, *ACM4* muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M4, *ACM5* muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M5, *APJ* apelin receptor, *BKRB1* B1 bradykinin receptor, *BKRB2* B2 bradykinin receptor, *CSAR1* C5a anaphylatoxin chemotactic receptor 1, *CCKAR* cholecystokinin receptor type A, *CCR1* cinnamoyl-CoA reductase 1, *CCR2* C-C chemokine receptor type 2, *CCR5* C-C chemokine receptor type 5, *CCR6* C-C chemokine receptor type 6, *CCR7* C-C chemokine receptor type 7, *CCR9* C-C chemokine receptor type 9, *CNR1* cannabinoid receptor 1, *CNR2* cannabinoid receptor 2, *CXCR2* C-X-C chemokine receptor type 2, *CXC-R4* C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4, *DRD1* D(1A) dopamine receptor, *DRD2* D(2) dopamine receptor, *DRD3* D(3) dopamine receptor, *DRD4* D(4) dopamine receptor, *EDNRB* endothelin receptor type B, *FFAR1* free fatty acid receptor 1, *FPR1* fMet-Leu-Phe receptor, *FPR2* N-formyl peptide receptor 2, *GALR1* galanin receptor type 1, *GALR2* galanin receptor type 2, *CCKBR* gastrin/cholecystokinin type B receptor, *GHSR* growth hormone secretagogue receptor type 1, *GNRHR* gonadotropin-releasing hormone receptor, *GPBAR1* G-protein coupled bile acid receptor 1, *HRH1* histamine H1 receptor, *LPAR1* lysophosphatidic acid receptor 1, *LSHR* lutropin-choriogonadotropic hormone receptor, *LT4R1* leukotriene B4 receptor 1, *MC4R* melanocortin receptor 4, *MSHR* melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor, *MTNR1A* melatonin receptor type 1A, *MTNR1B* melatonin receptor type 1B, *NK1R* substance-P receptor, *NPY1R* neuropeptide Y receptor type 1, *NPY2R* neuropeptide Y receptor type 2, *NTSR1* neurotensin receptor type 1, *OPRD* delta-type opioid receptor, *OPRK* kappa-type opioid receptor, *OPRM* mu-type opioid receptor, *OPRL1* nociceptin receptor, *HCRTR1* orexin/hypocretin receptor type 1, *HCRTR2* orexin receptor type 2, *OXYR* oxytocin receptor, *P2RY1* P2Y purinoceptor 1, *P2Y12* P2Y purinoceptor 12, *PAR1* proteinase-activated receptor 1, *PAR2* proteinase-activated receptor 2, *PTGDR2* prostaglandin D2 receptor 2, *PTGER2* prostaglandin E2 receptor EP2 subtype, *PTGER3* prostaglandin E2 receptor EP3 subtype, *PTGER4* prostaglandin E2 receptor EP4 subtype, *PTAFR* platelet-activating factor receptor, *Ipar6a* lysophosphatidic acid receptor 6a, *BLT1* leukotriene B4 receptor 1, *S1PR1* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1, *S1PR2* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 2, *S1PR3* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 3, *S1PR5* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 5, *SSR2* somatostatin receptor type 2, *SUCR1* succinate receptor 1, *TBXA2R* thromboxane A2 receptor, *V2R* vasopressin V2 receptor, *GPR52* G-protein coupled receptor 52, *GPR88* probable G-protein coupled receptor 88, *GPR139* probable G-protein coupled receptor 139, *GPR183* G-protein coupled receptor 183, *MARGX2* Mas-related G-protein coupled receptor member X2, *MARGX4* Mas-related G-protein coupled receptor member X4, *CALCR* calcitonin receptor, *CALRL* calcitonin gene-related peptide type 1 receptor, *CRFR1* corticotropin-releasing factor receptor 1, *CRFR2* corticotropin-releasing factor receptor 2, *GHRHR* growth hormone-releasing hormone receptor, *GIPR* gastric inhibitory polypeptide receptor, *GLP1R* glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor, *GLP2R* glucagon-like peptide 2 receptor, *GCGR* glucagon receptor, *SCTR* secretin receptor, *ADGRG1* adhesion G-protein coupled receptor G1, *ADGRL3* adhesion G protein-coupled receptor L3, *GABR1* gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 1, *GABBR2* gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 2, *GRM1* metabotropic glutamate receptor 1, *GRM2* metabotropic glutamate receptor 2, *GRM3* metabotropic glutamate receptor 3, *GRM4* metabotropic glutamate receptor 4, *GRM5* metabotropic glutamate receptor 5, *GRM7* metabotropic glutamate receptor 7, *GP158* probable G-protein coupled receptor 158, *CASR* extracellular calcium-sensing receptor, *FZD4* Frizzled-4, *FZD5* Frizzled-5, *FZD7* Frizzled-7

Human GPCR can be classified into five distinct subtypes: rhodopsin (class A), secretin (class B1), adhesion (class B2), glutamate (class C), and frizzled (class F).¹ To date, over 750 ligand-bound or apo-GPCR structures (including 96 CNS-related GPCRs) have been reported (Table 1). For details: <https://gpcrdb.org>. The transmembrane helical core exhibits high similarity. The helical core forms the orthosteric binding pocket for cognate ligands. GPCR can be divided into three different functional regions: (1) extracellular region including N-terminus, extracellular loops (ECLs), and extracellular ends of the transmembrane helices are involved in ligand recognition and selectivity,²⁵ (2) intracellular region consisting of C-terminus, intracellular loops

(ICLs) and intracellular ends of the transmembrane helices provide docking cavity for G proteins/ arrestins and interacts with different regulatory proteins such as GPCR kinases,²⁶ (3) helical core in-between extracellular and intracellular region deliver and covert ligand signals via unique conformational change (Fig. 1b).^{27,28}

Activated receptors generate second messengers via the G protein. In heterotrimeric form, the G protein is inactive. After binding to the intracellular cavity formed by GPCR, the GDP-binding pocket on the G α subunit of heterotrimeric G proteins is opened, facilitating subsequent exchange for GTP.²⁹ GTP is physiologically more abundant as compared to GDP.³⁰ The nucleotide exchange is a rate-limiting step in the G protein

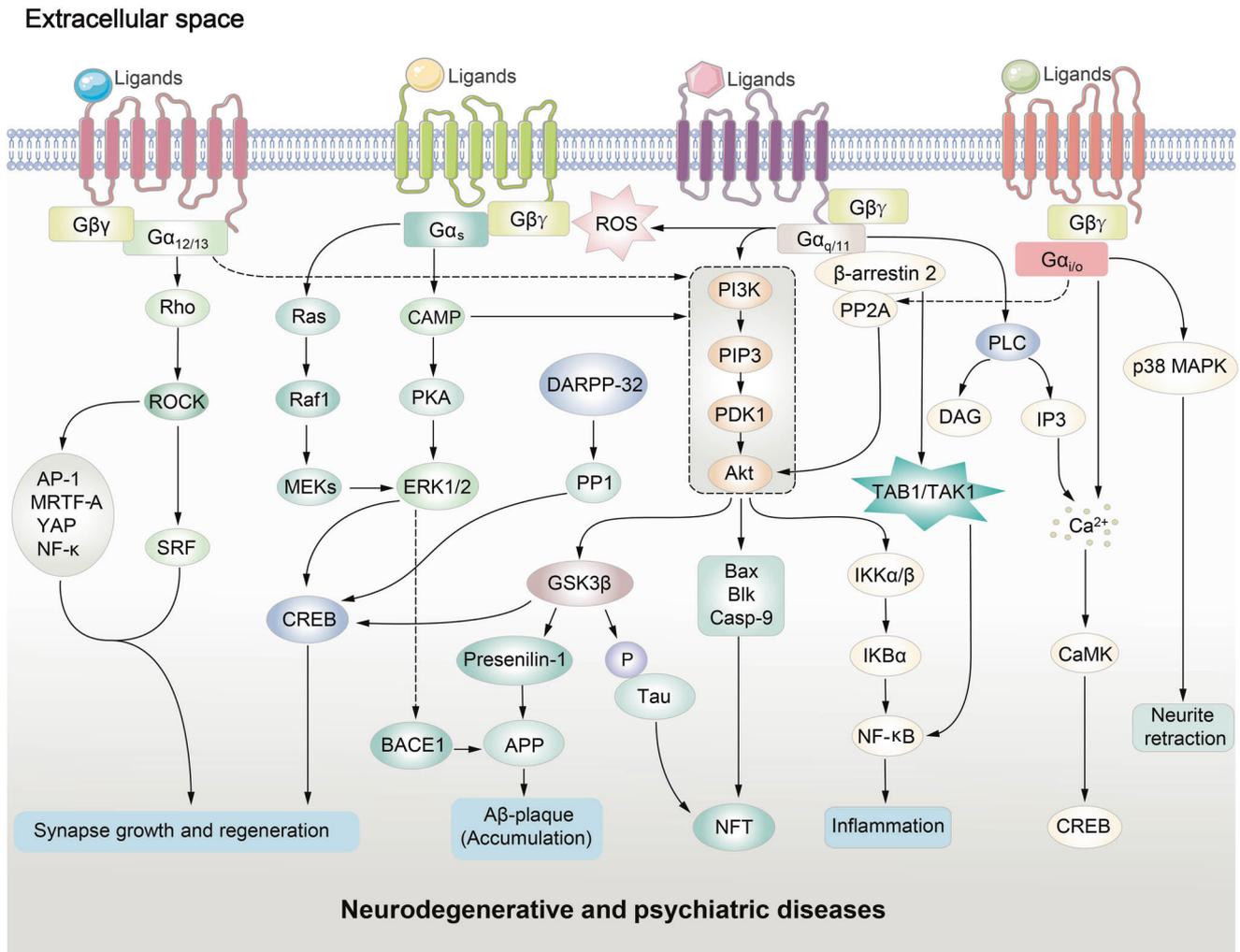


Fig. 2 GPCR-regulated downstream signaling pathways in neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. CAMK calmodulin-dependent protein kinase, BACE1 β-site APP cleaving protein 1, TAK1 transforming growth factor-β-activated kinase, TAB1 TAK1 binding protein, PP2A protein-phosphatase 2A, PLC phospholipase C, PDK1 phosphoinositide-dependent kinase 1, diacylglycerol (DAG), IP3 inositol triphosphate, Akt protein kinase B, APP amyloid protein precursor, Bax B-cell lymphoma-2-associated X, Blk B lymphoid tyrosine kinase, cAMP cyclic adenosine monophosphate, Casp9 caspase 9, CREB cAMP response element binding protein, ERK1/2 extracellular signal-regulated-kinase, GSK3β glycogen synthase kinase 3β, Gβγ free heterotrimeric G protein beta/gamma subunits, IKBα inhibitory subunit of nuclear factor kappa-B alpha, IKKα/β inhibitor of kappa-B kinase, MEK mitogen-activated protein, NFT neurofibrillary tangles, NF-κB nuclear factor kappa-B, PI3K phosphoinositide 3-kinase, PKA protein kinase A, Raf1 Raf-1 proto-oncogene, serine/threonine kinase, Ras Ras Sarcoma oncoproteins, Rho Ras homologous proteins, ROCK Rho-associated coiled-coil containing kinases, SRF serum response factor

activation process.²⁹ GTP binding prevents Ga protein from forming heteromer with Gβγ subunit.³¹ The free Ga and Gβγ subunits modulate different downstream effector pathways. By hydrolyzing GTP to GDP, the active GTP-bound Ga subunit returns to an inactive state and forms a complex with the Gβγ subunit again. G proteins are classified based on their Ga subunit. There are four different Ga protein families: Gai/o, Gas, Gαq/11, and Gα12/13. Each family regulates a specific set of downstream responses. Individual GPCR could mediate different functions in different cellular contexts via preferential G protein coupling (Figs. 1 and 2).

Ga proteins: Gas and Gai/o

Gas (stimulatory regulator of adenylyl cyclase G protein activates adenylyl cyclase) promotes the generation of 3'-5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) from ATP by adenylyl cyclase. cAMP is essential for protein kinase A (PKA)-mediated signal transduction;³² In contrast, Gai/o suppresses adenylyl cyclase activity, which prevents cAMP accumulation and reduces PKA

activity. cAMP is a crucial regulator of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase/AKT murine thymoma viral oncogene homolog (PI3K/AKT) signaling pathway. It has been shown that PI3K/AKT is associated with the inflammatory response in multiple neurodegenerative diseases.³³⁻³⁵ cAMP is also linked to calcium dynamics in neuronal cells and neurodegenerative diseases. Details can be found in the comprehensive review by Sobolczyk and Boczek.³⁶

Ga protein: Gαq/11

Gαq activates phospholipase C (PLC), which hydrolyzes phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate into diacylglycerol (DAG) and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP3). DAG activates protein kinase C, which phosphorylates various downstream signaling proteins. IP3 stimulates calcium efflux from the endoplasmic reticulum through specific IP3 receptors. Calcium signaling is essential for the release of neurotransmitters.^{37,38} For instance, dysregulation of the dopamine D1 receptor-mediated PLC/IP3/Ca²⁺ pathway in the anterior cortex of the brain is associated with mental illness in rats.^{39,40} PLC/IP3/Ca²⁺ pathway regulates the electrical response

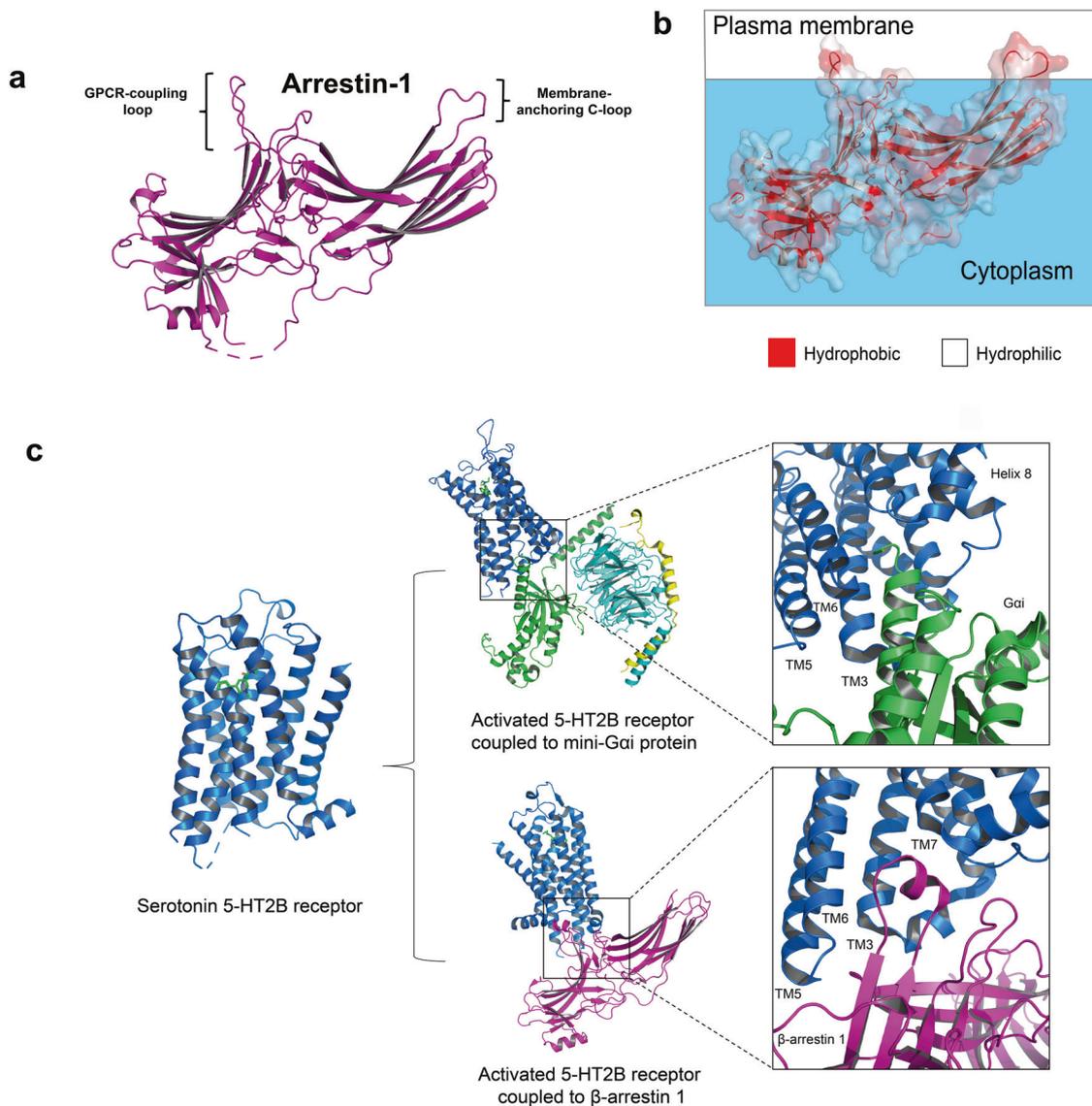


Fig. 3 GPCR-G protein/arrestin complexes. **a** Crystal structure of arrestin 1 (PDB 1CF1) showing the membrane-anchoring c-loop. **b** Solvent-accessible surface. Hydrophobic surface (red); Hydrophilic surface (white). **c** Biased signaling of serotonin 5-HT2B receptors. Activated 5-HT2B receptor (PDB 7SRQ) is preferentially coupled to $G_{\alpha s}$ protein (PDB 7SRR). The receptor could also couple to β -arrestin 1 (PDB 7SRS). $G_{\alpha s}$ and β -arrestin 1 engaged on the same cavity formed by the cytoplasmic receptor interface

of the neuron.⁴¹ Impaired Ca^{2+} homeostasis by $A\beta$ exposure is one of the underlying causes of amyloid toxicity in Alzheimer's disease.⁴² In psychiatric disorders, Ca^{2+} signaling regulates neuronal connectivity, synaptic plasticity, and glial functions.⁴³

G α protein: G α 12/13

G α 12/13 binding can stimulate Rho family GTPases.⁴⁴ Rho GTPases activate the cytosolic Rho protein by promoting GDP/GTP exchange.⁴⁵ Activated Rho is released from inhibitory protein, migrates to the plasma membrane, and modulates multiple downstream effectors.⁴⁶ One of which is ROCK1/2 (Rho kinase). The Rho-ROCK pathway is essential in neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Huntington's disease.⁴⁷ ROCK activity is closely associated with neuronal cell loss, impaired synaptic functions, and cytoskeleton modulation in central nervous system disorders.⁴⁷ Rho/ROCK signaling modulates the activity of transcription regulators such as AP-1, MRTF-A, YAP, NF- κ B, and

serum response factor.^{47,48} Rho family GTPases are essential for axon guidance, cell polarity, and synapse formation.⁴⁹ It has been shown that Rho GTPase regulates neuronal cell survival by inhibiting AKT signaling.⁵⁰

GPCR kinases (GRKs)

Activated GPCR is subjected to desensitization to protect the cell from sustained stimulation.⁵¹ After peak response, ligand-bound receptor activity will return to basal level.⁵² Receptor phosphorylation by a family of GPCR kinases (GRKs), including GRK1/7, GRK2/3, and GRK4/5/6, is an essential first step to switch off sustained signaling.^{53,54} GRKs are second messenger-independent kinases (e.g., in contrast to PKA, which is dependent on cAMP levels). Serine/threonine residues on the GPCR carboxyl-terminal tail are common phosphorylation sites targeted by GRKs.⁵⁵ GRKs translocate from cytoplasm to plasma membrane and initiate receptor phosphorylation by binding to $G\beta\gamma$.^{56,57} GRK could also interfere with G protein binding through direct interaction.⁵⁸ GRK

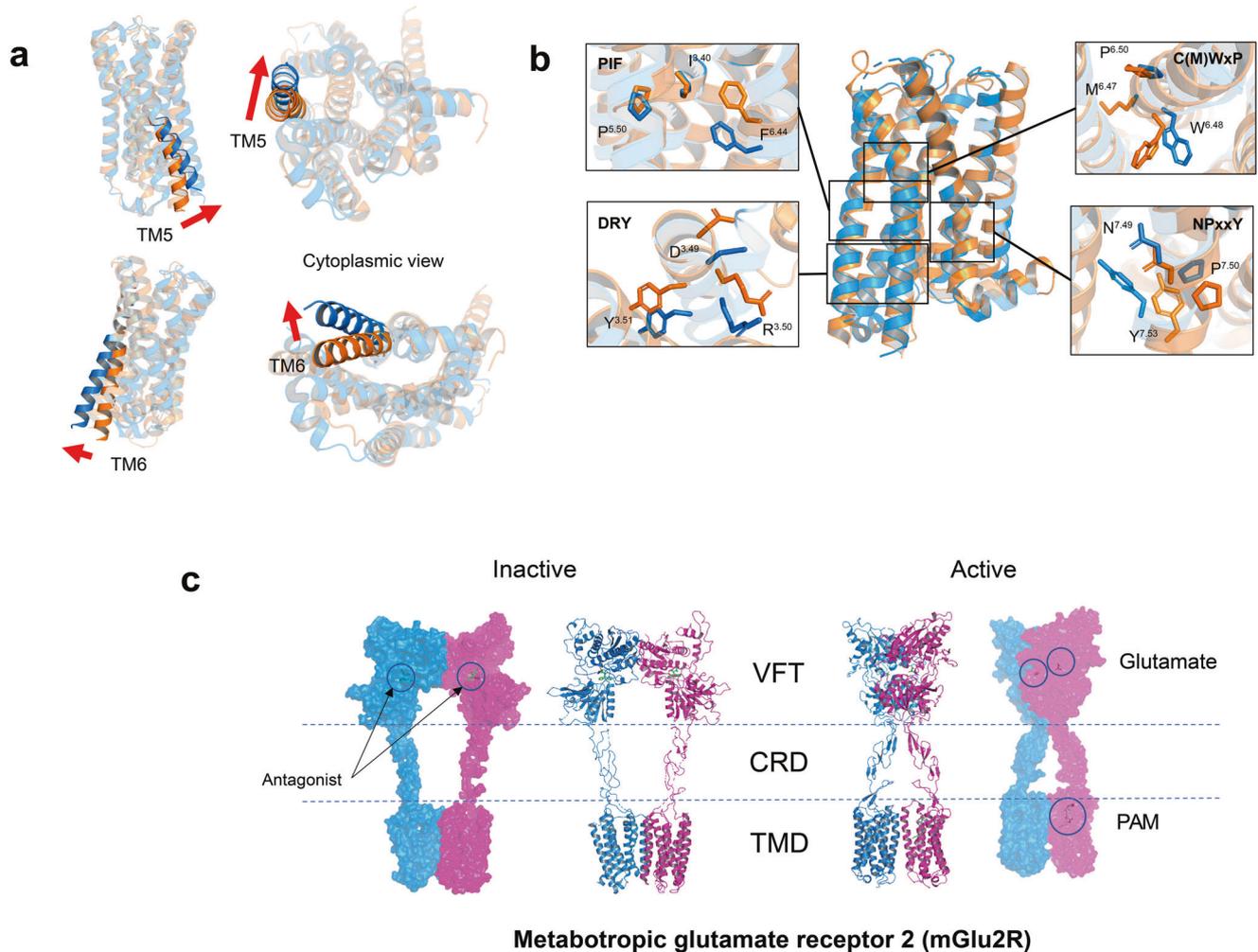


Fig. 4 Class A GPCR activation. **a** Prominent outward bending of TM5 and TM6 opens the cytoplasmic pocket of inactive serotonin 5-HT2A receptor (orange, PDB 6A93) for the binding of G protein. Active 5-HT2A receptor (marine blue, PDB 6WHA). **b** Microswitches involved in 5-HT2A receptor activation. **c** Structural features of class C GPCRs. Inactive (PDB 7MTQ) and active metabotropic glutamate receptor 2 mGluR2 (PDB 7MTR). VFT extracellular venus flytrap domain, CRD cysteine-rich domain, TMD transmembrane domain, PAM positive allosteric modulator

level is affected by inflammatory responses in neonatal and adult neurons.⁵⁹ GRK dysfunction is associated with cognitive impairment and tau hyperphosphorylation in Alzheimer-like pathology.⁶⁰ Colocalization of GRK with amyloid plaques is observed in brain tissues of Alzheimer's disease patients.⁶¹ Patients of Parkinson's disease with dementia have increased GRK3/5 transcripts.⁶² GRK might promote the formation of pathological Lewy bodies in sporadic Parkinson's disease, but the mechanism is yet to be defined.⁶³ In psychiatric disorders, upregulating brain GRKs are observed in schizophrenia and major depression.^{64,65}

Arrestins in GPCR desensitization

Active GPCR is ready for the arrestins (signal terminators) binding after GRK phosphorylation. Arrestins can be classified into visual arrestins (arrestin 1 and arrestin 4) and non-visual arrestins (β -arrestin 1/2 or arrestin 2/3). Visual arrestins express exclusively in retina photoreceptors. They regulate light-activated rhodopsin signaling.^{66,67} β -arrestin 1/2 are ubiquitously expressed cytoplasmic proteins (Fig. 3a, b).⁵² β -arrestins and G proteins compete for the receptors. They bind to the same inter-helical cavity on the intracellular region (Fig. 3c).⁶⁸ β -arrestin reduce G protein signaling by hindering interaction between receptor and heterotrimeric G proteins. Further, β -arrestins facilitate receptor recycling by promoting internalization and cellular trafficking.^{69,70} The C-edge

of arrestin protein with proximity to the membrane surface functions membrane anchor to stabilize the arrestin-active receptor complex (Fig. 3a).⁷¹ Recent studies illustrate the association of β -arrestin in multiple physiological functions and neuropsychiatric disorders.^{72,73} Phosphorylation of PI3K/AKT is remarkably reduced in the β -arrestin 2-deficient adult neural stem cells, indicating the crucial role of β -arrestin 2-PI3K/Akt pathway in adult hippocampal neurogenesis.^{74,75}

Biased signaling of GPCRs

G protein-biased signaling is regarded as the canonical signaling pathway employed by GPCRs.

β -arrestin can modulate GPCR signal transduction in G protein-independent mechanism. β -arrestin can use the receptor as a structural component to generate an intracellular signaling complex consisting of agonist-occupied receptor and nonreceptor tyrosine kinases (c-Src).⁷⁶ β -arrestin can maintain ERK signaling by acting as a scaffold for ERK mitogen-activated protein kinase.⁷⁷ Other downstream effectors of β -arrestins include phosphatases and transcription factors.⁷⁸ β -arrestins can act as a scaffold protein for specific downstream effectors.^{79,80} In the mouse model, β -arrestin 2 exerts anti-inflammatory functions by inhibiting nuclear factor kappa-B.⁸¹ Maintaining the arrestin-dependent signaling of M1 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor can prevent the insoluble misfolded proteins

accumulation in Alzheimer's disease model which thereby slowing down neurodegenerative disease progression.⁸²

β -arrestin is important for astrocyte-mediated pro-inflammatory cytokine production.⁸³ In mouse Parkinson's disease models, β -arrestin 2-biased ligands suppress glia-derived inflammation and prevent neuron loss.⁸⁴ IL-1 β produced by the inflammation site is suppressed by β -arrestin 2.⁸⁴ As compared to agonists which facilitate G protein and β -arrestin signaling at the same time, a β -arrestin-biased agonist for δ -opioid receptor can effectively control anxiety-like behaviour by activating ERK1/2 in the limbic structures of the brain.⁸⁵ Hence, identifying therapeutic modulators that could preferentially stabilize GPCR structure for G proteins or β -arrestins is important for developing effective treatments for neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases.

Examples of GPCR-regulated modulators in disease development *β -site APP cleaving protein 1 (BACE1)*. The proteolytic activity of BACE1 promotes the generation of β -amyloid (A β) peptides from amyloid precursor protein in Alzheimer's disease.⁸⁶ BACE1 expression can be activated by muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M1/M3 via PKC and MAP kinase signaling cascades.⁸⁷ BACE1 activity is modulated by other GPCRs, such as the A2A and delta-opioid receptors.³³ It has been shown that selective activation of the M2 receptor will suppress BACE1 expression via PKA-mediated signaling events.³³

cAMP-response element binding protein (CREB). GWAS analysis indicates that genes involved in the cAMP/PKA/CREB pathway are genetically associated with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.⁸⁸ CREB is a transcription factor activated by phosphorylation after GPCR activation. The binding of CREB to a specific cAMP response element (CRE) in the transcription regulatory region enhances particular gene transcription. For instance, neurotransmitter-activated dopamine D1 receptor on dopaminergic neurons can elicit transcription brain derived growth factor (BDNF) and other neurotrophins.⁸⁹ In patients with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, CREB expression is remarkably reduced in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex and cingulate gyrus.⁹⁰ While CREB protects neuronal cells in neurodegenerative diseases, constitutively active CREB can reduce hippocampal neuron numbers and trigger sporadic epileptic seizures.^{91,92} It has been shown that the CREB modulator could enhance synaptic plasticity, which is beneficial for schizophrenia treatment.⁸⁹

DARPP-32 and PP1. DARPP-32 (dopamine- and cyclic-AMP-regulated phosphoprotein of molecular weight 32,000) regulates neuronal excitability levels by prolonged depolarizations and voltage oscillations.⁹³ DARPP-32 is the downstream target of Gi-coupling receptors such as the D2 dopamine receptor. DARPP-32 functions as a protein phosphatase-1 (PP1) inhibitor, a eukaryotic serine/threonine protein, upon phosphorylation at Thr-34 by PKA. PP1 is a phosphatase with multiple physiological functions. PP1 controls clock component PER2 accumulation in neurons, influencing circadian rhythm by light-mediated clock resetting.⁹⁴ PP1 is an inducer of long-term synaptic depression in the hippocampus.⁹⁵ Dysregulation of glutamate and dopamine signaling is common in neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders. Quantitative modeling results suggested that DARPP-32 could integrate dopamine and glutamate signals in striatal neurons.⁹⁶ PP1 signaling reduces GABA(A) receptors in neostriatal medium spiny neurons depending on PKA and DARPP.⁹⁷

GPCRS IN NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISEASES

Class A GPCR (rhodopsin)

Structural insights. Class A GPCR is the most heavily investigated GPCR family for drug development. Ligand binding to the unique pocket stabilizes GPCR in a particular conformation.⁹⁸ Comparative

analysis reveals that the outward bending/rotation of intracellular TM6 is a universal structure feature of receptor activation throughout the GPCR superfamily (Fig. 4a).⁹⁸ Hydrophobic packing interactions between the transmembrane helices help to maintain the active conformation of TM6.⁹⁹ Apart from TM6, rearrangements of other transmembrane helices, including TM3/5/7, open the intracellular milieu to facilitate recruitment of G protein.¹⁰⁰ Class A GPCR has a consensus binding interface for G protein coupling.¹⁰¹ The receptors employ unique structure motifs as microswitches to transmit external stimuli (Fig. 4b). D^{3.49}R^{3.50}Y^{3.51} motif (Ballesteros–Weinstein number) at the intracellular region of TM3 forms the classic "ionic lock" with E^{5.30} on TM6 to constrain the receptor in the ground state.^{102,103} Disruption of the ionic lock is an activation feature of class A GPCRs.¹⁰⁴ Side chains of Y^{7.53} (NPxxY motif) on TM7 and W^{6.48} (CWxP motif) on TM6 are subjected to orientation rearrangement during receptor activation.^{105,106} The P^{5.50}I^{3.40}F^{6.44} motif, formed by a group of hydrophobic residues on TM3/5/6, is also a crucial switch for receptor activation.¹⁰⁷ Polar interactions and aromatic stacking interactions between the conserved aromatic residues are frequently observed in the ligand binding region of activated class A GPCRs.²⁷

Acetylcholine receptors (muscarinic). Acetylcholine is a neurotransmitter employed by cholinergic neurons in the brain and spinal cord.¹⁰⁸ Muscarinic acetylcholine receptors in the central and peripheral nervous systems have five distinct subtypes. M1, M3, and M5 receptors are excitatory M1-like receptors.¹⁰⁹ In contrast, M2-like receptors (M2 and M4 receptors) inhibit adenyl cyclase activity. All the subtypes are detected in the brain. M2 and M3 receptors are also found in peripheral tissues.¹¹⁰

Reduced acetylcholine signaling due to the loss of cholinergic neurons is common in Alzheimer's disease.¹¹¹ Amyloid- β proteins could interrupt the interaction between the M1 receptor and G protein.¹¹² M1 receptor-knockout mice show Alzheimer's disease-like pathology with age-dependent cognitive decline.¹¹³ M1 receptor function is impaired by the binding of tau protein, a microtubule-associated protein in the extracellular matrix, which is toxic in secreted form.^{114,115} Autoantibodies to recombinant human M1 receptors are detected in patients with schizophrenic disorders, mood disorders, and other psychiatric disorders.^{116,117}

The M1 receptor is a promising target for schizophrenia treatment. Allosteric modulation of M1 receptor activity could improve cognitive performance with antipsychotic activity.¹¹⁸ However, substantial loss of cortical M1 receptor might affect the efficacy of positive allosteric modulator.¹¹⁹

M2 receptor reduction is noted in the frontal cortex of Alzheimer's disease patients.¹²⁰ Suppressing M2 receptor expression with siRNA alters the expression of β -site APP cleaving protein. This transmembrane aspartic endopeptidase is involved in beta-amyloid formation.¹²¹

M2 receptor is suspected to be related to the major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder development.¹²² M2-encoding gene is genetically associated with the cholinergic dysfunction seen in mood disorders.¹²²

M3 receptor level is remarkably reduced in the post-mortem frontal cortex tissues of patients with bipolar disorder.¹²³ However, conflicting results are observed in another study cohort.¹²⁴ Genetic variants of the M3 receptor-encoding gene are associated with abnormal neural connectivity in schizophrenia and cannabis-induced hallucinations.^{125,126}

Acetylcholine elevation is observed in Parkinson's disease.^{127–129} Targeting the M4 receptor with various antagonists showed promising treatment results for Parkinson's disease.^{130,131} M4 receptor is abundantly expressed in striatal neurons, which regulates the balance between acetylcholine and dopamine responses.¹³² M4 receptor promotes the development of the dopamine hypersensitivity phenotype of schizophrenia.¹³³ It has

been shown that the M5 receptor can potentiate drug addiction by reinforcing rewarded behavior.¹³⁴

Adenosine receptor. Adenosine (A1A, A2A, A2B, A3A) receptors are synaptic modulators that transmit inhibitory signals from adenosine to excitatory synapses.¹³⁵ Adenosine is also known as a “retaliatory metabolite” as it is produced exponentially from tissue under stress.¹³⁶ Astrocytes release adenosine to modulate synaptic transmission during hypoxia.¹³⁷ A1A and A2A receptors exhibit widespread expression in the brain.¹³⁸ A1A and A3A receptors are Gi-coupling receptors. In contrast, A2A and A2B receptors prefer Gs for downstream signaling.

Although dopamine-replacement therapy is the mainstay treatment for Parkinson’s disease, it remains challenging to manage dyskinesia during replacement treatments.¹³⁹ Animal study reveals that activating the A2A receptor will reduce the agonistic effects of dopaminergic D2 receptor-targeting drugs.¹⁴⁰ As the A2A receptor is colocalized with D2 dopaminergic receptors, it is suggested that interactions between A2A and D2 receptors might be involved in the pathophysiology of Parkinson’s disease.¹⁴¹

Epidemiological data support that caffeine (a naturally occurring methylxanthine) consumption might reduce the risk of depression or depressive symptoms.^{142,143} The psychoactive function of caffeine is mediated via the non-selective antagonistic action on A1/A2A receptors.¹⁴⁴ How A1/A2A receptors regulate depression-like behaviour remains unclear.¹⁴⁵ It should be noted that caffeine at high doses might function other than adenosine receptor antagonists causing insomnia and anxiety.^{146,147}

Activated A2A receptor suppresses nitric oxide (NO) production by inhibiting NO synthetase.¹² NO signaling is associated with various neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson’s disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Alzheimer’s disease.¹⁴⁸ NO is a mediator of neuroinflammation, which triggers the microglial to release pro-inflammatory factors.¹⁴⁹ NO induces protein S-nitrosylation (covalent addition of a NO group to a cysteine thiol/sulfhydryl), imposing endoplasmic reticulum stress in neurons.^{150,151} As A2A receptor activation affects synaptic plasticity and introduces memory deficits, antagonizing the A2A receptor might be helpful to control age-related cognitive impairments in Alzheimer’s disease.¹⁵²

Adrenergic receptor. Brain adrenergic receptors on neurons and glia are activated by the monoamine neurotransmitter norepinephrine (produced primarily in the locus coeruleus of the brain stem) and epinephrine.¹⁵³ Norepinephrine is produced from dopamine and converted into epinephrine. Norepinephrine and epinephrine released at synaptic junctions in the autonomic nervous system control classical fight-or-flight response.¹⁵⁴ Norepinephrine controls response to environmental changes by regulating neuronal excitability.¹⁵⁵ Epinephrine and norepinephrine also affect intelligence.¹⁵⁶ Human has 2 adrenergic receptor subtypes: α -adrenergic (α 1, α 2A, α 2B, α 2C) receptors and β -adrenergic (β 1, β 2, β 3) receptors. All the subtypes can be detected in the brain tissues.

Adrenergic receptor protects the central nervous system from uncontrolled inflammatory responses.¹⁵⁷ In the neonatal Lewis rats model, norepinephrine protects neuronal damage from inflammation.^{158–161} Blocking β -adrenergic receptors signaling with beta-blockers (β -adrenergic antagonists) could exacerbate neuroinflammation in a mouse model of Alzheimer’s disease.¹⁶²

Patients of Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease show profound cell loss in locus coeruleus.¹⁶³ Amyloid A β affects norepinephrine production and alters adrenergic receptor signaling in Alzheimer’s disease;¹⁶⁴ Low norepinephrine level is linked to mood disorders such as anxiety, depression, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.¹⁵⁶ α 2-adrenergic receptors are established

targets for antidepressant therapy.¹⁶⁵ Depressed suicide victims showed high α 2A-adrenergic receptor in the prefrontal cortex.¹⁶⁶ Presynaptic α 2-adrenergic receptor is an auto-receptor with the highest affinity to norepinephrine. Activated α 2-adrenergic receptor inhibits norepinephrine synthesis and release.¹⁶⁷ Thus, antagonizing presynaptic α 2-adrenergic receptors could benefit depression treatment by enhancing norepinephrine release.¹⁶⁸

Cannabinoid receptor. Cannabinoid signaling is involved in nociception, neurotransmission, and neuroprotection.¹⁶⁹ It is also engaged in learning, memory, motor, food intake, anxiety, pain perception, and fear memories.¹⁷⁰ Cannabinoid receptor type 1 (CB-1) is the primary subtype in the central nervous system. In comparison, the CB-2 receptor is mainly found in immune tissues.¹⁷¹ Cannabinoid receptors in the presynaptic nerve terminals can be activated by endogenous lipid endocannabinoids 2-arachidonoylglycerol (2-AG) and N-arachidonoyl-ethanolamine (AEA; anandamide).¹⁷² 2-AG is a full agonist for cannabinoid receptors, while AEA is a weak partial agonist.¹⁷³ Cannabinoid receptors can be activated by phytocannabinoids such as Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol and non-euphoric cannabidiol (CBD) extracted from cannabis.^{174,175}

The CB-1 receptor is the dominant subtype in the brain.^{176,177} CB-1 receptor can be found in different neuronal types (e.g., GABAergic, glutamatergic, and serotonergic neurons) and controls cholinergic transmission.^{178,179} Exogenous administration of endocannabinoids protects neurons from β -amyloid (A β) neurodegeneration and apoptosis.¹⁸⁰ Targeting cannabinoid receptors can improve spasticity (increase in muscle stiffness) and central neuropathic pain in patients with multiple sclerosis.¹⁸¹ Substantial reduction of CB-1 receptor in lateral globus pallidus and substantia nigra pars reticulata is associated with neurodegeneration in Huntington’s disease.^{182,183} Genetic polymorphisms on the CB-1 receptor are a risk factor for schizophrenia. CBD treatment is effective for neuroinflammatory-derived conditions such as epilepsy and anxiety.¹⁸⁴

The pathological functions of the CB-2 receptor in inflammatory conditions (e.g., Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, stress response, and depression) are under active investigation.^{185,186} Inflammation is a driving factor of depression and could counter the effects of antidepressant therapies.¹⁸⁷ CB-2 receptor-overexpressing mice showed a significant reduction in depressive-related behaviors.¹⁸⁸ In contrast, pro-inflammatory chemokines and cytokines are markedly reduced in the brain of CB-2 receptor-deficient mice.¹⁸⁹ CB-2 receptor can suppress microglial activation and prevent pro-inflammatory mediators release.^{190,191} In bipolar disorder, a neuropsychiatric disorder presenting with mood fluctuation, selective activation of the CB-2 receptor can stabilize mood and reduce mood swings.¹⁹²

Other receptors for endogenous cannabinoids: GPR12, GPR18, and GPR55. GPR12 is phylogenetically related to the cannabinoid (CB-1 and CB-2) receptors.¹⁹³ GPR12 is a constitutively active receptor.¹⁹⁴ Apart from cannabidiol, lysophospholipid sphingosine 1-phosphate and phingosyl-phosphorylcholine are potential endogenous ligands for GPR12.^{193,195} GPR12 expressed mainly in the central nervous system (frontal cortex, piriform cortex, thalamus, hypothalamus, hippocampus, amygdala, and olfactory bulb).¹⁹⁶ In mice, GPR12 expresses in the area controlling emotion and metabolism.¹⁹⁵ GPR12 promotes neurite outgrowth by activating ERK1/2 signaling.¹⁹⁷ Other functions include pain control, neurite outgrowth, and regeneration.¹⁹³ SNP microarray-based genome-wide association study reveals a close association between GPR12 and antipsychotic response in schizophrenia treatment.¹⁹⁸

GPR18 and GPR55 also act as receptors for endogenous cannabinoids 2-AG and AEA.^{199,200} GPR18 and GPR55 exhibit high structural similarity.²⁰¹ GPR18 regulates polymorphonuclear cell

infiltration and protects organs from acute immune responses.²⁰² It has been shown that GPR18 could interact with the CB-2 receptor in activated microglia of Alzheimer's disease model;²⁰³ GPR55 expresses predominantly in the brain.²⁰⁴ The receptor can be activated by endocannabinoids, phytocannabinoids, synthetic cannabinoid ligands, and lysophosphatidylinositol.²⁰⁵ GPR55 antagonist exhibits anti-inflammatory functions by modulating GPR55-expressing immune cells such as monocytes and microglia.²⁰⁶ Given the high expression of GPR55 in the striatum, GPR55 signaling is suspected to be involved in motor impairment in Parkinson's disease.²⁰⁷

Dopamine receptor. Dopamine is a catecholamine neurotransmitter in the brain. Dopamine/ dopamine receptors are crucial for motor function, cognition, learning, and memory.²⁰⁸ There are two receptor subtypes: D1-like (D1 and D5) and D2-like (D2, D3, and D4).²⁰⁹ D1 and D2 receptors are the most abundantly expressed dopamine receptor subtypes in the brain.²¹⁰

D1 and D2 receptors are significantly reduced in asymptomatic Huntington's disease patients.¹² In the early stage of Huntington's disease, dopamine signaling is associated with the development of dance-like movements (chorea). Clinical studies show that dopamine receptor blockers or depleting agents control motor dysregulation, especially chorea.²¹¹ In the late stage, however, a remarkable reduction in dopamine/ dopamine metabolite level is observed.²¹² The D1 receptor is remarkably reduced in patients presenting mild to moderate functional impairment.²¹³ It is noted that targeting the dopaminergic signaling cascade might lead to rapid cognitive decline in Huntington's disease patients.²¹⁴

Disturbances in the dopaminergic system are frequently observed in other neurodegeneration disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis.²¹⁵ Reduced dopamine receptors are correlated with the progression of Alzheimer's disease.²¹⁶ Loss of dopaminergic neurons is a hallmark feature of Parkinson's disease. Activating D2-like receptors (D2/3 receptors) or increasing circulating dopamine are effective treatment strategies for symptomatic Parkinson's disease.²¹⁷ Dopamine dysregulation contributes to the demyelinating process (resulting from autoimmune attack) in multiple sclerosis.²¹⁸ Dopamine can modulate pro-inflammatory cytokines secretion in T helper Th17 cells in uncontrolled neuroinflammatory responses.^{219,220}

The development of β -arrestin-biased modulators might improve treatment outcomes and avoid side effects. Dopamine receptor agonist exhibits mild to serious side effects.²²¹ This is partly caused by the activation of both G proteins and the β -arrestin signaling cascade.^{222,223} Many antipsychotics could interfere with dopamine-dependent β -arrestin 2 recruitment.⁸³ Selective activating the D2 receptor- β -arrestin pathway with biased agonist is beneficial to correct dopamine signaling in schizophrenia.²²⁴

Histamine receptor. Histamine is an inflammatory biogenic amine synthesized from L-histidine. Histamine stimulates peripheral immune cells to release pro-inflammatory cytokines. In the central nervous system, histamine signaling in the tuberomammillary nucleus (TMN) controls sleep-wake, circadian and feeding rhythms.²²⁵ Elevated histamine increases blood-brain barrier permeability, allowing peripheral immune cells to enter and act on brain parenchyma.²²⁶

Four different histamine (H1-H4) receptors are reported.²²⁷ H1 and H2 receptors are expressed in the brain, central nervous system, and peripheral tissues.²²⁵ H1 receptor activation promotes neuron differentiation. In contrast, H2 receptor activation induces neural stem cell proliferation.²²⁸ H3 receptor is localized in the brain.²²⁹ H3 receptor is an important therapeutic target for cognitive disorders.²³⁰ The neurological function of the H4 receptor remains unclear.²²⁹ H4 receptor can be detected in the

non-neuronal cells of the brain.²²⁹ H4 receptor activation is involved in the inflammatory responses regulated by mast cells, eosinophils, and T cells.²²⁹ Histamine acts on H1 and H3 receptors to control normal sleep/wake behavior.²³¹

Alterations in histamine signaling are found in both neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders.²³⁰ Due to structural similarity, H1 and H4 receptors are suggested to have cross-functional impacts on disease development. Positron emission tomography results show that reduced H1 or H4 receptor is present in a subgroup of Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenic and depressed patients.²³²⁻²³⁴ The role of histamine signaling in Alzheimer's disease remains controversial due to the conflicting results on histamine levels.²³² H1 receptor upregulation is associated with myelin damage mediated by focal lymphocytes in multiple sclerosis.²³⁵ Targeting the H3 receptor with selective antagonists could stimulate the release of crucial neurotransmitters, including acetylcholine, dopamine, norepinephrine, and histamine.²³⁶ H4 receptor is involved in M1-activated microglia cells (primary inflammatory cells in the brain) driven neuroinflammation. Attenuating H4 receptor signaling is beneficial in controlling inflammation propagation in Parkinson's disease.²³⁷

Melanin-concentrating hormone receptor. Melanin-concentrating hormone (MCH) is the pro-melanin expressed by the central nervous system.²³⁸ MCH is well documented for its function in controlling motivated behaviours, including feeding and drinking.²³⁹ Later studies suggest that MCH promotes non-REM sleep and modulates energy homeostasis.^{240,241} MCH receptor 1 is a stress modulator regulating fear and anxiety processes.²⁴² MCH receptor 1-signaling is responsive to physiological- or neurochemical-controlling stress and affective states in genetically knockout models.²⁴³ MCH is associated with behavioural disorders and depressive symptoms observed in Huntington's disease patients.²⁴⁴ Animals without MCH receptor expression exhibit schizophrenia-like phenotypes.²⁴⁵

Melatonin receptor. Melatonin (MT) or *N*-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine is a neuroendocrine hormone produced by the pineal gland. MT is a regulator of the circadian rhythm (sleep-wake cycle). Melatonin is converted from tryptophan/ serotonin in the pinealocytes. Melatonin also functions as an antioxidant to protect tissues from free radical damage.²⁴⁶ The antioxidant activity of melatonin is essential in tissue (such as the brain) with high reactive oxygen species (ROS) resulting from oxygen consumption.²⁴⁷ Peripheral tissues, such as the gut and skin, could also secrete melatonin.²⁴⁸ Melatonin secretion is suppressed by daylight through the retino-hypothalamic tract and reaches a peak at night. Rhythmic nocturnal secretion (secreted in the dark) allows melatonin to distribute throughout the body via circulation.

Circadian rhythm dysregulation is a common symptom presented by patients with neurodegenerative disease due to functional impairment of the retina-suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN)-pineal axis.²⁴⁹ In Alzheimer's disease, melatonin and MT1 receptor level in SCN and cortex diminishes remarkably.^{250,251} Pathological α -synuclein aggregation (a stepwise aggregation of presynaptic neuronal protein observed during Parkinson's disease development) is reduced in animal models subjected to melatonin treatment.^{252,253} In multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, melatonin demonstrates anti-apoptotic functions and offers neural protection from oxidative damage.^{254,255}

Dysregulation in MT1/2 receptor signaling contributes to the pathological development of anxiety, sleep disorders (insomnia), and depression.²⁵⁶⁻²⁵⁸ In a post-mortem study on depressed patients, hypothalamic MT1 expression increased in the hypothalamic suprachiasmatic nucleus and is correlated with disease duration.²⁵⁹ Melatonin treatment can alleviate symptoms of psychiatric disorders with few side effects (even at high

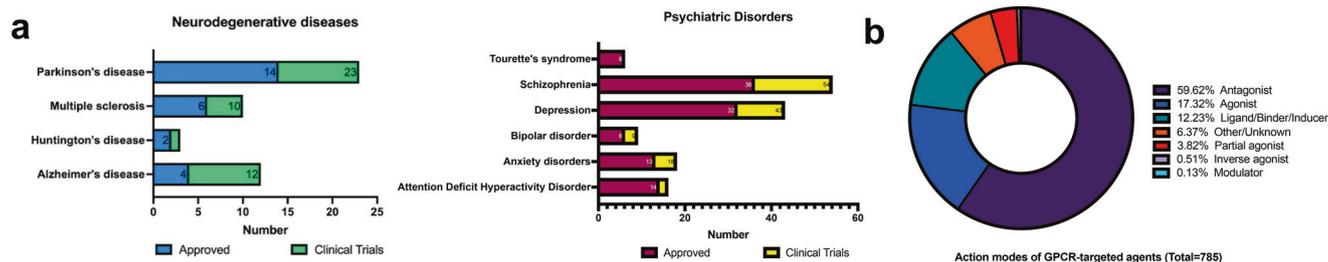


Fig. 5 GPCRs-targeting drugs for neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatric disorders. **a** Numbers of compounds approved for clinical use or under clinical trials. **b** Summary of the action modes of GPCR-targeted agents for treatment of neuropsychiatric diseases

dosages).²⁶⁰ Exogenous melatonin may also be administered to control anxiety.²⁶¹ Melatonin is an effective medication for sleep disturbances in depression.²⁶² However, no solid empirical evidence supports melatonin or melatonin receptor agonists as the cure for depression. The use of melatonin to normalize the disrupted circadian cycle might not be sufficient to alleviate depression.

Sphingosine 1-phosphate (S1P) receptor. S1P is an active lysophospholipid. S1P exerts its biological functions through S1P receptor 1-5.²⁶³ S1P/S1P receptor controls angiogenesis, chemotaxis, and egress of lymphocytes (from bone marrow, thymus, and lymphoid tissues).²⁶³ S1P receptor-expressing immune cells in lymphoid tissues are attracted by the high S1P level in the bloodstream.²⁶⁴ S1P receptors on immune cells are inactivated in peripheral blood by receptor internalization.²⁶⁴ S1PR1 can be found in B, T, and dendritic cells.²⁶³ During inflammation, S1PR1 on immune cells is upregulated.²⁶⁵ S1PR1 enhances inflammation by activating neuroglia/microglia (immune cells orchestrating inflammatory response in the central nervous system).²⁶⁶ S1PR1 might contribute to the development of multiple sclerosis by promoting chronic and acute inflammation.^{263,267} Unlike S1PR1, S1PR5 is mainly detected in natural killer and dendritic cells.²⁶⁸ S1PR5 expression on natural killer cells is critical for its egress from lymph nodes and bone marrow.²⁶⁹ Hence, targeting S1P receptors might protect the brain from immune attacks by limiting lymphocytes from passing through the blood-brain barrier in multiple sclerosis.²⁶⁶

Opioid receptor. The opioid receptor family is composed of delta (δ)-opioid receptor (DOR), kappa (κ)-opioid receptor (KOR), mu (μ)-opioid receptor (MOR), and nociceptin receptor. Opioid receptor recognizes a variety of endogenous neuropeptides, including enkephalins, endorphins, and dynorphins.²⁷⁰ The endogenous opioids are one of the neuromodulators produced by the body to attenuate stressful states. Opioid receptor in the central and peripheral nervous system regulates stress and pain responses.²⁷¹ locus coeruleus (LC) in the brain is the stress-integrating site. The opioid receptor can sensitize neurons in LC to corticotropin-releasing factor (CRF), a potent psychological mediator regulating stress-induced behaviors.²⁷² Chronic or persistent acute stress can alter LC functions.²⁷³ Hyperactive LC is associated with psychiatric disorders.²⁷⁴ Dysregulation of the opioid receptors affects emotion processing in patients with major depressive disorders.²⁷⁵ Opioid receptor levels are related to neurocognitive deficits.²⁷⁶ Elevated opioid receptors level might elicit symptoms of schizophrenia resulting in treatment resistance.²⁷⁶

δ -opioid receptor and mu-opioid receptor exhibit opposite functions in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. δ -opioid receptor agonist reduces expression of β -site APP cleaving enzyme 1 (BACE1), which cleaves amyloid precursor protein to initiate A β peptide production in PC12 cells (harbouring mimicked injury of Alzheimer's disease).^{277,278} On the contrary, knocking down δ -opioid receptor increases BACE1 expression, leading to

high production of A β 42, the essential pathogenic A β peptides in Alzheimer's disease with 42 amino acids.²⁷⁸ For the μ -opioid receptor, it is noted that agonist-induced receptor activation enhances BACE1 and A β 42 expression.²⁷⁸ Hence, targeting δ -opioid/ μ -opioid receptor signaling might benefit Alzheimer's disease treatment; Parkinson's disease patients have reduced brain kappa-opioid receptor levels.²⁷⁹ Activating κ -opioid receptor ameliorates Parkinsonian behaviours and restores locomotor in marmoset with Parkinsonism.²⁸⁰ In addition, κ -opioid receptor agonists can alleviate dyskinesia behaviour derived from L-DOPA in Parkinson's disease rats.²⁸¹

Serotonin receptor. Dysregulation of serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT) receptors is observed in nearly all neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders.^{282,283} 5-HT receptors 1 and 2 are the most intensively studied drug targets. The receptors have various effects with multiple subtypes and alternative splice variants. 5-HT1 and 5-HT2 receptors have different expression patterns in the brain with similar or opposite functions.²⁸⁴ 5-HT1 receptor has 5 subtypes: 5-HT1A, 5-HT1B, 5-HT1D, 5-HT1E and 5-HT1F receptors. 5-HT1A receptor can be found in both serotonin neurons and non-serotonin neurons.²⁸⁵ 5-HT1A receptor is associated with anxiety and mental traits in transgenic mice.²⁸⁵ Partial agonists targeting the 5-HT1A receptor are suggested to be useful in controlling alcohol abuse.²⁸⁶ Anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) is a brain region regulating emotion regulation, pain perception, and cognitive control.²⁸⁷ Patients with bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, and schizophrenia have higher 5-HT1B receptor expression in the outer ACC layers compared to the inner ACC layers,²⁸⁸ 5-HT2 receptor has 3 subtypes: 5-HT2A, 5-HT2B, and 5-HT2C receptors. 5-HT2 receptors are implicated in various neuropsychiatric phenotypes, including schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, affective disorders, eating disorders, anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, suicide, and Alzheimer's disease.²⁸⁹

Class C (glutamate)

Structural insights. Class C GPCRs are distinguished from other classes of GPCRs by two unique features. First, the orthosteric ligand binding pocket is located in the large extracellular venus flytrap domain (VFT). VFT is connected to the transmembrane helix via the cysteine-rich domain (CRD) (Fig. 4c). Among class C GPCRs, only the GABAB receptor lacks CRD; Second, class C GPCR forms hetero- or homo-dimers at physiological conditions.^{290–294} VFT domain forms an asymmetric dimer interface to facilitate dimer formation. Ligand engagement at either subunit is sufficient to activate the receptor.^{291,294,295} The surface interface between dimers is the potential binding site for the therapeutic modulator.²⁹² The conformation rearrangement between ICL2 and ICL3, and C-terminus contributes to receptor activation.^{296–298}

γ -aminobutyric acid B receptor. γ -aminobutyric acid B (GABAB) is an inhibitory neurotransmitter. GABAB receptor is a heterodimer consisting of two subunits, GABAB1 and GABAB2. GABAB1

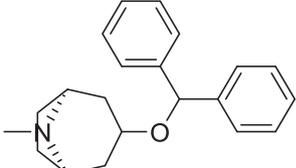
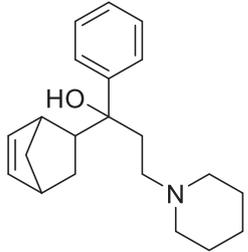
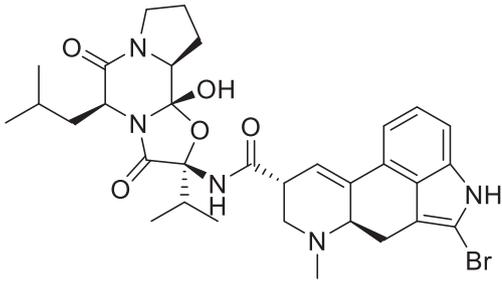
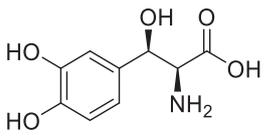
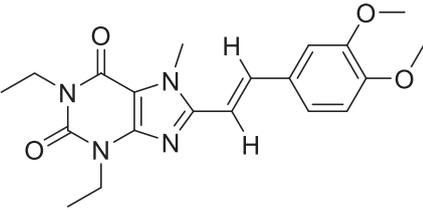
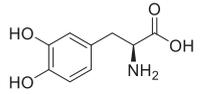
Table 2. continued						
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Benzatropine		Parkinson's disease	CHRM1 HH1R	Antagonist Antagonist	/ /	628-630
Biperiden		Parkinson's disease	CHRM1	Antagonist	0.48	630
Bromocriptine		Parkinson's disease	DRD2 DRD3 5-HT-1D ADRA2A 5-HT-1A ADRA2C ADRA2B 5-HT-2B DRD4 5-HT-2A 5-HT-1B 5-HT-2C DRD5 DRD1 ADRA1A ADRA1B ADRA1D 5-HT-7	Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Antagonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Antagonist; Agonist Antagonist; Agonist Agonist Antagonist	10 87 10.72 10.96 12.88 28.18 34.67 / / 107.15 354.81 741.31 454 672 / 1.38 1.12 /	364,631-633
Droxidopa		Parkinson's disease	ADRA1A ADRA1B ADRA1D ADRA2A ADRA2B ADRA2C ADRB1 ADRB2 ADRB3	Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist	/ / / / / / / / / /	634,635
Istradefylline		Parkinson's disease	ADORA2A ADORA1	Antagonist Antagonist	/ /	365,636
Levodopa		Parkinson's disease	DRD1 DRD2 DRD3 DRD4 DRD5	Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist	/ / / / /	637-640

Table 2. continued

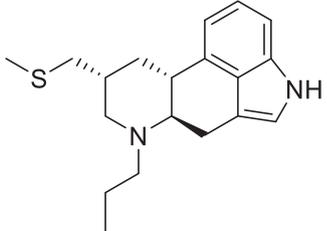
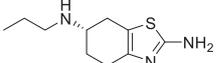
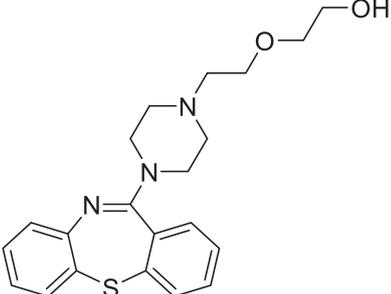
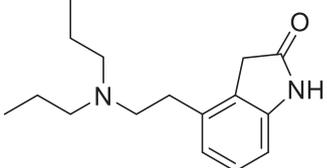
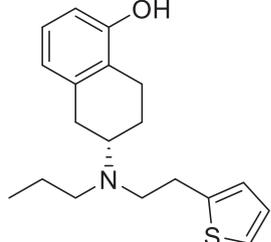
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Pergolide		Parkinson's disease	DRD4	Agonist		364,620,632,640–645
			DRD5	Agonist		
			DRD1	Agonist	2020	
			DRD3	Agonist	4	
			DRD2	Agonist	4	
			5-HT-1A	Agonist	1.8	
			5-HT-2B	Agonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Agonist	/	
			5-HT-1D	Agonist	/	
			5-HT-1B	Agonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Agonist	/	
			ADRA2	Agonist	/	
			ADRA1A	Agonist	/	
			ADRA1B	Agonist	/	
			ADRA1D	Agonist	/	
Pramipexole		Parkinson's disease	DRD3	Agonist	0.87	370,646,647
			DRD2	Agonist	21	
			DRD4	Agonist	8.1	
			5-HT-1A	Agonist	/	
			ADRA2A	Agonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Agonist	/	
Quetiapine		Parkinson's disease; bipolar disorder; schizophrenia	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	31	385,436,437,619,648–651
			DRD2	Antagonist	69	
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist; Partial agonist	125	
			5-HT-1B	Ligand	2050	
			5-HT-1D	Ligand	560	
			5-HT-1E	Ligand	1250	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	615	
			5-HT-3A	Ligand	/	
			5-HT-6	Antagonist	33	
			5-HT-7	Ligand	/	
			DRD5	Ligand	1513	
			DRD3	Ligand	320	
			DRD4	Ligand	1600	
			HH1R	Antagonist	2.2	
			ADRA1	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	80	
			ADRA2B	Antagonist	90	
			ADRA2C	Antagonist	28.7	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	56	
			CHRM2	Ligand	630	
			CHRM3	Antagonist	705	
			CHRM4	Ligand	225	
			CHRM5	Ligand	/	
DRD1	Antagonist	390				
Ropinirole		Parkinson's disease	DRD2	Agonist	7.2	364,370,645,652
			DRD4	Agonist	/	
			DRD3	Agonist	19	
			ADRA1	Antagonist	/	
			DRD1	Antagonist	390	
Rotigotine		Parkinson's disease	DRD2	Agonist	0.06	364,653
			DRD3	Agonist	4	
			DRD5	Agonist	986	
			DRD1	Agonist	2172	
			DRD4	Agonist	55	
			ADRA2B	Antagonist	/	
5-HT-1A	Agonist	/				

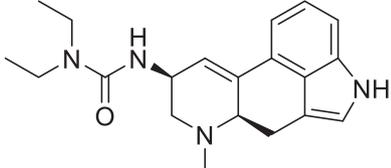
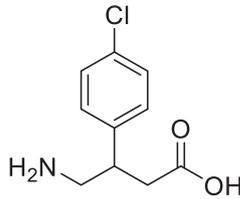
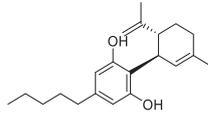
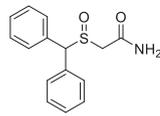
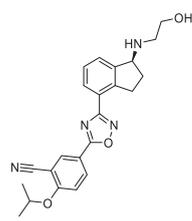
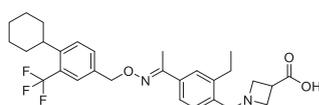
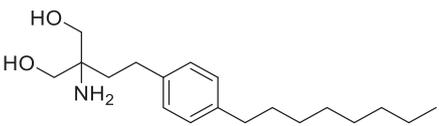
Table 2. continued							
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference	
lisuride		Parkinson's disease	DRD2	Agonist	0.5	364,629,633	
			DRD1	Antagonist	77		
			DRD3	Agonist	1.7		
			DRD4	Agonist	/		
			DRD5	Antagonist	/		
			ADRA2B	/	/		
			ADRA2A	/	/		
			ADRA2C	/	/		
			5-HT-1A	Agonist	0.4		
			5-HT-2A	Agonist	6918.31		
			5-HT-2C	Agonist	/		
			5-HT-1D	Agonist	/		
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/		
			5-HT-1B	Agonist	/		
5-HT-7	Inactivating antagonist	/					
Baclofen		Multiple sclerosis	GABBR2	Agonist	/	654,655	
			CXC-R4	Allosteric; modulator	/		
			GABBR1	Agonist	/		
Cannabidiol		Multiple sclerosis	CB-R	Antagonist	/	656-658	
			CB-2	Antagonist	/		
			GPR12	Inverse agonist	/		
			GPR18	/	/		
			GPR55	Antagonist	/		
			5-HT-1A	Agonist	/		
			5-HT-2A	Agonist	/		
			DOR-1	/	/		
			MOR-1	/	/		
			5-HT-3A	Antagonist	/		
Modafinil		Multiple sclerosis; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	ADORA1	Activator	/	659	
			ADRA1B	Partial agonist	/		
Ozanimod		Multiple sclerosis	S1PR1	Agonist	/	660	
			S1PR5	Agonist	/		
Siponimod		Multiple sclerosis	S1PR1	Agonist	/	661	
			S1PR5	Agonist	/		
Fingolimod		Multiple sclerosis	S1PR5	Agonist	/	662,663	
			S1PR1	Agonist	/		
			S1PR3	Agonist	/		
			S1PR4	Agonist	/		

Table 2. continued

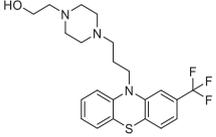
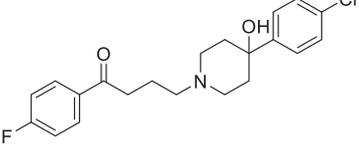
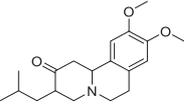
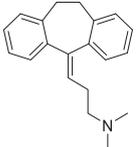
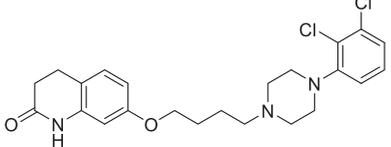
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Fluphenazine		Tourette's disorder; depression	DRD2	Antagonist	1.44	629,664,665
			DRD1	Antagonist	7	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	3.2	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	579	
Haloperidol		Huntington's disease; schizophrenia	5-HT-2C	/	/	613,619,623,666-669
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	25	
			DRD1	Antagonist	6.17	
			DRD2	Antagonist	0.12	
			DRD3	Inverse agonist	2	
			HH1R	/	/	
			CHRM3	/	/	
			ADRA1A	/	/	
			ADRA2A	/	/	
			ADRA2B	/	/	
			ADRA2C	/	/	
			5-HT-1A	/	/	
			5-HT-6	/	/	
			5-HT-7	/	/	
MCHR1	/	/				
Tetrabenazine		Huntington's disease	DRD2	Inhibitor	/	/
Amitriptyline		Schizophrenia; depression; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder;	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	407,670-681
			5-HT-1A	Inhibitor; Inducer	450	
			DOR-1	Agonist	/	
			KOR-1	Agonist	/	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist; Inhibitor	/	
			ADRA1D	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2A	Antagonist; Agonist	114	
			HH1R	Antagonist	0.67	
			HH2R	Blocker	/	
			HH4R	Binder	33.6	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	18	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-1D	Binder	/	
MOR-1	Binder	/				
5-HT-1B	Binder	/				
5-HT-6	Antagonist	65				
5-HT-1C	Antagonist	/				
CHRM	Ligand	/				
Aripiprazole		Schizophrenia; Tourette's disorder	DRD2	Antagonist; Partial agonist	0.2	386
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist; Partial agonist	0.8	
			5-HT-1A	Partial agonist	5.6	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	34.8	
			DRD3	Antagonist; Partial agonist	3.3	
			5-HT-1D	Antagonist; Partial agonist	68	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist; Partial agonist	14	
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	74	
			ADRA2C	Antagonist; Other/unknown	37	
			HH1R	Antagonist	25.1	
			5-HT-1B	Antagonist; Ligand	830	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist; Partial agonist	22	

Table 2. continued

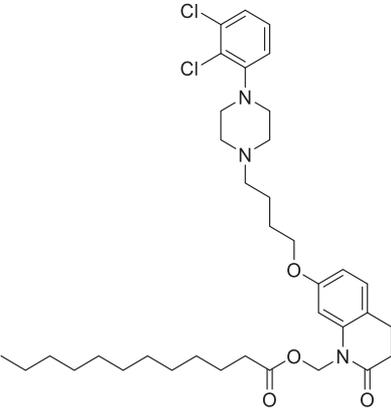
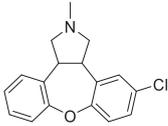
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
			5-HT-3A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-6	Antagonist	90	
			DRD1	Antagonist; Partial agonist; Ligand	1960	
			DRD4	Antagonist; Partial agonist	168	
			ADRA2B	Antagonist; Ligand	102	
			5-HT-1E	Antagonist; Ligand	8000	
			DRD5	Antagonist; Partial agonist; Ligand	2590	
			5-HT-2B	Inverse agonist	/	
			5-HT-5A	Ligand	/	
			ADRB1	Ligand	/	
			ADRB2	Ligand	/	
			HH2R	Ligand	/	
			HH3R	Ligand	/	
			HH4R	Ligand	/	
			CHRM1	Ligand	/	
			CHRM2	Ligand	/	
			CHRM3	Ligand	/	
			CHRM4	Ligand	/	
			CHRM5	Ligand	/	
			KOR-1	Ligand	/	
			MOR-1	Ligand	/	
			DOR-1	Ligand	/	
Aripiprazole lauroxil		Schizophrenia	DRD2	Partial agonist	/	619,682,683
			5-HT-1A	Partial agonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-1B	/	/	
			5-HT-1D	/	/	
			5-HT-1E	/	/	
			DRD1	/	/	
			DRD5	/	/	
			DRD3	/	/	
			DRD4	/	/	
			5-HT-2C	/	/	
			5-HT-3A	/	/	
			5-HT-6	/	/	
			5-HT-7	/	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2A	/	/	
			ADRA2B	/	/	
			ADRA2C	/	/	
			CHRM1	/	/	
			CHRM2	/	/	
			CHRM3	/	/	
			CHRM4	/	/	
			CHRM5	/	/	
Asenapine		Schizophrenia	ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	684
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2B	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2C	Antagonist	/	
			ADRB1	Antagonist	/	
			ADRB2	Antagonist	/	
			DRD4	Antagonist	/	
			DRD3	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-1B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-5A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-6	Antagonist	/	

Table 2. continued

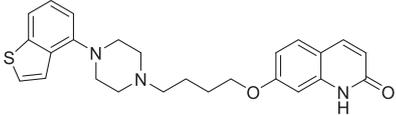
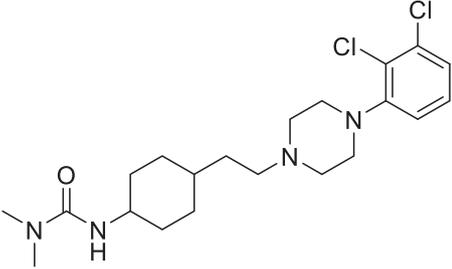
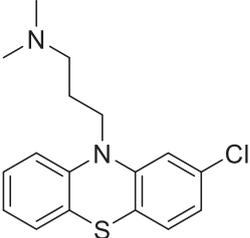
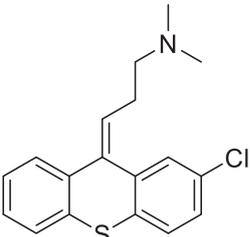
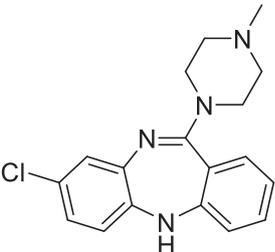
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference				
Brexipiprazole		Schizophrenia; major depressive disorder (MDD)	5-HT-7	Antagonist	/	389,390				
			HH1R	Antagonist	/					
			HH2R	Antagonist	/					
			DRD1	Antagonist	/					
			DRD2	Antagonist	/					
			5-HT-1A	Agonist; Partial agonist	/					
			DRD2	Agonist; Partial agonist	/					
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/					
			ADRA2C	Antagonist	/					
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/					
Cariprazine		Schizophrenia	DRD2	Partial agonist	/	685,686				
			DRD3	Partial agonist	/					
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/					
			5-HT-1A	Partial agonist	/					
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/					
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/					
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	/					
			HH1R	Antagonist	/					
			Chlorpromazine		Schizophrenia		DRD2	Antagonist	1.2	622,687,688
							DRD1	Antagonist	44	
5-HT-1A	Antagonist	116.4								
5-HT-2A	Antagonist	1.8								
ADRA1A	Antagonist	/								
ADRA1B	Antagonist	/								
HH1R	Antagonist	3								
DRD3	Inhibitor	3								
DRD4	Antagonist	/								
DRD5	Inhibitor	133								
Chlorprothixene		Schizophrenia	5-HT-2C	Binder	1.4	689-693				
			ADRA1	Inhibitor	/					
			ADRA2	Inhibitor	/					
			CHRM1	Antagonist	25					
			CHRM3	Antagonist	47					
			5-HT-6	Binder	4					
			5-HT-7	Binder	27					
			HH4R	Binder	50.2					
			HH1R	Antagonist	3.73					
			DRD2	Antagonist	2.96					
Clozapine		Schizophrenia	DRD1	Antagonist	18	608,609,611,613,619,667,694-706				
			DRD3	Antagonist	4.56					
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/					
			CHRM1	Antagonist	11					
			CHRM2	Antagonist	28					
			CHRM3	Antagonist	22					
			CHRM4	Antagonist	18					
			CHRM5	Antagonist	/					
			5-HT	Inhibitor	/					
			DRD2	Antagonist	28					
5-HT-2A	Antagonist	1								
5-HT-1A	Antagonist	101								
5-HT-1B	Antagonist	390								
5-HT-1D	Antagonist	130								
5-HT-1E	Antagonist	430								
5-HT-3A	Antagonist	/								
5-HT-2C	Antagonist	1.8								
5-HT-6	Antagonist	4								
5-HT-7	Antagonist	9								
DRD1	Antagonist	53								
DRD3	Antagonist	88								
DRD4	Antagonist	9								
ADRA1A	Antagonist	/								

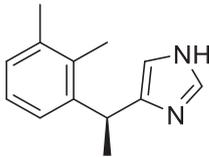
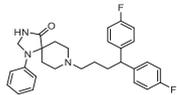
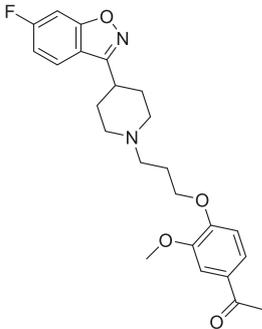
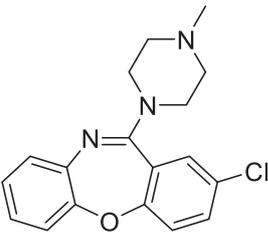
Table 2. continued							
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference	
Dexmedetomidine		Schizophrenia; bipolar disorder	ADRA1B	Antagonist	/		
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	15		
			ADRA2B	Antagonist	22		
			ADRA2C	Antagonist	2.9		
			CHRM1	Antagonist	0.98		
			CHRM2	Antagonist	9		
			CHRM3	Antagonist	7		
			CHRM4	Antagonist	6		
			CHRM5	Antagonist	/		
			HH1R	Antagonist	0.23		
			HH4R	Antagonist	11.9		
			ADRA2A	Agonist	2.0417		707
			Fluspirilene		Schizophrenia	DRD2	Antagonist
5-HT-2A	Antagonist	9.5				/	
Iloperidone		Schizophrenia	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	0.12	708,709	
			DRD2	Antagonist	/		
			DRD1	Antagonist	216		
			DRD3	Antagonist	/		
			DRD4	Antagonist	/		
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	33		
			5-HT-6	Antagonist	63.1		
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	/		
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/		
			ADRA2C	Antagonist	16.2		
Loxapine		Schizophrenia	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	2	623,629,691,710-716	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	1.69		
			5-HT-1A	Binder	2456		
			5-HT-1B	Binder	/		
			5-HT-1D	Binder	/		
			5-HT-1E	Binder	/		
			5-HT-3A	Binder	/		
			5-HT-5A	Binder	/		
			5-HT-6	Binder	15		
			5-HT-7	Binder	/		
			ADRA1A	Binder	/		
			ADRA1B	Binder	/		
			ADRA2A	Binder	150.8		
			ADRA2B	Binder	107.6		
			ADRA2C	Binder	79.9		
			ADRB1	Binder	/		
			CHRM1	Binder	63.9		
			CHRM2	Binder	300		
			CHRM3	Binder	122		
			CHRM4	Binder	300		
			CHRM5	Binder	/		
			DRD1	Antagonist	/		
			DRD2	Antagonist	21		
DRD3	Antagonist	22					
DRD4	Antagonist	4.9					
DRD5	Binder	/					
HH1R	Binder	4.9					
HH2R	Binder	/					
HH4R	Binder	3981					

Table 2. continued

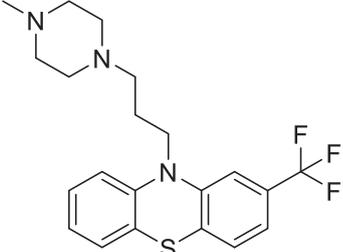
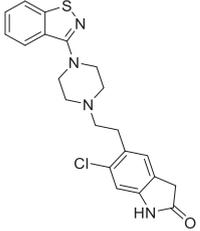
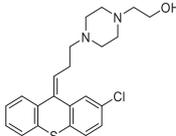
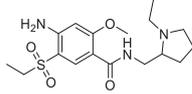
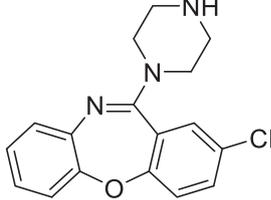
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Trifluoperazine		Schizophrenia	DRD2	Antagonist	/	622,628,630
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
Ziprasidone		Schizophrenia	DRD2	Antagonist	2.8	608,611,619,623,664,694,700,735-738
			DRD1	Antagonist	9.5	
			DRD5	Antagonist	/	
			DRD3	Antagonist	7.2	
			DRD4	Antagonist	32	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	0.08	
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	1.9	
			5-HT-1B	Antagonist	0.99	
			5-HT-1D	Antagonist	2.4	
			5-HT-1E	Antagonist	360	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	0.55	
			5-HT-3	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-6	Antagonist	60.9	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-5A	Antagonist	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	4.6	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	154	
			ADRA2B	Antagonist	48	
ADRA2C	Antagonist	59				
CHRM1	Antagonist	300				
CHRM2	Antagonist	2440				
CHRM3	Antagonist	1300				
CHRM4	Antagonist	1600				
CHRM5	Antagonist	/				
Zuclopenthixol		Schizophrenia	DRD2	Antagonist	/	739,740
			DRD1	Antagonist	/	
			DRD5	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	/	
Amisulpride		Schizophrenia	5-HT-7	Antagonist	/	664,741-748
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	8304	
			DRD2	Antagonist	/	
			DRD3	Antagonist	/	
			MOR-1	Agonist	/	
			DOR-1	Agonist	/	
			KOR-1	Agonist	/	
Amoxapine		Depression	DRD2	Antagonist	/	681,749-752
			DRD1	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	1.77	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-6	Antagonist	50	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	500	
			DRD3	Antagonist	/	
			DRD4	Antagonist	34	
			HH1R	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/	
5-HT-3A	Antagonist	/				
5-HT-1A	Antagonist	221				

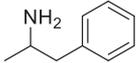
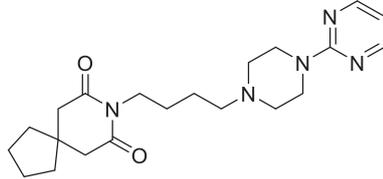
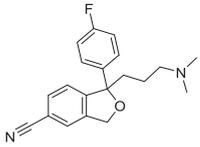
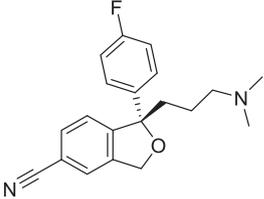
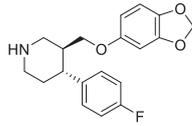
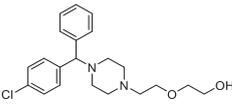
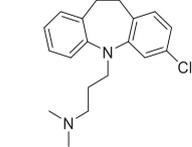
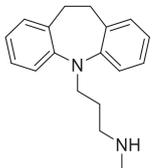
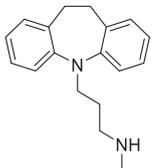
Table 2. continued						
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Amphetamine		Depression; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	5-HT-1B	Antagonist	/	462,753–760
			HH4R	Binder	5012	
			TAAR1	Agonist	/	
			ADRA2	Agonist	/	
			ADRA1	Agonist	/	
Buspirone		Depression; anxiety disorders	ADRB	Agonist	/	406,629,761–765
			DRD2	Binder	/	
			5-HT-1A	Partial agonist	6.6	
			DRD2	Antagonist	13	
			DRD3	Antagonist	/	
Citalopram		Depression; anxiety disorder	ADRA1	Agonist	/	409
			ADRB	Agonist	/	
			ADRA1	Partial agonist	/	
Escitalopram		Depression; anxiety disorders	5-HT	Antagonist	/	766–769
			CHRM1	/	/	
			HH1R	Inhibitor	/	
			5-HT-1A	Inhibitor	/	
			5-HT-2A	Inhibitor	/	
Paroxetine		Depression; anxiety disorders	ADRA1	Inhibitor	/	428,770–772
			ADRA2	Binder	/	
			ADRB	Inhibitor	/	
			DRD2	Other/unknown	/	
			DRD2	Inhibitor	/	
Hydroxyzine		Anxiety disorders	5-HT-2A	Agonist	>10000	773,774
			ADRA1	Binder	/	
			ADRA2	Binder	/	
Clomipramine		Depression; schizophrenia; Tourette's disorder	5-HT	/	/	775,776
			CHRM	/	/	
			HH1R	Inhibitor	/	
Desipramine		Depression; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; anxiety disorders	5-HT-2A	Agonist	35.5	628,630,777–780
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	64.6	
Desipramine		Depression; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; anxiety disorders	ADRA1	Inhibitor	/	628,630,777–780
			ADRA2	Inhibitor	/	
			ADRB	Inhibitor	/	
			DRD2	Inhibitor	/	
			5-HT-2A	Agonist	160	
			ADRB2	Antagonist	/	
			ADRB1	Other/unknown	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	60	
			ADRA1	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	110	
			CHRM2	Antagonist	66	
CHRM3	Antagonist	210				
CHRM4	Antagonist	160				
CHRM5	Antagonist	/				
5-HT-1A	Binder	6400				
5-HT-2C	Binder	350				
DRD2	Binder	/				

Table 2. continued

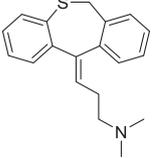
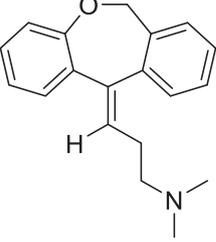
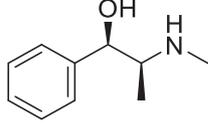
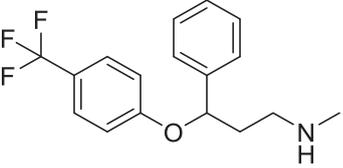
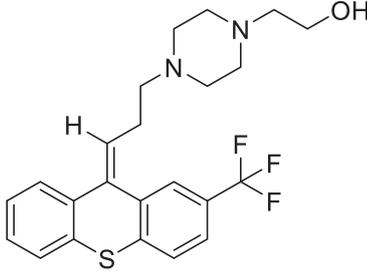
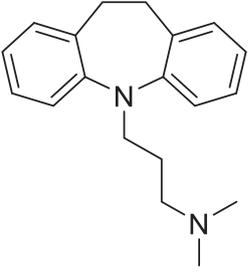
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Dosulepin		Depression; anxiety disorders	ADRA2	Binder	/	781
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM2	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM3	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM4	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM5	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2	Antagonist	/	
Doxepin		Depression; anxiety disorders	ADRA1	Antagonist	/	0.09 233,383,782,783
			HH1R	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	27	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	38	
			CHRM2	Antagonist	23	
			CHRM3	Antagonist	52	
			CHRM4	Antagonist	82	
			CHRM5	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1D	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	276	
			5-HT-6	Binder	105	
Ephedrine		Depression	HH4R	Binder	105.9	784–786
			ADRA1A	Agonist	/	
			ADRB1	Agonist	/	
			ADRB2	Agonist	/	
Fluoxetine		Depression	5-HT-2C	Antagonist	112.2	463,464
Flupentixol		Depression	DRD2	Antagonist	/	628,630,787–789
			DRD1	Antagonist	3	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			DRD3	Antagonist	/	
			DRD4	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	/	
Imipramine		Depression; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	94	671,680,790,791
			HH1R	Antagonist	16	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1D	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	42	
			CHRM2	Antagonist	0.13	
			CHRM3	Antagonist	60	
			CHRM4	Antagonist	112	
			CHRM5	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	150	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	/	
			DRD1	Binder	/	

Table 2. continued

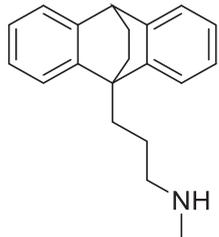
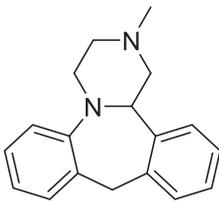
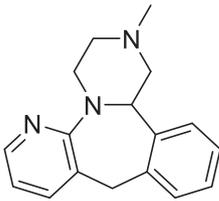
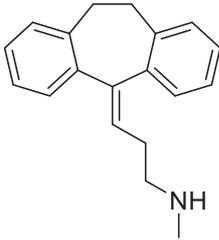
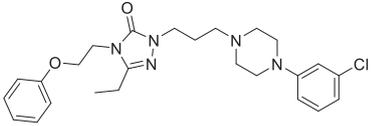
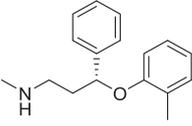
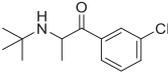
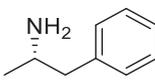
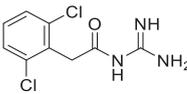
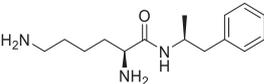
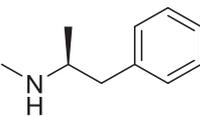
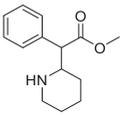
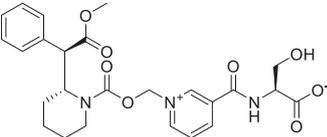
Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Maprotiline		Depression; anxiety disorders	DRD2	Antagonist	726	680
			5-HT-1A	Activator	5800	
			5-HT-6	Binder	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	0.79	
			CHRM1	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM2	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM3	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM4	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM5	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2A	Binder	/	
			5-HT-2C	Binder	/	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	/	
DRD2	Binder	/				
Mianserin		Depression	ADRA2	Antagonist	/	413,680,792–794
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	4.8	
			5-HT-2A	Antagonist	1.58	
			HH1R	Antagonist	0.36	
			HH4R	Binder	750	
			5-HT-1A	Blocker	398.1	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	0.63	
			ADRA2C	Antagonist	3.8	
			5-HT-2B	Binder	/	
			5-HT-1F	Binder	12.58	
			ADRA2B	Antagonist	27	
			DRD3	Binder	2841	
			KOR-1	Agonist	/	
			5-HT-7	Antagonist	56	
			DRD2	Antagonist	2197	
			5-HT-6	Binder	55	
ADRA1	Antagonist	/				
DRD1	Binder	/				
Mirtazapine		Depression	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	69	408,413,414,680,795–799
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	20	
			ADRA1	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-3	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	39	
			KOR-1	Agonist	/	
			HH1R	Antagonist	1.6	
Nortriptyline		Depression	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	/	420,421
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	294	
			HH1R	Antagonist	6.3	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA1D	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	41	
			ADRA1B	Antagonist	/	
			ADRA2	Antagonist	/	
			ADRB	Antagonist	/	
			DRD2	Antagonist	/	
			5-HT-1C	Antagonist	/	
			CHRM	Antagonist	/	
Nefazodone		Depression	5-HT-2A	Antagonist	5.8	410,411,628,795
			5-HT-2C	Antagonist	26	
			5-HT-1A	Antagonist	80	
			ADRA1B	Other/unknown	/	
			ADRA2A	Antagonist	84	
			ADRA1A	Antagonist	/	

Table 2. continued

Drug	Structure	Indication	GPCRs	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Bupropion		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; depression	5-HT-3A	Negative modulator	/	418
Clonidine		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; Tourette's disorder	ADRA2B ADRA2C ADRA2A ADRA1A ADRA1B ADRA1D	Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist	31.62 9.33 3.8 / 316.22 125.89	438,804
Dextroamphetamine		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	TARR1 ADRA1B ADRA1 ADRA2	Agonist Antagonist Inhibitor; Inducer Inhibitor; Inducer	/ / / /	755,760,805
Guanfacine		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; Tourette's disorder	ADRA2A ADRA2B	Agonist Binder	50.3 1020	451
Lisdexamfetamine		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	TARR1	Agonist	/	806,807
Metamfetamine		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	TARR1 ADRA2A ADRA2B ADRA2C	Agonist Agonist Agonist Agonist	/ / / /	760,807
Methylphenidate		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	5-HT-3A	/	/	459
Serdexmethylphenidate		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	5-HT-1A	Agonist	/	458

5-HT 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor, 5-HT-6 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 6, 5-HT-1A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1A, 5-HT-1B 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1B, 5-HT-1C 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1C, 5-HT-1D 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1D, 5-HT-1E 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1E, 5-HT-1F 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1F, 5-HT-2A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2A, 5-HT-2B 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2B, 5-HT-2C 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2C, 5-HT-3 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 3A, 5-HT-3A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 3A, 5-HT-5A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 5A, 5-HT-6 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 6, 5-HT-7 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 7, ACM1 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M1, ACM2 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M2, ACM3 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M3, ACM4 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M4, ACM5 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M5, ADORA1 adenosine receptor A1, ADORA2A adenosine receptor A2a, ADORA2B adenosine receptor A2b, ADRA1 alpha-1 adrenergic receptor, ADRA1A alpha-1A adrenergic receptor, ADRA1B alpha-1B adrenergic receptor, ADRA1D alpha-1D adrenergic receptor, ADRA2 alpha-2 adrenergic receptor, ADRA2A alpha-2A adrenergic receptor, ADRA2B alpha-2B adrenergic receptor, ADRA2C alpha-2C adrenergic receptor, ADRB beta adrenergic receptor, ADRB2 beta-2 adrenergic receptor, ADRB3 beta-3 adrenergic receptor, ADRB1 (gene name) beta-1 adrenergic receptor, CB-2 cannabinoid receptor 2, CB-R or CB1 cannabinoid receptor 1, CHRM cholinergic receptor muscarinic, CHRM1 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M1, CHRM2 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M2, CHRM3 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M3, CHRM4 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M4, CHRM5 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M5, CXC-R4 C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4, DOR-1 delta-type opioid receptor, DRD1 D(1A) dopamine receptor, DRD2 D(2) dopamine receptor, DRD3 D(3) dopamine receptor, DRD4 D(4) dopamine receptor, DRD5 D(5) dopamine receptor, GABBR1 gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 1, GABBR2 gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 2, GPR18 N-arachidonyl glycine receptor, GPR12 G-protein coupled receptor 12, GPR55 G-protein coupled receptor 55, HH1R histamine H1 receptor, HH2R histamine H2 receptor, HH3R

histamine H3 receptor, *HH4R* histamine H4 receptor, *KOR-1* kappa-type opioid receptor, *MCHR1* melanin-concentrating hormone receptor 1, *MOR-1* mu-type opioid receptor, *S1PR1* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1, *S1PR3* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 3, *S1PR4* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 4, *S1PR5* sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 5, *TAAR1* trace amine-associated receptor 1
Overview of the approved drugs targeting GPCR for the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders. The approved drugs and their affiliated items including structure, indication, GPCR targets, mechanism, binding affinity (K_i) and related references were collected from the DrugBank database (Accessed May 2022).

expression is reduced in the brain of Alzheimer's disease patients. The GABAB1 protein level is negatively associated with the neurofibrillary tangle.²⁹⁹ Results from a genome-wide association study (GWAS) show that GABAB1 SNPs are a risk factor for schizophrenia.³⁰⁰ GABAB2 SNPs are correlated with the development of Huntington's disease.³⁰¹ Activating GABAB receptor can ameliorate motor impairment and reduces inflammation/oxidative damage in Parkinson's disease models.³⁰²

Metabotropic glutamate receptors. The excitatory neurotransmitter glutamate mediates neuronal excitability via metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGluRs). Functional mGluR is a homodimeric receptor consisting of 8 members (mGluR1-8).³⁰³ Dysregulation of mGluR signaling pathways is observed in both neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders.³⁰⁴

Group I mGluR composes of mGluR1 and mGluR5. mGluR1 localizes in the hippocampus, hypothalamus, periaqueductal gray, and amygdala, which are associated with anxiety.³⁰⁵ mGluR5 activity is linked to the cognitive symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.^{306–308} Deleting mGluR5 improved spatial learning impairment and decreased A β oligomers in Alzheimer's disease models.³⁰⁹ Interaction between mGluR5 and cellular prion protein could also play a part in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease.^{310,311} Activating mGluR5 promotes striatal neuron survival in Huntington's disease models.^{312,313} mGluR5 knockout mice exhibit obvious schizophrenia symptoms, including reduced spatial memory and reduced sensorimotor gating.³¹⁴

Group II mGluR consists of mGluR2 and mGluR3. Activating mGluR2 and mGluR3 can control panic-like behaviors and ameliorates acute stress responses in the anxiety model.³¹⁵ Mutant huntingtin in Huntington's disease is toxic to neurons.³¹³ In the mouse model, activating mGluR2 and mGluR3 could enhance limb coordination by attenuating the generation of huntingtin aggregate.³¹⁶ mGluR2 and mGluR3 demonstrate protective effects on the nigrostriatal system, which restores functional deficits in Parkinson's disease rat model.^{317,318} Overexpression of mGluR2 in the neocortical layers, cerebellum, striatum, hippocampus, and thalamus/hypothalamus could build up glutamate-mediated excitotoxicity and promote Huntington's disease progression.^{319–322}

Group III mGluR includes mGluR4/6/7/8. mGluR4 activation ameliorates locomotion disorder in Parkinson's disease rats.³²³ mGluR7/8 are associated with the anxiety-related phenotype.^{324,325} SNPs in mGluR7/8 are correlated to the susceptibility of schizophrenia.^{326–329}

GPCR dimers. GPCRs can function in homodimeric or heterodimeric forms.^{330,331} The receptor complex consists of one GPCR dimer with two orthosteric binding sites and a heterotrimeric G protein.³³² GPCR dimer exhibits different biochemical properties compared to the individual receptor. Activation of either one of the receptors is sufficient to promote dimer formation.³³³ Dimeric GPCR has a different ligand binding affinity as compared to the monomer.³³¹ Receptor dimerization affects receptor trafficking in agonist-induced GPCR endocytosis.³³⁰ Closely related GPCR subtypes are more efficient in forming heteromers.³³⁴ Here, we focused on discussing two physiologically existing GPCR heterodimers (A2AR-D2R and mGluR2-5-HT2A).

Adenosine 2A receptor-dopamine D2 receptor (A2AR-D2R) heterodimer is located in the ventral striato-pallidal GABA

neurons.^{335,336} A2AR-D2R heterodimer attracts attention in the field of Parkinson's disease medication as ligands for A2AR can modulate dopamine signaling in Parkinson's disease. Co-administration of dopamine precursor L-DOPA (L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine) and dopamine receptor agonists could improve mobility in Parkinson's disease.¹⁴¹ It has been shown that adenosine antagonists such as caffeine could enhance dopamine agonist action in Parkinson's disease treatment.³³⁷ A2AR activation can suppress D2R-mediated Gi/o signaling.³³⁵ Stimulating A2AR with adenosine A2AR agonist in the nucleus accumbens produces behavioural effects similar to local dopamine depletion.³³⁸ Thus, the action of A2AR modulators should be considered in the drug design for Parkinson's disease.

Serotonin type A 5-HT2A receptor and type C metabotropic glutamate 2 (mGlu2) receptor regulates psychoactive behavior in schizophrenia.^{339,340} 5-HT2A receptor is a Gq-coupled receptor, while mGluR2 receptor signals through Gi.³⁴¹ 5-HT2A receptor is upregulated in the frontal cortex of schizophrenic subjects compared with normal subjects. In contrast, the expression level of mGluR2 is decreased.³⁴¹ Balance between Gq and Gi is a predictive indicator of antipsychotic drug properties.³⁴² 5-HT2A receptor and mGluR2 can form stable complexes in physiological conditions which regulate Gq-Gi balance cooperatively.³⁴³ mGluR2 agonist reduces 5-HT2A receptor/Gq signaling in the frontal cortex of schizophrenic subjects.³⁴¹ mGluR2 agonist can downregulate 5-HT2A receptor expression.³⁴⁴ On the contrary, it has been shown that the 5-HT2A receptor controls mGluR2 expression at the epigenetic level in the frontal cortex.³⁴² Although the 5-HT2A receptor and mGluR2 regulate the activity of each other remains elusive, interrupting the functional crosstalk in the 5-HT2A receptor/mGluR2 complex is a putative approach in schizophrenia treatment.³⁴⁵

THERAPEUTIC DEVELOPMENT

The small molecules regulate GPCR activity by stabilizing receptors at unique conformational state (Fig. 5). To explore the GPCR-based therapeutic strategies against neuropsychiatric disorders, we examined the clinically approved drugs (Fig. 5a) and compounds being tested in different stages of clinical trials (Fig. 5b) in the DrugBank database (<https://go.drugbank.com/>). In total, 92 drugs are being approved (Table 2). Forty-one candidates are undergoing clinical trials (Table 3). Selected receptors/drugs interaction are shown in Fig. 6.

Neurodegenerative diseases

Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease. AD patients present with cognitive deficits, memory loss, and personality and behaviour changes. Currently, there is no curative treatment for AD. Reducing patients' symptoms and delaying the disease's progression is the primary objective of treatment. α 1-adrenergic receptor, dopamine receptor, muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M3, histamine H1 receptor, and serotonin receptors are the primary therapeutic targets. Medication to control mental symptoms is another important objective, as patients manifest neuropsychiatric symptoms frequently.

Developing new drugs for AD is challenging, with high failure rates and long development periods. Several trials attempt to

Table 3. Candidate drugs under development

Drug	Structure	Indication	Phase status	NCT	Targets (protein short names)	Mechanism	K_i (nM)	Reference
Resveratrol		Alzheimer's disease; schizophrenia; Parkinson's disease; depression	1; 2; 2; 4	NCT01504854; NCT02062190; NCT03384329; NCT03095105; NCT03093389; NCT03094156; NCT03097211	Me1-1A-R Me1-1B-R	/ /	/ /	808
SGS-742		Alzheimer's disease; schizophrenia; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	2	NCT00093951	GABBR1 GABBR2	/ /	/ /	/
SUVN-502		Alzheimer's disease	2	NCT02580305	5-HT-6	/	/	/
Nabilone		Alzheimer's disease	3	NCT02351882	CB-R CB-2	Agonist Agonist	/ /	349
Caffeine		Alzheimer's disease	3	NCT04570085	adenosine receptors 5-HT-1	/ Regulator	/	350
Velusetrag		Alzheimer's disease	1	NCT01467726	5-HT-4	/	/	/
Brexiprazole		Alzheimer's disease	3	NCT03620981	DRD2	Partial Agonist	/	354
Prazosin		Alzheimer's disease	3	NCT03710642	ADRA1A CB-2 GPR12 GPR18 GPR55 5-HT-1A 5-HT-2A DOR-1	Antagonist / Inverse agonist / / / / /	/ / / / / / /	809

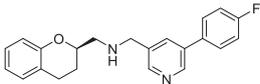
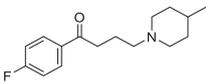
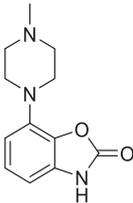
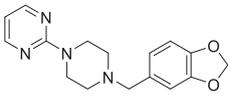
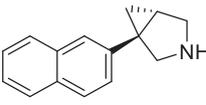
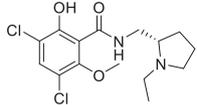
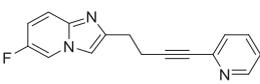
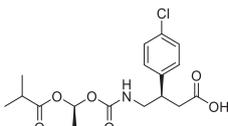
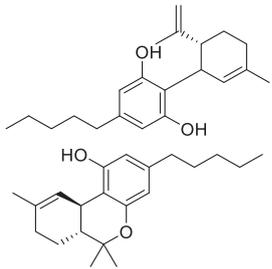
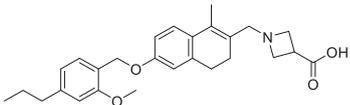
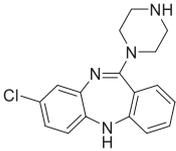
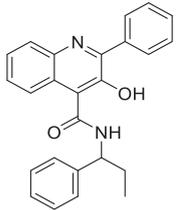
Drug	Structure	Indication	Phase status	NCT	Targets (protein short names)	Mechanism	K _i (nM)	Reference
Sarizotan		Parkinson's disease	2; 3	NCT00009048; NCT00314288; NCT00105508; NCT00105521	MOR-1 DRD2 DRD3 5-HT-1A	/ Partial agonist Ligand /	/ / / /	/
Melperone		Parkinson's disease; schizophrenia; anxiety disorders; depression	2; 3	NCT02374567; NCT00125138;	DRD2	Antagonist	/	/
Pardoprunox		Parkinson's disease	3	NCT00407095; NCT00406588; NCT00335166; NCT00335374; NCT00332917; NCT00269516	DRD2 DRD3 DRD4 5-HT-1A	/ / / /	/ / / /	/
Piribedil		Parkinson's disease	3	NCT01007864	DRD2 DRD3	/ /	/ /	810
Centanafadine		Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder	3	NCT03605849; NCT03605680; NCT03605836; NCT05257265; NCT05279313; NCT05428033	/	/	/	
Raclopride		Parkinson's disease; depression	1; 4	NCT00832221; NCT05282277	DRD2	Antagonist	/	811
Dipraglurant		Parkinson's disease	2; 2/3	NCT01336088; NCT05116813; NCT04857359	MGLUR5	/	/	/
Arbaclofen Placarbil		Multiple sclerosis	3	NCT01359566	GABBR1 GABBR2	Agonist Agonist	/ /	812
Plozalizumab	Biotech	Multiple sclerosis	2	NCT01199640	CMKBR2	/	/	/
Nabiximols		Multiple sclerosis	3; 4	NCT01964547; NCT00678795; NCT00681538; NCT00702468; NCT00711646	GPR12 CB-R CB-2 GPR55 5-HT-1A	Inverse agonist / / / /	/ / / /	658

Table 3. continued									
Drug	Structure	Indication	Phase status	NCT	Targets (protein short names)	Mechanism	K_i (nM)	Reference	
					5-HT-2A DOR-1 MOR-1	/ / /	/ / /		
Ceralifmod		Multiple sclerosis	2	NCT01226745	S1PR1	Modulator	/	813	
					DRD2 DRD3 5-HT ADRA1 ADRA2	Blocker Blocker Antagonist Antagonist	/ / / / /	814	
Tiapride		Huntington's disease; schizophrenia; depression; anxiety disorders	1; 3	NCT00632645; NCT02374567					
LY2140023	Not Available	Schizophrenia	1; 2; 2/3; 3	NCT01307800; NCT01328093; NCT01487083; NCT01452919; NCT01129674; NCT01125358; NCT01052103; NCT00149292; NCT00520923; NCT00845026; NCT01086748; NCT01606436; NCT01354353	MGLUR2 MGLUR3	/ /	/ /	/	
BL-1020	Not available	Schizophrenia	2; 2/3	NCT00480571; NCT00722176	DRD2 5-HT-2A	/ /	/ /	/	
Norclozapine		Schizophrenia	1; 2	NCT00628420; NCT00490516	CHRM1 DRD2 DRD3	/ / /	/ / /	/	
Talnetant		Schizophrenia	2	NCT00049946; NCT00103727; NCT00300963; NCT00101985	NK3R	Antagonist	1	815	

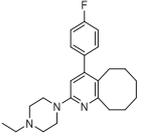
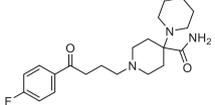
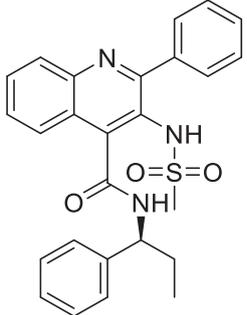
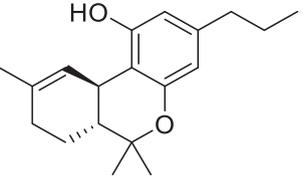
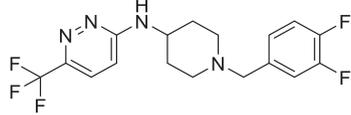
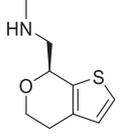
Drug	Structure	Indication	Phase status	NCT	Targets (protein short names)	Mechanism	K_i (nM)	Reference
Blonanserin		Schizophrenia	4; 3	NCT01516424; NCT03784222	DRD2 DRD3 5-HT-2A	Antagonist / Antagonist / Antagonist /	/	816
Pipamperone		Schizophrenia; depression; anxiety disorders	2; 3	NCT00672659; NCT01450514; NCT02374567; NCT01312922	DRD2 5-HT-2A ADRA1 DRD4 DRD1 DRD3 5-HT-2B ADRA2A	Antagonist / Agonist / Antagonist / Antagonist / Antagonist / / / / / Antagonist /	/	/
Pavinetant		Schizophrenia	2	NCT00686998	NK3R	Antagonist /	/	817
Tetrahydrocannabivarin		Schizophrenia	2	NCT01491490	CB-R GPR55 5-HT-1A CB-2	Antagonist / Partial agonist / Agonist / Partial agonist /	/	818
JNJ-37822681		Schizophrenia	2	NCT00728195; NCT01812642	DRD2	Antagonist /	/	819
SEP-363856		Schizophrenia; Parkinson's disease	1; 2; 2/3; 3	NCT04865835; NCT03370640; NCT04325737; NCT04369391; NCT01940159; NCT01972711; NCT01994473; NCT04038957; NCT02970929; NCT02969382; NCT04825860; NCT05359081; NCT04092686; NCT04072354; NCT04109950; NCT02969369	TAAR1 5-HT-1A	Agonist / Agonist /	/	820

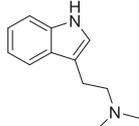
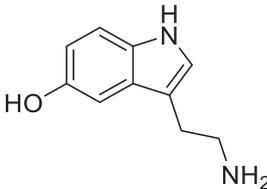
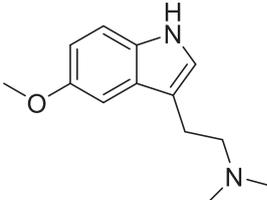
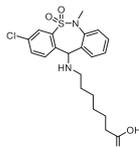
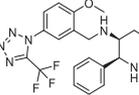
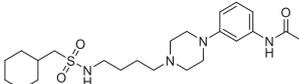
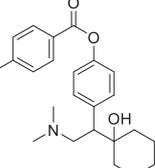
Table 3. continued								
Drug	Structure	Indication	Phase status	NCT	Targets (protein short names)	Mechanism	K_i (nM)	Reference
Dimethyltryptamine		Depression	1; 1/2	NCT04711915; NCT04698603	5-HT-6 5-HT-2A	/ /	68 65	821,822
Serotonin		Depression; bipolar disorder; anxiety disorders	2; 3; 2/3; 4	NCT02137369; NCT01324700; NCT01811147; NCT00183274; NCT00157547; NCT02356107; NCT01155661; NCT00361218	5-HT-2A 5-HT-3A 5-HT-3B	/ / /	/ / /	823
5-methoxy-N,N-dimethyltryptamine		Depression	1/2	NCT04698603	5-HT-1A 5-HT-2A	Agonist Agonist	/ /	824
Tianeptine		Bipolar disorder; depression	3; 4	NCT00879372; NCT01309776; NCT04249596	MOR-1 5-HT-1A DRD3	Agonist Inhibitor Agonist	/ / /	440,441
Vofopitant		Bipolar disorder	1	NCT00907985	SPR	/	/	825
Naluzotan		Anxiety disorders; depression	3; 2	NCT00248183; NCT00448292	5-HT-1A	Agonist	/	435
Ansifaxine		Depression	3	NCT04853407	5-HT	/	/	/

Table 3. continued

Drug	Structure	Indication	Phase status	NCT	Targets (protein short names)	Mechanism	K_i (nM)	Reference
Roluperidone		Schizophrenia	3	NCT03397134	5-HT-2A	/	/	402
Eltopazine		Schizophrenia; Parkinson's disease (PD)	2	NCT01266174; NCT02439125	5-HT-1A 5-HT-2B	/ /	/ /	401
Zicronapine		Schizophrenia	3	NCT01295372	5-HT-2A 5-HT-2C DRD1 DRD2	/ / / /	/ / / /	400
Brilaroxazine		Schizophrenia	2; 3	NCT01490086; NCT05184335	5-HT-7 5-HT-2A 5-HT-1A DRD2 DRD3 DRD4 5-HT-6	/ / / / / / /	/ / / / / / /	399

5-HT 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor, 5-HT-1 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1, 5-HT-6 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 6, 5-HT-1A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1A, 5-HT-1B 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1B, 5-HT-1C 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1C, 5-HT-1D 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1D, 5-HT-1E 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1E, 5-HT-1F 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 1F, 5-HT-2A 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2A, 5-HT-2B 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2B, 5-HT-2C 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 2C, 5-HT-3 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 3A, 5-HT-3A 6-hydroxytryptamine receptor 3A, 5-HT-3B 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 3B, 5-HT-4 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 4, 5-HT-7 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor 7, ADRA1 alpha-1 adrenergic receptor, ADRA1A alpha-1A adrenergic receptor, ADRA1B alpha-1B adrenergic receptor, ADRA1D alpha-1D adrenergic receptor, ADRA2 alpha-2 adrenergic receptor, ADRA2A alpha-2A adrenergic receptor, ADRA2B alpha-2B adrenergic receptor, ADRA2C alpha-2C adrenergic receptor, ADRB2 beta-2 adrenergic receptor, ADRB3 beta-3 adrenergic receptor, ADRB1 beta-1 adrenergic receptor, CB-2 cannabinoid receptor 2, CB-R or CB1 cannabinoid receptor 1, CHRM muscarinic receptor muscarinic, CHRM1 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M1, CHRM2 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M2, CHRM3 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M3, CHRM4 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M4, CHRM5 muscarinic acetylcholine receptor M5, DOR-1 delta-type opioid receptor, DRD1 D(1A) dopamine receptor, DRD2 D(2) dopamine receptor, DRD3 D(3) dopamine receptor, DRD4 D(4) dopamine receptor, DRD5 D(5) dopamine receptor, GABBR1 gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 1, GABBR2 gamma-aminobutyric acid type B receptor subunit 2, GPR18 N-arachidonyl glycine receptor, GPR12 G-protein coupled receptor 12, GPR55 G-protein coupled receptor 55, HH1R histamine H1 receptor, HH2R histamine H2 receptor, HH3R histamine H3 receptor, HH4R histamine H4 receptor, KOR-1 kappa-type opioid receptor, MCHR1 melanin-concentrating hormone receptor 1, MOR-1 mu-type opioid receptor, SPR neurokinin 1 receptor, S1PR1 sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor 1, TAAR1 trace amine-associated receptor 1, Mel-1A-R melatonin receptor type 1A, Mel-1B-R melatonin receptor type 1B, MGLUR5 metabotropic glutamate receptor 5, MGLUR2 metabotropic glutamate receptor 2, MGLUR3 metabotropic glutamate receptor 3, CMKBR2 C-C chemokine receptor type 2, NK3R neuromedin-K receptor

Overview of the clinical stage drugs targeting GPCR for the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders. The clinical stage compounds and their affiliated items including structure, indication, phase status, NCT number, GPCR targets, mechanism, binding affinity (K_i) and related references were collected from the DrugBank database (Accessed May 2022).

explore the use of GPCR agonism in AD treatment. SUVN-502 is in the Phase II trial (NCT02580305) to evaluate its safety and efficacy in moderate AD treatment.³⁴⁶ SUVN-502 is an orally active 5-HT₆ receptor antagonist exhibiting effects by modulating cholinergic and glutamatergic neurotransmission.³⁴⁷ Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) analog Nabilone (agonist targeting CB_{1/2} receptor) is under

phase III investigation (NCT02351882) for its benefit on agitation, hyperactive behavioural symptoms of AD.^{348,349} Caffeine, the antagonist of adenosine receptor antagonist, could modify brain dysfunctions in various neurodegenerative diseases including AD, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease. The efficacy of caffeine on cognitive decline in AD dementia is undergoing examination in

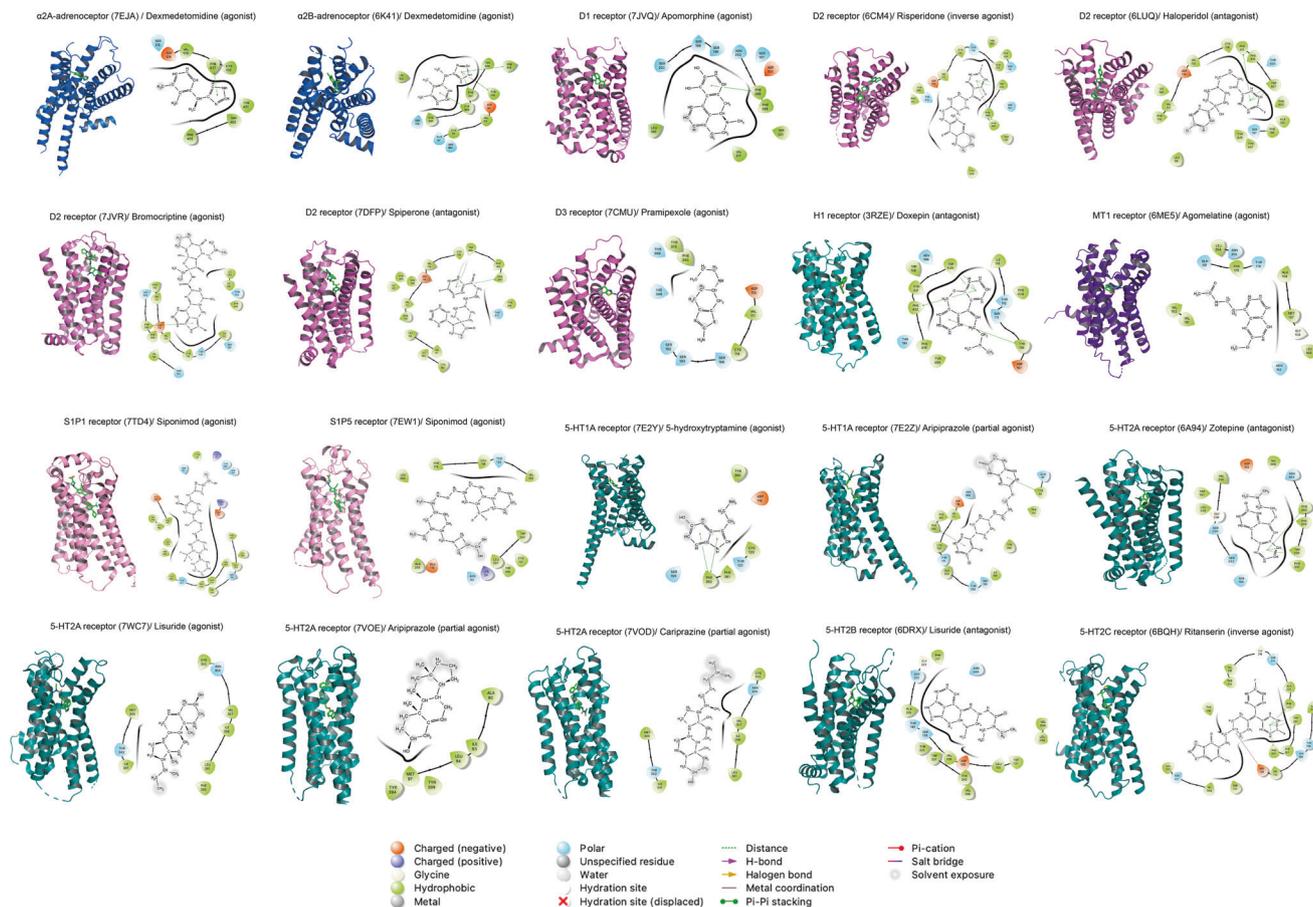


Fig. 6 Interactions between neuropsychiatric drugs with key residues in the orthosteric ligand binding pocket of GPCRs (e.g., adrenoceptors, dopamine receptors, histamine receptors, melatonin receptors, S1P1/5 receptors, and serotonin receptor). The small molecules regulate GPCR activity by stabilizing receptors at unique conformational state

Calcitonin gene-related peptide type 1 receptor (CALCRL)

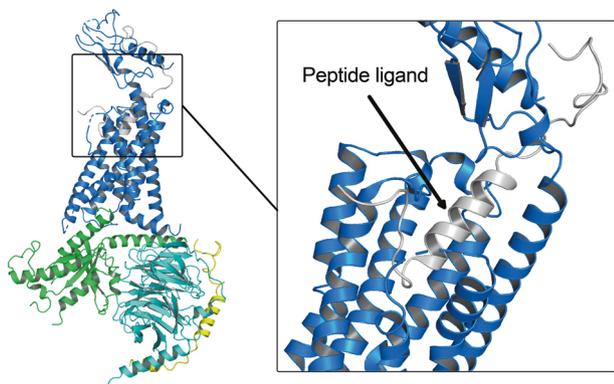


Fig. 7 Structural features of class B1 GPCR. Binding of peptide ligand activates calcitonin receptor-like receptor (PDB 6UVA)

phase III clinical trial (NCT04570085).³⁵⁰

Guanfacine is an α_2 -adrenergic agonist.³⁵¹ Guanfacine could increase brain noradrenaline levels. Dual actions of Guanfacine on noradrenergic transmission and thalamocortical glutamatergic transmission have been reported.³⁵² Guanfacine is a drug for treating children's attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The efficacy for improving cognition in AD is evaluated in the phase III trial (NCT03116126). The α_1 -adrenergic receptor

antagonist, Prazosin, is being tested for its effectiveness on agitation in adults with AD in a phase III trial (NCT03710642). Prazosin is a drug for hypertension, benign prostatic hyperplasia, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) associated nightmares. Prazosin can cross the blood-brain barrier and act on the active α_1 -adrenoreceptor in the brain.

Brexpiprazole is classified as a novel class of antipsychotic with serotonin-dopamine modulating functions. It is an atypical antipsychotic that function as a partial agonist for serotonin and dopamine receptors. As a partial agonist, Brexpiprazole exerts smaller responses than the native ligands.^{353,354} The use of Brexpiprazole in AD agitation is now in phase III study (NCT03620981).

Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second most prevalent age-related disorder. Early stage with mild symptoms did not require medication. Dopamine-like agonists, also known as dopamine-replacement therapy, are the primary treatment for symptomatic PD. As degeneration of the substantia nigra leading to striatal dopamine reduction is a leading cause of PD, re-introducing dopamine can improve motor problems dramatically and slow down PD progression.^{348,355}

Levodopa is a dopamine precursor. It has long been used in controlling bradykinetic symptoms in PD. Levodopa can cross the blood-brain barrier and is known as a well-tolerated drug for dopamine-replacement therapy.³⁵⁶ However, Levodopa could lead to motor and psychiatric side effects.³⁵⁷ Amantadine could reduce dyskinesia (involuntary movements) in PD patients receiving Levodopa.³⁵⁸ Amantadine is an antiviral medicine with

antiparkinsonian effects. Synergistic effects are observed when used in combination with Levodopa.^{359,360} Lisuride functions as a dopamine receptor agonist with 5-HT1A receptor agonist and 5-HT2B receptor antagonist for PD treatment.³⁶¹ Piribedil is a dopamine agonist used with or without Levodopa in a phase III trial to treat idiopathic PD (NCT01519856).³⁶² Bromocriptine is a dopamine D2 receptor agonist for early PD treatment. Bromocriptine works by activating post-synaptic dopamine receptors.³⁶³

Apomorphine is a morphine derivative. It functions as a D2 dopamine agonist for treating hypermobile "off" episodes of advanced PD, a stage in which PD symptoms get worse even with scheduled medication. It also prevents dyskinesia by functioning as a 5-HT1A receptor agonist.³⁶⁴ The A2A receptor in the basal ganglia is involved in the motor control of PD.³⁶⁵ At present, Istradefylline is the principal adenosine A2A receptor antagonist employed in adult PD patients presenting "off" episodes associated with Levodopa treatment.¹⁴¹

Pergolide is a long-acting dopamine receptor agonist approved in 1982 for treating PD. It functions on various GPCRs, including dopamine D2/3 receptor, α 1/2-adrenergic receptor, and 5-HT receptors. It is used as adjunct therapy with Levodopa and carbidopa in the symptomatic treatment of PD.³⁶⁶ Ropinirole is a non-ergoline dopamine agonist, approved as monotherapy and as an adjunct to Levodopa in the treatment of PD.³⁶⁷

Benztropine is used to treat the molecular mechanism of anticholinergics PD.³⁶⁸ Benzotropine inhibits dopamine uptake and exhibits varied binding affinities for muscarinic acetylcholine M1

and histamine H1 receptors.³⁶⁹ Biperiden, another anticholinergic drug launched in 1954, has an antagonistic effect on the muscarinic acetylcholine receptor.³⁶⁸

Pramipexole is a non-ergot-derived dopaminergic agonist for PD treatment. Pramipexole treatment enhances DA and 5-HT neurotransmission and increases tonic activation of post-synaptic D2 and 5-HT1A receptors in the forebrain.³⁷⁰ Apart from PD, Pramipexole can also be prescribed for psychiatric conditions such as treatment-resistant depression and bipolar disorder.³⁷¹

Multiple sclerosis. Multiple sclerosis (MS) results from an immune attack by infiltrating inflammatory leukocytes in the central nervous system, causing hard, mottled pathologic changes and nerve conduction disorders.^{372,373} At present, medication aims to control GPCR-regulated immune cell function as one of the treatment regime for MS. In the database, 6 GPCR-related drugs are recorded. The drugs target multiple GPCRs, including adrenergic receptors, cannabinoid receptors, dopamine receptors, GABA receptors, opioid receptors, orphan GPCRs (GPR12/18/55), S1PR1/5, and chemokine receptors.

Baclofen is a derivative of the neurotransmitter γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA). Baclofen can help relax the stiff muscle (muscle spasticity) experienced by MS patients. Cannabidiol (CBD), one of the active components in cannabis, could improve mobility in MS by reducing depression, fatigue, inflammation, pain, and spasticity (stiff muscle with feelings of pain or tightness) in MS patients.³⁷⁴ Modafinil is a partial agonist for brain α 1b-adrenoceptor.

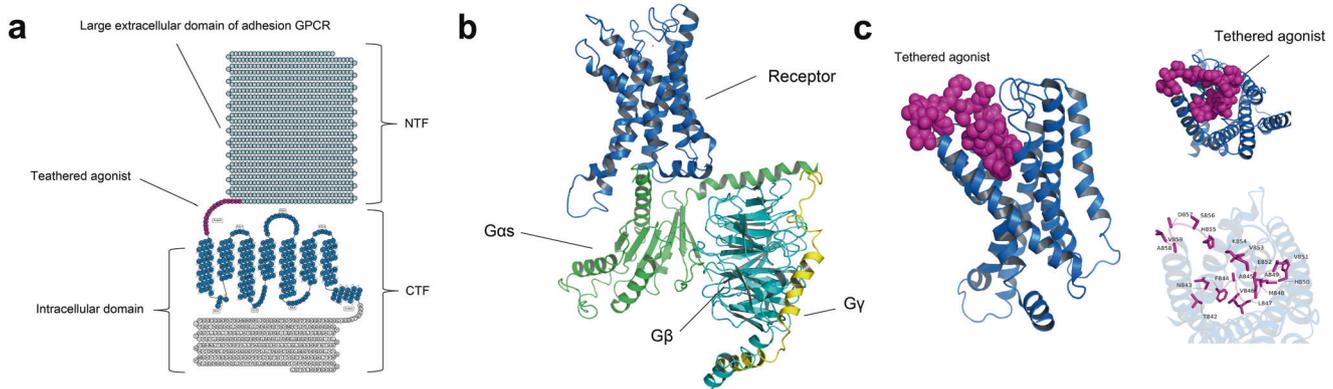


Fig. 8 Structural features of class B2 adhesion GPCR ADGRL3 (PDB 7SF7). **a** Schematic representation of ADGRL3 showing characteristic large N-termini. Source: https://gpcrdb.org/protein/agrl3_human/. **b** GPCR of adhesion GPCR coupled to G α s protein after activation by tethered agonist. **c** Tethered agonist (TA) indicated in spheres. TA occupies the orthosteric pocket of ADGRL3 which as self-agonist for receptor activation

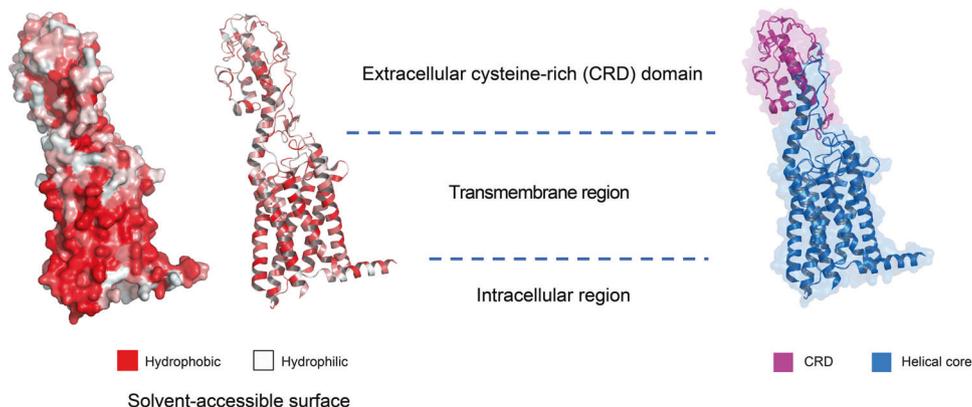


Fig. 9 Structural features of class F GPCR. Smoothened homolog SMO (PDB 5L7D) with large extracellular and cysteine-rich (CRD) domain. Solvent-accessible surface. Hydrophobic surface (red); hydrophilic surface (white)

Pharmacological blockade of $\alpha 1b$ -adrenoceptor shows benefit in controlling fatigue syndromes in MS. Modafinil exhibits clinical efficacy in psychiatric conditions, including treatment-resistant depression and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder.³⁷⁵

Ozanimod, Siponimod, and Fingolimod are S1PR agonists that selectively bind to the S1PR1 and S1PR5 subtypes, inhibiting lymphocyte egress from lymph nodes.³⁷⁶ Ozanimod demonstrates a favourable safety profile in trials.³⁷⁷ Fingolimod may cause undesirable effects because of its interaction with other S1PR subtypes. Compared to Fingolimod, Siponimod has fewer off-target effects.

Ceralifimod is a selective S1PP1/5 agonist under investigation in phase II clinical trial NCT01226745 in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (a condition with relapses or exacerbations of old and new symptoms).²⁶⁷ Plozalizumab is another potential drug for MS treatment. It is a humanized anti-CCR2 monoclonal antibody targeting white blood cells.³⁷⁸ Plozalizumab may regulate inflammatory responses by targeting the CCL2-CCR2 axis in MS.

Huntington's disease. Huntington's disease (HD) is a hereditary neurodegenerative disease. Symptoms include movement disorders and cognitive and psychiatric manifestations. Blocking and antagonizing dopamine are effective for HD treatment. Tetraabenazine is a reversible vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT) inhibitor that inhibits the reuptake of neurotransmitters in presynaptic neurons. VMAT helps to repack the unbound dopamine taken up by the pre-synaptic terminal. Although it is first designed for schizophrenia treatment, clinical trials demonstrate efficacy in treating hyperkinetic movement disorders.³⁷⁹ Tetraabenazine also functions as a D2 post-synaptic receptor blocker at high doses and is used to treat uncontrolled muscle movement in HD.³⁷⁹ Haloperidol is a first-generation antipsychotic for schizophrenia and psychotic disorders.³⁸⁰ As a dopamine receptor antagonist, Haloperidol is used off-label for managing chorea associated with HD.³⁸¹ For cognitive impairment, no effective targeted therapy is available at the present stage. Tiapride is in phase III for the treatment of HD (NCT00632645). Preclinical pharmacologic and behavioral research suggests that Tiapride is a selective blocker of dopamine D2 and D3 receptors in limbic brain regions.³⁸²

Psychiatric disorders

Schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is characterized by cognitive deficits and positive and negative symptoms with complex inheritance patterns.³⁸³ Patients may have positive, negative, cognitive, and general psychopathological disorders. According to the positive and negative syndrome scale (a psychiatric rating system), positive symptoms include delusions, hallucinations, conceptual disorganization, hallucinatory, excitement, grandiosity, suspiciousness, and hostility; Negative symptoms include blunted affect, emotional withdrawal, poor rapport, passive social withdrawal, difficulty in abstract thinking or stereotyped thinking and lack of spontaneity and flow of conversation. Schizophrenia patients could also present general cognitive disorders. Examples include anxiety, guilt feeling, tension, depression, poor attention or impulse control, and active social avoidance.³⁸⁴

Schizophrenia treatment is challenging because existing antipsychotics are antidopaminergic drugs that improve only positive symptoms such as agitation and aggression but have limited efficacy for negative and cognitive symptoms.³⁸⁵ Globally marketed antipsychotic drugs include typical antipsychotic drugs (mostly specific dopamine D2 receptor antagonists) and atypical antipsychotic drugs (such as dopamine D2 and 5-HT2A dual antagonists and D2/D3 partial agonists).

Aripiprazole, a blockbuster drug for controlling psychiatric symptoms, has high affinities for 5-HT1A, 5-HT2A, D2, and D3 receptors. It is a partial agonist of D2, D3, and 5-HT1A receptors

and a 5-HT2A receptor antagonist.³⁸⁶ Aripiprazole is also a drug for bipolar disorders.³⁸⁷ Brexpiprazole, developed by Otsuka, is considered as the pharmacological successor to Aripiprazole. Brexpiprazole can also be used as an adjunct for major depressive disorder.^{388–390}

Cariprazine is a D3/D2 partial agonist with moderate affinity for the 5-HT2A receptor.³⁹¹ FDA approved it in 2016 for treating adult schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Lumateperone is an antipsychotic targeting multiple GPCRs. It is a post-synaptic dopamine D2 receptor antagonist, a presynaptic dopamine D2 receptor partial agonist, and a 5-HT2A receptor antagonist.³⁹² Lumateperone can be used for positive & negative symptoms and cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia.³⁹³ It can also be used in bipolar disorder treatment.³⁹³

Chlorpromazine blocks dopamine receptors, α -adrenergic receptors, and 5-HT receptors. It can quickly control the state of agitation and gradually eliminate hallucinations and delusions. Thus, it can apply as medication to control combativeness and aggressive behaviour in children.³⁹⁴

Risperidone can be used for various mental disorders, including schizophrenia and mood disorders. Risperidone has high affinities for 5-HT receptors and dopamine receptors and mildly inhibits $\alpha 1$ -adrenergic receptors and histamine receptors.³⁹⁵

Olanzapine is developed based on clozapine with structural modification. It was approved to be marketed by FDA in 1996. Olanzapine not only inhibits dopamine receptors but also binds to serotonin receptors, and its affinity with serotonin receptors is far greater than its affinity with dopamine receptors.

Haloperidol is a widely used antipsychotic for positive symptoms of schizophrenia, Tourette syndrome, and behavioural disorders/hyperactivity in children.³⁹⁶ Haloperidol can block dopamine, α -adrenergic, and serotonin receptors. It is highly selective for dopamine receptors.

Sipiperone is a potent dopamine D2 receptor antagonist bearing the butyrophenone scaffold. Although it displayed efficacy in treating drug-resistant schizophrenia, it is not yet approved by the FDA.³⁹⁷ Zotepine is an atypical antipsychotic drug for treating schizophrenia in Japan. It is a potent dopamine D1/D2 receptor and 5-HT2A receptor antagonist.³⁹⁸

Medication for schizophrenia is an active research area. Schizophrenia drugs generally target multiple GPCRs. For instance, Brilaroxazine, an investigational antipsychotic drug developed by Reviva, could stabilize the dopamine-serotonin system by partially activating D2, D3, D4, 5-HT1A, and 5-HT2A receptors. In addition, it antagonizes 5-HT6 and 5-HT7 receptors.³⁹⁹ A phase III clinical trial of Brilaroxazine for the safety and efficacy of the treatment of schizophrenia is now under recruitment (NCT05184335).

Ziconapine is a tetracyclic azepine developed by Lundbeck with affinities for 5-HT2A/2C and D1/2 receptors.⁴⁰⁰ Phase III study of Ziconapine has been completed (NCT01295372).

Etopazine is a piperazine derivative that partially activates the 5-HT1A/2B receptor.⁴⁰¹ It is tested in a phase II trial to investigate the treatment of schizophrenia and cognitive impairment (NCT01266174).

LuAF35700 is an antagonist targeting dopamine receptors, serotonin receptors, and α -adrenergic receptors.³⁹⁹ The efficacy and safety of the LuAF35700 have been examined in phase III randomized, double-blind trial (NCT02717195).

Roluperidone is a novel 5-HT2A and $\sigma 2$ receptor antagonist developed by Minerva Neurosciences.⁴⁰² Phase III studies have shown that Roperidone may treat negative symptoms in schizophrenia patients without causing post-synaptic dopaminergic blockade due to low or no affinity for dopamine and histamine receptors (NCT03397134).

Depression. The underlying mechanism of depression is not clear. According to the record in the DrugBank database, a total of 31 antidepressants target GPCRs. Examples include tricyclic

antidepressants, biogenic neurotransmitters (serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine) reuptake blockers, and 5-HT_{2A} receptor inhibitors.

Imipramine and Desipramine are examples of tricyclic drugs for major depressive disorders, anxiety, and ADHD.⁴⁰³ They have high affinities to 5-HT_{2C} and 5-HT_{2A} receptor subtypes. The pharmacological properties of Amitriptyline are similar to Imipramine. Amitriptyline can inhibit 5-HT reuptake with sedative, hypnotic and anticholinergic effects. A combination of Amitriptyline and Imipramine could block serotonin reuptake in the brain's limbic (emotional) regions.

Currently, monoaminergic alterations involving serotonin receptors are a significant cause of depression.⁴⁰⁴ Selective or non-selective 5-HT reuptake inhibitors are the first-line treatment for depression. Representative drugs include Fluoxetine, Paroxetine, and Citalopram.^{405–409} Fluoxetine, a weak antagonist of 5-HT_{2C} and 5-HT_{2A} receptors, was approved for marketing in 1988 to treat major depressive disorder. Later, Paroxetine was approved in 1992. It is a highly selective reuptake inhibitor of 5-HT in neurons. Citalopram has a similar function in depression treatment. It is also a serotonin reuptake inhibitor. Nefazodone and Trazodone improve mood by antagonizing 5-HT_{2A/C} receptors. They showed affinity to the 5-HT_{1A} receptor.^{410,411} Pindolol can accelerate the effects of selective serotonin reuptake by antagonizing 5-HT_{1A} and β -adrenergic receptors.^{405,412} Meanwhile, Mirtazapine and Mianserin have antagonistic properties on 5-HT_{2A/C} receptors. They exhibit inhibitory effects on pre-synaptic A₂-adrenergic receptors. Both drugs improve sleep duration.^{408,413,414} Vortioxetine is a multi-mode antidepressant for major depressive disorder treatment in adults. Vortioxetine inhibits serotonin reuptake. It exerts different effects on different members of the 5-HT receptor. On one hand, Vortioxetine is an antagonist for 5-HT_{1D}, 5-HT₃, and 5-HT₇ receptors. On the other hand, it is a partial agonist for the 5-HT_{1B} receptor.^{415–417} Bupropion and its primary metabolite hydroxybupropion function by blocking 5-HT_{3A} receptor.⁴¹⁸ Agomelatine is an atypical antidepressant acting as a melatonin receptor (MT_{1/2}) agonist and a 5-HT_{2C/2B} receptor antagonist.⁴¹⁹

Inhibitors of dopamine (DA) transporters are another class of antidepressants. Nortriptyline can bind directly to the DA transporter to inhibit dopamine uptake. It can be used in treatment-resistant depression.^{420–422} Brexpiprazole is a partial agonist on the 5-HT_{1A} receptor and D₂ receptor. Brexpiprazole can also be used in adult patients with schizophrenia.

Ansafaxine is a reuptake inhibitor for 5-HT, norepinephrine, and dopamine which is under clinical development for major depressive disorder (NCT04853407).⁴²³ 5-methoxy-N, N-dimethyltryptamine (5-MEO-DMT) is a non-selective serotonin receptors agonist for depression (NCT04698603).

Anxiety disorders. Anxiety disorders are the most common psychiatric disorders. Anxiety is accompanied by other psychiatric disorders, including major depressive disorders, substance use disorders, and personality disorders.⁴²⁴

Partial agonists of the 5-HT_{1A} receptor and selective 5-HT reuptake inhibitors are frequently used in anxiety treatment.^{425,426} Buspiron, the partial agonist for the 5-HT_{1A} receptor, is approved for treating anxiety due to neurosis.⁴²⁷ Paroxetine⁴²⁸ and Escitalopram, the 5-HT reuptake inhibitors, can relieve anxiety symptoms and prevent recurrence in patients.⁴⁰⁹ Trazodone is used to treat anxiety disorders with depressive symptoms and is suitable for patients with significant psychomotor agitation, anxiety, and insomnia.⁴²⁹

Hydroxyzine is the most studied antihistamine for anxiety and the only FDA-approved antihistamine for treating anxiety. It is commonly used for anxiety, panic attacks, and insomnia in inpatients and outpatients.^{429,430}

Drug targeting β -adrenoreceptor in the central nervous system

can also relieve anxiety.⁴³¹ Propranolol, the selective β _{1/2}-adrenoceptor antagonist (β -blockers), is the first-line pharmacological treatment for anxiety disorders.^{432,433} Doxepin can be used for depression and anxiety. It is an antagonist of the histamine H₁ and H₂ receptors, 5-HT_{2A/2C} receptors, and the muscarinic acetylcholine receptors (M₁–M₅).⁴³⁴

Naluzotan, the selective 5-HT_{1A} receptor agonist, has been investigated for anxiety disorders and depression treatment (NCT00248183).⁴³⁵ Ansafaxine, a reuptake inhibitor of serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine, is a new-generation drug for anxiety management. The drug has completed phase III clinical trials in China to treat anxiety and depression (NCT04853407).

Bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder (BD) is characterized by periodic mood disorders. Medication is the primary treatment to improve the psychosocial function and quality of life of patients with BD. Pharmacological management of acute depressive/manic episodes and prevention of recurrence is also essential. Atypical antipsychotics for bipolar disorder exhibit high affinities for multiple serotonergic receptors, including 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{2A-C}, 5-HT₆, and 5-HT₇ receptors.

Quetiapine was approved by the FDA in 1997 for the symptomatic treatment of schizophrenia and is used as a first-line treatment to control depressive episodes of BD. It exerts therapeutic effects may by antagonizing 5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{2A}, D₁, D₂, and H₁ receptors as well as α _{1/2}-adrenergic receptors.^{436,437} Dexmedetomidine is an α ₂-adrenergic receptor agonist that can be used for the acute treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar I or II disorders.⁴³⁸ Risperidone, an atypical antipsychotic drug, is now used as maintenance therapy for patients with bipolar I disorder.⁴³⁹

Tianeptine is a novel antidepressant that stimulates serotonin, increases levels of 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid in brain tissue and plasma, and decreases serotonin-induced behavior.^{440,441} Clinical trials are underway for the adjuvant treatment for BD with Tientidine (NCT00879372). Lumateperone, an antagonist with high binding affinity to the 5-HT_{2A} receptor and moderate affinity to the post-synaptic D₂ receptor, is being evaluated for treating BD, depression, and other neuropsychiatric and neurological disorders (NCT03249376, NCT02600507).

Tourette's syndrome. Tourette's syndrome (TS) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by repetitive behaviours, including motor/phonetic tics. TS is commonly coupled with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and ADHD.⁴⁴² The underlying mechanism of TS remains poorly clarified.^{443–445} Abnormalities in synaptic neurotransmission involved in the cortico-striatal-thalamocortical circuitry are implicated in TS pathogenesis.^{446,447} Dopaminergic signaling in cortico-striatal-thalamocortical pathways might be associated with TS progression.^{444,448,449} α -adrenergic agonists are the first choice in TS treatment.⁴⁵⁰ Examples include Clonidine and Guanfacine.^{438,451} Aripiprazole is a partial agonist of dopamine D₂ and 5-HT_{1A} receptors. It can stabilize dopamine receptor and improves TS symptoms.⁴⁵² In contrast, Pimozide exerts a therapeutic effect by inhibiting the dopamine D₂ receptor in the central nervous system.⁴⁵³

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common psychiatric disorder affecting school-age children. It is a neurodevelopmental disorder with multifactorial etiological risk factors. ADHD is characterized by hyperactivity, impulsivity, and age-inappropriate symptoms of inattention.⁴⁵⁴ Irregularities in catecholamines circuits in the prefrontal cortex, such as dopamine and norepinephrine, are a leading cause of ADHD.^{455,456} Most ADHD drugs are designed to enhance catecholamine transmission in the prefrontal cortex.⁴⁵⁷

Methylphenidate can significantly reduce hyperactive

behavior, increase attention concentration ability, and effectively improve the core symptoms of ADHD, so it is one of the most widely used first-line drugs approved by the FDA. Methylphenidate blocks dopamine D1 and D2 transporters, resulting in increased levels of synaptic dopamine, and also shows activity against serotonergic 5-HT_{1A} receptors.^{351,458,459}

Second-line drugs for ADHD include Atomoxetine, Guanfacine, and Clonidine.^{351,438,460} Atomoxetine is a non-stimulant medication that acts as a selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor in ADHD.^{440,461} Guanfacine is a phenylacetyl guanidine derivative, which is more selective than Clonidine in activating the α -adrenergic receptor.³⁵¹ Venlafaxine is a new type of selective serotonin and dopamine reuptake inhibitor. It is a dual-channel antidepressant. Venlafaxine inhibits the reuptake of serotonin by neuron endings at low doses and inhibits the reuptake function of neuron endings at a high dose to enhance attention. Amphetamine (AMF) acts on the cerebral cortex and reticular activation system. AMF stimulates adrenergic receptors and enhances neurotransmitter secretion, such as 5-HT and dopamine.⁴⁶² Fluoxetine is a potent and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor for ADHD treatment.^{463,464}

Edivoxetine is an adrenergic absorption inhibitor. It is now in phase III development for ADHD with hyperactivity (NCT00922636, NCT00965419). Centanafadine is a triple-reuptake inhibitor for dopamine, norepinephrine, and serotonin reuptake. It is currently in phase III clinical trials (NCT03605849, NCT03605680, NCT03605836). SGS-742 has been investigated for ADHD treatment. It acts as a GABA-B receptor antagonist and could enhance the release of glutamate, aspartate, glycine, and somatostatin.

EXAMPLE OF EMERGING GPCR TARGETS

Most of the GPCRs targeted by approved drugs for neuropsychiatric diseases belong to class A and C GPCRs. With the advance of biotechnology and increase in understanding of GPCR functions, new candidates are discovered in other GPCR families, including class A (orphan), class B1 (secretin), class B2 (adhesion), class C (calcium-sensing receptor), and class F.

Class A (orphan GPCR)

Orphan GPCRs are receptors whose cognate ligands are not discovered or validated in cellular/ animal models. Deorphanization with reverse pharmacology is currently an active area in GPCR research.

GPR17. GPR17 is activated by two different endogenous ligands: uracil nucleotides and cysteinyl-leukotrienes.⁴⁶⁵ Uracil nucleotides trigger astrocytic migration by upregulating membrane integrins.⁴⁶⁶ Cysteinyl-leukotrienes are lipid mediators secreted by inflammatory cells and nervous tissues.⁴⁶⁷ Cysteinyl-leukotrienes can stimulate astrocyte proliferation via autocrine signaling.⁴⁶⁸ GPR17 is a sensor of local damage to the myelin sheath. GPR17 downregulation promotes the development of mature oligodendrocytes from myelin-producing oligodendrocyte precursors.⁴⁶⁹ GPR17 is involved in reconstructing and repairing demyelinating plaques formed by ongoing inflammatory processes.⁴⁷⁰ In a mouse model of multiple sclerosis, targeting GPR17 can delay the onset of autoimmune encephalomyelitis.⁴⁷¹

GPR26. GPR26 is a brain-specific GPCR. GPR26 has high sequence homology with purinergic P2Y receptor and serotonin 5-HT_{5A} receptor.^{472,473} GPR26 regulates emotion in animal models. GPR26 knockout mice exhibit anxiety- and depressive-like behaviors.⁴⁷⁴ Colocalization of GPR26 and neuronal nuclear inclusions is observed in brain tissues suggesting a potential link between GPR26 and neurodegenerative diseases.⁴⁷³

GPR37 and GPR37L1. GPR37 can be found in pre-myelinating/ myelinating oligodendrocytes, dopaminergic neurons, and hippocampal neurons.⁴⁷⁵ GPR37 shares high sequence homology with peptide-activated GPCRs such as endothelin receptor B (ETB).⁴⁷⁵ In Parkinson's disease, GPR37 acts as an adenosine A_{2A} receptor inhibitor via receptor oligomerization,⁴⁷⁶ GPR37L1, in contrast, is found mainly in astrocytes and oligodendrocyte progenitor cells.⁴⁷⁵ GPR37L1 is involved in the adaptive myelination of oligodendrocytes which is critical for neural plasticity, learning, and memory in adults.⁴⁷⁷

GPR39. Zinc regulates behavior, cognition, and ability to learn.⁴⁷⁸ Dysregulation in zinc homeostasis is associated with progressive dementia and cognitive impairment. Zinc deficiency gives rise to various neuropsychiatric disorders, including epilepsy, seizures, and depression.^{479,480} Extracellular zinc can activate zinc-sensing receptor GPR39.^{481,482} Zinc stimulates GPR39-mediated signal transduction and induces calcium mobilization in HEK293 cells.⁴⁸³ Zinc-activated GPR39 increases expression of K⁺/Cl⁻ cotransporter 2 (KCC2), the Cl⁻ outward transporter in neurons.⁴⁸⁴ Further, GPR39 increases Na⁺/H⁺ exchanger activity in hippocampal neurons in a pH-dependent process.⁴⁸⁵

GPR40. GPR40 (also known as free fatty acid receptor 1) is the receptor for medium and long-chain unsaturated fatty acids. GPR40 activates the NOD-like receptor pyrin domain-containing protein 3 (NLRP3) inflammasome pathway by blocking the formation of apoptosis-associated speck-like protein containing a CARD (an inflammasome component).⁴⁸⁶ GPR40 promotes hypothalamic neurogenesis by enhancing cell proliferation and survival.⁴⁸⁷ GPR40 may associate with the development of epilepsy by altering N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor-mediated synaptic transmission.⁴⁸⁸ In Alzheimer's disease model, activating the GPR40 receptor can reduce β -amyloid production and rescue cognitive deficits.^{489,490}

GPR50. GPR50 exhibits high sequence homology with melatonin MT_{1/2} receptors. However, melatonin (the endogenous ligand for MT_{1/2} receptors) cannot bind to GPR50 directly.⁴⁹¹ GPR50 can be detected in the pituitary, hypothalamus, and hippocampus intermedia.^{491,492} GPR50 enhances neuronal differentiation via notch and WNT/ β -catenin.⁴⁹³ GPR50 might be involved in psychiatric illness by interacting with neurite outgrowth inhibitor NOGO-A.⁴⁹⁴ GPR50 is an X-linked gene (Xq28). It is suggested to be a sex-specific risk factor in bipolar affective disorder, major depressive disorder, and schizophrenia.⁴⁹⁵ GPR50 can antagonize the MT₁ receptor by forming a heterodimer.⁴⁹⁶ The inhibitory effects are mediated via the large C-terminal tail, which blocks the β -arrestin recruitment and G protein coupling.⁴⁹⁵ MT₂ receptor could also form a heterodimer with GPR50, but the functional consequence remains to be defined.⁴⁹⁶

GPR52. GPR52, a striatal-enriched orphan GPCR. GPR52 stabilizes HTT by cAMP-dependent but PKA-independent mechanisms.⁴⁹⁷ GPR52 antagonist can ameliorate Huntington disease-like phenotypes by diminishing mHTT protein levels.⁴⁹⁸ GPR52 is a potential target of antipsychotic drugs.⁴⁹⁹ GPR52 is associated with cognitive function, emotion, and psychosis-related/antipsychotic-like behaviors.^{204,499,500} GPR52 has high sequence homology with histamine H₂ receptor and 5-HT₄ receptor.²⁰⁴ GPR52 agonist treatment suppresses methamphetamine-induced hyperactivity suggesting that GPR52 might be involved in neurochemical sensitization.⁵⁰¹ Recent study reveals that GPR52 is a self-activating receptor.⁵⁰² The extracellular loop 2 is immersed deeply into the typical ligand binding pocket of GPR52, which maintains the constitutive active state at physiological conditions.⁵⁰³

Super-conserved receptors expressed in the brain. GPR27, GPR85, and GPR173 are super-conserved receptors expressed in the brain (SREB). GRR27 deletion is associated with speech delay, contractures, hypertonia, and blepharophimosis.⁵⁰⁴ GPR85 may function as a negative regulator in hippocampal adult neurogenesis and alters cognitive functions, including learning and memory.⁵⁰⁵ It has been reported that GPR85 is a risk factor for schizophrenia.⁵⁰⁵ GPR173 may function by interacting with phoenixin (a recently discovered peptide controlling reproductive hormone secretion, visceral pain, and pruritus) in hypothalamic neurons, which regulates memory and anxiety.^{506,507} In neuronal M17 cells, phoenixin promotes neuronal mitochondrial activity and biogenesis by activating the CREB pathway.⁵⁰⁸ Further, binding of gonadotropin-releasing hormone 1–5 (GnRH 1–5) to GPR173 could inhibit neuronal migration.⁵⁰⁹

GPR88. GPR88 expresses exclusively in the neuron of the rat brain throughout the striatum.⁵¹⁰ In GABAergic medium spiny neurons (MSNs), GPR88 contributes to tonic GABAergic inhibition and responses to GABA release.⁵¹¹ GPR88 might play a part in prepulse inhibition of startle, apomorphine-induced climbing, and amphetamine-stimulated locomotor activity.⁵¹² Co-expression of GPR88 and D1 dopamine receptors is found in the brain.⁵¹³ In Parkinson's disease (unilateral 6-hydroxydopamine-lesioned rats), GPR88 expression is associated with L-DOPA-mediated behavioural changes.⁵¹⁰ Antidepressant treatments can modulate GPR88 expression in rat brains.⁵¹⁴ Morphine can regulate GPR88 expression in the amygdala via the mu-opioid receptor.⁵¹⁵ GPR88 is genetically associated with various neuropsychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, speech delay, and chorea.^{516,517}

Class B1 (secretin)

Structural highlights. Class B1 GPCRs have a conserved extracellular N-terminal domain (ECD) with a three-layered α - β - α fold structure (100 to 160 residues) responsible for the binding of peptide hormones (Fig. 7).^{518–520} Peptide ligands stabilize receptors by interacting with both ECD and transmembrane core.⁵²¹ N-terminus of the peptide interacts with the orthosteric pocket within the transmembrane domain.^{522,523} Class B1 GPCRs recognize peptide ligands with different C-terminus, ranging from disordered secondary structures to continuous α -helix.^{524,525} Like class A GPCRs, the cavity formed by the receptor cytoplasmic part allows anchoring of the $\alpha 5$ helix of G proteins.^{526,527} Among class B1 GPCRs, calcitonin and calcitonin gene-related peptide receptors, corticotropin-releasing factor receptors, and the glucagon receptor family are frequently reported to be involved in neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatric disorders.

Receptors for calcitonin and calcitonin gene-related peptides. Calcitonin (CT) and calcitonin gene-related peptides (CGRPs) are ligands of the CT receptor. CGRPs also exert their biological functions through CL (calcitonin receptor-like) receptors.⁵²⁸

The activity of CT and CL receptors is modulated by receptor activity-modifying protein (RAMP_{1–3}).⁵²⁹ CT receptor-RAMP complexes can also interact with amylin. Therefore they are also known as amylin receptors (AMY_{1–3}).⁵²⁹ CT receptors are implicated in neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease.⁵³⁰ Antagonists targeting amylin receptors might be beneficial for Alzheimer's disease treatment.⁵³¹

Corticotropin-releasing factor receptor. Corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRF) regulates the neuroendocrine stress response.⁵³² CRH exerts its biological function through two receptors: CRFR1 and CRFR2. Human corticotropin-releasing factor receptor 1 (CRFR1) exhibits widespread distribution in the central nervous system. In contrast, human CRFR2 is predominately expressed in peripheral tissues.⁵³² CRFR1 signaling shows sex divergence in

Alzheimer's disease.⁵³³ CRFR1 antagonist treatment delays Alzheimer's disease symptoms, including cognitive impairment and accumulation of A β amyloid plaques, by regulating oxidative stress in transgenic mice.⁵³⁴ CRF/CRFR1 signaling plays a crucial role in stress-induced behaviour.⁵³² It has been shown that noise exposure can increase CRF/CRFR1 expression in the hippocampus.⁵³⁵ CRFR1 could sensitize 5-HT₂ receptor signaling to modulate anxiety behavior.⁵³⁶ In addition, CRFR1 antagonist modulates gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)-ergic activity in the brain and controls fear response in rat anxiety models.⁵³⁷ Single-nucleotide polymorphisms of CRFR1/2 are positively associated with major depressive disorder.^{538–540}

Glucagon receptor family. The glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) and glucagon-like peptide-1/2 (GLP-1/2) are gut peptide hormones.⁵⁴¹ The hormones can pass through the blood-brain barrier.⁵⁴² GIP and GIP receptors are expressed throughout the central nervous system.^{543,544} Protease-resistant analog of GIP is designed to treat type 2 diabetes mellitus by controlling weight and improving glycaemic control.^{545,546} Clinical trials indicate that GIP and GLP-1 analogs exhibit therapeutic effects for neurodegenerative diseases.⁵⁴⁷ GLP-1 enhances the supportive function of astrocytes to neurons.⁵⁴⁸ Activated GLP-2 receptor protects hippocampal cells from glutamate-induced cell death and increases the growth of astrocytes.⁵⁴⁹ GLP-1 mimetic reduces oxidative stress and inflammation and promotes neuron formation.^{550,551} GIP can alleviate amyloid beta-induced toxicity in Alzheimer's disease and relieve symptoms of Parkinson's disease.^{541,542}

Class B2 (adhesion)

Structural highlights. Class B2 GPCR, also known as adhesion GPCR, has a large extracellular domain (ECD). ECD is responsible for the adhesive function exhibiting high structural diversity (Fig. 8a, b).⁵⁵² Adhesion GPCRs are essential for the early development of the nervous system and the brain.⁵⁵³ The receptor allows neural cells to communicate with the surrounding environment and migrate to destinate sites to carry out specific functions.⁵⁵⁴ In mouse Purkinje neurons, adhesion GPCR is required to generate intricate dendritic structures for synaptic connections.⁵⁵⁴ Adhesion GPCRs are further classified into ADGRL, ADGRE, ADGRA, ADGRC, ADGRD, ADGRF, ADGRB, ADGRG, and ADGRV subfamilies.⁵⁵⁵

Nearly all class B2 orthologs have the GPCR autoproteolysis inducing domain (GAIN). The GAIN domain is located at the juxtamembrane region.⁵⁵⁶ GAIN domain is crucial for the maturation and function of adhesion GPCR. GAIN possesses intrinsic autoproteolytic activity and cleaves at the integral cysteine-rich GPCR proteolysis site (GPS).⁵⁵⁶ Autoproteolysis give rise to two noncovalently associated fragments: N-terminal fragment (NTF) with most of the extracellular domain; and C-terminal fragment (CTF) consisting of a small proportion of the GAIN domain and most of the entire transmembrane domain (Fig. 8a).^{554,557,558}

The activation mechanism of adhesion GPCR is the least understood among different GPCR classes. Most adhesion GPCRs are orphan GPCRs as their natural ligands remain poorly defined.⁵⁵² Receptor activation may follow the tethered-peptide-agonist models.⁵⁵⁸ The stalk region bends approximately 180° downward into the core of the 7TM domain, which functions as tethered agonist to initiate G protein signaling (Fig. 8c).^{559,560} Cleavage-independent mechanisms may exist for receptor activation.⁵⁶⁰ Ligand binding at the GAIN domain might induce conformational changes, which initiate transient G protein signaling.⁵⁶¹ Upon activation, the intracellular milieu is in the open conformation facilitating G protein coupling. Adhesion GPCRs could employ non-G protein such as PDZ/SH3 domain-proteins and arrestins for signal transduction.⁵⁶²

Examples of class B2 GPCR. Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor B1 (ADGRB1 or brain-specific angiogenesis inhibitor 1, BAI1) regulates synaptic plasticity in learning and memory processes in the hippocampus.⁵⁶³ ADGRB1 is a post-synaptic receptor controlling excitatory synapse development.^{564,565} Forced ADGRB1 attenuates toxin-induced neuronal cell death.⁵⁶⁶ ADGRB1 is associated with dopaminergic neuronal loss in Parkinson's disease.⁵⁶⁶

Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor B3 (ADGRB3) is enriched in post-synaptic density and cerebellar Purkinje cells.^{563,567,568} ADGRB3 modulates synaptic connection in the cerebellum.⁵⁶⁸ SNPs and gene amplification in ADGRB3 are associated with familial schizophrenia.⁵⁶⁹ Other psychiatric conditions, such as bipolar disorder, are suggested to be linked with ADGRB3.⁵⁷⁰

Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor L3 (ADGRL3) is genetically associated with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults.⁵⁷¹ Knockout mice models show enhanced locomotive activity, improved levels of impulsivity, and working memory deficits.⁵⁷² Maternal smoking during pregnancy is an environmental risk factor for ADHD.⁵⁷³ In fibroblast cells, nicotine exposure could stimulate ADGRL3 expression.⁵⁷¹ The downstream ADGRL3 signaling events leading to ADHD remains poorly defined.⁵⁷⁴ ADGRL3 might alter monoaminergic signaling by modulating the expression of dopamine and serotonin transporters.⁵⁷⁵

Class C (glutamate)

Calcium-sensing receptor. Calcium-sensing (CaS) receptor participates in the regulation of Ca²⁺ homeostasis. In Alzheimer's disease model, elevated expression of CaS receptor is observed in the hippocampal CA1 area and dentate gyrus, which is in accord with the β -amyloid plaques increase.⁵⁷⁶ CaS receptor impeding amyloid- β 42 oligomers (A β 42-os) proteolysis via direct interaction, leading to A β 42-os aggregation and oversecretion.⁵⁷⁷ CaS receptor inhibitor sustains mental competence by promoting A β 42 proteolysis.⁵⁷⁷ Inhibiting the CaS receptor improves memory and cognitive defects caused by β -amyloid in mice.⁵⁷⁸ CaS receptor might induce cognitive defects via eliciting cytosolic phospholipase A2 and prostaglandin E2 signaling pathway.⁵⁷⁸

Class F

Structural highlights of Class F GPCR. Class F GPCR contains a large extracellular and cysteine-rich (CRD) domain (Fig. 9).⁵⁷⁹ CRD is essential for the stability and activity of class F GPCRs.⁵⁸⁰ FZD gene family is highly conserved in mammals with conserved structural features. FZD is a receptor for the WNT family of lipoglycoprotein, which mediates signal transduction via canonical WNT- β -catenin pathway and β -catenin-independent noncanonical pathways. The secretory WNT binds to the cysteine-rich domain at the extracellular side. The Lys-Thr-X-X-X-Trp (KTXXXW) motif located at the C-terminal is essential for activating the canonical WNT/ β -catenin pathway.^{581,582} WNT signaling regulates neuronal polarization and axon specification polarity by activating atypical protein kinase C in rat hippocampal neurons.⁵⁸³ Further, WNT signaling governs collateral or terminal branching of the axon, dendrite outgrowth and guidance, dendritic spine formation, synapse formation/plasticity, and elimination.⁵⁸⁴ WNT/FZD signaling alterations are observed in several neurological disorders, including Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease.^{585,586} The transmembrane region is compact and hydrophilic.^{580,587} Similar to class A GPCR, outward bending of TM6 and an inward shift of TM5 at the cytoplasmic side is observed in the active class F GPCR.⁵⁸⁰

Class F receptors frizzled (FZD1-10) and smoothened (SMO) are closely associated with embryonic development and tissue homeostasis.⁵⁸⁸ Reported FZD ligands include frizzled-related proteins (SFRPs) and R-spondin.^{589,590} FZD1 is found in dopamine-synthesizing neurons, which form an astrocyte-DA

autoprotective loop via WNT1/FZD1/ β -catenin signaling.⁵⁹¹ FZD1 enhances myelin preservation and neuronal survival;⁵⁹² FZD3 is genetically related to substance-induced psychosis and schizophrenia;^{593,594} Neuronal degeneration observed in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is regulated by WNT5a/FZD4 signaling.⁵⁹⁵ WNT5a/FZD5 activity is associated with neuronal inflammatory signaling;⁵⁹⁶ Genetic FZD6 variants are associated with neural tube defects in the central nervous system;⁵⁹⁷ FZD9 deletion is noted in patients with Williams-Beuren syndrome, a rare genetic disorder with mild to moderate intellectual disability or learning difficulties.⁵⁹⁸ FZD10 may play a role in brain vascular development;⁵⁹⁹ SMO is the receptor for hedgehog proteins involved in neuronal/glia proliferation and tissue regeneration.⁶⁰⁰

CONCLUDING REMARKS

GPCRs are cooperatively involved in the manifestations of neuropsychiatric disorders. Elucidating the intrinsic signaling preference of G proteins or arrestins helps to improve drug efficacy and side-effect profiles. GPCR can work in the dimeric form in disease development. Characterizing the allosteric interactions and the functional consequences of GPCR dimers might provide insights into the pathogenesis of neuropsychiatric disorders. Apart from acting directly in the nervous system, GPCRs might contribute to disease development via the immune system.²²⁰

Target identification is challenging as the clinical presentations are resulted from heterogeneous biological, genetic, and environmental factors. Nevertheless, the increasing understanding of GPCR functions opens a new possibility in drug discovery. Most of the drugs targeting GPCR lack subtype-selectivity.⁶⁰¹ Local drug administration may require to avoid debilitating side effects.⁶⁰² The development of psychiatric medications remains slow as the pharmaceutical industry pays more attention to antidepressants and antipsychotic drug development.⁶⁰³ Therefore, developing specific therapeutic modulators which could recognize subtypes with high specificity is crucial for effective drug development.⁶⁰²

Benefiting from the advances in crystallography and cryo-electron microscopy technology, the resolved GPCR structures increase our understanding of GPCR functions in pathological conditions. Detailed protein structures could reveal crucial ligand binding features in physiological conditions.^{215,547,604} Detailed receptor/ligand profile could facilitate lead compound identification and drug optimization. Hence, harnessing our knowledge of molecular mechanisms and structural information of GPCR will be advantageous for developing effective treatments against neuropsychiatric disorders.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

T.S.W., G.L., and S.L. prepared and revised the manuscript. T.S.W., W.G., G.C., S.G., and M.Z. contributed to the writing and figures/tables preparation. T.S.W., S.W., and H.L. reviewed and revised the manuscript. Y.D. supervised the project, designed the content and revised the manuscript. All authors contributed to the article. All authors have read and approved the article.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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