

Modafinil Reverses Phencyclidine-Induced Deficits in Cognitive Flexibility, Cerebral Metabolism, and Functional Brain Connectivity

Neil Dawson^{1,2,*}, Rhiannon J. Thompson^{1,3}, Allan McVie¹, David M. Thomson^{1,3}, Brian J. Morris^{1,3}, and Judith A. Pratt^{1,2}

¹Psychiatric Research Institute of Neuroscience in Glasgow (PsyRING), University of Glasgow, G12 8QQ, UK; ²Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, University of Strathclyde, 27 Taylor Street, Glasgow G2 0NR, UK; ³Neuroscience and Molecular Pharmacology, Faculty of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, UK

*To whom correspondence should be addressed; tel: 44-(0)141-330-6604, fax: 44-(0)141-330-5659, e-mail: Neil.Dawson@strath.ac.uk

Objective: In the present study, we employ mathematical modeling (partial least squares regression, PLSR) to elucidate the functional connectivity signatures of discrete brain regions in order to identify the functional networks subserving PCP-induced disruption of distinct cognitive functions and their restoration by the procognitive drug modafinil. **Methods:** We examine the functional connectivity signatures of discrete brain regions that show overt alterations in metabolism, as measured by semiquantitative 2-deoxyglucose autoradiography, in an animal model (subchronic phencyclidine [PCP] treatment), which shows cognitive inflexibility with relevance to the cognitive deficits seen in schizophrenia. **Results:** We identify the specific components of functional connectivity that contribute to the rescue of this cognitive inflexibility and to the restoration of overt cerebral metabolism by modafinil. We demonstrate that modafinil reversed both the PCP-induced deficit in the ability to switch attentional set and the PCP-induced hypometabolism in the prefrontal (anterior prefrontal) and retrosplenial cortices. Furthermore, modafinil selectively enhanced metabolism in the medial prefrontal cortex. The functional connectivity signatures of these regions identified a unifying functional subsystem underlying the influence of modafinil on cerebral metabolism and cognitive flexibility that included the nucleus accumbens core and locus coeruleus. In addition, these functional connectivity signatures identified coupling events specific to each brain region, which relate to known anatomical connectivity. **Conclusions:** These data support clinical evidence that modafinil may alleviate cognitive deficits in schizophrenia and also demonstrate the benefit of applying PLSR modeling to characterize functional brain networks in translational models relevant to central nervous system dysfunction.

Key words: attentional set shifting/2-deoxyglucose autoradiography/functional connectivity

Introduction

Identifying alterations in functional brain circuitry in response to pharmacological treatments and asserting their predictive validity in disease models remains a major challenge in translational neuroscience. One particularly limiting factor in elucidating these alterations includes the limited application of mathematical modeling algorithms to translational brain imaging data. For example, since its development by Sokoloff et al.,¹ the 2-deoxyglucose (2-DG) imaging method has been used to investigate the influence of diverse experimental manipulations including drug treatment,^{2–4} genetic manipulation,⁵ and central nervous system (CNS) lesion⁶ on metabolism in discrete brain regions of interest (RoI) as a reflection of functional activity. In contrast to these diverse experimental applications, the methods applied in the analysis of 2-DG data have been strictly confined to the direct statistical comparison of overt alterations in metabolism within each RoI across experimental groups. Given that no brain region functions independently and that the rate of metabolism in each RoI is likely to be influenced by that in several others, it is surprising that available mathematical algorithms that model multiple, complex relationships have not been applied to 2-DG data. One such multivariate mathematical model, partial least squares regression (PLSR), may prove particularly useful in modeling the functional connectivity between brain regions because the method can simultaneously model the relationship between multiple explanatory and dependent variables.⁷ Indeed, the value of applying PLSR to characterize regional functional connectivity from human brain imaging data has long been recognized⁸ and has been applied under diverse experimental conditions.^{9–13} However, this analytical approach is yet to be applied to functional brain imaging data gained in a preclinical context.

Here we apply the PLSR method to 2-DG imaging data from a translational animal model relevant to schizophrenia. Rats treated subchronically with the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist phencyclidine (PCP) display cognitive deficits (including impaired set shifting), neurochemical and receptor changes, and alterations in cerebral metabolism (hypometabolism in the prefrontal cortex [PFC], “hypofrontality”) that parallel those in schizophrenia.^{14–18} Furthermore, the relevance of this pharmacological model to schizophrenia is also supported by the observation that human chronic PCP users display cognitive deficits¹⁹ and hypofrontality^{20,21} similar to that found in this disorder. While the ability to switch attentional set is dependent upon PFC integrity,^{22–24} one must remember that this region does not function independently but as part of a complex, extensively interconnected functional network that subserves this task. This is evident from studies demonstrating the necessary integrity of other regions, including the nucleus accumbens,²⁵ mediodorsal thalamic nucleus,²⁶ and posterior parietal cortex²⁷ in efficient set shifting. The identity of all the brain regions involved in set shifting remains to be fully elucidated.

At present, there are no prescribed drugs to treat the negative symptoms and cognitive deficits in schizophrenia, and currently prescribed antipsychotics have little efficacy against these symptoms.^{28,29} Recently, the psychostimulant modafinil has been reported to improve cognitive deficits in schizophrenic patients.^{30–33} This presents us with the opportunity to validate the subchronic PCP model as a translational model of the cognitive and cerebral metabolic deficits in schizophrenia. Here we test the ability of modafinil to reverse PCP-induced deficits in cognitive flexibility and overt alterations in cerebral metabolism. Furthermore, we apply PLSR to 2-DG data to elucidate the functional subsystems that mediate cognitive flexibility through their disruption by subchronic PCP treatment and their reinstatement by modafinil.

Methods

Animals

All experiments were completed using male Lister Hooded rats (Harlan-Olac, Bicester, UK) under standard conditions (21°C, 45%–65% humidity, 12-h dark/light cycle [lights on 0600 h]). Animals for the 2-DG experiment were singly housed, whereas those for the behavioral experiment were housed in pairs. Animals were maintained on a diet of 15–17 g of food per animal per day for a period of 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the experimental procedures. All animals gained weight over the period of food restriction and weighted between 304 and 379 g at the start of the experiment (not less than 85% ad libitum body weight). Monitoring of body weight was performed regularly (usually every second day), and

drinking water was available ad libitum. All experimental manipulations were carried out at least 1 week after entry into the facility, and all experiments were carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Animals received either subchronic treatment with vehicle (0.9% saline, intraperitoneally [i.p.]) or 2.58 mg kg⁻¹ PCP.HCl (i.p., Sigma-Aldrich, Dorset, UK) once daily for 5 consecutive days (between 0900 and 1100 h). Animals involved in the attentional set-shifting task (ASST) underwent task habituation 48 hours after the final administration of their subchronic treatment. Seventy-two hours after the final administration of the subchronic treatment, animals were tested in the ASST or underwent the semiquantitative 2-DG autoradiography protocol. This ensures that any pretreatment effects observed are independent of the acute effects of PCP. Animals treated subchronically with vehicle received acute vehicle treatment only (control; Vehicle.Vehicle; ASST, *n* = 19; 2-DG, *n* = 7). Animals who received subchronic PCP treatment acutely received either vehicle (5% methylcellulose, perorally [p.o.]) or modafinil (64 mg kg⁻¹ in 5% methylcellulose, p.o.). Therefore, PCP-treated animals were randomly assigned to 1 of 2 treatment groups, subchronic PCP and acute vehicle (PCP.Vehicle; ASST, *n* = 14; 2-DG, *n* = 9) or subchronic PCP and acute modafinil (PCP.Modafinil; ASST, *n* = 10; 2-DG, *n* = 7). In the semiquantitative 2-DG imaging protocol, animals received 1 dose of 64 mg kg⁻¹ modafinil, or vehicle, 30 minutes before the injection of 2-DG. The semiquantitative 2-DG protocol used in this study determines the rate of metabolism in each brain region over a 45-minute period following tracer injection. In the ASST, due to the short half-life of modafinil³⁴ and in line with previous studies using this drug in this behavioral task³⁵, 64 mg kg⁻¹ modafinil was administered 30 minutes prior to the first discrimination and again 30 minutes before the fifth (intra-dimensional reversal, Reversal 2 [Rev2]) discrimination. This ensured that modafinil would be present at a pharmacologically active level over the entire period of the ASST. The dose of modafinil used in this study was based upon that used in previously published behavioral studies.^{35,36} Due to the technical constraints of the 2-DG technique, specifically the requirement for termination of glucose utilization measurement at exactly 45 minutes after tracer injection,¹ the effects of PCP on ASST performance and brain function were investigated in 2 separate groups of animals. Animals from all experimental groups took longer than 45 minutes to complete the ASST.

Attentional Set-Shifting Task

Behavioral Apparatus. The test apparatus consisted of an adapted home cage (40 × 70 × 18 cm). One-third of the box was divided into 2 sections (left and right) by Plexiglas panels into which the ceramic bowls (7 cm diameter and 4 cm depth) for digging were placed. The

bowls were filled with different digging media that could be scented and could also conceal the food reward, which was one-half of a Honey Nut Cheerio (1/2 HNC; Nestle, Surrey, UK). A removable Plexiglas divider separated these sections from the rest of the box so that access to the bowls could be restricted between trials. A smaller divider was also available to restrict access to either 1 of the 2 bowls when required.

Habituation. Habituation and testing procedures for the ASST were adapted from the protocol as described by Birrell and Brown.²² During the habituation period, animals first learned to dig in the bowls filled with home cage sawdust in order to retrieve the food reward (1/2 HNC). Once digging behavior was reliably established in sawdust, animals were exposed to each exemplar, first in the dimension of odor and then in the dimension of texture. In each trial, both bowls presented were baited and it was ensured that each exemplar was presented on both sides of the divide. After exposure to all exemplars, rats were then trained sequentially on 2 simple discriminations (SD) within each dimension to be used within the test period (medium and odor). Exemplars in the first SD differed with regard to the odor of the medium (mint vs oregano) and the second was with regard to the texture of the medium (polystyrene vs paper confetti). The rats were trained within each SD until criterion performance was met, which was set at the completion of 6 consecutive correct trials.

Behavioral Testing. The identity of the exemplar combinations employed in the ASST and their pairings are outlined in table 1. During the test session, rats performed a series of discriminations in the order outlined in table 2. During the first 4 trials of each discrimination, rats were allowed to dig in both bowls, and a digging error was recorded if the first dig occurred in the nonbaited bowl. During subsequent trials, if the first dig occurred in the nonbaited (incorrect) bowl, the animal was punished by blocking access to the baited (correct) bowl and immediately terminating the trial. Such trials were classified as “punishment trials” as the animals were not allowed to retrieve the reward after digging in the incorrect bowl and received a brief time-out before the initiation of the next trial. Trials continued until the rat had reached criterion performance of 6 consecutive correct digs. Testing then progressed onto the next discrimination. The first discrimination of the testing period involved a SD between 2 bowls that differed only along the perceptual dimension of medium. After reaching criterion on this discrimination, testing progressed to the compound discrimination (CD) stage, where the correct and incorrect exemplars relevant within the SD phase were maintained but the second (irrelevant) dimension of odor was introduced. The CD was then followed by a reversal discrimination (compound discrimination

reversal, Reversal 1 [Rev1]), in which the exemplars and dimensions were unchanged from the CD but the previously rewarded exemplar was now not baited and vice versa. After reaching criterion in Rev1, animals progressed to the intradimensional shift (ID), which comprised new exemplars in both the relevant and the irrelevant dimensions, with the relevant dimension remaining the same as that present in the SD, CD, and Rev1 (medium). Once animals had reached criterion on the ID, they were removed from the testing apparatus in order to receive the second dose of their acute treatment (either modafinil or vehicle). Following the second acute treatment, animals were returned to the testing apparatus and testing was reinitiated 30 minutes after this treatment. On resuming the test phase, animals underwent a second reversal (Reversal 2 [Rev2]), during which the exemplars and relevant dimension remained the same as in the ID but the rewarded bowl was reversed as in Rev1. Once animals had reached criterion on Rev2, rats went on to the extradimensional shift (ED) stage of the task. As in the ID stage of the task, the rat was presented with new exemplars for both the relevant and the irrelevant dimensions. In contrast to the ID, however, the previously relevant dimension of medium texture was irrelevant and the previously irrelevant dimension of odor became relevant. Once animals reach criterion in the ED, a final reversal discrimination (Reversal 3 [Rev3]) was completed where, as in the Rev1 and Rev2, the exemplars and dimensions remain unchanged from the previous discrimination (ED), but now the previously rewarded exemplar was not rewarded and vice versa. Because the combinations of exemplars were too numerous to permit full counterbalancing, stimuli were always presented as pairs as previously described.²²

In addition to the number of trials performed to reach criteria, the number of errors committed and the number of punishment trials, where animals were not allowed to retrieve the reward after an incorrect dig, were also recorded. To further elucidate the behavioral mechanisms underlying behavioral deficits in the ASST, measures of perseverative responding and the likelihood of committing regressive errors were also characterized across the experimental groups. Perseverative responding was characterized as the proportion of trials following

Table 1. Exemplar Combinations Employed in the Attentional Set-Shifting Task

Medium Pairs	Odor Pairs
Coarse tea vs fine tea	Cinnamon vs ginger
Sand vs grit	Sage vs paprika
Coarse sawdust vs fine sawdust	Tumeric vs cloves

Note: The exemplars within a dimension were presented in pairs adapted from Birrell and Brown.²²

Table 2. Behavioral Testing Discrimination Order

Discrimination	Dimensions		Exemplar Combinations	
	Relevant	Irrelevant	+	-
SD	Medium		M1	M2
CD	Medium	Odor	M1/O1	M2/O2
Rev1	Medium	Odor	M1/O2	M2/O1
			M2/O1	M1/O2
ID	Medium	Odor	M2/O2	M1/O1
			M3/O3	M4/O4
Rev2	Medium	Odor	M3/O4	M3/O3
			M4/O3	M3/O4
ED	Odor	Medium	M4/O4	M3/O3
			O5/M5	O6/M6
Rev3	Odor	Medium	O5/M6	O6/M5
			O6/M5	O5/M6
			O6/M6	O5/M5

Note: CD, compound discrimination; ED, extradimensional shift; ID, intradimensional shift; Rev, reversal; SD, simple discrimination. Table illustrating the order of discriminations and the combinations of exemplars used when shifting set from medium texture to odor at the extradimensional discrimination stage. On every trial, except the SD, the pair of stimuli presented differed along both the relevant and the irrelevant dimensions. The rewarded exemplar (correct) is shown in bold and is paired with either exemplar from the irrelevant dimension. The combination of exemplars into positive (+) and negative (-) stimuli and their left-right position of presentation in the case was a pseudorandom series (Birrell and Brown).²²

a punishment trial, in which animals failed to appropriately reorientate their digging behavior to the correct (baited) bowl. This was expressed as the number of failed reorientations an animal completed relative to the total number of punishments that animal had experienced. Only animals that had received at least one punishment trial during Rev3 were included in this analysis (Vehicle.Vehicle $n = 15/19$, PCP.Vehicle $n = 12/14$, PCP.Modafinil $n = 10/12$ animals in each group). The likelihood of committing regressive errors was calculated as the proportion of times an animal returned to the previously correct (now incorrect) digging strategy at each trial level (1–5) after a punishment-induced reorientation of digging behavior. A level 1 trial is the one that occurs immediately after and level 5 being 5 consecutively correct digs after punishment-induced reorientation of digging, at which point the animal reaches trial criteria by completing 6 consecutively correct trials. The likelihood of “dropping out” at each trial level was then calculated as the number of times an animal dropped out at a given trial level relative to the total number of punishment-induced reorientations in digging behavior an animal had completed.

Statistical Analysis. The trials to criterion data were analyzed using a 2-way repeated measures ANOVA with significance set at $P < .05$. The within-subject factor was discrimination (SD, CD, Rev1, intradimensional [ID], Rev2, extradimensional [ED], and Rev3), and the between-subject factor was drug treatment (Vehicle.Vehicle, PCP.Vehicle, and PCP.Modafinil). Significant main effects were explored using t test with

Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons, so that criterion for 5% statistical significance was set at $P < .007$. The ability of animals to shift attentional set was determined by the number of trials taken to reach criteria in the ED stage of the task relative to the number of trials animals required to reach criteria at the ID stage of the task. The statistical significance of the set-shifting (ED/ID) ratio between experimental groups was assessed using Mann-Whitney U test with Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons, with 5% significance set at $P < .017$. Error, punishment, and perseverative responding data were analyzed using 1-way ANOVA with Tukeys post hoc test for multiple comparisons. Regressive error data were analyzed using 2-way repeated measures ANOVA with the within-subject factor as the trial level (1–5) and the between-subject factor as drug treatment group. Tukeys post hoc test was applied to investigate differences between treatment groups at each trial level. Significance was set at $P < .05$ throughout, and all statistical analyses were performed using SPSS (SPSS Inc, Version 17.0).

Semiquantitative ¹⁴C-2-DG Autoradiographic Imaging

Local cerebral glucose utilization (LCGU) was determined 72 hours after the last administration of the subchronic treatment (saline or PCP) and 30 minutes after the acute treatment (modafinil or methylcellulose) in accordance with previously published protocols.^{5,37} Rats were injected i.p. with 4.625MBq kg⁻¹ of [¹⁴C]-2-DG (Sigma-Aldrich) at a steady rate over a 10-second period before being returned to their home cage. At exactly 45 minutes after isotope injection, animals were

decapitated and a terminal blood sample was collected by torso inversion in heparinized weigh boats. The brain was rapidly dissected out intact, then frozen in isopentane (-40°C), and stored at -80°C until sectioning. Blood samples were centrifuged to separate the plasma, and aliquots were removed for the determination of plasma glucose (10 μl) and ^{14}C (20 μl) concentrations by semiautomated glucose oxidase assay (Beckman Glucose Analyzer) and liquid scintillation analysis (Packard), respectively.

Frozen brains were sectioned (20 μm) in the coronal plane in a cryostat (-20°C). A series of 3 consecutive sections were retained from every 200 μm , thaw mounted, and rapidly dried on a hot plate (70°C). Autoradiograms were generated by apposing these sections together with precalibrated ^{14}C -standards 40–1069 nCi g^{-1} tissue equivalents (Amersham International, Little Chalfont, UK) to X-ray film (Kodak, SB-5) for 5 days. Autoradiographic images were analyzed by a computer-based image analysis system (MCID/M5+). The local isotope concentration for each brain ROI was derived from the optical density of autoradiographic images relative to that of the coexposed ^{14}C -standards. Measurements were taken from 64 anatomically distinct brain regions defined with reference to a stereotactic mouse atlas³⁸. The rate of metabolism, LCGU, in each ROI was determined as the ratio of ^{14}C present in that region relative to the average ^{14}C concentration in the whole brain of the same animal and from hereon will be referred to as the ^{14}C -2-DG uptake ratio. Whole-brain average ^{14}C levels were determined from the average ^{14}C concentration across all sections, in which an ROI was measured.

Data Analysis

Statistical Analysis of Experimentally Induced Metabolic Alterations. When analyzing changes in the rate of metabolism between experimental groups and in keeping with previous studies of similar experimental design, anatomically discrete brain regions were assumed to represent independent variables within each measure and no correction was applied for multiple comparisons.³⁹ ^{14}C -2-DG data were analyzed using 1-way ANOVA with Newman-Keuls post hoc test for multiple comparisons across the 3 experimental groups. Plasma variables for the ^{14}C -2-DG study were analyzed using Student's *t* test with Bonferroni post hoc correction for multiple comparisons. Significance was set at $P < .05$ throughout.

Functional Brain Connectivity Analysis Using PLSR. PLSR (also known as projection to latent structures or PLS) is a method for relating 2 data matrices, *X* and *Y*, by a multivariate linear regression model and is particularly suited to analyzing functional connectivity within the brain as it can model the influence of multiple, collinear “predictor” variables upon a given dependent variable. The PLS algorithm itself is detailed and discussed in Wold (1995)⁴⁰ and Wold

et al. (2001)⁷ and its application to the data in this study is outlined in the supplementary section to this article. The data presented in this article were analyzed using the PLSR module in XLSTAT 2009 (Addinsoft, New York, NY). PLS has previously been applied in neuroimaging studies to investigate functional brain activity in relation to behavior and the functional coupling of brain regions to a defined “seed” brain region in humans.^{9–13} Here we use the algorithm to characterize functional brain connectivity signatures by modeling the relationship between the rate of metabolism, as given by the ^{14}C -2-DG uptake ratio, in a specified seed brain region (the dependent variable) and all the other ROI measured (explanatory variables; 63 brain regions in each analysis). The PLS models were generated independently for each experimental group (Vehicle.Vehicle, PCP.Vehicle, and PCP.Modafinil). The goodness of fit statistics for each model used in the analysis are shown in the supplementary material (table S2). The function coupling of each explanatory brain region to the seed brain region was taken to be reflected by the variable importance for the projection (VIP) statistic. The standard deviation of the VIP statistic for each explanatory brain region was estimated by jackknifing (“leave-one-out” procedure). Statistical differences in the VIP for each explanatory ROI to a given seed brain region between experimental groups were analyzed using 1-way ANOVA with the Newman-Keuls post hoc test, with reference to the mean VIP, its standard deviation, and the group size (*n*). Significance was set at $P < .05$ throughout. The functional connectivity of 3 seed brain regions were analyzed in this study, which were the retrosplenial cortex (RSC), anterior prefrontal cortex (PrL), and medial prefrontal cortex (layer 1, mPrL1). These regions were chosen as seed regions because the rate of metabolism in the first 2 regions (RSC, PrL) is reduced by subchronic PCP treatment and corrected by acute modafinil and in the third region (mPrL1) acute modafinil treatment enhances metabolism (figure 3).

Results

Attentional Set-Shifting Task

Subchronic PCP treatment impairs the ability of animals to switch attentional set, and this deficit in cognitive flexibility is reversed by acute modafinil treatment. Repeated measures ANOVA revealed a significant effect of discrimination phase ($F_{(6,204)} = 35.401$, $P < .001$) but not pretreatment ($F_{(1,34)} = 1.618$, $P = .212$) on the number of trials required to reach criteria during the ASST. This suggests that animals from all experimental groups find some discrimination phases harder to perform than others during the ASST, but the ability of animals to complete the ASST is not, overall, affected by PCP pre-treatment. However, a significant pretreatment \times discrimination interaction (repeated measures ANOVA, $F_{(6,206)} = 3.863$, $P = .001$) suggests that PCP treatment

significantly alters the ability of animals to complete specific discrimination phases of the ASST. The suggestion that animals find some discriminations harder to complete in the ASST than others was confirmed by the finding that animals from all experimental groups required significantly more trials to reach criterion at the ED relative to the ID discrimination (table 3; $P < .05$, t test with Bonferroni correction). This also confirms that animals in all groups formed an attentional set toward the relevant dimension at the discrimination stages prior to the ED. The ability of PCP pretreatment to impede performance on a discrimination phase-dependent basis was confirmed by a significant increase in the number of trials required to reach criterion at the ED stage relative to the ID stage (increased ED/ID set-shifting ratio; figure 1; $P = .049$, Mann-Whitney U test with Bonferroni correction) in PCP-experienced (PCP.Vehicle) animals in comparison to controls (Vehicle.Vehicle). This confirms that these animals were significantly impaired in their ability to switch attentional set. This impairment was effectively reversed by acute modafinil treatment because the ability of PCP-experienced animals to switch attentional set when given acute modafinil was significantly lower than PCP-experienced animals who received acute vehicle ($P = .0438$, Mann-Whitney U test, Bonferroni adjusted) but was not significantly different from control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals ($P = 2.731$, Mann-Whitney, Bonferroni adjusted).

The ability of PCP pretreatment to impede performance at specific discrimination stages was also apparent during the Rev3 where subchronic PCP treatment induced a significant deficit in reversal learning (figure 2A; $P = .001$, t test Bonferroni adjusted). This deficit was not reversed by acute modafinil treatment because PCP-pretreated animals who received modafinil remained significantly different from control ($P = .008$, t test, Bonferroni adjusted) but not from PCP-treated animals given acute vehicle (PCP.Vehicle; $P = .816$, t test, Bonferroni adjusted). In accordance with this observation, PCP-

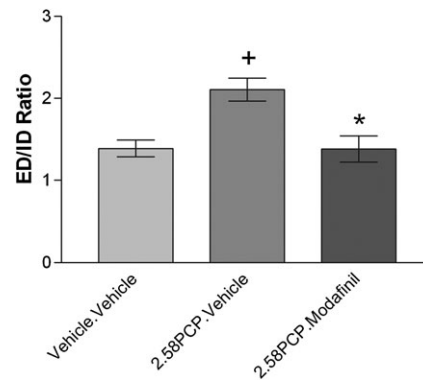


Fig. 1. Modafinil Reverses the Impaired Ability of Phencyclidine (PCP)-Experienced Animals to Switch Attentional Set. Data were analyzed using Mann-Whitney U test with Bonferroni post hoc correction for multiple comparisons. + Denotes $P < .05$ significant difference from control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals and * denotes $P < .05$ significant difference from PCP-experienced animals who receive acute vehicle (PCP.Vehicle).

experienced animals were found to commit significantly more errors (1-way ANOVA with Tukeys post hoc test, $P < .05$, $q = 3.537$; figure 2C) during this discrimination. However, this did not result in PCP-experienced animals receiving significantly more punishment than control animals (figure 2D). This suggested that PCP-experienced animals respond to punishment in the same way as control animals. Indeed, there was no evidence that PCP-experienced animals displayed significantly greater perseverative responding than control animals during this reversal discrimination (figure 2E). In all experimental groups, animals reversed their digging behavior in the trial immediately after a punishment to the correct bowl approximately 70%–80% of the time. The chance of perseverative responding in the trial immediately after punishment was approximately 16% in control animals, 10% in PCP.Vehicle animals, and 25% in PCP.Modafinil animals. The increased likelihood of PCP-experienced animals committing regressive errors appears to underlie

Table 3. Effect of Phencyclidine (PCP) and Modafinil on the Attentional Set-Shifting Task

Treatment		Discrimination						
Subchronic	Acute	Simple Discrimination	Compound Discrimination	Rev1	ID	Rev2	ED	Rev3
Vehicle	Vehicle	10.47 ± 0.59	7.53 ± 0.38	14.37 ± 0.79	12.16 ± 0.88	17.84 ± 1.29	17.99 ⁺ ± 1.23	14.58 ± 0.89
PCP	Vehicle	9.71 ± 0.71	6.57 ± 0.19	16.57 ± 1.37	10.57 ± 0.82	15.07 ± 0.96	20.79 ⁺ ± 1.70	21.21* ± 1.22
PCP	Modafinil	8.33 ± 0.43	7.85 ± 0.79	15.70 ± 1.51	13.43 ± 2.15	15.99 ± 0.94	18.06 ⁺ ± 1.69	20.72* ± 1.77

Note: ED, extradimensional; ID, intradimensional; Rev, reversal. Data shown as the number of trials required to reach a criteria of 6 correct consecutive trials for each discrimination following subchronic pretreatment with vehicle (saline, $n = 19$) or PCP. PCP animals receive either acute vehicle ($n = 14$) or modafinil ($n = 12$). In all treatment groups, the intradimensional shift (ID) took significantly less trials to complete than the extradimensional shift (+ denotes $P < .05$ significant difference from ID, t test with Bonferroni correction). PCP-experienced animals required significantly more trials to reach criteria during Rev3 as compared with control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals (* denotes $P < .05$ significant difference from control, t test with Bonferroni correction).

the deficits in reversal learning during Rev3 because they were significantly more likely to drop out of correct digging behavior following a punishment-induced reorientation of digging behavior (figure 2B; significant pretreatment main effect, repeated measures ANOVA, $F_{(1,34)} = 4.188$, $P = .049$). While the increased frequency of dropout in PCP-treated animals appeared to be most evident in trials 2 and 3 after punishment-induced reorientation of behavior, there was no statistical evidence for this (repeated measures ANOVA, pretreatment \times trial interaction was not significant ($P = .892$, $F_{(4,136)} = 0.287$) and there was no significant effect following Tukey's post hoc analysis for each trial level independently). This suggests that the enhanced drop out of PCP-pretreated animals from correct responding following punishment-induced reorientation was a more general effect than one that could be localized to a specific trial. Importantly, in all experimental groups, the likelihood of dropping out of correct digging behavior significantly decreases as animals make a greater number of sequentially correct digs (trial-level main effect, repeated measures ANOVA, $P < .001$, $F_{(4,136)} = 5.98$). In this way, in vehicle animals, the likelihood of making an incorrect dig in trial 1 after reorientation is approximately 9% (square root [sqrt] = 0.3), whereas the likelihood of an incorrect dig at trial 5, following 5 consecutively correct digs after punishment, is approximately 0.5% (sqrt = 0.07) (figure 2B).

*Semiquantitative*¹⁴ C-2-DG Autoradiography

In parallel to its ability to reverse discrete aspects of PCP-induced cognitive dysfunction, acute modafinil treatment effectively reversed distinct PCP-induced alterations in overt cerebral metabolism. Subchronic PCP treatment produced significant, regionally selective, alterations in the overt rate of cerebral metabolism in 9 of the 62 regions analyzed (table 4; figure 3). In particular, subchronic PCP treatment induced hypofrontality, a reduced rate of metabolism in prefrontal cortical regions including the anterior PrL and orbital (lateral [LO] and dorsolateral [DLO]) cortices, and a reduced metabolism in discrete thalamic nuclei (dorsal reticular thalamus [dRT] and centromedial thalamus [CM]). In addition to PFC structures, PCP treatment also produced hypometabolism in the RSC, which is part of the cingulate cortex (Cg1), the dorsolateral striatum (DLST), and mammillary body (MB). In only one region, the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BST), was a significant increase in metabolism found. The alterations in overt cerebral metabolism induced by subchronic PCP treatment were highly localized and metabolism remained unaltered in the majority of RoI investigated including all subfields of the hippocampus, the amygdala nuclei, components of the basal ganglia, and septal nuclei. The PCP-induced alterations in cerebral metabolism found in this

study are consistent with those previously reported when applying the quantitative 2-DG autoradiographic imaging protocol to animals treated using the same PCP treatment regime.¹⁵

Acute treatment of PCP-experienced animals with modafinil produced a significant increase in cerebral metabolism in 3 RoI, all of which were cortical. Modafinil treatment significantly increased metabolism in the anterior PrL and RSC of PCP-experienced animals to a level similar to that in control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals (table 4; figure 3). In addition, acute modafinil treatment produced an increase in metabolism in the mPrL1 that resulted in a significant hypermetabolism relative to both control and PCP-experienced (PCP.Vehicle) animals. Despite its effectiveness in reversing PCP-induced hypometabolism in the PrL and RSC, acute modafinil treatment failed to correct the PCP-induced hypometabolism observed in the orbital cortex (LO and DLO), the CM or dRT thalamic nuclei, the DLST, and in the MB. The rate of metabolism in each of these brain regions remained significantly lower than that found in control animals but was not significantly lower than that found in PCP-experienced (PCP.Vehicle) animals. In addition, modafinil failed to correct the PCP-induced hypermetabolism observed in the BST. These results suggest that acute modafinil is able to reverse some but not all the alterations in cerebral metabolism induced by subchronic PCP treatment.

Functional Brain Connectivity Assessed Using PLSR

The relevant statistics supporting the appropriateness of each of the PLSR models used to generate the VIP statistic for the different seed brain regions and experimental groups are shown in the supplementary material (table S2). These statistics show that for each experimental group and seed brain region, a PLSR model that adequately fits and models that data was generated. The 3 seed regions selected for analysis were the anterior PrL and RSC where modafinil was shown to reverse PCP-induced hypometabolism and the mPrL1 where modafinil produces a significant hypermetabolism in PCP-experienced animals.

Anterior Prelimbic Cortex. Subchronic PCP treatment significantly altered the functional connectivity of the PrL (figure 4 and tables S3 and S6 in the supplementary material), which included the dissociation of functional activity in this region from that in several components of the mesolimbic system (nucleus accumbens core [NacC], nucleus accumbens shell [NacS], and BST), the amygdala (basolateral amygdala and central amygdala [CeA]), and habenula (lateral habenula and medial habenula [mHab]) nuclei. In addition, PrL function was also dissociated from that in the rhomboid nucleus of the thalamus, the median raphé (MR), and several other cortical regions (frontal association area [FRA], infralimbic [IL], and entorhinal cortex [EC]). In contrast, functional

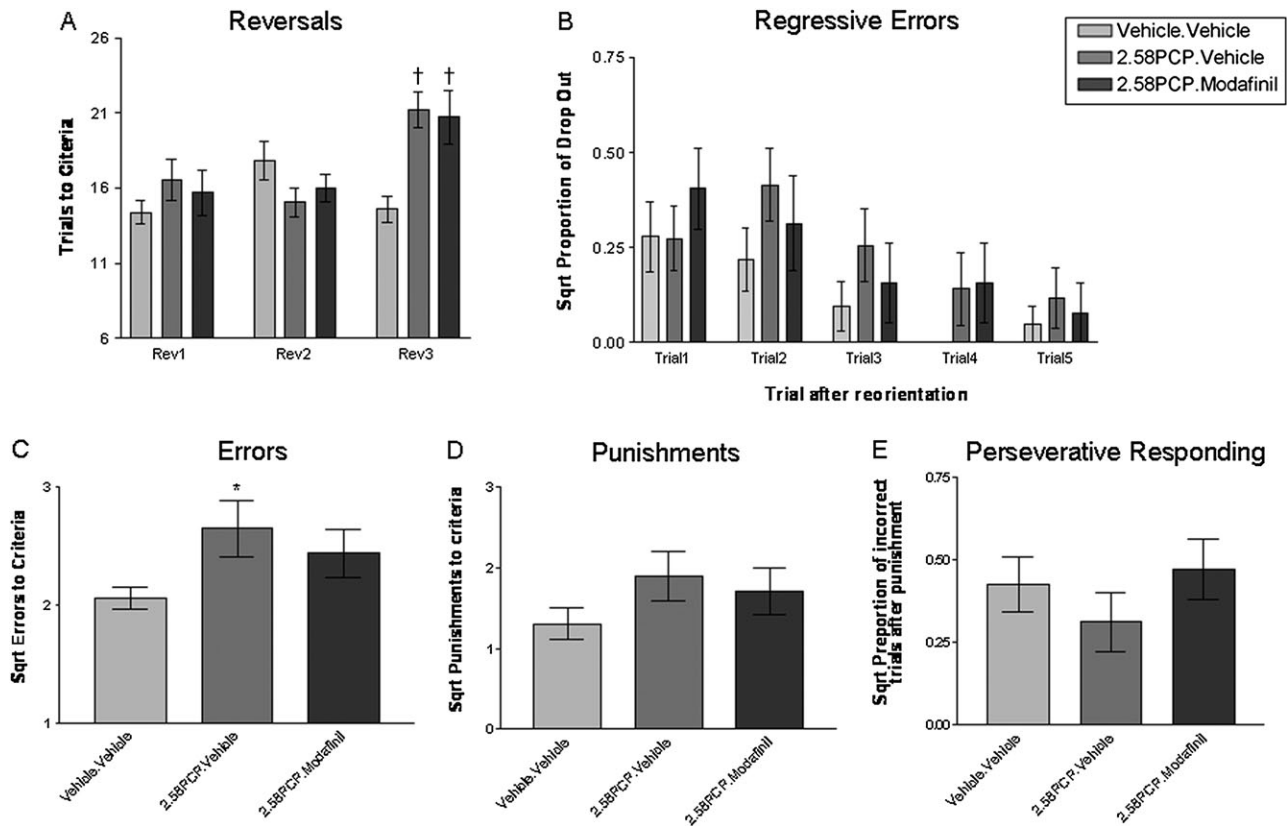


Fig. 2. (A) Phencyclidine (PCP)-Experienced Animals Display a Reversal Deficit That Specifically Manifests at the Third Reversal (Rev3) That Is Not Reversed by Acute Modafinil Treatment. †Denotes significant difference from control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals at the same discrimination stage (*t* test with Bonferroni post hoc correction). Data for errors, punishments, perseverative responding, and regressive errors were square root (sqrt) transformed to give the data a normal distribution (B) PCP-experienced animals commit a significantly higher level of regressive errors, as evidenced by a higher proportion of dropout across all trial levels following punishment-induced reorientation of digging behavior (main pretreatment effect, 2-way repeated measures ANOVA, $F_{(1,34)} = 4.188, P = .049$). (C) PCP-treated animals commit more errors in Rev3 (1-way ANOVA; PCP main effect $F_{(2,41)} = 3.275, P = .048$). *Denotes significant ($P < .05$) difference from control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals (post hoc Tukeys test, $P < .05, q = 3.537$). Despite a trend toward a higher number of errors in PCP.Modafinil-treated animals in comparison to control animals, these failed to reach significance ($P > .05, q = 2.143$). (D) PCP-treated animals do not experience significantly more punishments in Rev3 (1-way ANOVA $F_{(2,41)} = 1.597, P = .2148$). (E) PCP pretreatment did not significantly alter the likelihood of perseverative responding in Rev3. Animals in all groups perform below the 50% chance level (sqrt 0.5 = 0.7) of remaining with the incorrect bowl following punishment, suggesting that animals are less likely than chance to remain with the incorrect bowl following punishment.

connectivity to multiple hippocampal subfields (subiculum [Sub], cornu ammonis subfield 1 [CA1], and cornu ammonis subfield 3 [CA3]), the septum (lateral septum [LS]), and many other cortical areas (including mPrL1, RSC, DLO, and Cg1) was significantly enhanced by subchronic PCP treatment.

In parallel to the restoration of PCP-induced hypometabolism in PrL, modafinil normalized discrete PCP-induced alterations in the functional connectivity of this brain region. These functional coupling events may be relevant to both the normalization of overt hypometabolism in this region and of set-shifting capabilities in PCP-treated animals by modafinil. These restoration events were seen with multiple components of the mesolimbic system (NacC, NacS, and BST), the locus coeruleus (LC), the CA1 subfield of this hippocampus, the mHab, MR, and cortical regions (primary

motor cortex [M1] and Cg1). In addition to these normalization events, it is also possible that alterations in functional connectivity that are specifically altered by modafinil treatment may also play a role in normalizing PrL function in PCP-treated animals. These functional events included enhanced coupling of the PrL to the orbital cortex (ventral orbital [VO]), centromedial thalamus (CM), medial amygdala (MeA), and dorsal tegmental nucleus (DTg). In contrast, functional connectivity of the PrL was significantly decreased with multiple components of the basal ganglia (globus pallidus [GP], substantia nigra pars reticulata [SNR], and Substantia nigra pars compacta [SNC]), insular cortex, anteroventral thalamus, the ventral tegmental area (VTA), and medial septum (MS) by modafinil treatment in comparison to both control and PCP-experienced (PCP.Vehicle) animals.

Table 4. Phencyclidine (PCP)- and Modafinil-Induced Alterations in Cerebral Metabolism

	Vehicle.Vehicle	PCP.Vehicle		PCP.Modafinil	
	Mean ± SE	Mean ± SE	%	Mean ± SE	%
Cortex					
Prelimbic	1.27 ± 0.03	1.15* ± 0.03	-9	1.24 ⁺ ± 0.03	7
Ventral orbital	1.14 ± 0.02	1.07 ± 0.03	-6	1.09 ± 0.01	1
Lateral orbital	1.75 ± 0.03	1.55** ± 0.04	-11	1.53* ± 0.09	-1
Medial orbital	1.13 ± 0.03	1.15 ± 0.04	2	1.14 ± 0.06	-2
Dorsolateral orbital	1.53 ± 0.05	1.35** ± 0.05	-12	1.41* ± 0.03	4
Frontal association area	1.28 ± 0.02	1.24 ± 0.04	-3	1.25 ± 0.02	1
Medial prefrontal cortex (Layer 1) (mPrL1)	1.15 ± 0.02	1.15 ± 0.02	0	1.29** ⁺⁺⁺ ± 0.05	12
Medial prefrontal cortex (Layer 2)	1.26 ± 0.02	1.29 ± 0.02	2	1.33 ± 0.05	4
Medial prefrontal cortex (Layer 3)	1.11 ± 0.03	1.13 ± 0.02		1.17 ± 0.04	3
Infralimbic cortex	0.94 ± 0.03	1.02 ± 0.02	8	1.03 ± 0.01	1
Primary motor	1.33 ± 0.05	1.41 ± 0.04	6	1.34 ± 0.04	-5
Cingulate	1.40 ± 0.04	1.35 ± 0.02	-4	1.37 ± 0.03	1
Retrosplenial	1.53 ± 0.03	1.43** ± 0.02	-7	1.50 ⁺⁺ ± 0.02	5
Entorhinal	0.99 ± 0.02	0.98 ± 0.02	-1	0.93 ± 0.03	-5
Piriform	1.60 ± 0.02	1.62 ± 0.04	1	1.60 ± 0.05	-1
Insular	1.07 ± 0.03	1.15 ± 0.03	7	1.09 ± 0.01	-5
Thalamus					
Anteromedial	1.40 ± 0.05	1.40 ± 0.06	0	1.41 ± 0.05	0
Anteroventral	1.42 ± 0.03	1.36 ± 0.03	-4	1.35 ± 0.02	0
Dorsal reticular	1.33 ± 0.02	1.23** ± 0.03	-7	1.23* ± 0.02	0
Ventral reticular	1.43 ± 0.03	1.41 ± 0.03	-2	1.38 ± 0.03	-2
Centrolateral	1.43 ± 0.05	1.40 ± 0.05	-2	1.38 ± 0.04	-1
Centromedial	1.13 ± 0.05	1.01** ± 0.03	-11	1.02** ± 0.04	1
Mediodorsal	1.56 ± 0.04	1.50 ± 0.04	-4	1.54 ± 0.05	3
Reunions	1.28 ± 0.04	1.14 ± 0.04	-11	1.17 ± 0.06	3
Rhomboid	1.21 ± 0.03	1.18 ± 0.03	-3	1.15 ± 0.04	-2
Ventrolateral	1.45 ± 0.04	1.41 ± 0.04	-3	1.40 ± 0.05	0
Ventromedial	1.58 ± 0.07	1.49 ± 0.05	-6	1.56 ± 0.06	5
Amygdala					
Basolateral	1.14 ± 0.03	1.14 ± 0.04	0	1.12 ± 0.03	-2
Central	0.63 ± 0.02	0.68 ± 0.03	8	0.66 ± 0.01	-3
Medial	0.70 ± 0.05	0.70 ± 0.02	0	0.68 ± 0.02	-2
Basal ganglia					
Globus pallidus	0.80 ± 0.02	0.80 ± 0.02	0	0.77 ± 0.02	-3
Dorsolateral	1.26 ± 0.02	1.18* ± 0.02	-6	1.17** ± 0.03	-1
Ventromedial	1.11 ± 0.03	1.11 ± 0.03	1	1.16 ± 0.03	4
Substantia nigra pars compacta	1.00 ± 0.03	1.04 ± 0.03	4	0.99 ± 0.02	-5
Substantia nigra pars reticulata	0.77 ± 0.02	0.76 ± 0.03	-2	0.70* ± 0.02	-7
Hippocampus					
Subiculum	1.08 ± 0.03	1.05 ± 0.02	-3	1.09 ± 0.03	4
Dentate gyrus	0.77 ± 0.02	0.79 ± 0.01	2	0.78 ± 0.02	-1
CA1	0.93 ± 0.03	0.93 ± 0.03	0	0.93 ± 0.01	0
CA2	0.85 ± 0.03	0.82 ± 0.03	-4	0.82 ± 0.02	0
CA3	0.80 ± 0.02	0.82 ± 0.02	3	0.80 ± 0.03	-2
Septum					
Medial	0.83 ± 0.04	0.81 ± 0.03	-2	0.85 ± 0.02	4
Lateral	0.80 ± 0.03	0.82 ± 0.03	2	0.85 ± 0.03	4
Diagonal band of broca					
Vertical band	1.10 ± 0.02	1.04 ± 0.02	-5	1.05 ± 0.02	1
Horizontal band	1.03 ± 0.03	1.02 ± 0.02	-1	1.09 ± 0.03	7
Mesolimbic					
Nucleus accumbens core	0.93 ± 0.03	0.96 ± 0.03	4	0.96 ± 0.03	0
Nucleus accumbens shell	0.94 ± 0.04	1.00 ± 0.04	7	0.99 ± 0.04	-2
Ventral tegmental area	0.96 ± 0.04	1.05 ± 0.05	10	1.01 ± 0.03	-4
Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis	0.59 ± 0.02	0.66** ± 0.01	12	0.67* ± 0.02	0

Table 4. Continued

	Vehicle.Vehicle	PCP.Vehicle		PCP.Modafinil	
	Mean \pm SE	Mean \pm SE	%	Mean \pm SE	%
Multimodal					
Median raphé	1.19 \pm 0.02	1.15 \pm 0.02	-3	1.17 \pm 0.03	2
Dorsal raphé	0.88 \pm 0.03	0.89 \pm 0.02	1	0.93 \pm 0.06	5
Locus coeruleus	0.98 \pm 0.04	0.98 \pm 0.03	0	1.00 \pm 0.03	2
Ventral pallidum	0.76 \pm 0.03	0.79 \pm 0.01	4	0.77 \pm 0.02	-2
Lateral habenula	1.49 \pm 0.05	1.47 \pm 0.02	-2	1.43 \pm 0.04	-2
Medial habenula	0.98 \pm 0.03	0.99 \pm 0.03	2	0.97 \pm 0.03	-2
Corpus callosum	0.36 \pm 0.02	0.38 \pm 0.02	6	0.41 \pm 0.03	7
Mammillary body	1.58 \pm 0.07	1.43* \pm 0.03	-9	1.35** \pm 0.07	-6
Interpeduncular nucleus	1.15 \pm 0.04	1.24 \pm 0.07	8	1.06 ⁺ \pm 0.05	-14
Medial geniculate	1.07 \pm 0.03	1.10 \pm 0.02	3	1.13 \pm 0.06	2
Inferior colliculus	1.49 \pm 0.04	1.54 \pm 0.05	3	1.51 \pm 0.06	-2
Dorsal tegmental nucleus	1.49 \pm 0.04	1.42 \pm 0.03	-4	1.48 \pm 0.04	4
Ventral tegmental nucleus	1.33 \pm 0.04	1.29 \pm 0.03	-3	1.36 \pm 0.05	5
Pontine nucleus	0.95 \pm 0.04	0.93 \pm 0.03	-2	1.00 \pm 0.03	8
Dorsal lateral lamniscus	0.72 \pm 0.03	0.76 \pm 0.02	5	0.74 \pm 0.02	-3
Ventral lateral lamniscus	0.94 \pm 0.03	0.99 \pm 0.03	5	0.94 \pm 0.03	-5

Note: Cerebral metabolism as reflected by the ^{14}C -2-deoxyglucose uptake ratio in each region of interest. PCP.Vehicle percent change is that relative to control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals while PCP.Modafinil percent change is that relative to PCP.Vehicle animals. Data were analyzed by 1-way ANOVA with post hoc Newman-Keuls test. * Denotes $P < .05$ and ** denotes $P < .01$ significant difference from control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals, whereas ⁺ denotes $P < .05$ and ⁺⁺ denotes $P < .01$ significant difference from PCP.Vehicle animals.

While modafinil was able to reverse some PCP-induced alterations in functional coupling of the PrL, others remained intact, including a PCP-induced enhancement of functional coupling to the DLO and RSC, the CA3 subfield of the hippocampus, and the ventral pallidum (VP). In addition, modafinil further enhanced PCP-induced alterations in the functional coupling of the PrL to the mPrL1, LS, CeA, and centrolateral nucleus of the thalamus. These functional coupling events are unlikely to contribute to PCP-induced deficits in PrL function and its reversal by modafinil treatment.

Retrosplenial Cortex. Subchronic PCP treatment significantly altered the functional connectivity of the RSC (figure 4 and tables S4 and S6 in the supplementary material), which included the dissociation of RSC functional activity from that in several thalamic (anteromedial thalamus [AM], ventrolateral [VL], and ventromedial [VM]) nuclei, the medial prefrontal cortex (mPrL1 and mPrL2), and the LC. In contrast, functional connectivity of the RSC with multiple subfields of the PFC (PrL, DLO, LO, and FRA), the hippocampus (dentate gyrus [DG] and CA3), the mesolimbic system (VTA and NacC), striatum (dorsal, DLST and ventral, VMST), the vertical limb of the diagonal band of Broca (VDB), and dorsal raphé (DR) was enhanced by subchronic PCP treatment.

In parallel to the restoration of PCP-induced hypometabolism in the RSC, modafinil normalized discrete PCP-induced alterations in the functional connectivity of this brain region. Modafinil normalized the functional con-

nectivity of the RSC to the mPrL1, AM, ventromedial striatum (VMST), NacC, CeA, and the DG of the hippocampus in PCP-experienced animals. In addition to these normalization events, PCP-induced alterations in functional connectivity that are reversed by modafinil treatment, which then significantly exceeded the level of functional coupling seen in control animals, may also be relevant to the normalization of RSC function. This pattern of altered functional connectivity was observed with the mPrL3, DLST, the LC, VDB, and the dRT.

Significant alterations in functional coupling specific to modafinil treatment may also contribute to the restoration of RSC function in PCP-treated animals. Such events included the enhanced functional connectivity of the RSC with the medial orbital cortex, EC, GP, and ventral tegmental nucleus and a decreased functional connectivity with the hippocampal Sub, substantia nigra (both SNC and SNR), DTg, and BST.

While modafinil was able to reverse some PCP-induced deficits, others remained intact, including a PCP-induced enhancement of functional coupling to the PrL, CA3 subfield of the hippocampus (CA3), and VTA. PCP-induced decreases in functional connectivity that were not reversed by modafinil included coupling to the VL and VM thalamic nuclei, MeA, and M1. In addition, modafinil further enhanced PCP-induced deficits in the functional coupling of the RSC to the DR and ventral lateral lamniscus. These functional coupling events are unlikely to contribute to PCP-induced deficits in RSC functioning and their reversal by modafinil treatment.

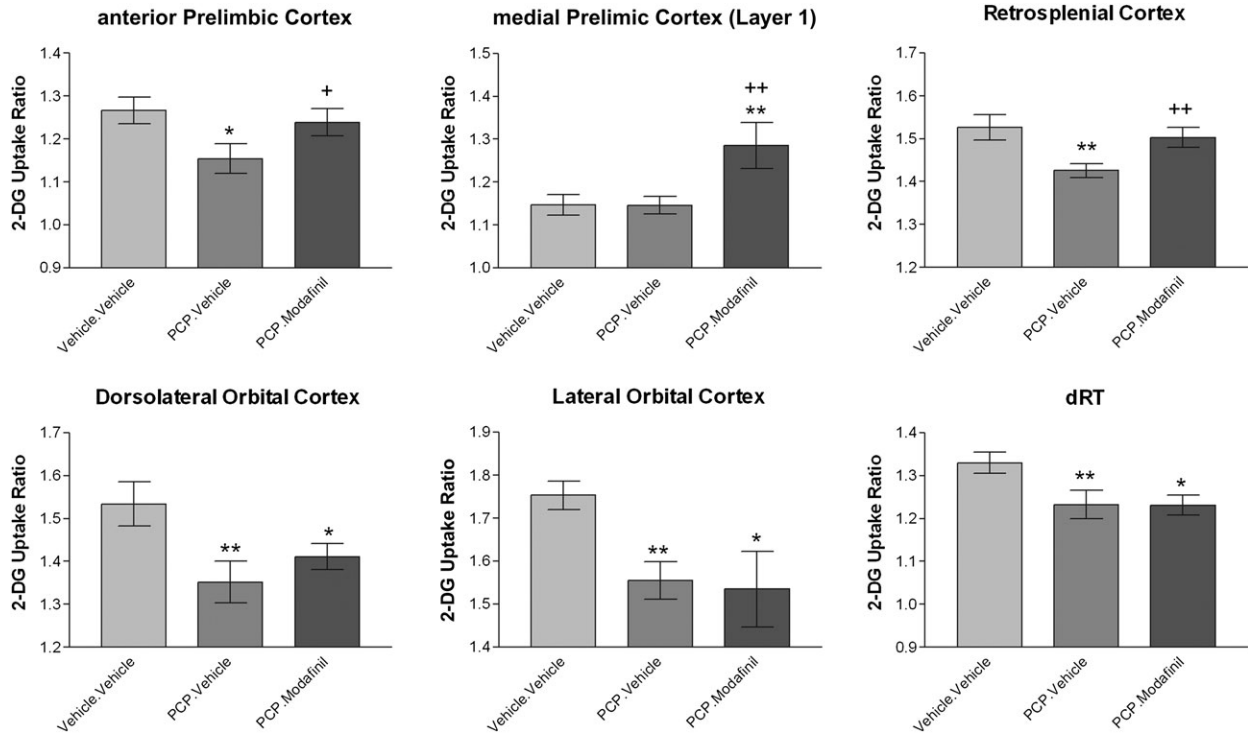


Fig. 3. Representative Alterations in Cerebral Metabolism Produced by Subchronic Phencyclidine (PCP) and Acute Modafinil Treatment. Modafinil reverses PCP-induced deficits in overt cerebral metabolism in the anterior prefrontal and retrosplenial cortices and enhances metabolism in the medial prefrontal cortex (layer 1). PCP-induced deficits in metabolism in the orbital (dorsolateral and lateral) cortex and dorsal reticular thalamus were not reversed by modafinil. * Denotes $P < .05$ and ** denotes $P < .01$ significant difference from control (Vehicle.Vehicle). + Denotes $P < .05$ and ++ denotes $P < .01$ significant difference from PCP.Vehicle animals (1-way ANOVA with Newman-Keuls post hoc test).

Medial Prefrontal Cortex (Layer 1). Subchronic PCP treatment significantly altered the functional connectivity of the mPrL1 (figure 4 and tables S4 and S6 in the supplementary material), which included the dissociation of functional activity in this region from that in the hippocampus (CA1 and CA3), striatum (VMST), thalamic nuclei (AM and ventral reticular), the MeA, and LC. In contrast, functional coupling of mPrL1 to all other components of the medial PFC (mPFC [mPrL2, mPrL3 and IL]), MS, ventral limb of the diagonal band of Broca (VDB), and VP was enhanced by subchronic PCP treatment. While these alterations in functional coupling were significant, they did not produce an overt significant alteration in metabolism in the mPrL1.

In the case of the mPrL1 region, functional coupling events specifically altered by modafinil treatment are of particular interest because these may contribute to the hypermetabolism in this region induced by modafinil. This included the enhanced coupling of the FRA and DR to the mPrL1 in PCP-experienced animals treated with modafinil. In addition, the PCP-induced alteration in functional coupling of the mPrL1 to the AM was not only reversed by modafinil but also exceeded that in control animals. This may also contribute to the enhancing metabolism in the mPrL1 of PCP-experienced animals treated with modafinil. Furthermore, it is also possible

that normalization events may also contribute to the increased rate of metabolism in PCP-experienced animals treated acutely with modafinil. Such events were seen with multiple subfields of the medial PFC (mPrL2 and IL), the NacS, the MS, and LC.

Discussion

The present study demonstrates that, in addition to overt alterations in metabolism, the functional connectivity signatures of the PrL (PrL and mPrL1) and RSC are altered in an animal model of schizophrenia, which displays cognitive inflexibility. Furthermore, we have identified the discrete components of this altered functional connectivity rescued by modafinil treatment that may contribute to its ability to restore cognitive flexibility and the rate of overt cerebral metabolism in these regions.

Here we confirm previous reports of reduced cognitive flexibility, as evidenced by the reduced ability to switch attentional set, and hypofrontality in rats treated subchronically with PCP.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ These behavioral and functional deficits are akin to those seen in schizophrenia.⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ While there are some inconsistencies on the detection of both baseline and task-activated hypofrontality in schizophrenia, with positive^{41,45,46} and negative findings⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ as well as a contrasting hyperfrontality^{50,51} reported in some

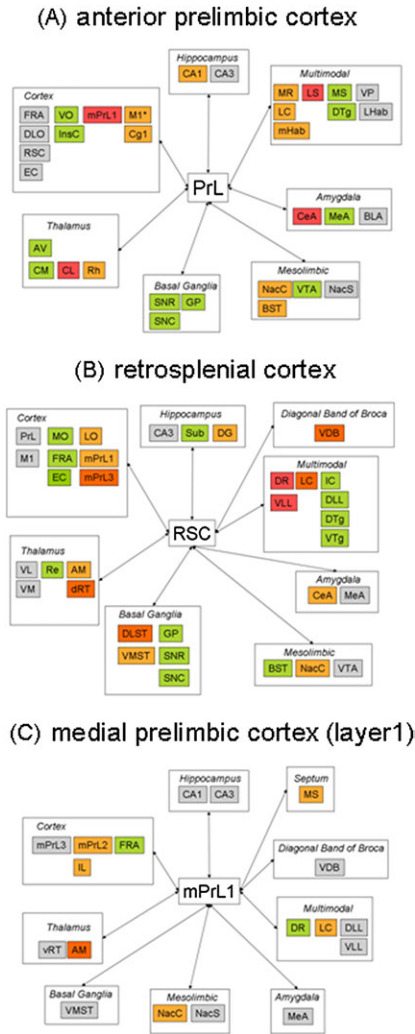


Fig. 4. Table Summarizing Functional Connectivity Alterations of the (A) Anterior Prelimbic, (B) Retrosplenial, and (C) Medial Prelimbic (Layer 1) Cortices Following Subchronic Phencyclidine (PCP) Treatment and the Acute Treatment of PCP-Experienced Animals With Modafinil. Data shown as significant alterations in the variable importance to the projection statistic generated by partial least squares regression analysis. Significance between experimental groups was set at $P < .05$ and determined using 1-way ANOVA with Newman-Keuls post hoc test. Gray shading denotes a significant PCP-induced alteration in functional connectivity, which is not corrected by acute modafinil treatment. Light orange denotes a PCP-induced alteration in functional connectivity, which is corrected to control (Vehicle.Vehicle) levels by modafinil treatment. Dark orange shading denotes a PCP-induced alteration in functional connectivity, which is corrected by and then is further enhanced to a level beyond that seen in control (Vehicle.Vehicle) animals by acute modafinil. Green denotes a significant effect of modafinil in a brain region where subchronic PCP experience does not significantly alter connectivity. Red denotes a region in which the effect of modafinil is additive to that of subchronic PCP treatment. Detailed significant alterations between the different experimental groups are shown in table S6 in supplementary material.

studies, 2 recent meta-analyses of the available data support both baseline and task-activated hypofrontality in schizophrenia.^{52,53} Hypofrontality in schizophrenia has been proposed to underlie, or at least provide an accurate biomarker of, many of the cognitive deficits reported in this disorder.^{54–57} However, more recently, the hypothesis of PFC “inefficiency” has been proposed, which suggests that compromised functioning of the PFC in schizophrenia may result in either hyperfrontality or hypofrontality dependent upon the cognitive task involved and the relative level of task demand.^{58,59} Either way, hyper- or hypofrontality are likely to reflect compromised functional integration between neuronal activity within the PFC and the other components of the distributed functional brain networks involved in the completion of the cognitive task at hand. A primary focus of this article has been to elucidate the functional brain networks that are involved, along with the PFC, in the cognitive inflexibility seen in schizophrenia. Interestingly, schizophrenic patients fail to adequately activate PFC regions during the Wisconsin Card Sorting Task (WCST)^{45,60–62}, which measures cognitive flexibility and is akin to the ASST paradigm used in this study, further highlighting the central role of these regions in cognitive flexibility. Furthermore, the degree of this hypofrontality has also been shown to correlate with the degree of neuropsychological impairment in this task.⁶³ However, the exact relationship between overt PFC metabolism and cognitive flexibility may be more complex, although still consistent with the PFC inefficiency hypothesis. For example, in contrast to the effects of prolonged NMDA antagonist exposure, acute administration of the NMDA receptor antagonist ketamine induces both hyperfrontality^{64,65} while also producing similar deficits in cognitive flexibility in the WCST.⁶⁶ This further highlights the complex relationship between PFC metabolism and cognitive flexibility. Hence, considering PFC function in the context of functional brain networks may be key to understanding its role in cognitive flexibility. Either way, these observations, along with those from preclinical studies in which PFC function is disrupted^{22–24}, strongly implicate the PFC in the control of behavioral flexibility and in contributing to the deficits in cognitive flexibility seen in schizophrenia. The subchronic PCP treatment regime outlined in this article clearly recapitulates both the cognitive inflexibility and the PFC dysfunction reported in schizophrenia.

Importantly, our results suggest that altered functional connectivity in brain networks and the dysfunction of multiple brain regions, rather than the discrete dysfunction of the PFC alone, underlie the cognitive inflexibility seen in PCP-treated animals and its reversal by modafinil. For example, in addition to the hypofrontality found in this model, this is the first study to report hypometabolism in the RSC, a finding consistent with the nonlethal injury of glutamatergic pyramidal neurones in this region following NMDA receptor antagonist exposure^{67–70} and

with emerging reports of hypometabolism in this region in schizophrenia.^{71,72} There are several mechanisms through which NMDA receptor antagonists could induce nonlethal neuronal injury in cortical regions including through the disinhibition of thalamic glutamatergic projections to the cortex, by the inhibition of γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA)ergic neurones located in thalamic regions,^{67,70} as well as through the direct inhibition of cortical GABAergic interneurons resulting in the disinhibition of cortical pyramidal cells.⁷³ This suggests that compromised pyramidal neuron integrity may contribute to the cortical hypometabolism seen in PCP-treated animals. In addition, subchronic PCP treatment has been shown to result in compromised GABAergic interneuron integrity in both cortical and thalamic regions, and these alterations parallel those seen in the brains of schizophrenics.^{14,15} The compromised integrity of both glutamatergic and GABAergic neurones in these brain regions is likely, in part, to contribute to their hypometabolism because these neurotransmitters have a central role in governing the coupling of cerebral metabolism to neuronal activity.^{74–76} In addition, the finding that repeated PCP treatment results in decreased cortical glutamatergic neurotransmission⁷⁷ further highlights glutamatergic hypofunction as a mechanism contributing to the cortical hypometabolism seen in PCP-treated animals.

While previous studies have shown that modafinil reverses PCP-induced deficits in set shifting,³⁵ ours is the first to elucidate the alterations in cerebral metabolism that underlie this, namely, the reversal of PCP-induced hypometabolism in the PrL and RSC and the activation of the mPrL1 by modafinil. These alterations in metabolism bare a remarkable resemblance to those reported in schizophrenic patients where modafinil-induced increases in cingulate cortex³¹ and dorsolateral PFC,³² a region analogous to the mPFC in rodents, metabolism correlate with its enhancement of cognitive performance. In addition, we have been able to elucidate the alterations in the functional connectivity of these regions, through the application of the PLSR algorithm, that may contribute to the cognitive inflexibility seen in PCP-experienced rats and its reversal by modafinil. PLSR analysis represents one algorithm from a range of statistical multivariate modeling techniques that may be used as part of a battery of algorithms to elucidate functional connectivity alterations in functional brain networks. Through the application of the PLSR algorithm, we identified a common functional subsystem, with both the PrL and the RSC, which included the NacC and LC, involved in the reversal of PCP-induced alterations in cognitive flexibility by modafinil. Interestingly, the same pattern of altered functional connectivity between the NacC and LC and the mPrL1 is also shown across the experimental groups. The importance of the NacC and LC in subserving cognitive flexibility is supported by previous studies showing that lesioning or inactivating either of

these regions results in set-shifting deficits similar to those in PCP-treated animals.^{25,78–80}

Evidence supporting a role for the LC in set shifting is particularly strong because this region provides noradrenergic (NA) innervation to the cortex and deafferentation of these projections reduces cortical NA levels and produces a set shifting deficit.^{78,79} In addition, enhanced coupling between the LC and the cortical regions in modafinil-treated animals is consistent with the ability of modafinil to increase LC neuronal activity,⁸¹ inhibit NA reuptake,⁸² and thus elevate extracellular NA.⁸³ The involvement of the NacC in this functional subsystem is more complex because although effective coupling between the nucleus accumbens (NacC) and PFC has been shown to be essential for effective set shifting,⁸⁴ the mechanism by which modafinil achieves this enhanced coupling in conjunction with enhanced cognitive flexibility remains unclear. Modafinil has previously been shown to enhance NacC dopamine (DA) levels.⁸⁵ Increased DA neurotransmission in the NacC impairs set shifting,⁸⁴ suggesting that the regulation of DA neurotransmission in this region is unlikely to be a primary mechanism by which modafinil improves cognitive flexibility. However, the ability of modafinil to increase DA levels in the PFC^{82,83} may contribute to its ability to improve cognitive flexibility in PCP-treated animals. Decreased levels of DA have been reported in the PFC of both primates and rats following repeated PCP exposure.^{86,87} Decreasing DA levels in the PFC of rats has also been shown to impair the ability to switch attentional set,⁸⁸ whereas inhibiting catechol-*O*-methyltransferase, the enzyme responsible for the break down of DA, significantly increases PFC DA levels and the ability of rats to switch attentional set.⁸⁹ In this study, we found that modafinil enhanced the functional coupling of PFC regions (in particular the PrL) to the substantia nigra (SNR/SNC) and VTA, which provide DA innervation to the PFC.^{90,91} This supports the suggestion that the regulation of DA neurotransmission in the PFC may be one mechanism through which modafinil improves cognitive flexibility in PCP-treated animals.

In addition to identifying this core functional subsystem, functional connectivity analysis also provides evidence for connectivity alterations specific to each seed brain region that relate to known anatomical connectivity. For example, the restoration of functional coupling between the AM and the RSC by modafinil in PCP-treated animals has an anatomical basis and may contribute to the restoration of metabolism in this region by modafinil. The anterior thalamic nuclei provide direct glutamatergic innervation to the RSC. The disinhibition of these projections, as a result of local GABAergic neuron inhibition in the thalamus, is a primary mechanism by which nonlethal neuronal damage occurs in the RSC following NMDA receptor antagonist administration.⁷⁰ This mechanism may contribute to both the

reduced metabolism in the RSC and also to the uncoupling of RSC-AM functional connectivity in PCP-treated animals. Modafinil may restore metabolism in the RSC by the direct stimulation of the AM-RSC glutamatergic projection as modafinil enhances thalamic glutamate levels,⁹² and this projection is known to be regulated by glutamatergic transmission in the thalamus.⁶⁷

Importantly, functional connectivity analysis also appears to differentiate the relative importance of different neurotransmitter systems in mediating the effects of modafinil in a brain region-dependent manner. Thus, a possible role for serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT) in mediating the effects of modafinil was supported for both prefrontal cortical regions but not for the RSC. Modafinil reversed PCP-induced uncoupling of the MR from the PrL and enhances coupling of the DR to the mPrL1. The functional coupling of these nuclei to the RSC is not altered by modafinil. These observations are consistent with the ability of modafinil to enhance 5-HT neurotransmission in frontal cortical regions.⁹³ Enhanced 5-HT neurotransmission in prefrontal regions may contribute to the increased metabolism in these regions following modafinil because it has been shown to reduce cortical GABA levels through a 5-HT₂ receptor-dependent mechanism.^{94,95} Interestingly, PFC 5-HT₂ receptors also have a role in regulating DA neurotransmission in the nucleus accumbens,⁹⁶ and this receptor subtype has been shown to be downregulated in the PFC of rats treated with the subchronic PCP regime used in this study.¹⁸ Therefore, the increased coupling of the raphe to the PrL as a result of enhanced activation of 5-HT₂ receptors in this region may, in turn, contribute to the increased functional connectivity between these regions and the NacC following modafinil treatment. Despite these observations, the relationship between 5-HT neurotransmission in the PFC and cognitive flexibility remains unclear because chronic 5-HT depletion in these regions does not affect set shifting.⁹⁷ However, chronic alterations in 5-HT are unlikely to model the effect of acute alterations in 5-HT neurotransmission because plasticity changes are likely to occur, including alterations in 5-HT₂ receptor expression. The possible involvement of the acute regulation of PFC 5-HT neurotransmission in cognitive flexibility requires further investigation.

In addition to deficits in set shifting, subchronic PCP treatment also induced a deficit at the third reversal learning stage (Rev3). This suggests that this translational model not only has relevance to the set-shifting deficits but may also model the reported reversal learning deficits seen in schizophrenia.^{24,98,99} While PCP-induced deficits in reversal learning are not commonly reported when using the ASST experimental paradigm,^{16,17,35} they have been reported in studies utilizing alternative behavioral tests.^{100–102} Furthermore, the observed reversal learning deficit in PCP-treated animals is also consistent with the

functional imaging deficits we identified in these animals. In particular, hypometabolism in the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) of PCP-treated animals is consistent with the observation that lesioning this region induces reversal learning deficits in the ASST¹⁰³ and other behavioral paradigms.^{104,105} While PCP-induced deficits in set shifting were amenable to modafinil treatment, deficits in reversal learning were not. In parallel, hypometabolism in the OFC (LO and VO), the dRT and centromedial (CM) thalamus, DLST, and MB were not reversed by modafinil. The sustained hypometabolism in the OFC seems particularly pertinent given the established role of this region in reversal learning.^{103–105} The involvement of the OFC in determining this deficit in PCP-treated animals is also consistent with the behavioral mechanism underlying it. The OFC contributes to efficient reversal learning through a form of working memory involving the online retention of associated outcomes with certain actions, enabling the detection of, and modification of behavior following, a shift in reward contingencies.^{98,106} In PCP-treated animals, regressive errors, the inability to maintain a new strategy following the initial reorientation of behavior, rather than perseverative errors, the inability to efficiently reorientate behavior, appear to underlie the reversal deficit. This is consistent with previous reports showing that regressive rather than perseverative errors underlie the reversal learning deficit induced by OFC lesioning.^{107,108} In addition, regressive errors induced by OFC inactivation only become apparent under conditions of increased task demand,¹⁰⁹ which parallels our findings in PCP-treated animals. In the ASST protocol, Rev1 is the first discrimination in which animals experience a shift in stimulus-reward contingencies during the test. While this represents their first experience of such a shift, we found no evidence to suggest that PCP-treated animals found completing this discrimination harder than control animals, as previously reported.^{16,17,35} The successful completion of Rev2 carries a higher cognitive load than Rev1 because animals are aware that reward contingencies can change in the form of either a reversal, as experienced in Rev1, or as an ID. The cognitive load of Rev3 is higher still because at this discrimination, animals must choose from 3 possible responding strategies following a shift in the stimulus-reward contingency. They may consider the alteration to be an ID, ED, or, correctly, a reversal. The mediation of reversal learning by the OFC, and other PFC regions, is regulated by local serotonergic^{97,110,111} and cholinergic¹¹² but not dopaminergic or NA¹¹³ neurotransmission. Since modafinil treatment increases serotonin, DA, and noradrenaline levels in the PFC^{83,93} without affecting acetylcholine,⁹⁵ the inability of modafinil to correct PCP-induced OFC hypometabolism may relate to its inability to affect cholinergic neurotransmission. Therefore, OFC cholinergic neurotransmission may represent a target for the normalization of OFC

metabolism and the reversal learning deficit in PCP-treated animals.

In conclusion, taking a combined translational and mathematical modeling approach to investigate the functional connectivity signatures of brain regions in relation to alterations in cerebral metabolism and behavior (eg, cognitive flexibility) provides added scientific insight into the mechanism of CNS system dysfunction and drug action in schizophrenia. In addition, these functional connectivity alterations appear to have a firm basis in previous established knowledge including that of anatomical connectivity, lesioning studies, and drug pharmacology.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary material is available at <http://schizophreniabulletin.oxfordjournals.org>.

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