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# Large-scale brain systems in ADHD: beyond the prefrontal–striatal model

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**Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has long been thought to reflect dysfunction of prefrontal–striatal circuitry, with involvement of other circuits largely ignored. Recent advances in systems neuroscience-based approaches to brain dysfunction have facilitated the development of models of ADHD pathophysiology that encompass a number of different large-scale resting-state networks. Here we review progress in delineating large-scale neural systems and illustrate their relevance to ADHD. We relate frontoparietal, dorsal attentional, motor, visual and default networks to the ADHD functional and structural literature. Insights emerging from mapping intrinsic brain connectivity networks provide a potentially mechanistic framework for an understanding of aspects of ADHD such as neuropsychological and behavioral inconsistency, and the possible role of primary visual cortex in attentional dysfunction in the disorder.**

## A systems neuroscience approach to ADHD

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the most common neurodevelopmental disorder occurring in childhood, is characterized by developmentally excessive levels of inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity [1]. The worldwide prevalence of ADHD has been estimated at 5.3% [2] although a national survey in the USA found parent-reported ADHD in 9.5% of school-age children [3]. ADHD was once thought to be limited to childhood, but its continuation into adolescence and adulthood is no longer in doubt [4]. However, despite its substantial economic impact and life-long psychosocial and psychiatric burden, ADHD remains among the most controversial of psychiatric diagnoses.

Primarily on the basis of lesion studies in animals and humans, the imaging community initially embraced a prefrontal–striatal model of ADHD that was expanded to include cerebellar involvement [5]. Prefrontal striatal circuits underpin executive function, and dysfunction in such processes has long been considered an important neuropsychological correlate of ADHD [6]. This model has been largely supported by an ever-increasing number of structural and functional imaging studies [7,8], but divergent evidence such as the involvement of occipital or temporal cortex [9] has tended to be ignored because of the initially

reasonable assumption that unexpected results probably represent false positives. However, accumulating evidence suggests that the prefrontal–striatal model of ADHD should be extended to include other circuits and their interrelationships from the perspective of systems neuroscience [10,11]. We suggest that formulation of a more inclusive brain model of ADHD is facilitated by the new paradigm of resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging (R-fMRI), which is increasingly revealing the intrinsic functional architecture of the brain [12]. Finally, we speculate that modulation of neural networks through imaging-guided transcranial direct current electrical stimulation (tDCS) may provide novel therapeutic opportunities for disorders such as ADHD.

## Resting-state functional magnetic resonance imaging

Resting-state functional imaging, that is, imaging without a specific task (Box 1), is not new. It dates from the earliest electroencephalography (EEG) and positron emission tomography studies [13]. What has only recently been appreciated is that large-scale neural systems exhibit synchronous intrinsic fluctuations at rates 10–100 times slower than the usual EEG frequencies [14]. These fluctuations persist during tasks, rest, wakefulness [14], sleep and even anesthesia [15] and their correlations reflect the underlying connectivity of the functional units of the brain. In other words, task-based imaging is no longer the only means of identifying neural networks because intrinsic

## Glossary

**Anticorrelations:** negative correlations in which one value increases as the other decreases. These are observed in R-fMRI data, even in the absence of regression with the global signal as a nuisance covariate, but doing so enhances their detection. The neurophysiological significance of cerebral anticorrelations remains unknown but they are generally observed between competing neural systems such as the default network and the frontoparietal control network.

**Electrocorticography (ECoG):** electroencephalography with the electrodes applied directly to the exposed surface of the brain to record electrical activity from the cerebral cortex. ECoG may be performed either in the operating room during surgery or outside of surgery. Because a craniotomy is required to implant the electrode grid, ECoG is an invasive procedure. ECoG is the gold standard for defining epileptogenic zones in clinical practice. ECoG data have served to validate R-fMRI findings as relevant to neuronal processes, and not simply ascribable to hemodynamic or physiological epiphenomena.

**Systems neuroscience:** a subdiscipline of neuroscience and systems biology that studies the function of neural circuits and systems. It is an umbrella term, encompassing a number of areas of study concerned with how nerve cells behave when connected together to form neural networks.

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**Box 1. Mapping of intrinsic functional connectivity**

Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) without an explicit task, also known as resting-state fMRI (R-fMRI), has facilitated delineation of the intrinsic functional architecture of the brain based on the detection of patterns of coherence in low-frequency ( $<0.1$  Hz) spontaneous fluctuations in blood oxygenation level dependent (BOLD) signals [13,92]. Acquisition of R-fMRI data can be performed on any scanner capable of registering BOLD signals, as long as participants remain still and supine for upwards of 5 min, preferably with eyes open to minimize heterogeneity of arousal levels. The exploitation of R-fMRI has increased dramatically in recent years, driven by the wealth of information provided and the ease of data collection across all clinical populations and throughout the entire lifespan. Although an ever-increasing number of techniques are being developed to harness the voluminous information present in even brief records of R-fMRI data, the most commonly applied involve regression analyses of explicitly selected regions of interest (seeds), on the one hand, and data-driven independent component analyses (ICA) on the other [93]. These methods converge in detecting multiple large-scale neural systems, including the most frequently examined, the default network, that represent universal features of the adult brain architecture [16]. R-fMRI is reliable and reproducible, and the signals yielded are so robust as to allow aggregation of raw data across multiple scanners and populations, even without prior coordination of data acquisition protocols [20]. This has advanced the goal of open sharing of primary data and analytical methods such as the 1000 Functional Connectomes Project ([http://fcon\\_1000.projects.nitrc.org/](http://fcon_1000.projects.nitrc.org/)), the ADHD-200 Sample ([http://fcon\\_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/adhd200/](http://fcon_1000.projects.nitrc.org/indi/adhd200/)) and the Human Connectome Project (<http://www.humanconnectomeproject.org/>).

relationships are continuously encoded in the spontaneous activity of the brain, and these can be most easily appreciated during rest [16,17]. The patterns formed by these relationships can be displayed as statistical maps that have the same appearance as task-evoked activation maps, but they do not represent the invariants associated with specific cognitions or behaviors [18]. Instead, they reflect correlations resulting from stochastic (i.e. probabilistic) neural activity transmitted differentially across synaptic connections that vary in strength according to the life experience of the individual [19].

The patterns of synchrony of these high-amplitude, albeit ultra-slow, fluctuations are extraordinarily robust across distinct populations and differences in scanner field strength or scanning parameters [20], and are stable in test-retest designs [21,22]. They have been validated in cross-species studies [15,23] and in humans with electrocorticography [17], and are exquisitely sensitive to age factors during development [24] and to psychopathology [25]. Along with recent results from resting-state functional connectivity approaches to ADHD [26], these converging lines of evidence support our overarching hypothesis that ADHD results from dysregulated or aberrant interactions within and among large-scale neural systems.

**Defining neural systems in the human brain**

Neuronal connectivity can be defined at the microscale, in terms of single neurons, at the macroscale, at the level of brain regions and their pathways, and at an intermediate level of minicolumns and their connection patterns [27]. Given currently available imaging methods and informatics capacity, the macroscale level is the most feasible for achieving a first draft of the human brain

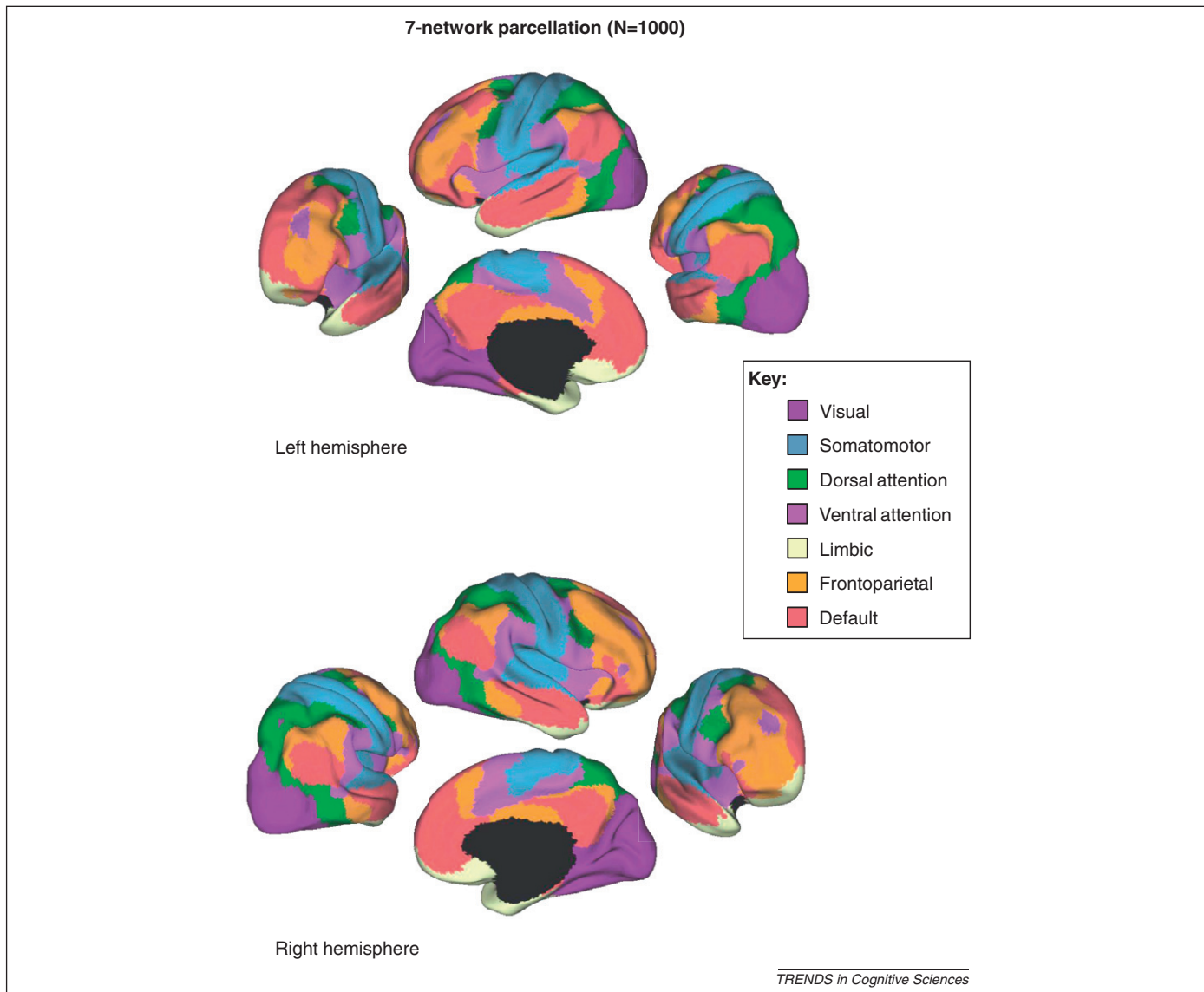
connectome [27], which is currently under way (<http://www.humanconnectomeproject.org/>).

Macroscale imaging based on the diffusion of water (diffusion tensor imaging) has begun to reveal the microstructure of major white-matter tracts but is not yet capable of providing a comprehensive survey of brain networks. Classical lesion studies, which were the basis for identifying the systems underlying language, motor control and perception, have been updated with modern imaging methods and analytical techniques and continue to inform our understanding of neural systems [28].

Task-based functional imaging has also revealed many of the necessary elements of brain circuitry, but each individual contrast provides only a narrow-angle focus. When aggregated in meta-analyses, the results of thousands of such contrasts cumulatively delineate large-scale brain networks [16]. However, this objective is most efficiently achieved through R-fMRI, which captures the 'full repertoire of functional networks utilized by the brain in action' [16]. Accordingly, R-fMRI methods have been used to identify the default network [29], the dorsal and ventral attentional networks [30], and motor, visual and executive control systems [31] across laboratories [20] and clinical populations [25]. The remarkable replicability of neural networks in healthy young adults was recently demonstrated quantitatively in 1000 participants [12]. The data were subdivided into a discovery set of 500 and a replication set of 500. Nearly all (97.4%) cortical vertices were assigned to the same seven cortical networks in the discovery and replication data sets. The parcellation of the human cerebral cortex based on all 1000 subjects is shown in Figure 1 and is freely available ([http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/CorticalParcellation\\_Yeo2011](http://surfer.nmr.mgh.harvard.edu/fswiki/CorticalParcellation_Yeo2011)). At this level of resolution, the seven major networks can be heuristically identified as sensorimotor and primary visual cortex, limbic, dorsal attention, ventral attention, frontoparietal control and default networks. Although these are not the only relevant subdivisions of the cortex, they serve as reference networks that can be fruitfully examined in ADHD and other clinical conditions. As the field advances, we anticipate that these networks will be fractionated and designated in accordance with their functional ontologies, as illustrated later when we discuss the default network [32].

**Candidate neural systems in ADHD**

Recent conceptualizations of ADHD have taken seriously the distributed nature of neuronal processing [10,11,33,34]. Most of the candidate networks have focused on prefrontal-striatal-cerebellar circuits, although other posterior regions are also being proposed [10]. Until now, the evidence proposed in support of a particular hypothesized circuit has consisted mostly of between-group differences in task-based fMRI activations [34] or anatomic volumetric differences [8]. Such results provide indirect evidence of validity, but individually they only illuminate subsets of circuit components. Their generalizability is also usually limited to the specific construct of interest and the population sampled, and by idiosyncratic methodological factors. Fortunately, the neural substrates of functional circuits that are identified piece-wise through task-based fMRI studies are continuously represented in the brain in



**Figure 1. Coarse (7-network) parcellation of the human cerebral cortex obtained through clustering of R-fMRI data of 1000 subjects.** At this resolution, association cortex is distinguished from primary sensorimotor cortex. The association networks converged on and extended networks previously described in the resting-state literature, including the dorsal attention, ventral attention, frontoparietal control, and default networks. Adapted, with permission, from [12].

the form of intrinsic connectivity networks that are most easily measured during rest [16]. The recent compilation of reference networks for healthy young adults [12] raises questions of whether these circuits will provide a brain-based perspective for the process of characterizing brain behavior relationships across the lifespan and in clinical populations. Here, we briefly review the recent ADHD neuroimaging literature within the context of these reference resting-state functional networks [12].

#### Frontoparietal network

The frontoparietal control circuit (Figure 1) includes the lateral frontal pole, anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (dlPFC), anterior PFC (aPFC), lateral cerebellum, anterior insula, caudate and inferior parietal lobe [35]. This network is also known as the executive control circuit [36] because it underpins goal-directed executive processes and provides the flexibility to configure information processing in response to changing

task demands [37]. Executive control systems guide decision making by integrating external information with internal representations.

In ADHD, investigations of the most-studied executive control deficits have focused on motor inhibition. Multiple studies have found hypoactivation in frontostriatal and frontoparietal circuits during inhibitory tasks in children with ADHD [7,34]. Besides parietal areas, nearly all the remaining regions implicated in the prefrontal–striatal–cerebellar model of ADHD [8,38] are components of the frontoparietal circuit: ACC, aPFC, dlPFC, frontal pole, cerebellum and caudate. For example, it has been reported that the dorsal ACC is hypoactivated in ADHD during go/no go, response inhibition and attentional tasks [11,34,39–41]. Similarly, dlPFC and ventrolateral PFC are hypoactivated in various tasks ranging from working memory to time discrimination [34,41–43]. Involvement of the frontoparietal network has also been confirmed by resting-state studies in ADHD [44–47].



The frontoparietal network has been situated both spatially and conceptually as an intermediate system between two other major networks in the brain, the default network and the dorsal attentional network [35], which we address next.

#### Dorsal and ventral attentional networks

Figure 1 shows the reference dorsal and ventral attentional networks [30], which form key components of the attentional regulatory systems of the brain [48]. The ventral attentional network, closely related to circuits referred to as the salience network [36] or the cingulo-opercular network [49], is involved in monitoring for salient (behaviorally relevant) stimuli and in interrupting ongoing activity when appropriate. The ventral attentional network is anchored by the temporoparietal junction, the supramarginal gyrus, frontal operculum and anterior insula [48].

The network most likely to be affected by the ventral is the dorsal attentional network, which mediates goal-directed, top-down executive control processes, particularly in reorienting attention during visual attentional functioning. Its key nodes are the intraparietal sulcus (BA 40) and the frontal eye fields (BA 6), which are the main regions involved in attention shifting and in the control of spatial attention [48].

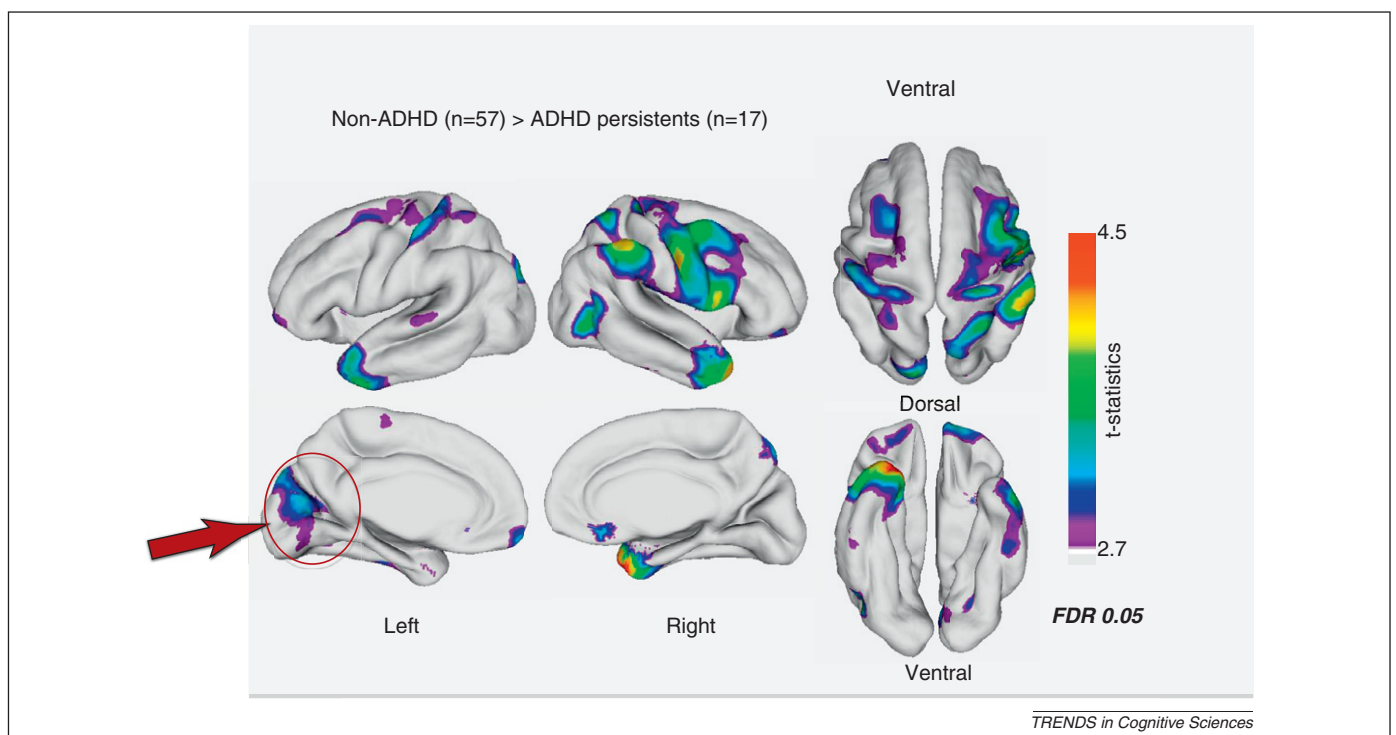
The literature does not support clear involvement of the ventral attentional network in ADHD, but it is also not yet possible to discard its potential participation. By contrast, abnormalities in precentral and parietal regions associated with the dorsal attentional network clearly emerge in ADHD [7,34,50]. For example, during the performance of executive and response inhibition tasks, bilateral parietal regions (BA7, BA40) were among the main areas in which controls demonstrated significantly greater probability of

activation relative to ADHD subjects, along with motor regions (BA6) [7]. More recent studies have shown greater activation of the parietal cortex of ADHD patients during response inhibition [51,52]. In addition, abnormal patterns of parietal activity have been reported during working memory [53–55] and attentional tasks [50,56–61].

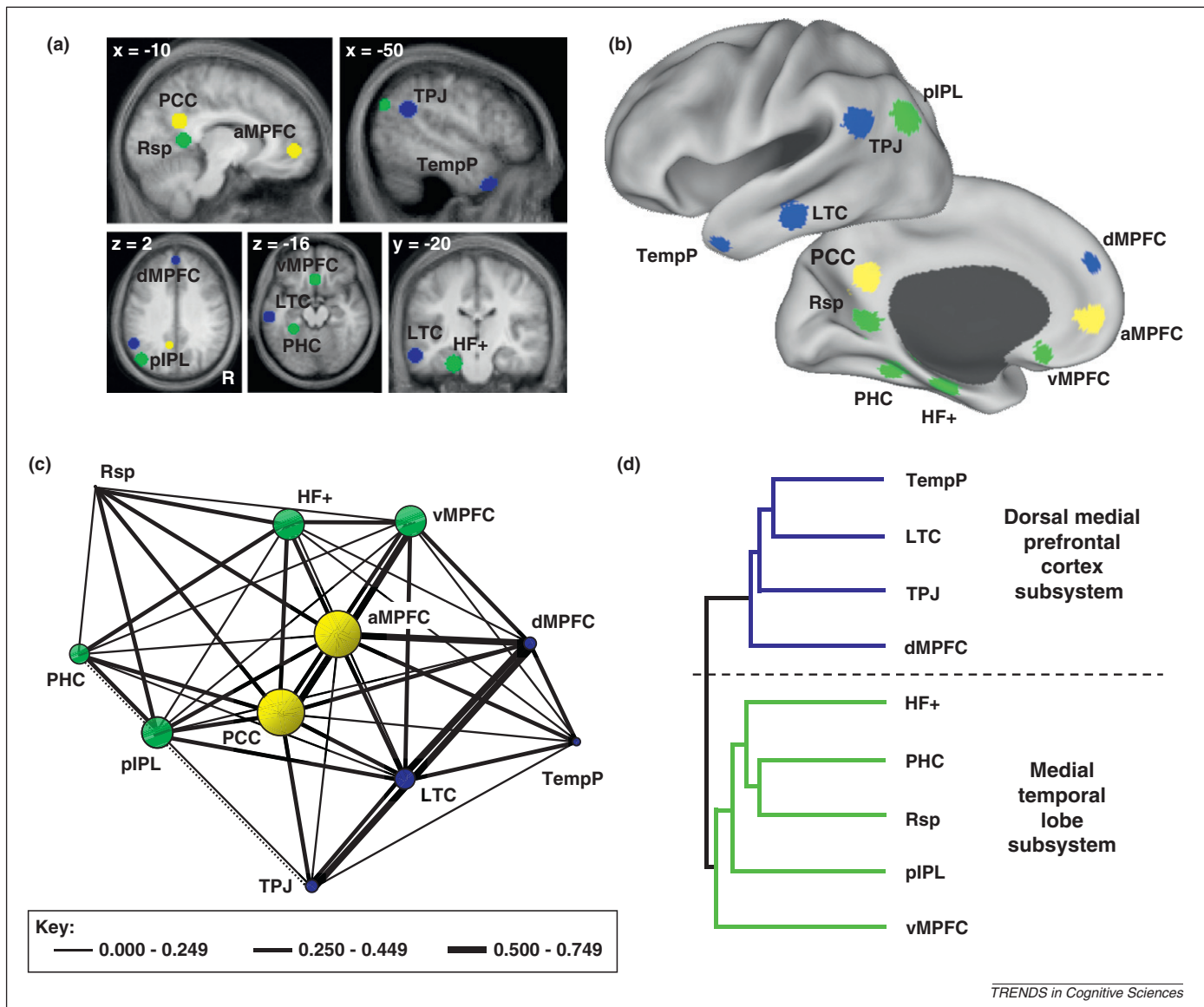
#### Visual network

The visual cortex and the lateral temporal MT+ region are related to the superior parietal lobule and intraparietal sulcus, which are part of the dorsal attentional network. MT+ is also coupled to frontal regions such as precentral cortex and the frontal eye fields. MT+ is strongly functionally correlated with primary visual areas such as V1 and V3 [12].

The occipital cortex has not previously been considered to be relevant to ADHD, even though neuroimaging studies in ADHD have found repeated differences in medial occipital cortex (BA18, BA19) [7,51,56,62,63]. Occipital cortex interacts with the dorsal attentional network to maintain attention [64] and suppress attention to irrelevant stimuli [65]. Failure to ignore extraneous stimuli is one of the core symptoms of ADHD. A recent structural neuroimaging study in medication-naïve adults with ADHD found significant bilateral reduction of gray-matter volume only in early visual cortex [66]. In a 33-year follow-up of childhood ADHD, persistence of the diagnosis was associated with decreased cortical thickness in medial occipital cortex among other regions (Figure 2) [9]. In functional studies, children with ADHD show deactivation of parietal and occipital regions during spatial tasks [62,63] whereas adults with ADHD show occipital hyperactivation on inhibition, working memory and attentional tasks [51,56,67]. A resting-state study in children with ADHD found



**Figure 2. Cortical thickness analysis reveals occipital involvement in ADHD.** In a 33-year longitudinal follow-up study, adults with ADHD persisting from childhood showed significantly decreased cortical thickness in multiple regions, including medial occipital cortex (arrow) relative to non-ADHD controls. Reproduced, with permission, from [9].



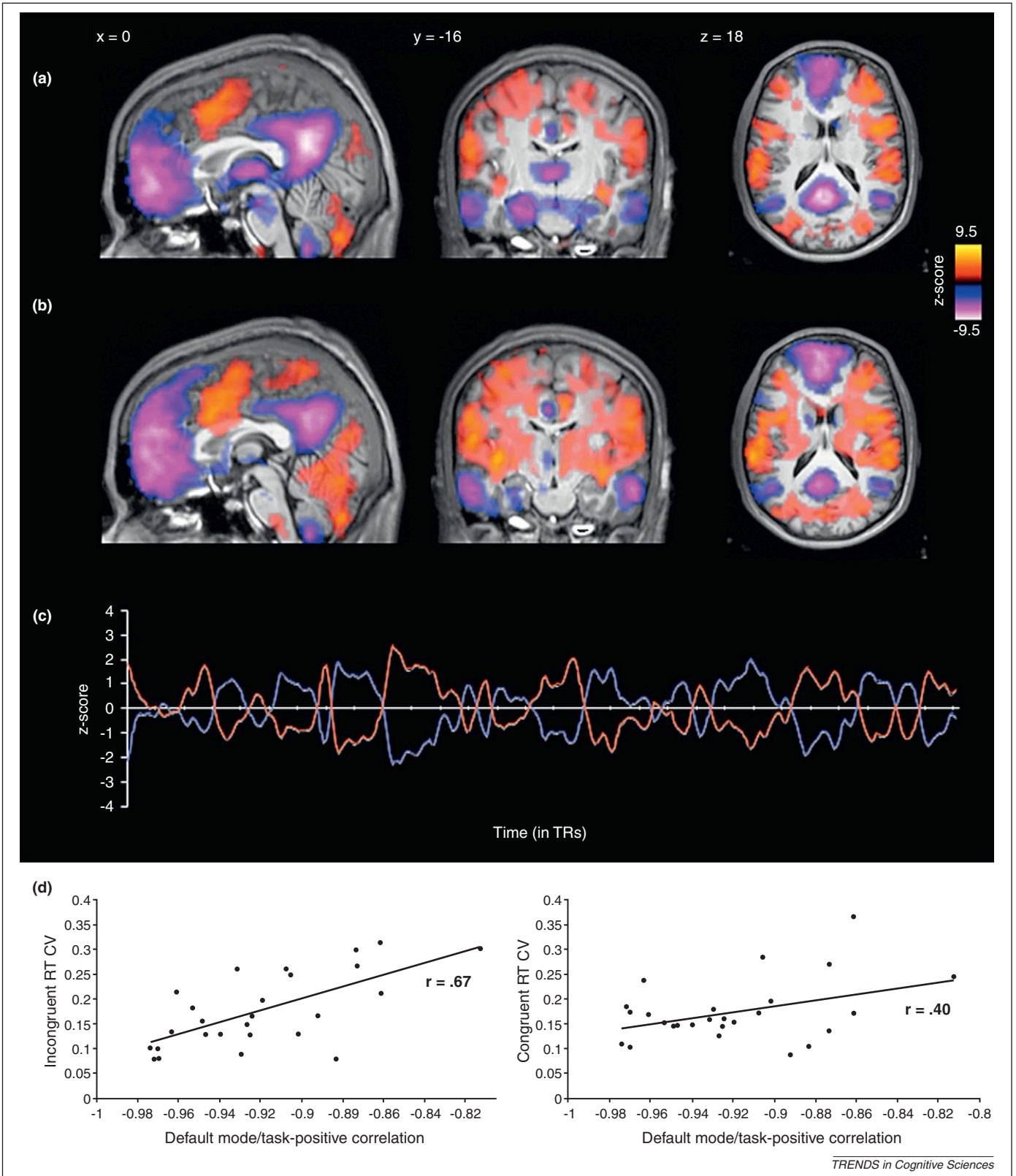
decreased small-world network nodal efficiency in multiple brain regions including visual cortex [47]. These findings suggest that visual function and its regulation by attentional processes should be further investigated in ADHD.

#### Motor network

The first brain network identified by characterizing intrinsic functional connectivity was the motor system [14]. As recently reviewed, R-fMRI analyses detect synchrony in spontaneous low-frequency fluctuations between primary motor cortex, primary sensory cortex, secondary sensory cortex, supplementary motor area (SMA), ventral premotor cortex, putamen, thalamus and cerebellum [68].

Remarkably, despite the incontrovertible salience of motoric hyperactivity in children with ADHD, there have been few neuroimaging studies of the motor system in

ADHD [34,69–71]. When performing simple motor tapping, children with ADHD exhibited decreased activation in primary motor cortex relative to controls [69]. Intra-subject variability, which is generally increased in ADHD [72], was positively related to pre-SMA activation in children with ADHD, whereas in healthy controls variability was inversely related to pre-SMA activation [70]. In a study of adults with ADHD during paced and unpaced tapping, hypoactivations in ADHD were found both in timing-related circuits and in motor and premotor cortex [71]. In a non-imaging study that directly probed the motor system, intracortical inhibition was measured with short-interval paired-pulse transcranial magnetic stimulation [73]. Children with ADHD showed markedly reduced cortical inhibition, which was correlated with deficiencies in motor performance [73]. This recent literature suggests that



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**Figure 4. Anticorrelations between neural networks.** (a) Mid-sagittal, coronal and axial views of anticorrelated networks extracted through region-of-interest-based functional connectivity analyses. The task-positive network shown in yellow-orange includes the frontoparietal network; the default network is shown in purple. (b) Mid-sagittal, coronal and axial views of anticorrelated networks extracted through independent component analyses showing substantial overlap of the two methods. The frontoparietal network is shown in yellow-orange and the default network in purple. (c) Time series of default and frontoparietal networks for one participant with Pearson  $r = -0.97$  during performance of a slow event-related Eriksen flanker task. (d) The strength of this relationship was inversely related to intra-subject variability of response time across participants. Reproduced, with permission, from [74].



### Box 2. Transcranial direct current stimulation

Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) is a noninvasive neurostimulation technique that uses small electrodes as pathways for delivering low-amplitude electric current to cerebral regions of interest. This technique is considered a promising tool for clinical populations because of its safe application in humans [94].

Transcranial DCS is performed through a battery-powered device that emits a constant current through two electrodes. Each device has a positively charged electrode (anode) and a negatively charged electrode (cathode). The applied current is diminished substantially in crossing the scalp, but sufficient electricity flows into the brain to produce neuronal effects. Application of anodal direct current increases and of cathodal direct current decreases the underlying cortical excitability. The extent of neuronal effects depends on stimulation duration, electrode size and current density [95,96].

Recent pre- and post-tDCS R-fMRI sessions led to the suggestion that neurostimulation may have therapeutic relevance for ADHD. Real but not sham tDCS applied to left and right dIPFC produced decreases in default network synchrony and increases in anticorrelated network coherence [87]. Stimulation over primary motor cortex modulated functional connectivity of cortico-striatal and thalamo-cortical circuits [88]. Real versus sham anodal tDCS of dIPFC significantly enhanced default and frontoparietal network synchrony, which may underlie reports of improvements in cognitive performance [89].

continued examination of the motor system in ADHD would be productive.

#### The default network

The most-studied intrinsic functional connectivity system is known as the default network of the brain (Figure 1) because its high-amplitude fluctuations, which are consistently diminished during cognitive tasks and increased during rest, were described as representing the physiological baseline of the brain [13,29]. As shown in Figure 3, the

default network contains two hubs, the anterior medial PFC (amPFC) and posterior cingulate cortex (PCC), and two subcomponent systems, the dorsomedial prefrontal cortex (dMPFC) subsystem and the medial temporal lobe (MTL) subsystem [32]. In a *tour de force* model of how to combine task-based and resting-state data, Andrews-Hanna *et al.* established that the dMPFC subsystem is activated when subjects perform self-referential cognitive processes anchored in the present; the MTL subsystem is preferentially activated by cognitions regarding projection of one's self into the future [32]. Beyond its roles in typically developing individuals, the default network is implicated across the full range of psychiatric disorders [36].

Intriguingly, default network fluctuations are 180° out of phase with fluctuations in networks that are activated during externally oriented tasks, presumably reflecting competition between opposing processes for processing resources [74]. Stronger negative correlation between default and frontoparietal control networks and greater coherence within networks is related to better behavioral performance, as shown in Figure 4 [74]. This is consistent with the finding that diminished suppression of default network activity is associated with attentional lapses [75] and with the suggestion that inter-individual differences in performance are related to the efficiency of interactions among brain regions [76].

In 2007, Sonuga-Barke and Castellanos suggested that ADHD could be considered a default network disorder [77]. They reasoned that the default network in ADHD might be refractory to regulation by other neural systems, and thus would produce intrusions into or disruptions of ongoing cognition and behavior, which would manifest as periodic lapses in on-task performance, a hallmark of ADHD [72]. Decreased default network coherence has been found in ADHD [78] and decreased default network suppression has been related to increased intra-individual variability in a small sample of children with ADHD [79]; ongoing studies will test the hypothesis that intercorrelation between the default network and cognitive control networks [74] underpins ADHD attentional lapses.

In the meantime, an interesting result was obtained by comparing healthy young subjects scanned after rested wakefulness and after 24 h of full sleep deprivation [80]. Sleep deprivation produced an increase in intra-subject variability and degraded attentional performance. These were paralleled by decreases in default network functional connectivity and weaker anticorrelation between the default network and anti-correlated regions [74,80]. Determination of whether similar effects are found in participants with ADHD is likely to be informative.

Treatment with methylphenidate normalized default network suppression in ventromedial PFC and PCC in 16 youths with ADHD, each scanned twice [81]. An interaction among methylphenidate, motivational level (high and low incentives) and diagnosis was found in default network suppression during a go/no-go task [82]. Control children deactivated the default network under both high and low incentive conditions, similarly to children with ADHD who were scanned when on methylphenidate. By contrast, children with ADHD scanned while off medication only deactivated the default network during the high

### Box 3. Questions for future research

- Is increased intra-individual response time variability in ADHD ascribable to abnormalities within a single system, such as the default network, or to the interrelationships among default, executive control and limbic-motivational networks?
- Can imbalances between the dorsal attentional network and/or frontoparietal network, on the one hand, and the default network, on the other, be redressed through intracranial direct current electrical stimulation? Are these networks useful units for examining the effects of pharmacological and behavioral treatments? Are they relevant to lack of response to treatments?
- How do the seven large intrinsic connectivity networks map onto striatal [97], thalamic [98] and cerebellar [99] connectivity circuits?
- What is the appropriate resolution level to examine cortico-striato-thalamo-cortical and cortico-thalamo-cerebellar circuitry in ADHD? Are the seven large networks overly inclusive?
- Do visual network abnormalities in ADHD relate to its linkage to the dorsal attentional network? Are they primary or compensatory? How are they related to inattention symptoms?
- Can neurobiological subtypes of ADHD be established on the basis of neural network profiles?
- Can such neural network profiles be used to track treatment response?
- How will ADHD-related differences in neural network profiles change across development in cross-sectional and longitudinal studies?
- How do the default network subcomponent functions (self-related processing in the present vs the future) relate to ADHD symptoms? Is the medial temporal subcomponent linked to future prospection associated with faulty decision making in ADHD and related disorders?

incentive condition [82]. The authors concluded that normalization of default network suppression by either methylphenidate or increased incentives points to dysregulation of the default network rather than to its fundamental impairment. Conversely, abnormalities residing in the default network are suggested by the emergence of significantly greater gray-matter volume in precuneus and PCC in a structural meta-analysis of ADHD [8]. Taken together, these findings suggest that the interplay of default, cognitive control and limbic networks is likely to be a key factor in suboptimal neural functioning in ADHD.

A counter-argument to the above analysis could be that we have simply proposed that the entire brain is involved in ADHD. Although such an argument is not without merit, in that global volumetric reductions have been consistently related to the disorder [5], we believe it is far more likely that interactions among the candidate functional networks we have identified will form distinguishable neurobiological patterns that can provide the basis for meaningful subtyping of this heterogeneous condition.

### Concluding remarks

Functional connectivity reveals replicable brain networks that are likely to be relevant to our understanding of brain-behavior relationships in disorders such as ADHD. Characterization of the spatial extent of such networks [18] or their intra- or inter-network coherence for individuals has become feasible [74,83–85]. What is now needed is to relate such brain network profiles [12] to neuropsychological and clinical measures [86]. The networks we have mentioned are unlikely to be exhaustive or equally relevant to all individuals with ADHD, but they provide a straightforward framework for converging attempts to parse the pertinent dimensions of symptoms and constructs, in keeping with the US National Institute of Mental Health Research Domains Criteria project (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research-funding/rdoc/nimh-research-domain-criteria-rdoc.shtml>). Brain networks are situated in the conceptual sweet spot between genes and behaviors, and represent the most tractable opportunities to formulate hypotheses linking these multiple levels (Box 3).

However, in the absence of manipulation, neuroimaging methods remain correlational and unable to inform on causal mechanisms. Nevertheless, imaging pre- and post-treatment can reveal biomarkers linked to causal pathways. Besides pharmacological and behavioral treatments for ADHD, novel approaches such as tDCS should be considered (Box 2). Non-invasive tDCS can produce transient increases or decreases in cortical excitability which target specific regions and circuits and their interactions [87–90]. Despite substantial evidence that tDCS modulates neural processes, its clinical benefits have not been demonstrated convincingly, even for chronic pain [91]. We suggest that future tDCS studies could use R-fMRI to select candidate patients and circuits, and that imaging be used to document the appropriate placement of stimulating electrodes. Evidence of short-term improvement in symptoms and corresponding changes in the circuits targeted could then be used to justify more prolonged treatment regimens, with the goal of determining whether

transcranial electrical stimulation holds therapeutic promise in ADHD (see also Box 3 for a list of questions for future research).

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