The Implication of Androgens in the Presence of Protein Kinase C to Repair Alzheimer's Disease-Induced Cognitive Dysfunction

Sara Amiri¹, Kayhan Azadmanesh², Marzieh Dehghan Shasaltaneh³, Vafa Mayahi⁴ and Nasser Naghdi^{1*}

¹Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Pasteur Institute of Iran, Tehran, Iran; ²Department of Virology, Pasteur Institute of Iran, Tehran, Iran; ³Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zanjan, Zanjan, Iran; ⁴Department of Microbiology, Islamic Azad University, Karaj, Iran

Received 24 April 2019; accepted 10 June 2019; published online 1 November 2019

ABSTRACT

Aging, as a major risk factor of memory deficiency, affects neural signaling pathways in hippocampus. In particular, age-dependent androgens deficiency causes cognitive impairments. Several enzymes like PKC are involved in memory deficiency. Indeed, PKC regulatory process mediates α -secretase activation to cleave APP in β -amyloid cascade and tau proteins phosphorylation mechanism. Androgens and cortisol regulate PKC signaling pathways, affecting the modulation of RACK1. Mitogen-activated protein kinase/ERK signaling pathway depends on CREB activity in hippocampal neurons and is involved in regulatory processes via PKC and androgens. Therefore, testosterone and PKC contribute in the neuronal apoptosis. The present review summarizes the current status of androgens, PKC, and their influence on cognitive learning. Inconsistencies in experimental investigations related to this fundamental correlation are also discussed, with emphasis on the mentioned contributors as the probable potent candidates for learning and memory improvement. **DOI: 10.29252/ibj.24.2.64**

Keywords: Androgens, Cognition, Hippocampus, Protein kinase C, Spatial memory

Corresponding Author: Nasser Naghdi

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Pasteur Institute of Iran, Tehran, Iran; Tel.: (+98-21) 64112834;

E-mail: naghdi@pasteur.ac.ir or naghdinasser@yahoo.com

INTRODUCTION

emory is correlated with several factors, including time, space, and content. Indeed, memory process is mediated by molecular events, which affect neural signaling pathways^[1,2]. The subsequent alterations in neural synapses occur in hippocampus and related cortices^[3]. Thus, synaptic impairment leads to memory defects in hippocampus^[2]. The involvement of subcortical structures including

"hippocampus" in learning and memory processes has been well established in the mammalian brain. Various neuroactive steroids (e.g. androgens) receptors are also found in hippocampal CA1 pyramidal cells, which strengthens the fact that hippocampus is an important target for steroids and their neuromodulatory actions^[4,5]. Steroids exert their impacts via genomic and non-genomic pathways. Two important androgens, DHT and DHEA, activate the enzymes engaged in the memory processes, especially all

List of Abbreviations:

3α-HSD, 3α-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase; AD, Alzheimer's disease; APP, amyloid precursor protein; AR, androgen receptor; Aβ, amyloid beta; CaMK, Ca²⁺/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase; cAMP, cyclic adenosine mono-phosphate; CDK, cyclin-dependent kinase; REB, cAMP-response element-binding protein; DAG, generation of diacylglycerol; DHEA, dehydroepiandrosterone; DHEA-S, DHEA sulfate; DHT, dihydrotestosterone; ER, estrogen receptor; ERK, extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase; GAP-43, growth-associated protein 43; GSK3, glycogen synthase kinase 3; LTM, long-term memory; MAP, microtubule-associated protein; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; MARK, microtubule affinity regulating kinase; MT, microtubule; NMDA, N-methyl-D-aspartate; PD, Parkinson's disease; PDE, phosphodiesterase; PKC, protein kinase C; PPT, proyal pyrazol thiol; RACK1, receptor for activated C kinase 1

isoforms of PKC^[6]. PKC is crucial for hippocampal memory formation and alterations in PKCy contribute to deficits in hippocampal-mediated memory in the aged individuals^[7]. PKC is involved in physiological processes related to learning and memory^[8,9] and is called cognitive kinase^[10]. This enzyme regulates synaptic transmission. Furthermore, PKC and several of its substrates, including myristoylated alanine-rich C-kinase substrate, GAP-43, and NMDA receptor, are involved in the information processing and storage^[11-14]. The PKC phosphorylation site plays a key role in regulating memory-associated tasks for GAP-43^[15]. In addition to the efficacy of neural signaling pathways, memory process correlates with the number of synapses and their function. In fact, the dynamic feature of synapses and their action depend on their probable significant alteration in shape, density, and function in reaction to memory requirements^[16].

Aging can lead to deficiency in functional and behavioral processes such as memory. Two major cognitive functions are working (temporary) memory and declarative LTM including episodic or semantic learning. Working memory is related to prefrontal cortex, while declarative memory is associated with hippocampus, perirhinal, entorhinal, and parahippocampal cortices. Deficiencies in working and declarative memory seem to be linked to aging^[17]. Aged men's and women's cognitive learning show a functional decline and is mostly influenced by episodic memory dysfunction^[18]. Attention and executive control are also found to be degenerated by aging, for which aged humans fail to switch their attention between several tasks^[19], or their ability to organize, plan, evaluate, or coordinate is impaired^[20]. The agedependent memory dysfunction also leads to the enhanced vulnerability of brain to injury and various types of dementia as a consequence^[21]. Indeed, the integrity and efficiency of functional processes seem to be decreased in hippocampus throughout the lifetime^[22]. This hypothesis has also been approved by subsequent studies, representing that execution of memory tasks related to younger rodents are performed more efficiently and more rapidly than aged ones^[23-25]. Additionally, dentate gyrus region of hippocampus has shown a decreased rate of metabolism and volume in elderly humans, monkeys, and mice, which was connected to memory dysfunction^[26-29]. Overall, memory disorders, including AD, vascular dementia, PD, dementia, Huntington's disease, frontotemporal dementia, traumatic brain injury leading to memory impairments, mental retardation, depression, alcoholrelated dementia, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, are caused by deficiency in synaptic pathways, e.g. synaptic impairment and loss^[30]. Furthermore, many of human cognitive processes are found to be sexdependent, suggesting that females are more potent in verbal fluency, while spatial working memory is believed to be reinforced in males^[31-33]. Cognitive impairments that target neurological and psychiatric diseases, e.g. PD and schizophrenia, also represent a sex-related nature, developing in men more frequently than women [34-37]. Moreover, AD with a sex-dependent feature has been characterized as the severe, progressive neuro-degenerative disorder, which is believed to be the cause of up to 80% of dementia in over 60-year-old individuals throughout the world, leading to memory impairment, cognitive dysfunctions, behavioral decline, loss of ability to learn, and consequently death [38-40]. More than 35 million individuals are affected by AD worldwide, for which its incidence rate appears to be increasing by aging^[40]. In addition, studies have recommended that depletion of steroid hormones associated with aging may have major impacts on development of AD^[17]. Pathogenesis study of AD has also demonstrated that this neurodegenerative disorder is associated with two major pathological symptoms: extracellular amyloid plaques and intracellular neurofibrillary tangles (tau protein)^[41].

Aβ performs a critical role in AD pathogenesis. Although Aß leaves the neurons, it may be found in astrocytes and microglia^[42]. Aggregation of insoluble Aβ plaques in brain is generated by APP cleavage, in addition to tau (MT protein) hyperphosphorylation, oxidative stress, and reactive glial, and microglial changes^[43,44]. Despite the wide therapeutic strategies applied for AD patients in recent years, credible biomarkers are still needed for disease diagnosis at early stages. Moreover, the routinely used drugs only demonstrate effective impacts on disease's later stages, with only half of the patients showing decreased levels of development pace for behavioral and cognitive symptoms, which only suggests delay in the process of symptoms progression, not significant inhibition or cure of the AD^[39,44]. In the neurons of AD patients, the first abnormality is a defect in PKC signaling pathway. Inhibition of PKC activity leads to the reduced learning and memory capacity^[9]. Based on the types of PKC isoforms, there are several phosphorylation sites^[45] with central roles in regulating memory-associated tasks^[15] (Fig. 1). Activation of PKC inhibits the activity of GSK3; hence, hyperphosphorylation of tau protein is prevented, and finally the accumulation of Aß peptide is reduced. This review will focus on PKC and its role cognitive function associated with androgen hormone, suggesting a relation with other signaling pathways.

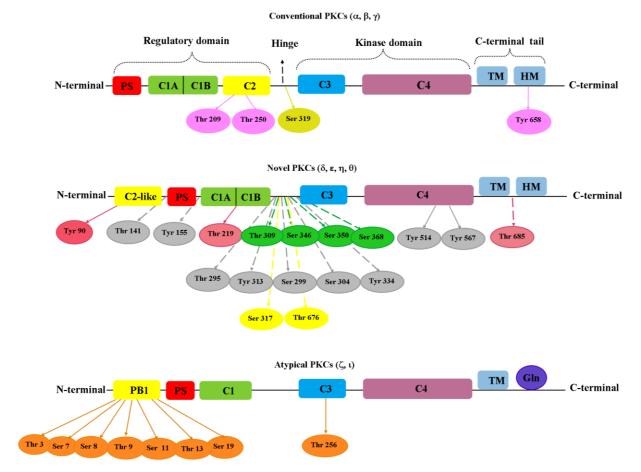


Fig 1. Phosphorylation sites identified on PKC isoforms. Phosphorylation sites of each isoform have been presented as a color oval. Purple color, conventional PKC α , β , and γ ; bitter lemon color (Ser 319), conventional PKC α novel PKC; pink color, PKC θ ; gray color, PKC δ ; green color, PKC α ; orange color, atypical PKCs. PS, pseudosubstrate; TM, turn motif; HM, hydrophobic motif; PB1, phosphatidylserine-binding domains; Gln, glutamine

Androgens classification

Hormones have a potent impact on several biological during the life, while mechanisms causing physiological alterations to specific tissues in major developmental periods. In animals, some hormones promote physiological behaviors or processes, which seem to be sex-dependent. Indeed, steroid hormones play a significant role, as these chemical messengers affect the structural and functional organization of various tissues in the body, which subsequently results in sexual differences^[46,47]. The major types of steroid hormones include progestins, androgens, corticoids^[48,49]. and Male hormones, which are characterized as essential agents responsible for the development and maintenance of the male reproductive system, are known as androgens^[50,51]. In fact, 5α -DHT is the most biologically active sex hormone produced by enzymatic conversion of testosterone via 5α -reductase.

However, ARs mediate approximately every biological operation of endogenous androgens^[52].

Genomic and non-genomic pathways of androgens

Steroids exert their impacts via genomic and nongenomic pathways. In order to exert genomic influence, steroid hormones are known to attach to intracellular receptors and specific DNA sequences while regulating gene transcription. The non-genomic pathway is a rapid mechanism using cell surface receptors in brain and neuroendocrine systems^[53] with the ability to prevent the transcriptional and translational inhibitors^[54]. Furthermore, non-genomic pathway of androgens is involved in the formation of second messengers and activation of PKA and PKC signaling pathways^[55]. However, previous studies have shown that most androgens impacts are exerted through genomic pathway via AR^[56]. Nonetheless, several investigations have demonstrated that both

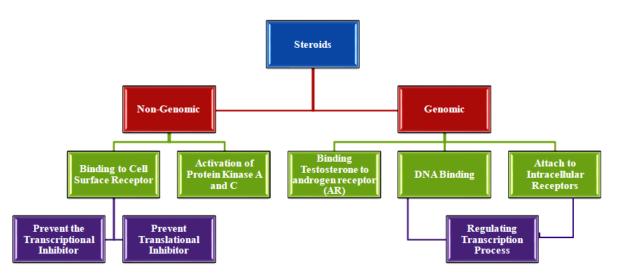


Fig 2. Role of steroids in the cell signaling pathways.

pathways are defective in terms of LTM^[57-60] (Fig. 2). The activation of PKC is dependent on G protein like Gq. Phospholipase C is typically activated via coupling with the G protein Gq and results in the DAG, a key allosteric activator of PKC. Isozymes of PKC signaling pathway in brain is regulated through DG^[61,62].

According to studies, hippocampus is known to be involved in spatial cognition and memory processes, and a site for the occurrence of neuromodulatory actions related to androgens, e.g. testosterone, which is mainly characterized to be a spatial learning determinant in male rats^[63-65].

Male major androgens are testosterone, DHT, androstenedione, and DHEA, as well as its sulfate (DHEA-S). Nevertheless, biological aspect the main androgen is testosterone, found in cerebral cortex and hippocampus, which attaches directly to AR or transforms to active DHT by 5α-reductase^[66]. Furthermore, DHEA and DHEA-S functions in central nervous system are determined as neuroactive steroids due to their neuronal regulating activities^[17]. Studies have revealed that rat CA1 pyramidal cells in hippocampus are the site of AR immunoreactivity, where androgens are able to increase male excitability of neurons. Moreover, the regulation of hippocampus-mediated behaviors are dependent on androgens [63]. Generally, androgens levels decrease in male over lifetime. The deficiency of androgens leads to muscle mass and strength decline, behavioral and emotional changes, depression, memory impairment, and cognitive dysfunction, which are associated with AD^[66]. Concerning the involvement of androgens in cognition, a number of studies have been performed so far. Positive correlation of endogenous testosterone and spatial learning has previously been

confirmed in healthy men^[65,67]. Nonetheless, following many other researches, verification of positive connection of endogenous testosterone and spatial ability is rejected^[68-70]. Such inconsistencies in results may be due to wide range of androgens functions or the detailed differences in experimental conditions.

Overall, due to the essential role of androgens in cognitive learning, androgen replacement therapy has become under focus. Previous findings have revealed that vascular dementia patients indicate memory improvement when treated with androgen replacement therapy^[71,72]. Scientists have investigated testosterone levels in orchidectomized rats, and their results demonstrated that testosterone treatment using tenfold concentration levels greater than normal testosterone levels leads to memory improvement^[73]. Hawley et al. [64] have also confirmed the ideas of spatial cognition improvement resulted by testosterone therapy in rodents. Formerly, it has determined that LTM could be impaired in the presence of testosterone in passive avoidance conditioning both via intracellular AR and through the non-genomic effects of steroids^[74-76]. DHEA-S activates an allosteric site on the GABA receptor that inhibits chloride channel opening, thus increasing neuronal excitability^[77,78]. At the same time, injection of DHEA-S, a negative allosteric modulator of the GABA-A receptor, can increase the release of acetylcholine, which is a neurotransmitter closely associated with memory function in hippocampus^[79]. Therefore, higher concentration of testosterone by acting as a non-selective sigma antagonist leads to lower NMDA receptor function. Therefore, the release of acetylcholine in hippocampus increased in the presence of steroid hormones^[80-82].

In aged men, a positive correlation has been found

Iran. Biomed. J. 24 (2): 64-80

for cognition process and free testosterone levels^[83]. Moreover, according to a wide range population of men and women (35-90 years old), free testosterone concentration indicated a sex-specific behavior and impact on cognitive functions, including visuospatial ability, episodic learning, semantic memory, and verbal fluency^[65], while testosterone concentration represented positive trends with visuospatial learning in women. Nonetheless, attempts to find a connection between verbal fluency, semantic memory, and testosterone levels have been failed^[84,85]. On the other hand, testosterone rate in women is believed to be positively or negatively related to episodic memory based on previous studies^[84,85], which is contradictory. Conversion of testosterone to DHT via 5α-reductase, as well as to non-aromatic metabolite like 5αandrostane-17 β -diol (3 α -diol), by 3 α -HSD has also been under discussion. Research has proposed that cognitive functions are improved in gonadectomized rats, which were systemically administrated by 3αdiol^[86]. Additionally, a complementary study was the conducted to observe intrahippocampal administration effect of 3α-diol and indomethacin (as a 3α-HSD inhibitor which blocks testosterone and DHT conversion to 3α-diol) on spatial cognition. According to the results, it was concluded that simultaneous injection of 3α-diol, and indomethacin did not alter impairment influence of indomethacin or 3α-diol alone in Morris water maze taskl^[87]. DHT treatment of rats also demonstrated the efficacy of DHT in reduction of escape latency and traveled distance in the Morris water maze, which proposed that testosterone

metabolites may have significant impacts on memory functions^[88]. Testosterone influence on the right and left hippocampus was also studied recently^[89]. Notable reduction of the mentioned hormone was only detected in right hippocampus, while a low percentage of right hippocampus testosterone led to its conversion to other metabolites^[89]. Furthermore, regarding the effect of testosterone on memory process, scientists observed that the number of astrocytes in the CA1 region of rats enhanced by memory impairment induction via testosterone^[90] (Fig. 3).

DHEA and DHEA-S have been proposed to be responsible for the acceleration of age-related physical and memory processes^[91]. Inconsistent results have been obtained that indicate an inverse trend of DHEA-S concentration with aging-associated men's and women's memory impairment^[92]. However, contradictory findings have suggested that DHEA-S reduction may not be attributed to cognitive functions^[93]. Although DHEA and DHEA-S have been shown to improve the aging rodents' memory functions^[94,95], based on another piece of evidence, no significant alteration was detected in spatial cognition of mice treated with DHEA-S^[96].

The neuropsychiatric and cognitive influences of DHEA and DHEA-S are resulted from GABA, NMDA, and σ-receptor potentiation effects. The mentioned hormones enhance regional serotonin and dopamine function in brain, hippocampal primed burst potentiation and cholinergic function, antiglucocorticoid activity, inhibition of proinflammatory

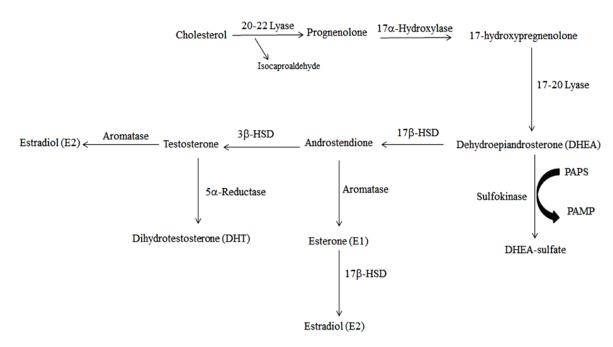


Fig. 3. Biosynthesis of HSD and DHEA-S in the body.

factors production, and bioavailability of insulin-like growth factor $I^{[97-102]}$. These results demonstrated the effect of DHEA-S in global cognition, working memory, attention, and verbal fluency. The difference between the effect of DHA and DHEA-S is probably related to the dose as well as the age of the patients. However, the safety of this treatment is controversial, and the risk of side effects may increase at higher doses $^{[103,104]}$.

The functional role of testosterone and estrogen has formerly been distinguished by scientists. It was recommended that the defect in spatial memory process was associated with testosterone and estrogen, while anastrozole (an aromatase inhibitor) improved the cognitive functions^[105]. In addition, owing to the significant role of estrogens in memory process, modulation of cognitive functions via inhibitors of ER (comprising of ERα and ERβ isoforms) was observed using ERa agonist PPT and ER antagonists flutamide and TAX. Based on the findings, the microinjection of PPT and TAX simultaneously in hippocampus CA1 region of male rats leads to the spatial cognition impairment, which may stand for the fact that there may be substitutional estrogenic mechanism for the regulation of memory processes^[106]. The sensitivity to transcription and translation inhibitors (actinomycin D. cycloheximide, and anisomycin) is also characterized as the androgens genomic importance. Thus, research has been performed to observe anisomycin influence functions of testosterone. genomic simultaneous administration of testosterone anisomycin have been indicated to increase the spatial cognition improvement^[74].

Protein kinases

More than 500 protein kinases have been identified in humans^[107]. Evolutionary studies have resulted in their classification based upon catalytic domains into seven major groups: tyrosine kinase, tyrosine kinase-like, homologues of yeast Sterile 7, 11, and 20 kinases, CDK, MAPK, GSK3, and CDK2-like kinase that lately they were named as CMGC, casein kinase 1, CaMK, and AGC kinase groups, including the protein kinase A, G, and C families ^[107]. AGC kinase cluster is comprised of cAMP-dependent PKA, cGMP-dependent PKG, and PKC^[108,109]. AGC kinase cluster affects various health issues including cancer, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular diseases, immunological disorders, muscular dystrophies, and neurological disorders^[110-114].

Protein kinases alter their target proteins' functions through the phosphorylation. In fact, protein kinases serve as essential factors regulating intracellular signaling pathways pertaining to cell growth,

differentiation, development, functions, and death^[115]. The effect of protein kinases on AD has been under discussion. Besides, PDE superfamily is located in brain^[116]. Studies have suggested that PDE inhibitors may have significant impacts on spatial cognition and cholinergic activity in hippocampus^[117,118]. Until now, little is known about the function of these types of esterases. Indeed, cAMP and cGMP pathways incorporate in AD, while it is believed that their concentration is increased by PDE inhibitors. Hence, Hosseini-Sharifabad *et al.*^[119] focused on PDE/protein kinases A and G relationship influence on cholinergic activity and memory impairment. According to their findings, they recommended that the PDE inhibitor promotion of cAMP/PKA- and cGMP/PKG-mediated pathways activities could increase the spatial memory in hippocampus, while chronic enhancement of cholinergic activity was not confirmed. Additionally, PKAII impact on spatial learning has been observed lately. The published data suggest that PKAII inhibition could affect the spatial memory. Nonetheless, when a PKAII inhibitor, like H-89, was co-administered with testosterone, negative correlation in memory process was detected^[120]. Furthermore, the role of PKAII in cholinergic gene expression modulation has been studied, which confirms that PKAII acts as an important agent in spatial cognition retention in male rats^[121]. However, the widely known protein kinase responsible for memory processes is PKC, for which several investigations have been conducted to elucidate its detailed functions in various signaling pathways.

PKC classification and its isoforms

The serine/threonine PKC family consists of 12 various isoforms, which are known to be involved in brain signaling pathways and related regulations, i.e. cell growth, differentiation, apoptosis, transformation, tumorigenicity, synaptic function, behavior, and cognition^[9,122]. Typically, three different subgroups are characterized as PKC isozymes: classical PKC of α, βI, β II, and γ , novel PKC of δ , ϵ , η , θ , and μ , and atypical PKC of ζ , ι , and λ , including PKM $\zeta^{[9]}$. However, ΡΚΟα, ΡΚΟβΙ, ΡΚΟβΙΙ, ΡΚΟγ, ΡΚΟδ, ΡΚΟε, ΡΚΟθ, and PKCn are determined as the eight homologous isozymes. The intact PKC is believed to be activated by DAG, while subsequently, it interacts with the tumor-promoter phorbol ester in the membranes [123,124]. Regarding the memory process, PKC isozymes, particularly PKCα, PKCγ, PKCε, and PKCζ, share essential roles in signaling pathways, which gained researchers' interest in the memory kinases as the possible therapeutics for cognition disorders, e.g. $AD^{[9]}$.

PKC is composed of two major domains: the regulatory domain (consisting of C1 and C2) and the catalytic domain (more conserved than the regulatory domain), including C3, the ATP-binding domain, and C4, the protein substrate-binding domain linked by an isozyme-specific variable region^[9,123].

Role of PKC in cell signaling and AD

Gene expression studies of PKC isozymes have indicated that most isoforms are present during development period in all tissues. These isoforms still play opposing roles in various signaling states in the same cell. Indeed, phorbol ester is determined as an ineffective activator of PKC rather than DAG, which is a transient inducer^[123]. The PKC critical role in several disorders, including diabetes^[125], cancer^[126], ischemic heart diseases^[127], heart failure^[126], autoimmune diseases^[128], PD^[129,130], AD^[131], bipolar disorder^[132,133], psoriasis^[134], stroke^[135], dementia^[8], and pain^[136], has been discussed so far.

In β -amyloid cascade, APP cleavage by α -secretase or β-secretase is regulated by PKC enzyme exclusively, which is deficient in AD patients. Specifically, α-secretase induction is modulated directly by α and ϵ isozymes or indirectly through ERK1/2 activation by PKC, or simultaneously through both ways^[122]. Through α -secretase activity of APP processing, phosphorylation is increased via PKC induction. In fact, translocation of PKCa and PKCE from cytosol to the membrane and Golgi-like structures occurs by phorbol ester stimulation of α -secretase. As a consequence, the PKC phosphorylates MAPKs ERK1/2, as well as tumor necrosis factor-α converting enzymes family. It also acts as an α-secretase activity enhancer. Although statins (cholesterol-lowering drugs) are found to be α -secretase substitute activators, which could also increase sAPP release by α-secretase, PKC or ERK1/2 do not interfere with the process. From another point of view, β-amyloid oligomers have the potential role to inactivate PKC through $A\beta_{28-30}$ residues^[137]. Furthermore, $A\beta_{1-40}$ has degradative impact on PKC α and γ isozymes in normal and AD patient individuals^[138]. Reduction in the phosphorylation of soluble brain proteins through PKC has also been reported to happen at increased concentration levels of $A\beta_{1-40}^{[1739]}$. Additionally, experimental works have confirmed that PKCE presents degradative effects on Aβ levels in vitro and in vivo^[140,141]. Tau proteins, along with β-amyloid peptides that stand for memory process regulations, show the ability to bind to MT structures through serine/threonine-directed phosphorylation. Indeed, the tau-MT binding is induced by tau dephosphorylation, while their dissociation is promoted by

phosphorylation. The GSK3, CDK5, the MARK, and ERK1/2 relation in balance are accounted for the modulation of tau phosphorylation [142]. In particular, $A\beta_{1-42}$ promotes the activation of ERK1/2, which subsequently results in tau hyperphosphorylation, and eventually neuro-degeneration. However, GSK-3 β plays a key role in tau phosphorylation [143].

PKC has potential impact on the inhibition of GSK-3ß through the direct process of tau phosphorylation and neurofibrillary tangle reduction [144]. GSK-3β could also be inhibited indirectly by the lower production of $A\beta_{1-42}$ via $PKC^{[145]}$. The symptoms of PKC defect include memory loss and reduced PKC and α -secretase activities, leading to the higher levels of A β peptides, and as a consequence, the formation of amyloid plagues. Moreover, decline in the GSK-3β inhibition via the decreased activity of PKC results in hyperphosphorylation of tau proteins, and ultimately inflammation. Additionally, the reduced PKC activity could be attributed to aging, which is an important risk factor^[146]. Thus, PKC may serve as a candidate therapeutic agent or a target drug owing to its significant role in memory process.

PKC and androgens

Androgen deficiency is a major risk factor in aged men. Among the key impacts of aging on functional and behavioral processes is reduction in the potency of immune response, which leads to decreased innate and adaptive immunity responses^[147]. PKC signaling pathways are associated with lower expression levels of RACK1, which is a kinase and a membrane receptor scaffold protein. Deficiency in PKC can result in reduced functional immune responses related to aging^[148]. In fact, active conformational stabilization of PKCBII is dependent on its attachment to RACK1, while its translocation is induced by specific PKCBII substrates, which are critical for immune cell activation, proliferation, differentiation, and survival $^{[149,150]}$. According to earlier investigations, memory impairment and cognitive dysfunctions are affected by the mentioned PKC signaling deficiency^[151,152]. Indeed, age-dependent decrease of DHEA has been found to be correlated with the reduced expression levels of RACK1. Moreover, in vitro and in vivo findings declare that DHEA administration in aging cells of animals and humans may lead to RACK1 recovery^[153]. Interestingly, cortisol levels remain to be unaltered during lifetime, which results in the total increase of cortisol: DHEA ratio^[153]. Knowing the fact that cortisol demonstrates a negative correlation with RACK1, then, DHEA defects can cause the prevention of cortisol activity and, therefore, the induction of RACK1 expression. However, experiments have revealed that pretreatment by DHEA promotes the RACK1 counterbalance, which had formerly been decreased by cortisol regulatory effect^[154]. From another point of view, CREB is a potent signaling molecule, which is thought to be associated with androgen neuroprotective functions in MAPK/ERK pathway^[155-158]. As a matter of fact, down-regulation of MAPK/ERK signaling pathway is in part attributed to CREB, while PI3K/Akt $^{[159]}$, PKA $^{[160]}$, CAMK IV $^{[161]}$, and PKC $^{[162]}$ are responsible for regulating CREB activity. Multiple neurotrophic and neuroprotective impacts are believed to be mediated by active CREB function in neurons [163,164]. Although androgens are key activators of CREB pathway in non-neural cells^[165-167], there is little information about the androgens role in CREB signaling activity in neurons. Study on androgens possible role in the induction of CREB activities in primary hippocampal neuron cultures have suggested that CREB molecules show enhanced phosphorylation due to intracellular AR activation^[168]. Interestingly, androgen-dependent phosphorylation of CREB is not prevented by the upstream CREB signaling pathways MAPK/ERK, PI3K/Akt, PKA, or CaMKIV pharmacological inhibition. However, PKC deficit or its pharmacological inhibition resulted in CREB phosphorylation blockage, which recommends that CREB signaling pathway in neurons is related to AR and PKC^[168] (Fig. 4).

In PD, as a memory disorder, dopamine neurons are defective^[169], which is mediated by oxidative stress^[170], leading to cellular apoptosis^[171,172]. According to studies, testosterone is related to the development of PD by the enhancement of apoptotic pathway^[173,174]; nonetheless, the related death of dopamine neurons and testosterone correlation have not well been established. The apoptosis pathway is determined to be regulated by caspase-3^[175,176], when cell death occurs following PKC processing via caspase-3 activation. In PD as a memory disorder, dopamine neurons are defective [169], which is mediated by oxidative stress^[170] leading to cellular apoptosis^[171,172]. According to studies, testosterone is related to the development of PD by when cell death occurs following PKC processing via caspase-3 activation^[177]. Consistent results have also declared the importance of PKC in oxidative stress and testosterone functions^[178,179]. Based upon the study of Cunningham et al. [180], promotion of apoptosis showed to be occurred following PKC-dependent activation of caspase-3, via testosterone and DHT in dopaminergic neuronal cells. Although few experiments have discussed the significance of androgens in PKC functional behavior, the key fundamental impacts need to be identified. The detailed correlation of androgens with PKC signaling pathways has slightly been known, but further investigations remain to be performed. In this sense the study of androgens/PKC association may lead to the discovery of potent therapeutic agents.

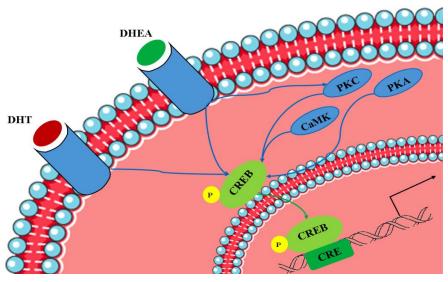


Fig. 4. CREB signaling pathway. Several signaling pathways, including those involving PKA, PKC, DHT, and DHEA, have been associated with the regulation of *de novo* protein synthesis in the context of synaptic plasticity, converging on the phosphorylation of CREB at Ser133 residue to repair cognition dysfunction. PKA, protein kinase A; DHT, dehydrotestosterone; DHEA, dhedroepiandrosterone; CRE, cAMP response elements. The following binding DHT and DHEA to their receptors in the cytoplasmic membrane, several enzymes like PKC, PKA and CaMK are activated. On the other hand, the mentioned hormones activates CREB protein directly using phopsphorylation on Ser133. Activated CREB protein passes through the nucleus membrane and is bonded to its receptor to occur the gene expression.

72

Relationship between PKC, androgens, and AD

Genetic and environmental factors result in higher neural accumulation of Aβ in brain^[181], which is a critical factor in AD pathogenesis. Previous studies have demonstrated that decrease in endogenous androgens significantly enhances AB accumulation in brain. Thus, it could be concluded that androgens play important roles as the regulators of neural AB levels. However, loss of this function can promote AD pathogenesis [167]. Testosterone and DHT can also change APP processing and decrease AB levels in cultured cells by a mechanism that involves the activation of AR-dependent pathways, indirect activation of estrogen pathways via aromatization to estradiol, and modulation of gonadotropin actions via regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis^[182]. The activation of AR is related to several protein kinases such as MAPK and/or PKC[183,184]. DHEA, DHEA-S, and testosterone also decline with age in brain tissue in men, which can give a rise to the working memory impairment [185,186]. PKC is crucial for hippocampal memory formation. Activated PKC can affect signaling pathway in the presence of the mentioned androgens in AD. The special isoforms of PKC like PKCα and PKCε can work directly on αsecretase; hence, they can trigger Aß degradation in the brains of PKC ϵ transgenic mice that express amyloidogenic variants of human APP^[140]. PKC both

directly phosphorylates tau and indirectly causes the dephosphorylation of tau by phosphorylating and inactivating GSK-3\(\beta^{[62]}\). Tau protein has been recognized as a major neuronal MAP, which promotes MT polymerization and stabilizes MT polymer structure [187]. MTs are composed of two subunits, α and β -tubulin, with high negative charges at the C-terminal end [188]. The interaction between MT and tau regulated phosphorylation through dephosphorylation on tau protein by several enzymes such as kinases like PKC, GSK3 β , and phosphatases [189,190]. GSK3 β is the primary protein kinase that regulates tau phosphorylation in brain^[191]. GSk3\beta regulates several signaling pathways in tau pathology and plays an inhibitory role in AD pathophysiology and cell division process. PKC activation lessens tau hyperphosphorylation by inhibiting GSK3β; the inhibition of GSK3β is transpired by phosphorylation in serine 9^[144]. Reducing Aβ1-42 production using PKCε, the most important enzyme involving in AD, can lead to the inhibition of GSK-3\beta and consequently, the reduction of tau phosphorylation and neurofibrillary tangles. PKC-α partakes in tau phosphorylation, which is controlled by the intracellular level of cAMP^[192]. The alterations in PKCγ contribute to deficits in hippocampal-mediated memory in the aged individuals ^[193] (Fig. 5).

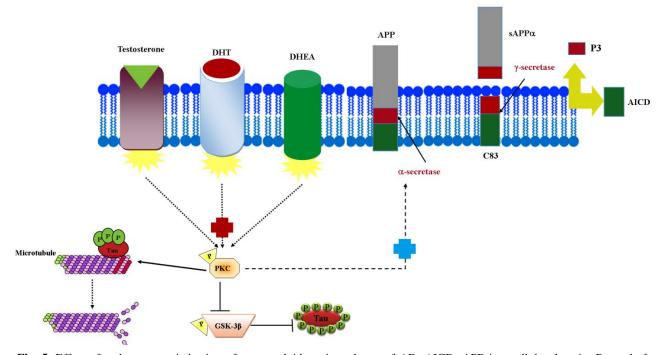


Fig. 5. Effect of androgens on induction of non-amyloidogenic pathway of AD. AICD, APP intracellular domain. P stands for phosphorylated protein, and (+) in the image describes the activated effect on the group. Hyperphosphorylated tau containing several phosphate groups attached to the tau protein has been shown. PKC leads to activate the polymerization and depolymerization of MT protein via hyperphosphorylated tau in the normal conditions; therefore, it can help the electron transfer in the nervous systems and create action/potential in the synaptic ends.

To conclude, we have focused on learning and memory process, in which androgens play significant regulatory roles. Overall, androgens expression levels are reduced throughout the lifetime, and their deficiency can lead to a number of behavioral and functional alterations, including cognition and memory impairment. Additionally, PKC modulates several signaling pathways dependent on memory process. In particular, PKCα and PKCε directly regulate αsecretase induction, while indirectly modulate α secretase through ERK1/2 activation by PKC. Tau proteins phosphorylation is also induced via its binding to PK; therefore, phosphorylated tau is dissociated from MT, while the formation of $A\beta_{1-42}$ is promoted by GSK3, CDK5, MARK, and ERK1/2. However, GSK-3β could be inhibited directly or indirectly through PKC pathways or $A\beta_{1-42}$ lower production via PKC. Although androgens role in cognition represents contradictory results, DHEA-S has been found to be negatively correlated with phosphorylated tau protein concentration and Aß oligomers levels. Furthermore, testosterone treatment declines the tau hyperphosphorylation, while androgens seem to promote non-amyloidogenic APP processing. Besides, deficient PKC signaling pathways are associated with lower expression rate of RACK1 scaffold protein, which leads to age-dependent decrease of immune response function. In addition, DHEA reduction is correlated with cortisol (the negative regulator of RACK1), DHEA ratio increase and RACK1 decline, for which research has suggested that the DHEA injection may restore RACK1 expression levels. PKC regulates CREB activity related to MAPK/ERK signaling pathway in hippocampal neurons. Indeed, CREB activity and its increased phosphorylation are suggested to be AR- and PKC-dependent. Neurons death in PD has also been attributed to testosterone activity and its correlation with PKC, which is processed by caspase-3 activation. Studies have evidenced the fundamental correlation of androgens and PKC, which may eventually serve as a potential treatment for memory impairment. Further experiments are recommended to reach accurate and consistent results.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST. None declared.

REFERENCES

- 1. Bourne JN, Harris KM. Balancing structure and function at hippocampal dendritic spines. *Annual review of neuroscience* 2008; **31**: 47-67.
- Hongpaisan J, Alkon DL. A structural basis for enhancement of long-term associative memory in single

- dendritic spines regulated by PKC. *Proceedings of the National academy of sciences of the United Stated of America* 2007; **104**(49): 19571-19576.
- 3. Wang JX, Rogers LM, Gross EZ, Ryals AJ, Dokucu ME, Brandstatt KL, Hermiller MS, Voss JL. Targeted enhancement of cortical-hippocampal brain networks and associative memory. *Science* 2014; **345**(6200): 1054-1057.
- 4. Hojo Y, Hattori TA, Enami T, Furukawa A, Suzuki K, Ishii HT, Mukai H, Morrison JH, Janssen WG, Kominami S, Harada N, Kimoto T, Kawato S. Adult male rat hippocampus synthesizes estradiol from pregnenolone by cytochromes P45017α and P450 aromatase localized in neurons. Proceedings of the National academy of sciences of the United Stated of America 2004; 101(3): 865-870.
- Kimoto T, Tsurugizawa T, Ohta Y, Makino J, Tamura H, Hojo Y, Takata N, Kawato S. Neurosteroid synthesis by cytochrome p450-containing systems localized in the rat brain hippocampal neurons: N-methyl-D-aspartate and calcium-dependent synthesis. *Endocrinology* 2001; 142(8): 3578-3589.
- Rigas AC, Ozanne DM, Neal DE, Robson CN. The scaffolding protein RACK1 interacts with androgen receptor and promotes cross-talk through a protein kinase C signaling pathway. *Journal of biological chemistry* 2003; 278(46): 46087-46093.
- 7. Brennan AR, Yuan P, Dickstein DL, Rocher AB, Hof PR, Manji H, Arnsten AF. Protein kinase C activity is associated with prefrontal cortical decline in aging. *Neurobiology of aging* 2009; **3**(5): 782-792.
- 8. Sun MK, Alkon DL. Pharmacology of protein kinase C activators: cognition-enhancing and antidementic therapeutics. *Pharmacology and therapeutics* 2010; **127**(1): 66-77.
- 9. Sun MK, Alkon DL. The "memory kinases": roles of PKC isoforms in signal processing and memory formation. *Progress in molecular biology and translational science* 2014; **122**: 31-59.
- 10. Govoni S, Amadio M, Battaini F, Pascale A. Senescence of the brain: focus on cognitive kinases. *Current pharmaceutical design* 2010; **16**(6): 660-671.
- 11. Benowitz LI, Routtenberg A. GAP-43: an intrinsic determinant of neuronal development and plasticity. *Trends in neurosciences* 1997; **20**(2): 84-91.
- Hussain RJ, Stumpo DJ, Blackshear PJ, Lenox RH, Abel T, McNamara RK. Myristoylated alanine rich C kinase substrate (MARCKS) heterozygous mutant mice exhibit deficits in hippocampal mossy fiber-CA3 long-term potentiation. *Hippocampus* 2006; 16(5): 495-503
- 13. Morris RG. NMDA receptors and memory encoding. *Neuropharmacology* 2013; **74**: 32-40.
- 14. Trovò L, Ahmed T, Callaerts-Vegh Z, Buzzi A, Bagni C, Chuah M, VandenDriessche T, D'Hooge R, Balschun D, G Dotti C. Low hippocampal PI(4,5)P₂ contributes to reduced cognition in old mice as a result of loss of MARCKS. *Nature neuroscience* 2013; **16**: 449-455.
- 15. Holahan M, Routtenberg A. The protein kinase C phosphorylation site on GAP-43 differentially regulates

- information storage. *Hippocampus* 2008; **18**(11): 1099-1102.
- Alkon DL, Nelson TJ, Zhao W, Cavallaro S. Time domains of neuronal Ca2+ signaling and associative memory: steps through a calexcitin, ryanodine receptor, K+ channel cascade. *Trends in neurosciences* 1998; 21(12): 529-537.
- 17. Jiménez-Rubio G, Herrera-Pérez JJ, Hernández-Hernández OT, Martínez-Mota L. Relationship between androgen deficiency and memory impairment in aging and Alzheimer's disease. *Actas Españolas de Psiquiatría* 2017; **45**(5): 227-247.
- 18. Glisky EL, Rubin SR, Davidson PS. Source memory in older adults: An encoding or retrieval problem? *Journal of experimental psychology: learning, memory, and cognition* 2001; **27**(5): 1131-1146.
- 19. McDowd JM, Craik FI. Effects of aging and task difficulty on divided attention performance. *Journal of experimental psychology: human perception and performance* 1988; **14**(2): 267-280.
- West RL. An application of prefrontal cortex function theory to cognitive aging. *Psychological bulletin* 1996; 120(2): 272-292.
- 21. Nelson TJ, Alkon DL. Molecular regulation of synaptogenesis during associative learning and memory. *Brain research* 2015; **1621**: 239-251.
- 22. Samson RD, Barnes CA. Impact of aging brain circuits on cognition. *European journal of neuroscience* 2013; **37**(12): 1903-1915.
- 23. Crady DD, Quinton EE. Dissociation of learning and performance deficits in aged mice. *Experimental aging research* 1989; **15**(3-4): 143-150.
- 24. Dean RL 3rd, Scozzafava J, Goas JA, Regan B, Beer B, Bartus RT. Age-related differences in behavior across the life span of the C57BL/6J mouse. *Experimental aging research* 1981; **7**(4): 427-451.
- 25. Ingram DK, London ED, Goodrick CL. Age and neurochemical correlates of radial maze performance in rats. *Neurobiology of aging* 1981; **2**(1): 41-47.
- Moreno H, Wu WE, Lee T, Brickman A, Mayeux R, Brown TR, Small SA. Imaging the Aβ-related neurotoxicity of Alzheimer disease. Archives of neurology 2007; 64(10): 1467-1477.
- 27. Shing YL, Rodrigue KM, Kennedy KM, Fandakova Y, Bodammer N, Werkle-Bergner M, Lindenberger U, Raz N. Hippocampal subfield volumes: age, vascular risk, and correlation with associative memory. *Frontiers in aging neuroscience* 2011; 3:2.
- Small SA, Tsai WY, DeLaPaz R, Mayeux R, Stern Y. Imaging hippocampal function across the human life span: is memory decline normal or not? *Annals of neurologyty* 2002; 51(3): 290-295.
- 29. Small SA, Chawla MK, Buonocore M, Rapp PR, Barnes CA. Imaging correlates of brain function in monkeys and rats isolates a hippocampal subregion differentially vulnerable to aging. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences of the United States of America* 2004; **101**(18): 7181-7186.
- 30. Sun MK, Nelson TJ, Alkon DL. Towards universal therapeutics for memory disorders. *Trends in*

- pharmacological sciences 2015; 36(6): 384-394.
- 31. Herlitz A, Reuterskiöld L, Lovén J, Thilers PP, Rehnman J. Cognitive sex differences are not magnified as a function of age, sex hormones, or puberty development during early adolescence. *Developmental neuropsychology* 2013; **38**(3): 167-179.
- 32. Lejbak L, Crossley M, Vrbancic M. A male advantage for spatial and object but not verbal working memory using the n-back task. *Brain and cognition* 2011; **76**(1): 191-196
- 33. Talarowska M, Florkowski A, Chamielec M, et al. Are there any differences in the working memory of men and women? *Polski merkuriusz lekarski: organ Polskiego Towarzystwa Lekarskiego* 2013; **34**(199): 29-32.
- 34. Han M, Huang XF, Chen DC, Xiu MH, Hui L, Liu H, Kosten TR, Zhang XY. Gender differences in cognitive function of patients with chronic schizophrenia. *Progress in neuro-psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry* 2012; **39**(2): 358-363.
- 35. Leung A, Chue P. Sex differences in schizophrenia, a review of the literature. *Acta psychiatrica Scandinavica* 2000; **401**: 3-38.
- Miller IN, Cronin-Golomb A. Gender differences in Parkinson's disease: clinical characteristics and cognition. *Movement disorders* 2010; 25(16): 2695-2703.
- 37. Vaskinn A, Sundet K, Simonsen C, Hellvin T, Melle I, Andreassen OA. Sex differences in neuropsychological performance and social functioning in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. *Neuropsychology* 2011; **25**(4): 499-510.
- 38. Hampl R, Bičíková M. Neuroimmunomodulatory steroids in Alzheimer dementia. *The Journal of steroid biochemistry and molecular biology* 2010; **119**(3-5): 97-104.
- 39. Kumar A, Singh A. A review on Alzheimer's disease pathophysiology and its management: an update. *Pharmacological reports* 2015; **67**(2): 195-203.
- 40. Talman V, Pascale A, Jäntti M, Amadio M, Tuominen RK. Protein kinase C activation as a potential therapeutic strategy in Alzheimer's disease: is there a role for embryonic lethal abnormal vision-like proteins? *Basic clinical pharmacology and toxicology* 2016; 119(2): 149-160.
- 41. Iqbal K, Liu F, Gong CX. Tau and neurodegenerative disease: the story so far. *Nature reviews neurology* 2016; **12**(1): 15-27.
- 42. Selkoe DJ. Alzheimer's disease: genes, proteins, and therapy. *Physiological reviews* 2001; **81**(2): 741-766.
- 43. Masters CL, Bateman R, Blennow K, Rowe CC, Sperling RA, Cummings JL. Alzheimer's disease. *Nature reviews disease primers* 2015; **1**: 15056-15074.
- 44. Wang J, Gu BJ, Masters CL, Wang YJ. A systemic view of Alzheimer disease-insights from amyloid-β metabolism beyond the brain. *Nature reviews neurology* 2017; **13**(10): 612-623.
- 45. Freeley M, Kelleher D, Long A. Regulation of protein kinase C function by phosphorylation on conserved and non-conserved sites. *Cellular signalling* 2011; 23(5):

- 753-762.
- 46. Arnold AP. The organizational-activational hypothesis as the foundation for a unified theory of sexual differentiation of all mammalian tissues. *Hormones and behavior* 2009; **55**(5): 570-578.
- 47. Thornton J, Zehr JL, Loose MD. Effects of prenatal androgens on rhesus monkeys: a model system to explore the organizational hypothesis in primates. *Hormones and bahavior* 2009; **55**(5): 633-645.
- Close FT, Freeman ME. Effects of ovarian steroid hormones on dopamine-controlled prolactin secretory responses in vitro. Neuroendocrinology 1997; 65(6): 430-435.
- 49. Goyeneche AA, Deis RP, Gibori G, Telleria CM. Progesterone promotes survival of the rat corpus luteum in the absence of cognate receptors. *Biology of reproduction* 2003; **68**(1): 151-158.
- Mooradian AD, Morley JE, Korenman SG. Biological actions of androgens. *Endocrine reviews* 1987; 8(1): 1-28
- 51. Wilson JD. The role of androgens in male gender role behavior. *Endocrine reviews* 1999; **20**(5): 726-737.
- Matsumoto T, Sakari M, Okada M, Yokoyama A, Takahashi S, Kouzmenko A, Kato S. The androgen receptor in health and disease. *Annual review of physiology* 2013; 75: 201-224.
- 53. Pietras RJ, Szego CM. Specific binding sites for oestrogen at the outer surfaces of isolated endometrial cells. *Nature* 1977; **265**(5589): 69-72.
- 54. Benloucif S, Mortimer R, Bennett E, Rosenzweig MR. The timing of an injection procedure affects pharmacological actions on memory. *Pharmacology biochemistry and behavior* 1990; **37**(2): 295-298.
- 55. Watson CS, Lange CA. Steadying the boat: integrating mechanisms of membrane and nuclear-steroid-receptor signalling. *EMBO reports* 2005; **6**(2): 116-119.
- 56. Beato M. Gene regulation by steroid hormones. *Cell* 1989; **56**(3): 335-344.
- 57. Benten WP, Lieberherr M, Giese Gn, Wrehlke C, Stamm O, Sekeris CE, Mossmann H, Wunderlich F. Functional testosterone receptors in plasma membranes of T cells. *The FASEB journal* 1999; **13**(1): 123-133.
- 58. Christian HC, Rolls NJ, Morris JF. Nongenomic actions of testosterone on a subset of lactotrophs in the male rat pituitary. *Endocrinology* 2000; **141**(9): 3111-3119.
- Lieberherr M, Grosse B. Androgens increase intracellular calcium concentration and inositol 1,4,5trisphosphate and diacylglycerol formation via a pertussis toxin-sensitive G-protein. *Journal of biological chemistry* 1994; 269(10): 7217-7223.
- 60. Naghdi N, Asadollahi A. Genomic and nongenomic effects of intrahippocampal microinjection of testosterone on long-term memory in male adult rats. *Behavioural brain research* 2004; **153**(1): 1-6.
- 61. Nishizuka Y. Turnover of inositol phospholipids and signal transduction. *Science* 1984; **225**(4668): 1365-1370.
- Callender JA, Newton AC. Conventional protein kinase C in the brain: 40 years later. *Neuronal signaling* 2017;
 DOI: 10.1042/NS20160005.

- 63. Harooni HE, Naghdi N, Sepehri H, Rohani AH. Intra hippocampal injection of testosterone impaired acquisition, consolidation and retrieval of inhibitory avoidance learning and memory in adult male rats. *Behavioural brain research* 2008; **188**(1): 71-77.
- 64. Hawley WR, Grissom EM, Martin RC, Halmos MB, Bart CL, Dohanich GP. Testosterone modulates spatial recognition memory in male rats. *Hormones and behavior* 2013; **63**(4): 559-565.
- 65. Thilers PP, Macdonald SW, Herlitz A. The association between endogenous free testosterone and cognitive performance: a population-based study in 35 to 90 year-old men and women. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 2006; **31**(5): 565-576.
- 66. Fuller SJ, Tan RS, Martins RN. Androgens in the etiology of Alzheimer's disease in aging men and possible therapeutic interventions. *Journal of Alzheimer's dsease* 2007; **12**(2): 129-142.
- 67. Van Strien JW, Weber RF, Burdorf A, Bangma C. Higher free testosterone level is associated with faster visual processing and more flanker interference in older men. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 2009; **34**(4): 546-554.
- 68. Halari R, Hines M, Kumari V, Mehrotra R, Wheeler M, Ng V, Sharma T. Sex differences and individual differences in cognitive performance and their relationship to endogenous gonadal hormones and gonadotropins. *Behavioral neuroscience* 2005; **119**(1): 104-117.
- 69. Fonda SJ, Bertrand R, O'Donnell A, Longcope C, McKinlay JB. Age, hormones, and cognitive functioning among middle-aged and elderly men: crosssectional evidence from the Massachusetts Male Aging Study. The journals of gerontology series A: biological sciences and medical sciences 2005; 60(3): 385-390.
- 70. Yonker JE, Eriksson E, Nilsson LG, Herlitz A. Negative association of testosterone on spatial visualization in 35 to 80 year old men. *Cortex* 2006; **42**(3): 376-386.
- 71. Azuma T, Nagai Y, Saito T, Funauchi M, Matsubara T, Sakoda S. The effect of dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate administration to patients with multi-infarct dementia. *Journal of the neurological sciences* 1999; **162**(1): 69-73.
- 72. Moffat SD. Effects of testosterone on cognitive and brain aging in elderly men. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 2005; **1055**: 80-92.
- 73. Nelson RJ. An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology, 5th edition, Oxford University Press: Sinauer Associates, 2016.
- 74. Naghdi N, Majlessi N, Bozorgmehr T. The effect of intrahippocampal injection of testosterone enanthate (an androgen receptor agonist) and anisomycin (protein synthesis inhibitor) on spatial learning and memory in adult, male rats. *Behavioural brain research* 2005; **156**(2): 263-268.
- 75. Naghdi N, Mohaddess G, Khamnei S, Arjomand M. No significant difference between intact and testosterone depleted or administrated male rats in spatial learning and memory. *Iranian journal of pharmaceutical research* 2005; **4**(1): 29-32.
- 76. Naghdi N, Nafisy N, Majlessi N. The effects of

- intrahippocampal testosterone and flutamide on spatial localization in the Morris water maze. *Brain research* 2001; **897**(1-2): 44-51.
- 77. Frye CA, Sturgis JD. Neurosteroids affect spatial/reference, working, and long-term memory of female rats. *Neurobiology of learning and memory* 1995; **64**(1): 83-96.
- McCarthy MM. Frank A. Beach Award. Functional significance of steroid modulation of GABAergic neurotransmission: analysis at the behavioral, cellular, and molecular levels. *Hormones and behavior* 1995; 29(2): 131-140.
- 79. Rhodes ME, Li PK, Flood JF, Johnsin DA. Enhancement of hippocampal acetylcholine release by the neurosteroid dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate: an *in vivo* microdialysis study. *Brain research* 1996; **733**(2): 284-286.
- 80. Debonnel G, Bergeron R, de Montigny C. Potentiation by dehydroepiandrosterone of the neuronal response to N-methyl-D-aspartate in the CA3 region of the rat dorsal hippocampus: an effect mediated via sigma receptors. *Journal of endocrinology* 1996; **150 Suppl**: Suppl: S33-S42.
- 81. Lapchak PA, Araujo DM, Quirion R, Beaudet A. Chronic estradiol treatment alters central cholinergic function in the female rat: effect on choline acetyltransferase activity, acetylcholine content, and nicotinic autoreceptor function. *Brain research* 1990; 525(2): 249-255.
- 82. Rhodes ME, Li PK, Burke AM, Johnson DA. Enhanced plasma DHEAS, brain acetylcholine and memory mediated by steroid sulfatase inhibition. *Brain research* 1997; **773**(1-2): 28-32.
- 83. Muller M, Aleman A, Grobbee DE, de Haan EH, van der Schouw YT. Endogenous sex hormone levels and cognitive function in aging men: is there an optimal level? *Neurology* 2005; **64**(5): 866-871.
- 84. Hogervorst E, De Jager C, Budge M, Smith AD. Serum levels of estradiol and testosterone and performance in different cognitive domains in healthy elderly men and women. *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 2004; **29**(3): 405-421.
- 85. Wolf OT, Kirschbaum C. Endogenous estradiol and testosterone levels are associated with cognitive performance in older women and men. *Hormones and behavior* 2002; **41**(3): 259-266.
- 86. Frye CA, Edinger KL, Lephart ED, Walf AA. 3α-androstanediol, but not testosterone, attenuates agerelated decrements in cognitive, anxiety, and depressive behavior of male rats. Frontiers in aging neuroscience 2010: 2:15
- 87. Assadian Narenji S, Naghdi N, Oryan S, Azadmanesh K. Effect of 3α-anderostanediol and indomethacin on acquisition, consolidation and retrieval stage of spatial memory in adult male rats. *Iranian biomedical journal* 2012; 16(3): 145-155.
- 88. Babanejad S, Naghdi N, Rohani SAH. Microinjection of dihydrotestosterone as a 5α-reduced metabolite of testosterone into cal region of hippocampus could improve spatial learning in the adult male rats. *Iranian*

- journal of pharmaceutical research 2012; **11**(2): 661-669
- 89. Mohaddes G, Naghdi N, Khamnei S, Haeri A. Effect of spatial learning on hippocampal testosterone in intact and castrated male rats. *Iranian Biomedical Journal* 2009; **13**(1): 49-58.
- Emamian S, Naghdi N, Sepehri H, Jahanshahi M, Sadeghi Y, Choopani S. Learning impairment caused by intra-CA1 microinjection of testosterone increases the number of astrocytes. *Behavioural brain research* 2010; 208(1): 30-37.
- 91. Chen C, Lang S, Zuo P, Yang N, Wang X. Treatment with Dehydroepiandrosterone Increases Peripheral Benzodiazepine Receptors of Mitochondria from Cerebral Cortex in d-Galactose-Induced Aged Rats. *Basic and clinical pharmacology and toxicology* 2008; **103**(6): 493-501.
- 92. Kalmijn S, Launer L, Stolk R, de Jong FH, Pols HA, Hofman A, Breteler MM, Lamberts SW. A prospective study on cortisol, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate, and cognitive function in the elderly. *The journal of clinical endocrinology and metabolism* 1998; **83**(10): 3487-3492.
- 93. Carlson LE, Sherwin BB. Relationships among cortisol (CRT), dehydroepiandrosterone-sulfate (DHEAS), and memory in a longitudinal study of healthy elderly men and women. *Neurobiology of aging* 1999; **20**(3): 315-324.
- 94. Maurice T, Phan VL, Urani A, Guillemain I. Differential involvement of the sigma(1) (sigma(1)) receptor in the anti-amnesic effect of neuroactive steroids, as demonstrated using an *in vivo* antisense strategy in the mouse. *British journal of pharmacology* 2001; **134**(8): 1731-1741.
- 95. Zou LB, Yamada K, Sasa M, Nakata Y, Nabeshima T. Effects of σ1 receptor agonist SA4503 and neuroactive steroids on performance in a radial arm maze task in rats. *Neuropharmacology* 2000; **39**(9): 1617-1627.
- Bodensteiner KJ, Stone IJ, Ghiraldi LL. Effects of dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate and progesterone on spatial learning and memory in young and aged mice. The journal of general psychology 2008; 135(3): 271-286.
- 97. Pittenger C, Duman RS. Stress, depression, and neuroplasticity: a convergence of mechanisms. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 2008; **33**(1): 88-109.
- 98. Maninger N, Wolkowitz OM, Reus VI, Epel ES, Mellon SH. Neurobiological and neuropsychiatric effects of dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) and DHEA sulfate (DHEAS). *Frontiers in neuroendocrinology* 2009; **30**(1): 65-91.
- 99. Charalampopoulos I, Remboutsika E, Margioris AN, Gravanis A. Neurosteroids as modulators of neurogenesis and neuronal survival. *Trends in endocrinology and metabolism* 2008; **19**(8): 300-307.
- 100. Moser U, Wadsak W, Spindelegger C, Mitterhauser M, Mien LK, Bieglmayer C, Kletter K, Kasper S, Lanzenberger R. Hypothalamic serotonin-1A receptor binding measured by PET predicts the plasma level of dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate in healthy women.

- Neuroscience letters 2010; 476(3): 161-165.
- 101. Carta MG, Bhat KM, Preti A. GABAergic neuroactive steroids: a new frontier in bipolar disorders? *Behavioral and brain function* 2012; 8: 61.
- 102. Hardoy MC, Serra M, Carta MG, Contu P, Pisu MG, Biggio G. Increased neuroactive steroid concentrations in women with bipolar disorder or major depressive disorder. *Journal of clinical psychopharmacology* 2006; **26**(4): 379-384.
- 103. Genazzani AR, Pluchino N. DHEA therapy in postmenopausal women: the need to move forward beyond the lack of evidence. *Climacteric* 2010; 13(4): 314-316.
- 104. Grimley Evans J, Malouf R, Huppert F, van Niekerk JK. Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) supplementation for cognitive function in healthy elderly people. *Cochrane database of systematic reviews* 2006; **4**: CD006221.
- 105. Moradpour F, Naghdi N, Fathollahi Y. Anastrozole improved testosterone-induced impairment acquisition of spatial learning and memory in the hippocampal CA1 region in adult male rats. *Behavioural brain research* 2006; **175**(2): 223-232.
- 106. Talebi A, Naghdi N, Sepehri H, Rezayof A. The role of estrogen receptors on spatial learning and memory in CA1 region of adult male rat hippocampus. *Iranian* journal of pharmaceutical research 2010; 9(2): 183-191.
- 107. Manning G, Whyte DB, Martinez R, Hunter T, Sudarsanam S. The protein kinase complement of the human genome. *Science* 2002; **298**(5600): 1912-1934.
- 108. Zhang Y, McCormick S. AGCVIII kinases: at the crossroads of cellular signaling. *Trends in plant science* 2009; **14**(12): 689-695.
- 109. Arencibia JM, Pastor-Flores D, Bauer AF, Schulze JO, Biondi RM. AGC protein kinases: from structural mechanism of regulation to allosteric drug development for the treatment of human diseases. *Biochimica et biophysica acta* 2013; **1834**(7): 1302-1321.
- 110. Hergovich A. Regulation and functions of mammalian LATS/NDR kinases: looking beyond canonical Hippo signalling. *Cell and bioscience* 2013; **3**(1): 1-12.
- 111. Pearce LR, Komander D, Alessi DR. The nuts and bolts of AGC protein kinases. *Nature reviews molecular cell biology* 2010; **11**(1): 9-22.
- 112. Pretre V, Wicki A. Inhibition of Akt and other AGC kinases: A target for clinical cancer therapy? *Seminars in cancer biology* 2018; **48**: 70-77.
- 113. Rath N, Olson MF. Rho-associated kinases in tumorigenesis: re-considering ROCK inhibition for cancer therapy. *EMBO reports* 2012; **13**(10): 900-908.
- 114. Turnham RE, Scott JD. Protein kinase A catalytic subunit isoform PRKACA; History, function and physiology. *Gene* 2016; **577**(2): 101-108.
- 115. Shchemelinin I, Sefc L, Necas E. Protein kinases, their function and implication in cancer and other diseases. *Folia biologica* 2006; **52**(3): 81-100.
- 116. Lakics V, Karran EH, Boess FG. Quantitative comparison of phosphodiesterase mRNA distribution in human brain and peripheral tissues. *Neuropharmacology* 2010; **59**(6): 367-374.

- 117. Boess FG, Hendrix M, van der Staay FJ, Erb C, Schreiber R, van Staveren W, de Vente J, Prickaerts J, Blokland A, Koenig G. Inhibition of phosphodiesterase 2 increases neuronal cGMP, synaptic plasticity and memory performance. *Neuropharmacology* 2004; 47(7): 1081-1092.
- 118. Rutten K, Prickaerts J, Hendrix M, van der Staay FJ, Blokland A. Time-dependent involvement of cAMP and cGMP in consolidation of object memory: studies using selective phosphodiesterase type 2, 4 and 5 inhibitors. *European journal of pharmacology* 2007; **558**(1-3): 107-112.
- 119. Hosseini-Sharifabad A, Ghahremani MH, Sabzevari O, Naghdi N, Abdollahi M, Beyer C, Bollen E, Prickaerts J, Roghani A, Sharifzadeh M. Effects of protein kinase A and G inhibitors on hippocampal cholinergic markers expressions in rolipram-and sildenafil-induced spatial memory improvement. *Pharmacology bochemistry and behavior* 2012; **101**(3): 311-319.
- 120. Khorshidahmad T, Tabrizian K, Vakilzadeh G, Nikbin P, Moradi S, Hosseini-Sharifabad A, Roghani A, Naghdi N, Sharifzadeh M. Interactive effects of a protein kinase AII inhibitor and testosterone on spatial learning in the Morris water maze. *Behavioural brain research* 2012; **228**(2): 432-439.
- 121. Sharifzadeh M, Sharifzadeh K, Naghdi N, Ghahremani MH, Roghani A. Posttraining intrahippocampal infusion of a protein kinase AII inhibitor impairs spatial memory retention in rats. *Journal of neuroscience research* 2005; **79**(3): 392-400.
- 122. De Barry J, Liégeois CM, Janoshazi A. Protein kinase C as a peripheral biomarker for Alzheimer's disease. *Experimental gerontology* 2010; **45**(1): 64-69.
- 123. Mochly-Rosen D, Das K, Grimes KV. Protein kinase C, an elusive therapeutic target? *Nature reviews drug discovery* 2012; **11**(12): 937-957.
- 124. Quest A, Bell RM. The regulatory region of protein kinase C gamma. Studies of phorbol ester binding to individual and combined functional segments expressed as glutathione S-transferase fusion proteins indicate a complex mechanism of regulation by phospholipids, phorbol esters, and divalent cations. *Journal of biological chemistry* 1994; **269**(31): 20000-20012.
- 125. Geraldes P, King GL. Activation of protein kinase C isoforms and its impact on diabetic complications. *Circulation research* 2010; **106**(8): 1319-1331.
- 126. Ferreira JCB, Brum PC, Mochly-Rosen D. βIIPKC and εPKC isozymes as potential pharmacological targets in cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure. *Journal of molecular and cellular cardiology* 2011; **51**(4): 479-484
- 127. Inagaki K, Churchill E, Mochly-Rosen D. Epsilon protein kinase C as a potential therapeutic target for the ischemic heart. *Cardiovascular research* 2006; **70**(2): 222-230.
- 128. Zanin-Zhorov A, Dustin ML, Blazar BR. PKC-θ function at the immunological synapse: prospects for therapeutic targeting. *Trends in immunology* 2011; **32**(8): 358-363.
- 129. Burguillos MA, Deierborg T, Kavanagh E, Persson A,

- Hajji N, Garcia-Quintanilla A, Cano J, Brundin P, Englund E, Venero JL, Joseph B. Caspase signalling controls microglia activation and neurotoxicity. *Nature* 2011; **472**(7343): 319-324.
- 130. Zhang D, Anantharam V, Kanthasamy A, Kanthasamy AG. Neuroprotective effect of protein kinase Cδ inhibitor rottlerin in cell culture and animal models of Parkinson's disease. *Journal of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics* 2007; **322**(3): 913-922.
- 131.Garrido JL, Godoy JA, Alvarez A, Bronfman M, Inestrosa NC. Protein kinase C inhibits amyloid β peptide neurotoxicity by acting on members of the Wnt pathway. *The FASEB journal* 2002; **16**(14): 1982-1984.
- 132. Manji HK, Lenox RH. The nature of bipolar disorder. *Journal of clinical psychiatry* 2000; **61 Supp 13**: 42-57.
- 133. Zarate CA, Manji HK. Protein kinase C inhibitors: rationale for use and potential in the treatment of bipolar disorder. *CNS drugs* 2009; **23**(7): 569-582.
- 134. Maioli E, Valacchi G. Rottlerin: bases for a possible usage in psoriasis. Current drug metabolism 2010; 11(5): 425-430.
- 135. Bright R, Mochly-Rosen D. The role of protein kinase C in cerebral ischemic and reperfusion injury. *Stroke* 2005; **36**(12): 2781-2790.
- 136. Sweitzer SM, Wong SME, Peters MC, Mochly-Rosen D, Yeomans DC, Kendig J. Protein kinase C ϵ and γ : involvement in formalin-induced nociception in neonatal rats. *Journal of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics* 2004; **309**(2): 616-625.
- 137.Lee W, Boo JH, Jung MW, Park SD, Kim YH, Kim SU, Mook-Jung I. Amyloid beta peptide directly inhibits PKC activation. *Molecular and cellular neuroscience* 2004; **26**(2): 222-231.
- 138. Favit A, Grimaldi M, Nelson TJ, Alkon DL. Alzheimer's-specific effects of soluble β-amyloid on protein kinase C-α and-γ degradation in human fibroblasts. *Proceedings of the National academy of sciences of the United Stated of America* 1998; **95**(10): 5562-5567.
- 139. Chauhan A, Chauhan VP, Brockerhoff H, Wisniewski HM. Action of amyloid beta-protein on protein kinase C activity. *Life sciences* 1991; 49(21): 1555-1562.
- 140. Choi DS, Wang D, Yu GQ, Zhu G, Kharazia VN, Paredes JP, Chang WS, Deitchman JK, Mucke L, Messing RO. PKCε increases endothelin converting enzyme activity and reduces amyloid plaque pathology in transgenic mice. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences of the United Stated of America* 2006; **103**(21): 8215-8220.
- 141.Zhu G, Wang D, Lin YH, McMahon T, Koo EH, Messing RO. Protein kinase C ϵ suppresses A β production and promotes activation of α -secretase. *Biochemical and biophysical research communications* 2001; **285**(4): 997-1006.
- 142. Mazanetz MP, Fischer PM. Untangling tau hyperphosphorylation in drug design for neurodegenerative diseases. Nature reviews drug discovery 2007; 6(6): 464-479.
- 143. Takashima A. GSK-3 is essential in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. *Journal of Alzheimer's disease*

- 2006; **9**(3 Suppl): 309-317.
- 144. Isagawa T, Mukai H, Oishi K, Taniguchi T, Hasegawa H, Kawamata T, Tanaka C, Ono Y. Dual effects of PKNα and protein kinase C on phosphorylation of tau protein by glycogen synthase kinase-3β. *Biochemical and biophysical research communications* 2000; **273**(1): 209-212.
- 145. Alkon DL, Sun MK, Nelson TJ. PKC signaling deficits: a mechanistic hypothesis for the origins of Alzheimer's disease. *Trends in pharmacological sciences* 2007; **28**(2): 51-60.
- 146. Pascale A, Amadio M, Govoni S, Battaini F. The aging brain, a key target for the future: the protein kinase C involvement. *Pharmacological research* 2007; **55**(6): 560-569.
- 147. Fülöp T, Dupuis G, Witkowski JM, Larbi A. The role of immunosenescence in the development of age-related diseases. Revista de Investigación Clínica 2016; 68(2): 84-91.
- 148. Adams DR, Ron D, Kiely PA. RACK1, a multifaceted scaffolding protein: Structure and function. *Cell communication and signaling* 2011; **9**: 22.
- 149. Nishizuka Y. Protein kinase C and lipid signaling for sustained cellular responses. *The FASEB journal* 1995; **9**(7): 484-496.
- 150. Ron D, Luo J, Mochly-Rosen D. C2 region-derived peptides inhibit translocation and function of β protein kinase C *in vivo. Journal of biological chemistry* 1995; **270**(41): 24180-24187.
- 151. Battaini F, Pascale A, Lucchi L, Pasinetti GM, Govoni S. Protein kinase C anchoring deficit in postmortem brains of Alzheimer's disease patients. *Experimental neurology* 1999; **159**(2): 559-564.
- 152. Buoso E, Biundo F, Lanni C, Aiello S, Grossi S, Schettini G, Govoni S, Racchi M. Modulation of Rack-1/PKCβII signalling by soluble AβPPα in SH-SY5Y cells. *Current Alzheimer research* 2013; **10**(7): 697-705.
- 153. Corsini E, Vismara L, Lucchi L, Vivani B, Govoni S, Galli CL, Marinovich M, Racchi M. High interleukin-10 production is associated with low antibody response to influenza vaccination in the elderly. *Journal of leukocyte biology* 2006; **80**(2): 376-382.
- 154. Buoso E, Lanni C, Molteni E, Rousset F, Corsini E, Racchi M. Opposing effects of cortisol and dehydroepiandrosterone on the expression of the receptor for activated C kinase 1: implications in immunosenescence. *Experimental gerontology* 2011; **46**(11): 877-883.
- 155.Bonni A, Brunet A, West AE, Datta SR, Takasu MA, Greenberg ME. Cell survival promoted by the Ras-MAPK signaling pathway by transcription-dependent and-independent mechanisms. *Science* 1999; **286**(5443): 1358-1362.
- 156. Dolmetsch RE, Pajvani U, Fife K, Spotts JM, Greenberg ME. Signaling to the nucleus by an L-type calcium channel-calmodulin complex through the MAP kinase pathway. *Science* 2001; **294**(5541): 333-339.
- 157. Voulalas PJ, Holtzclaw L, Wolstenholme J, Russell JT, Hyman SE. Metabotropic glutamate receptors and dopamine receptors cooperate to enhance extracellular

- signal-regulated kinase phosphorylation in striatal neurons. *Journal of neuroscience* 2005; **25**(15): 3763-3773.
- 158. Frödin M, Gammeltoft S. Role and regulation of 90 kDa ribosomal S6 kinase (RSK) in signal transduction. *Molecular and cellular endocrinology* 1999; **151**(1-2): 65-77.
- 159. Perkinton MS, Sihra TS, Williams RJ. Ca(2+)-permeable AMPA receptors induce phosphorylation of cAMP response element-binding protein through a phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase-dependent stimulation of the mitogen-activated protein kinase signaling cascade in neurons. *Journal of neuroscience* 1999; **19**(14): 5861-5874
- 160. Vitolo OV, Sant'Angelo A, Costanzo V, Battaglia F, Arancio O, Shelanski M. Amyloid beta -peptide inhibition of the PKA/CREB pathway and long-term potentiation: reversibility by drugs that enhance cAMP signaling. Proceeding of the national academy of sciences of the United States of America 2002; 99(20): 13217-1321.
- 161. Redmond L, Kashani AH, Ghosh A. Calcium regulation of dendritic growth via CaM kinase IV and CREBmediated transcription. *Neuron* 2002; 34(6): 999-1010.
- 162. Zhao L, Brinton RD. Vasopressin-induced cytoplasmic and nuclear calcium signaling in embryonic cortical astrocytes: dynamics of calcium and calcium-dependent kinase translocation. *Journal of neuroscience* 2003; 23(10): 4228-4239.
- 163. Finkbeiner S. CREB couples neurotrophin signals to survival messages. *Neuron* 2000; **25**(1): 11-14.
- 164. Kelly A, Mullany P, Lynch M. Protein synthesis in entorhinal cortex and long-term potentiation in dentate gyrus. *Hippocampus* 2000; **10**(4): 431-437.
- 165. Fix C, Jordan C, Cano P, Walkwer WH. Testosterone activates mitogen-activated protein kinase and the cAMP response element binding protein transcription factor in Sertoli cells. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences of the United Stated of America* 2004; **101**(30): 10919-10924.
- 166. Unni E, Sun S, Nan B, McPhaul MJ, Cheskis B, Mancini MA, Marcelli M. Changes in androgen receptor nongenotropic signaling correlate with transition of LNCaP cells to androgen independence. *Cancer research* 2004; 64(19): 7156-7168.
- 167. Walker WH. Nongenomic actions of androgen in Sertoli cells. *Current topics in developmental biology* 2003; **56**: 25-53.
- 168. Pike CJ, Nguyen TV, Ramsden M, Yao M, Murphy MP, Rosario ER. Androgen cell signaling pathways involved in neuroprotective actions. *Hormones and behavior* 2008; **53**(5): 693-705.
- 169. Dauer W, Przedborski S. Parkinson's disease: mechanisms and models. *Neuron* 2003; **39**(6): 889-909.
- 170. Hanrott K, Gudmunsen L, O'Neill MJ, Wonnacott S. 6-hydroxydopamine-induced apoptosis is mediated via extracellular auto-oxidation and caspase 3-dependent activation of protein kinase Cdelta. *Journal of biological chemistry* 2006; **281**(9): 5373-5382.
- 171. Heikiila R, Cohen G. Inhibition of biogenic amine

- uptake by hydrogen peroxide: a mechanism for toxic effects of 6-hydroxydopamine. *Science* 1971; **172**(3989): 1257-1258.
- 172. Kumar R, Agarwal AK, Seth PK. Free radical-generated neurotoxicity of 6-hydroxydopamine. *Journal of neurochemistry* 1995; **64**(4): 1703-1707.
- 173. Gatson JW, Singh M. Activation of a membrane-associated androgen receptor promotes cell death in primary cortical astrocytes. *Endocrinology* 2007; **148**(5): 2458-2464.
- 174. Hatzoglou A, Kampa M, Kogia C, Charalampopoulos I, Theodoropoulos PA, Anezinis P, Dambaki C, Papakonstanti EA, Stathopoulos EN, Stournaras C, Gravanis A, Castanas E. Membrane androgen receptor activation induces apoptotic regression of human prostate cancer cells in vitro and in vivo. The journal of clinical endocrinology and metabolism 2005; 90(2): 893-903.
- 175. Jiang X, Wang X. Cytochrome C-mediated apoptosis. *Annual review of biochemistry* 2004; **73**: 87-106.
- 176. Schulz JB, Lindenau J, Seyfried J, Dichgans J. Glutathione, oxidative stress and neurodegeneration. *European journal of biochemistry* 2000; **267**(16): 4904-4911.
- 177. Kanthasamy AG, Kitazawa M, Kanthasamy A, Anantharam V. Role of proteolytic activation of protein kinase Cδ in oxidative stress-induced apoptosis. *Antioxidants and redox signaling* 2003; **5**(5): 609-620.
- 178. Kitazawa M, Anantharam V, Kanthasamy A. Dieldrin induces apoptosis by promoting caspase-3-dependent proteolytic cleavage of protein kinase Cδ in dopaminergic cells: relevance to oxidative stress and dopaminergic degeneration. *Neuroscience* 2003; **119**(4): 945-964.
- 179. Anantharam V, Kitazawa M, Wagner J, Kaul S, Kanthasamy AG. Caspase-3-dependent proteolytic cleavage of protein kinase Cδ is essential for oxidative stress-mediated dopaminergic cell death after exposure to methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl. *Journal of neuroscience* 2002; **22**(5): 1738-1751.
- 180. Cunningham RL, Giuffrida A, Roberts JL. Androgens induce dopaminergic neurotoxicity via caspase-3-dependent activation of protein kinase Cδ. *Endocrinology* 2009; **150**(12): 5539-5548.
- 181. Hardy J, Selkoe DJ. The amyloid hypothesis of Alzheimer's disease: progress and problems on the road to therapeutics. *Science* 2002; **297**(5580): 353-356.
- 182. Ramsden M, Nyborg A, Murphy M, Chang L, Stanczyk FZ, Golde TE, Pike CJ. Androgens modulate β-amyloid levels in male rat brain. *Journal of neurochemistry* 2003; **87**(4): 1052-1055.
- 183. Goodenough S, Engert S, Behl C. Testosterone stimulates rapid secretory amyloid precursor protein release from rat hypothalamic cells via the activation of the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway. *Neuroscience letters* 2000; **296**(1): 49-52.
- 184. Gouras GK, Xu H, Gross RS, Greenfield JP, Hai B, Wang R, Greengard P. Testosterone reduces neuronal secretion of Alzheimer's β-amyloid peptides. Proceedings of the national academy of sciences of the

[DOR: 20.1001.1.1028852.2020.24.2.6.5]

- United Stated of America 2000; 97(3): 1202-1205.
- 185.Rodriguez A, Muller DC, Metter EJ, Maggio M, Harman SM, Blackman MR, Andres R. Aging, androgens, and the metabolic syndrome in a longitudinal study of aging. *The journal of clinical endocrinology and metabolism* 2007; **92**(9): 3568-3572.
- 186. Rosario ER, Chang L, Stanczyk FZ, Pike CJ. Agerelated testosterone depletion and the development of Alzheimer disease. *JAMA* 2004; **292**(12): 1431-1432.
- 187.Gong CX, Iqbal K. Hyperphosphorylation of microtubule-associated protein tau: a promising therapeutic target for Alzheimer disease. *Current* medicinal chemistry 2008; 15(23): 2321-2328.
- 188. Howard J, Hyman AA. Dynamics and mechanics of the microtubule plus end. *Nature* 2003; 422: 753-758.
- 189.Cho JH, Johnson GV. Primed phosphorylation of tau at Thr231 by glycogen synthase kinase 3β (GSK3β) plays

- a critical role in regulating tau's ability to bind and stabilize microtubules. *Journal of neurochemistry* 2004; **88**(2): 349-358.
- 190. Rafii MS. Targeting tau protein in Alzheimer's disease. *The lancet* 2016; **388**(10062): 2842-2844.
- 191. Hernandez F, Lucas JJ, Avila J. GSK3 and tau: two convergence points in Alzheimer's disease. *Journal of Alzheimer's disease* 2013; **33 Suppl** 1: S141-S144.
- 192. Liu F, Liang Z, Shi J, Yin D, El-Akkad E, Grundke-Iqbal I, Iqbal K, Gong CX. PKA modulates GSK-3β-and cdk5-catalyzed phosphorylation of tau in site-and kinase-specific manners. *FEBS letters* 2006; **580**(26): 6269-6274.
- 193. Colombo PJ, Gallagher M. Individual differences in spatial memory among aged rats are related to hippocampal PKCγ immunoreactivity. *Hippocampus* 2002; **12**: 285-289.