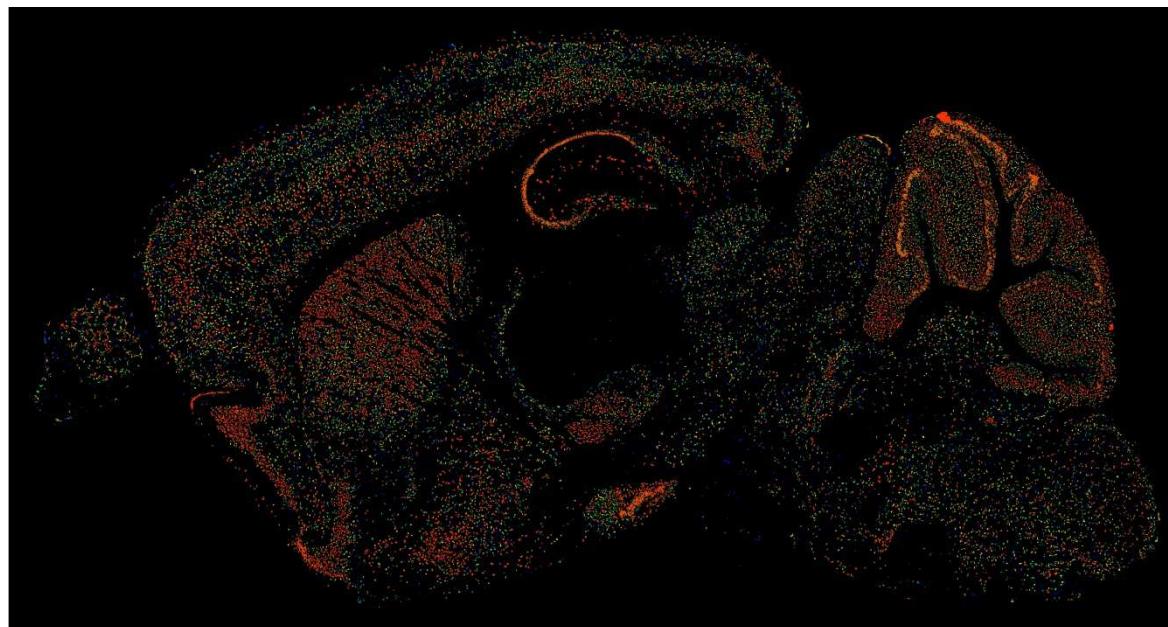
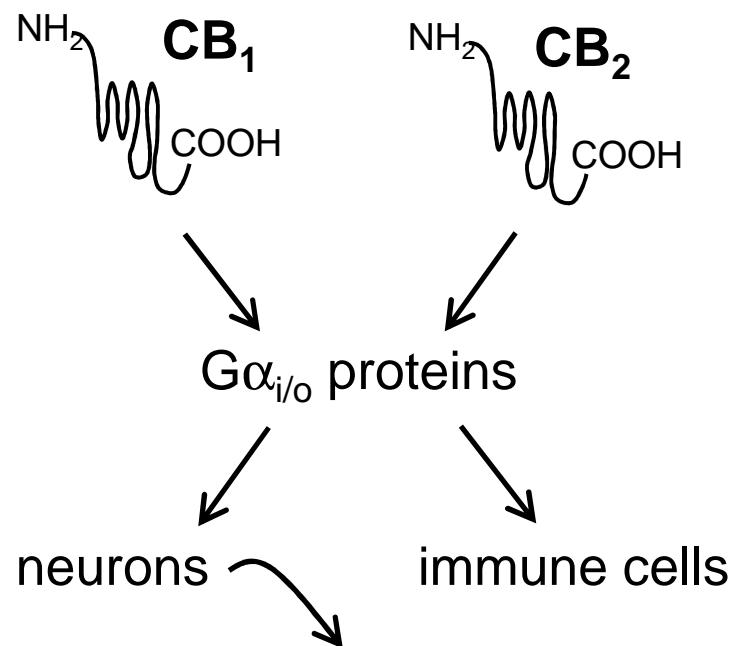


# **Synthetic cannabinoids added to smoked herbal mixtures inhibit GABAergic and glutamatergic synaptic transmission**

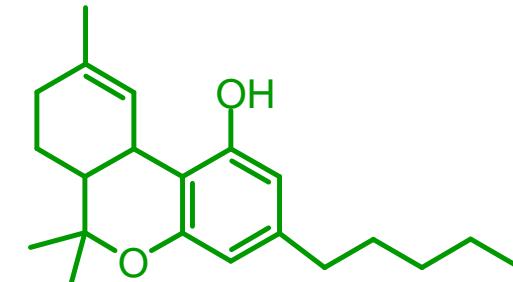
**Bela Szabo  
Eszter Boros  
Martin Brehm**

**Inst. f. Pharmakologie  
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität  
Freiburg**

# Cannabinoid receptors

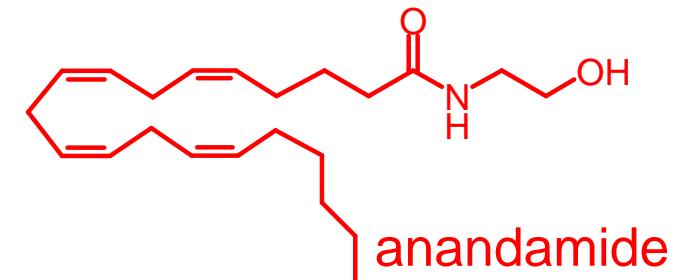


## NATURAL

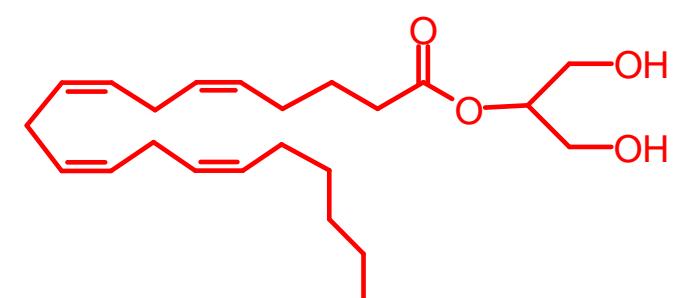


$\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol

## ENDOGENOUS

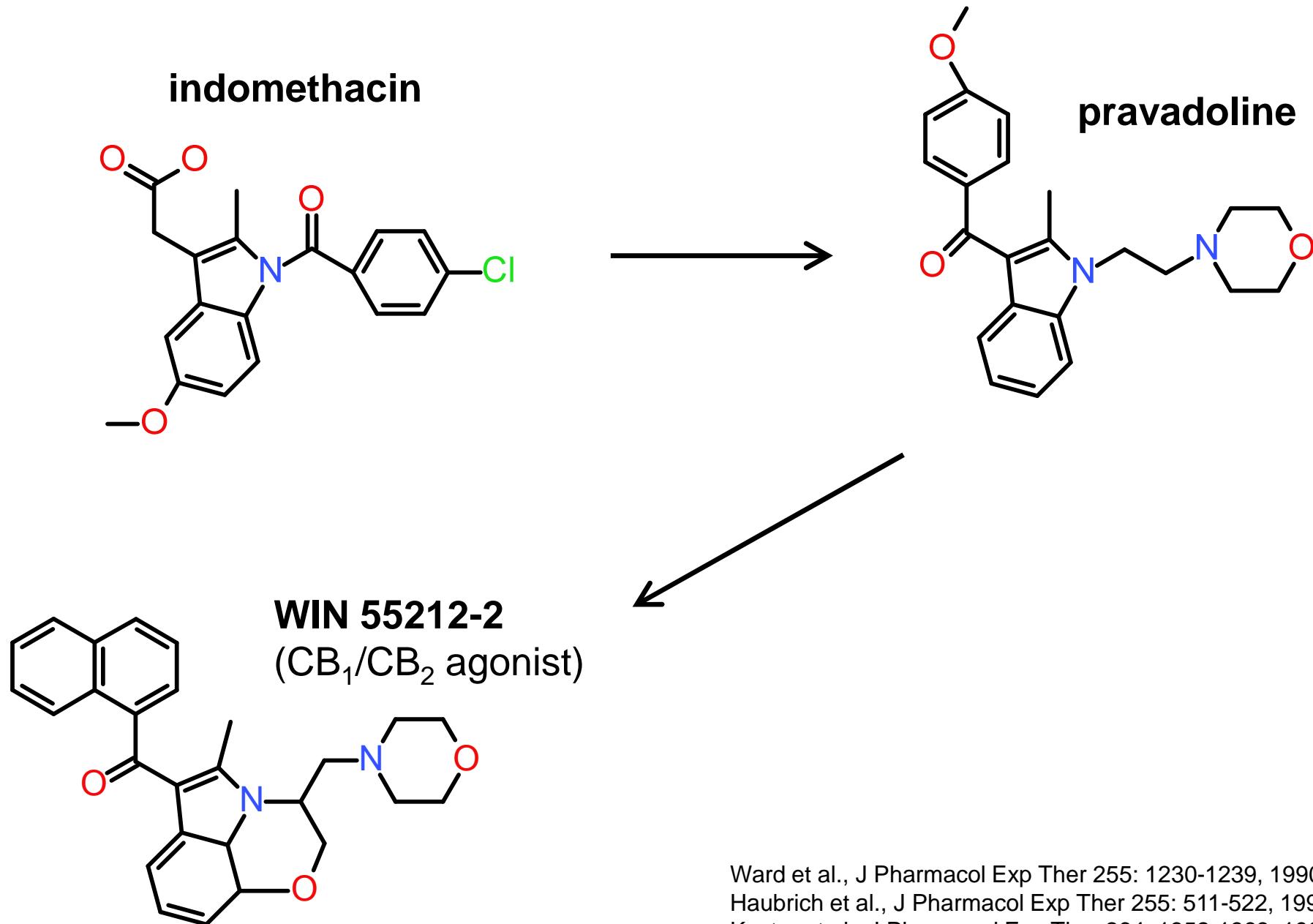


anandamide

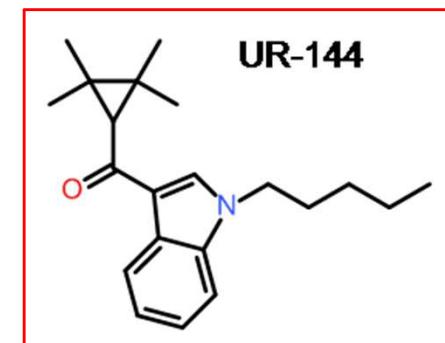
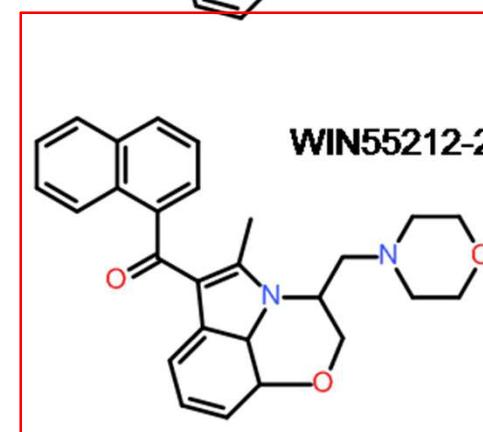
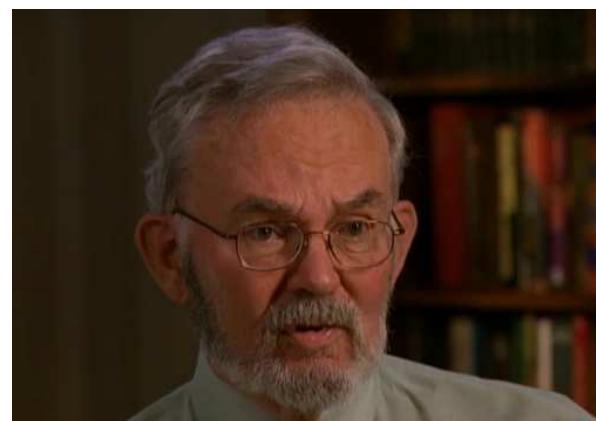
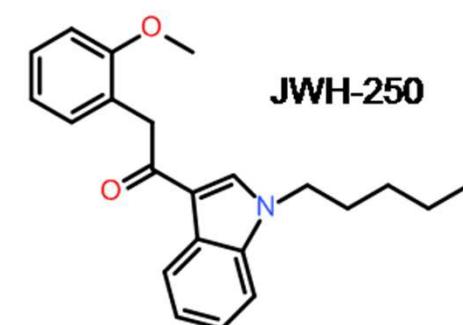
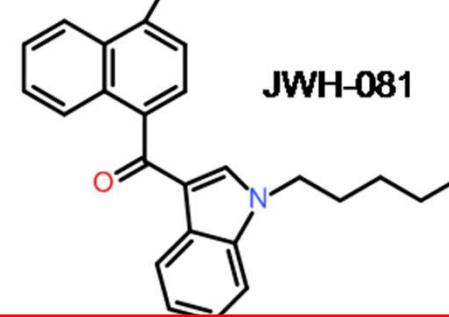
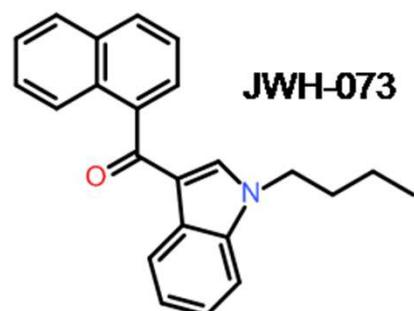
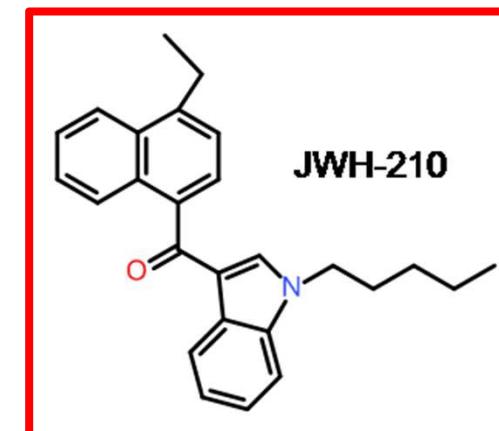
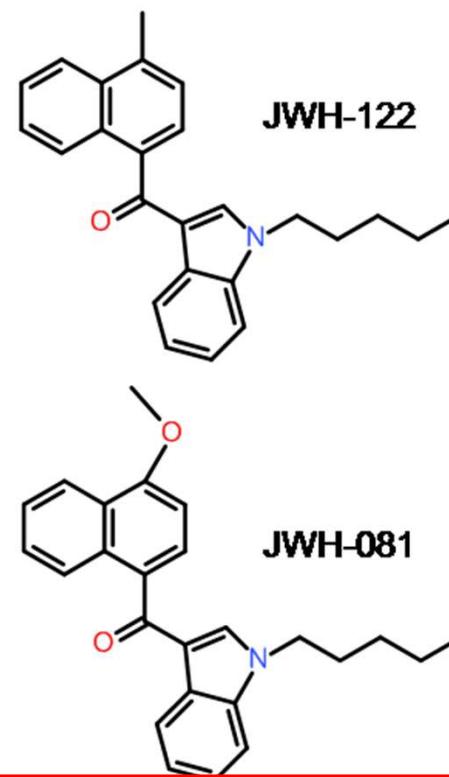
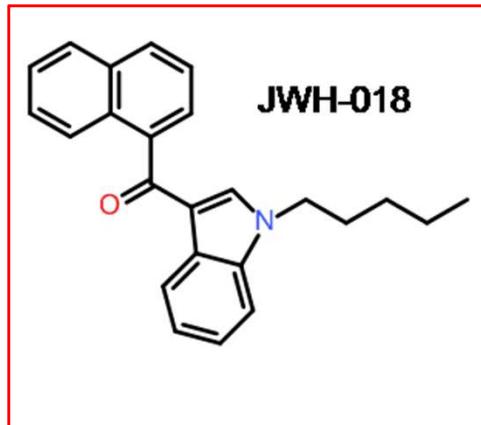


2-arachidonoylglycerol

# Synthetic cannabinoids from Sterling Winthrop

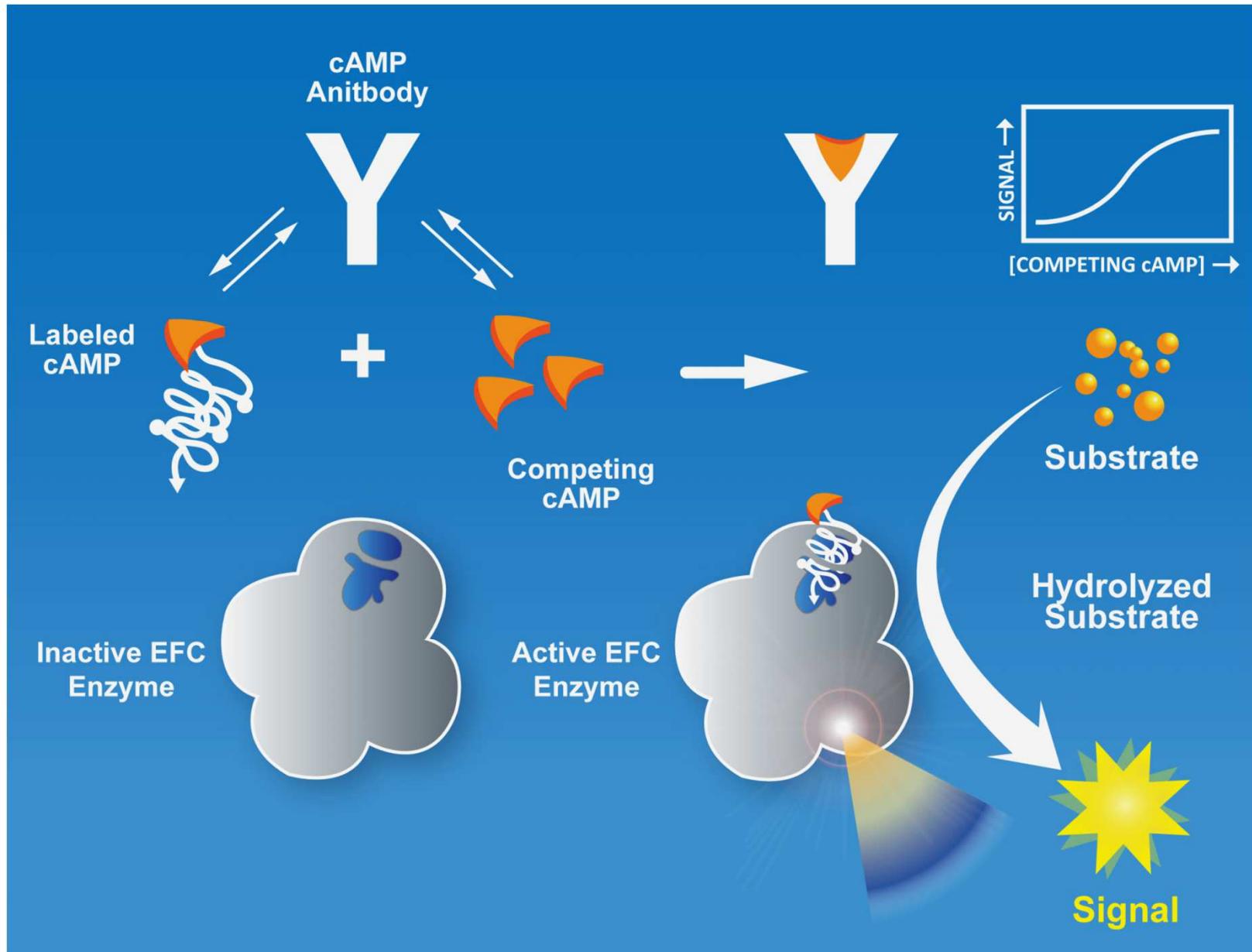


# Cannabinoids synthesized by John William Huffman: JWH-compounds

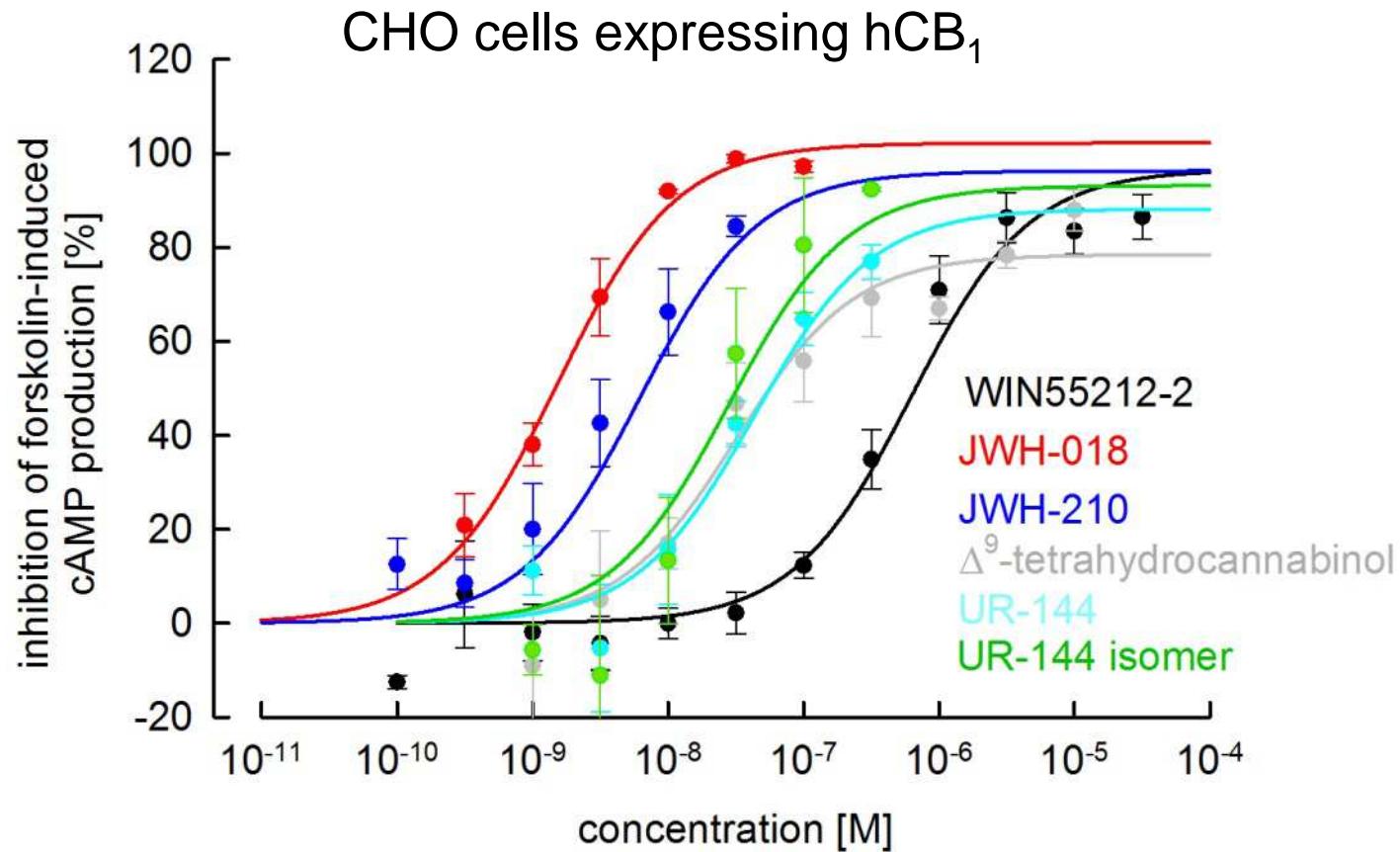


Huffman et al., Bioorg Med Chem 11: 539–549, 2003

# Measurement of cAMP concentration: immunoassay + enzyme fragment complementation technology

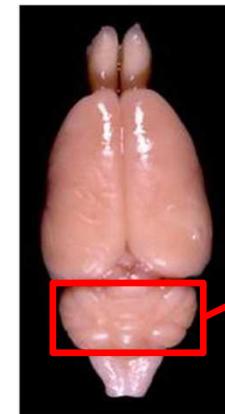
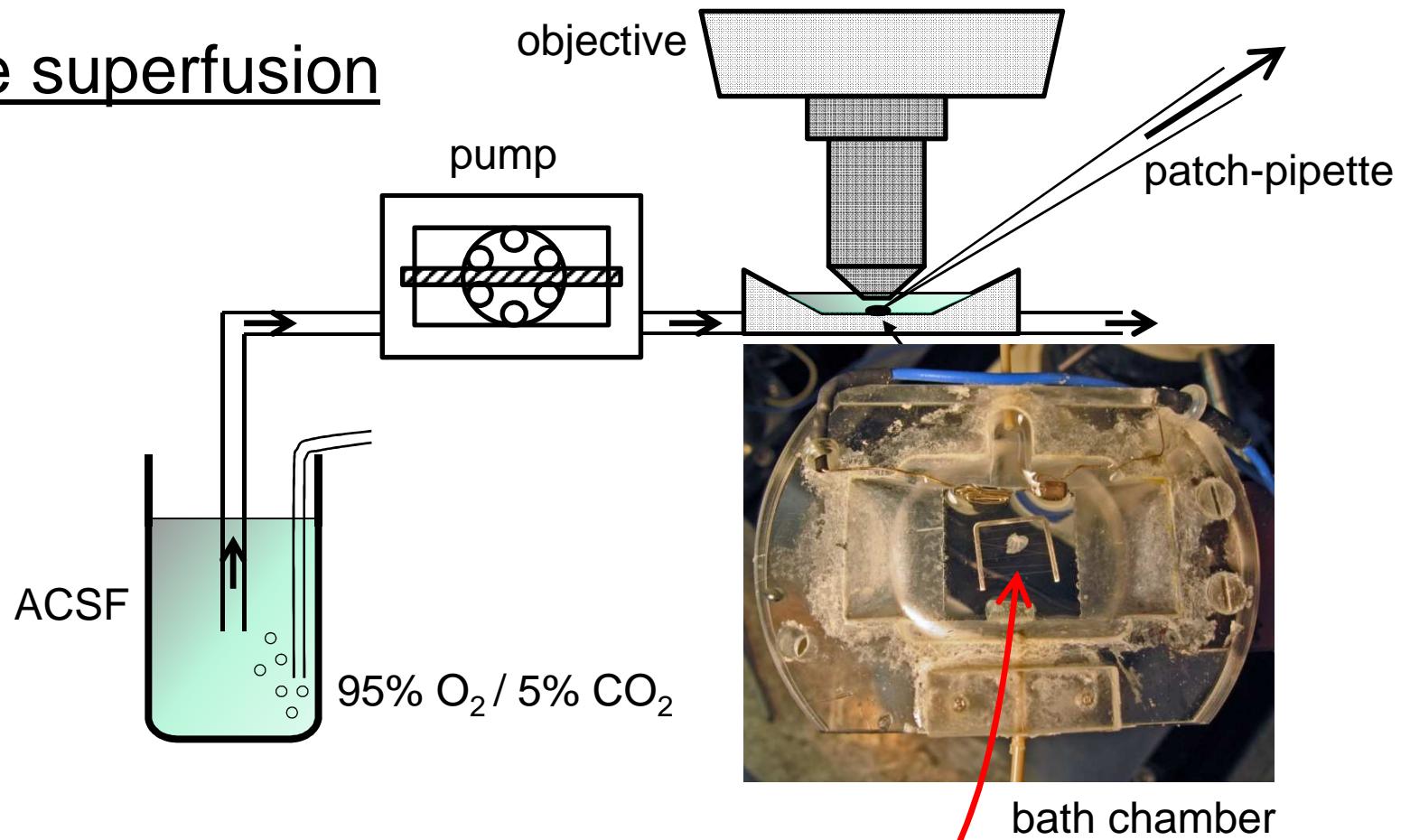


# Inhibition of adenylyl cyclase by cannabinoids

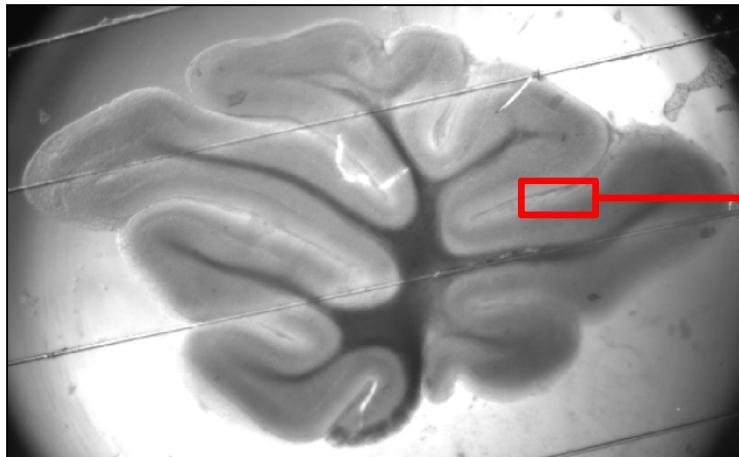


	IC <sub>50</sub> [nM]	I <sub>max</sub> [%]
$\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol	32 ± 1.2	78 ± 4
WIN55212-2	594 ± 170	107 ± 7
JWH-210	6.2 ± 2.9	96 ± 4
JWH-018	1.5 ± 0.3	102 ± 2
UR-144	43 ± 18	88 ± 4
UR-144 isomer	39 ± 8.4	116 ± 3

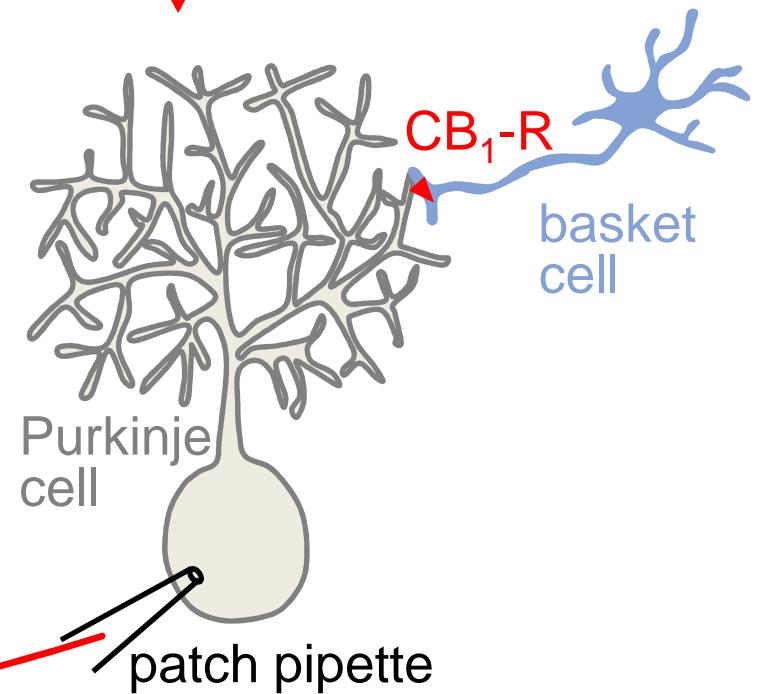
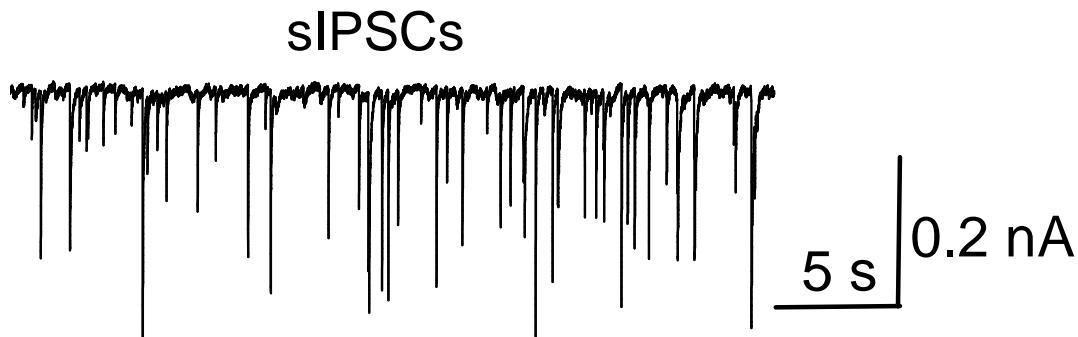
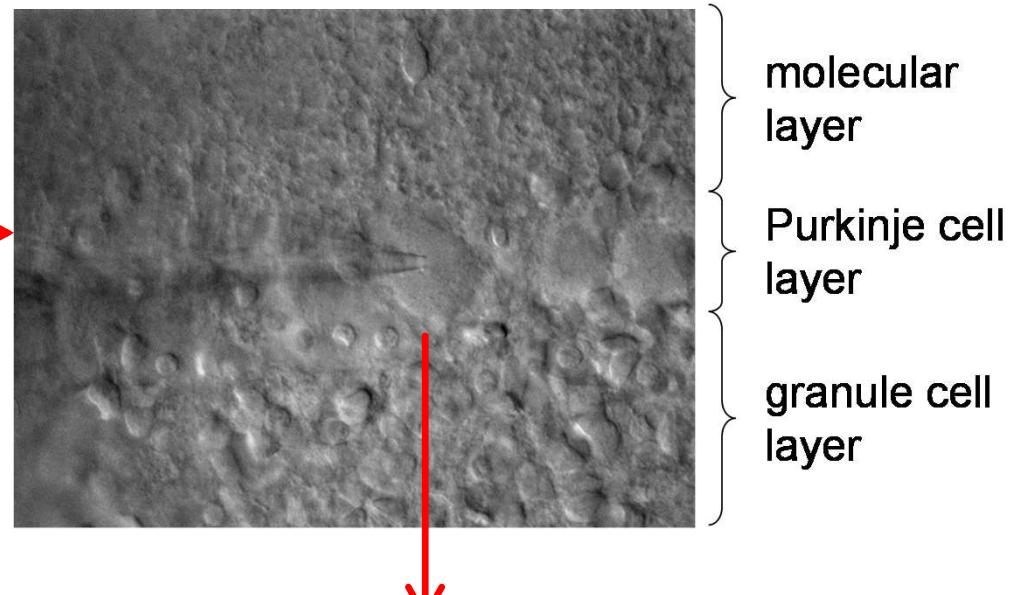
# Brain slice superfusion



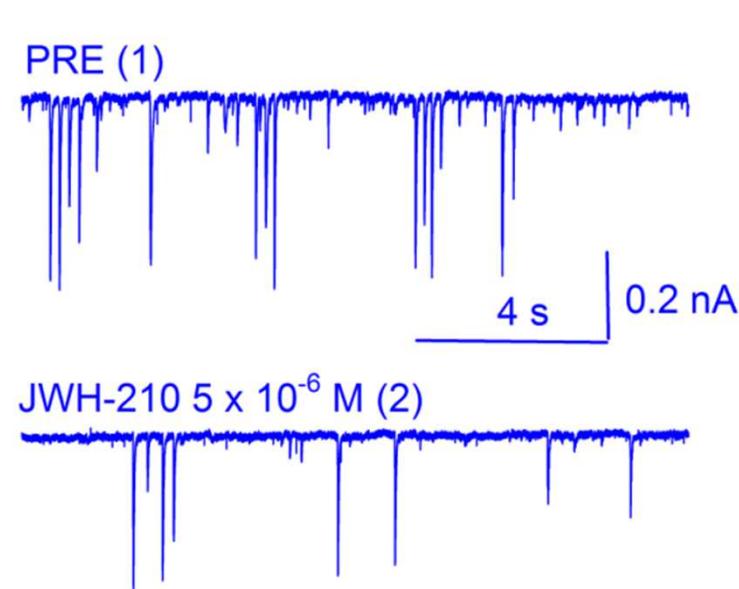
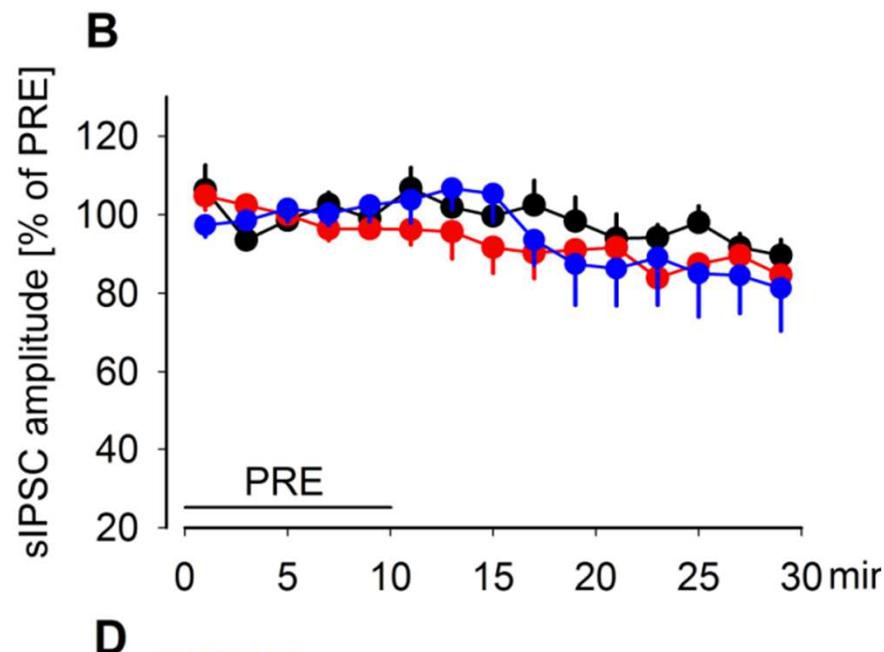
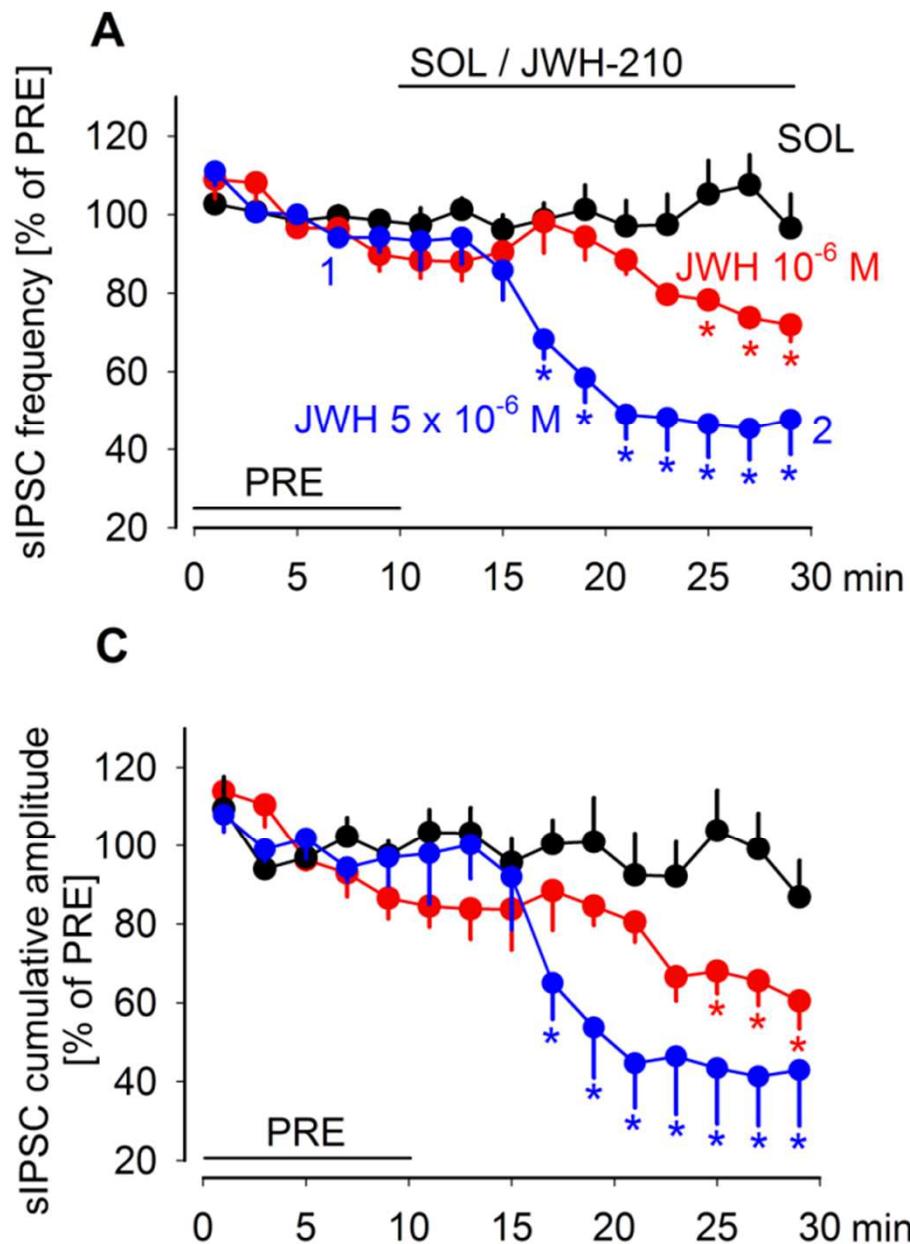
# Patch-clamp recording in the cerebellar cortex



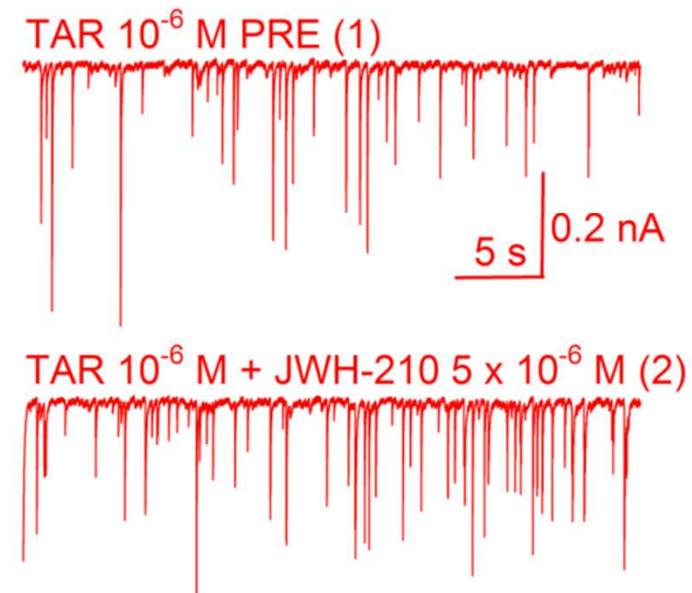
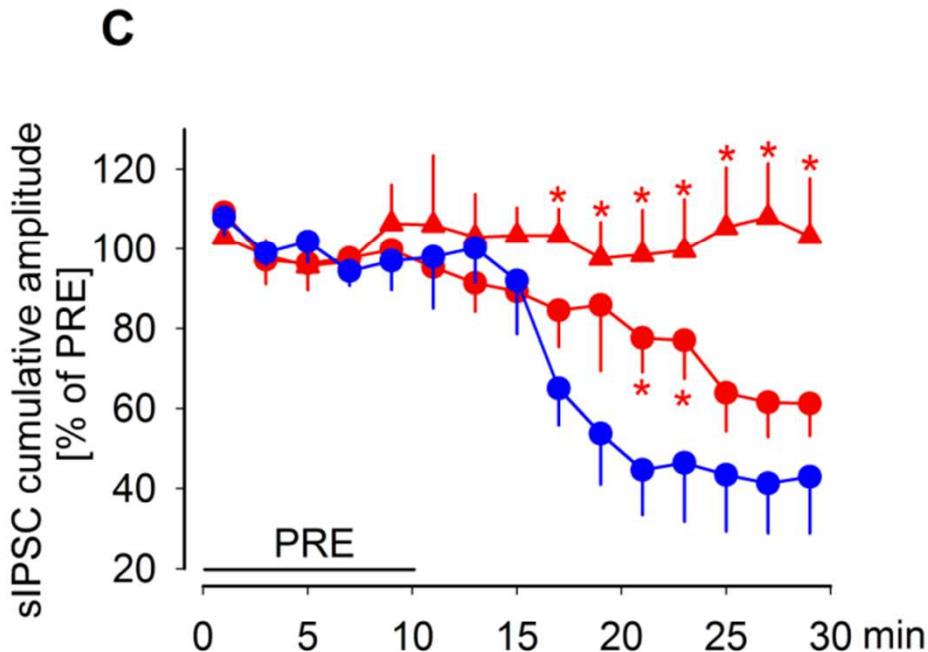
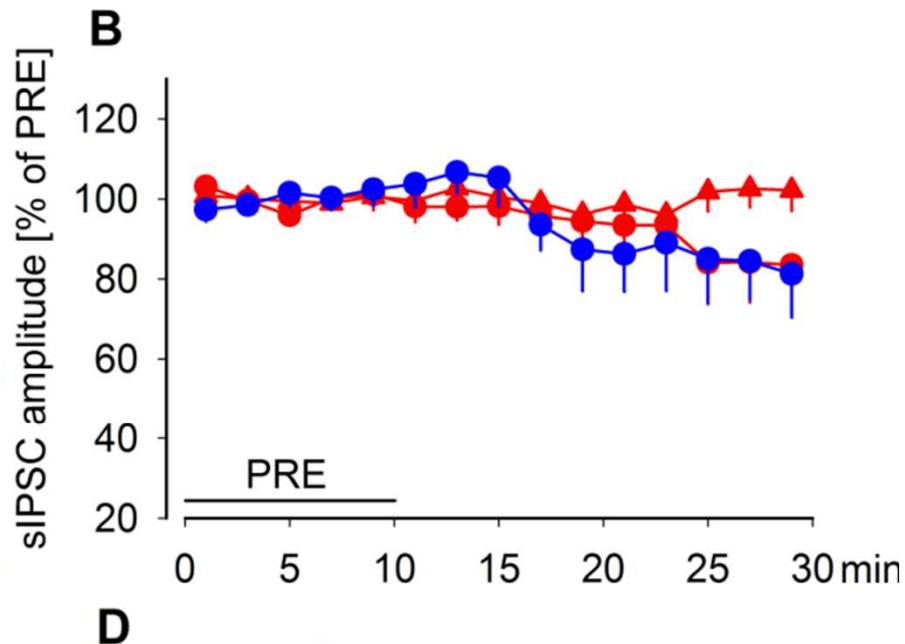
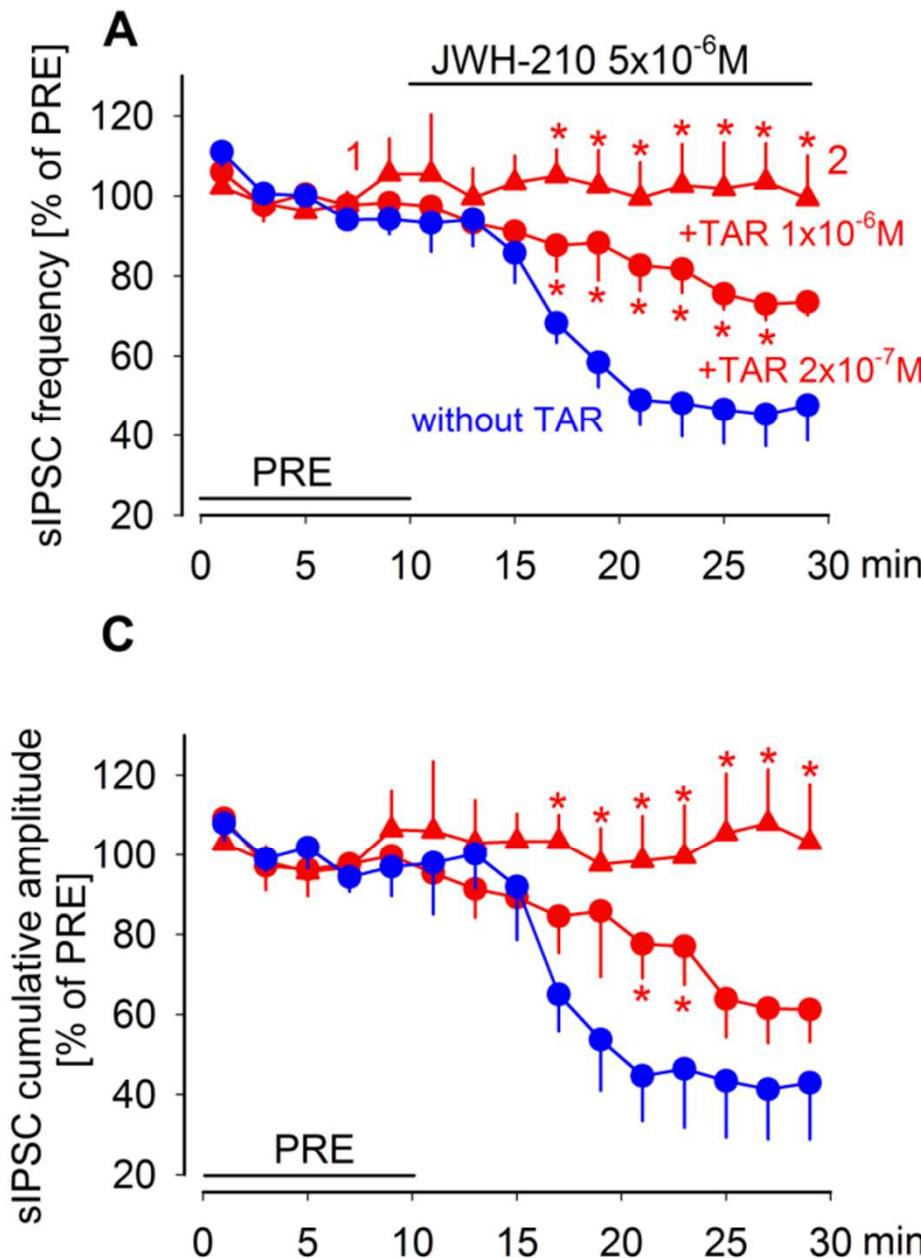
sagittal cerebellar slice

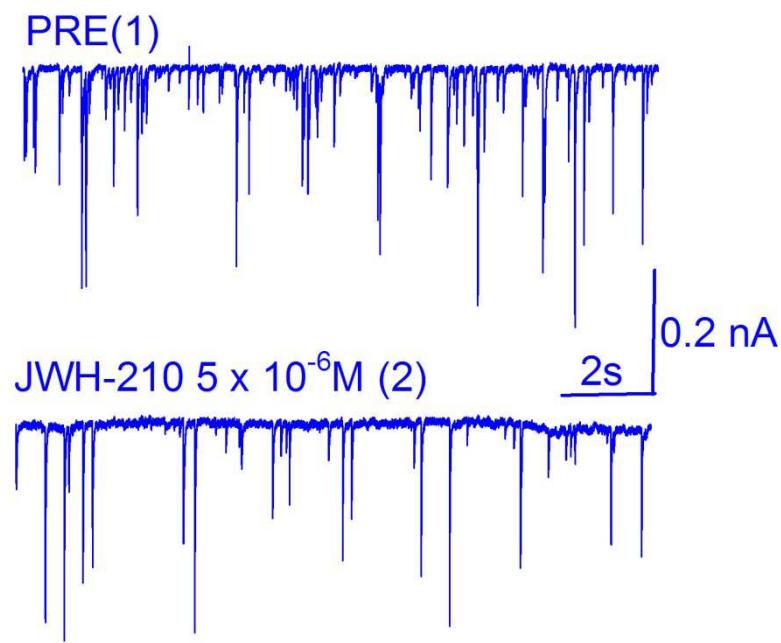
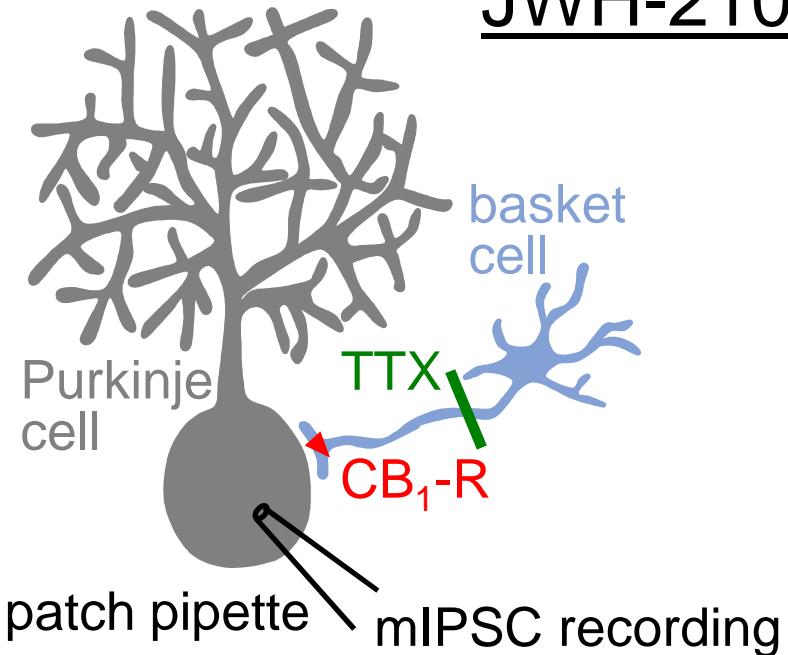


# JWH-210 inhibits GABAergic synaptic transmission

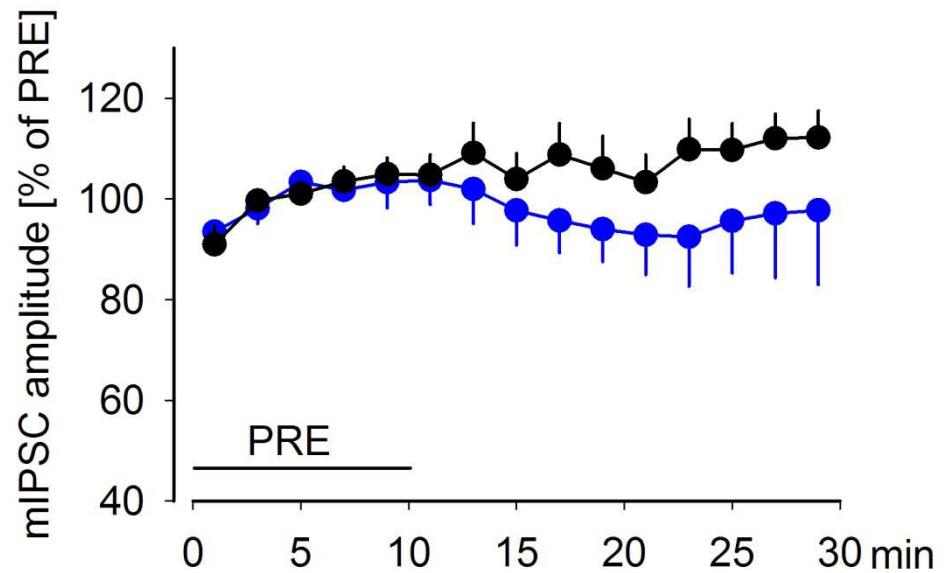
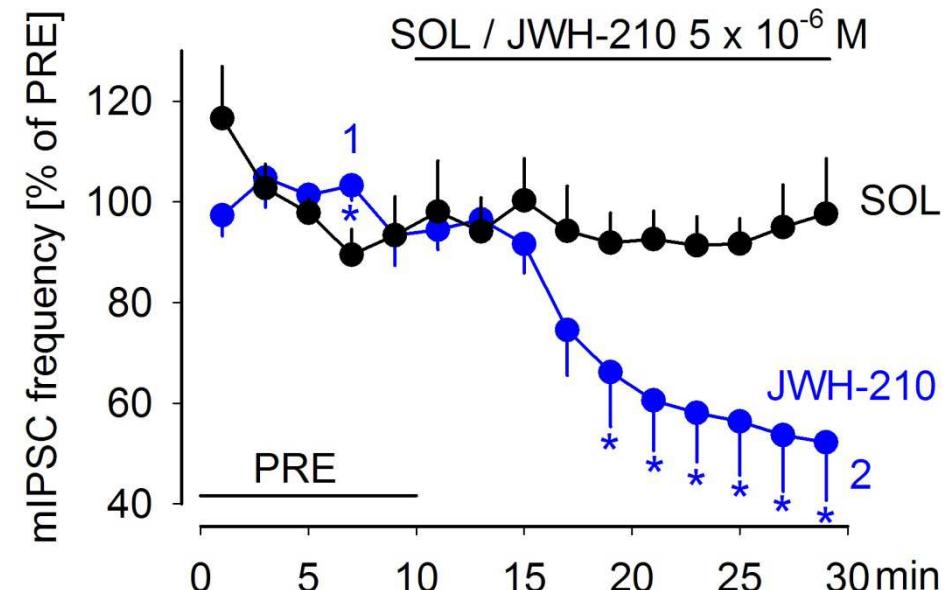


# Taranabant antagonizes the effects of JWH-210

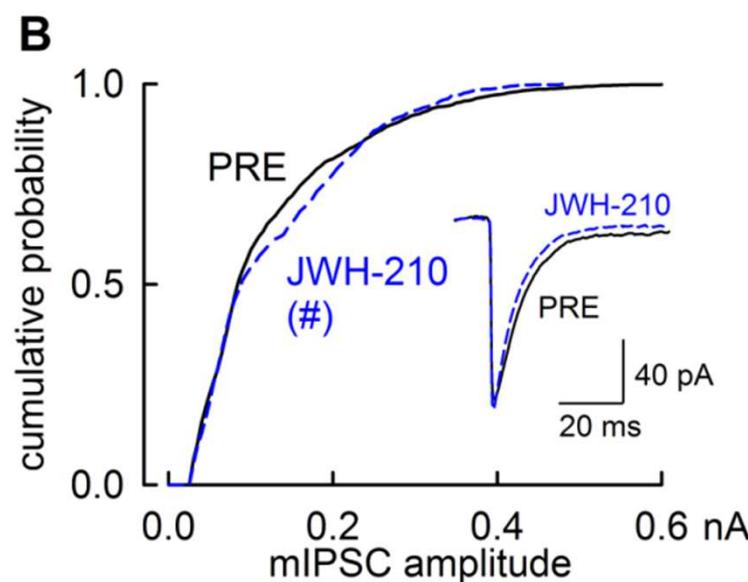
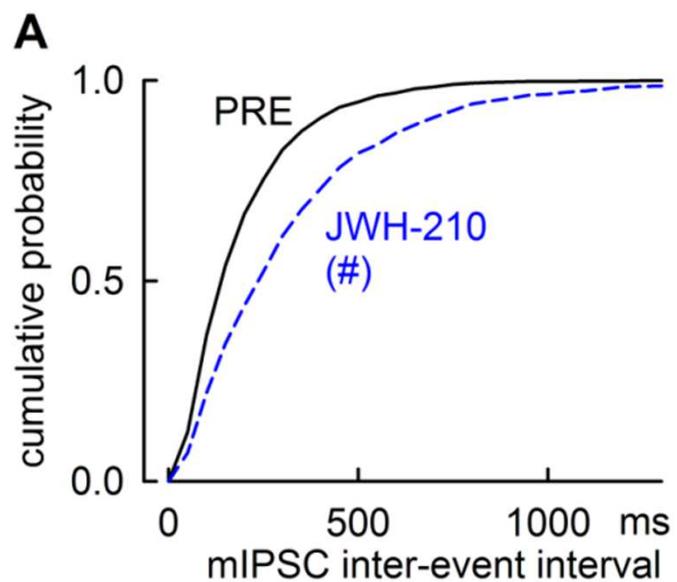




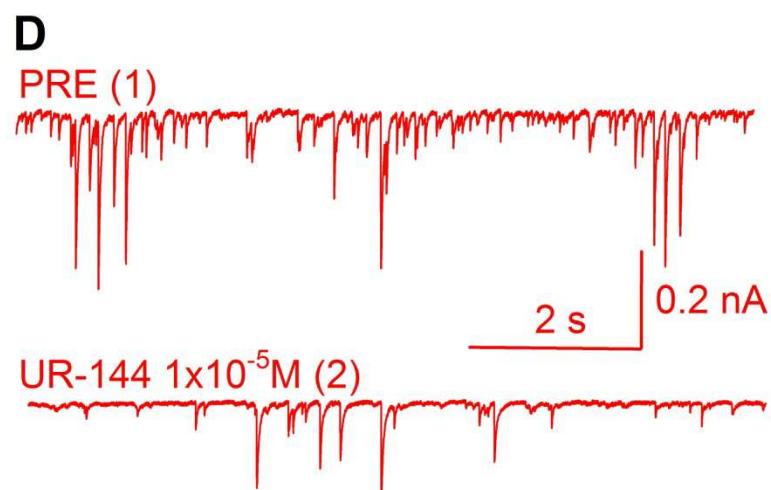
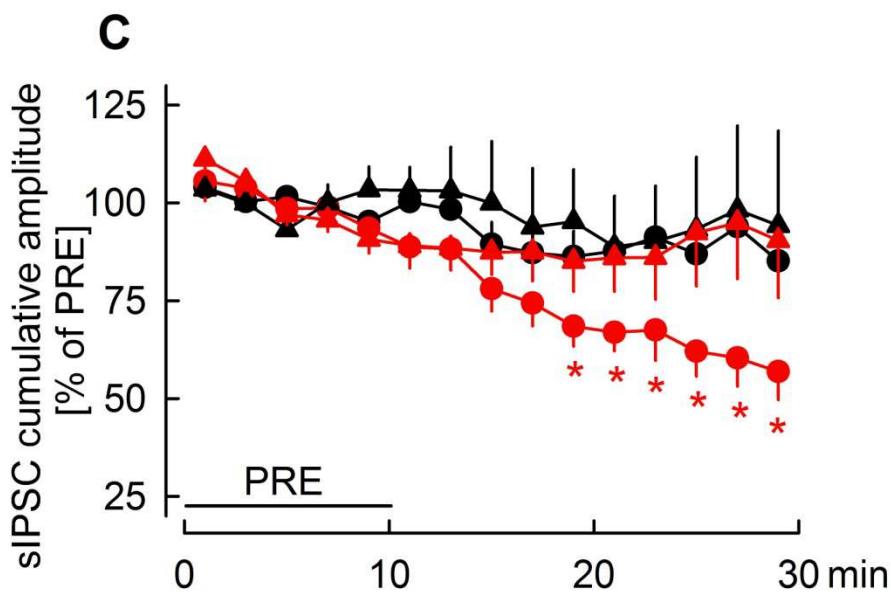
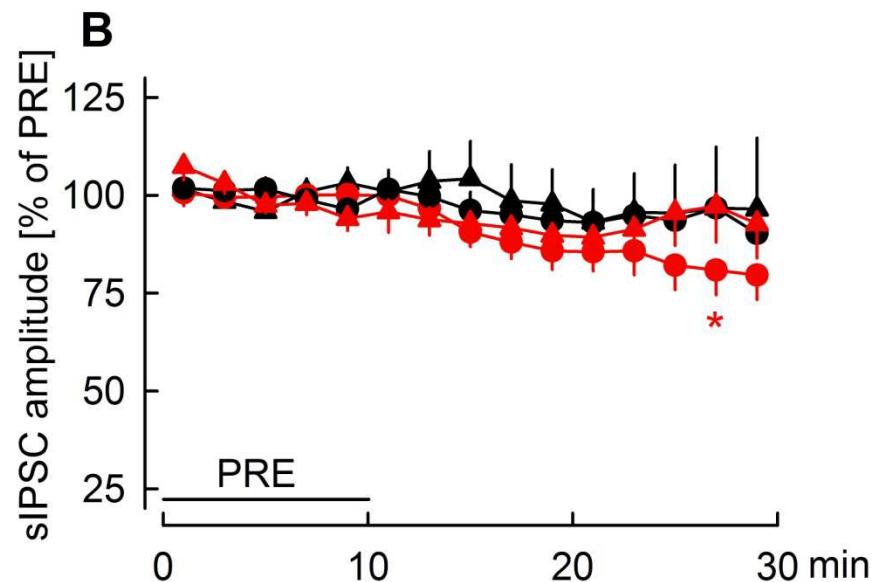
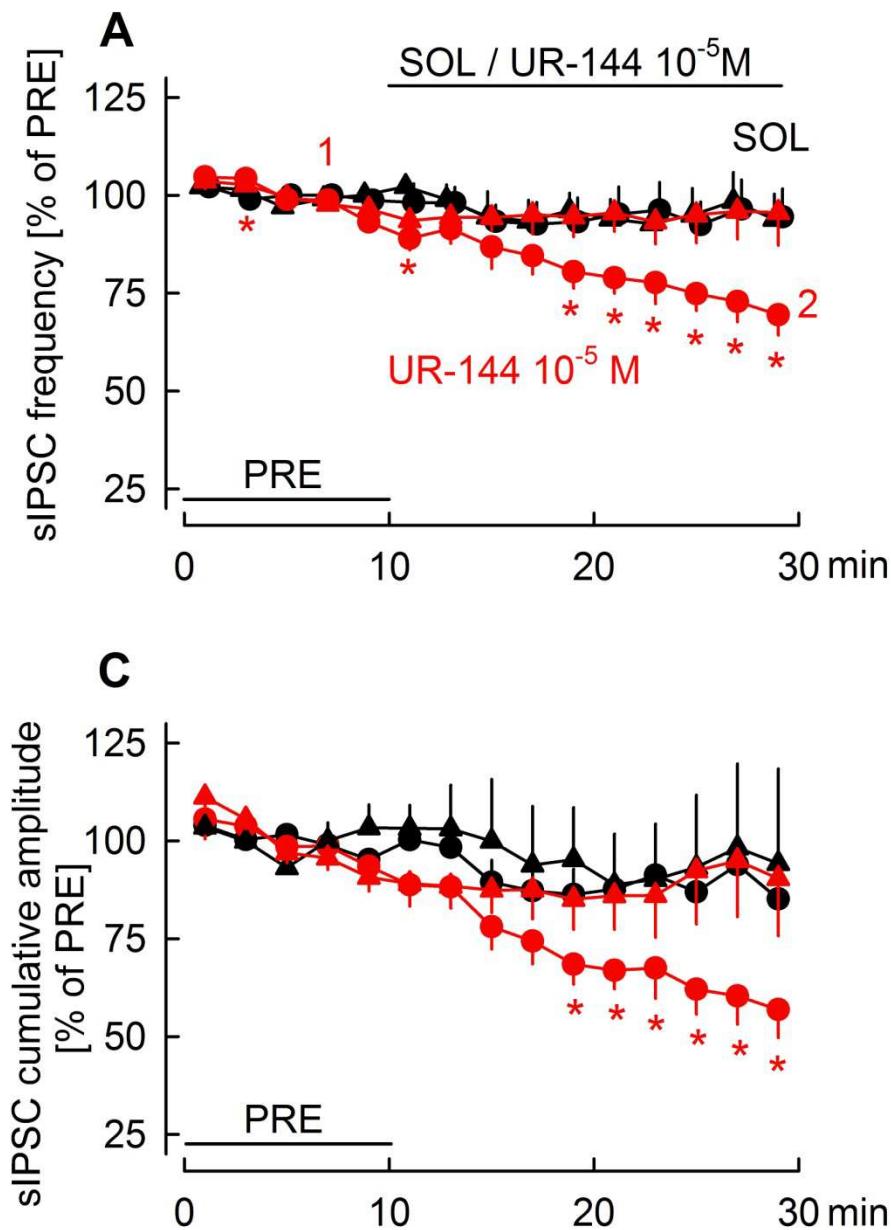
## JWH-210 suppresses mIPSCs



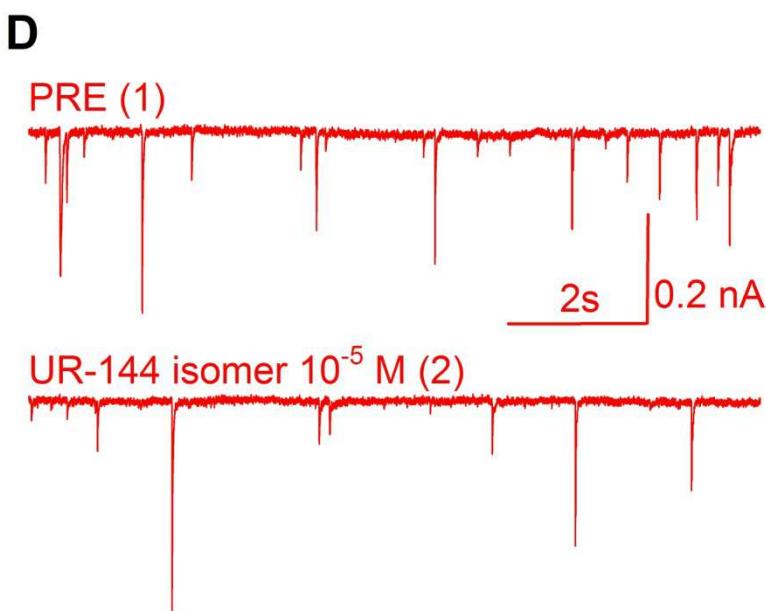
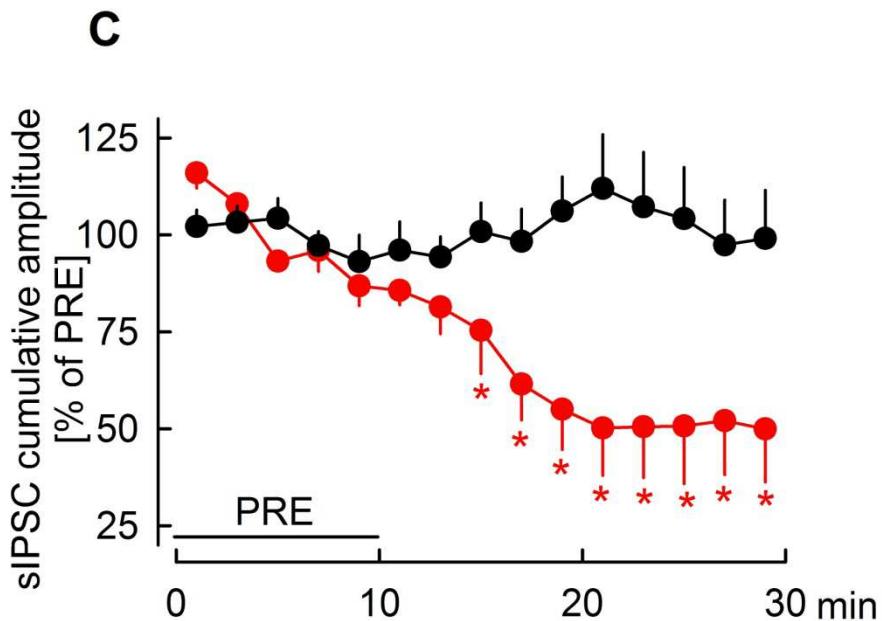
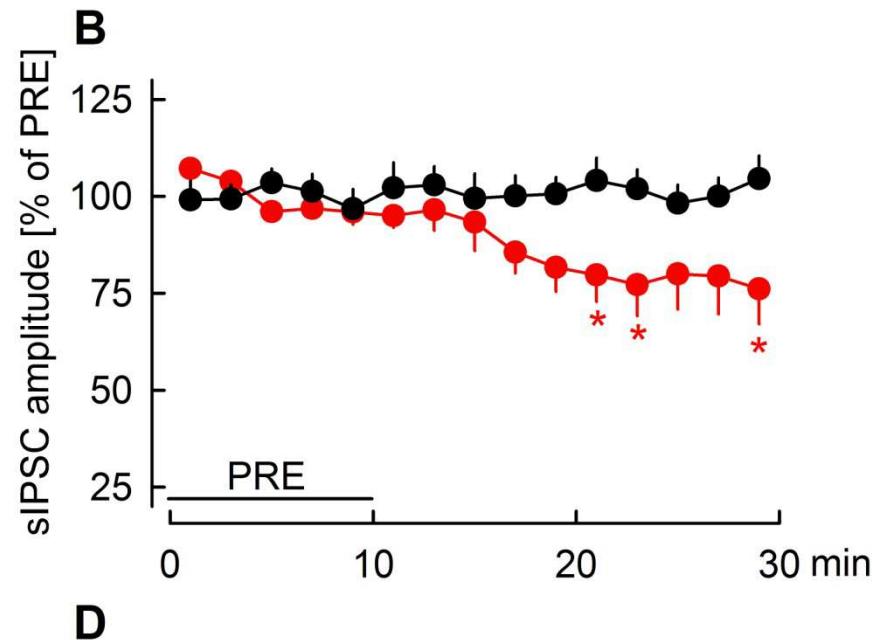
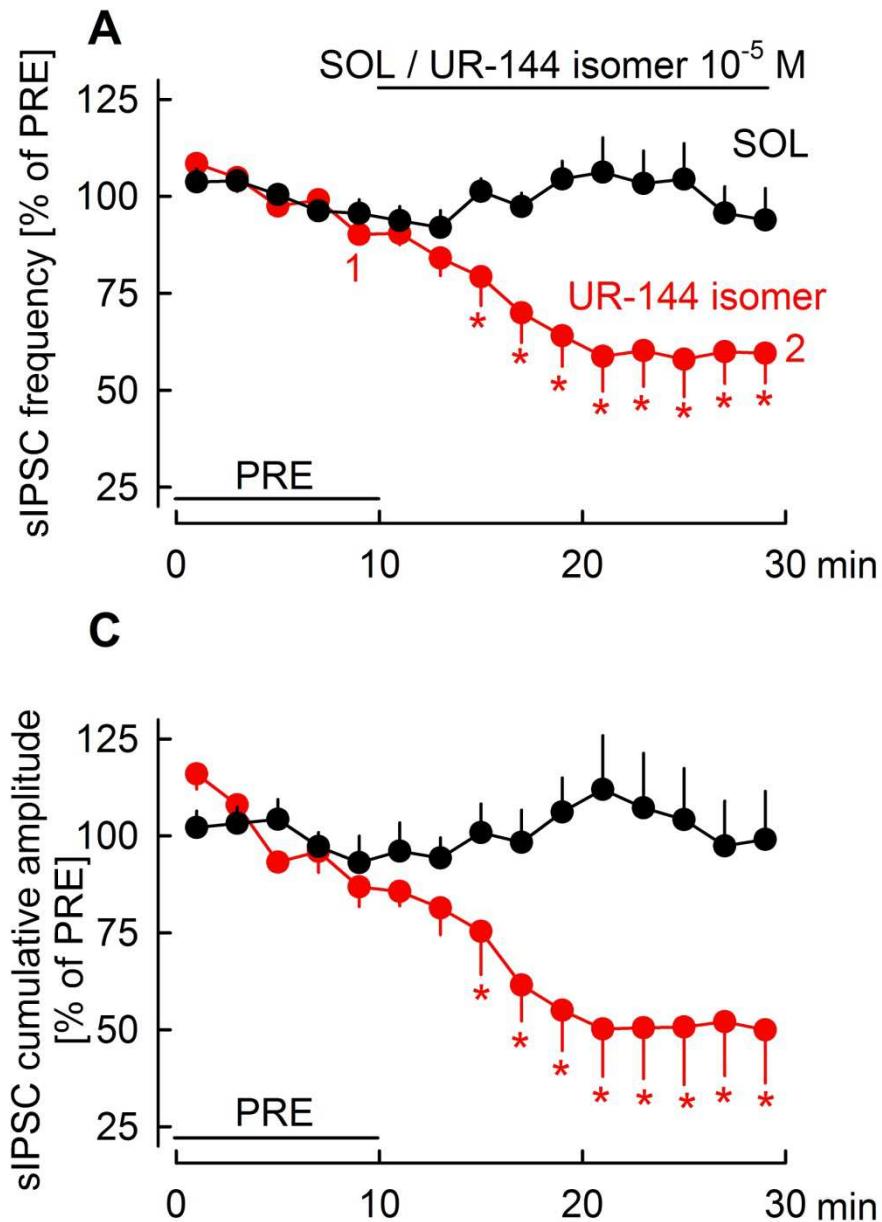
# JWH-210 suppresses mIPSCs



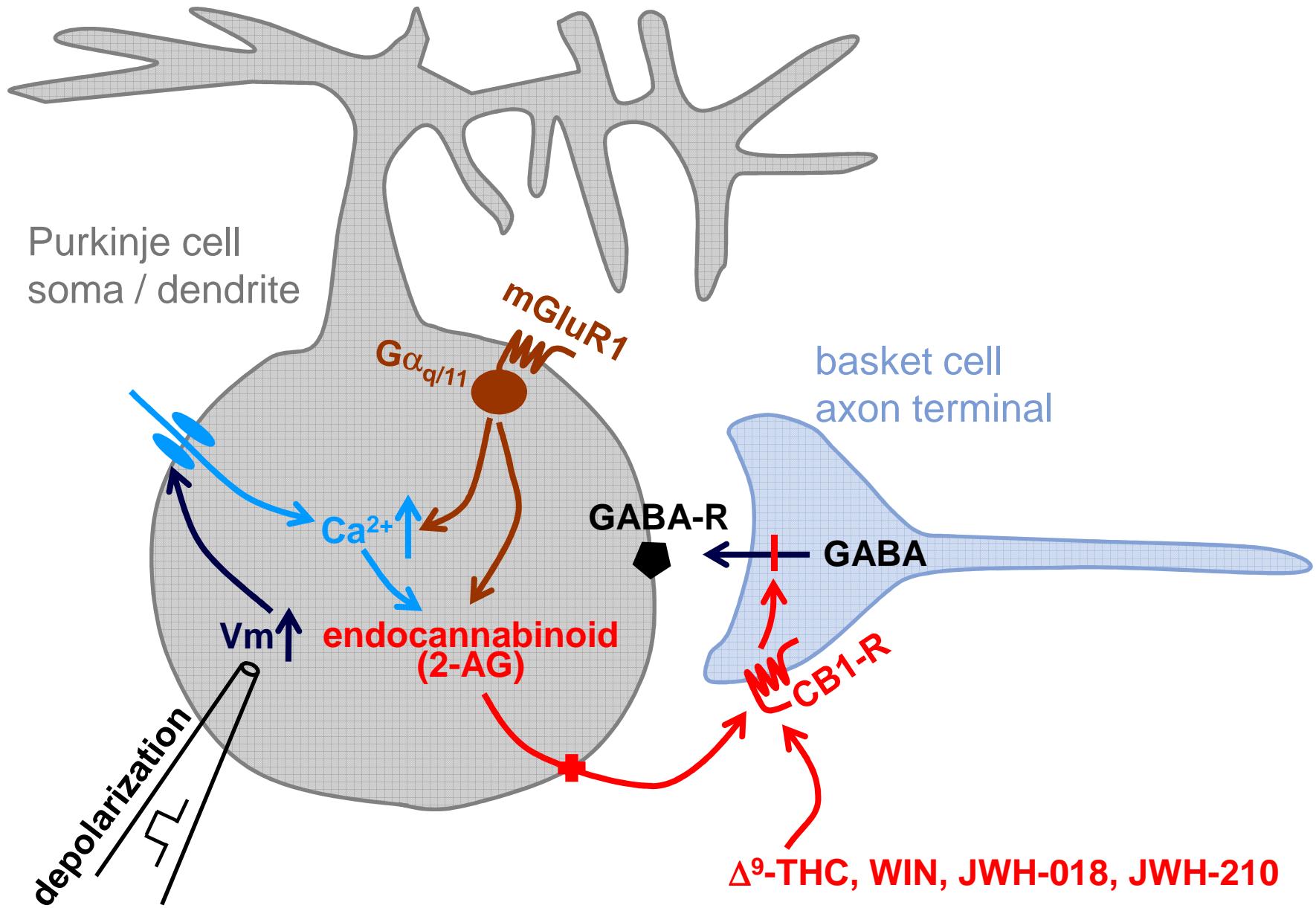
# UR-144 inhibits GABAergic synaptic transmission



# UR-144 isomer inhibits GABAergic synaptic transmission

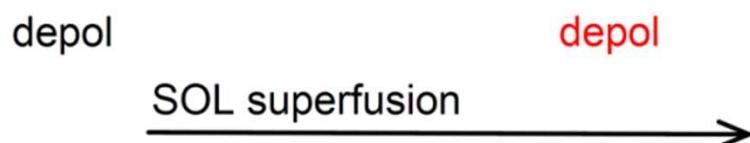


# Retrograde signaling by endocannabinoids: depolarization-induced suppression of inhibition (DSI)

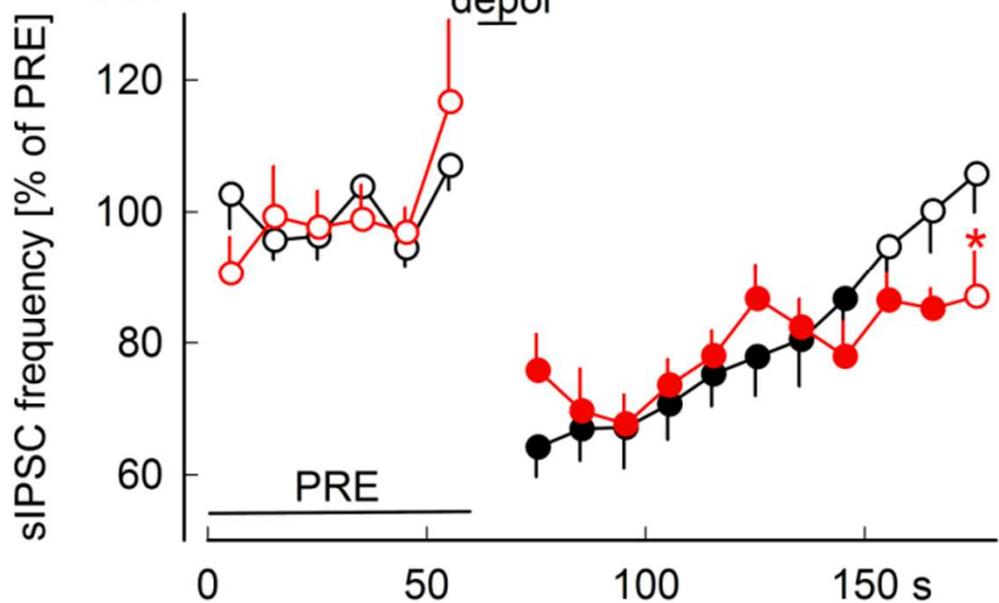


# JWH-210 occludes DSI

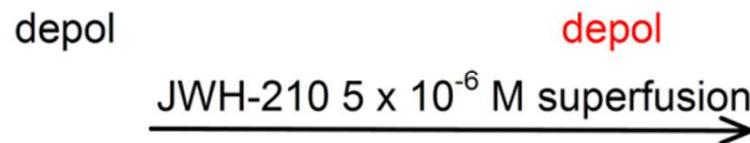
A1



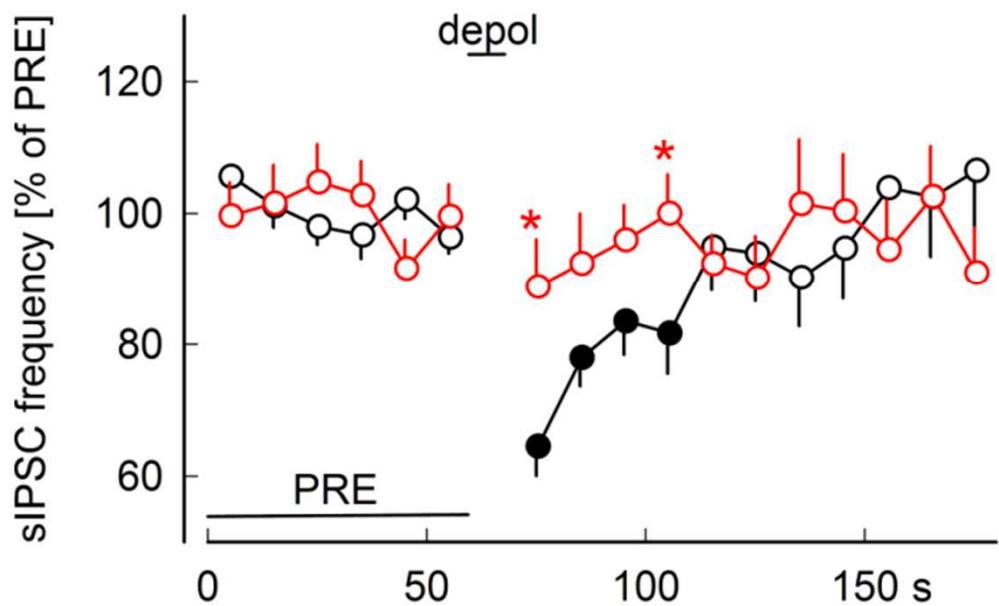
A2



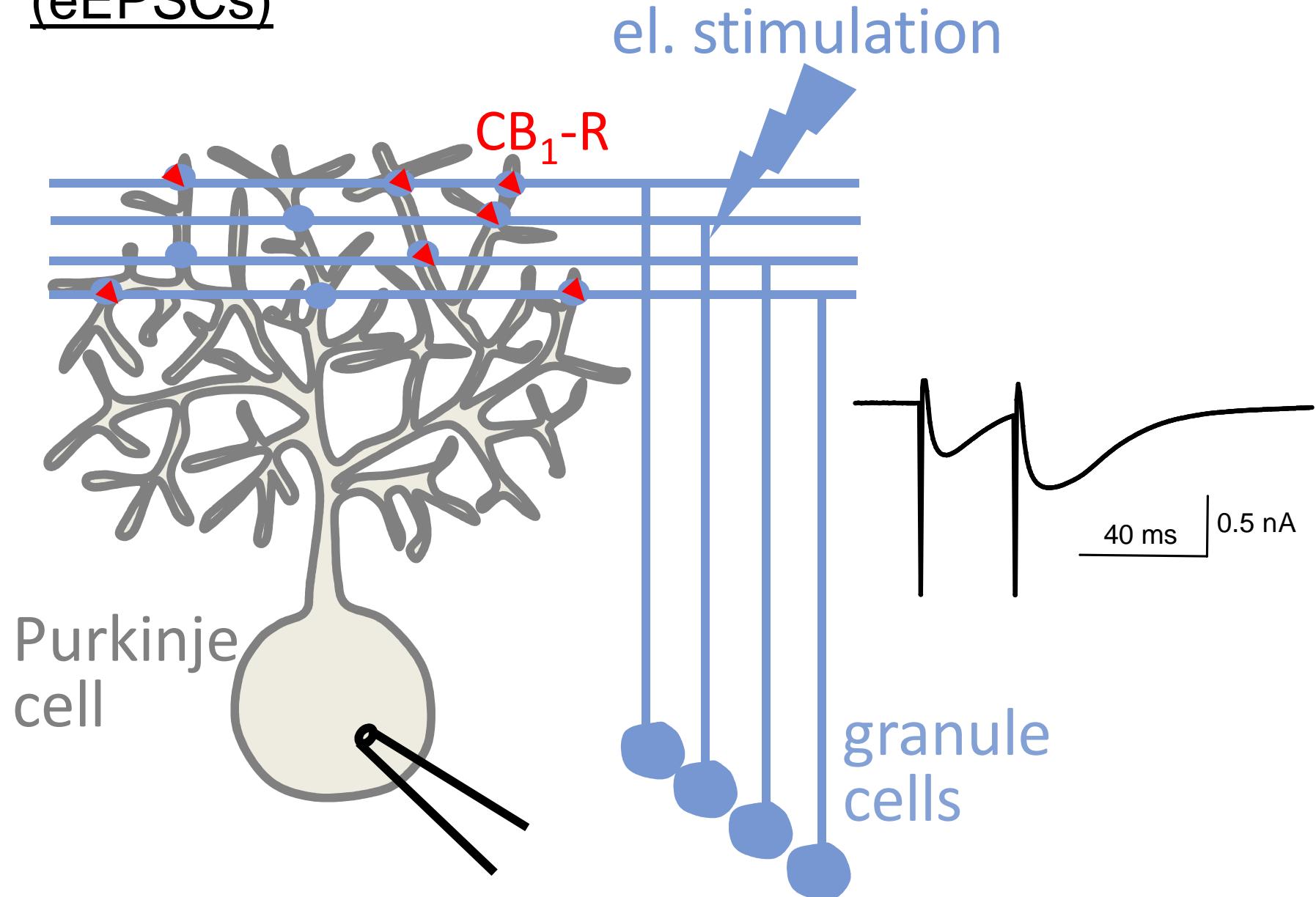
B1



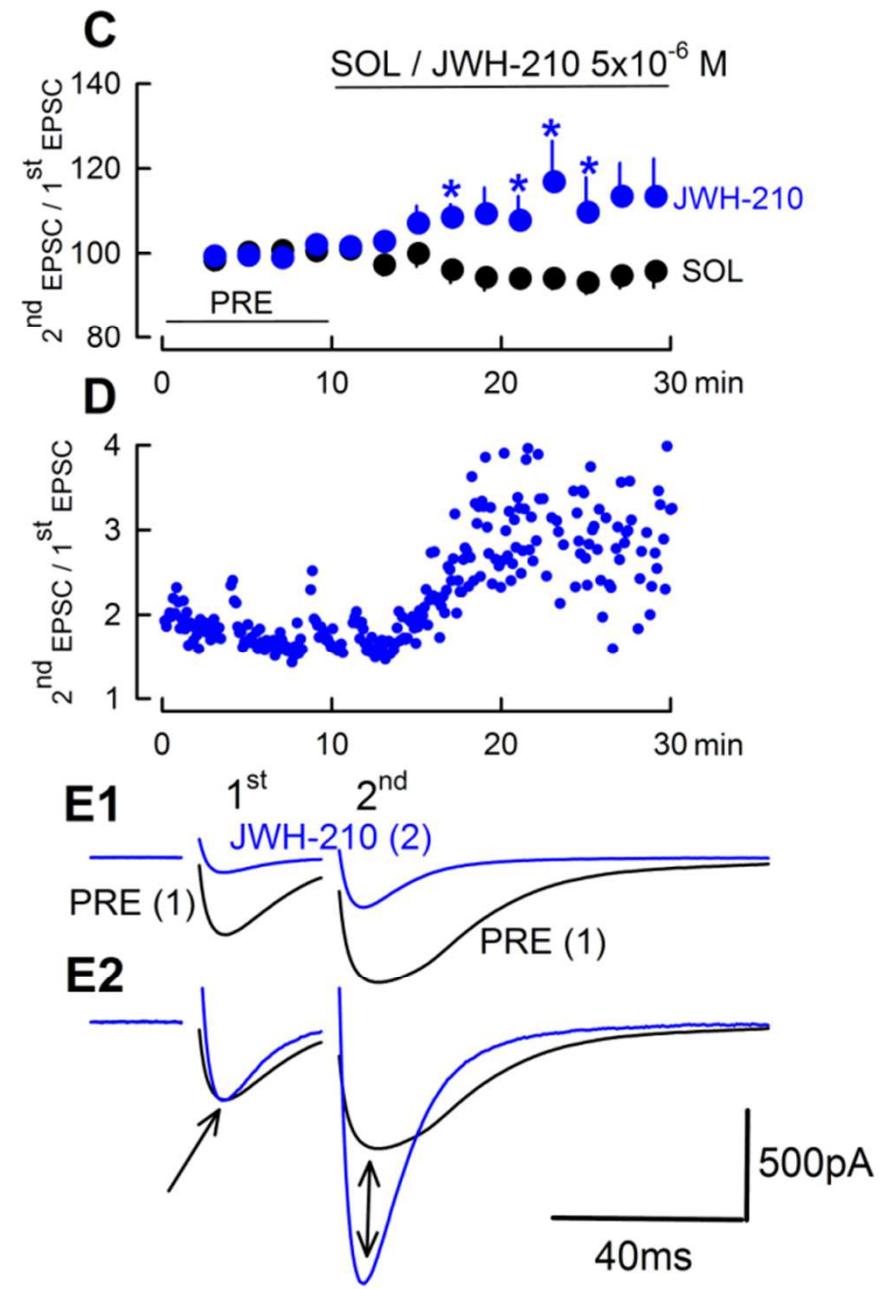
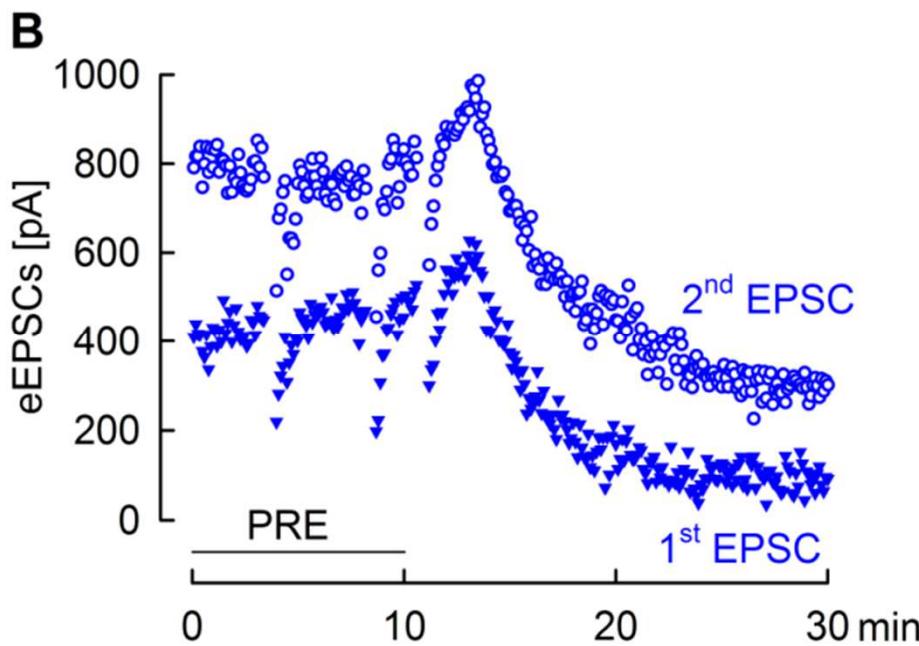
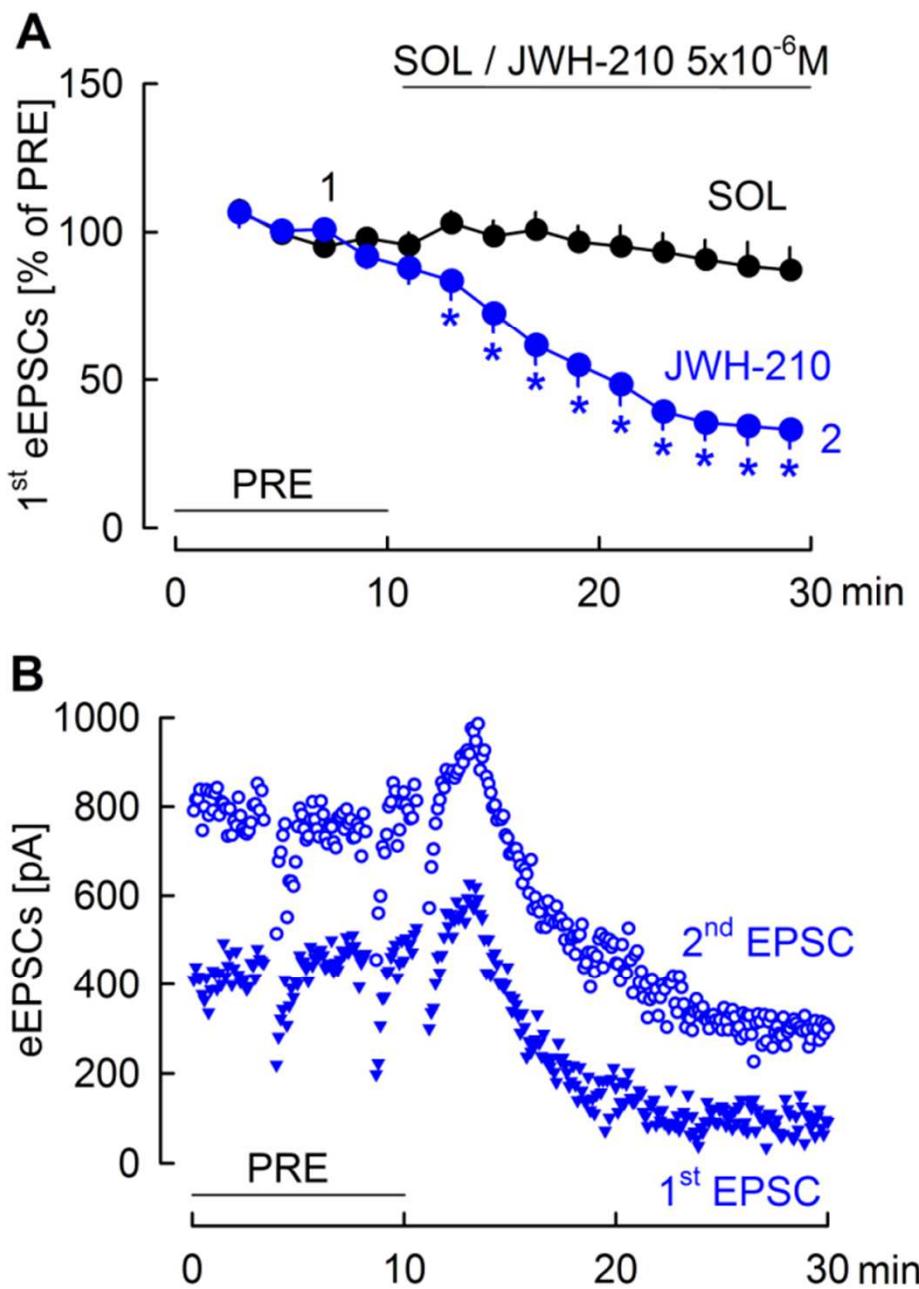
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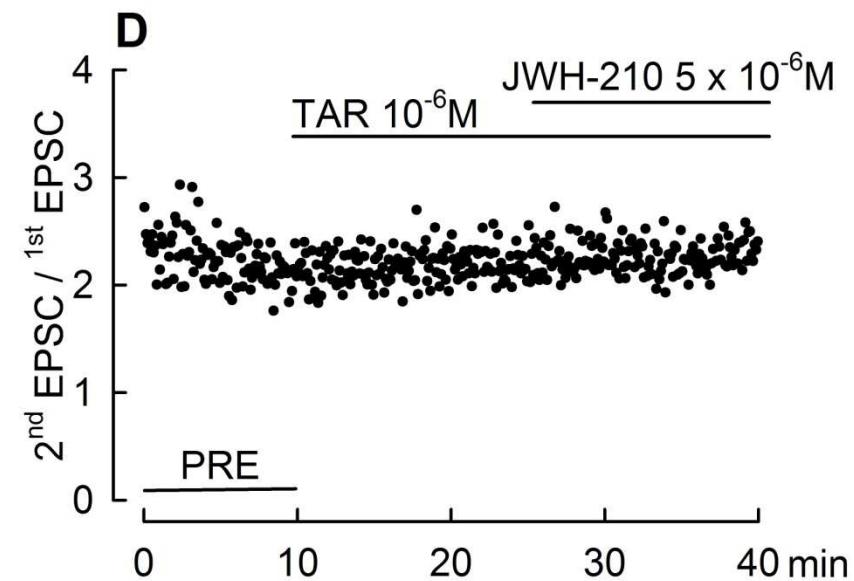
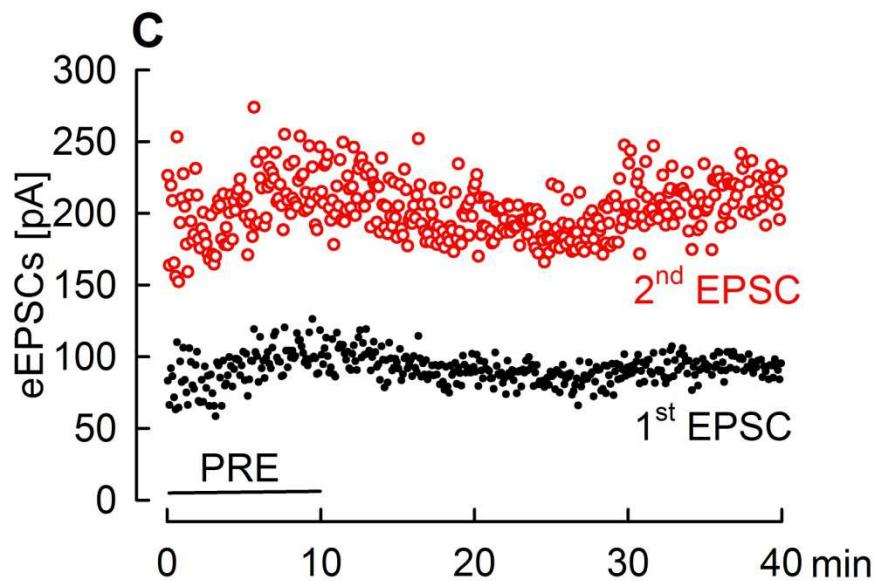
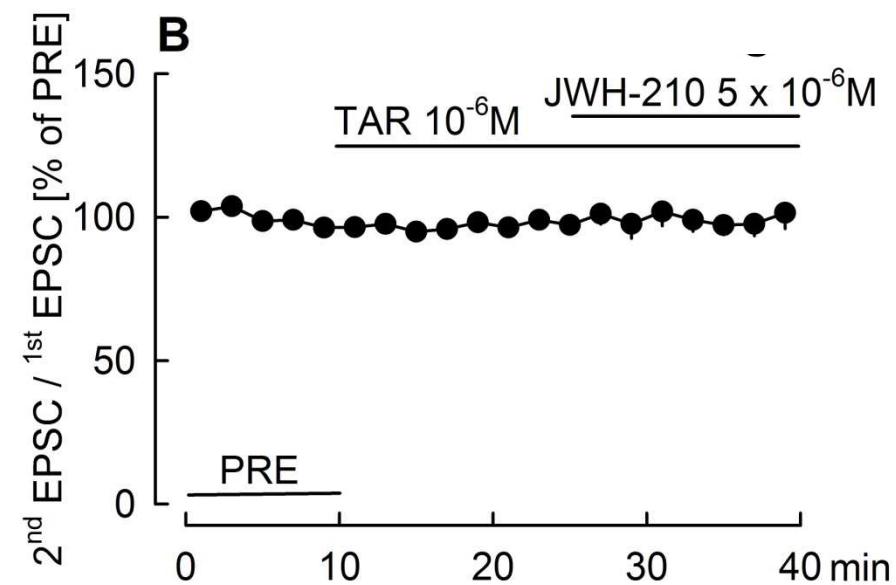
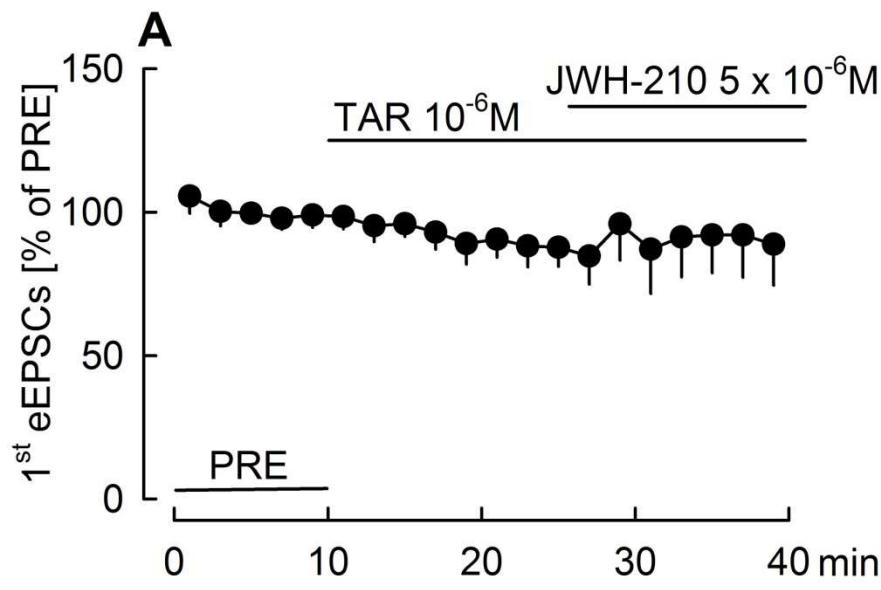
# Recording of glutamatergic synaptic transmission (eEPSCs)



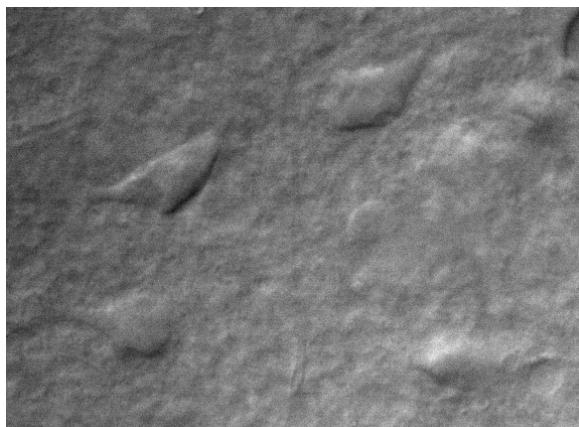
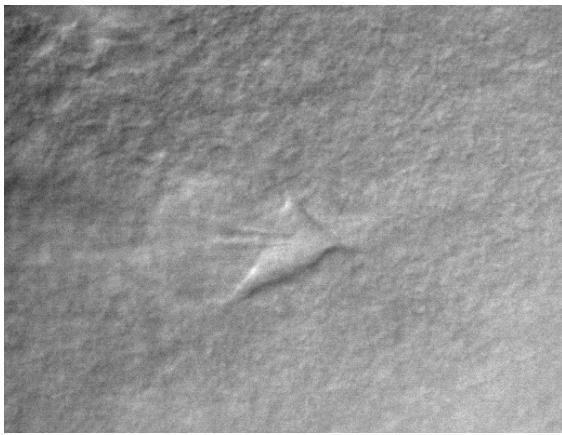
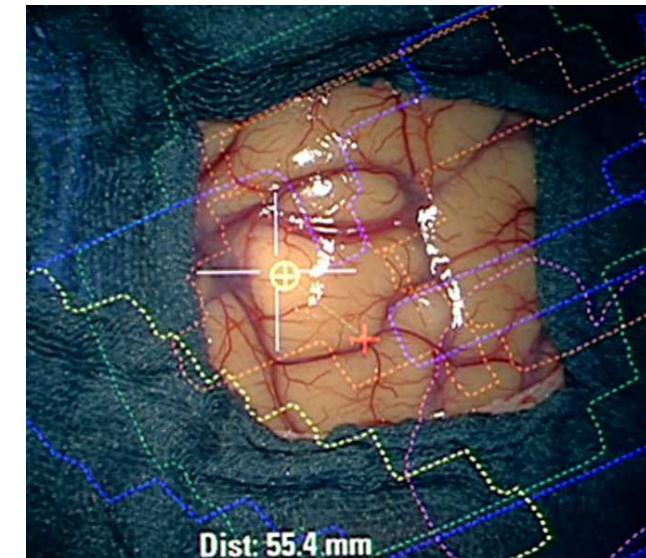
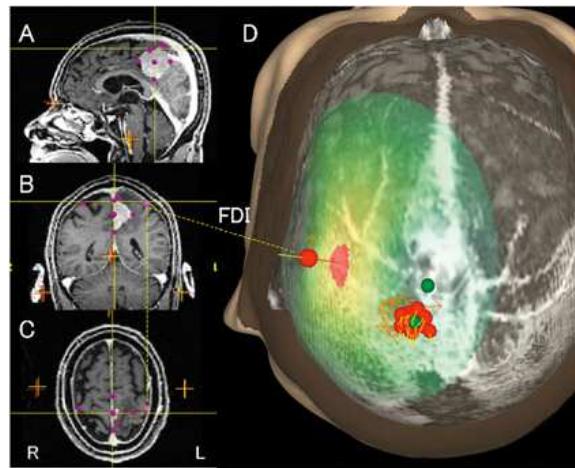
# JWH-210 suppresses eEPSCs



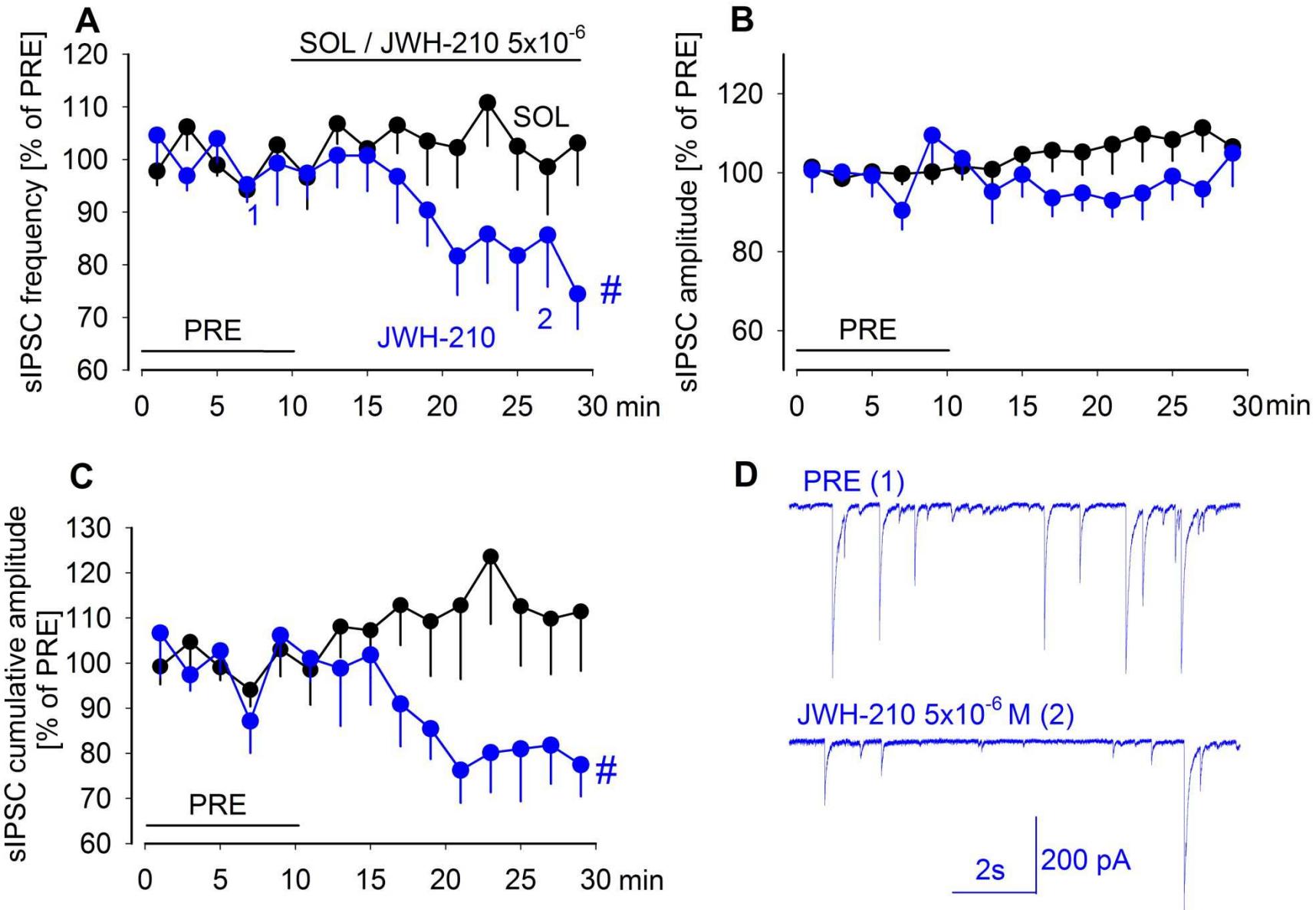
# Taranabant antagonizes the effects of JWH-210 on eEPSCs



# Synaptic transmission in the human neocortex



# Effects of JWH-210 on sIPSCs recorded in pyramidal cells in human neocortical slices



# Pregnenolone Can Protect the Brain from Cannabis Intoxication

Monique Vallée,<sup>1,2†</sup> Sergio Vitiello,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Luigi Bellocchio,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Etienne Hébert-Chatelain,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Stéphanie Monlezun,<sup>3\*</sup> Elena Martin-Garcia,<sup>4</sup> Fernando Kasanetz,<sup>1,2</sup> Gemma L. Baillie,<sup>5,7</sup> Francesca Panin,<sup>1,2</sup> Adeline Cathala,<sup>1,2</sup> Valérie Roullet-Lacarrière,<sup>1,2</sup> Sandy Fabre,<sup>3</sup> Dow P. Hurst,<sup>6</sup> Diane L. Lynch,<sup>6</sup> Derek M. Shore,<sup>6</sup> Véronique Deroche-Gamonet,<sup>1,2</sup> Umberto Spampinato,<sup>1,2</sup> Jean-Michel Revest,<sup>1,2</sup> Rafael Maldonado,<sup>4</sup> Patricia H. Reggio,<sup>6</sup> Ruth A. Ross,<sup>5,7</sup> Giovanni Marsicano,<sup>1,2</sup> Pier Vincenzo Piazza<sup>1,2†‡</sup>

<sup>1</sup>INSERM, Neurocentre Magendie, Physiopathologie de la Plasticité Neuronale, U862, F-33000 Bordeaux, France. <sup>2</sup>Université de Bordeaux, Neurocentre Magendie, Physiopathologie de la Plasticité

Science 343: 94-98, 2014

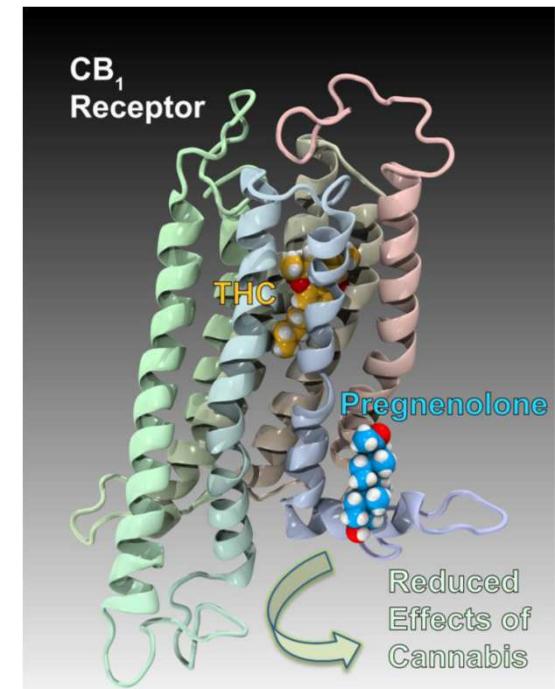
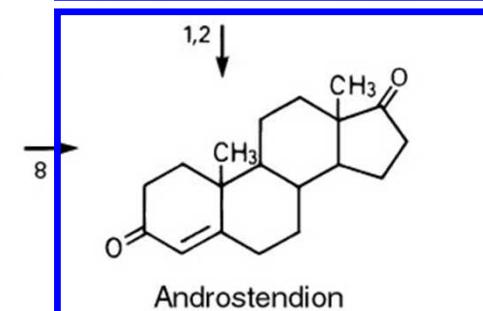
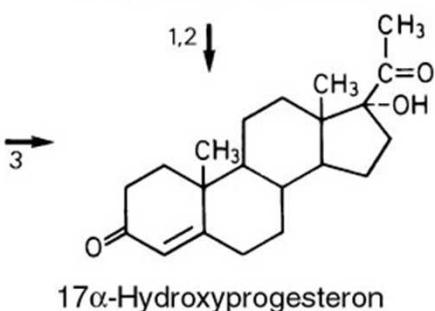
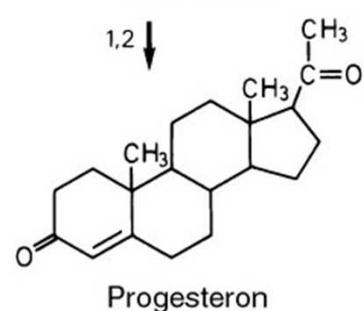
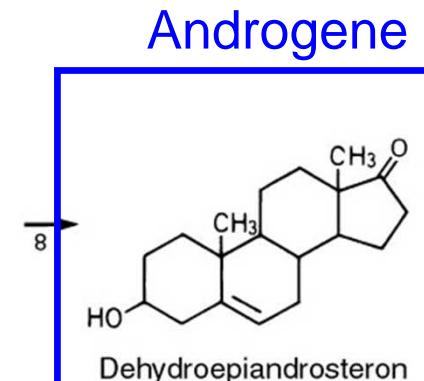
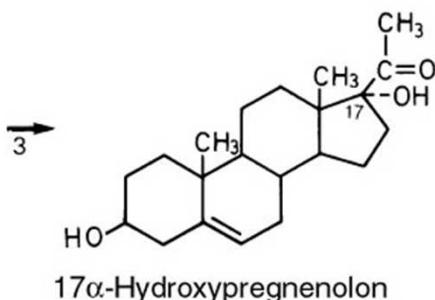
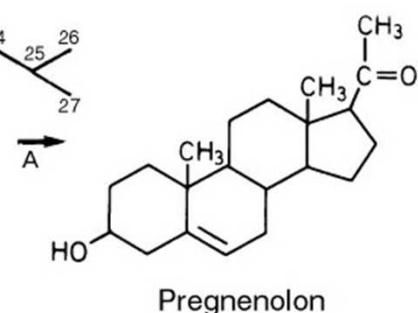
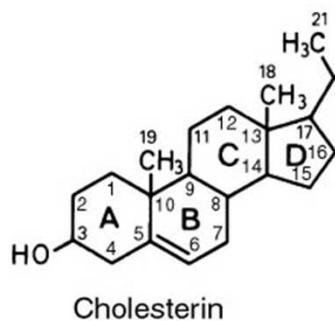
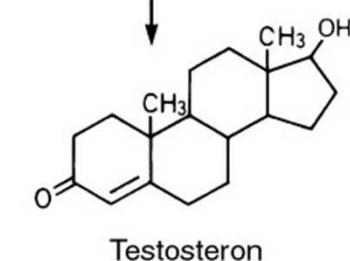


Figure by: Derek Shore, Pier Vincenzo Piazza and Patricia Reggio

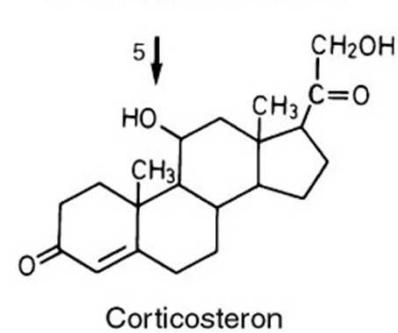
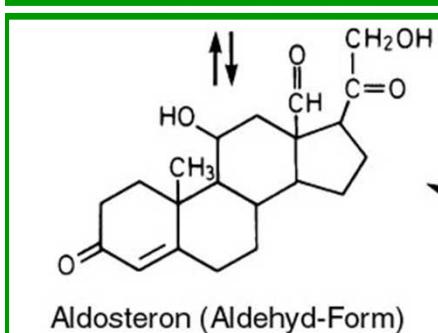
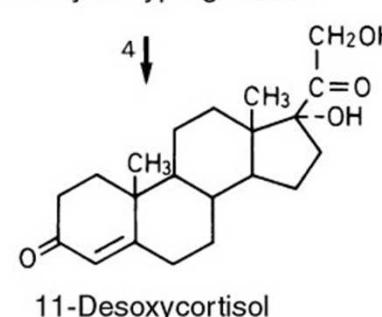
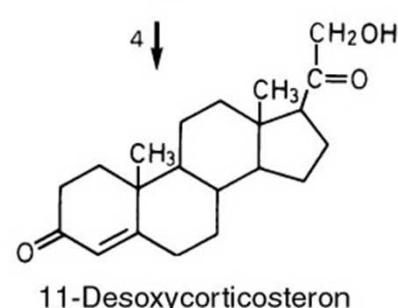
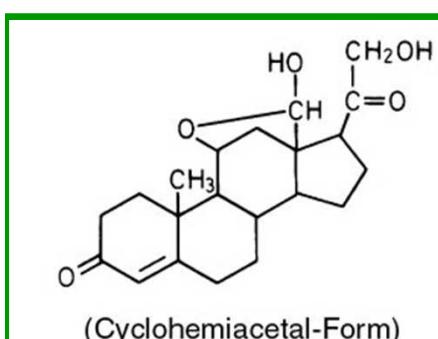
# Corticosteroide: 3 Gruppen



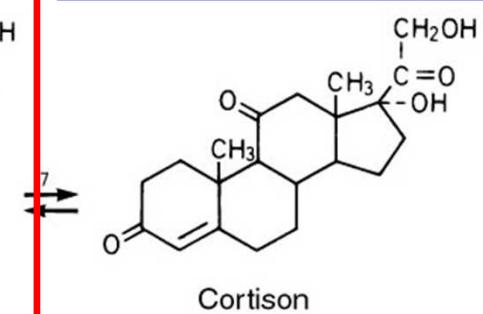
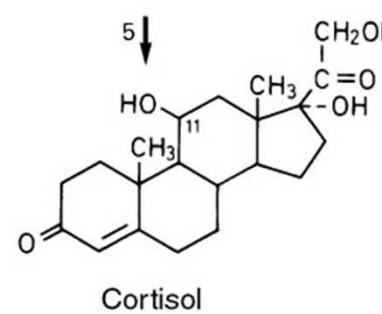
nicht in NNR



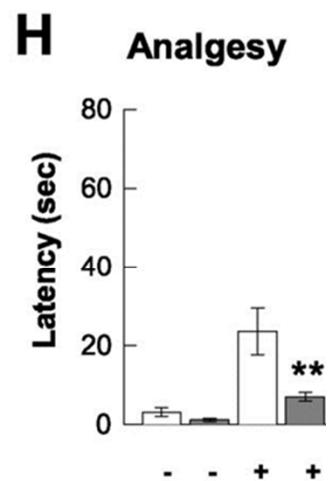
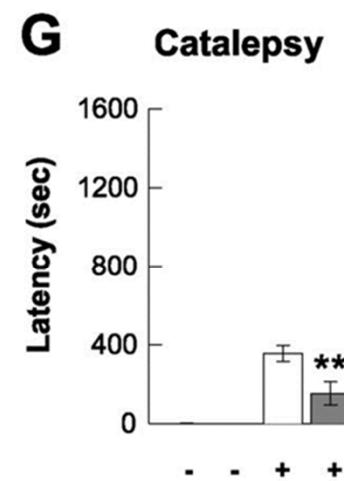
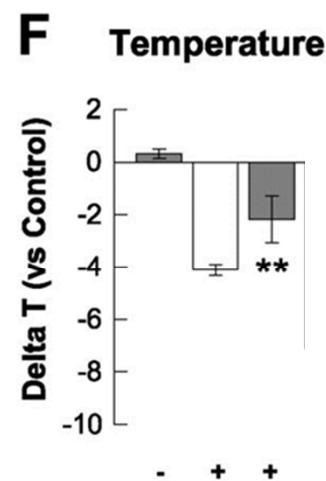
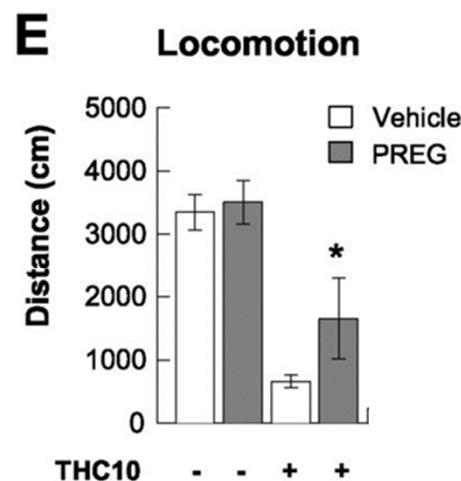
## Mineralocorticoide



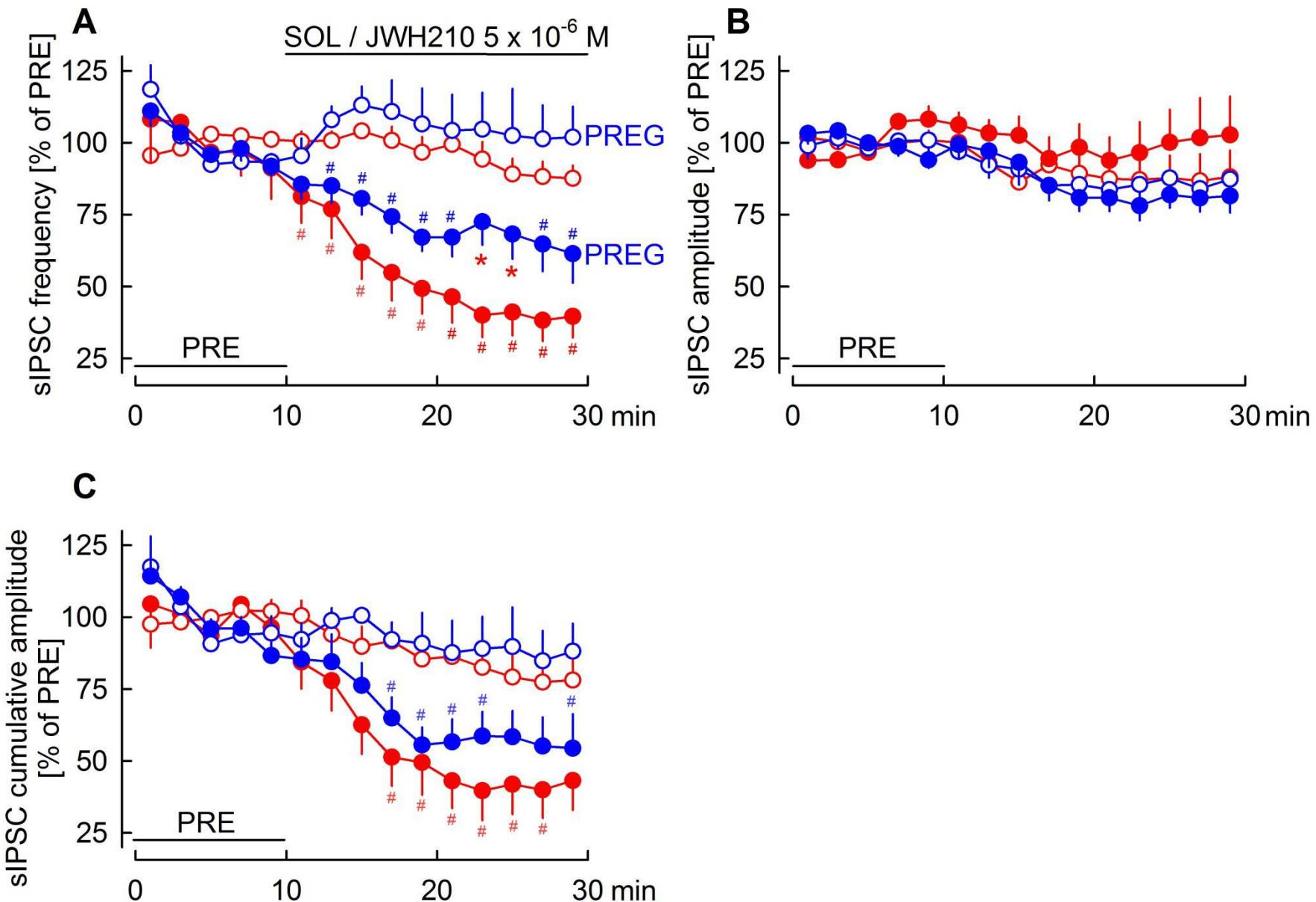
Glucocorticoid



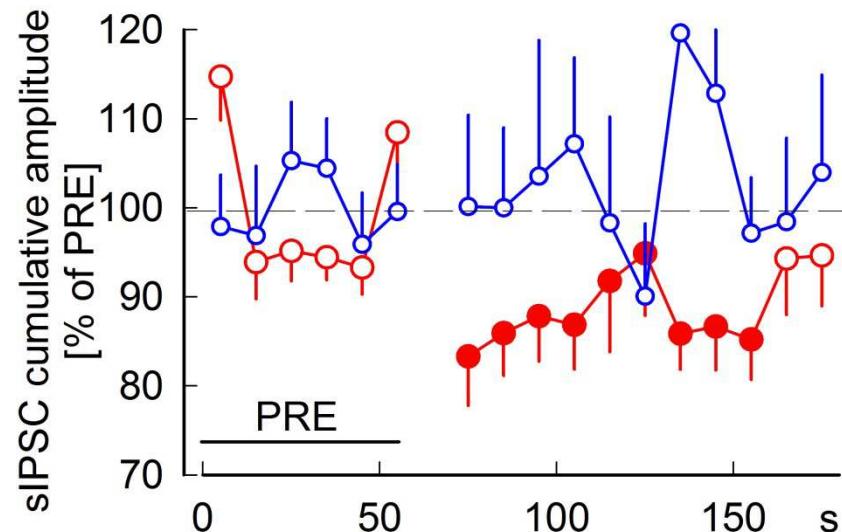
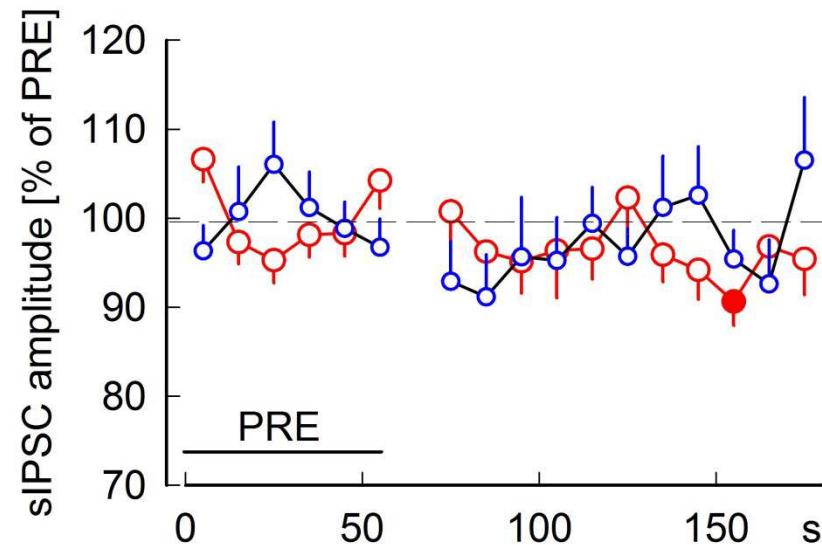
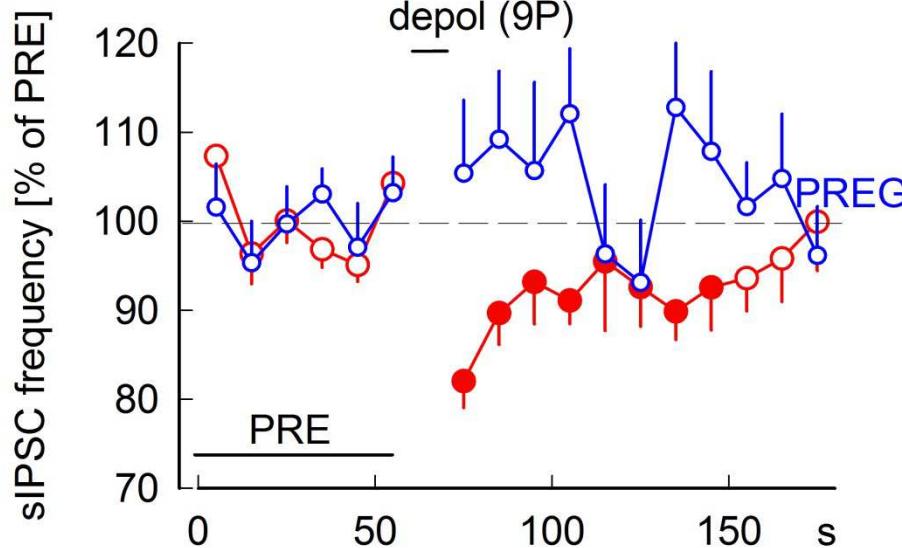
# Pregnenolone attenuates $\Delta^9$ -THC effects



# Pregnenolone attenuates the effects of JWH-210 on synaptic transmission

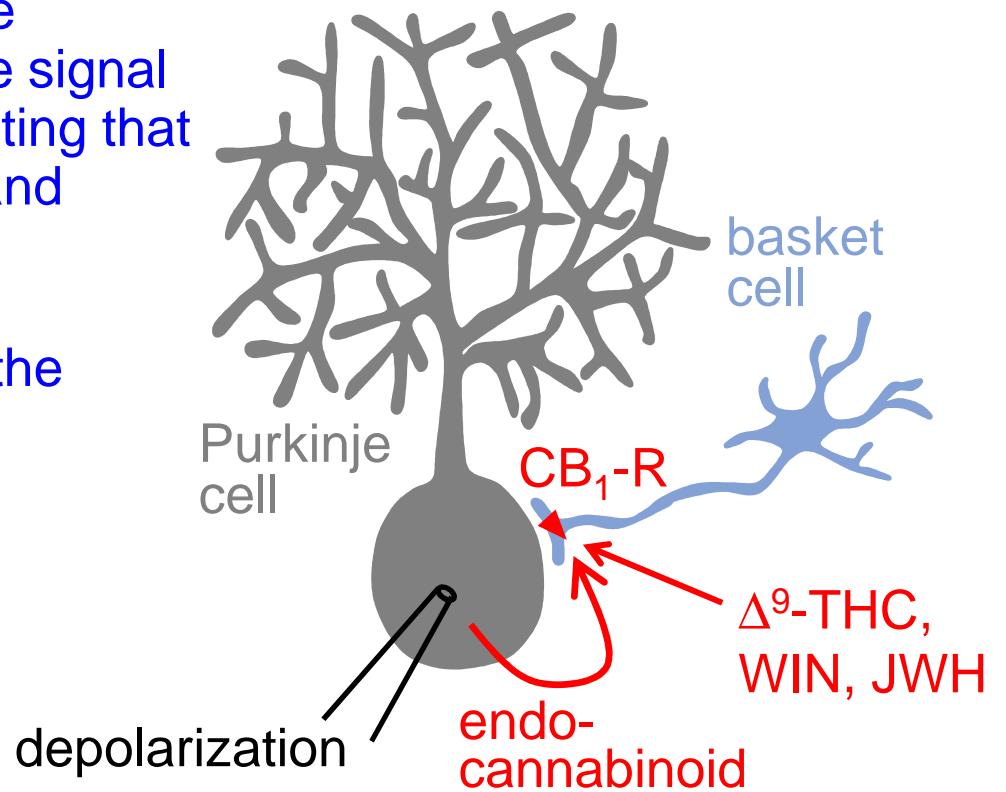


# Pregnenolone attenuates depolarization-induced suppression of inhibition (DSI)



## Summary

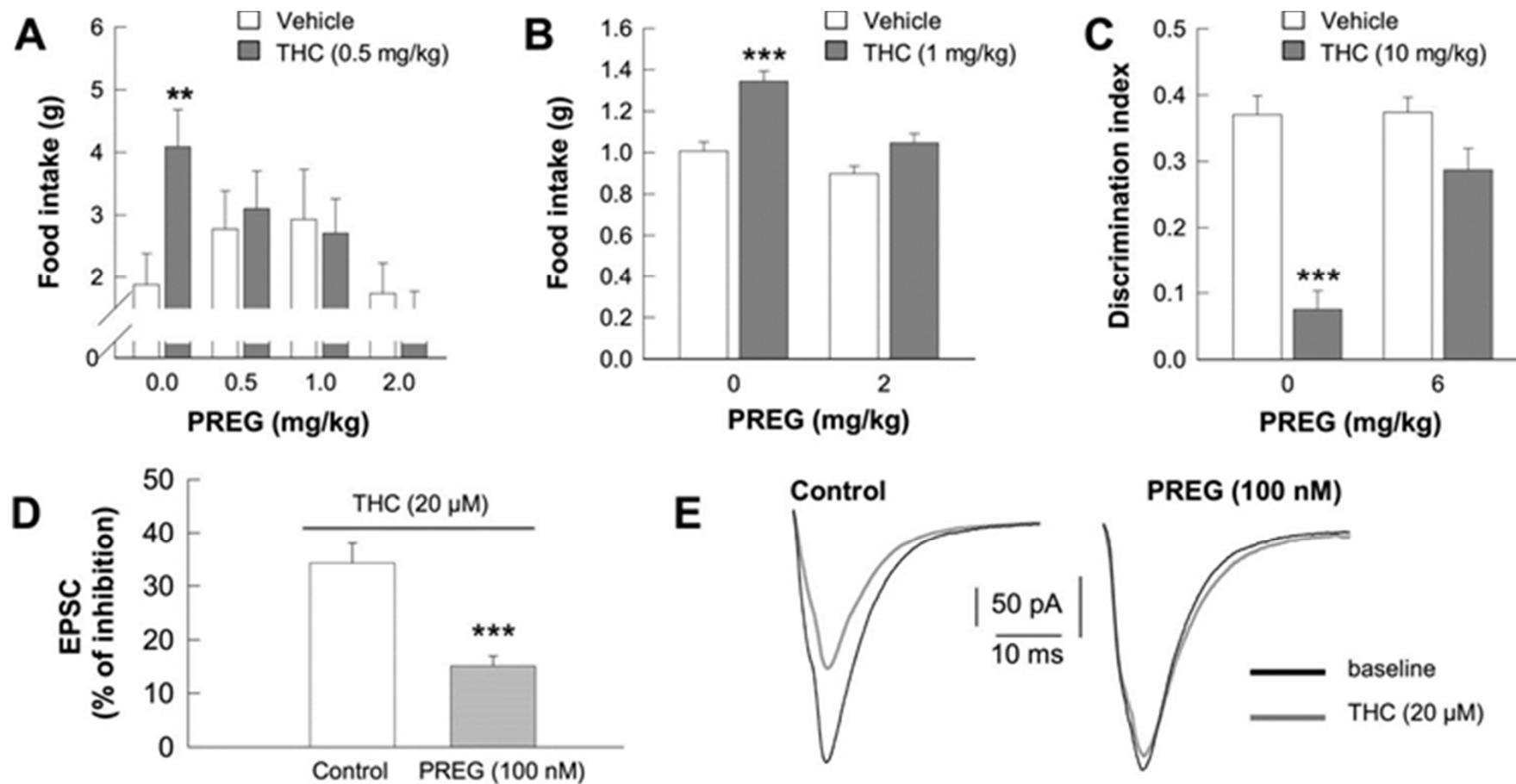
- 1) The synthetic aminoalkylindole cannabinoid JWH-210 (and JWH-018, UR-144, WIN-55212-2) inhibits GABAergic and glutamatergic synaptic transmission in the cerebellar cortex
- 2) The basis of the suppression is inhibition of GABA and glutamate release from the presynaptic axon terminals via CB<sub>1</sub> receptors
- 3) The synthetic cannabinoids occlude endocannabinoid-mediated retrograde signal transmission between neurons, indicating that they interfere with synaptic plasticity and memory
- 4) Synthetic cannabinoids act also in the human brain cortex
- 5) Pregnenolone may attenuate the effects of synthetic cannabinoids



A scenic view of the city of Freiburg, Germany, from a vantage point above the city. In the foreground, the tops of trees with vibrant autumn leaves (yellow, orange, and red) frame the scene. To the left, the dark, intricate spire of the Freiburg Minster (Kathedrale) rises prominently against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The city skyline below is composed of various buildings, including modern high-rise apartment complexes and older traditional houses. In the far distance, the silhouette of the Schwarzwald (Black Forest) mountains is visible under a hazy sky.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**

# Pregnenolone attenuates $\Delta^9$ -THC effects



# Human CB<sub>1</sub> receptor differs from rodent CB<sub>1</sub> receptor: Species-specific functionality of CB<sub>1</sub> receptors ?

**BJP** British Journal of  
Pharmacology

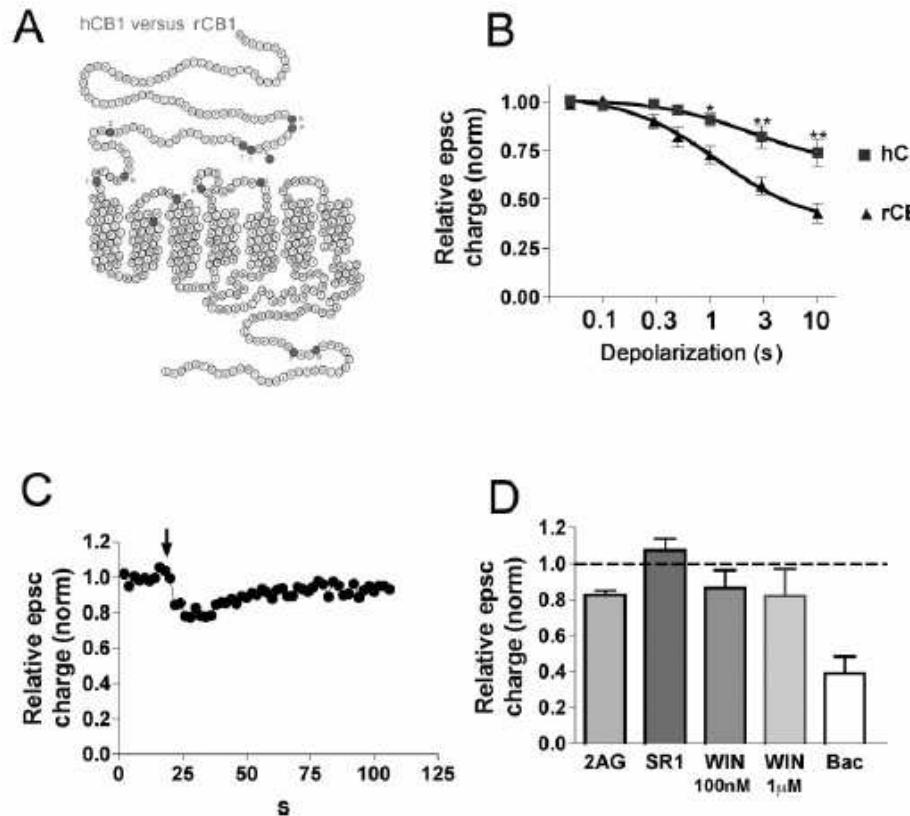
Themed Section: Cannabinoids in Biology and Medicine, Part II

## RESEARCH PAPER

### Differential signalling in human cannabinoid CB<sub>1</sub> receptors and their splice variants in autaptic hippocampal neurones

Alex Straiker, Jim Wager-Miller, Jacqueline Hutchens and Ken Mackie

Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Gill Center for Biomolecular Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA



**Figure 4**

hCB<sub>1</sub> receptors signal less robustly than rCB<sub>1</sub> receptors. (A) Helixnet diagram shows the structure of the hCB<sub>1</sub> receptor, with residues different from rCB<sub>1</sub> receptors shown in darker symbols. (B) DSE depolarization-response curve, representing inhibition in response to increasing durations of depolarization (50 ms, 100 ms, 300 ms, 500 ms, 1 s, 3 s, 10 s) in cells transfected with rCB<sub>1</sub> receptors or with hCB<sub>1</sub> receptors. \*P < 0.01; \*\*P < 0.001, two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test. (C) Typical DSE time course of an hCB<sub>1</sub> receptor-transfected neurone in response to a 3 s depolarization (arrow). (D) Bar graph shows responses to endocannabinoid 2-AG (5 μM), the CB<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist SR1 (200 nM), the synthetic CB<sub>1</sub> agonist WIN (100 nM and 1 μM) and the GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor agonist baclofen (Bac; 25 μM) in hCB<sub>1</sub> receptor-transfected neurones.



## Acute toxicity due to the confirmed consumption of synthetic cannabinoids: clinical and laboratory findings

Maren Hermanns-Clausen<sup>1</sup>\*, Stefan Kneisel<sup>2</sup>\*, Bela Szabo<sup>3</sup> & Volker Auwärter<sup>2</sup>

Poisons Information Center Freiburg, University Medical Center Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany,<sup>1</sup> Institute of Forensic Medicine, University Medical Center Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany<sup>2</sup> and Institute of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany<sup>3</sup>

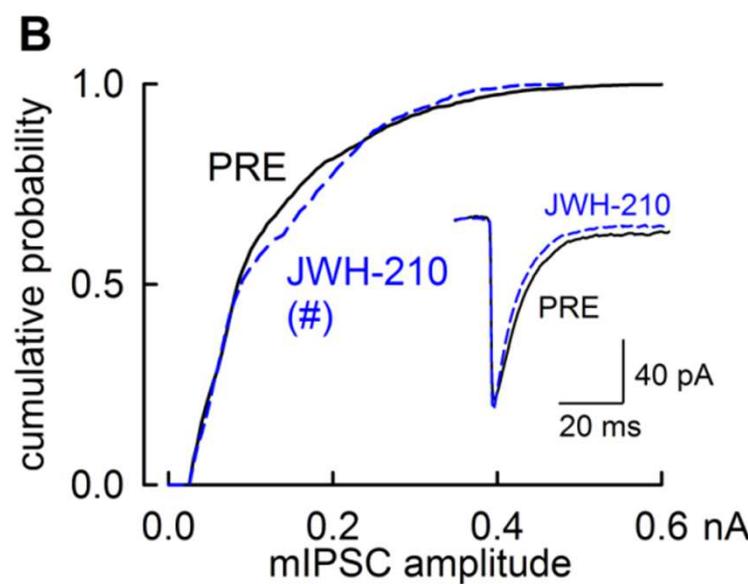
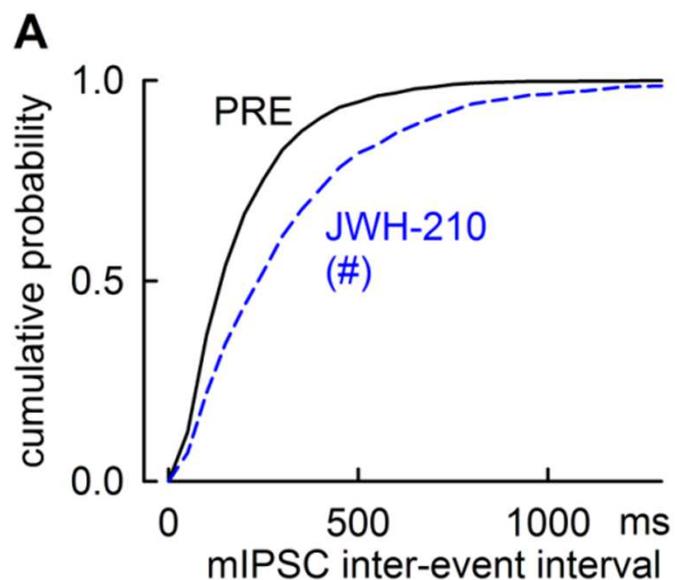
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in all probability, higher than the percentage of first-time consumers within the complete user population and may indicate that first-time users are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of these compounds. A similar vulnerability may also be true for high-dose cannabis. This is suggested, for example, by reports on small children who developed pronounced adverse effects such as unconsciousness after accidental ingestion of  $\Delta^9$ -THC [30,31]. In contrast to first-time consumers, regular consumers can have high concentrations of synthetic cannabinoids in their blood (up to 17 ng/ml of JWH-081 and 8 ng/ml of JWH-018) and are still devoid of toxic symptoms [64]. The lack of adverse effects in these patients suggests development of tolerance. Development of tolerance was also described in a patient after continued abuse of a product containing CP-47,497-C8 and JWH-018 [65]. Rapid and potent CB<sub>1</sub> receptor internalization was observed in *in-vitro* experiments with

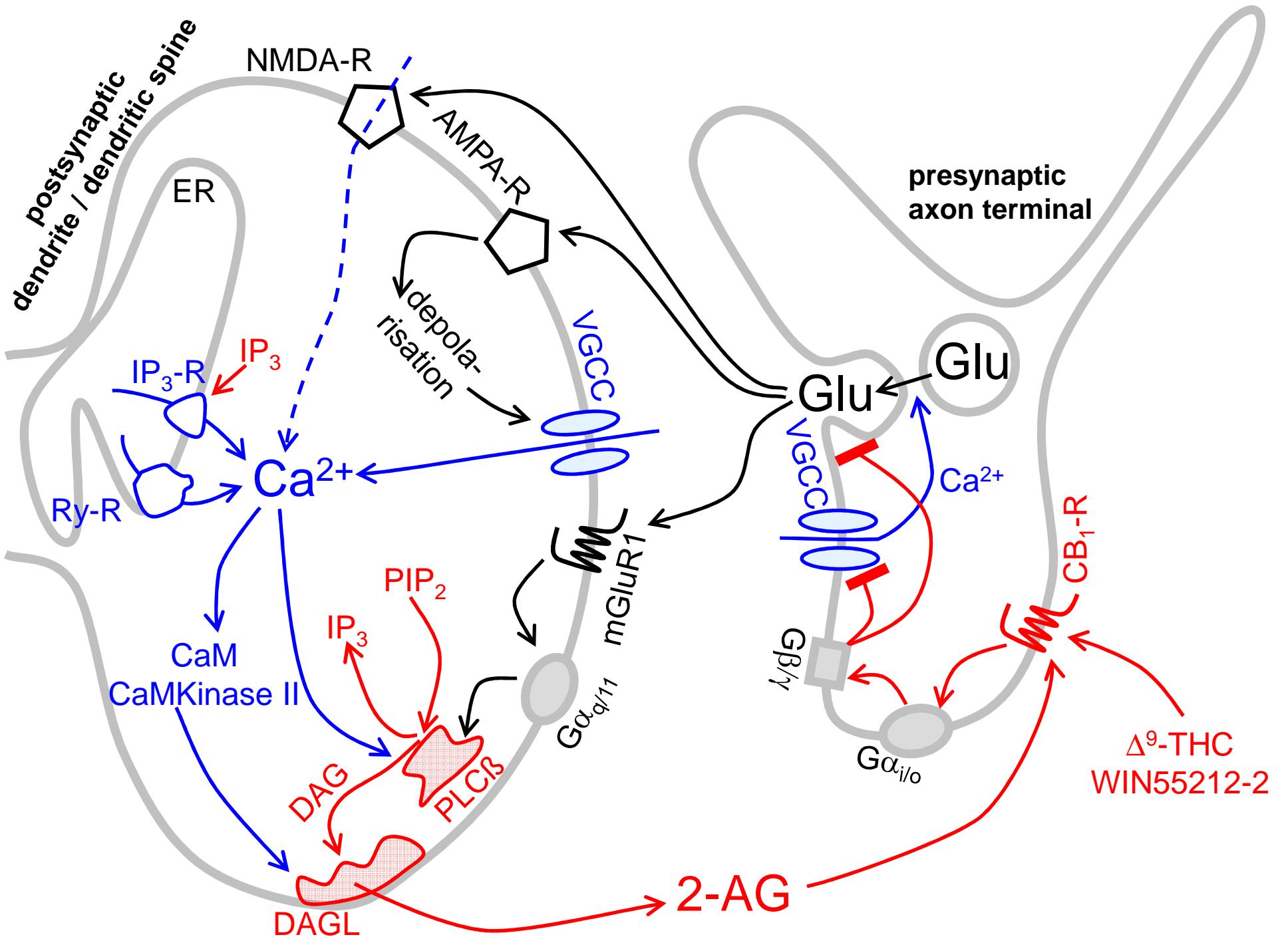
## CONCLUSIONS

From 2008 to 2011 a shift to the extremely potent synthetic cannabinoids JWH-122 and JWH-210 occurred. One reason for this shift can be seen in changes in the legal control of these drugs, i.e. placing further substances under the German controlled substances legislation. In intoxications with herbal mixtures enriched with synthetic cannabinoids, symptoms were mostly similar to adverse effects after high-dose cannabis. However, agitation, seizures, hypertension, emesis and hypokalaemia also occurred—symptoms which are usually not seen even after high doses of cannabis. It is likely that these symptoms were due to strong stimulation of CB<sub>1</sub> receptors, because the synthetic cannabinoids are high-affinity and high-efficacy agonists of the CB<sub>1</sub> receptor. Our results suggest that the synthetic cannabinoids elicit more serious acute adverse effects than cannabis products.

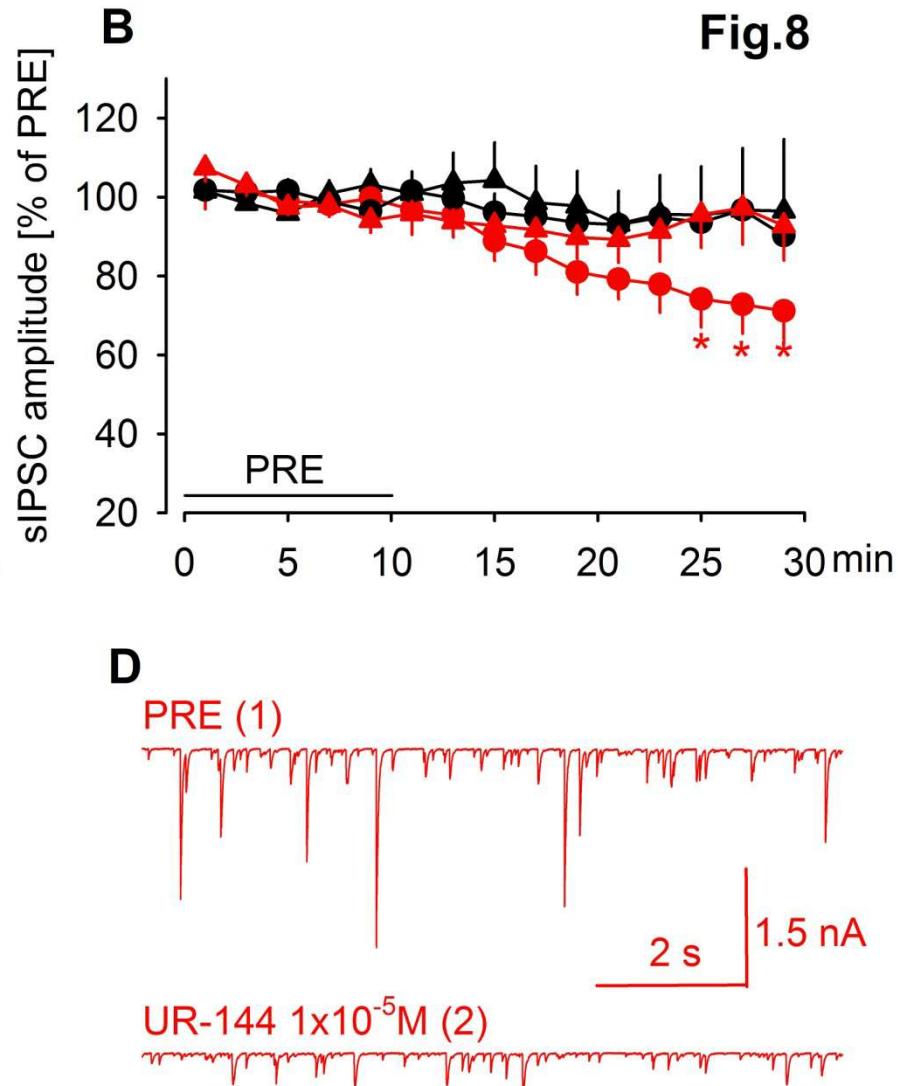
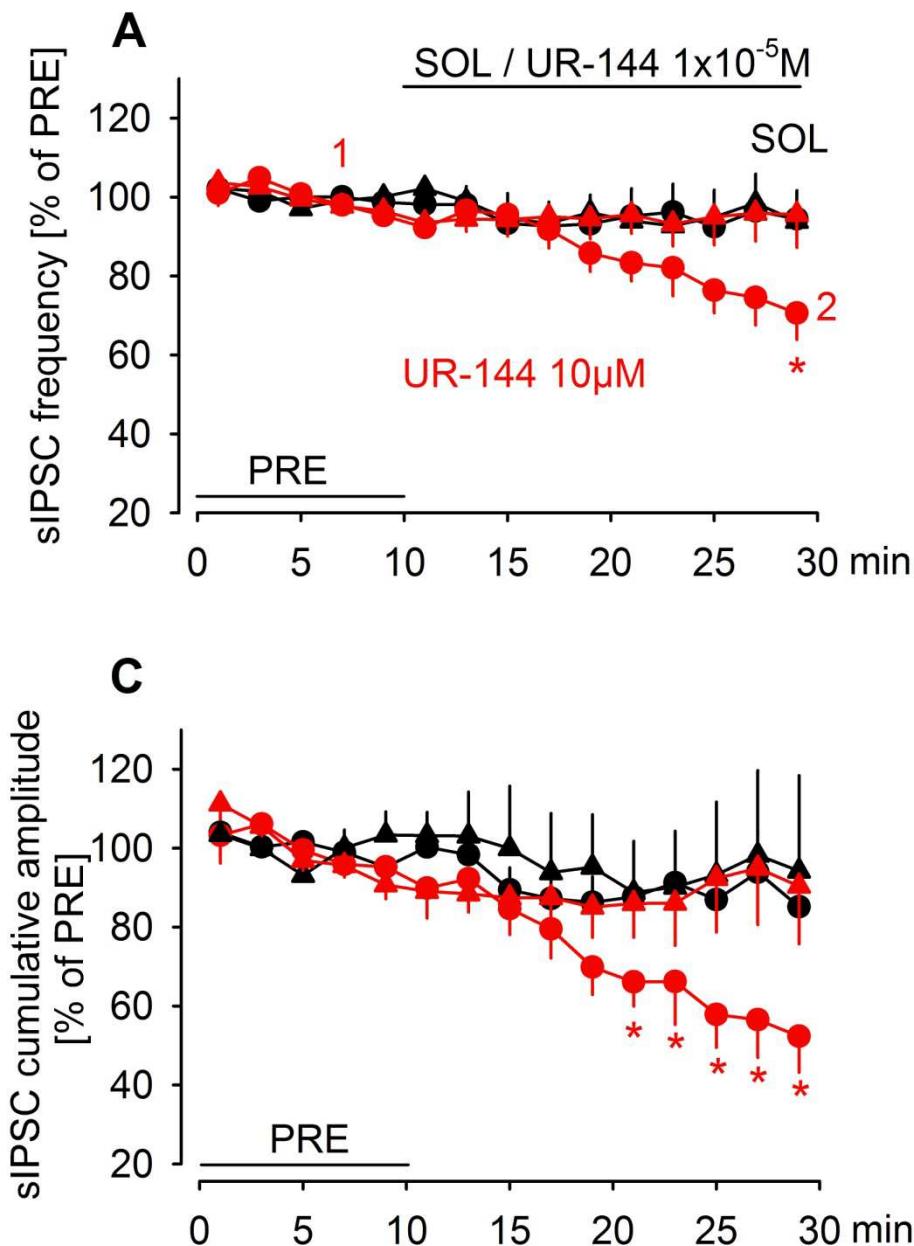
# JWH-210 suppresses mIPSCs



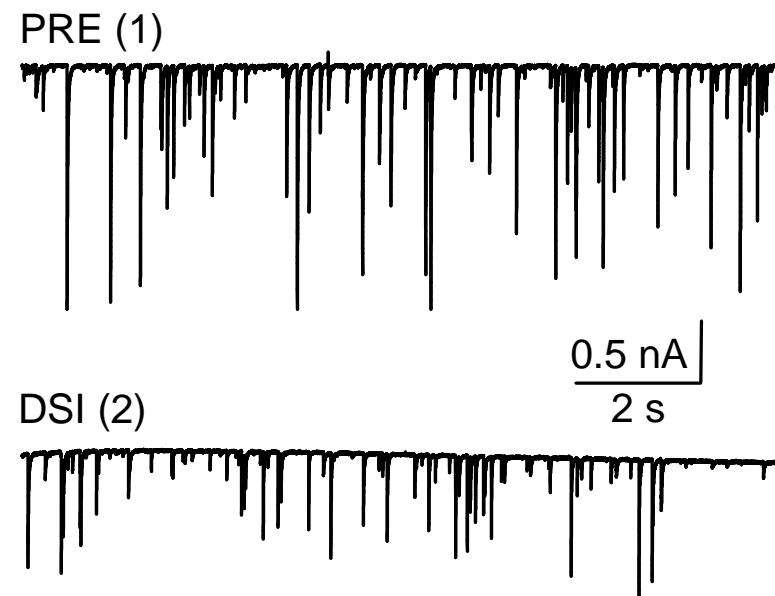
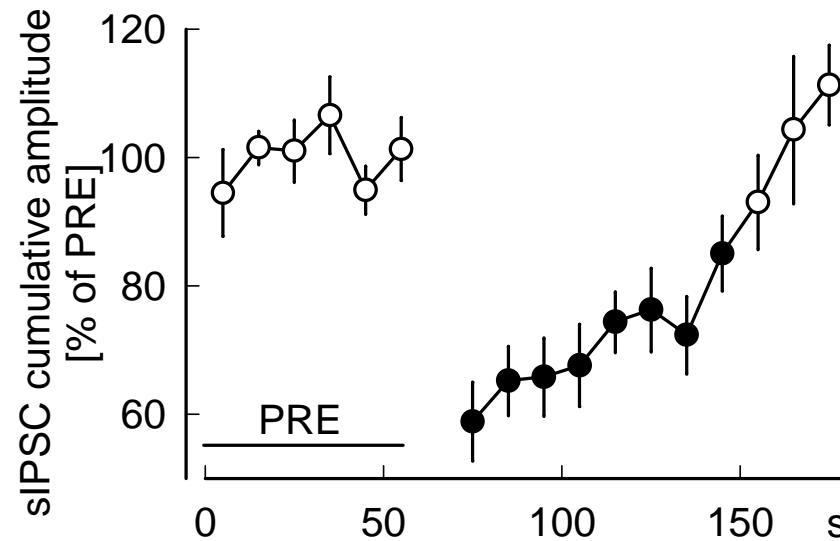
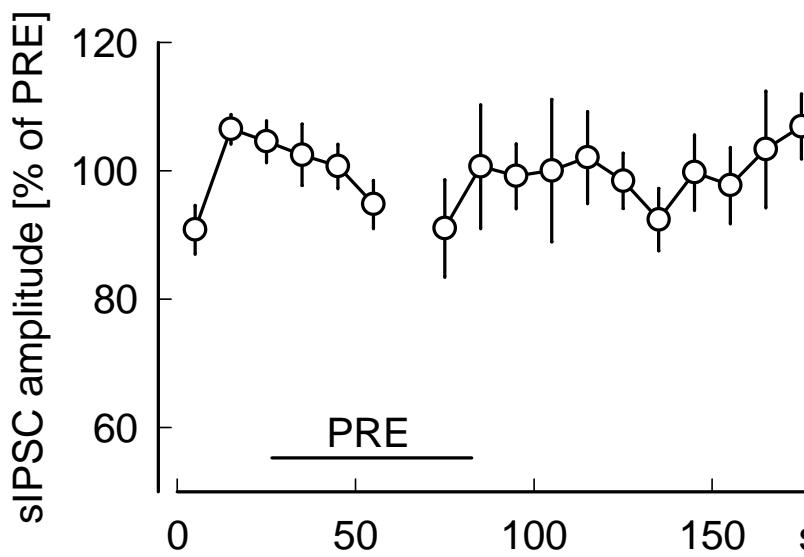
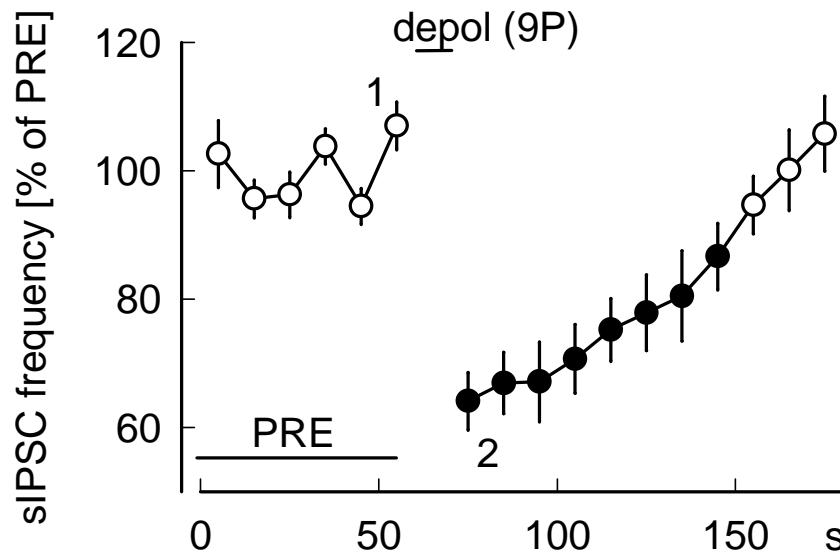
mIPSC = miniature inhibitory postsynaptic currents



# UR-144 inhibits GABAergic synaptic transmission



# Depolarisation-induced suppression of inhibition (DSI)



# Synthetic cannabinoids from John William Huffman: JWH-compounds



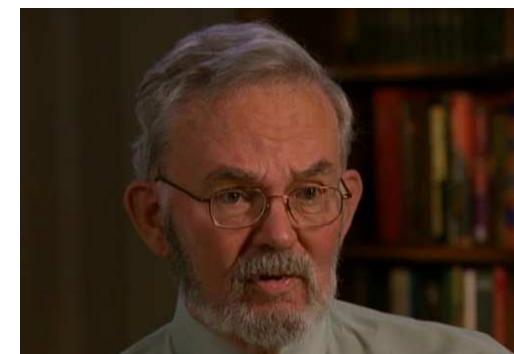
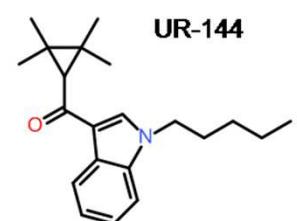
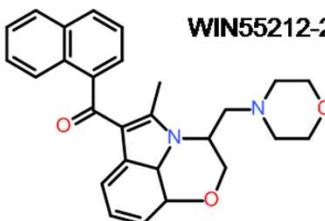
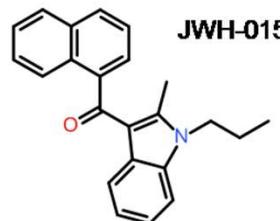
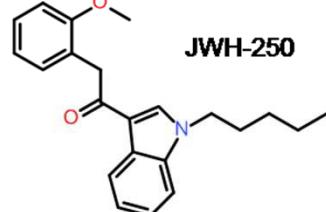
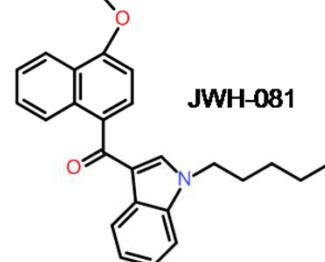
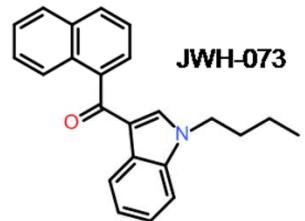
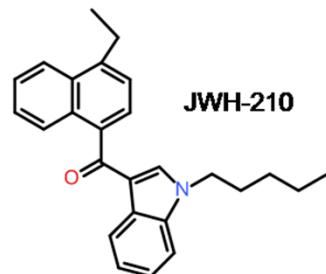
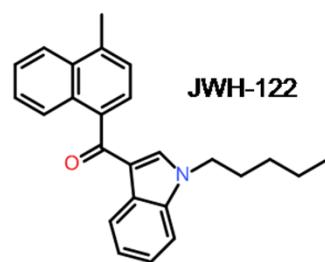
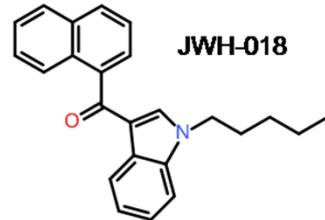
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## 3-Indolyl-1-naphthylmethanes: New Cannabimimetic Indoles Provide Evidence for Aromatic Stacking Interactions with the CB<sub>1</sub> Cannabinoid Receptor

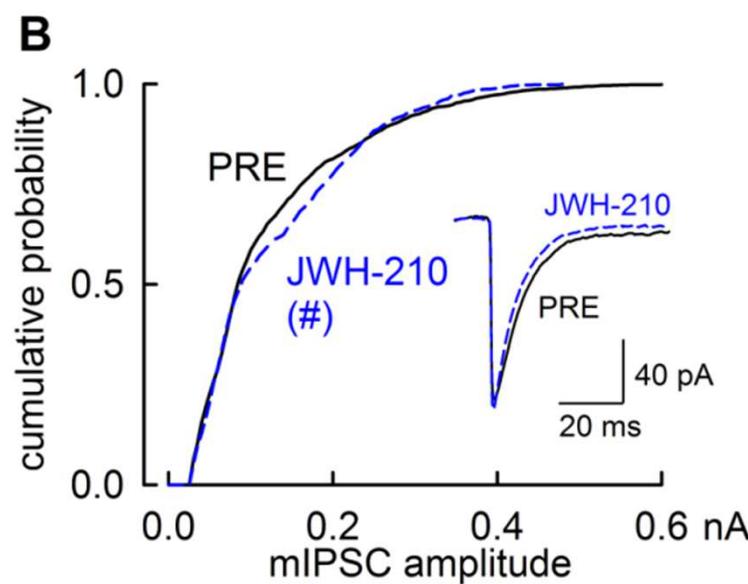
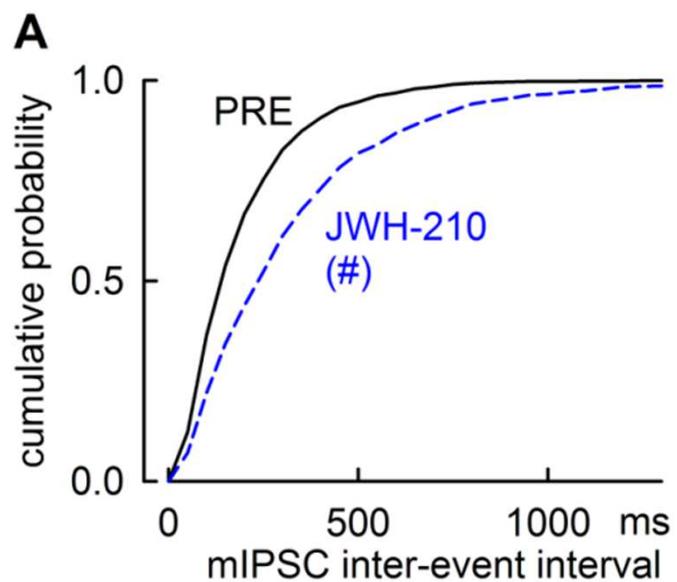
John W. Huffman,<sup>a,\*</sup> Ross Mabon,<sup>a</sup> Ming-Jung Wu,<sup>a</sup> Jianzhong Lu,<sup>a</sup> Richard Hart,<sup>b</sup> Dow P. Hurst,<sup>b</sup> Patricia H. Reggio,<sup>b</sup> Jenny L. Wiley<sup>c</sup> and Billy R. Martin<sup>c</sup>



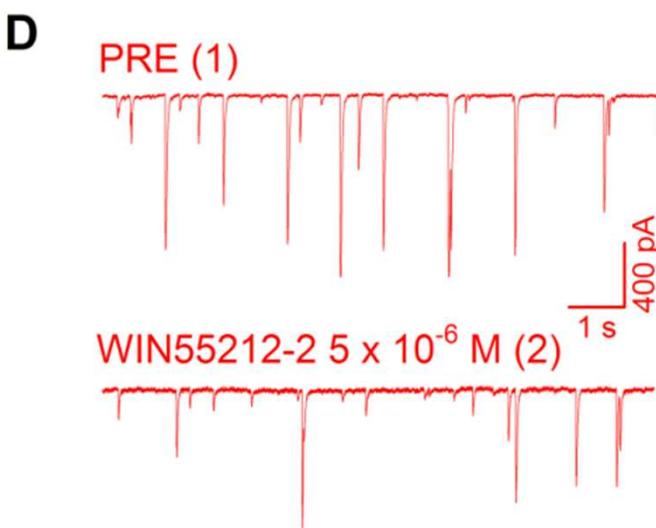
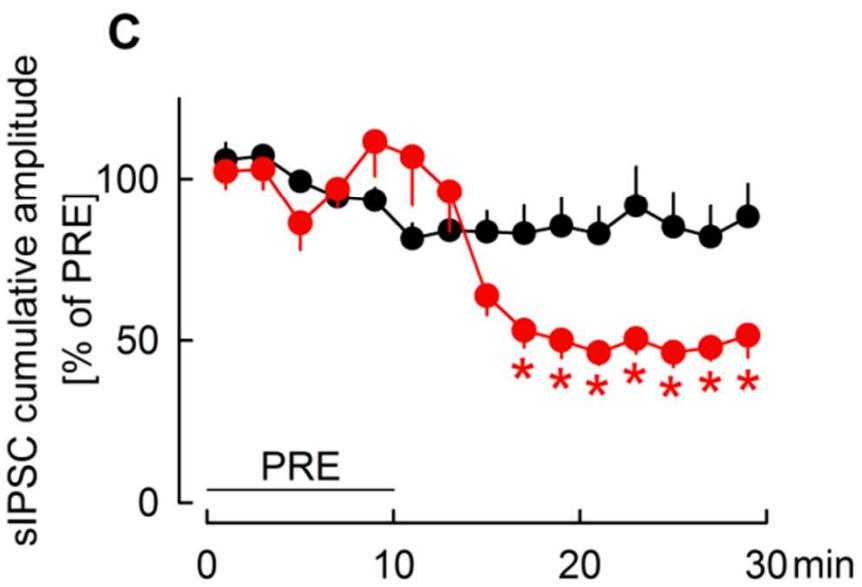
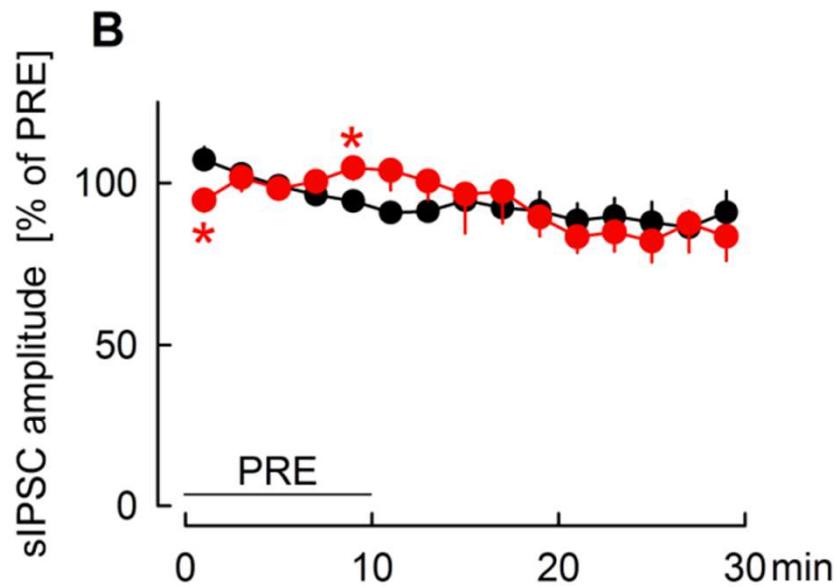
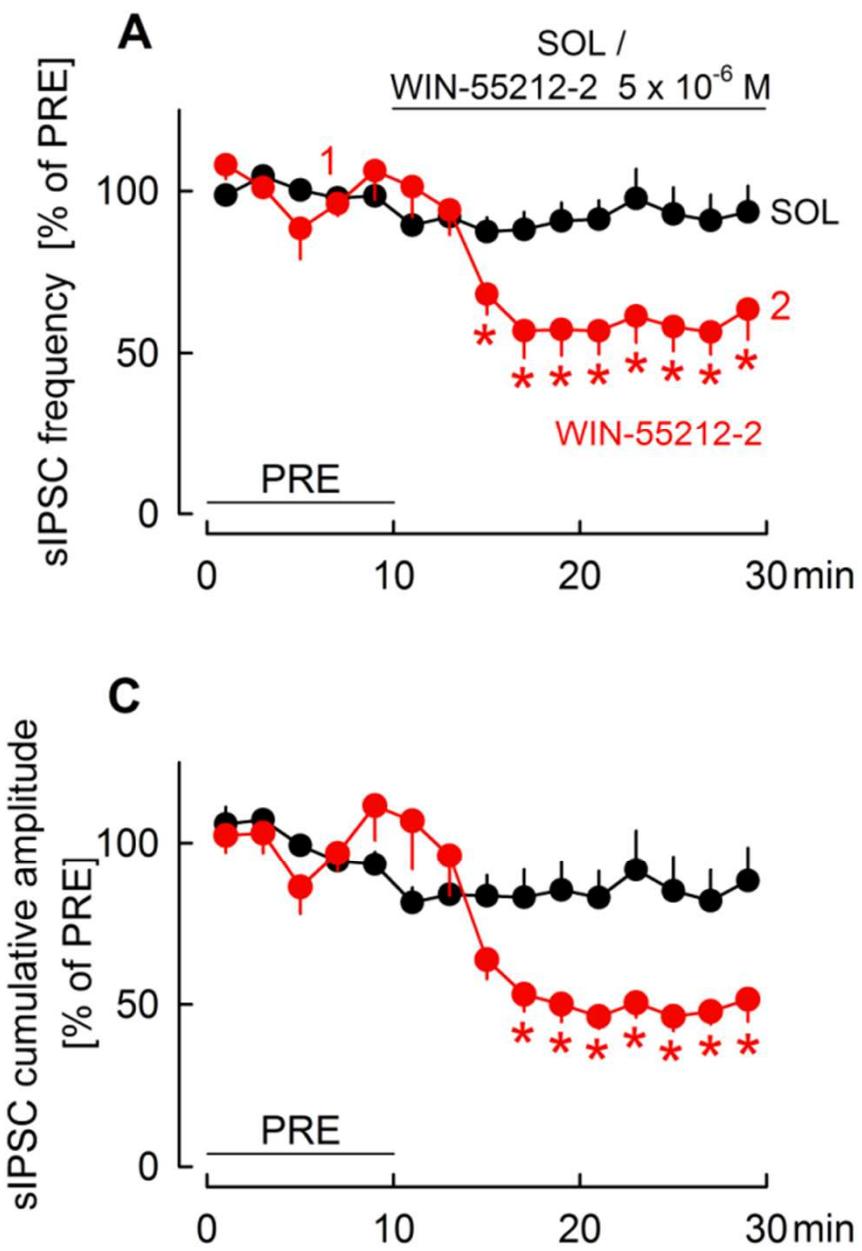
# Synthetic cannabinoids added to smoked herbal mixtures inhibit GABAergic and glutamatergic synaptic transmission

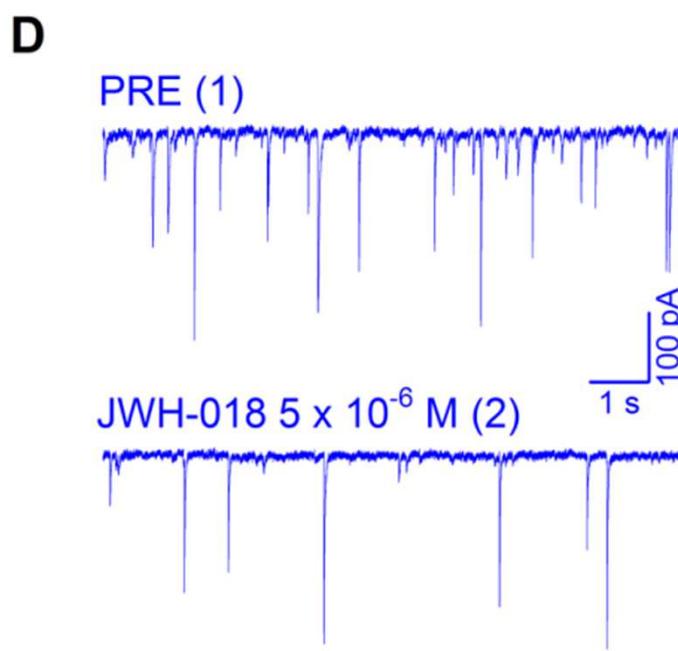
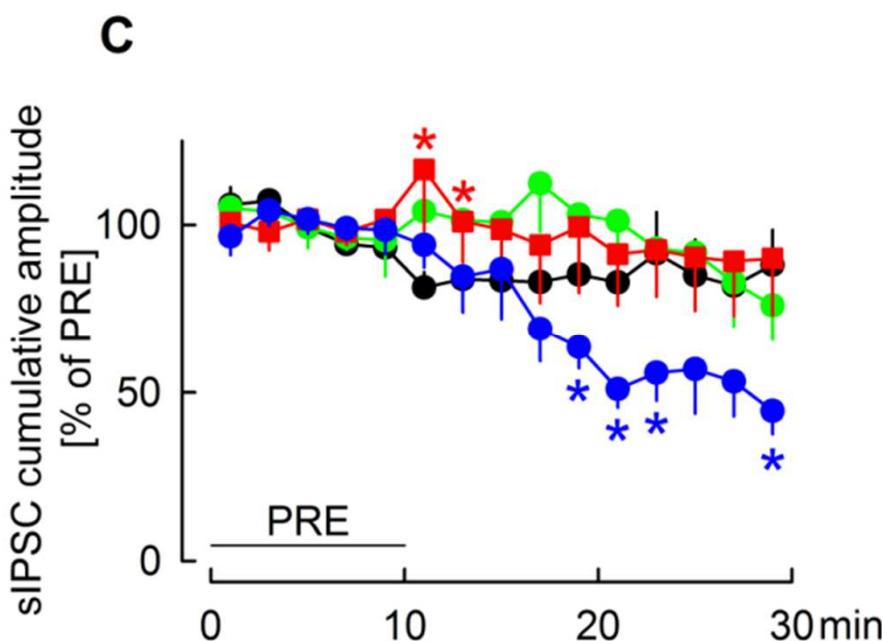
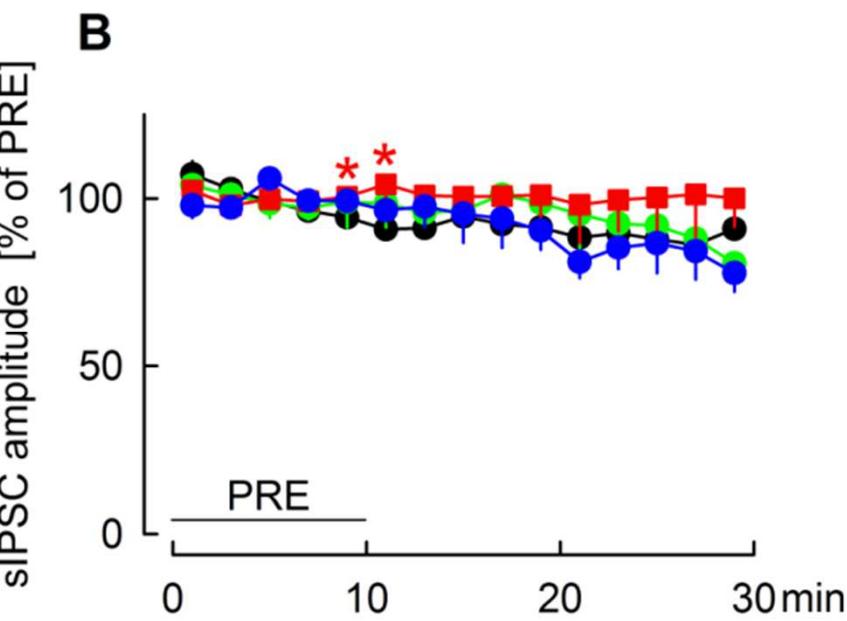
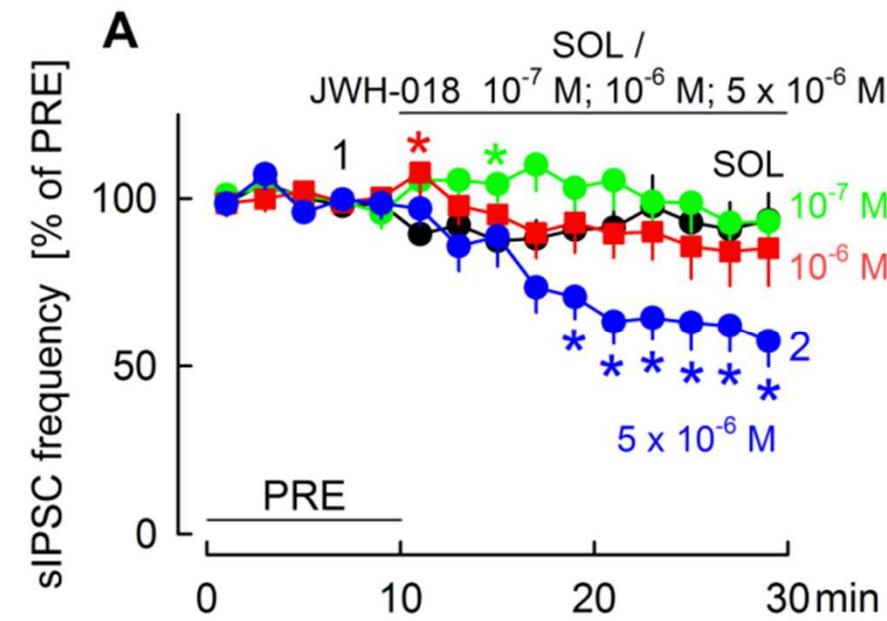
Eszter Boros, Mario Lederer,,  
Bela Szabo  
Inst. f. Pharmakologie  
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität  
Freiburg

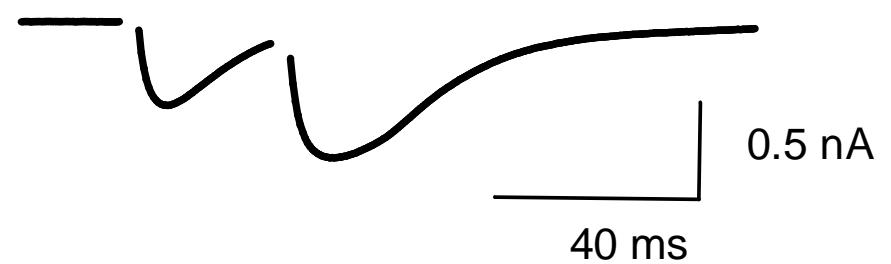
# JWH-210 suppresses mIPSCs



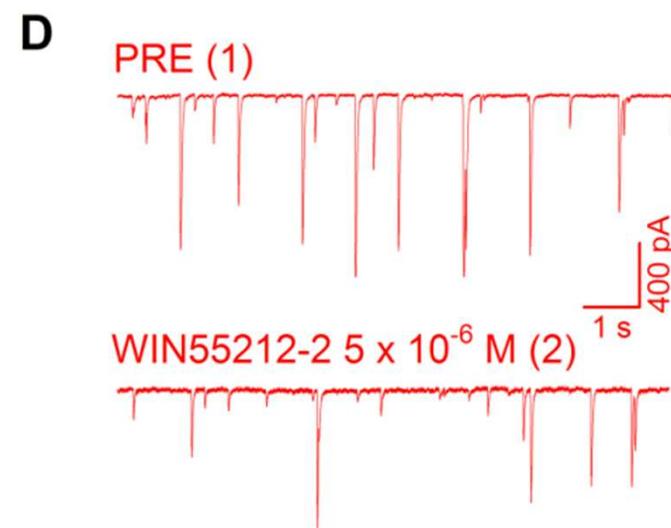
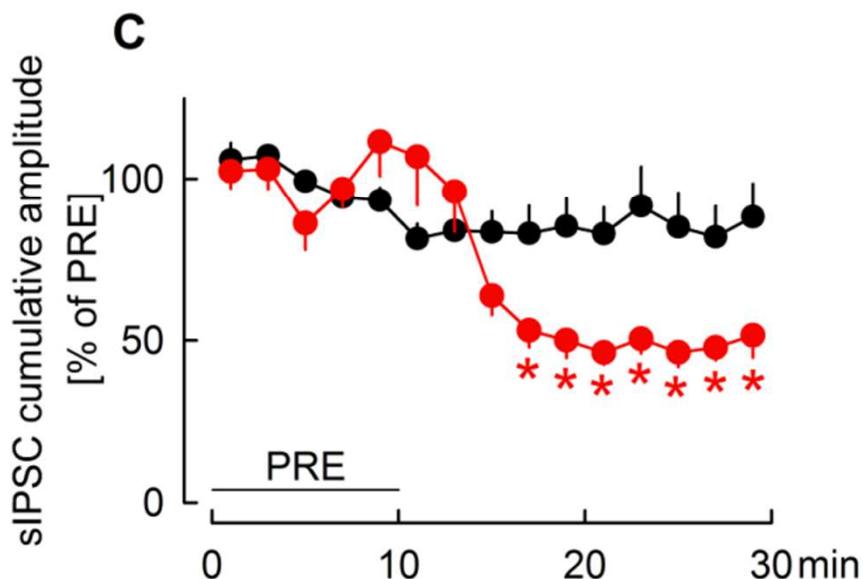
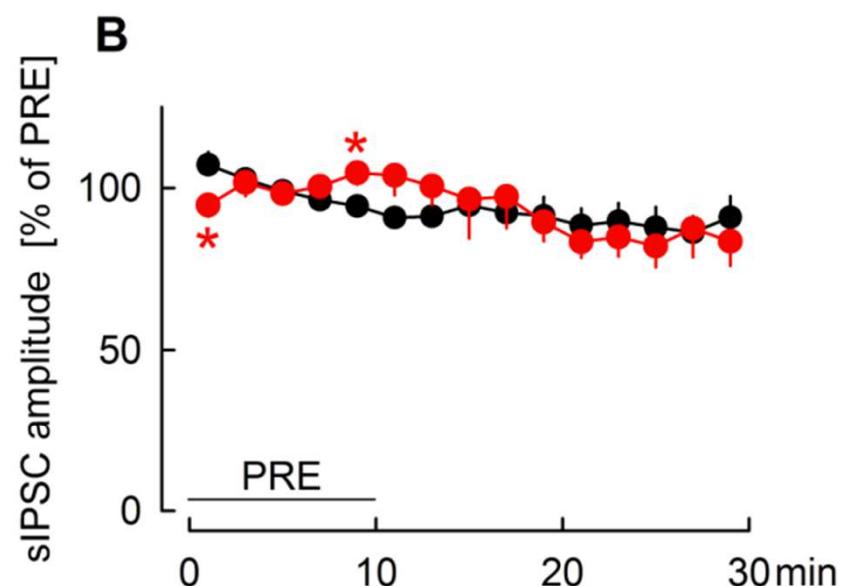
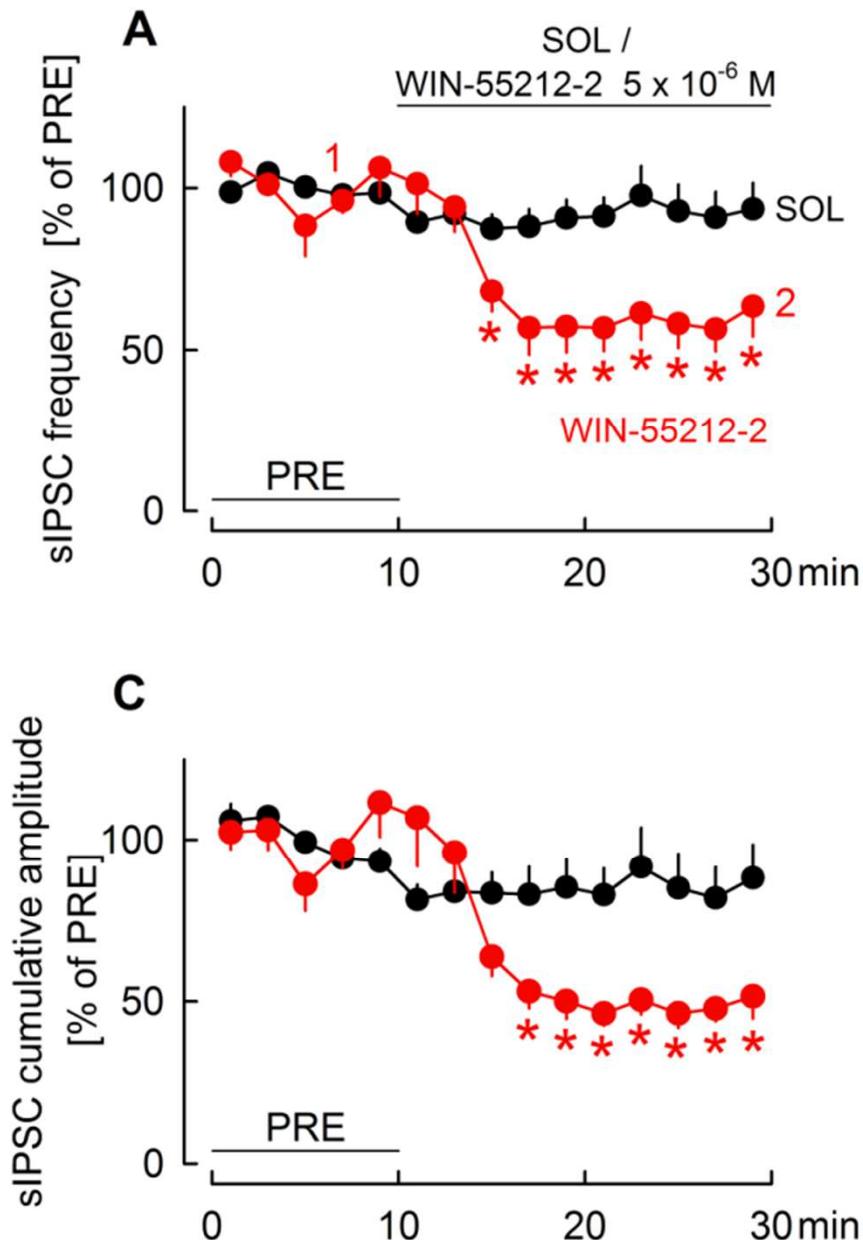
mIPSC = miniature inhibitory postsynaptic currents





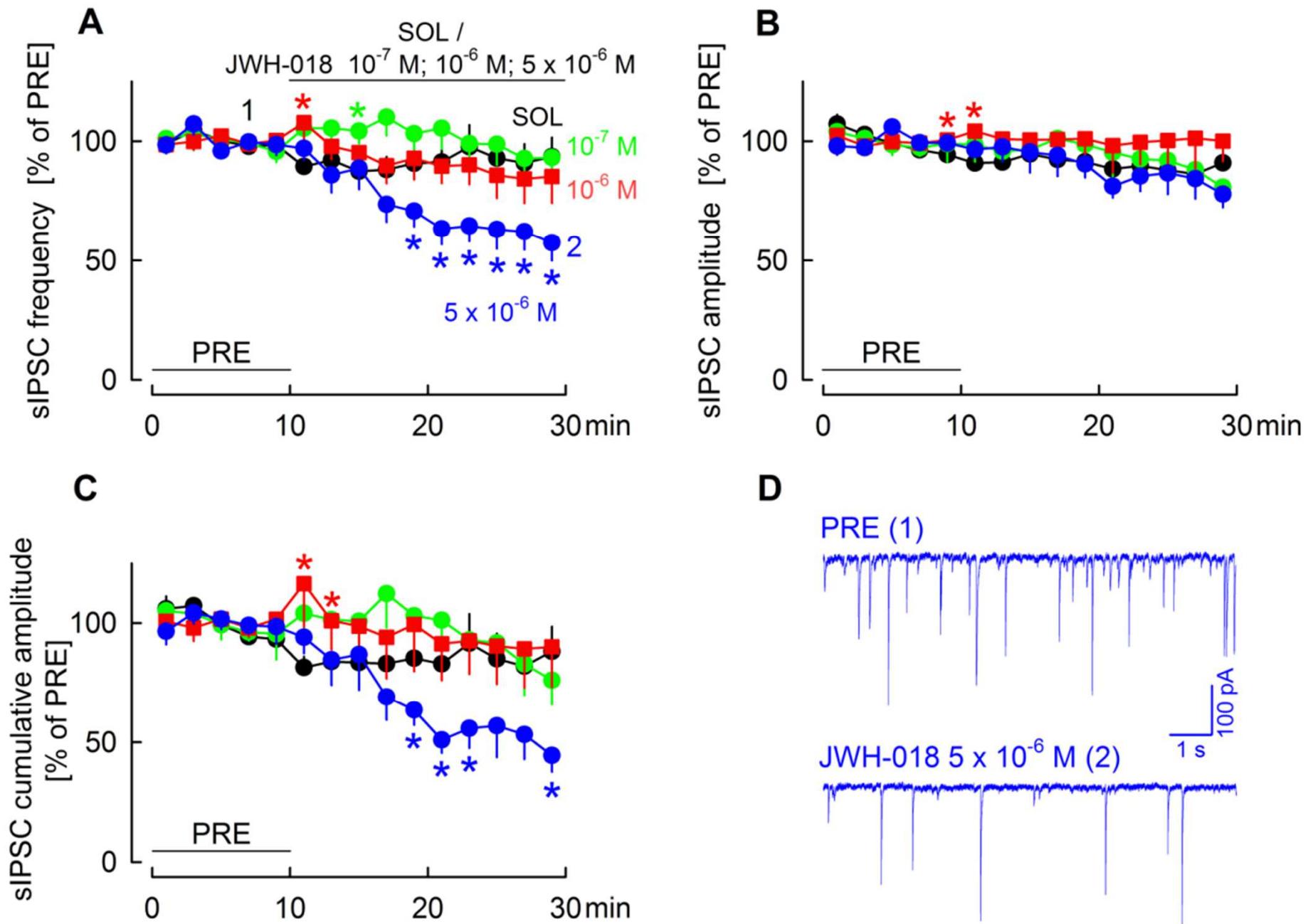


# WIN55212-2 inhibits GABAergic synaptic transmission



sIPSC = spontaneous inhibitory postsynaptic currents

# JWH-018 inhibits GABAergic synaptic transmission



# Synthetic cannabinoids added to smoked herbal mixtures inhibit GABAergic and glutamatergic synaptic transmission



Bela Szabo  
Eszter Boros  
Martin Brehm

Inst. f. Pharmakologie  
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität  
Freiburg

# Aim of the study: characterization of the neuronal effect of synthetic cannabinoids

