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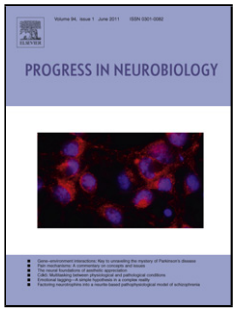

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Authors: Scott M. Schafer, Stephan Geuter, Tor D. Wager

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Mechanisms of placebo analgesia: A dual-process model informed by insights from cross-species comparisons

Scott M. Schafer[1], Stephan Geuter[1,2,3], and Tor D. Wager[1,2]

[1] Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of Colorado, Boulder, 345 UCB, Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA.

[2] Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado Boulder, 344 UCB, Boulder, Colorado 80309, USA

[3] Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University, 615 N Wolfe St, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA

Correspondence to T.D.W.

e-mail: Tor.Wager@Colorado.edu

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Highlights

- We propose a dual-process model of placebo analgesia, in which strong placebo responses are created by appropriate flexible conceptual beliefs, reinforced by affective experiences (reward and punishment).
- Cognitive schemas, mental representations of the self in context, are critical for many forms of placebo analgesia.
- An extensive review of animal studies on behavioral analgesia is used to inform a neural systems implementation of the model
- The model predicts that opioidergic neurotransmission underlies expectation-dependent placebo analgesia and cannabinoidergic neurotransmissions supports expectation-independent placebo analgesia.

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