# Long term effects of inescapable footshock on ventral tegmental area dopamine cell activity Nadia Corral-Frías, <sup>1,2</sup>José Valdés, <sup>2</sup>Jean-Marc Fellous and Edward French<sup>4</sup>

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• Statistical analyses were performed with Sigma Stat 3.5. \*=p<.05, \*\*=p<.01

• Shocked rats show elevated stress levels, avoidance for places that resemble those where the shock was given, higher anxiety levels and increased pain sensitivity. These

Low activity rats show stronger long lasting anxiety levels than high activity rats.

• Dopamine cells of the VTA in shocked rats show a significant trend towards lower

• These findings suggest that the VTA may undergo long-term physiological changes triggered by a single intense stressful event. These changes have the potential to affect

Grace AA and Bunney BS (1983) Intracellular and extracellular electrophysiology of nigral dopaminergic neurons–1. Identification