

Cognitive Neuroscience Treatment Research to Improve Cognition in Schizophrenia



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#### **Steering Committee**

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# **Translational Neuroscience**

Clinical trials targeting cognitive and emotional processing deficits

Behavioral and neuroimaging studies of normal and disordered cognitive and emotional processing in humans

Behavioral, non invasive and invasive studies of normal and disordered cognitive and emotional processing in animal models

> Basic molecular, cellular and systems neuroscience and neuropharmacology

## **Tools and Constructs of Cognitive Neuroscience: The Opportunities**

- Measure specific deficits in discrete cognitive systems and component processes
- Linked to identifiable neural systems
- Functionally regulated by identifiable neuromodulatory systems
- Distinguish between specific deficits versus generalized deficits such as sedation, dysphoria, poor test taking skills, etc.
- Bridge human and animal models of cognition, facilitate translational research

### Tools and Constructs of Cognitive Neuroscience: The Challenges

- No general consensus regarding constructs from cognitive psychology that should be measured
- Uncertain psychometric properties and practicalities of administration
- No generally agreed upon tasks for measuring specific mechanisms

The CNTRICS Process: **Surveys and Meetings** Meeting 1, Bethesda 2/26-7: Constructs Meeting 2, St. Louis 9/28: Measurement issues (psychometrics, task optimization) Meeting 3, Sacramento 2 2008: Task selection and development

**Tools and Constructs of Cognitive** Neuroscience: Meeting 1, Constructs Consensus constructs/component processes to be measured in studies targeting impaired cognition in schizophrenia

# Meeting 1: Constructs

6 broad cognitive and affective systems relevant for impairments seen in schizophrenia (steering committee/survey) will be examined

Within these cognitive systems initial constructs and/or component processes generated and refined by survey will be considered

Task is to identify the most promising cognitive mechanisms to be targeted for measurement of treatment effects in schizophrenia

## Talks

Experts in basic cognitive neuroscience Focus on basic cognitive constructs and component processes, empirical evidence Relevance for schizophrenia Touch on the 8 criteria Provide a strong basic cognitive science perspective to help focus the breakout groups

## **Breakout Groups**

- Structured, consensus building discussion
- Use formal criteria (survey) to guide discussion
- Identify 1 or 2 most promising constructs for measurement in treatment studies of impaired cognition in schizophrenia
- Identify others for which more work, either at the basic or clinical level, is needed
- Identity constructs that are not likely to relevant as targets for measurement in treatment studies of cognition in schizophrenia

# **Products of Meeting 1**

 A set of priority constructs for task development in meeting 3
Papers summarizing talks and breakout

groups for publication