



Congrès

**INTERVENTION
PRÉCOCE ET
PRÉVENTION DES
PSYCHOSES**

Connaissances
actuelles
et orientations
futures

Conference

**EARLY
INTERVENTION
IN PSYCHOSIS**

Current knowledge
and future
directions

Neurocognition and Neuroimaging Correlates of Persistent Negative Symptoms

Cindy Hovington
Dr. Martin Lepage

NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS

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Anhedonia

Loss of Pleasure

Asociality

Decreased Social Drive

Avolition

Lack of Motivation

Blunted Affect

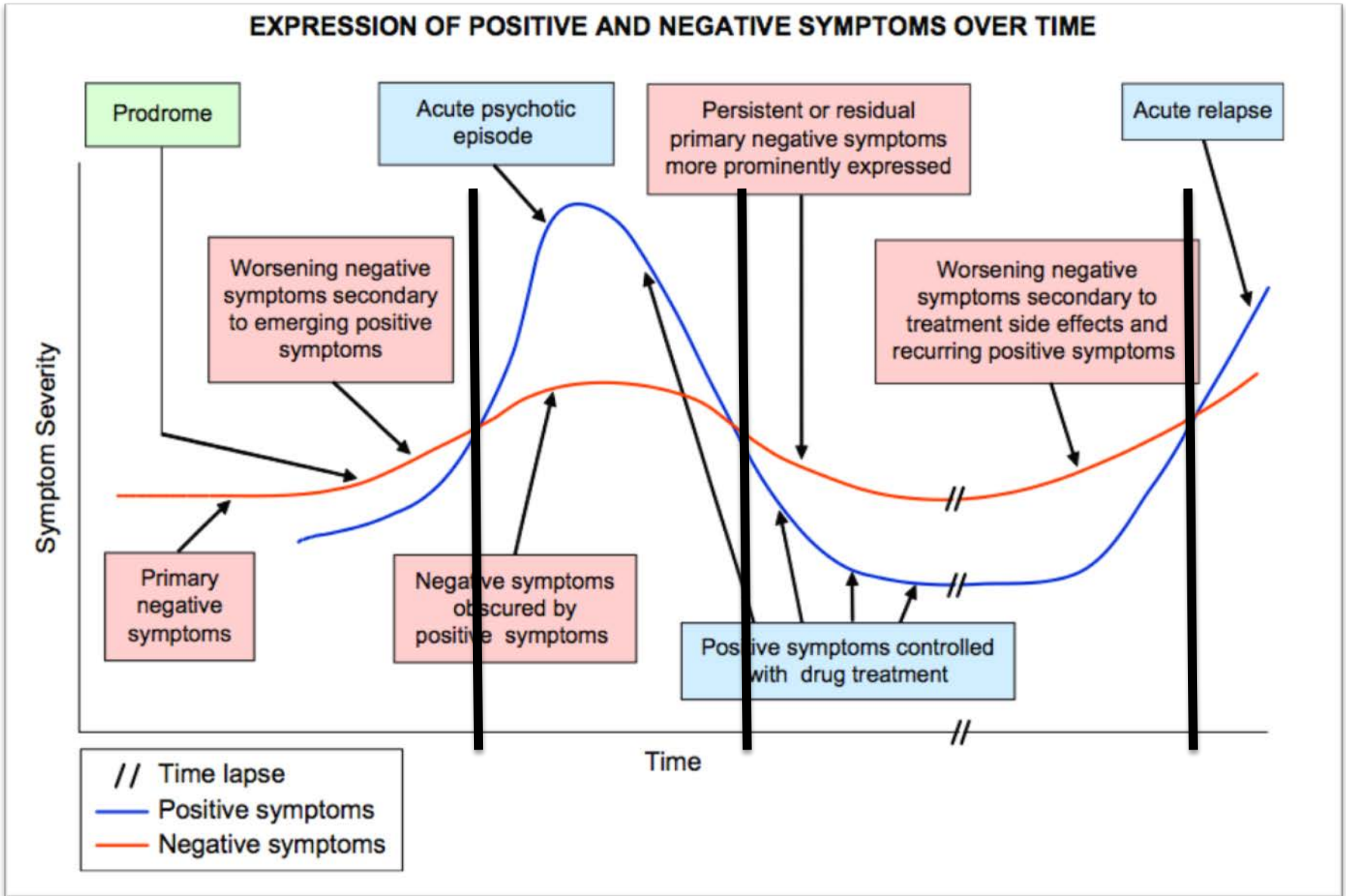
Emotional Unresponsiveness

Alogia

Impoverished Speech

Kirkpatrick et al. 2006

EXPRESSION OF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS OVER TIME



Moller 2007 – *Eur Psychiatry*

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF PERSISTENT NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS?



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1

Contribute to poor functional and clinical outcome
outcome (Ho et al. 1998; Bodnar et al. 2008)

2

Related to elevated levels of treatment
discontinuation (Galderisi et al. 2012)

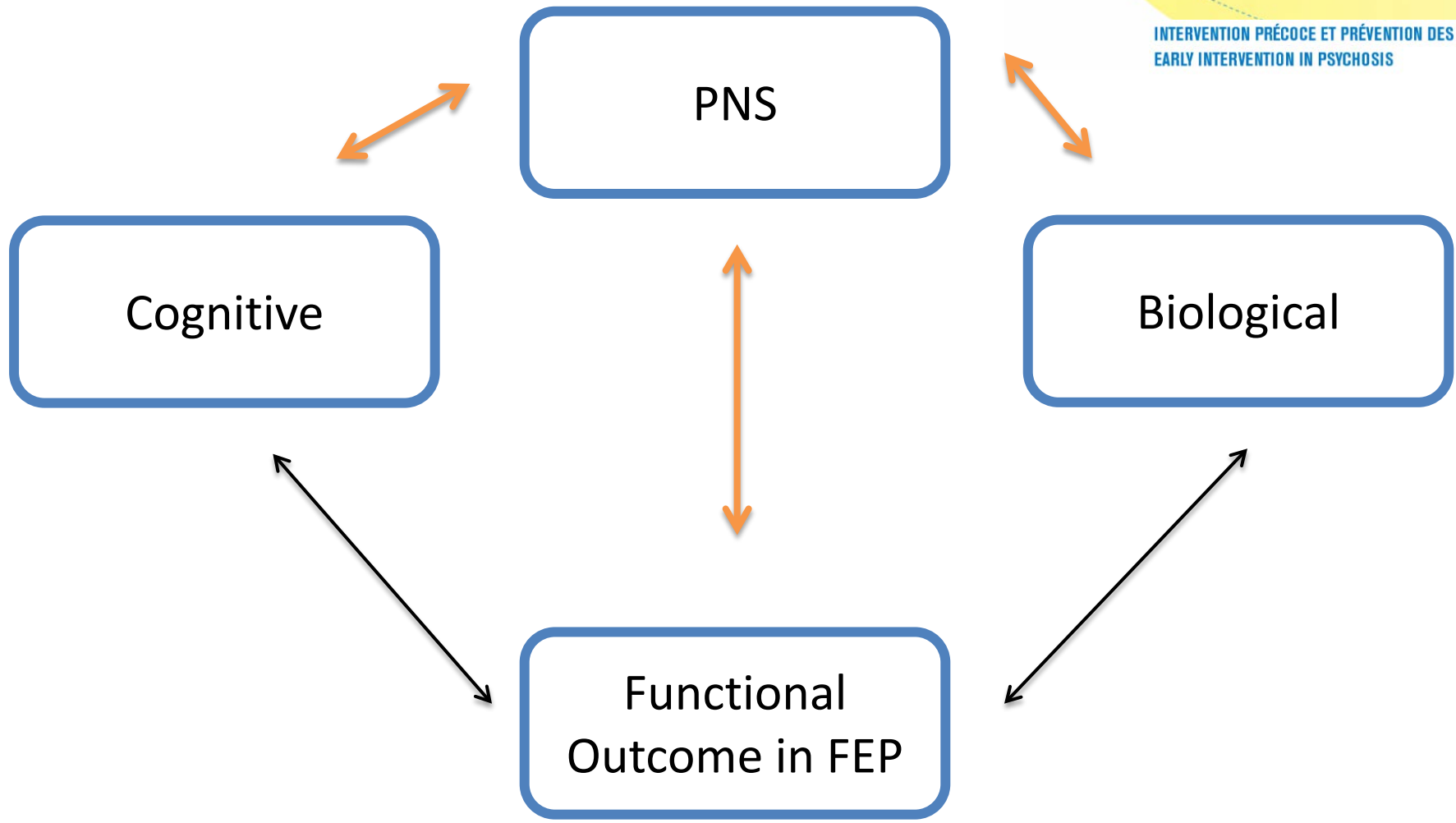
3

Associated with cognitive deficits (O'Leary 2000)

WHY STUDY PNS IN FEP?

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1. Avoid confounds due to illness chronicity
 - Antipsychotic medications
 - Sedentary lifestyle
 - Institutionalization
2. Identify them earlier and provide appropriate treatment



PERSISTENT NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS?

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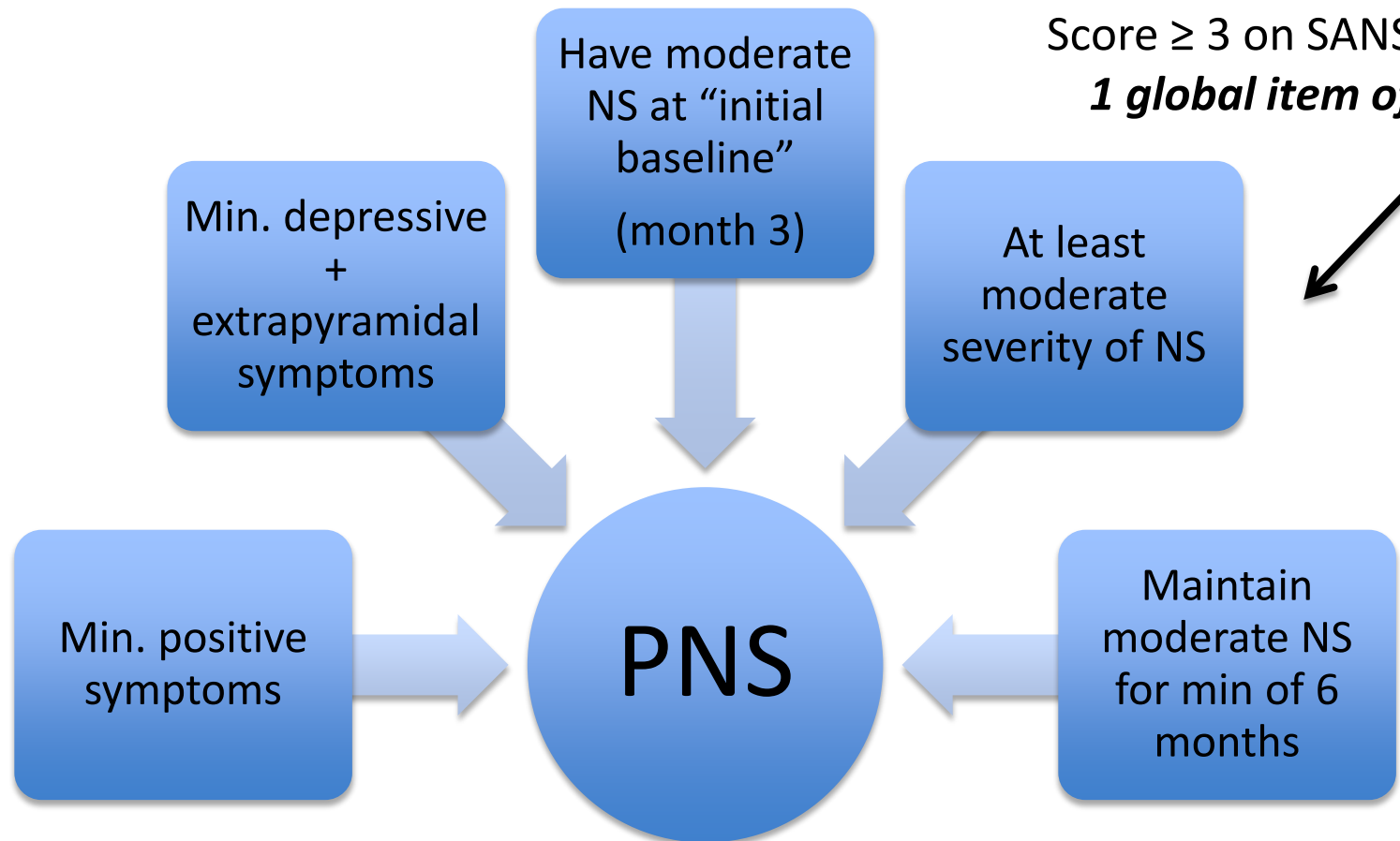
- 1 Include both *primary* and *secondary* negative symptoms
- 2 Identified using any validated negative symptoms scale (i.e. SANS, PANSS)
- 3 Estimated prevalence in FEP: 15-40%

Buchanan 2007; Malla et al. 2004

CRITERIA FOR PNS

Hovington et al. 2012; Buchanan 2007; Malla et al. 2004

Score ≥ 3 on SANS on a *min of 1 global item of the SANS*

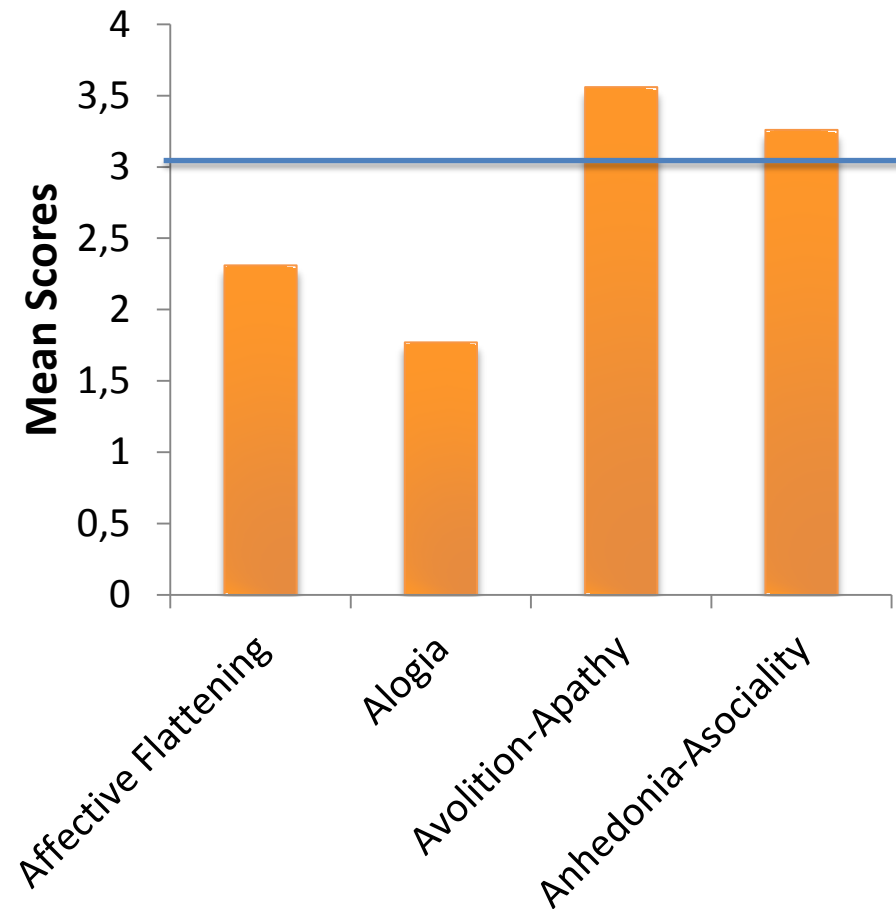


PREVALENCE OF PNS IN FEP

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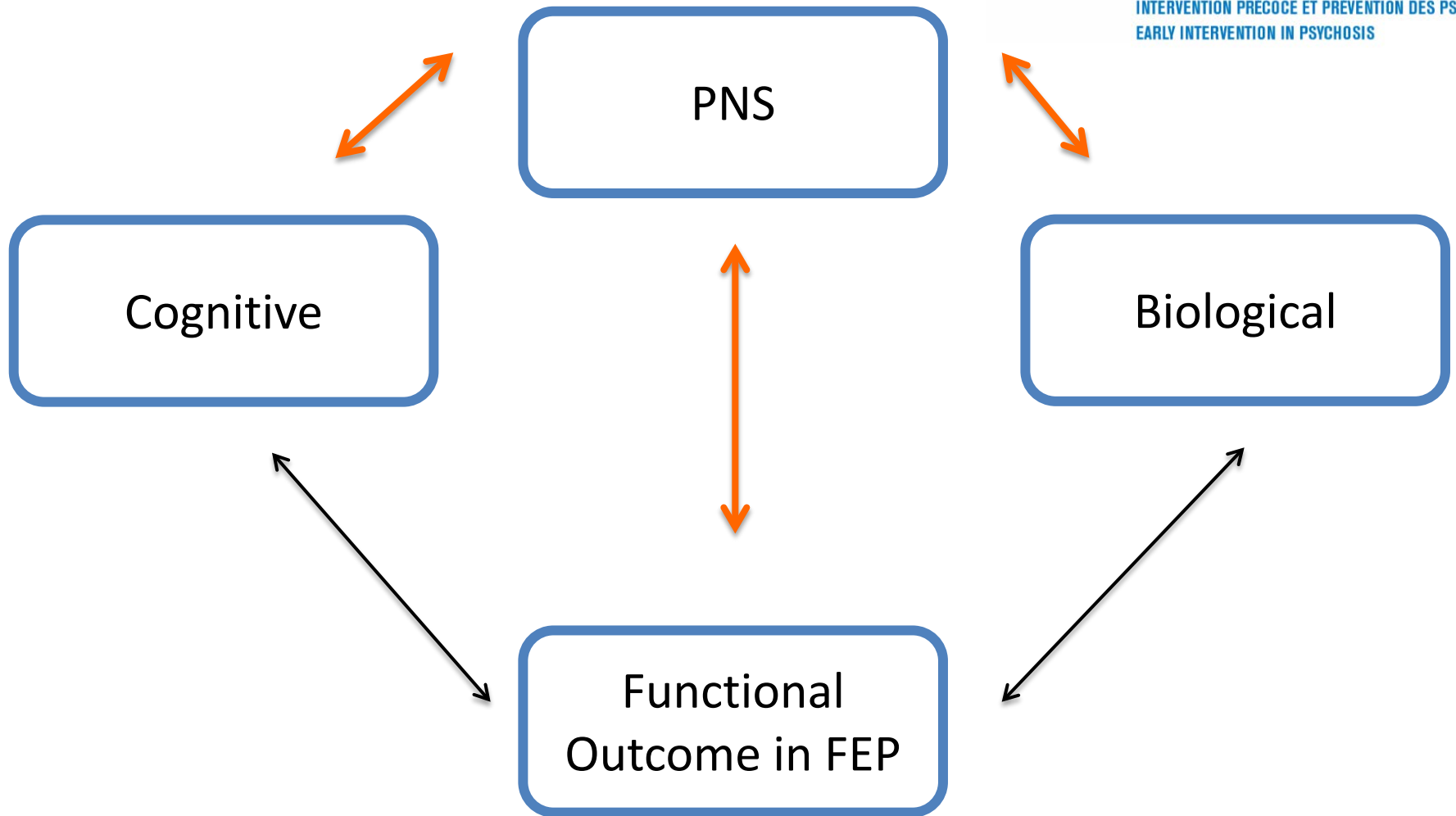
Prevalence of PNS in FEP: 27%

Patients with PNS had poorer functional outcome (at month 12) compared to patients without PNS



Hovington et al. 2012





PNS AND MEMORY

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Patients with more severe NS = ↓
neurocognitive performance

(Bora et al. 2009; McDowd et al. 2011; Puig et al. 2008)

1. Avolition correlated with verbal memory impairments

(Brebion et al. 2000)

2. Alogia correlated with poorer working memory and verbal fluency

(Berenbaum et al. 2008)

LONGITUDINAL RELATIONSHIP

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- Most studies provide evidence for relative stability of cognition over time in FEP
(Becker 2010;Bowie 2005)
- Others have shown that improvements in negative symptoms are paralleled with cognitive improvements (Censits 1997; Schuepbach 2002)

- 1) Investigate memory ability in FEP patients with PNS
- 2) Assess the trajectory of memory in relation to PNS over a 12 month period

METHODS

HOVINGTON ET AL. 2012



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Visual Memory:	Logical Memory (WMS-III)
Verbal Memory:	Visual Reproduction (WMS-III)
Working Memory:	Spatial and Digit Span (WAIS-III)

Change over time

Controls (62)

Non-PNS (97)

PNS (37)

Non-PNS (88)

PNS (34)

Initial Assessment

Month 12



Background

Defining PNS

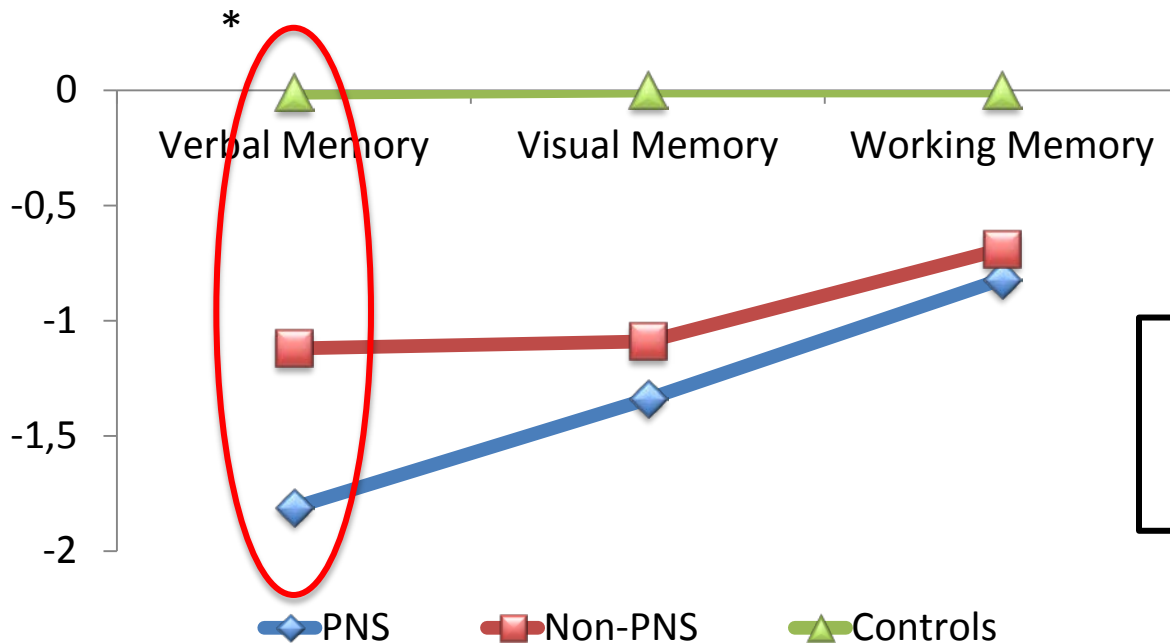
Memory and PNS

Neural Correlates of PNS

Conclusion

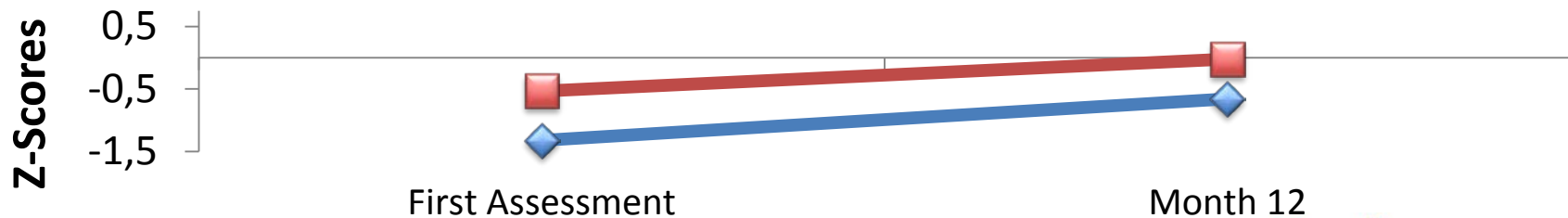
RESULTS: MEMORY AND PNS

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Greater levels of Alogia in PNS was correlated with poorer verbal memory

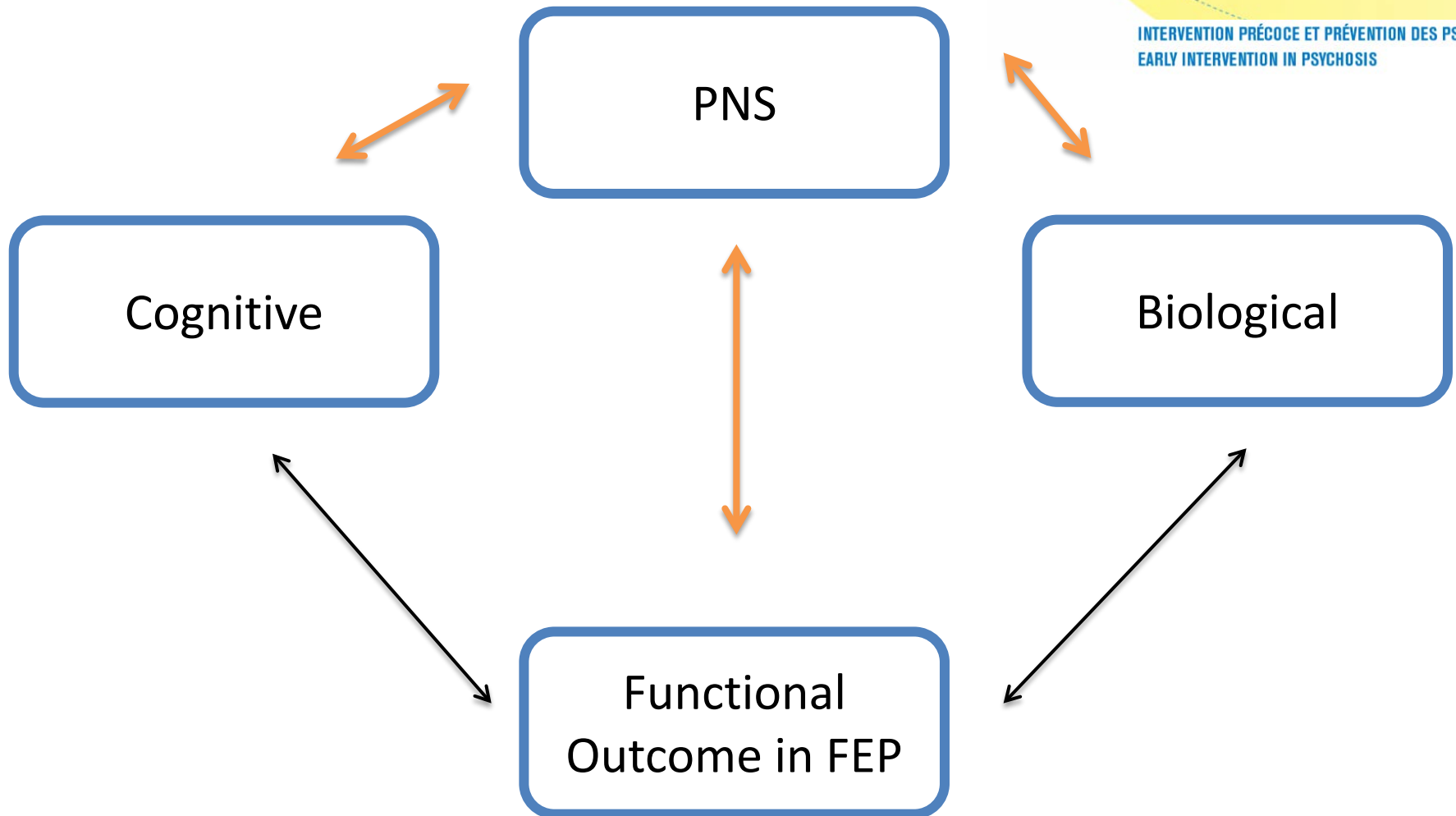
Verbal Learning and Memory



*p<0.001

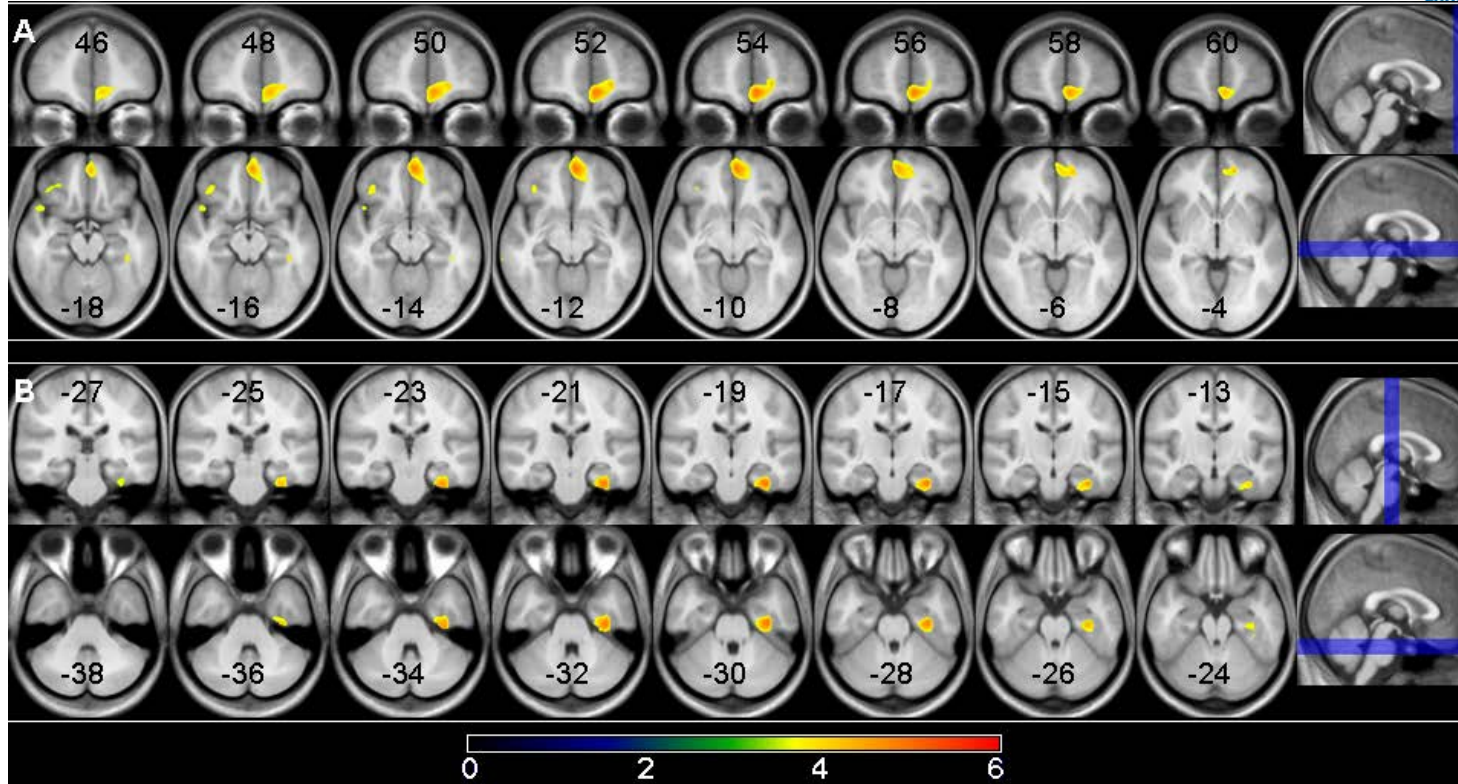


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GREY MATTER VOLUME IN FEP PATIENTS WITH PNS

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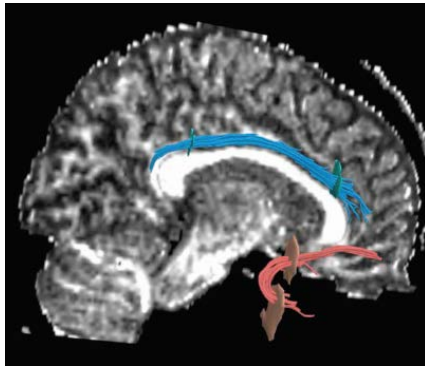
A) Right medial frontal gyrus: decreased gray matter in PNS

$p < 0.05$, FWE-corrected

B) Right parahippocampal gyrus: decreased gray matter in PNS

Benoit et al. 2012

WHITE MATTER INTEGRITY AND NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS



Cingulum Bundle

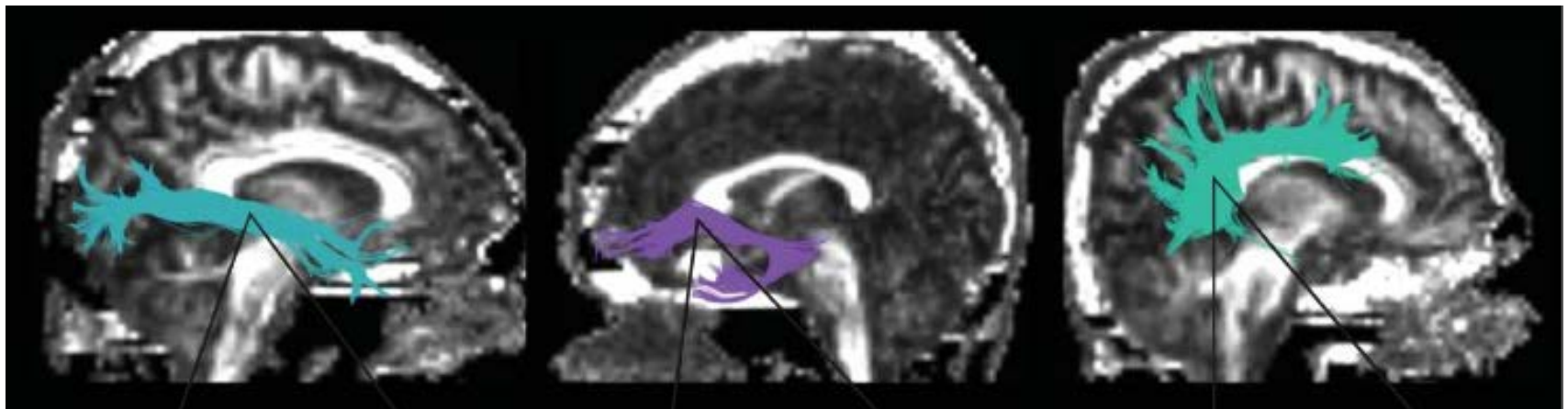
Nestor et al. 2008

Fractional anisotropy was lower in schizophrenia patients with more severe and enduring negative symptoms

Inferior Longitudinal Fasciculus

Uncinate Fasciculus

Arcuate Fasciculus



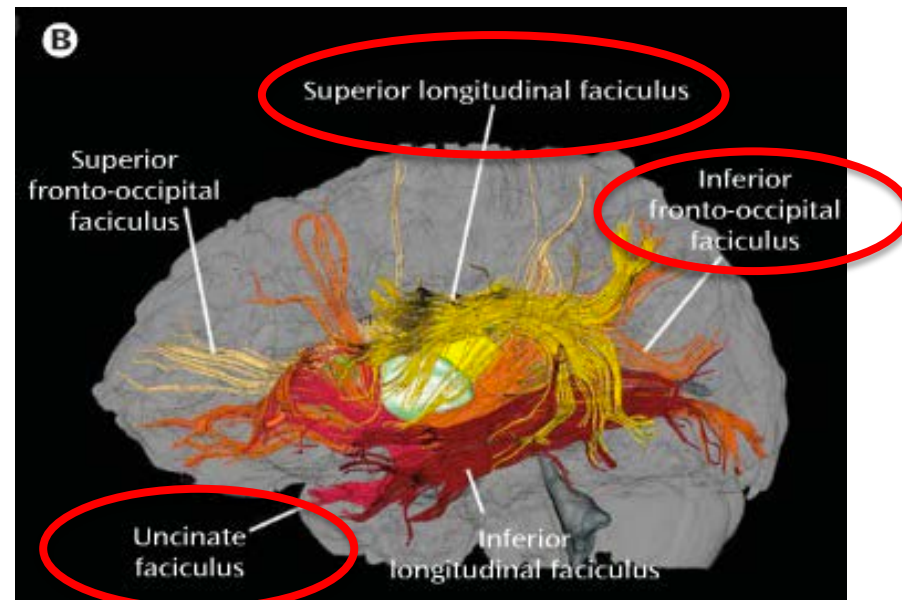
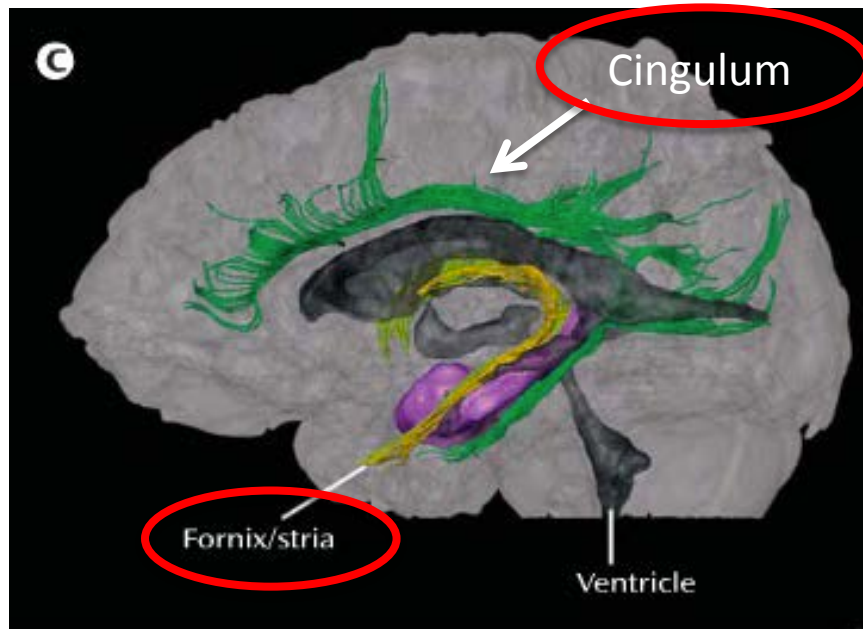
Voineskos et al. 2013; Rowland et al. 2009

Therefore, we investigated white matter integrity in FEP patients with PNS

METHODS: WHITE MATTER ALTERATIONS IN PNS

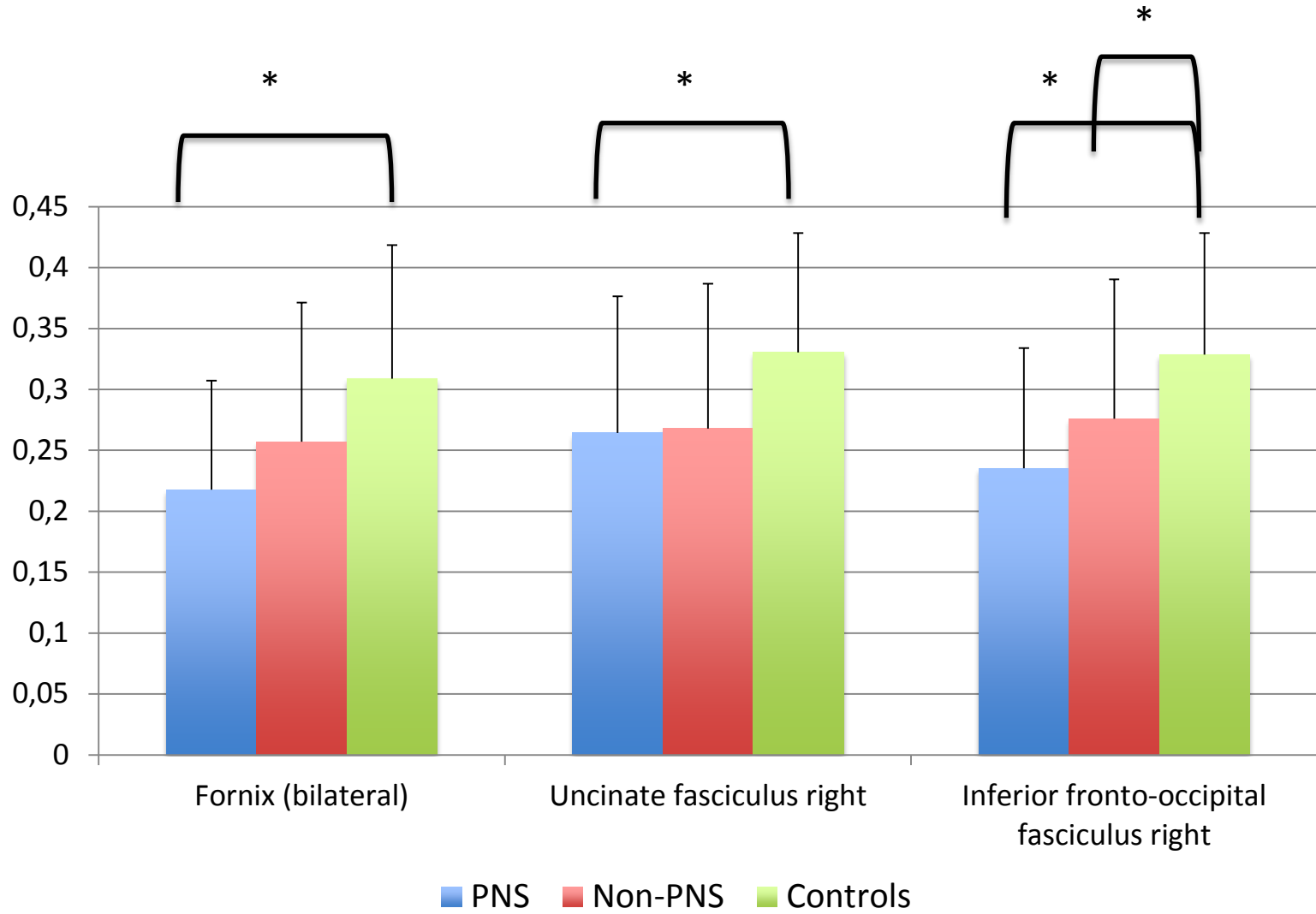


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We measured FA values in these regions of interest in FEP patients with PNS (12), without PNS (52) and controls (52)

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



* $p < 0.05$

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS



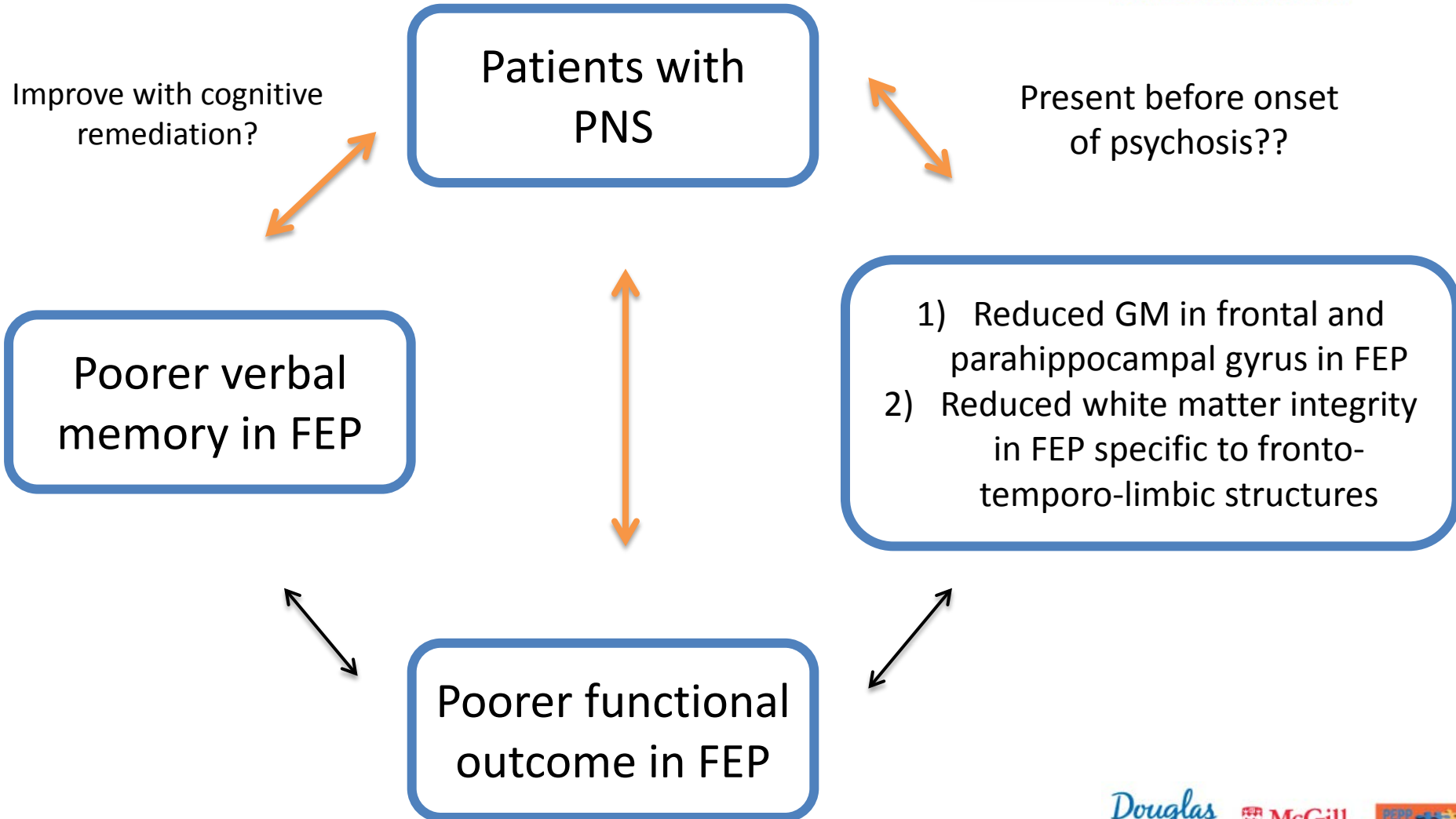
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- 1 Uncinate Fasciculus: Connects orbitofrontal cortex and temporal lobe
- 2 Uncinate Fasciculus: Critical structure in emotion and memory
- 3 Lower FA in UF correlated with negative symptom severity and verbal memory impairments (Szesko et al. 2008)
- 4 Fornix: Connects the hippocampal formation to the prefrontal cortex

CONCLUSIONS



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PEPP Montreal

- Dr. Malla
- Dr. Joober
- All PEPP Staff
- All clients who participated in our studies

Dr. Mallar Chakravarty

Dr. Brodeur and his lab members

FRSQ for providing me with my doctoral funding



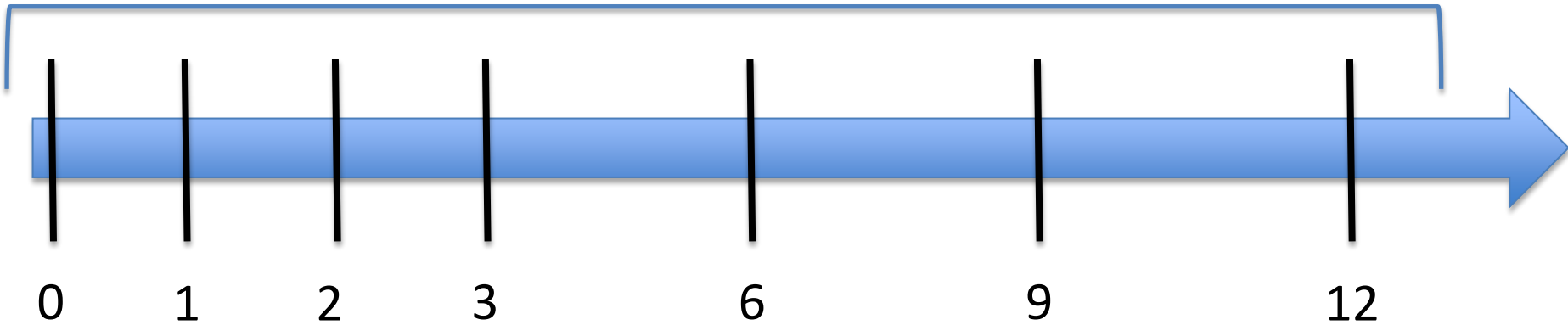
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EXTRA SLIDES

PEPP LONGITUDINAL STUDY

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EARLY INTERVENTION IN PSYCHOSIS

Assessment of clinical symptoms



SOFAS
Neuropsychological Evaluation
MRI/DTI

SOFAS
Neuropsychological
Evaluation
MRI/DTI

HOW ARE NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS DEFINED?



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Deficit Syndrome

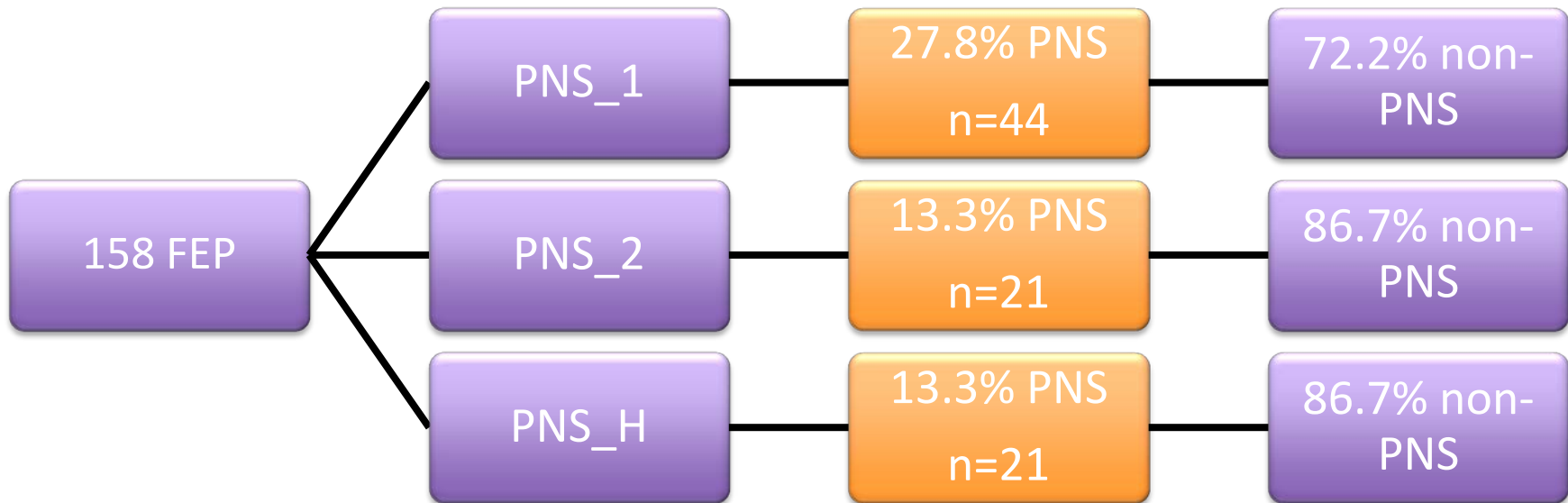
- Well-defined
- Prevalence: 15-20%
- Primary negative symptoms
- Present for a min of 12 months
- Identified using the Schedule for Deficit Syndrome (min of 2 out of 6)

Persistent NS

- No clear criteria
- Prevalence: 15-40%
- Primary or secondary negative symptoms
- Present for a min of 6 months
- Identified using any validated negative symptom scale

RESULTS - PREVALENCE

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METHODS- PNS

DEFINITIONS

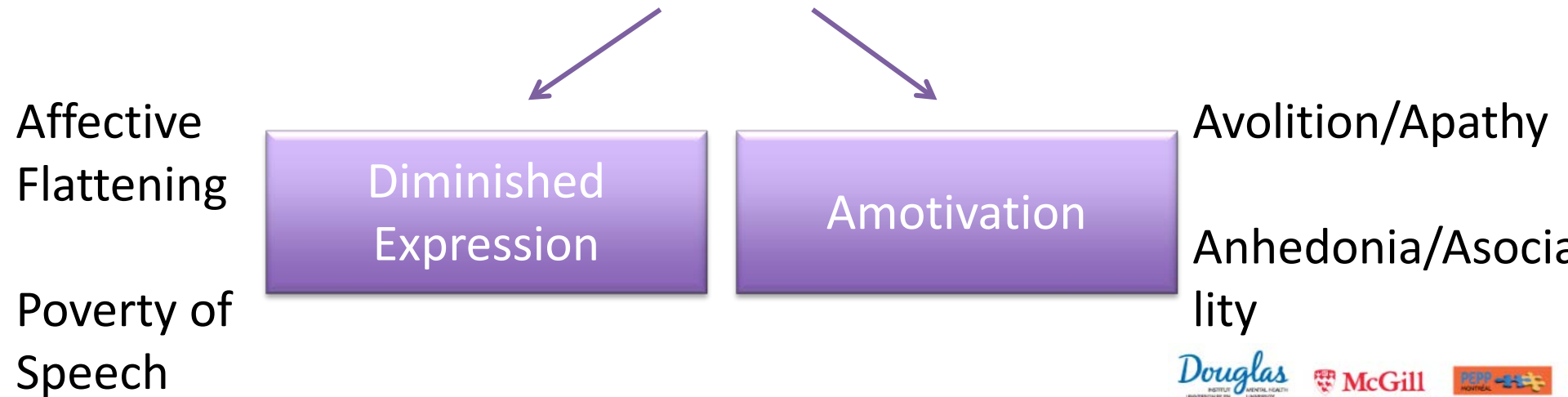


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1) PNS_1: score of ≥ 3 on *at least 1 global item* of the SANS (Malla et al., 2004)

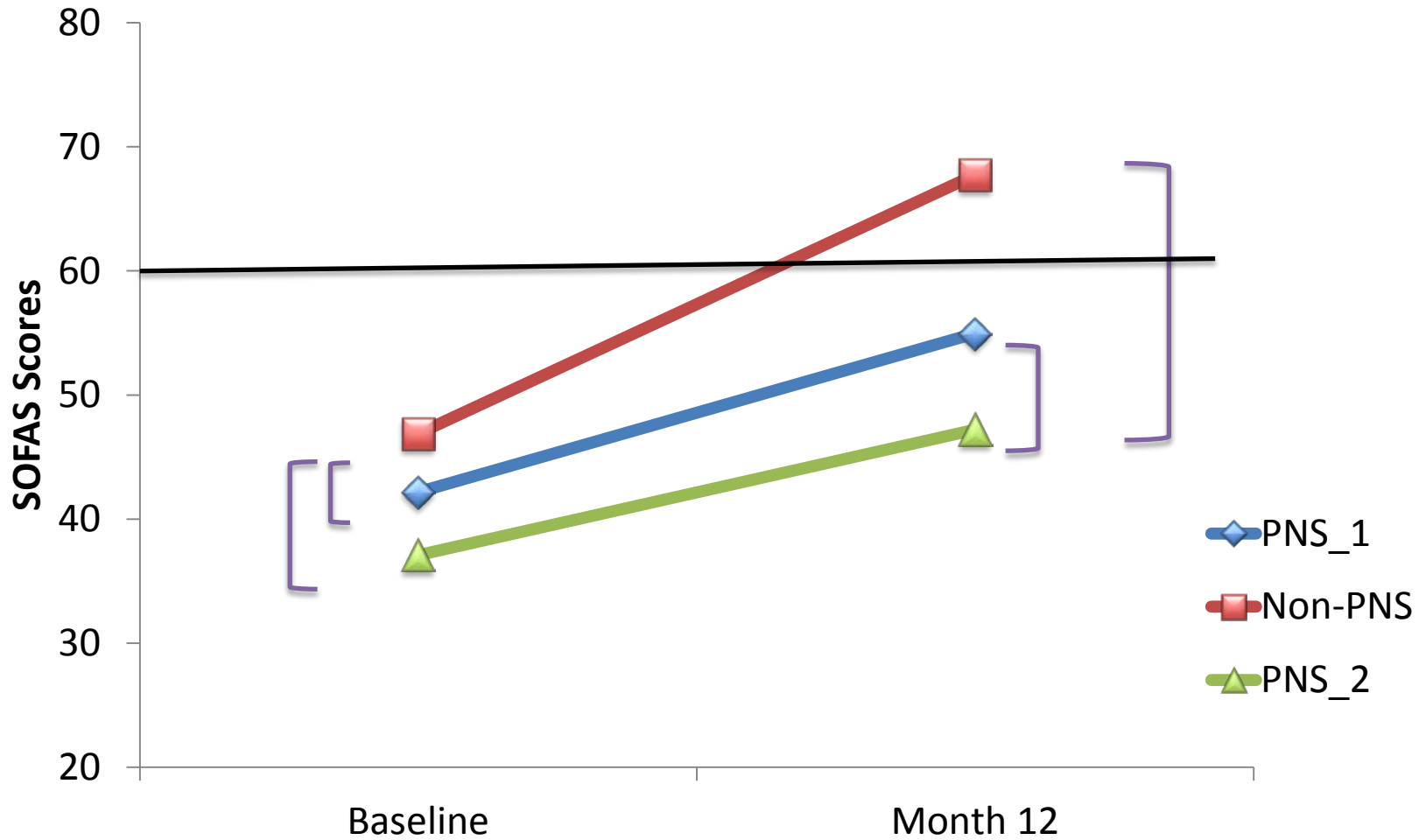
2) PNS_2: score of ≥ 3 on *at least 2 global items* of the SANS (Edwards et al., 1999)

3) PNS_H (Hybrid): score of ≥ 3 on either one or both of the subdomains (Foussias and Remington, 2010):



RESULTS

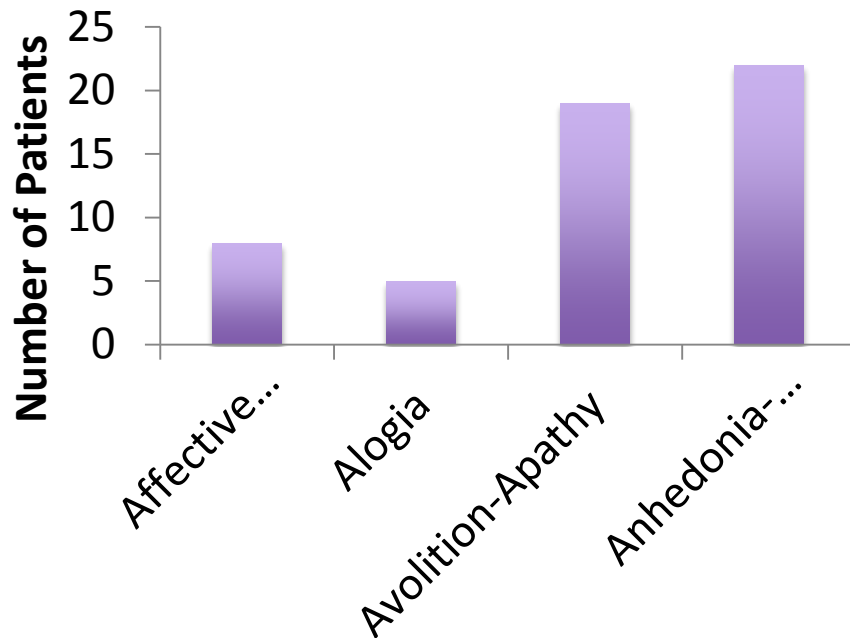
INTERVENTION PRÉCOCE ET PRÉVENTION DES PSYCHOSES
EARLY INTERVENTION IN PSYCHOSES



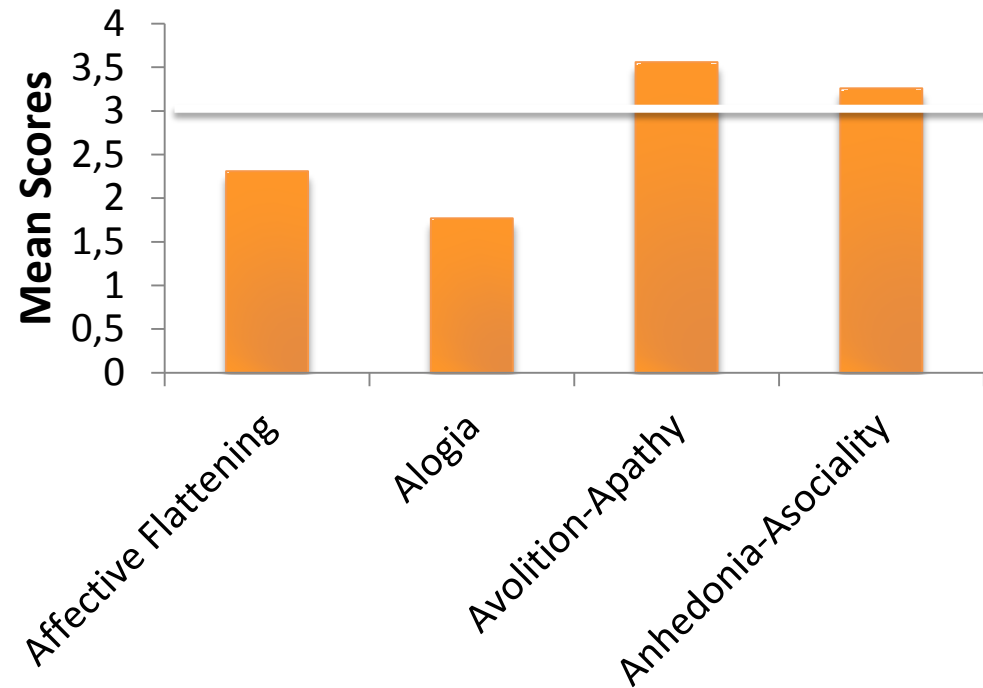
FEP PATIENTS IN PNS GROUP

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Frequency



Mean SANS scores



HOW ARE PNS DEFINED?

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Author	PNS Definition Applied
Galderisi et al. 2012	PANSS score > 3 on a min of 1 NS item
Stauffer et al. 2012	PANSS score > on min of 3 NS items
Buchanan et al. 1998	Total score of ≥ 20 <u>OR</u> a score of ≥ 2 on at least 1 SANS global item
Edwards et al. 1999	SANS HI score of ≥ 3 on 2 or more of global subscales SANS LOW score of ≥ 2