

# Self-regulation of stress-related large-scale brain network balance using real-time fMRI neurofeedback

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## Resilience to Stress

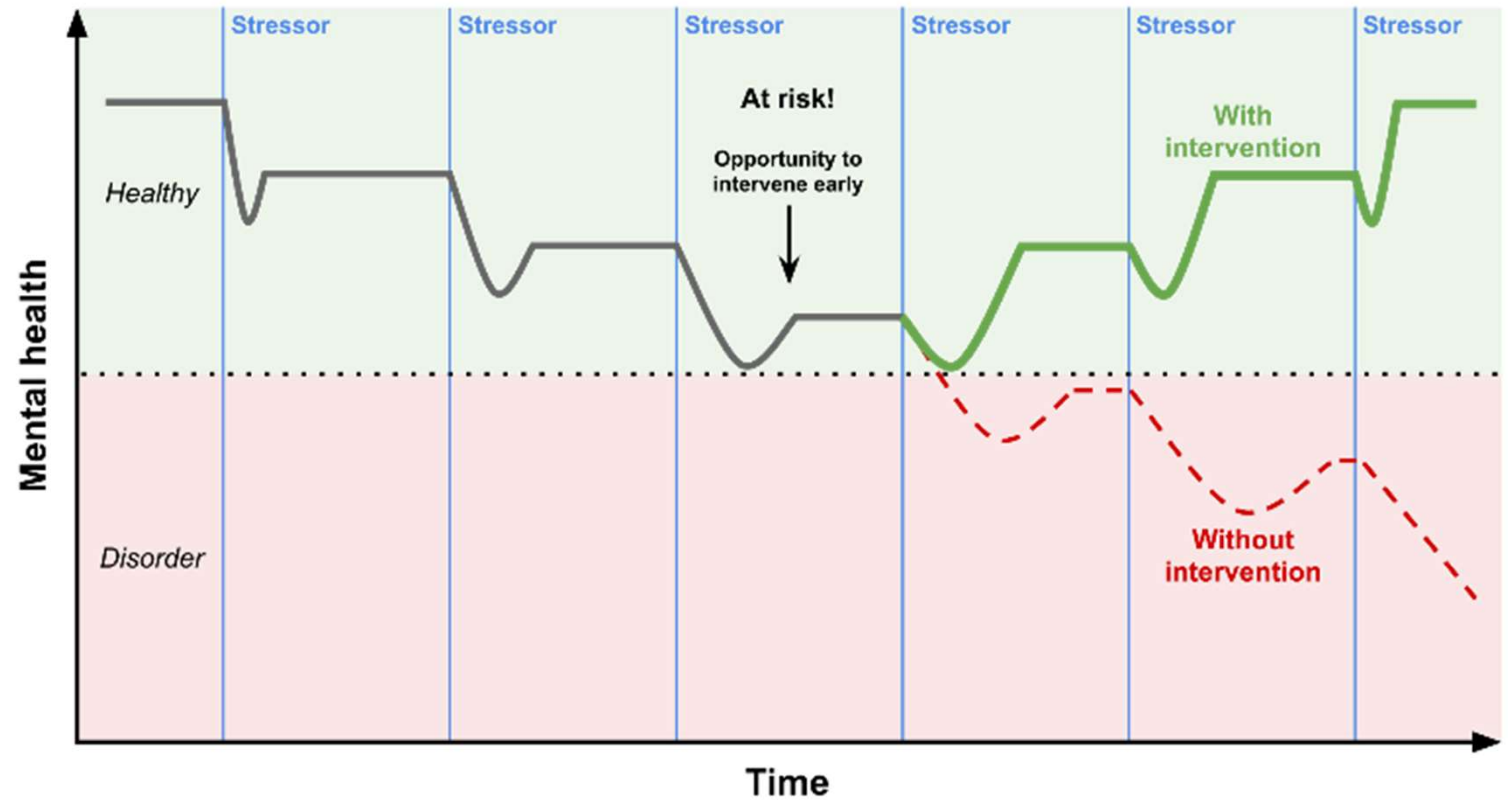


Depression...

Anxiety...

PTSD...

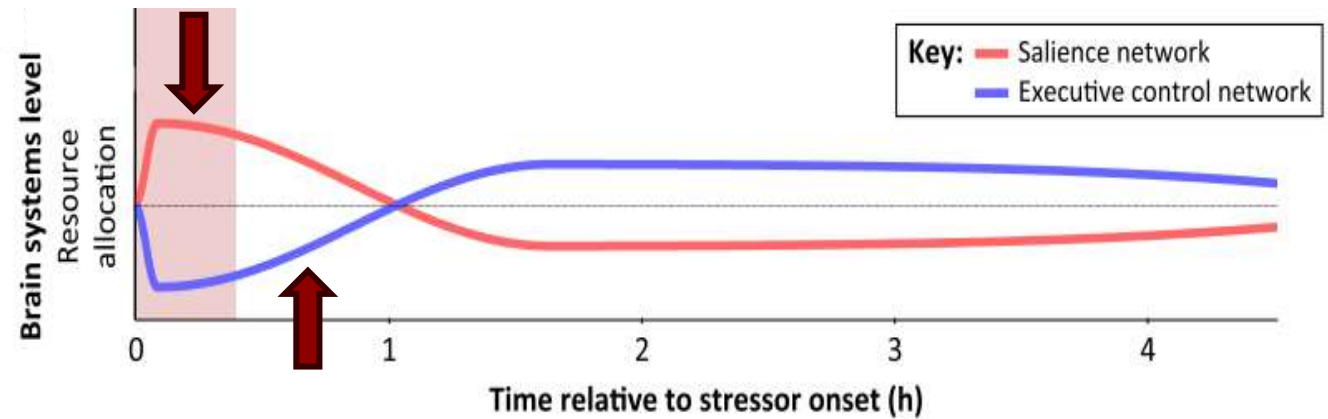
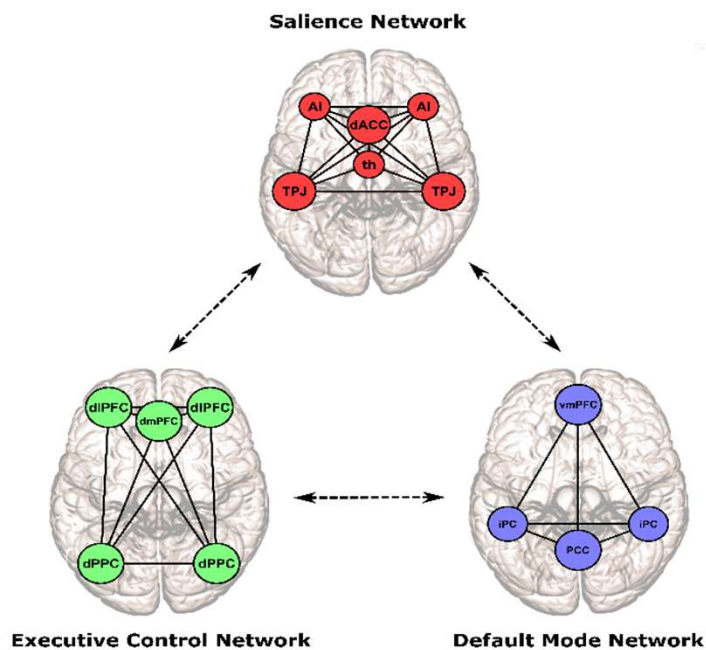
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# Background – Setup – Feasibility – Real-life – Applications – Summary

## Neurobiology of Stress

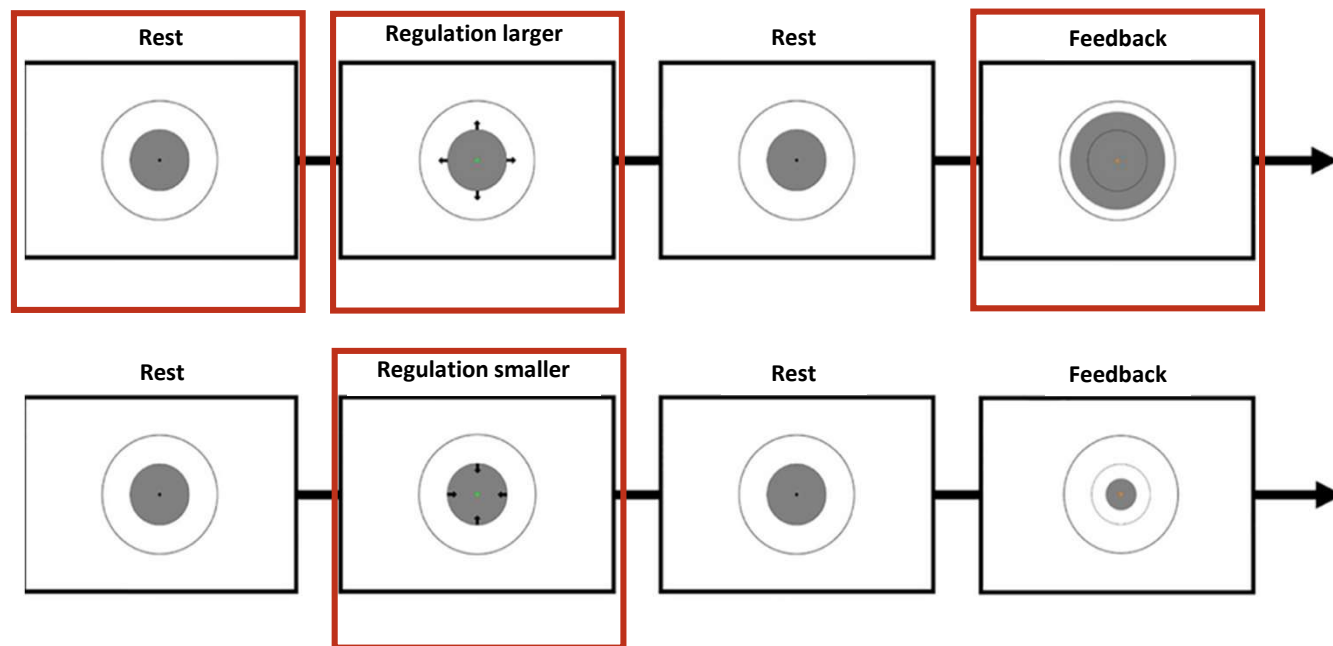
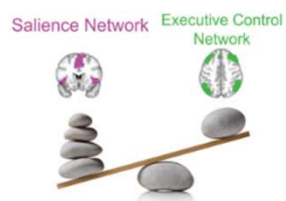
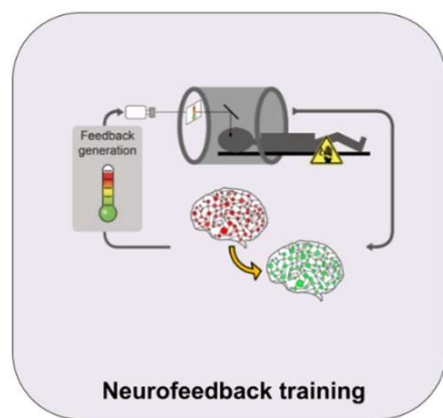


**Goal:**  
Enhancing direct and voluntary control of these brain networks.



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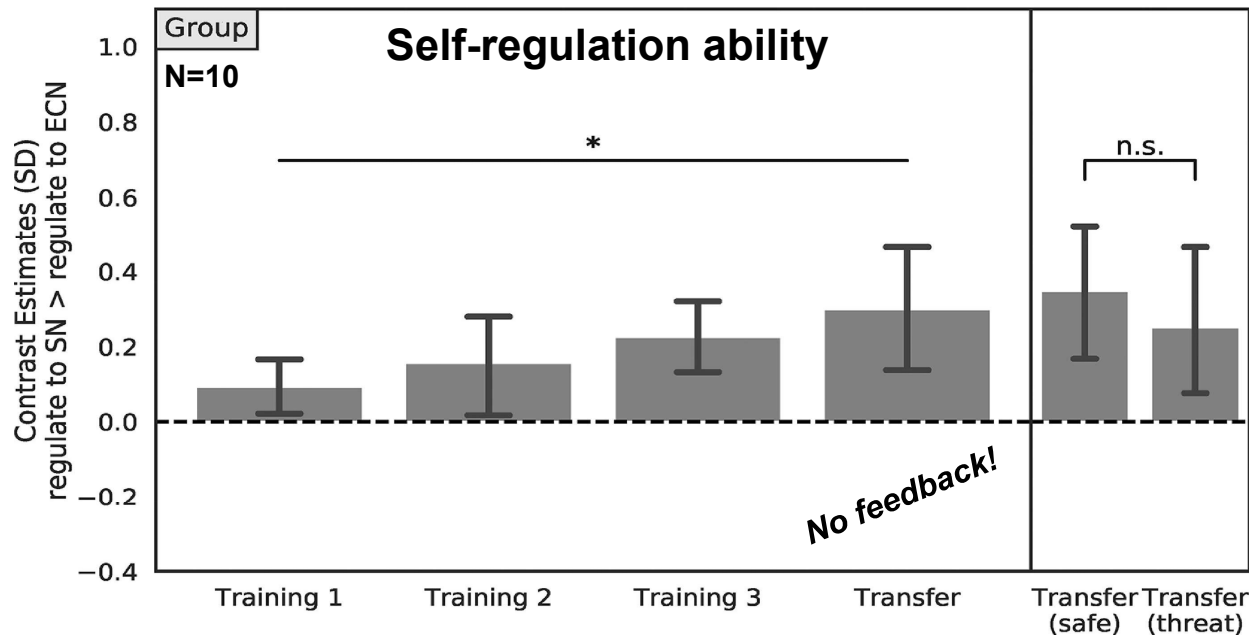
## Self-regulation of stress-related networks training





# Background – Setup – Feasibility – Real-life – Applications – Summary

## StressNF: A feasibility study

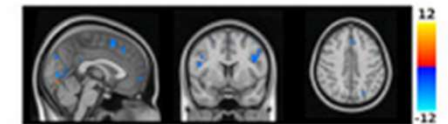


### Summary

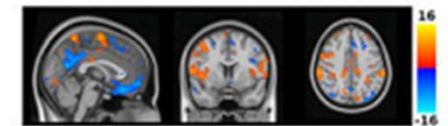
- Self-regulation of brain networks is feasible
- Self-regulation in the absence of feedback (transfer) and in response to a stressor
- Participants learn to regulate using mainly SN upregulation and suppression.

regulate to SN  
>  
regulate to ECN

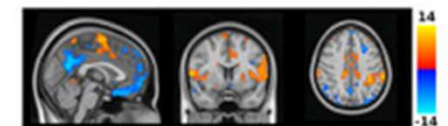
Training 1



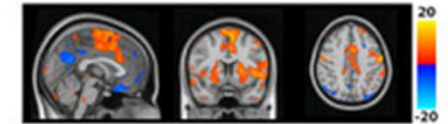
Training 2



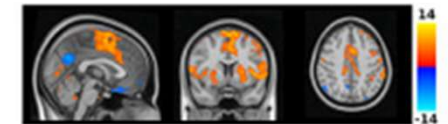
Training 3



Transfer



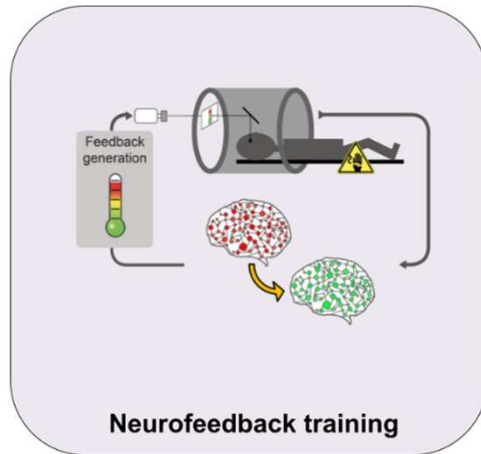
Improvement



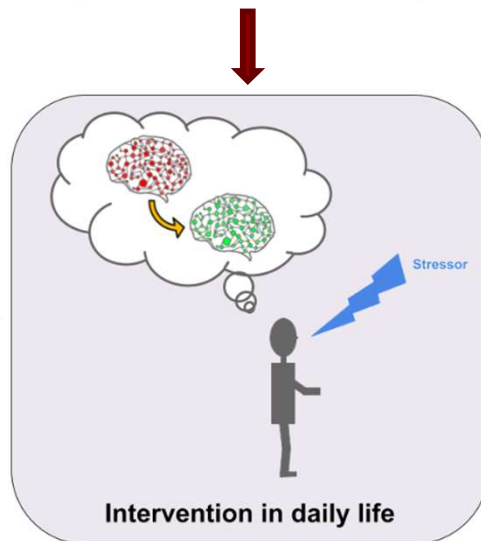
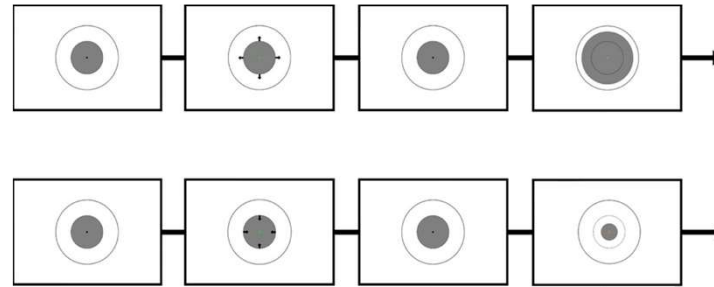


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## BraNeReg: Cognitive effects and real-life stress



### Neurofeedback training



### Cognitive tasks



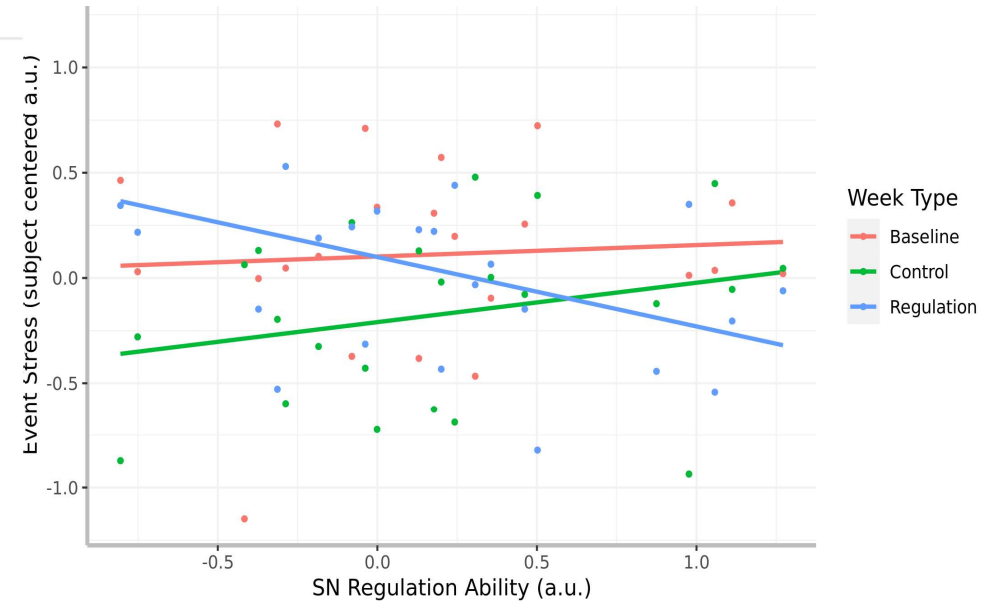
### Measures of real-life stress





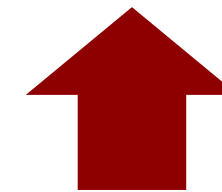
## Background – Setup – Feasibility – Real-life – Applications – Summary

### BraNeReg: Relation to real-life stress

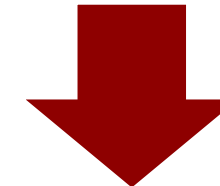


#### Summary

- Self-regulation is confirmed in larger sample
- Self-regulation is a long-lasting skill
- SN self-regulation is associated with lower stress in real-life



Better SN self-regulation performance



Lower reported stress in real-life

Background – Setup – Feasibility – Real-life – Applications – Summary



**What is next?**

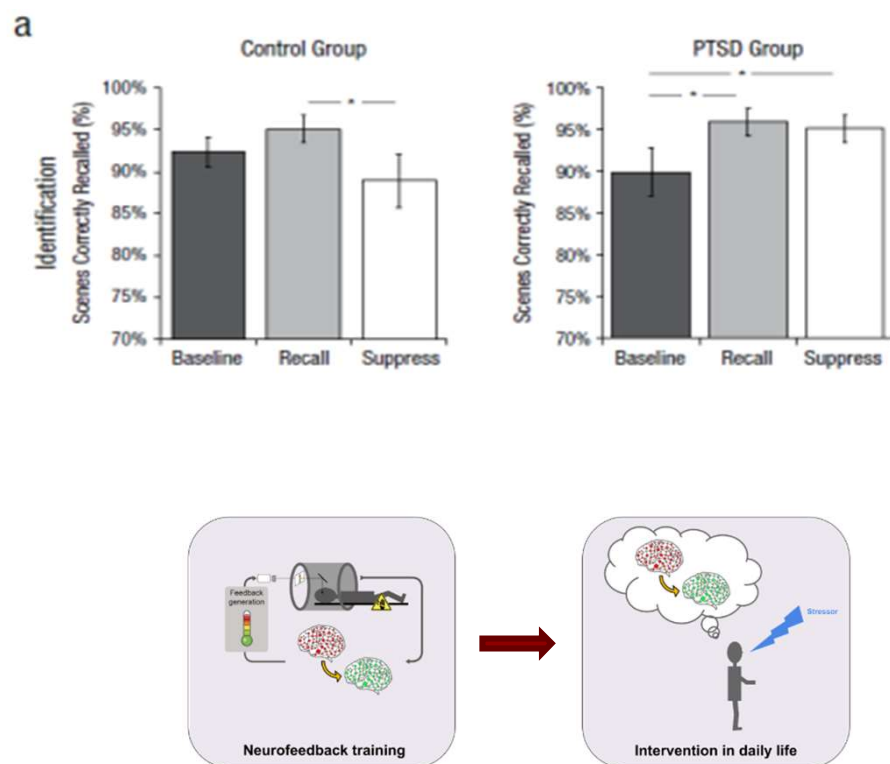




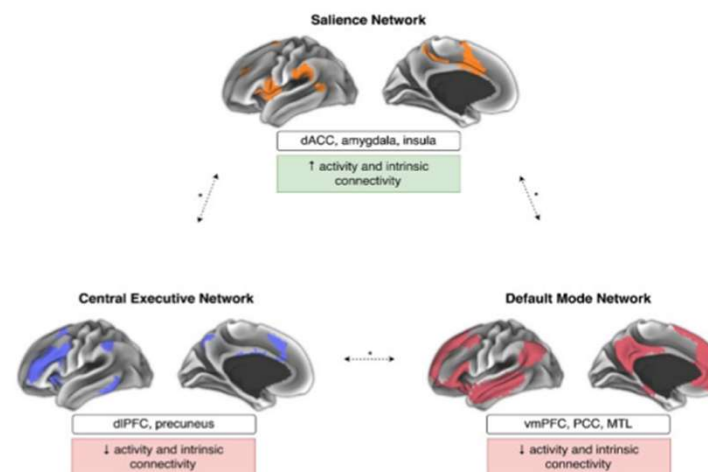
# Background – Setup – Feasibility – Real-life – Applications – Summary

## TraumaCtrl: Gaining back control in PTSD

### Intrusions - Memory suppression deficits



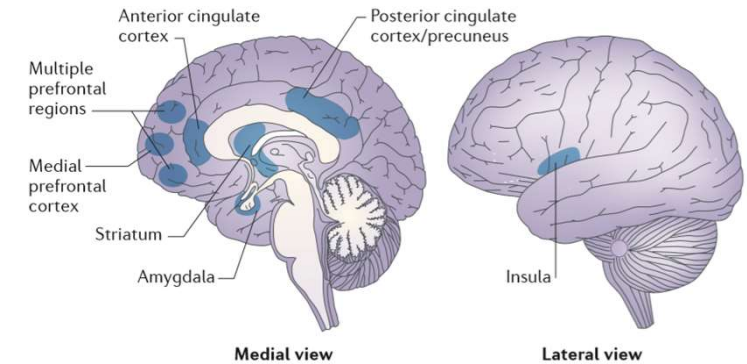
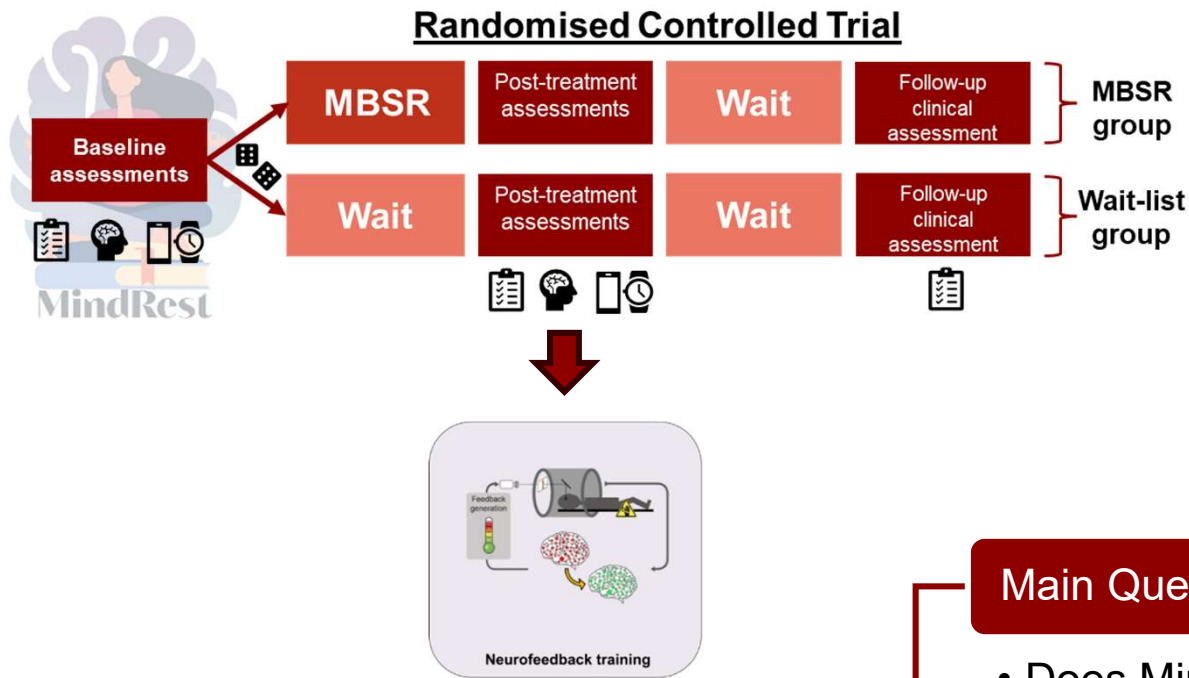
### PTSD network changes





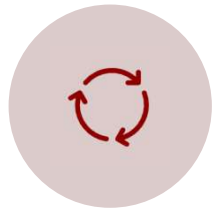
# Background – Setup – Feasibility – Real-life – Applications – Summary

## MindRest: Mechanistic insight using neurofeedback



### Main Question:

- Does Mindfulness training (MBSR) affect large-scale network regulation?



DEVELOPMENT



FEASIBILITY



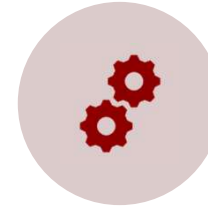
EFFECTS IN  
REAL-LIFE



EFFECTS ON  
COGNITION



CLINICAL  
APPLICATION



MECHANISTIC  
INSIGHTS



## Research teams involved:

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**Thank you for your  
attention!**