

**IEEE EMBS FORUM  
GRAND CHALLENGES IN NEUROENGINEERING  
BETHESDA, MD**

**Deciphering How the Brain Represents Information in  
Health and Disease:  
Characterizing Loss of Consciousness under  
General Anesthesia**

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## What is General Anesthesia?

A drug-induced, **reversible** condition comprised of

**Hypnosis** (loss of consciousness)

**Amnesia** (loss of memory)

**Analgesia** (loss of pain perception)

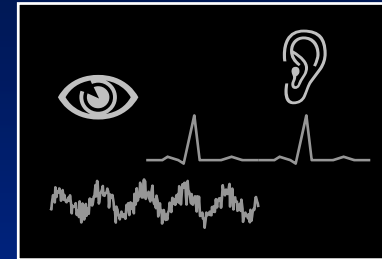
**Akinesia** (loss of movement)

and

**Stability and Control** of the cardiovascular, respiratory thermoregulatory and autonomic nervous systems.

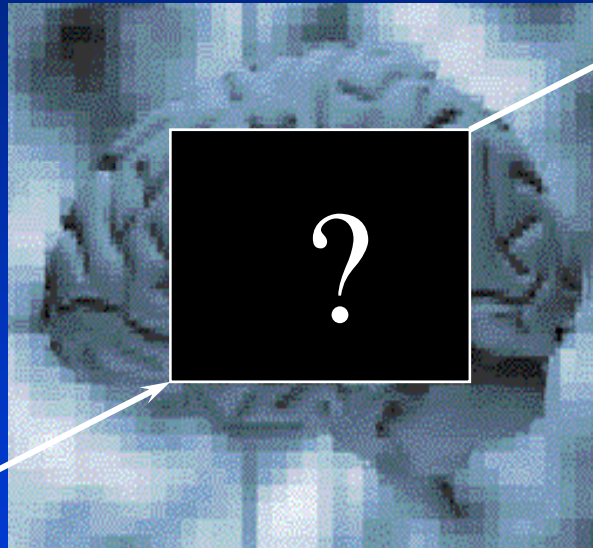
**How Drugs Cause General Anesthesia is Unknown?**

# Current State of Anesthesiology Research



## Behavioral States

Hypnosis  
Amnesia  
Analgesia  
Akinesia  
Homeostasis

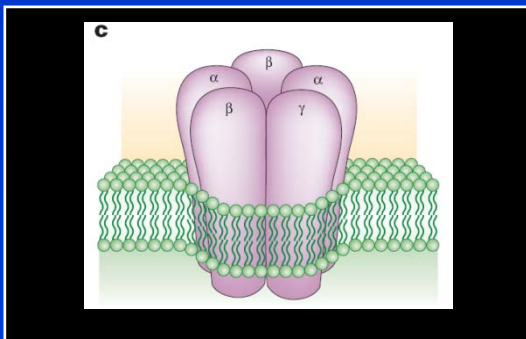


## Neural Circuits

Arousal  
Memory  
Somatosensation and Pain  
Movement  
Autonomic and Cardiovascular Control

## Specific Molecular Receptors

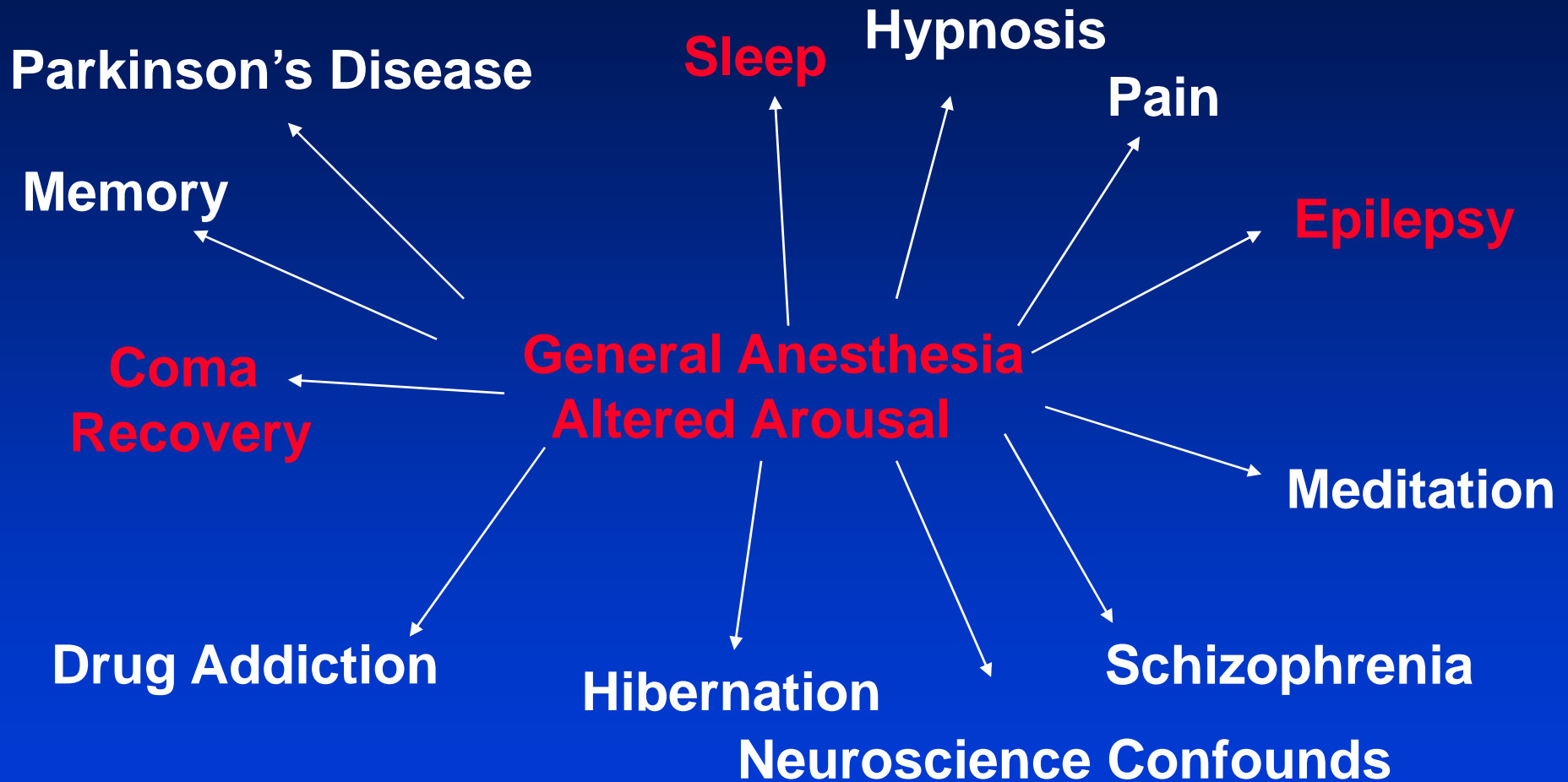
GABA\_A  
NMDA  
Alpha Adrenergic  
Glycine and Glutamate  
Cholinergic Receptors



## Anesthetic Drugs

- Amnesia (benzodiazepines, inhalational drugs)
- Analgesia (opioids, inhalational drugs)
- Hypnosis (barbiturates, propofol, inhalational drugs)
- Immobility (anticholinergics, inhalational drugs)
- Hemodynamic Stability

# The Grand Challenge of General Anesthesia



Realize Its Unique Potential as a Clinical Neuroscience Discipline

# Specific Challenges

Human Neurophysiology Experimentation

Data Recording and Data Storage

Neural Signal Processing and Data Analysis

High-Dimensional Modeling

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