



OPEN

# Long-term potentiation prevents ketamine-induced aberrant neurophysiological dynamics in the hippocampus-prefrontal cortex pathway *in vivo*

Cleiton Lopes-Aguiar<sup>1,5</sup>, Rafael N. Ruggiero<sup>2,5</sup>✉, Matheus T. Rossignoli<sup>2</sup>, Ingrid de Miranda Esteves<sup>2</sup>, José Eduardo Peixoto-Santos<sup>3</sup>, Rodrigo N. Romcy-Pereira<sup>4</sup> & João P. Leite<sup>2</sup>

N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAr) antagonists such as ketamine (KET) produce psychotic-like behavior in both humans and animal models. NMDAr hypofunction affects normal oscillatory dynamics and synaptic plasticity in key brain regions related to schizophrenia, particularly in the hippocampus and the prefrontal cortex. It has been shown that prior long-term potentiation (LTP) occluded the increase of synaptic efficacy in the hippocampus-prefrontal cortex pathway induced by MK-801, a non-competitive NMDAr antagonist. However, it is not clear whether LTP could also modulate aberrant oscillations and short-term plasticity disruptions induced by NMDAr antagonists. Thus, we tested whether LTP could mitigate the electrophysiological changes promoted by KET. We recorded HPC-PFC local field potentials and evoked responses in urethane anesthetized rats, before and after KET administration, preceded or not by LTP induction. Our results show that KET promotes an aberrant delta-high-gamma cross-frequency coupling in the PFC and an enhancement in HPC-PFC evoked responses. LTP induction prior to KET attenuates changes in synaptic efficiency and prevents the increase in cortical gamma amplitude comodulation. These findings are consistent with evidence that increased efficiency of glutamatergic receptors attenuates cognitive impairment in animal models of psychosis. Therefore, high-frequency stimulation in HPC may be a useful tool to better understand how to prevent NMDAr hypofunction effects on synaptic plasticity and oscillatory coordination in cortico-limbic circuits.

The hippocampal-prefrontal cortex (HPC-PFC) monosynaptic pathway is implicated in cognitive functions, such as working memory, decision making, and spatial-temporal processing<sup>1,2</sup>. Dysfunctional connectivity within HPC-PFC circuits is associated with the pathophysiology and genetic predisposition to schizophrenia<sup>3-5</sup>. In schizophrenia, HPC-PFC connectivity is decreased during working memory tasks and increased in resting state<sup>5-7</sup>. Such effects may be mediated, at least in part, by N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor (NMDAr). NMDAr binding is reduced in schizophrenic patients in both HPC and PFC, and administration of an NMDAr antagonist, such as ketamine, can induce psychotic symptoms in healthy patients and an increase in resting-state HPC-PFC connectivity<sup>8-10</sup>. This NMDAr hypofunction also affects synaptic plasticity, inducing impairments in critical circuits, such as HPC-PFC, promoting cognitive symptoms by pathological neural activity<sup>11-13</sup>. However, the relationship between synaptic plasticity in HPC-PFC circuits and schizophrenia is not fully understood.

<sup>1</sup>Núcleo de Neurociências, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Institute of Biological Sciences, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, 31270-901, Brazil. <sup>2</sup>Department of Neuroscience and Behavioral Sciences, Ribeirão Preto Medical School, University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, 14049-900, Brazil. <sup>3</sup>Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, UNIFESP, São Paulo, SP, 04039-032, Brazil. <sup>4</sup>Brain Institute, Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Natal, RN, 59056-450, Brazil. <sup>5</sup>These authors contributed equally: Cleiton Lopes-Aguiar and Rafael N. Ruggiero. ✉e-mail: [rafaruggiero@usp.br](mailto:rafaruggiero@usp.br)

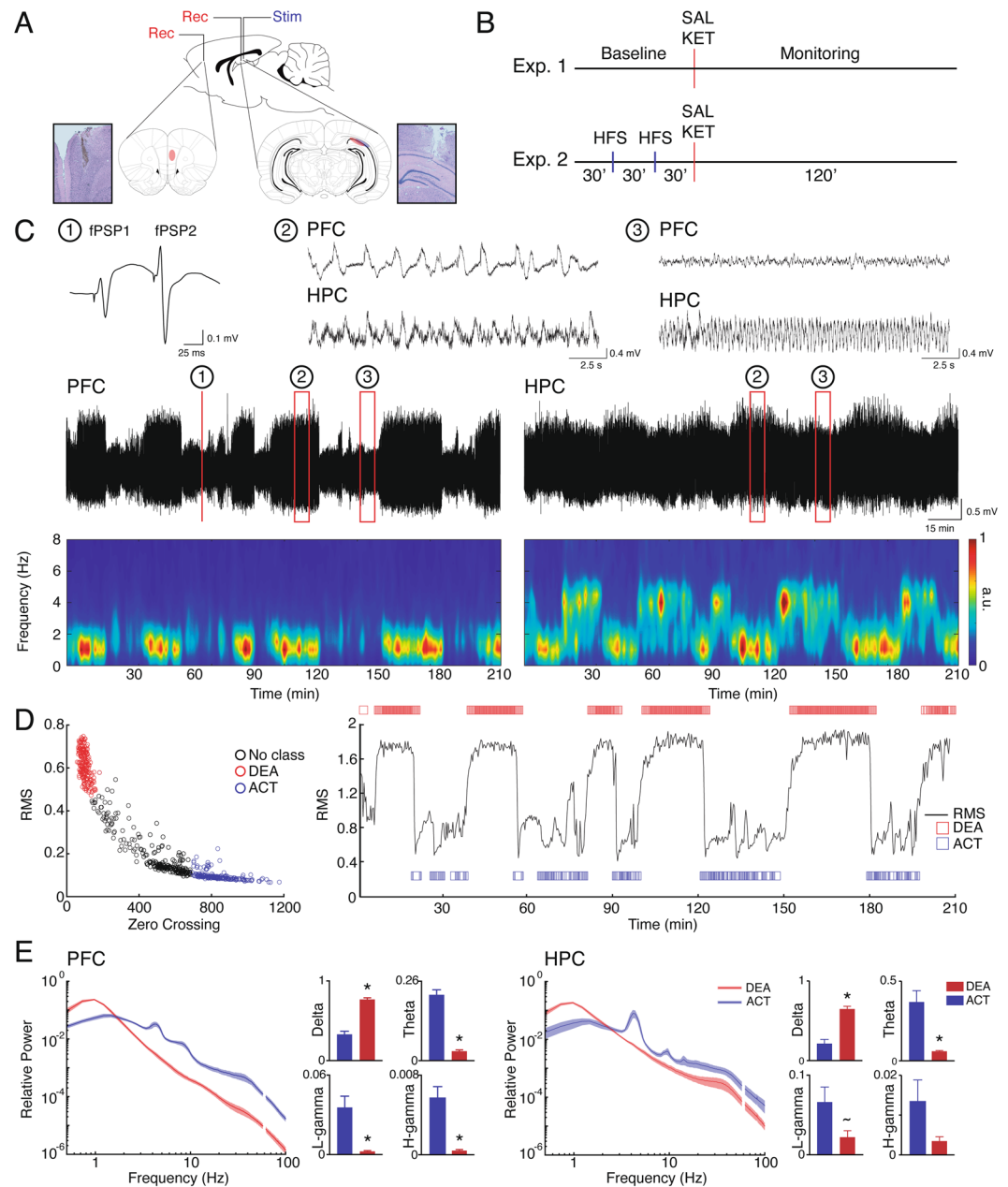
In rodents, ketamine and other NMDAR antagonists are widely used as a translatable pharmacological model capable of inducing psychotic-related behaviors, such as hyperlocomotion, working memory impairments, prepulse inhibition disruption, and abnormal social interaction<sup>14,15</sup>. Several neurophysiological features of the HPC-PFC pathway are associated with psychotic-like behaviors induced by NMDAR antagonists. *In vivo* experiments showed that ketamine increased gamma (30–90 Hz) power in the PFC and theta-gamma phase-amplitude coupling in the HPC<sup>16</sup>. Besides, it affected the synaptic transmission efficiency in the HPC-PFC pathway, and disrupted long-term potentiation (LTP)<sup>17–19</sup>. The role of NMDA receptors for LTP is well-described<sup>20,21</sup>. However, the underlying mechanisms of NMDA antagonists-induced aberrant gamma oscillations and facilitation of synaptic transmission are still not fully understood. A plausible explanation is that NMDAR antagonists may preferentially exert their effect on inhibitory interneurons, leading to a hyperglutamatergic state produced by the disinhibition of principal cells<sup>22,23</sup>. Consistently, it has been demonstrated that acute treatment of MK-801, a non-competitive NMDAR antagonist, induces long-lasting changes in the synaptic efficacy in the CA1-PFC pathway of rats *in vivo*<sup>34</sup>. This effect was accompanied by disruption of performance in a PFC-dependent task. Interestingly, the authors showed that MK-801-induced facilitation of basal synaptic efficacy was occluded by tetanus-induced LTP and vice versa, suggesting shared mechanisms between both processes. In other words, the massive activation of  $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole propionic acid receptors (AMPA) during a hyperglutamatergic state that follows the NMDAR antagonism seems to trigger an aberrant form of LTP. On the other hand, a prior potentiation of AMPAR transmission by LTP induction<sup>24</sup> somehow produced a state of reduced sensitivity to MK-801<sup>25</sup>. Consistently, prior studies showed that allosteric modulation of AMPAR can prevent NMDAR antagonist-induced impairments<sup>27,29,30</sup>. It has been hypothesized that a prior AMPAR activation can produce depolarization of membrane potentials, relieving the  $Mg^{2+}$  block of colocalized NMDAR and, consequently, attenuating NMDAR hypofunction<sup>26,27</sup>. In another scenario, not mutually exclusive, a prior LTP could occlude the effects of NMDAR antagonists by competing mechanisms. These mechanistic hypotheses remain to be tested.

Despite its limitations, the urethane anesthesia has been regarded as a valid model to test mechanistic hypotheses involving brain oscillations and synaptic plasticity in normal<sup>28–31</sup> and pathological situations<sup>32,33</sup>. Particularly relevant for this study, rodents under urethane anesthesia have been useful to examine which are the effects induced by NMDAR antagonists that are independent of the typical hyperlocomotion observed after treatment<sup>18</sup>. Besides, this preparation can be used to investigate how NMDAR antagonists affect oscillations during different sleep-like brain states<sup>34</sup>. In this sense, Kiss *et al.* (2011) demonstrated that acute MK-801 produced a new brain state of persistent slow oscillations (0.5–1.5 Hz) associated with short-term synaptic plasticity impairment at subiculum-mPFC pathway in urethane-anesthetized rats. These MK-801 induced effects were reversed by treatment with the AMPA receptor potentiator (LY451395), reinforcing the idea that AMPAR transmission enhancement could be an interesting target to attenuate alterations produced by NMDAR hypofunction<sup>35</sup>. Considering this, we tested whether prior LTP was also able to occlude the ketamine effects on synaptic plasticity and oscillatory patterns in the HPC-PFC pathway. To test this hypothesis, we first characterized sleep-like brain state oscillations under urethane<sup>35</sup> and compared PFC field responses induced by HPC stimulation and HPC-PFC oscillatory coupling before and after ketamine treatment. Then we tested the modulatory effect of deep brain stimulation (LTP at HPC-PFC synapses) on ketamine-driven oscillatory patterns. Our findings show that ketamine induces a state of increased gamma frequency power and abnormal cross-frequency coupling in the PFC, followed by an enhancement of HPC-PFC evoked responses. Although LTP induction also increases gamma frequency activity, it prevented ketamine-induced aberrant oscillatory coupling and potentiation of HPC-PFC synaptic transmission. Our data suggest that modulation of synaptic plasticity in HPC-PFC circuits might be a useful tool to better understand how to prevent dysfunctions induced by NMDAR blockade.

## Results

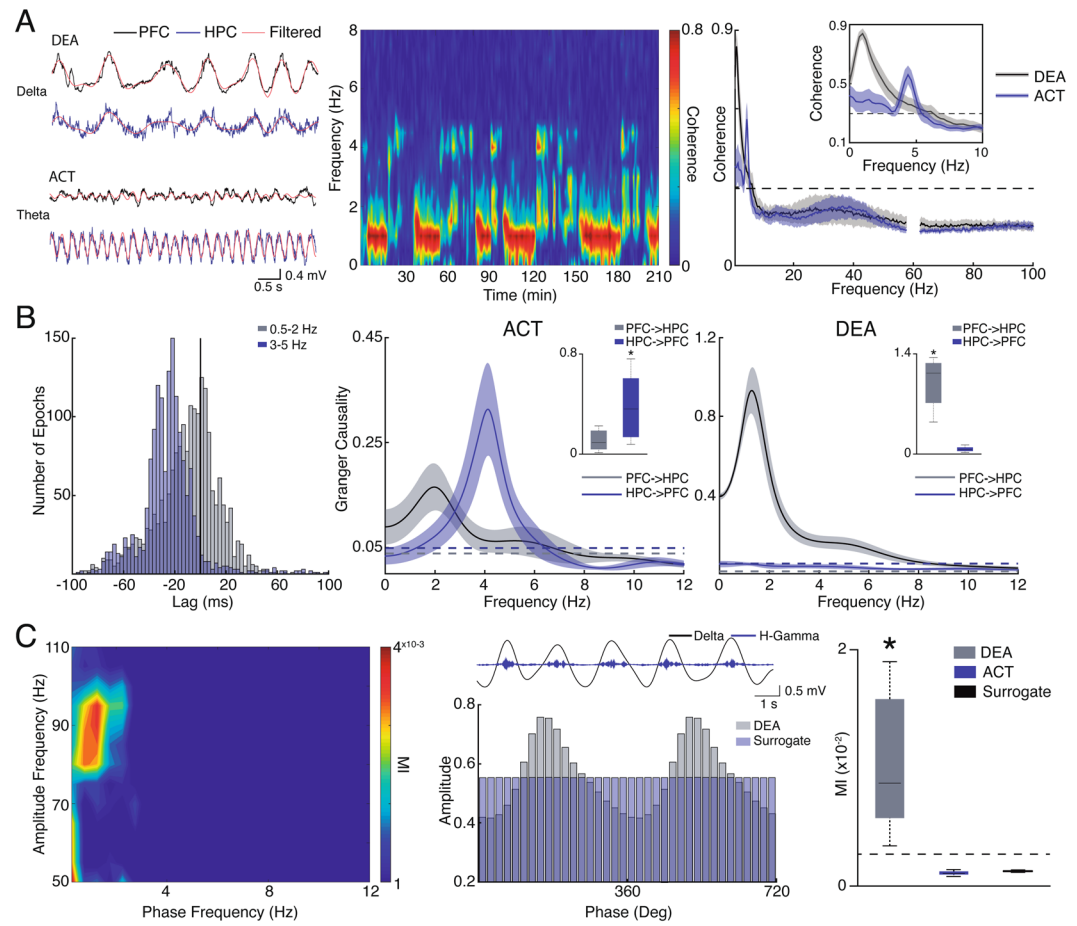
**Characterization of brain states under urethane.** Consistent with previous reports<sup>36</sup>, we found that rats under urethane show distinct alternating oscillatory patterns: 1) deactivated states (DEA), characterized by high amplitudes and slow rhythms in the LFP resembling Slow-Wave sleep patterns (Fig. 1C); and 2) activated states (ACT), described by an increase of faster frequency bands power (>4 Hz), which resembles REM oscillatory activity<sup>37</sup> (Fig. 1C). To separate brain states, we analyzed the RMS and zero-crossings value of each epoch (Fig. 1D). In Fig. 1E we represent the spectral content of each brain state. Consistent with previous reports<sup>37,38</sup>, we show that in DEA there is a predominance of delta oscillations (1 Hz), while in ACT epochs there is a significant decrease in delta (PFC:  $t_{(7)}=9.712$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ; HPC: Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-rank test,  $n = 8$ ,  $p = 0.0078$ ), and an increase in theta (PFC:  $t_{(7)} = 13.15$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ; HPC:  $t_{(7)} = 4.474$ ,  $p = 0.0029$ ), low-gamma (PFC:  $t_{(7)} = 4.054$ ,  $p = 0.0048$ ; HPC:  $t_{(7)} = 2.357$ ,  $p = 0.0506$ ) and high-gamma (PFC:  $t_{(7)} = 4.964$ ,  $p = 0.0016$ ; HPC: Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed-rank test,  $n = 8$ ,  $p = 0.1094$ ) relative power for both PFC and HPC.

**HPC-PFC connectivity under urethane anesthesia.** Before directly examining the ketamine effects on HPC-PFC neurophysiological dynamics, we sought to further our understanding of how urethane brain states *per se* can modulate functional connectivity between these regions in control conditions (Fig. 2). We show that while DEA epochs show synchrony in delta rhythms, spectral coherence during ACT state demonstrates a peak in theta oscillations (4 Hz, Fig. 2A). These patterns of synchronicity closely follow the alternation of brain states (Fig. 2A). We further explored the directionality of this connectivity by performing cross-correlation and Granger causality analyses. In Fig. 2B we show that the peak of cross-correlation in delta frequency (predominant oscillation on DEA epochs) has a positive lag (2 ms), while theta oscillations indicate a negative lag (–22 ms). Granger analysis reveals that ACT periods show theta oscillations with the HPC leading the PFC ( $t_{(7)} = 2.4909$ ,  $p = 0.0415$ ), while on DEA epochs we found a peak in delta oscillations (~1.5 Hz) with the PFC driving the HPC oscillations ( $t_{(7)} = 7.7401$ ,  $p = 0.0001$ ). These results indicate that during ACT states hippocampal theta coordinates activity in the



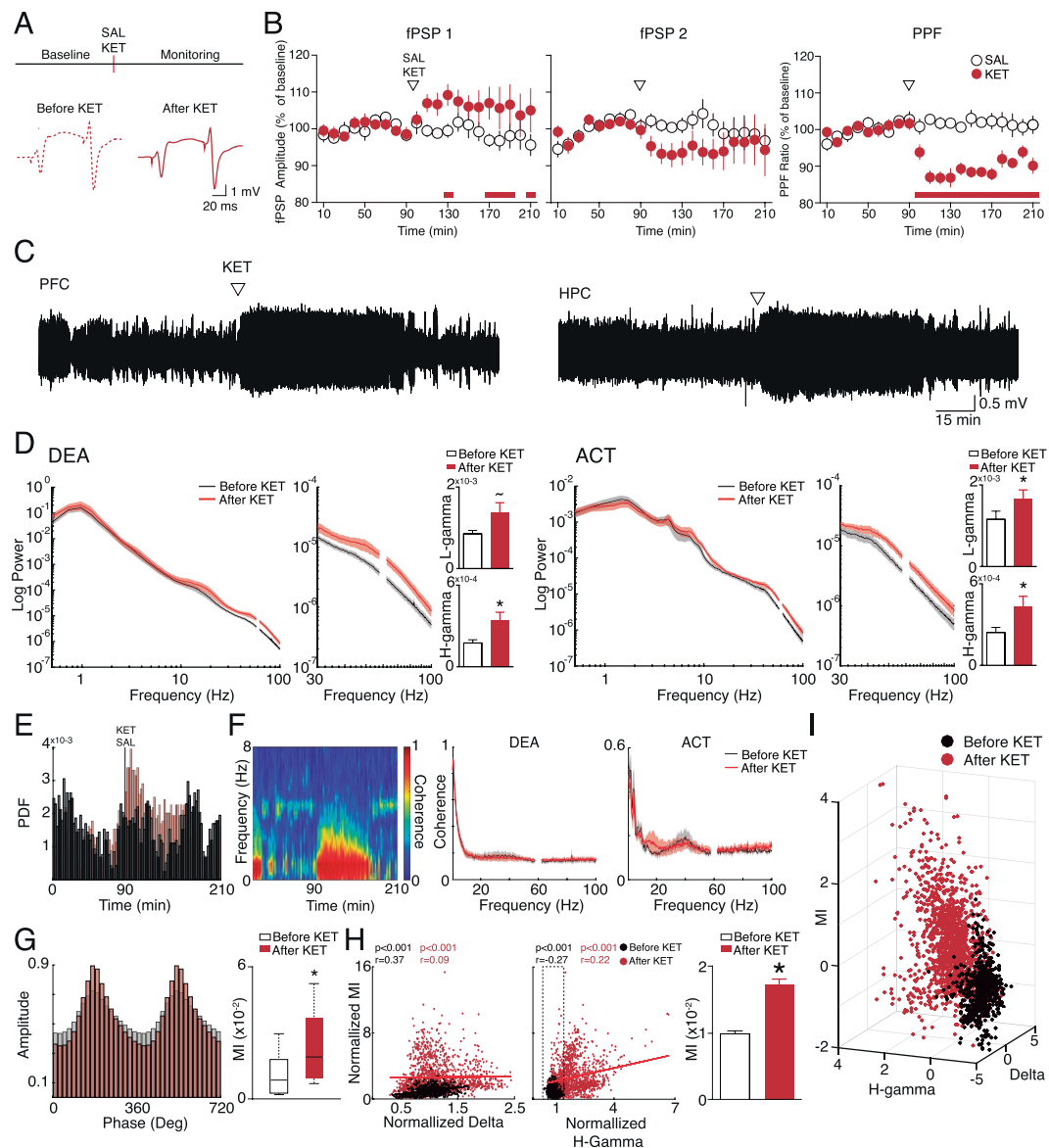
**Figure 1.** Oscillatory states under urethane anesthesia. **(A)** Positioning of recording and stimulus electrodes and representative electrolytic lesions in Nissl-stained coronal sections. **(B)** Experimental design. **(C)** Representative evoked fPSPs in the PFC (1), and raw LFP during deactivated (2) and activated (3) states in PFC (top) and HPC (bottom). Representative 210 min recording of a raw LFP (middle) and spectrograms (bottom) in the PFC and HPC showing spontaneous brain state alternation during urethane anesthesia. **(D)** Brain state classification. Scatter plots of RMS values and the number of zero crossing were used to classify brain states in deactivated (DEA) and activated (ACT) epochs (left). RMS and state classification in a representative recording (right). **(E)** Relative power spectral densities in the PFC and HPC (line plots) during different brain states (SAL, n = 8). In both regions, activated states present theta oscillation and an increase in gamma frequencies, while in deactivated state there is a predominance of delta oscillation (bar plots). \* $p < 0.05$ , ~ $p = 0.0506$ .

PFC, while in DEA periods delta oscillations from the PFC coordinates HPC slow activity. Interestingly, similar to what has been described by Roy *et al.*<sup>39</sup>, we found that in ACT epochs a ~2 Hz oscillatory activity from PFC to HPC coexists with the more pronounced HPC theta rhythm<sup>39</sup>. We also explored phase-amplitude coupling on each state. We found a prominent coupling of the delta phase with high-gamma amplitude during DEA oscillatory activity in the PFC (Fig. 2C). This coupling was significantly higher than a uniform empirical distribution (shuffled surrogate data) and the one present in ACT epochs (Kruskal-Wallis test:  $H_{(3)} = 16.81$ ,  $p = 0.0002$ , Dunn's post-hoc test  $p = 0.0002$  for DEA vs. ACT and  $p = 0.0157$  DEA vs. Surrogate data; Fig. 2C). Comodulation maps did not reveal a clear cross-frequency coupling (CFC) during ACT states (data not shown).



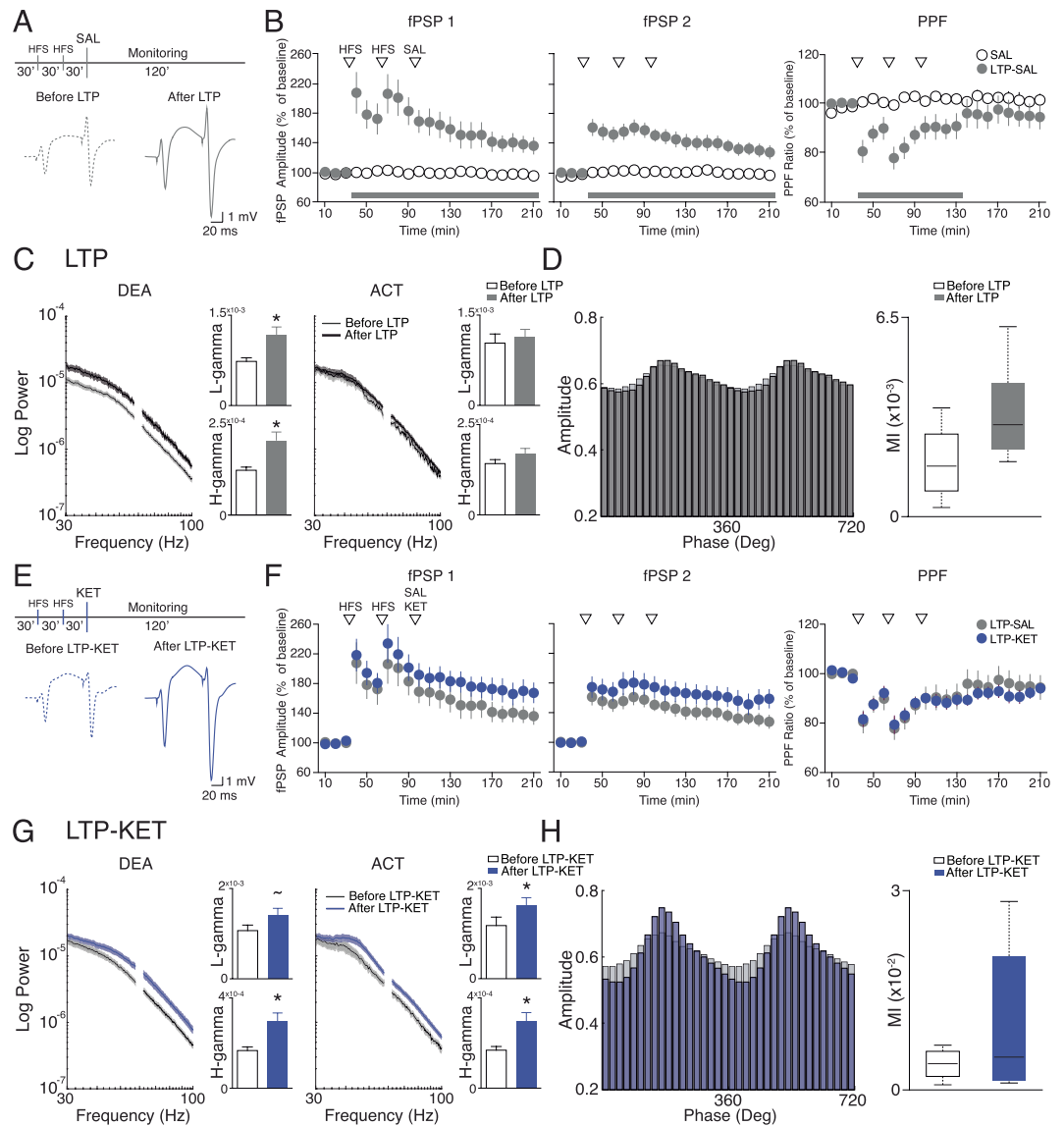
**Figure 2.** Brain state modulation of HPC-PFC connectivity. **(A)** Raw and filtered LFP during DEA (delta) and ACT (theta) in the PFC and HPC epochs (left). Representative coherogram for the entire recording (middle) showing delta (~1 Hz) and theta (~4 Hz) synchrony alternation during brain states. Averaged spectral coherence plot (right). Inset showing coherence peak ~4 Hz and ~1 Hz during ACT and DEA epochs, respectively. The dashed line represents 95% confidence interval of bootstrapped data. **(B)** Histogram of cross-correlogram lags (peak) of delta and theta oscillations in DEA and ACT (left). Granger causality in the ACT (middle) and DEA states (right). The dashed line represents 95% confidence interval of permuted data. Insets: box plots distribution of maximum Granger theta (left) and delta (right) power, showing significant causality in the HPC-PFC direction during activated state (left), and PFC-HPC direction during deactivated state (right). **(C)** Representative comodulation map showing delta-high-gamma coupling during deactivated state (left). Middle: Representative filtered LFP (top) and mean high-gamma amplitude as a function of delta phase in DEA state and surrogate data (bottom). Mean delta-high-gamma coupling strength (MI) during brain states (right) and surrogate data. MI is significantly increased during deactivated states. All data correspond to SAL group ( $n = 8$ ).  $^* (p < 0.05)$ .

**NMDAR blockade effects on HPC-PFC connectivity.** Next, we investigated the effects of acute ketamine injection on oscillatory patterns and basal synaptic efficacy in the HPC-PFC pathway of rats under urethane. In Fig. 3B we illustrate the ketamine effects on the evoked potentials of the HPC and PFC. We show that NMDAR blockade leads to an increase in evoked field post-synaptic potential (fPSP) amplitude ( $F_{(20,260)} = 1.611$  significant interaction between groups  $p = 0.050$ ; Bonferroni post-hoc test are bottom of the graphs) and a robust reduction of paired-pulse facilitation (PPF) ( $F_{(20,260)} = 8.205$  significant interaction between groups  $p < 0.001$ ). Figure 3C shows a representative raw LFP from both regions indicating ketamine effects on brain oscillations. As described in other studies<sup>18,40,41</sup>, we verified that NMDAR blockade increased low-gamma and high-gamma power in the PFC independent of brain state (DEA: low-gamma:  $t_{(6)} = 2.327$ ,  $p = 0.0589$ ; high-gamma:  $t_{(6)} = 3.423$ ,  $p = 0.0141$ ; ACT: low-gamma:  $t_{(5)} = 4.108$ ,  $p = 0.0093$ ; high-gamma:  $t_{(5)} = 3.258$ ,  $p = 0.0225$ ; Fig. 3D). In PFC, no significant effects were observed in other frequency bands, while in HPC there is a slight increase in gamma power (Figure S1A). Interestingly, systemic ketamine appears to increase the probability of DEA state. In Fig. 3E we demonstrate the probability density function (PDF) of DEA epoch occurrence in all animals in the KET group compared with animals of the SAL group. While the probability of SAL group oscillates between low and high values during the recording, this oscillation pattern is reduced after ketamine injection, with the probability of a DEA epoch occurrence kept high for at least 30 min after systemic injection (see also Figure S2). This increase in DEA oscillatory activity is not accompanied by alterations in synchrony between the HPC-PFC LFP accounting



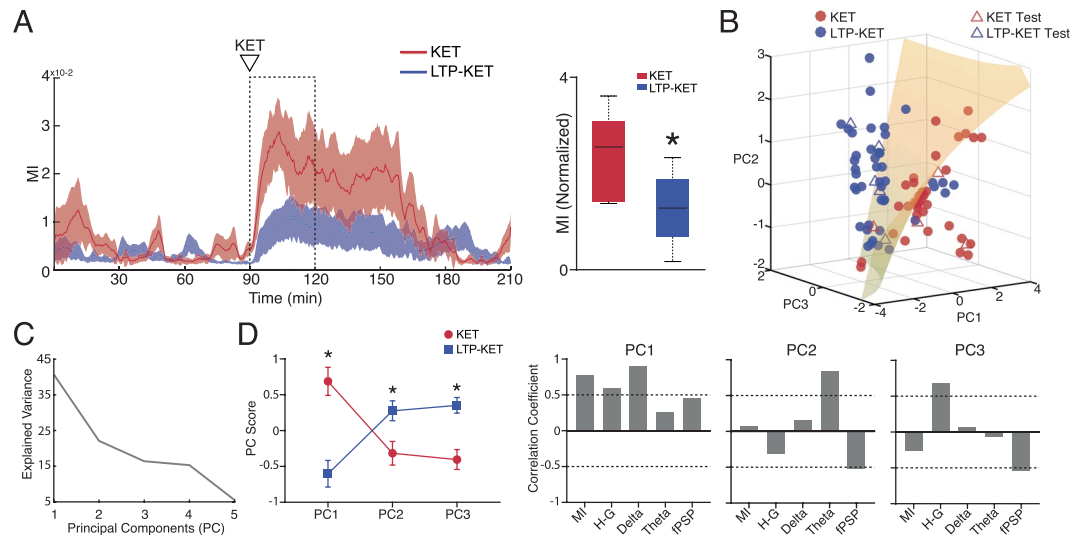
**Figure 3.** Brain state-dependent modulation of KET effects on HPC-PFC connectivity. **(A)** Experimental design for SAL ( $n = 8$ ) and KET ( $n = 7$ ) groups (top). Representative fPSPs of baseline (left) and after Ketamine injection (right). **(B)** Effects of ketamine injection on fPSPs (top and middle) and paired-pulse ratio (bottom) shown in 10 min blocks as mean  $\pm$  standard errors. Data are presented as ratios from the baseline mean amplitude. Red horizontal bars on the bottom of graphs indicate post-hoc differences ( $p < 0.05$ ). **(C)** Representative raw in a ketamine injected rat. **(D)** Averaged PSDs in the PFC before and after ketamine injection in DEA (left) and ACT (right) states. There is a significant increase in low and high-gamma power after ketamine injection (bar plots). **(E)** Probability density function (PDF) of DEA epochs along the recording in SAL and KET groups. **(F)** Representative coherogram in a KET rat (left) showing the increase of deactivated epochs. Averaged spectral coherence plots in deactivated (middle) and activated (right) states reveals that ketamine does not affect HPC-PFC synchrony. **(G)** Mean high-gamma amplitude as a function of delta phase in SAL and KET group (left). MI is significantly increased in deactivated states after ketamine injection. **(H)** Correlation of baseline normalized delta (left) and high-gamma (middle) power and MI before and after ketamine injection. Bar plot (right) compare DEA MI before and after ketamine injection in epochs which high-gamma power did not increase compared to baseline, showing that CFC increases independent of changes in power. **(I)** Three-dimensional scatter plot of z-scored MI, delta and high-gamma power showing a clear distinction of epochs before and after ketamine injection. \* ( $p < 0.05$ ), ~ ( $p = 0.0589$ ).

for epoch separation. As we show in Fig. 3F there are no significant changes between spectral coherence of DEA or ACT states comparing before or after ketamine injection. However, as shown in a representative coherogram, systemic ketamine leads to a persistent synchronization in delta, which follows the increase in DEA epochs.



**Figure 4.** LTP modulation of Ketamine effects on HPC-PFC connectivity. Experimental design for LTP-SAL (A) and LTP-KET groups (E) (top) and representative fPSPs of baseline (left) and after HFS (right). (B) Effects of HFS (LTP-SAL group  $n = 15$ ) on fPSPs (left and middle) and paired-pulse ratio (right) shown in 10 min blocks as mean  $\pm$  standard errors. Data are presented as ratios from the baseline mean amplitude. Short-term potentiation (STP) corresponds to the transient decaying phase of LTP in the initial  $\sim 30$  min. (C) PSDs of gamma frequencies before and after HFS, in the DEA (left) and ACT states (right). Bar plots display mean and standard errors of low (top) and high-gamma power (bottom). There is a significant increase in gamma power after HFS in the DEA states. No differences were found in the activated state. (D) Mean high-gamma amplitude as a function of delta phase before and after HFS (left). MI in deactivated state is not affected by LTP induction (right). (F) LTP induction precludes the ketamine enhancement of fPSPs and PPF (LTP-KET,  $n = 9$ ). No statistical differences were observed between LTP and LTP-KET groups. (G) PSDs of gamma frequencies before and after Ketamine on LTP-KET group, in the deactivated (left) and activated states (right). There is a significant increase in high-gamma and a statistical trend in low-gamma power in the deactivated state (left). In the activated state, there is a significant increase in both low and high-gamma power (right). (H) Mean high-gamma amplitude as a function of delta phase before and after Ketamine in the LTP-KET group (left). MI in deactivated state is not affected in the LTP-KET group (right).  $^*(p < 0.05)$ ,  $\sim(p = 0.06)$ .

**NMDAR blockade promotes a different oscillatory state in the PFC.** Since ketamine produced a persistent and global state of delta oscillations (DEA state), we asked whether this effect was associated with alterations of information processing in local networks by calculating the phase-amplitude coupling<sup>42</sup> in the PFC. In Fig. 3G we represent high-gamma amplitude as a function of delta phase comparing DEA epochs before and after ketamine injection. We show here that NMDAR blockade increases cross-frequency coupling between delta and high-gamma activity ( $t_{(6)} = 4.947$ ,  $p = 0.0026$ ). To investigate if the increase of the CFC was dependent on power changes promoted by ketamine we performed a linear correlation between DEA baseline-normalized MI



**Figure 5.** LTP induction prevents Ketamine effects. **(A)** LTP prevents the increase in MI state caused by ketamine. Averaged MI across the entire recording in KET ( $n = 7$ ) and LTP-KET ( $n = 9$ ) groups (left). Comparison of the baseline normalized MI in the initial 30 min after ketamine injection. There is a significant decrease in delta-high-gamma CFC when ketamine is preceded by HFS. **(B)** 3D plot of the Principal Component Analysis of electrophysiological features in the KET and LTP-KET groups. A quadratic discriminant function was used to classify each 5 min epochs after ketamine injection indicating separation on the training (filled circles) and test (open triangles) PFC LFPs (cross-validation accuracy: 85.56%). **(C)** Explained variance of the Principal Components. **(D)** PC score of the KET and LTP-KET epochs (left) and correlation coefficients between variables and PCs. This data indicates that KET and LTP-KET have a clear distinct electrophysiological feature. While KET epochs are described by the presence of delta, high-gamma, increased CFC and fPSP, HFS-KET epochs are characterized by the presence of theta power, elevation of high-gamma power and a reduction of fPSP.  $*(p < 0.05)$ .

and delta or high-gamma power values. Figure 3H shows a weak correlation between delta or high-gamma with MI values after ketamine injection ( $r = 0.09$  for delta and  $r = 0.22$  for high-gamma). To further investigate if the increase in CFC could be influenced by high-gamma power after ketamine we compared MI averaged values before and after the drug. For this, we only used post-ketamine epochs with high-gamma within 95% confidence interval of the pre-ketamine high-gamma distribution. We show that even epochs with no increase in high-gamma values compared to baseline present an average significant enhancement in CFC (Fig. 3H right;  $t_{(882)} = 8.0693$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), indicating that ketamine effects in delta-high-gamma coupling may be independent of power increase in these frequencies. We confirmed this result with bootstrap analysis using 1000 repetitions and controlling for the number of trials. These data indicate that ketamine promotes an oscillatory state that is different from the traditional DEA state in the PFC. Figure 3I illustrates all the 20 s DEA epochs from the KET group in a 3D plot showing how ketamine modifies brain oscillatory activity in DEA epochs increasing gamma frequency band and delta-high-gamma coupling.

**LTP increases gamma activity in the PFC.** Before testing for a possible modulation of KET effects by prior LTP induction, we sought to examine the electrophysiological effects produced by high-frequency stimulation (HFS) alone. In Fig. 4 we show the effects of HFS on HPC-PFC synaptic efficacy and oscillatory patterns. As shown previously by our group<sup>30,32,42</sup>, HFS protocol induces a stable LTP in the HPC-PFC pathway for at least 120 min (fPSP1;  $F_{(20,240)} = 13.761$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). This LTP can be divided into the transient decaying phase, termed short-term potentiation (STP, Fig. 4B) and the more stable LTP *per se*. LTP effects were also seen in the amplitude of the fPSP2 (paired-pulse stimulation;  $F_{(20,240)} = 11.470$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). However, the increase in the fPSP2 is relatively lower than the one in fPSP1, which is seen as a reduction in the PPF ratio at least for 60 min after HFS ( $F_{(20,240)} = 5.621$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ; Fig. 4B). Figure 4C demonstrates the effects of HFS on LFP of the PFC. LTP induction produced an increase in low and high-gamma on the PFC restricted to DEA epochs (low-gamma: Mann-Whitney test,  $U = 30$ ,  $p = 0.0006$ ; high-gamma: Mann-Whitney test,  $U = 27$ ,  $p = 0.0003$ ). No significant alterations were observed at gamma frequencies in the HPC of LTP groups (Figure S1B). Interestingly, the increase in high-gamma power was not related to an enhancement of delta-high-gamma coupling. As shown in Fig. 4D the modulation index did not differ from before or after LTP induction ( $p > 0.05$ ).

**Ketamine effects are attenuated by prior LTP.** Because allosteric modulation of glutamatergic receptors prevents psychotic-like effects<sup>26,43–47</sup>, and induction of LTP enhances both AMPAR and NMDAR activity<sup>48–50</sup>, we asked whether previous LTP induction can prevent ketamine effects on HPC-PFC pathway. To test this hypothesis, we applied HFS 30 min prior to KET (see Methods) or vehicle administration (LTP-KET and LTP-SAL groups) and compared the results. Figure 4F indicates that ketamine treatment following LTP did not affect the

evoked potentials on the PFC either on fPSP1, fPSP2 or PPF comparing with control group ( $p > 0.05$ ). Similar to what we observed in the LTP-SAL group, LTP-KET also presented an increase in low and high-gamma activity in the DEA epochs of the PFC (low-gamma:  $t_{(7)} = 2.229$ ,  $p = 0.0611$ ; high-gamma:  $t_{(7)} = 2.931$ ,  $p = 0.0220$ ). While these effects are also seen in the LTP group LTP-KET shows an increase in gamma frequency also during ACT states (low-gamma:  $t_{(8)} = 7.166$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ; high-gamma:  $t_{(8)} = 7.709$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; Fig. 4G). These alterations appear to be related to the ketamine administration since it was observed in the KET group as well (Fig. 3D). Despite the high-gamma power increase, no significant alterations were observed in the delta-high-gamma coupling in DEA states (Fig. 4H), indicating that LTP induction prevents ketamine effects on PFC CFC.

**LTP prevents ketamine-induced aberrant oscillatory brain state.** Finally, we explored the possibility that prior LTP induction attenuates the aberrant oscillatory patterns induced by KET. Figure 5A shows the absolute MI value across the entire recording in the KET and LTP-KET groups. We demonstrate that LTP induction attenuates ketamine effects on delta-high-gamma coupling especially in the first 30 minutes after drug injection. We next compared the baseline-normalized MI values for only DEA epochs in the initial 30 min after ketamine. Our data indicate that LTP attenuates the effects of ketamine on enhancing CFC coupling in the PFC ( $t_{(12)} = 2.589$ ,  $p = 0.0237$ ). Figure 5B shows that KET and LTP-KET epochs after ketamine injection can be distinguished based on their electrophysiological features. We used principal component analysis for dimensionality reduction of electrophysiological features, and then applied a quadratic discriminant analysis to classify epochs in the two groups. For the quadratic function, we used the first three principal components, which have an explained variance of 79.21% (Fig. 5C). Our classification model with training data (filled circles) and then cross-validated with test data (open triangles) gave a classification accuracy of 85.56% accuracy. This data shows that ketamine effects can be distinguished when preceded by LTP based on their electrophysiological characteristics. We next compared the epochs mean score from each group for the first three principal components (Fig. 5D). Our results revealed that KET has a higher score on PC1 ( $p < 0.0001$ ), while LTP-KET has a higher score in PC2 ( $p = 0.0069$ ) and PC3 ( $p = 0.0001$ ). Interpreting the correlation coefficients (loadings) of the original variables with the first three principal components we observe that PC1 has a high correlation with CFC values ( $r = 0.7696$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ), high-gamma ( $r = 0.5975$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and delta activity ( $r = 0.8963$ ,  $p = 0.0001$ ). PC2 and PC3 have high correlation with theta ( $r = 0.8368$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and high-gamma ( $r = 0.6750$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ), respectively, and negative correlation with fPSP ( $r = -0.5214$ ,  $p < 0.0001$  and  $r = -0.5375$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ , respectively).

## Discussion

In this study, we demonstrated that a prior enhancement of synaptic efficacy at hippocampal-prefrontal projections is sufficient to attenuate the disturbing effects of ketamine on oscillatory coupling and basal synaptic transmission in the prefrontal cortex. Ketamine was shown to increase gamma frequency power and delta-gamma phase-amplitude coupling in the PFC and boosted HPC-PFC synaptic plasticity with PPF disruption. We also observed that LTP induction was associated with an increase of gamma power in DEA states in the PFC and no alteration in delta-gamma coupling in the PFC.

Under urethane anesthesia, rodents show a spontaneous alternation of brain states characterized by activated and deactivated periods<sup>34,36</sup>. We expanded previous work demonstrating a 4 Hz synchronization from the HPC to the PFC during the activated state and a 1 Hz synchronization from the PFC to the hippocampus in the deactivated. Furthermore, we describe a ~2 Hz oscillation concomitant with theta activity during ACT epochs. Our finding possibly agrees with Roy *et al.*<sup>39</sup>, which indicates that this oscillatory activity can be important to HPC-PFC coupling and that the nucleus reuniens of thalamus is crucial for the coupling in this rhythm<sup>39</sup>. We also show that DEA states displays a prominent coupling in delta-gamma oscillatory activity. NMDAR antagonism by S + Ketamine (12,5 mg/Kg) changed the brain state dynamics by (1) increasing the numbers of DEA states, affecting oscillatory brain state alternation; and (2) inducing a distinct DEA state with high gamma power and abnormal cross-frequency coupling between delta phase and high-gamma amplitude. The urethane preparation has been regarded as a valid model to understand sleep physiology<sup>36</sup> and so our data suggest that NMDAR antagonism could interfere with sleep architecture. Interestingly, rodent and human data indicate that subanesthetic doses of ketamine diminishes the REM period of sleep<sup>51</sup> and increases sleep slow-wave activity and NREM sleep<sup>52,53</sup>. However, as indicated by our data, ketamine induces a distinct NREM-like state, marked by an increase in gamma power and aberrant delta-gamma coupling. An interesting question is if ketamine, as seen in our state-space, could also modulate gamma power and frequency coupling during sleep and what are the possible cognitive and behavioural outcomes.

The induction of aberrant gamma oscillations in cortical and subcortical regions is a typical effect of acute ketamine treatment<sup>54</sup>. A variety of *in vivo* studies have demonstrated that non-competitive NMDAR antagonism increases the firing rate of PFC pyramidal neurons reducing their synchrony, and enhancing broadband gamma activity<sup>40,55–58</sup>. This broadband gamma enhancement is believed to be an aberrant and diffuse noise at the network level that can cause dysfunction in cognitive and sensory-motor integration<sup>18,59</sup>. Furthermore, gamma activity increased by ketamine has been observed regardless of the level of consciousness, which indicates that the gamma power increase observed in our study are not particularly of the urethane preparation. In our study, however, gamma increase after KET injection was robust in the PFC, with subtle effects in the HPC (see also Figure S1A). Robust gamma increases have been previously reported in the HPC following NMDAR antagonism in freely moving<sup>16,60</sup> and anesthetized animals<sup>18</sup> as well. To our knowledge, none of these studies tested the effects of S + ketamine, which has a higher affinity to NMDAR compared to racemic ketamine<sup>61</sup>. Indeed, different NMDAR antagonists are known to produce different effects on gamma oscillatory dynamics<sup>55,62,63</sup>.

Interestingly, we show that in DEA states, the increase in high-gamma activity induced by ketamine is strongly coordinated by slow oscillations, rather than by a generalized increase of activity. We suggest that this rhythmic coupling is independent of enhancement in gamma activity since there was low correlation between gamma



power and CFC. Post-ketamine epochs of similar gamma power to pre-ketamine showed significantly higher delta-gamma coupling. In freely moving animals, it was shown that acute ketamine can increase cross-frequency coupling between gamma activity and theta oscillations in the hippocampus of rats<sup>16</sup>. Chronic ketamine treatment also causes long-term alterations on theta-gamma CFC depending on the behavioral state<sup>64</sup>. Theta oscillations are prominent during exploratory activity<sup>65</sup> and theta-gamma CFC has been related to working memory and memory consolidation mechanisms<sup>66–68</sup>.

In contrast, delta-gamma CFC has been described in cortico-striatal network and could reflect cortico-mesolimbic connectivity<sup>63</sup>, and be modulated by dopaminergic activation<sup>69,70</sup>. If the aberrant coupling observed in our experiment is a summation of a possible anesthetic effect of KET under a urethane preparation it remains to be elucidated. Increase of delta-low gamma and theta-low gamma in the frontal cortex has been described as a common neurophysiological feature of several anesthetic agents, including ketamine<sup>71</sup>. However, Pal *et al.* (2017) observed a lack of effect in the delta-high-gamma CFC and a reduction of high-gamma power using anesthetic doses of ketamine, which suggests that our results are independent of the sedative properties of ketamine, since we used a lower dose than the mentioned study<sup>71</sup>. Furthermore, an increase in delta-high frequency oscillations CFC has been observed with sub-anesthetic doses of ketamine in the striatum of awake animals<sup>60</sup>. One possibility is that the observed aberrant coupling induced by NMDAR antagonism could be associated with an overprocessing of information in the state-space generated by urethane anesthesia (i.e. slow oscillatory activity). However, little is known about the function of delta-gamma coupling in natural physiological states. To further explore a possible relationship with psychotic symptoms, future studies should consider the investigation of ketamine effects on CFC in neocortical circuits during sleep and relevant behavior.

In agreement with other studies, we observed that S + KET administration leads to a sustained increase in HPC-PFC synaptic efficiency and a reduction in PPF. Blot *et al.* showed that under urethane anesthesia, systemic injection of MK-801 produced an increase of PFC evoked responses induced by ventral HPC stimulation<sup>25</sup>. Several studies suggest that in low-doses NMDAR antagonist acts preferentially in the fast-spiking GABAergic interneurons of the PFC<sup>22,72,73</sup>. Thus, the potentiation of the HPC-PFC evoked potential could be a consequence of synaptic disinhibition on PFC principal neurons. However, Blot *et al.* (2015) demonstrated by occlusion experiments, that MK-801-induced potentiation shares the expression mechanism with LTP<sup>25</sup>. In this case, the disinhibition of PFC principal neurons would be a trigger for long-lasting synaptic plasticity modifications<sup>25</sup>. Here, we reinforced this hypothesis by showing that prior induction of LTP precluded the S + KET-induced enhancement of the HPC-PFC synaptic efficiency. Consistent with our findings on PPF, Kiss *et al.* observed a stronger but shorter reduction of HPC-PFC PPF after systemic MK-801<sup>35</sup>. Given the ability of short-term synaptic plasticity to influence information processing, it is plausible that dysfunctional sensory/cognitive processing in schizophrenia may arise from modified short-term synaptic plasticity<sup>74–76</sup>. Indeed, short-term synaptic plasticity alterations are a consistent finding in genetic mouse models of schizophrenia (for a review: Ruggiero *et al.*<sup>77</sup>; Sigurdsson *et al.*<sup>78</sup>).

The main finding of our study is that LTP induction prevents the neurophysiological effects of ketamine. LTP induction attenuated the ketamine effects on cortical fPSP similarly as observed with MK-801<sup>25</sup>. One possibility is that the LTP induction promoted a ceiling effect on the amplitude of the fPSP and the effects of KET could not be observed under this saturation. This does not seem to be the case since in our protocol KET was injected after an initial decrease in the evoked fPSP, and it was showed that NMDAR antagonist effects were blocked after LTP even when the stimulus intensity was lowered to avoid saturation<sup>25</sup>. Since ketamine blocks active NMDAR, and LTP in the HPC-PFC pathway depends on NMDAR activation<sup>19,20</sup>, it is conceivable that LTP could prevent KET effects by direct competitive mechanisms. We also demonstrated that LTP induction in the HPC-PFC projections abolished ketamine reduction of PPF. This is in agreement with Kiss *et al.* (2011), showing that treatment with the AMPAR allosteric modulators (LY451395) reverts the increase in slow oscillations and PPF deficits produced by MK-801. Classically, PPF arises from calcium accumulation in the presynaptic terminal due to a first stimulation pulse that results in increased neurotransmitter release in response to a second stimulus followed by a short interval<sup>79</sup>. However, short-term synaptic plasticity in the HPC-PFC pathway may encompass a more complex interaction, involving GABAergic interneurons terminating in the PFC pyramidal cells, since CA1 collaterals innervate both pyramidal and GABAergic neurons<sup>80</sup>. Electrical stimulation of CA1 induces a relevant burst activity in PFC interneurons in contrast to the few spikes elicited in pyramidal neurons<sup>81</sup>. This feed-forward inhibition is proposed to constrain the excitatory influence of the HPC on PFC pyramidal cells, supporting rhythmic synchronization between the hippocampus and cortical activity<sup>81</sup>. Thus, we speculate that PPF deficits induced by NMDAR antagonism could contribute to reduced synchrony between HPC and PFC and LTP induction could attenuate this effect. Also, the decrease in HPC-PFC pathway PPF response is related to an increase of delta activity in the 0.5–2 Hz band<sup>35</sup>. Interestingly, we show that ketamine produced an increase in the number of deactivated epochs that are characterized by ~1 Hz power. In contrast, LTP induction prevented this effect on brain state alternation, which could explain the reduction of KET effects on PPF.

Extending the effects of deep brain stimulation, we observed that cortical LTP induction increased gamma activity early after HFS (0–30 min) specifically in DEA epochs. This effect is consistent with previous reports that show gamma increase in the posterior HPC-PFC pathway following LTP, but no LTD<sup>82</sup>. However, we did not observe enhanced CFC following gamma increase. These findings suggest that in contrast to KET, LTP promotes less coordinated gamma oscillations during slow delta activity. Furthermore, HFS attenuated aberrant delta-high-gamma CFC during DEA epochs. NMDAR dependent LTP is divided into different components that do not rely on gene transcriptions: short-term potentiation (STP) and LTP<sup>83</sup>. Importantly, in our protocol KET was injected 30 min after HFS, which corresponds to the time course of STP. STP is induced by presynaptic mechanisms and has been shown in HPC-PFC pathway<sup>84</sup>. STP involves an increase in the probability of neurotransmitter release and the activation of GluN2B and GluN2D containing NMDAR<sup>83</sup>. In contrast, LTP requires mainly activation of GluN2A and GluN2B containing NMDAR. It has been shown that ketamine inhibits STP more potently than LTP<sup>85</sup> and it is possible that is the induction of STP that prevents ketamine effects. This hypothesis

needs to be addressed in future studies since STP has been speculated as a physiological mechanism supporting working memory<sup>86</sup>. Another interesting hypothesis to be tested is if tetanization would mitigate aberrant oscillatory activity after ketamine injection. Several studies demonstrated that NMDAr antagonists blocked LTP induction (Blot *et al.*, 2015; Rame *et al.*, 2017). Indirect evidence has been provided by Kiss *et al.* 2011 by showing that LY451395 reverts the increase in slow oscillations and PPF deficits produced by MK-801. These results suggest that AMPAR transmission enhancement could attenuate the effects of ketamine on brain oscillatory activity. However, we were unable to test whether LTP could revert KET effects since the dual HFS protocol spanning ~45 min would surpass the duration of KET effect on oscillatory brain activity as shown to be 30–40 min (Fig. 5).

As a demonstration that prior deep brain stimulation significantly changes the neural dynamics induced by KET, we were able to separate these two brain states (KET and LTP-KET) using an unsupervised algorithm solely based on the electrophysiological features of each state. It remains an open question, however, whether LTP induction would also attenuate functional and behavioral deficits induced by ketamine. Direct evidence supporting hypothesis come from experimental deep brain stimulation (DBS) studies. High-frequency stimulation of the ventral HPC was shown to normalize auditory evoked responses in the MAM model of schizophrenia<sup>87</sup>. Using the same animal model, Perez *et al.* 2013 showed that ventral hippocampal DBS: (1) normalized aberrant dopamine neuron activity, (2) decreased locomotor response to amphetamine, and (3) restored deficits of cognitive flexibility<sup>88</sup>. Furthermore, the application of DBS to other cerebral regions, such as PFC, *nucleus accumbens*<sup>89,90</sup>, and medial septum<sup>89</sup> showed promising results for alleviating behavioral deficits in animal models of schizophrenia. Taken together, these data suggest that HFS of limbic circuits should be further investigated as a possible treatment for drug-resistant schizophrenia.

## Conclusion

Our findings expand previous studies showing that systemic treatment with S + KET produces complex changes in connectivity, synaptic plasticity, and oscillatory patterns in the HPC-PFC pathway *in vivo*. The prevention of most of these electrophysiological effects through LTP induction supports the idea that NMDAr antagonist effects share common mechanisms with LTP induction. Additional studies are needed to clarify the underlying molecular mechanisms of this interference induced by this form of deep brain stimulation. Additionally, our results suggest that HFS applied to the hippocampus could be a useful strategy to test the attenuation of cognitive impairments in animal models of schizophrenia. We hope these results will contribute to the development of non-pharmacological treatments aimed at preventing or mitigating cognitive deficits associated with psychiatric disorders.

## Methods

**Subjects.** A total of 36 male Wistar rats weighting 300–450 g were used in the experiments. Six animals were excluded based on inconsistent fPSP or mortality related to anesthesia. Rats were housed in groups of four in standard rodent cages in a controlled-temperature room ( $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ), on a 12 h light/dark cycle (light on at 7 a.m.) with free access to food and water. All the experimental procedures were approved by the local bioethics committee (Ribeirão Preto Medical School, University of São Paulo; protocol number: 193/2009) which guidelines are in conformity with the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978).

**Surgical procedures and electrophysiological recordings.** Animals were anesthetized with urethane (1.2–1.5 mg/Kg in NaCl 0.15 M, ip) and placed in a stereotaxic frame. After cleaning procedures, the skull was exposed, and burr holes were drilled aiming the left PFC (anterior-posterior, AP: +3.0 mm; medial-lateral, ML: +0.5 mm; dorsal-ventral, DV: 3.2 mm) and HPC (CA1, AP: -4.7 mm; ML: 4 mm; DV: 2.5–2.8 mm) for recording, and HPC intermediate region (CA1, AP: -5.7 mm; ML: 4.4 mm; DV: 2.5–2.8 mm) for stimulation electrodes implant (Fig. 1A). Manufactured electrodes were made of single Teflon-coated tungsten wires (60  $\mu\text{m}$ , AM-Systems) for recording and two twisted wires for bipolar stimulation (~500  $\mu\text{m}$  inter-pole distance). An epidural screw placed in the right parietal bone was used for reference and ground. Temperature ( $37 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ ) was kept constant during all the procedure by a heating pad.

HPC recording electrode positioning was adjusted by monitoring typical LFP and audio-monitor signals from the hippocampus (i.e., prominent spikes and theta oscillation). The stimulus electrode in HPC was adjusted by applying low-intensity test-pulses (square monophasic pulses, ~150  $\mu\text{A}$  200  $\mu\text{s}$ , 0.05 Hz) aiming for a consistent fPSP in the PFC (i.e., the latency of first negative peak of 14–17 ms and amplitude >0.25 mV<sup>91,92</sup>). After electrode adjustment, an input-output curve (I/O curve; 60–500  $\mu\text{A}$ ) was used to establish the current intensity necessary to evoke 70% of the maximal fPSP amplitude. This current was used to apply paired monophasic pulses (same parameters as in test pulses and 80 ms of inter-pulse interval; S88; Grass Instruments) during the entire experiment. Recorded signals consisted of evoked fPSP and concomitant LFPs of PFC and HPC (Fig. 1C). Signal was amplified 100 $\times$ , band-pass filtered (0.3–1000 Hz; Grass), and digitized at 10 kHz (ADInstruments). LTP induction was induced by applying a high-frequency stimulation (HFS): two series of 10 trains (50 pulses at 250 Hz every 10 s) separated by 10 min.

**Experimental design.** Figure 1B illustrates the experimental design. In Experiment 1 we investigated the ketamine effects on HPC-PFC connectivity. fPSPs and LFPs were monitored for 120 min after ketamine (S(+)-ketamine; 12.5 mg/Kg ip) or saline (0.9%) injection and compared with the 90 min baseline (groups KET,  $n = 7$  and SAL,  $n = 8$ , respectively). We choose S(+)-ketamine given its high affinity for NMDAr<sup>61</sup> and because it reproduces the metabolic effects observed in psychotic patients<sup>93</sup>. In Experiment 2 we explored the hypothesis that LTP induction could prevent ketamine effects on the HPC-PFC connectivity. After a 30 min baseline, two HFS protocols

were applied at 30 and 60 min. Following HFS, ketamine or saline was injected and field potentials were monitored for an additional 120 min (groups LTP-KET,  $n = 9$  and LTP-SAL,  $n = 6$ , respectively). All experiments were conducted during urethane anesthesia.

**Data analysis.** All data processing was performed using customized scripts in Matlab (Mathworks). The amplitude of evoked fPSP1 and fPSP2 (Fig. 1C) were normalized as a percentage of baseline mean (90 and 30 min for experiments I and II, respectively). PPF was calculated as the ratio of fPSP2 and fPSP1 as an indication of short-term synaptic plasticity. All fPSP measures were averaged in blocks of 10 min. LFP signal was re-sampled to 1000 Hz and then high-pass filtered at 0.5 Hz. The whole recording data was epoched in a 20 s period following HPC electrical stimulation. Time windows of 0.5 s containing the evoked fPSP and electrical stimulation artifact (in both regions) were eliminated from all epochs.

**Brain state classification.** We classified deactivated and activated periods by plotting PFC epoch values for RMS (root mean square) and the number of zero-crossing in the LFP (Fig. 1D). These measures directly reflect amplitude and presence of faster rhythms in the signal (Fig. 1C,D). We used a k-means algorithm (squared Euclidean distance for three groups) for an initial clustering and manually refined the classification eliminating epochs at the cluster edge. Spectrum content of each state was analyzed to confirm classification. Not classified epochs were not analyzed in this work.

**Spectral analysis.** Power spectral density estimates (PSD) were calculated using Welch's method in which Discrete Fourier Transform (FFT Matlab algorithm) is applied in overlapping windows and the periodogram is calculated for each segment individually and the magnitude squared result of the FFT is averaged. We used 3 s Hamming tapered windows, with 50% overlap and a  $2^{12}$  points FFT. PSDs estimates were then averaged over trials and animals. For representative spectrograms, we used a short-time Fourier Transform in the whole recording using a 60 s window with  $2^{16}$  points FFT and 50% overlap. For statistics, power was integrated into specific frequency bands (delta: 0.5–2 Hz, theta: 3–5 Hz, low-gamma: 30–55 Hz, and high-gamma: 65–100 Hz). Relative power was obtained by dividing PSD estimation by the integrated power over all frequencies.

Spectral coherence was estimated using Welch's periodogram method to compute the cross-PSD of PFC and HIPO ( $P_{xy}$ ) and the PSD of both region ( $P_{xx}$  and  $P_{yy}$ ). The magnitude squared coherence was calculated as:  $C_{xy}(f) = |P_{xy}(f)|^2 / P_{yy}(f) P_{xx}(f)$ . The parameters used were the same as described for the PSDs estimate. Coherograms were calculated using the same approach while using a moving window of 90 s and 50% overlap. Power and coherence values from 58–62 Hz (line noise contamination) were removed from the analysis. To evaluate HFS effects on spectral parameters we combined all LTP animals (LTP-SAL and LTP-KET groups) into one group (LTP group) since HFS was the only manipulation from the second electrical stimulation until drug injection.

**Phase-amplitude coupling.** Cross-frequency coupling was estimated by the modulation index as described by Tort and adapted in previous work from our group<sup>29,94</sup>. Briefly, comodulation maps were constructed applying Hilbert transform to the signal filtered in bins of 0.5 Hz from 1 to 20 Hz on steps of 1 Hz for the phase modulating signal, while the amplitude modulated signal was filtered in bins of 1 Hz from 10 to 120 Hz on steps of 5 Hz. Shannon entropy of the distribution of mean amplitudes per phase (divided into 18 bins) in each frequency bin was calculated to obtain the cross-frequency modulation index (MI) for each period. The MI between delta oscillations (1–2 Hz) and high gamma band (65–100 Hz) was calculated for comparisons.

**Directionality analysis.** We inferred directionality by cross-correlation and Granger causality. Cross-correlation measures the similarity of two time series by performing the sliding dot product between the signals. We calculated the peak lag of the cross-correlation of delta and theta filtered signals for deactivated and activated epochs, respectively. Wiener-Granger causality spectra were performed using the MVGC toolbox developed by Barnett and Seth<sup>95</sup>, which is freely available online (<http://users.sussex.ac.uk/~lionelb/MVGC/>). This algorithm uses vector auto-regressive models to estimate prediction of a time series A based on another time series B compared with the prediction obtained by using the past values of time series A alone. We used pairs of HPC and PFC LFP separating for DEA or ACT epochs. Initially, raw LFP was decimated to 200 Hz, and the model order was estimated by Akaike Information Criterion for each animal separately (model order range: 36–38). We fixed the model order of 40, which gave an adequate frequency resolution for the slow oscillations that predominate on our signals with reasonable computation cost. For statistical significance, we calculated the 95% confidence interval (CI) from the empirical null distribution of the frequency-domain Granger estimates, based on randomly permuting one LFP in bins the size of the model order. For directionality comparison (HPC → PFC vs. PFC → HPC; in DEA or ACT) we used a Bonferroni-corrected paired  $t$  test for the peak frequency in the delta (0.5–2 Hz) or theta (3–5 Hz) bands.

**Principal component and discriminant analysis.** Principal component analysis, using singular-value decomposition (*pca* Matlab function), was used for dimensionality reduction in order to find patterns of variance among multivariate data. Variables analyzed were MI, high-gamma, delta and theta power and fPSP amplitude. We used these features since they were associated with ketamine effects (Fig. 3). LFP data were normalized by the mean value of baseline DEA epochs, while for fPSP we used the normalized mean value for the 10 min before drug injection (all epochs regardless of state classification to account for LTP induction). The normalized values were extracted in 5 min epochs from 10–40 min after drug injection (KET and LTP-KET groups) in order to capture stable effects of ketamine. Data were z-scored for each variable. Following PCA analysis, data was projected against principal components (PCs) and the mean score was compared between conditions (KET vs. LTP-KET). Correlation coefficients between original variables and scaled components were obtained

by multiplying eigenvectors by the square root of the eigenvalues. For interpretation, we used correlation coefficients value  $> 0.5^{96}$ . A discriminant analysis classifier was used based on the first three principal components extracted (explained variance of 79.21%). A quadratic function fit was heuristically determined and a 50 fold cross-validation was performed with 81 epochs for training data and 9 epochs for data test. Cross-validation of the quadratic discriminant model using PC1-PC3 resulted in 85.56% accuracy, which was better than the 83.33% cross-validation accuracy of the discriminant fit using all the 5 dimensions of the original data.

**Statistics.** Normal distribution was evaluated in all data sets using Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. fPSP data were analyzed by two-way ANOVA with repeated measures and Bonferroni post-hoc test to compare treatment over time. For LFP (power and CFC) we used paired *t* tests for within-group comparisons, and unpaired *t* tests for between-group comparison or Wilcoxon matched-pairs signed rank and Mann-Whitney test, respectively, as non-parametric equivalents. For comparison of more than two conditions we used one-way ANOVA with tukey-kramer post-hoc or Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post-hoc for non-Gaussian distribution. Significance of spectral coherence and MI were estimated calculating a CI for a surrogate data using a bootstrapped shuffled data (8000 iterations). Probability density function after drug injection was estimated calculating the presence of DEA classified epochs for all the animals in Saline or ketamine groups. Pearson's correlation coefficient was calculated to investigate linear dependency between CFC and LFP power. Data are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard error of the mean (SEM) for bar and line plots, and for Box-plot data are expressed as 1<sup>st</sup> quartiles, medians, and 3<sup>rd</sup> quartiles, with whiskers representing minimum and maximum values. The significance level was set to 0.05.

**Histology.** To confirm electrode positioning we performed an electrolytic lesion (1 mA, 1 s) at the end of the trial. After an additional dose of anesthesia animals were decapitated and had their brains removed and placed in solutions for fixation (10% formaldehyde in phosphate-buffered saline, PBS) and cryoprotection (20% sucrose in PBS). Coronal sections (30  $\mu$ m) stained with cresyl violet were evaluated through a bright-field microscope (Fig. 1A).

### Data availability

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Received: 6 October 2019; Accepted: 2 April 2020;

Published online: 28 April 2020

### References

- Godsil, B. P., Kiss, J. P., Spedding, M. & Jay, T. M. The hippocampal–prefrontal pathway: the weak link in psychiatric disorders? *Eur. Neuropsychopharmacol.* **23**, 1165–1181 (2013).
- Laroche, S., Davis, S. & Jay, T. M. Plasticity at hippocampal to prefrontal cortex synapses: Dual roles in working memory and consolidation. *Hippocampus* **10**, 438–446 (2000).
- Bähner, F. & Meyer-lindenberg, A. Hippocampal – prefrontal connectivity as a translational phenotype for schizophrenia. *Eur. Neuropsychopharmacol.* **27**, 93–106 (2017).
- Cohen, S. M., Tsien, R. W., Goff, D. C. & Halassa, M. M. The impact of NMDA receptor hypofunction on GABAergic neurons in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia. *Schizophr. Res.* **167**, 98–107 (2015).
- Schneider, M. *et al.* Altered DLPFC–hippocampus connectivity during working memory: Independent replication and disorder specificity of a putative genetic risk phenotype for schizophrenia. *Schizophr. Bull.* **43**, 1114–1122 (2017).
- Meyer-lindenberg, A. S. *et al.* Regionally specific disturbance of dorsolateral prefrontal–hippocampal functional connectivity in schizophrenia. *Arch. Gen. Psychiatry* **62**, 379–386 (2005).
- Whitfield-gabrieli, S. *et al.* Hyperactivity and hyperconnectivity of the default network in schizophrenia and in first-degree relatives of persons with schizophrenia. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **106**, 1279–1284 (2009).
- Pilowsky, L. S. *et al.* First *in vivo* evidence of an NMDA receptor deficit in medication-free schizophrenic patients. *Mol. Psychiatry* **11**, 118–119 (2006).
- Catts, V. S., Ling, Y., Shannon, C., Weickert, T. W. & Catts, S. V. A quantitative review of the postmortem evidence for decreased cortical N-methyl-d-aspartate receptor expression levels in schizophrenia: How can we link molecular abnormalities to mismatch negativity deficits? *Biol. Psychol.* **116**, 57–67 (2016).
- Grimm, O. *et al.* Acute ketamine challenge increases resting state prefrontal–hippocampal connectivity in both humans and rats. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)* **232**, 4231–4241 (2015).
- Obi-Nagata, K., Temma, Y. & Hayashi-Takagi, A. Synaptic functions and their disruption in schizophrenia: From clinical evidence to synaptic optogenetics in an animal model. *Proc. Japan Acad. Ser. B Phys. Biol. Sci.* **95**, 179–197 (2019).
- Penadés, R., Franck, N., González-Vallespi, L. & Deckerle, M. Reviews on biomarker studies in psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders. *Adv. Exp. Med. Biol.* **1118**, 118–134 (2019).
- Haaf, M., Leicht, G., Curic, S. & Mulert, C. Glutamatergic deficits in schizophrenia – Biomarkers and pharmacological interventions within the ketamine model. *Curr. Pharm. Biotechnol.* **19**, 293–307 (2018).
- Bondi, C., Matthews, M. & Moghaddam, B. Glutamatergic animal models of schizophrenia. *Curr. Pharm. Des.* **18**, 1593–1604 (2012).
- Lee, G. & Zhou, Y. NMDAR hypofunction animal models of schizophrenia. *Front. Mol. Neurosci.* **12**, 1–26 (2019).
- Caixeta, F. V., Cornélio, A. M., Scheffer-Teixeira, R., Ribeiro, S. & Tort, A. B. L. Ketamine alters oscillatory coupling in the hippocampus. *Sci. Rep.* **3**, 2348 (2013).
- Kamiyama, H. *et al.* Mechanisms underlying ketamine-induced synaptic depression in rat hippocampus-medial prefrontal cortex pathway. *Neuroscience* **177**, 159–169 (2011).
- Hakami, T. *et al.* NMDA receptor hypofunction leads to generalized and persistent aberrant gamma oscillations independent of hyperlocomotion and the state of consciousness. *Plos One* **4**, (2009).
- Rame, M. *et al.* Clozapine counteracts a ketamine-induced depression of hippocampal–prefrontal neuroplasticity and alters signaling pathway phosphorylation. *Plos One* **12**, 1–20 (2017).
- Jay, T. M., Burette, F. & Laroche, S. NMDA receptor-dependent long-term potentiation in the hippocampal afferent fibre system to the prefrontal cortex in the rat. *Eur. J. Neurosci.* **7**, 247–250 (1995).
- Collingridge, G. L. & Bliss, T. V. P. Memories of NMDA receptors and LTP. *Trends Neurosci.* **18**, 54–56 (1995).

22. Homayoun, H. & Moghaddam, B. NMDA receptor hypofunction produces opposite effects on prefrontal cortex interneurons and pyramidal neurons. *J. Neurosci.* **27**, 11496–11500 (2007).
23. Moghaddam, B., Adams, B., Verma, A. & Daly, D. Activation of Glutamatergic Neurotransmission by Ketamine: A Novel Step in the Pathway from NMDA Receptor Blockade to Dopaminergic and Cognitive Disruptions Associated with the Prefrontal. *Cortex.* **17**, 2921–2927 (1997).
24. Moga, D. E., Shapiro, M. L. & Morrison, J. H. Bidirectional redistribution of AMPA but not NMDA receptors after perforant path stimulation in the adult rat hippocampus *In Vivo.* *Hippocampus* **16**, 990–1003 (2006).
25. Blot, K. *et al.* Modulation of hippocampus–prefrontal cortex synaptic transmission and disruption of executive cognitive functions by MK-801. *Cereb. Cortex* **25**, 1348–1361 (2015).
26. Ranganathan, M. *et al.* Attenuation of ketamine-induced impairment in verbal learning and memory in healthy volunteers by the AMPA receptor potentiator PF-04958242. *Mol. Psychiatry* **22**, 1633–1640 (2017).
27. Timpe, J. M., Wang, C. Z., Kim, J. & Johnson, K. M. A-Amino-3-Hydroxy-5-Methyl-4-Isloxazolepropionic acid receptor activation protects against phencyclidine-induced caspase-3 activity by activating voltage-gated calcium channels. *J. Neurosci. Res.* **92**, 1785–1791 (2014).
28. Hauer, B. E., Pagliardini, S. & Dickson, C. T. The reuniens nucleus of the thalamus has an essential role in coordinating slow-wave activity between neocortex and hippocampus. *eNeuro* **6**, 1–17 (2019).
29. Ruggiero, R. N. *et al.* Lithium modulates the muscarinic facilitation of synaptic plasticity and theta-gamma coupling in the hippocampal-prefrontal pathway. *Exp. Neurol.* **304**, 90–101 (2018).
30. Lopes-Aguiar, C., Bueno-Junior, L. S., Ruggiero, R. N., Romcy-Pereira, R. N. & Leite, J. P. NMDA receptor blockade impairs the muscarinic conversion of sub-threshold transient depression into long-lasting LTD in the hippocampus-prefrontal cortex pathway *in vivo*: Correlation with gamma oscillations. *Neuropharmacology* **65**, 143–155 (2013).
31. González-Rueda, A., Pedrosa, V., Feord, R. C., Clopath, C. & Paulsen, O. Activity-dependent downscaling of subthreshold synaptic inputs during slow-wave-sleep-like activity *in vivo.* *Neuron* **97**, 1244–1252.e5 (2018).
32. Esteves, I. M. *et al.* Chronic nicotine attenuates behavioral and synaptic plasticity impairments in a streptozotocin in a model of Alzheimer's disease. *Neuroscience* **353**, 87–97 (2017).
33. Nazer, F. & Dickson, C. T. Slow oscillation state facilitates epileptiform events in the hippocampus. *J. Neurophysiol.* **102**, 1880–1889 (2009).
34. Kiss, T., Feng, J., Hoffmann, W. E., Shaffer, C. L. & Hajós, M. Rhythmic theta and delta activity of cortical and hippocampal neuronal networks in genetically or pharmacologically induced N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor hypofunction under urethane anesthesia. *Neuroscience* **237**, 255–267 (2013).
35. Kiss, T., Hoffmann, W. E. & Hajós, M. Delta oscillation and short-term plasticity in the rat medial prefrontal cortex: modelling NMDA hypofunction of schizophrenia. *Int. J. Neuropsychopharmacol.* **14**, 29–42 (2011).
36. Clement, E. A. *et al.* Cyclic and sleep-like spontaneous alternations of brain state under urethane anaesthesia. *Plos One* **3**, 1–15 (2008).
37. Pagliardini, S., Gosgnach, S. & Dickson, C. T. Spontaneous sleep-like brain state alternations and breathing characteristics in urethane anesthetized mice. *Plos One* **8**, 1–10 (2013).
38. Pagliardini, S., Funk, G. D. & Dickson, C. T. Breathing and brain state: Urethane anesthesia as a model for natural sleep. *Respir. Physiol. Neurobiol.* **188**, 324–332 (2013).
39. Roy, A., Svensson, F. P., Mazeh, A. & Kocsis, B. Prefrontal-hippocampal coupling by theta rhythm and by 2–5 Hz oscillation in the delta band: The role of the nucleus reuniens of the thalamus. *Brain Struct. Funct.* **222**, 2819–2830 (2017).
40. Molina, L. A., Skelin, I. & Gruber, A. J. Acute NMDA receptor antagonism disrupts synchronization of action potential firing in rat prefrontal cortex. *Plos One* **9**, 1–10 (2014).
41. Sapkota, K. *et al.* GluN2D N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor subunit contribution to the stimulation of brain activity and gamma oscillations by ketamine: Implications for schizophrenia. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* **356**, 702–711 (2016).
42. Lopes-Aguiar, C. *et al.* Muscarinic acetylcholine neurotransmission enhances the late-phase of long-term potentiation in the hippocampal-prefrontal cortex pathway of rats *in vivo*: a possible involvement of monoaminergic systems. *Neuroscience* **153**, 1309–1319 (2008).
43. Moghaddam, B. & Javitt, D. From revolution to evolution: The glutamate hypothesis of schizophrenia and its implication for treatment. *Neuropsychopharmacology* **37**, 4–15 (2012).
44. Goff, D. C. *et al.* A placebo-controlled add-on trial of the ampakine, CX516, for cognitive deficits in schizophrenia. *Neuropsychopharmacology* **33**, 465–472 (2008).
45. Roberts, B. M. *et al.* Prevention of ketamine-induced working memory impairments by AMPA potentiators in a nonhuman primate model of cognitive dysfunction. *Behav. Brain Res.* **212**, 41–48 (2010).
46. Chen, L., Muhlhauser, M. & Yang, C. R. Glycine transporter-1 blockade potentiates NMDA-mediated responses in rat prefrontal cortical neurons *in vitro* and *in vivo.* *J. Neurophysiol.* **89**, 691–703 (2003).
47. Javitt, D. C. Glutamate as a therapeutic target in psychiatric disorders. *Mol. Psychiatry* **9**, 984–997 (2004).
48. Gean, P., Chang, F.-C., Huang, C.-C., Lin, J.-H. & Way, L.-J. Long-term enhancement of EPSP and NMDA receptor-mediated synaptic transmission in the amygdala. *Brain Res. Bull.* **31**, 7–11 (1993).
49. Maren, S., Tocco, G., Standley, S., Baudry, M. & Thompson, R. F. Postsynaptic factors in the expression of long-term potentiation (LTP): Increased glutamate receptor binding following LTP induction *in vivo.* *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **90**, 9654–9658 (1993).
50. Grosshans, D. R., Clayton, D. A., Coultrap, S. J. & Browning, M. D. LTP leads to rapid surface expression of NMDA but not AMPA receptors in adult rat CA1. *Nat. Neurosci.* **5**, 27–33 (2002).
51. Gottschlich, M. M. *et al.* The effect of ketamine administration on nocturnal sleep architecture. *J. Burn Care Res.* **32**, 535–540 (2011).
52. Duncan, W. C. & Zarate, C. A. Ketamine, sleep, and depression: Current status and new questions. *Curr. Psychiatry Rep.* **15**, 1–7 (2013).
53. Feinberg, I. & Campbell, I. G. Ketamine administration during waking increases delta eeg intensity in rat sleep. *Neuropsychopharmacology* **9**, 41–48 (1993).
54. Kocsis, B., Brown, R. E., Mccarley, R. W. & Hajos, M. Impact of ketamine on neuronal network dynamics: Translational modeling of schizophrenia-relevant deficits. *CNS Neurosci. Ther.* **19**, 437–447 (2013).
55. Pinault, D. N-methyl D-aspartate receptor antagonists ketamine and MK-801 induce wake-related aberrant gamma oscillations in the rat neocortex. *Biol. Psychiatry* **63**, 730–735 (2008).
56. Anver, H., Ward, P. D., Magony, A. & Vreugdenhil, M. NMDA receptor hypofunction phase couples independent gamma-oscillations in the rat visual cortex. *Neuropsychopharmacology* **36**, 519–528 (2010).
57. Wood, J., Kim, Y. & Moghaddam, B. Disruption of prefrontal cortex large scale neuronal activity by different classes of psychotomimetic drugs. *J. Neurosci.* **32**, 3022–3031 (2012).
58. Carlén, M. *et al.* A critical role for NMDA receptors in parvalbumin interneurons for gamma rhythm induction and behavior. *Mol. Psychiatry* **17**, 537–548 (2011).
59. Sohal, V. S. & Rubenstein, J. L. R. Excitation-inhibition balance as a framework for investigating mechanisms in neuropsychiatric disorders. *Mol. Psychiatry* **24**, 1248–1257 (2019).
60. Ye, T. *et al.* Ten-hour exposure to low-dose ketamine enhances corticostriatal cross-frequency coupling and hippocampal broadband gamma oscillations. *Front. Neural Circuits* **12**, 1–16 (2018).

61. Oye, I., Paulsen, O. & Maurset, A. Effects of ketamine on sensory perception: Evidence for a role of N-methyl-D-aspartate receptors. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* **260**, 1209–1213 (1992).
62. Phillips, K. G. *et al.* Differential effects of NMDA antagonists on high frequency and gamma EEG oscillations in a neurodevelopmental model of schizophrenia. *Neuropharmacology* **62**, 1359–1370 (2012).
63. Pittman-polletta, B., Hu, K. & Kocsis, B. Subunit-specific NMDAR antagonism dissociates schizophrenia subtype-relevant oscillopathies associated with frontal hypofunction and hippocampal hyperfunction. *Sci. Rep.* **8**, 1–14 (2018).
64. Michaels, T. I., Long, L. L., Stevenson, I. H., Chrobak, J. J. & Chen, C.-M. A. Effects of chronic ketamine on hippocampal cross-frequency coupling: Implications for schizophrenia pathophysiology. *Eur. J. Neurosci.* **48**, 2903–2914 (2018).
65. Buzsáki, G. Theta oscillations in the hippocampus. *Neuron* **33**, 325–340 (2002).
66. Mendes, R. A. V. *et al.* Hijacking of hippocampal – cortical oscillatory coupling during sleep in temporal lobe epilepsy. *Epilepsy Behav.* 106608, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yebeh.2019.106608> (2019).
67. Tamura, M., Spellman, T. J., Rosen, A. M., Gogos, J. A. & Gordon, J. A. Hippocampal-prefrontal theta-gamma coupling during performance of a spatial working memory task. *Nat. Commun.* **8**, 1–9 (2017).
68. Bandarabadi, M. *et al.* Dynamic modulation of theta-gamma coupling during REM sleep. *Sleep* 1–34, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1059924X.2017.1319315> (2019).
69. Andino-pavlovsky, V. *et al.* Dopamine modulates delta-gamma phase-amplitude coupling in the prefrontal cortex of behaving rats. *Front. Neural Circuits* **11**, 1–13 (2017).
70. López-azcarate, J. *et al.* Delta-mediated cross-frequency coupling organizes oscillatory activity across the rat cortico-basal ganglia network. *Front. Neural Circuits* **7**, 1–16 (2013).
71. Pal, D. *et al.* Propofol, sevoflurane, and ketamine induce a reversible increase in delta-gamma and theta-gamma phase-amplitude coupling in frontal cortex of rat. *Front. Syst. Neurosci.* **11**, 1–13 (2017).
72. Del Arco, A., Ronzoni, G. & Mora, F. Prefrontal stimulation of GABAA receptors counteracts the corticolimbic hyperactivity produced by NMDA antagonists in the prefrontal cortex of the rat. *Psychopharmacology (Berl.)* **214**, 525–536 (2011).
73. Xi, D., Zhang, W., Wang, H. X., Stradtman, G. G. & Gao, W. J. Dizocilpine (MK-801) induces distinct changes of N-methyl-d-aspartic acid receptor subunits in parvalbumin-containing interneurons in young adult rat prefrontal cortex. *Int. J. Neuropsychopharmacol.* **12**, 1395–1408 (2009).
74. Crabtree, G. W. & Gogos, J. A. Synaptic plasticity, neural circuits, and the emerging role of altered short-term information processing in schizophrenia. *Front. Synaptic Neurosci.* **6**, 1–27 (2014).
75. Abbott, L. F. & Regehr, W. G. Synaptic computation. *Nature* **431**, 796–803 (2004).
76. Mongillo, G., Barak, O. & Tsodyks, M. Synaptic theory of working memory. *Science (80-)* **319**, 1543–1547 (2008).
77. Ruggiero, R. N. *et al.* Cannabinoids and vanilloids in schizophrenia: Neurophysiological evidence and directions for basic research. *Front. Pharmacol.* **8**, 1–27 (2017).
78. Sigurdsson, T. Neural circuit dysfunction in schizophrenia: Insights from animal models. *Neuroscience* **321**, 42–65 (2016).
79. Citri, A. & Malenka, R. C. Synaptic plasticity: Multiple forms, functions, and mechanisms. *Neuropsychopharmacology* **33**, 18–41 (2008).
80. Gabbott, P., Headlam, A. & Busby, S. Morphological evidence that CA1 hippocampal afferents monosynaptically innervate PV-containing neurons and NADPH-diaphorase reactive cells in the medial prefrontal cortex (Areas 25 / 32) of the rat. *Brain Res.* **946**, 314–322 (2002).
81. Tierney, P. L., Dégenétais, E., Thierry, A., Glowinski, J. & Gioanni, Y. Influence of the hippocampus on interneurons of the rat prefrontal cortex. *Eur. J. Neurosci.* **20**, 514–524 (2004).
82. Izaki, Y. & Akema, T. Gamma-band power elevation of prefrontal local field potential after posterior dorsal hippocampus – prefrontal long-term potentiation induction in anesthetized rats. *Exp. Brain Res.* **184**, 249–253 (2008).
83. Bliss, T. V. P., Collingridge, G. L., Morris, R. G. M. & Reymann, K. G. Long-term potentiation in the hippocampus: Discovery, mechanisms and function. *Neuroforum* **24**, A103–A120 (2018).
84. Goto, Y. & Grace, A. A. Dopamine modulation of hippocampal-prefrontal cortical interaction drives memory-guided behavior. *Cereb. Cortex* **18**, 1407–1414 (2008).
85. Ingram, R. *et al.* Some distorted thoughts about ketamine as a psychedelic and a novel hypothesis based on NMDA receptor-mediated synaptic plasticity. *Neuropharmacology* **142**, 30–40 (2018).
86. Volianskis, A., Collingridge, G. L. & Jensen, M. S. The roles of STP and LTP in synaptic encoding. *PeerJ* 1–13, <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3> (2013).
87. Ewing, S. G. & Grace, A. A. Deep brain stimulation of the ventral hippocampus restores deficits in processing of auditory evoked potentials in a rodent developmental disruption model of schizophrenia. *Schizophr. Res.* **143**, 377–383 (2013).
88. Perez, S. M., Shah, A., Asher, A. & Lodge, D. J. Hippocampal deep brain stimulation reverses physiological and behavioural deficits in a rodent model of schizophrenia. *Int. J. Neuropsychopharmacol.* **16**, 1331–1339 (2013).
89. Bikovskiy, L. *et al.* Deep brain stimulation improves behavior and modulates neural circuits in a rodent model of schizophrenia. *Exp. Neurol.* **283**, 142–150 (2016).
90. Ma, J. & Leung, L. S. Deep brain stimulation of the medial septum or nucleus accumbens alleviates psychosis-relevant behavior in ketamine-treated rats. *Behav. Brain Res.* **266**, 174–182 (2014).
91. Laroche, S., Jay, T. M. & Thierry, A. Long-term potentiation in the prefrontal cortex following stimulation of the hippocampal CA1/subicular region. *Neurosci. Lett.* **114**, 184–190 (1990).
92. Jay, T. M., Burette, F. & Laroche, S. Plasticity of the hippocampal-prefrontal synapses. *J. Physiol. - Paris* **90**, 361–366 (1996).
93. Vollenweider, F. X., Leenders, K. L., Hell, D. & Angst, J. Differential psychopathology and patterns of cerebral glucose utilisation produced by (S)- and (R)-ketamine in healthy volunteers using positron emission tomography (PET). *Eur. Neuropharmacol.* **7**, 25–38 (1997).
94. Tort, A. B. L., Komorowski, R., Eichenbaum, H. & Kopell, N. Measuring phase-amplitude coupling between neuronal oscillations of different frequencies. *J. Neurophysiol.* **104**, 1195–1210 (2010).
95. Barnett, L. & Seth, A. K. The MVGC multivariate Granger causality toolbox: A new approach to Granger-causal inference. *J. Neurosci. Methods* **223**, 50–68 (2014).
96. Budaev, S. V. Using principal components and factor analysis in animal behaviour research: Caveats and guidelines. *Ethology* **116**, 472–480 (2010).

## Acknowledgements

This work was funded by the São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP (2014/18211-0 for C.L.A., 2018/02303-4 for R.N.R., and 2016/17882-4 for J.P.L.), the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, CNPq (142451/2014-2 for M.T.R., 481629/2011-4 for R.N.R.P. and 466995/2014-8 for J.P.L.). We thank Antônio Renato M. Silva and Renata C. Scanduzzi for their assistance. We thank Danilo Benette Marques, Eliezyer Fermino de Oliveira and Stephanie Rogers for the valuable comments on this manuscript.

### Author contributions

C.L.A., R.N.R.P. and J.P.L. conceived the experiments, C.L.A., M.T.R., R.N.R., I.M.E. and J.E.P.-S. conducted the experiments, M.T.R. prepared the figures, R.N.R., C.L.A. and R.N.R.P. analyzed the data, R.N.R., C.L.A. and M.T.R. wrote the manuscript. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

### Additional information

**Supplementary information** is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-63979-5>.

**Correspondence** and requests for materials should be addressed to R.N.R.

**Reprints and permissions information** is available at [www.nature.com/reprints](http://www.nature.com/reprints).

**Publisher's note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



**Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

© The Author(s) 2020