New developments in the research and treatment of ADHD

Steven R. Pliszka, M.D. Professor and Vice Chief Chief, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry



- "Bottom Up" –Capture of Attention by external stimulus
- "Top down" Directed attention enhances sensory perception
- "Paying attention"- suggests effort and energy involved
- Does attention = motivation? Consciousness?













## **SST** Activation Patterns

## Successful Inhibition

- Stop trial where subject does not press button
- Increase in Right DLPFC (a)
- Unsuccessful
  Inhibition
  - Stop trial where subject presses the button
  - Increase in ACC and Parietal lobe (b)



Rubia et al., 2003

## Participants

- 17 children with ADHD
- 15 healthy comparison subject
- Without chronic medical illness; anxiety or affective disorder, or reading/learning disability
- All children were not medicated (24 hours)













## Tamm et al. AJP 163:1033 2006

- 14 adolescents with ADHD, 12 controls
- Performed an oddball task- press button 1 for common stimuli (circles), button 2 for rare stimuli (triangles)
- Rare stimuli activates parietal attentional areas



Areas of activation greater in controls vs. ADHD





























