We know that antidepressants: get into the brain; need certain pharmacology properties; have acute and chronic neurochemical effects; influence neuronal circuitry underpinning mood; alter emotional processing; have biological actions comprising only a modest part of the overall therapeutic effect. We don’t know: the specific pharmacological, neuronal, neuropsychological actions necessary or sufficient for efficacy; how these interact with non-specific and psychological factors; how to effectively sequence treatment based on pharmacology; how to predict who will benefit from which, or any, drug. Effective prescribing remains an art in which how treatment is carried out is as important as what drug is used.
How do antidepressants work? — in 100 words
Ian M. Anderson
BJP 2013, 202:41.
Access the most recent version at DOI: 10.1192/bjp.bp.111.100669

References
This article cites 0 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/202/1/41#BIBL

Reprints/permissions
To obtain reprints or permission to reproduce material from this paper, please write to permissions@rcpsych.ac.uk

You can respond to this article at
/letters/submit/bjprcpsych;202/1/41

Downloaded from
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/ on October 30, 2017
Published by The Royal College of Psychiatrists