Title: Whole-brain resting-state functional connectivity patterns associated with pediatric anxiety and involuntary attention capture.

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Short title: Connectivity patterns associated with anxiety

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Objective: Pediatric anxiety disorders are linked to dysfunction in multiple functional brain networks, as well as to alterations in the allocation of spatial attention. We used network-level analyses to characterize resting-state functional connectivity alterations associated with (1) symptoms of anxiety and (2) alterations in stimulus-driven attention associated with pediatric anxiety disorders. We hypothesized that anxiety was related to altered connectivity of the fronto-parietal, default mode, cingulo-opercular, and ventral attention networks; and that anxiety-related connectivity alterations that include the ventral attention network would simultaneously be related to deviations in stimulus-driven attention.

Methods: A sample of children ($n = 61$, mean 10.6 years of age), approximately half of whom met criteria for a current anxiety disorder, completed a clinical assay, an attention task, and rs-fc MRI scans. Network-level analyses examined whole-brain rs-fc patterns associated with clinician-rated anxiety and with involuntary capture of attention. Post-hoc analyses controlled for comorbid symptoms.

Results: Elevated clinician-rated anxiety was associated with altered connectivity within the Cingulo-Opercular Network, as well as between the Cingulo-Opercular Network and the Ventral Attention, Default Mode, and Visual networks. Connectivity between the Ventral Attention and Cingulo-Opercular networks was associated with variation in both anxiety and stimulus-driven attention.

Conclusions: Pediatric anxiety is related to aberrant connectivity patterns among several networks, most of which include the Cingulo-Opercular Network. These results help clarify the within and between network interactions associated with pediatric anxiety and its association
with altered attention, suggesting specific network connections could be targeted to improve specific altered processes associated with anxiety.
INTRODUCTION

Pediatric anxiety disorders are common, debilitating, and often indicative of future psychopathology (1). Evidence suggests that pediatric anxiety disorders are associated with disruptions in the connectivity of isolated brain regions from multiple functional brain networks (2, 3). In parallel, pediatric anxiety disorders have been linked to attention alterations (4-7), including increased attention to threatening stimuli, increased stimulus-driven attention to salient stimuli more broadly (8), and increased activity in brain regions that are involved in directing stimulus-driven attention (9). Moreover, interventions that modify attention are effective in treating pediatric anxiety disorders (10). What remains unclear, however, is which specific network-network connectivity patterns are linked to specific altered cognitive processes (such as altered attention) in pediatric anxiety disorders. The current study addressed these issues by characterizing network-level resting state functional connectivity (rs-fc), using a functional brain network framework to explore altered within- and between-network connectivity patterns associated with pediatric anxiety severity and with stimulus-driven attention.

Functional brain networks are distributed sets of brain regions, in which component regions demonstrate correlated activity at rest (11). Rs-fc can be measured by computing correlations in low frequency brain activity, as measured with rs-functional magnetic resonance imaging (rs-fMRI) (12). Prior work suggests pediatric anxiety disorders involve altered rs-fc of isolated regions within the Cingulo-Opercular Network (CON) (13), the Fronto-Parietal Network (FPN) (14), the Default Mode Network (DMN) (15), and the Ventral Attention Network (VAN) (16, 17). One hypothesis is that patterns of altered connectivity relate to specific cognitive
functions thought to be supported by these networks, such as the CON with task-set maintenance, performance monitoring, and error detection (18-21); the FPN with moment-to-moment adjustments of executive function (18, 22, 23); the DMN with threat learning (15, 24-26); and the VAN with stimulus-driven attention (8, 27, 28).

While suggestive, the full scope of altered network-level connectivity in pediatric anxiety, and how these alterations relate to cognitive functions, has not been well characterized. Prior work has focused on isolated regions-of-interest (ROIs) or a limited number of networks due to concerns for low power and a difficulty in addressing multiple comparisons. Network Level Analysis (NLA) (29) builds on techniques called enrichment that were adapted for genome-wide association studies (30) and provides one solution to these concerns. NLA identifies significant associations between behavioral measures and connectivity of all possible ROI pairs in the brain (29, 31, 32), and uses permutation testing to identify whether the observed number of significant brain-connectivity relations are disproportionately distributed among specific network pairs. NLAs mitigate the issue of low power by looking within a reduced dimensional space (number of network pairs rather than the number of overall ROI pairs), while using permutation testing to provide a multiple comparison correction at the level of the whole brain. The current study uses enrichment analyses to measure anxiety-related alterations in connectivity within and between all functional brain networks, providing one of the first comprehensive accounts of network-level pathophysiology.

An additional gap concerns whether alterations in specific network pairs relate to specific phenotypic features of anxiety disorders. Our own prior work has focused on increased stimulus-driven attention in pediatric anxiety (8), which has been linked to increased task-
evoked activity in the VAN (9). We have hypothesized that rs-fc alterations in the VAN may underlie these processes (2), with indirect evidence linking behavioral inhibition, an early predictor of anxiety symptomology (33-35), with altered rs-fc (36) of specific VAN ROIs. The specific subset of network-network connectivity alterations linked to altered stimulus-driven attention, however, has not been well explored. Identifying alterations associated with specific features of anxiety disorders could facilitate the development of targeted treatments to address neurobiological alterations underlying specific symptoms or processes.

The goal of the current study was two-fold: (1) to characterize network rs-fc alterations associated with pediatric anxiety disorders; and (2) to relate these network-level connectivity patterns to stimulus-driven attention in pediatric anxiety disorders. To accomplish these goals, we computed rs-fc among validated cortical regions (37, 38), representing different functional networks (39) in 61 children (31 with a current pediatric anxiety diagnosis and 30 children without any psychiatric diagnosis). In a previous study with this same sample, we used a behavioral and fMRI task and observed that anxiety was related to increased stimulus-driven attention and increased attention-evoked VAN activity within the IFG (9). In the current study, we explored the relationship of anxiety and this attention alteration within the same sample to rs-fc networks using enrichment analysis. The rs-fMRI data evaluated in the current study have not previously been studied. We hypothesized that i) pediatric anxiety would be related to alterations in network-level connectivity, including the VAN, CON, DMN, and FPN; and that ii) alterations in stimulus-driven attention would be associated with alterations in the subset of anxiety-related connectivity differences that include the VAN. Finally, in a series of post-hoc
analyses to examine specificity, we explored the differential associations of these functional connectivity patterns to anxiety accounting for comorbid psychopathology (depression, ADHD).

**METHODOLOGY**

**Participants**

Participants with and without anxiety disorders were recruited from the greater Saint Louis area. Children with clinically significant anxiety were recruited by advertising at informational talks about child anxiety directed at parents and delivered by the senior author, CMS. After the initial recruitment, exclusion criteria including current use of a psychotropic medication, intellectual disability, autism, or a learning disability were applied at screening. Of the 149 children preliminarily enrolled, six were later excluded due to evidence of a disqualifying diagnosis during formal assessment. Additionally, 14 were excluded due to poor performance on the attention task described below. The final behavioral sample consisted of 129 children (mean age=10.56 years old; SD=1.4; range of 7.7 to 13.5 years), of which 71 were invited to participate in a subsequent neuroimaging visit (see recruitment in Supplement).

Participants in this study were previously characterized (9) using task-based fMRI. In the same MRI session, they completed resting-state scans, which have not previously been reported and which are the focus of the current study. Characteristics of the sample are presented in Table 1.

The Institutional Review Board at Washington University School of Medicine approved all procedures. Informed consent was obtained from parents and assent was obtained from all child participants.
Clinical Measures

Parents and children were separately interviewed by Master’s Level Clinicians and assessed following procedures developed for the Research Unit on Pediatric Psychopharmacology (RUPP) Anxiety Study (40, 41). Clinician-rated measures included the Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders (K-SADS) (42) for DSM-5 psychiatric diagnoses and the Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale (PARS) (41) for a dimensional measure of anxiety. To ensure reliability, periodic meetings involving lectures, joint assessments, and weekly meetings between senior clinicians (CMS, JLL, DSP) and Master’s level clinicians were enacted. Audiotapes of interviews were recorded and reviewed regularly by the senior author, CMS. Additionally, measures of depression (43) and ADHD (44) were collected.

Stimulus-Driven Attention

Previously (9), participants from this exact sample completed a novel computerized Posner attention task to determine which components of attention processing (e.g. involuntary attention, inhibition of return) and cue types (e.g. faces, objects) were related to pediatric anxiety. Participants indicated whether a ‘target’ arrow that appeared at one of two possible (left/right) screen locations was pointing up or down. The target was preceded in time by a cue (square box or a face) that was presented either in the same (valid) or opposite (invalid) location as the target. The cue-target stimulus-onset asynchrony (SOA) was either 200, 500, or 800 ms, designed to measure different temporal features of stimulus-driven attention (i.e., initial capture of attention, inhibition of return). Results from that study with this sample demonstrated that anxiety was related to attention processing; specifically, there was a significant relation between anxiety and the initial, involuntary capture of attention by square...
box cues and BOLD activity in the VAN portion of the IFG (9). In this study, we used the same sample and behavioral data as the previous study. Based on results from the prior study, we used the behavioral measure of involuntary attention capture (calculated as the difference in reaction times for targets preceded by invalid minus valid square-box cues at the 200 ms SOA; referred throughout as ‘stimulus-driven attention’) to explore the relationship of these variables to rs-fc. Of note, while the relationship of anxiety and stimulus-driven attention has a similar effect size to our previous study, the value is not significant in the smaller scanning sample (see Behavioral Attention Task in Supplement).

**Imaging Protocols**

Imaging was performed on a Siemens PRISMA 3T MRI scanner with a 32-channel head coil. Structural images included a T1-weighted image (sagittal, 208 slices, 0.8 mm isotropic resolution, TE = 2.22 ms, TR = 2400 ms, TI = 1000 ms, flip angle = 8 degrees), and a T2-weighted image (sagittal, 208 slices, 0.8 mm isotropic resolution, TE = 160 ms, TR = 3200 ms). Functional imaging was performed, including at least four resting state runs (420 frames each), using a blood-oxygen-level dependent multi-band echo-planar sequence (TR = 720 ms, TE = 33 ms, flip angle = 52 degrees, 2.4 mm isotropic resolution, multi-band factor = 7). Two spin-echo field maps were obtained (one AP and one PA) during each session with the same parameters. FIRMM (45) was used during scanning to monitor real-time participant movement. Participants who completed the behavioral session and did not have contraindications (e.g. braces, retainers) were invited to scan, resulting in the recruitment of 71 participants (see recruitment in Supplement). Sessions were terminated if participants showed an inability to stay still during the scan, as determined by experienced clinical research assistants, resulting in 10 children
being excluded for either excessive head motion or poor scan tolerance, leaving a final
neuroimaging sample of 61 children (9).

**RS-FC Preprocessing**

Preprocessing included correction of intensity differences attributable to interleaved
acquisition, bias field correction, intensity normalization of each run to a whole brain mode
value of 1000, linear realignment within and across runs to compensate for rigid body motion
(46) and linear registration of BOLD images to a Talairach atlas template (47), via the T2 and T1
weighted images. Field map correction was performed by using the FSL TOPUP toolbox (http://
fsl.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fslwiki/TOPUP). Atlas transformation, field distortion correction, and
resampling to 3 mm isotropic atlas space were combined into a single interpolation (46, 48).

Following the initial preprocessing steps, the BOLD timeseries underwent the rs-fc
processing pipeline. First, temporal masks were created to censor high-motion frames based on
study-specific protocols described below. Then, censored frames were ignored as the data were
processed with the following steps: (a) demean and detrend within run, (b) multiple regression
with nuisance timeseries including white matter, ventricles, and whole brain (49), as well as 24-
parameter Volterra expansion regressors derived from head motion (50-52) (see supplement
for results obtained when excluding global signal regression). Then, we applied a first-order
low-pass Butterworth filter (cutoff .1 Hz) to each of the six head realignment parameters, which
were summed to create a filtered framewise displacement (FD) trace. We censored frames
from the filtered FD trace with values greater than 0.08 mm to further reduce motion artifact
(53). Functional runs with fewer than 130 frames were excluded. Only the 61 subjects with at
least 670 remaining frames (8.04 min) were included in further analyses. Finally, retained data was interpolated into censored timepoints to allow band-pass filtering (0.009 Hz < f < 0.08 Hz).

Freesurfer version 5.0.0 was used to generate surfaces for each subject and the volumetric rs-fc processed fMRI data were mapped to subject-specific surfaces using established procedures adapted from the Human Connectome Project as implemented in Connectome Workbench 1.2.3 (https://www.humanconnectome.org/). fMRI data were aligned across subjects in surface space using spherical registration. Timecourses for surface data were smoothed with geodesic 2D Gaussian kernels (σ = 2.55 mm).

Cortical Parcellation

We applied a variation on a cortical parcellation scheme previously validated in an adult sample (37, 54) that contained 333 unique cortical regions to create our connectivity matrix; specifically, we reapplied the Infomap community detection algorithm to a dataset of 120 adults (using 30mm exclusion distance between parcels) across a range of matrix edge densities (.3% to 5%) while allowing for a minimum community size of 4 parcels. Next, we ran a network identification procedure that matched the observed networks to previously published networks (55). Finally, a consensus procedure was used to collapse the network assignments across edge density thresholds giving each parcel the assignment it had at the sparsest possible threshold (see Supplement for greater detail). Per convention with NLA, regions not assigned to any network (i.e., unassigned) were excluded from the matrix, leaving 292 regions representing 15 networks.

Potential Confounds
We conducted a series of analyses to determine if any confounds arose from our recruitment (see Tables S1-2) or data approach (see Tables S3). Specifically, we ran zero-order correlations to test whether sample characteristics (age, days between sessions, rs-fc data characteristics) were significantly correlated with either anxiety or stimulus-driven attention in the scanning sample (see Sample Characteristics in the Supplement and Table S3).

**Enrichment Analyses**

Fisher z-transformed Pearson correlation coefficients were computed for each of the possible ROI pairs, which were then grouped by network (15 X 15) for a 292 X 292 matrix and a total of 42,486 unique region to region connections. Figure 1 shows the parcellation scheme (Panel A) and average rs-fc of the scanning sample for each ROI pair, as organized by functional network (Panel B). As expected, rs-fc was highly correlated for within-network connections.

To test how the functional connectivity of participants was related to measures of clinical anxiety severity (PARS) and stimulus-driven attention, enrichment analyses were performed (29, 56-58). Spearman rank correlations were computed between each ROI pair connectivity value and each of the two individual variables (PARS, stimulus-driven attention). Each connectivity-behavior correlation was then binarized based on statistical significance (uncorrected \( p < 0.05 \)), and a hypergeometric test was conducted to examine if the number of significant connectivity-behavior relations within each network pair were significantly greater than expected. The hypergeometric statistic assessed the likelihood of observing a given number of strong correlations given the number of significant correlations observed overall and the number of possible hits for that network pair. Significance level for each of these tests was determined via permutation testing (1,000,000 iterations) for each measure (PARS, stimulus-
driven attention), providing statistical relations for network pairs that significantly outperformed the null distribution (alpha=.05), were non-parametric, controlled family-wise error-rates, did not make assumptions about the shape of the population distribution from the observed data, and adjusted to the degrees of correlations between tests. All enrichment analyses and visualizations were performed in MATLAB (Release 2015a, The Mathworks, Inc. Natick, Massachusetts, United States).

**Post-hoc Analyses**

To assess the strength and specificity of the rs-fc alterations linked with anxiety in comparison to other comorbid symptoms, we explored the strength of each ROI pair identified via enrichment when controlling for other psychopathology. We ran non-parametric partial correlations between anxiety severity and rs-fc, while controlling for individual metrics of comorbid psychopathology (depression, ADHD).

To assess for evidence of specificity for anxiety or stimulus-driven attention in the ROI pairs, we graphically displayed ROI pair connections that were only related to anxiety, only related to stimulus-driven attention, or related to both anxiety and stimulus-driven attention. To assess the strength of each variable (anxiety versus stimulus-driven attention) in connections related to both, we conducted regressions where we simultaneously included both anxiety and stimulus-driven attention as independent variables relating to ROI pair connectivity. All post-hoc statistical analyses were performed with SPSS Version 26 (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY).

**RESULTS**
RS-FC Patterns Related to Anxiety

Figure 2 illustrates the correlation between anxiety and each region-region connectivity value (Panel A), the specific connections in which the connectivity-anxiety relation was $p<0.05$ (Panel B), and the specific network pairs in which there were a disproportionately high number of ROI pairs significantly correlated with anxiety (Panel C). Increased anxiety was related to increased connectivity (red lines) between the following network pairs: CON and DMN; CON and VAN; additionally, increased anxiety was related to decreased connectivity (blue lines) between the following network pairs: CON and CON (within-CON connectivity); CON and Visual Network, CON and Primary Visual Network; and the Motor Mouth and Primary Visual Network (Panel D). Treating anxiety categorically (current diagnosis; no diagnosis) led to very similar network-network patterns (see Supplemental Figure 4). Of the identified region-to-region connections that significantly related to anxiety from these 6 network pairs ($n=474$ connections), approximately 95% ($n=449$) were significant when controlling for at least one comorbid symptom, though it is worth noting variation in the number of connections surviving corrections (see Tables S4-S6 for post-hoc analyses).

RS-FC Patterns Related to Stimulus-Driven Attention

Figure 3 parallels Figure 2 but shows computed relations with stimulus-driven attention rather than anxiety. Increased stimulus-driven attention was related to increased connectivity between the following network pairs: FPN and DMN; CON and VAN; additionally, increased stimulus-driven attention was related to decreased connectivity between the following network pairs: VAN and DMN, CON and PreMotor network, CON and the medial parietal network, and CON and the auditory network.
CON-VAN was the only network pair that was significantly related to both anxiety and stimulus-driven attention. Among the ROI pairs defining CON-VAN connectivity, 78 ROI pairs were significantly related to anxiety and 79 were significantly related to stimulus-driven attention; 24 of these ROI pairs were significantly related to both (Figure 4 and Table S6).

DISCUSSION

The current study suggests pediatric anxiety disorders are associated with rs-fc alterations between at least six different brain network pairs. Most altered network pairs include the CON, which had altered within-network connectivity as well as altered between-network connectivity with the DMN, visual network, primary visual network, and the VAN. Furthermore, some ROI pairs associated with anxiety severity survive analyses controlling for comorbid symptoms, suggesting the potential for improved specificity in brain-behavior associations. We found that variation in stimulus-driven attention was associated with altered connectivity among several networks, but that only CON-VAN connectivity was associated with both anxiety and stimulus-driven attention. These results highlight the network-level interactions associated with pediatric anxiety disorders and are consistent with the hypothesis that specific disrupted processes in anxiety disorders may be linked to alterations in specific network pairs.

Prior work is consistent with results from the current study demonstrating CON disruptions in anxiety disorders. The CON includes the dorsal anterior cingulate and anterior insula, and is associated executive functions including task-set maintenance, performance monitoring, and error detection (18). Most of the altered rs-fc patterns associated with anxiety
included CON regions. We hypothesize that the CON may represent a ‘final common pathway’ through which different types of processing deficits from other networks (VAN, DMN, Visual) converge into a central executive function network. Recent large-scale meta-analyses suggest that CON deviations are features of many disorders (59, 60). While post-hoc analyses in the current study suggest that some region-pair rs-fc alterations that included CON regions were linked with anxiety even when accounting for other psychopathology, future work is needed to clarify transdiagnostic versus disorder or symptom-specific rs-fc alterations.

Our findings are also consistent with research linking anxiety disorders to VAN disruptions. The VAN is associated with stimulus-driven attention, the involuntary orientation of attention to suddenly appearing stimuli, and includes the ventrolateral PFC (VLPFC), the temporal–parietal junction (TPJ), and portions of middle and superior temporal gyri (61, 62). Capture of attention by threatening stimuli is thought to be central to the etiology of pediatric anxiety disorders (5). An unsettled question is whether the attention alterations observed in pediatric anxiety are threat specific or reflect involuntary attention capture by all salient stimuli (63, 64). For example, anxiety is associated with hypervigilance, a state of readiness characterized by a broadly increased focus of attention to environmental stimuli cues independent of valence (6, 65). Depression is generally linked with decreased involuntary attention capture (66, 67), and ADHD is thought to be unrelated (68), which suggests uncovering the neurobiology of attention mechanisms may help identify deviations specific to anxiety.

In addition to the CON-VAN connectivity, stimulus-driven attention was related to increased connectivity between the FPN and DMN, and decreased connectivity between the
VAN and DMN; CON and PreMotor network; CON and the medial parietal network; and CON and the auditory network. Notably, each of these network interactions linked to stimulus-driven attention included networks involved in executive control (FPN, CON) or directing attention (VAN). These results are consistent with both executive control and attention-orienting processes influencing the current locus of attention (69). However, future work is required to replicate these findings.

We previously reported that pediatric anxiety was associated with increased stimulus-driven attention and increased activity in VAN regions via a task that engaged stimulus-driven attention (9). Previous studies have also linked pediatric anxiety or specific anxiety risk factors to altered rs-fc that includes individual VAN regions (36, 70, 71). The current study extends this prior work, suggesting that stimulus-driven attention alterations in pediatric anxiety are specifically linked to altered CON-VAN rs-fc. Prior work and these results are consistent with a hypothesized model in which stimulus-driven attention alterations in pediatric anxiety derive from alterations in evoked activity alterations in the VAN; and that altered VAN activity is communicated to the CON through altered CON-VAN connectivity. We also observed relations between anxiety and rs-fc of the CON with the following networks: the DMN, Visual Network, and Primary Visual Networks. Previous models suggest that one function of the CON is to distribute information regarding salient stimuli to networks involved in both externally oriented attention as well as internally oriented processing (i.e., DMN) (72). One speculative possibility, therefore, is that altered connectivity between the CON and these various networks in pediatric anxiety relates to altered use of salient information to guide both externally driven (e.g., visual
attention) and internally driven (e.g., rumination) psychological processes. Future work is needed to test these hypotheses.

An important implication of the current study is that altered network-level connectivity patterns in pediatric anxiety disorders could be parsed into specific network pairs linked to specific cognitive processes or symptoms. Theoretically, altered interactions between specific network pairs could help explain the development of particular symptoms (i.e., altered attention), such that different symptoms may be explained by alterations in different network interactions (73). One possibility is that specific network pair connections could be targeted to determine if dysfunctional processes associated with functional impairment in anxiety (74, 75) are malleable. For example, in the future transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) (76) or cognitive training (77) may target alterations in attention in anxiety disorders by remodeling CON-VAN connectivity.

The current study focused on the relations among pediatric anxiety, stimulus-driven attention, and rs-fc; as such, the results from this study should be considered within the context of several limitations. The current study was cross-sectional, and an important issue for future work is to describe longitudinal relations among disrupted network interactions, anxiety, and specific altered processes (i.e., attention). Future studies that have large sample sizes and assess multiple different domains of functioning, such as ABCD (78), may be able to disambiguate the developmental sequence of these alterations. For example, such work could clarify whether the specificity of CON-VAN interactions relating to both stimulus-driven attention and anxiety is constant across development; or whether variation in other network interactions that are related to attention (e.g., VAN-DMN) are additionally relevant to anxiety...
The symptoms at different points in development. While age was not related to anxiety or stimulus-driven attention in the current study, previous work has established links between age and various cognitive functions (79). Finally, future work should investigate whether manipulating network pairs (e.g., altering CON-VAN connectivity) through, e.g., transcranial magnetic stimulation, reduces anxiety and stimulus-driven attention, in order to establish causal relations among the observed associations.

This study highlights that anxiety disorders are associated with alterations in connectivity of many network pairs, most of which include the CON. Alterations in CON-VAN connectivity are associated with both increased anxiety and increased stimulus-driven attention. These results inform the pathophysiology of pediatric anxiety, provide specific connectivity patterns that may be used as biomarkers, and suggest that specific symptoms can be associated with alterations in a specific subset of the full scope of connectivity alterations.
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Table 1. Descriptive statistics of demographic, behavioral, clinical, and rs-fc data.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Functional network assignment and rs-fc correlation matrix.

We used a variation of a validated functional network cortical parcellation scheme (Panel A) (37, 54). After removing cortical regions that were unassigned, 292 regions reflecting 15 different functional networks remained for enrichment analyses. The average rs-fc matrix for all ROI pairs (292 x 292) were organized by functional network assignment (Panel B). The blocks of color on the top and left side of the matrix indicate the functional brain network assignments of associated regions, with the color key identical to Panel A. As expected, regions from the same network tended to be more strongly correlated than regions from different networks.
Figure 2. Significant relations of anxiety to resting-state functional connectivity.

To perform enrichment analyses, Spearman’s correlation between anxiety and every region-region connectivity value were computed (Panel A). Connections determined to be significant ($p<.05$) were identified and binarized, to provide a numerical representation of the number of significant connections within each network pair (Panel B). Hypergeometric tests were run, to identify network pairs which had a statistically significant number of region-region connections associated with anxiety, with the color scale providing $-\log_{10} p$ values (corresponding to a ceiling of $p<0.01$: Panel C). Elevated anxiety was related to increased network-network connectivity of the following network pairs: CON to DMN, CON to VAN; and elevated anxiety was related to decreased network-network connectivity of the following network pairs: CON to Visual (VIS), CON to Primary Visual, CON to CON, and Motor Mouth (MM) to Primary Visual (PRIM VIS) Network (Panel D). Each spherical node is centered at the parcel centroid, with larger nodes reflecting a greater number of connections related to anxiety.
Figure 3. Significant relations of stimulus-driven attention to resting-state functional connectivity.

The relationship of stimulus-driven attention to the rs-fc matrix was assessed using Spearman’s correlations (Panel A). Connections determined to be significant ($p<.05$) were identified and binarized, to provide a numerical representation of the number of significant connections within each network pair (Panel B). Hypergeometric tests were run, to identify network pairs which had a statistically significant number of region-region connections associated with stimulus-driven attention, with the color scale providing $-\log_{10} p$ values (corresponding to a ceiling of $p<0.01$: Panel C). Elevated stimulus-driven attention was related to increased network-network connectivity of the following network pairs: FPN to DMN, CON to VAN; and elevated stimulus-driven attention was related to decreased network-network connectivity of the following network pairs: VAN to DMN, CON to PreMotor (PreM), and Medial Parietal (MedPar) to Auditory (Aud) (Panel D). Each spherical node is centered at the parcel centroid, with larger nodes reflecting a greater number of connections related to stimulus-driven attention.
Figure 4. Unique and shared connections between CON and VAN related to anxiety and stimulus-driven attention.

Panel A illustrates the 54 CON-VAN ROI pairs significantly related to anxiety but not stimulus-driven attention. Panel B illustrates the 55 CON-VAN ROI pairs significantly related to stimulus-driven attention but not anxiety. Panel C illustrates the 24 CON-VAN ROI pairs significantly related to both anxiety and stimulus-driven attention. These 24 connections in panel C primarily consist of bilateral posterior superior temporal sulcus regions in the VAN connecting to disparate CON regions. Node size reflects the number of significant connections related to each region. Line color indicates the direction of the relation (red=positive connectivity; blue=negative connectivity).
REFERENCES


A. Functional Parcellation Scheme

Network Assignment
- Default
- Visual
- Fronto-Par
- Prim Visual
- Dorsal Attn
- Premotor
- Vent Attn
- Salience
- Cing-Operc
- Motor/Hand
- Motor/Mouth
- Auditory
- MedPar
- ParOccip
- Motor/Foot

B. RSFC Matrix, N = 61
Relationship of PARS to rs-fc

Significant Connections Related to PARS

Network-Network Hypergeometric Test

-log₁₀ p value

Functional Network Legend:
- Prim Visual
- Dorsal Attn
- Premotor
- Vent Attn
- Salience
- Cing-Operc
- Auditory
- MedPar
- ParOccip
- Motor/Hand
- Motor/Mouth
- Motor/Foot

D

Significant Region-Region Connections within each Implicated Network-Network Pairing

CON - DMN

CON - VIS

CON - PrimVis

CON - VAN

CON - CON

MM - PrimVis
Relationship of Stimulus-Driven Attention to rs-fc Significant Connections

Stimulus-Driven Attention

Network-Network

Hypergeometric Test

A

B

C

D

Significant Region-Region Connections within each Implicated Network-Network Pairing

Network & Network Legend:

- Default
- Visual
- Fronto-Par
- Prim Visual
- Dorsal Attn
- Premotor
- Motor/Hand
- Motor/Mouth
- Auditory
- Motor/Par
- MedPar
- ParOccip
- Cing Operc
- Salience
- ParMemory
- Vent Attn
- SM
- Aud SM
- Fronto-Par
- MedPar
- Aud
- CON
- PreM

Significant Region-Region Connections within each Implicated Network-Network Pairing

FPN - DMN

VAN - DMN

CON - PreM

CON - VAN

MedPar - Aud

Journal Pre-proof
Connections Uniquely Related to Anxiety

Connections Uniquely Related to Stimulus-Driven Attention

Connections Related to Both Anxiety and Stimulus-Driven Attention