Review 16.2: Mood Disorders

Dwayne’s parents (Isabel and Max) are worried about him. Dwayne’s fiancé Arlene recently died in a car accident and since then Dwayne has been lethargic and has lost all interest in family and friends. This behavior has lasted for more than two weeks, suggesting that he is suffering from (1) major depressive disorder, which is more common in (2) women than in (3) men. Isabel and Max think there may be a biological explanation for Dwayne’s condition. They recall that Isabel’s mother and sister were both diagnosed with psychological problems, indicating a (4) genetic influence. However, a psychologist with a (5) social-cognitive perspective suggests that Dwayne’s (6) self-defeating beliefs and (7) negative explanatory style may also be contributing to his inability to get over the loss of his fiance. After about a month, Dwayne comes out of his room, all excited with plans to move to Hawaii and start a new career in real estate. Max and Isabel’s psychologist suggests that these symptoms may indicate the presence of (8) bipolar disorder, which is characterized by alternating mood swings between (9) depression and the overexcited state of (10) mania. Researchers have found that during bipolar episodes of depression, brain levels of (11) norepinephrine and (12) serotonin are low, and one of these neurotransmitters, (13) norepinephrine, is overabundant during bipolar episodes of mania.