



**Figure 1. The tripartite synapse**

During synaptic transmission (figure on the right) once released into the synaptic cleft (2), neurotransmitters activate astrocytic receptors (3). This, in turn, triggers the excitability of astrocytes that is based on intracellular calcium variations (4). As a consequence, astrocytes release active substances named gliotransmitters (5) to regulate synaptic activity and plasticity.