

# The Neurobiology of Addiction



NOAP 2024 Annual Conference

Friday May 17, 2024 – Sanibel Harbor - Ft. Myers, Florida

John C. Tanner, D.O., DABAM, DFASAM, FAOAAAM, CCFC,  
MRO



## Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

| Name   | Commercial Interests   | Relevant Financial Relationships: What Was Received | Relevant Financial Relationships: For What Role |
|--|--|---|---|
| John C. Tanner, D.O.<br>DABAM, DFASAM,<br>FAOAAAM, CCFC, MRO | Braeburn™<br>Pharmaceuticals<br>Beginning in the<br>fall of 2023 | Honoraria   | Speaker<br>Bureau                               |

Involvement as a speaker for Braeburn™.  
The product does not directly relate to this lecture.

## John C. Tanner, DO, DFASAM, DABAM, FAOAM, CCFC, MRO

- Medical Director for the Intervention Project for Nurses (IPN) – Florida
- Part-time private Addiction and Behavioral Medicine practice since 1984
- Distinguished Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (DFASAM)
- Currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Florida Society of Addiction Medicine since 2013
- Inaugural Diplomate of The American Board of Addiction Medicine (DABAM)
- Fellow of the American Osteopathic Academy Of Addiction Medicine (FAOAM)
- One of the 3 Principal Investigators for the FDA Phase 2 and 3 Clinical Trials for approval of Suboxone® Film
- Clinically Certified Forensic Counselor (CCFC) and Diplomate of The Board of Clinical Forensic Counseling
- Medical Review Officer (MRO)
- Certificate of Added Qualifications in Addiction Medicine by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists under the Conjoined Boards
- Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Florida College of Medicine (currently a courtesy appointment)
- Medical Director Tides Edge (functioning more as a consultant and group provider)
- Former Director at Large for the American Society of Addiction Medicine's Board of Directors for two consecutive terms (from 2011 to March 2019)

## Continuing Medical Education Activity Objectives

Title of Activity: The Neurobiology of Addiction

Date: ?day, , 2024

| OBJECTIVES  | OUTLINE   | TIME FRAME       | PRESENTER                                      | METHODS                             |
|---|---|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Objective 1</b><br/>Upon completion of this activity the learner will be able to discuss how addiction is linked with the brain's memory, motivation, reward, and executive function systems and changes functioning of these systems.</p>                  | <p>A) Understand that reward in the brain is there to reinforce behaviors important for survival.<br/>B) Better understand eight brain regions that are affected by the potent reward of psychoactive substances.<br/>C) Identify how craving is a linked with the brain's reward system.<br/>D) Understand the role that withdrawal plays in perpetuating the addictive process.</p>   | 10 to 15 minutes | John C. Tanner, D.O., DFASAM, DABAM, CCFC, MRO | Lecture/discussion; PowerPoint; Q&A |
| <p><b>Objective 2</b><br/>Upon completion of this activity the learner will be able to explain some of the basic neuroscience as it relates to substance use disorders.</p>   | <p>A) Gain an understanding of the interplay between the frontal cortical areas of the brain and the limbic system.<br/>B) Identify some of the neurotransmitters that play a role in addiction.<br/>C) Understand that virtually all psychoactive substances have toxic or adverse effects in the gray matter areas of the brain.<br/>D) What is recovery, how is it maintained, and what is the role of various regions of the brain in the recovery process?</p> | 10 to 15 minutes | John C. Tanner, D.O., DFASAM, DABAM, CCFC, MRO | Lecture/discussion; PowerPoint; Q&A |
| <p><b>Objective 3</b><br/>Upon completion of this activity the learner will be able to list some helpful in therapeutic measures to help someone with a substance use disorder.</p>   | <p>A) An accurate diagnosis required to establish appropriate plan.<br/>B) Accurate diagnosis may require toxicology testing.<br/>C) Deciding what treatments are needed, i.e., psychotherapeutic (psychiatric, psychotherapist, mutual support groups) and some of the medication options.</p>   | 10 to 15 minutes | John C. Tanner, D.O., DFASAM, DABAM, CCFC, MRO | Lecture/discussion; PowerPoint; Q&A |
| <p><b>Objective 4</b><br/>Upon completion of this activity the learner will be able to understand the evidence that addiction is a chronic relapsing and progressive disease with similarities to other chronic diseases having a genetic and biologic basis.</p> | <p>A) Importance of accepting addiction as a chronic disease as an integral part of providing quality patient care.<br/>B) Understanding that addiction is a chronic biologically based disease, affecting very specific brain regions helps to mitigate the stigma, guilt, and shame that impede recovery.<br/>C) Unrecognized and untreated substance use disorders lead to significant self-destructive behaviors and premature death.</p>                       | 10 to 15 minutes | John C. Tanner, D.O., DFASAM, DABAM, CCFC, MRO | Lecture/discussion; PowerPoint; Q&A |

## Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.<sup>1</sup> It's what happens between that seems to be a miracle.

- The substances that make up our body come from the earth (thus, we are made from star dust).
- Our brain is the most complex thing in our entire known universe.
- It is believed to have a 86 billion neurons<sup>2,3,4</sup> and 100 trillion connections<sup>5,6</sup>.
- At least 1/3 of the approximately 20,000 genes constituting the human genome are expressed primarily in the brain (the highest proportion of genes expressed in any part of the body)<sup>7,8</sup>.



1. Genesis 3:19 "... till thou return to the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for **dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**"  
 2. brainfacts.org 3. neuromedia.ca 4. cbmm.mit.edu 5. scientificamerican.com 6. scienceoxygen.com 7. ninds.nih.gov 8. sciencenews.org

## Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust.<sup>1</sup> It's what happens between that seems to be a miracle.

- Despite constituting only 2% of the body mass, it consumes approximately 20–25% of the body's total energy<sup>2,3</sup>.
- Most of the brain's energy expenditure, around 80–90%, occurs during its spontaneous activity such as when you're at rest and not performing any specific tasks<sup>3</sup>.
- Two-thirds of the brain's energy is dedicated to neuronal communication. Charged ions (sodium, calcium, and potassium) continuously move through cell membranes, allowing neurons to recharge and transmit signals and ATP supplies the energy needed for these ion movements<sup>2</sup>.
- The remaining third of the brain's energy expenditure is for cell maintenance.
- On average, the brain consumes approximately 0.3 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per day and for an adult that is more than 100 times what a typical smartphone requires daily<sup>4</sup>.



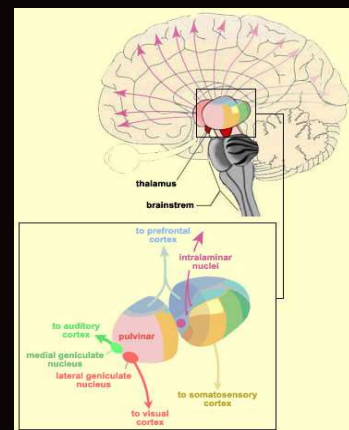
1. Genesis 3:19 "... till thou return to the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for **dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**"  
 2. scientificamerican.com 3. frontiersin.org 4. theconversation.com



## Consciousness – where does it reside?

<sup>1</sup> Activation of the **central lateral thalamus** and **deep layers of the cerebral cortex** drives pathways in the brain that **carry information between the parietal and frontal lobe** in the brain.

- This circuit is believed to work as the core of our consciousness, enabling conscious thoughts and feelings in primates and likely in humans.
- The scientific team put macaque monkeys under anesthesia, then stimulated different parts of their brains with electrodes at a frequency of 50 Hertz while they were under anesthesia.
- When the central lateral thalamus was stimulated, the monkeys woke up and their brain function resumed, even though they were still under anesthesia.
- Seconds after the scientists switched off the stimulation, the monkeys lost consciousness again.

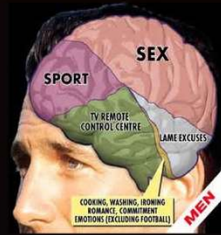


1. Reference:  
Neuron, February 12, 2020 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2020.01.005>



## Brain's Natural Rewards

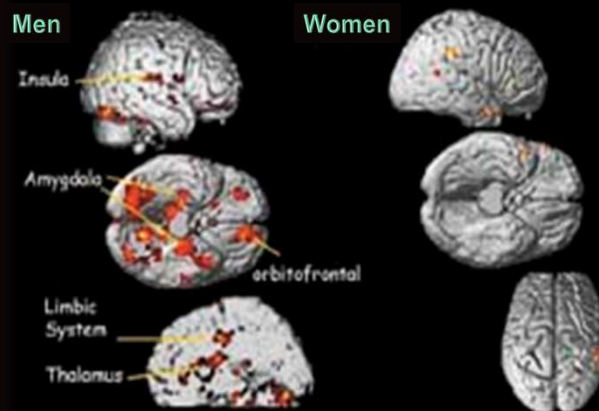
- Social and nurturing activities
- Food & Water
- Sex
- Etc. (i.e., safety/security, music, exercise, hobbies)



Our brains are very "hard wired" for generating repetition of survival behaviors!!!

## Gender differences in cerebral activation when viewing erotic stimuli in fMRI <sup>1</sup>

- For analysis of specific activation, the contrast images of all groups were entered into a two-sample t-test. Interaction-related increase in MR signal is superimposed on three orthogonal sections of 3-D T1 weighted standard brain.
- When viewing erotic film excerpts, statistical parametric maps of areas activated more prominently in men compared with women. Results show activation of left thalamus, left amygdala, anterior cingulate, bilateral orbitofrontal, and insular cortex



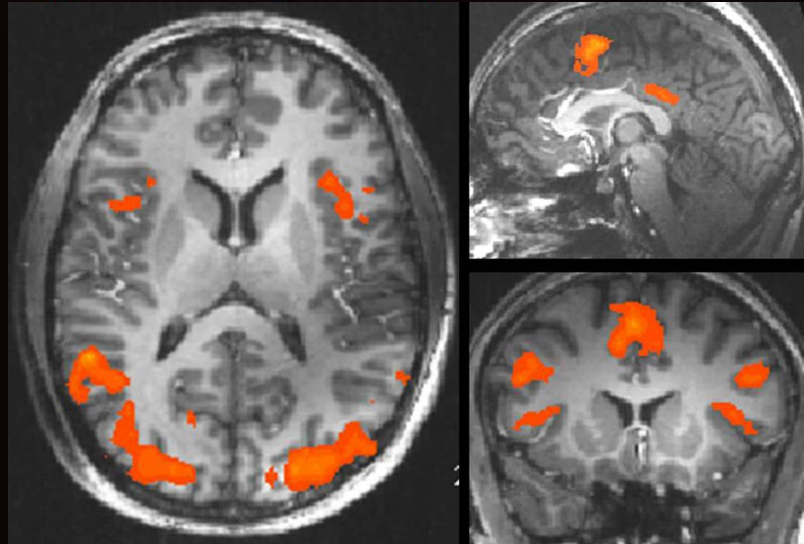
1. Reference: University Clinic Essen 03/01/2006; Elke Gizewski, MD, Elke Gizewski

## Activation during sex anticipation period

1

### Cortical activation during anticipation period.

Regions with significant signal increases during anticipation period [erotic anticipation  $\times$  emotional anticipation] (conj.  $p < 0.05$  uncorrected,  $x: -1, y: 1, z: -10$ ).



1. Reference: Front. Neuroanat., 01 November 2010 | doi: 10.3389/fnana.2010.00138

## fMRI images of a woman's brain throughout an orgasm<sup>1</sup>

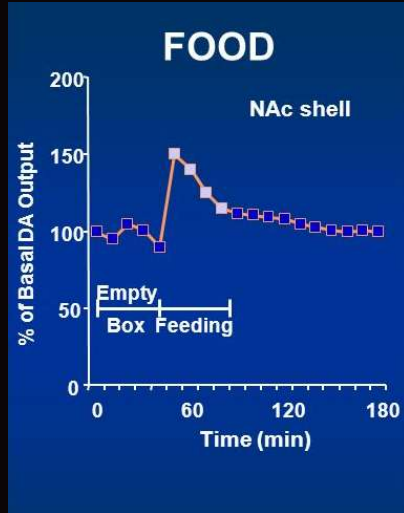
More than 30 areas of the brain are active during the event, including those involved in touch, memory, reward and even pain

- PFC becomes more active during orgasm, whether it's achieved through physical touch or thought alone
- PFC evidently "shuts off" during orgasm – especially a region of the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC), which is involved in the process of self-control

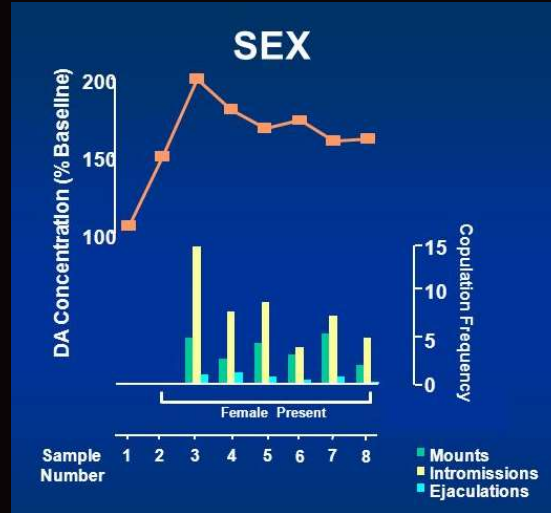


1. Reference: Rutgers University and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands

# Natural rewards elevate dopamine levels<sup>1,2</sup>



1. DiChiara et al., J. Neuroscience, 1999



2. Fiorino and Phillips, J. Neuroscience, 1997

# Treatment: the target areas

## Limbic Region

Role: Reward, Emotions, Drive Generation  
Intervention: Pharmacotherapy



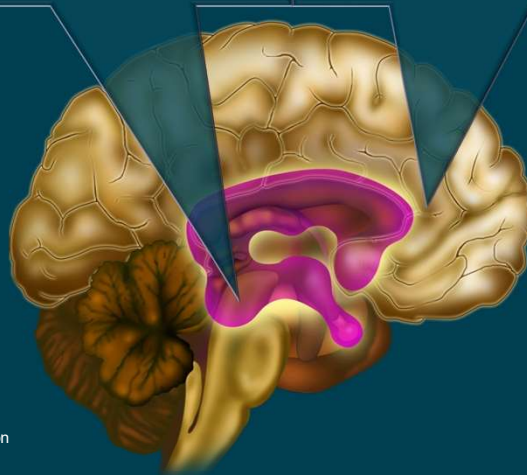
When limbic regions are "hijacked" by addiction the intent becomes "nefarious".

## Pre Frontal Cortex

Role: Decision Making, Impulse Control, Judgment  
Intervention: Counseling, Mutual Support

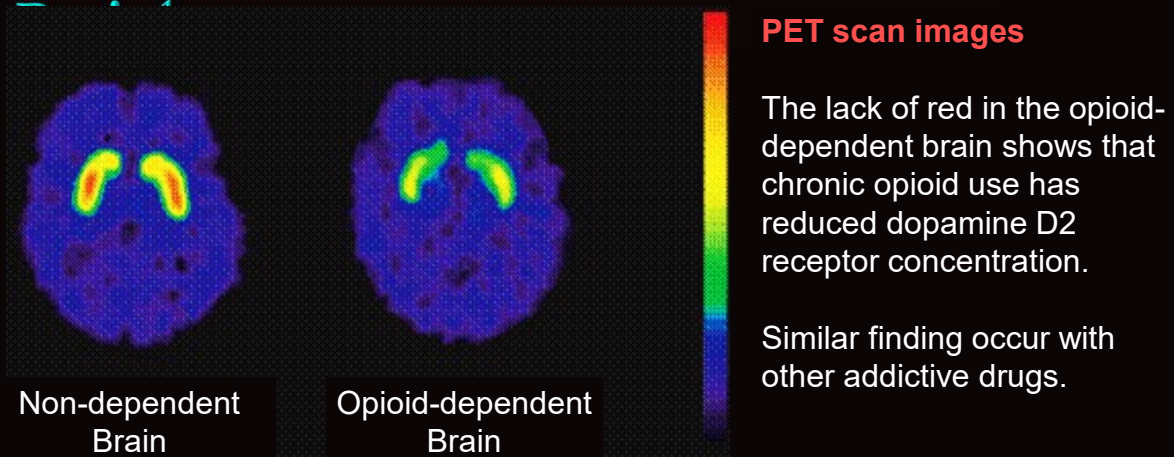


When the frontal cortex "succumbs" to addiction it "loses its strength".



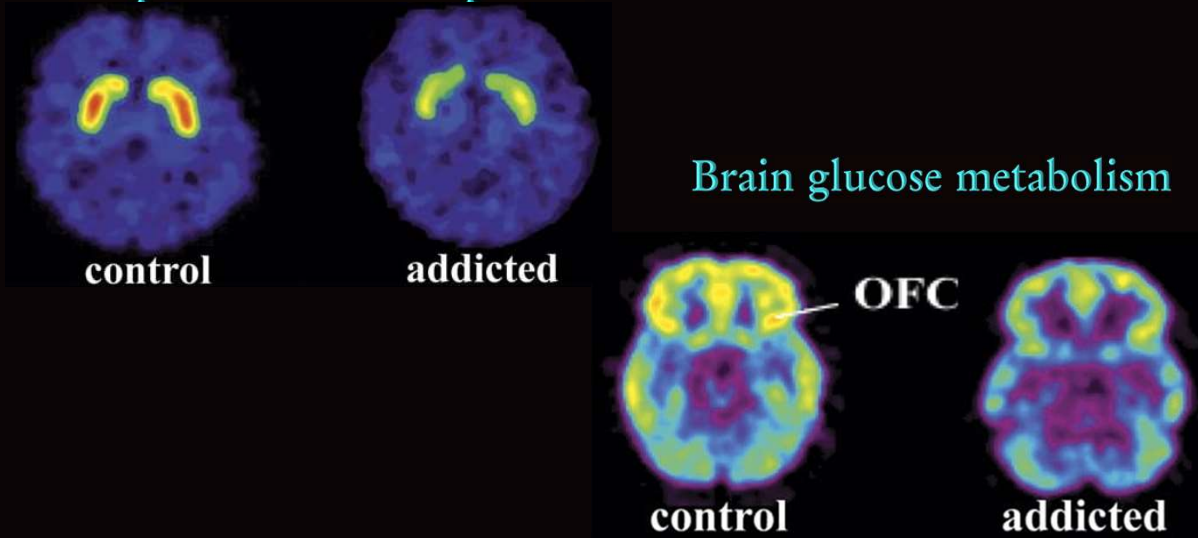


## Drug Dependence Causes Changes in



1. Wang GJ et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 1997;16(2):174-182.

## Dopamine D2 receptors<sup>1</sup>



1 Ref: Volkow, et, al, PNAS Vol. 108 | No. 37



## Brain circuits involved in survival and substance use disorders

**Executive function and inhibitory control**

**Memory and learning**

**Motivation and drive**

**Reward and salience region**

1) PFC = prefrontal cortex    2) ACC = anterior cingulate gyrus  
 3) OFC = orbitofrontal cortex    4) SCC = subcallosal cortex  
 5) NAc = nucleus accumbens    6) VP = ventral pallidum  
 7) Hipp = hippocampus    8) Amyg = amygdala

## A more precise anatomic location of the 8 areas

**Executive function and Inhibitory control**

**Reward and salience region**

**Motivation and drive**

**Memory and learning**

1) PFC = prefrontal cortex    2) ACC = anterior cingulate gyrus  
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# What is the goal addiction treatment?

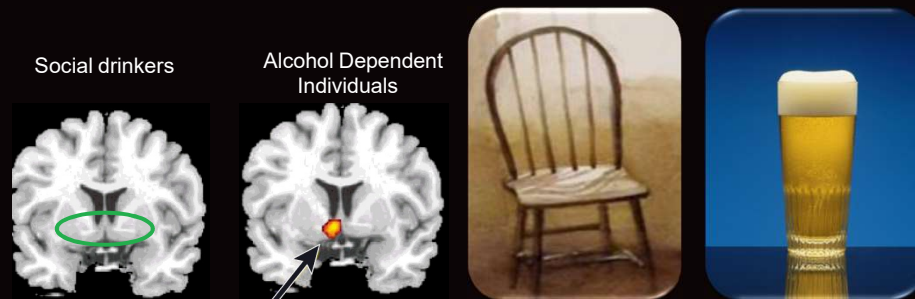


Perhaps recovery is: the process of being motivated to seek new healthy rewards, having learned better ways to cope with life's stressors, having the capacity to regain control over cravings and impulses (all 8 centers).

## Alcohol Dependence and Neuroscience <sup>1</sup>

fMRI images of brain's reward system

- *Social drinkers*
- *Neutral cues vs. Alcohol cues*
- *Alcohol dependent (non-treatment seeking)*



Reference:

1. Myrick, et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2008;65:466-475.

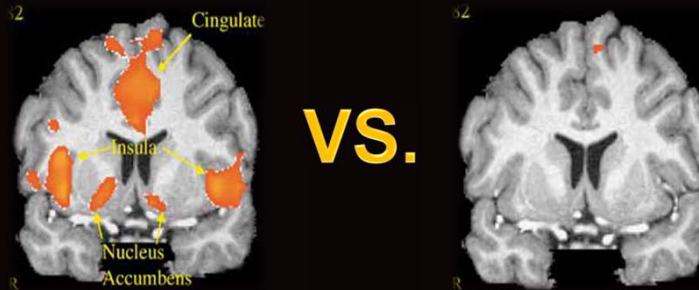
# The cues can activate multiple areas of the brain 1,2,3,4

fMRI imagery of the brain's reward system demonstrates that:

- Alcohol cues activate the brain in alcohol-dependent individuals compared with social drinkers<sup>1</sup>
- These findings may lead to better interventions for the treatment of alcohol dependence<sup>4</sup>

Alcohol-Dependent Individuals

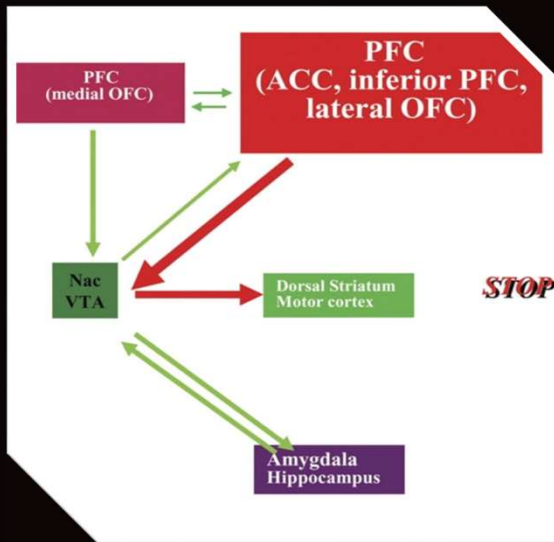
Social Drinkers



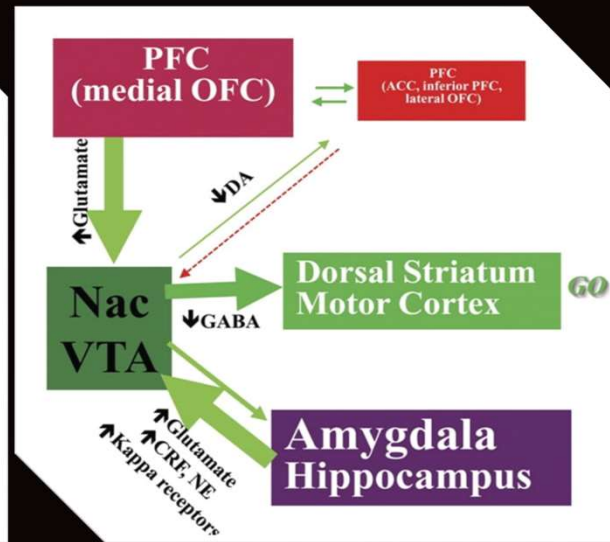
References

1. Myrick H et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2008;65:466-475.
2. Anton RF. *N Engl J Med*. 2008;359:715-721.
3. Daekis C et al. *Nat Neurosci*. 2005;8:1431-1436.
4. Myrick H et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2004;29:393-402.

## Non-Addicted Brain



## Addicted



## Main classes of drugs of abuse, their main molecular targets, and some of the mechanisms by which they increase dopamine in nucleus accumbens<sup>1</sup>

- | Drug  | Dopamine transporter  | Mechanism for dopamine increases  |
|---|---|---|
| Stimulant drugs (cocaine, amphetamine, methamphetamine) | Dopamine transporter  | Blocks dopamine transporter on the terminals of dopamine projecting neurons from ventral tegmental area to nucleus accumbens (cocaine) or releases dopamine from the vesicles of dopamine terminals (methamphetamine and amphetamine).        |
| Opioids (heroin, opioid analgesics)                     | $\mu$ -opioid receptor  | Ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons by inhibiting GABA interneurons that contain $\mu$ -opioid receptor in the ventral tegmental area or directly activates nucleus accumbens neurons that contain $\mu$ -opioid receptor.                |
| Nicotine (cigarettes and other tobacco products)        | Nicotinic receptors (predominantly $\alpha 4\beta 2$ subtype) | Directly activates ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons by stimulating their nicotine receptors and indirectly activates them by stimulating the nicotine receptors in glutamatergic terminals to ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons. |
| Alcohol and inhalants                                   | Multiple targets, including GABA and glutamate receptors      | Facilitates GABAergic neurotransmission, which may disinhibit ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons from gamma amino butyric acid interneurons or may inhibit glutamate terminals that regulate dopamine release in nucleus accumbens.      |
| Cannabinoids (marihuana)                                | Cannabinoid CB1 receptors                                     | Regulates dopaminergic signaling through CB1R in nucleus accumbens neurons and in gamma amino butyric acid and glutamate terminals to nucleus accumbens.  |

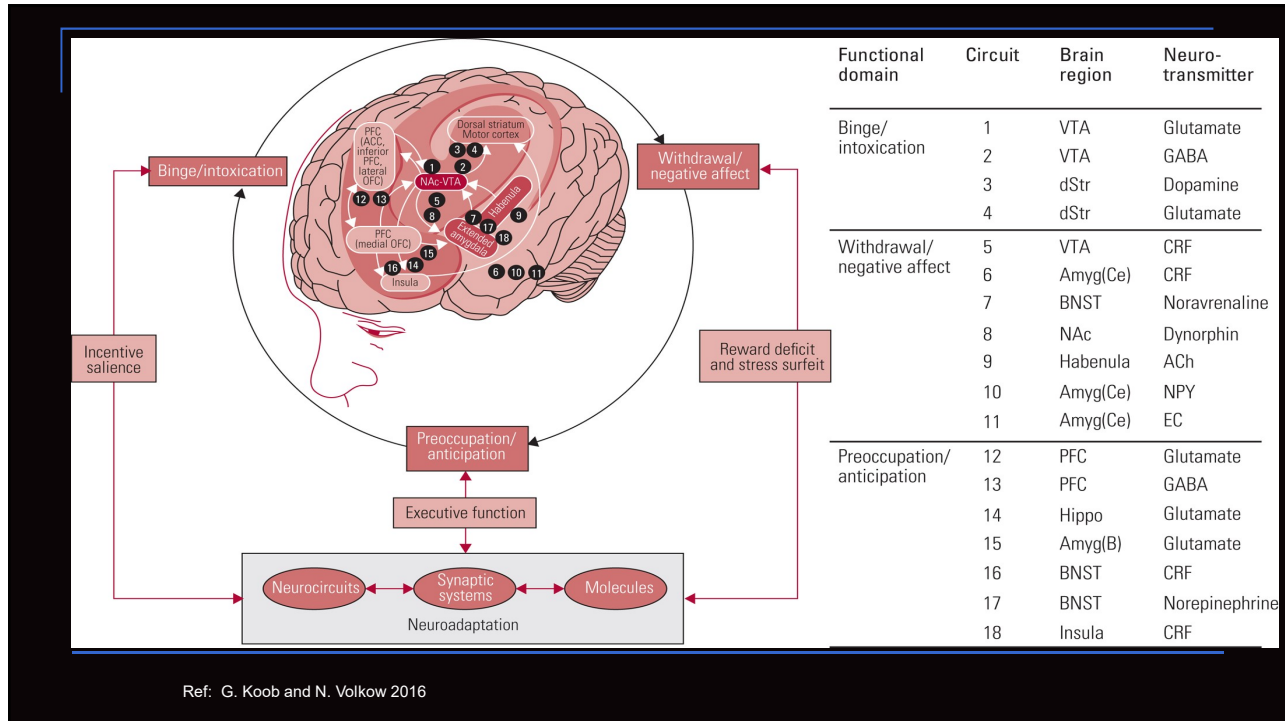
<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the National Academy of Sciences · March 2011

GABA=gamma amino butyric acid

| Drug                                     | Primary target                                     | Acute effect   | Key neuroadaptation with chronic consumption                                 |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Stimulants</b>                        |  |  |  |
| Cocaine                                  | DAT  | ↑Dopamine  | ↓Dopaminergic activity   |
| Amphetamine                              | DAT + MAO<br>↑Synaptic vesicle release             | ↑Dopamine  | ↓Dopaminergic activity   |
| Nicotine                                 | Nicotinic ACh receptor on dopaminergic VTA neurons | ↑Dopamine  | ↓Dopaminergic activity   |
| <b>Sedatives/depressants</b>             |  |  |  |
| Alcohol                                  | GABA<br>Glutamate                                  | ↑GABA <sub>A</sub> function<br>↓NMDA function  | ↓GABA <sub>A</sub> function<br>↑NMDA function                                |
| Benzodiazepines                          | GABA   | ↑GABA function   | Unclear, likely reduced GABA <sub>A</sub> function                           |
| GHB                                      | GABA <sub>B</sub> receptors, GHB receptors         | ↑GABA function   | Unclear  |
| Cannabis                                 | CB <sub>1</sub> receptors                          | ↑Dopamine via modulation of GABAergic input to dopaminergic neurons; modulates opioid systems  | ↓CB <sub>1</sub> receptor activity   |
| Opiates: morphine, heroin, codeine, etc. | Mu opioid receptors                                | Stimulates opioid receptors ( $\mu$ is key), indirectly increases dopamine via modulation of GABAergic input to dopaminergic neurons | Reduced sensitivity of $\mu$ opioid receptor, reduced noradrenergic activity |

Adapted from Lingford-Hughes Reference Lingford-Hughes, Watson and Kalk2010





# What drives the addiction process? <sup>1</sup>

## 3 sets of brain structures.

Is it a carrot on a stick?

**Euphoria, Binge & Reward**

- Nucleus (anterior) accumbens (NAc)
- Dorsal striatum (DS)
- Globus pallidum (GP)
- Thalamus (Thal)
- Ventral pallidum (VP)

Is it a whip from behind?

**Withdrawal and Negative Affect**

- Central amygdala (AMG)
- Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis (BNST)
- Nucleus (posterior) accumbens (NAc)
- Habenula

Is it a carrot on a stick?

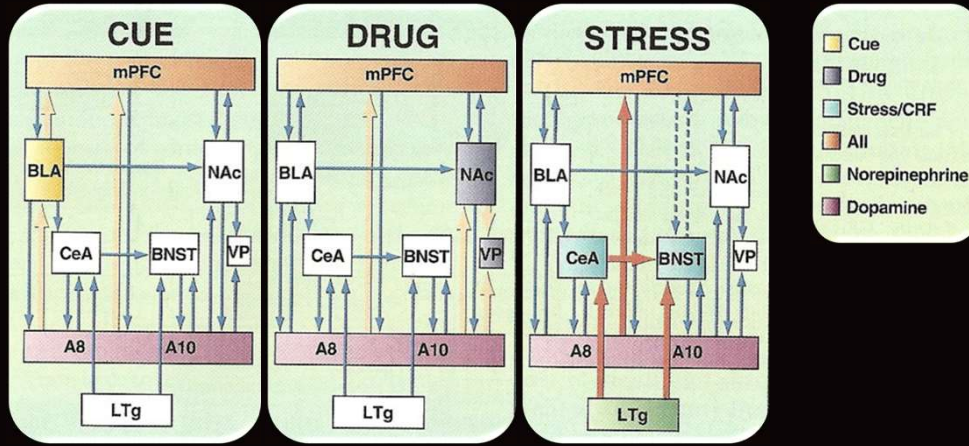
**Preoccupation & Anticipation**

- Prefrontal cortex (PFC)
- Orbitofrontal cortex (OFC)
- Hippocampus (Hippo)
- Insula (Insula)

**MOTIVATION**  
SOMETIMES THERE JUST ISN'T ANY.

1. Koob GF, Volkow ND. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 2010;35(1):217-238.

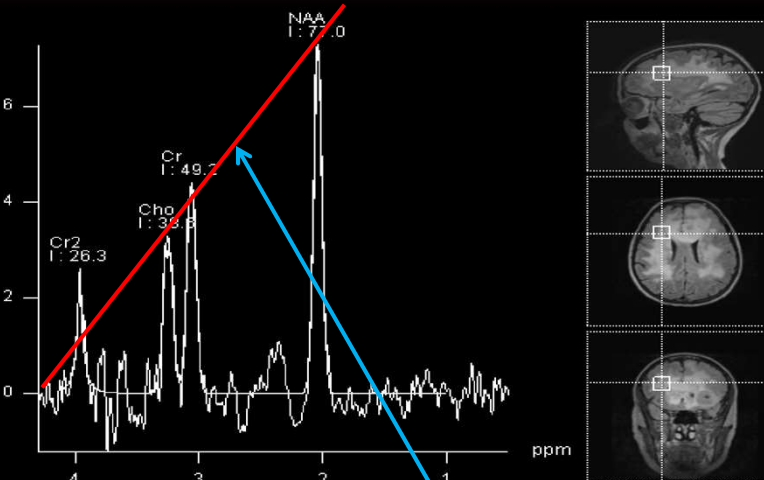
# What are the known underlying mechanisms of relapse and why are some prescribed medications a risk? <sup>1</sup>



Reference:  
1. Shaham et al., 2003

# Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS) <sup>1</sup>

- Safe (No X-Rays)
- Noninvasive
- Provides a snapshot of the neurochemistry within a defined volume of interest
- Significantly increases the accuracy and specificity of conventional MR imaging in differentiating between disease states
- MRS enables us to characterize cellular constituents such as N-acetyl aspartate or choline, as well as gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and glutamate<sup>2</sup>



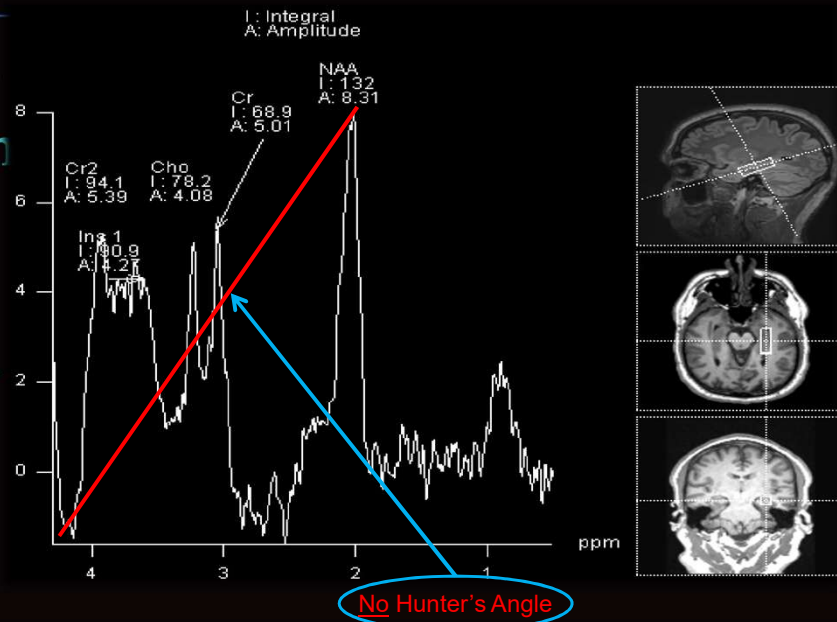
<sup>1</sup> Images from BHF research in Jacksonville

<sup>2</sup> Brain Sci. 2022, 12(7), 918; <https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci12070918>

Hunters Angle

## Case 28-year-old male with intractable seizures for 5+ years and depression. <sup>1</sup>

MR Spectroscopy & MRI localization



<sup>1</sup> Ref: Image from BHF research in Jacksonville

Myo-inositol peak and proportionally less NAA – consistent with Mesial Temporal Sclerosis

## Some of the metabolites seen on MRS

<sup>1</sup>

| ppm     | Metabolite              | Properties   |
|---------|-------------------------|--|
| 0.9-1.4 | Lipids                  | Products of brain cell destruction                       |
| 1.3     | Lactate                 | Product of anaerobic glycolysis                          |
| 2.0     | N-acetylaspartate (NAA) | Neuron cell marker                                       |
| 2.2-2.4 | Glutamine (Gtx)/GABA    | Neurotransmitters  |
| 3.0     | Creatine (Cr)           | Energy metabolism  |
| 3.2     | Choline (Cho)           | Cell membrane marker                                     |
| 3.5     | Myo-inositol (MI)       | Glial cell marker, osmolyte, hormone receptor mechanisms |
| 1.48    | Alanine                 | Present in meningiomas                                   |

<sup>1</sup> Ref: Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2010 February; 1187: 148–171.  
doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05143.x

# Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopic Imaging and Relevance to Substance Use Disorders <sup>1</sup>

## Summary of anatomically related metabolite changes with drugs of abuse

|                 | N-acetylaspartate  | Choline           | Creatine          | myo-inositol                                 |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Amphetamine     | —  | —                 | —                 | Increase (TL)<br>None (PFC)                  |
| Methamphetamine | Decrease<br>(BG, FGM)                                    | Increase<br>(FGM) | Decrease<br>(BG)  | Increase<br>(FGM, FWM)                       |
| MDMA            | Decrease<br>(FGM, HP)<br>None (FGM, PWM,<br>NC, HP, OCC) | —                 | —                 | Increase<br>(PWM)<br>None (FMG,<br>PWM, OCC) |
| Cocaine         | Decrease<br>(FMG, TAH)                                   | Increase<br>(BG)  | Increase<br>(PWM) | Increase<br>(FGM)                            |

1. Ref: Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2010 February; 1187: 148–171.  
doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05143.x

# Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopic Imaging and Relevance to Substance Use Disorders <sup>1</sup>

## Summary of reported neurotransmitter changes with drugs of abuse

|                 | Glutamate   | GABA   |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Methamphetamine | Decrease in frontal gray matter<br>(Ernst & Chang, 2008)                  | —  |
| Cocaine         | —   | Decrease in prefrontal cortex<br>(Ke et al., 2004)<br>Decrease in OCC<br>(Hetherington et al., 2000) |
| Opiates         | Decrease in ACC<br>(Yucel et al., 2007)                                   | —  |
| Cannabis        | Decrease in basal ganglia<br>(Chang et al., 2006)                         | —  |
| Alcohol         | Increase in ACC (Lee et al., 2007)<br>Decrease in BG (Miese et al., 2006) | Decrease in OCC<br>(Behar et al., 1999)  |
| Nicotine        | No change in HP<br>(Galliant et al., 2008)                                | Decrease in OCC<br>(Epperson et al., 2005)   |

1. Ref: Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2010 February; 1187: 148–171.  
doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05143.x



## Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopic Imaging and Relevance to Substance Use Disorders <sup>1</sup>

Simplified summary of overlapping metabolite findings across drug classes

| Metabolite              | Decrease  | Increase  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| N-acetylaspartate (NAA) | Methamphetamine, MDMA, Cocaine, Opiates, Cannabis, Alcohol, Nicotine, Toluene | Cocaine (acute administration)                                |
| Choline (Cho)           | Cannabis, Alcohol   | Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Alcohol                             |
| Creatine (Cr)           | Methamphetamine   | Cocaine, Cannabis, Alcohol                                    |
| Myo-Inositol (MI)       | —   | Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, MDMA, Cocaine, Alcohol, Toluene |
| Glutamate (Glx)         | Methamphetamine, Opiates, Cannabis  | Alcohol   |
| GABA                    | Cocaine, Alcohol, Nicotine  | —   |

1. Ref: Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2010 February; 1187: 148–171.  
doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05143.x

## Summary of MRS Drugs of Abuse Findings <sup>1, 2,</sup>

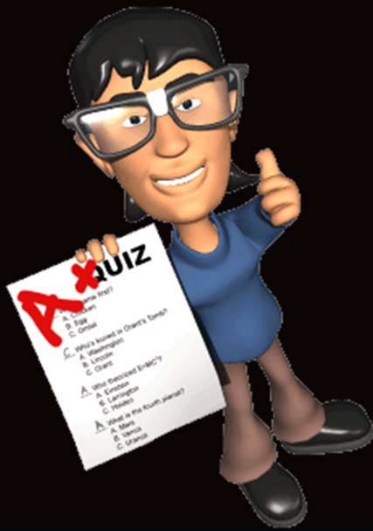
- <sup>3</sup> Research on alcohol, nicotine, cocaine, and cannabis addiction suggests that medications modulating GABA signaling may be effective in reducing addictive behaviors. <sup>3</sup>
- Reductions in NAA and elevations in MI were observed almost universally indicating that drugs of abuse in general have a profound impact on neuronal health, energy metabolism and inflammatory processes. <sup>1</sup>
- The next most common metabolite changes involved alterations in Cho and Cr, suggesting that methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis, and alcohol negatively influence cell membrane turnover as well as energy maintenance. <sup>1</sup>
- Methamphetamine, opiates, cannabis, and alcohol were found to alter Glx to some extent, while GABA was reduced by cocaine, alcohol and nicotine, together suggesting that drugs of abuse adversely impact neurotransmission. <sup>1</sup>
- Nearly 40 peer-reviewed research articles that focused on the utility of MRS in alcohol, methamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, cocaine, opiates, opioids, marijuana, and nicotine use disorders were reviewed. The most consistent finding across substances was decreased N-acetylaspartate and choline levels with chronic alcohol, methamphetamine, and nicotine use. <sup>2</sup>

1. Ref: Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2010 February; 1187: 148–171. 2. Ref: Published August 17, 2015 Review Article Find in PubMed  
doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05143.x https://doi.org/10.1177/1078390315598606 3. Ref: Brain Sci. 2022, 12(7), 918  
https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci12070918

Lets use our knowledge and work together to help our participants and patients with substance use disorders using proper assessment, early interventions and appropriate treatments. This is in the best interest of everyone.



## Quiz Questions



Which brain region is most involved in the irritable mood and negative affect associated with addictions?

1. Nucleus Accumbens
2. Extended Amygdala
3. Ventral Tegmental Area
4. Prefrontal Cortex
5. Lateral Dorsal Tegmentum

Which brain region is most involved in the irritable mood and negative affect associated with addictions?

1. Nucleus Accumbens
2. **Extended Amygdala**
3. Ventral Tegmental Area
4. Prefrontal Cortex
5. Lateral Dorsal Tegmentum

**Brain region(s) that account for disrupted inhibitory control that make it difficult for an addicted individual to refuse a drug is/are?**

1. Cingulate gyrus, dorsolateral prefrontal and inferior prefrontal cortex
2. Ventral tegmental area
3. Nucleus Accumbens
4. Substantia Nigra
5. Hippocampus

**Brain region(s) that account for disrupted inhibitory control that make it difficult for an addicted individual to refuse a drug is/are?**

1. Cingulate gyrus, dorsolateral prefrontal and inferior prefrontal cortex
2. Ventral tegmental area
3. Nucleus Accumbens
4. Substantia Nigra
5. Hippocampus



### Brain region(s) most associated with cravings even months after last use?

1. Orbitofrontal Cortex, Dorsal Striatum, Hippocampus, Insula
2. Ventral Tegmental Area
3. Pituitary Gland
4. Nucleus Accumbens & Ventral Pallidum
5. Locus Ceruleus

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Which of the following psychoactive substances directly increases the release of dopamine?

1. Alcohol
2. Stimulants
3. Opiates
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Following chronic consumption, psychoactive substances cause varying neuroadaptations. Chronic use of which substance primarily causes a decrease in GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor function while increasing the function of NMDA receptors?<sup>1</sup>

1. Nicotine
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<sup>1</sup> verywellhealth.com

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For which class of drugs should benzodiazepines (i.e., with diazepam, chlordiazepoxide, or lorazepam) not to be used for detoxification?

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5. GHB/GBL

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Thank you

THE END



## A few Resources and Sources

- “Drug addiction as dopamine-dependent associative learning disorder” G Di Chiara
- Volkow, ND et al., Journal of Neuroscience 21, 9414-9418, 2001.
- American Society of Addiction Medicine ([www.asam.org](http://www.asam.org))
- NIDA ([www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov))
- NIAAA ([www.NIAAA.nih.gov](http://www.NIAAA.nih.gov))
- Amer. Osteo. Acad. of Addiction Medicine ([www.aoaam.org](http://www.aoaam.org))

# Thank you for listening

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## Questions

