



VULNERABILITY
ISSUES IN DRUG ABUSE

The VIDA Project (Vulnerability Issues in Drug Abuse) presents

Dominance of Reward over Aversion contributes to Adolescent Addiction Vulnerability

by

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MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013
PROSPECT HALL, ROOM 221
(OLD COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING)
12:30 – 1:30 P.M.

Research interests are to understand the interaction of hormonal and neural mechanisms that increase sensitivity to drug abuse and depression in adolescents and females. One current focus is studying the influence of gonadal steroids estrogen and testosterone on dopamine mechanisms that contribute to self-administration of and behavioral responses to addictive drugs like cocaine and ethanol. The second is understanding what neural processes underlie addiction risk during adolescent and the modulation of these processes puberty. We are using a multidisciplinary approach to these problems which includes studying the behavioral response of rats to addictive drugs, the effects of gonadal steroids and other hormones on dopamine neuron survival and function and the activation of neural circuits by rewarding and aversive stimuli. We are also using in vitro model systems to study estrogen and testosterone action on monoamine neurons in the brain.