BASIC VOLUME

Elements of Drug Dependence Treatment

Treatnet

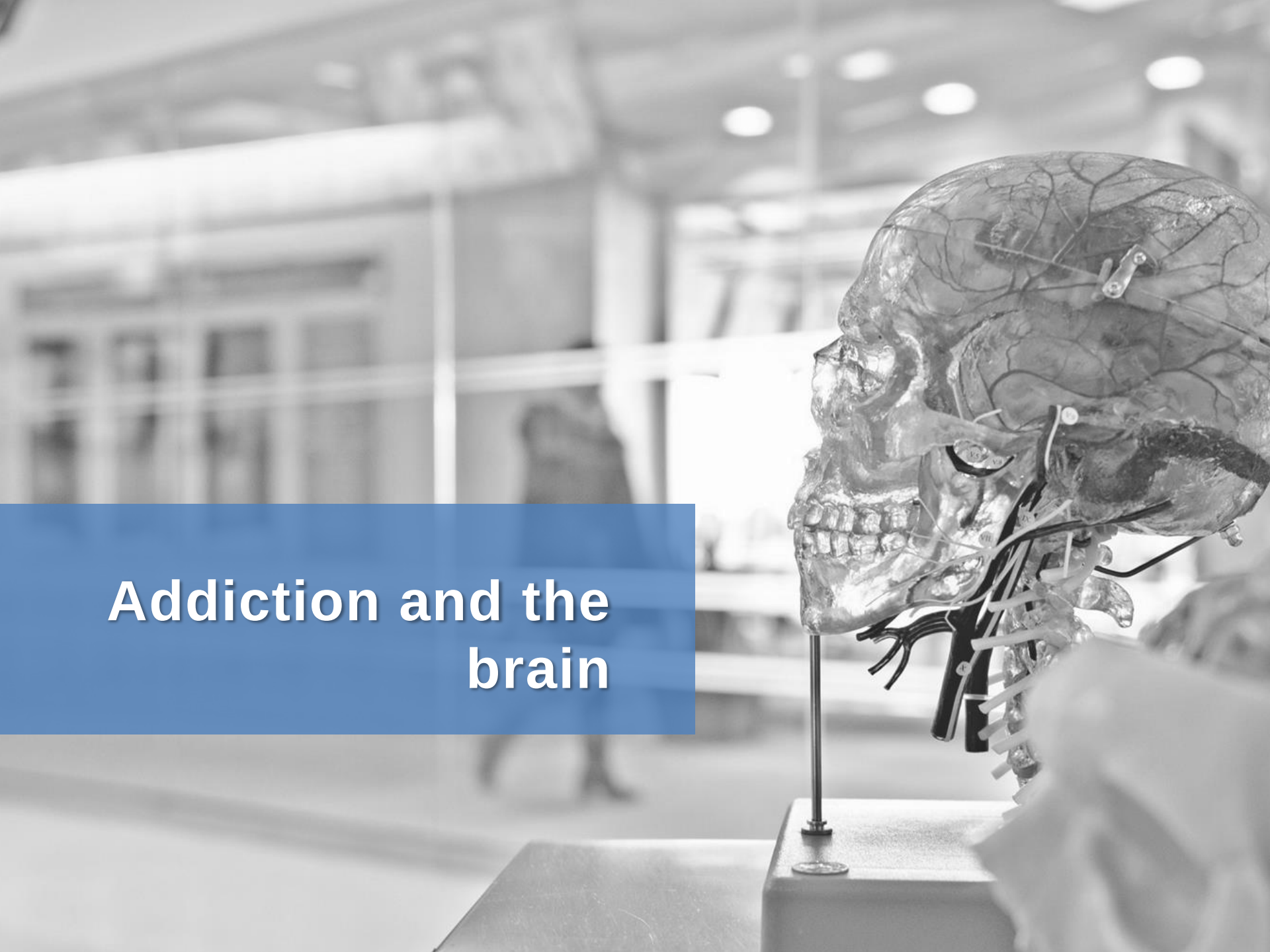
Module 1

Drug dependence concept and principles of drug treatment

Biology of drug dependence

Addiction and the brain

Principles of drug dependence treatment and care



Addiction and the brain

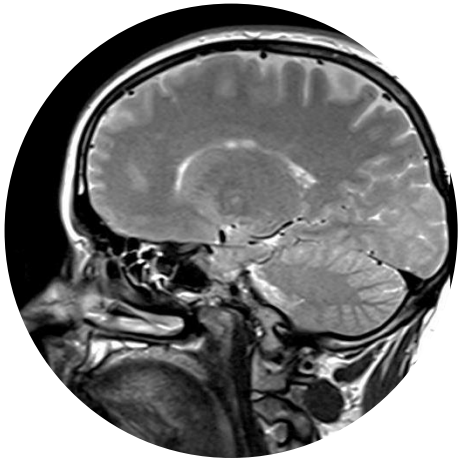
Training objectives

At the end of this workshop you will be able to:

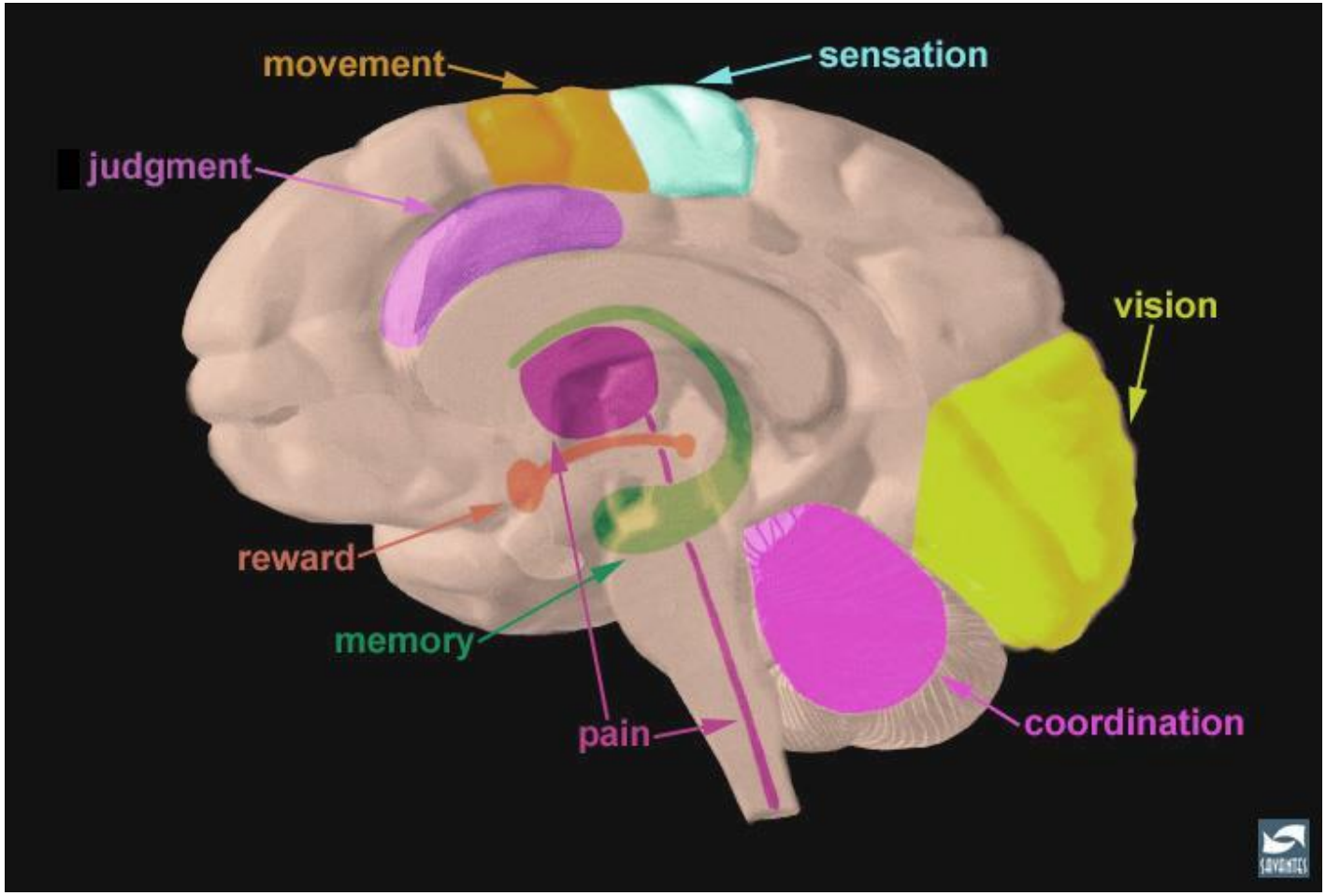
- Understand the mechanisms leading to vulnerability to start using drugs and become dependent
- Understand why people affected by drug dependence require treatment

Addiction = brain disease

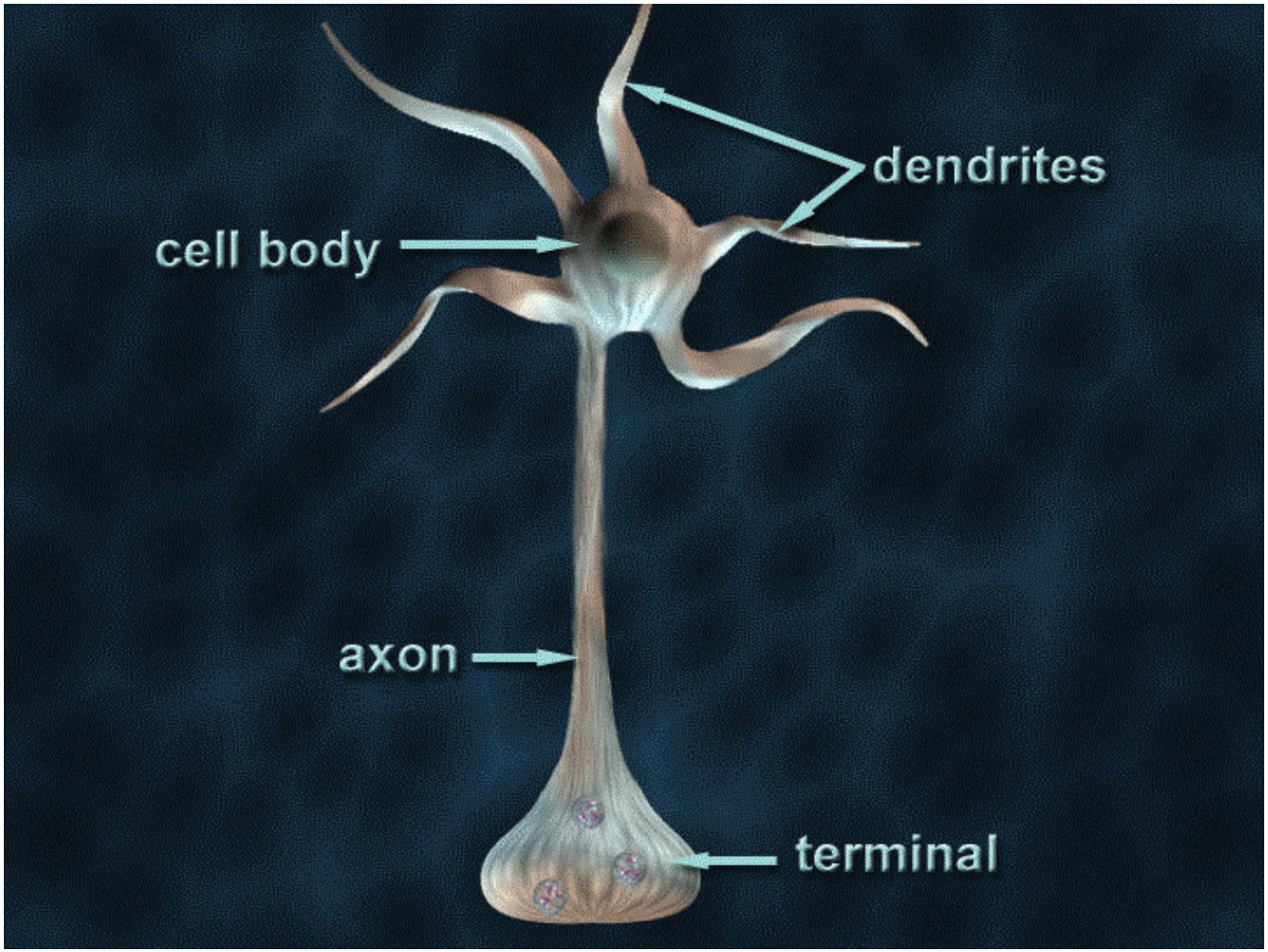
Addiction is a brain disease that is chronic and relapsing in nature



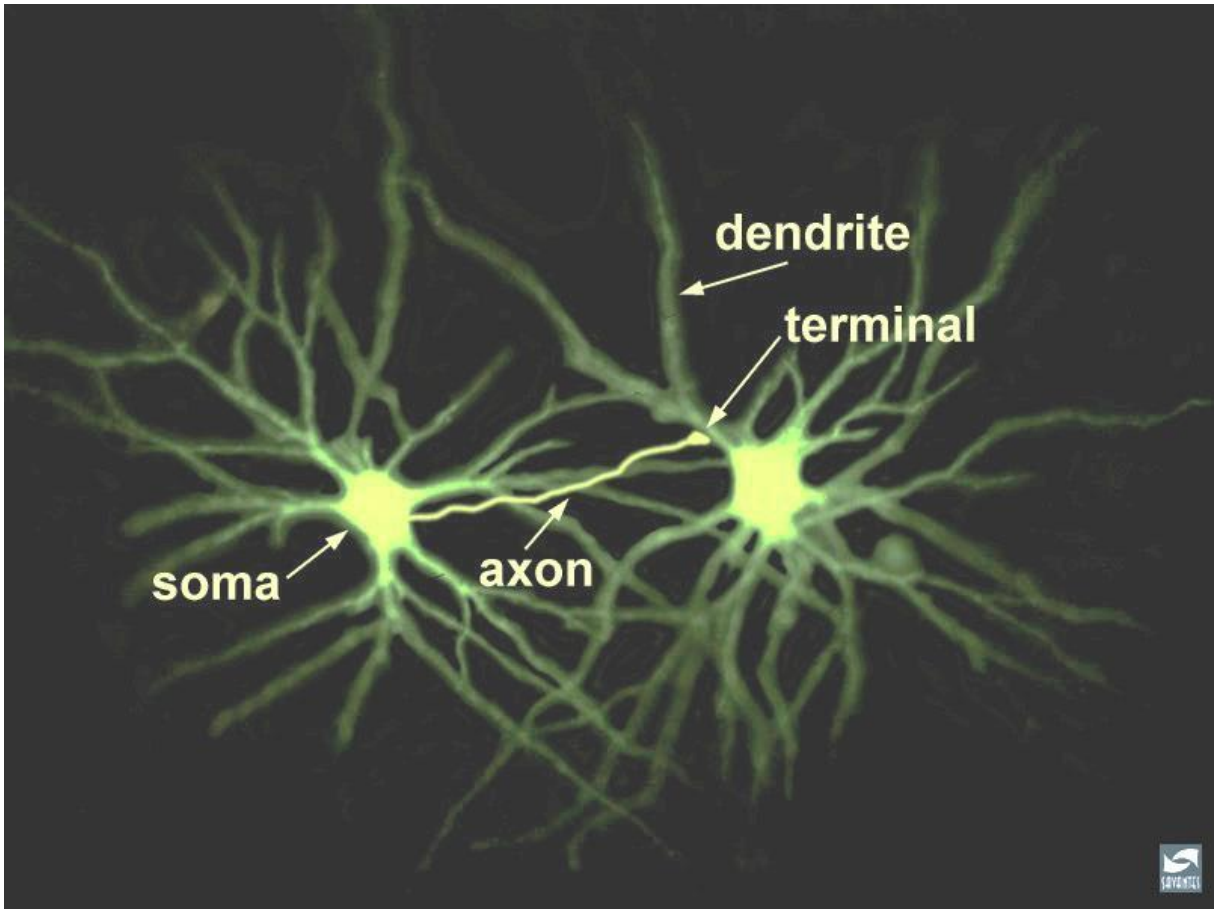
How brain works



How a neuron works



How neurons work

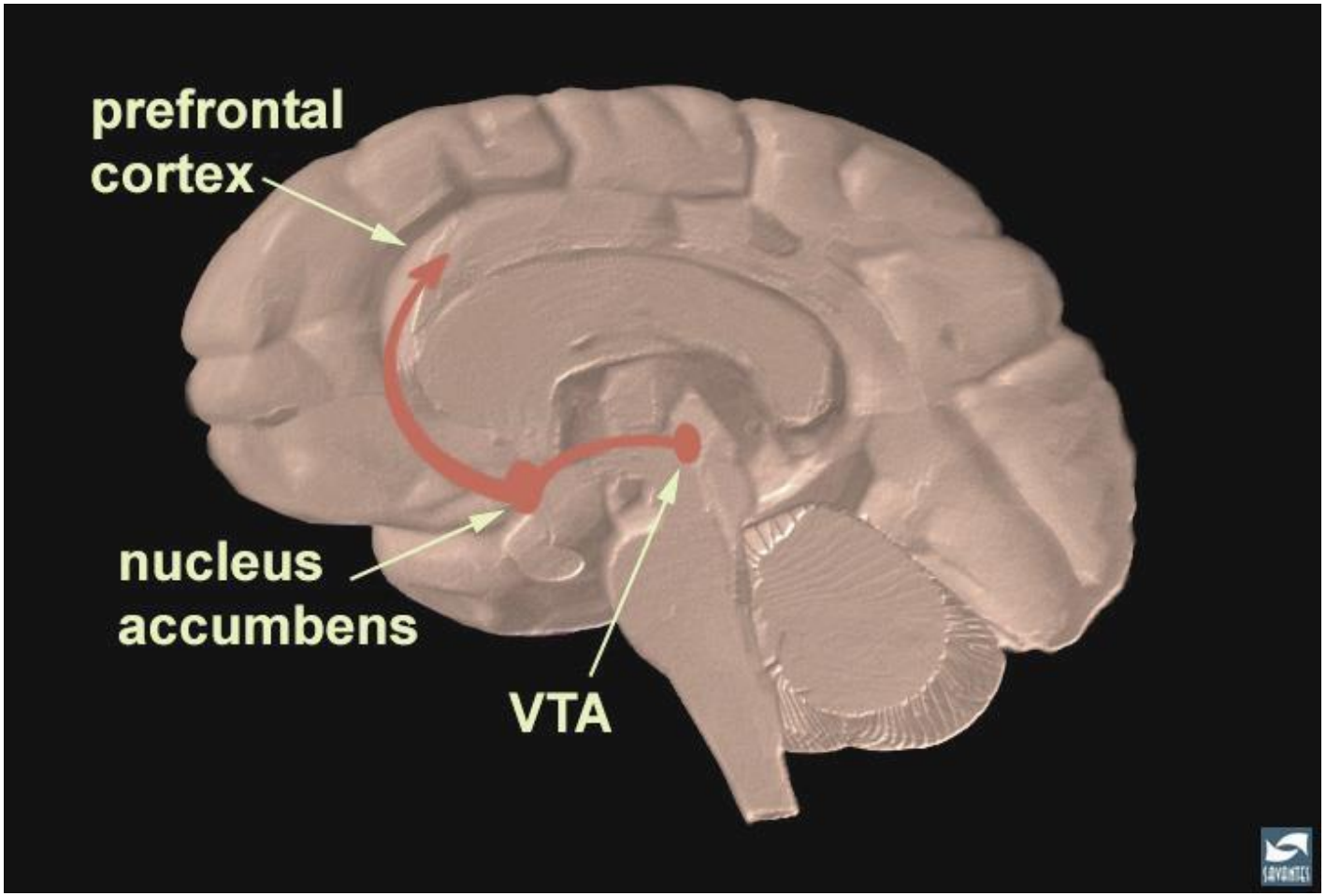


The Reward System

Examples of natural rewards:

- Food
- Water
- Sex
- Nurturing

How the reward system works

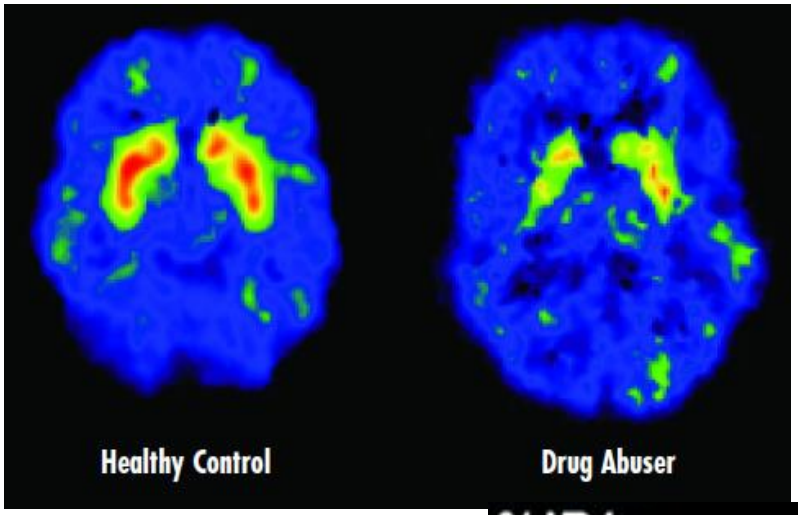


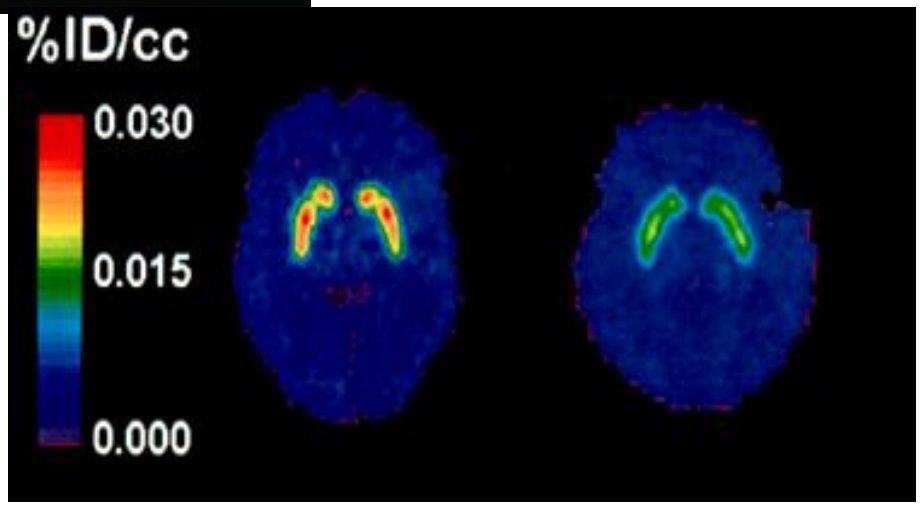
Let‘s think!

- How is addiction perceived in your country?
- What do you think should be done to educate people in your country about addiction?
- Do you think it is important to shift from a belief of „weakness“ to understanding addiction as a disease? Why?

Activating the system with drugs

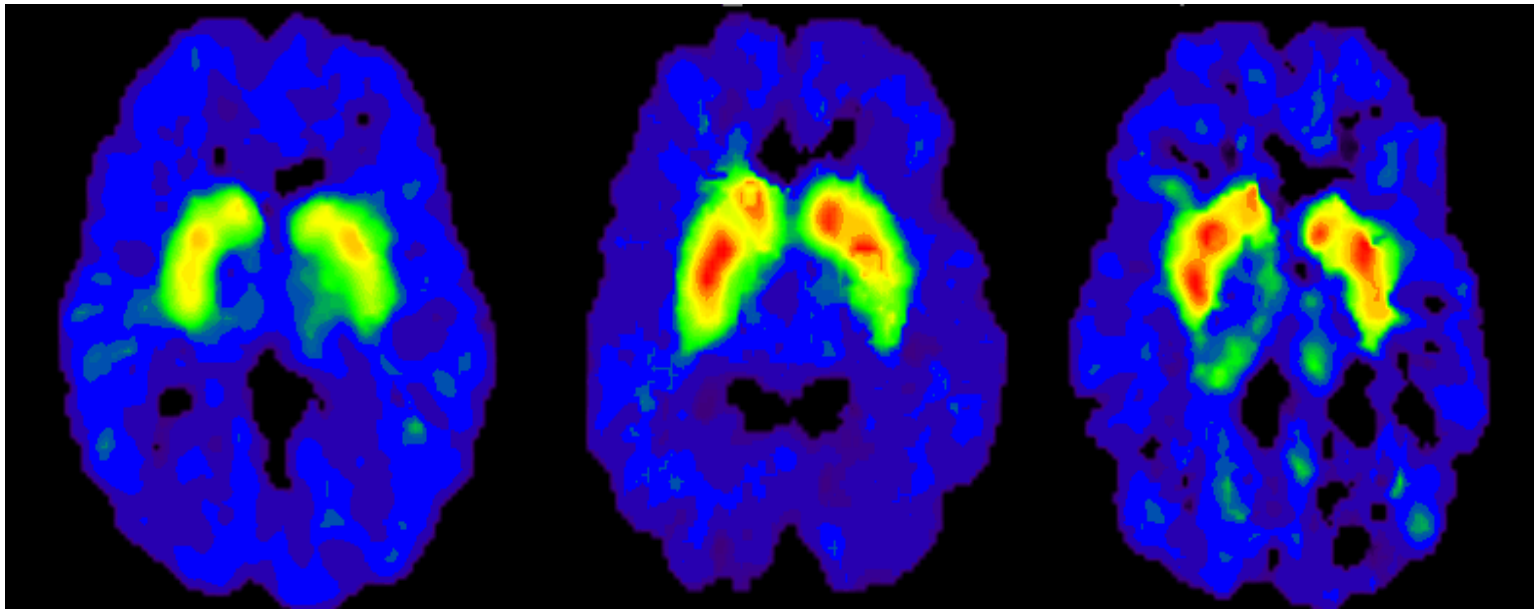
The brain after drug use





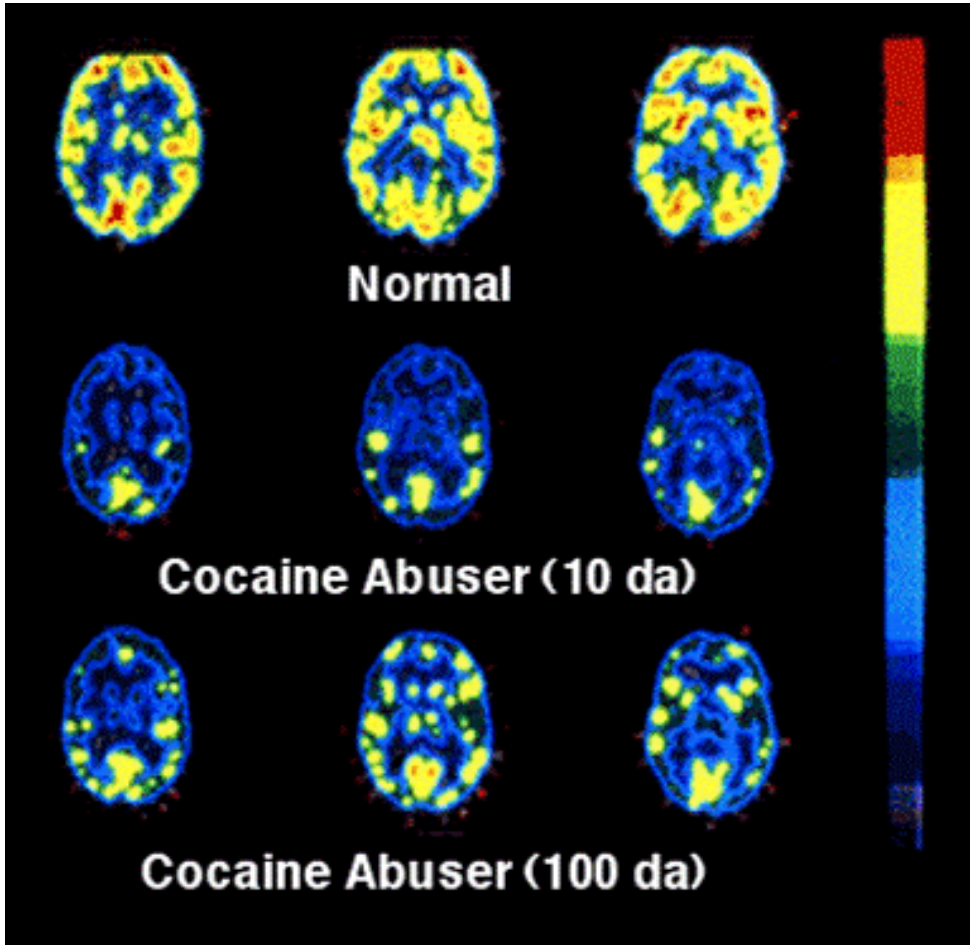
Partial recovery

Partial recovery of brain dopamine transporters in methamphetamine (METH) user after protracted abstinence



Normal control	METH abuser (1 month detox)	METH abuser (24 months detox)

The brain after drug use



da = days abstinent

Let‘s discuss!

- How do changes in brain make it difficult for people to quit drugs?
- How drugs affect brain and behaviour? Can you refer to different types of drugs?
- Can you think of a case from your practice, which you could relate to a patient’s particular behaviour?

Why do people continue drug use?

After repeated drug use, “deciding” to use drugs is no longer voluntary because

DRUGS AFFECT THE BRAIN!

Questions

Wrap-up

- Is quitting drugs just a matter of self-control? Why?
- Why do people with drug dependence and addiction require treatment?

Thank you for your time!

End of workshop 2