

UNODC INFORMAL INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC NETWORK

**Dealing with the world drug problem
with the help of science**



The complexity of drug use and drug use disorders

Substantive challenges

Children protection and support to families, particularly the most vulnerable

Prevention based on scientific methods

Access to qualified treatment for drug use disorders and HIV/Hepatitis

From the criminal justice to the public health perspective

Access to controlled drugs, indispensable for medical purposes

Systematic data collection and evaluation

Early warning system / forensic analyses : NPS

Response to vulnerabilities: women, children, refugees

Intelligence strategies against drug trafficking

**More research
on psychosocial
and ...**

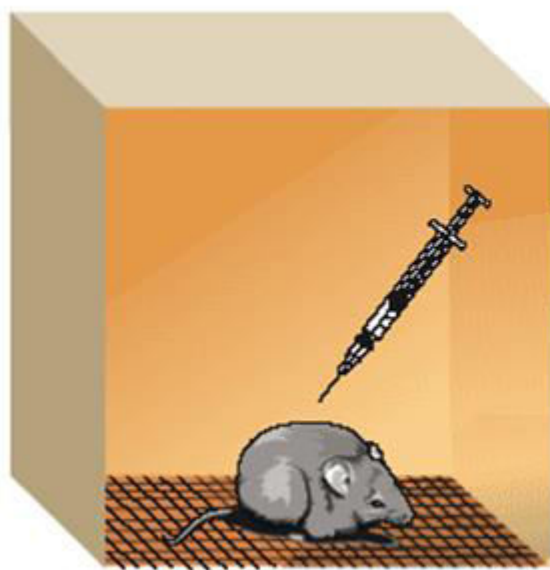


**...pharmacological
treatment methods**

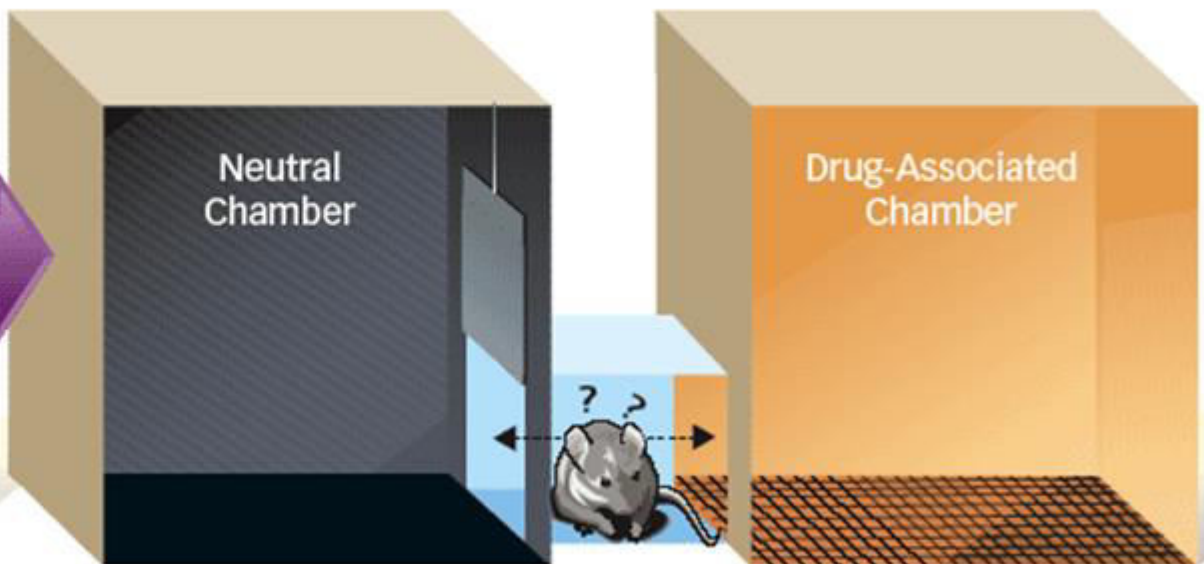


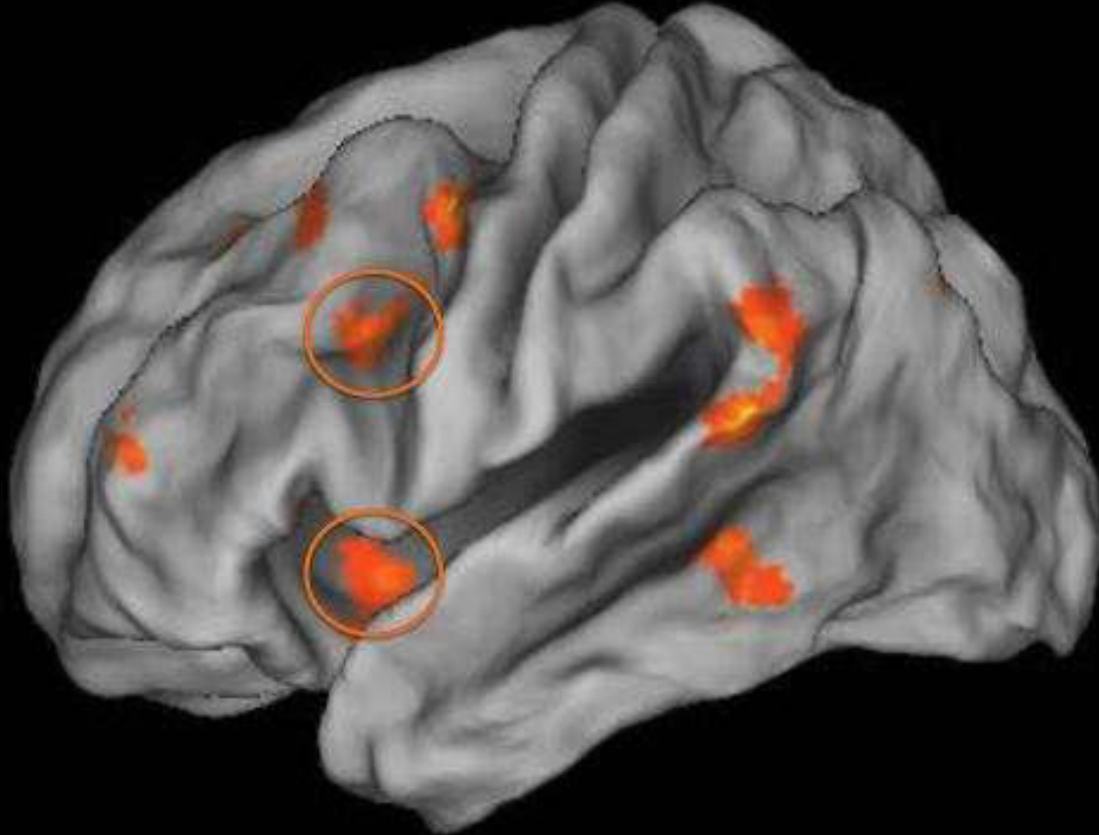
Gene expression changes with acetylation affect behavioural sensitivity to cocaine, potentiating the rewarding effects of cocaine

Training Chamber



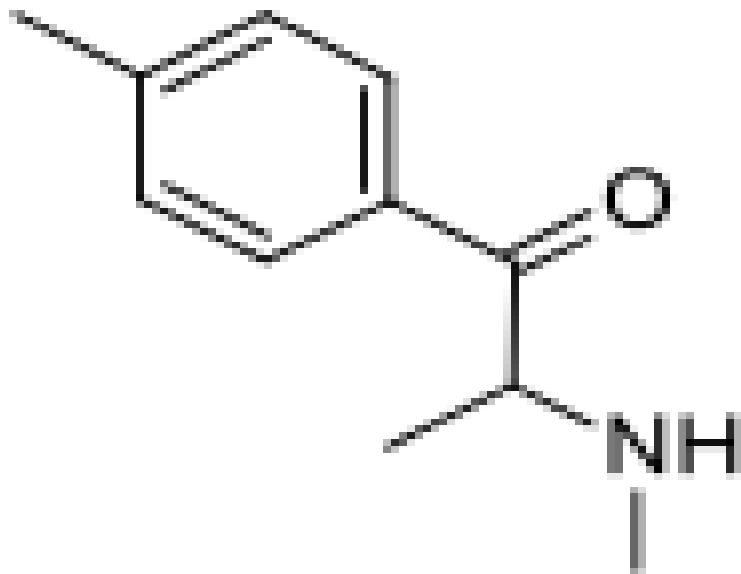
Test Cage Chambers





Poverty and stress during childhood:

- hyperactive amygdala (emotions store)
- hypoactive prefrontal cortex (emotions regulation)



Mephedrone

Mephedrone induces dopamine/norepinephrine release

Stimulant effects

Teeth grinding, cardiovascular problems, behavioural undercontrol

Rationale for the Network

Bridging the gap between science, policy and practices to deal with the world drug problem.

Provision of science based information to law makers and policy makers.



What is known...

- What is known is not what is adopted to help children, families, and individuals affected
- What is adopted is not used with fidelity and good, measurable outcomes.
- What is used with fidelity is not sustained for a useful period of time.
- What is used with fidelity is not used on a scale sufficient to impact problems.

The evidence...

- Important decisions are often made with insufficient input from the scientific community
- Discussions and decisions are often politically and ideologically driven

A strong mandate:

- The establishment of the Informal International Scientific Network is supported by the **Resolution 58/7** “*Strengthening cooperation with the scientific community, including academia, and promoting scientific research in drug demand and supply reduction policies in order to find effective solutions to various aspects of the world drug problem*”

Members of the Informal International Scientific Network

Appointed by the Member States, scientists from:

- Algeria
- Argentina
- Austria
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- China
- Colombia
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- India
- Israel
- Italy
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Russia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Uganda
- United States

Presentation of the Statement by the Informal International Scientific Network to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs





Statement by the Informal International Scientific Network to the CND

- substance use disorders are determined by the **interface of developmental, biological, neuro-psychological, social, and cultural factors.**
- **elimination of stigma** and discrimination of individuals with substance use disorders.
- **criminal sanctions are not beneficial** in addressing substance use disorders and discourage their use.
- **collect and analyse reliable information** on patterns of substance use and substance related problems

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- Substance use disorders are **preventable** and effective prevention programs do exist.
 - **Effective prevention programs** that should be initiated as early as possible during childhood and to implement/scale-up programs.
 - Substance use disorders are **treatable** and should be considered as a **public health issue**
 - Treatment should be **science based, ethical, voluntary based**
 - Treatment should **integrate pharmacological and psychosocial methods.**

UNGASS

A discussion paper prepared by the scientists within the CND 2016.

Hearing of the informal scientific network at the UNGASS 2016

Possible engagement of scientists in the thematic roundtables

Informal consultation during the UNGASS

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