

The Genetics of Drug Abuse and Addiction

A Congressional Briefing Sponsored by
The *FRIENDS OF NIDA*

*In conjunction with
The Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus*

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Noon - 2:00 pm
(box lunches will be available)
Rayburn House Office Building, Room B-339**

Research has shown that the causes of drug abuse and addiction are complex, with genetic, environmental, and developmental factors all contributing. Genetics accounts for approximately half of an individual's vulnerability to addiction, including how genes interact with the environment and stage of development. Thanks to recent scientific advances, we are now poised to further untangle these factors and to use that knowledge to better tailor prevention and treatment strategies.

NIDA is blending modern imaging, genetics and social science tools in large population-based studies to tease apart the complex contributions of environmental and genetic risk factors through the life stages of childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. NIDA is supporting research to define and measure aspects of the social environment to understand how genes may mitigate or amplify social influences, known to powerfully affect individual choices and behaviors related to substance abuse.

Speakers

Nora D. Volkow, MD, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, will provide an overview of the Institute's genetics research portfolio as it relates to addiction and drug abuse.

Caryn Lerman, PhD, Mary W. Calkins Professor and Director of the Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss emerging research on the role of genetic influences in smoking cessation and response to treatments for nicotine addiction.

Alexandra E. Shields, PhD, Director of the Harvard/MGH Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations and Health Disparities at the Institute for Health Policy at Mass. General Hospital and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, will discuss challenges translating emerging pharmacogenetic approaches to smoking cessation treatment to clinical practice.

Sponsoring Organizations

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry - American College of Neuropsychopharmacology - American Psychiatric Association - American Psychological Association - American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics - American Society of Addiction Medicine - Association for Psychological Science - College on Problems of Drug Dependence - Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America - Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. - Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research - Join Together - Legal Action Center - NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals - National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers - National Association of Community Health Centers - National Association of Drug Court Professionals - National Association of Social Workers - National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors - National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University - National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare - National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. - Partnership for a Drug Free America - Society for Research in Child Development - Society for Prevention Research - State Associations of Addiction Services

Positive RSVPs only to Anne Bettsworth at (202) 336-6182 or abettesworth@apa.org