



Schizophrenia and Substance Use Disorders: Cracking the Chicken or Egg Question

SEMINAR & VISITING SPEAKER SERIES WORLD WIDE NEURO PLATFORM

DATE

Monday, January 18, 2021
12:00 PM (noon) CST

WORLD WIDE NEURO LINK

To be announced

MEETING ID & PASSCODE

To be announced

SPEAKER

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BIO

Dr. Khokhar completed his undergraduate training at Queen's University (with Dr. Eric Dumont), and his Ph.D. in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Toronto and CAMH, under the supervision of Dr. Rachel Tyndale. During this time, Dr. Khokhar was awarded a CIHR Tobacco Use in Special Populations Fellowship. He then completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry at Dartmouth College with Dr. Alan Green. In addition to numerous travel and poster award, Dr. Khokhar held a CIHR Post-doctoral Fellowship as well as NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Dr. Khokhar is currently an Assistant Professor in the Biomedical Sciences Department at the University of Guelph.

RESEARCH

Although substance use disorders (SUDs) occur commonly in patients with schizophrenia and significantly worsen their clinical course, the neurobiological basis of SUDs in schizophrenia is not well understood. Therefore, there is a critical need to understand the mechanisms underlying SUDs in schizophrenia in order to identify potential targets for therapeutic intervention. Since drug use usually begins in adolescence, it is also important to understand the long-term effects of adolescent drug exposure on schizophrenia- and reward- related behaviors and circuitry. This talk will combine pharmacological, behavioral, electrophysiologic (local field potential recordings) and pre-clinical magnetic resonance imaging (resting-state functional connectivity and magnetic resonance spectroscopy) approaches to study these topics with an eye toward developing better treatment approaches.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide overview of the health care burden and consequences associated with schizophrenia and substance use
2. To explain how animal models can be used to reverse translate findings from clinical populations toward mechanism elucidation and treatment development
3. To establish the impact of genetics and age on the effects of drugs of abuse and their long-term consequences.

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