Dr. Tizabi is currently on a Sabbatical leave at Cajal Institute in Madrid until September 2014.

TITLE: Why Drinkers Smoke? Basic Pharmacological Interactions Between Alcohol and Nicotine

Alcohol and nicotine (in form of tobacco smoking) are the most widely abused legal substances. It is well known that excessive drinking can have severe health and social consequences. Similarly smoking can result in premature death. The combination of the two, however, carries synergistic risk factors including various types of cancer. In this presentation the reasons for simultaneous craving for alcohol and nicotine will be discussed. Specifically, following some basic pharmacological review of the actions of alcohol and nicotine, their effect on reward, nociception and mood regulation will be presented. In-vivo microdialysis data relating to mesolimbic dopaminergic pathway, response to hot-plate and tail-flick tests, representative of cortical and spinally mediated nociception, respectively, as well as behavioral measurements of helplessness and anhedonia along with some in-vitro results will be provided. Overall, insights into alcohol-nicotine interactions, as well as some suggestions of the therapeutic implications of nicotinic receptors are the main objectives of this presentation.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


