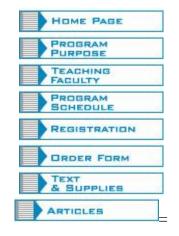
The American College of Addictionology & Compulsive Disorders

Toll Free: 800.490.7714 Tel: 305.535.8803 Fax: 305.538.2204





Journal of =sychoactive Drugs November 200 - Volume 32, =upplement

► Reward Deficiency Syndrome (RDS): A =iogenic Model for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Impulsive, Addictive, and =ompulsive Behaviors.

Kenneth Blum, Ph. D.* - Eric R. Braverman, M.D.** - Jay M. Holder, =.C.***
Joel F. Lubar, Ph.D.**** - Vincent J. Monastra, Ph.D.**** - David =iller, M.A.*****

Judith O. Lubar, M.S.W.****** - Thomas J.H. Chen, Ph.D.******

David E. Comings, =.D.********

*Adjunct Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of =orth Texas, Denton, Texas; President and CEO, PhamcoGenomics, San Antonio, =exas; Medical and Scientific Director, Department of Clinical =ciences, PATH Medical Foundation, New York, New =ork.

**Medical Directors, Department of Clinical Sciences, PATH Medical =oundation, New York, New York; Department of Psychiatry, New York School of =edicine, New York; Board of Directors PATH Foundation.

***Cofounder =nd President, American College of Addictionology and Compulsive =isorders, Miami Beach, Florida; Department of Addiction Studies, Graceland = University, Independence, Missouri; Chairman, Department of =ddiction Medicine, Exodus Israel/Bikur Cholim Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel.

****Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

*****Clinical Director, Family Psychology =nstitute & Attention Disorders Clinic, Endicott, New York.

******Ph.D. =andidate and Adjunct Professor, Department of Addiction Studies, =raceland University, Independence, Missouri.

*******Director, =outheastern Biofeedback Institute, Knoxville, =ennessee.

*******Director, Toxicology Research Center, Chang Jung Christian University, =ainan,

Taiwan, Republic of China.

***********Chairman, Department of =edical Genetics, City of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, California. =/O:P>

The dopaminergic system, and in particular the dopamine D2 receptor, =as been profoundly implicated in reward mechanisms in the brain. Dysfunction of the D2 dopamine receptors leads to aberrant =ubstance seeking behavior which includes but is not limited to alcohol, =rug, tobacco, and food and other related behaviors (pathological =ambling, Tourette's and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder). In =his paper we propose that genetic variants of the D2 dopamine receptor =ene and other "reward genes" are important common genetic =eterminants of the emerging concept first coined by Blum - "REWARD DEFICIENCY =YNDROME". This article reviews the results of studies concerning =articular classes of biological phenotypes that may have relevance to not =nly alcohol dependence but to the above mentioned related addictive, = compulsive and impulsive disorders. Broadly defined these =lasses include brain neurotransmitter systems and neuroelectric =otentials. Evidence is presented from many global scientific studies, =oncerning genotypic variation in severe alcoholics, high-risk relatives, psycho-stimulant abusers, opiate addicts, carbohydrate bingers, dependant tobacco smokers, polysubstance seekers, pathological =amblers, violent offenders schizoid/avoidant personality types and ADHD, Tourettes and Autism among other related RDS behaviors. The =esults of these studies strongly suggest that etiology of RDS is mediated =n part through sub-optimal neurotransmitter functioning, in particular = hypodopaminergic activity. The paper also points out the fact =hat genetic antecedents for RDS behaviors are polygenic in nature =nd multiple gene variants contribute to the overall variance of the = syndrome. Research opportunities are offered with respect to =pecific candidate genes that have been cloned from these =eurotransmitter systems that could be most fully utilized in both association =nd possibly family - based linkage studies, only if 1000's of =robands are employed in the latter case. Additional evidence is submitted, suggesting that characteristics of particular neuroelectric =otentials (e.g. the amplitude and the latency of the P300 components of =he event-related potential) may provide the cleanest dimension of =otential markers that could be used to identify children at risk for RDS. =he paper also discusses the conflicting findings with regard to the = association studies of the minor Taq1 A1 allele of the dopamine =2 receptor (DRD2) gene with alcoholism. The authors conclude that =eta analyses strongly favor the positive association and failure of association is due to failure to assess alcoholics for severity =f their disorder and to screen controls for substance use and others RDS = behaviors. The article favorably reviews data involving the use =f multiple modalities for the treatment of RDS including =hamacaceutical, nutraceutcal, neurofeedback, electrophysiological, auricular =herapy and chiropractic. Further studies involving well

defined animal =odels of RDS, such as the Lewis rat, showing hypodopaminergic limbic =unction, provides the field with a model to dissect the multiple genetic mechanisms involved in this complex disorder, possibly by =mploying Quantative Trait Loci experiments. Finally, multiple domains of =nquiry should not be viewed as "unfocused" but rather as an =conomical means for utilizing highly characterized samples of potential RDS =robands meeting rigorous research criteria.

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3303 FLAMINGO DRIVE., MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33140 TEL: 305.535.8803 FAX: 305.538.2204 TOLL FREE: 800.490.7714

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