

Notion abordée : L'idée de progrès

An interview with Dr. George Koob by Shelly De Vito

US Voices

Why do people take drugs?

Shelly: I am very happy to introduce to you, Dr. George Koob. Can you tell us a bit about your research, specifically about addiction?

Dr. Koob: Ok, so we've been studying addiction for many years, and our initial focus, as was with everyone, was on how drugs, you know, make you feel good; why people take drugs in the first place, so, and this is, you know, forty years ago, it was an important question, because no-one really knew what were drugs doing to the brain that made them so good, you know? Why do people take them in the first place? So, we solved that problem, more or less, and probably there would be people out there who would disagree with that statement, but we know a lot about why drugs make you high, and make you feel good, but that's not the real problem with addiction, because everybody drinks a glass of wine and it makes you feel good, and we know some of the reasons why it makes you feel good, but on the other hand, I would be willing to bet that 90% of the people who drink wine in France are not alcoholics. So what's the difference? And so, I guess about 20 years ago, we began to transition our work to try and understand what changes occur in the brain that are associated with the transition from drug-taking to compulsive drug-taking, and what we call addiction, and so those studies have lead us in, my lab, into two and now three fairly innovative domains.