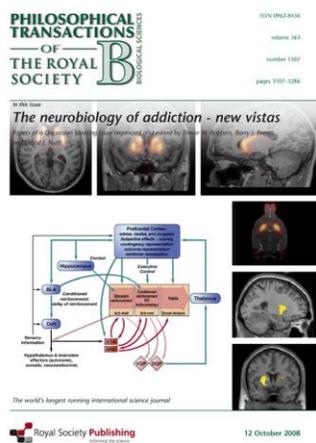


The neurobiology of addiction: new vistas

Organised and edited by Trevor W Robbins, Barry J Everitt and David J Nutt

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This issue is concerned with the neural basis of addiction to drugs, including nicotine and alcohol, and also of the 'behavioural' addictions, to gambling and eating. Some common neural and neurochemical substrates are identified, in terms of underlying brain structures and chemical messengers, such as the neurotransmitter dopamine.

The genetic basis of addiction in animals and human subjects is also considered, and some likely personality or behavioural traits, such as impulsivity and reductions in brain dopamine receptors, which may predispose to addiction are considered. The consequences of certain forms of addiction on brain function and cognition are identified, and finally current pharmaceutical approaches to the treatment are surveyed.

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