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Addiction: From Vulnerability to Compulsive Use

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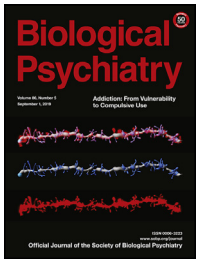

The cover image, from Garcia-Keller *et al*. (in this issue, pages 377–387), depicts a Dil-filled medium spiny neuron in the nucleus accumbens core (red), which was then filled using special software (blue) and the images overlapped (purple). This method was used to quantify dendritic spine head diameter (yellow). In this work, the authors identified a molecular signaling cascade that is required for cue-induced drug seeking, which involves extracellular matrix signaling into nucleus accumbens neurons through β3 integrin receptors. Inhibiting this signaling prevented relapse in the rat model, providing a potential new therapeutic target for the treatment of addiction.

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