

**HOT TOPIC: HIV AND DRUG ABUSE  
SPECIAL ISSUE FOR CURRENT HIV RESEARCH**

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Current estimates indicate that injection drug users (IDU) constitute a large cohort among HIV-infected individuals with approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total AIDS cases in the United States that are thought to be associated with IDU. According to one prospective study, AIDS is the most frequent cause of death among IDU. It has been clearly demonstrated that HIV-infected IDU have substantial pre-AIDS morbidity and mortality, particularly from bacterial infections, suggesting that co-infections with other pathogens may enhance HIV expression and assist in the spread of the disease. This was further confirmed by a reduction in the rate of disease progression following cessation of injection drug abuse. In recent years non-injection drug abuse (for example methamphetamine and cocaine) has also received particular attention for their ability to affect immune system and HIV/AIDS pathogenesis. This issue will focus on both categories of drug abuse and their effects on immune and central nervous systems with concurrent HIV-1 infection.

**Keywords:** HIV, immune system, CNS, opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine.

**List of Subtopics and Authors:**

Proposed Contributors (in alphabetical order)

1. Dr. Rosemarie Booze, University of South Carolina  
Title: Effects of Methamphetamine and cocaine on animal models of HIV
2. Dr. Shilpa Buch, University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Title: Adjunctive effect of cocaine in the CNS: Implications in HAND
3. Dr. Anuja Ghorpade, University of North Texas  
Title: HIV-1, Methamphetamine and Astrocytes glutamate regulation: Combined excitotoxic implications for Neuro-AIDS
4. Dr. Anil Kumar, University of Missouri  
Title: HIV gp120, neuroinflammation and methamphetamine Abuse
5. Dr. Kurt Hauser, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Title: Opioid abuse and HIV: Multiple paths to synaptic loss and neurodegeneration
6. Dr. Wenzhe Ho, Temple University  
Title: Opioids, Innate Immunity and HIV
7. Dr. Madhav Nair, Florida International University  
Title: Differential expression of neurotoxin in HIV-1 Clades. Role of Cocaine and Methamphetamine

8. Dr. Sabita Roy, University of Minnesota  
Title: Morphine Modulation of Innate Immune Function
9. Dr. Walter Royal, University of Maryland  
Title: Nuclear Receptors as Modulators of the Immune Effects of Opioids in HIV Infection
10. Dr. Michal Toborek, University of Kentucky  
Title: TBA

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