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Depression & Alcoholism as co-morbidities

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The brain is a target of physiological stress, and is influenced and responds to stress-induced adaptation via synaptic plasticity. This brain structural remodelling can influence an individual's behaviour and physiological responses. Dysregulation of stress may contribute to the development of a number of psychiatric disorders, including major depressive disorder (MDD). The management of stress typically involves pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions. For the former, drug or herb therapy has been employed, but stressed individuals may also adopt acute (binge) and/or repetitive alcohol drinking behaviour. Excessive alcohol intake also drives neurobiological changes, some of which may contribute to the development of MDD. Alcohol dependency and MDD have alarmingly high rates of co-morbidity, indicative of a commonality of molecular mechanisms. In this talk I will highlight some of the neurobiological changes associated with stress, alcoholism and consider alcoholism and depression co-morbidity.

Biography

Wayne Grant Carter completed a BSc (Hons) degree in Biochemistry with Nutrition and then a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Southampton. He subsequently undertook post-doctoral research posts at The Babraham Institute, Cambridge; Imperial College, London; University of California at Irvine, USA, and the University of Oxford. Additionally, he has worked for a global reagent supplier, Sigma, a SME company, Mobious Genomics, and has been employed as a consultant for Syngenta. He is currently a Lecturer and research Group Leader within the School of Medicine, University of Nottingham. His research interests are varied and include detection and utilisation of novel biomarkers of toxicological exposure. He currently serves on the Editorial Board of over 40 different medically-related journals and reviews for over 50 more.

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