

Novel Therapeutics for the Treatment of Nicotine and Alcohol Addiction

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Technology description

Our scientists have identified a protein-protein coupling between the $\alpha 7$ nicotinic acetylcholine receptor ($\alpha 7$ nAChR) and the NR2A subunit of the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) glutamate receptor as a novel target for treatment of nicotine and alcohol addiction. By characterizing the receptor-receptor interaction we have developed a peptide that interferes with this coupling leading to the development of a breakthrough therapy capable of delivering enhanced affinity, efficacy, and a superior side effect profile.

Publication:

[The \$\alpha 7\$ nACh-NMDA receptor complex is involved in cue-induced reinstatement of nicotine seeking.](#) Li S, Li Z, Pei L, Le AD, Liu F. J Exp Med. 2012 Nov 19;209(12):2141-7. doi: 10.1084/jem.20121270. Epub 2012 Oct 22.

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