



Marek Schwendt

Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Florida

Drug addiction is a chronic relapsing disorder that affects both mental and physical health, quality of personal life and economic standing of the affected individual. It is a truly global problem that does not discriminate against race, cultural background or economic status. While many addiction treatments exist today, they typically do not 'protect' against relapse.

As a neuroscientist, I believe that the discovery of new and more efficient 'anti-relapse' medications depends on (a) development of more translational animal models of addiction and (b), applying these models to study the neurobiology underlying drug-induced deficits in brain function and the behavior.

The overarching goal of my research is to employ translational animal model (drug self-administration) to study brain neuroadaptations responsible for increased drug-seeking, as well as for drug-induced memory deficits. Importantly, through collaborations with other research teams in the US and abroad, our laboratory tests novel experimental medications for their ability to 'normalize' brain function and behavior disrupted by abused drugs.

Global Research Interests

- Develop new animal models of addiction based on human drug-use patterns that exist in diverse human populations.
- Establish collaboration with research teams in affected countries.

Countries and Region of Study

- Czech Republic
- And neighboring eastern European countries

Mentor

Habibeh Khoshbouei, Professor
Department of Neurosciences
College of Medicine
E: habibeh@ufl.edu

Connect

E: schwendt@ufl.edu
T: +1 352-294-3658