



NIEHS and NIAAA  
announce a  
conference on

# Addiction and Chemical Intolerance: A Shared Etiology?

**D**rug addiction and chemical intolerance (or “abdiction”—“moving away from” the substance) appear to share a common underlying dynamic, one that suggests a new disease paradigm that has been called “Toxicant-induced loss of tolerance” in the field of environmental health. Toxicant-induced loss of tolerance (TILT) appears to bridge the gap between addiction and abdiction and may help explain a wide variety of chronic illnesses.

## The goals of this conference are to:

- 1 develop a research agenda that will define the relationship between addiction and chemical intolerance/susceptibility and advance scientific understanding of the biological underpinnings that appear to be shared by these areas;
- 2 foster interagency research collaborations between NIEHS, NIAAA and NIDA by bringing governmental scientists together with university researchers in addiction and toxicology to open a window between these fields. The relationships between addiction and chemical intolerance will be explored in four sessions: clinical parallels, animal models, genetics/genomics/proteomics, and neuro-imaging.

## Questions to be addressed by participants in this conference include:

- >> Can both addiction and chemical intolerance result from a fundamental breakdown in innate tolerance, leading to amplification of biological effects, particularly withdrawal symptoms?
- >> Do addictive drugs and environmental pollutants initiate an identical disease process?
- >> Once this process has begun, do both addictants and pollutants trigger symptoms and cravings?

Answers to these questions have the potential to transform current thinking in medicine, psychology, psychiatry, and toxicology.

For more information and registration please visit <http://www-apps.niehs.nih.gov/conferences/od/aci/>

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