

## ECSTASY - Nothing To Be Ecstatic About

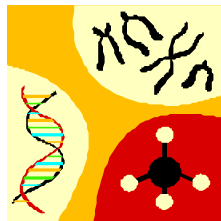
### PROTEIN and ECSTASY DEATHS

Researchers at Ohio Northern University discovered in a recent study, using mice, that a protein may be involved in fatal hyperthermia which can result from an overdose of ecstasy. The mice without the protein UCP-3 were less likely to heat up after being injected with ecstasy.

The findings from the study could lead to the development of a therapy to help humans who severely overheat after an ecstasy overdose. By isolating this protein it is hoped they can block hyperthermia from occurring.

(Source: [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org), 12-9-03)

### Cocaine / Ecstasy and Genetic Mutations



The National Center for Research in Italy has recently issued a report which took more than three years to complete. The report says there is a direct relationship between ecstasy and cocaine intake and the effect on DNA.

Not only do cocaine and ecstasy cause addictions and raise the risk of cancer, but they also provide genetic mutations. According to the report, the drugs attack DNA, causing mutations and altering the hereditary material. The longer the drug consumption lasts, the greater the damage to DNA, a very concerning finding for the effects on future generations.

Ecstasy and amphetamines have overtaken cocaine and heroin as the fastest growing global narcotics menace.

(Source: [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com), 12-12-03)

### Educating Parents About Ecstasy

#### Who's Talking To Their Kids?

Over the next three years, Comcast Corporation is providing \$50 million worth of cable time for an ad campaign aimed at educating parents about the dangers of ecstasy use among juveniles.

The campaign features television, radio, newspaper and Internet ads. It is designed to encourage parents to talk to their children about ecstasy.

A recent study found that while 92% of the 1,228 parents polled knew about ecstasy and its dangers, only one in four said they had talked to their children about the drug.

The TV portion of the campaign will air on channels popular with youth, such as MTV and Comedy Central. The campaign also includes a website: [AskYourKidsAboutEcstasy.com](http://AskYourKidsAboutEcstasy.com).

(Source: [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org), 11-17-03)

### Ecstasy Update

New statistics from Britain's Home Office find that the popularity of ecstasy as a dance drug is waning. Teenagers are instead turning to legal prescription drugs.

The British Crime Survey reports that ecstasy and amphetamine use, popular among young people attending all-night parties and dance events, are on the decline. They have been replaced with amyl nitrate, or "poppers", a legal prescription drug used to treat angina.

(Source: [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org), 12-22-03)



# Updates From SCIP



## Internet Prescription Sales

This fall the Washington Post reports that illicit sales of narcotics and other deadly prescription drugs over the Internet have dramatically increased. These sites, unlike legitimate online pharmacies, have very little or no medical monitoring. There is a wide selection of painkillers, antidepressants, stimulants and steroids made available to consumers.

Many of the websites work with middlemen who link customers with doctors, who write a prescription. Many of these physicians have financial problems or histories of addiction or medical incompetence.

In Nevada, the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy discovered a small Internet pharmacy that filled 1,105 prescriptions for painkillers and other dangerous drugs in one month. Six months earlier, the same pharmacy had filled only 17 prescriptions. In just one year, this pharmacy, run by a convicted felon, had become one of the largest distributors of controlled substances in Nevada. It has since been shut down.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are working on the problem. A DEA Task Force was formed to track online narcotics sales. The FDA is concerned about the growth of foreign online pharmacies.

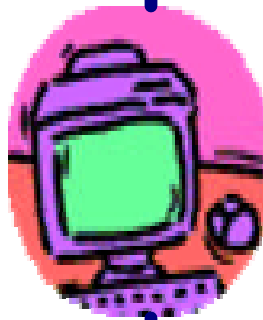
(Source: [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org), 11-17-03)

## NEW YOUTH WEBSITE

“NIDA for Teens: The Science Behind Drug Abuse”, a new website, has been launched which is aimed at educating youth about addiction and drug use. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) announcement is part of the larger NIDA initiative to expand resources that provide accurate data to students and teachers about the health effects of drug abuse.

The NIDA for Teens website is interactive and geared to youth ages 11-15. It includes appropriate facts on drugs, real stories about teens and drug abuse, games, take home activities and a Q & A forum. The site is: [www.teens.drugabuse.gov](http://www.teens.drugabuse.gov).

(Source: [www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org), 11-17-03)



## Alcohol Monitoring Patch

SpectRx is developing a skin patch that would allow employers to determine whether their workers are under the influence of alcohol while on the job. They plan to begin human clinical studies in the first half of 2004.

There is some concern being voiced about the test. It is being called “invasive” and comments include, “Nobody wants to be monitored quite that closely.” A spokesman for SpectRx says current testing methods are random and limited. The new test would allow for continuous monitoring and determine how much alcohol there is in the body.

The patch requires a wireless monitor that is placed over four small holes made in the skin by a handheld laser. Small samples of interstitial fluids, which surround the body’s cells, are continuously tested, with the results transmitted to a receiver.

(Source: [Wired News](http://Wired News), 11-26-03)

### *SCIP Sets Summer Training Dates*

LMEF-SCIP will once again offer the SCIP Intervention Team Training. The training will be held July 20-23, 2004 on the campus of Union College in Lincoln. Information regarding the cost of the training and registration will be distributed to SCIP Team Leaders in April of 2004.

Mark the dates, start recruiting, and keep an eye out for the April materials!