

# Neuroscience of Psychoactive Substance Use and Dependence

*Pp.xx + 264. Sw.fr.50/US\$45. WHO. 2004. ISBN 92-4-156235-8. (Available from SAMA-HMPG. Price R350, members R335).*

There has been an enormous growth in our understanding of substance abuse and addiction over recent years. This book describes the current knowledge of the neuroscience of this interesting and clinically important topic. Various aspects are covered, including the neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, behavioural theories, pharmacology of different substances of abuse, our current understanding of the genetic contribution to addiction, the link with co-morbid mental illness, ethical issues and implications of current research in this field on public health policy.

The book is written in an easy to read and easy to understand manner and it has many useful illustrations to supplement the text. The content is comprehensive and up to date. There is a useful summary at the end of each chapter and the basic background to each topic is discussed in an uncomplicated manner before more complicated details are explained.

This book focuses on the research findings of the neuroscience of drug abuse and dependence and does not cover practical clinical management issues or treatment research.

This is an outstanding publication, with a very useful text for workers and researchers in the field of substance abuse and dependence, especially psychiatrists, psychologists or trainees in these fields. The general practitioner or lay person with a special interest in this field may also find it useful and interesting. I can recommend it to all interested in this growing and important topic.

**Lize Weich**