



PET scans conducted at NIDA's Brain Imaging Center reveal selective activation of brain circuits during cocaine craving. Scans from volunteers who experienced a high level of cue-induced cocaine craving show activation of brain regions implicated in several forms of memory. The scans at right show activation of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DL), which is important in short-term memory, and the amygdala (AM), which is implicated in emotional influences on memory. When these volunteers were exposed to neutral (non-drug-related) cues, this activation was not seen (scans at left).