Psychology

DISCRIMINATIVE STIMULUS PROPERTIES OF KETAMINE IN C57BL/6 MICE. T.J. Braxton¹, T.J. Donahue², K.A. Webster² & J.H. Porter¹,², Depts. of ¹Biology and ²Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA. Ketamine is a noncompetitive NMDA receptor antagonist that is classified as a dissociative anesthetic, hallucinogen, and psychotomimetic. Recent research in humans has shown that it produces rapid antidepressant effects (~4 hours) unlike conventional antidepressant drugs that take weeks to be effective. The present study examined the discriminative stimulus properties of 10 mg/kg ketamine in mice using a two-lever drug discrimination assay that measures the subjective cue of a drug, which is mediated by activity at specific neurotransmitter receptors. In this operant task, mice were rewarded for selecting the condition-appropriate lever during test sessions – i.e. they were trained to discriminate ketamine from vehicle. All of the mice met the training criteria (10 responses per minute; drug-lever appropriate responding of ≥80%). Tested drugs included: ketamine (NMDA antagonist), PCP (NMDA antagonist), MK-801 (NMDA antagonist), Memantine (NMDA antagonist), Imipramine (Tricyclic antidepressant), and Fluoxetine (SSRI antidepressant). Only the NMDA antagonists produced ketamine-appropriate responding (i.e. shared discriminative stimulus properties with ketamine via NMDA antagonism). Thus, the discriminative stimulus properties of ketamine do not appear to be related to its antidepressant effects that are evident in humans and that have been shown in other preclinical, animal assays that measure antidepressant-like behaviors specifically.

EXPLORING ETHNIC IDENTITY AND PEER NORMS: A KEY TO UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES IN EATING PATHOLOGY BETWEEN AFRICAN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AMERICAN COLLEGE WOMEN. L.M. Howard, B.N. Haislip & K.E. Heron, Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology and Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA 23529. Research suggests African American (AA) women experience less body dissatisfaction and eating pathology than European American (EA) women. This disparity may be accounted for by differing ethnic identification (feelings of belonging to culture) or perceived peer norms (degree one’s peers value thinness) between AA and EA women. AA (n=25) and EA (n=28) female undergraduates completed online measures of ethnic identity, perceived peer norms, thin ideal internalization, body dissatisfaction, and eating behaviors. AA women experience higher ethnic identification than EA women (p=.001), but
not perceived peer norms, although means were in the expected
direction (AA reporting peers value thinness less). Perceived peers
norms ($p$s<.001), but not ethnic identity, was associated with greater
disordered eating, thin ideal internalization, and body dissatisfaction for
all women. This preliminary evidence suggests perceived peer norms
are associated with less disordered eating and body dissatisfaction.
Future research with larger samples is needed to further investigate
whether ethnic identity and perceived peer norms are particularly
protective for AA women. Norm based treatments, such as peer led
interventions, might help reduce rates of disordered eating on college
campuses for both AA and EA women.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TRAUMATIC LIFE EVENTS AND
SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FUNCTIONING IN COLLEGE
STUDENTS. R.I. MacIntyre1, H. Hamrick2, K.E. Heron1,2, S.B. Scott3
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2Psychology, Old Dominion University, 3Aging Studies, University of
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Young people will have experienced a number of potentially
traumatizing life events by the time they reach college. The aims of this
study were 1) to examine the prevalence of traumatic life events in a
diverse college sample and 2) to evaluate if number of event types,
recency, and severity of adverse life events influence current social and
psychological functioning. Undergraduate students ($N$=742,
$Mage$=23.4) completed web-based measures of adverse life events,
stress, depression, somatic symptoms, and social vigilance. Results
addressing Aim 1 showed participants reported an average of 5.93
different types of adverse life events; average number of event types
differed by race ($p$<.001), but not gender ($p$=.08). Event types by
gender and race were examined and were largely consistent with
previous findings. Aim 2 results showed event type total, recency, and
severity were positively associated with stress ($p$<.05), depression ($p$<.05), and somatic symptoms ($p$<.05); social vigilance was only
associated with event type total ($p$<.001). These findings provide
information regarding the prevalence of traumatic life events in a
diverse college sample and suggest recent and severe events impact
student mental health while experiencing a greater number of different
adverse events place students at risk for both mental health issues and
social vigilance.