



# Drugs and Behavior: An Introduction to Behavioral Pharmacology (6th Edition)

*By William A. McKim Ph.D.*

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This text gives an up-to-date description of the field of Behavioral Pharmacology. It starts by describing basic pharmacological concepts of drug administration and pharmacokinetics, research methodology including clinical trials, tolerance and withdrawal, drug conditioning, addiction processes, and neuroscience of drug action. Each chapter, thereafter, applies these concepts to different classes of both recreational and therapeutic drugs. Each chapter includes a section on the history of the drug class that places the drug in its historical and social context. It is written to be understandable to students without a background in Pharmacology or Neuroscience or Psychology.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From the Publisher**

Designed for students from diverse backgrounds, this highly accessible text provides students with a thorough background in the field of behavioral pharmacology and prepares them to analyze drug information from a variety of sources. Written in a clear and sensible manner, it not only describes the effects of drugs on behavior, but also the various ways that behavior principles facilitate an understanding of both the actions of drugs and the way people use them. Each chapter provides comparable information on many classes of both drugs of abuse and psychotherapeutic drugs, including their neurophysiological mechanism of action, their effects on behavior, and a discussion of the historical and social context in which the drug is used.

### **From the Back Cover**

4F-1, 0-13-083146-8, McKim, William A., *Drugs and Behavior: An Introduction to Behavioral Pharmacology*, 4/E\* Especially designed for those with minimal knowledge of behavioral pharmacology, this book presents a review of the basic principles and concepts of pharmacology, psychology and neurophysiology in an historical and societal context. Readers will gain a greater understanding of drug use and addiction as they explore how the basic psychological concepts of learning and conditioning apply to understanding drug effects. Drugs are compared in many dimensions including their neuropharmacology, abuse potential, subjective properties and behavioral effects. Basic pharmacology of drugs; research design and behavioral analysis of drug effects; drug state conditioning, behavioral tolerance and dissociation; neurophysiology, neurotransmitters, and the nervous system; dependence, addiction, and self-administration; alcohol; barbiturates and benzodiazepines; tobacco; caffeine and methylxanthines, psychomotor stimulants, opiates, antipsychotic drugs, antidepressants and mood stabilizers, cannabis, and hallucinogens. : For readers interested in a comprehensive discussion of behavior pharmacology.

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The study of drug use and drug effects is fast moving and exciting; it is a rapidly expanding field where new developments, discoveries, and insights are happening every day. Perhaps one of the more exciting aspects of drug research is that it is truly multidisciplinary, encompassing pharmacology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, epidemiology, endocrinology, psychology, and more recently, economics, to name a few. This text is primarily about the application of behavioral research (traditionally referred to as psychology) to understanding the effects of drugs and the use of drugs. Because the field is made up of so many disciplines, it is impossible to consider the role of behavioral science in isolation. In this book, the role of behavioral research is placed in the context of the contributions of these other disciplines.

Within the last few years, most of the serious advances in drug research have been made in the area of psychology and neuroscience as it applies to understanding why people and other animals use drugs. These advances were discussed in the fourth edition. In this, the fifth edition, attention has been shifted back to the drugs currently being used. A whole new chapter has been added that discusses the inhaled solvents and anesthetics, and other chapters have been updated to include a discussion of other substances whose use has expanded in recent years. These include a discussion of "club drugs" such as dextromethorphan covered in the chapter on opiates, ecstasy and ketamine in the hallucinogen chapter, and flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) and GHB in the benzodiazepine chapter. The chapter on barbiturates and benzodiazepines has been shortened, and now concentrates primarily on the benzodiazepines to reflect the changing patterns of use, both medical and illicit, of both these drugs.

Like the fourth edition, the fifth edition does not have a glossary. I have attempted to design the index to fill the function of a glossary. You will notice that for the entries for important concepts that previously would have been in a glossary, the page of the definitive discussion of the concept is indicated in bold print. This should permit the student to locate instantly the appropriate definition of any concept as well as a more extended discussion of it, not just a cursory and necessarily constrained glossary definition.

This book would not have been possible without the assistance of many people. These include those mentioned in the earlier editions. In this edition, I would like to acknowledge the help of my wife Edna McKim who not only assisted with many technical matters but tolerated my absence, both physical and mental, while the book was being written, my colleagues, both at Memorial University and many other institutions around the world who read many drafts, sent me manuscripts, pointed out many errors and made many suggestions, my students who suffered through many teaching experiments and nearly unreadable drafts of the manuscript, and the technical and office staff in the Psychology Department at Memorial University. All these people include, but are not limited to

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Apart from taking credit where such is due, none of these people can be held in any way responsible for any errors or problems in the book because I did not always follow the advice I was given.

William A. McKim  
St. John's

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