Hi Dr. J

I owed you three credits, if I had you email I could have paid you by paypal. Anyhow I am sending 6 credits now, three of them what I owe you.

Thanks,

Michael

**Challenges to the prevailing notion that drugs are in and of themselves addicting**

The Canadian Psychologist Bruce Alexander provides a challenge to what we can call a strong biological determinism as an explanation for substance based addictions. In both experimental form, his Rat Park studies and in summarizing of evidence that conflicts with the strong biological deterministic model, Alexander argues that social factors play a much stronger role than biological factors. See his Submission to a Canadian Senate Committee.

The prevailing view is that a key element in the development of an addiction (a term that does not occur in the DSM-IV-TR) to opiates and similar drugs is that the addiction is the result of powerful chemical reactions in the brain. The problem is, that is a weak rather than robust theory. It is weak since it cannot explain either spontaneous withdrawal or recreational use that does not lead to addiction.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rat_Park>

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/371/ille/presentation/alexender-e.htm>

All told, the biochemical explanation of addiction has great difficulty explaining the real world data.