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Enhancing psychological process through D-Cycloserine and Oxytocin

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The study of human behaviour has traditionally focused on either biological or psychological models for change. Recently, potential methods for integration have been developed leading to radical new approaches that employ a biological intervention to enhance a context-specific, therapeutic process. This talk focuses on two integrated approaches that aim 1) to enhance the extinction of fear during exposure-based procedures and/or 2) to enhance communication and empathy in a social context. The use of two biological interventions, D-Cycloserine and Oxytocin, are discussed, and a range of studies that highlight their relevance for the treatment of psychiatric conditions are presented.

Guastella, A.J., Mitchell, P.B., Dadds, M.R. (2007). Oxytocin Increases Gaze to the Eye Region of Human Faces. *Biol Psychiatry* (in press).

Guastella, A.J., Lovibond, P.F., Dadds, M.R., Mitchell, P. & Richardson, R. (2007). A randomized controlled trial of the effect of D-cycloserine on extinction and fear conditioning in humans. *Behav Res Ther*, 45(4), 663-72.

Guastella, A.J., Dadds, M.R., Lovibond, P.F., Mitchell, P. & Richardson, R. (2007). A randomized controlled trial of the effect of d-cycloserine on exposure therapy for spider fear. *J Psychiatr Res*, 41(6), 466-71.