Adolescence is characterized by a variety of hormonal, neural, and behavioral alterations across a variety of mammalian species. Adolescent rats, like their human counterparts, often exhibit elevations in peer-directed social interactions, impulsivity, novelty seeking, and alcohol and drug use relative to adults. The available data hint at similar age-related alcohol sensitivities among human adolescents as well. Attenuated aversive and enhanced rewarding properties of alcohol and other drugs may serve to permit and promote high levels of drug/alcohol use during adolescence that may set the stage for the development of problematic patterns of use and the emergence of abuse disorders.

For more information, please visit events.psych.missouri.edu/lecture-series/