The notion that personality has “something to do” with the tendency to abuse alcohol and other psychoactive substances has long been a part of how professionals and lay people think about vulnerability to alcoholism and other addictions. However, an abundance of research finds that there is no single “addictive personality,” although a number of personality traits are clearly associated with an increased likelihood of alcohol-related problems. Sher will provide an overview of the traits related to risk for alcohol dependence and consider the various ways personality can contribute to the development, persistence, and recovery from alcohol-use disorders.

Kenneth J. Sher is Curators’ Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences at the University of Missouri. His research focuses on the etiology and course of alcohol-use disorders. Sher has published over 250 scientific papers and received many awards, including the President’s Award for Research and Creativity and the Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity from MU. He has also been awarded the Young Investigator Award and the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Research Society on Alcoholism, the Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award from the Division on Addiction and a Presidential Citation from the American Psychological Association, and a MERIT award and a Senior Scientist and Mentoring Award from the National Institutes on Health.

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