

Pharmacokinetics

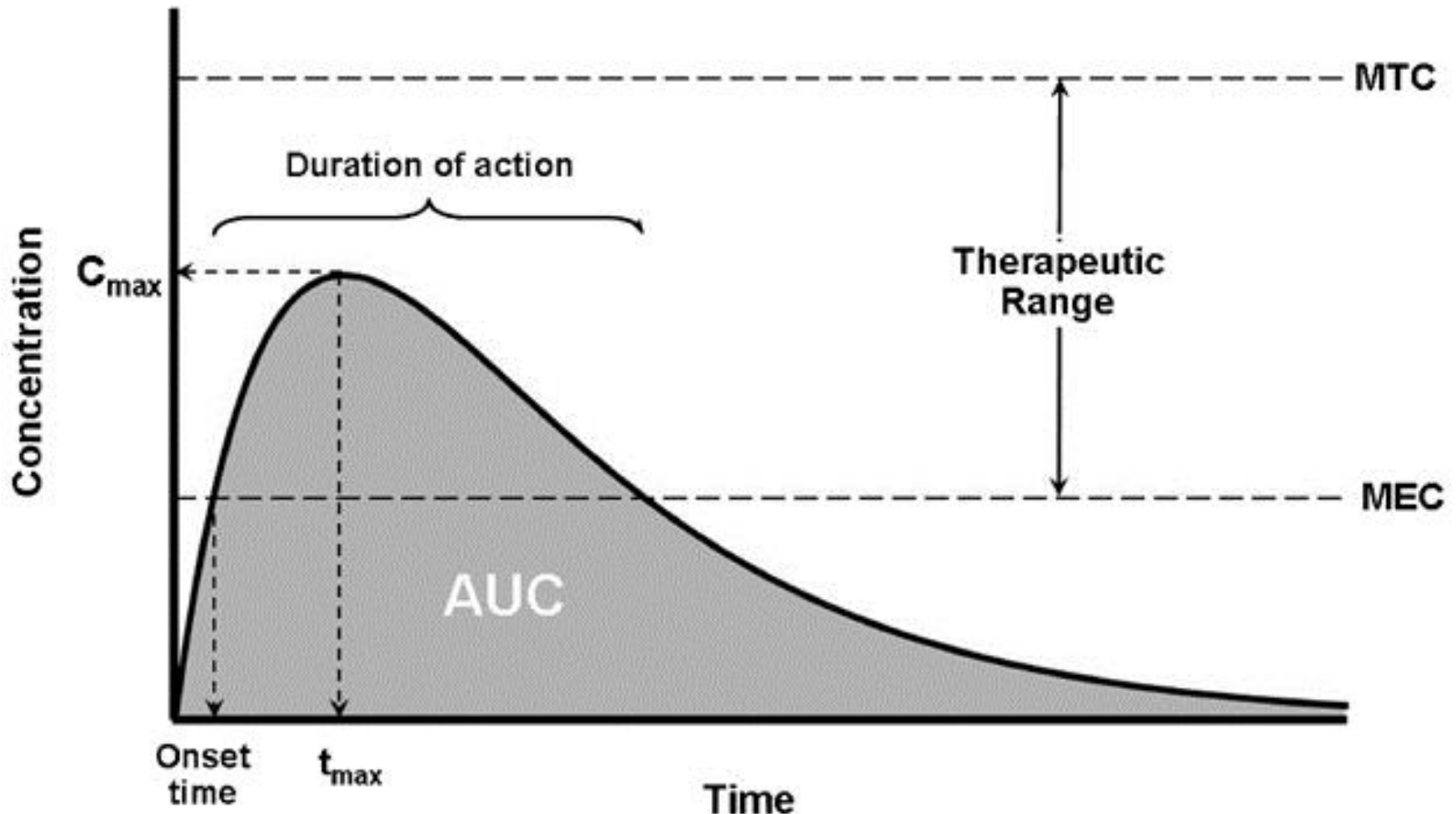
Pharmacodynamics: What drugs do to the body

Pharmacokinetics: What the body does to drugs

- Absorption
- Distribution
- Metabolism
- Excretion

ADME

Drug level vs. time curve



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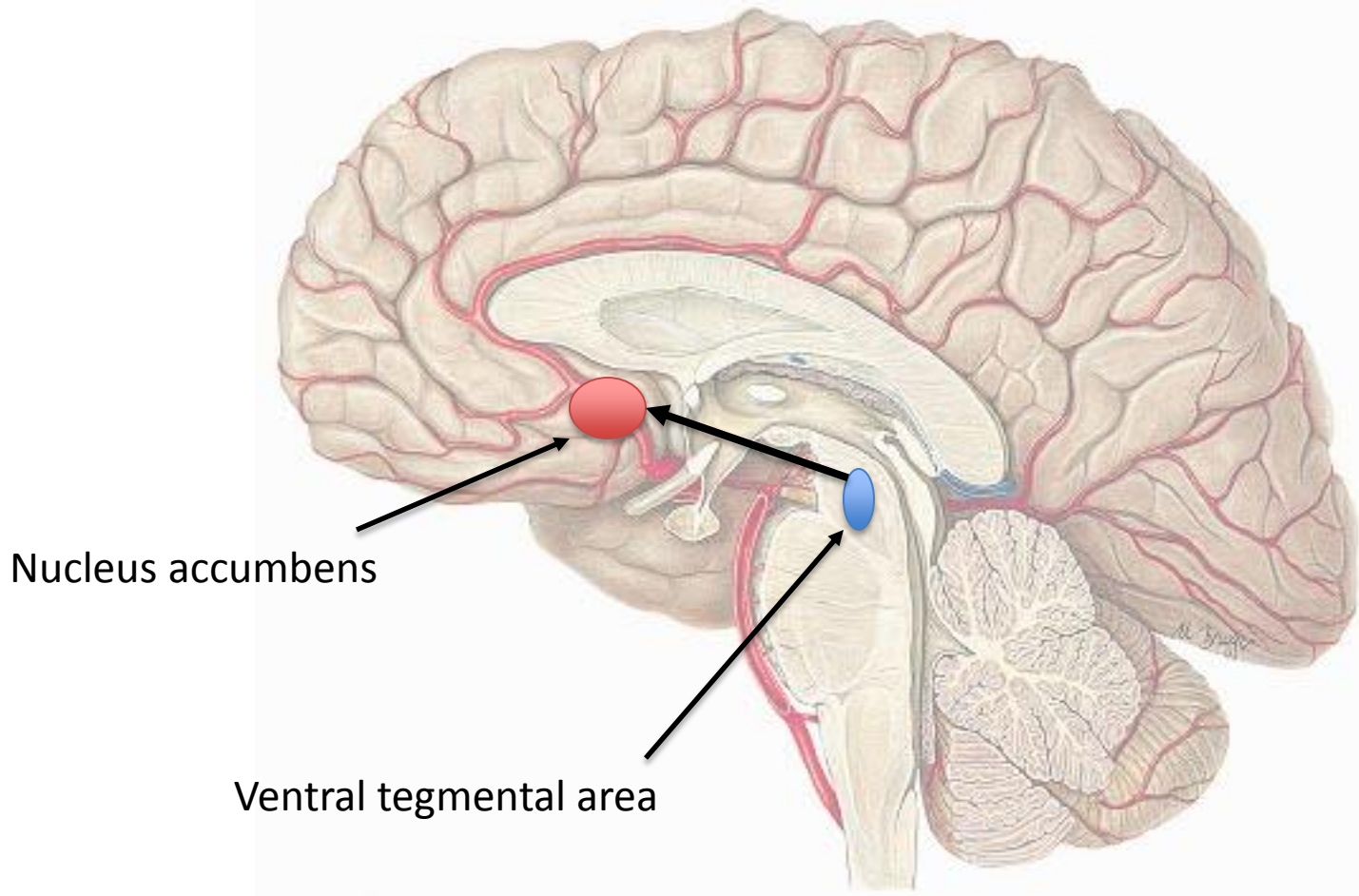
Source: Figure 1 in Mehrotra, N., M. Gupta, and B. Meibohm. "The Role of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics in Phosphodiesterase-5 Inhibitor Therapy." *Journal of Clinical Pharmacy and Therapeutics* 19 (2007): 253-264. © 2007.

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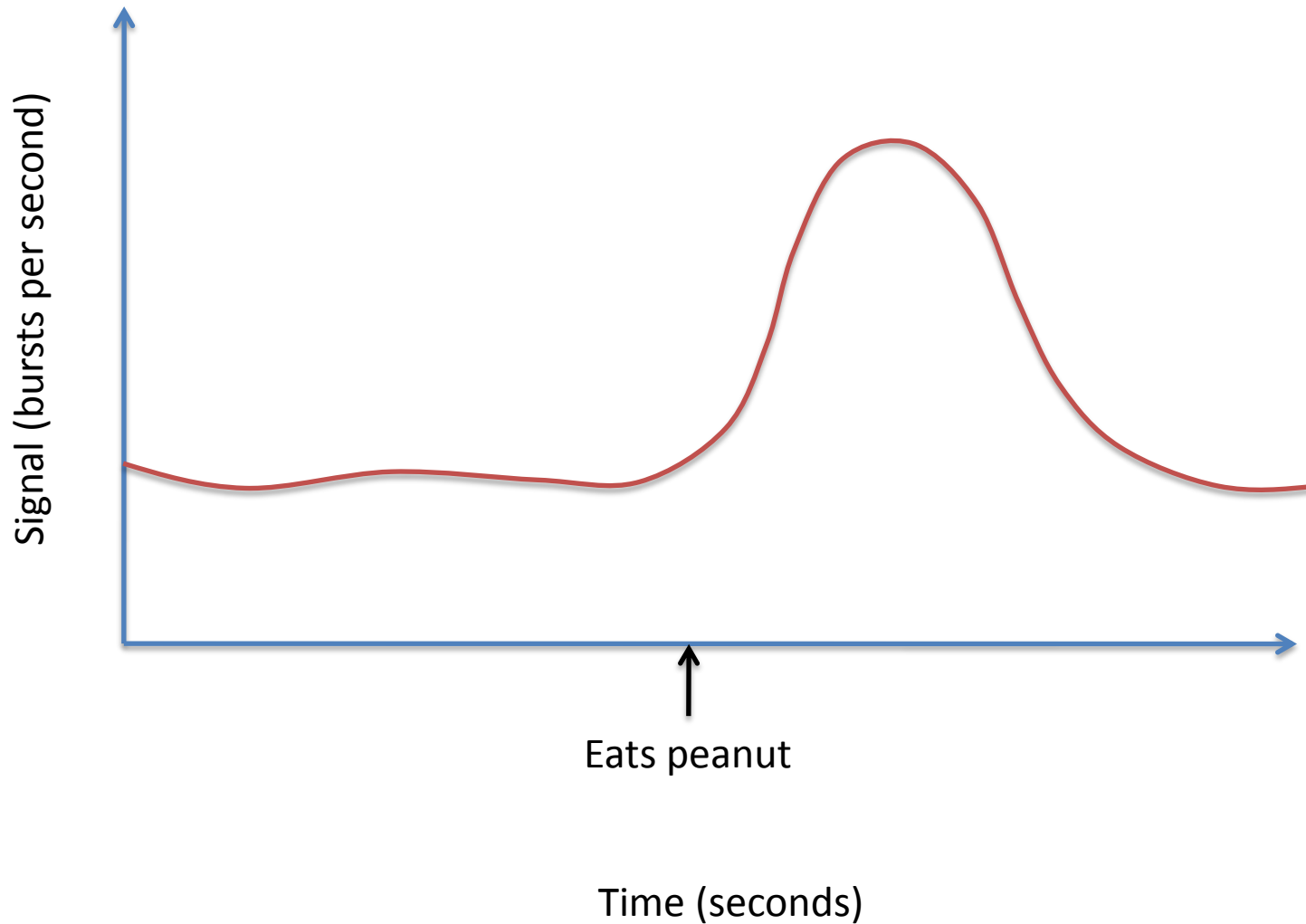
Absorption

- Different routes available
- Rate varies
- Bioavailability varies
- Time-release preparations

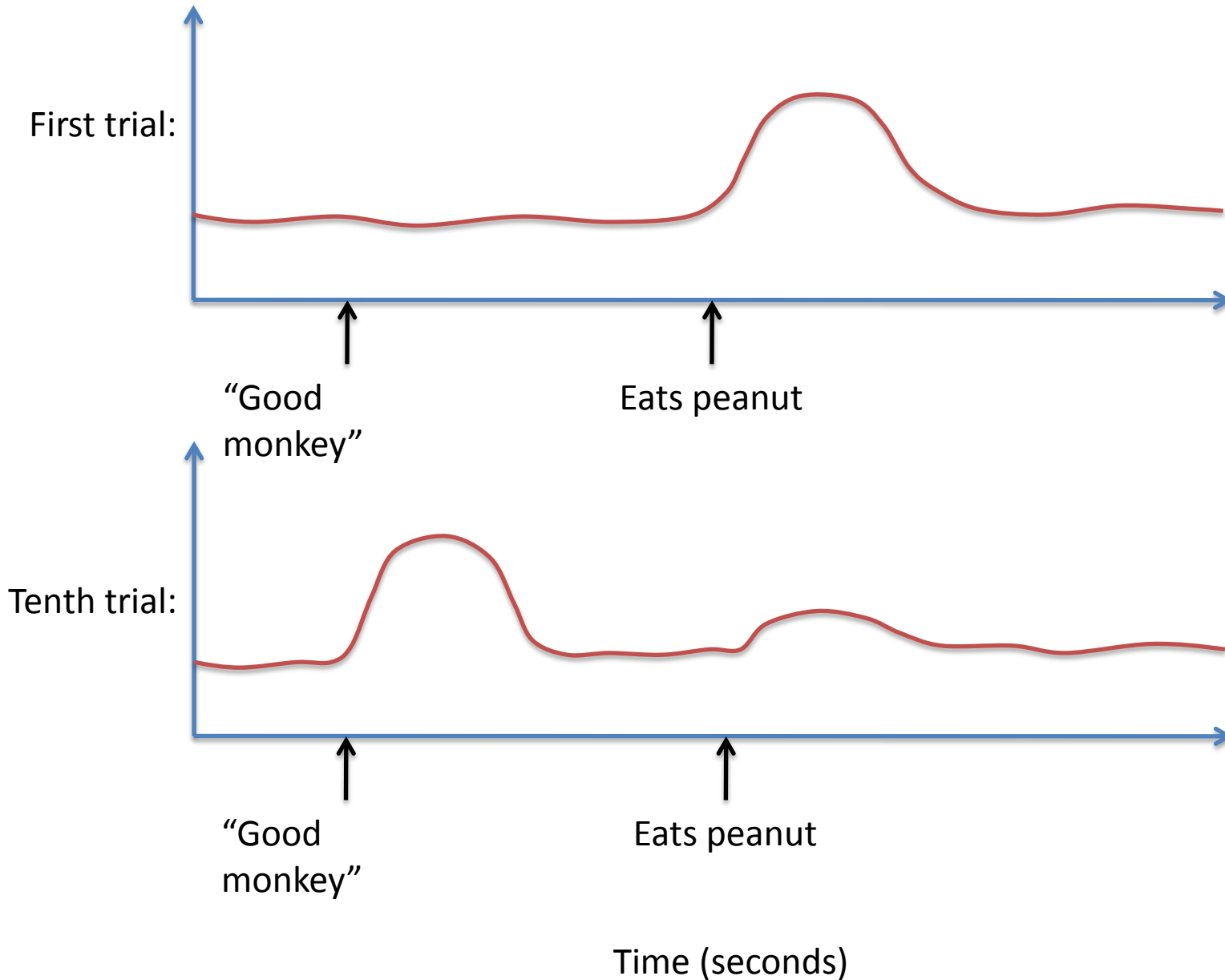
Midbrain Dopamine Neurons



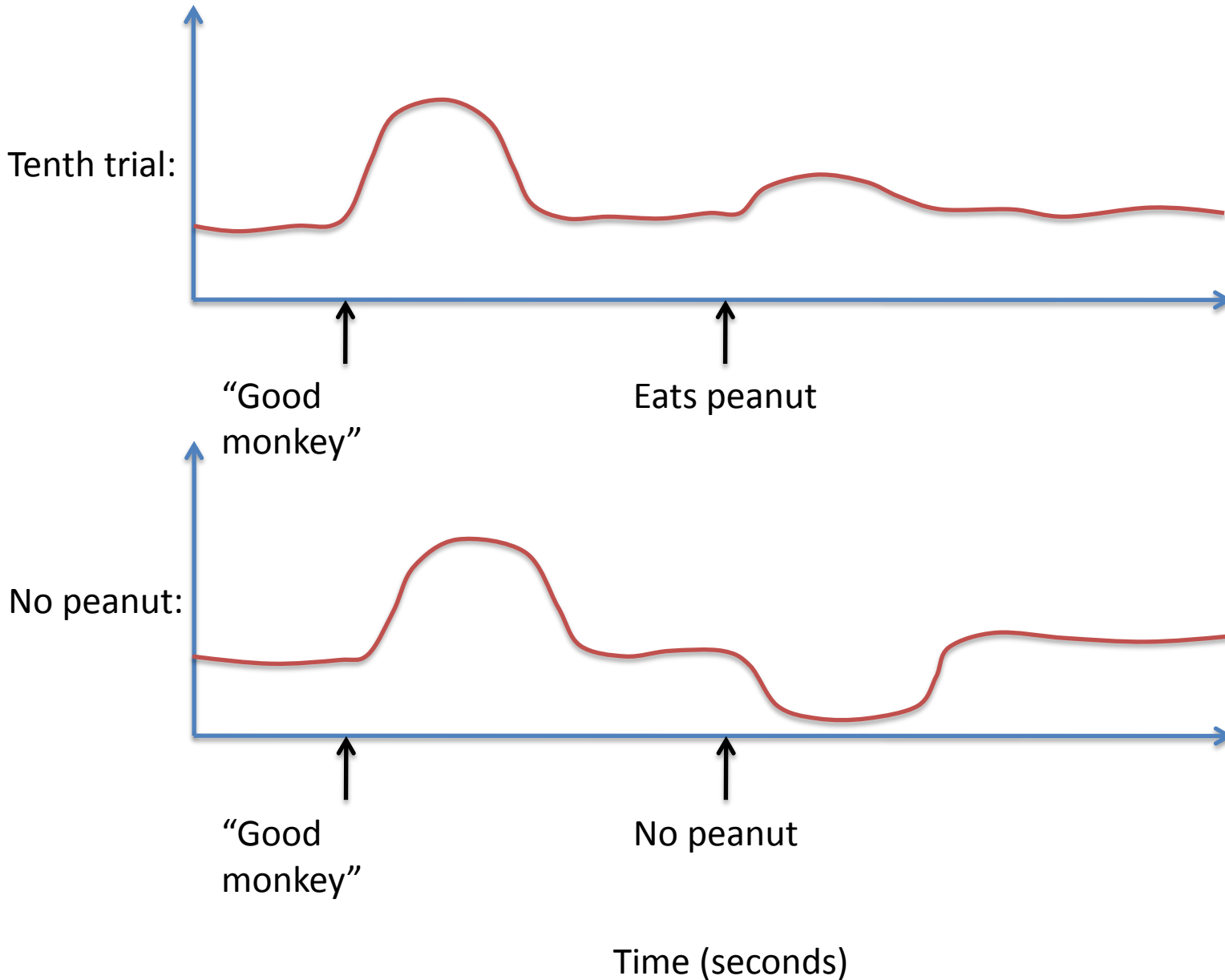
Dopamine signals unexpected rewards



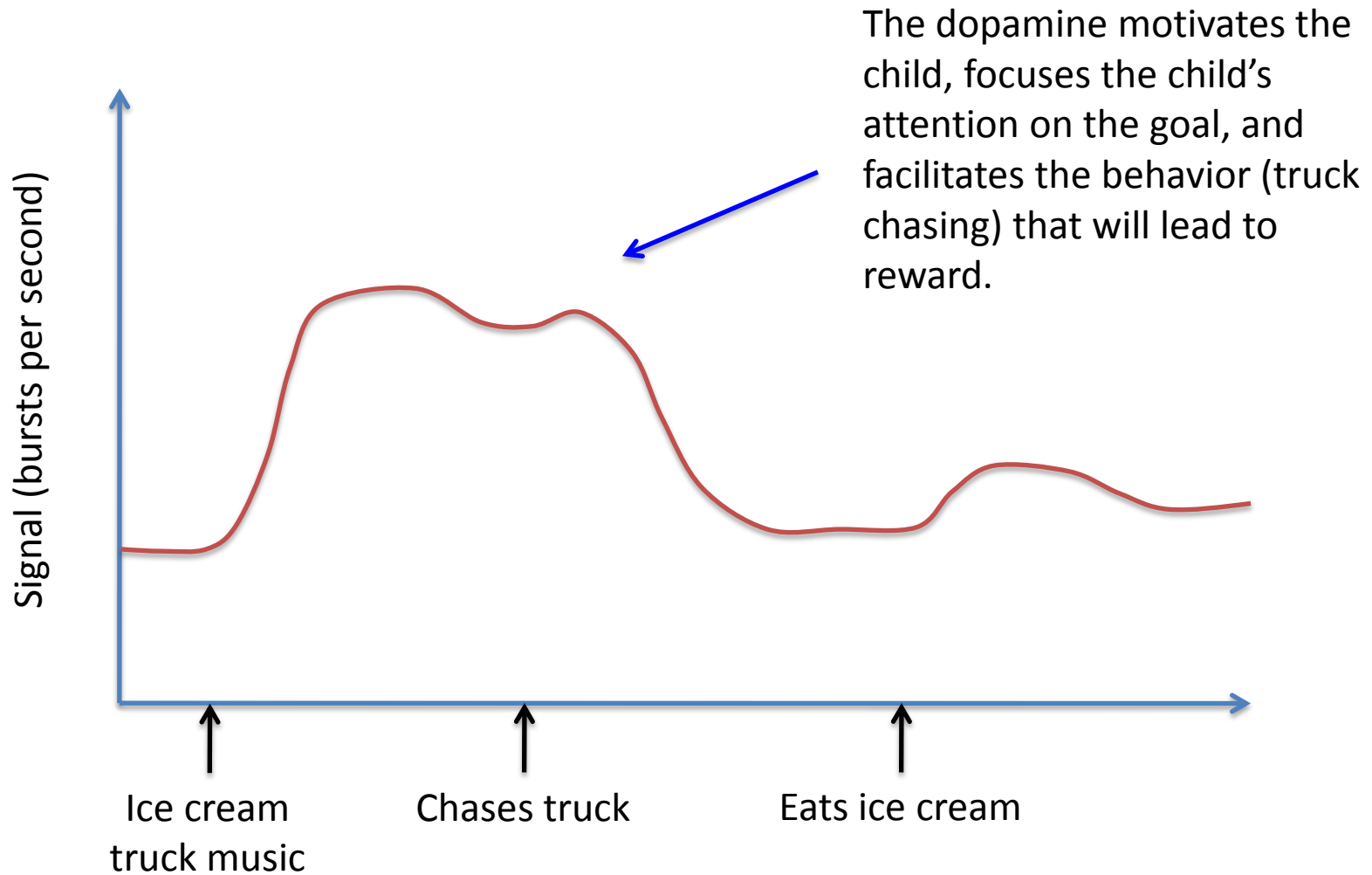
Dopamine signals predicted/expected rewards



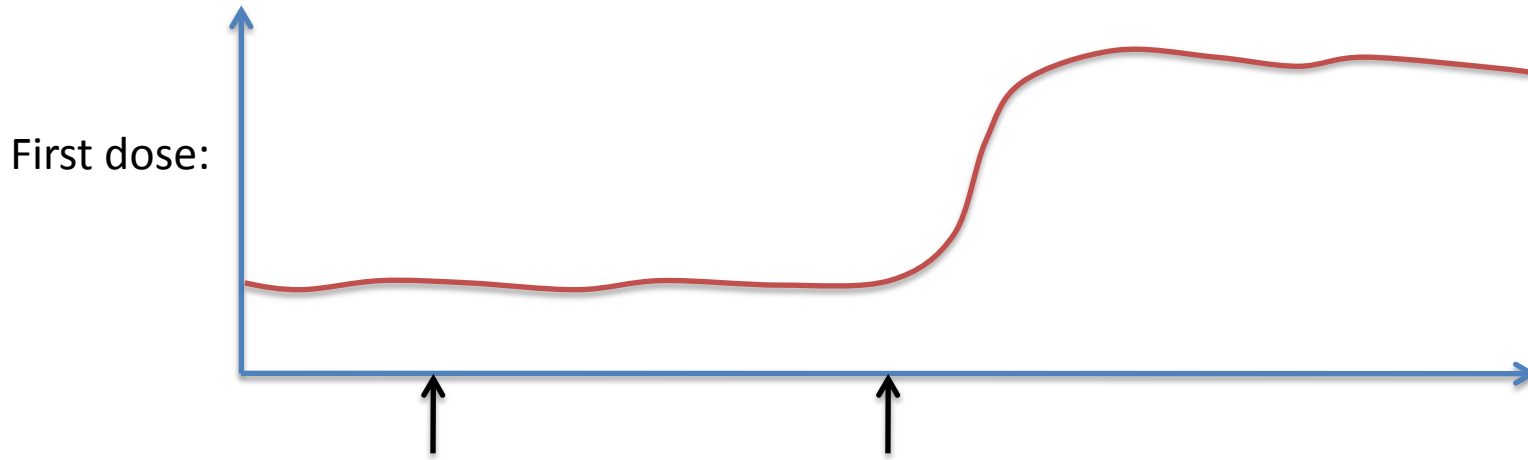
Dopamine signals error in prediction



The dopamine burst motivates the animal

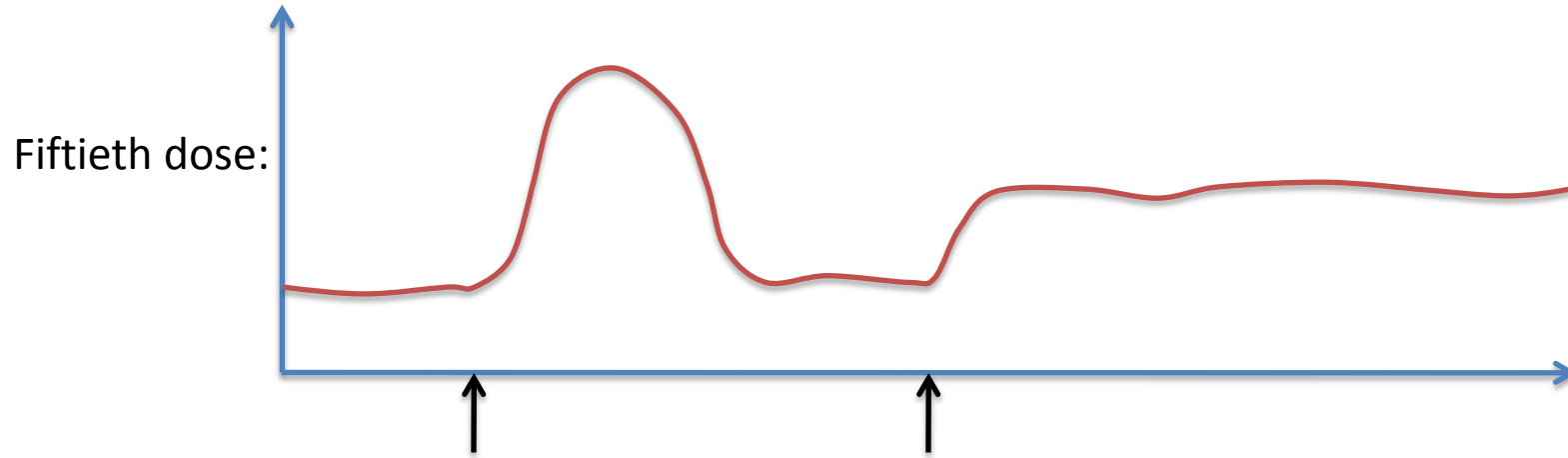


Drugs of abuse mimic natural reward



Sees cocaine

Snorts cocaine



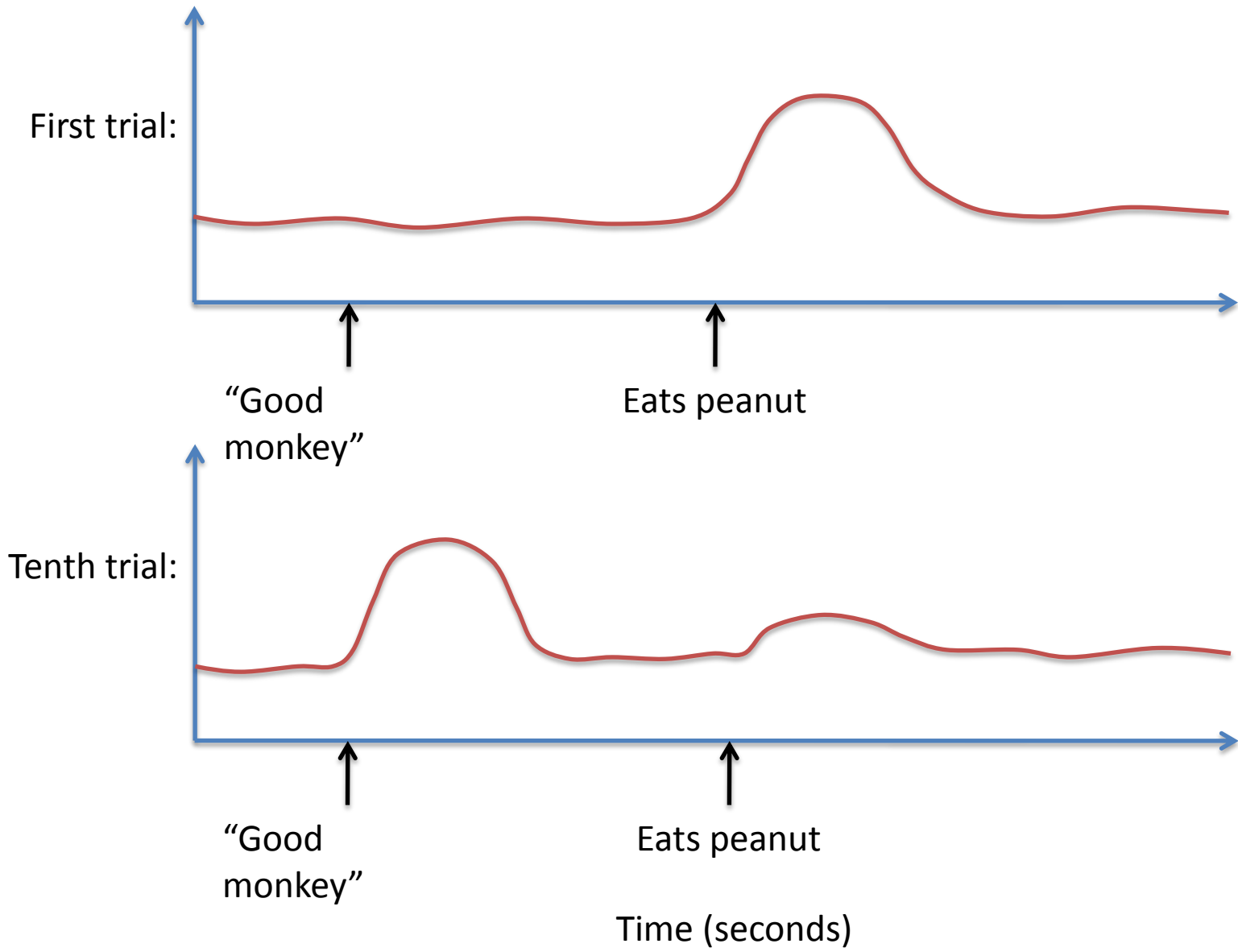
Sees cocaine

Snorts cocaine

Time (seconds)

Why does seeing cocaine cause dopamine release?

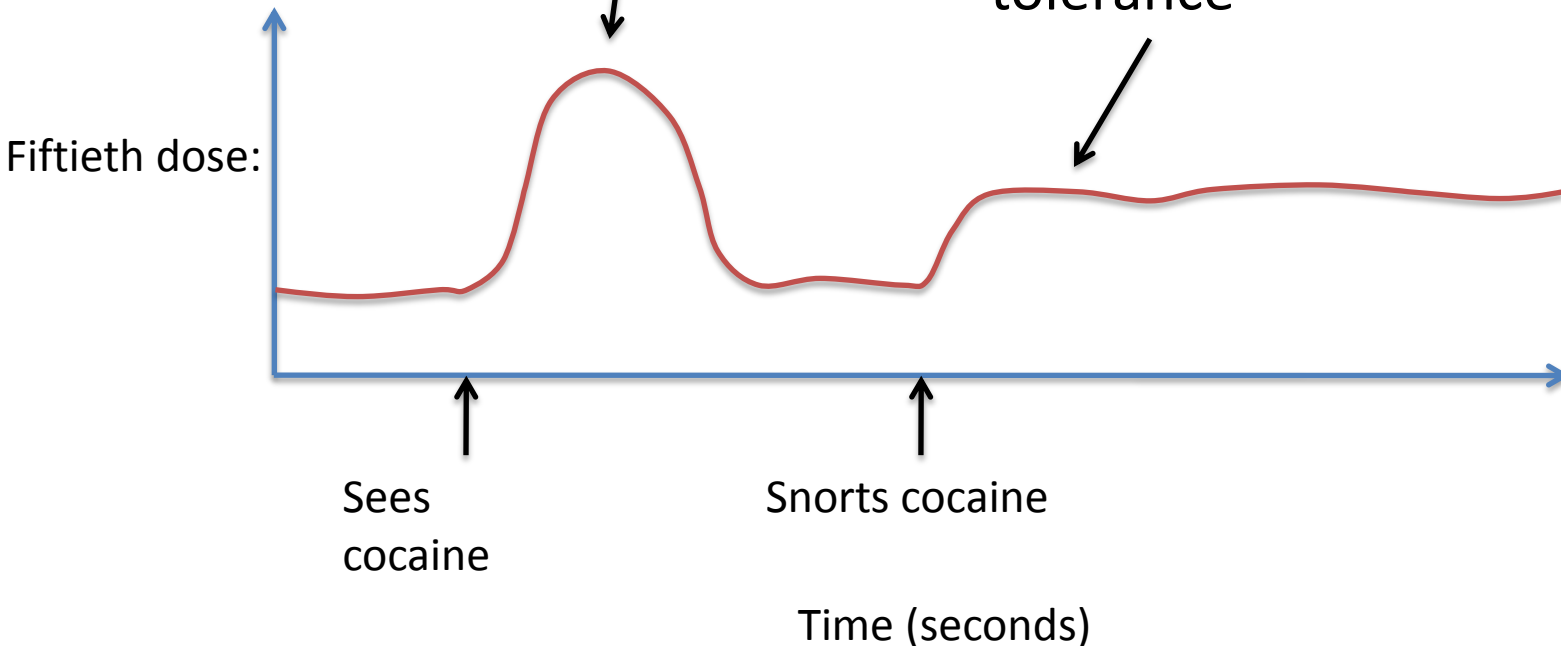
Remember how conditioning normally works:



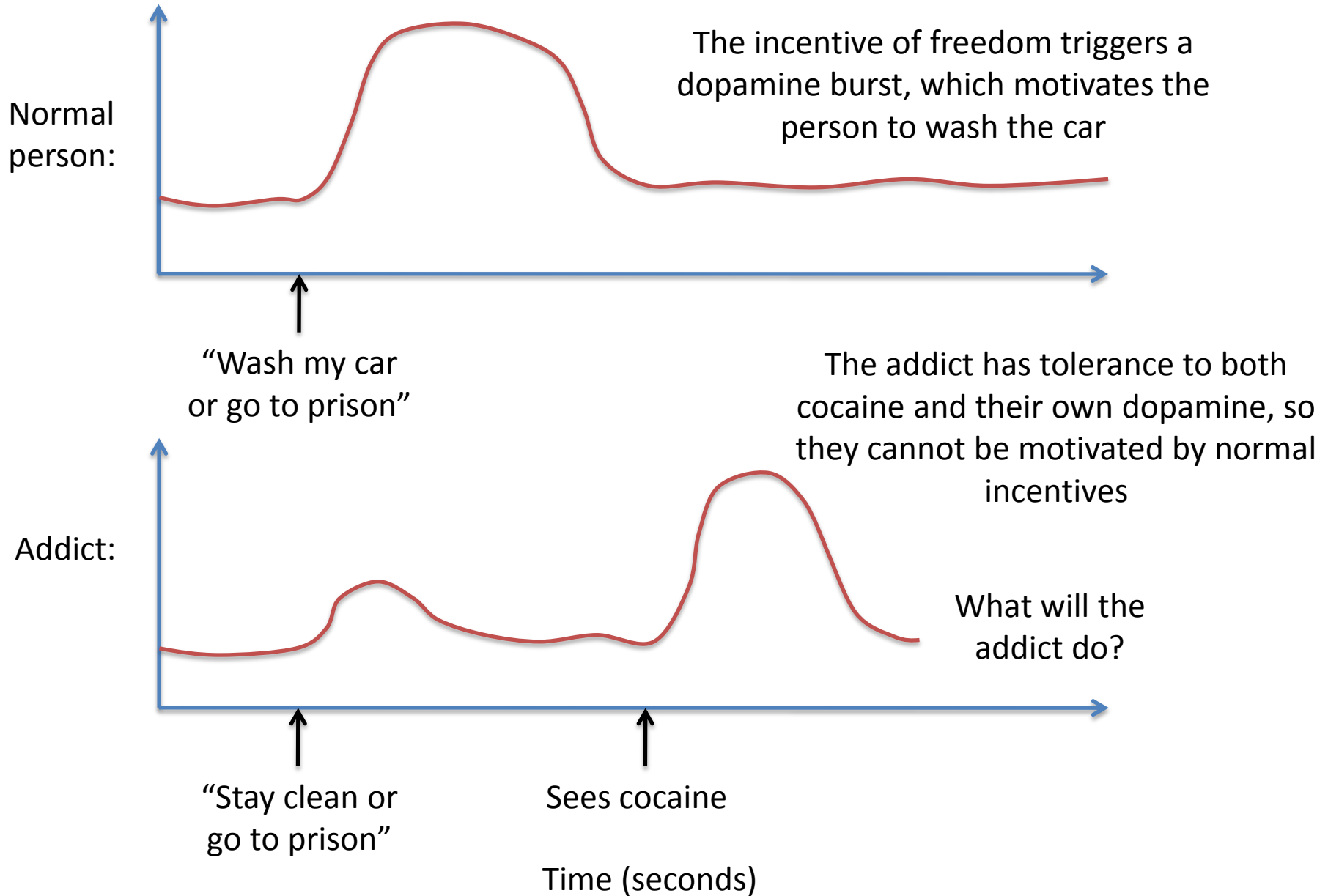
Drugs of abuse mimic natural reward

When an addict sees cocaine, the dopamine burst *produced by his own cells* motivates him to get cocaine and snort it.

The pleasure an addict actually feels from snorting cocaine is decreased over time, due to tolerance



Drug addicts are insensitive to non-drug motivators



Liking versus wanting

Addicts don't like doing drugs as much as they used to

Addicts want to do drugs

Addicts don't want to do anything else

Speed of onset and addiction

Drugs which take effect quickly are more addictive, because a fast spike in dopamine more closely mimics natural rewards and the drug-taking behavior is more closely associated with the reward if they come close together

Speed of onset and addiction

Faster onset, more
addictive:

Crack cocaine

Injected heroin

Smoked meth (ice)

Slower onset, less
addictive:

Powder cocaine (snorted,
has an 11 minute
absorption half-time)

Snorted heroin (absorbed
faster than snorted
cocaine. Why?)

Snorted meth (even less
addictive: swallowed
meth)

Speed of onset and addiction

Faster onset, more
addictive:

Xanax (the fast elimination
and need for more
doses also increases
addiction potential.

Why do frequent doses
lead to stronger
addiction? Discuss.)

Slower onset, less
addictive:

Klonopin, Librium

Speed of onset and addiction

Faster onset, more
addictive:

Snorted Ritalin

Vicodin

Abused (chewed, crushed
and snorted) OxyContin

Slower onset, less
addictive:

Oral Ritalin

OxyContin

Properly used (intact time-
release tablets)

OxyContin

ADHD

ADHD is treated with stimulants that boost dopamine (and norepinephrine), why does this work?

Dopamine normally facilitates goal-directed behavior by:

- Increasing motivation
- Focusing attention on the goal
- Providing energy to work towards the goal
- Speeding learning and reinforcing memory

ADHD

Why does dopamine speed learning and reinforce memory?

Discuss

That was absorption.
What came next?

Distribution

- Where does the drug go?
- How fast does it get there?

One-compartment model

The body is a bathtub with the faucet running and the drain open.

Two-compartment model

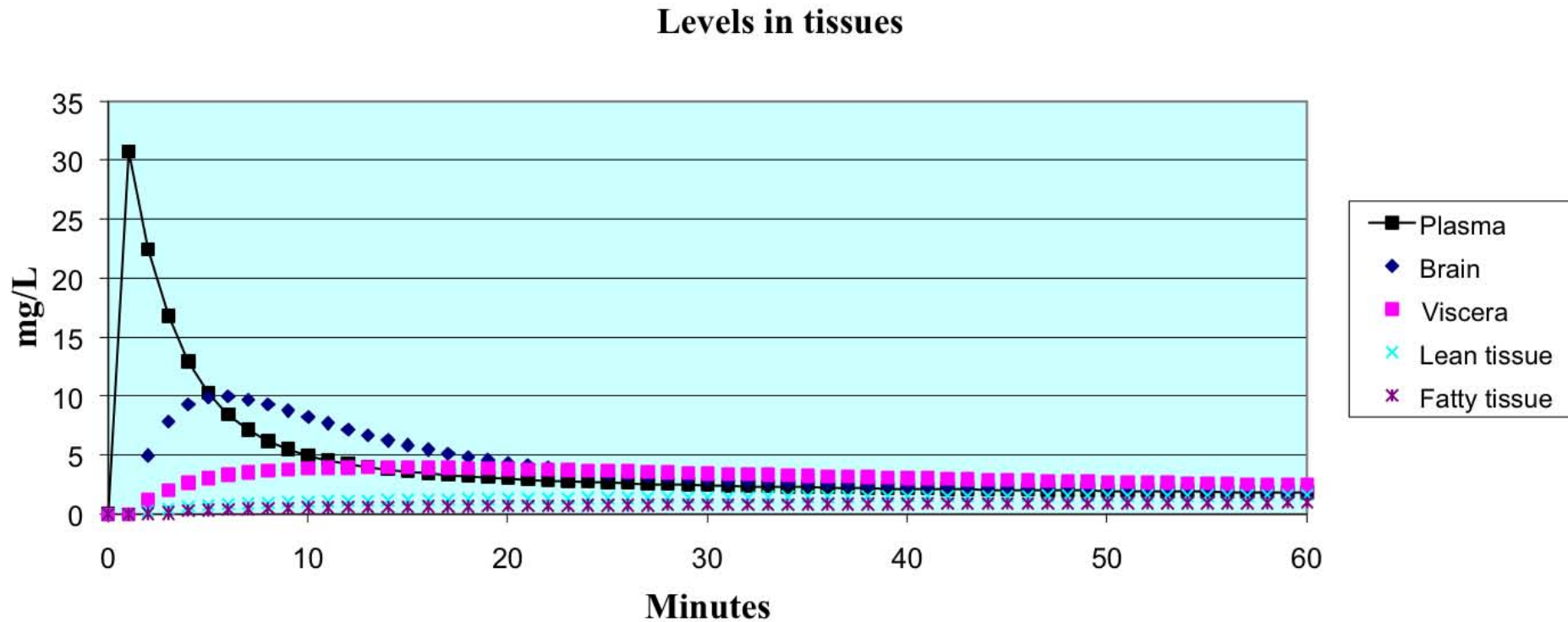
The body has two pieces:

Tissues that absorb drug fast (roughly the blood, brain, vital organs)

Tissues that absorb drug slow (fat)

(Muscle is medium-fast)

Levels in different tissues



Drugs with funky distribution

Sodium pentothal (thiopental, amytal, truth serum)

Marijuana (maybe, maybe not)

Many opioids may have an especially intense initial rush due to distribution

What's next after distribution?

Do you remember?

Metabolism

This is how your body chemically modifies drugs.

Metabolism occurs mostly in the liver, or else it is widely distributed.

Metabolism produces **metabolites**

Some metabolites are active drugs

Prodrugs

Prodrugs are inactive chemicals that turn into drugs in the body, because of metabolism:

GBL (gamma-butyrolactone, becomes GHB)

1,4-Butanediol (becomes GHB, found in toys)

Vyvanse (becomes amphetamine, why is it good to have a prodrug in this case?)

Levodopa (discuss why it is often mixed with carbidopa)

Prodrugs

Psilocybin (becomes psilocin)

Codeine (becomes morphine, although this conversion is much slower in some people. Codeine itself is active)

Hydro- and oxycodone become hydro- and oxymorphone respectively

Clorazepate (becomes nordazepam)

Downside to metabolism

Hepatic portal circulation:

It often cuts down on bioavailability

This is called first-pass metabolism

BuSpar has only 5% bioavailability due to first-pass metabolism

First-pass metabolism

Bypassed by:

Suppositories (only 50% portal circulation, less portal circulation closer to the orifice BUT higher risk of falling out)

Sublingual, intranasal, intravaginal (no portal circulation at all, BUT these tissues are sensitive and the extremely high concentration of drug in a very small patch can be very hurtful)

Image removed due to copyright restrictions.

[View](#) a photo of the effects of cocaine-induced vasoconstriction.

What's next?

Do you remember?

Excretion

- In feces (how did it get there? Discuss)
- In urine (Kidneys)

Drugs with funky excretion

Amphetamine:

A large amount of amphetamine is excreted renally without being metabolized.

Amphetamine is a weak base with a pKa near urine's pH.

Acidic urine causes fast excretion

Alkaline urine causes slow excretion

Playing with ADME:

- Alcohol enemas
- Taking a huge amount of baking soda with amphetamine
- Taking Tagamet (cimetidine) with MDMA (ecstasy), opioids, many other drugs. Tagamet inhibits liver enzymes, thus inhibiting A, D, M, or E?
- Taking grapefruit juice

Playing with ADME:

- Snorting everything
- Smoking everything
- Injecting everything
- Depot injections (inject a month's worth of drugs into the muscle, design for slow absorption)
- Chewing time-release pills
- Dissecting time-release pills (Concerta)

Playing with ADME:

- Snorting Viagra before snorting something else (especially before snorting something vasoconstrictive, like what?)
- Inhaling albuterol before smoking crack (yes, people do this)
- Taking MAOIs with your DMT to enable absorption – this is called ayahuasca and was discovered hundreds of years ago

Playing with ADME:

- Taking MAOIs (eg. Selegiline) with your phenethylamine (purchased at GNC) to get an amphetamine-like high. Warning: Causes tachycardia, and possibly other catastrophic side effects.

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ES.S10 Drugs and the Brain
Spring 2013

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