Training Faculty Ming Xu and his colleagues have recently published exciting new findings on a potential new treatment for cocaine addiction.

Dr. Ming Xu and his colleagues found that a protein called Beclin2, which is involved in the autophagy process, regulates dopamine receptor homeostasis. In a series of experiments, they showed that mice in which the gene Beclin2 was deleted exhibited reduced cocaine psychomotor stimulation and reward by regulating dopamine neurotransmission. These exciting preliminary findings suggest that it may be possible to treat cocaine abuse by targeting this protein.

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