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Alcoholism

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Poster Presentation P29

ALCOHOLISM

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For years, alcoholism has been looked down upon and believed to be a matter of choice. However, more recently, scientists have come to the conclusion that alcoholism is a disease, and they theorize that it is genetically inherited. This paper will focus on the impact that both nature and nurture have on the development of alcohol dependency. If the origin of these addictions could be established, more effective treatment methods may emerge. Through extensive case studies, predominantly focusing on twins—both fraternal and identical—scientists have discovered a correlation between addictive tendencies and heredity. There is a plethora of evidence that demonstrates the physiological changes associated with addiction and their biological roots. These propensities can also be linked to a generalized “addiction gene,” which may result in other dependences. Along with these origins, there are environmental influences that can trigger and enhance certain dispositions. Peers, race, and culture all have social implications on alcoholism. These factors, along with other aspects of alcohol addiction will be explored in this paper.