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Poster Presentation P2

ALCOHOLISM

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Is alcoholism an addiction that we are born with (nature), or something that we learn and acquire from our surroundings (nurture), or both? The answer to this question is important both in terms of treatment programs and a general understanding of the effects of alcohol consumption. If nature plays a larger role than nurture, early identification might prevent problems later in life for some individuals. For example, if an individual has a predisposition for alcohol addiction, knowing this fact could help the individual avoid excessive drinking, or drinking altogether. Our analysis takes the position that alcoholism is *not* a disease but an ailment similar to other addictions. Our results indicate that both nature and nurture play a significant role in alcohol addiction.