żej powiązane z zasadniczymi mechanizmami warunkującymi trwałość procesu patologicznego.

Słowa kluczowe: uzależnienia, nawroty, geny *c-fos*, sensytyzacja

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Persistence and relapses of dependence symptomatology: in search for neuronal and molecular background

SUMMARY

Motivational processes disorder leading to craving, drug seeking and drug taking behaviour is central to the symptomatology of drug dependence. Drug dependence, called also chronic relapsing disorder, results from neuroadaptations that occur with repeated drug administration. These changes can be seen on various levels – either that of receptors, secondary transmitters such as the cyclic AMP system, protein kinases, or at the molecular level involving gene transcription and expression. The recent interest of researchers has focused on the molecular level changes responsible for or temporally related to stable behavioural disorders typical of the dependence process. Particular attention is paid to immediate response genes of the *c-fos* family and their protein products such as the cFos protein. The *fos-B* gene products such as the ΔFos protein have been recently found to result from long-term administration of substances of abuse and to persist for a long time. Thus, they may be involved in crucial mechanisms underlying the pathological process persistence.

Key words: drug dependence, relapse, *c-fos* genes, sensitisation

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