Soon Drugs May Make Us Smarter

But If We Use Those 'Brain Steroids,' Will Nobel Laureates Need Urine Tests?

By Michael Sargent

The June 2009 issue of Scientific American featured an article on the potential for synthetic drugs to enhance human intelligence. The article highlighted the work of Nobel laureate John Elder, who had developed a drug that could increase cognitive abilities such as memory and problem-solving skills. However, the article also raised concerns about the potential for abuse and the need for better regulation of such drugs.

The article noted that the drug, known as 'brain steroids,' could be taken orally and would work by stimulating the brain's natural production of neurotransmitters. The article described how the drug could be used to improve memory, concentration, and cognitive function, and how it could be used to enhance learning and performance.

However, the article also warned of the potential for abuse, as the drug could be used to improve academic performance or to gain an unfair advantage in competitive settings. The article noted that there were already concerns about the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports and suggested that the same concerns could apply to academic settings.

The article also discussed the potential for government regulation of such drugs, noting that there were already laws in place to control the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports. The article suggested that similar regulations could be applied to academic settings, but acknowledged the challenges of enforcement.

The article concluded by raising the question of whether the benefits of such drugs outweigh the potential risks, and suggested that further research was needed to fully understand the effects of these drugs on cognitive function.

The article was published in the June 2009 issue of Scientific American, and can be found online at [scientificamerican.com](http://scientificamerican.com).