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Since 1990, she has received research support from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and numerous foundations. Dr. Napier's scientific interests include the neuroscience of motivational behaviors, including those that regulate healthy decision-making versus those associated with drug and behavioral addictions. Her work also encompasses addiction co-morbidity with other mental and neurological diseases. She has authored over 200 publications on topics that span molecular biology, biochemistry, neurophysiology and behavior. Her research directly translates into medication development for mental health disorders. Her extensive academic service includes leadership roles in scientific societies, membership in NIH scientific review committees, an organizer of numerous international conferences and editor or reviewer for over thirty scientific journals and books. She is a Scientific Advisor for the Robert Crown Center for Health Education (Hinsdale, Illinois), a Board Member for Epworth Village (York, Nebraska), a home for disadvantaged children, the Illinois Council on Responsible Gaming and the National Center for Responsible Gaming. She has provided expert testimony to the US Congress's Committee on Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology, and to the Illinois House of Representatives', Heroin and Youth Task Force Hearing. She is frequently sought after by the news media to comment on matters related to neuropharmacology, drug addiction and the adolescent brain. For her outstanding contributions to neuroscience education, research and outreach in Chicago, she received the 2015 Career Achievement Award from the Chicago Chapter of the International Society for Neuroscience.