

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Imaging Nociceptive Opioid Peptide Receptors in Alcohol Use Disorders With [¹¹C]NOP-1A and Positron Emission Tomography: Findings From a Second Cohort

Tollefson *et al.*

Contents

Tables S1-S6

Supplement Analyses

Figures S1-S3

Supplement References

Table S1. MRI based volume of regions of interest (mm³)

| | Alcohol use disorders (n=27) | | Healthy controls (n=27) | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| Amygdala | 2092 | 308 | 2126 | 307 |
| Hippocampus | 4258 | 593 | 4437 | 609 |
| Midbrain | 6216 | 822 | 6568 | 935 |
| Ventral Striatum | 825 | 164 | 777 | 106 |
| Caudate | 7002 | 960 | 7267 | 859 |
| Putamen | 7962 | 1008 | 8259 | 684 |
| Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex | 74462 | 9769 | 77715 | 11058 |
| Orbital Frontal Cortex | 45077 | 5769 | 44692 | 6931 |
| Medial Prefrontal Cortex | 19005 | 3873 | 20164 | 3906 |
| Anterior Cingulate Cortex | 17674 | 4376 | 16592 | 3326 |
| Cerebellum | 71432 | 9532 | 71246 | 10251 |

Table S2. Effect of tobacco use status on [¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T in Alcohol use disorders and Healthy controls

| Region | Tobacco | Alcohol use disorders | | Healthy controls | |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | 12 Yes/15 No | | 15 Yes/12 No | |
| | | Mean | SD | Mean | SD |
| Amygdala | Yes | 16.46 | 4.21 | 15.55 | 2.13 |
| | No | 14.60 | 3.20 | 14.80 | 2.37 |
| Hippocampus | Yes | 12.23 | 2.85 | 11.31 | 1.41 |
| | No | 10.45 | 2.21 | 10.82 | 1.73 |
| Midbrain | Yes | 9.77 | 2.22 | 8.95 | 0.95 |
| | No | 8.33 | 1.77 | 8.62 | 1.39 |
| Ventral striatum | Yes | 15.70 | 3.75 | 14.30 | 1.79 |
| | No | 13.54 | 2.81 | 14.10 | 2.00 |
| Caudate | Yes | 12.90 | 3.04 | 11.96 | 1.62 |
| | No | 11.03 | 2.14 | 11.58 | 1.39 |
| Putamen | Yes | 15.39 | 3.64 | 13.70 | 1.66 |
| | No | 12.81 | 2.66 | 13.28 | 1.94 |
| Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex | Yes | 14.22 | 3.26 | 13.31 | 1.68 |
| | No | 12.51 | 2.76 | 12.76 | 1.91 |
| Orbitofrontal cortex | Yes | 14.58 | 3.38 | 13.81 | 1.80 |
| | No | 12.87 | 2.86 | 13.27 | 2.03 |
| Medial prefrontal cortex | Yes | 14.21 | 3.23 | 13.36 | 1.63 |
| | No | 12.47 | 2.74 | 12.77 | 1.69 |
| Anterior cingulate cortex | Yes | 14.78 | 3.31 | 13.80 | 1.62 |
| | No | 12.97 | 2.77 | 13.27 | 1.94 |
| Cerebellum | Yes | 8.76 | 1.97 | 7.97 | 0.88 |
| | No | 7.49 | 1.58 | 7.89 | 1.25 |

Unpaired t-tests in all regions comparing V_T in tobacco users vs. non-users were p > 0.05 in both the AUD and HC groups. However, differences in V_T between tobacco users vs. non-users in the AUD group were at a statistical trend (p < 0.1) in the hippocampus, midbrain, caudate, putamen and cerebellum.

Table S3. Clinical characteristics of AUD subjects based on follow-up outcome

| | Abstained (n=6) | Relapsed (n=8) | Dropped out (n=8) |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Males (n) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tobacco use (n) | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| Comorbid psychiatric disorders (n) (GAD or PTSD) | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Comorbid pain Disorders (n) | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Psychotropic Medications (n) | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Hair ETG \geq 30 pg/mg (n) | 2 | 7† | 4 |
| Hair ETG < 30 pg/mg (n) | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Alcohol Dependence Scale (range 0 to 47) | 23 \pm 10 | 18 \pm 6 | 19 \pm 3 |
| Penn Alcohol Craving Scale (range 0 to 30) | 17 \pm 8 | 14 \pm 7 | 16 \pm 10 |
| Duration abstinent from alcohol before PET (days) | 47 \pm 32 | 18 \pm 12 | 25 \pm 12 |

† Hair from one subject was unavailable

Table S4. Pearson correlation coefficient (r) for relationships between ROI V_T and total money earned in contingency management paradigm (data is from n=19 subjects as three AUD are excluded for completing part of the follow-up in an honor system via phone due to COVID19 pandemic).

| Region | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|
| Amygdala | r | 0.620 |
| | p | 0.00462 |
| Hippocampus | r | 0.695 |
| | p | < 0.001 |
| Midbrain | r | 0.686 |
| | p | 0.001 |
| Ventral Striatum | r | 0.686 |
| | p | 0.001 |
| Caudate | r | 0.621 |
| | p | 0.00453 |
| Putamen | r | 0.627 |
| | p | 0.004 |
| Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex | r | 0.699 |
| | p | < 0.001 |
| Orbitofrontal cortex | r | 0.719 |
| | p | < 0.001 |
| Medial prefrontal cortex | r | 0.664 |
| | p | 0.002 |
| Anterior Cingulate Cortex | r | 0.674 |
| | p | 0.002 |
| Cerebellum | r | 0.659 |
| | p | 0.002 |

p is the p-value for r

p < 0.00454 is significant after Bonferroni correction for n=11 ROIs (0.05/11)

Table S5. Partial correlations (r) for relationships between ROI V_T and total money earned in contingency management paradigm after controlling for heavy drinking status (hair ETG +/-) (data is from n=18 subjects, three AUD were excluded for completing part of the follow-up in an honor system via phone due to COVID19 pandemic and one AUD was excluded for not having hair ETG).

| Region | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| Amygdala | r | 0.562 |
| | p | 0.019 |
| Hippocampus | r | 0.641 |
| | p | 0.006 |
| Midbrain | r | 0.628 |
| | p | 0.007 |
| Ventral Striatum | r | 0.628 |
| | p | 0.007 |
| Caudate | r | 0.564 |
| | p | 0.018 |
| Putamen | r | 0.560 |
| | p | 0.019 |
| Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex | r | 0.643 |
| | p | 0.005 |
| Orbitofrontal cortex | r | 0.666 |
| | p | 0.004 |
| Medial prefrontal cortex | r | 0.609 |
| | p | 0.010 |
| Anterior cingulate cortex | r | 0.609 |
| | p | 0.009 |
| Cerebellum | r | 0.602 |
| | p | 0.011 |

p is the p-value for r

p < 0.00454 is significant after Bonferroni correction for n=11 ROIs (0.05/11)

Table S6. Partial correlations (r) for relationships between ROI V_T and total money earned in contingency management paradigm after controlling for the number of abstinent days before PET (data is from n=19 subjects as three AUD are excluded for completing part of the follow-up in an honor system via phone due to COVID19 pandemic).

| Region | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| Amygdala | r | 0.574 |
| | p | 0.013 |
| Hippocampus | r | 0.611 |
| | p | 0.007 |
| Midbrain | r | 0.609 |
| | p | 0.007 |
| Ventral Striatum | r | 0.610 |
| | p | 0.007 |
| Caudate | r | 0.537 |
| | p | 0.021 |
| Putamen | r | 0.546 |
| | p | 0.019 |
| Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex | r | 0.632 |
| | p | 0.005 |
| Orbitofrontal cortex | r | 0.652 |
| | p | 0.003 |
| Medial prefrontal cortex | r | 0.594 |
| | p | 0.009 |
| Anterior cingulate cortex | r | 0.593 |
| | p | 0.010 |
| Cerebellum | r | 0.590 |
| | p | 0.010 |

p is the p-value for r

p < 0.00454 is significant after Bonferroni correction for n=11 ROIs (0.05/11)

Table S7. Partial correlations (r) for the relationships between V_T and self-reported alcohol use measures after controlling for tobacco use and sex

| Region V _T | | Controlling r for | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Tobacco use | | | Sex | | |
| | | Abstinent Days | Drinking days in past 30 days | Drinks/drinking day | Abstinent days | Drinking days in past 30 days | Drinks/drinking day |
| Amygdala | r | .191 | -.563 | -.560 | .369 | -.568 | -.579 |
| | p | .349 | .003 | .003 | .064 | .002 | .002 |
| Hippocampus | r | .360 | -.574 | -.594 | .521 | -.552 | -.592 |
| | p | .071 | .002 | .001 | .006 | .003 | .001 |
| Midbrain | r | .301 | -.499 | -.539 | .475 | -.480 | -.540 |
| | p | .136 | .009 | .005 | .014 | .013 | .004 |
| Ventral Striatum | r | .316 | -.596 | -.564 | .488 | -.581 | -.570 |
| | p | .116 | .001 | .003 | .011 | .002 | .002 |
| Caudate | r | .289 | -.502 | -.525 | .468 | -.483 | -.527 |
| | p | .153 | .009 | .006 | .016 | .012 | .006 |
| Putamen | r | .271 | -.566 | -.554 | .467 | -.535 | -.549 |
| | p | .181 | .003 | .003 | .016 | .005 | .004 |
| Dorsolateral prefrontal cortex | r | .276 | -.548 | -.548 | .462 | -.551 | -.566 |
| | p | .173 | .004 | .004 | .017 | .004 | .003 |
| Orbitofrontal cortex | r | .289 | -.618 | -.594 | .469 | -.620 | -.612 |
| | p | .152 | .001 | .001 | .016 | .001 | .001 |
| Medial prefrontal cortex | r | .267 | -.548 | -.542 | .450 | -.547 | -.558 |
| | p | .188 | .004 | .004 | .021 | .004 | .003 |
| Anterior cingulate cortex | r | .311 | -.568 | -.557 | .480 | -.561 | -.568 |
| | p | .122 | .002 | .003 | .013 | .003 | .002 |
| Cerebellum | r | .255 | -.470 | -.535 | .427 | -.451 | -.535 |
| | p | .208 | .015 | .005 | .029 | .021 | .005 |

p is p-value for r

Table S8. Basic studies that that have investigated N/OFQ and NOP in human and rodent models of AUD

| Reference | Species/model | Study design | Region | ppN/OFQ | NOP |
|-----------|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| (1) | Wistar rats | <u>Compared alcohol dependent vs. vehicle treated rats</u> - 7 days after alcohol was withdrawn - 21 days after alcohol was withdrawn Ethanol dependent rats were administered alcohol (10g/Kg) four times daily for six days. | Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis | No difference | Higher at 7 and 21 days after alcohol withdrawn |
| | | | Central nucleus of the amygdala | Higher at 21 days, but not 7-days after alcohol withdrawn | No difference |
| | | | Lateral Hypothalamus | No difference | Higher at 7 and 21 days after alcohol withdrawn |
| (2) | Sprague-Dawley rats | <u>Compared alcohol administered vs. control rats</u> Alcohol (4.5 g/Kg/day) or water (control), administered for 1 day or 5-days. Rat brains examined 30 min after alcohol/water, or 1-, 3- or 7-days of withdrawal | Amygdala | Higher during alcohol administration (1- and 5-day groups), that persisted during withdrawal on day 1, but not days 3 and 7 | No difference |
| | | | Prefrontal cortex | No difference | No difference |
| (3) | C57BL/6J mice | <u>Alcohol self-administration (SA) vs. controls (water)</u> - 4 weeks following alcohol SA | Ventral Tegmental Area | Lower in the 5-day, but not 21-day withdrawn | Not measured |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 days after alcohol SA was withdrawn - 21 days after alcohol SA was withdrawn | | | |
| | | | Frontal cortex | Lower in the 21-day, but not 5-day withdrawn | Not measured |
| | | | Striatum, Amygdala, Periaqueductal gray | No difference | Not measured |
| (4) | Wistar rats bred for high and low ethanol drinking in adolescence (second filial generation) | <u>High vs. low ethanol drinking rats</u> High ethanol drinkers 7.7 to 9.2 g/Kg/day Low ethanol drinkers 0.9 to 1.2 g/Kg/day Postmortem brains examined 40 days after last alcohol use | Prefrontal cortex | Lower (males > females) | Lower (males > females) |
| | | | Nucleus accumbens | No difference | Lower only in males, and not in females |
| | | | Ventral tegmental area | No difference | No difference |
| (5) | Marchigian Sardinian alcohol-preferring rats (msP) Wistar rats (controls) | <u>Alcohol preferring msP vs Wistar control rats</u> Alcohol self-administration following which in situ hybridization and NOP receptor autoradiography were performed | Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis | Higher | Higher (binding, but not mRNA) |
| | | | Central nucleus of the amygdala | Higher | Higher (binding and mRNA) |
| | | | Medial amygdaloid nucleus | No difference | Higher (binding, but not mRNA) |
| | | | Basolateral amygdaloid nucleus | Not measured | Higher (in mRNA, but not binding) |
| | | | Cingulate cortex | No difference | Higher |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | (binding, but not mRNA) |
| | | | Motor cortex | Higher | Higher (binding and mRNA) |
| | | | Nucleus accumbens | Not measured | Higher (binding; mRNA not measured) |
| | | | Ventral tegmental area | Not measured | Lower (binding; mRNA not measured) |
| (6) | mSP rats | Chronic intermittent exposure to alcohol for 30 days Vs. water exposed controls Postmortem brains were examined 24-hours after last alcohol use | Amygdala | No difference (Trend lower) | Lower |
| | | | Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis | Lower | Higher |
| | Wistar rats | Chronic intermittent exposure to alcohol for 30 days Vs. water exposed controls Postmortem brains were examined 24-hours after last alcohol use | Amygdala | No difference | No difference |
| | | | Bed nucleus of the stria terminalis | No difference | No difference |
| (7) | Postmortem humans | 15 Alcohol use disorder 15 healthy controls (Tobacco use in 75% in healthy controls and 83% in AUD) RT-PCR analysis | Hippocampus | Lower | No difference (Trend lower) |
| | | | Central nucleus of the amygdala | No difference | Lower |
| | | | Prefrontal cortex | No difference | No difference |
| | | | Orbitofrontal cortex | No difference | No difference |
| | | | Motor cortex | No difference | No difference |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| (8) | Postmortem humans | 27 substance use disorders (56% AUD, 22% AUD + another SUD and 22% other substance use disorder) 53 healthy controls | Anterior insula | No difference | No difference |
| | | | Mediodorsal thalamus | No difference | No difference |
| | | | Dorsal anterior cingulate cortex | No difference | No difference |

Supplement analyses

1. Effect of sex on [¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T

[¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T was not significantly different between AUD and HC when sex was included as a factor in the linear mixed model (effect of diagnosis, $F(1, 50) = 0.01$, $p = 0.98$; effect of sex, $F(1, 50) = 5.32$, $p = 0.03$; effect of sex X diagnosis, $F(1, 50) = 0.25$, $p = 0.62$). Females had significantly lower V_T compared to males, as previously reported in (9), but not in (10).

2. Effect of tobacco use status on [¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T

[¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T was not significantly different between AUD and HC when tobacco use status was included as a factor in the linear mixed model (effect of diagnosis, $F(1, 50) = 0.26$, $p = 0.62$; effect of tobacco use, $F(1, 50) = 3.29$, $p = 0.08$; effect of tobacco use X diagnosis, $F(1, 50) = 1.22$, $p = 0.28$). Higher V_T in tobacco users compared to non-users, which is at trend-level in the LMM is shown in **Table S2**.

3. Effect of comorbid psychiatric/chronic pain disorders on [¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T in AUD

[¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T was not significantly different between AUD with (n=7) and without (n=20) comorbid psychiatric/chronic pain disorders (effect of comorbid disorders, $F(1, 25) = 0.03$, $p = 0.86$; effect of region, $F(10, 250) = 168.47$, $p < 0.001$; effect of region X comorbid disorders, $F(10, 250) = 0.83$, $p = 0.60$).

4. Effect of psychotropic medications on [¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T in AUD

[¹¹C]NOP-1A V_T was not significantly different between AUD off- (n=19) and on- (n=8) and psychotropic medications (effect of psychotropic medications, $F(1, 25) = 0.01$, $p = 0.92$; effect of region, $F(10, 250) = 190.90$, $p < 0.001$; effect of region X psychotropic medications, $F(10, 250) = 0.63$, $p = 0.79$).

Supplement Figures

Figure S1 shows the positive relationship (which failed to survive a multiple comparison correction) between number of abstinent days prior to the scan and ventral striatum V_T in $n=27$ AUD subjects.

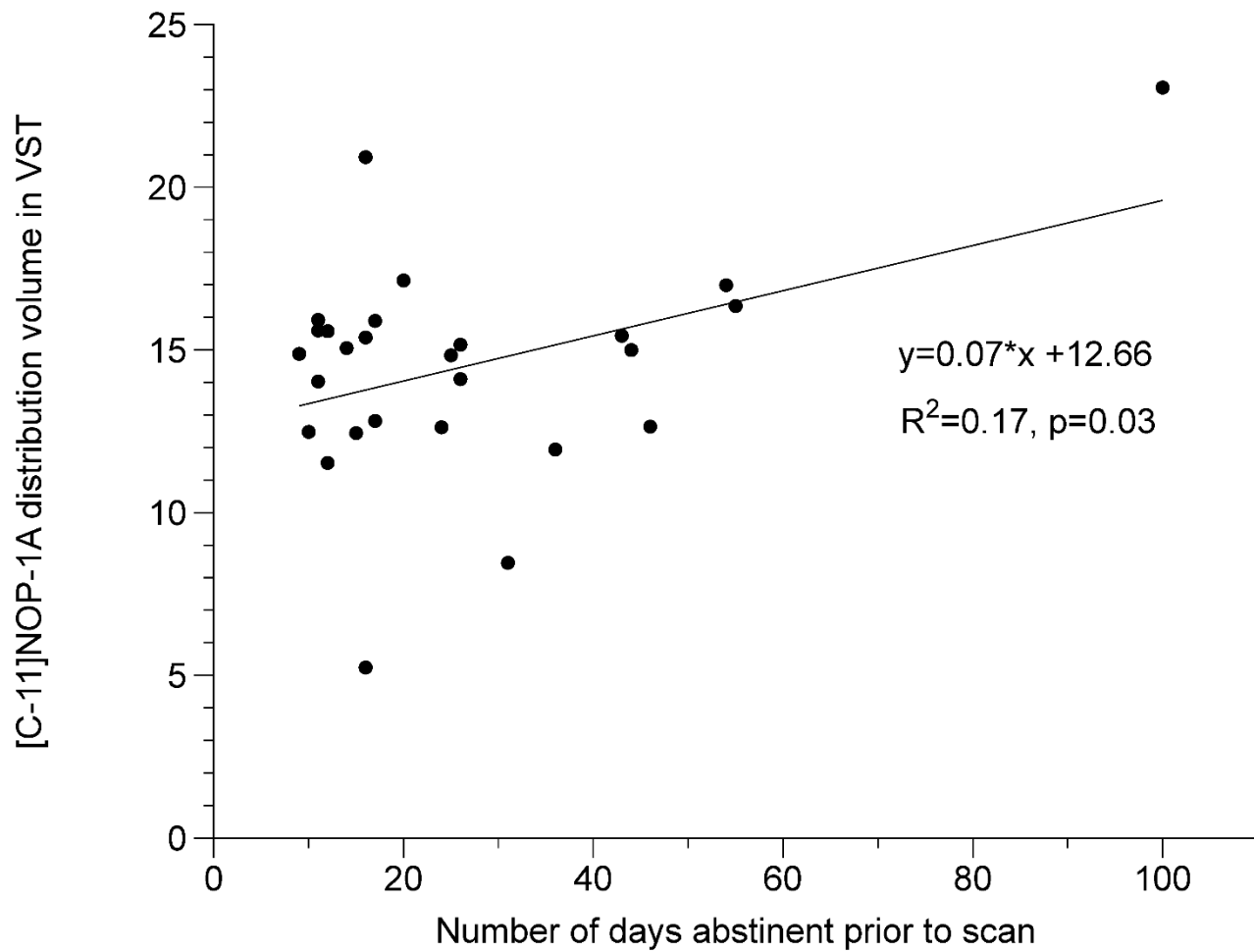


Figure S2 shows the negative association between the number of drinking days in the month prior to enrollment and orbitofrontal cortex V_T in $n=27$ AUD subjects.

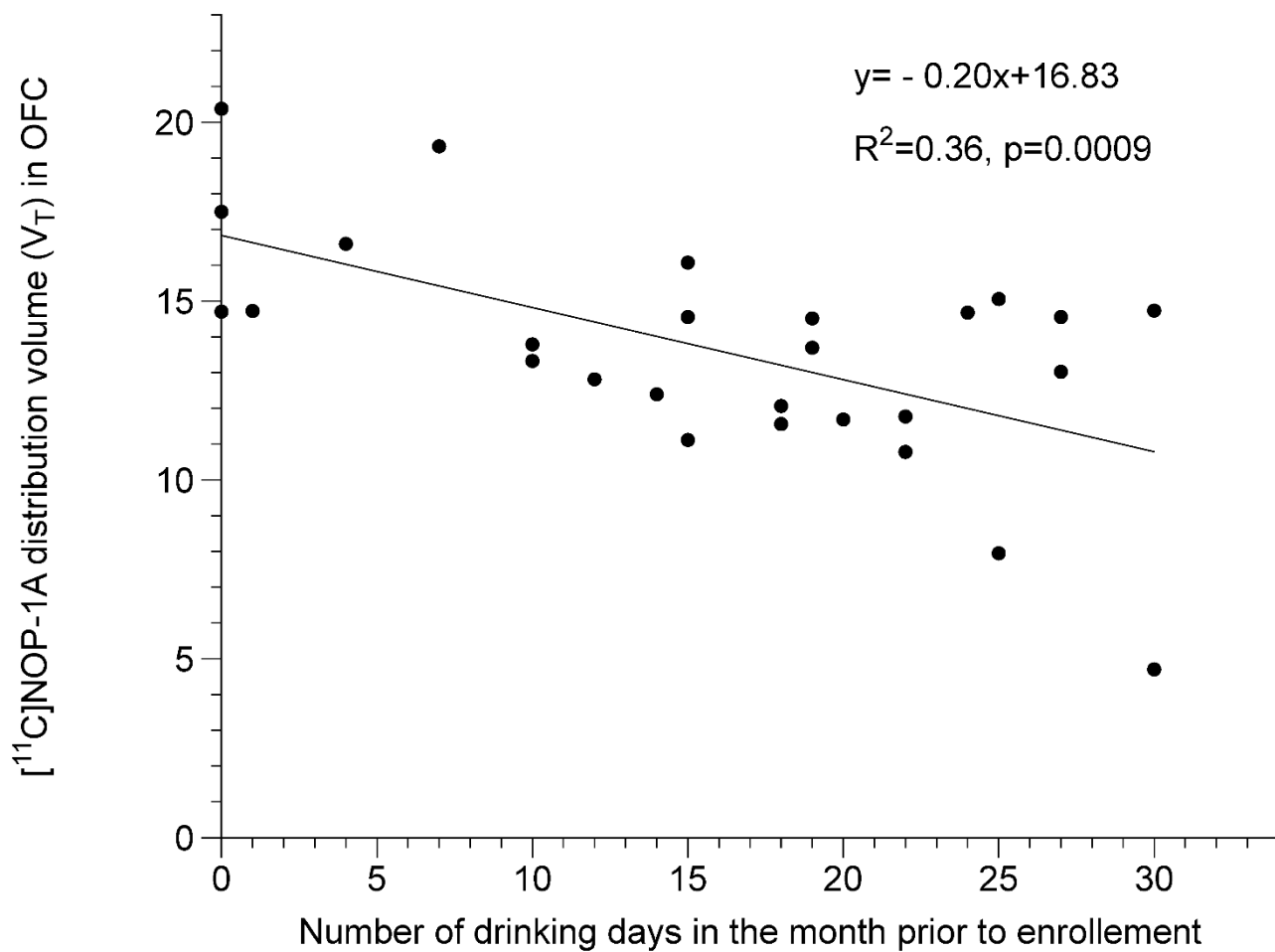
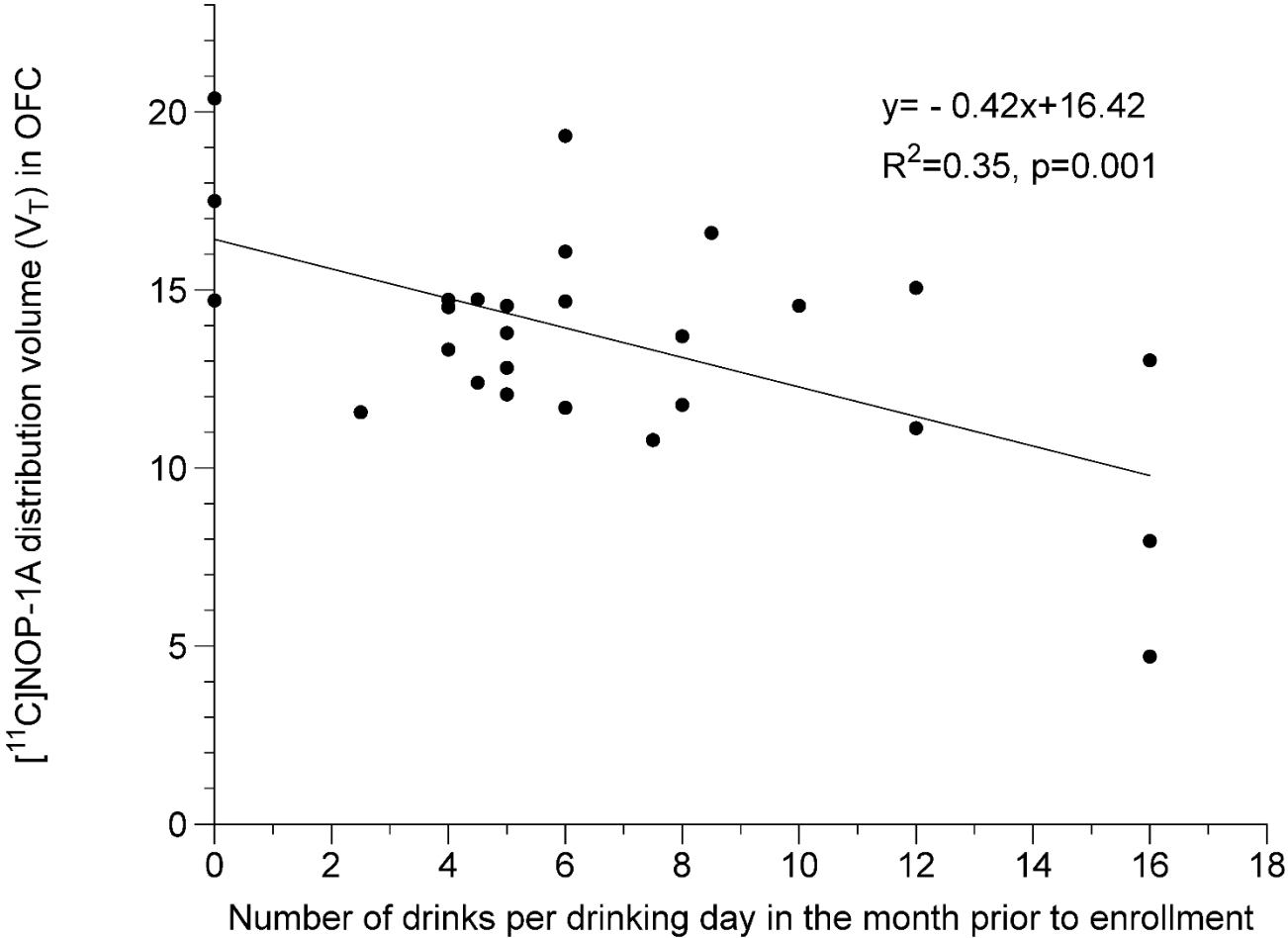


Figure S3 shows the negative association between the mean number of drinks consumed per drinking day in the month prior to enrollment and the orbitofrontal cortex V_T in $n=27$ AUD subjects.



Supplement References

1. Aujla H, Cannarsa R, Romualdi P, Ciccocioppo R, Martin-Fardon R, Weiss F (2013): Modification of anxiety-like behaviors by nociceptin/orphanin FQ (N/OFQ) and time-dependent changes in N/OFQ-NOP gene expression following ethanol withdrawal. *Addict Biol.* 18:467-479.
2. D'Addario C, Caputi FF, Rimondini R, Gandolfi O, Del Borrello E, Candeletti S, et al. (2013): Different alcohol exposures induce selective alterations on the expression of dynorphin and nociceptin systems related genes in rat brain. *Addict Biol.* 18:425-433.
3. Ploj K, Roman E, Gustavsson L, Nylander I (2000): Basal levels and alcohol-induced changes in nociceptin/orphanin FQ, dynorphin, and enkephalin levels in C57BL/6J mice. *Brain Res Bull.* 53:219-226.
4. Bellia F, Fernandez MS, Fabio MC, Pucci M, Pautassi RM, D'Addario C (2020): Selective alterations in endogenous opioid system genes expression in rats selected for high ethanol intake during adolescence. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 212:108025.
5. Economidou D, Hansson AC, Weiss F, Terasmaa A, Sommer WH, Cippitelli A, et al. (2008): Dysregulation of nociceptin/orphanin FQ activity in the amygdala is linked to excessive alcohol drinking in the rat. *Biol Psychiatry.* 64:211-218.
6. Caputi FF, Stopponi S, Rullo L, Palmisano M, Ubaldi M, Candeletti S, et al. (2021): Dysregulation of Nociceptin/Orphanin FQ and Dynorphin Systems in the Extended Amygdala of Alcohol Preferring Marchigian Sardinian (msP) Rats. *Int J Mol Sci.* 22.
7. Kuzmin A, Bazov I, Sheedy D, Garrick T, Harper C, Bakalkin G (2009): Expression of pronociceptin and its receptor is downregulated in the brain of human alcoholics. *Brain Res.* 1305 Suppl:S80-85.
8. Lutz PE, Zhou Y, Labbe A, Mechawar N, Turecki G (2015): Decreased expression of nociceptin/orphanin FQ in the dorsal anterior cingulate cortex of suicides. *Eur Neuropsychopharmacol.* 25:2008-2014.
9. Narendran R, Tollefson S, Himes ML, Paris J, Lopresti B, Ciccocioppo R, et al. (2019): Nociceptin Receptors Upregulated in Cocaine Use Disorder: A Positron Emission Tomography Imaging Study Using [(11)C]NOP-1A. *Am J Psychiatry.* 176:468-476.
10. Flanigan M, Tollefson S, Himes ML, Jordan R, Roach K, Stoughton C, et al. (2020): Acute Elevations in Cortisol Increase the In Vivo Binding of [(11)C]NOP-1A to Nociceptin Receptors: A Novel Imaging Paradigm to Study the Interaction Between Stress- and Antistress-Regulating Neuropeptides. *Biol Psychiatry.* 87:570-576.