

## Campus Notes

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### **FSU researcher studies anti-depressant**

An FSU College of Medicine researcher is learning more about why the drug ketamine, used as an antidepressant for the last decade, requires a higher dosage to improve depression in males. Mohamed Kabbaj, a professor in the medical school's Department of Biomedical Sciences, has received a \$1.8 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to support his research. Researchers are interested in looking for ways around giving higher doses of ketamine to males because of the drug's side effects.

Administering ketamine with a combination of estrogen and progesterone, which are more abundant in females, may diminish some of these side effects. Kabbaj and his team continue investigating ketamine despite its side effects because of its quick antidepressant response time.