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Nicotine orchestrates activation of distinct repertoire of nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subtypes in midbrain GABAergic and dopaminergic neurons and striatal dopaminergic terminals, drives burst firing in dopaminergic neurons, and gates phasic release of dopamine in the striatum. These processes constitute the signaling pathway that conveys rewarding effects of nicotine. See the article in pages 1–9.

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