Reticular systems for emotional arousal

The reticular activating system is a group of several reticular systems that are specialized in many aspects of arousal. The talk will present two specialized emotional arousal systems that are working in parallel to the cognitive arousal system. In animals, emotional arousal is overtly signaled by emission of state-specific vocalizations that allow for qualitative and quantitative studies of the emotional process. Based on the studies of rat ultrasonic vocalizations, two systems will be presented: the mesolimbic cholinergic system for aversive arousal and the mesolimbic dopaminergic system for appetitive arousal. The function and role of these emotional arousal systems will be discussed.

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Guests are welcome