



Sensory Processes: From Molecules to Cognition

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Tuesday April 12, afternoon (13:40 – 16:20)

Session 2 Neuronal Networks and Circuits

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Cortical circuits in nociception and chronic pain

Neural circuits underlying acute pain and its transition to chronic pain are not well understood. In particular, the identity of cortical circuits remains entirely unknown. Imaging studies in humans indicate activation of a large number of brain areas during pain and major reorganization over states of chronic pain.

However, there is no specificity apparent for pain as compared to a variety of other brain functions such as learning, fear, decision making and others that had been also attributed to the same brain areas. We aim therefore to understand how specificity comes about in cortical circuits and to study causal relationships with acute and chronic pain.

