

MSNseminars

presents

# "Appetite for Destruction: Neural circuits for aggressive motivation and action"

Friday, April 22nd, 11-12pm

Location: Icahn 10-86

All postdocs & students are invited to join for lunch (also in 10-86) 12-1pm.



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Motivated social behaviors including sex and aggression often consist of an “appetitive” or seeking phase that precedes the social action. In my work I have found evidence for a hypothalamic to midbrain neural circuit that mediates this transformation from aggressive motivation to action. Activity in the ventromedial hypothalamus, ventrolateral area (VMHvl), an area with a known role in attack, also encodes information for aggression-seeking behavior, independent of social threat, and functional manipulation of this area can bidirectionally modulate moment-to-moment aggression seeking behavior. In addition, a specific pathway from this area that targets aggression-relevant midbrain neurons filters aggression irrelevant information and can activate the motor components of attack.



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