The comorbidity of chronic pain and mood disorders: Insights from rodent studies

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Pain associates both sensory and emotional aversive components, and often leads to anxiety and depression when it becomes chronic. While this comorbidity between chronic pain and mood disorders is clinically well established, the underlying mechanisms remain unclear. Preclinical studies have shown that these anxiodepressive-like consequences of chronic pain, like in neuropathic pain condition, can be studied in murine models and further highlight the importance of the time factor in the development of these consequences. Among cortical areas, the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC, areas 24a and 24b) appears...
to be important for mood disorders, including for the anxiodepressive consequences of neuropathic pain since Dr. Yalcin’s group previously showed that a lesion of the ACC prevents both chronic pain-induced anxiodepressive-like behaviours and the aversiveness of ongoing pain while optogenetic activation of pyramidal neurons within the ACC is sufficient to induce anxiodepressive-like behaviors in naive mice. After an overview of the state of the art, Dr. Yalcin will present their recent molecular, electrophysiological, optogenetic and behavioural evidences divulging the underlying mechanisms of the comorbidity of chronic pain and mood disorders and highlighting the critical role of the ACC in view of current literatures.

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