PhD position available

Project: “Vasopressinergic signalling in the olfactory bulb: a prerequisite of social recognition”

Social interactions in many animal species including humans involve olfactory signalling, and mental disorders affecting social communication such as autism are associated with deficiencies in human olfactory perception. Within the olfactory bulb, the primary central nervous system station of odour stimuli processing, there is an intrinsic system that releases the social peptide vasopressin. Recently, we have discovered that this release can be triggered via the cholinergic system which in turn is activated in the context of arousal during encounters with previously unknown conspecifics. In this project we aim to further characterize this vasopressinergic system and its downstream actions, using methods ranging from single cell electrophysiology and two-photon calcium imaging to computational and in-vivo approaches.

Start of funding on May 1st, 2023. Position is funded for up to three years, according to the German pay scale TV-L E13 (65%). The project is part of the DFG graduate program “Neurobiology of Social and Emotional Dysfunctions” GRK 2174 (https://www.uni-regensburg.de/research/grk-emotion/grk-home/index.html).

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