



Exposure to gestational diabetes mellitus induces cognitive changes in offspring

SEMINAR & VISITING SPEAKER SERIES

DATE

Friday, March 31, 2017
9:00AM

LOCATION

PX236/238
PsychHealth Building

SPEAKER

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My research lab studies the role of microglia and neuroinflammation in central nervous system disorders. Microglia are the resident immune cells of the central nervous system and believed to drive neuroinflammation, the nervous system-specific inflammatory-like responses to insult. Inflammatory responses are meant to protect tissue from pathogens and promote recovery/healing, however, they can generate environment that promotes neurodegeneration and jeopardize neurogenesis and interferes with development and maintenance of neuronal networks. One of our projects investigates how chronic inflammation induced by gestational diabetes mellitus affects offspring brain development and their cognitive function upon early adulthood. We utilize in vivo and in vitro models, and molecular biology tools to dissect how gestational diabetes induced neuroinflammation and how postnatal diet could affect neurocognitive development. The overall goals of my research program are to 1) understand how microglial functions affect neurodegeneration, neurogenesis and neuronal functions; 2) establish approaches to modulate microglial responses towards phenotype that supports brain health; and 3) develop new therapeutic strategies with multiple disease relevance.

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