

The John Garcia Recognition of Excellence Lecture

The Department of Psychology presents...

Prenatal and Postnatal Hormones in Autism: What Are the Links?



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Abstract: Autism is a condition that is characterized by difficulties in social communication and restricted and repetitive behaviors. The cause of autism is unknown, though prenatal exposure to environmental factors (including hormones) has been shown to play a large role in shaping the brain and behavior. Given their capacity to exert epigenetic fetal programming during early critical periods of brain development, hormones in particular may be an important environmental factor in the development of characteristics associated with autism. Furthermore, hormones may even alleviate core symptoms of autism. The findings from studies examining the role of hormones in typical development and in autism will be discussed.

Monday, 5.8.17 3:30-4:30 PH1 140