

Molecular and neuronal circuit basis of chronic pain



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日時：2023年3月6日(月) 17:00～
場所：名古屋市立大学桜山キャンパス
医学部研究棟11階 講義室B

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Chronic pain is a debilitating condition for which there are currently few treatment options. During chronic pain states, there are persistent changes in peripheral and central nervous system neuronal circuits that process pain related information. Our laboratory has discovered a key mechanism by which dysregulation of voltage gated T-type calcium channels by deubiquitinase activity is important for aberrant pain signalling in inflammatory and neuropathic conditions, and we are developing novel pain therapies based on our findings. We are also striving to understand how brain connections are altered during neuropathic pain, and we accomplish this by using in vivo optogenetic and chemogenetics approaches, coupled with pain behavioral assessments to map how the brain processes pain related information. I will speak about these two lines of research in our laboratory.

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