

Intl. Master Degree in Neuroscience SEMINARS

Lecture for the
International Master
in Neuroscience
2022-2023

Friday
24 March 2023
at 12.00
Room ex-CLA
Building C1

“Somatosensory and neuroimmune deficits in two mouse models of autism spectrum disorders”

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Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of neurodevelopmental conditions characterized by impaired social communication deficits and repetitive/restricted behaviors. Recent studies indicate that more than 90% of people with ASDs also show various forms of sensory deficits. In this seminar, I will present data showing somatosensory processing deficits in two mouse models recapitulating the core features of ASDs, namely *Cntnap2* and *Shank3b* knockout mice. In both mutants, impaired whisker-dependent discrimination is accompanied by altered connectivity of the somatosensory cortex. In the second part of my talk, I will then present evidence of a consistent neuroinflammation phenotype in the cerebellum of both mutant mice, which might contribute to the ASD-like deficits observed in these animals.