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Universiteit Leiden



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Title: Sex, aggression and pair-bond : a study on the serotonergic regulation of female sexual function in the marmoset monkey

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SEX, AGGRESSION AND PAIR-BOND

a study on the serotonergic regulation of female sexual function in the marmoset monkey

1. Sexual receptivity of the female partner and sexual interest of the male partner reflect the quality of pair-bond between marmoset pairmates (this thesis).
2. Repeated selective activation of the serotonin-1A receptor enhances the female marmoset's stress reactivity and increases aggression and sexual rejection between pairmates (this thesis).
3. Oxytocin may be pivotal in serotonin's regulation of female sexual behavior and pair-bond quality in the marmoset monkey, and may become a potential target in the pharmacotherapy of hypoactive sexual desire disorder in women (this thesis).
4. Considering flibanserin's positive influence on marmoset pairmate interactions (this thesis), popular storylines referring to flibanserin as the 'Pink Viagra' (e.g., De Volkskrant, November 17, 2009; The Washington Post, May 24, 2010) distract from flibanserin's potential to primarily improve partner interactions in humans and thereby improve women's sexual desire.
5. Oxytocin facilitates pair-bond formation and social relationships in the marmoset monkey (Smith et al., *Horm Behav*, 2010, 57(2):255-262).
6. To understand how sexuality works, we need to explore how animals and humans respond to hormonal and neurochemical changes that regulate sexual arousal and desire (Pfaus, *J Sex Med*. 2009, 6(6):1506-1533).
7. Sexual and social behaviors are intricately related and should always be studied together (Shelley et al., *Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci*. 2006, 1(3):260-270).
8. Brain imaging provides a window into neural control centers of sexual and social behavior and reveals networks underlying sexual and social motivation, sexual arousal and sexual satiety (Georgiadis and Kringelbach, *Prog Neurobiol*. 2012, 98(1):49-81).
9. Dedication to science does not diminish the ability for compassion, the love for the arts, or being awed by nature (Robert Sapolsky, 1997. *The Trouble With Testosterone*. New York: Scribner. pp. 286. ISBN 068483409X).
10. Curiosity and persistence fuel good science; passion and exercise result in inspiring music; together with joie de vivre and the purring of a cat, good science and inspiring music lead to a happy life.