

CSBN 30th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday October 3rd – 6:30pm
Oscar Peterson Concert Hall

Environmental epigenetics: how childhood experience regulates the activity of your genes

Presentation by
Michael Meaney, PhD

James McGill Professor
Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology & Neurosurgery
McGill University

The origin of individual differences in human traits has long been debated within the context of the influences of nature (genetics) and nurture (environment). Studies in neuroscience over the past decade have elaborated on earlier research in biology to reveal that the distinction between nature and nurture is a fallacy. Rather, the emergence of individual differences in any trait occurs through an interaction of genetic and environmental influences. However these findings raise the question of exactly how environmental and genetic factors 'interact'? This lecture will summarize very recent studies in epigenetics showing that environmental influences can directly modify the physical environment of the DNA, thus influence the structure and activity of the genome. These studies reveal the physical nature of gene-environment interactions, and contribute to our understanding of how childhood environments can stably affect brain development and function.

This talk is free and open to the public

Oscar Peterson Concert Hall
Concordia University, Loyola Campus
7141 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC
H4B 1R6

For more information

csbn.info@concordia.ca (514) 848-2424 x7557