Dr. F.C. MacIntosh Lectureship Seminar

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Natalie J. Michael

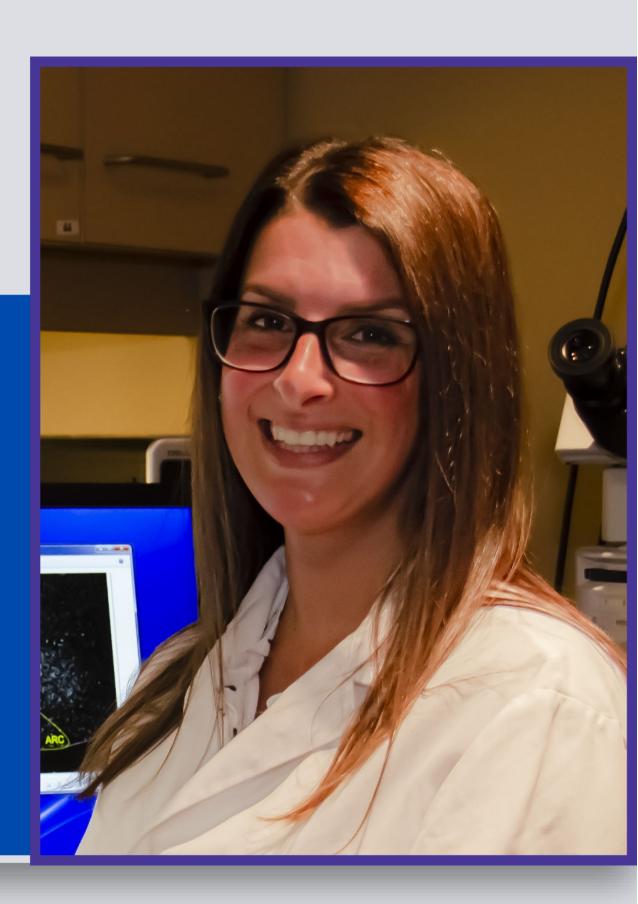
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"Hypothalamic circuits regulating sleep and wakefulness"

Galanin-expressing neurons in the ventrolateral preoptic area (VLPO^{galanin}) of the hypothalamus are active during sleep and play an important role regulating non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep. It is generally believed that VLPO^{galanin} neurons promote sleep via inhibitory actions in multiple arousal promoting regions of the brain. Histaminergic neurons are a population of wake-active neurons located in the hypothalamus, that receive strong projections from the sleep-active VLPO^{galanin} neurons. However, the ability of galanin to influence the activity of histaminergic neurons has received limited attention. This talk will discuss our research exploring the mechanisms by which galanin influences histaminergic neuron electrical excitability. Our findings are relevant for the understanding of the hypothalamic circuits regulating sleep and wakefulness.