

Seminar Series in Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience - 2022

Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Kerala, India

Caregiver-Infant Brain Interaction across Mammalian Species



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Interaction between mother and infant is the earliest and most critical social relationship in mammals. Specific automatic brain patterns regulate infants seeking proximity to their mother and prompt protest on separation from mother. These mechanisms promote bonding through physiological, hormonal and behavioural communications. Reciprocally, enhanced brain activity in caregivers is associated with an increase in movement and speech to infants and, more generally, with their propensity to nurture. Infant and maternal brains "respond" to one another, and they follow a dynamic synchronous "dance". During the seminar, I will illustrate these mother-infant dynamics with new findings from animal and human studies that employ a variety of techniques from genetic engineering to neuroimaging hyper-scanning.

Time: May 09, 2022, 14:00 (IST) 