



Département de psychiatrie
Centre de neurosciences psychiatriques
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Centre de Neurosciences Psychiatriques

LAUSANNE NEUROSCIENCES SEMINAR

Followed by a Round Table discussion in collaboration with
Institut de psychiatrie légale

Wednesday, November 7, 2012, 17:00 hrs

“Basic Emotional Feelings of Other Animals: Do They Exist and Are They Similar to Our Own?”

Pr Jaak Panksepp, PhD

Baily Endowed Professor of Animal Well-Being Science
College of Veterinary Medicine
Washington State University, USA

Invited by Ron Stoop

**Salle Christian Müller, Hôpital Psychiatrique de Cery
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Bio-sketch: Jaak Panksepp holds the Baily Endowed Chair of Animal WellBeing Science in the Neuroscience Program of Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and is Emeritus Distinguished Research Professor of the Department of Psychology at Bowling Green State University. His research has pioneered the neuroscientific study of primary-process emotions in mammals. He coined the term “affective neuroscience” as the name for the field that studies the neural mechanisms of emotion, not only from neuro-ethological but also experiential perspectives. He has generated the first neural (opioid addictive) model of mother-infant social bonding, and various other basic affective processes, that have important psychiatric implications. He is known in the popular press for his research on laughter in non-human animals, a topic that has led his extended group to identify several novel treatments of depression. His forthcoming book is the “Archaeology of Mind” (Norton, 2012). Along with Ken Davis, the Affective Neuroscience Personality Scale was developed as a potential bridge between basic preclinical and human research.

Abstract: The issue of whether other animals have internally felt experiences has vexed animal behavioral science since its inception. Although most investigators remain agnostic on such contentious issues, there is now abundant experimental evidence indicating that all mammals have negatively and positively-valenced emotional networks concentrated in homologous brain regions that mediate affective experiences when animals are emotionally aroused. This kind of neuroscientific evidence not only indicates that other animals also experience their emotional arousals but it provides compelling new affective approaches to pre-clinical modeling of psychiatric disorders. This talk will summarize how we have progressed from taking the affective systems of animals seriously as a target for identifying new therapeutic pathways, which has led to our lead compound, GLYX-13 (a glycine site partial agonist), which is currently completing the first phase of USA-FDA (Food and Drug Administration) efficacy testing.

Selected publications

1. *The vicissitudes of preclinical psychiatric research: justified abandonment by big pharma?* Future Neurol. (2012) 7(2), 113–115.
2. *What is neuropsychanalysis? Clinically relevant studies of the minded brain.* Trends Cogn Sci. 2012 Jan;16(1):6-8.
3. *Empathy and the laws of affect.* Science. 2011 Dec 9;334(6061):1358-9.
4. *Primary process affects and brain oxytocin.* Biol Psychiatry. 2009 May 1;65(9):725-7.
5. *Sleep as a fundamental property of neuronal assemblies.* Nat Rev Neurosci. 2008 Dec;9(12):910-9.
6. *Feeling the pain of social loss.* Science. 2003 Oct 10;302(5643):237-9.